



Regional mixed migration summary for June 2013 covering mixed migration events, trends and data for Djibouti, Eritrea/Sudan, Ethiopia, Kenya, Puntland, Somalia, Somaliland and Yemen.

Terminology: Throughout this report the term migrant/refugee is used to cover all those involved in the mixed migration flows (including asylum seekers, trafficked persons, smuggled economic migrants, refugees). If the case load mentioned refers only to refugees or asylum seekers or trafficked persons it will be clearly stated.

Country	Events /trends/ data / analysis
<p>Djibouti</p>	<p>New Arrivals: In June 2013, an estimated 3,601 migrants/refugees arrived on Yemen's shores via Djibouti, a 29% decrease from May 2013 and a 4% increase from June 2012. 85% of the new arrivals were Ethiopians while the rest were Somali. The months of June and July normally see lower numbers of arrivals due to adverse sea-faring conditions.</p> <p>Boats: A total of 57 vessels left via the Red Sea for Yemen carrying an average of 63 passengers per trip in the month of June.</p> <p>Migrant vulnerability: Ethiopian migrants/refugees reported paying smuggling fees twice at the Obock departure point because smugglers denied receipt of the initial payment. Migrants/refugees remained at the Obock departure point for 5 to 10 days with no water, food or shelter while they waited for the boat that would take them across the Red Sea. Migrants/refugees reported physical abuse particularly beating during the journey from Obock to Yemen. The journey, on average, to Yemen lasted between 5 to 8 hours.</p> <p>Djibouti and Yemen sign agreement on maritime issues: Press reports indicate that a Yemeni delegation visited Djibouti to sign a series of agreements aimed at addressing various maritime issues including human trafficking (understood to include human smuggling). The move is aimed at reinforcing national security in the two countries. It was reported that authorities in the two countries discussed the formation of a joint committee to address maritime security issues including human smuggling and trafficking.</p>
<p>Somaliland</p>	<p>Somaliland youth irregular migration to Libya: It was reported that smuggling networks continue to facilitate the irregular movement of Somaliland youth to Libya. The Somaliland National Youth Organization (SONYO) estimates that about 50 people are smuggled out of Somaliland every month while some press reports indicate the number could be as high as 150. SONYO reported that an 'organized criminal group' emerged in January 2013 and has been smuggling youth from Hargeisa and other major towns. Law enforcement authorities are working to dismantle the smuggling networks and the President of the Somaliland region is reported to have announced the formation of a 7 member 'migration prevention and job creation committee' in June, as a means of addressing irregular youth migration.</p> <p>15 people convicted for abetting irregular movement: The Gabile regional magistrate court convicted and awarded various sentences to 15 people accused of abetting the irregular movement of Somaliland youth. It was reported that the accused persons were arrested in Wajale town, and on the border of Somaliland and Ethiopia. The governments of Somaliland and Ethiopia have entered into a pact aimed at increasing the arrest of smugglers at their common borders and in their respective countries.</p>
<p>Eritrea (Sudan/ South Sudan)</p>	<p>Eritreans returned from Israel: It was reported that 14 Eritrean migrants /refugees were returned from Israel and hundreds more are expected to be repatriated in the coming weeks. Refugee advocacy groups are reported to have denounced Israel's removal of the Eritreans, who were held in detention for nearly a year without access to legal representation. The advocacy groups questioned the voluntary nature of the returns and the safety of returnees in Eritrea. A new protocol was introduced by the Israeli government for interrogating migrants which included recording their testimony to open ended questions related to their asylum claims and voluntary return. Israel's recently constructed border fence with Egypt, together with a law introduced a year ago allowing the detention of undocumented migrants for up to 3 years, are reported to have resulted in only 34 African</p>

	<p>migrants/refugees entering Israel in the first half of 2013 in comparison to 9,570 in 2012. An estimated 2,000 migrants/refugees mainly Eritreans and Sudanese are held in detention in Israel. Approximately 60,000 African migrants/refugees are reported to have entered Israel since 2006. Israel has received 1,404 asylum applications which remain largely unaddressed.</p> <p>Eritrean migrant/refugees kidnapped for ransom: Sources have indicated to RMMS that torture of kidnapped Eritreans gets more brutal. Recent testimonies include amongst other acts of violence and rape, that victims were forced to eat human excrements and human flesh of the deceased/murdered migrant/refugees. 100% of the victims reaching Cairo (of those documented) were kidnapped from inside Eritrea and never had the intention to migrate. The same trend was noted in Israel from groups working with released kidnappees. Furthermore testimonies indicate that the average ransom money paid is now a staggering USD 33,000 per individual, and the average hostage taken time is over 140 days. More torture brings more money - that is the reason for rising brutality.</p> <p>Asylum seekers flee fighting in Jonglei State: Thousands of asylum seekers crossed the border to Ethiopia fleeing fighting in Pibor county. Dima woreda of Agnewak zone, Gambella Region continues to receive new arrivals from Pibor county of Jonglei State, South Sudan. An estimated 4,201 people up from 3,443 people in mid-June arrived in the area. Women and children constitute a majority of the new arrivals.</p> <p>Sudanese cabinet endorses anti-human trafficking law: The Sudanese cabinet endorsed a law to address human trafficking. The law creates various offences and has provisions to provide for the protection of victims. The government hopes that the law which contains penalties of up to 20 years imprisonment will stop the exploitation of Sudanese citizens.</p>
<p>Ethiopia</p>	<p>New Arrivals: An estimated 3,589 Ethiopians made their way to Yemen in June 2013. In total, 38,858 Ethiopian migrants/refugees crossed into Yemen in the first half of 2013, a 13% decrease from the number of Ethiopian migrants/refugees who entered Yemen in the first half of 2012. Ethiopian migrants/refugees encountered at the Red Sea/Gulf of Aden coast near Bab el Mandab were mainly Oromos from East Hararge or Jimma. At least 27% of those encountered were of Amharic ethnicity, 27% from the Silte tribe, 18% of Oromo ethnicity and 18% of Tigray ethnicity. A majority of the new arrivals interviewed were illiterate peasant farmers prior to embarking on the journey to Yemen. Ethiopians continue to cite persecution as a result of real or perceived affiliation to the Oromo Liberation Front (OLF) or the Ogaden National Liberation Front (ONLF) as their reason for flight.</p> <p>Refugees and asylum seekers: Ethiopia received 3,555 refugees in June, including 1,553 from South Sudan, 955 from Somalia, 892 from Eritrea, 126 from Sudan and 29 from several other countries. 110 of the new arrivals from Eritrea in June were unaccompanied minors. At the end of June 2013, Ethiopia was host to approximately 407, 985 registered refugees and asylum seekers.</p> <p>Modalities of Travel: Ethiopians continue to travel by foot or trucks, through Dire Dawa and onward to Djibouti through the Dawalle border point. They paid an estimated amount of USD 150 to brokers or smugglers.</p>
<p>Kenya</p>	<p>High Court judgement on encampment of urban refugees: Final judgement which was expected at the end of June will be delivered on 26th July 2013 (see previous monthly summaries for the details).</p> <p>Refugees and Asylum seekers in Kenya: Kenya is host to 600,175 , refugees and assylum seekers, 51,648 of them in Nairobi. The largest number of refugees and asylum seekers remain Somali nationals (495,168), followed by South Sudanese (42,777), and Ethiopians (31,980). UNHCR has recorded 3 voluntary repartrations to Congo in 2013. Furthermore, DRA- the Department of Refugee Affairs- suggest that there could be hundreds of thousands of un-registered 'refugees'[sic] residing in Kenya, possibly as many as 500,000 from a variety of different African countries. This estimate cannot be verified but included as a DRA estimate.</p> <p>Somali returns from Kenya: Discussions on Somali returns continue amid reports that the security situation in central and southern Somalia remains volatile. It was reported that Doctors Without Borders called on the Kenyan government to delay return of Somali refugees because parts of Somalia are unsuitable for refugees who require regular medical treatment. The UNHCR High Commissioner for Refugees met with Kenya's Interior Minister to discuss the situation in Somalia and Kenya's interest in Somali refugee returns. The High Commissioner encouraged the countries in the region to work with UNHCR and refugees themselves to find the 'best solution for every refugee'.</p>

	<p>Kenya and Somalia sign pact for refugee return: Reports continue to emerge that Kenya will host a Nairobi conference in the second week of August 2013 to discuss modalities for the return of Somali refugees in Kenya to Somalia. UNHCR is expected to co-host with the Government of Kenya while the International Organization for Migration (IOM) will participate. The Government of Kenya continues to voice its commitment to conduct the return exercise in a humane manner and is reported to have indicated that 50% of the Somali refugee population is willing to return. However, agencies on the ground report that return desks set up in Dadaab continue to record minimal activity, but acknowledge that there have been spontaneous returns in recent months. Unconfirmed reports indicate that the Kenyan cabinet has approved the repatriation of 600,000 refugees from Kenya beginning January 2014.</p> <p>Police arrest 12 irregular migrants: Reports indicate that police arrested 12 irregular migrants of Ethiopian and Somali nationality in Kwale County, Coast Region. They were reportedly smuggled into the country by a Somali national in possession of a South African passport. An unspecified number of migrants remain in Kenyan detention facilities for immigration infractions.</p>
<p>Puntland</p>	<p>Arabian Sea arrivals in Yemen: In June, 679 migrants/refugees crossed the Arabian Sea to Yemen from Bossaso and other coastal areas of Puntland. This represents a 45% decrease from June 2012 and a continuation of the trend that Puntland is a less common departure point to Yemen, as well as the decreasing number of Somalis migrating to or seeking asylum in Yemen.</p> <p>Ethiopian families stranded in Puntland assisted to return home: A group of 6 Ethiopian women and 4 of their children all less than 10 years of age were assisted to return to Ethiopia by IOM. The women and children who had attempted to cross the Gulf of Aden were unsuccessful and human smugglers are reported to have exploited their situation leaving them with no money or identification papers. The women and children were also unsuccessful in claiming asylum in Puntland. IOM has thus far assisted 52 stranded migrants in Puntland and Somaliland to return to Ethiopia since January 2013.</p> <p>Puntland parliament discusses irregular migration: The Puntland parliament discussed irregular migration and prevention mechanisms during its 30th session. Members of parliament (MPs) agreed that the government needs to engage in employment creation targeting the youth. The MPs also discussed the need for policy reforms targeting persons who profit from irregular movement.</p>
<p>Somalia (S-C)</p>	<p>Somali movements to Yemen: An estimated 691 Somalis arrived on the Yemeni shores in June 2013, a 36% decrease from May 2013 and 24% decrease from June 2012. Somali arrivals are primarily from south and central Somalia. Many of the new arrivals have an intermediate level of education. Somali migrants/refugees cite the search for economic opportunities in Yemen and beyond. Somali migrants/refugees also cite insecurity and an increase in cases of sexual and gender based violence perpetuated largely by government forces.</p> <p>Modalities of Travel: Somalis continue to rely on a smuggling ring in Mogadishu. They reportedly paid USD 450 for the entire journey to Yemen.</p> <p>Migrant Vulnerability: Somali migrants/refugees who travelled from Mogadishu to Galkayo reported being detained and interrogated by Puntland police before they were allowed to enter Hargeisa. The distance between Galkayo and Hargeisa can be up to 800km.</p> <p>IDP levels in Somalia remain approximately 1.1 million: An estimated 32,780 Somalis were (newly) internally displaced in the first half of the year. In June, 5,320 Somalis were internally displaced due to evictions, insecurity, lack of livelihood opportunities, clan conflict, forced return and drought. Displaced populations moved mainly to Shabelle Dhexe, Banadir, Shabelle Hoose, Juba Hoose and Bay regions. An estimated 4,485 IDPs have returned to their homes since January 2013.</p> <p>Somali Returns: An estimated 2,100 Somali returns were recorded in June 2013. The total figure of Somali returns in the first half of 2013 is 20, 207 primarily from Kenya, Ethiopia, Saudi Arabia and Yemen.</p> <p>Refugees and Asylum seekers: At the end of June 2013 there were 1,018,695 Somali refugees in the region mainly hosted in Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Djibouti, and Yemen. An estimated 15,911 sought</p>

	<p>refugee in neighbouring countries in the first half of 2013. Somalia is host to 2,339 refugees and 8,931 registered asylum seekers.</p>
Yemen	<p>New Arrivals: In June 2013, 4,280 migrants/refugees crossed into Yemen via the Red Sea (Djibouti) and the Arabian Sea (Somaliland/Puntland), a 9% decrease from June 2012 and a 23% decrease from May 2011. Since 2011, estimated new arrival figures have characteristically dropped in the second quarter of the year in comparison to the first quarter. Ethiopian farmers interviewed cited increase in government taxes as their reason for flight. A Somali migrant/refugee interviewed indicated he returned from South Africa to Somalia as a result of insecurity. He then travelled to Yemen in search of economic opportunities. A focus group discussion with migrants/refugees in Haradh revealed Sudanese, Nigerian and Eritrean migrants who had travelled to Yemen, via the Red Sea from the port of Sudan. One migrant/refugee from Darfur travelled to Yemen via Ethiopia and Djibouti.</p> <p>Boats & passengers: There were a total of 66 migrant boat trips that arrived on the Yemeni coast in June 2013. The average number of passengers on each boat was 64 per trip (not including smugglers/crew).</p> <p>Assistance to stranded migrants/refugees following raids to release kidnapped migrants/refugees in Yemen: Between mid-April and mid-June 2013, 2,619 migrants were assisted to return to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia by the Government of Yemen. A total of 580 were returned through military flights, while 2,039 travelled via commercial flights. Most of these migrant/refugees were 'liberated' from 'torture camps' and criminal compounds by Yemeni authorities earlier this year, where they were being held for ransom and facing extreme violence. The returnees include extremely vulnerable women, men and 290 unaccompanied minors. In Haradh, IOM is providing limited accommodation, food and medical assistance to 3,500 of the most vulnerable, with the help of in-kind contributions from WFP and UNICEF.</p> <p>Migrant vulnerability: Female migrants/refugees, continue to face the risk of rape, attempted rape and abduction on arrival in Yemen. Some of the migrants/refugees encountered reported witnessing the gang rape of abducted female migrants/refugees by their captors. 47 sexual and gender based violence incidences were reported in June down from the 68 reported in May. Reports indicate that the ransom amounts for abducted females went up to USD 1200. In early 2013, abducted migrants were released from captivity within a month in situations where they were unable to pay ransoms demanded. Migrants are now being held for up to three months before their captors are convinced they are not in a position to pay ransoms demanded. A majority of Ethiopians encountered along the Hajjah/Hodeida migration pathway were held hostage upon arrival and released after being tortured or paying the demanded ransom. A 16 year old Ethiopian boy was reported to have died following 10 days of captivity where he was tortured and denied food and water. The deceased boy was travelling with a 14 year old friend. Incident reports made including abduction, physical assault, robbery, drowning, sexual and gender based violence, dehydration and drowning were 3242 in June, a 32% decrease from May. Thousands of migrants/refugees remain stranded in the city of Haradh after failing to cross into Saudi Arabia due to heightened border security and recently imposed labour migration restrictions by the Saudi government. A number of migrants/refugees arriving in Yemen are seeking to reach Saudi Arabia in search of economic opportunities.</p> <p>Somalis explore opportunities to return from Yemen: The Aden Immigration Office reported that at least 1147 Somali heads of households (total number of individuals not provided) have applied for exit permits with the intention of returning to Somalia. At least 136 applied in June while 256 applied in May 2013. DRC patrol team profiled 83 Somali households (comprising 210 individuals) that have expressed a desire to return. Many of the Somalis profiled made the decision to return because they could no longer afford life in Yemen (55 households) while others indicated they had been unable to access Saudi Arabia (18 households) and 6 spoke of improved conditions in Somalia. A majority of those seeking to return were from south and central Somalia (64 households). At least 41 of the households interviewed were female headed, and 38 households planned to return as a family.</p>
Other Regional news	<p>Cessation clause Rwanda: UNHCR recommended that the cessation clause for Rwandese refugees come into effect on 30th June 2013. Following a ministerial meeting on 18th April 2013 in Pretoria all major countries hosting Rwandese refugees and asylum seekers agreed to apply cessation at different rates. Only Zimbabwe, Malawi, The Democratic Republic of Congo and Zambia have thus far followed UNHCRs recommendation and invoked the cessation clause. An estimated 100,000 Rwandan refugees are spread out in various countries.</p>

November compliance deadline for Saudi Migrant workers: Human Rights Watch (HRW) reported that Saudi Arabia had extended the deadline for migrant workers to regularize their employment and residency status in the Kingdom from July to November 2013. Migrant workers who do not comply risk detention and deportation. HRW watch urged Saudi Arabia to *'abolish its migrant worker sponsorship system and allow workers in abusive situations to easily change their jobs'*. *'The kafala, or sponsorship, system ties migrant workers' residency permits to "sponsoring" employers, whose written consent is required for workers to change employers or leave the country.'*

Australia to deport asylum seekers to Papa New Guinea: Australia signed an agreement with Papa New Guinea to allow it to deport all asylum seekers seeking to enter Australia to the former Australian colony. The Australian Prime Minister is quoted as saying *"The rules have changed – if you come by boat you will never permanently live in Australia."* Last year over 17,000 asylum seekers arrived on the shores of Australia, 2,000 short of the number of arrivals so far in 2013. The largest number of asylum seekers comes from Iran followed by Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Vietnam, Iraq and Burma. Amnesty international has condemned the move by Australia terming it *'.....not only a complete disregard for asylum seekers but absolute contempt for legal and moral obligations'*.

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