



Regional mixed migration summary for July 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 case load mentioned refers only to refugees or asylum seekers or trafficked persons it will be clearly stated.

Country	Events /trends /data /analysis
<p>Yemen</p>	<p><i>The conflict in Yemen entered its fifth 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>Conflict-related displacement: Yemen continued to plunge deeper into conflict in July 2015, as Saudi-supported government forces and Houthi rebel fighters grappled for control of the country’s territory. According to figures by UN agencies there were 1,267,590 Internally Displaced People in Yemen as of 5th August 2015. Analysts indicate that it is unlikely that there will be a swift resolution to the conflict, with a probable escalation of violence and displacement in the short term.</p> <p>Continued arrivals from the Horn of Africa: In July 2015, an estimated number of at least 463 (454 Ethiopians, 9 Somalis) mixed migrants arrived in Yemen on 12 boats via the Red Sea. The new arrivals reportedly docked at Al-Batin, Al-Jadid and Al Shaura (Ta’iz governorate). According to UNHCR figures 3 boats carrying 623 migrants (584 Ethiopians, 48 Somalis) also arrived along the Arabian coast in July. 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. UNHCR estimate that 10,500 migrants have arrived in Yemen by sea since the beginning of the conflict in March 2015 and IOM estimate that as many as 150 migrants cross into Yemen from Ethiopia and Djibouti every day.</p> <p>Migrant vulnerability: In July 2015, migrants plying the Red Sea route to Yemen were particularly at risk of abduction by criminal gangs, and possibly trafficking elements. Protection monitoring missions suggest that 304 (66%), of the recorded 463 migrants crossing, were abducted on landing. This represents a 508% increase when compared with reported abductions in June 2015. Those abducted were exclusively Ethiopian nationals, with one migrant reporting that he had been released after being identified as Somali. Abduction attempts were made on 10 of the 12 boat journeys.</p> <p>Refugees in Yemen: According to UNHCR figures, there are approximately 250,000 refugees and migrants situated around urban centres in the country. 240,000 of these are Somali refugees and 10,000 are migrants from Ethiopia, Eritrea, Syria and Iraq.</p> <p>Departures from Yemen: The number of people fleeing Yemen to the Horn of Africa (Djibouti, Puntland, South Central and Somaliland) continued to rise in the reporting period. As of 6th August 2015, 22,070 people had arrived in Djibouti from Yemen (1,834 Djiboutians, 10,030 Yemenis, and 10,206 Third Country Nationals). A further 28,596 people had arrived in Somalia as of 9th August. The majority of arrivals in Somalia comprised of returning Somali migrants/refugees who made up 89.6% of new arrivals, Yemenis comprised 9.7%, and other nationalities made up the remaining 0.7%.</p> <p>Yemeni nationals in Saudi Arabia: As of 4th August 2015, some 416,052 Yemeni nationals present illegally in Saudi Arabia have regularized their status in the country. In July 2015, the Saudi government announced plans to extend a grace period previously offered to Yemeni nationals working as irregular immigrants, to regularize their stay by applying for six-month visit visas. The grace period lasts until 16th August 2015, after which the government has warned that it will take legal action against those violating the law, including those working without work permits.</p>

<p>Djibouti</p>	<p>Departures to Yemen: Information on the movement of migrants from Djibouti to Yemen remains limited, but available data from the still active monitoring teams indicate that at least 463 migrants departed from Obock and arrived in coastal towns in Ta'iz Governate, Yemen. This included 454 Ethiopians and 9 Somalis. The number of actual arrivals are likely to be considerably higher. Migrants paid up to USD 250 to make the crossing by boat to Yemen.</p> <p>Arrivals from Yemen: As of 6th August 2015, reports from IOM show that 22,070 persons (1,834 Djiboutians, 10,030 Yemenis, and 10,206 Third Country Nationals) had arrived in Djibouti from Yemen since the outbreak of the violence on 26th March 2015.</p> <p>Refugees from Yemen: As of 6th August 2015, UNHCR and ONARS (the government refugee agency) registered 2,479 refugees in Djibouti, including 2,348 Yemeni nationals and various other Third Country Nationals, including Somalis and Eritreans. Refugees continue to be hosted at the Markazi camp located about 4 kilometres Obock. Following a directive issued by the Djiboutian government in May 2015, all Yemeni refugees have to stay in Obock, limiting their movement.</p> <p>Migrant Vulnerability: Following the end of Ramadhan and a general improvement in the weather conditions in Obock, a number of families have returned to Marzaki refugee camp. UNHCR and ONARS will conduct a physical verification exercise in August to confirm the number of refugees. Refugees had previously relocated from the camp, where temperatures were averaging 47°C and strong sandstorms hit the town, in favour of Djibouti city.</p>
<p>Somaliland</p>	<p>Arrivals from Yemen: As of 9th August 2015, 9,006 migrants/asylum seekers had arrived in Somaliland from Yemen. Somalis continue to make up the most populous group, accounting for 84% of new arrivals, with Yemenis accounting for 14%, and other country nationals making up the remaining 2%. 3,369 people arrived in July 2015 alone, the highest number of arrivals in one month since the conflict began in March 2015. 204 people have arrived in August thus far. New arrivals travelled from various locations within Yemen and arrived in Somaliland through Berbera, Hargeisa, Lughaya, Maydh and Zeila.</p> <p>Returning refugees and asylum seekers in Somaliland: Of the 7,601 Somalis that have returned from Somaliland to Yemen since the conflict, 3,252 (43%) people had acquired refugee status (3,245) or sought asylum (7) in Yemen.</p>
<p>Puntland</p>	<p>Arrivals from Yemen: 19,223 migrants/asylum seekers fleeing the conflict in Yemen had arrived in Puntland as of 9th August 2015 through the ports of Bargal, Bosasso, Elayo and Qandala. Somali arrivals make up the majority of arrivals to Puntland (17,665), followed by Yemenis (1,482), and nationals from other third countries (76). 6,362 people arrived in July alone, accounting for the highest number of arrivals in one month since the conflict began. 32 people have arrived in August so far.</p> <p>Returning refugees and asylum seekers in Puntland: Of the 17,655 Somalis that have returned from Yemen to Puntland since the conflict, 5,518 (31%) people had acquired refugee status (5,507) or sought asylum (11) in Yemen.</p>
<p>Somalia (South Central)</p>	<p>Arrivals from Yemen: 272 Somali nationals arrived in Mogadishu on 27th July 2015 on board an IOM evacuation flight from Yemen. This is the second group of Somalis that have been transported directly to Mogadishu by flight from Yemen. According to figures from the UNHCR-funded Protection and Return Monitoring Network (PRMN), an estimated 1,153 Somali households (6,790 individuals) who fled to Somaliland and Puntland from Yemen have travelled south and arrived in South Central regions since March 2015. The majority of these returnees returned to Banadir region, with an estimated 927 households (5,562 individuals) returning to Mogadishu.</p> <p>Armed conflict fuelling internal displacement: On 17th July 2015, a joint military operation dubbed 'Operation Jubba Corridor' was launched by the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and the Somalia National Army (SNA) with the aim of flushing terror group Al Shaaab from rural areas in the Bay and Gedo regions of Somalia. Overall the Somalia Protection Cluster an estimated 2,990 households (18,000 individuals) have been reported as</p>

	<p>internally displaced since the beginning of the conflict. According to UNHCR figures, there are 1.1 million internally displaced persons across the whole of Somalia.</p> <p>Refugees in the neighbouring countries: As of 31st July 2015, there were 967,676 registered Somali refugees and asylum seekers displaced in neighbouring countries in the region. Kenya and Ethiopia accommodate the largest number of Somali refugees and asylum seekers in the region, hosting 44% and 26% respectively.</p>
South Sudan	<p>Continued conflict pushes up numbers of displaced: The security situation in South Sudan continued to deteriorate in July. Renewed violence in Unity, Upper Nile and Jonglei states has resulted in mass displacements. According to UNHCR figures, 615,962 South Sudanese people have been displaced into neighbouring countries since the start of the conflict in December 2013. The largest host of South Sudanese refugees in the region is Ethiopia (219,485), followed by Sudan (189,720), Uganda (160,300), and Kenya (46,457).</p> <p>Refugees in South Sudan: Despite the ongoing conflict, South Sudan continues to host 265,296 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>Internal Displacement: As of 31st July 2015 IOM reported that there were approximately 1.6 million displaced persons in South Sudan. 164,400 people are also seeking refuge in Protection of Civilian (PoC) sites in United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UMISS) bases.</p>
Sudan	<p>South Sudan refugees: As at 11th August 2015, there were 189,720 South Sudanese refugees in Sudan. Heavy rains have reduced the numbers of new arrivals, which reached a peak of 38,000 in June. According to UNHCR's Regional Refugee Response Plan, 196,000 refugees are expected to arrive in the country by the end of 2015.</p> <p>Migrant vulnerabilities: Migrants remain at risk of kidnapping and abduction by criminal gangs and traffickers on their journey through Sudan. According to a media report, Sudanese police rescued 6 hostages (of Eritrean and Ethiopian nationality) from human traffickers in Hafiare in the eastern parts of the country near the border with Eritrea). The group was reportedly abducted while being transported by UNHCR.</p>
Eritrea	<p>Eritrea calls for UN probe into people smuggling: Eritrea's foreign ministry released a statement calling on the United Nations Security Council to investigate the 'abhorrent' flood of refugees from its borders to Europe. The government has asked the UN to bring human smuggling networks to justice, saying that smuggling groups, not human rights abuses were causing the exodus of its nationals to Europe. A UN Human Rights Council Commission of Inquiry on Human Rights in Eritrea released a report on 8th June 2015 highlighting systematic, widespread and gross human rights violation, amongst others, as the key drivers of mass migration out of Eritrea.</p>
Ethiopia	<p>Ethiopia detains suspected human traffickers: Media reports stated that Ethiopia's Federal Police Commission has detained seven suspected human traffickers in July 2015. The suspects were extradited from Kenya, Sudan and Tanzania over the past three months in collaboration with the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol). A further 17 suspected traffickers in Ethiopia were also detained.</p> <p>Refugees in Ethiopia: Ethiopia is the largest refugee-hosting country in Africa and the fifth largest in the world, hosting 705,122 refugees as of 3rd August 2015. This includes 281,514 South Sudanese, 247,706 Somalis, 139,039 Eritreans, 36,863 Sudanese and refugees from other countries.</p>

<p>Kenya</p>	<p>Refugees in Kenya: As at 1st August there were 590,776 refugees and asylum seekers being hosted in Kenya. Somali nationals make up 70% of this group, followed by South Sudanese 16% and other Third Country Nationals (13%). This figure includes 350,032 refugees and asylum seekers are hosted in Dadaab, as well as 59,351 Somali urban refugees in Nairobi.</p> <p>Voluntary repatriation of Somali refugees: As at 9th August 2015, 3,298 Somali refugees (made up from 679 households) had been repatriated from Dadaab refugee camp in Kenya to Somalia. For the first time since the opening up of return locations in Somalia to a total of 9 districts, 116 refugees returned to Mogadishu in Banadir region. Nonetheless, return locations remain limited to the following locations: Kismayo (69%), Baidoa (24%), Banadir (4%) and Luuq (3%). According to UNHCR statistics for July 2015, a further 4,770 individuals have indicated a willingness to return to Somalia.</p>
<p>Israel</p>	<p>Detention of asylum seekers: On 11th August 2015, Israel's High Court of Justice approved the latest version of the Prevention of Infiltration Law, which legalises the detention of asylum seekers in Holot detention centres for a period of no more than one year. This replaces the earlier version of the law which had an internment limit 18 months. The criteria for summoning asylum seekers to Holot was recently expanded, making thousands more eligible for detention in the facility. The court's ruling ordered the state to release all asylum seekers who have been detained at the centre for more than a year within 15 days. Some 1,200 of the 1,700 asylum seekers being held at the facility are eligible for release.</p>
<p>Other regional news and news from other regions</p>	<p>Europe drafts decision on temporary and exceptional relocation mechanism: The European Council has agreed to a draft decision that will establish mechanisms for the relocation of 32,256 persons from Greece and Italy to other European Union (EU) Member States. The Council also adopted conclusions to resettle 22,504 displaced persons from outside the EU. The conclusions are expected to be formally adopted once the European Parliament gives its opinion, expected in September.</p> <p>Greece receives record numbers of migrants: According to statistics released by Frontex, the European Union's border agency, 49,500 migrants arrived in Europe in July 2015, eclipsing in one month the number of migrants detected in the Eastern Mediterranean region in the whole of 2014. So far in 2015, Greece has received nearly 130,500 migrants, a five-time increase from the same period in 2014.</p> <p>Europe approves 2.4 billion euros funding for migration crisis: On 10th August 2015, the European Commission approved 2.4 billion euros in funding over six years for European countries that have struggled to cope with the surge in immigrant numbers. The majority of the funding will be received by Italy and Greece, who will get nearly 560 million euros and 473 million euros respectively. According to this report, the Commission plans to approve 13 programmes later this year which will be implemented by EU member states.</p> <p>Egypt tough on illegal migration: According to local media reports, Egyptian security forces claim to have apprehended and detained a total of 5,087 migrants in a series of swoops in July 2015 for attempted illegal immigration into neighbouring Libya. All arrests were made in the town of Salloum, a coastal border crossing point between Egypt and Libya. According to the same report, officials had previously announced that the numbers of those who managed to escape and migrate to Libya, was twice as much as those stopped at the border.</p> <p>Burundi refugees continue to flee to neighbouring countries: As at 11th August 2015, there were 183,911 Burundian refugees and asylum seekers in neighbouring countries (83,322 in Tanzania, 72,877 in Rwanda, 14,322 in the Democratic Republic of Congo and 13,390 in Burundi).</p> <p>Australia reveals over 600 asylum seekers turned back at sea: Australia's Immigration Minister revealed that the country has turned back over 600 asylum seekers attempting to reach its shores in 20 separate boats since enacting controversial border controls in December 2013. The controls, known as 'Operation Sovereign Borders', put the military in control of asylum operations and grant the military powers to patrol Australian waters and intercept migrant boats, towing them back to nearby Indonesia or sending asylum seekers back in inflatable lifeboats. In June 2015, reports emerged alleging that the Australian government had paid people-smugglers bound for Australia to turn their boat back to Indonesia, sparking worldwide criticism. The country's Immigration Minister Peter Dutton marked this as a triumph, and is reported as stating: "The fact that today we celebrate that</p>

	<p>we have not had a successful people smuggling venture in a year, and that over the course of the last 18 months or so we have turned back 20 boats and stopped 633 people from arriving in our country, is a significant achievement”.</p>
<p>New Research, reports or documents</p>	<p>The Sea Route to Europe: The Mediterranean Passage in the Age of Refugees: In a time where the number of people crossing the Mediterranean has reached an all-time high, this report by UNHCR covers a six month period from January to June 2015 and sets the Mediterranean sea crossings in context of the wider ‘age of refugees’. The report has six major findings: 1) the majority of those taking the sea route to Europe are in fact refugees; 2) the number of deaths at sea rose to record levels in April 2015, then dropped significantly in May and June; 3) there is an increase in the number of refugees and migrants taking the ‘eastern Mediterranean route’ from Turkey to Greece; 4) the capacity and conditions at reception centres remain seriously inadequate; 5) the number of refugees and migrants entering the western Balkans from Greece dramatically increased since the beginning of June; and 6) the international community at large need to do more to prevent and resolve conflicts. Read the report here.</p> <p>Queue Here for Corruption: Measuring Irregularities in South Africa’s Asylum System: This collaborative research report by the African Centre for Migration and Society (ACMS) and Lawyers for Human Rights (LHR) documents reports of wide-spread corruption in South Africa’s asylum system. The assessment reveals a pattern of widespread and systematic corruption at all levels, and involving multiple actors. Click here to read the report.</p> <p>Protection for Sale: the big South African asylum racket: This new RMMS feature discusses a recent exposé by the African Centre for Migration and Society (ACMS) and Lawyers for Human Rights (LHR) on rampant corruption in the South African asylum system, in which asylum seeker and refugee status is reportedly available for sale. The disclosure is linked to the high level of asylum seekers claims in the country, ranked as the 1st African and 7th global protection destination in 2014. Read the article here.</p> <p>Seeking Europe or Leaving Libya? The role of transit countries in irregular migration: In light of a recent study by the North Africa Mixed Migration Task Force (MHUB) that shows the reality of life in Libya for detained migrants, asylum seekers and refugees, and statistics that show an ever increasing number of migrants and asylum seekers leaving the continent from Libya to Europe, this RMMS feature considers whether the conditions in Libya play a role in pushing people to move. Click here to read the article.</p> <p>Devolution in Kenya: Opportunity for Transitional Solutions for Refugees?: This research report by the Regional Durable Solutions Secretariat (ReDSS) analyses the potential opportunities opened by the devolution process in Kenya for interim solutions for refugees which can contribute to building their self-reliance and to local economies. The report finds that there are existing opportunities to facilitate potential interim solutions for refugees within the devolution framework, including formalizing existing informal economic integration, where the positive economic impact of refugee presence through business networks, remittances, market and skill diversification and job creation are recognized by host community and county government alike. Read the report here.</p> <p>Investing in Somali Youth: Exploring the Youth-Employment-Migration Nexus in Somaliland and Puntland: This IOM-commissioned report by Samuel Hall explores the current employment and income generation prospects for youth and the weight of livelihood opportunities on migration patterns of youth in Somaliland and Puntland. This was examined through 3 indices: 1) Profile similarity index – comparing youth profiles to the profiles of current employees; 2) Requirement index – the ability of the youth to fulfil the employer’s skill requirements; 3) Perceptions index – comparing the importance that youth and employers place on 15 attributes. The report concludes on 24 recommendations at policy level, the employment environment, and programming interventions. Click here to access the report.</p> <p>Enhancing the Common European Asylum System and Alternatives to Dublin: This report, commissioned by the European Parliament’s Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE) committee examines the reasons why the Dublin system of allocation of responsibility for asylum seekers does not work effectively. It argues that as long as it is based on the use of coercion against asylum seekers, it cannot serve as an effective tool to address existing imbalances in the allocation of responsibilities among Member States. Access the report 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.