

Irregular Migration from the African Sahel and its Implications on the Mediterranean Host Countries

Fatima Birem^{1*}

¹ University of Constantine 03 Salah Boubnider, (Algeria), Fatima.birem@univ-constantine3.dz

Date of submission: 12/03/2026

Date of acceptance: 01/06/2026

Date of publication: 11/06/2026

المجلة الجزائرية للعلوم الإنسانية والاجتماعية

Abstract :

The article examines the phenomenon of irregular migration from the African Sahel to the Mediterranean basin, focusing on its causes and implications. Based on a descriptive-analytical approach this study highlights the phenomenon's complex, multidimensional nature, often linked to terrorism, organized crime, and human trafficking, which has led host countries to treat it as a security issue. These movements affect national security across economic, social, cultural, and political dimensions. The study concludes that addressing irregular migration requires coordinated, long-term strategies between host countries and countries of origin, based on international cooperation, social justice, and respect for human dignity, rather than relying on temporary security measures.

Keywords: irregular migration; African Sahel; causes; implications; Mediterranean host countries.

*Corresponding author.

1. Introduction

With developments in the international system, the fundamental assumptions of security theories in international relations have been reconsidered. Problems that go beyond traditional sovereignty issues, known as “new risks,” have emerged, such as refugee movements and irregular migration, drug trafficking, transnational organized crime, and environmental risks...Etc. These "new risks" dominate the agenda of international relations, and the subject of migration in particular, has recently become of great importance in various academic meetings and studies, and is a key focus in the domestic and foreign policies of many countries, with the Mediterranean countries among the most prominent.

Migration was initially occurring from north to south in the form of colonial movements. Then quickly took the opposite direction, as the colonial European countries relied on labor in their colonies, especially during the two world wars.

However, with the beginning of the eighties, especially after the Cold War, security issues became among the most pressing challenges associated with migration, especially irregular migration, as it is seen as a source of threat to the stability and security of the region. Particularly the host countries, prompting the latter to securitize this phenomenon, because of the threat it poses to their national security. This is particularly linked to irregular migration's association with various forms of organized crime, terrorism, and public order disruption. Moreover, within the framework of globalization and interdependence, migration has become a real challenge to the socio-economic patterns of these countries, and a potential threat to their value systems and even their civilizations.

Therefore, migration is one of the aspects of humanitarian interaction in the Mediterranean field; that calls for an in-depth study to reveal the reality of this phenomenon. Focusing on the African Sahel region, which serves as a strategic departure and transit point for many irregular migrants. as the region has witnessed a significant increase of migration from more than 45 nationalities, passing through North African countries to Europe via the Mediterranean sea. such as France, Spain and Italy, using all methods and means that are predominantly illegal, which led the hosting countries to securitize this

phenomenon. The phenomenon of illegal migration, organized crime and terrorist activities cannot be separated, especially after the transformations that the region has witnessed in recent years.

Accordingly, this intervention seeks to shed light on the causes of irregular migration from the African Sahel region and its multiple implications on the host Mediterranean countries. It also seeks to provide insights into how to address this phenomenon in ways that balance migrants' rights with host societies' needs.

Accordingly, the research problem can be stated as follows: What are the multiple implications of irregular migration on host Mediterranean countries?

In order to analyze and respond to this pivotal question, we must formulate the following sub-questions:

- What are the principal categories of migration based on motivations and legal character?
- What are the structural reasons that lead individuals to migrate irregularly from the countries of the African Sahel region?
- What are the effects of irregular migration on social cohesion within host communities?

The study adopted a descriptive-analytical approach, focusing on the transformations occurring in host societies as a result of the pressures generated by irregular migration across security, economic, and social dimensions—particularly public services, labor market, and cultural and value-based cohesion. It also examines the spread of discrimination and social rejection, which hinder integration processes.

In this analysis, we will follow a plan comprising three main sections. The first section will address the concept of migration, with an in-depth focus on both regular and irregular migration. The second section will be dedicated to explaining the phenomenon of irregular migration and its causes in the African Sahel region. Finally, the third section that we devote to analyzing the various effects and implications of irregular migration on the host Mediterranean countries.

2. Irregular immigration; a conceptual overview

Migration is a natural human phenomenon that has accompanied human societies for thousands of years, as it has been associated with multiple incentives, such as the search for more fertile lands for grazing and agriculture, or fleeing from conflicts and wars zones towards secure and stabilized areas. This type of migration is legitimate and justified in light of its humanitarian motivations, moreover, international bodies recommend the need to provide the necessary protection and facilitation for these migrants, in accordance with human rights and humanitarian conventions. However, what has raised concerns in recent years is the growing phenomenon of irregular migration (or what is known as clandestine migration), which has become a major challenge for countries, whether as transit areas or as destinations for stability and residence. This migration creates legal, security and social issues that complicate development efforts and exacerbate problems of absorption and integration.

From a linguistic perspective, the concept of migration is rooted in a term that conveys separation and deliberate departure. It refers to the act of leaving one's place of origin and relocating to another. Classical lexicographical sources define this concept as the opposite of attachment or continuity, emphasizing abandonment or disengagement from a previous place. In this sense, migration denotes the physical movement or displacement from one territory to another.¹

Terminologically, migration is defined in demography as: "the movement, whether individually or collectively, from one location to another in search of a better social, economic, religious, or political situation."²

Migration also means a form of geographical mobility, that is a change of residence from the place of origin to a different destination called the host or the arrival area.

Migration in general refers to the voluntary mobility of a group of individuals from their country of origin permanently or temporarily for a long period, regardless of the underlying motives, such as seeking employment or improving living standards.³

According to many scholars, migration is a historical phenomenon that has

contributed to the settlement and development of human societies, and it plays a significant role in bringing together culturally diverse human groups, thereby enabling cultural exchange and the formation of a shared human civilization.

Migration may be classified according to several criteria. Based on the place of movement, it is divided into internal and international migration. With regard to the person's voluntariness, migration is categorized as forced or voluntary. Finally, in terms of the legal status of cross-border movement, migration is classified as regular or irregular.⁴

Regular migration is defined as the organized type of migration that takes place in accordance with internationally recognized legal and formal rules, and is subject to the regulations in force in each country separately. This type of migration requires the fulfillment of a number of legal conditions, the most prominent of which are the following:

- Possession of a valid travel document, enabling the holder to move across international borders.
- The migrant must not be subject to any legal restriction that would preclude departure from the country of origin, whether on security, judicial, or administrative grounds.
- Securing prior legal permission to enter the host country, in compliance with the migration and residency regulations applicable within that state.
- Access must be via officially recognized points of entry, such as airports or border crossings authorized by the host country.
- Adhering to the period of residence granted, and not exceeding it or violating its conditions, with a requirement to leave upon its conclusion unless a lawful extension has been obtained.⁵

Irregular migration represents one of the negative aspects of this phenomenon, which has begun to expand beyond its traditional scope as isolated attempts and starts to rely on organized and structured and often overlapping networks, which fuel cross-border crime which is difficult to control. On this basis, irregular migration is defined as "the movement of an individual or a group of people from one place to another by clandestine means violating migration

Irregular Migration from the African Sahel and its Implications on the Mediterranean Host Countries

internationally recognized law."⁶

The concept of irregular migration is primarily used in legal terms, as it implies a violation of the laws and regulations governing migration and the movement of individuals across countries. Accordingly, it is defined as migration undertaken through unlawful means, often due to the difficulties of travel and the obstacles to regular migration, which have made regular migration nearly impossible. Irregular migration manifests in the following forms:⁷

- Entry into a country without legal documentation indicating the state's consent, often carried out through clandestine routes such as desert or mountain paths, or via seas and coastal areas.
- Entry into a country with valid legal authorization for a specified period, followed by remaining in the host country beyond the permitted duration without corresponding legal permission; for example, entering initially for tourism or for family visits and subsequently continuing to reside and settle in the host country.
- Entry into a country as part of an organized operation carried out by political, social, or economic actors, with the intent to harm the resident population and threaten state security for political or social purposes; this form is often associated with terrorism.

This phenomenon is divided into two types of activity: the first is an individual activity, the second is an organized professional activity:⁸

- In the first type, a person, alone or in a small group, uses smuggling boats in exchange for money, or boarding naval and commercial ships without the knowledge of the ship's management, often exploiting tourism activities to gain access during loading and unloading operations. They usually hide inside storage zones, warehouses, or lifeboats. Some of these individuals may use land corridors with minimal checkpoints and limited border control.
- The second type of human smuggling is carried out by organized gangs in exchange for financial gain through regional and global smuggling networks, which employ individuals with expertise in immigration and citizenship laws. Smuggling gangs use secret and maritime corridors that are not subject to border surveillance or inspection, charging fees without providing any security or health guarantees during the procedure.

3. Causes and Drivers of Irregular Migration in the African Sahel

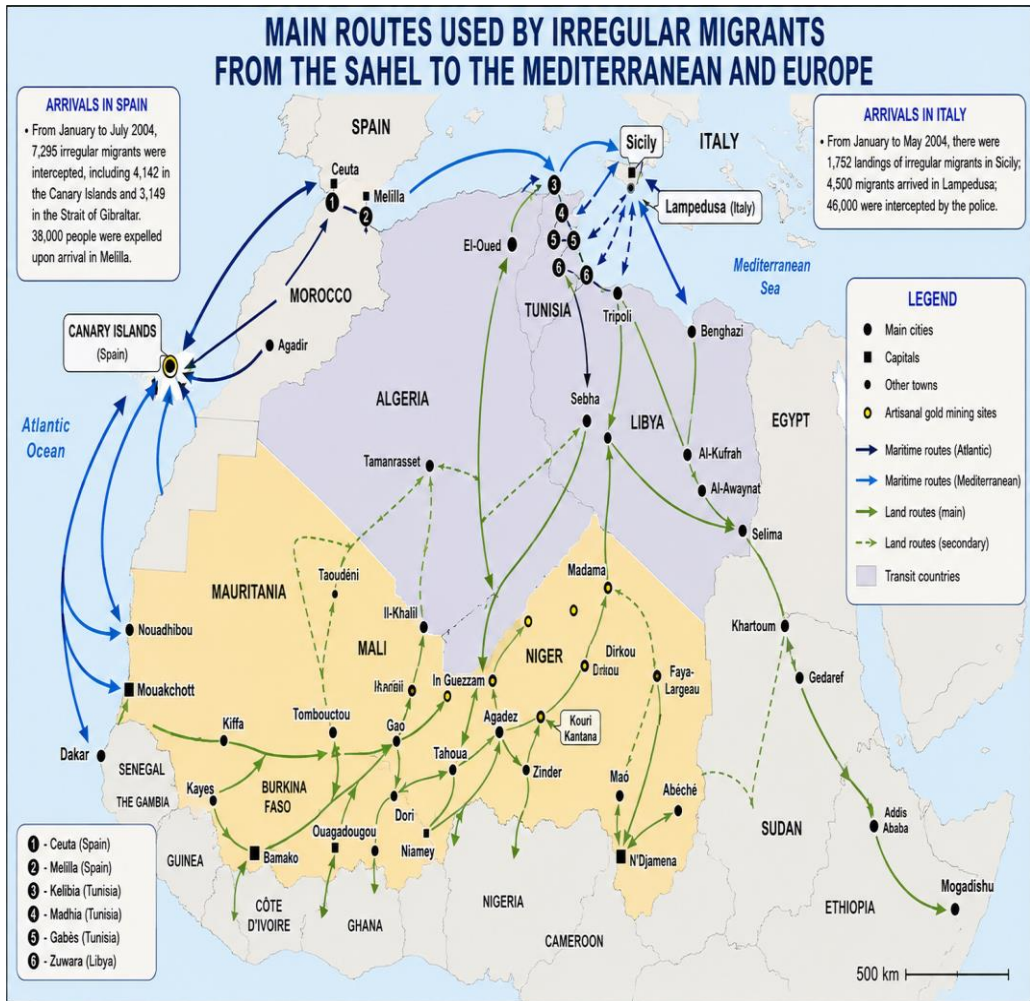
The African Sahel is defined as the geographic region lying south of the Sahara, the world's largest desert. It functions as a transitional zone between North Africa and Sub-Saharan Africa, extending approximately 4,830 km from the Atlantic Ocean in the west to the Red Sea in the east, with a maximum width of about 1,930 km. The region encompasses several countries, including Senegal, Mauritania, Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger, eastern Nigeria, Chad, and Ethiopia, with some classifications also including Cape Verde.⁹

The African Sahel is considered a strategic departure and transit point for many irregular migrants. The region has witnessed a significant increase in such migration: in the mid-1990's, the number of irregular migrants did not exceed 200 per year, whereas recent statistics indicate that around a thousand migrants now traverse the Sahel annually, representing over 45 nationalities. These migration routes can last from one month to several years¹⁰, beginning in coastal countries and passing through North African states before reaching European destinations across the Mediterranean, including France, Italy, and Spain. However, in recent years, due to the European Union's increasingly restrictive migration policies toward southern countries, many migrants have been unable to enter European territory and have consequently ended up settling in the countries of the Maghreb.¹¹

Many young African irregular migrants travel from countries such as Niger, Mali, Chad, and Senegal, which are considered among the main countries of origin for irregular migration. Their journeys often pass through Algeria and then Morocco toward Spain, while other clandestine routes lead from Algeria to Tunisia and Libya before crossing the Mediterranean Sea to Italy through Sicily¹².

The following map illustrates the main routes used by irregular migrants from the Sahel and Sahara region toward North African Mediterranean countries and, subsequently, toward Europe across the Mediterranean Sea.

**Main Routes of Irregular Migrants from the African Sahel toward
Mediterranean Countries**

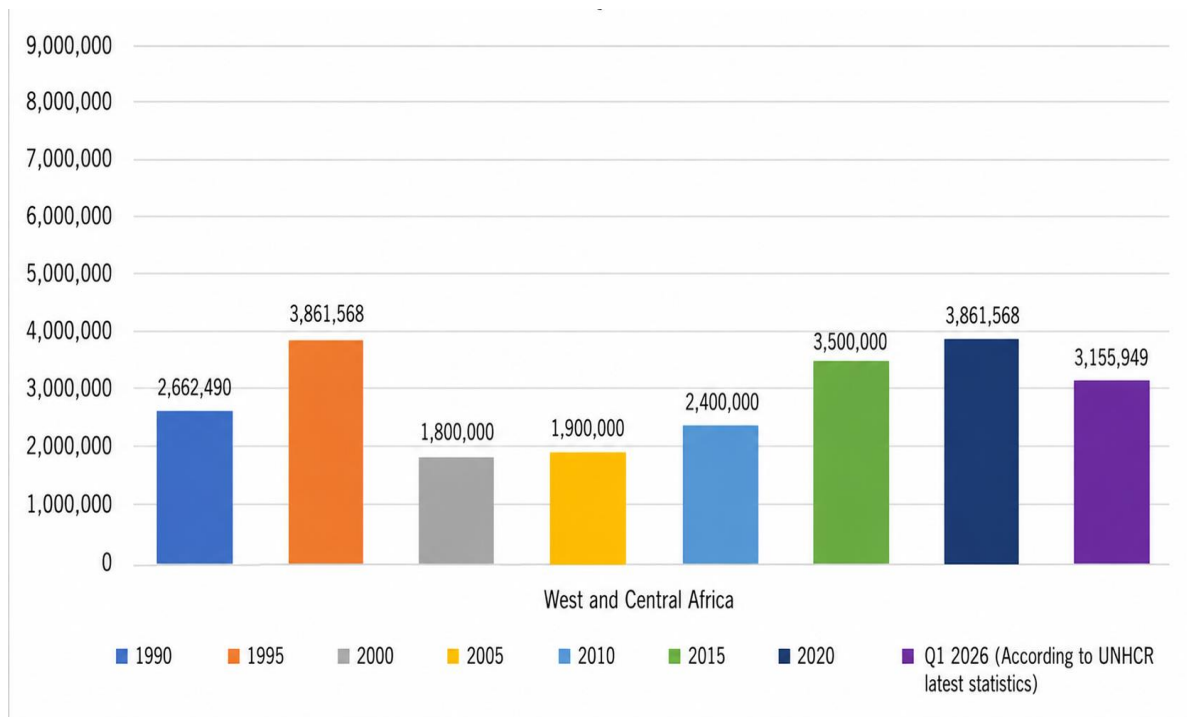


Source: http://www.lemonde.fr/international/infographie/2004/08/24/les-routes-africaines-de-l-immigration-clandestine_628348_3210.html

According to data published by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) in 2020, the number of migrants originating from the African continent increased significantly over a period of thirty years, from 1990 to 2020, rising by nearly 40%, from approximately 17 million migrants to about 28.5 million migrants.

With regard to the case study of the African Sahel, the number of irregular migrants increased from 1,554,611 migrants in 1990 to 3,861,568 migrants in 2020.¹³ Furthermore, according to the latest statistics for only the first quarter of 2026 provided by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the number reached 3,155,949 migrants, and this figure is expected to rise further by the end of 2026¹⁴, as illustrated in the following figure:

Number of Irregular Migrants from the African Sahel Region (1990–the first quarter of 2026)



source: <https://data.unhcr.org/en/situations/sahel>

The causes of irregular migration are due to a set of interrelated and overlapping factors, including political, economic, social, psychological, geographical, and demographic factors, which, as most studies have confirmed, are summarized in the push factors from the country of origin and the pull factors in the host country, this can be summarized as follows:

A. Push Factors (Driving Forces) from the African Sahel:

The causes of irregular migration from the Sahel region are due to a set of reasons that can be summarized as follows:

❖ **Political reasons:**

Political reasons are related to the authoritarian nature of ruling regimes, the absence of effective democracy and peaceful transfers of power, political instability, and frequent internal unrest, which have led individuals to lose confidence in their political systems.¹⁵

These factors manifest in the African Sahel through the fragility and failure of migrants' countries of origin. Governments that assumed leadership after the colonial partition—particularly in many African states—failed to establish effective authority over their territories. As a result, these countries have been marked by persistent conflicts, notably inter-state border disputes and internal conflicts, alongside the fragmentation of state institutions, both political and civil. This institutional breakdown has led to poor governance performance and has undermined state legitimacy.¹⁶

Among the most prominent manifestations of the failure of these migrant-sending countries are the following:

- Identity crisis and national integration: One of the major challenges facing these countries is the transformation of multi-ethnic and multi-racial societies into a unified nation-state. Political loyalty has traditionally been directed toward tribe and ethnicity rather than the state itself. This situation was reinforced by colonial border divisions, which ignored the anthropological boundaries of local communities. Consequently, ethnic groups were fragmented, leading to persistent tensions, weakened state sovereignty, and recurring conflicts over power and resources.¹⁷

- The crisis of political participation: Weak political participation, along with the absence and restriction of freedom of expression and the media, constitutes a defining feature of Sahelian African states that serve as sources of irregular migration. This is further compounded by the continued influence of military institutions in these countries.¹⁸

- Legitimacy crisis: Power is frequently acquired through non-democratic mechanisms, either by imposing minority dominance over the political system and monopolizing authority, or through the recurrent use of military coups as a means of accessing power. These practices have generated persistent political crises, eroded institutional legitimacy, and ultimately weakened channels of

communication between political regimes and their societies.¹⁹

❖ **Economic Reasons:**

The economic and social conditions in the poor Sahelian countries are considered the main driver behind various negative behaviors, foremost among them irregular migration. A small elite controls the available resources, while the majority bears the burden of deprivation, leading to internal conflicts, as is often the case in Mali and Niger, where various minorities engage in continuous rebellion and uprisings.²⁰ Some of the challenges that hinder the process of building a strong state include: Poverty, unemployment, famine, economic and health deterioration, slow economic growth, high levels of debt and external dependency, weak educational and social infrastructure, disruption of agricultural resources, Illiteracy and ignorance.

❖ **Environmental and Climatic Causes:**

Natural conditions and adverse climatic factors, such as droughts and natural disasters, play a major role in increasing irregular migration in certain areas, as they contribute directly to the deterioration of the region's economic situation. Numerous geographic studies indicate that areas experiencing consecutive severe environmental crises due to adverse climate—such as the Sahel region, which ranges from semi-arid in the South to arid in the North—have faced desertification, affecting vast areas of the Sahelian desert belt.²¹

These climate factors, such as drought, desertification, and high temperatures, have contributed to creating a kind of explanatory relationship to security risks and conflicts in the region. The drought in the region has affected many demographic elements. Many of what led to waves of migration, climate change, and difficulties were the most prominent causes. They are threatening factors regarding food security in the region, especially in light of the high population increase, as the natural population increase is always greater than the possible increase in food production, as production increases in the Sahel countries in case it rains. 1.5% while the population density increases by 2.7% annually. All these aspects have made a large part of the population in the African Sahel suffering from malnutrition and the inability to meet their basic food needs, which has increased the level of misery, poverty, and food insecurity in these countries.

This adverse situation has forced many people to leave their homes and

land, as they can no longer rely on the pastoral and agricultural activities they practiced for years. Climate change has gradually pushed these communities into food insecurity and vulnerability, limiting their access to basic healthcare, education for their children, and stable sources of income. With few realistic options to support their families, many are driven to seek survival through dangerous migration routes or, in some cases, by joining armed groups.²²

B- Pull Factors for Irregular Migration:

All the aforementioned factors deepen despair, heighten feelings of frustration, and create fertile ground for rebellion, fragmentation, and extremism. Within the security–development nexus, individuals increasingly turn to migration, driven either by the hope for social advancement or by the search for social standing that has been denied to them in their home countries due to unemployment and poverty.

Economic disparities between destination and origin countries—particularly the differences in living standards and wealth, as seen between most European countries and the African countries of the Sahel—serve as a major factor motivating people in these poorer, less developed nations to migrate to richer, more advanced ones. This pursuit of better living conditions and well-being is further reinforced by the demand for labor in private and physically demanding sectors, such as fruit harvesting, car washing, and factory work under harsh conditions, which local populations are often unwilling to undertake...etc.²³

Moreover, the succession and diversity of global economic crises have led to a reduction in demand for foreign labor, prompting many developed countries to impose strict restrictions and controls on migration, as seen in Western European states. This has forced thousands of individuals to resort to irregular means to reach these countries. Therefore, it can be argued that, to some extent, irregular migration results from restrictive policies and tightened controls, particularly those enforced by major powers.²⁴

In addition to the factors mentioned above, other elements have also contributed to the acceleration of irregular migration, some of which are listed below including:

- Traditional media, both print and audiovisual, on the one hand, and new media—particularly social media—on the other, have all played a role in portraying the

harsh living conditions in source countries, the prosperity of life in host countries, and the economic and social disparities between them. Which has increased the determination of many migrants to migrate, despite the associated risks.²⁵

- The significant scientific and technological advancements in communication have greatly contributed to the acceleration of irregular migration. In the digital era, communication has become one of the fastest means of transmitting information, whether on land or at sea. For example, high-end smartphones have played a major role in assisting irregular migrants and intermediaries in planning migration journeys across deserts and open seas.²⁶

4. Risks and Implications of Irregular Migration for Mediterranean Host Countries

There is a consensus among Mediterranean countries regarding the seriousness of irregular migration, as it poses a threat to the stability of the region due to its various implications and its association with emerging threats in the Mediterranean area. Therefore, these countries tend to reinforce their national frameworks by considering migration one of the most prominent contemporary security threats to their safety, based on the understanding that this phenomenon is linked, within the cognitive structures of these states, to the following:

A- Migration as an economic challenge:

Migration, especially secrecy, poses a great threat to the stability of Mediterranean countries economically, for several reasons, which we summarize in the following:

- The link between high unemployment and migration: This is largely due to the prevalence of so-called “informal” or uninsured work among irregular migrants. Many institutions seek cheap, socially unprotected labor, as these workers have no social or economic rights that would otherwise burden employers. This, in turn, contributes to higher unemployment levels in Mediterranean societies, particularly in European countries.²⁷

- Migration and its associated costs negatively impact the budgets of Mediterranean states through expenditures on maintaining public order, justice, education, health...Etc. In addition to various social assistance programs for refugees and family reunification.²⁸

Irregular Migration from the African Sahel and its Implications on the Mediterranean Host Countries

- The consequences of irregular migration from the Sahel have contributed to the intensification of economic crimes, such as money laundering and financial fraud. Consequently, this leads to an increase in the smuggling of national wealth to migrants' countries of origin in large quantities, which undermines the national economy and, in turn, has adverse effects on local development and overall economic stability.²⁹

B- Migration as an Identity-Related Social Challenge:

Societies have become more threatened than countries in light of globalization and cross-border phenomena, migration flows, and the widespread importation of foreign cultural goods...Etc. Accordingly, states perceive their identity as being threatened by these intersecting phenomena. As a result, identity has become more vulnerable than national security. The fear of insecurity still persists, but it now concerns a different kind of security—one linked to the non-material aspects of migration, such as the erosion of cultural values and ways of life. In this sense, social security becomes synonymous with identity survival, implying a distinction between “us” and “them,” that is, between those who are perceived as a threat to collective survival.

“Us” is treated as a hypothetical security concern,³⁰ as migration represents a security challenge for Mediterranean states, being perceived as a potential threat to society. Migrants through their values and beliefs, form part of the society they are entering, which may pose a significant challenge to the existing values and beliefs of the host society. especially under economic conditions such as unemployment and labor market discrimination which leads to the emergence of an “integration problem” among migrants, which in turn threatens social cohesion and the fundamental principles of these states, particularly with the spread of unfamiliar ideas and practices. Moreover, the health dimension cannot be neglected, as the presence of migrants may be associated with higher rates of certain diseases, such as AIDS and malaria.³¹

C- Migration as a Security Problem Related to Terrorism and Organized Crime:

With the increasing scale and complexity of migration, which has taken on an upward trajectory and attracted international attention, it has become

increasingly clear that there is a close link between irregular migration and transnational organized crime on the one hand, and between migration and terrorism on the other—especially after September 11, 2001 attacks

In fact, the phenomenon of irregular migration and organized crime is inseparable. It is meaningless to discuss the thousands of migrants crossing the Mediterranean without acknowledging the hierarchical and complex networks of human smuggling that connect them. Studies have confirmed links between smugglers and transnational crime organizations, covering not only the smuggling of people but also drugs and even weapons. Crossing the desert has become a matter of financial transaction: smuggling from Morocco to the Spanish islands costs around \$200 for children, \$800 to \$1,200 for African men, and \$500 to \$800 for Maghreb nationals.³²

The phenomenon of terrorism has also greatly benefited from globalization, technological advancement, open borders, and the intensification of migration issues in Mediterranean countries, as well as from the progress of the communications and information revolution. All of these factors contribute to the perpetration of acts of violence and terrorism and facilitate their execution. Especially as irregular migrants can be exploited or infiltrated by terrorist groups and transnational criminal organizations, and are pushed into activities that ensure survival or generate funds for onward mobility.

Moreover, refugee displacement can fuel feelings of social alienation, as a result of the spread of ethnicities beyond the borders of the state, or the establishment of armed groups that threaten the unity security of States. However, the most dangerous thing that the threat of immigrants to Mediterranean security can amount to is their insanity in terrorist groups, which seek to exploit their difficult situation to carry out their criminal acts.³³

It is even possible to classify terrorists as international criminals, since they commit acts prohibited by national laws and international conventions. Moreover, they increasingly rely on criminal activities to finance their terrorist operations, to the extent that crime has become the cornerstone of funding and structuring the various terrorist activities of armed groups operating in the Sahel region—most notably Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM). This organization depends on several principal sources to finance its operations, all of which are closely linked to manifestations of organized crime, foremost among

them: human trafficking, which encompasses irregular migration, as well as drug trafficking, particularly narcotics originating from Latin American countries, and destined for Europe via West African states and the African Sahel. Through which approximately 10% of the cocaine smuggled into Europe transits...etc.³⁴

5. Conclusion

Based on the foregoing, it is evident that the phenomenon of irregular migration has attracted the attention of numerous researchers, states, and governments worldwide—particularly in European and Mediterranean countries—because of its serious implications and impact on national security, caused by the large numbers of irregular migrants arriving in these countries.

It has become a major, ongoing challenge for host countries, often exceeding their institutional and economic capacities. Moreover, the lack of effective social and cultural integration policies for migrants further increases social vulnerability and can lead to the unraveling of the social fabric.

Irregular migration is not merely an illicit movement of people, but the result of complex structural factors, where economic, political, environmental, cultural, and social dimensions intersect. Its effects are not confined to the institutional framework of host countries but also extend to the social fabric itself.

It is also one of the complex social phenomena, whose intensity and complexity increase amid widening structural imbalances between countries, the expansion of the development gap, and the decline of economic and social justice across the world.

In light of these findings, it is clear that addressing the challenges of irregular migration requires a multi-dimensional approach that goes beyond short-term security measures. Effective strategies should focus on long-term policies grounded in social justice, international cooperation, and respect for human dignity. At the same time, such an approach must balance the protection of national sovereignty with the safeguarding of migrants' rights while ensuring adequate support.

If host countries seek to eliminate or reduce the impact of this phenomenon, they should consider the following measures:

- Establish coordinated oversight and governance among these countries to support countries of origin through development programs aimed at reducing marginalization, unemployment, and poverty. In other words, this involves creating development partnerships between origin and host countries to tackle the root causes of irregular migration, rather than just addressing its symptoms.
- Furthermore, implement effective social integration policies that facilitate migrants' access to educational and healthcare institutions...etc.
- Moreover, promote a positive media discourse that advocates tolerance and dialogue and encourages the embracing of otherness,
- Combat all forms of discrimination and racism through deterrent legal and institutional mechanisms, in order to ensure the protection of migrants' human rights, regardless of their legal status.
- Review residency and asylum laws by adopting flexible and realistic legislation that takes into account the humanitarian circumstances of irregular migrants and provides opportunities for legal regularization to those who meet the requirements
- In addition, an even more important issue concerning European countries is that they should stop exploiting these countries and interfering in their internal affairs to serve their own national interests and spread corruption, often making use of African elites who are African by origin but European in their thinking and approach.

The set of those measures are intended to mitigate the severity of this critical phenomenon, which has had negative effects on countries of origin, transit, and destination alike.

6. Footnotes and bibliography

¹ Ashjan Al-Fadli. (2024). International Migration: Concept, Legitimacy, and Explanatory Theories. At: <https://perimjournal.com/1573>

² Abdellatif Mahmoud, (2003), Migration and the Threat to Arab National Security, Arab Civilization Center, Cairo, p. 14.

³ Karbouch Ahmed, Irregular Migration in Algeria: A study of its Implications and Control Mechanisms, Al-Mufaker Magazine, Volume 18, Issue 01, 2023, p.46

⁴ Bourzak Ahmed and Hajjaj Malika, (2018), Causes and Effects of Irregular Migration, Journal of the Researcher Professor of Legal and Political Studies, Volume 1, Issue 09, p. 280.

⁵ Ahmed Rashad Salam, (2010), Apparent and Inherent Threats to National Security from Irregular Migration, Riyadh: Naif University of Security Sciences, Riyadh, edition1, p. 205.

⁶ Abdullatif Mahmoud, op. cit., p. 14.

⁷ Ahmed Abdel Aziz Al-Asfar, (2010), Irregular Migration: Spread, Forms, and Methods — Combating Irregular Migration, Naif Arab University For Security Sciences, Riyadh, pp. 9-11.

⁸ Ibid., pp. 19-20.

⁹ Farida Hammoum, (2022), Irregular Migration in the African Sahel: Causes and Implications for Algerian Security, Algerian Journal of Political Sciences and International Relations, Volume 13, issue 18, p. 88.

¹⁰ Mabrouk Kahi, (2019) “The African Sahel: Ancient Conflicts and New Challenges”, Tahawulat Journal, Ouargla: University of Ouargla, Volume 2, Issue 1, P. 184

¹¹ Laurent Bossard; An Atlas of the Sahara–Sahel: Geography, Economy, and Insecurity, West Africa Papers OECD, 19 Decembre 2014, pp 133-134.

¹² Clément lobez, “objectification of migratory flows from the sahel to Europe (2023)”, At : <https://www.iris-france.org/>

¹³ Shadi Ibrahim, “Irregular African migration between realities and European policies, (2023)” At: <https://studies.aljazeera.net/>

¹⁴ UNHCR, “Situation sahel crisis (May 2026),” At: <https://data.unhcr.org/en/situations/sahel>

¹⁵ Farida Hamoum, op. Cit., P. 88.

¹⁶ Hamdi Shaaban, “Irregular Migration: Necessity and Demand (2025),” At <https://www.policemc.gov.bh/mcms-store/pdf>

¹⁷ Gérard-François Dumont, "Sahel: The Populations' Geopolitics," At <https://halshs.archives-ouvertes.fr/halshs-00761709/document>

¹⁸ Alsayid Ali Oufarha, (2012), "The Future of the African State Between Military Dominance and the Viability of Democracy“ African Readings”, “African Readings”, Sharjah: Islamic Forum, Issue 13, p. 51.

¹⁹ Ibid., p. 51.

- ²⁰ Arabi Boumediene, (2016), "State Crisis in the African Sahel: A Study of the Causes and State-Building Challenges", African Readings, Sharjah: Islamic Forum, issue. 28, p. 27.
- ²¹ Shahzadi Irrum, » Sahel: Africa's Most Crisis-Prone Region ». (2023). At <https://moderndiplomacy.eu/author/shahzadiirrum/>
- ²² Building climate resilience and peace, go hand in hand for Africa's Sahel". (2023). At <https://www.un.org/africarenewal/news>
- ²³ Borzak Ahmed and Hajjaj Malika, op. Cit., P. 285.
- ²⁴ Fouad Foul, (2017), "The Impact of Irregular Migration on Algerian Societal Security", Algerian Journal of Political Studies, Algeria: National Superior School of political Sciences, Volume 4, Issue 1, p. 33.
- ²⁵ Borzak Ahmed and Hajjaj Malika, op. Cit., P. 285.
- ²⁶ Rafee Ambark, (2018), "The Reality of Irregular Migration: Concepts, Causes, and Effects—A Case Study of Both Shores of the Mediterranean", Journal of Cognitive Issues, Algeria, Zian Ashour University of Djelfa, Volume 1, Issue 01, p. 17.
- ²⁷ Tibi Amina, (2025), The Impact of Irregular Migration on host and Origin Countries, Journal of Algerian Public Law and Comparative Volume 11, Issue 01, p. 727.
- ²⁸ Alain Gérard, «Immigration: The Cost of Irresponsibility» at www.observatoiredeleurope.com/Immigration-le-cout-de-l-irresponsabilite_a567.html
- ²⁹ Marjal Aisha, (2025) The Implications of Irregular Migration on the National Security of States, Academic Journal of Legal and Political Research, Volume 09, Issue 01, p. 1426.
- ³⁰ Abdelnour Benantar, (2005), The Mediterranean Dimension of Algerian Security: Algeria, Europe, and the Atlantic Alliance, Algeria: Modern Library for Printing, Publishing and Distribution, p. 26.
- ³¹ Mohamed Gharbi and others, (2014), Irregular Migration in the Mediterranean Region: Risks and Confrontation Strategy, Algeria: Ibn El-Nadeem Publishing and Distribution, p. 309.
- ³² Mabrouk Kahi, op. Cit., P. 187.
- ³³ Riyad Ben Arabia, (2016) "Securitization of migration in Euro-Maghreb relations and its various dimensions", Journal of Legal Studies, Algeria: Yahya Fares University, Volume 2, Issue 2, p. 14.
- ³⁴ Al-Hussein Al-Sheikh Al-Alawi, "The Struggle for Influence Between Al-Qaeda and the Islamic State in Africa", available at: <https://goo.gl/MERqac>