



Regional mixed migration summary for May 2014 covering mixed migration events, trends and data for Djibouti, Eritrea, Sudan/South 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, and refugees). If the case load mentioned refers only to refugees, asylum seekers or trafficked persons, it will be clearly stated.

Country	Events / trends / data / analysis
Movement: Migrants/refugees move from the Horn of Africa (Ethiopia and Somalia) to Yemen and Saudi Arabia	
Yemen	<p>New arrivals: In May 2014, 8, 706 migrants/refugees crossed into Yemen via the Red Sea (Djibouti) and the Arabian Sea (Somaliland/Puntland), a 4% increase from the migrants/refugees that reached Yemen in April 2014 and a 39% increase from migrants that arrived in May 2013.</p> <p>Yemeni authorities are reported to have expressed concern over the possibility of new arrivals having links to extremist elements, and called for screening actors to exercise vigilance. Danish Refugee Council (DRC) patrolling teams encountered an estimated 210 new arrivals who were re-attempting their journey following deportation from Saudi Arabia as recently as April 2014. Over 25,000 migrants/refugees have arrived in Yemen since the beginning of 2014, 79% Ethiopian and the rest Somali. Ethiopian arrivals still harbour hopes of reaching Saudi Arabia while Somalis mainly submit to the asylum process.</p> <p>Boats & passengers: A total of 147 migrant boat trips arrived on the Yemeni coast in May 2014. The average number of passengers on each boat was 59 per trip (not including smugglers/crew). Several boats landed on the Red Sea coast in proximity of Al-Jadeed, Sheikh Sa'eed and Al-Shura.</p> <p>Rise in Red Sea death toll: UNHCR reported that a boat steered by 2 Yemenis, and transporting 60 Somalis and Ethiopians, capsized on 31st May killing everyone on board. Bodies are reported to have washed ashore in Yemen's Al Jadeed area and were buried by local residents. A total of 121 deaths at sea of migrants/refugees trying to reach Yemen have been recorded since January 2014, with the largest single tragedy being the 31st May incident.</p> <p>Shut down torture camps: A Human Rights Watch report 'Yemen's Torture Camps' Abuse of Migrants by Human Traffickers in a Climate of Impunity' released in May, documents human rights abuses against Horn of Africa migrants/refugees perpetrated by Yemeni traffickers, with alleged complicity of Yemeni authorities and Saudi border officials. Recommendations include shutting down torture camps, prosecuting perpetrators and enacting a legislative framework to address human trafficking and refugee protection. UNHCR welcomed the publication of the report. The refugee agency reiterated the need for an appropriate legislative framework to address trafficking, and a comprehensive approach to deal with both smuggling and trafficking that may be drawn from the Sana'a Declaration signed in November 2013 by Yemen, and 10 other countries in the Arabian Peninsula and the Horn of Africa. IOM also welcomed the report and the release by Yemeni authorities of 92 migrants/refugees from smuggling dens in Haradh, as well as the arrest of 16 perpetrators mainly of Ethiopian origin in early June.</p> <p>Situation in Haradh: IOM re-opened its Migration Response Centre (MRC) in Haradh. Approximately 600 migrants/refugees including Ethiopians, Eritreans, Nigerians and a Somali have been registered at the MRC since the beginning of the year. It is important to note that not all migrants/refugees travelling through Haradh access the MRC for registration. Some of the registered migrants/refugees exhibited signs of severe abuse. Yemeni returns from Saudi Arabia continue at the rate of 1,000 per day via the Al Tuwal border crossing, 10km north of Haradh in Hajjah Governorate. Many of the returning migrants are in need of humanitarian assistance. Over 550,000 Yemenis are reported to have returned since Saudi Arabia begun restructuring its labour market in early 2013.</p>

<p>Djibouti</p>	<p>Departing from Djibouti: In May 2014, an estimated 4,847 migrants/refugees arrived on Yemen's shores via Djibouti, a little under the 4,864 that arrived in April 2014. Red sea arrivals in May 2014 were 5% lower than those recorded in May 2013. Approximately 55% of the migrants/refugees reaching Yemen in May 2014 used the Red sea crossing from Obock, Djibouti.</p> <p>Boats: A total of 100 vessels left via the Red Sea for Yemen carrying an average of 48passengers per trip. The Boat journey took 7- 8 hours.</p> <p>Migrant vulnerability: Migrants/refugees continue to report lack of access to food and water during their transit through Obock, Djibouti while they wait for an opportunity to embark on the Red sea crossing to Yemen. During transit, migrants/refugees are also exposed to the theft of their personal belongings including money by criminal gangs, and detention by authorities. Humanitarian actors have reported that persistent and recurring drought in Djibouti resulting in lack of water is likely to affect both refugees and migrants in the coming months.</p>
<p>Puntland</p>	<p>Arabian sea arrivals in Yemen: In May 2014, 3,859 migrants/refugees crossed the Arabian Sea to Yemen from Bossaso and other coastal areas of Puntland, a 10% increase from the migrants/refugees that made the crossing in April 2014. The May 2014 Arabian sea arrival figures were a 229% higher than those recorded for the crossing in May 2013.</p> <p>Irregular movement: An increasing number of migrants/refugees are said to be transiting through Puntland in recent months with the intention of heading east to Yemen, or west through Hargesya, Ethiopia and Sudan to Libya. Exact numbers are difficult to estimate due to the clandestine nature of the movement. Returnees from Yemen, some leaving voluntarily and others compelled to leave by the Yemeni government, continue to be recorded by the Migration Response Centre (MRC) in Bossaso on arrival.</p>
<p>Somaliland</p>	<p>Irregular movement to Libya: Estimates from local organizations in Somaliland indicate that between 400 and 700 migrants/refugees are reported to be departing from Somaliland every month to attempt the perilous journey to Libya. 33 Ethiopians were intercepted in Somaliland, enroute to Puntland in May; while a reported 81 Ethiopians were assisted to return to Jijiga and other areas of Ethiopia.</p>
<p>Israel</p>	<p>Israel may be in violation of Basic law: An annual State Comptroller report released in May criticized the lack of a coherent policy to deal with migrants/asylum seekers in Israel, particularly those outside custodial and detention facilities. The report highlighted that thousands of migrants/asylum seekers who remain in Israel are being denied basic health care and welfare services. The State Comptroller urged the Interior and Justice Minster to formulate a draft resolution to protect the basic dignity of migrants/asylum seekers who cannot be deported and clarify the position on access to employment to enable them fend for themselves. The Prime Minsters office is reported to have denied that the migrants/asylum seekers were receiving inadequate care while the Attorney General maintained that the state was not in contravention with Israeli or international law. Israel has an estimatated population of of 50,000 (36,000 Eritreans and 14,000 Sudanese) migrants/asylum seekers. Fewer than 200 asylum seekers are reported to have been granted refugee protection since 1954 when Israel signed the Refugee Convention.</p> <p>Issuance of summons to detention challenged:The Supreme Court in May responding to an appeal against detention by a Sudanese national urged the state to grant hearings and legal representation to asylum seekres before issuing summons to the Holot detention facility. Advocates from the Hotline of Migrant Workers (HRW) are reported to have argued that summons to the detention facility were being issued without a hearing or explanation. The Population and Immigration Authority maintained that hearings for asylum seekers prior to summons for detention were unnecessary, where brief questions could easily determine wether they met the criteria for detention. Holot currently houses 2,300 migrants/asylum seekers detained under orders of the Interior Minstry</p>

<p>Sudan/ South Sudan</p>	<p>South Sudanese flee for safety: The situation in South Sudan remains volatile. Overall, over 1.3 million people have been displaced from the current crisis including over 1 million internally displaced persons. A reported 367,000 South Sudanese have fled to Uganda (112,045), Sudan (86,320), Kenya (37,320), Ethiopia (140,000) and Sudan (84,734). President Salva Kiir and the former Vice President of South Sudan Dr. Riek Machar signed a landmark agreement in Addis Ababa on 9th May aimed at ceasing hostilities, rededicating their commitment to the cessation of hostilities agreement signed on 23rd January 2014, and pledging cooperation for the formation of a transitional government. The ceasefire is reported to have been repeatedly violated. In June, the leaders agreed to complete the dialogue process within 60 days including modalities for the formation of a transitional government.</p> <p>Regional dialogue on human trafficking and smuggling: Officials from Eritrea, Ethiopia, Sudan and Egypt are reported to have met in Sudan in May to to launch preparatory discussions towards a regional dialogue on trafficking and smuggling scheduled for later this year. The preparatory forum discussed, amongst other issues, the root causes of human trafficking, smuggling and other irregular movements within the region, and reiterated the urgency of crafting regional and global actions to address irregular migration including trafficking. The meeting was convened by IOM and UNHCR under the auspices of the African Union and with participation from UNODC. The proposed dialogue may include proposals made at the April 2014 Africa-EU summit on trafficking and smuggling aimed at wider dissemination particularly to countries affected by irregular movement in the Horn of Africa region.</p>
<p>Eritrea</p>	<p>Report of the Special Rapporteur (Sheila B Keetharuth) on the situation of human rights in Eritrea: The Report submitted to the Human Rights Council (HRC) in June is based on information gathered from various sources including Eritrean refugees encountered during field missions conducted in 2013 and 2014. In her report, the Special Rapporteur focuses on two main issues, indefinite national service and arbitrary arrest and detention. The Rapporteur requests to visit Eritrea are yet to be granted but she met with Eritrean diplomats in New York in October 2013. As at mid-2013, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) estimated that the total population of concern originating from Eritrea was 313,375 people, including 292,969 refugees or people in refugee-like situations and 20,336 asylum seekers with an average of 2,000 fleeing every month. Recent reports indicate that the exodus may have scaled down to the rate of between 400-700 every month. Eritrea is host to 3,136 refugees mostly Somali. Read the Rapporteur's report here .</p>
<p>Ethiopia</p>	<p>New arrivals in Yemen: An estimated 6,820 Ethiopians made their way to Yemen in May 2014, slightly less than the 6,865 that arrived in April 2014, and a 31% increase from the Ethiopians that arrived in May 2013.</p> <p>New arrivals travelled predominantly from the Oromia, Tigray, Amhara, Harar, and Ogaden regions. Reasons for flight are economic and based on persecution risks. New arrivals reported cases of arbitrary detention and torture as a result of perceived affiliation to the Oromo Liberation Front (OLF), and repression premised on political affiliation in light of the upcoming general elections scheduled for 2015. Prior to departure from Ethiopia, new arrivals reported working as farmers and porters.</p> <p>Refugees and asylum seekers: At the end of May Ethiopia was host to 569,286 from 13 countries. The majority Somali (242,765) followed by South Sudanese (193,389), Eritreans (94,492) and Sudanese (34,331). Over 40,000 new arrivals were registered in May, including South Sudanese (37,572), Eritreans (2,050), Somalis (332) and Sudanese (105). Over 140,000 South Sudanese have arrived in Ethiopia since fighting broke out in Juba in mid-December 2013.</p> <p>Modalities of travel: New arrivals reportedly travelled from central and southern Ethiopia to Wajale by bus, then proceeded to Borama and Djibouti via Loya Ade. They also travelled from West/East Harage to Dire Dawa, then to Djibouti by car, while some walked for up to eight days before entering Djibouti at the Dawalle border point, and proceeding to Obock (maritime departure point) via Tadjoura. They reportedly paid between USD 250 and 300 for the entire journey to Yemen. New arrivals reported working along the way, borrowing money, or utilised remittances from family and friends to finance their journey.</p> <p>Assisted Voluntary Return to Ethiopia: Following a one week verification exercise conducted in six prisons in Tanzania, IOM in coordination with the Ministry of Home Affairs in Tanzania and the Ethiopian Ministry of Foreign</p>

	<p>Affairs begun an operation to assist 220 Ethiopian migrants held in prisons to return home. Thousands of irregular migrants, transiting through Tanzania, on a mission to reach South Africa are reported to be held in overcrowded prisons in Tanzania. The expulsion of over 160,000 Ethiopian labour migrants from Saudi Arabia in late 2013 and early 2014 is reportedly pushing migrants south in their quest for economic opportunities. IOM's assistance to returning migrants includes a flight ticket to Addis Ababa, reception, onward transportation and reintegration assistance.</p>
<p>Kenya</p>	<p>Refugees and asylum seekers in Kenya: Kenya is host to 561,365 refugees and asylum seekers, 50,199 of them in Nairobi (urban refugees). The largest number of refugees and asylum seekers remain Somali nationals (426,390), followed by South Sudanese (70,249), and Ethiopians 30,207. Between April and May the Somali refugee population increased by 2,972 individuals while the South Sudanese refugee population in Kenya increased by 3,908 individuals. Tens of thousands of undocumented migrants from neighbouring countries and further afield reside in Kenya, predominantly in urban areas.</p> <p>Progress on the Tripartite Agreement: The <u>Tripartite Agreement</u> was signed on 10th November 2013. All 12 representatives from Kenya, Somalia and UNHCR were nominated to sit on the Tripartite commission in the first quarter of 2014. The commission is tasked with advancing voluntary and organized repatriation of refugees as well as the reintegration of returnees in Somalia. An official launch of the commission was scheduled for April in Mogadishu but was postponed to May in Nairobi. Somalia is reported to have pulled out of the May meeting. The Somali Interior Minister warned Kenya about the hasty repatriation of Somali refugees possibly compromising gains made against extremism in Somalia, due to inadequate resources to assist returning youth coupled with lack of access to employment. The Somali Government went on to request the Kenyan government to return to the commitments made under the November 2013 tripartite agreement. A UNHCR pilot project targeting Somali refugees voluntarily willing to return to Luuq, Kismayo and Baidoa continues to be delayed due to the prevailing situation in Somalia. Forced returns to refugee camps and deportations to Mogadishu have been said to further complicate the environment within which Somali refugees can be assisted to return in dignity.</p> <p>Operation Usalama Watch: At the end of March 2014, the Interior Ministry launched a security operation dubbed 'usalama watch' aimed at addressing rising terror related attacks in Kenya. The security operation resulted in the roundup of thousands of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers, mostly of Somali origin, following police operations in Nairobi, Mombasa, Baragoi, Naivasha and Nakuru. Congolese and South Sudanese refugees in urban areas have also been rounded up and transferred to refugee camps in the Northern part of the country. The Interior Ministry announced that the migrants/refugees were rounded up for a document verification exercise.</p> <p>More than 4,000 individuals were arrested and detained. A further 2,100 refugees have been sent to Dadaab and Kakuma refugee camps while 359 Somalis have been deported to Mogadishu, Somalia by air since early April. An estimated 7,000 Somalis are reported to have departed for Somalia following the launch of the security operation via land and air routes. At least 3 registered refugees have been identified among the deportees and UNHCR is making efforts to ensure their continued protection. Numerous other deportees may have had a legitimate claim to refugee protection but failed to access the asylum process as a result of the Government suspension of services to urban refugees in December 2012.</p> <p>Regional Consultation on Natural Hazards, Climate Change, and Cross-Border Displacement in the Greater Horn of Africa: Protecting people on the move: The Nansen Initiative, a state-led, bottom-up consultative process intended to build consensus on a protection agenda addressing the needs of people displaced across borders in the context of disasters and the effects of climate change, held its third Regional Consultation in Nairobi, Kenya from 21st- 23rd May 2014. The consultation was aimed at identifying the regional specific context of natural hazards and related disasters leading to cross-border displacement, towards developing practical, policy and programmatic outcomes in response to these challenges. Read the Outcome document here.</p>
<p>Somalia (S-C)</p>	<p>Somali movements to Yemen: An estimated 1,886 Somalis arrived on the Yemeni shores in May 2014, a 26% increase from April 2014 arrivals. May 2014 arrivals averaged 73% more than the Somali arrival figures for May 2013.</p>

New arrivals continue to originate mainly from south central. The motivation for migrating includes the search for economic opportunities and persecution based on perceived affiliation to Al Shabab. A majority of the new arrivals expressed their intention to remain in Yemen and seek protection at the Kharaz refugee camp. A majority of the new arrivals had little or no formal education and worked as shopkeepers, builders, carpenters, porters, farmers, and domestic workers prior to their departure for Yemen.

Refugees and asylum seekers: In May 2014, there were 955,409 Somali refugees in the region hosted mainly in Kenya, Ethiopia, Yemen, Eritrea, Djibouti and Uganda. An estimated 1,800 movements were recorded in Somalia in May. Somalia hosts a total of 2,470 refugees including 64 Zanzibari refugees in Mogadishu, and 10,506 registered asylum seekers, mainly from Ethiopia. The refugees are mainly hosted in the Northern regions of Somaliland and Puntland.

Modalities of travel: Somalis travelled from Mogadishu and its surrounding environs by plane to Hargeysa paying USD 450 in advance to a broker for the entire journey to Yemen. They proceeded to Loya Ade and crossed the border on foot to Djibouti. They then travelled to Tadjoura and Obock. Others departed from Bossaso (Puntland). Some new arrivals traveled to Hargeysa overland from Mogadishu, through Galkcayo, and proceeded to Loya Ade at a cost of USD 150. At Loya Ade, Somalis paid USD 250 to a broker to assist them with the border crossing and for the Red sea crossing to Yemen. They reported financing their journey through loans, remittances or the sale of personal property.

Deportation from Kenya and Saudi Arabia: A total of 33,605 Somalis had been deported from Saudi Arabia since the crackdown on labour migrants begun towards the end of 2013. According to IOM, a 40% increase was recorded in the number of deportees returning in May compared to those that returned in April. A reported [359](#) Somalis have been deported from Kenya to Mogadishu as part of the security operation 'Usalama watch'. IOM continues to provide assistance to deportees arriving in Mogadishu from Kenya and Saudi Arabia including food and non-food items, temporary accommodation, onward transport assistance and basic health care.

**Other
Regional
news**

Movement across the Mediterranean: A reported 50,000 migrants/refugees have arrived in Italy since the beginning of 2014, higher than the 42,000 that arrived in the whole of 2013. More migrants/refugees are expected to attempt the mediteranean crossing with the onset of milder weather conditions and calmer seas. At the end of May, over 1,000 migrants/refugees were reported to have stormed a razor wire fence at Melilla with 400 breaching the barrier. In related developments, Niger is reported to have intercepted over 500 migrants/refugees enroute to Algeria since the beginning of the year, and detained 3 dozen suspects on charges of trafficking. The death of migrants attempting the meditarenean crossing, facilitated by smugglers continues to be reported, the latest such incident occuring in May.

Some responses to the surge in Mediteranean crossings: During the 2014 session of the UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ), member states presented for consideration, a resolution on international cooperation, and criminal justice responses to counter smuggling. Rescues by Italian authorities in May included hundreds of women and minors. IOM called for a high level debate on mixed migratory flows bringing together countries of destination, origin and transit as well as concerned actors and partners along the Mediterranean routes to Europe. UNHCR called on the European Union (EU) to help Italy absorb the huge number of migrants arriving by boat from North Africa, by agreeing to take in people rescued in international waters, as part of a refugee quota sharing system. Libya is reported to have seized over [600](#) migrants/refugees from vessels bound for Europe and along irregular migrant routes in early June including Eritreans, Senegalese, Egyptians, Somalis and Sudanese. The detained migrants/refugees are scheduled for return to their countries of origin.

Implementation of actions/activities of the Task Force for the Mediterranean: The Task force for Mediterranean was established in response to the October 2013 Lampedusa boat tragedy that killed over 300 migrants/refugees and is led by the European Commission. In May, the Commission presented an overview of concrete actions taken in response to short and medium operational actions identified at the end of 2013. The main actions highlighted prior to the Justice and Home Affairs Council in June 2014, relate to better cooperation with origin and transit countries, actions to expand legal access to Europe, actions against transnational organized crime, reinforced border surveillance aimed at enhancing protection for migrants/refugees, and assistance to member states dealing with high migration pressure. The communication providing a summary of actions is available [here](#).

	<p>IOM, UNHCR organize mixed migration meeting in Mozambique: IOM and UNHCR hosted a meeting with key stakeholders to discuss the national response to mixed migration challenges in Mozambique. The meeting was part of the preparations for the 2014 regional Migration Dialogue for Southern Africa (MIDSA) conference, scheduled for 30th June - 2nd July. Migrants/refugees transit Mozambique in their quest to reach South Africa.</p>
<p>New Research, reports or documents</p>	<p>Going West: contemporary mixed migration trends from the Horn of Africa to Libya & Europe (June 2014): It is the 5th study in RMMS's explaining people on the move research series. This report adds strong qualitative information on the modalities of movement, the political economy of the smuggling / trafficking activities between the Horn of Africa and Europe and the severe human rights deficits facing those on the move. Read it the full report here.</p> <p>Blinded by Hope Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices of Ethiopian migrants (June 2014): It is the 6th study in RMMS's explaining people on the move research series The report is a joint study by the Danish Refugee Council (Yemen) and the Regional Mixed Migration Secretariat that examines in detail the knowledge, attitudes and practices of Ethiopian migrants who currently make up the largest number of people on the move in the region.. Read the full report here and a summary of findings here.</p> <p>Yemen's torture camps: Abuse of Migrants by Human Traffickers in a Climate of Impunity (May 2014): The HRW report brings into focus the brutal torture and abuse of Horn of Africa migrants/refugees at the hands of Yemeni traffickers, with allegations of complicity by Yemeni officials. A raft of recommendations is made to the governments of Yemen, Saudi Arabia, Ethiopia and the Donor community. Read the full report here.</p> <p>Frontex Annual Risk Analysis (May 2014): The annual analysis presents a European summary of trends along the external borders of member states of the EU. Approximately 107,000 illegal border crossings were recorded in 2013 a 48% increase from those detected in 2012, but close to numbers detected in 2009 and 2010 and well below the 141,000 that were detected in 2011 at the height of the Arab spring. The year 2013 was characterized by large flows of Syrians, steady flows departing from the North African coast, and a sharp increase in detections on the western Balkan route. Significant flows from the Horn of Africa region particularly Eritrea and Somalia were noted. Read the full analysis here.</p> <p>Sound of Torture (2013): Keren Shayo's film 'Sound of Torture' shot in Israel, Sweden and Egypt voices interviews of Sinai torture victims as broadcast by Meron Estefanos an Eritrean human rights activist. Meron has interviewed thousands of Eritreans held captive in the Sinai torture camps by phone. An estimated 7,000 migrants/asylum seekers are reported to be suffering from mental illness following their experience in Sinai torture camps. See the trailer here.</p>

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. A media press listing of mixed migration events in the month of May can be accessed on RMMS's website [here](#).