



May 2017

**Regional mixed migration summary for May 2017 covering mixed migration events, trends and data for Djibouti, Eritrea, South Sudan, Sudan, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, 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
<b>Yemen</b>	<p><i>The conflict in Yemen entered its twenty-sixth month with escalation in fighting and deteriorating humanitarian situation being reported in some parts of the country. 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. Therefore the data presented in this report concerning new arrivals in Yemen cannot be considered comprehensive or conclusive.</i></p> <p><b>Internal displacement:</b> There were approximately 2 million internally displaced persons in Yemen at the end of May 2017. According to UNHCR, more than 81% of the IDPs in Yemen have been in displacement situation for more than a year. The <a href="#">Task Force for Population Movement (TFPM)</a> co-led by IOM and UNHCR has identified 900,258 returnees across 19 governorates that were affected by the conflict. TFPM notes that 10.4% of the total population of Yemen has experienced the shock of displacement due to conflict in the last 24 months.</p> <p>On 25<sup>th</sup> May, 2017, a group of 22 non-governmental organizations signed <a href="#">an open letter to the UN Security Council</a> calling on the Council members to take action to bring about immediate ceasefire in Yemen, end the humanitarian crisis and support the UN Special Envoy's efforts towards an inclusive and political solution to the conflict. Yemen is currently the largest humanitarian crisis in the world with close to 19 million people in need of humanitarian assistance and protection.</p> <p><b>Continued arrivals from the Horn of Africa:</b> In May 2017, at least 2,861 migrants and asylum seekers (2,048 Ethiopians and 813 Somalis) arrived from the Horn of Africa to Yemen via the Red Sea, Arabian Sea and Gulf of Aden. Arrival figures in May reduced drastically by 50% compared to April 2017 (5,750) and were the lowest figures recorded since June 2015 (2,044). <a href="#">RMMS has previously reported several reasons</a> which may be linked to the reduced movement of migrants and asylum seekers from the Horn to Yemen including the deportation of migrants from Yemen to the Horn, the drought situation in the Horn and its impact on resources and the expected mass deportations of undocumented migrants from Saudi Arabia (see more on this below in the Ethiopia country section). Nonetheless, due to the reduction of monitoring missions along the Yemeni coast, it is understood that the actual total number of arrivals from the Horn into Yemen is likely to have been higher during the period.</p> <p><b>Arabian Sea arrivals:</b> In May 2017, an estimated 1,899 (1,096 Ethiopian and 803 Somali) migrants and asylum seekers arrived in Yemen via the Arabian Sea, a 51% decrease on figures reported in April 2017 (3,862).</p> <p><b>Red Sea arrivals:</b> An estimated 962 (952 Ethiopian and 10 Somali) migrants and asylum seekers arrived on the Red Sea coast of Yemen in May 2017, a 49% decrease on figures reported in April 2017 (1,888).</p> <p><b>Departures from Yemen:</b> As of 30<sup>th</sup> April 2017, an estimated total of 95,807 persons had fled Yemen to countries within the Horn of Africa (37,428 in Djibouti, 36,763 in Somalia, 14,570 in Ethiopia and 7,046 in Sudan) since March 2015. Yemenis and Somalis continue to represent the largest proportion of people moving out of Yemen to the Horn of Africa, accounting for 30% and 35% of movements respectively. Djibouti is the primary destination for Yemeni arrivals to the Horn, with 69% of those moving opting to travel to Djibouti. As previously reported, the general outflow of persons from Yemen has <a href="#">reduced since peak figures in 2015</a>. More recent figures were not available at the time of writing this report.</p> <p>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 <a href="#">portal</a>.</p>

## Djibouti

**Departures to Yemen:** In May 2017, an estimated 962 (952 Ethiopian and 10 Somali) migrants and asylum seekers arrived along the Red Sea coast of Yemen. 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.

**Repatriation of migrants/asylum seekers from Djibouti to Yemen:** On 21<sup>st</sup> May 2017, the UN Migration Agency (IOM) facilitated the [voluntary repatriation of 84 stranded migrants](#) and asylum seekers from Al Hudaydah Port in Yemen to Djibouti. According to IOM, most of the migrants were Ethiopian nationals and included 29 unaccompanied children, seven women and 48 other vulnerable cases. The rescued migrants reported that they were subjected to human rights abuses at the hands of migrant smugglers and criminal gangs in Yemen. Most of the migrants had intended to transit Yemen to reach Saudi Arabia but were trapped in the on-going conflict in Yemen. IOM reportedly facilitated the voluntary return of 515 migrants / asylum seekers from Yemen to Djibouti, and onwards to countries of origin, since the beginning of 2017.

## Somalia/ Somaliland

**Somali refugees in the neighbouring countries:** As of 31<sup>st</sup> May 2017, there were 882,476 Somali refugees and asylum seekers being hosted in countries in the region. The majority of these refugees are hosted in three countries – Kenya (35%), Yemen (29%) and Ethiopia (28%).

**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), however latest drought displacement data indicate that [739,000 people have been newly displaced](#) between 01<sup>st</sup> November 2016 and 31<sup>st</sup> May 2017 due to the worsening drought situation in Somalia. An estimated 46,000 people were displaced in the month of May alone. Baidoa and Mogadishu districts hosts about 22% each of the total population displaced by drought.

**Humanitarian situation in Somalia:** The drought situation in Somalia remains dire and the UN reports that about [3.2 million people are severely food insecure](#) across the country. The situation is expected to persist throughout 2017 due to the high likelihood of a third consecutive poor harvest in July 2017, the UN reports. The deteriorating humanitarian situation has been compounded by a cholera outbreak, one of the largest in five years, with 48,607 cases and 763 deaths reported in 48 districts since January 2017. Over 9,800 suspected measles cases have also been reported in 2017.

**Somali refugee returns from around the world:** According to UNHCR, as of 31<sup>st</sup> May 2017 a total of 66,796 Somali refugees have returned from Kenya since the beginning of the repatriation exercise in December 2014, 31,543 from Yemen since the beginning of conflict in March 2015 and 362 from other countries of asylum between 2014 and 2017 (362 from Djibouti, 33 from Eritrea, 2 from Tunisia and one from Pakistan).

**Refugees in Somalia:** As of 31<sup>st</sup> May 2017, there were 26,081 registered refugees and asylum seekers in Somalia. The majority of the refugees/asylum seekers originate from Ethiopia (62%) and Yemen (36%), with lesser numbers from Syria (164), Tanzania (71) and Eritrea (73). Most refugees are hosted in Woqooyi Galbeed (61%), Bari (22%) and Benadir (9%) regions.

## South Sudan

**Humanitarian situation in South Sudan:** The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) reports that an estimated [5.5 million people across South Sudan](#) faced severe food insecurity as of May 2017, including 1.46 million people on the brink of famine. The raging conflict continues to displace populations both within and out of the country. In May, clashes were reported in and around Yei in Central Equatoria displacing an average of 2,000 refugees daily into Uganda in the second half of the month. Another 20,000 South Sudanese fled insecurity on the West Bank (Upper Nile) crossing into Sudan between 29 April and 6 May 2017. Internal displacement continued to be reported during the month as a result of clashes and/or insecurity in Central Equatoria and Jonglei. In the midst of the displacement, the spread of cholera outbreak remained a concern with new cases being reported in Kapoeta South in Namoronyang State.

**Regional displacement:** As of 10<sup>th</sup> June 2017, there were 1,906,141 South Sudanese refugees displaced in the region. The majority of these refugees are hosted in neighbouring countries; Uganda (928,079), Sudan (399,827) and Ethiopia (319,235). In May 2017 alone, an estimated 60,000 South Sudanese fled their country as a result of the ongoing conflict/insecurity situation.

**Internal displacement:** As of 31<sup>st</sup> May 2017, there were a total of 2 million people displaced inside South Sudan. This figure includes 230,482 people in UNMISS Protection of Civilians sites.

**Refugees in South Sudan:** As of 31<sup>st</sup> May 2017, there were 272,935 refugees in South Sudan, the majority (92%) of whom are from neighbouring Sudan.

## Sudan

**Sudanese security forces rescue 56 migrants:** Sudanese security forces reportedly rescued [56 people](#) including children and women, believed to be migrants from neighbouring countries from a trafficking / smuggling gang that held them in captivity for over a month in an abandoned house on the border between Kassala and El Gedaref states. According to the police, the gang demanded a ransom of USD 3,000 per person for their release. Other [media reports](#) indicate that Sudan and Ethiopia have launched a joint border force to stop human trafficking and drug smuggling on the border between the two countries. The joint force which consists of military troops and security forces will operate along the border between Sudan's Sennar State and Ethiopia's Amhara region.

Sudan is a key transit country for migrants and asylum seekers from the Horn of Africa attempting the perilous journey across North African countries and the Mediterranean Sea to Europe. The European Union has launched several financial packages under the [EU Trust Fund](#), to support countries in the Horn of Africa region to address irregular migration from / through countries in region.

**Tripartite agreement for the return of Sudanese refugees:** On 31<sup>st</sup> May 2017, the government of Sudan, the government of Chad and UNHCR signed two separate [tripartite agreements on the voluntary return](#) of Sudanese refugees from Chad and Chadian refugees from Sudan. As of 15<sup>th</sup> May 2017, there were 317,000 Sudanese refugees (mainly from Darfur) in Chad, while Sudan hosted 8,500 Chadian refugees.

**Refugees in Sudan:** As of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017, there were 144,866 refugees and asylum seekers from other countries other than South Sudan, in Sudan. More recent figures were not available at the time of writing this report. However, as of 10<sup>th</sup> June 2017, there were 399,827 South Sudanese refugees being hosted in Sudan since December 2013.

## Ethiopia

**Refugees in Ethiopia:** As of 31<sup>st</sup> May 2017, there were 838,722 refugees and asylum seekers registered in Ethiopia. The majority of the refugees are from South Sudan (378,285), Somalia (249,903), Eritrea (161,398) and Sudan (41,588). About 43% of the total refugee population in Ethiopia are hosted in Gambella (mostly South Sudanese) and 25% (mostly Somalis) are hosted in Melkadida refugee camps. According to UNHCR, 73,078 Eritrean refugees previously registered as living in camps have settled in urban areas. This follows the conclusion of a comprehensive refugee verification exercise.

**Ethiopia's Prime Ministers calls on Ethiopians in Saudi to leave before amnesty deadline:** Ethiopia's Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn has [called on undocumented Ethiopian migrants](#) in Saudi Arabia to leave the country before the amnesty issued by the Saudi government comes to an end on June 29, 2017. The Saudi government [announced a 90 day grace period](#) for undocumented migrants/workers to correct their residency status or risk deportation. As previously reported by [RMMS](#), thousands of Ethiopians have migrated to Saudi Arabia through regular and irregular means in search of economic opportunities, with an estimated 260,000 Ethiopians travelling [irregularly] to Saudi Arabia since 2014. Other [media reports](#) indicate there are an estimated 400,000 undocumented Ethiopians living in Saudi Arabia.

The Ethiopian government has established [various initiatives](#) to facilitate the safe return of Ethiopian migrants from Saudi Arabia including setting up a national task force for returnees, expediting issuance of travel documents to its citizens in Saudi Arabia and pledging resettlement and economic opportunities to those who return. The Ethiopian government expects to facilitate the return of more than [200,000](#) of its citizens in Saudi Arabia during the grace period, with more than [80,000](#) reportedly being registered and issued with travel documents. About 30,000 Ethiopians

	<p>have already returned home however there are concerns that with the current pace of returns, many migrants will still be in Saudi Arabia when the grace period ends.</p>
<p><b>Eritrea</b></p>	
	<p><b>Mediterranean Sea arrivals:</b> Statistics from the Italian Ministry of Interior and UNHCR appear to indicate a shifting trend in the movement of Eritrean nationals towards Europe. <a href="#">RMMS reported</a> about the decline in arrival figures for Eritrean nationals to Italy in late 2016, a trend that continued to be observed during the <a href="#">first quarter of 2017</a>; (530 Eritreans arrived in Italy by the end of March 2017 compared to 6,076 during the same period in 2016). However this trend appears to be slowly changing, as arrival figures in April and May show a moderate increase. 1,044 Eritrean nationals arrived in April (a 97% increase on March) and 1,300 arrived in May (a 25% increase on figures in April). As of 31<sup>st</sup> May 2017, 2,344 Eritrean nationals had arrived in Italy since the beginning of 2017. While cumulative arrival numbers over this period are significantly lower than those recorded in the same period in 2016, this climb is noteworthy as it brings back Eritrean arrivals among the top ten most nationalities arriving by sea in Italy at 4% of overall arrivals reported on this route by May 2017 (60,228).</p>
<p><b>Kenya</b></p>	
	<p><b>Refugees in Kenya:</b> As of 31<sup>st</sup> May 2017, there were 490,656 refugees and asylum seekers in Kenya, about 1% increase compared to April figures that have been attributed to arrivals from South Sudan. The total refugee figure includes refugees from Somalia (304,892), South Sudan (101,713) DR Congo (29,894), Ethiopia (27,640), Burundi (10,591), Sudan (9,881) and other nationalities. The majority of refugees live in refugee camps across the country (423,389), while 67,267 refugees reside in Nairobi.</p> <p><b>Voluntary repatriation of Somali refugees:</b> As of 31<sup>st</sup> May 2017, a total of 26,398 Somali refugees had been supported to return to various locations within Somalia since the beginning of 2017. Since the voluntary return programme began in 2014, a total of 66,796 Somali refugees have returned to Somalia.</p>
<p><b>Uganda</b></p>	
	<p><b>Refugees in Uganda:</b> According to UNHCR, there were 1,277,476 refugees and asylum seekers in Uganda, including 224,312 awaiting biometric registration as of 31<sup>st</sup> May 2017. The refugees originate from South Sudan (947,426), DR Congo (216,612), Burundi (36,278), Somalia (35,941) and other countries.</p> <p><b>Uganda Solidarity Summit on Refugees:</b> The government of Uganda and the UN will host the Uganda Solidarity Summit on Refugees on 22 and 23 June 2017. The summit aims to mobilize international support to meet immediate humanitarian needs of refugees, in addition to the longer-term needs of refugees and host communities. The summit also aims to provide significant funding for Uganda's Settlement Transformative Agenda (STA) and the World Bank/UN multiyear Refugee and Host Population Empowerment (ReHoPE) strategy.</p>
<p><b>Israel</b></p>	
	<p><b>Israel introduces new asylum rules:</b> <a href="#">Israel's new asylum law</a> called 'Preventing Infiltrators and Ensuring Departure' came into effect on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2017 amidst criticism from refugees, human rights activists and employers. The new law requires all asylum seekers to deposit 20% of their salaries with the authorities to be repaid at a designated bank inside Ben Gurion International Airport upon departure from the country. In addition, the new law also requires employers to deposit another 16% of such salaries into a state fund. Available estimates indicate that there were more than 20,000 asylum seekers in Israel at the end of February 2017, mainly from Ukraine, Georgia, Eritrea and Sudan. More than 10,000 asylum seekers, mainly Sudanese and Eritreans, are reportedly held at the Holot detention centre.</p> <p>Israel has one of the <a href="#">most restrictive asylum regimes</a> in the world, with less than 1% of asylum applications approved since it signed the UN Refugee Convention in 1954. In early June 2017, Israeli government granted <a href="#">"temporary residency" status to 200 out of the 2,300 Sudanese asylum seekers</a> from Darfur, some of whom fled fighting in Sudan in mid-2000s. This follows a lawsuit by 20 asylum seekers over long delays in determining asylum applications. The temporary status has no time limit and allows asylum seekers to work, access social security benefits, and travel in and out of the country, however it can be revoked by the government at any time.</p>

**Human Rights Council discusses situation of human rights in Burundi:** The UN Human Rights Council held an [interactive dialogue](#) with the Commission of Inquiry on Burundi on 15<sup>th</sup> June 2017 to assess the human rights situation in the country. The Commission expressed concern over lack of cooperation from Burundi adding that there were widespread reports of human rights violations in the country, including enforced disappearances, torture, arbitrary detention, assassinations and sexual violence. The meeting also heard that Burundians seeking to leave the country in search of protection in neighbouring countries were being prevented from doing so by members of a youth group affiliated with the ruling party. Speaking at the meeting, the Burundian government regretted that the Commission had ignored government's efforts to re-establish peace and security and protect its citizens.

**Burundian refugees in neighbouring countries:** The political situation in Burundi continues to displace Burundian nationals into neighbouring countries. Latest figures from UNHCR indicate that there were 427,350 Burundian refugees and asylum seekers hosted in neighbouring countries as of 19<sup>th</sup> June 2017. The majority of the refugees are hosted in Tanzania (57%), Rwanda (20%), Uganda (11%), and DR Congo (9%) with smaller numbers in Kenya, Mozambique, Zambia and Malawi.

**UN Security Council extends sanctions on DR Congo:** On 21<sup>st</sup> June 2017, the [UN Security Council](#) extended its arms embargo, asset freeze and travel ban on the Democratic Republic of Congo until 1<sup>st</sup> July 2018 amidst concerns over deteriorating security situation and human rights violations in the country. In particular, the Council strongly condemned all armed groups operating in the Kasai province where political violence erupted in August 2016, calling for immediate end to violence, exploitation of natural resources, permanent disbandment and disarmament of armed groups and demobilization of all children from their ranks.

More than [3,300 deaths](#) have been reported in Kasai region since last October with more than one million people being displaced in the region. There are nearly 480,000 DR Congo refugees hosted in neighbouring countries, with majority in Uganda (46%), Rwanda (15%), Tanzania (13%), Kenya (6%) and others in South Sudan, Congo (Brazzaville), Central African Republic, Sudan and Ethiopia.

**Developments in Libya:** The UN Migration Agency (IOM) and UNHCR [have presented plans to expand operations in Libya](#) and enhance their support to migrants, refugees, asylum seekers and Libyans affected by ongoing conflict. The support includes protection monitoring and interventions, advocacy related to access to basic services, human rights, asylum procedures and freedom of movement. Other areas of support include stabilizing Libyan communities and enhancing Libya's capacity in migration management.

Meanwhile, [media reports](#) indicate that Italy has allocated 200 million euros to Libya to combat the influx of irregular migrants from / through the country's southern borders to prevent migrants / asylum seekers from reaching Libya's shores and attempting the dangerous sea crossing to Europe. Earlier in mid-May 2017, the Italian government handed [over four patrol boats to Libya's coastguards](#) as part of bilateral cooperation in the fight against irregular migration towards Europe. An additional six patrol boats will be handed over to the coastguards in the coming months.

In other reports, the Libyan coastguard intercepted [nearly 500 migrants](#) packed onto a wooden boat off Libya's coast and returned them to Tripoli after an altercation with a charity rescue vessel operated by Sea-Watch that was preparing to rescue the migrants. Migrants intercepted by the Libyan coastguard are generally held at detention centres in Libya notorious for poor conditions and ill-treatment of migrants/asylum seekers. Following this incident, Human Rights Watch issued a [statement condemning Libyan coastguard "reckless conduct"](#) that endangered the lives of migrants being rescued in international waters adding that such incidents indicate that Libya lacks capacity to safely perform search-and-rescue obligations. The statement calls on Italy and other EU countries not to cede control over rescue operations in international waters to Libyan forces.

**Mediterranean Sea arrivals:** A total of 25,103 migrants and asylum seekers arrived in Europe via the Mediterranean Sea in May 2017, representing a 67% increase on figures reported in April 2017 (14,988), possibly related to better weather conditions on sea. 92% of these flows (or 22,993 people) were recorded along the Central Mediterranean route from North Africa to Italy. This is the highest monthly figure recorded on this route in 2017 and at par with arrivals figures recorded at this time of the year in 2015 (21,235) and 2016 (19,925). If the current trend of arrivals in Italy continues, 2017 will be a record year with an estimated 250,000 arrivals (compared to the previous record of 181,000) mainly caused by high numbers of migrants from West African countries and [Bangladesh](#). A total of 3,181 migrants and asylum seekers from the Horn of Africa including 1,044 Eritreans, 1,021 Somalis, 887 Sudanese and 229 Ethiopians, arrived in Italy between January and April 2017. Breakdown figures by nationalities for the month of

May 2017 were not available at the time of writing this report.

**Migrant deaths:** Estimates from the UN Migration Agency (IOM) indicate that there were at least 724 migrant deaths (including maritime and overland) that occurred in the process of migrating in May 2017, the highest monthly record so far in 2017. The Central Mediterranean route, linking North Africa with Europe via Italy, continues to be the most deadly maritime route, accounting for 85% (or 612) of all recorded deaths in May 2017. Migrants and asylum seekers from the Horn of Africa, as well as West Africa, have traditionally used this route to enter Europe.

**New  
Research,  
reports or  
documents**

**[RMMS Briefing Paper 4: Human Smuggling - No victimless crime: Voices from those on the move:](#)** This latest Briefing Paper by RMMS presents a selection of quotes and stories, taken from a collection of 655 quotes by migrants and asylum seekers who are on the move along various migration routes out of the Horn of Africa. The selected quotes have been taken from interviews conducted with almost 3,500 migrants from Ethiopia, Somalia and Eritrea in various locations between late 2014 and April 2017 and are presented thematically in this paper. All quotes refer to human rights and protection issues during migration journeys and provide a vivid account of the various and harsh abuses migrants are facing during their migration trajectories.

**Mixed migration updates and reports from other regions:**

- [RMMS West Africa](#) summaries.
- 4Mi (Mixed Migration Monitoring Mechanism initiative) reports from the [DRC Central Asia and Southwest Asia](#) region.
- [Mixed Migration Platform \(MMP\)](#) monthly summaries, feature articles and new research reports on mixed migration issues in the Middle East.

**[Integrated responses to human smuggling from the Horn of Africa to Europe:](#)** This report by the Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime assesses the nature of the migrant smuggling market according to three inter-dependent smuggling 'systems' that feature along the major route from the Horn of Africa towards Europe. These include the Horn of Africa system, the Sahel system and the Maghreb coastal system. The report notes that addressing irregular migration and the burgeoning transnational organized crime of migrant smuggling remains a key challenge which states of the region should address in partnership with the international community. The report further proposes a more holistic series of programmatic interventions that could be pursued by development or other actors as well as a reorientation of some law enforcement priorities.

**[Hell on earth: Abuses against refugees and migrants trying to reach Europe from Libya:](#)** This report by Refugees International documents the abuses faced by migrants and asylum seekers in Libya including arbitrary detention, torture, unlawful killings, rape, forced labour, kidnapping and even slavery. More than 60,000 migrants and asylum seekers have entered Europe in the first five months of 2017 with the vast majority landing in Italy. Estimates from IOM indicate that there are between 700,000 and 1 million migrants and asylum seekers in Libya, of whom 7,100 are detained in detention centres. The reports provides a series of recommendations to address the situation in Libya with specific proposals to the EU, UNHCR, The Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the UN Special Representative of the Secretary General for Sexual Violence in Conflict.

**[Promoting a common understanding of migration trends:](#)** This report by IOM Egypt proposes an alternative and innovative methodology for interpreting economic migration flows. The model presented in the publication helps in building evidence-based labour market and demographic scenarios to support countries of origin and destination of labour migrants in improving and managing migration flows in an economically efficient and humane way. The model will allow for the estimation of future labour needs and migration flows that will affect the EU and countries characterized by the most significant declines in working-age population (WAP), as well as analyse the socioeconomic impacts of these migration flows.

**[Creating safe zones and safe corridors in conflict situations: Providing protection at home or preventing the search for asylum?](#)** The conflict in Syria has prompted renewed calls for so-called 'safe zones' and 'safe corridors' to prevent people from needing to seek protection abroad as refugees, and to encourage refugees to return home. This policy briefing paper by the Kaldor Centre for International Refugee Law asks some fundamental questions about safe zones and safe corridors, sketching the complexity of the international legal frameworks that apply. The paper analyses the preconditions to their creation, their qualities and character, how they are accessed, and how protection and other human rights can be assured. Finally, the paper considers the responsibility and accountability of various international actors with respect to safe zones and safe corridors.

*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.*