

MIXED MIGRATION TREND REPORT FOR AUGUST 2015 COVERING MIXED MIGRATION EVENTS IN: ALGERIA, EGYPT, ETHIOPIA, LIBYA, MALI, MOROCCO, NIGER, 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.

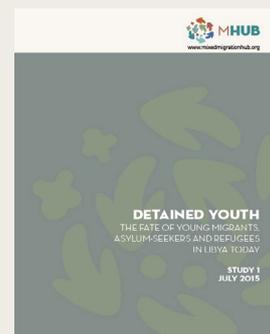
It fosters collaborative approaches among key stakeholders. Specifically, it holds the secretariat of the North Africa Mixed Migration Task Force.

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, economic migrants, and refugees). If the case load mentioned refers only to refugees, asylum seekers or trafficked persons, it will be clearly stated.

Sources: Data is sourced from a wide variety of collaborators, partners, international and local organisations, media outlets and individuals in the region. The refugee agency – UNHCR – and migration agency – IOM are frequently the origin of specific refugee or migrant related data. MHub makes its own independent editorial decisions as to what sections and what data is included in this monthly update.

LAUNCH OF NEW MHUB STUDY

DETAINED YOUTH: THE FATE OF YOUNG MIGRANTS, ASYLUM SEEKERS AND REFUGEES IN LIBYA TODAY



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NORTH AFRICA ALGERIA

New Arrivals

- New [mixed migratory](#) movements continue, the number of human trafficking victims and unaccompanied minors has increased considerably.

Refugees/Asylum seekers

- The Government estimates that there are [165,000 refugees](#) in the camps. Pending a registration exercise, UNHCR's assistance program will continue to be based on a planning figure of 90,000 vulnerable Sahrawi refugees.
- An increase in [migration movements](#) of refugees and asylum seekers is anticipated by UNHCR which estimates that Palestinian refugees will likely increase from 4,050 in January 2015 to a 4,100 December 2015.

- Estimates also anticipate [asylum seekers](#) coming from Syria to increase from 2,200 in January 2015 to 3,000 by December 2015.

Migrants Vulnerability

- The main groups of [people of concern for UNHCR](#) in Algeria in 2015 are 90,000 vulnerable Saharawi refugees, as well as a growing population of refugees and asylum seekers from Sub-Saharan countries and people who have fled the crises in Mali and Syria, living mainly in urban areas.

EGYPT

Routes

- A new movement of irregular entries has been observed into Egypt by land through Libya and Sudan, mostly comprising of Syrian nationals, representing a significant increase when compared to 2014.
- Sources suggest that irregular entry into Egypt involving mainly Syrian refugees continues to rise.

Boat Departure/Arrivals/Rescues

- Between January and August, sources indicate that over 2,000 individuals involved in more than 70 incidents at sea have been arrested for attempting to depart Egypt in an irregular manner.

- The majority of those departing by sea in 2015 from Alexandria continue to be Sudanese nationals, followed by Syrian, Somali, Eritrean, Ethiopian and Iraqi nationals, including unaccompanied and separated children.
- Local [media reported](#) on the 7th of August that an eight-year-old Syrian girl died after Egyptian border guards fired on a group of Syrian and Sudanese irregular migrants attempting to reach Europe by boat. Two Syrian men, a 19-year-old and a 30-year-old were both wounded in the same incident.

Irregular Border Crossing

- A total of [89 people](#), including two Sudanese, have been arrested at the Egypt-Libya Sallum border crossing for using irregular travel to Libya on the 1st of August.

Refugees/Asylum seekers

- Reports indicate that in addition to sea departures and despite of the prolonged instability in Libya, a small number of asylum seekers and refugees primarily from Sub-Saharan Africa that are living in Egypt have attempted to cross the Egyptian-Libyan borders in an irregular manner.

Migrants Vulnerability

- Egypt's national security committee passed a [draft law](#) imposing up to a five year imprisonment and a fine for human trafficking. The fine is set between EGP 50,000 (around 6,388 USD) and EGP 200,000 (25,550 USD), Minister Ibrahim al-Henedi told state news agency MENA. The anti-irregular immigration law identifies irregular immigrants as "victims" and the bill deals with [irregular immigration](#) as a "disturbing phenomenon" and aims to fill the legislative gap to comply with Egypt's international obligations. The draft law is due to be referred to the state committee tasked with carrying out legislative reform before its ratification by the cabinet.

ETHIOPIA

Refugees/Asylum Seekers

- As of August 31st the total [number of refugees](#) in the country has reached 728,070, a 23,010 increase from July. From the total 73,173 are unaccompanied minors and separated children. The main countries of origin are South Sudan with 287,912, Somalia with 249,350, Eritrea with 147,190, Sudan with 37,113, and other nationalities with 6,505.
- According to UNHCR there are around [7,180 refugees](#) in Addis Ababa.

- The Government's "Out of Camp Policy" provides Eritrean refugees the opportunity to live in Addis Ababa and other locations if they have the necessary means to support themselves. [Thousands](#) are benefitting from this opportunity and it is hoped that this programme can be improved and expanded to cover other refugee groups in the country.

Migrants Vulnerability

- Despite tighter [border security](#), migrants continue to leave Ethiopia. The government claims to have detained 200 smugglers across the country. The movement of migrants has dropped from around 250 a day to between 100 and 150.

LIBYA

Boat Departure/Arrivals/Rescues

- On Saturday the 1st of August more than [400 migrants](#) were picked up mostly off the Libyan coast.

- Almost [400 people](#) were rescued from a vessel which sank off Libya on August 5th while attempting to cross the Mediterranean sea with an estimated 600 refugees and migrants on board. UNHCR added that the bodies of a further 25 people had been recovered, but dozens more were still missing and feared dead.

- On August 11th, an Italian corvette picked up dozens of migrants from a sinking rubber dinghy that was carrying between [117 to 120 people](#) from Sub-Saharan Africa that had set off from Lybia. 54 were rescued by boat, two by helicopter, with around 60 still missing.
- 3,400 of 5,300 migrants [were rescued](#) between the 17th-23rd of August off the Libyan coast. Most were rescued in the 27 operations conducted on the 21st-22nd.
- On August 25th Frontex supported Norwegian vessels took aboard [963 people](#) including 71 children rescued from two wooden boats and a rubber dinghy. The vessel transported them to Cagliari on the island of Sardinia.

Trafficking and Smuggling

- On August 29th authorities arrested in Zuwara three Libyans suspected of [people smuggling](#). The vessel, with up to 400 Sub-Saharan, Syrian and Asian migrants on board capsized on Thursday the 27th after setting off from Zuwara, a centre of operations for people smugglers. These smugglers are suspected to be involved in launching this boat and others to take migrants to Italy. 115 bodies had been recovered and another 198 migrants had been rescued.

MALI

Refugees/Asylum Seekers

- Although the situation in Mali has not prompted mass [population movements](#) into Algeria, a few hundred Malians have settled in a camp at the Algerian border managed by the Algerian Red Crescent. Others have found refuge with the host population in Algeria.
- According to UNICEF, due to security concerns in Mali the return of [Malian refugees](#) has almost stopped since 2014, with 50,000 still hosted in Niger. Discussions are currently ongoing for the integration of the Malian refugees into local communities.
- In August, UNHCR facilitated a new phase of [voluntary repatriation](#) for Malian refugees in Niger. 392 urban refugees in the Niger city of Niamey benefitted from this operation. Since November 2014, amongst the 1,676 refugees who have sought the support from UNHCR to return to Mali, 1,128 were located in Niamey (67 per cent). The others were located in the Tabareybarey camp. The principle explanation for this is the place of origin of the urban refugees: 65 per cent come from Gao, an area which is currently less susceptible to insecurity.

Migrants Vulnerability

- Following the signing of a [Peace and Reconciliation Agreement](#) in June 2015 by all parties to the conflict, a relative calm has been observed in affected areas. The tens of thousands of people who fled their villages due to the surge of violence recorded in the Timbuktu region in May-June 2015 have started to return home. As of the 30th of June 2015, there was a total of around 90,200 internally displaced persons in the country – more than half of whom in the Timbuktu region – and 136,800 Malian refugees in neighboring countries.

MOROCCO

Boat Departure/Arrivals/Rescues

- [Four migrants](#) died on Sunday the 2nd of August after trying to swim to Spain's north African enclave of Ceuta from northern Morocco.

Migrants Vulnerability

- [Fifteen people](#) were arrested in August in Spain for smuggling Moroccan migrants into the country on water scooters.

NIGER

Routes

- Niger is a country of origin, transit and destination for migrants. Each year, [thousands of migrants](#) of Nigerien and Sub-Saharan African origin transit through Niger on route to Libya, Algeria, or onwards to Europe, often in difficult conditions.
- [Agadez](#) has been a principal departure point for Africans to leave the continent for years. More than half of all West African migrants who reach Lampedusa, Italy, pass through here, reaching up to 80,000 last year.

New Arrivals

- According to UNHCR, the withdrawal of the Niger-Chadian forces in the northern area of Nigeria has caused [mass movement of people](#) in Niger.
- [105,583 people](#) as of the 31st of July were declared refugees by local authorities in the Diffa region, 1,239 were transferred to the Sayam Forage camp, 2,501 were transferred to the Kablewa camp.

Irregular Border Crossing

- As many as [2,000 migrants](#) pass through Agadez weekly, the last stop before reaching Libya, 620 miles away.
- IOM transit and assistance centers for migrants in Agadez, Dirkou and Arlit have been receiving an average of [50-80 migrants per week](#) in the last few months. Estimations for 2015 suggest that between 80,000 and 120,000 migrants will traverse Niger. Difficult conditions of transit, rushed departures from Libya and Algeria, and risks on the road across the desert are some key factors impacting migrants' vulnerability.

Refugees/Asylum Seekers

- According to UNHCR, there are 202,938 [people of concern](#) in Niger. 511 were identified as unaccompanied or separated minors. 52,445 originate from Mali, 100,000 from Nigeria, 50,000 from Niger, and 493 from other countries.

SUDAN

New Arrivals

- Since the outbreak of violence in South Sudan, over 96,000 South Sudanese refugees have crossed into Sudan and continue to arrive, of whom [70 per cent](#) are women and children. The vast majority are located in White Nile State and Khartoum

State. An average of 1,000 South Sudanese have been reported crossing into Sudan every week in September with a recent increase in new arrivals following the resumption of fighting in and around Renkan, Upper Nile State in South Sudan.

- According to OCHA most of the [new arrivals](#) from the 17th-23rd of August arrived in White Nile (1,533) and South Kordofan (371) states bringing the number of new arrivals in August to 2,636. This is significantly less than the number of arrivals in June and July.

Irregular Border Crossing

- The Government of Sudan has maintained its borders open to welcome South Sudanese refugees. [UNHCR continues](#) to advocate for a predictable legal framework for newly arrived South Sudanese to ensure they have access to the rights and entitlements affirmed in public statements by the authorities.

Refugees/Asylum Seekers

- Since the beginning of the year, some 9,200 new arrivals have been registered, this represents an average of [1,150 refugees](#) registered every month.

- According to OCHA, as of the 31st of July, there were [189,000 South Sudanese refugees](#) in Sudan. In addition there are over [112,000 refugees](#) and asylum seekers from Eritrea, and the remainder are mainly from Ethiopia, Chad and the Central African Republic.
- According to UNHCR, a total of [264,000 refugees](#) and asylum seekers are in Sudan as of September.

Migrant Vulnerabilities

- Migrants remain at risk of kidnapping and abduction by criminal gangs and traffickers on their journey through Sudan. According to a [media report](#), Sudanese police rescued six hostages (of Eritrean and Ethiopian nationality) from [human traffickers](#) in Hafiare in the eastern parts of the country near the border with Eritrea. The group was reportedly abducted while being transported by UNHCR.

TUNISIA

Boat Departure/Arrivals/Rescues

- According to the International Committee of the Red Cross on the 23rd of August Tunisia's coast guard [rescued 124](#) migrants bound for Italy from a boat adrift at sea near Libya. The migrants, all Africans, had been attempting to irregularly reach the Italian island of Lampedusa before they were rescued and taken to the southern port of

Ben Guerdane in Tunisia. They had been at sea for three days after setting off from the Libyan coast on board a large inflatable vessel that later broke down. Among them were 109 Nigerians, including 19 women, seven Ghanaians, including four women, four Ethiopians, a man and woman from Cameroon and two Congolese.

ITALY / CENTRAL MEDITERRANEAN ROUTE

New Arrivals

- Of 116,149 migrants reported by IOM to have arrived between January and August, the main countries of origin include 26 per cent come from Eritrea (30,708), 13 per cent from Nigeria (15,113), eight per cent from Somalia (8,790), six per cent from Sudan (7,126), six per cent from Syria (6,710), five per cent from Gambia, (5,514) and five per cent from Bangladesh (5,015).
- IOM estimates 22,605 migrants arrived by sea in August alone.

Boat Departure/Arrivals/Rescues

- In total, [671 people](#) including 48 children and 108 women were rescued from unseaworthy vessels in five separate operations on the 2nd of August. The Italian patrol boat Diciotti took 400 migrants to the Sicilian port of Pozzallo, while the Croatian vessel went to the port of Augusta on the east of the island.
- More than [1,000 migrants](#) were rescued trying to cross the Mediterranean over the weekend of the 8th-9th of August.
- On the 11th of August, around [50 migrants](#) drowned in the Mediterranean when their overcrowded rubber dinghy began deflating. Rescuers saved 54 people, most of the 120 on board were from Sub-Saharan Africa.
- 60 were reported missing from a [shipwreck](#) on the 12th of August.
- Some [102,000 migrants](#) crossed to Italy from Libya and 134,988 to Greece from Turkey as of August 14th.
- More than [40 migrants](#) died in the Mediterranean on the 15th of August. The boat, which was intercepted south of the Italian island of Lampedusa was carrying around 300 people.

GREECE / BALKAN ROUTE

Routes

- The movement of migrants into Europe from the Middle East, Afghanistan and Africa has shifted in recent months. Migrants are also arriving in Greece by land as well as across the western Balkans.

New Arrivals

- The pace of arrivals has been steadily increasing in Greece in August.
- IOM estimates from the 1st of January to the 31st of August 2015 that 239,974 migrants have arrived in Greece.

Boat Departure/Arrivals/Rescues

- IOM estimates more than 2,814 migrants have drowned in the Mediterranean this year. 13.5 per cent [of deaths](#) in the Mediterranean come from the Middle East and North Africa and 36.3 per cent from Sub-Saharan Africa.

- IOM estimates approximately 5,195 migrants were rescued off Greek coasts on the 31st of August alone.
- A Somali woman died in Lesbos because of a pulmonary edema.
- IOM estimates 5,300 migrants were rescued off the Greek coasts on the 1st of September. Main countries of origin are Syria, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Albania and Iraq.

Refugees/Asylum Seekers

- From the 1st of January to the 14th of August 2015, [1,716 refugees](#) and migrants entered Greece through its land border with Turkey, bringing the total number of arrivals (sea and land) to 160,172.

RESEARCH OF INTEREST

[Europe's Migration Crisis - From the Council on Foreign Relations](#) written by **By Jeanne Park**

Migrants and refugees flooding into Europe from Africa, the Middle East, and South Asia have presented European leaders and policymakers with their greatest challenge since the debt crisis. Political upheaval in the Middle East, Africa, and South Asia is reshaping migration trends in Europe. In September 2015, the European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker announced plans to revisit a migrant quota system for the bloc's twenty-two participating members.

[Migrations Through and From Libya: A Mediterranean Challenge](#) - by **Mattia Toaldo**

This paper investigates the dynamics of migration through and from Libya, focusing on the economics and politics of illegal trafficking. It discusses European Union (EU) and member state policies for tackling and reducing Mediterranean migration through Libya. Finally, the paper offers policy recommendations that propose an overhaul of the current system with the aim of building partnerships with local actors and multilateral institutions while also creating legal corridors for migration into Europe.

[Trafficking in Person Report 2015](#) - **United States Department of State**

The United States Department of State ranked each country in one of four tiers according to the actions the respective government is taking to combat human trafficking. This year's report placed a special emphasis on human trafficking in the global marketplace, specifically highlighting the hidden risks that migrants may encounter when seeking employment, and the steps that can be taken to prevent trafficking. This includes a demand for transparency in global supply chains.

MULTI-MEDIA OF INTEREST

[Desperate Honeymoon - Syrian Newlyweds On the road to Europe](#)

Documentary by Radio Free Europe Radio Liberty (RFE/RL), showcasing the route, the obstacles, the risks as well as the diversity of the people on the move through the Balkans. RFE/RL traveled with newlyweds along the so-called "Balkan Route" toward a new life taken by hundreds of thousands of desperate people from Syria and other strife-torn countries. This is the story of Europe's biggest refugee crisis since World War II, told through the eyes of one young couple.

[Migrant Crisis: What Else Could Europe Try](#) - **A BBC Video**

This video looks at whether there are examples from other places, and other times, from which the EU's leaders could learn. We look at the 1980s resettlement process in response to the Vietnamese "boat people" crisis, we examine Australia's offshore processing of migrant and we ask whether focusing on the "front line", helping those countries migrants are leaving, is a realistic option.

Human(e) migration? Ft. Bill Frelick, Refugee Program Director, Human Rights Watch

Europe is facing the largest migration crisis since World War II. But while the EU struggles to formulate a policy to address the influx of people, thousands are dying en route and many are being violently pushed back at borders. Is the European Union living up to its obligations toward asylum seekers, and how will it cope with the intake of refugees, given rising xenophobia across the continent? Reporter Oksana is joined by Bill Frelick, the Director of the Refugee Program at Human Rights Watch, to analyse these issues.

Desperate crossing - Photography and video by Paolo Pellegrin, text by Scott Anderson

In the cloudless early hours of July 27, two tiny fishing boats drifted across the Mediterranean Sea. Crammed aboard were 733 migrants, including 59 children under the age of five. Most were from the impoverished and despotically ruled northeast African nation of Eritrea.

The Migration Dilemma - A BBC Programme

As the migration crisis intensifies Edward Stouton hosts a live debate which looks beyond the harrowing daily headlines to ask what it really means for Britain and the rest of Europe.