



MIXED MIGRATION TREND REPORT FOR APRIL 2015 COVERING MIXED MIGRATION EVENTS IN: ALGERIA, EGYPT, ETHIOPIA, LIBYA, MOROCCO, 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 persons, economic migrants, and refugees). If the case load mentioned refers only to refugees, asylum seekers or trafficked persons, etc., 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 independent editorial decisions as to what sections and what data is included in this monthly update.

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MEDITERRANEAN

April 2015 saw a massive surge in the numbers of migrants/refugees reaching Europe from North Africa and an increase in rescues of stranded migrants/refugees and deaths at sea. During the first four months of 2015, over 35,000 people attempted to cross the Mediterranean to reach Europe from Africa with approximately 1,800 deaths at sea, compared to 450 deaths/missing during the same time period in 2014.

EU Response to Migration across the Mediterranean:

In response to the tragic events of mass drownings in the Mediterranean in the middle of April, on April 20th an emergency summit of the EU's Foreign and Interior Ministers was held in Luxembourg, where the [European Commission proposed its 10-point plan](#) containing the following measures:

- Reinforce their joint operations in the Mediterranean, namely Triton and Poseidon, by increasing the financial resources and the number of assets; to extend their operational area, allowing to intervene further, within the mandate of Frontex;
- A systematic effort to capture and destroy vessels used by the smugglers;
- Close cooperation between EUROPOL, FRONTEX, EASO and EUROJUST to gather information on smugglers modus operandi, to trace their funds and to assist in their investigation;
- EASO to deploy teams in Italy and Greece for joint processing of asylum applications;
- Member States to ensure fingerprinting of all migrants;
- Consider options for an emergency relocation mechanism;
- A EU wide voluntary pilot project on resettlement, offering a number of places to persons in need of protection;
- Establish a new return programme for rapid return of irregular migrants coordinated by Frontex from frontline Member States;
- Engagement with countries surrounding Libya through a joined effort between the Commission and the EEAS; initiatives in Niger have to be stepped up.
- Deploy Immigration Liaison Officers (ILO) in key third countries, to gather intelligence on migratory flows and strengthen the role of the EU Delegations.

In a further emergency summit on April 23rd the [European Council](#) agreed to triple the budget for Operation Triton to EUR 120 million for 2015-2016, on par with the funding Mare Nostrum received. Further focus lay on fighting 'smugglers' through increased intelligence in third countries and to undertake efforts to destroy vessels used by the traffickers and smugglers.

In a [joint statement](#) issued on 23 April, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for International Migration and Development, and the Director-General of the International Organization for Migration urged for further measures to address the causes and the effects of such tragedies. They stated that "the European Union response needs to go beyond the present minimalist approach."

François Crépeau, the UN's Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants, also demanded that other solutions to simply resisting migration must be [found](#).

[Amnesty International](#) pointed out that despite the budget increase Triton will not be able to follow into Mare Nostrum's footsteps concerning search and rescue missions as it is not in the operational mandate of the Frontex operation, no matter the funding.

The events and the EU response triggered an intense media debate. Remarks on the legal feasibility of the EU's plans were made, by [Prof Steve Peers](#), EU and Human Rights Professor at the University of Essex. Main points of the debate can also be followed [in the Guardian](#), and [The Conversation](#), inter alia.

ITALY

New Arrivals:

In April, an estimated 14,941 individuals arrived at Italian shores in a total of 52 ships landing (being rescued at sea), of which 43 originated from Libya. The number of arrivals represents a 60% increase with respect to the total of the first three months of 2015. The main nationalities in April 2015 are: Eritrea (4482), Somalia (2610), Nigeria (1916), Syria (1035), Sudan (782). In comparison to March 2015, this represents an increase of arrivals from Eritrea (+4222), Somalia (+2186) and Nigeria (+1447).

Additionally, the traffickers' and smugglers' modus operandi seems to have changed: migrants/refugees now

arrive in great numbers in a short time frame.

Missing at Sea:

Unfortunately, April was also the deadliest month for Mediterranean crossings: IOM recorded approximately 1,200 deaths at sea in comparison to 50 in April 2014. These tragedies were associated with three shipwrecks on 13, 26 and 18-19 April. The latter saw the loss of 770 lives, with 28 rescued.

Migrant Vulnerability:

The number of incoming Nigerian women is three times higher than April 2014 (+247) which may indicate possible instances of human trafficking.

GREECE

New Arrivals:

Over 16,000 migrants/refugees arrived at the shores of Greece in April. This number represents a threefold rise in influx of migrants/refugees in the first four months of 2015, compared to 2014. Most arrived on small inflatable motorboats at the coast of the Greek islands, mainly Lesbos, Samos, Chios, and Agathonisi. Many of the boats carry families with small children, pregnant women, elderly people and occasionally people with special needs. This emphasizes the severe vulnerability of this group of migrants/refugees.

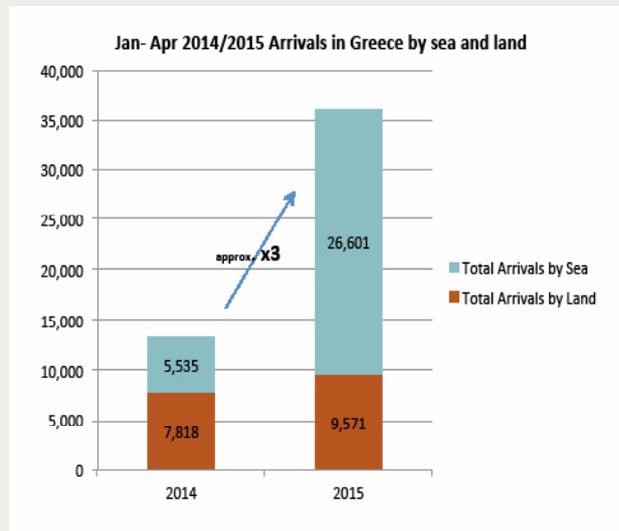
Only about 150 people chose to enter Greece via the land border with Turkey this month. The large movements by sea may be due to the tight land border controls between the Greek-Turkish border and the border fence erected in 2013.

Nationalities:

The main countries of origin have been Syria, Afghanistan, Pakistan and several African countries, which is in line with the previous months and last year's composition of migrants/refugees.

Tragic Events:

On April 20, a wooden yacht carrying more than 90 migrants/refugees was slashed by reefs close to the



shore of Rhodes Island, despite the rescue efforts of the local population, three passengers of the boat drowned. About 30 individuals had to be hospitalized. In another event near the coast of Samos a pregnant woman from Cameroon gave birth to twins only moments before the traffickers purposely slashed and sunk the inflatable motorboat. All of the 36 migrants/refugees were saved by the Greek Coast Guard.

NORTH AFRICA

ALGERIA

In response to instability in neighbouring Libya, and renewed conflict in Mali, the Algerian army is shifting focus from counter-terrorism to the management of the Sahal border with Libya, Mali and Niger.

The Algerian army [report](#) that it has arrested over 650 smugglers on its borders with Libya, Mali and Niger in an effort to tighten borders in the Sahal.

Smuggled items included weapons, gasoline, and foodstuffs that are subsidised by the Algerian government. But migrant trafficking is a particularly lucrative trade with militants cashing in on sub-Saharan Africans and Syrians trying to cross the border with Libya to make the perilous sea trip from the Libyan Mediterranean coast to Europe.

EGYPT

Shipwrecks off Egyptian coast:

On Friday 10 April detained a boat with people trying to reach Italy, retrieved two bodies from the sea and rescued five injured people, security sources and medics [said](#). Coastguard officers also detained for questioning 129 migrants/refugees who were aboard a boat in the Mediterranean off the coast of the northern province of Kafr el-Sheikh, the same sources said. An Eritrean man and a Somali woman were found dead.

[Reuters](#) report that on 3 May three people died when a boat carrying migrants/refugees to Europe sunk off of Egypt's coast, security sources and state media in Egypt said. In addition to the three who died at sea on Saturday, 31 other migrants/refugees were rescued by Egyptian authorities and subsequently arrested, including 13 Syrians, 15 Sudanese, two Eritreans and one Egyptian, the state-run Al Ahram newspaper said.

Irregular Border Crossings:

[The Cairo Post](#) report that on 27 April Sallum border authorities arrested 150 persons for attempting to cross irregularly into Libya. Those arrested include Egyptians, Sudanese and Bengalis.

Detention:

[Daily News Egypt](#) report 73 Syrian and Palestinian refugees continue to be held in Karmooz Police station in Alexandria following their arrest on 1 November 2014. The group was detained after leaving Turkey heading for Europe and being forced to land in Egypt. Approximately 50 of the

detained refugees began a hunger strike mid-February to protest "inhumane treatment" and their ongoing detention. The hunger-strike lasted for approximately 37 days, Prosecutor General had ordered the groups release on 5 November, and despite reiteration of calls for their release, the Egyptian government has not taken any steps towards releasing the refugees.

Draft Law:

The Government of Egypt are preparing a draft law to combat irregular migration that would punish offenders with prison terms of 10-20 years and hard labour. The Egyptian Union of Human Rights Organization, under the presidency of Naguib Gobrail, prepared the draft legislation and sent it to the Prime Minister, to the Transitional Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister as well as to the presidency. The draft law consists of 17 articles; they define the illegitimate immigration, the illegal infiltration and the offender.

According to the draft, any person who causes the death or drowning of any person would be subjected to the death penalty - [Cairo Post](#).

Egypt [pledges](#) support to the internationally recognized Libyan government to help control its coasts and fight human trafficking and irregular migration.

ETHIOPIA

Refugees from Yemen:

[RMMS](#) report that as of 1st May 2015, 51 Yemeni nationals and 64 Somali nationals fleeing Yemen were registered as asylum seekers or refugees in Ethiopia.

Upsurge in Refugees from South Sudan:

UNHCR reported that the number of South Sudanese refugees who fled to Ethiopia since fighting broke out in South Sudan in mid-December 2013 passed the 260,000 mark in April 2015, with the agency expecting more arrivals amidst the resurgence of fresh conflict across the border. There was an increase in South Sudanese arrivals from some 1,000 people a month in the first quarter of 2015 to more than 4,000 refugees registered in April 2015. 71% of these new arrivals were female. UNHCR reported that it was registering more than

10,000 new arrivals at various entry points in the Gambella region. Most of the new arrivals reported that they were fleeing renewed fighting in Upper Nile and Jonglei states and some young men also reported that they were fleeing from alleged forced conscription.

Ethiopia is Africa's largest refugee-hosting nation with nearly 700,000 refugees from its neighboring countries. (Total amount of registered refugees in Africa is estimated at more than 4 million).

Ethiopia has also seen an increased influx from Eritrea, mostly people fleeing forced military service as well.

LIBYA

Sea Crossings:

By the end of April, IOM reported that over 25,736 migrants/refugees had reached the shores of Italy, primarily from Libya, since the beginning of the year. For some of these migrants/refugees, their original plan was to reach Europe as soon as possible, for many others, particularly labour migrants from west Africa, they chose to move on to Europe when they found it too dangerous to stay any longer.

Repatriation:

[IOM](#) report the repatriation of the 793 migrants/refugees of 18 different nationalities accomplished, most of them either via Tunisia or directly out of Tripoli.

Migrant Vulnerability:

Armed conflict in various parts of Libya is ongoing and a political solution far from sight a large number of migrants/refugees trapped inside Libya with

some choosing the dangerous journey across the Med. IOM estimate over 200,000 migrants are preparing to make the dangerous journey across the Med.

Death on Route:

The [Libya Herald](#) report two lorries carrying 44 migrants/refugees was sighted in southern Libya, One truck holding 22 migrants/refugees was detained. The second lorry fled when challenged by members of the petroleum defence force, leaving all passengers in the desert. A four day search discovered the others 150 km southwest of al-Jaghbug, Two migrants had died of dehydration.

MOROCCO

Morocco – Algeria Border:

Based on figures provided by the NGO Médecins du Monde in Oujda, during the month of April 2015, more than 131 migrants/refugees crossed the border between Algeria and Morocco, 109 are men, 11 women 11 unaccompanied minors.

Morocco finalized the construction of a 30 km wall going from Ahfir area to the town of Saidia. While planned to counter illegal border activities, this wall will also prevent migrants/refugees from entering Morocco irregularly. The Moroccan authorities also announced the finalization of two (out of 9 planned) new surveillance centers along the wall.

Attempts to Cross to Melilla:

According to the NGO Delegación de Migraciones, during the month of April 2015, more than 190 migrants/refugees tried to cross the fence at the border with Melilla. None have been able to enter Melilla due to increased security measures on both borders. More than 77 migrants/refugees were arrested, and 28 migrants/refugees injured themselves during their attempts in crossing the fences. The majority of these migrants/refugees originate from Cameroun, Mali, Senegal, and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Vulnerability of Migrants:

Round ups of migrants/refugees in the forests surrounding of Nador (mainly in Jeudi Ancien, Bolingo, Carriere, Joutya, Gourgou) continue in an attempt to dismantle criminal networks, including those dealing with human trafficking. Association Marocaine des Droits Humains and Delegación de

Migraciones reported more than 101 relocations of migrants to southern regions of Morocco, including 61 men, 38 women and 2 children. The majority of them are from Cameroon, Mali and Nigeria.

According to migrant testimonies, on 8 April 2015 a group of 12 human traffickers originating from Cameroon and Mali kidnapped 23 Nigerian women and held them hostage for more than two weeks in an abandoned house at Maghnia town.

False Football Career Promises:

An increasing number of Cameroonian, Ghanaian and Malian nationals are attracted to Morocco with false promises of starting a football career in Europe. The majority of these migrants/refugees are aged between 17 and 25, and had left their country of origin after being contacted and with the help of the smuggling networks. After failing to cross the Melilla border, these migrants/refugees are stranded in Morocco and live in the University camps or forests surrounding the city of Nador. Several of these migrants approached IOM Morocco to ask for assistance for voluntary return and reintegration to their country of origin.

SUDAN

Evacuations from Yemen:

IOM Sudan assisted with the evacuation of 438 third country nationals from over 20 nationalities out of Yemen.

Law:

Discussion are ongoing at Government of Sudan level to bring into law the jailing of 'second offenders' on criminal grounds for irregular presence in Sudans.

Trafficking:

[Al Tareeq](#) report that two junior Sudanese army officers were arrested by police forces in April near the borders with Ethiopia, for transporting 65 Ethiopians using an army vehicle. The police

charged the two of human trafficking, while the Ethiopians are waiting to be returned to Ethiopia.

Refugees and IDPs:

[UNOCHA](#) published the latest figures on internal displacement in Darfur. As of 30th April 2015, there were 50,605 verified IDPs and 143,102 unverified IDPs. The ongoing conflicts in various parts of the country, as well as the refugee flows from South Sudan might have an impact on migratory movements towards North Africa.

TUNISIA

Rescued at Sea:

In March, over 170 people were rescued, including 147 migrants/refugees were assisted by IOM in Tunisia. With the exception of 17 persons of concern for UNHCR (from Somalia) the vast majority are migrants. Humanitarian assistance (food and non-food items) have been provided to all migrants/refugees.

In April, several hundred migrants, refugees and asylum seekers were rescued at sea by Tunisian fishing and coast-guard boats as their boats drifted into Tunisian waters. On 24th April evening a boat in distress with 98 people on board was rescued by Tunisian fishermen. The migrants, refugees and asylum seekers were brought to the Port of Zarzis. The migrants, refugees and asylum seekers confirmed that they had left from Zouara, Libya that morning. The breakdown is as follows: Mali (42), Senegal (29), Gambia (14), Ivory coast (2), Cameroun (1), Nigeria (6), Niger (1), Ginee Bissau (2, Ginee Conakri (1). Among them there are 3 minors (1 Mali + 2 Senegal).

Those people are now housed in makeshift shelters in and around Zarzis and Medenine, the main cities in Tunisia's south, near the Libyan border ([Globe and Mail](#)).

IOM has been providing humanitarian assistance (food, non-food items, medical assistance) as well as voluntary return Assistance (AVR) and, for the most vulnerable, reintegration is also provided in close coordination with Tunisian Red Crescent, UNHCR, UNICEF and local authorities.

Based on current trends, it is anticipated that more boats will have to be rescued in Tunisian waters.

AVRR:

All migrants/refugees rescued at sea during the month of March 2015 who wished to return home have been assisted by IOM to do so (82). Additional 75 migrants/refugees are expected to return safely home in the course of next week.

