MIXED MIGRATION TREND REPORT
FOR NOVEMBER 2015 COVERING
MIXED MIGRATION EVENTS IN:
ALGERIA, EGYPT, ETHIOPIA, LIBYA,
MALI, MOROCCO, NIGER, SUDAN,
TUNISIA, GREECE AND ITALY.

MHub works on behalf of the North Africa Mixed Migration Task Force consisting of DRC, IOM, OHCHR, RMMS, UNHCR and UNODC. 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.

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

**Terminology:** Throughout this bulletin the terms migrant, refugee and asylum seeker are used together to cover all those comprising the mixed migration flows (included in these complex population movements are refugees, asylum seekers, economic migrants and other migrants such as unaccompanied minors, environmental migrants, smuggled persons, victims of trafficking and stranded migrants, among others). This will be how mixed flows are referenced unless the source specifies the person(s) referenced is/are of a specific category, in which case the relevant term will be clearly used.

**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 MHUB STUDY**

**CONDITIONS AND RISKS OF MIXED MIGRATION IN NORTH EAST AFRICA**

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For updates on the Horn of Africa, visit RMMS
Policy

- In response to catastrophic flooding in the Sahrawi refugee camps in Tindouf, Algeria, the United States Department of State reported on 23 November a contribution of more than 4,000,000 USD in humanitarian assistance to help meet the acute needs of Sahrawi refugees. This new contribution includes support for UNHCR, the World Food Programme, and the UN Children's Fund. These funds will be used to support the reconstruction of shelters, schools, health clinics, and to help replace food rations that were destroyed by flooding.

EGYPT

Departures/Arrivals/Rescues

- On 9 November, local media reported a total of 42 Egyptian nationals were arrested by the Italian Coast Guard and deported by Italy for an attempted irregular entry by sea.
- On 15 November, local media reported that 11 people had been arrested in the sinking of a boat carrying migrants, refugees and asylum seekers. The boat sank off Edko, a Mediterranean city in the Delta's Beheira governorate. 14 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers were on board, seven of whom were rescued, including the two-member crew. Two went missing and the bodies of five were recovered.
- On 15 November, at least 15 Sudanese migrants, refugees and asylum seekers trying to cross from Egypt into Israel were killed at the border, possibly by Egyptian police officers, according to news reports.
- On 5 December, Egypt closed the Rafah border crossing after two days of being open in both directions. Gaza's Interior Ministry Spokesman Iyad Al-Bozom said that 1,526 people were able to leave Gaza in an exceptional opening of the border crossing. The border was scheduled to be open on 3 and 4 December according to an Egyptian announcement.

Refugees/Asylum Seekers

- Between 22 and 28 November, IOM moved the last of nearly 600 refugees, half of them coming from Syria, and the rest from Sudan, Somalia, Palestine, Eritrea, Ethiopia and Iraq from Egypt to Germany as part of the country's Humanitarian Admissions Programme (HAP). HAP is designed to enable the swift entry of refugees to Germany to secure their immediate protection until they are able to return home safely or find other durable solutions.

Migrant Vulnerability

- On 29 November, the Minister of Immigration and Expatriate Affairs Nabila Abdul Shaheed said more than 3,000 Egyptian children have fled to Italy in line with their parents’ wishes. Egyptian children often make the irregular sea journey without their parents, in many cases taking no travel documents apart from a birth certificate.
Policy
• Between 11 and 12 November at the Valletta Summit on Migration, the Egyptian Foreign Minister spoke about facilitating measures of legal migration as a way to curb irregular migration. Some of the participating delegations in the Summit include Algeria, Egypt, Ethiopia, Libya, Mali, Morocco, Niger, Sudan, Tunisia, Italy and Greece. The Summit included a political declaration and an action plan designed to: address the root causes of irregular migration and forced displacement; enhance cooperation on legal migration and mobility; reinforce the protection of migrants and asylum seekers; prevent and fight irregular migration, migrant smuggling and trafficking in human beings; and work more closely to improve cooperation on return, readmission and reintegration. A list of 16 concrete actions to be implemented by the end of 2016 was also agreed upon.

• As of 27 November, the Egyptian Cabinet approved a new anti-human smuggling law that is in line with international standards, safeguarding the rights and addressing the needs of smuggled migrants. The law stipulates imprisonment and substantial fines for smugglers and accomplices. Punishment amounts to life imprisonment and fines above 25,000 USD when smuggling results in the death or disability of migrant women or children, or when links to organized crime and terrorism are substantiated.

• On 30 November, the Foreign Ministry announced the start of a training program about human trafficking and irregular migration. The program is intended on transferring its expertise in the field of combating human trafficking and irregular migration and supporting African cadres in this field. The program will be attended by 14 trainees from eight African nations, namely Ethiopia, Burundi, Uganda, Democratic Republic of Congo, South Sudan, Djibouti, Tanzania and Eritrea.

Ethiopia

New Arrivals
• As of 30 November, there were 3,572 new arrivals in Ethiopia, 51 in Gambella (1 per cent), 2,798 in Shire (78 per cent), 82 in Addis Ababa (2 per cent), 332 in Assosa (9 per cent), 294 in Melkadida (8 per cent) and 15 in Samara (0.4 per cent). (UNHCR Ethiopia refugee population figure as of 30 November 2015)

Refugees/Asylum Seekers
• During the first week of November, IOM facilitated the return of 50 Ethiopian irregular migrants stranded in Malawi. Fifteen of the returnees were children. The migrants are part of a group of 387 Ethiopian migrants held in five different Malawian prisons (Maula, Dedza, Ntchisi, Chichire and Kachere) for immigration offenses. This repatriation operation was one of several that began in September 2015. On November 30, IOM reported that it helped 224 of the 387 Ethiopian migrants return home, in collaboration with the Government of Ethiopia. All 224 returnees were male.

• As of 30 November, the total number of refugees and asylum seekers in Ethiopia is 730,358 as reported by UNHCR. Of those, 269,721 are in Gambella (36.9 per cent), 210,720 in Melkadida (28.8 per cent), 50,374 in Assosa (6.89 per cent), 31,575 in Samara (4.32 per cent), 35,553 in Shire (4.86 per cent), and 7,804 in Addis Ababa (1.06 per cent). (UNHCR Ethiopia refugee population figure as of 30 November 2015)

• As of 4 December, 268,999 of the refugees and asylum seekers in the Gambella region are South Sudanese, representing a 20,228 (7.5 per cent) decrease from October.
Refugees/Asylum Seekers

- As of 30 November, 139,502 refugees are registered in Mali, 1,761 (1.2 per cent) less than November 2014.
- Of the 139,502 registered refugees currently in Mali, 16,671 are Malian refugee returnees, an increase of 2,315 (13.8 per cent) from November 2014.

Departures/Arrivals/Rescues

- On 8 November, security forces in Matruh arrested 131 Egyptians attempting to irregularly cross the Egyptian–Libyan border via desert routes in Salloum and Siwa.
- Over a period of a week in November and as reported on 17 November, IOM has repatriated 23 stranded migrants, refugees and asylum seekers from Burkina Faso. This included 21 men, one woman and her child. These 23 are part of a group of 258 Burkinabe stranded in Libya whom IOM expects to repatriate in the next two months. The remainder of the group is now staying in a shelter in Tripoli organized by the Burkina Faso embassy. IOM is working with the embassy to secure travel documents. The ongoing repatriation is being organized in close coordination with the Libyan Interior Ministry’s Directorate for Combating Illegal Migration (DCIM).

Policy

- On 11 November, the EU and Ethiopia signed a Joint Declaration for a Common Agenda on Migration and Mobility (CAMM), reflecting the importance of Ethiopia as a key country of origin, transit and destination of irregular migrants and refugees from the Horn of Africa on the route to Europe. The two parties will cooperate on issues of international protection and refugees needs, regular migration and mobility, irregular migration, human smuggling and trafficking and development policy.
- On 12 and 13 November, IOM Ethiopia conducted a two-day international migration law training for 24 senior government officials in Addis Ababa. The participants come from seven regions and two city administrations - Tigray, Afar, Amhara, Oromia, SNNPR, Somalia, Harari, Addis Ababa and Dire Dawa. The training included an overview of international migration law, international child migration, issues associated with the Gulf of Aden/Red Sea migration route, competences and obligations of states and rights of migrant children, child trafficking and smuggling, definition of concepts, similarities and differences, as well as international frameworks. Current efforts to curb irregular migration, gaps and challenges for protection, return and reintegration in origin and transit locations were also highlighted.
Policy

- The Global Initiative against Transnational Organised Crime states that between 5,000 and 20,000 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers were smuggled last year through Mali towards Libya, including by trans-Saharan nomadic tribes, such as the Tuareg in Northern Mali and Southern Algeria.

Morocco

Departures/Arrivals/Rescues

- On 30 October, four male migrants, refugees and/or asylum seekers were found dead at sea between Morocco and Spain after having been spotted by a helicopter. An additional 15 survivors were found in an area of the Mediterranean Sea to the Northeast of the Moroccan coastal city of Al Hoceima and taken to the Southern Spanish port of Malaga.
- On 7 December, the Spanish Coast Guard rescued 47 African migrants, refugees and asylum seekers aboard a boat that was heading for the archipelago.
- On 8 December, 11 Sub-Saharan African migrants, refugees and/or asylum seekers bodies were found by the Moroccan Royal Navy after their boat sank in the Atlantic on 7 December, 140 km South of Boujdour city in Western Sahara due to weather conditions. One woman was among the 11 who tried to reach the Spanish Canary Islands.

Niger

Refugees/Asylum Seekers

- As of 18 November, the Government of Niger estimated that the insurgency-related population of Nigerian refugees and Niger nationals who had been living in Nigeria (Niger returned migrants) has reached 138,000, an increase of 38,000 (27.5 per cent) since October. It also estimates the internally displaced person (IDP) population at 50,000 (Nigerian Situation UNHCR Regional Update Nº18).
- According to OCHA, while most of Malian refugees are living in camps, their prolonged presence in Niger puts a strain on already scarce resources of the host communities. As reported on 9 December, around 4,000 Malians fled to Niger due to lawlessness, extortion, community rivalry and food shortages among other threats according to their statements.
SUDAN

Refugees/Asylum Seekers
• As of 25 November, the total number of South Sudanese in Sudan was reported to be 350,000. The decrease in the South Sudanese population is mainly in South Kordofan, where a reduction of 1,928 was confirmed after an inter-agency humanitarian needs assessment mission from 8 to 18 November. The influx into White Nile State continues, with a total of 1,794 more individuals settled across the seven sites during the 12 and 25 November. (UNHCR Operational Update for South Sudan 12 - 25 November 2015)

TUNISIA

Departures/Arrivals/Rescues
• On 25 November, Tunisia closed its border with Libya, a day after a deadly suicide bombing that was claimed by the Islamic State (IS) group.

Policy
• On 2 November, the Ministry of Social Affairs of Tunisia launched a number of consultations in six governorates on the impact of migration in the region and on development. The six governorates are Ben Arous, Sfax, Medenine, Gabes, Jendouba, and Kasserine. The consultations were conducted with the support of the International Organization for Migration and the United Nations Development Programme and are a component of the project “integrating migration in national development strategies” to support the development of the 2016-2020 National Development Plan and the National Migration Strategy.

GREECE / BALKAN ROUTE

Departures/Arrivals/Rescues
• IOM estimates that between 1 January and 3 December, 744,652 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers have arrived in Greece, a figure that amounts to nearly four times the total for all of 2014.
• 6,379 arrivals were registered on 4 November and another 4,806 arrivals were reported to have registered on 2 December. The main landing points are Lesvos, Kos, Samos, Rhodes, Kalymnos, Megisti, Leros and Chios.
• Between 4 and 6 November, a daily average of 1,350 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers continued to arrive at the border between Greece and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. The number of those crossing this border reached 26,840 between 2 and 9 November.
• From 6 to 8 November, IOM reports an estimated 17,600 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers arrived to Greece by sea. Some 6,803 arrived on 6 November, 6,340 on 7 November and 4,528 on 8 November. Also on 7 November, some 12,500 migrants were transferred from the islands to Athens and Kavala by ferry.

• It is reported that two relocation operations of asylum seekers were carried out by the Italian government in November. During the first operation on 5 November, 19 Eritreans (18 men and one woman) were transferred to the French city of Nantes. During the second operation on 8 November, 12 asylum seekers (11 Eritreans and one Syrian) were relocated to Spain. IOM staff accompanied the migrants from Sicily to Nantes. On arrival, they were met by local authorities, government officials and representatives of the French Office for Immigration and Integration (OFFI). The next day, they were divided into three groups and transferred to nearby villages.

• On 17 November IOM Greece reported that a boat carrying some 20 migrants capsized off the Greek island of Kos, leaving nine migrants, refugees and asylum seekers dead (two were children, seven and 14 years old). Seven people were rescued and at the time of reporting, four were still missing.

• Migrant flows from Turkey to the Greek islands have remained high over the first two weeks of November with over 70,000 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers arriving in Greece since the beginning of November through 17 November, according to IOM estimates.

• The highest monthly number of arrivals in Greece this year was in October (not including final Nov. numbers) when 214,000 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers arrived on Greek beaches. This compares to 31,318 in June, 65,998 in July, 108,248 in August and 147,671 in September.

• In the first two weeks of November, there had been a shift away from the small, plastic boats used by smugglers during the calmer summer months, to larger, wooden fishing vessels. These can typically carry 100 people at a time.

• On 22 November, 155 migrants refugees and asylum seekers arrived on the Greek islands by sea. Of these, 79 arrived in Kalymnos, 44 in Megisti and 24 in Lesvos. The remainder arrived in Chios and Kos.

• IOM estimates that the number of migrants not allowed to cross the border with the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) rose from 400 on 19 November, to 800 on 20 November and 1,300 on 21 November. On 22 November, there were between 1,500 and 2,000 migrants not allowed to cross the border. The main nationalities of the arrivals include Iranians, Bangladeshis, Pakistanis and Moroccans. Migrants from Morocco told IOM observers they flew to Istanbul in order to cross into Greece.

ITALY / CENTRAL MEDITERRANEAN ROUTE

Departures/Arrivals/Rescues

• The movement of migrants heading to Italy has slowed significantly in the last weeks of November, partly because of the weather conditions. However, in just the first days of December, the Italian Coast Guard rescued almost 2,000 migrants from 11 boats that were attempting to cross the Mediterranean to reach Italy. It was the largest number of migrants reported to be saved en route to Italy in more than a month. Most of the migrants are coming from Sub-Saharan Africa and set sail from Libya in rickety boats provided by smugglers.
From 1 January to 3 December, IOM's Missing Migrants Project recorded 3,596 deaths in the Mediterranean, 1,217 coming from Sub-Saharan Africa (33.8 per cent), 359 from the Horn of Africa (10 per cent), 686 from the Middle East and North Africa (19.1 per cent), and 1,334 with unknown origins (37.1 per cent).

IOM recorded 110 deaths in the Mediterranean in November, a decrease from the 428 reported in October but an increase of 88 from November 2014.

As of the end of November, 144,200 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers arrived in Italy by sea in 2015, with 3,200 arriving by sea in November alone. Of the total sea arrivals, 46,280 of the total came from Eritrea, Syria, Iraq and the Central African Republic. (UNHCR guidelines. UNHCR Update #3 Italy - Sea Arrivals November 2015)

In addition, 43 asylum seekers were relocated from Italy to France, Spain, Germany and Sweden under the EU relocation scheme. (UNHCR Update #3 Italy - Sea Arrivals November 2015)

Key disembarkation points for sea arrivals in November remained Sicilian ports which have been identified as hotspots (though not all are operational), including Pozzallo (31 per cent), Lampedusa (23 per cent), Augusta (19 per cent) and Trapani (10 per cent). In addition, disembarkation took place in Catania (13 per cent). (UNHCR Update #3 Italy - Sea Arrivals November 2015)

Boats departing from Libya decreased during November, whilst the number of persons arriving from Libya to Italy remained similar to previous months, which may indicate the use of larger boats.

At the same time, November observed an increase of boat arrivals departing from Algeria, whilst the number of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers on board the boats remained limited (4–16 persons). 12 of the 19 total boats recorded from Algeria arrived in the last two months.

Smuggling and Trafficking

On 5 November, after a year-long investigation, the Italian police arrested four Nigerians accused of setting up a criminal network operating between Nigeria and Italy dedicated to the trafficking of young women for prostitution in the province of Milan. At least 9 women that were identified by the investigators as victims of trafficking were subjected in Nigeria to a ritual intended to force psychosocial submission before being taken to Italy. In some cases they were taken through the desert and then aboard boats from Libya to Lampedusa. Once in Italy, the women were forced into prostitution to eliminate the debt held over them (reaching up to 70,000 Euro) by the traffickers.

Policy

On 24 November, the Ministry of Interior established a working group with the objective to draft a Relocation Operational Manual and an information package, in relation to migrants, refugees and asylum seekers including a common narrative on relocation for all actors involved in information activities. (UNHCR Update #3 Italy - Sea Arrivals November 2015)
On 25 November, a draft law establishing a new procedure for the determination of statelessness was presented to the Senate. The drafting has been supported by UNHCR and the Italian Refugee Council and has been developed in line with relevant. (UNHCR Update #3 Italy - Sea Arrivals November 2015)

The Italian Ministry of Labour and Social Policies, Directorate General of migration and Integration Policies, through Italy Lavoro Spa, and the National Migration Policy Fund, has committed to finance a potential project for the socio-employment of vulnerable groups of migrants. The aim of the intervention is to promote actions for improving the work opportunities of persons with international protection, as reflected in the protection system for asylum seekers and refugees (SPRAR).

**RESEARCH OF INTEREST**

*Moving Stories, International Review on how Media Cover Migration* - by EJN Ethical Journalism Network
The Ethical Journalism Network commissioned ‘Moving Stories’ a review of how media in selected countries have reported on refugees and migrants in 2015.

*Irregular Migration between West Africa, North Africa and the Mediterranean* - by Altai Consulting for IOM Nigeria
A research study on the drivers and dynamics of migration within the Economic Community of Western African States (ECOWAS) and Mauritania and from ECOWAS to Europe.

*Survive and advance: The economics of smuggling refugees and migrants into Europe* - by the Institute for Security studies
This report explains how violent conflicts, terrorism, long-standing repressive regimes, chronic poverty and inequality have driven an unprecedented number of refugees and migrants to Europe. Those making the journey are assisted by an increasingly violent and opportunistic smuggling industry. Sustainable profits made by this industry have allowed transnational networks to develop where they previously did not exist, with serious implications for human security and state stability.

*A Certain Catalyst: an overview of the (mixed) migration and development debate with special focus on the Horn of Africa region: Extended Summary* - by RMMS
This extended summary is an abridged version of A Certain Catalyst, RMMS’s 9th report in Explaining People on the Move series. Both offer a balanced perspective of the migration debate and highlight the importance of public discussions on the central issues relevant to all regions in our increasingly globalised and interconnected world.

*Seeking safe harbor: three-region comparative analysis of protection at sea* - by RMMS
This article provides a comparative analysis of sea crossings by migrants in the Mediterranean, the Gulf of Aden / Red Sea and the Bay of Bengal / Andaman Sea along with an overview of the different provisions for migrants such as protection at sea, vulnerabilities on land and sea, policies of transit and destination countries. The analysis reveals some important trends and considerable inconsistencies across regions.
The Other Migrant Crisis – Protecting Migrant Workers against Exploitation in the Middle East and North Africa – by IOM
While a protracted regional crisis pulls international headlines, the enduring exploitation and trafficking of migrant workers in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) continues unabated. This report examines the situation of these other migrants – the men, women and at times children who are trafficked or exploited as low-paid workers in MENA.

MULTI-MEDIA OF INTEREST

Why Ethiopians are migrating en masse – ESAT WWH with Luca Dall’Oglio (VIDEO)
An interview with Luca Dall’Oglio, Chief of Mission of the International Organization for Migration in Washington, discusses the topic of migration and the presence of Ethiopians in Malawi. The discussion focuses on why Ethiopians are migrating en masse.

Watch: Here’s What the Refugee Screening Process Looks Like - White House Gov (VIDEO)
This video demonstrates exactly what potential refugees go through to resettle in the United States.

Greece witnessing the migration crisis - Yannis Behrakis
This video documentary shows the circumstances and conditions of how boats arrive in Greece.

Last Week Tonight with John Oliver: Migrants and Refugees - HBO (VIDEO)
Millions of migrants seeking asylum in Europe face hostility, racism, and red tape. John Oliver does one admittedly tiny thing for one of them.

Refugees and internally displaced people (interactive) - Lucify
As the UN launches a record 20.1bn USD appeal for humanitarian funding, the numbers of refugees and internally displaced people around the world are rising. This interactive by Lucify visualises refugee numbers and concentration. The interactive also shows the funding of UN humanitarian appeals to support work in countries including Sudan, Syria and Chad.

On the road in Agadez: desperation and death along a Saharan smuggling route - The Guardian
As political leaders met in Malta to discuss measures to stem the flow of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers from Africa to Europe, Patrick Kingsley met the smugglers and the smuggled on a route through the desert from Niger. This article includes images and maps.

Migrants self-mutilate on closed border - Reuters
Migrants stuck on the border between Greece and Macedonia protest with chanting, hunger strikes, refusing aid and sewing their lips together.

Desperate Journey: Europe’s Refugee Crisis - Human Rights Watch
This video depicts migrants’ journeys as they travel to northern and western EU countries. It explains the travel through migrants stories and experiences.