



Monthly Trend Report

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

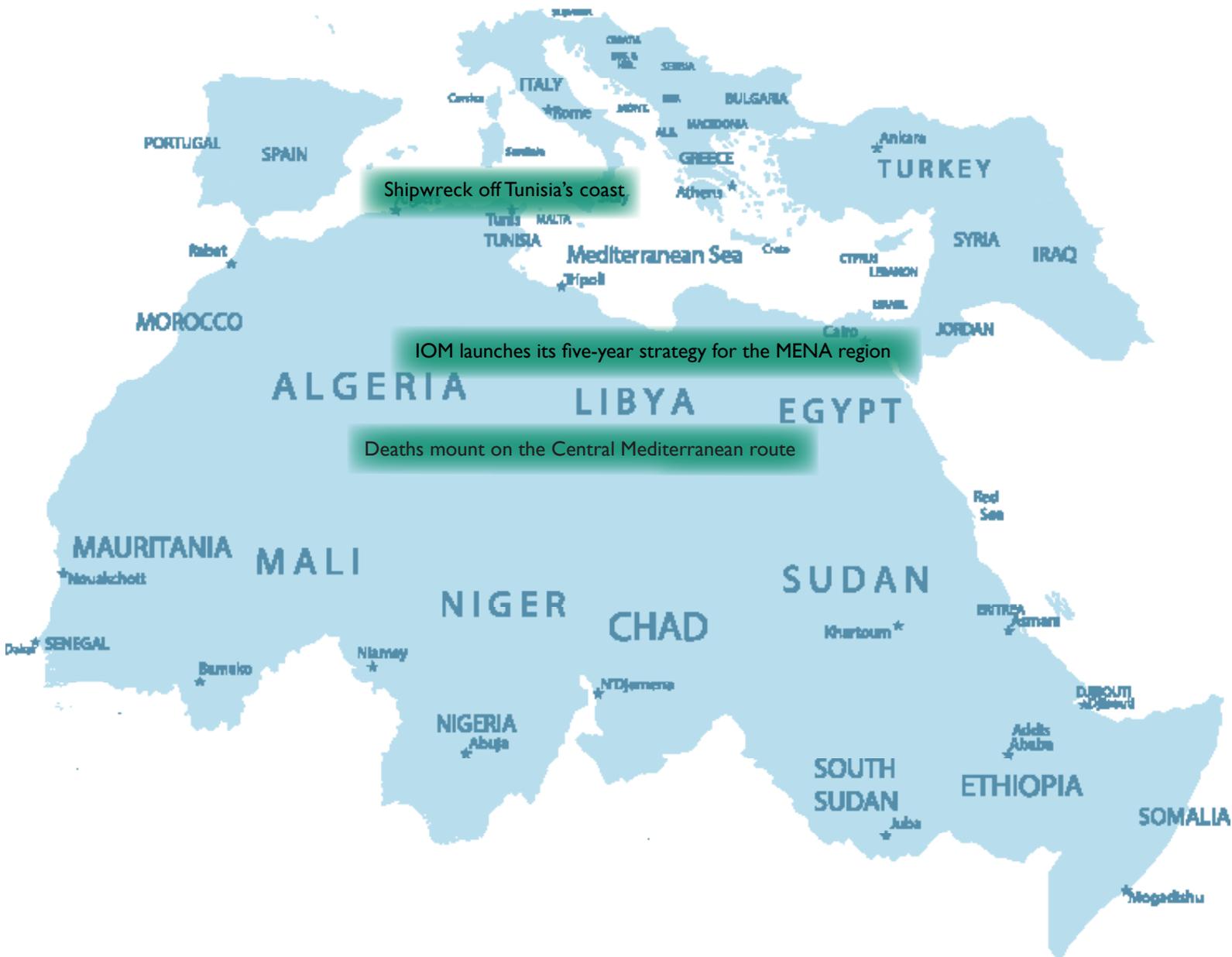
About: MHub is the regional knowledge hub and secretariat for the North Africa Mixed Migration Task Force, comprising of DRC, IOM, OHCHR, MMC, Save the Children, UNHCR, UNICEF and UNODC. It promotes a human rights-based approach to ensure the protection of people moving in mixed and complex flows to,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



REGIONAL

INTERPOL carries on major anti-trafficking operation

The INTERPOL, in cooperation with authorities from 24 European and African countries, [led a crackdown operation](#) on human trafficking and migrant smuggling that resulted in the rescue of nearly 500 victims of human trafficking - including children - and identified some 760 irregular migrants. The operation also made 195 arrests - 88 of for human trafficking and 63 on people smuggling charges. The remaining arrests were on other charges such as document fraud, theft, drugs-related crimes, and environmental offenses. Operation Weka, which means “Stop” in Swahili, was carried out from 28 March to 2 April. Authorities from 24 countries representing source, transit and destination locations progressed investigations and exchanged intelligence to dismantle criminal networks behind key routes.

IOM launches its five-year strategy for the MENA region

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Regional Office [launched its 2020-2024 Regional Strategy](#), with an online event including panelists from governments, the League of Arab States, UN agencies, regional institutions, academics and other stakeholders in the region. Guided by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration and Agenda 2063 of the African Union Commission (AUC), this strategy aims to prioritize three key pillars – resilience, mobility, and governance – for 2020 to 2024, in line with the implementation of IOM’s 2019-2023 Strategic Vision.

ALGERIA

Migrants leave Algeria in voluntary return operations

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) has [assisted](#) 1,100 migrants to safely return home from Algeria through eleven voluntary return operations since the outbreak of the COVID-19 global pandemic. More than 330 Guinean and Malian migrants assisted in the past month are among the returnees. All safe and dignified return operations were organized thanks to the crucial support of the Government of Algeria and in coordination with IOM offices in East, West and Central Africa. The Algerian Government has exceptionally lifted the travel restrictions that are in place since March 2020 to allow for the voluntary return from Algiers’ Houari Boumediene International Airport.

EGYPT

Government forms committee to study return of Egyptian workers to Libya

Egypt said it has [formed](#) a ministerial committee to examine frameworks for the return of Egyptian workers to Libya, according to a statement by the cabinet. An Egyptian governmental delegation headed by Prime Minister Moustafa Madbouly visited Libya in April and was urged by the Libyan side to take steps towards the return of Egyptian labourers to Libya and facilitating movements between the two countries.

Government plans training programs for Egyptian expats returning home

Minister of Social Solidarity Nevine El-Kabbaj held discussions to [form](#) a mini-technical committee in order to launch a training program for Egyptian expatriates returning home. Discussions included the provision of all means of protection for returnees from illegal immigration, and to ensure their inclusion. This would also extend to all members of their families, under the umbrella of social protection in order to ensure their comprehensiveness.

LIBYA

Italy to resume evacuation of vulnerable migrants from Libya

The UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Filippo Grandi, said that he had been reassured by the Italian government that the [evacuation](#) of the most vulnerable migrants and refugees would resume from Libya. The UN official said the Italian government has provided “positive assurance that all types of evacuations of the most vulnerable migrants and refugees will resume, both directed to Italy and through other African countries.”

Deaths mount on the Central Mediterranean route

UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) said they are deeply disturbed by reports of a [tragic shipwreck](#) off the coast of Libya. Fears are that this latest incident could have claimed the lives of up to 130 people. The rubber boat, which reportedly embarked from the Al Khoms area east of Tripoli, is said to have capsized due to bad weather and stormy seas.

MOROCCO

Morocco, UNHCR to increase cooperation to protect refugees' rights

According to a statement from The National Council for Human Rights (CNDH) of Morocco, CNDH President Amina Bouayach and the representative of UNHCR, the UN refugee agency, François Reybet-Degat [signed](#) a framework agreement aimed at materializing the two parties' will to develop new areas of common interest. The agreement provides for carrying out studies on public policies in the field of refugee law, exchanging data and research results as well as monitoring the implementation of provisions on the rights of refugees. It also provides for setting up research projects, studies and training and holding conferences and seminars.

Morocco receives new software to help combat migrant smuggling

Following in-depth training held in 2020 on data analysis to develop technical skills of law enforcement officers for effective and more rapid digital investigations, UNODC [delivered](#) 40,000USD worth of online investigative software to the cybercrime unit of the Moroccan General Directorate of National Security. The software provided, funded by the European Union (EU), are considered as essential tools of open-source investigations used to facilitate collection and analysis of data. Such modern investigative techniques will surely allow for an effective and rapid response to identify and investigate cases of migrant smuggling and human trafficking.

SUDAN

Refugees forced out of Sudan's West Darfur following clashes

Recent intercommunal clashes in El Geneina, in Sudan's West Darfur State, have [forced](#) 1,860 refugees to cross into neighbouring Chad, according to UNHCR. The refugees, mostly women, children, and the elderly, have fled homes in villages near the border, in the aftermath of deadly clashes that started on 3 April. The resurging violence has reportedly left 144 people dead and more than 230 injured. In the meantime, humanitarian agencies are trying to establish the exact number of newly displaced people within West Darfur, which is estimated to be in the thousands.

TUNISIA

Awareness campaign on risks of irregular migration in Tunisia

An awareness campaign called Esshih was officially [launched](#) in Tunisia on April 8 to provide information on the risks posed by irregular migration to youths who could potentially undertake such a journey, to their families and to society as a whole. The campaign also vies to publicize possible alternatives in Tunisia to emigration or regular pathways to move abroad. The campaign was promoted by the Tunisian national observatory on migrations (ONM), in collaboration with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the Tunisian diaspora association in Italy, Pontes.

Shipwreck off Tunisia's coast

According to UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) a [shipwreck](#) was reported off the coast of Sidi Mansour, in southeast Tunisia. The bodies of 41 people, including at least one child, have so far been retrieved. According to reports from local UNHCR and IOM teams, three survivors were rescued by the Tunisian National Coast Guard. Based on initial information, all those who perished were from Sub-Saharan Africa.

GREECE

Arrivals to Greece by sea

187 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers [arrived](#) in Greece by sea in April. This figure represents a decrease of 46% in arrivals by sea from the previous month of March.¹

More migrants leaving Greece

According to Greek Migration Minister Notis Mitarakis, more migrants are [leaving](#) Greece than arriving. Mitarakis was addressing a multi-party conference in Athens with fellow migration policy party leaders on the progress of negotiations with the EU on the New Pact on Migration and Asylum. "In 2021 the flows of refugees and migrants to our islands have decreased by 89% compared to 2020," said Mitarakis. According to the latest UNHCR data, 925 people arrived on Lesbos and the other Greek Aegean Islands between January 1 and April 11 this year. In 2020, 7,591 people arrived in the same period, the majority of all arrivals last year.

ITALY

Arrivals to Italy by sea

1185 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers [arrived](#) in Italy by sea in April. This figure represents a decrease of 50% in arrivals by sea from the previous month of March.²

Stranded boat rescued by Italian coast guard

The Italian coast guard said it had [rescued](#) more than 100 people stranded at sea on a fishing boat over the weekend. According to a press release published on the coast guard's website, the boat was spotted in Italy's Mediterranean search and rescue (SAR) zone on Saturday (April 24) with around 30 people on board, among them minors. Four coast guard vessels were dispatched and a nearby motor ship was "directed ... towards the vessel in danger."

¹ Last seen the 29.04.2021.

² Last seen the 29.04.2021.

SPAIN

Arrivals to Spain by sea

532 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers [arrived](#) in Spain by sea in April, which represents a decrease of 77% from figures of March.³

Arrivals to Spain by Land

No data is available for migrants, refugees and asylum seekers arrivals in Spain by land in April.⁴

Risky route to Spanish enclaves

Moroccan and sub-Saharan African migrants regularly attempt to [swim](#) to the Spanish enclaves of Ceuta and Melilla from neighbouring Moroccan ports. But a crossing even a hundred meters from the shore is risky. Four people drowned in March 2021.

Crossing into Ceuta stopped

Spanish and Moroccan authorities [stopped](#) around 60 migrants from crossing the border into the Spanish territory of Ceuta. According to local reports, it was the first such attempt in at least two years.

Migrants found dead off Canary Islands

Spain's coast guard has [found](#) 17 dead migrants on a boat off the Canary Islands, the country's local emergency services announced. Three survivors, two men and one woman, were transferred by military helicopter to a hospital on Tenerife.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.

MULTIMEDIA & EDITORIALS OF INTEREST

[First responders – what opportunities and obstacles face urban migrants and refugees?](#) - **Mixed Migration Centre**

The article highlights the role cities play in the migration process and in shaping the experience of migrants and sheds light on the challenges cities face in integrating migrants.

[Meet the ‘good Samaritans’ helping migrants in France](#) – **France24**

A report that tells the story of French people who are helping migrants in different ways.

RESEARCH OF INTEREST

[“See Migration Like Water”](#) – **IOM & FXB Center for Health & Human Rights at Harvard University**

The research aims to examine the challenges along migration routes within and through West and Central Africa. The findings shall be used for policy and programming recommendations.

[Migrant Protection and Assistance during Covid-19: Promising Practices](#) – **IOM**

This report highlights some of the main challenges that were faced since the beginning of the pandemic and some of the key innovative solutions that have been employed.

[Do Refugees Cause Crime?](#) – **Economic Research Forum**

The paper analyzes the impact of refugees on crime rates using the case of Turkey. It uses instrumental variables, Difference-in-Differences (DiD) and Staggered DiD methods to explain if the war-fleeing Syrian refugees pushed Turkey’s crime rates higher both in the short and the long-run.

[Urbanization, Informal Governance and Refugee Integration in Egypt](#) – **Baker Institute for Public Policy at Rice University**

The report explores the relationship between national policy, informal urban governance and migrant and refugee settlement in Global South cities through a case study of Cairo, Egypt.

[Quarterly Mixed Migration Update: North Africa](#) – **Mixed Migration Centre**

The report offers a quarterly update on new trends and dynamics related to mixed migration and relevant policy developments in the region. These updates are based on a compilation of a wide range of secondary data sources, brought together within a regional framework and applying a mixed migration analytical lens.