

RESPONDING TO THE MIGRANT CRISIS

EUROPE AT A JUNCTURE



This report is one in a series on the European migrant crisis written by the Regional Analysts Network to inform Action Against Hunger's operations and positioning. It includes a focus on the drivers of the European response to the crisis as well as an updated set of scenarios with an outlook to 2018.



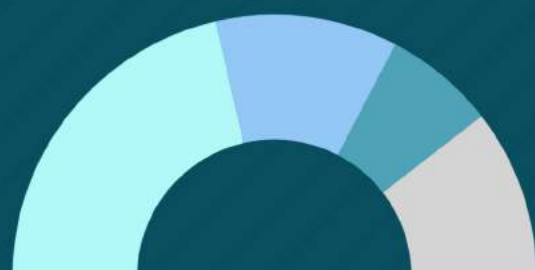
6 MONTH UPDATE

ARRIVALS SINCE 1 JAN 2016

211,408

MISSING/DEAD SINCE 1 JAN 2015

2,859



COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN



DRIVERS IN THE EUROPEAN THEATRE

REACTIONARY POLITICS

Since 2010, the far right have made gains in countries hosting large numbers of migrants. Their policies focus on nationalism, anti-EU sentiment, immigration and austerity.

SECURITIZATION OF THE MIGRATION AGENDA

The rise in reactionary politics has accelerated the promotion of the security agenda. Discourses on migration can be divided into interest based or identity based arguments (such as New Racism).

BORDER MANAGEMENT

EU-Turkey deal to stem the flow of migrants. Fencing and policing of borders has increased, de facto dismantling the Schengen agreement. Security is prioritised over humanitarian needs.

EU LEGAL ENVIRONMENT

Forms of international protection include: asylum (or refugee) status, subsidiary protection, and compassionate leave to remain. An expanding 'Safe country of origin' list.

DISTRIBUTION OF ASYLUM APPLICATIONS

There is a gross imbalance of burden sharing between EU nations, and a pressing need to set up an effective EU-wide quota system.

DURABLE SOLUTIONS

Solutions: voluntary repatriation, local integration and resettlement. Multi-year funding, better coordination, and political will are needed for long-term answers.



SCENARIOS 2016 - 2018

NEW DEAL

Commitment

Social pressure drives the EU towards a more solidaristic approach to global protracted displacement. The New Deal promotes investments in durable solutions and transnational collaboration for asylum provision and resettlement.

FORTRESS EUROPE

Containment

The EU is able to establish a coordinated approach but only so far as a protectionist agenda, which securitises the migration issue. The Eurocentric agenda fails to address root causes of migration and durable solutions are not addressed.

OPEN FLOOD GATES

Chaos

Due to mounting pressure, countries neighbouring crises are no longer able to contain the flow of migrants. The EU does not coordinate any kind of response resulting in increased and unregulated streams of vulnerable people.

EUROPEAN DISCORD

Continuity

The lack of a comprehensive, coordinated response makes the EU response unpredictable and ineffective. Competing pressures on European security and the humanitarian imperative, mean that the acceptance of migrants varies across borders and time -- heavily impacted by shifts in public opinion and elections.

Strong coordination

weak coordination

LEVELS OF CONTAINMENT

EFFECTIVENESS OF EU COORDINATION

CONCLUSION

The eurocentricity of the debate on the migration crisis has obscured the true nature of the burden and overemphasised the relative scale of the caseloads arriving into Europe, versus those that are, and have long been, born by states in the global south. Today, the EU is at a critical juncture in its management of the flows of migration. It can either lead by example or falter and bear the negative consequences for Europe and displaced populations worldwide for the foreseeable future.

