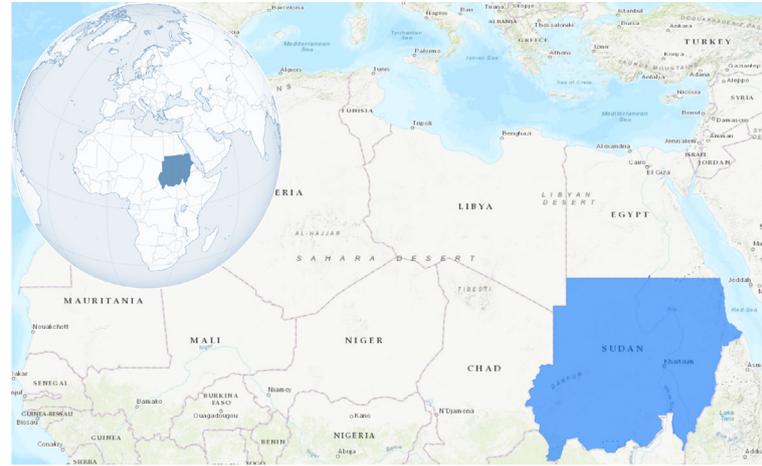




SUDAN

The increase in the numbers of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers traveling in mixed migratory movements constitutes a major political and humanitarian challenge. North Africa is affected by such movements as a region of origin, transit and destination.

European restrictions on inward regular migration processes has contributed to the rise of irregular migration flows.¹ These restrictions have forced those on the move to find other ways to reach European shores, which, has resulted in a surge in the activities of organized transnational criminal networks operating smuggling and trafficking rings across the region. Migrants continue to face abuse and exploitation at the hands of these smugglers and traffickers who promise passage across the Mediterranean Sea and national borders.



These movements are driven by those who are fleeing war and searching for security; those looking for better opportunities and future; Geographic proximity and historical ties have also contributed as drivers for North Africans to migrate to Europe (particularly those from Morocco, Algeria, and Tunisia) and to the Gulf countries (particularly those from Egypt and Sudan).²

BACKGROUND

Sudan lies along historical and contemporary migration routes from West and East Africa towards North Africa and onwards to Europe or the Gulf Countries. It presents a complex and diverse migration profile as a source, transit and destination country at the center of these migration routes, and is host to several migrant populations.³

Migration in Sudan is addressed by the 1994 Passports and Immigration Act which regulates admission, stay and deportation of foreign nationals. Human smuggling and trafficking are not addressed in national regulations, rules or policies but some states have enacted laws to combat smuggling through borders.⁴ Sudan is a signatory to the 1951 Geneva Convention and the 1969 AU Convention Governing Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa.

It is a participating state of the Khartoum Process which aims to enhance cooperation between countries of origin, transit and destination on migration and mobility while addressing trafficking in persons and the smuggling of migrants.⁵

MIGRANT PROFILE

INBOUND

Sudan is host to a large population of international migrants and refugees in addition to internally displaced persons (IDPs). As of June 2017, there were 736,000 migrants in Sudan.⁶ The top three countries of origin for migrants in Sudan are South Sudan, Eritrea, Ethiopia, and Chad.⁷

As of December 2016, there were approximately 421,000 refugees in Sudan.⁸ Additionally, the country is home to 2.2 million IDPs.⁹

OUTBOUND

Sudanese migrants frequently travel to Egypt, where they comprise the third largest group of migrants in the country. Of the Sudanese

in Egypt, 35,227 are registered as refugees with UNHCR.¹⁰ While some Sudanese migrants end their journeys in Egypt, others, migrate to Libya, often with the intention of continuing onward to Europe. However, when met with unfavorable conditions in Libya, they may choose to return home.¹¹ Some reports indicate that some irregular Sudanese migrants who were returned to Sudan had faced detention, interrogation or torture upon return.¹²

In 2017, the International Organization for Migration's Displacement Tracking Matrix registered the return of 25,200 Sudanese migrants from Saudi Arabia and 10,076 Refugee returnees from Chad. 787 Sudanese migrants were supported by IOM through its Assisted Voluntary and Reintegration program and Voluntary Humanitarian Returns program.¹³

ROUTES TO AND FROM SUDAN

INBOUND

Most migrants originating from the Horn of Africa use minibuses or cars to reach their countries' borders before making their way to Sudan. Migrants from Ethiopia, Eritrea and South Sudan typically use this route to reach Khartoum.¹⁴ South Sudanese face more challenges on this route as they usually walk to Khartoum. Migrants on this route face the risk of trafficking, particularly near the Eritrean and Ethiopian borders and on the way to Libya. Men are often abducted and taken into forced labor and women are often raped or forced into prostitution.¹⁵

OUTBOUND

Khartoum is a key transit point for those migrating through Sudan. On average, migrants remain in Khartoum for approximately a year or two before continuing on their journey. While in transit, intended routes and destinations might change based on current political or security developments.

For the majority of those making the journey outwards from Sudan, Libya or Egypt are the next destinations. For those who choose not to remain in either country, they may serve as transit points before their onward journeys.¹⁶ Egypt may be a transit point for those making their way to Libya from where they embark on Europe-bound boats across the Mediterranean.

MIGRATION MOTIVATIONS

INBOUND

Migrants in Sudan report diverse motivations for migration including financial and economic reasons; the pursuit of safety, security and freedom; and reuniting with family and relatives. For the majority of migrants surveyed by IOM, financial and economic reasons; lack of work in their countries of origin; not being able to earn enough to support their families and being unable to meet basic needs constituted the major drivers of their migration. With regards to motivations linked to safety, security and freedom, lack of freedom of expression and freedom of movement were the most cited drivers for migration. Many migrants arriving in Sudan reported that they migrated to the country due to a combination of these factors.¹⁷

Some migrants, particularly from Nigeria and Somalia, also travel to Sudan to study. In one IOM study, 69% of Nigerian respondents and 42% of Somali respondents were studying in the country at the time the survey was conducted.¹⁸

OUTBOUND

The majority of migrants who travel through Sudan intend it as a transit point. Others arrive in the country planning to settle, and later decide to continue their migration journeys due to limited opportunities for stable employment and access to services as well as safety concerns.

While many identify Canada and the United States of America as their ideal countries of destination, migrants often end up traveling to Italy or Greece due to the availability of smugglers to these destinations and the relative facility of arriving in Europe compared to target destinations in North America.¹⁹

THE MIGRANT EXPERIENCE IN SUDAN

Although most migrants report feeling safe in Sudan, migrants face economic and legal challenges in fulfilling basic needs and accessing services.

In Khartoum, Ethiopian and Eritrean irregular migrants typically rely on community networks for support. Because of their status as irregular migrants, finding work remains a challenge. While it is possible to pursue employment in the informal sector, there is high competition. As a result, few migrants in Sudan earn enough to meet their basic needs through their employment.²⁰

Healthcare remains a challenge for irregular migrants in Sudan. Medical fees and fears of identification by police discourage irregular migrants from pursuing medical care. While 33% of migrants report that they have better access to healthcare in Sudan than in their home countries, many struggle to access healthcare resources.²¹

In addition to the challenges that migrants in Sudan may face when attempting to meet their basic needs, they are also frequently subject to abuse. Ethiopian and Eritrean refugees and migrants have reported attacks at the Eritrean border where they were robbed and beaten on the way to Libya. Migrants are also vulnerable to kidnapping by armed groups who target them based on religion, race or nationality and may illicit ransom payments from family and friends abroad or subject them to forced labor and torture.²³

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3. IOM. Migrants in Sudan: [Pilot Study on Migrants’ Motivations, Intentions and Decision-making in Khartoum](#) (February 2017).
4. Babiker, Mohamed Abdelsalam. [Irregular Migration in Sudan: A Legal Perspective](#) (2011).
5. IOM. [EU-Horn of Africa Migration Route Initiative \(Khartoum Process\)](#).
6. These are based on census data that is collated by UNDESA. As such, these figures may include irregular migrants and refugees as well as regular migrants.
7. UNDESA, [International migrant stock: The 2017 version \(June 2017\)](#).
8. [UNHCR Population Statistics](#).
9. Ibid
10. UNHCR, [Operational Update, Egypt, November–December 2017](#).
11. Africa News, [“Libya returns over 100 illegal Sudanese migrants back to Sudan”](#) (September 2017).
12. The Washington Post, [“Belgium teamed up with Sudan on deportations. Then, allegedly, there was torture”](#) (January 2018).
13. IOM Data
14. Alati Consulting, [Mixed Migration Trends in Libya: Changing Dynamics and Protection Challenges](#) (July 2017).
15. IOM. Migrants in Sudan: [Pilot Study on Migrants’ Motivations, Intentions and Decision-making in Khartoum](#) (February 2017).
16. Marchand, Katrin; Roosen, Inez; Reinold, Julia; Sieglel Melissa. [Irregular Migration from and in the East and Horn of Africa](#) (May 2016).
17. IOM. Migrants in Sudan: [Pilot Study on Migrants’ Motivations, Intentions and Decision-making in Khartoum](#) (February 2017).
18. Ibid
19. Ibid
20. Ibid
21. Ibid
22. Alati Consulting, [Mixed Migration Trends in Libya: Changing Dynamics and Protection Challenges](#) (July 2017).
23. Ibid



International Organization for Migration (IOM)
The UN Migration Agency

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