



## The Mixed Migration Centre in 2020

Annual catalogue of research  
& publications

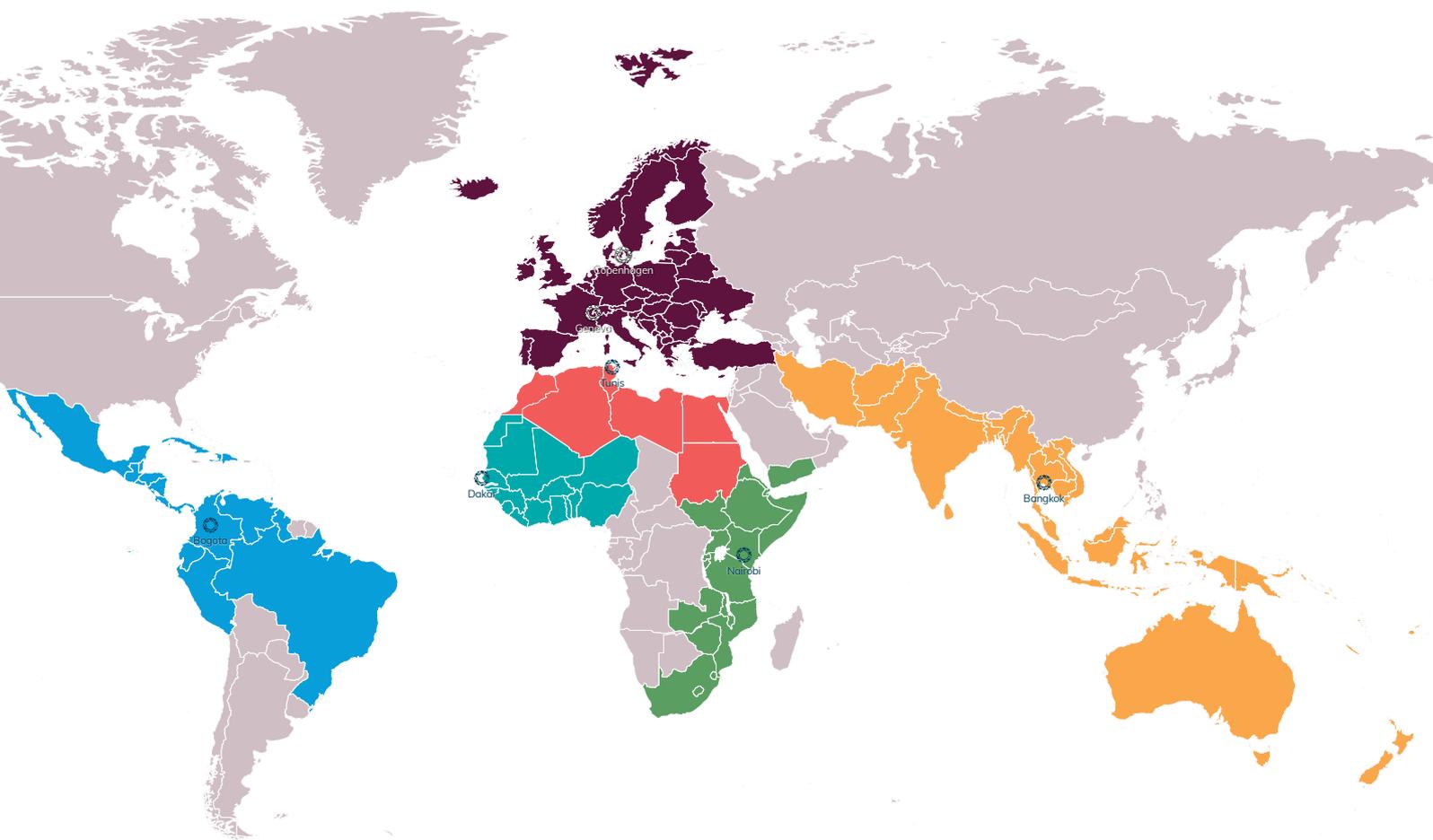
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The MMC's work in 2020 was made possible through the generous support and close cooperation with various partners, including:

Denmark Development Cooperation (DANIDA), the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, the Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation, the European Commission, GIZ, ICMPD, le Ministère Français de l'Europe et des Affaires étrangères, the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, OHCHR, Frantz Hoffmanns Mindelegat, Robert Bosch Stiftung, Swedish Postcode Foundation, the START Network, the United Kingdom Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), UNFPA, UNHCR, USAID, Winrock International and the World Bank (through IGAD).





For a detailed introduction to the work of MMC, including our mission, vision, objectives, key achievements, partner testimonials and much more, refer to our new brochure '[Evidence and Insights on Mixed Migration](#)'.

**This annual catalogue offers a compilation of publications and contributions to media articles by the Mixed Migration Centre network in 2020.**

The Mixed Migration Centre (MMC) is a global network consisting of six regional hubs (Asia, East Africa & Yemen, Europe, North Africa, West Africa and Latin America & the Caribbean) and a central unit in Geneva. The MMC is a leading source for independent and high-quality data, research, analysis and expertise on mixed migration. The MMC aims to increase understanding of mixed migration, to positively impact global and regional migration policies, to inform evidence-based protection responses for people on the move and to stimulate forward thinking in public and policy debates on mixed migration. The MMC's overarching focus is on human rights and protection for all people on the move.

The MMC is part of and governed by the Danish Refugee Council (DRC). While its institutional link to DRC ensures MMC's work is grounded in operational reality, it acts as an independent source of data, research, analysis and policy development on mixed migration for policy makers, practitioners, journalists, and the broader humanitarian sector. The position of the MMC does not necessarily reflect the position of DRC.

**For more information on MMC visit our website:**  
[www.mixedmigration.org](http://www.mixedmigration.org)



# Foreword

This 2020 annual catalogue marks the end of an extraordinary and challenging year. The experiences of lockdowns, closed borders and separation from loved ones during the Covid-19 pandemic, even though still incomparable, offered a small glimpse to people around the world of what many refugees and migrants in mixed migration movements face on a daily basis. It has also shown that migrant workers around the world are indispensable in today's world, providing a crucial contribution, enriching cultures and fulfilling essential jobs, not least in the health sectors in many countries around the world.

At the end of the year, we can conclude that Covid-19 and the related measures to contain the virus, have been a trend accelerator when it comes to migration issues. In some places, the pandemic has been a driver of migration, leading to increased movements. In other places, movement restrictions to contain the virus or people's increasingly limited resources, brought mixed migration to a standstill, with millions of people stranded all over the world. It has been affecting many refugees' and migrants' often already dire economic circumstances, has been exposing them to more dangers on the routes, more dependent on migrant smugglers and more vulnerable to arbitrary detention. Governments in some cases suspended the right to seek asylum, the number of resettlement opportunities for refugees – already far insufficient before the pandemic – dropped even further, and many refugees and migrants report increasing xenophobia. The 2020 edition of MMC's [normalization of the extreme](#) listed many examples of harsh and negative policies and actions related to mixed migration, sometimes justified under the guise of Covid-19.

Despite these extremely concerning developments, some positive things stood out, not least the resilience of people and societies amidst unprecedented challenges and the increasingly recognized role of migrants around the world in the Covid-19 response. Covid-19 also accelerated positive policy trends, such as regularisation of migrants with an irregular status, ensuring access to healthcare for all and releasing people from immigration detention. In September, MMC published a study on [Covid-19 and the Global Compact for Migration](#), asking the question what the GCM offers in response to the combined health, economic and protection crises. As one of our respondents said, "what greater impact could the crises have on the GCM, than to generate the most concrete of proof of its relevance: States and others taking action, even without clear prior reference to the GCM, in precisely the directions it prescribes".

Against all the turbulence, what else happened within MMC in 2020? We are proud that, against all odds, it has been a productive year. Unaware of what was about to come, the year started with launches and discussion events of the Mixed Migration Review 2019 in Copenhagen and London, and the Global Forum on Migration and Development in Quito, Ecuador. At the GFMD, MMC was the thematic lead on mixed migration for the civil society days and presented its stocktaking on GCM implementation one year since the adoption, at a high-level panel discussion for governments and other stakeholders.

Then the pandemic truly hit in March, and everything changed, but we quickly adapted. We immediately suspended our face-to-face [4Mi data collection](#) in all countries of operation and began working on a new methodology for remote (phone) interviews and a new survey, focused on the impact of Covid-19 on refugees and migrants. Within several weeks, a remote 4Mi survey was up and running, first rolled-out in Libya. By the end of the year, we had conducted over 20,000 remote interviews in 17 countries and created the world's largest database on the impact of Covid-19 on refugees and migrants, based on their own direct experiences. Based on this, we published [9 global updates and 31 regional snapshots](#) and responded to dozens of specific requests for further analysis from humanitarian partners. A collective achievement we are proud of and believe has contributed to filling crucial information gaps and to targeted evidence-based Covid-19 responses for refugees and migrants. A visual timeline of this process is presented on page 7 of this annual catalogue. During this process, 4Mi again expanded to new countries of operation, such as Peru, Mexico, Guatemala, Ethiopia and Sudan.

More than in previous years, we focused on active dissemination of our data, findings and expertise. We presented at a range of webinars, primarily on the impact of Covid-19 on mixed migration, and facilitated closed-door discussions, for example with the [Rabat](#) and [Khartoum](#) Processes, bringing our analysis and the voices of refugees and migrants to the policy tables. In October and November, we organized 3 online events to present and discuss new studies with more than 250 people around the world joining us for each of these. During one, a team of MMC colleagues managed to answer no less than 50 questions simultaneously, showing the opportunities of our new virtual world for dynamic, interactive and well-attended events, without a heavy carbon-footprint.

In addition to the Covid-19 publications mentioned above, we published 16 research papers, 16 4Mi snapshots, 20 Quarterly Mixed Migration Updates and 8 articles. The number of website users and downloads increased by 40%. In line with MMC's global growth and presence, we aim to better reach non-English speaking parts of the world. In 2020, we published in French, Arabic, Spanish, Turkish and Malay, and Tweeted in French, German, Spanish and Arabic. Some of our newest regional hubs, such as Latin America and Caribbean and Asia got fully established in 2020, with a full team, expansion of 4Mi data collection and increasing embeddedness within regional networks.

2020 was not only a year of growth. For the first time, the total number of staff in MMC did not increase and after four years, we discontinued activities in the Middle East. However, the network set-up of MMC, with on the ground presence along routes and in migration hubs, allows for a flexible approach to keep an eye on important mixed migration dynamics in the Middle East and in particular Turkey, even without a regional hub in Amman.

Our philosophy remains to maintain a small and agile global network set-up, while multiplying our impact through partnerships, as described in our new [extended introduction brochure](#) published in 2020. As such, we developed several new partnerships, including a [global Memorandum of Understanding with IMCPD](#) to strengthen and streamline an increasingly close cooperation, a [global joint report with UNHCR](#) on violence against refugees and migrants on migration routes from East and West Africa towards Africa's Mediterranean coast, a cooperation with OHCHR in West Africa on socio-economic rights and with UNFPA on youth migrants and refugees in West Africa. We are in the process of finalizing a partnership agreement with the UNODC, to support data collection for its forthcoming Observatory on Smuggling of Migrants.

MMC regional hubs are setting up regional 'friends of MMC', to mirror the global friends of MMC advisory group and ensure representation of regional and local organisations in defining priorities for MMC's work. Additionally, in 2020 we started working with new partners such as private foundations, including the Robert Bosch Stiftung and the Ford Foundation.

In 2020, we focused extensively on urban mixed migration and the role of cities. The third edition of our annual flagship report, the [Mixed Migration Review 2020](#) (MMR), focused on cities as the 'urban frontlines for displacement and mobility'. For the first time, the MMR included a wider

range of external authors for the essays. Together with the 13 expert interviewees, the personal stories of 8 refugees and migrants in cities around the world and information based on almost 10,000 interviews, it truly offers a platform for different voices in the migration debate.

Alongside the MMR, our regional hubs conducted [five urban case studies](#), zooming in on mixed migration in Bamako, Bogota, Kuala Lumpur, Nairobi and Tunis. In the year to come, we intend to further develop this approach, with more targeted data collection on mixed migration populations in urban areas, acknowledging the crucial role that cities play in migration governance.

Two studies we published in 2020 deserve special mention. Sadly, there are already many reports documenting the violence and abuses refugees and migrants face on mixed migration routes. Less known is why certain people on the move are more or less vulnerable to certain incidents. For the first time, we applied more advanced statistical regression analysis to a dataset of more than 15,000 interviews to isolate factors which could make people on the move more or less susceptible to experiencing protection incidents. The more granular understanding offered by these [two studies](#) - conducted by MMC regional hubs in West and North Africa, contributes to developing better protection tools for all people on the move.

While Covid-19 has taught us that we cannot plan too far ahead, what else is on the horizon for MMC?

We intend to move back, at least partially, to face-to-face 4Mi interviews with our 'normal', pre-Covid, migrant survey, while keeping several questions on the longer-term impact of Covid-19. Early in 2021, we will launch a new interactive dashboard, making available all the Covid-19 data from 2020 and all data from our core migrant survey going forward.

A strong focus of our work in 2021 - following up on [various publications](#) over the past years - will be on climate change and other environmental factors on human mobility, with an upcoming large project focused on the 'human face of climate mobility' in several hotspots on the African continent. Other key priority topics for MMC in 2021 will be the experiences of returnees and sustainability of returns - possibly expanding the 4Mi returnee survey successfully rolled out in Afghanistan in 2020 to other countries - migration and development and a stronger focus on intra-regional movements. Through new initiatives in East, North and West Africa, in 2021 we will, in partnership with other NGOs, increasingly focus

on children on the move, trying to better understand their profiles, movements and vulnerabilities.

The Covid-19 crisis and its impact on mixed migration dynamics highlighted, once again, the importance of preparedness and of swift, well-informed policy responses. In 2021, as part of a collaboration with the ICMPD secretariat of the Rabat Process, we will organize a series of four scenario building workshops with African and European policy makers to help them to be better prepared for future challenges.

There are many challenges and big unknowns ahead of us. What we can expect – and are already seeing – is a change in migration dynamics following the pandemic, affecting both people’s aspiration or even need to migrate, but also their capability to do so. This plays out differently in different contexts and regions, and is already leading to changes in migration trends and dynamics. How mixed migration dynamics will be affected in the aftermath of the pandemic is a key trend to watch in 2021, as routes, destinations, means and opportunities are likely to shift.

While developing our new 2025 strategy, we will continue to advocate for the rights of all people on the move and continue to offer new thinking, expert analysis and hopefully some much needed inspiration after this difficult year. In doing so, we hope to continue to contribute to improved understanding of mixed migration, better migration policies and evidence-based responses to mixed migration.

On behalf of the entire MMC team,

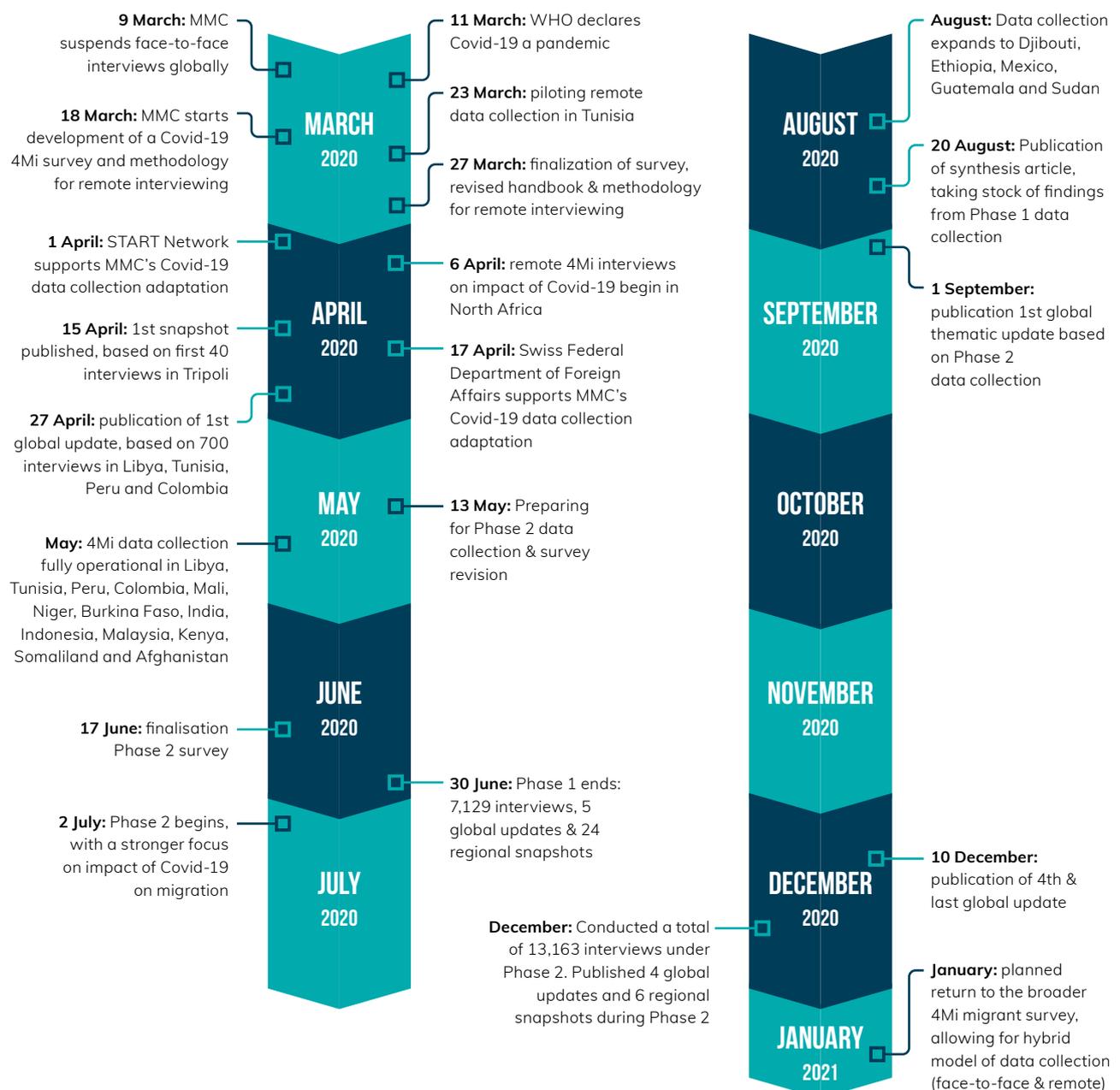


**Bram Frouws,**  
Head of MMC, Geneva

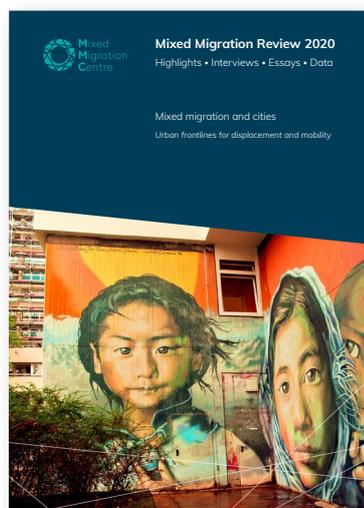
# MMC's adaption of the 4Mi data collection programme to remote interviewing during the Covid-19 pandemic

The [Mixed Migration Monitoring Mechanism Initiative \(4Mi\)](#) is the Mixed Migration Centre's flagship primary data collection system, an innovative approach that helps fill knowledge gaps, and inform policy and response regarding the nature of mixed migratory movements. Normally, the recruitment of respondents and interviews take place face-to-face. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, face-to-face recruitment and data collection was suspended in all countries in March 2020. MMC has responded to the Covid-19 crisis by changing the data it collects and the way it collects it through a rapid [adaption process](#), changing from face-to-face data collection to remote interviewing all over the world, conducting over 20,000 remote interviews with refugees and migrants in 17 countries.

The timeline below visually presents this process throughout 2020. All publications on Covid-19 are listed further below in this annual catalogue.



# Mixed Migration Review 2020



## Mixed Migration Review 2020. Mixed Migration and cities. Urban frontlines for displacement and mobility.

The third publication of the annual **Mixed Migration Review** by the Mixed Migration Centre focuses on urban migration. This year's edition offers updates on global mixed migration trends and policy events while examining the role of cities in human mobility. The Keeping track section sets out the year's key mixed migration trends across the globe and summarises selected policy and legislative developments. A series of essays explore the urban reality of mixed migration, zooming in on topics such as climate change, people smuggling, displacement between and from cities, the global pandemic, the opportunities and risks refugees and migrants encounter in urban areas and more. The report also includes a series of interviews with migration experts, policy makers, academics, and mayors. The report is based on a wide range of research as well as exclusive access to 4Mi data from over 10,000 interviews with refugees and migrants conducted over the course of 2019 and 2020, initially face-to-face and then remotely (and focused on Covid-19) when the pandemic hit in March. New sections include a series of 'urban spotlights'

on cities all over the world exemplifying specific issues related to mixed migration and cities, as well as first-hand accounts of city life, 'urban voices', from refugees and migrants in Bamako, Bogotá, Kuala Lumpur, Nairobi, Teheran, Tunis, and Turin. An updated 'normalisation of the extreme' section documents how migration policies, actions and attitudes are becoming more extreme, at times justified under the guise of Covid-19.

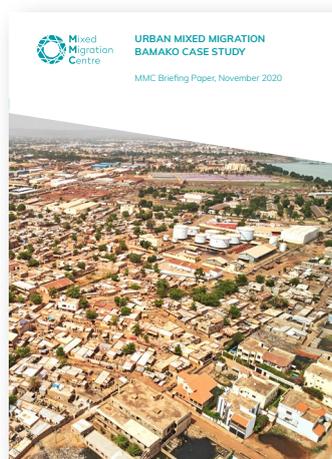


## Launch of the Mixed Migration Review 2020

On November 18th 2020, MMC launched the MMR2020 during an online interactive discussion event. The recording can be watched [here](#).

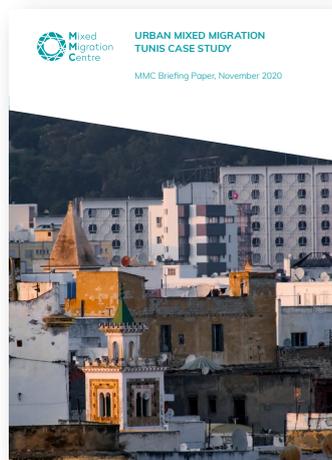
# Spotlight: Urban Mixed Migration

Between August and September 2020, and as part of MMC's global strategic focus on urban migration, five MMC regional hubs conducted urban mixed migration case studies. Based on interviews with refugees and migrants, migration experts, as well as local authorities and civil society representatives in Bamako, Bogota, Kuala Lumpur, Nairobi and Tunis, these studies explore mixed migration dynamics in urban settings through three specific lenses: Cities of opportunities, Risky cities and Urban migration and Covid-19.



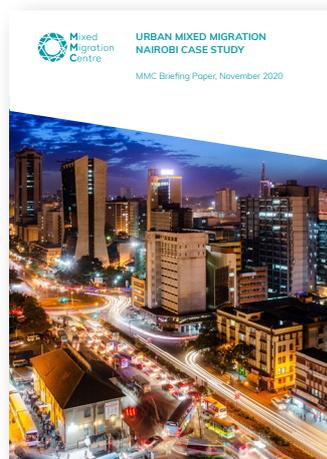
## Bamako case study

The largest concentration of foreigners in Mali is found in Bamako. It is also the main destination for internal rural to urban migration, and is an important location for returning migrants.



## Tunis case study

While receiving and hosting refugees and migrants from a diverse range of origin countries, there is a critical lack of data and research available on Tunis as a host city. With no national authority designated to register, assist or integrate refugees, asylum seekers and migrants, total numbers of such mobile populations across the agglomeration remain unavailable. At the same time, Greater Tunis offers a relatively high concentration of employment opportunities, as well as key services and organisations assisting refugees and migrants, providing an apt model for a mixed migration urban case study.



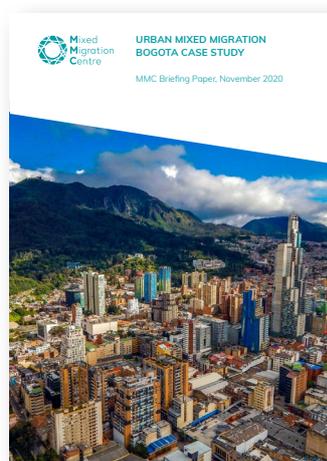
## Nairobi case study

This case study focuses on Kenya's capital city of Nairobi which hosts a significant refugee and migrant population who choose to either settle permanently or transit through to other destinations in and out of the East Africa region.



## Kuala Lumpur case study

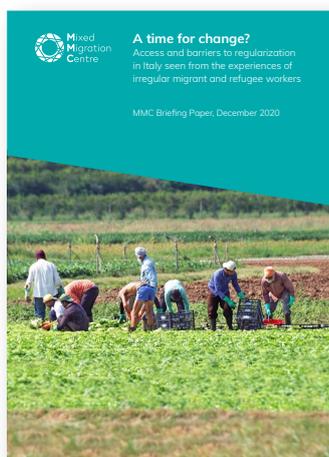
Over the past decades Kuala Lumpur (KL) has been a destination city for hundreds of thousands of refugees and migrants, mainly from within Asia. This study examines the current opportunities and challenges facing refugees and migrants in KL, with a focus on the experience of Bangladeshi and Rohingya, in particular. This study is timely given recent and concerning immigration responses in Malaysia, posing multiple protection risks for refugees and migrants in the country.



## Bogotá case study

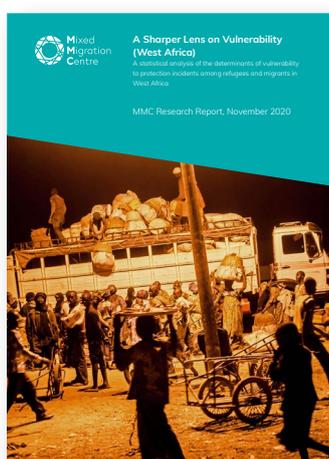
Bogotá is the capital city of Colombia, the Bogotá Metropolitan Area being one of the biggest urban areas of Latin America with almost 10 million inhabitants. While it hosts the largest presence of Venezuelan refugees and migrants in the country – 347,178 according to official estimates – the available data on Bogotá as a host city is limited.

# Research reports and papers



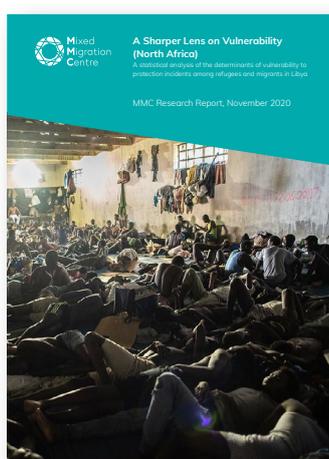
## **A time for change? Access and barriers to regularization in Italy seen from the experiences of irregular migrant and refugee workers - December 2020**

On 19 May 2020 Italy introduced a wide-ranging stimulus package, known as the “Relaunch Decree”, in a bid to repair the economic damage of the Covid-19 pandemic. The decree’s many measures include enabling those working irregularly in specific economic sectors to apply for temporary regularization. The purported aim was to tackle labour shortages and limit the spread of the coronavirus in the informal settlements that continue to exist as migrants and refugees engage in a highly exploitative labour market. This briefing paper explores access and barriers to applying for regularization under the Relaunch Decree faced by African irregular workers. It is based on interviews with both people who applied and who did not



## **A Sharper Lens on Vulnerability (West Africa): A statistical analysis of the determinants of vulnerability to protection incidents among refugees and migrants on the move in West Africa – November 2020**

This study explores the concept of migrant vulnerability by seeking to isolate factors which could make people on the move in the West Africa region more susceptible to experiencing (and/or witnessing, in the case of migrant deaths and sexual assault) one or more types of abuse. The report’s starting point is a unique 4Mi dataset compiled from more than 10,000 surveys of migrants and refugees in transit through the Central Sahel over a two-and-a-half-year period, in which respondents reported 23,204 discrete protection incidents.



## **A Sharper Lens on Vulnerability (North Africa): A statistical analysis of the determinants of vulnerability to protection incidents among refugees and migrants on the move in North Africa – November 2020**

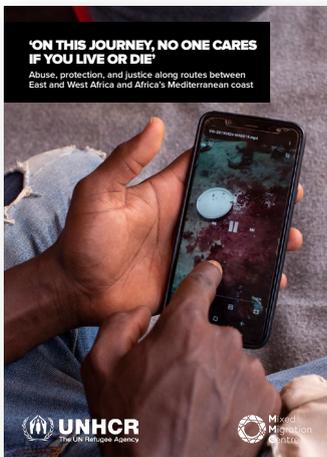
The journeys of people engaged in mixed migration to and through Libya tend to be long and perilous; over the past few years, news outlets, NGOs, and human rights watchdogs have extensively documented the dangers that refugees and migrants face along the routes to and through Libya. An important gap in the existing research on abuses and protection violations in Libya is an understanding of why certain people on the move are vulnerable to such incidents. To identify the demographic, social, and economic determinants of vulnerability to protection incidents – advanced statistical modelling was applied to a unique dataset of more than 5,000 refugees and migrants who reached Libya, largely from countries in West, Central and East Africa, and were surveyed by MMC’s Mixed Migration Monitoring Mechanism initiative (4Mi).



## **COVID-19 and the Global Compact for Migration. Is a Compact born in a crisis born again in the whirlwinds of three global crises? – September 2020**

Born itself out of a crisis—the so-called ‘migration crisis’ of 2015, is the Global Compact for Migration (GCM) actually fit for responding to new crises – the COVID-19 pandemic, plus the economic and protection crises it has generated? What does a less than two-year old global agreement offer against these three sudden globe-shaking crises? Are these being seen as a Compact cemetery, or a proving ground? Are States and others looking to the GCM before they take action, as a kind of dynamic global positioning system that points the way to practical alternatives and solutions in the three crises? Do they cite the connection of their action(s) to the GCM? Does it really matter if States and other actors cite the Compact as long as their practices match it? But most important to everyone consulted for this report: is the Compact making a difference for people on the ground? How do leaders active

in international migration at the front-lines answer these questions? This MMC discussion paper offers this energy check and validity test on the GCM, just ahead of the Compact’s two-year anniversary at the end of 2020.



## **‘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**

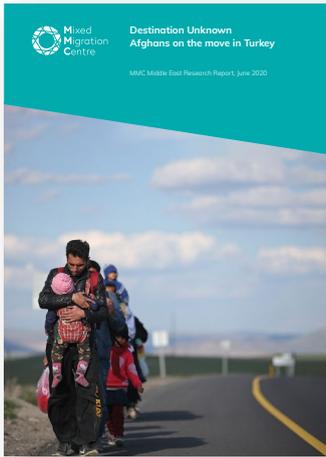
As refugees and migrants travel along the Central Mediterranean route to Libya, many continue to be subjected to horrific violence at multiple points along the way, as the testimonies in this report show, even before any attempt to cross the sea to Europe. It remains one of the deadliest land crossings in the world. This report draws on data collected by the Mixed Migration Centre’s 4Mi monitors along the route to map the places where refugees interviewed in 2018 and 2019 most frequently reported deaths, sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), physical violence, and kidnappings. In follow up to earlier recommendations, UNHCR, together with the Mixed Migration Centre (MMC), seeks to draw further attention to the human rights abuses that take place along multiple sections of the Central Mediterranean land route. In doing so, and through the recommendations included in this report, UNHCR

and MMC call for measures to hold perpetrators of crimes and human rights violations along the route accountable; for more measures to assist and protect victims; and for greater cooperation between States to increase protection and access to solutions, and enhance access to justice.



## **Concerns and Confusion: Afghan refugees and migrants in Turkey face COVID-related challenges every day. Afghan voices from Turkey – July 2020**

Turkey has one of the highest number of reported COVID-19 cases in the Middle East. To stop the fast-growing outbreak, the government of Turkey imposed various measures. Apart from restricted freedom of movement and increased barriers to accessing basic services and needs, following the partial suspension of Directorate General of Migration Management (DGMM) activities, it is not clear how migrants and refugees are affected by COVID-19 and government measures to control the disease. Hence, to get an initial sense, MMC conducted eleven semi-structured interviews with migrants and refugees as well as community leaders and NGO representatives between 14 April and 19 May 2020. Being the largest group of irregular arrivals in Turkey since 2017, the focus was on Afghan refugees and migrants in Turkey.



## **Destination Unknown: Afghans on the move in Turkey – June 2020**

For decades, Turkey has been a host country and transit hub for hundreds of thousands of Afghan refugees, who constitute the second-largest group of refugees and asylum seekers registered in the country. Triggered by this increase, this research report aims to improve understanding of the migration experiences of Afghans arriving in Turkey. It outlines key drivers behind Afghan migration and examines the factors influencing short- to long-term intentions, such as decisions to either stay in Turkey or continue onward movement. The report details living conditions of Afghans in Turkey, focusing on the policy framework that shapes legal and socio-economic factors, while highlighting vulnerabilities and protection challenges they encounter.



## **Mixed Migration in West Africa in 2030. Results from the Mixed Migration Scenario Building Workshop – April 2020**

This report briefly outlines the key elements of the scenario approach adopted by the MMC and the exercises it carried out during a scenario-building exercise hosted and supported by the Rabat Process/ ICMPD in Abidjan in October 2019 as a side event to a Rabat Process workshop on migrant smuggling. It then presents a synthesis of the mixed migration context we see today in West Africa, followed by the results of its trend analysis on relatively certain factors impacting migration in 2030 in West Africa.



## **Destined to migrate. Exploring a culture of migration in a world of migration restrictions – Kayes, Mali – March 2020**

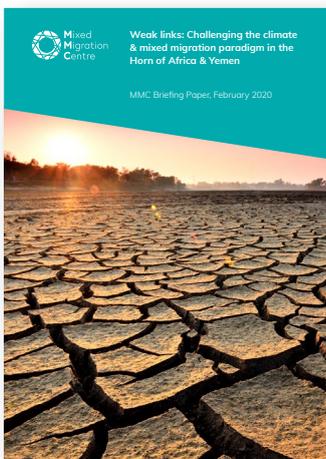
The region of Kayes in south-western Mali is known for its culture of migration, both within Africa and to France. As of October 2019, Malians are among the top five nationalities traveling towards Spain along the Western Mediterranean Sea.

The report explores 1) the extent to which the 'culture of migration' contributes to migration aspirations in Kayes today; 2) reflects on the impact of changes in EU migration policies on migration aspirations, journeys, and decision-making; and 3) reviews the role of information campaigns in shaping the migration perceptions and decision-making.



## **Evidence-based operational responses to mixed migration: challenges and best practice. External assessment – February 2020**

Over the past decade “evidence - based programming” has become increasingly popular in humanitarian response, with donors and practitioners alike emphasising the role of data in particular as a basis for informed decision-making. Mixed migration contexts are no exception, and this study was commissioned with a view to supporting MMC’s approaches to its third objective: contributing to evidence-based protection responses for people on the move (programming).



## **Weak links: Challenging the climate & migration paradigm in the Horn of Africa & Yemen – February 2020**

When mobility drivers are scrutinised and climate change is found to play a role in movement, it remains difficult to determine the extent of its influence. Although conditions in the Horn of Africa and Yemen are variously characterised by conflict, authoritarian regimes, poor governance, poverty, and mass displacement, along with harsh environments that produce negative climate change impacts, there is scant evidence that these impacts cause intercontinental and interregional mixed migration. The linkages are hard to locate. Climate change and environmental stressors cannot easily be disaggregated from the wide range of factors affecting populations, and even where some disaggregation is evident the results are not seen in the volume, direction, or destination choices of those affected.

# 4Mi snapshots focused on Covid-19

The Covid-19 4Mi snapshots focus on the impact of Covid-19 on refugees and migrants on the move, exploring topics such as impact on their lives and migration journeys, risk awareness, access and barriers to healthcare and protection needs, aiming to fill the information and evidence gap around the specific impact of Covid-19 on refugees and migrants on the move. The collected 4Mi data will contribute towards building a solid evidence base to inform targeted responses on the ground, as well as advocacy efforts related to the situation of refugees and migrants during the coronavirus pandemic.

## Global

The image shows the cover and first page of the report titled "COVID-19 global update #1 - 27 April 2020: Impact of COVID-19 on refugees and migrants". The cover features the Mixed Migration Centre logo and a blue header. The first page contains an introduction, key messages, and a profiles section. The key messages section lists several findings, such as increased awareness of COVID-19 and the impact of the pandemic on migration journeys. The profiles section provides demographic data for respondents, including age and gender distribution across different countries like Colombia, Peru, Libya, and Tunisia.

The image shows the cover and first page of the report titled "COVID-19 Global Thematic Update #1 - 1 September 2020: Impact of COVID-19 on migrant smuggling". The cover features the Mixed Migration Centre logo and a blue header. The first page contains an introduction, key messages, and a profiles section. The key messages section lists several findings, such as increased need for and reduced access to smugglers, and the impact of the pandemic on migrant smuggling. The profiles section provides demographic data for respondents, including age and gender distribution across different countries like Colombia, Peru, Libya, and Tunisia.

## Covid-19 Global Updates

The first series of five global updates provide regular up-to-date findings on Covid-19 awareness, knowledge and risk perception, access to information, access to healthcare, assistance needs and the impact on refugees' and migrants' lives and migration journeys.

[COVID-19 global update #1 – April 2020](#)

[COVID-19 global update #2 - May 2020](#)

[COVID-19 global update #3 – May 2020](#)

[COVID-19 global update #4 – June 2020](#)

[COVID-19 global update #5 – June 2020](#)

## Covid-19 Global Thematic Updates:

After the initial roll-out of our adapted 4Mi survey focusing on the immediate impact of the pandemic in April, we moved into a new data collection phase in July, further zooming in on the impact of the pandemic on mixed migration, including migrant smuggling, drivers of mixed migration and movement decision-making, and protection.

[COVID-19 Global Thematic Update #1 Impact of COVID-19 on migrant smuggling– September 2020](#)

[COVID-19 Global Thematic Update #2 Impact of COVID-19 on protection risks for refugees and migrants – October 2020](#)

[COVID-19 Global Thematic Update #3 Impact of COVID-19 on refugees and migrants with children– November 2020](#)

[COVID-19 Global Thematic Update #4 Impact of COVID-19 on the decision to migrate – December 2020](#)

# Europe

**Mixed Migration Centre** MMC Europe 4MI Snapshot – November 2020  
**The impact of Covid-19 on protection among Afghan refugees and migrants in Greece**

This snapshot aims to contribute towards a solid evidence base to inform targeted measures on the ground as well as advocacy efforts to address the situation of refugees and migrants during the Covid-19 pandemic. The findings presented here reflect the impact of Covid-19 on protection among Afghan refugees and migrants in Greece but should also be understood against the background of an increasingly tough approach to migration management in the country, including [detention of asylum seekers and illegal border crossings](#).

**Key findings**

- Overall from the analysis of the surveys, it is concluded that since the beginning of Covid-19 there has been an increase in the protection risks they face in Greece in several ways. More specifically:
  - 75% of respondents think there is an increased risk of deportation.
  - 70% of respondents think there is an increased risk of arbitrary arrest and detention.
  - 60% of respondents believe that there has been an increase in domestic violence since the pandemic began.

The findings presented here are based on a survey of Afghan migrants and refugees based on the impact of Covid-19 on protection risks among Afghan migrants using their preferred migration route in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

## The Impact of Covid-19 on protection among Afghan refugees and migrants in Greece – November 2020

# West Africa

**Mixed Migration Centre** MMC West Africa 4MI COVID-19 Snapshot – 13 May 2020  
**Impact of COVID-19 on refugees and migrants in West Africa**

The ongoing coronavirus pandemic has had significant impacts on mobility within West Africa. This Snapshot is the first in a series that documents this phenomenon through an adapted version of MMC's regular 4MI data collection carried out in Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger. It is intended to provide an introduction to the effects that COVID-19 has had on people on the move within the region, giving an overview of their profiles, awareness and risk perception related to the coronavirus, access to healthcare, assistance received and needed, impacts on their daily lives and effects on their migration journey.

**Key messages and recommendations**

- The virus has impacted the lives and/or journeys of 97% of respondents.
- While 30% of respondents expressed worry about contracting the virus, only 50% said they could access healthcare if they experienced symptoms.
- 86% of respondents have received extra assistance since the beginning of the pandemic, but only 23% actually had received extra help.
- The most frequently cited impacts on migration are increased difficulty crossing borders and difficulty moving within countries (mentioned by 83% and 45% of respondents respectively). With migrant associations closed or partially closed in some tourist cities such as Bamako, this puts migrants and refugees in an even more precarious situation. Some respondents interviewed by 4MI report to be sleeping in stations where they report to be at risk of abuse. This situation might also lead those blocked in transit to take more dangerous irregular routes to continue their journey. Responses should account for the increased vulnerability of persons unable to continue with their journeys as planned, including basic needs (shelter, food and water).
- Cash-based interventions appear particularly relevant given reduced access to work, need for funds to access health services, and respondents' emphasis on cash as an area for additional assistance.

## Refugees' and migrants' access to health services in West Africa in times of COVID-19 – October 2020

## Impact of COVID-19 on refugees and migrants in West Africa – May 2020

# East Africa and Yemen

**Mixed Migration Centre** MMC East Africa and Yemen 4MI Snapshot – October 2020  
**Impact of COVID-19 on daily lives and journeys of refugees and migrants interviewed in Somaliland**

This snapshot is the second on the impact of COVID-19 on refugees and migrants in need (movement) risk and through Somaliland. It focuses on the impact of the virus on daily life and journeys, and protection risks. It aims to contribute towards a solid evidence base to inform targeted responses on the ground as well as advocacy efforts to address the situation of refugees and migrants during the coronavirus pandemic.

**Table 1. Nationality and gender of respondents**

Nationality	Men	Women	Total
Somali	44	13	57
Yemeni	22	23	45
Total	66	36	102

**Key findings**

- Over 70% of refugees and migrants acknowledged report anxiety and stress about COVID and the situation and nearly 20% report increased vulnerability and isolation.
- 41% of respondents reported living on income due to the coronavirus restrictions, increasing vulnerability.
- Clearly physical violence, and robbery high among reported risks.

**Profiles**

The analysis is based on 102 interviews conducted with refugees and migrants in Somaliland between May 4 and June 4, 2020. Interviews were conducted in Bardera (27), Hargeisa (45), and Wajid (30). The respondents were from Ethiopia (57) and Yemen (45). 45 of them were men and 56 were women with an average age of 31. Interpretations based on this limited sample should be made with caution and does not necessarily represent the view of the entire Ethiopian or Yemeni communities in Somaliland, but findings will become more representative as the dataset continues to grow.

## Impact of COVID-19 on daily lives and journeys of refugees and migrants in Somaliland – October 2020

## Awareness of COVID-19 and access to services among refugees and migrants in Somaliland – October 2020

## The impact of COVID-19 on Ethiopian refugees and migrants in Somaliland – August 2020

## Access to services – impact of COVID-19 on refugees and migrants in North Africa who have left or transited Ethiopia – July 2020

## Awareness of COVID-19 and access to services among refugees and migrants in Kenya and Somaliland – May 2020

## Understanding the impact of COVID-19 on refugees and migrants in Kenya and Somaliland - May 2020

# Asia

**Mixed Migration Centre** MMC Asia 4MI Snapshot – October 2020  
**The Impact of COVID-19 on the Smuggling of Refugees and Migrants from Afghanistan**

Since April 2020, MMC Asia has been increasingly returned refugees and migrants in Afghanistan to better understand their experiences and needs during the COVID-19 pandemic. The increasing socioeconomic and political situation in Afghanistan, compounded by COVID-19, is increasing pressure on returns to re-integrate in search of greater safety as well as viable employment to sustain themselves and their families, resulting in an increased demand for smuggler services. While border closures remain in place, journeys have become more dangerous and more expensive as smugglers adapt.

**Profile**

Information in this snapshot was collected between 2 July and 20 August 2020 in seven provinces of Afghanistan (Kabul, Herat, Balkh, Kandahar, Nangarhar, Konar and Paktia) as well as three border points (Zaranj, Herat, and Torkham) in Afghanistan. 450 phone interviews were conducted. The majority (86%) of respondents were men. The high number of male respondents is likely due, in part, to a high proportion of interviewees would be men, particularly among those returning from Iran and Pakistan. The average age of respondents was 33; respondents were aged 18 years (20%) to 60 years (24%), and Pakistan (23%), having arrived secondary (49%) or primary (51%) in Afghanistan.

**Returning migrants and refugees face increasing financial hardship**

Nearly half of respondents (46%) reported that they returned to Afghanistan due to the COVID-19 pandemic, with most (76%) actually doing so less than a year ago. Most returnees (70%) were interviewed, 32% were deported, 52% returned independently and 20% were sent back by UNHCR.

Many returning migrants and refugees have faced difficulties and challenges in securing an income upon return to Afghanistan due to lockdown, ongoing treatment restrictions and an already falling economy. Around half of all respondents surveyed (52%, n=45) reported that they had lost some form of income as a result of COVID-19. This is most frequently causing increased worry and anxiety (53%) and the inability to afford basic needs.

## The Impact of COVID-19 on the Smuggling of Refugees and Migrants from Afghanistan – October 2020

## Protection risks faced by Rohingya and Bangladeshis in Malaysia amid the COVID-19 crisis – August 2020

Understanding the impact of COVID-19 on Rohingya and Bangladeshis in Malaysia: [Update 1 \(June 2020\)](#) and [Update 2 \(July 2020\)](#)

[The impacts of COVID-19 on Afghans in India and Indonesia – access to healthcare, livelihoods and support – July 2020](#)

[Knowledge of COVID-19, information sources and reported needs – July 2020](#)

[The economic and psychological impacts of COVID-19 on Afghans in India and Indonesia – June 2020](#)

[Understanding the impact of COVID-19 on Afghan returnees – May 2020](#)

## Latin America and the Caribbean

**Recommendations**

- Increase humanitarian assistance to limit the adverse impact of the COVID-19 crisis on refugees and migrants and avoid negative coping mechanisms.
- Provide cash-based assistance to refugees and migrants who cannot cover their most pressing needs.
- Ensure that refugees and migrants are adequately included in government relief programs related to COVID-19.

**Profiles**

This analysis is based on 212 surveys conducted between 13 July and 28 August 2020. Data collection was carried out remotely by phone.

50% of respondents were interviewed in Guatemala and 49% in Mexico. 87% of those interviewed in Guatemala were in Guatemala City and 13% were in other cities such as Chetzumutz, Quetzaltenango, Guatemala. 50% of respondents in Mexico were in Tepic and 50% in other surrounding cities in different states, including Ciudad Hidalgo and Durango.

50% of respondents were women and 49% were men. The average age of respondents was 38 (see Figure 3).

**Figure 3. Age range and sex**

30% of respondents had completed high school followed by elementary school (20%), vocational training (19%) and higher education (2%).

Respondents were mostly from Honduras (67 of 212, or 41%), El Salvador (68 of 212, or 32%) and Nicaragua (41 of 212, or 19%). 17% of respondents came from other countries: Cuba, Venezuela, Guatemala, and Mexico. As more interviews are conducted in Mexico, the proportion of Guatemalan respondents is likely to increase.

[Assistance needed and received among migrants and refugees in Guatemala and Mexico – September 2020](#)

[Impact of COVID-19 on refugees and migrants in Guatemala and Mexico – September 2020](#)

[Impact of COVID-19 among Venezuelan refugees and migrants in Peru – August 2020](#)

[Venezuelan refugees and migrants – awareness and information on COVID-19 – June 2020](#)

[Venezuelan refugees and migrants – assistance needed and received during the COVID-19 pandemic – May 2020](#)

[Impact of COVID-19 on Venezuelan refugees and migrants – May 2020](#)

## North Africa

**Key recommendations**

- Increase basic needs assistance – food, water, shelter – to vulnerable refugees and migrants across Tunisia to avoid negative coping mechanisms due to loss of income.
- Increase cash programming, including cash for health services, for the broader refugee and migrant population based on their own assessment of their needs following the loss of work and income.
- The impact of the COVID-19 crisis on refugees' and migrants' access to work – largely in the informal sector – highlights the need for greater legal pathways to help refugees and migrants can access employment opportunities in the formal sector.

**Profiles**

This snapshot is based on 1172 surveys and 12 key informant interviews with refugees and migrants in Tunisia conducted between April 08 and June 16th, 2020. Respondents were surveyed in 10 cities across the country: most notably in Sfax (23%), Mahdia (27%), Sidi Bou Said (23%), The main origin countries of respondents are Chad (31%), Sudan (26%), and Eritrea (26%). Other countries include, but are not limited to, Cameroon, Guinea, Mali, and Burkina Faso. Of those surveyed, 60% are men and 39% are women, ranging from 18 to 70 years of age (Figure 1).

**Figure 1. Age range and sex of respondents**

Most surveyed refugees and migrants are experiencing reduced work and income because of COVID-19. A majority (80%) of surveyed refugees and migrants reported experiencing reduced access to work as one of the impacts of the COVID-19 crisis on their daily lives (Figure 2), while around the same time (80%) reported having lost income due to the imposed restrictions (Figure 3). Some 20% (n=42) of respondents, however, declared that they were not earning an income at the time of the analysis.

[The impact of COVID-19 on refugees and migrants in Tunisia – a focus on employment and livelihoods – July 2020](#)

[Access to information on COVID-19 in Libya and Tunisia – June 2020](#)

[The impact of COVID-19 on the mobility of refugees and migrants in Libya – May 2020](#)

[Refugees' and migrants' access to health services in Tunisia – a focus on discrimination and COVID-19 – April 2020](#)

[Understanding the impacts of COVID-19 on refugees and migrants in Tripoli – April 2020](#)





**Mixed Migration Centre** MMC Europe 4Mi Snapshot – May 2020  
**Destination Europe – Migrants and refugees in Italy looking back at their migration journey**

The Mixed Migration Monitoring Mechanism Initiative (4Mi) collects information about mixed migration flows through its networks of field monitors continuously conducting interviews with people on the move. The 4Mi survey primarily provides structured quantitative data but also collects few narrative quotes with respondents, to better understand findings to inform policy and programming. For more information, see <https://www.mixedmigration.org/en/4mi/>.

This report introduces the first analysis of the 4Mi data collected in Italy. It looks at those migrants and refugees that have made it to Europe, Italy, and their reflections on the migration journey. What information would have been useful to receive during the migration journey to Italy? Would they migrate knowing what they know now having reached Europe? And would they encourage others to do the same?

**Conditions for refugees and migrants and the COVID-19 pandemic**

This snapshot provides information on the situation for migrants and refugees in Italy before COVID-19 was declared a pandemic. At the time of writing, the impact of COVID-19 on cross-border conditions for refugees and migrants in Italy remains uncertain. Government measures to contain the virus mean vulnerable people living on the streets face severe challenges to meet their basic needs, access to services is compromised, people cannot attend interviews for refugee status determination, and xenophobia has increased. However, we also witness an opening up of spaces, for example discussions around regularization of migrant workers and citizens in Italy. For more on this topic, see MMC Europe's [quarterly Mixed Migration Update](https://www.mixedmigration.org/en/4mi/).

**Profiles and Italy as a preferred destination country**

The dataset used for the analysis includes 130 respondents (111 men and 19 women) and was collected between 25 November 2019 and 10 March 2020. The dataset is part of a larger 4Mi data collection that is being implemented across South, Central and North Italy and in three locations in Greece, Albania, Thailand and Somalia. More 4Mi snapshot reports will therefore be published covering different topics, migrant and refugee profiles and migration routes to Europe.

The respondents originate from Nigeria (66), Pakistan (35) and Ivory Coast (29). The sample size is too small to look at the differences between nationalities, but given their very different profiles and journeys, this should be explored in future, as more data is gathered. 9 respondents had arrived in Italy less than 12 months before the interview, 42 between 12-24 months and 79 people more than 24 months. The majority (54%) mention Italy as their preferred destination, most frequently due to economic opportunities (58%) and due to generally better living standards (24%), combined with a wish for personal freedom (27%) and respect for human rights (27%) in the country (Figure 2). The other respondents chose France, Germany and Sweden as destinations, with fewer citing countries outside Europe such as Canada (5) and the USA (5).

1. See the first phase of the 4Mi data collection in Italy, in the form of a destination choice survey on the three associated publications on Italy, Greece, Albania and Thailand, available on our website: <https://www.mixedmigration.org/en/4mi/>.

2. The remaining 10 respondents were women (19%) and men (81%).

## Destination Europe – migrants and refugees in Italy looking back at their migration journey – May 2020

This report introduces the first analysis of the 4Mi data collected in Italy. It looks at those migrants and refugees that have made it to Europe, Italy, and their reflections on the migration journey.

**Mixed Migration Centre** MMC Latin America and the Caribbean 4Mi Snapshot – April 2020  
**Access to assistance for Venezuelans on the move**

This snapshot focuses on access to assistance for Venezuelan refugees and migrants along the route from Venezuela to Colombia and Peru and/or after arriving at their destination city. The analysis is based on 1,026 interviews conducted between 9 November 2019 and 15 March 2020. 896 in Colombia and 130 in Peru, 60% of respondents were women and 40% men. The average age was 32.9 years old.

**47% of respondents received assistance along the route**

As Figure 1 shows, 47% of respondents reported having received assistance along the way. It should be noted that 4Mi monitors most frequently recruit interviewees at assistance distribution points, NGO premises and other institutional locations in Colombia and Peru. The percentage of persons who received assistance among the general migrant and refugee population is likely to be lower.

**Figure 1. Did you receive assistance along the way?**

**Figure 2. Access to assistance by sex**

Sex	Received assistance	Did not receive assistance
Male	45%	55%
Female	49%	51%

In the same way, younger respondents reported a much higher access to assistance than older ones, while 54% of interviewees between 18 and 25 said they had received assistance, only 22% of those older than 55 did (see Figure 3).

1. The 4Mi data is currently collected in Sudan.

## Access to assistance for Venezuelans on the move – April 2020

This snapshot focuses on access to assistance for Venezuelan refugees and migrants along the route from Venezuela to Colombia and Peru and/or after arriving at their destination city.

**Mixed Migration Centre** MMC North Africa 4Mi Snapshot – March 2020  
**Aspirations and Intended Destinations of People on the Move in Tunisia**

While research has been carried out in Libya on migrant aspirations and destinations, limited data are available on people on the move in Tunisia. To fill this gap, the Mixed Migration Centre rolled out its flagship primary data collection project 4Mi in Tunisia. In May and September in December 2019. This snapshot provides the first analysis of 4Mi data, with a focus on the intended destinations and migration aspirations of refugees and migrants moving to and through Tunisia.

**Profiles**

The survey encompassed 1,302 4Mi surveys of refugees and migrants conducted in Tunisia between December 2019 and March 2020. Respondents are clearly from Chad (57%), Sudan (102%), Eritrea (102%), Iraq, and Somalia (107%). Other respondents represented in the sample include Comoros, Congo, Cameroon, Malawi, and Libya. Of those surveyed, 66.2% are men and 33.7% are women. Most respondents are not married (62.7%), and do not have children (67.2%). The distribution of the religion of respondents is Islamic, with 47.8% of Muslim faith and 52.1% of Christian faith, and the remainder of other faiths. Furthermore, the sample is relatively highly educated, 38.8% having completed secondary school, 23.1% university, and 8.4% vocational/technical school. Some 9% did not have any education.

**Very few interviewed refugees and migrants consider Tunisia to be their final destination**

When asked if respondents wanted to return to their home country, almost all (99.3%, n=1,245) reported their desire to return to their home country. 12% of sampled refugees and migrants also said they had not reached the end of their journey (n=1,021), but that Tunisia was their final destination (n=20), and 67 respondents (5.1%) said they were unsure whether Tunisia was their final destination. Of those who said they had not reached the end of their journey at the time of the interview, most cited a European country as their intended final destination (82.3%, followed by Canada (28%) and the United States (7%). Countries in Europe and North America were reported by 83.3% of those respondents. While the majority of respondents had not yet intended destination had not changed since the beginning of their journey (88%), just over 12% had changed their intended destination along the route.

1. See our previous report, MMC (2019) 'Migrants and Refugees in Tunisia: Aspirations and Intended Destinations of People on the Move in Tunisia'.

2. The remaining 10 respondents were women (19%) and men (81%).

**Figure 1. What is your intended destination?**

These findings vary substantially from a recent study by the Forum for African Studies, Economics and Statistics (FATES) based on interviews with 302 migrants in Tunisia, which found that 67% of respondents had Tunisia as a 'desired' destination.<sup>1</sup> The 4Mi and FATES samples have similar distributions of East and West African respondents, so variation likely stems from question formulation. It is possible that Tunisia is perceived as an intended destination given the route in the FATES study, as the question did not specify final destination. In contrast, the 4Mi questionnaire asks about the country to which respondents ultimately want to settle, which may skew responses towards more aspirational destinations. 4Mi findings also differ from those of a 2018 FATES qualitative study which reported that Tunisia was the intended destination for most of the 82 refugee and migrant respondents at the time they left their origin countries.<sup>2</sup> Given the different sampling approaches, it is difficult to compare 4Mi data with the FATES study findings.

1. Forum for African Studies, Economics and Statistics (FATES) (2019) 'Migrants and Refugees in Tunisia: Aspirations and Intended Destinations of People on the Move in Tunisia'.

2. Forum for African Studies, Economics and Statistics (FATES) (2018) 'Migrants and Refugees in Tunisia: Aspirations and Intended Destinations of People on the Move in Tunisia'.

## Aspirations and intended destinations of people on the move in Tunisia – March 2020

This snapshot provides the first analysis of 4Mi data, with a focus on the intended destinations and migrations aspirations of refugees and migrants moving to and through Tunisia.

**Mixed Migration Centre** MMC North Africa 4Mi Snapshot – February 2020  
**The Role of Smugglers in East Africans' Mixed Migration to Libya via Sudan**

In addition to being a country of origin, Sudan serves as a key country of destination as well as transit for refugees and migrants moving along the Central Mediterranean Route towards Europe or the Central Mediterranean Sea. This snapshot examines the main mixed migration routes through Sudan towards Libya and explores whether and how respondents interacted with smugglers on their journey.

**Profiles**

This snapshot is based on 4Mi data on refugees and migrants who moved through Sudan to Libya. Out of the 5,029 4Mi surveys of refugees and migrants conducted in Libya between May 2017 and October 2019, 427 refugees and migrants were Sudanese (13% of the total sample), 18.6% of the sample. All the 427 respondents in the 4Mi Libya sample had passed through Sudan (n=427). All but one of the Eritreans in the sample had passed through Sudan (n=383), 36% of all but one Somali had passed through Sudan (n=107, 2%).

**Two primary routes from Sudan to Libya: via Dongola in the North and El Fasher in the South-West**

Eritreans (87%) heavily relied on a mixed route through Sudan through Khartoum. The report most travelled city was Gadarif (47%), then further into the country, 79% reported passing through Khartoum, and 57% through El Fasher. The main transit city for Ethiopians (n=163) is Khartoum (84%), with 57% followed by Gadarif (27%), and El Fasher (22%). Of the 20 Somalis who moved through Sudan, 13 travelled via Khartoum, 7 through El Fasher and 2 through Gadarif. We also asked more than 100 of the East Africans and Sudanese report (57%) passing through the desert to reach Libya if it had ever whether these respondents did not want to discuss their exact location or were uncomfortable with their location in northern Sudan.

1. The 4Mi data is currently collected in Sudan.

**Figure 1. East African and Sudanese Routes through Sudan to Libya**

4Mi data complement findings from a 2018 Overseas Development Institute (ODI) qualitative study which suggest there are two primary routes from Sudan to Libya: one through Gadarif in the north-central region and one through El Fasher in the south-western region. Of the 483 migrants who travelled through Sudan but are not Sudanese, 47% also travelled through Egypt before reaching Libya, and 23% travelled through Chad, indicating that most crossed directly to Libya from Sudan.

1. J. J. J. and M. Buchanan Smith (2018) 'Migrants and Refugees in Sudan: Aspirations and Intended Destinations of People on the Move in Sudan'.

## The role of smugglers in East Africans' mixed migration to Libya via Sudan – February 2020

This snapshot examines the main mixed migration routes through Sudan towards Libya and explores whether and how respondents interacted with smugglers on their journey. This snapshot is based on 4Mi data on refugees and migrants who moved through Sudan to Libya.

**Mixed Migration Centre** MMC Latin America and the Caribbean 4Mi Snapshot – February 2020  
**Protection risks for Venezuelans on the move**

This snapshot highlights protection risks faced by Venezuelan refugees and migrants along the route from Venezuela to Peru. The analysis is based on 748 interviews conducted between 9 November 2019 and 9 February 2020: 642 in Colombia and 106 in Peru. 40% of respondents were women and 60% were men. The average age among respondents was 33 years old.

**Figure 1. Age range and sex**

**Robbery is considered the most common protection risk**

Figure 2 shows that robbery is most commonly reported as a protection risk. 80% of those who indicated dangers along the route. This includes theft related to common crime, but also various forms of extortion perpetrated by criminal gangs, armed groups and state authorities. Theft and extortion leave Venezuelan refugees and migrants – who have very limited financial resources when they leave their place of origin<sup>1</sup> – in a situation of extreme vulnerability.

Respondents frequently described their journey as very difficult or traumatic. According to an 28-year-old woman interviewed in Cali (Colombia): “the journey is very tough, we have been humiliated and ill-treated, we had to beg for money and sleep on the streets. We have a one-year old daughter and another one coming soon.”

A 33-year-old woman interviewed in Lima (Peru) said: “I wouldn’t travel like this again, it was horrible. It was the longest journey of my life. I was robbed, someone stole my food, I ran out of money and milk and diapers for my baby. I had to drink water out of public bathrooms.”

AMM respondents are asked: “What were the most dangerous locations on your journey?” For up to five locations, they are then asked: “What were the main risks in this location,” and “Who were likely to be perpetrating such incidents?” This snapshot analyses the answers to these questions.

## Protection risks for Venezuelans on the move – February 2020

This snapshot highlights protection risks faced by Venezuelan refugees and migrants along the route from Venezuela to Peru. The analysis is based on 748 interviews conducted between 9 November 2019 and 9 February 2020: 642 in Colombia and 106 in Peru.

**Mixed Migration Centre** MMC Latin America and the Caribbean 4Mi Snapshot – January 2020, initial findings  
**Venezuelan migrants and refugees on the move – drivers and reported dangers**

**4Mi in Latin America**

The Mixed Migration Monitoring Mechanism Initiative (4Mi) collects information about mixed migration flows through a network of field monitors continuously conducting interviews with people on the move. 4Mi data provides indicative findings to inform policy and programming. For more information, see [www.mixedmigration.org/](https://www.mixedmigration.org/)

In Latin America, 4Mi is currently being implemented in six locations across two countries (Riobamba, Cúcuta, Barranquilla, Bogotá and Iquitos in Colombia and Lima in Peru) on the southwestern route out of Venezuela and elsewhere exclusively Venezuelans on the move, more specifically people who are in transit or who arrived at the location of interview less than 12 months earlier.

**Figure 1: Interview locations**

**Mixed migration movements out of Venezuela**

According to the most recent estimates, more than 4,700,000 Venezuelan nationals have left Venezuela.<sup>1</sup> The main destinations of this mixed migration movement are other countries in Latin America. There are three main migration routes out of the country. The southwestern route, through or to Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Chile is the most commonly used, and Colombia and Peru have the highest number of Venezuelan migrants and refugees on their territory (more than 1,630,000 in

Colombia and more than 860,000 in Peru). The two other routes are the South-western to Brazil and that to the North and East (to the Caribbean islands and Guyana).

**Profiles of 4Mi respondents**

The purpose of this snapshot is to provide some initial findings on the profiles of the people interviewed, the reasons why they left Venezuela, and the locations they identified as the most dangerous along their route. These findings will be built on as the project progresses and the sample size grows.

This snapshot is based on 437 interviews conducted between 9 November 2019 and 7 January 2020: 381 interviews conducted in Colombia and 56 in Peru. 60% of respondents were women and 40% were men. The average age among respondents was 33.6 years, 38 being the lowest age and 76 the highest.

**Figure 2. Age range and sex**

## Venezuelan migrants and refugees on the move – drivers and reported dangers - January 2020

The purpose of this snapshot is to provide some initial findings on the profiles of the people interviewed, the reasons why they left Venezuela, and the locations they identified as the most dangerous along their route.

**Mixed Migration Centre** MMC West Africa 4Mi Snapshot – February 2020  
**Cost and duration of migration journey**

This snapshot provides an overview of the duration of the journeys of migrants and refugees in West Africa, the cost of these journeys and the reasons behind the choice of migration routes.

**Profiles**

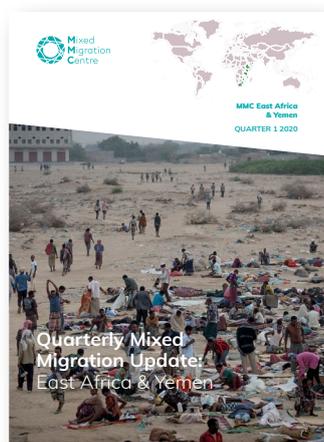
The snapshot is based on 488 interviews conducted from 1 January 2019 to 30 June 2019: 3,058 migrants and refugees were interviewed, of which 23% were women and 77% were men. The main countries of nationality of the respondents are Burkina Faso (23%), Guinea (23%), Ivory Coast (20%), Mali (19%), Niger (19%), Senegal (19%), Sierra Leone (18%), Liberia (18%), Nigeria (18%), Chad (18%), Gambia (18%), Guinea-Bissau (18%) and Senegal (18%).

**Short journeys...**

**Figure 1. Duration of journey up until interview point disaggregated by gender**

# Quarterly Mixed Migration Updates

The QMMUs offer a quarterly update on new trends and dynamics related to mixed migration and relevant policy developments in the region. These updates are based on a compilation of a wide range of secondary (data) sources, brought together within a regional framework and applying a mixed migration analytical lens.<sup>1</sup>



## East Africa and Yemen

[Quarterly Update East Africa and Yemen- Q1](#)

[Quarterly Update East Africa and Yemen- Q2](#)

[Quarterly Update East Africa and Yemen- Q3](#)

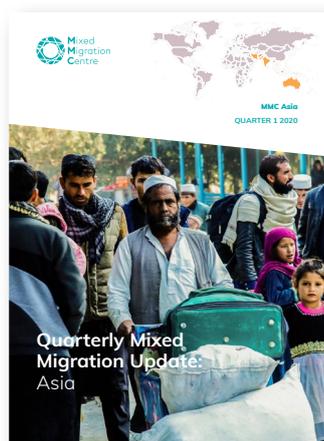


## North Africa

[Quarterly Update North Africa – Q1](#)

[Quarterly Update North Africa – Q2](#)

[Quarterly Update North Africa – Q3](#)



## Asia

[Quarterly Update Asia – Q1](#)

[Quarterly Update Asia – Q2](#)

[Quarterly Update Asia – Q3](#)

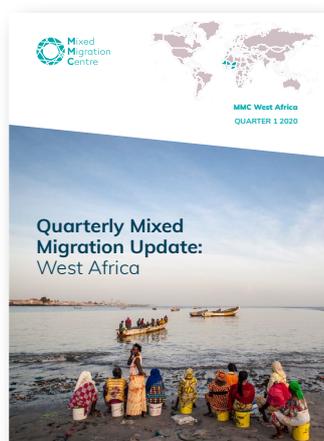


## Latin America and the Caribbean

[Quarterly Update Latin America and the Caribbean – Q1](#)

[Quarterly Update Latin America and the Caribbean – Q2](#)

[Quarterly Update Latin America and the Caribbean – Q3](#)



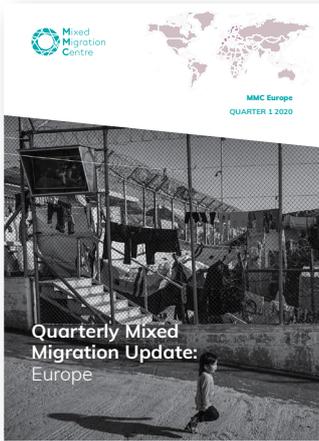
## West Africa

[Quarterly Update West Africa – Q1](#)

[Quarterly Update West Africa – Q2](#)

[Quarterly Update West Africa – Q3](#)

<sup>1</sup> The QMMUs for the 4th quarter of 2020 are published late January 2021, after the release of this annual catalogue and therefore not included here.



## Europe

[Quarterly Update  
Europe – Q1](#)

[Quarterly Update  
Europe – Q2](#)

[Quarterly Update  
Europe – Q3<sup>2</sup>](#)



## Middle East

[Quarterly Update  
Middle East – Q1](#)

[Quarterly Update  
Middle East – Q2<sup>3</sup>](#)

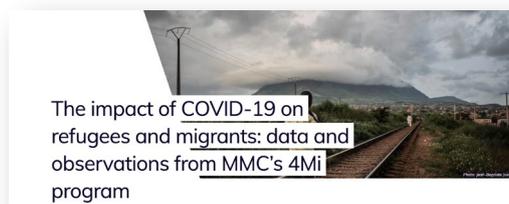
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- 2 As of the last quarter of 2020, the Quarterly Mixed Migration Update series for the Europe region has been discontinued due to limited capacity in the MMC regional hub.
  - 3 As of September 2020, the Quarterly Mixed Migration Update series for the Middle East region has been discontinued due to a closure of the MMC regional hub in Amman.

# Articles



## **Migration reflections with Africa at the centre: an interview with Badara Ndiaye – September 2020**

The MMC West Africa sat down with Badara Ndiaye, the Director of DIADEM (Diaspora Development Education Migration) and the West African platform of the civil society organization MIGRAFRIQUE, to seek his perspective on migration in Senegal both today and historically; the role (West) African civil society can and should play in terms of advocating for and protecting the migration space and the rights of migrants; the position and future orientation of African actors when it comes to migration; and effects of the pandemic on migration.



## **The impact of COVID-19 on refugees and migrants: data and observations from MMC's 4Mi program – August 2020**

The coronavirus and measures to contain it have profoundly impacted mobility around the globe. As the virus spread globally, various publications have discussed how it might disproportionately affect the lives of refugees and migrants. With the aim of contributing towards an evidence-based understanding of this impact and better informed advocacy and programming, at the onset of the crisis in March 2020 the Mixed Migration Centre [adapted the 4Mi data collection program](#). This article seeks to synthesize and contextualize our initial findings to highlight what we currently know both about the increasing precarity of people's day-to-day circumstances and how the pandemic affected their journey.



## **Somalis and Yemenis of mixed origin stranded and struggling in Jordan's capital – July 2020**

This article builds upon MMC's [previous work](#) on [displaced minorities](#) in Jordan and recently conducted [ethnographic research](#) and semi-structured interviews with ten Jordanians and 20 Somali and 20 Yemeni refugees and migrants. The interviews took place from January to June 2019 and from May 2020 to June 2020. Among other things, we briefly describe the migration background of Somali and Yemeni communities, their access to international protection, and their day-to-day social interactions and challenges in Jordan.



## **"Hot returns" and the cold shoulder: New developments in deterrence along the Western Mediterranean Route – April 2020**

Discussions of European externalization of migration policy often focus on measures taken in Niger and along the Central Mediterranean Route. However, actions taken along the Western Mediterranean Route (WMR) to keep refugees and migrants at arms' length from Europe should not be overlooked. In the first quarter of 2020 there were notable developments in European legal precedent and operational practice which served to deter migrants and refugees from EU borders. Both developments relate to non-mainland Spanish territories with proximity to the African continent, pertain to practices of physical removal from these territories, and disproportionately affect West Africans. They make it more difficult for West Africans to access due process, and by extension, to obtain protection and asylum.



## **Bram Frouws about the root causes of migration, migration policy and the impact of COVID-19 – June 2020**

Interview with the head of the Mixed Migration Centre, conducted by Cordaid, about various migration issues, including root causes, migrant smuggling, migration policies, MMC's Mixed Migration Review and the impact of Covid-19.



## **Op-Ed: Mistaken metaphor: the 'root causes' approach to migration is both dishonest and ineffective – March 2020**

In recent years, there has been a strong focus on and narrative around the so-called root causes of migration. It is a central element for example in the 4.7 billion euro 'European Union Emergency Trust Fund for stability and addressing root causes of irregular migration and displaced persons in Africa' (EUTF). The idea is that displacement and irregular migration will fall when the root causes are addressed. While there is some validity in this premise and it has contributed to the implementation of some successful development projects, there are also many flaws.



## **Op-Ed: The wrong side of history? A missed opportunity to lead on a human-rights-led response to mixed migration between Turkey and Greece – March 2020**

In 2016, during the negotiation of what is commonly known today as the "EU-Turkey deal" we highlighted the danger that as a result of this deal, refugees and migrants could be turned into bargaining chips, an approach which on previous occasions has proved to be [harmful for migrants, ineffective, and ultimately counter-productive](#). Developments in Greece early 2020 seem to show that the EU-Turkey deal has indeed repeated mistakes from earlier deals in other contexts. Four years into the multi-billion euro deal we seem to be back at square one, [with thousands of migrants and refugees pressing at the EU border](#) and many more stuck in [horrendous conditions in makeshift camps in the Greek islands](#), where [anti-migration sentiments continue to rise](#).



## **Challenging the climate change/mobility assumptions in the Horn – February 2020**

This article is based on a briefing paper by the Mixed Migration Centre focusing on the Horn of Africa and Yemen, suggesting that contrary to widely held assumptions in the region and beyond, the linkages between these stresses and cross-border movement and mixed migration cannot be proven, for the moment at least.

# MMC in the Media in 2020

[Folk på De Kanariske Øer har fået nok af nyt flygtningeboom: »Vi plejede at være solidariske, men nu vokser racismen«](#) (Politiken, interview in Danish media about migration route from Western Africa to Canary Islands, November 2020)

[Corona legitimerer hård linje mod migranter](#) (Kristeligt Dagblad, Interview in Danish media about the effects of Covid-19 on migration and the 'normalisation of the extreme' chapter in the Mixed Migration Review, November 2020)

[European migrant routes shift](#) (World, November 2020)

[Experten: Wirtschaftsfolgen von Corona könnten Migration befeuern](#) (Handelsblatt, Interview in German Media about the effects of Covid-19 on migration, November 2020)

[Covid hat alles verzögert": Die Pandemie und Migration nach Europa](#) (Keystone SDA, Interview in Swiss media about the effects of Covid-19 on migration routes to Europe, November 2020)

[News Highlights: Eritrean government arresting families, 11 women and children die off Tunisian coast; UK considers nets to stop crossing boats](#) (EEPA, October 2020)

[Migrants from Africa take more dangerous route to Europe](#) (Infomigrants, October 2020)

[BBC Radio Program](#) (live radio interview on BBC World about joint UNHCR and MMC report on protection on migration routes from West and East Africa toward North Africa and Europe, July 2020)

["Gewalt und Missbrauch sind schlimmer geworden"](#) (TAZ, interview in German media about joint UNHCR and MMC report, July 2020)

[Migranten en vluchtelingen maken onvoorstelbare gruwel mee voor ze de Afrikaanse kust bereiken](#) (VRT Radio Belgium, interview in Belgian media about joint UNHCR and MMC report, July 2020)

[Expert discussion: After the "migration crisis"](#) (OpenDemocracy, May 2020)

[Briefing: In search of a more humane EU migration and asylum policy](#) (the New Humanitarian, May 2020)

[Libya: Coronavirus outbreak could be 'catastrophic' for migrants](#) (Aljazeera, April 2020)

[Covid-19 Is Paralyzing One of West Africa's Main Resources: Migrants](#) (ISPI, April 2020)

[Devil in Djibouti: Migrants' rough road to Arabia](#) (Asia Times, February 2020)

[Experts around the globe told us 10 ways to make migration policy more humane](#) (The Correspondent, February 2020)

[Le Rwanda reçoit des réfugiés évacués de Libye "solution africaine aux problèmes africains"](#) (Le Monde, Interview in French media about evacuations from Libya to Rwanda, January 2020)

[Rape, abuse and violence: Female migrants' journey to Libya](#) (Aljazeera, January 2020)

[Europe is the promised land - and nothing will convince these migrants otherwise](#) (The Correspondent, January 2020)



The Mixed Migration Centre (MMC) is a global network consisting of six regional hubs (Asia, East Africa & Yemen, Europe, North Africa, West Africa and Latin America & the Caribbean) and a central unit in Geneva. The MMC is a leading source for independent and high-quality data, research, analysis and expertise on mixed migration. The MMC aims to increase understanding of mixed migration, to positively impact global and regional migration policies, to inform evidence-based protection responses for people on the move and to stimulate forward thinking in public and policy debates on mixed migration. The MMC's overarching focus is on human rights and protection for all people on the move.

The MMC is part of and governed by the Danish Refugee Council (DRC). While its institutional link to DRC ensures MMC's work is grounded in operational reality, it acts as an independent source of data, research, analysis and policy development on mixed migration for policy makers, practitioners, journalists, and the broader humanitarian sector. The position of the MMC does not necessarily reflect the position of DRC.

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Tommy E Trenchard (2013)

For more information on MMC visit our website:  
[mixedmigration.org](https://mixedmigration.org)

