

REGIONAL

European sea arrivals and deaths at sea

- IOM reported that in the first month of 2017, 5,932 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers arrived by sea to Europe through irregular channels. Around three quarters of the January 2017 arrivals were to Italy (4,480), while the remainder were to Greece (1,452). The January 2017 arrival figures represent a substantial 91% reduction on the January 2016 figure of 67,856. Despite the reduction in arrivals, the death toll has only reduced by 33%, with 254 deaths recorded in the Mediterranean in January 2017.

Relocation and resettlement

- More than 10,000 asylum seekers have now been located from Greece and Italy to other EU member states through the EU relocation program. [IOM acknowledged](#) the ongoing efforts in a 13 January statement, while noting that the number remains low if member states hope to reach the target of 106,000 places under the two-year program. France, The Netherlands and Germany have received the most people under the scheme. IOM also stressed the need to accelerate relocation for vulnerable populations, particularly unaccompanied children.

Frontex Pool of Return Experts

- [Frontex announced](#) in January the launch of a pool of experts who will support the return of migrants across the EU. The expert pool will consist of 690 return experts and officers who will assist in identifying irregular migrants and acquiring the necessary travel documents for their return, including cooperation with consular authorities from the countries of origin.

IOM-UNHCR Joint Statement

- IOM and UNHCR released [a joint statement](#) on 28 January in response to US President Trump's refugee order issued one day prior. The order suspends entry of all refugees to the United States for 120 days, bar Syrian refugees indefinitely, and block entry into the United States for 90 days for citizens of seven predominantly Muslim countries: Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen. The joint statement emphasised the great need of refugees and asylum seekers globally, and emphasised the importance of the US resettlement program.

ALGERIA

Conference on the impact of Libya's crisis on regional security

- On 25 January, the African Center for Research and Study on Terrorism (ACSRT) organized a two-day [conference](#) to discuss the impact of Libya's political crisis on regional security. The conference concentrated on several topics, including the return of "terrorists" to the North African region from Syria and

Iraq, and the means necessary to support AU member states enhance cross-border security. The conference attendees included representatives from Algeria, Libya, Tunisia, Egypt, Chad, Sudan and Niger, along with a number of specialists from international organisations.

EGYPT

More than 12,000 prevented from crossing borders in 2016

- On 11 January, [the Egyptian military announced](#) that in 2016, Egyptian border patrol and coast guard had arrested a total of 12,192 people of various nationalities while attempting to illegally enter or leave the country in 2016.

challenges facing Egypt today, and she highlighted the need for innovative solutions, including the establishment of small and medium-sized projects to divert youths' interest from irregular migration.

Egypt to form a National Commission to Fight Illegal Migration

- On 23 January, Egyptian Prime Minister Sherif Ismail [issued a cabinet decision](#) to form the National Commission to Fight Illegal Immigration and Human Trafficking. The commission will operate under the chairmanship of a specialized expert and its membership drawn from representatives from various government ministries. Migration Minister Nabila Makram warned that "illegal migration" is one of the most important

Collaborations to provide refugees with health services

- Egypt's Ministry of Health and UNHCR agreed in January on a new [partnership](#) to provide African, Yemeni and Iraqi refugees with primary governmental health services, after previously being available only to registered Syrian refugees. The health services will be granted to refugees at government-run hospitals and will include maternal and childhood care services, vaccinations, family medicine services, curative and preventive care.

LIBYA

Maritime incidents

- Around 808 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers were [rescued off](#) the coast of Libya in January across 9 separate incidents, while 41 deaths were recorded in the same period. In one incident on January 14, [around 100 people](#) went missing after a shipwreck in the waters between Libya and

Italy. Only 4 were rescued, while 8 bodies were found and the rest remain missing presumed dead.

Returns from Libya

- On 18 January, six Bangladeshis were assisted to return home from Tripoli, followed by a further 46 men on 23

January who [returned](#) home from Misratah. This is the first repatriation operation out of Misratah since 2014 due to security concerns. On 23 January, two female migrants were assisted to return home to Kenya – one whom was a victim of trafficking. On the same day, IOM also assisted a mother and a six-year-old child to return home to Ivory Coast. Meanwhile, [Nigeria continues](#) to bring its stranded citizens home from Libya, with the support of IOM and the Libyan government. The Nigerian National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) reported plans for further evacuations of Nigerians after around 1,000 Nigerians were returned by the agency across 2015 and 2016.

EU rejects proposal for Turkey-style deal for Libya

- The EU Commission [rejected](#) proposals to form an agreement with Libya similar to the EU-Turkey deal. The EU Foreign Policy Chief, Federica Mogherini, outlined her opposition to the proposals arguing that the situation in Libya is “completely different” from the one in Turkey. The Chief’s concerns were echoed by [German Chancellor](#), Angela Merkel, who in responding to reports of abuse in Libya argued that the EU cannot sign a similar deal with Libya until the country stabilises. Mogherini also announced [€200m](#) in EU funding aimed at stopping migration across the central Mediterranean from Libya, including €3.2m to expand the EU’s training programme for the Libyan coastguard. The fund will also be used to create a “voluntary returns” programme to help migrants return home from Libya.

Deadly conditions encountered by migrants

- On 23 January, [an interagency mission](#) from IOM, UNHCR, and UNICEF visited Abu-Salim Centre in Tripoli as part of

the UN Country Team plan to improve the conditions and the protections of migrants and refugees in Libya. The centre currently hosts around 90 migrants and refugees, including women and children. Camp conditions were described in a recent [report prepared by the German Embassy in Niger](#), expressing concern about the systematic rights abuses migrants encounter in camps in Libya, including executions, torture, rape, bribery and banishment to the desert.

Collaboration to prevent people smugglers in Libyan waters

- Libya’s UN-backed prime minister, Fayed al-Serraj, stated that [NATO or EU ships](#) could be allowed to operate in Libyan waters alongside the national coastguard to stem the flow of people-smuggling. The Libyan coastguard faces serious challenges in preventing human smuggling and decreasing the flow of irregular movement from its coast. In one incident, [a Libyan coastguard vessel was shot at](#) by smugglers as the coastguard vessel closed in on two wooden vessels carrying a total of around 700 migrants off the coast of Sabratha.
- The EU announced on 30 January [a second phase of training for Libyan coastguard](#) officers has commenced under Operation Sophia in the fields of human rights, maritime rights, equality in treating men and women, and search and rescue operations.
- On 17-18 January, [IOM and UNHCR](#) organized a technical coordination meeting in Tunis with Libyan partners to improve rescue-at-sea operations and collaboration between the different actors involved.

MALI

IDPs in Mali

- IOM reported on 17 January that the estimated number of [Internally Displaced Persons](#) in Mali is 36,690 individuals across 6,867 households. The most affected region is

Timbuktu, with 13,592 individuals in 2,019 households, followed by Gao, with 10,851 individuals from 2,086 households.

MOROCCO

Spain lauds Morocco’s migration policy

- On 26 January, the Spanish MP [praised](#) the migration policy initiated by Morocco King Mohammed VI. The Spanish MP also lauded the “fruitful collaboration” between Spain and Morocco in migration management during an exchange of views between members of the Committee on Migration of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.

Migrants’ residency permits to be extended

- On 10 January, King Mohammed V ordered that migrants’ residency permits be [extended](#) from one year to three years to help secure migrants’ access to housing, loans and business opportunities. The cabinet stated that they will ease and speed up the procedure for issuing and renewing residency permits.

NIGER

Massive drop in flows inaccurately calculated

- Numbers of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers moving through Agadez, Niger were reported to have [fallen dramatically](#) between August and October 2016. However, in January, an IOM Niger spokesperson announced that the

[numbers reported by IOM for November](#) were wrong and a “technical problem” with a database had produced the incorrect figures. According to the spokesperson, IOM had recorded nearly 11,500 migrants heading for the Libyan and Algerian borders in November.

SUDAN

Migrant arrests by Sudan Rapid Support Forces (RSF)

- [Sudan’s RSF announced](#) on 8 January that they have intercepted the smuggling of 1,500 individuals attempting to cross the the Sudanese-Libyan border during the last seven months. Hundreds of RSF troops have been deployed since June 2016 to combat trafficking and irregular migration across rough desert terrain on the border. 115 people detained by the RSF were brought to Khartoum on 8 January, while a [further 64 people](#) from Ethiopia, Eritrea, Somalia and

Yemen were detained on 24 January, including 6 children.

TUNISIA

Cooperation with the US

- Tunisia received [two American patrol boats](#) on 16 January as part of a deal concluded with the United States to help battle terrorism and irregular migration. The two boats make up

part of the six promised to Tunisia under the 2012 deal with the United States for military assistance.

GREECE

Sea arrivals to Greece continue to decrease

- 1,452 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers arrived by sea to Greece in January, representing a 19.7 % decrease on the December figure of 1,810. During January 2017, there was 1 death recorded along the Eastern Mediterranean route, compared with 284 deaths recorded on the route in January 2016. The arrival figures for January 2017 represent a marked decline on January 2016 arrivals to Greece, which totalled 62,193.

Relocations from Greece to other EU countries

- During December and January, 2,293 people were relocated from Greece to other European countries, bringing the total number of persons relocated from Greece so far to 8,766. The EU, in its [9th report](#) on returns and relocations, wrote that the member states continue to meet their obligations and participate actively in the relocation scheme

Freezing conditions on the Greek islands

- [Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières \(MSF\)](#), reported that thousands of refugees and migrants continue to suffer harsh cold and freezing conditions in Greece. The condition was particularly serious for those living in tents in overcrowded camps on the Greek islands. On 9 January, [the European Commission](#) acknowledged that conditions for refugees on Greek islands and in other camps where they were housed in tents despite severe cold weather were “untenable” and stated that it was doing its best to support the Greek authorities to provide the needed assistance for refugees and migrants.
- On 20 January, Dimitris Avramopoulos, European Commissioner for Migration, [met with mayors of five Greek islands](#) (Lesbos, Samos, Chios, Kos and Leros) and assured them that the EU had set aside funds for additional refugee accommodation and that they should be utilised. The meeting came in response to rising anger in the Greek islands, accusing the central government in Athens of ignoring their calls to alleviate pressure on their congested migrant camps.

Deadly conditions in Greek camps

- On 30 January, a migrant from Pakistan [was found dead](#) in his tent in Moria camp on Lesbos island. Another migrant, who shared the tent with the deceased, was taken to the hospital as he was critically sick. This was a the third death in a week at the camp after a 22-year-old Egyptian and a 46-year-old Syrian who shared a tent, died days apart. The reason behind the deaths is still unclear as authorities would not confirm or deny Greek media reports that they had died due to inhaled fumes from a heater. These incidents add to

concerns regarding the harsh living conditions in the Greek camps.

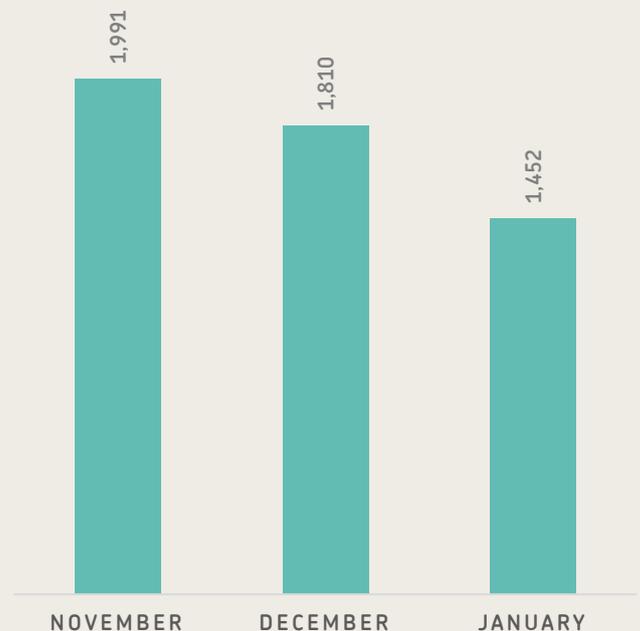
Migrants protest camp conditions

- On 6 February, a group of Afghan refugees [protested](#) against the difficult living conditions at Hellenikon, a former airport complex that also houses abandoned venues used in the 2004 Olympic Games. The refugees tried to block the Migration Minister, Yannis Mouzalas, from entering the former Athens airport terminal demanding better food, improved sanitation facilities and hot water. Around 1,600 refugees and migrants live in the complex, of whom 600 live in the old arrivals terminal, sharing tents in unsanitary conditions.

Turkey threatens to cancel its migration deal with Greece

- Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu [threatened](#) that his government would take several measures against Greece, including canceling the “migrants readmission deal” after Greece’s Supreme Court ruled on 26 January against an extradition request for eight Turkish soldiers, who allegedly were linked to a failed coup in their country. The eight had fled from their country and sought political asylum in Greece after the military coup in Turkey, a EU spokeswoman stated that the EU is confident that EU’s cooperation with Turkey on migration will continue and won’t be affected .

Arrivals by Sea, Greece
November 2016 - January 2017



ITALY

Maritime incidents

- On 27 January, an Italian coast guard ship, the Spanish humanitarian group Proactiva Open Arms and a Caribbean-registered supply vessel rescued around [1,000](#) migrants from six rubber dinghies and three wooden vessels. One body was retrieved from one of the dinghies during the rescue.
- On 1 February 1,300 people were rescued in the central

Mediterranean. Two days later, ships from the Italian coast guard, the Italian and British navies, merchant ships and vessels operated by NGOs rescued more than [1,300](#) migrants from 13 vessels.

Arrests of smuggling gang

- On 30 January, the Italian police announced that it has issued

more than [30 arrest warrants](#) for a criminal gang involved in smuggling migrants into France in vans for up to 1,000 euros per person. In one incident, the police found 40 migrants in the back of a padlocked van. According to the police, half of those targeted by the arrest warrants lived outside Italy.

Italy reaches an agreement with Libya to control the flow of migrants

- One day before EU leaders met for the Malta summit, Italy and Libya signed a [Memorandum of Understanding](#) to increase cooperation in fighting migrant trafficking from Libyan shores. The MOU is one piece of a wider plan announced under the 3rd February [Malta Declaration](#) resulting from an informal summit on external aspects of migration held by European Council members. Leaders at the summit [agreed](#) to take additional action to significantly reduce migratory flows, break the business model of smugglers and save lives. They will also step up cooperation with the Libyan authorities.
- The Italy- Libya agreement includes a [controversial plan](#) to establish temporary camps in Libya to house irregular migrants arriving in Libya, pending their deportation or voluntary return to their countries of origin. The proposed camps would be run by Libyan authorities, with EU support, and Italian medical assistance. The proposal has attracted much criticism from [the humanitarian community](#), with Human Rights Watch stating that the EU would be [flouting its international obligations](#) by 'outsourcing responsibility' for migrants to a fundamentally unstable state, and Save the Children expressing concern for the rights of children under such a plan.

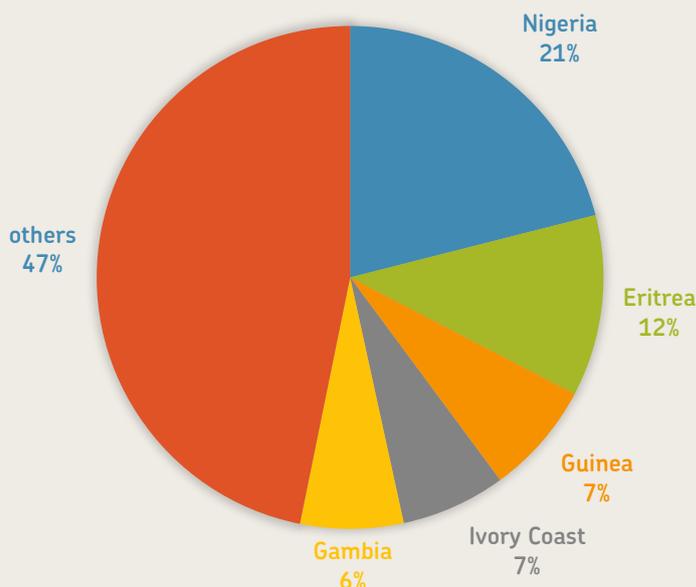
Arrivals decrease from December figures

- January saw the arrival of 4,480 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers by sea to Italy, representing a 45.7% decrease on December figures (8,246). The figures for January 2017 are also lower than the number recorded for January 2016 (5,663); however, the death toll for 2017 is comparatively higher. 228 deaths were recorded along the central Mediterranean route this month, representing a 153% increase on January 2016 (90 deaths).

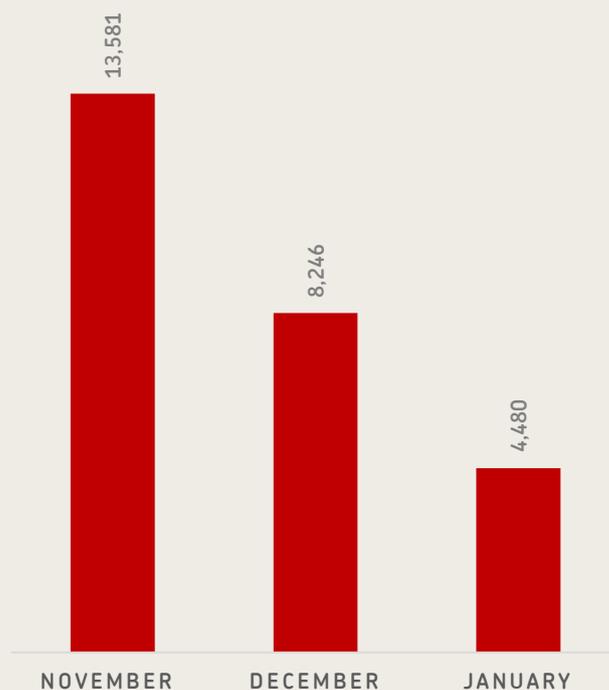
Arrivals doubled for unaccompanied children

- According to UNICEF, [25,800 unaccompanied children](#) arrived to Italy by sea in 2016, which is double the 12,360 who arrived during the previous year. The figures represent 91% of all the 28,200 children who reached Italy in 2016 as refugees or migrants. According to UNICEF, the majority of those children are originally from Eritrea, Egypt, the Gambia and Nigeria. Most of the children are boys aged 15 to 17 years. Girls were also among the arrivals and several reported that they were forced into commercial sex work in Libya.

Arrivals by Sea to Italy, Main Countries of Origin 2016



Arrivals by Sea, Italy November 2016 - January 2017



RESEARCH OF INTEREST

[The Italian Connection: getting the analysis right using data not myths](#) - RMMS

Analysis from RMMS debunking the misconception that migrant flows from the Eastern Mediterranean have rerouted to the Central Mediterranean route.

[Turning Back- MMP](#)

Briefing paper from the new Mixed Migration Platform analyzes the policies and the data on Iraqis moving home from Europe.

[European Commission Questions & Answers: Migration on the Central Mediterranean route](#)- EU

EU fact sheet outlining potential actions to address migration across the Central Mediterranean.

[Turning the tide- Clingendael](#)

Report examining the relationship between irregular migration and conflict in Mali, Niger and Libya and analysing smuggling networks' interaction with local, national and regional political and economic dynamics.

[Migration and Health- Public Health Panorama](#)

Special issue focused on migration and health, including the challenges and how to respond to the health needs of migrants.

[Accessing "Home"- Church World Service](#)

Report examining the link between urbanization and return dynamics in town and small city contexts in Côte d'Ivoire and Rwanda.

MULTIMEDIA OF INTEREST

[Inside Nigeria's internal displacement camps- CNN](#)

Photos depicting internal displacement camps in Nigeria.

[The 21st Century Gold Rush- Huffington Post](#)

Multimedia article examining how the increasing flows of mixed migration movements have changed the world economy.

[Greece: Refugees with Disabilities Overlooked, Underserved- Human rights watch](#)

A video on the conditions encountered by refugees with disabilities in Greece.

[The Desperate Conditions Inside a Serbian Migrant Camp- The New York times](#)

Multimedia article depicts the hard conditions inside a Serbian camp.

[4.1 Miles- Daphne Matziaraki](#)

Oscar nominated short documentary follows a Greek captain and his crew while rescuing refugees off Lesbos.

[In photos: The ongoing Mediterranean migrant crisis- SBS](#)

Photos series depicting the the flow of migrants and asylum seekers across the Mediterranean.

[Tricked into death- Mail Online](#)

Photo series showing the mountains of life jackets - many fake - as a memorial to refugees drowned off the coast of Lesbos.