



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



The month of September saw several reported cases of missing and dead migrants attempting to reach European shores, as well as, continued search and rescue operations amid concerns over the conditions of detention centers in Libya. Also, September saw Greece inaugurating a new camp for migrants on the island of Samos.

TENS OF MIGRANTS DIE WHILE CROSSING THE WATERS FROM AFRICA TO EUROPE, HUNDREDS MORE INTERCEPTED

Hundreds of migrants are continuing to make the perilous journey to Europe despite the rising tally of dead and missing migrants losing their lives during the trip reaching alarming levels. In the “Atlantic Route” between African coasts and Spain’s Canary Islands 785 people, including 177 women and 50 children, had died or disappeared so far this year, [according to IOM](#). August was the deadliest month with 379 lives lost – accounting for nearly half of the total number of deaths recorded this year. In all of 2020, 850 migrant deaths were recorded on this route. In the first eight months of 2021, 9,386 people have arrived in the Canary Islands by sea, a 140% increase over the same period in 2020 (3,933).

Spanish coast guards [rescued in one day](#) more than 220 persons on a boat heading to the Canary Islands while Moroccan navy [rescued 58 persons](#) taking the same route. [22 bodies were recovered](#) while dozens went missing from among a boat seeking to reach the Spanish Islands early in September.

Elsewhere in Spain, Bodies of eight Algerian and Moroccan migrants, including a child, [have been found on Almeria beaches](#). In the Spanish enclave of Melilla, [a record 700 migrants](#) attempting to jump off the border fence from Morocco were stopped by Moroccan authorities. In the other Spanish enclave of Ceuta, over 21 Moroccans [were intercepted](#) when they tried to escape Ceuta heading towards Spain.

In Italy, [686 people docked on the island of Lampedusa](#) in the single biggest arrival of migrants in Italy in years. The Italian coast guard [has rescued another 125 migrants](#) who took refuge on the rocky edge of a tiny uninhabited island after one of their boats sank near Lampedusa island. In the first eight months of 2021, 39,410 refugees and migrants arrived in Italy by sea, compared to 19,339 in the same period last year, [according to UNHCR data](#). In August 2021, 10,286 refugees and migrants reached shore in southern Italy, compared to 5,326 and 1,268 in 2020 and 2019 respectively.

...MEANWHILE IN LIBYA, INTERCEPTIONS AND DETENTIONS ARE ON THE RISE DESPITE CONCERNS OVER DETENTION CONDITIONS

Two vessels [rescued around 190 Europe-bound migrants](#), including women and children, off the coast of Libya. Interceptions off the Libyan coast in what is known as the “Central Mediterranean Route (CMR)” have been on the rise. According to IOM spokesperson Safa Msehli, [more than 24,000 people were intercepted this year](#), out of whom roughly 6,000 are in arbitrary detention. 455 migrants died and 660 others went missing so far this year on the CMR, [according to IOM data](#). The International Rescue Committee [has called for the immediate release](#) of those migrants intercepted and detained citing abuses at these detention centers. Médecins Sans Frontières [said](#) it resumed providing medical care at three detention centers in Libya after receiving assurances that certain basic conditions would be met.

GREECE INAUGURATES NEW MIGRANT CAMP

Greece [opened](#) a new holding camp for migrants on the island of Samos, the first of similar camps to follow. The new camp dubbed a “closed controlled access center” and built to house 3,000 people, is said to have better facilities than the old camp on the edge of the island’s main town and [has already started receiving migrants](#). EU is funding this “[new generation](#)” of reception centers as it seeks to respond to calls by member states for support in handling migrant flows.

UNHCR, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the European Network of National Human Rights Institutions (ENNHRI) have shared with the Greek government a set of “[Ten Points](#)” to guide the creation of an Independent National Border Monitoring Mechanism in the country.

..THIS COMES AS EUROPE SEEKS TO COME TO TERMS WITH MIGRANT FLOWS

According to Frontex, the European Border and Coast Guard Agency, the number of “illegal border crossings” at Europe’s external borders in the first eight months of 2021 [reached](#) over 103 630, 64% more than the total from a year ago when various COVID-19 restrictions were in place. The European Court of Auditors (ECA) [said in a report](#) that Inefficiencies in the EU’s system for returning illegal migrants to their countries of origin is encouraging more people to make the trip to Europe rather than prevent them.

In France, the government [said](#) it will reduce the number of visas issued to people in North Africa because governments there are refusing to take back migrants expelled from France. While in Italy, a court [handed](#) former mayor of Riace in southern Italy, Domenico Lucano, famed for aiding migrants, 13 years in jail on charges that include “abetting illegal immigration”. In contrast, Spain’s The Cepaim Foundation [launched](#) a campaign that journalists and the media can join to show their commitment to being key agents in the fight against hate speech, racism and xenophobia in Spain.

MIGRANT ARRIVALS

GREECE

ARRIVALS TO GREECE BY SEA

129 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers [arrived](#) in Greece by sea in September¹. This figure represents a decrease by 76% in arrivals by sea from the previous month of August.

ITALY

ARRIVALS TO ITALY BY SEA

6,919 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers arrived in [Italy](#) by sea in September. This figure represents a decrease of 33% in arrivals by sea from the previous month of August.²

SPAIN

ARRIVALS TO SPAIN BY SEA

7,924 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers [arrived](#) in Spain by sea in September, which represents a rise by 103% from figures of August.³

ARRIVALS TO SPAIN BY LAND

39 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers [arrived](#) in Spain by land in September, a drop of 61% compared to arrivals in August.⁴

1 Last seen the 10.10.2021.

2 Ibid.

3 Ibid.

4 Ibid.

IN OTHER NEWS

- IOM issued its [Internal Displacement Data Strategy 2021–2025](#) outlining a high-level course of action over the next five years for IOM to enhance its internal displacement data operations. IOM also launched a [new dataset](#), in cooperation with Microsoft, on human trafficking, as well as, a [new toolkit](#) for migrant centre administration.
 - Flash floods and heavy rains in Sudan left about 314,000 affected and 15,000 homes destroyed, according to [data](#) released by United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. The crisis also [impacted South Sudanese refugees](#) who found themselves homeless again.
 - The United Nations Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement [released](#) its report on the status quo of internal displacement "Shining a Light on Internal Displacement: A Vision for the Future". The report calls for national solutions and for governments to take a development-oriented approach. A copy of the report is available [here](#).
 - UNHCR [launched its 2021 Education Report](#) "Staying The Course: The Challenges Facing Refugee Education", highlighting the stories of young refugees around the world as they try to keep learning in an era of unprecedented disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The report also warns that two thirds of refugee youth might never get to secondary school
 - Lancet Migration and the Geneva Centre of Humanitarian Studies [established](#) "Lancet Migration European Regional Hub" to carry on research, engagement, dissemination of research, and advocacy.
 - IOM and the League of Arab States (LAS), in coordination with the Regional COVID-19 Task Force on Migration and Mobility, [organized a webinar](#) which discussed responses in the Arab Region to the COVID-19 pandemic, the vaccine rollout programs and the inclusion of migrants, refugees and people on the move.
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MULTIMEDIA & EDITORIALS OF INTEREST

STORIES OF THE HEROES SAVING STRANDED MIGRANTS IN THE MIDDLE OF THE SEA

Rescue NGOs and volunteers play a critical role in rescuing migrants stuck on their boats in the middle of the sea. Reuters' Juan Medina [describes the scenes](#) aboard "The Astral" rescue ship affiliated with Spanish charity organization "Proactiva Open Arms" and the migrants they save. Similarly Associated Press' Samy Magdy [tells the story](#) of a rescue operation by "Geo Barents", a rescue vessel operated by the charity "Médecins Sans Frontières".

PERSONAL PERSPECTIVES OF TUNISIANS WHO TOOK OR ARE SEEKING TO TAKE THE SEA JOURNEY TO EUROPE

Irregular migration from Tunisia to Europe across the Mediterranean has been on the rise lately. But for Chamseddine Marzoug, a Tunisian migrant rights activist, it was a surprise to see his wife and two grandchildren suddenly disappearing one day leaving a message to him that [they took a boat bound to Italy](#). He never expected his closest ones taking the perilous trip to Europe without telling him. However, under economic pressure many Tunisians are seeking their way to Europe on similar journeys out of desperation. The Guardian [puts in focus](#) the frustration felt by workers in the waning Tunisian tourism industry and how the only way out they see is crossing the waters to Europe.

A LOOK BACK AT THE STATUS QUO OF MIGRATION IN 2021

2021 has been a year when migration made the headlines several times. The National news website compiled [6 charts](#) that explain the current major themes of migration. Reuters also [compiled a list](#) of major incidents related to migration up till now this year.

AS EUROPE FACES INCREASING MIGRANTS' FLOWS, WHAT DO THE LAWS ACTUALLY SAY?

Irish news website "The Journal" [reviewed](#) the current state-of-play with regards to rules governing migration and residency in Europe. The UK's House of Commons published on its website [an article](#) examining the legality of pushing back migrants.

VIDEO: A closer look at how the Italian island of Lampedusa is dealing with migrants' flows? ([watch here](#))

...ALSO IN ITALY, a cheerful [story](#) by the Guardian looking at how street art is helping young migrants in the country.

SOUNDING THE ALARM ON THE IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGES ON MIGRATION

216 million people in six regions around the world could move within their countries by 2050 because of climate change, according to a recent World Bank report. In an [article](#) published on its website, the Washington DC-based institution sheds light on the issue and calls for action to cut global greenhouse gas emissions and to ensure inclusive and resilient development. The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights also [demanded](#) migration paths for 'climate refugees'

RESEARCH OF INTEREST

[Middle East And North Africa — Tracking Mobility Impact: Point Of Entry Analysis: September 2021 – IOM](#)

This Middle East and North Africa (MENA) report summarizes mobility restrictions at airports, land, and blue border crossing points resulting from the mitigation measures implemented in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

[Families of Missing Migrants: Their Search for Answers and the Impacts of Loss – IOM](#)

This report synthesizes the main findings of qualitative research conducted between April 2019 and March 2021 by IOM's Missing Migrants Project about the challenges and experiences of families of missing migrants in Ethiopia, the United Kingdom, Spain and Zimbabwe. The report describes the ways in which families search for answers, the challenges they face in doing so, and the overlapping impacts of the absence of their missing loved ones.

[Migration Policies of North African Countries Towards Third Country Citizens -EuroMedMig](#)

This policy paper summarizes the Tunisia National Workshop held online on 11 November 2020. The purpose of this workshop was to analyze the migration policies applied by North African third countries to nationals of other third countries in the region, and in their southern neighborhood, (i.e nationals of Africa South of the Sahara). The objective is to understand the underlying logic of these policies and to understand how they coincide, or not, with those of European migration policies towards third country nationals in general and those of North African countries in particular.

[A Pandemic of Exclusion The impact of COVID-19 on the human rights of migrants in Libya - OHCHR](#)

This report aims to elucidate the main human rights risks that migrants faced and continue to face, primarily in Libya and in some situations of transit to and from Libya during and as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic between March 2020 and June 2021.

[Lived Experiences of African Migrants Crossing the Strait of Gibraltar to Europe: A Cross-Cultural Approach to Healthcare from a Qualitative Methodology – MDPI](#)

The migratory flow from the African continent to Europe is intense and the European countries should apply a humanitarian, health and social response to this emerging problem. Migrants coming from Africa to Europe are a very vulnerable population. Healthcare professionals should be prepared for answering their needs from a transcultural approach, which requires a better understanding of this phenomenon. Thus, the aim of this study was to improve nursing and healthcare professionals' awareness and better understanding of migrant life experiences during the migration journey.