



## 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, RMMS, Save the Children, UNHCR 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, 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



### CONTACT

info@mixedmigrationhub.org



www.mixedmigrationhub.org



For updates on the Horn of Africa, visit [RMMS](#)

## REGIONAL

**EU proposes common asylum system**

- On 13 July the European Union put forth a [proposal](#) to create a common asylum procedure in order to discourage those waiting for refugee status from moving within the bloc. The new system would create standardised refugee reception facilities and set common rules on residence permits and healthcare, as well as access to jobs and schools. The plan stipulates that refugees will only be formally [resettled](#) in Europe from countries that agree to take back irregular migrants. Some EU officials and human rights organisations criticised the proposals, saying that they would make it more difficult for refugees to resettle in Europe, while making it easier to expel new arrivals.

**Migrants seek new routes and destinations**

- Europe's tough borders have prompted migrants, refugees and asylum seekers to seek alternative routes and destinations. A bottleneck of Africans seeking to go to the United States and Canada has reportedly formed in [Central America](#) – more specifically in Nicaragua and Costa Rica.

**Europe falls short in relocations and resettlement**

- By 13 July, only 3,056 people had been relocated from Greece and Italy under the temporary [emergency relocation](#) programme of September 2015, which had set a target to relocate 160,000 by September 2017. Under the EU-Turkey deal, 804 Syrians have been resettled since 4 April, falling far behind on the 54,000 places promised to Syrians out of the total allocation of 160,000.

**Doubts raised over lifespan of EU-Turkey deal**

- A failed coup attempt in Turkey on 15 July has thrown the EU-Turkey deal into question. Turkey's foreign minister announced that the country may [walk away](#) from the agreement if the European Union fails to grant Turkish citizens visa-free travel by October 2016. The EU has expressed hesitation in granting visa-free travel this year due to Ankara's post-attempted coup crackdown, which has included roundups of more than 35,000 people and allegations of torture.

**Deaths in Sahara may outnumber those in Mediterranean**

- A [report](#) released in June under the RMMS initiative 4mi suggests that African migrants may be dying in greater numbers in the Sahara Desert than in the Mediterranean. Witness testimonies collected by the migration tracking initiative indicate that thousands may be perishing in the desert, never reaching North African shores. Sickness and lack of medicine, starvation, vehicle accidents, shootings, stabbings and sexual abuse were among the most commonly reported causes of death.

**Anti-smuggling efforts in Europe**

- There were a number of successful attempts to curb human trafficking and smuggling this month. On 25 July it was announced that [seven](#) members of a 25-member people-smuggling ring were arrested in Austria and Hungary. Separately, on 6 August four [suspected smugglers](#) were arrested in Italy, Hungary and Slovenia. In order to provide support to anti-smuggling efforts in the Central Mediterranean, [NATO](#) announced on 9 July that it would provide support to the EU's Operation Sophia in patrolling the waters between Libya and Italy. Critics lamented that the step signified a step towards further militarisation of the migrant crisis.

**UN to focus on migration in upcoming General Assembly meeting**

- On 2 August the UN drafted an [outcome document](#) on refugees and migrants, which will serve as the basis for the 71st session of the UN General Assembly in New York in September. While the document sets out principles for protecting refugee rights, the agreement lacks an enforcement mechanism and has been criticised for reinforcing the status quo and failing to create a new protection framework for those on the move.

**Regional migration-related events**

- From 2-3 August, Cairo held the [Arab Regional Consultative Process on Migration](#) in preparation for the High-Level Plenary Meeting on Addressing Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants, to be held by the UN General Assembly in September. A Joint Communiqué was adopted, containing the perspectives of Arab States on root drivers of migration, components for the global compacts on refugees and priorities for international cooperation. Representatives of various international organisations, including UNHCR, IOM, the IFRC and World Bank met with the EU for the second [Berlin Roundtable on Refugees and Migration](#) on 12 July, and made agreements regarding cooperation on data and information-sharing, increasing efforts to inform those on the move of the risks of migration, and promoting education for refugees and migrants. [UNESCO](#) held a conference on 'Migration for Sustainable Development: Social Transformations, Media Narratives and Education' in which experts discussed how the media and civil society could contribute to create more tolerance in societies affected by migration.

# EGYPT

## Departures from Egypt

- Between January and July 2016, approximately 3,047 Egyptian nationals arrived to Italy by sea. This is a stark comparison to the same period in 2015, during which time there were just 692 Egyptian arrivals. While some of these Egyptians may have departed from Libya, the growth in Egyptian arrivals suggests that there is certainly an increase in departures from Egypt. [Media reports](#) have suggested that the rise in flows out of Egypt can be attributed to growing instability in Libya; nonetheless Libya remains the principal departure point for those taking the sea route to Europe.

## Boat crossing attempts

- As trends suggest Egypt may be becoming the new [‘gateway’](#) to Europe, there were several attempted crossings in July thwarted by Egyptian authorities. On 10 July the Egyptian Navy reportedly intercepted a boat carrying 143 people of various nationalities bound for Europe. The next day, [179 migrants](#), refugees and asylum seekers were found on a fishing boat off the coast of Alexandria and transferred to Abu Qir port. On 5 August, security forces in Alexandria conducted a raid and arrested [225](#) irregular migrants and three smugglers who were allegedly preparing to travel by sea to Italy, according to a news report. The majority of those apprehended were of Egyptian, Sudanese, Eritrean and Somali nationalities.

## Detentions of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers

- Between 1 and 15 July, it was reported that 329 foreign nationals were arrested in 5 incidents of irregular departure from Egypt’s North Coast, bringing the total number of foreign nationals detained for attempted departure from the North Coast in 2016 to 2,845 in 78 incidents. Thus far in 2016, the majority of those detained in the North Coast are Sudanese and Somali, followed by Eritreans and Comorians, and a total

of 52% of detainees are registered refugees or asylum seekers. 28 UASC were detained in July, bringing the total number of detained UASC in 2016 to 271.

## Egyptian attempted departures

- Egyptian nationals are also detained for attempting to depart the North Coast, however these numbers are difficult to access. It has been observed that Egyptian Unaccompanied and Separated Children (UASC) are frequently detained on the North Coast along with foreign nationals. Egyptians are one of the top nationalities among the approximately 11,650 UASC arriving to Italy this year, along with children from Gambia and Eritrea.

## Syrian registrations increasing in Egypt

- It is significant that very few Syrians have been among those detained for attempting to depart from the North Coast, making up less than 1% of detainees in 2016 compared with 15% in 2015, and 45% in 2014. While Syrians are no longer departing from Egypt’s north coast in any significant numbers, Syrian registrations in Egypt are on the rise, including newly arrived Syrians crossing the border from Sudan.

## Desperation among asylum seekers in Egypt

- [During a protest](#) on 26 July outside the UNHCR office in 6th October City, Cairo two male Oromo asylum seekers from Ethiopia [set themselves on fire](#). The two were hospitalized, but an Oromo woman who had attempted to help them later died of her injuries. More broadly, the situation of vulnerable migrants, refugees and asylum seekers in Egypt has deteriorated, as IOM has observed a [spike](#) in 2016 of those requesting immediate financial, health and protection services, as well as assisted voluntary return to their country of origin.

# LIBYA

## Maritime Incidents

- 967 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers were [rescued](#) off the coast of Libya throughout July in 9 separate incidents, while [286](#) were reported dead or missing. Additionally, more than [120 bodies](#) washed up along the shores of Sabratha in western Libya during the month. Most were identified as originating from sub-Saharan countries, although 23 were reportedly Tunisian.

## Guineans repatriated from Libya

- On 14 July, [173 stranded](#) Guinean migrants, refugees and asylum seekers were voluntarily repatriated. Many of the group had spent months in Abu Sleem detention centre under difficult conditions, including a lack of food and water in the centre.

## West African representatives visit detention centre in Tripoli

- On 8 August, representatives of seven West African embassies [visited](#) the Salah al Dein detention centre in Tripoli, which

hosts an estimated 350 West African irregular migrants. During the visit, 330 detainees requested voluntary return services to their countries of origin.

## Abuses and exploitation in Libya

- Reports continue to surface on the abuse and exploitation faced by migrants, refugees and asylum seekers in Libya. Some people, having made the crossing from Libya to Italy stated that their experiences in Libya were so traumatic that they would rather [die at sea](#) than return to Libya. These accounts are buttressed by [MHub’s latest research findings](#) from Italy. Of the 175 respondents surveyed between 3 March and 28 July, 64% witnessed the death of a travel companion; of which 42% of cases were in Libya. Moreover, upon arrival to Libya many respondents said that they were forced to work under the threat of violence and in some cases were ‘sold’ to patrons. 48% noted that they were compelled to reconsider their intended final destinations due to these difficulties.

# MALI

## Malian refugees and returnees

- As of 31 July, there were [134,336](#) Malian refugees, a slight increase from 133,888 recorded at the end of June. Of these, 60,818 are residing in Niger (45.3%); 41,459 in Mauritania (30.9%); and 32,059 in Burkina Faso (23.9%). The number of Malian refugee returnees reached 24,243 by 12 August, marking an increase of 5.5% from 22,982 at the end of June. Additionally, [325 Malians](#) were voluntarily repatriated from Niger in July.

## Workshop to strengthen humanitarian capacity

- A [workshop](#) was conducted in Mali by IOM in order to increase the capacity of government and humanitarian actors in managing displacement in emergency situations. The 27 participants received information on counter-trafficking and smuggling, as well as protection training.

## Possible boat departures from Morocco coast

- It was reported on 31 July that Spain's maritime rescue service [saved](#) 74 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers from three separate boats in the Mediterranean Sea, near the

southeast coast of Spain. Based on the location of the boats, it is likely that they departed from Morocco.

# NIGER

## Decreased flows through Niger

- Data collected by the IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) suggests that incoming and outgoing flows through Niger [are slowing](#). By 25 July 34,231 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers were recorded as having departed the country that month, marking a 40% decrease compared to June. A similar 41% decrease in incoming numbers was also observed, from 23,882 in June to 14,049 in July. The majority of those transiting through Niger were on the move toward Libya, with Nigeriens, Nigerians and Gambians constituting the top nationalities along this route. Significant numbers of Nigeriens, Malians and Cameroonians were also recorded on the outgoing route to Algeria.

## 3,000 new arrivals request to return home

- Between 30 June and 10 August, an estimated 3,000 new arrivals to Niger requested voluntary return services from IOM transit centres. During the same period, 411 migrants were provided with assistance to return to their country of origin – the majority to Senegal, Guinea Conakry, Guinea Bissau, Mali and Cameroon.

## European Council extends EUCAP mission in Niger

- On 18 July, the Council of the European Union voted to [extend](#) its EUCAP Sahel Niger mission until July 2018 and allocated

EUR 26.3 million for the coming year. The mission's mandate was also adapted to assist Nigerien authorities and security forces in developing policies and techniques to better control irregular migration. EUCAP was originally established in 2012 in order to strengthen Niger's security capabilities in the fight against terrorism and organised crime.

Niger: Outgoing and Incoming Flows



# SUDAN

## Sudan reports arrival of 7,000 South Sudanese due to renewed fighting

- [Renewed fighting](#) this month between the South Sudanese government and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-in-Opposition (SPLM-IO) has resulted in displacement and many casualties. By 2 August, the conflict had caused 60,000 people to flee from their homes into neighboring countries. While the majority (52,000) have fled to Uganda, Sudan has received 7,000 and Kenya 1,000. Additionally, [1,473](#) of the 3,000 Sudanese citizens that had expressed desire to leave Juba were evacuated to Sudan by 18 July.

## Sudan and Europe cooperate to stem migration flows

- As a part of a larger effort to stem migration flows to Europe, a series of cooperative exchanges have occurred between Europe and the Government of Sudan. A legislative [proposal](#) put forth by the European Commission in early July recommended that funds initially allocated for development in partner countries, including Sudan, be diverted to to border control and other migration management activities. Furthermore, on 3 August, the Italian Chief of Police and his Sudanese counterpart signed a [Memorandum of Understanding](#) on cooperation in areas such as "illegal" immigration, human trafficking and organised crime. These efforts come amid reports from the Sudanese Rapid Support Forces that 600 Ethiopian migrants, refugees and asylum seekers were arrested in Sudan near the Libya-Egypt border; however the time period was unspecified. The RSF were deployed to north Sudan in June 2015 to respond to government concerns over drug and human trafficking.

## Crises in North Darfur

- Displaced populations residing in camps in North Darfur continue to face difficulties. [Four women and girls](#) between the ages of 13 and 21 were reportedly raped by a gang of militia while collecting firewood north of Sortony camp on 24 July. Furthermore, 45 new cases of [acute jaundice](#) were reported in Sortony in late July due to inadequate water supply, hygiene and sanitation facilities.

## Displaced men detained in Central Darfur

- A [campaign](#) by security authorities to round up and detain displaced men residing in Central Darfur camps took place on 31 July, days after a visit from the US Special Envoy to Sudan. The displaced men were [reportedly](#) still being held days later.

## Organisations withdrawing from Yida Camp, South Sudan

- According to a news report, humanitarian organisations operating in South Sudan's Yida refugee camp, home to displaced communities from South Kordofan, are [phasing out services](#) due to a relocation program that would see 70,000 residents relocated to new sites.

## Children dying of malnutrition in South Darfur

- Two Sudanese children taking refuge in Lobe, South Darfur died of [malnutrition](#) on 21 July. They are members of a community of 2,500 people who fled government attacks in February, and are now suffering from deteriorating humanitarian conditions.

## 30,000 South Sudanese to be relocated from Khor Omer camp

- It was announced in late July that 30,000 South Sudanese residing in Khor Omer camp in East Darfur would be [relocated](#) to a new site. The camp had become overcrowded with the arrival of an estimated 55,000 South Sudanese in East Darfur since January 2016.

## Eritrean refugees resettled from Sudan to Italy

- As a part of the Italian refugee resettlement quota system, 48 Eritrean refugees were [resettled](#) from Sudan to Italy during the last week of July. The 12 families were provided with reintegration services upon their arrival in Italy.

## TUNISIA

### 'LEMMA' project launched to manage migration

- An EU-funded [project](#) to support Tunisian institutions on migration and mobility, entitled 'LEMMA' was launched on 26 July. Through greater collaboration between Tunisian and

European partners, the three-year project aims to strengthen the capacity of Tunisian authorities to manage labour mobility and migration.

## GREECE

### Increasing sea arrivals to Greece

- July saw the arrival of [1,920](#) migrants, refugees and asylum seekers by sea to Greece, representing a 24% increase on June figures (1,554). Of the 3,728 newly detected\* arrivals, the majority were of Albanian (21%), Pakistani (21%), Syrian (17%), Afghani (9%), Algerian (4%), Iraqi (4%), Bangladeshi (3%) and Iranian (3%). While the Greek migration minister noted in early August that the [EU-Turkey](#) deal to stem migration flows has thus far largely held, authorities were alarmed to see that [more journeys](#) were being made across the Aegean Sea in the aftermath of the failed coup in Turkey on 15 July.

### Greece records deaths along Eastern Mediterranean route

- Following two months with no recorded fatalities, Greece recorded [7 deaths](#) along the Eastern Mediterranean route in July. During an [incident](#) that occurred on 13 July, two children were among four bodies pulled to shore after their boat departing from Turkey sank in the Aegean Sea. Departures from Turkey to Greece continue, with 33,396 individuals reportedly [intercepted](#) while attempting to make the crossing between January and July 2016; 68% of those intercepted were reportedly Syrian and 20% Afghani.

### Deteriorating camp conditions and escalating tensions

- As of 27 July there were [57,182](#) migrants, refugees and asylum seekers stranded in Greece. Tensions continue to rise in light of long waiting periods and camp conditions. Local [attacks](#) and threats targeting both migrants and aid workers were reported on 9 July on the Greek island of Leros. On 14 July an Afghan man [died](#) after a brawl with other Afghan migrants in Elliniko centre. Separately, [protests](#) broke out in Diavata camp on 28 July as residents demanded better health care services following the death of a Syrian woman due to heart failure. Conditions have deteriorated to such a state that on 26 July, the Greek Centre for Disease Control and Prevention called for the [closure](#) of reception centres after inspections revealed that they posed a public health risk.

### Camp closures

- Due to issues of overcrowding and the bottleneck of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers, it was reported on 17 July that the Greek government was planning to [close](#) most of the country's reception centres in order to make way for smaller sites with better conditions. The [evacuation](#) of Piraeus Port in Athens which had been underway for more than three months, was completed on 27 July and the remaining occupants transferred to organised camps.

### Pre-registration exercise ends

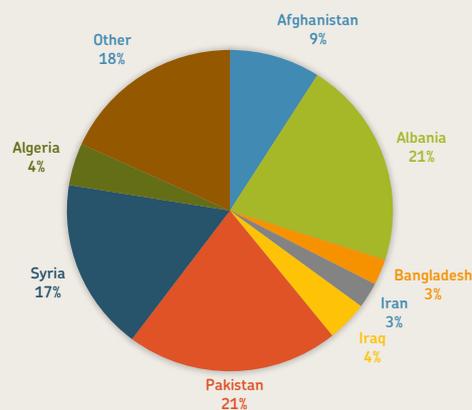
- On 28 July, the Greek Asylum Service [ended](#) its pre-

registration exercise, which had begun in early June. Its purpose was to speed up the family reunification and relocation processes and prioritise vulnerable cases. By mid-July, 524 unaccompanied and 426 separated children were [identified](#) during pre-registration, according to UNHCR data.

### Concerns raised over treatment of unaccompanied minors

- In a [report](#) released on 19 May, Human Rights Watch claimed that Greek authorities continue to detain migrant and asylum-seeking children in crowded and unsanitary police cells for prolonged periods of time. Conditions for children are so dire that many reportedly choose to [run away](#), according to Greek shelters.

Newly Detected\* Migrants, Refugees & Asylum Seekers, Main Countries of Origin, July 2016



\*Includes new arrivals and those that have been recently identified by Hellenic Police.

Arrivals by Sea, Greece May - July 2016



## Returns and relocations

- In July, 75 people of Pakistani, Iraqi and Iranian nationalities requested [assisted voluntary return](#) (AVR) services from IOM Greece. Between 14 July and 11 August, 524 people were

relocated from Greece to other European countries as part of the EU relocation programme. The majority went to France (289), the Netherlands (100) and Finland (56). The remainder were relocated to Romania, Lithuania and Estonia.

## ITALY

### Slight increase in arrivals, decrease in fatalities along Central Mediterranean route

- 23,552 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers [arrived to Italy by sea](#) in July compared with 22,371 in June - marking a 5.3% increase in arrivals. Nearly the same amount of arrivals (23,186) were recorded in July 2015. Fatalities along the Central Mediterranean route decreased by 46.4% from 388 in June to [208](#) in July. The Italian Coast Guard continued to conduct search and rescue operations, bringing over [8,300](#) people to Italian ports in the last week of July alone.

### Italy concerned about possible ISIL involvement in migrant flows from North Africa

- With continued sea arrivals from Libya, Italian authorities began investigating whether [ISIL](#) is involved in organising the passage of people across the Mediterranean to Italy. Suspicion of ISIL's involvement come amid fears that militant groups are taking advantage of Libya's precarious security situation to smuggle themselves into Europe.

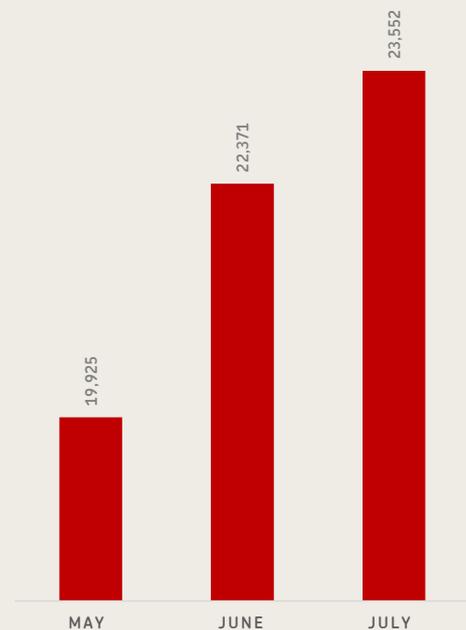
### Italian authorities dismantle smuggling networks

- In one of the biggest operations to date, the Italian police announced in late July that it had [broken up](#) a criminal ring which had smuggled at least 100 people - mainly of Syrian origin - from Milan to other European countries between September and October 2014. Despite these efforts, concerns have arisen over the estimated thousands of unaccompanied minors who have [disappeared](#) from the island of Sicily at the hands of smuggling networks. Prosecutors believe that the mafia has infiltrated these networks in order to exploit the migrant crisis

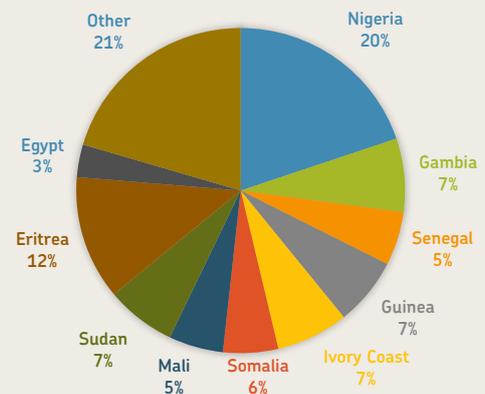
### Protection issues

- Migrants, refugees and asylum seekers in Italy continue to face a number of protection issues. On 5 June an Eritrean asylum seeker who had fled Boko Haram was [attacked](#) by an Italian man and died a day later from his injuries. Separately, Médecins Sans Frontières drew attention to the 'inadequate' reception centres in Italy, noting that it overlooks those who suffer from [mental health disorders](#). Additionally, Human Rights Watch reported later in the month that Italy is illegally [returning](#) unaccompanied migrant children to Greece. This is despite the fact that both Italian and international law prohibit the removal of unaccompanied children unless it is determined to be in their best interest.

Arrivals by Sea, Italy  
May - July 2016



Arrivals by Sea to Italy, Main Countries of Origin  
January - July



## RESEARCH OF INTEREST

### Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration: 2015 Key Highlights - IOM

This report provides an overview of voluntary return and reintegration assistance trends at the global and regional levels.

### The Human Trafficking and Other Exploitative Practices Prevalence Indication Survey - IOM

An analysis of interviews conducted with 3,075 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers traveling along the Central and Eastern Mediterranean routes between May and August 2016 on responses to human trafficking and other exploitative practices indicators.

### **Going to Europe the 'Whatsapp Way' - Regional Mixed Migration Secretariat (RMMS)**

A briefing paper on the use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) and social media in contemporary mixed migration flows to Europe.

### **Performing the Human: Refugees, the Body, and the Politics of Universalism - Refugee Studies Centre, University of Oxford**

A paper exploring the conflict between the representation of refugees as the pure embodiment of humanity and the efforts to dehumanise them through 'othering'.

### **Revisiting Moroccan Migrations - Mohammed Berriane, Hein de Haas and Katharina Natter (eds)**

This book explores how emigration and increasing immigration is transforming Moroccan society.

### **Managing the Unmanageable? Understanding Europe's Response to the Migration 'Crisis' - Heaven Crawley**

This piece argues that the European response to the migration crisis is a crisis of political solidarity.

### **Understanding and Addressing Public Anxiety About Migration - Migration Policy Institute**

A report that analyses the factors that have caused increased public anxiety toward migration and offers policy strategies on how to address them.

### **Health, Migration and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development - Overseas Development Institute**

An overview of health-related challenges faced by international migrants.

### **Neglected Trauma - Médecins Sans Frontières**

Médecins Sans Frontières presents the findings of its investigative study on the mental health needs of asylum seekers and their access to local services, conducted between July 2015 and February 2016 in three Italian provinces.

### **Voices of Refugees - BBC Media Action**

This study examines the information needs and communication behaviors of refugees at different points along their journey.

### **If We Leave We Are Killed - IOM South Sudan**

IOM South Sudan presents its lessons learned from Protection of Civilian (PoC) sites in South Sudan over the past two years.

## MULTI-MEDIA OF INTEREST

### **Exodus: Our Journey to Europe - BBC Two**

This three-part documentary follows refugees as they document their journey to Europe.

### **You've Been Denied Asylum in Europe. Now What? - Here & Now**

In this podcast episode, spokesperson for the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) discusses what happens to those who are denied asylum.

### **The Path: A Documentary on Human Trafficking in Egypt - IOM Egypt**

A film illustrating the various forms of human trafficking in Egypt, including sexual exploitation, forced labour and organ trafficking.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **Migrating Out of Poverty: From Evidence to Policy - 28 & 29 March 2017, London**

This international conference hosted by the Migrating out of Poverty Research Programme Consortium will be gathering scholars, practitioners and policymakers to explore the patterns of mobility and how they shape migration and globalisation. The conference invites papers and multimedia contributions on a variety of migration themes. [Submit](#) abstracts by 15 September 2016.

### **Lost in Migration: Working Together in Protecting Children from Disappearance - 26 & 27 January 2017, Malta**

Missing Children Europe and the Maltese President's Foundation for the Wellbeing of Society are bringing together key stakeholders in order to prevent disappearance and address the need for better protection of migrant children. The conference invites proposals for workshops focusing on the need for a coordinated child protection approach. [Submit](#) proposals by 16 September 2016.