

MMC North Africa

QUARTER 2 2020

A photograph of two men on a boat. The man in the foreground is wearing a white t-shirt and has his hand to his forehead, looking distressed. The man in the background is also wearing a white t-shirt and has his hand to his mouth, looking out at the sea. The background shows a blue sea and a clear sky.

Quarterly Mixed Migration Update: North Africa

This Quarterly Mixed Migration Update (QMMU) covers the North Africa (NA) region. The core countries of focus for this region are Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco, Sudan and Tunisia. Depending on the quarterly trends and migration-related updates, more attention may be given to some of the countries over the rest.

The QMMUs offer a quarterly update on new trends and dynamics related to mixed migration and relevant policy developments in the region. These updates are based on a compilation of a wide range of secondary (data) sources, brought together within a regional framework and applying a mixed migration analytical lens. Similar QMMUs are available for all MMC regions.

The Mixed Migration Centre is a global network consisting of seven regional hubs and a central unit in Geneva engaged in data collection, research, analysis and policy development on mixed migration. For more information on the MMC, the QMMUs from other regions and contact details of regional MMC teams, visit mixedmigration.org and follow us at [@Mixed_Migration](https://twitter.com/Mixed_Migration)

MMC's understanding of mixed migration

"Mixed migration" refers to cross-border movements of people, including refugees fleeing persecution and conflict, victims of trafficking, and people seeking better lives and opportunities. Motivated to move by a multiplicity of factors, people in mixed flows have a range of legal statuses as well as a variety of vulnerabilities. Although entitled to protection under international human rights law, they are exposed to multiple rights violations along their journey. Those in mixed migration flows travel along similar routes, using similar means of travel - often travelling irregularly, and wholly, or partially, assisted by migrant smugglers.

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Taha Jawashi (2017)

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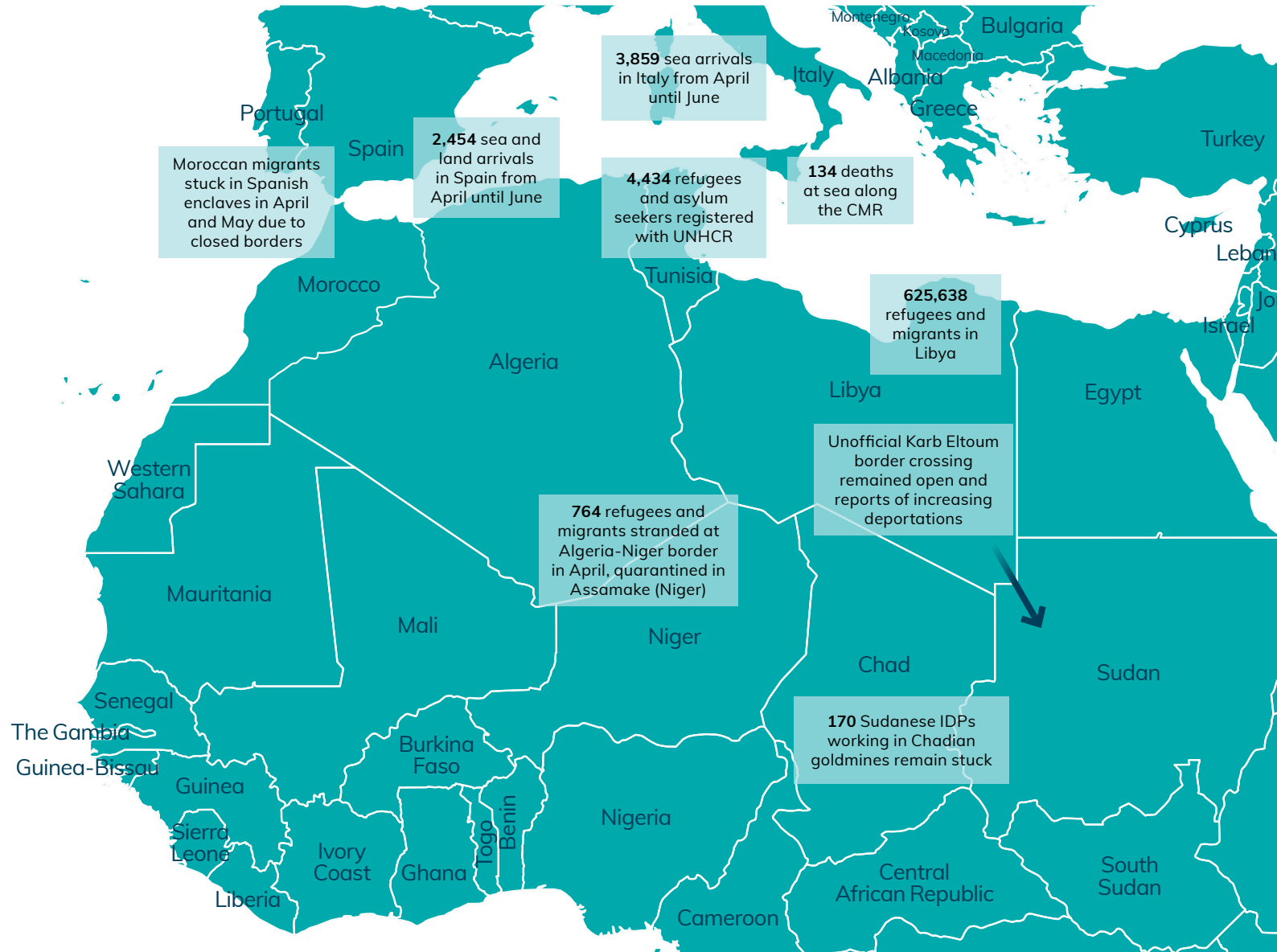
Quarterly Mixed Migration Update: North Africa

Quarter 2 - 2020

Key Updates

- **Between April and June, most official border entry and exit points remained closed in North Africa** to halt the spread of COVID-19, severely constraining cross-border mobility. Moreover, [UNHCR](#) and [IOM](#) continued to suspend **resettlement and voluntary humanitarian return (VHR)** procedures, respectively.
- The number of **refugees and migrants who reportedly died or disappeared along the Central Mediterranean Route (CMR) decreased** this quarter compared to April – June 2019 ([134 down from 253](#)). Around half of the casualties are linked to a shipwreck in early June off the Tunisian coast, [leaving more than 60 dead](#).
- **Some mixed migration routes appear less affected by COVID-19 restrictions:** [3,859](#) refugees and migrants crossed the Mediterranean to Italy in the second quarter of 2020, compared to 2,253 during the same period last year.
- **In Sudan, the unofficial border crossings at Karb Eltoum, at the Libya border, and Agok, at the South Sudan border, remained open**, according to [IOM](#). At the end of June, Sudanese security forces arrested [122 Sudanese mercenaries](#) on their way to fight in Libya. During this quarter, Libya intensified [deportations of Sudanese](#) at its southeast border.
- [IOM](#) reports that **170 Sudanese IDPs working in Chadian goldmines remain stuck** across the border and are unable to return to Sudan.
- **Intra-urban and intra-state mobility restrictions severely disrupted the livelihood opportunities of refugees and migrants** across the region. In Libya, [78% of refugees and migrants](#) applied **negative coping strategies to access food**. In Tunisia, [an estimated 94% of those who were working](#) before the COVID-19 crisis have **lost their income**. In Sudan, key informants interviewed by MMC reported **large-scale food insecurity** expected among refugees and migrants.

Regional Overview*



*Information on the map relates to selected updates and does not represent all mixed migration patterns within and out of North Africa

Mixed Migration Regional Updates

Mixed migration from North Africa to Europe

North African arrivals in Europe

From April to June 2020, border closures, movement restrictions, and curfews as part of COVID-19 mitigation measures continued to constrain mobility. The International Organization for Migration ([IOM](#)) reports that 6,948 refugees and migrants entered Europe by sea from April 1st - June 30th, 2020. Compared to the same period last year, Mediterranean arrivals decreased by 64%. This represents a stark shift from [January to March](#), which saw a 50% increase in arrivals relative to Q1 of 2019. Comparing the first six months of 2020 to 2019 reveals an overall decrease in arrivals of 32%.

Decreased arrivals occurred on the [Western Mediterranean Route \(WMR\)](#) (to Spain) and the [Eastern Mediterranean Route \(EMR\)](#) (to Greece). On the WMR, [2,454 refugees and migrants arrived in Spain](#)¹ from April 1st - June 21st, which represents a 61% drop from the same period last year. In April and May, Algerians (1st, 26%), Moroccans (2nd, 14%), Tunisians (8th, 3%) and Egyptians (9th, 1%) were among the most common nationalities to arrive in Spain. Nearly all (91%) Tunisian arrivals from January - May, were identified at the land border in Melilla, where they accounted for the second-most common nationality (17%). Compared to the same period in 2019, refugees and migrants arriving in Ceuta and Melilla decreased by 51%.

The Central Mediterranean Route (CMR), however, saw more arrivals this quarter than Q2 in 2019. In Italy, [UNHCR](#) finds that 3,859 refugees and migrants arrived by sea from April 1st - June 28th, up from 2,253 sea arrivals reported during the same period in 2019. Data from April and May on the origin countries of arrivals reveal that North Africa is a top region of origin for people on the move. Tunisians account for the most common nationality (23%) to arrive in Italy, while Sudanese account for the fourth-most common nationality (6%) and Algerians the fifth (3%).

Departures from Libya, Tunisia and Algeria

The largest share of refugees and migrants crossing the CMR and arriving in Italy in the second quarter of 2020 (for the months of April and May) had departed from Libya (50%), closely followed by Tunisia (47%), according to [UNHCR](#).² An additional 2% had departed from Algeria. Comparing the months of April and May of this year to 2019 shows the number of people who arrived in Italy after departing from Libya increased by 352%, and from Tunisia by 480% in 2020. Such an increase suggests COVID-19 movement restrictions had little effect on crossings.

Between [April 4th](#) and [June 26th](#), a total of 2,372 refugees and migrants had been rescued or intercepted by the Libyan Coast Guard (LCG) and returned to Libya. This is a decrease of 4% compared to roughly the

¹ This number also includes arrivals to the Canary Islands and the enclaves of Ceuta and Melilla.

² Calculated also using [UNHCR data from January to March](#).

same period in 2019.³ The main points of interception along the Libyan coast from March - May 2020 were [Tripoli \(1,800\) and Alkhums \(166\)](#). In May, Tunisian authorities intercepted [866 refugees and migrants](#), including Tunisians and third-country nationals, at sea and on land.

Missing refugees and migrants in the Mediterranean

From April - June 2020, [130 refugees and migrants](#) were reported dead or missing in the Mediterranean, of which 122 were record along the CMR. As a basis of comparison, 115 refugees and migrants were reported dead or missing in the first quarter of 2020 and 144 in Q2 of 2019. [IOM](#) reports deaths as a share of attempted crossings for all three Mediterranean routes totals 0.9% for the first six months of 2020.⁴ More than half of the number (68) of dead or missing refugees and migrants along the CMR is [linked to a shipwreck](#) off the Tunisian Kerkennah Islands between the 4th and 5th of June, after the boat departed from Sfax. In May, [The Guardian](#) reported 12 refugees and migrants died at sea after Malta had made use of private vessels to send them back to Libya.

³ Compared with data between [April 7th](#) and [June 28th](#), 2019.

⁴ The number of attempted crossings include sea arrivals in Spain, Italy, Greece and Cyprus and land arrivals in Spain (Ceuta and Melilla), as well as interceptions by the Tunisian National Guard, and the Turkish and Libyan Coast Guards where relevant.

Mixed migration in Libya

Latest figures on refugees and migrants in Libya

As of June 29th, [IOM](#) estimates that there are at least 625,638 refugees and migrants in Libya, representing a slight decrease in the total number reported in the previous [QMMU](#) (654,081). [UNHCR](#) estimates, as of June 26th, that there are 48,834 refugees and asylum seekers in Libya,⁵ which also represents a slight decrease from the previous quarter (48,626). [IOM](#) identifies the main nationalities of migrants in Libya to be Nigerien (21%), Chadian (16%), Egyptian (16%), Sudanese (12%) and Nigerian (7%); whereas [UNHCR](#) identifies the top nationalities of refugees and asylum seekers as Syrian (39%), Sudanese (29%), Eritrean (12%), Palestinian (10%) and Somali (5%). The top three locations for refugees and migrants in Libya are [Tripoli, Ejdabia and Murzuq](#).

As of June 12th, [UNHCR](#) estimates that 2,043 refugees and migrants are being detained across the country. Moreover, from January – June 2020, [Libyan authorities](#) deported 2,947 people of 13 different nationalities, including Somalis, Ethiopians and Sudanese.

Impact of COVID-19 on refugees and migrants in Libya

Movement restrictions to stop the spread of COVID-19 created an extra layer of livelihood constraints for refugees and migrants, over and above the escalation in armed conflict in and around Tripoli, during Q2. Refugees and migrants lost their sources of income, encountered fewer work opportunities, and faced difficulties in paying rent, prompting over-crowded living arrangements, as reported by [UNHCR](#) and [MSF](#). [UNOCHA](#) estimated around 78% of refugees and migrants in Libya had to employ to negative coping strategies to buy food in early June.

[Al-Jazeera](#) detailed the experiences of hundreds of Tunisian workers being stranded at Ras Jedir, at the Libyan side of the border, waiting to return home since land borders closed in March. They were allowed to cross back into Tunisia at the end of April. Similarly at Libya's eastern borders, hundreds of Egyptians appeared stranded during the month of April, with [Libyan and Egyptian authorities securing their return](#) in early May. UNHCR continued to register refugees and asylum seekers at the Sarraj Registration Office in Tripoli this quarter, however, resettlement and evacuation procedures were suspended, as were humanitarian returns by IOM.

Closure of Al Saba'a Detention Centre in Tripoli

The Danish Refugee Council (DRC) reported through an internal update the closure of the Al Saba'a detention centre in Tripoli at the end of March and subsequent release of detained refugees and migrants. Through focused protection monitoring, DRC found that most detainees were Eritreans (89% of respondents), alongside smaller groups of Sudanese (6%) and Somalis (5%). All respondents had relocated to urban sites or collective shelters, already home to other members of their communities, in the Gargaresh neighbourhood

⁵ UNHCR registers the following nationalities in Libya: Iraqi, Syrian, Palestinian, Eritrean, Ethiopian, Somali, Sudanese, South Sudanese and Yemeni.

in Western Tripoli. Moreover, DRC reported that almost all respondents (98%) had reported facing serious gaps in meeting their basic needs, while 83% reported feeling very unsafe or unsafe in Gargaresh. In January 2020, [The Guardian](#) reported on the death of a 16-year-old Eritrean due to a lack of medical care in the Al Saba'a detention centre.

Mixed migration in Tunisia

Latest figures on refugees and migrants in Tunisia

As of May 31st, [UNHCR](#) has registered 4,434 refugees and asylum seekers in Tunisia, of which the top nationalities are Syrian (38%), Ivorian (29%), Sudanese (6%), Eritrean (6%) and Somali (5%). In April and May, 44 new arrivals were registered, including 22 Ivorians, 21 Eritreans, and 1 Syrian. No recent estimates are available on the number of migrants in the country. The number of Syrian arrivals decreased from 187 in the first quarter of 2020, perhaps highlighting the impact of border closures linked to the COVID-19 crisis on refugee and migrant journeys. In terms of the location and reception of refugees and migrants, the governorates of Tunis (1,065), Médenine (903), Ariana (752), Sfax (703) and Sousse (204) host the largest shares. In comparison to the [last quarter](#), these numbers have remained similar, except for increases in Sfax (+25%) and Ariana (+7%) and a decrease in Gabès (-53%).

On June 16th, the Arab Institute for Human Rights (AIHR) announced on [Twitter](#) that for the very first time a refugee (of Sudanese origin) had obtained a Tunisian Social Security Number, as a result of coordination between AIHR, UNHCR and the Tunisian Ministry of Social Affairs.

Impact of COVID-19 on refugees and migrants in Tunisia

During the second quarter of 2020, movement restrictions to stop the spread of COVID-19 severely restricted refugees' and migrants' livelihoods and ability to generate income. [IOM](#) estimates that around 53% of all refugees and migrants in Tunisia lost their jobs during confinement. MMC data found that when looking only at those who were working before COVID-19, 94% had lost their income. The situation for refugees and migrants is particularly acute, as they rely heavily on the informal economy due to a lack of formal work opportunities in Tunisia, according to [The Guardian](#). Tunisian authorities and municipalities worked together with IOM, UNHCR, the Tunisian Red Crescent and local NGOs during this quarter to provide social and economic assistance to refugees and migrants.

Mixed migration in Sudan

Latest figures on refugees and migrants in Sudan

As of May 31st, [UNHCR](#) estimates that Sudan hosts 1,088,898 refugees and asylum seekers, including 821,368 South Sudanese;⁶ 120,560 Eritreans; 93,498 Syrians; 33,717 Central Africans; and 13,086 Ethiopians. The states with the biggest refugee and migrant populations in Sudan are estimated to be Khartoum State (397,287), White Nile State (250,876), Kassala State (99,676), East Darfur (80,249) and West Kordofan (61,165), as reported by [UNHCR](#).

In examining the 2020 estimates included in the [Sudan Refugee Response Plan](#) (RRP), published in January, one finds that the [number of Central Africans](#) already exceeds the projection for the year by 190%. The arrival of CAR refugees, principally to Central and South Darfur, appears unaffected by COVID-19 restrictions. In May, 738 South Sudanese refugees were also [recorded by UNHCR](#), but notably not in East Darfur (which had received the highest number of new arrivals in the first months of 2020). By contrast, [arrivals in Eastern Sudan](#) were very low in the last quarter, with 30 in April and 20 in May, compared to 2,463 during the first three months of 2020. Key informants (KIs) interviewed by MMC in May and June expressed concerns over the impact of closed border points – due to COVID-19 restrictions – on refugee and migrant arrivals. KIs suggested that those forced to arrive via irregular border crossings were more vulnerable to trafficking.

Impact of COVID-19 on refugees and migrants in Sudan

Following a spike in COVID-19 cases in May, large parts of the country entered into lockdown. Mobility restrictions were especially strict in and around Khartoum, with bridges linking the centre, Khartoum North and Omdurman remaining closed throughout May and June, according to [IOM](#). All international border points were officially closed as of June 18th, except for the unofficial Sudanese-Libyan border crossing at Karb Eltoum and the unofficial border crossing between South Sudan and Abyei PCA at Agok. [IOM](#) reports that 170 Sudanese IDPs working in Chadian goldmines remain stuck across the border and are unable to return to Sudan because of closed borders.

MMC data from key informants reveal that many refugees and migrants in camps and urban areas have lost their primary sources of income because of the COVID-19 crisis. Humanitarian actors expect high levels of food insecurity among refugees and migrants in Sudan, especially among those who do not have strong support networks or do not receive humanitarian assistance. [UNOCHA](#) underlined how staple food prices have increased rapidly due to high inflation in recent months. In particular, prices for sorghum, millet and wheat increased by 20-50% from April - May. Additionally, protection risks increased among vulnerable refugees and migrants in the form of gender-based violence and exploitation, such as trafficking, child labour and early marriage.

⁶ Sudanese government sources estimate a much higher total of 1.3 million South Sudanese refugees in the country, but these data would need verification as reported by [UNHCR](#).

Mixed migration in Algeria

As reported by [Le Monde](#), Algeria closed its land, sea and air borders on March 19th to curb the outbreak of COVID-19, and these remained closed at the time of writing in early July. This had serious implications for stranded migrants around Algeria's borders, notably in Niger. In the first week of April, [IOM](#) reported it had assisted, together with Médecins sans Frontières (MSF) and local authorities, 764 migrants in Assamaka, close to the Nigerien-Algerian border. These stranded individuals, many of whom were vulnerable cases, including children, pregnant women and injured persons, received assistance for a 14-day quarantine period.

On April 8th, the Algerian Naval Force intercepted 3 vessels, with a total of 12 individuals on board, at Krystel Plage (close to the town of Guedil, east of Oran). The boats [reportedly](#) were not crossing the Mediterranean, but returned from Spain to Algeria. On April 24th, it was [stated](#) that traffickers were making as much as 5,000 euros per person, with Moroccans wanting to leave Spain and travel back to Morocco.

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the [World Food Programme \(WFP\)](#) published a report on comprehensive needs of Sahrawi refugees in camps in Tindouf, zooming in on the prevention of and response to an outbreak of the virus in the camps. At the end of May, [ACAPS](#) maintained there were at least 14 COVID-19 cases reported in Tindouf town, but none as of yet in the Sahrawi refugee camps in the same province.

Impact of COVID-19 on mixed migration in Morocco

A nationwide lockdown following the outbreak of COVID-19 came into effect in Morocco on March 20th, with movement to purchase food or medicine and to carry out essential jobs was permitted. In April, the [National Human Rights Council and the Moroccan Association for Human Rights](#) flagged this would have disastrous effects on the livelihoods of refugees and migrants in the country, especially those residing in impoverished urban suburbs and camps. Both entities urged the government to treat them as Moroccan nationals, offering them the same cash assistance. The closure of borders between Morocco and Spain also led to what [news outlets](#) referred to as a 'reverse crisis', with Moroccan workers, often daily labourers, being trapped in the Spanish enclaves of Ceuta and Melilla. Moroccans were allowed to cross borders back into Morocco at the end of May.

Thematic Focus: Smuggling Dynamics in Sfax

On June 11th, 2020, [The Guardian](#) reported that a boat carrying refugees and migrants departing from Sfax had sunk off the Tunisian coast, leaving more than 60 individuals dead, 22 of whom were women. This was not an isolated incident in Sfax, as other capsized boats departing from Sfax have been [reported](#) over the past few years. Sfax is a key point of departure to Europe for refugees and migrants transiting through Tunisia. In the last quarter alone, with the increase in summertime departures, there has been a large effort by the Sfax Joint Police Forces and the Tunisian Maritime Guard to crack down on smuggling activities in the region. On May 25th, [locals news outlets underscored](#) the Maritime Guard had stopped a fishing boat with 14 refugees and migrants attempting to cross the maritime border. On June 27th, [Migrant Rescue Watch](#) reported that, “Sfax Joint Police Forces in an undercover operation dismantled one of the largest human smuggling networks and apprehended the ring leader nicknamed ‘al-Haji’ also known as the ‘Emperor of the sea from coasts of Sfax, Mahdia and Monastir” seizing a boat, vehicles, and over \$7,300 in cash.

The following thematic focus synthesizes the key findings of key informant interviews (KIs) on smuggling dynamics conducted by MMC with six Ivorian refugees and migrants in Sfax. These data are further complemented by surveys conducted with 1,308 refugees and migrants, of which 391 surveys were conducted in Sfax.

Perceptions of smuggling in Sfax

Key informant interviews highlighted the various perceptions of smugglers in Sfax. A 23-year old Ivorian woman noted “smugglers make people travel.” Another 33-year old Ivorian man supported the sentiment: “[The smuggler] offers you, for example, for someone who is suffering in the country and who wants a better life, he can suggest you a country, if you do not have the means to go by air, he offers you something.” He further extrapolated: “The smuggler is someone who can smuggle someone from one border to another illegally.”

When asked to describe the meaning of ‘smuggler’, several key informants discussed more exploitive practices typically associated with trafficking in persons. An Ivorian woman highlighted breaches of trust: “to bring a person against their will, to abuse their trust.” A 39-year-old Ivorian man cited protection incidents experienced at the hands of smugglers, saying “[they are] very bad....To me these people are murderers.” By contrast, one KI highlighted the difference between smugglers and traffickers: “Now for the smuggler, this is voluntary, but for the trafficking when you come you are obliged to submit.”

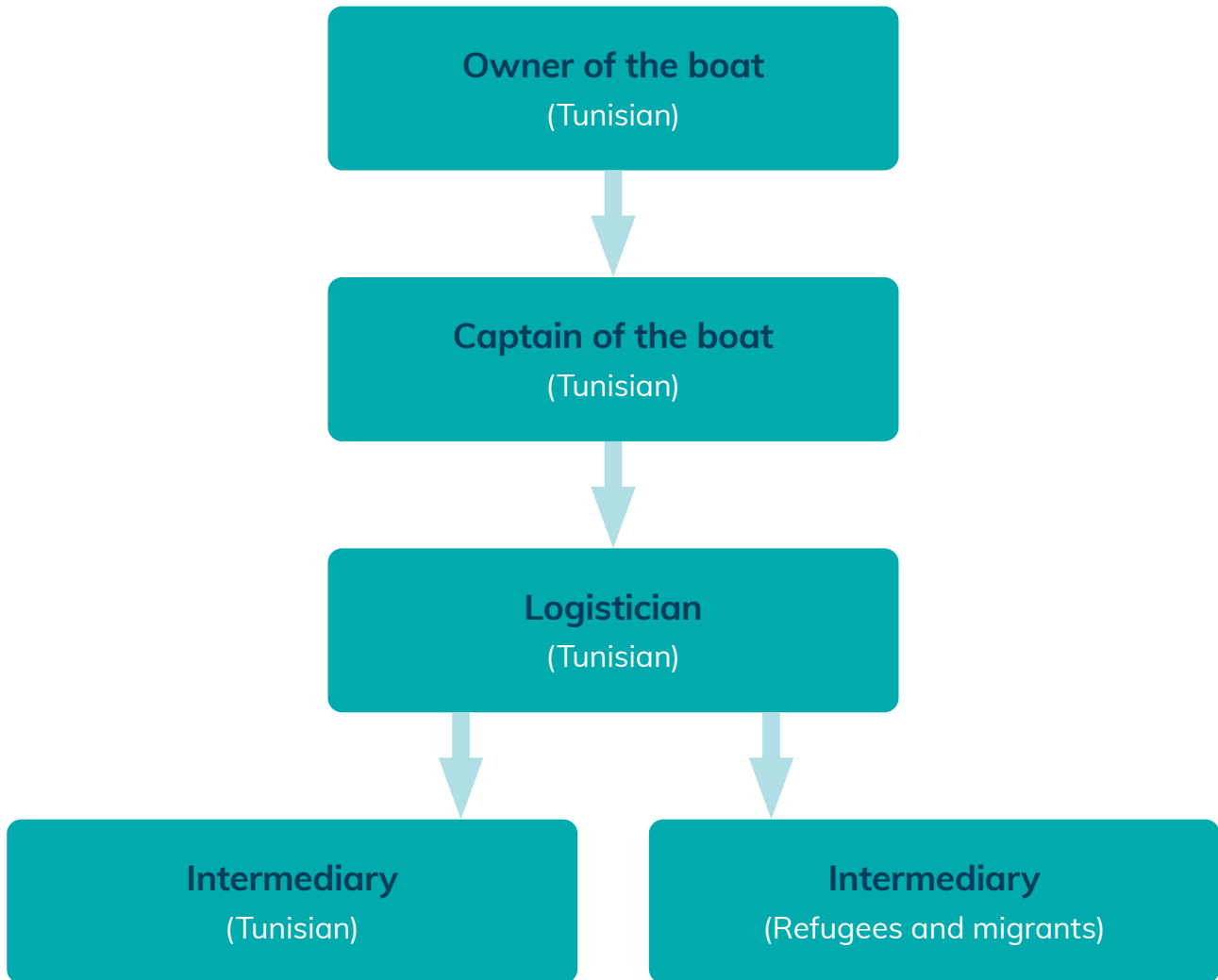
Further, respondents underscored that there are various types of smugglers, largely predicated on individual personalities. A 33-year-old Ivorian man in Sfax explained: “there are [smugglers] who are full of compassion. They know that some have less money; however, there are others who have no mercy.” He noted the various individuals involved in smuggling: “there are a lot of smugglers who don’t take their work seriously, they only have one goal is to defraud people, however, there are others who take their work at seriously. We can’t put them all in the same lot.” Another 23-year-old Ivorian man explained: “among smugglers there are those who are nice, and therefore they give you a little pocket money, they give you food. There are others who feel sorry; but there are others who do not care what happens.”

Smuggling networks in Sfax

Surveyed refugees and migrants highlight the complexities of smuggling networks operating out of Sfax, with different roles depending on nationality and different levels of contact with refugees and migrants. Refugees and migrants seeking a smuggler in Sfax only interact “with the intermediary. The smuggler remains anonymous,” explained a 46-year-old Ivorian man. There are both Tunisian and Sub-Saharan African intermediaries operating out of Sfax (Figure 1). This was also underscored by other key informants who noted the various roles of the intermediaries. Sub-Saharan African intermediaries are involved in recruitment both in Sfax and in countries of origin: “The [Sub-Saharan African intermediary] knows the Tunisians, but it is him who has contacts with migrants, and who can reach them,” said a 33-year-old Ivorian man. The dual possibility of being both a migrant, but also cooperating with smuggling networks was highlighted by a 36-year-old Guinean man in Sfax, who expressed: “My migratory experience is not easy because I am a smuggler I always have problems with the police.”

Key informants also discussed the role of Tunisians, both as intermediaries, along with other positions in the smuggling ring. “Tunisians are also inside this. They come to offer to leave by sea,” a 23-year-old Ivorian man maintained. A 29-year-old Ivorian woman explained the role of Tunisian and Sub-Saharan African intermediaries collaborating with smuggling networks directly in Sfax:

“A person who wants to leave comes into contact with an intermediary...After they pay this person and then they make an appointment, a van arrives (the driver is a Tunisian with another Sub-Saharan, who is the Sub-Saharan smuggler). They bring people back to a hidden house for a while; we call it ‘boumqueur.’ After a few days, the driver returns with the Sub-Saharan and brings them back to the port where they will leave with a Tunisian captain.”

Figure 1. Structure of Smuggling Networks in Sfax

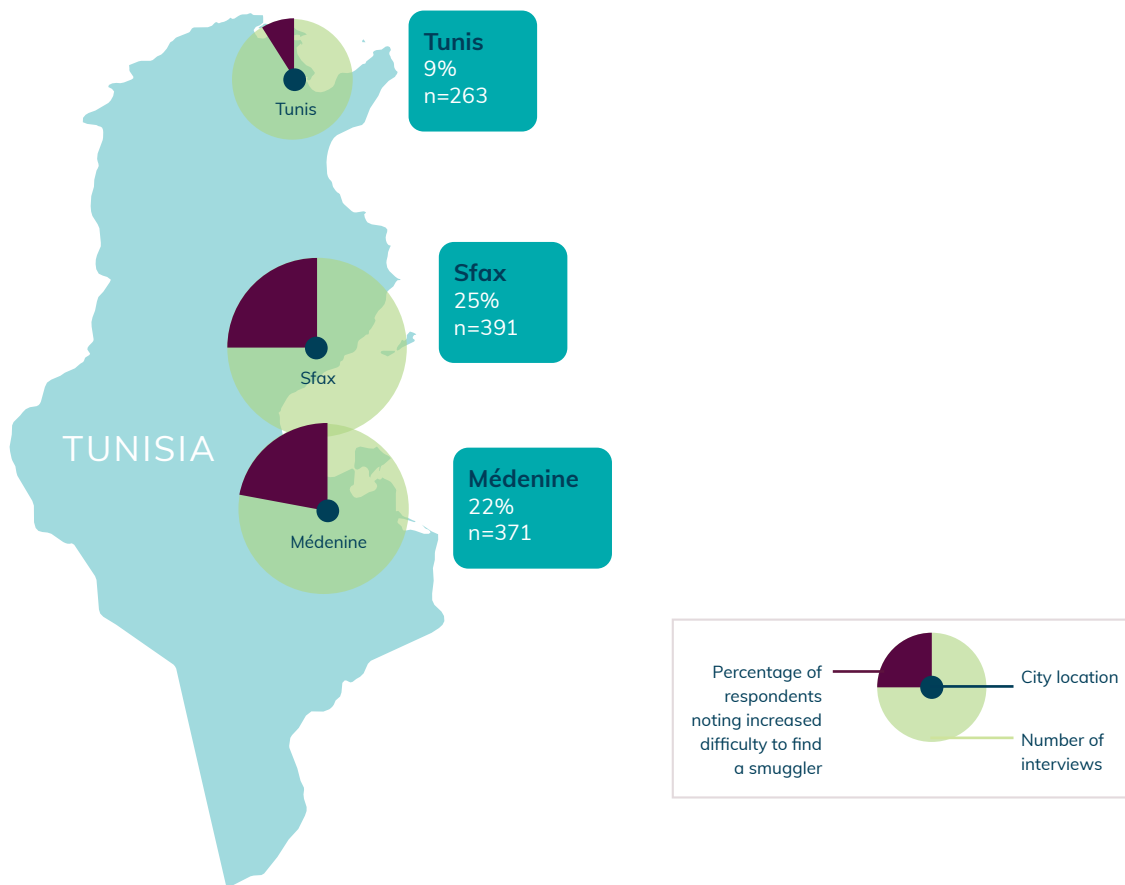
Key informants said that while Sub-Saharan migrants can help with recruitment, the logisticians, and key operators in the smuggling rings in Sfax are always Tunisian. A 46-year-old Ivorian man explained: “The owners of the boats are Tunisian, and they collaborate with the Tunisian smugglers, Tunisian intermediaries and Sub-Saharan intermediaries.” The role of Tunisians in key positions of power within the network was elaborated upon by a 23-year-old Ivorian: “There has never been a black captain, never.” This is corroborated by [news sources](#), which detail that the captain of the boat which sank in early June was a 48-year-old Tunisian, while the majority of the migrants onboard came from various Sub-Saharan countries.

Impact of COVID-19 on smuggling in Sfax

Key informants held that smugglers in Sfax continued to be operational during the COVID-19 crisis, although the general consensus was that sea departures had declined. A 23-year-old Ivorian woman noted: “Yes, there were departures even during confinement...I am not sure if it is more or less, but I know from the reports that there have been departures.” A 46-year-old Ivorian man further detailed: “there have always been departures but there has been a slowdown.” A 33-year-old Ivorian man also extrapolated on the role of the police in slowing down departures out of Sfax: “not that it changed, but I can say that it delayed things, because police forces now are into it, so there is not much attraction for smuggling.”

This was further supported by 4Mi survey data collected with refugees and migrants. A quarter of refugees and migrants surveyed in Sfax noted a decrease in access to smugglers due to COVID-19 restrictions (Figure 2). This was the highest of any city where refugees and migrants were surveyed in Tunisia. Contrary to [popular media narratives](#) suggesting that young men are undertaking the boat journey to Europe, women and men reported reduced access to smugglers in Sfax to a similar extent (27% of women (22/82); and 25% of men (77/309)) over the past three months.

Figure 2. What impact has the coronavirus crisis had on your migration journey? (Reduced access to smugglers by city⁷)



7 Cities included where more than 50 refugees and migrants were surveyed.

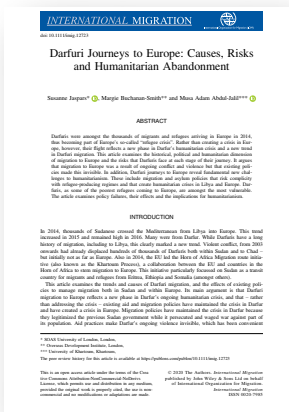
Highlighted New Research and Reports



Libya's Migrant Report – Round 30

Displacement Tracking Matrix – IOM | July 2020

The report presents the findings of DTM Round 30 (March – April 2020) in Libya. At least 625,638 migrants from over 44 countries were identified. It is argued that the substantial presence of migrants from neighbouring countries (67% of the total), especially Niger, Chad, Egypt and Sudan, reflects how historical ties between communities across borders and geographical proximity are determining factors in migration dynamics to Libya. This DTM round covered 11 regions in Libya, with the top three regions hosting migrant populations identified as Tripoli, Ejdabia and Murzuq.



Darfuri Journeys to Europe: Causes, Risks and Humanitarian Abandonment

International Migration – IOM | June 2020

The authors of the article highlight how thousands of Darfuris, who are among the most vulnerable refugees in Europe, mark a new phase in Darfur's humanitarian crisis and displacement. It argues that migration to Europe is a result of ongoing conflict and violence, but that existing policies on migration have made the situation in Darfur largely invisible. Moreover, it is argued that these policies on migration and asylum risk complicity with refugee-producing regimes, subsequently creating or prolonging humanitarian crises in Libya and

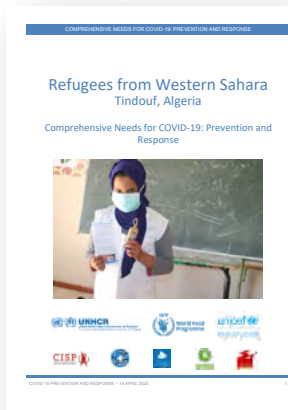
Europe.



Smuggling in the Time of COVID-19

Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime | April 2020

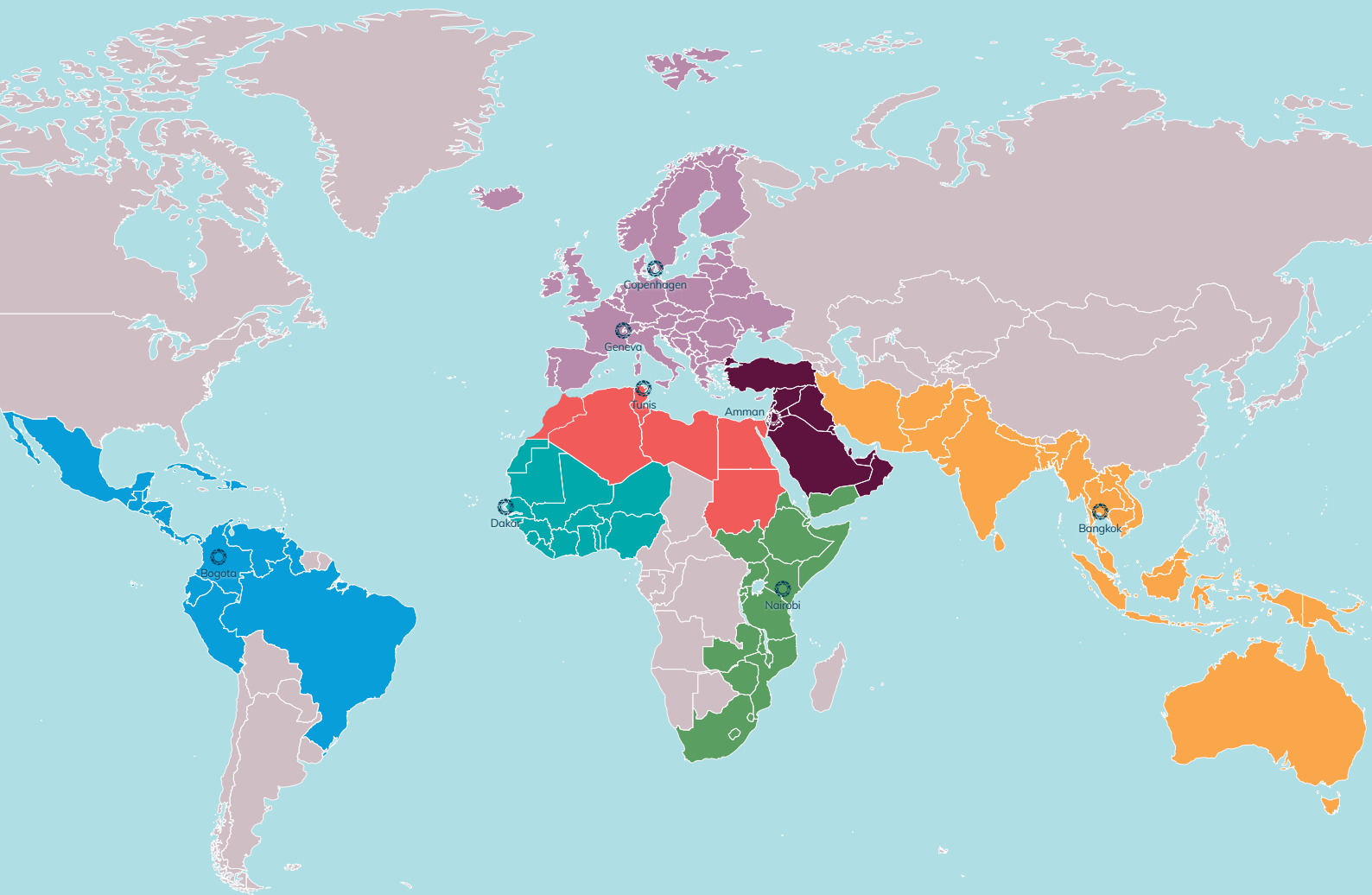
Measures to counter the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic have seen unprecedented restrictions on movement, both at borders and within countries. Some communities have adopted a hostile approach towards refugees and migrants, whom they perceive as contagion risks. While in the short term, imposed barriers, both state- and community-led, might lead to reduced smuggling business, in the long term it will increase migrant protection risks in the absence of legal and safe migration routes.



Comprehensive Needs for COVID-19: Prevention and Response – Refugees from Western Sahara (Tindouf, Algeria)

World Food Programme and partners | April 2020

This joint situation overview looks at the prevention of and response to a COVID-19 outbreak in the Sahrawi refugee camps in Tindouf, Algeria. It underlines essential comprehensive needs, while aligning with this strategy collective efforts of the humanitarian community to support the refugee community in managing the impact of COVID-19 and stressing the most urgent and critical activities for response and prevention.



The MMC is a global network consisting of seven regional hubs and a central unit in Geneva engaged in data collection, research, analysis and policy development on mixed migration. The MMC is a leading source for independent and high-quality data, research, analysis and expertise on mixed migration. The MMC aims to increase understanding of mixed migration, to positively impact global and regional migration policies, to inform evidence-based protection responses for people on the move and to stimulate forward thinking in public and policy debates on mixed migration. The MMC's overarching focus is on human rights and protection for all people on the move.

The MMC is part of and governed by the Danish Refugee Council (DRC). Global and regional MMC teams are based in Amman, Copenhagen, Dakar, Geneva, Nairobi, Tunis, Bogota and Bangkok.

For more information visit:

mixedmigration.org and follow us at [@Mixed_Migration](https://twitter.com/Mixed_Migration)

