



Regional mixed migration summary for November 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
<p>Yemen</p>	<p><i>The conflict in Yemen entered its twentieth 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: There were an approximate 2.18 million internally displaced persons in Yemen at the end of November 2016.</p> <p>Refugees in Yemen: At the end of November 2016 there were 278,342 refugees and asylum seekers in Yemen, 91% of whom are from Somalia.</p> <p>Continued arrivals from the Horn of Africa: At least 5,533 migrants and asylum seekers (74% Ethiopians and 26% Somalis) arrived from the Horn of Africa to Yemen via the Red Sea, Arabian Sea and Gulf of Aden in November 2016. This is the lowest number of arrivals recorded in any month in 2016. Arrival figures have consistently dropped two months in a row, with arrival figures in November 31% lower than October, and arrival figures in October 24% lower than those recorded in September. The drop is seemingly linked to the ongoing deportation (see below on migrant vulnerabilities) of Ethiopian nationals from Yemen, which began in September, deterring some from making the journey.</p> <p>Djibouti – continued decline as a point of departure: In a sustained pattern of movement, arrivals from Djibouti continued to decline in November 2016. An estimated 792 (778 Ethiopians and 14 Somalis) migrants and asylum seekers arrived on the Red Sea coast of Yemen in November, a 33% decline on arrivals in October. The migrants and asylum seekers arrived aboard 14 boats, which departed from Obock, 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.</p> <p>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. 4,741 migrants and asylum seekers (3,312 Ethiopian and 1,429 Somali) arrived on Arabian Sea coasts of Yemen in November.</p> <p>High proportion of Oromo: 87% of Ethiopian nationals arriving in Yemen in November were of Oromo ethnicity, Ethiopians reported a variety of economic reasons for migration, including livelihood opportunities, poverty and a desire to find-well paid jobs in Saudi Arabia. Ethiopians gave a number of reasons for migrating, including a lack of livelihood opportunities, poverty and related hardships and a desire to find well –paid jobs in Saudi Arabia. New arrivals continued to report cases of arbitrary arrest and detention, by Ethiopian government officials in response to the ongoing student protests or involvement (suspected or otherwise) in the Oromo Liberation Front.</p> <p>Facilitation and intentions: A significant number (46%) of Ethiopian migrants and asylum seekers relied on the assistance of smugglers to enter Djibouti, with others relying on migrants who had previously made the journey New arrivals reported paying 5,000-10,000 Ethiopian Birr (approx. USD 225 – 450), which for some included the cost of the sea crossing to Yemen. Almost all (94%) of interviewed Ethiopians indicated that they intended to travel onwards to Saudi Arabia to look for work. 6% expressed the intention to seek asylum in Yemen, and of these 77% identified as Oromo.</p> <p>Somali profiles: Somali nationals crossing this month originated exclusively from regions in Somaliland. Most Somalis left Somalia in the hopes of securing better economic opportunities, with two specifically mentioning drought</p>

	<p>in their region of origin. All transited through Loya Ade before crossing into Djibouti, paying between USD 100-120 for the trip.</p> <p>Migrant vulnerability and ongoing deportations from Yemen: Migrants and asylum seekers reported an uneventful sea crossing from Djibouti to Yemen, however some reported that the boatmen were working in collusion with criminal gangs and possible trafficking elements on shore to notify them about their imminent arrival.</p> <p>Based with interviews with 230 Ethiopian arrivals in Yemen a total of 2,362 human rights violations were reported in November 2016. The biggest proportion of these violations (49%) was associated with the interception and deportation of Ethiopian nationals from Yemen to Djibouti and from Djibouti to Ethiopia. According to reports, 900 Ethiopian males were deported back to Djibouti. In September, the head of security in Aden confirmed that they were detaining Ethiopian migrants on the suspicion that they might be recruited to join militant groups in the country.</p> <p>New arrivals also consistently reported the presence of armed smugglers and/or suspected traffickers along the Yemeni coast. In November, interviewed migrants and asylum seekers reported 567 instances of abduction, accounting for 24% of all reported violations. Those captured and later escaped reported being held for ransom in “dens” where they were tortured until they raised enough funds to secure their release. This month, new arrivals reported that migrants were being sold onward to other groups of suspected traffickers. One man abducted in July and held for four months reported that women detainees were being sold to locals and were being raped. Another man, held with 300 other victims including hundreds of women and girls, reported that new migrants were captured every day and later transported to Saudi Arabia.</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 30th November 2016, the number of people fleeing Yemen to the Horn of Africa (Djibouti, Ethiopia, Somalia and Sudan) totalled 91,131 persons (36,603 in Djibouti, 34,453 in Somalia, 13,309 in Ethiopia, and 6,766 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 71% of those moving opting to travel to Djibouti.</p> <p>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 persons fleeing Yemen in 2016 is far lower than the numbers recorded in 2015.</p>
<p>Djibouti</p>	<p>Departures to Yemen: In November 2016, an estimated 792 (778 Ethiopians and 14 Somalis) migrants and asylum seekers arrived aboard 14 boats along the Red Sea coast of Yemen, a 33% decline on arrivals in October. 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 November 2016, new arrivals in Yemen reported a number of protection risks. Hunger, illness and dehydration continued to be reported in and around Obock, with 8 such deaths recorded this month. Many of the new arrivals mentioned that the increasing deportations from Yemen was dissuading those in Obock from departing only to be deported back from Yemen. In addition, and following similar reports in October, migrants/asylum seekers reported that those being deported were being transported in unsafe boats and being forced to disembark off-shore. As a result, new arrivals reported the death of 17 men who had been forcibly disembarked. Another group of 250 Ethiopians were deported from Djibouti to Ethiopia for participating in demonstrations.</p>
<p>Somalia/ Somaliland</p>	<p>Somali refugees in the neighbouring countries: UNHCR figures indicate that there were 904,096 registered Somali refugees and asylum seekers displaced in neighbouring countries in the region as of 30th November 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: As of 11th December 2016, there were 1,214,585 South Sudanese refugees being hosted in neighbouring countries in the region. A significant number of the refugees are being hosted in Uganda (579,729, 49%), where UNHCR reports that 2,700 persons a day were arriving in November. Other refugees are being hosted in Ethiopia (280,387), Sudan (263,245) and Kenya (91,224). According to UNHCR, more than 50,000 people fled South Sudan in the first half of November.</p> <p>Internal displacement: At the end of November 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. As of 9th December 2016, UNHCR recorded 261,541 refugees in the country. The majority (92%) of refugees are from neighbouring Sudan, fleeing fighting in Darfur .</p>
Sudan	<p>Internal Displacement: At the end of November 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>
Eritrea	<p>New photos boost claim that wrong people smuggler is facing trial: New photographs appear to show that the man Italian prosecutors believe to be kingpin people smuggler Medhanie Yehedgo Mered, also known as “The General”, is the wrong man. An Eritrean man was extradited from Sudan in June, with the belief that he arranged the transit of a boat that sank near Lampedusa, Italy in October 2013, claiming more than 350 lives. The family of the extradited man have consistently maintained that he is in fact Medhanie Tesfamariam Berhe and not Mered. The new photos appear to show pictures of Mered, looking distinctly different from the man on trial. Recent private messages sent from Mered’s Facebook account also seem to indicate that the man in custody is a victim of mistaken identity. “They made a mistake with his name – but everyone knows he’s not a smuggler...I hope he will be released because he hasn’t done anything,” he reportedly posted.</p>
Ethiopia	<p>Ethiopian Oromos in Cairo claim negligible processing of asylum claims: Ethiopian Oromos in Cairo have reportedly claimed that the UN Refugee Agency, UNHCR, has been hostile to their allegations of discrimination, persecution and torture at the hands of the Ethiopian government. The Oromos claim that the UN Refugee Agency UNHCR is routinely rejecting their asylum claims. UNHCR has said that the criticism is unfounded, but did concede to delays in processing applications due to a shortage of resources.</p> <p>These delays may be contributing to the onward movement of Ethiopian Oromos from Egypt towards Europe via the Mediterranean Sea. At the end of November 2016, 3,385 Ethiopian nationals are reported to have arrived in Italy since the beginning of the year – a 35% increase in movements of Ethiopians during the same period in 2015.</p> <p>Refugees in Ethiopia: As of 31st October 2016, there were 783,340 refugees and asylum seekers registered in 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>
Kenya	<p>Refugees in Kenya: As of 30th November 2016, there were 501,999 registered refugees and asylum seekers in Kenya, including refugees from Somalia (332,785), South Sudan (91,224), DRC (27,852) and Ethiopia (26,896). Dadaab refugee complex hosts 275,529 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: During November, the pace of refugee returns from Dadaab refugee camp to Somalia increased. 2,140 persons relocated during the month (a 29% increase on movements in the previous month), bringing the total number of persons having relocated since the beginning of the year to 30,533. UNHCR welcomed the decision by the Kenyan government to extend by six months – to May 2017 – its controversial decision</p>

	to close Dadaab refugee camp.
Israel	<p>Special migrant tribunal found defective: A new report by NGO the Hotline for Refugees and Migrants has described the special migrant court system set up in May 2014 as “defective” with “many failures”. The Appeals Tribunal was established as a new judicial tribunal for immigration proceedings with a mandate to create an expert tribunal in the field of immigration and to reduce the heavy workload on the administrative courts. According to Hotline, only 5% of appeals have been accepted for hearing, and 85% come to an end without a hearing. Reportedly, the new tribunal has been systematically blocking migrants from a fair appeal process and were in fact set up to close the door on migrants being freed from detention or obtaining refugee status.</p>
Other regional news and news from other regions	<p>Major Egyptian organ trafficking racket busted: Egypt’s Administrative Control Authority, announced that it had uncovered an international criminal network involving universities and hospitals that deals in smuggled human body parts. According to reports, investigators from the body seized millions of dollars and arrested up to 45 people, including university professors, doctors and medical works, as well as intermediaries and brokers.</p> <p>Irregular migration often intersects with human trafficking. In September, a study in the British Journal of Criminology found that brokers in Egypt were luring undocumented migrants from sub-Saharan Africa to sell their organs for approximately USD 4,500. The report further cited instances of migrants forcibly having their organs removed against their will. An Eritrean people smuggler had in July confessed that migrants who were unable to pay for their journeys across the Mediterranean were being sold for EUR 15,000 to groups involved in organ harvesting and sale.</p> <p>Egypt passed a law in 2010 forbidding the purchase of human organs, and the undertaking of transplants between Egyptians and foreigners, except between marital partners. At the time, the World Health Organization listed Egypt as one of the top five countries for illegal organ trading.</p> <p>Europol to investigate migrant drowning off Egyptian coast again: Europe’s police agency said that it would re-examine the largest migrant shipwreck in the Mediterranean Sea in April this year after an investigation by news agencies exposed a gap in the response by law enforcement. Only 37 people survived when an Egyptian boat capsized as its crew loaded more migrants and asylum seekers on board from a smaller feeder boat. The investigation revealed that smugglers abandoned the scene, leaving up to 100 people still alive in the sea, and actively stopped survivors on the rescue boat from rescuing others. An estimated 190 migrants from Somalia, 150 Ethiopians, and 80 Egyptians were among the dead.</p> <p>No investigations into the incident were conducted by any United Nations body, the European Union’s frontier agency (Frontex), the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) or the EU naval task force – with all insisting that investigating the incident was not within their mandate. The director of Europol said his agency would reconsider the shipwreck in the “absence of any clear answers” and a “gap...in the collective response by Europe”.</p> <p>EU border force accuses NGOs of collusion with migrant smugglers: According to a report by the Financial Times, a leaked internal document by the EU’s border agency Frontex claims that charities operating rescue operations in the Mediterranean are colluding with people smugglers. Frontex noted the “first reported case where criminal networks were smuggling migrants directly on an NGO vessel”. The report also stated that NGO vessels involved in the rescues were often “not willing to cooperate with debriefing experts at all” and that migrants/refugees “were warned [by NGOs] not to cooperate with Italian law enforcement or Frontex”.</p> <p>Distress signals from stranded or sinking vessels in the Mediterranean fell from roughly two-thirds of all incidents in the summer of 2016, to one in ten in October. Frontex further suggested that the drop in distress signals was as a result of NGOs operating closer to Libyan territorial waters and their lights operating as a “beam” for migrants/refugees. NGOs operating in the region dismissed the claims, stating that the drop in distress calls received was due to increased rescue efforts, which were resulting in migrants/refugees being picked up before their situation worsened. “We are actively searching for boats in distress. We spot them earlier. This is a response to the needs that we see at sea. If that proves collusion, I do not think so,” said a humanitarian adviser with Médecins Sans Frontières. Frontex has since denied the accusations.</p> <p>Ship captain found guilty of migrant disaster that killed 700: The captain of a migrant vessel that sank in the Mediterranean in April 2015 killing 700 migrants/refugees, including Ethiopians, has been found guilty by a court in</p>

Sicily, Italy. Tunisian national Mohammed Ali Malek was sentenced to 18 years in prison for manslaughter and human trafficking. A Syrian counterpart who allegedly acted as a crew member received a 5 year sentence. Both men were also ordered to pay compensation of EUR 9.3 million to the victims' families.

Italian PM threatens EU over migration: Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi has threatened to veto the European Union's budget over a lack of solidarity from European states as it grapples with a huge influx of migrants and asylum seekers. Renzi particularly signalled out central European countries Hungary, Czech Republic and Slovakia over their decisions to close off their border to migrants/refugees and their refusal to take in asylum seekers under an EU quota plan. "If you build walls against immigrants, you can forget about seeing Italian money. If the migrants don't go there, the money won't go there either," he is [reported](#) as saying.

As of 13th December 2016, only [20,441 relocation places](#) (against a target of 160,000) had been made available by EU states, and only 8,741 asylum seekers had been relocated from Italy and Greece. The European Commission approved the relocation scheme in September 2015.

Turkey threatens the EU with new surge: Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has warned the EU again that he is prepared to let hundreds of thousands of migrants and asylum seekers to travel on to Europe if pushed. "Listen to me: these border gates will be opened if you go any further," he warned. Erdogan was reacting to a non-binding vote taken by the European Parliament to [freeze talks](#) on Turkey's bid for EU membership – a key tenet of the EU-Turkey deal, which came into force in March 2016, and has been associated with the sharp decline of arrivals along the Eastern Mediterranean route.

UN warns EU against setting "dangerous precedents" for migration management: The head of UNHCR has [cautioned the EU](#) for linking aid for countries in the Middle East and Africa to how they manage migration. "Support to host and transit countries should be driven by solidarity not strict conditionality. Caution should be exercised in linking financial aid to other benefits and migration controls," said Filippo Grandi.

A [New Migration Partnership Framework](#) unveiled by the European Union in June 2016 aims to reinforce cooperation with third countries through a "mix of positive and negative incentives", which has been criticised as the EU's attempt to [outsource its responsibility](#) for managing migration. In October, the EU pushed for the establishment of migrant [return "compacts"](#) with five countries – Ethiopia, Niger, Nigeria, [Mali](#) (signed in November) and Senegal by early 2017. An EU policy paper promised to "[apply the necessary leverage](#)" to reduce migration flows and to "draw consequences if progress falls short". According to Grandi this "sets precedents, raises expectations that may not always be met, and can ultimately even allow host governments to use population movements as a pressure point, or even a threat".

A [second progress report](#) of the EU Partnership Framework has noted that it is yet to be entirely realised as linkages made with other policies – such as legal migration, trade, energy, agriculture and education – "remain[s] limited". It notes that "gearing up" these policies will be the groundwork for forging "genuine partnerships" with third countries.



Source: UNHCR

Mediterranean Sea arrivals: Ongoing restrictions on the Eastern Mediterranean route via Turkey and Greece continue to limit the number of refugees and migrants entering Europe when compared to movements witnessed in 2015. As of 30th November 2016, a total of 347,274 refugees and migrants had arrived in Europe by sea since the beginning of the year, a 61% decrease on arrivals recorded for the same period in 2015.

Arrivals in November 2016 reflected a 50% drop on arrivals in October, however this is in keeping with changes recorded between October and November in 2015. According to [some analysis](#) these arrivals are those recorded and 'open', they cite hundreds of thousands of clandestine arrivals in 2016 that never appear on official records.

Along the Central Mediterranean route to Italy, 13,581 people were reported to have arrived in November 2016, a 50% decrease on arrivals in October, but a significant 322% increase on arrivals in November 2015. Between January and November 2016, a total of 172,713 persons are reported to have used this route – a 20% increase on movements in comparison to arrivals during the same period in 2015. Horn of Africa nationals (Eritrea, Ethiopia, Somalia, Sudan)

account for 23% of all movements along this route in 2016.

Migrant deaths: Data compiled by [IOM's Missing Migrants Project](#), shows that as of 30th November 2016, a total of at least 7,071 persons have lost their lives globally while migrating by sea and land this year. November is one of the deadliest months on record in 2016, accounting for 800 deaths. 88% of these deaths (703) occurred along the Central Mediterranean route, often traversed by migrants and asylum seekers from the Horn of Africa.

Burundian refugees in neighbouring countries: As of 12th December 2016, there were 327,400 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 (83,238, 25%).

**New
Research,
reports or
documents**

[Desperate Determination: A record number of migrants arrive in Yemen in 2016:](#) With one month left until the end of the year, and despite the ongoing war in Yemen, a record number of migrants and asylum seekers from the Horn of Africa have arrived in Yemen in 2016. This new feature by RMMS examines the reasons behind the ongoing movement.

[Policing policy: a new index for measuring migration governance:](#) Amidst the chaotic scenes of refugees and mass flows of migrants over the last two years, the call for well-governed migration is louder than ever. This feature by RMMS, discusses a new proposition – designed by The Economist Intelligent Unit and commissioned by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) – of a Migration Governance Index (MGI), and describes its features and intentions.

[Measuring well-governed migration: The 2016 Migration Governance Index:](#) Developed by The Economist Intelligence Unit, with the support of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the new Migration Governance Index (MGI) aims to provide a consolidated framework for evaluating country-specific migration governance structures. The MGI looks at 15 countries, and uses 73 qualitative question to measure performance across five domains: 1) institutional capacity, 2) migrant rights, 3) safe and orderly migration, 4) labour migration management, and 5) regional and international cooperation and other partnerships.

[Understanding African and European Perspectives on Migration:](#) This report by the European Centre for Development Policy Management (ECDPM) aims to contribute to a better understanding on the interest, narratives and priorities held by African and European actors in the area of migration, as well as to explore the added value of the African Union and other regional bodies to address its dimensions.

[Women and girls on the move: A gender analysis of mixed migration from the Middle East to Europe:](#) This briefing paper focuses on the experience of women and girls travelling to Europe, in order to provide a more detailed understanding of factors surrounding the decision to leave home, the type of journey undertaken, and their experience along the way. Produced by the Joint Analysis Unit within the newly established Mixed Migration Platform, this briefing paper is the first in a series of studies examining specific issues pertinent to migration to, from and within the Middle East region.

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.