Geneva - The International Organization for Migration (IOM) reported Thursday that 854,000 migrants and refugees had made the journey to Europe so far this year, accounting for close to 80 percent of total Mediterranean Sea arrivals since the start of 2015. A majority of the refugees and migrants had arrived in the southern Mediterranean countries with Libya and Italy as the main destinations.

IOM stated that there was still a significant unmet need for safe and orderly alternatives to the Mediterranean route, and had called for more coordinated efforts to address the underlying drivers of migration.

"We have to think about the strategies to get to those people before they arrive on the Mediterranean coast," said IOM’s Chief of Mission in Libya, Rob Ford. "We need to look at what we can do to prevent them from ever setting sail, and to encourage them to take the routes that are safe and legal.

Migrants who arrive on the Mediterranean coast are often subjected to violence, exploitation, and slavery. It is crucial that we work with partners to ensure that these people are not left to fend for themselves in a dangerous environment.

"We must continue to work towards a safe and legal route, and to provide support to those who have already made the dangerous journey to Europe," Ford added. "We need to ensure that their needs are met, and that they are treated with the respect and dignity they deserve.

The IOM is committed to working with all stakeholders to address the root causes of migration and to provide safe and legal alternatives.

"We are committed to working with the European Union and other partners to ensure that the needs of migrants and refugees are met, and that they are able to build a better future for themselves and their families," said Ford. "We must continue to work towards a solution that respects the dignity and rights of all migrants and refugees.

As we move forward, we must ensure that the needs of migrants and refugees are met, and that they are able to build a better future for themselves and their families. We must continue to work towards a solution that respects the dignity and rights of all migrants and refugees."