



MONTHLY TREND REPORT

COVERING MIXED MIGRATION TO, THROUGH & FROM NORTH AFRICA

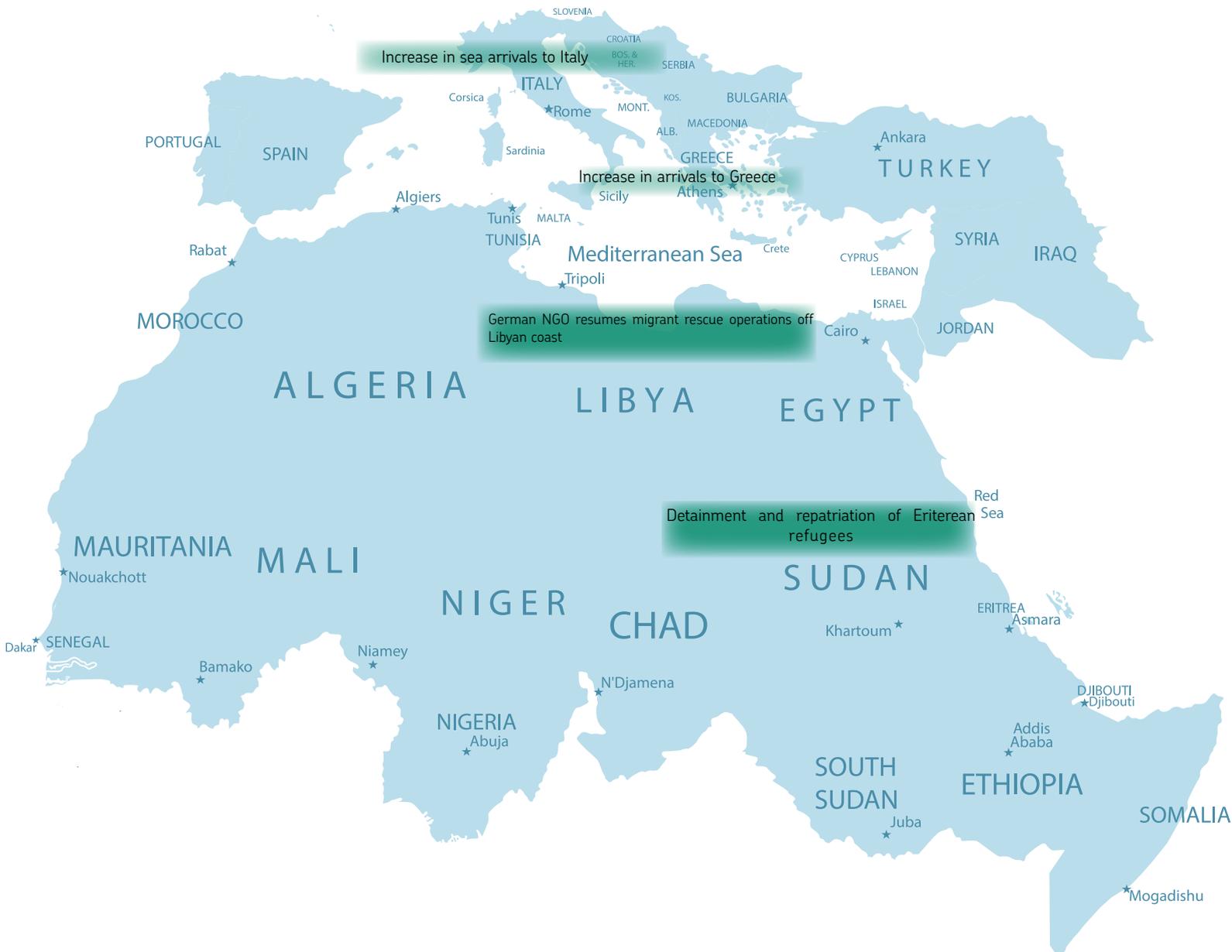
About: MHub is the regional knowledge hub and secretariat for the North Africa Mixed Migration Task Force, comprising of DRC, IOM, OHCHR, RMMS, Save the Children, UNHCR, UNICEF and UNODC. It promotes a human rights-based approach to ensure the protection of people moving in mixed and complex flows to, 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

UNHCR and Arab League sign agreement for refugee cooperation

- The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the Arab League signed a Memorandum of Understanding to [establish a cooperation framework](#) that aims to enhance humanitarian access and emergency response in the region. According to UNHCR, half of the refugee population worldwide and 40% of internally displaced persons are being hosted in the Arab region. “Given the size and scale of forced displacement in the region, this strategic alliance with the Arab League will better enable us, collectively, to respond to the needs of refugees, the internally displaced and stateless populations, while at the same time supporting the governments and societies that generously host them,” said Filippo Grandi, UN High Commissioner for Refugees.

IOM Director General calls for continuity of EU Relocation Programme

- On the final day of registration for the EU Relocation Programme (26/09/2017), the International Organization for Migration, the UN Migration Agency, recorded that it had assisted 30,000 asylum seekers through the European Union’s emergency relocation scheme. [The Programme](#), which commenced in 2015, will come to an end in December 2017 as EU members and associated states carry out the remaining registered relocations from Greece and Italy. To date, Germany (8,479), France (4,474), The Netherlands (2,442), Sweden (2,276) and Finland (1,975) have welcomed the highest number of relocated asylum seekers. Malta, Norway and Lichtenstein (the two non-EU countries which opted in to the programme) have fulfilled their commitments.

Pope supports campaign for migrants and refugees

- Pope Francis welcomed migrants, refugees and asylum seekers as he [proclaimed support](#) for Caritas Internationalis’ “Share the Journey” campaign. The campaign encourages individuals to meet with migrants, refugees and asylum seekers to listen to their stories and aims to challenge negative stereotypes and perceptions of them.

EU to endorse new resettlement scheme

- The European Commission has announced [plans to resettle 50,000 refugees](#) from Northern Africa including countries such as Libya, Egypt, Niger, Sudan, Chad and Ethiopia. The Commission set aside €500 million in financial support EU countries’ resettlement efforts. “Europe has to show that it is ready to share responsibility with third countries, notably in Africa. People who are in genuine need of protection should not risk their lives or depend on smugglers,” said EU Home Affairs Commissioner Dimitris Avramopoulos. As opposed to the refugee relocation scheme, the resettlement scheme would not be mandatory.

Meeting on the Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons

- The UN General Assembly convened a high-level meeting on [27 and 28 September](#) to appraise progress made on the [Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons](#). The meeting aimed to assess gaps and challenges in the implementation of the plan as well as achievements. During the meeting, member states reaffirmed their commitment to the plan in an official declaration adopted without a vote. Speaking at the meeting, Secretary-General António Guterres said, “As millions of children, women and men spill out of their countries towards safety, they find themselves at the mercy of merciless people.” He underscored the pernicious character of the transnational criminal organizations that prey on and exploit those most vulnerable and the need to the need for greater use of relevant instruments such as UN conventions against organized crime and against corruption to scuttle their efforts. Furthermore, he added that, “Fighting trafficking and advancing sustainable, inclusive development go hand in hand.”

Resettlement and Relocation

- 26 September marked the end of the two-year [EU Relocation Scheme](#) launched in 2015. The mandatory relocation scheme, which successfully relocated 29,144 refugees was introduced in order to mitigate the pressures placed on Italy and Greece at the onset of the “migration crisis”, stirred massive controversy and led to several EU member states launching legal challenges of the quota system. The EU Commission has made no proposal to extend the scheme or replace it with a comparable mandatory mechanism for responsibility-sharing but has instead [announced](#) a focus on incentivizing states to voluntarily resettle refugees and asylum seekers. UNHCR has [made](#) calls for the continuation of the scheme and declared that, while the scheme had only partially fulfilled the figures it had set out to relocate, it nonetheless played a vital role in responsibility-sharing among states and in affording the most vulnerable among refugee populations a durable solution. Pascale Moreau, Director of UNHCR’s Europe Bureau, said, “Until the Dublin reform is adopted and a more permanent model put in place, the need for such responsibility-sharing mechanisms remains acute.”

ALGERIA

Talks to open to new border post with Mauritania

- Algeria and Mauritania have [entered](#) into talks regarding the possibility of opening a new border post between the two countries. The area between the two territories had been [declared](#) a military zone earlier this year by Mauritania in an

effort to curb migrant smuggling and other criminal enterprises from operating in the area. The talks will explore the possibility of opening a secure conduit for both people and goods that would also be very closely monitored and managed.

EGYPT

Egyptian President meets with European Council President

- Egyptian President Al Sisi [met](#) with the President of the European Council, Donald Tusk, and the EU's Immigration Commissioner Dimitris Avramopoulos on the sidelines of the 72nd UN General Assembly held on 19 September. During the meeting, both Tusk and El Sisi reaffirmed a commitment to mutual cooperation between the EU and Egypt while Avramopoulos emphasized Egypt's pivotal role in addressing issues of irregular migration.

Egyptian Foreign Minister meets with EU Foreign Policy Chief

- Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shokry and EU Foreign Policy Chief Federica Mogherini met in New York on 19 September where they discussed issues of irregular migration. Talks focused on how to further boost cooperation between Egypt and the EU on matters relating to migration. Additionally, they discussed the need to address the root drivers of migration through concerted and sustainable development programs. Regional developments in Libya and Syria were also discussed extensively in the meeting.

Joint Italian-Egyptian training

- On 13 September, the interior ministries of Egypt and Italy [signed](#) a joint-training protocol on the areas of organized crime and irregular migration. The agreement will see 360 police force members from over 20 African countries trained on the latest methods in fighting organized crime and preventing irregular migration. The EU-funded training program will be overseen by Egyptian, Italian and other European trainers and will include workshops for increase dialogue.

Egyptian-Italian meeting on migration

- Egyptian Minister of Immigration and Expatriate Affairs Nabila Makram [met](#) with a member of the Italian Parliament's Foreign Relations Committee and head of the parliamentary group on migration, Khaled Shawki, on 17 September. The meeting focused on irregular migration with Makram reporting that the ministry had conducted outreach and training activities with 400 young men and women from Egyptian governorates with high numbers of youth attempting to migrate irregularly. Makram further highlighted efforts towards cross-sectional and cross-ministerial agreements to tackle irregular migration. Shawki lauded Egypt's efforts and underscored his hopes for greater Italian-Egyptian collaboration.

LIBYA

Maritime incidents

- Around 3,195 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers were rescued off the coast of Libya in September across 9 separate incidents and 5 different cities, bringing the total number of those rescued by the Libyan Coast Guard in 2017 to 17,021 (as of 30 September). In the month of September, 7 deaths were recorded.

Returns from Libya

- 882 stranded migrants in Libya received voluntary humanitarian return assistance and reintegration support from the International Organization for Migration between 9 September and 29 September. They returned home to their countries of origin which include Niger, Sudan, Mali, Gambia, Burkina Faso and Bangladesh, amongst others.

German NGO resumes migrant rescue operations off Libyan coast

- German aid group Sea-Eye has decided to [resume](#) its search and rescue operations in the Mediterranean a month after it had suspended its operations. The group had [halted](#) its operations due to security concerns. The aid organization said it would operate in a perimeter of 70-90 nautical miles from the Libyan coast "to take account of the constant threat from the Libyan coastguard and to not compromise the safety of the crews." The group says the decision was prompted by calls made on Seefuchs, one of its search boats, to assist with a rescue mission 50 miles off Libya in which 16 people in a wooden boat were rescued.

UNHCR enhances efforts regarding alternatives to detention in Libya

- UNHCR is [negotiating](#) with the Libyan authorities for the establishment of an open reception center that would allow

for freedom of movement for refugees, migrants and asylum seekers. UNHCR would provide registration, accommodation, food, social services, and counselling and support to survivors of sexual and gender-based violence. During a recent visit to Tripoli, UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi expressed his "shock at the harsh conditions in which refugees and migrants are held".

Children in need of humanitarian aid in Libya

- German-based Mission Lifeline charity said its humanitarian boat was [fired at and boarded](#) by Libyan coast guard vessel demanding that the 70 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers on board the ship be handed over to the coastguard. "We told them we don't return migrants to Libya. After a while, they gave up," said Axel Steier, a spokesperson for Mission Lifeline, after two coastguards boarded the Mission's ship in attempt to take those onboard. This incident represents the latest in interceptions of search and rescue missions by the Libyan coastguard following the expansion of Libya's territorial water.

Armed group claims crackdown on migrant boats caused clashes

- [Clashes arose](#) between smuggling groups and an armed group in Sabratha after the latter began to stop migrant boats leaving to Italy, said the head of the group. The clashes, which lasted for weeks, resulted in dozens of casualties and displaced hundreds of families. Crossings from Libya to Italy have dropped sharply since July which the armed group, the Anas al-Dabbashi brigade, claims is due to its policing of the coast near Sabratha. Brigade leader Ahmed al-Dabbashi said the move has led to attacks by rival smuggling groups in the area.

Western Mediterranean Route

- 1,465 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers have [crossed](#) from Morocco to Spain by sea during the month of September bringing the total arrivals by sea for this year to 12,420. The figure for September represents a drop in monthly arrivals to Spain from the previous three months when, on average, 2,265 persons arrived by sea per month.
- An additional 588 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers [crossed](#) from Morocco into Spain via their shared land borders during the month of September, bringing the total number of persons making the land crossing this year to 5,010. While September's figure represents a 38.6% drop in land crossings from the previous month of August it is important to note that the figure for August was a spike, with the previous three months of May, June and July showing an average of 426 crossings per month.

Sea rescue

- Spain's maritime rescue service [reported](#) that it has rescued a total of 64 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers from two separate boats attempting to cross from Morocco to Spain on 22 September. 28 persons were rescued from the first boat while the remaining 31 were helped from a second rubber dinghy. According to the rescue service, all survivors were Moroccan and several were suffering from the effects of hypothermia.

Morocco deters irregular migrants

- Moroccan authorities [reported](#) that they have stopped a total of 28 persons from making the irregular crossing from

Morocco to Spain in two separate incidents on 22 September. 16 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers were apprehended in Tangiers as they prepared to embark on the crossing while the remaining 12 were intercepted at sea near Tangiers.

Spain calls for more EU support for Morocco

- Spain's Minister of Interior, Juan Ignacio Zoido, [called](#) on the EU to recognize Morocco's efforts at curbing irregular migration at a meeting of the EU's Justice and Domestic Affairs Council in mid-September. Zoido said, "The EU should lend more support to African partners, such as Morocco, in their colossal efforts." Zoido further added that support could come in the form of bilateral cooperation and collaboration. Spain's Minister of Interior, Juan Ignacio Zoido, called on the EU to recognize Morocco's efforts at curbing irregular migration at a meeting of the EU's Justice and Domestic Affairs Council in mid-September. Zoido said, "The EU should lend more support to African partners, such as Morocco, in their colossal efforts." Zoido further added that support could come in the form of bilateral cooperation and collaboration.

Training on protection of victims of trafficking

- UNODC Morocco organized a training workshop in Tangiers on the protection and assistance of victims of trafficking to local NGOs in the Northern region of Morocco between 20 and 22 September. The workshop was organized under a programme supported by the United States' Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons (J/TIP) and in partnership with "the Delegation under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation in charge of Moroccans Residing Abroad and Migration Affairs".

NIGER

IOM signs agreement with Niger to combat human trafficking

- IOM has [signed](#) an agreement with the Nigerien National Agency for the Fight against Trafficking in Persons and Illicit Trafficking of Migrants (ANLTP/TIM) in order to boost efforts to combat human trafficking. The agreement sets out a two year action plan that will allow IOM to further bolster its direct assistance to migrants as well as to raise awareness and will increase areas of collaboration between the two institutions. The activities of the action plan will be financed through EU funding.

SUDAN

Detainment and repatriation of Eritrean refugees

- Sudanese authorities [reported](#) that they have detained 15 Eritrean refugees in the first week of September for irregular entry into Sudanese territory. These reports were followed by the announcement of the deportation of 36 Eritreans following a two month period of detention for charges of illegal entry into Sudan. UNHCR has previously [expressed](#) concerns regarding Sudan's practices of repatriation and whether they may infringe on asylum-seekers' ability to lodge claims.

IOM Sudan assists resettlement of Eritrean refugees

- IOM Sudan [assisted](#) in the resettlement of 97 Eritrean refugees from Sudan to Italy. The group of refugees, comprising 35 families, departed from Khartoum to Rome on 28 September.

In addition to providing logistical support in the form of flight arrangements and health assessments, IOM Sudan provided the newly resettled refugees with cultural orientation sessions to prepare and help ease their transition to their new homes.

IOM Sudan assists resettlement of Eritrean refugees Voluntary returns from Libya

- IOM Sudan [assisted](#) 170 stranded Sudanese migrants to return from Libya in the second week of September. The returns were facilitated by IOM's Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) programme and coordinated between IOM Sudan and IOM Libya. As part of the programme migrants were provided with transportation to areas of return, reception facilities and reintegration support based

TUNISIA

Consultation to combat trafficking in persons

- UNODC organized a consultation from 18 to 20 September in Tunis to finalize the National Strategy against Trafficking in Persons and the Action Plan to prevent and combat Trafficking in Persons. The workshop gathered members of the National Committee on Combatting Trafficking in Persons, representatives of relevant ministries and of civil society to discuss both documents. The National Committee will then transmit them to the Tunisian government for endorsement and official launch of the National Strategy.

Irregular migration from Tunisia

- Tunisian authorities [reported](#) that they have detained 555 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers attempting to make the irregular crossing to Europe. According to officials, those arrested included several pregnant women and children. The number of those departing from Tunisia has increased considerably with 170 persons detained in the previous month of August. Authorities further reported that 98 Tunisians were rescued from a sinking vessel off the coast of Zarzis in the first week of October and another 43 non-nationals were arrested from four other boats.

Italy announces funds to stem migration

- The Italian Foreign Ministry [announced](#) an assistance package of 60 million Euros to Tunisia and Libya or migration

management in Libya and Tunisia to regulate the irregular immigration flows. The ministry added that the aid package was aimed at supporting the two states' efforts to control irregular migration to Europe. He urged the involvement of Italian NGOs with experience operating in crisis areas to provide professional input by coordinating with the Libyan authorities and local NGOs.

Meeting on alternatives to migrant detention

- IOM, the International Detention Coalition and the Danish Refugee Council [held](#) a two-day meeting between 1 and 2 October in Tunis aimed at exploring and discussing alternatives to immigration detention in Libya. The meeting brought together representatives from Libya's Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Social Affairs and Labour as well as the Directorate for Combatting Illegal Migration (DCIM). The meeting also included representatives from the African Union, the embassies of Bangladesh and Pakistan, diplomatic staff from eight African countries and a number of NGO and UN agency personnel. Embassy representatives presented a statement of principles to the Libyan authorities which emphasized the challenges they face in accessing their nationals in detention. They also called for improved collaboration between the Libyan authorities and international organizations to find alternatives to detention that comply with the national law.

GREECE

Sea arrivals to Greece

- 4,604 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers arrived by sea to Greece in the month of September, representing an approximate 26% increase in the number of arrivals from the previous month. This brings the total number of arrivals in 2017 to 19,674. There were 27 recorded fatalities along the Eastern Mediterranean route in the month of September. The continued increase in the numbers of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers arriving to Greece in the last few months has led to [concern](#) among the humanitarian community about living conditions in island reception centers.

Returns from Greece to Turkey

- 29 persons were [returned](#) to Turkey during the month of September under the EU-Turkey Statement. This brings the total number returned in 2017 to 536.

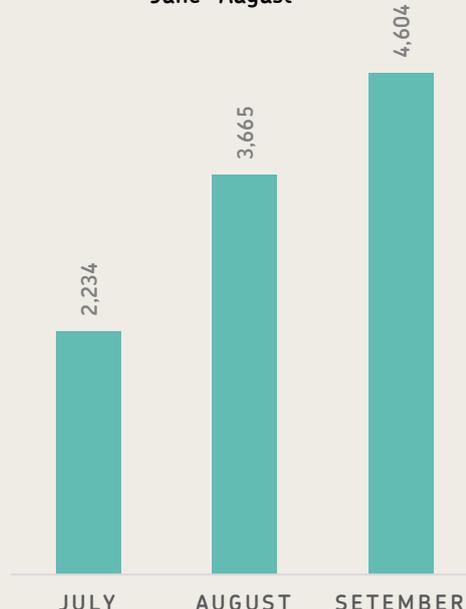
Court ruling on return of asylum seekers

- Greece's top administrative court [ruled](#) that two Syrian asylum seekers can be returned to Turkey following its rejection of their appeals of earlier verdicts. The court upheld earlier rulings that deemed their asylum cases inadmissible and ordered return to Turkey as a safe country of asylum. Critics of the court's decision [maintain](#) that it has set a dangerous precedent by sending refugees with clear protection needs back to Turkey where they are at increased risk of refoulement. Amnesty International's Europe Director, John Dalhuisen, has said, "The ruling sets an ominous precedent for many other asylum-seekers who have fled conflict and persecution and are currently stranded on Greek islands." These returns will be the first involving refugees since the EU-Turkey Statement came into effect last year.

Arrest of smugglers

- Greek authorities [reported](#) the arrest of eight smugglers in relation to the irregular crossing of 38 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers across Greece's land borders with Turkey. According to Greek police, the refugees, asylum seekers and migrants were moved in one vehicle while another drove ahead to check for roadblocks and/or checkpoints. According to reports, some of the migrants, refugees and asylum seekers paid smugglers almost \$3,000 to be taken into central Europe.

Arrivals by Sea, Greece
June- August



Arrivals to Italy

- September saw the arrival of 6,701 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers by sea to Italy, representing an increase of around 56% from the previous month of August (4,303). During September, 230 deaths were reported along the Central Mediterranean route, also representing a significant increase from August's figure (23) and bringing the total number of deaths in 2017 to 2,474.

Four accused of human trafficking arrested in Italy

- Police in the Italian city of Trento [arrested](#) four Nigerians suspected of trafficking young women into forced sex work. They face charges of human trafficking, enslavement and abetting irregular migration. The Nigerian women who are survivors of trafficking were aged between 20 and 30 and were allegedly trafficked with the false promise of work, investigators said.

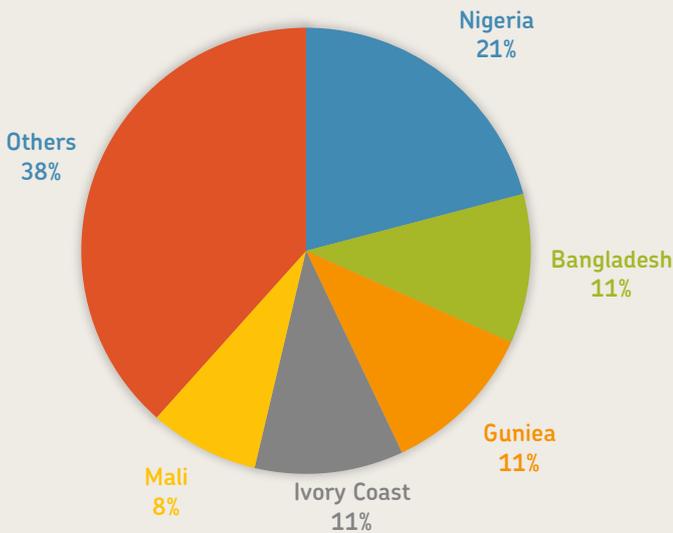
Italy defense minister meets with Libyan military commander Khalifa Haftar

- Italy's defense minister and security chiefs [met](#) with the head of the Libyan National Army Khalifa Haftar in Rome. Defense Minister Roberta Pinotti reiterated Italian support for UN initiatives in Libya and urged the government and opposition, represented by Haftar, to reach a [political solution](#). Italian newspaper "Il Messaggero" reported that Haftar's visit was to include [holding secret meetings](#) on migration and the possibility of providing protection for work sites of Italian Energy working group Eni.

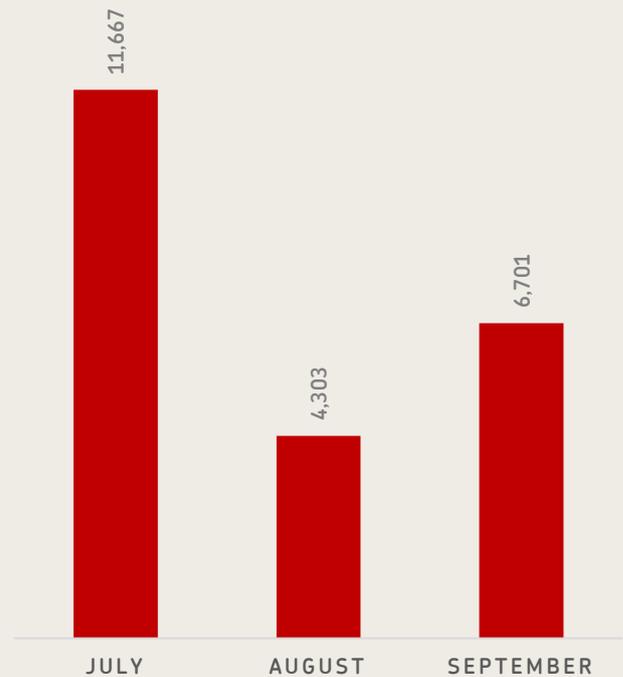
Italy launches integration plan for refugees and asylum seekers

- Italy [launched](#) its first National Integration Plan which provides for rights and duties of those who benefit from international protection in Italy. The integration plan aims to provide those who have signed up with Italian language courses, "inter-religious and intercultural" dialogue, work training and access to employment. The government also commits to guarantee equality and equal dignity, freedom of religion, access to education, and training, housing and healthcare system, and the signees are expected to respect Italy's constitutional charter. "Integration of migrants, beyond the socio-humanitarian aspects, is at the basis of a more secure society. Even in the face of Islamic terrorism," commented Interior Minister Marco Minniti on the launch of the Integration Plan.

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



Arrivals by Sea, Italy
July - September 2017



RESEARCH OF INTEREST

[Harrowing Journeys: Children and youth on the move across the Mediterranean Sea, at risk of trafficking and exploitation- UINCEF and IOM](#)

Report detailing the experiences of and the risks and dangers faced by children on the move.

[Fatal Journeys: Improving Data on Missing Migrants- IOM](#)

IOM Niger report providing insights into and profiles of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers passing through its transit centers during 2016.

[Hidden Figures: Women on the Move in Libya - 4Mi](#)

Report that takes an in-depth look into women on the move from West Africa and using data gathered from Libya, Mali and Niger.

[Youth on the Move: Investigating decision-making, migration trajectories and expectations of young people on the way to Italy - REACH, MMP, MHub](#)

Research report investigating decision-making, migration trajectories and expectations of young people on the way to Italy

[Human Smuggling and Trafficking in Eastern Sudan- CMI](#)

Report focusing on the practices of smuggling and trafficking in Eastern Sudan and the vulnerability of those on the move.

MULTIMEDIA OF INTEREST

[Refugees urgently in need of mental health help flounder on Lesbos - PBS](#)

Video featuring interviews with migrants, refugees and asylum seekers in Greece regarding their mental health and the toll waiting for a solution is taking on their well-being.

[Survivors tell of kidnap and torture along route to Europe - UNHCR](#)

Migrants, refugees and asylum seekers recount the perils of their journeys following their rescue.

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