



MONTHLY TREND REPORT

COVERING MIXED MIGRATION TO, THROUGH & FROM NORTH AFRICA

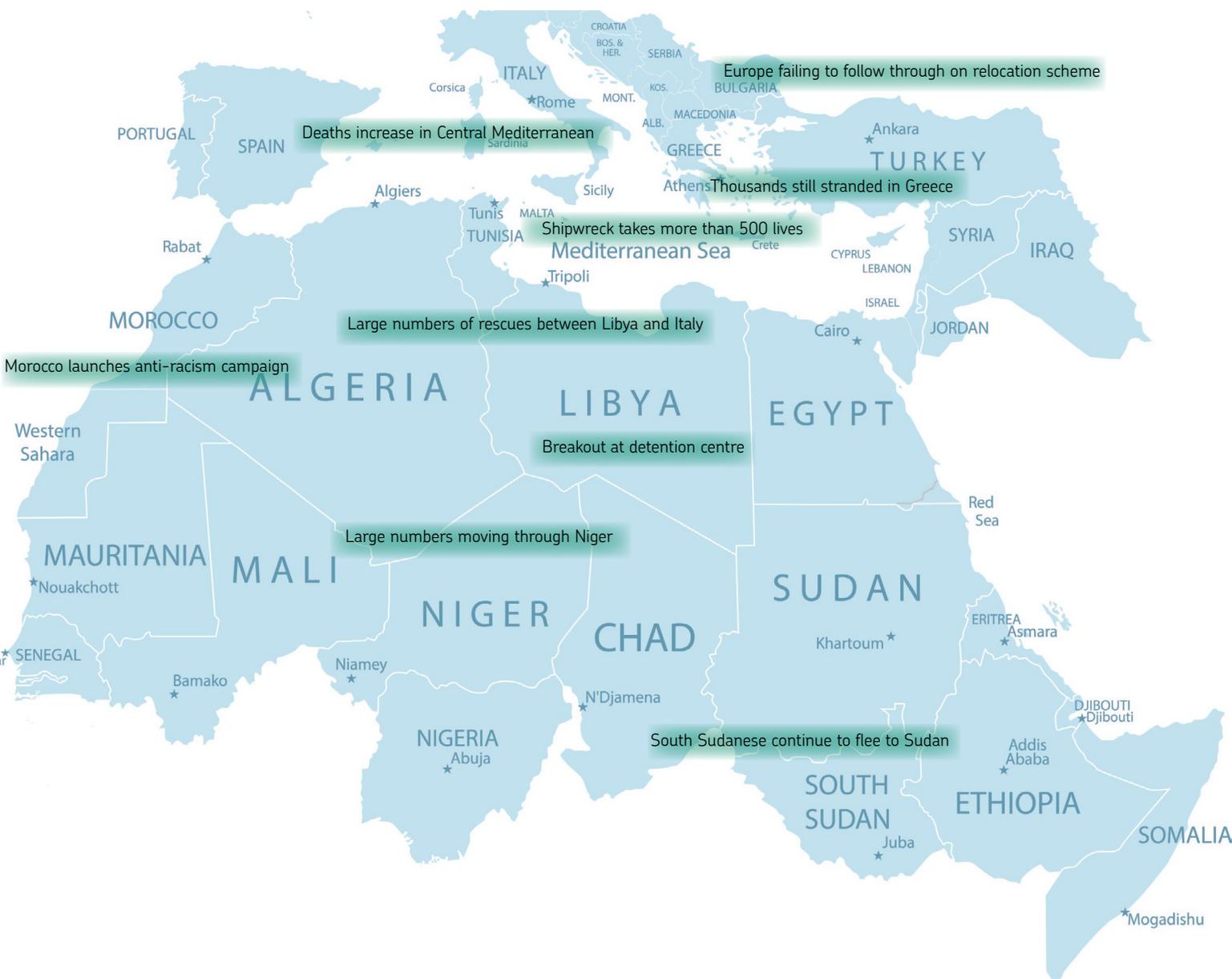
About: MHUB is the regional knowledge hub and secretariat for the North Africa Mixed Migration Task Force, comprising of DRC, IOM, OHCHR, RMMS, Save the Children, UNHCR and UNODC. It promotes a human rights-based approach to ensure the protection of people moving in mixed and complex flows to, through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

Scope: This bulletin covers mixed migration trends in Algeria, Egypt, Libya, 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



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For updates on the Horn of Africa, visit [RMMS](#)

REGIONAL

Returns from Greece to Turkey

- The EU continues to send back small numbers of irregular arrivals from Greece to Turkey, as per the landmark EU-Turkey deal struck in March. On 8 April, more than [120 individuals](#) were transported by two ferries from Lesbos to Dikili. A further [13 people](#) arrived in Dikili on 26 April, in addition to another five who were ferried from Chios to the Turkish city of Cesme. As part of the agreement, the European Commission announced on 19 April that it would allocate [EUR 110 million](#) to Turkey in order to support migrants and refugees, including those that had been recently returned from Greece.

European relocation scheme underperforming

- While the European Commission had pledged to relocate 6,000 persons from Greece to other European

countries within the first month of the agreement, only 208 individuals had been [resettled](#) by mid-April. The Commission has since proposed issuing [penalties](#) for EU countries that refuse to take their fair share of asylum seekers.

European attempts to curb departures from Libya

- With 9,149 arrivals via the Central Mediterranean route in April alone, according to IOM, EU officials worry that the Libya-Italy crossing is becoming the preferred path to Europe. On 18 April, the governments of France, Italy and Spain called to expand the EU's Mediterranean naval mission into Libyan waters, if requested by the new government in Tripoli. The EU has also discussed moving [security personnel](#) into Libya, if asked.

EGYPT

Egyptian nationals brought home

- According to a local news source, a group of 16 Egyptian fishermen were [released](#) by the Libyan Coast Guard after having been detained for nine months for entering Libya's territorial waters illegally. Additionally, 11 Egyptian nationals were [repatriated](#) from Syria on 21 April, having requested assistance from the Egyptian delegation to Damascus.

Rescues and deaths at sea

- On 16 April, 237 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers were [rescued](#) in the Mediterranean. Those on board - including nationals of Egypt, Somalia, Sudan, Eritrea, Ethiopia and the Comoros Islands - said that they had departed from Egypt six days prior. The following week,

local security forces in Sharqia announced that [25 young Egyptians](#) had drowned in the Mediterranean en route to Europe. On 1 May, a boat carrying [159 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers](#) - mostly Africans - was intercepted in Egyptian waters en route to Europe.

Egypt-Libya incidents

- On 12 April, Egyptian border guards arrested [112 people](#) - including 22 Sudanese - as they attempted to cross into Libya via the border town of Salloum. In a series of events that occurred between 26 and 27 April, 13 Egyptian men bound for Europe died at the hands of smugglers in Libya near Bani Walid. Media reports state that the group of Egyptians were [met with retaliatory gunfire](#) after having killed three smugglers.

LIBYA

Departures from Libya continue

- Following the closure of the Aegean route from Turkey to Greece, numbers of migrants sailing from Libya continue to rise. The Italian Coast Guard reported that 25 migrant boats had been intercepted over the course of just two days on 11-12 April, carrying just over [4,000 people](#). On the same days, the Libyan Coast Guard intercepted a further six inflatable boats carrying [649 people](#) off Sabratha, near Libya's border with Tunisia, and a further 115 were rescued when their boat got into trouble off the coast of Tripoli. The following day, 13 April, another rubber dinghy with 121 people on board was rescued about 30 miles north of the western Libyan city of Sabratha.

Tragic shipwreck takes more than 500 lives

- In what is regarded as one of the worst incidents to occur since last year's Mediterranean [shipwreck](#) that took the lives of more than 800 people, on 20 April it was reported that up to [500 people may have died](#) when their

overcrowded boat capsized en route from Libya to Italy. IOM later confirmed the number dead was [at least 400](#). The 41 survivors of the incident - including people from Egypt, Sudan, Ethiopia and Somalia - recounted that the boat sank when smugglers attempted to overload it with newcomers arriving on several small boats from Tobruk, Libya. The tragedy was followed by two additional shipwrecks off the coast of Libya on 29 April, which combined took the lives of [99 people](#).

Libya struggles to contain irregular movement

- Libyan authorities struggle to curb the flows of irregular migrants through Libyan territory. On 17 April, Libyan authorities arrested [203 African migrants and asylum seekers](#) who were attempting to undertake the sea crossing. Authorities received a tip-off regarding a smuggling operation and foiled the group's plans.

Days later, authorities deported just over [200 non-nationals](#) back to their countries of origin – Mali, Niger, the Gambia, Eritrea and Ivory Coast. It is unclear from reports if these were the same group arrested days earlier.

Deadly breakout at migrant detention centre

- In early April, tensions boiled over in Libya's al-Nasr migrant detention centre in Zawiya, where large number of migrants have been held for months. More than [200](#)

[inmates](#) staged a mass breakout, and as they fled, guards opened fire, killing four migrants and wounding 20.

NATO may join EU patrolling of Libyan waters

- It was proposed during a G5 meeting of world leaders that [NATO and the EU work together](#) off the Libyan coast to attempt to shut down smuggling networks. This could mean sending US warships to help patrol the international waters of the Central Mediterranean route.

MALI

Malian refugees and IDPs

- As of 30 April, there are [134,826 Malian refugees](#) – 60,329 of whom are currently residing in Niger; 41,113 in Mauritania; and 33,069 in Burkina Faso. Additionally, there are 21,274 Malian refugee returnees and 36,762 internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Mali.

High-Level Dialogue on Migration

- As a follow-up to the Valletta Summit, the EU and Mali held their first [High-Level Dialogue on Migration](#) on 15 April. Both parties expressed their commitment to partner together to address the root causes of migration, improve the situation of Malian refugees and continue the fight against migrant smuggling and trafficking.

MOROCCO

Morocco launches anti-racism campaign

- Activists in Morocco launched an [anti-racism campaign](#), aiming to combat all forms of racial discrimination in public space, especially towards migrants and refugees from sub-Saharan Africa. With global media focused on migration across the Mediterranean, the campaign aims to highlight

sub-Saharan migration to North Africa. Unlike other states in the region, Morocco began a process of “regularising” migrants in January 2014, providing residency and identity cards to irregular migrants. This progressive policy move was largely due to the activism of civil society.

NIGER

Large numbers moving through Niger

- The number of [incoming and outgoing](#) migrants, refugees and asylum seekers in Niger has dramatically increased in April compared with the previous month. Incoming numbers grew by 86%, reaching 9,142. Outgoing numbers increased by 297%, with 33,258 people departing Niger in April compared with 8,372 during the previous month.

Niger security forces make desert arrest

- It was reported on 25 April that Niger security forces [arrested more than 100 people](#) on board a truck in the Sahara Desert attempting to cross into Algeria. According to IOM, those aboard the truck were later returned to Agadez. As Niger increasingly emerges as a major transit country for Africans moving north, it has voiced that it needs EUR 1 billion from Europe to [fight illegal migration](#).

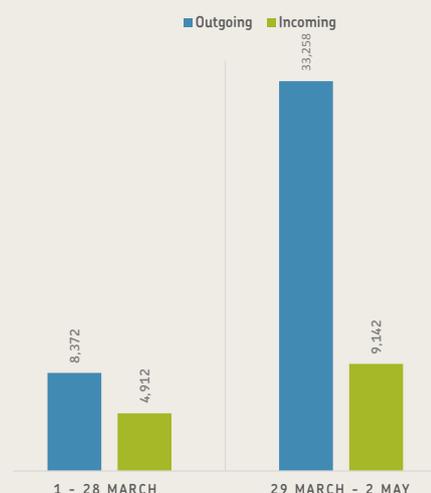
Cultural festival on safe migration

- A three-day [“Festival on Safe and Informed Migration”](#) was held by IOM in Agadez in order to raise awareness and inform transiting and potential migrants – as well as the host population – about migration.

Refugees and IDPs

- UNHCR reports that as of 12 May, there are [114,048 refugees](#) from Nigeria residing in Niger and an estimated 127,208 internally [displaced](#) Niger citizens within the Diffa region.

Niger: Outgoing and Incoming Flows



SUDAN

South Sudanese continue to flee into Sudan

- More than [55,000 South Sudanese](#) fled into Sudan between end of January and mid April, with the majority arriving in East Darfur. They are fleeing armed conflict and dire food insecurity in their home state.

Ongoing displacement from Jebel Marra

- Displaced people from [Darfur's East Jebel Marra region](#) continue to arrive in camps in South Darfur. Aerial bombardments by the Sudanese Air Force have struck Jebel Marra almost daily, in the government's attempt to crush the holdout rebel forces.

Humanitarian organisations estimated that at least 138,000 people from Jebel Marra in were displaced as of 31 March, however the IOM has not been given [permission to register](#) displaced people since February 2016.

UNHCR relocates Sudanese refugees from Yida camp

- UNHCR in South Sudan has begun [relocating Sudanese refugees](#) from Yida camp, just over the border from Sudan, where they have been residing since 2011. UNHCR cites overpopulation and security concerns, while the move has been met with [protests](#) from camp residents.

TUNISIA

Attempted crossings from Tunisia

- There have been a number of reported crossing attempts from Tunisia during the month of April. On 11 April, [15 people were apprehended](#) attempting to cross to Italy, while over 11-12th April [seven bodies were recovered](#) off the southern coast of Tunisia, near the Libyan border.

Tunisia launches “Not for Sale” campaign

- The Tunisian Ministry of Justice launched in April a [national awareness campaign](#) to combat human trafficking called “Not for Sale”. The campaign, supported by IOM, aims to raise awareness of the risks associated with human trafficking in Tunisia.

GREECE

Decrease in arrivals

- According to IOM, 3,650 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers arrived on Greek shores in April, representing an 86.5% decrease in sea arrivals from March. Of the newly detected* arrivals, the majority were from Syria (28%); Albania (17%); Pakistan (14%); Afghanistan (13%); Iraq (8%); Iran (3%); and Palestine (3%). Some crossing attempts have resulted in tragedy. On 9 April, four women and a child [drowned](#) off the coast of Samos, Greece and another five were rescued. A total of ten individuals [died](#) on the Eastern Mediterranean route this month.

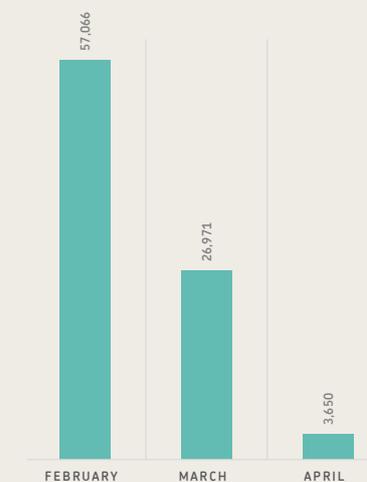
Tensions rise as thousands still stranded in Greece

- The closure of the Balkan route in March has left more than 53,700 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers [stranded](#) in poor conditions. Greek officials begun efforts to evacuate camps in Idomeni and Piraeus port amid [escalating tensions](#), which have resulted in clashes along Greece’s northern border. On 10 April, around 300 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers were [injured](#) after being met with tear gas and rubber bullets as they attempted to scale a fence into Macedonia.

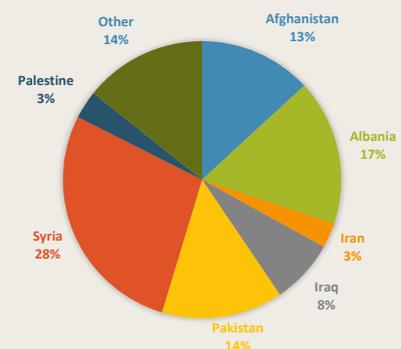
Greece’s practices raise human rights concerns

- Concerns have been raised over Greece’s ability to uphold the rights of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers in the aftermath of the EU-Turkey deal. In a [joint statement](#), the Norwegian Refugee Council, Oxfam and Solidarity Now called for the halt of returns to Turkey and detentions of asylum seekers on the Greek islands, while Human Rights Watch released a [report](#) condemning Greece’s new detention policy. According to Save the Children, hundreds of UASC are reportedly being [held in detention centres](#) and police cells for prolonged periods of time due to shortages of designated shelters.

Arrivals by Sea, Greece:
February - April 2016



Newly Detected* Migrants, Refugees & Asylum Seekers,
Main Countries of Origin, April 2016



*Includes new arrivals and those that have been recently identified by Hellenic Police.

ITALY

Increase in deaths on the Central Mediterranean Route

- Deaths along the Central Mediterranean route have continued to rise this month. 621 people lost their lives in April making the crossing, compared with 258 in March, marking a 140.7% increase. The increase in deaths comes in spite of a slight 5.4% reduction in arrivals - with 9,149 arrivals in April compared with March’s 9,676, according to IOM data.

Large numbers rescued in the Central Mediterranean

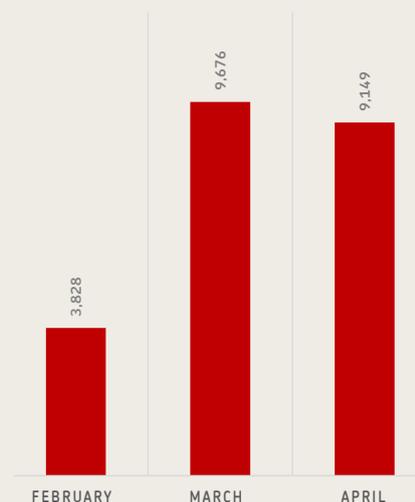
- A significant number of incidents required search and rescue missions during the month of April. [314 people](#) were rescued by the Italian Coast Guard on 7 April from a boat reportedly sailing from Egypt; [294 individuals](#) were rescued in the Channel of Sicily on 9 April; and [4,000 people](#) were picked up by the Italian Coast Guard between 11 and 12 April in the Strait of Sicily.

On 16 April, [116 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers](#) - three of whom had bullet wounds - were rescued by the "SOS Méditerranée" ship *Aquarius*; [464 people](#) - including a couple with gunshot wounds - were rescued and brought to Sicily on 17 April; on 18 April, *Aquarius* picked up 108 people and recovered six bodies, bringing them to Lampedusa; on the same day an additional 214 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers were rescued and taken to Pozzallo; and between 5 and 6 May, the Italian Coast Guard rescued [1,800 people](#) in the Strait of Sicily.

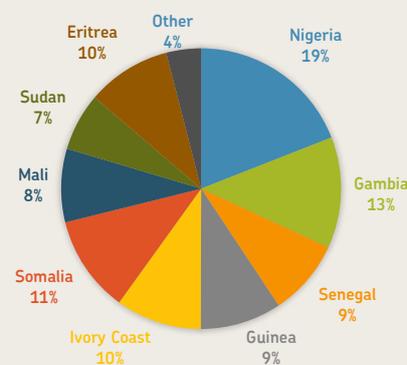
Anxieties over increased flows towards Italy

- In light of the EU-Turkey deal and the subsequent increase in arrivals and tragedies in the Mediterranean, anxieties are emerging over redirected migration flows from North Africa to Italy. In late April, Italy discussed a [proposal](#) involving forcibly returning migrants, refugees and asylum seekers back to Libya. Italian officials also announced that the country was to introduce the [fingerprinting](#) of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers as soon as they are rescued at sea. This move could help reduce tension between Italy and other European states over the large numbers of migrants arriving in Italy but not registering, and then traveling onwards to Northern Europe. Without registration, neighbouring countries cannot return the migrants to Italy.

Arrivals by Sea, Italy
February - April 2016



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



RESEARCH OF INTEREST

[Livin' on the Edge: Irregular Migration in Egypt](#) - Jan Claudius Völkel

This essay explores how Egypt's traditional role as a transit country for irregular migrants is evolving due to changing circumstances.

[The Economic Impact of Forced Migration](#) - Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

This piece draws on economic literature on voluntary and forced migration and argues that mismanaged forced migration flows create large negative political and economic externalities.

[Trapped in Greece: An Avoidable Refugee Crisis](#) - Amnesty International

Amnesty International draws attention to the plight of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers currently stranded in Greece.

[African Migration: Is the Continent Really on the Move?](#) - International Migration Institute

This study assesses the volume and geographical orientation of African emigration.

[The Role of Migration Policy Changes in Europe for Return Migration to Senegal](#)- International Migration Institute

This study analyses the role of migration policy changes in France, Italy, and Spain for return migration to Senegal.

[Findings: Counter-Trafficking Survey](#) - IOM

This report presents the findings of surveys conducted with 3,498 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers between 7 December 2015 and 18 April 2016.

MULTI-MEDIA OF INTEREST

[The Truth About Migration: Humanity is on the Road Again - New Scientist](#)

A look at migration from an evolutionary perspective.

[Death by Rescue - Forensic Oceanography](#)

Forensic Oceanography reconstructs the Mediterranean tragedies of April 2015 and concludes that the large death toll occurred during the rescue operation itself.

[Photography Pulitzer for Coverage of Refugee Crisis- The New York Times](#)

A slideshow showcasing the photos that brought Reuters and The New York Times Pulitzer Prizes for breaking news photography.

[Morocco's New Migrant Class - Ottoman History Podcast](#)

This podcast episode discusses the rise in sub-Saharan migrants, refugees and asylum seekers attempting to enter the EU from Morocco.