



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



The tragedy of migrants' attempting to cross the Mediterranean to Europe is starting to come into perspective as figures of the death toll during the first half of 2021 emerge. July also saw worldwide celebrations of the World Day Against Trafficking in Persons highlighting the importance of listening to and learning from survivors of human trafficking. Amidst the tragedies, however, the refugees Olympic team participating at Tokyo 2020 Olympic games brought inspirations and hope.

THE MEDITERRANEAN'S MIGRANTS TRAGEDY CONTINUES

Migrants' deaths in the Mediterranean are rising at an alarming rate. In the first half of 2021, the [IOM estimates](#) that at least 1,146 people died attempting to reach Europe by sea compared to 513 deaths in the same period last year. Spanish NGO Caminando Fronteras [said](#) that about 2,100 migrants lost their lives while attempting to reach Spain alone in the first six months of 2021, the highest figure since it began records in 2007.

The numbers kept on rising in July. At least [43 migrants](#) drowned in a shipwreck off Tunisia on July 3rd, another [17 Bengali migrants](#) drowned on July 21 in a shipwreck off Tunisia as they tried to cross the sea from Libya to Italy. Off the coasts of Libya, [20 migrants drowned](#) on July 21st and on July 26th another [57 migrants lost their lives](#). In Spain's Melilla, more than 230 migrants [managed to cross the Moroccan border](#) into the enclave.

Meanwhile rescue operation continue to save hundreds of lives. Moroccan navy [said it has rescued 344 migrants](#) in the Mediterranean and the Atlantic in several operations. Off Libya, the Libyan navy [has rescued 182 migrants](#) off its west coast. The Greek coast guard along with crews from four passing ships also [picked up at least 37 migrants](#) from a boat off Crete, while others were reported missing. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) [said](#) it is joining rescue operations starting August 2021 and has launched an emergency appeal to provide life-saving assistance to people in distress in the Central Mediterranean Sea.

MIGRANTS CONTINUE TO FACE HARSH CONDITIONS IN LIBYA

[A joint statement](#) by the African Union, European Union and UN Task Force has called on Libya "to end the current arbitrary detention system" for migrants. The statement expressed concerns over about 6,000 of the most vulnerable migrants and asylum seekers currently arbitrarily detained in detention centers by the Libyan authorities. "Severe overcrowding, lack of adequate facilities and provision of basic services, restricted humanitarian access and human rights violations result in unacceptable conditions for the men, women and children detained," the statement said.

WORLD CELEBRATES DAY AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS

Countries across the globe marked the World Day Against Trafficking in Persons on July 30th. IOM Director General António Vitorino said in a special [video message](#) on the occasion that "the fight against human trafficking is far from over." The UN Network on Migration called in a [statement](#) "on States to put victims and survivors at the centre of responses to this heinous crime and its related human and labour rights violations". United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and European Union highlighted in a [joint statement](#) the role of "international cooperation and comprehensive partnerships" in ending this crime. IOM and the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children (SRSG) [said in a joint statement](#) that "trafficking in persons, particularly children, remains a high-profit, low-risk crime and a more concerted effort is needed to fight it".

An INTERPOL-coordinated operation resulted in the arrest of 286 human trafficking and migrants' smuggling suspects, according to a [statement by INTERPOL](#).

MIGRANT ARRIVALS

GREECE

ARRIVALS TO GREECE BY SEA

87 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers [arrived](#) in Greece by sea in July. This figure represents a decrease of 10% in arrivals by sea from the previous month of June.¹

ITALY

ARRIVALS TO ITALY BY SEA

7302 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers arrived in [Italy](#) by sea in July. This figure represents an increase of 25% in arrivals by sea from the previous month of June.²

SPAIN

ARRIVALS TO SPAIN BY SEA

1891 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers [arrived](#) in Spain by sea in July, which represents a drop of 7% from figures of June.³

ARRIVALS TO SPAIN BY LAND

432 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers [arrived](#) in Spain by land in July, compared to 0 arrivals in June.⁵

IN OTHER NEWS

- IOM and the Sustainable Hospitality Alliance (the Alliance) [launched](#) a multi-year partnership to promote ethical recruitment and the protection of migrant workers in the tourism industry.
- Italian authorities [fear](#) that political developments in Tunisia may result in an increase in migrants arriving from Tunisia, with numbers potentially reaching up to 15.000.
- IOM [released](#) key highlights from its Return and Reintegration programmes, including trends, figures and initiatives and efforts to assist and reintegrate migrants returning voluntarily to their countries of origin during the past year.
- IOM [facilitated](#) the voluntary and safe return of 113 Gambian, Liberian, Sierra Leonian and Senegalese migrants (5 women, 87 men, 1 girl, 20 boys) from Algeria through two special return flights.

¹ Last seen the 03.08.2021.

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.

MULTIMEDIA & EDITORIALS OF INTEREST

REFUGEES INSPIRE DURING THE TOKYO OLYMPIC GAMES

The Olympic refugees' team has been an inspiration during the Tokyo 2020 games. UNHCR [highlights](#) the stories of its athletes, their struggles and their ambitions and their “exuberant” parade during the opening ceremony.

A NEW MIGRATION WAVE IS COMING, IS EUROPE READY FOR IT?

European governments are bracing for a new wave of migration as lockdowns ease and mobility increases, [according to Voice of America](#). However, European governments are yet to think of migration as a structural problem, rather than an emergency that can be dealt with through temporary arrangements, [writes Lorena Stella Martini and Arturo Varvelli for the European Council on Foreign Relations](#). A new policy is needed but not enough is being done to deliver, they say. Internal reforms of the migration policies and systems would reduce EU's reliance on external parties in controlling migration flows using it as a leverage, [according to the International Affairs Institute](#), an Italian private non-profit think tank.

Main challenges that face the adoption of new migration policies is the disagreements among EU members on the handling of asylum seekers as well as challenges dealing with transit and origin countries, explain Camino Mortera-Martinez and Luigi Scazzieri in [an article](#) for the Centre for European Reform. Daniel Thym, Professor of European and International Law and Director of the Research Centre Immigration & Asylum Law at the University of Konstanz in Germany, [explains](#) the problems of the legal complexities and shortfalls of the current EU laws governing migration.

VACCINATIONS FOR MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES IS KEY TO OVERCOME THE PANDEMIC

Xenophobia has prevented many refugees and asylum-seekers from getting their vaccination, however, getting these vulnerable groups vaccinated is key to achieve her immunity to restore the pre-pandemic life for everyone, according Faten Taki, Gunisha Kaur and Stephen Yale-Loehr's [editorial at The Hill](#).

Meanwhile, UNHCR [highlighted](#) the story of refugees in Lebanon and Jordan helping each other spread awareness and encourage their fellows to get vaccinated.

INTERVIEW: Joseph Teye, director of the Centre for Migration Studies at the University of Ghana and co-director of MIDEQ (Migration for Development and Equality) [speaks to The New Humanitarian](#) about the need for scholars from the Global South to rework the research agenda to talk more about the south-south migration.

TUNISIANS EMBRACING MIGRANTS IN MEDENINE

Despite economic hardships, Tunisians in the southern city of Medenine [are welcoming migrants](#) and providing them with much needed support.

VIDEO: Portraits of migrants in Libya prepared by IOM libya (Watch: [portrait 1](#), [portrait 2](#), [portrait 3](#))

RESEARCH OF INTEREST

[Global labour migration increases by five million -ILO](#)

A new ILO report estimates that between 2017 and 2019 the number of people migrating for work internationally increased from 164 to 169 million.

[Quarterly Mixed Migration Update North Africa, Quarter 2, 2021 – Mixed Migration Centre](#)

The QMMUs offer 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. Similar QMMUs are available for all MMC regions.

[Infographic - Migration flows: Eastern, Central and Western routes – European Council](#)

Data on irregular migrants' arrival to Europe through the Mediterranean.

[Future Scenarios for Global Mobility in the Shadow of Pandemic – Migration Policy Institute](#)

This report explores possible scenarios for what international mobility could look like in two to three years as an exercise to help national governments and international organizations think through the potential impacts of different policy choices and approaches to pandemic management. It also identifies critical questions to address in the coming months and years, such as: What tools should be used in conjunction with vaccines to safely reopen travel, given concerns that the uneven vaccine rollout will deepen existing inequalities in access to mobility? And how can countries better coordinate health screening requirements to minimize unnecessary duplication and costs to travelers?

[Time for a reset: Implications for child migration policies arising from COVID-19 – IOM](#)

Although children are less at risk of COVID-19 infection, millions of children – including migrant children – are nevertheless at heightened risk from the pandemic because of their precarious status. Authored by Jacqueline Bhabha, this paper uses available data sources, including crowd-sourced mobility data, media reports and anecdotal accounts, to conduct an initial assessment of the pandemic's impact on vulnerable migrant children and outline a number of policies that have been enacted to attenuate this vulnerability.

[Migrating and displaced children and youth in Tunisia: Profiles, Routes, Protection, and Needs – Mixed Migration centre](#)

There is limited research on mixed migration in Tunisia, and there is a particular dearth of data pertaining to the experiences of migrating and displaced children and youth. To help fill this gap, this study explores the profiles, routes, and vulnerabilities of migrating and displaced children and youth in Tunisia, drawing from more than 1,500 surveys with caregivers and youth, and additional key informant interviews with children, youth, caregivers, and service providers. Through its comprehensive analysis and recommendations, this study seeks to provide a stronger evidence base for practitioners and policy makers working in child protection both in Tunisia, and along mixed migration routes to Tunisia.

[Hunger And Covid-19 In Libya – IOM & World Food Programme](#)

Food insecurity in Libya remains a challenge for migrants and has been further exacerbated by the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19, which include job loss. The use of coping mechanisms to mitigate food shortages remains extensive among migrants and is intensified by a lack of access to social safety nets. This also indicates that many migrants are facing stress and insecurity as their budgets for food and other essential needs are stretched, which may impair their future ability to provide for themselves and deal with potential shocks.