Mixed migration trend report for January to March 2015
covering mixed migration events in:
Egypt, Ethiopia, Libya, Morocco and Sudan.

MHub is an inter-agency initiative involving IOM, UNHCR, DRC, RMMS and OHCHR. It promotes a human rights-based approach to ensure the protection of people moving in mixed and complex flows along North African migratory routes. mHub serves members, donors, public, academia and policy makers by producing knowledge regarding the human rights protection issues faced by people moving in these flows. It fosters collaborative approaches among key stakeholders to develop innovative policies and programmes.

**Terminology:** Throughout this report the term migrant/refugee is used to cover all those involved in 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 return-related data. MHub makes its own independent editorial decisions as to what sections and what data is included in this monthly update.

**Trend Summaries**

**Mediterranean**

**Italy**

**New arrivals:**
- In February, Somalia (683), Eritrea (646), and Gambia (540) represented the largest number of arrivals, replacing Syria (156).
- There is a concerning spike in the number of unaccompanied minors from Eritrea (115).
- February was a particularly active month, which also resulted in significant loss of life. As of the end of February there were approximately 50% more arrivals than during the same period last year.
- While no official data is yet available for March, reports indicate that March was slower and by the end of March were roughly on track with with the same period during 2014.
- **IOM Italy** reports that 3,800 migrants were rescued over four days between 13 to 17 February and 941 migrants were rescued on 4 and 5 March in the Channel of Sicily.
New arrivals:
- The Ethiopian Government, IOM and other agencies are assisting an estimated 160,000 returnees from Saudi Arabia following the Government of Saudi Arabia’s zero tolerance of irregular migrants in early 2015.
- RMMS estimates around 2,573 Ethiopians travelled from Djibouti to Yemen in January 2015.
- Federal Police indicate a reduction in the number of people passing though the Ethiopia-Sudan border at Metema, during the past two months.

Routes:
- The Southern route through Kenya and Somalia remains an understudied route, while increasing in importance, see RMMS.
- A large influx on the Northern route via Eritrea and through Sudan in response to stricter military conscription rules. As of February 2015, there are over 106,720 refugees and asylums seekers of Eritrean
• Increased numbers of Eritreans are moving towards South Sudan. Reports indicate that they are paying between $1000-2500 for the journey.

Migrant vulnerability:
• Among the migrants crossing the borders are unaccompanied minors and separated children with limited knowhow and control over their journeys and susceptible to any form of exploitation and abuses along the way. Reports of torture and extortion by smugglers/traffickers are common.
• Majority of the female migrants are young girls who often end up being domestic workers. With the temporary ban on regular migration to the Middle East which used to absorb a significant number of young girls still in place, Ethiopians are following the irregular migratory routes.
• In all the routes, IOM comes across Victims of Trafficking (VoTs) who are, to a certain extent, provided with specialized assistance focusing on rehabilitation and reintegration.

Libya

Upsurge in Libya fighting triggers new displacement:
• An upsurge in fighting since the start of the year across several towns and cities in the east, including Benghazi, has sparked more displacement. Many people have had to flee for a fourth or fifth time, making numbers hard to estimate. Nonetheless, in Benghazi alone the local council is reporting that around 90,000 people there are unable to return home.
• UNHCR estimate that approximately 400,000 people are displaced across the country.
• The displacement has been centred around Benghazi, Derna, and near the Gulf of Sidra in Ben Jawad and Ras Lanuf.
• The Benghazi Local Council has estimated that around 90,000 people have been pushed out of their homes as reported by UNHCR on 16 January 2015.
• In February 2015, Libya’s Directorate for Combating Illegal Migration (DCIM), IOM, the Libyan Red Crescent, ICRC and the Tunisian authorities are assisting the evacuation of some 133 Senegalese from the Karareem reception centre in Misrata, Libya, and plans to assist a further 400 from Djerba.

Refugees and Asylum Seekers:
• According to UNHCR, Libya is host to nearly 37,000 refugees and asylum-seekers of different nationalities whose humanitarian conditions are increasingly precarious.

Boats departures/arrivals:
• Since January, some 2000 migrants have been intercepted crossing the Mediterranean from Libya.

Migrant vulnerability:
• Near Tripoli in the west, NGOs and the local council estimate some 83,268 people are living in settlements, schools and abandoned buildings. Many are unable to access education for their children, lack of health care and limited ability to access cash for food. Most people have been displaced for over 3 to 6 months with increasing numbers being hosted in public facilities such as schools. As their cash savings dwindle they are unable to pay for housing rentals. The winter months are especially tough as temperatures in Tripoli, Benghazi and the Southern towns are below 10 degrees Celsius.

Morocco

New Arrivals:
• Based on figures provided by local NGO Delegation des migrantes, during January 2015, more than 350 migrants crossed the border between Algeria and Morocco. Most of those migrants are men of working age between 18 years old and 38 years old. In February, more that 243 migrants crossed the border - 193 male, 7 female and 43 unaccompanied minors, the majority from Cameroon and Guinea.
• Most new arrivals have settled at the camps near to the University of Oujda and surrounding forests of Moussakine, and abandoned houses in an area named Gala near the Moroccan border.

Attempts to cross to Melilla:
• According to the Delegation des migrantes, during January 2015, more than 1,300 attempted to cross the
fence, of these, at least 14 migrants entered to Melilla, more than 480 migrants were arrested and deport-
ed immediately afterwards to other major cities in Morocco.

- During February 2015, more than 1,106 migrants tried to cross the border with the Melilla enclave, at
  least 76 migrants entered to Melilla, more than 280 migrants were arrested and transferred immediately
  afterwards to other major cities in Morocco. This is a significant increase in numbers in comparison to the
  same months of last year.

- In February 5 migrants tried to cross the fence between Nador and Melilla by driving a car in high speed
  and, tried to smash the fence, all of the five migrants were arrested by the Spanish Guardia Civil and de-
  ported to Morocco.

- The majority of these migrants originate from Cameroun, Cote d’Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo,
  Mali, Nigeria and Niger. Most of them are living in the forests surrounding the city of Nador (Gourogou,

**Boats at sea crossing Mediterranean:**

- On 31 January 2015, 6 migrants lost their live on the seacoast of Nador (5km) while trying to cross the
  Mediterranean. According to testimonies of migrants, there were at least 20 migrants and two smugglers
  on the boat.

- On February 2015, 16 migrants lost their live on the seacoast of Nador while trying to cross the Mediter-
  ranean. They all originate from Guinea Conakry, and the majority of them were unaccompanied minors.

- According to the Delegation des migrants, 26 migrants bodies are in the morgue of the hospital of Na-
  dor, the reasons of the decease are different. These migrants originated from Guinea, Nigeria and Mali.

- On 4 March, the Spanish authorities intercepted two boats with 69 sub-Saharan migrants on board, both
  of which departed from Nador to Almeria.

**Vulnerability of Migrants:**

- According to reports from different civil society associations and media, between 10-13 February 2015,
  Moroccan authorities (the gendarmerie, the police, force auxiliaries) have arrested more than 1,250 migrants
  of different nationalities (Cameroun, Cote d’Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Mali, Nigeria, Niger,
  Senegal, etc.) living in the forests surrounding Nador.

- Women and minors are particularly vulnerable as controlled by the respective national and sometimes
  also ethnic community. In Oujda, for instance, they cannot leave the forest of Moussakine or rent apart-
  ments in different neighborhoods (Andalous, El Qods, Hakou, Hay Salam, Hay Najd) without permission
  of their leader.

- Criminality is rampant in these areas. Migrants, including women and unaccompanied minors, in order
  to continue their travel towards Europe contact smugglers who have direct or indirect relationships with
  trafficking networks in Morocco or Algeria (e.g. drugs, prostitution, etc.). Many migrants are exploited or
  obliged to work for these networks either to pay off debts or to obtain the money for the route to Europe.

- In Oujda, about 1 in four migrants live in small apartments in town. These are usually migrants who
  came to Morocco some time ago (particularly Nigerians) and who oblige young migrant girls to prosti-
  tute themselves or beg for money so to allow them to pay the rent. As reported NGO Médecins du
  Monde, these victims of human trafficking often live together with the traffickers in the same apartment.
  Completely controlled, it is very rare that a VoT has the courage to denounce their perpetrator or even
  mention that they are exploited for prostitution.

- Since the beginning of the new year, most minors entering Morocco and settling in the forest of Gouru-
  guo in Nador, are unaccompanied minors, mostly from Cameroun and Guinea Conakry, aiming to get to
  Melilla.

**Sudan**

**Fresh fighting over past month forces 3,000 to flee Sudan’s Nuba Mountains:**

- Fresh fighting in Sudan's Nuba Mountains has led to an increase in the number of people fleeing to South
  Sudan in the past month.

- There was a peak in numbers of bombs and shelling in February. Over 1,500 bombs and shells were
  dropped on Southern Kordofan throughout December 2014 and January 2015, killing and injuring civil-
  ians in 57 separately recorded incidents. More than 450 of these were dropped on civilian targets during
December 2014 alone (Sudan Consortium).

- UNHCR field staff report that more than 3,000 Sudan citizens from South Kordofan and Blue Nile states have arrived since December 23 at the border town of Yida, a spontaneous settlement in South Sudan’s Unity state already sheltering some 80,000 Sudanese refugees. UNHCR report that approximately 70% are children, 10% of whom are suffering from malnutrition or measles.
- There are currently 1.7 million IDPs or persons seriously affected in South Kordofan and the Blue Nile states.
- According to UN figures there are currently 6.9 million people in need of humanitarian assistance in Sudan.

**New arrivals:**

- The has been a steady increase in arrivals, a majority from Somalia, but also large numbers form Eritrea and Ethiopia. Most are young and there has been a four fold increase in UAMs.
- Under the GoS-UNHCR Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that formalized the documentation process for South Sudanese individuals residing in Sudan, on February 1, the GoS began issuing identification cards to South Sudanese nationals. As many as 350,000 South Sudanese who remained stranded in Sudan prior to the December 2013 outbreak of violence in South Sudan and approximately 120,500 additional South Sudanese refugees who have arrived in Sudan since could benefit from the new identification cards (Sudan Consortium).
- Migration routes towards Libya are key motivators.

**Refugees and Asylum Seekers:**

- Latest UNHCR estimates suggest that by the end of 2015, there could be up to 460,000 refugees and asylum seekers in Sudan.
- The Government of Sudan is not allowing asylum applications for Eritrean and Ethiopians.

**Migrant vulnerability:**

- Reports of border deaths at Eastern Sudan and Eritrea over the holiday period (un-quantified).
- The number of bombings sharply increase in line with the agricultural calendar to coincide with the planting and harvesting seasons. Large numbers of civilians face Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and Stressed (IPC Phase 2) acute food insecurity in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile respectively, prompting a large number of civilians to flee their homes (Sudan Consortium).

**Trafficking**

- Sudan remains a key trafficking location. While there has recently been some improvement in Eastern Sudan, with the camps having been secured, the trafficking problem is now shifting to border regions and Khartoum.
- IOM is currently assisting 19 Ethiopian women from Sudan to return to their place of origin in Ethiopia. These women were trafficked – transiting - through Sudan with the ‘promise’ to be taken to Lebanon where they would be placed in the domestic labour market.

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**Tunisia**

**Rescued at sea:**

- During March, 170 people were rescued. With the exception of 17 persons of concern for UNHCR (from Somalia) the vast majority are migrants.
Italian Interior Minister: There are no jihadists among migrants landing, (Italian), Corriere Del Mezzo-giorno, 26 March

Europe's Cargo Ships Diverted to Sea Rescues, Wall Street Journal, 26 March
In September, Italian authorities ordered oil tankers owned by Mediterranea di Navigazione SpA to help in five operations to rescue 600 boat people trying to cross from Libya to Italy in flimsy vessels. The rescue operations cost the group €100,000 ($109,473) in extra costs, such as fuel and personnel. Now, managing director Paolo Cagnoni is considering changing his vessels' routes to avoid the flow of migrant boats that is likely to surge this spring. “We've been drawn into this human exile, but our crews aren't equipped,” Mr. Cagnoni said. “It's a disaster.”

The EU’s plan to restrain migrants in North Africa worries rights groups, Deutsche Welle, 26 March
EU member states are reportedly planning to stop refugees in North Africa from crossing the Mediterranean into the EU by creating detention centers and beefing up coast guard capabilities of countries like Tunisia and Egypt. The concept, introduced by Italy, has been agreed upon by Germany, Spain and France. Refugee groups are worried about what might happen if these people are detained before they reach Europe.

Some 200 migrants rescued in Mytilene, Chios, Molyvos and Pharmakonisi, (Greek), HCG, 25 March

472 migrants entered Ceuta irregularly in last 6 months, (Spanish), Yahoo!, 24 March

More than 300 migrants intercepted in Aegean within 12 hours, (Greek), Tovima, 23 March

EU explores new migration ‘zone’ in north Africa, EU Observer, 13 March

470 dead in Med in 2015 says UNHCR, 15 last year - update 3, Gazzette Del Sud, 12 March

Italy: Coastguard rescues almost 1,000 migrants in 24 hours, Euronews, 4 March

The shocking abuse refugees endure at the hands of people smugglers in Libya, The Telegraph, 23 Feb
Videos reveal the violence of people smugglers herding migrants out of Libya and into Europe.

2015 is on pace to break the record for migrant deaths in the Mediterranean, Global Post, 19 Feb

EU refugee policy: every man for himself, Deutsche Welle, 15 Jan

Egypt

Rights Groups Call on Egypt to End Arbitrary Detention of Refugees, International Refugee Rights Initiative, 16 March
Since February 9, 2015 a group of at least 30 Syrian, Palestinian-Syrian and Somali refugees detained at Karmooz police station in Alexandria - Egypt, began an open hunger strike to protest against their arbitrary detention.

Egyptians in Libya - to flee or to stay?, IRIN, 27 Feb
Migrants tell of deepening chaos in Libya: ‘Everyone is armed now’, The Telegraph, 22 Feb

What next for Libya?, Integrated Regional Information Networks (IRIN), 29 January
If any further evidence was needed of the importance of ending the power struggle that has plunged Libya into chaos since last summer, it was the reminder this week that sympathisers of the so-called Islamic State (IS) are keen to exploit the resulting power vacuum. In a 27 January attack claimed by IS, gunmen stormed a luxury Tripoli hotel popular with UN officials and diplomats, killing at least nine people, among them five foreigners. It was the deadliest in a series of incidents, which suggest that IS supporters in Libya are growing more assertive as the country’s political crisis continues.

Parties agree ‘in principle’ to move UN-mediated political talks to Libya, UN News Service, 29 January
Participants in the United Nations-facilitated Libyan political dialogue in discussions in Geneva this week have agreed “on the principle” of convening future dialogue sessions in Libya, provided that logistical and security conditions are available. “Participants expressed concern about the prevailing security conditions in different areas, condemning in particular the recent attack in Tripoli that took place as they were meeting at the UN Office at Geneva,” said a note released today by the UN Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL).

Upsurge in Libya fighting triggers new displacement, UNHCR, 16 January

Libya’s sidelined IDPs, Integrated Regional Information Networks (IRIN), 10 December 2014

Morocco

Four migrants drown off Morocco in bid for Canaries, Agence France-Presse, 11 March
The bodies of four migrants bidding to reach Spain’s Canary Islands were recovered off southern Morocco’s Atlantic coast Wednesday, a day after 19 others were rescued from a rubber boat, officials said.

At least 6 migrants drown off Morocco coast: authorities, Agence France-Presse, 20 Jan

Spain’s Moroccan enclave: The story behind the picture, IRIN, 09 Jan

Sudan

ID cards bring life-saving benefits for South Sudanese in Sudan, UNHCR, 30 March

Fresh fighting over past month forces 3,000 to flee Sudan’s Nuba Mountains, UNHCR, 30 January

South Sudan: UN warns surge in Sudanese refugees pushes camp capacity to limit, UN News Service, 30 January

Darfur: UN humanitarian office reports mass displacement amid ongoing hostilities, UN News Service, 6 January

Tunisia

One illegal migrant died at sea, 83 rescued, (French), Agence France-Presse, 19 March
Forthcoming MHub Research

Migrants and Detention in Libya
Asmita Naik: Independent Researcher

This study paints a damning picture of immigration detention of young migrants, asylum-seekers and refugees in Libya today. Based on in-depth interviews with 45 detainees, this study finds a consistent pattern of arbitrary detention - with migrants and asylum seekers held for months at a time without due process and in squalid, cramped conditions. In addition, this research details serious violations, including allegations of violence and brutality, taking place in three of Libya's most well-known facilities - Abu Saleem, Gharyan and Sabha.

North East Africa Migration Route
Sussex Centre for Migration Research, University of Sussex: Dr. Michael Collyer, Vanessa Iaria, Markus Breines, Elisa Pascucci.

This research project maps out current movement of mixed migratory flow along the North East Africa migratory route, with a focus on flows into, through and out of Sudan. Applying a migrant focused perspective, it identifies the principal risks to migrants' safety and human rights, migrants' coping strategies to avoid violence. Special attention is given to the activities of local and transnational criminal gangs and non-state agents. The research analyzes the efforts of governments and non-governmental and international organizations to reduce the security risks migrants face. It the role of institutional actors, including states' migration policies, border management activities, detention facilities and practical support and advocacy.

Other Research


This report details the increasing mismatch between the legal and normative frameworks that define the existing protection regime and the contemporary patterns of forced displacement. It analyzes contemporary drivers and emerging trends of population displacement, noting that the majority of forcibly displaced people—some 33.3 million—remain within their own countries, and that more than 50 percent of the displaced live in urban areas. The author then outlines and assesses key areas where the international protection system is under the most pressure, and finally examines the key implications of these trends for policymakers and the international community, outlining some possible policy directions for reform.

Behind Bars: the detention of migrants in and from the East & Horn of Africa, RMMS, February 2015

This study focuses on immigration detention in the East and Horn of Africa, as well as Yemen, Israel and Saudi Arabia which are countries where a significant number of migrants from this region migrate to. The report also includes a short section on the use of immigration detention in Italy and Malta, the first points of entry in Europe for Horn of Africa migrants (mainly Eritreans and Somalis) travelling the north-western route out of the region to Europe.
Journal Articles


New Legal Texts


Books


Elena Fiddian-Qasmiyeh, (2015), South-South Educational Migration, Humanitarianism and Development: Views from the Caribbean, North Africa and the Middle East, Routledge

Crossroads
Approximately one in seven people today is a migrant. 232 million, or 3.2% of the world population, have crossed international borders. The Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region experiences exceptionally high rates of human mobility. These complex flows — which can be regular or irregular — involve a range of migrants of all ages, backgrounds and motivations. They include those escaping poverty and in search of opportunities, those looking to reunite with family abroad, refugees, asylum seekers, smuggled migrants, victims of trafficking and unaccompanied minors.

BBC Panorama Children of the Great Migration
Panorama’s Paul Kenyon investigates the children, some as young as seven, travelling alone on the world's most dangerous migration route. With exclusive access to desert refugee camps, and to the Sudanese border patrols, Kenyon discovers that more lone children than ever before are attempting the route. Some are recruited by the people-trafficking gangs because they are too young to be prosecuted by the European authorities. Panorama speaks to one such 15-year-old who piloted a boat across the Mediterranean with nearly 200 migrants on board.

Vice News, Italy’s Mediterranean Mass Grave: Europe or Die (Episode 4)
The fourth and final episode of Vice’s ‘Europe or Die’ series. Since 2000, more than 27,000 migrants and refugees have died attempting the perilous journey to Europe. With an unprecedented number of people breaking through its heavily barricaded borders in 2014, the EU continues to fortify its frontiers.