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# Crisis Response Project for the Red Sea and the Western Indian Ocean (CRP-RedWIO)

GEOGRAPHIC FOCUS	The Red Sea and the Western Indian Ocean region
DONOR	European Union
PROJECT DURATION	18 months
IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS	IMO, Expertise France and UNODC
BUDGET	EUR 4 million
FOCUS COUNTRIES	Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia, Jordan, Maldives, Mozambique, Oman, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Somalia, Yemen and other DCoC Signatory States

- Align with existing EU-funded initiatives (e.g. CRIMARIO, Safe Seas for Africa, Red Sea Programme) to avoid duplication and ensure synergy;
- Capability assessments of National Maritime Information Sharing Centres (NMISCs);
- Equipment provision and technical training;
- Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) workshops and data fusion training;
- Regional coordination framework development;
- Maritime surveillance system integration such as IORIS & SKYLIGHT;
- Joint maritime exercises;
- Common lexicon development; and
- Legal and operational support for Yemen and Djibouti coastguards.

## PROBLEM IDENTIFIED

Maritime security in the Red Sea, Gulf of Aden, and Western Indian Ocean remains a vital priority for regional stability and prosperity. According to information received and made available in IMO's GISIS module on piracy and armed robbery, over 150 attacks on shipping lanes were recorded in the region since late 2023, alongside increasing threats such as piracy, smuggling, illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing, and cyber attacks. Strengthening capacity and coordination offers a significant opportunity to build resilience, safeguard safe navigation, and promote sustainable economic growth for communities that rely on these critical waters.

### OVERVIEW

The Red Sea and Gulf of Aden are critical arteries for global trade. Growing insecurity in these waters has disrupted supply chains, increased carbon emissions and freight costs, and slowed progress towards the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). States in the Red Sea and Western Indian Ocean are especially affected.

### PROJECT FOCUS

The EU-funded Crisis Response Project (CRP-RedWIO) aims to strengthen regional maritime information sharing by supporting the development of a robust Information Sharing Network, with the Regional Maritime Information Fusion Center (RMIFC) and the Regional Coordination Operations Center (RCOC) serving as key nodes. Building on CRIMARIO, the Programme for the Promotion of Maritime Safety (MASE Programme), and the Red Sea Programme, it enhances coordination, interoperability and real-time security data exchange across the region. It includes the following strategic activities:

## SOLUTION

By fostering regional cooperation, enhancing information sharing, and building national capacities, CRP-RedWIO strengthens the Djibouti Code of Conduct framework by promoting maritime security, safe navigation, and sustainable development in a key global shipping corridor.

### EXPECTED OUTPUTS

- Regional Maritime Security Strategy developed and adopted;
- Improved DCoC/JA Information Sharing Network;
- Operationalization of the Regional Maritime Information Sharing Centre (ReMISC) in Aden;
- Strengthened DCoC Regional Training Programme;
- Enhanced coastguard capabilities in Yemen and Djibouti;
- Improved cross-border collaboration and maritime governance.

#### Cross-cutting Issues

- Gender equality and representation;
- Human rights and data protection;
- Environmental sustainability;
- Regional ownership and governance.

## IMPACT

The EU-funded Crisis Response Project for the Red Sea and Western Indian Ocean (CRP-RedWIO) builds on the region's established maritime security architecture, tailoring solutions to local conditions and drawing on local expertise. It will:

- Establish Train-the-Trainers (ToT) models for sustainability; and
- Foster regional ownership and political buy-in.

