



MIXED MIGRATION TREND REPORT FOR DECEMBER 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 serves as the secretariat of the North Africa Mixed Migration Task Force.

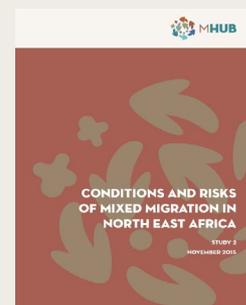
Terminology: Throughout this bulletin the terms migrant, refugee and asylum seeker are used together to cover all those comprising the mixed migration flows (included in these complex population movements are refugees, asylum seekers, economic migrants and other migrants such as unaccompanied minors, 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](#)

NORTH AFRICA

ALGERIA

Policy

On 3 December, [Algeria Press Service](#) reported that following a natural disaster, several UN organizations launched international appeals in coordination with the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), including the

World Food Programme (WFP), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and the World Health Organization (WHO) to provide urgent aid to the people stricken by the floods, estimated at 20 million USD for Saharawi refugees.

EGYPT

Departures/Arrivals/Rescues

- On 6 December, [local media](#) reported that Egypt's army and border guards arrested 100 irregular migrants, refugees and asylum seekers attempting to enter Libya through Egypt's Western frontier. The arrested, who include five Sudanese, were caught while passing through mountainous valleys near Egypt's North Western border city of Salloum. They were also accused of trespassing on an off-limits military area.
- On 15 December, a total of [19 deportees](#) from Egypt arrived in Cairo from Italy. An additional two Egyptian deportees arrived in Cairo from Lebanon and one from the U.S. The Egyptian nationals deported from Italy admitted to having entered irregularly by sea, the three others irregularly resided in Lebanon and the U.S.
- On 23 December, [local media](#) reported that Egypt's army arrested 151 irregular migrants, refugees and asylum seekers for attempting to cross into Libya through Marsa Matrouh governorate in the North Western area of Egypt. 145 were Egyptian and six are Sudanese.

Migrant Vulnerability

- During a visit to Minya, the Immigration and Egyptian Expatriates Affairs Minister, Nabila

Makram, said that the governorate was the first Egyptian exporter of [minor children](#) to Europe and she affirmed that Italy is home to more than 4,000 Egyptian children who migrated there irregularly.

Policy

- On 7 December, Immigration and Egyptian Expatriates Affairs Minister, Nabila Makram, highlighted the importance of addressing the issue of [irregular migration](#), noting it as being a security issue.
- On 15 January 2016, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) reported that Egypt's inter-ministerial National Coordinating Committee to Combat and Prevent Illegal Migration (NCCPIM) launched its first annual report. Speaking at the launch of the report in Cairo, NCCPIM head Ambassador Naela Gabr, thanked IOM for its support, its role in developing Egypt's national [anti-smuggling law](#), and its awareness raising campaign to inform young Egyptians of the risks and dangers of irregular migration. The report addressed the achievements and challenges of the 2014-2015 NCCPIM National Action Plan, and future plans to develop a National Strategy for 2016-2018.

- Between 10 and 11 December, IOM reported that it supported the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) in the organization of a two-day training for governmental officials on International Migration and Development (IMD) in Ain Sokhna, Suez, Egypt. The IMD training was attended by 24 Egyptian

policy makers who actively contributed to mainstreaming migration into national development and poverty reduction plans in Egypt.

ETHIOPIA

Refugees/Asylum Seekers

- As of 31 December, the total number of [refugees and asylum seekers in Ethiopia](#) was 733,644, as reported by UNHCR. Of those, 269,813 were in Gambella (36.8 per cent), 210,924 in Melkadida (28.7 per cent), 50,601 in Assosa (6.9 per cent), 31,788 in Samara (4.3 per cent), 37,876 in Shire (5.2 per cent), 8,094 in Addis Ababa (1.1 per cent) and 3,556 in Borona (0.5 per cent). The remaining 16.5 per cent were in other locations. (UNHCR December Factsheet Ethiopia)
- As of 1 January 2016, of the 269,813 refugees in [Gambella camps](#), 63,272 were in the Pugnido camp (23.4 per cent), 53,397 in the Tierkidi camp (20 per cent), 48,306 in the Jewi camp (17.9 per cent), 48,213 in the Kule camp (17.8 per cent), 15,915 in the Pugnido II camp (5.9 per cent), and 7,684 in the Okugo camp (2.8 per cent). The remaining 33,026 (12.2 per cent) were in other locations outside of camps. (UNHCR Refugee Population in Gambella as of 1 January 2016)
- Of the remaining 33,026 (12.2 per cent) that were in [other locations](#) outside of Gambella camps, there were 1,589 persons of concern listed in Akula (0.6 per cent), 1,534 in Itang (0.6 per cent), and 29,903 in border areas (11 per cent). Of the 29,903 in border areas, 5,221 (in transit at Mataar) were in Burbiey (17.4 per cent), 1,733 (in transit at Mataar) are in Akobo (5.8 per cent), 4,250 were in Pagak (entry point) (14.2 per cent), 1,470 were in Pamdong (entry point) (4.9 per cent), and 4,876 were in NyingNyang (16.3 per cent). The details of the remaining 12,353 (41.4 per cent) were not specified. (UNHCR

Refugee Population in Gambella as of 1 January 2016)

- As of 8 January 2016, there were a total of [220,207 South Sudanese refugees in Ethiopia](#) since recording began in 15 December 2013. Of those, 33,026 were living within host communities (15 per cent) and 187,181 refugees were transferred to camps (85 per cent).
- As of 8 January, in addition to the 220,207 South Sudanese refugees in the Gambella region, there are [321 refugees in Addis](#) and [11,174 refugees at the camps in Assosa](#).

Policy

- In December, IOM in close collaboration with the Government of Ethiopia and with support from the UN and Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), held two workshops to start a [Migration Profile exercise and to establish a National Coordination Mechanism on Migration for Ethiopia](#). The initiatives are being spearheaded by the Government of Ethiopia with the technical support of IOM.

LIBYA

Departures/Arrivals/Rescues

- On 1 December, IOM facilitated and completed the [repatriation of 170 Malian nationals](#), including 13 females and three infants that were stranded in Tripoli. The repatriation was organized in close cooperation with the Embassy of the Republic of Mali in Tripoli, who also accommodated all single migrants, refugees and asylum seekers for an overnight stay on their premises the night before the flight to Mali.
- Between 3 and 5 December, more than [4,600 migrants](#), refugees and asylum seekers travelling across the Mediterranean in boats were rescued off the Libyan coast while attempting to reach the nearest Italian coast. On 5 December, at least 1,123 of them were rescued from two boats and seven inflatable dinghies, as the Coast Guard Operations Centre in Rome coordinated nine rescues. Several Italian Coast Guard vessels, along with the German naval support ship Berlin – part of Operation Sophia, the European Union military mission to stop

people traffickers – took part in the rescues.

- On 22 December, [nearly 800 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers were rescued](#) in the Mediterranean while attempting to cross to Europe. 782 were rescued from rubber dinghies and a rickety boat off the coast of Libya in eight separate operations coordinated with the support of the Doctors Without Borders' boat Bourbon Argos, a navy ship and a Liberian-flagged cargo vessel. The Italian navy ship found one dead body.

Policy

- A peace deal was signed during the last [week of November](#) in Qatar between warring tribes from the Saharan town of Ubari. [The peace deal](#) may bring some hope for displaced and marginalised people in Libya's desert South, including those currently in a partially-built construction project known locally as "the Chinese Camp".

MALI

Refugees/Asylum Seekers

- As of 31 December, [140,776 refugees](#) were registered in Mali, 4,795 (3.4 per cent) more than December 2014.
- Of the 140,776 registered refugees in Mali, 17,019 are Malian [refugee returnees](#), an increase of 2,016 (11.8 per cent) from December 2014.

- As of 31 December, [56,012 Malian refugees](#) came from Niger, an increase of 1,603 (2.9 per cent) from 30 November, and 50,228 came from Mauritania, a decrease of 227 (0.5 per cent) from 30 November.

MOROCCO

Policy

- 70 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers of eight different African nationalities benefited from a [vocational professional](#) training project to facilitate their socio-economic and cultural integration in Morocco. On 16 December, the project was launched in Salé by the Moroccan Organization Initiative for Family Equity (OMEF) and the Ministry in charge of Moroccans living abroad and Migration Affairs. The initiative was

launched in conjunction with the conclusion of a study on Sub Saharan migrants in the Rabat-Salé-Kenitra region. The president of OMEF, Boufrachen Hayat, stated that the main objective of this study was to collect and analyze existing data to help develop a training programme to promote socio-economical integration of migrants in the Rabat-Salé-Kenitra region.

Policy

- On 14 December, the [second national humanitarian campaign](#) was launched to commemorate the week of migrants in Morocco (14 through 19 December), benefiting approximately 5,000 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers, particularly women and children. The campaign is a joint initiative of the Ministry in charge of Moroccans living abroad and Migration Affairs and the Moroccan Red Crescent.

The Minister in charge of Moroccans living abroad and Migration Affairs, Anis Birou, explained that this campaign is part of the implementation of the King's vision for a [humane approach to migrants](#). In addition, a series of education, cultural, economic, scientific, sports, social and humanitarian activities will be held for migrants and refugees, including vocational training sessions for 1,000 migrants.

NIGER

Refugees/Asylum Seekers

- As of 17 December, the Government of Niger estimated that the insurgency related population of [Nigerian refugees](#) and returned Niger nationals who had been

living in Nigeria and the internally displaced persons (IDP) population remains the same as the previous month at 138,000 and 50,000 persons respectively. (UNHCR Regional Update No. 19)

SUDAN

Refugees/Asylum Seekers

- As of 23 December (since December 2013), a total of [184,668](#) migrants, refugees and asylum seekers arrived in Sudan from South Sudan. Of those, 112,999 were new arrivals in White Nile (61.2 per cent), 34,487 in Khartoum (18.7 per cent), 22,245 in South

Kordofan (12 per cent), 10,738 in West Kordofan (5.8 per cent), 3,661 in Blue Nile (2 per cent), 374 in North Kordofan (0.2 per cent), and 164 in East Darfur (0.1 per cent). (UNHCR Operational Update for South Sudan 10-23 December 2015)

TUNISIA

Departures/Arrivals/Rescues

- On 11 December, the Interior Ministry of Tunisia announced the [reopening of the border crossing with Libya](#) that was closed after an attack on 24 November in Tunisia. Security measures strengthened near the Ras Jedir station remained in force. The decision to close the border with Libya

had been taken by the Council of National Security on 25 November, the day after a suicide attack against a presidential security bus that killed 12 officers. There was also a decision to strengthen surveillance of maritime borders and airports.

GREECE / BALKAN ROUTE

New Arrivals

- IOM estimate that [45,255 migrants](#), refugees and asylum seekers reached the Greek islands from Turkey during the first two weeks of December. Almost 80 per cent of those crossed into the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) during the same period.

Departures/Arrivals/Rescues

- IOM estimated that between 1 January and 31 December 2015, 847,084 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers arrived in Greece by sea.
- 3,001 arrivals were registered on 30 December alone.
- On 2 December, [4,058 migrants](#), refugees and asylum seekers from Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan were allowed to cross Greece's border with the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM). Since then, according to IOM, nobody has crossed that border.
- Another [3,500 migrants](#) from other nationalities were stranded on the Greek side of the border, together with approximately 2,500 Syrians, Afghans and Iraqis, who were caught at the border closure but are expected to be admitted to the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) when the border reopens.
- Turkish local media reported that during the first four days of December, the [Turkish Coast Guard apprehended a total of 2,933 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers](#), mainly from Syria and Iraq, as they were preparing to make their way to the Greek island of Lesbos from the North Western town of Ayvacik, in Çanakkale province. The Turkish Coast Guard sent them to a detention centre where some could face deportation. 35 suspected smugglers were also detained and hundreds of boats were seized.
- On 15 December, [two children were found dead](#) on Turkey's Western coast. They were wearing life jackets when they were found by fishermen near Cesme in the Western province of Izmir. No further information on the children was released but the [Coast Guard](#) said more than 200 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers were rescued from the waters off Western Turkey on the same day after attempting to reach the Greek islands.
- On 18 December, [two shipwrecks](#) occurred off the Turkish coast. In one shipwreck, eight were reported dead, five of them children. In the other, four Iraqis, including two children, died as their boat sank off the coast of Bodrum. The boat was carrying eight Iraqi migrants, refugees and asylum seekers who were attempting to get to Kos. However, the boat capsized at dawn after its departure from Bodrum. The Turkish Coast Guard was able to rescue four of the passengers.
- In another incident, [four Syrian migrants, including three children, were found dead](#) in international waters after departing from Turkey at the Greek island of Farmaco in the Dodecanese. The bodies were brought into Rhodes.
- During the night of 18 December, an old boat [transporting migrants, refugees and asylum seekers capsized](#) two nautical miles from the Turkish coast in the Aegean Sea. The boat set sail from the Turkish seaside resort of Bodrum in the South East of the country leaving [at least 18 dead](#). The Turkish Coast Guard was able to [rescue 14](#) migrants, refugees and asylum seekers from Syria, Iraq and Pakistan. The survivors were hospitalized in a state of hypothermia, and were reported to be in "serious" condition.
- On 20 December, the Turkish Coast Guard [rescued 51](#) migrants, refugees and asylum seekers in the Aegean Sea off the North Western Canakkale province coast, when their boat began to sink. The boat was headed towards the [Greek island of Lesbos](#). The rescued migrants, refugees and asylum seekers came from Afghanistan, Burma and Tibet.

- On 5 January 2016, [Turkish authorities found the bodies of at least 36 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers](#), including several children, on the beaches and the shores of Turkey's Western coast after their boats sank while attempting to cross the Aegean Sea to Greece.
- Under the pilot [EU relocation programme](#), IOM continues to provide transportation of refugees from Greece to other EU member states. As of 16 December, IOM assisted with the relocation of 82 refugees to Luxembourg, Finland, Germany, Lithuania, and Portugal. All refugees being relocated are provided with pre-departure assistance and are escorted by IOM staff to their final destination.

Policy

- On 14 December, the European Union and UNHCR launched a [joint programme in Athens to house 20,000 asylum seekers](#) eligible for relocation in the bloc and in Greece. Greece has so far spent nearly 1.5 billion USD on managing the migration movement in 2015 and expects to receive around [490 million USD from the EU](#) in the coming months.

ITALY / MEDITERRANEAN ROUTE

Departures/Arrivals/Rescues

- On 21 December, IOM confirmed that over one million irregular migrants, refugees and asylum seekers arrived in Europe in 2015, mostly from Syria, Africa and South Asia. Between 19 and 20 December, IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix - Flow Monitoring System counted 999,745 irregular arrivals across the Mediterranean, including migrants journeying by both land and sea to Greece, as well as to Bulgaria, Spain, Italy, Malta and Cyprus.
- From 1 January to 26 December 2015, [IOM's Missing Migrants Project](#) recorded 3,760 deaths in the Mediterranean. Of the 3,760 deceased, 1,220 came from Sub Saharan Africa (32.4 per cent), 359 from the Horn of Africa (9.6 per cent), 849 from the Middle East and North Africa (22.5 per cent), and 1,332 with unknown origins (35.5 per cent).
- From 1 January until 17 December 2015, IOM, together with its partners and through its legal roving teams in Sicily, Calabria and Apulia, has assisted more than [400 landings](#) and provided assistance and legal counselling to around 95 per cent of the migrants, refugees and asylum seekers that arrived by sea to Italy.
- IOM estimated that between 1 January and 31 December 2015, 153,842 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers arrived in Italy, a decrease of 16,258 (9.5 per cent) when compared to 2014.
- Of the 153,842 arrivals in Italy, 39,162 came from Eritrea (25.5 per cent), 22,237 from Nigeria (14.5 per cent), 12,433 from Somalia (8.1 per cent), 8,932 from Sudan (5.8 per cent), 7,448 from Syria (4.9 per cent), and 8,454 from Gambia (5.5 per cent). The remaining 35.7 per cent came from other countries.
- IOM estimated that during the month of December, 9,637 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers arrived in Italy, an increase of 2,905 (1.43 per cent) in comparison to December 2014. The main country where migrants, refugees and asylum seekers departed from bound for Italy was Libya in 2015, with a few recorded departures from Egypt, Greece, and Turkey.
- On 30 December, 188 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers were rescued in the Channel of Sicily and brought to Augusta (Sicily) by the Doctors Without Borders ship Bourbon Argos.

Smuggling and Trafficking

- On 22 December, the police of Palermo and Agrigento, in collaboration with the staff of the Port, [arrested three traffickers](#) alleged to be responsible for a series of boat trips towards the Sicilian coasts, one of which resulted in the [death of 300 migrants](#), refugees and asylum seekers. They were accused of having facilitated irregular migration. The migrants, refugees and asylum seekers were obliged to pay a sum of about [2,000 USD](#) to travel from Libya to Italy. The criminal organization, as magistrates discovered, had its operational base in Sicily, which managed the movement of migrants from Sicily to North Europe.

Policy

- On 1 December, [UNHCR facilitated a joint training with IOM for 30 staff members of the European Union Naval Force \(EUNAVFOR MED\)](#). The training sessions covered various topics including international protection, treatment of refugees and migrants during rescue and disembarkation, mixed flows, victims of trafficking and unaccompanied and separated children (UASC).

RESEARCH OF INTEREST

[International migration flows to and from selected countries: The 2015 revision](#) - United Nation Department of Economic and Social Affairs

This is a compilation of data on international migration flows useful for analytical purposes. The dataset contains annual data on the flows of international migrants as recorded by the countries of destination. The data presents both inflows and outflows according to the place of birth, citizenship or place of previous/next residence both for foreigners and nationals. The compilation presents data available from 45 countries.

[Migrants in Algeria struggle for acceptance](#) - Middle East Eye

Tens of thousands of migrants from Sub Saharan countries have settled down in Algeria. The article provides insight into their new lives in Algeria and some of the challenges they have encountered.

[Periphery under Pressure: Morocco, Tunisia and the European Union's Mobility Partnership on Migration](#) - EUI Working papers

The paper explains the context and implications for the cooperation between Morocco, Tunisia and the European Union on migration control, specifically the Mobility Partnership on Migration.

[Turkey mistreated scores of migrants, says Amnesty](#) - BBC News

This article reports that according to a new Amnesty International report, Turkey has detained and mistreated scores of migrants and refugees, pressuring some to return to war zones.

[Forced Migration Review Destination: Europe](#) - Refugee Studies Centre of the Oxford Department of International Development, University of Oxford.

Forced Migration Review (FMR) provides a forum for the regular exchange of practical experience, information and ideas between researchers, refugees and internally displaced people, and those who work with them.

[2015: The year we mistook refugees for invaders](#) - By Philippe Fargues

As 2015 comes to a close, this research paper reports the annual numbers of migrants smuggled to Greece and Italy and asylum claims lodged in Germany have passed a million, as well as the number of additional displacements produced this year by the conflict in Syria. What is the nature of the crisis? Is it a migrant or a refugee crisis? What triggered the crisis? How can we best respond to the crisis? These are the main questions the report tries to answer.

[2015 Situation Report on International Migration Migration, Displacement and Development in a Changing Arab Region](#) - IOM and ESCWA

While international migration is one of the main factors driving economic and social change in the Arab region, the continuing displacement of populations occurring in several countries of the region remains one of the most pressing issues of today. In order to understand and make the most of the positive effects of migration – and to mitigate its potential downsides – a new approach, underpinned by good practice, human rights and a long-term development perspective, is needed. This report aims to provide exactly this. It also fills gaps in knowledge by providing a multidisciplinary and comprehensive overview of trends and patterns in international migration and displacement, and their economic and social consequences for the Arab region. The report draws on the expertise of the member agencies of the Working Group on International Migration in the Arab Region and highlights the need for coordinated and holistic responses to current challenges associated with human mobility.

MULTI-MEDIA OF INTEREST

[Telegraph](#) – AP Photo/Yorgos Karahalidis

Migrants and refugees arrived on the Greek island of Kos in pictures.

[Greece: Witnessing the migration crisis](#) – Yannis Behrakis

Reuters photojournalist Yannis Behrakis documented the migration crisis in Greece through the lens and described his experience through a video and photo story.

[Presentation of findings from “Migration Trends Across the Mediterranean: Connecting the Dots”](#)

- Arezo Malakooti of Altai Consulting

By invitation of the Mixed Migration Hub (MHub) whom also created this video, Arezo presents the findings of the research “Migration Trends Across the Mediterranean: Connecting the Dots” commissioned by IOM Egypt as it was presented at a Migrants Day Conference on 17 December.

[Spotlight TEDx Talk: Why refugees are a gift, not a burden, to society](#) – TEDX Innovations

Alexander Betts who worked at a refugee reception center in the Netherlands and now leads the Refugee Studies Centre at Oxford University provides more insight on refugees as citizens, dispelling popular myths about refugee life.

[International Migrants Day 2015](#) - (Statement & Video) IOM

IOM released a statement and video message from Director General William Lacy Swing to mark International Migrants Day on 18 December 2015.

[Migration blog for the Middle East and North Africa](#) - Hosted by IOM Regional Office for the Middle East and North Africa (RO MENA)

The blog provides a forum for researchers, practitioners and other interested individuals and organizations to exchange ideas and build knowledge relating to migration in the Middle East and North Africa region.

[Research Launch video of “Conditions and Risks of Mixed Migration in North East Africa”](#) - Mixed Migration Hub

This video highlights the findings of the report ‘Conditions and Risks of Mixed Migration in North East Africa’. The report focuses on the conditions and risks of migration in Ethiopia, Sudan and Egypt and the experiences of people who are on the move. The lack of safe, regular migration opportunities drives migration underground, leading to risks of new human rights violations and abuses during the journey.