



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, 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, 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



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

REGIONAL

2016 deadliest year on record for migrants

- A number of maritime incidents in November saw 2016 become the deadliest year on record for refugees, migrants and asylum seekers making the crossing to Europe. The total number of deaths across all routes has reached 4,699 in 2016, which is an increase of 1,125 on last year's figures for the same period, when 3,565 men, women and children were reported to have died. In a particularly deadly spate, [IOM reported](#) that between 15-18 November, around 350 people went missing and are presumed dead across six or more separate incidents in the Mediterranean. IOM Italy spokesperson Flavio Di Giacomo, [said that the toll](#) included dozens who died on a rubber dinghy found by a Doctors Without Borders (MSF) ship. Twenty-seven people were rescued, but they told rescuers that more than 130 had been on board when it sank.

European arrivals

- [IOM reported](#) that 350,573 migrants and refugees had entered Europe by sea in the first 11 months of 2016, arriving mostly in Greece and Italy, and also to Spain and Cyprus. This represents a significant reduction on 2015 January-November figure of 883,393.

Relocation and resettlement

- Between 8 November and 6 December, 1,237 people were [relocated](#) from Greece and Italy to other EU member states under the [September 2015 scheme](#). This brings the total number of persons relocated so far to 8,612 (6,212 from Greece and 1,950 from Italy). This represents a significant increase on the numbers relocated from Italy during October. Under the July 2015 resettlement scheme, a total of 13,887 of the 22,504 allocated places had been [resettled](#) as of 6th December. A record number of people have been resettled this month, with 2,035 people being resettled, mainly from Turkey, Jordan and Lebanon.

Joint Statement to European Union on protecting children in migration

- 78 United Nations agencies, intergovernmental organisations, international and national civil society organisations in light of this year's European Forum on the Rights of the Child dedicating its focus to protecting children in migration. The statement, '[Children cannot wait: 7 priority actions to protect all refugee and migrant children](#)', was attributed to a broad range of organisations who are calling for a comprehensive and rights-based approach to all refugee and migrant children.

UN launches record aid appeal for Sahel region

- U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) has [launched](#) a \$2.7 billion humanitarian appeal for countries of the Sahel region - the semi-arid band stretching from Senegal to Chad. Around \$1 billion of this will go to Nigeria to assist some 7 million people affected by Boko Haram. The region faces acute crises, with militant groups, climate change, and food shortages, forcing many people to leave their homes. [Nigeria](#) is the main country of origin for migrants arriving in Italy by sea this year with 36,352 Nigerians recorded as having crossed from Libya in January-November 2016, up from 20,171 in the same period last year.

ALGERIA

Fire kills 18 in camp

- On 24th of November, a fire killed 18 and injured 35 in a [camp](#) housing around 650 African migrants, refugees and asylum seekers in Ouargla, 800 kms southeast of Algiers. The

Red Crescent believes that the fire was caused by an electrical fault. The nationalities of those who died is unknown.

EGYPT

Maritime inspection officials face trial for Rashid boat case

- [Two maritime inspection officials](#) in the Egyptian port city of Damietta have been referred to Egyptian Authority for Maritime Safety for disciplinary trial for their role in the September Rashid boat tragedy, in which more than 200 people drowned. Investigations revealed that the boat's navigational license had actually expired in May, but the boat owner had submitted a fraudulent license, which stated the boat was authorised to sail until November. A total of 24 defendants have been arrested in connection with the case, including the crew.

connecting Egypt and the Gaza Strip collapsed due to flooding. The body of a fourth person who had also gone missing after the same incident has not yet been found by search crews. It is believed that all four dead were Palestinian, joining the dozens of others who have been killed in tunnel collapses this year. Egypt has used wastewater and seawater to flood the tunnels over the past three years in an effort to crack down on these cross-border routes.

Four dead after collapse of smuggling tunnel

- Palestinian emergency workers recovered the bodies of three men who had gone missing after a [smuggling tunnel](#)

Human Rights Watch responds to new migration law

- Human Rights Watch has given [a public response](#) to Egypt's irregular immigration law, which was introduced in October 2016. HRW considers the law to be positive in so far as it protects migrants from criminal responsibility. However, it criticized the law for not guaranteeing key refugee rights,

such as the right to seek asylum, freedom of movement and the right to education. Importantly, the law does not offer

protection against refoulement.

LIBYA

Maritime incidents

- Around 1,800 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers [were rescued](#) off the coast of Libya in November across 15 separate incidents, bringing the total number rescued by the Libyan Coast Guard in 2016 to 18,557. In the month of November, 68 deaths were recorded along the Central Mediterranean route between Libya and Italy.

Assisted Voluntary Returns

- On 23 November, six people from Sierra Leone and six people from Afghanistan were assisted to [return](#) home from Libya. IOM's capacity to provide assistance to those wishing to return home from Libya has been recently bolstered by a [EUR 1 million](#) funding package from the Government of the Netherlands. The funding supports humanitarian repatriation and reintegration project for migrants rescued at sea or detained in Libyan immigration detention centres, including victims of trafficking.

Coastal cities make millions from people smuggling

- [A confidential EU report](#) obtained by the Associated Press, claims that migrant smuggling in Libyan coastal cities generates annual revenue of an estimated \$292-346 million. The report which covered the activities of Operation Sophia between January to October 2016, also observed a change in tactics among smugglers who are increasingly towing rubber boats without engines out to sea in the hope that they will be rescued by aid groups or merchant vessels. Operation Sophia could also be a factor in this shift, as under the Operation,

boats used for smuggling are seized and/or destroyed. The EU report states that [337 migrant smuggling vessels](#) have been disposed of under the Operation so far.

Deadly conditions in Libyan detention center

- Four deaths have occurred among detainees of the [Gharyan Al Hamra detention centre](#), about 90kms south of Tripoli, between mid October and 6 November. In response, IOM and other international partners have been working with officials from Libya's Directorate for Combating Illegal Migration (DCIM) and the detention centre to improve living conditions at the facility. Detention centre staff have also identified as many as 300 unaccompanied children being detained and have started separating them from the adult population. Meanwhile, representatives from seven African countries visited the detention centre to facilitate the humanitarian repatriation of nationals wishing to return home.

Launching Mixed Migration Working Group

- On 7 December, IOM Libya and UNHCR launched [a Mixed Migration Working Group](#), to facilitate coordination of protection and assistance to refugees, asylum seekers and migrants. It aims to ensure effective coordination of protection and assistance to migrants and refugees in detention centres, in urban areas, along the mixed migration routes from southern to northern Libya, and in rescue at sea situations. Protection issues include the lack of access to basic services due to discrimination, lack of economic resources, threats to physical safety, and limited access to legal assistance.

MALI

Malian migrants arrested in Malta

- The Immigration Police in Malta have arrested [33 Malian migrants](#), with the government insisting that these people were failed asylum seekers who had been living in the country for years. According to the government officials, the migrants

will be held until an African delegation visits Malta to identify them and determine the next steps. It is understood that some of the 33 had recently been denied an extension of their Temporary Humanitarian Protection (THPN) visas.

MOROCCO

Rescue at sea between Morocco and Spain

- Spanish Authorities [rescued 156 migrants](#) off the coast of Spain, in several operations carried out between 5-7 December 2016. In one of the incidents, a navy rescue plane located a makeshift boat which had set off from the northern Morocco coast, not far from the Spanish enclave of Melilla. Also on 7 December, [Moroccan authorities reported that 34](#) people were rescued and four died after their inflatable boat sank off the coast of Al-Hoceima. The authorities were unclear whether the boat was heading to Spain or to one of the Spanish enclaves of Ceuta or Melilla. According to the IOM, 5445 refugees, asylum seekers and migrants have made their way to Spain via this route between January and September

2016, while 63 people have reportedly died while making the crossing.

Amnesty slams treatment of migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers in Spanish enclaves

- Amnesty International [denounced the treatment](#) of migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers arriving at Spain's overseas territories of Melilla and Ceuta. Interviews held by Amnesty with some 50 people in the two enclaves revealed that migrants, refugees and asylum seekers have at times experienced police abuse and suffered a lack of adequate protection of vulnerable groups.

NIGER

Niger government receives support on border management

- IOM Niger's border management team [launched](#) a project to support the Government of Niger in developing its migration management infrastructure and resources, including building the capacity of national police and security forces stationed at Niger's borders. The project will also focus on involving cross-border communities in Diffa and Zinder in border

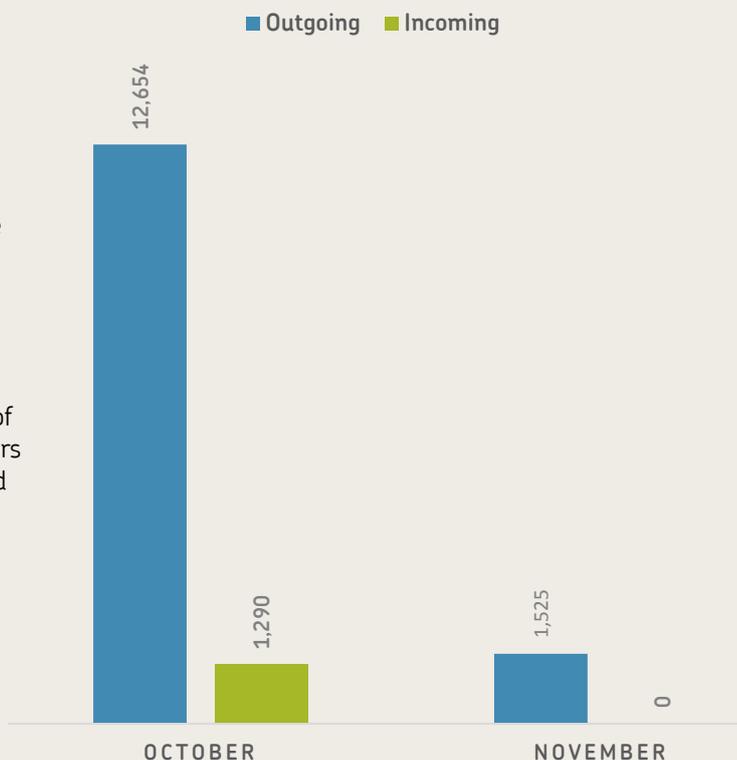
management to contribute to a better collaboration between communities and law enforcement to ensure mobility and protection for cross-border communities in the region. The region of Diffa has been under threat from Boko Haram since February 2015, and hosts a significant number of IDPs and Nigerian refugees who have fled the violence across the border. The numbers of displaced people in the region

has skyrocketed in the past year, [reaching over 250,000](#) by November. This total includes refugees, returning Niger citizens and people forcibly displaced within the country's borders.

Further decreases in flows through Niger

- Flows of migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers moving through Niger have again [significantly reduced](#) on the previous month's figures, according to IOM's Flow Monitoring Point (FMP) data, gathered along key migratory routes in the country. Outgoing flows toward Libya and Algeria decreased by 88% from 12,654 in October to just 1,525 in November. Incoming numbers southbound from Algeria and Libya reduced from 1,290 in October down to zero in November. The accompanying analysis on the data suggests that due to recent restrictive measures put in place by the government of Niger to prevent irregular crossings from the northern borders into Libya or Algeria, migrant flows may be rerouting to avoid restrictive measures in the usual transit towns of Séguédine and Arlit.

Niger: Outgoing and Incoming Flows



SUDAN

Refugees return from Chad camps due to food insecurity

- Approximately [1,250 sudanese refugees \(250 families\)](#) have returned from Chad to Sisi village in west Darfur, according to reports received by Sudan's Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC). HAC and several humanitarian partners will visit Sisi village to verify the numbers of the returned refugees and assess their needs. According to a joint statement by UNHCR and WFP, 43% of refugee households in the Chad camps suffer from food shortages. An assessment earlier in the year

showed returnees from Chad cited food insecurity and lack of livelihood opportunities as key reasons for their return.

Food insecurity among IDPs and Refugees:

- In spite of a good harvest contributing to an improvement in food security, [IDPs and refugees](#) in the Greater Darfur Region and South Kordofan State remain among the 3.6 million people in Sudan who are severely affected by shortages of food.

TUNISIA

Cooperation with the EU

- At the meeting of [the Tunisian president](#) with the President of the European Council, the President of the European Commission, and the President of the European Parliament, all parties agreed that the EU and Tunisia will continue collaborations, including work on improving common management of migration within the mobility agreement.

The leaders referred to negotiations on visa facilitation and readmission agreements which commenced on 12 October 2016, as a positive development. Since 2011, the EU has more than doubled the amount of its financial assistance to Tunisia and has pledged to provide Tunis with €300 million in 2017.

GREECE

Returns from Greece to Turkey

- Since the EU-Turkey deal came into force, there have been [748 returns from the Greek islands](#) to Turkey, including 95 Syrians. Other nationalities returned have included Pakistanis, Afghans, Bangladeshis, Iranians as well as people from Iraq, India, Congo, Algeria, Sri Lanka, Morocco, Nepal, Somalia, Ivory Coast, Egypt, Yemen, Lebanon, and the Palestinian Authority. In the same period, [2,761 Syrian refugees](#) have been resettled from Turkey to Europe.

meet its targets.

Long waiting lists for UAC shelters in Greece

- Greece's [National Center for Social Solidarity](#) estimates that there are 2,300 Unaccompanied Children (UAC) in Greece as of 7 December 2016. To accommodate UAC in Greece, there are 1,256 places in UAC shelters, all of which are currently filled. Due to the shortfall in places, there were 1,314 children on the waiting list to join the shelters.

Relocations from Greece to other EU countries

- Between 8 November and 6 December, [1,237 people](#) have been relocated from Greece to other European countries, bringing the total number of persons relocated from Greece so far to 6,212. The EU, in [a report published on 8 December](#) on returns and relocations, stated that a monthly average of 2,000 relocations from Greece would allow the scheme to

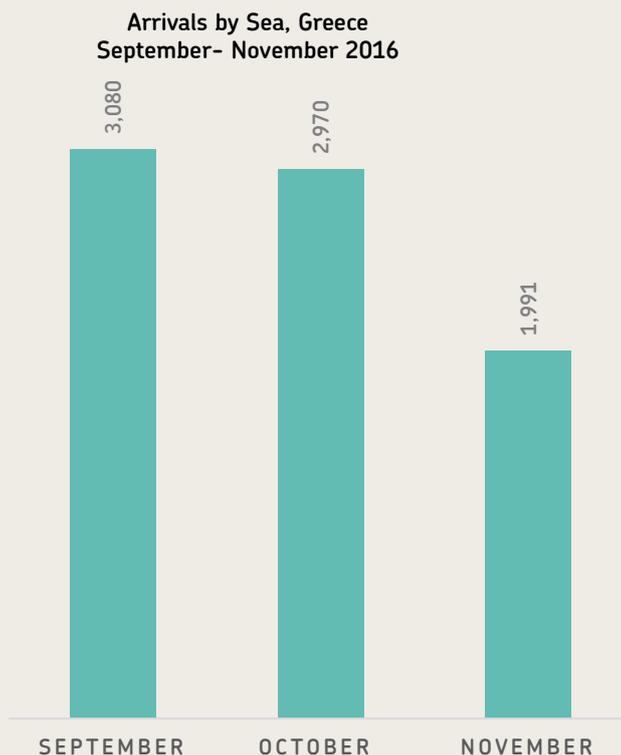
Syrian asylum seekers sent back to Turkey

- According to the Guardian, a group of eight Syrian [asylum seekers](#) detained in Turkey say they were tricked into leaving Greece last month, without having their asylum claims processed. 11 days after submitting their asylum claims in Greece, they say they were told by EU and Greek officials that they would be taken to the Greek mainland, but instead found

themselves arriving in Turkey. The Greek government is examining the claims and UNHCR has expressed its concern.

Sea arrivals to Greece continue to decrease

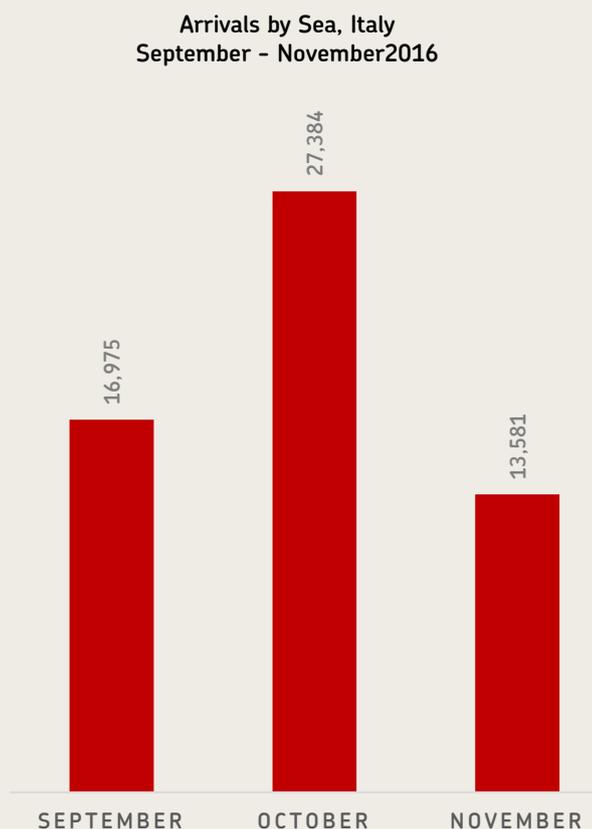
- 1,991 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers arrived by sea to Greece in November, representing a 33% decrease on the October figure of 2,970. During November, there were 14 recorded fatalities along the Eastern Mediterranean route, compared with two deaths recorded on the route in October. The top five nationalities of arrivals were Syrians, Afghans, Pakistanis, Iraqis and Algerians.



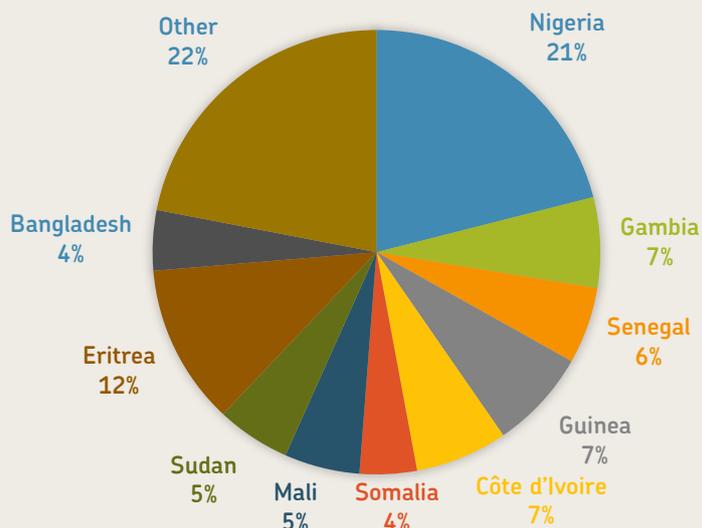
ITALY

Arrivals decrease from October figures

- November saw the arrival of [13,581](#) migrants, refugees and asylum seekers by sea to Italy, representing a 50% decrease on October figures (27,384). Despite the decrease from October, this figure is still far higher than the number recorded for November 2015 (3,218). For most of 2016, sea arrival figures to Italy have remained on par with 2015. However, both October and November have seen significantly higher numbers of arrivals in 2016 than last year, indicating a longer season for crossings this year. [703 deaths](#) along the Central Mediterranean route were recorded by UNHCR for the month of November, bringing the total deaths on the route in 2016 to 4,207. The top five countries of origin arriving in Italy for 2016 are Nigeria, Eritrea, Guinea, Côte d'Ivoire and Gambia.



**Arrivals by Sea to Italy, Main Countries of Origin
January - November 2016**



2016 sets record for Italian sea arrivals

- The total number of sea arrivals to Italy in 2016 has set a new record for the country. By the end of November, 173,188 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers had made the sea crossing to Italy – [the highest number ever](#) recorded in a single year. The previous record for a calendar year was 170,000 arrivals, recorded in 2014. Italy’s asylum system is heavily strained, with more than [176,000 people reportedly](#) in reception centres.

Italian anti-mafia cops arrest migrant smugglers

- Police in southern Italy and Germany [have arrested 13 people](#), accused of transporting migrants, refugees and asylum seekers who had arrived in Italy by sea to locations throughout Europe.
- The arrests on 23 November were coordinated by anti-mafia prosecutors in Salerno and follow several similar investigations that began in 2015 into the various smuggling rings that have sprung up amid Europe’s migrant crisis. The suspects are also accused of harassment and inhuman treatment of the migrants, refugees and asylum seekers.

Italian health and non-health professionals receive training on transcultural approach to health care

- A two day [training seminar](#) under the title “Health and Migration: the transcultural approach” was provided on 23 and 24 November 2016 to Italian health and non-health professionals involved in the reception of migrants, refugees

and asylum seekers arriving in Italy.

- The training held within the framework of the working package 7 of the European project [“Common Approach for Refugees and other migrant’s health \(CARE\)”](#) focused on building upon the existing knowledge and skills of participants, with respect to the reception process, orientation and health care of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers.
- The event was hosted and supported by the Cannizzaro Hospital and was attended by almost 35 representatives from academia, government departments, UN agencies and international and national non-governmental organizations.

Save the Children’s search and rescue ship rescues more than 400 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers

- Save the Children’s vessel, the Vos Hestia [rescued more than 400 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers](#) on 22 November. The rescue was carried out in complete darkness in collaboration with two other vessels on the scene, [Migrant Offshore Aid Station’s](#) Topaz Responder and Mimden, during the early morning after a wooden boat in distress was spotted off the coast Africa following a call from the Italian Coast Guard.
- Around 100 children most thought to be traveling alone and several pregnant women were among the rescued. Several cases that required immediate attention were attended to and all migrants, refugees and asylum seekers were taken to the Sicilian port of Trapani.

RESEARCH OF INTEREST

[Migration Policy Practice \(Vol. VI, Number 4, October–December 2016\) - IOM](#)

A special issue focusing on “safe migration” and how to improve data collection on safe and unsafe migration.

[Assessing the risks of Migration along the Central and Eastern Mediterranean Routes: Iraq and Nigeria as Case Study Countries -IOM](#)

A case study analysing patterns of migration and return in Iraq and Nigeria.

[Study on migrants’ profiles, drivers of migration and migratory trends - MPC](#)

A study analysing the socio economic background of migrants and refugees in Italy to understand the reasons behind their migration and how to integrate them in Italy.

[Global migration’s impact and opportunity - McKinsey Global Institute](#)

A report on the economic benefits of migration and how the integration of migrants can increase those benefits.

[Women and girls on the move: A gender analysis of mixed migration from the Middle East to Europe - MMP](#)

A briefing paper examining the experience of migrant women and girls in Europe, the reasons behind their migration, and what they encounter during their journey.

MULTIMEDIA OF INTEREST

[Aerial Photographs Capture the Biggest Refugee Camp in the World- The creators project](#)

A photo essay which attempts to capture the world’s biggest refugee camp in Kenya.

[LIBYA: A HUMAN MARKETPLACE\(2016\) -Narciso Contreras](#)

A photo gallery capturing the humanitarian crisis of migrants in Libya.

[Refugee History - Refugee History](#)

A platform which aims to dig deeper into the comparison between refugee crises in the past and present in order to provide a better understanding of the current migrant crisis.

[Mixed Migration Platform](#) -MMP

This new platform, set up by 7 NGOs, aims to provide information and protection-sensitive analysis of mixed migration through the Middle East and Europe.

[Death At The Border](#) -KPBS

Series of videos about men in San Diego who risk their lives to rescue migrants or recover their bodies along one of the deadliest smuggling routes.

[The Migration Dilemma](#) - DW

Series of videos examines the current migration crisis and some of the challenges and risks the migrants encounter.