

MMC North Africa

QUARTER 2 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 wearing a white t-shirt and is looking out at the sea with his hands clasped near his face. The background shows a vast blue sea under 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 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)

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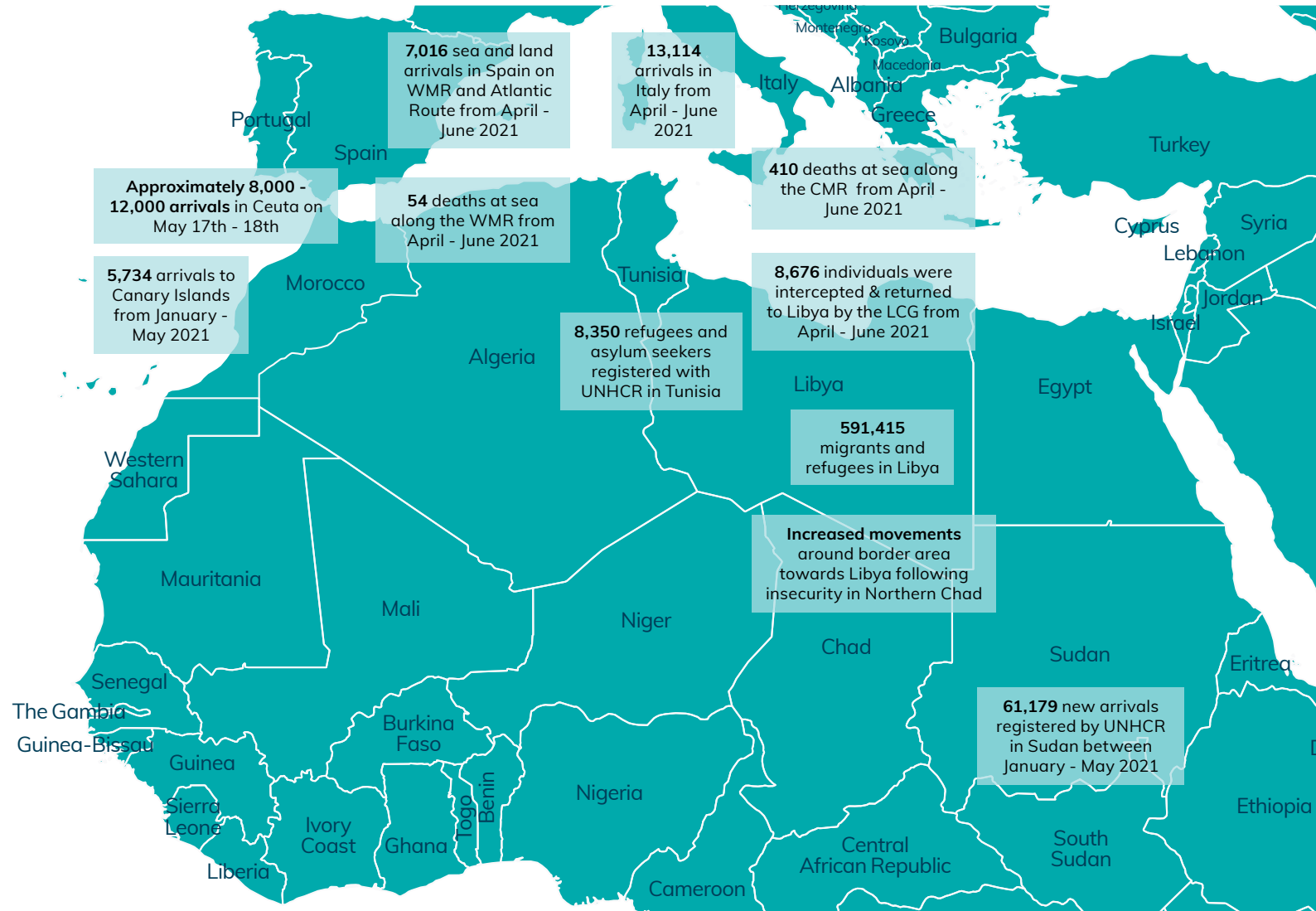
Quarterly Mixed Migration Update: North Africa

Quarter 2 - 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 251%** compared to the same period in 2020.
- Arrivals to Spain include a particularly **sharp increase in movements to Ceuta** around May 17th – 18th, with estimates suggesting a number of between [8,000 and 12,000 arrivals](#) to the Spanish enclave, amidst political tensions between Morocco and Spain. Of this number of arrivals, it was reported more than 5,000 were pushed back to Morocco from Ceuta during the following days.
- The trend of an increase in Algerian arrivals to Spain which started in 2020 has continued to sustain, with [Algerian media](#) reporting **more than 10,000 Algerians arrived in Spain in the first five months of 2021**.
- **8,676 refugees and migrants were intercepted at sea** by the Libyan Coast Guard in Q2, representing a 266% increase compared to the same period in 2020, and following an [85%](#) increase reported in Q1.
- **464 refugees and migrants were reported dead or missing**, of which 410 were along the CMR and 54 were along the WMR, between April – June 2021.
- In Q2, [reports](#) were published on the **challenging conditions in the refugee camps in Eastern Sudan hosting Ethiopian refugees in Tigray**, with camps reaching their maximum capacity, new arrivals overstaying their time in transit camps, and the potential of devastating effects tied to the upcoming rainy season.

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 1st – June 30th, the International Organization for Migration ([IOM](#)) reports that 19,032 refugees and migrants entered Spain (by sea or land) and Italy (by sea) through the Central and Western Mediterranean Routes (CMR and WMR), respectively, representing an increase of 251% compared to the reported number of arrivals in 2020, taking into account that this period last year constituted the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic including reported restricted mobility measures.

Arrivals in Italy in Q2 2021 increased compared to the same period the previous year. [UNHCR](#) reports 13,114 arrivals from April – June 2021, up from 4,155 in 2020. [UNHCR](#) reported that for the first 5 months of 2021 up until June 30st, and similar to the same period in 2020, Bangladeshis represent the most common nationality (16%). Looking at North African arrivals, Tunisians (the second most common nationality) represent 14% of arrivals, followed by Egyptians (4th, 8%), Sudanese (6th, 6%) and Moroccans (8th, 5%).

On the Western Mediterranean and Atlantic Routes to Spain, [UNHCR](#) reports a 145% increase in arrivals in Q2 (up until June 30th) compared to the same period in 2020 (from 2,867 to 7,016).¹ This increase was also attributed to less movement restrictions compared to the same period last year during the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. [Local Algerian media](#) reports that in the first five months of 2021, more than 10,000 Algerians had arrived in Spain. According to the [Spanish Ministry of Interior](#), 5,734 refugees and migrants arrived in the Canary Islands from January up until June 15th, 2021.

Departures on the CMR, WMR and Atlantic Route

[UNHCR](#) finds that the largest share of refugees and migrants crossing the CMR and arriving in Italy in April – May 2021 had departed from Libya (66%, compared to 59% Q2 of 2020), followed in the region by Tunisia (22%, down from 30%) and Algeria (2%, down from 7%). Key departure points in Libya were Zwara, Abu Kammash and Azzawya, in Tunisia Sidi Mansour, and in Algeria El Kala and Annaba.

In May, [Spanish media](#) reported on the major increase in arrivals to the enclave of Ceuta, reaching to more than 10,000 arrivals within a time span of two days. All arrivals had traveled over land from Morocco, or by sea, swimming from a nearby Moroccan port. Although including sub-Saharan Africans, a majority of the migrants was reportedly of Moroccan origin. [El País](#) reported that more than 400,000 jobs were lost and not recuperated in Morocco, as part of the effects of COVID-19 on the economy, constituting a driver, amongst other factors, for Moroccans to embark on a migration journey towards Europe. Political tensions between Morocco and Spain are another factor impacting the increase in arrivals in Spain from Morocco during this quarter (see Thematic Focus of this QMMU).

¹ According to [UNHCR](#), official data of arrivals in Ceuta from 17 May onwards were not made available and were under analysis by the Spanish Ministry of Interior at the time of this publication.

Continued arrivals to the Canary Islands on the Atlantic Route were also framed by Spanish media within the context of worsened diplomatic relations between Morocco and Spain. While departures to these islands take place from West African countries, a [reported](#) increase in arrivals at the northernmost islands of Lanzarote and Fuerteventura, geographically closest to North Africa, suggest some departures taking place from Morocco in Q2 of 2021.

Interceptions and rescue operations in the Mediterranean

Between [March 31st and June 23rd](#), 8,676 refugees and migrants were intercepted by the Libyan Coast Guard (LCG) and returned to Libya. This marks an increase of 266% compared to roughly the same period in 2020. UNHCR reported that calm sea conditions led to a sharp increase in the number of refugees and migrants returned to Libyan ports. The main nationalities to be intercepted were Sudanese, Malian and Bangladeshi. The departure points for those intercepted were Tripoli Naval Base and Tripoli Commercial Port, followed to a far lesser extent by Zwara. On [June 13th](#), a record of more than 1,000 refugees and migrants were intercepted on one day. In April, [several European investigative journalism outlets](#) reported on the alleged collusion between Frontex and the LCG in intercepting refugees and migrants at sea, after which many end up unaccounted for or arbitrarily detained, as [MMC](#) reported on earlier based on investigative research carried out by The New Humanitarian in 2020.

In Algeria, [national media](#) reported on interceptions carried out by the Algerian Naval Forces, including 167 intercepted individuals on June 16th who had departed from different regions, including Algiers, Oran, Ain Temouchent, Mostaganem, Tlemcen, Annaba and Skikda.

Multiple rescue and interception operations were carried out by the Tunisian Coast Guard over the course of Q2. Notably, on [May 31st](#), over 260 refugees and migrants were intercepted at sea trying to reach Italy, with boat departures both taking place from Sfax and from Zwara (in Libya). On [June 13th and 14th](#), 168 individuals were rescued at sea, having departed from different Tunisian ports including Sfax, Téboulba, Chebba and the Kerkennah islands.

Dead or missing refugees and migrants

From April – June 2021, 464 refugees and migrants were [reported](#) dead or missing, of which 410 were along the CMR and 54 along the WMR. Compared to the same period in 2020, this number marks an increase of 284% (up from 121). Several shipwrecks continued to be reported around the region, including off the Libyan coast near Tripoli with 130 fatalities on [April 23rd](#), off the Tunisian coast near Sidi Mansour with at least 40 people drowning on [April 16th](#), and on [May 18th](#) with more than 50 dying in a shipwreck off the coast of Sfax.

Political migration dialogues

In light of the current Portuguese European Union Presidency, and its intention to prioritise migration dialogue with neighbouring countries, a Ministerial Conference on the Management of Migrant Flows was held in Lisbon in May, with the participation of African country delegations. [Based on this conference](#), Tunisian Prime Minister Hichem Mechichi reiterated that...

“Tunisia refuses to set up reception centers on its territory for foreign migrants headed to Europe, and is not at all ready to welcome citizens from other countries, just as it opposes any interference with operations that affect its national sovereignty.”

Moreover, he stated that migration should not be considered as a ‘permanent threat’, but rather as intrinsically linked with economic, social and cultural development and a factor that builds linkages between people.

On [June 7th](#), Prime Minister Abdel Hamid Dbeibah of the Libyan Government of National Unity (GNU) met with the EU Home Affairs Commissioner Ylva Johansson, focusing on issues of migration and human trafficking. He underscored that Libya, as a country of transit, cannot alone stop undocumented migration and human trafficking and called for stronger collaboration between the EU and countries of origin and transit.

During the [second Berlin Conference on Libya](#) held on June 23rd, 2021, all actors committed to addressing migration challenges in Libya. This includes calling all international actors and the Libyan authorities “to condemn and address all acts of migrant smuggling and fight human trafficking into, through and from the Libyan territory and off the coast of Libya and hold accountable those responsible, as well as seeking the imposition of UN Security Council sanctions in accordance with its relevant Resolutions.” Second, the Libyan authorities were called upon “to facilitate humanitarian support, humanitarian evacuation flights and departures on a voluntary basis without interruptions.” Finally, there was a reported commitment to “assisting, as appropriate, the Libyan authorities in developing a comprehensive approach to addressing migration, including the root causes and sources, closure of detention centres, and other measures built on the principles of regional and international cooperation and international law.” A couple of days before the conference took place, the EU released a statement on pressing to shut down migrant detention centres, following [reports](#) of minors being sexually assaulted by guards.

Mixed migration in Libya

Latest figures on refugees and migrants in Libya

As of July 1st, [IOM](#) estimates that there are at least 591,415 migrants in Libya, with 53% located in the West, 29% in the East and 18% in the South. This number represents an increase (+4%) when compared to the last quarter (571,464), as reported in the previous QMMU. Similar to Q1 in 2021, IOM identifies the main migrant nationalities in Q2 to be Nigerien (21%), Egyptian (18%), Sudanese (16%), Chadian (14%) and Nigerian (6%). The top three mantikas with the largest migrant populations are Tripoli, Ejdabia and Misrata, which remained consistent with the numbers reported throughout 2020. [UNHCR](#) estimates that, as of July

1st, 2021, 42,458 refugees and asylum seekers are registered in Libya. Compared to reporting in Q1 of 2021, this represents a slightly decreasing trend (43,624).

Crackdowns on smuggling activities and release of human trafficker

Reports on crackdowns of smuggling businesses, as well as linked criminal networks, continued over the course of Q2 in Libya. In [May](#), a workshop for the manufacturing of human smuggling boats was seized in Zwara. Three Egyptian workers were detained, although they confessed in detention that the factory belonged to a Libyan citizen. Moreover, in early June, the Libyan National Army (LNA) [reported](#) the arrest of three individuals tied to Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), of whom at least one reportedly also had ties to a human smuggling business. Conversely, the alleged human trafficker Abdelrahman Al Milad, better known by his alias Al Bija, who was also accused of abusing and torturing refugees and migrants in Libya, was [released in April](#) after four months of detention in Tripoli. Al Bija, also wanted and sought by Interpol, was freed after the military attorney general in Libya's capital dropped all charges against him due to a lack of evidence.

Deteriorating conditions in detention centres across Tripoli

Conditions in detention centres where refugees and migrants are held continue to raise many human rights concerns. On April 8th, [MSF reported](#) on a shooting taking place in a detention centre in Tripoli, with one person being killed and two teenagers aged 17 and 18 being injured and in need of urgent medical care. MSF noted, moreover, that ever since the increase in active interceptions by the LCG since early 2021, several detention centres have become overcrowded and conditions have further deteriorated. Particularly in centres in and around Tripoli, this has led to a rapid decline in security and living conditions. Linked to Tripoli's volatile security situation, [media](#) reported mid-June a shelter for displaced people was targeted by a bomb, killing at least seven people including a 5-year-old Bangladeshi child. Finally, internal humanitarian programming reporting mentioned shots were fired at Tripoli's Abu Salim migrant shelter on June 13th, allegedly to deter a number of migrants from escaping arbitrary detention.

Increased movements from and around borders with Chad

Key informant interviews with humanitarian actors reveal increased cross-border movements from Libya into Chad, spurred by insecurity in Northern Chad and the killing of President Idriss Deby [in April](#). Moreover, there was a reported increase in military preparedness at the Libyan side of the border. In terms of movements, there was a perceived increase in children present in cross-border movements, and 56 Chadian minors were allegedly freed from smugglers in Southern Libya and reunited with their families in April. Humanitarian actors have noted a lack of evidence and data on movements from Chad into Libya, which impedes understanding the magnitude of movements taking place.

Mixed Migration in Tunisia

Latest figures on refugees and migrants in Tunisia

As of May 31st, 2021, [UNHCR](#) has registered 8,350 refugees and asylum seekers in Tunisia, of which the top nationalities are Ivorian (42%), Syrian (26%), Guinean (6%), Cameroonian (5%) and Sudanese (4%). This represents a 16% increase compared to the last quarter (dated on February 29th). Greater Tunis (4,285), Sfax (1,875) and Médenine (872) continue to host the largest refugee and asylum seeker populations.

National migration awareness campaign launched

In April, [a national awareness campaign](#) on the risks posed by irregular migration called “Esshih” was launched. The project is a collaboration between the Tunisian National Observatory on Migration (ONM), IOM and Pontes, the Tunisian diaspora association in Italy. The campaign is centered around a peer-to-peer approach aiming to train young communicators from all regions of the country to organise awareness-raising events inviting their peers and families. The campaign is also scheduled to stretch to mainstream media, including radio and television, broadcasting stories showcasing the risks experienced by those who irregularly migrated. During the month of Ramadan, the campaign included a partnership with national television channel Wataniya-1, broadcasting TV series “El Harga”, a national production that focuses on youth involved in irregular migration.

Inauguration of second migrant cemetery in Zarzis

Following the creation of the “Cemetery of the Unknown” by ex-fisherman and migration activist Chamssedine Marzoug five years ago, the southern Tunisian coastal town of Zarzis inaugurated a second cemetery to honor the lives of migrants [on June 9th](#). The cemetery, named “Jardin d’Afrique” (Africa’s Garden) was designed by the Algerian artist Rachid Koraichi, and was already half filled by the time of the opening ceremony.

Mixed Migration in Sudan

Latest figures on refugees and migrants in Sudan

As of May 31st, [UNHCR](#) reports that Sudan hosted 1,113,286 refugees and asylum-seekers, of which 70% live in urban and rural settings, and 30% are settled in camps. The main countries of origin remain South Sudan (792,663), Eritrea (125,115), Syria (93,494), Ethiopia (67,550) and the Central African Republic (27,347). Main hosting states are [reportedly](#) Khartoum State (305,527), White Nile State (286,205) and Kassala State (108,826). 61,179 new arrivals were [registered](#) in the first 5 months of 2021. From November 2020 up until May 2021, an estimated [52,548 Ethiopian refugees](#) from Tigray arrived in the eastern states of Kassala, Gedaref and Blue Nile.

Conditions in Tigray refugee camps

While Tigrayan refugees from Ethiopia have continued to cross the border into Sudan in the first two quarters of 2021, numbers have decreased, with around a dozen new arrivals in the Hamdayet transit camp. In June, [MSF](#) published an opinion piece in Al Jazeera on the flawed humanitarian assistance approach for Tigray refugees. Taking the example of the Hamdayet transit camp, it is designed to host new arrivals up to a few days, until they are moved to the longer-term Umrakuba and Tunaydbah camps. In reality, there are reports of refugees staying in Hamdayet for months, without knowing when transport will arrive. On the other hand, there were also reports that refugees preferred to stay in Hamdayet due to its proximity close to the Ethiopian border, in case of eventual intended return, and because of bad conditions in the Umrakubah and Tunaydbah camps.

With the upcoming rainy season in Eastern Sudan, [OCHA](#) reported on the necessity of protecting the camps, with UNHCR and partner organisations working against the clock to adequately protect refugees from flooding when the rains start. With both extremely hot and rainy weather posing risks to food security in the camps, assistance was also delivered in the form of planting drought-resistant plants and fruits.

Widescale food insecurity among refugee households

In April, the [World Food Programme \(WFP\)](#) reported that it had found that at least 45% of refugee households, including in camps and urban settings, were deemed to be food insecure, while around 9 out of 10 refugee households was spending two-quarters or more of their total income on food in Sudan. Moreover, the price of a local food basket (including sorghum, onion, vegetable oil, milk, cow meat, goat meat, dried tomatoes and sugar) had reportedly increased country-wide by 221% in a year, from approximately 41 Sudanese pounds (SDG) (0,02 USD on March 31st, 2020) in Q1 of 2020 to 131.5 SDG (0,003 USD on March 31st, 2021) in Q1 of this year, with refugees households involved in informal work opportunities believed to be particularly vulnerable to these economic shocks.

Mixed Migration in Morocco

Increase in departures from Morocco to Ceuta

Q2 of this year saw a [sharp increase in arrivals](#) in the Spanish enclave of Ceuta from Morocco. On May 17th and 18th, more than 10,000 refugees and migrants managed to jump the border fences separating the enclave from Morocco and enter Ceuta. The authorities of the enclave reported that a large majority of these new arrivals consisted of Moroccan nationals, of which most would have already been pushed back into Morocco by June. The Thematic Focus of this QMMU delves further into the increase in departures from Morocco to Spain.

Migrant arrests in Laâyoune

On May 7th and 8th, Moroccan authorities [reportedly](#) arrested dozens of migrants, including pregnant women and children, in the southern city of Laâyoune,² internally transporting them to other regions of the country. The action was denounced by the Moroccan Association for Human Rights (AMDH) and the Antiracist Group for the Support and Defense of Foreigners and Migrants in Morocco (Gadem) as illegal. The operations would allegedly form part of the authorities' intentions to disperse migrants across the country and move them from border areas known to be key points of departure on mixed migration routes.

Mixed Migration in Algeria

Announced opening of reception centre in border area

In April, [Algerian local media](#) reported on the authorities' announcement of the scheduled opening of a migrant reception centre in the Southeastern town of Djanet, close to the Algerian-Nigerien border. The centre includes eleven shelter blocks, as well as administration and security departments. With currently no migrant reception centres operative on Algerian soil, [reportedly](#) 4,370 migrants were deported from Algeria into Niger in the first four months of 2021.

² Laâyoune is located in the disputed territory of the Western Sahara. Morocco's claim of sovereignty over Western Sahara, 80% of which it occupies and administers, enjoys only limited international recognition and is the subject of a protracted dispute.

Thematic Focus: Mixed Migration from Morocco to Spain

The Numbers

Morocco is a key country of departure, transit, and destination for refugees and migrants travelling along the Western Mediterranean route and the Atlantic Route,³ yet data and research on issues of mixed migration in Morocco is still limited.⁴ Between the 17th and 18th of May 2021, estimates suggest between 8,000 and 12,000 refugees and migrants,⁵ including approximately 2,000 unaccompanied children,⁶ sought to cross the border between Morocco and Ceuta, one of two Spanish enclaves bordered by Morocco.⁷ Typically, the fenced borders between Morocco and Ceuta are guarded by Moroccan security forces, yet following the alleged relaxation of controls, refugees and migrants crossed into the enclave. Within two days, Amnesty International reported that more than 5,000 of those who had crossed had been pushed back into Morocco.

To get a sense of scale of this increase in arrivals, 770 refugees and migrants had arrived in Ceuta in all of 2020, with an additional 1,295 in Melilla, the other Spanish enclave in Morocco.⁸ Since the beginning of 2021, Ceuta had received 516 total arrivals and Melilla had received 438.⁹ Thus, even the lower estimates on the numbers of refugees and migrants would suggest that this movement constitutes the largest number of refugees and migrants entering the country in the span of a day in the past decade, particularly through this less often used route to Spain.

Political Underpinnings

Politico and Reuters reported that ministers in Rabat were aggravated by Spain's provision of COVID-19 treatment to the leader of the Polisario Front, Brahim Ghali, who claims control over the disputed territory of Western Sahara. On May 10th, Prime Minister Saad Dine El Otmani noted that Morocco was planning an "appropriate response" to Spain's hosting of Ghali.¹⁰ Following instructions from Rabat to relax border controls the following week, refugees and migrants entered Ceuta after Moroccan border guards opened fences to the Spanish enclave.

3 MMC (2021). A gateway reopens: the growing popularity of the Atlantic route, as told by those who risk it. Available at: <https://mixedmigration.org/resource/a-gateway-re-opens/>

4 MMC (2021). Understanding the mixed migration landscape in Morocco [forthcoming].

5 New York Times (2021). 'Come On In, Boys': A Wave of the Hand Sets Off Spain-Morocco Migrant Fight Available at: <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/06/02/world/europe/spain-ceuta-migrants-morocco.html>

6 Amnesty International (2021). Spain/Morocco: People 'being used as political game turns violent. Available at: pawns' <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2021/05/spainmorocco-people-being-used-as-pawns-as-political-games-turn-violent/>

7 UNHCR notes that official data of arrivals in Ceuta from 17 May onwards have not been made available and are currently under analysis by the Ministry of Interior. UNHCR will include this information as soon as it becomes available.

8 UNHCR (2020). Operational Data Portal: December 2020 Update. Available at: <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/mediterranean/location/5226>

9 UNHCR (2021). Operational Data Portal: Mediterranean Situation. Available at: <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/mediterranean/location/5226>

10 Reuters (2021). Analysis: Morocco's tougher stance emboldened by U.S. Sahara move. Available at: <https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/morocco-tougher-stance-emboldened-by-us-sahara-move-2021-05-19/>; Politico (2021). Morocco uses migrants to get what it wants. Available at: <https://www.politico.eu/article/morocco-uses-migrants-to-get-what-it-wants/>

Tensions have been rising around the determination of Western Sahara, and Reuters reports that in opening the borders Morocco exploited its role in culling migration crossings to Europe.¹¹ Morocco's weaponization of migration¹² sent a clear message to Spain on their geopolitical power as Spain's borders, as they sought to exploit their power in governing the movement of people to achieve a strategic objective at the political level. Following the border closure, Moroccan politicians went one step further and warned Spanish officials that the crisis could heighten depending on Spain's treatment of Ghali and the Polisario more broadly. This step also highlights that Moroccan officials may continue to use migration to win concessions from Europe.

Protection Concerns for Refugees and Migrants

This weaponization of migration has severe implications for people on the move. Reports following the incident express that at least one person died in the attempt to cross,¹³ with unknown numbers of those who may have drowned. Additionally, following the opening of the border, the Spanish police forces were deployed to pushback migrants, parking their tanks on the shore and using violent tactics including tear-gas, and brute force.¹⁴

Given the large number of children who have made the crossing, Save the Children (STC) Spain has made a statement on the specific protection of this population group highlighting, that Spanish officials should fulfill their legal obligation to take in children on the move who have crossed in Europe, rather than pushing them back into Morocco. Prior case-law¹⁵ have set precedent on the rights of the child to seek asylum, particularly in the Spanish-Moroccan border following the expulsion of a Malian minor in 2014. STC also highlighted the need to have a more comprehensive policy not reliant on containment, but rather on child-friendly mechanisms at borders.

The immediate expulsions of those who crossed also has severe protection concerns for those seeking asylum. They are part of a larger cohort of those subject to a systematic practice at the Spanish borders specifically, and at the EU's borders more generally. Amnesty International reported that some of those who made the crossing into Ceuta in may were asylum seekers, and following pushbacks were not able to make their asylum claim. The European Centre for Constitutional and Human Rights highlights that within the Spanish enclaves in North Africa, the Refugee Convention, the European Convention on Human Rights and EU law are disregarded thus "turning these spaces into lawless zones devoid of human rights."¹⁶

11 Ibid.

12 Washington Post (2021). Morocco 'weaponized' migration to punish Spain. That's more common than you think. Available at: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2021/06/01/morocco-weaponized-migration-punish-spain-thats-more-common-than-you-think/>

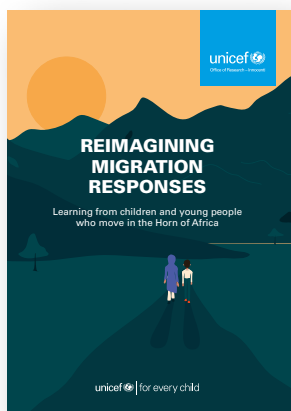
13 BBC (2021). Spain migrants: 'I said goodbye to my family and left with nothing.' Available at: <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-eu-ropes-57168701>

14 Euro-Med Monitor (2021). Violence and collective expulsions are exacerbating Ceuta's humanitarian crisis. Available at: <https://reliefweb.int/report/spain/violence-and-collective-expulsions-are-exacerbating-ceuta-s-humanitarian-crisis>

15 D.D. v. Spain- Feb 2019. Available at: https://www.echr.eu/fileadmin/Fallbeschreibungen/ECCHR_Case_Report_D.D._v_Spain_CRC_042019.pdf

16 Ibid.

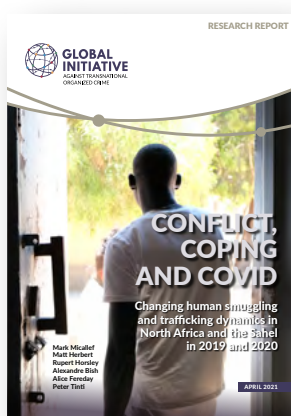
Highlighted New Research and Reports



[Reimagining Migration Responses: Learning from Children and Young People who Move in the Horn of Africa](#)

UNICEF | April 2021

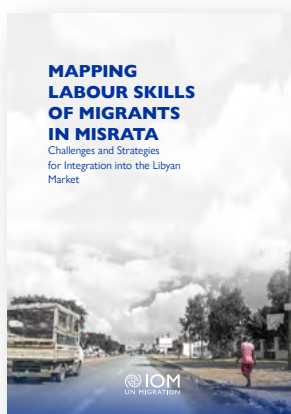
This study presents key findings on children and young people on the move based on interviews carried out in Sudan, Ethiopia and Somalia. Providing an overview of their protective environments, access to services, their perceptions of safety, well-being and trust in authorities and other service providers, this report helps to overcome a lack of evidence on particular protection issues.



[Conflict, Coping and Covid: Changing Human Smuggling and Trafficking Dynamics in North Africa and the Sahel in 2019 and 2020](#)

Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime | May 2021

Building on findings from earlier studies, this report maps human smuggling trends and dynamics in North Africa and the Sahel in 2019 and 2020. It brings together the importance and interlinkage of the key themes of conflict, coping with insecurity and COVID-19 and their importance for and influence on the smuggling industry.



[Mapping Labour Skills of Migrants in Misrata: Challenges and Strategies for Integration into the Libyan Market](#)

IOM and Georgetown University | May 2021

This study aims to shed more light on the contribution of migrants to the local Libyan labour market in Misrata, by examining their skills and abilities, as well as the challenges they face towards access and conditions of employment as well as education-related aspirations. The study found that migrants in Misrata are particularly vulnerable to receiving low salaries, or not receiving their payment in time, while the cost of living was reportedly on the rise. Moreover, another

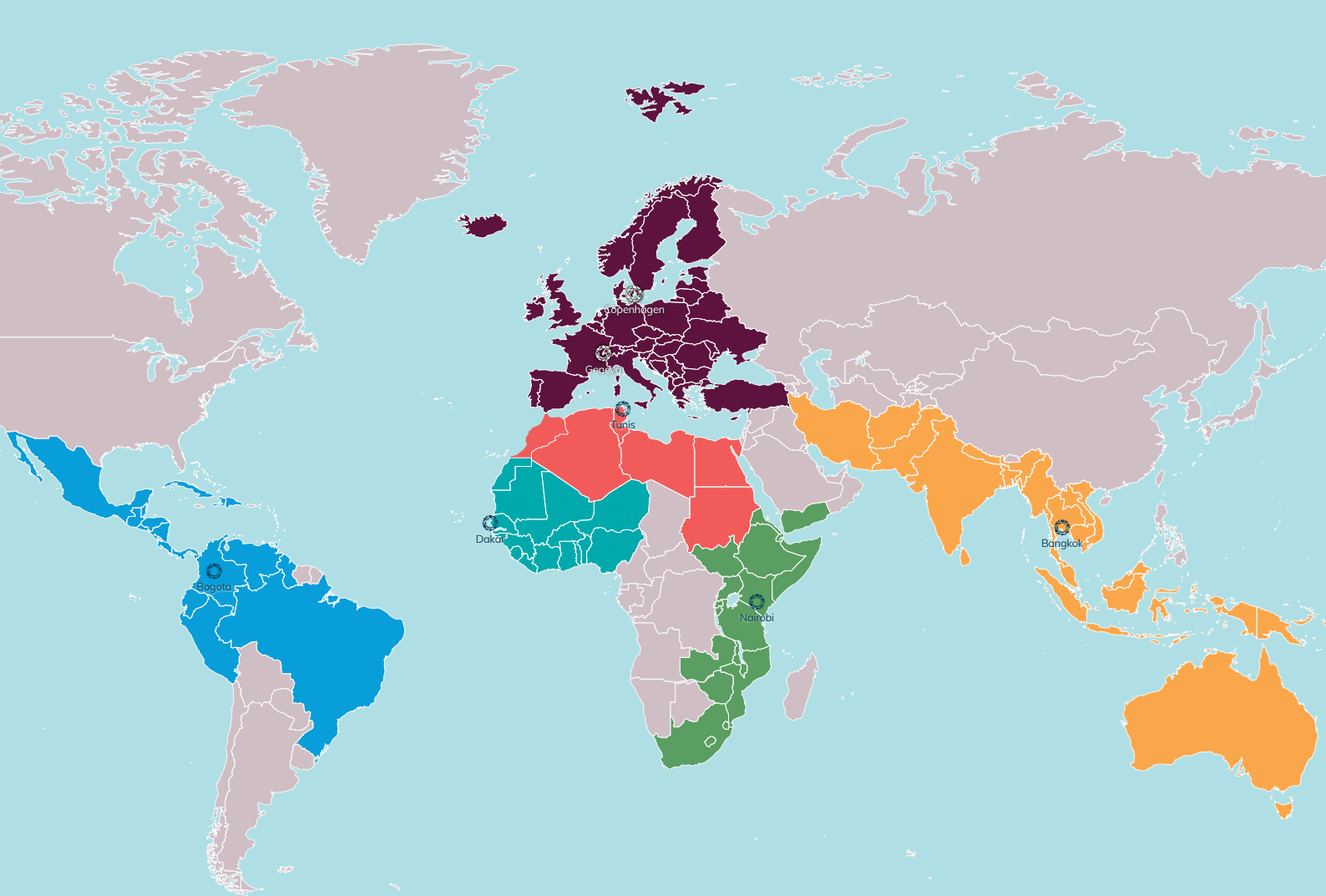
protection risks constituted the reported number of petty thefts and robbery targeting migrants in the city and on the move through Libya.



Mobility in the Chad-Libya-Niger Triangle: August 2019 – September 2020

IOM | May 2021

This joint report from the three IOM country missions explores the context, scale and nature of migration dynamics across the three countries, particularly focusing on the triangle border area. It aims at providing evidence on the particular vulnerabilities of migrants on the move through this region in order to inform humanitarian emergency assistance. Moreover, the report found that the COVID-19 initially significantly reduced mobility in the border triangle, while reports confirmed this had later on resumed, although less income-generating opportunities remained available as an impact of the pandemic.



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)

