



Regional mixed migration summary for March 2012 covering mixed migration events, trends and data for Djibouti, Eritrea/Sudan, Ethiopia, Kenya, Puntland, Somalia, Somaliland and Yemen.

Country (alphabetically)	Events /trends/ data / analysis
Djibouti	<p>New information:</p> <p>In March 2012 an estimated 7,540 people left Djibouti for Yemen, departing from Obock and different coastal departure points 30-40 km west of Obock. This represents approximately 251 per day, a 28% decrease of the total <i>percentage</i> of (daily) new arrivals from last month. 86% were non Somalis (mostly Ethiopians) representing a 6% drop from February 2012, but a 30% rise against March 2012.</p> <p>New arrivals in Yemen state that they paid smugglers \$450-\$500 for the journey from Somalia to Yemen (including sea crossing) and between \$460 - \$570 from Ethiopia to Yemen (including sea crossing).</p> <p>Somali new arrivals who travelled through Djibouti to Yemen report that they were still being turned away by the authorities at the Loya Ade border post. They were only able to cross over by engaging smugglers, a means that they have increasingly had to employ as compared to the previous years. The reported smugglers fee was an average of \$10. There were reports that some smugglers who facilitated the journey to Obock and onwards charged the migrants twice claiming that they had not received the initial payment from the original broker.</p>
Eritrea/ Sudan/ South Sudan	<p>New information:</p> <p>Eritrea: An on-going and long-standing exodus of Eritreans from Eritrea continues with an estimated 2000-3000 leaving the country every month (into Sudan). As previously reported, Bedouin tribes are increasingly kidnapping, physically abusing, extorting and trafficking migrants in the deserts of Sudan and Egypt. There have been many reports of cases where these migrants have died as a result of the physical abuse and have even had their organs removed. In response to this, on the 15th of March, the Plenary of the European Parliament adopted a resolution; 'Human Trafficking in Sinai particularly in the case of Solomon W'. [article to be posted by pooja] Solomon W is a migrant who managed to escape from his captors.</p> <p>South Sudan: The Israeli Minister of Interior (MOI) has announced that all South Sudanese asylum-seekers, an estimated 700 – 1,000, had to repatriate by the end of March or be declared illegal foreigners and would no longer be afforded protective status. The MOI stated that South Sudan was now an independent country, safe for return.</p>
Ethiopia	<p>New Information:</p> <p>An estimated 8,268 Ethiopians made their way to Yemeni shores in March 2012 in a continued and on-going exodus. Last March (2011) 7,356 Ethiopians crossed to Yemen suggesting a 12% rise.</p> <p>Origination of new arrivals: In March there were reports from some new arrivals who stated that they had been previously deported to Ethiopia from Saudi Arabia. They fled for the second time as they were harassed, jailed and interrogated by the Ethiopian authorities upon deportation who suspected that they were affiliated to the Oromo Liberation Front and the Ogaden National Liberation Front.</p> <p>Dollo Ado: An approximate 2,762 Somali new refugees were registered in March, bringing the total number of Somalis registered in Ethiopia to 192,562. 77% of this total is hosted in Dollo Ado.</p> <p>Although there is no available verifiable total figure for the reporting period, on 22nd March 1,700 South Sudanese and Sudanese arrived in Ethiopia fleeing the violence in the Blue Nile region (UNHCR).</p>

	<p>IOM will organize a final air evacuation of 277 stranded Ethiopian migrants from Yemen's border with Saudi Arabia, unless new funding to continue repatriation flights is found. To date, IOM has assisted more than 6,000 Ethiopian migrants to return home from Haradh, a town close to the border used by the migrants as a stepping stone to reach Saudi Arabia. But some 12,000 stranded migrants, mostly from the Horn of Africa, remain.</p> <p>Israel's Immigrant Absorption Ministry will reportedly cut NIS 5.5 million from its budget for integrating Ethiopian immigrants this year, while the funds for immigrants from other countries will be cut by only hundreds of thousands of shekels.</p>
<p>Kenya</p>	<p>New Information:</p> <p>Dadaab: UNHCR reports that there are indications from the Department of Refugee Affairs that registration may resume again in Dadaab. The process had been ceased since October 2011 due to insecurity and other concerns of the Kenyan government. However, there have been other reports in the media of certain members of the government calling for the scaling down of the camp, arguing that conditions are now safe for Somalis to return to 'areas liberated' by the Kenyan and AMISOM troops. Various humanitarian agencies have urged the Kenyan government to renege on their plan because of the ongoing fighting and abuses against civilians in areas controlled by Kenyan forces and allied militias. They further suggested reopening of the Liboi screening centre and resumption of registration of new refugees to ensure they receive assistance.</p> <p>According to UNHCR, as of end March there are an estimated 522,065 Somali registered refugees hosted in Kenya. This is an increase of 1,613 (1%) from last month. Most of this increase in Somalis registered (in March) took place in Nairobi or Kakuma refugee camp.</p> <p>Kakuma: Some 4,500 individuals have arrived in Kakuma in past three months with an approximate 1,600 arriving in March itself. 76% of these were from South Sudan and Sudan who fled the fighting in Jonglei. At the end of March the total camp population was an estimated 91,140 of which South Sudanese and Sudanese comprise one third and Somalis half the total.</p> <p>Trafficking: In March the Kenyan media published several reports and accounts of Kenyans being smuggled/trafficked to Gulf States with the promise of well-paying jobs (mostly domestic). However, once they arrive, they are subjected to cruel and degrading treatment, long working hours and a salary much less than promised.</p>
<p>Puntland</p>	<p>New Information:</p> <p>Arabian Sea arrivals in Yemen: In the reporting period, 3,153 new arrivals landed on the Arabian Sea coast. Although most new arrivals from Puntland cited economic reasons for their flight, some from Bossaso stated that there had been increase in insecurity following suicide attacks and assassination attempts in Puntland carried out by a group believed to have an association with Al Qaida or Al Shabaab.</p> <p>In March the Puntland authority continued to detain and interrogate migrants from South Central Somalia on suspicion of Al-Shabaab links, particularly following the suicide attacks and assassination attempts (referred to above), at an increasing rate.</p> <p>Reports indicate that on three occasions in March, Puntland authorities apprehended and deported Ethiopian migrants who were attempting to either embark from or disembark at the coastal line around Bossaso. These consisted of 7 females who were returning from Oman, 16 (breakdown unknown) trying to leave from the coast of Qaw Village and a larger group of 71 who intended to be smuggled to Yemen.</p> <p>Previously reported / context: In early January, President Abdirahman Farole banned IDPs from southern Somalia from entering Puntland, ordering the police to seize vehicles believed to be transporting these migrants. The President also announced that all IDPs who fled to Puntland due to the drought to return back to their homes. There are an estimated 140,000 IDPs (mostly from southern Somalia) in Puntland.</p>

**Somalia
(S-C)**

New Information:

In March 2012, 2,425 Somali migrants arrived on Yemen's shores. They represented 23% of the total new arrivals in March. In March 2011 almost the same number (2,130) made the crossing, but at that time they represented 29% of the monthly total.

The majority of Somali new arrivals in March originated from South – Central Somalia and as in the past months cited insecurity (17%) and forced recruitment by the Al-Shabaab as their reason for flight. However, the majority cited economic reasons (42%).

Some Somalis who came from Mogadishu stated that although the Al-Shabaab has retreated from the area, they continued to set off explosives in the town which caused them to flee. Some went further to state that the fighting in and around Mogadishu had destroyed their livelihoods and they were therefore forced to flee to Yemen.

IDPs: 37,000 people were displaced in March which is a 56% drop from February 2012. However, 76% cited insecurity as compared to the 56% from last month. Approximately 12,000 of these moved from Afgoye to Mogadishu as a result of the on-going fighting between the Al-Shabaab and the AMISOM/TGF troops. 3,500 IDPs returned to their homes in the Bay and Banadir regions following the retreat of the Al-Shabaab from the areas according to UNHCR.

Kenyan forces in Somalia/AMISOM: The combined Kenyan forces/AMISOM and TGF troops continued to pursue the Al-Shabaab in the Afgoye region which led to mass displacement from the area (see above).

This document does not seek to extensively detail conditions and event in Somalia (including displacements) as the subject is dealt with in great detail by various dedicated agencies.

Somaliland

New Information:

New Arrivals from Somaliland: Somali new arrivals from Somaliland constituted 3% of all Somali new arrivals in March. Some of new arrivals (in Yemen) originated from Burco, Borama and Hargeisa regions of Somaliland.

New arrivals from Somaliland mainly cited lack of livelihood opportunities as their reason for flight to Yemen as compared to last month when conflict between the authorities and clans loyal to the Khatumo state in the Togdheer region was the prevalent driver.

The joint **Ministry of Interior and UNHCR verification/registration** exercise started on the 4th of March and will cover migrants who came before 2008 (when registration was ceased) and after. Those unwilling to repatriate will be registered as asylum-seekers. UNHCR estimates this may involve 20,000 individuals.

Of the approximate 200 migrants (mainly Ethiopians) camped at the Social Welfare Centre, some 58 recognised refugees accepted a one-off re-integration package from UNHCR and left the centre.

On March 25th **36 stranded migrants** (8 Somalis and 28 Ethiopians) were found between Zaila and Lughaya on the Somaliland coast. Reportedly they were intending to go to Yemen with the aid of smugglers, 3 of whom are in custody. The Immigration Director stated that smuggling on such a scale had not taken place in Zaila over the last 10 years and appealed to humanitarian agencies to provide for these migrants.

The IDP working group (comprised of the humanitarian community) is scheduled to meet (TBD) and draw up a coordinated response to the IDP policy as proposed by the Somaliland authorities that is to be tabled in Parliament. This will then be followed by a meeting with the MRR&R where their views will be presented. **Note:** One of the items for discussion will be the status of migrants from SouthCentral Somalia in Somaliland. UNHCR does not categorize them as refugees and Somaliland does not identify them as IDPs. During March there was no fresh update.

Previously reported/context: In early September 2011 [the government of Somaliland announced that the '80,000' unregistered foreigners in Somaliland had one month to leave](#). In October a further statement was made by a government minister increasing the hostile and unwelcome environment for Ethiopians in Somaliland. Aid agencies estimate the real number affected may be closer to 20,000.

Yemen

New data from the Yemen MMTF

New Information:

New arrivals:

The total number of new arrivals recorded from the MMTF Yemen in March was 10,693 individuals representing a 14% decrease from 12,454 arrivals in February 2012. 7,540 of March's total arrived crossing the Red Sea (from Djibouti) while 3,153 crossed the Arabian Sea (from Somaliland / Puntland). In March 2011 the estimated arrivals was 9,486 indicating a 12.7% rise against the total new arrivals of the same month last year.

Proportions: 77% of the new arrivals were non-Somalis and just 23% were Somalis. In the same reporting month one year earlier (March 2011) the proportion of Somalis was 29% indicating successive reduction in the number of Somalis as a proportion of the total.

Red Sea Arrivals: The total number of new arrivals recorded at the Red Sea coast during the month of March was 7,540 representing a decrease of 24% compared to February 2012. However, this is 30% higher than the figure in March 2011. During the reporting period, non Somalis (mostly Ethiopians) constituted 86% while Somalis constituted 14%.

Registration: Of the total arrivals in the month of March 2012, 94% of Somalis and 28% of non Somalis registered as refugees or as asylum seekers. The percentage of non Somalis registering increased by 13% as compared to last month (Feb).

Main Drivers/push factors: Lack of economic opportunities continued to be sighted as the main reason for flight by Somali new arrivals while insecurity fell by 8% from last month. Most of those 8% claiming insecurity were fleeing from South Central Somalia. Non Somalis citing lack of economic opportunities fell from 72% (February 2011) to 46% in the reporting period. Insecurity fell 4% within the same group as compared to last month and were mainly of Oromo and Ogadeni ethnicity.

Origination: Although the majority of Ethiopian new arrivals who registered (and therefore interviewed) were Oromo, the percentage of those of Tigray ethnicity more than doubled from last month. Somali new arrivals who fled from Somaliland dropped by 12% from the previous month.

Insecurity in Yemen: Heavy fighting and insecurity in Yemen continued unabated during the reporting period, particularly in the north between the Al-Houthi and Salafist supporters. While in the south fighting between the AnsarAl'Sharia and government troops continued. This has resulted in the significant internal displacement (see below), limited humanitarian access and prevented return of IDPs.

In the reporting period, a Swiss woman working with a local school was kidnapped in Hudaydah and is still being held captive. This brings the total number of kidnapped expatriates/internationals to 12 in 2012. Further, an American male teacher was murdered in Taiz. The implication of the increased insecurity and specific kidnapping and IED threat targeting foreigners is having a direct impact of the activities and movement of those involved in working with migrants.

Boats & passengers: Over the reporting period the total number of boats arriving on the coast with migrants was 154 vessels; 43 crossing the Arabian sea and 111 crossing the Red Sea. This is a slight drop from the previous two months. The average number of passengers on each boat was 70 people per trip (not including smugglers/crew).

Protection risks faced by new arrivals over the reporting period: [The general insecurity in the country appears to have had an impact on African migrants with increased cases of kidnappings, rape and torture.](#) Reports of hostage taking and forced smuggling continued, particularly of Ethiopians new arrivals. In the first two weeks of March, two Ethiopian males were reportedly killed upon arrival, while a third died after being tortured by inland smugglers. A reported 31 cases of GBV were perpetrated by inland smugglers along the Red Sea coast while two female Ethiopians reported that Djiboutian marines attempted to rape them in Obock (Djibouti) while they awaited transportation to Yemen.

Deaths at Sea: There were no reported deaths at sea with respect to the sea crossing to Yemen.

Trafficking: As previously reported, last month the Yemeni authorities raided a smuggling/trafficking ring and rescued some 70 migrants, mainly Ethiopians and some Somalis who had been tortured and held in cruel and

degrading conditions. The Minister of Interior had claimed that over a period of a year, [170 African migrants](#) had been rescued, most of whom were being held captive in Harad for ransom. This was widely covered in the media and the government has launched an investigation into these smuggling/trafficking networks in March.

IDPs: The previously reported joint DRC, UNHCR and WFP exercise to ascertain an accurate number of IDPs is still on-going. However, according to UNHCR, approximately 52,000 people have been displaced over the last three months in north while 1,800 have been displaced in the first two weeks of March in the Abyan governorate in the south. UNHCR currently estimate that they are total of some 500,000 IDPs in Yemen. The counting of IDPs in Yemen has come under some political pressure due to the associated interests of different groups in presenting high or low numbers.

Detained Ethiopians: In March the international community was still not given access to the Ethiopians who were detained by the Dubab governorate security authorities upon arrival in Yemen on the 11th of February. Nor is it known if they have been transferred to the Taiz prison as earlier stated by the authorities who arrested the Ethiopians on grounds that they were illegal migrants.

Ethiopians stranded in North Yemen: Some thousands of [Ethiopian migrants remain stranded in North](#) Yemen around the city of Harad– close to the border with Saudi Arabia. IOM repatriated approximately 277 of these stranded migrants from Harad in March. However, due to lack of funding at the current time, they are unable to repatriate the remaining migrants who have expressed the intention to return home. In 2010/2011 IOM returned, 6,169.

Extension of coastal monitoring network along the Red sea: As previously reported, DRC and UNHCR are discussing a new initiative to extend coastal monitoring network so that more of the Red Sea coast is covered and more comprehensive data can be captured. No developments reported. The current security issue make expansion of new programmes problematic.

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

This information sheet is distributed to over 480 agencies, academic institutions, donors, embassies, journalists, government officials / departments, international and multi-national organisations and related non-government organisations.