



MONTHLY TREND REPORT

COVERING MIXED MIGRATION TO, THROUGH & FROM NORTH AFRICA

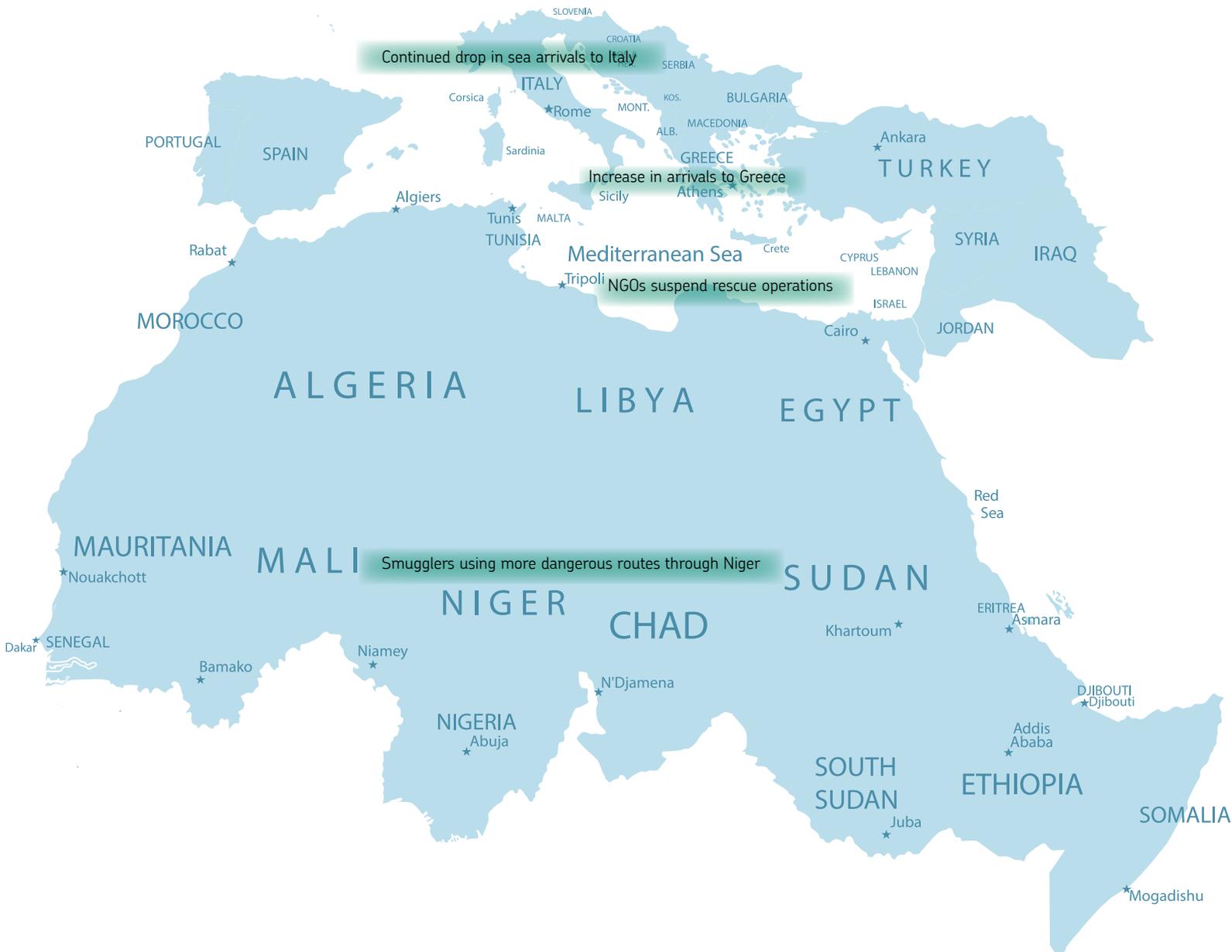
About: MHub is the regional knowledge hub and secretariat for the North Africa Mixed Migration Task Force, comprising of DRC, IOM, OHCHR, RMMS, Save the Children, UNHCR, UNICEF and UNODC. It promotes a human rights-based approach to ensure the protection of people moving in mixed and complex flows to, 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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REGIONAL

Paris Summit

- On [28 August](#) Paris hosted a summit on migration, bringing together EU and African leaders in an effort to bridge differences and devise a plan to combat human trafficking and irregular migration. The meeting brought together the EU leaders of France, Italy, Germany and Spain and their counterparts from Chad, Niger and Libya. One of the main objectives of the meeting was to increase cooperation between EU 'destination' countries and countries of 'origin' and 'transit' and to bring their responses into one coherent plan. In a joint statement following proceedings, the assembled leaders underscored the importance of economic development on the local level and the founding of livelihoods opportunities for migrants, refugees and asylum seekers. They also advocated for the founding of alternative livelihoods opportunities for those currently benefitting from smuggling operations. One of the more contentious outcomes of the meeting is a preliminary agreement to set up mechanisms for the identification of refugees in Chad and Niger. UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Filippo Grandi, later released a [statement](#) commending the efforts to put together a long-term, comprehensive plan of action and in which he underscored the need to move away from security driven responses. He further added, "Any meaningful approach must include a set of strong and determined actions to ensure a lasting peace in conflict-ridden countries as well as social and economic development in places of origin."

Pope Francis outlines 20-point action plan

- On [21 August](#) Pope Francis issued a document detailing a 20-point action plan on the treatment of refugees, asylum seekers and migrants. The document acknowledges the seriousness of the challenges posed by the latest waves of displacement and proposes 20 action-points grouped under four main calls to action: to welcome, to protect, to promote and to integrate. The document released in anticipation of next year's Global Compact on Migration (GCM) and Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) consultations calls for the expansion of pathways for safe and regular migration, the protection of the rights and dignity of all persons on the move and the promotion of the human development of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers.

UN warns EU-backed Italy Code of Conduct for rescue ships threatens more sea deaths

- UN human rights experts condemned Italy's new policy on Mediterranean Sea rescues as [threatening life](#) and breaching international standards. The code, drafted by Italy and supported by the European Commission, aims to stifle the work of privately-operated search ships rescuing migrants and asylum seekers from open waters off the Libyan coast. On its part, Libya has announced a search and rescue zone beyond its territorial waters and is banning humanitarian vessels from entering its newly expanded territorial waters.

European anti-migrant ship has funding cancelled

- Defend Europe, a right wing group that operates a ship in the Mediterranean to stop migrants and refugees reaching Europe, [lost funding](#) after crowd-funding website Patreon shut down the group's page. The group has raised tens of thousands of dollars to fund their mission of obstructing NGO rescue missions in the Mediterranean. The group, however, continues to raise money through another donations page set up on WeSearchr.

Germany deportations ignore risks for LGBT asylum seekers

- Lawyers and organizations supporting LGBT asylum seekers are accusing Germany of [ignoring risks](#) LGBT asylum seekers face in their home countries when deported. While the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BaMF) claimed that the ministry reviews each case individually taking into consideration refugee protection and the security status of home countries, lawyers and rights groups say that authorities decline to grant asylum to LGBT asylum seekers from countries not considered safe by Germany.

Merkel pledges 50 million euros to UN refugee and migration agencies

- German Chancellor Angela Merkel pledged 50 million euros from Germany to UNHCR and IOM by the end of 2017 to [support](#) their work with refugees and migrants in Libya.

Influx of migrants triggers risk of slavery in EU supply chains

- The modern slavery index, produced by Verisk Maplecroft, claimed that the influx of migrants, asylum seekers and refugees in Europe has [increased the risk of slavery](#) and forced labour in supply chains in three-quarters of EU countries. The index found Romania, Italy, Cyprus, and Bulgaria to be particularly prone to slavery and forced labour. Experts are expressing concern over the potential of modern slavery continuing to worsen in Italy, with agriculture being a major sector of concern, as sea arrivals to Italy continue. The International Labour Organization estimates that 21 million people worldwide are subject to some form of slavery.

The fifth thematic session on the development of the GCM

- The fifth informal thematic session on the development of the GCM, entitled "Smuggling of migrants, trafficking in persons and contemporary forms of slavery, including appropriate identification, protection and assistance to migrants and trafficking victims" was successfully held on 4-5 September at the United Nations Office, Vienna, with a large number of state delegations and civil society actors in attendance. On the margins of the event, UNODC took part in a panel discussion organized by the Government of Turkey, and jointly hosted by UNODC and IOM on "Reflecting on the Necessity of International Cooperation and Supporting New Models of Cooperation to Counter Migrant Smuggling". This side event served as a platform to discuss innovative approaches to countering

migrant smuggling and supporting new models of cooperation. Another panel discussed human rights perspectives on smuggling and how to effectively identify, protect and assist migrants in vulnerable situations in the context of smuggling. The panel was organized jointly by UNODC and OHCHR and in collaboration with the Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women (GAATW) and with the sponsorship of the Government of Honduras.

Working group on trafficking in persons

- From 6 to 8 September, UNODC held its 7th Session of the Working Group on Trafficking in Persons, in Vienna, which focused inter alia on effective criminal justice responses centered on addressing the protection and assistance needs of trafficking victims within mixed migration movements.

Relocation and Resettlement

- As of 4 September, [27,700](#) have been relocated from Italy and Greece under the [September 2015 Scheme](#) (with a total of 8,451 from Italy and 19,244 from Greece). The slight deceleration in the rate of monthly relocations from Italy witnessed in July was carried over into August with only 467 relocations taking place. While almost 1,800 refugees were relocated from Greece during the month of August, an increase from previous month's figures, those figures still fell below June's record figure of 2,000. On [6 September](#) the European Court of Justice dismissed, in their entirety, the actions brought by Slovakia and Hungary against the mandatory relocation of asylum seekers. The Court of Justice affirmed that EU institutions were empowered "...to adopt all the provisional measures necessary to respond effectively and swiftly to an emergency situation characterized by a sudden inflow of displaced persons.
- As of [4 September](#), 17,305 have been resettled to 22 EU countries, that is out of the 22,504 refugees agreed upon under the EU resettlement scheme adopted in July 2015. A total of 8,834 Syrians have now been resettled under the EU-Turkey Statement.

ALGERIA

Algeria criticized for forced repatriation

- 1,400 were reportedly forcibly repatriated to Niger as Algeria [resumes forced repatriations](#) of refugees, asylum seekers, and migrants. Algeria claims the move aims to reduce the number of irregular migrants and combat human trafficking in the

country. While the government claims that there are 25,000 irregular migrants, human rights groups believe there are over 100,000 migrants in the country. Rights groups urged Algeria to take a more humanitarian stance towards migrants residing within its territory.

EGYPT

Irregular migration into and out of Egypt

- A spokesperson for the Egyptian Armed Forces [reported](#) that 230 persons of various nationalities were detained in relation to irregular migration between 10 August and 26 August. In a separate statement, Egyptian authorities also reported that 47 persons (21 foreigners and 26 Egyptians) were [stopped](#) from irregularly migrating to Europe from Egypt's Mediterranean shores on 19 August. Authorities further reported that two smugglers were arrested in relation to this incident. Authorities also reported that 14 persons (13 Ethiopians and 1 Sudanese) were [detained](#) as they irregularly crossed into Southern Egypt on 18 August. A further 8 persons were detained as they attempted an irregular crossing into Libya. The group, comprising four Egyptians, two Eritreans and two Ethiopians attempted to make the crossing through Salloum.

Egypt and Germany sign MoU

- On [27 August](#) the foreign ministers of Egypt and Germany oversaw the signing of a memorandum of understanding between the two countries that hopes to strengthen areas of cooperation in relation to refugees and irregular migration to Europe. Speaking at a joint press conference, Shoukry [said](#), "The problem of illegal immigration is an international one, and we must deal with the socio-economic roots of the crisis; the problem must be dealt with while respecting the rights of refugees and migrants in accordance with international law." Against the backdrop of this agreement, Egypt underscored its [opposition](#) to the establishment of refugee camps on its territory.

IOM and GoE training on migration and human trafficking

- IOM and the National Coordination Committee for Combating and Preventing Illegal Migration and Trafficking in Persons (NCCPIM&TIP) [held](#) the first of two training workshops for journalists and media professionals between 16-17 August. The training, titled 'Countering Trafficking in Persons through Media', aimed to strengthen participants' understanding of trafficking in persons and discussed ethical issues pertaining to reporting on victims. The trainings are implemented within the framework of two IOM projects: Action to Support the National Coordinating Committee on Combating and Preventing Trafficking in Persons (NCCTIP) and the Regional Development and Protection Programme in Northern Africa, both funded by the European Union. The second training is expected to be held during the last week of September.

Egyptian-Romanian discussions on migration

- The foreign ministers of Egypt and Romania met in Bucharest on [29 August](#) to discuss ways of responding to the regional issues of migration and terrorism. The Egyptian Minister for Foreign Affairs' visit was the first of its kind to Romania in seven years. In statements following the meeting, both officials underscored the fundamental need for close international cooperation in bringing about stability and security in the region.

LIBYA

Maritime incidents

- Around 2,255 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers were rescued off the coast of Libya in August across 14 separate incidents, bringing the total number rescued by the Libyan Coast Guard in 2017 to [13,826](#) (as of 30 August). In the month of August, 13 deaths were recorded.

Returns from Libya

- A total of 249 Nigerian migrants were assisted by IOM to return home, with 121 returning on the [6 August](#) and a further 128 returning on 10 August. 6 of those returned on the [10 August](#) were in need of urgent medical care. A further 132 Guineans (121 men, 10 women, 2 children and 1 unaccompanied minor) [returned](#) to Guinea on September 5, also with the assistance of IOM.

Migrant deaths in the desert

- On [5 September](#) Libyan authorities reported that they had recovered the bodies of 16 migrants in the desert near the country's borders with Egypt. The discovery was made 310 km from the coastal city of Tobruk. In the past, the bodies of abandoned and stranded migrants and refugees who had died making the irregular crossing into Libya from Egypt have been recovered by the Libyan Red Crescent.

NGOs suspend rescue operations

- Four NGOs have recently suspended rescue operations in the Mediterranean following mounting tensions with the Libyan coast guard. Three organizations, MSF, Save the Children and Sea Eye, [halted](#) operations during the second week of August, citing the increased hostility of the Libyan coast guard as the reason for the move. There are reports that the Libyan coast guard has expanded its area of operations beyond the country's territorial limits and has come into direct confrontation with

some rescue ships. The Malta-based humanitarian group, Migrant Offshore Aid Station (MOAS), [suspended](#) its operations on 4 September. In a statement made regarding the decision, co-founder Regina Catrambone said, "We no longer have a definite knowledge that they will be taken to a safe port, and we don't want to rescue migrants and then be forced to return them to Libya, giving them a false hope." There are currently three NGOs still operating at the edge of Libyan waters, Sea Watch, SOS Mediterranee and Proactiva Open Arms.

Children in need of humanitarian aid in Libya

- The European Commission has [granted](#) UNICEF €11 million towards its responses to help the most vulnerable children in Libya. The latest grant is part of a wider €90 million program titled "Managing mixed migration flows in Libya through expanding protection space and supporting local socioeconomic development." UNICEF's Regional Director for the Middle East and North Africa Geert Cappelaere [made](#) his first visit to Libya in August. In a [statement](#) released following his trip, Cappelaere said that over half a million children were in dire need of humanitarian aid and assistance in Libya. He further added that displacement has had the effect of putting increasing numbers of children at risk of exploitation and abuse. Cappelaere also highlighted UNICEF's efforts to provide essential services even at the height of the crisis, with the agency and its partners able to maintain universal immunization coverage. He further stated that UNICEF aims to have all its full-time staff operating from Libya by next October.

MOROCCO

Migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers attempt to cross Spanish border with Morocco

- Spain claims approximately 700 migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers [tried to cross](#) its border through the enclave of Ceuta but were unsuccessful. The office of Interior Ministry in Ceuta said that some migrants attempted to climb over the six-meter high barbed-wire fences after the first crossing but were unsuccessful. Spain and Morocco agreed to close the Tarajal post for a week following the attempted crossings.

Spanish coastguard rescues 600 migrants in 24 hours

- Approximately 600 migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers were [rescued in 24 hours](#) by the Spanish coastguard after attempting to cross from Morocco to Spain. The coastguard said that 593 people had been pulled from 15 rafts, 424 of whom were in Gibraltar Strait and 169 near Alboran, an island midway between Spain and Morocco. Two more rafts, one of which included six children, were found in Gibraltar Strait following the first rescue.

Sweden suspends project to build asylum reception centers in Morocco

- Sweden has [put off its plan](#) to build reception centers for Moroccans whose asylum applications have been rejected. Sweden decided to suspend the decision after Germany withdrew from the project. It had been announced in February that Sweden and German would jointly build youth centers

in Morocco which would receive youth and unaccompanied or separated child asylum seekers whose asylum claims had been denied. Swedish authorities argued that building these centers would help the Moroccan government accept the repatriation of asylum seekers and migrants to Morocco. According to the Minister for Justice and Home Affairs, Morgan Johansson, Sweden has since been seeking other approaches, such as directly communicating with the Moroccan authorities regarding repatriation. He claims Morocco is now agreeing to accept more returnees than before.

Aid group calls inquiry into suspected refugee, asylum seeker, and migrant deaths near Morocco

- Doctors of the World Spain [called](#) for an independent inquiry into the suspected deaths of seven Sub-Saharan women from the Democratic Republic of Congo and Guinea in the waters between Morocco and Spain. According to witness accounts, the women may have been onboard a makeshift boat carrying more than 40 people that arrived near the Spanish enclave of Melilla north of Morocco. 13 migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers were rescued and taken to Melilla while nine were taken in by Moroccan forces.

Niger smugglers taking deadlier routes

- IOM Niger has stated that, due to a clampdown on smuggling routes through Agadez, smugglers are using ever more treacherous and dangerous routes in order to [evade](#) authorities with migrants and refugees paying the ultimate price. Alberto Preato, program manager at the IOM in Niger, has said, “Smugglers are taking more risks to avoid major hubs, checkpoints and security controls...But cars break down, drivers get lost and migrants get abandoned ... the conditions are dire.” IOM Niger has [rescued](#) over 1,000 migrants from the Nigerian desert since April in operations coordinated in cooperation with Niger’s Department of Civil Protection (DCP). IOM spokesperson Olivia Headon has said, “Because the desert is so vast ... it is hard to know how many people are actually dying en route.”

IOM registration system for migrants transiting through Niger

- On 17 August IOM [launched](#) the Migrant Assistance Registration System (MARS), a registration and profiling system for migrants transiting through Niger. The new system is hoped to facilitate increased collaboration across IOM units as well as data collection efforts at its five transit centers in the country. MARS will allow IOM to streamline its operations with regards to assistance delivery across various locations and will assist in keeping up to date data and records on migrants registered with the system. IOM’s Migrant Resource and Response Mechanism (MRRM) Programme Manager, Alberto Preato, has said, “Innovative tools like MARS, developed to respond to specific operational challenges, can contribute to greater efficiency and accountability in the aid sector.”

SUDAN

Sudan requests additional funds from international community

- Sudan has [requested](#) more funds in order to deal with the refugee populations on its territory during a meeting between Sudan’s Minister for International Cooperation, Idris Sulieman, and UNHCR representative for Sudan, Noriko Yoshida on 14 August. Minister Suleiman highlighted the need to improve conditions in refugee camps as well as to provide integrated social services and skills training to refugees. This call for increased support from the international community was [echoed](#) by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Filippo Grandi, on his first official visit to Sudan later that week. In statements made following his visit to Al-Nimir refugee camp in East Darfur, Grandi said, “Sudan’s generosity must be matched with international solidarity and resources. Much more donor support is required – and urgently – so that we can help the hundreds of thousands of refugees in the country and the communities that are hosting them.”

IOM trains Sudanese officials on border management system

- IOM [held](#) a three-day border management training event for Sudanese officials at the African Capacity Building Centre (ACBC) in Tanzania between 22 and 24 August. The training focused on IOM’s border management information system, the Migration Information and Data Analysis System (MIDAS), and helped Sudanese officials make informed decisions regarding upgrades to their current border management information systems. Furthermore, the event was an opportunity to discuss technological advances in the field as well as potential risks and challenges associated with implementation of new protocols and systems.

Release of 22 Eritrean refugees by human traffickers

- 22 Eritrean refugees, including two girls, were [released](#) by their kidnappers during the last week of August following the payment of traffickers’ ransom demands. They had been held by their captors since mid- August and were transported to a remote location where they were then forced to contact family and relatives with ransom demands. Kidnappers were reportedly paid between \$1,500 and \$5,000 per person.

Allocation of funds for humanitarian assistance

- The United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) and the Sudan Humanitarian Fund (SHF) have together [allocated](#) \$21 million to address the most critical

humanitarian needs and increase self-reliance of communities in newly accessible areas in Darfur’s Jebel Marra area, as well as in South Kordofan and Blue Niles states. Marta Ruedas, the United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Sudan, has said, “Our response will address both the immediate needs through emergency, life-saving assistance and strengthen resilience of the most vulnerable and their communities to future and recurring shocks.” This latest injection of funds comes at a time when only 25% of funds appealed for under Sudan’s Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) have been met.

Launch of GIZ-funded project

- The GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit), government officials, and implementing partners launched GIZ-funded ‘Better Migration Management’ project. The project aims to promote better governance on migration and has four pillars of focus: policy harmonization, protection, capacity building, and awareness raising.

Sudan launches series of trainings on combatting trafficking in persons

- IOM Sudan, in collaboration with the Judicial and Legal Science Institute of Sudan, held a series of workshops and trainings in July and August on investigating and prosecuting trafficking in persons. A 5-day training was held for 15 judges, lawyers, and police officers at the Judicial and Legal Science Institute of Sudan.

DFID funds for South Sudanese refugees in Sudan

- The UK’s Department for International Development (DFID) has [allocated](#) \$3 million in funds towards humanitarian assistance efforts targeting 150,000 South Sudanese refugees and 15,000 individuals from host communities in Sudan. The funds will support work in the areas of education, water and sanitation, registration and shelter covering three states (White Nile, South Kordofan and East Darfur). UNHCR’s Representative in Sudan, Noriko Yoshida, has lauded DFID’s contribution saying that the funds will go a long way towards the protection needs of children.

TUNISIA

IOM and Libyan agencies meet in Tunis to discuss sea rescues

- IOI and a number of Libyan agencies [met](#) in Tunis between 27-28 August to discuss the establishment of a coordination body to facilitate rescues at sea. The meeting brought together representatives from the Libyan Coast Guard, the Libyan Red Crescent, the Passport Investigation Department and the General Department for Coast Security and the Border Points.

Reports of migrant boat sinking off Tunisian coast

- A member of the Tunisian Red Crescent has [said](#) there have been reports of the sinking of a boat carrying over 100

migrants off the coast of Tunisia. According to Shamseddine Marzouq, one Nigerian survivor had managed to make to shore and reported the sinking. The vessel had reportedly set sail from Libya's western city of Zuwara with Italy as its final destination. Marzouq added that if bodies are to be recovered they will be buried. Furthermore, such recovery is likely to be made by local fisherman who have become deeply [involved](#) in migrant rescue as well as body recovery operations over the years. MSF has in fact trained local fisherman in 2015 and 2016 in order to increase the likelihood of successful rescues.

GREECE

Sea arrivals to Greece

- 3,665 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers arrived by sea to Greece in the month of August (figure as of 27 August), representing an approximate 62% increase on the figure from July. This brings the total number of arrivals in 2017 to 15,070. There have also been no recorded fatalities along the Eastern Mediterranean route in the month of August.

Returns from Greece to Turkey

- 19 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers were [returned](#) to Turkey during the month of August under the EU-Turkey Statement. This brings the total number returned in 2017 to 507.

Greece to begin accepting returns from Germany

- Greek Migration Minister, Yiannis Mouzalas, has [said](#) that Greece will be accepting a small number of the 392 requests for return received from other EU countries under the Dublin Agreement. The move effectively reactivates the agreement which has been effectively suspended since EU's Court of Justice found that conditions in Greece were unacceptable in 2011. This finding has been reversed in December of last year with the EU Commission recommending that returns be reinstated gradually. Mouzalas [added](#), "We are going to implement the Dublin agreement symbolically, which means that the number [being returned] will be very small, a few dozen people over the next few months."

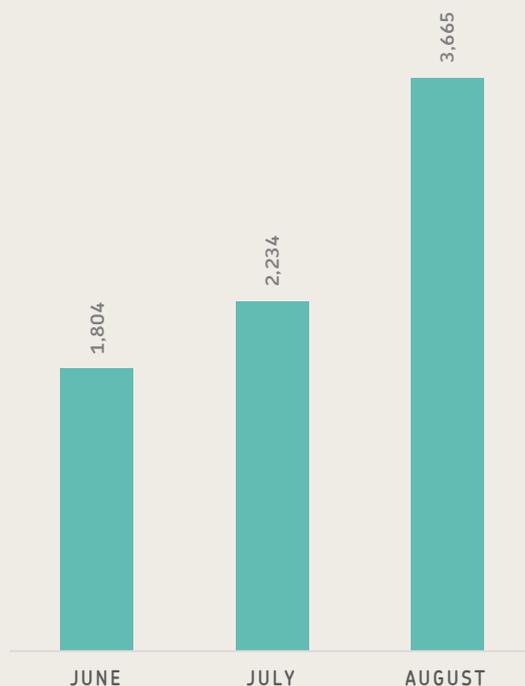
Afghan refugees march for better treatment

- Afghan refugees and asylum seekers, along with supporting activist groups, [marched](#) through Athens on 22 August to demand better treatment. Those marching demanded equal treatment for all refugees and asylum seekers and protested the country's lengthy asylum processing procedures and poor living conditions in reception centers. They further called for the scrapping of the EU-Turkey Statement which allows Greece to return unsuccessful asylum applicants to Turkey.

Greek ministries considering various training and livelihoods options for refugees

- The Greek Ministry of Migration Policy and Ministry of Rural Development are each [considering](#) livelihoods related initiatives for refugees. The initiatives offer areas of collaboration for both ministries as well as the Ministry of Education and both are part of wider programs to provide refugees with communication and professional skills, particularly in the agriculture sector. In addition, the Ministry of Rural Development is considering plans that would provide land concessions to around 1,000 to 1,500 refugees.

Arrivals by Sea, Greece
June- August



ITALY

Continued drop in sea arrivals to Italy

- August saw the arrival of 4,303 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers by sea to Italy, representing a marked decrease of around 63% from the previous month of July (11,667). During August, 23 deaths were reported along the Central Mediterranean route, also representing a significant drop from July's figure (149) and bringing the total number of deaths in 2017 to 2,244.

Italy hails Libyan ban on humanitarian rescue vessels

- Foreign rescue vessels searching for refugees and asylum seekers off the coast of Libya are now placed under a navy ban by Libya. The Libyan navy claims the decision was made "according to international laws and regulations". The Libyan navy spokesperson, Ayoub Qaseed, accused some NGOs of having links to smugglers. "We do not have evidence. But it is

strange that there are no migration boats when Libyan navy patrols are at sea although vessels of these organizations are there,” he said. Italian Foreign Minister, Angelino Alfano, [hailed](#) the move saying that it “sends a signal that the balance is being restored in the Mediterranean”. In response to the ban, several aid groups suspended their search and rescue operations in that area. The NGOs warned that move would lead to more deaths if rescue operations do not resume.

Priest accused of smuggling denies allegation

- The prosecutor’s office in the city of Trapani in Sicily is [investigating](#) Catholic Priest Don Mussie Zerai for allegedly aiding and abetting illegal migration. Individuals making the crossing to Italy call Zerai for help and he in turn contacts the Italian coastguard and aid organizations to come to the rescue. Zerai denies the allegations and says he communicates the information he receives from distress calls to the Italian coastguard and various non-governmental organizations. He believes the accusations are part of a political campaign by Italian authorities to curb migration.

Refugees in Rome protest eviction

- Refugees and asylum seekers [protested their eviction](#) from a central Rome office building where they had been staying. Approximately 800 people lived in the six-storey building a block away from the capital’s main train station for six years before they were forcibly evicted by the police. Without a place to go, hundreds slept on the ground in the square in front of the building. A delegation of the evicted refugees met city officials after which the city government said it would “give absolute priority” to trying to support families, the elderly, and persons with disabilities. However, the statement made no mention of lodging for the displaced.

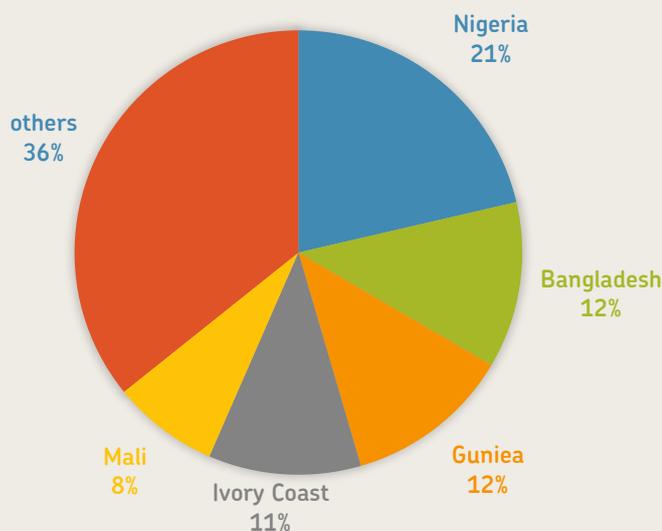
European Parliament President calls on EU to reach ‘Turkey-like’ migrant deal with Libya

- European Parliament President Antonio Tajani called on EU leaders to set aside 6 million euros in [financial aid](#) for Libya to stop migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers from crossing the central Mediterranean route into Europe. The aid would be used “to promote an agreement between Tripoli and Benghazi” and to neighboring Niger and Chad to help them stem migration through Libya and to set up UN registration centers while claims for asylum are being processed. Tajani said another long-term financial investment of up to 60 billion euros would be needed to curb migration from Sub-Saharan Africa by strengthening African economies.

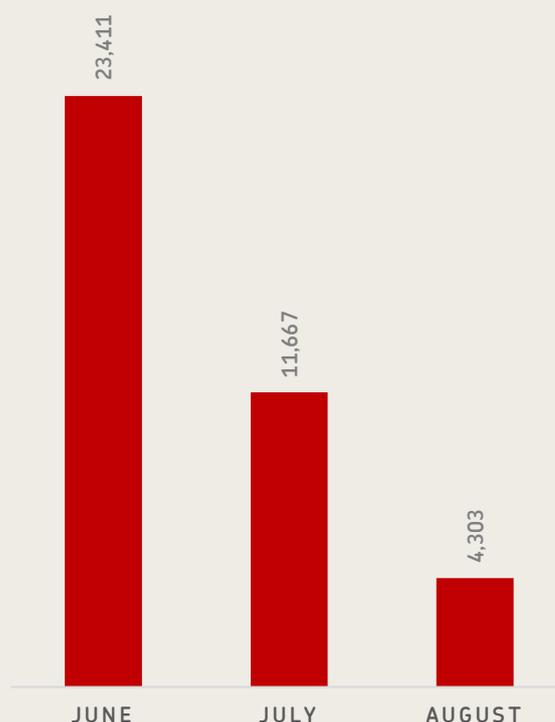
Asylum seekers volunteer for community service in Italy

- The Italian government has encouraged local authorities to [involve asylum seekers](#) and migrants in volunteer projects to harbor cohesion and integration in communities where they are housed. Earlier this year, Interior Minister Marco Minniti suggested that community service should become mandatory for asylum seekers. Migration advocates and union officials have criticized the push for community service for migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers as a potential exploitative practice and violation of international norms on asylum claims. Gianfranco Schiavone, vice president of ASGI, a research institute specializing in immigration law, criticized the scheme for not fostering real integration and cohesion. “If a bus picks them up, takes them to a place to pick up trash and then brings them back without interaction with other people, that is fake community service,” he said.

Arrivals by Sea to Italy, Main Countries of Origin
January - August 2017



Arrivals by Sea, Italy
June - August 2017



RESEARCH OF INTEREST

[“Like a Prison”: Asylum-seekers confined to the Greek islands](#) - Refugees International

The study, based on qualitative research, addresses the evolution of patterns and routes to and through Libya, maps out and highlights the concentration of refugees and migrants within Libya and determines the vulnerabilities and protection needs.

[2016 Migrant Profiling Report](#) - IOM Niger

IOM Niger report providing insights into and profiles of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers passing through its transit centers during 2016.

[Desperate Journeys \(January-June 2017\)](#) - UNHCR

Report detailing major trends and changes in the routes used by migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers to reach Europe.

[Afghan Child Migrants: Italy, the preferred country of transit?](#) - Afghanistan Analysts Network

Report looking at the situation of Afghan unaccompanied minors in Italy and the Italian system of protections available to them.

[Mixed Migration Monthly Summary July 2017](#) - MMP

The report provides insights on the current migration trends in the Middle East during the month of July 2017.

MULTIMEDIA OF INTEREST

[Seeking alternatives for Niger’s people smugglers](#) - UNHCR

Article and video by UNHCR regarding Niger’s smuggling industry.

[Migrants, refugees attempting to reach Europe face abuse in Libya](#) - TRT World

Article and video addressing the precarious and abusive conditions that migrants and refugees face on their journeys through and from Libya.

[Forgotten in Tunisia](#) - MSF

Article featuring photographs of and testimonials by migrants and refugees in Tunisia.

[Tragedy at Evros: A perilous river crossing to Greece](#) - ICRC

A photojournalism piece about the treacherous Evros River crossing.⁶

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