



Regional mixed migration summary for April 2013 covering mixed migration events, trends and data for Djibouti, Eritrea/Sudan, Ethiopia, Kenya, Puntland, Somalia, Somaliland and Yemen.



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| Country | Events /trends/ data / analysis |
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| <p>Djibouti</p> | <p>New Arrivals: In April 2013, an estimated 4,615 migrants arrived on Yemen's shores via Djibouti, a 46% decrease from March. 80% of these migrants were Ethiopians while the rest were Somali.</p> <p>Boats: A total of 66 vessels left via the Red Sea for Yemen carrying an average of 69 passengers per trip in the month of April.</p> <p>Migrant vulnerability: Female migrants continue to be subjected to sexual and gender based violence at the Obock departure point, during the sea voyage or upon arrival in Yemen. 2 Ethiopian migrants reported rape enroute from Obock to Yemen, while 15 women, 10 Somali (including a minor), and 5 Ethiopian reported attempted rape by smugglers. Demands for additional fees mid-voyage, by the smuggling crew continued in April. Some deaths were reported at, and enroute to the Obock departure point; 2 Oromo men died from starvation and dehydration on a trek across the Obock mountainous region, 3 improperly buried bodies were discovered at Dawelle border and an unconfirmed number of deaths were reported at the Obock departure point. Migrants were also reportedly robbed at the Obock departure point by brokers and at sea by smugglers.</p> <p>Campaigns against smuggling: It was reported that migrants and smugglers risked arrest by the Djiboutian coast guard upon detection in April. Reports also indicate that the Djiboutian coast guard may have resorted to burning smuggling vessels to deter the practice. Increased surveillance by the Djiboutian coast guard resulted in a decrease of the number of boats making the Red Sea crossing in April.</p> <p>Migrants stranded in Obock: In April there was an increase in the number of migrants stranded in and around the city of Obock, unable to reach Yemen. IOM reported that its <i>'Migrant Response Centre (MRC), at Obock in Djibouti, is struggling to cope with increased numbers of stranded migrants from Ethiopia asking for transport assistance to return home.'</i> 7,137 migrants have been registered at the MRC and 246 assisted to return home since January 2013. Recent changes in Saudi Arabia labour laws for foreign workers, the continued construction of the 1,800 km Yemen-Saudi Arabia border fence and increased surveillance by the Djiboutian coast guard appear to have reduced the movement of migrants to Yemen and onward to Saudi Arabia, the desired destination for many Ethiopians.</p> <p>Response: IOM and the Djiboutian Public Prosecutor in charge of trafficking issues trained a group of 75 officers from Djibouti's national police, gendarmerie and coast guard in combating human trafficking. In the last year 46 alleged smugglers have been arraigned in court and charged.</p> |
| <p>Somaliland</p> | <p>Regional court sentences 9 for human trafficking: It was reported that the Immigration Department arrested 9 men in Wajale on the border between Somaliland region and Ethiopia. The men were convicted of human trafficking and sentenced to between 3 and 6 months in prison. The facts of the case however indicate that the men were engaged in smuggling activities as opposed to trafficking. The 'traffickers' operated their business from premises in Wajale. The network was reported to operate as far as Libya. Eighty migrants were intercepted by Somaliland authorities following the arrest.</p> |

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| <p>Eritrea (Sudan/ South Sudan)</p> | <p>Eritrean and Sudanese migrants in Israel: In March 2013, the Attorney General of Israel issued a directive to halt the repatriation of irregular migrants until relevant legal issues were clarified. The directive followed allegations of forced return of Sudanese and Eritrean migrants including asylum seekers. In response to the directive, reports indicate that plans are underway to draft guidelines that will assist in determining whether migrants are returning voluntarily. The guidelines are intended to specify, the particular questions the migrants should be asked to determine whether they are returning voluntarily and how the entire process will be supervised. The proposed guidelines were received with mixed reactions from human rights organisations who argued that migrants' free will cannot be exercised from the confines of prison walls. An estimated 55,000 irregular migrants live in Israel according to the Population, Immigration and Border Authority. Over 90% of these migrants are Sudanese and Eritreans. An estimated 2000 African migrants are currently detained following Israel's crackdown on undocumented African migrants in recent months.</p> <p>Sudan/South Sudan: Reuters reported that <i>'Up to 40,000 people have fled since rebels launched a major assault in central Sudan...amid signs of a new insurgent campaign to push closer to the capital.'</i> <i>'...both rebels and government forces have also reported clashes in the northeastern tip of South Kordofan, an oil-producing state close to Kosti, Sudan's biggest Nile river port, and key sugar plants.'</i> South Sudan hosts 224,532 registered refugees, the majority (197,975) are from Sudan, and the rest from the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, and Central African Republic. International agencies reported that the rainy season which begins in May is expected to curtail accessibility in over 60% of the country.</p> |
| <p>Ethiopia</p> | <p>New Arrivals: An estimated 4,999 Ethiopians made their way to Yemen in April 2013. In total, 30,067 Ethiopian migrants have crossed into Yemen since January 2013. The majority of the new arrivals were of Oromo ethnicity and came from East Hararge, West Hararge, Arsi, Balle and Jimma. Few were from the Amhara regions particularly Shewa and Wello. There were also a notable number from the Somali region of Ethiopia, including Degehabour, Gode and Jijiga. They were mostly illiterate, having received no formal education. They engaged in farming or pastoralism prior to embarking on the journey to Yemen. They cited lack of livelihood opportunities, land appropriation in favour of multinationals and high government taxes as their reasons for flight. A number of Ethiopians continue to cite fear of persecution due to perceived membership or affiliation with the Oromo Liberation Front (OLF) or the Ogaden National Liberation Front (ONLF).</p> <p>Refugees and asylum seekers: Ethiopia currently hosts 397,421 registered refugees and asylum seekers. There were 3,263 new arrivals in April, including 1,365 from Eritrea, 957 from Somalia and 936 from the Sudans. Overall, an estimated 60% of the refugee population is from Somalia, 22% from Sudan, and 17% from Eritrea. UNHCR statistics indicate more than 194, 089 refugees and asylum seekers are hosted in the five camps in the Dollo Ado area, south eastern Ethiopia. New arrivals at the Dollo Ado reception centre remain relatively low with an estimated total of 400 registered in April. Most of the new arrivals originate from Bay, Gedo and Bakol Districts of Somalia. The Tigray region in Ethiopia continues to receive new refugees from Eritrea, 1480 refugees were registered in March, and 1,365 in April including Unaccompanied Minors (UAMs). <i>'In western Ethiopia, an estimated 7,000 people arrived in Gambella's Wanthowa woreda since 20 February, according to reports from local authorities'</i> as cited in the Ethiopian weekly Humanitarian Bulletin for 29th April. The new arrivals in western Ethiopia cite <i>'insecurity in South Sudan's Jonglei State as their reason for flight.'</i></p> <p>Modalities of Travel: Ethiopians either accessed Djibouti at the Dawalle border before walking to Tadjora for 8-9 days and then onwards to Obock, or accessed Djibouti at Loya Ade, having travelled from Jijiga to Borame and then to Hargeisa.</p> |
| <p>Kenya</p> | <p>High Court begins hearing suit challenging encampment of urban refugees: The first hearing of a suit challenging a government directive requiring all urban refugees to return to designated camps was scheduled for hearing on 9th May. Two witnesses are expected to provide their testimony, before final submissions are made on 20th May in anticipation of the final judgement.</p> <p>Refugees and Asylum seekers in Kenya: Kenya is hosting 594,106 refugees and asylum seekers, 52,107 of them in Nairobi. The largest majority are Somali nationals (493,195), followed by South Sudanese (40,077), and</p> |

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| | <p>Ethiopians (31,721).</p> <p>Refugee returns from Kenya: Since January 2013, 14,353 refugees have returned to Somalia from Kenya. In the first three weeks of April 1,029 refugees were reported to have moved from Kenya to Somalia. 67% of those who moved were female. Key priority protection risks include food, water, shelter, health, livelihood support, and security among others. It was reported that refugees and asylum seekers are now experiencing less pressure to move from urban areas. In the beginning of the year they faced harassment and extortion from law enforcement authorities and hostility from the host community. This was as a result of incidents of insecurity attributed to the migrant community as well as a directive requiring all refugees and asylum seekers to move from urban areas to designated camps.</p> <p>Kenya seeks return of Somali refugees: It was reported that Kenya and Somalia were working on modalities to ensure repatriation of Somali refugees resident in the North Eastern camps. President Uhuru Kenyatta of Kenya hosted President Hassan Sheikh Mahmoud of Somalia at the State House in Mombasa on 27th April, 2013 and reportedly announced that the two leaders had agreed on the return of Somali refugees. President Kenyatta cited substantial progress made to stabilise Somalia under the leadership of President Mahmoud. Information from the Kenya Ministry of Foreign Affairs indicates that President Mahmoud discussed returns in the context that <i>“preparations have been properly made”</i>.</p> |
| <p>Puntland</p> | <p>Arabian Sea arrivals in Yemen: In April, 1,792 migrants crossed the Arabian Sea to Yemen a 45% decrease from March 2013. The majority were Somali (59%) while the rest were Ethiopian. Some of the new arrivals came from the Bari and Mudug regions.</p> <p>Stranded Kenyans in Bosaso rescued: IOM assisted 6 stranded Kenyan migrants in Bosaso to return home. The men were employed on a fishing vessel but later abandoned at the port of Bosaso in December by their captain. They remained stranded for several months without pay, before being identified by Puntland authorities and referred to IOM for assistance.</p> |
| <p>Somalia (S-C)</p> | <p>Somali movements to Yemen:An estimated 1,408 Somalis arrived on the Yemeni shores in April 2013. A high proportion of the new arrivals are primarily from south and central Somalia, including Benadir, Bay, Galgadud, Shebelle and Juba regions. They belong to Hawiye, Darood, Dir, Digil-Mirifle and Jareer clans. Many had at least primary to intermediate level of education, and most had worked as farmers, herders, porters or drivers prior to leaving Somalia for Yemen. Arrivals in April cited the following reasons for flight: insecurity, arbitrary arrest on suspicion of membership/affiliation to Al Shabab, inter-clan fighting, particularly between the Dir (Bimal) and Habar Gedir (Hawiye) seeking to control Makha, and the search for economic opportunities.</p> <p>Modalities of Travel: Some Somalis reportedly flew from Mogadishu to Berbera at the cost of USD 450 paid to smugglers including the journey to Loya Ade, onward to Obock and the sea crossing to Yemen. They also travelled by road from South Central to Somaliland and then crossed the border into Djibouti at Loya Ade. A number of Somali nationals indicated that on arrival in Djibouti they proceeded to the Ali Adeh refugee camp and paid USD 30 to a smuggler at the camp to assist them access the Obock departure point.</p> <p>Migrant Vulnerability: Migrants that travelled by road reported that they face arrest or extortion at check points in Garowe. Men are accused of belonging to Al Shabab and are allowed to proceed with their journey only upon payment of a bribe.</p> <p>IDP levels in Somalia remain approximately 1.1 million: By the middle of April 2013, 2,000 movements were reported within Somalia as a result of insecurity, floods, IDP evictions and cross border movements. Families were reported to be moving back to their places of origin. The Refugee Consortium provided return support benefitting approximately 700 families or over 3000 individuals. Movements mainly took place from Mogadishu and Galkayo to Baidoa, Afgooye, Wanla Weyne, Balad and Jowhar districts in South Somalia. IDP returns to Bakool region were halted due to security concerns.</p> <p>Refugees and Asylum seekers: Since the beginning of 2013, 10, 755 Somalis from south central have sought</p> |

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| | <p>refugee in neighbouring countries. It was reported that Mogadishu is host to 60 Zanzibari refugees.</p> <p>Refugee Returns: An estimated 18,108 refugees have returned to Somalia since January 2013 from Kenya, Ethiopia, Saudi Arabia and Yemen. In April, it was reported that 3,284 refugees returned from neighbouring countries.</p> |
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| <p>Yemen</p> | <p>New Arrivals: In April 2013, 6,407 migrants crossed into Yemen via the Red Sea (Djibouti) and the Arabian Sea (Somaliland/Puntland). This was a 46% decrease from March 2013 and lowest arrivals figure recorded since January 2013. An estimated 35,876 migrants have arrived on the Yemeni coast since January 2013, 81% of the total new arrivals being Ethiopian. Interviews with 1,070 migrants who arrived in April indicate that about 11% of these migrants were attempting their journey for the second or third time following deportation from Saudi Arabia to their countries of origin. Ethiopian nationals interviewed hoped to find work at the Rada'a qat farms of Yemen for 6 months as a means of financing their way into Saudi Arabia.</p> <p>Boats & passengers: There were a total of 89 migrant boat trips that arrived on the Yemeni coast in April 2013. The average number of passengers on each boat was 71 per trip (not including smugglers/crew).</p> <p>Raids release nearly 2,000 migrants from captivity, Haradh, Yemen: According to Yemeni media sources and international agencies working in northern Yemen, the security forces stormed compounds of traffickers/criminals around Haradh where kidnapped Africans migrants were held rescuing a total of 1,987 migrants. A reported 535 migrants, including 90 women were released and according to security sources over 50 perpetrators including six Ethiopians were arrested. Agencies report that many of the released showed evidence of torture, mistreatment, and had been held in inhumane conditions. A further 150 stranded migrants in desperate need are located in Basateen district, Aden. Released migrants were being accommodated at 3 locations: A military camp near Al Tuwal border, a purpose built tent next to the Amran detention centre and in the open air Immigration, Passport and Naturalization Authority (IPNA) centre in Sana'a. A total of 1,804 migrants have been assisted to return to Ethiopia through 2 military and 9 commercial flights. A delegation of humanitarian agencies, led by the top UN official in Yemen Resident Coordinator Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed, visited the Yemeni-Saudi border and witnessed the harrowing conditions facing thousands of migrants from the Horn of Africa. About 22 per cent of those landing in Yemen are women and girls. At least 57 women reported being subjected to attempted rape, rape or gang rape by smugglers and/or kidnappers. A 15 year old pregnant Ethiopian girl confirmed being gang raped during captivity. IOM, MSF, WFP and Yemeni Red Crescent Society provided food, health services, water, and sanitation facilities for the migrants.</p> <p>Migrant vulnerability: A high proportion of Ethiopian arrivals are held hostage upon arrival on the Yemeni coast. Ransom demands were reported to range between USD 200 and 400 in April. Immediately upon arrival 159 migrants including 9 women were held hostage. The death of a migrant, resulting from assault, due to non-payment of the ransom demanded was reported. It is alleged that smugglers rely on the Dahabshil money transfer to receive demanded ransoms from Ethiopia and Somalia. The phone numbers of smugglers are well known by the migrants.</p> <p>Trafficking of Women and Girls: A 12 year old Ethiopian boy held in captivity with other migrants in Yemen reported witnessing a negotiation for the purchase of Ethiopian women, between gang leaders and men who visited the location where the boy and other migrants were being held. There are repeated reports of disappearances of migrant females in Yemen – it is suspected that a significant number are trafficked but few details are known of these violations.</p> <p>Yemeni military and community members collaborate to combat smuggling: Reports indicate that local community and Yemeni military are collaborating to combat smuggling which may account for zero records of landings of smuggling boats along the Lahj coast entry points (from Al Sudaf to Al Suqaiya village) in April. Between ten and twelve tents were erected along the coast and manned by 2 or 3 armed men as a precaution against new arrivals of smuggler boats. Community monitoring teams work closely with the military based at the Anab Military Base, Lahj. The military have also been undertaking daily patrols along the Lahj coast and it seems that they rely on the information shared by the community groups. Although there is a coast guard base near Ras el Ara, there remains no indication that coast guards are also mounting patrols. A change in the military command is expected in May and there are indications that the campaign may extend to entry points in the Taiz governorate.</p> |

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| | <p>Responses: As of 16th April, IOM Yemen has been providing emergency assistance and medical care to rescued migrants, including an estimated 550 migrants who were camped outside the IPNA premises in Sana'a in exposed conditions. IOM Yemen is urgently appealing for USD 1.2 million following a request by the Yemeni authorities to provide urgent shelter, food, basic health care and protection to migrants in Aden, Amran, Haradh and Sana'a.</p> <p>Danish Refugee Council (DRC) extends monitoring area: Extended patrolling (to Al Sudaf which is south of Ras el Ara district in Lahj governorate; along the Mocha Express highway and covering the area towards the Jabal AlNar mountains reputed to be housing smuggling/trafficking hovels; and towards Yakhtul, which is south of Mocha district in Taiz governorate) commenced on the 14th of April 2013; At the end of April, as a result of the extended patrols, the teams encountered and screened 152 migrants (139 male and 13 female). They were 20 Somalis (16 male and 4 female); 130 Ethiopian (121 male and 9 female); and 2 men of Djiboutian nationality.</p> |
| <p>Other Regional news</p> | <p>South Africa: The Department of Home Affairs is responsible for handling asylum applications. IRIN reported that <i>'South Africa attracts the largest number of asylum seekers in the world, but grants refugee status to very few of them...'</i> <i>'Researchers and activists have repeatedly pointed to serious flaws in the country's refugee status determination process, including the lack of individualized assessments, misapplications of both local and international refugee law, and high levels of corruption among Home Affairs officials. The government's routine response has been that its asylum system is simply overwhelmed by the sheer number of applications it receives.'</i></p> <p>Tanzania: More than 40 illegal immigrants were arrested and charged in Mwanza, Tanzania according to the Tanzania Daily News. The Mwanza Regional Immigration Officer noted that illegal immigrants are using new routes in the lake zone region, which covers Kagera, Mara and Mwanza regions, bordering Lake Victoria. Migrants arrive from Kenya through the Sirare border, Tarime, Mwanza Region to Mbeya where it is easy for them to cross to Zambia and Malawi up to South Africa. In other news, it was reported that the Tanzanian government is investigating 14 naturalized Somali businessmen for allegedly facilitating the trafficking of hundreds of Somalis using forged documents. It was reported that politicians, businessmen and senior government officials who may be tied to the syndicate are also being investigated.</p> <p>Uganda: IRIN reported that <i>'Uganda's government and the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) have launched a pilot mobile court system to improve access to justice for victims of crimes in Nakivale, the country's oldest and largest refugee settlement. The magistrate's court, whose first session began on 15 April, will hear cases of robbery, land disputes, child rape, sexual and gender-based violence, attempted murder, and murder. The project - a collaboration of the Uganda government, UNHCR, Makerere University's Refugee Law Project (RLP) and the Uganda Human Rights Council - aims to benefit some 68,000 refugees and 35,000 Ugandan nationals in the settlement.'</i></p> |

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