



Regional mixed migration summary for January 2013 covering mixed migration events, trends and data for Djibouti, Eritrea/Sudan, Ethiopia, Kenya, Puntland, Somalia, Somaliland and Yemen.



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Country	Events /trends/ data / analysis
Djibouti	<p>New Arrivals: In January, an estimated 5,352 migrants arrived on Yemen's shores via Djibouti, representing a small decrease from December 2012 (5718), but representing a 34 % decrease compared to January 2012. All vessels arriving at Yemen's Red Sea coast departed from Obock, Djibouti except one vessel that departed from the Loya Ade coast carrying 10 Somali migrants.</p> <p>Boats: During the month, a total of 88 vessels left via the Red Sea for Yemen carrying an average of 61 passengers per trip.</p> <p>Migrant vulnerability: Three unrelated motor vehicle accidents were reported along the Tadjoura/Obock route, resulting in one Ethiopian male fatality. Boat overcrowding claimed the life of a second Ethiopian migrant. Intimidation and demands for ransom persist. Passengers during the boat journey are requested to provide an assurance that they have funds to cater for smuggling fees to Saudi Arabia, or the contact number of someone who can provide such funds. Migrants who cannot provide either assurance face physical assault during the sea journey. There were 36 reported cases of sexual and gender based violence at sea perpetrated by the smuggling crew.</p> <p>Arrest and deportation of refugees to Ethiopia: The Human Rights League of the Horn of Africa (HRLHA) reported that the Government of Djibouti had arbitrarily arrested 43 refugees from Ethiopia (Oromo and Ogdenian nationals) and deported them to Ethiopia. The refugees were rounded up by the Djibouti security. HRLHA forwarded the information to UNHCR for intervention.</p>
Somaliland	<p>Modalities of the Movement: Somalis travelling overland through Afgoye - Jowhar–Galkayo-Hargeysa-Loya-Ade, indicate they face possible arrest at mounted checkpoints in Las-Anood and Garowe in Somaliland. Young men are arrested on suspicion of affiliation with Al Shabaab and reportedly released upon paying a bribe of up to USD 50.</p>
Eritrea (Sudan/ South Sudan)	<p>Eritrea: Nearly 2000 migrants a month entered Israel in the early months of 2012 in direct contrast to January this year. The anti-migrant crackdown and arrests of migrants crossing the Sinai into Israel in the second half of 2012, and the building of a wall and barricade to stem African migration, may have led to less than a dozen African migrants entering Israel in January, according to Israel's Population Immigration and Border Authority.</p> <p>Eritrean migrants continue to be held, kidnapped and brutally mistreated in the Sinai desert (Egypt) as criminals and smugglers combine to extort high sums before releasing them.</p> <p>South Sudan: During the reporting period, there was an influx of Sudanese asylum seekers into 5 refugee camps in Ethiopia, due to the continued conflict in the Sudan Blue Nile State of South Sudan.</p>

<p>Ethiopia</p>	<p>New Arrivals: An estimated 6,232 Ethiopians made their way to Yemen in January 2013. Proportionally, Ethiopians dominate new arrival figures representing 79.4 % per cent of the total in January. Oromos remain the ethnic majority in the new arrivals cohort.</p> <p>Refugees in Ethiopia: In January, 5,312 new refugee arrivals in Ethiopia were recorded. As a result, the total refugee population has risen slightly by 1.3% to 381,722 refugees hosted in Ethiopia. Over half of this group remain Somalis, followed by Sudanese, Eritreans, Kenyans, and refugees from the Democratic Republic of Congo.</p> <p>IDPs: Human Rights Watch (HRW) reported that a villagization programme in Ethiopia's Gambella Province has left thousands homeless. The Government is pushing communities out of their ancestral land which they have leased to foreign horticultural companies. Some Ethiopian farmers allegedly report that confiscation of land without compensation by government officials had left them without means to support their families. High taxation has also been quoted as having informed decisions to leave. The Ethiopian government have normally been reluctant to state the number of IDPs in their country but recently one ministry reportedly claimed there were over 200,000 IDPs currently in Ethiopia.</p> <p>Influx of Somali Refugees to Ethiopia: The Ethiopian Prime Minister announced at an AU Summit in January that Somali refugees should return to their homeland. A regular flow back and forth by refugees between the Dollo Ado refugee camp and Somalia is evident and continued in January. It has been speculated that the Somali refugees may be moving back to the camp to benefit from food rations.</p> <p>International Labor Migration: Ethiopia continues to be a major source country for organized and regulated labour migration to the Arabian Peninsula and Middle East. The trends suggest labour migration is rising to meet the high demand for domestic workers in particular. In 2012, nearly 160,000 Ethiopian women went to work in Saudi Arabia by the end of July, which figure is 10 times the number of the previous year. A report by Bloomberg citing data from the Ethiopian Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs attributed the development to the dwindling traditional Asian labour migrant market.</p> <p>Southward movement: Large numbers of Ethiopian migrants continue to move south through Kenya towards South Africa. However, migrants and asylum seekers from Ethiopia and Somalia are no longer as welcome as they were in the past. Routes and methods are changing, for example, smuggled migrants previously used boats along Lake Malawi in an effort to reach South Africa. However, as a result of increased police patrols and a radical redeployment of the police who were suspected of being involved in the smuggling syndicate in Malawi, migrants are now using the vast Nyika National Park transiting through Zambia, Mozambique or Zimbabwe to the Republic of South Africa.</p>
<p>Kenya</p>	<p>Kenyan courts temporarily halt the move for the encampment of urban refugees: On 24th January the High Court of Kenya issued a conservatory order restraining state actors from implementing a directive requiring forced encampment of approximately 60,000 urban refugees. The initial directive was made on the 18th December 2012.</p> <p>Refugees flee insecurity in Kenya: In January, Somali refugees were reported to be fleeing Nairobi citing insecurity and extortion by the Police seeking to enforce the encampment directive of December 2012. It is speculated that business people are moving to pursue opportunities in Mogadishu, and financially able Somalis are temporarily relocating due to fear and uncertainties created by the upcoming elections. Increased flights (fully booked) operating between Nairobi, Kampala and Mogadishu have been recorded. Poor security in camps and the need to safeguard property in Somalia have also been cited as reasons for a rise in movement between Kenya and Somalia.</p> <p>IDP's not resettled 5 years on: A total number of 723 families are still displaced following post-election violence in 2007/8, in addition to 1,200 families who were more recently evicted by the government from their homes in the Mau Forest. Over 100 of these families live in Pipeline, a camp for internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the Rift Valley Province city of Nakuru. Conditions in the camp are reportedly harsh, tents are worn out, and food rations are irregular.</p>

	<p>Daadab teachers go on strike: Close to 40,000 primary school children in Kenya's northeastern Dadaab refugee complex have had their education disrupted by a two week long teachers' strike over unpaid salaries. The teachers salaries were not paid due to funding difficulties as the African Development and Emergency Operation (ADEO) responsible for primary education in Daadabs lfo camps had to hand the programme over to another NGO, Islamic Relief, on 1 January. However, ADEO has not paid more than 600 teachers from 19 schools their December 2012 salaries.</p>
<p>Puntland</p>	<p>Arabian Sea arrivals in Yemen: In January 2,166 migrants crossed the Arabian Sea to Yemen. The figure remains more or less similar to that of the previous month and similar periods in the last two years. This is an interesting finding insofar as the majority of migrants departing from Puntland are Somalis from South Central, who are departing in the same numbers, despite changing conditions in terms of conflict and drought in their places of origin. This trend also illustrates that the majority of migrants arriving in Yemen are Ethiopian (79.4%). Ethiopians have made up the high percentage growth in new arrivals in Yemen in recent years.</p>
<p>Somalia (S-C)</p>	<p>Somali movements to Yemen: Interviews with Somali migrants in January provided insight into how they make the decision to migrate and the routes to be utilised. Many indicated that they confer with relatives or friends who have previously made the journey to Yemen. Travel through Bosasso is informed by the fact that the sea crossing from Bosasso to Yemen is rough, long and dangerous in comparison to the Obock to Yemen one. Obock to Yemen takes between 3 to 6 hours while that from Bosasso to Yemen can take between 30 and 72 hours. Somalis cite lack of security and protection as the reason for flight. Youth fleeing Mogadishu, cited escape from arbitrary arrest and detention on the basis of unfounded claims of affiliation with Alshabaab. They were left with no option but to leave or join the militant group . They chose the former. Most hail from the majority clans of Dir, Hawiye and Darood. Others are from Digil Mirifle or Jareer clans. Few have primary level education, with many having been engaged as farmers, pastoralists and petty traders prior to fleeing.</p> <p>Modalities of Travel: Many of the new arrivals pay the cost of the journey to smugglers or their agents based in urban areas such as Marka, Mogadishu or Bala'ad. The agents generally have contacts with other smugglers based in Hargeisa, Djibouti and at the Obock departure point. The average cost paid is between USD150 and 170 to agents in the urban area. The fee is only for the sea journey from Obock to Yemen. Migrants are also required to pay a fee to the agent's smuggler contacts they meet along the way. Some migrants travel by air at a cost of between USD 350 and 400. The amount caters for air travel to Berbera, Somaliland; travel by vehicle from Berbera to Hargeisa and onward to Loya Ade; getting the assistance of smugglers across the Somaliland-Djiboutian border; travel by vehicle to Ali Ade camp; walking to Tadjora with the aid of a smuggler (a 3 day journey); travel by vehicle to Obock; and the sea journey from Obock to Yemen. At each stage of the journey, migrants are handed over to new smugglers/brokers that aid them onward. A boat fee of between USD 120 and 150 is paid in Djibouti city. Migrants typically remain in Obock for 2 to 5 days awaiting departure. In some instances smugglers receive double payment from migrants where they refuse to confirm initial payment.</p> <p>Security related incidences: On 29th January, a suicide bombing was reported in Mogadishu at the premises of Prime Minister Abdi Farah Shirdon. He escaped unhurt, but six others were killed.</p> <p>IDPs: IDP levels in Somalia remain approximately 1.1 to 1.3 million individuals. The Government of Somalia announced it would relocate IDPs living in sites throughout Mogadishu to three sites outside the city centre. The sites are Jazeera in Wadajir district, 77 Camp in Daynille district (where settlements already exist), and Gubadleey in Huriwa district. At a January meeting with UN humanitarian agencies and other international stakeholders, the authorities stressed that people being relocated would be given the choice to return to their place of origin or resettle in one of the new sites.</p> <p>Somali's continue to flee: Increased movement of Somalis to Mogadishu continued to be reported. Persons moving to Mogadishu are mainly business people and traders looking for opportunities. The return of professionals such as medical practitioners, engineers, economists, and other experts to assist in re-building the nation is required.</p> <p><i>This document does not seek to extensively detail conditions and events in Somalia (including displacements) as the subject is dealt with in great detail by various dedicated agencies.</i></p>

Yemen

Arrivals in January: In January 2013, 7,518 migrants crossed into Yemen through the Red Sea (from Djibouti) and the Arabian Sea (from Somaliland / Puntland). This was a 28% decrease from January 2012. This represents the first trend where arrivals have decreased during the month of January in the last three years. Ethiopians constitute 79.4% of the total new arrivals. They continue to lead in the number of migrants making the dangerous sea crossings into Yemen. Most of them hail from the Oromia region, with others hailing from Ogaden, Amhara, Afar and Tigray regions. Few of the Ethiopians have formal education, and many of them were farmers and pastoralists before fleeing/migrating to Yemen.

Red Sea arrivals: The number of migrants making the red sea crossing into Yemen amounted to 5,352 representing a total of 71% of the migrants making the crossing. 29% of the new arrivals, therefore, used the Bossaso-Yemen crossing.

Boats & passengers: There were a total of 115 migrant boat trips that arrived on the Yemeni coast in January 2013. The average number of passengers on each boat was 65 people per trip (not including smugglers/crew).

UNHCR assists returnees in Yemen: The UN refugee agency in January sent a planeload of supplies to Yemen as part of its on-going assistance to internally displaced Yemenis who it is assisting to return home. The airlift included 10,000 blankets, 14,800 plastic sheets and 10,000 sleeping mats from UNHCR stores in Kenya to Yemen's southern port city of Aden as part of a special airlift to help IDPs who have returned to Abyan Governorate over the last few months.

Migrant vulnerability: On 5th January, there was a shootout between military forces and smugglers/criminal gangs ferrying migrants along the Al Jadid coast of Taiz governorate, three Ethiopians were seriously injured. The smugglers ferrying the mixed migrants were reportedly arrested. New arrivals continue to be taken hostage/or trafficked possibly to Saudi Arabia upon arrival at the Red Sea/gulf of Aden coast. The amount demanded by the hostage takers seems to have risen, with ransom demands having gone up to at least USD 300 compared to the USD100 previously reported. New arrivals continue to be severely ill treated by their hostage takers according to testimony. Finger nails being pulled off, women having their hair shaved off or being subjected to rape or sexual harassment. There were at least 36 reported cases of sexual and gender based violence, most of them at sea and perpetrated by the smuggling crew. New arrivals, Somali and Ethiopians, continue to risk arrest and detention upon arrival to Yemen. Often held at the Taiz prison, access is not always provided to the protection team to find out if there are any refugees/asylum seekers among the arrested new arrivals.

Yemen curbs smuggling and trafficking: On 28th of January, the Yemen Post reported that Muhammad Al-Shaery, Provincial Security Director, stated that directors of police stations in Taiz governorate had been suspended in relation to trafficking and smuggling activities in the region. On 29th January, a campaign against smuggling/trafficking was mounted by military and security officials in Lahj governorate. Authorities reportedly assembled the most known smugglers/Sheikhs involved with smuggling from Ras-alara to Suqaya, warning them against participating in smuggling activities. There were also reports of coastal guards patrolling along the Lahj coast ostensibly with the aim of curbing smuggling/trafficking activities. It is perhaps for this reason that landings along the Lahj coast reduced while those along Taiz coast seemingly increased. There were also reports of irregular military patrols at Al-Jadid and Al-Kadha coastal areas within Taiz governorate.

With the apparent engagement of Yemeni authorities against smuggling/trafficking along the Red Sea/Gulf of Aden, it seems that smugglers and traffickers have similarly adapted, new arrivals spoke of boat crews stopping midway during the sea journey to confer by phone with inland smugglers on the presence/absence of military or coastal guards. More vessels at the Al Uzaf coast of Lahj (which previously witnessed the highest number of landings) now land in the dark of the night, when authorities are believed to be absent.

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.*

<p>Other Regional news</p>	<p>Sudan: Drought threatens migrants in Maban, 2 January 2013 (IRIN) – The rainy season between April and October in 2012 flooded homes, led to higher incidences of malaria and rendered roads impassable. As the weather changes, the onset of drought is causing refugees and aid workers alike to be plagued with new worries. “In the dry season there is no water for the animals to drink, and there is no grass to eat,” Khalifa Chapa said, sitting outside his hut in Doro camp, which, with more than 44,000 residents, is the largest of the region’s refugee camps.</p> <p>Sudan: 8 January 2013 (IRIN) - Only a fraction of the 120,000 people who fled the Abyei area following an invasion by Sudanese troops in May 2011 have returned to their homes, amid fears of repeat military action and uncertainty over the area’s political future. The Abyei area sits on the border between Sudan and the newly independent South Sudan, but which of the two countries Abyei is part of has yet to be determined. In 2005, a peace deal ending decades of civil war called for a referendum to settle the matter, but that vote has been repeatedly delayed by disagreements over who will be allowed to participate. The referendum is currently scheduled to take place in October. The indigenous population is dominated by the Ngok Dinka community, many of whom sided with Southern rebels during the civil war. But every year, Northern Misseriya pastoralists, who are generally aligned with Khartoum bring their cattle through Abyei in search of pasture. With this annual migration now imminent, there are fears of renewed conflict.</p>
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