



Briefer: [Joel Millman](#)  
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Growing numbers of child migrants and refugees are dying on route to Europe. Photo: Amanda Nero / IOM.

## With Increasing Child Deaths at Sea, IOM and UN Partner Agencies Urge Greater Protection for Migrants and Refugees

Posted on Fri. Feb-19-2016

**Switzerland** - An average of two children have drowned every day since September 2015 as their families try to cross the eastern Mediterranean, and the number of child deaths is growing, according to IOM, UNHCR, and UNICEF. The agencies are calling for better protection for those escaping conflict and despair.

Since last September, when the tragic death of toddler Aylan Kurdi captured the world's attention, more than 340 children, many of them babies and toddlers, have drowned in the eastern Mediterranean. The total number of children who have died may be even greater, the agencies say, their bodies lost at sea.

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Migrants and refugees continue to arrive in Greece despite winter weather. Photo: Jason Florio / MOAS EU

## Mediterranean Migrant and Refugee Arrivals Top 90,000 in 2016

Posted on Fri. Feb-19-2016

**Greece** - IOM monitors in the eastern Mediterranean reported this week that cold weather contributed to sharp drop in arrivals in Greece from Turkey, although the number topped 3,350 on Wednesday, February 17<sup>th</sup>, after many days of slow movement.

During the past week, IOM has learned of a single death on this route a boy believed to be traveling with a family from Afghanistan.

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### Quote of the day

*"The greatest benefit has been togetherness... Now the refugees take part in creating events and togetherness with them is strengthened. Togetherness across the borders of different religions."* Mona Hemmer, a resident of Nagu, Finland. More [here](#)

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**Farasat:** "Everybody has the same rights at the start and at the end. So why do people discriminate against each other?"

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How to contribute to the *i am a migrant* campaign. Watch [here](#).

## Migration Flows Europe



For the latest Mediterranean Update data on arrivals and fatalities please visit:

<http://migration.iom.int/europe>

#MigrationEurope

## Missing Migrants Project



A global database tracking data on deceased and missing migrants along migratory routes.

Visit [MissingMigrants.iom.int](http://MissingMigrants.iom.int)

#MissingMigrants

## Migration in the News

- [AP](#) reported that 103 Iraqi asylum seekers returned to Baghdad from Finland on Thursday (18/2) with IOM assistance. It noted that IOM helped nearly 3,500 Iraqis return home from Europe in 2015.
- [Al Jazeera](#) reported that over 20 Iraqi civilians were killed in two air strikes on towns held by ISIL in the west of Anbar province. It cited IOM data that Anbar residents account for more than a third of the 3.2 million people displaced by fighting in Iraq since the start of 2014.
- [Daily Sabah](#) reported that experts, politicians and NGOs warn that an immediate and thorough solution is needed for Europe's refugee influx, rather than border fences and tighter border restrictions. It cited IOM estimates.
- [Press TV](#) and others reported that a picture by Australian photographer Warren Richardson of a refugee handing his child under razor wire sealing a European border won the prestigious World Press Photo Award for 2015. It cited IOM figures.
- [Dutch News](#) reported that the Netherlands may stop paying a reintegration grant to Ukrainian asylum seekers who voluntarily return home, according to the Justice Ministry. It cited IOM figures.
- [EFE](#) reported that Costa Rican President Luis Guillermo Solis said that some 4,100 Cuban migrants remain in Costa Rica waiting for transport to the United States. IOM is working with states in the region to facilitate their departure.

## Trending on the Internet

- [The Guardian](#) featured a photo story of refugee children facing a harsh winter in Sweden. The country received 162,877 asylum applications in 2015 and is struggling to house refugees in decent conditions.
- [Global Post](#) reported that migrants are common targets of crime as they head to the United States. But LGBT migrants who flee Central America are particularly vulnerable.

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