



International Organization for Migration (IOM)

# The Middle East and North Africa

ANNUAL REPORT 2011

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IOM is committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and society. As an intergovernmental organization, IOM acts with its partners in the international community to: assist in meeting the operational challenges of migration; 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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# **The Middle East and North Africa**

**annual report 2011**



International Organization for Migration (IOM)

# foreword

In a region that has seen major population movements in the past decade, 2011 stands out not only for the migration dynamics that have flowed into, out of and within the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, but also for the unprecedented social movements that have transformed the political culture in many countries. New democratic structures and processes are being built in Egypt, Libya, South Sudan and Tunisia, and calls for meaningful political reform echo throughout the Middle East and North Africa.



Despite the positive political direction of the region, these rapid changes have brought about economic turmoil and uncertainty, at least in the short- to medium-term, causing millions of people to cross borders seeking safety, security and asylum, family reunification, or economic opportunity, as national economies falter and others continue to attract migrant workers. Indeed, measures to strengthen migration management, assist migrants in transit and provide safe –and legal – migration channels are needed now more than ever.

At the same time, the events of 2011 have created new migration-related opportunities; research by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) has found that, in response to recent political changes in the region, many migrants are demonstrating renewed interest in investing in, and sometimes returning to, their countries of origin. IOM is committed to identifying these connections and supporting the efforts of governments and migrants to promote the development of their origin countries and communities.

In 2011, with 13 offices, 20 sub-offices and 955 staff working on over 300 projects in the region, IOM helped to foster dialogue and cooperation between governments on both regular and irregular migration, as well as to provide services for people on the move. While migration can benefit migrants, origin and destination countries alike, some migrants still endure unsafe work and living conditions, and face exploitation, discrimination and arbitrary detention. IOM and its 146 Member States remain committed to maximizing migration's positive impacts and addressing these challenges.

Located in Cairo, not far from Tahrir Square, IOM's Regional Office for the Middle East and North Africa has had a busy year – not only providing much needed humanitarian assistance to migrants fleeing conflict in Libya, but also following political developments in the region. In addition to gauging the impact of these historic events on migrant populations, IOM continued traditional migration management activities to support migrants and Member States in 2011.

This report is a chance to reflect on what IOM and its partners accomplished in 2011 – IOM's sixtieth-year anniversary – with hopes that further cooperation and new opportunities to engage in dialogue will result in a safer migration experience for those who leave their homes to make a better life for themselves.



  
**Pasquale Lupoli**  
*Regional Director*





## IOM in brief

IOM is an intergovernmental organization established in 1951 committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and society. Globally, IOM has 146 Member States and 98 observers, as well as more than 7,800 staff working on over 2,700 projects in 450 field locations. IOM's expenditures in 2011 amounted to USD 1.3 billion.

IOM's office in Cairo was established in 1991 to assist third-country nationals forcefully displaced by the Gulf War. Today, Cairo also hosts IOM's Regional Office for the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), which provides policy, technical and administrative support to IOM's offices in Morocco, Tunisia, Libya, Egypt, Sudan, Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Iraq, Bahrain, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

Upon the independence of South Sudan in July 2011, IOM's mission in Sudan was split into two separate missions, based in Khartoum and Juba, with the latter falling under the supervision of IOM's Regional office in Pretoria, South Africa.

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The Ionian Spirit, chartered by IOM, is seen being loaded with food and medical aid bound for the besieged city of Misrata from Benghazi, Libya, 13 April 2011. © IOM 2011 - MLY0011 (Photo: Nicole Tung).

# introduction

Migration has long shaped the Middle East and North Africa, with countries in the region often representing, at the same time, points of origin, transit and destination. Demographic and socio-economic trends, conflict and – in some cases – climate change are among the multitude of factors that continue to influence migration dynamics in the region.

Uprisings in Egypt, Libya and Tunisia in 2011 have highlighted and, in some cases, exacerbated migration-related challenges. At the same time, such events have created new migration-related opportunities; for example, Egyptian, Libyan and Tunisian expatriates have expressed, and in some cases demonstrated, increased interest in investing their time and resources to support democratic transitions and socio-economic development in their homelands. Governments and their expatriate communities have begun to move from a position of mutual suspicion under previous regimes to a position of mutual cooperation within an inclusive political process.

Countries in the MENA region are important destinations for millions of migrant workers. Countries in the Mashreq and Maghreb are also important labour-exporting countries, and interregional migration still holds some significance. However, increased competition in Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, caused by an influx of South and South-East Asian migrants, has redirected some migration towards Europe and

countries further afield. Labour migration continues to benefit destination and origin countries in the region alike, with migrant workers helping to address labour market shortfalls in their host countries and sending remittances back to their communities and their families. At the same time, however, abuse and exploitation of migrant workers remains an ongoing concern in the region.

Instability and conflict, high rates of unemployment and underemployment, and perceived and actual socio-economic opportunities abroad have also contributed to a surge in irregular migration at the intraregional level, and onward to Europe, North America and Australia. The Arab Spring has brought these challenges to the fore; for example, while thousands of migrants escaped violence by crossing Libya's borders with Algeria, Egypt and Tunisia and other neighbouring countries, thousands more attempted the dangerous maritime route across the Mediterranean to Europe. As countries stabilize and seek to revitalize economic activity, irregular migration will continue to represent a challenge.

In this context, IOM continues to support government efforts to strengthen migration and border management, combat transnational organized crime and uphold migrants' human rights through activities to enhance dialogue and cooperation between origin, transit and destination countries. To support the democratic transitions now under way in several countries, IOM is also looking to provide tangible and immediate dividends





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to stabilize communities prone to irregular outbound migration through, inter alia, quick-impact income-generating activities.

Some countries in the MENA region also represent important points of transit along irregular migration routes. Indeed, macrostructural factors and, in some cases, conflict continue to compel vast numbers of migrants to leave their origin countries in the Middle East and sub-Saharan Africa and attempt dangerous journeys in search of security and better opportunities. They are often exposed to exploitation and abuse at the hands of unscrupulous smugglers and traffickers; for example, in 2011, new light was shed on the extortion and

mistreatment of migrants along routes that originate in the Horn of Africa, cross Egypt's southern border with Sudan, and extend through the Sinai Peninsula to Israel. In other cases, as their initial resources are depleted, migrants become stranded en route – with limited access to livelihoods, essential services or long-term solutions. IOM therefore continues to support governments and civil society groups in the region to assist stranded migrants, through measures to enhance their access to health care and other essential services and promote durable solutions, such as assisted voluntary return and reintegration (AVRR).

# migrant assistance

**T**he recent social and political unrest in the MENA region has contributed to the increased vulnerability of people on the move. In 2011, IOM continued to assist migrants in need – that is, trafficked persons, smuggled migrants, stranded migrants, detained migrants, unaccompanied and separated minors, and other vulnerable groups.

Indeed, in 2011, pushed by economic uncertainty, conflict and natural disaster, migrant men, women and children continued to put themselves in the hands of smugglers and risk exploitation, extortion and torture. For example, considerable numbers of migrants and asylum-seekers were kidnapped at border areas in Egypt and in camps in Sudan and held hostage by their smugglers and traffickers, who sought to extort tens of thousands of dollars for their release and onward passage, at times subjecting them to forced labour, sexual exploitation and torture. Others were apprehended en route and transferred to detention facilities often ill-equipped to hold large number of migrants for protracted periods.

Sub-Saharan African migrants transiting through Yemen are also vulnerable. While most migrants in search of economic opportunities do not intend or expect to stay in Yemen, tighter border controls have made it more difficult to reach Saudi Arabia and the GCC. In this context, large numbers become stranded in Haradh, close to the Saudi border, living in unprotected open spaces around the urban centre. Short on money, Arabic and remunerable skills, it is only through the generosity of sympathetic locals and their own resourcefulness that these migrants obtain enough food to survive.

Both examples demonstrate the need for a comprehensive, long-term approach to migration management along those routes, inclusive of migrant protection, in addition to immediate humanitarian and voluntary return assistance.

The exploitation of migrant workers in the Middle East, particularly in GCC countries, also continued to demand acute attention, with accounts of extreme abuse towards domestic workers dominating media headlines. In 2011, despite several countries of origin activating bans on their nationals travelling to the MENA region to undertake work in the domestic sector, IOM continued to receive referrals and provide assistance to exploited, abused and trafficked domestic workers. Such cases have again called to question the sponsorship system and the need for reform to ensure a rights-based approach to migration management in the MENA region. Following the passage of the Domestic Workers Convention in summer 2011, IOM missions within the region have focused on supporting national efforts to assist migrants exploited and trafficked in this vulnerable sector of work – a priority that will remain in the coming years.

Recognizing the complex issues in the MENA region, IOM takes a comprehensive rights-based approach to migrant assistance, strengthening government and civil society capacities to promote and protect migrants' human rights and providing direct assistance, including voluntary return and reintegration.

Placed in the wider context of managing migration, IOM's range of migrant assistance activities aims to do the following:

- Uphold human rights and fight exploitation of migrants in all its forms, especially the severe human rights violations suffered by trafficked persons.
- Fight xenophobia, discrimination and social exclusion of migrants through awareness-raising and capacity-building of governmental and civil society actors.
- Protect migrants in need through the provision of targeted direct assistance to migrants, including shelter, medical treatment, psychosocial counselling, legal aid, educational and training opportunities, microcredit schemes and other forms of re/integration support.
- Provide durable solutions and humanitarian alternatives to deportation through the provision of voluntary return and reintegration assistance to migrants who are unable or unwilling to remain in host countries and wish to return voluntarily to their countries of origin.
- Challenge exploitative practices and advocate for the full application of international human rights standards by promoting stronger dialogue on migration management issues among destination, transit and origin countries.
- Shine a lens on the true extent and face of migrant exploitation through research on human trafficking, human rights violations and other abusive practices to ensure evidence-based programming, policy and dialogue.



## Assisted voluntary return and reintegration

Considerable numbers of migrants in the region wish to return home but lack the means to do so. As a result, some migrants face protracted or indefinite detention, while others live on the margins of society and employ negative coping mechanisms (such as onward irregular migration) that render them vulnerable to human trafficking and other forms of exploitation. In this context, IOM offers assisted voluntary return to stranded migrants, providing beneficiaries with durable solutions and a humanitarian alternative to deportation. IOM also builds government capacities to provide AVRR in a manner that preserves fair asylum procedures; respects international principles concerning all migrants, including those in irregular situations; and address the root causes of irregular migration.

IOM's AVRR beneficiaries include rejected asylum-seekers or those likely to face rejection of their claim, irregular migrants, stranded migrants, victims of trafficking and other vulnerable groups, including unaccompanied minors, elderly people or those with particular medical needs. In 2011, IOM provided AVRR assistance to migrants returning voluntarily to their countries of origin in the MENA region, largely from Europe. IOM also assisted sub-Saharan and other migrants who wished to return home after being stranded in the region.



A poster to raise awareness on IOM's Regional Assisted Voluntary Return Program among stranded migrants in Egypt, designed through competition.  
© IOM 2012, Illustration: Shennawy.



The events of 2011 impacted AVRR to and from the region. Returns to countries affected by unrest were put on hold, as in Libya, where the restriction remained in place at the end of the year. Other assisted voluntary returns took on an evacuation dimension as mass humanitarian movements temporarily replaced assisted voluntary returns.

## Counter-trafficking

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Across the region, IOM's anti-trafficking work also continued – inside and outside the post-crisis setting. IOM takes a rights-based approach to its counter-trafficking work and, in so doing, aims to promote systematic victim identification, raise awareness of human trafficking, and provide referrals and protection to vulnerable, exploited and trafficked persons. In 2011, IOM provided individualized and comprehensive direct assistance to trafficked, abused and extorted migrants. In this context, IOM supported nationally run shelters for trafficked persons, the provision of legal aid, and the distribution of food, medicine and other relief items to stranded and detained migrants. In continuing to challenge exploitative practices and advocate the full application of international human rights standards, IOM also provided support to a number of countries in the field of legislative development and policy review.

As 2011 came to a close, and some countries in the MENA region moved from crisis to post-crisis response, it was all the more apparent that migrant assistance activities needed to play an integral part in the migration management approach.

In May 2011, IOM convened a regional workshop in Amman, Jordan to promote regional dialogue and cooperation on the identification and protection of victims of trafficking. The event, held under the patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Basma, gathered government representatives from Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Qatar, the UAE and Yemen, as well as the League of Arab States and the Naif University for Security Sciences.



# labour migration and human development

The political shifts that occurred in North Africa throughout 2011 have had a dramatic impact on both the demand and flow of labour migration within the MENA region, with over 800,000 migrant workers leaving Libya during the crisis, including 200,000 Egyptians and 137,000 Tunisians, while GCC countries continued to attract workers from throughout the region and beyond. At the same time, the political awakening of the region has opened new doors of opportunity for engagement with expatriate communities interested in contributing to the development of their countries of origin.

## Labour migration

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Even in the midst of global economic challenges, the GCC countries have continued to see rapid economic and labour market growth and increasing demand for foreign workers at all skill levels and in all economic sectors, making the region a magnet for migrant workers from the MENA region and beyond. At the same time, economic challenges resulting from the political instability in North Africa and the disruption of labour migration opportunities in Libya have led to a significant

increase in the number of persons in the region looking for opportunities to emigrate and work abroad in Europe, the GCC or beyond.

In 2011, IOM continued to work with GCC countries both as part of the Abu Dhabi Dialogue – a process for cooperation on labour migration between Gulf countries and 11 labour-sending countries in Asia – and on a bilateral basis, in order to build capacity and provide technical and policy advice on the effective management of labour migration, from the recruitment process to employment, and the successful return and reintegration of workers. Abuses and irregularities within the recruitment process and during employment are an ongoing concern in many GCC countries; IOM's work in the region continues to promote respect for human rights and the application of good recruitment practices, working conditions and labour standards for foreign workers.

In North Africa, where training programmes are frequently not in line with the skills needed in the labour market and labour supply-demand matching infrastructure has been weak, IOM has worked to develop government capacity to manage labour migration, facilitate recruitment processes through effective labour matching, and improve the employability of nationals through enhanced pre-departure and vocational training programmes. With increasing economic pressure to emigrate, IOM's efforts in this field have become all the more critical for the successful development of labour markets and for economic development in the region more broadly.

## Migration and development

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IOM continued to be involved in economic and community development projects in North Africa to address the root causes of economically motivated migration, by promoting and creating sustainable employment and self-employment opportunities in areas of high migration pressure. These efforts aim to ensure that labour migration, when it does occur, is a choice rather than an economic necessity. Recognizing the region's challenges with youth unemployment (upwards of 30% in some countries) and limited female participation in the labour market, IOM's work in this field has concentrated on these two target groups.

IOM's work in economic development is perhaps most visible in the Organization's efforts to harness the financial, social and human capital potential of labour migrants and expatriate communities for the development of countries of origin. In this respect, 2011 saw some of IOM's most pronounced efforts in the region to date, including initiatives aimed at building a more accurate profile of expatriate communities and their links to countries of origin, enhancing social and cultural links between communities abroad and governments and civil society organizations in the origin country, and expanding opportunities for transnational economic initiatives between expatriate communities and local businesses, including opportunities for investment.



IOM provides vocational training to displaced persons and migrants to enhance their access to livelihoods abroad and promote their socio-economic reintegration upon return. © IOM 2012.

The events of 2011 exposed not only the energy and will for political change within the region, but also the engagement of the Arab expatriate community in the social and political affairs of their home countries. Governments and their expatriate communities have begun to move from a position of mutual suspicion under previous regimes to a position of mutual cooperation within an inclusive political process. IOM's extensive work over the past few years in the field of

mapping expatriate communities, community engagement and remittance issues, has served as a backbone on which governments have begun to productively engage with their expatriate communities. As requested by a number of governments in the region, IOM will continue to work to build government capacity to productively engage with expatriate communities and mainstream migration into national economic and social development plans.





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## migration health

**M**igrants are among the most affected by lack of access to health services. Linguistic or cultural differences, a lack of affordable health services or health insurance, administrative hurdles, legal status and the fact that migrants often work extremely long hours are among the key barriers. Undocumented migrants, often at risk from violence, exploitation, poor living and unsafe working conditions due to their irregular legal status, are the most vulnerable among migrant groups. Their fear of deportation also means irregular migrants often do not seek health assistance unless it is an emergency or only when it is too late.

In the MENA region, IOM works with governments, civil society and the private sector to ensure the physical, mental and social well-being of migrants, by:

- Advocating to ensure governments enact health-inclusive migration management policies and programmes, as well as migrant-inclusive health policies and programmes;
- Supporting the development of evidence-based national and regional policies to promote and protect the health of migrants;
- Facilitating, providing and promoting equitable access of all migrants to comprehensive health care;

- Raising awareness among governments, regional organizations, and civil society and migrant groups on migrant health issues, and strengthening the technical, operational and coordination capacity of States and other stakeholders to develop and implement migrant health initiatives;
- Facilitating and conducting research on migrants' health issues to ensure evidence-based programming, policy and dialogue.

An IOM physician conducting a health check to ensure a migrant's fitness to travel during the evacuation from Libya.  
© IOM 2011. (Photo: Iason Athanasiadis/UNSMIL).



**Establishment of a medical recovery unit for victims of trafficking in Egypt:** In collaboration with the Egyptian Ministry of Health, and with support from IOM's Development Fund, a medical recovery unit was established at the National Bank Hospital in Cairo, Egypt in 2011. The recovery unit is an innovative pilot project aimed at providing comprehensive medical and psychological treatment for victims of trafficking. On 15 September 2011, the Unit assisted its first patient. Since then, over 100 Egyptian and foreign victims of trafficking have been provided with comprehensive medical care. IOM has also delivered training to all physicians and health care staff working at the recovery unit. This project provides a model for the provision of medical care to victims of trafficking, which can be replicated in other areas in Egypt, as well as in the region.

# movements, emergency and post-crisis migration management

In recent years, the MENA region has experienced considerable and ongoing instability, culminating in protracted conflict in Iraq, Lebanon, Sudan and Yemen. In 2011, popular uprisings also affected Bahrain, Egypt, Libya, the Syrian Arab Republic and Tunisia.

Through its emergency and post-crisis programmes, IOM continued to work with governments and other partners to promote crisis preparedness, mitigation, response and recovery. IOM's comprehensive approach aims to deliver timely emergency services, aid in the recovery of communities, and support transition and stabilization processes.

The 2011 crisis in Libya represented one of the largest migration crises in modern history; over a million persons, including migrants and refugees, fled to neighbouring countries – mainly Egypt and Tunisia, but also Algeria, Chad, Niger and Sudan, and across the Mediterranean and into Europe. Within days of the onset of the crisis, IOM and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) commenced a major and protracted emergency response, airlifting tons of humanitarian aid and providing transportation assistance to more than 210,000 stranded migrants.

In Yemen, IOM continued to provide humanitarian assistance to internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the conflict-affected

north and Abyan Governorate. IOM also delivered humanitarian assistance to stranded migrants, including shelter, health care and return and reintegration assistance.

**Emergency assistance to stranded migrants in Haradh, Northern Yemen:** Up to 2008, Somali refugees, who are granted prima facie refugee status upon entering Yemen, constituted the majority of new arrivals. Since then however, the composition of the flow has changed; Ethiopian migrants are now arriving in Yemen en masse – hoping, in most cases, to access economic and livelihood opportunities through onward irregular migration to neighbouring Gulf States. In this context, Haradh, a strategic point on Yemen's Red Sea coast close to the Saudi Arabian border, has come to host thousands of stranded Ethiopian migrants with urgent humanitarian needs. IOM maintains a presence in Haradh and, in 2010/11, assisted over 6,500 migrants to return home.



© IOM 2011. (Photo: Iason Athanasiadis/UNSMIL).

In Sudan, IOM has developed an emergency response capacity that includes the provision of emergency relief to conflict- and natural disaster-affected populations. The focus is on emergency preparedness and response, conflict management and recovery, and environmental protection.

In Iraq, IOM continues to play an important role in monitoring needs among displaced populations and in providing humanitarian assistance to vulnerable communities. Through

socio-economic initiatives to create employment and self-employment opportunities, IOM also helps vulnerable Iraqis to provide for their families and restore hope in their communities.

Finally, as political demonstrations escalated into armed conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic, IOM staff provided evacuation assistance to migrant workers and medical assistance to IDPs. The majority of migrant workers in need



of evacuation assistance were women from Indonesia, the Philippines, Ethiopia, Sri Lanka, India, Eritrea and Bangladesh living in areas affected by the unrest.

## Resettlement support programme

In 1998, IOM was assigned to prepare eligible refugee cases for consideration for resettlement to the United States through the US Refugee Admissions Program. This agreement is implemented through a designated Resettlement Support Centre in Amman, which serves 12 countries in the region: Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Libya, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the Syrian Arab Republic and Tunisia. To facilitate resettlement to the United States and other countries, IOM conducted over 85,000 pre-departure medical screenings and assessments for refugees and assisted over 16,000 refugees to resettle to Australia, Canada, Europe, the United Kingdom and the United States.

Several countries have also pledged to assist in resettling refugees who fled the 2011 violence in Libya and became stranded in Sallum (Egypt) and Choucha (Tunisia.) As of March 2012, 1,270 refugees had departed to Canada, Denmark, Finland, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and the United States. Several hundred refugees still await processing, adjudication, medical screening, cultural orientation and transportation to their resettlement countries.



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# integrated border management

**A**s the leading intergovernmental organization in the field of migration, IOM is increasingly called upon by States to assist in addressing complex border management challenges. IOM offers support and expertise to help governments create policy, legislation, administrative structures, operational systems and the human resource base necessary to respond effectively to diverse migration challenges and to institute appropriate migration governance. Such activities are designed as partnerships, with the requesting government and other relevant interlocutors working closely with IOM to identify needs, determine priority areas, and shape and deliver interventions.

In the MENA region specifically, IOM has supported governments by assisting in the following capacity-building areas:

- Migration management policy and legislative review and design;
- Training of migration and border management officials;
- Facilitating dialogue, intraregional information exchange and the establishment of best practices in managing migration.



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## Capacity-building

Extensive training and capacity-building in migration management took place from 2009 to 2011 to strengthen the capacity of the immigration and border authorities of Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic to handle the caseload of intercepted migrants at their borders. This awareness training aimed to protect migrants stranded in these countries, primarily by training border professionals to identify vulnerable and trafficked migrants. Coupled with training-of-trainer courses, the training created a sustainable cadre of expertise within relevant government departments and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in the five countries.

## Facilitating regional dialogue

IOM held a series of workshops in Jordan, Egypt and Lebanon that brought together stakeholders from the GCC and the Arab League to discuss irregular migration, protection of migrants' rights and border management best practices. Above all, the participating countries all acknowledged that a regional coordination mechanism would add value to their respective national border management initiatives.

In addition, a series of study tours among the countries, including a visit by Iraqi officials to Jordan and Yemeni officials to Kuwait, provided opportunities to exchange expertise and boost regional dialogue.



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# 2011 migration crisis: IOM's response

Protests in Libya began in earnest on 15 February 2011 and soon escalated into armed conflict, as the Gaddafi regime called upon the security services and, subsequently, the military to respond with violence and rebels seeking to depose the President responded in-kind. As the security situation deteriorated and casualties mounted, most countries called upon their citizens to leave.

Libya's economy had long been reliant on migrant workers; thus, the conflict generated an immediate and protracted migration crisis, as tens of thousands of migrants seeking to escape the violence fled across Libya's borders with Algeria, Chad, Egypt, Niger and Tunisia.

Thousands more travelled the dangerous maritime route across the Mediterranean to Europe, arriving in Lampedusa and Malta.

Within days of the conflict's onset, IOM had deployed teams to border areas and was working in partnership with government authorities, Red Crescent societies and UNHCR to provide migrants with humanitarian and evacuation assistance. IOM and its partners recognized the need to ensure that the border areas remained as decongested as possible in order to avoid a deterioration in the humanitarian and security situation.

IOM received increasing reports of migrants unable to reach Libya's borders and the Organization soon extended

assistance to migrants stranded in Benghazi, Misurata and Tripoli. On 6 March, IOM undertook its first maritime rescue operation, evacuating 521 migrants from Benghazi aboard the Speedrunner II. On 15 April, IOM commenced maritime rescue operations from Misurata and, over the next five months, organized 15 rotations to assist over 8,000 stranded migrants to evacuate the besieged city.



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In total, between February and November 2011, IOM assisted 216,742 migrants to return home aboard 1,768 charter and commercial flights, 20 vessels and 45,445 buses. IOM also delivered tons of humanitarian aid to migrants and Libyans in need, including food, medical supplies and pharmaceuticals, blankets, hygiene kits and other emergency relief items.

In 2012, looking forward, IOM will seek to assist Libya's government to address residual humanitarian needs, stabilize vulnerable communities and transition to democracy. In addition, recognizing the potential strain that large-scale return has on migrants' main origin countries – Bangladesh, Chad, Egypt, Niger and Tunisia – IOM will continue to support returnees and their communities through reintegration and community stabilization programmes.

Migrants wait on the dock for assistance to evacuate the besieged city of Misrata, Libya, aboard the IOM-chartered Ionian Spirit. © IOM 2011 - MLY0028 (Photo: Nicole Tung).

A woman with dark skin and her hair pulled back is the central figure. She is wearing a bright teal blazer over a white top, and a large, vibrant scarf with geometric patterns in shades of yellow, green, and purple. She is holding a large, thick blanket with a bold red and black checkered pattern. The background is a plain, light-colored wall with a faint, decorative pattern on the left side.

IOM distributing blankets and pyjamas to  
migrants and host communities in Egypt.  
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# private-sector collaboration and development

**T**he private sector has a significant and valuable role to play in realizing migration's potential benefits and in minimizing its costs. Accordingly, IOM forges partnerships with private-sector actors in areas of mutual interest, combining valuable resources, experience, knowledge and skills. In the past, successful partnerships have involved information exchange on best practices, in-kind contributions and direct financial support.

In the MENA region, private-sector collaboration and development is embedded in IOM's livelihood support activities. In Egypt, IOM cooperated with Microsoft to establish a database to profile Egyptian migrant workers returning from Libya. IOM also partnered with Cotton Tales, a Canadian company, to recycle surplus material and produce blankets and pyjamas for migrants and host communities.

In Iraq, IOM provides budding entrepreneurs with vocational training and in-kind grants, enabling beneficiaries to establish successful projects in computer and mobile phone repair, carpentry, tailoring and other areas. IOM Iraq is also working in partnership with the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) to strengthen capacities among private and semi-private business

development service providers and promote access to such services among marginalized groups, including unemployed men and women, returnees, single-parent households, the disabled and IDPs. With IOM's private-sector networks expanding in Iraq and other countries in the region, established businesses are also assuming a greater role in providing in-kind assistance and employment opportunities to returnees.

In November 2011, IOM Iraq took part in the Kurdistan–Iraq Oil and Gas Conference in Erbil. As the sole international organization invited, IOM delivered a presentation on corporate social responsibility and explained that, with an extensive presence and partnerships at the local level, the Organization is well-placed to support oil companies to develop and implement social impact management strategies in areas where production operations affect private property, water sources and traditional livelihoods.

Looking forward, in 2012, IOM Iraq is planning to work in partnership with the Iraqi Business Council to organize the art exhibition "A Memory of A Place", which will showcase art generously donated by Iraqi, Jordanian and European artists. The funds raised will be used to expand socio-economic initiatives to create new employment and self-employment opportunities in Iraq.



The Advanced Technical School for Hotel Management and Tourism in Fayoum developed by IOM in partnership with the Government of Egypt and Italy.  
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## egypt

On 25 January 2011, thousands of Egyptians took to the streets in Alexandria, Cairo, Suez and other cities and towns to protest economic and political conditions and demand that President Mubarak step down. On 11 February, 18 days after the protests commenced, the President's resignation was announced and executive power was handed to the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces. As a crucial step in the transition to a civil democratic government, Egypt commenced parliamentary elections in November 2011; presidential elections were scheduled to take place in May 2012.

IOM and its partners recognize that recent events in Egypt have compounded complex migration challenges, while also giving rise to new opportunities, such as renewed interest in supporting Egypt's development among its citizens abroad. In this context, IOM has continued to support the Egyptian government to enhance migration management, assist vulnerable migrants and host communities, and strengthen links between migration and development. Indeed, with a well-established presence in Egypt, a large and diverse project portfolio and extensive networks of governmental and non-governmental partners, IOM is well-placed to support Egypt at this pivotal moment in its history.

Within days of the onset of conflict in Libya, IOM had deployed a team to Sallum and was providing thousands of migrants with humanitarian and evacuation assistance. © IOM 2011 (Photo: Ahmed Rady).



## Migrant assistance

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Migrants residing in and transiting through Egypt are often vulnerable, suffering from limited access to essential services and, at times, from exploitation and abuse. In this context, IOM works in cooperation with governmental and non-governmental partners to provide direct assistance, such as health care and AVR, to migrants, including victims of trafficking, unaccompanied minors and other vulnerable groups.

In addition, through its ongoing counter-trafficking projects, IOM also offers tailored assistance to migrant and Egyptian trafficked persons in Egypt. More specifically, based on individual needs, IOM offers its beneficiaries secure temporary accommodation, health care and mental health care, legal aid and livelihood assistance. With a view to strengthening the overall sphere of protection in Egypt, IOM also worked in partnership with the National Council for Childhood and Motherhood and the Ministry of Health to establish Egypt's first shelter for victims of trafficking. IOM and its partners have also set up a medical recovery unit, which to date has served over 100 Egyptian and foreign victims of trafficking.

Complementarily, to support Egypt in implementing its 2010 Law to Combat Human Trafficking, IOM has provided training to over 600 police officers, prosecutors and judges, enhancing

their capacities to investigate and prosecute trafficking-related offences and protect vulnerable victims and witnesses.

## Labour migration/ migration and development

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Until the mid-1950s, Egypt was largely a migrant-receiving country; however, increasing economic pressure coincided with the oil boom in GCC countries, transforming Egypt into a migrant-sending country. Since then, migration flows have grown and diversified within and outside the region and, today, emigration continues to shape entire communities in Egypt.

In this context, IOM has been supporting the Egyptian government's efforts to facilitate regular migration and enhance the links between migration and development. IOM has also been supporting the government's efforts to prevent irregular migration, particularly among Egyptian minors. To this end, IOM and its partners are promoting access to positive alternatives, including education and vocational training, in areas prone to irregular outbound migration. For example, in Fayoum Governorate, IOM has renovated and upgraded a tourism and hotel management training centre, training teachers and reviewing curricula to bring them in line with European Union (EU) good practices and labour market



demand. Complementarily, IOM designed and carried out a comprehensive information campaign, “Challenge Yourself, Do Not Defy the Sea!”, to raise awareness of the risks associated with irregular migration.

## Emergency and post-crisis management

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During the events of 25 January 2011, IOM provided evacuation assistance to migrant workers in Egypt as well as humanitarian assistance to vulnerable migrants and host communities in Greater Cairo.

In addition, within days of the onset of conflict in Libya, IOM had deployed a team to Sallum and was providing thousands of migrants with humanitarian and evacuation assistance. IOM also supported the Government of Egypt’s effort to evacuate Egyptian nationals via Tunisia and aboard passenger ships and is now looking to assist in their reintegration. IOM remains present at the Egypt–Libya border as UNHCR’s implementing partner for the provision of health assistance to UNHCR persons of concern.

IOM is also implementing a pilot project to support police-sector development in Egypt. The project focuses on facilitating the government’s exposure to lessons learned and experiences in other contexts that it can consider as it refines its own model of community policing.

## Migration and the environment

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Environmental factors have long shaped global human mobility, as people leave places with harsh or deteriorating conditions and move to safer locations with better livelihood prospects. In Egypt, which is prone to desertification, water shortages and sea-level rise, IOM continued to work with governmental and non-governmental partners to assess the linkages between environmental factors and internal and international migration. On this basis, IOM will develop and pilot practical mitigation measures.





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## iraq

With 250 staff deployed across Iraq operating in three hubs in Baghdad, Basrah and Erbil, Iraq has IOM's largest regional footprint. IOM Iraq assists government and NGO partners, as well as IDPs, returnees and migration-prone communities, through capacity-building activities, needs assessments and information analysis, measures to promote access to livelihoods and services, humanitarian assistance and community assistance projects.

IOM plays an important role in monitoring and assessing needs among displaced populations in Iraq. In 2011, IOM identified 520,253 IDPs and 168,632 returnees and collected data which helped the Iraqi government and its international development partners to develop policies and programmes.

### Programme for Human Security and Stabilization (PHSS)

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Since 2006, IOM Iraq has been working with several ministries in Iraq and the Kurdistan Regional Government to develop this comprehensive programme, which encompasses a wide range of grassroots economic development schemes and community-based initiatives. Operating in 13 governorates of Iraq, PHSS has supported the efforts of Iraqis to rebuild

### Starting over

Since Nawal fled violence in Baghdad, she has relied on her extended family in Hamdania to survive. In 2011, she and her niece, Mirna, applied for and received grants and in-kind equipment from IOM's PHSS, which offers entrepreneurial grants and business training. Together, they opened a spacious beauty parlour, Salon Kristina, which is now one of the most popular in the region and through which they support their entire family. "For me, this salon is a sanctuary from the outside world, from the madness around us. Thank you, IOM!," Nawal said.



© IOM 2012.

their local economies, while encouraging community-focused, broad-based economic development. In 2011, PHSS assistance reached the following beneficiaries:

- 4,569 beneficiaries received business development services and 706 received assistance to expand successful projects supported in previous years;
- 5,836 beneficiaries received in-kind grants to start enterprises in agriculture, services, trading and manufacturing;
- Hundreds of beneficiaries received farming or vocational training in carpentry, car mechanics, tailoring, blacksmithing, mobile phone repair, computer repair, turnery, photography and leather goods.

Building upon the three phases of PHSS, in October 2011, IOM Iraq launched the Community Revitalization Programme (CRP), which integrates individual livelihood projects within broader community interests and locally based socio-economic initiatives.

## Humanitarian Assistance to Vulnerable Populations

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IOM Iraq's second major programme, "Humanitarian Assistance to Vulnerable Populations", is implemented in 18 governorates in partnership with national, regional and local authorities. In 2011, IOM carried out 20 distributions of non-food items in Baghdad, Basrah, Erbil, Kerbala, Kirkuk, Missan, Ninewa, Sulaymaniyah and Wassit, reaching a total of 1,713 families.

## Community Assistance Projects (CAPs)

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In 2011, IOM Iraq implemented 63 CAPs in agriculture, community infrastructure, education, income-generation, training and capacity-building and water/sanitation, benefiting an estimated 21,000 families and 125,000 individuals. IOM also worked in cooperation with ILO and UNOPS to promote access to the newly developed Business Development Services among local entrepreneurs, unemployed and other marginalized groups. To this end, IOM mapped existing business development providers in Anbar, Basrah and Erbil, and surveyed the needs of entrepreneurs. As follow-up, a

training of trainers was held for all service providers, reaching 1,800 beneficiaries in the participating governorates.

## Assisted voluntary return and reintegration

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In 2011, IOM Iraq provided AVRR to 2,677 Iraqi migrants who wished to return to Iraq voluntarily. Iraq remains to be one of the top countries of return within the MENA region. In 2011, IOM also provided assistance to several groups of stranded migrants in Iraq, often victims of trafficking for purposes of labour exploitation.

**Supply chain improvements:** As part of its cooperation with the private sector, IOM established close relations with the Kühne Foundation, a non-profit foundation created by international transport company Kühne+Nagel, to review and improve IOM logistics. Enhanced procurement, warehousing and distribution management structures and methods have resulted in important economies of scale and

increased the speed of delivery, thus increasing IOM's efficiency in the provision of assistance. "The Kühne Foundation has been fundamental in the success of this operation", says IOM Iraq Chief of Mission Mike Pillinger. "Supply chain management is crucial because it allows us to better deliver assistance to our beneficiaries, both in terms of quality and speed; ultimately, we have managed to improve our life-saving capacity."

## Capacity-building in migration management

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In 2011, IOM Iraq continued to provide training and technical assistance to strengthen national capacities to deal with IDPs, returnees and other vulnerable groups, such as trafficked persons.



## jordan

Jordan is a country of origin for migrant workers, many of whom are highly skilled and employed in oil-producing countries. Jordan is also a country of destination for migrant workers, as well as for migrants and refugees fleeing unrest in neighbouring countries.

IOM works with the government to improve migration management and raise awareness of human trafficking, through training for ministerial bodies and local diplomatic staff. Workshops with governmental and non-governmental organizations, along with a study tour to Georgia, all contributed to the development of Jordan's national referral mechanism for the identification and provision of services to victims of trafficking. IOM also continues to address the needs of vulnerable migrants, assisting over 300 vulnerable Iraqis in 2011. Under another ongoing project, IOM is also seeking to promote Iraqi women's access to education and vocational training.

Due to conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic, thousands of Syrians have crossed into Jordan and 11,000 have been registered with UNHCR. In collaboration with the Ministry of Health, IOM has established a medical team at the border to conduct tuberculosis screening, as well as prevention and awareness-raising activities. IOM also works with the Ministry of Health to support the implementation of the World Health Assembly Resolution 61.17 on the Health of Migrants, which calls upon Member States to promote migrant-sensitive health policies,

ensure equitable access to health promotion, and encourage sharing of information and best practices for meeting the health needs of migrants.

IOM Amman is the resettlement centre for refugees resettled to the United States. In 2011, over 5,000 refugees from the Middle East, North Africa and the Gulf States were resettled to the United States, down from 14,000 per year previously.

**Direct impact:** Hashem is an Iraqi refugee who has been living in Jordan since 2001. Unable to return to Iraq and with no job or savings and a family to support, he decided to sell his kidney to earn money for rent. Luckily, a conversation with an IOM caseworker in Amman provided him with an alternative. IOM granted him financial and material assistance, and invited him to participate in a seminar for survivors of war trauma. Like hundreds of other individuals helped by IOM's Direct Assistance Programme, Hesham says he now has new hope for the future.



A workshop on document examination techniques organized by IOM in support of the Jordanian government's efforts to strengthen migration and border management. © IOM 2012.

# Lebanon

In Lebanon, IOM continues to work on:

- Enhancing the socio-economic conditions of migrant communities, including Iraqi migrants and other migration-prone vulnerable communities in underprivileged rural areas, through livelihood support, education, targeted distribution of essential non-food items, and psychosocial support;
- Developing the capacity of the Lebanese government to manage migration and protect the human rights of migrants, through the provision of training and equipment, as well as the promotion of regional dialogue on border management and irregular migration;
- Facilitating resettlement to third countries, in cooperation with UNHCR.

IOM provides livelihood support to vulnerable Iraqis, in order to: (i) reduce vulnerability to abuse and exploitation amongst Iraqi adolescents seeking access to the informal labour market, through vocational training and awareness-raising; and (ii) enhance Iraqi households' access to sustainable income-generating opportunities, through provision of training and productive assets. In northern Lebanon's migration-prone areas, IOM also works with local authorities and communities

to support income-generating activities. A vacuum cleaner for a cleaning business, equipment for a flower shop, sewing and baking equipment, grinders, hairdressing equipment, milking machines, mowers, painting tools, pesticide diffusers, plumber tools, electrician tools and welder tools have all been donated to give families the means to support themselves.

As part of IOM's psychosocial assistance programme, and in cooperation with the Ministry of Social Affairs, a psychosocial expert was deployed to the northern border. IOM conducted comprehensive psychosocial assessment and provided multidisciplinary training to local staff and specialized psychosocial equipment for children with special needs to the Aamayer Centre in Wadi-Khaled. The DARI Centre, established in Baalbeck in 2007, also continued to provide recreational activities and psychosocial counselling for families.

IOM is part of a coalition of stakeholders which oversaw the issuance of the unified contract for women domestic migrant workers and the production of a booklet on their rights and obligations. IOM also participated in drafting the Code of Conduct for United Nations staff employing domestic workers in Lebanon.

The Lebanese National Parliament for Youth was a two-year initiative, funded by the United Nations Democracy Fund, that concluded in 2011. The Parliament for Youth consisted of 64 members from all governorates, who received training in human rights, legislative procedures, public speaking, conflict resolution and negotiation, as well as leadership and project development skills. Youth parliament members participated in committee and plenary sessions throughout the two-year period and implemented social and cultural projects. Ideas put forth and realized included: providing social and medical care for the elderly, supplying equipment for a public garden, creating a meeting space for youth, planting cedar trees and establishing a film club and a public library.





# libya

Operating in Libya since 2006, IOM has provided migrants in the country with voluntary return and reintegration assistance, with special focus on preventing and managing irregular migration from the Sahara Desert to the Mediterranean Sea.

When conflict broke out in February 2011, IOM suspended functions at the Tripoli office, and programmes were partially managed from Egypt and Tunisia, including the large-scale humanitarian operations in Benghazi and Misrata. An office in Benghazi was established in April, and the Tripoli office reopened in September.

IOM Tripoli's Assisted Voluntary Return (AVR) Centre was badly damaged during the conflict, and with no other suitable transit

site available to accommodate the large numbers of migrants still seeking voluntary return, IOM constructed a temporary sleeping area inside a hangar at Mitiga Military Airport in Tripoli, which is a port of departure for most charter flights. During the hostilities, some 764,000 migrants fled the country, including 200,000 Africans. By the end of November 2011, IOM had assisted 210,000 migrants to return to their home countries from Libya, but many migrants still seek assistance to return home.

In addition to providing shelter, IOM psychosocial workers provided psychosocial assistance for Libyan and migrant crisis-affected youth and their families, and established three recreational and counselling centres where youth participate in educational, social and/or therapeutic activities. The centres

Migrants awaiting IOM's evacuation assistance. © IOM 2012. (Photo: Nicole Tung).



also provide counselling and referrals to specialized services for people in need.

In the aftermath of the conflict, IOM reactivated programmes to address the surge in irregular migration: Assisted voluntary return and reintegration for stranded migrants (RAVEL); Prevention and management of irregular migration flows from the Sahara Desert to the Mediterranean Sea (SAH-MED); Improving migrants' protection through awareness and capacity support (IMPACT); Enhancing the judiciary's knowledge of human trafficking through targeted training.

### Stranded in Libya: The story of five Nigerians

The instability and violence in Libya throughout 2011 did not deter some migrants from looking for work in the country. Five young Nigerians in their 20s travelled overland through Niger and across the Sahara to reach Libya in the summer of 2011. Despite picking up occasional day shifts in construction and salon styling, daily incidents of discrimination and harassment towards migrants caused them to relocate to a port 20 km west of Tripoli, where they met with hundreds of other migrants of sub-Saharan origin.

Here, they slept in overcrowded and unsanitary conditions, but they still ventured out during the day in search of work, risking theft, abuse and arbitrary arrest. Their options for onward migration were limited, with attempted sea crossings to Europe routinely intercepted and passengers returned to Tripoli, where they were detained and sometimes faced extortion. Many lacked a passport to return home and found themselves stranded, as there was no embassy presence in Libya.

Finally, with IOM's intervention, Nigerian embassy representatives from Cairo visited Tripoli and were able to provide the necessary travel documents. By New Year, all five Nigerian migrants were able to return home safely.

As part of its post-crisis programme, IOM also engaged in establishing early recovery and transitional programmes aimed at stabilizing at-risk communities, enhancing migration and border management, strengthening access to health care services for Libyan and migrant communities, and peacebuilding. IOM also started assessing and helping to address labour market shortfall in sectors and areas critical to Libya's recovery, such as health, through regular migration schemes.

## morocco

Since the opening of the IOM office in Morocco, activities have focused on providing support to migrants in need. This includes both Moroccans abroad and migrants in Morocco. To assist Moroccans abroad, IOM Rabat provides AVRR to those who want to return home. In 2011, IOM assisted 35 Moroccans with AVRR, mainly from Belgium, Italy and Switzerland.

Morocco is a transit country for migrants looking for new employment opportunities in Europe, many of whom are from sub-Saharan Africa. With support from the Belgian and Swiss governments, IOM has been implementing an AVRR programme from Morocco and, since 2010, has assisted 520 migrants to return home. Demand continues to outweigh the

resources available and IOM has a waiting list of 800 migrants requesting AVRR from Morocco.

Morocco is also a transit country for trafficked victims, with a significant number of victims originating from Nigeria. Recruiters use the lure of good jobs in Morocco or Europe, but many trafficked persons are exploited, after transiting through Morocco, through forced prostitution or forced labour in Spain and elsewhere in Europe. In 2011, IOM assisted 10 Nigerian victims to return home, where they were referred to reintegration programmes run in cooperation with the Nigerian National Agency for Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons and supported to set-up a business to help them reintegrate into society.



An IOM social worker with beneficiaries of vocational training. © IOM 2012.

### Living on the margins in Morocco

One migrant on the waiting list to return home is 36-year-old Abdoul, who left his village on the banks of the Niger River four years ago, hoping to reach Europe. “My parents are farmers and don’t earn enough money. I am the eldest, so I have the responsibility to help them,” he explains. Despite trying to reach Europe 10 times – by boat, on foot and even by swimming – Abdoul was unsuccessful in his migratory attempt and he had been living with other migrants in a forest in Morocco, surviving on charity. “Without a job, we had to beg for some dirhams. I feel ashamed. I am a healthy man who wants to earn money by working.”

Abdoul has decided to return to Niger and restart his jewellery business. Unable to afford the ticket and having even sold his passport for food, he is now on IOM’s waiting list for AVRR. He says this can’t come soon enough, as he has not been in contact with his family since his mobile phone was

stolen two months ago. “Freedom is in Niger for me, even if I failed here, my family will be happy to see me going back safe and sound.” It is hoped that 2012 brings in new donor funds to respond to this demand.

IOM is implementing a project funded by the US Agency for International Development (USAID) to reintegrate marginalized youth in Tanger and Tétouan. The programme provides youth with vocational training in an effort to prevent irregular migration, and it also assists in the reintegration of those who have returned from abroad.



# sudan and south sudan

As the Arab Spring was underway in January 2011, Southern Sudanese were voting in the referendum – as provided for in the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement – to determine whether South Sudan would secede from the State of Sudan; the Southern Sudanese voted overwhelmingly for independence. IOM played an integral part in this process, implementing out-of-country voting services for Southern Sudanese in eight countries abroad, administering small grants for community groups involved in civic and voter education, and providing logistical support for experts supporting and observing the voting process. Upon the independence of South Sudan in July 2011, IOM's mission in Sudan was split into two separate missions, based in Khartoum and Juba, with the latter falling under the supervision of the IOM Regional Office in Pretoria, South Africa.



In support of the South Sudan referendum:

- IOM operated polling stations for Southern Sudanese voters in Australia, Canada, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, the United Kingdom and the United States.
- A total of 60,219 people registered and 58,203 people voted in these eight countries, at polling stations in 41 locations.
- Observers certified the process to have been free and fair.

## Movement assistance

Following the referendum, IOM assisted some 23,000 vulnerable Southern Sudanese in the north to move to South Sudan. This movement was carried out through eight IOM-supported barge convoys from Kosti, as well as by train and air movements from Khartoum. Additionally, IOM assisted 16,861 Sudanese and Southern Sudanese in Algeria, Chad, Egypt and Tunisia to return home.

## Darfur village assessments continue/ returnee monitoring halted

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IOM continued to implement the Population Tracking and Village Assessments Project (PTVAP), which follows movement and livelihood trends in the region and collects data on the availability of essential services such as water, health care and education. The information generated through this project helps the government, United Nations partners and NGOs to prioritize assistance to effectively meet the needs of the population. Unfortunately, due to rejection and non-issuance of visas for essential international staff, protection monitoring of returnees in Darfur – a service mandated by an agreement signed by the Government of Sudan and the United Nations – had to be halted in 2011.

## NFI pipeline flow and aid database upgrading

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IOM provided transportation for the Non-Food Items (NFI) Common Pipeline, with the majority of these items destined for Darfur. In total, IOM delivered over 2 million items to more

than 221 field locations throughout Darfur, including 766,000 blankets, 197,000 plastic sheets, 184,000 jerrycans and 886,000 sleeping mats distributed through 34 different international and non-governmental organization partners. Cooking sets and mosquito nets were also distributed, benefiting some 243,000 households and 1.47 million people.

IOM also began updating of the database system of food recipients in Darfur. By the end of the year, 900,000 IDP camp residents had been registered and verified using fingerprint technology.

## Service disruptions

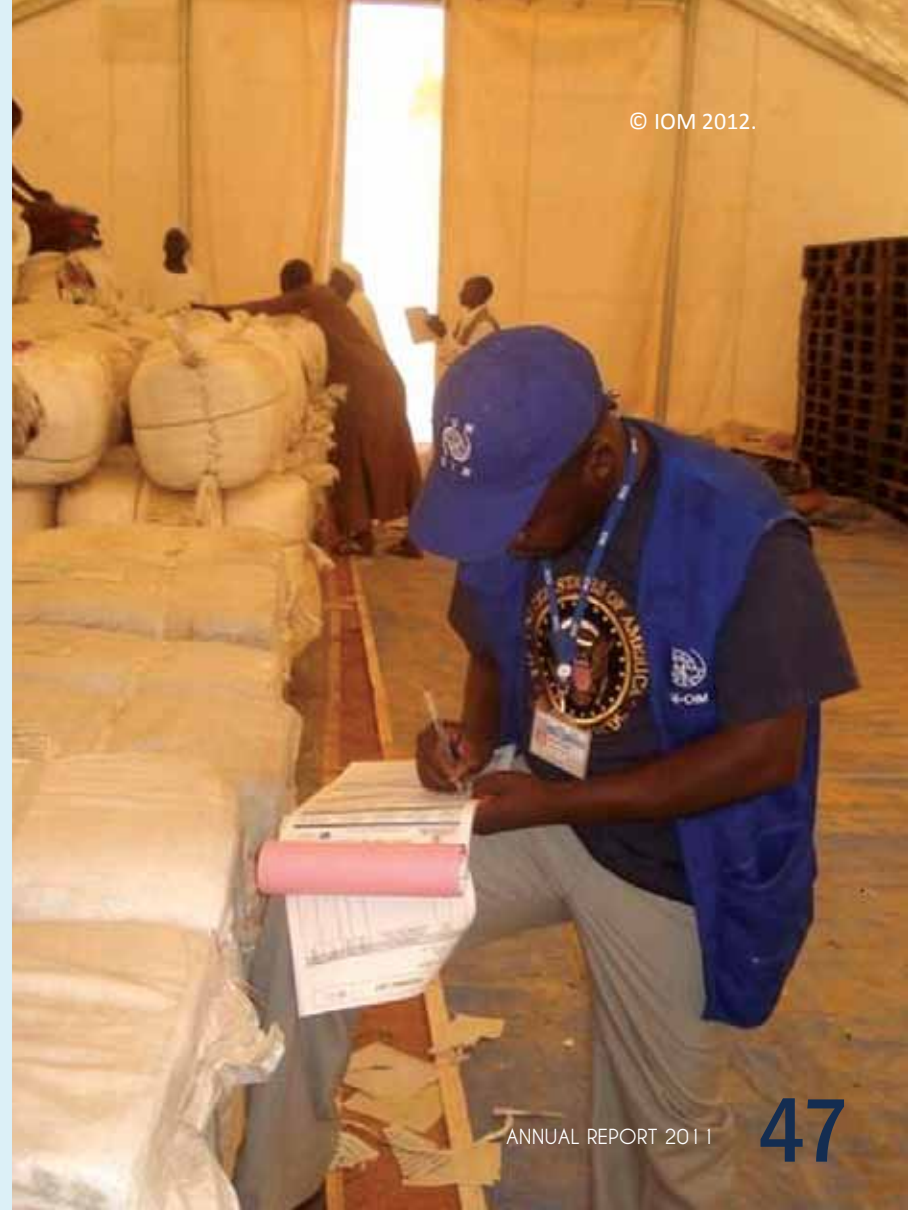
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In light of deteriorating security conditions, international staff were evacuated in May from Abyei, where the recently completed IOM compound was completely destroyed. International staff were also forced to evacuate Southern Kordofan following clashes there in June; however, national staff remained active, implementing water, sanitation and hygiene activities in the region, in addition to population tracking, village assessment and livelihood activities.

As disputes over water can spark violent conflict, IOM focused on improving access to water and sanitation:

- 95 hand pumps rehabilitated in Kadugli and 7 new hand pumps and 180 household latrines constructed;
- Hygiene and clean-up campaigns involving 16,000 students and community members implemented;
- 2 water yards rehabilitated in Muglad for the Misseriya tribes;
- 1 new water yard constructed in Keilik;
- 5 hand-dug wells rehabilitated in Dilling and El Goz;
- 29 training activities implemented in the state of South Kordofan on the management of water committees and maintenance of water facilities.

IOM's efforts to improve border management continued with the preparation and publication of a Migration Profile of Sudan to build capacity for data collection and policy development in migration management. Meanwhile, a project to enhance border management at three border points in the East and three in South Sudan was fully implemented in South Sudan, but not in the East. IOM continued its work to raise awareness of the dangers of irregular migration, smuggling and trafficking.



## syrian arab republic

In spring 2011, political demonstrations escalated to armed conflict between the government and rebels. As the year came to a close, security conditions had deteriorated in nine provinces, including Damascus. Operating under challenging conditions, IOM staff undertook evacuation of migrant workers and provided medical assistance to IDPs. The majority of migrant workers in need of evacuation assistance were women from Bangladesh, Eritrea, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, the Philippines and Sri Lanka who were living in areas affected by the unrest. In 2011, 27 migrants were evacuated with IOM's support.

In 2011, IOM also continued to process refugees for resettlement and implement programmes to enhance border management, address human trafficking and provide assistance to Iraqi and other vulnerable migrants in the Syrian Arab Republic.

Under its border management programme, IOM upgraded hardware and software at three border crossings, including biometric equipment and ultraviolet counterfeit detectors, and set up a small forensic laboratory.

In terms of outreach and assistance to Iraqis, IOM has provided vocational training to over 200 Iraqi women in Boukamal, Deir Ezzor and Qamishly; distributed hygiene kits to 750 Iraqi women and their children; organized a breast cancer early detection campaign targeting more than 600 Iraqi women; and provided urgent medical assistance to more than 200 migrants.

IOM's counter-trafficking activities in the Syrian Arab Republic include:

- Support to the development of Syria's anti-trafficking legal and operational framework, including standard operating procedures for two shelters for victims of trafficking in Damascus and Aleppo, standard operating procedures for victim identification, and a national referral mechanism;
- Training workshops for the government and NGOs on victim assistance, including legal frameworks and interviewing techniques; one ministerial-level counter-trafficking round table;
- An information campaign, including radio and television spots, brochures, leaflets and calendars, as well as awareness-raising workshops for 300 lawyers in Aleppo, Damascus, Homs and Lattakia, 100 United Nations staff and Iraqi communities.



# tunisia

Tunisia has become a destination and transit country, as migrants travel from the Maghreb and sub-Saharan Africa to Tunisia in the hope of reaching Europe. Irregular migration of Tunisians to Europe was also a major issue in 2011, with more than 25,500 Tunisians crossing the sea to Europe in the wake of the revolution and the fall of the Ben Ali regime. Unemployment also rose significantly from 14 per cent to 18 per cent between 2008 and 2011, resulting in both increased pressures to emigrate and increasing social tensions within the country.

To help prevent irregular migration, IOM carried out an awareness-raising campaign targeting young people in areas prone to irregular migration. This innovative campaign used theatre to discuss and raise awareness of the risks of irregular migration. In partnership with the Ministries of Social Affairs and Interior, the Italian-funded campaign enlisted the support of Tunisian playwright and comedian Raouf Ben Yaghlane, who wrote a hard-hitting play based on the testimonies of young Tunisians living as irregular migrants in Italy. Building on the success of these initial activities, IOM coordinated a similar media outreach campaign with Tunisian NGOs.

As a result of the 2011 crisis in Libya, nearly 350,000 migrant workers, almost a third of them returning Tunisians, fled across the Libya–Tunisia border. Within days of the conflict's onset, IOM had deployed teams to the border area and was working in partnership with government authorities, the Tunisian Red

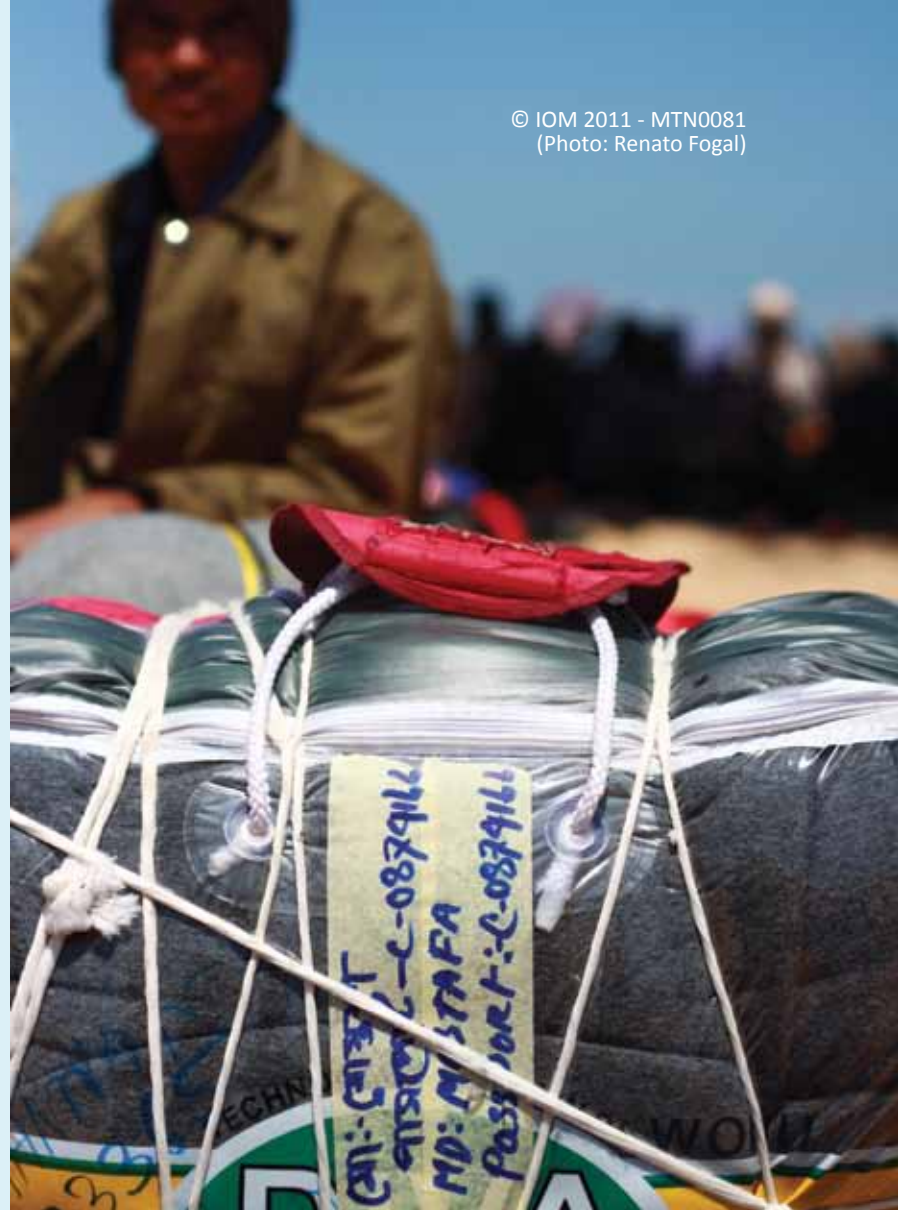


IOM evacuating migrants from Libya via Tunisia.  
© IOM 2011 - MTN0040 (Photo: Jean-Philippe Chauzy).

Crescent, UNHCR and other United Nations and NGO partners to provide migrants with humanitarian and evacuation assistance. By the end of 2011, the vast majority of migrants stranded at the border had been assisted to return home.

**Migrant connections:** Since 2010, IOM Tunis has partnered with the Tunisian government to study the impact of the social and economic ties of Tunisians living in France, Germany and Italy. The study, known as TIDO (“Tunisian Migrants Involved in Development of the Country of Origin”), was presented at an international conference in June 2011. Additionally, in an effort to increase ministerial technical capacity, IOM Tunis, with support from Business & Decision, a leading Tunisian firm, equipped and trained government officials at the National Institute of Statistics and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to use SPSS software. Going forward, IOM Tunisia and its local partners aim to identify ways to encourage cooperation between Tunisians abroad and their communities of origin.

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(Photo: Renato Fogal)



# yemen

IOM's operations in Yemen are designed to respond to the complex migration challenges facing the country and the region. Activities specifically focus on providing services to two main populations: transit migrants from the Horn of Africa, many of whom are vulnerable to exploitation and trafficking, and IDPs in two remote tribal areas affected by conflict. Through its offices in Aden, Haradh and Sana'a, IOM provides migrants, IDPs and host communities with shelter, non-food items, health care and, in some cases, AVRR to their countries of origin.

## Haradh: A migratory bottleneck

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Most migrants in search of economic opportunities in Saudi Arabia and the GCC do not intend or expect to stay in Yemen. However, tighter border controls have resulted in fewer options by which to reach Saudi Arabia. Further, IOM is aware of many migrants falling prey to traffickers and being exploited en route. Throughout 2011, thousands of Ethiopian men, women and children have become stranded in Haradh, near the Saudi Arabian border.

While Somali migrants in Yemen are extended prima facie refugee status upon entering the country, Ethiopian migrants

are not, and they are particularly vulnerable to labour exploitation, detention, human smuggling, trafficking and abuse. The vast majority who are unable to cross the border with Saudi Arabia live in unprotected, open spaces around the urban centre, placing considerable strain on local services. Lacking financial resources, knowledge of Arabic and largely without remunerable skills, it is only through the generosity of sympathetic locals and their own resourcefulness that migrants obtain enough food to survive, often on the streets.

IOM's office in Haradh is responding to this humanitarian situation through the operation of a health clinic, a feeding centre and a departure centre to provide shelter for the sick and injured, including those with special protection needs. Many migrants are reportedly suffering from diarrhoeal diseases, malaria, respiratory infections and snake bites from sleeping in the open. Others are suffering from broken limbs, gunshot wounds and other signs of maltreatment by human traffickers and smugglers.





IOM doctor providing health education to a sick child on a road side in Yemen. © IOM 2012 (Photo: Ahmed Al Waar).



Migrant flows through Yemen spiked in 2011:

- 103,154 migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers arrived along Yemen's Red Sea and Arabian coasts;
- 73 per cent were reportedly Ethiopians fleeing poverty and seeking economic opportunities in the GCC;
- 18,500 Ethiopian migrants were registered to receive return and relief assistance through IOM's Departure Centre;
- Over 6,000 were assisted to return to Ethiopia, but some 12,000 remain stranded.

## Internal conflict: Crisis in the south and north

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Violent conflict has erupted in the southern province of Abyan, where armed insurgents confront government troops, displacing thousands of people in the process. In May 2011, IOM conducted a rapid needs assessment and began providing hygiene kits, water filters, and health and psychosocial care

to some 13,500 individuals. Other efforts in Abyan include: the operation of a mobile health clinic; the completion of two protection assessments in Rasud and Sibah districts, uncovering 64 cases of abuse; and an investigation of cholera outbreak in Abyan Governorate.

Also, in the northwest governorate of Al Jawaf, there is ongoing conflict between the government and rebels, who claim economic, political and religious marginalization. The latest clashes produced 321,000 IDPs in remote areas, many of whom have acute assistance needs.

In Al Jawaf, IOM provides clean water, shelter, non-food items and health care:

- 27 water-insecure villages targeted with water rehabilitation projects, reaching some 30,000 persons;
- 13,000 persons provided with emergency shelter and essential non-food items;
- 62,000 individuals received health screening and 33,000 were treated for chronic and communicable diseases.

## Capacity-building

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In 2011, IOM also continued to work with governmental, civil society and international actors to build the capacity of the Government of Yemen in the field of migration management. IOM assisted the government to draft a set of recommendations outlining legislative reform on trafficking, detention and voluntary and forced return. In 2012, IOM will be working with the government to help implement these recommendations. IOM Yemen is also working with national counterparts to develop a national border management strategy and engage in regional dialogue on managing irregular migration between the Horn of Africa and the GCC.

## Key highlights from 2011 include:

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- A study tour to Rome International Airport for nine senior officials to facilitate the exchange of best practices in the field of migration and border management;
- Training of over 1,000 front-line border control and migration management officials in the areas of management and leadership skills, document examination, passenger assessment and migration data management;
- Integration of the trafficking-in-persons curriculum into the Yemeni national training strategy;
- Specialized trafficking-in-persons training provided to 100 front-line law enforcement officials, five civil society organizations and relevant government agencies.

# gulf cooperation council countries

Collectively, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the UAE are now host to approximately 22 million overseas contract workers, and foreign workers account for approximately two thirds of the region's labour force. In 2011, through the IOM office in Kuwait and the regional office in Cairo, IOM continued to provide support to GCC countries on a range of migration initiatives with a focus on activities in labour migration and counter-trafficking.

## Migrant assistance and counter-trafficking

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IOM Kuwait engaged in a number of initiatives to support the Kuwaiti and GCC governments to enhance their awareness and share their knowledge on migration management and migrants' human rights. Notably, IOM provided Kuwaiti police officers with training on the rights of overseas contract workers and, in partnership with the Kuwaiti Institute for Judiciary and Legal Studies, hosted an international conference on human rights instruments.

In 2011, IOM Kuwait also supported the Kuwaiti government's efforts in the field of counter-trafficking, through training provided for law enforcement officials and a study tour to the Netherlands to observe Dutch practices in shelter management and victim protection.

In Saudi Arabia, IOM formalized its relationship with Naif Arab University for Security Sciences, through a Memorandum of Understanding signed in September 2011. IOM has participated in training sessions at the University to raise awareness of migration issues, as well as a series of joint training sessions.

## Labour migration

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In 2011, IOM continued its active engagement in the Abu Dhabi Dialogue, acting both as secretariat and as a thematic expert on the issues under discussion, including recruitment, pre-departure services, employment, and the successful return and reintegration of workers.

In Kuwait, IOM also organized workshops and training sessions to support GCC governments in the development of their labour migration management systems. These included a January 2011 regional workshop on labour mobility that reviewed the Kuwaiti government's reforms to the labour law and the sponsorship (Kafeel) system, and an advanced training-of-trainers programme on labour migration for officials from GCC countries specializing in labour issues.

IOM staff aboard Redstar 1, one of the first IOM boats to rescue migrants during the fall of Tripoli. © IOM 2011.





# looking forward in 2012

The year 2011 brought unprecedented political change in the MENA region, opening doors of hope for some and leaving others trapped in uncertainty and chaos. While IOM was quick to provide humanitarian relief to those in need, its long-term priority is to advocate for a coherent, coordinated migration management plan that respects the human rights of migrants. To this end, looking forward in 2012, IOM will continue to work with governments, civil society, United Nations partners and the private sector to:

- Foster dialogue and information-sharing between sending, transit and receiving countries on migration and border management, building on existing forums for dialogue and information-gathering mechanisms established in the region;
- Strengthen the rule of law in migration and border management by addressing the challenges of mixed flows, including persons in need of international protection, acute humanitarian needs and rights of migrants, combating transnational organized crime relating to smuggling and trafficking in human beings, and establishing regional mechanisms for the voluntary and orderly return of migrants;
- Provide alternatives to communities in migration-prone areas by promoting: (a) quick-impact activities and enhanced service delivery that provide tangible, immediate dividends to stabilize at-risk communities; and (b) long-term stability, through activities that support good governance and promote socio-economic development in vulnerable communities, including through the development and implementation of regular labour migration schemes and the promotion of remittances, skills and know-how transfer towards productive ends;
- Advocate for the protection of the human rights of migrants.

# IOM staff and expenditure

Staff (by 31 December 2011)

Bahrain	1
Egypt	53
Iraq	140
Jordan	237
Kuwait	5
Lebanon	12
Libya	25
Morocco	20
Saudi Arabia	2
Sudan	225
Syrian Arab Republic	142
Tunisia	27
UAE	1
Yemen	68
<b>Total</b>	<b>958</b>

Expenditures in 2011 (Per country, in USD)

Egypt	46,563,921
Iraq	41,257,401
Jordan	15,855,128
Kuwait	424,764
Lebanon	1,314,539
Libya	6,235,639
Morocco	2,411,610
Saudi Arabia	223,201
Sudan	42,502,076
Syrian Arab Republic	13,943,261
Tunisia	23,037,840
Yemen	18,103,180
<b>Total</b>	<b>211,872,560</b>

Expenditures in 2011 (Per project category, in USD)

Movements, emergency and post-crisis migration management	182,772,009
Migration health	5,442,490
Labour migration and human development	4,456,750
Migrant assistance	14,388,118
Integrated border management	2,392,457
Migration policy and research	352,884
General programme support	2,067,853
<b>Total</b>	<b>211,872,560</b>

# thanks to our partners:

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