Illegal African Migration to Algeria: A Reading of the Causal Dynamics, Outcomes, and Mechanisms of Combating It



Krarcha Fatima Zohera

University of Batna 1, fatimaalzahera.krarcha@univ-batna.dz

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Abstract:

The issue of illegal migration, with its interconnected, complex, and diverse network in terms of determinants, causes, and social, political, and economic consequences, has been classified among the top concerns of international security agendas at both the individual and collective levels. This is because the phenomenon is transnational, transcending the internal borders of the source state through transit states and reaching the destination state.

This necessitated that the political and security authorities in Algeria keep pace with this phenomenon by developing means of containment and reduction. These efforts varied in terms of their nature, levels, and mechanisms, all of which were guaranteed by the development of levels of international awareness and perception of the phenomenon and its security repercussions.

Keywords: *migration; illegal migration; African migrants; causes of migration; mechanisms for combating illegal migration*

*** Corresponding author: Krarcha Fatima Zohera, fatimaalzahera.krarcha@univ-batna.dz**

Introduction:

Algeria, like other countries, suffers from the phenomenon of migration due to its strategic location on the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea, which has always constituted an open gateway to Europe and a space for civilizational interaction and human communication.

Illegal migration is considered one of the most important phenomena suffered by modern societies, whether developed or underdeveloped, as it expresses a population movement crossing national borders between states from the most vulnerable regions toward others that are more prosperous and stable. This imposes serious discussions about the driving causes of this phenomenon in order to limit it, in addition to its outcomes, between the right of states to protect their borders from unauthorized arrivals and illegal migrants in need of protection of their human rights, especially in light of the demands of international organizations and human rights bodies to guarantee their security and rights either as refugees or clandestine arrivals.

The reasons driving illegal migration have multiplied according to the diversity and multiplicity of its types, and they differ even within the same type. Therefore, illegal migration, as part of human social movements, has many and varied causes, which are mainly related to the aspects most connected to life, namely political, security, economic, and social aspects, in addition to other less influential factors such as the historical factor. Thus, migration has a multifaceted relationship with human security, manifested in all stages of the migration process as well as in its outcomes. From the beginning of thinking about making the decision to migrate, perceptions of the absence of human security are the incentives that push individuals to leave their homeland in search of a job opportunity and better income. These factors also include the spread of conflict and political instability.

In light of the information related to the issue of illegal migration in Algeria, the research problem and its hypotheses can be identified as follows:

Research Problem:

What are the means of combating illegal African migration toward Algeria in light of the strength of its motives and the negative effects it has on societal security?

The study is based on the following hypotheses:

- The flow of illegal African migration toward Algeria is attributed to the miserable economic and social conditions in the countries of origin.

- The increase in rates of illegal African migration toward Algeria creates serious repercussions, such as rising crime rates, depletion of local resources, increased

security and administrative burdens on local authorities, in addition to international obligations.

Methodological Framework:

The study relied on the historical approach in understanding the phenomenon of migration and illegal migration and its development within historical contexts, in addition to the analytical approach through tracing the motives and outcomes of the phenomenon of illegal migration based on some statistical figures.

Structure of the Study:

- **Chapter One**: Illegal Migration: Defining the Concept
- **Chapter Two** – Algeria: A Destination Country for (Illegal) African Migrants: Justifications, Outcomes, and Mechanisms of Combating It

Objectives of the Study:

The study aims at the following:

- Identifying the main motives of illegal African migration toward Algeria.
- Examining the outcomes of illegal African migration for Algeria.
- Identifying the most important mechanisms adopted by Algeria to limit the flows of African migrants toward it.

Chapter One: Illegal Migration: Defining the Concept

The term “migration” generally means moving to live from one place to another, with the intention of remaining in the new place for a long period. The study of migration is considered more difficult compared to the study of other vital facts due to the repeated movement of individuals from one place to another and the variation in the purpose of migration. External migration is classified according to its legality into legal and illegal migration.

Migration is the exercise of the right to movement, which is considered one of the fundamental human rights guaranteed by international instruments such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which allowed every person to choose his place of residence within the borders of the state in which he legally resides, whether citizen or foreigner, and grants him the right to leave his country to any other country and return to his country whenever he wishes. (Sayesh, 2011, p. 09)

However, this right, like other rights, is not absolute, as the individual’s exercise of it is restricted by what is required to defend the entity of the group from which he migrates or to which he migrates.

With the adoption of the principle of border demarcation between states and the conflict of political as well as economic interests, restrictions were imposed on the movement of persons between states, making the matter subject to laws regulating and controlling movement in affirmation of state sovereignty, territorial

sanctity, and protection of interests. Thus, the terms illegal migration and its synonyms emerged.

First: A Reading into the Concept of Illegal Migration:

There are several synonyms for this term, including irregular migration, which corresponds to the term illegal migration, both referring to this phenomenon because it constitutes a violation of the laws established by states regarding border crossing. Since it takes place secretly from the eyes of border guards, it is also called clandestine migration, as the migrant enters the intended state and lives there secretly.

Before defining this phenomenon, it is necessary to present the concept of migration in general. The word "migration" in the Arabic language generally derives from "hajr," the opposite of connection, including "tahajur," meaning estrangement, and also the terms (hajra, hajran, hijranan), meaning separation in the sense opposite of connection. (Mashauri & Shanafi, 2018, p. 194) Thus, the word migration means leaving one land and moving to another.

Illegal migration is one of the concepts that appear self-evident linguistically, but in reality, it is more complex and problematic when analyzed precisely. No migration movement can be defined as "illegal" except within the framework of interaction with a specific normative system. Moreover, the variation, complexity, and development of standards often make defining specific cases as illegal migration uncertain and controversial. (Ambrosini, 2010, p. 08)

A report issued by the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (2009) stated that four main aspects of the migrant's legal status can be distinguished: entry, residence, regularity of employment status, and the nature of work, meaning the extent of compliance with the general provisions related to labor contracts (payment of taxes, social security contributions, etc.). There is also a fifth dimension intersecting with the previous dimensions and not directly linked to regularity of status, namely identifying the migrant and the knowledge of competent authorities about him. Accordingly, there are migrants who do not possess residence permits, but whose presence is known and accepted.

By combining these dimensions, we obtain a complex matrix in which the migrants' situation may be legal in some respects and illegal in others.

Political and normative action plays a decisive role in creating and modifying migrant categories, restricting or expanding their opportunities to obtain or maintain legal status, and determining opportunities to escape their uncomfortable condition of being illegal. Therefore, it is necessary to recognize the flexibility and changeability of these definitions, as legal residence can be obtained or lost in several ways, and irregular legal status is neither self-evident nor permanent. (Ambrosini, 2010, p. 09)

Illegal migration is defined as the departure of a citizen from the territory of his state through illegal crossings or through a legal crossing using forged documents. As for the receiving state, its concern focuses on the presence of

individuals on its territory without its consent, whether the newcomer came from his country or another state, whether he departed from a legal crossing and arrived at a legal

From the above, we conclude that the concept of illegal migration, as defined by the United Nations Organization, is: "an unregulated entry of an individual from one state into another by land, sea, or air, without carrying any form of permanent or temporary residence permits. The concept also extends to failure to respect the necessary requirements for crossing state borders." (Hannak & Bouab, 2020, p. 393)

Thus, the term illegal migration includes two meanings: the unlawful entry of migrants from the perspective of receiving states, and the unlawful departure from the perspective of the state of departure. The latter does not fall within the context of our study.

Second: Illegal Migration: Justifications and Risks of the Journey

The justifications for illegal migration are based on poverty, unemployment, and conflicts, and can be summarized in the desire for a better future, leading to serious risks such as dangerous border crossings, labor exploitation, social vulnerability of illegal migrants, and tensions in host countries. These result from a combination of "push" factors from countries of origin and "pull" factors in destination countries.

1. Justifications for Illegal Migration: Death versus Life

"What is astonishing is that neither death, nor fear of the sea or the desert, nor the difficulties faced by illegal migrants deter them from migration. Illegal migration becomes like a game that one plays either to win or to lose." (Daniel, 2008, pp. 15–18)

o **Economic Justifications:**

The economic factor constitutes an attractive incentive pushing individuals in many societies with weak or non-existent economic qualifications toward illegal migration to economically wealthy societies. Despite the risks surrounding the journey of illegal migration, unemployment, low wages, poor living standards, and the dream of wealth in destination countries provide enough motivation to make the danger of death a price for a better life. (Al-Rais, 2017, p. 11)

o **Political and Social Motives:**

Political factors are among the main drivers of illegal migration, as tense political situations, including oppression and restrictions, in addition to the fragility of social conditions, are among the most important motives for migration toward countries guaranteeing better social and political conditions.

o **Security Motives:**

Security motives constitute the greatest motives and incentives for illegal migration, as the collapse of security conditions or the impossibility of obtaining

political and civil rights for certain individuals or groups in society pushes them toward migration.

2. Risks of Illegal Migration Journeys:

The sources of risks faced by illegal migrants during their clandestine journeys vary. Natural obstacles such as seas, deserts, and mountain ranges constitute a challenge for them in order to avoid the border areas most subject to security surveillance. These difficulties are usually exacerbated by the intervention of human traffickers and smugglers, whose activities range from spreading misleading information with the aim of increasing their profits, to extremely dangerous situations such as physical violence, armed robbery, and enslavement. (Collver, 2010, p. 277)

Some research conducted with potential migrants in West Africa indicates that raising awareness among individuals and attempting to dissuade them from leaving achieved only limited success in light of the strength of the motives for departure. (Collver, 2010, p. 277)

The variation in the legal and natural geography through which the illegal migrant passes (from the country of origin, through transit countries, to the destination country) along the route increases the likelihood of finding himself in ambiguous legal situations.

Chapter Two Algeria: A Destination Country for (Illegal) African Migrants: Justifications, Outcomes, and Mechanisms of Combating It

The climate crises of the 1970s and 1980s (Brachet, 2009, p. 112), and the subsequent Tuareg uprisings in the early 1990s, constituted a turning point in migration patterns. The region witnessed a large influx of Tuareg refugees, who often benefited from tribal and family solidarity among Algerian Tuaregs and were, in fact, tolerated to varying degrees by the Algerian authorities, which were keen to consolidate their role as a mediator in the region and prevent the spread of the uprising to Algerian Tuaregs. This influx initially led to the wide opening of the Algerian Saharan borders. Later, within the framework of a survival strategy in the face of drought and security surveillance, the Tuaregs spread throughout the Sahara and reached its northernmost limits (Ouargla). This spread occurred through a process of settlement in various Saharan centers while maintaining a degree of mobility and communication between these centers. This led to the emergence of a pattern of “nomadic settlement” and a network effectively covering all the centers of the Algerian Sahara. This expansion formed the basis of a transboundary and trans-Saharan network functioning as a channel for flows that increased in importance parallel to the expansion of their scope, which transformed from a coastal framework into a broader African scope. (Bensaâd, 2008, p. 05)

First: Illegal African Migration toward Algeria: Justifications and Security Outcomes:

The term "departure in order to survive" expresses the main driver of this migration. According to most studies, it is primarily the large disparities in development levels between the poor countries of the African Sahel, along with the waves of drought and desertification successively affecting these states, compared to the countries north of the Sahara that witnessed increasing development after their independence, such as Algeria. These fragile conditions pushed thousands of young people to migrate northward as a matter of life or death. This migration is also driven by organized smuggling networks that contribute through the flourishing and profitable trade of migrant smuggling. (Khalifa, 2015)

While this migration, until the early 1990s, consisted almost exclusively of Malians and Nigeriens, most of whom settled in the Sahara, these two nationalities no longer constitute the majority of migrants but now represent only a small proportion of new arrivals. Nationalities have diversified to include about twenty different groups from Africa, especially West Africa, although Senegalese, Ghanaians, and particularly Nigerians are the most widespread. Thus, the circle of migrants expands, and the factor of proximity loses its importance. (Bensaâd, 2008, p. 06)

1. African Migration toward Algeria: Analysis of Push and Pull Factors

The migration of Africans toward Algeria is due to the interaction of a set of factors. The study analyzes them according to the push and pull theory to explain this population movement through push factors (expulsion from countries of departure) and pull factors (specific to Algeria as a destination country).

A. Push Factors Related to Countries of Departure:

Consistent with what was previously discussed regarding the justifications and motives of illegal migration, the following presents the most important push factors from the countries of departure, namely the African Sahel states in our study, as follows: (Kim, 2021, p. 117) (Haibaoui & Benkobbi, 2025, p. 124)

- **Security and Political Factors:** African Sahel states experience recurring civil wars and ethnic conflicts, in addition to political instability due to coups, terrorism, and other factors leading to political oppression and suppression of individual as well as collective freedoms.
- **Economic and Natural Factors:** African Sahel states suffer from a series of climate crises. Desertification, drought, and harsh climate conditions there lead to declining living standards, widespread poverty, and the emergence of diseases and epidemics. These factors (and others) have become the main reasons for the settlement of waves of African migrants in southern Algeria.

As for economic problems, they lie in the fragility of the economies of the majority of African states despite their possession of enormous natural resources. This increases the spread of poverty, unemployment, and discriminatory disparities in the distribution of wealth and development opportunities regionally and socially. All these challenges are accompanied by a high demographic growth rate and the absence of developmental dynamism responding to individuals' needs.

B. Pull Factors Specific to Algeria as a Destination Country:

The following are a set of factors that attracted African migrants toward Algeria as a destination country: (Bernawi & Al-Amin Tayebi, 2021, pp. 83–84)

- **Geostrategic Factors:** These are represented by Algeria's geographical location and its sharing of long borders with African Sahel states on one hand, and its overlooking the Mediterranean Sea on the other hand. (Kim, 2021) The vast area of southern Algeria also provides greater opportunities for illegal migrants in terms of movement and mobility. The length of Algeria's borders, extending across seven African countries and totaling approximately 6,921 kilometers, makes them difficult to monitor. (Haibaoui & Benkobbi, 2025, p. 124) In addition, there is similarity in the social composition and lifestyle of the inhabitants of southern Algeria with neighboring countries such as the Tuaregs of Niger and Mali. (Bensaâd, 2008, p. 02)
- **Political and Economic Factors:** The political and security stability enjoyed by Algeria has made it a destination for those fleeing conflicts, wars, and terrorism in neighboring African countries. Economic pull factors are manifested in the launch of the economic recovery program in Algeria at the beginning of the third millennium, and the availability of job opportunities in some informal sectors, especially agriculture, construction, and freelance and domestic work sectors.

In an attempt to discover which factors most strongly drive illegal African migration toward Algeria, we refer to the following statistical survey: (Hammouda, 2008, p. 04)

The majority of migrants attribute migration to economic reasons. Insufficient income in the country of origin is the most common reason, representing (73.8%) of cases. This is followed by unemployment (43.1%) and the lack of social and economic opportunities at a rate of (30%).

Persons mentioning non-economic reasons, who may be classified as refugees or asylum seekers, represent about one-tenth of the sample. These are individuals mentioning security or public order problems at rates of 4.1% and 3.1% respectively. Political, ethnic, or religious persecution is mentioned at rates of 2.2%, 0.7%, and 0.4% respectively. Contrary to the prevailing belief that African migration is primarily due to conflict, insecurity, or persecution of any kind, this survey reveals the limited nature of these factors.

2.The Security Outcomes of Illegal African Migration on Algeria

Barry Buzan defines societal security as: "the sustainability, within acceptable developments, of traditional patterns of language, culture, religious and national identity, and customs." (Stone, 2009, p. 01)

Accordingly, the concept of societal security refers to society's ability to sustain the cohesion of its fundamental identity components under changing conditions and potential or actual security and non-security threats, among them the phenomenon of illegal migration.

Before delving into monitoring the security effects on Algerian society caused by illegal African migration, it is necessary to analyze this population composition. The following statistical survey expresses the most important social and demographic characteristics of illegal African migrants. (Hammouda, 2008, p. 03)

Men constitute the majority of illegal migrants from Sub-Saharan Africa (83.8%), and they are relatively young. (47.2%) of them are under the age of thirty, and nearly two-thirds are under the age of thirty-five. Their educational level is very low, as more than two-thirds did not surpass the primary stage.

Four out of every five migrants (79.5%) fall within the age group of 20 to 39 years, considered the prime of life, while those aged between 40 and 59 represent (16.9%). The remaining 3.5% of migrants are either youth under twenty years old (2.1%).

According to the marital status of these migrants, most of them moved individually at a rate of (83.2%) of cases, while (40.7%) are single individuals, and 16.9% of persons arrive in Algeria accompanied by at least one family member (wife and/or children). By extrapolation, the number of children of illegal migrants residing in Algeria can be estimated at more than 3,000 children.

Based on this statistical survey, it appears that most illegal African migrants in Algeria are young people, meaning in the active stage of life, which increases the seriousness of the situation regarding problems of crime, mixed marriages, incoming or Algeria-born children, and the possible resulting serious "identity" crisis.

Illegal African migration to Algeria has produced a set of effects on Algerian societal security. Social scourges have spread, such as the spread of bribery in exchange for obtaining legal documents for settlement in Algeria or for transit to Europe, the spread of drug trade and consumption, the spread of minorities embracing Christianity, and the introduction of new cultures into Algerian society that are foreign to its customs and traditions. (Bernawi & Al-Amin Tayebi, 2021, p. 88)

On the other hand, cases of mixed marriage have increased, resulting in the mixing of lineages, which affects the cohesion of Algerian society.

Moreover, southern Algeria witnesses the presence of a large number of African migrants, such as in the Wilaya of Tamanrasset due to its attraction of a large number of African displaced persons, which will lead to demographic imbalance. This will result in a minority within society seeking to strengthen its identity, which will raise the issue of recognition in the future, thereby creating conflict within society.

The entry of foreign minorities and religions into Algerian society, especially with the presence of more than twenty nationalities in the Wilayas of Tamanrasset and Illizi, threatens the entity of the indigenous population through the disruption of ethnic balance in Algeria. Pagan rituals and Christian rites are practiced, threatening Algerian identity and culture. On the other hand, there is a threat to social homogeneity through changing the ethnic, cultural, religious, and linguistic composition. (Bernawi & Al-Amin Tayebi, 2021, p. 88)

In addition to the spread of homelessness, begging, and chaotic shanty constructions, especially among African migrants, which threatens the values and morals of society.

3. Legal Mechanisms:

For years, Algeria has become a destination for African migrants, particularly from the Sahel region. This new phenomenon facing Algeria highlighted the necessity of defining its features, namely determining its scope, causes, and evaluating its effects. This is an essential condition for activating an Algerian migration policy as a country of origin, transit, and destination.

The security of Algerian territory and its population constitutes a major concern repeatedly emphasized by the Algerian authorities. Given the vastness of the country, it is obliged to allocate considerable resources to ensure its stability. Therefore, efforts in this field are focused on this region adjacent to the Sahel countries in order to protect the country and its sovereignty.

A. Legal and Political Mechanisms:

Algerian policy regarding combating illegal migration reflects the authorities' desire to regulate the movement of individuals within a legal framework deterring the entry and illegal residence of foreigners in Algeria.

Algeria introduced a set of legal mechanisms aimed at limiting illegal migration through criminalizing it and punishing its perpetrators, foremost among them Law No. 08/11 dated 25 June 2008 related to the conditions of entry, residence, and movement of foreigners in Algeria, and Penal Code 09-01 issued on 25 February 2009 amending and supplementing Order 66-156 dated 08 June 1966 containing the Penal Code. (Boussaid, 2021, p. 125)

Law 08/11 criminalized illegal migration by stipulating imprisonment and financial fines. The penalty was confirmed under Penal Code 09-01, as Article 175 bis states: "Any Algerian or resident foreigner who leaves the national territory illegally while

crossing one of the land, sea, or air border centers by assuming a false identity, using forged documents, or any other fraudulent means to evade presenting the official documents required or carrying out the procedures imposed by the laws and regulations in force, shall be punished by imprisonment from two months to six months and a fine from 20,000 DZD to 60,000 DZD, or by one of these two penalties. The same penalty shall apply to any person leaving the national territory through crossings or places other than border centers." (Bernawi & Al-Amin Tayebi, 2021, pp. 90–91)

On the other hand, the same law stipulated provisions related to the act of migrant smuggling. Article 303 bis 30 defined migrant smuggling as: "taking measures for the illegal departure from the national territory of one or several persons in order to obtain, directly or indirectly, a financial benefit or any other benefit." (Salem, 2017, pp. 124–125)

The law also stipulated strict legal procedures against foreigners entering Algerian territory illegally. There is the deportation procedure applied to anyone whose presence constitutes a threat to public order, state security, and Algerian national interests; there is expulsion applied to anyone who has not fulfilled entry conditions; in addition to removal applied in the event that the migrant does not possess an entry visa to Algerian territory. (Bernawi & Al-Amin Tayebi, 2021, pp. 91–92)

In the event that the migrant does not comply with expulsion or removal decisions, he is punished according to Article 42/01 of Law 08-11: "Any foreigner who refuses to تنفيذ an expulsion or border removal decision, and re-enters Algerian territory without authorization, shall be punished by imprisonment from two (02) to five (05) years, unless he proves that he cannot return to his country of origin nor travel to another country, in accordance with the provisions of international agreements relating to the status of refugees and stateless persons." (Bernawi & Al-Amin Tayebi, 2021, p. 92)

On the other hand, Article 37 of Law 08-11 stipulated the possibility of establishing waiting centers to accommodate foreign nationals illegally present within Algerian territory pending the completion of deportation or expulsion procedures. (Salem, 2017, p. 124)

Illegal foreigners whose nationality has not been identified are detained in administrative centers for a maximum period of 90 days renewable. Articles 40 and following provide for other penalties varying in severity according to the case, such as fines or imprisonment. Article 175 bis of the Penal Code also stipulates punishing any person, Algerian or foreigner, attempting to leave the country while bypassing legal conditions with imprisonment from two to six months in cases of not possessing official documents, forging them, or leaving the country outside approved border crossings. This approach reflects Algeria's position in imposing strict control over the movement of foreigners within its territory through the establishment of a legal framework.

Algeria's approach in applying a legal framework to the movement of persons obliges it to manage this phenomenon on two fronts: combating illegal migration from abroad toward domestic level and combating illegal migration from abroad toward the domestic level for its citizens and foreigners on the other hand. In this context, Algeria has repeatedly emphasized that managing illegal migration requires concerted efforts, and that any measures taken must be part of effective regional cooperation.

Human rights organizations exert pressure on Algeria regarding the care of illegal migrants, particularly concerning the conditions of their deportation, which they describe as "inhumane." Algeria denies this and is keen to take measures to combat this phenomenon, which creates internal security burdens and political pressures at the international level.

Algeria has concluded several international cooperation agreements with the European group or with individual countries (France, Spain, Italy) to deport illegal migrants and strengthen its capacities to confront the phenomenon. Algeria also involved Sahel countries within the framework of regional cooperation under the NEPAD organization and security cooperation with Mali. It also worked to develop the fight against networks operating in smuggling and human trafficking, equip border surveillance, and encourage migrant readmission agreements.

B. Security Mechanisms:

Specialized security units represented by the Coast Guard, Border Guard, Border Police, the Central Office for Combating Illegal Migration, and the National Committee for Coordinating Crime Combating Activities work to combat the crime of illegal migration, as follows:

- **Border Guard Group (GGF):** A group affiliated with the units of the National People's Army operating along the Algerian land borders, ensuring permanent surveillance thanks to the presence of foot and mobile units tasked with pursuing and foiling all smuggling attempts or any illegal entry of individuals.
- **Coast Guard:** A service affiliated with the Ministry of National Defense primarily responsible for guarding and protecting Algerian coasts from all attempts of maritime smuggling of individuals and goods, protecting foreign ships, preventing breaches of Algerian coasts, and foiling all attempts of illegal entry/exit.
- **Border and Migration Police Services:** They play a major role in monitoring and protecting Algerian land, sea, and air borders and specialize in the administrative and legal procedures regulating movements of entry/exit to and from Algerian borders.
- **Central Office for Combating Illegal Migration (OCLCTC):** This office was established as a central body for leadership and coordination among the various regional investigation teams as an institution for supervision and coordination. Its tasks include:

o Combating support cells and networks assisting in sheltering foreigners in illegal situations.
o Combating support cells and networks facilitating the illegal movement of foreigners within Algerian territory.
o Combating the forgery of documents related to illegal migration and residence.
o Combating the illegal employment and work of foreigners with ambiguous legal situations.

- **Regional Investigation Brigade on Illegal Migration (BRIC):** Its tasks include identifying, investigating, and monitoring individuals and networks distributing illegal migrants, identifying illegal crossing points for foreigners, determining operational methods related to illegal entry into national territory, in addition to recording and tracking all information related to the phenomenon of illegal migration.

Conclusion:

Illegal African migration toward Algeria, as a complex and multidimensional phenomenon, highlights a clear overlap between structural and circumstantial determinants; where economic factors (poverty, unemployment, development imbalances) intersect with political and security factors (conflicts, state fragility), in addition to social dynamics linked to smuggling networks and the growing culture of migration. The causal reading has shown that Algeria is no longer merely a transit area, but has partially transformed into a zone of temporary and then permanent settlement, due to its geographical location and the disparity in living standards compared to some southern countries.

As for the outcomes, the continuation of these dynamics without effective control may produce complex challenges, including pressure on infrastructure and services, issues of social integration, in addition to security challenges related to transnational crime. At the same time, the humanitarian and human rights dimensions that impose a balanced approach taking into account the dignity of migrants and their fundamental rights cannot be ignored.

Accordingly, addressing the phenomenon requires the adoption of a comprehensive approach based on integration between the security dimension and the developmental dimension, through strengthening border control mechanisms, dismantling smuggling networks, in addition to supporting development programs in source countries and intensifying regional and international cooperation. The matter also requires the development of flexible integration policies and the activation of legal frameworks in line with international obligations.

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