

# Why people move: understanding drivers and trends of migration to Europe



*A dinghy overcrowded with Syrian refugees drifting in the Aegean Sea at sunrise after its motor broke down off the Greek island of Kos. Photo: Yannis Behrakis*

This just in. Some essential Christmas reading:

## [Why people move: understanding the drivers and trends of migration to Europe](#)

December 2015. [Clare Cummings](#), Julia Pacitto, Deletta Lauro and [Marta Foresti](#) look at [why it is time for an effective and durable policy response to the current 'migration crisis' in Europe.](#)

Such a response, however, requires a better and broader understanding of what drives people to migrate in the first place. There is much debate about their motivations, and about possible solutions to the 'crisis' – debate that often leads to conflicting messages and theories.

To shine a light on this issue and provide some clarity, the Overseas Development Institute (ODI) has used a Rapid Evidence

Assessment (REA) approach to assess the quality of the evidence that is already available to identify what drives migration to Europe.

<http://www.odi.org/publications/10217-understanding-drivers-migration-rea>