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EMERGING TRENDS IN MIGRANT SMUGGLING TO EUROPE

CURATED BY:
AGENFOR INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION

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INTRODUCTION

This report, developed by Agenfor International, aims to highlight emerging trends in the illegal smuggling of migrants to Europe. It provides first-hand information gathered through an innovative approach that combines field research with open-source intelligence (OSINT) techniques, leveraging our organization's specialized expertise. The report is structured to first outline the methodological framework used, followed by an in-depth examination of smuggling routes, recruitment methods, organizational logistics, profiles of traffickers, economic flows, community perceptions, and a specific case study. The final section offers actionable recommendations to enhance national and European strategies in combating migrant smuggling.

METHODOLOGICAL FRAMEWORK

Integration of Expertise

This step involves combining academic expertise and analytical methodologies to form a comprehensive approach to understanding migrant smuggling to Europe.

Field Research

Direct research conducted by active researchers in the field provides first-hand data, qualitative assessments, and insights derived from interactions with affected communities and stakeholders.

Language Expertise

Analysts with specialized language skills contribute to the analysis by providing nuanced interpretations of multilingual interactions, enabling a deeper understanding of communication strategies, cultural nuances, and contextual idiosyncrasies related to migrant smuggling.

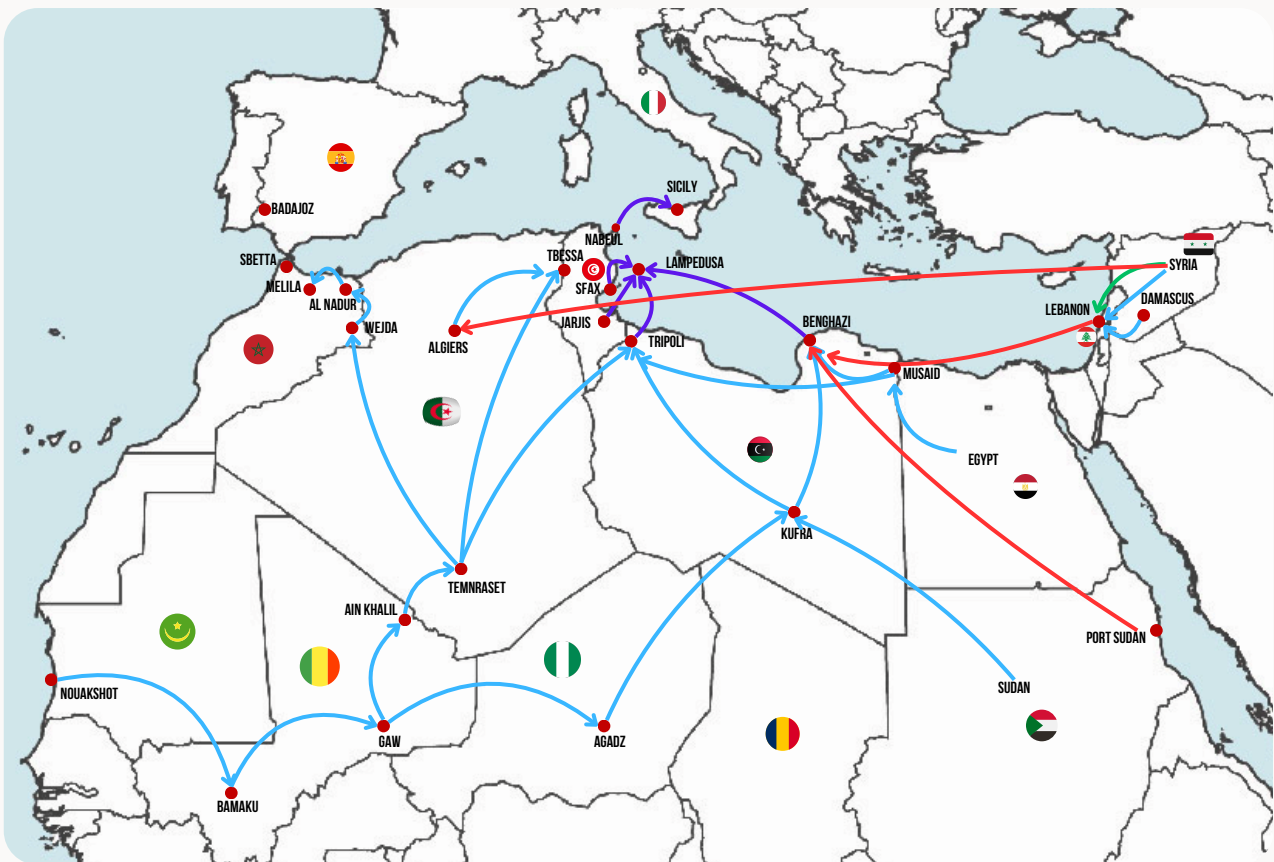
OSINT Techniques

Open-source intelligence (OSINT) techniques are strategically used to systematically collect, collate, and analyze publicly available digital data streams. This includes in-depth examination of social media platforms to gain insights into the social, cultural, and technological dimensions underlying migrant trafficking networks.

MAIN FINDINGS

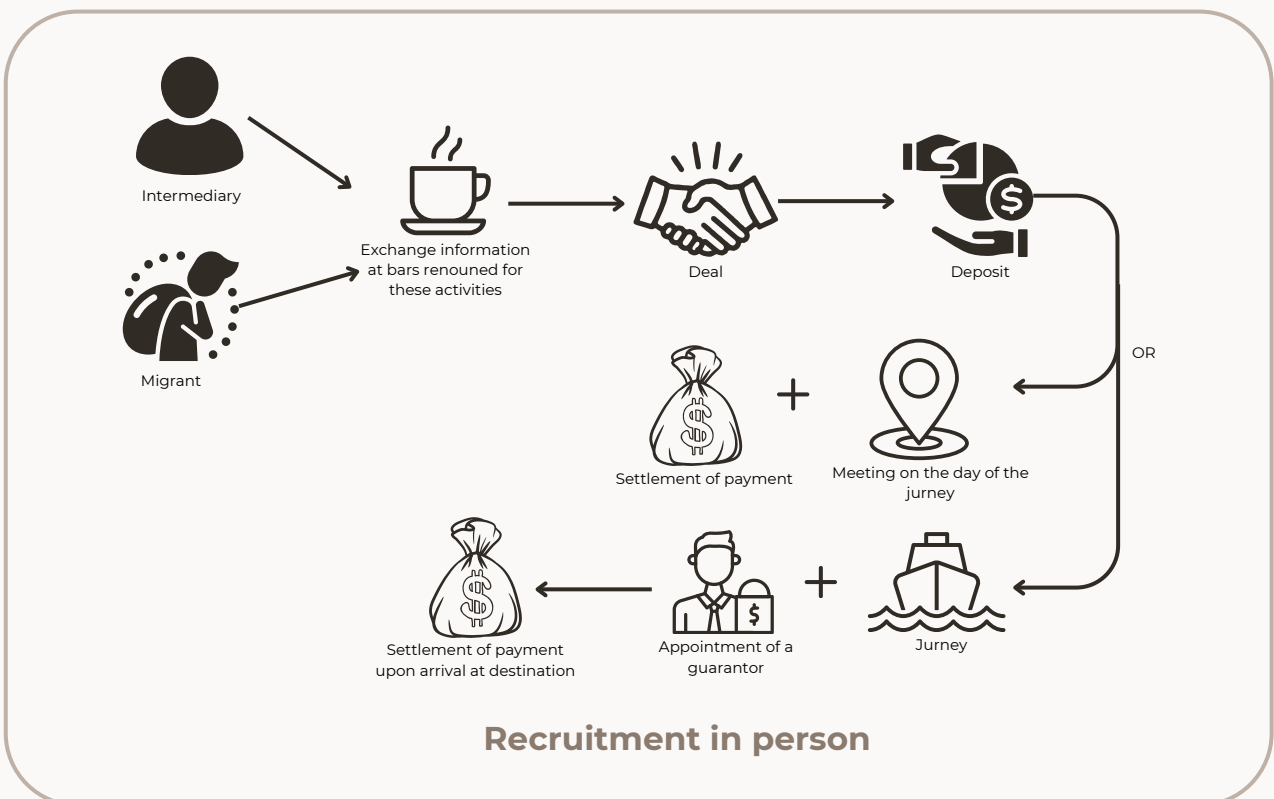
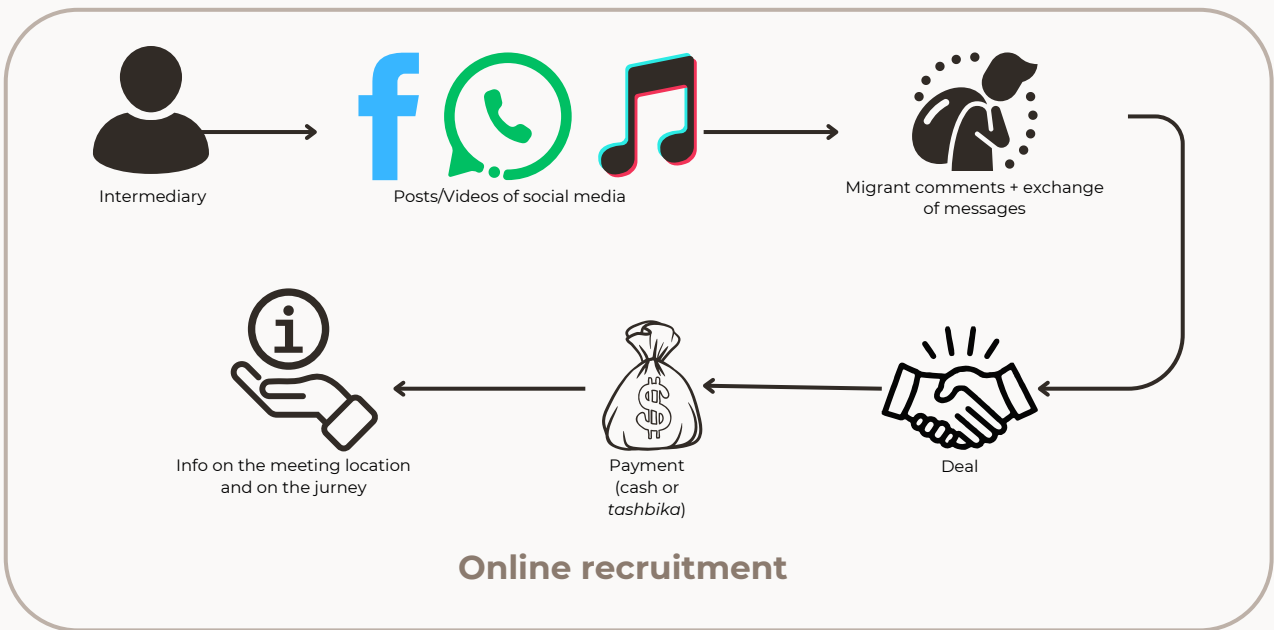
MIGRATORY ROUTES: LIBYA AND TUNISIA

Migrants utilize various routes to reach Europe clandestinely. Terrestrial routes leading to Mediterranean departure points are common, as are aerial routes facilitating access to coastal embarkation points. Our analysis delves into the specific dynamics of routes originating from Libya and Tunisia, highlighting the challenges and methods employed by migrants and traffickers.



RECRUITMENT

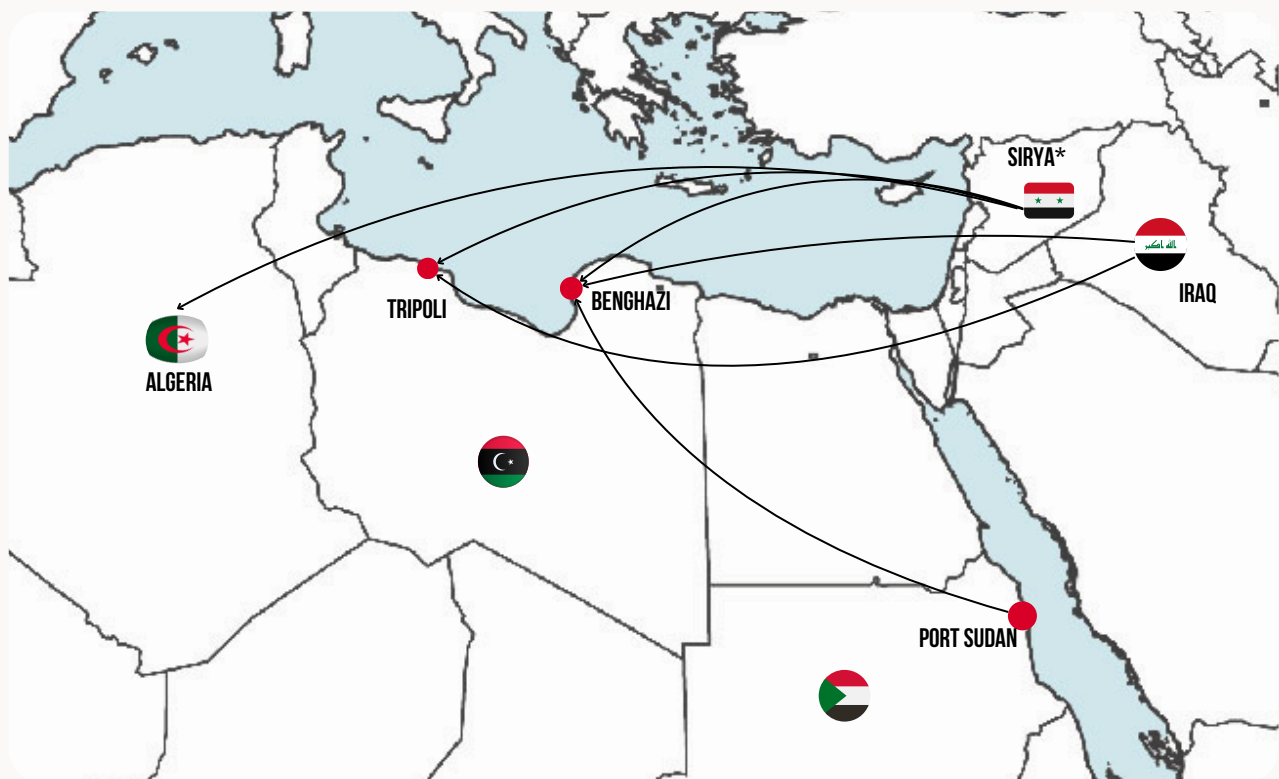
Recruitment of migrants by traffickers occurs through a variety of modes, both physical by directly targeting intermediaries, and online through various social platforms that often incorporates an almost common branding strategy by traffickers or intermediaries.



ORGANIZATION OF CLANDESTINE TRAVEL THROUGH TRAVEL AGENCIES

Our OSINT research revealed several new migration routes facilitated by travel agencies offering complete packages including visa, flight, and assistance with administrative and customs procedures. As an example, the route from Portsudan Airport to Meitiga Airport in Libya.

The organization of clandestine travel through these travel agencies highlights a well-structured system in which agencies not only facilitate legal entry into Libya, but also offer support for the stay and subsequent departure to Europe, often working with local representatives to ensure the administrative regularization of migrants.



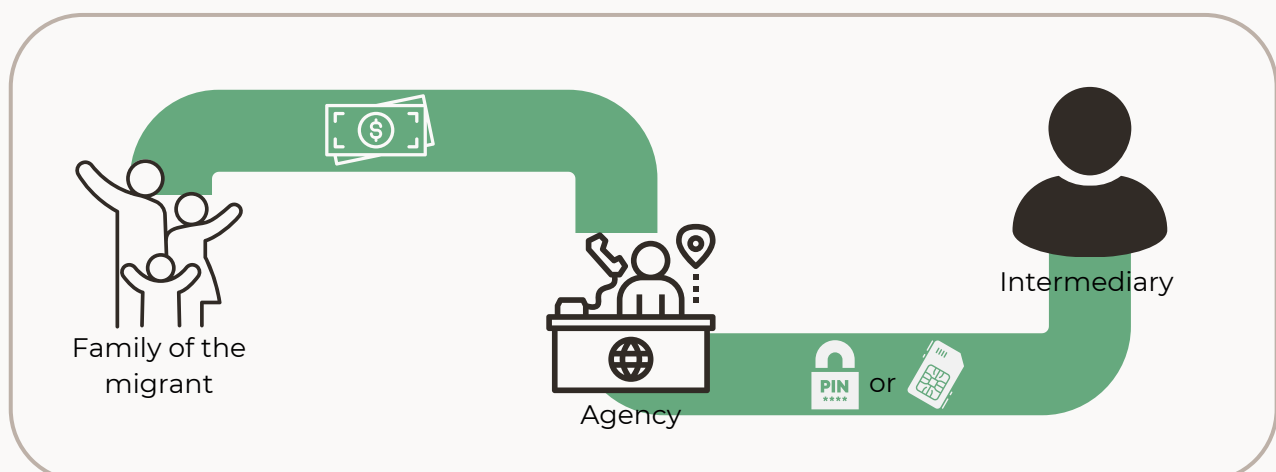
*Not only do flights from Syria to Libya carry Syrian migrants, but also migrants mainly from Pakistan, Afghanistan, India, and Bangladesh.

TRAFFICKERS AND STATE AGENCIES

In Libya on paper there are several agencies operating with the objective of fighting crime, drug and human trafficking as well as corruption, more or less structurally positioned within the ministries of Defense and Interior. There are also organizations that receive government support and funds, about whose role many doubts remain. These agencies detain irregular migrants, are responsible for intercepting migrant boats leaving Libyan shores, and also run detention centers for Libyan citizens, claiming to fight crime and corruption.

PAYMENT METHODS

Methods of payment for clandestine travel vary and depend on different circumstances. One of the most secure payment methods for traffickers is called "*Tashbika*" (تشبيكة) by which the transfer of money is made, either through a system similar to Western Union and it is agreed that the amount will not be disbursed until the transaction between the proxy and the migrant is completed. Or through a telephone operator and the requested value is transferred to a telephone SIM card provided by the delegate.



REASONS FOR MIGRATION AND TRAFFICKING

Motivation



Seeking safety and opportunity in Europe.



Fleeing conflict, instability, and poverty.

Challenges



Bureaucratic hurdles.



Economic constraints.



Unjust visa denials.

Consequences



Forced reliance on traffickers.



Heightened risks and complexities in their journey.

CHALLENGES IN LEGAL MIGRATION

Obtaining visas for legal entry into Europe presents formidable obstacles, including stringent financial requirements, prolonged appointment processes managed by private companies, and bureaucratic inefficiencies in document acquisition. Many migrants encounter difficulties obtaining necessary documents due to administrative inefficiencies and arbitrary visa denials.

RECOMMENDATIONS AND ACTION POINTS

Addressing these challenges requires comprehensive reforms, including streamlining visa processes, investing in border control efficiency, and redirecting resources to support migrant integration and qualification in host countries. By facilitating legal pathways to Europe, we can mitigate the risks associated with irregular migration and trafficking.

CONCLUSION

In this summary, we offer a condensed glimpse into the detailed structure and findings of the full report. Covering topics such as Migratory Routes in Libya and Tunisia, Recruitment Systems for Migrants, Logistics Organization, and the Role of State Actors in Trafficking, each section delves into the complexities of migration trafficking to Europe. From physical and online recruitment methods to the involvement of state entities, each aspect unveils a complex web of challenges and operations. We encourage readers to explore the full report for a comprehensive understanding of these issues and proposed recommendations.



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