



Regional Mixed Migration in the Horn of Africa and Yemen in 2012: 1st Quarter trend summary and analysis

In the first quarter of 2012 (1st of January -31st of March) based on data recorded, the following trends relevant to mixed migration in the region were identified:

Increased movement to Yemen

A total of 30,687 new arrivals were recorded disembarking from vessels crossing both the Gulf of Aden and the Red Sea in a total of 481 boat trips. This means that on average 53 crossings were made every week carrying, on average, 63 people per boat not including crew/smugglers. The new arrivals figure in the first quarter of 2012 is a 34% increase compared to the first quarter of 2011 and a staggering 325% increase on 2010 figures for the same period.

According to the UNHCR, Yemen has seen a [record number](#) of African migrants flowing to its coast this year probably due to the insecurity in Yemen which has made it difficult to patrol the coast.

Month	Total Arrivals / 2010	Total Arrivals / 2011	Total Arrivals / 2012
January	2673	5658	10693
February	2359	7708	12454
March	4407	9486	7540
Total	9439	22852	30687

1st Quarter	Non Somalis	Somalis
2010	6231 (66%)	3208 (34%)
2011	16851 (73.7%)	6001 (26.3%)
2012	26635 (86%)	4052 (14%)



Year 1st Quarter	Red Sea arrival total	Percentage of Non-Somalis	Percentage of Somalis
2010	6780	76.8%	23.2%
2011	13781	91%	09%
2012	25115	88.3%	11.7%

2010	Red Sea Arrival	Arabian Sea Arrival
January	1301(NS) 500 (S) 67%	518 (NS) 354 (S) 33%
February	1348(NS) 419 (S) 75%	158 (NS) 434 (S) 25%
March	2557(NS) 655 (S) 72.8%	349 (NS) 846 (S) 27.2%
% average	71%	29%

2011	Red Sea Arrival	Arabian Sea Arrival
January	2977(NS) 379 (S) 59.3%	946 (NS) 1356(S) 40.7%
February	4297(NS) 358 (S) 60.4%	1275 (NS) 1778 (S) 39.6%
March	5271(NS) 499 (S) 60.8%	2085 (NS)1631 (S) 39.2%
% average	60%	40%

2012	Red Sea Arrival	Arabian Sea Arrival
January	6493(NS) 1047(S) 70.5%	1378 (NS) 1775(S) 29.5%
February	9206(NS) 829 (S) 80.5%	1290 (NS) 1129 (S) 19.5%

March	6493(NS)1047 (S) 70.5%	1775 (NS)1378 (S) 29.5%
% average	74%	26%

Increased number of Ethiopians crossing to Yemen

In terms of absolute numbers, and as a proportion of the whole, the number of Ethiopians (non-Somalis) making the crossing to Yemen significantly increased in the first quarter of 2012, consistent with a trend that began in 2009. Of the 30,687 new arrivals total for 2012, an average of 86% (26,635) were non-Somalis (mostly from Ethiopia) while less than 14% (4052) were of Somali origin (overwhelmingly from South Central Somalia). The proportion of non-Somalis in the first quarter 2012 increased by approximately 13% compared to the same quarter in 2011 and increased by 20% compared to 2010.

The search for economic opportunities and insecurity continues to be the key motivating factors for migrants flowing into Yemen and this has been consistent over the three year period.

Increased number travelling across the Red Sea instead of the Gulf of Aden

There is a clear trend illustrating that those headed for Yemen increasingly use Djibouti as the main departure point. In the first quarter of 2012 there was an 82% increase in the number of migrants using the Red Sea crossing to Yemen compared to the first quarter of 2011. The trend has been consistent over a three year period as seen in the table below.

The reasons are varied; Firstly, Djibouti is the most direct and closest route to Yemen for most Ethiopians. Secondly, Ethiopian migrants have faced repeated abuse and in some case refoulement when transiting Somaliland and Puntland. By contrast, there are very few cases of abuse or refoulement from Djibouti, although some migrants are arrested and detained for illegal entry into Djibouti. The Puntland Marine Police Force (PMPF) may have also played a crucial role in abating the smuggling of migrants from the port of Bosaso.

In the first quarter of 2012 an average of 74% of all those smuggled over the water crossed the Red Sea representing a 14% increase compared to the first quarter of 2011.

Changing location of arrival points in Yemen

Not surprisingly, with more people leaving from Djibouti and crossing the Bab El Mandeb strait, the numbers of boat arrivals in Taiz and Lahj governorates in Yemen have risen dramatically from 205 in the year 2011 to 372 in the year 2012. Hadramout governorate which directly faces the migrant departure point of Bosaso in Puntland, registered a decrease in boat arrivals in the first quarter of 2012 from 91 in 2011 to 55 in 2012. As mentioned fewer migrants depart from Bosaso, Puntland.

Changing vulnerabilities for Yemen-bound migrants 1: Incident at sea



In the first quarter of 2012 specifically the months of January and February no deaths from drowning were reported. This is a major shift compared to 2011 when 87 people died from drowning within the same time period. The change could be attributed to the low risk of disembarking migrants at the coastal shores (previously pushed into the waters some distance from the shore) due to the insecurity in Yemen (reduced patrols by Yemeni coast guards); it could also be linked to the rise in kidnappings for ransom where smugglers collude with kidnappers.

Changing vulnerabilities for Yemen-bound migrant 2: Kidnapping and extortion

This year alone, there has been a dramatic increase in cases of kidnaping, torture and sexual attack of migrants in Yemen, specifically at the points of arrival. This is a new and alarming trend.

Fleeing Somalis: To Ethiopia and Kenya

The flow of Somalis to Kenyan refugee camps has continued although Kenya stopped the registration of Somali refugees at Dadaab refugee camp in October 2011. According to UNHCR figures the number of registered Somali refugees in Kenya was approximately 522,065 which represent a 16% increase within a 5 month period, in comparison to the October 2011 figure of 450,000.

In Ethiopia In the first quarter of 2012 the total number of refugees from Somali arriving in Ethiopia increased by over 12,463 based on OCHA Eastern Africa displacement population report [Issue 11](#) march 2012. The rising trend of Somalis seeking refuge in Ethiopia therefore, continues.

The level of internal displacement in Somalia also continued to rise especially in South Central due to the AMISOM war on Al-Shabab. The imminent AMISOM attack on Afgoye in May caused tensions and led some people to flee. In the Gedo region clashes between Kenyan and Ethiopian forces against the Al-Shabab has led to displacement of approximately 5,000 people. UNHCR estimates that up to 770,00 IDPs live in Gedo, with a total of 1.36 million Somali IPDs displaced throughout the country. The trend in terms of people affected, therefore, is little changed from 2011 although displacement continually affects different groups of people over time.

In Uganda, Djibouti and Tanzania the number of Somali refugees registered increased marginally during 1st quarter of 2012 to figures of 15,273, 19,445 and 2,961 respectively.

African Migrants in Israel

There seems to be a Global trend of intolerance towards migrants with cases of government crack downs towards migrants being reported in Egypt, Libya, Yemen, Eastern Europe and the autonomous regions of Somaliland, Puntland. For example, Israel is struggling to manage an influx of close to 60,000 Africans who crossed illegally into Israel through the relatively porous desert border with Egypt in recent years. Migrant resentment and [arsonist attacks](#) have risen in recent months in the Jewish State with fears of a gathering demographic and economic crisis in the country with a population of 7.8million. Israeli residents accuse the migrants mostly from Eritrea, Sudan and South Sudan of being responsible for the rise in crime. Israel's Population, Immigration and Borders Authority is building a [detention facility](#) to house illegal residents of Israel and their children – mostly refugees from Africa – as they await deportation.



The above summary overview of movements and trends offers a snap shot of 1st quarter of 2012 main indicators. The details of particular movements and the issues and conditions around them can be found in other RMMS literature and resources on this website as well as on related websites of agencies active in the mixed migration sector ([see links](#)).

RMMS analysis is developed from data from different sources:

1. The central source of data for all arrivals and movement in Yemen is the Yemen Mixed Migration Task Force (predominantly developed from Danish Refugee Council and UNHCR systems in Yemen)
2. Data on internal displacement in the Horn of Africa as well as refugee data in the region is sourced from UNHCR.
3. Data used from outside these sources will always be attributed (e.g. from IOM or IDMC etc)