



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.

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



REGIONAL

How conflicts turned the Middle East into an organ-trafficking hotspot

As conflicts continue to wrack parts of the Middle East and North Africa, the rising number of displaced person and dispossessed are proving easy prey for organ trafficker. In the Middle East, more than 5 million refugees are potential targets for this illicit trade. According to Global Financial Integrity, a Washington-based think tank producing analyses of illegal financial flows, the “[red market](#)” – the global human organ trade – generated, before the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic, 600 million USD and 1.2 billion USD.

Migrant smugglers are profiting from travel restrictions

60,000 mobility restrictions have been imposed around the world to contain the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic. Border closures, travel restrictions, and reduced travel modes acutely disrupted smuggling markets. After an initial slowdown, smugglers are now reviving and adapting to meet changing needs. Across many common and new migration corridors, including Africa, migrants numbers are increasing. The lack of regular pathway combined with a desire for migration is boosting the demand for [human smugglers](#) and the demand is not expected to calm down. Indeed, after an initial easing of migrant flows, smugglers in Libya are now seeing new passengers from neighbouring countries and other more faraway such as Ghana, Eritrea, Mali and Nigeria.

EGYPT

After losing jobs, many Sudanese struggle to make ends meet in Egypt

According to the UN migration agency IOM, requests for aid coming from foreigners in Egypt jump fourfold since March. Egypt was known as a transit point for African migrants trying to make some money before moving on. However, an Israeli border fence, conflict in Libya and strict controls hindering migrants boats to reach Europe have left many [stuck](#). IOM says that the biggest group are approximately 3.8 million Sudanese. A Sudanese charity has been providing help to more than 500 families whose many breadwinners lost their job in Egypt.

LIBYA

Maritime updates

According to IOM [data](#), 1,143 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers were rescued and returned to Libya in July. Of those who were saved in July, 64 were female, 983 were male, and 96 were children.

Libya: UNHCR worried for migrants in detention centers

According to the UN refugee agency UNHCR, there are eleven detention centres for migrants run by the UN-backed Government of National Accord in Libya. As of July 3, a total of 2,362 people were held at these facilities. The UNHCR spokesperson said that the “situation in official centres remains a reason for concern, especially regarding the poor living conditions, overcrowding and hygiene”. Furthermore, the food distribution is often inconstant, and there are some unofficial and [unauthorized](#) facilities where UN agencies and other organization do not have detailed information.

UN: Libyan coast guard intercepts 83 Europe-bound migrants

On Sunday, Libya’s coast guard intercepted 83 migrants on a boat trying to reach Europe and brought them to a [detention](#) centre in the west part of Libya, the International Organization for Migration said. According to IOM spokesperson Sifa Mselhi, the migrants were mostly from Sudan and Eritrea and included one woman. Since the beginning of the year, some 6,000 migrants have been intercepted and taken back to Libya.

SUDAN

Coronavirus - Sudan Prepares to Receive Returning Nationals

The Sudanese's government began last month the facilitation of an estimated 15,000 Sudanese nationals stranded [abroad](#) with the support of the International Organization for Migration (IOM). Many of them in urgent need of assistance.

TUNISIA

Identifying migrants who died at sea meticulous work for Tunisia

Like thousands of migrants who have disappeared at sea trying to reach Europe, the identity of the dozens of migrants who drowned off Tunisia last month might have been lost without a trace. However, when recovering the 61 bodies near the eastern port city of Sfax, the authorities meticulously took note of any details that might, one day, lead to their [identification](#).

Tunisia starts first immigration census

On July 22, the Tunisian statistics institute (INS) announced that they had started the first census on international migration in Tunisia. The aim of the survey named "Tunisia-Hims" is to provide clear and [accurate](#) statistical data on immigration in Tunisia.

GREECE

Arrivals to Greece by sea

316 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers [arrived](#) in Greece by sea in July. This figure represents an increase of 17.4 % in arrivals by sea from the previous month of June.¹

IOM and church NGO team up for refugee minors in Greece

In Greece, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) started working with a Church of Greece charity in order to improve accommodation facilities for unaccompanied migrant children. The initiatives' purpose is to safeguard the [wellbeing](#) of unaccompanied refugee and migrant children and ensure the provision of a safe environment as foreseen by Greek and EU laws.

Greece transfers more migrants from islands to mainland

On Thursday, 784 migrants have been [transferred](#) by the Greek authorities since July 1 from the overcrowded camps on the Greek islands to the mainland. Among the people who have been transferred, many were older people or people at risk from Covid-19 infection. Even though Greece has been gradually opening up after the lockdown, many of the island's camps have remained under quarantine measures.

ITALY

Arrivals to Italy by sea

7,067 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers [arrived](#) in Italy by sea in July. This figure represents an increase of 286% in arrivals by sea from the previous month of June.²

¹ Last seen the 21.09.2020.

² Last seen the 21.09.2020.

More than 80,000 applications for migrant regularization in Italy

After a slow initial start, applications for migrant regularization have picked up. Indeed, after one month, the total amount of application had reached 80,366 out of which almost 70,000 have been processed. The interior ministry's online system to legalize workers received on average 2,650 application sent by employers. Domestic workers constitute most of the application so far. [Domestic workers](#) and home carers' main countries of origin include Morocco at first place, followed by Ukraine. On the other hand, for farm work, the top countries of origin are Albania, Morocco and India.

Ocean Viking: 180 migrants begin disembarking rescue ship in Sicily

According to the NGO SOS Mediterranee, the 180 migrants aboard the Ocean Viking rescue ship began disembarking at Sicily's Porto Empedocle. The various other ship' requests to [dock](#) in other ports of Malta and Italy had been previously ignored.

Several hundred migrants arrive in the space of a few days in southern Italy

Italian newspapers reported that on Sunday 12th July, a total of 791 migrants disembarked on Sicily and Lampedusa over the previous 48 hours. With hotspots [above capacity](#) and a number of migrants testing positive for Covid-19, the governor of the Sicilian region has called on the federal government to pronounce a state of emergency.

SPAIN

Arrivals to Spain by sea

2,643 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers arrived in Spain by sea in July, which represents an increase of 149% from figures of June.³

Arrivals to Spain by Land

51 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers arrived in Spain by land in July, which represents a decrease of 38 % from figures of June.⁴

In Spain's Complex Migration Game, Africans See a Disadvantage⁵

When he was only 13, Ousmann Umar, was [dumped](#) in the Sahara by trafficking gang. He believed then that he would share the fate of other migrants whose bodies lay on the northwards' route. But unlike many other, he managed to [survive](#) not only the rash desert condition but every step of a five-year journey from Ghana to Spain. Thirteen years later, he is now a businessman in Barcelona and proud owner of a master's degree from one of the world's top business schools. Despite his success, he has made it his mission to persuade Africans to stay at home rather than following his dangerous footsteps because the emotional cost is too high.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ As per the International Organization for Migration (IOM) glossary, irregular migrant refer to migrant in an irregular situation which means: "A person who moves or has moved across an international border and is not authorized to enter or to stay in a State pursuant to the law of that State and to international agreements to which that State is a party." See: https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/iml_34_glossary.pdf

MULTIMEDIA & EDITORIALS OF INTEREST

[Why climate change increases gender inequality](#) – World Economic Forum

This article from the World Economic Forum refers to a CARE report that shows us that climate change exacerbates existing gender inequalities.

[How the Coronavirus Forced the EU to Face a Fundamental Reckoning](#) - Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

This article highlights the different issues that Europe is facing and analyses potential responses from lessons learned that Europe could take to address its challenges.

RESEARCH OF INTEREST

[MMC North Africa 4Mi Snapshot – July 2020: Access to services: Impact of COVID-19 on refugees and migrants in North Africa who have left or transited Ethiopia](#) – Mixed Migration Centre

This snapshot focuses on awareness of COVID-19 among refugees and migrants in Libya and Tunisia who come from Ethiopia or who transited through Ethiopia on the 'Northern Route'. The analysis examines their access to information, healthcare and services. The analysis is based on 62 interviews conducted 9 April–10 June 2020 with refugees and migrants in Libya (10) and Tunisia (52), who had moved through or from Ethiopia.

[Evicted by Climate Change : Confronting the gendered impacts of climate-induced displacement](#) – CARE

This report outlines the causes and consequences of climate-induced displacement, and how the triple injustice of climate change, poverty and gender inequality must be met by transformative action: to support more gender-equal and resilient communities in sustainable environments.

[Middle East And North Africa — Tracking Mobility Impact: Point Of Entry Analysis](#) - IOM

This Middle East and North Africa (MENA) report summarizes mobility restrictions at airports, land, and blue border crossing points resulting from the mitigation measures implemented in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.