



## Join the World Humanitarian Summit Online Consultations – Focus on vulnerabilities, exploitation and human trafficking among people on the move during crises

29 January, 2015—In September 2013, the UN Secretary General, Ban Ki Moon called for the first ever [World Humanitarian Summit \(WHS\)](#) to be held in Istanbul in 2016. The summit aims to set out a future agenda to make humanitarian action more effective, inclusive, accountable and, overall, a better fit for a changing world.

In the lead-up to the summit, eight regional consultations with a wide range of stakeholders (national governments, humanitarian organizations, community responders/affected populations, private sector and associated partners) are being held to solicit perspectives and experiences from around the world. In preparation for the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) regional meeting which will be held in Amman, Jordan on 3-5 March, IOM Regional Director for MENA Pasquale Lupoli is facilitating the online [MENA regional consultation](#) on migration. The forum opened on 19 January and will run until 6 February. The primary questions under consideration are “What are the main factors that expose migrants & displaced individuals in the MENA region to vulnerabilities and risks to their safety and well-being? What can be done to reduce this?”

After the first week of discussions, comments have already touched on the lack of respect for the rights of migrants, risks to safety, health, and people’s psychological well-being in camps and among urban refugees.

One, often overlooked, aspect raised in the exchange is the heightened risk of exploitation, including human trafficking, among displaced persons and communities affected by emergencies.

As one participant on the forum comments, “Emergency situations are often characterized by a collapse of family and community structures, the disruption of traditional support structures as well as by a considerable reduction, or the nonexistence of, national law enforcement capacity to carry out their control and protection duties...affected populations are obliged to undertake high-risk migration, making them vulnerable to the further danger of trafficking and exploitation, perpetrated within their own or neighbouring communities by criminal networks, as well as rebel or terrorist groups who are operating with a reduced likelihood of being detected. Especially during armed conflict, women and children...can become the main providers and protectors for their families, sometimes having to resort to sex in exchange for food or money, or simply being exploited for sex, labour or other purposes.”

A recent [IOM blog post](#) argues that more needs to be done to understand the incidence of exploitation and human trafficking in crises, and to ensure cases are appropriately detected and effectively addressed by humanitarian actors and others. What are your thoughts on this? Do you agree? The World

Humanitarian Summit online consultations are an opportunity to share your experiences and to develop ideas for solutions.

Please join our online discussions on migration! All contributions are welcome. Go to [http://www.worldhumanitariansummit.org/whs\\_mena](http://www.worldhumanitariansummit.org/whs_mena) and make your voice heard.

**WORLD HUMANITARIAN SUMMIT**

Tell us what you think: how can we keep humanitarian action fit for future crises?

Join the online discussion:

[www.worldhumanitariansummit.org/whs\\_mena](http://www.worldhumanitariansummit.org/whs_mena)

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## IOM MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA: Flash Report

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