



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



REGIONAL

Uganda hosts the third Pan African Forum on Migration

- On 15-17 May, Uganda hosted [the third Pan African Forum on Migration](#) (PAFoM III). The PAFoM is an initiative of the African Union in cooperation with Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and the UN Migration Agency (IOM) as the Technical Secretariat. The aim of the PAFoM is to contribute to Africa's inputs to the Global Compact on Migration that is going to be adopted in 2018. The forum brings delegates from the continent and from across the world to share information about the current migration situation focusing on migration within Africa and from Africa to other regions.

EU to increase its political presence in Africa

- On 15 May, the EU foreign ministers [agreed on increasing the bloc's political presence in Africa](#) in efforts to decrease the migration flows from the continent. EU Foreign Policy chief, Federica Mogherini, mentioned that EU African relations should move from the traditional aid approach to working on building real partnerships in all fields, including economic development, climate change, and migration. She asserted the importance of providing opportunities to young people in Africa saying "this is the best way to manage migration. This is also the best way of preventing radicalisation."

Returns to Turkey

- On 23 May, EU Affairs Minister, Omer Celik, mentioned in parliament that as of May 2017 [1,093](#) migrants had been returned back to Turkey in accordance with the EU-Turkey deal that was introduced in March 2016. He also mentioned that 5,024 Syrians have been sent to the EU member states.
- Relatedly, The Turkish Government and the EU [funded two projects](#) in cooperation with IOM to enhance coordination along Turkey's European borders and strengthen Turkish national policies and frameworks relating to migrants and refugees in Turkey.

Expert workshop on improving data collection and analysis of irregular migration

- On 19 May, IOM's Data Analysis Centre (GMDAC) hosted an [expert workshop](#) Measuring Irregular Migration: Innovative Data Practices to discuss the recent practices of data collection on irregular migration. The workshop is part of a project that concentrates on strengthening data analysis of irregular migration to Europe. The workshop gathered experts from academia, government and international and non-governmental organizations engaged in recent initiatives to improve data collection about irregular migration. Presentations on good practices from other region were featured during the event and discussions on if and how these could be applied in Europe were had.

UNODC organized a special event to address trafficking in persons and migrant smuggling

- In May, the Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling Section (HTMSS) of UNODC organized a special joint event with the EU called "Addressing Trafficking in Persons and Migrant Smuggling" during the recent session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ). The event acknowledged the efforts of partner governments, including Egypt and Morocco, in addressing Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants under the Global Action to Prevent and Address Trafficking in Persons and the Smuggling of Migrants (GLO.ACT) project and provided an overview of the progress accomplished so far. UNODC Executive Director Yuri Fedotov opened the session.

ALGERIA

Amnesty International public statement calls on Algeria to revise draft law on health

- On 2 June, Amnesty International published a [public statement](#) calling on Algeria to revise the draft law on health. The statement while acknowledging and welcoming some of the changes proposed under the revised law such as the principle

of equal access to healthcare, called on the government to amend the draft law to guarantee equal access to health care as well as non-discrimination in access to health care to all by adding nationality, language, political or other opinion, sexual orientation or gender identity, place of residence, or other status as grounds for non-discrimination.

EGYPT

Arrest of irregular migrants

- Between 25 April and 12 May, the Egyptian armed forces [arrested 351 irregular migrants](#) from different nationalities in the Western and Southern border regions. The spokesman

of the Egyptian army, Tamer El-Refai also mentioned that the border guards seized illegal substances and weapons that had been smuggled through the borders.

LIBYA

Maritime incidents

- Around 4,071 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers were rescued off the coast of Libya in May across 24 separate incidents, bringing the total number rescued by the Libyan Coast Guard in 2017 to [8,293](#). In the month of May, 30 deaths were recorded along the Central Mediterranean route

between Libya and Italy.

Assisted Voluntary Returns

- On 17 May, [43](#) people from Bangladesh, who were detained by the Libyan authorities for not having valid travel and work documents, were assisted to return home from Libya. On

11 May, 258 stranded migrants - 233 men and 25 women, including four unaccompanied children and a baby girl - received assistance to return home to Nigeria. Furthermore, on 16 May, 258 Nigerian migrants, including eleven unaccompanied minors, were assisted to return home from Libya. On 23 May, 171 stranded migrants, including 166 men and five women, were assisted to return home to Gambia. 133 of this group were detained in the Gharyan Al Hamra detention centre. On 25 May, 165 Nigerian migrants, including three unaccompanied minors, received assistance to return home from Libya.

ICC prosecutor to investigate crime against migrants in Libya

- On 8 May, the International Criminal Court (ICC) prosecutor, Fatou Bensouda, expressed her concern about the inhumane detention that is encountered by thousands of vulnerable migrants in Libya. She also mentioned that she was examining whether to open an [investigation](#) into the crimes against migrants in Libya. Bensouda informed the United Nations Security Council that her office is collecting and analyzing information about the crimes encountered by migrants in Libya during their journey.

Migrants detained in Libya

- On 9 May, an official from the illegal immigration counter authority in Libya, Abdulrazaq al-Shniti, stated that between [7,000 and 8,000](#) Sub-Saharan African migrants were currently detained in Libya. He mentioned that the open southern borders of Libya were the main reason for the increasing number of irregular migrants in the country and asserted the importance of controlling crossings through the southern borders in decreasing the flows.

Libyan coast guard opens fire during refugee rescue

- The crew of the the Luventa, a vessel operated by German

charity Jugend Rettet reported that the Libyan coast guard [opened fire](#) on refugee boats in distress although the boats reached international water. The crew said around 100 people jumped in the water and began to swim to reach the Luventa. Save the Children, which plays a role in the rescue operations, denounced the “aggressive behavior” of the Libyan coast guard and mentioned that although they believe that those were warning shots, this aggressive behavior caused panic among refugees and endangered their lives.

UNHCR and IOM Launch a joint \$75.5 million appeal for Libya

- On 30 May, UNHCR and IOM launched a joint [\\$75.5 million appeal](#) to tackle the humanitarian and migration crisis in Libya. UNHCR mentioned that the funds will be used to provide displaced people, refugees, and asylum seekers with the essential services.

Migrants found dead in a refrigerator truck

- On 5 June, [seven Sub-Saharan migrants](#) were found dead in an abandoned refrigerator truck near the capital city. According to a senior official from the Libyan Authorities, there were 35 migrants found in the truck. The 28 survivors were provided medical care and were reported to be in good health.

Decline in the numbers of IDPs

- DTM Libya reported that the number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) [has declined](#) in Libya since late 2016 as people have started to return home, especially in the regions of Benghazi and Sirt. The report indicated that the number of IDPs in Libya is 256,615 persons. The report showed that many of the IDPs were mainly from Benghazi, Sirt, Misrata, Ubari and Alkufra.

MALI

Increase in the numbers of IDPs

- Mali’s Commission on Movement of Population (CMP) announced that the numbers of internally displaced persons (IDPs) [has increased](#) by 14,224 since February, bringing the total number of IDPs in Mali to 58,985 individuals (10,248 households). Most of the newly IDPs were displaced due to the recent conflict that took place in Northern Mali. According to the commission, the Timbuktu region hosts the highest number of IDPs (22,328), followed by Segou (10,794) and Menaka (10,381).

IOM, Guinea and Mali Officials Meet Over Border Management, Security Cooperation

- On 24 and 26 May, security, civil protection, and land management authorities from Mali and Guinea, officials from four bordering prefectures and representatives of the UN Migration Agency (IOM) [met](#) to discuss strengthening border management and security cooperation. The meetings concentrated on addressing the security and migration challenges and formalizing a cooperation plan for border management.

MOROCCO

Increase in Moroccan Nationals arrivals into Europe

- On 12 May, IOM Rome reported that arrivals to Italy from Morocco and Bangladesh make up more than [7,000](#) of the 30,000 arrivals to Italy from North Africa in 2017. The

numbers of arrivals from Morocco and Bangladesh to Italy in 2017 have increased 7 times compared to the numbers through April 2016 (1,000).

NIGER

Migrants died from thirst in the Nigerien dessert

- On 28 May, [44 African migrants](#) died from thirst and fatigue as their bus broke down in the desert of northern Niger during their journey to Libya. Local officials reported that the victims included three babies, two children, and 17 women. Most of the dead migrants were from Ghana and Nigeria. Six survivors who managed to walk to the remote village of

Ashougour are currently being treated at the Dirkou migrant center.

SUDAN

Sudan and Chad agree on implementing voluntary returns for refugees

- On 31 May, Sudan and Chad signed [three bilateral agreements](#) for the voluntary returns of refugees from the two countries. The Sudanese minister of Interior, Babakir Digna, mentioned that the agreements were the starting point for implementing the returns from both countries. The Chadian Minister of Local Government and Lands, Abubakar Jibril, pointed out that there were more than 500,000 Sudanese refugees in Chad and 8,500 Chadian refugees in Sudan.

Training to combat Human trafficking and Migrant Smuggling in Sudan held

- On 23- 25 May, UNODC held a training workshop in Khartoum, Sudan for 30 law enforcement officers from across Sudan representing relevant Units of the Ministry of Interior. Training sessions focused on methodologies and

techniques of interviewing offenders, victims and witnesses; stages of investigation; proactive and reactive investigations; crime scene management in addition to the international and national legal framework with focus on the Combating Human Trafficking Act 2014 and the Passport and Immigration Act 2015. 3 police officers from Gedaref, 1 police officer from Port Sudan, 2 police officers from Kassala, 2 police officers from Geziera, 2 police officers from North Kordofan, 2 police officers from North Darfur, 4 police officers from Northern state, 4 police officers from River Nile state and 10 police officers from Khartoum attended the workshop. In addition, 4 members of the National Committee for Combating Human Trafficking were in attendance. The training was made possible under funds provided by the Federal Government of Belgium for the project titled 'Strengthening Criminal Justice Responses and Operational Cooperation Efforts to Combat Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling in Sudan, Egypt and Tunisia'.

TUNISIA

Maritime incident

- On 27 May, the Tunisian security forces rescued [126 sub-saharan migrants](#), including 48 women of which seven were pregnant, and three children, near the border with Libya. According to Red Crescent official, Dr Mongi Slim, fishermen

had alerted the Tunisian authorities about the vessel in distress off Ben Guerdane in southern Tunisia near the border with Libya. The migrants were mainly from Nigeria, Mali, and Gambia.

GREECE

Sea arrivals to Greece continue to increase

- 1,926 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers arrived by sea to Greece in May, representing a 21% increase on the April figure of 1,591. During May, there were no recorded fatalities along the Eastern Mediterranean route, compared with 24 deaths recorded on the route in April.

Returns from Greece to Turkey

- On 26 May, Greece sent [10 people](#) back to Turkey in accordance with the EU-Turkey deal. According to a statement by the Greek Public Security Ministry, the migrants were sent from Lesbos island in the Aegean Sea to the Dikili district in Izmir province. The 10 returned were from Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Morocco, Congo, and Algeria.

Attack on transgender refugees in Leros

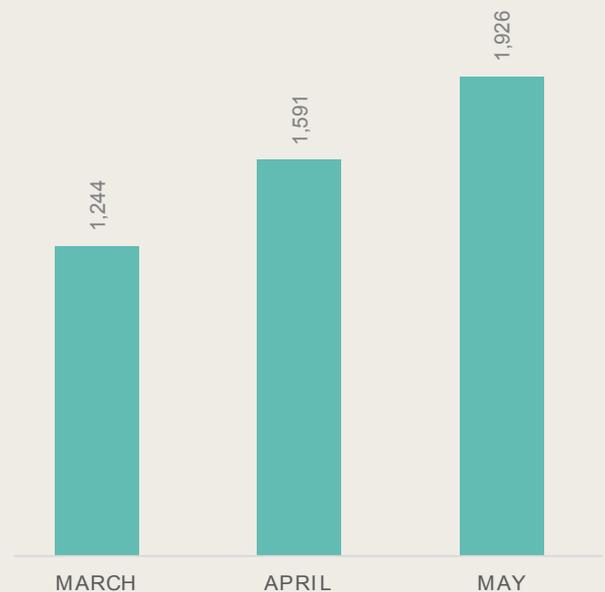
- The Greek Transgendered Support Association (GTSA) in a press release reported that two transgender refugees [were attacked](#) on 3 May in Leros by people on motorcycles. According to the press release the two women were attacked while walking towards the refugee center run by UNHCR. GTSA also added that it received information about a group of 20 people on the island who discriminate and attack refugees. GTSA added that this incident was the third attack against refugees on the island and it called the state and UNHCR to protect refugees.
- Relatedly, on 9 May, an [international conference](#) on "LGBT Refugees and Migrants: The Situation in Greece and Europe" took place in Athens. During the conference presentations on the situation of LGBT refugees and migrants in Greece and Norway were made, and some LGBT migrant and Refugees got a chance to share their personal stories

Clashes between migrants in Chios island

- On 2 May, a [fight](#) broke between two small groups of migrants from Afghanistan and Algeria at Vial reception

facility in the eastern Aegean island of Chios. According to residents of the island clashes between migrants from different ethnicities were common. Sources from the Citizens' Protection Ministry mentioned that the number of migrants arriving on Chios is increasing as the island still lacks pre-departure camps due to the protests of the residents against having more facilities in the island and as a result, migrants who are ineligible of asylum are not being returned to Turkey as foreseen in the agreement signed between Turkey and the European Union in March last year.

Arrivals by Sea, Greece
March - May 2017



Maritime incidents

- On 6 May, around [400](#) migrants were taken to the port of Catania, Sicily after they were rescued by the Migrants Offshore Aid Station (MOAS). The body of a Gambian teenager was retrieved. It was reported that the teenager was shot by human traffickers because they wanted his baseball hat. On 8 May, around [40](#) people were rescued by a coast guard ship and they were taken to the port of Pozzallo in the Ragusa region. The migrants left Libya in a boat that was destroyed because it was loaded beyond its capacity. Around [80](#) people died in this accident. Around [6,000](#) people were rescued in the Mediterranean in 5-6 May by different operations coordinated by the Italian coast guard.

Arrivals continue to increase

- May saw the arrival of 22,950 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers by sea to Italy, representing a 62% increase on April figures (14,125). 553 deaths along the Central Mediterranean route were recorded for the month of May, bringing the total deaths on the route in 2017 to 1,562. The top five countries of origin arriving in Italy for 2017 are Nigeria, Bangladesh, Guinea, Ivory Coast, and Gambia.

Leaked audiotape accuses Italian coast guard of ignoring alerts from a sinking boat full of Syrian refugees

- A [leaked audiotape](#), published by magazine L'Espresso on 8 May, suggests that Italian authorities ignored alerts of distress from a refugee ship leading to the deaths of more than 250 refugees from Syria. 268 Syrian refugees, including 60 children, lost their lives when the ship sank about 60 miles south of Lampedusa almost four years ago. The audiotape showed that the refugees' ship had contacted the Italian coast guard five hours before the ship sank and informed the coast

guard that it was floating adrift, taking on water and had wounded children aboard.

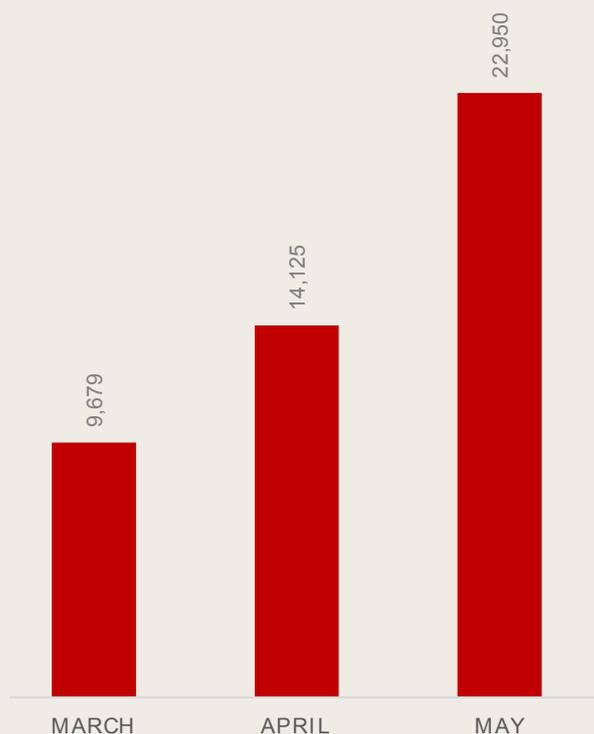
Increase in numbers of Nigerian women trafficked into Italy for sex work

- An assessment focusing on "[Women's Lives at sex trafficking around the world](#)" has found that the numbers of Nigerian women trafficked into Europe for sex work has [increased](#) dramatically in recent years. In 2015 the number of Nigerian women and girls arrived Italy increased to 5,600 from 1,500 in 2014. According to IOM 80% of the Nigerian females who arrive Europe are trafficked. Although Nigerian women used to arrive to Italy on planes with visas, now they arrive through the smuggling route that was developed between Africa and Europe.

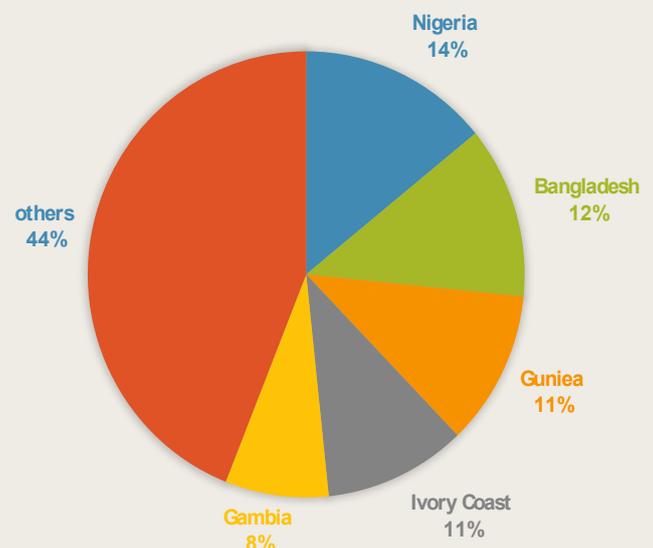
Cooperation with African countries

- On 6 May, the Italian Foreign minister Angelino Alfano [held talks](#) with Libyan officials in Tripoli in order to enhance peace efforts and cooperation to curb migration flows to Europe. Italy signed a [deal](#) with Libya, Chad, and Niger to stem the flow of migrants crossing the Mediterranean by beefing up border controls and creating new reception centers in the African nations. On 21 May, the interior ministers of the four countries issued a joint statement declaring that they agreed on set up reception centers on Chad and Niger as key transit countries. The statement also mentioned that centers that would be built as well as the existing ones in Libya would live up to "International Humanitarian standards". On the other side, human rights groups questioned how the international standards of the centers can be ensured.

Arrivals by Sea, Italy
March - May 2017



Arrivals by Sea to Italy, Main Countries of Origin
2017



RESEARCH OF INTEREST

[At the root of exodus: Food security, conflict and international migration](#) - World Food Programme

A new report examines how food insecurity coupled with armed conflict is accelerating global migration as millions across the globe are facing starvation and fleeing their homes.

[Crossing the Mediterranean Sea by Boat: Mapping and Documenting Migratory Journeys and Experiences Final Project Report](#)- WARWICK

A report provides an in-depth analysis of the impact of EU policies in addressing the so-called European migration or refugee 'crisis' in 2015 and 2016.

[A Comparative Thematic Mapping of Global Migration Initiatives: Lessons learned towards a Global Compact for safe, orderly and regular migration](#) - IOM

A paper commissioned by the International Organization for Migration to inform and assist the Organization in its role in servicing the intergovernmental negotiations towards a global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration.

[Promoting a common understanding of Migration Trends](#) - IOM

A research paper proposes a methodology to govern migration flows in an economically efficient and humane way

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

A report provides insights from the Mixed Migration Monitoring Mechanism initiative (4Mi) in Mali and Niger to assess conditions and risks on Mixed Migration Routes through West Africa.

[The Concept of "Financial or Other Material Benefit" in the Smuggling of Migrants Protocol](#) - UNODC

Issue Paper aims to serve as a resource for criminal justice practitioners and others involved in the implementation of the Smuggling of Migrants Protocol, in particular through the investigation, prosecution and adjudication of smuggling cases.

MULTIMEDIA OF INTEREST

[Climate change has created a new generation of sex-trafficking victims](#) - Quartz

Multimedia article on the effect of climate change on increasing the number of sex-trafficking victims.

[Fuocoammare](#)- Cinema Clock

A documentary, winner of the Golden Bear for Best Film at the Berlin Film Festival 2016, provides a realistic portrait of the Sicilian Island of Lampedusa that has become the tragic epicentre of the migrant experience.

[A Path to America, Marked by More and More Bodies](#) -The New York Times

Multimedia article examines the fate of many migrants who tried to cross borders to reach the US

[An inside look at a migrant rescue mission](#) -Independent

Multimedia article provides insights into the operation of rescue ships operated by Médecins Sans Frontières.

[Talking Migration Data](#)-IOM

Series of videos featuring prominent migration and data experts, and officials explain key migration trends around the world.

[Stuck at Belgrade Station](#)-The Washington Post

Photo article depicts the harsh conditions encountered by migrants and refugees in Serbia.

[Migrant in Greece: 'It is very dangerous here'](#)- BBC

Interview with a migrant discusses the harsh conditions migrants' live in in Greece

['Smuggling of Migrants Knowledge Portal'](#)-UNODC

The Smuggling of Migrants Knowledge Portal is an initiative to facilitate the dissemination of information regarding the implementation of the [UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime](#) and specifically the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air. UNODC is working to increase the visibility of successful prosecutions and, at the same time, promote awareness of the realities of this crime, including the involvement and modus operandi of organised criminal groups.