



Regional mixed migration summary for October 2013 covering mixed migration events, trends and data for Djibouti, Eritrea/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 case load mentioned refers only to refugees or asylum seekers or trafficked persons it will be clearly stated.

Country	Events /trends/ data / analysis
<p>Djibouti</p>	<p>New Arrivals: In October, an estimated 2,734 migrants/refugees arrived on Yemen's shores via Djibouti, a 12% decrease from the 3,120 migrants that arrived in September, 2013, and a 61% and 68% decrease from the number of new arrivals in October 2012 and 2011 respectively.</p> <p>Boats: A total of 50 vessels left via the Red Sea for Yemen carrying an average of 54 passengers per trip in the month of October.</p>
<p>Somaliland</p>	<p>Migrants/refugees depart from Somaliland: Stakeholders on the ground reported that between 600-900 migrants/refugees leave Somaliland every month. Approximately 200 of these migrants/refugees are intercepted by Ethiopian authorities and deported back to Somaliland every month. In one incident in October, it was reported that Ethiopian authorities handed over 33 migrants/refugees to the Somaliland authorities at the Tog Wajaale border crossing between Ethiopia and Somaliland. The migrants/refugees, who were intercepted without identity or travel documentation were said to be headed for Libya through, Ethiopia and Sudan.</p>
<p>Eritrea (Sudan/ South Sudan)</p>	<p>State response following High Court ruling on Anti-infiltration law (Israel): A High Court ruling in September declared Israel's Anti-Infiltration law unconstitutional. In addition, the court ordered the State to re-examine the status of all migrants/refugees held in detention in Israel by mid December 2013. It was reported that the government has responded by proposing a law that would allow the detention of migrants/refugees for 1 year instead of 3 years previously allowed by the overturned law.</p> <p>Reports also indicate that the government is completing construction on an open stay centre where migrants/refugees will reside at night but be free to leave during the day. Migrants/refugees sheltered in the open centre will however not be allowed to work. Advocacy organisations moved to court seeking orders for contempt against the State for allegedly dragging its feet in freeing imprisoned migrants, and evaluating only criminal and deportation cases as a guise for the re-examination ordered by the court. In response, the State allegedly claimed that of the 1700 cases at the Saharonim detention centre, 600 were being re-examined to see if they fell under the Anti-Infiltration law and 228 of these migrants had already been released. Israel completed the construction of a border fence on its southern border with Egypt in January 2013 reportedly aimed at stemming irregular entry by African migrants and terrorists operating from the Sinai. The Population and Immigration Authority reports that only 36 migrants/refugees have been caught trying to irregularly enter Israel so far in 2013 as opposed to over 10,000 in 2012, 17,000 in 2011 and nearly 15,000 in 2010.</p> <p>International community urged to address human rights situation in Eritrea: It was reported that the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Eritrea advised the international community to focus on the dire human rights situation in the Horn of Africa nation. In 2012 it was estimated that between 2000- 3,000 migrants/refugees flee Eritrea every month although this figure may have reduced significantly in 2013. A majority of those fleeing are said to be unaccompanied minors. The Rapporteur cited indefinite military conscription, incommunicado detention, extra judicial killing, arbitrary arrest, inadequate civil and political guarantees and torture as some of the abuses that trigger migrant/refugee flight. She urged the Eritrean government to cooperate with the mandate of her office which seeks 'open and frank' dialogue on human rights.</p> <p>EU cooperation with Sudan to curb human trafficking and irregular movement: A delegation from the Eastern States led by the Governor of Kassala, Sudan, met with an EU delegation led by the EU ambassador, to</p>

	<p>discuss the commencement of recent project pledges and review the progress of ongoing reconstruction projects. The Governor of Kassala state lauded the EU, s efforts in providing assistance towards addressing human trafficking and transnational networks engaged in irregular movement, while the EU highlighted some of the support it had provided to tackle trafficking and irregular movement.</p>
Ethiopia	<p>New Arrivals: An estimated 3,914 Ethiopians made their way to Yemen in October 2013 compared to the 3,787 that arrived in September 2013. October 2013 arrivals were 48% and 55% less than those who arrived in October 2012 and 2011 respectively.</p> <p>Refugees and asylum seekers: In mid-October 2013, Ethiopia was host to approximately 423,851 refugees, 242,588 Somali, 77,083 Eritreans, 67,958 South Sudanese and 31,951 Sudanese. In September 2,596 migrants/refugees arrived in Ethiopia. A majority of the new arrivals were from Eritrea (1,153) and included unaccompanied minors.</p> <p>Ethiopia suspends labour migration to Saudi Arabia amid reports of riots and migrant deaths: It was reported that the Prime Minister of Ethiopia announced a temporary suspension on labour migration to Saudi Arabia for a 6 month period beginning in November. The temporary suspension is intended to allow the Ethiopian government to put in place an appropriate pre-departure programme for potential labour migrants. Migrant/refugee protests in Saudi Arabia were reported in early November stemming from the expiry of a 7 month amnesty granted to all migrants to regularise their stay, and a subsequent government crackdown aimed at expelling irregular migrants. Prior to the King issuing the amnesty Saudi Arabia had expelled approximately 200,000 irregular labour migrants at the beginning of 2013 and an estimated 350,000 by November 2013.</p> <p>Unconfirmed reports indicate that 3 Ethiopian nationals were reported dead following violent clashes with Saudi police in early November. The Ethiopian government has demanded a probe into these deaths by Saudi authorities. Further reports indicate that the Saudi government is cracking down on irregular labour migrants to address a 12% unemployment rate among its nationals. The expulsion campaign is aimed at ridding the country of irregular labour migrants largely from Bangladesh, India, the Philippines, Pakistan, Ethiopia and Yemen among others. Thousands of Yemeni workers in Saudi Arabia have been reported to have crossed back into Yemen in the last two weeks.</p>
Kenya	<p>Refugees and Asylum seekers in Kenya: Kenya is host to 583,279 , refugees and asylum seekers, 51,287 of them in Nairobi. The largest number of refugees and asylum seekers remain Somali nationals (474,483), followed by South Sudanese (45,219), and Ethiopians (31,472).</p> <p>Kenya and Somalia sign tripartite agreement to facilitate voluntary return of Somali refugees: A (historic) tripartite agreement was signed on 10th November 2013 by Kenya’s foreign secretary, Somalia’s deputy premier and UNHCR to facilitate the voluntary return of Somali refugees from Kenya. The agreement provides for the establishment of a repatriation commission charged with establishing a regulatory framework that will guide voluntary return of a caseload that Kenya has hosted for over two decades. The governments of Somalia and Kenya reiterated that the repatriation process should be orderly and humane.</p> <p>Ethiopian migrants/refugees arrested in Kenya: It was reported that 53 Ethiopian migrants/refugees were arrested in Samburu county close to the Kenya-Ethiopia border. The migrants/refugees were <i>enroute</i> to the capital Nairobi in search of employment. Two Ethiopian smugglers were arrested alongside the group of 53. The migrants will be charged with being irregularly present in Kenya.</p>
Puntland	<p>Arabian sea arrivals in Yemen: In October 2013, 2012 migrants/refugees crossed the Arabian Sea to Yemen from Bossaso and other coastal areas of Puntland, a 20% decrease from the 1607 migrants/refugees that made the crossing in September 2013. The October 2013 Arabian sea arrival figures were approximately 29% and 47% less than those recorded for the crossing in October 2012 and 2011, respectively.</p> <p>Refugees and Asylum Seekers: At the end of October 2013, Puntland had 347 registered refugees and 3,212 asylum seekers. An estimated 400 migrant/refugee Somali returnees have recently arrived in Bossaso from Yemen according to the Migration Response Centre in Bossaso. The actual number of returnees may however be higher with many returnees assimilating undetected into IDP and migrant communities upon arrival from Yemen.</p>

<p>Somalia (S-C)</p>	<p>Somali movements to Yemen: An estimated 832 Somalis arrived on the Yemeni shores in October 2013, compared to the 940 that arrived in September 2013. October 2013 arrivals were 64% and 77% less than the arrival figures for October 2012 and 2011 respectively.</p> <p>IDP levels in Somalia remain approximately 1.1 million: Over 60,000 Somalis have been displaced since the beginning of the year. In September over 4,500 Somalis were internally displaced a 35% decrease from August 2013. Displaced populations moved mainly to Shabelle Dhexe, Banadir, Shabelle Hoose, Juba Hoose, Togdheer and Bay regions. An estimated 7,500 IDPs have spontaneously returned to their homes since January 2013. Mogadishu is host to an estimated 370,000 IDPs.</p> <p>Somali Refugee Returns: Over 28,500 Somali migrant/refugee returns have been recorded since January 2013, majority from Kenya, Saudi Arabia and Yemen. An estimated 2,200 Somalis returned in September. Many returns may be aimed at assessing the situation in Somalia.</p> <p>Refugees and Asylum seekers: In October there were over 1 million Somali refugees in the region hosted mainly Kenya, Ethiopia, Yemen, Eritrea, Djibouti and Uganda. Over 21,361 Somalis have sought refuge in neighbouring countries since January 2013. Somalia is host to 2,339 refugees including 63 Zanzibari refugees in Mogadishu and 13,000 registered asylum seekers, mainly from Ethiopia.</p>
<p>Yemen</p>	<p>New Arrivals: In October 4,746 migrants/refugees crossed into Yemen via the Red Sea (Djibouti) and the Arabian Sea (Somaliland/Puntland), less than half the migrants that made the crossing in October 2012 but close to the 4,727 that crossed in September 2013. Approximately 57% of the total number of migrants/refugees arriving on the shores of Yemen in October utilized the Red Sea crossing via Obock, Djibouti. An estimated 82% of the October arrivals were Ethiopians, a trend that has remained consistent since 2011. The drop in arrival figures may be attributed to the improved situation in Somalia, the Ethiopian government's efforts to stem irregular movement, closure of the Saudi-Yemen border, and the crackdown on irregular migrants in Saudi Arabia. The difficulties associated with the perilous journey to Yemen including kidnapping and extortion on arrival may also be dissuading migrants from engaging in the movement. Overall, closure of the Saudi-Yemen border, the barrier erected by Israel on its southern border with Egypt, coupled with stricter immigration policies and surveillance in the region may have triggered a shift in migration routes.</p> <p>Boats & passengers: There were a total of 76 migrant boat trips that arrived on the Yemeni coast in October 2013. The average number of passengers on each boat was 62 per trip (not including smugglers/crew).</p> <p>Regional Conference on Mixed Migration and Asylum from the Horn of Africa: The conference commenced on 11th November 2013, with a technical expert session over a two day period and culminated in a joint declaration to better manage mixed migration in the short and long term, and enhance support for countries of origin and destination. The declaration included recommendations to address the root causes of irregular movement, strengthen the capacity of law enforcement to prosecute human trafficking and smuggling, increase international support towards enhancing search and rescue capacities, increase support to assisted voluntary return programmes, enhance awareness raising and promote adherence to the refugee protection principles and framework. A follow-up mechanism through the designation of national focal points was also agreed upon.</p>
<p>Other Regional news</p>	<p>Refugees and asylum seekers released from detention in Libya: It was reported that the Department for Combating Illegal Migration (DCIM), as of 30th October, released 160 Somalis and Eritreans from Sourman, 17 Somalis from Misrata and 15 Somali and Eritrean women from Garabuli detention centers (including expectant mothers). The released migrants/refugees were all persons of concern to UNHCR. Migrants, refugees and asylum seekers however continue to be transferred to Ajdabiya, where a total of 70 Eritreans, Somalis and Ethiopians were held at the end of October, 2013. The conditions in the detention centers are harsh with little food and the possibility of mistreatment. It was reported that 3,876 migrants/refugees departed irregularly from Libya in October via 19 boats. Two accidents on October 3rd and 12th caused the death of hundreds of migrants/ refugees estimated at over 400. 16 of the boats arrived and 3 were intercepted. The number that crossed in September was slightly higher than October at 4,618 migrants/refugees.</p>

Responses to the October Mediterranean boat tragedies: It was reported that the IOM Director General visited Malta to explore mechanisms with the government that may better address mixed migration flows as well as migration related challenges. The Director General also visited Italy, where he called for enhanced cooperation among relevant actors including the EU, countries in the southern Mediterranean, and countries of transit and origin. The Director General added that dialogue and cooperation should be aimed at curtailing boat tragedies, improving national responses for protection of all migrants, and enhancing legal avenues of migration for all migrants as called for by the EU Parliament President. According to Malta's Prime Minister the EU bound itself to determine operational issues, a short term plan, for tackling migration by December 2013. The AU adopted a declaration committing to address the root causes of irregular migration and declared 3rd November 2013, a day of mourning for those who lost their lives following the boat tragedy on October 3. Wider surveillance of migration routes from Spain to Cyprus has also been suggested. Over 26,000 migrants have attempted the central Mediterranean route since January 2013. Majority of the migrants/refugees are from Syria, followed by Eritreans and Somalis.

In related news, it was reported that a 34 year old Somali man was arrested by the Sicily police for allegedly organizing the Mediterranean sea crossing in early October that culminated in the death of over 350 migrants/refugees. The suspect, identified by survivors is facing various charges including kidnapping, sexual assault, and human trafficking. Hundreds of migrants continued to be rescued on the Mediterranean following the boat tragedy early October that killed over 350 migrants/refugees. A Tunisian man was also being held on suspicion of piloting the ill-fated boat.

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