

Regional mixed migration summary for October 2011

Country	Activities, data and analysis
<p>Yemen</p> <p>(Comprehensive data provided at the Yemen MMTF website: www.mmyemen.org)</p>	<p>The October New Arrivals: Drawing on data compiled by the UNHCR and partners, the indications are that in October the number of Somali arriving in Yemen was 3,689 while that of the non-Somali migrants was 8,856. The monthly total was 12,545.</p> <p>Record high: This monthly total is the highest recorded in six years of data collection, and is more than double the figures of new arrivals (NA) in October 2010.</p> <p>Changing proportions: The trend in terms of proportions, in October, were that 29% of NA are of Somali origin while 71% were non-Somali (Ethiopian). In October 2009 and 2010 the proportion of Ethiopians were approximately 55% and in 2009 they were just 43% of the monthly total of new arrivals.</p> <p>Red Sea arrivals: Of the total 215 recorded boat crossings to Yemen in October, 73% of the vessels (156) disembarked passengers along the Red Sea coast and 27% along the Arabian Sea coast. Again this is the highest monthly proportion arriving on the Red Sea coast. It may be presumed that all 156 boats left from Djibouti's Obok area. This suggests that, at least, on average, over 5 boats leave every day from Djibouti alone.</p> <p>Average passenger levels: In October those boats involved in transporting people from Somaliland, Puntland and Djibouti to Yemen carried 58 passengers each, on average.</p> <p>New arrivals versus registration: Of the 12,545 new arrivals in Yemen in October just 38% registered with the UNHCR as asylum-seekers/ refugees. 87% of the Somalis new arrivals registered (Yemen offers prima facie refugee status to Somalis) while just 18% of the Ethiopians registered. This accounts for the differences between UNHCR 'registration statistics' and the 'new arrivals data'.</p> <p>Unaccompanied or separated minors: Of those that chose to register on arrival 14% were identified as having 'special needs' (670 individuals). Of these 45% were categorized as being unaccompanied or separated children. This translates as 6.8% of the total number of <i>registered</i> individuals being unaccompanied or separated children. 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 18% (or about 2,260 individuals). IOM Yemen reported that most of the youths were between the ages of 14-17 years and not younger (unless with a parent or guardian). Further analysis</p>

Could be useful concerning the number of additional children who arrive with adults, in order to understand the magnitude of the case load that is under 18 years.

Main drivers / push factors: In October the main drivers that motivated exodus from their home country for both Somalis and Ethiopians were very similar. 'Economic reason' and 'drought', together, were cited by 72% and 73% Ethiopian and Somali migrants / refugees respectively. While 25% of Somalis gave 'insecurity' as their main motivation to move. 20% of Ethiopian gave 'insecurity' as their main reason for movement. Unlike Somali, Ethiopia has no civil war or internal conflict, but 57% of all Ethiopians in October's new arrival number were of Oromo ethnic origins. It is noted that although the political/security situations in Ethiopia and Somalia are significantly different, the profile in terms of motivations for flight and movement are very similar.

The continued insecurity: In different parts of Yemen insecurity continues. Especially the fighting in Abyan Governorate continues to put further constraints on the reception of new arrivals. UNHCR implementing partner, SHS, is obliged to take a significantly longer route from the Arabian Sea to Kharaz refugee camp. The result has been a reduction in the frequency of transportation between the reception centres and Kharaz. Despite caution from the UNHCR new arrivals choose not to wait and instead walk of foot through conflict affected areas.

Protection risks in facing new arrivals: There were continuing incidents (continuing an alarming trend identified earlier this year) of increased abductions, extortion, sexual attacks and kidnapping of migrants and refugees (particularly Ethiopians) upon arrival in Yemen. Details of this trend were commented on more extensively in the September monthly summary. The perpetrators are mainly smuggling gangs, profiting from a combination of reduced law and order during these turbulent months in Yemen as well as increased boldness by smugglers and those colluding with them. It may be speculated that Somalis are less often targeted for exploitation because they are less invisible than Ethiopians, by virtue of being given immediate refugee status in Yemen. Ethiopians, by contrast mainly try to remain 'below the radar' and are closely linked to the underworld of smugglers and have minimal recourse to protection from the law.

Ethiopians stranded in North Yemen: Large groups of Ethiopians 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. IOM claim to have already assisted 9000 Ethiopians to return to Ethiopia in the last 10 months (by air). In Addis they pass though the IOM transit centre before being given some support to return home. Some reports suggest as many as 12,000 Ethiopians are stranded in Northern Yemen. Many are in a dire state sleeping in the open with little food or water in an increasingly unwelcome environment. It was noted that the agencies in the ground in Northern Yemen are IOM, UNHCR and local implementing partner NGOs. There are on average two cases/individuals (per day) of reported incidents against Ethiopians who are stranded in Northern Yemen which range from physical abuse, torture, gun- shot wounds that are brought to the attention of IOM. Most of these individuals have been deported from K.S.A.

Deaths at sea: In October there were no reported cases of 'dead or missing' persons in the crossing to Yemen. 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.

	<p>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.</p>
<p>Somalia</p>	<p>Insecurity: The Kenyan war against the Al Shabaab group, famine in Somalia and increased insecurity, rainfall and flooding have made it difficult for aid agency groups to operate in Somalia. It was noted also that the change in weather (rainfall) may be a mitigating outflow of the migrants from Somalia (SC) as well as the insecurity specifically around the border towns of Kenya / Somalia.</p> <p>This document does not seek to detail conditions and event in Somalia as the subject is dealt with in great detail by various dedicated agencies.</p>
<p>Somaliland</p>	<p>Threat of expulsion for foreigners: As registration of asylum-seekers in Somalia has been suspended since 2008 there is a significant groups of unregistered foreign migrants (mostly Ethiopians) in Somaliland. In early September the government of Somaliland announced that the '80,000' unregistered foreigners in Somaliland had one month to leave. This was the subject of information-sharing and discussion in last month's teleconference and monthly mixed migration summary. 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>Invoking the law: According to a statement issued the government is committed in carrying out the Labour Law article 32, number 31/2004. This law points out clearly that it is forbidden from all employers in employing foreigners and the minister informs all employers such as companies, factories, residential homes and hotels. Organizations, and every workplace are prohibited in employing foreigners who stay illegally in the country and do not have work permits. Inspection teams will start work exposing illegal migrant workers.</p> <p>Forced deportation of Oromos: It was reported that on 2nd November 2011, some 150 Oromo migrants were gathered in front of the Migration Response Centre in Somaliland and deported back to Ethiopia. Otherwise no other reported action has been taken by the authorities however the announcement still stands good.</p> <p>Demonstrations against UNHCR Somaliland: It was reported that some 800 Ethiopian women and children and 700 Ethiopian men (recognized refugees pre 2008) who have sought shelter in the Social Welfare Centre compound since 25th October 2011. There are some migrants amongst them. Their grievances are that they can't afford to sustain themselves; they fear that they are being sought out by the Ethiopian Security forces. Further it appears that they feel that UNHCR has failed them.</p> <p>Ethiopian reactions: During October fear, panic and resentment amongst Ethiopians in Somalia has manifested itself in different ways. Some have voted with their feet and returned to Ethiopia; some have been attacked and abused in Somaliland by host community members; some have sought refuge (and continue to) at the Migration Response Centre in Hargeisa (and subsequently assisted to return or disperse by IOM) and another group (including registered refugees) have staged an occupation of a social welfare centre demanding improved conditions and treatment (by UNHCR and the government).</p>

	<p>The atmosphere remains tense and unwelcome to foreigners but the government has not forcibly removed or expelled any foreigners to date.</p> <p>UNHCR Screening:As a response to the crisis UNHCR has an agreement with the Somaliland government to screen foreigners to allow asylum seekers to be identified. Two surge capacity staff have been sent to Hargeisa in October and in mid-November the head of UNHCR Somali will continue talks with government officials.</p>
<p>Puntland</p>	<p>Bosaso as a point of departure: Puntland continues to be a major point of departure for the mixed migration flow from Ethiopia and Somaliland. The majority leave from areas near Bosaso or Bosaso itself. In some cases the departure points may be small coves or fishing villages west of Bosaso straddling the Somaliland / Puntland border areas.</p> <p>Recorded numbers of departure in October: Of the total number of 12,545 new arrivals in Yemen in October, an estimated 3,862 departed from Puntland (and eastern Somaliland) coastal locations.</p> <p>MM detainees in Puntland : It is understood that in October the Puntland authorities did not continue detaining Somalis coming up from South Central Somalia. However earlier detentions is understood to have caused some smugglers and asylum-seekers / migrants to detour, choosing migrations routes other than through Puntland and Bosaso.</p>
<p>Ethiopia</p>	<p>Continued Exodus: As reported, over 8,800 Ethiopians made their way to Yemeni shores in October. Almost 52,000 Ethiopians have made the same trip since January 2011 – mostly through Djibouti. An unknown number of additional Ethiopians travelled into and through Kenya choosing the ‘southern’ route for their exodus. It is not known how many use the ‘eastern’ route through Sudan and beyond.</p> <p>Hosting Somali refugees: Refugees from Somalia continue to arrive at Dolo Ado refugee camp in south-eastern Ethiopia. It currently hosts 177,201 Somali individuals. As fewer Somalis crossed into Kenya for refugee camps there, during October, a rise in numbers was seen arriving in Dolo Ado.</p> <p>Deaths of migrants: 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>Increased labour migration to the Middle East: In terms of managed migration, Ethiopia’s ongoing exportation of migrant workers to the Gulf states has been augmented by a recent ban by Saudi Arabia on migrant domestic workers from the Philippines and Indonesia. In a move to fill the gap that has been left, Saudi Arabia has turned to Ethiopia as its source of domestic workers and invited them to send 40,000 as soon as possible. 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>The war against Al Shaabab: The kidnappings in mid-October of two MSF workers and the Kenyan invasion of Somalia has led to a significant decrease in refugees arriving at the Daadab refugee camp. The reason for the decrease vary from general insecurity in the</p>

	<p>transit towns of Dobley and Liboi, to increased vigilance and harassment by the security forces in the Kenya /Somalia border. Flooding and impassable roads has also been a factor.</p> <p>Hosting refugees:As of the end of October Kenya hosted approximately 520,000 registered Somali refugees. 463,000 of these reside in Dadaab camp. Between the last week of September and mid-October approximately 14,000 Somalis were registered in Dadab, but after mid-October the numbers reduced to a trickle of a few hundreds. 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 Dobley report almost no movements at all of asylum-seekers, refugees and / or other migrants</p> <p>Transit country: A continuing stream of migrants / refugees flow into Kenya 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.</p>
<p>Djibouti</p>	<p>Predominant departure point: Djibouti continues to be the main point of departure for the majority of those crossing the Red Sea for Yemen. In October a record 8,683 were taken by smugglers from departure points at Obock and coastal locations along the coast adjacent to Obock. This amounts to 280 individuals per day, on average, being transported by smugglers, for whom, the flow of mixed migrations represents an increasingly lucrative business. 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>Deaths of migrants: Reports of deaths of migrants in Djibouti's desert and volcanic 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 who normally transport them right up to Obock – to the waiting boat-smuggler groups.</p> <p>No Djiboutis in mixed migration flow: It appears that despite Djibouti's proximity to Yemen, the impact of the current drought and its considerable poverty, few if any Djiboutis join the mixed migration flows that they witness through their land. Different sources in Djibouti and beyond state that no Djiboutis are recorded in new arrivals data in Yemen.</p>
<p>Sudan / Eritrea</p>	<p>Deportations: On October 17, 2011 Sudan deported 317 Eritreans to Eritrea, handing them over to the Eritrean military without screening them for refugee status. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) condemned the move. They had been detained (for illegal entry into Sudan) in northern Sudan having made their way through Sudan close to the Egyptian border (en route to Israel).</p> <p>Eritrean refugee status: [UNHCR applied the Cessation clause in 2000/1 to Eritrean refugees. Sudan hosted the largest Eritrean refugee population (the biggest camp being Wad Sharife located on the outskirts of Kasaala near the Eritrean border) and informally the government was in no 'burning desire' to expel the Eritrean refugees. The clause was revoked in 2004/5 and a 'no return policy' was adopted and promoted since 2006 by UNHCR, protecting refugees and asylum-seekers from <i>refoulement</i>.</p> <p>Eritrean exodus: UNHCR report that over 80,000 Eritreans reside in refugee camps in</p>

	<p>Eastern Sudan close to Kasaala town. Additionally another 51,000 Eritreans are lodged in different camps in different parts (especially Tigray) of Ethiopia. An estimated 2000- 3000 flee Eritrea through Sudan every month. Many do not stop or register at the camp but move through to Khartoum and beyond into other parts of Africa and Europe. 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>
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