



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

| Country | Events /trends/ data / analysis |
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| <p>Djibouti</p> | <p>New Arrivals in Yemen: In January 2014, an estimated 405 migrants/refugees arrived on Yemen's shores via Djibouti, a 39% increase from arrivals in December 2013, and a 94% average decrease from the migrants/refugees that arrived in January 2013 and 2012. Somali arrivals in Djibouti continue to decrease perhaps due to an improved security environment in their country of origin. Information on the ongoing mass removal of undocumented labour migrants from Saudi Arabia may also have reached migrants/refugees intending to travel east to Yemen and then north into Saudi Arabia.</p> <p>Boats: A total of 13 vessels left via the Red Sea for Yemen carrying an average of 31 passengers per trip in the month of January.</p> <p>Migrant vulnerability: Somalis continue to report arrest and detention on suspicion of affiliation to Al Shabab, and mistreatment by authorities patrolling the coastline or at border points. Migrants/refugees arriving in Yemen reported that at least 350 Somalis, predominately women and children and 100 Ethiopian men were stranded at the Obock departure point. The stranded migrants/refugees may be the result of a crackdown on smugglers and traffickers by the Djiboutian authorities. Migrants/refugees are now forced to rely on Yemeni smugglers who demand direct payment as opposed to payment through brokers. A humanitarian organisation operating from Obock has reportedly assisted 380 Ethiopians stranded in Obock to voluntarily return to Ethiopia in recent months.</p> <p>Modalities of travel: Tightening borders in the region may have resulted in increased smuggling transaction costs for migrants/refugees. They reported paying bribes to authorities, and an average of USD 70, up from USD 20, to smugglers to facilitate their crossing from Loya Ade to Djibouti. Migrants/refugees indicated the use of a new departure point, 2 hours away from the traditional departure points in Obock.</p> <p>Increased surveillance: Djiboutian authorities are reported to have mounted checkpoints along the Djiboutian/Somaliland border. As a result, migrants/refugees intercepted were returned to Loya Ade. The Djiboutian military was also reported to be patrolling the Obock coastline, arresting and deporting Ethiopian migrants encountered.</p> <p>Voluntary returns: Plans are underway to effect voluntary returns of Somali refugees in Djibouti originating from Somaliland. UNHCR and Somaliland government officials met with refugees in Djibouti to discuss the possibility of voluntary returns, and 'go and see visits' to inform returns. There are a total of 3,200 refugees originating from Somaliland at the Ali Addeh refugee camp in Djibouti. In addition, an estimated 18 Ethiopian migrants at the Obock reception centre were seeking voluntary return assistance in January 2014.</p> |
| <p>Somaliland</p> | <p>Irregular movement to Libya: Reports indicate that an organized smuggling network in Somaliland with links to similar operations in Ethiopia, Sudan and Libya is facilitating the irregular movement of Somaliland youth to Libya at a cost of between USD 3,000 and 5000. No concrete data exists on the number of youth leaving Somaliland but previous estimates indicate an average of 700 youth irregularly attempting to reach Libya every month.</p> |

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| <p>Israel</p> | <p>Two Eritreans granted refugee status: Israel is reported to have granted refugee status to 2 Eritrean nationals in a precedent setting decision. The decision is however said to be subject to review from time to time. The 2 were granted status on political grounds. However, previous grounds for rejection by the Israeli government maintained forced military service as an insufficient claim to political persecution. Out of 1,950 asylum applications submitted in the last year, 270 had been examined resulting in approximately 155 rejections. Israel is host to 53,000 asylum seekers mainly from Eritrea and Sudan.</p> <p>Asylum seekers leave Israel: According to the Population, Immigration and Border Authority nearly 780 migrants/refugees left the country in January 2014 up from 325 in December 2013 and 63 in November 2013. In total 2,612 migrants are reported to have left the country in 2013. Migrants/refugees who voluntary depart from Israel receive a grant of USD 3500. A recent amendment to the Anti-infiltration law effectively allows indefinite detention in a prison like facility for migrants/refugees who cannot be returned to their countries of origin. Indefinite detention together with minimal prospects for refugee protection are said to be piling pressure on migrants to leave Israel despite the risk of persecution upon return to their countries of origin.</p> <p>UNHCR voices concern on Israel's treatment of asylum seekers amid protests by migrants/refugees: UNHCR called on Israel to adhere to refugee and human rights law in its treatment of asylum seekers. The Refugee agency is reported to be particularly concerned with the possibility of indefinite detention of migrants who cannot effectively be returned to their countries of origin for reasons of non-refoulement. Under an amendment to the Anti-infiltration law, new arrivals can be detained for up to 1 year without trial. Migrants/refugees in Israel are reported to be facing difficulties in the periodic renewal of their conditional release visas. Renewal of conditional release visas is required pursuant to the temporary protection accorded by Israel to asylum seekers. Migrants/refugees have held numerous demonstrations in Tel Aviv, outside the Knesset, western embassies and UNHCR offices since late December 2013 demanding their right to seek asylum and have their claims to refugee protection adjudicated.</p> |
| <p>Sudan/ South Sudan</p> | <p>South Sudanese flee for safety: The security situation in South Sudan is reported to have remained relatively stable following the signing of a cease fire agreement on 23rd January 2014. At least 723,900 South Sudanese remain internally displaced while 145,000 are reported to have fled to neighbouring countries following an outbreak of violence in mid-December 2013 attributed to fighting between government forces and a rival faction. By mid-January over 66,000 South Sudanese were reported to have crossed into Uganda, nearly 9,000 to Kenya, and over 23,000 entered Ethiopia. The daily refugee influx rate of arrival in the above countries is between 200 and 1000. Nearly 80% of those fleeing are reported to be women and children. Warring factions embarked on another round of peace talks at the beginning of February in Addis Ababa with the aim of finding a lasting solution to the present crisis.</p> |
| <p>Eritrea</p> | <p>Eritreans kidnapped and tortured in the Sinai: A Human Rights Watch report '<i>I wanted to lie down and die</i>' released in February 2014 documents the kidnap for ransom and torture of Eritreans in the Sinai with the most recent cases reported in November and December 2013. A lull in kidnappings attributed to increased Egyptian military action against Islamic militants in the Sinai had been previously reported but now indications are that abductions may once again be on the rise.</p> |
| <p>Ethiopia</p> | <p>New Arrivals in Yemen: An estimated 403 Ethiopians made their way to Yemen in January 2014, a 32% increase from December 2013 arrivals and a 94% average decrease from the migrants/refugees who arrived in January 2013 and 2012. New arrivals pre-dominantly originate from Oromia, Amhara, Harar, Tigray, the Somali region and Addis Ababa. Economic reasons continue to drive the movement while some new arrivals reported religious and political persecution as their reason for flight. Farmers arriving in Yemen continue to mention high taxation and costs related to expensive mandatory fertilizer use as their reason for flight. A minimal number of arrivals indicated flight as a result of inter-tribal fighting in the Wallo region.</p> <p>Refugees and asylum seekers: At the end of January 2014, Ethiopia was host to 453,836 refugees from Somalia (52%), Eritrea (18%), South Sudan (19%), Sudan (7%) and refugees from several other countries (1%). In January over 25,000 refugee arrivals were recorded over 23,000 of them from South Sudan, 1338 Eritreans and 204 Somalis.</p> |

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| | <p>Returns from Saudi Arabia: Over 158,125 Ethiopian labour migrant returnees had arrived in Addis Ababa by the end of the first week of February 2014. An estimated 62% of the returnees were men, 33% women and 5% children including 514 unaccompanied minors, majority of whom have been reunited with their families. Over 90% of the returnees received post arrival assistance from IOM with the support of the Ethiopian government, various UN and civil society organisations. January witnessed an average of 345 returnees per day compared to 7,000 from mid-November at the height of the return exercise and 113 at the beginning of February. The United States Government is reported to have provided USD 2 million towards the assistance IOM is providing to returnees including reception, registration, transport, medical assistance, light meals, and transit shelter services including family tracing for unaccompanied minors. In related events IOM launched a popular theatre tour on the dangers of irregular migration in the Amhara, Tigray and Oromia regions, well documented areas of origin for irregular migrants. The theatre is aimed at an audience of 60,000 by the end of January and is coordinated in conjunction with local authorities.</p> <p>Returnee areas of origin: According to data from IOM a majority of the returnees from Saudi Arabia at over 50,000 originate from Amhara, over 30,000 from Oromia, and 28,000 from Tigray. Less than 10,000 of the returnees originate from Addis Ababa and Afar, and the rest are spread out in smaller numbers throughout the country. Returnees encountered in Yemen re-attempting their trip to Saudi Arabia following deportation reported receiving a reintegration grant of 900 Birr(men) and 2000 Birr(women) from the Ethiopian government.</p> <p>The Ethiopian government responds to irregular migration: Heightened security at the Djiboutian/Ethiopian border of Dawalle was reported in January. Individuals caught attempting to cross the border irregularly were likely to be subjected to arrest, and physical abuse before being handed over to the Ethiopian authorities. The Ethiopian and Saudi Arabian government are reported to have previously engaged in discussions aimed at dissuading migrants from travelling to Saudi Arabia.</p> |
| <p>Kenya</p> | <p>Refugees and Asylum seekers in Kenya: Kenya is host to 552,503 refugees and asylum seekers, 50,241 of them in Nairobi (urban refugees). The largest number of refugees and asylum seekers remain Somali nationals (439,766), followed by South Sudanese (49,488), and Ethiopians (30,366). In July 2013, the Somali refugee population in Kenya was 471,878 indicating a 7% decrease in the Somali refugee population in 6 months.</p> <p>Progress on the Tripartite agreement: Reports indicate that the tripartite commission provided for under the Tripartite agreement to be constituted by four representatives from the three contracting parties (Kenya, Somalia and UNHCR) has yet to be operationalized. The role of the commission is to advance voluntary and organized repatriation of refugees as well as the reintegration of returnees in Somalia. The commission is also tasked with determining the overall policies, providing guidance and recommendations to contracting parties regarding safe, dignified, voluntary and organized repatriation. Media reports indicate that the voluntary return process is off to a slow start. In addition, a preliminary assessment of numbers of voluntary returnees reveals low figures of those willing to return.</p> <p>Joint parliamentary report on inquiry into Westgate and other terrorist attacks: The joint committee sitting between 27th September and 5th December 2013 had the mandate to investigate, inquire into and report on all matters surrounding the Westgate mall attack of 21st September 2013. Amongst its findings the committee acknowledged a systematic failure within the Immigration service, Department of Refugee Affairs and Registration of Persons attributed to corruption at border points and registration centres. The committee recommended the process of issuance of identity documents to Kenya nationals of Somali origin should be straight forward and free from corruption. However the committee may have compromised migrant and refugee protection by recommending the closure of refugee camps, (allegedly harbouring terrorists) repatriation of refugees and repeal of the 2006 Refugee Act. The committee's findings and recommendations will be debated in parliament in the February 2014.</p> |
| <p>Puntland</p> | <p>Arabian sea arrivals in Yemen: In January 2014, 406 migrants/refugees crossed the Arabian Sea to Yemen from Bossaso and other coastal areas of Puntland, a 49% increase from the migrants/refugees that made the crossing in December 2013. The January 2014 Arabian sea arrival figures averaged approximately 82% less than those recorded for the crossing in January 2013 and 2012.</p> <p>Authorities intercept Ethiopian migrants: Ethiopian migrants/refugees attempting to reach Yemen reported arrest, detention and deportation by Puntland authorities. Some of them returned to Hargesya fearing that they would be identified and arrested at the Bossaso port by authorities. Meanwhile numerous returnees from Yemen</p> |

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| | <p>continue to arrive at the Bossaso port. Returnees indicate unemployment, poor living conditions and insecurity as their reasons for return.</p> <p>Irregular movement to Libya: Reports indicate that smuggling brokers are stationed in Bossaso, Gardo, Garowe, Gaalkacyo, Berbera and Hargeysa. The brokers seem to be in charge of congregating migrants/refugees who wish to travel to Libya. They hire vehicles to transport migrants/refugees within the region. Young people from Garowe travel by foot until they pass the south check point of Garowe town. Police usually attempt to intercept migrants/refugees at check points sometimes at the request of their families who are against them making the irregular movement. Youth are reported to pay between USD 5000 and 7000 for the entire journey to Libya. Migrants/refugees are reported to congregate in Garowe from Gaalkacyo and Bossaso from where they arrange their travel to Hargeysa or Berbera. Migrants/refugees may be intercepted and arrested in Garowe, Laas Caanood and Togowajale where they risk prolonged detention and other abuse at the hands of the authorities.</p> |
| <p>Somalia (S-C)</p> | <p>Somali movements to Yemen: An estimated 408 Somalis arrived on the Yemeni shores in January 2014, a 58% increase from December 2013 arrivals. January 2014 arrivals averaged 74% less than the arrival figures for January 2013 and 2012. A majority of new arrivals continue to originate from South Central, and Somaliland, particularly Woqooyi Galbeed, Awdal and Togdheer. Migrants/refugees primarily flee for economic reasons with a few citing harassment by or affiliation to Al Shabab as their reason for flight.</p> <p>Refugees and asylum seekers: In February 2014, there were 964,718 Somali refugees in the region hosted mainly in Kenya, Ethiopia, Yemen, Eritrea, Djibouti and Uganda.</p> <p>UNHCR pilot return project: An estimated 1830 individuals have expressed interest in voluntarily returning to the regions of Kismayo (nearly 1,000 individuals), Baidoa (660) and Luuq (170) from Kenya. Weigh stations and other modalities are being put in place in Somalia to assist returnees. A recent Government re-shuffle in Somalia has slightly delayed progress on the pilot project. The pilot project is targeting 10,000 individuals seeking to voluntarily return to Luuq, Baidoa and Kismayo. District profiles for the target return areas will soon be made available for distribution and will contribute to refugees informed decision on return. UNHCR plans to provide sleeping bags, flashlights, hygiene towels and high protein biscuits for children returnees as well as a cash grant for transportation of people and goods. On arrival in Somalia, returnees will be assisted with household utility items and receive 3 months of food rations from the World Food Programme (WFP).</p> <p>Somali returns from Saudi Arabia: According to IOM over 12,000 returnees are reported to have arrived in Mogadishu since December 2013 with 30,000 more expected to arrive in the coming weeks. The returnees are reported to be stranded in various districts in Mogadishu and in need of assistance to return to their areas of origin. In addition, some returnees are in need of general medical attention and psychosocial assistance having been subjected to less than favourable detention conditions prior to their return. Limited funding, a precarious security situation, lack of humanitarian access, and inadequate transit facilities are hampering assistance to returning migrants.</p> |
| <p>Yemen</p> | <p>New Arrivals: In January, 811 migrants/refugees crossed into Yemen via the Red Sea (Djibouti) and the Arabian Sea (Somaliland/Puntland), a 44% increase from the numbers that reached Yemen in December 2013 and a 91% average decrease from those that arrived in January 2013 and 2012. New arrivals aware of the ongoing crackdown on labour migrants in Saudi Arabia indicated that they wished to remain in Yemen.</p> <p>Boats & passengers: There were a total of 19 migrant boat trips that arrived on the Yemeni coast in January 2014. The average number of passengers on each boat was 42 per trip (not including smugglers/crew).</p> <p>Migrant Vulnerability: New arrivals continue to face the risk of kidnapping for ransom by criminal groups and arrest and detention by authorities upon arrival on Yemeni shores.</p> <p>Modalities of travel: Migrants/refugees reported paying between USD 200 and 300 to brokers in Loya Ade for the trip to Yemen, up from a previous figure of USD 150, with the added risk of brokers disappearing or getting arrested. New information in January revealed that a number of smuggling vessels had sailed from the port of Sudan to the Hodeida coast of Yemen with Sudanese and Cameroonian migrants/refugees on board.</p> <p>Returns from Saudi Arabia: In the last half of 2013 and beginning of 2014 over 207,000 Yemenis crossed the Al</p> |

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| | <p>Tuwal border point into Yemen from Saudi Arabia. IOM provided immediate assistance to a majority of the returnees, many of whom were traumatized and exhausted from conditions of detention prior to return.</p> <p>Follow up Sana'a Declaration: The Government of Yemen together with humanitarian actors in Yemen is required to establish a road map for the follow up of actions contained in the Sana'a declaration beginning with the appointment of designated national focal points.</p> |
| <p>Other Regional news</p> | <p>Rights based asylum and migration management system: It was reported that the EU unveiled plans to fund a 10 million Euro project to support asylum and migration management in Libya by improving services offered to migrants in full consideration of their human rights. The programme is part of EUs efforts to support the transition to a more democratic and stable state.</p> <p>Migrant boat tragedies: A boat carrying 28 Afghan and Syrian migrants capsized off the coast of Greece while being towed by the Greek coast guard following mechanical difficulties and interception on the Southern Aegean sea. Two migrants were reported dead.</p> <p>Movement across the Mediterranean: In 2013, over 45,000 migrants/refugees crossed the Mediterranean to reach Italy, Malta and Greece by boat, compared to 60,000 in 2011 at the height of the crisis in Libya, and the highest number since 2008. Over 42,900 of the migrants crossing the Mediterranean in 2013 arrived in Italy (Lampedusa, Syracuse and Sicily), 13% were women while 19% were minors, over half of them unaccompanied. A majority of the migrants crossing the Mediterranean were Syrians (11300) followed by Eritreans (9,800) and Somalis (3200) said to be fleeing conflict and insecurity. An estimated 700 migrants are reported to have died attempting the Mediterranean crossing to Italy in 2013, in a movement that has claimed over 20,000 lives in the last twenty years.</p> <p>Movement across the Mediterranean previously most common in spring and summer months has continued into the winter despite the risk associated with poorer weather conditions. Migrants held at a reception center following the Lampedusa boat tragedy on 3rd October 2013 were finally released after 100 days in detention. The Lampedusa center is designed to house migrants/refugees for 48 hours or less and the continued detention of rescued migrants/refugees evidently traumatized by the October boat tragedy angered many in the humanitarian sector. Authorities claimed the October survivors needed to be traceable in order to provide evidence.</p> <p>Lampedusa survivors recount their ordeal: Eritrean survivors of the October 3rd boat tragedy told of torture, imprisonment and being held hostage in Libya for a ransom of USD 3,000. While in captivity, survivors recounted torture and the rape of women. Upon their release they were again held and only released to board the ill-fated vessel following the payment of USD 1600. The Eritreans identified a 34 year old Somali man as one of the traffickers involved in the October 3rd tragedy while in a separate action for the October 11th tragedy a 37 year old Palestinian man is being prosecuted for belonging to a criminal organization that was responsible for piloting the wrecked vessel.</p> |
| <p>New Research, reports or documents</p> | <p>'I wanted to lie down and die': A new report by Human Rights Watch (HRW) chronicles the kidnap for ransom and subsequent abuse that Eritreans have had to endure at the hands of traffickers in the Sinai since the year 2010. A mass Exodus of Eritreans fleeing human rights abuses, arbitrarily killings, disappearances and destitution has been documented since the 1990s. In 2006, Eritreans began relying on Sudanese and Egyptian smugglers to facilitate their movement from Eastern Sudan to Israel via Egypt. In 2010, reports begun to emerge of Smugglers turned traffickers. Eritreans are reported snatched in Eastern Sudan and sold to Egyptian traffickers in the Sinai where they are subjected to captivity, cruelty, torture and death. Both Sudan and Egypt stand accused of complicity and collusion with traffickers, and failure to investigate violations or prosecute perpetrators. See full report http://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/reports/egypt0214_ForUpload_1.pdf</p> |

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