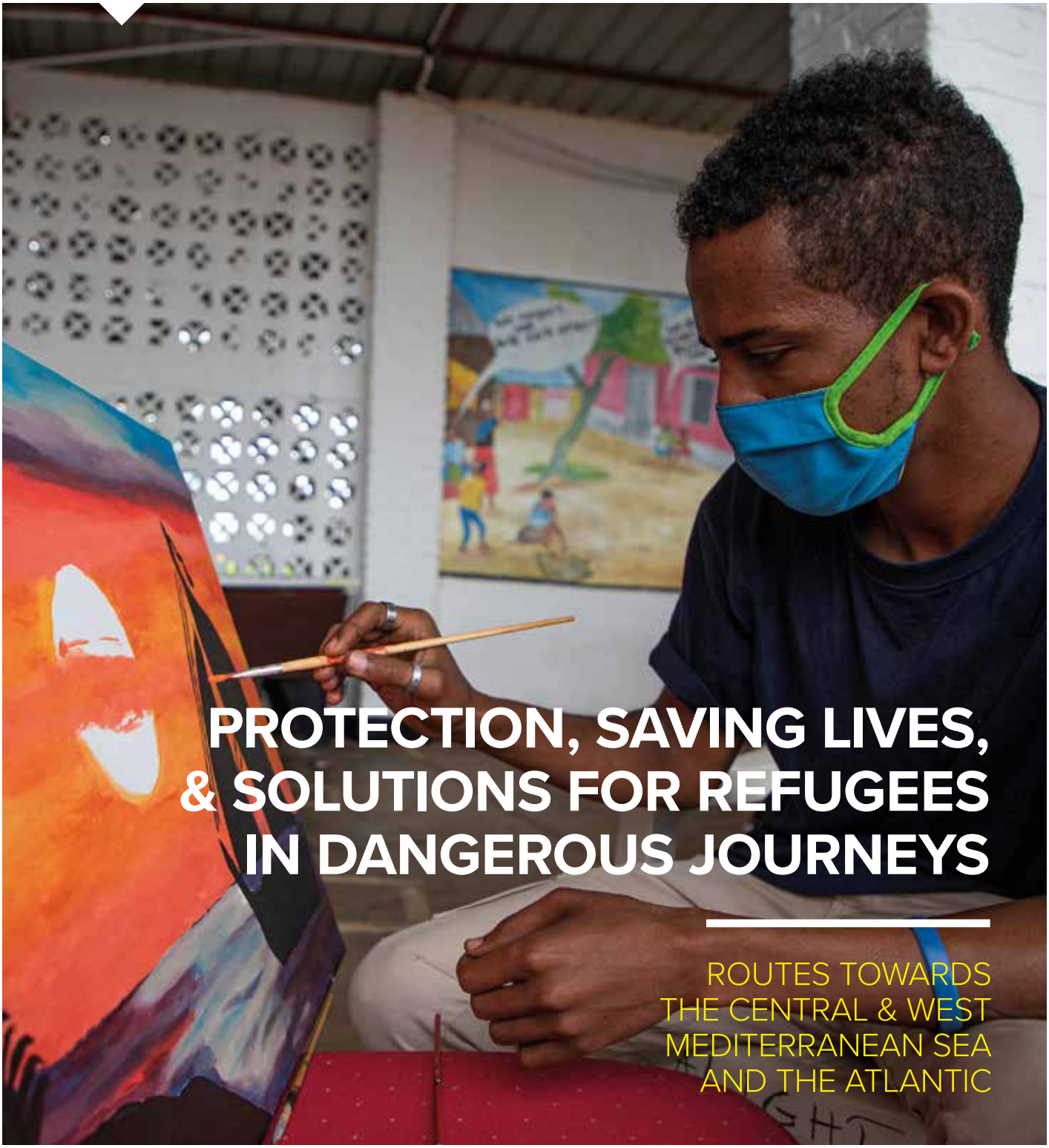
UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency



PROTECTION, SAVING LIVES, & SOLUTIONS FOR REFUGEES IN DANGEROUS JOURNEYS

ROUTES TOWARDS THE CENTRAL & WEST MEDITERRANEAN SEA AND THE ATLANTIC

UNHCR's 2022-2023 Updated
Risk Mitigation Strategy and 2022 Appeal

April 2022

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Key Figures

At least **1,924** people are believed to have died or gone missing while trying to cross the Mediterranean Sea from North Africa in 2021

10,053 UASCs arrivals to Italy in 2021

53,323 people arrived by sea to Italy in 2021, some 83% more than 2020

1,567 refugees resettled from Libya since Nov 2017

Only a **3%** decrease in sea departures from Algeria in 2020 as compared to 2019

61% increase in sea departures from Tunisia in 2021 as compared to 2020

150% increase in sea departures from Libya in 2021 as compared to 2020

23,042 arrivals in Canary Islands, Spain, in 2021, nearly the same as in 2020

An estimated **1,153** people are believed dead or gone missing in the Atlantic coastal waters in 2021

Based on 4Mi survey data in 2018 and 2019.

See UNHCR and MMC, 4Mi survey data and dashboard

658 in 2021 and a total **4,491** refugees and asylum seekers evacuated from Libya to Niger and Rwanda since Nov 2017

At least **1,825** people believed to have died along land routes from East and West Africa to Libya and Egypt in 2020

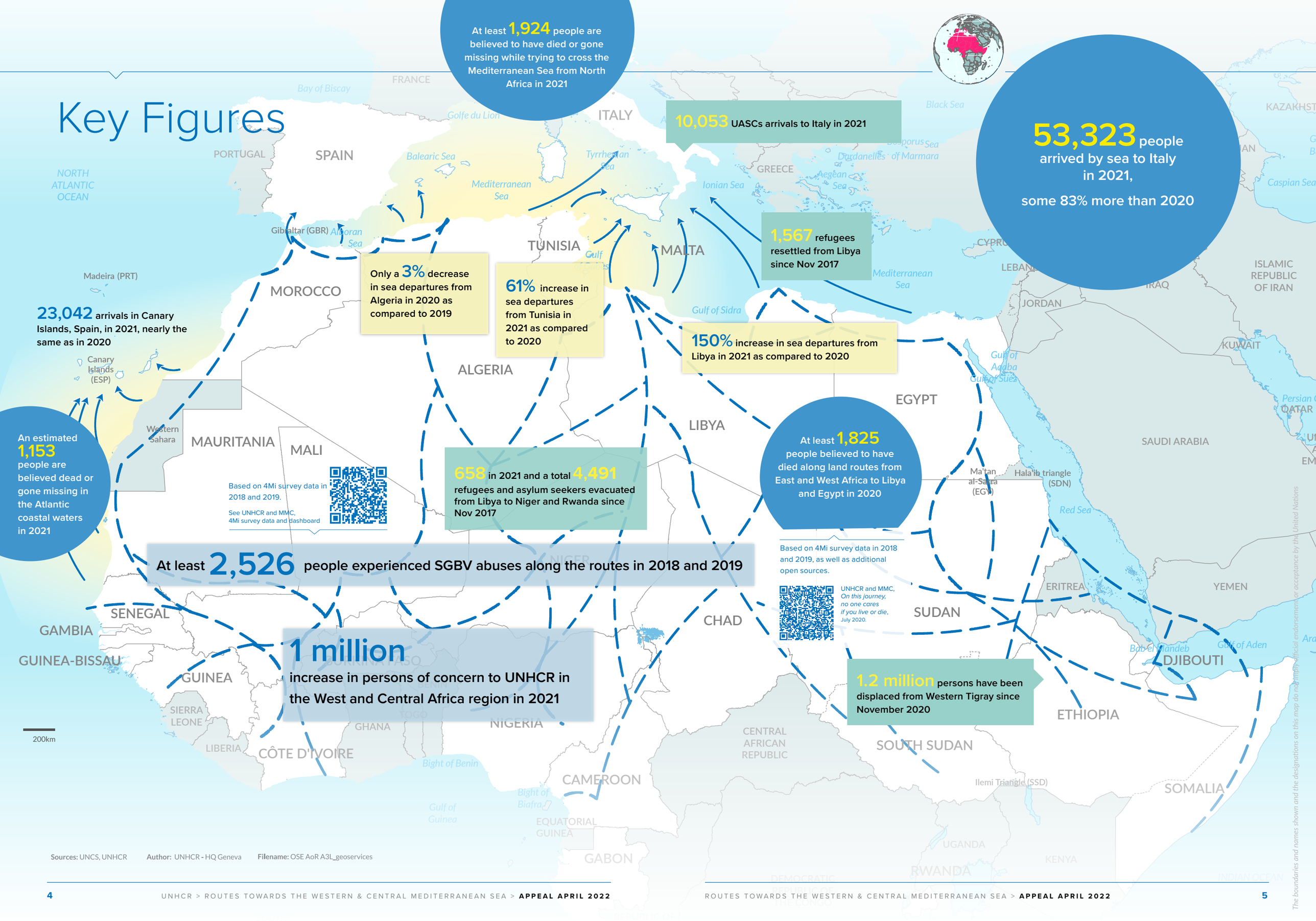
Based on 4Mi survey data in 2018 and 2019, as well as additional open sources.

UNHCR and MMC, *On this journey, no one cares if you live or die*, July 2020.

At least **2,526** people experienced SGBV abuses along the routes in 2018 and 2019

1 million increase in persons of concern to UNHCR in the West and Central Africa region in 2021

1.2 million persons have been displaced from Western Tigray since November 2020



Sources: UNCS, UNHCR Author: UNHCR - HQ Geneva Filename: OSE AoR A3L_geoservices

The boundaries and names shown and the designations on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations

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Refugee children at primary school in Chadakori "village of opportunity" in southern Niger. The village was created to house Nigerian refugees to ensure their safety and ease pressure on host communities in the border area. February 2022.

Introduction

As Africa and Europe consolidate their renewed partnership, UNHCR will work to support their "Joint Vision" on migration and mobility to address root causes in countries of origin and asylum; to enable states to regulate asylum and protection in accordance with international law; to save lives; to address grave and systematic violations of human rights of people on the move; and to enable sustainable solutions.[1]

See joint declaration adopted at the 6th AU-EU Summit of 17-18 February 2022.

Confronting the crimes of trafficking and aggravated smuggling of persons of concern to UNHCR must also be central to these efforts by: (i) promoting orderly, safe and legal ways for people to move when it is necessary and authorized; (ii) operational partnerships to identify and protect victims and support States to prosecute perpetrators of human rights abuses, including trafficking.[2] Cooperative and intelligent approaches on asylum, migration and mobility will loom large in reducing the suffering and loss of life of refugees and migrants in mixed irregular movements.[3]

2 In particular with IOM and UNODC to mobilize States and international and intergovernmental organizations to prevent and protect refugees and migrants from falling victim to trafficking and to hold perpetrators accountable. Identification of victims of trafficking and alleged perpetrators is accomplished through media monitoring, and feedback from communication with communities and diaspora. This effort also benefits from a network of human rights activists and journalists.

3 Some people first move regularly (not requiring a visa or with a visa) and become irregular when their visa expires or their length of stay without a visa expires. For example, data from Morocco for 2021 suggests that 23% of the Guineans asylum seekers arrive regularly as do 60% of Ivorians, whereas 100% of Sudanese arrive irregularly.

UNHCR will seek to mobilize support for these priorities through the Khartoum and Rabat Processes under the Joint Valetta Action Plan, and the AU-EU-UN Tripartite Task Force on Libya, guided by the Global Compact for Refugees and its Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF). UNHCR will also draw inspiration from *inter alia*, the Final Recommendations on International Protection in Mixed Movements in the Central Mediterranean of June 2021 by North African and the League of Arab States in Sharm El Sheikh,[4] the Comprehensive Solutions Strategy for Sudan and South Sudan,[5] the Roadmap for Comprehensive Solutions for Ivorian Refugees,[6] the Reaffirmation of the Commitments of the Abuja Action Statement and their Implementation,[7] and the Conclusion of the Bamako Dialogue on Protection and Solutions.[8] UNHCR will also seek out routes-based partnerships through the Cities #With Refugees initiative, in common efforts on protection and solutions.

4 Final recommendations on international protection in mixed movements in the Central Mediterranean.

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The number of victims who died, were reported missing, or who endured unspeakable violations of their human rights in 2021 bears witness to this very public and sustained tragedy, with no end in sight. Public attention remains fixated on mixed movements by land from south to north, across the Sahara Desert to and through North Africa and on the more mediatized sea movements to Italy, Malta, and Spain, all producing a devastating human toll.[9] Much less attention was paid, and research done on the equally important south-to-south mixed movements, which present similar protection risks. And with rapidly increasing numbers of IDPs in the Sahel, there is an urgent need to understand whether this group will also embark on to dangerous onward movements in the absence of solutions where they are.

9 UN Security Council, Implementation of resolution 2546 (2020), 2 September 2021.

The Torture Roads – The Cycle of Abuse against People on the Move in Africa.

In 2021, 1,153 refugees and migrants were reported dead or gone missing on the Northwest African maritime route to the Canary Islands, and 1,924 along the Western and Central Mediterranean routes.[10] Many crossings took place in packed, unseaworthy inflatable boats, which often capsized or deflated, leading to the loss of life.[11] The sea journey from West African coastal states such as Senegal and Mauritania to the Canary Islands is long and perilous and can take up to 10 days. Many boats have drifted off course or otherwise gone missing without a trace in these waters.[12]

10 Source UNHCR.

Along the Northwestern African maritime routes, those boats are normally wooden boats referred to as "pateras" or "cayucos"

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It is estimated the majority of those lost at sea crossing from Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, and Morocco to Spain, Italy, and Malta, were nationals of North African countries, with many others from West and East Africa. Some 6% of arrivals to Europe through Mediterranean routes were from Bangladesh.[13] However, accurate data on deaths and missing are difficult to access and data collection and sharing of incidents at sea remain incomplete for these maritime routes.

13 Supra note 3.

Even greater numbers may have died along land routes through the Sahara Desert and remote border areas, in detention centres, or while in the captivity of smugglers or traffickers. A joint report by UNHCR and the Mixed Migration Centre (MMC) published in 2020 indicated that some 1,750 people may have died along the land routes to and through Libya and Egypt between 2018 and 2019, an average of at least 72 deaths a month.[14] No such route-based study was possible in 2021 due to the pandemic, but partial information from the West and North African maritime route and the Central Mediterranean suggest that land routes continued to be equally dangerous during 2021.[15] Various media documented incidents of death en route in the desert along mixed movements routes or stranded in places with no adequate shelter in 2021.[16] Refugees and migrants also continued to share such incidents they had personally witnessed.[17]

15 Key Findings on the Characteristics of Migrant Smuggling in West Africa, North Africa and the Central Mediterranean

14 UNHCR- MMC, *On this journey, no one cares if you live or die.' Abuse, protection, and justice along routes between East and West Africa and Africa's Mediterranean coast.* July 2020.

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17

On testimony that came to light in 2021 suggested that 10 out of a group of 50 persons died in the Algerian-Libyan desert.

Another testimony indicated that 2 persons out of a group of 15 made it through the desert.

The absence of a global and connected system to register and document the loss of persons along these land and sea routes inhibits an understanding of the scale and substance of how loss of life happens and might be prevented. To strengthen efforts in this area, UNHCR will try to build opportunities in relevant fora, including the UN Network on Migration, to advocate for the strengthening of tracing systems to prevent people moving at sea from becoming missing and use the Interagency Group on Safety of Life at Sea as a springboard for dedicated initiatives in collaboration with participating agencies particularly engaged in this topic, e.g., ICRC, IOM, and OHCHR. UNHCR will continue to support the International Commission on Missing Persons (ICMP) to develop the Joint Process to Account for Persons Missing as a Result of Migration in the Mediterranean[18] and IOM's

18 Statement On The Issue Of Missing Migrants By Representatives Of Cyprus, Greece, And Malta At The Conclusion Of The 3rd Meeting Of The Joint Process, Athens, 19 November 2021

project on Missing Migrants,[19] among others. It will also support the Swiss authorities' decision to prioritize this theme in the Rabat Process. Many more deaths are likely to go unrecorded in 2022, making the issue of missing persons along sea and land routes a public policy and protection priority for both the AU and EU in the context of their evolving partnership.[20]

19 IOM Missing Migrants Project.

20 There were more studies published on the issue in 2021 and mobilization by families of the missiong persons, see for instance:

Extrajudicial killings, being left to die in the desert, torture, unlawful and arbitrary detention, including to extract ransoms, sexual and gender-based violence, exploitation, forced labour, slavery, forced marriage and other gross human rights violations are among the many abuses which were suffered by people as they traveled along the routes.[21] The joint report by UNHCR and MMC highlighted these multiple abuses and indicated critical locations where their incidence is more acute.[22] It also shed light on the multiple perpetrators of such abuses along the routes. For example, according to survey data presented, the main perpetrators of abuses against refugees, asylum seekers and migrants in East Africa are human traffickers and smugglers, while in West Africa, law enforcement authorities, security forces, police, military as well as border guards or immigration officials were reported to be primarily responsible for the incidents of violence.[23] Criminal gangs, often operating with the protection of armed groups, are also responsible for abuses as evidenced by MMC 4Mi survey data published in September 2021[24] and in the May 2021 report of the UNODC Observatory on Smuggling of Migrants.[25] However, the type of protection risks and specific factors of vulnerability faced by refugees and migrants on the move in different settings and locations remained critically under-research.

In parallel, the pandemic and related border closures continued in 2021 to have a direct impact on the dynamics of mixed movements towards North Africa and European coastal countries.[26] Some 76% of respondents to a

21 UN Security Council, Implementation of resolution 2546 (2020), 2 September 2021.

22 UNHCR, MMC. On this journey, no one cares if you live or die.' Abuse, protection, and justice along routes between East and West Africa and Africa's Mediterranean coast. July 2020.

23 Ibid.

24 MMC, *Smuggling, risks, and abuses: dangerous locations and perpetrators*. September 2021.

MMC, *Smuggling, risks, and abuses: characteristics of respondents and the perception of smugglers as perpetrators* (part 2 of 3) September 2021.

25 UNODC Observatory on Smuggling of Migrants: Key Findings on the Characteristics of Migrant Smuggling in West Africa, North Africa and the Central Mediterranean. May 2021.

26 OHCHR.

"Most don't know what happens on the journey, no one in Eritrea knows the obstacles on the way.

I thought that all accidents happen at sea and a capsizing ship is the only problem to face on such a journey. The accidents are back there in the Sahara.

There you will find bones and skulls of dead people. The Sahara is full of Eritrean bodies. 403 people with kids, girls, ill people and disabled people.

I was in shock. I had not expected this. But when we were forced to sleep 403 people together, I understood. He said to all Eritreans there that we were imprisoned and that we must pay 2,500 US Dollars each to start the journey across the Sea. He tortured us for eight months. They beat us on our backs, feet, and hands, torturing us with burning.

It is so terrible what they did. I will never forget this. We paid with human lives. Some died. They didn't bury them."

—Eritrean refugee who was interviewed by *Telling the Real Story* in Sweden in 2021

4Mi survey conducted by MMC in West and North Africa[27] cited using smugglers as part of an increasing demand for such services along the route despite the associated risks. Respondents also said that smuggling fees increased. This suggests that border restrictions to prevent and mitigate the spread of the pandemic have also served to strengthen the "smuggling industry." Most respondents also agree that smugglers are using more dangerous routes since the pandemic began and with a situation of increasing dependency by refugees and migrants on smugglers, their vulnerability to risk of death and serious violations of their human rights also increases.

Children are among the most vulnerable in mixed movement populations and are more likely to face abuse, exploitation, and violence.[28] UNHCR continues to record a steady trend of movements of unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) and youth seeking better educational or

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28 UNICEF Press Release New York, 14 July 2021

livelihood opportunities, reunifying with family members and/or finding safety.[29] In 2021, Italy recorded 13,203 new arrivals of children by sea of whom 10,053 were unaccompanied.[30] This represents a 114% increase in the number of arrivals of unaccompanied children and a 111% increase in the total arrivals of children from 2020.[31] The lack or absence of protection programming and services along the routes leaves children and youth feeling discouraged and without hope and pushes them to embark on dangerous journeys. While UNHCR and partners are committed to enhancing child protection programming along the routes, funding for youth programming remained limited in some countries along the routes in 2021, making the notion of alternatives to dangerous journeys a virtual hope rather than a credible prospect. Still, other challenges remain due to poor national child protection systems and limited refugee and host community support structures. There remains an urgent need to strengthen protection services, activities, and access to solutions, including family reunification, to respond to the needs and aspirations of children and youth and improve their overall well-being.

Dangerous journeys will continue to be a defining feature of the dialogue on the mixed movements among African countries and between Africa and Europe in 2022. Better management and addressing these mixed movements remain largely dependent on a stronger and more consistent commitment by States to work together in route-based approaches. This involves sharing actionable data, enhancing legal frameworks and operational capacities at land and sea borders and in urban centres, providing credible alternatives to dangerous journeys through inclusion, youth programming and local community-based development, and authorizing access without restriction by humanitarian organizations to provide a range of essential services [e.g., medical and psychosocial, legal] and assistance (shelter) to people on the move or stranded en route, including to determine whether they may have international protection needs.

Protection monitoring reports, feedback from practitioners and enhanced communication with persons on the move suggest that no significant progress in respect to these areas was registered in 2021.[32] In particular,

30 UNHCR Italy arrivals figures as per Ministry of Interior official data 31 December 2021.

31 Ibid.

32 In February 2021, UNHCR and the Mixed Migration Centre jointly organized a workshop on protection challenges along the central and western Mediterranean routes, in which they brought together persons of concern, researchers and academics, protection actors, policymakers, and journalists. The workshop resulted in a roadmap, published in June 2021, with recommendations regarding the significant role of local authorities, community-based approaches and the need for a stronger focus on children and young people on the move.

UNHCR's mapping of protection services for people on the move, including victims of trafficking, revealed that where the protection risks are the highest (e.g., in border areas and key mixed movements hubs), protection services are rarely available and local structures and partners with the potential to provide such services lack capacity and resources.[33] Yet opportunities and partnerships, at the local level in particular, with local authorities and intermediary cities, have emerged as an area of new potential which could help mitigate protection risks, offer solutions, and provide a better means to manage mixed flows in 2022.

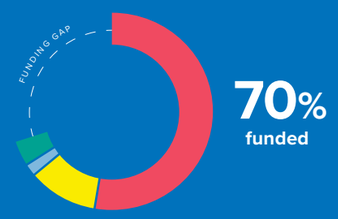
33 UNHCR, *Mapping of Protection Services for Victims of Trafficking and Other Vulnerable People on the Move in the Sahel and East Africa.* June 2021.

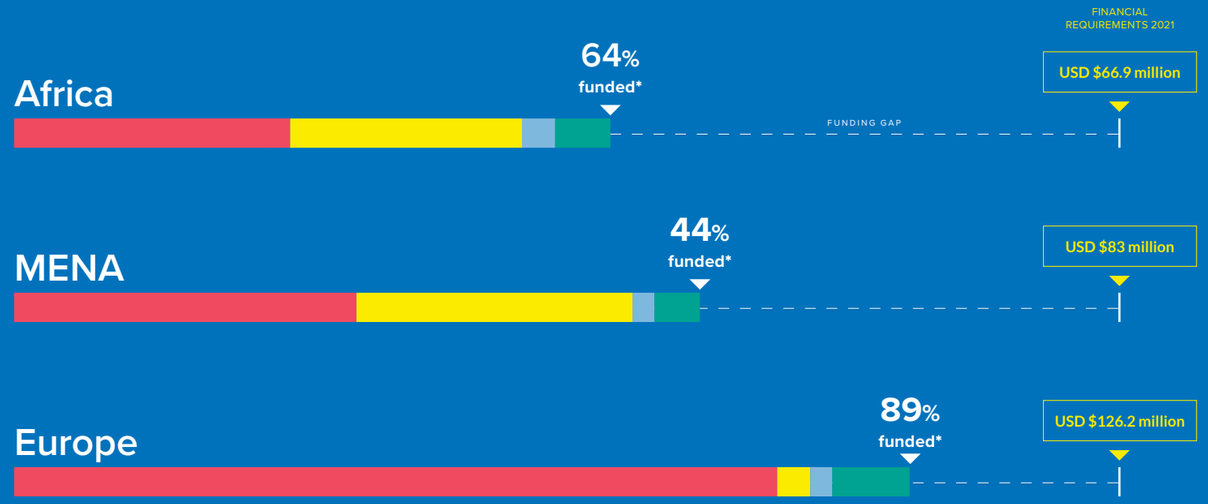
INTRODUCTION

FUNDING LEVELS
FOR UNHCR CENTRAL AND WEST MEDITERRANEAN SITUATION IN 2021
– INDICATIVE FIGURES

GRAPH 1 • **FUNDING** | AS OF 31 DECEMBER 2021

UNHCR's 2021 financial requirements **USD $276.1 million**





EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

United States of America 255.5 million | **Private donors Australia** 14.3 million | **Germany** 8 million | **Canada** 7 million | **Private donors Germany** 4.7 million | **France** 4.2 million | **Italy** 4 million | **Sweden** 3.9 million | **Norway** 2.9 million | **Private donors Republic of Korea** 2.5 million | **Switzerland** 2 million | **Private donors United Kingdom** 2 million.

Austria | IGAD | Japan | Luxembourg | Spain | UN Children Fund | UN Peacebuilding Fund | UN Programme on HIV/AIDS | UN Trust Fund for Human Security | Private donors.

UNEARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

Private donors Spain 83.8 million | **Norway** 80 million | **Sweden** 75.4 million | **Private donors Japan** 43.6 million | **Private donors Republic of Korea** 42.4 million | **United Kingdom** 40.4 million | **Netherlands** 36.1 million | **Denmark** 34.6 million | **Germany** 26 million | **Japan** 23.4 million | **Private donors Italy** 22.5 million | **Private donors Sweden** 21.7 million | **France** 20.2 million | **Private donors USA** 17.7 million | **Switzerland** 16.4 million | **Ireland** 12.5 million | **Belgium** 11.9 million | **Italy** 10.7 million.

Algeria | Armenia | Australia | Austria | Bulgaria | Canada | Costa Rica | Cyprus | Estonia | Finland | Holy See | Iceland | Liechtenstein | Luxembourg | Malta | Mexico | Monaco | Montenegro | Morocco | New Zealand | Peru | Philippines | Portugal | Qatar | Republic of Korea | Russian Federation | Saudi Arabia | Serbia | Singapore | South Africa | Spain | Thailand | Turkey | United Arab Emirates | Uruguay | Private donors.

The financial requirements of the Central Mediterranean Route Situation include requirements in Algeria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Egypt, Ethiopia, Greece, Israel, Libya, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger, Rwanda, Senegal, Sudan and Tunisia.

High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi talks to members of the local community in Ouallam, northern Niger, during a joint mission to the country by UNHCR and the International Organization for Migration in February 2022.

Outlook 2022-2023

The scale of forced internal and external displacement in West and the East and Horn of Africa and its protracted nature require innovative and robust approaches to tackle root causes as well as to provide effective **responses with a stabilizing value** *in situ*, in countries, where people are.

This calls for and requires effective and sustained State leadership supported cohesively by the international community through humanitarian, development, and peace action to address protection, solutions and challenges. Failing this, refugees, asylum seekers, IDPs and other persons of concern to UNHCR will continue to move in search of safety and international protection through primary and secondary movements. Others, including migrants, will move to seek a better life, hoping to find work or educational opportunities elsewhere in the absence of sufficient seasonal or longer-term legal pathways for safe and orderly migration.

Continued political instability such as witnessed in 2021, coupled with low-level armed conflict in several key transit, and host and origin countries covered by the Situation, have the potential to increase irregular secondary movements and/or cause involuntary backflows of refugees and migrants to countries of previous asylum or transit and/or to countries of origin. Conversely, the tightening of border controls across the African continent during the COVID-19 response will gradually be lifted in 2022 and could lead to improved access by and to refugees and asylum seekers. This has the potential to reduce dangerous onward movements. However, caution and close monitoring of the dynamics in this uncertain political and security landscape is needed.[34]

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The complex political situations in **Mali** and **Burkina Faso**, the degradation of the security situation in the Sahel region generally, and the increased pressure on national service provision due to the massive numbers of persons forcibly displaced by conflicts may cause more external displacement and onward movements to countries in North Africa and to coastal States in West Africa. The impact of economic sanctions on these countries could also trigger more mixed movements both within and outside the ECOWAS region. In tandem, the reduction and/or withdrawal of foreign forces in Mali in the first quarter of 2022 could lead to increased insecurity and give rise to yet further waves of displacement. The increase in attacks by non-State armed groups in Burkina Faso, which also affected **Côte d'Ivoire**, **Benin**, and **Togo** in 2021 and early 2022, could also lead to further insecurity and displacement in these countries and to new refugee outflows.[35]

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Similarly, ongoing insecurity prevailing in parts of **Nigeria** and **Cameroon** is likely to trigger more outflows of refugees and movements of people in search of better economic opportunities. Elsewhere, an effective ceasefire and a return to political dialogue in **Ethiopia** could pave the way for the return of thousands of refugees and IDPs. However, additional forced displacement cannot be excluded if political dialogue is not restored.[36] A protracted conflict in Ethiopia cannot be excluded at this time. Economic challenges facing many East African countries coupled with increasing food insecurity due mainly to droughts and floods, but also to the global fallout from the conflict in Ukraine and the impact on world food prices may also lead to renewed and increased movements of migrants from these countries towards North Africa, Europe and the Gulf States. The situation in Ethiopia will determine the choices of Ethiopian refugees in Sudan. A protracted conflict in Ethiopia and continued unstable socio-political conditions in Sudan could push some of these refugees to consider dangerous journeys toward Egypt or Libya.

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The socioeconomic and political situation in **Sudan** will also affect the mobility and movements of its own citizens. Continued instability and insecurity are likely to create push factors and conditions provoking the departure of Sudanese citizens on irregular dangerous journeys as well forcing refugees into irregular onward movements. The end of the 13-year UN-AU peacekeeping mission (UNAMID) in Sudan's Darfur in 2021 took place in the context of elevated security concerns in this part of Sudan, where outbreaks of violence cost hundreds of lives[37] and caused new outflows of refugees to Chad.[38]

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Mixed movements in both directions between Libya and Sudan and to Chad and Egypt are likely to continue in 2022. Despite a reduction in the number of IDPs in **Libya,** political dialogue and relative peace in 2021 did

Malian Refugees, internally displaced and host community join forces on market garden project in the town of Ouallam in northern Niger. January 2022.

not lead to an improved situation for migrants and refugees. Libya will continue in 2022 to attract migrants (mainly from neighboring countries) in search of economic opportunities and refugees fleeing conflict and persecution. Irregular onward movement of both refugees and migrants to Europe will also continue. It remains to be seen whether waves of collective expulsions from the South of Libya to neighboring countries will persist. These expulsions did not appear to have had any effect in terms of reducing movements to Libya in 2021. This may be the same in 2022. Dialogue between Libya, Sudan, Chad, and Niger and the AU-EU-UN Tripartite Task Force has the potential to assist these countries in better managing their borders as per their 2018 agreement.[39] It can also help the development of safe and orderly migration pathways for migrant workers.[40] Such agreements, if implemented, could reduce pressures in transit countries from economic migration in the long-term. However, the absence of protection and solutions for refugees and migrants (except voluntary returns for migrants) from many Sub-Saharan countries[41] will continue to generate irregular sea departures across the Central Mediterranean Sea.

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41 UNHCR is only authorized to register asylum seekers from 9 nationalities in Libya: Eritreans, Ethiopians, Iraqis, Palestinians, Somalis, South Sudanese, Sudanese, Syrians, and Yemenis.

North African countries are likely to continue to experience an increase in the number of arrivals of asylum seekers, refugees, and migrants from Sub-Saharan countries coming both regularly, mainly by air, and irregularly by land. North African countries will remain a destination for some and a transit place for others to move onward to Europe by sea. However, challenges associated with post-COVID economic recovery and the disillusion among the youth of North African countries themselves about what they perceive as lack of economic progress and perspectives means that the vast majority of those embarking on sea journeys across the Mediterranean Sea or the Atlantic Ocean to reach Europe will continue to be nationals of Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria and Egypt. This pattern can only change with economic progress at home and the simultaneous development of largescale legal migration pathways between North African countries and the EU, as well as the effective and sustainable return of those not allowed to stay in Europe and more robust and coordinated efforts to combat trafficking and smuggling.

The future use of sea routes by migrants and refugees from all these countries will also depend on the situation in countries of origin; the prevailing conditions and degree of socio-economic inclusion for refugees and migrants in transit countries; the cost and affordability of the journey, and the political attitudes and policies on asylum, migration and protection at sea in the EU, notably the search, rescue and interception capacities of coastal States. In this context, prevailing weather conditions at sea on a given day will always play their role in the struggle to save lives.

Rainfall levels in 2022 and environmental changes in many countries under the Situation will determine the risks of further drought, water scarcity, lower agricultural production and food insecurity, all factors which could lead to increased internal and external displacement.[42] In 2021, Somalia already witnessed internal and external displacement caused by drought, while Ethiopia, Kenya, as well countries in the Sahel were similarly affected.[43] It should also be emphasized that among the 10 countries the most at risk of climate change globally, 7 are in this Situation (Chad, Eritrea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Niger, Sudan, and Somalia). In addition, several countries are already impacted by the effect of the war in Ukraine in terms of supply of some food commodities and energy prices.[44]

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Impacts of Ukraine conflict on food security already being felt in the Near East North Africa region and will quickly spread, warns IFAD. 17 March 2022.

OUTLOOK 2022-2023

It remains to be seen whether countries in **Europe** will agree on the Pact on Migration and Asylum proposed by the European Commission (EC) in September 2020. Of key importance to protection in mixed movements is whether coastal States in the Mediterranean will put in place efficient border/entry procedures and receive support from other EU Member States on: (i) relocations of refugees and other persons eligible for stay; and (ii) returns to countries of origin for persons found not to need international protection or with no other legal basis to remain. Progress on these issues could also influence the long-awaited comprehensive migration/asylum management systems needed in North African countries.

Providing migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers with accurate information about the dangers associated with irregular journeys on land or at sea in the hands of criminal networks of smugglers or traffickers in persons will not, in isolation, prevent irregular mixed movements from occurring. If awareness-raising campaigns are not accompanied by robust programmatic activities that address the key protection, assistance, and solutions needs at all stages of the displacement cycle, and at all key locations along the routes, then there will be no counter-narrative, strategy, or concrete action to combat the impetus for irregular mixed movements and the gross human rights violations associated with them.

This applies equally to the implementation of programmes under the Global Compact on Safe and Orderly Migration as it does for those of the Global Compact on Refugees, where the fight against trafficking in human beings and saving human life is concerned. Without State-led comprehensive inter-agency coordination of effective humanitarian and development responses, those persons considering or hesitating to take a decision to engage in irregular movements will have nothing to dissuade them or to guide them toward safer and sustainable legal alternatives in the communities where they are.

The age and gender composition of mixed movements along the routes is not expected to change, with fewer women (8-10%) than men and an average of 10-15% of children embarking on these dangerous journeys. Recent research also suggests that decision-making about embarking on dangerous journeys is influenced by more than just pull and push factors and that intentions and abilities to move onward are not the same thing.[45]

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A survey conducted by the Mixed Migration Centre of 920 refugees and migrants[46] in different parts of **Sudan** between July 2020 and September 2021 indicated that it was uncommon for respondents to have ever changed their intended destination. For 77% of total respondents, the destination was Europe. When asked whether respondents had changed

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The most common nationalities of respondents were:

Eritrean	23%
Ethiopian	18%
Chadian	16%
South Sudanese	9%
Somali	4%
Cameroonian	3%
Nigerian	3%

They had been in Sudan from 1 to 2 years.

OUTLOOK 2022-2023

© UNHCR / NICOLA E. BRUTTOMESSO

Thanks to the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa, a 20-year-old refugee girl from Mali, opened her business in Mbera camp, Mauritania. February 2021.

their plans over the course of their journeys, 50% said nothing had changed; 25% had maintained their intended destination but had changed their planned route; and 16% had decided to stop in Sudan for longer than anticipated (4%), or to decide to return home (2%). 74% intended to move onward.[47] More broadly, onward movement may be delayed, inter alia, due to the need to gather resources to fund the next leg of the journey. In such circumstances, refugees and migrants may be at heightened risk of abuse and exploitation. The majority of people (67%) who claimed to have reached their final destination in Sudan were South Sudanese nationals. This is explained by the family support networks they have in Sudan and the ease of cross-border family reunification movements since partition in 2013.

47 October 2021.

Another study in 2021 by the Mixed Migration Centre targeting 158 Ethiopian and Eritrean refugees displaced by the crisis in Tigray also suggested that a majority of respondents would leave **Sudan** because a lack of income/livelihood or lack of access to water, sanitation, health, safety, and education.[48] Many had not made final plans. However, most of those who had already moved to **Libya** and **Tunisia** indicated that they had not yet reached their intended destination (67% and 73%, respectively). In another survey conducted in **Tunisia**, MMC noted that 8% of young refugees and migrants from various African countries interviewed (81 out of 1,013) noted that Tunisia was their destination, while others stated they hoped to move onward.[49]

48 October 2021.

49 July 2021.

When assessing the impact of the pandemic in **Somaliland** on refugees and migrants, MMC reported that 64% of 1,373 respondents said that their intention was and remained to move onward, even if they were delayed.[50] *"The proportion of respondents with this view was much higher among Ethiopian respondents than among Yemeni respondents (69% versus 46% respectively)".*

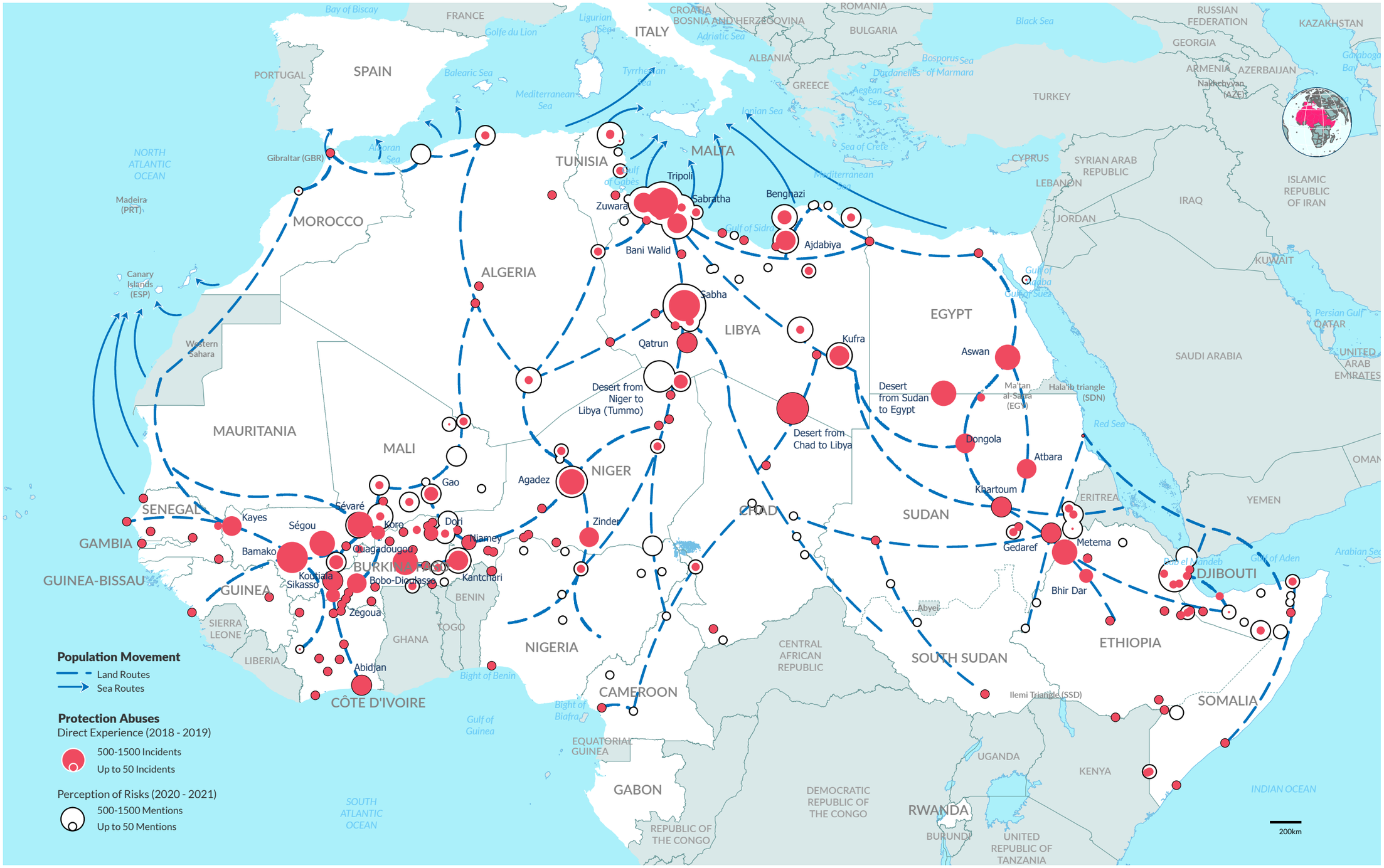
50 June 2021.

The different drivers of forced displacement and migration did not fundamentally change in 2021, but the socio-economic impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and the deterioration of security in some countries of origin have aggravated the push factors and the trends have increased. Mixed movements will continue and increase on the African continent in all directions in 2022, not just towards the North of the continent, but within and between all its regions. It is, however, estimated that only a small part of these will be towards Europe.[51]

51

OUTLOOK 2022-2023

MAP 2 • Routes within Africa towards North Africa and Europe, and reported abuses and perception of risks along the routes



The boundaries and names shown and the designations on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Sources: UNHCS, UNHCR **Filename:** OSE AoR A3L_geoservices

This map is based on 48,000 4Mi surveys by the Mixed Migration Centre with refugees and migrants in North Africa (Libya, Tunisia, and Sudan), West Africa (Niger, Mali, and Burkina Faso) and East Africa (Kenya, Somalia, Djibouti, and Ethiopia), collected between 2018-2021. Data from 2018-2020 focuses on experiences with specific protection violations such as sexual violence, kidnapping, physical violence and death, while data from 2021 focuses on the perception of risks to those same violations. Mapping and analysis completed by UNHCR.

4Mi survey data and dashboard:

© UNHCR / AHMED KWARTE

Registration of newly arrived refugees at Um Rakuba camp in Gedaref State, eastern Sudan. March 2021

Priorities in 2022 - 2023

This strategy updates the regional strategy released in October 2017[52] and its subsequent updates to January 2021.[53] Gaps in resources in some operations may continue in 2022, due to global economic challenges, while Official Development Assistance (ODA) budgets are likely to be constrained. This will oblige UNHCR to make difficult choices on prioritizing which interventions to implement that are essential for furthering refugee protection and access to solutions.[54]

Some of these funding gaps are in major refugee hosting countries, where implementing targeted protection and assistance programmes by UNHCR is fundamental to community-based development efforts to foster the socio-economic inclusion of refugees in host communities. This work can serve to significantly reduce irregular onward movements by land and sea and their associated protection risks by providing accessible alternatives to dangerous journeys. Considering achievements since 2017, funding trends, research by UNHCR,[55] partners and

53 UNHCR, *Routes towards the Mediterranean*, June 2019.

Routes towards the Western and Central Mediterranean Sea: Working on Alternatives to Dangerous Journeys for Refugees. January 2021.

52 UNHCR, *Central Mediterranean Route: Working on alternatives to dangerous journeys*, October 2017.

54 UNHCR, *Global Appeal 2022*.

55 UNHCR, *Mapping of Protection Services for Victims of Trafficking and Other Vulnerable People on the Move in the Sahel and East Africa*. June 2021.

UNHCR, MMC. *A Roadmap for Advocacy, Policy Development, and Programming: Protection in Mixed Movements along the Central and Western Mediterranean Routes 2021.* 2 June 2021. [56]

MMC, Mixed Migration Review 2021: *Reframing human mobility in a changing world.*

UNHCR, MMC. *On this journey, no one cares if you live or die.' Abuse, protection, and justice along routes between East and West Africa and Africa's Mediterranean coast.* [57]

academia,[56] or jointly,[57] feedback from refugee communities during consultations on needs and gaps, and mindful of operational realities and experiences, UNHCR has identified the following target activities for stepped-up advocacy and critical support:

1 Enhanced monitoring, outreach, identification, and referrals along key land routes. UNHCR will strengthen monitoring and community-based outreach jointly with (local) authorities, partners, local NGOs and Community-based organizations (including refugees, migrants and hosts). UNHCR will also work with authorities to strengthen access to people who may be in need of international protection. Priority will be given to collaboration outside capital cities, identifying and protecting people with international protection needs on the move, including victims of trafficking, violence and abuse, in intermediary cities and at dangerous borders and remote areas. This will ensure timely referrals for quality service delivery (such as food, shelter, health, psycho-social support, transportation, legal assistance and protection support) and improve the early identification of people with international and other protection needs, including victims or persons at risk of trafficking. A particular focus will be given to persons expelled across borders into remote areas of neighboring countries. It will also include referrals of migrants to IOM, UNICEF and local partners to access multi-sectoral services, protection, and solutions tailored to their specific needs and situations.

2 Enhanced study and analysis toward building a knowledge-base on irregular onward movements and particular risks deriving from dangerous journeys. Under the umbrella of the Ten Point Plan of Action on Refugee Protection and Mixed Movements, UNHCR will expand its research, data collection and analysis of onward movements of refugees and asylum seekers from countries of asylum, transit and destination along specific routes across the Central and Western Mediterranean Situation. This will involve a broad base of national and international partnerships in outreach and data collection using light and effective tools adapted to the different environments and conditions on the routes. It will also include targeted research projects on different aspects of the causes, risks and possible measures to address onward movement in the context of UNHCR's programmatic responses, which feed the Rabat and Khartoum Processes under the Joint Valetta Plan of Action (JVAP), and the strategic partnership between Europe and Africa. Finally, it will launch a pilot project on forecasting onward movements, through the development/use of specific flow-monitoring methods.

3 Enhanced monitoring, advocacy and support to save lives at sea and upon disembarkation. UNHCR will pursue advocacy at global, regional and country levels to ensure that States undertake more responsible and predictable search and rescue efforts at sea with a consistent good-faith implementation of international law obligations aimed at preventing loss of life at sea. Working with relevant UN partners, international organizations, and NGOs involved in search & rescue at sea and the shipping industry, UNHCR will monitor and help shape policy and concerted action on rescue at sea in all relevant fora, including the informal inter-agency group on Safety of Life at Sea. This effort strives to prevent dangerous delays in rescue of boats in distress, to provide disembarkation at a place of safety, and to ensure dignified and safe treatment of those disembarked, in line with international standards. UNHCR will also pursue the implementation of a Regional Disembarkation Mechanism jointly proposed with IOM in 2018[58] and the Final Recommendations of North African countries and the League of Arab States from the Regional Workshop: International Protection in Mixed Movements in the Central Mediterranean: Trends and Good Practices in Sharm el Sheikh on 14th - 15th June 2021.[59] UNHCR will join efforts with partners to gain access to people rescued or intercepted at sea to identify those in need of international protection and provide technical assistance to States of disembarkation to assist them in pursuing differentiated solutions tailored to the situation. It will also promote the establishment of a more stable dialogue between different actors involved in rescue at sea, including private actors and, more specifically, NGOs operating at sea and institutions representing the shipping industry, e.g., the SOS Méditerranée proposal of a Fund to support NGOs and others engaged in rescue.

UNHCR- IOM *Proposal for a regional cooperative arrangement ensuring predictable disembarkation and subsequent processing of persons rescued-at-sea.* [58]

Final recommendations on international protection in mixed movements in the Central Mediterranean. [59]

4 Targeted programmatic support with partners in selected areas which have a potential to reduce dangerous journeys, to protect the dignity, rights, and aspirations of refugees while improving their resilience and that of their host communities. Assistance will be provided in the context of UNHCR's engagements with States under the Global Compact for Refugees and its Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) to promote the inclusion of refugees and other persons of concern into local and national development plans and initiatives.

PRIORITIES IN 2022-2023

© UNHCR / SAMUEL OTIENO

Refugees queue in the clinic and nutrition centre in Um Rakuba refugee camp in eastern Sudan, as part of the registration process.

These focused areas of intervention include:

- **inclusive education services** and vocational training for refugee children and youth;
- **identification and support** to foster care families for unaccompanied, separated and other at-risk children;
- **provision of cash-based assistance** to vulnerable refugees and other persons of concern based on risks and needs in urban settings, and support to livelihood activities in camp and urban environments in countries with high rates of dangerous secondary movements;
- **implementing and/or strengthening individual case processing of asylum claims** by state authorities in line with the GRF and/or by UNHCR in remote locations to reduce existing backlogs, enhance access to protection services and help remove push factors for secondary movements;
- **strengthening identification,** pre-registration, registration, documentation, best interests procedure, refugee status determination (RSD) and resettlement interviews and processing, as well as protection interviews, services and referrals for victims of trafficking.

Some asylum seekers in the more remote locations have to wait for extended periods of time without assistance, registration and documentation in order to access protection services or other support. Extending such protection services more quickly in these remote locations will help asylum seekers to improve their protection and socio-economic situation where they are, and encourage them to not move onwards. In addition, comprehensive individual registration will allow better analysis and provide greater clarity on patterns and reasons for secondary movements. Lack of funding for such activities could result in larger backlogs and more incentives for people to move onward.

5 Targeted solutions support to promote resettlement and the development of complementary pathways, including family reunification in the twenty-five countries of the Situation in a way that is age, gender, diversity inclusive and which prevents the creation of pull factors.

- **In the case of Libya,** UNHCR will use the evacuation mechanisms to the Emergency Transit Mechanisms (ETM) in Niger and Rwanda to complement direct resettlement from the country. UNHCR will continue to engage with States to explore expanding the geographical scope of the ETMs to countries other than Libya, and to see whether further ETMs can be established.
- **UNHCR will seek to facilitate readmission** in countries of first asylum when it is feasible and the most protective solution for asylum seekers and refugees at risk of expulsion/deportation, and possibly refoulement.
- **More broadly, UNHCR will support the active facilitation of family reunification** with three NGOs (IRAP, RefugePoint, and Miles4Migrants)[60] in Chad, Egypt, Ethiopia, Libya, and Sudan in line with UNHCR's Three Year strategy on Resettlement and Complementary Pathways and the Global Compact on Refugees.[61] Through further advocacy with States, UNHCR aim to address barriers to family reunification, which disproportionally impact refugees and asylum-seekers, and support increased access to family reunification procedures.

60 International Refugee Assistance Prpject (IRAP)

RefugePoint

Miles4Migrants

61 UNHCR, *2019-2021 Three-Year Strategy on Resettlement and Complementary Pathways.*

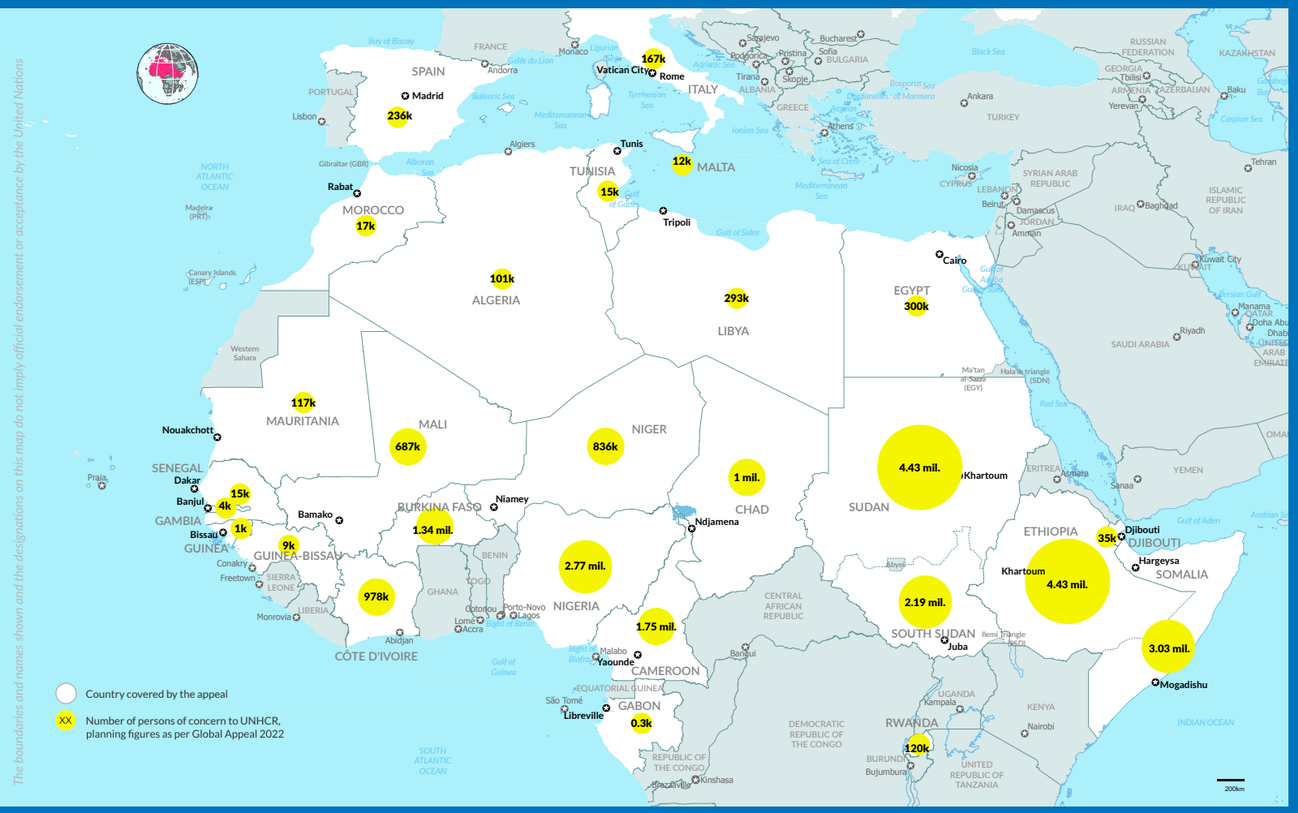
6 Expand people-to-people and digital Communication with Communities along all the routes. Continue to invest in and strengthen UNHCR's Accountability to Affected People (AAP) through enhancing Communication with Communities (CwC) methodologies and systems, including the "Telling the Real Story" (TRS) project.[62] Partnerships with other organizations will be explored to expand the communication outreach not only on dangers associated with irregular movements, but on alternatives to these journeys and available services along the routes.

62

7 Building broad partnerships to prevent refugees, asylum seekers, other persons of concern, including stateless and those at risk of statelessness, and migrants from falling victim to trafficking, and to identify, help rescue, and protect those who have. Cooperation between UNHCR IOM, UNODC and other partners will work to mobilize States, international and intergovernmental organizations to strengthen the identification of victims or those at risk of trafficking and aggravated smuggling, and their referral to appropriate services (as mapped by UNHCR) and procedures. This includes capacity building and training support on the systematic assessment of possible international protection needs, the immediate protection of victims of trafficking and aggravated smuggling, and measures to support access to justice, including advocating for perpetrators to be held accountable. Identification will be accomplished through a variety of proactive outreach activities, media monitoring, and feedback from CwC networks such as UNHCR's Telling the Real Story, on the risks of trafficking in persons and aggravated smuggling. This effort will also benefit from the participation of a network of human rights activists and journalists. In parallel, UNHCR will work with States and protection partners on the ground to enhance monitoring the indicators of abuse among persons of concern, on building trust and on providing safe spaces where victims can disclose their experiences and receive necessary care and support.

Budget Requirements

MAP 3 • **Countries covered by the appeal and number of persons of concern to UNHCR planning figures 2022**



Sources: UNCS, UNHCR **Filename:** OSE AoR A3L_PoC_Appeal_geoservices

24.6 million POCs

4.6 M	refugees/asylum seekers
16.8 M	internally displaced persons
1.7 M	returnees (refugee/IDP)
1.2 M	stateless/at risk of statelessness

TABLE 1 • **OVERALL FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS BY REGION** | USD

Total requirements for 2022 **USD $163.5 million**

REGION/OFFICE	BUDGET REQUIRED
Office of the Special Envoy	2,154,950
North Africa	68,000,000
West and Central Africa	68,952,634
East and Horn of Africa, Great Lakes	24,297,767
TOTAL REQUIREMENTS	**163,405,351**

TABLE 2 • **FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE OFFICE OF SPECIAL ENVOY** | USD

IMPACT AREA	OUTCOME AREA	BUDGET REQUIRED
		2,154,950
Protect	Protection Policy and Law	1,750,000
	Justice	108,000
Solve	Resettle	100,000
	Integrate	196,950

BUDGET REQUIREMENTS

TABLE 3 • FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR NORTH AFRICA REGION | USD

Total requirements for 2022: **USD $68 million**

COUNTRY	BUDGET REQUIRED
Algeria	1,800,000
Egypt	21,000,000
Libya	33,000,000
Mauritania	1,800,000
Morocco	3,800,000
Tunisia	6,600,000
TOTAL	68,000,000

IMPACT AREA	OUTCOME AREA	BUDGET REQUIRED
ALGERIA		730,000
Protect	Access to Territory, Reg. and Documentation	300,000
	Gender-Based Violence	400,000
Assist	Resettlement & Complementary Pathways	200,000
	Well-Being and Basic Needs	500,000
Empower	Protection Policy and Law	200,000
Solve	Community Engagement and Women's Empowerment	200,000
EGYPT		21,000,000
Protect	Status Determination	749,978
	Access to Territory, Reg. and Documentation	1,673,987
	Child Protection	2,052,883
Assist	Well-Being and Basic Needs	11,738,119
Empower	Education	3,994,357
	Self-Reliance, Economic Inclusion & Livelihood	606,526
Solve	Resettlement & Complementary Pathways	184,150
LIBYA		33,000,000
Protect	Gender-Based Violence	2,251,291
	Status Determination	1,242,833
	Access to Territory, Reg. and Documentation	1,145,444
	Child Protection	3,028,297
Assist	Well-Being and Basic Needs	3,746,298
	Well-Being and Basic Needs	7,925,906
	Health Lives	5,044,817
	Safety & Access to Justice	2,731,830
	Sustainable Housing & Settlements	1,392,732
	Protection Policy and Law	1,311,574
Empower	Education	638,213
	Community Engagement and Women's Empowerment	1,100,810
Solve	Resettlement & Complementary Pathways	1,439,955
MAURITANIA		1,800,000
Protect	Access to Territory, Reg. and Documentation	300,000
	Protection Policy and Law	180,000
Empower	Self-Reliance, Economic Inclusion & Livelihood	250,000
	Education	350,000
Solve	Resettlement & Complementary Pathways	65,000
	Voluntary Repatriation & Sustainable Reintegration	205,000
	Local Integration & Other Local Solutions	450,000
MOROCCO		3,800,000
Protect	Access to Territory, Reg. and Documentation	444,000
	Status Determination	100,000
Empower	Gender-Based Violence	600,000
	Well-Being and Basic Needs	2,000,000
	Education	656,000
TUNISIA		6,600,000
Protect	Access to Territory, Reg. and Documentation	1,053,610
	Status Determination	917,665
	Well-Being and Basic Needs	2,650,755
	Resettlement & Complementary Pathways	633,333
	Protection Policy and Law	760,077
	Safety & Access to Justice	584,560

TABLE 4 • FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA REGION | USD

Total requirements for 2022

USD $69 million

COUNTRY	BUDGET REQUIRED
Burkina Faso	11,000,000
Cameroon (MCO) [Multi Country Office]	4,707,600
Chad	12,189,697
Côte d'Ivoire	1,054,751
Mali	6,600,000
Niger	26,100,000
Nigeria	4,911,968
Senegal	1,938,618
RB WCA	450,000
TOTAL	**68,952,634**

IMPACT AREA	OUTCOME AREA	BUDGET REQUIRED
BURKINA FASO		11,000,000
Protect	Status Determination	4,249,961
Assist	Self-Reliance, Economic Inclusion & Livelihood	6,750,039
CAMEROON (MCO)		4,707,600
Protect	Access to Territory, Reg. and Documentation	300,000
	Operational Coordination, Partnerships and Management	300,000
	Protection Policy and Law	100,000
Assist	Child Protection	160,000
Empower	Community Engagement and Women' Empowerment	320,000
	Education	1,000,000
Solve	Self-Reliance, Economic Inclusion & Livelihood	2,527,600
CHAD		12,189,697
Protect	Community Engagement and Women' Empowerment	300,000
	Protection Policy and Law	563,036
	Child Protection	3,000,000
	Access to Territory, Reg. and Documentation	1,728,895
Empower	Education	3,937,618
	Self-Reliance, Economic Inclusion & Livelihood	2,500,000
Solve	Resettlement & Complementary Pathways	160,148
CÔTE D'IVOIRE		1,054,751
Protect	Protection Policy and Law	1,054,751
MALI		6,600,000
Protect	Access to Territory, Reg. and Documentation	1,500,000
	Status Determination	400,000
	Child Protection	600,000
	Gender-Based Violence	500,000
	Operational Coordination, Partnerships and Management	209,049
Assist	Education	900,000
	Health Lives	500,000
Empower	Well-Being and Basic Needs	750,000
	Self-Reliance, Economic Inclusion & Livelihood	940,951
	Community Engagement and Women's Empowerment	300,000
NIGER		26,100,000
Protect	Access to Territory, Reg. and Documentation	2,703,127
	Status Determination	667,080
	Gender-Based Violence	443,697
	Child Protection	839,841
	Safety & Access to Justice	467,587
	Organisational Fundraising, Media and Communication	270,692
	Organisational Oversight, Administation and Support	35,388
Assist	Well-Being and Basic Needs	5,203,813
	Sustainable Housing & Settlements	5,698,587
	Health Lives	2,327,689
	Education	60,074
	Clean Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	1,918,606
	Operational Logistics and Supply	1,847,895
Empower	Self-Reliance, Economic Inclusion & Livelihood	77,661
	Community Engagement and Women's Empowerment	3,014,916
Solve	Voluntary Repatriation & Sustainable Reintegration	41,122
	Resettlement & Complementary Pathways	482,225
NIGERIA		4,911,968
Protect	Community Engagement and Women's Empowerment	1,350,000
	Safety & Access to Justice	2,710,000
Solve	Gender-Based Violence	851,968
SENEGAL		1,938,618
Protect	Protection Policy and Law	1,938,618
RB WCA		450,000
HQ/RB Support	Safety and Access to Justice	150,000
	Resettlement and Complementary Pathways	300,000

TABLE 5 • **FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR EAST, HORN OF AFRICA, AND GREAT LAKES* REGION** | USD

*Budget requirements for Ethiopia are covered under the Special appeal for this situation

and for Djibouti and South Sudan are reflected in the Global Appeal

Total requirements for 2022

USD $24.29 million

COUNTRY	BUDGET REQUIRED
Rwanda	12,150,047
Somalia	2,800,000
Sudan	9,347,720
TOTAL	**24,297,767**

BUDGET REQUIREMENTS

IMPACT AREA	OUTCOME AREA	BUDGET REQUIRED
RWANDA		**12,150,047**
Protect	Access to Territory, Reg. and Documentation	360,707
	Gender-Based Violence	390,707
	Child Protection	236,707
	Protection Policy and Law	305,482
Assist	Operational Logistics and Supply	941,270
	Health Lives	2,807,252
	Well-Being and Basic Needs	4,211,685
	Sustainable Housing & Settlements	743,156
Empower	Education	793,240
	Community Engagement and Women' Empowerment	1,359,841
SOMALIA		**2,800,000**
Protect	Gender-Based Violence	120,000
	Access to Territory, Reg. and Documentation	342,900
Assist	Education	589,495
	Well-Being and Basic Needs	747,605
Empower	Self-Reliance, Economic Inclusion & Livelihood	1,000,000
SUDAN		**9,347,720**
Protect	Safety & access to justice	9,347,720

A refugee from Sudan, gets vaccinated against Covid-19 in Alexandria, Egypt, in November 2021.

Selected Achievements in 2021

The creation of alternatives to dangerous journeys for refugees and other persons of concern follows a cross-regional approach with partners to develop activities in key countries of origin, countries of transit, and countries of destination as a means of strengthening responses along the whole route.

Progress in the implementation of the strategic objectives was identified in the following areas:

- **Improved coordination, monitoring, information sharing and advocacy in UNHCR's response**

The Office of the Special Envoy for the Central and Western Mediterranean (OSE) facilitated and supported UNHCR's cross-regional coordination, dialogue with States in particular through the Rabat and Khartoum processes, as well as engagement with the AU-EU-UN Tripartite Task Force on Libya. OSE, Regional Bureaus, including Liaison Offices in Brussels and Addis Ababa, also collaborated with a wide range of actors on advocacy on key protection and solutions challenges for refugees and other persons of concern in mixed movements along the routes, for responses to the new waves of forced displacement in the Sahel regions and in East Africa, and to better understand and address the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on persons of concern to UNHCR.

In June 2021, OSE and the Mixed Migration Centre (MMC) published the "*Roadmap for Advocacy, Policy Development, and Programming: Protection in Mixed Movements along*

SELECTED ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2021

the Central and Western Mediterranean Routes 2021"[63] in a renewed call for action. The Roadmap provides tailored recommendations to improve the protection of refugees and migrants in mixed movements on the Central and Western Mediterranean routes to serve as a resource for strategic engagement with different asylum and migration stakeholders at local, national, and international levels. More than 40 participants, including persons of concern, researchers and academics, protection actors, policymakers, and journalists from North, West, East, and the Horn of Africa as well as Europe and North America contributed to the production of 25 research papers informing policy, programming and advocacy as well as to discussions and debates which took place over a three-day policy workshop convened by UNHCR and MMC from 15 to 17 February 2021 to produce and validate the Roadmap.[64]

63 See also

64 UNHCR, MMC. *A Roadmap for Advocacy, Policy Development, and Programming: Protection in Mixed Movements along the Central and Western Mediterranean Routes 2021.* 2 June 2021.

At the same time, UNHCR sought to increase broad-based cooperation to help save lives in the Mediterranean Sea and along the Western African Atlantic coastal waters leading to the Canary Islands. UNHCR's dialogue continued with all relevant Mediterranean and West African coastal States linked to the Situation in response to growing challenges related to coordination and rescue at sea, disembarkation in a place of safety and international solidarity. Information and analysis on trends of sea departures, protection incidents at sea or upon disembarkation, arrivals, interception and/or rescue and disembarkation arrangements was shared widely with State authorities and NGOs involved with search and rescue at sea (SAR) on a regular basis. UNHCR continued to advocate in numerous intergovernmental fora, in the media, and with civil society and private sector advocates for increased and more predictable search and rescue capacity, in particular in the Central Mediterranean Sea. It also continued to advocate at State and the sub-regional levels for the development and implementation of a predictable regional disembarkation scheme, as per the UNHCR-IOM joint proposal for a regional cooperative arrangement ensuring predictable disembarkation and subsequent processing of persons rescued at sea.[65]

65 UNHCR-IOM *Proposal for a regional cooperative arrangement ensuring predictable disembarkation and subsequent processing of persons rescued-at-sea.*

Consultations were also held (and continue) with other stakeholders, including the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the International Chamber of Shipping (ICS) and several other international organizations who formed an Inter-Agency Group on the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), which met for the first time on 16 April 2021. The Group is an active forum to share information on the SAR and its related challenges and invites States and other relevant SAR actors through joint advocacy demarches to take positive steps to help save the lives of refugees and migrants at sea.

West Africa UNHCR continued to facilitate the Bamako and Abuja Protection Dialogues and the implementation of the associated Plans of Action. Moreover, UNHCR and DRC expanded the new

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Madam Aicha has her own workshop, in Burkina Faso, where she designs and sells painted wooden boxes. She is a member of Ouagadougou-MADE51 refugees craftspeople.

Protection Monitoring System, Project 21, in 2021 to more than 100 additional villages across Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger as well initiating rollout in Cameroon, Chad and Nigeria. The system collects protection data which allows regional analysis, and enables common advocacy, communication and informed programming by UNHCR and its partners to optimize coordination of protection and solutions responses. Considering the diversity of individual profiles of persons within mixed flows, programming in such contexts requires a multi-stakeholder and inclusive approach, notably involving and being informed by the perspectives of persons of concern. In Burkina Faso, the first of the four quarterly meetings of the Asylum and Migration Working Group was held in March 2021, which set up a 4W matrix on planned activities, established a clear schedule of capacity building for authorities and community-based organizations, and adopted a joint work plan. In addition, an instant social media messaging group was established between key stakeholders to ensure real-time information-sharing on mixed movements. In Gabon, UNHCR joined forces with the Directorate General for Documentation and Immigration (Direction Générale de la Documentation et de immigration, DGDI), UNICEF, UNODC and IOM to implement an 18-month joint programme under the UN Trust Fund for Human Security entitled "A Joint Human Security Approach to Strengthen Prevention, Protection and Empowerment in Mixed Migration to Gabon." In Guinea, UNHCR was a constant contributor to the Working Group on Mixed Movements, while in Senegal, UNHCR strengthened its partnership with the national Border Force focusing on capacity-building with authorities on international protection and data-sharing on mixed

SELECTED ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2021

movements of refugees and migrants. As part of the Comprehensive Solutions Strategy for Ivorian refugees, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Togo, and UNHCR came together in September 2021 to recommend the cessation of refugee status for Ivorians and facilitate their voluntary repatriation, reintegration, or acquisition of permanent residency or naturalization for those wishing to remain in host countries. In 2021, more than 22,000 Ivorians voluntarily repatriated to Côte d'Ivoire, including some 7,000 in December alone.

North Africa UNHCR partnered with the General Secretariat of the Arab Interior Ministers' Council to organize the first workshop on "International Protection in Mixed Movements in the Central Mediterranean: Trends and Good Practices" for all coastal states in North Africa (including Mauritania).[66] The meeting, which also included presentations by IOM and UNODC, led to the adoption of a set of recommendations which can inform cooperative arrangements at the national level and regional levels on asylum and protection in mixed movements. Significant progress was achieved in having more predictable access to the persons rescued at sea/intercepted by the Mauritanian authorities. UNHCR also provided training programmes in the MENA region for staff and partners to strengthen responses to rescue at sea as well as incidents of smuggling and trafficking. In Algeria, UNHCR resumed its periodic training sessions on International Refugee Law to Algerian national authorities, including 60 magistrates, 20 senior officials of the national gendarmerie, 150 chiefs of brigade from the Algerian Army as well as 20 senior police officials from 49 municipalities.

East/Horn of Africa The first meeting of the UN Network on Migration took place in Sudan on 2 February 2022 with UNHCR participation and focused on finalizing Terms of Reference (TORs) and a plan of work for the year. The Network will work closely with "The High Council for Migration" which currently has three Working Groups on: Migration, Counter-Trafficking and Mixed Migration, and Labor Migration. UNHCR is currently co-chairing the three Counter-Trafficking and Mixed Migration Working Groups (Khartoum, Kassala, and Gedaref) with IOM. Successful engagement in 2021 saw the drafting and launch of the Sudan National Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking as well as the first steps toward its implementation. UNHCR cooperated closely with IOM UNFPA, DRC, UNICEF and national NGOs to coordinate and provide protection, medical aid and psychosocial counseling as well as food and hygiene assistance to refugees and migrants expelled from Libya. Discussions also progressed with UNODC and IOM on supporting the Government of Sudan to establish a database of third-country nationals in detention.

On 7-8 February 2022, the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons (ICAT) conducted a regional consultation in Eastern Africa, which gathered over 50 participants among UN entities operating in the region and local civil society organizations. It was organized by ICAT in close cooperation with three of its members, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the Office of the UN Special Rapporteur on Trafficking in Persons (UNSR). The consultation set up a platform for: two-way communication channels between ICAT entities at global and field levels, including civil society organizations; exchange of information on challenges, good practices and priority areas of intervention in the region; raising awareness of the mandate of the UN Special Rapporteur on Trafficking in Persons and her engagement in the African region; and enhancing the use of ICAT's resources and tools.

In Somalia, a total of 143,815 individuals were forcefully evicted in, a majority (89%) carried out by private landlords for owner-driven development, while 11% were carried out by the state for government-led development. New houses, buildings, roads, or shops have been constructed on 58% of the IDP sites. Despite this high number of evictions, some 77,608 individuals were protected from forced evictions through preventive engagement by the Protection Cluster [and its HLP AoR], which resulted in fewer evictions in 2021 compared to 2020.[67]

67 There were a record of 171,266 forced evictions in 2021. The Banadir region of Mogadishu remains a hotspot for evictions in Somalia, with Daynile and Kaxda are also high-risk locations.

- **Improved identification and assistance to persons in need of international protection along the routes**

The expansion of UNHCR's outreach, including the provision of services, directly or through partners, to persons moving along the routes led to an increase in the number of people identified in need of international protection. For example, in Burkina Faso, Chad, Egypt, Libya, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger, Sudan, and Tunisia UNHCR worked with partners, community-based organizations and volunteer networks outside the capital cities to identify and assist refugees and other persons of concern in mixed movements. In Libya, UNHCR managed to reach a number of persons of concern in the East and South of the country through collaboration with local partners.

In countries of **West and Central Africa**, UNHCR and partners, monitored mixed movements along key routes, relying on networks of local monitors. In one partnership with the International Committee for Emergency Aid and Development (*Comité international pour l'aide d'urgence et le développement, CIAUD*) some 6,362 persons on the move along key routes across five regions in Burkina Faso (*Cascades, Centre, Est, Haut Bassins and Sahel*) were identified and profiled between June and December 2021. 20% of these individuals were identified as unaccompanied children, 15% as asylum seekers mainly from Mali (80%) and Niger (16%), and 9% referred to themselves as internally

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displaced persons (IDPs) in cross-border movements. A total of 1,483 individuals were referred to appropriate protection services. In Chad, 14,108 people on the move were identified and interviewed along key routes toward Libya and Niger under a partnership with the National Red Cross Society. Of this number, 1,496 persons were found to have moved for reasons linked to international protection (10,6%), 538 were refugees (3,8%), while 958 were asylum seekers (6,8%). In Mali, between February and July 2021, 5,791 persons on the move were identified and profiled in the regions of Gao, Mopti, and Timbuktu under a partnership with CIAUD. A further 1,335 asylum seekers and 327 refugees on the move were identified in border areas in Niamey between February and July 2021. Monitors received accounts of violence en route, perpetrated by both non-State armed groups and by border authorities.

UNHCR joined forces with key partners to strengthen community-based identification and referral mechanisms along key routes across the region. In Burkina Faso, members of the National Association of Road Carriers and of the National Umbrella Organisation for Road Carriers were trained by UNHCR on international protection in the context of mixed movements and on the implementation of the national referral mechanism. In addition, standard operating procedures (SOPs) between the National Commission for Refugees (*Commission nationale pour les réfugiés, CONAREF*), the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) and UNHCR were adopted to facilitate the referral of asylum seekers and migrants between the three entities. In Cameroon, as part of a partnership with GIZ, UNHCR delivered three cross-border trainings on international protection in the context of mixed movements to over 100 border officials and civil society members in border areas between the Central African Republic, Chad and Gabon. Similarly, in The Gambia, UNHCR delivered training on international protection to security forces deployed in border areas. In Nigeria, SOPs between UNHCR, the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP) and the National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and IDPs were established to enhance referrals and training sessions on international protection in the context of mixed movements were also delivered to members of the security forces in Ijebu-Ode and Lagos. In Senegal, UNHCR coordinated with a number of key non-governmental organizations, including Association Tres'Or, Caritas, Centre Africain pour la Prévention et la Résolution des Conflits, Green Village Foundation and Marie Stops International, to increase the numbers and improve the effectiveness of the referral process. In addition, UNHCR organized a two-day training session on asylum and mixed movements for selected agents of the Senegalese Border Force.

In Sudan, UNHCR worked closely with UN agencies, INGOs/ NGOs and the Technical Committee on Migration and Human Trafficking issues at State Level to identify, protect and assist victims of trafficking. In Northern State, from where most onward movements to Libya and Egypt take place, and to where persons expelled from Libya arrive, UNHCR capacitated its legal aid partner Mutawinat, as well as the judiciary, border authorities through tailored training on international protection, the prevention of refoulement, and alternatives to detention and voluntary repatriation. Free legal aid was provided to asylum seekers and refugees who were expelled from Libya or intercepted in irregular movements in various locations within the State. The office also supported the Northern State Technical Committee with office materials and equipment to allow it to strengthen its presence in different cities which receive persons of concern/migrants. In Khartoum, UNHCR facilitated the registration of victims of trafficking transferred to Khartoum for further processing and provided them with medical assistance and psychosocial counseling and coordinated with refugee communities to host/find a safe space for those in need.

North Africa UNHCR continued to strengthen outreach and identification of people in need of international protection, including as part of the development of a Community Protection Network, in the region. With its partner, the University of Washington in St Louis, UNHCR arranged regional training on the identification of specific needs for operations and partner organizations.

In Mauritania, UNHCR strengthened collaboration with authorities and improved referral mechanisms with key actors engaged in protection in mixed movements (central and local authorities, IOM, Red Cross and communities). UNHCR also continued to have access to disembarkation sites and administrative detention centers to conduct screenings, identify persons in need of international protection and prevent their refoulement. In 2021, UNHCR conducted 47 screenings in Nouakchott and Nouadhibou and secured the release, registration, and documentation of 90 persons of concern.

In Algeria, operational cooperation between UNHCR, UNODC and IOM continued. The IOM-UNHCR cross-referral Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) were updated to strengthen protection mechanisms, including for victims of trafficking. UNHCR and UNODC held a joint training on the link between asylum and trafficking for labor inspectors and facilitated a session on the identification and referral of trafficked persons in need of international protection. The workshop was attended by members of the National Anti-Trafficking Committee, police and gendarmerie officials, and labor inspectors.

In Tunisia, operational cooperation between UNHCR and IOM was strengthened. Both agencies continued to co-lead the coordination and management of individuals arriving as part of mixed movements, notably at disembarkation of persons rescued or intercepted at sea. In June 2021, both agencies signed a Memorandum of Understanding, formalizing and strengthening existing collaboration in multiple areas, ranging from identification, reception and referral of new arrivals to coordination of assistance upon disembarkation and durable solutions, while ensuring complementarity.

Coordination on the ground continued to be based on existing SOPs for the Treatment of Persons Rescued at Sea that are applied at local level. In southern Tunisia, where most arrivals were registered, UNHCR and IOM continued co-leading the local Mixed Migration Working Group to coordinate operational aspects of the response.

In Somalia, UNHCR continued to engage with both national and sub-national level Mixed Migration Task Forces to strengthen cooperation among actors on protection in mixed movements in the country and support the development of the National Migration (and asylum) Policy. UNHCR Sub Office Hargeisa collaborated with its partner, Legal Clinic, to provide capacity building for the administrative authorities and border guards in Somaliland to increase knowledge of international protection in mixed movements and promote good practice on access to territory, reception and respect for the principle of *non-refoulement*. In addition, Legal Clinic conducted 13 border monitoring missions in 2021, three of which were jointly with UNHCR, the National Displacement Refugee Agency (NDRA) and Immigration Authorities, to identify protection risks and trends in mixed movements and to enhance capacities for timely and effective responses.

- **New initiatives to strengthen protection for children and youth at risk**

West Africa The Live, Learn and Participate project (LLP WCA) was launched in West Africa in 2021, covering Chad, Côte d'Ivoire and Mali. This project, an extension to the WCA region of the pre-existing LLP covering Ethiopia, Sudan, Egypt and Libya, has acted as a catalyst for interagency synergies in the WCA region and allowed UNHCR and key partners to highlight and engage with key issues facing children and youth as well as host communities. It has further enabled UNHCR to work and coordinate with States' governments and UNICEF representations in the region and other key protection partners to scale up and embed prevention and response programmes for children and youth, among those for other vulnerable groups. Specific focus was placed on: improving case management services for children; scaling up and systematizing training for community-based child protection actors, including para-professionals, and professionals in State's social services institutions, to promote and solidify inter-sectoral partnerships and provide specialized training.

In Chad, UNHCR successfully reached 600 children through an organized awareness-raising campaign on "*Return to School*" ahead of the start of the new academic year. In 'Djamena and Gore, education scholarships were offered to 50 refugee children and another 150 of the most vulnerable refugee children were provided with new school uniforms. Over the course of the year,

A DAFI refugee student from Central Africa Republic with visual impairment pursues a double degree in Education Sciences at Emi Koussi University and Sociology at HEC in N'Djamena, Tchad.

UNHCR continued its efforts to reinforce community knowledge on children's rights, with particular regard to education and health. Over 1,200 children and adults benefitted from these sessions. In Mali, UNHCR supported 26 children's clubs (9 community-based and 16 in schools) reaching 260 participants. Some 60 recreational activities, including sports, games and arts, were organized in refugee settlements and schools in addition to an awareness-raising campaign on the importance of education and a secure educational environment.

East/Horn of Africa In 2021, UNICEF supported the establishment of the Children on the Move Task Force in Sudan led by the National Council for Child Welfare. UNHCR participated in the Task Force meetings and activities throughout the year, which sought to ensure the proper follow-up, monitoring, timely intervention and referral of children on the move in Sudan to appropriate protection and assistance services. UNHCR also coordinated with the Task Force established by the Counter-Trafficking and Mixed Migration Working Group in Khartoum (UNHCR, IOM, UNICEF, UNFPA, and DRC) whenever an unaccompanied child or other children at risk were identified in detention facilities in Khartoum to provide protection and assistance.

Telling the Real Story (TRS) launched a '*Sports for Protection*' initiative in Khartoum which brought Eritrean, Ethiopian and Sudanese male and female youth together to play football and volleyball. The female refugee teams were the first of their kind in Khartoum and created an important avenue for support to gender equality and awareness. This sports project plays an important role in boosting

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UNHCR / ERIC DIDIER KARINGANIRE

Fatima drawing fashion designs as she hopes to become one of the best fashion designers in the future.

the mental well-being of refugees and promotes social cohesion while meaningfully engaging with refugees and host communities in a safe and fun environment.

In Ethiopia, with the rollout of the LLP,[68] comprehensive child protection programming supported the provision of psychosocial support, child-and-youth-friendly spaces, Best Interests Procedures (BIP) and strengthened community-based child protection mechanisms in all refugee-hosting locations, except in host community settlements, where refugee children are accommodated. In the latter locations, protection services for refugees are provided by the Ethiopian government. UNHCR and UNICEF are supporting the government to strengthen child protection procedures in the national child protection system. Accordingly, 63% of registered unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) and other at-risk children benefitted from BIP, while 89% of UASC benefitted from appropriate interim or long-term alternative care arrangements. In Addis Ababa, 513 UASC received monthly cash assistance aimed at supporting family-based care and mitigating protection risks to children.

North Africa In **Egypt,** UNHCR continued to work closely with UNICEF, IOM and the national child protection institution, the National Council for Childhood and Motherhood (NCCM), on the implementation of the 'Children on the Move' standard operating procedures. These procedures embrace refugee and asylum seeker children, to foster their

68 The cross-regional child protection initiative covering Egypt, Ethiopia, Libya and Sudan (2020-2022).

"quality inclusion" in the national child protection system. In 2021, UNHCR took important steps to strengthen bilateral cooperation with NCCM, including the delivery of two training workshops on international protection and alternatives to detention. UNHCR and child protection partners in Cairo also identified gaps in case management capacity and successfully raised additional resources to increase capacity by year-end. Given the majority of UASC in Egypt are aged between 15 to 17 years, livelihood programming was incorporated into child protection case management for UASC approaching 18 years to help ease their transition into and access to livelihoods. In 2021, 128 aged-out youths (101 males and 27 females) received career guidance and 62 (10 females and 52 males) received life skills training. UNHCR strengthened youth empowerment activities, through projects aimed at improving digital skills and preparing for job opportunities. Within the five computer learning centres established in partnership with TDH, under a project funded by the Netherlands, 487 youth learners from 8 nationalities, including host communities, completed a total of 956 online courses in 2021. In addition, 45 youth leaders implemented 6 community initiatives and promoted youth resilience through engagement in sports.

In **Libya,** a total of 60 caregivers were identified in the course of 2021 and 91 UASC were supported with appropriate interim or long-term alternative care under the key objective of the LLP to expand and strengthen family-based care and foster programmes for children. The Best Interests Procedure also remained a key priority as did the identification and response to at-risk children's specific needs and vulnerabilities, 732 children benefitted from a Best Interests Assessment in the initiation phase of the case management process. Regarding durable solutions, 47% of the 880 refugees resettled from Libya in 2021 were children (either directly to a third country or via one of the Emergency Transit Mechanisms in Niger and Rwanda), of whom 60 were UASC.

In **Algeria,** UNHCR's response to children at risk was further strengthened in 2021. 117 UASC, mainly adolescents, were newly registered with UNHCR. UNHCR supported temporary informal foster care arrangements for 48 unaccompanied children with the help of the refugee community and partners. Seven refugee caregivers were identified and received the assistance of a social worker and regular UNHCR visits to assess the situation and consult with children and their caregivers on the care plan. In 2021, UNHCR worked towards more child-friendly Registration and RSD procedures with the support of a network of community volunteers. Rejected asylum claims of UASC were referred to IOM to receive information on AVRR and other available services for children. BID panels were held with UNICEF and UNHCR partners, resulting in resettlement recommendations for a total of 10 unaccompanied refugee children.

- **Increased efforts to address abuses of refugees and migrants**

As part of its efforts to advocate for better responses to address abuses against refugees and migrants along the routes, UNHCR and MMC issued a joint report in July 2020 highlighting the multiple locations in countries along the routes where most abuses are being reported. This gave details of abuses suffered by refugees and migrants before reaching Libya, the different categories of perpetrators along each section of the routes, and developments with regard to providing protection responses, and increasing accountability for perpetrators. The report included several important recommendations, including to urgently map services available for victims of abuses, notably of trafficking, in key locations along the routes. This mapping which identified existing services by location and category was undertaken in 2021 in 7 countries: Burkina Faso, Chad, Djibouti, Mali, Niger, Somalia and Sudan was subsequently disseminated in those countries.[69]

UNHCR, *Mapping of Protection Services for Victims of Trafficking and Other Vulnerable People on the Move in the Sahel and East Africa*. June 2021. 69

UNHCR remained committed to improving the identification and provision of protection services of vulnerable refugees (and migrants for referral) on the move along the routes, including victims of trafficking. Specifically, in support measures to combat the crimes of trafficking and aggravated smuggling of persons, OSE developed a sub-regional pilot project with IOM and UNODC to identify and support victims and persons at risk of trafficking and aggravated smuggling along the Central Mediterranean route in Libya, Sudan, Chad and Niger. The project called PACTAS, or Platform for Action on Cases of Trafficking and Aggravated Smuggling, aims to support States to identify, rescue and protect victims and to help end the impunity of the perpetrators inter alia through pursuing their prosecution while ensuring access to justice for victims. The three agencies created a shared database to store information on incidents of human trafficking and aggravated smuggling. To date, some 133 incidents have been recorded related to an estimated 6,200 individuals. It also established a mechanism to enable timely referrals of incidents to the competent national, regional, and international institutions for appropriate action.

UNHCR sought to strengthen the identification of refugees and other persons of concern with specific needs on the move, including children and victims and survivors of trafficking in persons, and their access to tailored protection and support services. In Gabon, UNHCR and UNODC, as members of a UN Task Force on Mixed Population Movements set up in September 2020, supported the reform of the Criminal Code to ensure that, inter alia, refugees are included in anti-trafficking efforts. In February 2021, UNHCR Mali participated in the first meeting of the National Committee against Trafficking in Persons and Related Practice (*Comité national de lutte contre la traite des personnes et des pratiques assimilées*, CNLTPPA). In Mali still, the members of the

Protection Cluster were trained on trafficking in persons and smuggling with a view to enhancing referrals in the context of internal displacement. In addition, UNHCR Mali briefed the UN Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and consequences, descent-based slavery and its links to forced displacement.[70] In Senegal, UNHCR and 13 UN entities joined forces under the leadership of the Government to develop a National Strategy on Youth, taking into consideration the issue of mixed movements.

At regional level, UNHCR and IOM signed a Joint Agreement in February 2021, committing to operationalize the updated IOM-UNHCR Framework on developing standard operating procedures to facilitate the identification and protection of victims of trafficking (June 2020). The updated Framework was subsequently introduced to all IOM and UNHCR Offices in the region during a joint webinar held on 18 February 2021.

East/Horn of Africa Telling the Real Story (TRS) Refugee Outreach Volunteers (ROVs) and returnee groups continued to play a key role in scaling up outreach activities, protection monitoring and channeling community concerns on needs, risks, key gaps and emerging issues for action in a timely fashion. The engagement of ROVs enhanced community awareness of assistance and protection services available within the operations, greatly improving uptake by refugees and asylum seekers. Additionally, thanks to this wider outreach, TRS was able to play a role in channeling complaints and information on the risks of human trafficking and smuggling to law enforcement authorities.

In Ethiopia, UNHCR regularly attended meetings of the National Partnership Coalition (NPC) to ensure that persons of concern are included in the work of the coalition to combat trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants. UNHCR provided inputs on law and policy, such as the Directive for the National Referral Mechanism and the Directive for the NPC, which officially accepted UNHCR as a member. The Ethiopian Government submitted a voluntary report on the implementation of the GCM for 2020. UNHCR provided inputs on issues relating to persons of concern in mixed movements.

North Africa UNHCR continued to enhance efforts to identify those in need of international protection as well as victims of trafficking and others with specific needs along mixed movement routes. UNHCR registration data identified a significant number of victims of torture and gender-based violence in the region. Specialized care and psychosocial support was provided by UNHCR partners in Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria, and Egypt. In Libya, UNHCR secured the release of 600 persons of concern from detention centres in 2021 and continued to advocate for the release of others.

In Tunisia, Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) continued to be an integral part of UNHCR case management procedures. Dedicated counseling services were available at UNHCR managed shelters, in which needs were addressed by psychologists and social counselors/workers. Individual needs assessments were also conducted during home/shelter visits and outreach missions for persons of concern living in urban and peri-urban areas.

- **Increased efforts to communicate effectively with people potentially considering dangerous journeys**

East and Horn of Africa The "Telling the Real Story" (TRS) initiative continued to facilitate intra-community dialogue and engagement in Somalia, Sudan, and Ethiopia and with diasporas in Europe to help counter misinformation on dangerous irregular journeys, provide information or make referrals for assistance. In 2021, over 100,000 persons were reached through direct face-to-face engagement, whether by in-person or virtual discussions, while 2.5 million persons were reached through radio shows and over 7 million views were recorded through social media. TRS closely monitored the constantly changing narratives of human smugglers and traffickers and effectively adjusted its messaging to reach those most at risk. In this regard, 9 radio and TV shows, 6 animated films and 20 testimonies were finalized in 2021. Additionally, over 50 diaspora meetings also took place. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the TRS project organized joint sports and art activities to disseminate accurate information to refugees and host communities on protective measures to avoid stigmatization. Further, over 100 cases of family reunification were identified and referred by TRS in Sudan and Ethiopia and some 50 refugees received counseling on university scholarship opportunities.

North Africa UNHCR strengthened its engagement with partners through the AAP/CwC Reference Group and updated the MENA Digital AAP online map and Toolkit. Six community organizations and local NGOs in Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria, Egypt, and Jordan received a Digital AAP Grant to support LGBTIQ+ persons, children, and youth. The AAP Summer 2021 Learning Series for 500 staff of UNHCR, partners and community organizations provided a platform to discuss AAP frameworks and practices in the region, including the use of hotlines, WhatsApp, interagency mechanisms, MyUNHCR and standardized templates, through five webinars.

CwC was enhanced with new activities in Libya and Tunisia as part of UNHCR's Accountability to Affected People (AAP). Efforts were made to mobilize municipalities in Tunisia to provide counseling services to refugees and migrants,[71] while in Libya, TRS focused on countering disinformation and misinformation among refugees and migrants on

UNHCR services, and assistance, notably resettlement. UNHCR is also taking steps to strengthen CwC along key migration routes to warn of the risks involved in dangerous journeys and to advise on seeking protection and assistance. UNHCR Libya, Tunisia and the OSE cooperated with Transcultural Campaigning to facilitate CwC 2022 strategies and action plans. As part of the CwC action plan, Transcultural Campaigning provided training to UNHCR and partner staff to improve the use of basic CwC tools, techniques, and a knowledge base website. In Tunisia, a tri-lingual UNHCR Tunisia Help webpage was launched to provide persons of concern with updated information relating to protection and assistance activities. In Algeria, UNHCR established a community outreach volunteer (OV) network with six volunteers representing refugees and asylum seekers in urban settings. Volunteers completed a three-week training course to build their capacity on different protection areas, including safe identification and disclosure, protection services, and Psychological First Aid (PFA), among others.

Similarly, significant efforts were made in the **West Africa** region to strengthen two-way communication with persons on the move and to disseminate accurate and up-to-date information on protection risks and services available *en route*. Information sessions were organized across four regions (Cascades, Est, Hauts Bassins, and Sahel) in Burkina Faso for first-contact agents (focal points) on child trafficking, gender-based violence and irregular mobility. In partnership with CIAUD, UNHCR organized dialogues with the authorities in five regions (Cascades, Centre, Est, Hauts Bassins and Sahel) on the topic of protection in mixed movements. In Chad, traditional leaders in Baga Sola were invited to discuss risks associated with mixed flows. In N'djamena, a film demonstrating protection risks en route was screened during a televised football game and onboard commercial passenger buses, reaching a total of 2,700 viewers and 42,540 travelers. Programs addressing mixed movements were broadcast on three radio stations, FM Liberté in N'Djamena, FM Alnadjah in Ati, and FM La Voix du Ouaddaï in Abéché, receiving live contributions from 47 listeners. Sensitization efforts were also deployed in schools, markets and bus stations, reaching an estimated 3,611 students across the country and 34,498 people on the move. In Nigeria, Telling the Real Story (TRS) reached an estimated 3,000 persons through information sessions, donations of children's books, social events and radio programmes addressing protection risks en route, including trafficking in persons. UNHCR Burkina Faso's interactive Dashboard: Monitoring of mixed movements in Burkina Faso (June-December 2021)[72] as well as UNHCR Chad's Dashboard on mixed movements for January-June 2021[73] are examples of the data collected on the profiles and needs of persons on the move to inform programming. In a report published on "The impact of the Sahel conflict on cross-border movements from Burkina Faso and Mali towards Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana" (October 2021)[74], the Mixed Migration Centre informed UNHCR's response by finding that IDPs in the Sahel moved to Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana in temporary, secondary cross-border movements, which were likely to become more frequent and permanent with the deterioration of the protection environment in the region. Similarly, UNHCR and the NGOs Sekou and IT4LIFE published a joint study that assessed connectivity and communication needs in areas hosting displaced and stateless populations in Côte d'Ivoire, Mali and Niger. The report found that most persons surveyed had access to information through community leaders, relatives and humanitarian organizations and preferred audio resources to written ones.[75] UNHCR also established a digital CwC platform with a database of videos, audio resources, guidance and good practices available in more than ten local languages on a wide range of topics, including gender-based violence and access to asylum to facilitate community engagement in the region.[76]

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- **Evacuations from Libya & resettlement efforts along the routes**

The Covid-19 pandemic and the deteriorating security situation in some refugee-hosting countries covered by the Situation hampered UNHCR's enhanced resettlement plans for 2021. On the positive side, UNHCR's initial appeal in 2017 for 40,000 resettlement places from sixteen (16) priority countries along the Central Mediterranean route* was taken up by eighteen (18) resettlement countries who pledged more than 71,000 resettlement places. However, while the cumulative resettlement submission figure up to 31 December 2021 was 75,974 submissions, the number of actual departures was less at 46,053, a result influenced by restrictions imposed by the pandemic.

The 16 priority countries of asylum are: Algeria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Libya, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger, Rwanda, Sudan and Tunisia, where UNHCR estimates that there are 366,974 refugees in need of resettlement as per the 2022 Projected Global Resettlement Needs (PGRN).[77] The 12 resettlement countries include: Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United States.

The Priority Situations Core Group (PSCG), under the former co-chairs of Ireland and Sweden, played a catalytic role in 2021 through the promotion of innovative approaches to case processing, while adhering to health protocols associated with the global pandemic to achieve a total of 14,293 resettlement submissions and 11,021 departures.

In addition, as of 31 December 2021, 762 refugees had been submitted for resettlement following their

77 UNHCR, *Projected Global Resettlement Needs 2022.*

© UNHCR / MOHAMED ALALEM

Last evacuation UNHCR flight of the 2021 from Libya brings 177 vulnerable asylum-seekers to safety at the ETM in Niger.

evacuation from Libya to the Emergency Transit Mechanisms in Niger and Rwanda, resulting in 748 departures. A total of 658 refugees and asylum seekers were evacuated from Libya to the ETMs in Niger and Rwanda in 2021. However, this was greatly impacted by operational constraints, where the Libyan authorities suspended flights from April-June and again from August-October 2021 while strictly limiting UNHCR's protection and assistance engagement to nationals of nine (9) specified countries.[78]

78 Ethiopia, Eritrea, Iraq, Palestine, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan, Syria, Yemen.

- **Improved access to family reunification**

The Central Mediterranean family reunification project aims to identify and support unaccompanied children and youth to reunite with family through a safe and legal pathway and to deter dangerous irregular onward movements. However, the project has expanded to also assist vulnerable adults and families eligible for

"My journey started with 12 girls traveling from Somalia to Ethiopia. Since then, I spent 5 years being sold from one man's hand to the other.

After I arrived in Libya, I lived for one year in a hole in Al Kufra. I was starved and tortured, but that was almost the easiest part to me. We were abused on a daily basis. My sister scream overnight are still in my ears.

What one cannot forget is the humiliation; we would have done everything to end it. We almost took our own lives to end that nightmare; no one could really protect us, either you get out or die!

After a raid by Libyan forces, we were first treated at the hospital in Tripoli and then taken to an official detention place, and when we thought the worst was over, everything started all over again.

Girls and women have seen it all there. To survive you still had a price to pay."

—Somali refugee girls, who were abused by officials of Detention Centres in Libya, were evacuated to Italy in 2021. Interviewed by UNHCR.

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Two Eritrean refugee children reunite with their father in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, in May 2021. Their air fares were paid by Miles4Migrants, a US-based charity.

reunification. In 2021, the project assisted the largest number of beneficiaries since its launch in mid-2019 despite the continued impact of COVID-19 and conflict and political unrest in Ethiopia, Sudan and Libya. Over the course of the year, 166 individuals benefitted from UNHCR referrals to the project's partner organization, the International Refugee Assistance Project (IRAP), free legal assistance. UNHCR also provided 405 individuals with direct punctual interventions (documentation, visas, travel, etc.). The year also witnessed the reunification of 115 individuals with family members in Australia, Belgium, Canada, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, Uganda, the UK, and the USA. Strengthened collaboration with *Telling the Real Story* in Ethiopia and Sudan led to a substantial increase in the number of family reunification cases identified and resulted in the need to deploy an additional family reunification expert to a second location (Shire) in Ethiopia. The project continued its contribution to UNHCR's advocacy efforts to help refugee families overcome commonly shared barriers to access States' family reunification procedures. Financial contributions from Governments, private sector and the expansion of the engagement in the ecosystem of local FR partners are vital to sustain the project to support those in need of family reunification.

In Algeria, as part of its activities to facilitate access to complementary pathways for safe and regular admission of refugees, UNHCR facilitated the departure of nine refugees for family reunification to France, Spain, and the Netherlands, and one refugee through an education progamme in Azerbaijan. UNHCR Algeria will expand access to Complementary Pathways in 2022.

Implementation Challenges and Key Developments in 2021

While UNHCR operations made positive progress in the areas outlined above, a number of implementation challenges continued throughout 2021.

Growing insecurity and limited access in parts of Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Ethiopia, Libya, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Sudan, and Somalia.

Brice Kouewom and his wife arrive at their home village of Klobli, Côte d'Ivoire, after spending 11 years living in Liberia as refugees. They are among 5,000 Ivorian refugees who have received assistance from UNHCR to voluntarily return home from various locations in Liberia since late August 2021.

Deteriorating security conditions and conflict caused new waves of internal and cross-border displacement in the Sahel region (Mali, Burkina Faso, Nigeria, and Cameroon) in 2021, External movements were primarily of refugees, but the motivations of many citizens of these countries to flee will also have been reinforced by a desire to find better economic prospects elsewhere. In several transit and/or host countries, the insecurity caused by non-state armed groups and counter-insurgency operations led to lack of access, negatively impacting the delivery of humanitarian assistance. The ability of UNHCR and partners to provide protection and basic assistance along key routes, mixed movements hubs in border areas and in refugee and IDP sites and locations where persons of concern to UNHCR were in dire need and exposed to heightened risk was severely restricted. Large

"As violence escalated in the West, I fled to Douala, but I was discriminated there because of my ethnicity. I realized soon that I would not survive there living an honest life. I left to Calabar (Nigeria) on a pirogue. In Lagos, I slept in the streets.

In Niger, we walked for hours in the desert without water. Some people died, and those that survived were raped and forced to pay more money to continue the journey. At the border with Algeria, we had to jump over a deep trench. Some people fell and we had to make ropes with our clothes to save them. We reached In Ghezzam and we were handed to the Touaregs that would take us to Morocco if we paid them. Otherwise, people were forced to work in order to pay the debt. If I had known that the border between Algeria and Morocco is worst, I would have never gone.

You walk for five days in the forest near Maghnia, trying to avoid Algerian police that will treat you as if you were not a human being. They would arrest us, steal from us, rape us - both men and women - it did not matter.

That is probably where I contracted HIV. I have seen people being pushed back to the desert of Algeria, and also forcibly removed from Morocco to Algeria. For over a year, I tried to reach Spain from Tanger and Nador, but it had become impossible.

I know that the sea route from Dakhla and Laayoune is more dangerous, but it is the only option. However, if you stayed in your country, you would die anyways."

—Cameroonian woman interviewed by UNHCR in 2021 in a reception center in the Canary Islands.

numbers of IDPs in Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Somalia, and Sudan, as well as refugees in Burkina Faso and Ethiopia, were left without humanitarian assistance as a result of a lack of access, limited resources and capacities. In parallel, targeted attacks against humanitarian workers and peace-keepers[79] claimed the lives of more than a dozen persons since 2020 in the Sahel, Ethiopia[80] and Somalia.[81]

In **Mali,** increased attacks by non-State armed groups, counter-insurgency operations, and intercommunal tensions aggravated the security situation in the center of the country (Segou, Mopti, Douentza regions) and in the Timbuktu region, where the number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) doubled in two years from 187,000 people as of 30 September 2019 to 401,736 people at the end of 2021.

In **Burkina Faso,** UNHCR reported that 504,983 additional persons were internally displaced by conflict in 2021, bringing the total number of IDPs to 1,814,283 persons.[82] Malian refugees living in Burkina Faso were also affected by the security situation, where 13,000 Malian refugees living in the Goudoubo refugee camp had to relocate to Dori area at the end of October.[83]

In **Niger,** the number of IDPs in the Tillabery and Tahoua regions saw a slight increase from 178,470 persons in January 2021 to 180,530 in January 2022 due to the insecurity caused by non-state armed groups.[84] Some of these IDPs managed to return home in the course of the year.[85] Attacks on unarmed civilians resulted in the deaths of refugees.[86] In November 2021, **11,500 Nigerians** fled the Sokoto State to seek refuge in the Tahoua Region of **Niger,** adding to the 3,500 refugees who had arrived there in September 2021.[87] Over 1,239 Malians sought refuge in Niger in 2021.[88]

In parallel, terrorist attacks, kidnappings by non-State armed groups, and acts of banditry further increased the number of internally displaced in **Nigeria.** It is estimated that 65,000 Nigerian citizens in the State of Borno were displaced during the sole month of April 2021.[89] The number of IDPs in Nigeria increased in 2021 with an additional 464,605 persons.

In March 2021, UNHCR reported that violence which surrounded the elections on 27 December 2020 in the **Central African Republic** led to the outflow of 132,810 refugees to **Cameroon, Chad, the Republic of Congo,** and **the Democratic Republic of Congo.**[90] Initial estimates by the Chadian authorities stated that 100,000 refugees from the Far North region of **Cameroon** arrived in **Chad** in

December following clashes between herders and fishermen related to competition over scarce water.[91] 35,784 refugees were pre-registered by UNHCR and the Chadian Government as of 31 December (31 out of 39 sites covered).[92] Another 24,500 were displaced within Cameroon. This outbreak of violence followed an earlier inter-communal conflict in August, which displaced around 23,000 people within Cameroon.

The East Africa, Horn and Great Lakes region currently hosts more than 5 million refugees and asylum seekers as well as more than 12 million IDPs. Major drivers of displacement are Burundi, Somalia, Ethiopia and South Sudan situations as well as the continued influx of refugees from Congo DRC. There is also an increasing component of climate/disaster induced displacement. The majority of forcibly displaced persons originate from and are hosted in the region. However, encampment policies, restrictions on movement, and weak socio-economic inclusion, including impediments to accessing work and livelihoods in some countries, create conditions for onward secondary movements of refugees. Some governments, faced with their own domestic development challenges, struggle to provide protection and basic services to the displaced and their hosts. In this context, the main mixed movement routes are the southern corridor towards South Africa, the eastern corridor across the Gulf of Aden into Yemen and the Gulf States, and the western corridor towards the Central Mediterranean.

In **Ethiopia,** 1.2 million persons have been displaced from Western Tigray since November 2020.[93] Human rights abuses by all parties to the conflict were reported against civilian populations[94], including Eritrean refugees living in Tigray.[95] Similarly, the number of IDPs increased in Afar and Amhara since September 2021, with over 542,000 and 255,000 displaced, respectively.[96] Several fatal incidents involving IDPs were recorded during the conflict[97], and 60,000 Ethiopians fled to find refuge in **Sudan** as of 22 February 2022.[98] Communal tensions led to the further displacement of some 435,000 (new IDPs in 2021) in Darfur during 2021[99] and the arrival of some 7,335 refugees

IMPLEMENTATION CHALLENGES AND KEY DEVELOPMENTS IN 2021

Food distribution resumed, in Tigray refugee camps, Ethiopia, in August 2021, after being halted by the conflict.

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in **Chad.**[100] Fighting in the Benishangul Gumuz region of **Ethiopia** also led to the displacement of at least 20,000 refugees from Sudan and South Sudan to Assosa in Ethiopia.[101]

In December 2021, **Sudan** hosted 1,131,000 refugees and asylum seekers, of which 61% live in out of camp urban and rural settings, and 39% are settled in camps.[102] 60,000 of these refugees arrived from Ethiopia in 2021 and were accommodated in Rakubah and Tunaydbah refugee camps [Note: nearly 1,700 refugees arrived from Ethiopia to Sudan in 2022 as of 28 February 2022. Not all arrivals get registered in the database and as such the arrivals figures are subject to change upon verification done by Government together with UNHCR].

In **Somalia,** conflict and insecurity throughout the year caused by non-State armed groups forced 544,000 people to flee their homes.[103] Overall, there are more than 2.9 million people internally displaced in Somalia, of who 143,815 IDPs were forcefully evicted in 2021.[104] However, despite this high number of evictions, another 77,608 individuals were protected from forced evictions through preventive engagement by the Protection Cluster and the HLP AOR. Banadir region remains a hotspot for evictions in Somalia, with Daynile and Kaxda as high-risk locations.

Mixed Migration Centre, Quaterly Mixed Migration Update: Quarter 4, 2021, East Africa & Yemen. 105

The weakened protection environment also led to returns of refugees and migrants in adverse circumstances, in particular to Mali, as well as returns of persons presented as "economic migrants" (e.g., nearly 80,000 Ethiopians returned from Saudi Arabia[105]) without protection screening to determine their potential need for international protection.[106] 2021 also witnessed spontaneous irregular and dangerous return sea journeys in both directions between from Yemen, Djibouti, and Somalia.[107] Other returns of third-country nationals took the form of collective expulsions or *refoulement* without any due process and protection safeguards. For instance, collective expulsions occurred from **Libya** to Egypt, Sudan, Chad, and Niger,[108] and from **Algeria** to Mali and Niger.[109]

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Elsewhere, third-country nationals were reportedly deported from **Equatorial Guinea** to Burkina Faso, Cameroun, Chad, and Mali[110] and between **Chad** and **Sudan.**[111] Access to asylum-seekers and migrants in detention in Algeria for having tried to leave the country irregularly remained limited, thus not enabling UNHCR to verify that persons detained were in need of international protection. Other mass returns took place following the movement of approximately 12,000 persons from **Morocco** to the Spanish enclaves of Ceuta on 17-18 May 2021.[112] Some of these expulsions without due process were documented by the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants in his report on the means to address the human rights impact of pushbacks of migrants on land and at sea.[113]

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UNHCR's access to people detained for having tried to enter **Egypt** irregularly remained restricted and only exceptionally granted, in the context of immediate prospects for resettlement for specific particularly vulnerable cases. Others could not be accessed. Reportedly, 38 unregistered Eritrean nationals, presumably in need of international protection, were *refouled* to Eritrea in October and December.[114] Access to some refugees in detention in **Djibouti** was also more unpredictable and led to the *refoulement* of three refugees to Ethiopia in June 2021.[115]

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Many remote areas that are critical risk locations for migrants and refugees on the move remained out of reach to UNHCR and partners, notably in desert border areas and disputed territories.

IMPLEMENTATION CHALLENGES AND KEY DEVELOPMENTS IN 2021

Measuring and responding to mixed movements on land

While mixed movements of migrants, asylum seekers, and refugees along land routes continued in 2021, quantifying these movements was rendered ever more difficult due to limitations in access, "soft" and "hard" border closures to contain the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic, and the development of alternative new routes by smugglers and human traffickers to circumvent control measures imposed by States. The suspension of registration activities by Governments, reduced access to UNHCR registration or changes in registration policy (e.g., Ethiopia) further complicates the analysis. In some cases, this exacerbated existing backlogs, e.g., at year-end almost 6,000 persons in urban areas Mauritania[116] and 267,000 persons in Sudan. In Egypt, the registration backlog caused by the pandemic was cleared by the end of 2021, enabling UNHCR to focus on new registrations in 2022 (currently some 8,500 are awaiting registration).

In spite of the lack of data for several key routes and key border areas, UNHCR continued to rely on its protection monitoring tools, social media monitoring and registration data, as well as flow monitoring reports and studies undertaken by IOM and regular 4Mi surveys from the Mixed Migration Centre to try to monitor, assess and respond to mixed movements on land.

Mixed movements to **Libya** continue by land and air despite the adverse situation for refugees and migrants prevailing there. In November 2021, IOM reported that there are 621,007 migrants in Libya, an increase of 1.8% compared to 610,128 reported in September at the end of Q3.[117] While IOM does not distinguish refugee flows from economic migration, most of those reported present in Libya seem to come from countries neighboring Libya, suggesting a predominant trend of economic migration. 46% of the incoming flows to Libya came from Niger. Egypt is second, accounting for some 16% of the movements into Libya. However, some persons in need of international protection continued reach Libya, transiting through Chad (Sudanese, Cameroonians), Egypt (multiple nationalities), Niger (Malians, Burkinabé, and Nigerians), and Sudan (Sudanese and Eritreans). In 2021, UNHCR did not detect an increase in the number of Ethiopians arriving in Egypt and/or Libya as a result of the conflict in Tigray. In the case of Libya, the reason

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116 In Mauritania, UNHCR has implemented a variety of case-processing procedures (regular, merged, simplified, and accelerated RSD) tailored to its diverse caseload and its specific geographical context between the urban area and Bassikounou Camp, to ensure access to protection for our POCs and support the overall integrity of case-processing in the context of mixed movement. Accordingly, the merged registration-RSD processing modality established for Malian nationals will enable UNHCR to clear the majority of its current registration backlog over the next two years.

may lie with the limited access by refugees to UNHCR facilities, the presence of refugees and asylum seekers in diverse locations across the country where UNHCR does not have an operational presence, and challenges linked to security on the routes, including the existence of dens of human smugglers and traffickers.

Arrivals to **Morocco** and **Tunisia** continued to be regular, and mainly by air in Tunisia, even if the pandemic disrupted the air traffic. However, Morocco saw further irregular movements through its eastern border with Algeria, mainly through Oujda. Between January 2020 and 31 December 2021, the number of people under UNHCR's mandate in Morocco nearly doubled from 9,756 refugees and asylum-seekers to 18,248. A significant feature of this overall increase has been the registration in 2021 of up to 1,000 Sudanese asylum seekers, out of whom 850 were registered between June and December 2021. In Tunisia, increased disembarkations following rescue at sea (SAR) operations, as well as land arrivals from Libya and Algeria, saw 3,920 individuals being registered as new asylum-seekers in 2021. This represents a 35% increase in new registrations compared to 2020 and is indicative of Tunisia's increasing significance as a key node of the central Mediterranean route.

"One day violence broke out in my village, and I realized Mali was no longer safe and I had to flee.

I started my journey moving up to Algeria, but before I could reach the border I was kidnapped by a group of bandits. They asked lot of money for my ransom, but I had no money to pay. I was severely beaten for several days, with no food and no water.

After some days, they put me in a car and brought me to a military base of a terrorist group, and from there they took me to the border, and I was sold to a man in Algeria.

I worked for this man for months, working every day with no rest and no pay. It was a very tough job, but I had no option, as they told me I had to pay off my debt.

In Morocco, life was very difficult. I lived in the forest, I had to eat from the rubbish and always be very vigilant as raids were frequent."

—Malian man arrived in Melilla in 2021 interviewed by UNHCR.

IMPLEMENTATION CHALLENGES AND KEY DEVELOPMENTS IN 2021

In **Mali** and **Niger,** IOM flow monitoring reports and displacement tracking matrixes do not provide an indication of the motives behind the "recorded" mixed flows there. As an example, 50% of the incoming flows in **Mali** relate to Burkinabé citizens with no indication of whether their displacement was forced.[118] Surprisingly, only 4% of the total registered flows out of **Mali** go to **Algeria,** with 3% to **Mauritania.** This data would suggest that many of the irregular flows cannot be accounted for or measured given the lack of flow monitoring at key border areas on the route North, except Gogui. The deteriorating situation in **Libya** for migrants and refugees also led to land movements to neighboring countries.[119] In Niger, 17% of the reported incoming flows are of Nigerian nationals. The stated intended destinations of all flows in Niger are to move within Niger (64%), Algeria (9%), and Libya (6%). However, this data includes all "recorded entry flows," and so is not just for Nigerian citizens.[120] None of the existing surveys and monitoring tools shed light on how persons on the move from Mali, Burkina, or Nigeria might have been previously living as IDPs in their own countries due to the conflict or/and insecurity prevailing there.

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See however, the research undertaken by the Mixed Migration centre on movements of Burkinabe citizens to Ghana and Ivory Coast.

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Generally, many of the south-to-south mixed flows in Africa remain under-researched.[121] It is, for instance, clear that many people displaced by the conflict in **Burkina Faso** moved to **Ghana** and **Côte d'Ivoire** both in search of refuge and of livelihood opportunities. In addition, in moving, people are often exposed to risks of aggravated human smuggling and trafficking and may end up as victims.[122] Anecdotal accounts in press monitoring reports suggest that the numbers who fall victim to forms of aggravated smuggling and trafficking are important, but the lack of adequate identification mechanisms coupled with the inaccurate assumption that as ECOWAS citizens, they do not have specific protection needs, means these persons are often described in media as migrants irrespective of the causes why they were initially displaced in their country. Illustrative of the lack of an adequate identification system and while no official figures were initially reported, the sub-prefect of Tougbo in **Côte d'Ivoire** indicated in January 2022, that some 6,000 people from **Burkina Faso** had arrived in Toughbo in three different waves in May, September 2021, and January 2022 respectively.[123] UNHCR reported the arrival of 19,200 Burkinabé refugees in **Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Niger,** and **Benin** in 2021, a 50% increase from 2020. More than 34.000 Burkinabé refugees are now registered in the sub-region.[124] The real number of Burkinabé refugees is likely to be higher, as many are living with those who left their country in earlier years to look for jobs. Some have been absent for decades or move on a seasonal basis to neighboring countries. However, the number of Burkinabés embarking on dangerous journeys towards the North of the continent and across the Mediterranean sea remains low.

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118 Mali, Flow Monitoring Report No. 71, December 2021, IOM.
120 Niger, suivi des flux de populations, Décembre 2021, OIM.

Similarly, the Mixed Migration Centre noted in one of its quarterly updates that cross-border movements from **Libya** to **Chad** had increased in the 2nd quarter of 2021 but that there was a "perceived increase in children present" in these movements.[125] However, MMC deplored "a lack of evidence and data on movements from **Chad into Libya** which impedes understanding of the magnitude of movements taking place".

Similar challenges in the identification of refugees exist along the East and Horn of Africa's mixed movements routes. With the outbreak of conflict in their home country, more **Ethiopians** are now on the move, leaving their country for a variety of reasons, including flight and the need for international protection for some 62,000 Ethiopian refugees in Sudan and some 300 in Djibouti.[126] Others move in the sub-region and beyond without being identified. IOM flow monitoring reports do not capture the primary cause of these movements. The search for better economic opportunities may also be one of the cumulative reasons cited by refugees, but which does not reduce their need for international protection or make them economic migrants. Mixed movements from Ethiopia to Djibouti and Somalia are ongoing, some of which result in dangerous onward journeys by sea to **Yemen** and **the Gulf States.** MMC rightly commented that "multiple factors continue to impact movement dynamics along the route, including the ongoing conflict in Ethiopia, increased security measures in Somalia, deportation of Ethiopians from Somaliland, boat tragedies off the Djibouti coast and the deteriorating situation in Yemen."[127] Since July 2021, the spread of the conflict to the Afar and Amhara regions in Ethiopia interrupted the flow of migrants and asylum seekers towards Djibouti.[128]

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Mixed Migration Centre, Quarterly Mixed Migration Update, East Africa & Yemen, Quarter 4, 2021

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125 Mixed Migration Centre, Quarterly Mixed Migration Up-date; North Africa, Quarter 2, 2021.

IMPLEMENTATION CHALLENGES AND KEY DEVELOPMENTS IN 2021

© UNHCR / ALESSIO MAMO

The arrival of 236 migrants, half of them unaccompanied minors, from the Ocean Viking humanitarian rescue ship operated by the maritime NGO SOS Mediterranée in the Sicilian port of Augusta, in May 2021.

Measuring and responding to mixed movements by sea

Data on entries, detentions, returns and disembarkations sharing between States and international organizations like IOM and UNHCR on asylum and migration remains challenging, as some States continue to be unwilling or unable to share data.[129] Sea departures continued to fluctuate in 2021, with a notable increase on the Central Mediterranean routes.

Departures from **Libya** to Italy (mainly) increased by 150% in 2021 (67,799) compared to 2020 (27,120). However, the number of people intercepted and disembarked back in Libya also significantly increased in both absolute numbers and proportion of departures from 11,646 (43% of total departures) in 2020 to 32,425 (47% of the total departures) in 2021. Access to those intercepted or rescued at sea and disembarked back in Libya was more unpredictable in 2021

129 See Shade Med 2021 Booklet, *Current drivers of mixed movements along the land routes leading to the Western and Central Mediterranean routes*, Vincent Cochetel, p. 49

IMPLEMENTATION CHALLENGES AND KEY DEVELOPMENTS IN 2021

"God knows I have done everything in my hand to reach a place where I will feel safe.

I tried to jump the fence of Melilla five times, but Moroccan police stopped us very aggressively, hitting us with sticks, throwing large stones at us.

During one attempt, two of my friends died. I tried to cross to Spain from Nador, but we were intercepted at sea.

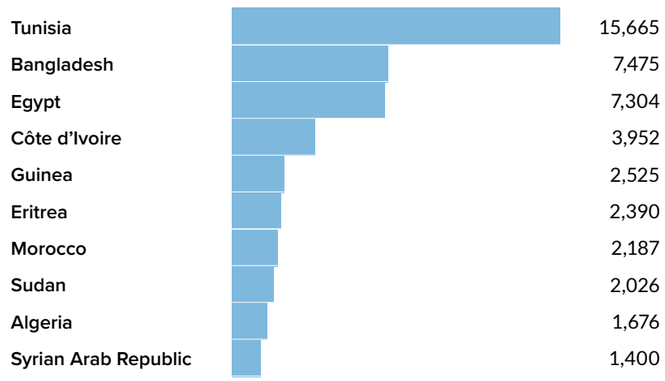
Then I tried twice from Dakhla. The first time was in 2019 and our dinghy boat capsized. I saw how a 5-year-old girl was swallowed by the ocean.

I cannot believe that I am alive myself."

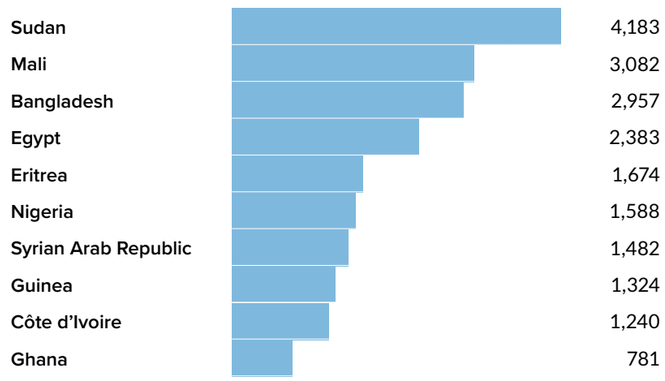
—Malian man interviewed by UNHCR in 2021 in a reception center in the Canary Islands

TOP 10 NATIONALITIES

GRAPH 2 • **ITALY SEA ARRIVALS** | 2021



GRAPH 3 • **LIBYA SEA INTERCEPTIONS** | 2021



than in 2020, where UNHCR or its partners were not always informed of the time or place of disembarkation or not given access to some disembarkation points. In those disembarkation points where it had access, UNHCR witnessed a change of *modus operandi* in that disembarked persons were very quickly bussed to detention centres or other unspecified locations, which limited the provision of emergency assistance, medical screening, and informal protection screening and monitoring that UNHCR and partners systematically conduct. In parallel, a fourth and new entity, the Security and Stabilization Apparatus (SSA), established by the Government of National Unity (GNU) became involved in interceptions and rescues at sea, in addition to the Libyan Navy, the Libyan Coast Guard and the General Administration for Coastal Security (GACS). Many of those disembarked in Libya were directly sent to official detention centres managed by the Directorate for Combating Illegal Migration (DCIM) or the SSA or ended up in informal detention places allegedly operated by human traffickers. Thousands of others were unaccounted for.

Departures from **Tunisia** increased by 61% from 36,828 in 2021 compared to 22,900 in 2020, where the majority of those embarking on the dangerous journey across the Mediterranean to Europe called the "harka' (or "burning the borders" in Arabic) were Tunisian nationals. The modus operandi of some of these irregular movements changed in 2021 as more Tunisian nationals chose not to rely on smugglers or traffickers, but instead self-organized their sea journey with like-minded individuals who shared information and prepared logistics through dedicated social media/WhatsApp groups.[130] People rescued or intercepted at sea and disembarked back in Tunisia also increased in absolute numbers by 105%, from 8,109 (35% of total departures) during 2020 to 16,610 (45% of total departures) in 2021. Taking the place of Malta, in 2021 Tunisia became the country (after Italy) where the second largest number of people were disembarked following their earlier departure from Libya, with 2,986 persons rescued at sea in SAR operations by the Tunisian authorities. UNHCR, IOM, ICRC and the Tunisian Red Crescent presently have regular access to persons rescued at sea upon disembarkation in Tunisia.[131] In 2021, the number of sub-Saharan Africans leaving Tunisia by sea increased by some 201% compared to 2020.[132]

Departures from **Algeria** decreased by 3% to 20,134 in 2021 from 20,697 in 2020. People rescued or intercepted and disembarked back in Algeria also decreased both in terms of percentage and absolute numbers from 7,723 (37% of total departures) in 2020 to 6,210 (31%) in 2021. In Mauritania, the number of disembarkations increased by 41% from 394 in 2020 to 554 in 2021. UNHCR does not have data on departures from **Mauritania.** In **Senegal, Morocco,** and **Western Sahara,** no verifiable information on departures and disembarkations was shared with UNHCR by the competent authorities. However, a limited number of internal surveys conducted by UNHCR, the results of which are supported by other sources, suggest that up to 50% of the departures to the Canary Islands (Spain) originated from Dahkla and Layooune in West Sahara.[133]

UNHCR continued to be denied access to people rescued or intercepted at sea in **Senegal.**[134] In **Algeria**, UNHCR has no access to disembarkation areas and is denied requests to access PoCs detained for attempted irregular crossings. In addition, since December 2021, **Djibouti** no longer accepts referrals to the asylum system from IOM's Migrant Response Centre in the coastal region of Obock. The authorities also suspended the practice of joint UNHCR-Government sensitization on access to asylum of groups of "migrants" returning from Yemen (mainly Ethiopian nationals). This coincided with the suspension in October 2021 of IOM's Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) programme to Ethiopia, due to the ongoing conflict in Tigray. The government of Djibouti raised security concerns arose when it became aware that asylum applicants continued their cross-border movements, either back to Ethiopia or to Yemen soon after their registration, leading to the decision that only persons who already hold refugee documents from Yemen can be referred by UNHCR to the Djibouti authorities for registration.

There was an overall decrease of 27% in sea movements from **Somalia** (47%) and **Djibouti** (53%) to Yemen in 2021, with a recorded total of 27,700 arrivals, of whom 91% were Ethiopians and 8% Somalis.[135] This also represents an 80% reduction on the 138,213 arrivals recorded in 2019.

135 Mixed Migration Centre, Quarterly Mixed Migration Update, East Africa & Yemen, Quarter 4, 2021

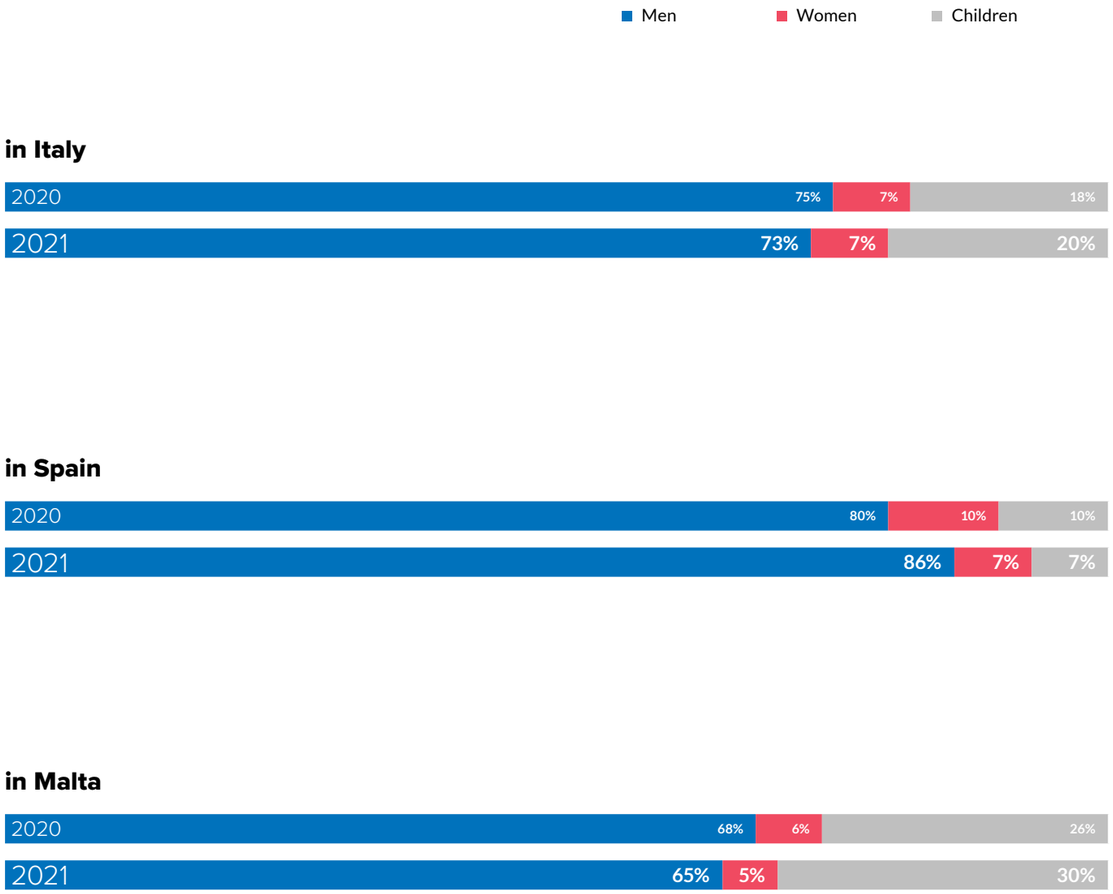
134 Shade Med 2021 Booklet, "Current drivers of mixed movements along the land routes leading to the Western and Central Mediterranean routes", Vincent Cochetel, at page 49.

GRAPH 4 • TOP 5 NATIONALITIES FOR SEA ARRIVALS | 2021

TO **IBERIC PENINSULA** VIA WEST MEDITERRANEAN ROUTE	TO **CANARY ISLANDS** VIA ATLANTIC ROUTE
Algeria	Morocco
Morocco	Côte d'Ivoire
Syria	Guinea
Senegal	Mali
Mali	Senegal

IMPLEMENTATION CHALLENGES AND KEY DEVELOPMENTS IN 2021

GRAPH 5 • SEA ARRIVALS



Challenges in measuring and addressing the secondary movements of refugees

The total number registered by UNHCR in Morocco over the last three years is 540 persons.

136 The number of secondary movements of refugees from one host country to another on the African continent for protection or other reasons remained low. UNHCR quantifies these movements through contact with individual cases and the use of biometric registration tools. Pendular secondary movement of small groups of Sudanese refugees and asylum seekers from Chad and Libya to Niger, Algeria, and Morocco were documented in 2021.[136] It is also assessed that a large percentage of the Eritrean refugees previously accommodated in the refugee camps of Shimelba and Hitstats, which were destroyed during the conflict in Tigray, moved to Sudan and onwards. Others were either sent back to Eritrea moved to other parts of Ethiopia, notably to Mai Aini and Adi Harush refugee camps, or to a new camp established in Dabat in the Amhara region.[137] Recent attacks in February 2022 on this newly established camp led to new displacement of Eritrean refugees.[138] It is unclear at the time of writing whether some of these refugees have already left or will leave Ethiopia in search of protection.

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The absence of a data-sharing protocol between Mediterranean coastal States and UNHCR related to the personal data of persons arriving in Europe hampers measurement of the size and dynamics of cross-regional secondary movements of refugees. European coastal states were not willing or able to share detailed data on the profiles of those arriving on their shores. For instance, partial data on the number of Malian nationals arriving in a State does not permit UNHCR to know from where in Mali they came, whether they were displaced by conflict or another cause, whether their displacement was internal or to a neighboring country, what routes they took on their journey, how long they stayed in other countries, etc. Such information is critical in addressing the causes and nature of secondary movements and to assess when and if safe alternatives to these dangerous onward movements exist, such as through targeted youth programming, and meaningful socio-economic inclusion more broadly.

139 In September 2021, UNHCR field monitoring reports noted a decrease in the number of refugees in the newly established Ethiopian refugee camps in Sudan, but the movements did not reflect in registration figures elsewhere in or outside Sudan.[139] It is assumed that some refugees spontaneously returned to Ethiopia while others moved onward to urban centres in Sudan. According to social media reports which cannot be referenced, others presumably left for Egypt, Kenya, and Libya. Similarly, research remains very limited on second time migration of

140 migrants after their return to their country of origin. In this regard, a study by IDMC from July 2021 points to the need for better reintegration efforts to avoid secondary migration in the context of Nigeria.[140]

IMPLEMENTATION CHALLENGES AND KEY DEVELOPMENTS IN 2021

Deteriorating conditions for migrants and refugees in Libya

141 In Libya, the dire human rights situation for migrants and refugees in and out of detention centres continued to prevail in 2021, in spite of the relative peace in the country.[141] Numerous reports published by the UN Human Rights Mission in Libya, IOM and by NGOs documented abuses committed by immigration officials in detention centres[142] or by Libyan law enforcement authorities involved in "rescuing" these persons at sea,[143] as well as by militias and human traffickers.[144] Sexual violence against women, girls, boys, and men in official detention centres were also reported in 2021.[145 146 147] The inaccessible and remote locations of some detention centres, as well as the stockpiling of weapons and munitions inside (or within close proximity) of some of these centres by militias, created the conditions for yet another tragedy on 20 June 2021. This occurred when an ammunitions depot near the Abu Rashada detention centre in Gharyan exploded, resulting in the reported deaths of an

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144 *"No one will look for you, Forcibly returned from sea to Libya to abusive detention in Libya"*, Amnesty International, 15 July 2021

Report of the UN Secretary General on the UN Support Mission to Libya, 25 August 2021, S/2021/752

145 146 147

UN Secretary General Report on Libya to the Security Council, of 25 August 2021, S/2021/752, paragraph 48,

UNHCR provides assistance, including food parcels and cash assistance, to refugees affected by the large-scale "security operation" conducted by the Libyan authorities in the suburb of Gagaresh, west of Tripoli, in early October 2021.

© UNHCR / MOHAMED ALALEM

IMPLEMENTATION CHALLENGES AND KEY DEVELOPMENTS IN 2021

"I was the hostage of traffickers. I was beaten all the time. I can't forget how I felt that day. Your clothes get dirty. You get infected with lice and you sleep in an unhealthy place.

It was a very difficult situation. It was unbelievable.

You can't get out of that prison. Not even to see the sun just for a moment.

When I hadn't pay them, they refuse and ask why I should be allowed out in the sun. A place where they keep you from seeing the sun, that's something beyond words.

When I woke up in the morning, they demanded money and beat me till I fainted. They thought that I had died and dumped me somewhere. They said, "This man is dead." Sometimes at night I remember this in my sleep. I panic and get scared. I even jump out of bed.

I can't describe my feeling the day I came to Niger. It was unbelievable to me. I never thought I would leave Libya alive. That never occurred to me. Not in my dreams nor when I was awake."

—A Somali refugee evacuated by UNHCR from Libya to Niger through UNHCR's Emergency Transit Mechanism (ETM). Interviewed by Telling the Real Story.

unknown but feared large number of migrants and refugees with some 200 injured.[148] According to the UN Secretary General Report on Libya to the Security Council, "survivors reported that guards at the detention centre shot indiscriminately at migrants attempting to flee the fire while others died or had were injured as a result of the explosion."[149] No investigation on the number of casualties or the circumstances of their deaths and injuries followed. Humanitarian assistance, humanitarian flights for the voluntary return of migrants to their countries, and evacuations and resettlement departures for refugees were suspended several times in 2021 on the instructions of the authorities without due justification. On 1 October 2021, the Libyan authorities carried out a large-scale "security operation" in the suburb of Gagaresh, west of Tripoli, targeting migrants and refugees in the main. Reportedly, these raids resulted in one individual being shot dead and at least 15 others injured. Homes were destroyed and valuables looted by law enforcement agents and militias and more than 5,000 migrants and refugees arrested.[150] Some 751 women and 255 children were among the thousands of migrants and asylum seekers from Sudan, Eritrea and Somalia rounded up.[151] While most of the people arrested were taken to detention centres, others were left destitute and homeless in the streets, eventually making their way to the UNHCR Community Day Centre (CDC) in Tripoli, where they staged demonstrations demanding their immediate evacuation from Libya. Despite assistance provided by UNHCR, including cash, NFI, food and health, the demonstrations continued fueled by disinformation circulated by a minority of individuals. Due to safety and security concerns, where some individuals among the protestors blocked access to the CDC and UNHCR's Office premises, preventing access to persons of concern, UNHCR and partners were left with no choice but to close the CDC as of 31 December after all activities

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149 UN Secretary General Report on Libya to the Security Council, of 25 August 2021, S/2021/752, paragraph 52,

Middle East Eye, Libya detention centre blast exposes dangerous conditions for refugees, 9 July 2021

there had been suspended for nearly three months.[152] Elsewhere in detention centres, many of those arrested were reported to have been subjected to violence and abuse, including sexual abuse.[153] According to OHCHR, on 6 October, some 500 refugees and migrants managed to escape from the detention centre in Gharyan and were pursued by guards who opened fire on them, leaving 4 dead and a large number with injuries.[154] IOM also reported that on 8 October, at least 6 migrants and refugees died and 24 others were injured while trying to escape from another detention centre in Mabani , although the Libyan authorities maintained one person died. It is thought that overcrowding of the detention centres after the raids in Gagaresh neighborhood and the further deterioration of conditions in other centres probably caused these incidents.[155] However, and in spite of this highly volatile and dangerous situation and the heightened risks or death and injury to refugees and migrants, IOM reported in November 2021 that there were 621,007 migrants in Libya, a figure which represented a 1.8% increase compared to the 610,128 reported in November 2020.[156]

In 2021 in Libya, 14,452 asylum seekers and refugees benefited from UNHCR food assistance, while cash assistance was extended to 15,365 refugees and asylum seekers. This represents a 9% increase in food assistance and a 381% increase in cash assistance compared to 2020[157] despite that the banking and cash liquidity crises in Libya continued to limit the implementation of the cash assistance programme throughout the year.

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157 UNHCR MENA Regional Cash Assistance Update.

Limited assistance to refugees and asylum seekers in North Africa

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Levels of assistance for refugees and asylum seekers in North African countries were very limited in 2021. This, coupled with unpredictable or lack of access to socio-economic rights,[158] in particular the right to work, and the variable and often insufficient inclusion of refugees and asylum seekers in national response plans during the COVID-19 pandemic, led to increased problems and challenges for these communities.[159] Refugees and asylum seekers do not generally benefit from legal documentation issued by the host countries. Instead, and where possible, they often receive certificates provided by UNHCR offices, which are not always universally recognized or respected by law enforcement and administrative authorities with the exception of Mauritania. In parallel, and related to attitudes and practice during the pandemic, many refugees and asylum seekers suffered evictions and had to move to less safe shelters. Others sold their belongings to try to leave by boat to Europe, often traveling alongside nationals of these North African countries. The increase by 48% in 2021 in the number of newly registered asylum seekers in Tunisia[160] and financial constraints in early 2022 obliged UNHCR to scale down its monthly cash-based support, targeting the most vulnerable within the refugee population. For the first time, the number of asylum seekers from Côte d'Ivoire surpassed those from Syria. Morocco also witnessed a 35% increase in the number of refugees and asylum seekers from 13,535 to 18,248 during 2021.[161] Such increases are evidence of the growing trend of mixed movements, despite the constraints related to the Covid-19 pandemic. It is also noted that assistance levels have struggled to keep pace.

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From 6,355 to 9,374 registered persons.

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Economic challenges in the region also led to increased xenophobia[162] and stigmatization of refugees and migrants.[163] For instance, some 46% of the respondents to a survey by MMC in Tunisia reported suffering verbal abuse at work, 13% reported physical abuse, and 6% sexual abuse.[164] The socio-economic situation of all refugees and asylum seekers, as well as other groups, has deteriorated in recent years due to the economic consequences of the current pandemic, leading to some individuals in Tunisia to demand their relocation.[165]

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at page 30.

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IMPLEMENTATION CHALLENGES AND KEY DEVELOPMENTS IN 2021

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Significant gains have nonetheless been made in Mauritania with the inclusion of refugees in the national Social Registry under the World Bank IDA-18 Refugee Sub Window[166]. This is further anchored in advocacy efforts at regional level with Ministerial declarations[167] supporting efforts to expand shock responsive social protection for refugees and migrants.

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Lack of legislative frameworks for asylum seekers and refugees in North Africa

In 2021, in the absence of national asylum systems, UNHCR continued to operate refugee status determination procedures in North Africa in the context of growing numbers of claims.[168] A national legislative framework is crucial to codify the legal status of refugees, and to legislate for inclusion of refugees and asylum seekers into national systems to attain basic rights, as specified in the 1951 Refugee Convention, its 1967 Protocol, and the 1969 OAU Convention on the Specific Problems of Refugees in Africa. The inclusion of refugees and asylum seekers into national systems, including health, education, employment, and social welfare, facilitate meaningful socio-economic inclusion in their host countries and communities.

Momentum in this direction is important as UNHCR seeks to catalyze support to States within a Humanitarian-Development-Peace framework of cooperation toward implementing SDGs, specifically in refugee-hosting areas. In this regard, additional engagement is also needed from States through the Asylum Capacity Support Group developed under the Global Refugee Forum to assist States along the routes in a sustainable manner to develop their asylum systems in a way that provides adequate responses to asylum seekers and refugees. For example, in Tunisia, limited capacities in national service provision were further aggravated by the economic downturn which accompanied the Covid-19 pandemic. While Tunisians have shown considerable generosity in hosting refugees, the socio-economic costs incurred are perceived as prohibitive and place strain on service delivery. UNHCR continued to support where national service provision was not available or overstretched, by providing assistance across a variety of sectors, including shelter, education, livelihoods/employment, and healthcare, amplifying concerns related to security and the lack of economic growth.

168 Cape Verde and Equatorial Guinea additionally do not have a national asylum system or legislation.

IMPLEMENTATION CHALLENGES AND KEY DEVELOPMENTS IN 2021

MAP XX • **UNHCR Mandate RSD as sole Refugee Status Determination Procedure**[169]
as of 16 August 2021

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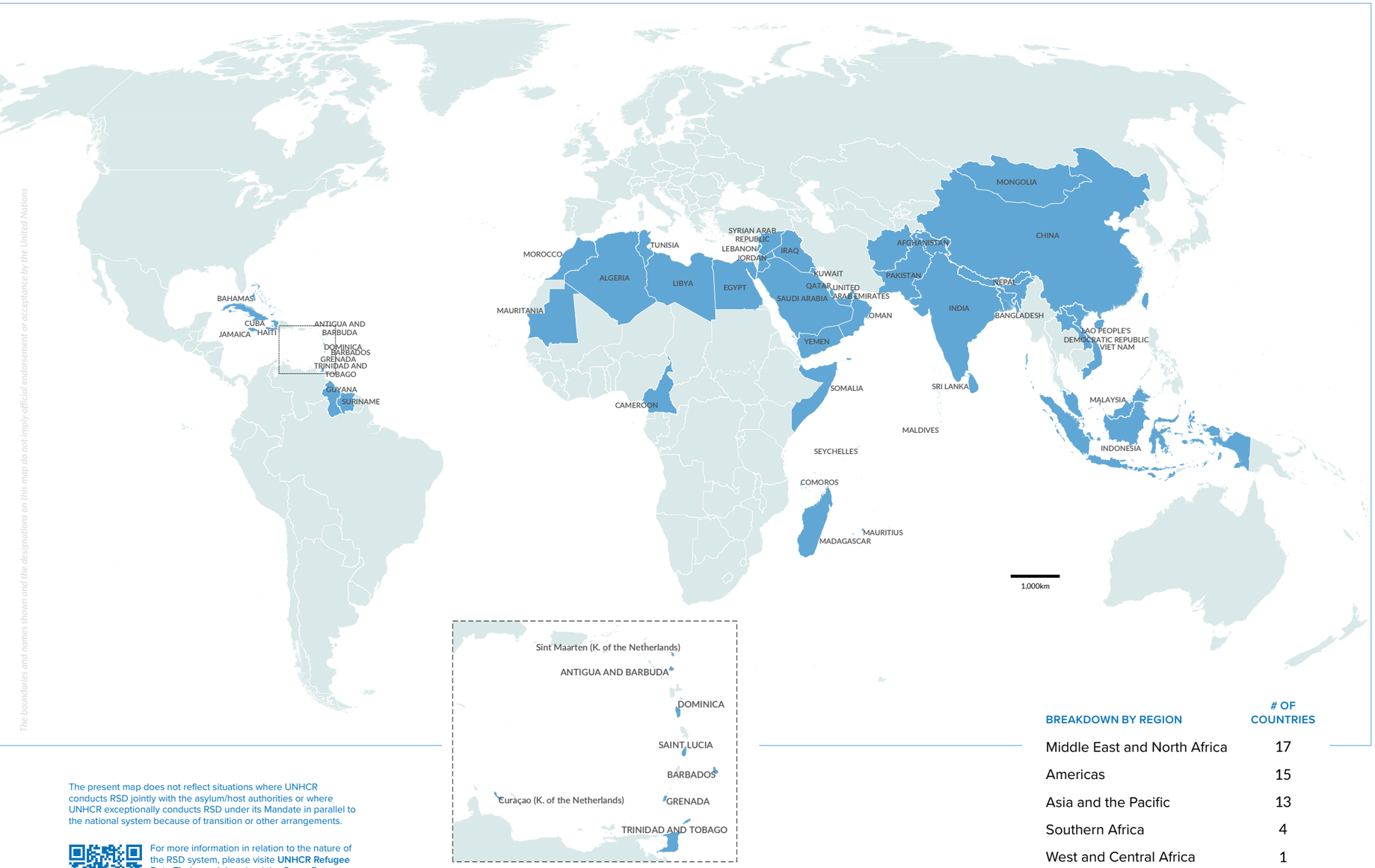
Source: UNHCR, UNHCS



The boundaries and names shown and the designations on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations

The present map does not reflect situations where UNHCR conducts RSD jointly with the asylum/host authorities or where UNHCR exceptionally conducts RSD under its Mandate in parallel to the national system because of transition or other arrangements.

For more information in relation to the nature of the RSD system, please visite **UNHCR Refugee Data Finder** and download the Query Data.

BREAKDOWN BY REGION	# OF COUNTRIES
Middle East and North Africa	17
Americas	15
Asia and the Pacific	13
Southern Africa	4
West and Central Africa	1
East and Horn of Africa, and Great Lakes	1
GRAND TOTAL	**51**

Financial constraints

UNHCR acknowledges the generous support of donors, which allowed the Appeal to be 70% funded in 2021. However, as the Appeal was for priority unmet needs related to mixed movements, the 30% shortfall significantly constrained the implementation of important activities identified in last year's Appeal (2021 Risk Mitigation Strategy). These include the further strengthening of outreach through local partners, community-based organizations, and outreach volunteers along the routes, the development of adequate reception systems for asylum seekers and victims of trafficking in key transit countries, as well as programmatic interventions for refugee children and youth, in particular in camps and settlements.

This resource gap was further aggravated by reduced World Food Programme food assistance in several countries. In Sudan, WFP reported in April 2021 that 45% of refugee households in camps and urban settings were food insecure.[170] This was coupled with limited access to education and income-generating opportunities, for example, in Chad, and Sudan, resulting in further increased risks of dangerous secondary movements.

More generally, even though donor contributions at the country and regional levels were supportive and appreciated, the levels of unearmarked or broadly earmarked contributions did not provide UNHCR with the required flexibility to effectively respond everywhere to crucial needs under the Western and Central Mediterranean Situation.

170 WFP, Food Security Monitoring System (FSMS) Sudan Summary Report, Q1 2021 2021 April.

PROTECTION, SAVING LIVES, & SOLUTIONS FOR REFUGEES IN DANGEROUS JOURNEYS

ROUTES TOWARDS
THE CENTRAL & WEST
MEDITERRANEAN SEA
AND THE ATLANTIC

April 2022

UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, is a global organisation dedicated to saving lives, protecting rights and building a better future for people forced to flee their homes because of conflict and persecution. We lead international action to protect refugees, forcibly displaced communities and stateless people.

We deliver life-saving assistance, help safeguard fundamental human rights, and develop solutions that ensure people have a safe place called home where they can build a better future. We also work to ensure that stateless people are granted a nationality.

We work in over 130 countries, using our expertise to protect and care for millions.

Cover photo:
An Eritrean refugee who was evacuated by UNHCR to the Emergency Transit Mechanism centre in Nyamata, Rwanda, works on a painting, in October 2021.

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UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

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