



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, RMMS, 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, 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



CONTACT

info@mixedmigrationhub.org



www.mixedmigrationhub.org



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REGIONAL

GCM consultations in New York

- The latest consultations on the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) were [convened](#) on 24 and 25 July in New York. The thematic focus of the latest session was on the contribution of migrants and diaspora communities to sustainable development. The consultation, the fourth of six to be held this year, was attended by Member-State representatives, UN agencies and civil society as well as leaders of diaspora and migrant communities. Speaking at the session, UN Special Representative for Migration, Louise Arbor, [highlighted](#) that, despite the undeniable positive contributions of migrants, negative public perceptions tend to dominate the public sphere and negatively affect policy. Attention was directed towards the nearly \$500 billion sent to countries of origin in the form of remittances, boosting strides towards the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in developing countries. The session further [covered](#) migrant contributions towards the labour markets and economies of countries of destination.

World Day Against Trafficking in Persons

- On occasion of the World Day Against Trafficking in Persons (July 30), [IOM Director General William Lacy Swing](#) and [UNODC Executive Director Yury Fedotov](#) released statements drawing attention to the criminal networks that some of the world's most vulnerable fall prey to. Fedotov highlighted the role conflicts play in placing migrants, refugees and asylum seekers at a heightened risk of trafficking and exploitation. He stated, "As evidence grows of conflict's ability to nourish crime, the international community is increasingly recognizing the need to confront people's vulnerability to trafficking during conflicts." He further drew attention to the first UN security resolution to tackle the problem passed last year. On his part, Swing announced the upcoming launch of the Counter-Trafficking Data Collaborative, the first open access data platform on trafficking. He ended his statement with, "The fight against trafficking in persons requires us to strive for answers to our many questions. It requires us to better respond, with shared data, knowledge, and tools, and it requires us to respond together."

Foreign affairs ministers from EU and African countries meet to discuss migration management

- EU and African foreign affairs ministers met in [Rome on July 6](#) for a conference titled "A Shared Responsibility for a Common Goal: Solidarity and Security", aimed at enhancing and deepening areas of cooperation between the EU and African countries of transit. Participants agreed that greater efforts are needed to provide avenues for regular migration, ease the process of voluntary returns and boost border control. IOM Director General William Lacy Swing who was also in attendance [commented](#) "There is no emergency, but a crisis of solidarity. If we face it, we could manage the problem." Highlighting the urgent need for a shared sense of responsibility, Swing insisted that there must be a commitment to solidarity and cooperation by all EU member states.

COMESA launches Regional Consultative Process on migration

- COMESA member states initiated the first [meeting](#) for regional migration dialogue in Lusaka on July 28, acknowledging that the integration of economies within the regional block would have to be accompanied by greater human mobility. Assistant Secretary General of COMESA Dr Kipyego Chelugot called upon Member States to sign and ratify the Protocol on Free Movement of Persons, Services, Labour and Right of Establishment. Speaking at the opening, Zambian Home Affairs Minister Stephen Kampyong [urged](#) states to dispel fears and misconceptions surrounding migration and the free movement of people within the region. He stated, "Most people migrate in order to improve the wellbeing of their families and communities around them." He added that security risks, such as transnational crime, could be addressed through the establishment of empirically-driven security institutions. He further [said](#), "We need to identify leaders in our region who can take up the issue of free movement and run with it."

Anti-migrant boat enters the Mediterranean

- A boat chartered by a far-right, anti-immigrant group has [entered](#) the Mediterranean to monitor rescue operations and, it claims, reveal collusion between humanitarian groups and people smugglers. NGOs and rights organizations have expressed grave concerns that the boat's activities could interfere with rescue operations in contravention with international maritime law. The ship was [held](#) up in Cyprus where it was discovered that 21 South Asians without requisite documents were aboard. The ship was recently refused permit to dock in the Sicilian port of Catania.

Relocation and Resettlement

- As of 24 July, [24,600](#) have been relocated from Greece and Italy to other EU countries under the [September 2015 scheme](#). There was a slight decrease of pace with relocations from Greece and Italy in the month of July with relocations dropping to around 1,200 and 600 respectively (as compared with 2,000 and 1,000 during the previous month). On [26 July](#) the European Commission proceeded to the second stage of the infringement case against Hungary, Czech Republic and Poland by sending reasoned opinions for non-compliance with their legal obligation on relocations to said member states. The three States have one month to respond and if no such response is received the commission may move ahead with formal procedures and refer the case to the EU Court of Justice.
- Since 9 June, 760 people have been [resettled](#) under the EU-Turkey scheme and while the majority of resettlements are taking place from Turkey, some are also being undertaken from Lebanon and Jordan. As of 24 July 17,179 people have been resettled to 22 countries and seven EU Member States and as three Associated Countries have fulfilled their pledges.

ALGERIA

Algeria/Mauritania border declared military zone

- Mauritania has [designated](#) its border zones with Algeria and Mali as restricted military areas in an effort to combat irregular migration as well as smuggling and trafficking networks. The move comes after repeated clashes between military forces and armed trafficking groups. According to a statement released by the Mauritanian Ministry of National Defense, “Any individual circulating or transiting in this part of the national territory will be treated as a military target.”

Repatriation of migrants

- Algeria has [resumed](#) repatriation of Nigerien migrants without legal permits to remain in the country following a halt in operations for several weeks. A spokesperson for the Algerian Ministry of Foreign Affairs said that the recent returns to Niger were “part of a series of measures taken by the Algerian government to strengthen cooperation with sub-Saharan African countries, notably Niger and Mali, to curb the irregular migration flows facing our country.” Algeria intermittently returns migrants from Sub-Saharan countries back to their countries of origin.

EGYPT

ARCP meeting in Cairo

- The Arab Regional Consultative Process on Migration and Refugees (ARCP) [met](#) in Cairo on 25 and 26 July. The event, organized in coordination with UNHCR and IOM, was held in preparation for deliberations on the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) and the Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) and aimed to ensure participation of the League of Arab States (LAS). It also aimed to raise awareness among LAS Member States on the ongoing processes for the GCR and GCM and to identify key messages, priorities and experiences. Thematic areas addressed during the meetings included the drivers of migration, the reduction of irregular migration, support for migrants in vulnerable situations, means of supporting the positive impact of mobility and avenues for strengthening multilevel collaboration between governments, civil society and the private sector. Two separate documents, one relating to each Compact, are [expected](#) to be released by the LAS, detailing the outcomes and contributions made by the regional consultation.

to an official statement, 15 of those attempting the crossing were Egyptian while the remaining 12 were of other African nationalities. Furthermore, according to a [statement](#) by Egypt’s army spokesperson Tamer El-Refai, forces had apprehended a total of 464 migrants of different nationalities attempting the crossing between 24 June and 8 July. In further statements, Egyptian forces [added](#) that a total of around 3,000 irregular migrants have been detained during the first half of the year.

EU-Egypt Association Council

- The seventh session of the [EU-Egypt Association Council](#) took place in Brussels on 25 July. During the session, which addressed several aspects of future engagement between the EU and Egypt, the Council acknowledged Egyptian efforts at countering irregular migration, Egypt’s contributions towards hosting refugees and migrants and welcomed the adoption of new anti-smuggling legislation in 2016 criminalizing smugglers. Furthermore, the Council [endorsed](#) EU-Egypt partnership priorities for 2017-2020, an important element of which is enhanced cooperation in the management of migratory flows for mutual benefit and in the service of increased regional stability.

Migrants stopped from irregularly crossing into Libya

- Matrouh authorities [reported](#) stopping 27 migrants from irregularly crossing the border into Libya on 9 July. According

LIBYA

Maritime incidents

- Around 785 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers were rescued off the coast of Libya in July across 7 separate incidents, bringing the total number rescued by the Libyan Coast Guard in 2017 to [11,451](#) (as of 31 July). In the month of July, 8 deaths were recorded.

territorial waters without permission but did not specify if force would be used. Al-Seraj later [stated](#) he had only agreed to receive training and arms. In addition to sovereignty concerns, rights groups have [questioned](#) the potentially detrimental effects Italian naval operations could have on migrant and refugee physical well-being by prolonging their stay in Libya, thereby increasing their risk of detention, torture and sexual abuse.

Returns from Libya

- 138 Ghanaians (135 men and 3 women) [returned](#) to Ghana on 27 July while on 3 August a further 132 Guinean migrants (including six unaccompanied children) [returned](#) home as part of voluntary return operations facilitated by the IOM. According to the IOM, many of those returning had been detained for extended periods of time in Libya, in some cases for many months or years.

Announcement of plan for OFPRA missions in Libya

- On 27 July, French President Emmanuel Macron [announced](#) plans to create ‘hotspots’ in Libya where cases for asylum could be pre-screened in an effort to deter migrants, refugees and asylum seekers from undertaking the journey. Macron later clarified that France will instead have OFPRA (Office for the Protection of Refugees and Stateless Persons) “missions ... on African soil, in safe countries.” The Élysée Palace further clarified that such missions would only become operational if the situation in Libya is deemed safe which, at present, it is not. The announcement was met with some confusion as well as some objection; Marine de Haas, European affairs specialist at Cimade, observed that “...France wants to outsource asylum applications. The idea is to intervene as early as possible to sort the refugees – to choose between friendly asylum seekers and evil economic migrants.” Furthermore,

Italian naval deployment in Libya

- An Italian patrol boat entered Libyan waters on [1 August](#) as part of a wider naval mission to curb irregular migration. The move has stirred some [controversy](#) in Libya where questions regarding Libyan sovereignty were raised particularly due to Italian claims that plans were initiated at the [behest](#) of Libyan Prime Minister Fayez al-Seraj. The leader of the Libyan National Army (LNA) in eastern Libya, Field Marshal Khalifa Haftar [said](#) that the LNA would repel vessels entering

Italy's Foreign Minister Angelino Alfano [commenting](#) against such an approach stated that "France can't move forward with improvised lines... The (migrant) camps there should be managed by international organizations like the UNHCR."

Enhanced response to the protection of those 'most vulnerable' in Libya

- The IOM is [stepping](#) up its protection response to the most vulnerable migrants, including women and children, in Libya. This new protection intervention focuses on expanding the protection space for migrants in vulnerable situations in Libya. The intervention includes better identification tools and methods for those migrants most at risk of trafficking, the piloting of alternatives to detention and the prioritization of those deemed most 'at risk' for voluntary return. Laura Lungarotti, IOM Senior Protection Officer, said "IOM is

committed to bring a positive change for those migrants in vulnerable situations in Libya in full cooperation with both the Libyan authorities and key partners, including UNICEF and UNHCR."

Migrant deaths in Libyan Desert

- Libyan Red Crescent workers [discovered](#) the bodies of 22 migrants in the country's eastern desert between Tobruk and Ajdabiya. The, primarily Egyptian, migrants had crossed the border into Libya from Egypt on foot and both the punishing heat and extreme hunger played a role in their deaths. There are reports that a total of [48 migrants](#) are believed to have been in the party but that the remaining members are as yet missing.

MALI

EU aid for those affected by Malian conflict

- The EU [announced](#) the release of a €9 million aid package to address pressing needs in the deepening humanitarian crises in Mali and the Central African Republic (CAR). €3.5 million have been allocated specifically to address the effects of the

worsening humanitarian situation in North and Central Mali as well as neighboring Burkina Faso and Mauritania, where 85,000 Malian refugees are currently hosted. €1.7 million of that package has been earmarked for the food assistance and education needs of those displaced.

MOROCCO

Increase in migration through the Western Mediterranean route

- 2017 has seen a dramatic [increase](#) in the number of migrants attempting the crossing from Morocco to Spain. As of July 26, a total of 7,847 persons have made the crossing, compared with around 2,500 crossings from Morocco over approximately the same period in 2016 (as of 30/06/16). There have been 119 recorded deaths as of 30 July. In what was [termed](#) the worst tragedy on this route this year, 49 sub-Saharan Africans died when their dinghy deflated midway between Morocco and Spain.

of the United States of America, in addition to a number of key governmental departments (Ministry of Interior, Foreign Affairs, National Security, Social Development), United Nations agencies including IOM and UNICEF, and Civil Society Organizations. During the workshop, Judge Amina Oufroukhi, winner of the US State Department's Trafficking in Persons Hero award was honored by the key stakeholders present. The multidisciplinary discussions were further enriched with the presentations of the president of the anti-trafficking commission in Tunisia, the former president of the Group of Experts on Anti-trafficking of the Council of Europe, and national and international protection and assistance specialists.

GLO.ACT workshop

- The UNODC-EU Global Action Against Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants (GLO.ACT) in Morocco organized a workshop in support of the implementation of the law on human trafficking (27-14) on 26 July. The workshop brought together governmental and civil society stakeholders in discussions on institutional, victim-centered responses to trafficking, including the creation of a national anti-trafficking commission. Plenary and working group discussions also addressed the coordination of assistance and protection service chains to be provided to victims of trafficking. The event was organized in Rabat in partnership with the Delegated Ministry in Charge of Moroccans Residing Abroad and Migration Affairs and the Ministry in Charge of Human Rights with the participation of the Ministries of Labor, the European Union Delegation in Morocco and the Embassy

Migrants cross from Morocco into Spanish enclave

- Over 100 sub-Saharan migrants [crossed](#) into the Spanish enclave of Ceuta on 7 August. According to the Red Cross, 186 migrants were assisted following the rush into the enclave with four migrants being hospitalized for their injuries.

Report highlights poor conditions of detention in Spain

- Human Rights Watch (HRW) has [reported](#) that migrants, refugees and asylum seekers arriving in Spain from Morocco are held in incredibly poor, unsuitable conditions, first at police stations and later in detention centers. Many of them are also not adequately informed of their rights to asylum procedures and face obstacles in applying for asylum.

NIGER

Migrants rescued from Nigerien desert

- A total of 90 migrants were rescued from the desert in two separate incidents. On 5 July, [67 West African](#) migrants were rescued by security forces while a further 23, including a 7-year-old girl, were rescued on 18 July about 300 kilometers from Agadez. The second group, composed mainly of Senegalese and Gambians, reported to IOM staff that their driver had abandoned them eight days earlier. Last month, IOM Niger [reported](#) rescuing approximately 600 people since April as part of its search-and-rescue operations. Chief

of Mission, Giuseppe Loprete, said "We are enhancing our capacity to assist vulnerable migrants stranded in Northern Agadez, towards the Niger-Libya border...Saving lives in the desert is becoming more urgent than ever. Since the beginning of the year we have been receiving frequent calls to rescue victims who embark on this route" in the desert of central Niger. The migrants were taken to Seguedine, where one passed away upon arrival. The 23 remaining survivors are from Gambia, Nigeria, Senegal, and Cote d'Ivoire.

SUDAN

NCCHT conference

- The National Committee for Combating Human Trafficking (NCCHT) [announced](#) plans to hold a national conference to develop plans for tackling the issue of human trafficking. At a media forum announcing the plan, NCCHT Deputy Chairman Ismail Tirab said that, increased turbulence in the region had contributed to the increase in operations by criminal trafficking networks in Sudan

Riots at El Waral refugee camp

- Riots [broke out](#) at El Waral refugee camp on 3 August. During the fighting, part of the camp burned down, UN food stores were destroyed and four women were reportedly raped. While investigations are underway, 78 people have been [detained](#) in connection with the incident and a government official has announced plans to split the camp which currently hosts 53,000 South Sudanese refugees.

TUNISIA

EU-African ministers meet in Tunis

- The interior ministers of 14 European and African countries [met](#) in Tunis on 24 July to discuss migrant flows along the Central Mediterranean route. The ministers in attendance agreed to bolster intergovernmental cooperation as well as address the drivers of migration in countries of origin. They further stated intentions to augment responses against human traffickers and to develop frameworks to better inform migrants of the risks of irregular journeys.

Fisherman block anti-migrant ship from docking

- Tunisian fisherman in Zarzis blocked the anti-migrant ship, C-Star, from docking on [6 August](#) and refused to allow it to refuel. Speaking with AFP, the head of the local fishermen organization, Chamseddine Bourassine, said "It is the least we can do given what is happening out in the Mediterranean..."

GREECE

Sea arrivals to Greece

- 2,234 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers arrived by sea to Greece in the month of July, representing a 23.9% increase on the figure for June. There were 8 recorded fatalities along the Eastern Mediterranean route.

Returns from Greece to Turkey

- 60 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers were [returned](#) to Turkey during the month of July under the EU-Turkey Statement. This brings the total number returned in 2017 to 488.

EU humanitarian program in Greece

- The European Commission [announced](#) the allocation of funds towards the 'Emergency Support to Integration & Accommodation' (ESTIA) program. ESTIA, which is to be coordinated with UNHCR, aims to assist refugees and their families in renting urban accommodation as well providing them with cash assistance to cover their basic needs. With a budget of €151 million, the program hopes to provide rented accommodation for up to 30,000 refugees using €93.5 million and to use the remaining €57.6 in cash assistance activities. This latest program doubles EU emergency support to Greece to around €400 million.

EU bolsters UNHCR emergency operations with additional funding

- A further €9.3 million in funding has been [awarded](#) to UNHCR in order to support its emergency services to refugees on Greek islands. The additional funding will be used to cover transportation, education for children, accommodation and supplementary services to relocation candidates, relief items, interpretation and support for victims of sexual and gender based violence.

Rise in detention of unaccompanied minors

- Human Rights Watch (HRW) pointed to and against the marked and alarming increase in the detention of unaccompanied migrant children, refugees and asylum seekers in a [letter](#) to Migration Policy Minister Yiannis Mouzala. HRW contrasted the number of unaccompanied children held in police custody as of July 19, (117) with the figure for November of last year, just 2. The organization further contended that awaiting transfer to a shelter in police detention cells is unacceptable and urged immediate action to rectify the situation. A 2016 study by HRW has already [documented](#) such detention of unaccompanied children to be in violation of international and Greek law.

Arrivals by Sea, Greece
May- July 2017



ITALY

Significant drop in sea arrivals to Italy

- July saw the arrival of 11,667 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers by sea to Italy, representing a marked decrease of around 50% from the previous month of June (23,411). During July, 149 deaths were reported along the Central

Mediterranean route, also representing a significant drop from June's figure (510) and bringing the total number of deaths in 2017 to 2,221.

Number of NGOs refuse to agree to new rules

- Five NGOs running rescue operations in the Mediterranean [refused](#) to agree to a proposed code of conduct drafted by Italian authorities while a further three agreed to the new rules. Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), one of the organizations declining to sign on the proposed document which includes around a dozen clauses, made particular objection to one requiring rescue boats to deliver migrants directly to shore instead of allowing for the transfer to other vessels. Transfer of migrants allows smaller boats to remain in rescue zones for further rescues. Furthermore, MSF, Jugend Rettet and SOS Mediterranee objected to a clause requiring boats to allow police officers on board. The NGOs Proactiva Open Arms, Save the Children and Migrant Offshore Aid Station (MOAS) agreed to the newly drafted rules.

Seizure of NGO rescue boat

- The Italian coast guard [seized](#) a rescue vessel operated by German NGO Jugend Rettet on 2 August. The chief prosecutor for the city of Trapani, Ambrogio Cartosio, announced that they were investigating purported encounters between crew members and alleged traffickers. The move, the first of its kind by Italian authorities, has come after the NGO refused to agree to a new code of conduct but Cartosio denied any connection between the two events. The seizure was followed by the 5 August announcement of an [investigation](#) into MSF rescue operations by Italian prosecutors. The investigation is particularly concerned with rescues undertaken off Libyan coasts where migrants were not, it is alleged, in any immediate risk.

Program in service of Action Plan to support Italy

- The EU Trust Fund for Africa has announced the [adoption](#) of a €46 million program to augment Libyan integrated migration and border management capacities. The program will be implemented by the Italian Ministry of Interior and is a follow up to the Commission's Action Plan to support Italy.

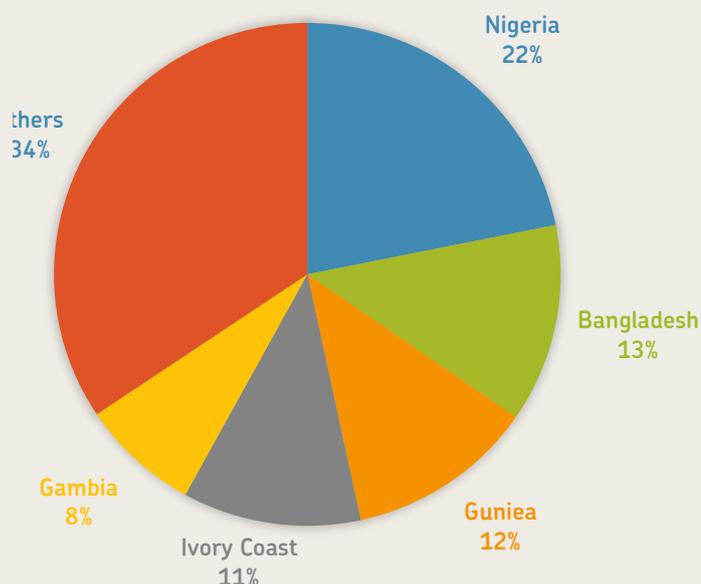
Naval mission to Libya

- On 2 August, the Italian parliament [approved](#) a limited naval mission to Libya in an effort to stem the flow of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers to its shores. Hoping to dispel concerns about Libyan sovereignty, Italy's defense minister underscored that the mission would involve "...logistical, technical and operational support..." to the Libyan coastguard, in shared and coordinated actions. Migration is a political flashpoint in the run up to next year's upcoming Italian elections. people.

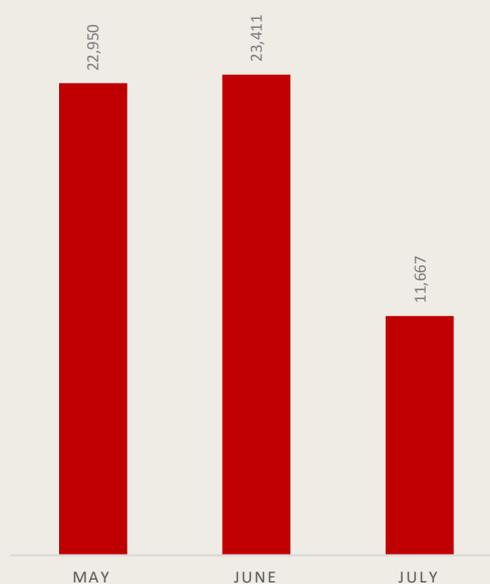
Victims of sex trafficking and exploitation

- On 27 July, police in Sardinia [announced](#) the arrest of seven men on suspicion of forcing Nigerian migrants into prostitution. The men had reportedly told women that prostitution was the only way to repay their debts for the journey and also threatened family members back home. A recently released [report](#) by IOM estimates there has been a [600%](#) increase in potential victims of trafficking arriving to Italy over the past three years and that potentially 80% of Nigerian women arriving are victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation.

Arrivals by Sea to Italy, Main Countries of Origin
January - July 2017



Arrivals by Sea, Italy
May - July 2017



RESEARCH OF INTEREST

[Mixed Migration Trends in Libya: Changing Dynamics and Protection Challenges](#) - Altai Consulting, UNHCR and IMPACT Initiatives

The study, based on qualitative research, addresses the evolution of patterns and routes to and through Libya, maps out and highlights the concentration of refugees and migrants within Libya and determines the vulnerabilities and protection needs.

[Before the Desert: Conditions and Risks on Mixed Migration Routes through West Africa](#) - DRC and RMMS

This report is based on the findings of a pilot study by the Mixed Migration Monitoring Mechanism initiative (4Mi) and it highlights and presents the conditions and risks faced by people moving north through West Africa.

[Unaccompanied and Separated Children: Perceptions in Greece](#) - MMP

The report is based on data collected at shelters specifically for Unaccompanied and Separated Children (UASC) and covers children's experience with the shelter and its staff as well their needs and what they hope could be improved.

[How does the Media on both sides of the Mediterranean Report on Migration](#) -ICMPD

This study is a country by country look at how the media tackles migration and how it greatly shapes and influences public opinion.

[Mixed Migration Monthly Summary June 2017](#) - MMP

The report provides insights on the current migration trends in the Middle East during the month of June 2017.

MULTIMEDIA OF INTEREST

[Escape from Syria: Rania's Odyssey](#) - The Guardian

A 20-year-old from Kobane in Syria documents her journey to Austria and sheds much needed light onto the experience of the journey.

['This is Hell on Earth': Eyewitness to a Harrowing Rescue on the Mediterranean](#) - TIME

Photographs taken by a Spanish photojournalist during a rescue operation by the Spanish NGO Proactiva Open Arms.

[Nigerian Women Face 'Shocking Sexual Abuse' on Journey to Europe](#) - RFI

Interview with Federico Soda, Director, Coordination Office for the Mediterranean, IOM regarding the sexual abuse faced by many women particularly Nigerian women undertaking the journey.

[Deadly Trade Through Niger Snares Refugees and Migrants](#) - UNHCR

Article and video addressing human smuggling networks operating through Niger and the protection risks facing migrants, refugees and asylum seekers traveling the route.

*MHub does not vouch for the accuracy or reliability of articles in its Monthly Bulletin.