

World Humanitarian Day 2016: One Humanity



IOM MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

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International Organization for Migration
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18 August—World Humanitarian Day (August 19) honors those humanitarian workers who have lost their lives as well as those who continue to put themselves at risk to provide aid to people in need. This year's theme, "One Humanity", aims to bolster international support for the 130 million people around the world who are affected by conflict and disaster.

It is also a day to recognize the work being done by people within their own crisis-affected communities, and inspire others to be involved, active and engaged in demanding and creating a more humane world. With an unprecedented number of people affected by crises globally, humanitarian organizations and their staff work closely with local populations, often in areas of precarious security, to bring immediate assistance.

"On this World Humanitarian Day, humanitarian actors and global citizens working together is critical to delivering life-saving assistance in the aftermath of a crisis, in ending displacement and finding durable solutions," says [Director General William Swing](#).

IOM has over 1,500 people working in the Middle East and North Africa, the majority of whom are national staff. IOM continues to work with NGOs, civil society organizations and governmental institutions to ensure aid reaches those who have been displaced, including accessing hard-to-reach areas. Longer-term resiliency initiatives are undertaken in direct coordination with local populations to maximize their effectiveness.

Because of the high rate of national staff working in IOM, most of those working inside Syria are Syrian; staff working in Tripoli or Benghazi are Libyan. Those people who risk their lives in Yemen to distribute aid while conflict rages around them are Yemeni. World Humanitarian Day is a time to recognize humanitarians who stay and work for their country and fellow citizens despite the great personal risk they take while working in conflict areas.

On a global scale, IOM participated in the [World Humanitarian Summit](#) held in Istanbul in May 2016. The outcome of the World Humanitarian Summit was aimed to

generate the political will to take forward the Agenda for Humanity. This will enable the international community to put people at the center of decision-making and enable all of us to better prepare for and respond to crises. The Summit also resulted in a set of concrete commitments in support of the Agenda for Humanity.

On 19 September, the [United Nations will hold a summit on Migrants and Refugees](#). This is the first time the General Assembly has called for a summit at the Heads of State and Government level on large movements of refugees and migrants and it is a historic opportunity to come up with a blueprint for a better international response. It is a watershed moment to strengthen governance of international migration and a unique opportunity for creating a more responsible, predictable system for responding to large movements of refugees and migrants.

IOM will continue to work across the spectrum of humanitarian responses, from delivering critical aid in emergency situations to working to strengthen migration policy at the highest levels of international governance such as the [Migrants in Countries in Crisis initiative](#).



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