



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

Tens of migrants lose their lives attempting to reach European shores

The world marks International Migrants Day



2021 ended on a tragic note with a number of deadly migrants' boats incidents in the Mediterranean. 2021 has been a challenging year for migrants that saw many lives lost, many went missing, and many more displaced or living in dire condition in detention camps or unsuitable places. The year also ended with a celebration of the International Migrants Day with calls for more international cooperation and coordination to improve the status quo for migrants and harness the benefits of migration.

TENS OF MIGRANTS LOSE THEIR LIVES ATTEMPTING TO REACH EUROPEAN SHORES

In one week, 160 migrants died off the coast of Libya during their trip to Europe, [according to the International Organization for Migration \(IOM\)](#). The bodies of another 28 migrants [have washed up](#) on Libya's western coast after their boat sunk later in December. This brought the total of deaths in the Central Mediterranean Route alone to 1,500 this year until December 25th, [according to IOM figures](#).

Off Greek coasts, a series of [migrants boats accidents](#) resulted in the death of at least 30 migrants. In Tunisia, authorities [rescued](#) 78 migrants and retrieved the body of another after their boat sank.

Meanwhile rescue operations continued. Moroccan authorities [rescued](#) 352 migrants off the country's coasts. Spanish police also [rescued](#) 105 migrants who were adrift at sea in a small boat between the Canary Islands and the West African coast. German migrant rescue charity Sea-Eye said one of its boats [had picked up](#) 223 migrants near Malta. Another German charity vessel carrying 440 migrants rescued at sea [docked](#) in Italy.

In Morocco, Authorities [arrested](#) 188 irregular migrants south of the country and [prevented](#) 30 Moroccans from entering irregularly the Spanish enclave of Ceuta in the North. Authorities [said](#) they have arrested in 2021 more than 12,000 people trying to leave the country irregularly and dismantled 150 smuggling networks.

Pope Francis [described](#) the migrants crisis a "shipwreck of civilization" during a visit to migrant camps in Greece. Some migrants are facing extreme hardships. Spokesperson for the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights expressed in a [statement](#) concerns over a series of forced expulsions of asylum-seekers and other migrants in Libya. The Danish Refugee Council (DRC) [called](#) for a calm and proportional response at the European Union's external borders.

Some migrants are so desperate to secure a better future in Europe as seen in an incident where a one-year-old boy, believed to [have been sent by his parents](#) to make the dangerous Mediterranean crossing alone, has made it safely to the Italian island of Lampedusa. A report by the Tunisian National Institute of Statistics [found](#) that nearly one in five of those polled, aged 15 and older, said they would like to emigrate. Italy, a top destination for migrants is seeking solutions. Italian Foreign Minister Luigi Di Maio [discussed](#) migration with Tunisian President Kais Saied. Italian Prime Minister Mario Draghi [said](#) that Italy cannot control migration flows alone and that more participation from all European countries is required in this matter.

...THIS WAS A TRAGIC CONCLUSION FOR A HARD YEAR ON MIGRANTS

2021 was a tough year for migrants. It was a year that saw many migrants' crisis, increasing hardships for migrants and people on the move, and alarming numbers of deaths during migration across the world. A United Nations' [report](#) looks back at the highlights of 2021 which saw more than 84 million people forced from their homes by November.

According to IOM, migrants' death toll in 2021 has [surpassed](#) 4,470 deaths as of the 10th of December, surpassing the 4,236 total recorded in 2020. The Danish Refugee Council and six other civil society organizations documented 12,000 incidents of migrants pushback in the European Union in the period from January to November 2021, it said in a [statement](#). The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) [called](#) for a stronger commitment to support people on the move during their journey, not only once they have managed to reach their planned destination – if they ever do.

THE WORLD MARKS INTERNATIONAL MIGRANTS DAY

Celebrations of the International Migrants Day on December 18th saw calls for more solidarity and cooperation to improve the conditions of migrants. IOM's Director General Antonio Vitorino called in a [statement](#) governments to move from words to action and include migrants regardless of their legal status, in their social and economic recovery plans and for reinforcing legal channels for migration. UNODC'S Executive Director Ghada Waly [called](#) on countries to redouble their commitment to safe, regular and dignified migration. The Regional United Nations Network on Migration for the Arab States [called](#) on the international community to step up efforts and strengthen collective action to protect lives, reduce vulnerabilities and maximize the tangible and potential benefits of safe, orderly and regular migration.

The United States' Secretary of State Anthony Blinken said in a [statement](#) his country recognizes the rights, contributions, and struggles of migrants, and reiterated the United States' commitment to support safe, orderly, and humane migration around the world. The Egyptian Foreign Ministry [said](#) that Egypt is proud to host 6 million migrants and refugees and is keen to provide them with decent life just as Egyptian citizens.

MIGRANT ARRIVALS

GREECE

ARRIVALS TO GREECE BY SEA

65 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers [arrived](#) in Greece by sea in December¹. This figure represents a drop by 10% in arrivals by sea from the previous month of November.

ITALY

ARRIVALS TO ITALY BY SEA

4,084 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers arrived in [Italy](#) by sea in December². This figure represents a fall of 57% in arrivals by sea from the previous month of November.

¹ Last seen the 1.10.2022.

² Ibid.

SPAIN

ARRIVALS TO SPAIN BY SEA

3,043 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers [arrived](#) in Spain by sea in December³, which represents a decrease by 17% from figures of November.

ARRIVALS TO SPAIN BY LAND

48 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers [arrived](#) in Spain by land in December⁴, a decrease by 84% compared to arrivals in November.

IN OTHER NEWS

- With escalating violence displacing thousands of people since November, the humanitarian situation in Sudan's Darfur is getting worse and around 6.2 million people will need humanitarian assistance next year, [UN agencies reported](#).
 - The UN Network on Migration [launched](#) the Global Compact on Migration (GCM) pledging initiative, calling on all states, stakeholders and the UN system to make tangible commitments towards our shared migration goals, within the framework of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.
 - Nearly 300 children, including Egyptians, refugees, and migrants, [participated](#) in a special edutainment celebration of Children's Day in Cairo. The event was held in partnership with the National Council for Childhood and Motherhood, the Ministry of Social Solidarity, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and with the generous contribution from the United States' Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration.
-

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.

MULTIMEDIA & EDITORIALS OF INTEREST

A CLOSER LOOK AT THE TRAGEDY OF THE ATLANTIC ROUTE

The Atlantic Route from African shores to the Spanish Canary Islands has made headlines in 2021 with high migrants' deaths toll it saw. However, the tragedy is deepened for the relatives of those migrants who aren't confirmed to be dead, the missing migrants. AFP [spoke](#) to migrants on the Atlantic route and to civil society organizations and other stakeholders to bring the issue of missing migrants in focus (a [video](#) report of the story was published as well). AFP also [highlighted](#) the efforts of Spanish rescuers working on helping migrants stranded in the sea and when they arrive.

THE HORRORS OF MIGRATING TO EUROPE THROUGH THE MEDITERRANEAN THAT GO IGNORED

Europe seems to be ignoring the migrants' tragedy happening at its borders, argues Ranvir S. Nayar in [an article](#) for Arab News. But the problems in the Mediterranean that Europe is ignoring are set to intensify as climate changes will drive more and more migrants to take the perilous journey through the Mediterranean, [writes](#) Ian Urbina at the Los Angeles Times.

For migrants, the dangers of the trip may include slavery like what was experienced by [Ali](#) from Bangladesh, or kidnapping as Asharq Al-Awsat [reports](#) or being stuck at very poor conditions and trying to escape in risky ways like what Mostafa [describes](#) to the BBC. Children aren't spared from these hardships and must be protected, calls Anita Bay Bundegaard, the director of Save the Children Europe, in an [article](#) in Euronews.

MIGRANTS SHOW THE TRUE VALUE OF MIGRATION

Fiona Servaes, advocacy and Campaigns Officer on Refugee and Migrant Rights at ASEAN Parliamentarians for Human Rights (APHR) based in Thailand, supports parliamentarians on migrant issues in the region. A migrant herself, she wants to [change the narrative](#) on migration to one that shows that there is a lot that we can learn from each other.

In Egypt, Tasneem, a Syrian refugee, [expresses](#) her feelings of gratitude to her "second home" and says she wants to repay Egyptians for their hospitality before she can go home in Damascus and rebuild the country. In Egypt also, and at a time of a pandemic, refugees are helping. [Al Capitol](#) is an Egyptian medical supply factory built in 2020 to produce face masks in response to a surge in coronavirus cases. It began employing local South Sudanese refugees, many of which fled to Egypt to seek asylum. The factory now provides education, legal recourse and consultation to asylum seekers.

PHOTOS: AP published a [photo gallery](#) showing special moments for migrants in 2021.

THE POTENTIAL AND CHALLENGES OF INTRA-AFRICAN MIGRATION

African are migrating within Africa more than they leave the continent. But the story of inter-African migration is very different. [DW](#) brings migration within the continent into the spotlight.

RESEARCH OF INTEREST

[African Migration Trends to Watch in 2022](#) - The Africa Center for Strategic Studies

The push-pull forces driving African migration continue to intensify, portending expanding African migration within and off the continent in 2022.

[Comparative Reintegration Outcomes between Forced and Voluntary Return and Through a Gender Perspective](#) – IOM

This report presents the outcomes of two combined research projects: 1) “Comparative reintegration outcomes in forced and voluntary returns”, and 2) “Understanding and implementing gender-sensitive sustainable reintegration”. The aims of these projects were to study differences in reintegration outcomes between forced and voluntary returnees, and male and female returnees in various return contexts and by identifying other factors that affect reintegration outcomes at the individual, community and structural level.

[The link between economic growth and emigration from developing countries : does migrants' skill composition matter?](#) – European University Institute

Employing various panel-data approaches, the paper investigates the relationship between income per capita and emigration to OECD countries separately for three different skill groups – low-skilled, medium-skilled and high-skilled emigrants. Findings reveal a universal negative association between income per capita and emigration for all three skill groups and across specifications. This implies that policy makers should not be too concerned about potential trade-offs between (successful) development cooperation and immigration management at least in the short to medium run that our analysis covers. At the same time, the scope for using development cooperation as a migration policy instrument is limited due to the modest size of the estimated income effect.

[4Mi snapshot: Corruption and the role of state officials in human smuggling in West Africa and North Africa](#) – Mixed Migration Centre

This snapshot seeks to better understand the role of state or public officials (police, military, accommodation or detention centre staff or visa, passport or other immigration officials), within the process of smuggling, by examining the types of officials, their countries and their activities. It draws upon interviews conducted with smugglers and with refugees and migrants in Burkina Faso, Libya, Mali, Niger and Tunisia.

[Global Migration Indicators 2021](#) – IOM

This report provides a snapshot of international data across a range of migration topics that are relevant to policymakers, the public and others. This overview of key migration trends is of particular importance due to not only the migration-related aspects of the Sustainable Development Goals and the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, but also the very real risk of migrants being “left behind” due to the many challenges linked to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in early 2020.

