



The Praesidium Project

**Consolidating reception capacities
in respect of migration flows
reaching the island of
Lampedusa and other strategic
border points on the Sicilian
costs**



Migration flows towards Italy and Europe

Mixed flows – potential asylum seekers and economic migrants;

- Majority is composed of men;
- Age between 20 and 30 y.o.;
- Majority has a basic level of education;
- Significant increase of unaccompanied minors;



The routes of irregular migration

Main destinations in Europe from Africa: Canary islands (Spain) Sicily (Italy).

Main departure points in Africa:

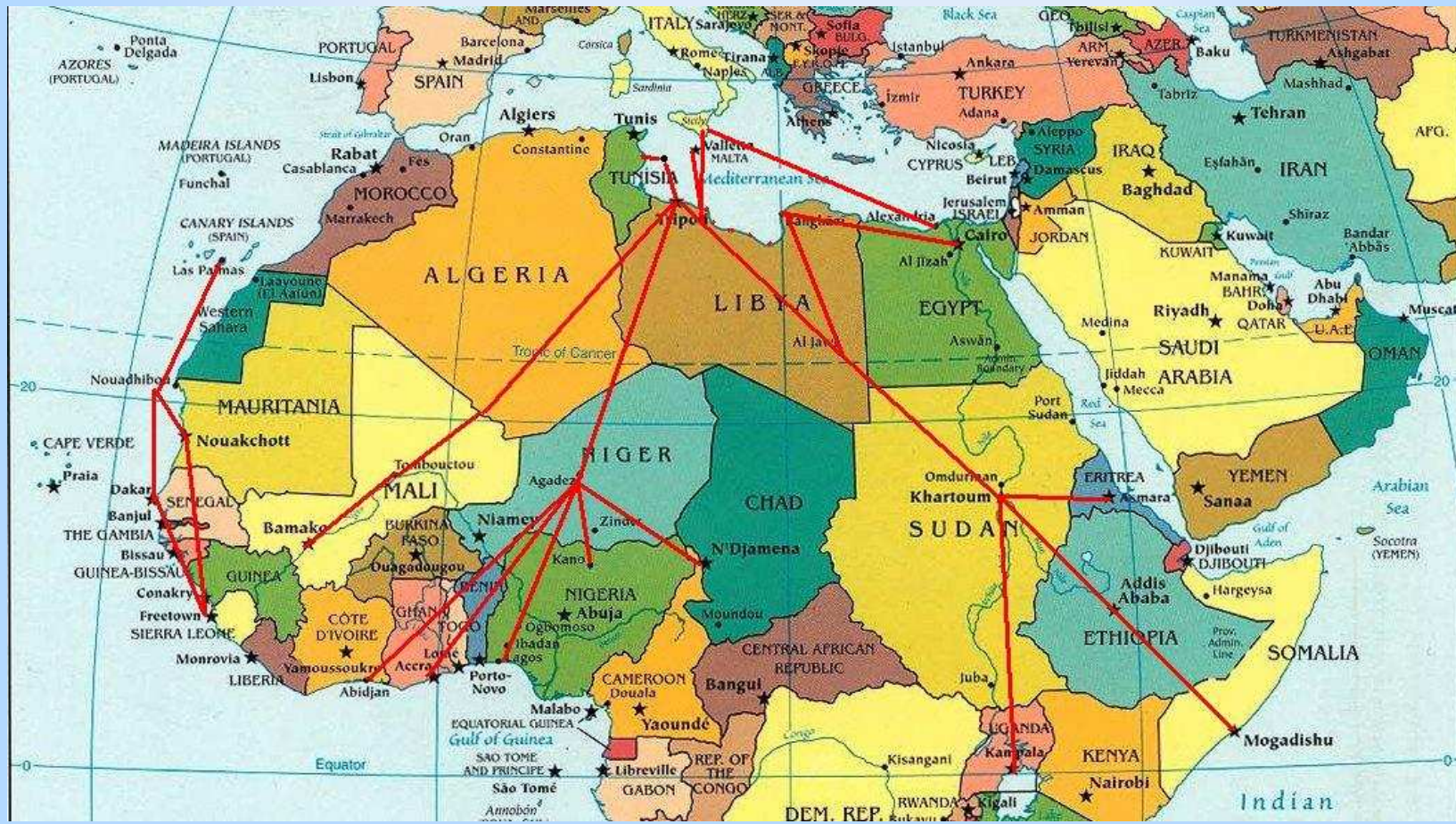
Western coast (Mautitania, Sahara Occidentale e Southern Morocco) and Libya and Tunisia.

Routes of migration are very complex and change continuously. Recently Egypt - Sicily.

Besides, when controls are enhanced by a State along one border, migrants find other routes, always more dangerous.



The routes





The cost of the trip

The price paid to traffickers

Sea route:

- | | Euro |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|
| • From Africa to Canarie islands: | 1.000-1.500 |
| • From Libya to Italy: | 1.000-2.000 |

Ground route:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------|
| • Through the Shahara desert: | 1.700-3.400 |
|-------------------------------|-------------|

Air/fground/sea:

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------|
| • From Asia to Europe: | 5.000-10.000 |
|------------------------|--------------|

Stop by stop



Migrants arrived in Lampedusa and Sicily report that:

- Most of them depart from Libya (90%, Tunisia 10%) – from Tunisia only small boats.

In Libya:

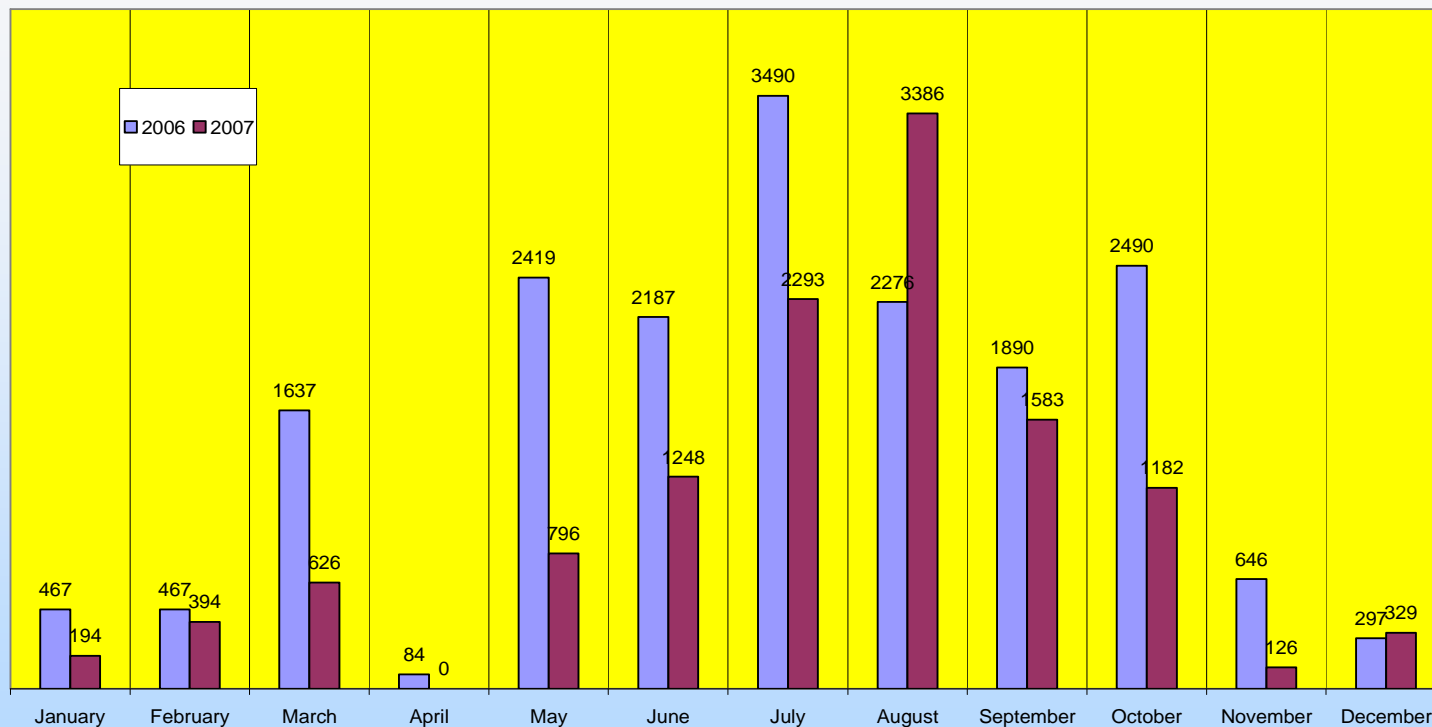
- Long periods (from 1 week to 1 year) confined in closed houses. Smugglers use to “split” the migrant based on the nationality in order to avoid “tensions” between different ethnic groups. Migrants are fed by smugglers, in no case can go out of the houses.
- Sub-Saharan migrants are particularly discriminated, because of the color are more visible and traceable, therefore exposed to blackmailing.
- Besides the ones who live in the closed house there are plenty of people that can be defined as “transit migrants”.



In general: Decreasing phenomenon

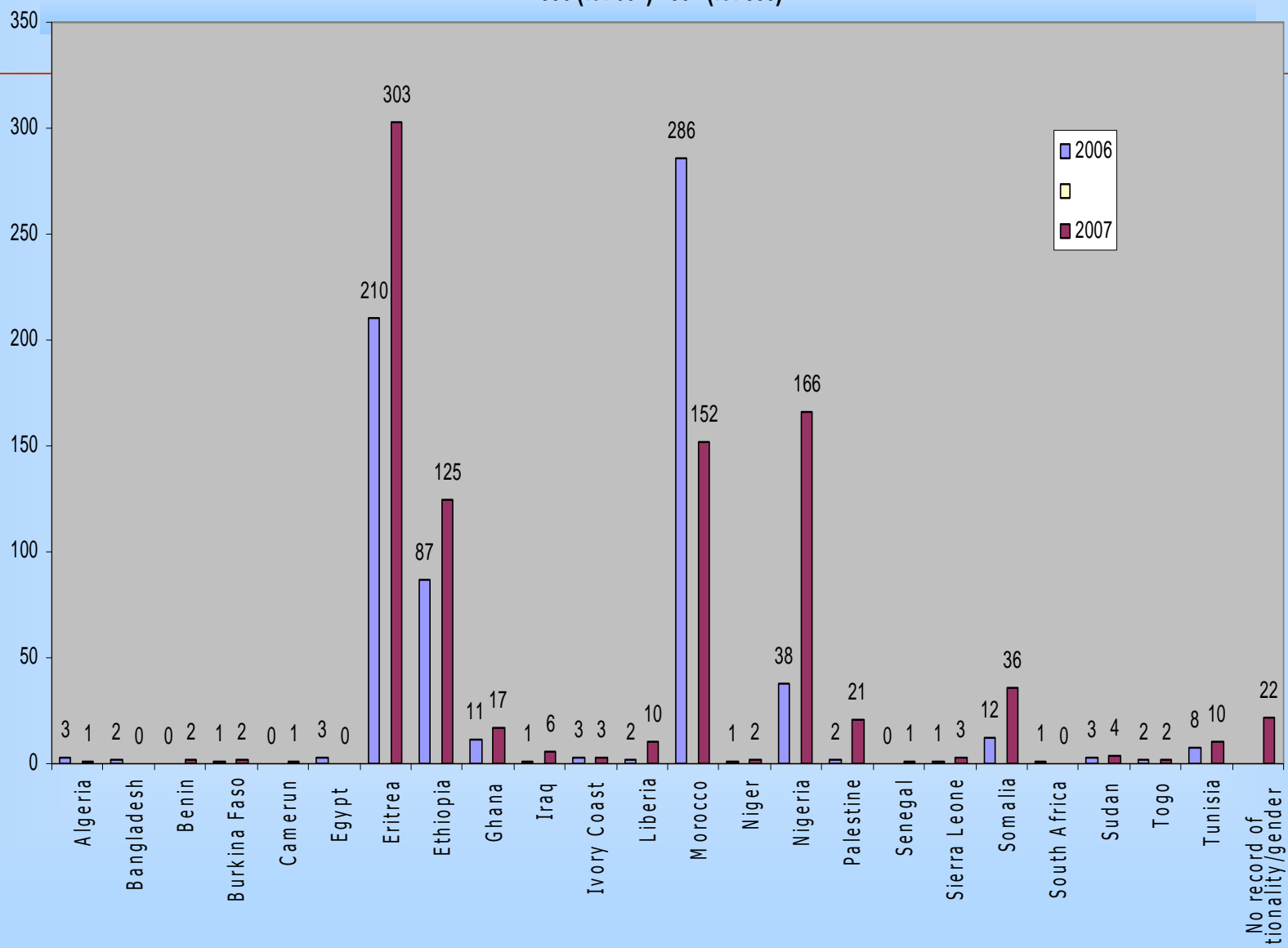
Total 2006: 18.350 - Total 2007:12.169

Arrivals per Month 2006-2007





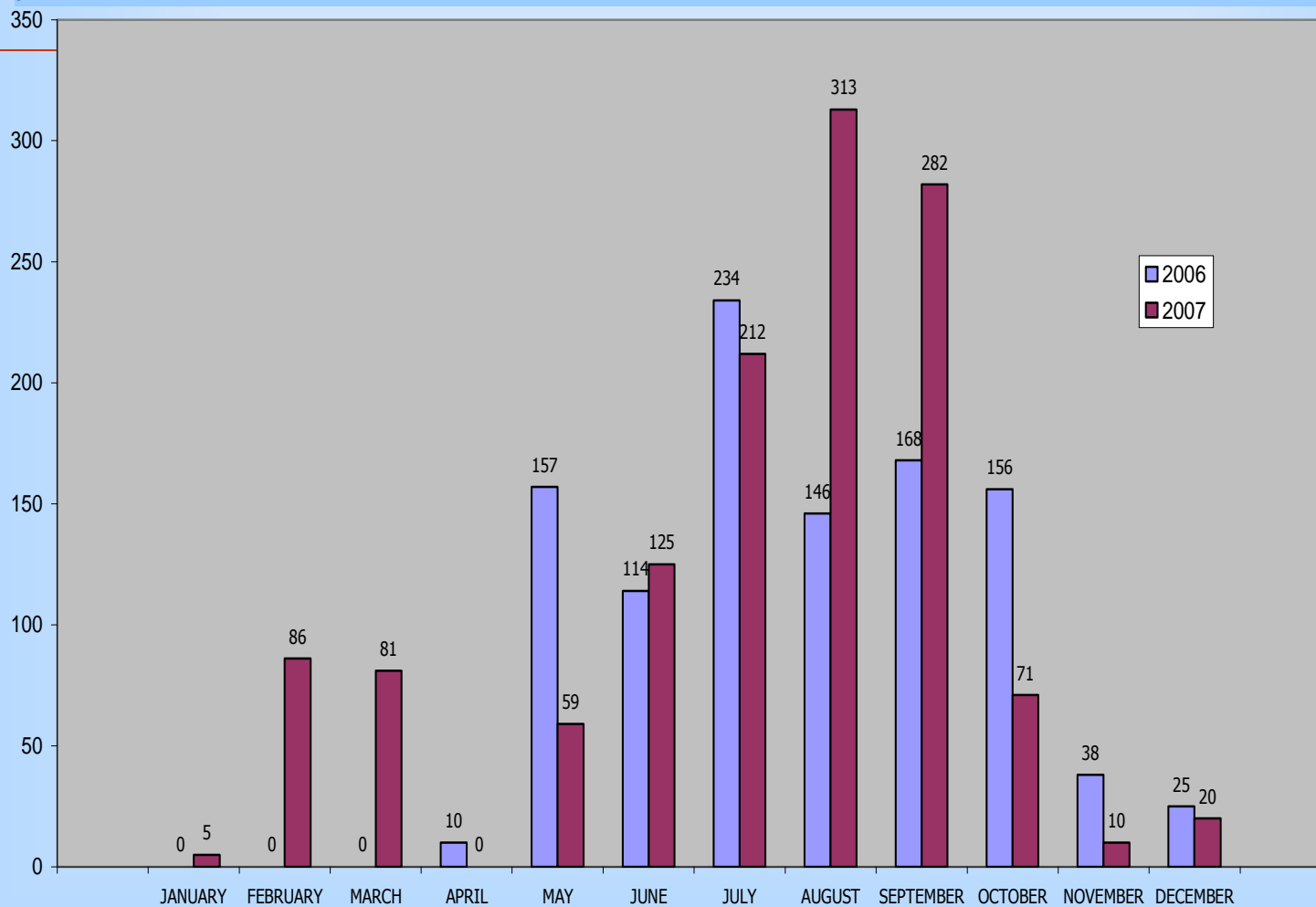
Women arrived in Lampedusa 2006 (tot.667) 2007 (tot.889)





Arrivi mensili di Minori a Lampedusa 2006(1048) - 2007 (1264)

Nationalities: Algeria, Bangladesh, Benin, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Iraq, Ivory Coast, Lebanon, Liberia, Lybia, Morocco, Nigeria, Pakistan, Palestine, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Togo, Tunisia





Upon departure

Migrants wait until they are called by smugglers: during the night they are taken to the shores. Very delicate moment. Family can be separated and women subject to violence.

Main departure points in Libya (beside Zuwara):
Abu Kammash, Sbrata, Zat Alimab, Tripoli, Abul Nour, Al Jarabowli, Al Khemes, Zuwara.



The Trip

Some women are subject to violence upon departure (most of them however during the stay in Libya). We had to follow some Somali women that, arrived in Italy, decided to interrupt pregnancy.

The trip lasts from 15 hours to 2/3 days. If it lasts more it means that the migrants are lost or something happened to the compass or to the engine. In the latter case they arrive in desperate conditions (if they are individuated by Coast guards). In some cases rubber dinghies just deflated.

No traffickers on boat. Traffickers are present only on big boats (100 to 500 people in one boat). In general drivers are people without experience that pretend to know how to drive and are given a free lift.

Sub-Saharan migrants are “easily sacrificed”. They are generally provided with unsafe boats or rubber dinghies. In most cases they are the ones who are sent first to check sea conditions.









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What happens when they arrive in Lampedusa/Sicily?

IOM assistance:

- Assistance upon landing of migrants;
- Legal counseling to migrants on consequences of irregular entry.
- Identification of vulnerable groups such as victims of trafficking and unaccompanied minors, people in need.
- Counseling on family reunification, if feasible.
- Referral to competent authorities (police, judicial authority).
- Monitoring of reception centre conditions and general migrant's treatment;



Upon migrant's landing

- Monitoring of first aid assistance;
- Monitoring of migrant's treatment at the pier (ensure a dignity treatment, privacy, etc);
- Referral of needy cases (medical care, special cases, etc);
- Support to family identification;
- Providing of first information as to the basics procedures (transfer/police identification – ex. Eritreans - , etc...) and inform about IOM, UNHCR and Red Cross presence in the camp;



















Vulnerable groups – victims of trafficking

- **Early identification in Lampedusa and Sicily;**
- **Ad hoc counselling, trust bulding with the victim and case assesment;**
- **Referral to police and judicial authority in Lampedusa and Sicily;**
- **Referral to medical/psyco support when requested or needed;**
- **Request to the competent authority to trasfer the victim in a protected enviroment and follow up of the case with the social workers;**
- **Thecnical assistance as to the legal status of the victim to social workers, police and judicial authority;**
- **Request to the police and the judicial authority the release of residence permits ex art. 18 – Italian Immigration Act;**
- **Advocacy with the judicial authority (Palermo – Anti Mafia District Prosecutor) as to the correct identification of the crime of trafficking in human beings;**



Vulnerable groups - non accompanied minors

IOM:

Monitors the phenomenon - increasing:

- Follows the transfer of minors from Lampedusa to specialized reception centers in Sicily;
- Provides technical assistance to social workers of the centers as to legal aspects of migrant's stay;
- Monitors reception facilities and refer to competent authorities;
- Ensures coordination with police and judicial authority (Guardianship judge) to overcome legal problems that might arise as to the legal position of minors;



Vulnerable groups- others

- Identification of other vulnerable cases such as exploited migrants and request of art. 18 (Italian Immigration Act);
- Identification of migrants that need special care or assistance and follow up;
- Support to family reunion through early referral to police;
- DNA testing for family reunification (Libya-Italy) or upon judicial request;



IOM Staff

In Lampedusa:

- 1 – Field officer**
- 1 – Cultural mediator**

In Sicily

- 1 – Field officer**
- 1 – Cultural mediator**

In Rome:

- Project coordinator**
- Legal expert**

All IOMers are always in contact to ensure follow up and monitoring





End of session