



## **Regional Mixed Migration in the Horn of Africa and Yemen in 2013: 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter trend summary and analysis**

A full and detailed End of Year analysis of regional trends, statistics and policy changes will be released by RMMS before the end of December 2013. This 3rd Quarterly trends analysis is an indicative summary description of the basic trends and changes in flows.

### **Irregular movement**

An estimated 30% less migrants arrived in Yemen in the 3rd quarter of 2013 compared to 2nd quarter arrivals. Declining numbers in the 3rd quarter indicate a projected 30% drop in the number of migrants that will reach Yemen in 2013 in comparison to the number that arrived in 2012. Declining numbers in the 3rd quarter also indicate a significant shift of Somali migrant/refugee movement from the Red Sea/Gulf of Aden and Arabian Sea, to the Mediterranean crossing. An estimated 80% of the migrants/refugees arriving on the shores of Yemen were Ethiopian a trend expected to be mirrored in the 4th quarter.

### **Refugee and asylum seeker returns**

Somali refugee returns in the region particularly from Kenya, Yemen, and Ethiopia averaged 2,200 a month in the 3rd quarter similar to the 2nd quarter, but are expected to increase in the 4th quarter due to the uncertainty created by the chorus for return in Kenya and Yemen.

### **Ethiopian returns**

An unconfirmed number of Ethiopian returns from Yemen were effected in the 3rd quarter. Ethiopian returns from Yemen are expected to continue into the 4th quarter. The voluntary nature of the returns remains in question, as well as the availability of re-integration assistance, if any, provided to returning migrants/refugees.

### **Protection risks and abuses**

An average of 2,000 migrant/refugee kidnappings in Yemen were reported in the 3rd quarter. Theft of personal belongings, rape, extortion on the sea journey to Yemen and trafficking continued to be reported.

### **Policy and legislative environment**

Prosecution of traffickers and smugglers in the region remained weak despite numerous arrests in Somaliland, Puntland and Yemen. The effect of Anti-migrant/refugee sentiment in Saudi Arabia, Yemen and Kenya continued to be felt in the region. The judiciary however in High Court decisions in Israel and Kenya re-affirmed the States obligations in the realization of migrant and refugee rights. Asylum and protection space for migrants and refugees is expected to continue to shrink in the region in the 4th quarter.