



Regional mixed migration summary for March 2017 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
Yemen	<p><i>This month marks two years since the outbreak of conflict in Yemen. 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 approximately 2 million internally displaced persons in Yemen at the end of March 2017.</p> <p>Continued arrivals from the Horn of Africa: In March 2017, at least 5,979 migrants and asylum seekers (4,747 Ethiopians and 1,232 Somalis) arrived from the Horn of Africa to Yemen via the Red Sea, Arabian Sea and Gulf of Aden. While arrivals in March were 23% higher than those in February, overall arrivals this quarter are lower than typical averages at this time of year. This may indicate that the deportation of migrants from Yemen back to the Horn (first reported in September 2016) continues to have an impact on arrival figures. Nonetheless, due to the reduction of monitoring missions along the Yemeni coast, it is understood that the actual total number of arrivals from the Horn into Yemen is likely to have been higher during the period.</p> <p>Arabian Sea arrivals: In March 2017, an estimated 4,380 (3,170 Ethiopian and 1,210 Somali) migrants and asylum seekers arrived in Yemen via the Arabian Sea.</p> <p>Red Sea arrivals: An estimated 1,599 (1,577 Ethiopian and 22 Somali) migrants and asylum seekers arrived on the Red Sea coast of Yemen in March 2017, a 41% increase on figures reported in February 2017 (1,135), and back on par with arrivals registered in the final quarter of 2016, but still lower than typical averages at this time of year. Migrants and asylum seekers departed from Obock, Djibouti aboard 32 boats which landed in Lahj coastlines in Yemen.</p> <p>Ethiopian profiles, drivers, intentions and costs: Similar to an ongoing trend reported since mid-2016, the majority (90%) of Ethiopian nationals encountered in Yemen identified themselves as Oromo and originated from the Jima and East Hararge regions in Ethiopia. 16 Ethiopian nationals were identified as asylum seekers – of whom 12 were Oromos. The primary drivers of migration cited by Ethiopians include a lack of livelihoods and severe drought while those seeking asylum reported persecution. Most of the new arrivals reported an intention to find work in either Yemen, Saudi Arabia or other Gulf states.</p> <p>Ethiopian migrants and asylum seekers continued to rely on smugglers and/or facilitators to enter Djibouti aboard cars and trucks, with some spending up to eleven days walking segments of the journey. Some migrants reported paying between 5,000 – 11,000 Ethiopian Birr (approx. USD 215 – 475) for the journey to Obock, with some paying an extra fee for the sea crossing.</p> <p>Somali profiles, drivers and facilitation: About 70% of Somali nationals encountered in Yemen came from the Banadir, Shabelle Hoose, Shabelle Dhehe or Bay regions. The primary drivers of migration cited by Somalis were drought and lack of livelihoods/economic opportunities and the presence of armed groups. Somalis travelling to Yemen via Obock reported travelling by car and on foot for segments of the journey. The new arrivals reported paying between USD 100 – 200 for the entire journey to Yemen.</p> <p>Migrant vulnerabilities: In March 2017, migrants and asylum seekers did not report any protection risks on the sea crossing from Djibouti to Yemen. The boats were manned by Yemeni and Afari smugglers and the trips took between 6-10 hours depending on the weather and sea conditions. The amount paid for the trip differed from boat to boat and</p>

	<p>ranged from USD 50 - 200. Most trips were facilitated by brokers in Obock.</p> <p>Migrants and asylum seekers continued to report human rights violations upon arrival in Yemen. The new arrivals reported the presence of armed gangs along Yemeni coastlines known for abducting migrants and asylum seekers usually at gunpoint. In some instances, Somali arrivals have reportedly avoided capture by resisting. Based on interviews with 1,804 migrants/asylum seekers, 400 incidents of abduction were reported in the month, all of which were reported to have taken place on Yemen's shores upon arrival. Three Ethiopian nationals reported escaping from captivity after being abused while another Ethiopian national reported being shot and injured at the coast when he tried to escape from the armed traffickers/smugglers.</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 31st March 2017, an estimated total of 95,078 persons had fled Yemen to countries within the Horn of Africa (37,428 in Djibouti, 36,087 in Somalia, 14,560 in Ethiopia, and 7,003 in Sudan) since March 2015. 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 70% of those moving opting to travel to Djibouti. The general outflow of persons from Yemen has reduced since peak figures in 2015.</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.</p> <p>Human Rights Watch calls for impartial inquiry into migrant boat attack: Human Rights Watch has called for the United Arab Emirates to clarify its role in the "apparent Saudi- led coalition attack" on a migrant boat carrying Somali refugees off the western coast of Yemen. On 16th March 2017, a military vessel and a later a helicopter gunship opened fire on a boat carrying between 140 and 160 migrants, in which 42 Somali refugees carrying official UNHCR documents were killed and about 75 men and 15 women rescued. In addition, the human rights agency has termed the attack as the "latest likely war crime in Yemen" calling for an impartial, international inquiry into laws-of-war violations by all parties to the conflict in Yemen. Due to the worsening conflict situation in Yemen, refugees and asylum seekers are reportedly fleeing onwards across the Red Sea to Sudan with the intention of heading to Europe.</p>
<p>Djibouti</p>	<p>Departures to Yemen: In March 2017, an estimated 1,599 (1,577 Ethiopian and 22 Somali) migrants and asylum seekers arrived along the Red Sea coast of Yemen. The new arrivals landed aboard 32 boats in various coastal points 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: Migrants and asylum seekers transiting through Djibouti reported fewer protection concerns along the route to Obock compared to February 2017. However, there were continued reports of hunger, illness, and dehydration, particularly in Obock where some new arrivals reported staying for up to six months before making the sea crossing. In Lac-Asal, a pickup truck carrying 30 migrants/asylum seekers reportedly rolled into a valley after being chased by police, killing all aboard. Three bodies of Ethiopian males were reportedly found in Tadjoura. Ten migrants claimed they were robbed by Djiboutian men from Essa at the border and lost their cell phones and money. Two Ethiopian males reportedly died of hunger in Obock, where new arrivals reported that others were suffering from dehydration, diarrhoea and vomiting likely caused by drinking salty water from wells in Obock.</p>
<p>Somalia/ Somaliland</p>	<p>Somali refugees in the neighbouring countries: As of 31st March 2017, there were 883,096 Somali refugees and asylum seekers being hosted in countries in the region. The majority of these refugees are hosted in three countries – Kenya (36%), Yemen (29%) and Ethiopia (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). However latest drought displacement data indicates that about 536,000 people have been newly displaced since November 2016 due to the worsening drought situation in Somalia.</p> <p>Drought situation in Somalia: UNHCR warns that the risk of mass deaths from starvation among populations in</p>

	<p>Somalia (and other Horn of Africa countries) is growing due to drought and a severe funding shortfall which if not addressed could lead to an avoidable humanitarian crisis in the region, possibly worse than that of 2011. According to the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), the worsening drought situation in Somalia is pushing thousands of Somalis to abandon their homes in search of food and water, with over 3,000 people a day being displaced. The latest drought displacement data from UNHCR indicates that 536,000 people in Somalia have been displaced since November 2016, with more than half (278,000) being displaced during March 2017. The majority of those displaced come from Mudug, Bay, Shabelle and Sool regions. More than 4,300 Somali refugees have reportedly entered Ethiopia since the beginning of 2017.</p> <p>IGAD holds a Special Summit on Somali refugees: On 25th March 2017, Member States of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), held a special summit in Nairobi on Durable Solutions for Somali refugees. The meeting sought to adopt a comprehensive regional approach to facilitate durable solutions for Somali refugees and strengthen the protection environment in host countries. In relation to the drought situation in Somalia, IGAD member states agreed to strengthen drought response coordination; scale-up delivery of humanitarian assistance to affected populations; address underlying causes of vulnerabilities by adopting a New Way focusing on resilience and durable solutions.</p> <p>EU launches five RE-INTEG projects in Somalia: The European Union has launched five projects worth EUR 33 million under the EU Trust Fund RE-INTEG Programme. The projects aim to provide long-term support to the urgent challenge of sustainable and durable re-integration of refugees, returnees from Yemen, Kenya, Europe and other areas, and re-integration of IDPs in Somalia. In addition, the projects aim to ensure access to basic services, such as education, shelter, health and promote viable livelihoods for more than 300,000 people displaced across the country including those affected by the current drought. As part of the RE-INTEG programme, RMMS, together with Altai Consulting, recently conducted a mapping of frameworks, capacities and interventions in managing mixed migration flows in Somalia.</p>
<p>South Sudan</p>	<p>Regional displacement: Displacement from South Sudan into neighbouring countries in the region continues to rise as UNHCR expresses concern over the deteriorating security situation in the country. Renewed fighting and attacks on civilians by armed groups were reported in Pajok town in Eastern Equatoria, as fighting continues in the districts of Magwi and Oboo close to the border with Uganda. Following these attacks, more than 6,000 South Sudanese refugees were recorded entering Uganda's northern Lamwo district in first week of April 2017.</p> <p>In March 2017, UNHCR cautioned that the exodus from South Sudan is the world's fastest growing refugee crisis. As of 31st March 2017, there were 1,710,096 South Sudanese refugees displaced in the region. The majority of these refugees are being hosted in neighbouring Uganda (818,254), Ethiopia (342,573) and Sudan (379,692). According to UNHCR, more than 60,000 South Sudanese refugees have entered Sudan's border states during the first three months of 2017.</p> <p>Internal displacement: According to UNHCR, as of 31st March 2017, there were 1.9 million people displaced inside South Sudan. This figure includes 214,979 people in UNMISS Protection of Civilians site.</p> <p>Refugees in South Sudan: As of 31st March 2017, there were 265,921 refugees in South Sudan, the majority (92%) of whom are from neighbouring Sudan.</p>
<p>Sudan</p>	<p>Sudan and Ethiopia hold talks on border security and human trafficking: Towards the end of March 2017, senior military officials from Sudan and Ethiopia convened a meeting in Khartoum to foster bilateral cooperation between the two countries. According to media reports, the two countries discussed a range of issues relating to border security, preventing and combating human trafficking and migrant smuggling and strategic military cooperating and coordination.</p> <p>Sudan is a key transit country for migrants and asylum seekers from the Horn of Africa attempting the perilous journey across North African countries and the Mediterranean Sea to Europe. The European Union has ramped up its partnership with Sudan, through financial aid, to curb [irregular] migration from /through the country, amid concerns over human rights violations in Sudan and the deployment of the Rapid Support Force, formerly known as the Janjaweed militia, in efforts to curb migration.</p>

<p>Ethiopia</p>	<p>Refugees in Ethiopia: As of 28th February 2017, there were 811,555 refugees and asylum seekers registered in Ethiopia. The majority of refugees are from South Sudan (349,086), Somalia (246,859) and Eritrea (167,619). According to UNHCR 81,078 Eritrean refugees previously registered as living in the camps are believed to have spontaneously settled elsewhere in Ethiopia. This figure is subject to verification.</p> <p>Human Rights Watch has expressed concern over the EU's engagement with the Ethiopian government to foster cooperation in addressing [irregular] migration, refugees and economic growth, noting that the recent visit by the EU delegation to Ethiopia in March 2017 did not publicly condemn Ethiopia's widespread human rights violations against its citizens. According to a statement issued by the human rights agency, "Ethiopia's repressive response to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly" has led to hundreds of deaths, arbitrary detention of tens of thousands of protesters, as well as thousands of Ethiopians fleeing the country in search of safety and protection in neighbouring countries and beyond. On 30th March, the Ethiopian parliament voted unanimously to extend by four months, the state emergency that was due to end on April 9, 2017. Ethiopia imposed the state of emergency in October 2016 following series of violent anti-government protests in the Amhara and Oromia regional states.</p>
<p>Eritrea</p>	<p>Mediterranean Sea arrivals: In a continuing trend that started in 2016, the number of Eritrean arrivals in Italy remains consistently low in the first few months of 2017, while overall arrivals in Italy are 29% higher compared to the same time in 2016. The reason for this sudden drop in arrivals is unclear, but could be partly related to the increased efforts by authorities in Sudan to curb the migration flows towards Europe, as a result of which there have been several occasions of Eritreans (and other migrants and refugees from the Horn of Africa) being intercepted, and large numbers being arrested, detained and/or deported.</p> <p>Drought concerns in Eritrea: Reports from IOM and UNHCR indicate that more than 4,500 Eritrean refugees have crossed from Eritrea into Ethiopia at the beginning of 2017, and are in urgent need of humanitarian assistance. 39% of the new arrivals were identified as children, of whom 14% are unaccompanied or separated children. A report by UNICEF in January indicated that drought has affected half of all Eritrea's regions with widespread acute malnutrition affecting more than 22,000 children under the age of five years. Even though there is insufficient information about the current drought situation in the country, IOM indicates that the flow of refugees from Eritrea is expected to continue with an average of 150-200 people arriving daily at the Endabaguna reception centre, from where they are screened and transferred to refugee camps in the Tigray region of Ethiopia.</p>
<p>Kenya</p>	<p>Refugees in Kenya: As of 31st March 2017, there were 486,037 registered refugees and asylum seekers in Kenya, including refugees from Somalia (308,651), South Sudan (95,283), DR Congo (29,580), Ethiopia (27,391) and other nationalities. The majority of refugees live in refugee camps across the country (418,770), while 67,267 refugees reside in Nairobi.</p> <p>Voluntary repatriation of Somali refugees: In March 2017, 7,540 Somali refugees were supported to return to Somalia to various locations within Somalia from Dadaab refugee camp. The total number of Somali refugees returning to Somalia since the beginning of 2017 stands at 20,897 and a total of 61,295 have returned since the voluntary return programme began in 2014.</p> <p>Drought conditions in Somalia resulting in new arrivals: The current drought situation in Somalia continues to displace populations outside the country. According to UNHCR, at least 2,000 Somalis have entered Kenya in recent months and moved to Dadaab refugee camp for humanitarian assistance. Nearly 100 of the arrivals in Dadaab were among refugees who had returned to Somalia from Dadaab under the voluntary repatriation programme. No official statement has been made by UNHCR, the Government of Kenya, or the Federal Government of Somalia about returns to Somalia in light of the drought conditions in the country.</p> <p>Suspected migrant smugglers arrested in Dadaab: Security officers in Kenya have arrested four people suspected of engaging in terrorism and migrant smuggling in the Dadaab refugee camp in Garissa. According to the police, migrant smuggling cartels have been operating in Ifo, Hagadera and Dagahaaley, part of the Dadaab complex. The Kenyan government cited security concerns including the threat of terrorism as one of the major reasons for announcing the closure of the refugee camp in May 2016. In February 2017, a Kenyan court quashed the government's plan to close the camp terming the decision as "illegal" and "discriminatory."</p>

Other regional news and news from other regions

Saudi Arabia launches a 90-day grace period for undocumented immigrants: Saudi Arabia has launched a 90-day grace period for undocumented immigrants to correct their residency status. The campaign dubbed "[Nation without Violations](#)" began on 29th March 2017 and targets a number of different groups including, over-stayers who came to the country for Haj or Umrah, pilgrims without a Haj permit, workers with a work permit but no residence identity card, residents with expired identity cards, workers who "escaped" from their employers without permission, and "infiltrators" who crossed the Saudi borders through irregular means. According to a statement issued by the Saudi government, all undocumented immigrants who take advantage of this amnesty will be exempt from any fines or penalties linked to violating Saudi's residency, labour or border security laws. In addition, those who voluntarily leave the country during the grace period will be exempt from undergoing the 'deportee fingerprint system' and will be eligible to apply for re-entry through legal immigration procedures.

A similar campaign was launched between April and November 2013 after which more [than 170,000 Ethiopians were deported](#) to their country between November 2013 and March 2014. The majority of Ethiopians entering Yemen usually continue their journey to Saudi Arabia and other Gulf States in search of better economic opportunities and are likely to be affected by this latest campaign in Saudi Arabia. Based on arrival figures in Yemen, almost 260,000 Ethiopian migrants have entered Yemen between April 2014 and March 2017, giving an indication of how many Ethiopians could potentially be affected by the policy.

Egyptian court jails 56 over migrant boat shipwreck: An Egyptian court has [sentenced 56 people to up to 14 years in jail](#) over the capsizing of a boat off the Egyptian coast on 21 September 2016, termed one of the deadliest disasters in the Mediterranean Sea crossings. The boat was reportedly carrying about 450 migrants including Egyptian, Sudanese, Eritrean and Somali migrants /asylum seekers and was heading to Italy when it capsized killing at least 202 people. The 56 were charged with causing accidental death, not using sufficient rescue equipment, endangering lives, receiving money from the victims, hiding suspects from authorities and operating a vessel without a licence.

Following this incident, Egypt's parliament [passed legislation to curb irregular migration](#) and migrant smuggling in the country. Unlike previous laws on smuggling and trafficking, the new law imposes prison terms and fines on those found guilty of smuggling migrants, acting as brokers or middlemen, sheltering smuggled migrants, gathering, transporting or facilitating their journey through Egypt. In continued crackdown on irregular migration from/through Egypt, security forces report that they have prevented the illegal entry of nearly 400 people into Egypt through its southern and western borders between 21 February and 13 March 2017. The nationalities of those intercepted was not provided.

Libyan court suspends a migration deal struck with Italy: Media reports indicate that a [Libyan court has suspended an agreement](#) struck with Italy in February 2017 aimed at reducing the flow of migrants and asylum seekers across the Mediterranean Sea to Europe. A statement issued by the Justice Ministry of the UN-backed Government of National Accord (GNA) did not provide further information on this decision, but stated that the "court is still examining the issue pending a final ruling." The GNA is not recognized by Libya's Tobruk-based parliament which in February 2017 rejected the migrant deal between Italy and the GNA on the basis that the latter had "no legal status." Meanwhile, the Italian government has reportedly [struck a deal with 60 Libyan tribes](#) to improve the security situation in Libya and curb the flow of asylum seekers attempting to reach Europe.

Libya is a major transit country for migrants and asylum seekers attempting to reach Europe via the Central Mediterranean Sea crossing. Humanitarian and human rights agencies have raised [concern](#) about the continued and persistent reports of serious violations of international humanitarian and human rights law across Libya. In addition to reports about migrants and asylum seekers being subjected to gross abuses in Libya, the UN migration agency, IOM, has reported that West African migrants are being [bought and sold openly](#) in modern-day slave markets in Libya.

Central European leaders reject EU refugee relocation scheme: Central European leaders [have rejected](#) the [EU refugee relocation policy](#) aimed at easing pressure on frontline countries, Greece and Italy, by sharing 160,000 refugees among member states. [Only 8% of the refugees](#) under the scheme have been relocated with two Member States, Malta and Finland, meeting their resettling obligations. Heads of state from Poland, Hungary, Slovakia and the Czech Republic have protested suggestions that the level of their compliance could be linked to the availability of EU funds to them, terming this as an attempt to blackmail the Central European countries into taking in refugees. In early March 2017, the [Hungarian parliament approved a new law](#) under which asylum seekers will be automatically detained in "container" camps at the borders pending the determination of their asylum. According to the new law, applications from migrants and asylum seekers entering from Serbia or a "safe third country" will be declared inadmissible.

Italy passes new law to protect unaccompanied refugee and migrants children: The [Italian parliament has passed new legislation](#) to boost support and protection for the record number of unaccompanied and separated refugee and migrant children arriving in Italy. Nearly 26,000 arrived in 2016 including 3,832 from Eritrea, 1,584 from Somalia and 432 from Sudan. About 2,000 unaccompanied and separated children arrived in Italy in the first two months of 2017 and this trend is expected to continue this year. The new law provides for *non-refoulement* of unaccompanied and separated migrant children, reduction of processing times in first line reception centres, guardianship for children and establishment of a national reception system with minimum standards. A recent [report by UNICEF](#) indicates that refugee and migrant children and women routinely suffer sexual violence, exploitation, abuse and detention at the hands of smugglers on the Central Mediterranean route to reach Italy.

Humanitarian groups deny rescue ships in Mediterranean are helping smugglers: Humanitarian organizations operating migrant rescue ships in the Mediterranean Sea have [rejected claims by an Italian prosecutor](#) that by saving tens of thousands of migrants, they are effectively aiding Libyan-based people smugglers. Carmelo Zuccaro, Chief Prosecutor in Catania, Italy, has formed a task force to investigate whether humanitarian organizations are being funded by smugglers. This follows a parliamentary testimony in which he raised suspicion that there were direct ties between the smugglers based in Libya and humanitarian agencies though he had no proof. More than 23,000 migrants and asylum seekers have been rescued from boats off the coast of Libya since the beginning of the year.

Mediterranean Sea arrivals: A total of 12,328 migrants and asylum seekers arrived in Europe via the Mediterranean Sea in March 2017. This represents a 17% increase on arrivals reported in February 2017. 88% of these flows (10,802 people) were counted along the Central Mediterranean route from North Africa to Italy. Overall arrival figures on this route between January and March 2017 are 29% higher (24,241) compared to the same period in 2016 (18,777). Data detailing the arrivals from the Horn of Africa were not available in time for this report. However countries from the Horn no longer feature amongst the top ten countries of arrivals suggesting that arrivals from the region remain low.

Migrant deaths: IOM estimates there were at least 264 deaths (including maritime and overland) that occurred in the process of migrating in March 2017. The sea route across the Central Mediterranean, linking north Africa with Italy, continues to be the most deadly maritime route, accounting for 59% or 157 of all recorded deaths in March. This route has traditionally been highly frequented by nationals from the Horn of Africa (as well as West Africa).

Burundian refugees in neighbouring countries: Political tensions in Burundi, which erupted in April 2015, continue to push Burundian nationals to seek refuge in neighbouring countries. As of 10th April 2017, there were 401,573 Burundian refugees displaced in neighbouring countries. The majority of the refugees are being hosted in Tanzania (237,393), where in late January 2017, the government announced the lifting of *prima facie* refugee recognition for Burundian refugees entering the country. Humanitarian organizations have expressed [concern](#) over the increasing flow of refugees from Burundi into Tanzanian refugee camps calling for the establishment of a fourth refugee camp to ease pressure on existing overcrowded camps. In addition, the agencies note that the revocation of *prima facie* refugee recognition for Burundian refugees may affect the provision of humanitarian assistance appealing for increased support to the Tanzania government to ensure it continues to adhere to refugee conventions. Other countries hosting Burundian refugees include Rwanda (21%), DR Congo (9%) and Uganda (8%).

**New
Research,
reports or
documents**

Danish Refugee Council establishes the Global Mixed Migration Secretariat (GMMS): After 5 years of the RMMS in the East Africa and Yemen region and the emergence of other RMMS and similar entities in other regions, in March 2017 the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) established the Global Mixed Migration Secretariat (GMMS) based in Geneva. This new office, started with 4 initial positions, aims to offer coordination and strategic guidance to existing and emerging RMMS entities while also serving to articulate DRC's mixed migration policy and enhance protection operations and advocacy for refugees, asylum seekers and migrants on the move globally. Direct contact with the GMMS can be made through its coordinator at geneva.representative@drc.dk and the Global Specialist Lead on Mixed Migration at chris.horwood@regionalmms.org.

[Access to Socio-Economic Rights for Refugees: A comparison across six African countries:](#) This report by the Scalabrini Institute for Human Mobility in Africa (SIHMA) reviews refugees access to socio-economic rights including right to health, basic education and work/employment in DR Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa and Sudan. To help mitigate and better manage refugee crises in Africa, the reports provides key recommendations including the need for states to address the root causes of forced displacement, establishment of a regional body to coordinate refugee protection in the continent and promotion of durable solutions for refugees.

Border Control from Hell: How the EU's migration partnership legitimizes Sudan's "militia state": This new report by The Enough Project examines the new partnership between the EU and Sudanese government aimed at stopping the flow of migrants from Sudan, including those from other neighbouring countries transiting through Sudan to Europe. The report raises concern about this partnership on migration noting that EU assistance to Sudan (technical and financial) is likely to worsen irregular migration to Europe, escalate conflict within Sudan and embolden Sudan's border force RSF, claimed to violate human rights in the country including ruthless crackdown on migrants. According to the report, this contradicts and undermines EU's founding treaty and values based on advancing peace, security and human rights.

Nairobi Declaration on Durable Solutions for Somali Refugees and Reintegration of Returnees in Somalia: IGAD Member States adopted this declaration during the Special Summit on durable solutions for Somali refugees, held in Nairobi on 25th March 2017. Under the declaration, Member States committed to pursue a comprehensive regional approach to deliver durable solutions for Somalia refugees and create an enabling environment for safe, sustainable and voluntary return and reintegration of Somali refugees. Other commitments focus on solutions for Somalia, support to host countries to protect and assist refugees and international sharing of responsibility for refugees.

A Dangerous 'Game': The pushback of migrants, including refugees, at Europe's borders: This report by Oxfam International indicates that refugees and migrants on the Western Balkan route have faced frequent violence and unlawful treatment including beatings, striping and robbery at the hands of police, border guards and other officials. Some of the countries where gross violations have been reported include Serbia, Croatia, Hungary, Bulgaria and Macedonia. The report notes that this has created a climate of fear among refugees and migrants pushing many to rely on smugglers to continue their journey to other places in Europe. Oxfam calls on the EU to ensure all states along the Balkans route adhere to international law and respect human rights. In addition, the humanitarian agency calls on the countries along this route to immediately cease the violations on migrants/refugees and take action against perpetrators of the crimes.

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.

