

MMC North Africa

QUARTER 1 2021

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 face, looking down with a somber expression. The man behind him is also in a white t-shirt, looking out at the blue sea. The background shows the horizon and the 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 six 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.

Front cover photo credit:

Taha Jawashi (2017)

SUPPORTED BY:



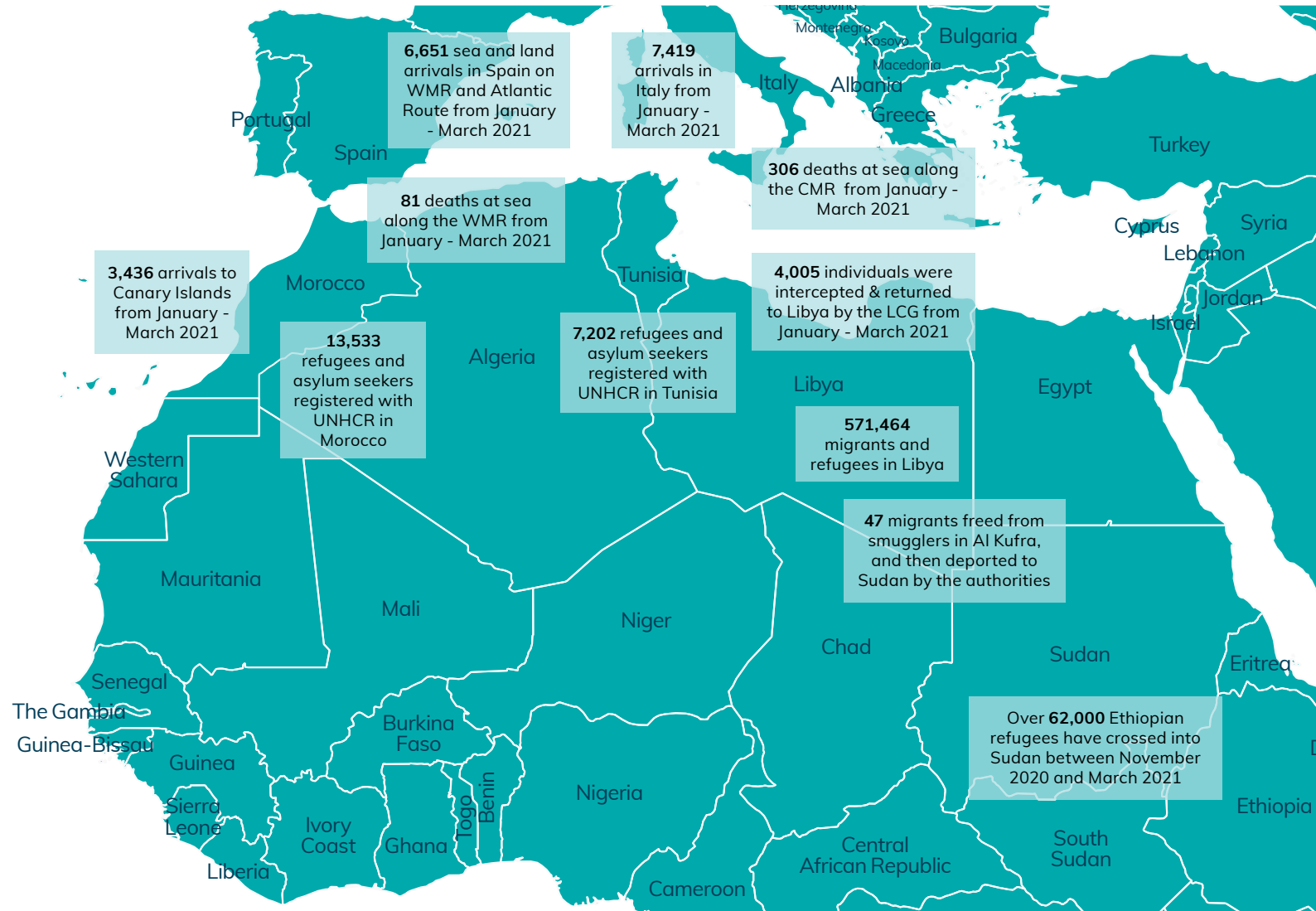
Quarterly Mixed Migration Update: North Africa

Quarter 1 - 2021

Key Updates

- **Land and sea arrivals to Italy and Spain from North Africa** through the Central (CMR) and Western Mediterranean Routes (WMR) [increased by 65%](#) compared to the same period in 2020. Arrivals to Malta ([decreasing by 98%](#)) as well as land arrivals to the Spanish enclaves of Ceuta and Melilla ([decreasing by 79%](#)) saw sharp declines compared to Q1 in 2020.
- **4,005 refugees and migrants were intercepted at sea** by the Libyan Coast Guard [in Q1](#), representing an 85% increase compared to the same period in 2020.
- **387 refugees and migrants were reported dead or missing**, of which 306 were along the CMR and 81 along the WMR, from January – March 2021.
- [Comprising 15% \(1,087\) of arrivals](#), **Tunisians continued to represent the top nationality** to arrive in Italy via the CMR between January – March 2021.
- **The trend of increased departures on the Atlantic Route towards the Canary Islands sustained** over Q1, with the [Spanish Ministry of Interior](#) reporting that more than half of the number of arriving refugees and migrants had travelled along the Atlantic Route.
- [Spanish media](#) reported a recent **increase in unaccompanied Moroccan minors among people on the move arriving to the Canary Islands**.
- **Eastern Sudan has continued to receive refugees from Ethiopia's Tigray region** over the course of Q1, particularly in Blue Nile State. The number of registered refugees stood at [62,166](#) as of March 23rd. Since November, 41,181 individuals have been relocated from border transit camps to the refugee camps of Um Raquba and Tunaydbah.
- **Algeria reportedly expelled close to 3,800 refugees and migrants** to the desert at the border with Niger in Q1. NGOs and UNHCR have denounced these deportations, with individuals not having the right to seek international protection.

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 January 1st – March 31st, 2021, the International Organization for Migration ([IOM](#)) reports that 13,638 refugees and migrants entered Spain (by sea or land) or Italy (by sea) through the Central and Western Mediterranean Routes, representing a 65% increase compared to the same period in 2020. The increase is particularly attributable to the month of March, accounting for 4,703 arrivals, compared to 1,149 in 2020.

Arrivals in Italy in Q1 2021 along the Central Mediterranean Route (CMR), as in Q4 of 2020, continued to increase compared to the same period the previous year. [UNHCR](#) reported 7,419 arrivals from January – March 2021, up from 2,794 in 2020. North Africa remained a top region of origin of people on the move along the CMR to Italy, with Tunisians (the most common nationality) representing 15% of arrivals as of March 31st, followed by Sudanese (5th, 6%), Algerians (8th, 4%) and Egyptians (9th, 4%).

By contrast, according to [UNHCR](#), 65 refugees and migrants arrived in Malta from January – February 2021, representing a 98% decline compared to the same period in 2020. Sudanese (the most common nationality to arrive in Malta) represented around a third (21) of these arrivals.

On the Western Mediterranean and Atlantic Routes to Spain, [UNHCR](#) reports a 16% increase in arrivals in Q1 (up until April 4th) compared to the same period in 2020 (from 5,755 to 6,651). This increase was attributed to an increase in sea arrivals to the Canary Islands and the Peninsula (37%) compared to Q1 in 2020, whereas land arrivals to Ceuta and Melilla decreased by 79% in the same period. At the time of writing, numbers on most common nationalities among arrivals were not published by UNHCR. According to the [Spanish Ministry of Interior](#), 3,436 refugees and migrants arrived to the Canary Islands between January – March, 2021, a 117% increase compared to the same period in 2020, and comprising more than half of the total number of arrivals to Spain. [Spanish media](#) reported an increasing number of Moroccan unaccompanied minors arriving to the Canary Islands as of lately.

Departures on the CMR and Atlantic Route

[UNHCR](#) finds that the largest share of refugees and migrants crossing the CMR and arriving in Italy from January – March 2021 had departed from Libya (61%, down from 67% in Q1 of 2020), followed in the region by Tunisia (30%, up from 16%) and Algeria (3%, down from 10%). Key departure points in Libya were Zwara and Azzawya and in Tunisia were Sidi Mansour and Sfax.

[Spanish media](#) continued to report on departures from Morocco, Western Sahara and West Africa in Q1 of 2020, with Essaouira, Agadir, El Ouatia and Tarfaya cited as main sites in Morocco, and Laayoune, Boujdour and Dakhla in the Territory of Western Sahara. The Spanish Refugee Council (Comisión Española de Ayuda al Refugiado, CEAR) [reported](#) that in terms of profiles of those who departed from Morocco, a considerable number had worked in the tourism industry in their origin countries and subsequently lost

their income due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Their increased economic hardship and lack of livelihood opportunities were some of the factors driving their migration.

Interceptions and rescue operations in the Mediterranean

Between [January 1st and March 31st](#), 4,005 refugees and migrants were intercepted by the Libyan Coast Guard (LCG) and returned to Libya. This marks an increase of 85% compared to roughly the same period in 2020.¹ OCHA reported that while favourable weather conditions played a role in rising sea departures, so too did changes in territorial control, which facilitated smugglers' and traffickers' operations, and increased livelihood and food insecurity experienced by refugees and migrants in Libya as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The main nationalities to be intercepted in [January and February](#) 2021 were Malian, Sudanese and Ivorian, while the main interception point was Tripoli, followed to a far lesser extent by Zwara. In the third week of January, [reportedly](#) over 350 refugees and migrants were rescued off the Libyan coast by the Ocean Viking Ship, run by the French NGO SOS Méditerranée.

In Algeria, national media continued to report over the course of Q1 on interceptions carried out by the Algerian Naval Forces, including [21 intercepted individuals](#) on the beach of [Tamanart](#) in Skikda region, in February. Between March 10th and 16th, close to [300 migrants](#) were intercepted on different boats departing from Chlef, Oran, Ain Temouchent, Mostanagem, Tlemcen, Ain Salah, Bechar and Ain Amenas. During that same time period, 13 people were arrested for engaging in smuggling.

In Tunisia, multiple rescue and interception missions were carried out between January and March 2021, including a rescue operation in the weekend of February 22nd when [reportedly](#) 157 refugees and migrants were brought back to the shore. [On March 2nd](#), 30 refugees and migrants with the alleged intention to disembark were stopped at the port of La Goulette in Tunis. [UNHCR](#) reports that over the month of February, the Tunisian Coast Guard carried out rescue and interception operations involving more than 1,223 individuals.

Dead or missing refugees and migrants

From January – March 2021, [387 refugees and migrants](#) were reported dead or missing, of which 306 were along the CMR and 81 along the WMR. Compared to the same period in 2020, this number doubled (with an increase of 101%). Several shipwrecks continued to be reported around the region, including off the Libyan coast of Azzawya with 43 fatalities on [January 19th](#), off the coast of Zwara with 60 fatalities on [March 18th](#), and off the coast of the Tunisian Kerkennah Islands with 39 fatalities in the [second week of March](#).

¹ Compared with [data](#) between January 1st, 2020 and April 3rd, 2020.

Mixed migration in Libya

Latest figures on refugees and migrants in Libya

As of February 17th, 2021, [IOM](#) estimates that there are at least 571,464 migrants in Libya, with 53% located in the West, 29% in the East and 18% in the South. This number represents a small decline when compared to the last quarter (574,146), as reported in the previous [QMMU](#). Similar to Q4 in 2020, IOM identifies the main migrant nationalities in Q1 2021 to be Nigerien (20%), Egyptian (18%), Chadian (15%), Sudanese (15%) and Nigerian (6%). The top three mantikas with the largest migrant populations are reported to be Tripoli, Ejdabia and Misrata, which remained consistent with the numbers reported throughout 2020.

[UNHCR](#) estimates that, as of March 1st, 2021, 43,624 refugees and asylum seekers are registered in Libya. Similar to reporting in Q4 of 2020, this represents a slightly decreasing trend compared to the previous quarter (44,199).

Detention centres and security operations

As of February 26th, [UNHCR](#) estimates that 3,934 refugees and migrants are arbitrarily detained in detention centres across Libya, almost doubling the number that was reported in the [last quarter](#) of 2020 (2,000). In the first three months of 2021, [UNHCR](#) reports that 121 refugees and asylum seekers were released from arbitrary detention in 2021. In January, [UNHCR](#) facilitated the transfer of all released individuals at the Zintan (Daher Al Jabal) detention centre, bringing them to Tripoli upon their release by the authorities. In terms of deportations, several [news agencies](#) reported that the Government of National Accord (GNA) in Western Libya expelled 5,360 individuals in 2020. It is unclear if these policies will change over the course of 2021 under the newly formed Government of National Unity (GNU).

Throughout Q1 of 2021, local media reported on security operations run by authorities across the country, leading to the arrest of smugglers and the release of arbitrarily detained refugees and migrants. In early January, [12 Egyptian nationals](#) were freed from traffickers in the Al-Bardi area of Tobruk by local authorities, after the body of an Egyptian national with signs of torture was found in the area. In [Bani Walid](#), a military operation was conducted on 6 sites run allegedly by smugglers and traffickers, which resulted in the release of 70 hostages by Libyan security forces in March. Furthermore, [46 Sudanese and one Ethiopian](#) were freed from smuggler groups in Al Kufra on March 14th, but they were later handed over to the Shelter and Deportation Centre of the Directorate for Combatting Illegal Migration (DCIM) to be deported out of Libya.

2021 Humanitarian Response Plan and COVID-19 response

Reporting on the 2021 [Humanitarian Response Plan \(HRP\)](#), UNHCR, IOM and partner organisations in Libya aim to target 44,000 refugees and asylum seekers and 105,000 migrants across urban areas and detention centres. This represents 100% of all refugees and asylum seekers and 34% of migrants identified as in need of assistance in 2021. It marks an increase of 15,000 beneficiaries from the reported target for 2020 ([134,000](#)), and an overall increase in the percentage of beneficiaries targeted, as the total population of refugees and migrants was higher in 2020 (654,081 migrants including 48,628 refugees and asylum seekers [at the beginning of 2020](#)).

[The World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#) reported in February that the Government of Libya could cover the cost of rolling out a COVID-19 vaccination scheme for the country's 574,000 refugees and migrants, yet it will not be able to cover the cost of the vaccines themselves. Therefore, with the support of WHO, the government is sending an appeal to the Global Vaccine Alliance (GAVI) to cover the cost of vaccines for an initial 16,200 refugees and migrants, who were previously identified by UNHCR and IOM as at high-risk, through its Humanitarian Buffer Fund.

Mixed migration in Tunisia

Latest figures on refugees and migrants in Tunisia

As of February 29th, [UNHCR](#) has registered 7,202 refugees and asylum seekers in Tunisia, of which the top nationalities are Ivorian (40%), Syrian (29%), Guinean (4%) Sudanese (4%) and Cameroonian (4%). This represents a 19% increase compared to the last quarter (dated on November 29th). As was the case in Q4 2020, the majority of those registered had arrived in the country prior to Q1, highlighting the movement constraints that refugees and migrants might continue to experience due to the pandemic, as well as suggesting the existence of a backlog of refugees and asylum seekers to process. Greater Tunis (3,486), Sfax (1,506) and Médenine (957) continue to host the largest refugee and asylum seeker populations.

Alleged new case of arbitrary detention in reception centre

After a similar case occurred in June 2020, where the Administrative Tribunal's decision ruled the release of 22 migrants, the Tunisian Ministry of Interior was brought to court in February 2021 by a coalition of NGOs over the alleged arbitrary detention of a migrant in the El Ouardia Reception and Orientation National Guard Centre. Such as in the earlier case, a decision to release migrants from the centre would suggest the existence of cases of arbitrary detention, which are illegal by Tunisian law if the basis for detention is not specified. Over the course of last year, [Tunisian media](#) reported on the inadequate housing conditions in the centre, and the lack of information publicly available on its mandate.

Mixed migration in Sudan

Latest figures on refugees and migrants in Sudan

As of March 31st, [UNHCR](#) estimates over 1 million refugees and asylum seekers are present in Sudan (1,090,038) with the largest populations originating from South Sudan (75.5%), Eritrea (11%) and Syria (8.5%). Of these, 70% are estimated to live in urban settings, while 30% are hosted in camps. On March 30th, UNHCR published its [Sudan Country Refugee Response Plan](#) (CRRP) for 2021, with 968,488 people targeted from January to December 2021, out of 1,135,068 projected people in need by end of the year.

Tigray response in the East

As of March 23rd, UNHCR and the Government's Commissioner for Refugees (COR) have [registered 62,166 Ethiopian refugees](#) who have crossed the border into Eastern Sudan since the onset of the conflict in the Tigray region in November 2020. Whereas arrivals in Gedaref and Kassala States have reportedly decreased in Q1 of 2021, Blue Nile State has experienced increases in arrivals up until March, with 4,372 individuals crossing into the state from Ethiopia on [February 15th](#) alone.

Since November, 41,181 individuals were relocated from the border transit camps of Hamdayet, Abdrafi and Village 8 to Um Raquba (20,572 people) and Tunaydbah (20,609 people) refugee camps. In addition, OCHA reported that UNHCR in Sudan has [launched an Ethiopian Refugee Response Plan](#) for the period of November 2020 to June 2021 for a projected 100,000 refugees, with over 30 partner organisations involved in this response.

Campaign against discrimination and revoked citizenship

On March 16th, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) launched [a campaign 'Only Together We Complete the Picture'](#) on social cohesion and promoting the culture and added value that migrants have on Sudanese society, by sharing messages of solidarity and acceptance. Its aim is to overcome the challenges faced by refugees and migrants, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic, such as stigmatisation, discrimination and xenophobia.

[News agencies](#) have been reporting since the end of 2020 that Sudan's Ministry of Interior was to announce a new policy requiring Syrian nationals to have visas to enter Sudan, whereas in the past Sudan was visa-free for Syrians. Especially during the war, this facilitated a way out for many Syrian refugees towards Sudan. In March, [The Guardian](#) reported that in line with this policy, the Sudanese government revoked 3,500 passports of nationalised foreigners who are said to have obtained nationality 'illicitly' over a time period of 30 years, and of which the majority is believed to be of Syrian origin.

Mixed migration in Morocco

Latest figures on refugees and migrants in Morocco

As of January 2021, [UNHCR](#) has registered 8,138 refugees and 5,395 asylum seekers in Morocco, totalling 13,533 people of concern present in approximately 75 localities around the country. The top nationalities are Syrian (4,528), Guinean (1,636), Cameroonian (1,146), Ivorian (1,072) and Yemeni (978).

Arrest of members of criminal smuggling and trafficking network

On March 22nd, it was [reported](#) that Moroccan authorities took into custody 15 individuals allegedly involved in a criminal smuggling and human trafficking network spanning Oujda, Touissit Boubker and Tilioua. Arrested individuals were reported to work as 'intermediaries', organising the transit from Morocco to Algeria, and from there on to Europe along the Western Mediterranean Route.

Mixed migration in Algeria

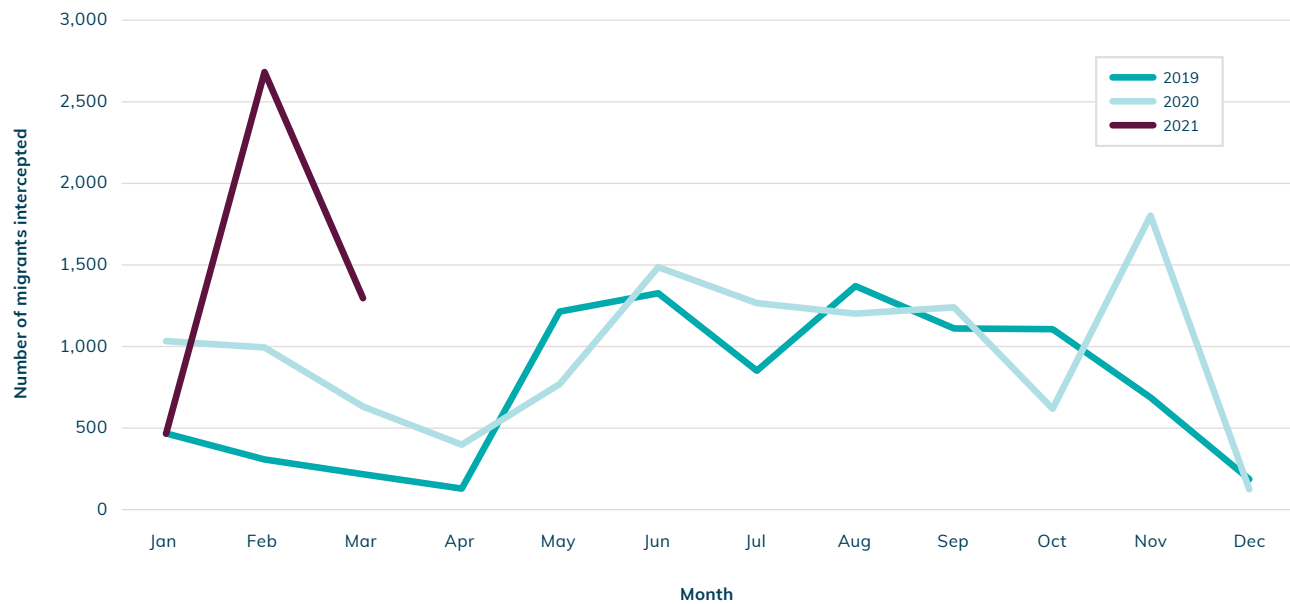
During the first three months of 2021, Algeria [reportedly](#) expelled close to 3,800 refugees and migrants to the desert at the border with Niger. Most refugees and migrants originated from Niger, Mali and Guinea. UNHCR's Special Envoy for the Mediterranean Situation, Vincent Cochetel, denounced these deportations, with individuals not having the right to seek international protection. On March 24th, he [tweeted](#) that 601 individuals representing 17 countries of origin, including those experiencing conflict, were expelled. [IOM](#) reported in March, they provided Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) to 87 migrants who were stranded in Algeria due to border closures.

Thematic Focus: Mediterranean crossings from Libya

Overview

[UNHCR](#) reports that from January - March 2021, the Libyan Coast Guard (LCG) intercepted and returned 4,005 refugees and migrants to Libya. This is a sharp increase from last year, when at the end of March 2020, the LCG had intercepted and returned [2,677 refugees and migrants](#). Those disembarked in Libya ports since the beginning of 2021 hail from more than 33 countries of origin, particularly Sudan, Mali, Guinea, and Nigeria, and are largely men (with just under 10% being women). These profiles align with those reported by [UNHCR](#) as most often undertaking the sea crossing from Libya in 2020. This thematic focus examines intentions of refugees and migrants in Libya to cross the Mediterranean, the shifting routes and departure points, along with risks associated with interception and return. It is based largely on 4Mi surveys with 383 refugees and migrants in Libya, collected at the end of 2020, focusing on intentions around the sea crossing and the impact of EU policies on refugee and migrant decision-making.²

Figure 1: Numbers of refugees and migrants intercepted at sea by the Libyan Coast Guard by month between 2019 and 2021



² This thematic focus draws upon 4Mi surveys conducted from October - November 2020 in Libya. Respondents were surveyed across more than 20 cities in Libya, primarily in Tripoli (n=121; 39%), Sebha (n=121; 32%), Ejdabiya (n=29; 8%), and Benghazi (n= 28; 7%) with other locations including Ghadames, Misrata, Alkhoms, and Bani Walid. Women accounted for 46% of respondents (n=176) and men accounted for 54% (n=207), with ages ranging from 19 to 50 years of age and a median age of 31. Refugees and migrants surveyed represent 26 nationalities.

Intentions to cross the Mediterranean

60% of respondents noted that they had at some point since the beginning of their journey considered crossing the sea to Europe (n=219). When asked if they planned to take the journey in the next six months, fewer than 30% noted that they planned to cross (n=112), and another 30% did not know or were undecided. Hence, while over a half of interviewed refugees and migrants aspired to cross, just one-third seemed to have short term plans to do so.

40% of respondents noted that they had not considered the sea-crossing (n=150). Prior [MMC research](#) highlights that many refugees and migrants come to Libya to work, as the country can provide better job opportunities than their home countries, given its relative wealth in the region. One man from Nigeria noted: “As for me I have no intention of crossing the Mediterranean Sea. I set my mind coming to work in Libya and go back to Nigeria.” This was also elaborated on by a man from Niger who noted engaging in circular labor migration between Niger and Libya: “I have never thought of going to Europe because my work is fetching me good money in Libya here, so there is no reason for me to go and risk my life on the Mediterranean sea, my plan is to make my money here and go back to my country.”

Shifting routes to departure points

Of the surveyed refugees and migrants who expressed the intention to cross the Mediterranean, the majority planned to depart from Tajoura, Zwaren, Azzawya, and Sabratha, and to a lesser extent from Alkhoms and Sirte. Routes and methods of transportation to departure points are shifting given increasing movement restrictions and patrolling of the LCG. A Nigerian woman in Tripoli emphasized that smugglers were still operating along the routes, but had changed their ways of working: “Yes some can take the car from one town to another, but the smugglers will put you inside the boot [of the car] to take you to the sea.”

A Burkinabe man noted that both the method and time it takes to get to coastal cities had changed: “the routes are different now because the number of days now to get to the seaside has increased because we use different towns [now] to beat the security forces and other militias.” To avoid security forces and militias checkpoints while transporting migrants, smugglers liaise with them to monitor when they are on guard to transport migrants to coastal cities, alleged a Cameroonian woman. She said, “some of the security officers who feed [the smugglers] with all information on when they are on guard and when they are not.”

Interceptions and returns

More than half of respondents noted that a risk to crossing the sea was being returned to Libyan shores and facing detention. “The cases of police arresting migrants on the sea is very rampant,” one Nigerian migrant noted. Some respondents highlighted firsthand experiences with being intercepted and detained and allegedly facing different abuses. For example, one Burkinabe man detained in Azzawya following an attempted sea crossing explained he experienced physical abuse at the hands of government officials. A Nigerian man who had also passed through Azzawya said: “I experienced a very serious situation when I wanted to cross to Europe last year. Police came to burst our camp at Zwaren and put us into prison at Azzawya. I got opportunity to escape with two other boys in the midnight. It was a very serious situation but I thank God for saving me.”

A Nigerian woman explained that fear of arrest prevents some refugees and migrants from attempting the journey: “Most of the migrants that wish to cross to Europe could not do so because of fear that police may probably arrest them on the sea. The fear of police arrest is the greatest fear of most of us, coupled with other migration problems that normally occur on the sea route.”

A woman from Mali highlighted that not only do these risks interrupt journeys, but they lead to involuntary immobility in Libya: “Most of the migrants are blocked here.” Other respondents noted being “stranded” or “blocked” from moving. A man from Rwanda explained: “Of course [Libyan migration policies] have had an impact since my arrival. I have been stuck here in Libya and my current situation has become catastrophic, which is really very difficult for me.”

By contrast, a number of respondents who had experienced detention after a failed crossing were still attempting to make the journey. These refugees and migrants perceive the sea crossing as their only way out of Libya. An Eritrean woman highlighted that “I’ve tried to cross and I was arrested by the Libya Authorities.” Yet, she noted she was still planning to make the journey in the next 6 months knowing the potential risks.

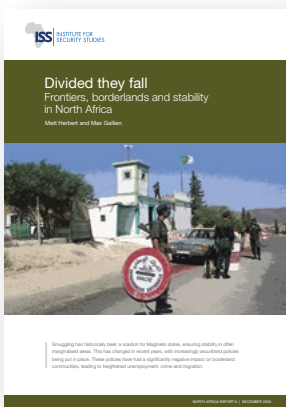
Highlighted New Research and Reports



[Labour Migration to Libya - Remittances Amidst Conflict and Pandemic](#)

Displacement Tracking Matrix – IOM | April 2021

This study presents key findings on the traffic of remittances sent by migrants in Libya to their countries of origin. It looks at data from over 41,000 migrant interviews collected in 2019 and 2021. Although a vast majority of respondents mentioned having the intention of sending remittances, one in three reported to have actually send money at least once. Data also shows the proportion of remittances and the amount of money sent declined rapidly during 2019 and 2020, impacted by armed conflict and the COVID-19 pandemic.



[Divided they fall: frontiers, borderlands and stability in North Africa](#)

Institute for Security Studies | March 2021

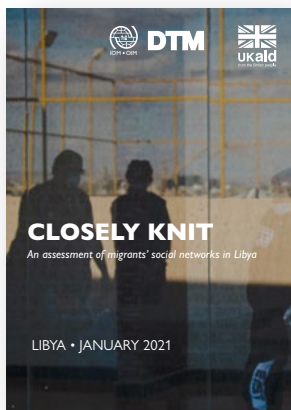
While this study focuses on a wider range of themes across Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia and Libya, focusing on its border regions, it looks at migration as a means of adaptation for citizens in border regions experiencing a lack of socio-economic opportunities. On the other hand, tightening border policies and security have pushed those who migrate into recurring to irregular options, with smuggling networks in border regions providing for an option to leave, while at the same time offering new livelihood opportunities for those involved in the business.



[Libya's Migrant Report: Round 34](#)

Displacement Tracking Matrix – IOM | February 2021

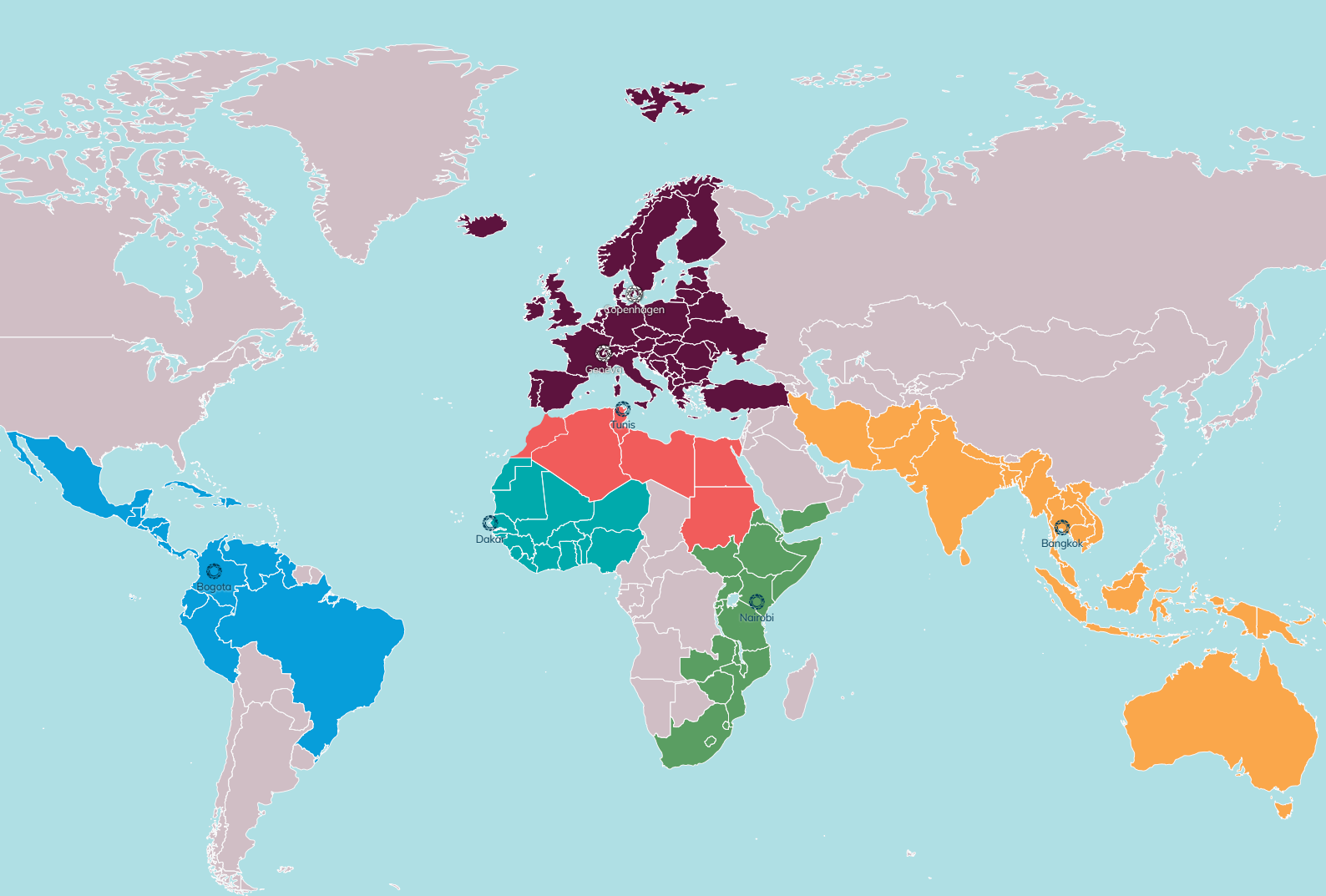
This report presents the findings of DTM Round 33 (November-December 2020) in Libya. At least 571,464 migrants from over 41 countries were identified. During the reporting period, the number of migrants remained fairly stable, compared to previous rounds where a decline was reported following the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite the pandemic, migration to Libya continues to be influenced heavily by geographical proximity and historical ties with neighbouring regions. Two thirds of migrants are from neighbouring countries: Niger (20%), Egypt (18%), Chad (15%) and Sudan (15%).



Closely Knit: An Assessment Of Migrants' Social Networks In Libya

Displacement Tracking Matrix – IOM | January 2021

Based on data from a social network assessment conducted by IOM DTM in Libya between October-December 2020, the study highlights that migrants are influenced by interlinkages and kinship networks throughout the entire process of migrating to Libya. Looking at close contacts, family and friends based in country of origin appear to weigh in heavier in the decision-making process of migration compared to family and friends based elsewhere, underlining the importance of face-to-face interactions during this process.



The MMC is a global network consisting of six 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 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)

