

## **MIXED MIGRATION TREND REPORT FOR MAY 2015 COVERING MIXED MIGRATION EVENTS IN: ALGERIA, EGYPT, ETHIOPIA, LIBYA, MOROCCO, NIGER, SUDAN, TUNISIA, & GREECE, ITALY**

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.

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\* For updates on the Horn of Africa, visit [RMMS](#)



# REGIONAL OVERVIEW



## NORTH AFRICA & SAHEL

### ALGERIA

- Since April, the Algerian army has shifted its operational focus from counter terrorism to anti-smuggling operations.
- The Algerian army have arrested over 650 smugglers on the borders with Libya, Mali and Niger for smuggling activities, some of which include smuggling of humans.

## EGYPT

### Missing Migrants

- On 25 May Egypt's Coast guards in Egypt's northern governorate of Kafr el-Sheikh recovered **five** dead bodies and arrested 25 people who were attempting to irregularly migrate to Italy.
- **Three** migrants drowned 5 May and 31 were rescued after a boat carrying illegal immigrants trying to reach Europe capsized off Egypt's port of Baheira, security officials and state media said (13 Syrians, 15 Sudanese, two Eritreans and one Egyptian were saved).

### Irregular Border Crossings

- The security campaign to combat "illegal immigration" at Egypt's borders is ongoing.
- Approximately **51** people, including five Sudanese, have been arrested at Egypt's western Sallum Border Crossing over attempted irregular migration to Libya. Some **88** Egyptians were arrested on May 27, while **103** others were detained on May 25 at the Sallum border over similar circumstances
- Egypt's armed forces have arrested over **6004** individuals attempting illegal migration from Egypt from October 2014 to April 2015, an average of 860 per month.

### Return & Repatriation

- **161** Yemenis left Cairo on board three flights 25 May, as part of the air bridge established by the Yemeni government to repatriate citizens. The Yemenis in Egypt had arrived in the aftermath of the Decisive Storm campaign led by Saudi Arabia.
- Some 278 Egyptians returning from Libya

<b>8</b>	Died while trying to leave Egypt irregularly by boat
<b>56</b>	Were rescued by the coast guard
<b>242</b>	Were arrested at the Salloum border crossing in May
<b>6004</b>	Were arrested from October 2014 to April 2015, aver. of 860 per month
<b>161</b>	Yemenis were repatriated from Cairo
<b>327</b>	Egyptians have returned to Egypt from Libya and Saudi Arabia

arrived at the Sallum border crossing between 20-21 May. The arrivals include 157 Egyptian workers who were arrested during "illegal" attempts to cross the borders.

- Some 47985 Egyptian have returned from Libya since February 2015, according to official figures reported by [Cairo Post](#).

### Deportation

- On 30 May, Saudi Authorities have deported **49** Egyptian expatriates for infringing residency laws. After two weeks in detention, they were deported after their work residencies expired, according to officials at the Saudi Passport Department; the residencies were not renewed by the sponsor

### Stranded migrants

- **IOM** assists over 800 Yemenis stranded in Egypt due to the conflict
- Yemeni migrants stranded in Egypt include a mixed group of families and individuals who mainly entered Egypt on a short-term basis, including for medical treatment, business and tourism.

## Refugees

- Ethiopia hosts some 689,100 refugees; mainly Somalis, South Sudanese, Eritreans, and Sudanese

## Sudanese Refugees

- As of April, there are 36,478 Sudanese refugees in Ethiopia.

## South Sudanese Refugees

- [UNHCR](#) offices in Sudan have reported sharp increases in arrivals during May.
- In Ethiopia's Gambella region, more than **6,100** South Sudanese refugees were registered in May, while in April the number was 4,800. Arrivals were at less than 1,000 people a month before this. In addition, an estimated 7,000 South Sudanese are at the Pagak and Akobo entry points waiting to be registered. UNHCR, the government counterpart and other partners are developing a new site next to the existing Pugnido refugee camp to accommodate new arrivals and as a contingency measure for future arrivals.
- As of 22 May, 205,524 South Sudanese refugees have entered Gambella region since December 2013. 14,139 of them have arrived since 15 December 2014. 67% are children. 71% of the adult population are women.
- New arrivals are mainly from Jonglei state, fleeing generalised violence and forced recruitment ([UNHCR](#)). 58,000 South Sudanese refugees were in Ethiopia before December 2013.
- In the week to 22 May, 2,024 new refugees registered at Pagak entry point; 1,155 arrived in Akobo ([UNHCR](#)). Pagak entry point saw a spike in new arrivals in April, with an estimated 7,000 arriving in four days (4,200 refugees were registered in April, compared to an average of 1,000 per month in the first quarter of 2015).

## Eritrean Refugees

- As of April, Ethiopia hosts **135,665** Eritrean refugees, including 33,000 arrivals in 2014. There was a spike in daily arrivals in the last quarter of 2014: about 8,588 refugees arrived in October and November. New refugees are transferred to Hitsat camp, which hosts about 27,560 people.

## Somalian Refugees

- As of April, there are 246,600 Somali refugees in Ethiopia, including 1,755 who have arrived since January 2015 ([UNHCR](#)). Most are located in Dollo Ado camps ([UNHCR](#)).

<b>689,100</b>	Refugees in Ethiopia
<b>36,478</b>	Sudanese Refugees as of April
<b>135,665</b>	Eritrean Refugees as of April
<b>246,600</b>	Somali Refugees as of April
<b>3,000</b>	Ethiopians have returned from Yemen

## Camps

- Some **42,000** South Sudanese refugees have been relocated from Leitchuor and Nip Nip camps to Jewi camp since mid-May. Relocation to Pugnido camp is ongoing. Pugnido now hosts 62,154 refugees ([UNHCR](#)). Other refugees have self-relocated in different parts of Nyinyang and along the Nip Nip-Jakawo corridor and Gambella-Matar highway. Leitchuor and Nip Nip camps were so damaged by flooding in 2014 they are not suitable for the settlement of refugees. They were hosting 48,755 and 1,110 refugees, respectively.
- A majority of refugee camps have reached full capacity. Main concerns include overcrowding, malnutrition, flooding and critical shortfalls in humanitarian aid.
- More land is needed to accommodate new arrivals from South Sudan ([OCHA](#)). As of January, two other sites, Kobe, with a capacity of 50,000, and Cholan, with a capacity of 20,000, have been identified and approved for development as refugee camps ([UNHCR](#)).

## Smugglers arrested in Ethiopia:

- Local media [report](#) that the Ethiopian government arrested 200 human smugglers in May 2015, reportedly as part of its efforts to stem the flow of irregular migrants out of the country. Ethiopian Federal Affairs Minister told the media that the government was also searching for 80 other human smugglers who are suspected of conducting overseas operations.

## Returnees

- More than 3,000 vulnerable Ethiopians have returned from Yemen, including people who were injured in the conflict, and people who are in need of transport and shelter (IOM)
- Ethiopian refugees in Djibouti have returned to Ethiopia.

# LIBYA

## EU Agenda

- Libyan ambassador to the UN: the EU's intentions were unclear and "very worrying". ([BBC](#))

## Rescues at Sea

- So far, over 1,800 migrants have been rescued by the Coast Guard following distress calls or interceptions close to shore.
- The Libyan Naval Coast Guard, hampered by a lack of resources and suitable equipment, has been carrying out a growing number of operations to rescue migrants in distress.
- "The Libyan Naval Coast Guard is trying to rescue as many people as possible. What is worrying is the condition of many of the migrants when they disembark in Libya. Many are sick or have sustained injuries during rescue operations, but medical assistance, like other humanitarian assistance, is scarce in Libya," says IOM Libya Chief of Mission Othman Belbeisi. "There are also large numbers of women and children among them." ([IOM](#))
- IOM's office in Tripoli are continuing to provide direct assistance, including non-food relief items and hygiene kits, to migrants rescued at sea.

## Detention

- As of 24 May, 16,000 migrants are reportedly being held in detention centres ([Reuters](#)).
- Torture, lack of access to health services, and overcrowding is reported in detention centres ([Human Rights Watch](#), [AI](#)).
- Forthcoming MHub research (June) highlights the deteriorating conditions in detention and

16,000	Migrants held in detention centers as of May 24
400,000	IDPs in 35 cities and towns
1,800	Rescued by the Libyan Coastguard

suggest that a lack of humane conditions for migrants is driving many to attempt the perilous journey across the Mediterranean to Europe.

## IDPs

- 400,000 IDPs reside in 35 cities and towns ([IDMC](#)). More than 150,000 people have sought refuge abroad ([UNHCR](#)).
- As of November 2014, over 331,000 people are at risk and in need of humanitarian assistance ([OCHA](#)).
- IDPs' basic needs for shelter, food, and medical services remain grossly unmet. Their physical security has been seriously threatened by indiscriminate shelling, attacks on IDP camps and sieges. There is serious concern for tens of thousands of displaced migrants who are trapped in Libya and particularly vulnerable ([IDMC](#)).

## Bangladeshi Migrant Workers Banned from Entering

- Libya's official government has banned Bangladeshi workers from entering the country because many were trying to travel on irregularly by boat to Europe, a government spokesman said on 16 May ([Reuters](#))

# MOROCCO

## Policy

- Morocco and IOM sign an amendment of the MoU on irregular migrants voluntary return and reintegration in origin countries.
- [Al-Jazeera report](#) how Morocco develops a legal migration policy and sets a precedent in the Arab world in hosting sub-Saharan migrants.

## Sea Departures

- [Local arab media](#) reported of 296 migrants, including women and children, being rescued by the Guardia Civil and Moroccan Navy in

the Mediterranean. These migrants mainly originated from Cameroun, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Guinea Conakry, Mali, Nigeria and Senegal.

- In May 2015, at least 29 boats left Morocco towards Spanish cities. Most of these departures are linked to smuggling networks. 55 migrants succeeded to cross the Mediterranean to Spain. Out of these migrants, 35 migrants originate from Guinea Conakry.

# NIGER

## Refugees

- The main populations of concern in Niger in 2015 are: Malian refugees who have fled violence in their country since 2012 and are living in camps, refugee-hosting and urban areas; as well as refugees (Nigerian nationals) and returnees (Niger nationals who were living in Nigeria) who have fled violence in north-eastern Nigeria since May 2013, are dispersed in more than 100 villages, and are hosted by the local community ([UNHCR](#)).

## Vulnerable groups

- [UNHCR](#) state that since April 2015, 505 unaccompanied and separated minors have been identified.

## Anti-smuggling law

- During May the National Assembly of Niger has voted on the anti-smuggling law. In the coming days it will be officially promulgated.
- Few countries in West Africa have both an anti-trafficking law (since 2010 in Niger) and anti-smuggling law (2015) in force.

## Migrant centres to open

- The European Commission on 13 May revealed a plan of action for immigration and asylum, in particular the opening of a pilot centre in Niger by the end of the year ([AFP](#))
- Several shelters are to open in Niger for African migrants to dissuade them from trying to reach Europe and instead offering local alternatives, the French interior minister said on 15 May ([Guardian](#)).

# SUDAN

## Abductions

- [UNHCR](#) is deeply concerned about the abduction of asylum-seekers in eastern Sudan when 14 Eritrean asylum-seekers (seven unaccompanied children (six boys and one girl), five women and two men) were abducted by unknown armed elements in eastern Sudan on 4 June 2015.

## Refugees

- [UNHCR](#) report that as of April 2015 there are 304,879 refugees in Sudan. As of 20 May 2015, more than [143,363](#) are South Sudanese nationals who have arrived in Sudan since 15 December 2013.
- [UNHCR](#) offices in Sudan have all reported sharp increases in arrivals during May.
- Refugees cite the upsurge in fighting, but also growing food insecurity as the main reasons for fleeing their homes. It's estimated that more than 3.8 million people, representing a third of South Sudan's population of 11 million, do not have sufficient food ([UNHCR](#)).
- Approximately 77,139 South Sudanese refugees live in White Nile, 33,200 in Khartoum, 11,566 in South Kordofan, 17,633 in West Kordofan, 3,661 in Blue Nile and 164 in East Darfur ([UNHCR](#)).

## Forced Returns

- ACJPS report that [32](#) Eritreans at Risk of Forced Return from Sudan

304,879	Refugees in Sudan as of April
143,363	South Sudanese Refugees who arrived between 15 December 2013 and 20 May 2015
555,000	South Sudanese have fled South Sudan since December 2013,

## Strategy to Address Kidnapping, Human Trafficking and Smuggling in Persons

- The 2015-2017 Joint United Nations (UNHCR, UNODC, UNICEF, UNFPA) and IOM Strategy to Address Kidnapping, Human Trafficking and Smuggling in Persons – Strengthening Alternatives to Onward Movement has been finalized and endorsed by the Government in early June 2015.
- By partnering with UNFPA, UNICEF and UNODC the revised strategy aims to streamline inter-agency responses to vulnerable migrants, asylum-seekers and refugees, improve national responses to women and children victims of trafficking and substantially expand the technical capacity of the Sudanese authorities to respond to the changing modus operandi of smuggling and trafficking networks.
- The new strategy will aim at sustaining the achievements made in 2013 and 2014 in:
  - Enhancing security and mitigating risks
  - Strengthening protection responses for trafficking victims

- Building national capacity
- Identifying solutions and alternatives
- Enhancing cooperation

#### **Human Smuggling**

- UNHCR report the abduction of 14 Eritrean asylum-seekers by unknown armed elements in eastern Sudan on 4 2015.
- An armed group in a pickup truck opened fire on a convoy organized by the Sudanese Commissioner for Refugees (COR), which was transporting 49 Eritrean asylum-seekers from Wad Sharifey reception centre near Kassala to

Shagarab refugee camp.

- 6 asylum-seekers suffered from minor injuries when they jumped from the truck in an attempt to escape.

## **TUNISIA**

#### **Rescued at Sea:**

- May saw an ncrease in ships being rescued by the Tunisian coast guard as they drift towards its shores ([AFP](#))
- On 23 May, 5 Tunisian migrants drowned in shipwreck, 49 rescued ([AFP](#))
- On 10 June, the Tunisian army rescued 356 people, including a baby two months, off the town of Ben Guerdane. The migrants, who

include Sudanese, Moroccans, Egyptians, Malians, Syrians and Pakistanis, tried to reach Italy from Libya aboard a makeshift boat, but due to a failure they drifted off Tunisia, the official said Crescent Ben Guerdane.

# MEDITERRANEAN

## EU Agenda on Migration

- On the 27th of May, the European Commission has further detailed the first proposals of its comprehensive approach to improve migration management following the launch of the European Agenda on Migration mid-May. A factsheet can be found [here](#).
- In the EU Agenda on Migration, the EC committed itself to taking a number of concrete measures by the end of May in order to respond to the immediate, emergency situation. The first phase includes: relocation; resettlement; an EU Action plan against migrant smuggling; guidelines for fingerprinting; a public consultation on the EU Blue Card scheme, which aims to make it easier for highly skilled workers to travel to and work in the EU; a new operational plan for Triton.
- Frontex expands Triton operation ([here](#)). The operational area will be extended to 138 NM south of Sicily. During the peak summer season, Triton will deploy 3 airplanes, 6 Offshore Patrol

Vessels, 12 patrol boats, 2 helicopters, 9 debriefing and 6 screening teams. “We have dramatically increased the deployment levels in the Central Mediterranean to support the Italian authorities in controlling its sea borders and in saving lives, too many of which have already been tragically lost this year,” EU official Fabrice Leggeri said. The European Commission will soon provide Frontex with additional EUR 26.25 million to strengthen Operation Triton in Italy and Poseidon Sea in Greece from June 2015 until the end of the year. The budget for Triton for this year will stand at EUR 38 million and EUR 18 million for Poseidon Sea. Next year, the European Commission will provide Frontex with additional EUR 45 million for the two operations. Frontex will also intensify its efforts to dismantle people smuggling networks by deploying nine debriefing teams.

## Current research

### VU Amsterdam Migrant Deaths Database

- The VU Amsterdam University together with Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research (NWO) has published a [database](#) on deaths at the borders of the EU, which is the first collection of official, state-produced evidence on people who died while attempting to reach southern EU countries from the Balkans, the Middle East, and North & West Africa, and whose bodies were found in or brought to Europe.

### Migration Policy Institute: Before the Boat: Understanding the Migrant Journey

- This report argues that to develop effective policy in this area, policymakers must recognize the driving forces behind migrants’ decisions and movements through a comprehensive understanding of smuggling networks and the migrants who utilize them.

### Amnesty International: Libya is full of cruelty

- Inside war-torn Libya, thousands of foreign nationals, including refugees and asylum-seekers, face abductions for ransom, torture and sexual violence by traffickers, smugglers and organized criminal groups. Many are systematically subjected to discrimination and exploitation by their employers or face indefinite detention in appalling conditions on account of their immigration status. Religious minorities, in particular Christian migrants and refugees, are persecuted and are at highest risk of abuse from armed groups that seek to enforce their own interpretation of Islamic law.

### Human Rights Watch: Detained, Beaten, Deported Saudi Abuses against Migrants during Mass Expulsions

- Drawing on interviews with 60 workers deported to Yemen and Somalia who experienced serious abuses during the expulsion campaign. Interviewees described beatings and detention in poor conditions before they were deported.

# GREECE

## **Estimated Total Arrivals Jan–May: 42,780**

- Greece has seen an overall increase in arrivals by migrants mainly from refugee-producing countries like Syria, Afghanistan and Somalia.
- Estimates for May suggest more than 15,500 arrivals, the main flow is still to the bigger Islands like Lesbos, Kos, Chios and Samos; but there has been a rise in arrivals on the smaller islands as well.
- An interesting development is the increase in really small boats, with few passengers trying to reach some of the smaller islands that are closest to the Turkish shore.

## **Humanitarian crisis on Greek Islands**

- Many of the islands are completely overwhelmed with the situation and are in urgent need of (humanitarian) support to process the migrants ([IRIN](#)).

## **Eastern Mediterranean Route**

- The Eastern Mediterranean (Greece–Turkey ) route seems to be becoming more popular, especially with Syrians, as it is (perceived) safer. The death rate so far has been comparatively low (<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-33020600>).

# ITALY

## **Estimated Total Arrivals Jan–May: 46,486**

- Almost 20,000 (19,313) migrants arrived at the shores of Italy according to IOM field staff and Italian coast guard data. This represents a further increase of nearly 25% from the record in arrivals of April.
- The death toll during May is estimated at around 80, which represents the improving weather conditions as well as the increase in search and rescue missions by EU countries.
- The composition has slightly changed to a higher percentage of Sub-Saharan Africans and less Syrians in comparison. According to official figures 47,449 migrants arrived by sea in Italy from January to May 2015, a slight increase in comparison to the same period of last year, when arrivals were 41,243. As of 31 May the main nationalities of migrants arriving in Italy were: Eritrean (10,985),

Somali (4,958), Nigerian (4,630), Syrian (3,185), Gambian (2,941), and Senegalese (2,328).

- While the vast majority of boats still departs from Libya, 2 boats reached Italy departing from Turkish shores and one from the Egyptian coast.