



Regional mixed migration summary for August 2015 covering mixed migration events, trends and data for Djibouti, Eritrea, South Sudan, Sudan, Ethiopia, Kenya, Puntland, Somalia, Somaliland and Yemen.

Terminology: Throughout this report the term migrant/refugee is used to cover all those involved in the mixed migration flows (including asylum seekers, trafficked persons, smuggled economic migrants, refugees). If the case load mentioned refers only to refugees or asylum seekers or trafficked persons it will be clearly stated.

Country	Events /trends /data /analysis
<p>Yemen</p>	<p><i>The conflict in Yemen entered its sixth month with escalation of shelling and fighting putting civilians at risk. As previously reported, due to the conflict, monitoring and data collection activities along the Red Sea and Arabian sea coasts continued to be affected, with a majority of monitoring exercises suspended. The data presented in this report on arrivals in Yemen is therefore not conclusive of the actual number of arrivals during this period.</i></p> <p>Conflict-related displacement: The deployment of 1,000 Qatari ground troops into Yemen in early September 2015 marks a major escalation by the Saudi-led coalition which has been bombing Houthi rebel forces since March 2015. According to figures by UN agencies there were 1,439,118 Internally Displaced People in Yemen as of 1st September 2015. Analysts indicate that it is unlikely that there will be a swift resolution to the conflict, with a probable escalation of violence and displacement in the short term.</p> <p>Continued arrivals from the Horn of Africa: In August 2015, an estimated number of at least 399 (394 Ethiopians and 5 Somalis) mixed migrants arrived in Yemen via the Red Sea. The new arrivals docked at Al-Batin, Al-Jadid, Al-Hujaja, Al-Huraqia and Bir Issa towns (Ta'iz and Lahj governorates). Migrants reported paying between USD 100-150 to make the sea crossing. According to UNHCR figures 4,835 migrants (including at least 3,721 Ethiopians and 203 Somalis) also arrived along the Arabian coast between 30th July and 1st September 2015. Due to the reduction of monitoring missions along Yemen's coast, it is likely that actual number of arrivals from the Horn of Africa to Yemen was higher during the period. UNHCR estimate that 14,501 migrants have arrived in Yemen by sea since the beginning of the conflict in March 2015, and 41,319 since the beginning of the year.</p> <p>Migrant vulnerability: In August 2015, migrants plying the Red Sea route to Yemen remained at risk of abduction by criminal gangs, and possibly trafficking elements. Migrants reported that there were no incidents during the crossing but that smugglers and criminal elements were in communication during the course of the journey. Protection monitoring missions suggest that 61 of the recorded 399 migrants crossing, were abducted on landing. Those abducted were exclusively Ethiopian nationals,</p> <p>Refugees in Yemen: According to UNHCR figures, there are approximately 250,000 refugees and migrants situated around urban centres in the country. 240,000 of these are Somali refugees and 10,000 are migrants from Ethiopia, Eritrea, Syria and Iraq.</p> <p>Departures from Yemen: The number of people fleeing Yemen to the Horn of Africa (Djibouti, Somalia and Ethiopia) continued to rise in the reporting period. As of 10th September 2015, 24,748 people had arrived in Djibouti from Yemen (1,860 Djiboutians, 11,815 Yemenis, and 11,073 Third Country Nationals). 29,075 people had arrived in Somalia as at 14th September, and a further 3,416 had arrived in Ethiopia (907 Yemenis, 2,500 Somalis, 4 Eritreans and 5 Iraqis). The number of Yemeni nationals seeking refuge is highest in Djibouti, where Yemenis make up 47% of new arrivals.</p>
<p>Djibouti</p>	<p>Departures to Yemen: Available data from the still active monitoring teams indicate that at least 399 migrants (394 Ethiopians and 4 Somalis) departed from Obock and arrived in coastal towns in Ta'iz Governate, Yemen. The number of actual arrivals are likely to be considerably higher. Migrants reported paying between USD 100-150 to make the boat crossing to Yemen.</p> <p>Arrivals from Yemen: As of 10th September 2015, reports from IOM indicate that 24,748 people had arrived in Djibouti from Yemen (1,860 Djiboutians, 11,815 Yemenis, and 11,073 Third Country Nationals) had arrived in</p>

	<p>Djibouti from Yemen since the outbreak of the violence on 26th March 2015.</p> <p>Refugees from Yemen: As of 12th September 2015, UNHCR and ONARS (the government refugee agency) registered 2,828 refugees in Obock, Djibouti, including 2,669 Yemeni nationals and various other Third Country Nationals. 1,389 new arrivals were registered in August alone (1,097 Yemenis), a 591% increase on arrivals in July. Yemeni refugees continue to be restricted to the Markazi camp located about 4 kilometres Obock by a government directive issued in May 2015.</p>
Somaliland	<p>Arrivals from Yemen: As of 14th September 2015, a total of 9,202 migrants/asylum seekers had arrived in Somaliland since the beginning of the conflict in Yemen in March 2015. New arrivals docked in the towns of Berbera, Hargeisa, Lughaya, Maydh and Zeila. In August, 319 new arrivals (64% Somali and 33% Yemeni) were recorded, and 81 new arrivals have been registered in September thus far. This is a significant decrease from movements in July, which had the highest number of arrivals per month since the outbreak of the Yemen conflict in March 2015.</p> <p>Returning refugees and asylum seekers in Somaliland: Of the 8,947 Somalis that have arrived in Somaliland since the beginning of the conflict 37% (3,332) had acquired refugee status or sought asylum in Yemen.</p>
Puntland	<p>Arrivals from Yemen: As of 14th September 2015, a total of 19,506 migrants/asylum seekers had arrived in Puntland from Yemen since conflict began in March 2015. Arrivals have been recorded through the towns of Bargal, Bosasso, Elayo and Qandala and account for the majority (67%) of new arrivals from Yemen into Somalia. 208 migrants/asylum seekers arrived in Puntland in August 2015, with 107 arriving in September thus far. With the exception of March, these figures represent the lowest number of new arrivals since the conflict began.</p> <p>Returning refugees and asylum seekers in Puntland: Of the 17,890 Somalis that have returned from Yemen to Puntland since the conflict, 5,925 (31%) people had acquired refugee status or sought asylum in Yemen.</p>
Somalia (South Central)	<p>Arrivals from Yemen: No further arrivals were registered in South Central Somalia from Yemen in the reporting period. However a significant proportion (55%) of those arriving in Puntland and Somaliland indicate an intention to return to Mogadishu specifically.</p> <p>Armed conflict continues to fuel internal displacement: The Somalia Protection Cluster estimates that as at the end of August 2015, 7,100 households (approximately 42,000 individuals) have been internally displaced since the beginning of the joint military offensive in South Central Somalia. The offensive, dubbed as 'Operation Juba Corridor', was launched in July 2015 by the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and Somalia's National Armed Forces (SNAF). The regions predominantly affected by the conflict are Gedo, Bay, Bakool, Gedo and Hiraaan. The majority of those displaced have moved to safer locations within the affected regions, while a number have moved to areas in Lower Juba and Mogadishu. The offensive has reportedly also begun to result in cross-border movements into Dolo Ado refugee camp in Ethiopia. According to UNHCR figures, there are 1.1 million internally displaced persons across the whole of Somalia.</p> <p>Refugees in the neighbouring countries: According to UNHCR figures there were 967,248 registered Somali refugees and asylum seekers displaced in neighbouring countries in the region as of 31st August 2015. Kenya and Ethiopia accommodate the largest number of Somali refugees and asylum seekers in the region, hosting 420,283 and 249,012 persons respectively.</p>

<p>South Sudan</p>	<p>Regional displacement: Security conditions remain volatile as clashes between warring factions drive up displacement. According to UNHCR figures, 628,112 South Sudanese people have been displaced into neighbouring countries since the start of the conflict in December 2013. Ethiopia hosts the largest proportion of these refugees (223,724), followed by Sudan (192,281), Uganda (165,612) and Kenya (46,495). An additional 134,164 who were displaced before the December 2013 conflict are also hosted in the region.</p> <p>Internal Displacement: As of 3rd September there were approximately 1.6 million displaced persons in South Sudan.</p> <p>Refugees in South Sudan: Despite the ongoing conflict, South Sudan continues to host 265,296 refugees in the country. The majority of these refugees are from neighbouring Sudan (92%), followed by Democratic Republic of Congo (6%). Refugees from Ethiopia and Central African Republic make up the remaining 2%.</p> <p>Breached ceasefire agreement: South Sudan's rebel leader Riek Machar accused the government of violating the terms of a ceasefire agreement hours after it came into effect. The peace deal, negotiated by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), came into force on the 29th August 2015 and aimed at bringing to an end a brutal 20-month conflict in the world's youngest nation. Several negotiated ceasefires have failed to take hold, resulting in the displacement of more than 2 million South Sudanese.</p>
<p>Sudan</p>	<p>Internal Displacement in Darfur: Sustained ethnic conflict in Darfur continued to drive displacement in the reporting period. According to figures by UNHCR, there were 104,098 newly verified internal displacements in Darfur during the month of August 2015. Unverified internal displacements account for the movement of 69,494 people. 50,304 people reportedly returned to their areas of origin in the same month.</p> <p>South Sudan refugees: As at 2nd September 2015, there were 189,809 South Sudanese refugees in Sudan. UNHCR anticipates that 196,000 refugees will arrive in the country by the end of 2015.</p>
<p>Eritrea</p>	<p>Eritrean nationals continue to flee to Europe: Eritrean nationals make up one of the most populous groups of refugees and migrants crossing the Mediterranean into Europe. Of the 293,000 arrivals since January 2015, Eritreans rank as the third most populous group (9%) making the crossing. In the Central Mediterranean route into Italy, Eritrean nationals account for 27% of those arriving. In June 2015, the UN Human Rights Council Commission of Inquiry on Human Rights in Eritrea released a report highlighting systematic, widespread and gross human rights violation, amongst others, as the key drivers of mass migration out of Eritrea.</p>
<p>Ethiopia</p>	<p>Refugees in Ethiopia: Ethiopia continues to host the largest population of refugees on the continent, accommodating more than 700,000 refugees in August 2015. The ongoing hostilities in South Sudan is pushing more and more refugees into Gambella region in Ethiopia, where 219,515 asylum seekers and refugees were registered as at 8th September 2015.</p> <p>Arrivals from Yemen: According to IOM, 3,416 persons have arrived in Ethiopia from Yemen since the outbreak of violence in the country in March 2015. This group is predominantly made up of Somali nationals (2,500), followed by Yemenis (907), Iraqis (5) and Eritreans (4).</p>
<p>Kenya</p>	<p>Refugees in Kenya: There were 591,370 registered refugees and asylum seekers in Kenya as of 31st August 2015. Somali refugees and asylum seekers are the most populous (420,711), followed by South Sudanese (93,256) and other Third Country Nationals (77,403). The majority of this population are hosted in Dadaab (349,280) and Kakuma (181,723) refugee camps. The urban refugee population in Nairobi stands at 60,367 persons.</p> <p>Voluntary repatriation of Somali refugees: As of 13th September 2015 a total of 3,924 Somali refugees (813 households) had been supported to voluntarily repatriate from Dadaab refugee camp in Kenya to Somalia. Returnees continue to limit their areas of return to five return locations: Kismayo (2,488), Baidoa (835), Mogadishu</p>

	<p>(493), Luuq (103) and Badhaadhe (5).</p> <p>Renewed efforts to close Dadaab refugee camp: The three-month deadline for the closure of Dadaab refugee camp issued by Kenyan Deputy President William Ruto lapsed in August 2015. However, a Peace and Security Council report suggests that the Kenyan government has new plans to relocate the camp, which has been open since 1991, amid concerns that the camp is a hiding ground for Al Shabaab militants. The Kenyan government made its presentation on the issue on 24th August, to which the African Union Commission will respond in early October 2015.</p>
<p>Israel</p>	<p>Israel releases detained asylum seekers and migrants: Following a High Court ruling on 11th August 2015, the Israeli government began releasing asylum seekers and migrants that had been detained for more than a year from the Holot detention centre facility in the Negev desert. Nearly 1,200 migrants were released, and approximately 500 remain in Holot. However, the release was conditional on barring those freed from accessing Tel Aviv or Eliat. Reports from former detainees suggest that they have nowhere else to go. Official figures by the Israeli government show that 45,000 migrants are in Israel, who are mostly from Eritrea and Sudan.</p> <p>Resettlement of asylum seekers from the Horn of Africa: In September 2015, a report released by the International Refugee Rights Initiative alleged that the voluntary repatriation procedure initiated by the Israeli government to resettle asylum seekers to “third countries” (now identified as Uganda and Rwanda) in Africa was far from voluntary. The report suggests that the only reason asylum seekers chose to relocate was because other alternatives – detention or to return to their countries of origin – were intolerable. The report also suggests that on arrival asylum seekers were not able to acquire any legal status to protect their presence in these countries. Israel, Rwanda and Uganda are all State Parties to the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol.</p>
<p>Other regional news and news from other regions</p>	<p>Record number of refugee and migrant arrivals in Europe: At the end of August 2015, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) declared that more than 300,000 refugees and migrants had crossed into Europe using the Mediterranean. This is an unprecedented and ever-increasing number that dwarfs the around 219,000 people who crossed in the whole of 2014. As at 17th September, this figure had risen to 411,567 people. UNHCR had announced that it expected 400,000 migrants and refugees to arrive in Europe by sea by the end of 2015. The response to the rising numbers has varied across the continent with the most positive response coming from Germany, where the government announced that it could handle 500,000 asylum seekers a year.</p> <p>The European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker has urged the continent to accept his proposals for the distribution of an additional 120,000 asylum seekers across the continent. The new plans would relocate the majority of people in Italy, Greece and Hungary to Germany, France and Spain. Amongst other proposals, Mr Juncker suggested a review of the Dublin system and the drafting of a list of ‘safe countries’ to which migrants would have to return. On 14th September 2015, EU interior ministers convened in a special meeting to discuss Juncker’s plans and were unable to reach a consensus on a plan to relocate 120,000 asylum seekers with mandatory quotas and instead concluded that negotiations would take place ahead of another meeting in October.</p> <p>Mediterranean sea deaths highest in the world: According to IOM statistics, as at 16th September 2015 2,812 people have perished while attempting to make the Mediterranean sea crossing to Europe in 2015. These fatalities account for 73% of the global figures for 2015. In August 2015, shocking images of the lifeless body of a young Syrian toddler triggered massive public outcry.</p> <p>Egypt continues to detain migrants: Local media reports suggest that Egyptian naval forces arrested 228 undocumented migrants of various nationalities in August 2015. The migrants were uncovered on the back of fishing boats near the city of Alexandria.</p> <p>Burundi refugees continue to flee to neighbouring countries: President Nkurunziza’s victory in a controversial third-term election has done little to quell the violence in the country. As at 17th September 2015, there were 190,637 Burundian refugees and asylum seekers in neighbouring countries. The majority of these are being hosted in Tanzania (92,943), followed by Rwanda (69,408) the Democratic Republic of Congo (14,322) and Uganda (13,964).</p>

**New
Research,
reports or
documents**

[Migration in Kenya – A Country Profile 2015](#): The profile provides an overview of Kenya's migration data, trends, legal framework, and governance structures. It describes the impact of migration on the country's environment and socioeconomic development, as well as exploring the migration and health nexus. The profiling exercise, undertaken at the request of the Government of Kenya, may be considered as a first step towards an integrated and effective migration data management framework for the country.

[Trafficking in Persons Report](#): The US Department of State ranked each country onto one of four tiers according to the action the respective government is taking to combat human trafficking. This year's report placed a special emphasis on human trafficking in the global marketplace. This particularly highlighted the hidden risks that migrants may encounter when seeking employment, and the steps that can be taken to prevent trafficking. In the Horn of Africa and Yemen, countries placed between a Tier 2 to Tier 3 ranking. Ethiopia and Kenya ranked top with Tier 2, showing a significant efforts to combat human trafficking, with Kenya climbing from a Tier 2 Watch List position in 2014. Djibouti ranked at the Tier 2 Watch List level for the fourth consecutive year in a row. The country avoided the automatic downgrade to Tier 3, after developing a national plan that if implemented would bring the country in line with minimum standards. Eritrea and Yemen maintained a Tier 3 ranking for the consecutive 7th and 5th years respectively. Eritrea's government was particularly cited as complicit in human trafficking through its mandatory conscription programme. Somalia remained as a Special Case for the 13th year in a row.

["I was left with nothing": 'Voluntary' departures of asylum seekers from Israel to Rwanda and Uganda](#): Based on 24 interviews with Sudanese and Eritrean nationals who have left Israel, this report by the International Refugee Rights Initiative, seeks to document the experiences of asylum seekers who have participated in Israel's voluntary departure procedure. The report finds that the two main factors influencing asylum seekers' decision to leave Israel, are the country's detention policy and the near impossibility of asylum seekers to acquire refugee status. The findings of the report allege that asylum seekers using this procedure do not receive any legal status when they arrive (despite Israeli assurances that they would) and are either encouraged to leave the countries, or remain in the country in a clandestine manner.

[Policy Crisis? The M-word and the R-word](#): This article by RMMS highlights the importance of using a mixed migration lens to analyse the flows of people on the move and suggests that the current European debate around policy formulation should do the same. Not only are people moving with mixed statuses, but also for complicated reasons and with mixed motives, which has led to a confusion among actors. The article concludes that there must be a clear policy, or two policies for refugees and irregular migrants.

[Europe searching for solutions: developments so far](#): Amid the fast-paced and ever-changing dynamics of the so-called European "refugee and migrant crisis", this article by RMMS analyses the current developments in the search for solutions. It concludes that the focus on containment and barriers actually plays into the hands of smuggling networks, and that the call to tackle the migration challenge upstream is one that will take a long time to bear fruit.

[UNHCR regional data on the Mediterranean situation](#): UNHCR launched a data sharing and information portal that gives a regional overview of the arrivals in Europe.

This information sheet is distributed to over 1,200 agencies, academic institutions, donors, embassies, journalists, government officials / departments, international and multi-national organisations and related non-government organisations. Sources: Data is sourced from a wide variety of collaborators, partners, international and local organisations, media outlets and individuals in the region. The key refugee agency – UNHCR – and migration agency – IOM – are frequently the origin of specific refugee or migrant return-related data. RMMS is a unit/project within the Danish Refugee Council and also uses data and information generated by DRC activities. RMMS makes its own independent editorial decisions as to what sections and what data is included in this monthly update.