



## REGIONAL

**Proposed changes to the Dublin Agreement**

- The European Parliament's Committee on Civil Liberties [proposed](#) changes to the Dublin regulation, which currently governs applications for asylum within the European bloc, on 19 October. According to the proposal, countries of first arrival would no longer be required to process asylum claims. Moreover, allocation of asylum applications would instead be based on an applicant's "genuine links" to member states or, if no such links exist, according to a fixed distribution key. The proposal states that applicants would only be transferred following security checks and an initial assessment of eligibility for asylum. The proposed changes aim to rectify a situation whereby frontline states bear the greatest burden in meeting Europe's obligation to protect persons in need of asylum. Members of parliament further stipulated that member states that refuse to meet their obligations under the proposed new rules, should have their access to EU funding curtailed.

**Save the Children suspends rescue operations**

- Save the Children [announced](#) on 23 October that it was suspending its rescue operations in the Mediterranean. Vos Hestia, the ship operated by Save the Children, has rescued over 10,000 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers since it commenced operations in September 2016. The humanitarian organization cited worsening security conditions and falling numbers of those attempting the crossing for the decision to suspend operations.

**German myth-busting website**

- The German Foreign Ministry [launched](#) a website aimed at better informing potential migrants and asylum seekers of the hardships they are likely to face in Europe if they travel irregularly. The website, 'Rumors about Germany: Facts for migrants,' is available in three languages, English, French and Arabic. The site states that, "You may have heard life is easy, but the reality is different" and that Germany does not provide arrivals with housing, jobs and 'welcome payments'. It further states that asylum is not automatically granted to particular nationalities or children and that many will likely be forced to return to their countries of origin with none of the rewards they had imagined. The site also states that new regulations will aim to "forcefully remove rejected asylum seekers more easily, especially if they have made false statements in their asylum application."

**Critics of EU-Africa Fund call for clarity and transparency**

- UK-based Oxfam [announced](#) that it will be releasing a report in November calling for greater clarity on the European Union's EU-Africa emergency fund. The fund was established in 2015 at the onset of the 'migration crisis' with the aim of reducing arrival figures to Italy. Oxfam and other critics are calling for greater transparency with regards to use of funds and are particularly concerned that resources may be used for border control without the requisite development component.

**EU Summit**

- Ahead of the EU Summit held on the 19th and the 20th of October, Oxfam published a briefing paper [condemning](#) the EU Migration Agenda. The paper accuses the EU of having made minimal effort to increase options for safe and regular migration. The Agenda, details the paper, shows little concern about the implications EU policies have had on the human rights and living conditions of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers in the EU and at its borders and instead have focused on blocking irregular migration.
- During the EU Summit, EU leaders [discussed](#) and reached conclusions on migration, digital Europe, defense, and external relations. EU leaders agreed that the Migration Agenda in Europe was yielding results by reducing arrivals and deaths at sea. Additionally, the Council called for further action on migration including 1) support for EU member states directly affected or involved in the influx; 2) reducing incentives for irregular migration through returns; 3) working with Libya to enhance border management.

**Regional consultation focuses on migration trends in Africa**

- Policymakers and experts [gathered](#) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on the 26 and 27 October as part of the African Regional Consultative Meeting on the Global Compact on Migration. "Today's consultation is an opportunity to analyse migratory trends, challenges and opportunities at the regional and sub-regional levels," said the Secretary-General's Special Representative for International Migration, Louise Arbour. Ms. Arbour noted that in Africa, 52% of migrants moved within the region, mostly between countries neighboring their own. She emphasized the importance of increased variety and scope of legal pathways for non-refugee migrants to access labour markets. The African Regional Consultative Meeting informs the process leading to the adoption of the global compact on migration by the UN General Assembly in 2018.

## ALGERIA

**Deportation of sub-Saharan migrants**

- There are [reports](#) that authorities expelled around 950 sub-Saharan migrants from Algerian territory in the third week of October. These deportations appear to be the latest in a series of similar expulsions which began in August of this year. According to sources, a total of 5,000 West African migrants have been affected with the vast majority being pushed south

into Nigerien territory. In response to the wave of expulsions, the governor of the region of Agadez, Sadou Soloké, said, "We do not have enough facilities to manage them. I am surprised that these Africans are coming through our borders when, in my opinion, they should all be sent home by appropriate means, rather than sending them here."

# EGYPT

## EU-Egyptian cooperation

- The EU [announced](#) a grant of €60 million in support of Egyptian migration governance. The latest migration grant will focus on addressing the root drivers of irregular migration and supporting Egyptian host and refugee communities. The grant will cover a total of seven projects and is part of the [‘North of Africa Window’](#) of the EU Emergency Trust Fund. Egypt and the EU recently adopted multi-year Partnership Priorities and agreed a Single Support Framework (SSF) which sets out EU-Egyptian areas of cooperation and allocation of financial support to Egypt.

## Irregular migration

- Egyptian authorities [stopped](#) 440 persons from migrating irregularly during the month of October according to a statement released at the end of the month. The statement did not provide additional information regarding the nationalities of those apprehended or the conditions under which they were stopped.

## UNODC, UK-funded training for Egyptian prosecutors

- On 15 October the UK government, in collaboration with UNODC, [launched](#) a training program for Egyptian criminal

justice staff on prosecuting cases of trafficking in persons. The series of training workshops aims to develop the capacities “of criminal justice authorities in Egypt to effectively prevent, investigate, prosecute and adjudicate cases of migrant smuggling and trafficking in persons.” Speaking at the launch, the deputy head of the UK mission in Egypt, Helen Winterton said, “The UK commends the strong action taken by the Egyptian government to implement new anti-smuggling legislation and prevent departures from the north coast” and added that the UK government will be supporting Egypt with a further EGP 75.9 million to support the implementation of Egypt’s new anti-smuggling strategy and law.

## Egyptian-German cooperation agreement

- Egyptian President, Abdel Fattah El Sisi [approved](#) a security cooperation agreement with Germany on 7 October. The agreement enhances areas of bilateral cooperation on combatting transnational crime, including terrorism, human trafficking and drugs and weapons smuggling. The agreement was signed by Egyptian Interior Minister Magdy Abdel Ghaffar and his German Thomas de Maizière counterpart in July 2016.

# LIBYA

## Maritime incidents

- 781 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers were rescued off the coast of Libya in October across 6 separate incidents bringing the total number of those rescued by the Libyan Coast Guard in 2017 to 17,802 (as of 31 October). In the month of October, 37 deaths were recorded.

## Returns from Libya

- 415 stranded migrants in Libya received voluntary humanitarian return assistance and reintegration support from the International Organization for Migration between 10 and 23 October. They returned home to their countries of origin which include Mali, Sudan, Bangladesh, amongst others. In addition to the aforementioned figures it has been [reported](#) that 826 Nigerians were assisted to voluntarily return home during the month of October.

## Support for migrants, refugees and asylum seekers in Sabratha

- IOM and UNHCR have announced that they were providing much needed assistance to migrants, refugees and asylum seekers in the wake of the tumultuous period of conflict and violence that engulfed Sabratha in Libya. IOM [announced](#) that it provided assistance to around 14,000 migrants previously held in various informal detention centers in the area who had been transferred to assembly points in Zuwara and Sabratha. IOM is providing relief packages, medical interventions, psychosocial support and basic food items. UNHCR [announced](#) that it was assisting 14,500 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers who had been held in various locations by smugglers. UNHCR continues, as a priority, its efforts to identify and advocate for the release of refugees in detention.

# MOROCCO

## Western Mediterranean Route

- 3,567 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers have crossed from Morocco to Spain by sea between 28 September and 6 November, bringing the total arrivals by sea for this year to 15,428.

## Maritime rescues

- The Spanish maritime rescue service [reported](#) that it has rescued 168 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers from nine different vessels between the 14 and 15 October. Later in the week on 19 October, the maritime rescue service rescued a total of [111](#) migrants, refugees and asylum seekers. Temperate weather and calm waters were [cited](#) as the reasons for the relatively high number of those making the crossing with a total of around 1,200 rescued during the first half of October.

## Minors attempting to migrate irregularly

- The Moroccan General Directorate for National Security (DGSN) [announced](#) that police were able to locate 15 minors who were attempting to migrate irregularly and who had previously been reported missing by their families. The youths, aged 13-16, were trying to make their way to Europe using the services of a 22-year-old they had connected with through social media. The person in question has been apprehended by authorities and was found to operate a number of Facebook pages encouraging persons to migrate irregularly.

## Regional meeting on migration

- Morocco [hosted](#) a three-day regional meeting on migration between 30 October and 1 November aimed at developing the “African Agenda on Migration”. The meeting brought together representatives of African states, UN agencies,

government stakeholders, and international organizations. The sessions were chaired by Nasser Bourita, Morocco's Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, who said they aimed to "open the dialogue between the diplomat and the civil society, the researcher." The call for such an agenda was made earlier this year by Morocco's King Mohammed VI in an address to the African Union's (AU) 29th Heads of State Summit in Addis Ababa.

### UNHCR protection chief's visit to Morocco

- UNHCR Assistant High Commissioner for Protection, Volker Türk, [praised](#) Morocco's efforts to provide greater protection for refugees on a recent trip to Rabat. The Assistant High Commissioner met with a number of refugees, refugee associations, local NGOs and government stakeholders during his visit. The visit coincided with the four year anniversary of the launch of Morocco's National Policy on Immigration and Asylum (NPIA) which initiated progressive

reforms to its migration policy. During his visit, Mr Türk spoke at a gathering jointly organized by UNHCR, IOM, the National Council for Human Rights in Morocco and the San Remo International Institute of Humanitarian Law. He said, "UNHCR is very keen to work closely with the Moroccan authorities, who launched a series of unprecedented policy changes since 2014 for the benefit of refugees."

### Training on the identification of victims of trafficking

- The third training workshop on the identification of victims of trafficking was held in Rabat for local associations between 25-27 October. The event was organized within the framework of the J/Tip-sponsored initiative to strengthen the capacities of civil society organizations to identify and provide services to victims of trafficking in persons. The National Council for Human Rights, "L'Entraide Nationale" which is a public entity in charge of managing social protection centers across the country, also participated.

## NIGER

### Sudan, Niger discuss ways to coordinate efforts on terrorism and irregular migration

- Sudanese President Omer al-Bashir [met](#) with Nigerien president Muhmmadou Issoufou to discuss coordination on combatting terrorism, irregular migration and organized crime. The leaders also discussed issues of common concern, including ways of addressing the challenges facing Libya.

### IOM holds simulation exercise for cross-border crises

- More than 650 members of communities, authorities, civil society and security forces [participated](#) in the second crisis simulation exercise organized by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) on 17 October. The exercise was held in Zinder, Niger close to border areas which regularly experience security incidents. Similar to the first simulation exercise, the exercise tested the ability of the authorities to respond to sudden crises triggering a mass population movement across the border into Niger.

## SUDAN

### Sudan, South Sudan to open border crossings

- The Defense Ministers of Sudan and South Sudan [held](#) talks at the Ministry of Defense in Khartoum ahead of South Sudanese President Silva Kiir's visit to Sudan. Sudanese Defense Minister Ahmed Awad Bin Auf said in a joint press conference with his South Sudanese counterpart Kuol Manyang Juuk that a number of measures have been taken to withdraw troops from the demilitarized zone of 10 km across both borders. He added that four out of the ten Sudan-South Sudan border crossings will be reopened and that direct communication between officials from both countries will be set up.

disease outbreaks and recurrent extreme climatic conditions. It is estimated that there are currently 4.8 million people in Sudan who need urgent assistance. €46 million of the support package will respond to pressing humanitarian needs in food assistance, nutrition, health, protection, shelter, education, water and sanitation.

### EU Commission announces humanitarian and development support package to Sudan

- The European Commission [announced](#) a €106 million humanitarian and support package to directly assist people in Sudan affected by forced displacement, undernutrition,

### Sudanese refugee leaders in Chad visit Darfur

- Twenty five Sudanese refugee leaders returned to their home villages on [go-and-see](#) visits to assess the prospect of return. The visits were organized by UNHCR and government counterparts in Chad and Sudan who signed a tripartite agreement outlining key considerations for return. "These visits are vital for refugees to see the situation in their villages, so that they make informed choices about returning", said Elizabeth Tan, UNHCR's Deputy Representative in Sudan.

## TUNISIA

### Smugglers offer new routes to Europe for Tunisian youth

- The number of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers attempting to make the crossing from the Gulf of Tunis to Sicily, which can be as short as 150 km, [has increased](#) in the months of September and October. Most of those attempting the crossing are Tunisians; Tunisian arrivals have increased from 1,350 in the first 8 months of the year to 1,400 in the month of September.

### At least 25 individuals feared dead after boat collision with naval vessel

- The death toll from the [collision](#) of a Tunisian navy ship with a boat carrying migrants, refugees and asylum seekers off the coast of Tunisia has risen to 25 after 17 more bodies were recovered. An unknown number of people are still missing. The cause of the collision remains unclear.

### Tunisian navy rescues 98 migrants

- The Tunisian navy [rescued](#) 98 Tunisians, including three children from a sinking boat. The incident coincided with the launch of joint patrols by the Tunisian and Italian navies to carry out search and rescue operations in the area as well as stem irregular migration. The rescue occurred hours after eight people being smuggled to Europe drowned in the same stretch of water.

### Italy and IOM launch development project for disadvantaged regions

- The International Organization for Migration (IOM), the Italian embassy in Tunis and the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS) [launched](#) the project 'Migration as a Resource: Mobilizing the Tunisian Diaspora and Stabilizing Disadvantaged Communities in Tunisia'. The €2.9 million

project aims to raise awareness among Tunisians living abroad to get them involved as funders and investors in micro-projects in Tunisia as well as to promote local products outside of Tunisia. The aims to create 70 micro-businesses and 210 jobs in various regions.

### UNODC training of trainers

- UNODC organized the first session of a training of trainers programme on trafficking in persons and migrant smuggling in Tunis between 10-12 October. It gathered 25 police officers from the National Guards, the National Security, and the Directorate for Borders and Foreigners. The trainees will then conduct a roll-out of the training in Tunisian governorates to support the capacity of the ISF to identify and investigate TIP cases.

## GREECE

### Arrivals to Greece

- 4,152 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers arrived to Greece by sea in the month of October, representing an approximate 10% decrease in the number of arrivals from the previous month (4,604). This brings the total number of arrivals in 2017 to 23,826. There were no reported deaths along the Eastern Mediterranean Route in the month of October.

### Returns from Greece to Turkey

- 44 persons were [returned](#) to Turkey during the month of October under the EU-Turkey Statement. This brings the total number of persons returned in 2017 to 623.

### UNICEF says unaccompanied refugee and migrant children in Greece in need of shelter, care and protection

- UNICEF [warned](#) that only a third of the nearly 3,000 unaccompanied refugee and migrant children in Greece were receiving proper shelter and care. Delays of up to five months in transferring children from the islands to the mainland place further emotional and mental strain on these children. The recent increase in the refugee and migrant arrivals has led to further overcrowding and deteriorating conditions in island camps. There are now approximately 1,800 unaccompanied children living in open sites, reception centers or otherwise stranded on the island or detention centers who are waiting for suitable accommodation.

### Migrants helped to return from Greece and reintegrate

- Over the past 15 months, 2,084 migrants who have [voluntarily returned](#) home from Greece to their countries of origin have received reintegration support from the IOM. Voluntary returns and reintegration support assists returnees through a grant of 1,500 euros in in-kind support. The vast majority of approved reintegration plans were for setting up small businesses. "Building on the collaboration between Greece and the countries of origin, this reintegration support enhances opportunities for social and economic sustainability, both for returnees and local communities," said Gianluca Rocco, IOM Chief of Mission in Greece.

### 19 human rights and humanitarian organizations urge Greece to end its "containment policy"

- Human rights and humanitarian aid organizations urged Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras in an [open letter](#) to end Greece's "containment policy" of confining asylum seekers to the Aegean islands. Thousands of people, says the letter, including vulnerable people, are trapped in abysmal conditions. "Since the implementation of the EU-Turkey Statement in March 2016, the Greek islands of Lesbos, Chios, Samos, Kos, and Leros have become places of indefinite confinement," said the letter. The situation is particularly critical, the statement added, on the islands of Samos and Lesbos, where a total of more than 8,300 asylum seekers and migrants are living in facilities intended for just 3,000 individuals.

Arrivals by Sea, Greece  
August - October 2017



## Arrivals to Italy

- October saw the arrival of 5,496 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers by sea to Italy. During October, 157 deaths were reported along the Central Mediterranean route bringing the total recorded deaths in 2017 to 2,631.

## Italy calls for greater EU support in tackling migration

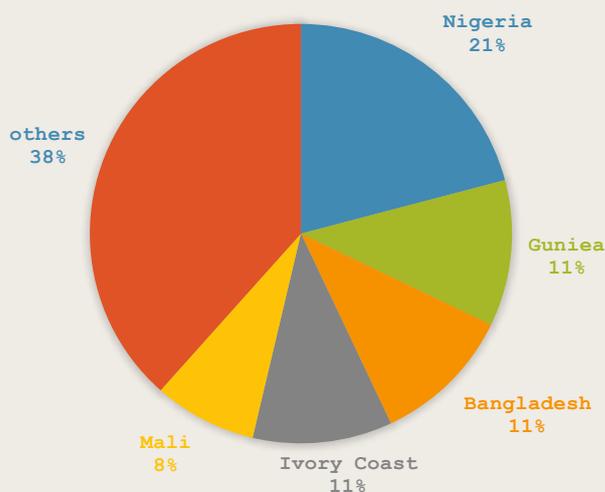
- Italy has [called](#) for greater support from the EU to tackle irregular migration at a summit in Brussels between 19 and 20 October. Italian PM, Paolo Gentiloni, also called for

greater efforts to relocate asylum seekers and refugees from countries of first arrival to other European member states and pressed EU heads of state to support the deployment of a migration control mission along Libyan-Nigerien border.

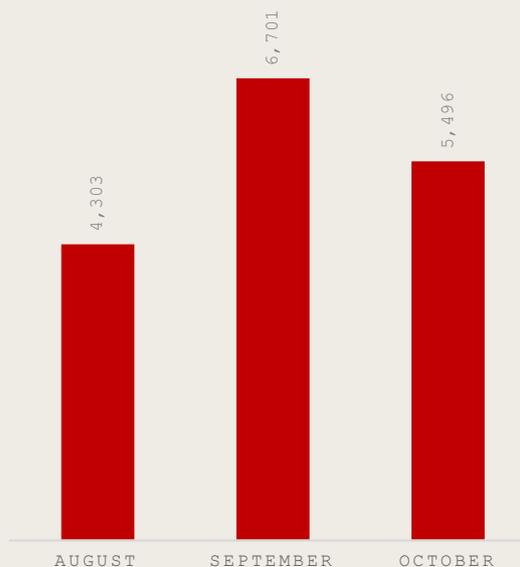
## Protection of UASC in Italy

- 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 to Italy, Main Countries of Origin  
January- October 2017



Arrivals by Sea, Italy  
August - October 2017



## RESEARCH OF INTEREST

### [Keeping Children at the Centre](#) – Save the Children

Report highlighting the need for increased and enhanced EU solidarity and cooperation to protect the rights of refugee and migrant children.

### [Confronting the Mental Health Emergency on Samos and Lesbos](#) – MSF

Report on the mental health emergency unfolding on the Greek islands as migrants, refugees and asylum seekers continue experiencing violence and lack of appropriate services.

### [Rapid Assessment of Mental Health, Psychosocial Needs and Services for Unaccompanied Children in Greece](#) – Government of Greece & UNICEF

Report assesses range, scope and scale of mental health and psychosocial issues facing unaccompanied children as well as existing services in Greece.

### [Twelve Months On](#) – Refugee Rights Data Project

Report focusing on the information gaps relating to refugees and displaced people in France a year after the demolition of the Calais Camp.

### [Human Trafficking through the Central Mediterranean: Data, Stories and Information collected by the International Organization for Migration](#) – IOM

Report highlighting human trafficking through the Central Mediterranean route with a focus on victims of trafficking, in particular from Nigeria.

**[“This is Our Home”: Stateless Minorities and their Search for Citizenship](#) – UNHCR**

Report focuses on challenges facing stateless minorities which include discrimination, lack of documentation, poverty and fear.

**[Beyond ‘Fortress Europe’: Principles for a Humane EU Migration Policy](#) – Oxfam**

Report outlining Oxfam’s proposal for a new approach to managing migration that promotes the benefits associated with migration for European host countries, people on the move and their countries of origin.

**[Mixed Migration Monthly Summary September 2017](#) - MMP**

The report provides insights on the current migration trends in the Middle East during the month of September 2017.

## MULTIMEDIA OF INTEREST

**[Living with loneliness as a Refugee](#) – Red Cross**

Photo-essay explores the problem of loneliness many refugees and migrants live with while being on the move or settling abroad, away from their family and friends.

\*While due diligence has been taken, the MHub does not vouch for the accuracy or reliability of articles in its Monthly Bulletin.