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

Deaths continue in the Mediterranean and Atlantic waters

Migrants are taking less popular routes in extraordinary ways to reach Europe

IOM launches its World Migration Report 2022
November showed how far desperate migrants are willing to go to reach Europe in the most unexpected ways and less beaten routes despite the dangers of the trip, whether it is crashing off a plane on a runway or cramming inside a luxurious sailing boat. Meanwhile deaths and rescue operations continued at the deadly Mediterranean and Atlantic routes to Europe. IOM also launched in November its World Migration Report.

DEATHS CONTINUE IN THE MEDITERRANEAN AND ATLANTIC WATERS

The waters of the Mediterranean and the Atlantic continued to claim lives of migrants desperate to reach European shores in treacherous trips. Off the Libyan coast over 75 migrants drowned after departing from Libya according to 15 survivors rescued by fishermen and brought to Zwarā, according to IOM. Libyan Red Crescent recovery teams retrieved the bodies of four people from a beach near Sabratha in a separate incident. Another 10 migrants suffocated to death after they were crammed in the lower deck of a boat, according to Medecins Sans Frontiers (MSF).

On the Atlantic Route to Spain’s Canary Islands, four Moroccan migrants were reported dead. Another eight migrants were found dead near the Spanish Islands.

Hundreds of irregular migrants were rescued or intercepted throughout November. Off the coasts of Morocco authorities rescued more than 300 migrants aboard several boats and arrested 230 migrants, mostly from Sub-Saharan Africa, South of Morocco as they headed towards the Canary Islands.

Off the Tunisian coasts, Tunisian Navy rescued 487 migrants from an overloaded boat. Tunisian authorities also intercepted 200 migrants seeking to reach European shores. In neighboring Libya, authorities intercepted and returned 280 migrants aboard five boats and another 307 migrants in different operations. According to IOM, 30,990 migrants were returned to Libya from the beginning of the year till November 27th. 506 migrants lost their lives and 807 went missing while trying to cross the sea to Europe during the same period.

Italian authorities rescued 550 migrants from stormy waters off Calabria. In a separate incident, a video showed a dramatic rescue operation by Italian authorities off Lampedusa Island. Italy also allowed a boat carrying 800 migrants to dock in Sicily. According to Italian Interior Minister Luciana Lamorgese, more than 59,000 migrants and refugees arrived in Italy so far this year through the Mediterranean.

Europe saw 160,000 irregular migrants’ arrivals in the first ten months of 2021, 70% higher than 2020, according to European Border and Coast Guard Agency (FRONTEX). 55,000 of these arrivals came through the Central Mediterranean route.

The rising arrivals were met with various responses among European countries. Italian president Sergio Mattarella called on EU and Africa to do more and collaborate on the issue of migration. Péter Szijjártó, Hungary’s minister of foreign affairs and trade, said that the EU should launch a comprehensive financial and technical programme to support the North African and Middle-Eastern countries in defending their borders. Morocco’s ambassador in Geneva, Omar Zniber, said that his country “works with its European and African partners to enshrine concretely the principle of a shared responsibility and solidarity.”
IOM LAUNCHES ITS WORLD MIGRATION REPORT 2022

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) published its flagship World Migration Report 2022 which revealed a dramatic increase in internal displacement due to disasters, conflict and violence at a time when global mobility ground to a halt due to COVID-19 travel restrictions. IOM’s Director General António Vitorino gave a special video message on the occasion.

The report is available here. Also, an interactive version of the report that allows users to explore and interact with key data in a highly visual and engaging way is available here.

VIBES OF HOPE FOR STRANDED MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES IN LIBYA AS EVACUATIONS RESUME

Migrants and refugees in Libya have been living in dire conditions in detention centers. Now with the resumption of evacuation and repatriation flights, hope in a better future is returning to them. UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, evacuated 93 asylum seekers to Italy from Libya. This group of evacuees, the first of 500 under a new mechanism for humanitarian admissions, includes children, women at risk, survivors of violence and torture, and people with serious medical conditions. The first evacuees expressed feelings of relief.

IOM repatriated 91 migrants to Niger in the second flight of its kind after a suspension that lasted for two years. UNHCR also evacuated 172 vulnerable asylum-seekers out of Libya to safety in Niger.

MIGRANTS ARE TAKING LESS POPULAR ROUTES IN EXTRAORDINARY WAYS TO REACH EUROPE

Migrants are crossing the sea from Turkey to Calabria in Italy aboard sailboats to avoid detection by authorities. However, despite the luxurious look of the boats they are travelling in, they experience hard conditions during their journey as they are crammed together with insufficient food and water supplies, the migrants said.

In Mallorca in Spain, a plane heading from Casablanca in Morocco to Istanbul in Turkey saw 21 passengers running off across the runway and escaping the airport after the plane landed because a medical emergency was reported. The incident raised questions on the new ways migrants are using to reach Europe.

MIGRANT ARRIVALS

GREECE

ARRIVALS TO GREECE BY SEA

516 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers arrived in Greece by sea in November. This figure represents a drop by 28% in arrivals by sea from the previous month of October.

ITALY

ARRIVALS TO ITALY BY SEA

9,517 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers arrived in Italy by sea in November. This figure represents a rise of 34% in arrivals by sea from the previous month of October.

2 Ibid.
ARRIVALS TO SPAIN BY SEA

3,666 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers arrived in Spain by sea in November³, which represents a decrease by 34% from figures of October.

ARRIVALS TO SPAIN BY LAND

293 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers arrived in Spain by land in November⁴, a surge of 1072% compared to arrivals in October.

IN OTHER NEWS

- IOM Director General António Vitorino encouraged international cooperation and an evidence-based approach to border management-related responses like travel restrictions and domestic mobility controls at his speech at IOM’s 112th annual Council meeting.

- The Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the United Nations in Egypt launched the Joint Platform for Migrants and Refugees, a platform that aims at enhancing coordination, ensuring better delivery and mobilizing resources to realize long term, sustainable development gains for migrants, refugees, asylum seekers and their host communities.

- The European Union and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) provided the Moroccan General Directorate of National Security (DGSN) with equipment to support the judiciary police specialized unit as part of the regional project “Dismantling Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling Criminal Networks in North Africa.”

- Libya and Niger signed a memorandum of understanding that seeks to protect migrant workers through effective work visa issuance before employment and to better respond to Libya’s labour market needs.

³ Ibid.
⁴ Ibid.
THE TRAGEDY OF MIGRANTS AT THE DEADLY ATLANTIC ROUTE
This summer saw a surge in migrants crossing the Atlantic towards Spain’s Canary Islands. DW’s report brings to focus how the treacherous route has left many migrants dead and how estimates of the casualties by international organizations and humanitarian groups are probably below the actual figures as many incidents go unnoticed. The New York Times’ podcast tells the story of Martín Zamora, a 61-year-old father of seven, who works on identifying the bodies of migrants and takes them home to their families.

REFUGEE CAMP DESTROYED BY FLOODS LEAVES HUNDREDS IN NEED OF ASSISTANCE
Alganaa refugee camp in Sudan’s White Nile State has been submerged by flood waters, leaving 35,000 South Sudanese refugees in need of urgent assistance. Refugees who lived in the camp spoke to UNHCR about their struggle after they lost their new homes.

TOWARDS A NEW PERSPECTIVE AND A NEW RESPONSE TO INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION
Yossi Mekelberg, professor of international relations and an associate fellow of the MENA Program at Chatham House, argues in an article at Arab News that migration from less affluent to more affluent countries is a complex phenomenon that is multifaceted. He makes the case for how governments and societies need to open their eyes to the benefits of migration and how they can overcome the challenges it brings. He also makes a call for welcoming migrants instead of seeing them as a threat.

FROM A SMUGGLED MIGRANT TO AN ADVOCATE OF ALTERNATIVES TO IRREGULAR MIGRATION
Augustine Blessing Eguvwese took the trip from his home in Nigeria, crossing the Sahara with other victims of migrants’ smuggling, to find a better life. Instead, he faced a lot of hardships. In Niger, he enrolled in one of the entrepreneurship classes that IOM offers to migrants at its transit centre and then returned home to start an online radio station warning against the dangers of irregular migration and advocating for safer alternatives.
Hidden hardship of an unnoticed workforce: The economic lives of refugees and migrants in Tunisia – Mixed Migration Centre

Refugees’ and migrants’ skills are often under-valued due to a lack of access to the formal Tunisian labour market. Their contributions to the Tunisian economy and its development remain largely invisible and unrecognized. What are their economic situations today? In which sectors do they work and contribute to the economy? What are their specific points of vulnerability and what are possible solutions to improve their lives?

This study provides: An updated overview of the economic situation of refugees and migrants in Tunisia, including their access to the labour market and their contribution to the local and national economy; Recommendations for the Tunisian authorities (national and local), international organizations, civil society and researchers.

Global Humanitarian Overview 2022 – UNOCHA

The Global Humanitarian Overview is the world's most comprehensive, authoritative and evidence-based assessment of humanitarian needs. It aims to fight hunger, killer diseases, gender-based violence and displacement, through plans that prioritize those who need help the most.

The Impact of COVID-19 on the EU’s Mediterranean Migration Policies: The Case of Libya – Mixed Migration Centre

This report in partnership with the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) examines the impacts of COVID-19 on EU migration policies and procedures in the Mediterranean and investigates how the latter affected the conditions and experiences of refugees and migrants in Libya, focusing particularly on those attempting to cross the Mediterranean from Libya during the outbreak of COVID-19.

The findings seek to provide European policy-makers with evidence to inform their migration policies and procedures in the Mediterranean, while taking into consideration the impact that international policies have on the lives and mobility of refugees and migrants.

Unsafe and Undignified: The forced expulsion of migrants from Libya – OHCHR

The report aims to highlight the human rights impacts of migrants being forcibly returned from Libya. The report is part of a wider project by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) seeking to identify, document and analyze human rights violations and abuses as well as protection gaps impacting migrants in Libya and the neighboring region and to formulate recommendations to relevant governments and other stakeholders, aimed at ensuring compliance with international human rights law and standards.

2021 Mid-Year Trends report – UNHCR

UNHCR’s 2021 Mid-Year Trends report reflects on the first six months of this year, providing key statistics and figures on refugees, asylum-seekers, internally displaced persons and stateless persons, as well as their main host countries and countries of origin.
Mixed Migration Review 2021: reframing human mobility in a changing world – Mixed Migration Centre
The global context is rapidly changing and with new conflicts, new public health threats, new levels of environmental stress, and changing trends and perceptions around human mobility, now is the time to reframe mixed migration through the lens of different themes in one volume. The 2021 edition of MMC’s annual flagship report, the Mixed Migration Review, offers: a comprehensive annual analysis of mixed migration, this year through the lens of “reframing mixed migration” and a platform for different voices in the migration debate, a debate in which there are no easy answers.

Infographic - Migration flows: Eastern, Central and Western routes – European Council
Data of irregular arrivals to Europe from 2015 up to November 2021.