Managing Irregular Migration in a Mediterranean context

Presentation by
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IOM Mediterranean Region

Offices in:
- Libya,
- Morocco,
- Tunisia,
- Malta
- Italy (Rome, Sicily, Campania, Puglie)
- Portugal
- Spain
- Albania
- Greece
- Turkey
Mediterranean – a region of mixed flows

- Economic migrants;
- Environmental migrants;
- Asylum seekers;
- Victims of trafficking;
- Unaccompanied minors;
- Other vulnerable groups incl. migrants with special needs (sick, elderly)
Challenge

- Managing migration in a humane manner,
- observing human rights standards while preventing unauthorized economic migration
Special Factors affecting the Mediterranean Migration Situation:

- Mix of Regional and Extra-Regional Migrants
- Migration IN and OUT of Africa
- Free Movement Protocol – ECOWAS Nationals (particular relevance for SAHEL and MAGHREB flows)
- International cooperation growing but still not well coordinated – national approaches often prevail
Special Factors ctd.

- Proximity to Europe
- Uncontrolled, dangerous desert borders and border areas
- Great opportunity for profit and criminal enterprise
- Potential for corruption
- Routes change as smugglers react
- Extra-regional migrants difficult and costly to return and identify
Special Factors ctd.

- Economic/financial crisis

- Cooperation Africa-Europe
  - AU/EU
  - Rabat process
  - 5+5
  - Forced and Voluntary Returns
  - Organized Labour migration - based on bilateral accords
Characteristics of Migrants

- Majority – young, able bodied men, most not victims of trafficking
- Numbers of women small but growing, strong suspicion of trafficking
- Movement: both solo and organized
- Absence of state institutions
- High potential to suffer violence
Characteristics of Migrants

Sub Saharan Migrants

- Many legs/years/assistance from communities
- Mix of economic motives and persecution
- Utilize ECOWAS protocol provisions
- Easy blend; language and culturally
Characteristics of Migrants

- Extra Regional – largely organized
- Numerous agents
- Links between origin state and West African and Maghreb agents
Characteristics of Migrants

N. African Migrants

• Move for economic or family reasons
• Lack of formal channels
• Strict visa regimes
• Parts of Mediterranean language and culture
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2009</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Greece</td>
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<td>15314</td>
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<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
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<td>36951</td>
<td>9566</td>
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<tr>
<td>of which Lampedusa</td>
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<td>31236</td>
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<td>Malta</td>
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<td>1403</td>
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<td>Spain (Canary Islands)</td>
<td>39180</td>
<td>18057</td>
<td>13424</td>
<td>1798</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
BUT

Majority of irregular migrants arrives by plane, train, bus – with papers, visa (fake or valid) that expire or migrants make unauthorized change of status (from student to worker)

Labour markets offer opportunities
Demography an important factor
IOM Responses – Multi faceted

- Irregular migration:
  - Assisted voluntary returns + reintegration from Europe, Libya, Morocco for
    - Stranded migrants,
    - Victims of trafficking
    - Other vulnerable groups
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>AVRRs</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>84</td>
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<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>1484</td>
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<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>1460</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>4167</td>
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ASSISTED VOLUNTARY RETURNS/REINTEGRATION

INSUFFICIENT/ERRATIC FUNDING TO MEET NEEDS/REQUESTS EXPRESSED BY MIGRANTS, EMBASSIES AND ORIGIN/TRANSIT COUNTRY GOVERNMENTS, LACK OF COOPERATION ON IDENTIFICATION/DOCUMENATION
ASSISTED VOLUNTARY RETURNS/REINTEGRATION

TRANSIT COUNTRIES IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA TOO, NEED ASSISTANCE WITH AVRR PROGRAMMES FOR INTERCEPTED/STRANDED MIGRANTS (i.e. NIGER, MALI, MAURITANIA)
IOM Responses – Multi faceted

- Facilitating regular migration:
  - Labour migration
  - DNA testing for family reunification
    IOM Italy: 9117 family reunification applications processed (2001 – 2009)

- Migration for Development – MIDA

- Resettlement/relocation
IOM Responses – Multi faceted

- Technical cooperation
  - Multi-regional dialogue between SS Africa/Maghreb/Europe
  - Counter-trafficking training
  - Tracing of families of unaccompanied minors
  - PRAESIDIUM Italy – teams in
    - Lampedusa
    - Sicily
    - Campania (Castelvolturno, Eboli)
    - Puglia

visiting migrants’ centres (open/closed) to identify
- vulnerable groups (UAMs, VoTs, other)
- or migrants whose rights have not been recognized
IOM Responses – Multi faceted

Information Campaigns

Cameroon
Ghana
Libya
Mali
Niger
Nigeria
Senegal

(EU AENEAS 2004 regional dialogue project, EU AENEAS 2006, Spain, Switzerland)
Is this the main message by migration policy makers?