



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, UNICEF 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.

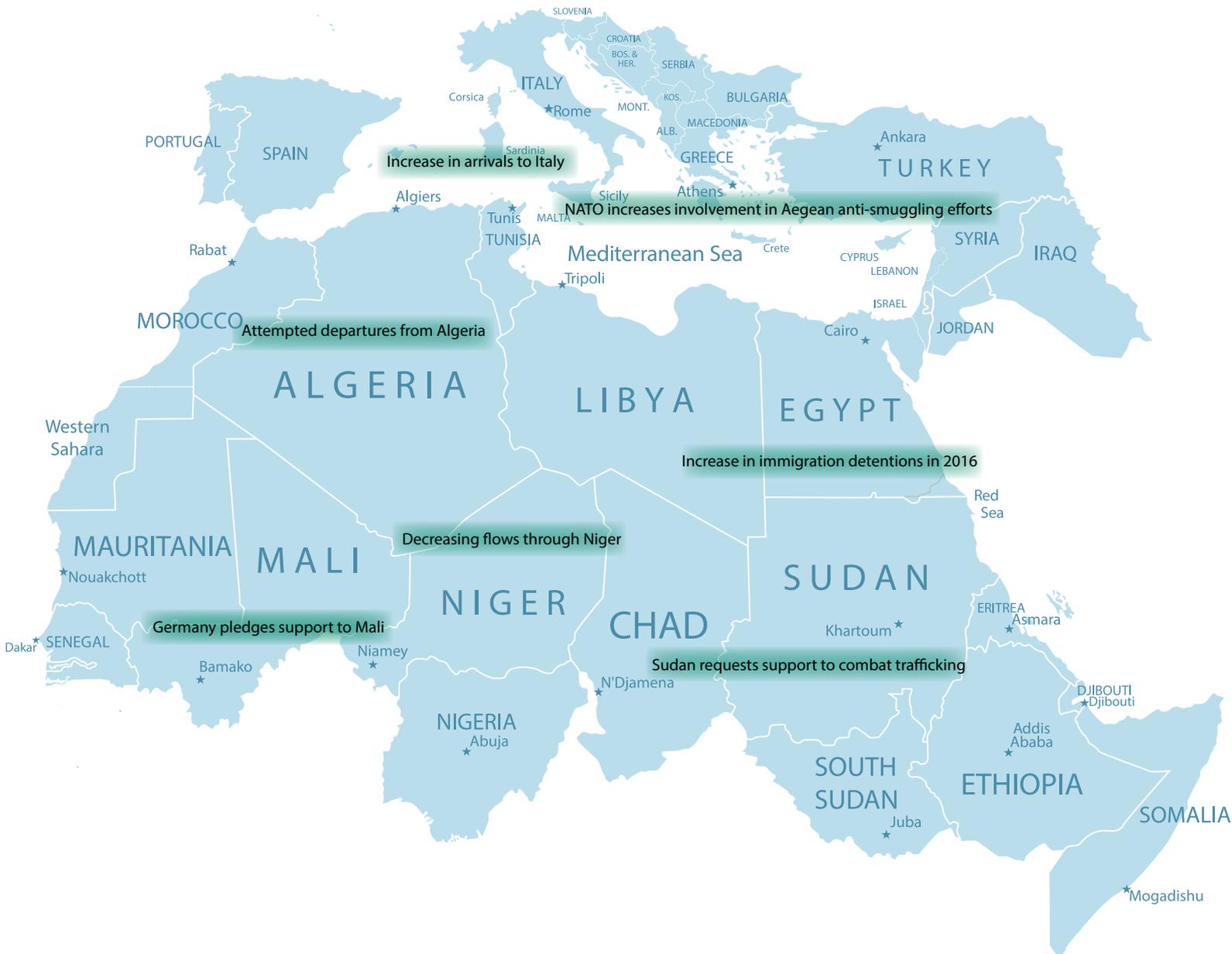
Scope: This bulletin covers mixed migration trends in Algeria, Egypt,

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



REGIONAL

Relocation and resettlement

- Between 28 September and 8 November, 1,212 people were [relocated](#) from Greece (921) and Italy (291) to other EU Member States under the September 2015 relocation scheme. A further 24,000 individuals in Greece and 20,400 in Italy are eligible for relocation. Under the July 2015 [resettlement scheme](#), a total of 11,852 of the 22,504 allotted spaces (52%) had been filled by 7 November. Additionally, as of 9 November, 2,217 Syrians had been resettled from Turkey to Greece under the [EU-Turkey deal](#).

Germany seeks to limit migration from Africa

- With continued arrivals to Europe and upcoming elections in Germany, Chancellor Angela Merkel has come under increasing pressure to curb migration flows from Africa. Chancellor Merkel [visited](#) Mali, Niger and Ethiopia in early October in hopes that pledging new EU investment in development and security initiatives will help limit migration from the continent.
- It was reported on 6 November that the German Interior Ministry proposed migrants intercepted at sea be [returned](#) to the African continent in order to await asylum processing. Opposition politicians reportedly [condemned](#) the plan, noting that it marked a further degradation of the right to asylum.

NATO steps up involvement in anti-smuggling operations in the Aegean

- On 27 October, NATO agreed to strengthen its [cooperation](#) with the European Union in counter-smuggling efforts in the Aegean Sea. The Turkish government remains opposed to the mission, arguing that there is no need for warships to continue to patrol the Turkish coastline, given the decline in numbers attempting to cross to Greece. NATO also announced it would increase its involvement in anti-smuggling activities in the Mediterranean by providing support to the EU's Operation Sophia.

Report reveals majority of migrants abused, exploited or trafficked on their way to Europe

- According to a [report](#) by IOM, more than 70% of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers traveling overland through North Africa to Europe were victims of abuse, exploitation, or practices that may amount to human trafficking. The IOM spent 10 months [gathering data](#) from more than 9,000 migrants along the central and eastern Mediterranean routes. Half of those surveyed said they had worked without pay, and 49% of all respondents reported being held in a location against their will. The report also reveals a positive correlation between time spent in transit and the risk of being trafficked and exploited.

UN report: restrictive migration policies may damage state security

- A new [report](#) by the UN Special Rapporteur on counter-terrorism and human rights revealed that overly restrictive migration policies - including the building of fences, criminalisation of irregular migration and push-back operations - may in fact create conditions conducive to terrorist activity. These findings come amid reports that EU member states were in favour of [extending](#) emergency border checks inside the European free travel zone after its expiration in mid-November. The Schengen zone had been partly suspended last year due to the influx of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers on the continent.

ALGERIA

Attempted departures from Algeria

- Between 25 and 26 October, it was reported that 76 people were [intercepted](#) off the coast of Annaba, Algeria in three makeshift boats. The individuals reportedly received medical attention before being taken to court to face criminal proceedings for attempted illegal migration. These incidents

come amid reports that suggest Algeria is increasingly the favoured [destination and transit hub](#) for migrants - namely those from sub-Saharan Africa - as the route via Libya becomes more risky due to deteriorating conditions in the country.

EGYPT

Migration governance

- In mid-October, the Egyptian government launched its ["National Strategy on Combating Illegal Migration"](#). The strategy, which will be implemented over the next decade, includes an Action Plan that will be updated biannually. During the same month the Egyptian Parliament also passed landmark anti-smuggling [legislation](#), criminalizing smuggling of persons and issuing imprisonment and fines for smugglers and accomplices.

This represents a significant reduction as compared to the September total of 874. This reduction may be due to the poor conditions at sea and the beginning of the winter months, which often bring about a reduction in departure numbers. Reportedly, the total number of foreign nationals detained in 2016 as of the end of October is 4,985 people across 121 incidents, representing a 38% increase on figures recorded during the same period in 2015. The total number of foreign unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) detained in 2016 remains at last month's figure of 440, indicating that none of the five detained in October were UASC. Nonetheless, UASC account for 54% of 822 detained children in 2016 as of 31 October, compared with 26% of 543 detained children in all of 2015.

Detention of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers

- It was reported that five foreign nationals were detained in a single incident in the month of October for attempting to depart irregularly by sea from Egypt's North Coast.

- The majority of foreign nationals detained on the North Coast this year are Sudanese and Somali, followed by Eritreans and Ethiopians. 51% of foreign detainees in 2016 were registered as refugees and asylum seekers with UNHCR. Among all foreign nationals detained in 2016, 2,922 have reportedly been released, while 1,905 who were not registered with UNHCR were deported. Additionally, 16 unregistered individuals have been transferred to Qanatir Prison over the course of the year, while in October alone, six Syrians were deported to Sudan.

Attempted crossings into Libya

- On 12 October, 59 Egyptian and Sudanese nationals were [arrested](#) for attempting to cross into Libya and were subsequently referred to an Egyptian military court. Despite criticism of the referral by rights groups, the court began investigations on 14 October.

Egypt, Greece, Cyprus discuss cooperation in migration

- On 11 October, a [tripartite summit](#) was held in Cairo among the leaders of Cyprus, Greece and Egypt to discuss cooperation in curbing irregular migration. The three leaders discussed opportunities for enhancing strategic relations and finding alternative solutions to security measures and deportation.

EU boosts support to Egypt

- On 11 October, Egypt received EUR 129 million in [financial assistance](#) from the EU to boost its socio-economic development, including in areas regarding migration. Additionally, the EU announced that it would partner with UNICEF on a [humanitarian project](#) to provide more education opportunities for refugee and Egyptian children. Under the project, 30 new kindergartens will be opened across six governorates.

Irregular migration into Europe

- On 13 October, some [100 people](#) reportedly climbed over the border fence from Morocco into the Spanish enclave of Melilla. The migrants, refugees and asylum seekers - mainly of sub-Saharan origin - were reportedly taken to a temporary reception centre where they are able to apply for asylum. Migrants wait weeks and sometimes months at the short-stay immigrant centre in the hope of being transferred to a refugee reception centre [in mainland Spain](#).

- On 31 October, over [200 individuals](#) reportedly crossed into the Spanish enclave of Ceuta. Spanish police apprehended around 50 migrants during the incident, while 32 migrants and six police officers required treatment for injuries. According to Al Jazeera, there are currently hundreds of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers residing in Morocco's [Bolino camp](#) near Melilla waiting for their chance to make the crossing to Europe.

LIBYA

Maritime incidents

- More than 2,000 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers were rescued off the coast of Libya in October in over 75 incidents, bringing the total number rescued by the Libyan Coast Guard in 2016 to [14,725](#). In the same period, 390 deaths were recorded along the Central Mediterranean route from Libya. With continuing departures off the Libyan coast, the EU commenced a [training](#) for the Libyan Coast Guard in late October as part of efforts to stem the flow of migrants from North Africa.

IOM supports voluntary repatriation

- On 10 October, [154 Nigerian migrants](#) - including 98 women, one infant and three children - were provided with voluntary repatriation services from Libya. All but one individual of the group had spent several months in Libyan detention centres. [142 Burkinabe migrants](#) were also assisted to voluntarily repatriate from Libya on 27 October. Additionally, on 1 November, [167 Nigerian migrants](#) - including 48 women and 40 children - were assisted to voluntarily repatriate from southern Libya to Niger.

Identified migrants, refugees and asylum seekers

- Between 17 September and 21 October, IOM conducted [1,946 interviews](#) with migrants, refugees and asylum seekers throughout nine different areas of Libya. 79% of respondents reported being unemployed in their country of origin, with the highest rate of unemployment recorded among Egyptian nationals (95%). The majority of surveyed migrants left their countries due to economic reasons. Among Nigeriens, this figure was as high as 99%, while Nigerians registered 93% and Egyptians 87%. Of all individuals surveyed, only 22% considered returning to their country of origin. Of those who did not wish to return, 58% said they intend to stay in Libya, while 35% planned to continue their journey to another country.

Medical clinics established at disembarkation points

- In early October, the Libyan Coast Guard and Libyan Port Security, with the support of IOM, established three [medical clinics](#) at major disembarkation points in Tripoli, Garaboli and Zliten. The clinics will assist migrants, refugees and asylum seekers recently rescued at sea.

MALI

Malian refugees and returnees

- As of 31 October, there were 135,985 Malian [registered refugees](#) in the region, indicating a slight increase on numbers recorded at the end of September (134,814). Of those registered, 60,823 are residing in Niger (44.7%); 42,867 in Mauritania (31.5%); and 32,295 in Burkina Faso (23.7%). The majority of the newly recorded refugees (1,069) were recorded in Mauritania. There were no new Malian refugee returnees recorded for the month of October.

Germany pledges support to Mali

- During her diplomatic trip to the African continent, German Chancellor Angela Merkel pledged more [support](#) to Mali to reduce smuggling of drugs and people. Merkel said Germany will intensify its support Mali's agricultural sector and security

in its northern regions, with a view to help stabilise Mali. The visit was a part of a larger effort to strengthen partnerships with African countries in order to support development and address root causes in order to curb future waves of migration. Malians are among the top ten nationalities arriving to Europe in 2016.

DTM tracking irregular migrants in Mali

- IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) in Northern Mali has found that most migrants transiting through Mali - the majority from sub-Saharan countries - travel through Bamako and Gao before continuing their journeys to Algeria, Niger or Libya. The DTM findings suggest that 96% of those transiting through Gao are male, while minors make up 9% of all migrants arriving in Gao and 6% of all departures.

cooperation in security and migration management. The Moroccan minister affirmed that Morocco would step up efforts to facilitate the return of irregular Moroccan migrants from Germany.

NIGER

Decreasing flows through Niger

- According to [data](#) collected by IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), fewer migrants, refugees and asylum seekers transited through Flow Monitoring Points (FMPs) along key migratory routes in Niger during October. Outgoing flows toward Libya and Algeria decreased by 61.5% from 32,861 in September to 12,654 in October. Incoming numbers declined from 10,286 in September to 1,290 in October, representing a decrease of 87.5%. Malians, Gambians and Nigerians constituted the main nationalities of those in the outgoing flow towards Libya, while Malians, Senegalese and Guineans were the main nationalities recorded en route to Algeria.
- The Agadez region has been subject to increasing government controls in order to stem irregular migration flows. According to IOM, punitive measures have been taken against those involved in smuggling, and vehicles of those involved in the facilitation of irregular movements have been seized. While the long term impact of these measures on irregular transit flows through Niger is not clear, research indicates that such restrictive measures usually result in migration routes becoming more dangerous.

Assisted Voluntary Returns

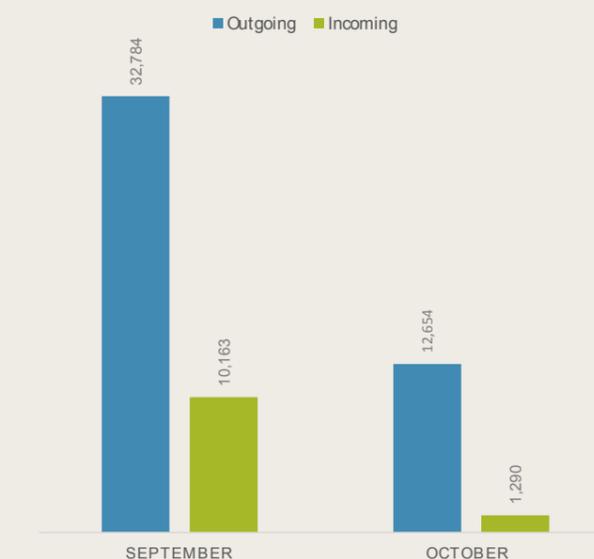
- During the first week of November, 137 West African migrants were provided with [Assisted Voluntary Return services](#) from Niger. Most of the migrants - who were from Senegal, Mali, Cote d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso, Gambia and Guinea Bissau - became stranded along their journey north and requested help to return to their countries of origin.

Germany and Niger migration talks

- Niger's President Mahatma Issoufou engaged in [talks](#) with German Chancellor Angela Merkel during her tour on the

African continent. Mahatma called for a "Marshall Plan" to promote development and curb migration, noting that the EUR 1.8 billion in EU funds earmarked for transit and origin countries was not sufficient. Merkel however emphasised the need to ensure EU funds are funneled efficiently. She has stressed the importance of improving educational standards across the continent, calling on the government of Niger to use European aid to finance schools and training schemes to provide more incentives for people to stay in Niger rather than migrate.

Niger: Outgoing and Incoming Flows



SUDAN

North Darfur requests support to fight trafficking

- On 23 October, the Governor of North Darfur [met](#) with the U.S. envoy for Sudan and South Sudan, as well as five UN ambassadors. The Governor requested support from the international community to stem trafficking at the borders between Sudan, Chad and Libya. According to the Governor, the conflict in Libya has led to an increased flow of weapons and drugs, as well as human trafficking and infiltration of extremist groups, which could cause unrest in Sudan.

Poor conditions in North Darfur camps

- Displaced communities in North Darfur are suffering a range of vulnerabilities. Children have been dying in greater numbers in the new Rwanda (B) camp in Tawila due to [malnutrition and poor healthcare](#). Additionally, in late October, militiamen effectively halted the entry of water tankers attempting to reach thousands of displaced people in Sortony camp in North Darfur after [demanding passage fees](#) from the trucks.

Militants besiege camp in West Darfur

- It was reported on 11 October that three displaced women of Sese camp in West Darfur were left in [critical condition](#) after being raped and beaten by a group of militiamen. The militants had reportedly been besieging the camp since the week prior and camp residents were unable to leave the camp due to [fear of attack](#).

US Special Envoy meets camp leaders in South Darfur

- On 22 October, the US Special Envoy to Sudan and South Sudan met with community leaders in Kalma camp in South Darfur. The displaced population expressed that they were not able to return to their places of origin due to continued attacks on villages by militia and government forces. The camp - which hosts 128,000 displaced - is now experiencing deterioration of health and education services. The US government has reportedly urged the African Union to join Sudan's National Dialogue Conference in order to bring an end to Sudan's numerous crises.

MOROCCO

Morocco and Germany seek to increase cooperation in migration governance

- On 12 October, the Moroccan Interior Minister held talks with his German counterpart in Berlin in order to discuss

IOM trains Sudanese border officers

- In mid-October, 20 officers from the Sudanese General Directorate of Passports and Immigration completed an advanced course in [border management](#) run by IOM, which included components on passenger profiling, risk management and integrated border management.

Anti-trafficking initiatives

- In early October, the commander of [Sudan's Rapid Support Forces \(RSF\)](#) announced that the paramilitary unit would thwart human trafficking operations and eradicate extremists

if the international community agreed to lift economic sanctions on Sudan. The RSF have reportedly had a presence along the country's borders with Egypt, Libya and Chad in an attempt to clear the area of rebel groups involved in gold and people-smuggling.

- Separately, the Sudanese police announced on 16 October that they had reached a [joint understanding](#) with their German counterparts on ways to combat human trafficking and irregular migration. They discussed methods to support Sudan's police by providing technical, logistical and training support.

International smuggling gang members arrested

- On 31 October, it was reported that Greek police arrested [11 suspects](#) belonging to an international criminal organisation accused of smuggling migrants from Turkey. The group

allegedly charged migrants between EUR 2,500 and 4,000 to transfer them from Turkey to other locations in Central and Northern Europe.

ITALY

Italy sees increase in sea arrivals and deaths

- October saw the arrival of [27,384](#) migrants, refugees and asylum seekers by sea to Italy, representing a 38% increase on September figures (16,975), and far surpassing arrivals recorded during the same month last year (8,916). Until this month, arrival figures in 2016 had remained on par with 2015. Deaths along the Central Mediterranean route increased from the previous month's 341 to [422](#) in October. The Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi called on European countries to do more, suggesting that the country cannot [handle](#) another year of receiving large numbers of new arrivals. Renzi also suggested that the EU consider [funding cuts](#) to the bloc's Eastern states that have refused to take in refugees, while Italy's Foreign Minister proposed the government [adopt an agreement](#) similar to the EU-Turkey deal in order to stem migration flows from the African continent.

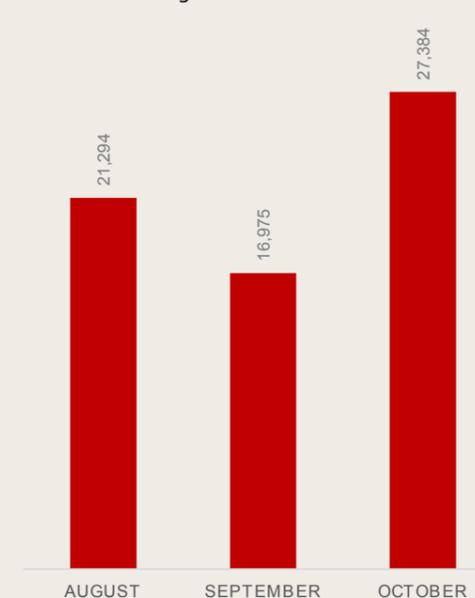
Abuse of refugees and migrants in Italy reported by Amnesty International

- A [new report](#) by Amnesty International reported that the European Union's pressure on Italy to "get tough" on refugees and migrants has led to unlawful expulsions and ill-treatment that in some cases may amount to torture. The report reveals that migrants, refugees and asylum seekers have endured torture, abuse and illegal deportation after arriving in Italy. Most of the abuses were carried out by officials resorting to coercive and abusive practices to obtain fingerprints under the EU hot spot approach that was introduced in 2015 on the recommendation of the European Commission.

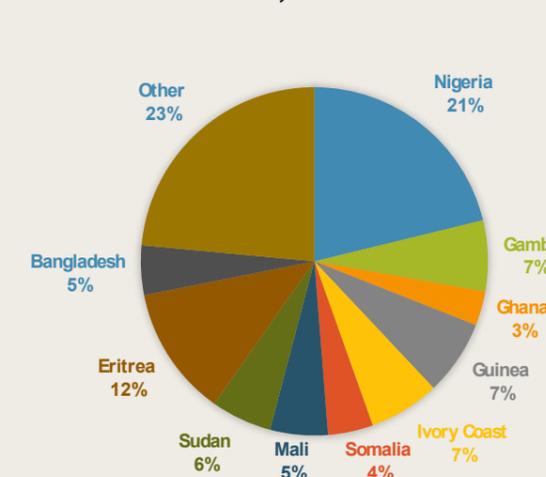
Protection of UASC in Italy

- Separately, in late October UNICEF [called](#) on the Italian parliament to pass a bill that would strengthen protection for the more than 20,000 unaccompanied and separated children that arrived on Italian shores this year.

Arrivals by Sea, Italy
August - October 2016



Arrivals by Sea to Italy, Main Countries of Origin
January - October 2016



RESEARCH OF INTEREST

[Climate-Induced Migration and Displacement: Closing the Policy Gap](#) - Emily Wilkinson, Amy Kirbyshire, Leigh Mayhew, Pandora Batra & Andrea Milan

This briefing explores climate-induced migration and displacement, recognising that existing policies both on the international and national levels are yet to make the link between climate change and human mobility.

[Towards a Whole-of-Society Approach to Receiving and Settling Newcomers in Europe](#) - Demetrios G. Papademetriou and Meghan Benton

This report assesses where integration has worked in Europe and analyses the likely outcome for new arrivals of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers.

[Report of the Special Rapporteur on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms While Countering Terrorism](#) - UN

A report on the impact of counter-terrorism measures on the human rights of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers.

TUNISIA

Tunisia begins negotiations with the EU on readmission and visa facilitation

- On 12 October, the European Union and Tunisia began negotiations on an agreement to establish procedures for the readmission of irregular migrants from Tunisia, as well as an agreement on short-term visa facilitation. Certain requirements of the EU Visa Code may be relaxed or

eliminated for Tunisians under the visa facilitation agreement, while the readmission deal would see procedures put in place in order to speed up and simplify cooperation on the issue between the two sides. Funding for the implementation of these agreements will be sourced from the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa.

GREECE

Sea arrivals to Greece continue to decrease

- [2,970](#) migrants, refugees and asylum seekers arrived by sea to Greece in October, representing a 3.6% decrease on September figures (3,080). Arrivals to Greece for 2016 reached 169,901 by 2 November, a significant decline on the Jan-Oct 2015 figure of 587,939. There were two fatalities recorded along the Eastern Mediterranean route this month, compared with 27 in September. The top five nationalities of arrivals in October were Syrians, followed by Iraqis, Afghans, Iranians and Pakistanis.

Migrants seek alternative routes

- On 5 October, it was reported that 214 Syrian refugees were arrested while attempting to cross the Evros River dividing Greece and Turkey. In the week prior, 107 refugees were apprehended at the same border, suggesting that alternatives to the Aegean sea crossing are being used in the aftermath of the EU-Turkey deal.

Returns from Greece to Turkey

- According to reports, [65 people](#) of different nationalities were returned from Greece to Turkey on 5-6 October. On 13 October, [58 individuals](#) were sent back to Turkey under either the Greece-Turkey Readmission Protocol of 2002, the EU-Turkey Readmission Agreement of 2014, or the EU-Turkey deal. A further [73 individuals](#) were transferred under the three mentioned agreements on 21 October. Amidst continued returns of irregular migrants to Turkey, UNHCR expressed [concern](#) that ten Syrian nationals had been illegally transferred without due consideration of their asylum claims. Greek authorities [announced](#) that they had begun probing the allegations.

Poor camp conditions

- Rights groups continue to draw attention to the substandard living conditions and unmet protection needs of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers residing in Greece. At Diavata camp near Thessaloniki, a sexual assault case and stabbing incident worried aid workers and camp residents, who claimed that police do not intervene when problems arise. Expressing concern over the deteriorating health status of vulnerable migrants, Médecins Sans Frontières urged Greek authorities to [improve reception conditions](#) and provide access to healthcare.

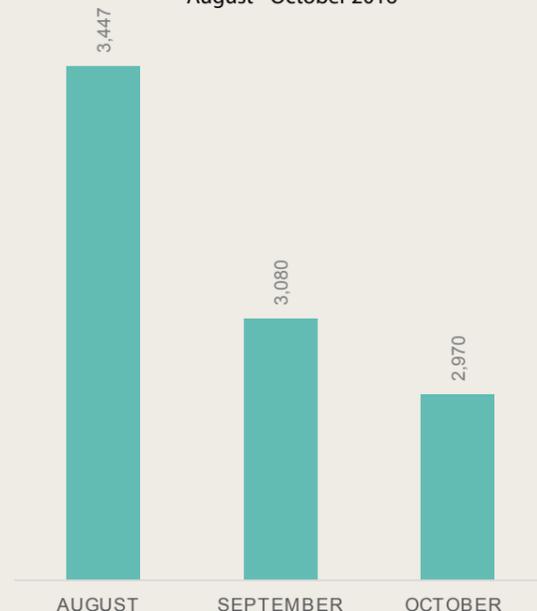
Tensions lead to protests and brawls

- Overcrowding and frustration over slow asylum processing procedures led to incidents across Greece's reception centres this month. On 8 October, it was reported that several youth had [set fire](#) to mattresses in their facility on Chios. [Reports](#) of brawls and protests on the islands of Chios and Lesbos continued to surface in late October.

Positive initiatives for migrant and refugee children in Greece

- In efforts to improve the living conditions of unaccompanied migrant and refugee youth, the Greek government announced on 19 October the opening of a [new reception centre](#) near Athens for unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) in a collaborative effort with Save the Children and the European Commission. Those residing in the facility will receive skills training, medical care and psychological support, among other services. As of 16 October, it was estimated that Greece was hosting up to 2,500 UASC. On 10 October, 15 schools across Greece for the first time [admitted](#) refugee and migrant children from nearby camps.

Arrivals by Sea, Greece
August - October 2016



MULTIMEDIA OF INTEREST

[Stepping Over the Dead on a Migrant Boat](#) - The New York Times

A photographer captures the scene of a search and rescue mission in the Mediterranean.

[“The Road Most Travelled: Smuggler’s Role in Migration”](#) - The Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime

An infographic video on the smuggler’s role in migration.

[Raising Barriers: A New Age of Walls](#) - Samuel Granados, Zoeann Murphy, Kevin Schaul & Anthony Faiola

A media series examining divisions between places and people.