



## REGIONAL

**European sea arrivals and deaths at sea**

- IOM reported that in January–February 2017, 16,927 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers arrived by sea to Europe through irregular channels. By far the majority of these arrivals were to Italy (13,446), with 2,481 arriving to Greece, and 1,000 to Spain. While, the number of irregular arrivals in 2017 is just 13% of January–February arrivals for 2016 (132,743), the 2017 arrivals to Italy only are higher than 2016 arrivals to Italy for the same period, which totalled 9,086. The 2017 death toll for all Mediterranean crossings during January and February is slightly higher than last year – 487 in 2017, compared with 426 in 2016. The distribution of deaths has markedly changed in line with the route changes, with 91% of deaths in 2017 occurring along the Central Mediterranean route. Even given the increased numbers of people using the Central route in 2017, the death toll is still proportionally much higher in 2017 than in 2016. In the first two months of 2016, one in every 93 people died along the route (97 people), compared with a 2017 death rate of 1 in 30 people (444 deaths). Notably, 8% of deaths in 2017 (41 people) have occurred along the Western Mediterranean route to Spain, compared to just 2% (7 people) for the same period in 2016.

**Relocation and resettlement**

- As of 28 February, [the European Commission reported](#) that 13,546 people had been relocated from Greece and Italy to other member states under the EU relocation program. Of these, 9,610 were relocated from Italy and 3,936 from Greece. While there has been [an increase in the pace](#) of relocations, the total number relocated so far represents less than 14% of the legal obligation of 106,000 allocated by the Council. The EC admitted that at the current pace, the relocations will fall far short of the obligation of 98,255 relocations by September 2017. While France, Germany and The Netherlands have so far received the most people, Malta and Finland are the only states on track to receive their scheduled allocation under the scheme.
- In contrast, progress made on [resettlement](#) is more promising. As of 27 February, 21 states have resettled 14,422 persons in need of international protection; over half of the agreed 22,504 under the EU resettlement scheme. While overall progress on resettlement is good, there are a number of states who have not yet resettled people, and others who remain far from achieving their target. A [majority of states](#) participating in the resettlement scheme indicated that their efforts have been primarily, but not exclusively, directed at Syrians staying in Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey.

**Malta urges EU to strengthen returns from Libya**

- In early February, Malta urged the European Union to significantly [increase funding](#) for the United Nations to return migrants stranded in Libya to their countries of origin further south in the continent. In December 2016, a total of 100 million Euros for three years was pledged by EU members Belgium, Germany and Italy to the IOM to support voluntary returns and reintegration for migrants from the African continent. The EU Trust Fund for Africa has provided an initial 12 million Euros towards its goal of returning 5,000 people from Libya this year, however the Malta plan calls for an increase in this target and with funding to match. It was [reported](#) in early March that IOM has so far provided return assistance to 560 stranded migrants in 2017.

**EU Migration Commissioner calls to increase returns and possible use of detention**

- The EU's [Migration Commissioner](#) in early March called for an improvement to the rate of returns from the EU, and encouraged member states to use detention for migrants who do not have cases for asylum and were at risk of absconding. The call is part of a new set of non-binding proposals by the executive European Commission. [Amnesty International](#) criticised the proposals, saying that detention of irregular migrants should only be a 'last resort'. The proposal follows a meeting of EU leaders held in Malta last month to agree on 'concrete operational measures to stem irregular migration from Libya to Europe'. At the informal summit on 3 February, EU leaders signed off on the [Malta Declaration](#) and endorsed a February 2 Italian–Libyan Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) through which the Italian government will fund, support, and train Libya's coastguard, expanding on existing EU training programs.

**Assessment of Migration Partnership Framework**

- The [EC presented](#) in early March on progress achieved thus far under its Migration Partnership Framework with five priority countries – Ethiopia, Niger, Nigeria, Mali and Senegal. The program, launched in June 2016, was designed to combat human smuggling and trafficking and support migrants. The Commission found that while progress has been achieved under the framework, more efforts are needed to deliver stronger results. Under the EU Trust Fund for Africa, a total of 42 new programs, worth €587 million, were agreed upon in December 2016 for the five priority countries.

## ALGERIA

**Algerian–German cooperation**

- [Algerian Prime Minister](#) Abdelmalek Sellal and German Chancellor Angela Merkel held a meeting by phone, after Merkel's planned trip to Algeria was canceled over the Algerian president's poor health. The leaders talked about increasing the two countries' good relations, including their cooperation on migration and security issues. Merkel also expressed

appreciation for Algeria's efforts to help solve the ongoing crisis in neighboring Libya. The cancelled meeting comes as the Chancellor is seeking to [build closer relations with North African countries](#) including Algeria, to speed up returns of those who whose applications for asylum have been rejected in Germany.

# EGYPT

## Detention updates from the North Coast

- During the months of January and February, no new arrests for attempting departure from the North Coast were recorded. In the first two months of the year, 22 detainees (17 Eritrean, 1 Somali, 1 Syrian, 1 Yemeni and 2 Sudanese) were deported; leaving 36 people known to UNHCR (14 of them minors from Eritrea, Ethiopia and Sudan) still detained on the North Coast.

## Egyptian collaboration with IOM

- On 9 February, the Egyptian government [launched](#) the project 'Preventing and Responding to Irregular Migration in Egypt' (PRIME) to address irregular migration in a comprehensive manner. The project will enhance implementation of the country's new Illegal Migration and Anti-Smuggling Law, which sets out to prosecute smugglers while protecting the rights of migrants. The project will also provide livelihood opportunities to Egyptians as alternatives to irregular migration. In close cooperation with the Ministry of Interior, IOM organized [five trainings](#) in February-March, for 100 government immigration officials on passport examination procedures to enhance border security. On 23 February, the Egyptian Ministry for Immigration and Egyptian Expatriate Affairs and IOM hosted Egypt's [first international partners' round table](#) on determining

the development impact of migration. The Egyptian Minister asserted that Egypt is committed to continue its efforts to engage Egyptian expatriate communities in development initiatives as well as the protect Egyptian expatriate communities' rights.

## Cooperation with the EU

- On 2 March, President Abdel-Fattah El-Sisi and German Chancellor Angela Merkel met in Cairo and emphasised [cooperation](#) between the two countries in combating terrorism and irregular migration. President El-Sisi stated that Egypt is continuing its efforts to curb illegal immigration and asserted that the five million immigrants from different nations who are hosted in Egypt live their lives normally, receive the privileges enjoyed by Egyptian citizens and are not confined to refugee camps. On 6 March, [during a meeting](#) with the EU Commissioner for Home and Migration Affairs and the German and Austrian Foreign Ministers, the Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry asserted that Egypt will not establish refugee camps, but requires support to provide a decent life and services to refugees. During the meeting, the EU Commissioner declared the EU's willingness to cooperate with Egypt in controlling borders.

# LIBYA

## Maritime incidents

- Around 1,727 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers were rescued off the coast of Libya in February across 13 separate incidents, while 102 deaths were recorded in the same period.

## Returns from Libya

- On 14 February, 162 migrants, including 101 women, 43 men and 18 children, were assisted to return home to Nigeria; on the same date [200](#) migrants from Niger, who had been held in detention centres in the capital, were assisted to return home. On 16 February, 172 migrants, including 171 men and one woman, were assisted to return home to Senegal. On 21 February, [172](#) stranded Nigerian migrants, including 110 women, 49 men, seven children and six infants, were assisted to return home from Tripoli, Libya.

## Human rights abuses in Libya

- According to Amnesty International's [annual report](#), rival government forces and other armed groups have committed serious violations of international law and abuses of human rights. Due to indiscriminate and direct attacks on civilians, thousands have been internally displaced. The conflict has had a devastating impact on civilian access to food, healthcare, education, electricity, fuel and water supplies. The report stated that refugees, migrants, and asylum seekers face serious abuses, including indefinite detention, torture and other ill-treatment by authorities, armed groups and people smugglers.

## Protection of migrants from sexual violence

- On 7 February, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, [called upon the Libyan authorities](#) to protect migrants from rape and other human rights violations. The Representative highlighted in her statement that not only women and girls, but also men and boys, suffer severe human rights violations, including conflict-

related sexual violence, committed by different sides of the Libyan conflict as well as by smugglers, traffickers and other criminal groups. She also mentioned that migrants encounter sexual violence in official and unofficial detention centres, where migrants are held for a long periods.

## Local authorities resist EU plans

- Local authorities in Libya are resisting [a €200 million EU](#) plan to fund projects geared towards stemming irregular migration through Libya to Europe, including improved border control, surveillance, and the establishment of [holding centres](#) in towns and cities along the main smuggling routes. The agreement, which has the backing of EU leaders, pledges support for "reception camps" where migrants can be held "until their deportation or their voluntary return to their countries of origin. Local mayors however say they were not notified of the deal before it was struck, and fear that the deal shifts Europe's migration crisis onto Libyan soil. Cooperation with Libyan municipal authorities is critical to the EU deal, but with local authorities opposing the plans, it is unclear how the initiatives can proceed.

## Training to combat smuggling

- UNODC held a training in February for 24 Libyan law enforcement officers and prosecutors, including representatives from the Ministry of Interior's Anti-Illegal Migration Department, Coastal Security, the Libyan Coast Guard and the Attorney-General's Office. The overall objective of this training was to strengthen the capacity of Libyan law enforcement officers and prosecutors to combat migrant smuggling in Libya.

# MALI

## Internal displacement may be resolved in 2017

- According to IOM, internal displacement in Mali can be resolved by the end of 2017, if there is no revival of violence and armed conflict in the country. The total number of internally displaced people (IDPs) across the country now

stands at [44,762](#) individuals (7,980 families), with 61 percent of the displaced remaining in the north. IOM and partners are assisting with the return and reintegration of IDPs in the north and other parts of the country.

## Returns from Libya

- On 2 March, [163](#) stranded Malian migrants, including 151 adults, seven children, and five infants were assisted to return home from Libya. 37 of the migrants had been detained in the

Triq Al Sekka detention centre and were released prior to their departure. Others were longer-term residents of Tripoli, who had travelled to Libya to find work opportunities years before the spate of violence that began in 2011.

## MOROCCO

### Migrants attempt fence crossing between Morocco and Spain

- On 17 February, [498 people](#) forced their way into Spanish territory through the fence that separates Morocco from Spain's Ceuta enclave. Two migrants and 11 Spanish police were injured during the incident. 10 members of Morocco's armed forces were also injured as security forces clashed with migrants at the Tarajal area of the fence.

### Technical support on protection of VoT

- UNODC in February conducted a baseline assessment mission in Rabat, Tangier, Fez and Oujda to determine needs for technical support. One of the focus areas of UNODC in Morocco is to enhance the role of civil society in the identification of trafficking victims and the provision of assistance and protection services. To assist in this, UNODC has recently conducted a training for Moroccan judges to protect child victims of violence and human trafficking, and the agency

will continue to provide support to initiatives on prevention and victim assistance, and contribute to the establishment of a national referral mechanism and standard operating procedures on identification and protection to victims.

### IOM commits to provide assistance to Morocco's regularisation program

- On 13 February, IOM Director General praised the Government of Morocco for its efforts to improve migrants' conditions and asserted that IOM is ready to provide '[all possible assistance](#)' to help in Morocco's regularisation campaign. He made this statement during a meeting between the Director General and Morocco's Ambassador to Geneva. In the meeting, the Ambassador shared the latest developments of the second phase of the Kingdom's plan to regularize the legal situation of undocumented Sub-Saharan nationals.

## NIGER

### Cooperation with Frontex

- Nigerien authorities met with Frontex's Executive Director Fabrice Leggeri to discuss the deployment of the first Frontex Liaison Officer in Niger, as well as on border management and security issues. Leggeri said 'Niger's location as a bridge between West Africa, Sahel and Maghreb makes the country an indispensable and pivotal partner when searching for

solutions to common challenges that are affecting our two continents'. While in Niger he also opened the fifth workshop of the Africa-Frontex Intelligence Community (AFIC) in Niger's capital of Niamey. The workshop discussed several issues, including the fight against terrorism and drug trafficking, transit flows through Africa and migrant smuggling.

## SUDAN

### Support to combat human trafficking

- On 13-15 February, UNODC organised a workshop to support the Sudanese National Committee to Combat Human Trafficking in the development of a national referral mechanism for victims of trafficking. This workshop builds upon ongoing UNODC support to the Committee in developing a national strategy against trafficking in persons, which has now been submitted to the Council of Ministers and is pending endorsement.

- More than [31,000 South Sudanese](#) have crossed the border into Sudan so far this year, fleeing starvation and unrest. The famine was officially announced by the Government of South Sudan and the UN on 20 February. Worryingly, UNHCR reports that the number of people who have fled in two months, already represent half of the expected total number of refugees from South Sudan for 2017. The new arrivals - 80% of whom are women and children - are in need of immediate life-saving assistance.

### More than 30,000 South Sudanese flee to Sudan

## TUNISIA

### Cooperation with Italy

- On 9 February, Tunisia and Italy signed [an agreement](#) to enhance cooperation in tackling irregular migration and human trafficking across the Mediterranean. The agreement will also help strengthen Tunisia's borders with Algeria and Libya. The agreement is in line with the EU commitment made during the Malta summit in Malta to increase collaboration with Libya's neighbours in tackling the crisis in Libya.

prosecutors from 20 to 22 February 2017. The training sought to strengthen the capacity of Tunisian prosecutors to prosecute cases of human trafficking. Key areas of focus included identification, interview techniques, investigation techniques, sentencing considerations, aggravating circumstances, countering common defense strategies and questioning the credibility of the victim. This training builds upon UNODC's ongoing support to the adoption of Law no. 61/2016 on the Interdiction and The Combat against Human Trafficking.

### Combating human trafficking

- UNODC delivered a training workshop to 25 Tunisian

## GREECE

### Relocations from Greece to other EU countries

- As of 28 February, [9,610 persons](#) have been relocated to other EU countries, while there are a further 20,000 who

may be eligible for relocation. It is expected that by September 2017 around 16,400 persons will be relocated.

### Sea arrivals to Greece continue to decrease

- 1,029 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers arrived by sea to Greece in February, representing a 29% decrease on the January figure of 1,452. During February 2017, there was 1 death recorded along the Eastern Mediterranean route, compared to 38 deaths recorded on the route in February 2016.

### Expansion of health and education services

- The Greek Ministry of Health announced a [new program](#) to improve healthcare for migrants and refugees in mainland Greece. The program will provide doctors, nurses, psychologists, intercultural mediators, social workers, field coordinators and translators in public hospitals and will also establish healthcare units within official camps and hosting facilities. Similarly, a new education program will be launched by the Greek Ministry of Education with support from the European Union (EU), assisting [2,500](#) refugee and migrant children go to school in Greece.

### Maritime incidents

- On 1 March, around 85 migrants were [rescued](#) from a boat off the country's southern coast and taken to Kalamata. The boat was located by a cargo ship participating in the search and rescue operation, launched after a telephone call to Greek police reported a ship in trouble with dozens of people on board. There was no immediate information about the nationalities or intended destination of the people on board

### Greek camps fall short of humanitarian standards

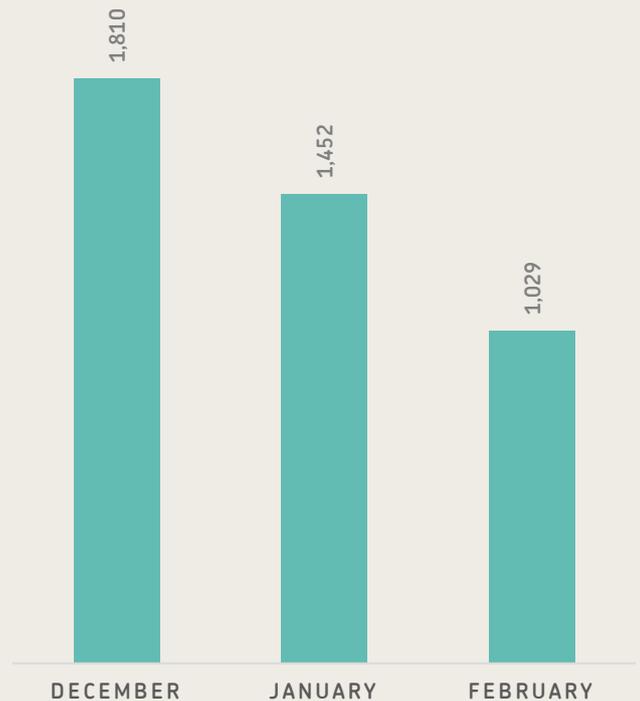
- According to a report by the [Refugee Rights Data Project](#), conditions in Greece's camps constitute a breach of human rights as refugees, asylum seekers and migrants do not have access to a standard of living adequate for their health and security. Aid workers argue that the conditions of refugees and migrants worsened after the EU-Turkey deal as asylum seekers, migrants and refugees now have to live for months in camps designed for short-term use, in remote locations

without proper electricity, sewage and water access

### NATO to continue its operation in the Mediterranean

- On 16 February, the Greek Defense Minister [announced](#) that NATO will continue its mission in the Mediterranean to tackle people smuggling in an attempt to reduce the flow of migrants to Europe. He also mentioned that the majority of Defense Ministers from NATO member states, except for Turkey, considered the 2016 phase of the operation in the Aegean Sea to be successful.

Arrivals by Sea, Greece  
December 2016 - February 2017



## ITALY

### Arrivals increase from January figures

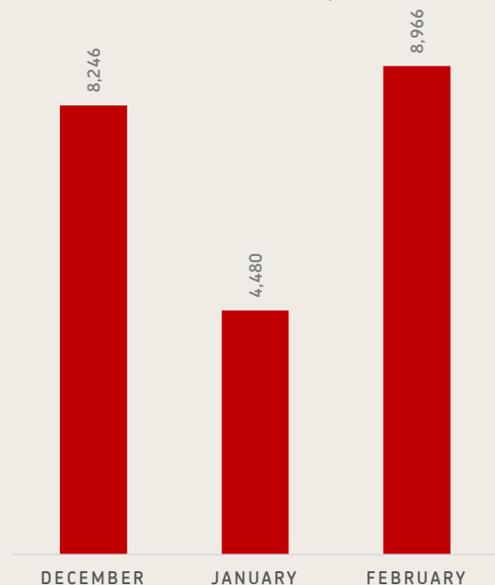
- February saw the arrival of 8,966 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers by sea to Italy, representing a 100% increase on January figures (4,480). The figures for February 2017 is also higher than the number of Italy arrivals recorded for February 2016 (3,405). There were 216 deaths recorded along the Central Mediterranean route for February, which shows an increase in deaths compared to the 7 deaths recorded for the month of February 2016.

### Strategies for dealing with migrant crisis

- The Italian cabinet on 10 February approved new [measures](#) to improve migration management in Italy, including boosting repatriation of irregular migrants, and reducing the processing time for asylum applications from the current average of two years. The Prime Minister stated that Italy did not intend to close its doors, but rather 'transform migration flows from a predominantly irregular phenomenon to a regular one, in which no life is put in danger, and arrivals in our country are regulated'. New permanent repatriation centers will be established under the decree, with the capacity to host a total of 1,600 people. The government will also work on supporting Italian municipalities to regularly employ asylum seekers in "socially useful" jobs.
- Italy will also open five new [hotspots](#) along its coasts, thus

doubling the number of facilities for screening and identifying newly arrived migrants. The EU has been encouraging Italy to implement the hotspot approach since 2015, in order to ensure all new arrivals to the Italian coasts were fingerprinted and photographed for identification purposes.

Arrivals by Sea, Italy  
December 2016 - February 2017



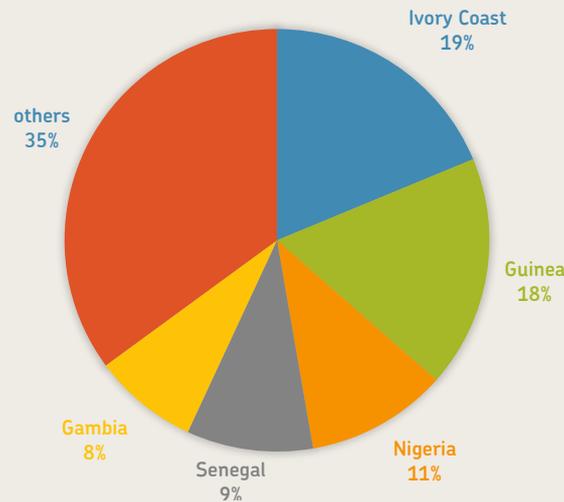
### Italian-Libyan commission meeting

- On 13 February, [the Italian-Libyan commission](#) held its first meeting and discussed the consignment of boats to Libya and the deployment of teams for training, among other issues. The Libyan Navy spokesperson said that Libya and Italy should aim for 'rapid repatriations' to be undertaken within a week, in order to discourage irregular migration from Libya to Italy. The Commission is due to meet again in March.

### Italian mayor protests new arrivals

- The mayor of the town of Vitulano in Southern Italy ordered bags of sand to be dumped in the streets to [block](#) any new arrivals from reaching accommodation. He stated that there were not enough facilities to host the 40 new arrivals, with 30 people already accommodated in the town's one centre.

Arrivals by Sea to Italy, Main Countries of Origin  
January 2017



## RESEARCH OF INTEREST

### [Women's empowerment meets male resistance, sexual exploitation in Nigeria camps- IRIN](#)

Article looking at how women's empowerment programmes are perceived by men in Nigerian camps.

### [In The Loop #36 - Special Edition: Refugee voices on integration- In The Loop](#)

Special edition featuring refugee and migrant opinions on integration in Greece.

### [A deadly Journey for children- UNICEF](#)

Report on the risks and difficulties encountered by children along the Central Mediterranean route.

### [Migrants in Sudan: Pilot Study on Migrants' Motivations, Intentions and Decision-Making in Khartoum- IOM](#)

Study identifies several trends related to migration to and through Sudan, including motivations and intentions, routes, information exchange and the possibility of return.

### [Libya 2016/2017- Amnesty](#)

Amnesty International's annual report looks at the effects of the ongoing conflict in Libya on civilians, including IDPs, refugees, asylum seekers and migrants.

### [Human Trafficking and Trauma in the Digital Era: The Ongoing Tragedy of the Trade in Refugees from Eritrea- Mirjam van Reisen and Munyaradzi Mawere \(Editors\)](#)

Book revisits the human trafficking crisis that first emerged in the Sinai at the end of 2008 and examines the expansion of human trafficking of Eritrean refugees and other forms of exploitation beyond the Sinai.

### [The Human Conveyor Belt : trends in human trafficking and smuggling in post-revolution Libya- The Global Initiative](#)

Report attempts to chart the developments in Libya's human smuggling industry within a historical context and also provide a contemporary analysis of the country's current market dynamics and trends.

# MULTIMEDIA OF INTEREST

## [How some European countries are tightening their refugee policies-](#) CNN

Multimedia article examining the measures taken by different European countries to tackle migration.

## [Interview: is rights-based 'good migration governance' possible?](#) - Opendemocracy

Interview with the director of the Migration Policy and Research Department at the International Organisation for Migration, talking about global migration policies, the forthcoming global compacts, and policy challenges going forward.

## [Nigerian would-be migrants tell of ordeal on return home](#) - DW

Multimedia article looking at the stories of Nigerian returnees.

## ['Big, beautiful' walls don't stop migrants in the US or Europe](#) - The conversation

Multimedia article examining the effect of border fences and walls on migration.

## [Migrathon platform in Senegal](#)

IT and activists in Senegal design an anti-abuse platform called Migrathon. It will be available via phone and will give information on