



## Monthly Trend Report

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

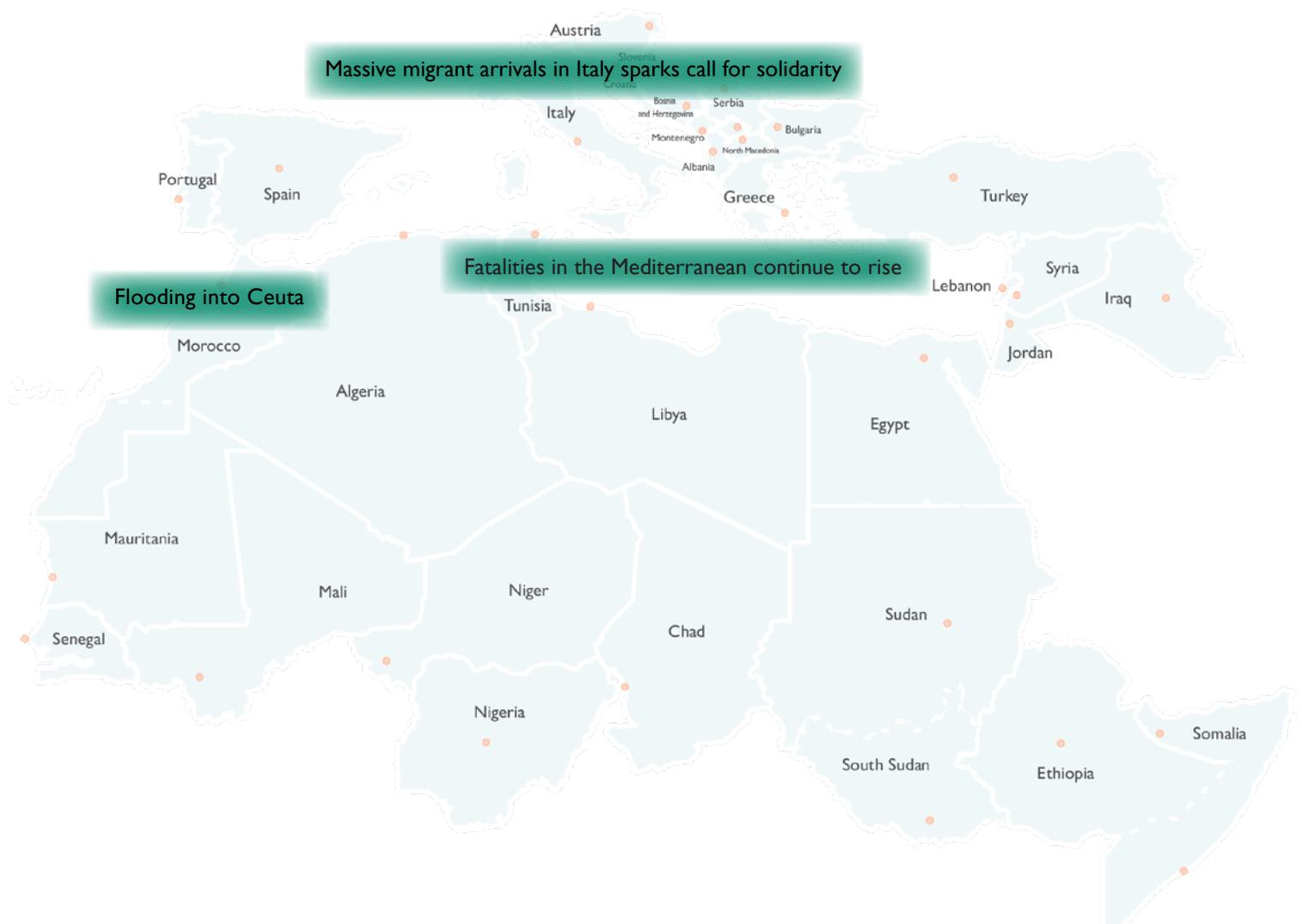
**About:** MHub is the regional knowledge hub and secretariat for the North Africa Mixed Migration Task Force, comprising of DRC, IOM, OHCHR, MMC, Save the Children, UNHCR, UNICEF and UNODC. It promotes a human rights-based approach to ensure the protection of people moving in mixed and complex flows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



**Massive irregular migration waves made the headlines during May as huge numbers of migrants trying to reach the borders of Europe cross the Mediterranean towards Italy or the borders with Ceuta from Morocco and many losing their lives in the process. The growing number of arrivals and casualties have put under the spotlight the efforts of handling and assisting migrants and the need for cooperation between countries of destination and transit countries to ensure their safety and wellbeing.**

### **FLOODING INTO CEUTA**

About [9,000 migrants](#), including hundreds of minors, swam around the border sea fence surrounding the Spanish enclave of Ceuta in Morocco and flocked into the beach. Thousands were eventually sent back to Morocco. While attempts to cross irregularly into Ceuta have become more common in the past years, the incident this month is unprecedented with regards to the volume of migrants' flow in this very short time span. IOM has called for giving priority to providing assistance to children involved.

The incident represented a shift in the situation of irregular migration in Morocco who has been active in preventing irregular migration with some migrants even seeking to settle in the country as the routes to Europe became [harder to reach](#).

### **MASSIVE MIGRANT ARRIVALS IN ITALY SPARKS CALL FOR SOLIDARITY**

Another big wave of Irregular migrants' arrival took place on Italian shores as about [2000 migrants](#) arrived at the Island of Lampedusa over the course of two days overcrowding migrants reception centres and urging the country to [appeal for solidarity](#) from other EU states.

Italy has received about [10,000 migrants](#) this year until May 4th before the recent mass arrival, triggering hopes of the [revival](#) of EU migrant burden sharing deal.

### **MEANWHILE, FATALITIES IN THE MEDITERRANEAN CONTINUE TO RISE**

As migrants continue to try to cross the Mediterranean to Europe, casualties are rising. Off the shores of Tunisia, 74 migrants were found dead in two shipwreck incidents ([here](#) and [here](#)). In Libya, 24 migrants lost their lives while attempting to cross the sea in two incidents ([here](#) and [here](#)).

Other migrants were luckier and were rescued from sinking boats. The Tunisian Navy rescued more than 151 migrants from sinking boats during the month of May ([here](#) and [here](#)). In Libya, [818 migrants were rescued](#) in the period between 25 April till May 1st, according to the IOM. In Greece, [170 migrants](#) were rescued off the southern Greek coast.

### **SEVERAL HUMANITARIAN ORGANIZATIONS ISSUED WARNINGS ABOUT THE SITUATION IN THE MEDITERRANEAN**

The mounting numbers of casualties lead the [UNHCR](#), [Norwegian Refugee Council](#) to issue warnings on the situation in the Mediterranean and called for more cooperation between European countries on the issue. Separately, The European commission and UNHCR [discussed](#) a proposal for improved and faster procedures throughout the asylum and migration system and in balancing the principles of fair sharing of responsibility and solidarity.

# MIGRANT ARRIVALS

## GREECE

### ARRIVALS TO GREECE BY SEA

73 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers [arrived](#) in Greece by sea in May. This figure represents a decrease of 64.4% in arrivals by sea from the previous month of April.<sup>1</sup>

## ITALY

### ARRIVALS TO ITALY BY SEA

4,862 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers [arrived](#) in Italy by sea in May. This figure represents an increase of 205% in arrivals by sea from the previous month of April.<sup>2</sup>

## SPAIN

### ARRIVALS TO SPAIN BY SEA

1,452 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers [arrived](#) in Spain by sea in May, which represents a drop of 10% from figures of April.<sup>3</sup>

### ARRIVALS TO SPAIN BY LAND

8,187 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers [arrived](#) in Spain by land in May, which represents a surge of 3475% from figures of April.<sup>5</sup>

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## IN OTHER NEWS

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- IOM, IOE, Business Advisory Group on Migration, and Business Africa [hosted the first consultation](#) with African private sector on GCM implementation and other migration issues. The outcomes of the consultation will feed into the continental review for Africa that is planned July 2021.
- IOM and Japan [launched a project](#) to support about 30,000 persons in communities affected by conflict and displacement in West Darfur, North Darfur and South Kordofan.
- UNODC and the Egyptian government [organized](#) the first training session for labour inspectors on effective identification and referral of victims of human trafficking and other vulnerable population. Also in Egypt, IOM and the Federation of Egyptian Industries started an initiative to [provide apprenticeship](#) for 100 participating migrants focusing on vocational training and on the job skills training.
- [160 Bangladeshi migrants](#) returned home bio the IOM's Voluntary Humanitarian Return (VHR) programme.

1 Last seen the 31.05.2021.

2 Last seen the 31.05.2021.

3 Ibid.

4 Ibid.

# MULTIMEDIA & EDITORIALS OF INTEREST

## **VIDEO: MIGRANTS' PERSPECTIVES**

IOM produced an [animation video](#) (2:36 minutes) describing the journey of crossing the Mediterranean through the perspective of stories told by migrants. Africanews.com produced another [video report](#) (2:31 minutes) about the perspective of migrants in Tunisia seeking to cross the Mediterranean to Europe and the challenges they face.

## **CELEBRATING REFUGEE MOTHERS**

UNHCR celebrated Mother's Day with [stories of refugee and forcibly displaced mothers](#) around the world who have shown love, ambition, and courage to achieve a better life for their children and themselves despite the challenges.

## **FROM REFUGEE TO FUTURE STAR FOOTBALLER?**

France 24 highlighted [the story of Ebrima Darboe](#), a child refugee who arrived in Italy alone 4 years ago and now plays football with Roma club. Darboe, 19 years old, played against English side Manchester United at a Europa League fixture.

## **EVALUATING EUROPE'S TACKLING OF "ROOT CAUSES" OF AFRICAN MIGRATION**

Migration Policy Institute's Tessa Coggio [discusses in an editorial](#) the record of Europe in dealing with the "root causes" of migration from Africa to Europe. The article attempts to show the shortcomings of ongoing European policies in this regard and suggests alternative policies that would be more efficient in controlling irregular migration.

# RESEARCH OF INTEREST

## **[Beyond Networks, Militias and Tribes: Rethinking EU Counter-Smuggling Policy and Response - EuroMeSCo](#)**

The study examines EU counter-smuggling programmes and strategies, documenting and improving the understanding of their impacts not only in North Africa and the Sahel, but in EU policy and law enforcement circles. Relying on field-based research and other empirical sources, it also provides evidence-based understandings of the dynamics present in the facilitation of irregular migration – including those shaped or impacted by the COVID-19 emergency – and the current challenges faced by migrants in transit and in need.

## **[Safe Pathways for Refugees II – UNHCR & OECD](#)**

OECD-UNHCR Study on Third-country Solutions for Refugees: Admissions for family reunification, education, and employment purposes between 2010 and 2019.

### [EU Strategy on Voluntary Return and Reintegration: Crafting a Road Map to Better Cooperation with Migrants' Countries of Origin – MPI](#)

This policy brief explores the ways in which origin- and destination-country priorities on returns diverge, opportunities for cooperation where their interests align, and possible next steps for building on the principles outlined in the EU strategy.

### [Promoting fair and ethical recruitment in a digital world: Lessons and policy options – IOM & ILO](#)

The study reviews how technology can promote fair and ethical recruitment. Despite the major disruption to international recruitment that the COVID-19 pandemic represents, international recruitment will resume, and in some cases has already restarted by governments and business globally, though the challenges of ensuring fair and ethical recruitment will likely exacerbate as a result of the pandemic.

### [Observatory on Smuggling of Migrants – UNODC](#)

The UNODC Observatory on Smuggling of Migrants is a pilot project to assess the characteristics, drivers and impacts of migrant smuggling in rapidly changing contexts. The Observatory collects and disseminates data, information and analysis on smuggling of migrants. The information is gathered through regular field research in origin, transit and destination countries, with people on the move, law enforcement, civil society, and other key actors. This is complemented with targeted surveys with people on the move and migrant smugglers in origin and transit countries.

### [“Lethal Disregard” Search and rescue and the protection of migrants in the central Mediterranean Sea - OHCHR](#)

This thematic report aims to highlight how certain laws, policies and practices related to search and rescue (SAR) and the protection of migrants at sea have negatively impacted the human rights protection of migrants transiting through Libya

### [2020 Mobility Overview in the East and Horn of Africa and the Arabian Peninsula – IOM](#)

The report aims to provide an overview of the main population movement trends in the East and Horn of Africa region (EHoA) in 2020. Home to an estimated population of 331 million, of which 42 per cent are under the age of 15, the region hosted 6.2 million international migrants at mid-year 2020.

### [Global Report on Internal Displacement 2021 – IDMC](#)

The report discusses the relationship between climate change, disasters, and displacement, and presents good practices from across the globe in advancing policy, displacement risk reduction and effective response.

### [World Migration Report 2020 \(interactive\) – IOM](#)

A new edition of the report that presents key data and information on migration as well as thematic chapters on highly topical migration issues in an interactive way.