

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.

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



REGIONAL

Announcement of IOM and IDMC partnership

- On 28 November, IOM and the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) [announced](#) a new [partnership](#) to enhance responses to and action on internal displacement through improved collaboration on data gathering and analysis. The partnership is expected to run for four years between 2019 and 2023 and has two main objectives; “To improve policy and operational responses through the generation of new data, analysis and research into displacement patterns, drivers and trends,” and “To support national policy development and advance global approaches on internal displacement across relevant humanitarian, development and peace-building policy agendas.” The partnership will pair IOM’s operational capacity in dealing with the mobility dimensions of crises with IDMC’s long-standing expertise on internal displacement analysis and policy development. Speaking about the partnership, IOM’s Director General, António Vitorino, said, “This partnership will take us to new levels of quality and consistency, and allow us to mobilize attention on an issue that has not been given sufficient consideration,” and added, “IDMC has been a long-standing partner of IOM’s and we are delighted to be formalizing and expanding the breadth of this collaboration.”

Amnesty International launches scathing critique of EU policies

- On 12 November, Amnesty International [released](#) a scathing review of the ramifications of EU deterrence policies on the wellbeing of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers who have become trapped in a cycle of abuse in Libya. Speaking about the situation in Libya, Heba Morayef, Amnesty’s Middle East and North Africa Director said, “One year after video footage showing human beings being bought and sold like merchandise shocked the world, the situation for refugees and migrants in Libya remains bleak.” She further added, “Cruel policies by EU states to stop people arriving on European shores, coupled with their woefully insufficient support to help refugees reach safety through regular routes, means that thousands of men, women and children are trapped in Libya facing horrific abuses with no way out.”
- The [findings](#) were released in a 5-page document that details how a patchwork of EU policies, including a failure to provide sufficient resettlement spots for refugees trapped in Libya, has led to the deterioration of conditions for those on the move to and through Libya. The document sets out six specific recommendations for Libyan authorities and a further six for EU governments and institutions. The recommendations addressed to the Libyan authorities include; ending all unlawful arbitrary detention; the identification, registration and release of all foreign nationals in Libyan detention centres, launching investigations into allegations of torture and ill-treatment, taking necessary steps to dismantle and prosecute criminal networks responsible for human rights violations, ensuring the creation of an effective asylum system in Libya and recognizing and facilitating the mandate and activities of UNHCR in Libya. While recommendations to EU governments and institutions include; resetting all cooperation with Libya on migration, making continued cooperation with Libya conditional on verifiable steps towards the better protection of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers in Libya, opening safe and regular migration pathways to Europe, ensuring adequate number of search-and-rescue vessels are deployed along migratory routes, ensuring NGOs can continue to assist and help migrants, refugees and asylum seekers in distress, refraining from setting policies that would lead to the increased detention of people on the move.

IOM launches the Global Migration Film Festival

- IOM [launched](#) the third instalment of the annual Global Migration Film Festival (GMFF) at the Graduate Institute in Geneva on 28 November. The GMFF which will run for 21 days includes film screenings and expert panels in IOM missions in 100 countries. The screenings will be held in a variety of settings, ranging from cinemas to impromptu settings along major migratory routes. The features chosen to be screened capture the challenges and promise of migration. Speaking about the festival, Leonard Doyle, IOM’s Spokesperson and head of the Media and Communication Division, said, “With our Film Festival, we strive to use films as a tool to stimulate conversation around migration and bring attention to social issues affecting migrants through storytelling. Cinema and migration have a historical bond stretching back over a century when film makers, many of whom were immigrants themselves, began making movies that depicted a world on the move.”

IOM starts voluntary humanitarian returns from Yemen

- IOM [assisted](#) 480 Ethiopian migrants to return home from Yemen between 26 and 29 November via its Voluntary Humanitarian Return (VHR) program. This was the first IOM airlift operation to take place since the beginning of the Yemeni conflict in 2015. IOM has been assisting migrants to return home from Yemen using vessels to cross the Gulf of Aden but increasing hostilities in and around Al Hudaydah posed significant challenges and risks to operations. Speaking about the first airlift, Mohammed Abdiker, IOM’s Director of Operations and Emergencies, said, “The first airlift return operation increases IOM’s ability to ensure that migrants who wish to leave Yemen can do so in a safe and dignified manner.” He further added, “The airlift, made possible through close cooperation with authorities in Yemen and Ethiopia, opens the way for improved humanitarian assistance for migrants in Yemen.”

Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM)

- There have been a number of developments with regards to the GCM, which is due to be formally adopted in Marrakech between 10 and 11 December. On 12 November, the deputy chairman of the ruling GERB party in Bulgaria, Tsvetan Tsvetanov, [announced](#) that Bulgaria will most probably withdraw from the GCM. Speaking after a meeting of coalition government leaders, Mr. Tsvetanov [said](#), “The position of the Bulgarian government will be not to join the United Nations’ global pact on migration.”

- Later in the month, on 25 November, the Slovak Prime Minister, Peter Pellegrini, [announced](#) that Slovakia will become the latest country to pull out of the GCM. Speaking to reporters after the EU summit in Brussels, Mr. Pellegrini said, “Slovakia will not support this United Nations pact under any circumstances and will not agree with it.” The United States, Hungary, Austria and the Czech Republic have previously withdrawn from the compact.”
- While in Estonia Marko Mihkelson, chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Riigikogu, [called](#) on Estonia’s Minister for Foreign Affairs, Sven Mikser, to present the GCM and Estonia’s reasons for adopting the compact to the Estonian parliament. According to parliamentary press release Mr. Mihkelson said, “It is strange that the government has virtually by passed the Riigikogu and has on its own initiative not wanted to disclose the details of such an important accord.” He further added, “Only after hearing the arguments and this debate is it possible to decide whether Estonia will join the pact or not.”
- On 15 November, Slovenia’s Minister for Foreign Affairs, Miro Cerar, [announced](#) that Slovenia will continue to support the GCM and plans to adopt the compact in December. The announcement came after a cabinet meeting. The Slovenian cabinet also added that the compact does not impinge on the sovereignty of states.

Reports of increased destruction of migrant and refugee camps around Calais

- A recent report by the Calais-based Human Rights Observers and L’Auberge des Migrants has [highlighted](#) how stepped-up operations by French authorities have had a detrimental effect on the wellbeing and safety of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers in and around Calais. In particular, the document reports on the increased number of camp clearances with 20 clearances taking place each week. Migrants, refugees and asylum seekers often lose their tents, belongings and provisions during such evictions and are forced into near-permanent precarious situations. Maddy Allen, the field manager in France for the Charity Help Refugees explained that the evictions inflict significant psychological wounds on those who have already experienced plenty of hardship both during their journeys and after their arrival in France.

ALGERIA

Algeria claims it stops thousands from reaching Europe annually

- The Algerian government [has underscored](#) its efforts to thwart irregular migration to Europe with officials claiming that they stop roughly 40,000 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers from crossing to Europe annually. An Algerian radio channel quoted the Algerian Interior Minister, Hassan Kacimi, as saying, “the majority of people who try to enter illegally Algeria from the southern border are from 23 African countries located in West, Sahel and Central African regions.” Algeria has recently come under repeated scrutiny for its treatment of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers.

Algiers Conference sets framework of fight against illegal migration

- The 2nd conference of the international conference of the African NGO members of the UN ECOSOC [was held](#) in Algiers between 19 and 21 November under the title “Involving Africa to counter migration crisis”. Participants discussed many issues relating to development and migration, including, investment, the agenda of the African Union 2063 and unemployment. The main aim of the conference was to establish an African mechanism to tackle irregular

migration. Among the main recommendations issued by the conference was the need to establish the proper social and political landscape that would enable the fight against irregular migration, brain drain and capital flight. Participants called for targeted investments to create jobs, boost innovation and sustainable inclusive industrialization for the benefit of young people and women.” Finally, they renewed their commitment to the AU which, participants said, embodies the spirit and ideals of solidarity and civil society.

Italian PM visits Algiers

- Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte [visited](#) Algeria and met with the Algerian Prime Minister, Ahmed Ouyahia to discuss immigration. They discussed the importance of cooperation on migration management and Prime Minister Conte hailed the Italian-Algerian partnership in tackling migration. Addressing a joint press conference, Mr. Conte said, “Italy and Algeria know well the importance of the integrated management of migration phenomena, based on principles of shared responsibility and partnership among countries of origin, transit and destination.”

EGYPT

The launch of GMFF in Egypt

- The Swiss Office of International Cooperation in Cairo [played](#) host to the launch of the Global Migration Film Festival organized by IOM and the Swiss Embassy in Egypt on 28 November. The film festival kicked off with the screening of two short films, “Offside” and “Abu Adnan”. Speaking about the festival, Swiss Ambassador to Egypt, Paul Garnier said, “It is definitely through films that we can capture the promises and challenges of migration for those who are leaving their homes and we saw that in the small films in search of a better life in addition to highlighting the contributions they necessary make to the hosting communities.” He further added that the

festival is an innovative and creative way of engaging with the issues of irregular migration through the medium of film and its narrative potential. He also underlined the Egypt’s efforts at hosting migrants, refugees and asylum seekers and the efforts undertaken to curb irregular migration and human trafficking. He further said, “We are working with the Egyptian government on several projects that help migrants and host communities. Also, we are cooperating to create opportunities, mobile clinics, different programs that give the migrants access to education and raise their awareness about their rights and obligations in different contexts.”

Initiative on reuniting Egyptian families in Italy

- The Egyptian Minister of Manpower, Mohamed Saffan [stated](#) that an initiative reuniting families of Egyptians living and working in Italy would contribute to tackling of irregular migration. The minister's comments came during a meeting held between Minister Saffan and the Head of the International Sector in the Italian Union of Labour (UIL) and the President of the Egyptian Workers Association in Italy. According to Minister Saffan, talks are ongoing with Italy to make the initiative a reality.

UNODC organizes a seminar on the role of the Judiciary on combatting human trafficking

- Under the umbrella of the XMEX 19 project in Egypt, UNODC organized a training workshop between 6 and 8 november with the collaboration the National Coordinating Committee on Preventing and Combating Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling and the National Center for Judicial Studies. The training included 28 participants from different governorates ((Alexandria: 18, Bahira: 2, Gharbia: 2, Giza:1, Cairo: 3, Dakahlia:1, El Monofya:1) 3 women from Cairo and 2 military judges. The workshop tackled mainly the below topics:
1- The International and Regional Legal Frame: (United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) – Protocol of Combating Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children - Protocol Against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land and Air - Indicators of Human Trafficking and Smuggling of Migrants)
2- The National Legal Frame for Combating Human Trafficking: (Law no. 64 of 2010 for Combating Human Trafficking– a brief on the relation between human trafficking and smuggling of migrants (national reality) - determinants of national investigations)
3- Introduction to Electronic Investigations in Human Trafficking, irregular migration and uses of Cybercrime.

UNODC conducts a training of trainers for prosecutors in Luxor

- Under the umbrella of the Global Action to Combat Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling Project (GLO.ACT), UNODC ROMENA conducted the first training of trainers (ToT) workshop addressed to the Egyptian prosecutors between 10 and 15 November. The ToT was conducted with the cooperation of the National Coordinating Committee on Preventing and Combating Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling and the International Cooperation and Human Rights Division in the Office of The Egyptian Prosecutor General.
- The ToT workshop was conducted on two phases, the first phase took place from place in Cairo from 8th till the 10th of October where 13 Egyptians prosecutors attended. It

focused mainly on the soft skills and the techniques of giving presentations. Within this regard, professional and certified trainer was contracted to accomplish conduct the first phase.

UNODC organizes a Training of Trainers for Egyptian officers

- Under the umbrella of the XMEX 19 project in Egypt UNODC, in collaboration with the National Coordinating Committee on Combating and Preventing Illegal Migration and Trafficking in Persons and the Ministry of Interior Affairs, organized four-day-training workshops between 4 and 6 december, which included 20 police officers from different governorates (Cairo: 9, Alexnadria: 2, Monufia: 1, Aswan:1, Mansoura: 1, Suez: 1, Sohag: 1, South Sinai: 1, Kafr El Sheikh: 1, Damietta: 1, New Valley: 1). The training workshop discussed the following topics:
 - The International Legal Framework;
 - International Cooperation in Criminal Matters;
 - The National Legal Framework;
 - Indictment of Judgments and Regulations Relating to the Issuance of Judgments in TIP and SOM Cases in the Egyptian Law;
 - The Crimes Related to Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants;
 - Digital Investigations and Digital Evidence in Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrant Cases.

UNODC organizes a Training of Trainers for Egyptian prosecutors in Alexandria

- UNODC, in collaboration with the National Coordinating Committee on Combating and Preventing Illegal Migration and Trafficking in Persons and the International Cooperation and Human Rights Division at the Office of the Egyptian Prosecutor General, organized four-day-training workshops funded by XMEX 19 project. The workshop included 20 prosecutors from the following governorates (Alexandria: 10, Matruh: 3, Behira: 6, Ismailia: 1). The aim of the training workshops was to create a community of practitioners amongst Egypt's public prosecutors and included the following topics:
 - The International and Regional legal framework on migrant smuggling.
 - The National context.
 - Identification of migrant smuggling cases.
 - Forms of investigation in migrant smuggling cases.
 - The Egyptian legal system on assistance and protection of smuggled migrants and witnesses in coordination with other relevant entities.
 - Introduction to digital investigations and evidence.
 - International and Regional cooperation in migrant smuggling cases.

LIBYA

Maritime Incidents

- 489 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers were returned to Libya by the Libyan Coast Guard in five separate incidents between 1 and 14 November, bringing the total number returned to Libyan shores in 2018 to 14,861.

UN Security Council adopts sanctions on traffickers in Libya

- On 5 November, the UN Security Council [adopted](#) a resolution that would allow the UN to place sanctions on perpetrators of sexual and gender-based violence in Libya. The resolution hopes to hold human traffickers accountable for the horrendous acts perpetrated against vulnerable migrants, refugees and asylum seekers. The Netherlands spearheaded

the campaign with the Netherlands' Minister for Foreign affairs, Stef Blok, saying, "The sanctions require countries to freeze the traffickers' assets and impose travel bans on them." While the Netherlands Ambassador to the UN, Karel J. G. van Oosterom told reporters, "It means that those perpetrators of sexual violence, for instance in the refugee camps who rape women refugees ... it will be possible to sanction them, so we think that's an important step forward." Russia and china abstained from voting on the resolution however and levelled accusations against their European counterparts, claiming they were launching this campaign in an effort to score political points at home.

Voluntary returns and resettlements from Libya

- IOM announced on 7 November that it [assisted](#) 124 Somali migrants to return home from Libya. The Somali Ambassador to Libya, Ali Said Faqi, expressed his gratitude for IOM and UNHCR's activities that made the return possible. According to IOM Libya, a total of 14,905 migrants returned home via IOM's VHR program between the beginning of January of this year and 14 November.
- In a related news, on 7 November UNHCR with the assistance of IOM, [resettled](#) 44 refugees from Libya to Italy. Despite some clashes near Mitiga airport the previous night, the operation was able to go ahead, and the resettled refugees were provided with support upon arrival in Rome. The resettlement of vulnerable refugees is supported by the EU's Regional Development & Protection Programme for North Africa (RDPPNA).
- On 8 November, IOM [resumed](#) its Voluntary Humanitarian Return (VHR) operations from the Libyan city of Sebha after a two year suspension of activities. The programme restarted with a chartered flight carrying 120 migrants (including 30 women and 15 children) to Lagos, Nigeria. Speaking about the operation, Mohamed Hmouzi, VHR Operations Assistant at IOM, said, "We have been working intensively in the South to make sure that migrants living in urban settings or detention centres, who wish to return home safely, can receive our support."

Migrants, refugees and asylum seekers refuse to disembark in Misrata

- On 14 November, Libyan authorities [released](#) a statement about a group of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers who were picked up by a commercial cargo ship in the Mediterranean and who were refusing to disembark in Misrata. The 95 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers were [rescued](#) by the Panamanian cargo ship, Nivin, around 10 November. The inflatable vessel they had embarked in on 6 November was in distress and likely to sink. Once the cargo ship arrived in the port of Misrata, those on board refused to disembark, demanding that they be taken to Europe aboard the ship. The migrants, refugees and asylum seekers said they feared for their lives and safety in Libya and described the abuse they experienced in Libya before leaving on 6 November. Fourteen decided to disembark voluntarily while 81 remained on board in a stand-off that would last 10 days.
- Many organizations such as MSF [expressed](#) grave concern for those who were forced off the ship and claimed that MSF staff were unable to reach any of the migrants, refugees and asylum seekers. Speaking about the situation, Julien Raickman, Head of Mission with MSF in Libya, said, "Since then (the forced disembarkation), we have not had access to any members of the group previously on board the Nivin," and added, "We are not authorized to see patients we had previously been able to treat and follow up for 10 days, and we are extremely concerned by the lack of official information regarding their current location and medical status." Mr. Raickman also expressed his disappointment at the absence of any effective alternatives to detention that would spare migrants, refugees and asylum seekers additional hardship.

Roundtable discussion on labour mobility in Libya

- The Libyan Ministry of Labour [held](#) a round table discussion with regional partners on Libyan labour mobility management in Tunis on 13 November. The round table discussion was supported by IOM and represents a positive step towards

establishing a regional legal framework to manage labour migration to Libya. The Discussion was co-chaired by the Libyan Minister of Labour, Al-Mahdi Al-Amen and IOM Libya Chief of Mission, Othman Belbeisi. Representatives from Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ghana, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Philippines, Senegal, Sudan participated in the meeting. In statements made after the meeting, Minister Al-Amen said, "Best practices in bilateral and regional labour arrangements were presented during the meeting, and the Ministry of Labour of Libya engaged diplomatic representatives of its regional partners in a consultative format that we wish to be maintained, aiming at a coordinated approach to labour migration management." While Mr. Belbeisi said that, "This is a substantial step towards labour migration governance in Libya," and added, "IOM has been supporting the Libyan Ministry of Labour and the national leadership towards strengthening mechanisms to address labour market needs through coordinated and country-tailored approaches."

New processes at Ras Ajdir crossing with Tunisia

- The Ras Ajdir border point administration [announced](#) the introduction of a new electronic system for processing the entry and exit of foreign nationals through Libya's border crossing point with Tunisia. The new system, provided with support from the Dutch government, will reduce processing times along the border and will facilitate the detection of forged travel documents.

UNHCR calls for greater resettlement spots and end of migrant and refugee detention in Libya

- On the one-year anniversary of the beginning of refugee evacuations from Libya, UNHCR [renewed](#) calls for greater numbers of resettlement spots for the most vulnerable amongst the refugee population in Libya. Almost 2,500 refugees have been moved from Libya to Italy, Niger and Romania since the beginning of the scheme in 2017. All the evacuees were being held in detention facilities around Libya. Given the security situation in Libya, UNHCR does not consider it a safe place for vulnerable refugees and migrants. Speaking about the situation, Roberto Mignone, UNHCR's Chief of Mission in Libya, said, "Refugees in Libya are faced with a nightmarish scenario. They have fled their homes in search of safety and protection only to end up incarcerated, languishing indefinitely in squalid conditions." He further added, "It is reprehensible that they are detained instead of protected. This is despite the fact that viable alternatives to detention within Libya can be found, including through a Gathering and Departure Facility that we have been waiting to open since July, which could offer immediate protection and safety for those most vulnerable."

Dozen deaths after boat capsizes off coast of Misrata

- At least twelve migrants, refugees and asylum seekers [died](#) on 2 December when their boat capsized off the coast Misrata. The vessel they had embarked in was blown several hundred kilometres off course after they departed from Sabratha. Following ten days at sea the boat capsized. Ten survivors were rescued and returned to Libya where they received assistance from IOM. Speaking about the condition of survivors, IOM physician Dr. Mohamed Abugalia said, "The survivors were all suffering from complete dehydration and exhaustion after being stranded at sea for days. People suffered from trauma, severe malnutrition and burns sustained from the boat's engine fuel."

- IOM Libya's Chief of Mission, Othman Belbeisi, expressed concern about the continuing and increased threat to migrant and refugee lives in the Mediterranean. Speaking about the level of risk to life in the Mediterranean, Mr. Belbeisi said, "The absence of mechanisms to better manage returns coupled with reduced search and rescue capacity at sea is making the

crossing increasingly dangerous for migrants. There are more possibilities to die at sea now than one year ago. This is not acceptable. Saving lives at sea should be the number one priority, and search and rescue operations clearly need to be reinforced."

MOROCCO

German Report Reveals Large Irregular Migration Network in Morocco

- A recent report by the German Federal Intelligence Service (BND) [claims](#) that Morocco has become an 'anchor' for irregular migration to Europe. The BND reports that 20 leaders are running smuggling/trafficking network transporting migrants through the Western Mediterranean Route and that they have been operating since early 2017. Spain has recently seen an increase in the number of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers arriving from Morocco. The network uses three routes between Spain and Morocco; through Gibraltar; through the sea of Alboran and from Larache to Cadiz. The network charges migrants, refugees and asylum seekers €1,000 for three crossing attempts and an additional €2,000 for safe shelter in Spain if they cross successfully.

50,000 Migrants Regularized in Morocco since 2014

- The Moroccan Interior Minister [announced](#) that up to 50,000 migrants have been regularized since the 2014. This number amounts to 85% of the total number of applications made by foreign nationals residing in Morocco. Regularized migrants are expected to renew their residency every three years as per the royal directives.

Tangier Police Dismantle Irregular Migration Network

- The judicial police and the General Directorate of National Security (DGSN) [dismantled](#) a network of smugglers

and human traffickers involved in irregular migration activities. The DGST (General Directorate of Territorial Surveillance) provided the police forces with necessary information that helped them stop one of the organizers and an intermediary from the network. Police also arrested 8 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers, including 6 minors.

Bourita in Berlin to set stage for Conference on Migration

- Nasser Bourita, the Moroccan Minister of Foreign Affairs [met](#) with his German counterpart, Minister Heiko Maas to discuss arrangements for the Intergovernmental Conference to Adopt the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration to be held in Marrakesh. The two counterparts talked about commercial ties and underlined the strong bilateral relationship between Morocco and Germany. Minister Bourita also met with the German Refugee Policy Coordinator during his visit.

Morocco navy finds 15 migrants dead in stranded boat

- A Moroccan military source [announced](#) that the Moroccan navy had found the bodies of 15 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers on a boat that was stranded in the Mediterranean for days. The navy rescued another 53 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers from the same vessel. The boat was heading to Spain when the engine failed stranding the boat in the Mediterranean for four days. The rescued migrants, refugees and asylum seekers were taken to the port of Nador.

NIGER

Frontex opens first risk analysis cell in Niger

- Frontex, the European Border and Coast Guard Agency, in coordination with the Nigerien Authorities [inaugurated](#) the first Risk Analysis Cell in Niamey, Niger. The cell's main role is to collect data about cross-border crime in different African countries. The center will be operated by local analysts and

researchers trained by Frontex. The data collected will include information on irregular border crossings, human trafficking and the usage of counterfeit documents. The cell is the first of eight to be set-up in various African countries, including, Senegal, Ghana, Kenya and Mali. The cells are established in the framework of the Africa-Frontex Intelligence Community (AFIC).

SUDAN

Sudan to establish joint border protection forces with Libya, Ethiopia and Egypt

- The Sudanese Minister of Defense, Awad Ibn Ouf, [announced](#) that plans are underway to launch joint border protection forces with Egypt, Libya and Ethiopia. Sudan has been in discussions with Libya, Ethiopia and Egypt to create a secure regional neighborhood and the new forces are modelled after a similar Sudanese-Chadian joint force. Last April, four countries Sudan, Libya, Chad and Niger signed an agreement in Niger to coordinate the actions of their armed forces and establish a mechanism for border protection and fighting human trafficking.

and the Judicial and Legal Science Institute (JLSI), held two specialized Investigative skills workshops in Khartoum, Sudan between 18 and 21 November and 25 to 28 November. The training workshops targeted prosecutors and law enforcement officers from the Ministry of Interior who investigate cases of trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants. The first workshop targeted 15 participants: 10 law enforcement officers and 4 prosecutors, in addition to 1 female researcher from JLSI. Participants were from Khartoum, Red Sea, Gedaref, Blue Nile and Northern State. The second workshop targeted 14 participants: 4 prosecutors and 9 law enforcement officers, including 1 female law enforcement officer, as well as 1 female researcher from JLSI. Participants were from South Darfur, Blue Nile, Gedaref, Khartoum and Northern State.

UNODC organizes two training workshops for prosecutors and law enforcement officers

- UNODC/ROMENA in partnership with the Ministry of Interior

- During the workshops, UNODC experts worked with the participants to strengthen and consolidate the required technical knowledge on investigation techniques. They focused on applying the technical knowledge and skills to trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants' cases with a view to identifying and dismantling entire criminal networks, rather than just targeting individuals. Key elements of the Sudanese legal framework on human trafficking, migrant smuggling and related crimes were thoroughly discussed. In addition, a range of different reactive and proactive investigation techniques were introduced beside crime scene examination and risk assessment. Good practices in undertaking counter TIP/SOM operations were also exchanged. Finally, the experts dedicated a session to improving the way in which evidence is presented in court.

UNODC organizes a workshop for parliamentarians on trafficking in persons

- UNODC organized a workshop for parliamentarians on trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants between 31 October and 1 November with focus on legal issues. The focus was to discuss the importance of dedicated legislation on smuggling of migrants and highlight key points for inclusion, to identify areas of TIP legislation for possible clarification and amendment and to highlight potential areas of conflict with other parts of the legal framework and possible changes to ensure harmonization. The workshop was attended by 36 participants. 19 parliamentarians and 17 staff from Ministry of Justice in addition to 3 from NCCT. Out of the 36 participants 14 female attended the workshop.

TUNISIA

New project on Maghreb fair labor migration and management protects workers' rights

- The Tunisian Ministry of Social Affairs and the International Labor Organization (ILO) [launched](#) a new project called "Support to Improving Migration Governance and Promoting Fair Labor Migration in the Maghreb". The project aims to improve migration governance and promote the protection of the rights of migrant workers in North Africa. It will also aim to coordinate the activities of data and statistics entities in Tunisia that work on migration which will result in more up to date data. The project will also focus on improving the data on Tunisian migrants to other North African countries.

More than 50 % of young and highly educated Tunisians want to emigrate

- A recent survey of 1,200 Tunisians between the ages of 18 and 35 has claimed that more than half of highly educated Tunisian youth desire to emigrate. According to the results of the survey conducted by [Afrobarometer](#), one-third of Tunisian youth surveyed have already considered migrating, a quarter have thought about migrating and one in ten were taking serious steps towards migrating. It also found that unemployment and tough economic conditions were the main drivers of migration. Finally, the study found that the willingness to migrate decreases with age, with only 38% considering leaving Tunisia between the ages of 36 and 55 while the percentage drops to 11% for the people over 56 years old.

SPAIN

Western Mediterranean Route

- [4,937](#) migrants, refugees and asylum seekers have crossed from Morocco to Spain by sea in the month of November bringing the total arrivals by sea for this year to 54,534. November's figure represents a sharp drop of 52% from the previous month of October. It is worth noting that October set the highest record of arrivals for the year. The sharp drop could be attributed to seasonal change with treacherous conditions at sea making the journey even more dangerous. According to IOM data, there were 114 migrant, refugee and asylum seeker deaths recorded along the Western Mediterranean route (WMR) between 28 October and 28 November. 17 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers [died](#) while 17 others went missing in just one day on 5 November, which was dubbed the biggest tragedy in the Strait of Gibraltar since 2009.
- An additional [644](#) migrants, refugees and asylum seekers crossed into Spain via its land borders with Morocco (through Ceuta and Melilla) during the month of November, bringing the total number of persons who made this crossing this year to 6,150. November's figure is a slight 4% decrease from that of the previous month's figure.

Fishing vessel stranded in Mediterranean after rescuing migrants, refugees and asylum seekers

- On 27 November the captain of a Spanish fishing boat, Captain Pascual Dura, [told](#) reporters that they had been

stranded in the Mediterranean for days after rescuing 12 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers. Both Italy and Malta refused to allow the boat to dock in their ports and disembark its passengers while the Spanish maritime rescue service would only return the group of migrants and refugees to Libya. Speaking about the situation, Captain Dura said, "If we go to Libya, we run the risk of a mutiny... when they hear the word Libya they get very nervous and hysterical, it is hard to calm them down," he also added, "We don't want to return them to Libya. After they managed to get here, we don't want to return them to the place they are fleeing from." The Ombudsman of Spain [called](#) on the Spanish government to take in the rescued migrants and refugees on humanitarian grounds, pointing to UNHCR's negative assessment of Libya which it has deemed an unsafe harbor for refugees and migrants. The Spanish Deputy Prime Minister refuted the Ombudsman's claims, saying that Libya is the safest harbour as it is nearest to the fishing vessel. After a week-long stand-off, Malta [agreed](#) to take in the stranded migrants and refugees.

Spain's ruling party pushes for continuing 'hot return' policies

- Spain's ruling Socialist Workers Party (PSOE) has [petitioned](#) parliament to continue a policy first introduced in 2015 that allows Spain to immediately return migrants who cross into the Spanish enclaves of Ceuta and Melilla. The policy, commonly referred to as 'hot return' has been heavily criticized by human rights organizations since its introduction in 2015.

Decrease in Sea Arrivals to Greece

- 1,702 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers arrived in Greece by sea between 28 October and 28 November which represents a roughly 50% decrease from a similar period in the previous month of October. The continued drop in arrivals may be due to worsening weather conditions and the dangers posed by a wintertime crossing. According to IOM figures, there have been 11 recorded deaths along the Eastern Mediterranean Route during the same period.

Greek police arrest people smugglers

- Greek police [stopped](#) a smuggler and six Syrian refugees after a car chase on the Thessaloniki-Kavala highway. The smuggler, a Jordanian national, had refused to stop at police check point. The six Syrian refugees told police they arrived in Greece after crossing from Turkey through the Evros region near the border.
- Greek police also [arrested](#) two Pakistani smugglers who operate from Turkey and transport migrants, refugees and asylum seekers to Greece by boat across the Evros river. The police apprehended them while they were transporting nine migrants, refugees and asylum seekers across the river. Across the river, a further 80 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers were waiting to be transported to Greece by the same boat.

Migrants, refugees and asylum seekers injured in road collision

- 27 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers [were injured](#) and one child was killed after the van carrying them collided with a truck. The smugglers who were transporting them and who were also injured in the accident were from Somalia, Bangladesh and Iraq. The person driving the car did not have the requisite license and was transporting the group of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers from the Evros region to Thessaloniki.

Stricter checks at airports curbing illegal migration inside EU

- Greek police have [increased](#) checkpoints in and around Greek airports in order to reduce the number of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers crossing irregularly into other EU member states. A Greek official told a local media outlet that authorities apprehended over 5,500 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers at the country's 25 airports between January and October of 2018, up 130% from the figure for all of 2017. Speaking with the media outlet, the officer said, "We expanded our inspections from the departure gates to all indoor areas and the airport perimeters, where we had observed meetings taking place between smugglers and irregular migrants," and added, "We also conducted inspections at taxi stands and airport bus stops at regional airports."

European Commission provides additional funding to increase migrant reception capacity in mainland Greece

- The European Commission [allocated](#) an additional €43.7 million to help provide better accommodation to vulnerable migrants, refugees and asylum seekers in Greece. The amount was given to IOM as a form of emergency assistance to allow the organization to provide around 6,000 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers with emergency shelters. This move comes in anticipation of the coming winter and the conditions the migrants, refugees and asylum seekers are living in on the Greek islands.

Number of Refugees, Migrants at Moria Camp Drops Below 6,000

- The Ministry of Migration Policy in Greece [announced](#) the decrease in the numbers of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers present at Moria Camp in Lesbos to below 6,000. The Moria camp is currently hosting around 5,860 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers while a further 1,140 are staying in the Kara Tepe camp. The remaining migrants, refugees and asylum seekers are staying in apartments provided by UNHCR and other NGOs. This decrease in numbers comes after reports of truly deplorable conditions at camps.

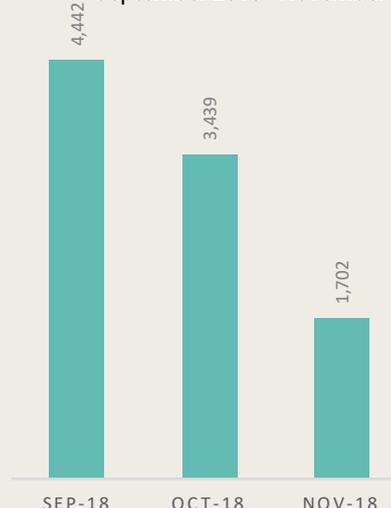
UN Migration Agency Sheltering Over 1,000 Unaccompanied Migrant Children in Greece

- IOM [announced](#) that it has provided accommodation and shelter to over 1,100 unaccompanied child migrants in Greece since the beginning of 2018. The project, funded by the EU, made it possible to accommodate the children in 13 hotels on the Greek mainland after their transfer from reception centers on the Greek islands. Eight of the hotels are each assigned 24 IOM staff to provide support and services to the children while other implementing partners, ARSIS and Iliaktida, operate the other facilities. The children are mainly from Afghanistan, Pakistan, Syria and Iraq and are receiving in psychological and health and legal counseling while in temporary accommodation. They also receive an allowance and cards for transportation as well as clothing and hygiene kits. Médecins du Monde (MdM Greece), in partnership with IOM, is also carrying out medical consultations, vaccinations and prescriptions for child migrants.

Turkish Coast Guard Rescues 44 Migrants Stuck on Island

- The Turkish Coast Guard [saved](#) 44 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers trapped on an island after a failed attempt to cross to Greece on 19 November. One of the migrants sent a call for help that was received by the Turkish Coast Guard who sent two helicopters and a boat to rescue the trapped migrants, refugees and asylum seekers. The nationalities of the rescued migrants, refugees and asylum seekers were not revealed but it was mentioned that there were 13 children among them. Turkish authorities reported that more than 23,500 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers attempted to cross to Greece since the beginning of 2018, a marked increase from the previous year.

Arrivals by Sea, Greece
September 2018 - November 2018



Sea Arrivals

- 842 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers arrived in Italy by sea between 28 October and 28 November, which represents a 15% decrease from figures for a similar period last month. 11 deaths of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers were recorded during the same reporting period along the CMR.

Thousands protest in Rome over 'anti-migrant' decree

- Thousands [marched](#) in Rome to demonstrate against the anti-migrant measures and policies promoted by Matteo Salvini the Italian Minister of Interior. The march was attended by activists and protestors from 50 different cities to denounce the unfair policies against migrants and as well as to express their support for migrants. The Italian parliament recently [voted](#) for a [decree](#) that would enable the government to clamp down on migrants, refugees and asylum seekers. The decree was passed on 29 November and approved by parliament. One of the main aims of the new law is to fast track the expulsion of 'dangerous' asylum seekers.

Italian police evict migrants from camp in Rome

- Italian police [evicted](#) migrants, refugees and asylum seeker from a temporary camp in Rome on 13 November. The camp, known as 'The Baobab', housed over a hundred migrants, refugees and asylum seekers. The camp was also a shelter for migrants with documents who were prevented from staying in reception centers due to the implementation of a recent decree passed by the Italian parliament. Italian police used bulldozers to level the makeshift accommodation and evict its residents.

War of words between Italy and Malta's Home Affairs ministers

- The Italian Interior Minister Matteo Salvini [accused](#) Malta of helping a boat carrying migrants, refugees and asylum seekers reach Lampedusa by giving them fuel and a compass. The Italian side reported that Italian authorities informed Maltese authorities about a boat carrying migrants, refugees and asylum seekers in Maltese water and asking for fuel. The boat landed afterwards in Lampedusa with migrants on board saying they were helped by people wearing clothing similar to that worn by Maltese Coast Guard. According to witness reports, they received help from persons in a dinghy and were guided towards Italian shores. The Maltese Foreign Minister replied to the accusations through some tweets where he explained that if the boat was not necessarily in distress and the people on board refused the rescue, they cannot be prevented from continuing their journey.

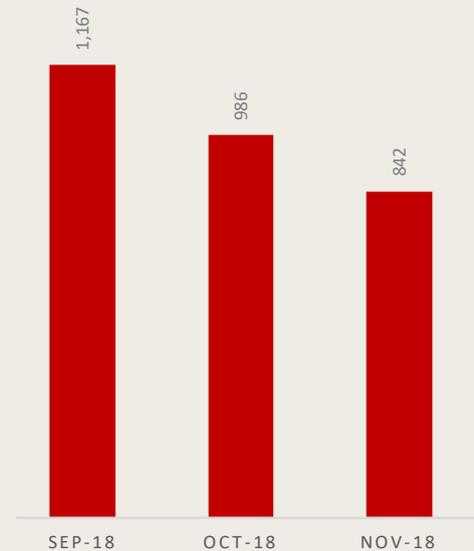
UN condemns Italy's anti-migrant decree and 'climate of hatred'

- The UN [expressed](#) "grave concern" over changes in Italian migration policy and over the repercussions of the adoption of an anti-migrant decree. The decree would remove humanitarian protection from vulnerable migrants and make it harder for them to access housing and other essential services. The UN rapporteurs for human rights gave a statement saying that some politicians fueled anti-migrant and xenophobic sentiments among the Italian public. The UN rapporteurs warned that the new measures would increase the vulnerabilities of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers and will destabilize Italian society by encouraging hate speech and animosity. "The government must adhere to the values enshrined in the Italian constitution, and the international commitments it signed up to," said the UN rapporteurs.

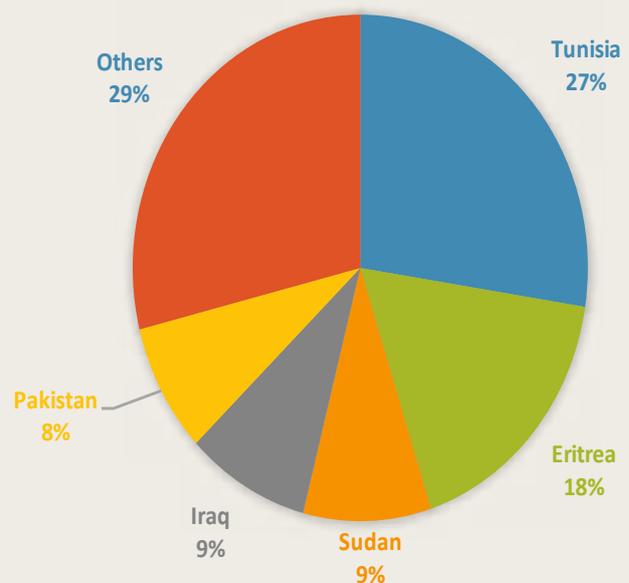
Migrant rescue ship 'Mare Jonio' back at sea after refueling

- An Italian search and rescue ship, the 'Mare Jonio', [set](#) off for the international waters off Libya on 1 November. The ship is part of the NGO-sponsored project 'Italian Mediterranean sea rescue project'. According to a statement released by the NGOs in question, the Mare Jonio is the only search and rescue vessel operating in the Central Mediterranean between Italy and Libya. The vessel had been anchored in Palermo on a technical and refueling stop.

Arrivals by Sea, Italy
September 2018 - November 2018



Arrivals by Sea to Italy, Main Countries of Origin
January 2018 - November 2018



RESEARCH OF INTEREST

[Mixed Migration Review 2018](#) - Mixed Migration Center

This Paper offers a detailed overview of regional and national mixed migration trends around the world in 2018.

[Global education monitoring report, 2019: Migration, displacement and education: building bridges, not walls](#) - UNESCO

This research paper discusses how Migration and displacement can profoundly affect education, requiring systems to accommodate those who move and those left behind.

[Confronting the challenges of migration in West and Central Africa Sound policies and cooperation by countries are key \(Africa Renewal\)](#) - United Nations Department of Public Information

The new issue of the Africa renewal magazine for December 2018 focuses on the challenges of migration in West and Central Africa.

MULTIMEDIA & EDITORIALS OF INTEREST

[Refugee art focuses on importance of dealing with trauma](#) - Infomigrants

This editorial focuses on an art exhibition in northwest Germany that is hoping to help refugees process their traumatic experiences.

[What's to fear in the U.N. Global Compact for Migration](#) - Refugees Deeply

An editorial that addresses some of the misconceptions surrounding the GCM, especially as they relate to state sovereignty.

[Denmark plans to isolate unwanted migrants on a small island](#) - The New York Times

This New York Times editorial addresses Danish plans to isolate migrants on an island and the different ways it raises problematic issues.

[Migration complexity requires a less conditional compassion](#) - Open Democracy

This editorial calls for a more nuanced approach to how portraits of migration and migrants and refugees are framed.

[Vilification of migrants making them more vulnerable to abuse](#) - Devdiscourse

This piece links increased vulnerability among people on the move to toxic rhetoric by press and politicians alike.

['You are safe here': Welcome to the Centro Astalli in Catania](#) - Infomigrants

This piece is about the Centro Astalli which offers services and a safe haven for migrants.

*MHub does not vouch for the accuracy or reliability of articles in its Monthly Bulletin.