Migration Trends Across the Mediterranean and Beyond

Mediterranean Strategy Group 19

Migration: Mediterranean Cities on the Frontline

Marseille, 12—14 June 2019
Words matter: a note on terminology

- Regular versus irregular migration: irregular is the status, not the person
- “Forced” vs “economic” migration: a false dichotomy → *Mixed migration* movements

**Irregular migration**

There is no universally accepted definition of irregular migration. IOM defines it as “movement that takes place outside the regulatory norms of the sending, transit and receiving country” (IOM, 2011).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A migrant in an irregular situation may be in one or more of the following categories:</th>
<th>Migrants can go in and out of irregularity as laws and policies change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Irregular entry</td>
<td>Crossing the border</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Irregular residence</td>
<td>Irregular</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Irregular employment</td>
<td>Applying for asylum</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Own elaboration based on Düvell, 2006; Vespe, M., Natalie, P. and L. Pappalardo, 2017.
Cross-Mediterranean undocumented migration to Europe

- 1970s: introduction of visa requirements by Western states
  → increase in permanent stay
  → increase in regular family migration
  → beginning of irregular sea journeys

- 3 main routes, evolving in response to policy measures
  - Western route
  - Central route
  - Eastern route
Cross-Mediterranean undocumented migration to Europe

Source: IOM, based on data from national authorities. Available from migration.iom.int *2019 figures are until 31 March 2019.
Missing migrants

Recorded migrant deaths by region

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Africa</th>
<th>Americas</th>
<th>Asia</th>
<th>Europe</th>
<th>Mediterranean</th>
<th>Middle East</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>1,293</td>
<td>543</td>
<td>1,055</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>1,401</td>
<td>590</td>
<td>186</td>
<td>2,299</td>
<td>145</td>
<td>4,737</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>1,741</td>
<td>681</td>
<td>523</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>3,139</td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>1,831</td>
<td>729</td>
<td>2045</td>
<td>5,433</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>1,034</td>
<td>519</td>
<td>826</td>
<td>137</td>
<td>4,054</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>623</td>
<td>495</td>
<td>825</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>3,283</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: IOM’s Missing Migrants Project, missingmigrants.iom.int
*2019 figures until 12 June 2019
Missing migrants

Deaths by route

Source: IOM’s Missing Migrants Project, missingmigrants.iom.int
Cross-Mediterranean migration in context: Regular vs. irregular entry

Figure 1: Irregular arrivals to Italy and residence permits issued to nationals of selected countries in Northern and Western Africa in the EU, 2011–2017

Source: GMDAC analysis based on EUROSTAT, 2019q and internal IOM data based on data from the Italian Ministry of the Interior.
Cross-Mediterranean migration in context: Africa

- Est. 24.7m international migrants in Africa in mid-2017 (UNDESA)
  - 7.6m in Eastern Africa
  - 6.8m in Western Africa
  - 4.3m in Southern Africa
  - 3.5m in Middle Africa
  - 2.4m in Northern Africa

- 53% of African migrants resided in Africa in 2017
- 75% of migrants from Eastern, Western and Middle Africa resided in the same region in 2017

Source: Migration Data Portal, available from migrationdataportal.org
Migration and mobility in West Africa

- More than 2m migrants observed by IOM’s Displacement Tracking Matrix in Jan 2017—Sep 2018 across 35 Flow Monitoring Points
- 25% of the migrants were female
- Over 95% of movements captured are intra-regional
- Niger, Mali, Senegal and Nigeria were the main reported destinations

Source: IOM’s Displacement Tracking Matrix, available from migration.iom.int
Drivers of migration in Africa

- **Labour demand dynamics** in Africa, Europe, the Middle East
  - Segmentation: higher skilled vs. lower skilled, persistent demand for migrant labour in informal markets

- **Economic development and social transformation**
  - Increase in income, education, infrastructure → higher migration (‘Migration transition’)

- **Urbanization**
  - Part of processes of economic, social, cultural and technological transformation in Africa

- **Education**
  - Desire for education → urban-rural and international migration

- **Environmental degradation and climate change**
  - Not a direct cause but one of the many factors affecting livelihoods and migration decisions
  - Migration as an adaptation strategy (also historically), mostly short distances and temporary/circular

- **Violence and political oppression**
  - Complex relation, same factors can impede movements
  - Most vulnerable less likely to migrate

Source: UN Economic Commission for Africa
Purpose for regular entry in the EU

First residence permits issued in the EU-28 to nationals of Northern and Western African countries have decreased between 2011 and 2017 -- a period of increasing irregular migration flows to the EU.

Family reunification is the main (practically only) regular migration channel to the EU from these regions.
Migration potential

- West Africa is the region with the highest migration potential, based on data from the Gallup World Poll

- 40% of adults with migration plans in Africa are planning to move to another country within the Continent

- Adults with migration plans are more likely to be male (60%), young (80% under the age of 40), single (63%), living in larger cities (45%) and more likely to have completed at least secondary education (64%).
Data gaps and limitations

- Persistent migration data issues: availability, quality, timeliness
  → Objective 1 of Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular migration
  → Migration in the Sustainable Development Goals

- Inherent difficulties in measuring irregular migration: proxy indicators

- Most information on stocks, not flows

- Insufficient disaggregation: migratory status, socio-economic profiles, access to services

- Missing migrants, identification, impact on families left behind
Take-aways

• Migration movements in Africa and across the Mediterranean part of long-term development and structural transformation processes (exception: Eastern Med Route)

→ An opportunity for both sides of the Med, but challenges require sustainable and humane responses

• Irregular migration by sea needs to be seen in context, without diminishing the high human cost

• Importance of awareness of data gaps and limitations when citing/using migration figures
Marzia Rango

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Migration data sources

Other key data sources:
- Household surveys (statistical)
- Administrative records

Innovative data sources:
- DTM (mainly operational)
- Big Data (mobile phones, social media, etc.)