

# MIXED MIGRATION

in West Africa

December 2016



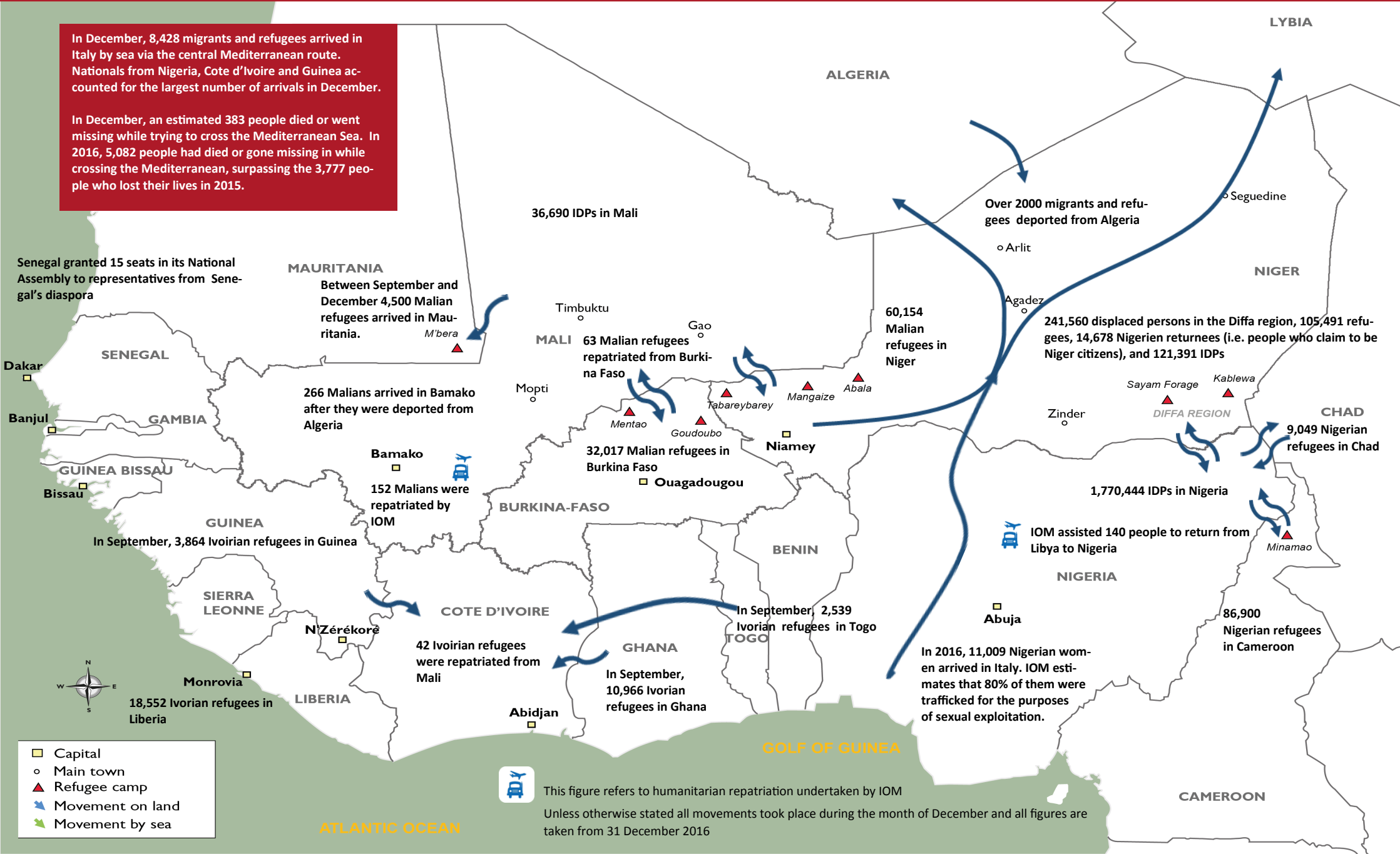
**RMMS**  
WEST AFRICA

Regional  
Mixed Migration  
Secretariat



In December, 8,428 migrants and refugees arrived in Italy by sea via the central Mediterranean route. Nationals from Nigeria, Cote d'Ivoire and Guinea accounted for the largest number of arrivals in December.

In December, an estimated 383 people died or went missing while trying to cross the Mediterranean Sea. In 2016, 5,082 people had died or gone missing in while crossing the Mediterranean, surpassing the 3,777 people who lost their lives in 2015.



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

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Country	Events / trends / data / analysis
<p><b>Burkina Faso</b></p>	<p><b>Arrivals of migrants and refugees* from Burkina Faso in Europe:</b> The numbers of <a href="#">migrants and refugees</a> from Burkina Faso arriving in Europe remains comparatively low. According to the latest available figures, between January and November 241 migrants and refugees from Burkina Faso arrived in Spain, with 16 new arrivals in November. Between January and September, 741 Burkinabe nationals arrived in Italy.</p> <p><b>EU funding to tackle ‘root causes’ of migration:</b> On 14 December, the <a href="#">EU announced</a> three new measures aiming to tackle the root causes of migration in Burkina Faso. The new initiatives, which total 23.3 million euros, include strengthening migration management and sustainable reintegration, support for employment in border and peripheral areas, and supporting vocational skills, entrepreneurship and agri-business among young people. The EU announced the initiatives as part of a wider pledge of 381 million euros to increase stability in the region and to tackle the root causes of irregular migration and forced displacement.</p> <p><b>Training on document fraud and cross border crime:</b> In December, <a href="#">IOM conducted</a> a training with officers in border police stations in the Sahel region, aimed at helping to prevent document fraud and criminal trafficking in the area. The training is part of an IOM border management project in Burkina Faso.</p> <p><b>Refugees in Burkina Faso:</b> As of 31 December, there were 32,017 <a href="#">Malian refugees in Burkina Faso</a> with the majority located in Mentao (12,283) and Goudoubo (9,556).</p> <p><b>Repatriations Malian Refugees:</b> Between 1 September and 30 November, UNHCR facilitated the repatriation of <a href="#">63 Malian refugees</a>. UNHCR provided the refugees with a cash grants to cover their transport fees. The main areas of return in Mali included Indiatafane, Timbuktu, Gossi and Haire.</p>
<p><b>Cote d’Ivoire</b></p>	<p><b>Arrivals of Ivoirians in Europe:</b> Between January and November 2016, 1,448 <a href="#">Ivoirian refugees and migrants</a> 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 Ivoirians entering Spain by land through Ceuta and Melilla. The number of Ivoirians arriving in Spain has been increasing throughout 2016, after remaining relatively stable in 2015.</p> <p>According to <a href="#">the latest available figures</a>, between January and September 2016, 8,715 refugees and migrants from Cote d’Ivoire arrived in Italy by sea via the central Mediterranean route. This is almost three times higher than the number of Ivoirian migrants and refugees arriving in Italy during than the same period in 2015.</p> <p>In December, a spokesperson for the Ivorian government delivered a <a href="#">statement</a> noting the rising number of Ivoirians arriving in Italy by sea, and indicating that the Ministère de l’intégration africaine et des ivoiriens de l’extérieur will be intensifying awareness raising campaigns about the risks of irregular migration in the main communities of origin.</p> <p><b>Land ownership and migration workshop:</b> On 15 December, the <a href="#">‘Alliance pour refonder la gouvernance en Afrique’</a> (ARGA), hosted a workshop in Korhogo, northern Cote d’Ivoire, focused on migration and land ownership. The participants of the <a href="#">workshop</a>, including some fifty academics and experts, examined issues related to different forms of migration and land ownership in Cote d’Ivoire, noting that the issue of foreign land ownership can be a cause of social and political instability.</p> <p><b>Statelessness in Cote d’Ivoire:</b> In December, UNHCR <a href="#">published</a> a detailed research study on statelessness in Cote d’Ivoire. The report argues that the divide between Cote d’Ivoire’s laws and</p>

	<p>their implementation in practice, combined with a decade of civil war and conflict, has contributed to the prevalence of statelessness in the country. The report includes detailed recommendations to resolve statelessness in Cote d'Ivoire.</p> <p><b>Legal Framework for Refugee Protection:</b> The Aid and Assistance Service for Refugees and Stateless Persons (SAARA) and UNHCR <a href="#">organised a meeting</a> in late December to reinforce the national legal framework pertaining to the protection of refugees in Cote d'Ivoire. Cote d'Ivoire is signatory to both the 1951 Convention and the 1967 Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees.</p> <p><b>Experience of returnees:</b> A report published in December by <a href="#">CWS</a> details the experience of Ivorian refugees who have returned to Bolequin and Abidjan in Cote d'Ivoire. Based on semi-structured interviews and household surveys the report examines refugees' experiences of return and re-integration in urban and rural contexts and highlights ongoing challenges, including establishing viable livelihoods on return and poor housing conditions with overcrowding and threats of evictions, particularly in urban settings.</p> <p><b>Refugees in Neighboring Countries:</b> <a href="#">UNHCR estimates</a> that there are some 50,000 Ivorian refugees in countries around the world, with 38,939 hosted in countries neighboring Cote d'Ivoire. According to latest available figures, at the end of September there were 18,553 Ivorian refugees in Liberia, 10,966 in Ghana, and 3,864 in Guinea.</p> <p><b>Voluntary Repatriation:</b> According to <a href="#">local media reports</a>, 42 Ivorian refugees returned to Cote d'Ivoire from Mali in December.</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, Guinean migrants and refugees made up 6% of the total sea arrivals to Italy, with 8,550 migrants and refugees from Guinea arriving in Italy during this period. Overall, Guinean migrants and refugees made up 3.2% of all sea arrivals to Europe between January and September 2016.</p> <p>Between January and November 2016, <a href="#">781 Guineans</a> arrived in Italy by sea, accounting for 11% of sea arrivals during this period. According to UNHCR, in 2016 the majority of Guinean migrants and refugees arrived in Spain by land, often by climbing the fences separating Ceuta and Melilla from Morocco.</p> <p>Given the increasing number of Guinean migrants and refugees arriving in Europe, the <a href="#">EU announced</a> its intention in December to widen the geographical scope of the EU Trust Fund for Africa to encompass Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea and Ghana, noting their importance as countries of origin and transit in the region.</p> <p><b>Refugees in Guinea:</b> According to the latest available figures as of 30 September, there were 3,864 <a href="#">Ivorian refugees in Guinea</a>.</p>
<p><b>Liberia</b></p>	<p><b>Extension of UNMIL mandate:</b> <a href="#">The Security Council</a> voted in December to extend the mandate of the United Nations Mission to Liberia (UNMIL) for a final period until 30 March 2018. The mandate will include civilian protection, advising Liberia on justice and security sector reform and efforts to combat sexual and gender-based violence.</p> <p><b>Refugees in Liberia:</b> As of 31 December, there were <a href="#">18,552 refugees in Liberia</a> with the majority (11,094) hosted in Grand Gedeh County, near the border with Cote d'Ivoire, in <a href="#">PTP Camp</a> (8,887) and <a href="#">Little Wlebo Camp</a> (2,937) in Maryland.</p>

## Mali

**Context:** On 19 December, the [Coordination of Azawad Movements \(CMA\)](#), the main separatist group in northern Mali, suspended its participation in a committee charged with implementing the 2015 peace accord, citing, among other reasons, rising violence and lack of progress on reforms for its decision.

**Malian Arrivals in Europe:** According to the [latest available figures](#) between 1 January and 30 September, 6,885 Malian migrants and refugees arrived in Italy by sea via the central Mediterranean route, an increase of 45% from the number of refugees and migrants arriving during the same period in 2015.

**Arrival of migrants deported from Algeria:** On 11 December [266 Malians](#) arrived in Bamako after having been deported from Algeria in early December. The Algerian government initially transported the migrants and refugees from Algeria to Niger, before they continued their journey home.

**Humanitarian repatriation:** On 29 of December, [152 migrants](#), 123 men and 29 women, including three unaccompanied children, received assistance to return home to Mali as part of IOM's repatriation program.

**EU funding to tackle 'root causes' of migration:** On 14 December, the [EU announced](#) three new measures aiming to tackle the root causes of migration in Mali. The new initiatives, which total 60 million euros, include supporting the operation of the civil registry in Mali, strengthening migration management and sustainable reintegration, the supporting youth employment and job creation. The EU announced the initiatives as part of a wider pledge of 381 million euros to increase stability in the region and to tackle the root causes of irregular migration and forced displacement.

**Mali – EU Joint Declaration:** In December, the EU and [Mali](#) issued a [joint declaration](#) on behalf of the HRVP on the occasion of the Dutch Minister of Foreign Affairs visit to Mali. The [joint declaration](#), the first of its kind according to the [Dutch ministry](#), focuses on addressing the root causes of migration and strengthening cooperation around the return of irregular migrants. Both parties agreed on the need to strengthen collaboration around employment for young people in regions of origin, protection of migrants in transit in Mali, as well as action against trafficking in human beings and smugglers.

The declaration caused some confusion after it was widely reported in the [media](#) as a readmission agreement between the EU and Mali. The original statement issued by the [Dutch Government](#) claimed 'This is the first time that the EU has adopted such specific agreements with an African country on the return of failed asylum seekers'. However, the [Malian government](#) denied that this was a readmission agreement and [indicated that Mali](#) would not sign a readmission agreement with Europe. At the request of the Malian authorities, [EEAS](#) issued a statement on behalf of the Dutch Foreign Minister that confirmed that the only document signed during this visit was the [Joint Communiqué](#), which is available publically.

Despite the [low recognition](#) rate of Malian asylum seekers in [Europe](#) (currently 29.2% on average, and 36% in Italy) returns remain modest, with only 119 Malians returned to their country of origin in 2016.

**Malian Refugees in Neighbouring Countries:** As of 31 December, there were [60,154 refugees](#) in Niger, 46,640 [refugees in Mauritania](#) (an increase of 1675 from 30 November) and 32,017 refugees in Burkina Faso.

The influx of Malian refugees into Mbera camp in Mauritania [continued in December](#). Between the end of September and the first weeks of January 4,500 people crossed the Mali-Mauritania border to seek refuge in Mbera camp. According to UNHCR, the influx has slowed in January, but is the largest observed influx of refugees in Mauritania since 2013.

**Voluntary Repatriation to Mali:** In 2016, [UNHCR facilitated](#) the voluntary return of 1,843 Malian refugees to Mali from Mauritania. However, the current security conditions in Northern Mali mean that UNHCR does currently not envisage a large-scale return of refugees.

**Internal Displacement:** According to the latest available figures, as of 31 October there were [36,690 IDPs in Mali](#), an increase of 10% since September 2016. The majority of IDPs are located in Timbuctu (37%), Gao (30%) and in the south of Mali near Bamako (12%).

Between [September and November](#), as part of its protection monitoring, UNHCR identified 199 protection related incidents in the region of Gao, Mopti, Menaka and Timbuktu with extortion

	<p>representing the majority of incidents. UNHCR also recorded Injuries, death threats, looting and sexual violence. In November, <a href="#">UNHCR recorded</a> 49 protection incidents, the majority in Gao.</p>
<p><b>Niger</b></p>	<p><b>Migrants and refugees deported from Algeria:</b> On 3 December, <a href="#">Algerian authorities</a> deported 1,106 Nigeriens from Algeria. Upon their arrival in Agadez, Nigerien officials facilitated their transfer to their hometowns. On 8 December, <a href="#">Algeria deported</a> a further 1,400 Nigerien and other West Africa nationals. According to UNOCHA, these expulsions are part of the implementation of an agreement between Niger and Algeria for the repatriation of irregular migrants.</p> <p><b>Departures from Niger:</b> <a href="#">Since late August</a> 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. <a href="#">According to the EU</a>, between mid-July and the end of October, 95 vehicles were seized, 102 smugglers ‘sent to justice’, and 9 gendarmes were arrested for migration-linked corruption.</p> <p>Movements through the region also dropped significantly, with <a href="#">IOM recording</a> 1,525 migrants and refugees traveling from Niger to North Africa in November, compared with 12,654 in October, 27,138 in September and 42,081 in August. However, it remains unclear <a href="#">the extent to which</a> the reduction in IOM figures can be relied upon as an indication of the number of people moving from Niger to Libya. Migrants may move around IOM monitoring points through the desert or take alternative and more dangerous routes through Mali.</p> <p><b>EU funding to tackle ‘root causes’ of migration:</b> On 14 December, the <a href="#">EU announced</a> three new measures aiming to tackle the root causes of migration in Niger. The new initiatives, which total 35 million euros, include strengthening the management and governance of migration and sustainable return, measures with rapid economic impact in Agadez, and plans to support institutional and community resilience in the Diffa region. The EU announced the initiatives as part of a wider pledge of 381 million euros to increase stability in the region and to tackle the root causes of irregular migration and forced displacement.</p> <p><b>Refugees in Niger:</b> As of 31 December, there were <a href="#">105,491 Nigerian refugees</a>, and <a href="#">60,154 Malian refugees</a> in Niger.</p> <p>On 28 November, the <a href="#">Government of Niger</a> announced its intention to close the refugee hosting area of Tazalit for security reasons following the attack by unknown assailants in October in which 22 Nigerien military officers were killed. Niger is intending to move the 3,800 refugees to a second refugee hosting area in Intikane.</p> <p>In December, UNHCR <a href="#">began the ‘biometric registration’</a> of urban refugees living in Niger. In early 2017 UNHCR intends to roll out the technology to camps and refugee hosting areas throughout the country.</p> <p><b>Forced Displacement in Diffa Region:</b> The security situation in the Diffa region of south eastern Niger continues to deteriorate due to repeated attacks by Boko Haram. Since <a href="#">the first recorded</a></p>



	<p><a href="#">Boko Haram incident</a> in February 2015, an estimated 440 people have been killed, injured or abducted in the Diffa region, with 70% of abductions occurring in Bosso department alone.</p> <p>As of 31 December, there were 241,560 displaced persons in the <a href="#">Diffa region</a>, with 105,491 Nigerian refugees, 14,678 Nigerien returnees (i.e. people who claim to be Niger citizens) and 121,391 IDPs. The majority of refugees are located in the department of Diffa (73,311), including 39,520 refugees hosted in the commune of Gueskerou, and 25,582 in the commune of Chetimari.</p> <p>A great number of displaced people in Niger <a href="#">lack proper documentation</a>, making it difficult to verify the status and nationality of the population.</p>
<p><b>Nigeria</b></p>	<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. In 2016, nearly 25% of all <a href="#">people rescued</a> or intercepted at sea by the Libyan Coast Guard were Nigerian nationals, with 3,536 Nigerians rescued or intercepted in 2016.</p> <p><b>Nigerian Women Trafficked into Italy in 2016:</b> The number of Nigerian women traveling by boat from Libya to Italy almost doubled in 2016, with <a href="#">IOM estimating</a> that the majority of these women were victims of sex trafficking and exploitation. According to IOM, around 80% of the 11,009 women who arrived in Italy by sea in 2016 were trafficked for sexual exploitation into Europe.</p> <p><b>Humanitarian Repatriation:</b> On 20 December, <a href="#">IOM assisted</a> 140 Nigerian nationals to return home from Libya. The migrants included 83 women and 57 men, including six unaccompanied children.</p> <p><b>EU funding to tackle 'root causes' of migration:</b> On 14 December, the <a href="#">EU announced</a> three new measures aiming to tackle the root causes of migration in Nigeria. The new initiatives, which total 22.4 million euros, include strengthening migration management and sustainable reintegration, a project to promote stability and social cohesion in northern Nigeria through education support, and a child protection and psychological support programme for children in Borno state. The EU announced the initiatives as part of a wider pledge of 381 million Euros to increase stability in the region and to tackle the root causes of irregular migration and forced displacement.</p> <p><b>Refugees in Neighbouring Countries:</b> As of 31 December, there were <a href="#">201,440 Nigerian refugees</a> in neighbouring countries, with 105,491 in Niger, 86,900 in Cameroon, and 9,049 in Chad.</p> <p><b>Internal Displacement:</b> As of 15 December, <a href="#">IOM estimated</a> that the number of IDPs in the six northeastern states in Nigeria had decreased by 3% to 1,770,444 since October. In December, IOM estimated there were 1,039,267 returnees in the six northeastern states of Nigeria, an increase of 80,718 from the number recorded in October. IOM estimates that 55% of the IDP population are children under the age of 18.</p> <p>Between October and December, Maiduguri, the local government area (LGA) hosting the largest number of IDPs in North East Nigeria, saw a significant reduction in the number of IDPs, with as many as 55,188 IDPs leaving to return to their LGA of origin. Conversely, many of the 14,368 IDPs IOM recoded leaving the LGA of Gworza during this period, indicated that they were returning to Maiduguri as they thought food and aid were more certain there. According to IOM, the greatest unmet need amongst the IDP population is food, which is subsequently a key reason for mobility in the region.</p> <p><b>IDP Vulnerability:</b> The first weeks of <a href="#">December</a> saw a number of suicide bombings, including some carried out by children, and attacks against IDP areas, military positions, and public facilities in Borno State. <a href="#">According to UNOCHA</a>, IDP camps have come under increasing attack around Maiduguri recently, where hundreds of thousands of displaced people have sought refuge.</p>
<p><b>Senegal</b></p>	<p><b>Arrivals of Senegalese in Europe:</b> According to the latest available figures, between January and September 2016, <a href="#">6,222 migrants and refugees from Senegal</a> arrived in Italy by way of the central Mediterranean Route, 30% more than during the same period in 2015.</p>

	<p><b>Diaspora representation in parliament:</b> In December, MPs voted to grant 15 seats in Senegal's National Assembly to representatives from <a href="#">Senegal's diaspora</a>. This move reflects the important role that migrants play in Senegal, with more than half a million <a href="#">Senegalese</a> living outside of the country, and sending home significant remittances each year.</p> <p><b>EU funding to tackle 'root causes' of migration:</b> On 14 December, the <a href="#">EU announced</a> four new measures aiming to tackle the root causes of migration in Senegal. The new initiatives, which total 88.2 million euros, include strengthening migration management and sustainable reintegration, supporting the operation of the civil status information system and the creation of a biometric identity register, and two programmes aimed at promoting employment in rural and urban areas. The EU announced the initiatives as part of a wider pledge of 381 million euros to increase stability in the region and to tackle the root causes of irregular migration and forced displacement.</p>
<p><b>Other Regional Information</b></p>	<p><b>Second progress report on EU's migration partnership framework:</b> In December, the <a href="#">EU released</a> the second progress report on the Partnership Framework with third countries, under the European Agenda on Migration. The report <a href="#">presents the progress</a> made in the implementation of the partnership framework since October, including 20 high-level visits by EU member state ministers to Partnership countries and the mobilisation of 1 billion EUR under the Trust Fund for Africa to address the 'external dimension of migration'. However, the EU reports that progress under the Partnership Framework with the five priority countries remains uneven and will require continuous engagement.</p> <p>The major operational result highlighted in the report is the decrease in the numbers of people recorded by IOM crossing through Séguédine and Arlit in Niger to Libya, as well as the arrests and vehicle seizures in the region. However, it remains unclear <a href="#">the extent to which</a> the reduction in IOM figures can be relied upon as an indication of the number of people moving from Niger to Libya. Migrants may move around these towns through the desert or take alternative and more dangerous routes through Mali.</p> <p>The report also highlighted the EU's intention to propose widening the geographical scope of the EU Trust Fund for Africa to encompass Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea and Ghana, noting their importance as countries of origin and transit in the region.</p> <p><b>EU funding to tackle 'root causes' of migration:</b> On 14 December, the <a href="#">EU announced</a> the launch of 28 new measures in the Sahel and the Lake Chad Basin for a total amount of EUR 381 million. Adopted under the Emergency Trust Fund for Africa following the Valletta Summit, these measures aim to increase stability in the region and tackle the root causes of irregular migration and forced displacement.</p> <p><b>EU-IOM migrant protection initiative:</b> In December, the EU and IOM <a href="#">launched a joint initiative</a> for the protection and reintegration of migrants in West Africa along the Central Mediterranean route. The initiative, worth 100 million euros and funded through the EU Trust for Africa with support from Germany and Italy, will focus on enhancing protection and providing assistance for vulnerable and stranded migrants along major migration routes, including through the construction of <a href="#">migrant centres</a>, and facilitating voluntary return for stranded migrants. It will cover the Sahel and Lake Chad region and neighboring countries, including Libya.</p> <p><b>Deportations of West Africans from Algeria:</b> On 8 December, <a href="#">Algeria deported</a> some 1,400 West Africa nationals to Niger, before they were assisted to return to their countries of origin around the region. According to UNOCHA, these expulsions are part of the implementation of the agreement between Niger and Algeria for the repatriation of irregular migrants. According to <a href="#">media sources</a>, this is the first time the deportations have included nationals from around the West African region.</p> <p><b>Resident permits for Migrants in Morocco:</b> In December, <a href="#">Morocco launched</a> the second phase of its campaign to regularise the status of many undocumented <a href="#">migrants living in the country</a>. Since the government launched the first phase in 2014, it has issued residence permits to more than 23,000 undocumented migrants, according to information from the Ministry of Interior. Senegalese migrants make up 21% of those who have obtained residence permits.</p> <p><b>Arrivals to Spain:</b> On 9 December, over <a href="#">800 people rushed</a> the six-metre razor wire border barrier separating Morocco from the Spanish enclave of Ceuta, with 438 migrants and refugees successfully reaching Ceuta. This was one of the biggest mass charges of the border in recent</p>

	<p>years and left 49 people were injured.</p> <p><b>Security Council Resolution on Human Trafficking:</b> The <a href="#">UN Security Council</a> has unanimously adopted a resolution on human trafficking. The resolution, the first of its kind, condemns human trafficking in strongest terms and calls on countries to '<a href="#">investigate, disrupt and dismantle</a>' human trafficking networks.</p> <p><b>Arrivals to Europe:</b> In December, 8,428 <a href="#">migrants and refugees</a> reached Italy by sea, a decrease of 40% from the number of arrivals in Italy in November. This decline is due in a large part to the wintry weather conditions in the Central Mediterranean. Nationals from Nigeria, Cote d'Ivoire and Guinea accounted for the largest number of arrivals in December. The total number of <a href="#">arrivals by sea</a> in Italy was 181,436 in 2016, more than the 153,946 arrivals in 2015 and the arrivals 170,760 in 2014. The average EU protection rate of the top nationalities arriving by sea in Italy in 2016 was 45%.</p> <p><b>Deaths at Sea:</b> In December, 383 <a href="#">migrants and refugees</a> lost their lives or went missing in the Mediterranean, bringing the total number of migrants and refugees who died or went missing in 2016 to 5,082, an increase from the 3,777 migrants and refugees who were reported dead in the Mediterranean in 2015, and the 3,279 in 2014.</p>
<p><b>New articles, reports and books</b></p>	<p><b>UN Support Mission in Libya, OHCHR (December 2016) '<a href="#">Detained and Dehumanised – Report on the Human Rights Abuses Against Migrants In Libya</a>' United Nations Report</b></p> <p>This United Nations report documents the widespread abuse, torture, arbitrary detention, extortion and sexual exploitation of migrants and refugees in Libya, giving much needed detail to this human rights crisis. According to the report, migrants are held in arbitrary detention in centres often run by the Department for Combatting Illegal Migration (DCIM). In detention centres, migrants and refugees have no recourse to legal protection and conditions are generally inhumane, with no access to toilets, washing facilities, food or clean water. In some cases, migrants are intercepted at sea and taken to houses or farms where they are subjected to forced labour, rape and other sexual violence. The report contains comprehensive recommendations, including for countries of destination to expand safe and regular entry channels for refugees and for other migrants.</p> <p><b>Demetrios G. Papademetriou and Susan Fratzke (December, 2016) '<a href="#">Dawn of New Migration Reality Brings Focus on Borders, Returns, and Integration</a>' Article</b></p> <p>This article highlights the number one migration issue of 2016 according to the Migration Policy Institute, after they counted down the <a href="#">Top Ten Migration Issues of 2016</a> in December. The article argues that the need for countries to balance protection and integration with effective border enforcement and returns has emerged as an important policy frontier in 2016. The continuing turmoil and policy experiments that have characterised 2016 in the field of migration globally reflect the challenge of balancing the imperatives of protection, integration and state centric control.</p> <p><b>International Alert (December 2016) '<a href="#">They treat us all like jihadis: Looking beyond violent extremism to building peace in Mali</a>' Policy Brief</b></p> <p>This policy brief presents the findings of an 18-month project led by International Alert in Timbuktu, Mopti and Segou. It sheds light on the drivers and dynamics of 'violent extremism', and highlights the importance of a context-specific understanding when responding to violent extremism.</p> <p><b>Julian Wyss (December 2016) '<a href="#">Africa: The EU's 'Money-for-Migration' Deal with Mali won't Work</a>' News Article</b></p> <p>This article reflects upon the recent announcement by the Dutch foreign ministry to support projects in Mali and across the region with 145.1 million euros, aiming to strengthen Mali's border management and promote employment. The article argues that the underlying assumption behind the EUs strategy for reducing African migration to Europe, namely that an increase in aid and subsequent economic growth will increase opportunities and thus decrease rates of migration – is not consistent with available evidence, and, in the case of Mali, implementing comprehensive border controls is unrealistic. In Mali, a country in which the government has longed struggled to retain legitimacy in the North; an increased focus on border management may increase tensions.</p>



**UN Office of Drugs and Crime (December 2016) '[Global Report on Trafficking in Persons 2016](#)' United Nations Report**

The 2016 Global Report on Trafficking in Persons highlights the plight of millions of people trafficked globally. Whilst globally the majority of victims of trafficking are women and girls trafficked for the purpose of sexual exploitation, in Sub-Saharan Africa most identified victims are boys and the most common form of exploitation is forced labour. The report highlights that the socio-economic status of refugees and migrants, as well as the presence of organised crime networks in countries of origin and transit, heightens their susceptibility to trafficking.

**International Crisis Group (December 2016) '[Nigeria: Women and the Boko Haram Insurgency](#)' Africa Report No. 242**

This report examines the experiences the women and girls throughout the rise of Boko Haram and the continuing insurgency in Nigeria. The report argues that an understanding women's experiences of the conflict, not just as victims but also as actors, is essential in forming policies and programs to tackle the roots of the insurgency and to facilitate women's contributions to lasting peace.

**Cathryn Costello and Minos Mouzourakis (2016) '[The Common European Asylum System – Where did it all go wrong?](#)' Book Chapter in 'The European Union as an Area of Freedom, Security and Justice'.**

This book chapter outlines the development and content of the Common European Asylum System (CEAS), identifies the main structural shortcomings of the system and examines the legal responses thus far adopted to deal with the current crisis of the CEAS. It argues that despite the EU's attempts to address the current crisis, it has not addressed the structural issues within the CEAS, including a lack of legal access routes to the EU to claim asylum and tensions between states regarding their legal duties at borders.

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 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.*