

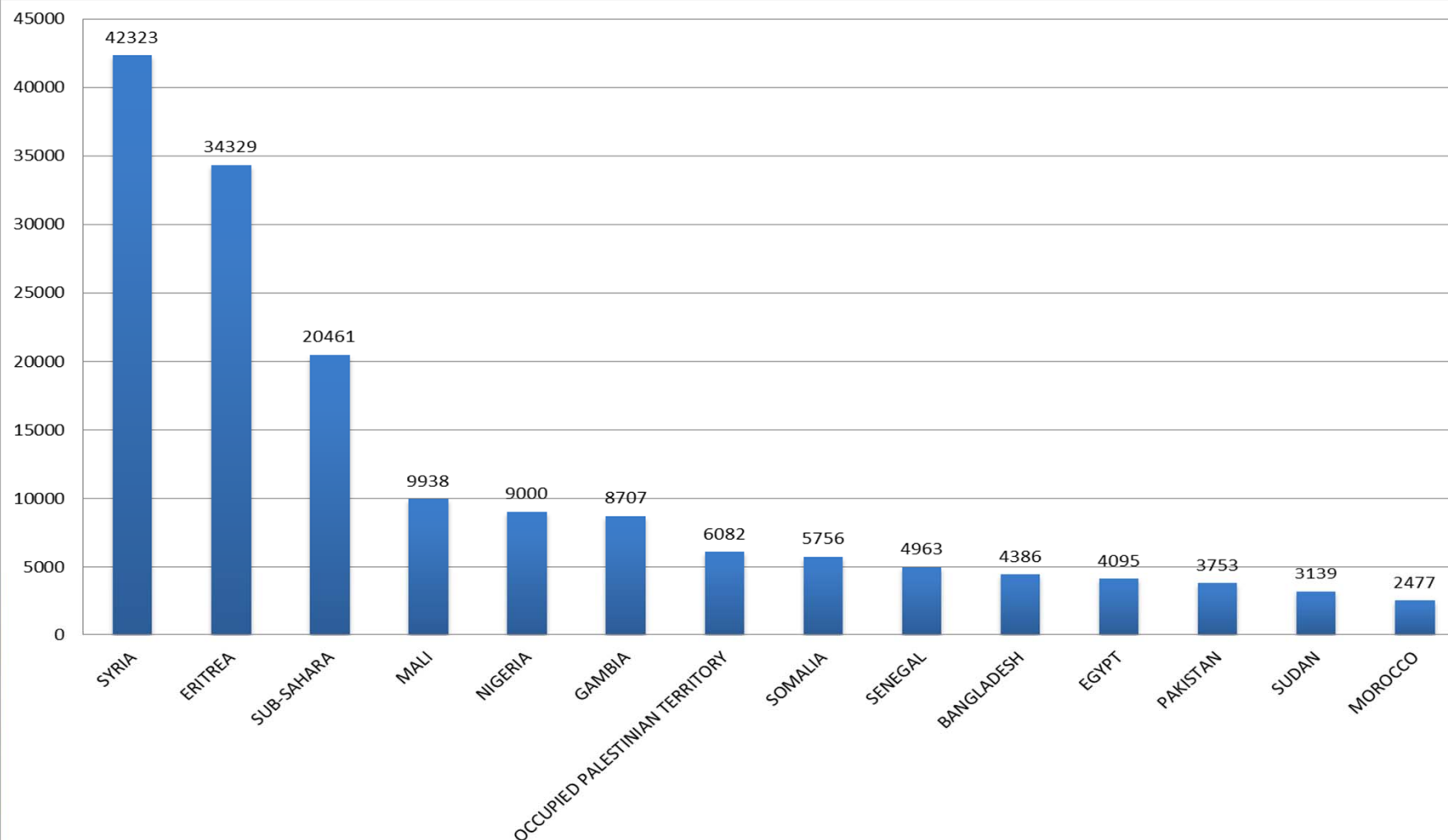
Victims of trafficking and other vulnerable groups within mixed migratory flows arriving via sea.

IOM experience in the Praesidium project



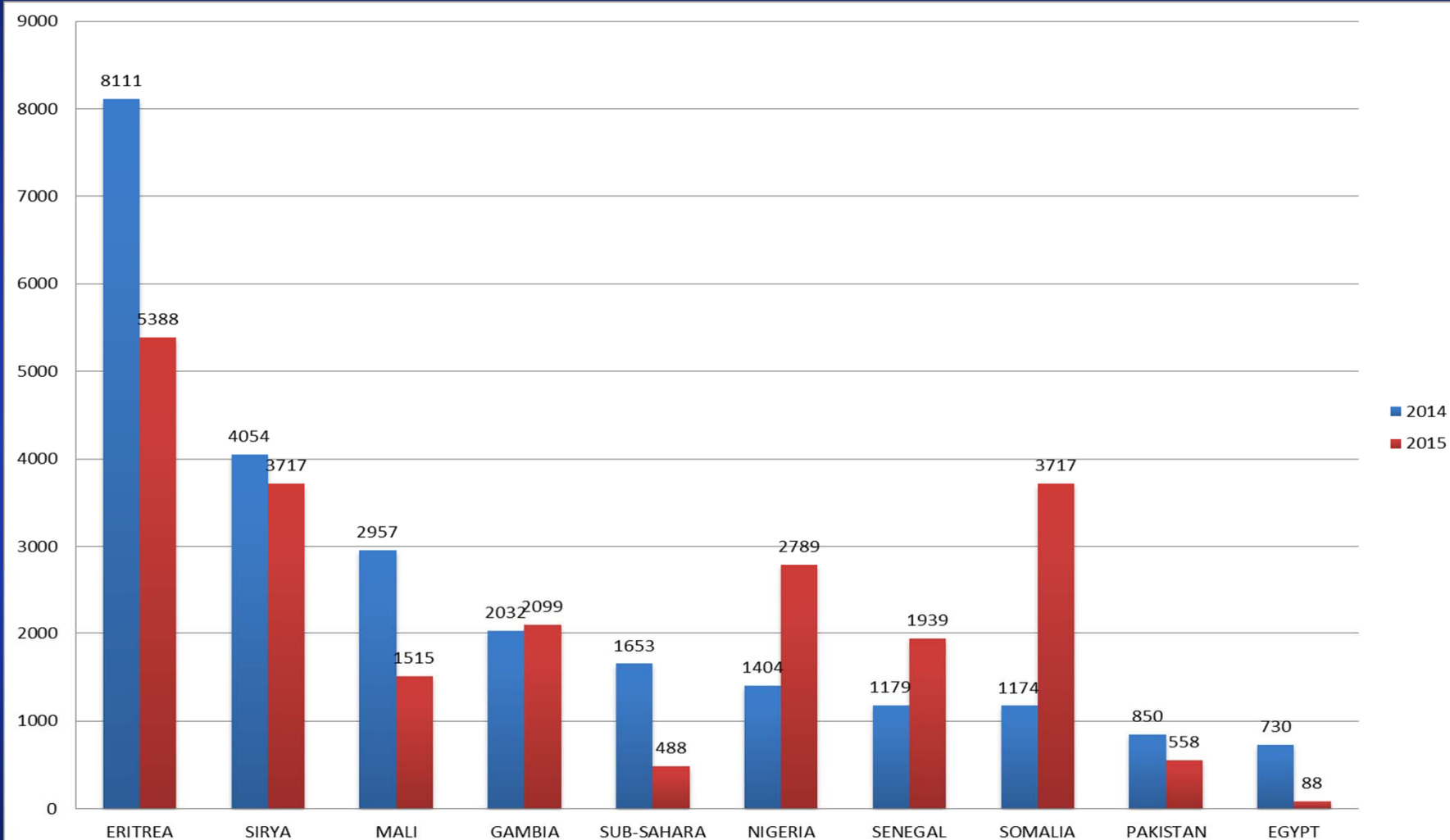
Arrivals by sea in Italy 2014- Total 170,100

(Source: Italian Ministry of the Interior)



Arrivals by sea up to 30 April- Total

(Source: Italian Ministry of the Interior)



Mixed migratory flows arriving by sea

- **Asylum seekers – Dublin unit cases**
- **Economic/voluntary migrants**
- **Victims of trafficking and violence**
- **Unaccompanied minors**
- **Migrants with disabilities**
- **Elders**
- **Others**



Mixed migratory flows arriving by sea

1. Syrians, Eritreans, Sudanese, Malians asylum seekers (with the goal of reaching other EU member States);
2. African migrants moved by economic, social, personal reasons;
3. Young girls trafficked for sexual exploitation – mainly Nigerians;
4. Egyptian unaccompanied minors subject to labour exploitation (unaccompanied minors can't be expelled in Italy);
5. Migrants of different nationalities that were denied a Visa for family reunification or other kind of Visa by EU/western Consulates;



In 2006 the Italian Government decided to establish a permanent presence in the reception center of Lampedusa.



A small island of 22km² in the Mediterranean, key landing point for the African migrants



Praesidium Project

- Since 2006 – within the **Praesidium** project - IOM, UNHCR, the Italian Red Cross established a stable presence on the island to enhance the capacity of the Italian Government to manage the arrivals of such migrants and guarantee the protection of most vulnerable groups. Save the Children joined in 2008.



Praesidium Project IX

Given the successful experience of the multiagency approach, the Praesidium project was extended to other landing points in Sicily and during the following years also to other Regions of the South of Italy.



A holistic multiagency approach

- Look at mixed migratory flows as a complex phenomenon
- Provide tailored assistance to different categories of migrants – different people/different needs
- Ensure information sharing and referral mechanisms for further assistance and protection



IOM specific role includes:

- Legal counselling to migrants on consequences of irregular entry (joint information sessions to adults with UNHCR);
- Identification of vulnerable groups such as victims of trafficking, unaccompanied minors (in cooperation with Save the Children);
- Counselling on family reunification, if feasible;
- Referral of specific cases to competent authorities (police and judicial authority);
- Monitoring of reception centre conditions and general migrant's treatment.



IOM assistance upon migrant's landing

- Monitoring of first aid assistance;
- Monitoring of migrant' treatment at the pier (ensure a dignity treatment, privacy, etc.);
- Support to family identification;
- Providing migrants with first legal information and basic procedures (transfer/police identification);
- Identification and referral of vulnerable groups.



IOM and Victims of Trafficking (VOT)

- Creation in 2014 of two IOM Antitrafficking Teams (Sicily and Puglia) finalized to:
 - 1) Map all reception anti-trafficking structures and services available in the reference Region;
 - 2) Liaise with local institutional interlocutors in the selected Region (Police, Prosecutor office, Municipality, Reception Camp's authorities, Medical Aid structures, etc.) to identify possible ad hoc anti-trafficking cooperation mechanisms (identification/referral mechanisms);



Main tasks of anti-trafficking teams

- 3) Cooperate with local authorities in the identification of victims of trafficking/exploitation and refer them to ad hoc services for specific assistance and follow- up;
- 4) Elaborate early identification tools for potential victims of trafficking;
- 5) Draft specific information tools addressed to potential victims of trafficking for outreach activities;
- 6) Provide legal counseling to the potential victims of trafficking arriving by sea hosted in first reception centers.



Some data on the trafficking

- 1/3 of the victims are minors;
- **70% of the victims are women;**
- **More that 50% of the victims are trafficked for sexual exploitation, around 40% for labour exploitation.**
- Source : UNODOC Global report on trafficking in persons 2014



Elements of trafficking

- 1) Recruitment in the country of origin/transit
- 2) Transportation to the destination country
- 3) Exploitation normally in the destination country but also during the journey



1. The recruitment

In order to speak of «trafficking» the recruitment should be done by means of the threat or use of:

- Force
- Cohersion
- Abduction
- Fraud
- Abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability
- Giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person.

Protocol to prevent, suppress and punish trafficking in persons, especially women and children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against transnational organized crime, United Nations, 2000.



2. Transport

By sea: rubber dinghies, boats

By land: by car, by bus, hidden in trucks

By air : in this case the criminal organizations provide false documents to the victims before the journey



3 The exploitation:

- **Sexual exploitation**
- **Forced labour**
- **Removal of organs**
- **Slavery or practices similar to slavery**



Sexual exploitation

Mainly women and minors



Labour exploitation

Mainly men and minors

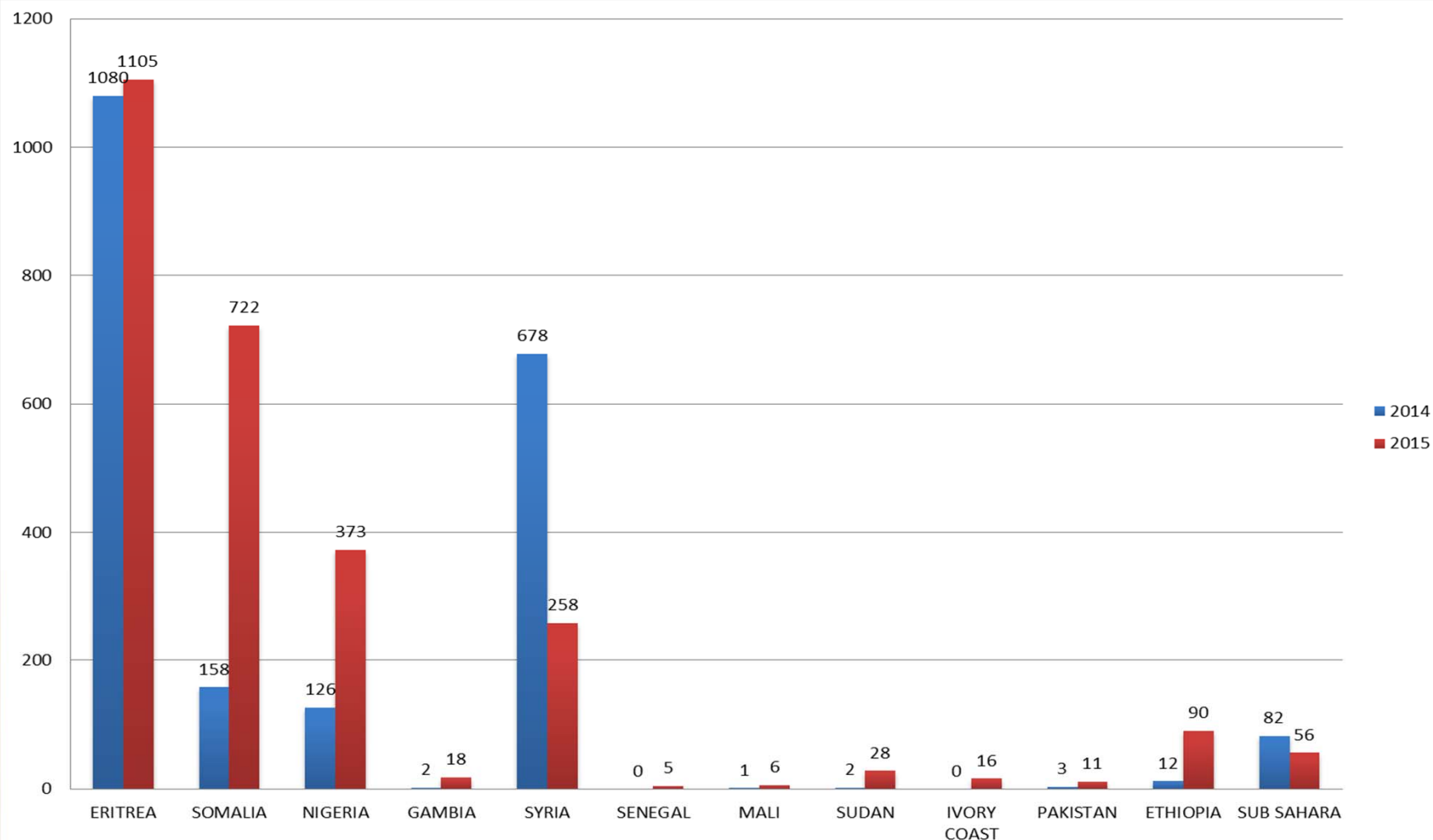


Mendicancy, removal of organs, minors pornography



Arrivals by sea up to 30 April- Women

(Source: Italian Ministry of the Interior)



Trafficking Exploitation: the case of Nigerian women VOT

- More than 1450 Nigerian women arrived in 2014
- 373 Nigerian women and 103 unaccompanied minors arrived in 2015 (up to 30 April)
- Nigerian girls during the interviews (in groups and individually) are very reluctant to talk and tell their experience



Trafficking indicators for sexual exploitation at border points

- Nationality (Nigeria – Edo State) always rural areas
- Age 15/25 years
- Basic level of education
- Most of them declared to be orphan
- Most of them declared of not having paid for the travel and to have been taken in Italy by a «good samaritan»
- Most of them declared to be adult even when they are under age
- Parts of travel made with different accompaniers (the victim is often sold) and with forged documents
- Duration and conditions of stay in Libya
- Having already suffered from previous violence (rape, abortion)
- Physical evidence (scars)
- General immaturity
- Psychological problems (aggressiveness, nervousness)
- Oath



Brief story of VOT (Nigerian Case)

- Many women, before they departure from their country of origin, are submitted to voodoo and have to promise they would pay between 35 and 50 thousand Euros to get to Europe.
- At the same time they promise they would not turn against their traffickers and would not report them to the police.
- Once arrived in Libya they discovered the truth and they are forced to prostitution before the departure for Italy.
- Upon arrival in Italy, they continue to be forced to prostitution; some are subject to violence and controlled by their exploiters



Difficulties in ensuring protection

- Lack of time for trust building
- Reluctancy to cooperate and talk to a «foreigner»
- Trust in co - nationals
- Fear for themselves or for possible retaliations to their family in the country of origin
- Sense of betrayal
- Gratitude for the traffickers
- Non comprehension of the entity of the debt (how long does it take for me to gain 60.000 Euro?)
- Non correct understanding of the level of exploitation
- Migrants are invited by traffickers to abuse the asylum procedure to stay regularly in the country for a determined period
- In some cases acquisition of more freedom (madams let the migrants keep some gainings)



Victims of trafficking – protection schemes and referral mechanisms upon landing

What IOM does:

- Information sessions dedicated to women (risk: the trafficker might be in the group) – with cultural mediators
- Distribution of information leaflet with hot line number
- Individual counselling, trust building and case assessment
- Referral to police and judicial authority – where applicable
- Referral to medical/psychological support when requested or needed
- Request to the competent authorities to transfer the victim in a protected environment
- Request the police and the judicial authority to release the residence permit ex art 18 – social protection – Italian Immigration Act (two path approach).



VOT and report to the police

What IOM does:

- Legal counselling;
- Assist VOT during the report to the police;
- Facilitate the timely transfer of the victim in a safe place for security (shelter);
- Obtain approval/authorization (Nulla Osta) from the Prosecutor for the release of a residence permit;
- Permanently transfer of the VOT in the center who has given availability.



Improve the early identification of VOT at landing points and in reception centres

- Enhance the multiagency approach and promote referral systems
- Improve observation at landing points also through expert cultural mediators (young girls accompanied by «husbands»)
- Ensure group/individual counselling on trafficking risks and irregular stay
- Disseminate information booklet and hotline numbers for further assistance
- Ensure immediate transfer of the victims in dedicated shelters
- Assist them in the release of relevant residence permit
- Ensure continuous and ad hoc funding for such activities



Thank you

Carlotta Santarossa
Praesidium Project
IOM Rome
+39 06 44 186234
csantarossa@iom.int

