



A year in review

IOM releases report on its work in the Middle East and North Africa in 2013

6 November- There were close to 3.5 million beneficiaries of IOM programming in the Middle East and North Africa over the course of 2013. Over half of those assisted in 2013 (55%) were internally displaced people, while just over 21% were irregular migrants, and 17.5% were refugees. The ongoing crisis in Syria was among the main areas of focus as IOM sought to assist vulnerable and displaced populations in Syria and neighbouring countries. Additionally, Sudanese accounted for 43% of total beneficiaries assisted last year as IOM continued to provide support for communities in need of assistance and stabilization measures, including through the provision of non-food items and water, sanitation and hygiene assistance (WASH). IOM also continued to track, monitor and respond to the ongoing internal displacement in Sudan, particularly in Darfur, where a surge of violence displaced 380,000 people—the greatest number since the beginning of the conflict in 2004.

In its 2013 Annual Report for the Middle East and North Africa, launched this week, IOM presents the work undertaken by IOM offices in 11 countries in the region and offers a comprehensive breakdown of activities and initiatives, in the areas of operations, capacity-building, policy and research.

Highlights of the report include:

- Total number of individual services and assistance activities provided for beneficiaries by IOM programmes: 3,443,528
- Beneficiaries of non-food item assistance: 1,105,236
- Health care beneficiaries: 639,586
- Beneficiaries of livelihoods and placement support: 85,859
- Estimated beneficiaries of provision of shelter assistance: 34,797
- 1,191 participants in workshops
- 1,846 participants in trainings

Reflecting on the outcomes of the [2013 UN General Assembly's High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development](#), the report is structured around the 8 Point Agenda issued by the UN Secretary-General at the HLD. It outlines how IOM's work in the region contributes to the international community's call for action on migration: protecting the human rights of migrants, reducing the cost of labour migration, eliminating exploitation and human trafficking, assisting stranded migrants, improving public perceptions of migrants, integrating migration into the development agenda, strengthening the migration evidence base, and enhancing partnership and cooperation. In two additional chapters the report covers IOM's promotion of rights-based and effective migration governance and border management and IOM's work in disaster and conflict prevention, emergency response, and the provision of long-term solutions.

The report also outlines the principal migration patterns and challenges characterizing the region. In 2013, migration in the Middle East and North Africa took place against the background of numerous acute and protracted crises, political transitions, demographic disparities, and uneven labour supply and demand. In addition to large-scale internal displacement and refugee flows from war-torn countries, the Middle East and North Africa is a site of origin, transit and destination for migrants from within the region itself and beyond. Migration flows in the region are complex in nature and often result in significant vulnerabilities for migrants, who may be escaping conflict, severe economic hardship, famine or drought; who may be victims of exploitation or unaccompanied migrant children; or who may be forced to return involuntarily to their countries of origin or who have become stranded. North Africa, in particular, remains an area of transit and departure for those seeking to reach Europe, and 2013 saw growing numbers of perilous boat trips across the Mediterranean which has intensified over the course of 2014.

The annual report is available for free download from the IOM bookstore: http://publications.iom.int/bookstore/index.php?main_page=product_info&cPath=41_7&products_id=1412. The Arabic version will follow shortly.

IOM provides transport assistance to Syrian refugees to Za'atri camp, Jordan. © IOM 2013



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IOM MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA: Flash Report

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