



## The Mixed Migration Centre in 2021

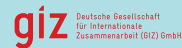
Annual catalogue of research  
& publications

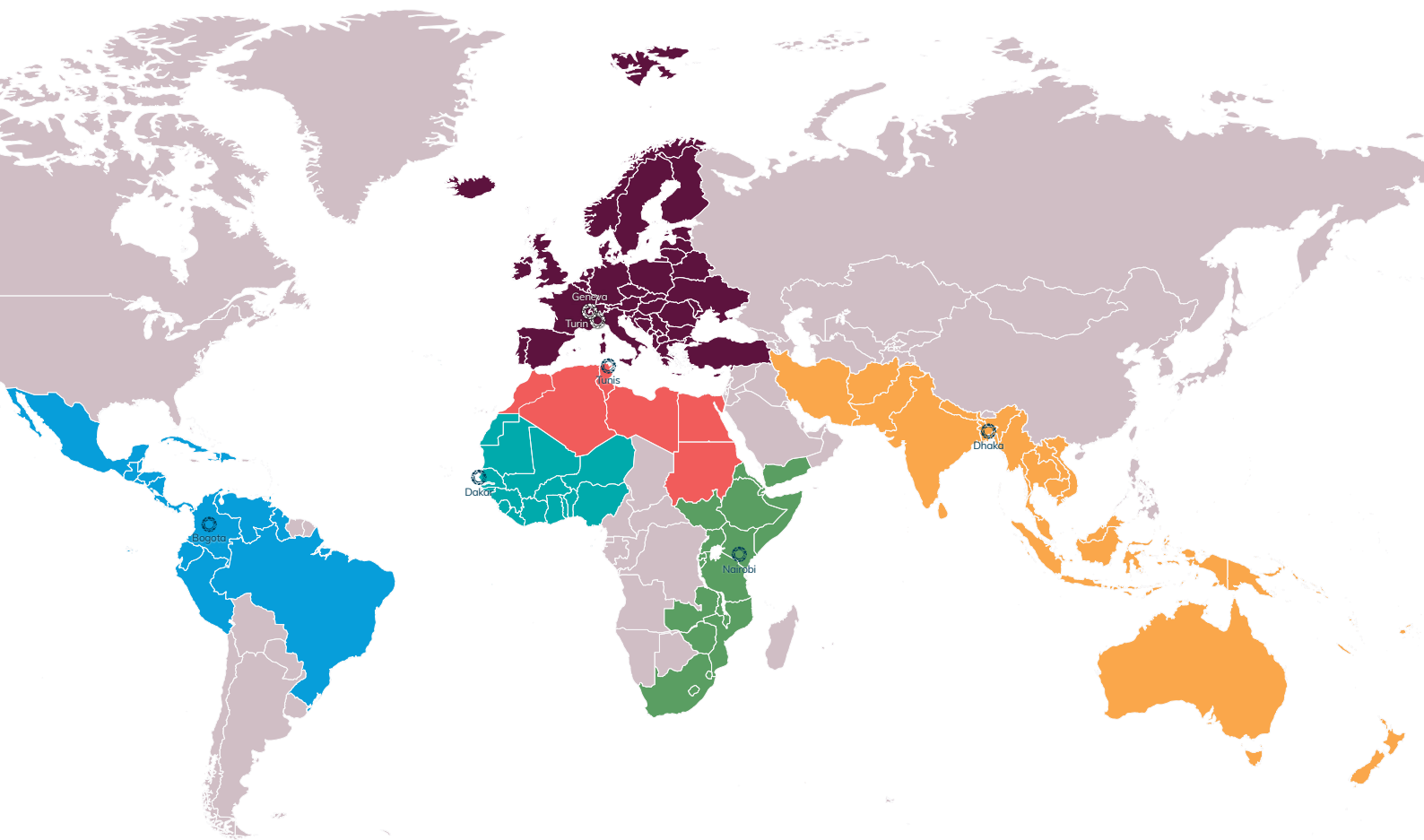
# The Mixed Migration Centre in 2021

Annual catalogue of research  
& publications

The MMC's work in 2021 was made possible through the generous support and close cooperation with various partners, including:

DANIDA, the European Commission, ECHO, Ford Foundation, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, GIZ, Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung, ICMPD, Mayors Migration Council, the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, OHCHR, Open Society Foundation, Porticus Foundation, Robert Bosch Stiftung, Swedish Postcode Foundation, the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, Save the Children, the Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation, the United Kingdom Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), UNFPA, UNHCR, UNODC, 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 brochure '[Evidence and Insights on Mixed Migration](#)'. For a detailed introduction to our 4Mi data collection programme, [click here](#).

**This annual catalogue offers a compilation of publications and contributions to media articles by the Mixed Migration Centre network in 2021.**

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

2021 has been yet another extraordinary year in the world of migration. Perhaps for much longer than many expected, and certainly hoped for, the world still finds itself in the middle of the Covid-19 pandemic which has had, and will continue to have, a strong influence on human mobility. Not only directly, by inhibiting migration or causing return migration from cities to rural areas as we saw in the early days of the pandemic, but also more indirectly, as the economic impact of lockdown measures left many aspiring migrants, still in their country of origin, suddenly starved of the resources needed to fulfil their migratory aspirations. Or, conversely, it led to increased migratory movements where the economic impacts of the pandemic, such as rising unemployment and closures of businesses, created an additional push for more people to migrate and search for better opportunities elsewhere.

Where many hoped that the start of vaccination campaigns in 2021 would have brought some relief, vaccine inequality will further affect human mobility, both by acting as a measure of de facto immigration control, preventing those without access to vaccines from travelling, and by impacting on the socio-economic recovery in many countries of origin without sufficient access to vaccines, where prolonged impact of the pandemic might slow down the recovery, adding to already existing migration drivers.

Besides the pandemic, 2021 saw the Taliban take-over in Afghanistan, leading to the evacuation of thousands of Afghans and [many more attempting their own journeys out of the country](#). The situation in [Tigray, Ethiopia](#), continued to escalate, leading to cross-border refugee movements into Sudan, and onward migration of Ethiopians and Eritreans. In Sudan itself, [a military coup in October](#) created an uncertain situation and raised questions around the wider regional impact and implications for Sudan's role in regional migration governance. In November 2021, an evolving [situation on the EU's external borders with Belarus](#) escalated, leading once again to a political crisis in Europe over how to respond to the arrival of refugees and migrants. 2021 also saw an escalating crisis in the Sahel impacting on [mobility in the region](#) and record numbers reaching the US southern border, crossing the channel between France and the UK and arriving on the [Canary Islands](#) from West Africa.

On all these rapidly evolving situations, MMC was fast to offer expert analysis and commentary through our series of articles, research or media interviews, all listed in this 2021 annual catalogue.

In 2021, we published 20 research reports and papers covering a wide variety of topics and regions, 29 4Mi

data snapshots, 15 Quarterly Mixed Migration Updates and 16 website articles – the latter double the number compared to 2020 – organised 7 launch events and presented our analysis at dozens of external events. Links to all publications and short abstracts are included in this annual catalogue. As in 2020, the number of website visitors again increased by over 40%, the number of page views reached almost 200,000 and we gained thousands of new followers on our [Twitter](#) and LinkedIn channels.

In 2021 we focused extensively on human smuggling. Through a partnership with UNODC's Observatory on Smuggling of Migrants, we collected data through an additional module added to thousands of 4Mi surveys with refugees and migrants along migration routes in West and North Africa, interviewed hundreds of smugglers, published [seven snapshots on smuggling](#) and introduced MMC's own [understanding of human smuggling](#). Additionally, we published a paper with [6 key messages on human smuggling](#), as part of a new MMC series of short state-of-play papers based on a decade of data collection, analysis and research. This series continues in 2022, with our key messages on 'why people migrate' and on 'climate change and mixed migration'.

While in 2020 we adapted our 4Mi data collection to remote interviewing and a special survey mainly focused on the impact of Covid-19, in early 2021 we reverted to its standard surveys with refugees and migrants, conducted face-to-face where possible, and remotely only where needed. On all fronts, 2021 was an important year for 4Mi. MMC's flagship data collection programme started in 2014 on a small scale in East Africa, has come to full fruition over the years, as [visually presented on page 7](#) of this annual catalogue, and described in a new, [extended introduction to 4Mi](#). In addition to hitting the mark of 100,000 surveys since the start in 2014, a true milestone for MMC and 4Mi in 2021 was the launch of [4Mi Interactive](#) with 3 different dashboards, making most of our data publicly available and enabling users to apply their own filters and create their own graphs.

Furthermore, based on the solid foundation of a globally comparable, harmonised system, 2021 allowed us to innovate in our methodologies to implement new qualitative approaches on, for example, youth and on smuggling in West Africa and North Africa and for multiple 4Mi spin-offs to be implemented including: 4Mi Returns in Afghanistan, interviewing returnees about their return journeys, challenges and needs and aspirations upon return; 4Mi Longitudinal, comprising remote follow-up interviews with the same respondents, to be able to follow people along their migration journeys and over time and understand how decision-making



evolves, successfully piloted in Libya and Somaliland in 2021; 4Mi Children and Youth, interviewing youth in urban centres in West Africa and 4Mi Cities, piloted in 2021 in three cities in Latin America and three cities in East Africa, focusing on refugees and migrants in urban areas, in close partnership with city governments and the Mayors Migration Council, to ensure uptake of evidence into cities' urban and migration policies.

Partnerships continue to be an integral part of our strategy as a small organisation, enabling us to increase our audience and impact and making sure we are doing the analysis that our partners need. Our team in North Africa continued an excellent cooperation with UNHCR, including the organisation of a 3-day policy workshop bringing together 40 researchers, protection actors, policy-makers and people with a displacement experience, and publishing a joint [Roadmap for advocacy, policy development and programming](#) on protection in mixed movements along the Central and Western Mediterranean Routes, an edited volume including 25 research papers.

Furthermore, we continued our partnership with ICMPD under the Rabat Process, as part of which we published 3 research papers and organised several ["mixed migration future workshops"](#). Our team in West Africa continued the partnership with UNFPA, focusing on migrant youth in West African cities, and with OHCHR, focusing on migrants' access to socio-economic rights. Our team in Asia started up a new partnership with DRC, the Asia Durable Solutions Platform (ADSP) and the Geutanyoë Foundation, to address protection risks and needs of Rohingya refugees in Southeast Asia. In addition to the partnership with UNODC mentioned above, we also signed new Memoranda of Understanding to strengthen and streamline cooperation with OHCHR and the Danish Red Cross, and further developed the important and close partnership with the Mayors Migration Council.

One partnership worth explicit mention is MMC's work under the new Africa Climate Mobility Initiative (ACMI), launched in September 2021 by the African Union Commission, World Bank, UNDP, UNFCCC and IOM, to support the African Union and African nations to harness the potential of mobility in the context of the climate crisis, and address climate-forced displacement and migration. Under the ACMI umbrella, MMC conducted field research in Angola, Egypt, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Senegal and Uganda in 2021 on individual and household aspirations and decision-making around mobility in areas impacted by climate-related events. Our findings – included in 7 case study reports and 1 synthesis report - alongside a modelling exercise by Columbia University, will feed into a series of consultations and a comprehensive report on climate-forced mobility, complete with a clear Agenda for Action, to be presented at the margins of COP27, in late 2022 in Egypt.

MMC's work under ACMI closely aligned with our strategic ambition to increasingly engage on the subject of climate change and mixed migration, an area where there is a strong need for nuanced evidence, to counter the [many misconceptions and misleading narratives](#), and to include the human face of climate mobility.

MMC research is often about understanding the reality of migration for refugees and migrants, who were therefore among our main speakers in several of the events we organised in 2021, such as the launch of our [research on Indonesia](#), the launch of our [urban case study on Nairobi](#), and the launch of our study on the [economic lives of refugees and migrants in Tunisia](#), conducted in partnership with the Heinrich Böll Foundation. Commemorating International Migrants Day 2021, we published [5 stories of refugees and migrants](#) (which also featured in the Mixed Migration Review 2021) highlighting their often extraordinary experiences and journeys and started a new series of longitudinal interviews with [evacuees from Afghanistan](#), whom we will continue to follow over the course of 2022.

As always, in November we launched the [Mixed Migration Review 2021](#), during a well-attended and [lively virtual launch event](#). Under the overall umbrella of 'reframing human mobility, the MMR2021 covered a wide range of topics and - in line with our objective to stimulate new and forward thinking on mixed migration - introduced new conceptual ideas, such as the suggestion to potentially include internal migration and displacement under the mixed migration lens and the concepts of 'mixed immobility' and 'capability to stay'. Additionally, in 2021 we organised our first essay competition for young researchers, based in and from the Global South, to ensure inclusion of alternative perspectives in a sector still dominated by northern perspectives. Out of 650 abstracts and 20 full essays, we selected 5 winners whose essays featured in the MMR2021.

Sadly, we continue to witness measures and actions that would have been hard to imagine several years ago, such as proposals for floating walls at sea, the use of a sound cannon to deter refugees and migrants from entering a country or proposals to legalise pushbacks. These are included in our regular "Normalising the Extreme" feature, a global compilation of actions and policies that restrict mixed migration and infringe the rights of migrants and refugees, included in the MMR2021. However, to counter the grimness of "Normalising the Extreme", this year we introduced a new, sister section in the MMR, called 'Resisting the extreme', charting positive developments and progressive policies on mixed migration, such as regularisation of irregular migrants, access to Covid-19 vaccination for undocumented migrants, and reductions in immigration detention.

To close, what is on the horizon for 2022? After a year full of innovation, it will be key to consolidate, improve and expand our new initiatives, most notably 4Mi Returns, 4Mi Cities and 4Mi Longitudinal, to new cities, countries and contexts. We intend to further expand our targeted data collection on human smuggling to regions beyond North and West Africa, continue our extensive work on youth and migration in East, West and North Africa and to continue our work on climate change and mobility, within and beyond the African continent.

2022 will be an important year for global migration governance with the first-ever International Migration Review Forum (IMRF), to take stock of implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM). After our generally [positive assessment of GCM implementation in year one](#), and a positive assessment of the [GCM's usefulness during the Covid-19 pandemic](#), in 2021 we raised [critical concerns](#) about implementation, lack of accountability and the risk of a resurfacing of the decades-old north-south divide in global migration governance. We will continue to critically but constructively follow GCM implementation.

In 2022, we will celebrate a small anniversary, with the publication of the fifth Mixed Migration Review since the first edition in 2018. While the topics are to be decided, we feel a strong responsibility, after more than a decade of research and analysis, to increasingly come up with concrete ideas for better and different migration policies, and this may feature prominently in the upcoming MMR. Undoubtedly, 2022 will again present many new, and unexpected developments, affecting the lives of refugees and migrants around the world. We will continue to monitor these situations closely, offer our analysis, include the voices of refugees and migrant themselves, and place the human rights of people on the move at the centre.

On behalf of the entire MMC team,



**Bram Frouws**

Director of the Mixed Migration  
Centre

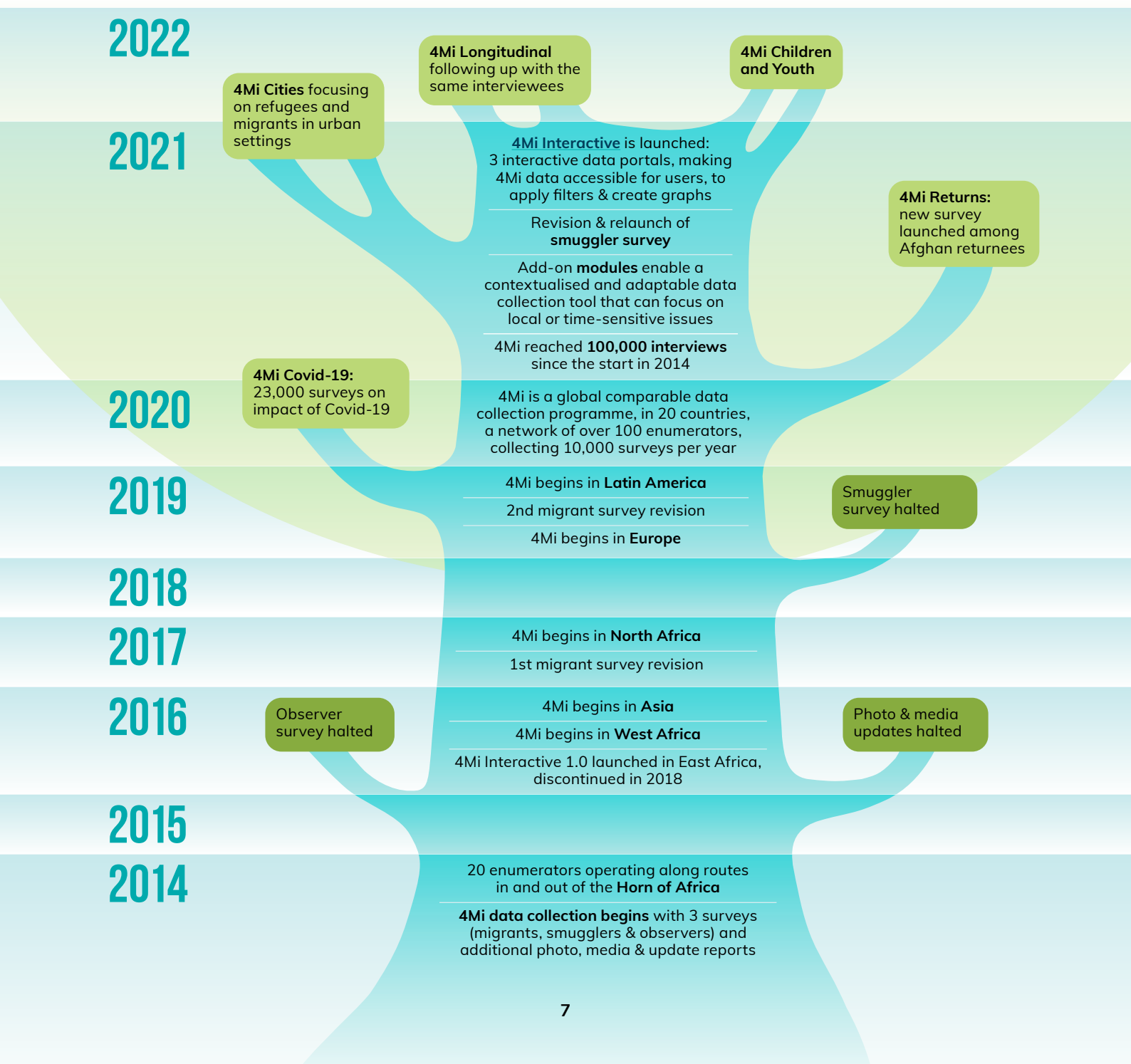
# The growth of MMC's 4Mi primary data collection programme

MMC's 4Mi data collection programme, established in 2014, has grown from a small-scale programme, to a global primary data collection programme, interviewing thousands of refugees and migrants around the world; more than 100,000 since the start in 2014. 4Mi data feeds into much of MMC's work and all three strategic objectives: increasing the knowledge and understanding of mixed migration; contributing to evidence-based and better-informed migration policies and debates and contributing to effective evidence-based protection responses for people on the move.

An extended introduction to the 4Mi programme is [available here](#):

To a large extent, 4Mi has been a driving force behind the expansion of the Mixed Migration Centre, from one regional hub in East Africa in 2011 to a global network in 2021.

The tree below visually represents the growth and evolution of 4Mi, including the different off-springs appearing from 2020 onwards.



# Mixed Migration Review 2021



## **Mixed Migration Review 2021. Reframing human mobility in a changing world**

The global context is rapidly changing and with new conflicts, new public health threats, new levels of environmental stress, and changing trends and perceptions around human mobility, now is the time to reframe mixed migration through the lens of different themes in one volume.

How does the Covid-19 pandemic change migrant decision-making, migration governance, urbanisation trends and public sentiment towards migration? How is the climate emergency affecting mobility and displacement? Why do most people in the world not migrate, and to what extent do different forms of immobility affect individuals, communities, and regions? What are the trends and realities around returns, many of which are forced? What are the experiences of people on the world's overlooked mixed migration routes? Should internal migration and displacement be viewed through a mixed migration lens too? What extraordinary actions and policies towards refugees and migrants were witnessed this past year—both negative and positive?

All this and more is explored in the 2021 edition of MMC's annual flagship report, the Mixed Migration Review (MMR), offering a comprehensive annual analysis of mixed migration, through the overarching lens of "reframing mixed migration".

# Research reports and papers



## [Getting it together: Extra-regional migration in South, Central and North America and the need for more coordinated responses](#)

This study provides a comprehensive and detailed analysis of mixed migration movements from Asia, Africa and the Caribbean across South, Central and North America — often referred to in the region as “extra-regional migration flows”. Through a combination of key informant interviews and desk research, this report offers information on: the profiles of extra-regional people on the move; the extent of their access to adequate information before and during their journey; the migration routes and means they use; the smuggling economies and dynamics connected to these movements; the impacts of Covid-19 on migration trends and on the experience of people on the move along this route; the risks and needs that extra-regional refugees and migrants face; the humanitarian response they can rely on; the national and regional migration policies and legal frameworks that apply to these migration flows; and the changes they are likely to undergo in the near future.



## [The Impact of COVID-19 on the EU's Mediterranean Migration Policies: The Case of Libya](#)

This report in partnership with the [Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung \(FES\)](#) examines the impacts of Covid-19 on EU migration policies and procedures in the Mediterranean and investigates how the latter affected the conditions and experiences of refugees and migrants in Libya, focusing particularly on those attempting to cross the Mediterranean from Libya during the outbreak of Covid-19. The findings seek to provide European policy-makers with evidence to inform their migration policies and procedures in the Mediterranean, while taking into consideration the impact that international policies have on the lives and mobility of refugees and migrants.



## [Hidden hardship of an unnoticed workforce: The economic lives of refugees and migrants in Tunisia](#)

Refugees’ and migrants’ skills are often under-valued due to a lack of access to the formal Tunisian labour market. Their contributions to the Tunisian economy and its development remain largely invisible and unrecognised. What are their economic situations today? In which sectors do they work and contribute to the economy? What are their specific points of vulnerability and what are possible solutions to improve their lives? This study, in partnership with the [Heinrich Böll Foundation \(HBF\)](#), provides an updated overview of the economic situation of refugees and migrants in Tunisia, including their access to the labour market and their contribution to the local and national economy and recommendations for the Tunisian authorities (national and local), international organisations, civil society and researchers.





## **The impact of the Sahel conflict on cross-border movements from Burkina Faso and Mali towards Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana**

The year 2020 saw a rapid increase in conflict, general insecurity, and displacement in the Sahel, particularly in Burkina Faso. At the same time, the Covid-19 pandemic and its secondary impacts, coupled with the impact of climate change on the majority agricultural economies further drove high levels of food insecurity in some regions. Concerns were raised about the potential effects of the Central Sahel Crisis and a hypothesised subsequent increase in North-South mobility due to the relative stability of coastal countries. This research was conducted between December 2020 and January 2021 with [IMPACT Initiatives](#) and the support of UNHCR. It aims to make sense of these forecasted migratory dynamics by conducting a rapid review of the current state of knowledge on the topic.



## **Migrating and displaced children and youth in Tunisia: Profiles, Routes, Protection, and Needs**

There is limited research on mixed migration in Tunisia, and there is a particular dearth of data pertaining to the experiences of migrating and displaced children and youth. To help fill this gap, this study explores the profiles, routes, and vulnerabilities of migrating and displaced children and youth in Tunisia, drawing from more than 1,500 surveys with caregivers and youth, and additional key informant interviews with children, youth, caregivers, and service providers. Through its analysis and recommendations, this study, in partnership with [Save the Children](#), seeks to provide a stronger evidence base for practitioners and policy makers working in child protection both in Tunisia, and along mixed migration routes to Tunisia.



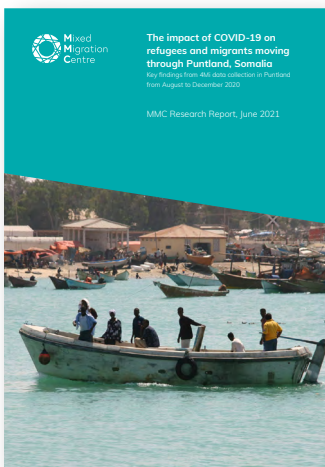
## **Opportunities and Risks: Ethiopian women on the Eastern mixed migration route between the Horn of Africa and Yemen**

This study focuses on Ethiopian women traveling east towards Yemen and Saudi Arabia along what is known as the 'Eastern Route' through Djibouti or Somalia, across the Red or Arabian Sea into Yemen (most often with the intention of moving through Yemen towards Saudi Arabia). Based on interviews with Ethiopian women on the move, the study enables women's voices to be heard and aims to better understand overall gendered dimensions of mixed migration. The study examines why and how Ethiopian women migrate, the modalities of their movement, support and access along their migration journeys and the protection risks they face.



## **The impact of COVID-19 on refugees and migrants in Somaliland**

Covid-19 restrictions significantly impacted mixed movements throughout the region and in Somaliland, and many migrants were stranded and unable to move on or to return to their countries of origin. With the support of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), in 2020 the Mixed Migration Centre (MMC) and the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) collaborated on a partnership to strengthen the protection of people in mixed movements and to prevent the abuse of people on the move in Somaliland. Through MMC's flagship primary data collection program 4Mi, MMC collected systematic data directly from refugees and migrants at various entry and transit locations in Somaliland, which was used to understand the dynamics affecting movement and protection risks within the context of the pandemic.



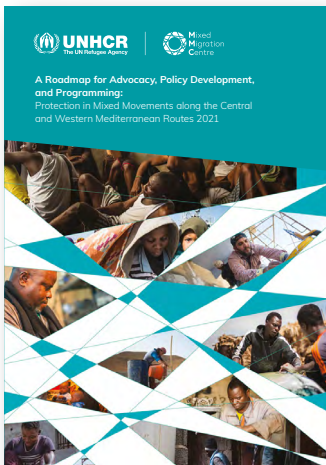
## **The impact of COVID-19 on refugees and migrants moving through Puntland, Somalia**

Covid-19 restrictions significantly impacted mixed movements throughout the region and in Puntland. This study explores the dynamics affecting movement and protection risks within the context of the pandemic in Puntland, based on 4Mi surveys with 989 respondents in Puntland, providing insights on the profiles of refugees and migrants on the move through Puntland in the context of the pandemic; awareness and protective measures; and the impact of Covid-19 on their mobility, livelihood situation, needs and access to services, and protection.



## **Moving on: Exploring onward migration of refugees and migrants from East Africa**

This report takes an evidence-based approach to onward migration by investigating the dynamics of onward migration and policy responses, with a focus on the East Africa region. The paper considers how the phenomenon of onward migration has been dealt with in global migration literature, including the various ways in which onward migration has been defined. The policy landscape is then explored, focusing on the national and regional policies that directly and indirectly impact on onward migration. The paper then draws from 340 4Mi interviews with refugees and migrants engaged in onward migration in East Africa to explore the profiles of people engaged in onward migration, their aspirations and decision-making.



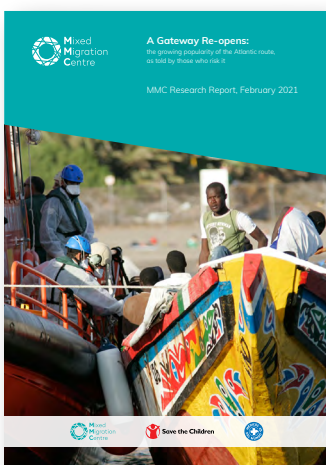
## **A Roadmap for Advocacy, Policy Development, and Programming. Protection in Mixed Movements along the Central and Western Mediterranean Routes 2021**

“A Roadmap for Advocacy, Policy Development and Programming: Protection in Mixed Movements along the Central and Western Mediterranean Routes 2021” is an edited volume that presents key recommendations from more than 40 researchers, protection actors, policy-makers and people with a displacement experience from North, West, East and the Horn of Africa as well as Europe and North America, who came together in February 2021 for a Policy Workshop convened by the [United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees \(UNHCR\)](#) and Mixed Migration Centre (MMC). Recommendations are drawn from 25 research papers aimed at informing policy, programming and advocacy.



## **A Transit Country No More: Refugees and Asylum Seekers in Indonesia**

The vast majority of refugees and asylum seekers in Indonesia intended to pass through quickly en route to a final destination, most commonly Australia. Instead, due to shifting immigration policies in Australia, they have found themselves stuck for years, with limited support and little desire or opportunity to integrate. Unable to go home, they wait and hope for resettlement. As of March 2021, there were approximately 13,700 refugees and asylum seekers in Indonesia. The challenges they face reveal the regional impacts of hardline border management, lack of opportunities in situ, as well as the need for more permanent solutions when return or resettlement are not possible. The challenges faced by this group also illuminate the devastating impacts of uncertainty and indefinite transit on the daily lives and wellbeing of people on the move. This report examines two inter-related questions: What is the impact of involuntary immobility on refugees and asylum seekers in Indonesia? What changes in programming and policy would better support refugees and asylum seekers in Indonesia?



## **A Gateway Re-opens: the growing popularity of the Atlantic route as told by those who risk it**

The research for this paper was undertaken with the intention of rapidly bringing together information and analysis related to the Atlantic route towards the Canary Islands from the coast of West Africa, in the context of an increase in departures and arrivals to the Canary Islands since late 2019. It is based on interviews with 46 refugees and migrants and 16 key informants in the Canary Islands, Mali, Mauritania, and Senegal between 11 November and 17 December 2020. It seeks to improve understanding of the motivations of refugees and migrants for taking this route, as well as of the risks and challenges they face en route, including in their experiences of interception and forced return.





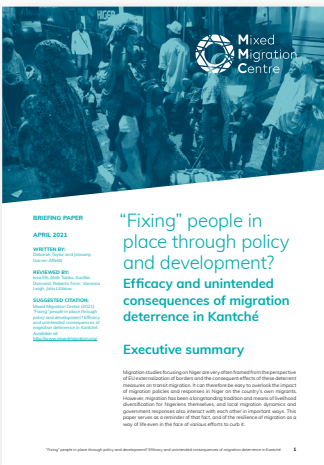
## Mixed migration and migrant smuggling in Libya. The role of non-Libyan smuggler intermediaries

The majority of existing scholarship and research on Libya’s smuggling sector focuses on Libyan actors to understand the linkages among smuggling operations, the conflict economy and local governance. In so doing, limited attention has been given to the role of non-Libyan actors – i.e., refugees and migrants – working within smuggling networks throughout the country. To better understand the roles of non-Libyans working within these operations, and to provide a more nuanced understanding of the sector, this briefing paper provides a preliminary analysis of the sector through the eyes of a cross-section of non-Libyan smugglers.



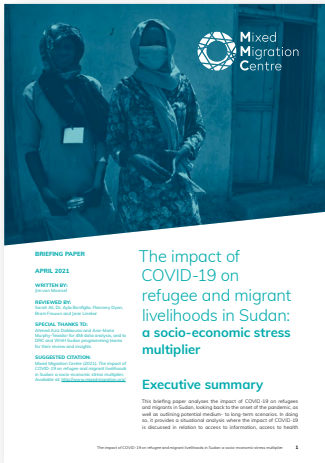
## Smuggling and mixed migration. Insights and key messages drawn from a decade of MMC research and 4Mi data collection

The movement of refugees and migrants along mixed migration routes around the world is often wholly or partially facilitated by smugglers. Human smuggling has therefore been a primary focus of the Mixed Migration Centre (MMC). This paper synthesizes our key insights and sets out six key messages on smuggling, based on a decade of extensive research and expert analysis, including more than 85,000 4Mi surveys of refugees and migrants and hundreds of 4Mi surveys with smugglers.



## “Fixing” people in place through policy and development? Efficacy and unintended consequences of migration deterrence in Kantché

In 2013, the deaths of almost 100 migrants in the desert close to the Algerian border, the majority from the Department of Kantché in Niger’s southern Zinder region, made headlines in Niger and beyond, and grabbed the attention of the Nigerien government, which expressed its desire to counter the phenomenon seen in Kantché of substantial migration of women and children to Algeria. This tragedy marked a turning point in the Government of Niger’s approach to migration, which became increasingly restrictive, and not only due to external pressure from European donors. There was also increased attention paid by development actors to Kantché, and a shift towards development projects incorporating migration management elements. This briefing paper explores the efficacy of these measures and the consequences – at times unintended – they have had on migration from Kantché.



## **The impact of COVID-19 on refugee and migrant livelihoods in Sudan. A socio-economic stress multiplier**

This briefing paper analyses the impact of Covid-19 on refugees and migrants in Sudan, looking back to the onset of the pandemic, as well as outlining potential medium- to long-term scenarios. In doing so, it provides a situational analysis where the impact of Covid-19 is discussed in relation to access to information, access to health services, livelihood opportunities, assistance needs, access to education, movement intentions, food insecurity and access to vaccination. The paper is based on 370 4Mi interviews with refugees and migrants in Sudan, as well as 10 key informant interviews with migration and humanitarian experts.



## **Covid-19 and the socioeconomic situation of migrants in Niger. Analysis of 4Mi data collected in Niger between July and September 2020**

Based on 4Mi surveys conducted in Niger between July and September 2020 with 527 migrants, this analysis provides some insights on the profiles of respondents and analysis of the impact of Covid-19 on their mobility, livelihood situation and certain socioeconomic rights, namely: access to health services, sanitation, housing, and education. The Mixed Migration Centre produced this 4Mi data analysis with the financial and technical support of the Office of the [United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights \(OHCHR\)](#).

# Spotlight: three reports developed as part of MMC's partnership with ICMPD

In 2021, MMC developed three research reports for the [Euro-African Dialogue on Migration and Development \(Rabat Process\)](#) and the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) as part of the partnership between MMC and ICMPD to foster effective and sustainable migration policies and programmes. The three reports focus on: urban mixed migration, migration drivers and the impact of Covid-19. A fourth report on the relation between climate change and environmental factors and mixed migration will be published early 2022.



## **Urban mixed migration. Experiences of migrants moving to, through and from cities in West and North Africa**

This paper focuses on the role of cities in migration journeys, from origin to transit to destination, offering insights into the experiences of people on the move in West and North Africa. It is grounded in existing literature and MMC's 4Mi primary data collection system. The aim of this paper is to raise awareness and strengthen policymakers' understanding of the urban reality of mixed migration in West and North Africa whilst exploring policy options and encouraging debate – with the voices of refugees and migrants at the centre.



## **Migration drivers and decision-making of West and Central Africans on the move in West and North Africa. A quantitative analysis of factors contributing to departure**

Based on 2,083 surveys carried out with refugees and migrants surveyed in West and North Africa as part of the Mixed Migration Centre's 4Mi project, this paper seeks to contribute to the empirical basis for a migrant-centered approach by examining a variety of elements that factor into migration decision-making. It does so by revisiting recent debates on migration decision-making and follows with an analysis of 4Mi quantitative data looking at 1) reasons people left their country of departure; 2) influences on their migration decision and 3) perceptions of possible alternatives to migration.



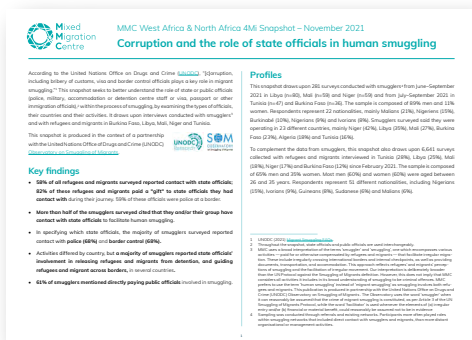
## **The impact of COVID-19 on refugees and migrants on the move in North and West Africa**

This paper offers expert insight and analysis on mixed migration trends that have emerged over the course of 2020 in North and West Africa, grounded in existing literature and MMC's primary data on people on the move. The aim of this paper is to raise awareness and strengthen policymakers' understanding of the challenges and risks refugees and migrants are facing since the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic in North and West Africa, as well as to promote policies and debate based on data.

# 4Mi snapshots

## Spotlight: 4Mi snapshots on Smuggling in West & North Africa

A series of 4Mi snapshots produced in the context of a partnership between MMC and the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC) [Observatory on Smuggling of Migrants](#).



### Corruption and the role of state officials in human smuggling. West Africa, North Africa

This snapshot seeks to better understand the role of state or public officials (police, military, accommodation or detention centre staff or visa, passport or other immigration officials), within the process of smuggling, by examining the types of officials, their countries and their activities. It draws upon interviews conducted with smugglers and with refugees and migrants in Burkina Faso, Libya, Mali, Niger and Tunisia.

### Smuggling, risks, and abuses: smuggler services and links to abuses (part 3 of 3)

Third in a series of three 4Mi snapshots looking at the conjunction between smuggling and the risks and abuses faced by refugees and migrants moving through West and North Africa, drawing on 2,427 interviews conducted in Libya, Niger, Mali, and Tunisia between March and July 2021. This third snapshot focuses on the link between smuggling services and the abuses faced by the refugees and migrants, as well as the link between reliance on smugglers and dangerous journeys.



### Smuggling, risks, and abuses: characteristics of respondents and the perception of smugglers as perpetrators (part 2 of 3)

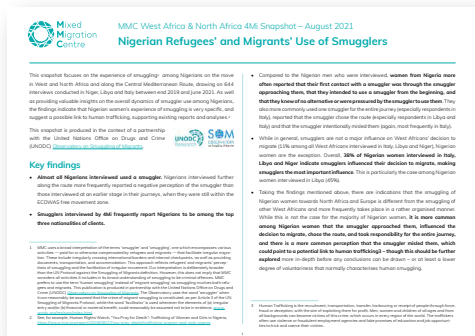
Second in a series of three 4Mi snapshots looking at the conjunction between smuggling and the risks and abuses faced by refugees and migrants moving through

West and North Africa, drawing on 2,427 interviews conducted in Libya, Niger, Mali, and Tunisia between March and July 2021. This second snapshot focused on the link between the individual characteristic of the respondents (gender, nationality, and financial status) and reports of smugglers as perpetrators of risks.



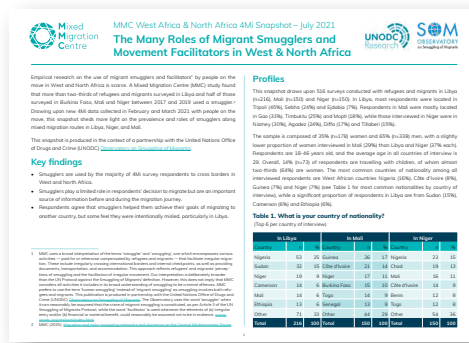
## Smuggling, risks, and abuses: dangerous locations and perpetrators (part 1 of 3)

First in a series of three 4Mi snapshots looking at the conjunction between smuggling and the risks and abuses faced by refugees and migrants moving through West and North Africa, drawing on 2,427 interviews conducted in Libya, Niger, Mali, and Tunisia between March and July 2021. This first frequently snapshot focuses on smuggling and dangerous routes, and the role of smugglers as perpetrators of risks relative to other actors in these locations.



## Nigerian Refugees' and Migrants' Use of Smugglers

Drawing on 644 interviews conducted in Niger, Libya and Italy between end 2019 and June 2020, this snapshot focuses on the experience of smuggling among Nigerians on the move in West and North Africa and along the Central Mediterranean Route, and indicates that Nigerian women's experience of smuggling is very specific, suggesting a possible link to human trafficking.



## The Many Roles of Migrant Smugglers and Movement Facilitators in West and North Africa

Drawing upon new 4Mi data collected in February and March 2021 with people on the move, this snapshot sheds light on the prevalence and roles of smugglers along mixed migration routes in Libya, Niger, and Mali.

# All 4Mi snapshots

## North Africa

**Mixed Migration Centre** | MMC North Africa 4Mi Snapshot – October 2021

### Aspirations and intended destinations of people on the move in Sudan

Sudan hosts one of the largest refugee and migrant populations in Africa, more than 1.1 million refugees and asylum seekers as of August 2021 and close to 400,000 migrants as of March 2021, all from a limited number of international origins on the aspirations and intended destinations of this population. This snapshot uses 920 data points to highlight on the main aspirations and intended destinations, most factors driving migration decisions, the aspirations and intended destinations of people on the move in Sudan.

**Key findings**

- While most South Sudanese had reached the end of their journey, respondents of other nationalities were planning onward movements.
- Europe is the most common intended destination for interviewed refugees and migrants of most nationalities. Chadian respondents, however, intend to travel to Saudi Arabia and Yemen.
- Over the course of their journey, the majority of respondents had not changed their intended destinations.
- Economic opportunities, better living standards and respect for human rights are factors driving migration decisions.
- Most interviewed refugees and migrants intend to stay temporarily and apply for regularisation in their host countries, except for Chadians.

**Profiles**

This snapshot draws on data collected through 920 surveys with refugees and migrants interviewed in Sudan between July 2020 and September 2021. The sample consists of 20% women and 80% men, aged between 18 and 55 years with an average age of 29. Most respondents were interviewed in Greater Khartoum (73%), followed by Kordofan (16%), Darfur (10%), Eastern Sudan (10%) and other (9%). More than half (52%) had been in Sudan for less than a year of time of interview, while 47% had been there between 1 and 5 years.

The most common nationalities of respondents were Eritrean (27%), Ethiopian (26%), Chadian (16%), South Sudanese (9%), Somali (8%), Comorian (7%) and Nigerian (7%). A quarter of respondents said they were currently traveling or living with children under their care.

**The majority of respondents were planning to move onward, except South Sudanese**

Almost three-quarters (74%, n=682) of respondents reported they had not reached the end of their journey, indicating they were traveling Sudan. 10% reported that they had reached the end of their journey in Sudan and 16% did not know. Compared to other nationalities, a high proportion of South Sudanese respondents (57%) did not plan to move onward.

## Aspirations and intended destinations of people on the move in Sudan

Drawing on data collected through 920 surveys with refugees and migrants interviewed in Sudan between July 2020 and September 2021, this snapshot analyses the aspirations and intended destinations of the refugee and migrant population in Sudan.

**Mixed Migration Centre** | MMC North Africa 4Mi Snapshot – March 2021

### The Impact of COVID-19 on Refugee and Migrant Women in Tunisia

A 2020 [UNHCR survey](#) suggests that the health and socio-economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic have exacerbated women migrants' existing vulnerabilities, which, according to a [publication](#) by the Turkish Journal for European and Social Rights (TJESR) include discrimination, exploitation, abuse and other forms of gender-based violence. More specifically, qualitative data generated in UNHCR's [qualitative research](#) also indicate that [COVID-19](#) harmed that women in the north in Tunisia, particularly those traveling with children, were in need of increased assistance since the start of the pandemic. This snapshot seeks to further understand the impact of COVID-19 on refugee and migrant women in Tunisia.

**Recommendations**

- Work with municipalities to create clear and accessible processes for work permits for foreign workers, and conduct outreach and awareness raising that targets women.
- Organise training with host industry and employers on labor and human rights law to help increase the stability of refugee and migrant women within the labour market.
- Design information campaigns targeting refugee and migrant women to inform them of the risks around labour exploitation and of their rights and available assistance.
- Provide additional cash, mental health and psycho-social support for women on the move in Tunisia, particularly for women traveling with children.

**Profiles**

This snapshot draws from 2,523 surveys with refugees and migrants conducted between July 2020 and January 2021 in Tunisia. Of those surveyed, 70% are from 18-29 and 30% are women (n=82), ranging from 18 to 65 years of age. The main origin countries of respondents include Chad (26%), Sudan (16%), Comoros (16%), Ethiopia (16%), Nigeria (16%), and other countries include, but are not limited to, Guinea (7%), Mali (6%), Burkina Faso (6%), Syria (6%), Senegal (6%), Nigeria (6%), Democratic Republic of Congo (6%), Cameroon (6%), Chad (6%), and Mali (6%). See Table 1 for more on it.

**Table 1. Composition of the sample by gender and age, location, travelling with/without children**

Age (n=2,523)	Women	Men	Total
18-29	9%	6%	8%
30-39	20%	30%	27%
40-49	43%	37%	39%
50-59	26%	24%	24%
60-69	7%	4%	5%
70+	2%	3%	2%
City			
Meknes	29%	27%	27%
Sfax	21%	21%	21%
Tunis	19%	18%	18%
Others	17%	8%	11%
Children			
Travelling alone	76%	92%	87%
Travelling with children	24%	8%	13%

## The impact of COVID-19 on refugee and migrant women in Tunisia

This snapshot seeks to further understand the impact of Covid-19 on refugee and migrant women in Tunisia, drawing from 2,523 surveys with refugees and migrants conducted between July 2020 and January 2021 in Tunisia.

**Mixed Migration Centre** | MMC North Africa - 4Mi Snapshot – September 2021

### The Impact of the Tigray crisis on Ethiopian and Eritrean Onward Movements within Sudan and to Libya and Tunisia

As of 20 June 2021, UNHCR has registered 46,505 refugees in Sudan who fled the Tigray crisis in Ethiopia. Indications from the field, as well as media reports, suggest the flow of displacement that refugees face in Sudan is expected to continue. This snapshot explores the impact of the Tigray crisis on Ethiopian and Eritrean onward movements, in an effort to inform the programming of protection actors working in Sudan and further along the migration routes north towards Libya and Tunisia. This snapshot explores the onward movement aspirations and intended destinations of Ethiopian and Eritrean who have left since the outbreak of conflict in Tigray in November 2020 and its reported spill-over effects to other regions in Ethiopia and Eritrea.

**Key findings**

- A majority of respondents interviewed in Sudan **did not intend to go back to their region of origin**.
- Almost 60% of respondents reported they did not know of the time of interviewing if they had reached their final destination, or if they would return from their current location within the next 3 months. This suggests that, **for some, future onward migration remains uncertain** as respondents may want and see how the next months unfold before making a decision about their onward movements.
- A majority of respondents interviewed in camps reported **intending to move away to other locations**.
- Khartoum, Kordofan, Darfur and Gedaref are the sites of onward movement within Sudan** and hence, are key hubs for protection interventions.

**Profiles**

This snapshot is based on 108 interviews with Ethiopian and Eritrean who left Ethiopia and Eritrea after the outbreak of conflict in Tigray, and who were interviewed in Sudan (n=80), Libya (n=20) and Tunisia (n=7) between November 2020 and August 2021. 142 respondents were men, while 17 were women. A great majority (n=102) were between 18 and 35 years old, while 6 respondents reported being older. 17 respondents were conceptual origin and destination, while 142 were surveyed in other sites. Out of the total sample, 42 respondents' movement intentions included in a specific survey module on the impact of the Tigray conflict, which was implemented in July and August 2021. Table 1 sets out region of origin and survey location of the respondents.

All data are complemented by qualitative data gathered from semi-structured interviews in Khartoum with 4 Ethiopian refugees from Tigray in June 2021, as well as from programming partners on the ground.

## The Impact of the Tigray crisis on Ethiopian and Eritrean Onward Movements within Sudan and to Libya and Tunisia

This snapshot explores the onward movement aspirations and routes of Ethiopians and Eritreans who have left since the outbreak of conflict in Tigray, Ethiopia, in November 2020.



# East Africa & Yemen

**Mixed Migration Centre** | MMC East Africa and Yemen 4Mi Snapshot – June 2021 | **UNHCR**

**Impact of COVID-19 on refugees and migrants in Somaliland – Update**

This snapshot provides a [quarterly update](#) on the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on refugees and migrants in Somaliland. It is based on 1,738 interviews conducted with Ethiopians and Yemenis in Somaliland between 28 August and 31 December 2020. It provides 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.

**Key findings**

- 58% of respondents who started their journey in or after April 2020 (n=654) said that COVID-19 was a factor in their decision to move. This was most frequently cited to the pandemic's impact on economic factors (73%) and conflict and violence (37%).
- Despite high levels of awareness of coronavirus among respondents, 56% of those reported that they were doing nothing to protect themselves from COVID-19 when asked why not. 61% of respondents said they did not know how to do so.
- Income loss related to the COVID-19 crisis is contributing to vulnerability among refugees and migrants in Somaliland as 65% say they are unable to afford basic goods, 29% say they are taking less food, and 13% say they are using up savings.

**Profiles**

The analysis in this snapshot is based on 1,738 interviews conducted with refugees and migrants in Somaliland between 28 August and 31 December 2020. 1,363 respondents were from Ethiopia and 365 were from Yemen. 72% of respondents were men and 28% were women, with an average age of 26.

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

Nationality	Men	Women	Total
Ethiopian	117	74	1,917
Yemeni	277	92	369
Total	1,250	266	1,738

**Table 2. Location of interviews**

Interview locations	Number of interviews
Boon	424
Baardheere	145
Saaxi	208
Salgado	144
Halgaha	206
Laasqale	105
Wajid	450

## Impact of COVID-19 on refugees and migrants in Somaliland

This snapshot provides an update on the impact of Covid-19 on refugees and migrants in Somaliland, based on 1,738 interviews conducted with Ethiopians and Yemeni in Somaliland between 28 August and 31 December 2020.

**Mixed Migration Centre** | MMC East Africa and Yemen 4Mi Snapshot – June 2021 | **UNHCR**

**Impact of COVID-19 on Ethiopian refugees and migrants in Puntland**

This snapshot presents findings on the impact of COVID-19 on refugees and migrants in Puntland. It is based on 989 interviews conducted with Ethiopians in Puntland between 26 August and 31 December 2020. It provides 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.

**Key findings**

- 30% of respondents said that COVID-19 played a role in their decision to leave their country of origin (n=293). This was most frequently cited to the pandemic's impact on economic factors (69%), conflict and violence (29%), and a lack of rights (26%).
- Despite high levels of awareness of coronavirus among respondents, 70% (n=692) indicated that they were doing nothing to protect themselves from COVID-19 when asked why not. The majority of respondents (65%) indicated they did not know which precautions to take.
- The COVID-19 crisis is contributing to vulnerability among refugees and migrants, as 73% say they are struggling to afford basic goods, 32% say they are using up savings and 18% say they are taking less food.

**Profiles**

The analysis in this snapshot is based on 989 interviews conducted with refugees and migrants in Puntland between 26 August and 31 December 2020. All respondents were from Ethiopia with a majority of respondents from the Oromo ethnic group (77%), followed by Amhara (21%), Tigray (8%) and Somali (1%). 70% of the respondents were men and 30% were women, with an average age of 26. Interpretations based on this limited sample size should be made with caution, as it does not necessarily represent the entire Ethiopian refugee and migrant population in Puntland.

**Table 1. Location of interviews**

Interview locations	Women	Men	Total respondents
Bardera	87	179	266
Bosaso	19	81	100
Calshay	28	97	125
Chabay	0	48	48
Harar	65	148	213
Kalabay	0	145	145
Qoni	63	309	372
Total	172	717	889

## Impact of COVID-19 on Ethiopian refugees and migrants in Puntland

This snapshot provides an update on the impact of Covid-19 on refugees and migrants in Puntland, Somalia, based on 989 interviews with Ethiopians conducted in Puntland between 26 August and 31 December 2020.

# Europe

**Mixed Migration Centre** | MMC Europe 4Mi Snapshot – December 2021 | **UNHCR**

**Access to information among Afghans on the move towards Greece**

Since November 2019, through its data collection initiative [4Mi](#), MMC Europe has been interviewing Afghans in Greece. Based on 954 interviews, this snapshot offers an overview of the different ways in which Afghan refugees and migrants have accessed information before and during their journey, what sources and means they use, and to what extent this might influence their migration decision-making. The snapshot aims to contribute towards a solid evidence base to inform targeted responses on the ground, as well as advocacy efforts related to the situation of refugees and migrants in the country.

**Profiles**

The snapshot stems from interviews with 954 Afghan (823 men and 131 women) conducted face-to-face and by phone in Greece between November 2019 and September 2021. All respondents had arrived in Greece within the past 5 years. Respondents were predominantly aged between 18 and 39 (76%), with an average age of 24.

**Figure 1. Sex and age ranges**

**Key findings**

- Over a third of respondents say they started their journey without accessing any information, and over a quarter accessed information during the journey.
- Migrant social networks (family, friends, and other migrants) are the most cited source of information both before departure and during the journey.
- Smugglers play a key role in providing information to Afghan refugees and migrants, they are among the top three sources of information both before departure and during the journey.
- Family/friends in another country are most often considered the most reliable source of information (30% of respondents) followed by smugglers (22%) and other migrants (21%).
- The role of NGOs and the UN as information providers is marginal (less than 10% of respondents), and the role of national authorities is very low (less than 5% of respondents). It was however more cited by more than 2% of respondents. Only 1% consider mass media as their most reliable source.
- Afghans mostly use social media or messaging apps to get information, both before (76%) and during (56%) the journey, that showing the importance of having a phone to access to information.

## 4Mi snapshot: Access to information among Afghans on the move towards Greece

Based on 954 interviews with Afghans in Greece, this snapshot offers an overview of the different ways in which Afghan refugees and migrants have accessed information before and during their journey, what sources and means they use, and to what extent this might influence their migration decision-making.

**Mixed Migration Centre** | MMC Europe 4Mi Snapshot – April 2021 | **UNHCR**

**Smuggling dynamics for Afghans on the move toward Europe**

Over the past decade, Afghans led the [highest number of asylum applications](#) in 2019 and 2020 in Europe. Migration journeys of Afghan refugees and migrants are often made irregularly, or partially, assisted by migrant smugglers. Since early 2019, MMC Europe has been interviewing Afghan refugees and migrants in Greece, to better understand their reasons for leaving Afghanistan, as well as their experiences with the route towards Europe. This 4Mi survey includes a range of questions on the interaction between smugglers and migrants. This snapshot analyses smuggling dynamics for Afghans on the move towards Europe and the extent of contributing to violence-based practices, responses, and advocacy efforts for people on the move.

**Profiles**

Information in this snapshot was collected between 23 November 2019 and 11 December 2020. A total of 665 surveys with Afghan refugees and migrants were conducted. 56% (n=372) of respondents were men, and 44% (n=203) were women. The majority of the respondents were between 18 and 29 years of age at the time of the survey. 89% (n=593) were conducted in Athens, 2% (n=14) in Thessaloniki and 9% (n=58) in Lesbos. The snapshot

**Figure 1. Age groups of Afghan respondents**

**Key findings**

- Almost all respondents (99%) indicated that they had used a smuggler at some point in their journey.
- Smugglers play a limited role in Afghan respondents' decision to migrate but act as a key source of information before and during the migratory journey.
- The payment modalities for smugglers reflect the fragmented nature of Afghan's journey towards Europe, with half of the respondents (50%) noting they paid for their journey in installments.
- Most Afghan 4Mi respondents interviewed in Greece agreed or strongly agreed that they were financially misled about the journey by their smuggler. However, more than half of the respondents (52%) agreed or strongly agreed that using a smuggler had helped in advancing the goal of migrating to another country.

## Smuggling dynamics for Afghans on the move toward Europe

This snapshot analyzes smuggling dynamics for Afghans on the move toward Europe, based on 665 surveys with Afghan refugees and migrants in Greece, conducted between 23 November 2019 and 31 December 2020.

**Mixed Migration Centre** MMC Europe 4Mi Snapshot – June 2021  
**Migrants and refugees in Northern Italy: focus on access to work**

This snapshot offers some insights on the personal, educational and professional background of migrants and refugees in Northern Italy (Piedmont and Liguria regions) as well as their experiences regarding access to work in Italy with a focus on the differences between youth and older respondents. The snapshot also contributes to a better understanding of the reasons for migration on the ground, as well as advocacy efforts related to the situation of refugees and migrants in Italy.

**Key findings**

- The top 3 reasons for migration internationally respondents are: 1) violence, 2) personal health reasons, and 3) economic reasons.
- Unemployment in country of origin is higher among young respondents (59.2%), with unemployment in Italy higher among older respondents (66.2%).
- The majority of respondents are not currently working (72%), and did not receive sufficient information on access to work, which is considered the most challenge in Italy by 85% of the respondents who decided to settle in the country.
- Opinion about finding work in Italy is slightly higher among older people.

**Profiles**

The snapshot is based on 104 interviews conducted face-to-face in five different locations in Northern Italy between January and February 2021. Figure 3 shows the locations where the interviews were conducted. More than half of the respondents (57%) were interviewed in Piedmont (n=59) and Turin (n=30), less cities and border areas where migrants and refugees gather.

**Figure 1. Place of interview**

The respondents were mostly men (52) and over 25, with the data also disaggregated into age groups (18-25 and above 25), with most respondents (67%) being over 25.

**Figure 2. Age and gender**

Age	Male	Female	Total
18-25	36	2	38
26-45	38	9	47
46-65	17	1	18
66+	0	0	0
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>103</b>

The respondents were of various nationalities, with the largest group from Pakistan (n=32), followed by Iraq (n=22) and Somalia (n=12). Other nationalities include Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Guinea, Honduras, India, Iran, Italy, Kenya, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Myanmar, Nepal, Nigeria, Romania, Serbia, Sudan, Syria, Tanzania, Thailand, Tunisia, Uganda, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, and Vietnam.

## Migrants and refugees in Northern Italy – focus on access to work

Based on 104 interviews in five different locations in Northern Italy between January and May 2021, this snapshot offers insights on the personal, educational and professional background of migrants and refugees in Northern Italy (Piedmont and Liguria regions), the drivers of migration and their experiences regarding access to work in Italy with a focus on the differences between youth and older respondents.

**Mixed Migration Centre** MMC Europe 4Mi Snapshot – April 2021  
**Needs and challenges of refugees and migrants in northwest Italy**

This snapshot offers an analysis of the needs and challenges of refugees and migrants in northwest Italy (Piedmont and Liguria regions) in a period of 12 months conducted in five different locations between January and February 2021. The first section of the report covers both refugees and migrants to avoid creating a setting in Italy, while the second part focuses on the specific needs of the latter. This snapshot aims to contribute towards a better understanding of the needs and challenges on the ground, as well as advocacy efforts related to the situation of refugees and migrants in Italy.

**Key findings and recommendations**

- Most respondents received basic assistance but reported unmet needs particularly in relation to legal assistance and housing support.
- Provision of reliable and useful information about visas, rights and obligations in Italy, which is essential for refugees and migrants to be able to take an active role in their migration path, has been reported as a gap.
- For respondents who decided to settle in Italy, the main challenges for socio-economic integration are access to decent work and language barriers.
- Assessment of individual and regional specific needs of respondents is continuously required, however it does not always reach most required challenges.
- In the light of above issues, NGOs and other civil society organizations should invest in further strengthening provision of information and legal assistance, particularly on rights and obligations to legal stay in Italy, and access to decent work.

**Profiles**

This analysis draws from interviews with 85 men and 8 women conducted face-to-face in the regions of Piedmont and Liguria in the north-west of Italy between 18 January 2021 and 29 February 2021. The respondents were of various nationalities, 12 from Pakistan, 8 from Somalia, 5 from Afghanistan, 3 from Nigeria, 2 from Honduras, 2 from Guinea, 2 from Eritrea, 2 from Bangladesh, 2 each from Iraq and Algeria and 4 from other African countries. All respondents had arrived in the town of interview within the past 2 years (27 arrived 1-2 years ago and 58 less than 12 months before the date of the interview).

**Figure 1. Place of interview**

**Figure 2. Migration status**

## Needs and challenges of refugees and migrants in northwest Italy

This snapshot offers an analysis of the needs and challenges of refugees and migrants in northern Italy (Piedmont and Liguria regions), based on 51 interviews conducted in five different locations between January and February 2021.

## Asia

**Mixed Migration Centre** MMC Asia 4Mi Snapshot – November 2021  
**Profiles and drivers of Rohingya moving to Malaysia**

Despite historical tensions between countries and the COVID-19 pandemic, the movement of Rohingya to Malaysia continues, and takes on a new and significant dimension. This snapshot offers insights on the profiles and drivers of Rohingya moving to Malaysia, as well as their future migration intentions. It aims to contribute to a better understanding of the reasons for migration on the ground, as well as advocacy efforts related to the situation of Rohingya in Malaysia.

**Profiles**

Interviews in this snapshot were conducted between 4 March and 30 September 2021 in Johor Bahru, Kelantan, Kuala Lumpur, Malacca, Penang, Pulau Pinang, and Selangor in Malaysia. 557 interviews were conducted over the phone and in person. Findings in this snapshot are indicative of the situation for Rohingya respondents interviewed but should not be generalised to other Rohingya populations in Malaysia.

65% of respondents are women and 35% men. The average age of respondents is 23, 29% of respondents report being or traveling with children in their care at the time of interview, 58% of respondents are self-identified as having a disability, the majority of which relate to difficulties hearing and moving.<sup>1</sup>

**Recommendations**

- In consultation with relevant stakeholders, the Government of Malaysia should develop a comprehensive legal framework for refugee protection in Malaysia.
- Clear procedures and safe spaces should enhance existing mechanisms of the Government of Malaysia to provide legal documentation to refugees in a timely manner to allow them to access basic services and exercise their fundamental human rights.
- In collaboration with relevant Malaysian authorities and civil society actors, UNHCR should develop a national screening mechanism in Malaysia that identifies refugees and asylum seekers, assesses their health, wellbeing, unaccompanied children, and persons with disabilities, as well as a referral system to connect those with specific needs to agencies that can assist with their protection and welfare needs.
- Governments and civil society actors in Myanmar, as well as host and destination countries should facilitate access to education and livelihood opportunities for Rohingya people, including for women and girls.

**Figure 1. Age range and gender**

**Recommendations**

- Malaysia should consider the situation of Rohingya people and their needs, as well as the impact of COVID-19 on their situation, to ensure that they are not left behind in the recovery process. Malaysia should consider the situation of Rohingya people and their needs, as well as the impact of COVID-19 on their situation, to ensure that they are not left behind in the recovery process.

## Profiles and drivers of Rohingya moving to Malaysia

Based on 557 interviews conducted with Rohingya in Malaysia between 4 March and 30 September 2021, this snapshot focuses on the profiles and drivers of Rohingya refugees moving to Malaysia, as well as their future migration intentions.

**Mixed Migration Centre** MMC Asia 4Mi Snapshot – November 2021  
**Afghans en route to Turkey: routes, protection risks, and access to assistance**

This snapshot provides an overview of the routes and protection risks of Afghans en route to Turkey, based on 436 interviews conducted between 19 August and 31 September 2021. The snapshot also offers insights on the profiles and drivers of Afghans en route to Turkey, as well as their future migration intentions. It aims to contribute to a better understanding of the reasons for migration on the ground, as well as advocacy efforts related to the situation of Afghans en route to Turkey.

**Profiles of respondents**

Interviews in this snapshot were conducted between 19 August and 31 September 2021 in ten locations of Turkey (Istanbul, Sinirli, Samsun, Van, Ankara, Ankara, Edirne, Kocaeli, Konya, Balıkesir and Izmir) and 100 interviews were conducted with Afghans, all of whom reached Turkey within the last 24 months. The majority of respondents were men (85%), between 18-30 years old (77%), most of whom came from the northern provinces (84%) and had a high primary secondary (67%), or primary school (23%), level of education. More than half of the respondents (55%) were unregistered/without documentation.

**Recommendations**

- Provide resources for migrants during their journey, including access to basic needs such as food, water, and shelter, and psycho-social support.
- Identify the needs of Afghans en route to Turkey and provide support throughout their journey, taking into consideration the differences between men and women and between migration routes, in particular scale up the protection response for Afghan children on the move, given the high reported prevalence of children facing very serious risks.
- Engage authorities in origin, transit and hosting countries, including Iran, Pakistan and Turkey, to foster the right to protection and the promotion needs of Afghan women and children.
- Advocate for effective implementation of regional and cross-regional response mechanisms that prioritise the protection needs of Afghans on the move.
- Scale up the response by the international community along the route, since IAF and NGOs are currently not able to give the number of assistance, in particular, scale up the response near border areas and in border cities in and around Van, Turkey, where respondents report a high prevalence of protection violations combined with a lack of available assistance and support.

## Afghans en route to Turkey Routes, protection risks, and access to assistance

This snapshot focuses on migration experiences and the protection risks and needs faced by Afghans in Turkey, based on 436 interviews conducted between 19 August and 31 September 2021.



**Mixed Migration Centre**  
**MMC Asia 4M Snapshot – June 2021**  
**Protection risks facing Rohingya refugees en route to Malaysia**

Since January 2020, MMC Asia has been interviewing Rohingya in Malaysia to better understand their migration experiences as well as protection risks and needs. Despite Rohingya being under control since the COVID-19 pandemic, the movement of Rohingya to Malaysia continues, and this risk and need are not going away. This snapshot focuses on the protection risks facing Rohingya refugees en route to Malaysia including the risk of detention, bribery, and physical violence, among others. It aims to contribute towards building a solid evidence base to inform targeted responses on the ground, as well as advocacy efforts related to migration movements to Malaysia.

**Profile**

Information in this snapshot was collected between 4 March and 10 May 2021 in other locations, Kuala Lumpur, Malacca, Pahang, Pulau Pinang, and Selangor. In Malaysia, 142 interviews were conducted. 124 were in the ground and 18% were conducted via video call. The majority of respondents were women and 53% were men. The average age of respondents was 23. More than half of the respondents (58%) were in their parents' custody. 20% were registered or refugees with UNHCR. 34% cited they had not sought asylum but had legal documents for Malaysia and 26% did not have any legal status. 70% were registered or refugees with UNHCR. 34% cited they had not sought asylum but had legal documents for Malaysia and 26% did not have any legal status. 70% were registered or refugees with UNHCR. 34% cited they had not sought asylum but had legal documents for Malaysia and 26% did not have any legal status.

**Recommendations**

- Provide assistance for Rohingya refugees, especially women and children, during their journey, including access to information, basic needs such as food, water and shelter, legal assistance, and psycho-social support.
- Engage authorities in major transit countries, including Thailand, Bangladesh and Indonesia, to uphold legal and institutional frameworks which make accountable the perpetrators of protection violations, particularly smuggling and abuse of office.
- Facilitate access to healthcare and psychological support for Rohingya women, men and children, especially those who are victims of sexual and physical violence.
- Advocate for the regional prioritization of legal pathways for Rohingya refugees, including visa migration and family reunification, as well as refugee resettlement.

**Thailand and Bangladesh are the most common transit countries**

59% of respondents reported having travelled to at least one country on the way to Malaysia. The most common transit country reported was Thailand (27%), followed by Bangladesh (16%) and Indonesia (27%). However, Bangladesh was also cited as a first transit country, while Thailand and Indonesia were also cited as transit countries at different stages or migration journeys.

Reports have found that Rohingya refugees rarely reach Malaysia by crossing the Andaman Sea to reach Bangladesh, as in the first border with Thailand. All findings support this, but other additional routes, as many reported journeys include multiple transit countries, such as Malaysia. Among modes of transport used, walking was cited as the most common means of transportation (26%), followed by boat (20%), on foot (16%), truck (20%), plane (27%), bus (24%), and others.

Reports have found that Rohingya refugees rarely reach Malaysia by crossing the Andaman Sea to reach Bangladesh, as in the first border with Thailand. All findings support this, but other additional routes, as many reported journeys include multiple transit countries, such as Malaysia. Among modes of transport used, walking was cited as the most common means of transportation (26%), followed by boat (20%), on foot (16%), truck (20%), plane (27%), bus (24%), and others.

## Protection risks facing Rohingya refugees en route to Malaysia

This snapshot focuses on the protection risks facing Rohingya refugees en route to Malaysia including the risk of detention, bribery, and physical violence, among others, based on 142 interviews in Johor, Kelantan, Kuala Lumpur, Malacca, Pahang, Pulau Pinang, and Selangor.

**Mixed Migration Centre**  
**MMC Asia 4M Snapshot – June 2021**  
**A spotlight on economic reintegration for Afghan returns**

Since January 2020, MMC Asia has been interviewing returned Afghan returns to better understand their experiences of return and reintegration. A snapshot containing returns from Iran and Pakistan, 'expatriates of Afghans from Turkey and European countries' returned at the end of 2020. Factors and opportunities for Afghan returns depend upon the balance of increasing socioeconomic costs and stability caused by the impact of COVID-19 globally, including the impact of migration on the economy and the availability of employment opportunities. This snapshot explores the many challenges Afghan returns face upon return to Afghanistan, such as how economic reintegration is done to contribute towards building a solid evidence base to inform targeted responses on the ground, as well as advocacy efforts related to the situation of returns.

**Profile**

Information in this snapshot comes from 762 interviews conducted between 26 February and 25 April 2021. 626 were in the ground and 18% were conducted via video call. The majority of respondents were men and 53% were women. The average age of respondents was 28. Respondents were primarily from (27%), Iran (20%), and Pakistan (27%). The majority of respondents were men (74%) or primary school (27%) level of education. More than half (53%) came from a rural background in Afghanistan prior to their migration. 20% were still working prior to their migration from Afghanistan.

**Recommendations**

- Support opportunities for Afghan returns given the increasing insecurity and conflict within the country.
- Facilitate access to income-generating activities for Afghan returns through cash transfer, vocational training and job matching.
- Address the basic needs of Afghan returns and/or find work upon return, such as housing and shelter.
- Provide targeted integration support to returns, particularly departure from Iran.
- Provide information about local responses and legal responses to returns for those looking to migrate.

**Economic reintegration for Afghan returns**

The majority of respondents reported that they returned to Afghanistan from Iran (26%), followed by Turkey (24%), Pakistan (27%), European countries (7%), and other countries (20%). Most respondents reported that they had irregular status in their country of migration (81%), with 73% reporting they were working, mostly in construction (23%) or regular job work (42%).

More than half (59%) were dependent on Afghanistan by authorities in their country of migration, the rest were independently (26%), under assisted voluntary return (AVR) program (8%), journey of returns assisted by UN, OCHA or other agencies (7%) or the help of smugglers or others (2%). The main reasons for return among those who were not dependent were to reunite with family or friends in Afghanistan (48%) or because they could not manage to make a living in their country of migration (22%).

## A spotlight on economic reintegration for Afghan returns

This snapshot explores the many challenges Afghans face upon return to Afghanistan, with a focus on economic reintegration. It is based on 706 interviews conducted in Afghanistan between 16 February and 25 April 2021.

## Latin America and the Caribbean

**Mixed Migration Centre**  
**MMC Latin America and the Caribbean – 4M Snapshot – December 2021**  
**How to migrate north: factors behind Central American refugees' and migrants' decisions in Mexico**

People in the north from Central America face several decisions before and during their journey north which migration routes to take? What means of transportation used? How to avoid dangers during the journey?

Options of regular border crossings can be used to enter Mexico from Guatemala, Cuba in Mexico, from the sea and routes to reach the northern border with the US, the Gulf Coast, the Pacific Coast and the route through the center of Mexico. Dispersed in the snapshot cover the journey along the Pacific coast to Mexico, between Tapachula and Tuxtla, and explore the reasons behind refugees and migrants' decisions on their migration route to aim to contribute towards a solid evidence base to inform targeted responses on the ground, as well as advocacy efforts related to the situation of refugees and migrants in Mexico.

**Profile**

The analysis is based on 721 surveys conducted in Mexico between February and August 2021, mostly by face-to-face interviews (86%) and partially by phone (14%). 27% of the surveys were carried out in Tapachula, a city in southern Mexico near the border with Guatemala, and 27% in Tuxtla, located at the border between Mexico and the US. 53% were conducted by 4M enumerators and interviews with local actors also had into this analysis.

This snapshot covers respondents who entered the migration journey from Honduras (46% of the sample), El Salvador (23%), Guatemala (27%) and Nicaragua (2%), focusing on those who are one of the largest and most challenging parts of the route. 63% of respondents were men and 35% were women. 70% of respondents were in the 18 to 35 age range and the average age of the sample was 20 years (see Figure 1 on the following page).

**Key findings**

- Refugees and migrants based on the Pacific Coast on mostly choosing their migration route for reasons of safety.
- Respondents planned their migration route based on the recommendations of relatives or friends who had already migrated.
- Smugglers had a limited role in migration decision-making amongst respondents in Mexico.
- Commercial transport has been the most of transportation used frequently used by respondents to reach north.

**Figure 1. Sex and age ranges**

**Figure 2. Migration routes**

## How to migrate north. Factors behind Central American refugees' and migrants' decisions in Mexico

This snapshot, based on 721 surveys conducted in Mexico between February and August 2021, covers the Pacific route journey in Mexico between Tapachula and Tijuana and explores the reasons behind refugees and migrants' decisions on their migration route on means of transportation, how to avoid dangers, which route to take, etc.

**Mixed Migration Centre**  
**MMC Latin America and the Caribbean – 4M Snapshot – November 2021**  
**Access to information for Venezuelan refugees and migrants before and during the journey**

Information is fundamental for refugees and migrants to evaluate their options before and during their migration journey, choose a destination, estimate costs and determine the risks and most suitable means of transport and route. How do they gather information before and during their journey? What kind of information do they have access to and what are the gaps? Which sources of information are the most used and which are the most trusted?

This snapshot offers an analysis on access to information among Venezuelan refugees and migrants interviewed in Colombia and Peru. It aims to contribute towards a solid evidence base to inform targeted responses on the ground, as well as advocacy efforts related to the situation of refugees and migrants in the country.

**Profile**

The analysis is based on 1,868 surveys conducted in Colombia and Peru between February and July 2021, mostly by face-to-face interviews (28%) and partially by phone (68%). 67% of the surveys were conducted in Colombia, in Barranquilla, Bogotá, Cartagena and other cities. The other 28% were conducted in Peru, in Arequipa and Lima.

73% of respondents were women and 27% were men. Respondents were most frequently aged between 20 and 35 (46%) and the average age of the sample was 23 years (see Figure 1).

**Figure 1. Sex and age ranges**

**Figure 2. Information sources**

**Key findings**

- About three quarters (74%) of the surveyed refugees and migrants considered information to be a critical factor in their decision to migrate before starting their journey.
- Respondents gathered information from close personal contacts, such as friends and family, and by personal means of communication, such as face-to-face conversations, phone calls, etc.
- A large proportion of respondents in Peru had a functional phone and better access to information during the journey than in Colombia.
- Use of institutional sources of information was very rarely reported either before or during the journey.
- The information most needed by respondents and not received was about general conditions and safety during the journey.
- Respondents also reported lack of information on rights on procedures regarding migration and asylum. Authorities and humanitarian organizations offer some information on rights in Colombia and Peru, but did not seem to adequately reach refugees and migrants.

## Access to information for Venezuelan refugees and migrants. Before and during the journey

Analysis, based on 1,868 surveys conducted in Colombia and Peru between February and July 2021, on how people gather information before and during the journey, what kind of information they have access to and what the gaps are? Which sources of information are the most used and which are the most trusted?

**Mixed Migration Centre** MMC Latin America and the Caribbean - 4MI Snapshot – August 2021  
**Access to information among refugees and migrants in Mexico**

This snapshot offers an analysis of the reasons why people on the move in Mexico decided to leave their country of origin. It aims to contribute towards a more evidence-based basis to inform targeted responses on the ground, as well as advocacy efforts related to the situation of refugees and migrants in the country.

**Key findings**

- Most respondents (85%) mentioned multiple reasons for leaving their country of origin, with violence and insecurity being the most common.
- The four main reasons why respondents in Mexico left their country of origin were violence, economic factors, lack of rights and freedoms, and reasons related to natural disasters.
- Organized crime and general insecurity in their country of origin was the principal violence-related migration driver for 36% of respondents who indicated violence as a reason to leave their country.
- While only 21% of all respondents stated they migrated because of natural disasters, when they asked about migration drivers in general, the proportion doubled to 42% when they were asked directly if environmental factors had a role in their decision to migrate.
- The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic in prompting a decision of migration, reported by 42% of respondents, was directly stated.

**Profiles**

The analysis is based on 272 surveys conducted in Mexico between February and April 2021, primarily by face-to-face interview (51%) and partially by phone (49%). 56% of the sample were conducted in Tijuana (36%), followed by Mexico City (20%) and other cities.

**Figure 1. Sex and age ranges**

## Access to information among refugees and migrants in Mexico

This snapshot offers, based on 527 surveys conducted in Mexico between February and June 2021, an analysis on access to information among refugees and migrants in Mexico, focusing on how and what kind of information refugees and migrants access before and during their migration journey.

**Mixed Migration Centre** MMC Latin America and the Caribbean - 4MI Snapshot – June 2021  
**Drivers of migration for refugees and migrants in Mexico**

This snapshot offers an analysis of the reasons why people on the move in Mexico decided to leave their country of origin. It aims to contribute towards a more evidence-based basis to inform targeted responses on the ground, as well as advocacy efforts related to the situation of refugees and migrants in the country.

**Key findings**

- Most respondents (85%) mentioned multiple reasons for leaving their country of origin, with violence and insecurity being the most common.
- The four main reasons why respondents in Mexico left their country of origin were violence, economic factors, lack of rights and freedoms, and reasons related to natural disasters.
- Organized crime and general insecurity in their country of origin was the principal violence-related migration driver for 36% of respondents who indicated violence as a reason to leave their country.
- While only 21% of all respondents stated they migrated because of natural disasters, when they asked about migration drivers in general, the proportion doubled to 42% when they were asked directly if environmental factors had a role in their decision to migrate.
- The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic in prompting a decision of migration, reported by 42% of respondents, was directly stated.

**Profiles**

The analysis is based on 272 surveys conducted in Mexico between February and April 2021, primarily by face-to-face interview (51%) and partially by phone (49%). 56% of the sample were conducted in Tijuana (36%), followed by Mexico City (20%) and other cities.

**Figure 1. Sex and age ranges**

## Drivers of migration for refugees and migrants in Mexico

This snapshot offers an analysis of the reasons why people on the move in Mexico decided to leave their country of origin, based on 272 surveys conducted in Mexico between February and April 2021.

**Mixed Migration Centre** MMC Latin America and the Caribbean - 4MI Snapshot – May 2021  
**Profiles and housing conditions of refugees and migrants in Guatemala during the COVID-19 pandemic**

This snapshot offers an analysis of housing conditions for refugees and migrants in Guatemala during the COVID-19 pandemic, with a disaggregated analysis based on their profiles. It aims to contribute towards 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.

**Key findings**

- Establish or strengthen cash-based assistance programs for refugees and migrants to cover housing needs, focusing on people on the move who recently arrived in Guatemala.
- Increase the offer of shelter, to reduce overcrowding and provide temporary housing for refugees and migrants who are currently homeless.
- Develop targeted programs to guarantee long-term access to decent housing.
- Provide refugees and migrants with information on locations, prices and procedures for accessing temporary housing.

**Profiles**

The analysis is based on 375 surveys conducted between July 2020 and January 2021, primarily by face-to-face interview and partially by phone. 76% of respondents were living in Guatemala City, 11% in Puerto Barrios, 8% in Jutiapa, 16 in San Juan Sacatepéquez, among other municipalities with lower percentages.

**Figure 1. Age range and sex**

## Profiles and housing conditions of refugees and migrants in Guatemala during the COVID-19 pandemic

This snapshot offers an analysis of housing conditions for refugees and migrants in Guatemala during the Covid-19 pandemic, with a disaggregated analysis based on their profiles. It is based on 375 surveys conducted in Guatemala between July 2020 and January 2021.

**Mixed Migration Centre** MMC Latin America and the Caribbean - 4MI Snapshot – March 2021  
**Access to health services for Venezuelans in Colombia and Peru during the COVID-19 pandemic**

This snapshot offers an analysis of the perception that Venezuelan refugees and migrants have with regard to their ability to access health services during the COVID-19 pandemic in Colombia and Peru. It aims to contribute towards 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.

**Key findings**

- Strengthen data collection efforts on medical needs and access to healthcare for refugees and migrants, including secondary and tertiary healthcare, making use of disaggregated data if available based on immigration status.
- Increase refugee and migrant access to basic services through their registration and documentation.
- Utilize the free access to public health services for refugees and migrants with limited economic resources.
- Create clear guidelines on the prohibition of discrimination based on immigration status in access to healthcare and ensure the implementation of these guidelines.
- For the humanitarian sector, explore practical activities to cover the costs of emergency health care for refugees and migrants that cannot afford the service, for example through individualized practice assistance or cash for protection.

**Profiles**

The analysis is based on 2,420 surveys implemented between July 2020 and January 2021, primarily by face-to-face interview and partially by phone. 1,274 surveys were carried out in Colombia (73%) and 696 in Peru (29%).

**Figure 1. Sex by survey country**

## Access to health services for Venezuelans in Colombia and Peru during the COVID-19 pandemic

This snapshot offers an analysis on the perception that Venezuelan refugees and migrants have with regard to their ability to access health services during the Covid-19 pandemic in Colombia and Peru. The analysis is based on 2,420 surveys conducted in Colombia and Peru between July 2020 and January 2021.

**Mixed Migration Centre** MMC Latin America and the Caribbean - 4Mi Snapshot – March 2021  
**Protection risks for Venezuelan refugees and migrants during the COVID-19 pandemic in Colombia**

This snapshot offers an analysis of the protection risks reported amid the COVID-19 pandemic by Venezuelan refugees and migrants in Colombia. It is based on a household-level evidence base to inform targeted responses on the ground, as well as secondary efforts to address the situation of refugees and migrants during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Profiles**  
 The analysis is based on 1,615 surveys implemented between July 2020 and January 2021, primarily by face-to-face interviews and partially remotely, by phone. At the time of the survey, 27% of respondents were located in the Cundinamarca region, 22% in La Guajira, 20% in Antioquia, 16% in Andes and 15% in Norte de Santander.

**Map 1 - Survey regions**  
 70% of all respondents were women and 30% were men. The average age among respondents was 33.9 years, with those that had not been compared with respondents who had been compared and they therefore cannot be used for comparison. In general, there are slight differences by region for age and sex, and larger differences for family location.

**Key findings**

- The vast majority of respondents (87%) perceived that the risk of death has increased during the pandemic.
- 89% of respondents perceived an increase in the risk of economic restrictions to economic activities imposed in connection with the pandemic caused an increase in unemployment and job insecurity, leading many refugees and migrants to accept exploitative conditions and precarity.
- The percentage of an increase in the risk of labor exploitation among respondents was higher in identification locations where refugees and migrants traditionally decide to settle in a first destination, compared to data collection locations near the border and with higher percentages of respondents who were not displaced.
- 62% of all respondents reported an increase in the risk of domestic violence.
- The percentage of an increase in the risk of labor exploitation, higher and overall irregular border crossings between Venezuela and Colombia and in urban areas.

## Protection risks for Venezuelan refugees and migrants during the COVID-19 pandemic in Colombia

This snapshot offers an analysis of the protection risks reported amid the Covid-19 pandemic by Venezuelan refugees and migrants in Colombia, focusing on theft, labour exploitation, domestic violence and bribery / extortion. The analysis is based on 1,615 surveys conducted in Colombia between July 2020 and January 2021.

**Mixed Migration Centre** MMC Latin America and the Caribbean - 4Mi Snapshot – February 2021  
**Trends in the impact of COVID-19 on refugees and migrants in Guatemala and Mexico**

This snapshot offers an analysis on how the impact of the COVID-19 crisis among refugees and migrants in Guatemala and Mexico has changed between July and November 2020. It is based on 644 interviews with refugees and migrants and a few key informant interviews in Guatemala City and Tapachula. It is based on a household-level evidence base to inform targeted responses on the ground, as well as secondary efforts to address the situation of refugees and migrants during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Profiles**  
 The analysis is based on 644 surveys implemented between July 15th and November 20th, 2020, in Guatemala and Mexico, primarily by face-to-face interviews and partially remotely, by phone.

**Key findings**

- Data shows a strong increase in racism and xenophobia against refugees and migrants due to the pandemic, almost half of respondents (48%) reported it in November, up from only 29% in July.
- The vast majority of respondents who participated in the pandemic-related studies, either in July or October, reported that the percentage of respondents who reported increased difficulties covering needs decreased from 23% in July to 9% in September, but there were no signs in October.
- The size of income led to an increase in debt and debt stress among refugees and migrants, this need has been reported by 27% of respondents who last income in July to more than half (54%) in November.
- Despite this snapshot regarding the impact of the pandemic, almost two-thirds of those who believed that things were getting better were from 4% of respondents in July to 42% of respondents in November.

**Figure 1 - Age ranges and sex**  
 62% of respondents were men and 38% were women. The average age of respondents was 34.8 years (see Figure 2).

## Trends in the impact of COVID-19 on refugees and migrants in Guatemala and Mexico

This snapshot offers an analysis on how the impact of the Covid-19 crisis among refugees and migrants in Guatemala and Mexico has changed between July and November of 2020. It is based on 644 4Mi interviews in Mexico and Guatemala with refugees and migrants and a few key informant interviews in Guatemala City and Tapachula.

**Mixed Migration Centre** MMC Latin America and the Caribbean - 4Mi Snapshot – March 2021  
**Assistance needed and received by Venezuelan refugees and migrants during the COVID-19 outbreak in Colombia**

This snapshot focuses on the assistance needed and received by Venezuelan refugees and migrants during the COVID-19 pandemic in five Colombian regions: Andes, Cundinamarca, La Guajira, Norte de Santander and Cauca. It is based on a household-level evidence base to inform targeted responses on the ground, as well as secondary efforts to address the situation of refugees and migrants during the COVID-19 outbreak in Colombia.

**Profiles**  
 The analysis is based on 1,615 surveys implemented between July 2020 and January 2021, primarily by face-to-face interviews and partially remotely, by phone. At the time of the survey, 27% of respondents were located in the Cundinamarca region, 22% in La Guajira, 20% in Antioquia, 16% in Andes and 15% in Norte de Santander.

**Map 1 - Survey regions**  
 70% of all respondents were women and 30% were men. At the regional level, the proportion of women ranged from 68% in Norte de Santander to 72% in Antioquia.

**Highlights**

- Needs are high among respondents across regions, but data shows higher assistance needs among respondents in Colombia's border departments, including both the border with Venezuela and the sea with Ecuador.
- Overall, the most frequent needs reported by respondents were food and cash, but results show significant variations according to the region. While surveys from Antioquia and Cundinamarca show the highest need for housing-related assistance, those from Norte de Santander present the highest need for access to work and healthcare. La Guajira, in turn, is the region with the highest need for food, while Norte de Santander with the greatest need for cash.
- 70% of respondents who were displaced in the region would mostly use to cover housing and food.
- Respondents in Cundinamarca least frequently reported needing assistance regarding difficulties in access to assistance for refugees and migrants, either in Colombia's capital cities.
- Data shows strong gaps between refugee and migrant assistance needs and the assistance they received, through other things, almost no assistance received support in accessing work enable livelihood opportunities and documentation, despite its high demand.

## Assistance needed and received by Venezuelan refugees and migrants during the COVID-19 outbreak in Colombia

This snapshot focuses on the assistance needed and received among Venezuelan refugees and migrants during the Covid-19 pandemic in five Colombian regions: Atlántico, Cundinamarca, La Guajira, Norte de Santander and Nariño. The analysis is based on 1,615 surveys conducted between July 2020 and January 2021.

**Mixed Migration Centre** MMC Latin America and the Caribbean - 4Mi Snapshot – December 2020  
**Humanitarian assistance for Venezuelan refugees and migrants during the pandemic: what has changed over time?**

This snapshot offers an analysis on how the trends in assistance needed and received among Venezuelan refugees and migrants in Colombia and Peru have changed since the COVID-19 crisis began. It is based on a household-level evidence base to inform targeted responses on the ground, as well as secondary efforts related to the situation of refugees and migrants during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Profiles**  
 The analysis is based on 2,260 surveys conducted between 6 April and 30 October 2020. Data collection was mainly carried out remotely, by phone, except for one location in Colombia where 681 interviews occurred in person between 6 and 10 October.

**Key findings**

- Considered difficult to access, unless crisis requires, but has an unmet need and adapting protection and assistance service accordingly, including by supporting access to income-generating activities.
- To provide, support refugee and migrant employment and self-reliance by supporting the regularization of migration status, which will improve access to livelihood opportunities and access to public services.
- In the meantime, continue to provide open assistance to make sure that refugees and migrants can cover their most pressing needs.

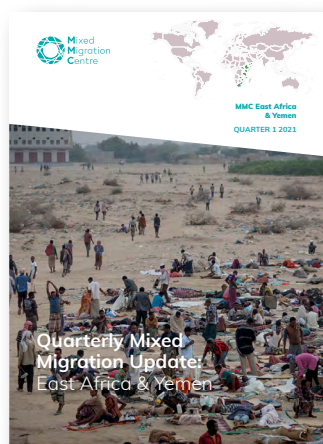
**Figure 1 - Age ranges and sex**  
 73% of respondents were women and 27% were men. The average age of respondents was 33.1 years (see Figure 2).

## Humanitarian assistance for Venezuelan refugees and migrants during the pandemic

This snapshot offers an analysis on how the trends in assistance needed and received among Venezuelan refugees and migrants in Colombia and Peru have changed since the Covid-19 crisis began. This analysis is based on 2,260 surveys conducted in Colombia and Peru between 6 April and 30 October 2020.

# Quarterly Mixed Migration Updates<sup>1</sup>

The QMMUs offer a quarterly update on new trends and dynamics related to mixed migration and relevant policy developments in the regions. 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.



## 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](#)



## West Africa

[Quarterly Update West Africa – Q1](#)

[Quarterly Update West Africa – Q2](#)

[Quarterly Update West Africa – Q3](#)

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

1 The Quarterly Updates Q4 2021 are published early February 2022, and as such are not included in this annual catalogue.

# Articles



## **Heading into a wall: the EU response to the migration crisis at the Belarus border**

Once again, Europe finds itself in the middle of a 'migration crisis', or better, a political and protection crisis. Once again, a perfectly manageable situation is evolving into a humanitarian crisis, with severe consequences, first and foremost for the thousands of people at the border. This article offers some overarching reflections and observations on how Europe ended up in such a situation, again, what stands out, and what needs to happen.



## **Sudan at a crossroads: The mixed migration consequences of Sudan's military coup**

As one of the largest hosting countries for refugees on the continent, and as a key country of transit and origin for refugees and migrants traveling along both the Central Mediterranean Route and Eastern Route towards the Arabian Gulf, the October military coup in Sudan raised several concerns with regard to the mixed migration situation in the country, the region and beyond. This article examines the different mixed migration dynamics within the country and explores the potential implications of the political crisis.



## **The impact of the Afghanistan crisis on migration: Increasingly securitized borders will only make migration riskier and more dangerous**

The rapid fall of Kabul to the Taliban in mid-August took many by surprise, casting further shadow on the future of a country already at breaking point. Since the beginning of 2021, hundreds of thousands of Afghans have been displaced and forced to seek refuge in neighboring provinces, and across borders in nearby countries as political and economic instability has mounted. This article explores the impacts on migration and displacement.



## **Afghanistan: when migration is the only lifeline available all efforts must be ensured to provide safe passage**

This article explores the situation in Afghanistan and the various migration and displacement drivers that already existed before the Taliban take over in August 2021, and offers recommendations on what should happen.





## **A perilous journey: protection risks facing Rohingya en route to Malaysia**

Despite tightening border controls and an ever-hardening immigration stance, the movement of migrants and refugees bound for Malaysia, continues. In particular, Rohingya, fleeing ongoing persecution in Myanmar and worsening conditions in the overcrowded camps of Cox's Bazar in Bangladesh, continue to brave perilous journeys across seas and over land in order to reach the relative safety and access to essential services that Malaysia affords. This article explores the risks based on 142 interviews with Rohingya refugees.



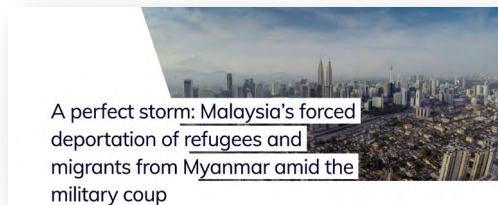
## **Forced displacement and (im)mobility: what's climate change got to do with it?**

The framing of climate change as a direct driver of cross-border mobility risks obscuring the complex reality of climate-forced displacement and migration and leads to inadequate policy responses. This article presents a new conceptual model developed by MMC, and introduces MMC's field research in 7 African countries in 2021 on individual and household aspirations and decision-making around mobility in areas impacted by climate-related events.



## **Same old, same old? Are we seeing a resurfacing of the North-South divide in GCM implementation?**

In 2018, after two years of negotiations, a large majority of 152 of the world's states adopted the Global Compact for Migration (GCM), a landmark moment in multilateral migration governance. More than two years in, three questions are emerging: Is the decades-old north-south divide in global migration governance resurfacing? How can we really track whether states are implementing the Compact? And where is the accountability for blatant violation of the Compact's objectives?



## **A perfect storm: Malaysia's forced deportation of refugees and migrants from Myanmar amid the military coup**

On 1 February 2021, Myanmar's military overthrew its newly elected government, halting the country's democratic transition and sparking nationwide protests. Shortly after, amid mounting concerns over the increasing use of violence against civilians in Myanmar, on 24 February, Malaysia deported 1,086 Myanmar nationals. Malaysia's actions are the latest blow to the multiple crises facing the people of Myanmar, adding new burden to the fragile state grappling with the Covid-19 pandemic, unresolved ethnic armed conflicts, and an increasingly violent coup. It raises alarms about the increasing insecurity faced by refugees and migrants from Myanmar in other countries in the region, including Bangladesh and Malaysia.



One year into the pandemic: Covid-19 a threat multiplier for people on the move

## **One year into the pandemic: Covid-19 a threat multiplier for people on the move**

One year on from the official declaration of Covid-19 as a pandemic, and as many foresaw, people on the move find themselves up against a trio of crises relating to health, income, and safety and security. This article draws attention to key issues for refugees and migrants on mixed migration routes the world over, taken from more than 21,000 interviews conducted through the Mixed Migration Centre's 4Mi programme, in five regions over the course of the pandemic.



Op-Ed: Negative narratives, mistaken metaphors. The need for careful language on migration

## **Op-Ed: Negative narratives, mistaken metaphors. The need for careful language on migration**

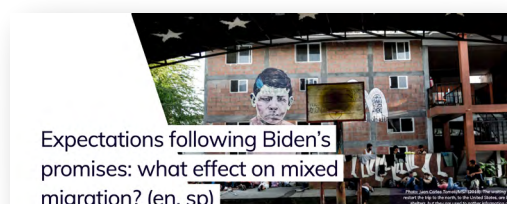
Addressing the many complex migration challenges, requires balanced approaches, rational analysis, innovation, courage and leadership. And it requires careful language. Dehumanising metaphors – such as water metaphors - and negative framing, whether out of sloppiness, ignorance or for self-promotional or funding purposes should be avoided by all means.



Migration in the Sahel: putting back human rights, cooperation and solidarity at the centre

## **Migration in the Sahel: putting back human rights, cooperation and solidarity at the centre**

Discourse and policymaking around migration in the West Africa region tend to be dominated by the EU lens focusing on containment and the 'fight' against irregular migration. This article explores the resurgence of the so-called Atlantic route against the broader migration dynamics in the Sahel. It provides clear reminders that human rights of concerned individuals should be at the centre when responding to mixed migration challenges.



Expectations following Biden's promises: what effect on mixed migration? (en, sp)

## **Expectations following Biden's promises: what effect on mixed migration?**

During the presidential campaign, Joe Biden's platform on immigration stood in stark contrast with the previous United States (US) administration's far-reaching restrictive policies, largely aimed at curbing immigration and preventing people on the move from reaching US soil. Similarly, Biden's foreign policy agenda presented a strong departure from the previous administration's "America First" isolationist stance based on the projection of unilateral hard power. What is the likely impact of this new approach for mixed migration movements in the American continent?



## **Mixed migration consequences of the Tigrayan crisis**

This article explores the possible broader implications of the crisis in Tigray on migration dynamics in the wider region and will argue that most movement will be internal, some will be cross border to neighbouring states, but only a very limited number are likely to attempt to move further afield. The mixed migratory consequences of the crisis on different groups of people deserve disaggregation and closer analysis as people are affected in different ways. Meanwhile many of those caught in the conflict and resulting humanitarian crisis will be involuntarily immobile, feeling compelled and in need to leave, but constrained to do so because of dire conditions and pre-existing vulnerabilities.



## **Surviving Fear and Uncertainty: Rohingya Refugees in Malaysia**

While Malaysia has offered many Rohingya relative safety and security, the systemic lack of legal protection frameworks poses great risk and heightened vulnerabilities, particularly during the Covid-19 pandemic. This article, based on MMC-Asia's Kuala Lumpur Urban Case Study highlights the rising anti-Rohingya sentiment in Malaysia, fueling nation-wide immigration crackdowns significantly impacting the Rohingya community as well as other refugee and migrant groups in the country and puts forward a list of key recommendations.



# Migrant & refugee stories



## Unexpected circumstances: Five migrant stories

A series of in-depth interviews with refugees and migrants in Bamako, Barranquilla, Bossaso, Jakarta and Khartoum, presents the unexpected circumstances and many twists and turns in people's migration journeys



## Five stories of Afghans evacuated to Italy

MMC follows the paths of five Afghan asylum seekers over the course of 2021/2022, with the aim of better understanding their individual stories, their experiences in accessing asylum or other forms of humanitarian protection, the perceptions, challenges, and opportunities in their socio-economic integration path in countries of asylum, as well as their future aspirations and intentions. The methodology follows a longitudinal life story approach, through repeated interviews every four months, which allows for a unique insight into the challenges respondents will be facing, and the choices they will be making in Europe. This article presents the first series of interviews, conducted between October and November 2021, with five people who were evacuated to Italy.

# MMC in the Media in 2021

A selection of media articles for which MMC experts were interviewed or which reference MMC research.

[‘Signalling weakness’: How is the EU reacting to a refugee crisis on its Belarus border?](#)

(Middle East Eye, December 2021)

[Da Kabul a Fiumicino: le storie degli afgani evacuati in Italia](#)

(Editoriale Domani, December 2021, article in Italian media on MMC’s interviews with Afghan evacuees)

[L’impatto della pandemia sulle migrazioni: chiusura delle frontiere e lotta per i vaccini](#)

(Editoriale Domani, December 2021, article in Italian media on the Mixed Migration Review)

[France and UK engage in blame game over English Channel tragedy](#)

(Deutsche Welle, November 2021)

[Flyktingar på väg in i Europa: ”Vi vill absolut inte till Sverige”](#)

(Dagens Nyheter, November 2021, interview with Swedish newspaper on European migration policies)

[Poland-Belarus migrant crisis: Where does the EU stand?](#)

(Al Jazeera, November 2021)

[‘What else can we do?’: Increasing numbers engage smugglers to flee Afghanistan](#)

(InfoMigrants, November 2021)

[Libya’s migrants and crimes against humanity](#)

(Brookings, November 2021)

[Tunisia: studio, diritti economici migranti non rispettati](#)

(AnsaMed, November 2021, article in Italian media, covering MMC’s research on economic lives of refugees & migrants in Tunisia)

[- سنوت يف نيرجاهملا او نيئجالل إي داصتقالا إي حل او عضولاي س اول ب ديلا](#)

(Tunisian National Radio, November 2021, radio interview on the economic lives of refugees and migrants in Tunisia)

[سنوت يف نيرجاهملا او نيئجالل إي داصتقالا إي حل او عضولاي رابخالل إي سيئولاي قرش نل-](#)

(Watania, November 2021, video interview with Tunisian media on the economic lives of refugees and migrants in Tunisia, featured in the daily news broadcast)

[نود نولم عي سنوت يف نيرجاهملا ن م ئاملاب 88: فشفت ةس ارد دوقع](#)

(Assabah News, November 2021, video interview on the launch of study “The economic lives of refugees and migrants in Tunisia”)

[The shrinking options for Afghans escaping Taliban rule](#)

(The New Humanitarian, August 2021)

[Tiotusentals på flykt igen – kan 2015 återupprepas?](#)

(Svenska Dagebladet, August 2021, interview with Swedish newspaper on migration from Afghanistan, and the Belarus-Lithuania border)

[Mens Tyrkiet bygger mure, flyver flygtningene i fly. Kan Afghanistan vende op og ned på årtiers flygtningepolitik?](#)

(Zetland, August 2021, interview with Danish media outlet Zetland on Afghanistan)

[Greece migrant deportations](#)

(BBC World News, July 2021, video of news broadcast)

[Cuba and Haiti upheaval could mean twin migration crises](#)

(Washington Post, July 2021)

[Post-covid Greece tries new ways to keep out migrants](#)

(i24, June 2021, video of news broadcast)

[How Europe has attempted to stem migration through foreign aid](#)

(The World, June 2021, radio interview on lessons learned from European approach to migration for the United States)

[Migrants and refugees flood Italian island](#)

(World, May 2021)

[The EU efforts to repatriate Afghan asylum seekers are dangerous](#)

(Aljazeera, April 2021)

[One year on: How the pandemic has affected refugees, asylum seekers, and migration](#)

(The New Humanitarian, March 2021)

[Consecuencias para Europa de la geopolítica de las migraciones en Libia](#)

(Atalayar, March 2021, article in Spanish media covering MMC research on Libya )



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.

Photo credit:  
Jean-Baptiste Joire

For more information on MMC visit our website:

[mixedmigration.org](https://mixedmigration.org)



Mixed  
Migration  
Centre

