



Regional mixed migration summary for August 2016 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 caseload 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 seventeenth 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>Internal displacement: Based on data collected at the end of June 2016, the 10th Report of the Task Force on Population Movement has confirmed that there are 3,154,572 persons of concern affected by the ongoing conflict in Yemen. This includes 2,205,102 internally displaced persons who are displaced across 21 governorates, mainly in Ta'iz, Hajjah and Sana'a, and 949,470 returnees in 19 governorates mainly in Aden, Amanat Al Asimah and Ta'iz.</p> <p>Since the release of the last report, there has been an overall increase in conflict-related displacement, coinciding with reports of alleged breaches of international humanitarian law and international human rights law. A report by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and mandated by the UN Human Rights Council, has outlined a number of serious allegations of violations and abuses committed by all parties to the conflict between 1 July 2015 and 30 June 2016. Given these concerns, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights called on the international community to establish an international, independent body to carry out comprehensive investigations in Yemen.</p> <p>Continued arrivals from the Horn of Africa: A total of at least 10,476 migrants and asylum seekers (78% Ethiopians and 22% Somalis) arrived from the Horn of Africa to Yemen via the Red Sea, Arabian Sea and Gulf of Aden in July 2016. In keeping with figures last month, arrival figures in August dropped again, but remain on par with the average arrival figures recorded so far in 2016. For the first time this year, the proportion of Somali migrants and asylum seekers travelling along this route this year surpassed the 20% mark. There is no indication for what may have caused this change and it remains to be seen whether this will be a continuing trend in the coming months.</p> <p>An estimated 2,380 (2,342 Ethiopians and 38 Somalis) migrants and asylum seekers arrived on the Red Sea coast of Yemen in August 2016, a 112% increase on arrivals in July. The migrants arrived aboard 41 boats which departed from Obock, Djibouti landing in various towns in Ta'iz and Lahj governorates. Due to the reduction of monitoring missions along Yemen's coast, it is likely that the actual number of arrivals from the Horn of Africa to Yemen was higher during the period.</p> <p>As with figures in July, a majority (96%) of Ethiopian nationals were of Oromo ethnicity, and with the exception of 18 asylum seekers who cited persecution, all Ethiopians reported poor harvests, access to markets, high taxes and poverty as they key reasons for leaving their country. However, many also reported being fearful of government reprisals against student reprisals in the country, with nine persons citing that they had been detained in Ethiopia before their departure. All Ethiopians reported that they had crossed the border into Djibouti with the help of smugglers and paid between 7,000-12,000 Ethiopian Birr (approx. USD 315 – 545). 97% of Ethiopians encountered by monitoring teams in Yemen indicated an intention to find work in opportunities Saudi Arabia, with 31% of this group first intending to seek work in Aden, before travelling onwards to Saudi Arabia as their final destination.</p> <p>Somali nationals largely originated from Wooqoy Galbeed and Banadir, with others coming from other regions in Somaliland, Puntland and South Central Somalia. The majority of Somali nationals left the country in the hopes of securing better economic opportunities, but a number of other reasons were cited including, escaping fighting between Al Shabaab and government forces, as well as returning to their lives in Saudi Arabia after being</p>

deported. Somali arrivals reported paying between USD 50-500 for the trip to Djibouti, relying on a smuggler once they crossed the border from Somalia via the border town of Loya Ade. Both Somalis and Ethiopians paid between USD 100-150 per person for the sea crossing from Obock to Yemen.

An additional 8,096 migrants and asylum seekers (72% Ethiopian, 28% Somali) arrived on Arabian Sea coasts of Yemen in August 2016.

Migrant vulnerability: During transit to Yemen, migrants reported being beaten during the trip and told to keep their heads down to avoid being seen by patrolling boats. Other migrants reported being assaulted as the men steering the boat threatened to sell them to traffickers in Yemen if they did not pay them more money for the journey. Two boats are believed to have gone missing after suffering mechanical issues, and three Ethiopians are believed to have drowned during the crossing, however the circumstances surrounding their deaths are unknown.

According to interviewed migrants, traffickers, working in collusion with the boatmen transporting the migrants across the sea, continue to abduct migrants as they arrive on the Red Sea coast. Migrants are aware of this risk and attempt to disperse as soon as they land, but this month migrants reported that at least 852 migrants were abducted either immediately after disembarking or as they continued along their journey to other locations in Yemen. Migrants who escaped from the kidnappers, reported being held at camps where they were mistreated and forced to raise ransom money for their release. Migrants reported seeing between 41 and 100 people being held in such locations. In late August, monitoring teams encountered a teenage boy who reported that he had arrived in Yemen in May, but was immediately kidnapped along with 100 other migrants. He was released after three months when it was evident that he could not pay a ransom. In contrast, another couple denied any mistreatment by the kidnappers and reported that they had been released promptly after paying 30,000 Djiboutian Francs (approx. USD 170).

Protection issues reported by migrants transiting through Djibouti on their way to Yemen are reported in the Djibouti country section below.

Departures from Yemen: As of 31st August 2016, the number of people fleeing Yemen to the Horn of Africa (Djibouti, Ethiopia, Somalia and Sudan) had totalled 89,144 persons (36,162 in Djibouti, 33,166 in Somalia, 13,289 in Ethiopia, and 6,527 in Sudan). Yemenis and Somalis continue to represent the largest proportion of people moving out of Yemen, accounting for 30% and 35% of movements respectively. Djibouti is the primary destination for Yemeni nationals, with 73% of those moving opting to travel to Djibouti.

N.B. The figures for Djibouti arrivals between May and August were not received in time to update this report. The figures for Djibouti therefore reflect arrivals at the end of April 2016.

The latest statistics and overview of the displacement situation arising out of the Yemen crisis can be found on the UNHCR data sharing and information [portal](#).

Djibouti

Departures to Yemen: During August 2016, an estimated 2,380 (2,342 Ethiopians and 38 Somalis) migrants and asylum seekers arrived on the Red Sea coast of Yemen, a 112% increase on arrivals in July. The migrants arrived aboard 41 boats which departed from Obock, Djibouti landing in various towns in Ta'iz and Lahj governorates. Due to the reduction of monitoring missions along Yemen's coast, it is likely that the actual number of arrivals from the Horn of Africa to Yemen was higher during the period.

Migrant vulnerability: In August, migrants, asylum seekers and refugees arriving in Yemen on the Red Sea coasts reported witnessing or being victim of numerous violations along their journeys to Yemen. As with reports in July, reported cases of death among migrants were prevalent this month. At least 38 cases were reported, with 11 people are reported to have died from hunger and thirst at various points in Djibouti. Migrants reported the shooting of an Oromo man by unknown assailants and seeing the body of a man who had died in Tadjoura as a result of a gunshot wound to the chest. Migrants also reported witnessing an Oromo woman who fell from the mountains in the Laga-Asal and died there from dehydration and hunger.

At least 307 incidents of robbery were reported, with numerous accounts of migrants being assaulted and robbed by locals and Afari tribesmen, or parting with additional bribes of between 700 -10,000 Ethiopian Birr (approx. USD

	<p>30 – 450) paid to smugglers. A group of 1,000 migrants claim to have been deceived by brokers.</p> <p>According to encountered migrants, Djiboutian authorities routinely detain and deport migrants who are intercepted in the country. This month, migrants reported witnessing 4,072 migrants in detention in various locations in Djibouti. 310 migrants were detained in Djibouti-ville and were deported back to Ethiopia. A further 150 Ethiopian migrants who staged demonstrations against the Ethiopian regime were detained in Djibouti. It is unclear whether these 150 will be deported. A further two groups of 3,000 and 610 migrants are detained in Djibouti-ville and Dire Dawa respectively.</p> <p>61% of encountered Ethiopian migrants in Yemen this month indicated that they had been waiting in Obock for one month or less. New arrivals continue to report that as many as 10,000 migrants are transiting through Djibouti to Yemen, although these high numbers have not been verified by observers on the ground in Obock.</p> <p>Arrivals from Yemen: As of 30th April 2016, a total of 36,162 persons had arrived in Djibouti from Yemen since the outbreak of the conflict in March 2015. Djibouti is the primary destination for Yemeni nationals who account for 55% of the arrivals so far. Third Country Nationals make up 38% and Djiboutian returnees account for 6%.</p> <p>Refugee arrivals from Yemen: As of 15th August 2016, there were 3,618 refugees from Yemen registered in Djibouti, including 3,359 Yemeni nationals. Markazi camp hosts over 1,400 refugees.</p>
<p>Somalia/ Somaliland</p>	<p>Arrivals from Yemen: As of 31st August 2016, a total of 33,162 migrants/refugees/returnees had arrived in Somalia (Somaliland, Puntland and South Central Somalia) since the beginning of the conflict in Yemen in March 2015. Arrivals into Somalia continue to reflect the general declining trend of arrivals from Yemen into the Horn of Africa. A significant number (52%) of those arriving in Somaliland and Puntland indicate an intention to return to Mogadishu specifically.</p> <p>Internal Displacement: According to UNHCR, there are approximately 1.1 million internally displaced persons across the whole of Somalia (Somaliland, Puntland and South Central Somalia).</p> <p>Refugees in the neighbouring countries: As of 31st August 2016, UNHCR figures show that there are currently 900,699 registered Somali refugees and asylum seekers displaced in neighbouring countries in the region. The majority of the refugees are hosted in Kenya (37%), Ethiopia (28%) and Yemen (28%).</p> <p>Somali arrivals in Europe: As of 31st August 2016, Somali nationals made up 5% of arrivals along the Central Mediterranean route to Europe in 2016. 6,025 Somalis have arrived in Europe using this route since the beginning of 2016, 946 of whom arrived in August, a slight drop from the 976 who arrived in July.</p>
<p>South Sudan</p>	<p>Regional displacement: At the end of August 2016, there were 975,000 South Sudanese refugees displaced in neighbouring countries in the region. 125,873 of these have been displaced since the outbreak of violence in July. The majority of these refugees are being hosted in Uganda (99,248), Sudan (12,641), and the DRC (11,645). The UN has warned that the scale of the refugee exodus from South Sudan is straining capacities in neighbouring countries.</p> <p>Internal displacement: According to UNHCR there were 1,610,000 internally displaced persons in South Sudan as of 31st August 2016.</p> <p>Refugees in South Sudan: As of 31st August 2016, there were 261,280 refugees being hosted in South Sudan. The majority (92%) of refugees are from neighbouring Sudan. 82% of the entire refugee population are women and children.</p>
<p>Sudan</p>	<p>Internal Displacement: UNHCR figures estimate that there are 3.2 million internally displaced persons in the country at the end of July.</p> <p>Arrivals from Yemen: As of 31st August, a total of 6,527 persons had arrived into Sudan from Yemen since the outbreak of conflict in March 2015. Figures show a decreased pace of arrivals, in keeping with the general decline</p>

[of arrivals](#) into the Horn of Africa from Yemen since 2015. The largest number of arrivals are returning Sudanese nationals (3,800). Yemeni arrivals number 1,378 persons.

Sudanese government begins accepting South Sudanese as refugees: In late August, the Sudanese government announced that it would henceforth consider South Sudanese nationals as refugees. This is a turnaround from the government's position in April 2016, where it announced that it had closed the border with South Sudan amid allegations of the South Sudanese government arming militia in its territory, and began arresting South Sudanese nationals in Khartoum, despite their possession of registration cards issued by the Sudanese government.

Sudanese government crackdown on irregular migration: Sudanese security officers announced that between June and August 2016 they had intercepted at least [816 African migrants](#) (including 347 Eritreans, 130 Ethiopians and 90 Sudanese) attempting to enter Libya through Sudan. According to police general Awad Dahia, those apprehended will face legal charges, after which they will be deported. In a similar report, Sudanese army intelligence personnel apprehended and arrested [26 irregular migrants](#) (24 Somalis and 2 Kenyans) as they attempted to migrate through Sudan towards Libya. In May, the Sudanese government was criticised for its [deportation of at least 442 Eritrean nationals](#), including six registered refugees, back to Eritrea.

Senior Sudanese security officials have said that Khartoum is [carrying the burden of fighting irregular migration](#) on behalf of Europe without adequate recognition. "Fighting against [illegal] migration and human trafficking has inflicted on [our forces] heavy loss of life and destroyed [our] vehicles during chasing operation in the Libyan desert, nevertheless, nobody even thanks us [for sacrifices we made], the Commander of the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) is reported as saying. The RSF is reportedly closely affiliated with a variety of proxy militias in Sudan, commonly known as the "Janjaweed", and have allegedly been [implicated in human rights abuses](#) against civilians in Darfur.

Earlier this year, alleged plans by the European Union (EU) to work closely with the Sudanese government (including the provision of border equipment and infrastructure) in a bid to stem migration flows from sub-Saharan Africa towards Europe were [heavily criticised](#) for making Europe complicit with regimes responsible for human rights abuses. The EU also granted Sudan a [EUR 100 million development package](#) to address the root causes of irregular migration. Most recently, the EU said that it [does not support the RSF](#) through its cooperation with the Sudanese Government.

Over the past few months, there have been increased reports of government and pro-government militia forces intercepting irregular migrants transiting through Sudan.

Italian government deports 48 Sudanese citizens to Sudan: On 24th August, the Italian police is reported to have undertaken the deportation of 48 Sudanese nationals from the border crossing town of Ventimiglia in northern Italy to Khartoum. The group were attempting to cross into France and travel further north to other European countries. The deportation is the first to take place under a [Memorandum of Understanding](#) signed by the two countries in early August that promised cooperation in areas such as fighting international organised crime, irregular migration and human trafficking. A team of Sudanese officials were reportedly sent to the Italian-French border to identify migrants to be repatriated. The Memorandum is part of a broader anti-migration cooperation between the EU and Sudan, including the [Khartoum Process](#) and funding instruments mentioned above.

It is unclear whether the group was informed of the possibility to apply for asylum in Italy before the deportation took place, and if substantiated could constitute a violation of their right to apply for international protection. The [UNHCR has expressed concern](#) about the risk of returning people that may have protection needs to Sudan: "UNHCR call on Italian authorities to fully take into account individual circumstances and the human rights situation in the country of origin before forcibly returning persons to their country of origin". According to reports received by RMMS, those repatriated are asked to report to the National Intelligence and Security Services (NISS) who conduct interrogations into the means of how the individuals travelled to Italy.

Forced repatriations of Sudanese civilians from Egypt: In similar but unverified accounts received by RMMS, hundreds of Sudanese civilians attempting to migrate to Europe from Egypt are being detained by Egyptian authorities in Alexandria for an indefinite amount of time in various police stations before being forcefully repatriated to Sudan. In order to be released, they are reportedly forced to pay for their flights back to Khartoum, as well as a deportation fee of 900 Egyptian Pounds (approx. USD 100). Those unable to pay the costs of their trip back remain imprisoned inside Egypt, and are kept in small cells measuring 4x4 metres, with overcrowded toilets. On arrival in Khartoum, those able to pay bribes to the immigration officials have their passports returned and are

	<p>able to enter the country as civilians. Those unable to pay, are reportedly handed over to NISS officers who hold the returnees for interrogation.</p> <p>Saudi Arabia intercepts migration attempt by Sudanese migrants: A boat carrying 31 irregular migrants, including 20 Sudanese, six Nigerians and five Ethiopians, was reportedly intercepted by Saudi Arabian border guards in August. The boat apparently set sail from Sudanese shores. According to the Saudi Press Agency at least 339 irregular migration have been intercepted by Saudi border guards since the first half of June 2016.</p> <p>Sudanese arrivals in Europe: As of 31st August 2016, a total of 6,025 Sudanese nationals had arrived in Italy along the Central Mediterranean route, accounting for 7% of all arrivals. 1,586 migrants and asylum seekers arrived in July, a slight 6% increase on arrivals recorded in July.</p>
<p>Eritrea</p>	<p>Eritrean arrivals in Europe: As of 31st August 2016, a total of 15,043 Eritrean nationals had arrived in Europe using the Central Mediterranean route into Europe since the beginning of 2016. 3,479 Eritreans arrived in August, a marked 27% increase on figures in July, but nonetheless a 31% decline on arrivals in August 2015. Eritreans currently make up 13% of arrivals along the route, second to Nigerian nationals.</p>
<p>Ethiopia</p>	<p>Arrivals from Yemen: As of 31st August 2016, there were a total of 13,289 arrivals into Ethiopia from Yemen since the outbreak of violence in March 2015. The majority (69%) of those arriving continue to be Ethiopian nationals, with Yemeni nationals accounting for 10% of arrivals. Numbers show a decreased pace of arrivals, in keeping with the general decline of arrivals into the Horn of Africa from Yemen since 2015. Ethiopia grants prima facie refugee status to Yemenis and also recognises Somali refugees who received refugee recognition in Yemen as prima facie refugees in Ethiopia. Other nationalities undergo individual Refugee Status Determination.</p> <p>Refugees in Ethiopia: As of 31st August 2016, there were 743,732 refugees and asylum seekers registered in Ethiopia. The majority of refugees are from South Sudan (281,612) Somalia (254,277) and Eritrea (161,615). Refugees and asylum seekers are generally expected to reside in camps, although a number are permitted to reside in urban areas for medical, security or humanitarian reasons. Eritrean refugees who are able to show that they can sustain themselves are allowed to reside out of the camps in an “out-of-camp” policy. South Sudanese, Eritreans, Yemenis and Somalis originating from South Central Somalia are granted <i>prima facie</i> refugee status.</p> <p>Ethiopian migrants arrested in Zambia: According to a local media report, 10 Ethiopian nationals were held by Zambian police in relation to a suspected human smuggling case. The ten migrants were uncovered after the vehicle ferrying them through the country was involved in a trafficking incident. According to a Zambian immigration official, only two of the ten Ethiopian migrants were found to have valid passports, but these were also void of entry endorsement stamps to prove legal entry.</p> <p>Ethiopian arrivals in Europe: As of 31st August 2016, a total of 3,055 Ethiopians had arrived in Italy along the Central Mediterranean route, making up 3% of all arrivals in 2016. 517 new arrivals were recorded in August, a 42% decline on arrival figures in July.</p>
<p>Kenya</p>	<p>Refugees in Kenya: As of 31st August 2016, there were 502,194 registered refugees and asylum seekers in Kenya, including refugees from Somalia (334,728), South Sudan (90,247) and Ethiopia (26,742). Dadaab refugee complex hosts 276,945 refugees and Kakuma camp hosts 158,253 refugees. An additional 63,838 refugees reside in the capital city of Nairobi. The total refugee and asylum population in the country witnessed a decrease of 57,940 persons in August, following a verification exercise conducted by the Refugee Affairs Secretariat (RAS, formerly the Department of Refugee Affairs).</p> <p>Voluntary repatriation of Somali refugees: Returns of Somali refugees from Dadaab to Somalia picked up significantly in August. As of 31st August 2016, a total of 23,676 refugees had reportedly been supported to return to Somalia since the beginning of the year. In order to achieve the repatriation target of 150,000 persons by the end of 2016, an average of 31,581 persons would have to be returning to Somalia every month between September and December.</p>

	<p>A UNHCR field official in Dadaab has reportedly claimed that Somali refugees are registering to leave the camp after they faced threats by the government. “We spoke to families in the camp who are returning for fear, not willingly or voluntarily,” he is reported as saying. Allegedly, Kenyan security officials have told refugees that they must leave the camp before they are forcibly driven out. In a rebuttal issued by a spokesperson in Nairobi, UNHCR contended that those claims “are not accurate”, and asserted that coercion has not been witnessed and that the Kenyan government has been working closely with the agency. A report by Human Rights Watch has termed the repatriation program as one that is “fuelled by fear and misinformation” and as one that “does not meet international standards for voluntary refugee return”.</p> <p>In Somalia, authorities from the Jubbaland region have reportedly prevented refugee returnees from moving out of the transition centre in Dobley town, due to concerns for the lack of humanitarian support they receive once they reach their final destinations. The officials contend that the Tripartite Agreement does not help the refugees once they return. “We have decided to suspend the returnees’ movement because thousands, who are already in the cities like Kismayo port town, the region’s main city, are facing severe humanitarian challenges...Now, we have more than 16,000 returnees. Most of them flooded into cities to survive. But it is a huge burden to us so that we should keep the new returnees close to the border until the issue is solved,” said Jubbaland’s interior and security minister General Mohamed Warsame Darwish.</p> <p>Kenya softens position on closure of Dadaab refugee camp: In August 2016, Kenya’s Interior Minister Joseph Nkaissery announced that the government would no longer continue with plans to shut down Dadaab refugee camp immediately, and rather would hold on until the security situation in Somalia improves. “We are in the right direction and we are waiting for Somalia to be pacified so that the refugees will be able to go back,” he is reported as saying.</p>
<p>Israel</p>	<p>Israel instructed to reconsider its policy on Eritrean asylum seekers: A special appeals court for refugee issues recently ruled that the Israeli government must reconsider its position on Eritrean asylum seekers in the country. To date, the Interior Ministry has universally rejected almost all applications by Eritrean nationals for refugee status, on the grounds that fleeing military service does not fall within the definition of “persecution” under the 1951 Refugee Convention. The court ruled that the state could not rely on such a broad based argument to dismiss refugee applications from Eritrean asylum seekers, and certainly not on the basis of concerns that too many Eritreans acquiring refugee status would threaten the state’s Jewish character.</p> <p>Israel is notorious for its unrelenting immigration policy. According to figures from the government’s Population, Immigration and Borders Agency (PIBA) Israel had granted asylum to only 4 Eritrean nationals (out of a possible 2,408) between 2009 and the beginning of 2015, amounting to a 0.17% acceptance rate. It is expected that the government will appeal the ruling.</p>
<p>Other regional news and news from other regions</p>	<p>Egyptian navy foil migration attempts of hundreds of migrants: In August, Egyptian naval forces reportedly frustrated multiple illegal migration attempts to Europe by nationals of various countries. In one account, 146 migrants from Egypt, Ethiopia, Sudan, Comoros, Somalia and Eritrea were apprehended during an inspection of the boat at the Alexandria port. In two subsequent reports, 183 persons and 268 persons of varying but unidentified nationalities, were stopped before they could leave the country. In early September, 155 migrants (including 114 Egyptians, 13 Sudanese, 14 Somalis and 9 Syrians) were stopped by Egyptian security forces as they attempted to migrate to Italy. Another 152 undocumented migrants (including, 76 Somalis, 26 Sudanese, 10 Egyptians and 7 Eritreans) were discovered in the back of a truck heading to the coastal town of Kafr al-Sheik with the intention of boarding a boat to the Mediterranean. The migrants reportedly paid USD 3,000 per person for the journey.</p> <p>Arrests by Egyptian border and military forces of migrants attempting to migrate from Egypt to Europe have increased over the past few months, in line with increasing reports of migrants choosing to transit through Egypt as an alternative to Libya. According to the government Egypt now hosts some 5 million refugees and migrants. The Egyptian government has called on the EU to intensify efforts to reduce irregular migration, after reportedly expressing alarm that Europe has failed to honour pledges it made at an immigration summit held in Valetta, Malta in 2015. Speaking at a meeting of the European Parliament’s foreign affairs committee, Egypt’s assistant foreign minister Ambassador Hisham Badr stated that the closing of the Balkan route into Europe has increased pressure on Egypt. Egypt is not “getting enough support. I don’t want to mention any example with a country bordering you,</p>

which has got six billion dollars in help,” he is reported as saying.

Migrants in Egypt lured into selling kidneys for cash: A recent study in the [British Journal of Criminology](#) found that brokers in Egypt’s criminal underworld were luring undocumented migrants from sub-Saharan Africa arriving in Cairo to sell their kidneys for cash. While the sale of kidneys is banned in Egypt, it is not illegal to pay for a transplant procedure, meaning that organ removal is rarely reported to authorities. Reportedly, one seller in Cairo stated that he was paid 40,000 Egyptian Pounds (approx. USD 4,500) for his kidney. The report also cited instances of migrants being forced to have their organs removed against their will.

In June, an Eritrean people smuggler was arrested and sentenced for his involvement in smuggling migrants to Italy and later confessed that migrants who were unable to pay for their journeys across the Mediterranean “[were sold for EUR 15,000](#)” to groups involved in organ harvesting.

EU claims they are “close to limit” on accepting refugees: European Union President Donald Tusk said that “the practical capabilities of Europe to host new waves of refugees, not to mention irregular economic migrants, are [close the limits](#)”. Speaking before the start of a G20 summit in China, Tusk urged fellow member countries to scale up their share of the responsibility to host refugees and humanitarian and development aid.

Turkey renews commitment to EU migration deal: After weeks of uncertainty, the European Union (EU) and Turkey appear to have reached a consensus that will keep the [migration deal](#) to stem migration flows into Greece in effect. Turkey had [repeatedly threatened to pull out of the agreement](#) if the EU failed to fulfil its obligations as agreed and Turkish Prime Minister Binali Yildirim had termed the situation a “[one way road](#)”. The two sides will reach a conclusion in September, when the European Commission is due to report on whether Turkey has done enough to secure visa-free travel to the bloc for its nationals. Officials from the EU and Turkey remain optimistic that a compromise will be reached about contentious issues including [Turkey’s controversial anti-terror laws](#), even in the wake of the government’s crackdown on tens of thousands of people during a failed military coup.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel has called for an establishment of EU-Turkey type deals with North African states to try and stem refugee and migrant flows into Europe along the Central Mediterranean route. “We must agree on similar deals with other countries, such as in North Africa, in order to get better control over the Mediterranean Sea refugee routes,” she is [reported](#) as saying. The Elders, a global human rights group comprised of senior international diplomats, have however criticised the deal as “[morally dubious](#)” and have said that it sets a “troubling precedent”.



Source: UNHCR

Mediterranean Sea arrivals: As of 31st August 2016, 281,741 refugees and migrants had arrived in Europe by sea since the beginning of the year, a 21% decrease on arrivals recorded for the same period in 2015. 24,736 people arrived in August 2016, a 5% reduction on arrivals in July, but an 81% decline on arrivals in August 2015, attributable largely to the decline in numbers on the Eastern Mediterranean route into Greece.

Along the Central Mediterranean route to Italy, 21,294 people were reported to have arrived in August 2016, a 10% decline on arrivals in July. 6,528 arrivals were recorded from the Horn of Africa (Ethiopia, Eritrea, Somalia and Sudan), a 7% climb on arrivals in July, but a more significant 21% drop on figures in August 2015. Overall, arrivals from the Horn account for 28% of arrivals in Italy this year.

Deaths at sea: According to [IOM’s Missing Migrants Project](#), a total of 4,288 persons have lost their lives globally while migrating by sea between January and August 2016. 2,760 of these deaths, equivalent to 64%, were recorded along the Central Mediterranean route, which is frequented by migrants and refugees from sub-Saharan Africa. 52 of these deaths were recorded in August. In a number of sequenced efforts in August, European vessels [rescued 13,000 migrants](#) from wooden boats and rubber dinghies in the Mediterranean as they attempted to cross from the Libyan coast towards Europe. Improved weather conditions encouraged more boats to set sail from Libyan shores.

	<p>In a bid to curb migration from Libya to Europe, the EU and the Tripoli-based Government of National Accord (GNA) in Libya signed an agreement in August that will see EU naval officers train Libyan coastguard personnel. It is <u>expected</u> that this will “improve security of Libyan territorial water”, while helping Libya to “perform law enforcement actions in order to tackle the criminal organisation that take advantage of smuggling and trafficking in human beings”.</p> <p>Burundi refugees in neighbouring countries: As of 13th September 2016, there were 295,994 Burundian refugees and asylum seekers in countries in the region since the outbreak of political violence in 2015. The majority of refugees are located in Tanzania (157,704) and Rwanda (81,540).</p>
<p>New Research, reports or documents</p>	<p><u>Young and on the Move: Children and youth in mixed migration flows within and from the Horn of Africa:</u> The specific patterns of children and youth movement within the broader patterns of mixed migration are to a large extent unknown. The invisibility of numbers and profiles of children and youth within overall migration and displacement numbers often transfers to a lack of specific attention to children and youth in mixed migration policies and programs. This joint publication by RMMS, Save the Children and the Danish Refugee Council and the 10th report in the RMMS <i>Explaining People on the Move</i> series, provides an updated overview of children and youth as specific groups in mixed migration flows within, through and from the Horn of Africa.</p> <p><u>The Most Commonplace of Treatment: Physical abuse of migrants and asylum seekers on the move from the Horn of Africa:</u> Obscured in the discussions surrounding the myriad life-threatening incidents, gender- based and sexual abuses, and financial misfortunes that befall migrants and asylum seeker are the daily humiliations that people on the move have to endure on their journeys to Europe and South Africa. This feature article by RMMS documents incidences of reported physical abuse perpetrated against Ethiopian, Eritrean and Somali migrants on the African continent.</p> <p><u>Minor miracle or historic failure? Assessing the UN’s refugee summit:</u> In the lead up to the UN Summit in New York on the large-scale movement of refugees and migrants, this feature article by Dr Jeff Crisp examines various initiatives which were launched recently to address global displacement crisis and notes that these initiatives “have failed to live up to the hopes and expectations which they have raised”. The author further questions whether the UN Summit will be able to deliver outcomes that are commensurate with the current migrant crisis.</p> <p><u>South Sudan country profile:</u> This new addition to RMMS’ series of country profiles examines South Sudan as a country of mixed migration origin, transit and destination. It also provides an up to date analysis of the refugee and IDP situation in the country, while presenting major protection issues faced by those on the move.</p> <p><u>You have no choice but to do what you can to ensure you are safe:</u> As part of RMMS’ <i>Voices on the Move</i> series, this is a short excerpt from a migrant’s testimony about conditions and protection issues for migrants in Libya and his journey experience from the country to Italy via the Central Mediterranean Sea. The migrant now lives in Ireland.</p> <p><u>Uprooted: The growing crisis for refugee and migrant children:</u> Globally, nearly 50 million children have migrated across borders or been forcibly displaced. This new report by UNICEF, presents comprehensive, global data about these children, and aims to shed light on the global nature of childhood migration and displacement.</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.