



UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

Zajedničko saopćenje UNHCR/UNICEF/IOM

Dok se povećava broj smrtnih slučajeva djece na moru, agencije UN-a pozivaju na jačanje uvjeta sigurnosti za izbjeglice i migrante

ŽENEVA, 19.2.2016. – U prosjeku dvoje djece utopilo se svaki dan od rujna/septembra 2015. godine pri pokušaju njihovih obitelji da pređu istočno Sredozemno more, a broj smrtnih slučajeva djece je u porastu, izjavili su IOM, UNHCR i UNICEF. Ove agencije pozivaju na jačanje sigurnosnih uvjeta za ljude koji bježe od sukoba i očaja.

Od prošlog rujna/septembra, kada je tragična smrt malenog Aylana Kurdia zaokupila pažnju svjetske javnosti, više od 340 djece, od kojih mnoge bebe i djeca koja su tek prohodala, utopilo se u istočnom Sredozemlju. Ukupna brojka djece koja su poginula mogla bi biti čak i veća, ističu agencije.

"Ne možemo okretati glave od tragedije toliko mnogo nevinih mladih života i izgubljenih budućnosti – ili propustiti suočiti se s opasnostima kojima je izloženo još puno više djece," rekao je izvršni direktor UNICEF-a Anthony Lake. "Mi možda trenutno nismo u mogućnosti okončati očaj koji potiče toliko mnogo ljudi da pokušaju prijeći more, ali države mogu i moraju surađivati kako bi učinili ovako opasna putovanja sigurnijim. Nitko ne stavlja dijete u čamac ako postoji sigurnija mogućnost."

Dio Egejskog mora između Turske i Grčke među najopasnijim je rutama na svijetu za izbjeglice i migrante. Opasni uvjeti na moru u zimskom periodu, prenapučeni čamci loše kvalitete, kao i loša oprema za spašavanje života, povećavaju opasnost prevrtanja, što čini putovanje mnogo opasnijim.

"Ove tragične pogibije u Sredozemlju su nepodnošljive i moraju prestati," izjavio je Visoki povjerenik UN-a za izbjeglice Filippo Grandi. "Jasno je da je potrebno više napora u borbi protiv krijumčarenja i trgovanja ljudima. Isto tako, mnogo djece i odraslih koji su poginuli pokušavali su pridružiti se rodbini u Europi. Osiguravanje mogućnosti da ljudi putuju na legalan i siguran način, naprimjer putem preseljenja ili programa spajanja obitelji, trebao bi biti apsolutni prioritet ako želimo reducirati smrtnu brojku," dodao je. Glavni tajnik UN-a pozvao je na sastanak na visokom nivou o globalnoj podjeli odgovornosti putem legalnih načina za omogućavanje pristupa sirijskim izbjeglicama, koji će se održati u Ženevi 30. ožujka/marta.

Djeca čine 36% ljudi koji su se odvažili na putovanje, a proporcionalno raste i opasnost da se utope u Egejskom moru između Turske i Grčke. 80.000 ljudi prešlo je istočno Sredozemlje u prvih šest tjedana 2016. godine, a 410 se utopilo. To je 35 puta više nego u istom razdoblju 2015.



PRESS RELEASE

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“Prebrojavati živote nije dovoljno. Moramo djelovati,” izjavio je William Lacy Swing, Glavni direktor IOM-a u Ženevi. “Ovo nije problem samo Sredozemlja, čak niti Europe. Ovo je humanitarna katastrofa u nastajanju koja zahtjeva angažman čitavog svijeta. Zemljotres u Haiti-u 2010. godine nije bila stvar samo jedne hemisfere, kao ni tsunami u jugoistočnoj Aziji 2004. godine. Te katastrofe izazvale su izljeve humanitarne akcije. To mora biti slučaj i s ovom.”

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Geneva, 19 February 2016

Joint UNHCR, UNICEF, IOM Press Release

With growing numbers of child deaths at sea, UN agencies call for enhancing safety for refugees and migrants

GENEVA, 16 February 2016 – 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 said IOM, UNHCR, and UNICEF. The agencies are calling for enhancing the safety of 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.

“We cannot turn our faces away from the tragedy of so many innocent young lives and futures lost – or fail to address the dangers so many more children are facing,” said UNICEF Executive Director Anthony Lake. “We may not have the ability now to end the desperation that causes so many people to try to cross the sea, but countries can and must cooperate to make such dangerous journeys safer. No one puts a child in a boat if a safer option is available.”

The stretch of the Aegean Sea between Turkey and Greece is among the deadliest routes in the world for refugees and migrants. The winter’s rough seas, overloading and the poor quality of boats and lifesaving equipment increase the risk of capsizing, making the journey significantly more dangerous.

“These tragic deaths in the Mediterranean are unbearable and must stop,” said UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi. “Clearly, more efforts are needed to combat smuggling and trafficking. Also, as many of the children and adults who have died were trying to join relatives in Europe, organising ways for people to travel legally and safely,

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through resettlement and family reunion programmes for example, should be an absolute priority if we want to reduce the death toll," he added. The UN Secretary General has called for a high-level meeting on global responsibility-sharing through legal pathways for admission of Syrian refugees, to take place in Geneva on 30 March.

With children now accounting for 36 per cent of those on the move, the chance of them drowning on the Aegean Sea crossing from Turkey to Greece has grown proportionately. During the first six weeks of 2016, 410 people drowned out of the 80,000 crossing the eastern Mediterranean. This amounts to 35-fold increase year-on-year from 2015.

"Counting lives is not enough. We must act," said William Lacy Swing, IOM's Director General in Geneva. "This is not only a Mediterranean problem, or even a European one. It is a humanitarian catastrophe in the making that demands the entire world's engagement. Haiti's 2010 earthquake was not a matter for only one hemisphere, nor was the 2004 Southeast Asian tsunami. Those disasters were met by an outpouring of humanitarian action. So must this one."

About IOM

Established in 1951, IOM is the leading inter-governmental organization in the field of migration and works closely with governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental partners. With 162 member states offices in over 100 countries, IOM is dedicated to promoting humane and orderly migration for the benefit of all. It does so by providing services and advice to governments and migrants. www.iom.int

About UNHCR

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees was established on December 14, 1950 by the United Nations General Assembly. UNHCR is mandated to lead and co-ordinate international action to protect refugees and resolve refugee problems worldwide. Its primary purpose is to safeguard the rights and well-being of refugees, but also has a mandate to help people without nationalities. For more than six decades, UNHCR has helped tens of millions of people restart their lives. Today, a staff of some 9,700 people in 126 countries are helping some 60 million people. Learn more at www.unhcr.org and Facebook and Twitter. <http://www.unhcr.org>

About UNICEF

UNICEF promotes the rights and well-being of every child, in everything we do. Together with our partners, we work in 190 countries and territories to translate that commitment into practical action, focusing special effort on reaching the most vulnerable and excluded children, to the benefit of all children, everywhere. For more information about UNICEF and its work, visit: www.unicef.org