

**The reality of migration and asylum in the Maghreb countries
Trying to understand through statistical data**

واقع الهجرة واللجوء في دول المغرب العربي

محاولة فهم من خلال المعطيات الإحصائية

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Abstract:

Faced with the significant increase in the number of refugees in the world, the international community has been concerned with the establishment of several bodies dealing with the protection of refugees and people in crisis, and a certain number of the international and regional agreements have been reached to protect the rights of refugees and reach out to them. However, counting methods remain the biggest hurdle facing international organizations and even government agencies. Whether the legal means of movement used by persons, by land, sea or air, are subject to monitoring and registration in accordance with international provisions on cross-border movement which guarantee all rights in the country of origin or the country destination for the duration of their migration. There are irregular movements of people, who have been forced by circumstances to leave their countries of origin to different destinations in search of other sources, in an irregular manner and their use of informal channels which make it difficult to provide accurate data and classified that are used as a solid basis for the development of clear policies in the Maghreb countries that protect these refugees.

Keywords: Data, asylum, forced migration, the Maghreb

ملخص:

نظرا للارتفاع المحسوس لأعداد اللاجئين في العالم، عني المجتمع الدولي بإنشاء هيئات عدة تعنى بحماية اللاجئين والأشخاص في أوضاع متأزمة، وتم إبرام عدد من الاتفاقات الدولية والإقليمية من أجل حماية حقوق اللاجئين ومد يد المساعدة لهم. لكن تبقى طرائق احصائهم أكبر عائق تواجهه المنظمات الدولية وحتى الهيئات الحكومية. فإذا كانت طرق التنقل القانونية التي يستخدمها الأشخاص، براً أو بحراً أو جواً، خاضعة للإشراف والتسجيل وفقاً للأحكام

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الدولية المتعلقة بالتحركات عبر الحدود والتي تضمن جميع الحقوق في بلد المنشأ أو بلد المقصد طوال مدة هجرتهم. فإنه هناك تحركات غير نظامية لأشخاص، اضطرتهم الظروف إلى مغادرة بلدانهم الأصلية إلى وجهات مختلفة بحثا عن مآلات أخرى، بطرق غير نظامية واستخدامهم لمسالك غير رسمية تجعل من الصعب بمكان إعطاء بيانات دقيقة ومصنفة تستخدم كأساس متين لرسم سياسات واضحة في دول المغرب العربي تحيي هؤلاء اللاجئين.

كلمات مفتاحية: البيانات، اللجوء، الهجرة القسرية، المغرب العربي

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1. Introduction

In early 2024, 5 irregular migrants, including a child, died, and 32 people were rescued while trying to cross the Channel from northern France to the United Kingdom, after their boat was hit by a powerful storm. According to the British Home Office, 5,373 migrants arrived on the coast of southeast England in the first three months of 2024, after crossing the English Channel on small boats. In December 2023, an Albanian migrant on board an asylum-seeker ship sheltering migrants docked in southern England died.

Statistics for 2022 show that more than 11,000 Albanian asylum seekers arrived by boat in the UK between May and September, nearly half of all migrants who arrived during that period. The migration crisis in Europe has reached such an intensity that Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki, whose country forms the EU's eastern border, has described it as "the biggest attempt to destabilize Europe" since the Cold War. In November 2021, the Belarusian-Polish border witnessed another tragedy for migrants, most of whom came from the countries of the Middle East, especially Iraq, Syria, Lebanon and also Afghanistan, who were carried by the tragic conditions they live in their countries, to risk their lives to cross the Polish border, aspiring to search for a better life in the promised European paradise. This crisis was not the only one in 2021 involving migrants aspiring to enter the European Union. In May 2021, some 8,000 Moroccans, including 2,700 minors, crossed the fence separating Moroccan territory and the Spanish-ruled city of Ceuta, swimming or on foot, in the worst migrant crisis on the Moroccan-Spanish border in decades. Not far from the Spanish border. A new crisis erupted between France and Britain caused by the drowning of about 27 migrants trying to cross the Channel from the French region of Calais in November 2021. This clearly shows that the migrant crisis is no longer a north-south issue, or a regional issue, but a global issue involving both rich and poor countries. The migrant issue was also seen as a "lethal" weapon in the hands of populist leaders who threaten the EU to implement their agenda or to meet their demands for increased funding. Although many countries, especially in the European Union, have closed the door to regular labour migration and put the visa regime into effect, this has not prevented the emergence of other forms of migration, such as family-motivated migration and rising asylum applications. Recent years have also seen equality between migrant women and men, thus moving away from the traditional model of women joining their migrant husbands who have left their country to work in the host country towards

more diverse models.

Alongside these "traditional" manifestations of migration has emerged another wave of migration as a result of war, persecution on the basis of race, gender or political reasons, known as forced migration in which people are forced to leave their country out of fear for themselves. These reasons mentioned above are in addition to those related to climate change. Because of droughts, floods or natural disasters, people are forcibly leaving their regions or countries in search of protection or a better life.

In receiving countries, refugees mix with displaced persons, migrants and irregular migrants, and are therefore difficult to count by national authorities, interested NGOs and international organizations. A migrant may begin their journey as a displaced person, then an asylum seeker and may become a regular migrant or change destination and settle illegally in another country. We are facing a phenomenon that is both complex and difficult to identify. This creates a multiplier of pressure on national statistical systems, to count all migrants using traditional statistical methods (comprehensive census, continuous registration of arrivals in national registries, statistics on employment), and consequently leads to the lack of quality of statistical data on estimating the number of migrants arriving in the country. In Africa, for example, current data sources do not give a definitive picture of migration trends in Africa, given that only nearly half of African countries have prepared a national migration report at least once, and 14% of African countries have not updated the total number of international migrants in 2019 since the 2000 census cycle.

In the Maghreb countries (Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco), the status of migrants varies, as they are both exporting and receiving countries. Due to the length of the coastline, which extends over an area of 6,444 kilometers and overlooks the Mediterranean Sea, as well as its borders stretching deep into the African continent for a distance of more than 5,839 kilometers, it has made it a theater that brings together many regular and irregular migrants coming from different destinations and also wishing to move to the other shore of the Mediterranean. This multiplicity makes it difficult to quantify the phenomenon statistically, especially when it comes to forced migrants. They are a category of people whose lives are in grave danger, leaving them with no choice but to flee with their own skin.

The absence and unreliability of these statistics makes it more difficult to adopt appropriate policies towards these vulnerable groups of migrants and makes the work of researchers in the field more complex as they seek to bridge the knowledge gap of forcibly displaced and migrant populations.

Despite the different sources of statistics and their distortion, we have the right to ask about the situation of displacement and asylum in the Arab Maghreb countries, and how did the various data available in this field monitor them?

In this article, we start from the premise that confusion of concepts regarding migration, displacement, and asylum leads to the production of partial, inaccurate, sometimes different, and even contradictory statistics. The article consists of two main axes, the first axis dealt

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with the different situations in which the migrant, whether he is an irregular migrant, an asylum seeker, a displaced person or a forced migrant. In the second axis, we address the issue of displacement and asylum in the Maghreb and whether it is a region of origin or reception for migrants.

2. Immigrant, one person, different situations:

2.1 Conceptual overlap between the concept of migration and related concepts:

Migration is the movement of people, including children, within a country or across international borders. Migrants can be divided into two main categories: international migrants who cross national borders; and internal migrants who move within the country where they were born (for example, from a rural area to a city). There are an estimated 258 million international migrants in the world, while around 760 million move within their own country. There may be more internal migrants than international migrants, but moving to a town or city is often the first step before crossing an international border. Migration has always existed, and is part of a country's growth and change, with people looking for jobs and better lives at home and abroad.

Hence, migration classifications vary according to researchers. There are those who divide it into two types, depending on the motives behind the decision to migrate, between voluntary migration, i.e. of the person's own free will, and forced migration, in which the migrant is forced to leave his country for exceptional reasons that made him fear for his life if he stays there. Or permanent migration where the migrant intends to reside in the country of destination permanently, temporary migration when the migrant intends to reside temporarily and return to the country of origin and seasonal migration that takes place by residing elsewhere due to exceptional circumstances and for a specific period and then return to the country of origin. On the other hand, some scholars classify migration into three categories that are most common in the world: permanent resettlement for economic reasons, temporary labor migration for livelihood, and forced migration due to wars and armed conflicts, which are practices carried out by either governments, paramilitary forces, or armed groups and intolerant towards ethnic, religious or sectarian groups with the aim of evacuating land, and this phenomenon leads to the deterioration of people's lives and marginalization.

There are those who divide it according to the aspirations of people, and the reasons that led them to emigrate, where we find two main types:

Internal migration or displacement takes place within the geographical framework of the country, and external migration or the so-called international migration is the movement outside the political borders of the country, and may be temporary or permanent, and is divided according to its legality into legal and illegal migration.

The objectives of external migration revolve around several reasons:

- Scientific migration or brain drain, which is specific to students studying in other countries and prefer to stay in them because of the appropriate living conditions, as well as the migration of learners to destinations they believe are better than their countries of origin.

-Economic migration, migration for economic reasons is the most famous type, in order to search for better job opportunities, in order to improve the standard of living.

-Irregular migration The causes of clandestine migration are due to widespread unrest, conflicts and wars.

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- Human migration, resulting from the effects of conflicts, disputes and wars, which makes people vulnerable to persecution because of their political opinions, or because of ideological and religious differences, and we find migration due to environmental disasters and climate change is also classified among human migrations.

2.2. Migration under international agreements

The 1984 Universal Declaration of Human Rights recognized in Article 14 the right to seek refuge in freedom from persecution. The 1951 Refugee Convention also states that a refugee "any person who, as a result of events occurring before 1 January 1951, and out of fear, is justifiably persecuted on account of his race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, outside his country of nationality, and is unable or unwilling because of that fear to remain protected by that country, or any person who is stateless and is outside his former country of habitual residence with such a consequence." Events and he cannot, or does not want to, because of that fear, return to that country." (See Article 1 of the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, dated 28 July 1951)

With the passage of time and the emergence of new refugee cases, it is increasingly felt that the provisions of the 1951 Convention should be applied to these new refugees, and as a result, a Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees was prepared in 1967. (Manual on Procedures and Criteria to be Applied in Determining Refugee Status, 1979. p. 10)

As for the 1967 Protocol, its first article added to the definition provided by the United Nations Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, with the deletion of the phrase "as a result of events that occurred before January 1, 1951", and the phrase "the result of such events", this makes it not to rely on the spatial and temporal circumstance brought by the 1951 Convention in the definition of refuge. (Article 1, paragraph 2 of the Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees, dated 31 January 1967.)

Refugee status may be granted according to definitions contained in regional conventions, such as the Organization of African Unity Convention that governs the specific aspects of refugee problems in Africa, defining a refugee as "any individual who finds himself compelled by external aggression, occupation, Western domination or events disturbing public order in certain areas of his country of nationality or country of origin, or throughout its territory, to leave his habitual place of residence in order to seek asylum elsewhere outside the country of his nationality or his home country." (See Article 1 of the Organization of African Unity Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa, dated 10 September 1969) Accordingly, a refugee is any person who has left his country of

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origin because of risks to his life, whatever the justifications, and is entitled to claim refugee status.

A declaration on the protection of refugees and displaced persons in the Arab world was issued in 1992, during the Fourth Arab Symposium on Asylum and Refugee Law in the Arab World, organized by the San Remo International Institute of International Humanitarian Law, in cooperation with the Faculty of Law, Cairo University, under the auspices of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. The first article affirms the right of every person to move freely within his country and also the right to move to another country. (See Article 1 of the Cairo Declaration on the Protection of Refugees and Displaced Persons in the Arab World of 1992) The 2018 Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration also provides a non-legally binding cooperative framework that builds on the commitments agreed by Member States in the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants. It promotes international cooperation among all actors involved in migration, recognizes that no State can tackle migration alone, and supports the sovereignty of States and their obligations under international law.

Since asylum means the movement of an individual from one State to another for different reasons, asylum has been mixed with a wide range of concepts such as migrants, displaced persons and others, and in fact refugee status is established only for those whom the State of refuge considers as such among the communities of displaced individuals. (Abdullah Al-Ash'al, 1992, p62)

3. Displacement and asylum in the Maghreb (region of origin, transit or reception)

Migration systems for where people flow are becoming increasingly complex, with international migration making its way in many directions: from south to south, east-west, south to north, and vice versa. Most international migration between neighbouring countries is in poor parts of the world, partly because of wars that lead to massive displacement of people seeking protection across international borders. In recent years, with the exception of South-South migration, there is a basic labour migration making its way from east to west in Europe. However, the current of South-North migration is also increasing; people in poor countries have better access to the well-being and lifestyles of rich countries through modern global means of communication (television, video, mobile phone, and the Internet). (Hashem Neema Fayyad, 2022)

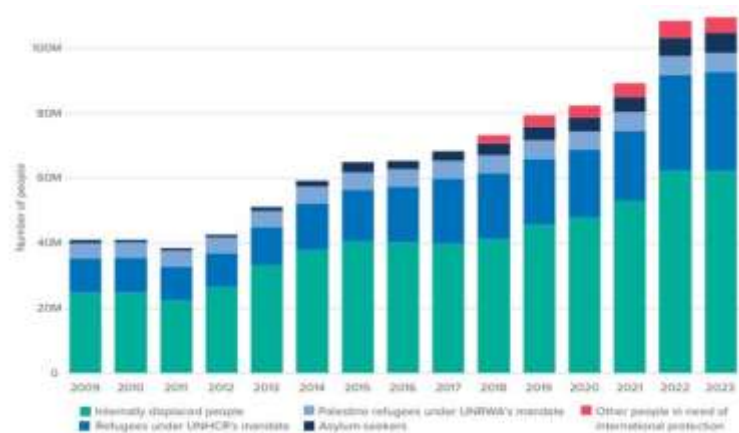
3.1. Overview of countries of origin and destination

For 2022, 2.21 million initial refugee asylum applications were registered worldwide. The number of initial applications accepted was 469,420, or about 21 percent. Of the countless refugees in 2022, most came from Venezuela and from Afghanistan and Syria. On the other side are the United States of America and Germany as most often chosen host countries for an application for asylum. (<https://www.worlddata.info/refugees-by-country.php> accessed 3 March 2024)

This huge number of refugees is not definitive. At the time of writing this article, there are still those who are thinking about migration, those who are preparing for it, others on the way to migration, and there are also those who have reached their desired destination. These movements are recorded, despite all the deterrent measures and protocols restricting the movement of people, signed and implemented by host countries, to reduce the intensity of migration flows. This has not prevented many from reaching destination countries, but in a way that is considered irregular. On the other hand, there are those who did not think and did not plan to leave their homeland and did not see the reason for this, but for one reason or another they were forced to flee. They find themselves displaced to other areas within their home countries, seeking asylum or refugees in other countries.

The following figure shows the evolution of the number of refugees over the past thirty years.

Fig.1. Evolution of the number of refugees in the period 2009-mid-2023



Source: UNHCR Global Trends Report for mid-2023

The significant increase in the number of refugees registered by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) since 2012 is due to the number of displaced people resulting from the civil war known as the Arab Revolution, which has been observed in many Arab countries, such as Syria, Libya, Sudan... According to UNHCR for 2023, 110 million people around the world were forced to flee their homes, including 36.4 million. An estimated increase of 3 percent compared to the end of 2022. In other words, 1 out of 73 people around the world are forcibly displaced, An estimated 43.3 million (40 per cent) are children under the age of 18. Between 2018 and 2022, an average of 385,000 children are born as refugees annually. (<https://www.unhcr.org> / accessed 3 March 2024)

There are three countries that produce more than 52% of refugees: Syria with 6.5 million, Afghanistan with 6.1 million, and Ukraine with 5.9 million. The main host countries are Turkey and Iran with 3.4 million each, Germany and Colombia with 2.5 million each, and Pakistan with 2.1 million. By mid-2023, (<https://www.unhcr.org>/accessed 3 March 2024). data had been reported on about 4.4 million stateless people who were denied access to

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nationality and basic rights such as education, healthcare, employment and freedom of movement . (UNHCR, 2020, p. 2)

3.2. Migration in the Maghreb Region :

The Mediterranean Sea occupies a paramount position due to its distinctive geographical and political characteristics, an importance that has become increasingly evident over the past decade. A closer examination of the policy tools used by the EU to strengthen Euro-Mediterranean relations indicates that cooperative negotiations have been established, which can be used as a tool for further cooperation including migration. Although the Maghreb countries have long been a land of migration (with the exception of Libya), migration in those countries (Morocco, Algeria, and Tunisia) has taken on a new character over the past few years. While the late 2000s were characterized by continuous and steady migration from these third countries, (Robert Schuman School of Advanced Studies, San Domenico di Fiesole: European University Institute, October 2009) .there was also an expansion in the volume of migration to these countries. While the reality of these flows is indisputable, it is still difficult to quantify them, especially given their essentially irregular nature. According to a 2006 ILO study in Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia, there are multiple sources of information relating to international migration in these countries: survey sources, including population censuses; administrative sources (data collected regularly by ministerial bodies); economic and financial data sources (including migrant remittances) and other sources on the elements of international migration (student, tourists, refugees...). Hence there are many data-producing factors but there is no equivalent number of interconnected "systems" to ensure data collection, processing, preparation, analysis and dissemination. . During his participation in the high-level coordination meeting on issues related to irregular migration, which brought together in Rome the interior ministers of Algeria, Italy, Tunisia and Libya, in May 2024, the Algerian Minister of the Interior, Brahim Mourad, stressed that Algeria has adopted a global and integrated approach to dealing with irregular migration, based on the legal, humanitarian and operational axes of development, which allows ensuring fair and humane care, and the protection of all parties, regardless of their origin and destination, with a main focus on Addressing the root causes of this phenomenon. He added that the plan has made it possible to obtain very positive results in terms of reducing attempts to migrate by sea to their lowest levels, and the cases of these crossings from the Algerian coast to Italy are almost non-existent, as in 2023, they did not exceed 0.4% of the total illegal migrants who arrive in this country through various routes.

Table 1. Number of Algerian international migrants and Algerian refugees in the period 1985-2015

Year	International Algerian migrants	Algerian Refugies
1985	288 665	5
1990	273 954	18
1995	262 032	1 522
2000	250 110	8 015
2005	247 537	12 024
2010	244 964	6 665
2015	242 391	3 470

Source: <https://donnees.banquemondiale.org>

Table 2. Number of Tunisian international migrants and Tunisian refugees in the period 1985-2015

Year	International Tunisian migrants	Tunisien Refugies
1985	6	38029
1990	40	37984
1995	327	37867
2000	1205	36446
2005	3120	35040
2010	2159	43172
2015	1554	56701

Source: <https://donnees.banquemondiale.org>

Table 3. Number of Moroccan international migrants and number of Moroccan refugees in the period 1985-2015

Year	International Marocan migrants	Marocan Refugies
1990	54895	14
1995	50360	300
2000	53034	394
2005	54379	2914
2010	70909	2276
2015	88511	1760

Source: <https://donnees.banquemondiale.org>

The invisible low proportion of Maghreb forced migrants (Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco) compared to the regular migrants exported by these three countries explains the stable security

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situation in the region, which mainly produces migrants looking for better living conditions that meet their aspirations and job opportunities suitable mainly for their educational levels. During the period 2005-2010, 392,000 migrants. And 226,000 migrants were monitored during the period 2005-2015, who came from the Maghreb region, as illustrated in the tables above.

For example, since independence, Algeria has recorded a continuous brain drain, this country known for free education, where the Algerian state allocates a fixed annual budget, available for all infrastructure allocated to basic education, higher and vocational education, which represents 23 to 24% of the total budget (Ben Ali Arezki, 2017). and among the statistics, it has been monitored "80.000 graduates of the Algerian university, who left Algeria since 1979 heading to France and the United States, and more than 100.000 Algerian entrepreneurs have been registered In Europe, 7.000 Algerian doctors working in French hospitals out of a total of 10.000 foreign doctors and 3.000 IT specialists left between 1992 and 1996" (Djeflat Abdelkader . 2012, p.37)

"The volume of Maghreb immigrants of a high level is estimated at about 800.000 in OECD countries, an average of 20% in 2010 versus 10% in 1990". (Musette, Mohamed .Saib, , 2016, p. 348)

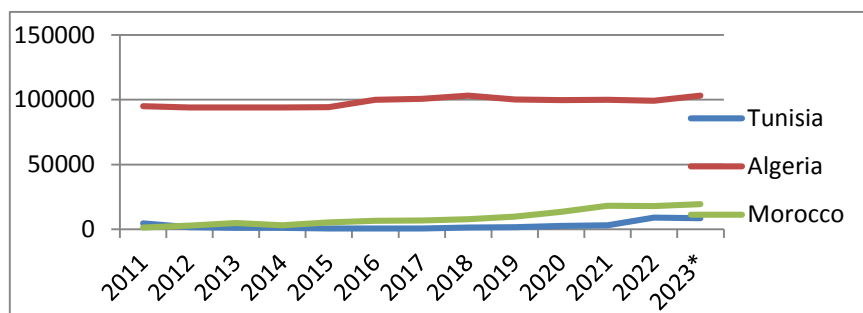
On the other hand, it is important to know the real number of Moroccan harragas or irregular migrants who, even if they are classified as migrants in an irregular situation, their movement towards the other bank is full of risks and almost certain deaths on their fragile boats, and this is what makes us open an arc of the real reasons for their migration. Is this migration economic in nature, aimed at improving their standard of living? Or is it a real escape from some kind of outright persecution, which may give the journey a feature of the asylum route, and thus the region may change from a transit zone to an area that produces more refugees?

In this context, we invoke the model of individualistic rationality in migration decision, one of the first attempts at theorizing introduced by Larry Sjaastad in the sixties to explain voluntary migration, in his partial individual approach (Piché, v. 2013). This model depends on how much value is added to an individual's migration in terms of duality of spending and profits. Forced displacement is characterized by three criteria: (1) coercion and forced displacement; 2) the human rights violation it represents and accompanies; and 3) lack of national protection. . The primary objective of this displacement is to ensure the duality of "solution and protection". Therefore, the circumstances in which voluntary migration occurs are different from those in which forced migration occurs. If fleeing areas of ethnic or political conflict, armed conflict or devastating events is closely linked to forced migration, to what extent can the economic situation (poverty, unemployment, low standard of living) be another indicator of forced migration, or is it only linked to voluntary migration, whether regular or irregular?

3.3. Maghreb, transit and reception area:

The Maghreb region always has a responsibility to receive refugees fleeing wars, armed conflicts, ethnicities and a poor climatic environment. The following figure illustrates the evolution of forcibly displaced people in the Maghreb region recorded over a period of 19 years.

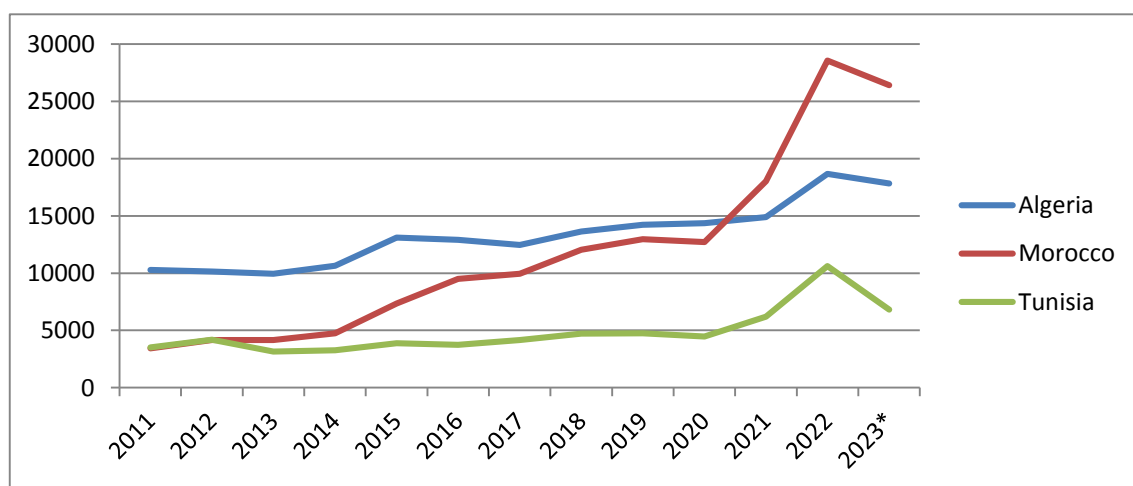
Fig.2. Evolution of forcibly displaced people to the three Maghreb countries in the period 2011 to mid-2023



Source: Prepared by researchers based on a database provided by the UNHCR website

In Algeria, the number of forcibly displaced people who came to Algeria exceeds 90,000 between 2011 and mid-2023. As for Tunisia and Morocco, the number of refugees reached the territories of the two countries, representing 8% and 19% of the forcibly displaced people received by Algeria during mid-2023. There is a stark gap in the number of forcibly displaced people between Algeria and other Maghreb countries, which maintained its trend during 2011-2023¹.

Fig.3. Evolution of forcibly displaced people from the three Maghreb countries in the period 2011 to mid-2023



Source: Prepared by researchers based on a database provided by the UNHCR website

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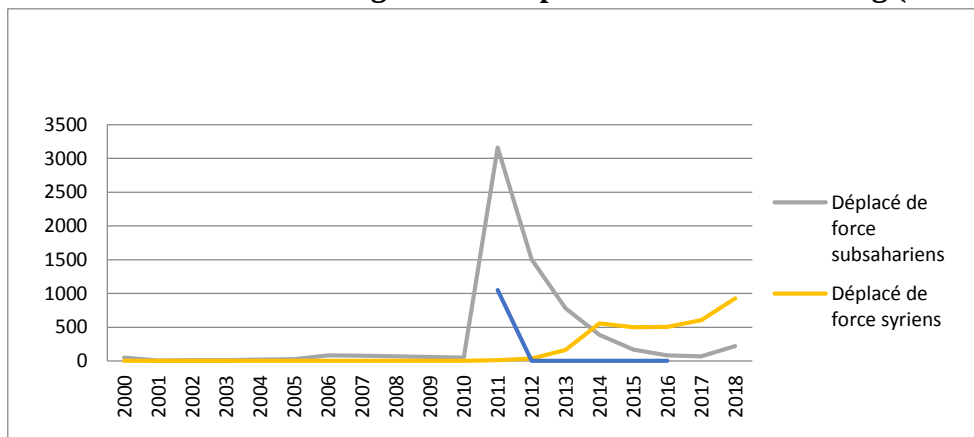
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Through the above figure, which represents the evolution of forcibly displaced persons coming from Morocco, Tunisia and Algeria, the number of registered Tunisian refugees has increased from 3,528 in 2011 to 10,614 Tunisian refugees in 2022, and the number of Algerian refugees has increased from 10,287 in 2011 to 18,679 Algerian refugees in 2022. While the most important development lies in the number of refugees of Moroccan origin, as the number registered jumped from 3,439 in 2011 to 28,556 registered Moroccan refugees in 2022.

3.4. Nationalities of the most frequent refugees in the Maghreb region:

We propose to shed light on the nationalities of people who have forcibly migrated and found themselves refugees or asylum seekers in the Maghreb region (Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco). A region known for its intense dynamism of migration flows, due to its geostrategic location sensitive to the regional events that surround it. In the following chart, we show the nationalities of the most frequently forcibly displaced migrants in the three Maghreb countries:

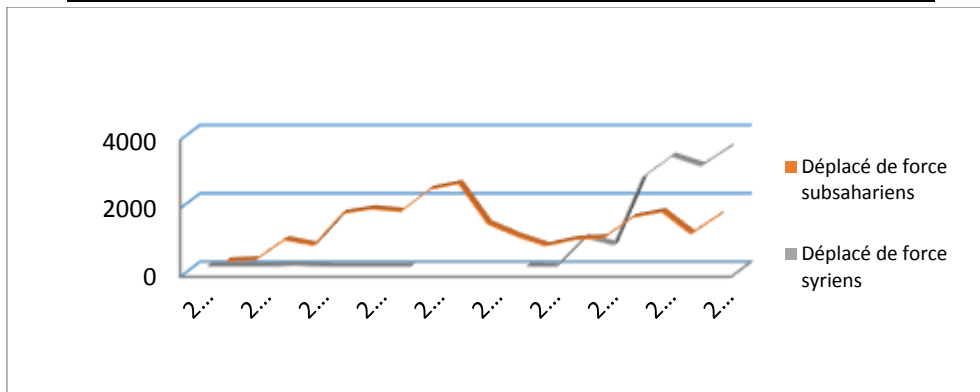
Fig.4. Nationalities of forced migrants most present in Tunisia during (2000-2018)



Source: Prepared by researchers based on a database provided by the UNHCR website

Over the past decade, Tunisia has witnessed a volatile and precarious movement of forced migration into its territory. The graph shows that the top three regions from which IDPs come from are Syria, Libya and sub-Saharan Africa. This is due to the events of this period, including wars in the Arab region and ethnic and military conflicts in Africa.

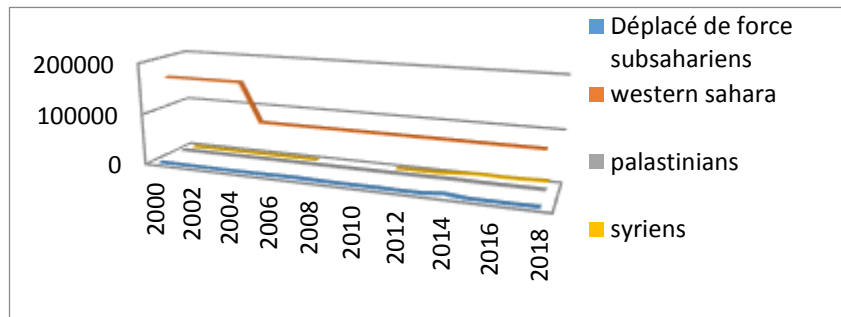
Fig.5. Nationalities of forced migrants most present in Morocco during the period (2000-2018)



Source: Prepared by researchers based on a database provided by the UNHCR website

Morocco is not much different from Tunisia in fluctuations in the number of refugee arrivals, but Morocco is about a decade ahead of Tunisia in terms of hosting sub-Saharan refugees. The graph also shows that Syrians, since the first year of the war and internal problems in Syria, are present, in increasing numbers from year to year in Morocco.

Fig.6. Nationalities of forced migrants most present in Algeria during the period (2000-2018)



Source: prepared by researchers based on a database provided by the UNHCR website

Unlike Tunisia and Morocco, the number of forced migrants most frequently on Algerian soil is stable over long periods of time. Western Sahara refugees are clearly the most present for 19 years 'from 2000 to 2019'. Syrians, ranked second in terms of the number of refugees in Algeria, even if the number is very low compared to the number of Sahraouis, Palestinians are the third most present nationality on Algerian soil. The Maghreb countries, even if they are a little further from Syria compared to the countries of the East, but since the early years of the war in Syria, have received a large number of displaced people as refugees and asylum seekers.

The three graphs show an evolution in the number of forcibly displaced Syrians in the three Maghreb countries during the years following the war, of which 2011 was an exceptional year in terms of the number of forcibly displaced Syrians, with 3,175 people registered in the three Maghreb countries. While this number did not exceed 5 people before the event.

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More than 80% of forcibly displaced Syrians in the Maghreb were registered in Algeria between 2014 and 2018. Around 90% of these forcibly displaced Syrians in Algeria are asylum seekers. As for the number of Syrian refugees, it is still very low compared to neighboring countries. The highest number recorded in 2018 is 14 which is equivalent to about 0.16%. This rate was lower in previous years. This is due to the Algerian authorities' adoption of the issue of Syrian refugees through direct privileges that have been provided to Syrian expatriates fleeing the war since the early days.

It is also clear from the three graphs that the presence of Palestinian refugees is the third largest refugee presence in Algeria, unlike Tunisia and Morocco, and this can be explained by the positions and principles of the Algerian state towards the Palestinian issue since Algeria's independence. For example, the Palestinian state was recognized on November 15, 1988 in Algiers.

While all displaced Western Saharans are in Algeria, exactly in the Tindouf camps, at a rate of more than 80% or even 90% of the total number of refugees in Algeria over the past twenty years. It should be noted that by more than 99%, displaced Sahrawi people have refugee status and card, and are therefore entitled to all the privileges provided for in the clauses on refugees. As for the evolution of the number of refugees in the Sahara and the Sahel countries in the Maghreb region, as shown in the graphs, relations between the Maghreb and sub-Saharan African countries go beyond asylum. They have been established over time, and have historical links in the field of trade and exchange of goods, as well as family ties, which have also been established in border areas. The Maghreb has long been seen as a transit zone for Africans, escaping poverty, ethnic and armed conflicts, natural disasters and more. Some of them succeeded in reaching the desired destinations on the other side, while others preferred to stay in these countries, thanks to their improved standard of living and their ability to establish profitable businesses. For this purpose, between 20 and 30 nationalities out of 48 sub-Saharan countries approach UNHCR offices in the three countries (Tunisia, Morocco and Algeria) each year.

Algeria is considered a pioneer in receiving sub-Saharan refugees, as the period "1992-1996" was characterized by waves of refugees coming from the border state of Mali, which exceeded 28,000 refugees in the first three years, then the wave subsided, reaching 15,056 refugees, then 55 refugees in 2018. Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Central African Republic and Cameroon are the nationalities most regularly seeking asylum in the last five years of UNHCR's office in Algeria. Côte d'Ivoire and Congo are the most fortunate sub-Saharan nationalities in granting refugee status in Morocco for the past ten years. The period between 2011 and 2014 is the period in which Tunisia received the largest number of refugees in the past 20 years, from three sub-Saharan countries, Sudan, Ethiopia and Somalia, during which time 2,237 refugees were registered with the UNHCR office in Tunisia from the three countries in 2011. The southern shore of the Mediterranean, especially Africa's Sahel region, has recently become the new frontier for Italian external intervention after decades of inaction. From a geopolitical

point of view, the Italian governments that succeeded each other in the Chigi Palace during the Second Republic did not have to or did not want to set an agenda for the southern shore until they faced the migration emergency that began with the fall of Gaddafi and the partition of Libya. Thus, the door was left open for African migrants (but also from Asia and the Middle East) to enter in search of a route to Europe. In light of the many years of emergency policy in which the response was security (trying to stop the flow), it is clear that the push factors are much stronger than the so-called attractions (including, as is sometimes suggested, (NGOs at sea), that it will not be possible to stop arrivals by security decrees or blockades of various kinds. This is a phenomenon of global and historical dimensions that must be managed. For these reasons, the current Italian government's Piano Mates program is based on a long-term outlook: the transfer of part of the production, processing or processing industries (especially in the agri-food sector) to Africa to mitigate the causes. Leaving the country of origin. Only in this way will it be possible to achieve a virtuous development dynamic in Africa. The Marshall Plan for aid is not enough: we need a long-term industrial project.

5. Conclusion:

We tried to study various data from different sources on the phenomenon of forced displacement and migration in the world in general and the Maghreb region (Algeria, Tunisia and Morocco) in particular. It turns out that the phenomenon of migration to and from the Arab Maghreb countries is old and the current situation represents only a new wave of it. These countries have moved from the status of source of migrants and a temporary crossing to a receiving country, especially those displaced from the African coast.

These recent developments require the Arab Maghreb countries to change their policies, whether by giving them more flexibility or changing them in a way that allows them to achieve the equation of respecting the rights of refugees in the light of international law on the one hand, and guaranteeing security requirements on the other.

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