

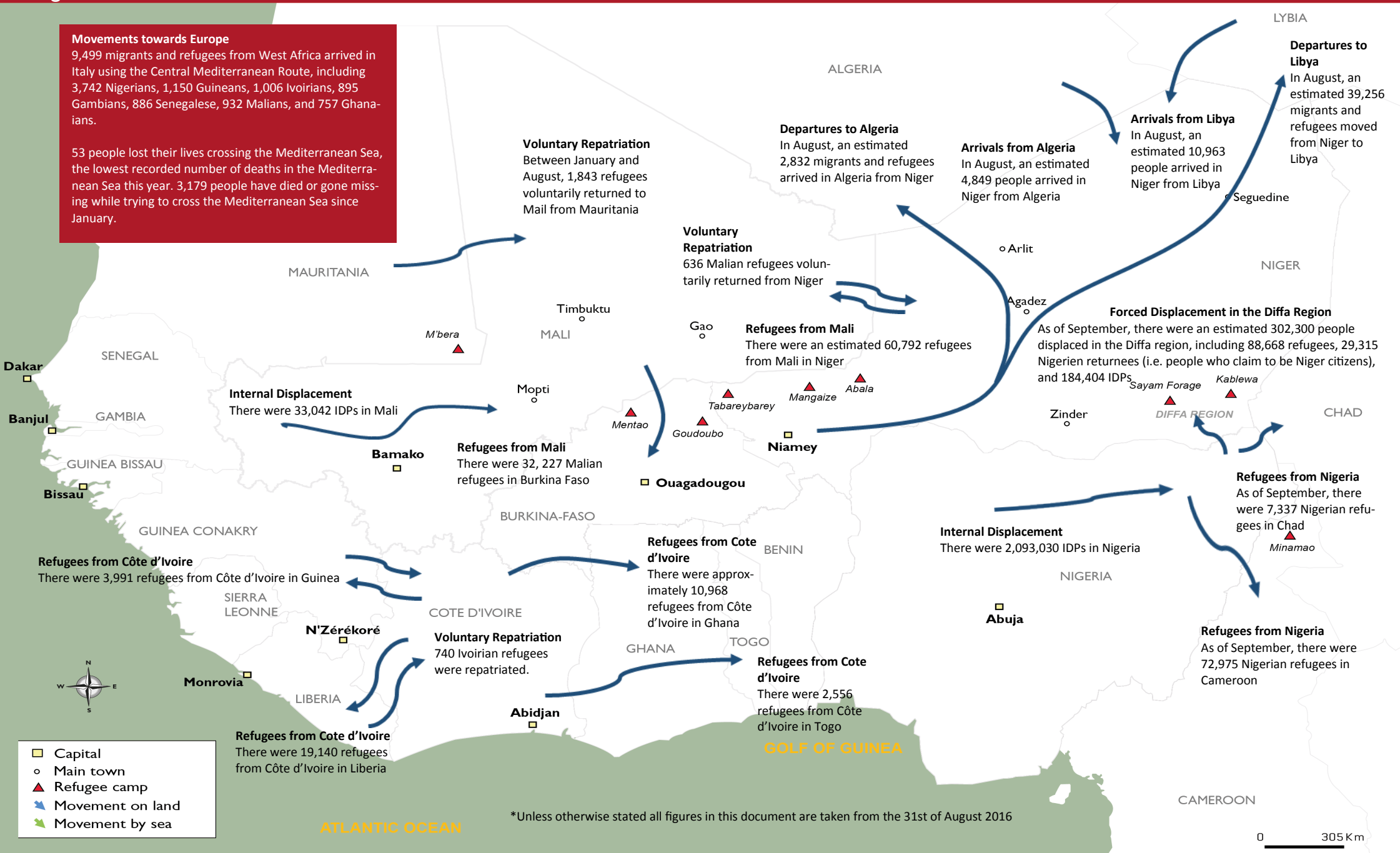


August 2016

Movements towards Europe

9,499 migrants and refugees from West Africa arrived in Italy using the Central Mediterranean Route, including 3,742 Nigerians, 1,150 Guineans, 1,006 Ivoirians, 895 Gambians, 886 Senegalese, 932 Malians, and 757 Ghanaians.

53 people lost their lives crossing the Mediterranean Sea, the lowest recorded number of deaths in the Mediterranean Sea this year. 3,179 people have died or gone missing while trying to cross the Mediterranean Sea since January.



Regional mixed migration summary for August 2016 covering mixed migration events, incidents, trends and data for the West Africa region (in particular Niger, Mali, Nigeria, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea, Senegal and Liberia).

In this report the term migrant/refugee is used to cover all those involved in mixed migration flows (including asylum seekers, trafficked persons, economic migrants, refugees). If the caseload mentioned refers only to refugees or asylum seekers or trafficked persons it will be clearly stated.

Country	Events / trends / data / analysis
<p>Niger</p>	<p>Departures from Niger: In August 2016, 42,088 migrants and refugees travelled from Niger to North Africa, with the vast majority of them (93%) traveling through Séguédine and across the border into Libya and a much smaller number (7%) traveling through Arlit and into Algeria.</p> <p>In total, between the 1st of February and the 31st of August, 263,968 migrants and refugees moved from Niger to North Africa. Due to its significance as a transit country for migration between West, Central and Northern Africa, migrants from all countries in West Africa and many from Central Africa are recorded moving through Niger. As estimated by IOM, between the 1st February and the 22nd August, the main nationalities leaving Niger towards North Africa and Europe were Nigerian (23%), Nigerien (18%), Gambian (16%) and Senegalese (14%).</p> <p>In August, women accounted for 24% of the outgoing flows, while men accounted for 76%.</p> <p>Arrivals to Niger: Between the 1st of February and the 31st of August 2016, 94,806 migrants and refugees arrived in Niger, with 72,728 (77%) arriving from Libya and 22,078 (23%) arriving from Algeria. During this period Nigeriens returning home accounted for 71% of the incoming flows. In August 2016, 15,812 migrants and refugees were recorded arriving in Niger, with some 10,963 (69%) arriving from Libya and 4,849 (31%) arriving from Algeria. Men made up 93% of the incoming flows.</p> <p>Refugees in Niger: As of August 2016, there were still some 143,000 refugees in Niger, including 82,524 refugees from Nigeria and 60,792 refugees from Mali. On the 30th of August, the Niger Bar Association and UNHCR Niger signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to ensure the provision of legal assistance for refugees in custody in Niger, mainly on suspicion of association with terrorist groups</p> <p>Forced Displacement in Diffa Region: The security situation in Niger continues to deteriorate as attacks related to Boko Haram were again recorded in August. As of September, there were an estimated 302,300 people displaced in the Diffa region, including 88,668 refugees, 29,315 Nigerien returnees (i.e. people who claim to be Niger citizens), and 184,404 IDPs. However, UNHCR estimates that over 80% of refugees, returning Niger nationals and IDPs in the Diffa region lack any form of identity document making it difficult to verify the status or nationality of people displaced in the region.</p>
<p>Mali</p>	<p>Malian Arrivals in Europe: In August 2016, 932 Malian migrants and refugees arrived in Italy by way of the Central Mediterranean Route, a 31% increase from the number of Malian migrants and refugees who arrived in Italy in August 2015. Between January and August 2016, a total of 5,954 Malian migrants and refugees arrived in Italy, representing a 42% increase from the number of Malians who arrived in Italy between January and August 2015. As of the 31st of August, Malians made up approximately 5% of the 115,068 migrants and refugees who had arrived in Italy since January 2016.</p> <p>Malian Refugees in Neighbouring Countries: As of the 31st of August 2016, there were 134,811 registered Malian refugees in neighbouring countries in the region, with 60,792 (45%) hosted in Niger, 41,792 (31%) hosted in Mauritania and 32,227 (24%) hosted in Burkina Faso.</p> <p>Voluntary Repatriation from Niger: According to UNHCR, there was a notable increase in interest</p>

	<p>in voluntary repatriation by Malian refugees in Niger between May and July 2016. However, the month of August saw the arrival of new refugees in Niger and a decline in interest in repatriation due to inter-communal tension and conflict in parts of Northern Mali. Voluntary repatriation is not currently promoted by UNHCR and persons that nevertheless wish to return to Mali do so under their own responsibility. Over the month of August, UNHCR provided transportation assistance to 636 Malian refugees voluntarily returning from Niger. In total UNHCR assisted 2,194 refugees to repatriate to Mali between January and August 2016.</p> <p>Voluntary Repatriation from Mauritania: Between January and August 2016, UNHCR facilitated the voluntary return of 1,843 Malian refugees from Mauritania. However, despite the signing of a peace agreement in June 2015, security conditions remain unstable in Northern Mali and a large-scale return of refugees is not yet envisaged.</p> <p>Migrant Returns from Algeria: On the 10th of August more than 400 migrants were reported to have returned from the Algerian city of Tamanrasset to Bamako in Mali. According to local media reports in Mali, these migrants had previously agreed to return home due to deteriorating conditions for Malian migrants living in Tamanrasset.</p> <p>Internal Displacement: As of the 31st of August 2016 there were 33,042 IDPs in Mali, representing a decrease of 16% compared with July 2016. According to IOM, the largest numbers of IDPs are hosted in the regions of Timbuktu (41%) and Gao (22%).</p>
<p>Nigeria</p>	<p>Arrivals of Nigerians in Europe: In August 2016, 3,742 Nigerians arrived in Italy by sea by way of the Central Mediterranean Route. This represents a decline of 42% from the numbers of Nigerians arriving in Italy during the month of July 2016, but is largely consistent with arrivals in August last year.</p> <p>Nigerians made up 18% of arrivals in Italy via the Central Mediterranean route in August 2016, and ranked by nationality, represented the highest percentage of arrivals both in the month of August and since January 2016. Between the 1st of January and 31st of August 2016, a total of 22,329 Nigerian migrants and refugees arrived in Italy, an almost 50% increase from the 15,113 arrivals recorded during the same period in 2015.</p> <p>Between January and August 2016, only 18 Nigerian migrants and refugees were recorded arriving in Spain, with 1 new arrival in August.</p> <p>Migrant Vulnerability: A spokesperson for IOM was quoted in August highlighting the unprecedented increase in the number of Nigerian women arriving in Italy since the beginning of 2016. According to IOM, nearly 4,000 women arrived in Italy in the first 6 months of 2016, with significant number of these women being trafficked into Europe for the purpose of sexual exploitation.</p> <p>Humanitarian Repatriation: In August, IOM assisted in the voluntary return of 241 Nigerian nationals from detention in Libya, bringing the total number of Nigerians the IOM has assisted to return from Libya to 581 since the beginning of 2016.</p> <p>Refugees in Neighbouring Countries: As of the 21st of September there were 168,980 Nigerian refugees in neighbouring countries, with 88,686 hosted in Niger, 72,975 hosted in Cameroon and 7,337 hosted in Chad.</p> <p>Internal Displacement: As of the 31st of August 2016, there were 2,093,030 IDPs recorded in Nigeria. According to IOM the vast majority of IDPs (89%) were displaced because of the insurgency, with the majority displaced in 2014 and 2015. Most of the IDPs are hosted in the states of Borno (69%), Adamawa (8%) and Yobe (6%) in the Northeastern part of the country. IOM estimates that 54% of the IDPs in Nigeria are children.</p> <p>National Policy on Labour Migration: On the 18th of August, the Government of Nigeria launched a National Policy on Labour Migration, developed with financial and technical support from ILO, IOM and EDF. The Policy aims to address the risks of irregular migration and optimise the benefits of labour migration for development through the promotion of good labour migration governance and the protection of the rights of migrant workers. Two technical working groups have been set up to support the implementation of the policy.</p>

Burkina Faso	<p>Arrivals of migrants and refugees from Burkina Faso in Europe: The number of migrants and refugees from Burkina Faso attempting to reach Europe remains low, with 86 people arriving in Italy in August 2016 (603 between January and August 2016) and 26 in Spain (147 between January and August).</p> <p>Refugees in Burkina Faso: As of August 31st there were 32,227 Malian refugees in Burkina Faso, with 95% of refugees living in camps and 5% living in urban settings.</p>
Cote d'Ivoire	<p>Arrivals of Ivoirians in Europe: In August 2016, 1,006 Ivoirians arrived in Italy by sea by way of the Central Mediterranean Route. Between January and August 2016, 7,672 Ivoirians arrived in Italy by sea, making up 7% of the total arrivals in Italy in 2016.</p> <p>In August 2016, 131 Ivoirians arrived in Spain by sea, representing 15% of the total arrivals in Spain during August. As of the 31st of August, Ivoirians represented 23% of the arrivals in Spain since January 2016, and, ranked by nationality, represented the highest numbers of arrivals up until August this year.</p> <p>Refugees in Neighboring Countries: As of August 31st 2016, there were 39,139 Ivorian refugees registered in neighboring countries. Displaced as a result of the 2010-2011 political crisis, UNHCR estimates that of the remaining 50,000 Ivorian refugees, 77% are hosted in Africa with 19,140 in Liberia (38%) 10,968 in Ghana (22%) and 3,991 in Guinea (8%).</p> <p>Voluntary repatriation: Between October 2011 and the 31st of August 2016, 257,866 Ivorian refugees returned home to Cote d'Ivoire. In total, 17,812 persons repatriated between January and the 31st of August 2016, with 740 persons returning to Cote d'Ivoire in August 2016.</p>
Liberia	<p>Ivorian Refugees in Liberia: As of August 31 2016, there were 19,140 Ivorian refugees in Liberia. Liberia hosts approximately 50% of the Ivorian refugees in the region.</p>
Guinea	<p>Arrivals of Guineans in Europe: In 2016, there has been a significant increase in numbers of migrants and refugees from Guinea arriving in Italy by way of the Central Mediterranean Route, with Guineans now making up 6% of sea arrivals in Italy. In August, an estimated 1,150 Guineans arrived in Italy by sea, raising the total number of Guinean arrivals in Italy to 7,468 since January 2016.</p> <p>Refugees in Guinea: As of August 31st, there were 3,991 Ivorian refugees in Guinea.</p>
Senegal	<p>Arrivals of Senegalese in Europe: In August 2016, 886 migrants and refugees from Senegal arrived in Italy by way of the Central Mediterranean Route, making up 4% of arrivals in Italy in August. The 5,884 arrivals recorded between January and August 2016 represent a 44% increase from the arrivals in August in 2015.</p>
Other Regional Information	<p>Migration Dialogue for West Africa (MIDWA): High level experts and government officials from the 15-member Economic Union of West African States (ECOWAS) region and Mauritania, as well as representatives from the EU, Switzerland, IOM, UN and other international agencies, met in Cote d'Ivoire on the 23rd of August for a three day Migration Dialogue for West Africa (MIDWA) focused</p>

on the “Impact of Free Movement and Migration Challenges”.

[Key recommendations](#) from the meeting included the need to update legal frameworks in terms of refusing entry to people without travel documents, the need to consider migration as a social issue and the need for continuous awareness raising in relation to citizens’ rights and free movement. [At the conclusion](#) of the meeting the ECOWAS members agreed on a joint action plan and approved a steering committee to monitor the progress of migration management in West Africa.

Trafficking on the Central Mediterranean Route: According to [IOM’s analysis](#) of the prevalence of trafficking and other exploitative practices in the Mediterranean, 76% of the refugees and migrants surveyed in Italy between June and August 2016 had directly experienced trafficking or other exploitative practices while traveling on the Central Mediterranean Route to Europe. The majority of those interviewed were Nigerian, Gambian, Eritrean and Senegalese, with the highest rates of positive responses from Gambians and Ghanaians (91%), Guineans (90%), Ivoirians (86%), Comorians and Senegalese (85%).

The percentage of migrants and refugees indicating that they had experienced trafficking or other exploitative practices while on route to Europe was much lower amongst those traveling on the Eastern Mediterranean Route, at 14%. Significantly, migrants and refugees who had arrived in Europe via the Central Mediterranean Route were much more likely have travelled alone, with 70% of respondents indicating they had travelled alone, compared with 28% of those who arrived via Eastern Mediterranean Route.

Deaths at Sea: At the end of August 2016, [IOM estimated](#) that 3,179 people had died or gone missing while trying to cross the Mediterranean Sea since January. In August 2016, 53 people lost their lives crossing the Mediterranean Sea, the lowest recorded number of deaths in the Mediterranean Sea since June 2015.

New articles, reports and books

[RMMS \(August 2016\) ‘Migration through Egypt: The safe alternative to Libya?’](#): Recent figures show that Egypt is increasingly becoming the departure point of choice for many migrants and asylum seekers seeking to cross into Europe via the Mediterranean Sea. This article by RMMS examines recent use of this route, possible reasons behind its popularity and the associated risks facing those on the move.

[UNICEF \(September 2016\) ‘Uprooted: The growing crisis for refugee and migrant children’](#): The number of children refugees has risen by 77% in the last five years, according to a new report from UNICEF, with more than 50 million children migrating across borders or forcibly displaced globally. In this report UNICEF presents, for the first time, comprehensive global data about migrant children and refugees, shedding light on the challenges they face around the world.

[Frontext \(August 2016\) FRAN Quarterly – Quarter 1 \(January – March 2016\)](#): Based on data from the border control authorities of EU member states this FRAN Quarterly report from the Frontex Risk Analysis Unit offers an overview of irregular migration at the EU’s external borders for the first quarter (January – March) of 2016. The report finds that after reaching record levels in the fourth quarter of 2015, irregular migration pressure steadily decreased in the first quarter of 2016 but was still higher than in any previous first quarter since 2007.

[Anne Kielland, \(July 2016\) ‘The Role of Risk Perception in Child Mobility Decisions in West Africa: Empirical Evidence From Benin’ World Development, Vol. 83](#): Previous ethnographic research has found that child mobility can be utilised as a social risk management strategy for vulnerable, uninsured rural households. Building upon this research this article suggests that child mobility in West Africa is not only utilised by households as a response to shocks and poverty but also ex-ante to such situations based upon household perceptions of future risks. Drawing upon a statistical analysis of data from over 2000 household surveys in rural Benin in 2012, the article highlights the importance of predictability in the implementation of social protection interventions in mitigating risks associated with child mobility.

[Elijah Yendaw, et al \(August 2016\) ‘Drivers of north-south migration in the Wa West District: Economic returns or migrants’ sub-culture’ Journal of African Studies and Development, Vol. 8](#): The significant trend of internal migration from the northern regions of Ghana to the south is often attributed to the uneven socio-economic development between the north and south. This study examines the economic and socio-cultural factors that influence the decision to migrate south amongst youth in the Wa Wa District in Northern Ghana. The study argues that while deteriorating economic and environmental conditions at the place of origin are the initial factors stimulating the decision to migrate, it is the influence of returned migrants and the lifestyle and disposable income

they display upon return that determines the continuing outmigration of youth from the Wa Wa District.

[Ylenia Rocchini \(August, 2016\) 'Norm Localization and Migration Laws in the Maghreb' EUI Working Paper RSCAS 2016/43](#): This European University Institute Working Paper examines the revision of laws regulating the movements of people across national borders that was undertaken recently by countries in the Maghreb region. While this legislative action has been deemed the result of the EU's external policy on transferring its restrictive migration governance to neighboring countries, the paper shows that the legal framework emerging from the Maghreb reforms does appear to have broadly converged towards restrictive migratory policies.

This information sheet is distributed to over 200 agencies, academic institutions, donors, embassies, journalists, government officials / departments, international and multinational organisations and related non-government organisations. Sources: Data is sourced from a wide variety of collaborators, partners, international and local organisations, media outlets and individuals in the region. The key refugee agency – UNHCR – and migration agency – IOM – are frequently the origin of specific refugee or migrant return-related data. RMMS is a unit/project within the Danish Refugee Council and also uses data and information generated by DRC activities. RMMS makes its own independent editorial decisions as to what sections and what data is included in this monthly update.