

Country of Origin	Number of Migrants in 2017	Population	Level of Freedom	Per Capita Income	Corruption Perceptions Index Score*	Human Development Ranking
Ethiopia	49,220	87,000,000	Not Free	\$370	34	174
Nigeria	17,487	170,000,000	Partly Free	\$1,280	28	152
Guinea	12,158	11,000,000	Partly Free	\$430	27	183
Côte d'Ivoire	11,966	21,000,000	Partly Free	\$1,090	34	171
Morocco	9,558	33,000,000	Partly Free	\$2,970	37	123
Gambia	7,711	1,800,000	Not Free	\$500	26	173
Mali	6,953	16,000,000	Partly Free	\$610	32	175
Algeria	6,444	37,000,000	Not Free	\$4,470	34	83
Sudan	5,852	33,000,000	Not Free	\$1,310	14	165
Senegal	5,786	13,000,000	Free	\$1,070	45	162

* 0=Highly corrupt; 100=Very clean

Data from UNHCR, RMMS, Freedom House, Transparency International, and UNDP as of December 2017. Does not include refugees, internally displaced persons, or asylum seekers.



Dynamics of African Economic Migration

On the 17th International Migrants Day, migration continues to be a major issue affecting African societies. Here are three observations on how Africa's economic migrants* affect security on the continent:

- **Three main migration routes are active on the continent.**
 - Africa's migrants primarily use the central Mediterranean route – through Libya, Egypt, and to a lesser extent, Algeria and Tunisia. Roughly 105,000 African economic migrants took this route so far in 2017.
 - The second most common route is via the Gulf of Aden to the Arabian Peninsula. About 38,500 Ethiopian migrants crossed into war-torn Yemen so far in 2017. Around 82,000 Ethiopian migrants crossed the year before.
 - An estimated 15,000-17,000 economic migrants each year travel along a third route, from the Horn to Southern Africa.
- **Over three-quarters of African migrants used the services of smugglers, which poses risks to the migrants and empowers criminal networks that threaten regional security.**
 - More than 79 percent of African migrants who reached Italy from Libya in the first half of 2017 reported experiencing at least one form of abuse – from extortion and not getting expected payment for work to physical violence, torture, and outright bondage. Law enforcement officials were regularly reported to be among the perpetrators.
 - The migrant smuggling economy in Africa is loosely estimated at between \$500 million to \$1 billion. Much of this money is going into the hands of criminal networks, militias, corrupt officials, and violent militants.
- **The “migration crisis” is not uniform across the continent. Rather, it is driven by a confluence of poverty, corruption, and poor governance.**
 - Nine of the top 10 countries of origin are considered “not free” or “partly free” in their access to political rights and civil liberties (see table).
 - Eight of the top 10 fall within the bottom quintile of UNDP's Human Development rankings.
 - All of the countries face a serious corruption problem.

**Economic migrants, as used herein, are people leaving their home countries primarily in search of employment. This does not include the much larger populations of displaced persons, refugees, and asylum seekers.*