



**Regional mixed migration summary for October 2015 covering mixed migration events, trends and data for Djibouti, Eritrea, South Sudan, Sudan, Ethiopia, Kenya, Puntland, Somalia, Somaliland and Yemen.**

**Terminology:** Throughout this report the term migrant/refugee is used to cover all those involved in the mixed migration flows (including asylum seekers, trafficked persons, smuggled economic migrants, refugees). If the caseload mentioned refers only to refugees or asylum seekers or trafficked persons it will be clearly stated.

Country	Events /trends /data /analysis
<p><b>Yemen</b></p>	<p><i>The conflict in Yemen entered its seventh month with escalation of shelling and fighting putting civilians at risk. As previously reported, due to the conflict, monitoring and data collection activities along the Red Sea and Arabian sea coasts continued to be affected, with a majority of monitoring exercises suspended. The data presented in this report on arrivals in Yemen is therefore not conclusive of the actual number of arrivals during this period.</i></p> <p><b>Conflict-related displacement:</b> The overall security situation in Yemen remained intense and continued to deteriorate in the reporting period with persistent air strikes, armed clashes and shelling claiming lives and causing injury. A report released by the <a href="#">Task Force on Population Movement</a> confirmed a new internal displacement figure of 2,305,048 persons, an alarming 60% increase on previous estimates.</p> <p><b>Continued arrivals from the Horn of Africa:</b> Due to interruptions in the Danish Refugee Council's (DRC) monitoring missions, protection monitoring activities along the Red Sea coast were unable to be conducted in their usual fashion in October 2015. However information provided by migrants encountered by DRC mixed migration monitoring teams in Hodeida and Hajjah governorates, show that an estimated number of at least 492 migrants and asylum seekers arrived in Yemen on 12 boats via the Red Sea. The new arrivals departed from Obock in Djibouti and docked in various coastal towns in Yemen.</p> <p>However, according to UNHCR <b>10,937 migrants and asylum seekers</b> also arrived in Yemen along the Arabian coast during October 2015. UNHCR estimate that at least 59,000 persons have arrived in Yemen by sea (Red Sea and Arabian Sea) since the beginning of the year. 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 and shows that month estimates expressed in RMMS reports have been an under-estimate.</p> <p><b>Migrant vulnerability:</b> In October 2015, available information showed that migrants and asylum seekers did not report any incidents while making the Red Sea crossing to Yemen. However migrants reported the abduction of all Ethiopian arrivals, who were kept hostage for varying periods ranging from days to weeks and forced to contact their family members to secure ransom for their freedom. According to the migrants encountered by DRC, each captive reportedly paid between USD 800-1,300 for release.</p> <p><b>Refugees in Yemen:</b> According to UNHCR there are approximately 250,000 refugees and migrants situated around urban centres in Yemen. 240,000 of these are Somali refugees and 10,000 are migrants from Ethiopia, Eritrea, Syria and Iraq. These figures may not however represent the reality of the situation in the country, as they were last verified before the outbreak of conflict in Yemen.</p> <p><b>Departures from Yemen:</b> As of 9<sup>th</sup> November 2015, the number of people fleeing Yemen to the Horn of Africa (Djibouti, Ethiopia, Somalia and Sudan) was 76,314 persons (29,813 in Djibouti, 11,273 in Ethiopia, 29,640 in Somalia, and 5,588 in Sudan). Yemenis and Somalis represent the largest proportion of people moving out of Yemen, accounting for 27% and 38% of movements respectively. The primary destination for Yemeni nationals is 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 <a href="#">portal</a>.</p> <p><b>Return to Yemen:</b> According to UNHCR, a number of migrants/refugees arriving in Somalia have indicated a desire to return to Yemen, and in particular to Aden, which was recently recovered by coalition forces. One of the reasons cited for this is to oversee businesses in the country.</p>

<p><b>Djibouti</b></p>	<p><b>Departures to Yemen:</b> Limited information from DRC's monitoring missions in Yemen indicate that at least 429 migrants and asylum seekers departed from Obock and arrived in coastal towns in Yemen. The numbers of actual arrivals are likely to be considerably higher.</p> <p><b>Arrivals from Yemen:</b> As of 9th November, a total of 29,813 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 54% of the arrivals so far. Third Country Nationals make up 39% and Djiboutian returnees account for 6%.</p> <p><b>Refugees from Yemen:</b> In October 2015, the Djiboutian government made a decision to facilitate the registration of Yemeni refugees residing in Djibouti city. As of 26<sup>th</sup> October, UNHCR and ONARS (the government refugee agency), had registered 5,337 refugees who had fled from the conflict in Yemen. 97% (5,150) of these refugees are Yemeni nationals. 2,617 of the refugees reside in Markazi refugee camp, with the remaining number residing in Obock and Djibouti city. The number of Yemeni refugees moving on to other countries, is unknown. Yemeni nationals enjoy <i>prima facie</i> refugee status in Djibouti provided they can produce a Yemeni passport or letter from the Yemeni embassy declaring their nationality.</p>
<p><b>Somaliland</b></p>	<p><b>Arrivals from Yemen:</b> As of 3rd November 2015, a total of 9,378 migrants/refugees/returnees 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. In October, 90 new arrivals (3% Somali and 97% Yemeni) were recorded.. With the exception of arrivals recorded in March 2015, this represents the lowest number of new arrivals since the conflict began.</p> <p><b>Returning refugees and asylum seekers in Somaliland:</b> Of the 7,727 Somalis that have arrived in Somaliland since the beginning of the conflict 43% (3,352) had acquired refugee status or sought asylum in Yemen.</p>
<p><b>Puntland</b></p>	<p><b>Arrivals from Yemen:</b> As of 3rd November 2015, a total of 19,895 migrants/refugees/returnees had arrived in Puntland since the beginning of the Yemen conflict. Arrivals have been recorded through the towns of Bargal, Bosasso, Elayo and Qandala. 237 migrants/refugees/returnees arrived in Puntland in October 2015 which represents one of the lowest monthly arrival rates since the conflict began.</p> <p><b>Returning refugees and asylum seekers in Puntland:</b> Of the 18,188 Somalis that have returned from Yemen to Puntland since the conflict, 5,733 (32%) people had acquired refugee status or sought asylum in Yemen.</p>
<p><b>Somalia (South Central)</b></p>	<p><b>Arrivals from Yemen:</b> No further arrivals were registered in South Central Somalia from Yemen in the reporting period. However a significant number (54%) of those arriving in Somaliland and Puntland indicate an intention to return to Mogadishu specifically.</p> <p><b>Internal Displacement:</b> 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><b>Refugees in the neighbouring countries:</b> There were 973,029 registered Somali refugees and asylum seekers displaced in neighbouring countries in the region as of 31st October 2015. Kenya continues to host the majority of Somali refugees (43%), followed by Ethiopia (26%).</p>

<p><b>South Sudan</b></p>	<p><b>Regional displacement:</b> Security conditions remain volatile as clashes between warring factions drive up displacement. As at 13<sup>th</sup> November 2015 there were a total of 644,822 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 (255,321), followed by Sudan (198,448), Uganda (173,132) and Kenya (48,921). An additional 122,865 who were displaced before the December 2013 conflict are also hosted in the region.</p> <p><b>Internal Displacement:</b> As of 12<sup>th</sup> November 2015 there were approximately 1.66 million displaced persons in South Sudan.</p> <p><b>Refugees in South Sudan:</b> Despite the ongoing conflict, South Sudan continues to host 265,228 refugees in the country. The majority of these refugees are from neighbouring Sudan (92%), followed by Democratic Republic of Congo (6%). Refugees from Ethiopia and Central African Republic make up the remaining 2%.</p> <p><b>South Sudan unity on the horizon:</b> According to <a href="#">local media reports</a>, the formation of a South Sudan Transitional Government of National Unity could be constituted by the end of 2015. Opposing sides to the conflict <a href="#">agreed</a> on details of security arrangements for the transitional administration in Juba, paving the way for the next steps for the peace deal. <a href="#">An expert panel report</a> presented to the UN Security Council however, cast doubts on the parties' commitment to the provisions of the peace agreement, citing "credible, independent" sources pointing to the active expansion of stockpiles of arms and ammunition. More than seven negotiated ceasefires have failed to take hold since outbreak of violence in December 2013, displacing more than 2 million South Sudanese in the country and in the region.</p>
<p><b>Sudan</b></p>	<p><b>Internal Displacement:</b> Protracted and intense, violent competition over land and resources in Darfur, South Kordofan and Blue Nile states continues to force thousands to flee their homes in search of refuge. At the end of October 2015, there were 3.1 million Sudanese internally displaced in the country, of who 2.5 million are in Darfur, with 223,000 newly displaced in the course of 2015.</p> <p><b>Refugees in Sudan:</b> As of 8<sup>th</sup> November 2015, Sudan hosted a total 366,329 refugees in the country, including 197,635 South Sudanese and 168,694 refugees from other countries.</p> <p><b>Sudanese nationals crossing into Europe:</b> UNHCR figures show that Sudanese nationals make up 1% of the total sea arrivals (819,218) to Europe in 2015.</p>
<p><b>Eritrea</b></p>	<p><b>Eritrean arrivals in Europe:</b> As of 31<sup>st</sup> October 2015, a total of 37,796 Eritrean nationals (66% male) had crossed the Mediterranean Sea to Italy since the beginning of the year. Eritreans continue to be the single most populous group of persons making the crossing accounting for 27% of those crossing this year. According to a <a href="#">UN Human Rights Council Commission of Inquiry</a> on Human Rights in Eritrea, the government is responsible for systematic, widespread and gross human rights violations, which are key drivers of the mass migration from Eritrea.</p> <p>Speaking at a meeting of more than 60 world leaders from Africa and the European Union, French President Francois Hollande said that "maximum pressure" needs to be applied on the Eritrean government to recover a serious situation. "Nobody is talking about it. It is a country that is becoming empty of its own population with unscrupulous leaders who let their people go," he is <a href="#">reported</a> as saying.</p> <p><b>UN report reveals Eritrea's involvement in the war in Yemen:</b> According to a <a href="#">report</a> released by the UN Monitoring Group on Somalia and Eritrea, the Eritrean government is allowing Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates to use its land, airspace and territorial waters in a "new strategic military relationship", in return for fuel and financial compensation. The deal was struck after Saudi Arabia and the U.A.E. failed to secure a similar arrangement with neighbouring Djibouti. Eritrea' support also includes the secondment of 400 soldiers to the United Arab Emirates contingent of forces fighting on Yemeni soil. This move could be a violation of Security Council resolutions if Eritrea diverted the compensation "towards activities that threaten peace and security".</p>

<p><b>Ethiopia</b></p>	<p><b>Arrivals from Yemen:</b> As of 9th November 2015, 11,273 individuals had arrived in Ethiopia from Yemen since the outbreak of violence in March 2015, the majority of who (66%) are returning Ethiopian nationals. As of 20<sup>th</sup> October UNHCR has registered 3,570 asylum seekers and refugees. The majority of this group are Somali (2,515) and Yemeni (1,046) nationals. Following the government's Administration for Refugees and Returnee Affairs (ARRA) decision to waive nationality screening for Yemeni asylum seekers, Yemeni nationals are now recognised as <i>prima facie</i> refugees providing they can produce either a Yemeni passport or a letter from the Yemeni Embassy attesting their citizenship.</p> <p><b>Refugees in Ethiopia:</b> As of 30<sup>th</sup> September 2015, Ethiopia was host to 733,312 registered asylum seekers and refugees, maintaining its positions as the host of the largest number of refugees on the continent.</p>
<p><b>Kenya</b></p>	<p><b>Refugees in Kenya:</b> There were 5914,576 registered refugees and asylum seekers in Kenya as of 31<sup>st</sup> October 2015. Somali refugees and asylum seekers account for the majority of this group (71%), followed by South Sudanese (16%), and Ethiopians (5%). 90% of the refugee and asylum seeker population are encamped in Dadaab, Alinjugur and Kakuma camps, with 10% residing in the capital Nairobi.</p> <p><b>Voluntary repatriation of Somali refugees:</b> The repatriation of Somali refugees continued at a steady pace in the reporting period. As of 31<sup>st</sup> October 2015 a total of 5,403 Somali refugees had been supported to voluntarily repatriate from Dadaab refugee camp in Kenya to Somalia since the beginning of the exercise in 2014. According to UNHCR 582 Somali refugees have registered their intention to return at return help desks in October 2015 in Dadaab refugee camp.</p>
<p><b>Israel</b></p>	<p><b>Israeli court upholds policy of “voluntary” departure or detention for irregular migrants:</b> A petition filed by non-governmental organisations challenging the Israeli government's policy of effectively deporting irregular African migrants to “safe” third countries, and detaining those who refuse to be deported, was rejected by the Beersheba District Court. “The State of Israel's hands were tied with regard to finding a solution for the serious problem of illegal infiltration into the country. We reached a breakthrough...that allows us to get back on track and to send illegal migrants to third-party countries. This is a fair and just decision that is in accordance with international law,” Interior Minister Silvan Shalom is <a href="#">reported</a> as saying.</p> <p>In September 2015, Israel's Population, Immigration and Border Authority released <a href="#">statistics</a> showing the “voluntary departure” of more than 8,000 Eritrean and Sudanese asylum seekers to third countries. A <a href="#">report</a> released by human rights group International Refugee Rights Initiative (IRRI) in September 2015 alleged that despite assurances made by the Israeli government on the protection of asylum seekers in third countries, they were unable to secure any form of legal status on their arrival.</p>
<p><b>Other regional news and news from other regions</b></p>	<p><b>Egypt to launch special court for illegal immigration:</b> Egyptian Minister of Justice Ahmed Al-Zind <a href="#">announced</a> that Egypt will launch a special court to prosecute illegal immigration and human trafficking crimes. The National Committee on Fighting and Preventing Illegal Immigration will release a study on the phenomena of irregular migration based on field research in November. The study is aimed to improve the national strategy on fighting irregular migration.</p> <p>Local <a href="#">media reports</a> covered the arrest of 11 Somalis and 10 Ethiopians in Egypt for irregular migration. In another swoop 72 Somalis, three Congolese, two Sudanese and one Gambian citizen were arrested before boarding a smuggling boat to Italy. A further 82 Egyptians were <a href="#">arrested</a> in an attempt to enter Libya irregularly.</p> <p><b>African migrants fired upon in Egypt while crossing the Sinai:</b> Media <a href="#">reports</a> covered the death of 15 Sudanese migrants, shot at in Egypt's Sinai Peninsula while trying to reach Israel. Eight other migrants were reportedly wounded in the incident.</p> <p><b>Refugee and migrant sea-arrivals in Europe:</b> According to UNHCR 819,218 refugees and migrants arrived in the European Union (EU) by sea as of 16<sup>th</sup> November 2015. The majority of arrivals were recorded in Greece (673,916), followed by Italy (142,400), Spain (2,797) and Malta (106). 219,740 refugees and migrants arrived in</p>

October alone, more than the entire total for 2014 (218,054) and a 24% on arrivals in September 2015. Migrants and refugees from the Horn of Africa make up a sizeable proportion of refugees and migrants moving along the Central Mediterranean route to Italy (Eritreans 37,796, Somalis 11,020 and Sudanese 8,692 – as at 31<sup>st</sup> October). UNHCR now [estimates](#) that at least 1.4 million refugees will flee to Europe in 2015 and 2016.

In a bid to respond to the influx of refugees and migrants, the European Union early this year approved a plan to relocate a total of 160,000 asylum seekers across the continent over the next two years. Progress has however been painfully slow. Only [2,248 places](#) of the required 160,000 had been made available by 4<sup>th</sup> November 2015 and just 147 refugees had been relocated by 10<sup>th</sup> November. **[Latest developments in Paris following the attacks causing up to 130 deaths in Mid-November 2015, may make the relocation of Syrian refugees problematic. This will be discussed in more detail in the RMMS November report as events and policy decisions unfold]**

**Mediterranean deaths at sea:** According to figures compiled by IOM's Missing Migrant Project, as of 14th November 2015 3,499 persons had lost their lives in Mediterranean sea crossings since the beginning of the year, accounting for 72% of fatalities worldwide.

**EU Trust Fund approved at Valletta Summit (11<sup>th</sup> / 12<sup>th</sup> November 2015):** The European Commission backed proposal to provide 1.8 billion Euros funding to African countries to contribute to tackling the root causes of irregular migration and forced displacement was approved by the European Union. The Fund, which will focus on the Sahel, the Horn of Africa and North Africa regions, will be channelled to projects to support employment creation, especially for young people and women. Support will also be leveraged to countries of origin to strengthen capacities for migration management, border management and countering radicalisation and extremism.

However, African leaders attending the summit have [reportedly](#) criticised the fund as insufficient. Senegal's President Macky Sall was reported as stating that the money "was not enough for the whole of Africa", while Somalia's Prime Minister Omar Abdirashidali Sharmatke said that: "What Africa needs today is not charity, but investment". The conclusions and discussion around the Valletta Summit will be discussed in more detail in the RMMS November report.

**Burundi refugees in neighbouring countries:** As of 15<sup>th</sup> November 2015, there were 216,570 Burundian refugees and asylum seekers in countries in the region displaced by election-related violence.

**New Research, reports or documents**

**[Beyond Definitions: Global migration and the smuggling-trafficking nexus:](#)** This new discussion paper by RMMS explores the rise of mixed, irregular migration with a particular focus on the role of smuggling and trafficking in both facilitating that movement and influencing its impact. It argues that understanding migrant smuggling and human trafficking as part of a wider phenomenon within classic economic dynamics and supply and demand, is critical to the development of migration policies that are not diverted by misuse of terminology and that maintains an appropriate focus on the rights of migrants and corresponding obligations of States. This paper was written in collaboration with Jørgen Carling and Anne T. Gallagher.

**[Conditions and risks of mixed migration in North East Africa:](#)** This study by researchers from the University of Sussex for the Mixed Migration Hub (MHub) reveals four main human rights protection risks facing individuals on the move in the North East Africa region. These include: (i) onward movement of refugees due to lack of protection, (ii) protection risks as smuggling develops into trafficking, (iii) increased vulnerability due to lack of official documentary evidence of identity, and (iv) protection risks for increasing numbers of unaccompanied minors migrating internationally.

**[The World Migration Report 2015: Migrants and cities, new partnerships to manage mobility:](#)** The eight report in IOM's World Migration Report series focusses on migrants and how migration is shaping cities and the situation of migrants in cities. While much of the current international discussion about migration trends and migration policy tends to focus on the national level, this report takes migration enquiries to the city level and to raise understanding of the local socio-economic dynamics of migration and the close connection between migration and urban development.

**[There are Alternatives:](#)** Based on five years of global research to identify and describe alternatives to immigration detention, this revised edition of *There are alternatives* by the International Detention Coalition provides readers

	with guidance on successfully avoiding unnecessary detention and making community options as effective as possible. The research pulls from 250 examples of alternatives from 60 countries.
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*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.*