The 2010 MTM Map on Irregular and Mixed Migration Routes
West, North and East Africa, Europe, Mediterranean, and Middle East

The MTM Map on Irregular and Mixed Migration Routes is an output of the intergovernmental information exchange project Interactive Map on Irregular Migration Routes and Flows in Africa, the Middle East, and the Mediterranean Region (i-Map), implemented by the Dialogue on Mediterranean Transit Migration (MTM), gathering officials from Algeria, Egypt, Ethiopia, 27 EU Member States, Lebanon, Libya, Malta, Morocco, Niger, Senegal, Switzerland, Tunisia, Turkey, and Turkey.

The map is a model depicting key irregular migration routes. Routes are characterized by key migration hubs and known points of irregular border crossings, including land, sea, and air transport.

Five major routes can be distinguished:

- The **West Africa route**, originating in West Africa, passing Mauritania, Morocco or Senegal, aiming for the Canary Islands.
- The **West Mediterranean route**, originating in West Africa, heading northwards to the Maghreb and subsequently reaching Spain.
- The **Central Mediterranean route**, originating in West Africa, transiting through Mali and/or Niger towards Libya, and crossing the Mediterranean Sea towards Italy or Sicily.
- The **East Africa route**, originating in the Horn of Africa with two main branches; the first branch crosses the Gulf of Aden to Yemen and heads northwards towards the Gulf or Middle East. The second branch heads northwards through the Sudan and leads to (i) an easterward extension in Egypt and on towards Israel, destinations for workers heading to the Middle East, and (ii) an easterward extension to Libya, connecting to the Central Mediterranean route, and (iii) a westerward extension towards Libya, connecting to the Central Mediterranean route.
- The **East Mediterranean route**, transiting the Middle East, heads towards the Mediterranean regions, either through Syria or Lebanon towards Cyprus, or through Turkey en route to Cyprus, Greece, or Bulgaria.

Irregular migration routes are not independent of each other. Developments influencing single routes, such as regional law enforcement cooperation, influence the relative attractiveness of other routes and thus lead to shifting of flows.

The migration routes and flows are of concern to all countries in the covered region. The geographic extension of each single route does not imply that persons making use of the route travel for full length. Origin countries may differ, destination countries may be along the route, and persons may remain in transit for one or more extended periods of time. Inter alia due to a lack of possibilities for irregular border crossings promoting further movement. Thus the "Illegal of Residence" evolves with the flows and varies from countries of origin, transit or destination, or any combination thereof.

Migrations along the routes may occur by land, sea, or air travel, or a combination thereof. Both public transport and private means of transport are utilized. Particularly with regards to irregular border crossings, irregular migrants make use of facilitating services of individuals or organized crime groups.

The flows are characterized by a broad composition including women, children, refugees, persons in need of other forms of protection, economic migrants, and others. Management of migratory streams requires specific measures addressing each category, thus increasing the challenges to migration management systems and increasing their complexity.