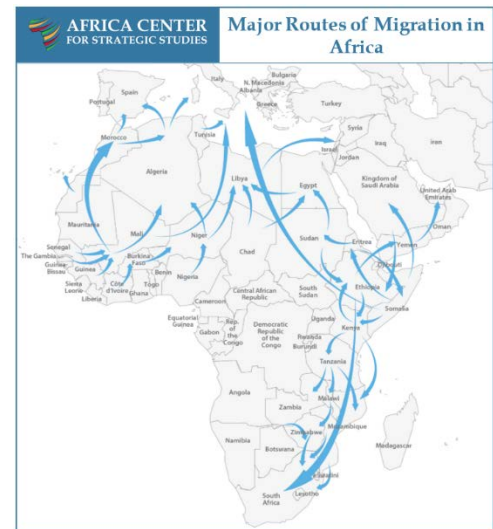


African Migrant Flows Reshaping Security Challenges in Africa

By the Africa Center for Strategic Studies
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The dynamism of clandestine African migration flows continues to present criminal and violent extremist groups opportunities for exploitation.

- African migrants continue to be on the move, with an average of 78,000 clandestine African migrants per year intercepted on Europe’s southern shores between 2014 and 2019.
- The migration flow to Europe is just one avenue of movement, however. On average, roughly [1 million African economic migrants have moved to other parts of the continent](#) each year during the same period of time.
- The leading countries of origin of African migrants bound for Europe have shifted to North Africa in the past 6 years.



Top Countries of Origin of African Arrivals in Europe via the Mediterranean

2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Eritrea 33,559	Eritrea 38,791	Nigeria 37,554	Nigeria 18,163	Morocco 13,698	Morocco 8,049
Nigeria 8,233	Nigeria 21,914	Eritrea 20,721	Côte d’Ivoire 12,854	Guinea 13,590	Algeria 5,273
Côte d’Ivoire 1,847	Côte d’Ivoire 4,501	Guinea 14,328	Morocco 10,918	Mali 12,779	Guinea 3,961
Guinea 1,729	Guinea 3,577	Côte d’Ivoire 14,239	Guinea 10,350	Algeria 7,586	Côte d’Ivoire 3,693
Cameroon 1,497	Algeria 1,059	Algeria 1,693	Mali 7,700	Tunisia 5,764	Tunisia 3,544

*2019 data through November 30, 2019

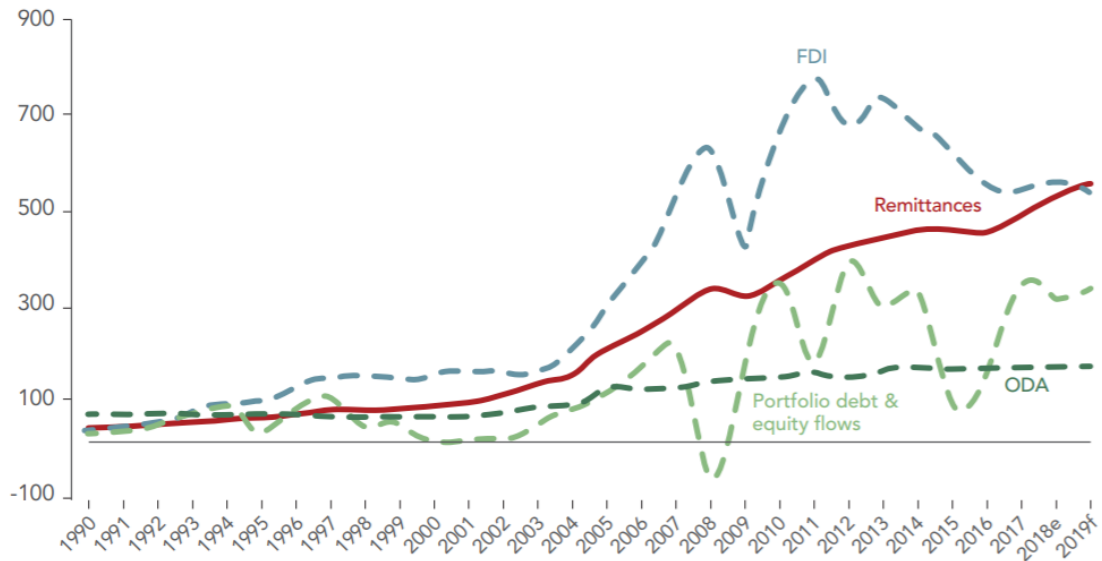
Data sources : Frontex and UNHCR

- The migration journey continues to be treacherous. There have been over [17,000 deaths](#) recorded in the Mediterranean since 2014. The UN believes that [overland clandestine migration](#) in Africa is twice as deadly as crossing the Sea.
- Whether they are transiting to Europe or other parts of Africa, African migrants who cannot move through legal channels travel clandestinely and are more likely than not to experience some form of [abuse](#) on their journey and at their destination.
- Clandestine migration in Africa has created a lucrative market for human smuggling—estimated to be worth \$765 million annually along the Trans-Sahara route alone. A significant share of this flows to [criminal and violent extremist groups](#), who use the funds to undermine and destabilize governments.
- Africa is experiencing these clandestine migrant flows as its [young and growing](#) population is increasingly moving to cities and abroad to seek education and work opportunities. The dynamism of migration flows, therefore, is likely to continue into the foreseeable future.

- Migration can bring considerable benefits – both through the increased availability of young workers and for the remittances they contribute to economic development in their countries of origin.
- Remittances have become the [largest form of financial assistance](#) to developing countries. On the African continent they comprised an estimated [\\$86 billion](#) in 2019, \$4 billion more than 2018.

Remittance Flows, Foreign Direct Investment, Official Development Assistance, and Private Capital Flows to Low- and Middle-Income Countries

(\$ billion)



Sources: World Bank staff estimates, World Development Indicators, and International Monetary Fund (IMF) Balance of Payments Statistics.