

# MIXED MIGRATION

in West Africa

November 2016



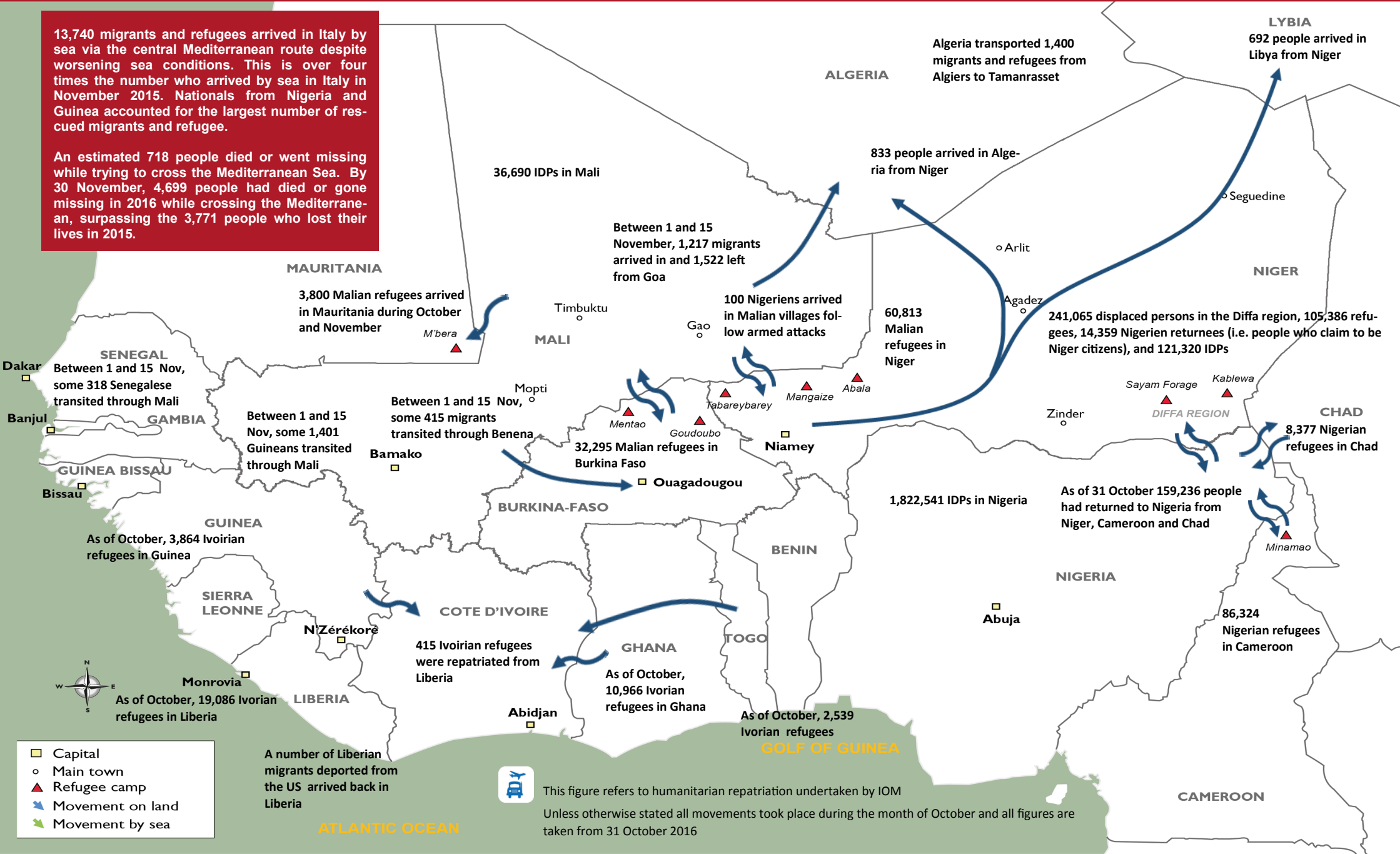
**RMMS**  
WEST AFRICA

Regional  
Mixed Migration  
Secretariat



13,740 migrants and refugees arrived in Italy by sea via the central Mediterranean route despite worsening sea conditions. This is over four times the number who arrived by sea in Italy in November 2015. Nationals from Nigeria and Guinea accounted for the largest number of rescued migrants and refugee.

An estimated 718 people died or went missing while trying to cross the Mediterranean Sea. By 30 November, 4,699 people had died or gone missing in 2016 while crossing the Mediterranean, surpassing the 3,771 people who lost their lives in 2015.



Monthly regional mixed migration summary for November 2016 covering mixed migration events, incidents, trends and data for the West Africa region.

If you would like to be added to the mailing list to receive future summaries, please [sign up here](#)

Country	Events / trends / data / analysis
<p><b>Burkina Faso</b></p>	<p><b>Arrivals of migrants and refugees* from Burkina Faso in Europe:</b> According to the latest available figures, between January and September 2016, <a href="#">202 refugees and migrants</a> from Burkina Faso arrived in Spain, with migrants and refugees from Burkina Faso making up 4% of arrivals to Spain during this period.</p> <p><b>Programming to support a reduction in migration:</b> In November, IOM launched a project in central Burkina Faso aimed at reducing the migration of young people from the region. The project, which will run for three years, aims to create employment opportunities and promote youth entrepreneurship through training and the provision of funds for small business creation projects.</p> <p><b>Refugees in Burkina Faso:</b> According to the latest available figures, as of 30 November there were 32,295 <a href="#">Malian refugees in Burkina Faso</a>.</p>
<p><b>Cote d'Ivoire</b></p>	<p><b>Arrivals of Ivoirians in Europe:</b> According to <a href="#">the latest available figures</a>, between January and September 2016, 8,715 Ivorian nationals arrived in Italy by sea via the central Mediterranean route. This figure is almost three times higher than during than the same period in 2015.</p> <p>Between January and September 2016, 1,061 Ivorian nationals arrived in Spain by sea, representing 21% of the total sea arrivals to Spain. Ranked by nationality, Ivoirians represent the highest number of sea arrivals in Spain, with relatively few Ivorian's gaining access to Ceuta and Melilla from Morocco and entering Spain by land. The number of Ivoirians arriving in Spain has been increasing throughout 2016, after remaining relatively stable in 2015.</p> <p><b>Voluntary Repatriation:</b> The repatriation of Ivorian refugees in Liberia resumed in November, with 133 people arriving in a convoy in Tabou during the month, and a further two convoys of 282 people arriving in Guiglo.</p> <p><b>Registration Exercise:</b> In November, the Government of Cote d'Ivoire and UNHCR <a href="#">launched</a> a registration exercise <a href="#">for refugees</a> living in Cote d'Ivoire, the first since 2012. They estimate that Cote d'Ivoire hosts some 2000 refugees from Liberia, Central African Republic, Rwanda and Vietnam and Cambodia. The <a href="#">registration excise</a> aims to determine the number of refugees living in Cote d'Ivoire and increase the ability of the government to better assess and meet their needs.</p> <p><b>Human rights film festival:</b> The 8<sup>th</sup> <a href="#">Abidjan Human Rights Film</a> festival took place between 11 and 19 November with over 25 films focused on this year's festival theme; 'Right to Live: Struggle against violent extremism and illegal immigration' shown in venues around Abidjan. Many film screenings were accompanied by interactive panel discussions, with panellists from organisations including Amnesty International and the National Commission on Human Rights.</p>
<p><b>Guinea</b></p>	<p><b>Arrivals of Guineans in Europe:</b> The number of Guinean <a href="#">migrants and refugees</a> arriving in Italy by way of the central Mediterranean route has increased significantly since 2015. Between January and September, the Guinean migrants and refugees made up 6% of the total sea arrivals to Italy, totalling 8,550 persons.</p> <p>Some 1,781 <a href="#">Guineans</a> arrived in Spain. The majority arrived by land, often by climbing the fences separating Ceuta and Melilla from Morocco. The remaining 837 arrived by sea. Ranked by nationality, Guineas make up the largest percentage of arrivals in Spain. Overall, 3.2% of arrivals to Europe were Guineans.</p>

<p><b>Liberia</b></p>	<p><b>Ivorian Refugees in Liberia:</b> The repatriation of Ivorian refugees from Liberia resumed in November as road conditions improved with the end of the rainy season. Liberia hosts approximately 50% of the Ivorian refugees in the region.</p> <p><b>Deportation of Liberians from US:</b> In November, the <a href="#">Government of the United States</a> deported a number of Liberians who had finished serving out their prison sentences in the United States.</p>
<p><b>Mali</b></p>	<p><b>Context:</b> <i>The security context in Mali remains volatile. In Gao, <a href="#">the media reported</a> that an explosive-laden truck destroyed UN pre-fabricated installations at an airport terminal in late November. At the beginning of November <a href="#">humanitarian aid conveyors</a> from Gao to Kidal resumed after they had been interrupted since mid-August by a blockade by armed groups in Aneff.</i></p> <p><b>Malian Arrivals in Europe:</b> According to the <a href="#">latest available figures</a> between 1 January and 30 September, 6,885 Malian migrants and refugees arrived in Italy by sea, an increase of 45% from the same period in 2015.</p> <p><b>Malian Refugees in Neighbouring Countries:</b> As of 30 November, there were 135,975 Malian refugees in neighbouring countries, with <a href="#">60,813 refugees</a> in Niger, 42,867 <a href="#">refugees in Mauritania</a>, and 32,295 refugees in Burkina Faso.</p> <p>Between the end of September and 9 December, 3,800 people crossed the <a href="#">Mali-Mauritania border</a> to seek refuge in Mbera camp in Mauritania. The majority of those arriving are from the regions of Timbuktu, Goundam, Mopti and Segou and indicated that they were fleeing insecurity and armed groups. The influx is the largest recorded since 2013, and UNHCR expects it to continue throughout December.</p> <p><b>Educational scholarships for Malian refugees:</b> UNHCR awarded <a href="#">university scholarships</a> to five Malian refugees living in Mbera camp in Mauritania, enabling them to continue their studies. The scholarships are part of the Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative, which aims to support the self-reliance of refugees in countries of asylum by providing them with professional qualifications for future employment.</p> <p><b>Voluntary Repatriation to Mali:</b> Although UNHCR has overseen the <a href="#">voluntary return</a> of 1,800 refugees from Mbera camp in 2016; the current security conditions in Northern Mali mean that UNHCR does currently not envisage a large-scale return of refugees.</p> <p><b>Arrivals of refugees in Mali:</b> In mid-November, around <a href="#">100 Nigeriens arrived</a> in Malian villages following an armed attack and a military operation in southwestern Niger, near the border with Mali. Humanitarian organisations in Ménaka in eastern Mali are providing shelter, food and basic household items as civilians in northern Mali and nearby localities across the border continue to suffer recurrent armed attacks and persistent insecurity.</p> <p><b>Internal Displacement:</b> According to the latest available figures, as of 31 October there were <a href="#">36,690 IDPs in Mali</a>, an increase of 10% since September 2016. The majority of IDPs are located in Timbuktu (37%), Gao (30%) and in the south of Mali near Bamako (12%).</p> <p><b>Transit of migrants and refugees through Mali:</b> Between 1 and 15 November, <a href="#">IOM recorded</a> 1,217 migrants and refugees arriving, and 1,522 leaving, Gao in north-eastern Mali. The majority of transiting migrants and refugees arrived in Gao by public bus before continuing their journeys on trucks, most often to Tamanrasset in Algeria. The majority of migrants and refugees were from Guinea (45%), Mali (21%) and Gambia (15%), and named Algeria (38%), Libya (32%), Spain (16%) and Italy (10%) as their intended destinations.</p> <p>Furthermore, 415 migrants and refugees transited through the Benena border post in the Segou region of southern Mali. Of those transiting, 46% were from Guinea, 36% from Senegal and 7% from Gambia, with the remaining from other countries in the region. The main intended destination was Italy (41%), followed by Spain (26%) and Libya (24%). Migrants and refugees transited through Benena on buses and, after crossing the border into Burkina Faso, the majority of migrants and refugees expressed their intention to travel to Ouagadougou, before continuing, in some cases, to Niger and North African countries.</p>

**Debate on the 'Migration Dilemma':** Germany's public international broadcaster, Deutsche Welle, [hosted a debate](#) in Bamako in early November, to explore why people are migrating from Mali and what measures the government is taking to try to keep them at home. The debate is part of a wider multi-media project undertaken by DW's Africa services called 'The Migration Dilemma', which focuses on migration between West Africa and Europe and is exploring the stories of West African migrants who have undertaken the journey, are in transit, or have returned home, as well as governments' attitudes towards migration in the region.

## Niger

*[Since late August](#) the Government of Niger has implemented stricter border control measures in the region of Agadez in order to control the movement of migrants without valid documentation into Libya and Algeria. Control operations have been in place in the region with security forces seizing vehicles, taking punitive action against smugglers and pushing back prospective migrants and refugees.*

**Departures from Niger:** In November, IOM recorded 1,525 [migrants and refugees](#) traveling from Niger to North Africa through Séguédine and Arlit, a dramatic reduction compared with the 12,654 recorded traveling in October, the 27,138 recorded in September, and the 42,081 recorded in August.

In Séguédine, the main transit point for those traveling to Libya, IOM recorded 692 [migrants and refugees](#) in November, compared with 6,727 in October and 24,640 recorded in September. In Arlit, the main transit point for those traveling to Algeria, 833 refugees and migrants were recorded on their way to Algeria during November, a decrease from the 5,927 recorded in October.

[IOM has highlighted](#) that while the numbers might indicate a dramatic reduction in cross border movement between North Africa and Niger, migrants, refugees and smugglers may also be increasingly avoiding the towns of Séguédine and Arlit as direct departure or arrival points, as it word is getting around that people have been turned back from these areas.

In total, between 1 February and 30 November, 311,036 [migrants and refugees](#) moved from Niger to North Africa, with the Nigeriens forming 19% of the outgoing flows. IOM has observed over 8,000 children passing through Séguédine and Arlit between February and November, a large number of whom were unaccompanied.

**Arrivals to Niger:** In November, IOM did not record any [migrants and refugees](#) arriving in Séguédine and Arlit arriving from North Africa, down from 1,290 in October and 8,803 in September. This dramatic reduction in the number of arrivals may in part be a result of [the deportations](#) that have taken place in Algeria towards the end of November (see below), and the current difficulties for migrants and refugees to travel with ease into, around and out of Algeria.

**Refugees in Niger:** As of the 30 November, there were [105,386 Nigerian refugees](#), and [60,813 Malian refugees](#) in Niger.

**Forced Displacement in Diffa Region:** The security situation in the Diffa region of south-eastern Niger continues to deteriorate due to repeated attacks by Boko Haram. As of 30 November, there were 241,065 displaced persons in the [Diffa region](#) with 105,386 [Nigerian refugees](#), 14,359 Nigerien returnees (i.e. people who claim to be Niger citizens) and 121,320 IDPs. A great number of displaced people in Niger [lack proper documentation](#), which makes it difficult to verify the status and nationality of the population.

A survey conducted on civilian protection in October by the [Danish Refugee Council \(DRC\)](#) revealed a high level of vulnerability among children displaced by conflict in 47 of the 60 displacement sites in the Diffa region. The survey identified almost 400 child headed households and found that early and forced marriages were prevalent across a number of sites. It found that

	<p>attacks by Boko Haram caused 46% of the displacements, while the threat of attack led to the preventative displacement of 37% of people. A large majority of displaced people expressed their willingness to return to their community of origin once the security situation improves.</p>
<b>Nigeria</b>	<p><b>Arrivals of Nigerians in Europe:</b> According to the latest available figures, between 1 January and 30 September, the number of <a href="#">migrants and refugees</a> from Nigeria arriving in Italy by sea has increased by 52% when compared with the same period in 2015, from 17,886 to 27,172.</p> <p><b>Refugees in Neighbouring Countries:</b> As of 30 November, there were 200,172 <a href="#">Nigerian refugees</a> in neighbouring countries. The number of refugees increased to 105,386 in Niger, 86,324 in Cameroon, and 8,377 in Chad.</p> <p><b>Internal Displacement:</b> According to the <a href="#">latest available figures</a>, there are 1,822,541 IDPs in Nigeria, with 75% of them located in Borno state in the northeast. In some newly accessible areas, UNHCR <a href="#">has identified</a> key protection concerns including; 25% of displaced households have children with protection concerns, 31% of displaced households have women and girls with specific protection needs, 99% of vulnerable displaced households lack legal documentation, and 50% of vulnerable households have experienced multiple displacements.</p> <p>An assessment <a href="#">conducted by IOM</a> in Ngala, a conflict affected Local Government Area within Borno state in Nigeria's North, revealed that there are currently 56,237 displaced persons residing in an IDP camp on the premise of Ngala International School, including 19,000 men, 24,000 women and 12,487 children. According to IOM's assessment, key humanitarian challenges in the camp include shelter, with roughly 75% of population of the camp living in temporary makeshift shelters, and the unavailability of medicine and doctors in the health clinic located in the camp.</p> <p>In November in Nganzai, another local government area of Borno state, <a href="#">IOM recorded</a> 5,461 IDPs living in nine IDP camps. The number of IDPs in the area has increased from 3,111 in August. In November, there was a daily influx of IDPs into the camps due to the military offensives in Monguno, Marte and Kukawa to the north. Serious humanitarian concerns across the camps in this area include a widespread lack of water and sanitation facilities, very limited health and educational facilities, and a lack of food supply.</p> <p><b>IDP Vulnerability:</b> In late November, two <a href="#">suicide bombers detonated</a> explosives outside a camp for the displaced in Maiduguri. The assailants carried out the attack after failing to gain entry to the camp, which hosts more than 23,000 people. <a href="#">According to UNOCHA</a>, IDP camps have come under increasing attack around Maiduguri recently, where hundreds of thousands of people displaced by conflict have sought refuge.</p>
<b>Senegal</b>	<p><b>Arrivals of Senegalese in Europe:</b> Between January and September 2016, <a href="#">6,222 Senegalese nationals</a> arrived in Italy by way of the central Mediterranean Route, 30% more than during the same period in 2015.</p> <p><b>Programming to support a reduction in migration:</b> Between November 2016 and October 2019, AECID, the Spanish Cooperation Agency, will implement an <a href="#">EU supported project</a> to reduce migration through job creation opportunities in rural areas in Senegal. The project, which aims to improve living conditions in rural areas to reduce migration, is part of the wider EU programme to 'support reducing migration through the creation of rural jobs in Senegal by setting up village and small family farms in regions with a high migration potential'.</p>
<b>Other Regional Information</b>	<p><b>Migrant and refugees rounded up in Algeria:</b> In early December, according to <a href="#">media sources</a> and <a href="#">Human Rights Watch</a>, the Government of Algeria rounded up some 1,400 migrants and refugees in Algiers, and transported them 1,900 km to a camp in Tamarasset. Many of these migrants and refugees were from West Africa, and according to <a href="#">Human Rights Watch</a>, some were refugees or asylum seekers and others had been working in Algeria for several years. Right groups have <a href="#">raised concerns</a> about the move, highlighting that a mass deportation of migrants and</p>

refugees could be in violation of individuals' human rights.

**Germany Increasing Aid to Curb Migration:** In November, [Germany pledged](#) a further 67.44 million USD to support UN operations in Africa, as part of its attempt to limit the number of migrants and refugees traveling from Africa to Europe. Germany's Foreign Minister [commented that](#) 'the money will allow people to be cared for near their homes so they don't have to make the dangerous journey to Europe.' Between 2012 and 2016, Germany has increased its [humanitarian budget](#) from 116 million USD to 1.41 billion USD, and has pledged over 329 million USD to UNHCR in 2016.

**Arrivals to Spain:** On 31 October, over 200 migrants and refugees [broke through razor-wire](#) fence and [reached the](#) Spanish enclave [of Ceuta](#) after clashing with Spanish police who were trying to prevent them from crossing the border. The police detained around [50 of the migrants](#) and refugees following the incident. In late November, [Amnesty International](#) released a report claiming that growing numbers of migrants and refugees in the Spanish enclaves in North Africa have experienced [police abuse](#) and long delays in asylum claims. The report calls on the Spanish forces not to prevent asylum-seekers from reaching the enclaves with force.

**Overall Arrivals to Europe:** In November, [13,740 migrants and refugees arrived in Italy](#) by sea via the central Mediterranean route, despite the worsening sea conditions. This is over four times the number of refugees and migrants who arrived by sea in Italy in November 2015. In November, nationals from Nigeria and Guinea accounted for the largest numbers of rescued migrants and refugee. Between January and November, 171,000 migrant and refugees arrived in Italy by sea. This is a fifth more than arrived in Italy during the same period in 2015.

**Unaccompanied and Separated Children:** Between 1 January and 31 October, 24,902 children [arrived in Italy](#) by sea, 91% (22,772) of whom were unaccompanied. Unaccompanied children accounted for 16% of all arrivals to Italy, an increase of 110% when compared to the same time last year. The majority were boys between 16 and 17 years of age.

**Deaths at Sea:** At the end of November 2016, [IOM estimated](#) that 4,699 people had died or gone missing while trying to cross the Mediterranean Sea since January, surpassing the 3,771 reported for the whole of 2015. In November 2016 alone, 718 people lost their lives crossing the Mediterranean Sea.

**New articles, reports and books**

**Heaven Crawley et al (November 2016) '[Destination Europe? Understanding the dynamics and drivers of Mediterranean migration in 2015](#)' MEDMIG Final Report**  
 The final report from the project; 'Unravelling the Mediterranean Migration Crisis (MEDMIG)' argues that European governments have contributed to the European 'migration crisis' by placing blame on people smugglers rather than conflict for the increased migration to Europe. The report explores the complex picture underneath the stories of 'mass movement' and finds the causes of the migration crisis were rooted in conflict, lack of safety, rights and economic opportunities in countries to which people move. EU governments have largely failed to address these root causes and instead focused on policies to contain refugees and migrants outside the EU. By failing to open up safe and legal routes for refugees and migrants, they have driven up demand for smugglers.

**Reece Jones (October, 2016) '[Borders and Walls: Do Barriers Deter Unauthorised Migration?](#)' [Migration Policy Institute](#) Migration Policy Institute Feature Article**  
 This feature article takes a historical perspective to examine the use of border fortifications to deter unauthorised migration. The article argues that the construction of border fortifications is a recent phenomenon that has emerged in the 20<sup>st</sup> century and that, although they may serve as a potent symbol demonstrating action to prevent 'unwanted' migration, they are not an effective way to prevent migration, rather serving only to divert migration flows, often at grave human cost.

**Peter Trinti and Tom Westcott (November 2016) '[The Niger-Libya corridor: Smugglers' perspectives](#)' [Institute for Security Studies](#) Paper 299**  
 This paper explores the migrant smuggling networks operating in the Niger-Libya corridor, and argues that the vested interests related to migrant smuggling in Niger are misaligned with those in Europe. It argues that any intervention designed to reduce migration flows and enhance protection of migrants must involve a nuanced understanding of local dynamics and non-state actors involved in smuggling to avoid the risk of destabilising one of the few stable areas in a volatile region.

**Humanitarian Alternatives (November, 2016) '[Focus : Forced migration : A global challenge](#)'**  
 The issue focuses on forced migration as a global challenge, and contains a wide range of articles

from academics and practitioners.

**Yvan Guichanoua and Dougoukolo Alpha Oumar Ba-Konare (November 2016) '[Central Mali gripped by a dangerous brew of jihad, revolt and self-defence](#)' The Conversation**

The article explores the emergence of an intense political crisis in central Mali, a buffer zone between the political turmoil and violence in the north, and the south. The authors explore the complex dynamics that have led to the emergence of this crisis, and show that political developments in these areas are intimately dependent upon specific social configurations, something that must be taken into account by actors wishing to engage in this area.

**Safietou Sanfo et al (2016) '[Survey data on key climate and environmental drivers of farmers' migration in Burkina Faso, West Africa](#)' Data in Brief Vol. 9 pp. 1013-1019.**

This article describes the datasets generated from a range of sources in south-western Burkina Faso used by researchers to identify the key climate and environmental drivers causing farmers to migrate in the region. The data sets are now publically available and offer insight into the farmers' perception of climate change risks or hazards, their impacts on farmland productivity and farm households' risk management strategies, as well as data on agricultural practices, environmental changes, and environmental migration.

**Alexander Betts et al (2016) '[Refugee Economics; Forced Displacement and Development](#)' Oxford University Press**

This book seeks to address the lack of theory and empirical data through which to understand refugees engagement with economic markets. The book takes an inter-disciplinary approach to develop a theory on the economic life of refugees, focused on the case of Uganda. The book shows that refugees have complex and varied economic lives, and argues that far from being an inevitable burden, refugees have the capacity to help themselves and contribute to host communities, if they allowed to do so.

RMMS West Africa distributes this summary to agencies, academic institutions, donors, embassies, journalists, government officials, international and multinational organisations and related non-government organisations. Data is sourced from a wide variety of collaborators, partners, international and local organisations, media outlets and individuals in the region. The UN refugee agency, UNHCR, and migration agency, IOM, are frequently the origin of data. RMMS West Africa is an independent unit aiming to enhance the protection of people on the move in mixed migration flows in West Africa. RMMS West Africa makes independent editorial decisions as to what sections and what data is included in this summary.

*\*The term 'migrants and refugees' 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.*