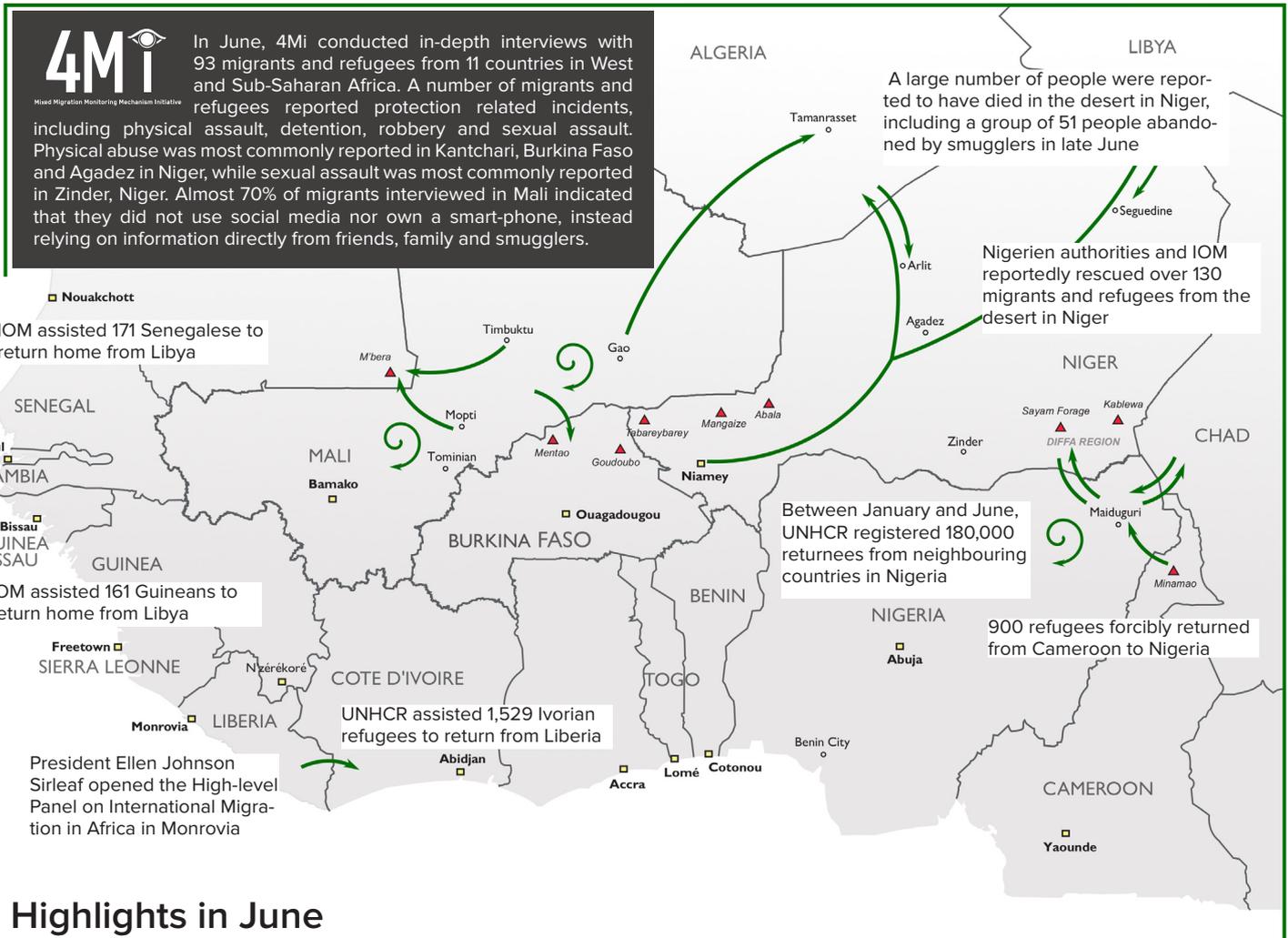


# West Africa

## Monthly Mixed Migration Summary

Covering mixed migration events, incidents, trends and data from the West Africa region.

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### Highlights in June

- President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf opened the High-level Panel on International Migration in Africa in Monrovia. The High Level Panel, established by the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) seeks to make recommendations to build and sustain political consensus on implementing the international migration development agenda. The panel will hold consultations at the national, regional and global levels, and will report to the African Union Heads of State Summit in July 2018.
- A large number of migrants and refugees were reported to have lost their lives in the desert in Northern Niger after having been abandoned by their smugglers, including a group of 51 people abandoned in late June. Nigerien authorities and IOM rescued over 130 migrants and refugees from the desert.
- The EU published the Fourth Progress Report on the Partnership Framework with third countries under the European Agenda on Migration. The report reflects on a year since the EU launched the Partnership Framework to address irregular migration and presents the key developments and progress achieved, as well as lessons learned and challenges.
- Between January and June 2017, West Africans accounted for some 57% (47,558) of arrivals to Italy by sea (83,752), with more than 17% of the total arrivals from Nigeria, 9% from Cote d'Ivoire and Guinea respectively and 6% from Gambia, Senegal and Mali.

## Burkina Faso

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**Context:** According to [ACAPS](#), the food security situation in Burkina Faso has deteriorated coming into the lean season in June. Around 200,000 people face crisis and emergency food security outcomes, with the northern regions of the country the most affected.

In June, [UNICEF reports](#) that, following the widespread closure of schools in March in the north of Burkina Faso, many schools have resumed classes and no new attacks against schools have been recorded.

**Displacement context:** According to [UNICEF](#), 1,378 persons including 344 women and 724 children have been internally displaced in the province of Soum, mainly in 12 villages in Diguel, Baraboule and Djibo communes. As of 30 April, there were 33,056 Malian refugees in Burkina Faso, mostly living in around two camps in the Sahel Region. Burkina Faso also hosts a relatively small number of urban refugees from CAR, Chad and Rwanda amongst others.

## Cote d'Ivoire

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**Arrivals of Ivoirians in Europe:** Between January and June 2017, [7,354 migrants and refugees\\*](#) from Cote d'Ivoire arrived in Italy by sea via the central Mediterranean route, an increase of 40% from the 5,244 Ivoirians who arrived in Italy by sea between January and June in 2016.

The number of [Ivoirians arriving in Spain](#) by sea and by land has increased significantly, with 1,281 migrants and refugees arriving between January and May 2017, compared to 387 during the same period in 2016. 90% of Ivoirians arrived in Spain by sea, accounting for 31% of total sea arrivals to Spain between January and May and 19% of total arrivals by both land and sea during this period. The number of Ivoirians arriving in Spain by sea has increased steadily since January 2016, including through the start of 2017, a time usually associated with lower arrivals due to the winter weather in the Mediterranean and the more exposed sea conditions in the Strait of Gibraltar.

**Closure of the UN Operation in Cote d'Ivoire:** On 30 June 2017, the United Nations Operation in Cote d'Ivoire (UNOCI) closed after 13 years of presence in the country. The [Secretary-General](#) welcomed the closure, and paid tribute to the 150 peacekeepers who lost their lives during the mission.

**Refugees in neighboring countries:** In total there are some [30,000 Ivorian refugees](#) still living in West African countries, including, as of 30 June 2017, 13,317 Ivorian refugees in Liberia, and, as of the end of May, 6,607 in Ghana and 4,324 in Guinea.

**Repatriation of Ivorian refugees:** In June 2017, [UNHCR assisted](#) 1,520 individuals to return to Côte d'Ivoire from Liberia. In total, between January and May 2017, UNHCR has assisted 3,762 Ivorian refugees to return to Cote d'Ivoire from countries around the region. In April, [UNHCR organized](#) a 'go and see' mission for 18 representatives of some of the refugees living in Liberia to return to Cote d'Ivoire and assess the living conditions and security situation to inform their return.

Since 2015, a total of [24,134 Ivorian refugees](#) have returned with support from UNHCR, including 23,417 from Liberia and 717 from Togo, Mali and Senegal.

## Guinea

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**Context:** In June, [APCAPS reported](#) that Guinea is now a situation of concern due to a deterioration of food security driven by the lean season between June and September. Over 285,500 people face Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food security outcomes from June to August.

**Arrivals of Guineans in Europe:** Between January and June 2017, 7,759 Guineans arrived in Italy by way of the central Mediterranean route, an increase of 51% from the number of Guineans arriving in Italy during the same period in 2016.

Between January and May 2017, 1,434 Guineans arrived in Spain by sea and land, a significant increase from the 540 who arrived during the same period in 2016. Over half the Guineans arriving between January and May 2017 (740) arrived in Spain by land after crossing into the Spanish enclaves of Melilla and Ceuta. According to UNHCR most of the land arrivals originating from West Africa enter the Spanish enclaves by jumping over the border fences separating the enclaves from Morocco. Guineans made up 21% of the arrivals to Spain during this period.

**Refugees in Guinea:** According to the latest available figures, as of 31 March, there were 4,324 Ivorian refugees in Guinea.

**Humanitarian repatriation:** On 13 June, IOM assisted 161 Guineans to return home from Libya, including 5 women and 10 children, of whom 4 were unaccompanied.

## Liberia

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**High Level Panel on Migration:** On the 6 June, President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf opened the [High-level Panel on International Migration](#) in Africa in Monrovia. [The High Level Panel](#), established by the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) under the direction of the African Union and ECA Conference of Ministers in Addis Ababa, is chaired by President Sirleaf and seeks to make recommendations to build and sustain political consensus on implementing the international migration development agenda. The panel comprises of 14 members, including representatives from Liberia, Canada, China, Malta and Norway, as well as the ILO. The panel will hold consultations at the national, regional and global levels, and will report to the Africa Union Heads of State Summit in July 2018. In her [opening address](#) president Sirleaf highlighted the importance of including the Liberian diaspora in policies on migration.

**Refugees in Liberia:** As of 30 June, there were 13,317 Ivorian refugees in Liberia, with UNHCR reporting that it assisted 728 individuals to return to Côte d'Ivoire from Liberia in May and 1,520 to return in June.

Since 2015, a total of 23,417 Ivorian refugees have returned with support from UNHCR from Liberia.

## Mali

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**Context:** The number of security incidents and violence in Mali has increased considerably since the beginning of 2017, largely due to the increased activity of radical Islamist groups. [According to ACLED](#), Islamist groups caused 249 of the recorded fatalities so far in 2017, 66% of the overall total of 376.

In June, [attacks against MINUSMA](#) in the city of Kidal left three [peacekeepers dead](#) and injured eight others. The attack came as [MINUSMA announced](#) a strengthening of patrols in the Kidal region in response to a resurgence of violence in the area. In late June the [Security Council decided](#) to extend the mandate of the MINUSMA for another year.

In early June, the committee monitoring the implementation of the peace agreement reiterated the need for interim authorities and joint patrols to be set up in Kidal at the end of June. Unlike in Gao, where mixed patrols and interim authorities have been operational since February, in Kidal, the [AMC has refused](#) to participate in the patrols or vacate a military camp for the housing of the Operational Coordination Mechanism and the joint patrols.

On 18 June, a number of people were [killed and several injured](#) after an [attack](#) on a popular resort on the outskirts of Bamako. [The International Peace Institute](#) published a report looking at the progress of the implementation of

the Malian Peace Agreement, and recommends that the newly formed G-5 Sahel counterterrorism force should aim to support the current difficult political process, rather than be a substitute for it.

**Malian arrivals in Europe:** Between January and June 2017, 4,789 Malians arrived in Italy by sea via the central Mediterranean route, including 651 unaccompanied children. The number of Malian women arriving in Italy remains low, with 144 (3%) arrivals recorded this year. Overall the number of Malians arriving in Europe has increased compared with the same time last year, from 4,030 to 4,789.

**Transit Migration through Mali:** In June, RMMS West Africa conducted in-depth interviews with 52 migrants and refugees in Mopti, Gao and Timbuktu as part of the 4Mi project, of whom 16 were women and 36 were men. Most of those interviewed were from Burkina Faso (17), Guinea (11) and Niger (3) and most indicated that their final destination was in North Africa (44%), while a number also indicated they were heading toward Europe (21%). Migrants and refugees indicated that they had been detained while travelling in Mali, including several who indicated they were detained in Sevare by the local police, including two men who claimed to have been held for ransom by security forces there.

When asked how they accessed information on the road, most people indicated they rely upon friends and family members in both the country of origin and abroad, as well as smugglers for information, with 70% of those interviewed indicating that they do not use social media nor own a smartphone.

In June, IOM reported that the proportion of migrants and refugees from Guinea transiting through Mali has increased in 2017, with Guinean nationals now constituting the majority of those recorded travelling in Mali, a change from 2016, when Senegalese and Gambians accounted for the most common nationalities.

**EU's Migration Profile for Mali:** In June, the EU's Knowledge Centre on Migration and Demography (KCMD) published a new migration profile for Mali. The profile is the first of a series which seeks to support the development and monitoring of the Partnership Framework with Third Countries. According to the KCMD the profiles aim to support the EU to anticipate future developments and facilitate the identification of relevant development priorities in countries of origin.

**Malian Refugees in Neighbouring Countries:** As of 30 June 2017, there were 51,502 Malian refugees in Mauritania, 55,545 in Niger and 33,501 in Burkina Faso. In May, UNHCR registered a total of 79 protection incidences in the northern regions of Mali, the majority relating to extortion, early and forced marriage, and robberies.

In Mauritania, UNHCR registered 356 new arrivals in M'bera camp in June, bringing the total number of arrivals in 2017 to 2,601.

**Internal Displacement:** As of 31 May 2017, there were 51,961 IDPs in Mali. This represents a decrease of 12% from the 58,985 IDPs recorded in February, the first decrease in the number of IDPs since the new displacements between January and May.

The majority of IDPs are located in the regions of Timbuktu (21,032), Segou (10,505) and Menaka (8,044). The majority of IDPs are under the age of 18 (56%).

## Niger

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**Context:** In June, the EU released its Fourth Progress Report on the Migration Partnership Framework, which maintains that co-operation with Niger is 'emblematic' of what can be achieved with a transit country through the Partnership Framework, citing the Government of Niger's adoptions of a coherent migration policy and implementation of the short term action plan to counter migrant smuggling networks in Agadez.

However, as the Progress Report also notes, the increased border controls and enforcement action against smugglers in northern Niger has displaced the migratory routes and forced smugglers and their clients onto more difficult and dangerous routes through the desert, increasing both the price and the risk for migrants. As smugglers are now avoiding known monitoring areas, it is also becoming increasingly difficult to measure the movements of people through the desert.

A report by the [Danish Institute for International Studies](#), published in June, highlights the importance of not only focusing on reducing migratory movements, but also on supporting the emergence of a viable economy to support a transition away from smuggling in northern Niger. Given the fragile security context in the region, and particularly in neighbouring countries, the report argues that disrupting the livelihoods of youth in northern regions of Niger, especially amongst minority groups, could lead to destabilisation.

**Migrant vulnerabilities:** In June, a large number of migrants and refugees were reported to have lost their lives in the desert in northern Niger after having been abandoned by their smugglers. However, it is difficult to say if this is due to an increase in the number of deaths in the desert, or due to an increase in surveillance of the area following the launch of a search and rescue project in northern Niger by IOM in April.

In early June, Nigerien authorities and IOM reportedly rescued [92 migrants](#) from the desert in northern Niger, after they were abandoned by smugglers. A further [16 migrants](#) were rescued in the Zinder region bordering Nigeria on the 6 June. In late June, IOM rescued a further 25 migrants near the town of Seguedine. Those rescued were part of a group of 75 who left from Agadez in a convoy in mid-June, however, although a search was conducted for the remaining 51 people, they were not located and are presumed to have lost their lives.

In June, [IOM reported](#) that between April and June it had rescued over 600 migrants in the Nigerien desert, as part of the “Migrants Rescue and Assistance in Agadez Region” project, launched in April.

**Mixed Migration Monitoring Mechanism initiative in Niger:** RMMS West Africa’s [Mixed Migration Monitoring Mechanism initiative \(4Mi\)](#) conducted in-depth interviews with 41 migrants and refugees in the towns of Agadez and Niamey in Niger, of whom 20 were women and 21 were men. In June in Niger, 4Mi conducted interviews with migrants and refugees from eleven countries in West and Sub-Saharan Africa, the majority from Nigeria, Guinea and Senegal and the majority interviewed indicated their intended destination was in Europe (56%).

In Niger in June, 13 migrants reported a total of 26 cases of physical abuse, including 11 cases which took place in Burkina Faso (seven cases in Kantchari on the border to Niger), and 10 cases in Agadez, Niamey and Zinder in Niger. The perpetrators were most commonly identified as security forces and smugglers. 14 people indicated they had been robbed while traveling, most commonly in Agadez, while 10 migrants and refugees reported having been detained, almost exclusively in Agadez. Finally five women reported that they had witnessed or experienced nine cases of sexual abuse, including four cases of rape in Katchari, Zinder, Niamey and Lagos. Sexual assault was most commonly reported in Zinder, Niger.

**Humanitarian repatriation:** On 12 June, [IOM assisted](#) 11 Nigeriens to return home to Niger from Libya via commercial flight.

**Refugees in Niger:** As of 30 June, there were [106,146 Nigerian refugees](#) and 55,545 refugees from Mali in Niger, a decrease of 4,609 Malian refugees since December 2016.

The majority of [Malian refugees](#) are children under the age of 18 (63%), and were displaced from the Goa region of Mali (98%).

**Forced Displacement in Diffa Region:** As of 30 June, there were [127,299 IDPs](#), 106,146 Nigerian refugees and 14,546 Nigerien returnees living in the Diffa region of Niger. In late June and early July a number of [serious attacks](#) occurred in the Diffa region, including a double suicide bombing inside a UNHCR managed IDP camp which left two dead and 11 others injured, and an attack against the village of N’Galewa, in which suspected insurgents killed nine men and kidnapped 37 people (including 24 women and 13 children). In response to this attack refugees living in a Kablewa, a camp a short distance from N’Galewa requested assistance to relocate to the Sayam Forage camp.

## Nigeria

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**Context:** According the latest update from the [International Crisis Group](#), Nigeria is facing a time of increasing uncertainty, as the Presidents failing health prompts political speculation, the Boko Haram insurgency persists in the north, the agitation of Biafra separatists in the South East provokes a domino effect, and deadly clashes between the [herders and farmers](#) in the northern and central region continue to escalate .

**Arrivals of Nigerians in Europe:** Between January and June 2017, 14,118 [Nigerians arrived](#) in Italy by sea, including 933 unaccompanied children. During this period Nigerians represented the highest ranked nationality among arrivals, accounting for 17% of the 83,752 arrivals. When compared to the same period in 2016, arrivals of Nigerians to Italy by sea has increased by 16%. Overall 11% of arrivals in Italy by sea between January and May were adult women, however, 30% of Nigerian arrivals were women (4,168). Nigerian women account for 45% of all women arriving in Italy between January and June 2017.

**Refugees in Neighbouring Countries:** As of 30 June, there were 207,227 [Nigerian refugees](#) in countries neighbouring Nigeria, with 93,186 Nigerian refugees in Cameroon, 106,146 refugees in Niger and 7,895 in Chad.

**Returns of displaced persons:** Between April and June, 15,036 people returned from Cameroon to Banki in Borno State. In total between January and June, 20,604 people have been registered returning from Cameroon to Nigeria. UNHCR and the Nigeria Immigration Service have registered 180,000 returnees from Chad, Cameroon and Niger between January and June 2017.

[Forceful returns](#) of Nigerian refugees from Cameroon are continuing, with UNHCR reporting on the 27 June that almost 900 refugees were forcibly removed to Banki in Nigerian by a joint Nigeria-Cameroon operation. In 2017, between January and June, 4,300 refugees have been forcibly returned from Cameroon to Nigeria. [UNHCR remains](#) concerned that many areas to which Nigerians are returning to are not ready to receive large number of returnees. Inadequate shelter, food shortages, limited health, water and sanitation facilities remain critical unmet needs in areas of return. Thus, the majority of those returning find themselves in situations of secondary displacement.

**Internal Displacement:** According to IOM, as of 30 June, there were [1,825,321 internally displaced persons](#) in the six north-eastern states of Nigeria.

**IDP Vulnerability:** In June, a [local rights group](#) in the north-east of Nigeria launched a petition reporting that displaced women at a camp in Bama town and hospital have accused soldiers and members of a civilian vigilante group of rape and demanding sex in exchange for food. The Nigerian military has pledged to investigate these cases of exploitation and abuse.

On 18 June, [four female suicide bombers](#) carried out an attack near Dalori camp for displaced persons in Borno state and killed 16 people. According to UNOCHA, attacks against sites hosting displaced persons in Maiduguri

have been on the rise.

## Senegal

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**Arrivals of Senegalese in Europe:** Between January and June 2017, [4,834 migrants and refugees](#) from Senegal arrived in Italy by sea via the Mediterranean route, a slight increase from the 4,047 who arrived during the same period in 2016. Arrivals during this period in 2017 also included 596 unaccompanied children .

**Humanitarian repatriation:** On 1 June 2017, [IOM assisted](#) 171 Senegalese migrants to return to Senegal from Libya, and, on 6 June, assisted a further 165 Senegalese migrants to return. The majority of those returning from Libya had been detained in Libya for extended periods. The Senegalese Red Cross is supporting migrants on their return with their reintegration.

**EU Partnership Framework:** [Senegal is the first beneficiary](#) country of the Lake Chad/Sahel window of the EU Trust Fund, with 9 projects worth more than 181 million Euros. Since the beginning of the EU Partnership Framework in June 2016, Senegal has opened an embassy in Niger to assist migrants wishing to return to Senegal and has begun to reorganise the border police service and improve the availability of reliable migration data. According to the EU, next steps include establishing an effective cooperation on readmission of migrants arriving in Europe through the Central Mediterranean route.

## Other Regional Information

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**Group of Five Sahel:** In June, the [UN Security Council](#) welcomed the deployment of the Group of Five Sahel joint force by unanimously adopting resolution 2359 (2017). The Security Council also welcomed the EU's commitment to provide 50 million Euros in financial support for the force, and called for careful coordination between MINUSMA and French forces in the region. However, the [Security Council](#) recalled that it was the responsibility of the G-5 states to provide the force with adequate resources, and did not approve UN financial support for its operations.

The [African Union Peace and Security Council](#) has also endorsed the Strategic Concept of Operation of the Joint Force.

The force will consist of 5,000 troops, mainly military, from the five member states and will be deployed along the Mali-Mauritania border, the Liptako-Gourma area between Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger, and the Niger-Chad border. The [Institute of Security Studies](#) cautions that it is unlikely that a strictly military approach will be enough to address the instability in the region and [highlighted the need](#) for a long-term vision.

**The Fourth Progress Report on the EU Partnership Framework with third countries:** In June, the EU published the [Fourth Progress Report on the Partnership Framework](#) with third countries under the European Agenda on Migration. The report reflects on a year since the EU launched the Partnership Framework to address irregular migration and presents the key developments and progress achieved between March 2016 and June 2017, as well as lessons learned and key challenges.

The return of migrants from the EU to states of origin continues to prove challenging, with the EU commenting that 'overcoming resistances in the field of returns and readmission will require a more coordinated and wider use of the levers offered by all relevant EU policies to achieve results'. The report also highlights the need to explore coordinated use of visa or legal migration policies as incentives, commenting that only two out of 23 member states are reported to have ongoing bilateral initiatives with any of the priority countries facilitating the mobility and circulation of young graduates and professionals. Conversely, while the conclusions from the EU Council meeting in June also reiterated the need to 'achieve real progress in return and readmission policy', they also

highlighted the possibility of using a reassessment of visa policies as an incentive to ensure the cooperation of priority countries on returns.

In a [statement released](#) before the EU Council meeting in June, a large number of civil society organisations highlighted the limited achievements of the EU Partnership Framework since its inception, and called on the EU to develop a more sustainable and effective migration policy based on a series of recommendations. These included; engaging with a larger view of migration, including by focusing on the benefits of migration, expanding and improving regular pathways to the EU, and prioritising the protection needs of migrants and refugees.

**West African arrivals to Europe:** Between January and June 2017, [83,752 migrants and refugees](#) arrived in Italy by sea, an increase of 19% compared with the same period in 2016. From January to June, West Africans accounted for some 57% (47,558) of arrivals to Italy by sea, with more than 17% of the total arrivals from Nigeria, 9% from Cote d'Ivoire and Guinea respectively, 6% from Gambia, Senegal and Mali.

Between January and May 2017, [6,819 migrants and refugees](#) arrived in Spain, representing an increase of 75% compared with the same time last year. Between January and May, West Africans accounted for 55% of arrivals to Spain, with arrivals of West Africans having increased from 1,244 in 2016 to 3,779 in 2017 during this period. Migrants and refugees from Cote d'Ivoire and The Gambia are more likely to arrive in Spain by sea, while those from Guinea arrived in similar numbers by land a sea.

**Children on the Move in Italy:** According to the [Key Findings of an assessment](#) conducted by REACH with children in Italy between December 2016 and May 2017, most children arriving in Italy by sea from West Africa tend to have made the decision to migrate individually, and as a result embarked upon their journey alone. The majority of those interviewed by REACH were unaccompanied boys between the ages of 16 and 17, and almost a third of them indicated they had left home due to violence or problems at home. On average, children arriving in Italy by sea from West Africa had been travelling for over a year before they arrived, with the majority having worked while travelling, often in key transit sites in Niger, Algeria or Libya. Almost half of the children reported to have been kidnapped in Libya, and crossing Libya was unanimously reported as the most traumatising part of the land journey.

**Deaths at Sea:** It is estimated that between January and June 2017, [2,256 migrants died or went missing](#) in the Mediterranean, a slight decrease from the 2,946 during this period last year. However, [according to the IOM](#) the mortality rate has doubled in 2017, from 1.2% in the first five months of 2016 to 2.3% in 2017. In June alone, 545 migrants died or went missing in the Mediterranean.

## News, Reports, Books

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### **UNICEF (2017) 'In Search of Opportunities: Voices of Children on the Move in West and Central Africa'**

This report aims to provide a balanced picture of migration in West and Central Africa, by focusing on the voices of children on move in the region. The report looks at their motivations for movement, the methods they use and the challenges they face along the way, in order to inform their care and protection before, during and after their move.

### **Merkle, O et al. (2017) 'A Study on the Link between Corruption and the Causes of Migration and Forced Displacement', GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit)**

This study develops an adaptable theoretical framework explaining the links between corruption and migration, including various forms of migration such as forced and voluntary migration as well as forced displacement. It identifies how corruption impacts human security and thereby directly or indirectly leads to migration and displacement, develops research hypotheses and gives recommendations for addressing corruption as a cause of migration and displacement.

### **OECD (2017) 'International Migration Outlook 2017'**

The International Migration Outlook 2017, the 41st edition of this annual OECD publication, analyses recent developments in migration movements and policies in OECD countries and selected non-member countries and examines the impact of the recent increase in humanitarian migration. It also looks at the evolution of the labour market outcomes of immigrants in OECD countries, with a focus on the medium-term dynamic of employment outcomes and on the implications of structural changes in the labour market.

### **Global Initiative Against Transnational Organised Crime (2017) 'The Role of Smugglers in Protection for the People the Move' Presentation**

In this presentation for the UNHCR Annual Consultations with NGOs in 2017, the Global Initiative explores the role that smugglers play in increasing numbers of migratory journeys as well as those of people seeking international protection in the absence of regular pathways.

### **OPEN Publications (2017) 'Challenges and Opportunities Across Nato's Greater South: Migration, Trafficking, Extremism and Instability' Vol 1 (3)**

This report proposes refocusing from NATO's 'Southern Flank' to the 'Greater South' to explore the challenges and opportunities originating in areas beyond NATO's traditional field of focus, including migration and transnational trafficking of arms, drugs and persons as well as conflict and violent extremism. The report cautions that traditional approaches to addressing these issues, including border control and military responses, can displace these challenges and distribute instability, and that the various challenges facing NATO may be reconceptualised as opportunities rather than purely as threats.

### **UNHCR (2017) 'Global Trends: Forced Displacement 2016'**

According to UNHCR's latest Global Trends Report, the number of people forcibly displaced from their homes reached a new high in 2016, with 65.6 million displacement persons globally. This number includes 22.5 million refugees, 40.3 million internally displaced, 2.8 million asylum seekers and at least 3.2 million people recorded as stateless. 2016 saw an additional 300,000 displaced persons compared with 2015, including an additional 10.3 million newly displaced persons (6.9 million of whom are IDPs).

### **Thomson, S. Singhvi, A. (2017) 'Efforts to Rescue Migrants Caused Deadly, Unexpected Consequences' New York Times**

This article explores the consequences of strategies to rescue migrants in the Mediterranean Sea, highlighting how these strategies have paradoxically pushed migrants into dangerous and difficult situations. As more rescue boats patrol closer to the Libyan coast, smugglers increasingly place migrants in flimsier boats, forcing rescue boats closer to Libya waters. However, the article highlights that there is no evidence that reducing rescue boats would reduce fatalities, rather solutions lie in long-term policies and more legal avenues for migration.

The Regional Mixed Migration Secretariat (RMMS) West Africa is an independent unit hosted by the Danish Refugee Council which aims to enhance the protection of people on the move in mixed migration flows in West Africa, including refugees, asylum seekers and migrants. RMMS West Africa distributes this summary to agencies, academic institutions, donors, embassies, journalists, government officials, international and multinational organisations and related non-government organisations. Data is sourced from a wide variety of collaborators, partners, international and local organisations, media outlets and individuals in the region. RMMS West Africa makes independent editorial decisions as to what sections and what data is included in this summary.

If you would like more information about RMMS West Africa please visit our website at [www.westafrica.regionalmms.org](http://www.westafrica.regionalmms.org)

\*The term migrant/refugee is used to cover all those involved in mixed migration flows (including asylum seekers, trafficked persons, economic migrants, refugees). If the caseload mentioned refers only to refugees or asylum seekers or trafficked persons it will be clearly stated.