



MONTHLY TREND REPORT

COVERING MIXED MIGRATION TO, THROUGH & FROM NORTH AFRICA

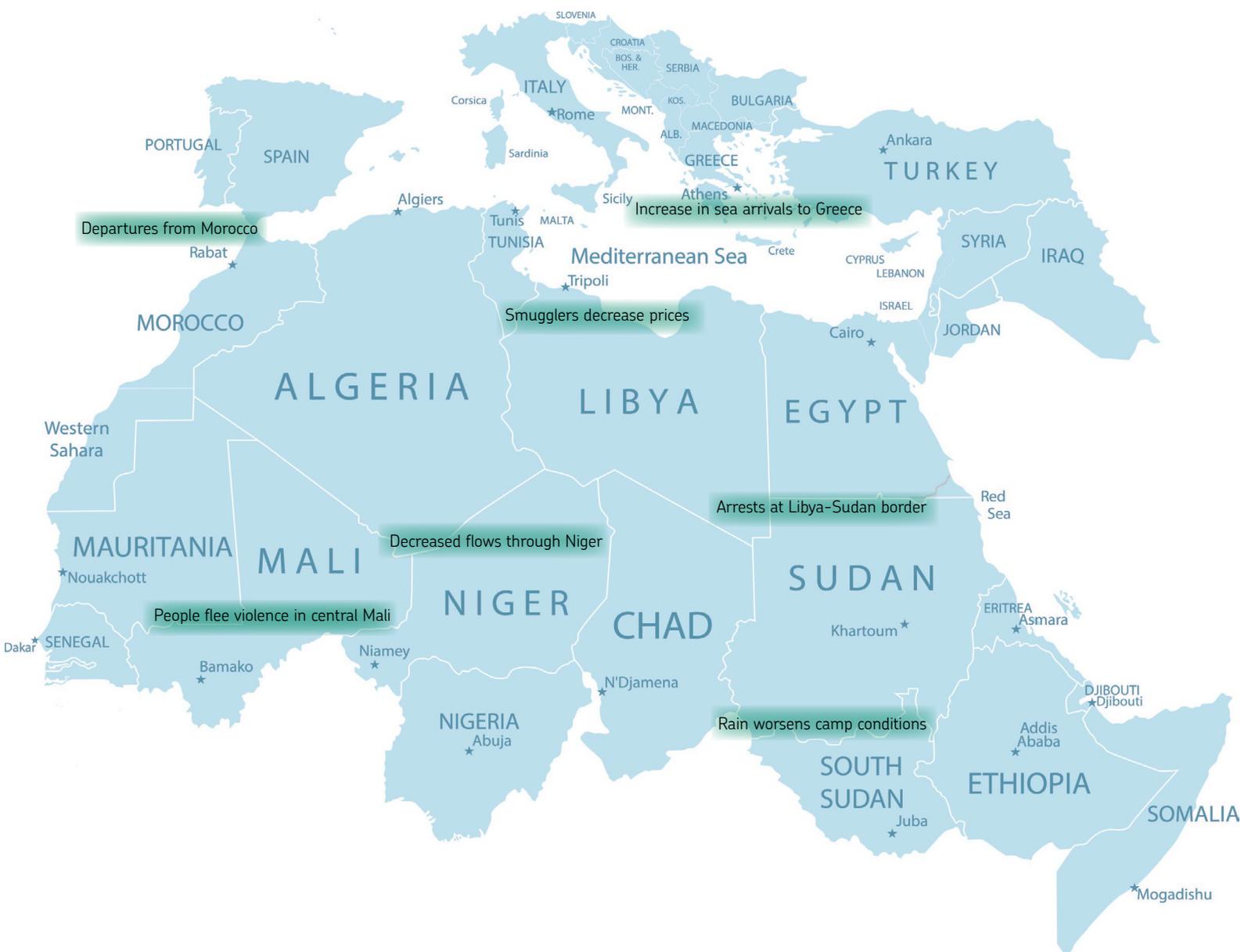
About: MHUB is the regional knowledge hub and secretariat for the North Africa Mixed Migration Task Force, comprising of DRC, IOM, OHCHR, RMMS, Save the Children, UNHCR and UNODC. It promotes a human rights-based approach to ensure the protection of people moving in mixed and complex flows to, through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

Scope: This bulletin covers mixed migration trends in Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Mali, Morocco, Niger, Sudan, Tunisia, Greece and Italy.

Terminology: Throughout this bulletin the terms migrant, refugee and asylum seeker are used together to cover all those comprising mixed migration flows. If the original source specifies a particular category, the relevant term will be used.

Sources: Data is drawn from a wide variety of sources, including government, civil society and media.

HIGHLIGHTS



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

REGIONAL

Tensions ease regarding EU-Turkey deal

- Turkish leaders had expressed frustration with the EU's hesitancy to provide visa-free travel to Turkish citizens as concerns were raised by the EU over Turkey's human rights record, throwing the landmark deal into question. Tensions appear to have cooled, however, after talks in Ankara in early September ended with a [common understanding](#) on the continued implementation of the pact and easing visa restrictions for Turkish citizens.

Harsh living conditions for refugees in Turkey

- Doubts have been raised over Turkey's ability to secure proper housing for the three million refugees that now reside within its borders. In a [report](#) released in mid-August, the Council of Europe's Special Representative on Migration and Refugees remarked that only 20% of refugees have been able to find shelter in formal camps. The representative also lamented the rise of child labour and absence of quality education for the displaced.

Migrants, refugees and asylum seekers continue to seek new routes and destinations

- Costa Rica saw the arrival of over [5,600](#) migrants, refugees and asylum seekers between 21 April and 3 August, putting strain on the government's capacity to respond. The presence of Africans in these migration flows may suggest the diversification of destinations among those facing tougher border controls in Europe.

Save the Children launches rescue ship

- As the Mediterranean crossing becomes more risky, Save the Children announced on 24 August that it would launch its own [search and rescue ship](#). According to the charity, the number of children crossing the Mediterranean has increased by two-thirds since 2015, and 90% of the more than 15,000 children who arrived in Italy in 2016 were unaccompanied.

European leaders seek to toughen migration policies

- During a gathering of European leaders in August, German Chancellor Angela Merkel suggested that the EU-Turkey "one-for-one" deal be replicated and [implemented](#) with North African states in order to exercise more control over Mediterranean migrant flows. Merkel later called for more [repatriations](#) of unsuccessful asylum applicants during talks with Prime Minister Matteo Renzi, who expressed that the EU is not capable of accommodating all migrants.

ECOWAS members meet to discuss migration and free movement

- Experts and government officials from the Economic Union of West African States (ECOWAS) region and Mauritania, as well as representatives of the EU and international agencies, gathered in Côte d'Ivoire from 23-25 August for the annual Migration Dialogue for West Africa (MIDWA) to discuss a regional policy on free movement and migration. Members agreed upon a [joint action plan](#) and approved a steering committee to monitor the progress of migration management in West Africa.

ALGERIA

Niger and Algeria discuss joint efforts to tackle irregular migration

- IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) [observed](#) 2,832 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers on the outgoing route from Niger to Algeria, but significantly more making the return journey to Niger from Algeria (4,849). The presence

of migrant flows between the two countries has sparked bilateral negotiations: on 22 August, it was reported that the governments of Niger and Algeria had discussed [joint efforts](#) to tackle "illegal" migration and terrorism, in addition to developing a sub-regional strategy.

EGYPT

Migration attempts

- Several migration attempts were thwarted by Egyptian authorities in August. A Libyan news source reported that 51 individuals were [arrested](#) by Egyptian authorities as they were attempting to cross the land border into Libya on 8 August. Among the group were 9 Sudanese nationals. On 21 August, Sudan announced that Egyptian authorities had [detained](#) 70 of its nationals for trying to cross into Israel. Later in the month, Egyptian border guards reportedly thwarted irregular migration attempts by [366 people](#), in incidents both along the Mediterranean coast and the Libyan land border. Additionally, authorities arrested [146](#) people on 14 August and [183](#) on 17 August for attempting the Mediterranean crossing to Europe.

Detentions of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers

- In the month of August, it was reported that 1,081 foreign nationals - including asylum seekers and refugees - were detained in 20 separate incidents of irregular departure from Egypt's North Coast by sea, bringing the total number of detainees in 2016 to 4,106 in 107 incidents. Among these, 80 unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) were detained in August, bringing the total number of detained UASC this year to 370. The numbers detained in 2016 have surpassed the entirety of the year in both 2015 and 2014, during which there were 3,635 and 3,063 respectively.

- The majority of those detained on the North Coast in 2016 are Sudanese and Somali, followed by Eritreans and Ethiopians, with 52% of detainees registered as refugees or asylum seekers with UNHCR. Among all foreign nationals detained thus far in 2016, 2,354 have been released and 1,100 who were not registered with UNHCR have been deported.

Egyptian minor makes Mediterranean crossing to seek medical help in Italy

- A 13-year-old Egyptian boy sparked controversy after he allegedly paid human traffickers to transport him across the Mediterranean to Italy in search of [medical treatment](#) for his ailing seven year-old brother. On 18 August, Italy's Prime Minister announced that a hospital in Florence was willing to

provide treatment, but Egyptian officials urged the family to seek care in Egypt.

Egypt calls on EU to step up efforts to combat 'illegal' migration

- Noting that Egyptian border guards had prevented some 5,000 people from making the Mediterranean crossing in previous months, the Assistant Foreign Minister said on 30 August that the EU has not provided Egypt with sufficient [support](#) to address the migrant and refugee crisis. The Minister implied that the EU-Turkey deal, in addition to the closure of the Balkan route, was increasing pressure on Egypt as a transit country.

LIBYA

Maritime incidents

- Thousands of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers were rescued off the Libyan coast during the month of August. Search and rescue missions conducted by Italy and other European countries pulled thousands to shore: an estimated [13,000](#) were rescued in the last week of August alone, while the Libyan Coast Guard rescued 388 people in 6 separate incidents. Libya remains the [principal departure point](#) for those seeking to reach Europe from North Africa, with some 77,000 – including 7,000 unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) – making the journey across the Central Mediterranean in the first seven months of 2016.

Smugglers decrease journey prices

- The frequency of dangerous incidents in the Central Mediterranean continues to draw attention to the issue of smuggling, the proliferation of which has been attributed to the deteriorating [security situation](#) in Libya. Reports suggest that smugglers are using increasingly [dangerous strategies](#) to maximise profits, including overloading and launching multiple boats at the same time, making it more difficult to coordinate search and rescue missions. Smugglers have also reportedly dropped their prices due to the black market exchange rate, asking as little as 100 USD for a journey that previously cost 1,000 USD.

Libyan Navy mistakes rescue boat for smuggling vessel

- On 17 August a rescue boat belonging to Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) was [shot at and raided](#) by an unidentified armed group off the coast of Libya. On 30 August it was revealed that the [Libyan Navy](#) suspected the rescue boat to

be involved in smuggling and had fired warning shots after it had failed to respond to calls. Libya continues to express frustration over the EU's involvement in patrolling its waters. In an interview with a local news outlet on 21 August, spokesman for the Libyan Navy expressed that Operation Sophia is being used as political [propaganda](#).

Migrants in Libya

- The latest [report](#) by the Displacement Tracking Matrix identified [276,957](#) foreign nationals throughout Libya, indicating a 5% increase since the previous report in June 2016. Of this number, 1.8% were reported to be in detention. Chad, Egypt and Niger were the most frequently cited countries of origin.

Voluntary returns continue

- Following an [organised visit](#) of seven West African embassy representatives to Salah Al Dein detention centre in Tripoli, 330 of 350 detained West African nationals requested voluntary return to their countries of origin. On 23 August, 241 Nigerian migrants – 67 of whom were women – were voluntarily [repatriated](#) from Libya.

Workshop on saving lives at sea held in Tunis

- The fourth technical [workshop](#) on saving migrant and refugee lives at sea was held in Tunis between 29 and 31 August. Participants from the Libyan Red Crescent, Coast Guard and Interior Ministry, as well as experts from the Danish Refugee Council and the International Committee of the Red Cross addressed capacity gaps and drafted standard operating procedures.

MALI

Malian refugees and returnees

- As of 31 August, there were [134,811](#) Malian refugees, a minimal increase from 134,366 recorded at the end of July. Of these, 60,792 are residing in Niger (45%); 41,792 in Mauritania (31%); and 32,227 in Burkina Faso (23.9%). The number of Malian refugee returnees increased by 5.3% from 23,582 at the end of July to 24,843 by the end of August. Furthermore, 636 Malian refugees were provided with assistance to be voluntarily repatriated from Niger over the

month of August.

People flee violence in central Mali

- Ongoing violence in central Mali caused hundreds of people to flee the area. By mid-August, [500 Fulani nomads](#) had arrived at Mbera camp in neighboring Mauritania, where aid organisations are reportedly struggling to provide for the 42,000 refugees who had fled northern Mali in 2012.

MOROCCO

Departures from Morocco

- On 17 August, 50 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers from Morocco and sub-Saharan Africa were [rescued](#) off the coast of Spain. A further 65 people were [intercepted](#) near

the Spanish Port of Almeria on 31 August. [Nine deaths](#) were recorded on the Western Mediterranean during the month, bringing the number of fatalities along this route in 2016 to 61.

NIGER

Decreased flows through Niger

- Figures provided by IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) indicate that fewer migrants, refugees and asylum seekers are moving through Niger. Outgoing flows decreased by 13.9% from 48,857 in July to 42,088 in August. Incoming numbers also decreased from 17,631 in July to 15,812 in August. The route to Libya continues to be the most preferred, with 93.3% of the total outgoing population recorded to be moving onward to the town of Gatroun, Libya. Nigerians, Nigeriens and Gambians constituted the top nationalities of those en route to and from Libya.

Assisted voluntary returns

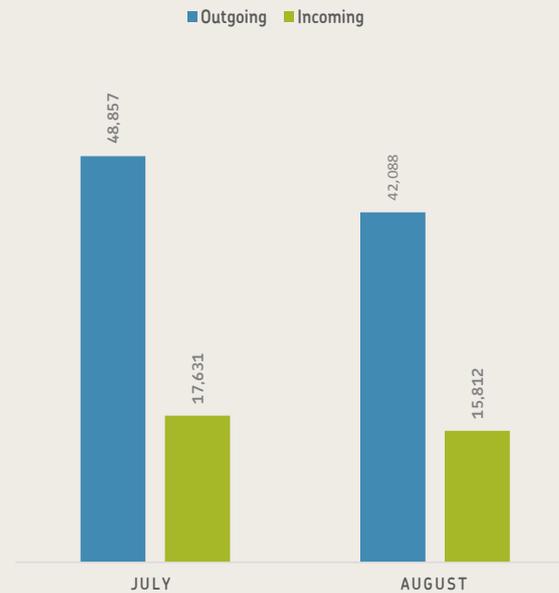
- Between 27 July and 6 September, 2,759 new arrivals to Niger requested voluntary return services from IOM transit centres. Of these, 883 migrants were provided with assistance to return to their country of origin – the majority to Guinea Conakry, Senegal, Guinea Bissau, Côte d'Ivoire and Mali. Additionally, on 6 September, [171 Nigeriens](#) who were provided with assisted voluntary return services from Libya were welcomed by IOM Niger.

Migration-related events

- On 13 and 14 July, an IOM [information campaign](#) was launched in Agadez in order to sensitise migrants, refugees

and asylum seekers and the local community on the risks of irregular migration. Later in the month, the National Agency Against Trafficking in Persons (ANLTP) and IOM held a [workshop](#) for government agencies and NGOs on identification and assistance to Victims of Trafficking (VOTs).

Niger: Outgoing and Incoming Flows



SUDAN

Arrests at the Libyan border

- On 13 August, Sudanese authorities arrested [26 foreign nationals](#) for trying to cross the northwestern border into Libya. In all, it was reported that [816](#) migrants, refugees and asylum seekers – including 347 Eritreans, 130 Ethiopians and 90 Sudanese – were arrested for attempting to enter Libya from Sudan between 27 June and 16 August. These arrests are part of Sudan's increasing efforts to crackdown on irregular migration, with Sudanese security officials saying Khartoum is carrying the [burden](#) on behalf of Europe.

Rain worsens camp conditions

- Torrential rains and floods have destroyed camps for the displaced throughout Sudan and South Sudan. A local news

network reported that [Kalma camp](#) in South Darfur turned into a 'mud bath.' Malaria, typhoid and other [waterborne](#) diseases have also spread at Yousef Batel camp in South Sudan, which accommodates around 37,000 Sudanese refugees from Blue Nile State.

Sudanese refused asylum in France

- In late August, French authorities refused to [grant asylum](#) to 48 Sudanese who were stranded at the Italy-France border. Italian authorities reportedly contacted the Sudanese embassy to arrange the migrants' repatriation. These returns come in the wake of [controversial](#) agreements between the EU and Sudan to curb irregular migration.

TUNISIA

Abuse and exploitation on migration journey

- Findings from [MHub surveys](#) conducted between 29 March and 1 September in Tunisia indicate that migrants, refugees and asylum seekers endured or witnessed various forms of exploitation and abuse on their journey. Almost 70% had been victim or witness to racism and discrimination; 27% to detention; 24% to forced labour; and 20% to trafficking. 42% said that they would not have travelled had they been aware of the risks.

Training and support for returning Tunisians

- As EU member states increasingly look toward limiting migration from countries in North Africa, a programme run by the French Office of Immigration and Integration in

Tunisia aims to provide [training and support](#) for those willing to return to Tunisia from France. Nearly 500 people have graduated from the programme since its founding in 2009, in a country where high unemployment and lack of economic opportunities have sparked protests and compelled many to consider migrating.

Second Summer School on Migration held in Tunis

- The second [Summer School on Migration](#) ran from 29 August and 3 September at the University of Carthage in Tunis. 50 people from academia, civil society and the civil service participated in the summer school, which focused on the relationship between migration and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

GREECE

Camp conditions and vulnerabilities

- Conditions are worsening for the estimated 57,000 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers stranded in Greece. Aid workers say that increasing numbers of those stranded are resorting to commercial sex work, drug trafficking and smuggling, and

are increasingly being [targeted](#) by Greek and Albanian mafias. In light of ongoing tensions, Greece announced in mid-August that it would build [new facilities](#) in order to transfer migrants from overcrowded sites.

Greece sees increase in sea arrivals

- [3,447](#) migrants, refugees and asylum seekers arrived by sea to Greece in August, representing a 79.5% increase on July figures (1,920). Greece also recorded [three deaths](#) along the Eastern Mediterranean route in August, compared with 7 in July. Save the Children suggested that this unexpected increase in arrivals may be due to [insecurity](#) in the aftermath of the failed coup in Turkey. More than [460 people](#) arrived on the Greek islands from Turkey on 30 August alone.

Protests over delayed asylum procedures

- On 1 September, [demonstrations](#) erupted at four sites across Greece in protest of continued delays in asylum procedures, with around 500 gathering in Greece's second largest city of Thessaloniki. [21,833 asylum claims](#) were submitted in Greece between January and July 2016, a 264.8% increase on numbers reported during the same period last year. The majority of applicants were of Syrian, Pakistani and Iraqi nationalities.

Frustrations compel stranded migrants to consider smuggling services

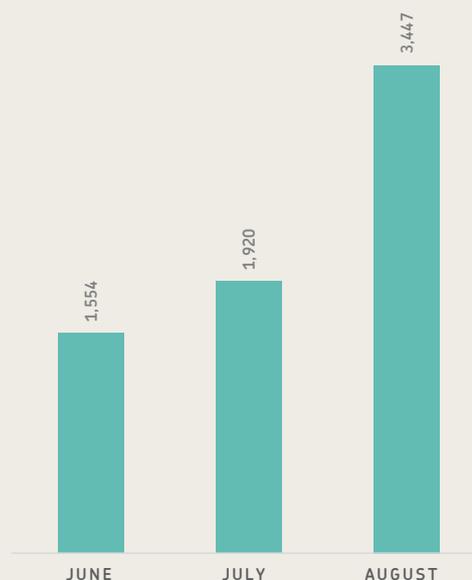
- Some migrants report that the long processing times and uncertainty surrounding their asylum application drive them to consider using [smuggling](#) services to reach other European countries. Reports suggest that smugglers in northern Greece are taking advantage of migrants' protracted situation to [target](#) potential clients by using increasingly sophisticated methods, including mapping 'blind spots' in border surveillance to move people out of camps. Two suspected smugglers were [arrested](#) on 20 August on a boat along with 38 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers. The following week, the police apprehended an [Afghan national](#) who was accused of attempting to smuggle 12 migrants, including four

minors, out of Greece.

Returns and relocations

- In August, [600](#) migrants, refugees and asylum seekers - the majority of Afghani, Pakistani and Iraqi nationality - were provided with assistance to return to their countries of origin from Greece. Between 17 and 18 August, [12 people](#) were returned to Turkey under the EU-Turkey deal, including eight Syrians, four Pakistanis and two Algerians. Additionally, as of 6 September, [3,493](#) people were settled in other European countries under the EU relocation programme, falling behind the 66,400 spaces committed by member states.

Arrivals by Sea, Greece
June - August 2016



ITALY

Decrease in arrivals and fatalities along Central Mediterranean route

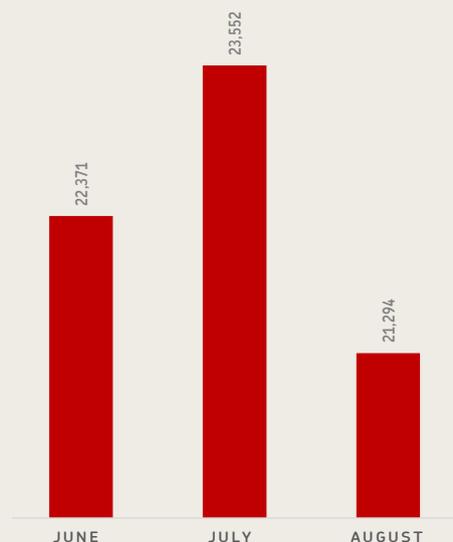
- August saw the arrival of [21,294](#) migrants, refugees and asylum seekers by sea to Italy, representing a 9.6% decrease on July numbers (23,552). Figures provided by the Missing Migrants Project indicate that August has been a comparatively less lethal month, with [40 deaths](#) recorded, compared with 208 in July - a decrease of 80.8%.

Risks and abuses along Central Mediterranean route

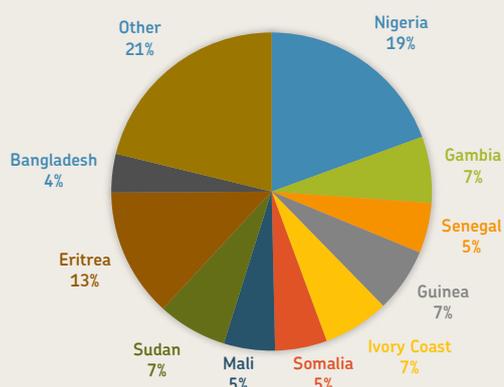
- Findings from various reports show that migrants, refugees and asylum seekers who traveled along the Central

Mediterranean route faced numerous risks on their journey. Of 1,400 [interviewed](#) in Italy by IOM between 24 June and 3 August, 76% responded positively to at least one indicator of human trafficking and other forms of exploitation. [Surveys](#) conducted by MHub in Italy between 3 March and 25 August reinforce these findings: 48% of 211 respondents witnessed trafficking or were trafficked themselves, with 80% of cases occurring in Libya; while 95% of respondents experienced or witnessed some form of abuse on their journey, including torture, forced labour, sexual abuse, detention, robbery and destruction of documents.

Arrivals by Sea, Italy
June - August 2016



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



Tensions at Swiss border

- Italy announced in mid-August that it would set up a [shelter](#) with capacity to host up to 300 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers stranded at Como, near the Swiss border. In the aftermath of a Swiss clampdown on attempted crossings from Italy in mid-July, it was reported that several hundred people had been sleeping near Como's train station. [Amnesty International](#) raised concerns that minors were being denied entry at the border and were thus prevented from joining their families in Switzerland.

Italian reception system buckling under pressure

- With arrivals to Italy in 2016 maintaining the same pace as

the previous year and an underperforming EU relocation scheme, Italy's [reception system](#) is under increasing strain. The number of people in the system has reportedly doubled since 2015, reaching 140,000; and increased border controls in France and Switzerland have made it difficult for migrants in Italy to plan onward movement to northern Europe. Mandatory fingerprinting has also exacerbated the issue, as applying for asylum in another European country carries the risk of being returned to Italy under the Dublin Regulation. To ease the pressure, [Germany announced](#) on 23 August that it would accept hundreds of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers now blocked in Italy in order to revive the EU's relocation programme.

RESEARCH OF INTEREST

[Uprooted: The Growing Crisis for Refugee and Migrant Children](#) - UNICEF

A report that presents comprehensive data on the nearly 50 million children that have migrated across borders or been forcibly displaced.

[Children and Unsafe Migration in Europe: Data and Policy, Understanding the Evidence Base](#) - GMDAC

In this report, the authors identify broad gaps in data regarding children on the move in Europe.

[Dangerous Journeys: International Migration Increasingly Unsafe in 2016](#) - GMDAC

This briefing outlines data collected by the Missing Migrants Project in the first half of 2016.

[Research Brief 02: Understanding the Dynamics of Migration to Greece and the EU](#) - MEDMIG

A brief presenting the findings of research conducted on the drivers, decisions and destinations of migrants and refugees who traveled to Greece via Turkey during 2015.

[Research Brief 03: Boat migration across the Central Mediterranean](#) - MEDMIG

This research brief examines migration dynamics before, during and after the Central Mediterranean crossing, as well as policy responses at the local, national and regional levels.

[Building Livelihood Opportunities for Refugee Populations: Lessons from Past Practice](#) - Karen Jacobsen and Susan Fratzke

A report that explores the challenges faced by aid agencies that have undertaken livelihood efforts in countries of first asylum.

[Europe's Refugees and Migrants: Hidden Flows, Tightened Borders and Spiralling Costs](#) - Overseas Development Institute

This report suggests that Europe shift from an emphasis on controlling migration, making policy recommendations towards a more effective approach.

MULTI-MEDIA OF INTEREST

[Migrant Routes a Year On](#) - Reuters

Reuters captures the changes along the Balkan route in before & after photos.

[A Tour of Five Refugee Camps](#) - This American Life

A series of architectural renderings of refugee camps in Greece.

[Drawings from the Seas: the Refugee Crisis in Sketches](#) - Al Jazeera

An Italian social worker draws refugee stories.

[A World on the Move: Encounters with Migrants and Refugees](#) - IOM

In this podcast series, migrants and refugees talk about their experiences and discuss different topics with experts.

[Live, Love, Refugee](#) - Omar Imam

A photographer imagines the dreams of Syrian refugees through symbolism and surrealism.