



Monthly Trend Report

Covering mixed migration to, through & from **NORTH AFRICA**

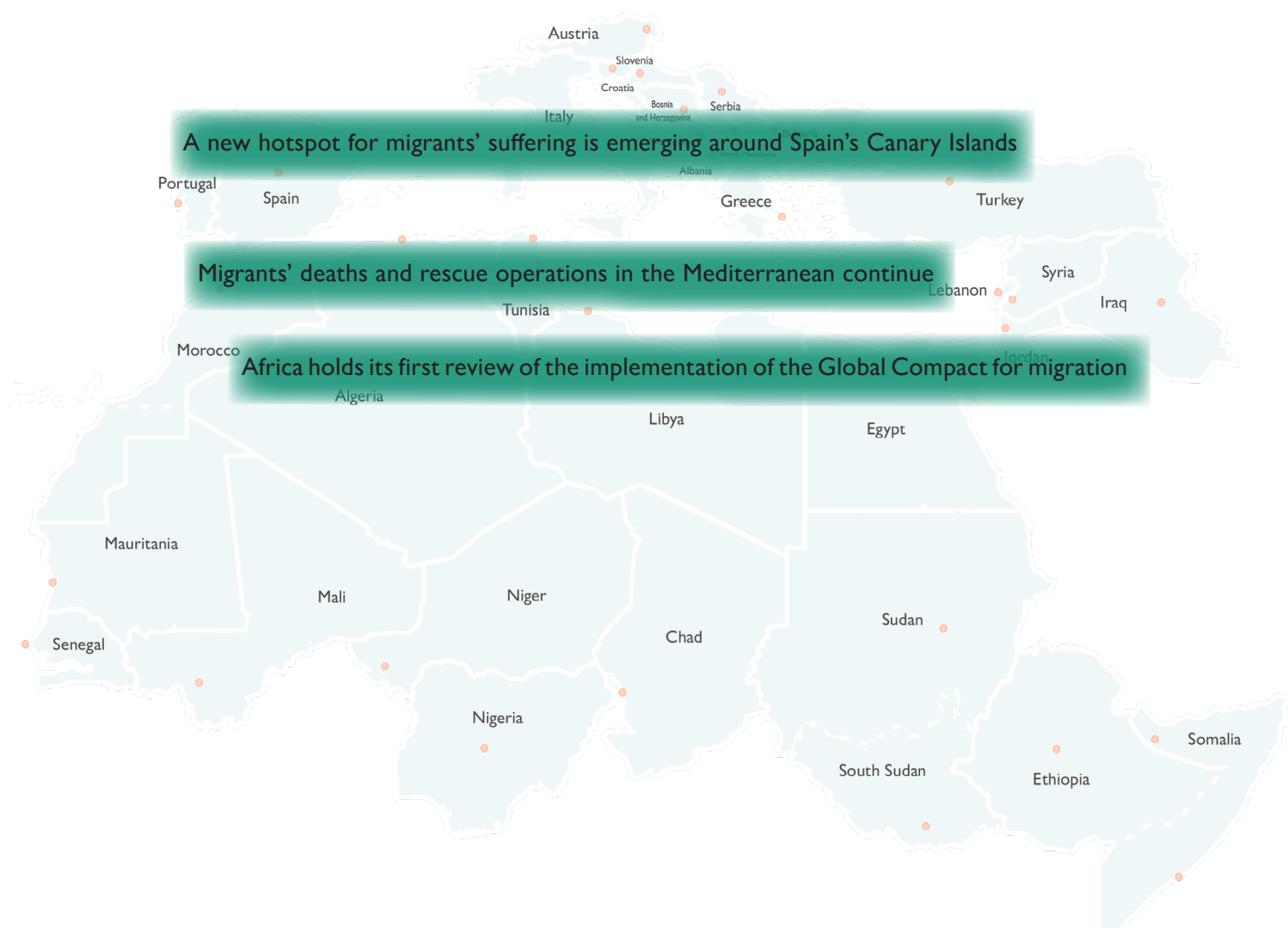
About: MHUB is the regional knowledge hub and secretariat for the North Africa Mixed Migration Task Force, comprising of DRC, IOM, OHCHR, MMC, Save the Children, UNHCR, UNICEF and UNODC. It promotes a human rights-based approach to ensure the protection of people moving in mixed and complex flows to, through and from North Africa.

Scope: This bulletin covers mixed migration trends in Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Mali, Morocco, Niger, Sudan, Tunisia, Spain, Greece and Italy.

Terminology: Throughout this bulletin the terms migrant, refugee and asylum seeker are used together to cover all those comprising mixed migration flows. If the original source specifies a particular category, the relevant term will be used.

Sources: Data is drawn from a wide variety of sources, including government, civil society and media.

HIGHLIGHTS



Spain's Canary Islands made the headlines during the month of August amid a mounting toll of dead and missing migrants attempting to reach Europe through the "Atlantic Route". August also saw a continuing flow of migrants through the Mediterranean Sea despite efforts to counter human trafficking. African countries and various stakeholders came together to assess the implementation of the Global Compact for Migration (GCM) and exchange experiences and insights.

A NEW HOTSPOT FOR MIGRANTS' SUFFERING IS EMERGING AROUND SPAIN'S CANARY ISLANDS

Migrants seeking to reach Europe are increasingly taking the dangerous "Atlantic Route" to Spain's Canary Islands and casualties are mounting. Two boat incidents during the month of August, [one of which had a sole survivor](#), left tens of migrants dead. IOM and UNHCR urged in a [joint statement](#) for support to prevent more tragedies and in order to be able to continue to provide much needed aid. They said that as of January this year, more than 350 people have died, while over 8,000 refugees and migrants have reached Spain using this sea route. The numbers are likely to be higher, according to some estimates by NGOs. Some boats have drifted all the way across the ocean to [Trinidad and Tobago](#) in the Caribbean with decomposed bodies onboard.

Efforts to rescue migrants are continuing. Morocco said it has rescued [over 400 migrants](#) between August 19-23 after their boats broke down in the waters. Spain [rescued 46 migrants](#) near the Spanish island of Gran Canaria.

MEANWHILE, MIGRANTS' DEATHS AND RESCUE OPERATIONS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN CONTINUE

IOM's Missing Migrants Project [documented a fourfold increase](#) in the number of migrants' deaths on the "Central Mediterranean Route" during the second quarter of 2021, compared to the same period last year.

Off the shores of Libya, 17 migrants [were reported dead](#) after their boat capsized off the town of Zuwara. Many of those dead in the incident [came from one Egyptian village](#) leaving its people in grief. In other incidents, about [200 migrants](#) were rescued off the Libyan shores by SOS Mediterranee humanitarian organization and another [172 migrants](#) were rescued by the Libyan Navy. According to the IOM, 23,550 migrants [were returned to Libya](#) from January to August 28th 2021 compared to 11,891 migrants in all of 2020.

In Tunisia, six migrants, including 4 children, [died out of thirst](#) while crossing the desert in hopes of reaching Europe through the Mediterranean. Rescuers pulled [about 394 migrants](#) to safety from an overcrowded boat, while another [95 migrants](#) were rescued by Tunisian authorities in a separate incident. Tunisia [has recently halted](#) at least 11 migrant boats heading to Italy after increased cooperation with Italian authorities. Smugglers are continuing their operations, however, and [explain](#) how they evade coast guards.

On the other shore of the Mediterranean, [257 migrants](#) were rescued and their boat was docked in Sicily. Another [539 migrants](#) in one boat were rescued by Italian coast guards and were transported to Lampedusa. Italian authorities said that a total of 49,280 migrants [arrived](#) in Italy from August 2020 to July 2021, an increase by 128% compared to the same period a year earlier. Authorities are [calling](#) for EU's help to handle migrants' rescue and reception. In the Spanish enclave of Melilla, about 57 migrants out of 150 [climbed](#) the barrier and crossed into Spain from Morocco.

AFRICA HOLDS ITS FIRST REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GLOBAL COMPACT FOR MIGRATION

African governments, international organizations, NGOs and various stakeholders took part in the first [continental review Conference of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration \(GCM\) in Africa](#). The conference was organized by the International Organization for Migration (IOM), United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the UN Network on Migration in partnership with the African Union Commission (AUC) and hosted by the Kingdom of Morocco from 31 August to 1 September.

Participants discussed [progress made](#) in the implementation of the GCM, as well as the challenges and lessons learned. Side events and a [multi-stakeholder consultation](#) were held on August 26th and 27th. The plenary sessions of the conference took place August 31st and the 1st of September and were inaugurated by the Kingdom of Morocco (Press release in [Arabic](#) and [French](#)).

All the event's documents and reports are available at the [UN Network on Migration](#) and [UNECA](#) websites. Discussions can be viewed [here](#).

MIGRANT ARRIVALS

GREECE

ARRIVALS TO GREECE BY SEA

334 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers [arrived](#) in Greece by sea in August . This figure represents an increase of 204% in arrivals by sea from the previous month of July.¹

ITALY

ARRIVALS TO ITALY BY SEA

10,275 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers arrived in Italy by sea in August. This figure represents an increase of 19% in arrivals by sea from the previous month of July.²

SPAIN

ARRIVALS TO SPAIN BY SEA

3895 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers arrived in Spain by sea in August, which represents a rise by 46% from figures of July.³

ARRIVALS TO SPAIN BY LAND

100 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers arrived in Spain by land in August, a drop of 79% compared to arrivals in July.⁴

¹ Last seen the 12.09.2021.

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.

IN OTHER NEWS

- Sudan's newly announced 2021 – 2023 national action plan to combat human trafficking [was commended](#) by UNHCR and IOM as a sign of commitment and a way forward to tackle the issue of human trafficking. Also in Sudan, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi [said](#) that finding solutions based on peace and development is crucial for the future of the nearly seven million forcibly displaced people from Sudan and South Sudan
 - Greece is seeking to [tighten legislations](#) governing the handling of migrants and [has completed a border wall extension](#) to deter expected Afghan migrants.
 - IOM [issued The Annual Report 2020](#) which encapsulates the full range of IOM's operations during the year to support migrants, displaced populations and other people on the move, as well continued work to realize the benefits of safe, orderly and regular migration.
 - IOM [launched](#) "The Monitoring Toolkit and Good Practices for the Sustainable Reintegration of Child Returnees", a toolkit used for monitoring the sustainable reintegration of child returnees.
 - Save The Children [said](#) that millions of children across the globe are already experiencing irreversible impacts on their lives and life chances as a result of climate change. The NGO said that some 5.7 million children under five are already on the brink of starvation in this year's unprecedented food crisis – in which the climate crisis is a major factor.
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MULTIMEDIA & EDITORIALS OF INTEREST

A CLOSER LOOK AT HOW CLIMATE CHANGE AND WATER SHORTAGE ARE TRIGGERING MIGRATION

The World Bank [released a report](#) on how water scarcity caused by climate change triggers migration and the interplay of conflict with water and migration dynamics in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA). Speaking of the Middle East and water shortages, CNN [took a closer look](#) on water scarcity in the region and how parts of it are becoming uninhabitable.

According to the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), climate change and increasingly extreme weather events, have [caused a surge in natural disasters](#) over the past 50 years disproportionately impacting poorer countries.

WHO NEEDS A SMUGGLER? SOME TUNISIANS ARE DOING THE TRIP TO EUROPE ON THEIR OWN

[A new migration](#) trend is becoming popular in Tunisia. Potential migrants are buying their own boats and organizing do-it-yourself journeys to Europe Instead of paying human traffickers. DW sheds light on the do-it-yourself migrants.

MORE MIGRANTS, MORE WALLS. ASSESSING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF BUILDING WALLS AS AN ANSWER TO MIGRATION

As people on the move increase worldwide, some countries respond to increasing migration by building walls. The effectiveness of these walls varies depending on many variables. On the 60th anniversary of the start of Berlin Wall construction, DW [takes a look](#) at walls as a way to deter migrants.

Alternatively, Megan A. Carney [writes in The Hill](#) about how another system of migration is possible. One that is more humane and compassionate by accepting responsibility for and recognizing the traumas inflicted by past and present-day policies, and by learning from approaches elsewhere.

ARE RESCUE OPERATIONS AN INCENTIVE FOR IRREGULAR MIGRATION?

Some argue that rescue operations of distressed irregular migrants are an incentive for migrants to follow course. Niklas Balbon [argues in a commentary](#) at the Global Public Policy Institute (GPPI) that it isn't, discussing how complex migration decisions are making such a factor of little weight.

IT WAS TIME FOR PARALYMPIC REFUGEE ATHLETES TO SHINE IN TOKYO

The Refugee Paralympic Team [took the stage](#) in Tokyo Paralympic games with many stories of hope, resilience and passion. Footballer and UNHCR Goodwill Ambassador Alphonso Davies [had some words of encouragement](#) for the 6 athletes who competed in the games. UNHCR's protection officer for disability inclusion Ricardo Pla Cordero [spoke](#) about the difficulties faced by disabled refugees and what sports can do to help them.

VIDEO: Mobilizing Action on Internal Displacement ([Watch](#))

RESEARCH OF INTEREST

[Middle East And North Africa — Tracking Mobility Impact: Point Of Entry Analysis: July 2021](#) – IOM

This Middle East and North Africa (MENA) report summarizes mobility restrictions at airports, land, and blue border crossing points resulting from the mitigation measures implemented in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

[Regional Snapshot: The Middle East & North Africa - July 2021](#) – IOM

The DTM Regional snapshot contains consolidated summary updates and highlights from DTM field operations. This document covers updates from the regional network of flow monitoring of migrants and the tracking and monitoring of internal displacement in the countries. It is published every quarter and covers the Middle East and North Africa Region.

[Uncertain Pathways: How gender shapes the experiences of children on the move](#) - UNICEF

More girls and boys than ever are on the move, with 35.5 million having lived outside their country of birth in 2020 and an additional 23.3 million displaced internally.

[COVID-19 MED BRIEF no.20: Unlocking the potential of returned migrants in South Mediterranean countries](#) – EU Neighbours

The present policy brief discusses cross-country cooperation opportunities in the area of human mobility and return migration for South Mediterranean countries (Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria, Jordan, Israel and Lebanon).

[DRC return counselling methodology brief](#) - DRC

This brief highlights central aspects of DRC's evidence-based return counselling methodology. The purpose is to share hands-on good practice and important insight into the complexities of performing return counselling. It touches upon the methodology applied during interaction in a counselling situation and not upon standards or best-practice models for the actual return process itself.

[Taking the Long View: Options for Inclusive Post-Pandemic Labor Markets](#) – MPI

This MPI Europe report explores how the pandemic has affected immigrant workers thus far and how labor market trends such as automation, remote work, and the growth of the platform economy may affect migrant integration as European economies begin to recover. It also presents policy ideas and recommendations for crafting inclusive pandemic recovery strategies.