



MONTHLY TREND REPORT

COVERING MIXED MIGRATION TO, THROUGH & FROM NORTH AFRICA

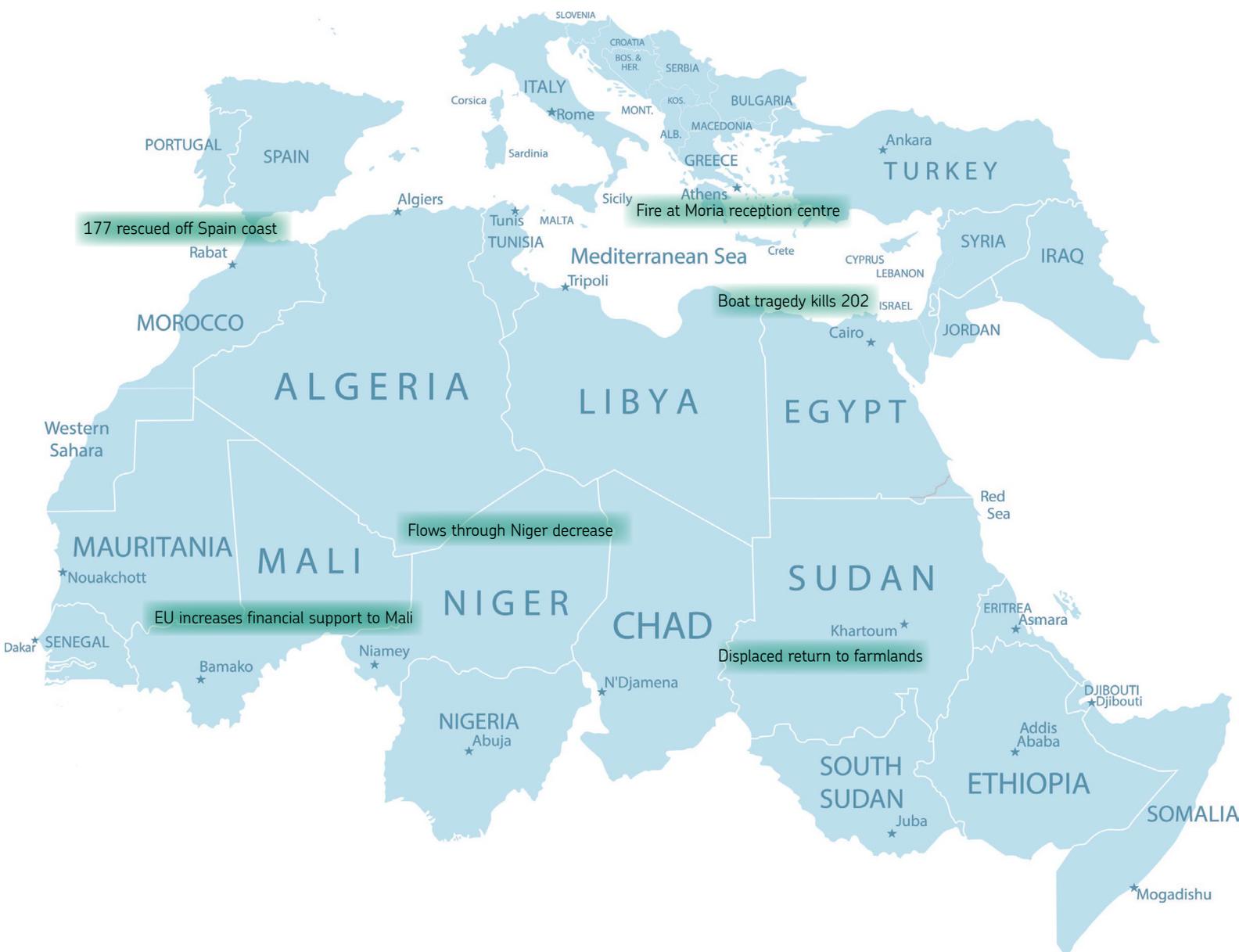
About: MHUB is the regional knowledge hub and secretariat for the North Africa Mixed Migration Task Force, comprising of DRC, IOM, OHCHR, RMMS, Save the Children, UNHCR and UNODC. It promotes a human rights-based approach to ensure the protection of people moving in mixed and complex flows to, through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

EU allocates funding to manage migration and address root causes

- A number of funding decisions were made by the EU in order to better manage migration flows. On 12 September, countries in the bloc agreed to [cut funding](#) from next year's budget intended for poor countries primarily in Eastern Europe, in favour of increasing spending on managing migration. On 19 September, the EU announced a EUR 44 billion [investment proposal](#) for Africa and Mediterranean countries in order to fight migration and radicalisation of youth. In late September, German Chancellor Angela Merkel proposed that more EU funding be directed towards development aid in order to address the root causes of migration, in addition to calling for more [one-for-one deals](#) with African countries modelled after the EU-Turkey pact.

European Border and Coast Guard Agency established

- The new European Border and Coast Guard Agency was [established](#) on 6 October, allowing agents to be deployed at the external borders of the EU. While the new agency will continue to be referred to as Frontex, its budget and size of operations has tripled. The new agency will ensure the implementation of Union standards of border management through periodic risk analysis and mandatory vulnerability assessments of member states to ensure their capabilities to address migration crises.

European Commission rolls out cash transfer programme for refugees in Turkey

- On 8 September, the European Commission announced that it would roll out its largest humanitarian grant of EUR 348 million in the form of [direct cash transfers](#) for vulnerable refugee families in Turkey. Starting in October, the Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN) scheme will provide one million vulnerable refugees with monthly cash transfers to electronic cards. Refugees can use the cards to spend funds on their priority needs, including healthcare, education, food, or other priorities. As the money will be spent in local markets, the new system also offers a boost to the local economy.

Turkey to construct wall on Syrian border

- It was announced on 28 September that the construction of a [concrete wall](#) spanning the length of the Turkey-Syria border would be completed by the end of February. Building of the wall began in 2014 in an attempt to curb irregular migration and combat smuggling.

Arrests of suspected smugglers

- A criminal smuggling network was partially dismantled when 16 of its members were [arrested](#) by Italian authorities on 6 September. The group was comprised of Syrian, Algerian, Egyptian, Lebanese and Tunisian nationals who had smuggled up to 200 migrants – primarily of Syrian origin – into and within the EU between 2014 and 2016.
- In a separate incident, Italian police arrested [two Ukrainians](#) on 7 September, accused of attempting to smuggle 50 Pakistani nationals to Italy on a sailboat. The incident comes amid reports that smugglers are increasingly using Ukrainian sailors to provide migrants safe passage to Europe, paying up to USD 8,000 per journey.

Relocation and resettlement

- [1,202](#) people were relocated from Italy and Greece to other EU member states in September, bringing the total number of relocations to 5,651 in the first year of the EU Relocation Programme. Under the July 2015 resettlement scheme, 10,695 of the 22,504 allocated resettlement spaces have been filled to date. Between June and 27 September, 1,071 Syrians were resettled from Turkey to EU states under the EU-Turkey deal, bringing total resettlement numbers under the agreement to 1,614. While progress has been made, a recent Pew Research analysis concluded that the backlog of unprocessed asylum applications in Europe has reached more than one million.

IOM joins the United Nations

- On 19 September, the [International Organization for Migration](#) became a related organisation of the UN at the UN Summit on Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants in New York. IOM member states had unanimously approved the process in June 2016. In joining the UN, IOM becomes the UN migration agency.

UNGA holds high-level summit on migrants and refugees

- The United Nations General Assembly held its first [high-level summit](#) on addressing large movements of refugees and migrants on 19 September. At its conclusion, 193 member states adopted the New York Declaration, expressing the political will of world leaders to share responsibility and commit to negotiating the Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration over the coming two years. One [critic](#) noted that the declaration failed to make strong statements on some issues, including the practice of ending the immigration detention of children.

Leaders gather at EU-Mediterranean Summit

- The [EU-Mediterranean Summit](#) – attended by heads of state and governments of Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy, Malta, Portugal and Spain – concluded on 9 September in Athens. States pledged to combat racism and xenophobia, as well as ensure the protection of external borders through systematic controls and the establishment of the [European Border and Coast Guard](#) before the year's end.

ALGERIA

Anti-trafficking workshop held for journalists and media professionals

- UNODC delivered in September a two-day national awareness-raising workshop on anti-trafficking for journalists and media professionals in Algeria. The objective of the workshop was to raise awareness among the participants

on the definition, forms and manifestations of trafficking in persons, to discuss methods to accurately, objectively and ethically cover trafficking in the media, and to offer an introduction to awareness raising campaigns.

EGYPT

Rashid boat tragedy

- In one of the deadliest recorded incidents in the Mediterranean, at least [202](#) migrants, refugees and asylum seekers lost their lives when their boat capsized off the coast of Egypt on 21 September. 450 people were estimated to have been on board the vessel heading for Italy, among many Egyptians, Sudanese, Eritreans and Somalis. Egyptian authorities arrested [15 people](#), including the owner and crew members of the boat, following [orders](#) issued by Egypt's President to punish those responsible for the incident. Egyptian survivors cited poverty and lack of jobs as principal reasons for their attempted departure, drawing attention to Egypt's dire economic situation. President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi said that [factories and fisheries](#) were being built in the area in order to dissuade more people from making the Mediterranean crossing.

Egypt strengthens migration management

- As departures from Egypt to Europe continue, the Egyptian government has taken various measures to prevent irregular migration. The Egyptian Parliament passed landmark anti-smuggling [legislation](#) on 17 October, criminalising migrant smuggling and imposing prison terms and fines on individuals found guilty, including brokers and middlemen. The law also imposes prison sentences on those who facilitate journeys for smuggled migrants by providing shelter or transport. Capacity building activities were also held in order to strengthen security at entry and exit points. From 18 to 22 September, the Egyptian Ministry of Interior and IOM organised a [training](#) for government officials on passport examination procedures.

Detentions of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers

- It was reported that 874 foreign nationals - including asylum seekers and refugees - were detained for attempting to depart

irregularly by sea from Egypt's North Coast in 13 separate incidents. This brings the total number of detainees in 2016 to 4,980 across 120 incidents. An estimated 70 unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) were among those detained in September, bringing this year's total detained UASC to 440. This represents a sharp increase in the number of children arrested in 2016 compared to 2015. As of September 30 2016, UASC accounted for 54% of the 822 children arrested, while UASC accounted for only 26% of the 543 child detainees arrested in all of 2015. The number of foreign nationals detained so far in 2016 represents a 63% increase from the same period in 2015, during which there were 3,057 arrests.

- The majority of foreign nationals detained on the North Coast in 2016 are Sudanese and Somali, followed by Eritreans and Comorians. 51% of foreign detainees in 2016 are registered as refugees and asylum seekers with UNHCR. Among all foreign nationals detained in 2016, reportedly 2,773 have been released and 1,559 individuals who were not registered with UNHCR were deported.

Irregular migration attempts

- Egyptian authorities continue to arrest those who attempt to cross the Mediterranean irregularly. On 7 September, Egyptian police apprehended [152 individuals](#) - the majority of Somali, Sudanese, and Comorian nationalities - as they were attempting the Mediterranean crossing to Italy. A further [155 people](#), including 144 Egyptian nationals, were arrested under similar circumstances on 10 September. In the days that followed, the Egyptian Navy foiled two fishing boats that were collectively carrying [440 individuals](#) from departing the North Coast. Additionally, it was announced on 28 September that the Egyptian police arrested 23 individuals accused of [migrant smuggling](#) by land and sea.

LIBYA

Maritime incidents

- Migrants, refugees and asylum seekers continue to make the journey across the Mediterranean from the Libyan coast. During September, the Libyan Coast Guard rescued [1,948](#) people and retrieved 27 bodies in 14 separate incidents. In one incident, on 28 September, the Libyan Coast Guard retrieved 18 bodies allegedly of Egyptian nationals off the coast of Tobruk. This incident suggests that Egyptians are departing not only from Egypt, but also from eastern Libya. The Italian Coast Guard also undertook a number of large-scale search and rescue operations in the month: [2,700](#) were rescued on 5 September while another [3,400](#) were brought to Italian shores on the weekend of 10 September.

Identified migrants, refugees and asylum seekers

- Between 5 and 25 September, IOM recorded [1,805](#) migrants, refugees and asylum seekers throughout four regions of Libya, across six Flow Monitoring Points (FMPs), which are key transit points used to track movements of displaced populations. The FMP surveys revealed that Sudanese, Egyptians and Nigerians were the most frequently observed

nationalities. Overall, Libya was the preferred destination country for most respondents, followed by Germany and Italy. Libya was the preferred destination for Egyptians and Sudanese, while Germany and other European countries were preferred by Nigerians. These findings suggest that Libya continues to hold appeal for those seeking better economic opportunities.

Voluntary returns

- On 6 September, 171 stranded Nigerian migrants - including 76 women and 39 children - were [repatriated](#) to Niger on IOM's first humanitarian repatriation flight from southern Libya. IOM also repatriated [159 Burkinabe nationals](#) on 20 September - among them 13 women, nine children and four infants.

Trainings and workshops

- A regional workshop "Strengthening Protection at Sea in the Southern Mediterranean Sea Region" organized by IOM and UNHCR was held between 21 and 22 September in Tunisia in order to address security and humanitarian challenges at

sea, as well as evolving practices and issues around detection, search and rescue, and subsequent delivery to places of safety. From 26 to 28 September, UNHCR held a three-day training on international refugee law for 20 Libyan officials

involved in refugee protection. The training was an occasion to exchange information about refugee law and discuss the situation of refugees in Libya.

MALI

Malian refugees and returnees

- As of 30 September, there were [134,814](#) Malian refugees registered in the region, indicating nearly no change in the numbers recorded at the end of August. Of these, 60,792 are residing in Niger (45%); 41,798 in Mauritania (31%); and 32,224 in Burkina Faso (23.7%). The number of Malian refugee returnees increased minimally from 24,843 at the end of August to 24,934 at the end of September. Additionally, 83 Malians were provided with assistance to be voluntarily repatriated over the month.

EU increases financial support to Mali

- It was announced on 29 September that the European Union would [increase financial support](#) to Mali, approving projects worth up to EUR 67 million focusing on improving food security, education and local development. As one of the five priority countries in the Migration Partnership Framework and main beneficiaries of the EU Emergency Trust Fund, Mali is already due to receive EUR 91.5 million to better manage migration through the protection, return and reintegration of migrants.

MOROCCO

Departures from Morocco

- On 6 September, 177 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers of sub-Saharan origin - including 8 minors - were [rescued](#) off Spain's southern coast. [No deaths](#) were recorded along the Western Mediterranean route during the month.

Migrants receive residency status

- This month marks three years since Morocco launched its new migration policy, during which time an estimated [23,000 migrants](#) received legal residency status, granting them access to the labour market and basic services such as healthcare and education. 85.5% of the 27,649 applications received have been approved. The majority of the applications were received from Syrian, Senegalese and Congolese nationals.

Morocco engages with European governments to deter irregular migration

- On 6 September, the Foreign Minister of Sweden visited Morocco in an attempt to expedite the return of Moroccan unaccompanied children - of which there are an estimated 800 - residing in Sweden. Under the [readmission](#) deal finalised in May, Morocco agreed to take back unaccompanied minors. Some 225 minors have reportedly been asked to leave thus far, however the exact number of planned returns is unknown. Morocco has also engaged in talks with [Germany](#) in order to speed up the repatriation process and stem the flow of irregular migrants, namely from sub-Saharan Africa.

NIGER

Flows through Niger continue to decrease

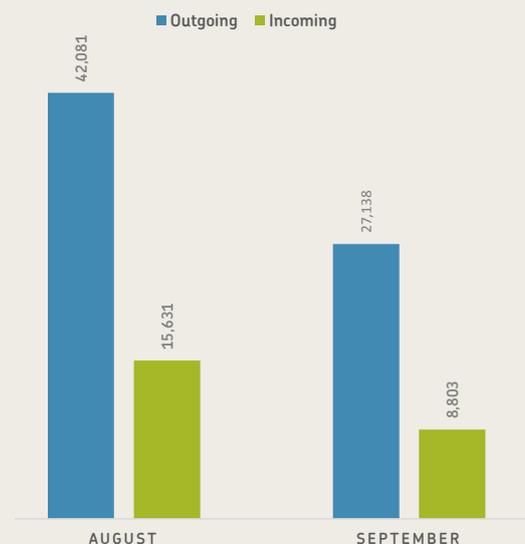
- Fewer migrants, refugees and asylum seekers are moving through Niger this month, according to IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM). Outgoing flows toward Algeria and Libya [decreased](#) by 35.5% from 42,081 in August to 27,138 in September. Incoming flows also slowed, with September figures down to 8,803 from 15,631 in August, representing a 43.7% decrease. These changes are in part due to recent Nigerien government operations in Agadez aimed at controlling irregular migration of ECOWAS migrants (Economic Community of West African States) to Algeria and Libya without documentation. However, DTM notes that people often avoid border points in the Agadez region, leading them to take more dangerous desert journeys. For those departing northward from Niger, Libya continues to be the preferred destination, with Nigerians, Nigeriens and Gambians constituting the top nationalities along the route from Agadez to Gatrour, Libya.

Assisted voluntary returns

- Between 7 and 21 September, [70 new migrants](#) requesting voluntary return services were registered at IOM transit centres in Niger. Additionally, 184 migrants were provided

with assistance to return to their country of origin - the majority to Senegal, Cameroon, Mali, Guinea Bissau and the Ivory Coast.

Niger: Outgoing and Incoming Flows



SUDAN

Displaced return to their farmlands in South Darfur

- On 15 September, the governor of South Darfur announced that 113 people were able to [return](#) to their farmlands in Shattai locality after their properties had been freed from squatters. A number of complaints had been filed by displaced people in recent weeks, who wanted to return to their homes.

Temporary classrooms approved for displaced children in North Darfur

- In early September, the Sudanese government approved the construction of 68 [temporary classrooms](#) for displaced children in North Darfur. 3,400 children newly displaced from Jebel Marra in need of learning facilities in Sortony, a camp which now hosts an estimated 21,500 people.

EU denies providing support to Sudan's RSF

- The EU reportedly [denied claims](#) that it provided funding to Sudan's Rapid Support Forces (RSF), who were deployed by Sudanese state authorities in order to respond to government concerns over drug and human trafficking. In a statement, the EU insisted that its assistance to the country is not

delivered through the government, but rather distributed to international agencies and non-governmental organisations. The RSF have reportedly arrested hundreds of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers who were attempting to cross the border into Egypt and Libya since their inception in June 2015.

TUNISIA

Onward movement of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers

- Ongoing [surveys](#) conducted by MHub in Tunisia between 29 March and 28 September show that the majority (59%) of migrants, refugees and asylum seeker respondents intend to stay in Tunisia, while 18% intend to continue their journey to Europe and 20% wish to return to their country of origin. The 38% who do not intend to stay cited lack of economic opportunities and poor conditions in Tunisia as principal reasons for departure. Among those planning to stay in Tunisia, 18% were unhappy with their situation due to difficult circumstances such as limited economic opportunities, in addition to racism and discrimination, while 41% who were content with their situation had managed to find employment

and establish a social network.

EU seeks to strengthen cooperation with Tunisia on migration

- It was announced on 29 September that [negotiations](#) on visa facilitation and readmission agreements under the Mobility Partnership framework between Tunisia and the EU would begin on 12 October. The EU expressed its commitment to strengthening partnerships with Tunisia in promoting socio-economic development, cooperating on border management and assisting in the development of a national migration and asylum policy in order to address the root causes of migration.

GREECE

Greece arrival numbers decrease

- September saw the arrival of [3,080](#) migrants, refugees and asylum seekers by sea to Greece, representing a 10.6% decrease on August figures (3,447). [27 people](#) lost their lives along the Eastern Mediterranean route in September, compared to three in August. The top five nationalities of arrivals in September were Syrians (28%), followed by Pakistanis (17%), Iraqis (16%), Afghans (16%) and Algerians (17%). While the majority of September arrivals were men (54.4%), it is significant that 27.6% were children - far outnumbering the number of women at 18%.

Returns under the EU-Turkey deal

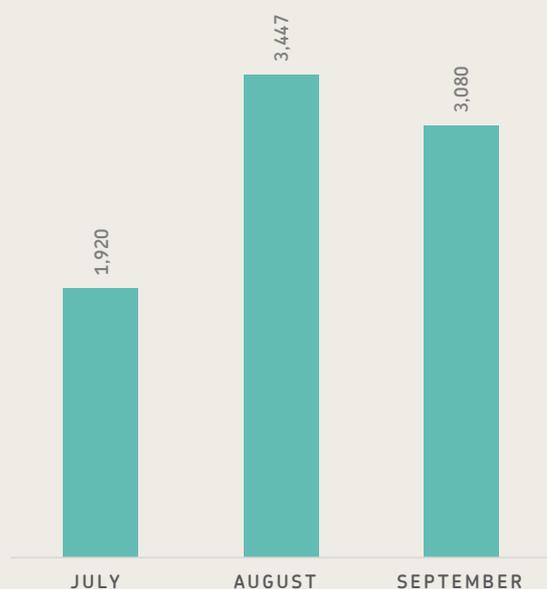
- [Returns](#) of irregular migrants from Greece to Turkey under the EU-Turkey deal continue. Between 15 June and 28 September, 116 people - including 22 Syrians - were sent back to Turkey, bringing the total number of returns under the March deal to 578. Citizens of Pakistan, Algeria, Egypt, Morocco, Yemen, Iraq, Lebanon and Palestine were also among the returnees. While the EU-Turkey deal has

effectively limited migrant arrivals to Greece, it has been [criticised](#) for turning the eastern Aegean islands into 'holding centres', which one local mayor claims impacts upon the local economy, security and social cohesion. Moreover, a report by the Overseas Development Institute (ODI) concluded that 60% of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers have now been forced to take more dangerous and [covert routes](#) due to the EU-Turkey agreement and border closures.

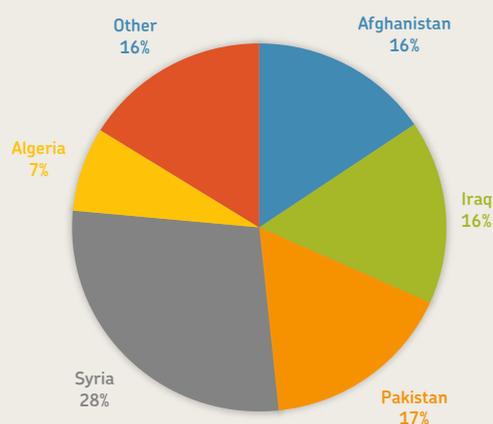
Fire at Moria reception centre

- A large [fire](#) broke out on 19 September at the Moria reception centre on Lesbos island following a clash between residents, damaging tents and over 50 UNHCR Refugee Housing Units. While no casualties were reported, 30 people were injured and thousands were forced to leave the site. 95 [unaccompanied minors](#) were transferred to another reception centre nearby. The cause of the fire was undetermined. The incident took place against a backdrop of uncertainty and frustration due to slow asylum claim processing and [deplorable camp conditions](#).

Arrivals by Sea, Greece
July - September 2016



Arrivals by Sea to Greece, Main Countries of Origin
September 2016



European Commission approves funding to improve camp conditions

- [Reports](#) documenting the dire situation of camps in Greece continue to surface, describing limited healthcare services, an absence of security, and growing rates of commercial sex work. Attention was drawn to the situation of unaccompanied minors held in substandard detention centres across Greece. In the first six months of 2016, 161 unaccompanied children

were detained. According to [Human Rights Watch](#), these detentions and the conditions of detention are in violation of Greek and international law. Authorities have argued that alternatives to detention, in the form of child-friendly shelters, do not exist. In light of these challenges, the European Commission has approved [EUR 115 million](#) in new funding for humanitarian organisations in Greece in order to improve living conditions for migrants, refugees and asylum seekers.

ITALY

Decrease in arrivals, more deaths along Central Mediterranean route

- Sea arrivals to Italy in 2016 remain on par with 2015 arrival figures. In the month of September 2016, [16,792](#) migrants, refugees and asylum seekers arrived by sea to Italy, representing a 21.1% decrease on August figures (21,294). Despite the reported reduction in arrivals from August to September this year, deaths along the Central Mediterranean route increased by over 700% from 40 in August to 341 in September.

Redistribution plan approved

- On 6 September, the Italian Interior Ministry approved a [redistribution plan](#) of asylum seekers across all Italian cities. Under the plan, 2.5 individuals would be distributed for every 1,000 residents, while the 15 largest cities would receive 1.5 for every 1,000. At the beginning of September, Italy's reception system was hosting 151,000 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers, the majority of whom are housed in temporary structures.

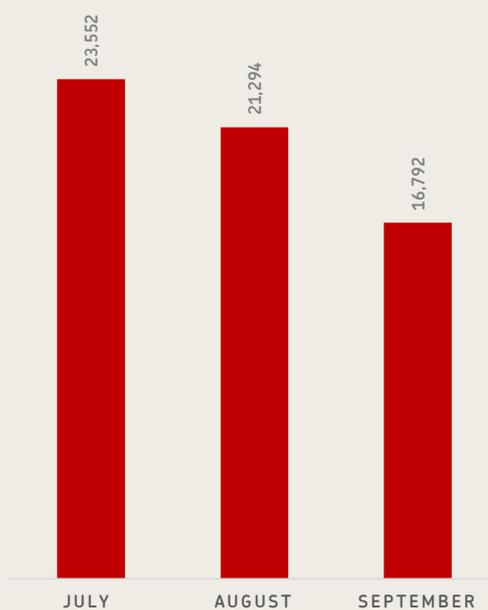
Italy criticised for rejecting majority of asylum applications

- Rights group Doctors for Human Rights (MEDU) criticised Italy for [rejecting](#) more than 60% of asylum requests in the first eight months of 2016, compared to 58% in 2015 and 39% in 2014. According to a study by the group, the majority of new African arrivals surveyed departed from their country of origin in search of protection.

Suspected people-smuggler to stand trial

- A Sicilian judge announced in September that an Eritrean man accused of running a people-smuggling operation will [stand trial](#) in Palermo, Sicily in November. The man was arrested in May in Sudan and extradited to Italy, however his friends and family claim it was a case of mistaken identity by the British and Italian police.

Arrivals by Sea, Italy
July - September 2016



RESEARCH OF INTEREST

“Why Are You Keeping Me Here?” - Human Rights Watch

Human Rights Watch presents its findings on research conducted in mainland Greece from 27 June - 6 July, documenting problems with the detention of unaccompanied minors in police custody.

Young and On the Move - Regional Mixed Migration Secretariat (RMMS)

A report on children and youth in mixed migration flows in, to and through the Horn of Africa.

Long-Term Socioeconomic Implications of ‘Crisis-Induced’ Return Migration on Countries of Origin - Robtel Neajai Pailey

A brief assessing the potential long-term socio-economic implications of return migration on countries of origin in the ‘post-crisis’ phase.

Migrants in Countries in Crisis - Emerging Findings: A Comparative Study of Six Crisis Situations - Maegan Hendow, Robtel Neajai Pailey, Alessandra Bravi

A report presenting emerging findings from ongoing research on migrants in six countries experiencing crisis, including the Central African Republic, Côte d’Ivoire, Lebanon, Libya, South Africa and Thailand.

Sustainable Cities: Internal Migration, Jobs and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development - Overseas Development Institute

An overview of how internal migration impacts the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), namely Goals 8 and 11.

All At Sea: The Policy Challenges of Rescue, Interception, and Long-Term Response to Maritime Migration - Kathleen Newland et al.

This research presents policy responses to irregular maritime arrivals at regional, national, and international levels, with case studies in five global hotspots.

Detained Beyond the Sovereign: Conceptualising Non-State Actor Involvement in Immigration Detention - Michael Flynn

A piece proposing an analytical framework that can assist critical assessment of the evolution of immigration detention and the impact that non-state involvement in this practice has on the rights of migrants and asylum seekers.

Protection through Mobility: Opening Labor and Study Migration Channels to Refugees - Katy Long and Sarah Rosengaertner

This report suggests steps policymakers can take to open migration opportunities for refugees through existing labor and study channels.

MULTIMEDIA OF INTEREST

Migration Matters

A web platform aiming to change the debate around migration by offering courses and other learning materials.

“Refuge” - Refugees Deeply

A short film piece shot in a Greek camp in late July, offering glimpses into the experiences of four residents.

An Up-Close Look at Refugee Rescues on the Mediterranean - National Geographic

A photo essay covering a 15-hour search and rescue operation in the Central Mediterranean.

In Transit: Columbia Records, Athens - Open Society Foundations

A documentary photo exhibition showcasing the abandoned Columbia Records studio in Athens, now occupied by migrant squatters.

UPCOMING EVENTS

International Workshop on Human Smuggling - 6-8 April 2017, University of Texas at el Paso

Policymakers and scholars of irregular migration are gathering at the second international workshop on human smuggling. The workshop invites proposals on the theme of irregular migration and human mobility facilitation. Submit [abstracts](#) by 15 November.

Children on the Move: High Commissioner’s Dialogue on Protection Challenges - 8 & 9 December 2017, Geneva

The ninth annual High Commissioner’s Dialogue on Protection Challenges aims to provide a forum for a detailed analysis of the specific protection risks faced by children on the move, and to promote concrete protection outcomes.