



## Enhancing cooperation and dialogue on migration management between countries of origin, transit and destination along the North-Eastern African migratory route: IOM organizes a study tour to Italy to build the capacity of government officials on assisted voluntary return and reintegration.

In the framework of the Regional Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) Programme for Stranded Migrants in Libya and Egypt (RAVEL), funded by the European Union and co-funded by the Ministry of Interior of Italy, IOM organized a study tour to Rome from 23-30 June 2013 to build capacity, enhance understanding and promote knowledge exchange on AVRR concepts between some of the key migrant sending and migrant receiving countries, including transit and destination countries. The tour involved 8 senior Libyan, Egyptian, Sudanese, and Ethiopian Government officials representing, respectively, the Libyan Department for Combating Irregular Migration (DCIM), the Egyptian Ministry of Interior, the Egyptian Ministry of Justice, the Secretariat for Sudanese Working Abroad (SSWA) and the Ethiopian Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs.

The aim of the initiative was to improve the cooperation between different countries facing the challenge of managing irregular migratory flows to and through North Africa, while ensuring that the rights of migrants are duly protected through a discussion on durable solutions presented through AVRR. While the migratory flows to and through North Africa – and specifically, Egypt and Libya – are diverse, encompassing migration corridors from Eastern and Western Africa, the study tour had the additional benefit of bringing together governments along the North-Eastern African migratory route. Italy was selected for its long and well established experience as transit and destination country for irregular migration and the subsequent best practices it has consequently developed in this field.

During the study tour, the delegates met with relevant authorities from the Italian Ministry of Interior (Dipartimento per le Libertà Civili), Caritas Migrantes, the Directorate of Immigration and Border Police at Fiumicino Airport and the National Anti-Mafia Directorate, in charge of counter-trafficking activities. The study tour served as a trans-national



platform for the exchange of information, as well enabling the generation of new different ideas and viewpoints on the topic of migration management, with specific focus on AVRR. Through RAVEL, IOM has to date provided over 750 migrants with the possibility to return home in a voluntary and dignified manner. The project targets mainly Sudanese, South Sudanese and Ethiopian migrants stranded in Egypt and Libya.

The assistance to returnees provided to beneficiaries under the project includes a one way ticket to the country of origin, pre-departure and post-arrival assistance, and the provision of economic support to ensure the successful reintegration in the receiving community. Such support is provided in kind to set up an income generating activity and the returnee is assisted by IOM staff on the field all along the process, from the business planning to the equipment purchase, up to the follow up six month after the assistance closure.

For IOM, the provision of reintegration support after return is a critical element of the process in order to ensure the sustainability of the return within the receiving communities: in

light of this, relevant resources are allocated to strengthen local capacities for governmental and non-governmental institutions, through the provision of training and the facilitation of ad hoc networks and synergies with existing initiatives. Ultimately, however, the project aims at supporting national authorities and civil society in receiving and sending countries so that they are able to establish and consolidate an AVRR operational framework to ensure the respect of returnees' rights, while at the same time assisting governments in the enhancement of their migration management capacities. Indeed, capacity building is a paramount component of RAVEL project rationale and the study tour was very much in the spirit of this objective.

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For more information, please visit IOM Cairo [RAVEL webpage](#) or contact [Michele BOMBASSEI](#) at [mbombassei@iom.int](mailto:mbombassei@iom.int)

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