



**Regional mixed migration summary for May 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
<b>Yemen</b>	<p><i>The conflict in Yemen entered its third 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><b>Conflict-related displacement:</b> Continued conflict in resulted in increased internal displacement. A UN assessment concluded that 1,019,762 people have been internally displaced as a result of the escalated conflict in Yemen as of 28<sup>th</sup> May 2015. This figure represents only IDPs registered since 26 March 2015; there were over 300,000 IDPs registered before the escalation of the conflict in March. The number of displaced persons is expected to increase further over the coming months as the ongoing conflict displaces more people from their homes and more information becomes available.</p> <p><b>Continued arrivals from the Horn of Africa:</b> In May 2015, an estimated number of at least 392 (381 Ethiopians, 11 Somalis) mixed migrants arrived in Yemen via the Red Sea. These new arrivals were reported at Al-Jadid, Al-Huraiqia and Al Gurera (Ta'iz governorate). Whilst the number of the number of new arrivals have significantly decreased compared to previous years, due to the escalating conflict in Yemen, the data presented in this report is an estimate based on records of monitoring teams that are still active. As the majority of migrant monitoring exercises have been suspended, the number of actual arrivals may be higher. It is estimated that the number of arrivals of migrants/refugees via both the Red Sea and Arabian sea since the conflict escalated in March is between 7,500-8,000 people (between 26<sup>th</sup> March and 31<sup>st</sup> May 2015). This figure is an estimated and has not been verified.</p> <p>As in previous months, some of the newly arrived migrants/refugees declared that they were not aware of the conflict, while others claimed to have been convinced by the smugglers that the conflict ended. A majority of the new arrivals reportedly continued their journey towards Saudi Arabia, while others headed towards Kharaz refugee camp.</p> <p><b>Departures from Yemen:</b> The number of people fleeing Yemen to the Horn of Africa (Djibouti, Puntland, South Central and Somaliland) continued to rise in May 2015. As of 4<sup>th</sup> June 2015, almost 30,000 people had arrived in Djibouti and Somalia from Yemen. The majority of arrivals in the Horn of Africa comprised of returning Somali migrants/refugees, who made up over 90% of new arrivals, Yemenis comprising 7% and other nationalities rounding up the remaining 3%.</p> <p><b>Yemeni nationals in Saudi Arabia:</b> The Saudi government issued a decree declaring that Yemeni irregular migrants would have their status legalised through the issuance of renewable visitor visas for an initial six months. The Yemeni Embassy in Riyadh subsequently began the process of issuing an estimated 231,000 documents for Yemenis residing irregularly in the Kingdom. The majority of these individuals are said to have been in Saudi Arabia prior to the start of the conflict.</p> <p><b>Planned UN-led Government/Houthi Consultation Talks Postponed:</b> Following a request from the Government of Yemen and other key stakeholders for additional preparation time, the UN Secretary-General requested his Special Envoy to Yemen to postpone consultations in Geneva scheduled to have been held on 28<sup>th</sup> May 2015. In May, parties to the conflict also observed a five-day ceasefire to permit agencies and NGOs provide humanitarian aid to civilians.</p> <p><b>Migrant vulnerability:</b> Migrants/refugees continued to face conflict-related risks. On 21<sup>st</sup> May 2015, media reports alleged that Saudi Arabian forces shelled an international humanitarian aid office in northern Yemen, killing at least</p>

	<p>5 Ethiopian refugees and injuring 10 others. In response to continuous shelling in the northern city of Haradh, IOM relocated about 500 migrants hosted in its Migrant Response Center to a new facility. According to UNHCR, as of 15<sup>th</sup> May 2015, 1,849 people (including civilians) have been killed and 7,394 others injured.</p>
<b>Djibouti</b>	<p><b>Departures to Yemen:</b> Ethiopian migrants continue to travel towards Yemen, following the route through Dire Dawa and Dewele, reaching Tadjoura (Ethiopia) and finally Obock (Djibouti). Whilst the number of mixed migrants departing from Obock has significantly decreased, available data from the still active monitoring teams suggests that at least 392 migrants departed Obock and arrived in the coastal towns in Ta'iz Governate. As the majority of migrant monitoring exercises have been suspended, the number of actual arrivals may be higher.</p> <p><b>Arrivals from Yemen:</b> Between 26<sup>th</sup> March and 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2015, IOM reported that an estimated 16,801 people had arrived in Djibouti by air and sea from Yemen. 40% of these arrivals were transiting Third Country Nationals, 50% were Yemenis and 10% Djiboutians. It is estimated that an average of 1,680 individuals arrived each week in Djibouti fleeing Yemen since the escalation of the conflict in March. On 4<sup>th</sup> June, UNHCR issued a Djibouti Response Plan on the Yemen Situation covering the period between April-September 2015. Population planning figures estimate the arrival of 15,000 refugees, including some 7,500 Yemenis, 3,750 Somali refugees, and 3,750 Eritrean and Ethiopian refugees over the coming months.</p> <p><b>Refugees from Yemen:</b> As of 31<sup>st</sup> May 2015, UNHCR and ONARS (the government refugee entity) registered 1,823 refugees, comprising 1,746 Yemeni nationals. Approximately 1,128 refugees are registered in Obock or are hosted at the Markazi camp that is close to Obock. In May 2015, Government of Djibouti announced plans to restrict departures from Obock to Djibouti city, a move if implemented that would limit the movement of refugees.</p> <p><b>Migrant Vulnerability:</b> Reports from migrants continue to highlight the persisting difficult living conditions and poor access to basic services including water, food and shelter. Other reports indicate that some migrants arriving in Djibouti from third countries were unaware of the conflict in Yemen, or were convinced by smugglers that the conflict had ended.</p>
<b>Somaliland</b>	<p><b>Arrivals from Yemen:</b> As of 13<sup>th</sup> June 2015, 4,182 migrants/refugees from Yemen arrived in Somaliland (3,363 Somalis, 755 Yemenis, 51 Ethiopians, 13 other nationals). Somali returns make up approximately 80% of the new arrivals in Somaliland and the majority of the new arrivals are Somali returnees originating from Mogadishu. UNHCR published a Somalia Response Plan on the Yemen situation on 4<sup>th</sup> June that covering the period between April-September 2015. According to the plan UNHCR and IOM are working with population planning figures of 43,000 persons, including 14,700 Yemeni refugees, 1,400 refugees of other nationalities, 20,450 Somalia returnees and 6,450 people from host communities.</p> <p><b>Somaliland Government announces halt on accepting migrants/refugees from Yemen:</b> In mid-May, media <a href="#">reports</a> stated that the Government of Somaliland announced that it would cease accepting any more migrants/refugees fleeing the war in Yemen. The reason behind the announcement was stated to be the lack of funding to support the migrants and returning refugees in Somaliland. The Somaliland authorities subsequently rescinded this decision and reopened their borders and resumed accepting all people fleeing the conflict in Yemen.</p> <p><b>Means and Modalities of Travel:</b> UNHCR reports stated that new arrivals travelled from their homes in Taiz, Hudayda and Sanna to Mokha Port using various routes, and passing through checkpoints controlled by different militia groups. Many took buses, paying between 25 USD and 60 USD for their bus tickets and subsequently boarded boats to cross the Arabian sea paying between 75 USD and 100 USD, with younger children being allowed free travel.</p>
<b>Puntland</b>	<p><b>Arrivals from Yemen:</b> In May 2015, there were 6,059 arrivals from Yemen in Puntland, a 253% increase from</p>

	<p>arrivals in April 2015. Between 27<sup>th</sup> March and 13<sup>th</sup> June 2015, 12,588 migrants/refugees fleeing Yemen have arrived in Puntland, 4,136 of whom arrived during the first two weeks of June alone.</p> <p><b>Modalities of travel:</b> In May 2015, migrants used bigger boats to travel resulting in a larger number of people arriving at the same time, and putting strain on the reception centres in Puntland and Somaliland whose capacities to process large numbers were limited. The largest single arrival since the beginning of the Yemen crisis was registered in Bossaso, on 27<sup>th</sup> May 2015, with a boat carrying 2,413 individuals. A second boat arrived on the evening of the same day carrying 187 individuals (38 women, 64 men and 85 children), and bringing the number of arrivals in a single day to 2,600 individuals.</p> <p><b>Relocation of returnees:</b> According to media reports, Puntland began relocating some of the families who fled from the conflict in Yemen to their areas of origin with most returning to areas in South Central Somalia. Puntland government officials stated that 1,000 people had been relocated as of 18<sup>th</sup> May 2015. The relocations were done to Mogadishu, Hargeisa and Lasanod.</p>
<p><b>Somalia (South Central)</b></p>	<p><b>Returns from Yemen:</b> On 18<sup>th</sup> May 2-15, 95 Somali nationals were the first arrivals to arrive directly into South Central from Yemen. Of those arriving in Somaliland and Puntland, 67% have indicated their intentions to travel onwards to various destinations within South Central Somalia.</p> <p><b>Forced Evictions:</b> According to UNHCR, over 39,000 persons have been forcefully evicted from public and private land buildings in Mogadishu during the first quarter of 2015. Forced eviction of IDPs and urban poor from public and private land and buildings in major towns of Somalia continues to be a key protection concern in South Central Somalia. IDPs are being pushed further into the outskirts of Mogadishu where access to basic services is limited. Over 39,000 persons were forcefully evicted from public and private land and buildings in Mogadishu during the first quarter of 2015 while significant numbers remain at risk of forced eviction. In response, the Somalia Protection Cluster activated the Housing, Land and Property area of responsibility to address eviction and other related concerns.</p> <p><b>Refugees in the neighbouring countries:</b> As of May 2015, there were 972,051 registered Somali refugees and asylum seekers in neighbouring countries with Kenya hosting the largest number (45%), followed by Ethiopia (25%), Yemen (25%), and other countries (5% - Djibouti, Uganda, Egypt, Eritrea and Tanzania).</p>
<p><b>South Sudan</b></p>	<p><b>Renewed displacement triggered by food insecurity and ongoing conflict:</b> At least 40% of the South Sudan's population, 4.6 million people, face acute food insecurity according to a <a href="#">report</a> published by the IPC Technical Working Group in South Sudan. While the most severe shortages are predicted for the country's northeast where the fighting has centred, the hunger belt now spreads across much of the country's northern half. The search for food was identified as one of the key drivers of cross border migration and UNHCR recorded more than 9,000 new arrivals in both Sudan and Ethiopia in May 2015. Uganda received around 7,000 South Sudanese in May 2015, the most of any month this year. Given the worsening security and humanitarian situation on the South Sudanese side of the border, UNHCR and its partners are preparing for the refugee influx to grow. Since the start of 2015 to May 2015, 60,000 South Sudanese refugees fled to neighbouring countries: Sudan (30,000), Ethiopia (15,000) and Uganda (15,000) bringing the total South Sudanese who fled the country since December 2013 to approximately 555,000.</p> <p><b>Internal Displacement:</b> UNHCR reported that there were approximately 1.5 million displaced persons in South Sudan as of 31<sup>st</sup> May 2015.</p>
<p><b>Sudan</b></p>	<p><b>Continued Arrivals from South Sudan:</b> As a result of the escalation of conflict in South Sudan's Upper Nile and Unity States, over 13,000 refugees arrived in Sudan during the last two weeks of May 2015 (with 7,000 of new arrivals recorded in the first four days of June 2015). Previous escalation of conflict in Upper Nile State in March and April 2015 forced over 15,000 individuals to flee across the border to Sudan.</p> <p><b>Darfur Crisis drives displacement:</b> Violence in Sudan's Darfur escalated during the first quarter of 2015 resulting in more than 150,000 people internally displaced between January and May 2015. In May 2015, inter-tribal clashes broke out in East Darfur state over a long-running land dispute. The clashes reportedly left hundreds of dead and</p>

	<p>wounded and displaced thousands more Darfuris. Approximately 430,000 people have been displaced in Darfur since the start of 2014, bringing the total in the region to 2.5 million, according to the UN with approximately 1.5 million being children. About 3.1 million people have been displaced in Sudan as a whole. Conflict in Darfur has been ongoing since ethnic groups took up arms in 2003 against the Arab-led government in Khartoum, which they accused of discriminating against them.</p> <p><b>Migrant Vulnerability- Eritrean asylum-seekers kidnapped:</b> UNHCR reported the abduction of 14 Eritrean asylum-seekers by unknown armed elements in eastern Sudan on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2015. The incident occurred when an armed group in a pickup truck opened fire on a convoy organized by the Sudanese Commissioner for Refugees (COR), which was transporting 49 Eritrean asylum-seekers from Wad Sharifey reception centre near Kassala to Shagarab refugee camp. 14 asylum-seekers were kidnapped comprising of 7 unaccompanied children, 5 women and 2 men. In addition to this, 6 asylum-seekers suffered from minor injuries when they jumped from the truck in an attempt to escape. UNHCR is providing support to the survivors, who have been moved to in Shagarab camp and is in contact with the Sudanese authorities, who are investigating the case.</p>
<p><b>Eritrea</b></p>	<p><b>UN reports gross human rights violations in Eritrea:</b> The UN Commission of Inquiry on Human Rights in Eritrea released a <a href="#">report</a> on Eritrea on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2015 highlighting that the key drivers of the mass migration out of Eritrea were systematic, widespread and gross human rights violations, forced labour and imprisonment, and enforced and open-ended national service. Citing an array of human rights violations on a scope and scale seldom witnessed elsewhere, the report described a totalitarian state reportedly bent on controlling Eritreans through a vast security apparatus that has penetrated all levels of society. The report claimed that approximately 5,000 Eritreans flee their country every month. The Commission of Inquiry is scheduled to formally present its report to the UN Human Rights Council on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2015 in Geneva. The Eritrean government <a href="#">responded</a> to the report stating that the findings were "totally unfounded and devoid of all merit".</p> <p>The Commission's findings are in contrast to a December 2014 report issued by the Danish Immigration Service that suggested that Eritreans were leaving their country primarily for economic reasons and not human rights abuses. Subsequently, a number of EU member states toughened their stance on asylum requests from Eritrea, with the UK Home Office citing the Danish report in its latest <a href="#">country guidance</a>. Eritreans make up the second largest national group of asylum-seekers risking their lives to cross the Mediterranean after Syrians. Between January and May 2015, an estimated 11,000 Eritreans arrived in Italy.</p> <p><b>Eritrean migrants allegedly kidnapped by Islamic State militants in Libya:</b> The media <a href="#">reported</a> that militants from the self-proclaimed Islamic State kidnapped 86 Eritrean refugees from a smugglers' caravan in western Libya. The militants are reported to have struck at dawn on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2015, stopping the vehicle carrying the migrants/refugees before separating Christian refugees from their Muslim counterparts, according to an official with the Stockholm-based International Commission on Eritrean Refugees. IS militants had previously announced the establishment of three 'Islamic State-run' provinces across Libya.</p>
<p><b>Ethiopia</b></p>	<p><b>Ethiopia repatriates migrants from Libya:</b> In May 2015, the Ethiopian government announced that it would voluntarily repatriate hundreds of its citizens from Libya. The announcement was in response to the April 2015 killing of 30 Ethiopian Christian migrants in Libya reportedly carried out by militants from by the 'Islamic State' group. The Ethiopian government further announced that it would conduct the repatriation operation in collaboration with Sudanese and Egyptian governments and its embassies in these countries.</p> <p><b>Relocation of Refugees Completed:</b> The relocation of South Sudanese refugees from the flooded camps of Leitchuor and Nip Nip to Jewi camp was successfully completed and 47,038 refugees were relocated. UNHCR is working with the Government of Ethiopia and partners to rehabilitate the former camps in collaboration with the host community.</p> <p><b>Refugees in Ethiopia:</b> The Ethiopian government announced it would grant <i>prima facie</i> refugee status to Yemeni asylum seekers fleeing the conflict. As of 31<sup>st</sup> May 2015, there were 294 refugees from Yemen. Refugees from South Sudan also continued to arrive in Ethiopia in May 2015 bringing the total number of South Sudanese</p>

	<p>refugees to 273,591 as of 9<sup>th</sup> June 2015.</p> <p><b>New Anti-Trafficking Law Proposed:</b> The Ethiopian government stated that it would present a draft bill introducing harsher penalties on trafficking to parliament for ratification. The proposed new law is expected to carry stiffer penalties against those convicted of trafficking. Ethiopia's current laws stipulate prison terms ranging from 5 to 20 years for crimes related to human trafficking and fines not exceeding \$2,500. The proposed Bill is expected to raise the penalty and according to a Government official, to "be proportionate to [the] harm inflicted on the victims".</p> <p><b>Smugglers arrested in Ethiopia:</b> Media <a href="#">reports</a> stated that the Ethiopian government arrested 200 human smugglers in May 2015, reportedly as part of its efforts to stem the flow of irregular migrants out of the country. Ethiopian Federal Affairs Minister told the media that the government was also searching for 80 other human smugglers who are suspected of conducting overseas operations.</p> <p><b>Migrant Smuggling and Trafficking Workshop:</b> In May 2015, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) held two training workshops in Addis Ababa intended to strengthen both Ethiopia's and Djibouti's legislation against migrant smuggling and human trafficking as well as bolstering cooperation between the two countries. UNODC trained the participants on how to incorporate crucial concepts of the UN Convention on Transnational Organized Crime and the international protocols on human trafficking (Palermo Protocol) and migrant smuggling into their national laws and analysed the different channels for international cooperation. The workshops brought together experts and high-level officials from ministries of the two countries.</p>
<p><b>Kenya</b></p>	<p><b>Voluntary repatriation of Somali refugees extended:</b> A Tripartite Commission Meeting on the voluntary repatriation of Somali refugees took place in Mogadishu on 2nd June 2015. Government representatives of Kenya and Somalia and UNHCR extended the provision of voluntary return and reintegration assistance to Somali refugees to 6 additional districts in Somalia, up from the current 3. The newly announced districts are Mogadishu, Afgoye, Balad, Belet Weyne, Jowhar, and Wanle Weyne. This is in addition to the existing areas of return Kismayo, Baidoa and Luuq. Refugees from Dadaab voluntarily returning to other parts of Somalia will also be provided with return assistance. As of 31st May 2015, there were 349,573 refugees and asylum seekers hosted in Dadaab.</p> <p><b>Resumption of the Voluntary repatriation exercise:</b> The repatriation of Somali refugees from the Dadaab camp, which had been temporarily suspended in April 2015 due to heavy rains that affected roads resumed in May 2015. As of 31st May 2015, 2,048 Somali refugees who were living in Dadaab camp, had been repatriated.</p> <p><b>Fears of insecurity in refugee camps:</b> An attack allegedly carried out by the militant group al-Shabaab on a police convoy 45km from Dadaab town on 25th May 2015, indirectly affected the Dadaab refugee operation. UNHCR temporarily suspended its operations in the camps on 26th and 27th May with resumption of activities on 29<sup>th</sup> May 2015. However, the general insecurity led to evacuation of Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) staff from the camps.</p> <p><b>Returns from Uganda:</b> 720 Kenyan refugees who had fled to Uganda during the 2007-08 post-election violence in Kenya were voluntarily repatriated on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2015. Plans to return a further 530 refugees are underway.</p> <p><b>Anti-Trafficking Action Plan launched:</b> With the support of UNODC, the Government of Kenya launched its National Plan of Action for Combatting Human Trafficking, between 2013 and 2017. The Plan sets out priority activities required to implement the Counter Trafficking in Persons legislation and sets target dates for activities.</p>
<p><b>Israel</b></p>	<p><b>Israeli government proposes additional plans to enforce repatriation of African migrants:</b> The Israeli government announced that it would seek approval of plans to provide US\$3,500 grants to African refugees to encourage them to leave the country. Israel already gives grants of US\$1,500 to migrants who agree to leave but the proposal would see the figure raised. Other measures previously approved to encourage the relocation of migrants include the establishment of a migrant detention centre in the Negev desert. Migrants who do not take up the repatriation offer will be reportedly be subject to detention in this new facility. Human rights organisations have</p>

criticised this move and termed these repatriations as 'coerced'.

**Asylum seekers from the Horn of Africa:** In May 2015, the media carried [reports](#) of migrant returns from Israel to Uganda and Sudan in which interviewees claimed that the promises of work contained in recent Israeli agreements with African countries failed to materialise leaving the migrant/refugee returnees living in limbo. Most migrants/asylum seekers arriving from Israel in Rwanda and reportedly Uganda, make their way to South Sudan or Sudan with the intention of travelling north towards Libya and thereafter to Europe.

Other regional news and news from other regions

**The European Agenda on Migration:** In May 2015, the European Commission (EC) unveiled its European Agenda on Migration outlining a series of emergency and long-term measures to deal with the unprecedented number of people crossing the Mediterranean for its 28-nation EU member-states to adopt and enact. The EC pledged to triple the budget of the maritime border monitoring operations Triton and Poseidon; to launch a counter-trafficking intervention in Libyan territorial waters; and to implement quotas for a fairer system of processing asylum claims among European Union (EU) member states. According to the Agenda, asylum seekers would be distributed amongst EU member states according to "emergency relocation quotas," a system designed to relieve frontline countries such as Italy and Greece from shouldering the lion's share of processing asylum claims. The plan would apply predominantly to Syrian and Eritrean nationals arriving in Italy or Greece after 15<sup>th</sup> April 2015. The Commission said it could also apply to Malta if faced with a sudden influx of migrants/refugees.

The unveiling of the EU's Agenda was in addition to moves announced earlier in the month by the EU for a voluntary scheme to resettle 20,000 refugees fleeing conflict who are currently living outside the EU. The quota system, which was requested by Italy and endorsed by both France and Germany, is expected to take into account a country's GDP, population, unemployment rate, and the number of asylum seekers already being processed. However the idea of using quotas to resettle those who have made it to Europe has caused controversy in some EU states. France, Spain, Hungary, Slovakia and Estonia have voiced concerns. Denmark has a right to opt out and the plan won't apply to the UK and Ireland unless they choose to "opt in."

**EU backs plans for naval force to combat smugglers:** EU ministers approved plans to establish a naval force based in Italy to combat people-smuggling operating from Libya. The aim is to launch the operation in June 2015 with a headquarters in Rome under an Italian admiral. Disrupting the people-smuggling networks is part of a wider EU agenda for tackling the increase in irregular migration. The EU also aimed at tightening co-operation with migrant transit countries in Africa, to make it easier to send economic migrants back to their countries of origin

**Libya declines to support EU plan to destroy smuggler vessels:** Libyan UN ambassador Ibrahim Dabbashi (representing the Libyan government based in Tobruk) stated that Libya rejected the EU plans on the use of force to seize or destroy smugglers boats within Libya. According to media [reports](#), the current Security Council president said that the Council expected that Libya would support the EU proposal, but Dabbashi said that his government "hasn't even been consulted and ruled] out EU forces on Libyan soil. 'In May 2015, Federica Mogherini, the EU's chief foreign and security policy coordinator, was scheduled to brief the UN Security Council in New York on the plans for a "Chapter 7" resolution authorising the use of force but these plans were suspended until the issue of the consent of the Libyan authorities was resolved.

**Greece becoming increasingly popular as the main entry point into Europe for migrants/refugees:** Greece is fast catching up with Italy as the main entry point into Europe for migrants and asylum-seekers. In May 2015, the European border control agency, Frontex, reported that the number of migrants and refugees crossing the Aegean Sea from Turkey to Greece had increased by 500% since 2014. In comparison, the number of migrants attempting the perilous journey across of the Mediterranean to Italy has gone up just 5%. This reflects a growing trend for migrants (particularly Syrian refugees) to avoid chaotic Libya and seek alternate routes. According to [Frontex](#), the "Eastern Mediterranean Route", described as "the passage used by migrants crossing through Turkey to the European Union via Greece, southern Bulgaria or Cyprus", is not a new path for migrants. Since 2008, the route has become the second biggest "migratory hot spot" in the EU, and it was Europe's "second largest area for detections of irregular border-crossings" in 2014. MHub, on behalf of the North Africa Mixed Migration Task Force, also [reported](#) a threefold rise in influx of migrants/refugees in the first quarter of 2015, compared to the same period in 2014.

**Italy sentences Tunisian smuggler for life following boat capsizing incident:** Italian courts handed a life sentence to a Tunisian smuggler convicted of attempting to smuggle migrants/refugees to Europe from North

Africa. The 23-year old Tunisian was in charge of a boat packed with migrants when it sank off the coast of Libya on May 12, 2014, resulting in the loss of 200 lives.

**Egyptian security forces claim to have arrested over 6,000 irregular migrants:** A new report documenting the Egyptian military's work from October 2014 to April 2015, published on the Egyptian military spokesman's official Facebook page, stated that border control forces had arrested 6,004 people attempting to illegally enter or leave Egypt. The statement also claimed that had taken control of 521 smuggling tunnels, including 63 located "between 1 and 2.8 kilometers away from international borders". Read media reports on the statement [here](#). Local media further [reported](#) that a draft migration law had been presented to the Egyptian government that if enacted, would see irregular migrants, including refugees and asylum seekers fleeing conflict zones, imprisoned for between 15 and 20 years for attempted 'illegal immigration'.

**Burundi refugees flee to neighbouring countries:** Regional Representatives of OCHA, UNHCR, UNICEF and WFP met in May 2015 to agree on the development of a [Regional Refugee Response Plan](#) to respond to the exodus of refugees from Burundi into Rwanda, Tanzania and the Democratic Republic of Congo. UNHCR reports that the outflow of refugees from Burundi has not stopped, but in May 2015, rates fell to about 100 arrivals a day in each of the main receiving countries. There are now estimated to be more than 90,000 Burundian refugees in the region, including 10,000 in Democratic Republic of the Congo, 47,000 in Tanzania, 28,000 in Rwanda and 5,500 in Uganda. UNHCR further reported that the majority of those fleeing Burundi are women and children, including a large number of unaccompanied children.

**South Africa deports irregular migrants:** South Africa deported more than 400 Mozambicans, weeks after anti-foreigner violence in Durban and Johannesburg left seven people dead. Mobs targeted workers from Zimbabwe, Nigeria, Mozambique and other African countries. Many unemployed South Africans accuse foreigners of taking their jobs in a country where the unemployment rate is 24%. The move follows a police operation that uncovered hundreds of irregular migrants. Government sources issued a statement in May 2015 confirming that more than 3,900 people, including 1,650 irregular migrants were detained between April and May 2015.

**South-East Asia:** 25,000 migrants/refugees boarded smugglers' boats in the first quarter of 2015. Indonesia and Malaysia, Bangladesh and Myanmar first reacted to the new rise in migrants by vowing to send back smugglers' boats. Facing public pressure, Malaysia and Indonesia reversed their stance in mid-May, saying they would provide shelter to the migrants/refugees still at sea. Around 30-40% of the rescued people are believed to be Rohingya refugees (a persecuted minority in Myanmar), while the rest are migrants fleeing poverty in Bangladesh. Authorities in Malaysia and Thailand subsequently discovered a number of mass graves in recent weeks, believed to hold the remains of refugees and other victims of human traffickers in the region

**Regional Meeting on Irregular Migration in the Indian Ocean:** In May 2015, a Special Meeting on Irregular Migration in the Indian Ocean organised by the Royal Thai Government bringing together 17 countries in the Asia-Pacific and UNHCR, IOM and UNODC was held. The meeting concluded with a set of proposals and recommendations focusing on immediate responses to assist people in distress at sea, as well as efforts to curb people smuggling and trafficking, and address the root causes of these movements. Volker Türk, UNHCR's Assistant High Commissioner for Protection, assured States that UNHCR would do its best to identify third country resettlement solutions for refugees in the region, but that this was becoming increasingly difficult given the number of major crises around the world putting strain on resettlement places.

**New  
Research,  
reports or  
documents**

**Migration Policy Institute: Before the Boat: Understanding the Migrant Journey:** In response to the recent surge in migrants crossing the Mediterranean—and the deaths and injuries that often result from failed journeys—European policymakers have struggled to find effective policy responses to stem the flow of boats. This report argues that to develop effective policy in this area, policymakers must recognize the driving forces behind migrants' decisions and movements through a comprehensive understanding of smuggling networks and the migrants who utilize them. The report, drawing from the authors' interviews with migrants, highlights gaps in evidence on migrants' decision-making processes, perceptions of risk, and access to information. It also examines smuggling networks, which have been thus far overlooked in research efforts. Click [here](#) to read the report.

**VU University of Amsterdam: EU Migrant Death Database:** The VU University Amsterdam released a border death database documenting migrant deaths along the Southern European borders. The data is based on official death records of migrants who died at the Southern European borders in the years 1990-2013. The database contains individualized information on 3,188 people who died while attempting to reach southern EU countries from the Balkans, the Middle East, and North & West Africa, and whose bodies were found in or brought to Europe. It is

unique because it includes – where known – date and place of death, cause of death, gender, age, country of origin, and whether or not the person was identified. The database can be accessed [here](#).

**Forced Migration Review, Issue #49: Disasters and displacement in a changing climate:** With the projected increase in the frequency and intensity of disasters associated with climate change, it is anticipated that the number of people displaced in the context of disasters – already significant – will rise. Existing national, regional and international legal regimes respond to only some of the protection concerns arising from displacement in the context of disasters. The articles in the May 2-15 issue of the FMR attempt to reflect the research, the debates and the voices. In 2015, the Nansen Initiative, led by the Governments of Norway and Switzerland, is bringing together states to discuss a Protection Agenda addressing the needs of people displaced in the context of disasters caused by natural hazards, including those linked to climate change. Some articles in this issue of FMR emanate from the Nansen Initiative's regional consultations and civil society meetings that have been taking place since 2013. Click [here](#) to download the publication.

**Columbia University Press: Development-Induced Displacement and Resettlement-Causes, Consequences, and Socio-Legal Context, by Bogumil Terminski:** This book explores the issue of development-induced resettlement, with a particular emphasis on the humanitarian, legal, and social aspects of this problem. Each year over 15 million people are forced to abandon their homes to make space for economic development infrastructure. The construction of dams and irrigation projects, the expansion of communication networks, urbanization and re-urbanization, the extraction and transportation of mineral resources, forced evictions in urban areas, and population redistribution schemes count among the many possible causes. The author aims to present the issue of development-caused displacement as a highly diverse, global social problem occurring in all regions of the world. As a human rights issue it poses a challenge to public international law and to institutions providing humanitarian assistance. A significant part of this book is devoted to the current dynamics of development-caused resettlement in Europe, which has been neglected in the academic literature so far. To purchase this book click [here](#).

**Human Rights Watch: Detained, Beaten, Deported Saudi Abuses against Migrants during Mass Expulsions:** Human Rights Watch released a new report in May 2015 drawing on interviews with 60 workers deported to Yemen and Somalia who experienced serious abuses during the expulsion campaign. The interviewees described beatings and detention in poor conditions before they were deported. Many arrived back in their countries destitute, unable to buy food or pay for transportation to their home areas, in some cases because Saudi officials arbitrarily confiscated their personal property. To read the report, click [here](#).

**Amnesty International: Libya is full of cruelty:** Amnesty International shares stories from inside war-torn Libya where thousands of foreign nationals, including refugees and asylum-seekers, face abductions for ransom, torture and sexual violence by traffickers, smugglers and organized criminal groups. Many are systematically subjected to discrimination and exploitation by their employers or face indefinite detention in appalling conditions on account of their immigration status. Religious minorities, in particular Christian migrants and refugees, are persecuted and are at highest risk of abuse from armed groups that seek to enforce their own interpretation of Islamic law. Click [here](#) to read the report.

*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.*