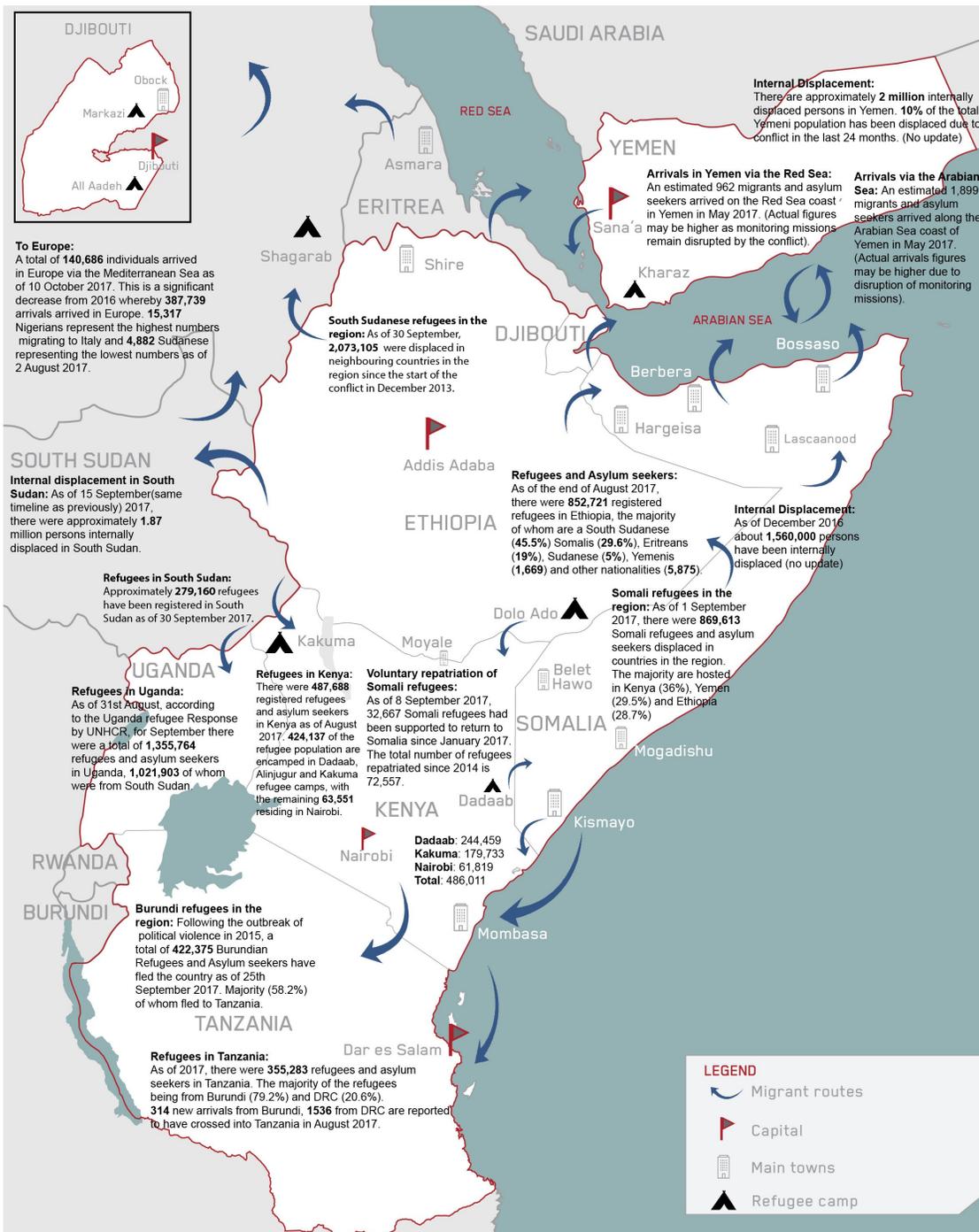




RMMS Mixed Migration Monthly Summary

September 2017 East Africa and Yemen

Regional Mixed Migration Secretariat (RMMS) summary for September 2017 covering mixed migration events, trends and data for Djibouti, Eritrea, South Sudan, Sudan, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Puntland, Somalia, Somaliland and Yemen.



Displacement Snapshot

	Somalia/ Somaliland	Yemen	South Sudan	Ethiopia	Eritrea	Djibouti	Kenya
Refugees	From Somalia: 869,613	Host to: 279,480	Host to: 279,160 From South Sudan: 2,073,105	Host to: 852,721	Host to: 2,426	Host to: 27,601	Host to: 487,688
IDPs	1,560,000	2.9 million	1.89 million	1,056,738	-	-	309,000 (figures from 2016)
In need of Humanitari- an Assis- tance / Food Aid	6.2 million	17 million	6 million	8.5 million	-	-	-

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 Profiles

Djibouti

Repatriation of migrants/asylum seekers from Djibouti to Yemen: On 21 May 2017, the UN Migration Agency (IOM) facilitated the [voluntary repatriation of 84 stranded migrants](#) and asylum seekers from Al Hudaydah Port in Yemen to Djibouti. According to IOM, most of the migrants were Ethiopian nationals and included 29 unaccompanied children, seven women and 48 other vulnerable cases. The rescued migrants reported that they were subjected to human rights abuses at the hands of migrant smugglers and criminal gangs in Yemen. Most of the migrants had intended to transit Yemen to reach Saudi Arabia but were trapped in the on-going conflict in Yemen.

IOM has reportedly facilitated the voluntary return of 515 migrants / asylum seekers from Yemen to Djibouti, and onwards to countries of origin, since the beginning of 2017.

Refugee Seekers in Djibouti: [UNHCR](#) reported 27,601 refugees and asylum seekers in Djibouti as of August 2017 a majority of whom settled in Ali Addeh. Their origin was as follows: Somalia (13,306), Ethiopia (8,654), Yemen (4,434), Eritrea (1,149) and others spread out across other countries. Djibouti is the primary destination for Yemeni arrivals to the Horn, with 69% of those moving opting to travel to Djibouti.

Kenya

Refugees in Kenya: As of August 2017, there were [487,688 registered](#) refugees and asylum seekers in Kenya. The total refugee figure includes refugees from Somalia (288,489), South Sudan (109,222), DR Congo (34,451), Ethiopia (27,574), Burundi (11,437), Sudan (9,874) and other nationalities (18,078). The majority of refugees live in refugee camps across the country, a total of 424,137—with 63,551 of those refugees in Nairobi.

Voluntary repatriation of Somali refugees: Between January 2017 and 8 September 2017, [32,667](#) Somali refugees had been supported to return to Somalia. Since the voluntary return programme began in 2014, a total of 72,557 refugees have returned to Somalia.

Cholera: As of 18 August, 16 counties in Kenya are [reported](#) to have been affected by Cholera. A total of 2,210 cases and 32 deaths have been reported, majority in Nairobi, with 1,116 cases and 31 deaths.

Eritrea

Mediterranean Sea arrivals: Statistics from the Italian Ministry of Interior and UNHCR appear to indicate a shifting trend in the movement of Eritrean nationals towards Europe. RMMS reported about the decline in arrival figures for Eritrean nationals to Italy in late 2016, a trend that continued to be observed in 2017 with 5,601 Eritreans arriving in Italy by the end of September 2017.

Research shows that Eritreans have started to avoid Libya and use Egypt as a departure point for Europe. However, in its first quarterly analysis in 2017, Frontex reported no arrivals to Europe who departed from Egypt, [indicating](#) that many Eritreans could [remain stranded in Egypt](#).

Ethiopia

Refugees in Ethiopia: As of end of August 2017, there were [852,721](#) refugees in Ethiopia, the majority of whom are South Sudanese 45.5 % , Somalis 29.6 % , Eritreans 19% , Sudanese 5 % , Yemenis (1,669) and other nationalities (5,875). About 43% of the total refugee population in Ethiopia are hosted in Gambella (mostly South Sudanese) and 25% (mostly Somalis) are hosted in Melkadida refugee camps. According to UNHCR, 73,078 Eritrean refugees previously registered as living in camps have settled in urban areas. 72,890 new refugees have arrived in the country in 2017 with over 44,000 from South Sudan, 17,000 from Eritrea and over 6400 from Somalia.

The [Kingdom of Saudi Arabia](#) [extended](#) the amnesty period for irregular migrants who must leave the country by mid October. As of 4 October, 81,000 Ethiopians were estimate to have returned to Ethiopia, and another 50,940 were registered by IOM in Saudi Arabia.

Conflict among the Oromia and Somali region: A [report](#) states that over 70,000 Oromo have been displaced from the Somali region and 300 Somali displaced from the Oromo region. This has interfered with humanitarian assistance in a number of areas (as of 20 September.) According to [Africa News](#), security has already been deployed with ongoing discussions between the two sides to resolve the conflict as of 15 September 2017.

Sudan

Key transit country: 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 launched several financial packages under the [EU Trust Fund](#), to support countries in the Horn of Africa region to address irregular migration from / through countries in region.

Refugees in Sudan: During the month of August, there were 5,846 [South Sudanese arrivals](#) with 1,416 new arrivals as of 15 September. The total number of arrivals since January 2017 is 183,516. Currently, the number of refugees from South Sudan arrived since December 2013 in Sudan totaled 461,250.

Over 5000 refugees have been biometrically registered in several refugee hosting sites as of 1 September.

Food security: [Food security](#) is set to improve according to [FEWS NET Sudan Food Security Outlook Update for August 2017](#) due to harvests expected in October. New IDPs however in some parts of the country may remain in crisis as they have limited to no access to land for cultivation, insecurity and lack of access to agricultural inputs.

Somalia / Somaliland

Somali refugees in the neighbouring countries:

As of 1 September 2017, there were **869,613** 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 (29.5%) and Ethiopia (28.7%).

Internal displacement: According to UNHCR, there are approximately **1.56 million internally displaced persons** as of 31 December 2016 across the whole of Somalia (Somaliland, Puntland and South Central Somalia), however latest drought displacement data indicate **that 739,000 people have been newly displaced** between 1 November 2016 and 31 July 2017 due to the worsening drought situation in Somalia. An estimated 46,000 people were displaced in May alone. Baidoa and Mogadishu districts hosts about 22% of the total population displaced by drought.

Humanitarian situation in Somalia: As of the 15 September 2017, **6.2 million** people are reported to be in need of humanitarian assistance with 3.1 million in urgent need.

Notably, the figures have dropped from 6.7 million based on food security projected for April-June 2017 owing to increased humanitarian assistance and improved rainfall in localized areas. The deteriorating humanitarian situation has been compounded by a cholera outbreak, one of the largest in five years, with 71,663 cases and 1,098 deaths reported in 48 districts since January 2017. Also, 13,428 suspected measles cases were reported in 2017.

Refugees in Somalia: As of **August 2017** there were 13,343 registered refugees and 14,045 registered asylum seekers in Somalia. The **majority of the refugees/asylum seekers originate** from Ethiopia (62%) and Yemen (36%), with lesser numbers from Syria (167), Tanzania (71) and Eritrea (85).

South Sudan

Humanitarian situation in South Sudan: On the 20 September 2017, a high level **meeting** was hosted in New York to discuss the escalating humanitarian crisis in South Sudan as more people flee hunger and violence. According to a **report** by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) a mid year report of the Humanitarian Response Plan shows the number of people in need has increased from 7.5 million to 7.6 million as of 31 August 2017. An estimated **6 million** people across South Sudan are severely food insecure as of August 17, including 1.7 million people on the brink of famine. **4.4 million** people have already received humanitarian assistance including food assistance, emergency livelihoods, access to clean water and vital non-food items.

Cholera: Although the country has been grappled with cholera for the better part of the year and which has affected a total of 23 counties in the country, **a report by UNICEF** on the 22 of August noted a decline in the epidemic. This decline has been attributed to efforts from the government and implementing partners. In a bid to control the situation, 8,734 people have received cholera treatment through UNICEF.

6 new cases of measles have been reported for the month of August. A total of 1,025 cases and 24 deaths are worth mentioning in 2017.

Regional displacement: As of **24 September 2017**, there were 2,073,105 South Sudanese refugees and asylum seekers in the region. The majority of these refugees are hosted in neighbouring countries; Uganda (1,021,903), Sudan (461,250), Kenya (109,847), Congo (84,352), Central Africa Republic (2,057) and Ethiopia (405,405) and the rest thinly spread out within in other countries (these figures are as of 15 September 2017).

Internal displacement: As of 15 September 2017, there were a total of **1.89 million** people displaced inside South Sudan according to the UNHCR.

Refugees in South Sudan: Approximately **279,160** refugees have been registered in South Sudan as of 30 September 2017, the majority of whom are from neighbouring Sudan.

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.

Internal displacement: There were approximately 2 million internally displaced persons in Yemen as of [June 2017](#). According to UNHCR, more than 84% of the IDPs in Yemen have been in displacement situation for more than a year. The [Task Force for Population Movement \(TFPM\)](#) co-led by IOM and UNHCR has identified 946,044 returnees across 20 governorates affected by the conflict. TFPM notes that 10.4% of the total population of Yemen has experienced displacement due to conflict in the last 26 months.

Continued arrivals from the Horn of Africa: According to IOM, 55,000 people are reported to have left for Yemen from the Horn of Africa, mostly Ethiopians and Somalis, since January. In May 2017, at least 2,861 migrants and asylum seekers (2,048 Ethiopians and 813 Somalis) arrived from the Horn of Africa to Yemen via the Red Sea, Arabian Sea and Gulf of Aden. Arrival figures in May reduced drastically by 50% compared to April 2017 (5,750) and were the lowest figures recorded since June 2015 (2,044).

[RMMS has previously reported several reasons](#) which may be linked to the reduced movement of migrants and asylum seekers from the Horn to Yemen including the deportation of migrants from Yemen to the Horn, the drought situation in the Horn and its impact on resources and the expected mass deportations of undocumented migrants from Saudi Arabia (see more on this below in the Ethiopia country section). 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.

Brutal Tactics: In August 2017, [280](#) migrants from Ethiopia and Somalia were forced into the sea in two separate incidents by people smugglers as they approached Shabwa, on the Yemen coast. 29 migrants are reported to have been buried in shallow graves found by IOM on a beach with 50 people re

ported to have drowned. The migrants were using the Gulf of Aden route when the smugglers started tossing the migrants out of the boats. After these incidents, [22](#) migrants are said to have gone missing. 215,797 (as of 31 May 2017) persons arrived to Yemen from the Horn since March 2015. 87% Ethiopians / 13% Somali 15%.

Departures from Yemen: As of 31 July 2017, [UNHCR](#) reported an estimate of 188,327 persons fleeing Yemen into other countries including 95,827 (as of 30 April 2017) fled into the Horn of Africa (37,428 in Djibouti, 36,763 in Somalia, 14,570 in Ethiopia and 7,046 in Sudan) since March 2015. Yemenis and Somalis continue to represent the largest proportion of people moving out of Yemen to the Horn of Africa, accounting for 30% and 35% of movements respectively. Djibouti is the primary destination for Yemeni arrivals, with 69% of those moving opting to travel to Djibouti. As previously reported, the general outflow of persons from Yemen has [reduced since peak figures in 2015](#).

Repatriation of migrants/asylum seekers from Yemen to Somalia: UNHCR established an Assisted Spontaneous Return ([ASR](#)) programme for Somali refugees. With IOM, Yemeni authorities and the Somali Consul, the programme supports voluntary return of refugees to Somalia. As individuals are taken through the Return Helps Desks (RHD) where they receive information on the return process and conditions in return locations - so far they have processed 1,080 individuals in Basateen district. Analysis from the RHDs show the main reason for the majority to return is lack of economic opportunities. The first departures are expected to take place in September.

Cholera: According to [WHO](#), the Ministry of Public Health and Population of Yemen reported 152,216 cholera cases including 117 associated deaths during August. As of 14 August, the suspected cholera cases had reached 500,000. Another report by [WHO](#) says 2,000 cholera deaths were reported since the beginning of the epidemic in April 2017. [Cumulatively](#), cholera cases reported since October 2016 is 621,209, with 2,167 related deaths.

Uganda

Refugees in Uganda: As of 31 August, according to the [Uganda refugee Response by UNHCR](#) for September 2017 there are 1,355,764 refugees and

asylum seekers in Uganda, 1,021,903 from South Sudan and more than half (61%) of which are children.

Other News

Burundian refugees in neighbouring countries:

The political situation in Burundi continues to displace Burundian nationals into neighbouring countries. [Latest figures from UNHCR indicate that there were a total of 422, 375 Burundian refugees and asylum seekers hosted in neighbouring countries as of 25 September 2017. The majority of the refugees are hosted in Tanzania \(58.2 %\).](#)

Arrivals to Europe: A total of **140,686** arrivals by sea were recorded as of 10 October 2017 and a total of 2,665 reported either dead or missing at sea. This is a huge decrease from the 362,753 who arrived by sea in 2016.

- In September 12,617 migrants [arrived](#) in Europe, in August 2017 it was 9,765 arrivals - a decrease compared to the numbers in June and July that were at 23,524 and 11,461 in July 2017.
- The total amount of migrant arrivals in 2016 was **387,739** including land and sea.

Migrant deaths: Estimates from the UNHCR indicate that [2,726 migrant deaths](#) (including maritime and overland) occurred in the process of migrating from 1 January to 1 October 2017 in the Mediterranean

an sea. The Central Mediterranean route, linking North Africa with Europe via Italy, continues to be the most deadly maritime route, accounting for the deaths of migrants and asylum seekers.

Decrease in Migrants leaving Libya: The month of July was the lowest monthly figure recorded on this route since March 2017 (11,075), more so, it is extremely lower than arrival figures recorded at this time of the year in 2016 (23,400) and 2015 (78,085).

[Human rights groups remain concerned](#) about the decrease of migrants leaving [Libya](#). Yet migrants are still arriving in Libya, so what is happening to migrants '[stranded](#)' in Libya. Flows of [migrants to Italy](#) slowed in the last few months, yet migrants are arriving in the transit hubs of Libya.

In September, [migrant ships](#) were also intercepted [leaving Tunisia](#), possibly indicating the increase in this route through the Mediterranean.

The tragedy of up to 50 refugees being '[deliberately drowned](#)' off the coast of Yemen show a revived [brutal tactic](#).

New Research / Reports

Global Mixed Migration Network. **RMMS West Africa** monthly summaries, feature articles and new reports are [available here](#). **DRC Central Asia and South-west Asia's** 4Mi (Mixed Migration Monitoring Mechanism initiative) summary are [available here](#). **Mixed Migration Platform (MMP)** monthly summaries, feature articles and new research reports are [available here](#).

- **Fatal Journeys IOM**
IOM's new [Fatal Journeys](#) report sheds light on the media practises and challenges in reporting

dead and missing migrants. GMMS' Chris Horwood features in the report.

- **Hidden figures: Women on the move in Libya.** [Insights from](#) the Mixed Migration Monitoring Mechanism Initiative (4Mi) in Libya, Mali and Niger
- There is a direct link between enforced disappearance and migration, but governments and the international community are not paying attention, a United Nations expert group has today warned in a [new report](#) to the UN Human Rights Council.

Regional Mixed Migration Secretariat (RMMS) is to support agencies, institutions and forums in the Horn of Africa and Yemen sub-region to improve the management of protection and assistance response to people in mixed migration flows within and beyond the Horn of Africa and across the Gulf of Aden or Red Sea in Yemen. www.regionalmms.org.

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