

Regional mixed migration summary for December 2011 & January 2012 covering mixed migration events, trends and data for Djibouti, Ethiopia, Eritrea/Sudan, Kenya, Puntland, Somalia, Somaliland and Yemen.

Country	Events /trends/ data / analysis
<p>Yemen</p> <p>Key source: Comprehensive data is provided at the Yemen MMTF website: www.mmyemen.org</p>	<p>New Information:</p> <p>New arrivals: The number of new arrivals in December 2011 was estimated at 9,394. This brings the total number of Somalis and non-Somalis arriving on the Arabian Sea coast and Red Sea coast of Yemen in 2011 to 103,154 individuals. In the same period (January – December inclusive) in 2010, 53,382 people had made the same crossing.</p> <p>In January 2012, there were 10,487 new arrivals of which 19% were Somalis and 81% were non-Somalis (mainly Ethiopians). This is a significant increase when compared to January 2011 when 5,658 people were recorded as new arrivals with 31% being Somali and 69% non-Somali.</p> <p>Registration: Of the total arrivals in December 2011, only 2,978 of the new arrivals registered as refugees or asylum seekers. Of these this 97.4% were Somalis keeping with the trend that most non-Somalis (mostly Ethiopians) do not present themselves to registration centres seeking asylum.</p> <p>Doubling 2010 levels: Therefore, like many other months in 2011, December numbers of new arrivals were almost double those of 2010 which was 5,414. January 2012 levels were also double the number of new arrivals in January 2011.</p> <p>2011 Overall: Consistent with rising trends recorded in all years since 2006, 2011 saw the highest figures of new arrivals in September-October and the lowest in June-July. 2011 figures are the highest so far recorded since 2006. Should the next eleven months follow the trend of the figures recorded in January 2012, the 2011 figure of 103,154 – the highest figure recorded annually since 2006 – will be surpassed.</p> <p>Vulnerability categories: There was no significant change in figures between the different categories in December 2011 as compared to the previous month with the exception of the <i>Women at Risk</i> category which saw a drop from 25% to 12% of all new arrivals.</p> <p>Main Drivers/push factors: In December 2011 the main reason that Somalis gave as their reason for flight continued to be lack of economic opportunities (50%) followed by insecurity (39%). The <i>insecurity</i> category saw an increase of 11% as compared to November 2011. Those citing drought/famine as a reason for leaving dropped to 4% from the previous month when it was 13%. It is noted here that recently (end January) FAO declared the end of famine in Somalia. 48% of Ethiopians cited lack of economic opportunities and 37% insecurity in December. Significant here is the 12% drop in the former and 18% increase in the latter over a month, indicating that insecurity has gained considerable ground towards being the main reason for flight. Similar to the trend amongst the Somali new arrivals was the drop of 11% citing drought/famine (1%) as compared to November 2011.</p> <p>In January 2012, the main reason cited by Somalis for fleeing was lack of economic opportunities</p>

(64%) and insecurity fell to 26% from December 2011. The percentage of Ethiopians citing economic reason rose to 66% and insecurity fell to 26%, but was still 7% higher compared to October 2011 figures.

Non-Somali proportions consistently high: The percentage of non-Somalis versus Somalis continues to spiral upward – a trend that began in 2009 and has continued through to 2011. In the past year, 2011, 19.4 % new arrivals were Somali and 80.5% were non-Somali. 80% arrived at the Red Sea, again keeping with the trend since 2009 when this route has increasingly become more utilized than the Arabian Sea route. This can be partly explained by this trend of changing proportions and that Djibouti is closer than Puntland for Ethiopian migrants.

Origination: In keeping with November, 59 % of Ethiopian new arrivals in December 2011 originated from Oromia (4% increase) while 94% of Somali new arrivals originated from S-C Somalia (1% decrease).

Insecurity in Yemen: President Saleh has ceded power to his vice-president and will officially leave office at the end of February 2012. However insecurity still prevails and the Islamic militant groups – Ansar al-Sharia, an offshoot of al-Qaeda – are gaining ground. Given the figures for December last year and January this year, the migration flow has not been affected by the conflict or awareness campaigns, despite small numbers of returns from Yemen to Somalia (Somaliland / Puntland). Indeed, it is on an increase in all probability still taking advantage of the vacuum in control of Yemen.

In the recent days the situation in Harad has deteriorated with clashes between the Oromo and Tigray Ethiopian migrants. Tensions are also heightened between the migrants and the host community in the area which has led to the restricted movement of humanitarian workers.

IDPs – As previous reported, the conflict in Yemen has resulted in an estimated 144,000 people being displaced within the country according to the government's Executive Unit for IDP Camp Management. Those who attempt to return usually find that their homes have been destroyed and their livelihoods ruined. DRC, UNHCR and WFP have commenced a joint IDP study in Yemen which was scheduled to be completed by March 2012, however they are experiencing some delays.

Boats & passengers: 17% of the total 159 recorded boats crossing to Yemen in December 2011 arrived at the Arabian Sea coast while 83% arrived at the Red Sea coast. This mirrors the trend throughout the year of the latter having emerged as a more utilized route over the Arabian Sea route; of a total of 1788 recorded boats arriving in Yemen in 2011, 1318 were at the Red Sea coast, amounting to 74%. As detailed above, in January 2012, 77% of all new arrivals landed on the Red Sea coast while 23% arrives at the Arabian sea coast.

Protection risks faced by new arrivals over the reporting period: Increasingly alarming reports of hostage taking and trafficking of new arrivals continued in December 2011 and January 2012, especially of Ethiopians. Physical violence is commonly used when the hostages were unable to raise the ransom. Three Ethiopian males reportedly died as a result of such violence. December saw a rise in the number of GBV incidents as reported compared to November of the same year; 17 cases of reported rape, 8 attempted rapes and one forced marriage. The perpetrators are predominantly smugglers. Violations took place at Obock, during the sea voyage and on arrival in Yemen. The number of GBV incidents, other forms of violence and theft that migrants were subjected to, continued in January 2012 with at least 6 cases of rape and 6 of sexual assault reported. In particular a trend of smugglers 'buying' new arrivals from those that transported them to the shores to sell them on to 3rd party smugglers/traffickers was reported.

Somali migrants suspected of being pirates: There are reports indicating that sometime in early January, 6 – 12 Somalis were arrested upon arrival in Yemen on the suspicion that they were pirates. Some reports suggested one or two died upon disembarkation. It is not clear whether members of the group died from wounds sustained by Yemeni gangs at sea, or other persons.

Deaths at Sea:In earlier years (especially 2007/8) reports suggested that the number of those who drowned at sea were high and abuse and even murder of migrants by smugglers was not uncommon. In 2010 fourteen individuals were reported dead or missing, while in 2009 the total was 289. In 2011 of the 103,154 people that made the crossing 131 died or were reported missing by those migrants interviewed. Only 81 bodies were found and buried, the rest died but their bodies remained missing. This means those crossing during the year faced (on average) a 0.13% chance of such an event befalling them. 122 of these incidents took place in the first five months of 2011 (raising the chances of misadventure in that period to 0.32%) and just 9 cases of death or missing occurred in the last 7 months of the year. In the same period (June –Dec 2011) over 60,000 migrants made the crossing to Yemen meaning they faced a 0.015% chance of a terminal incident during the voyage. In the last three months of the year there were no incidents at all.

Trafficking: IOM report that in 2011 they assisted 378 identified Yemeni as 'victims of trafficking' These victims were forced into labour, sexual exploitation and beggary. In 2011, 6467 individuals screened by IOM Yemen (referred by UNHCR, Intersos and DRC) who of which 513 were identified as victims of trafficking and received assistance. These victims were forced into labour, sexual exploitation and beggary. Of the 513 total, 378 were Yemenis, 65 Somalis and 64 Ethiopians. Note: These were not all new arrivals but a combination of migrants newly arriving and those that have been in Yemen for longer.

Extension of coastal monitoring network along the Red sea: DRC and UNHCR are discussing a new initiative to extend coastal monitoring network so that more of the Red Sea Coast is covered and more comprehensive data can be captured. Concerning figures and data, it has been noted that the Minister of Interior has expressed his support. The Yemen government considers that the data gathered by UNHCR and others underreports the true number of migrants arriving each month.

Previously reported

Ethiopians stranded in North Yemen: Ethiopian migrants (current number unknown but over 3000) remain stranded in North Yemen around the city of Harad– close to the border with Saudi Arabia. IOM's has a programme of intervention providing assistance and repatriating (AVR) to some of those stranded and willing to return to Ethiopia. In 2010/2011 IOM returned, 6,169.

Caveat: Despite the network of local partners collecting data along parts of the Arabian and Red Sea coasts it cannot be assumed that this data captures all new arrivals. Particularly, there may be those that arrive along the northern stretches of the Red Sea coast, beyond the data networks. Consequently the actual numbers of new arrivals in Yemen may be higher. Yemen Red Crescent and the Danish Refugee Council are planning to extend the patrol area further north along the Red Sea coast.

Somalia

New Information:

In December, 1,824 Somalis (mainly from South – Central) arrived on Yemen's shores. They represented 24% of the total influx of Ethiopians and Somalis in December. In January 2012, 19% of the total new arrivals were Somalis numbering 1,997.

Trafficking:In 2011, 65 Somalis who arrived in Yemen were identified as **victims of trafficking** by IOM. Note: Not specified if were from southern Somalia, Somaliland or Puntland.

Kenyan forces in Somalia: In January 2012, the Kenyan Defence Force (KDF) continues its operations in S-C Somali, reporting that its gains outweigh the losses. The KDF agreed to join forces with the African Union mission in Somalia which has lent it greater access to facilities and an enhanced international acceptance and support/credibility.

Humanitarian space:In early January 2012, ICRC suspended aid delivery to some 1.1 million

people in urgent need of assistance in South-Central Somalia following blockades of its convoys which began in December last year. On January 30th the Al Shabaab (AS) Office for Supervising the Affairs of Foreign Agencies issued a communiqué banning the ICRC from operating in Somalia on accusations that it was delivering expired food and making false allegations that the AS was responsible for the blockades hindering food distribution. ICRC was one of the few international aid agencies that was excluded from the previous ban of 16 major aid agencies affected in November of last year by the AS and in its rebuttal of this accusation expressed concern for those who are in dire need of humanitarian assistance.

In mid-January MSF closed its largest medical centres in Mogadishu's Hodan region following the killings of two of its staff members. This reduces its assistance by half in Mogadishu.

IDPs – From December last year to end January 2012, an estimated 54,000 people have been displaced with 7,200 from and within Mogadishu only. 44% stated insecurity for their reason of displacement, 11% lack of livelihood and 4% drought. A breakdown of the last two months – 19,000 displaced in December 2011 and 35,000 in January 2012.

Refugees returning – Approximately 3,300 refugees returned from Kenyan and Ethiopia during the last two weeks of January compared to approximately 2,700 people arriving from Somalia during the first two weeks of the same month. In addition to taking advantage of *Deyr* seasonal rains in Somaliland to revive their agricultural activities in their places of origin, the refugees stated that 'lack of livelihoods', 'delay in registration' and 'insecurity' in the refugee camps are the main reasons for their return according to the Population Monitoring Network (PMN).

This document does not seek to extensively detail conditions and event in Somalia (including displacements) as the subject is dealt with in great detail by various dedicated agencies.

Somaliland

New Information:

As reported by **Human Rights Watch**, on December 28, **authorities forcibly returned 20 Ethiopians** who were arrested a few days earlier during a meeting between refugee leaders and Somaliland officials at the Interior Ministry in Hageisa. They were discussing the situation of about 1,000 Ethiopians camped on premises known as the Social Welfare Centre. According to UNHCR, fifteen members of the group were registered refugees and five were registered asylum seekers.

At the 1st January 2012 news conference, the **Interior Ministry confirmed the deportations** and the authorities threatened further deportations, saying that refugees and others currently occupying the Social Welfare Centre would be deported if they did not vacate the premises. No date was given for future deportations.

Following this in early January 2012, the **European Union** wrote a letter to the authorities of Somaliland, condemning their actions concerning the alleged refoulement of refugees and asylum seekers and expressing their concern about the 'hostilities' that are fostering in the host community towards the migrants.

IOM have repatriated some 1,002 Ethiopians in six separate **Assisted Voluntary Return (AVR)** movements – legal status unknown - from Somaliland from September – December 2011. The first group was of 130 individuals and the sixth included 236 individuals in December. IOM have suspended further AVR action with respect to the Ethiopian caseload due to lack of funds and policy / political considerations.

The Somaliland authorities have reportedly signed the **National Asylum Policy** in December. The previous refugee-related policy was suspended in 2008. The two UNHCR officers in Hargesia assigned to conduct the screening/verification exercise of potential asylum seekers appear to not to have started their work. Apparently they are waiting for a government officer/focal point to be appointed before the project can be 'operationalised'. Different ministries claim ownership of

	<p>asylum issues, it seems.</p> <p>IDPs –Somaliland is host to a large IDP population which is protracted and added to by recent numbers. The majority of the aid assistance goes this group. The Ministry of Resettlement, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction (MRR&R) estimates there are 394,368 IDPs in Somaliland as of 11th Dec 2011 while the UNHCR estimate is 85,000. The discrepancy can be explained by who is classified as an IDP i.e. returnees, urban poor communities, integrated IDPs, refugees, minority groups. A better understanding of these different groups and their needs will help in tailoring of effective programmes to assist these groups in terms of RR&R.</p> <p>On 27th February 2012, the IDP working group (comprised of the humanitarian community) is to meet with the government authorities (MRR&R) to present their views on the up-coming IDP Policy that is to be tabled in Parliament. Note: One of the things for discussion will be the status of migrants from S-C Somalia in Somaliland. UNHCR does not does not categorize them as refugees and Somaliland does not identify them as IDPs.</p> <p>Context :</p> <p>In early September the government of Somaliland announced that the '80,000' unregistered foreigners in Somaliland had one month to leave. In October a further statement was made by a government minister increasing the hostile and unwelcome environment for Ethiopians in Somaliland. Aid agencies estimate the real number affected may be closer to 20,000.</p>
<p>Puntland</p>	<p>New Information:</p> <p>Arabian Sea arrivals in Yemen: In December 2011 the number was estimated to be 1,837 individuals, accounting for 19.5% of the total new arrivals. This is about a 10% decrease as compared to November and October 2011 when it accounted for approximately 30% of all arrivals. This decrease in utilization of the Arabian Sea route, departing from Bosaso and the Somaliland/Puntland coastline is a clear trend since 2009. In January 2012, 2,362 migrants arrived in Yemen after crossing the Arabian Sea, from Puntland (22.5% of the January new arrivals).</p> <p>In early January, President Abdirahman Farole banned IDPs from southern Somalia from entering Puntland, ordering the police to seize vehicles believed to be transporting these migrants. The President also announced that all IDPs who fled to Puntland due to the drought to return back to their homes. There are an estimated 140,000 IDPs (mostly from southern Somalia) in Puntland.</p> <p>In contrast to November 2011, new arrivals in Yemen from S-C Somalia report that the Puntland authorities have return to the practice of detaining and interrogating these migrants in Garowe in December 2011 and January 2012. In January the authorities in Garowe forcefully relocated IDPs from the Shabelle settlement to a site close to the Jawle settlement. There were not provided with any food, water or shelter (OCHA).</p>
<p>Ethiopia</p>	<p>New Information:</p> <p>An estimated 7,570 Ethiopians (non-Somalis) made their way to Yemeni shores in December 2011 in a continued and on-going exodus. Almost 75, 804 Ethiopians have made the same trip since January 2011 – mostly through Djibouti - accounting for 73% of all new arrivals in 2011 (as mentioned above).</p> <p>In 2011, 64 Ethiopians migrants in Yemen were identified as victims of trafficking by IOM.</p> <p>Refugees from Somalia continue to arrive at Dolo Ado refugee camp in south-eastern Ethiopia. In January 2012 alone, Ethiopia received over 10,000 Somali refugees .UNHCR estimates that</p>

	<p>there are a total of some 187,396 Somali refugees throughout Ethiopia. According to UNHCR as of 6th February 2012, the Dolo Ado camps and its transit centres hosted 144,237 Somalis. As of 21st January 2012, OCHA has reported that there are some 26,323 Sudanese refugees hosted in western Ethiopia.</p> <p>In January 2012, the Oromo Liberation Front (OLF) renounced its demand for succession and cessation of their armed struggle. However, Ethiopian Oromo new arrivals stated that they still feared arbitrary arrest and other harassment by the government authorities (on account of being perceived as OLF members) which led them to flee.</p> <p>An unknown number of additional Ethiopians travelled into and through Kenya in November choosing the 'southern' route for their exodus. It is also not known how many used, in November, the 'eastern' route through Sudan and beyond.</p>
<p>Kenya</p>	<p>New Information:</p> <p>Dadaab - Following Kenya's military operation in Somalia, security incidents continue in the northern-eastern part of the country with Al-Shabaab claiming responsibility. In December 2011 there were at least 15 incidents mostly involving grenades and impoverished explosive devices. Of these 15, Al-Shabaab said that it had ordered the killing of a refugee leader in Dadaab who was assisting the police to locate explosives in the area.</p> <p>Insecurity continues to restrict humanitarian operations and disturb aid deliverance. However, basic services such as food, water and health are being maintained through cooperation between the agencies and the refugee communities. Registration is still on hold. As of 30th January 2012, there were an estimated 519,425 Somali refugees hosted in Kenya of which 443,708 are in Dadaab.</p> <p>Context (previously reported):</p> <p>As of the end of 2011 Kenya hosted approximately 520,000 registered Somali refugees. 463,000 of these reside in Dadaab camp. Migrants / refugees flow into Kenya from Somalia and Ethiopia in order to settle in Nairobi or pass through Kenya and / or Nairobi with intentions to go beyond. The most popular route and which involves various smuggling networks is the route south to RSA but it is not clear whether this clandestine flow was affected in November by conflict and weather.</p>
<p>Djibouti</p>	<p>New information:</p> <p>In December 2011 an estimated 7,557 people left Djibouti for Yemen, departing from Obock and different coastal departure points 30-40 km west of Obock. This represents approximately 252 per day (up from 210 per day in November). All migrants using this route use smugglers to cross to Yemen. The use of Djibouti as a departure point has continued at an increasing rate over the years with non-Somalis being forming the majority of migrants leaving from this coast. New evidence confirms that 80% of single Somali males entering Djibouti and being registered at the Ali Ade refugee camp do so with the intention to travel on to Yemen. They receive Non-Food Items and sell them on, sometimes to smugglers.</p> <p>Of interest three Eritreans were recorded as asylum seekers in Obock, something that has not been witnessed much in the recent past.</p> <p>UNHCR and the Djiboutian authorities responsible for refugees (ONARS) are encountering delays in establishing a permanent presence in Obock. Currently, UNHCR operates temporary 'mobile units' there.</p>

	<p>Somali new arrivals in Yemen in the second half of January 2012 report (DRC daily protection monitoring team) that they were not registered at the Ali Ade camp in Djibouti being told that following the threats issued by Al-Shabaab in response to Djiboutian troops (approximately 100) joining the AU mission in Somalia, registration for Somalis was suspended. These migrants then paid smugglers to help them cross in to Djibouti and travel to Obock where they were brought to Yemen by boats. Further reports by the new arrivals state that some Somalis were deported from Djibouti to the Loya Ade (Somaliland). Reports from Djibouti indicate that non-registration and deportation is limited to single Somalia males and women and children are usually exempted.</p> <p>New arrivals reported to the DRC Yemen protection team that the Djiboutian coast guards allegedly captured 5 -6 smuggling boats in early January 2012, letting them go on payment of a bribe.</p>
<p>Sudan / Eritrea</p>	<p>New information:</p> <p>Eritrea - Over the reporting period, an estimated 20 Eritreans arrived on the shores of Yemen. Given that reportedly an estimated 2-3000 (UNHCR)Eritreans flee the country every year – mostly evading/deserting compulsory national service that in practice is unlimited – this is a very small percentage. According to UNHCR a majority of Eritreans, some 1,800, flee west into Sudan, taking advantage of the porous border.</p> <p>Sudanese and Eritrean migrants, as well as Ethiopians and Somalis are increasingly falling victim to kidnapping, violence, extortion and trafficking in the deserts of Sudan and Egypt. Theft. Murder and theft of body-parts are also being recorded. Media interest in their plight has heightened since a CNN documentary on the issue (November 2012). RMMS intends to continually highlight the issue and monitor the situation in Yemen.</p> <p>Sudan - The fighting in the Blue Nile region has led thousands of Sudanese being displaced within the country and externally. Many have fled to Ethiopia. RMMS will try to monitor this movement in more detail for future reports.</p> <p>Context (previously reported):</p> <p>The RMMS October summary reported the deportation by authorities in Sudan of 317 Eritreans to Eritrea, handing them over to the Eritrean military without screening them for refugee status. They had been detained in northern Sudan having made their way through Sudan close to the Egyptian border (en route to Israel).</p>
<p>Related information on regional displacement</p>	<p>Reports of the increased violence – ranging from alleged organ theft, sexual attacks, kidnapping and torture - that migrants are subjected to in the region (from the Sinai in Egypt, to Eastern Sudan's Shagarab refugee camps and in Yemen itself) indicate an alarming increase in the criminality, daring and complexity of the smugglers/traffickers. The perpetrators mainly come from tribal communities who are in control of these areas where government presence is weak at best. Generally smugglers and traffickers operate with high levels of impunity.</p> <p>Key highlights of a new OCHA Eastern Africa "Displaced Populations Report"(October 2011)are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. As at the beginning of October 2011, some 5.6 million people had been displaced in ten eastern Africa countries either as refugees or internally displaced persons (IDPs). 2. Overall, the number of refugees across the eastern Africa region increased by 13% to approximately 1.54 million people, while the number of IDPs decreased by 1% to 4.03 million people between March 2011 and September 2011. 3. Main drivers for displacement remain internal armed conflict, notably in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Somalia, and on a temporary basis-natural disasters, such as floods and drought conditions impacting countries in the region.

	<p>4. Kenya, Ethiopia and Tanzania continue to host the highest number of refugees of above 200,000 each. Cumulatively, more than 196,000 Somalis have entered Kenya and Ethiopia during the previous six months.</p>
<p>RMMS news</p>	<p>Apart from its regular activities the RMMS participated in / presented at the following fora of interest to the MM sector during December 2011 and January 2012:</p> <p>Africa-EU Partnership on Migration, Mobility and Employment : Enhancing TIP criminal investigations, prosecutions and victim and witness protection among African and European countries, (Johannesburg 31st Nov – 1st Dec) [RMMS presented]</p> <p>First Regional Committee on Mixed Migration in the Horn of Africa (13th/14th Dec 2011. Addis Ababa) [RMMS presented]</p> <p>Workshop on migration management, capacity building and diaspora engagement – Horn of Africa (Wednesday 1st February 2012. London. Wilton Park.) [RMMS presented]</p> <p>Somaliland MMTF meeting Wed 18th Jan 2012</p>

When finalised, after the regional mixed migration teleconference process (second Tuesday of each month), this information sheet is distributed to over 460 agencies, academic institutions, donors, embassies, journalists, government officials / departments, international and multi-national organisations and related non-government organisations.