



Regional mixed migration summary for October 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
Yemen	<p><i>The conflict in Yemen entered its nineteenth month with 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. Therefore the data presented in this report concerning new arrivals in Yemen cannot be considered comprehensive or conclusive.</i></p> <p>Internal displacement: At the end of October 2016, there were an approximate 2.2 million internally displaced persons across 21 governorates in Yemen, representing 8% of the country's population. Up to 51% of the displaced persons are hosted in Hajjah, Taizz and Sana'a. According to Task Force on Population Movement's (TFPM) 11th report, the short-lived ceasefire from 19-21 October 2016 and resumption of conflict in Yemen is likely to drive further displacement and hinder more widespread return movements. An estimated 1 million returnees have been identified in 20 governorates.</p> <p>Continued arrivals from the Horn of Africa: At least 8,029 migrants and asylum seekers (77% Ethiopians and 23% Somalis) arrived from the Horn of Africa to Yemen via the Red Sea, Arabian Sea and Gulf of Aden in October 2016. In keeping with recent trends, the proportion of Somali migrants and asylum seekers travelling to Yemen was above the 20% mark of the total. The overall number of migrants and asylum seekers arriving in Yemen in October did however drop below the average arrival rate of 10,500 persons which has been witnessed in the first 9 months of 2016. This is likely attributable to the deportation of Ethiopian nationals from Yemen, which began in September, dissuading some from making the journey and encouraging others to return to Ethiopia. IOM reported that between mid-September and the end of October 2016, 881 stranded Ethiopian migrants who were sent back by Yemeni authorities were supported to return to Ethiopia.</p> <p>Djibouti – continued decline as a point of departure: An estimated 1,175 (1,137 Ethiopians and 38 Somalis) migrants and asylum seekers arrived on the Red Sea coast of Yemen in October 2016, a 29% decline on arrivals in September, and similar to the 30% decline between August and September. The migrants arrived aboard 21 boats which departed from Obock, Djibouti landing in various towns in Lahj governorate. 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. Throughout 2015 and 2016, Djibouti has been declining as a point of departure for Yemen, compared to the coast of Puntland, from where most depart.</p> <p>High proportion of Oromo: 95% of Ethiopian nationals arriving in Yemen were of Oromo ethnicity. All but one of the Ethiopians reported that they had attended primary school, and a majority (72%) of those interviewed reported working as farmers. A number of economic reasons were giving for migrating, including a lack of livelihood opportunities, poverty and related hardships and land seizure. However, new arrivals also consistently reported cases of arbitrary arrest, detention, torture and killings at the hands of government officials in response to the ongoing student protests or involvement (suspected or otherwise) in the Oromo Liberation Front.</p> <p>Main target – Saudi Arabia: Most (64%) Ethiopian migrants and asylum seekers reported crossing the border into Djibouti with the assistance of smugglers and being transferred to other smugglers in Tadjoura, who then transported them to Obock. New arrivals reported paying 2,500-10,000 Ethiopian Birr (approx. USD 110 – 450), which for some included the cost of the sea crossing to Yemen. 87% of interviewed Ethiopians indicated that they intended to travel onwards to Saudi Arabia to look for work. 8% expressed the intention to seek asylum in Yemen, and the remaining 5% intended to remain in Yemen and look for employment.</p> <p>Somali profiles: Somali nationals largely originated from Wooqoy Galbeed, with others coming from other regions in Somaliland, Puntland and South Central Somalia. Somalis cited a number of reasons for migrating including,</p>

	<p>economic opportunities, tribal conflict, poverty and hardship and conflict between the government and Al Shabaab. Somalis travelled through Galkayo, Hargeisa and Loya Ade before crossing into Djibouti, paying between USD 150-300 for the trip.</p> <p>An additional 6,854 migrants and asylum seekers (74% Ethiopian, 26% Somali) arrived on Arabian Sea coasts of Yemen in October 2016.</p> <p>Migrant vulnerability: In keeping with reports in recent months, migrants this month reported an uneventful sea crossing from Djibouti to Yemen. Migrants did however report that some of the boatmen were in contact with suspected human traffickers on the Yemeni shore who were being prepared to abduct them on their arrival.</p> <p>Based with interviews with 438 arrivals in Yemen, migrants reported a total of 2,354 violations in October 2016. New arrivals continued to report the presence of armed smugglers and/or suspected traffickers along the Yemeni coast. In October however, migrants reported being able to land safely on the beach but encountering smugglers and/or traffickers on the road to Aden. 759 instances of abduction and 621 instances of interception were reported, accounting for 32% and 26% of all violations in October respectively. Migrants who were captured and later escaped reported that they were taken to “dens” where they were tortured until they were able to raise a ransom ranging from 3,000-30,000 Ethiopian Birr (approx. USD130-1,300). One man reported being held for two months and stated that new hostages arrived daily.</p> <p>Protection issues reported by migrants transiting through Djibouti on their way to Yemen are reported in the Djibouti country section below.</p> <p>Departures from Yemen: As of 31st October 2016, the number of people fleeing Yemen to the Horn of Africa (Djibouti, Ethiopia, Somalia and Sudan) in the last 19 months totalled 90,112 persons (36,162 in Djibouti, 33,960 in Somalia, 13,309 in Ethiopia, and 6,681 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 72% of those moving opting to travel to Djibouti.</p> <p>N.B. The figures for Djibouti arrivals between May and October 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. Overall the number of Yemenis fleeing Yemen in 2016 is far lower than the numbers recorded in 2015.</p>
<p>Djibouti</p>	<p>Departures to Yemen: In October 2016, an estimated 1,175 (1,137 Ethiopians and 38 Somalis) migrants and asylum seekers arrived aboard 21 boats along the Red Sea coast of Yemen, a 29% decrease on arrivals in September. New arrivals landed in various towns in Lahj governorate. 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>Migrant vulnerability: In October 2016, new arrivals in Yemen continued to report the death of migrants in Obock related to a cholera outbreak that was first reported in September. 6 cholera-related deaths were reported in Obock and Lac Assal, and a suspected further 4-50 migrants died from cholera in Obock. 56 migrants are reported to be recovering from the disease after receiving medical assistance, but a further 150 are said to be hospitalised.</p> <p>In ongoing deportations from Yemen, 200 Ethiopian migrants were forced to disembark off-shore from Obock, and 5 migrants drowned as a result. A further 120 Ethiopian migrants were deported along the Djiboutian and Eritrean coast by Yemeni authorities, and reportedly walked 2 days to reach Obock. During this journey 6 migrants died of hunger and thirst.</p> <p>Migrants also reported instances of assault and robbery at the hands of Afari smugglers and residents, and the deportation of 100 Ethiopian migrants from Obock back to Ethiopia by Djiboutian police.</p>
<p>Somalia/ Somaliland</p>	<p>Somali refugees in the neighbouring countries: UNHCR figures indicate that there were 903,096 registered Somali refugees and asylum seekers displaced in neighbouring countries in the region as of 31st October 2016. The majority of the refugees are hosted in Kenya (37%), Ethiopia (28%) and Yemen (28%).</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>
South Sudan	<p>Regional displacement: With no ceasefire between the factions in the civil war in sight, the exodus of South Sudanese refugees into neighbouring countries in the region continues. According to UNHCR, there were 1,184,451 refugees and asylum seekers from South Sudan displaced in the region as of 16th October 2016. Close to 50,000 of these arrivals were recorded in October, and more than 320,000 since the outbreak of violence on 8th July 2016. The largest number of these refugees continue to escape into Uganda, where the average number of new arrivals surpassed 2,400 persons a month in October. Uganda hosts 49% (450,783) of the Sudanese refugee population. Other countries include Ethiopia (323,964, 27%), Sudan (254,757, 22%) and Kenya (89,845, 8%).</p> <p>Internal displacement: At the end of October 2016, there were approximately 1.73 million internally displaced persons in South Sudan.</p> <p>Refugees in South Sudan: Despite the ongoing conflict, South Sudan continues to host refugees from other countries. At the end of October 2016, UNHCR recorded 260,453 refugees in the country. The majority (92%) of refugees are from neighbouring Sudan.</p>
Sudan	<p>Internal Displacement: At the end of October 2016, an estimated 3.2 million Sudanese nationals were displaced within the country. The majority of this population is displaced within Darfur, where recurring conflict between Sudanese government forces and armed movements has led to and maintains wide scale population displacement.</p> <p>Refugees in Sudan: According to UN figures, Sudan hosted 401,380 refugees at the end of October 2016. South Sudanese refugees make up 65% of this population.</p> <p>Stranded Sudanese nationals repatriated from Libya: In October, Libyan officials reportedly made preparations to repatriate a group of approximately 1,500 Sudanese nationals who were stranded in Tobruk for more than two months. Limited information is available on these plans, and it is unclear whether this is a one-off event by Libyan authorities or whether it will form part of an ongoing trend affecting other migrant groups. Similarly, no information is currently available on reception of these persons in Sudan.</p> <p>Libya is a main migration gateway for many migrants and asylum seekers from Sudan (and other countries in the Horn of Africa) as they attempt to reach Italy via the Mediterranean Sea. Many of those on the move through Libya get stranded between warring parties in major cities or in migrant holding centres run by government or rebel forces.</p>
Eritrea	<p>UN Commission for Inquiry urges referral to the ICC: The United Nations Commission for Inquiry on human rights in Eritrea urged the UN General Assembly to take action and refer the situation in Eritrea to the International Criminal Court. Sheila Keetharuth, UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Eritrea said that the Government of Eritrea has "neither the political will nor the institutional capacity" to prosecute crimes documented by the Commission. This position was denounced by the Eritrean government, who in a statement to the UN General Assembly, said that it sees "little value in entering into a polemic with a clearly biased Special Rapporteur".</p> <p>Human rights violations, including what has been described as indefinite military conscription, have prompted tens of thousands of Eritreans to seek asylum in neighbouring countries and in Europe over the past few years. A new report by the Overseas Development Institute (ODI) shows a significantly favourable positive asylum rate for Eritrean nationals in Europe, where seven European countries granted asylum to all Eritreans between July 2015 and June 2016.</p>
Ethiopia	<p>Refugees in Ethiopia: As of 31st October 2016, there were 783,340 refugees and asylum seekers registered in</p>

	<p>Ethiopia. The majority of refugees are from South Sudan (321,342), Somalia (254,965) and Eritrea (160,568). 19,496 new arrivals were registered in October.</p> <p>Ethiopia state of emergency fuelling outward displacement: In mid-October 2016, the Ethiopian government declared a state of emergency of emergency for the first time in 25 years following months of often violent anti-government protests, particularly in the Oromia region. In mid-November, the government reported that it had arrested more than 11,000 people in connection with the unrest, a huge increase from the 2,500 announced by the government at the end of October. The emergency decree includes restriction on opposition party activity and curfew. Ethiopian migrants and asylum seekers interviewed in Yemen, are increasingly referring to the unrest as a key reason for their migration out of the country (see Yemen country section above). 95% of Ethiopians arriving in Yemen are from Oromo, a stark contrast to figures in 2014, which indicated that this was around 50%.</p>
<p>Kenya</p>	<p>Refugees in Kenya: As of 31st October 2016, there were 502,739 registered refugees and asylum seekers in Kenya, including refugees from Somalia (333,415), South Sudan (91,236), DRC (27,917) and Ethiopia (26,875). Dadaab refugee complex hosts 276,269 refugees and Kakuma camp hosts 163,192 refugees. An additional 63,278 refugees reside in the capital city of Nairobi (as official urban refugees).</p> <p>Voluntary repatriation of Somali refugees: The pace of refugee returns to Somalia continued to slow during October, as authorities in Jubbaland, Somalia maintained their position on preventing returnees from moving out of the transit centre in Dobley town. As a result, UNHCR and partners halted all road convoys from Dadaab, leading to a reduced number of overall returns. It is also likely that this information is discouraging refugees from areas outside Mogadishu from registering for returns. A total of 1,662 refugees returned by air convoy in October, representing a 46% decline on movements in September. At the end of October 28,393 persons had returned to Somalia since the beginning of 2016.</p> <p>Latest news: In early November the Kenyan government extended by six months their controversial ultimatum for 'emptying' Dadaab refugee camp by the last day of November 2016.</p>
<p>Israel</p>	<p>Israel praises border wall with Egypt: According to Israel's Population and Immigration Authority, not one African asylum seeker has entered the country irregularly over the past six months, and 18 having entered over the entire year. Government figures indicate that at the end of September 40,721 people who had entered Israel without a permit lived in the country, including 29,367 Eritreans and 8,066 Sudanese nationals. Figures also show that during the first nine months of 2016, 2,798 asylum seekers had left Israel, 81% percent of them Eritreans. Human rights organisations have in the past questioned Israel's return programme, calling into question the voluntariness of movement from the country.</p> <p>In recent years the efficacy of the Israel/Egypt border controls have seen a rapid and almost complete reduction of migrants and refugees entering Egypt with the intention of crossing into Israel. Since 2013 those migrants/refugees found in the Sinai were normally victims of human trafficking and since late 2014, those using Egypt as a transit route have been attempting to cross the Mediterranean Sea from Alexandria or travel on west into Libya to do the same.</p>
<p>Other regional news and news from other regions</p>	<p>Egypt passes law to curb smuggling of migrants: Egypt's parliament passed a law to outlaw the smuggling of persons through its territory. The new law imposes prison terms of up to 25 years and fines ranging from 50,000-200,000 Egyptian Pounds (approx. USD 3,200-12,900) on those found guilty of smuggling persons, or acting as brokers or middlemen for such transportation. It further imposes prison sentences on those who provide shelter to smuggled persons, and transport or otherwise facilitate their journey through Egypt.</p> <p>NGO alleges Libyan coastguard attacked migrant boat: A German NGO, Sea-Watch, have alleged that the crew of a speedboat marked "Libyan coastguard" attacked a migrant vessel carrying around 150 people, causing man to fall into the water and at least four persons to drown. In a statement, Sea-Watch "demand[ed] the EU to reflect upon the planned training of the Libyan Coastguard, when this includes self-styled authorities operating in a manner that represents a blatant violation of international maritime ad human rights law". A spokesman for Libya's naval forces denied that the event had involved Libyan authorities. Italy and the Netherlands began training Libya</p>

coast guard and navy officer aboard Italian and Dutch vessels in early October.

German ministry wants migrants returned to Africa: [Reports](#) suggest that the German government is considering adopting an Australian-style migration system, under which migrants intercepted at sea would be sent to processing at camps in third countries on the African continent. If true, this would be a major shift in policy for Germany, which has been one of the most generous countries in the EU during the mass arrival of refugees and migrants since 2014. “The elimination of the prospect of reaching the European coast could convince migrants to avoid embarking on the life threatening and costly journey in the first place,” the Interior Ministry spokesperson is quoted as saying. In early October, German Chancellor Angela Merkel conducted a tour of Mali, Niger and Ethiopia with the hope of driving economic development in the countries and curbing future migration to Europe.

EU pushes for intensified cooperation with African countries: A [report](#) of the European Commission on the progress made on the Partnership Framework with third countries under the European Agenda on Migration, EU leaders said they wanted so-called return “compacts” with five countries – Ethiopia, Niger, Nigeria, Mali and Senegal – by early 2017, in time for the next seasons when large-scale migration is likely to recommence. In a recent [policy paper](#) the bloc promised to “apply the necessary leverage, using all relevant EU policies, instruments and tools, including development and trade” to reduce migration flows, but to stand by to “draw the consequences if progress fall short”.

Alarming findings on exploitation of migrants arriving in Europe: Ongoing [data collection](#) by the UN’s International Organisation for Migration (IOM) found that more than 70% of migrants and asylum seekers traveling overland through north Africa to Europe between June and September 2016 showed strong indicators of having been victims of exploitation, human trafficking or organ trafficking along the way. 49% of all those questioned reported being held in a location against their will, often for ransom. Findings of similar types of abuse and human rights abuses (though in smaller numbers) are consistent with RMMS findings in its 4Mi project (Mixed Migration Monitoring Mechanism Initiative), which are explored in a new feature article referenced below.



Source: UNHCR

Mediterranean Sea arrivals: As of 31st October 2016, a total of 331,702 refugees and migrants had arrived in Europe by sea since the beginning of the year, a 42% decrease on arrivals recorded for the same period in 2015. 30,242 people arrived in October 2016, a 43% climb on arrivals in September. The increase is in keeping with trends in 2015, which showed a 35% increase between the same months. As with figures since April 2016, arrival figures in October 2016 are

significantly reduced when compared with figures in the same month of 2015, owing to the EU-Turkey deal which resulted in the effective shut down of the Eastern Mediterranean route into Europe. However, according to a new [Overseas Development Institute](#) report in 2016 many more migrants/refugees are arriving in Europe using covert means than in 2015. Generally those using covert means unrecorded until they register for asylum. Consequently the asylum application figures for 2016 are expected to be over double (890,000) the recorded numbers overtly entering Europe (330,000).

Along the Central Mediterranean route to Italy, 27,272 people were reported to have arrived in October 2016, a significant 61% increase on arrivals in September, and a 206% increase on arrivals in October 2015. Overall, 159,132 people have used this route between January and October 2016, in comparison to the 140,987 that used the route in 2015 – a 13% increase.

Migrant deaths: Data compiled by [IOM's Missing Migrants Project](#), shows that as of 31st October 2016, a total of at least 5,546 persons have lost their lives globally while migrating by sea and land this year. The Central Mediterranean remains particularly perilous with 422 deaths recorded in October alone, marking one of the deadliest months on record this year, and the most fatalities in one months since May 2016. 3,495 deaths were recorded on this route in 2016 (63% of global figures) and has already surpassed yearly totals for 2015 and 2014.

Humanitarian agencies have noted with concern the increasing number of deaths, with UNHCR blaming increased fatalities on sea with a [“mass embarkation strategy”](#) adopted by human smugglers. The approach sees smugglers critically overload vessels and release several boats at a time, putting rescue services in the Mediterranean in a

	<p>difficult position when multiple boats encounter challenges at sea. According to UNHCR, the death rate has increased three-fold in recent times, and one in every 47 persons put on a boat in the Mediterranean perishes at sea.</p> <p>Burundi refugees in neighbouring countries: As of 14th November 2016, there were 324,325 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 (177,335, 55%) and Rwanda (81,834, 25%).</p>
<p>New Research, reports or documents</p>	<p><u>The migration compact: a robust triangle of victims and perpetrators:</u> In this new feature article, RMMS draws attention to recent findings from data collected in the 4Mi project (<u>Mixed Migration Monitoring Mechanism Initiative</u>) that reveals two alarming aspects of migrant and asylum seeker experiences as they seek protection and better opportunity. First, that smugglers are directly responsible for a high number of violations perpetrated against those moving, and second, that certain state officials are also closely implicated.</p> <p><u>Migrant Smuggling Data and Research: A global review of the emerging evidence base:</u> This report by IOM offers a review of the current data and research on migrant smuggling in an aim to further build the evidence base on the subject. The report hopes to deepen understanding of the smuggling phenomenon and hope to provide insights into how responses can be formulated that better protect migrants, while enhancing States' abilities to manage orderly migration.</p> <p><u>Destination Europe? Understanding the dynamics and drivers of Mediterranean migration in 2015:</u> Europe's response to the so-called 'migration crisis' has been driven almost exclusively by a border control agenda. Several years into the 'crisis', there is still no sign of a coherent long-term response. This report by the Unravelling the Mediterranean Migration Crisis (MEDMIG) programme aims to shed some light on the dynamics of migration to Europe and why some of the people moving might decide to risk their lives crossing the Mediterranean.</p> <p><u>Hotspot Italy:</u> This new report by Amnesty International examines how the EU's flagship hotspot approach, which combined increased control on refugees and migrants at the point of arrivals, and later distributing a number of those seeking asylum to other Member States, may have led to violation of refugee and migrant rights.</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.