



# FOR MIGRANTS

IOM REGIONAL OFFICE FOR THE  
MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

• NEWSLETTER •

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Photo Credit: Raber Aziz

# Foreword

## An Aware Ramadan!

On behalf of the Regional Office for the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) at the UN Migration Agency (IOM), I would like to extend to all of you our best Ramadan wishes and to present our second edition of the regional office's newsletter.

Ramadan is a special month particularly for the MENA region. It is a month of reflection and reconciliation; a month where the practice of compassion and tolerance is active and integral.

In this context, we've launched the first online regional information campaign on internal displacement, entitled "Aware Ramadan". The campaign aims at raising awareness of a well-defined target group, namely young educated advocates, about internally displaced persons (IDPs) across 4 countries in our region: Iraq, Libya, Syria and Yemen.

Internal displacement is a phenomenon that affects populations across the globe. In 2017 alone, 30.6 million new displacements were recorded globally, caused by conflict, violence and disasters. The MENA region is particularly affected, containing two of the ten-worst affected countries: Syria and Iraq. By the end of 2017, there were 13.8 million IDPs in the region; 6.8 million of them in Syria alone.

2018 marks the 20 th anniversary of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement (GP20), a framework for the protection and assistance to internally displaced people. It is a time to reflect on what has worked over the last 20 years and what more needs to be done to reduce displacement and support the displaced. It is an opportunity to empower internally displaced people in the responses and solutions that affecting them; to strengthen partnerships and operational responses and to promote a stronger political agenda on internal displacement.

The GP20 is our opportunity to amplify the voices of one of the world's most vulnerable mobile populations.

Since its launch on May 16, #AwareRamadan has gained an engagement unprecedented on IOM MENA's pages, reaching to more than 205,000 individual across the region.

In this issue of the RO newsletter, you will find a review of the different country missions' initiatives and achievements, as well as a number of human stories from the field.

I wish you a pleasant read,

**Carmela Godeau,**  
Regional Director, IOM Regional Office for the Middle East and North Africa.



Photo: Raber Aziz.



Migration Governance certificate.  
Photo: IOM Egypt.

## The Migration Governance Certificate Now Regional!

The UN Migration Agency (IOM) Mission in Egypt, in partnership with the American University in Cairo's Center for Migration and Refugee Studies (AUC/CMRS), is organizing the first regional edition of the Certificate in Migration Governance.

This first regional edition is planned to take place in Cairo from the 22nd till the 30th September 2018, and is expected to bring together a number of government officials from the Middle East and North Africa (MENA). The nine-day intensive learning programme will cover the key areas of migration governance, ranging from migration law to emergencies.

Since October 2016, 57 Egyptian governmental official and non-governmental representatives graduated after completing a six-module learning programme on migration governance, co-delivered by professors from the American University in Cairo (AUC) and IOM practitioners, with the support of the European Union and the governments of Italy, the United Kingdom and the United States of America.



Visit to IOM Clinic in Achrafieh, Beirut.  
Photo: IOM Lebanon.

## Argentine Officials Discuss Syria Programme in Lebanon

Between April 23 and 27, 2018 the UN Migration Agency (IOM) Mission in Lebanon hosted a delegation of Argentinian officials from several ministries related to the "Special Programme for the Issuance of Humanitarian Visas for Foreigners Affected by the Conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic," known as the Syria Programme.

During the five-day mission, IOM jointly with the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) provided the delegation a training on the resettlement programmes globally implemented by both organizations and on the technical support provided to the Syria Programme from Lebanon.

UNHCR addressed issues, such as the need of international protection for asylum seekers and Syrian refugees, and identification and referral processes, including interview techniques and protection criteria. IOM addressed issues related to pre-departure services, such as arrangements for safe transportation, provision of documents and exit permits, and cultural orientation sessions.

The Argentinian delegation visited the IOM-managed clinic in Achrafieh where health assessment are performed daily to 50 – 60 persons, among them programme beneficiaries.

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IOM Tuberculosis community volunteers visit a family in Azraq camp. Photo: Fedza Lukovac.

## Bringing Hope to Tuberculosis Patients in Jordan

For six years, the UN Migration Agency (IOM) Mission in Jordan has supported the Jordanian Ministry of Health in saving lives through the National Tuberculosis Programme. IOM concentrates its efforts in reaching out and treating the communities that are vulnerable to tuberculosis disease due to poor living conditions, lack of access to health services and proper nutrition, or un-healthy work environments.

In this context, Syrian refugees benefit as well from the programme through: door to door awareness and early detection inside the refugee camps; diagnosis and follow up of treatment; food support during the treatment; and follow up on the recovery period.

Patients from Iraq, Yemen, Saudi Arabia and other countries in the Middle East are also referred to IOM to receive treatment at the Annour Sanatorium in Mafrq. The Annour Sanatorium is a charity medical facility that treats tuberculosis patients. It allows them to recover in a quiet and healthy environment under the vigilance of a team of nurses and doctors, supported by IOM for the difficult cases.

“Although tuberculosis is still among the top ten causes of death in low and middle-income countries, the matter of fact is that tuberculosis can be cured completely, and this is a great message of hope for the patients. The efforts of the international community are needed to send tuberculosis definitively to the museum of sicknesses that have been defeated by humanity” said Dr. Saiful Qayyum, Programme Manager at IOM.



“The Guidelines for the Accommodation of Victims of Trafficking” Workshop. Photo: IOM Morocco.

## Consular Services Now Available for Migrants in Remote Detention Centres

The UN Migration Agency (IOM) Mission in Libya is facilitating visits to remote detention centres, in close coordination with the Libyan Government, to ensure that more stranded migrants wishing to return home gain access to consular services.

Due to geographical and security constraints, embassies face challenges to reach their nationals detained outside Tripoli. In this context, IOM conducts field visits to remote detention centers enabling embassies personnel and community leaders to verify the conditions in which their nationals are being held and to explore possible ways and means for their release, as well as to identify migrants wishing to return back home with IOM's Voluntary Humanitarian Return and reintegration assistance.

“Putting my diplomatic duty aside, as a father and a former teacher seeing my fellow young citizens, especially the children in such harsh condition is a tragedy. It is a relief that the voluntary return support can be extended to those who are eager to return voluntarily back home” says Mr. Boubacar Samake from the Embassy of Mali who visited Zintan with IOM.

To date, IOM has assisted more than 7,000 stranded migrants to return back home to their countries of origin.



“The Guidelines for the Accommodation of Victims of Trafficking” Workshop. Photo: IOM Morocco.

## Better Protecting and Sheltering Victims of Trafficking in Morocco

The UN Migration Agency (IOM) Mission in Morocco, organized on May 14th and 15th in Rabat a workshop on “The Guidelines for the Accommodation of Victims of Trafficking”.

The workshop brought together more than 50 representatives from the government (Ministry in Charge of Moroccans Residing Abroad and Migration Affairs, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Youth and Sports, National Human Rights Council, among others), as well as international organizations and non-governmental organizations working in the field.

Participants highlighted the importance of having common recommendations to better guide officials on how to better protect and shelter victims of trafficking. It was also an occasion to share their experiences, challenges and best practices related to combatting human trafficking in order to ensure synergies and coordination.

This workshop was organized under the Regional Development and Protection Programme Morocco (RDPP).

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Trainee at the Basuq factory.  
Photo: Raber Aziz.

## Refugee in Sweets

Durrah and nine other Syrian refugee women – four of them widows – live in a refugee camp in Erbil and have no source of income. They wanted to work but did not have access to job opportunities outside the camp due to movement difficulties.

As a result, they approached the UN Migration Agency (IOM) Mission in Iraq with the ambitious idea to start a production workshop for dried fruits used in making Basuq, a well-known local type of sweets. The women were also linked with local stores where they can sell their products. This small business had the potential of generating income for their families and further contributing to the women's resilience.

IOM, in collaboration with United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), trained the women on food hygiene, health safety and business development, and set up and equipped a workplace for them.

"All the women who work here have families that need them to work. It's a good project and thankfully we are happy with what we do. We help each other and we are like a family. If one of us is sick or cannot come we all cover for each other's absence. We work as one, our problems are one," said Durrah Mohammed, one of the women working in the factory.

Initially, IOM, UNIDO and camp management will supervise the project, until the women take it in charge fully and hopefully work on expanding it.

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Dr. Brahim and his Haussa language notebook.  
Photo: IOM Algeria.

## Learning Haussa to Better Communicate with Beneficiaries, Story of an Algerian Doctor

3.00 pm in Tamanrasset – South of Algeria. It is the coffee break of a training workshop organized by the Algerian Ministry of Health, Population and Hospital Reform with the support of the UN Migration Agency (IOM) in Algeria. This is where we met Dr. Brahim, a doctor at Tamanrasset's Hospital "whose conversation is full of compassion and humanity" tells Pascal Reyntjens, Chief of Mission, IOM Algiers.

"During our exchange on health care for mobile populations in the city, Dr. Brahim surprised me with his level of dedication" adds Reyntjens. The Tamanrasset doctor, an avid believer in the power of communication for building trust with the migrants during medical consultations, was self teaching himself Haussa, the most important indigenous language in West and Central Africa. "He proudly showed me his personal note book where he translates words and its pronunciation to Haussa language for better understanding and communicating with the trans-border mobile populations" tells Reyntjens.

In the framework of the IOM Development Fund project "Addressing HIV and STI's Vulnerabilities among Transnational Migrants in Algeria," 88 participants have benefited from training workshops that aimed at building the capacity of health care providers and community representatives that provide Sexually Transmitted Infections, Human Immunodeficiency Virus, Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (STI/HIV/AIDS), awareness and care services.

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IOM Search and Rescue Mobile Teams in Yemen.  
Photo: IOM Yemen.

## Meet the Search and Rescue Mobile Teams

The Search and Rescue Mobile Teams of the UN Migration Agency (IOM) Mission in Yemen are in the occupation of saving lives.

They travel along the coastal lines to assist newly arriving migrants – who often reach the shore in bad conditions – in a van comprising two health staff trained on first aid treatment as well as lifesaving medical assistance, including emergency referral, where required. Two protection staff are also present and provide migrants upon their arrival with food and water and hygiene kits then proceed to register them.

"We greet them at a distance and introduce ourselves and ask them if they are alright or need help. Within seconds of interaction, we explain who we are and what do we do. We offer migrants water, food, and medical assistance, necessary. We sit in a casual setting with the migrants under a tree sometimes to avoid the hot summering sun and explain to them their rights" explains Saba Malme, Media and Communication Officer of IOM Yemen.

Despite the ongoing conflict in Yemen, nearly 100,000 migrants arrived during 2017 to Yemen en route to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for better economic opportunities.

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**For Migrants** is a monthly newsletter by the UN Migration Agency (IOM) Regional Office for the Middle East and North Africa, highlighting key activities of IOM's mission in the region. The publication only publishes flash news from the missions, and for the full spectrum on each mission's activities readers are invited to consult the country offices website indicated under each article.

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