



International Organization for Migration (IOM)

The UN Migration Agency

The background of the entire page is a photograph of a group of women in a community setting. In the foreground, a woman wearing a bright green headscarf and matching dress is focused on sewing a piece of fabric with a needle and thread. Behind her, several other women are visible, some sitting and some standing, engaged in similar activities or conversation. The setting appears to be outdoors or in a semi-enclosed space with trees in the background.

IOM-EU COOPERATION ON MIGRATION AND MOBILITY

ADDRESSING THE VALLETTA SUMMIT PRIORITIES TOGETHER

Partnerships in Action

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IOM is committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and society. As the leading international organization for migration, IOM acts with its partners in the international community to assist in meeting the growing operational challenges of migration management; advance understanding of migration issues; encourage social and economic development through migration; and uphold the human dignity and well-being of migrants.

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Women attending an IOM-led session on embroidery in an IDP camp in Nigeria.
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Addressing the Valletta Summit priorities together

2015 - 2016 Report

Contents

Forewords	4
IOM-EU cooperation at a glance	6
Where we work together	14
Addressing the Valletta Summit priorities together	28
Development benefits of migration and addressing root causes of irregular migration and forced displacement	32
Legal migration and mobility	34
Protection and asylum	36
Prevention of and fight against irregular migration, migrant smuggling and trafficking in human beings	38
Return, readmission and reintegration	40
Looking ahead: 2017 and beyond	42



In this year of IOM's 65th anniversary and its entry into the United Nations, I am pleased to introduce this second edition of the IOM-EU partnership series for 2015-2016 and its focus on the Valletta Summit on Migration.

Established in 1951 to help European governments to identify resettlement countries for the estimated 11 million people uprooted by the Second World War and to assist the movement of nearly one million, IOM's mandate has evolved to become the leading international agency on migration.

As one of the largest donors, the European Union and its Member States have remained key partners throughout IOM's work, both within the EU and externally in the EU's partner countries.

On 19 September 2016, I had the privilege to sign the historic agreement bringing IOM into the UN system as the UN Migration Agency. For IOM, its over 9,000 staff and 400 locations on all five continents, this was a landmark moment and demonstrated the significance of migration as a "mega-trend" of the 21st century.

Europe has faced significant immediate and longer-term challenges from migration and forced displacement during the 2015-2016 period. I commend the EU for its efforts toward a more comprehensive migration policy, the notable

rescue of over 400,000 people at sea and the mobilization of over EUR 10 billion in financing. IOM and the EU share the view that no country can effectively address migration alone and that all countries, international organizations, civil society, and local authorities need to work together to make a comprehensive, coherent and sustainable European migration policy a reality.

The commitments taken by the EU and African partners in Valletta in 2015 as well as the establishment of the EU Trust Fund for Africa can make important contributions in this regard to strengthen migration governance at local, national, regional and international levels.

At IOM, we remain convinced that migration is inevitable, necessary and desirable – when well governed. Migration should not be seen as an issue to be addressed or a crisis to be solved, but as a human reality to be managed.

As stakeholders prepare to take stock of the Valletta Action Plan in 2017 and to draft the Global Compact on Migration for 2018, IOM looks forward to continued strong partnership with the EU in our shared interest of better governing migration for the benefit of all.

William Lacy Swing
IOM Director General



Flipping through the pages of this book, Agadez is a recurrent name. It is the gate of Sahara, on the main route leading to Libya and to Europe. Every year, hundreds of thousands of people cross their paths and their lives in Agadez. And every day, many of them benefit of the cooperation between the European Union and the International Organization for Migration.

At the IOM Migrant Information Office in Agadez, financed by the European Union, migrants get to know the dangers of an irregular trip, the regular channels for reaching Europe, and how we can help them find a good job back home. Thousands of people are hosted in our Transit Centres. The European Union is training the security forces of Niger, to fight traffickers and respect human right. And we are working to provide alternative sources of income to the individuals and the communities that currently rely on the smuggling business.

This publication maps and explains the work the European Union and the IOM are doing together, but it can also help us chart the way ahead. Our goal is not, and could not be, to stop migration: it would be wrong, it would be impossible, and it would be counterproductive. Europe's culture has prospered on exchanges among peoples and civilisations. Europe's economy needs migrants, and the "cost of non-migration" would be huge. Today's challenge is rather

governing migration, making it safe for those who leave, and sustainable for those who welcome.

This is the task that lies ahead, as we work for a Global Compact for migrants and refugees. The IOM has now become integral part of the United Nations' system. The European Union has identified the construction of a better system for human mobility as a core objective for its external action, with the Global Strategy on foreign and security policy. Greater cooperation is the obvious choice. And the one that delivers.

The IOM was founded to support millions of European citizens who had fled their homes after World War Two, the EU itself is the result of the horrors of the war. Today it is our shared duty to support others who are in need. We owe it to our history, and it is the only path towards a more sustainable future.

Federica Mogherini

High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission



IOM-EU COOPERATION AT A GLANCE

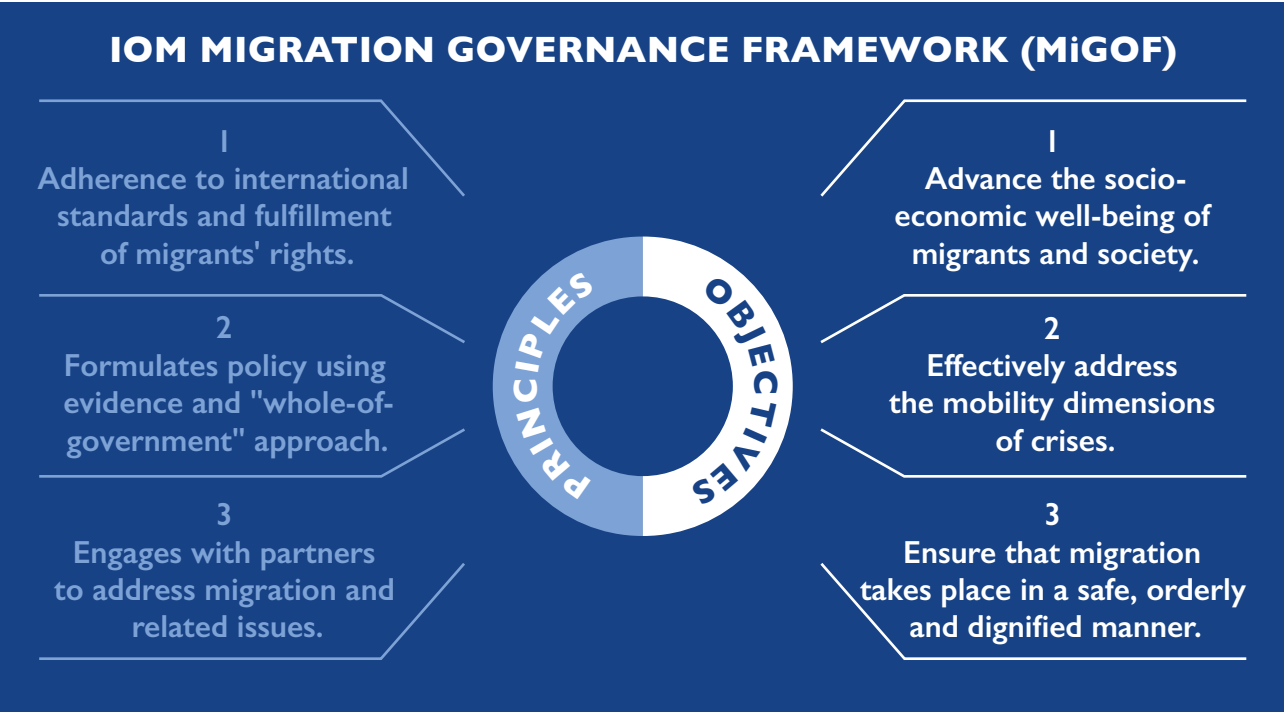
The EU High Representative and IOM Director General at the launch event of the Joint initiative for migrant protection and reintegration in Africa along the Central Mediterranean migration routes. © European Union 2016

The relationship between the International Organization for Migration and the European Union rests on longstanding dialogue and operational cooperation around the world.

In the 2015-2016 period, IOM has actively engaged with the EU institutions, agencies and Member States in their efforts toward a more comprehensive approach to migration management through the **European Agenda on Migration**.

The EU Member States, as part of the IOM global membership, have also endorsed the **Migration Governance Framework (MiGOF)** as the essential elements for facilitating orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people.

IOM and the EU saw intensified collaboration in the year leading up to IOM's entry into the UN system in the context of **global commitments** such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, Paris Climate Change Agreement, Agenda for Humanity, New Urban Agenda, and the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants.



IOM-EU STRATEGIC COOPERATION FRAMEWORK

The Strategic Cooperation Framework has accompanied developments within IOM and the EU in 2015 and 2016. Two expert meetings, one Heads of Unit/Division consultation and a Senior Officials Meeting were held, involving more than 100 participants.

Discussions addressed the follow-up to the Valletta Summit, cooperation with the Western Balkans and Turkey, as well as priority themes such as return and reintegration, forced displacement and development, legal migration, migration governance, and migration data.

Originally signed by IOM, three European Commission Departments (DGs DEVCO,

ECHO and HOME) and the European External Action Service (EEAS) in July 2012, the Strategic Cooperation Framework was expanded to include the Directorate General for Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR) in February 2016. To date, thirteen IOM-EU meetings have taken place in this format, involving over 270 participants.



Katarina Mathernova, DG NEAR and William Lacy Swing, IOM sign exchange of letters to expand the Strategic Cooperation Framework. © IOM 2016



Senior IOM and EU staff gather for the Third IOM-EU Senior Officials Meeting of the Strategic Cooperation Framework. © IOM 2016

IOM AT THE EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENT DAYS

As partner for the 2015 and 2016 editions of the European Development Days, IOM has worked with the EU institutions to support debate and awareness-raising on the migration and development nexus.

In 2015, IOM Deputy Director General Laura Thompson (pictured here) joined the High Level Panel "Migration is development: Making migration a driver for development". IOM and DG DEVCO also joined forces to organise a workshop and stand on migration, environmental degradation and climate change.



Photos © European Union 2015 and 2016

The following year, DG DEVCO, IOM and UNHCR co-organised the High Level Panel "Harnessing the potential of migration and forced displacement for development" with speakers from DG HOME, EEAS, IOM and UNHCR (pictured here). IOM, furthermore, worked with NGO and UN partners to hold workshops on leveraging migration for development and on migration and cities.



IOM JOINS THE UNITED NATIONS

On 19 September 2016, IOM joined the UN as a related organization at the UN Summit on Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants in New York.



IOM Director General William Lacy Swing and UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon sign the agreement to make the IOM a Related Organization of the UN. © UN 2016

The entry of IOM into the UN system is the culmination of progressively stronger collaboration and coordination efforts since IOM's establishment in 1951. Unanimously endorsed by the IOM and UN membership, the inclusion of IOM in the "UN family" reflects a growing recognition of the importance of migration and human mobility in international cooperation.

As the UN Migration Agency, IOM looks forward to continuing and deepening its work with the European Union and its Member States on related policy agendas, including in the humanitarian, development, human rights, climate change and peace and security domains. The implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals as well as the adoption of the Global Compact on Migration in 2018 will remain shared priorities of IOM and the EU for the years to come.

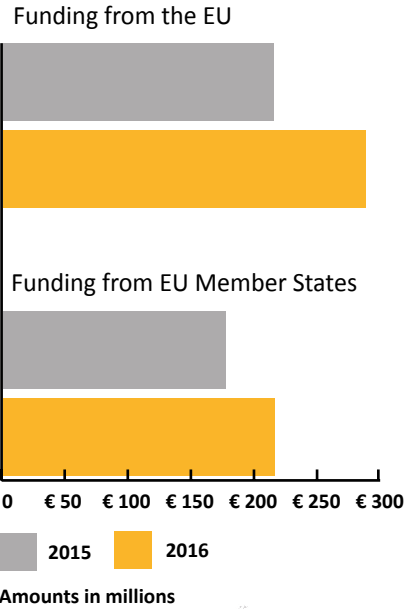
IOM-EU FACTS & FIGURES

Operationally, the EU and its Member States remain one of the **largest contributors** to IOM’s budget. In the 2015-2016 period, **543 projects** were contracted to IOM by the EU and its Member States for a total budget value of over **EUR 890 million**.*

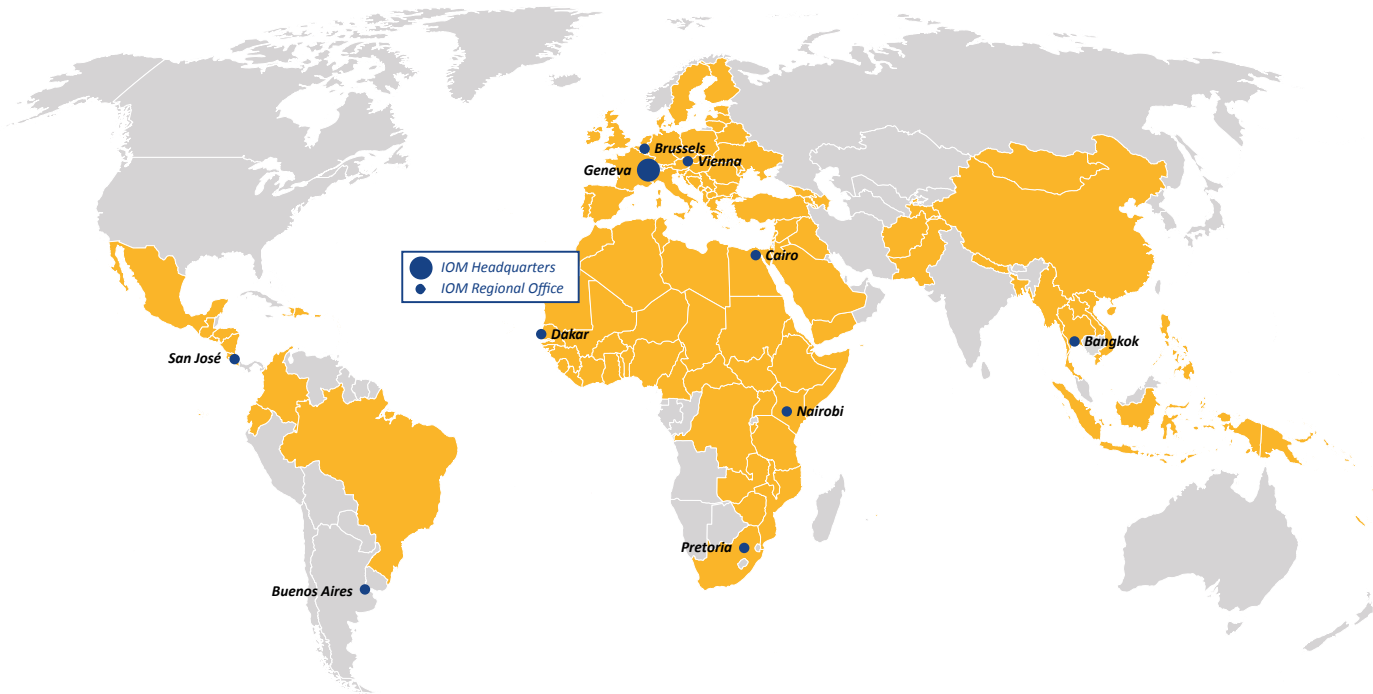
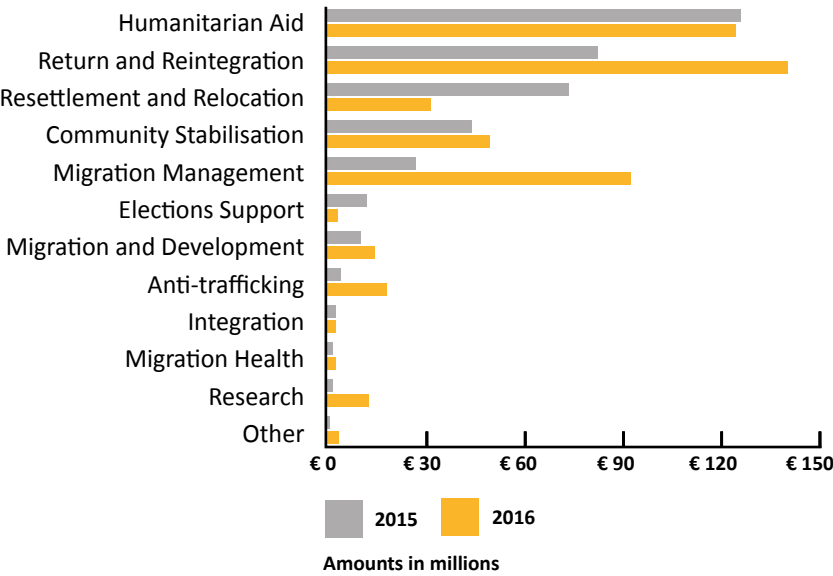
* Contributions contracted for annual and multi-annual actions.

In 2016, the value of these projects **increased by 28%** compared to the previous year, reaching **over EUR 500 million**. Funding from the EU represented **57%** of this figure at **EUR 286 million**, an **increase of 34%** versus 2015. Thematic areas with the largest growth in 2016 were migration management, return and reintegration, anti-trafficking, and integration.

VALUE OF CONTRACTS SIGNED WITH THE EU AND ITS MEMBER STATES



VALUE OF CONTRACTS SIGNED WITH THE EU AND ITS MEMBER STATES BY THEMATIC AREA



The map indicates IOM HQ and Regional Offices and marks the 115 countries where the EU funded IOM activities during 2015 and 2016.

IOM MEMBER STATES
166

IOM STAFF
9,782
More than 95% of IOM staff are based in the field

IOM OBSERVERS
8 Observer States
134 International governmental and non-governmental observers

IOM FIELD STRUCTURE
9 Regional Offices
2 Administrative Centres
2 Special Liaison Offices
9 Country Offices with resource mobilization & coordinating functions
401 Country Offices and field locations
1 Global Migration Data Analysis Centre (GMDAC)

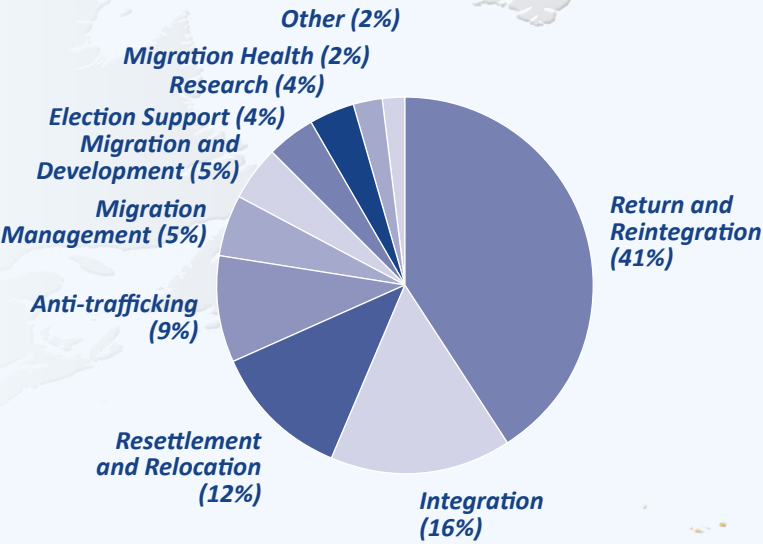
WHERE WE WORK TOGETHER

Gender-based violence and anti-trafficking: IOM with support from the EU and Panasonic, is distributing solar lanterns and 'dignity kits' to internally displaced persons in settlements across Somalia. © IOM 2015



WHERE THE EU FUNDS IOM IN
THE EUROPEAN UNION

ACTIVE PROJECTS
BY THEMATIC AREA
(2015-2016)



**ASSISTED VOLUNTARY
RETURN AND
REINTEGRATION**

In 2015, IOM assisted **52,512** migrants through approximately **75** AVRR programmes in the EU. This figure represents **79%** of IOM's voluntary returns globally and an increase of **51%** compared to 2014. Approximately **80,000** voluntary returnees from the EU were assisted by IOM in 2016.



MIGRATION HEALTH

With EU support, IOM has been working to improve healthcare services for migrants, the Roma and other vulnerable ethnic minorities in the EU Member States through the Equi-Health Project. The Re-Health project is also piloting support to address health-related issues of arriving migrants and ensure continuity of care.



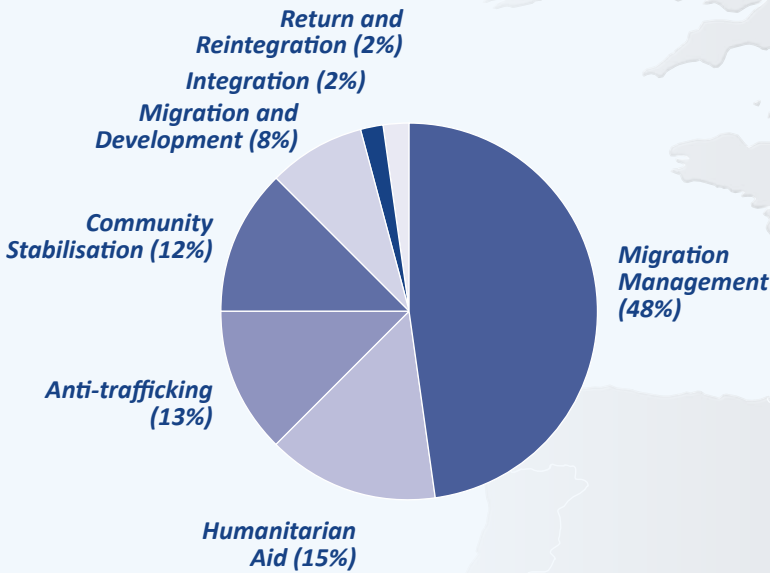
**RESETTLEMENT
AND RELOCATION**



IOM is a longstanding and key global actor in resettlement. Between January 2015 and October 2016, IOM resettled **23,792** refugees in **20 European countries** and assisted **17,749** persons through family reunification programmes. In addition, IOM provides crucial support for the relocation scheme from Italy and Greece to other EU Member States, under which close to **10,000** refugees have been assisted as of the end of December 2016.

WHERE THE EU FUNDS IOM IN
**SOUTH-EASTERN AND
EASTERN EUROPE**

ACTIVE PROJECTS
BY THEMATIC AREA
(2015-2016)



With support from the EU, 8 multi-country and 6 bilateral projects were ongoing in **Ukraine** between 2015 and 2016 in the areas of migration management, humanitarian aid, community stabilisation and anti-trafficking.

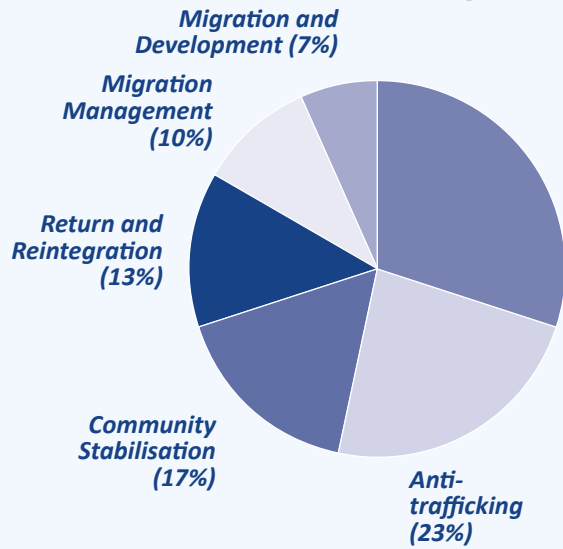
Number of active projects
1 14

In addition to the mapped projects, IOM has supported the **EU's dialogue with the Eastern Partnership countries** (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine) since 2012 in the context of the **Support to the Eastern Partnership Panel on Migration and Asylum** project.

**This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.*

WHERE THE EU FUNDS IOM IN
**THE MIDDLE EAST
AND NORTH AFRICA**

**ACTIVE PROJECTS
BY THEMATIC AREA
(2015-2016)**

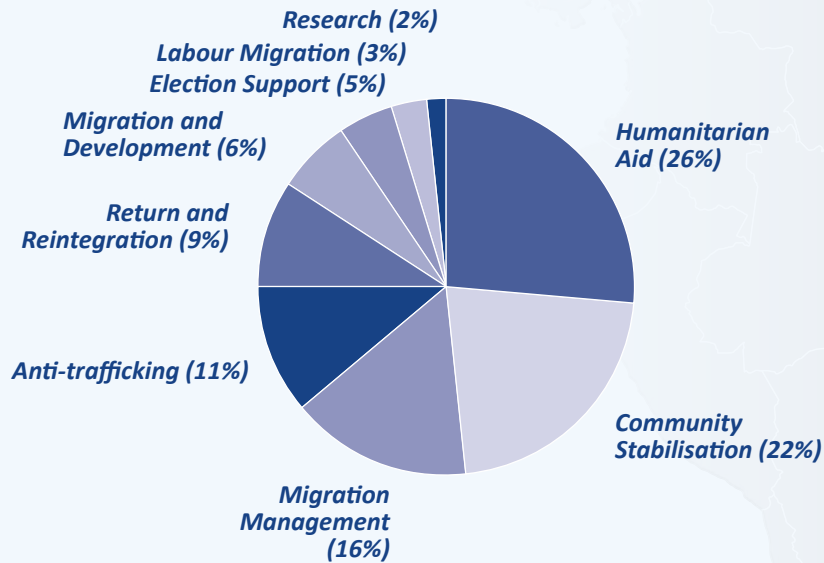


 In **Libya**, the EU funded 3 regional and 5 bilateral ongoing projects between 2015 and 2016 in the areas of community stabilisation, humanitarian aid and migration management.

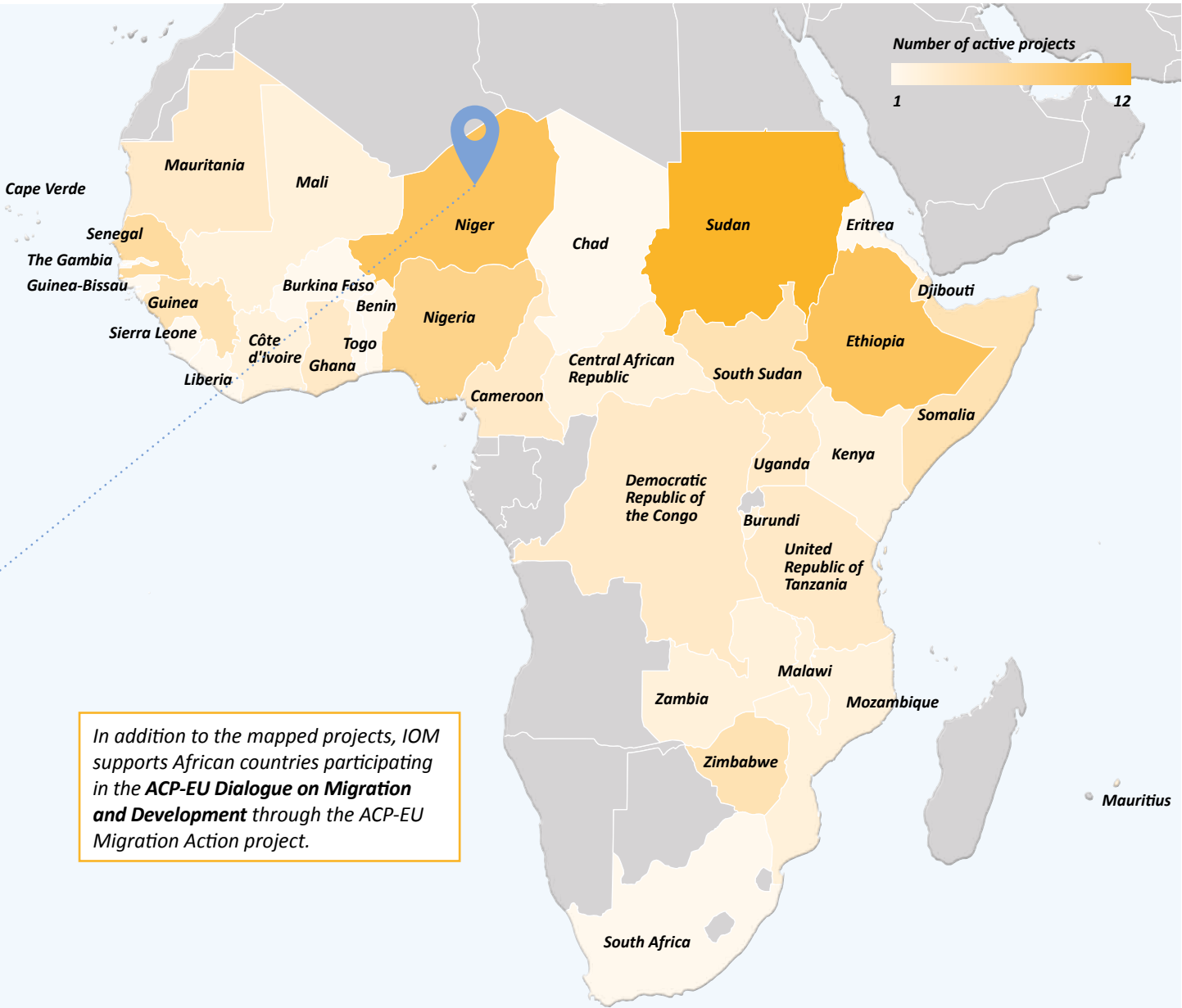


WHERE THE EU FUNDS IOM IN
SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

ACTIVE PROJECTS
BY THEMATIC AREA
(2015-2016)



 In **Niger**, 3 multi-country and 6 bilateral ongoing projects were supported by the EU between 2015 and 2016 in the fields of return and reintegration, migration management, anti-trafficking, and migration and development.

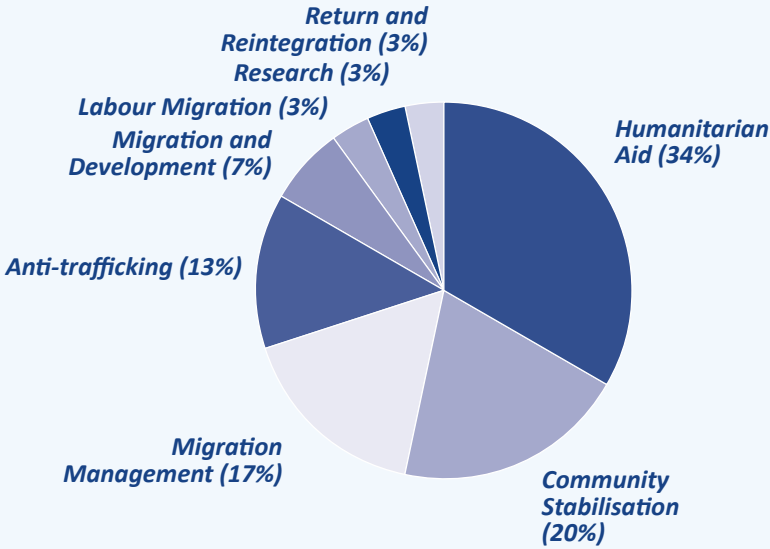


In addition to the mapped projects, IOM supports African countries participating in the **ACP-EU Dialogue on Migration and Development** through the ACP-EU Migration Action project.

WHERE THE EU FUNDS IOM IN

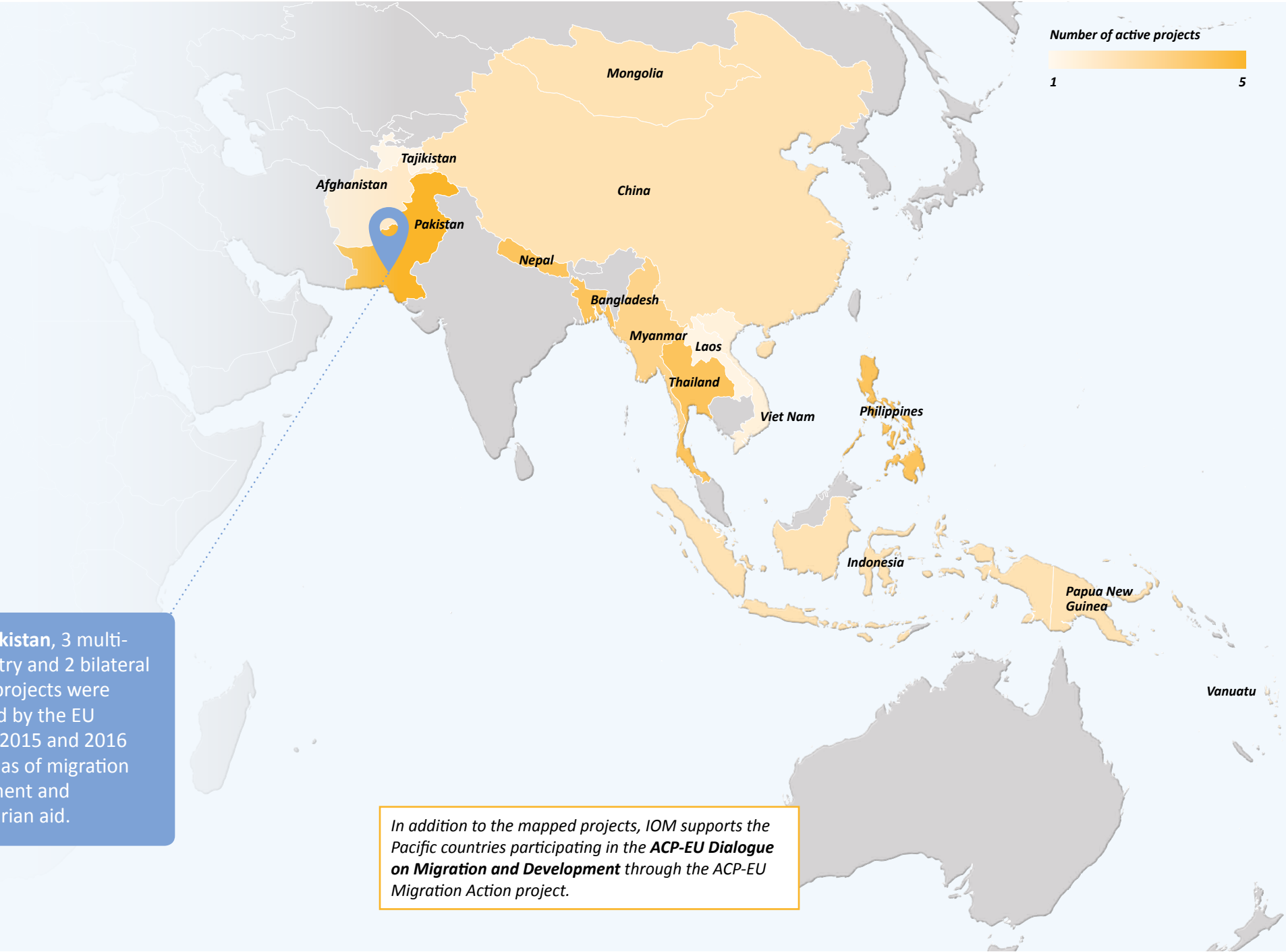
ASIA & THE PACIFIC

ACTIVE PROJECTS
BY THEMATIC AREA
(2015-2016)



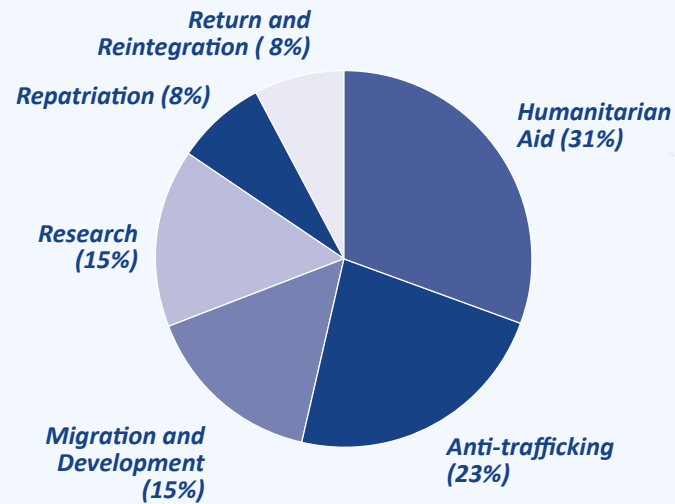
 In Pakistan, 3 multi-country and 2 bilateral ongoing projects were supported by the EU between 2015 and 2016 in the areas of migration management and humanitarian aid.

In addition to the mapped projects, IOM supports the Pacific countries participating in the **ACP-EU Dialogue on Migration and Development** through the ACP-EU Migration Action project.



WHERE THE EU FUNDS IOM IN
**LATIN AMERICA &
THE CARIBBEAN**

ACTIVE PROJECTS
BY THEMATIC AREA
(2015-2016)



With support from the EU, 1 multi-country and 4 bilateral projects were ongoing in **Haiti** between 2015 and 2016 in the areas of humanitarian aid, elections support, research, migration management, and environmental degradation and climate change.



ADDRESSING THE VALLETTA SUMMIT PRIORITIES TOGETHER



Valletta Summit on Migration, from left to right: Joseph Muscat, Maltese Prime Minister; William Lacy Swing, IOM Director General; Donald Tusk, President of the European Council. © European Union 2015.

The Valletta Summit of 11-12 November 2015 provided a historic platform for African and European leaders to agree on a joint approach and concrete actions to strengthen their cooperation on migration.

The 66 participating African and European states, as well as international and regional organizations, contributed to the adoption of a Political Declaration and Action Plan focusing on **five priority domains**: migration and development; legal migration and mobility; protection and asylum; irregular migration, trafficking and smuggling; and return, readmission and reintegration.

Substantial resources have been mobilised to support these commitments, notably through the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Stability and Addressing Root Causes of Irregular Migration and Displaced Persons in Africa (**EU Trust Fund**

for Africa). This funding provides an unprecedented opportunity to strengthen migration governance for the benefit of the participating states, migrants and society.

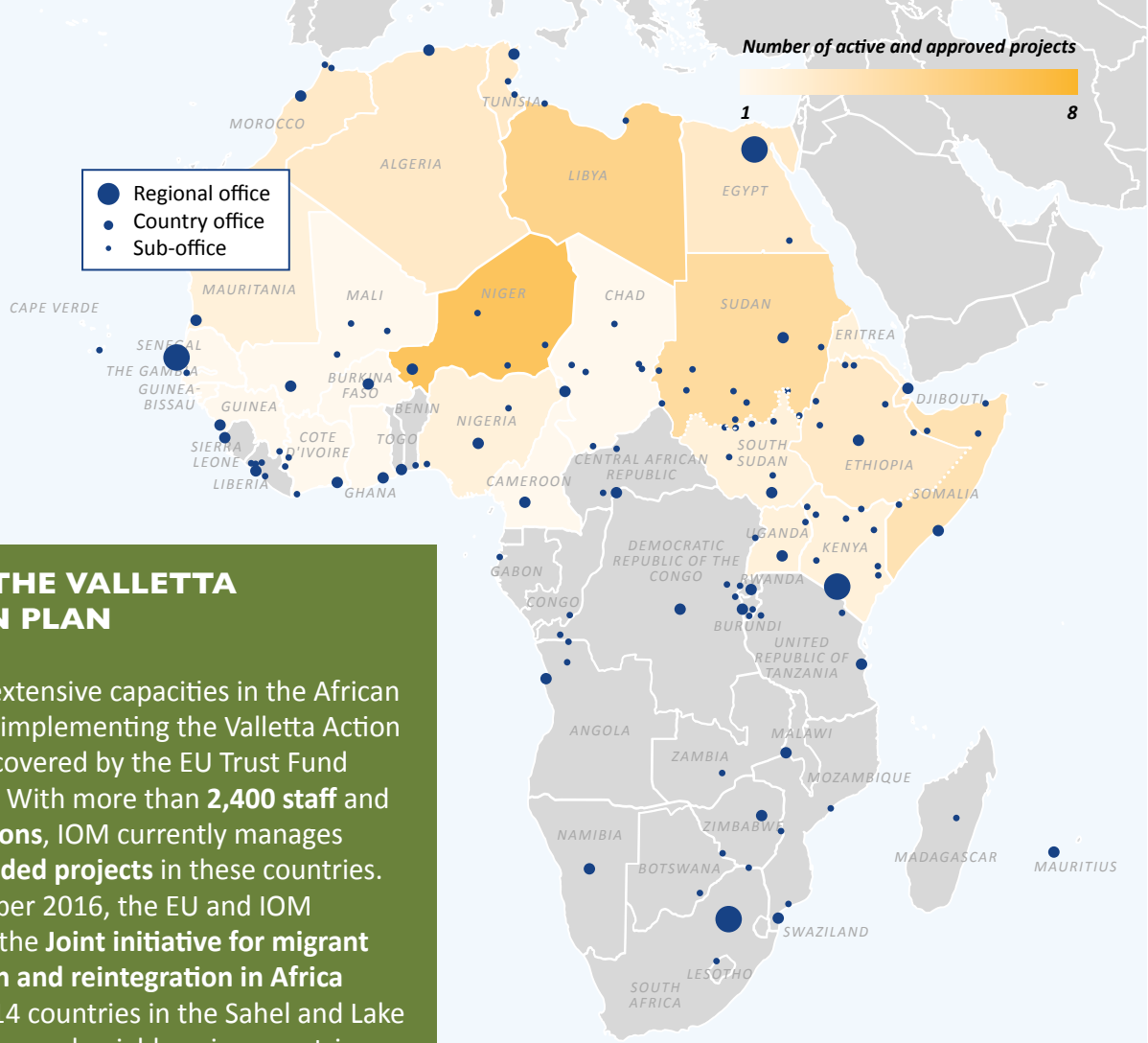
IOM has welcomed the invitation to contribute its expertise to the preparations and deliberations of the Valletta Summit. Building on its mandate and extensive presence across both continents, IOM is committed to supporting the EU and Africa in their efforts toward a shared, holistic approach to migration that prioritises the human rights, dignity and protection of all migrants.

MIGRANT RESOURCE AND RESPONSE MECHANISMS (MRRM)

Aiming to provide operational support to governments addressing complex migratory flows, MRRMs, such as those funded by the EU in Niamey, Agadez and other locations in Niger, provide identification and registration, direct assistance, and referral services for migrants. At the same time, MRRMs collect and analyse data on migration trends to better inform policymaking and operational responses.



Cooperation: German Chancellor Angela Merkel is warmly greeted by migrants at IOM’s transit centre in Niamey, Niger on 10 October 2016. © IOM 2016



IOM & THE VALLETTA ACTION PLAN

IOM has extensive capacities in the African countries implementing the Valletta Action Plan and covered by the EU Trust Fund for Africa. With more than **2,400 staff** and **153 locations**, IOM currently manages **35 EU-funded projects** in these countries. In December 2016, the EU and IOM launched the **Joint initiative for migrant protection and reintegration in Africa** covering 14 countries in the Sahel and Lake Chad region and neighbouring countries, including Libya. Similar support will be extended to the Horn of Africa region through the **Facility for Sustainable and Dignified Return and Reintegration** in support of the Khartoum Process.

DEVELOPMENT BENEFITS OF MIGRATION AND ADDRESSING ROOT CAUSES OF IRREGULAR MIGRATION AND FORCED DISPLACEMENT

Leaders in Valletta underlined the need for a comprehensive approach to migration that ensures human dignity and boosts sustainable development.



Migration and Development: In the context of the ACP-EU Migration Action, IOM together with the Government of Mali and local NGO - IMIGRAD carried out training on accounting and farming. © IOM 2015

Maximizing the positive relationship between migration and development has long been a focus of IOM’s work through capacity building, local development, diaspora engagement, and service delivery programmes. In its role in the Joint EU-UN Migration and Development Initiative and strong support to the ACP-EU Dialogue, IOM has substantially contributed to bringing the migration and development agenda forward in the EU and Africa.

In crisis contexts, IOM and the EU are also working to support peacebuilding, community stabilization, and the progressive resolution of displacement situations in countries such as Libya, South Sudan and in the Lake Chad basin. With support from the EU Trust Fund for Africa, IOM is addressing the drivers of inter-communal conflict and enhancing resilience to combat violent extremism in Uganda.

Solid research and an evidence-based approach to addressing root causes is, furthermore, essential for effective migration and development policies.

IOM’s Displacement Tracking Matrix and flow monitoring contribute to this knowledge base along key migration routes in Africa and Europe by providing reliable primary data.

Moreover, EU funding is allowing IOM to build capacity for data management in West Africa and to bridge innovative research and policy-making in the area of migration, environmental degradation and climate change in Kenya.

Looking ahead, IOM and the EU are developing guidelines and practical tools for mainstreaming migration into international cooperation in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.



Migration and Development: The IOM "I am a Migrant · I am a Refugee" campaign gives voice and puts a human face on the myriad of personal stories of migrants and refugees to counter misperceptions that categorize both groups. © IOM 2016

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND PROTECTION PROGRAMME (RDPP) IN NORTH AFRICA

Under the development pillar of the EU’s RDPP North Africa, IOM seeks to build resilience in host communities, support social cohesion, enhance livelihoods, and protect the rights of migrants. The two-phased project, with a total budget of EUR 11 million, delivers targeted assistance in Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia. © IOM 2015



LEGAL MIGRATION AND MOBILITY

Recognising the benefits of well-managed migration between and within Africa and Europe, the Valletta Declaration confirmed the importance of advancing legal mobility opportunities.

When properly managed, IOM believes that legal migration has **far-reaching potential** for migrants, their communities, the countries of origin and destination, and for employers. Legal migration should, therefore, be seen as an integral part of development and employment policies and be well grounded in the realities of regional and global labour markets.

Ensuring **accurate information and tailored assistance** for (prospective) migrants is a key element of promoting safe, legal migration channels. For this purpose, IOM has been supporting governments, the private sector and civil society around the world to develop information and referral services and promote ethical recruitment.

In Tunisia, for example, EU funding has bolstered outreach activities of Migrant Resource Centres established by IOM and the national agencies responsible for employment and Tunisians abroad.

Linked to Valletta priorities for reinforced co-operation and comprehensive policies on legal migration, IOM aims to strengthen **identity management systems** and **immigration management** through projects such as FMM West Africa. The IOM-led ACP-EU Migration Action also continues to provide on-demand technical assistance on visa policies to countries such as Benin, Liberia, and Sudan.



Safe and Informed Migration: IOM Niger has organized a three-day “Festival on Safe and Informed Migration” in Agadez, Niger. The festival was part of an IOM project: “Supporting Informed Migration in Niger,” co-funded by the European Union and the Italian Ministry of Interior. © IOM 2016



Labour migration: Beneficiaries of the EU-funded project *Stabilizing At-Risk Communities and Enhancing Migration Management to Enable Smooth Transitions in Egypt, Libya, and Tunisia (START)* attend an employment fair in Fayoum, Egypt. ©IOM 2015

SUPPORT TO FREE MOVEMENT OF PERSONS & MIGRATION IN WEST AFRICA



Led by IOM and co-funded by the EU and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the project aims to maximize the development potential of the free movement of persons and migration in West Africa at regional, national and local levels. In 2015, the project supported ECOWAS Member States in preparing a Common Position for the Valletta Summit, which was delivered at the ministerial meeting of the Migration Dialogue for West Africa (MIDWA) and Tunisia. © FMM 2016



PROTECTION AND ASYLUM

Saving lives and ensuring the rescue and protection of migrants at risk were identified as top political priorities in Valletta.

Summit participants, furthermore, agreed to strengthen international protection and assistance, humanitarian aid, and protection mechanisms such as resettlement.

IOM has welcomed the renewed commitment to protecting the rights of all migrants and ensuring that humanitarian assistance targets the **most vulnerable**, regardless of their legal status. EU support has played a crucial role to this area of IOM's work in countries such as Ethiopia, Libya, Niger, Somalia and Sudan as well as to mainstreaming protection within IOM programmes on migration data, migrant assistance, labour migration, border management, and forced displacement and development.

As requested under the Valletta Action Plan, IOM, in close cooperation with UNHCR, has also significantly scaled up support to EU **relocation and resettlement** efforts. To date, IOM has assisted close to 10,000 individuals to be relocated within the EU.

EU humanitarian aid has, furthermore, funded more than 146 IOM projects since 2008, of which 44 were implemented in Valletta partner countries. Providing coordinated, timely,

and multisector **humanitarian responses**, these projects include the provision of shelter and non-food items; management and coordination in camps and camp-like settings; water, sanitation and hygiene promotion; transportation assistance including emergency evacuations; health and psychosocial support; and information management. Building on this extensive operational cooperation and as a complement to the EU-IOM Strategic Cooperation Framework, DG Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (ECHO) and IOM also launched a Strategic Dialogue in November 2016.



Resettlement: IOM provides pre-departure medical assistance for refugees being resettled from East Africa to Europe and the Americas. © IOM 2015

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE IN LIBYA

With funding from EU humanitarian aid, IOM is collecting systematic data on internally displaced persons, vulnerable migrants, refugees and asylum seekers to inform humanitarian interventions as well as providing direct assistance to migrants rescued at sea. © IOM 2016



Resettlement: In East Africa, IOM assists refugees being resettled to Europe and the Americas. © IOM 2015

PREVENTION OF AND FIGHT AGAINST IRREGULAR MIGRATION, MIGRANT SMUGGLING AND TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

Participants of the Valletta Summit expressed their determination to scale up joint efforts to address irregular migration, migrant smuggling and trafficking in human beings.

Irregular forms of migration are a serious threat to the **safety, well-being and human development of migrants**, families and communities, as well as to national and international development efforts. At the same time, IOM has advocated in Valletta that further attention is needed to the interdependence between this phenomenon and the availability of appropriate legal channels for migration and mobility.

IOM and the EU have built up a solid partnership to address **human trafficking and migrant smuggling** priorities. With funding from the EU, IOM delivers capacity building, specialised assistance and information to trafficking victims and vulnerable groups in many of the participating Valletta countries.

COMBATting CHILD TRAFFICKING AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE IN THE HORN OF AFRICA

With funding from the EU, IOM has been implementing projects aimed at combatting trafficking of children and gender-based violence (GBV) in the Horn of Africa. In Somalia, as a GBV prevention measure, IOM has distributed a total of 872 solar lanterns to vulnerable migrants and host communities. The lanterns facilitate study at home, reduce risk of assault and insecurity, and increase health and safety by replacing kerosene sources. © IOM 2015



Irregular migration: Through the EU-funded SALEMM project, IOM supported 20 young "ambassadors" to produce video clips as part of an awareness campaign addressing the issues around irregular migration of children and young people in Tunisia. © SALEMM 2015



Border management: A passport examination training is carried out for Egyptian border officials, through the EU-funded protection project supporting governmental and non-governmental partners to protect Migrants' human rights along the East African Route, and co-funded by the Netherlands, Norway and Switzerland. © IOM 2015

IOM is, furthermore, engaged in supporting regional trafficking and smuggling responses through its contribution to the African Union Horn of Africa Initiative, Khartoum Process, the EU's Better Migration Management programme, and FMM West Africa.

In cooperation with the EU, IOM is also working with African governments to strengthen policy, legislation, administrative structures, operational systems and human resources to respond more effectively to diverse **migration and border management challenges** and to strengthen migration governance. For example, IOM has been supporting West African governments to develop their national migration policies and is cooperating with non-state actors to raise awareness

amongst ECOWAS citizens on their mobility rights, to promote regular cross-border movement, and to prevent trafficking.



Counter-trafficking: Within the framework of the EU-funded Action to Protect and Assist Vulnerable and Exploited Migrant Workers in the Middle East and North Africa (PAVE), IOM published research on protecting migrant workers against exploitation in the Middle East and North Africa. © IOM 2015

RETURN, READMISSION AND REINTEGRATION

Cooperation to facilitate the return and sustainable reintegration of irregular migrants from European and African transit and destination countries was addressed as the fifth and final priority domain in the Valletta outcomes.

In this context, leaders reaffirmed their preference for voluntary return and that all returns must be carried out in full respect of migrants’ human rights and dignity.

IOM strongly believes that the management of returns and support for reintegration must be embedded within a comprehensive and balanced approach to strengthen migration governance, mitigate factors of instability and address the key determinants of irregular migration. Support provided by IOM in this area includes capacity building for governments and civil society actors; referral and information services; pre-departure, voluntary return and post-arrival assistance; and reintegration programmes for returnees and their communities.

For 37 years, IOM has been operating assisted voluntary return and reintegration (AVRR) programmes around the world for which the European Union has been a main partner and donor within Europe and increasingly in Africa. Ensuring specialised assistance to vulnerable returnees such as unaccompanied children and victims of trafficking is fundamental to this work.

In 2015, approximately 70,000 migrants wishing to return home were assisted by IOM worldwide; this number is expected to reach 100,000 by the end of 2016.



Protection: IOM has been supporting governmental and non-governmental partners to protect migrant’s human rights along the East African route under the EU-funded Protection Project. © IOM 2015

ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF STRANDED AND VULNERABLE MIGRANTS IN TARGETED SENDING, TRANSIT AND RECEIVING COUNTRIES



Since 2015, the EU has funded IOM to provide capacity building to Ethiopia and Morocco to develop rights-based approaches to address the situation of stranded and vulnerable migrants, while providing assistance for immediate needs. Case Management Committees have been set-up by the project in the main countries of origin for migrants returning from Morocco (Cameroon, Guinea, Côte d'Ivoire, and Nigeria) to strengthen referral mechanisms for reintegration support, thereby improving services available to returning migrants. © IOM 2016

IOM welcomed the Valletta Action Plan’s invitation for IOM support to capacity building, policy frameworks, voluntary returns, reintegration assistance, and community-based reintegration measures.

In addition to EU-funded programmes ongoing in 2016 in countries such as Ethiopia, Libya, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, Tunisia and Senegal, new approaches to institutional capacity building, reintegration and community-level engagement will be piloted by IOM under the EU Trust Fund for Africa in East, West and North Africa in 2017.



Return Assistance: Migrants depart from Tripoli, Libya in an IOM chartered plane back home to Nigeria. © IOM 2016

LOOKING AHEAD: 2017 AND BEYOND



The **Valletta Summit** of November 2015 highlighted that improving governance of human mobility hinges on our joint ability to go beyond addressing immediate challenges and pursue a longer term and more comprehensive vision.

The Summit deliberations and recent adoption of the EU's Migration Partnership Framework have also confirmed the necessity of true

co-ownership between EU and African countries to ensure a common understanding and to put commitments into practice.

In the follow-up to Valletta, addressing the root causes of irregular migration and forced displacement has been a key priority. IOM believes that these efforts must focus on ensuring that migration is driven by free choice and aspirations rather than necessity and desperation. To this end, more impetus should be given to improving legal avenues to the EU; this will be essential in order for migrants to see legal options as a credible alternative to irregular migration and smugglers.

Attention to the real drivers of migration, both positive and negative, can serve as a basis for effective partnerships where all sides win: countries of origin, transit and destination and, most importantly, migrants and our societies.

Development aid and cooperation can play an important role in supporting these outcomes, but is only part of a response that must also address structural issues and fragility.

IOM welcomes the Valletta Senior Officials Meeting of February 2017 as a timely opportunity to reinforce cooperation and take stock of the implementation of commitments. We also look forward to the next EU-IOM Senior Officials Meeting that will allow us to assess and strengthen our joint efforts.

At the global level, the **UN Summit for Refugees and Migrants** of 19 September 2016 was the first time that world leaders came together to address issues affecting both refugees and migrants.

The resulting New York Declaration expresses the political will of world leaders to save lives, protect rights and share responsibility on a global scale.

The Declaration has set in motion a process to develop two Global Compacts, on Refugees and Migration respectively, for adoption in 2018. The drafting of a **Global Compact on Safe, Regular and Orderly Migration** represents a historic opportunity to set out the principles and commitments of the international community toward a holistic approach to migration, including its development, human rights, humanitarian, climate change, and peace and security dimensions. This work must be guided by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and elaborated through a clear, transparent and inclusive process.

The EU has the expertise, experience and responsibility to take a leading role in shaping the Global Compacts and building a system for human mobility where people can move safely, legally, voluntarily and sustainably, in full respect of their human rights. In line with the tasks given to IOM in the New York Declaration and our role as the UN Migration Agency, we look forward to working together with the EU in this critical endeavour over the coming two years.

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IOM activities around the world. © IOM 2016



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Partnerships in Action

Partnerships

Since its foundation in 1951, IOM's close collaboration with a wide range of stakeholders has enabled the Organization to grow and become the leading agency for migration matters. The Partnership in Action series highlights IOM's cooperation with these various partners and aims to recognize their crucial role and impact.