



Monthly Trend Report

Covering mixed migration to, through & from **NORTH AFRICA**

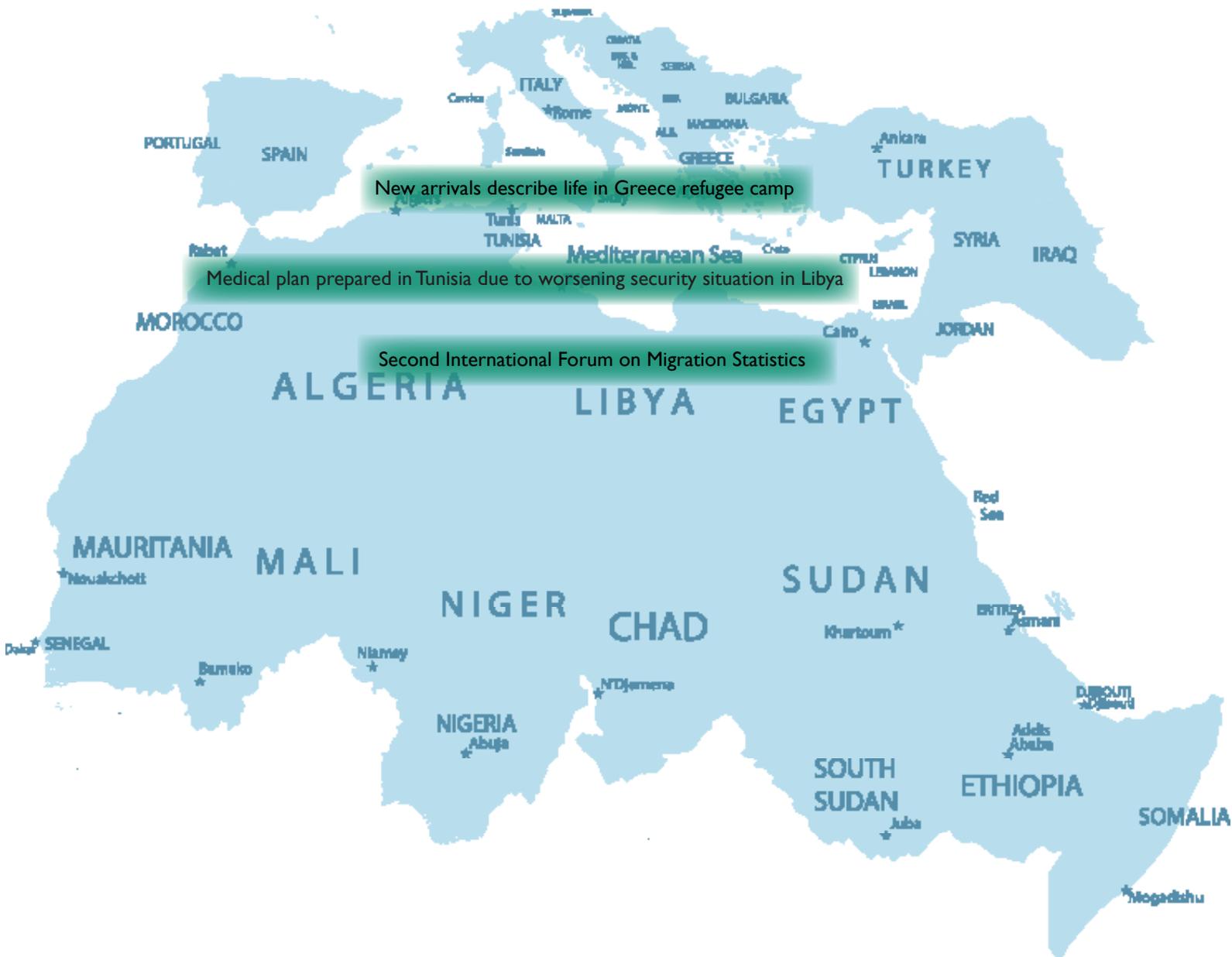
About: MHub is the regional knowledge hub and secretariat for the North Africa Mixed Migration Task Force, comprising of DRC, IOM, OHCHR, MMC, Save the Children, UNHCR, UNICEF and UNODC. It promotes a human rights-based approach to ensure the protection of people moving in mixed and complex flows to,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



New arrivals describe life in Greece refugee camp

Medical plan prepared in Tunisia due to worsening security situation in Libya

Second International Forum on Migration Statistics



REGIONAL

Mixed Migration Flows in the Mediterranean between January and November 2019

According to the International Organization for Migration, between January and November 2019 the number of migrants and refugees who [arrived](#) in Europe by sea and by land was 117,904. This figure represents a 12% decrease in comparison with the same period in 2018. The number of arrivals via the Eastern Mediterranean route was 73,939, representing 63% of all arrivals to Europe. Arrivals via the Western Mediterranean route constituted 25% of arrivals to Europe, whereas arrivals via the Central Mediterranean route represented 12% of arrivals. The number of arrivals in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Albania and Montenegro were 39,267 during that same period, representing a 28% increase in comparison with the same period in the preceding year.

Second International Forum on Migration Statistics

The second International Forum on Migration Statistics (IFMS), which took place between 19 and 21 January 2020 in Cairo, Egypt, was [attended](#) by over 700 delegates in more than 90 countries. Aiming to build and strengthen migration data capacities worldwide, the IFMS brought together delegates from national and regional authorities, non-governmental organizations, international agencies and the private sector. During opening ceremonies, IOM Director General António Vitorino said: "I have put migration data at the centre of my vision for IOM and have committed to strengthening the Organization's engagement in this area over the next years." He also explained that: "We as experts, practitioners and decision-makers have a collective responsibility to ensure that reliable facts and robust evidence are not only produced but also used appropriately and intelligently to steer policy and programmes and to combat an often-pervasive misinformation about migration."

LIBYA

Maritime updates

According to IOM [data](#), 1,072 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers were rescued and returned to Libya in January. Of those who were rescued in January 805 were female, 159 were male and 108 were children.

Returns from Libya

According to IOM [figures](#), 388 migrants returned voluntarily to their countries of origin from Libya in January via IOM's Voluntary Humanitarian Return (VHR) program. Of those who returned, 25 were female and 365 were male.

Norway to take 600 Evacuated Migrants

Norway says it will take 600 asylum-seekers recently [evacuated](#) to Rwanda from Libyan detention centers as the Scandinavian country wants to stop the sometimes-deadly smuggling of migrants across the Mediterranean Sea. So far Norway and Sweden have offered to take some of them, according to Rwandan Foreign Minister Vincent Biruta, who said Wednesday that Sweden has taken in seven.

MOROCCO

Smuggling ring between Morocco and Spain

47 people were [arrested](#) in Gibraltar and Spain during the course of a police operation to break up a smuggling ring operating between Morocco, the British territory of Gibraltar and Spain. Police believe more than 130 Moroccans successfully used the smuggling ring in order to enter Spain via the British territory of Gibraltar. The cross-border operation was coordinated by Europol and involved more than 200 officers. The operation began in November 2018, when, according to the news agency AFP, police noticed “a significant increase in Moroccan travelers from Casablanca and Tangiers arriving in Gibraltar.” Police noted that the smuggling operation was “complex, sophisticated and efficient.”

SUDAN

Migrant returnees use Mobile Money

To get around the shortage of cash in Sudan, Africa’s largest mobile operator MTN has [partnered](#) with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to enable returning migrants to use its mobile money service MoMo to re-establish their livelihoods in the country. An IOM pilot project will allow up to 2,000 returnees starting small businesses to select their own suppliers paid through MoMo.

TUNISIA

Medical plan prepared in Tunisia due to worsening security situation in Libya

An emergency plan was [prepared](#) by Tunisian authorities following the recent violence in Libya to deal with a high number of migrants and refugees potentially arriving in Tunisia. The director of Ben Guerdane hospital in south-east Tunisia explained that: “This plan foresees the immediate calling in of doctors and paramedics in the event of wounded people arriving from Libya and it ensures the provision of necessary medicines and blood.”

GREECE

Arrivals to Greece by sea

3,108 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers [arrived](#) in Greece by sea in January. This represents a decrease of 50% on figures for the previous month of December, and an increase of 49% from a similar reporting period in January 2019.

New Arrivals describe life in Greece refugee camp

The [Moria](#) refugee camp was originally intended to hold 3,000 people. As recently as last June there were 5,000 people there, according to Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), the only major international NGO that has a presence there. In the last six months it has grown to be a shanty town of 19,000, 40% of whom are under 18. Around 13,000 of those are living in a filthy unofficial camp of tarpaulin tents and makeshift huts made of pallets, in an olive grove surrounding the main site. There is no electricity, not enough water and rivers of mud and rubbish run through the tents.

ITALY

Arrivals to Italy by sea

1342 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers [arrived](#) in Italy by sea in January. This figure represents a 128% increase in arrivals by sea from the previous month of December, and a 564% increase from a similar reporting period in January last year.

SPAIN

Arrivals to Spain by sea

1,850 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers [arrived](#) in Spain by sea in January, which represents a decrease of 13% from figures for December 2019.

Arrivals to Spain by land

515 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers [crossed](#) into Spain (primarily via its land borders with Morocco) in January, a decrease of 14% in figures from the previous month of December.

MULTIMEDIA & EDITORIALS OF INTEREST

[Tunisia: North Africa's overlooked migration hub](#) – The New Humanitarian

This piece sheds light on Tunisia as a migration hub, with a focus on migration dynamics in the country.