



IOM distributing NFIs and Hygiene Kits to migrants in need of humanitarian support, through its partners at the Coast Guard Centre in Tajourah, Libya .

IOM organized a Humanitarian Response and Psycho-Social Support training for its local partners in order to build their response capacities. Zarzis/Tunisia, 10 June 2015.

## OVERVIEW

The Greek islands near Turkey's coast now rival Italy as the top destination for irregular migrants seeking entry into the EU by sea this year, signalling a shift from the central Mediterranean route to the Eastern route.

Some 69,000 migrants have arrived by sea to Greece this year, more than doubling 2014's full-year total of 34,442. So far, around 67,600 migrants have arrived via the sea route to Italy, according to IOM estimates, which has proven to be a much deadlier passage with at least 1,820 fatalities this year.\*

This slight change in migratory patterns comes at a time, when the European Union, in its efforts to tackle the Mediterranean migration crisis, has announced the long-awaited start of surveillance-based naval operations against Libyan people smugglers.

Fifteen ships, aircraft and drones from at least 10 EU countries will be used to monitor the activity of smuggling boats carrying migrants from Libya to Italy. The vessels are allowed to operate only outside of Libyan waters for the moment.

Also during June, it was reported that the remains of 30 migrants were discovered in the desert in Niger's Agadez crossroads, adding further to the growing death toll of Africans and Middle Easterners believed to have perished this year on their way to Europe.

\* as per 1. July 2015— as reported by IOM Rome, with data provided by IOM in Greece, Malta and Spain.

## HIGHLIGHTS

**997 migrants** from 18 different countries have been repatriated, most of them via Tunisia or directly out of Tripoli since the outbreak of the crisis in July 2014.

More than **4,050 IDP families** and **5,048 migrants** have benefitted from the distribution of NFIs and hygiene kits in different parts of Libya, including those accommodated in migrant detention centres.

IOM has further supported the safe return of two groups of stranded Ethiopians, 3 men and 25 women, with flights leaving from **Benghazi** back to Addis Ababa, with a stopover in Khartoum.

IOM is currently in the process of arranging the travel of approximately **100 stranded migrants**, originating from Senegal and Gambia, who are currently held in a migrant retention centre in the city of Misrata.

Once they are medically cleared for travel and exit procedures are completed, they will be booked on commercial flights out of Libya, receiving IOM's assistance during transit at airports on their way back home.

# IOM RESPONSE

## NFI NON-FOOD-ITEMS

During June, IOM distributed Hygiene kits to 748 migrants in Tajourah, who were intercepted and detained by the Libyan Naval Cost Guard prior to their embarkation on a vessel, destined to sail across the Mediterranean Sea. In addition, 1150 IDP families in the area of Jerma, AL Gharefa, Al Gatroon, Al Jufra, Tajarhi and Ubari received sets of NFIs, including mattresses, blankets, pillows, as well as Hygiene kits through IOM local partners.

With the aim to optimize the response of local partners to the humanitarian crisis inside Libya, another Coordination Meeting took place in Zarzis/Tunisia from 12 - 13 of June 2015, which is part of a series of workshops and coordination meetings to be organized under the ECHO funded project. Through these meetings, IOM monitors the progress of its projects; builds the capacity of its local partners and updates the displacement figures in the different areas inside of Libya, with the final goal of further streamlining the assistance provided to communities living in predominately difficult to access areas. During this meeting IOM discussed with its counterparts also their further possible involvement in other activities beyond rapid needs assessments and distribution of NFIs and psychosocial support. IOM also continues to respond to requests by the Libyan authorities, namely the Coast Guards and Directorate for Combatting Illegal Migration (DCIM), to support migrants who have been rescued at sea in the vicinity of the Libyan coast.

## EVACUATION

Following a request received from the Ethiopian embassy in Cairo for the possible support of a group of their nationals stranded inside Libya, IOM Tripoli supported the safe return of two groups of Ethiopians out of Benghazi—the first group, consisting of 1 male and 6 females, were first transported to Al-Baidaa in order to receive their Sudanese transit visa and then departed from Labraq airport at the beginning of June, back to Addis Ababa via Khartoum. The second group of 2 males and 19 females flew back to Addis out of Labraq airport as well, reaching Addis Ababa via the same route on the 26 June.

The Libyan Red Crescent carried out the medical screening of all these migrants immediately before their designated departures and provided the land transportation from Benghazi to Labraq airport on the day of travel. Since the break out of this crisis in mid-July last year, IOM managed to support or organize the travel of 997 migrants from 18 different countries to return home safely or to resettle in a third country. IOM is currently working on organizing the evacuation of a group of approximately 100 migrants from Senegal and Gambia, who are stranded in the Kararim retention centre in the city of Misrata.



IOM distributed Hygiene kits to 748 migrants in Tajourah Coast Guard Centre

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