



International Organization for Migration (IOM)
 Organisation Internationale pour les Migrations (OIM)
 Organización Internacional para las Migraciones (OIM)

Press Briefing Notes

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Spokesperson: Itayi Viriri

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Mediterranean Migrant Arrivals in 2016 Pass 84,000; Deaths Reach 410 – An estimated 78,333 migrants or refugees have crossed into Greece since the beginning of 2016. Of these 16,140 arrived in February and 62,193 arrived in January, according to IOM.

While migrants are continuing to arrive in Greece, February arrivals have declined by 36% from the first half of January. The highest daily total was on February 3rd (3,036) and the lowest recorded on February 6th (7).

MEDITERRANEAN DEVELOPMENTS

Arrivals by sea and deaths in the Mediterranean

Country	1 Jan – 14 Feb 2016		1 Jan – 28 Feb 2015	
	Arrivals	Deaths	Arrivals	Deaths
Greece	78,333	320 (<i>Eastern Med route</i>)	3,952	428 (<i>includes all Med routes</i>)
Italy	5,987	90 (<i>Central Med route</i>)	7,882	
Estimated Total	84,320	410	11,834	428

Arrivals by sea

Country	1Jan – 31 Dec 2014	1 Jan – 31 Dec 2015	1 Jan – 14 Feb 2016
Greece	34,442	853,650*	78,333
Italy	170,100	153,842 **	5,987***

* Unofficial data collected by IOM Greece and the Greek authorities of arrivals by sea.

**Data provided by the Italian Ministry of Interior

*** IOM estimate

More information: www.iom.int - Facebook.com/iommigration

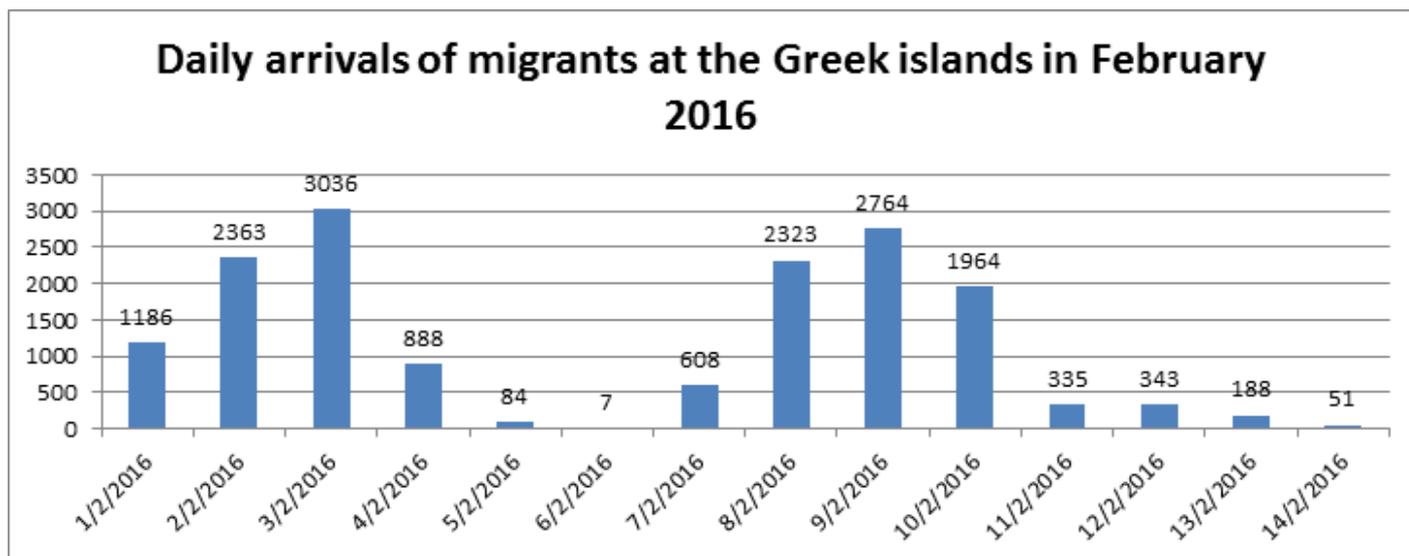
Spokespersons:

Leonard Doyle Tel: 41 22 717 9589 – Mobile: 41 79 285 71 23, Email: ldoyle@iom.int

Joel Millman Tel: 41 22 717 9486 – Mobile: 41 79 103 87 20, Email: jmillman@iom.int

Itayi Viriri Tel: 41 22 717 9361 – Mobile : 41 79 285 43 66, Email: iviriri@iom.int

According to the Greek coastguard, 1,472 migrants arrived in Greece by sea in January 2015, and 2,480 in February 2015. 2016 totals are therefore about 20 times those of this time last year.



This weekend there were multiple landings on the islands of Chios, Kos, Megisti, Lesbos, and Kalymnos. A total 582 migrants arrived between 12-14 February. All the migrants landed safely.

IOM Greece estimates that of the 62,193 migrants and refugees who reached the Greek islands in January 2016, 44 % were male, 22 % female and 34 % children.

Arrivals by sea in Greece - January 2016	
Main Countries of Origin	Total
Syria	30,979
Afghanistan	18,983
Iraq	12,335
Pakistan	2,532
Iran	2,304
Total: All Countries of Origin	70,623

For the latest Mediterranean Update infographic please go to:

http://missingmigrants.iom.int/sites/default/files/Mediterranean_Update_16_February_2016_0.pdf

For latest arrivals and fatalities in the Mediterranean, please visit: <http://migration.iom.int/europe>

Learn more about Missing Migrants Project at: <http://missingmigrants.iom.int>

For further information please contact IOM Greece. Daniel Esdras, Tel: +30 210 9912174, Email: iomathens@iom.int or Kelly Namia, Tel: +302109919040, +302109912174, Email: knamia@iom.int

Or Flavio Di Giacomo at IOM Italy, Tel: +39 347 089 8996, Email: fdigiaco@iom.int

Or Ivona Zakoska at IOM Skopje, Tel. +389 2 30 88 100, Ext. 133 Email: izakoska@iom.int,

Or IOM Geneva, Leonard Doyle, Tel: +41-792857123, Email: ldoyle@iom.int or Joel Millman, Tel: + 41 79 103 87 20, Email: jmillman@iom.int

European Commission, IOM Strengthen Strategic Dialogue on Global Migration Issues – European Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development Neven Mimica is today hosting a high-level dialogue with IOM in Brussels to exchange views on current and future challenges in the field of migration.

IOM Director General William Lacy Swing and Deputy Director General Laura Thompson are taking part in the annual strategic meeting, together with other senior European Commission (EC) officials and representatives of the European External Action Service. Officials from IOM's Geneva HQ and European Regional Office in Brussels are also attending.

The EC Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR) will also formally join the EU-IOM Strategic Cooperation Framework today through an exchange of letters in a further sign of the critical importance migration holds in Europe and neighbouring regions.

This was established in July 2012 to enhance collaboration on migration, development, humanitarian response and human rights issues with three European Commission services (DG HOME, DG DEVCO, DG ECHO) and the European External Action Service (EEAS.)

The Framework builds on a shared interest in bringing the benefits of well managed international migration to migrants and society. It also serves as a basis for the exchanges, development and structuring of the relationship between the EU and IOM.

This year's EU-IOM meeting takes place at a time where the migration challenges facing Europe and the world have grown both in scale and complexity.

The EU and its Member States, as well as international partners, have been called upon to respond simultaneously to the consequences of increasing human mobility, multiple complex emergencies, and persistent economic challenges. Demographic decline, a changing climate, and a dangerous, migration-adverse political climate define the current situation.

“Migration is and for the foreseeable future will remain a dominant feature of Europe's political, social and economic landscape. Arrivals to Europe will continue, as the drivers of forced migration have not changed. The response to immediate needs is making a difference for thousands of migrants and refugees, and steps are being made to address deeper and longer-term issues in a balanced way,” said IOM Director General Swing.

“I am convinced the EU and its 28 Member States acting together can turn the current migrant challenge into the achievement of a common, comprehensive, long-term EU migration and asylum policy,” he added.

The EU has stated that intensified efforts will be needed to ensure a full implementation of the European Agenda on Migration, both in its internal and external dimension.

The fact that migration is now included in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, where it is recognised as a potential positive force for development, is an important step forward.

The overall objective of today's meeting (formally known as a 'Senior Officials Meeting') is to explore ways to strengthen international efforts to implement the political commitments adopted at the Valletta Summit in November 2015, the Western Balkans Conference and in the Turkey Action Plan.

Discussions will focus on pressing topics of common concern for the EU and the IOM including facilitating legal avenues for migration, voluntary returns and reintegration, and strengthening the evidence base to inform policy on migration and displacement.

This will be the third Senior Officials Meeting held within the EU-IOM Strategic Cooperation Framework.

For further information please contact Anna Eva Radicetti at IOM's Regional Office in Brussels, Tel: +32 2 287 71 10, Email: aeradicetti@iom.int

Ukrainian Diaspora is Biggest Investor in Ukraine's Economy: IOM Survey – Ukrainians working abroad send back to Ukraine more funds than the combined total of foreign direct investment (FDI) and international donor contributions coming into the country, according to a new IOM study.

Ukrainian migrant workers transferred almost USD 2.8 billion in 2014 through formal and informal channels. In addition, about USD 100 million was received in goods as in-kind remittances, according to the Canadian-funded study.

“Migrant workers are clearly biggest investor in the economy of Ukraine,” said IOM Ukraine’s Chief of Mission Manfred Profazi.

“Migrant communities possess knowledge and resources that are invaluable to their home country. The study confirms that if properly managed, labour migration and its capital can facilitate humanitarian, intellectual, economic and cultural development in countries of origin and contribute to their social and economic growth,” he added.

The results show that in 2014, the Russian Federation remained the main country of destination for long term Ukrainian migrant workers (30%). Other important destinations were Poland (21%), the Czech Republic (15%) and Italy (11%).

The average long-term migrant worker household received about USD 4,348 in 2014. For the majority of migrant households, remittances represent their main source of income. Unlike in many other countries, consumption represents only 40 per cent, while another 42 per cent go into savings in Ukraine, according to the study.

For the first time in Ukraine, the IOM study also surveyed the usage of formal and informal money transfer channels. Some 53 percent of Ukrainian migrant workers preferred using informal channels when sending remittances - a significantly higher percentage than expected.

Even higher in volume than remittances are the savings generated and kept abroad by long-term migrant workers, estimated at around USD 4 billion.

The intention to purchase property or durable goods and education of children are among the most important savings objectives, according to respondents.

Another important savings objective, emergencies and risk management, undoubtedly reflects the ongoing insecurity in Ukraine, and the economic deterioration associated with it.

The study revealed a high interest among migrant workers to invest in local infrastructure projects (22%) in Ukraine.

In addition, almost 20 percent of migrant workers interviewed expressed an interest in investing, mostly in their local communities in Ukraine. Construction, tourism and retail trade are the top three sectors of interest for potential investors.

With this study, IOM aimed at raising awareness among relevant stakeholders of the enormous impact Ukrainian migrants have on the economy, and building the scientific base for an informed policy dialogue on the potential migrant remittances and savings have in this respect.

Members of the Project Steering Committee, which included representatives of key Ukrainian ministries, the private sector and academics, developed a set of policy recommendations and identified relevant areas for intervention based on the findings of the survey.

IOM hopes that this will serve as a base and guide for developing more efficient migrant-oriented policies, aimed at better harnessing the development impact of labour migration and engaging its capital in Ukraine's development policies.

Some key recommendations include building the capacity of the Ukrainian government to manage labour migration through coordinated action at international, national and local levels, as well as promoting civil society and public-private sector cooperation and mainstreaming migration in development planning, continuous public consultations and migrant-inclusive approaches.

The report can be found at:

http://www.iom.org.ua/sites/default/files/iom_migration_as_an_enabler_of_development_in_ukraine.pdf

For more information, please contact Varvara Zhluktenko at IOM Ukraine, Email: vzhluktenko@iom.int, Tel. +38 044 568 5015 or +38 067 447 97 92.

IOM Trains Police to Handle Sexual, Gender-Based Violence in CAR – As part of a cooperation agreement signed with MINUSCA UNPOL, IOM has organized a training of trainers to build the capacity of MINUSCA police officers to respond to and manage Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) cases in the Central African Republic (CAR.)

The project: “*Prevention of SGBV among IDPs and Host Populations in the Central African Republic*,” funded by the Government of Canada, aims to train local security forces on how to address GBV cases, provide awareness-raising training to peer educators, and provide direct assistance kits to SGBV survivors and individuals at-risk.

The first workshop informed the trainees about the different services and appropriate assistance to which survivors can be referred, including medical, psychosocial and legal services. The officers were also trained on Central African legislation and international human rights law on rape as a war crime.

The workshop provided the officers with the tools to conduct the necessary interviews in order to investigate SGBV-related crimes, while respecting the need for sensitivity, confidentiality, non-discrimination and respect for the rights, wishes and dignity of the survivors.

“A good investigation must be rapid, orderly, critical, comprehensive and objective,” said MINUSCA Police Commissioner Luis Carrilho.

The trainees are expected to roll out the training across the national security forces country-wide, with the help of a training manual developed by IOM and MINUSCA UNPOL, in partnership with national security forces.

The SGBV project has also provided community-level SGBV awareness-raising training of 100 peer educators identified in the 3rd, 4th, 5th districts of Bangui, Bimbo and Bégou. It has also reinforced referral procedures for SGBV survivors.

The sessions, organized with the community leaders and local authorities, highlighted the benefits of reporting for the survivor in terms of accessing appropriate services, but also the benefits for society in allowing authorities to address the problem of sexual violence by arresting perpetrators.

IOM is also providing direct assistance to female-headed and at-risk households in areas known for high prevalence of SGBV. This includes providing family security kits and solar light systems in coordination with the local authorities, to enhance their residential security.

SGBV is a common feature in CAR, either as intimidation directly linked to the conflict, or as a result of the breakdown of state services, and a growing culture of impunity caused by the absence of law enforcement.

For further information, please contact Clément Hamon at IOM CAR, Tel+ +236 751 16042, Email: chamon@iom.int

IOM Relocates Somali Asylum Seekers in Ethiopia – IOM has relocated 621 Somali asylum seekers from Sheder to Dollo Ado refugee camps in Ethiopia.

The asylum seekers fled conflict in Yemen, crossing to Somaliland and entering Ethiopia via the Togwachale entry point.

IOM's Jijiga and Dolo Ado sub-offices in the Somali Regional State of Ethiopia, in cooperation with the Ethiopia's Administration for Refugee and Returnee Affairs (ARRA) and UNHCR, relocated the group to Dolo Ado area refugee camps, where they can register as refugees and receive assistance.

The relocation operation started in December 2015 and comprised of five movements. The latest, on Friday (12/2) relocated 92 people. This followed 50 people moved in December, 361 in January and 210 in February.

IOM also relocated 79 Yemeni asylum seekers in December and January. They were moved from Sheder to Addis Ababa, in coordination with ARRA and UNHCR.

For further information, please contact Alemayehu Seifeselassie at IOM Ethiopia, Tel: +251.11. 6611117 (Ext. 455), Mobile: +251.91.163-9082, Email: salemayehu@iom.int

Migration Information Centre Opens in Ghana's Brong Ahafo Region – IOM, the Ghana Immigration Service (GIS) and the Brong Ahafo Regional Coordinating Council have launched a European Union-funded Migration Information Centre (MIC) in Sunyani, Brong Ahafo Region of Ghana.

The MIC is part of an effort to promote safe and legal migration. It was funded by the European Union through the Ghana Integrated Migration Management Approach (GIMMA) project, which is implemented by IOM and GIS.

The MIC aims to facilitate and empower migrants to travel in a legal, voluntary and safe way. The new building will offer a neutral venue for potential and actual migrants to obtain accurate and reliable information on legal migration procedures and required documentation as well as the risks of irregular migration.

“One of the reasons why people resort to irregular migration is a lack of information about how to travel legally and the real dangers of irregular routes. Empowering migrants with correct knowledge is one of the most effective ways to protect potential migrants from unnecessary harm and loss of life,” said Sylvia Lopez-Ekra, IOM Ghana Chief of Mission.

William Hanna, Head of the EU in Ghana, said: "To tackle (irregular migration) a worldwide debate is essential, as we had in Valletta few weeks ago. But equally important are local initiatives like this one in Sunyani. The EU will continue working with Ghana's central and local authorities and civil society to manage migration, avoid unnecessary deaths and suffering and offer concrete alternatives to emigration for the young generation."

Prior to the launch, IOM conducted an assessment to understand knowledge, attitudes, practices and behaviours linked to migration. The study indicated that irregular migration occurs on a daily basis from Ghana to various destinations. For many migrants this means travel through the Sahara desert to reach Libya and Europe.

Those who survive this harrowing journey either look for jobs in Libya or attempt to reach Europe by sea. According to the Italian Interior Ministry, some 4,431 Ghanaians arrived in Italy by sea in 2015. They included 3,995 men, 155 women, 41 accompanied minors and 240 unaccompanied minors.

The launch of the Brong Ahafo centre is highly strategic, given the large numbers of mainly young people from the region who risk their lives trying to reach Libya and Europe. The dangers have increased in the aftermath of the Libyan revolution of 2011, when more than 18,000 Ghanaian migrants were assisted to return home by the Government of Ghana in partnership with IOM. The Brong Ahafo Region received more than half of the returnees and is still coping with their reintegration.

“Over the years, the Ghana Immigration Service, as a lead agency in migration management in Ghana, has tried to bring to the fore the dangers of irregular migration, as well as the benefits of safe migration, to the Ghanaian populace, sometimes with assistance from development partners, particularly the EU and its member countries. The construction of the MIC will further assist the GIS to effectively educate migrants and potential migrants on the dangers of irregular migration and the need to migrate legally,” explained Acting GIS Director Felix Sarpong.

In order to equip GIS officers working at the Centre with adequate knowledge and skills, the project organized a study visit to an IOM-supported MIC in Tunis, Tunisia and major migrant landing sites in Sicily, Italy.

During the visit, the officers learned effective procedures to run a Centre, as well as the importance of forming partnerships with local stakeholders to assist migrants with various needs. The visit also provided the participants with an opportunity to see first-hand the ongoing migration crisis and confirmed the urgency to work together to address the challenges.

Designed to contribute to the Ghanaian government’s efforts to manage migration more effectively, the GIMMA project is helping to build the GIS’s operational capacity to protect the country’s borders; empower migrants to make informed migratory decisions; and improve the country’s migration data management capacity. The three-year EUR 3 million project is funded by the EU under the framework of 10th European Development Fund.

For further information please contact Kazumi Nakamura at IOM Ghana, Email: gimma@iom.int, Tel.: +233 302 742 930 or 0501 295 272.

UK Commissioner Endorses IOM Training to Combat Modern Slavery – The UK’s first Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner (IASC), Kevin Hyland, has endorsed IOM UK’s CPD-accredited *Introduction to Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery* awareness raising sessions, aimed at equipping frontline practitioners with the knowledge and tools needed to identify and protect victims of trafficking and slavery.

Reporting directly to the Home Secretary, the role of the IASC was established in the Modern Slavery Act 2015, the newest legislative provision to strengthen the protective and preventative measures to combat the crime of trafficking and slavery.

The functions of the Commissioner are to encourage good practice in the prevention, detection, investigation and prosecution of slavery and trafficking offences and to encourage good practice in the identification of the victims of those offences.

As part of the IASC’s efforts to expand focused, coordinated and effective actions to combat slavery, training was identified as a key requirement to advance understanding of trafficking and slavery and in turn improve identification of, and assistance to, victims.

Since 2011, IOM has provided training and awareness sessions on human trafficking and modern slavery to over 2,000 frontline professions from bodies including local authorities, police, health services, immigration services, the Catholic Bishop’s Conference of England and Wales, the Church of England and diverse charities.

The sessions seek to build their capacity in understanding the complexity of the crime, identify the specific, and often hidden, vulnerabilities of its victims and take appropriate action within the existing safeguarding frameworks.

Through his endorsement of the training sessions, the Commissioner notes that the content clearly addresses the key aspects of the issue of human trafficking and modern slavery: from the international legal framework and the global picture of trafficking, to the UK's national response, and support services available to victims detected within the country.

He further noted that by using case studies, discussion and group work, the course actively engages learners and is an important step towards building awareness and understanding among people who may come across victims of trafficking and slavery in their work – particularly those who support vulnerable adults and children.

With the IASC endorsement of the awareness raising sessions, IOM UK is looking to further engage with, and deliver training to, key public authority and third sector organisations to improve understanding of the crimes of trafficking and slavery, and to protect the victims.

For further information, please contact Annie Morris at IOM UK, Email: amorris@iom.int, Tel. +44 (0)207 811 6053.