

Regional mixed migration summary for November 2011 covering mixed migration events, trends and data for Djibouti, Ethiopia, Eritrea/Sudan, Kenya, Puntland, Somalia, Somaliland and Yemen.

Country	Events /trends/ data / analysis
<p>Yemen</p> <p>Key source: Comprehensive data is provided at the Yemen MMTF website: www.mmyemen.org</p>	<p>New Information:</p> <p>New arrivals: The number of new arrivals in November was estimated at 9,104. This brings the total number of Somalis and non-Somalis arriving on the Arabian Sea coast and Red Sea coast of Yemen in 2011 to 93,760 individuals. In the same period (January – November inclusive) in 2011, 48,000 people had made the same crossing.</p> <p>Doubling 2010 levels: Like many other months in 2011, November numbers of new arrivals were almost double those of 2010.</p> <p>'November characteristics': However in comparison to October, last month, the November totals represent a 27.4% decrease. The same change from October to November was observed in the last three preceding years. Despite this for the typical flow arriving in the month of November in recent years, 2011 is almost equal to the peak figures of November 2009 (9,190 new arrivals).</p> <p>Approaching 100,000: At current rates the total number of people crossing to Yemen in mixed migration flows will reach or exceed 100,000 by the end of the year.</p> <p>Unaccompanied or Separated Children: Of those that chose to register on arrival 15% were identified as having 'special needs' (589 individuals). Of these 34% were categorized as being unaccompanied or separated children. The number of Unaccompanied or Separated children fell from 6.8% recorded last month to approximately 5% (202 individuals) in November of the <i>registered</i> new arrivals. If an extrapolation to the total number of new arrivals may be made, then the number of unaccompanied and separated children amongst the total cohort of new arrivals would be approximately 10% (as compared to 18% in October).</p> <p>Main Drivers/push factors: There was no significant change in the percentage of Somalis citing lack of Economic opportunities (51%) or insecurity (28%) as the reason of their flight as compared to last month. However there was a 10% decrease in November in those who stated drought as their reason for fleeing. This may indicate that the drop in Somali new arrivals (-33.6%) as compared to last month and could perceptibly be as a result of the recent increase in rainfall that the Somalis may believe has brought the drought to an end. It is also noted here that there have been some indication that due to the Kenyan military operation in SC-Somali there has been a decrease in people fleeing the country who fear being injured as a result of the on-going military activity and a perceived risk of increased banditry in the areas.</p> <p>Non-Somali proportions consistently high: Non Somalis constituted for 73% of all new arrivals a slight increase of 2 % as compared to October of this year. The majority of the Ethiopian new arrivals cited lack of economic opportunities (60%) followed by insecurity (19%) and drought at 12% there being no significant change from the trend seen in October.</p>

Origination: In keeping with last month, just over 50% of the Ethiopian new arrivals were from Oromia while 95% of Somali new arrivals originated from SC-Somalia.

Insecurity in Yemen: Although the President of Yemen has signed an agreement facilitated by the Saudi Arabians that he will relinquish power in approximately one month, the fight continues in the country. Albeit some measures have been taken to raise awareness of the insecurity in the country, the flow of migrants has continued at a somewhat steady rate from the beginning of the conflict to the present time. During the Yemen MMTF meeting that was held on the 6th December 2011 the need to step up and strengthen awareness-raising activities was emphasised. Campaigns are therefore planned for 2012, in Ethiopia, to raise awareness in communities of 'potential migrants', especially in light of the on-going conflict in Yemen.

Boats and passengers: Of the total 159 recorded boat crossings to Yemen in November, 72% of the vessels (115 boats) disembarked passengers along the Red Sea coast and 28% (44 boats) along the Arabian Sea coast. Boats involved in transporting people from Somaliland, Puntland and Djibouti to Yemen carried 58 passengers each, on average.

Protection risks facing new arrivals: In November there continued to be reports of smuggling and trafficking with at least eight cases of physical assaults committed by smugglers during journey across to Yemen. There were no *reported* cases of gender and sexual based violence during the month. There were reports of people facing extreme starvation (resulting in deaths) journeying to Obock, Djibouti and while waiting to be transported across to Yemen. UNHCR with YRC, DRC and IOM held training workshops for officials from relevant governorates and law enforcement / immigration units. The aim was to train officials in international and national law as well as the rights and correct handling of different migrants arriving in Yemen.

Deaths at Sea – There have been no reported deaths at sea or missing migrants during November. However, there were some reports of people dying from starvation in Obock (see above). The 2011 total of 'dead or missing' from January to October (inclusive) remains at 131. In the whole of 2010 fourteen individuals were reported as dead or missing, while in 2009 the total was 289.

Ethiopians stranded in North Yemen: Large groups of Ethiopians (4000 or more) continue to be stranded in north Yemen around Haradh and around the Yemen / Saudi border. IOM are closely engaged with the case load of migrants there that include those deported from Saudi Arabia, those waiting to enter Saudi Arabia (irregularly) and those too poor or destitute to move from Haradh. Between November 2010 and November 2011, IOM has been providing emergency assistance for voluntary return to 6,169 vulnerable Ethiopian migrants who registered with them to receive humanitarian assistance. Throughout the month of November, over 3,000 migrants received meals daily from an IOM feeding centre; IOM clinic treated 2,317 migrants and a protection centre provided accommodation to serious medical cases; the most vulnerable and have several protection problems.

Increasing hardships for refugees: The options for newly arrived migrants in Yemen (forced or economic migrants) are not glamorous. Most attempt to make it into Saudi Arabia but others try to base themselves in San'a, Aden (Basateen district – approx. 30,000 refugees) or Al Karaz UNHCR's already overcrowded refugee camp (14-16,000 residents). Some refugees have had to flee San'a and are being assisted in Aden by UNHCR. Economic survival is very difficult for refugees in Yemen, and social acceptance continues to be hard.

Caveat: Despite the network of local partners collecting data along parts of the Arabian and Red Sea coasts it cannot be assumed that this data captures all new arrivals. Particularly, there may be those that arrive along the northern stretches of the Red Sea coast, beyond the data networks. Consequently the actual numbers of new arrivals in Yemen may be higher. Yemen Red Crescent and the Danish Refugee Council are planning to extend the patrol area further north along the Red Sea coast.

<p>Somalia</p>	<p>New Information:</p> <p>In November, 2447 Somalis (mainly from South – Central) arrived on Yemen's shores . They represented 27% of the total influx of Ethiopians and Somalis in November. The majority (74%) arrived having crossed the Gulf of Aden, landing in coastal locations along the Arabian seaboard. The remainder (24%) crossed the Red Sea, implying they departed from Djibouti.</p> <p>There have been a flow of reports telling of the Kenyan army's success in gaining control of areas in SC-Somalia forcing the Al-Shabaab militia to retreat. The military activity has led to restricted movement and displacement of some 1,500 Somalis who are camped out in Doble from the surrounding towns.</p> <p>The Al-Shabaab's "Office for Supervising the Affairs of Foreign Agencies" (OSAF) issued communiqué through their indicating that following a year-long inquiry the Al-Shabaab movement had decided to "permanently revoke the permissions" of 6 UN agencies/programs, 9 INGOs and 1 LINGO to operate in Somalia in territories under their command. Following this 6 UN and 6 INGO compounds were seized by the militia. Justifications given for this expulsion include "misappropriation of public funds", "generating and collecting data through dubious programmes", "using field data and analysis for dishonest policies and programmes", "working with international bodies to promote anti-Islamic values", "collaborating with trans-national ecumenical churches" and proselytism, "conveying information regarding the activities [...] of the Mujahideen", "supporting subversive groups seeking to destroy the Islamic penal system", "persistently galvanizing the local population against the full establishment of the Sharia", lacking neutrality, exploiting natural resources, "acting as an impediment to the people's ability to reach long-term sustainability", amplifying the refugee crisis, promoting the fragmentation of the population.</p> <p>Agencies had scaled down operations in anticipation of such an order. Next month's new arrival trends in Yemen may indicate if this directive and the subsequent closing of humanitarian space and restriction of aid in South – Central has an knock-on effect on mixed migration 'outflow' from Somalia.</p> <p>This document does not seek to detail conditions and event in Somalia (including displacements) as the subject is dealt with in great detail by various dedicated agencies.</p>
<p>Somaliland</p>	<p>New Information:</p> <p>A report (IRIN) quoting Somaliland government authorities states that some 6,000 Somalilanders have returned from Yemen over October / November 2011. As of 25th November 2011, UNHCR Hargeisa has assisted 123 returnees (99 from Yemen and 24 from Libya). It may be that some have opted not seek assistance from UNHCR. It is also not clear where the Somalis originate from (Puntland, Somaliland, SC- Somalia) and whether upon return they actually seek to go back there or register as IDPs elsewhere. Alternatively the figure is quite consistent with regular flows where it is common for some Somalis to even acquire exit visas from the Yemeni authorities, the existing commercial/merchant flows and temporary visits 'back home'. What is clear however is that Yemen is still considered 'safer' than Somalia with most rescues at the coast consisting of migrants from SC-Somalia who are willing to risk the on-going conflict in Yemen.</p> <p>Following close negotiations with the government, UNHCR has deployed two officers to Hargeisa to register asylum seekers– a process which had been halted since 2008. The exercise is to start in mid-December but if press reports that large numbers have already been deported, or left Somaliland of their own accord, some asylum-seekers may have left Somaliland without being screened.</p>

	<p>During November group of over 100 Ethiopian migrants have camped without provisions, services or facilities in the compound of the Ethiopian Community Centre in Hargeisa. They are destitute and have no means to return to Ethiopia. With limited resources aid agencies are struggling to offer assistance. The conditions of those encamped without shelter, are reportedly dire. As of 5th December 2011, there were 122 migrants at the Centre receiving assistance from the MRC. Assistance was set to run out due to insufficient resources.</p> <p>Context (previously reported)</p> <p>In early September the government of Somaliland announced that the '80,000' unregistered foreigners in Somaliland had one month to leave. In October a further statement was made by a government minister increasing the hostile and unwelcome environment for Ethiopians in Somaliland. Aid agencies estimate the real number affected may be closer to 20,000.</p> <p>Organizations, and every workplace are now prohibited in employing foreigners who stay illegally in the country and do not have work permits. Reports of three separate forced deportation by the Somaliland authorities (involving 'hundreds' of Ethiopians) have been received by RMMS. Due to the foreignerexpulsion order and other issues facing refugees there have been a number of demonstrations (sit-in occupations) and collections of refugees and other migrants in different locations in Hargeisa. Large group of refugees have been complaining to UNHCR concerning their welfare and new UNHCR policies affected during 2011.</p> <p>Reportedly the bad feeling against Ethiopians is evident and various migrants report being harassed and victimized by the authorities and members of the public, making it impossible for them to stay, rent, or run small businesses in Somaliland.</p>
<p>Puntland</p>	<p>New Information:</p> <p>Arabian Sea arrivals in Yemen in November was estimated to be 2753 individuals. This represents 30% of all new arrivals in November and approximately the same percentage as the previous month, October 2011. In November 2010 88% of all new arrivals in Yemen crossed the Arabian Sea / Gulf of Aden. This illustrates the changing trend of asignificant decrease in using Bossaso(and the northern coastline of Puntland and Somaliland) as points of departure.</p> <p>Puntland security forces unit launched an attack against smugglers and the forces took over the control of Marero (long-standing smuggler area) where they have secured the area and now established their own security base.</p> <p>Context (previously reported)</p> <p>Although it is understood that in October the Puntland authorities did not continue detaining Somalis coming up from South Central Somalia, earlier detentions and the large number of road blocks between Mogadishu and Gaalcakyo caused some smugglers and asylum-seekers / migrants to detour, choosing migrations routes other than through Puntland and Bosaso. Evidence from Hargeisa in October and November suggest some migrants are using cheap flights from Mogadishu to Hargeisa and the first leg of a longer journey (to Yemen and beyond).</p>
<p>Ethiopia</p>	<p>New Information:</p> <p>An estimated 6657 Ethiopians (non-Somalis) made their way to Yemeni shores in November in a continued and on-going exodus. Almost 59,000 Ethiopians have made the same trip since January 2011 – mostly through Djibouti.</p>

	<p>Refugees from Somalia continue to arrive at Dolo Ado refugee camp in south-eastern Ethiopia . According to OCHA on the 29th November the camp hosted 137,745 Somalis, 54% of whom are female.</p> <p>An unknown number of additional Ethiopians travelled into and through Kenya in November choosing the 'southern' route for their exodus. It is also not known how many used, in November, the 'eastern' route through Sudan and beyond.</p> <p>Context (previously reported):</p> <p>Ethiopia currently hosts approximately 180,000 Somali individuals. As fewer Somalis crossed into Kenya for refugee camps there, during October/ November, a rise in numbers was seen arriving in Dolo Ado.</p> <p>Previous RMMS reports have mentioned reports of deaths of migrants in Afar desert areas continue to be recorded. Migrants die of heat exhaustion, thirst, hunger and the harsh elements through which they pass, on foot, in an attempt to reach the Djibouti border. Those who can, and the majority, use vehicles laid on by the smugglers.</p> <p>Previous reports have also noted Ethiopia's regulations and promotion of legal labour migration to Gulf States and beyond, especially migrant domestic workers. They continue to work to fulfill Saudi Arabia's request made earlier in the year for 40,000 domestic workers. As mentioned, UN Office for Drugs and Crime have concerns that non-registered recruitment companies may use this opportunity to send girls and women to Saudi Arabia in conditions that make turn out to be trafficked.</p>
<p>Kenya</p>	<p>New Information:</p> <p>Dadaab - Registration of Somalis in Dadaab is still on hold and there have been minimal crossings into Kenya from Somalia following the kidnappings of two aid-workers in mid-October 2011. Humanitarian operations remain limited to the provision of essential services due to ongoing insecurity and difficult access due to heavy rains in November. New arrivals are currently being accepted into the community of refugees without being registered. Aid officials at the border and transit towns of Liboi and Doble report almost no movements in, November, of asylum-seekers, refugees and / or other migrants</p> <p>Context (previously reported):</p> <p>Kenya's military continue to be active in the border areas with Somalia (south Central) as well as in the south in their war against Al Shaabab. Discussions were being had in late November concerning Kenya joining the AU peace-keeping force (AMISOM) in early December.</p> <p>As of the end of October Kenya hosted approximately 520,000 registered Somali refugees. 463,000 of these reside in Dadaab camp. Migrants / refugees flow into Kenya from Somalia and Ethiopia in order to settle in Nairobi or pass through Kenya and / or Nairobi with intentions to go beyond. The most popular route and which involves various smuggling networks is the route south to RSA but it is not clear whether this clandestine flow was affected in November by conflict and weather.</p>
<p>Djibouti</p>	<p>New information:</p> <p>In November 2011 an estimated 6351 people left Djibouti for Yemen, departing from Obok and different coastal departure points 30-40 km west of Obock. This represents approximately 210 per</p>

	<p>day (down from 280 per day in October). All migrants using this route use smugglers to cross to Yemen.</p> <p>The increased use of Djibuti as a departure point is dramatic when compared to November 2010 when just 444 people were recorded as leaving from Djibuti to arrive in Red Sea coastal points along Yemen. They represented just 11% of that monthly total. This November those leaving from Djibuti represented 70% of all new arrivals in Yemen.</p> <p>A report prepared by OCHA (Horn of Africa Crisis Dec 2011) indicates that a poor and delayed Heyr/Dada (October-February) rainy season will likely result in deteriorating food security conditions through March 2012. This in turn may affect the migration trends from and through Djibouti.</p> <p>Context (previously reported)</p> <p>It has been noted that a very few (if any) Djiboutians join this flow across to Yemen or to anywhere else in the Horn of Africa. The notable absence of Djiboutians in the irregular mixed migration flows have yet to be explained although it has been suggested if and when Djiboutians travel as economic migrants they do so legally and use airlines.</p> <p>It is acknowledged that the registration conducted by the Migration Registration Centre (MRC), based in Obock, is failing to capture the bulk of migrants hoping to depart by boat - they circumvent the town to departure points along the coast outside of the small town.</p> <p>Reports of deaths of migrants in Djibouti's desert and volcanic areas have been recorded earlier in 2011. The numbers range from 80 to 300 bodies having been found. Migrants die of heat exhaustion, thirst, hunger and the harsh elements through which they pass, on foot, in an attempt to reach the Djibouti coast.</p>
<p>Sudan / Eritrea</p>	<p>New information:</p> <p>In November 2011 there was a report of a single boat with two Somalis on board that attempted to leave from the Eritrean coastline. However, they were intercepted by the authorities and returned back. The Eritrean coastline is heavily guarded as it was frequently used in the past by nationals trying to flee the country, notably to avoid national service.</p> <p>Context (previously reported):</p> <p>The RMMS October summary reported the deportation by authorities in Sudan of 317 Eritreans to Eritrea, handing them over to the Eritrean military without screening them for refugee status. They had been detained in northern Sudan having made their way through Sudan close to the Egyptian border (en route to Israel).</p> <p>Meanwhile large numbers of Eritreans (between 2-3,000) continue to leave Eritrea into northern Ethiopia and Sudan. a 'no return policy' was adopted in relation to Eritreans and promoted since 2006 by UNHCR, protecting refugees and asylum-seekers from <i>refoulement</i>.</p> <p>UNHCR report that over 80,000 Eritreans reside in refugee camps in Eastern Sudan close to Kasaala town. Additionally another 51,000 Eritreans are lodged in different camps in different parts (especially Tigrai) of Ethiopia. Most of those fleeing cite army conscription and harsh political conditions as their reasons for departure. It was reported that the highest number of migrants intercepted coming into Britain are currently Eritreans .</p>

<p>Related information on regional displacement</p>	<p>Key highlights of a new OCHA Eastern Africa "Displaced Populations Report"(October 2011)are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As at the beginning of October 2011, some 5.6 million people had been displaced in ten eastern Africa countries either as refugees or internally displaced persons (IDPs). • Overall, the number of refugees across the eastern Africa region increased by 13% to approximately 1.54 million people, while the number of IDPs decreased by 1% to 4.03 million people between March 2011 and September 2011. • Main drivers for displacement remain internal armed conflict, notably in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Somalia, and on a temporary basis-natural disasters, such as floods and drought conditions impacting countries in the region. • Kenya, Ethiopia and Tanzania continue to host the highest number of refugees of above 200,000 each. Cumulatively, more than 196,000 Somalis have entered Kenya and Ethiopia during the previous six months.
<p>RMMS news</p>	<p>Apart from its regular activities the RMMS participated in / presented at the following fora of interest to the MM sector:</p> <p>Refugees Studies Centre and NRC : One Day Policy Workshop on the Somali displacement Crisis (November 3rd, Nairobi)</p> <p>UNHCR Experts Meeting: Rescue at Sea: (Distress at Sea Situations Involving Refugees and Asylum-Seekers – how best to respond? Expert meeting. 8th -10th November, Djibouti)</p> <p>AU-COMMIT launch in SADC region. (African Union launch of the initiative to fight trafficking in persons in Southern Africa region: Johannesburg 29th – 30th December)</p> <p>Africa-EU Partnership on Migration, Mobility and Employment : Enhancing TIP criminal investigations, prosecutions and victim and witness protection among African and European countries, (Johannesburg 31st Nov – 1st Dec)</p>

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