

# SPECIAL MEDITERRANEAN INITIATIVE

Plan for an enhanced operational response

June – December 2015



Cover photograph:

A group of refugees and migrants aboard a dinghy approach a beach in northern Lesvos, Greece, arriving from Turkey. On Lesvos Island, the number of arrivals in May was ten times higher than in January 2015; around 300 arrivals were recorded daily with many coming from war-torn countries like Afghanistan, Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic. Some spent as long as a month travelling just to reach Turkey.

UNHCR / Socrates Baltagiannis

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Since the release of the *Special Mediterranean Sea Initiative: Plan for an enhanced operational response* (June-December 2015) on 12 June 2015, an additional activity has been included under the objective “Strengthen protection systems and prevent *refoulement*” in the regional response for the Europe Region (see page 8).

This revised version of 16 June has therefore been adjusted to reflect this additional information. There are no other changes to the regional response plans or to the financial requirements.

# AT A GLANCE



## Refugees and migrants crossing the Mediterranean to Europe

Overview of arrival trends as of 10 June 2015

2015 arrivals as of 10 June 2015

**105,000** arrivals by sea  
**1,850** dead/missing

2014

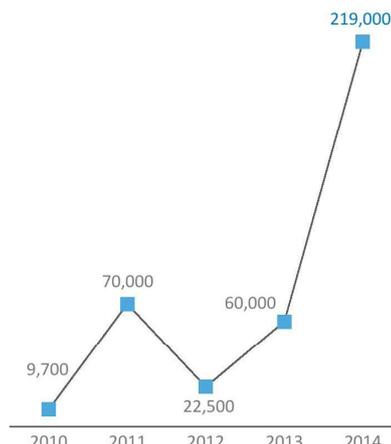
**219,000** arrivals by sea  
**3,500** dead/missing

**Comparison 2014 - 2015 (Jan-Jun)**

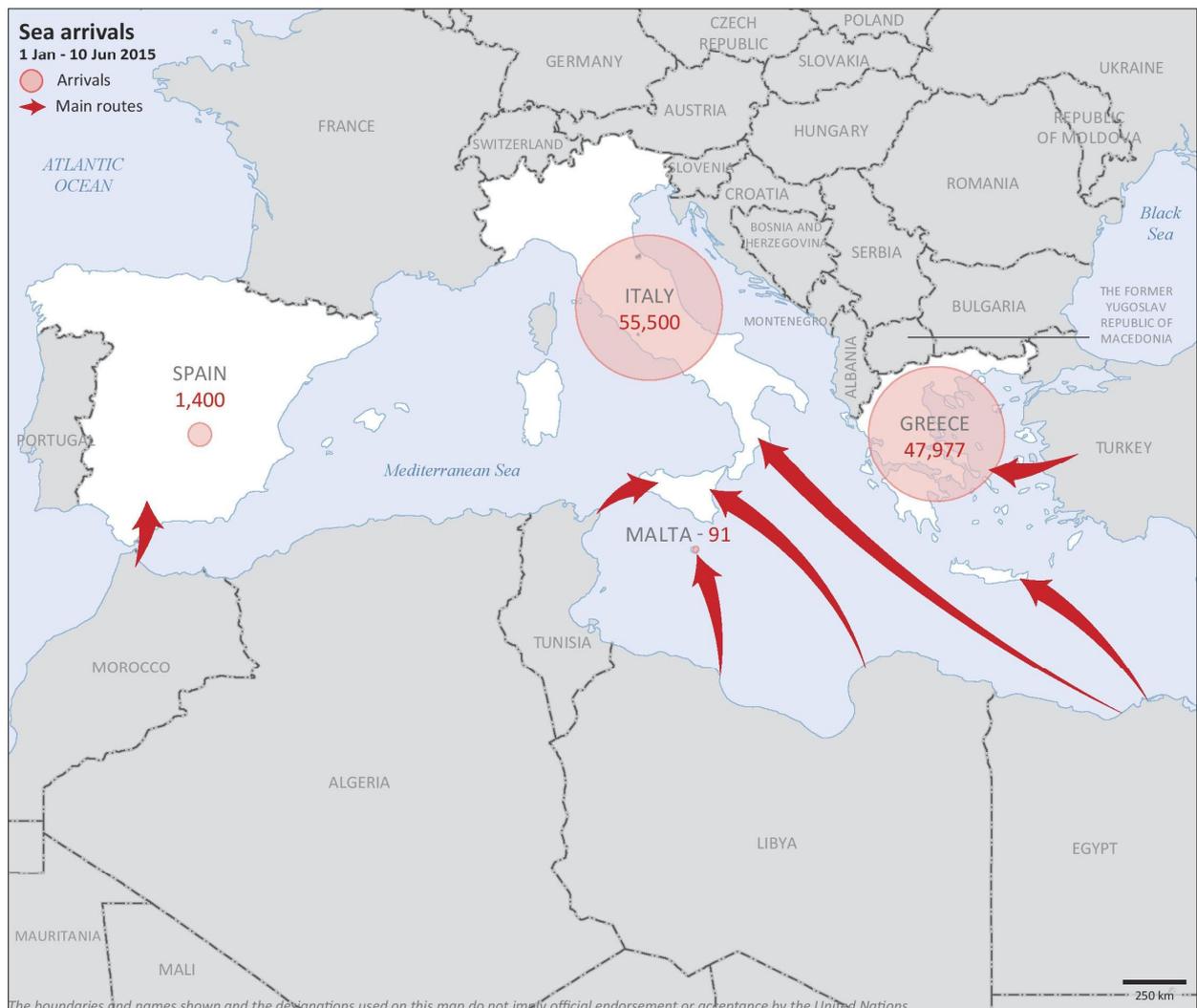
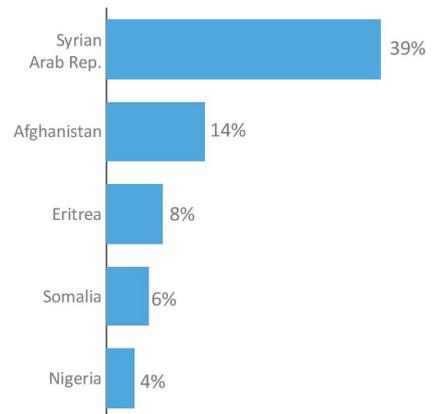
Arrivals by sea



Evolution of sea arrivals to Europe



Top 5 nationalities for the period Jan - Jun 2015



# CONTEXT

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## Introduction

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States bordering the Mediterranean Sea are currently faced with significant movements of migrants and refugees seeking to enter Europe. Many have become victims of smuggling and trafficking and often been subjected to rights abuse en route. Thousands have lost their lives at sea. In the first five months of 2015 alone, some 1,850 people have drowned in the Mediterranean in their attempt to reach European shores. Thousands more in North African countries and further east, including Turkey, are poised to take the same risks.

Those who are migrants seek to escape inequality, dysfunctional governance and poverty back home. However, a significant proportion of the men, women and children risking their lives at sea today are fleeing war, conflict and persecution, and have valid reasons to seek safety and international protection. These refugees are often unable to enter Europe through regular channels, owing to lack of legal alternatives, restrictive policies and lack of documentation. On land routes, they also confront increasingly restrictive border control measures. Many people see no other options but to undertake dangerous sea journeys across the Mediterranean at the hands of smugglers. Trafficking is rife, especially along routes in West Africa and the East and Horn of Africa.

This dramatic situation is affecting countries in southern Europe, North Africa and the Middle East, West Africa, and the East and Horn of Africa, in different ways, and requires a collective and far-reaching response based on principles of humanity, access to asylum and protection, solidarity and responsibility sharing, and respect for human rights. This was the call made by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, the Director-General of the International Organization for Migration, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, the SRSG for Migration and Development, and the Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization during the Dialogue on Protection at Sea convened by UNHCR in December 2014.

The measures to address the Mediterranean situation proposed by the European Union and its Member States on 23 April 2015, and further detailed in the European Agenda on Migration released on 13 May 2015, are important steps to: avoid further loss of life at sea; provide an adequate response to the needs of those rescued; and set in place a more comprehensive response which acknowledges the respective roles and responsibilities of countries of origin, first asylum, transit and destination.

## The Special Mediterranean Initiative

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This Special Mediterranean Initiative builds on UNHCR's Central Mediterranean Sea Initiative. The Initiative consists of a number of coordinated actions in southern Europe and the western Balkans, North Africa and the Middle East, the East and Horn of Africa and West Africa.

Given its mandated responsibilities towards asylum-seekers, refugees, and stateless people, UNHCR will work closely with the European Union and its Member States, as well as with all concerned States in North Africa, West Africa, the East and Horn of Africa and the Middle East, as appropriate, to deliver, build on and expand some of the measures being implemented in response to the human tragedy unfolding in the Mediterranean, as proposed in the May 2015 *European Agenda on Migration*. These measures will only produce the desired results if accompanied by substantial initiatives for durable economic, social and legal development in the countries of origin, asylum and

transit, including strengthened migration and refugee protection systems, as well as the opening of labour markets and other legal avenues for admission, including for asylum-seekers and refugees.

## Overall Objectives

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The overall aim of the initiative is to **step up UNHCR's operational responses and protection initiatives** in countries of asylum, transit and destination, accompanied by capacity building and advocacy.

Specific objectives include:

- **Boost post-rescue reception capacity** in receiving countries through support to States, civil society and local communities;
- **Strengthen protection systems and prevent *refoulement*** through presence and capacity building in the fields of asylum, protection-sensitive processing, building protection space, and access to solutions;
- **Expand access to solutions**, including, as applicable, through increasing resettlement opportunities and other safe and legal avenues available to people in need of protection (such as private/non-governmental sponsorships, humanitarian permits and family reunification clauses);
- **Increase strategic messaging and advocacy to and about people of concern** as part of broader efforts to raise awareness, curtail smuggling and help disseminate advice and information on **available livelihoods, self-reliance and education opportunities, as well as on** safe and legal avenues for movement;
- **Catalyse and participate in initiatives related to livelihoods and education**, especially in countries of asylum and transit in Africa; and
- **Contribute to trends analysis and information management** on refugee and other flows, routes and trends.

These objectives are articulated in terms of activities and partnerships in the regional response overviews. The related costs are presented in a budget breakdown summary table on page 16, reflecting a reprioritization of affected country operations' budgets for 2015 in response to these enhanced activities.

## COORDINATION

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UNHCR is deeply committed to implementing this initiative through a partnership approach. In view of far-reaching proposals being considered by the European Union, UNHCR will work in coordination with its UN partners, such as OHCHR, UNICEF and UNODC, and especially with IOM. The Office will also work closely with local and international non-governmental organizations, including Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. Efforts will also be made to boost the capacity of partners.

Moreover, UNHCR will remain actively engaged in regional processes of relevance to the Special Mediterranean Initiative, such as the EU Horn of Africa Migration Routes Initiative (also known as the Khartoum Process) and the Euro-African Dialogue on Migration and Development (also known as the Rabat Process), in addition to other initiatives, such as those of the African Union, ECOWAS, and the League of Arab States, in support of comprehensive approaches to address the root causes of these large-scale boat movements.

# REGIONAL RESPONSE: EUROPE

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## Current situation

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- In 2014, around 219,000 refugees and migrants arrived on European Mediterranean shores, compared to only 60,000 in 2013. At least 3,500 lives were lost. During the first five months of this year alone, around 105,000 have arrived (an increase of 112 per cent compared to the same period in 2014), and the death toll in the Mediterranean Sea has reached over 1,850, despite search and rescue operations (compared to 3,500 in 2014 and 600 in 2013).
- Of 105,000 asylum-seekers and migrants arriving by boat in southern Europe, 55,500 arrived in Italy, almost 48,000 in Greece, 1,400 in Spain, and 91 in Malta.
- While Italy has received a slightly larger number of sea arrivals, Greece is the most seriously affected so far (in May 2015 alone, 18,586 people arrived in the country) as the routes appear to be shifting in response to the situation in Libya and related developments. Reception capacity on the islands receiving them is severely overstretched and the situation of the new arrivals is dire.
- More than 85 per cent of those arriving in Greece are from refugee-producing countries, principally the Syrian Arab Republic (60 per cent of the arrivals) Afghanistan, Somalia, Iraq, and Eritrea. Most continue onwards, to Northern and Western Europe, including through the western Balkans,<sup>1</sup> to seek asylum.
- Refugees and migrants travelling to and through some countries in the western Balkans are exposed to accidents, natural hazards and abuse and threats from smugglers, traffickers and criminal networks present in the area. Asylum systems in some of these countries are also facing extreme pressure.

## Enhanced response

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### 1) Boost post-rescue reception capacity in receiving countries through support for States, civil society and local communities

- Working with partners, strengthen reception procedures and capacity, including through:
  - ⇒ deploying multidisciplinary, multi-functional teams to boost front-line capacity in Southern Europe (Greece, Italy, Malta and Spain);
  - ⇒ supporting the development of measures to enable the effective and speedy identification of people with specific needs, such as unaccompanied and separated children, victims of trafficking, and survivors of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). Where there are no adequate assistance and protection measures in place, working with the relevant authorities and partners to ensure that such services are provided;
  - ⇒ ensuring that all protection and assistance interventions use a community-based approach, effectively mainstreaming age, gender, and diversity;
  - ⇒ boosting capacity for identification and referral and the availability of adequate assistance and protection (Greece, Italy, Malta and Spain); and
  - ⇒ increasing emergency humanitarian assistance and support, as needed, (such as provision of sleeping bags, food and hygiene kits) for people with specific needs, and making available relief items for groups with specific needs (Greece and Western Balkans).
- Make improvements to reception facilities (Greece)

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<sup>1</sup> The western Balkans region includes Serbia and Kosovo (SCR 1244 (1999)), Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

- Boost local NGO presence/capacity in municipalities with potentially large numbers of refugees and migrants (Greece, Italy and Turkey)
- Working together with partners, provide training on reception standards, community-based approaches, identification of people with specific needs (including people who are at risk of SGBV or who are survivors of such violence, and unaccompanied and separated children) and referral procedures
- Prepare/update contingency plans in coordination with the authorities and other relevant actors, such as EU institutions and agencies and NGOs, in order to respond adequately to significant increases in arrivals
- Continue to advocate with concerned authorities and regional organizations for the allocation of necessary resources (including financial, staffing and non-food items)

**2) Strengthen protection systems and prevent *refoulement*, including through presence and capacity building in the fields of asylum, building protection space, access to solutions and joint processing**

- Strengthen the presence of UNHCR and partners at land and sea entry points in order to monitor population movements, especially those of people seeking international protection, and promote protection-sensitive border management practices (Bulgaria, Greece, Spain, the western Balkans and Turkey)
- Continue to advocate with relevant authorities for the entry of people seeking international protection, and work to overcome challenges regarding their access to territory and asylum procedures
- Cooperate with EU Member States, institutions and agencies in carrying out the proposed EU relocation programme (distribution mechanism) for people in need of international protection
- Monitor detention and continue to advocate with Governments for the use of alternatives to detention, particularly for children and other people with specific needs
- Increase the access of people in need of international protection to legal assistance/counselling concerning their asylum claims and rights under the Dublin procedure
- Support the provision of interpretation services and the establishment of interpreter pools
- Develop and deliver training for navy and other officials involved in search and rescue operations and disembarkation, with the strong support of UNHCR's Division of International Protection and in close cooperation with IOM, UNODC, OHCHR and other partners

**3) Expand access to solutions, including, as applicable, through increasing resettlement opportunities and other safe and legal avenues available to people in need of protection**

- Cooperate with EU Member States, institutions and agencies in carrying out enhanced refugee resettlement
- Work with EU Member States, institutions and agencies to develop and make full use of other legal avenues available to people in need of protection, including private/non-governmental sponsorships and humanitarian permits, family reunification clauses, and more flexible visa arrangements for work or study purposes. In Turkey, for example, UNHCR will also focus on facilitating access to family reunification for refugees who have that right owing to the presence of a family member in the European Union.
- Strengthen advocacy for integration, where feasible

**4) Increase strategic messaging and advocacy to and about people of concern as part of broader efforts to raise awareness, curtail smuggling and help disseminate advice and information on available livelihoods, self-reliance and education opportunities, as well as on safe and legal avenues for movement**

- Increase the awareness of people in need of international protection of the risks of irregular movement – compounded by the risks of smuggling and trafficking – to enable them to take informed decisions (Bulgaria, Greece, Spain, the western Balkans and Turkey)
- Provide more extensive information for people in need of international protection regarding their rights and duties upon entering the territory of European countries
- Strengthen UNHCR's media engagement capacity to increase the visibility of UNHCR's proposals to the dramatic crisis in the Mediterranean and its activities in support of governments, through the timely production, updating and dissemination of targeted messages (supported by an enhanced public information presence in Greece and Italy)
- Increase the number of stories in the media on the plight of people in need of international protection (their profiles and reasons for departure) as well as their resilience, and work further to galvanize public sympathy and support
- Spotlight the impact of this dramatic situation on countries of transit, asylum, and destination

**5) Catalyse and participate in initiatives related to livelihoods and education, especially in countries of asylum and transit**

- Encourage full funding of UNHCR livelihood and education programmes in Africa and the Middle East

**6) Contribute to trends analysis and information management on migrant/refugee flows, routes and trends**

- Increase UNHCR's own capacity to collect and analyse data on the profile of sea and land arrivals, including information on their vulnerabilities, in order to improve the design and implementation of the response and to measure its impact
- Enhance information and reporting capacity to further facilitate the timely sharing of information in relation to the situation in the Mediterranean

## Partnerships

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Key partners in Europe include: the European Commission, the European Asylum Support Office (EASO), Frontex, IOM, NGOs with an EU-wide remit in advocacy and public information, as well as national and international organizations (e.g. national Red Crosses/Red Crescent Societies, the Norwegian Refugee Council and Save the Children).

# REGIONAL RESPONSE: MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

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## Current situation

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- The Middle East and North Africa (MENA)<sup>2</sup> region continues to experience large and complex refugee and migration movements from and within the Middle East, West Africa, East Africa and the Horn of Africa, and North Africa, to Europe, as well as from and through the East and Horn of Africa to the Gulf Cooperation Council States and Southern Europe.
- Some countries in the MENA region are signatories to the 1951 Refugee Convention and most countries in North Africa are signatories to the 1969 OAU Refugee Convention. Positive steps in developing national asylum systems, including in regard to legislation on asylum and related administrative procedures, have been taken in the 5 countries.
- With few exceptions, systems for managing the complexities of mixed migratory movements in a protection-sensitive manner are nascent. Capacity and available resources are limited, with responses guided by national security concerns.
- UNHCR's response to refugee protection in mixed migration situations in North Africa, including in relation to departures and arrivals by sea in the Mediterranean, has four strategic objectives: (1) preventing *refoulement*; (2) improving access to territory and to asylum; (3) informing refugees and migrants about their options and warning them about the dangers of sea journeys; and (4) enhancing protection space, the quality of stay arrangements and access to solutions, within and through broader migration policy responses.

## Enhanced response

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- 1) Boost post-rescue reception capacity in receiving countries through support to States, civil society and local communities**
  - Promote the establishment of a contact group for information sharing and coordination of responses to refugees/asylum-seekers and migrants rescued or intercepted at sea involving participation at working level of the Libyan Coast Guard, the Department for Combatting Illegal Migration (DCIM), affected municipalities and the Libyan Red Crescent (Libya)
  - Establish pilot medical and screening points at disembarkation locations allowing response partners to register, screen and refer those in urgent need of assistance and medical services to respective institutions and organizations (Libya)
  - Provide basic material assistance and other humanitarian support to those assisted through UNHCR and IOM after disembarkation or upon transfer to Libyan detention centres to ensure minimum standards of treatment in such centres (Libya)
  - Provide emergency assistance through the Tunisian Red Crescent to those rescued by the Tunisian Coast Guard (Tunisia)
  - Reinforce NGO capacity to conduct profiling and identification of those rescued or intercepted on land or at sea and referral to UNHCR of those seeking international protection and asylum processing (Morocco and Tunisia)
  - Implement standard operating procedures on identification and referrals of victims of torture in partnership with IOM and other key stakeholders (Algeria, Egypt and Libya)

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<sup>2</sup> Countries covered by the Middle East and the North Africa that are relevant to this initiative include: Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia.

- Promote early identification of SGBV cases and of children and women at risk through the use of individual risk identification tools and mechanisms in cooperation with partners in North African countries
  - Support the establishment of assisted voluntary return programmes in close cooperation with IOM for migrants who may seek assistance to return to their countries of origin (Morocco and Tunisia), as well as to asylum-seekers and refugees who may seek family reunification or voluntary repatriation (Libya)
- 2) Strengthen protection systems and prevent *refoulement*, including through presence and capacity building in the fields of asylum, building protection space, and access to solutions**
- Provide technical support and training in international human rights and refugee law to national authorities, to support the establishment of effective national asylum systems and migration management policy frameworks (all countries)
  - Advocate for improved UNHCR access to and monitoring of air, land and sea border points, and raise awareness of obligations under applicable international law (all countries)
  - Advocate for improved access to detention facilities and monitor detention conditions in order to identify and track people who are likely to be of concern to UNHCR, and to reduce the risk of *refoulement*
  - Support the provision of legal assistance for those held in detention and use community-based protection mechanisms for the identification of detention cases in areas of high risk, such as coastal areas
  - Provide material assistance and relief items to those held in detention facilities in order to ensure that minimum standards of treatment are met
  - Advocate for and support the development of alternatives to detention, with a focus on children (Egypt, Libya)
  - Provide infrastructure support when alternatives to detention within community structures are found (Libya)
  - Convene and participate in the work of Protection Working Groups and other inter-agency/multi-stakeholder fora aimed to improve coordination of protection responses to asylum-seekers, refugees and migrants in North Africa
- 3) Expand access to solutions, including, as applicable, through increasing resettlement opportunities and other safe and legal avenues available to people in need of protection.**
- Enhance cooperation with IOM, local Embassies and NGOs for the purpose of finding legal avenues for the protection of refugees, including in relation to urgent resettlement cases stranded at borders
  - Proactively identify cases with family links in resettlement countries, including dependent family members in extended families
  - Give priority to processing specific RSD caseloads more expeditiously, owing to the characteristics of the caseload or protection issues involved
- 4) Increase strategic messaging and advocacy to and about people of concern as part of broader efforts to raise awareness, curtail smuggling and help disseminate advice and information on available livelihoods, self-reliance and education opportunities, as well as on safe and legal avenues for movement**
- Strengthen systems to monitor social media with the aim of collecting data on the dynamics of irregular movements and countering false information (Libya and Morocco)
  - Provide information to people of concern on the risks of irregular travel and legal avenues to protection through voluntary repatriation, resettlement, etc., including through leaflets, posters, individual counselling and use of Facebook pages

- Develop and implement joint information campaigns with IOM and others partners to raise awareness of the risks of movement by sea and combat misinformation by smuggling and trafficking networks through anti-fraud messaging (Libya)
- Expand community-based protection activities, through community meetings, individual counselling, focus group discussions and peer support groups, on the risks associated with irregular migration, prevention and response to SGBV, trafficking and other forms of exploitation and legal alternatives to migration (Egypt)
- Organize ad hoc awareness-raising sessions, targeting survivors of rescue incidents, on the risks of irregular movements by sea or land and available legal avenues (Tunisia)
- Enhance participation in key national committees, including on smuggling and trafficking (Egypt)
- Strengthen engagement with inter-agency fora to ensure coordinated humanitarian responses and advocacy on access and conditions of detention, border monitoring, data collection, analysis and reporting (Egypt, Libya and Morocco)

**5) Catalyse and participate in initiatives related to livelihoods and education, especially in countries of asylum and transit**

- Support livelihood-related activities, including vocational training and job placement (Egypt and Morocco)

**6) Contribute to trends analysis and information management on refugee flows, routes and trends**

- Cooperate with external interlocutors, such as the Regional Mixed Migration Secretariat in Nairobi and the North African Mixed Migration Task Force and Mixed Migration Hub, on the establishment of an enhanced information and data collection, analysis and information-sharing mechanism on the movement of refugees/asylum-seekers and migrants across Libya

## Partnerships

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Proactive engagement, partnership and cooperation will be pursued with government authorities, international organizations that have complementary mandates (IOM, UNODC and ICRC) as well as civil society stakeholders, including parliamentarians, bar associations, universities, legal aid providers, community organizations and NGOs. Part of such engagement is centred on the promotion of exchange of experiences at country-level and capacity building to strengthen understanding of the international legal principles as they apply to refugees. Joint advocacy with civil society actors and international organizations is pursued on a case-by-case basis and, as relevant, in relation to specific developments and events.

Furthermore, collaboration with IOM, the ICRC and NGOs is either ongoing or soon to be under way in order to provide humanitarian assistance and support to those rescued at sea, and to undertake screening at the border and referral to relevant mechanisms on the basis of identified needs and vulnerabilities, awareness raising and information dissemination and assisted voluntary return for asylum-seekers who have been found not to be in need of international protection.

# REGIONAL RESPONSE: AFRICA

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## Current situation

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- In the Africa region,<sup>3</sup> the East and Horn of Africa, as well as sub-Saharan African States, continue to be important routes and areas where mixed migration challenges are playing out on a daily basis. Countries in the East and Horn continue to experience conflict, violence and recurrent humanitarian emergencies. Even when asylum-seekers, refugees and the displaced manage to find relative safety in the region, essential services are in short supply, including basic social services, education, self-reliance through employment and other economic opportunities, and family reunification.
- The capacity of many States in the region to curtail smuggling and trafficking remains limited. The African Union and the European Union have been active in promoting more effective cooperation between Member States in this area. Activities in Africa focus on protection in countries of transit and in countries of asylum.
- In 2014, the Ethiopian Shire operation alone received more than 33,000 Eritrean refugees and the monthly arrival rates in the last quarter of 2014 and so far this year is an average of 4,500 individuals.
- In Sudan, UNHCR is implementing a joint strategy to combat trafficking in persons together with IOM, the Sudanese Commissioner for Refugees and the Ministry of the Interior. The implementation of the strategy has almost put an end to the phenomenon of kidnapping of refugees in Eastern Sudan and has drastically reduced the number of refugees and asylum-seekers who have fallen prey to traffickers and smugglers.
- At the end of 2014, Sudan hosted 110,312 Eritrean refugees, who have been registered by the authorities and UNHCR, while several more thousands of Eritreans live in Sudan.
- Since the onset of the conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic more than 20,000 Syrian refugees have arrived in Sudan. While most of them live within established Syrian communities in wider Khartoum rather than in refugee camps, the Syrian refugees face many of the same protection risks as other refugees and asylum-seekers in the region.

## Enhanced response

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In 2013, UNHCR launched its Strategy and Regional Plan of Action on Smuggling and Trafficking from the East and Horn of Africa region. The regional strategy recommends targeted but interrelated interventions to address the protection needs of refugees, asylum-seekers and stateless persons affected by smuggling and trafficking in the region with the following main objectives:

- 1) Boost reception capacity in receiving countries through support to States, civil society and local communities**
  - Provide direct assistance to victims of smuggling and trafficking, including legal information, outreach, provision of care packages, and liaising with community mental health providers (Ethiopia)

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<sup>3</sup> Countries covered by the Africa region that are relevant to this initiative include: Ethiopia, Niger and Sudan.

- Conduct registration on an individual basis with a minimum set of data, undertake medical and nutritional screening of all new refugees, maintain reception and transit centres, and monitor the situation of refugees concerned (Ethiopia and Niger)
  - Improve the reception procedure at Shagarab camp to allow new arrivals access electronic registration in a short period (Sudan)
  - Upgrade/improve reception conditions in Toker, Gergef, and Hamdayet, including procurement of beds for all six active reception centres and core relief items (Sudan)
  - Support family reunification processes (Ethiopia and Sudan)
  - Identify and register eligible cases (Ethiopia and Sudan)
  - Profile people of concern (Ethiopia and Sudan)
  - Provide access of asylum-seekers to UNHCR (Ethiopia and Sudan)
  - Identify and support vulnerable people of concern (Ethiopia and Sudan)
  - Respond to the needs of Syrian refugees, in particular through: area-based interventions to support Government services and institutions in areas hosting a high number of Syrian refugees (focusing on education and health); and targeted assistance to extremely vulnerable individuals within the Syrian refugee community (including through psychosocial support and mental health interventions, livelihoods initiatives, and the pursuit of resettlement as a durable solution) (Sudan)
- 2) Strengthen protection systems and prevent *refoulement*, including through presence and capacity building in the fields of asylum, building protection space, access to solutions and joint processing**
- Provide technical support and training to the authorities to support the establishment of effective national asylum systems and migration policy frameworks that provide for a comprehensive approach to mixed migration and access to solutions (Ethiopia, Niger and Sudan)
  - Strengthen the capacity of government registration staff to conduct registration/verification in line with UNHCR standards (Sudan)
  - Monitor and give technical support to the Government counterpart to update data on a continuous basis in camps, urban areas, and closed settlements (Ethiopia and Sudan) Implement UNHCR status determination procedures (Sudan)
  - Continue to support the comprehensive regional project 'Live, learn, and play safe' by focusing on special care arrangements for unaccompanied and separated children arriving from Eritrea to ensure their protection from abuse and trafficking (Ethiopia and Sudan)
- 3) Expand access to solutions, including, as applicable, through increasing resettlement opportunities and other safe and legal avenues available to people in need of protection**
- Proactively identify cases with family links in resettlement countries, including dependent family members in extended families (Ethiopia, Sudan)
- 4) Increase strategic messaging and advocacy to and about people of concern as part of broader efforts to raise awareness, curtail smuggling and help disseminate advice and information on available livelihoods, self-reliance and education opportunities, as well as on safe and legal avenues for movement**
- Continue to support and implement the Regional Strategy and Plan of Action on Smuggling and Trafficking from the East and Horn of Africa region, which is aimed at increasing the protection of people of concern in the Horn of Africa from smuggling and trafficking across the

Mediterranean, through the provision of more integrated and sustainable programmes for refugees in the countries of asylum that enhance their self-reliance and build on their capacities and skills. The initiatives planned and implemented under the Regional Strategy draw on the activities identified in the EU-Horn of Africa Migration Route Initiative, also known as the “Khartoum Process” (Ethiopia, Sudan)

**5) Catalyse and participate in initiatives related to livelihoods and education, especially in countries of asylum and transit**

- Promote measures in the area of regional protection and development, particularly through tools such as Regional Development and Protection Programmes
- Analyse and support the contribution of refugees, particularly during situations of protracted displacement, to the national and local economy of the host country
- Increase access to livelihood opportunities for the predominately male refugee youth. The provision of targeted skills training and implementation of livelihood projects aim not only provide the refugees with a set of skills that enables them to engage in meaningful and safe income-generating activities; being enrolled in a one year full-time course and following livelihood projects keep refugee youth engaged and less prone to trafficking and smuggling (Ethiopia)
- Expand primary education through construction of additional classrooms for refugee children refugee and hosting community living around Shagarab camp. This includes constructing a school for the hosting community around Shagarab camp in order to create better asylum space for new arrivals and asylum-seekers (Sudan)
- Improve the quality of education and learning achievements from pre-school to tertiary education for children and adolescent Eritrean refugees (Ethiopia)

**6) Contribute to trends analysis and information management on refugee flows, routes and trends**

- Enhance information and reporting capacity, to further facilitate the timely sharing of information on the situation of asylum-seeker, refugee and migrant flows in the eastern Horn of Africa
- Conduct information-sharing and enhance regional partnership (Ethiopia)

## Partnerships

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All activities are carried out in close cooperation with relevant Government counterparts and regional bodies, particularly the African Union and ECOWAS. Important international partners include IOM, UNICEF and the ICRC. NGOs, and local communities, including refugee representatives, are also part of vital partnerships.

## FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS

An indication of the estimated costs of this enhanced operational response and protection initiatives for refugees and migrants attempting to cross the Mediterranean Sea to Europe is provided in the table below. It should be noted that these amounts are included in the 2015 annual budgets approved by UNHCR's Executive Committee in October 2014. The respective country operation budgets have been adjusted to give priority to the needs related to this Initiative as the situation in the countries concerned has evolved so significantly since the original budgets were established.

OPERATION		TOTAL in USD
EUROPE	NORTHERN EUROPE	Italy Regional office
	WESTERN EUROPE	
	CENTRAL EUROPE	
	SOUTHERN EUROPE	
	SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE	Bosnia and Herzegovina Regional office
	EASTERN EUROPE	Turkey
		<b>SUBTOTAL</b>
MENA	NORTH AFRICA	Algeria
		Egypt
		Libya
		Morocco
		Tunisia
		<b>SUBTOTAL</b>
AFRICA	EAST AND HORN OF AFRICA	Ethiopia
		Sudan
	WEST AFRICA	Niger
		<b>SUBTOTAL</b>
HQ AND REGIONAL SUPPORT		
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>30,412,083</b>



**UNHCR**

The UN  
Refugee Agency