

MIXED MIGRATION TREND REPORT FOR JUNE 2015 COVERING MIXED MIGRATION EVENTS IN: EGYPT, ETHIOPIA, LIBYA, MALI, MOROCCO, NIGER, SUDAN, TUNISIA, ITALY AND GREECE.

MHub works on behalf of the North Africa Mixed Migration Task Force consisting of DRC, IOM, OHCHR, RMMS and UNHCR. It promotes a human rights-based approach to ensuring the protection of people moving in mixed and complex flows to, through and from North Africa.

MHub produces knowledge on the human rights protection issues faced by people on the move in North Africa for use by policy makers agencies, donors, public and academia, with a view to inform advocacy, policy and program development.

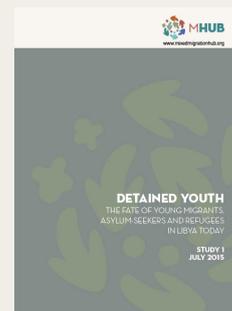
It fosters collaborative approaches among key stakeholders. Specifically, it holds the secretariat of the North Africa Mixed Migration Task Force.

Terminology: Throughout this report the term migrant/refugee is used to cover all those comprising the mixed migration flows (including asylum seekers, trafficked persons, smuggled, economic migrants, and refugees). If the case load mentioned refers only to refugees, asylum seekers or trafficked persons, it will be clearly stated.

Sources: Data is sourced from a wide variety of collaborators, partners, international and local organisations, media outlets and individuals in the region. The refugee agency – UNHCR – and migration agency – IOM are frequently the origin of specific refugee or migrant related data. MHub makes its own independent editorial decisions as to what sections and what data is included in this monthly update.

LAUNCH OF NEW MHUB STUDY

DETAINED YOUTH: THE FATE OF YOUNG MIGRANTS, ASYLUM SEEKERS AND REFUGEES IN LIBYA TODAY



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NORTH AFRICA EGYPT

Routes

- In recent months, a new wave of irregular entries to Egypt by land through Libya and Sudan has developed, mostly comprising Syrians nationals.

Boat departure/arrivals/rescues

- During the month of June alone, sources recorded 17 sea incidents followed by 730 arrests, a significant increase as compared to the month of May, during which 15 sea incidents were reported, involving a total of 500 arrests.
- By the end of June, Sudanese constituted the great majority (319) of those attempting to depart Egypt in an irregular manner by sea, followed by Syrians (203), Somalis (71), and Eritreans (71). Increased number of arrests of Syrian refugees attempting to depart by sea have been observed in May and confirmed in June 2015, as compared to previous months. Other nationalities arrested in June included Iraqi (9), Ethiopians (16) and Comoros (32).
- Adult males constituted more than half of the overall figures (63%) while adult females form 22%. 97 children have also been arrested during June, including at least two unaccompanied children.

Irregular departures by land

- From January 2015 to date, reportedly, over 88 foreign nationals (including 11 asylum-seekers from Sudan and Eritrea registered with UNHCR) have been arrested for attempting to depart irregularly Egypt by land through Libya.
- On 21 June, Egypt's Central Security Forces arrested 26 people of African nationalities

attempting to irregularly cross into Israel ([Cairo Post](#)).

- The Egyptian authorities have deported 47 Sudanese nationals to their country after attempting to illegally immigrate to Italy through the Mediterranean Sea ([Cairo Post](#)). The people were on board a fishing boat when they were arrested last week in Baltim city of Delta's Kafr al-Sheikh governorate. After coordination between the Egyptian and Sudanese authorities, they were all deported to Khartoum.

Arrests and Detentions

- In a crackdown on irregular migration through Egypt, security forces in the country claim to have arrested a total of 619 migrants in separate swoops. The migrants/refugees were attempting to cross through Egypt into Libya through Salloum City, a coastal border town with Libya ([RMMS](#)).
- Sources report that in June, the number of irregular migrants detained on the the North Coast increased by approximately 50% on the number of newly detained irregular migrants from May.
- Sudanese migrants still top the list of the irregular migrants detained in the North Coast detention.

ETHIOPIA

New Arrivals

- South Sudanese refugees continue to arrive in Gambella at a daily average rate of **209** people. Akobo, Pagak and Pochalla are the main crossing points.
- The total number of new arrivals from South Sudan since 15 December 2013 is now **211,214**, including 208,079 in Gambella and 3,135 in the Benishangul-Gumuz Region near Assosa.
- 90 per cent of the refugee population is women and children and 19,349 are unaccompanied/separated children.
- Ethiopia extradites human traffickers: Media [reports](#) stated that Ethiopian police in collaboration with Interpol had succeeded

in extraditing what they regard as 5 human trafficking suspects from Kenya, Sudan, Saudi Arabia and Tanzania over the past 10 months. The Ethiopian Police announced that it is currently working with Interpol to extradite an additional 80 suspected human traffickers from various countries.

Refugees in Ethiopia:

- As at 30th June 2015 there were **704,816** refugees and asylum seekers registered in Ethiopia. South Sudanese continue to make up the largest refugee and asylum seeker population (39%), followed by Somalis (35%), Eritreans (20%) and other Third Country Nationals (6%).

LIBYA

Routes

- As a result of the overall instability, Libya continues to be the main transit and departure point for irregular sea migration to Europe.
- [IOM](#) reports that a group of Syrians had reached Libya by flying to Sudan and then crossed the border from Sudan to Libya by road. They said that, once in Libya, they were caught by Libyan militias and held for 22 days.

Mixed Migrant Vulnerability

- The situation in Libya is becoming increasingly dangerous and difficult for migrants.
- Refugees in urban areas often rely solely on UNHCR for assistance. Due to the evacuation of international staff and restricted movement for national staff, UNHCR relies heavily on partners to ensure the continuation of basic services. UNHCR's ability to implement its operational plan is impacted by the lack of access to persons of concern and the overall insecurity in the country. This is resulting in the further

shrinking of available protection space in Libya.

Boat departure/arrivals/rescues

More on the Mediterranean on page 7.

- Danish shipping company Torm rescued more than **200** migrants off the coast of Libya at the request of the Italian Coastguard.
- One person was killed and another seriously injured when a rubber dinghy carrying migrants headed for Italy came under fire off the Libyan coast ([AFP](#)).

Refugee/asylum seekers

- As of June, [UNHCR](#) report 455,671 People of concern (including an IDP population of 418,803).
- This number includes: Registered Refugees 27, 964, Asylum Seekers 8,904 and IDPs (est) 418,803.

IDPs

- In Libya, the number of internally people displaced within the country has almost doubled from an estimated 230,000 last

September to more than 434,000 amid escalating fighting this year in different areas.([UNHCR](#)).

- The internally displaced comprise 83,697 families.

Arrests/Detention

- [UNHCR](#) report that there are currently 4,612 detainees including 229 women and 12 children in government-run detention centres in Libya.
- In May, Tripoli authorities report that they

detained more than 1,000 migrants who had hoped to travel to Europe. One group of 545 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers were detained, reportedly preparing to make the journey across the mediterranean ([AFP](#)).

Evacuations/Repatriations

- [IOM](#) has repatriated 935 migrants from 18 different countries, most of them either via Tunisia or directly out of Tripoli.

NIGER

Missing Migrants

- A total of 48 migrants were found dead in the Sahara this week ([IOM](#)). 30 migrants in Dirkou, northeast of Niger's Agadez crossroads

and 18 victims near the oasis of Arlit, south of Niger's border with Algeria

SUDAN

New Arrivals

- South Sudanese arrivals continue to increase.
- According to [UNHCR](#), more than 38,000 South Sudanese entering the country in June alone. This influx took the total number of South Sudanese refugees to nearly 188,000. Refugees are arriving daily in White Nile, Khartoum, South and West Kordofan states, joining a population of about 350,000 South Sudanese who remained in Sudan after secession.

Refugee/asylum seekers

- 32 Eritreans at Risk of Forced Return from Sudan after a Sudanese court ruled that the group be deported from Sudan after serving two months in prison ([ACJPS](#)). The group was found guilty of illegal entry by a court in Sudan's Red Sea State that borders Eritrea. The members of the group, which includes 14 women and one six-year old child, were

denied the opportunity to make a claim for international protection although a representative from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) attended the court session. They are currently serving two month prison sentences, pending deportation, after they failed to pay a fine for illegal entry.

- According to sources, the 32 asylum seekers were arrested from Agig Port and the Durhaib area, both within the Agig locality of Red Sea state on 1 May. They were transferred to the nearby town of Suakin, charged with illegal entry, and held in police custody before being brought before Suakin Criminal Court on 7 May. The trial lasted for just one session during which the group was found guilty under article 30 (Illegal Entry) of Sudan's Immigration and Passport Act of 1994. Article 30 (1) provides that "whoever enters or resides in Sudan illegally shall be imprisoned for no less than one year and not exceeding two years,

fined or both together. The punishment also includes a deportation order from the court.”

Trafficking and Smuggling

- 7 smugglers have been arrested on the Libyan/Sudanese Border
- 165 migrants apprehended at the border between Libya and Sudan on 28th June 2015 including 137 Eritreans, 9 Ethiopians, 13 Sudanese and one Syrian, 51 of whom were women and 5 children. Those of Sudanese nationality were released save for one who claimed that he was Sudanese but had no documentation to prove this.
- There were 4 pregnant women, of whom 2 were referred to the police hospital.
- The migrants were in a dire state, having not eaten for some 4 days and others suffering from medical conditions.
- This new treatment of smuggled migrants marks a shift from considering them as criminals to recognising them as victims

Migrant vulnerability

- Migrants remain at risk of kidnapping and abduction by traffickers on their journey through Sudan. In one incident, Sudanese police reported that they rescued 48

trafficking victims who had been held for 2 weeks by traffickers in eastern Sudan. In two separate campaigns, 154 and 6 migrants were rescued respectively. The migrants were of Eritrean and Ethiopian nationalities ([RMMS](#)).

Policy

- Government endorses Anti-Trafficking Strategy ([OCHA](#)).
- On 27 May, the Government of Sudan hosted a launch ceremony for the 2017-2015 Joint Strategy to Address Human Trafficking, Kidnappings and Smuggling of Persons in Sudan.
- The joint strategy builds on previous accomplishments of the Government's collaboration with UNHCR and IOM, and lays out further measures to address the protection risks faced by vulnerable asylum-seekers, refugees and migrants in Sudan. These measures include strengthening security structures and providing assistance to victims of trafficking. UNICEF, the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) and the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) are also co-signatories of the Strategy.

TUNISIA

Assistance to Migrants Rescued at Sea

- Since early 2014, 12 boats and 1,396 migrants were rescued at sea by the Tunisian authorities or Tunisian fishermen ([IOM](#)).
- In 2015 to date six boats with a total of 806 migrants were rescued off Tunisian shores. The most recent rescue by the Tunisian Navy occurred on 10 June, when

356 people were brought safely to shore ([IOM](#)).

- IOM reports that of the 1,072 migrants immediately assisted, approximately 50 per cent expressed the wish to return voluntarily to their country of origin.

MEDITERRANEAN

137,000	Jan-June 2015 arrivals in Europe
75,000	Jan-June 2014 arrivals in Europe
43,900	Syrians who arrived in 2015 (34% of all arrivals)
69,000	Syrians arrived in all of 2014 (32% of arrivals) (total arrivals 215,625)
95%	of Syrians were given protection in the first instance in EU member states
89%	of Eritreans were given protection in the first instance in EU member states
63%	of Afghanis were given protection in the first instance in EU member states
Italy arrivals:	25% Eritrea
	10% Nigeria
	10% Somalia
	7% Syria
	6% Gambia
Greece arrivals:	57% Syria
	22% Afghanistan
	5% Iraq

Source: [UNHCR](#)

Routes

- Greece has now surpassed Italy as the main entry point into Europe for migrants and asylum-seekers. According to [UNHCR](#), an average of 1,000 asylum seekers and migrants are arriving on Greek islands every day. [IOM](#) figures state that some 150,000 migrants and asylum seekers have arrived in Europe by seas since the beginning of 2015. Greece has received 75,970 and Italy 74,947. Almost 60% of these arrivals are from Syria, while others come from Afghanistan, Iraq, Eritrea and Somalia.
- Over half of arrivals are people of concern to [UNHCR](#).
- While the central and eastern Mediterranean Sea routes have become comparable in size, the profile of the people taking these routes diverges significantly.

EU

- EU ministers failed to reach a consensus on the voluntary relocation of 40,000 asylum

seekers and migrants from Italy and Greece and the resettlement of refugees currently residing outside the European Union. Ministers have now set a deadline of 20th July to reach an agreement. Germany and France announced that they would jointly take in more than 20,000 refugees over the next 2 years. Several other countries have made commitments but figures remain undisclosed. Diplomats suggest that national pledges are “more than enough” to cover the proposed resettlement of 20,000 refugees, but there is more difficulty in sharing out the 40,000 asylum seekers from Italy and Greece. Britain and Denmark declined to participate in the relocation of the asylum seekers, although they are likely to take part in the resettlement of the 20,000.”

- Council launches EU naval operation to disrupt human smugglers and traffickers in the Mediterranean ([faq](#)).

- The Council launched the EU naval operation against human smugglers and traffickers in the Mediterranean called 'EUNAVFOR Med'. Its mission is to identify, capture and dispose of vessels and enabling assets used or suspected of being used by migrant smugglers or traffickers.
- EUNAVFOR Med will be conducted in sequential phases, in full compliance with international law, including humanitarian and refugee law and human rights. The first phase focuses on surveillance and assessment of human smuggling and trafficking networks in the Southern Central Mediterranean.
- It is planned that the second stage of the operation provides for the search and, if necessary, seizure of suspicious vessels. A third phase would allow the disposal of vessels and related assets, preferably before use, and to apprehend traffickers and smugglers.
- Libyans would only accept an EU military operation to target people smugglers in their territory if their government was controlling and coordinating the initiative, Libya's internationally-recognised Prime Minister Abdullah Al-Thinni said in an interview with [Migrant Report](#).

ITALY / CENTRAL MED ROUTE

Routes

- The Central Med route includes departures from the North African countries of Libya, Algeria, Tunisia, and Egypt, arriving in Italy, Sicily or Malta. In the last couple of years since the outbreak of the Libyan crisis this has been considered as the main route to reach Europe.

New Arrivals (source IOM)

- Total arrivals 2015 until July 3: 69,710
- Jan-May 2015 arrivals: 46,486
- New arrivals in June: 23,224

Migrant vulnerability

- Italy is struggling to cope with the large numbers of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers that gather around its major train stations. Train Stations like Milano Centrale were even more crowded than usual during the last months after border controls tightened due to the G7 meeting in southern Germany. The increase in spot checks on busses and trains has made it harder to cross northwards, increasing the pressure on the bottleneck in Italy, where reception facilities are at breaking point with more than 76,000 people being accommodated nationwide ([AFP](#)).
- In an attempt to tackle the influx of migrants Italy tries to persuade the EU to set up refugee processing camps in Libya or otherwise to 'hurt' Europe should it turn a deaf ear on

the crisis on its shores.

- The EU is having difficulty achieving consensus for its proposed migrant distribution plan -- under which 24,000 refugees would be taken in by other countries -- but Italy is hoping an EU summit on June 25-26 will go even further. "Redistributing just 24,000 people is almost a provocation," Renzi said. "If Europe chooses solidarity, good. If it doesn't, we have Plan B ready. But it would first and foremost hurt Europe," he said, without providing details ([AFP](#)).

Boat departure/arrivals/rescues

- [IOM](#) report nearly 5,000 migrants were rescued in the Channel of Sicily over the weekend, as part of the expanded European Union (EU) search and rescue operation in the Mediterranean.
- With these latest arrivals, the total estimated number of people arriving by sea to Italy in 2015 is now over 45,000, a slight increase from the same period of last year, when arrivals were 41,243.
- The Italian navy ship Fenice brought 454 migrants and 17 dead bodies to Augusta on Sunday (31/5). They were rescued in four different operations and survivors told IOM that between 25 and 28 people may have died.
- Crack down on traffickers: An Italian court on Wednesday found a man guilty of traffick-

ing migrants and sentenced him to 18 years in jail for contributing to a 2013 shipwreck that killed 366 people, a judicial source said ([Guardian](#)).

- A court in Agrigento, Sicily, convicted 36-year-old Tunisian Khaled Bensalem of causing the

2013 shipwreck and the deaths of the mainly Eritrean passengers, and aiding illegal immigration, the source at the Agrigento prosecutor's office said ([Guardian](#)).

GREECE / BALKAN ROUTE

New Arrivals (source IOM)

- Total arrivals 2015 until June 3: 69,899
- Island only arrivals in June 2015: 27,987
- Island only arrivals in May 2015: 15,554

Refugees/Asylum seekers

[UNHCR](#)'s publication 'The sea route to Europe: The Mediterranean passage in the age of refugees' surveyed arriving Syrians and found that:

- The majority of those questioned were Arab (78%) Sunni (87%) men (83%),
- between the age of 18-35 (71%). 40% were university educated, and another 46% had secondary education. Around half (45%) were married, and 44% had children.
- 60% said they had previously spent time in Turkey (31% had no reply to this question), often in hotels and hostels. Two thirds of those questioned said they had received no assistance there, and the majority had left because of unemployment, and a lack of financial assistance.
- 90% wanted to find asylum somewhere else in the EU, mostly in Germany and Sweden, for better assistance and employment opportunities. More than half intended to apply for family reunification once they arrived.
- The majority of Syrians waiting to be registered said they were treated well. Nonetheless, conditions were very difficult. Almost 20% didn't have regular access to a toilet and 70% did not regularly receive hygiene items. 30% had no mattress to sleep on, more than half had no access to a shower or blankets.
- Afghans are the second biggest group moving along the Balkan route. They have been using the route through Greece for years as Hellenic police data shows:
 - 2010: 20,288
 - 2011: 15,510
 - 2012: 16,584

- 2013: 5,960

Migrant Vulnerabilities:

- After landing in Greece most migrants move on from the crisis-stricken country to go north, mainly through the Balkan countries of Macedonia, Kosovo, Serbia until they reach the next EU border, which is Hungary.
- Increasing numbers of refugees and migrants using the "Western Balkans route" to reach Europe are facing growing risks, including abuse, violence, and accidents while walking along remote train tracks, which is much less in the spotlight than the Mediterranean sea crossing
- Some are registering for asylum in the Balkans while others headed onwards, but both groups face mounting danger, according to UNHCR.
- "The situation is particularly difficult in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia [FYROM] where refugees and migrants follow rail tracks and mountain routes, walking for days exposed to train accidents, natural elements and to abuse and threats from smugglers and criminal networks," [UNHCR](#) spokesperson Adrian Edwards told a press briefing in Geneva.
- More information on the plight of migrants traveling the Balkan route can be found in the 3-series country special by IRIN news: [Macedonia](#), [Bulgaria](#), [Serbia](#).
- The rising influx of migrants at the Hungarian border has prompted the Hungarian PM to claim that the country is facing more arrivals than Italy or Greece. The [Guardian](#) reports over 80,000 arrivals have been counted so far this year. To counteract the mass influx at its border, Hungary plans to build a 4m high fence on its border with Serbia ([HRW](#)).

RESEARCH OF INTEREST

Detained Youth: The Fate of Young Migrants, Asylum Seekers and Refugees in Libya Today: The first MHub study aims to provide an updated understanding of the detention and abuse of young migrants and refugees by State actors in Libya. The report is based on interviews with 45 former detainees from North-East Africa, West Africa and the Middle East, and reveals a consistent pattern of arbitrary detention and includes allegations of serious violations, including violence and brutality. The report can be accessed [here](#)

Migration Policy Practice: Vol. V, Number 2 (April 2015 – June 2015): This issue of the Migration Policy Practice features a selection of articles of papers discussed at the 13th plenary meeting of the Transatlantic Council on Migration, convened in December 2014. The focus of the articles are centred round examining the realities of the current global protection system and identifying gaps and opportunities for change. Access the journal [here](#)

Toughening up on irregular entries: EU's evolving migration policy: A new RMMS feature article that examines the closing space for migrants and asylum seekers in Europe and the various initiatives proposed by European Union states to tackle the increase in irregular migration. Click [here](#) to access the article

The Sea Route to Europe: The Mediterranean passage in the age of refugees: This report by UNHCR offers a snapshot of the passage of across the Mediterranean into Europe in the first six months of 2015. It presents six major findings including; that the majority of those making the crossing are refugees, a rise in the use of the eastern Mediterranean route, and the inadequate conditions in reception centres. Read the report [here](#)

Frontex Risk Analysis Network Quarterly. Quarter 1 January-March 2015: This quarterly report by Frontex gives a comparative analysis of data collected by Member State border-control authorities in the first quarter of 2015 across a series of eight irregular migration indicators and one asylum indicator. Indicators include detection of illegal border crossings, refusals of entry, and returns, among others. Findings of the report show increasing trends across all indicators when compared to the same period in 2014. The full report can be accessed [here](#)

The Mediterranean Migration Crisis - Why People Flee, What the EU Should Do: This Human Rights Watch report documents the human rights abuses driving people to make the dangerous sea crossing and the shortcomings of EU migration and asylum policies. The report is based on over 150 interviews in May with recently-arrived migrants and asylum seekers in Italy – Lampedusa, Catania, and Milan – and Greece – the islands of Lesbos, Chios, Samos, Leros, and Kos. Access the report [here](#)

The Central Sahel: A Perfect Sandstorm: This report by International Crisis Group maps the political and security landscape of the Sahel. Particular emphasis is placed on trans-regional dynamics and political economies that link criminal, radical and political groups and interests. It analyses risks, not least that posed by the rapidly growing and increasingly embittered youth population, and assesses whether current policies and actions by national, regional and wider international actors to curb extremism and radicalisation. Access the report [here](#)

Children in Immigration Detention: Challenges of Measurement and Definition: This paper by the Global Detention Project aims to help encourage discussion of the absence of an adequate definition of the immigration detention of children and inherent problems in developing realistic statistics to measure state activities by making some preliminary proposals on a way forward, in particular by proposing the development of a methodology that would allow for careful designation of custodial arrangements focusing narrowly on the facilities used to accommodate child migrants and asylum seekers. Access the report [here](#)