



LANGUE VIVANTE I

Épreuve du 1^{er} groupe

A N G L A I S

Challenges in Libya Complicate EU Measures to Stem Migration

In recent weeks, allegations have surfaced that Italy has been paying armed groups in Libya to cease smuggling migrants into the country. Some estimate that the number of migrants crossing the Mediterranean into Italy has reduced by half compared to the same time period last year. At the heart of the issue is a governance vacuum that allows armed groups to control the flow of migrants in and out of Libya, presenting a unique challenge for governments in North and West Africa and EU policymakers.

In 2015, most migrants to Europe traveled through the Eastern Mediterranean route from Turkey to Greece. Some 150,000 arrived in Italy by sea through the Central Mediterranean route that same year. Within one year, that number had increased to approximately 180,000, with ninety percent having departed from Libya. The increased prominence of the Central Mediterranean route is partly a result of the 2016 EU-Turkey agreement to end irregular migration through the Eastern Mediterranean route, which made the latter route less significant. However, the increases in arrivals in Italy are not due to a redirection of migration flows from Syria, Iraq, and Afghanistan. Those making the journey are overwhelmingly from West Africa, with Nigerians and Guineans being the most heavily represented nationalities.

The vast majority of West African migrants leave their countries as a result of socio-economic push factors. They tend to enter Libya from Niger, with help from armed groups who dominate the smuggling industry along the southern border area. Once they enter Libya, migrants are transferred to smuggling hubs, such as those in Sabha and Bani Walid, where they often try to find work in the informal sector until they have enough money to pay for the next leg of the journey to Italy. For many groups, especially Nigerians, Italy is the desired destination due to the presence of West African communities.

The situation in Libya itself acts as an additional push factor. In the past, migrants might have found work in the country and stayed. Today, the lack of governance and security is causing them to transit as quickly as they can. Work is scarce, and should they be unlucky enough to be detained in one of the few functioning detention centers, they could suffer abuse, including beatings and torture. In the best case scenario, detention only comes with lack of access to healthcare, food, and water...

The EU has been attempting to disrupt migrant smuggling off the coast of Libya through its European Naval Force Mediterranean (EUNAVFOR-MED) Operation Sophia, which was launched in 2015. The EU operation has, however, been delayed by not having permission to operate in Libyan waters...

Indeed, overcoming short-termism could be the biggest challenge when it comes to tackling irregular migration to Europe. Armed groups in Libya can be unpredictable. Those involved in people smuggling need to be encouraged to disengage from such activities in a sustainable way. This could include providing them an alternative, such as the prospect of integration into future police or army structures. Sustainable revenue sources also need to be created for communities that depend on smuggling activities and this, in turn, may be heavily dependent on improving the overall economic situation in Libya. Ultimately, of course, occupations in West Africa need to be generated through long-term development initiatives.

Adapted from Lisa WATANABE, October 20, 2017.

<https://theglobalobservatory.org/2017/10/challenges-libya-complicate-eu-measures-migration/>

II. LINGUISTIC and COMMUNICATIVE COMPETENCE: 06 marks

F. Birima and Abass are sharing tea at home and discussing the phenomenon of illegal migration by young Africans. Complete this extract of their conversation meaningfully. (02 marks)

Birima: Did you watch CNN last night?

Abass: No! Was there anything special?

Birima: Very sad news, indeed! They reported that some African migrants **18.** _____ (*now/to sell*) as slaves in Libya, at a very low price.

Abass: I heard about that... But I really can't understand why people risk their lives and dignity in adventure, for a hypothetical better life, thousands of kilometers away from home.

Birima: You know, it's because **19.** _____

Abass: I don't agree with you. We can't expect everything from our government. We can't keep on blaming them all the time. As young people, if we **20.** _____

_____, unemployment would probably be reduced in this country.

Birima: That's quite true. But you know, in some places, **21.** _____

G. Complete the passage meaningfully with the right connectors from the box below. (02 marks)

otherwise / despite / unless / on the contrary / thanks to

What happened in Libya is just a shame! How can Africans sell fellow-Africans, just like that, in the 21st century? Would this have ever happened if our leaders had made it possible for the youth to stay and work on the continent? **22.** _____ NGOs' alerts, they haven't done anything to change the situation. **23.** _____, it's just now that they are reacting, after things have become worse. **24.** We were informed only _____ a CNN reporter. **25.** _____, we would probably never have learnt about this tragedy.

H. Match the sentences in column A to the notions they express in column B. (02 marks)

Column A	Column B
26. Nigerians migrate to Italy due to the massive presence of West African communities.	a) <i>Warning</i>
27. If you're unlucky enough to be detained in one of the few functioning detention centers, you could suffer torture.	b) <i>Probability</i>
28. Sustainable revenue sources also need to be created for communities that depend on smuggling activities.	c) <i>Ability</i>
29. Overcoming short-termism might be the biggest challenge when it comes to tackling migration to Europe	d) <i>Cause</i>
	e) <i>Suggestion</i>

26. _____ **27.** _____ **28.** _____ **29.** _____

III. WRITING: 06 marks

Choose **ONE** topic and write about 200 words.

Topic 1: A lot of Africans are exposing themselves to tragic death, repatriation, inhumane treatment, etc. through migration. What do you think are the causes of such a phenomenon? What can be the consequences? Propose a few solutions to eradicate it.

Topic 2: Julia has written a letter to her best friend, Fatim, in which she is telling her about her difficult situation and her intention to try illegal migration. Write Fatim's response, insisting on her objections and advice.