

January 2016

Regional mixed migration summary for January 2016 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 caseload 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 tenth 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>Internal displacement: 21 of Yemen's 22 governorates are affected by conflict, and continuing airstrikes and localised fighting continue to deteriorate humanitarian conditions inside the country and spur displacement. More than 2.5 million people are internally displaced within the country.</p> <p>Continued arrivals from the Horn of Africa: A total of 10,588 migrants and asylum seekers (75% Ethiopians and 14% Somalis) (85% male, 15% female) arrived from the Horn of Africa to Yemen via the Red Sea, Arabian Sea and Gulf of Aden aboard 112 boats in January 2016.</p> <p>An estimated number of 1,974 (1,945 Ethiopians, 29 Somalis and 1 Eritrean) migrants and asylum seekers were recorded to have arrived on the Red Sea coast of Yemen. This is the highest monthly arrival rate recorded along this route since the outbreak of conflict in Yemen in March 2015, and represents a 124% increase on arrivals recorded in December 2015. The migrants arrived aboard 26 boats which departed from Obock, Djibouti landing in the towns of Al-Batin, Al-Hujaf, Al-Soqaya, Al-Uzaf, Al-Watia, Beer Issa, Qurera, Wadi Koha and Wadi Makhaba in Ta'iz and Lahj governorates. Migrants reported paying between USD 100-200 for the journey across the Red Sea. 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.</p> <p>An additional 8,614 migrants and asylum seekers (7,193 Ethiopians and 1,420 Somalis) arrived on Arabian Sea coasts of Yemen in January 2016.</p> <p>Migrant vulnerability: In January 2016, 459 migrants and asylum seekers encountered by monitoring mission teams on the Red Sea coasts reported witnessing or being victim to numerous violations. 333 new arrivals (72% of those encountered) particularly reported abduction on arrival in Yemen. 41 others reported being held hostage in Obock and having to pay a fee of USD 100 each to secure their release. Other migrants reported instances of physical assault and robbery. One group of arrivals reported the disappearance of 9 female Ethiopian migrants. Many of the migrants reported a shortage of food and water in Obock.</p> <p>Refugees in Yemen: According to the latest figures from UNHCR there are approximately 264,615 refugees situated around urban centres in the country, of whom 253,398 are Somalis.</p> <p>Departures from Yemen: As of 8th February 2016, the number of people fleeing Yemen to the Horn of Africa (Djibouti, Ethiopia, Somalia and Sudan) had totalled 80,562 persons (32,199 in Djibouti, 11,455 in Ethiopia, 30,847 in Somalia, and 6,061 in Sudan). Yemenis and Somalis represent the largest proportion of people moving out of Yemen, accounting for 29% and 37% of movements respectively. Djibouti remained as the primary destination for Yemeni nationals, with 76% of those moving opting to travel to Djibouti.</p> <p>The latest statistics and overview of the displacement situation arising out of the Yemen crisis can be found on the UNHCR data sharing and information portal.</p>

<p>Djibouti</p>	<p>Departures to Yemen: Data from monitoring teams along the Red Sea coasts indicate that at least 1,974 (1,945 Ethiopians, 29 Somalis and 1 Eritrean) migrants and asylum seekers departed from Obock and arrived in coastal towns in Yemen. This is the highest monthly arrival rate recorded along this route since the outbreak of conflict in Yemen in March 2015. Migrants and asylum seekers reported paying between USD 100-200 to make the boat crossing to Yemen.</p> <p>Arrivals from Yemen: As of 8th February 2016, a total of 32,199 persons had arrived in Djibouti from Yemen since the outbreak of the conflict in March 2015. Djibouti continues to be the primary destination for Yemeni nationals who account for 56% of the arrivals so far. Third Country Nationals make up 37% and Djiboutian returnees account for 6%.</p> <p>According to UNHCR, border monitoring trends indicate an increase in boats arriving from Aden, Yemen. The majority of arrivals from Aden have declined to register as refugees, as they prefer to use Djibouti as a transit country to unknown final destinations.</p> <p>Refugee arrivals from Yemen: As of 24th January 2016, UNHCR and ONARS (the government refugee agency) had registered 6,541 refugees of which 6,316 are Yemeni nationals, 160 are Somali and 40 are Eritrean. 3,106 refugees reside in Markazi refugee camp, 1,097 have been registered in Djibouti city, and the remainder are in Obock.</p>
<p>Somaliland</p>	<p>Arrivals from Yemen: As of 8th February 2016, a total of 9,668 migrants/refugees/returnees (81% Somali, 18% Yemeni) had arrived in Somaliland since the outbreak of conflict in Yemen in March 2015. New arrivals docked in the towns of Berbera, Hargeisa, Lughaya, Maydh and Zeila. 115 persons arrived during January, with 11 new arrivals registered in February so far.</p> <p>According to UNHCR, new arrivals reported paying between USD 100-150 for the journey from Yemen to Somaliland during January.</p> <p>Boat tragedy: On 8 January 2016, 36 Ethiopian and Somali migrants and refugees drowned when their boat capsized in rough seas off the coast of Somaliland. The ship, reportedly carrying 106 migrants and refugees, was on its way to Yemen. In the whole of 2015, 95 migrants and refugees died at sea while trying to cross the Red Sea or Gulf of Aden between the Horn of Africa and Yemen.</p> <p>Returning refugees and asylum seekers in Somaliland: Of the 7,804 Somalis that have arrived in Somaliland since the beginning of the conflict 43% (3,359) had acquired refugee status or sought asylum in Yemen.</p> <p>Reprieve for foreigners facing arrest and deportation: On 2nd January 2016, the Ministry of Resettlement, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction (MRR&R) of Somaliland announced an operation to deport citizens from other countries who are in Somaliland without valid residence or approval permits. In a letter dated 26th January, the Government of Somaliland announced that it had extended the deadline by 30 days to 25th February, by when all foreigners wishing to stay must have regularised their status.</p> <p>In mid-January, Somaliland officials undertook a series of massive arrests and deportations of Ethiopians (asylum seekers, refugees and economic migrants). According to UNHCR a total of 1,037 people had been arrested, but all Ethiopian asylum seekers and refugees were released after proving their status to immigration authorities.</p>
<p>Puntland</p>	<p>Arrivals from Yemen: As of 8th February 2016, a total of 20,812 migrants/refugees/returnees (91% Somali, 8% Yemeni) had arrived in Puntland since the beginning of the Yemen conflict. Arrivals have been recorded through the towns of Bargal, Bosasso, Elayo and Qandala. 411 persons arrived during January, with 108 new arrivals registered in February so far.</p> <p>According to UNHCR, reports are still being received that some Yemenis who arrive in Bossaso intend to return to Yemen, particularly Aden, which has been recovered by the coalition forces.</p>

	<p>Returning refugees and asylum seekers in Puntland: Of the 18,925 Somalis that have returned from Yemen to Puntland since the conflict, 6,194 (33%) people had acquired refugee status or sought asylum in Yemen.</p>
<p>Somalia (South Central)</p>	<p>Arrivals from Yemen: No new arrivals from Yemen were registered in South Central Somalia in the reporting period. The number of persons having fled from Yemen directly to South Central Somalia remains at 367. However, consistent with data from previous months, a significant number (53%) of those arriving in Somaliland and Puntland indicate an intention to return to Mogadishu specifically.</p> <p>Internal Displacement: According to UNHCR figures, there are 1.1 million internally displaced persons across the whole of Somalia (Somaliland, Puntland and South Central Somalia).</p> <p>Refugees in the neighbouring countries: As of 9th February 2016, there were 981,299 registered Somali refugees and asylum seekers displaced in neighbouring countries in the region. The majority of the refugees are hosted in Kenya (43%), Ethiopia (26%) and Yemen (26%).</p>
<p>South Sudan</p>	<p>Regional displacement: As of 9th February 2016 there were a total of 663,292 South Sudanese asylum seekers and refugees displaced into neighbouring countries since the start of the conflict in December 2013. Ethiopia hosts the largest proportion of these refugees (227,378), followed by Sudan (199,608), Uganda (185,505) and Kenya (50,801). An additional 124,000 who were displaced before the December 2013 conflict are also hosted in the region.</p> <p>Internal Displacement: There are approximately 1.7 million persons internally displaced in South Sudan.</p> <p>Refugees in South Sudan: Despite the ongoing conflict country, as of January 2016 South Sudan continued to host 265,923 refugees from neighbouring countries. The majority (92%) of the refugees are from Sudan, followed by Democratic Republic of Congo (6%), and Ethiopia and Central African Republic (2%).</p> <p>Precarious hopes for South Sudan peace deal: In a presidential decree issued on 11th February 2016, South Sudan's president Salva Kiir named his rival Riek Machar as vice-president in the country's transitional government of national unity. The appointment was agreed as part of an August 2015 peace accord designed to bring an end to a bloody two-year conflict, which has displaced more than 2.2. million people from their homes.</p> <p>The announcement puts pressure on Machar to return to South Sudan from Ethiopia where he has been in exile. However analysts warned that while the appointment may help end war between the two sides, violence would likely continue at a local level.</p>
<p>Sudan</p>	<p>Internal Displacement: UN figures estimate that there were 3.1 million Sudanese internally displaced persons in the country at the end of 2015. 2.5 million are displaced in Darfur, of which 233,000 were newly displaced in 2015.</p> <p>Refugees in Sudan: As of 30th November 2015, Sudan hosted a total 375,729 refugees in the country, including 198,314 South Sudanese and 168,694 refugees from other countries.</p> <p>Sudanese nationals crossing into Europe: UNHCR figures show that in January 2016, Sudanese nationals account for 2% of sea arrivals to Italy along the Central Mediterranean route.</p>
<p>Eritrea</p>	<p>Eritrean arrivals in Europe: UNHCR figures show that in January 2016, Eritrean nationals account for 2% of sea arrivals to Italy along the Central Mediterranean route.</p>
<p>Ethiopia</p>	<p>Arrivals from Yemen: As of 8th February 2016, there were 11,455 arrivals into Ethiopia from Yemen since the outbreak of violence in March 2015. The majority (66%) of those arriving are returning Ethiopian nationals, with Yemeni nationals accounting for 11% of arrivals. Ethiopia grants prima facie refugee status to Yemenis and also</p>

	<p>recognises Somali refugees who received refugee recognition in Yemen as prima facie refugees in Ethiopia. Other nationalities undergo individual Refugee Status Determination.</p> <p>Refugees in Ethiopia: As of 31st January 2016, Ethiopia was host to 731,071 registered asylum seekers and refugees. The largest groups of refugees are South Sudanese (283,416), Somalis (250,182) and Eritreans (152,604).</p> <p>Ethiopia generally operates an encampment policy for refugees in the country. However 8,120 refugees reside in Addis Ababa under a special arrangement with the government that allows them to access medical and other treatment. Eritrean refugees who are able to show that they can sustain themselves are allowed to reside out of the camps in an “out-of-camp” policy.</p> <p>Ethiopian migrants held in Tanzania: 83 Ethiopian migrants were arrested and detained by Tanzanian police on their way to South Africa. The migrants were reportedly found in the back of a lorry that was headed towards the Tanzania-Malawi border. According to a local police chief, the migrants were weak from dehydration and starvation. Tanzania has long served as a human-smuggling route from Ethiopia and Somalia to South Africa and Europe.</p> <p>Ethiopian taskforce on prevention of irregular migration: Ethiopia has established a taskforce comprised of members from various governmental and non-governmental organisations, which will be tasked with implementing and managing the law against irregular migration. The taskforce will also be responsible for preventing crimes, creating awareness and rehabilitating victims.</p>
<p>Kenya</p>	<p>Refugees in Kenya: As of 31st January 2016, there were 596,094 registered refugees and asylum seekers in Kenya. Somali refugees and asylum seekers are still the most populous group in the country (70%), followed by refugees and asylum seekers from South Sudan (16%) and Ethiopia (5%). The majority of refugees, numbering 534,069 persons (90%), are encamped in Dadaab, Alinjugur and Kakuma camps, with the remaining 62,025 (10%) residing in Nairobi.</p> <p>Voluntary repatriation of Somali refugees: Voluntary repatriation convoys resumed on the 9th January 2016. 1,902 refugees were supported to repatriate from Dadaab in the course of January, bringing the total number of refugees supported to repatriate since 2014 to 8,003.</p>
<p>Israel</p>	<p>On 8th February 2016, Israel passed the fourth version of the amendment to the Anti-Infiltration Law after previous versions were struck down by the High Court of Justice. Under the new amendment, asylum seekers can be detained for a maximum period of one year in the Holot detention facility located near the border with Egypt.</p> <p>Israel is home to an estimated 45,000 asylum seekers of which 92% are from Eritrea and Sudan.</p>
<p>Other regional news and news from other regions</p>	<p>Mediterranean sea arrivals continue despite winter conditions: In January 2016, 66,233 refugees and migrants arrived in Europe by sea, compared to 5,550 in January 2015, representing an increase of almost 1100%. The number is considerably lower than in the final months of 2015 though, when well over 100,000 refugees arrived in Europe by sea. As throughout most of 2015, the largest number (60,502) arrived on the Eastern Mediterranean route to Greece, while 5,273 refugees and migrants arrived in Italy in January 2016. Forecasts indicate that, should the pace of arrivals remain constant, Europe can expect to receive three million migrants and refugees by the end of 2016.</p> <p>Deaths at sea: In January 2016, 365 migrants and refugees died at sea while trying to reach Europe, of which 90 on the Central Mediterranean route and 275 on the Eastern Mediterranean route. In 2015, 3,771 migrants and refugees died in Mediterranean sea crossings in 2015, marking the deadliest year on record.</p> <p>Dutch proposal for European refugee crisis: On 28th January 2016, Dutch Labour Party leader Samson outlined a proposal on how to solve Europe’s migrant and refugee crisis. According to this plan, migrants and refugees who arrive in Greece would be returned to Turkey almost immediately (within a few days) by ferry. In exchange, EU member states each year would accept between 150,000 and 250,000 refugees who are residing in Turkey. The</p>

idea is to discourage refugees and migrants from taking the dangerous route by sea, and instead organize safe and legal migration.

Missing children in Europe: EU's police intelligence unit, Europol, announce that more than 10,000 migrant and refugee children are missing after arriving in Europe over the past two years. According to Save the Children, about 26,000 unaccompanied child migrants arrived in Europe in 2015.

244 million international migrants living abroad worldwide: According to [UN](#), the number of international migrants reached 244 million in 2015 for the world as whole, a 41% increase compared to 2000. This figure includes almost 20 million refugees.

Burundi refugees in neighbouring countries: As of 17th February 2016, there were 244,659 Burundian refugees and asylum seekers in countries in the region. According to experts, Burundi is on the real brink of a civil war, after the government rejected an invitation to participate in peace talks with the opposition.

**New
Research,
reports or
documents**

[Pragmatism versus principle: the 'Dutch Plan' as the new EU migration response?](#) This featured article by RMMS examines a proposal made by Dutch Labour Party leader Samson on how to solve Europe's migrant and refugee crisis. The plan seeks to discourage irregular migration by sending migrants and refugees back to Turkey and establishing safe and legal migration channels into Europe for up to 250,000 refugees residing in Turkey every year. With a lack of other feasible policy options, the article offers four reasons why the 'Samson plan' should at least be considered.

[Smuggling of migrants and refugees: a multi-million dollar industry:](#) This featured article by RMMS examines the growing challenge of a surge in the people smuggling business. Estimates place global profits from the illicit smuggling of migrants and refugees at USD 1 billion in 2015. The article reviews research that shows that many of the nodes on the smuggling chain are situated in some of the poorest parts of the world where the value of the illicit economy is greater as it constitutes a significant source of income for local populations.

[A Certain Catalyst: towards the link between migration and development:](#) This feature article by RMMS touches on some of the controversial debates surrounding migration and development and looks at the building momentum in contemporary debates in global affairs. It argues, that while migration is not a panacea for development, there are strong arguments for supporting the notion that migration can have positive impacts on development for both destination and origin countries.

[Survive and advance: The economics of smuggling refugees and migrants into Europe:](#) This report by ISS and the Global Initiative against Transnational Organized Crime explores the current unprecedented movement of refugees and migrants into Europe largely assisted by an increasingly violent and opportunistic smuggling industry. Profits earned by this industry have allowed the transnational networks to develop where they previously did not exist, with serious implications for human security and state stability. The report concludes that effective responses will require an understanding of the drivers and dynamics of the migration crisis.

[Youth, employment and migration in Mogadishu, Kismayo and Baidoa:](#) This research report by IOM Somalia aims to study the relationship between youth, employment and migration in Somalia by exploring the composition of youth workforce, (dis)satisfaction with economic situation and labour market and how these explain irregular migration amongst youth. The report concludes that economic factors as well as insecurity (in the context of al shabaab) tend to be the primary drivers of migration.

[Journeys to Europe: The role of policy in migrant decision making:](#) Based on in-depth interviews with more than 50 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers who recently arrived in Europe, this research by ODI aims to increase understanding of the role destination countries policies play in journeys made by migrants. The report makes three key policy recommendations including: (a) make journeys safe (b) create a faster, fairer EU asylum system and (c) make the most of migration.

[Targeting vulnerabilities: The impact of the Syrian war and refugee situation on trafficking in persons. A study of Syria, Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan and Iraq:](#) This research report by ICMPD examines an often overlooked aspect of war and refugee crisis i.e. trafficking in persons, with a particular focus on Syrians seeking refuge in Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan and Iraq. The report finds that Syrians displaced by war are often left with no viable alternatives for survival other than desperate situations which increase their vulnerability to exploitation and trafficking – involving family members, acquaintances and neighbours.

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.