



MONTHLY TREND REPORT

COVERING MIXED MIGRATION TO, THROUGH & FROM NORTH AFRICA

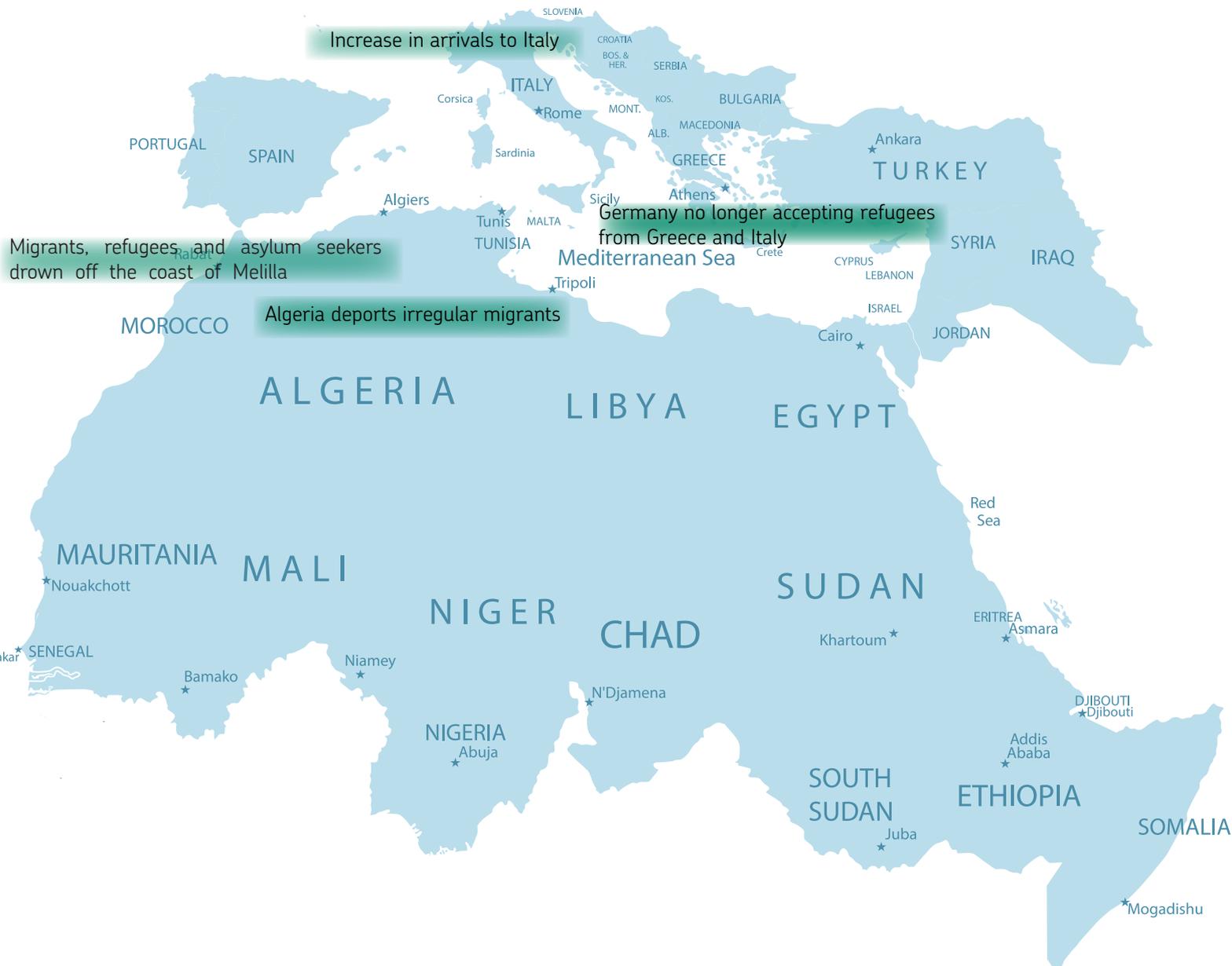
About: MHUB is the regional knowledge hub and secretariat for the North Africa Mixed Migration Task Force, comprising of DRC, IOM, OHCHR, RMMS, Save the Children, UNHCR, UNICEF and UNODC. It promotes a human rights-based approach to ensure the protection of people moving in mixed and complex flows to,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



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For updates on the Horn of Africa, visit [RMMS](#)

REGIONAL

UN Secretary General calls for a new framework for migration

- A report by the UN Secretary General, António Guterres, called upon member states to open up safe and regular pathways for migration and to safeguard the rights of migrants in a [report](#) titled “Making Migration Work for All” released on 11 January. The report is prepared pursuant to the General Assembly request to the Secretary-General to present an input towards the [zero draft](#) of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) to be adopted in 2018. In underlining adoption of the compact as one of the most important collective priorities for 2018, the reports calls for a reorientation of approach to migration and a shift of focus from the risks and challenges of migration to its benefits for both migrants and host communities and societies. The report also calls for a debate around migration that: a) involves all relevant actors, including migrants; b) recognizes the contribution and the leadership of migrant women; c) address the policies and practices d) that put migrant children in danger; and avoids dehumanizing language.
- **The report called on migrants to respect the need for legal restrictions on migration whilst urging member states to liberalize migration policies and highlighting the migration’s links to the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#). At the core of the Secretary General’s report is a call to develop a humane and human-rights based approaches to migration governance.**
- **The President of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), Francesco Rocca, in a [statement](#) welcoming the report added, “The Red Cross and Red Crescent does not engage in debates about whether there should be more migration or less migration. We care about the safety and dignity of people, wherever they are. Migrants have the same human rights as everyone else.” He further underscored the need to extend access to essential services and humanitarian assistance to all those on the move and to provide added protections to those especially vulnerable such as unaccompanied children. He also added that, “world leaders must act to stop death, despair and abuse along migration trails.”**

Southern European countries meet for mini-summit

- The leaders of Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy, Malta, Portugal and Spain, collectively known as the ‘Southern Seven’, [met](#) in Rome on 10 January for a mini-summit that saw migration dominate discussions. The ‘Southern Seven’ initiative was started by Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras in 2016 as a way to collectively develop coordinated plans of action in areas of mutual cooperation. In a statement following the meeting, the assembled leaders affirmed their commitment to strengthening Europe’s southern borders whilst tackling smuggling and trafficking networks and addressing the root causes of irregular migration. They further discussed the need for greater solidarity and burden sharing among EU countries in order to alleviate the pressures placed on countries of first arrival such as Greece, Italy and Spain. Speaking to reporters, Prime Minister Tsipras said, “We must fight together to put in place a migration policy that shows solidarity with the countries that receive these significant flows.”

OECD-UN forum on migration data

- Representatives from UN agencies, international organizations, civil society as well as statisticians and policy experts came together in Paris on 15 January for a [forum](#) on migration data. The first International Conference on Migration Statistics was organized jointly by OECD, IOM and UNDESA with the aim of strengthening the collection, use and dissemination of migration data. Speaking at the forum, IOM’s Director General William Lacy Swing said, “It is important that we speak today about the fundamental need for better migration data. We also need urgently, however, to engage a dialogue on a Global Action Plan – a plan to ensure the availability to policymakers and others comprehensive national, regional and global data and statistical analysis of trends in migration – a phenomenon as old as humankind and, today, one of the defining phenomena of our time.” Those assembled discussed innovative approaches to data collection and production as well as the challenges and gaps still facing practitioners and users.

IOM launches appeal for \$1.4 billion for assistance

- IOM has launched an [appeal](#) for \$1.4 billion to be spent on programs in 50 countries and in support of over 80 million vulnerable persons. The funds will be used to address the needs internally displaced persons, refugees and migrants, the communities that host them, returnees and communities recovering from natural disasters or periods of conflict. More specifically, the funds will go towards crisis prevention and preparedness, emergency response, transition and recovery. Speaking about the appeal, IOM Director of Operations and Emergencies, Mohammed Abdiker, said, “The world is experiencing more complex emergencies than ever before, with millions of men, women and children struggling to survive. IOM’s humanitarian programming aims not only to save lives but to help affected communities stabilize, build resilience and find solutions. The long-term impact of our responses is of paramount importance.”

Germany fears EU migration reforms will trigger refugee influx

- The German government [fears](#) that the European Parliament’s planned amendment to the [Dublin Regulation](#) could lead to more refugees settling in Germany. The proposed reform will shift the responsibility of examining an application for international protection from the state of arrival to the EU country where any of the applicant’s relatives live. Under such a change, any caps on the number of refugees admitted to Germany would be “nullified”, an Interior Ministry memo said. The European Parliament put forward the reform proposal in November 2016. “If every one of the more than 1.4 million people who have applied for asylum in Germany since 2015 becomes an anchor for newcomers arriving in the EU, then we’re dealing with [numbers] on an entirely different scale compared to

family reunifications,” said Ole Schröder, a parliamentary state secretary in Germany’s Interior Ministry. The right of refugees to bring their families to safety has been a central point of discussion between Chancellor Angela Merkel’s conservative Christian Democrats (CDU) and the Social Democrats (SPD).

Germany no longer relocating refugees from Italy and Greece

- Refugees from Italy and Greece will [no longer be accepted](#) as part of the EU relocation program by Germany. A spokeswoman for the Interior Ministry stated that “Germany largely completed the relocation in 2017 with only only “sporadic” arrivals expected in 2018 for relocations that could not be implemented in the past year”. The European relocation scheme ended on 26 September 2017. While Germany was legally required to take in over 27,000 according to the relocation program which started in 2015, it had only [accepted](#) 10,279 relocations from Italy and Greece. According to the Interior Ministry, far fewer people have met the criteria for relocation than expected. In October 2017 the CDU and its sister party Christian Social Union (CSU) in Bavaria [agreed](#) to cap Germany’s intake of asylum seekers at 200,000 per year. “We want to achieve a total number of people taken in for humanitarian reasons (refugees and asylum seekers, those entitled to subsidiary protection, family members, relocation and resettlement minus deportations and voluntary departures of future refugees) that does not exceed 200,000 people a year,” the agreement said.

13,000 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers evacuated from Libya

- The African Union (AU) Commission Chairperson Moussa Faki Mahamat said that more than 13,000 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers have been [evacuated](#) from Libya nearly two months after reports emerged showing enslaved individuals being sold outside Tripoli. The AU’s goal was to evacuate 20,000 by mid-January but Mahamat insisted it is on course saying, “I believe that this process is on course, although with a bit of delay. Already more than two thirds... have been repatriated.” Those who could not return to their countries were offered refuge in Niger and Rwanda.

New Frontex sea mission not obliged to bring migrants, refugees and asylum seekers to Italy

- The European Union’s border agency Frontex [launched](#) a new Mediterranean operation “Themis” on February 1 removing the obligation of the previous mission “Triton” to bring all rescued migrants, refugees and asylum seekers only to Italy. Italy has repeatedly lamented a lack of EU solidarity in managing immigration. The previous Frontex operation, called Triton, required all those rescued at sea to be brought to Italy even if another EU country, such as Malta, was closer. “Operation Themis will better reflect the changing patterns of migration, as well as cross border crime,” Frontex Executive Director Fabrice Leggeri said in a statement. More than 10 vessels will operate in the summer and will also carry out rescues if asked, said Izabella Cooper, a spokeswoman for Frontex.

Aid groups fear 2018 could become year of repatriations

- Leading humanitarian organizations issued a [report](#) highlighting the [dangers](#) Syrian refugees will face if they are forcibly returned to their country. “Hundreds of thousands of refugees are at risk of being pushed to return to Syria in 2018, despite ongoing violence, bombing and shelling that are endangering the lives of civilians,” the aid agencies said in the report titled “Dangerous Ground”. 721,000 Syrians returned to their country in 2017, up from 560,000 the previous year. But the report warned that a further 1.5 million Syrians are expected to be displaced this year.

GLO.ACT’s Second Annual Field Staff Meeting

- From 17 to 26 January, HTMSS conducted GLO.ACT’s second annual Field Staff Meeting upon invitation of the Regional Office of UNODC in Colombia, with the support of the Government of Colombia and the City of Bogotá, and participated in a public event jointly organized with Colombia’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs presenting the work of the National Project Officers, including in Egypt, Mali, Morocco and Niger. The meeting covered a broad range of topics from finalizing work plans for 2018, being updated on policy guidance and emerging issues and GLO.ACT country presentations on best practices at a public event on the prevention of TIP and SOM.

ALGERIA

Algeria calls for multidimensional approach to migration

- Algerian Foreign Minister, Abdelkader Messahel, has [urged](#) for the adoption of a comprehensive response to the issue of irregular migration at the opening of the 14th Conference of Foreign Affairs ministers of the Dialogue 5+5 in Algiers on 21 January. The 5+5 Dialogue, launched in 1990, brings together ten countries from the Mediterranean’s northern and southern basins, Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia and France, Italy, Malta, Portugal and Spain with an aim to foster close cooperation among the participating states and to develop a shared agenda of information exchange, joint management of international borders, agreed forms of labour migration and migration for development. Speaking at the opening which was co-chaired with French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian, Foreign Minister Messahel said, “Our region is facing a migration issue, which is a fundamentally human issue that requires a comprehensive approach, encompassing the dimensions of

security to eliminate the criminal networks activating in the human trafficking, of development to fight against the economic and social causes and the respect of human dignity in line with the human rights.”

Algeria deports irregular migrants

- According to an official from the Algerian Department of Security the gendarmerie [arrested](#) 2,500 irregular Sub-Saharan migrants in raids between 28 and 30 January. Those detained were moved to temporary residence centers in the capital pending deportation between 1 and 2 February. Many women and children were reportedly among those detained in the latest raids. Algeria has previously come under intense criticism by [Amnesty International](#) and [Human Rights Watch](#) in October 2017 for its treatment of Sub-Saharan migrants, refugees and asylum seekers which the two rights organizations claim amounts to ‘mass racial profiling’.

EGYPT

Egyptian Minister of Immigration and Italian Ambassador to Egypt discuss irregular migration

- Minister of Immigration and Expatriate Affairs Nabila Makram and the Italian Ambassador to Egypt Giampaolo Cantini [discussed](#) on issues around irregular migration controls and ways to combat human trafficking. On their part, the Italian Embassy said that the Italian authorities value Egypt's efforts in countering irregular migration.

- During another meeting with an Italian delegation, Makram [stressed](#) that her Ministry is keen to support the rights of Egyptians abroad and highlighted Egypt's effort to cooperate with Italy on integrating Egyptians in Italy.

LIBYA

Maritime incidents

- 2,045 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers were rescued off the coast of Libya across 12 different incidents in the month of January, which represents a 131% increase in the figures from December. There were 3 recorded deaths during that period.

Returns from Libya

- 1,030 Nigerian migrants [returned](#) to Nigeria between 6 and 8 January according to Nigerian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Geoffrey Onyeama. Onyeama leads a special committee tasked with investigating and addressing issues arising for Nigerian nationals stranded in Libya. The committee further revealed that a special technical team remained in Libya in order to identify and assist stranded Nigerians.
- Furthermore, Moroccan authorities [announced](#) the launch of an operation on 12 January to return 338 Moroccan migrants stranded in Libya. This is the third and last such operation by the Moroccan government with the previous two operations returning a total 435 persons.

NCHRL meets with rights organizations and AU representative

- Members of The National Commission for Human Rights in Libya (NCHRL) [met](#) with the African Union Special Representative for Libya and several human rights organizations in Tunis on 16 January in order to discuss issues of irregular migration to and through Libya. In a [statement](#) following the meeting, the NCHRL explained that discussions had focused primarily on the situation of Sub-Saharan migrants in Libya and how best to facilitate the process of repatriation for those who are stranded. Those assembled further highlighted the importance of continued and increased cooperation between civil society, humanitarian and relief organizations in addressing the needs and vulnerabilities of migrants and refugees in Libya.

Torture of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers

- Libya's Special Deterrence Forces announced that they had apprehended members of a gang accused of kidnapping and torturing foreign nationals and freed eight Sudanese abductees on 21 January. The arrests come after disturbing [videos](#) showing the torture of kidnapped Sudanese migrants,

refugees and asylum seekers at the hands of their captors were circulated online in the second half of January. The videos were sent to family members in order to extort ransoms and were posted online by the families in an effort to raise enough funds to set their loved ones free. Families told CNN that as much as \$4,500 had been demanded of them and that the amounts in question were to be paid to agents of the gangs and even directly into bank accounts in the Sudanese capital, Khartoum.

- Immediately following the appearance of the videos on social media, the African Union (AU) through its Commissioner for Social Affairs, Amira El Fadil [announced](#) that it has opened an investigation. H.E. Amira Elfadil pointed out that her last visit to Libya, in the wake of revelations about 'slave markets,' had resulted in the voluntary return of 8,000 stranded migrants in cooperation with the International Organization for Migration.

Libya shuts down migrant detention centers

- The chief of the Libyan Anti-Illegal Immigration Agency, Brigadier General Mohamed Beshr, [announced](#) the closure of four of the department's migrant detention centers on 31 January. While no specific reasons were given for the closures, Brigadier General Beshr said that the decision was in the public interest and in line with the department's organizational needs.

Amnesty International calls on Europe to end plight of stranded migrants in Libya

- Amnesty International marked the one year anniversary of the signing of the MOU between Italy and Libya with [calls](#) on Europe to revise its approach to migration governance and its alliance with Libyan authorities. Speaking of Europe's approach, Iverna McGowan, Head of Amnesty International's European Institutions Office and Advocacy Director, said, "Europe urgently needs to put concern for basic human dignity at the centre of its migration policies. While Italy has been in the driving seat, all European governments cooperating with Libya on border control share responsibility for the unlawful containment of refugees and migrants in centres where unconscionable abuses take place."

MALI

Security Council gets briefed on situation in Mali

- The Under Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Jean-Pierre Lacroix, [briefed](#) the members of the Security Council on the situation in Mali on 23 January. In a released statement, the Security Council welcomed the renewed commitment of the Government of Mali and two armed groups to the implementation of the remaining obligations under the [Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation in Mali](#) by the end of March 2018. Members of the Security Council reiterated the

importance of taking immediate action to deliver on key provisions of the Agreement and urged all parties and forces present in Mali to comply with their obligations under international law and to bring an end to all human rights violations and abuses.

MINUSMA and OHCHR raise concerns over human rights situation in Mali

- The United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) [released](#) a joint public report on human rights and the peace process in Mali. Despite the implementation of the Peace Agreement, the report found that the human rights situation in Mali remains concerning. The report claimed that between January 2016 and June 2017 more than 600 cases of human rights violations and abuses were committed and that overall acts of violence impacted more than 2,700, including 441 persons who were

killed. However, the report noted that significant progress has been made in transitional justice with the establishment of the Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission and the practice of statement-taking from victims and witnesses of human rights violations and abuses. Speaking of the report, Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and Head of MINUSMA, Mahamat Saleh Annadif said “it also demonstrates that respect for human rights, far from being a generator of tension, may contribute, on the contrary, to creating an environment that is conducive to the implementation of the Peace Agreement.”

MOROCCO

Western Mediterranean Route

- 1,400 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers have [crossed](#) from Morocco to Spain by sea in the month of January bringing the total arrivals by sea for this year to 1,400. An additional 782 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers crossed from Morocco into Spain via land during the month of January, bringing the total of number of persons making the crossing this year to 782.

Frontex expects irregular migration to Spain to rise in 2018

- Europe’s border agency, Frontex, expects an [increase in arrivals](#) to Spain by sea this year after numbers doubled in 2017. 22,900 people were detected as they reached Spain via Morocco or Algeria in 2017, up from 10,231 in 2016. Frontex director Fabrice Leggeri said, while arrivals in Spain have shown increase and those in Italy and Greece dropped, there are no signs of major shifts.

Migrants, refugees and asylum seekers drown off the coast of Melilla

- Moroccan and Spanish authorities extended a search and rescue operation at sea on 4 February after Morocco [recovered](#) the bodies of 20 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers off the coast of Melilla. Rescue boats patrolled a wider radius with the support of a Spanish police helicopter following the incident due to fears that the strong winds and currents may have led bodies to drift farther.

Morocco hosts African ministerial conference on African Agenda on Migration

- The ministerial conference for an African agenda on migration was [held](#) in Rabat on 9 January, with the participation of 20 African ministers and government officials. The meeting aimed to agree on a shared vision of migration on the basis of shared responsibility, respect for human rights, and the creation of regular migration routes. “This agenda presupposes a paradigm shift, a redefinition of migration, which is based on an introspective and positive approach and a real political will on the part of States, which have a vested interest in ensuring that migration is carried out in a safe, legal, regular, orderly and humane manner,” [said](#) Nasser Bourita, Moroccan Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. The conference was a continuation of consultations with African partners to develop an African Agenda on Migration ahead of the AU Summit held between 22 – 31 January. IOM’s Director General praised Morocco’s efforts saying “I commend and express my appreciation for HM King Mohammed VI’s initiative on migration.”

- Morocco [introduced](#) a draft of the Agenda during the 30th AU Summit held in Addis Ababa on 29 January. “It is a flexible, scalable and legally non-binding document. More than anything else, it should serve to inspire our future action regarding this question,” King Mohammed VI said in a message read by Moroccan Prime Minister Saad Eddine El Othmani. He also noted that African migration is intra-African as 4 out of 5 African migrants remain in the continent. Finally, he suggested that an African Migration Observatory be set up to enable the exchange of information between African countries and to promote management of migration flows.

Spanish woman credited with saving lives at Gibraltar faces prison sentence

- Helena Maleno, a Spanish woman based in Tangier who heads a NGO called Walking Borders, [faces](#) a possible prison sentence for people smuggling. Walking Borders monitors the movement of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers and calls rescuers if they are in danger when crossing from Morocco to Spain. “We cannot open the door to the idea that people who call to save people from drowning at sea should be imprisoned. The crime would be to not make that phone call,” Maleno said ahead of a court appearance in Tangier. In a previous court appearance in December 2017, Maleno was asked why she called the Spanish coast guard instead of Morocco authorities to which she said “I know that as soon as I have called one police force, they will immediately inform the other country to tell them where the boat is located. The co-operation I offer is available to both countries.” Despite the rise of arrivals to Spain in 2017, rescue services such as Walking Borders, have ensured that the death rate on this route is at 1%.

UNODC and Moroccan authorities organize training on trafficking in persons

- Between 25 and 26 January, UNODC, in partnership with the Delegated Ministry in Charge of Moroccans Residing Abroad and Migration Affairs, organized a training for Moroccan civil society organizations on the identification of and provision of assistance to victims of trafficking. The training was carried out within the framework of the J/TIP and was attended by a total of 32 civil society actors from a wide range of NGOs specializing in child protection, women’s rights, assistance and integration of migrants and refugees, prevention of marriage of underage girls, and advocacy against child labor.

NIGER

Italian deployment of troops to Niger

- On 17 January, the Italian Parliament [approved](#) the deployment of up to 470 troops to Niger as part of efforts to combat irregular migration, smuggling and trafficking networks and Islamic militants. Speaking during a [visit](#) to the EUNAVFOR MED Operation Sophia, Italian Prime Minister, Paolo Gentiloni, said, "We have to continue to work, concentrating our attention and energies on the threat of people trafficking and terrorism in the Sahel." Italy said it would [remove](#) 200 troops from Iraq and half its Afghanistan operation from 1,500 troops to 750 in order to increase its North Africa operation. 30 troops will go to Libya, taking the total troop count to 400, while 60 new troops will go to Tunisia. Italy's latest move is part of a wider EU approach to tackle migration in countries of transit such as Libya and Niger.

IOM Niger helped over 10,000 migrants return home in 2017

- IOM Niger [reported](#) that it had assisted 3,500 Nigeriens return home from Libya through its voluntary humanitarian return (VHR) program during 2017 and further assisted more than 7,000 third country nationals return to their countries of origin through its assisted voluntary return (AVR) program. The IOM mission in Niger operates five transit centers where they provide migrants with food, shelter, medical and psychological support, and assistance with travel documents.

SUDAN

Sudan summons Libyan ambassador over torture of Sudanese nationals in Libya

- Sudan's Foreign Ministry [summoned](#) Ali Muftah al-Mahroug, the Libyan ambassador to Khartoum over the detention and torture of Sudanese migrants, refugees and asylum seekers in Libya. The summons came in light of video footage circulated on social media showing the detention and torture of Sudanese hostages in Libya. For his part, the Libyan Ambassador expressed his deep regret and apology, pointing out that the footage depicted acts carried out by gangs who operate in areas outside of government control. Sudanese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Gharib Allah Khidir clarified that the Libyan authorities have located the area where the Sudanese migrants, refugees and asylum seekers were being kept and that arrangements are being made to free them unharmed.

Sudanese President calls for accelerated voluntary return of refugees in and from Chad

- Sudan's President Omar Al Bashir [called](#) for the acceleration of voluntary returns of Sudanese refugees in Chad and Chadian refugees in Sudan. The President stressed the need to prepare sites for the return of refugees from Chad in cooperation with UNHCR and the government of Chad. In December 2017, UNHCR [reported](#) that more than 4,000 Chadian refugees were ready to return to their home country after being in Darfur for a decade. "After ten years in Darfur, we called on the authorities to help us to return home safely and in dignity in order to lead stable lives and cultivate our lands," said Osman Harun Abdallah, one of the refugee leaders from Um Shalaya camp in Central Darfur.

TUNISIA

Premises for the national committee against trafficking in persons

- The Tunisian Minister of Justice, Mr. Ghazi Jeribi, inaugurated the premises of the national committee against trafficking in persons the 23 January. The ceremony, attended by UNODC and other international organizations, was held on the day commemorating the 172 year anniversary of the abolition of slavery in Tunisia.

GREECE

Arrivals to Greece

- 1,501 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers arrived to Greece by sea in the month of January representing an approximate 46% decrease in the number of arrivals from the previous month (2,574). There was 1 death recorded along the Eastern Mediterranean Route during the first month of 2018.

Returns from Greece to Turkey

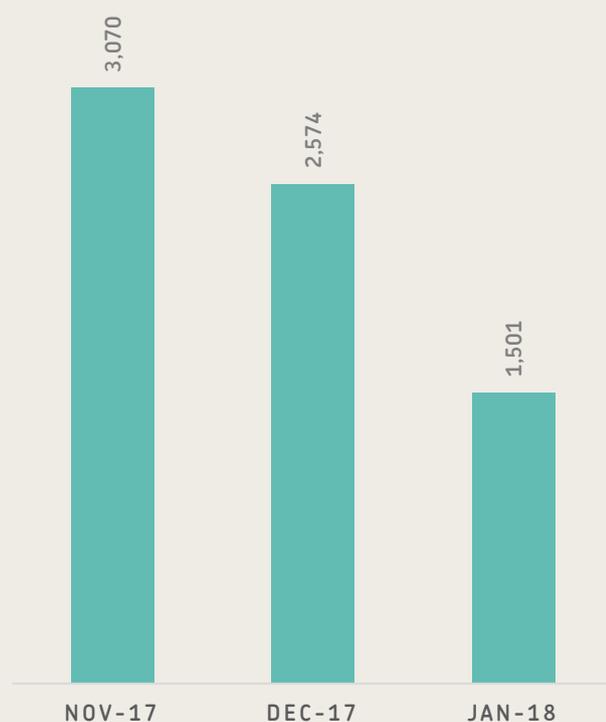
- 57 persons were [returned](#) to Turkey during the month of January under the EU-Turkey Statement. The figures for January represent a substantial increase from the 16 returns recorded for December 2017.

EU court rules that conditions at Greek hotspot are not 'inhuman'

- The European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) has [ruled](#) that conditions in the VIAL hotspot on the Greek island of Chios do not amount to 'inhuman conditions' and that detention associated with the enforcement of the EU-Turkey was not considered arbitrary. The complaint was brought to the court by three Afghan nationals who were detained at VIAL a day after the EU-Turkey Statement had entered into force. They were detained in the camp for the month prior to its conversion into a semi-open facility. While the court ruled that the detention was neither arbitrary nor unlawful, the ruling did state, however, that the plaintiffs had not been properly apprised of the reasons for their detention nor their options

for and right to appeal. The ruling comes at a time when several rights groups such as Human Rights Watch and the Council of Europe's Committee for the Prevention of Torture have expressed concerns about the appalling and deteriorating conditions at the camp. Speaking about the ruling, Natassa Strachini, a staff member at Refugee Support Aegean (RSA/Chios), said "The judgement fails to acknowledge the lack of individualized assessment in relation to the detention of the individuals seeking asylum arriving on the islands shortly after the EU-Turkey migrant deal came into effect. During the period examined by the Court, the Chios hotspot was completely unprepared."

Arrivals by Sea, Greece
November 2017 - January 2018



ITALY

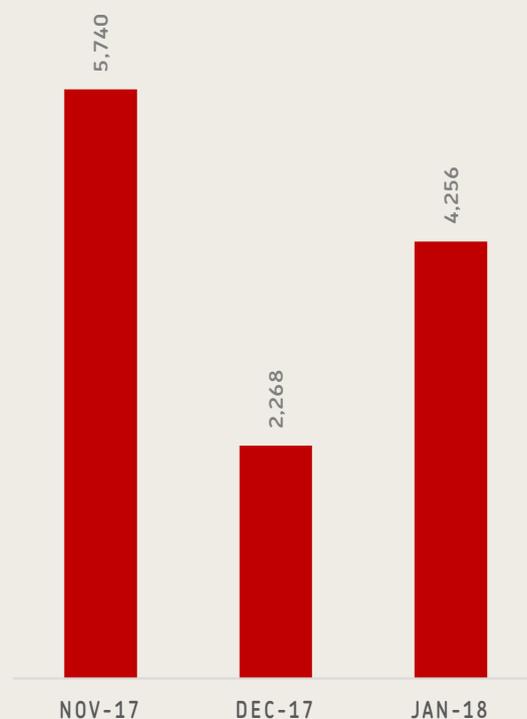
Arrivals to Italy

- 4,256 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers arrived to Italy by sea in the month of January representing an approximate 88% increase in the number of arrivals from the previous month (2,268). 215 deaths were recorded along the Central Mediterranean Route during the first month of 2018.

Election candidate arrested for shooting of Sub-Saharan migrants, refugees and asylum seekers

- Luca Traini, a failed election candidate for Italy's far-right Northern League, has been [arrested](#) for the drive-by shooting of six Sub-Saharan migrants, refugees and asylum seekers in the city of Macerta. Police said the attack appeared to be racially motivated. The city's mayor, Romano Carancini, confirmed that six were wounded and that one had suffered life-threatening injuries. It is [suspected](#) that the attack may have been carried out in revenge for the killing of Italian 18 year old woman Pamela Mastropietro. Calls for revenge attacks were posted on the Facebook page of Mastropietro's mother days before Traini's shooting spree. Hours after the shooting, Italian Prime Minister Paolo Gentiloni urged calm saying that "hatred and violence will not be able to divide us". The Northern League party said that Traini had stood as candidate for the party at the local elections in 2017 and was also accused of firing shots at one of their offices. Matteo Salvini, the head of the Northern League and a partner in the a right-wing electoral alliance overseen by former Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi, condemned the shooting but laid the blame on Italy's 'open migration policy' which he claims fueled racial tensions.

Arrivals by Sea, Italy
November 2017 - January 2018



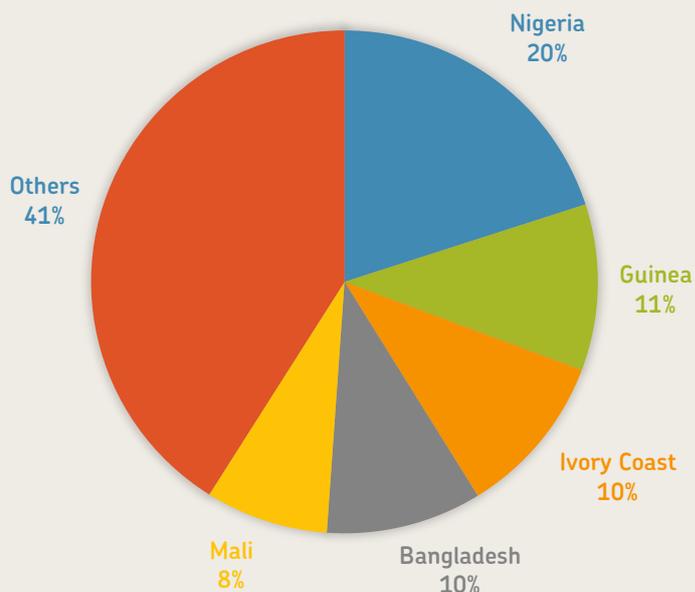
Berlusconi vows to deport 600,000 irregular migrants from Italy

- Former Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi [vowed](#) to deport 600,000 irregular migrants if his center-right coalition enters government after Italy's March elections. In a TV interview, Berlusconi said that immigration was a "social bomb ready to explode in Italy" and that "Immigration has become an urgent question, because after years with a left wing government, there are 600,000 migrants who don't have the right to stay." Berlusconi's Forza Italia has forged an alliance with two far-right parties, the Northern League and the Brothers of Italy. "When we're in government we will invest many resources in security," he said. "We will boost police presence and reintroduce the 'Safe Streets' initiative ... Our soldiers will patrol the streets alongside police officers." Berlusconi accused the EU of failing to share the burden of Italy's migrant arrivals, saying "Today, Italy counts for nothing in Brussels and the world. We will make it count again."

Migrant workers in Calabria protest

- Around 100 people [protested](#) in the town of San Ferdinando after a fatal fire in a tent city housing hundreds of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers killed Becky Moses, a 26 year old Nigerian woman. Two other women were badly injured and dozens received treatment for less serious injuries. According to a local newspaper, Moses had moved to the camp a few days before her death and after her application for asylum was denied. According to the Italian aid group Doctors for Human Rights (Medu), as many as 3,000 laborers, the majority of whom have valid residence permits, live in the camp at the height of the harvest, working for minimal wages and sleeping without electricity or running water in conditions that the NGO describes as "shamefully inhumane."

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



RESEARCH OF INTEREST

[Dangerous Ground: Syria's refugees face an uncertain future](#) - NRC, Save the Children, Action against Hunger, CARE International, DRC, International Rescue Committee
Report highlighting the dangers of returning refugees to Syria.

[Understanding Child Multidimensional Poverty in Egypt](#) - UNICEF, Egyptian Ministry of Social Solidarity, Egyptian Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS)
Report highlighting multidimensional poverty affecting children in Egypt.

[World Migration Report 2018](#) - IOM
9th report in the Migration Report series reviewing global migration figures and trends.

[Mixed Migration Monthly Summary December 2017](#) - MMP
The report provides insights on the current migration trends in the Middle East during the month of December 2017.

MULTIMEDIA & EDITORIALS OF INTEREST

[IOM Director General: “Migrants are the quintessential agents of development”](#) – France 24

A video interview with IOM’s Director General discussing migration and development.

[Empowering local first responders to reach refugee and migrant women](#) – UNFPA

UNFPA gives insight into its emergency response to provide essential reproductive health care in Greece.

[Conditions are horrific at Greece’s ‘island prisons’ for refugees. Is that the point?](#) – The Washington Post

An editorial by The Washington Post discussing the reasons conditions on Greece’s islands remain horrific.

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