



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

Press Briefing Notes

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IOM launches Survey: Human Trafficking and Exploitation Prevalence Indication for Mediterranean region—IOM has found that nearly 1 in 10 migrant and refugee respondents have answered positively to an indicator of the presence of human trafficking and other exploitative practices along the eastern Mediterranean migration route.

The results are the first from new operations in six countries along the route to estimate the prevalence of behavior indicating the presence of human trafficking and other exploitative practices, which pose a grave threat to migrants and refugees on their journey. While there have been many anecdotal reports and qualitative studies, this is the first attempt of its kind to try to quantify the problem.

The Human Trafficking and Other Exploitative Practices Prevalence Indication Survey has been conducted as part of IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) flow monitoring operations, starting in December 2015, with nearly 2,400 migrants and refugees in Croatia, Greece, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Hungary, Serbia, and Slovenia. Its 21 questions have been translated into Arabic, Dari, Pashtu, Urdu, French, and Farsi. Data collection is ongoing and IOM aims to regularly share quality information on trafficking in persons with all relevant counter-trafficking response actors.

7.2% of respondents answered 'yes' to at least one of the trafficking and other exploitative practices indicators based on their own direct experience—including having worked or performed activities during the journey without getting payment they expected; being forced to perform work or other activities against their will during their journey; being approached during their journey by someone offering employment; being approached by someone offering to arrange a marriage; being held at a location against their will during their journey by parties other than any relevant governmental authorities.

An additional 1.4% of respondents had said that while they had not directly experienced situations captured by one of the trafficking and exploitation indicators, a member of their family travelling with them had. 0.9% of respondents reported that they knew of instances where people on the journey had been approached by someone offering cash in exchange for giving blood, organs or a body part.

More information: www.iom.int - [Facebook.com/iommigration](https://www.facebook.com/iommigration)

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Further results of the study can be found [here](#)

“These are very worrying figures, particularly with annual arrivals approaching one million people on this route,” said Mathieu Luciano, Head, Assistance to Vulnerable Migrants Unit, IOM Geneva. “Since crimes of human trafficking and exploitation are clandestine by their very nature, these experiences are likely to be just the tip of the iceberg.”

Respondents who answered positively to one of the indicators were more than two years younger, on average, than those answering negatively. Those who were travelling alone were more likely to answer positively than those in a group. Moreover, rates were higher among men than women. Afghans, Syrians, and Pakistanis reported higher rates than other nationalities.

IOM calls for national and international law enforcement agencies and humanitarian actors to act upon this information and increase their efforts to detect crimes of human trafficking and other exploitative practices, identify victims, and prevent vulnerable populations from being preyed upon. Migrants and refugees must be better informed about—and able to avail themselves of—their basic human rights under national and international law.

As well as providing direct assistance to victims of trafficking, IOM aims to build the capacity of front-line actors to help ensure that victims of trafficking are increasingly identified and referred to appropriate services, through the development of tailored curricula and training.

IOM continues to advocate for the presence of counter-trafficking specialists at key transit points, reception centres and registration sites. IOM also aims to increase awareness among vulnerable populations of trafficking-in-persons’ risk factors, including through mobile applications.

Finally, IOM and Interpol have a longstanding working relationship and the two organizations are working together to ensure that issues of concern raised in the field are appropriately referred.

The survey has been conducted with the support of IOM’s Migrant Assistance Department. IOM’s DTM migration flow monitoring operations in Europe have been funded by ECHO (European Commission’s Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department, SDC (Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation) and DFID (United Kingdom Department for International Development). Further data from IOM’s migration flow monitoring operations can be found here <http://migration.iom.int/europe/>

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IOM, Sciences Po Paris Launch First Atlas of Environmental Migration--The International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the Paris Institute of Political Studies (Sciences Po Paris) have launched the French edition of the *Atlas of Environmental Migration*, a publication which, for the first time, brings together existing knowledge, research and country-level case studies exploring the links between migration, environment and climate change.

Compiled with the help of numerous experts from the academic and institutional sectors from around the world, the Atlas addresses key topics such as the state of research, the complexity of the links between migration and environmental change, key environmental drivers of migration, including climate change, and associated mobility trends.

The publication also focuses on key challenges and opportunities for the affected populations and for policy making, existing governance mechanisms and gaps, good policy practices to address environmental migration, as well as a number of cross-cutting topics including gender, health, and human rights.

Writing in the publication’s foreword, IOM Director General William Lacy Swing said: “The *Atlas of Environmental Migration* is the reflection of our commitment to contribute to raising awareness of the

importance of the impacts of climate change on human mobility; and also to encouraging organized and effective responses to the challenges posed by this kind of migration.”

“The *Atlas of Environmental Migration* will help us collectively to look differently at the situation of those who have no other choice but to leave the land where they were born,” added Nicolas Hulot, Special Envoy of the French President for the Protection of the Planet (2013-2016), and founder of the *Fondation Nicolas Hulot pour la Nature et l'Homme*.

The publication is being launched at a time when migration and environmental change have become two of the most pressing concerns of this century and it is therefore essential that decision makers and the wider public have an improved understanding of the links between these phenomena and of ways to address them.

With more than 100 maps, diagrams and infographics, the *Atlas of Environmental Migration* is the first publication to present research on environmental migration in a visual and highly accessible way, and is intended to become a helpful reference tool for policy makers and executives, researchers and practitioners, higher education institutions and students, and anyone seeking to better understand the issues at stake.

Authored by Dina Ionesco, Head of Migration, Environment and Climate Change Division at IOM, Daria Mokhnacheva, Migration, Environment and Climate Change Specialist at IOM and François Gemenne, Executive Director of the Politics of the Earth Programme at Sciences Po/Medialab, and Senior Research Associate at the University of Liège and the University of Versailles Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines, the Atlas is the product of a three-year long collaboration between IOM, the Paris Institute of Political Studies (Sciences Po Paris) and the University of Versailles Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines.

The project benefited from the support of many funding partners, including the Bernheim Foundation, COST Action IS1101 of the European Union, EPA Ghana, the European Commission, the Foundation for Population, Migration, Environment (BMU-PME), the Heinrich Böll Foundation - European Union, the ISDT Wernaers Fund, the Italian Cooperation, the Nippon Foundation, the Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, and the United Nations Development Programme.

The English version of the Atlas will be launched in June 2016.

The French version was released in bookshops on 17 March 2016. It can be purchased online at: <http://www.pressdesciencespo.fr/fr/livre/?GCOI=27246100083690>

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Mediterranean Migrant Arrivals in 2016 Near 155,000; Deaths Reach 467—With winter ending and warmer conditions prevailing, the Central Mediterranean migrant route between North Africa and Sicily has become busier, monitors from the International Organization for Migration in Rome report, indicating a surge of migrant and refugee arrivals under way in the months to come.

Including sea routes to Spain and the Greek Islands, IOM estimates that some 156,000 migrants and refugees have landed in Europe from Africa and the Middle East in the first ten and a half weeks of 2016. That compares to fewer than 20,000 migrant and refugees during the same period last year.

Since the start of 2014, IOM calculates almost 1.4 million migrants and refugees have crossed the Mediterranean and entered Europe via one of five EU coastal borders: Italy, Greece, Spain, Cyprus and Malta. Through March 16 of this year, IOM counts over 997,000 seaborne arrivals just to Greece, still short of the one million mark. However, combined land and sea arrivals to Greece have moved slightly ahead of the one million mark, as reported earlier this week by the Associated Press.

ARRIVALS BY SEA AND DEATHS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN 2015/2016

1 Jan – 17 Mar 2016			1 Jan – 31 March 2015	
Country	Arrivals	Deaths	Arrivals	Deaths
Greece	143,886	362 (Eastern Med route)	10,535	505 (includes all Med routes)
Italy	11,000	105 (Central and West Med route)	10,165	
Estimated total	154,886	467	20,700	505

About 2,400 migrants were rescued at sea in the Channel of Sicily between 15 and 17 March. Ships of the Italian Navy, the British Navy and the German navy, and by the Norwegian Siem Pilot and the “Aquarius ship” from the Sos Méditerranée association have carried out the rescue operations. Rescued migrants were mainly Western African and Eritrean.

“Arrivals to Italy have never really slowed down; this year we are actually noticing a slight increase in the number of migrants arriving from Libya. As of today, almost 12,000 migrants have landed in Italy, about 2,000 more compared to the number of migrants that arrived in the same period last year,” said Federico Soda, Director of the IOM Coordination Office for the Mediterranean.

“For the moment flows are only composed of African nationals while the number of Syrians has dropped: in the first 2 months of the year, only 6 Syrians arrived by sea to Italy.”

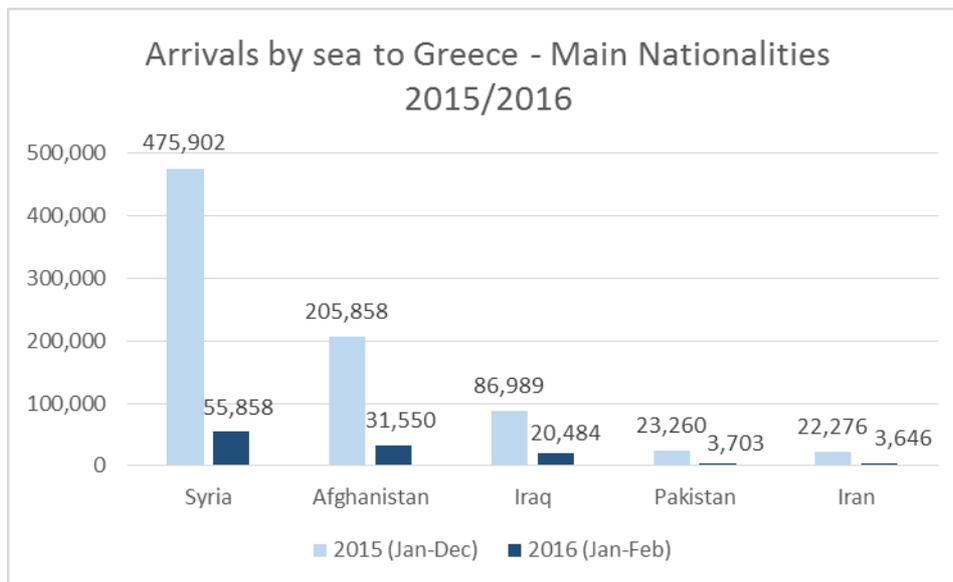
“The nature and composition of the migration flows to Italy are mixed,” said Mr. Soda, “They include smuggled and trafficked persons, unaccompanied and separated children, environmental migrants, pregnant women and refugees.”

“Italy’s efforts and those of the international vessels in rescuing over 2,400 migrants at sea in only 48 hours are outstanding: IOM praises the work carried out by the many different ships that are constantly patrolling the Channel of Sicily.”

According to IOM estimates, almost 470 migrants lost their lives at sea this year: 362 in the Aegean Sea, 100 in the Channel of Sicily, and five more in the waters between Spain and Africa.

Last year, through the end of March, more than 500 migrants drowned, mainly in the Channel of Sicily between Italy and Libya.

Country	Total 2014	Total 2015	1 Jan – 17 Mar 2016
Greece	34,442	853,650	143,886
Italy	170,100	153,842	11,000



For the latest Mediterranean Update infographic please go to:

http://missingmigrants.iom.int/sites/default/files/Mediterranean_Update_18_March_2016.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>

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Japan Backing for IOM Humanitarian Operations Totals USD 46.8 Million – The Japanese Government has allocated a total of 46.8 million funding to support IOM’s operations in assisting vulnerable migrants, displaced persons, refugees, returnees and affected communities in the midst of conflicts and crises continuing in various parts of the world.

More than the half of the amount (USD25.5 mil) has been allocated towards IOM programs in Sub-Saharan Africa including Chad, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mali, Mauritania, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan and Uganda.

The funds will support life-saving and recovery activities and increase the resilience and human security of vulnerable displaced populations and host communities in the above mentioned countries. It will also contribute to increasing the capacity of various governments in humanitarian border management to cope with displacement resulting from conflicts and to combat terrorism.

IOM offices in Middle East and North Africa, including Iraq, Jordan, Syria, Turkey and Yemen, have also received a significant amount from the funding for the regional response to Syrian crisis and assistance to internally displaced persons in Yemen and Iraq.

In Afghanistan, the funding will be used in providing assistance to vulnerable Afghan returnees from Iran and Pakistan in border areas and to build local capacities in the country through return of skilled nationals from Iran.

In Ukraine, Japanese funding will help IOM to improve access to basic services and livelihoods in selected communities in the conflict-affected Donbass region.

Funding will also support the Serbian Government with humanitarian border management to address currently increased migration flows along the Western Balkan route.

The Japanese government has supported IOM's humanitarian and recovery activities in the past including the delivery of immediate lifesaving relief, community stabilization and early recovery activities, as well as emergency return and reintegration assistance for migrants caught in crises.

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IOM Nigeria assists in relocation of 189 displaced families living in a school building--As part of its overall support to families displaced by violence in Northern Nigeria, in partnership with the government and other agencies on the ground, IOM relocated 189 families from a school to Bakasi camp. Each family was provided with a newly-built shelter by IOM along with a non-food item (NFI) package.

This voluntary relocation is part of a government-led drive to vacate schools where internally displaced persons (IDPs) were initially settled in order to be able to reopen them for classes in April.

Mr. Richard Danziger, the IOM Regional Director for West and Central Africa (WCA) who is on an official visit reassured the IDPs of IOM's commitment to providing shelter and NFIs to alleviate their plight. He stated that "providing assistance to internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the North-eastern part of Nigeria is imperative as a first step toward long-term stability in Northern Nigeria and the entire Lake Chad sub region."

Mr. Justus Zare, Permanent Secretary to Borno State Ministry of Education who is also the secretary to the Relocation Committee explained that efforts are being made to improve the situation of the camp. He said "shelters are being provided, drilling for water is completed, solar panels are installed and we are happy with IOM and other partners for assisting us."

IOM is also conducting baseline assessments and registration for IDPs living in camps and host communities under the Displacement Tracking Matrix project. In addition, psychosocial services are provided to the IDPs and referrals are made for appropriate treatment where applicable.

Two years ago many displaced people were housed and shielded in school facilities when schools were shut down due to Boko Haram offensive. Surviving family members were scattered across various schools used as temporary camps in the state. With the relocation and provision of shelters by IOM many families are now reunited.

The humanitarian crisis in Northern Nigeria continues and yet the aid community is facing significant funding gaps to sustain interventions. IOM is appealing for 15Million US Dollars for continued shelter support, displacement tracking & biometric registration, camp management & camp coordination (CCCM) and psycho-social support.

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IOM and Partners Assess Impact on Sustainable Return and Reintegration of Iraqi Migrants to the Kurdistan Region of Iraq at end of MAGNET II Project – The MAGNET II project, which facilitates the sustainable reintegration of Iraqi nationals who voluntarily returned from six European countries to the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI) through vocational training and job placements, came to a close this week with a final meeting in Brussels.

The gathering, hosted by IOM, brought together government officials from the KRI and the project's six participating European countries: Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. Representatives from the European Commission (DG Migration and Home Affairs) and Switzerland also participated in the meeting. The project, which will conclude on 31 March 2016, is funded by the European Union Return Fund.

Between April 2014 and March 2016, the Magnet project supported more than 170 returnees, with 86 finding employment, while 63 benefited from vocational, IT and language trainings to improve their prospects of finding a job. This is a significant achievement during this period of multiple threats and challenges in KRI, which include the fight against ISIS, the subsequent massive displacement of more than one million Iraqis from the central region to the KRI, the ongoing fiscal crisis and the overall economic downturn.

“Despite these challenges and the fact that MAGNET doesn't provide the full range of reintegration services, such as support for housing and business startups, MAGNET and similar reintegration projects are extremely important for the Kurdistan Regional Government,” said Shokr Yasseen Yasseen, the Director of the Bureau for Migration and Displacement of the Ministry of Interior of the Kurdistan Regional Government in Iraq.

“The key to the success of the MAGNET II project is the individual counselling and mentoring support provided by IOM staff over a longer period of time as returnees seek employment and reestablish their lives in their communities of origin. Programmes like MAGNET II play a crucial role in the sustainable reintegration of returning migrants,” said Nazanine Nozarian, MAGNET II Project Manager.

Of the 141 beneficiaries interviewed at the end of the project, more than 77 per cent reported satisfaction with their participation in the MAGNET II project. One of the beneficiaries, Goran Hasan Sadiq, said “I am very glad to have been assisted by MAGNET. I am lucky to have found a job only two months after my return to Erbil. Although my salary is low, USD 450 per month, I think this is a good start when you look at the current economic crisis in the KRI.” Goran is employed as a security guard in one of Erbil's four-star hotels.

Of the companies that hired staff through MAGNET, 79 per cent reported they were satisfied with the performance of their employees. Mr. Abdulkhaliq Abdullah, HR manager of Barza Security Company said: “MAGNET is an important project. It gives hopes to returnees and opportunities for companies and businesses looking for employees. It is interesting to see that the project also provides vocational training to upgrade the returnees' skills before starting the job.”

Raffaella Battella of the European Commission (DG Migration and Home Affairs) said, “The EC encourages the participating EU Member States and the Kurdistan Regional Government to keep supporting migrants to find jobs in the KRI. IOM should continue to build synergies with other reintegration projects and to work with multiple stakeholders, including consulates.”

IOM Iraq Chief of Mission Thomas Lothar Weiss said: “IOM saw a significant increase in the voluntary return of Iraqis in the last quarter of 2015. Thousands of Iraqi migrants travelled to Europe in 2015, but did not find the opportunities they were seeking and have chosen to return. In cooperation with government authorities, donor agencies and humanitarian partners, IOM is pleased to assist these returnees with socio-economic and moral support to rebuild their future in Iraq”.

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IOM, Mozambican Civil Protection in Preparedness for Displacement Situations – Mozambique is one of the world's most vulnerable countries to climate change and environmental hazards, currently

suffering from a drought in the center and southern provinces with more than 500,000 people already in need of food assistance and floods in the North of the country.

Continuing the support to Mozambique's National Institute for Disaster Management (INGC) via the Civil Protection Department (UNAPROC) IOM is preparing key staff in displacement management, sphere standards and mainstreaming protection, the event follows last week's pilot and will end on a camp setting simulation this week.

The roll out of such trainings is a critical component of Mozambique's preparedness and emergency management. The three-day event requires that UNAPROC members—such as firefighters, INGC specialized staff and Red Cross—go through the theoretical, practical and logistical components of displacement management and mainstreaming of protection during a national disaster.

To clarify principles, standards, roles and responsibilities, IOM and INGC are together training a total of 50 participants in two workshops, with a last simulation exercise on Friday to apply the training contents on a live setting.

Key components of IOM's Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) curriculum have been integrated with on purpose developed modules on Human Trafficking, Gender Based Violence and HIV in emergencies in order to support the mainstreaming of protection in initial response and camp setting.

“The participation of UNAPROC members in the mainstreaming protection in displacement training marks a significant step in the partnership with INGC and the Mozambican government in general,” says CCCM trainer Aida Temba. “With training, the regular CCCM key topics relating to the roles and responsibilities of various agents, the minimum standards in camp setup, the process of site selection and the protection of people with specific needs have been added to new modules on specific protection concerns in special mitigation of gender based violence during displacement”

This training on the new modules is the first set in the region, with following trainings in Zambia, Malawi and Angola and is a part of IOM's ongoing CCCM program for Capacity-Building for National Authorities in Southern Africa. Funded through the US Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA), the programme aims to increase the technical expertise of national authorities in displacement management.

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IOM Welcomes Step to Enhance Coordination at Turkey's Shared European Borders – IOM Turkey welcomes the 10th March ratification of an agreement enhancing cooperation at Turkey's land borders with Bulgaria and Greece to combat irregular activities at borders (including irregular migration and other types of cross border crime) and facilitate the legitimate movement of persons and goods across the borders.

On 10 March, the Turkish Parliament ratified the ‘Agreement between the Government of The Republic of Turkey, The Government of The Republic of Bulgaria and The Government of The Hellenic Republic on Establishment and Functioning of a Common Contact Centre for Police and Customs Cooperation’. This agreement, originally signed in May 2015, will increase authorities' abilities to combat irregular migration, human trafficking, drug trafficking, organized crime, and other serious crimes at the common borders. Improved information exchange will also strengthen cooperation between police and customs officials of Bulgaria, Greece and Turkey.

“This agreement lays the foundation for enhanced regional border cooperation. Last year, over 800,000 migrants and refugees crossed into Greece and Bulgaria from Turkey. So far this year, irregular migration continues at an alarming rate with around 150,000 people reaching Europe from Turkey, an increase of over 3,000% from the previous year,” said Lado Gvilava, IOM Turkey Chief of Mission.

“Until the root causes of what is causing this mass movement of people are addressed, we will continue to have large migratory flows through the region,” continued Gvilava. “Enhanced regional cooperation among border agencies is a concrete step for Turkey, Greek and Bulgaria to work together to combat irregular movements of both people and illicit goods.”

IOM Turkey is committed to its ongoing partnership with the Turkish, Greek and Bulgarian officials to strengthen regional border management policies. IOM Turkey works closely with the Turkish government to advise and support on the drafting and implementation of migration-related legislation and policies.

Following the trilateral signing of the agreement, IOM Turkey facilitated a regional seminar in Edirne, Turkey in September 2015 to establish the operational and logistical procedures of the regional contact centre. EU experts were on hand to share current best practices in previously established Cooperation Centres. In October 2015, IOM Turkey facilitated a study visit hosted by the Polish Border Guard at the Polish-German Cooperation Centre and Polish-German Joint Border Post. Participants discussed structure, workflows, information-sharing channels and best practices for external cooperation.

As irregular migration flows are expected to increase in the upcoming months, IOM Turkey will continue to support staff at the common contact centre to further coordinate operational activities.

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IOM Niger Assists the 30th Convoy of Repatriated Migrants from Algeria – The 30th convoy of migrants repatriated from Algeria arrived on 14th March 2016, at the IOM transit center in Agadez. It was a convoy of 13 trucks including two carrying only their luggage.

Niger is one of the last stops of a long journey that West African migrants undertake before leaving the region towards Europe. Nigerien authorities estimations pointed that between 80,000 and 120,000 migrants will transit Niger in 2016, mostly coming from West Africa and heading to Libya and Algeria via the Agadez region.

On the basis of an agreement between the Nigerien and Algerian authorities on sending back home irregular migrants from Niger, this 30th convoy has brought back 9273 migrants including 4717 men, 1433 women and 3123 minors.

Before proceeding with profiling, IOM provided migrants with food, water, healthcare and shelter. The infirmary was opened for the whole evening to give migrants the care they needed.

As announced by the Nigerien authorities, 422 arrivals have been registered at the transit center. More specifically, according to the registration done by IOM staff women (2%), 56 minors (13%) and 359 men (85%) were in this convoy. Most of the migrants come from Zinder and Agadez.

“Given the scarcity of drinking water in the neighborhood around the Transit Center in Agadez, it is very difficult to keep a permanent supply of water for our assisted migrants at the Center,” said the Director of the Center in Agadez, Azaoua Mahaman.

IOM staff managed to call firemen and fill the water tank at the center. “Considering the large number of migrants, it’s going to be a challenge to maintain the water supplies,” explained the Head of the Sub Office in Agadez, Maurice Miango-Niwa.

IOM is actively communicating with migrants in transit to support informed migration decisions as part of a project jointly funded by European Commission’s Director General for Migration and Home Affairs and the Italian Ministry of the Interior. Migrants transiting through Niger are extremely vulnerable to exploitation and extortion from misleading and false information provided by traffickers and smugglers.

Thus IOM is engaging migrants to provide key information and track feedback through the online platform Community Response Map. For more information, visit <http://niger.communityresponsemap.org/>.

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IOM, ILO, Organize ECOWAS Regional Workshop on Migration Data Management-IOM through the European Union (EU)-funded project “Support to Free Movement of Persons and Migration in West Africa (FMM West Africa),” is organising, in collaboration with the ILO, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Workshop on Migration Data Management in Lomé, Togo.

The four-day meeting, which started on Tuesday (15/03), is set in a context where migration-related data have become a central issue at global, regional, and national levels, including the ECOWAS space and Mauritania.

Indeed, no migration policy is conceivable without reliable data. To develop an effective immigration policy, a country needs to know the number of foreigners residing on its territory and their characteristics.

A country also needs to have a thorough picture of the migration trends: the flows and their evolution over time. Finally, depending on the specific policies considered, specific data are needed. For example, concerning labour immigration policies, countries need to have a clear understanding of their labour market and the existence of mismatches in it.

With the help of this information, policy makers can create conditions for migration which is beneficial for the migrants, the host country and that effectively achieves its established objectives. Similarly, effective emigration policies rely on sound data such as trends, migrants’ characteristics and sector specific information such as that linked to the labour market.

“This workshop presents an opportunity to increase awareness on the importance of migration-related data – as well the challenges they pose – among ECOWAS Commission and member states officials and to strengthen their capacities in this specific area of migration management,” said FMM West Africa Programme Coordinator ad interim Kristiina Lilleorg.

She added: “Importantly, the workshop is an occasion to agree on specific actions to be undertaken in the coming months and years to improve the collection, compilation, analysis and use of national data on migration.”

The workshop brings together representatives from ECOWAS member states institutes of statistics, the ECOWAS Commission, IOM’s Global Migration Data Analysis Centre, the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (Population Division), ILO experts on statistics, Data-Pop Alliance, FMM West Africa project staff, IOM Togo and the European Union Delegation in Togo.

In addition to the adoption of a regional mechanism to compile migration data and the endorsement of guidelines on migration data management, the workshop will also serve as an occasion to discuss the details of cooperation between the FMM West Africa project and ECOWAS member states in the following areas: analysis of population census data, inclusion of migration components in small-scale surveys, technical assistance to the development of national migration policies and publication of new Migration Profiles.

The ECOWAS Regional Workshop on Migration Data Management is organized as part of the FMM West Africa project, an EU-ECOWAS-funded project implemented by the Consortium of Partners (IOM, ICMPD and ILO) under the leadership of the ECOWAS Commission. The project seeks to maximise the development potential of free movement of persons and migration in West Africa.

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IOM Strengthens Capacities to Fight Trafficking in Persons in the Caribbean – IOM has brought together key stakeholders from five Caribbean territories at a two-day workshop in Belize in an effort to strengthen coordination to counter trafficking in persons in the Caribbean.

Government representatives charged with leading their country's counter trafficking efforts from Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Belize, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago gather in Belize City this week (16-17/03) to discuss best practices as well as to explore areas of collaboration and cooperation.

“One aim of the workshop was to promote amongst the participants the use of regional cooperation and to share information, ideas and techniques,” said Rukiya Brown, project manager. IOM has been working for more than nine years with countries in the Caribbean training stakeholders, providing assistance to victims and Governments, and raising public awareness through information campaigns.

During this time, Caribbean countries have displayed their commitment to countering trafficking in persons leading to an increase in the number of cases investigated and successful prosecutions. Of note is the tier one ranking The Bahamas obtained under the 2015 United States Trafficking in Persons Report, the first country in the English speaking Caribbean to have achieved this ranking.

In the past 10 years, the number of trafficked persons identified by IOM's Caribbean partners now exceeds 350. Work towards developing regional mechanisms in relation to victim identification, investigation and data sharing regarding cases is an important part of a comprehensive counter trafficking strategy.

The workshop this week will be one of the first activities of IOM's sub-regional project in the Caribbean. This project was made possible through funding from the US Department of State Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons (J/TIP), with the goal of strengthening the capacity of actors in the criminal justice system.

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