The European Warden
Reasons and Effects of Immigration Through Libya.

In 2009, 250,000 people applied for asylum in the 27 EU member states; with most people immigrating through Libya. In 2010, the Libyan dictator Moammar Gaddafi offered to stop the illegal immigration if the European Union paid him five billion euros. The deal did not go through. Traynor (2010).

The security vacuum followed the fall of Gaddafi’s regime in 2011, causing thousands of migrants and refugees to reach the Italian beaches to apply for asylum in different EU countries. Searcy and Barry (2017).

Journey

In order to reach the coast and be on one of the boats sailing to Europe, migrants can spend months and even years on the way. Searcy and Barry (2017).

The Sahara has become a center for human smuggling. Migrants are handed from one point to another and face different kinds of horrors on their way to the coast.

Humanitarian Response

UN Agencies have adopted programs like resettlements to Europe and voluntary returns. By the end of 2018, UNHCR had evacuated 2,069 and the International Organization of Migration (IOM) had assisted over 30,000 returns. Human Rights Watch (2019).

Other programs are implemented to support communities inside and outside the detention centers. For example, cash assistance, protection services, and non-food items are such programs.

Reasons

Economic concerns are the number one reason for immigration from Africa. In a survey by 4Mi where 3,095 refugees and migrants were interviewed, 93% of migrants were driven to flee their countries for economic reasons, and only 6% for the lack of security. MMC North Africa (2019).

Reasons vary from one region to another; In Central Africa, which is considered a conflict area, many people leave their countries for security reasons. In East Africa, however, the reasons are mostly economic. MMC North Africa (2019).

References

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