



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



The death toll among irregular migrants trying to reach Europe continued to mount in June. Migrants surviving the trip across the Mediterranean are facing poor living conditions in overcrowded reception camps in Europe or are intercepted and returned to detention centers in Libya. The deteriorating situation has created an urge among various stakeholders to respond. Some European countries have called for more cooperation in handling migrants while other are tightening migration regulations.

MORE CAUSALITIES IN THE MEDITERRANEAN AS IRREGULAR MIGRANTS' FLOW CONTINUES

23 migrants were [reported dead](#), and 70 others were rescued off the Tunisian coast as they attempted to cross from Libya to Italy. [In another incident](#), 7 migrants died off the shores of the Italian island of Lampedusa after their boat capsized. Tunisian authorities also [rescued](#) 267 migrants on their way to Italy from Libya when their boat broke down. A couple of days later, Tunisian authorities [reported another two migrants dead](#) and rescued more than 170 others while taking the same route. On the other shore of the sea, the Italian island of Lampedusa saw the arrival of about 700 migrants in one day, 384 of them on board one fishing boat.

FACT: deaths in the Mediterranean from the 1st of January till the 4th of July have more than doubled compared to the same period last year. Recorded deaths have reached 866 so far this year, [according to IOM data](#).

...AND THE MOUNTING CAUSALITIES ARE MOBILIZING OFFICIAL EFFORTS FOR SOLUTIONS

The deteriorating situation has triggered responses from senior politicians. Italian Prime Minister Mario Draghi [said](#) his country cannot manage the migrants' arrivals alone and called for alternatives. Tunisian President Kais Saied [called](#) for fighting trafficking networks in Europe that "exploit" migrants and pointed to the positive contributions of skilled migrants.

The European Union is [banking on a new strategy](#) to deal with recent developments it said after the European Council meeting on June 24th. The novel approach, a "pragmatic, flexible and tailor-made" one, is based on intensifying partnerships with countries of origin and transit, as well as, tackling root causes, supporting refugees and displaced persons in the region, building capacity for migration management, eradicating smuggling and trafficking, reinforcing border control, cooperating on search and rescue, addressing legal migration while respecting national competences, as well as ensuring return and readmission. The EU has [mobilized EUR 20 million](#) in humanitarian funding to be provided in Algeria, Egypt and Libya to "support the most vulnerable people affected by the region's political and protracted crises."

CONCERNS OVER MIGRANTS' SAFETY IN LIBYA AMIDST INCREASING RETURNS

More migrants have been intercepted and returned to Libya so far this year more than those returned in all of 2020, [according to IOM spokeswoman Safa Msehli](#). The IOM and UNHCR [condemned in a joint statement](#) the act of returning migrants to Libya which they said "cannot be considered a safe place" as those returned "may be exposed to abuse and extortion" and others go missing. The harsh conditions of migrants in Libya [were also highlighted](#) by Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) which said it will suspend medical activities in two detention centers until further notice.

GREECE SEEKS TO TIGHTEN MIGRATION POLICIES

More migrants are leaving Greece than entering it, [according to official figures](#). The Greek government is [preparing a draft legislation](#) that tightens deportations and aims at reducing migration into the country.

MIGRANT ARRIVALS

GREECE

ARRIVALS TO GREECE BY SEA

97 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers [arrived](#) in Greece by sea in June. This figure represents a decrease of 14% in arrivals by sea from the previous month of May.¹

ITALY

ARRIVALS TO ITALY BY SEA

5840 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers arrived in [Italy](#) by sea in June. This figure represents an increase of 3% in arrivals by sea from the previous month of May.²

SPAIN

ARRIVALS TO SPAIN BY SEA

2036 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers [arrived](#) in Spain by sea in June, which represents a drop of 4% from figures of May.³

ARRIVALS TO SPAIN BY LAND

0 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers [arrived](#) in Spain by land in June, compared to 8187 arrivals in May.⁵

IN OTHER NEWS

- Mayors from more than 40 European cities came together in the "[From the Sea to the City](#)" conference on 25-26 June to discuss creating an alliance of cities and civil society that aims at welcoming migrants.

- IOM has called in a [statement](#) for more support to the families of irregular migrants who have lost their lives en route to Spain and whose bodies have gone missing. refugees and asylum-seekers have begun receiving COVID-19 vaccinations in 91 of the 162 countries monitored by UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency said in a [statement](#). UNHCR called on states to expedite the roll-out of vaccination campaigns and remove barriers that limit access to vaccines for the world's 82.4 million forcibly displaced people.

- IOM MENA Regional Office, the North Africa Mixed Migration Task Force (NAMMTF) in coordination with the UN Network on Migration [held a virtual consultation session](#) with academics from North Africa in preparation for the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) Continental Review for Africa.

1 Last seen the 05.07.2021.

2 Ibid.

3 Ibid.

4 Ibid.

MULTIMEDIA & EDITORIALS OF INTEREST

CHANGING THE WAY WE LOOK AT THE ISSUE OF MIGRATION

Calls for a new perspective on migration are building up. Catherine Woollard, Director of the European Council on Refugees and Exiles (ECRE), [urged](#) European countries to focus their work on conflict prevention which drives many people to flee their country and avoid externalization of the migrants' problem. DW's Harrison Mwilima also [suggested](#) that Europe should listen to African countries' perspective on migration and work with them to create a win-win situation. Katharine M. Donato, Amanda Carrico and Jonathan M. Gilligan sounded the alarm on [the need for legislations to adapt to climate change](#) as an important driver of migration to allow for protection for those impacted by it.

THE STORY OF THE DANGEROUS CROSSING OF THE MEDITERRANEAN TOLD FROM BOTH SHORES

Why would people choose to risk their lives for the second time trying to cross the Mediterranean from Libya? The Norwegian Refugee Council tells [the story of "Omar"](#) and his family and how desperate they are to leave Libya even if on board of one of these deadly boats. On the other side. The New Humanitarian tells [the story of Italian fishermen](#) who help rescue migrants crossing the sea, their motives, and the challenges they face.

VIDEO: A CLOSER LOOK ON RESCUE OPERATION IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

A video of a rescue operation by Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) published on Euronews. ([playback here](#))

TUNISIA BUILDS NEW CEMETERY FOR MIGRANTS

Southern Tunisian coastal town of Zarzis has [built a new cemetery](#) for migrants who lost their lives trying to cross the Sea to Europe. The new cemetery called Jardin d'Afrique, or Africa's Garden, was designed and created by the Algerian artist Rachid Koraichi. Sadly, the cemetery is filling up fast.

MIGRATION TO EUROPE FROM NORTH AFRICA SET TO RISE AS COVID-19 IMPACTS ECONOMIES

The Economist Intelligence Unit [predicts](#) that migration from North Africa will see an increase on the back of negative impacts of the Covid-19 crisis on African and Middle Eastern economies. Summer weather and ease of lockdown should boost irregular migration waves as well.

PHOTO: REFUGEES TAKE THEIR PORTRAITS AND TELL THEIR STORIES

Award-winning photographer Robin Hammond gave refugees the camera to take their own photos and tell their own stories. The result is a charming and beautiful "[One Thousand Dreams](#)" project.

[Migration Drivers and Decision-making of West and Central Africans on the Move in West and North Africa](#) – Mixed Migration Centre

Based on 2,083 surveys carried out with refugees and migrants surveyed in West and North Africa as part of the Mixed Migration Centre's 4Mi project, this paper seeks to contribute to the empirical basis for such a holistic migrant-centered approach by examining a variety of elements that factor into migration decision-making.

[Global Trends in Forced Displacement 2020](#) - UNHCR

The main focus of this report is the analysis of statistical trends and changes in global forced displacement from January to December 2020. The data presented are based on information received as of 30 May 2021 unless otherwise indicated.

[International Development Interventions and Migration Choices](#) - University of Birmingham

UK and European policymakers operating in West Africa should focus on the opportunities that young people and migration create for the region instead of simply trying to stop migrants travelling to Europe, a study by researchers at the University of Birmingham and Loughborough University as part of the MIGCHOICE project.

[Can Africa Help Europe Avoid Its Looming Aging Crisis?](#) - Center for Global development

The paper compares business as usual estimates of inflows to 2050 with the size of the labor gap in Europe. Under plausible estimates, business as usual will fill one-third of the labor gap. This suggests a need for an urgent shift if Europe is to avoid an aging crisis. Africa is the obvious source of immigrants, to mutual benefit.

[Preventing Statelessness Among Migrants and Refugee Children in North Africa: the Case of Egypt](#) - Center for Migration and Refugee Studies (CMRS)

The research focused on access to birth registration and consular assistance for migrants and refugees in Egypt and Morocco. covers the five largest refugee communities in Egypt: Syrian, Sudanese, South Sudanese, Ethiopian, and Eritrean communities as well as the Nigerian community as an example of West African migrant groups in Egypt.

USEFUL TOOL: [The Global Migration Data Portal](#) is a new dashboard featuring a series of tools to help policy makers, national statistics officers, journalists, and the general public gain access to the latest data on migration.