A Survey of Leading Features of the Global Migration Crisis

by Steven Carr

The world is in a poor state of affairs when 304 million migrants find survival impossible in their home countries devastated by wars, famines, and disasters. Most of the research on global migration is designed in the Global North, conducted in the North, tailored for a Northern audience, and financed by Northern governments, so it often comes as a surprise that at least one-third of all migration is South-South, according to the 2024 *Palgrave Handbook of South-South Migration and Inequality*.

Over 80% of African migrants never leave the continent. One of the biggest migration flows in the world has been from Burkina Faso to neighboring Côte d'Ivoire, but this has been ignored by the Western media. Asia represents 40% of world migration, where we see a similar pattern with over half remaining within the region.

Perhaps the worst of the migrant and displaced persons crises is the number of children affected. The world has about 123.2 million people who have been forcibly displaced, due to war, famine, or disaster, and about 40% are children under 18 (about 48.8 million in 2020). In 2025 about 21.5 million children were forced into internal displacement according to the International Data Alliance for Children on the Move. More than 2.3 million children were born as refugees. While many in the West frequently view migrating with children as risky or even reckless, families are often running for their lives and often view moving the children as a supreme act of care. The education of those children is seen as a stabilizing force for the entire family and the most promising chance for that child to flourish and grow into a dignified contributor to society.

UNICEF

Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh.

Sudan

The largest humanitarian crisis in the world continues to grow in Sudan. A July 1 report from Amnesty International documents in detail the murder, rape, enslavement, and other crimes against humanity suffered by the local population. The exact figures are not known, but at least 270,000 people have been killed by violence, starvation, and disease. At least 13 million people have been displaced, of whom 4 million have fled the country. An estimated 33.7 million people depend upon humanitarian aid, and 5 million are living in emergency or famine conditions. There are 13 million children with no classrooms, because 55% of schools are closed or destroyed.

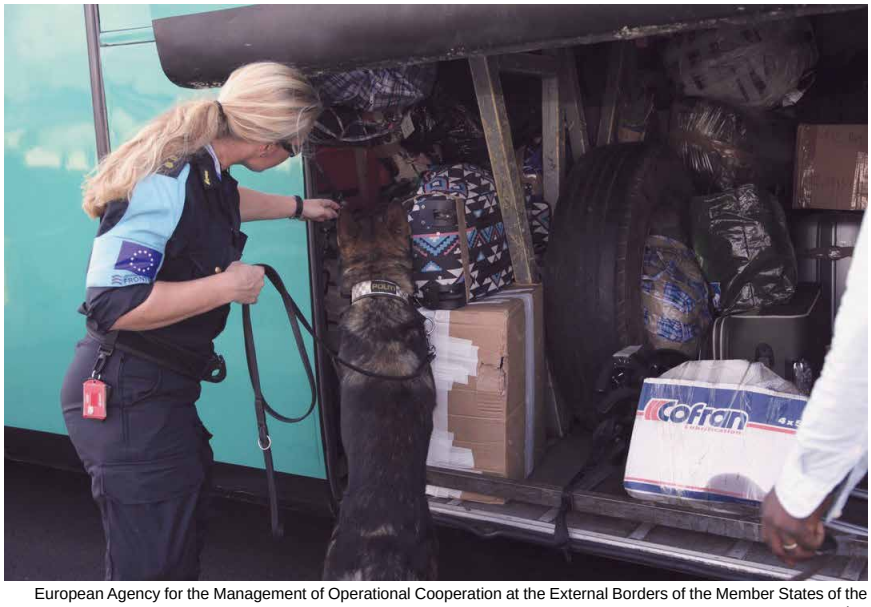
UN officials and others have been warning of a possible dramatic escalation of this crisis in El Obeid, a city of about half a million people in northwest Sudan and the capital of the state of North Kordofan. In recent weeks the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) has been converging on the town for what officials worry could be a replay of the October 2025 genocide and ethnic cleansing by the RSF in El Fasher, Sudan. The rebel RSF is notorious for its systematic attacks against civilians and the deliberate targeting of children.

© 2026 EIR News Service Inc. All Rights Reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without permission strictly prohibited.

The RSF is being supported by the United Arab Emirates (UAE), but the true controllers are in London. The British geopolitical gameplan is to allow the atrocities to continue in order to reduce Sudan to a colonial appendage. Since the earliest days of colonialism, British strategy has been to pit the "elite" Arab population along the Nile River against other ethnic communities in the vast interior.

Bangladesh

In Bangladesh there are about 1.2 million Rohingya refugees, and about half are children who live in what is considered the world's largest refugee settlement, according to UNICEF. This Kutupalong Refugee Camp is over-crowded, subject to disease outbreaks (especially waterborne diseases), and offers little protection from the annual monsoon season. Particularly during the rainy season, maintaining adequate water and sanitation infrastructure becomes increasingly difficult. Starting in 2017 these Rohingya refugees began escaping from neighboring Myanmar, where they were stateless, stripped of legal identity or citizenship, and facing unspeakable violence. However, after nine years in the refugee camps of Bangladesh, their hope of being repatriated remains as distant as ever. These refugees are now completely dependent upon humanitarian assistance for food, safe water, healthcare, shelter, and simple protection from further attacks. While not attending school, these children are vulnerable to abuse by child labor, child marriage, and even human trafficking. Experts warn that these disenfranchised youth are becoming a "lost generation," with fewer opportunities, fewer skills, and little to replace the void of a healthy childhood. More than 5,000 Rohingya have drowned at sea trying to escape conditions at the camp; 2025 was the most-deadly year on record, according to the United Nations. However, many in the Epstein class are happy with the suffering and chaos, with a geopolitical goal of disrupting the China-Myanmar Economic Corridor under China's Belt and Road Initiative, which passes through the Rohingya's homeland, Rakhine State in Myanmar. This ethnic warfare also disrupts India's Kaladan Multi-Modal Transport Project to connect northeast India to the Sittwe Port in Rakhine State.



European Agency for the Management of Operational Cooperation at the External Borders of the Member States of the European Union

A Frontex (European Border and Coast Guard Agency) agent conducts a search.

South Africa

South Africa has long had a large migrant presence in its workforce, but in recent weeks South Africa's "March and March" movement and vigilante violence against migrants have provoked the government to deport or repatriate 53,000 people, and caused another 160,000 to flee out of fear. This has left farmers' crops unharvested and construction projects and factories understaffed. *The Citizen* reports that sugar mills may be forced to close, due to the lack of workers cutting the sugar cane in the fields. Labor unions point out that South Africa has one of the highest unemployment rates in the world—over 40%—but argue that employers prefer to hire migrants, who will take more dangerous jobs, accept lower pay and longer hours, and can be easily discarded and replaced if injured on the job.

In addition to falsely taking the blame for unemployment, migrants in South Africa have also been accused of being a drain on public services and being responsible for increased street crime. However, research shows that only 3.7% of formal jobs in South Africa are held by foreign-born workers. Foreign-born workers held about 18.3% of informal jobs in South Africa

(about 700,000), but these are jobs which keep the worker in poverty, offering no benefits or prospects for the future. A 2018 report from the World Bank found that one immigrant worker actually generates approximately two jobs for South African workers. These foreign workers create demand, make investments, bring critical skills, start new businesses, and generate new opportunities for all workers.

South Africa faces serious economic challenges, substantially worsened by the economic warfare directed at this leading BRICS nation by the United States and others. But answers for its unemployment problem will not be found at a border-crossing checkpoint, but rather in further integration with the BRICS and China's Belt and Road Initiative.

Mediterranean Graveyard

The European Union's best-funded yet most failed agency is Frontex, its Border and Coast Guard. Under its watch, more than 35,000 migrants have drowned or gone missing in the Mediterranean Sea since 2014, according to the Missing Migrants Project. In just the first five months, 2026 has seen over 1,000 deaths, making it one of the deadliest starts to any year in more than a decade. EU officials are quick to blame bad weather for deaths at sea, but the sea has been "weaponized" against the migrants. Frontex works to make sea crossings longer, more difficult, and more dangerous, while at the same time dismantling search-and-rescue infrastructure. According to Human Rights Watch, Frontex, in violation of international law and the EU's stated policy, does not routinely send emergency alerts to nearby commercial ships when it spots migrant boats in distress. The sea is used as a medieval moat to protect "Fortress Europe."

Because of these anti-migrant policies, Pope Francis repeatedly referred to the Mediterranean as a "graveyard," or as the world's "largest cemetery without tombstones."

After a high-profile 2013 shipwreck off the coast of Italy's Lampedusa Island, Italy responded with Operation Mare Nostrum (Operation Our Sea) and managed to rescue more than 150,000 people in the following 12 months. However, one year later, Frontex replaced the successful Italian search-and-rescue mission with Operation Triton to militarize enforcement, expand the borders beyond the EU, outsource enforcement to North African coast guards and navies, and focus on dismantling smuggling networks. Operation Triton has only driven migrants to increasingly seek out professional smugglers to help with the progressively more dangerous voyage across the sea. Under the policies of Frontex, the death rate for maritime migrants has soared, human trafficking is more profitable than ever, and the world's most vulnerable people have been put at even greater risk.

A 2022 EU internal investigation shows a pattern at Frontex of corruption, cover-ups, and violations of human rights laws. In its efforts to expand the borders beyond the EU, Frontex has established notorious detention centers in countries such as Libya, a failed state since the disastrous 2011 regime change backed by the U.S. President Barack Obama and Secretary of State Hilary Clinton. According to Amnesty International, many of these EU-funded detention centers are centers of torture, rape, and other abuses, with the EU taking an "out of sight, out of mind" approach to the problem. The EU has paid at least €465 million to the Libyan "government" to intercept migrant boats heading to Europe and place "rescued" migrants in these detention centers. In 2017 the United Nations warned that there were credible reports that these EU-funded detention centers were part of a system in which the captured African migrants were allegedly sold in slave markets.

Off the coast of Türkiye, Frontex oversaw the pushing of migrant boats, crowded with entire families from Syria, Afghanistan, and other conflict zones, back to sea. Increasingly, legislation from the EU is designed to restrict humanitarian rescues and to keep migrants adrift at sea. On February 5, Greece passed legislation to impose stricter oversight and criminal penalties against aid organizations. On February 12, the Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni government in Italy established a "naval blockade" and authorized sweeping powers to restrict NGO rescue vessels. And on March 26, the European Parliament passed legislation to speed up deportations.

Funding for Frontex has exploded from €6 million in 2005 to over €800 million by 2024, and €81 billion projected for 2028-2034. Frontex provides lucrative contracts with private companies such as Thales Group, SITA, and Palantir, which focus on creating a security agenda tailored perfectly to the services that they offer. These companies are key players in programs such as the European Commission's Smart Borders Initiative, the European Border Surveillance