

With funding under the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa (EUTF), the EU-IOM Joint Initiative for Migrant Protection and Reintegration has been designed to provide a coherent framework to save lives, protect and assist migrants along the Central Mediterranean Routes (CMR). This Flash Report aims to present the compiled results of the Joint Initiative in (i) the Sahel and Lake Chad, (ii) the Horn of Africa, and (iii) North Africa. The EU-IOM Joint Initiative comprises the following pillars of action:

- Protection and Voluntary Return Assistance
- Reintegration Support
- Capacity Development
- Data Collection and Analysis
- Information and Awareness Raising
- Community Stabilisation

For more information, visit our website www.migrationjointinitiative.org

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS IN AUGUST

- IOM's Voluntary Humanitarian Return (VHR) Programme resumed on 20 August after a five-month hold due to COVID-19 restrictions, with a first charter flight assisting over 100 Ghanaian migrants stranded in Libya to return home.
- A total of 559 vulnerable migrants received support through the COVID-19 Emergency Fund in the Sahel and lake Chad region. The Fund also supported two cash-for-work activities, helping returnees secure an income and promoting hand-washing in border communities.
- In Guinea, the returnee-run Economic Interest Group "Youth Group for the Development of Public Transport" in Kankan Nabaya used the revenue generated by transport activities of taxi-motos, and additional savings of GNF 40,000,000 (EUR 3,500) to expand its line of business by setting up a general food store and a sales point for financial products (money transfer).
- The EU-IOM Joint Initiative conducted a Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) training to 36 health workers in the Northern State region of Sudan. Participants learned about psycho-social first aid with diverse settings and populations, including addressing MHPSS needs of migrants.
- In Djibouti, the EU-IOM joint Initiative conducted awareness raising sessions on the risks of irregular migration, hygiene promotion and preventive measures against COVID-19. The sessions reached 539 migrants in Guehere, Masagara site and the Migrant Response Center in Obock.
- The EU-IOM Joint Initiative provided food and non-food items to two migrant shelters co-managed by IOM and the Tunisian Red Crescent in Medenine and Tunis, and covered the fees of the Tunisian Red Crescent volunteers in Tunis.
- Outreach information sessions with community mobilizers took place in the Libyan cities of Misrata, Tripoli and Sebha, applying COVID-19 preventive measures. A total of 25 community leaders were reached, most of them from Guinea, Nigeria, and Benin.

MIGRANTS ASSISTED WITH POST-ARRIVAL RECEPTION AND REINTEGRATION ASSISTANCE ²

98,570

migrants assisted after their return



86.6 % male

13.4 % female



1.9% unaccompanied migrant children

VOLUNTARY RETURN

640¹ | 85,435²

Stranded and vulnerable migrants supported with their voluntary return under EUTF funding



PROTECTION & DIRECT ASSISTANCE

38³ | 45⁴ Migrant Resource and/or Response Centres (MRRCs) established, rehabilitated or maintained



567¹ | 26,613² Migrants assisted in Search and Rescue Operations

DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS

71³ | 77⁴



Flow Monitoring Points (FMPs) in place
(for more information visit displacement.iom.int)

AWARENESS RAISING



62¹ | 15,300²

Awareness raising activities organised

58,514¹ | 835,363²

Individuals reached by awareness raising activities

All data is preliminary and subject to change. Figures on return and reintegration assistance in this report include support provided by the Better Migration Management Programme. IOM's Search and Rescue operations are supported by the European Union, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands and the Department for International Development (DFID). This Flash Report only covers operations funded exclusively and/or cost-shared through the EU-IOM Joint Initiative. For Libya, the Migrant Resource and Response Mechanism (MRRM) is implemented by mobile protection teams.

¹ Figure reflecting the reporting month

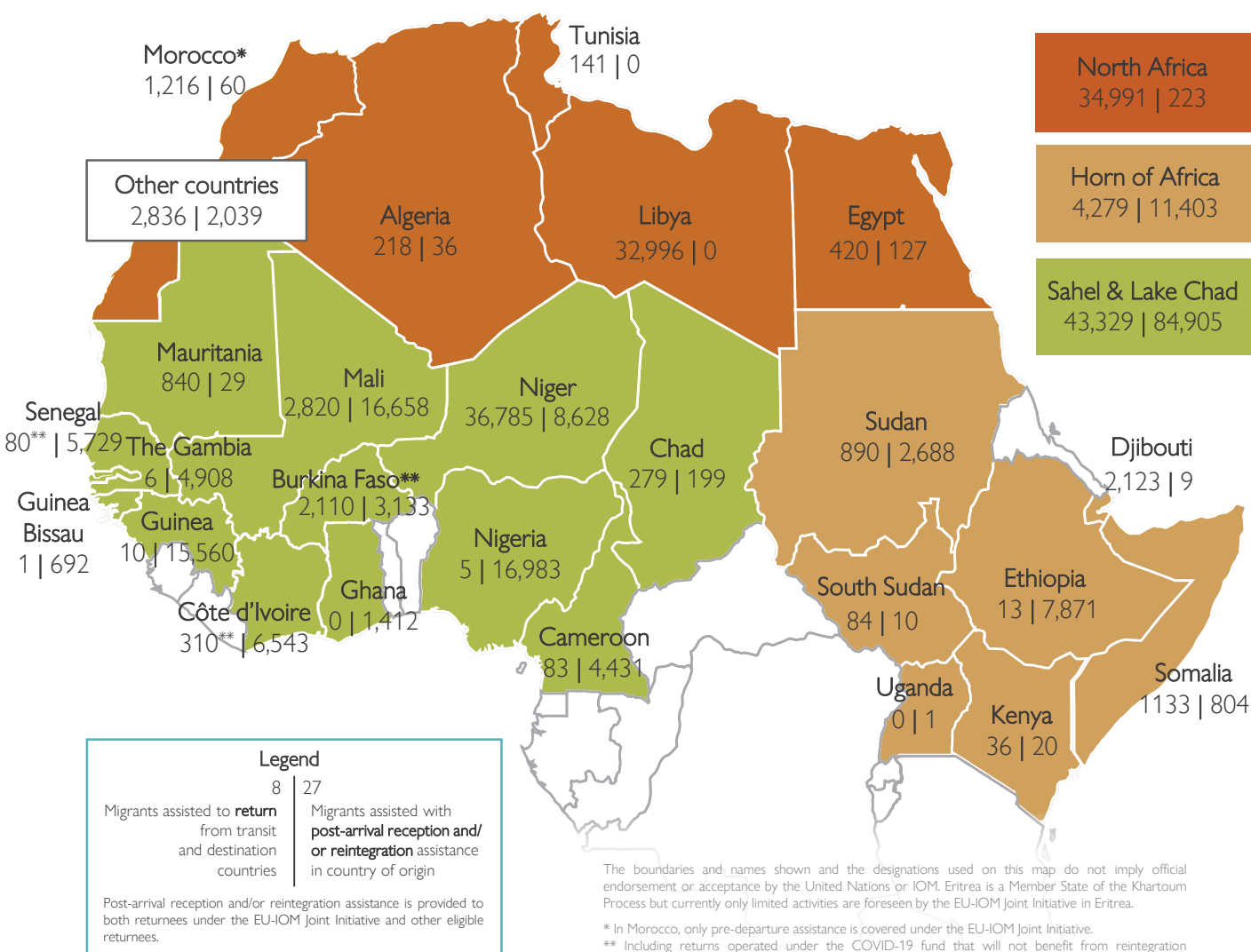
² Figure since the start of the EU-IOM Joint Initiative (May 2017)

³ FMPs or MRRCs supported and operating

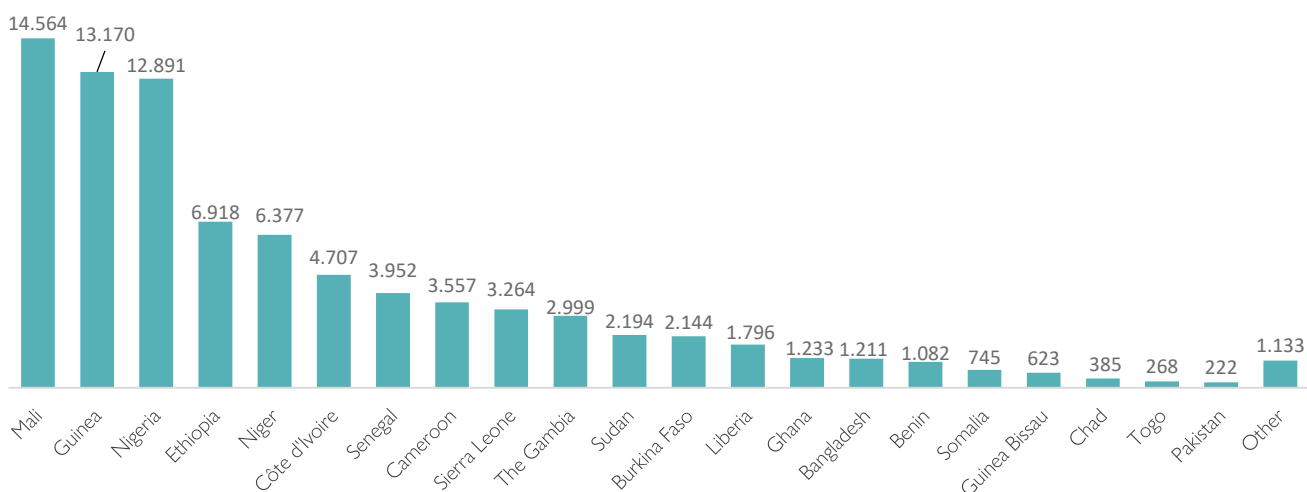
⁴ FMPs or MRRCs planned



RETURN AND POST-ARRIVAL RECEPTION & REINTEGRATION ASSISTANCE ²



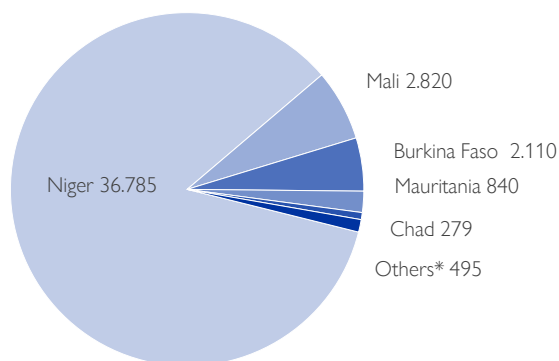
VOLUNTARY RETURNS TO COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN funded under the EUTF ²



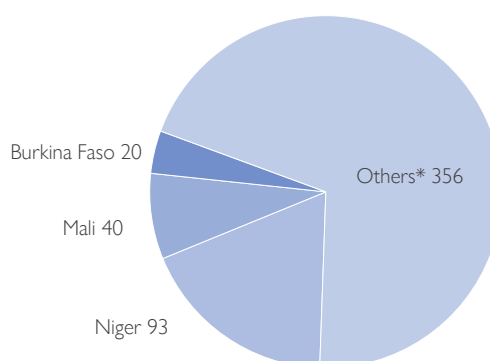
² figure since the start of the EU-IOM Joint Initiative (May 2017)

This section presents results under the EU-IOM Joint Initiative for Migrant Protection and Reintegration in the Sahel and Lake Chad. Countries covered in this region are Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria and Senegal.

VOLUNTARY RETURNS FROM COUNTRIES OF TRANSIT AND DESTINATION



Cumulative until 31 August 2020



August 2020

* 495 migrants who returned to their country of origin under the RDAF/COVID-19 Fund since May 2017 (out of whom 356 in August 2020).

STRANDED SIERRA LEONEANS RETURN AMID COVID-19 PANDEMIC



In mid-August, 59 Sierra Leoneans stranded in Senegal since the outbreak of COVID-19 returned home safely via air charter flight, bringing to 2,800 the number of people assisted with voluntary return in the region through the EU-IOM Joint Initiative. The returnees were among 87 men and women stranded in Senegal after crackdowns on trafficking and smuggling in persons by Senegalese Security Officials. The COVID-19 pandemic and mobility restrictions such as border closures put in place to limit the spread of the pandemic left thousands of migrants stranded at borders and in third countries in the region. As per Sierra Leone health regulations, all returnees were tested for COVID-19 before they left Senegal. Upon their return, they underwent a rapid diagnosis test before reuniting with their families and their communities. In addition, all returnees received food and economic assistance to cover their immediate needs such as onward transportation to their various communities.

[Click [here](#) to read the full story.]

To learn more about the EU-IOM Joint Initiative in the Sahel & Lake Chad, see [Weekly Digest](#).

POST-ARRIVAL RECEPTION AND REINTEGRATION ASSISTANCE IN THE SAHEL & LAKE CHAD

84,905² migrants were assisted after their return



574¹ | 80,973²

Post-arrival reception assistance

(incl. reception at the airport, overnight accommodation, cash grant for immediate needs, first medical assistance, assistance with onwards transportation, material assistance)



624¹ | 66,188²

Start of the reintegration support process

(Reintegration counselling and planning, other reintegration support measures tailored to needs, vulnerabilities and opportunities of each migrant)



873¹ | 36,792²

Economic support

(incl. job placements, set-up of microbusinesses, trainings, cash for work programmes)



47¹ | 11,994²

Social support

(incl. social protection schemes, housing, education, medical support, child care, legal services)



32¹ | 8,006²

Psychosocial support

(incl. psychosocial counselling, focus group discussions, family mediation, community mediation, special security measures)

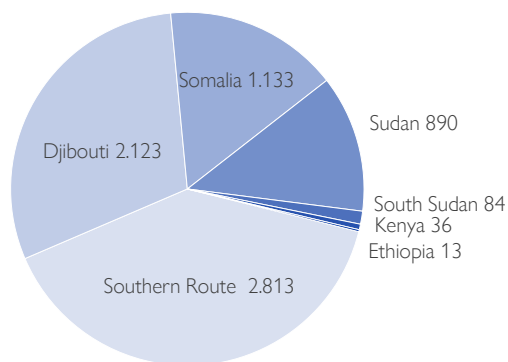
¹ Figure reflecting the reporting month

² Figure since the start of the EU-IOM Joint Initiative (May 2017)

The same beneficiary of the programme can appear in multiple categories, but not multiple times within one category.

This section presents results under the EU-IOM Joint Initiative for Migrant Protection and Reintegration in the Horn of Africa. Core countries in this region are Djibouti, Ethiopia, Somalia, and Sudan. Further countries covered under the Joint Initiative in the Horn of Africa are Eritrea, Kenya, Uganda, and South Sudan as well as Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania and Zambia on the Southern migration route.

VOLUNTARY RETURNS FROM COUNTRIES OF TRANSIT AND DESTINATION



No voluntary returns were recorded during the current reporting month.

Cumulative until 31 August 2020

August 2020

CASH GRANTS FOR BUSINESS START-UPS A WELCOME ADDITION IN SUDAN



Fakhreldeen had spent more than a year in Libya before the conflict prompted him to return to Sudan at the end of 2019. He was supported by the EU-IOM Joint Initiative which facilitated his Voluntary Humanitarian Return. The programme is also assisting him to get back on his feet. Fakhreldeen is one of the returnees who received cash-based assistance from the EU-IOM Joint Initiative, allowing him to start a business in Sudan. "Receiving cash gave me the flexibility to add more money and buy a tuk-tuk to use for transportation work," says the 45-year-old. Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, cash-based assistance has helped reduce infection risk through limited exposure for beneficiaries and programme staff alike. However, cash-based assistance is not an option for all returnees as some do not have the required identity documents or experience network issues during mobile transfers.

[Click [here](#) to read the full story.]

To learn more about the EU-IOM Joint Initiative in the Horn of Africa, see [Monthly Digest](#).

POST-ARRIVAL RECEPTION AND REINTEGRATION ASSISTANCE IN THE HORN OF AFRICA

11,403² migrants were assisted after their return



17¹ | 11,402²

Post-arrival reception assistance

(incl. reception at the airport, overnight accommodation, cash grant for immediate needs, first medical assistance, assistance with onwards transportation, material assistance)



214¹ | 7,366²

Start of the reintegration support process

(Reintegration counselling and planning, other reintegration support measures tailored to needs, vulnerabilities and opportunities of each migrant)



189¹ | 5,067²

Economic support

(incl. job placements, set-up of microbusinesses, trainings, cash for work programmes)



34¹ | 1,839²

Social support

(incl. social protection schemes, housing, education, medical support, child-care, legal services)



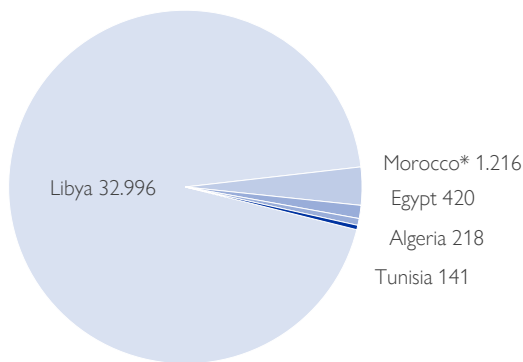
7¹ | 5,174²

Psychosocial support

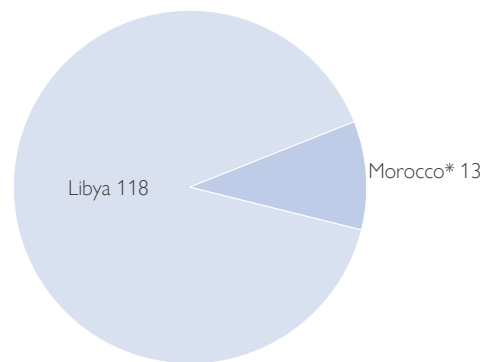
(incl. psychosocial counselling, focus group discussions, family mediation, community mediation, special security measures)

This section presents results under the EU-IOM Joint Initiative for Migrant Protection and Reintegration in North Africa. Countries covered in this region are Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia.

VOLUNTARY RETURNS FROM COUNTRIES OF TRANSIT AND DESTINATION



Cumulative until 31 August 2020



August 2020

*In Morocco, only pre-departure assistance is covered under the EU-IOM Joint Initiative.

FIRST VOLUNTARY RETURN CHARTER IN FIVE MONTHS ASSISTS 118 GHANAIAN MIGRANTS



With support from the EU-IOM Joint Initiative, IOM facilitated the voluntary and safe return of 118 Ghanaian migrants stranded in Libya due to COVID-19 restrictions in August. This marks the first Voluntary Humanitarian Return (VHR) operation in five months. Seven women, three children and two infants were among those aboard the charter. Prior to their departure, returnees were medically screened and received personal protective equipment such as masks, gloves and hand sanitizer, as well as psychosocial assistance. Further support was provided after the migrants' arrival in Accra. During the first quarter of 2020, IOM's VHR programme supported 1,466 stranded migrants to return from Libya. In 2019, nearly 9,800 migrants returned to 34 countries of origin across Africa and Asia through the programme.

[Click [here](#) to read the full story.]

To learn more about the EU-IOM Joint Initiative in North Africa, see [Quarterly Newsletter](#).

POST-ARRIVAL RECEPTION AND REINTEGRATION ASSISTANCE IN NORTH AFRICA

223² migrants were assisted after their return



0¹ | 183²

Post-arrival reception assistance

(incl. reception at the airport, overnight accommodation, cash grant for immediate needs, first medical assistance, assistance with onwards transportation, material assistance)



3¹ | 56²

Start of the reintegration support process

(Reintegration counselling and planning, other reintegration support measures tailored to needs, vulnerabilities and opportunities of each migrant)



3¹ | 200²

Economic support

(incl. job placements, set-up of microbusinesses, trainings, cash for work programmes)



0¹ | 54²

Social support

(incl. social protection schemes, housing, education, medical support, child care, legal services)



0¹ | 0²

Psychosocial support

(incl. psychosocial counselling, focus group discussions, family mediation, community mediation, special security measures)

The same beneficiary of the programme can appear in multiple categories, but not multiple times within one category.

¹ Figure reflecting the reporting month

² Figure since the start of the EU-IOM Joint Initiative (May 2017)

This section presents results under the EU-IOM project 'Protecting Vulnerable Migrants and Stabilizing Communities in Libya' which are not already covered in the compiled results in pages 1, 2 and 5.

MIGRANT SITUATION UPDATE

- At least **600,362** migrants in Libya (**89%** male, **11%** female)
- **2,430** migrants in detention in DCIM detention centers in Libya
- At least, **425,714** internally displaced persons (IDPs)
- At least, **456,728** IDP returnees
- **1,362** migrants returned to Libyan shores by the Libyan Coast Guard in August.

Source: IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) Libya, <https://dtm.iom.int/libya>

Figures presented in this section are the latest ones available at the end of the reporting month.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS



Community stabilization: Fourteen local CSOs are implementing social cohesion and livelihood projects in **Sabha**, **Qatroun**, **Benghazi** and **Kufra** to respond to community needs within the bounds of youth peacebuilding, localized cross-tribal activities, education, sports, women's empowerment, vocational training and livelihood toolkits. Among them, the CSO Furat completed two five-day training courses on design and management of gardens and green spaces for 26 municipality staff in **Sabha**. The aim is to improve staff's knowledge on sustainable management of community gardens and agricultural spaces. In **Kufra**, the Omer Ibn Alkhattab football pitch in Bizima Aljadida muhalla was handed over to the municipality in the presence of the mayor and other municipality members. In **Qatroun**, construction work is progressing at the Madrousa public garden. In **Sabha**, the water well in Hajara muhalla was handed over to the General Water and Waste Water Company and work is progressing on the remaining five out of 13 wells across the city. The construction of Al-Nasriyah football pitch is also advancing.

HUMANITARIAN DIRECT ASSISTANCE TO MIGRANTS



699¹ | 258,764²

Emergency food assistance distributed to migrants
(number of meals distributed)



5,100¹ | 322,773²

Non-food items and hygiene kits distributed to migrants



3,728¹ | 53,104²

Healthcare services provided to migrants

ASSISTANCE TO VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING (VoTs)



47¹ | 499²

VoTs and persons at risk assisted
(incl. identification, information to victims, potential victims and persons at risk, support to access services, tailored assistance and referrals)

ALTERNATIVES TO DETENTION



0³ | 3⁴

IOM safe spaces for vulnerable migrants established



8¹ | 750²

Vulnerable migrants hosted in alternatives to detention

IMPROVING MIGRANT CONDITIONS AT KEY LOCATIONS



13¹ | 311²

Interventions in detention centers to improve conditions for migrants
(incl. provision or rehabilitation of toilets, showering facilities, and sewage systems)



0¹ | 15,143²

Lifesaving equipment and materials distributed at disembarkation points
(incl. first aid boxes, nylon suits, rescue rings, boxes of gloves)

¹ Figure reflecting the reporting month

² Figure since the start of the EU-IOM Joint Initiative (May 2017)

³ IOM Safe spaces supported and operating

⁴ Total IOM Safe spaces planned