



Documenting an Extraordinary Year

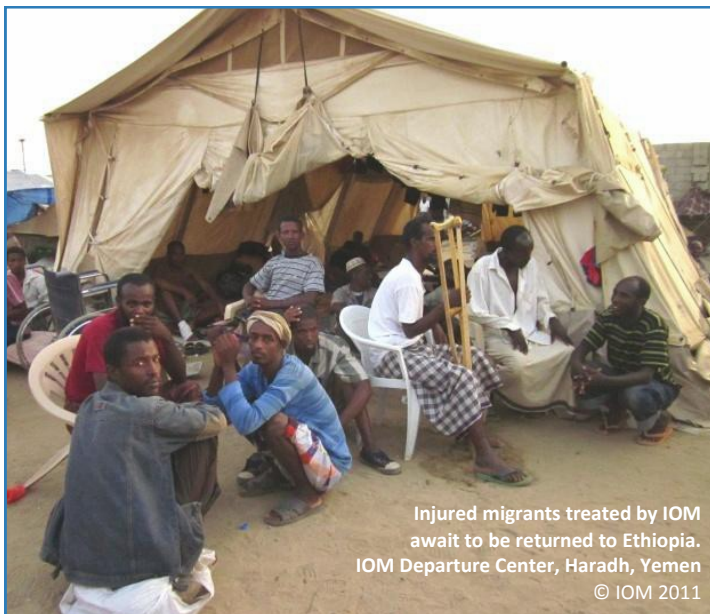
IOM reports on its activities in the Middle East and North Africa in 2011

13 September 2012: In a region that has seen major population movements in the past decade, 2011 stands out not only for the migration dynamics that have flowed into, out of, and within the Middle East and North Africa region, but also for the unprecedented social movements that have transformed the political culture in many countries. New democratic structures and processes are being built in Tunisia, Egypt, Libya and South Sudan, and calls for meaningful political reform echo throughout the region.

These events placed increased the pressure on, and importance of, all of IOM's activities in the region.



Migrants prepare to board the IOM ship, Red Star I
Misrata, Libya, April 27, 2011
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Injured migrants treated by IOM
await to be returned to Ethiopia.
IOM Departure Center, Haradh, Yemen
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The report, produced by IOM's Regional Office for the Middle East and North Africa, is a chance to reflect on what IOM and its partners accomplished in 2011 – IOM's 60th anniversary year. It documents some of the most important activities of 13 offices and 20 sub-offices in the region with over 955 staff working on over 300 projects.

Whether organizing its first maritime evacuation for those fleeing the conflict in Libya, or expanding traditional migration management activities to support migrants and host governments, IOM responded quickly and effectively to the rapidly changing regional landscape.

IOM will continue to foster dialogue and cooperation

between governments on both regular and irregular migration, as well as to provide services to people on the move. While migration can benefit migrants, origin and destination countries alike, some migrants still endure unsafe work and living conditions, face exploitation, discrimination and arbitrary detention. IOM and its Member States remain committed to maximizing migration's positive impacts and addressing these challenges.

Building on the positive changes of 2011, the end of the year was accompanied by hopes for further cooperation and new opportunities to engage in dialogue for a safer migration experience for those who leave their homes to make a better life for themselves.

Electronic version of the Annual Report (in English) is available at [IOM Online](http://www.iom.int)