

Regional mixed migration summary for February 2012 covering mixed migration events, trends and data for Djibouti, Ethiopia, Eritrea/Sudan, Kenya, Puntland, Somalia, Somaliland and Yemen.

| Country | Events /trends/ data / analysis |
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| <p>Yemen</p> <p>New data from the Yemen MMTF</p> | <p>New Information:</p> <p>New arrivals: The total number of new arrivals recorded from the MMTF Yemen in February was 12,454 individuals. In February 2011 the total was 7,708, representing a 62% increase. 10,035 of the February 2012 total arrived crossing the Red Sea (from Djibouti) while 2,419 crossed the Arabian Sea (from Somaliland / Puntland).</p> <p>Proportions: 84% of the new arrivals were non-Somali (overwhelmingly Ethiopian) and just 16% were Somalis (mainly from South Central). These figures confirm the rising trend of Ethiopians and the diminishing number of Somalis making the passage to Yemen. In February 2011 the proportion of Somalis was 28% of the monthly total, indicating the successive reduction in the number of Somalis as a proportion of the total. However, the actual number of Somalis that made the crossing in February 2011 was almost the same as this February. This means the increased numbers of those making the crossing are made up of non-Somalis (Ethiopians).</p> <p>Red Sea Arrivals: The number of new arrivals at the Red Sea coast during the month of February 2012 was estimated at 10,035. This is a significant increase of 115% as compared to the same period last year for Red Sea arrivals. Somalis constituted 8.3% of the total figure while non-Somalis (mostly Ethiopians) constituted 92%.</p> <p>Registration: Of the total arrivals in month of February, 97% of the Somalis and 15% of non Somalis registered as refugees or as asylum seekers. The daily protection monitoring reports indicate that upon arrival at the Red Sea coast Ethiopians are mostly taken over, and taken away by smugglers leaving only Somalis and non-Somalis who have no money.</p> <p>Main Drivers/push factors: The security situation in South and Central Somalia as well as an escalation of violence in Somaliland was cited as the primary reasons for flight. 15% of Somalis arriving were from Somaliland this month. Insecurity in these regions has led to inaccessibility of basic services and a general inability to pursue economic activities. Conflict between Somaliland forces and the separatist Sool, Sanaag and Ceyn group has led to flight from Las Anod, and Buhoodle in Somaliland.</p> <p>Origination: Majority of the Ethiopian new arrivals who registered (and therefore interviewed) were of the Oromo ethnicity (49%) and Somali (Darood clan) - with little to no education.</p> <p>Insecurity in Yemen: The newly elected President, Abdu Rabu Masour Hadi is facing a difficult task of reconciling warring factions across the country from the civil crisis that has lasted close to a year. Protesters are demanding that close allies of the former president, including his close relatives should relinquish their posts especially in the security docket where the son of former president Abdullah Saleh remains the head of the republican guard.</p> <p>Sporadic attacks and bombings continue to be reported across the country with the north west region led by the Houthis claiming autonomy from the south. The Al-Qaeda threat appears to be escalating with the latest being an attack on military positions in the south (Zinjibar, Abyan's provincial capital) that claimed the lives of close to 100 soldiers. The new president has pledged to eliminate the militant group.</p> |

Boats & passengers: Over the reporting period the total number of boats arriving on the coast with migrants was 166 vessels. In January 2012 the total was 161. The average number of passengers on each boat was therefore 75 people per trip (not including smugglers/crew).

Protection risks faced by new arrivals over the reporting period: Reports of hostage taking and forced smuggling continued, particularly of Ethiopians new arrivals. One Ethiopian male was killed and one injured while trying to escape from a potential forced smuggling situation. There has also been an increase in the reports and in the severity of physical violence that migrants are subjected to, in most cases by the smugglers/traffickers, as compared to last month. February saw a rise with 30 reported cases of rape or attempted rape. Reports in February indicate a trend of increased involvement of Ethiopians (in Yemen) in smuggling/hostage taking networks in some cases being the perpetrators of the violence the migrants are subjected to.

Deaths at Sea: There were no reported deaths at sea with respect to the Red Sea crossing, but just off the Somaliland / Puntland coast 45 people either drowned or are missing (presumed dead) after the breakdown and disintegration of a smuggling boat full of passengers/migrants.(see below for full details)

Trafficking: According to reports from IOM Yemen, in early February, the Yemeni authorities raided a smuggling/trafficking ring in the environs of Harad and rescued 62 male Ethiopians as well as some Somalis and Nigerians, approximately 70 in total. These migrants had been physically abused, tortured and detained by the smugglers/traffickers and received treatment at the IOM clinic. The investigations are still on-going.

A report by the Ministry of Interior states that some 170 African migrants (91 young men, 10 women, 50 children and 19 elderly men) were held captive and tortured between January 2011 and February 2012 in Harad. The Ministry has stated that in February itself two suspects were arrested in Harad; one held 49 Ethiopians captive and the other 79. Most of these migrants travelled to Yemen with the intention of crossing into Saudi Arabia and other Gulf States in search of employment but were then held hostage and are only released once a ransom is secured.

IDPs: As previously reported, the conflict in Yemen has resulted in an estimated 144,000 people being displaced within the country according to the government's Executive Unit for IDP Camp Management. Those who attempt to return usually find that their homes have been destroyed and their livelihoods ruined. DRC, UNHCR and WFP have commenced a joint IDP study in Yemen due to be completed in the coming months. The purpose of the study is to ascertain the actual number of IDPs, their protection needs and challenges.

Extension of coastal monitoring network along the Red sea: As previously reported, DRC and UNHCR are discussing a new initiative to extend coastal monitoring network so that more of the Red Sea coast is covered and more comprehensive data can be captured.

Previously reported:

Ethiopians stranded in North Yemen: Ethiopian migrants (current number unknown but over 3000) remain stranded in North Yemen around the city of Harad— close to the border with Saudi Arabia. IOM's has a programme of intervention providing assistance and repatriating (AVR) to some of those stranded and willing to return to Ethiopia. In 2010/2011 IOM returned, 6,169.

Caveat: Despite the network of local partners collecting data along parts of the Arabian and Red Sea coasts it cannot be assumed that this data captures all new arrivals. Particularly, there may be those that arrive along the northern stretches of the Red Sea coast, beyond the data networks. Consequently the actual numbers of new arrivals in Yemen may be higher. Yemen Red Crescent and the Danish Refugee Council are planning to extend the patrol area further north along the Red Sea coast.

Somalia

New Information:

In February 1,958 migrants (mainly from South – Central 82%) arrived on Yemen's shores. They represented 16% of the total influx of Ethiopians and Somalis in February.

In keeping with the trend of the previous months, the majority of Somali new arrivals in February originally

came from South – Central Somalia, citing insecurity and forced recruitment by the Al-Shabaab as their reason for flight. Several young women cited escape from forced marriage (to members of the Al-Shabaab) as their reasons for flight.

Some migrants came from IDP settlements around Mogadishu. They stated that they were unable to return home even though the Al-Shabaab had withdrawn from the area as their homes and livelihoods had been destroyed and therefore opted to come to Yemen.

In the reporting period there were an estimated 63,000 people displaced; double of February last year. 19,000 people were displaced from and within Mogadishu and fighting between the TGF/AMISOM and Al-Shabaab in the Afgoye corridor, just south of the Mogadishu, led to the displacement of some 7,000 Somalis itself. 53% cited insecurity for their reason of displacement which is a 9% increase from last month and those citing lack of livelihood opportunities dropped by 4%.

Kenyan forces in Somalia/AMISOM: The European Union has committed to increase funding for AMISOM forces in Somalia by about 100 million Euros. It has also pledged to strengthen its military presence up to 2014 in the Horn of Africa and the Indian Ocean waters to help contain piracy. An increase from the current 10,000 to 18,000 AMISOM troops is under consideration. Kenyan forces are in the process of being amalgamating into AMISOM.

This document does not seek to extensively detail conditions and event in Somalia (including displacements) as the subject is dealt with in great detail by various dedicated agencies.

Somaliland

New Information:

New Arrivals from Somaliland – There were a notable number (15% of Somalis – 294 people) of new arrivals (in Yemen) from Las Anod and Buhoodle in the Togdheer region of Somaliland who cited the conflict between the Somaliland army and clans loyal to the declared Khatumo state for their reason for flight. There were a handful that also fled from Sool, a region whose control is currently being disputed between Somaliland and Puntland.

Preparations for the joint **Ministry of Interior and UNHCR verification/registration** exercise were carried out in February scheduled to commence on the 4th of March at the Havoyoco Youth Centre in Hargesia (more details to follow in the next summary).

Four Ethiopian teenage girls (ages not verified but reportedly under 18 yrs) and one man (reportedly aged 25 yrs) were dissuaded by members of the Ethiopian Community Centre in Hargesia from travelling any further on their intended course (Puntland and then Yemen), warning them of the dangers of such migration. They initially left Ethiopia with the consent of their parents to go find work in Saudi Arabia. The individuals have agreed to return home with the assistance of IOM's AVR in early March.

The Somaliland authorities have reportedly signed the **National Asylum Policy** in December. The previous refugee-related policy was suspended in 2008.

The IDP working group (comprised of the humanitarian community) is scheduled to meet (TBD) and draw up a coordinated response to the IDP policy as proposed by the Somaliland authorities that is to be tabled in Parliament. This will then be followed by a meeting with the MRR&R where their views will be presented. **Note:** One of the things for discussion will be the status of migrants from South-Central Somalia in Somaliland. UNHCR does not does not categorize them as refugees and Somaliland does not identify them as IDPs.

Background context :

In early September 2011 the government of Somaliland announced that the '80,000' unregistered foreigners in Somaliland had one month to leave. In October a further statement was made by a government minister increasing the hostile and unwelcome environment for Ethiopians in Somaliland. Aid agencies estimate the real number affected may be closer to 20,000.

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| <p>Puntland</p> | <p>New Information:</p> <p>Arabian Sea arrivals in Yemen: In February 2011 the number was estimated to be 2,419 individuals, accounting for 19.5% of the total new arrivals – the same as in January 2012. This is about a 10% decrease as compared to November and October 2011 when it accounted for approximately 30% of all arrivals. This decrease in utilization of the Arabian Sea route, departing from Bossaso and the Somaliland/Puntland coastline is a clear trend since 2009.</p> <p>Although there seems to be a decrease in the Puntland’s authority’s practice of intervening and interrogating migrants from South-Central Somalia in February, there were some reports of this where upon release was only obtained after paying a \$50 bribe.</p> <p>Incidents at sea - On 4thFebruary, a boat manned by 3 smugglers carrying some 58 Somali migrants (other accounts suggest 2 smugglers and 51 migrants) departed for Yemen from the environs of the Bossaso coastline and shortly after, its engine failed. Survivors reported that were adrift for some five days before the boat capsized. During this period, the smugglers forced 22 migrants off the boat in the high seas. 11 bodies have been recovered on beaches around the village of Ceelaayo some 30 kilometers west of Bossaso and 13 survivors have been rescued, provided with medical assistance and are now reportedly living with friends/family in Bossaso. There were two children amongst the survivors. 34 still remain missing according to UNHCR. The 3 smugglers are reportedly in hiding. The migrants mainly originated from the Jawhar region in South Somalia.</p> <p>Previously reported / context: In early January, President Abdirahman Farole banned IDPs from southern Somalia from entering Puntland, ordering the police to seize vehicles believed to be transporting these migrants. The President also announced that all IDPs who fled to Puntland due to the drought to return back to their homes. There are an estimated 140,000 IDPs (mostly from southern Somalia) in Puntland.</p> |
| <p>Ethiopia</p> | <p>New Information:</p> <p>An estimated 10,496 Ethiopians (majority of non-Somalis) made their way to Yemeni shores in February 2012 in a continued and on-going exodus.</p> <p>In 2011, 64 Ethiopians migrants in Yemen were identified as victims of trafficking by IOM. As mentioned above approximately 70 Ethiopian migrants where rescued in February when the Yemeni police raided a compound in Harad where these migrants where held hostage. However, a statement by the Yemeni Ministry of Interior <i>claims</i> there were two raids where 49 and 79 Ethiopian migrants were rescued respectively in February.</p> <p>Origination of new arrivals: The majority of Ethiopian new arrivals were Oromo and the main reason cited for flight continued to be lack of economic opportunities with a few claiming fear of persecution based on their (perceived) political affiliation to the Oromo Liberation Front. There were a few Ethiopian new arrivals who fled from Somaliland where they had been residing claiming fear of arrest/deportation following the September 2011 announcement that all illegal migrants leave the region. Several also stated that this was their second time to make the journey across the Red Sea, having been previously deported from Saudi Arabia due to lack of documentation.</p> <p>Container deaths: The Ethiopian police apprehended a container - truck, while en route to Djibouti that was smuggling an estimated 75 Ethiopian migrants. 11 people were found dead. Although the exact cause of death is not known, the container was sealed blocking out any ventilation. The police speculate that these migrants were going to transit through Djibouti to Saudi Arabia and other Gulf countries including Yemen and Somalia. The migrants reportedly paid \$ 400 each to the smugglers. The driver of the truck escaped and no arrests were made.</p> |

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| <p>Kenya</p> | <p>New Information:</p> <p>Dadaab—Registration is still on hold in the camp complex and humanitarian operations and movement restricted. However, through a greater cooperation with the refugee community – elders, youth and the business community – basic and life saving assistance has been maintained. Through this collaboration some 150 vulnerable people and families have been identified and brought to UNHCR offices in Dadaab for protection interviews and psycho-social, medical or legal follow-up.</p> <p>As of end February there are an estimated 520,452 Somali refugees in Kenya with 443,530 in Dadaab, 31,040 in Nairobi and 45,882 in Kakuma (UNHCR). In Dadaab alone there are an estimated 460,000 refugees of which Somalis account for 96% despite the suspended registration last year.</p> |
| <p>Djibouti</p> | <p>New information:</p> <p>In February 2012, an estimated 10,035 people left Djibouti for Yemen, departing from Obock and different coastal departure points 30-40 km west of Obock. This represents approximately 346 per day (up from 210 per day in November 2011 for example). All migrants using this route use smugglers to cross to Yemen. The use of Djibouti as a departure point has continued at an increasing rate over the years with non-Somalis forming the majority of migrants leaving from this coast.</p> <p>Somali new arrivals continued to report of being turned away at the Djiboutian border.</p> |
| <p>Sudan / Eritrea</p> | <p>New information:</p> <p>Eritrea: Two Eritreans were reported to have arrived on Yemen's Red Sea coast stating that they fled on account of their political/religious beliefs. There were some 20 Eritreans arrivals in Yemen in December 2011 and January 2012 (combined).</p> <p>Previously reported/ context:</p> <p>Given that reportedly an estimated 2-3000 (UNHCR) Eritreans flee the country every year – mostly evading/deserting compulsory national service that in practice is unlimited – this is a very small percentage. According to UNHCR a majority of Eritreans, some 1,800, flee west into Sudan, taking advantage of the porous border.</p> <p>Sudanese and Eritrean migrants, as well as Ethiopians and Somalis are increasingly falling victim to kidnapping, violence, extortion and trafficking in the deserts of Sudan and Egypt. Murder and theft of body-parts are also being recorded. Media interest in their plight has heightened since a CNN documentary on the issue (November 2012). RMMS intends to continually highlight the issue and monitor the situation in Yemen.</p> |
| <p>RMMS news</p> | <p>A joint 3 month research project by DRC and RMMS is to commence in March/April in Yemen. The objective is to gain a better understanding of protection risks, challenges facing Ethiopian migrants: Questions around how many, where they are and what they do in Yemen hope to be answered.</p> <p>Workshop on migration management, capacity building and diaspora engagement – Horn of Africa (Wednesday 1st February 2012. London. Wilton Park.) [RMMS presented]</p> <p>Joint Future Migrations Scenarios research (in Horn of Africa and Yemen) with RMMS and IMI in Oxford began with the On-line survey sent out to over 130 selected participants / experts.</p> <p>During February the RMMS held meetings with UNHCR Kenya and IOM with a view to establishing a Kenya MMTF to add to the existing network of Mixed Migration Task Forces in Djibouti, Somalia and Yemen.</p> |

Having shared initial ideas with members of the mixed migration teleconference group (in February and the 13th March teleconference), the RMMS proposes to draft a 5 or 6 point advocacy plan to encourage more focus and action with regard to the violence and criminality faced by migrants in the region. This will be circulated for comment during March/early April.

This information sheet is distributed to over 480 agencies, academic institutions, donors, embassies, journalists, government officials / departments, international and multi-national organisations and related non-government organisations.