



Regional mixed migration summary for January 2015 covering mixed migration events, trends and data for Djibouti, Eritrea, Sudan, South 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, and refugees). If the case load mentioned refers only to refugees, asylum seekers or trafficked persons, it will be clearly stated.

Country	Events / trends / data / analysis
Movement: Migrants/refugees move from the Horn of Africa (Ethiopia and Somalia) to Yemen and Saudi Arabia	
Yemen	<p>New arrivals: In January, an estimated number of 8,755 migrant/refugees from the Horn of Africa reportedly crossed the Red Sea (Djibouti) and the Arabian Sea (Bossasso) and reached the Yemeni coasts; 1,177 females (13% of total migrants) made the crossing. This represents an almost 2 percent decrease in arrivals from December 2014. The minor change in volume between December and January is typical in recent years.</p> <p>Proportions: Those reaching Yemen comprised: 1,242 Somalis, 7,507 Ethiopians and 6 Eritreans; Approximately 85 per cent of migrants/refugees were Ethiopian and 14 per cent Somali, a trend continually observed during the last quarter of 2014, although the proportion of Ethiopians is gradually increasing. In 2012 and 2013 the proportions were closer to 80/20 per cent.</p> <p>Boats and passengers: An estimated 141 boats arrived on the coast of Yemen in January 2015. The main entry points were Al-Jadid, Al-Shura, Ghorera, Dubab, Al Watia, Khada, Uzaf, Seikh Saeed, Al-Ordi, Al-Seimal, Mokha.</p> <p>Boat sinking off the coast of Yemen: In one incident taking place in January, 24 migrants were reported to have died off the coast of Yemen when their boat sank in bad weather, a further 10 migrants were unaccounted for. Yemeni authorities rescued 13 people (8 Ethiopians and 5 Somalis) and recovered the body of another Somali migrant. The increase in arrivals to Yemen (as reported in RMMS December monthly report an estimated 91,592 migrants/refugees arrived in Yemen between January and December 2014 - a 40% increase compared to the 65,319 migrants/refugees that arrived in 2013), and associated number of deaths at sea in the Gulf of Aden and Red Sea is reported to be stretching the capacity of authorities in a difficult security environment. More can be read about this issue here.</p> <p>Migrant vulnerability: In January 2015, Al Jazeera reported an incident in which police in the southern province of Lahj released 23 refugees who were held hostage for weeks. According to the report, the individuals were tortured in order to pressure relatives in Ethiopia to pay a high ransom. Abductions: Concerning the migrants crossing the Red Sea alone - in January, 1,490 migrants have been reportedly abducted arriving to Yemen of which 234 were women. A further 243 migrant/refugees reported being physically assaulted and 63 reported being robbed or extorted.</p> <p>The Yemeni Times has published a three-part series on the situation of migrants and asylum-seekers in the country covering their countries of origin, journeys and obstacles they face in Yemen.</p>
Djibouti	<p>Departures from Djibouti: In January 2,746 migrants/refugees arrived in Yemen from Djibouti via the Red Sea. This represents a decrease of 36 percent from December 2014. This dramatic fall in use of Obock as the preferred departure point may be due to increased Djibouti army patrols and illustrates a recent trend - evident since the second half 2014: increasingly, migrants/refugees are departing from Puntland.</p> <p>Patrols along Djiboutian result in arrests, detention and deportation: migrants/refugees arriving in January reported that patrols by the Djiboutian army along the borders with Ethiopia and Somalia has increased. Some</p>

	<p>incidents reported included the Djiboutian army allegedly opened the fire on some Ethiopians, who were trying to cross the Ethiopian-Djibouti border; one was killed and another one was seriously injured. In another incident, some Somalis reported having been detained and robbed by Djiboutian soldiers. Other migrants were reportedly deported from Djibouti to Loya Ade (Somalia) after having been detained for approximately 20 days, with 2 people reportedly dying in Obock due to starvation.</p> <p>New departure point north of Obock: Migrant/refugees from Ethiopia have largely been following a route that goes from Dewele (southern border in Djibouti), reaching Tadjoura and finally Obock. However one departure was recorded in from Moulhoulé, a town 87 kilometers north of Obock, not far from the border with Eritrea.</p>
Puntland	<p>Departures from Bossasso and Puntland: As at 31st January, 6,009 migrants/refugees (69% of all arrivals in Yemen) made the crossing via the Arabian Sea compared to 8,912 in December 2014. The Arabian Sea crossing has become the preferred route for migrants /refugees in recent months.</p> <p>Authorities continue to crackdown on irregular migration: Over the course of 2014, Puntland security forces arrested and deported hundreds of mainly Ethiopian migrants/ refugees who were attempting to cross to Yemen from Bossasso, which is now the preferred departure point for boats to Yemen (instead of Obock in Djibouti). The Puntland Ministry of Finance has approved a USD \$60 million budget for 2015 to improve security, healthcare delivery, infrastructure and economic development. It is unclear how much of these funds, if any, are directed towards improving security at borders.</p>
Somaliland	<p>Youth exodus: A report released by CARE Somalia/Somaliland in January 2015 provides further data about the levels of reported hopelessness amongst youth that is driving many to migrate irregularly through Ethiopia and Sudan to Libya. According to the report, youth feel frustrated at being excluded from government and community decision-making processes, and hopeless about finding good jobs after completing secondary school or even university (there aren't enough scholarships available for high-performing students, some cited being mis-led or deceived by study programs in Ethiopia, less interest in "blue-collar" jobs). As a result they feel they have little choice but to emigrate to Europe, Yemen, Saudi Arabia or elsewhere lured by false promises of better work and a better life. The report claims there is evidence of what it categorizes as human trafficking with high ransoms demanded from parents (via "Ma Gafe") to guarantee their child's "safety". Some youth who experienced hardship in Yemen and subsequently returned to Puntland blamed friends and others for spreading false hope and lies and emphasized the need for more awareness of this issue.</p> <p>Reports of Ethiopians arrested in Hargeisa: 47 Ethiopian migrants (4 women, 9 children and 34 adult men) were reportedly arrested by the immigration department of Hargeisa, Somaliland. Current indications are that due to their irregular migrant status, they will be deported back to Ethiopia by immigration authorities.</p>
Somalia	<p>Somali movements to Yemen: An estimated 172 Somalis crossed the Red Sea to arrive in Yemen in January 2015. Of these arrivals, 130 were male and 42 were female. Departure from Bossasso and crossing the Gulf continued to be the favoured route with 1,072 Somalis reported to have made the crossing.</p> <p>Modalities of travel: Somali refugees/migrants enter Djibouti principally through Dikhil (Djibouti border) and Loya Ade to reach Tadjoura and finally Obock. From there they cross the Red Sea for Yemen. Most Somalis intend to seek asylum in Yemen, though others cross the Red Sea and Arabian Sea looking for better living conditions and job opportunities in Saudi Arabia.</p> <p>Refugees and asylum seekers: As of January 6th 2015, Somalia hosted 2,669 registered refugees and 9,569 registered asylum seekers mainly in the northern region (and Puntland).</p> <p>Somalia signs Convention on the Rights of the Child: Somalia became the 194th State Party to ratify the Convention on the Rights of the Child on 20 January 2015.</p>
Ethiopia	<p>New arrivals in Yemen: An estimated 7,507 Ethiopians travelled to Yemen in January 2015. Ethiopian migrants/refugees arriving in Yemen in January 2015 were predominantly from the Oromia, Amhara and Tigray regions.</p>

	<p>Modalities of travel: Migrants/refugees from Ethiopia have largely been following the route that goes from Dewele (southern border), reaching Tadjoura and Obock (Djibouti). However a new departure point was reported above, whereby migrants also departed from Moulhoule, a town 87 kilometers north of Obock, not far from the border with Eritrea. Those who migrated from Jimma went to Addis Ababa continued to Dir Dawa and then to Djibouti.</p> <p>Refugees and asylum seekers: Ethiopia is currently the largest refugee hosting nation in Africa, having over taken Kenya in July 2014. It is host to populations from South Sudan (259,184), Somalia (245,346) and Eritrea (estimated at 111,321 individuals in November 2014) among other nationalities.</p> <p>IOM signed a Cooperation Agreement with the Ethiopia on migration matters on 29 January 2015.</p>
<p>Eritrea</p>	<p>Eritreans arrested in Italy and Germany over smuggling ring: Police have arrested 9 Eritreans in Italy and 1 in Germany after an investigation uncovered "existence of a transnational organization, operating in Italy, Libya, Eritrea, and other North-African states", according to police statements. The group organized boat departures from Libya to Italy, and then facilitated onward passage from Sicily to other countries in Europe. The group is accused of organizing 23 trips from Libya to Italy between May and September 2014. During the raid in Italy, police also arrested an 11th Eritrean accused of harbouring nine Somalians, eight of whom were minors, in a small locked room according to media reports.</p> <p>The Commission of Inquiry on Human Rights in Eritrea is set to begin hearing testimonies in the United Kingdom: The Commission of Inquiry visited the UK to hold meetings and collect testimonies and accounts on the human rights situation in Eritrea with public submissions welcomed throughout January 2015. More information about these processes is available here. The Commission is scheduled to produce its final report in June 2015. Attention continues to turn to the rising number of Eritrean asylum seekers in Europe, who now comprise the second-largest group of asylum applicants after Syrians.</p> <p>Danish Immigration Service admits doubts about its report re-evaluating criteria for granting asylum to Eritrean nationals: As reported earlier the Danish Immigration Service (DIS) carried out a fact finding mission to Ethiopia in August and Eritrea in October 2014. The mission was prompted by a surge of Eritrean asylum seekers in Denmark in the summer months. The mission report was published in November 2014 and handed over to the Justice Ministry. It suggested that 'the human rights situation in Eritrea may not be as bad as rumoured and that Denmark should no longer offer blanket asylum to Eritreans fleeing compulsory – and often time indefinite – military service.' The report attracted backlash from human rights organizations including Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch (HRW). According to HRW, governments should 'await the outcome of the United Nations Commission of Inquiry on Eritrea...before considering any major policy changes concerning Eritrea.' Following the negative reaction, DIS reportedly admitted there are 'doubts' about the report and that 'Eritreans are likely to be granted asylum in Denmark even if they aren't personally persecuted, concluding that the agency now "expects to grant asylum in many cases.'"</p>
<p>South Sudan</p>	<p>South Sudanese leaders sign a ceasefire deal: On 2 February 2015, South Sudanese President Salva Kiir and rebel commander Riek Machar signed another ceasefire agreement. The 'Areas of Agreement' document outlines a future transitional government of national unity. More commentary on this agreement is available here. As of January 9th 2015, the region (comprising of Ethiopia, Uganda, Sudan and Kenya) hosted 496,477 South Sudanese refugees displaced since December 2013. Furthermore, 1,498,500 people are internally displaced within South Sudan.</p> <p>Identity cards for South Sudanese in Sudan: South Sudanese citizens have started to received identity cards from the Sudanese Directorate General of Passports and Immigration (DPI) in Khartoum. Since February 2015, 2,820 people have South Sudanese have received their identity cards according to a report in the Sudan Tribune allowing them to stay, work and move freely in Sudan.</p> <p>UNMISS releases report on attacks on civilians in towns of Bentiu and Bor: On January 9th 2015, the United Nations Mission in South Sudan released a report saying that there are reasonable grounds to believe that at least 353 civilians were murdered and another 250 wounded by attacks in the states of Unity and Jonglei in April 2014.</p>

<p>Sudan</p>	<p>Significant increase in new arrivals reported in 2014: In 2014 UNHCR recorded 16,368 mostly Eritrean new arrivals, up from 7,180 in 2013. This included 1,785 Unaccompanied Children (an increase from 404 in 2013).</p> <p>UNHCR-IOM End of 2014 Human Trafficking Report released: In 2014, 113 victims of trafficking (VOTs) were verified by UNHCR Sudan. This report indicates that the majority of identified victims of trafficking in Sudan are asylum-seekers or refugee who average age is 18. Unaccompanied minors are part of the VOT caseload, with most kidnappings occurring at the Eritrean/Sudanese border. According to the report, VOTs are held in captivity in urban areas (Kassala, Khartoum) and border villages with alleged perpetrators are described most commonly to be Rashaida, followed by Eritreans and Sudanese. 25 per cent of all trafficking cases were initially reported to be smuggled either into Sudan or to Khartoum before they were trafficked and almost all female survivors of trafficking were sexually assaulted or raped (71% in Eastern Sudan and 96% in Khartoum).</p> <p>The European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) holds that the proposed return of two Darfuri men to Sudan would constitute ill treatment: In two separate cases handed down on the 15th of January 2015, the ECtHR ruled that France’s proposed deportation of two Darfuri men to Sudan would constitute ill treatment and a violation of Article 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights.</p>
<p>Kenya</p>	<p>Refugees and asylum seekers in Kenya: As of January 2015, Kenya hosted 585,076 refugees and asylum seekers, 51,646 of whom lived in Nairobi (urban refugees).The largest number of refugees and asylum seekers remain Somali nationals (425,028), followed by South Sudanese (90,714), and Ethiopians (30,504).</p> <p>Refugee resettlement from Kenya: In 2014, 6,805 resettlement submissions were made by UNHCR resulting in 2,098 departures mostly to the US (1,618), Canada (148) and other countries. Most refugees originated from Somalia (1,566) and Ethiopia (224).</p> <p>Diaspora policy launched: Kenya launched its new Diaspora Policy on 20 January 2015 with the aim of enhancing diaspora contributions that will include an Integrated Diaspora Information System.</p> <p>Eight clauses in the Security Laws (Amendment) Act are temporarily suspended: On January 2nd 2015, a Kenyan High Court temporarily suspended eight clauses in the Security Laws Amendment Act adopted by Kenyan Members of Parliament on the 18th of December 2014. It made this decision following a petition brought by parties including the Kenya National Commission of Human Rights. On 23rd January, Kenya’s Court of Appeal rejected an application by the Attorney General to recall orders suspending these clauses. In rejecting the application, the three judges said the laws infringe the Bill of Rights as enshrined in the Constitution. The matter how now been referred to the Chief Justice who has constituted a Bench to make a determination which is expected by mid-February.</p> <p>Pilot project supporting voluntary return of Somali refugees: As of January 16th 2015, a total of 827 individuals have returned to Kismayo and Baidoa. Currently, the pilot project is assisting returns from Dadaab refugee camp, but based on interest may expand to other locations such as Kakuma refugee camp and urban areas. Overall, the pilot project targets an initial group of up to 10,000 Somali refugees who wish to return to Somalia.</p>
<p>Other Regional news</p>	<p>Surge in migrants departing from Libya: Over 14-15 February, coastguards rescued over 3,000 people in 12 boats who were trying to reach Europe by crossing the Mediterranean. It is unclear what is driving these departures although it would seem a combination of factors such as the deteriorating situation in Libya, cheaper boat journeys during the winter season and continued hopes of being rescued and brought to mainland Europe are contributing to this dramatic rise in figures.</p> <p>Migrant deaths in Mediterranean: IOM reports also confirm that the 2015 smuggling season has begun earlier than expected, citing figures released by Italy’s Ministry of the Interior showing that 3,528 migrants have already crossed the Mediterranean during the month of January. The main countries of origin are Syria (764 arrivals), Gambia (451), Mali (436), Senegal (428), Somalia (405) and Eritrea (171). In January 2015, Italy announced that a total of 170,100 migrants and asylum-seekers arrived on its shores by the end of 2014. This is a significant increase when compared to the number of arrivals recorded in 2013 (42,925 individuals). With over 400 people having died in the Mediterranean (as at mid-February), many implicate the end of Operation <i>Mare Nostrum</i> which had a life-saving objective and was broader in scope and size than the current Operation Triton. As a recent RMMS feature article points out, there are also limits to a securitised and deterrence-based approach without concomittant approaches to address drivers at local, regional and global levels.</p>

	<p>New trend of abandoned ships departing from Turkey: In the first week of January, 2 ships with 796 and 360 passengers reportedly from Syria were towed to safety on the Italian coast after being abandoned by their crew. Passengers had reportedly paid USD \$5,000 per person on boats departing from Turkey suggesting a new smuggling route and a new trend with larger boats.</p> <p>Judge summons 16 police officers over migrant deaths in Ceuta: Following strong criticism by Human Rights Watch, a Judge has reportedly summoned 16 members of the Civil Guard military police for questioning to assess whether they could be responsible for migrants' deaths. This follows an incident in 2014 when the Spanish Guardia Civil fired rubber bullets and teargas at the water while migrants attempted to swim to Ceuta, one of Spain's two North African enclaves, from Morocco. An IRIN report highlights how Morocco has been trying to regularise migrants in its territory (over 20,000 entered the country in 2014), some of whom go on to try and reach Melilla and Ceuta – two Spanish territories inside the country. Migrants who mostly originate from sub-Saharan Africa reportedly pay up to 3,000 euros per person in smugglers fees to reach Morocco.</p>
<p>New Research, reports or documents</p>	<p>RMMS published its End of Year regional mixed migration thematic summary for 2014 which is available here. Also available is the latest RMMS study Behind bars: the detention of migrants in and from the East & Horn of Africa</p> <p>The Australian Human Rights Commission released the report of its National Inquiry into Children in Immigration Detention. The report, 'Forgotten Children', brings attention to the 800 children subject to mandatory detention including 186 on Nauru and is available here. An op-ed by the President of the Australian Human Rights Commission, Professor Gillian Triggs, can be read here.</p> <p>Human Rights Watch has released a report on Migrant Workers' Rights on Saadiyat Island in the United Arab Emirates. The report cites that some workers were subjected to conditions amounting to forced labour, having had their passports confiscated, living in sub-standard accommodation where they struggled to pay off recruitment fees which were supposed to have been banned. Attempts to raise concerns about the workers' mistreatment led to their wages being withheld, arbitrary police intimidation and their forcible removal from the country.</p> <p>Emeritus Professor Roger Zetter has just completed a major new study entitled 'Protecting Forced Migrants: A State of the Art Report of Concepts, Challenges and Ways Forward' which was commissioned by the Swiss Federal Commission on Migration. The report investigates how the complex and multi-causal nature of forced displacement in the contemporary world has contributed to an increasing range of protection gaps and to the diminution of protection space for refugees, and especially the increasing number of people who fall outside the recognised refugee and asylum apparatus. The report can be downloaded here.</p> <p>The 'Surprising Europe' TV series on African migration experiences can be viewed here.</p> <p>The latest edition of Migration Policy Practice has been released and contains a number of regional migration outlooks for 2015.</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.