



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, MMC, 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.

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.

Scope: This bulletin covers mixed migration trends in Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Mali, Morocco, Niger, Sudan, Tunisia, Spain, Greece and Italy.

Sources: Data is drawn from a wide variety of sources, including government, civil society and media.

HIGHLIGHTS

Drop in EU asylum applications for third year running

UN General Assembly urges inclusion of migrants

New EU funding to Morocco to manage migration flows

Egypt organizing first conference for Egyptian expat entities



REGIONAL

Refugees and internally displaced persons focus of AU summit

- African leaders [met](#) in the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa, on 10 February for the annual African Union (AU) summit where issues surrounding forced displacement took center stage. The theme of this year's summit was "The Year of Refugees, Returnees and IDPs: Towards Durable Solutions to Forced Displacement in Africa." According to UNHCR figures, Sub-Saharan Africa now hosts 26% of the world's global refugee population and ongoing crises in countries such as Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Somalia and South Sudan have led to an increase in the number of displaced persons on the continent.
- Speaking at the opening ceremony, the AU's outgoing Chairperson, Rwandan President, Paul Kagame, [said](#) that the summit's agenda, which includes institutional reform, migration, peace and security and progress on the African Continental Free Trade Area, "reflects [the] capacity of our union to address an increasingly complex range of challenges and priorities, [which] requires an organization that is agile, healthy and effective."
- IOM's Director General António Vitorino [was](#) among those who attended and addressed those assembled at the 32nd AU summit. DG Vitorino lauded the AU-EU-UN Task Force on Libya and the Regional Migrant Response Plan (RMRP) for the Horn of Africa and Yemen as prime examples of how inter-state and inter-agency efforts and cooperation can address the challenges of mixed migration and forced displacement. Speaking at the close of a roundtable discussion, DG Vitorino said, "There is an urgent need to address root causes as we will continue to see an increase in both mixed and complex flows, which includes regular migrants, displaced people, as well as refugees who face sometimes similar vulnerabilities that make them prone to the activities of criminal networks and terrorist organizations." DG Vitorino, along with IOM Ethiopia Chief of Mission, Maureen Achieng, also held bilateral discussions with the High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice President of the EU Commission, Federica Mogherini, on the side-lines of the summit.

Increase in family reunification figures in Germany

- According to statements by [the](#) German Ministry of Interior, the number of persons entering Germany on family reunification visas to join persons with temporary or 'subsidiary' protection status have met the 1,000-person monthly target set by the coalition government. Subsidiary protection status is granted to persons who do not qualify for refugee status but who nonetheless face the threat of serious harm if they are to return to their countries of origin. Family reunification visas for persons with subsidiary protection were reintroduced in August of last year after a two year-ban but for the first few months after their introduction the 1,000-person/visa target was not being met.

Drop in EU asylum applications for third year running

- The European Asylum Support Office (EASO), the EU's asylum agency, [announced](#) that the number of people seeking asylum in Europe in 2018 has dropped to 'pre-crisis' levels and that asylum figures have declined for the third year in a row. According to [statements](#) made by the agency, the figure for 2018, 634,700 applications lodged, was slightly below the 641,000 asylum applications filed in 2014, the last year before a surge in applications during the so-called 'migration/refugee crisis'. The figures are in stark contrast to anti-migrant sentiment and rhetoric sweeping through much of Europe. In later statements, EASO also [announced](#) that figures for January 2019 were 21% higher than those for December 2018, with 58,600 applications for international protection lodged the first month of the year. The agency nonetheless added that those figures were still in line with lower trends and expected fluctuations in asylum figures.

UNHCR: Less than 5% of resettlement needs met in 2018

- In statements [made](#) by UNHCR spokesperson Shabia Mantoo on 19 February, the agency announced that despite record numbers of global forced displacement, only 4.7% of global refugee resettlement needs were met in 2018. Ms. Mantoo referred to UNHCR figures which showed that despite the fact that the UN refugee agency estimated around 1.2 million refugees were in need of resettlement in 2018, only 55,692 were actually resettled.

President of UN General Assembly urges inclusion of migrants

- At a meeting on migration [held](#) at the UN headquarters in New York on 27 February, the President of the UN General Assembly, Mariá Fernanda Espinosa, warned delegates that that sustainable development targets will not be met unless migrants are comprehensively included in development policies and activities since migration and development are deeply interconnected. The General Assembly president linked her remarks to Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 10 which aims to, "facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies." Ms. Espinosa stressed that meeting the SDGs is the best way to make progress towards ending forced migration and mitigating the effects of 'adverse drivers' of migration. She further highlighted how "no-one decides to leave behind their family, their land and their belongings without a powerful reason for doing so." Ms. Espinosa also underlined the absolute need to address the needs of migrant women who usually face the brunt of restrictive labour policies more than men and who are more vulnerable to abuse and exploitation. Finally, Ms. Espinosa stressed that the benefits of migration to both host and sending countries and communities far outweigh its challenges.

Increase in repatriation from Germany to North Africa

- A source from the German ministry of Interior [told](#) a local newspaper that the number of failed asylum seekers repatriated to Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia has increased between 2017 and 2018. A total of 1,873 failed asylum-seekers were returned to their countries of origin in the Maghreb region in 2018 versus 1,389 in 2017. Morocco was the country to see the greatest increase in the number of repatriations, with a 30% increase in the number of Moroccan nationals being returned to Morocco between 2017 and 2018.

German rescue ship named after Syrian boy passed in 2015

- German Sea-Eye rescue ship was [named](#) Alan Kurdi, to honor the three years old Syrian boy who drown in 2015, and whose photograph on a Turkish beach made global headlines on the Syrian refugee crisis. Alan's aunt, Tima Kurdi, paid for his family passage to Europe in an attempt to reunite her family in Canada. Alan drown along with his brother Ghalib and his mother Rehanna, and eight other people in September 2015. Alan's father, who attended the ceremony on the Spanish island of Mallorca with Tima Kurdi, commented, "Our grief for the loss of my wife and sons is shared by many, by thousands of families who have so tragically lost sons and daughters this way'.

ALGERIA

Migrant boat sinks off coast of Algeria

- A boat carrying 18 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers [sank](#) off the coast of Algeria on 9 February. Thirteen of those aboard were rescued by the Algerian maritime service while at least two died and three were as yet unaccounted for. According to accounts, 11 of those aboard at the time were foreign nationals while two were Algerians.

Protest following murder of Zimbabwean student in Algeria

- It is [reported](#) that a group of Sub-Saharan students took to the streets in Algeria to protest rampant racism after the recent murder of a young Zimbabwean student. Prosper Nduzso, the slain student, was studying electronics engineering at

the university in Annaba in north-eastern Algeria. According to a friend of Mr Nduzso's who was with him at the time of the murder, they were the victims of an unprovoked attack by three Algerian men. The protesting students hoped to draw attention to issues of racism and in some cases violence against Sub-Saharan African migrants. Apart from Libya, where, according to the latest [UN report](#), "migrant and refugee men, women and children at the mercy of countless predators who view them as commodities to be exploited and extorted for maximum financial gain," Algeria is widely considered as North Africa's most unwelcoming place for sub-Saharan migrants.

EGYPT

Irregular migration to and from Egypt

- Egyptian authorities [announced](#) that 25 irregular migrants were deported in the second week of February after entering Egypt irregularly. According to statements made by the authorities, those apprehended and deported had planned to travel onwards to other countries from Egypt. Egyptian officials did not release information about the nationalities of the migrants but did say that they were from other African countries and that their respective embassies were informed of the repatriation. Egyptian officials also announced the arrest of 71 persons on 12 February on suspicion of migrant smuggling and facilitating irregular migration. According to official statements, those arrested were part of four 'gangs' that facilitated the irregular travel of Egyptians and foreign nationals to fourteen European countries as well as the US and Canada. They reportedly forged a whole host of official documents, such as marriage contracts, birth certificates, personal financial statements, bank statements, documents issued by the civil registry, complaints filed at police departments, and court verdicts. According to the charges, the defendants are also accused of bribery and illegal currency trading.
- In further statements on 17 February, the Egyptian Armed Forces [announced](#) that they had apprehended 2,770 during the three-week military operation 'Sinai 2018'. The individuals

in question were apprehended as they attempted to cross from/into Egypt along the Egyptian-Libyan border and the Egyptian-Sudanese border.

Egypt organizing first conference for Egyptian expat entities

- Egypt's Ministry of Immigration and Egyptian Expatriate Affairs has [begun](#) organizing the first ever conference for Egyptian expat organizations and associations. The event is expected to be held in Cairo in April and aims to enhance communication between the Egyptian government and all organizations bearing an affiliation to Egypt via Egyptian migrants abroad. Nabila Makram, Egypt's Minister of State for Migration and Egyptian Expatriate Affairs explained that the initiative is a way to enhance and streamline cooperation between the Egyptian state and expat communities and associations abroad. The conference will hold discussions about legislation affecting Egyptian expatriates, the comprehensive development plan for Egypt and investment opportunities in Egypt. Minister Makram also explained that Egyptian expatriate communities can play a vital role in 'defending Egypt' against damaging and 'incorrect' perceptions. Egypt has come under intense scrutiny and has faced significant criticism over its worsening human rights record; the ministry, and the Egyptian government more generally, hope that expatriate entities can rehabilitate Egypt's image abroad.

UN Association event on irregular migration in Egypt

- Egypt's United Nations Association [held](#) a seminar titled "Illegal migration in Egypt and means of confronting it" on 16 February. The event brought together diplomats, intellectuals and officials with an interest in the issue of irregular migration to discuss the matter as it pertains to Egypt and ways of addressing its challenges. Speaking at the event, the head of the Egyptian UN Association, Ambassador Ezzat el Beheiri, said that the issue must be addressed on the local, regional and international levels to ensure an adequate response to its challenges. Among those in attendance was the Director of the Department of Migration, Refugees and Combat of Human Trafficking at the Foreign Ministry, Ambassador Nevein El Hussein and Assistant Minister for Migration and Expatriate Affairs for Institutional Development and Egyptians Abroad, Dr Saber Suliman.

LIBYA

Returns from Libya

- On 21 February, over 160 Nigerian migrants [returned](#) home from Libya with the assistance of IOM's Voluntary Humanitarian Return (VHR) program. This was the second such operation so far in 2019, bringing the total returned to Nigeria this year to 343. The total number of returnees from Libya via the VHR program since 2015 now stands at 40,000.

AU to hold conference on Libya

- The African Union [announced](#) on 11 February that it aimed to hold a conference on the situation in Libya in July this year with the hope of facilitating Libyan election in October; the AU's current chief, Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, has underscored the need for "African solutions to African problems." According to the statement, the conference on reconciliation will be held under the auspices of the UN and the AU. Leaders at the AU summit also tasked the AU Commission with jointly with the United Nations and the Libyan government, all the necessary measures for the organisation of presidential and legislative elections in October 2019."

Migrants, refugees and asylum seekers protest and are tortured by Libyan authorities

- Reports of torture and gross mistreatment by Libyan officials at a migrant detention centre have sparked outrage by international and humanitarian organizations. Roughly 150 male migrants, refugees and asylum seekers, who were being detained in Triq al Sikka detention centre in Libya, had [broken out](#) of the main holding cell at the centre to protest their detainment and dire conditions at the facility. The detainees

hoped to lodge their grievances with the Libyan Department of Combatting Illegal Migration (DCIM) and demanded a visit from a UNHCR official. According to eyewitness accounts, guards at the facility began beating the migrants, refugees and asylum seekers with sticks and metal bars. Witnesses also said that those suspected of inciting the protest were rounded up and taken to an underground cell where they were reportedly tortured. Roughly 30 migrants and refugees are thought to have been taken to that underground cell, including six minors. The rest of the protesters were reportedly moved to other detention facilities.

- Following the revelations, a spokesperson for the EU reiterated the need to close down all migrant holding facilities in Libya and said, "The situation in these centres is unacceptable. The EU raises the unacceptable condition in detention centres in all of its meetings with relevant Libyan authorities at both political and technical level, in Tripoli and elsewhere."
- IOM also [denounced](#) the violence against migrants, refugees and asylum seekers and, in a statement about the events, Mohammed Abikder, IOM's Director of Operations and Emergencies said, "We condemn the use of violence in detention, and ask for urgent access to individuals who have been removed from that detention centre." He further added, "IOM continues to call for alternatives to detention. Placing migrants in detention for irregular entry adds to their many vulnerabilities. The situation is particularly difficult for women and children. No matter the circumstances that led to this particular incident, violence against migrants cannot be justified."

MOROCCO

New EU funding to Morocco

- On 6 March, the European Commission [announced](#) that it will be supporting Morocco with €232 million in additional funding. The new package will support Morocco's efforts to manage migration flows to and through and to its territory. The EU has been increasing its level of support to and cooperation with Morocco to tackle northward migration. According to the Moroccan Ministry of Interior, a total of 88,761 migrants have been prevented from leaving Morocco in 2018

Spain and Morocco signed agreement to curb irregular migration flows

- According to media [reports](#) in February, Spain and Morocco had reached an agreement whereby the Spanish maritime rescue service would return some rescued migrants, refugees

and asylum seekers to Morocco instead of taking them to Spanish ports. While the agreement was first reported in the Spanish paper El País and then subsequently reported in other media sources, both Spanish and Moroccan officials have denied the existence of such an agreement. Spanish Secretary of State for Security Ana Botella, [refuted](#) the news in a Spanish radio program, by saying that 'The agreement was meant to improve Moroccan authorities' rescue capabilities, and Spanish vessels will continue taking migrants to Spanish ports.' While Mustapha El Khalfi, a spokesperson for the Moroccan government [said](#), "This is false and arch-false, information. There is no agreement on this matter with Spain." What both sides have agreed to is that Spain and Morocco have agreed to improve the Moroccan maritime services' rescue capacities.

SUDAN

Sudan and Ethiopia discuss joint border control

- Sudanese President Omar Al-Bashir and Ethiopian prime minister Abiy Ahmed [met](#) in February during the African Union summit in Addis Ababa to resume and discuss the plan on the formation of a joint border control force between Sudan and Ethiopia, in an area characterized by tension and violence due to human trafficking and smuggling to reach Egypt and Libya. The decision was initially made in 2017, and was followed in 2018 by the withdrawal of the two national forces from the border areas, to be replaced by a joint border control force.

IOM Sudan and Arab Organization for Agriculture Development (AOAD) sign Memorandum of Understanding on agricultural development

- IOM Sudan and AOAD [signed](#) a Memorandum of Understanding, with the aim to strengthen resilience-focused and development-based agricultural and agricultural related programming. Programming will have a particular focus on the areas of migratory routes, addressing the needs of migrants and affected rural communities, and it will further facilitate capacity building of rural communities on better management of crops, livestock and natural resources by addressing Environment degradation and climate change.

TUNISIA

Employment agreement signed between Tunisia and Malta

- An agreement was [signed](#) during Tunisian President Beji Caid Essebsi's visit to Malta in February, granting Tunisians the opportunity for temporary employment in Malta. The agreement has been considered beneficial for both countries, based on Malta's need for foreign labour and Tunisia's unemployment problem. The agreement will be supervised by the Embassy of Tunisia in Malta.

Migrants who attempted to reach Italy arrested by Tunisian coast guards

- Tunisian coast guards [arrested](#) 34 migrants who were attempting to reach Italy by boat. Nine other people were reportedly arrested by authorities after attempting to reach the commercial port of La Goulette to migrate irregularly.

GREECE

Arrivals to Greece by sea

- 1,722 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers arrived in Greece by sea between 30 January and 27 February; which represents a roughly 6% decrease from a similar reporting period the previous month. According to IOM figures, one death was recorded along the Eastern Mediterranean Route during this reporting period.

EU Council Emergency Support Instrument (ESI) ends for migrants stranded at sea

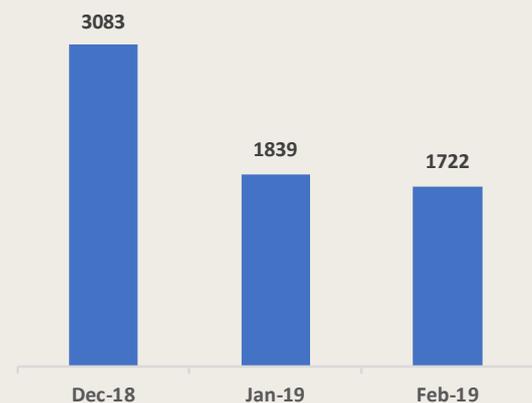
- The European Council ESI program [ends](#) on March 15, 2019. The humanitarian program was activated in March 2016 to provide emergency support to migrants and refugees within the EU. More than 640 million euros were allocated to Greek implementing partners, including UN agencies, the Red Cross and several NGOs. The program provided refugees with cash assistance, shelter, health care, protection, improved water and hygiene conditions, and education. The main activities funded by ESI, including the Emergency Support to Integration & Accommodations (ESTIA) will be handed over to the Asylum Migration Integration Fund by the European Commission's Directorate General of Migration and Home Affairs (DG HOME). In March, the EU Commission will release a report with an evaluation of the emergency support provided and recommendations for future programs. As the ESTIA program comes to an end, thousands of refugees will be [evicted](#) from their shelter and will stop receiving cash assistance within the next year. Only a quarter of the people currently included in the scheme, about 15,770, are recognized refugees in Greece and will be able to remain in the country. The remaining 47,288 people are at various stages of the refugee status determination process. A UNHCR spokesperson expressed serious reservations about the

Greek government's decision to stop extending assistance to refugees and invited the government to expedite the adoption of refugees and asylum seekers' integration schemes.

22 migrants trying entering Serbia irregularly deported to Greece

- Two different vehicles [carrying](#) 22 migrants from North Macedonia to Serbia, were stopped by the authorities and will be deported to Greece. Earlier in February, 13 Syrians and nine Pakistani were found in different vehicles trying to cross the border near Bulgaria. The 2016 EU-Turkey deal was meant to prevent more people crossing from Greece to Western Europe.

Arrivals by Sea, Greece
December 2018 - February 2019



ITALY

Arrivals to Italy by sea

- 60 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers arrived in Italy by sea between 30 January and 27 February, which represents a continued decrease in the number of arrivals. There has been a staggering 70% drop in arrivals between January and February of this year. Furthermore, the figures for this month are drastically lower than those for February of last year, when roughly 1,065 made the crossing to Italy. Five fatalities were recorded along the Central Mediterranean Route between 30 January and 27 February.

Sea Watch 3 allowed to sail after three weeks being held in Italian waters

- After three weeks being held in the port of Catania, the Sea Watch 3 vessel has been [given](#) permission to sail to the port of Marseille. 'The migrant rescue ship was not allowed to disembark for three weeks due to breaching safety and environmental laws,' said Italy's Coast Guard. "EU governments have unanimously adopted a policy of attempting to criminalize sea rescue NGOs," Sea Watch [commented](#). With NGO vessels being unable to operate at sea, attempted crossings are harder to locate and rescue.

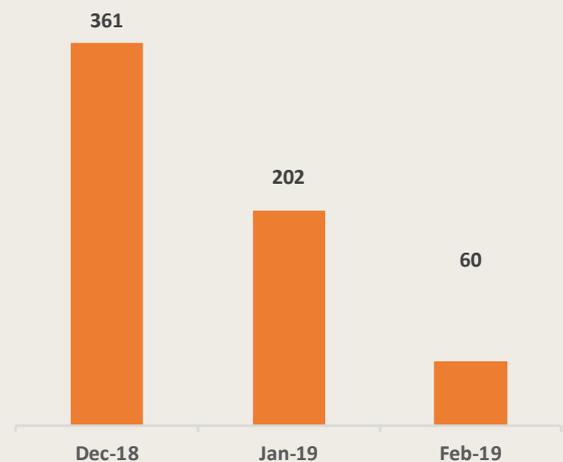
France ambassador temporarily recalled from Italy as tensions between the countries increase

- After an unannounced meeting in Paris suburbs between Italian Deputy Prime Minister and yellow vests members, the French government decided to temporarily [recall](#) its ambassador from Italy. The decision was made after months of increased tensions between the two countries, as both Italian government members, Luigi Di Maio and Matteo Salvini, publicly and repeatedly criticized France's economic and migration policies.

Italian Deputy Prime Minister launches online vote on his potential trial for migrants' kidnapping charges

- Italian leader Matteo Salvini [calls](#) for an online vote on the movement's digital platform, to ask his supporters whether he should face trial for abuse of power and possible migrants' kidnapping. The prosecutors in Catania, Sicily, launched an investigation after Salvini issued an order for 150 migrants to be held on board of a rescue ship in Italian waters. Other politicians criticized the online probe, stressing that the consultation could result in favoring the Prime Minister.

Arrivals by Sea, Italy
December 2018 - February 2019



SPAIN

Arrivals to Spain by sea

- 1,137 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers have crossed from Morocco to Spain by sea between 30 January and 27 February. The number of arrivals is 70% lower than that recorded for the previous month of January.
- Arrivals by land: 430 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers have crossed into Spain via its land borders with Morocco (through Ceuta and Melilla) in February, this represents a roughly 15% decrease in the number of arrivals by land between January and February of this year.

Spanish far right party requests the Regional Assembly to arrest migrant rescue operations

- Far-right party Vox MP, Luz Belinda Rodriguez, [requested](#) to the commission of the presidency of Andalusia's chamber, to stop maritime rescue services from taking part in migrant rescue operations. According to the far-right party, rescue operations encourage human trafficking networks and contribute to the higher number of deaths in the Mediterranean. The group invites the state to focus on migrant's countries of origin. As reported by the Asociacion Pro Derechos Humanos de Andalusia, the number of victims who died at sea in 2018 is four times higher than the previous year.

Increased in border fence's height to prevent irregular crossing

between Spain and Ceuta

- The border fence between Spain and the Spanish enclave of Ceuta will be [increased](#) reaching ten meters in height in the areas where most of the entries occur. According to the Spanish Ministry of Interior, the heighten of the barbed wire will guarantee migrants security and will ease the pressure of migrants flows between Morocco and Spain. The two countries have been increasingly collaborating to respond to the challenges of irregular migration. Spanish Prime Minister, Pedro Sanchez, has called Morocco a 'strategic partner' in controlling migration flows during the Summit of the European Heads of State and Government in October 2018.

Spanish coastguard planes operating without search radars for the past year

- Head of workers' committee at Spain's Coastguard, Ismael Furió, [said](#) that all four of the coastguard planes have been operating without vital radars during 2018. The radars are able to scan between 20 to 30 miles and are extremely important in order to assist any boat or vessel in need. Furió condemns the lack of political will to find a solution for the bureaucratic problems and the lack of resources that did not allow the radars from being repaired. The US administration is currently refusing to return two of the radars to Spain, as the company that supplies them is being subjected to embargo.

RESEARCH OF INTEREST

[Niger Report 2019](#) - Xchange Foundation

This report sheds lights on trans-Saharan migration, countering the popular belief that most sub-Saharan migrants intend to reach Europe as their main destination. Research shows that the highest percentage of migrants' intended destinations are in countries in West and North Africa. As the migration crisis gained increasing attention in European politics and media, the Sahel region, and specifically Niger, played a major role in changing dynamics of migration.

[Exploring New Legal Migration Pathways: Lessons from Pilot Projects](#) - Migration Policy Institute

This assessment report looks into EU Member States' bilateral partnerships with African countries, and how these agreements affected migrants' skill development and employment opportunities. The study reviews the limitation of past pilot projects and provides recommendations for effective legal migration partnerships to policy makers and relevant stakeholders.

[Communicating Strategically about Immigrant Integration: Policymaker Perspectives](#) - Migration Policy Institute

This report by the Migration Policy Institute explores how communication strategies and common narratives can contribute to the success or failure of integration policy. It also focuses on the way in which messages can be misinterpreted, ignored, or cause tensions due to certain obstacles. The report is based on interviews with stakeholders from Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, and the European Commission.

[The Implementation of Assisted Voluntary Returns Including Reintegration Measures \(AVRR\)](#) - International Organization for Migration

Covering the period from May 2017 to June 2018, this second publication follows the first annual report of the AVRR project implemented by IOM Greece. The publication overviews the procedures and activities undertaken by the country office in collaboration with IOM offices in countries of origin, as well as with a multitude of governmental and non-governmental stakeholders.

MULTIMEDIA & EDITORIALS OF INTEREST

[Organ trafficking in Egypt: 'They locked me in and took my kidney'](#) - The Guardian

This editorial seeks to bring attention to the way migrants and asylum seekers are been targeted by criminal networks in Egypt, particularly by the one of organ trafficking.

[How sex traffickers use black magic to force migrants into prostitution](#) - BBC News

Magdalen, one of the 11,000 Nigerian migrant women who arrived in Italy in 2016, briefly tells her story to the BBC. She belongs to the 80% of migrant women who were trafficked and forced into prostitution.

['Migrant menace': Salvini accused of targeting refugees and ignoring mafia](#) - The Guardian

This piece discusses Italian government's lack of attention for organized crime, while focusing mostly on portraying a situation of emergency in regard to migration.

[How Migration Deals Lead to Refugee Commodification](#) - News Deeply

This short editorial discusses how Western states' outsourcing of the management of forced displacement to the global south is leading to socio-economic repercussions on refugee protection and international cooperation.

[At least 80% of African migrants never leave the continent, but the focus is on Europe](#) - Quartz

A short piece that seeks to dispel and counter the migration crisis in Europe, and provides important information on migration within the African continent.

[No choice: Migrants kidnapped for ransom](#) - Info Migrants

This editorial looks into the risks faced by migrants who rely on smugglers to cross borders, among which there is torture, sexual violence, exploitation, kidnapping, and mass killings.

[Fatal trap on the cruel sea](#) - The New European

Thorough report by activist Maurice Stierl on his experience while rescuing migrants at sea.