



Regional mixed migration summary for July 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 |
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| <p>Djibouti</p> | <p>New Arrivals (to Yemen): In July 2013, an estimated 3,710 migrants/refugees arrived on Yemen's shores via Djibouti, a 3% increase from June 2013 and a 49% decrease from July 2012. Similar to June, 85% of the new arrivals were Ethiopians while the rest were Somali. Strong winds coupled with the increased capacity of the coast guard in Djibouti, and Saudi Arabia's tighter border controls, may be responsible for the decreased movement of migrants to Yemen via the Red sea.</p> <p>Boats: A total of 76 vessels left via the Red Sea for Yemen carrying an average of 49 passengers per trip in the month of June.</p> <p>Migrant vulnerability: Migrants/refugees continue to report incidences of physical assault and theft of personal belongings at the Obock departure point. On the sea journey enroute to Yemen they report physical assault, sexual abuse, rape or witnessing the rape of fellow migrants/refugees at the hands of the smuggling crew. Migrants/refugees are also extorted mid-voyage by smuggling crew who threaten to throw them overboard if they do not pay an additional fee of between USD 50 and 100. Sea conditions continue to be rough attributed to strong winds in July and as a result the voyage from Obock to the Red Sea coast took over 7 hours, up from 4 hours when sea conditions are favourable.</p> |
| <p>Somaliland</p> | <p>Stiffer penalties for human trafficking and smuggling: Press reports indicate that Somaliland plans to stiffen penalties for human trafficking and smuggling to stem the irregular movement of Somaliland youth to Ethiopia, Sudan, Libya and onward to Europe. Somaliland's penal code criminalizes the sale and purchase of human beings as slaves, providing a sentence of between 3 and 5 years. In June, the President of Somaliland announced the formation of a 'migration prevention and job creation committee' aimed at stemming irregular movement.</p> <p>IOM seeks to tackle youth unemployment in Somaliland: Unemployment among Somaliland youth has been linked to a recent resurgence of irregular movement from Somaliland to Libya and beyond. A study carried out in 2010 indicates an unemployment rate of 75% among the youth and estimates indicate that up to 70% of the 3.5 million population in Somaliland is under the age of 30. IOM is supporting a 7 month internship programme in Borama, a border town between Ethiopia, Djibouti and Somaliland. The programme will place 40 graduate students in challenging paid internship positions with Somaliland authorities and private companies. The aim of the programme is to reduce the negative impact of irregular migration, increase employment opportunities for the youth and increase the capacity of the local authorities.</p> |
| <p>Eritrea (Sudan/ South Sudan)</p> | <p>Continued exodus of Eritreans: As previously reported the exodus of Eritreans continues. In mixed migration flows thousands of Eritreans are found in Sudan and Libya while others are trafficked and forcibly held in Egypt for ransom. (For more detail on abuses against Eritreans pls refer to articles and publications featured at www.regionalmms.org)</p> <p>Asylum seekers in Israel continue to face resistance: It was reported that 177 Eritrean and Sudanese migrants/refugees left Israel voluntarily in the month of July according to the Population, Immigration and Border Authority. The attorney general of Israel recently approved a procedure for the voluntary repatriation of migrants/refugees involving recorded testimony to open ended questions posed to the migrant/refugee, with the assistance of a translator. Eritreans and Sudanese migrants/refugees who voluntarily agree to leave Israel are granted USD 1500. Advocacy groups claim that the migrants/refugees are coerced into signing voluntary repatriation agreements as the only means out of detention. They further claim that authorities reaffirm to</p> |

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| | <p>migrants/refugees that their asylum claims will never be accepted in Israel. However, migrants/refugees who have requested political asylum are exempted from the voluntary repatriation procedure. A group of Eritrean migrants/refugees held a press conference and staged a protest against the return of Eritreans claiming they were being returned to a regime that subjected them to indefinite, compulsory military service. According to the border authority only one migrant/refugee entered Israel in July. The 2012 regulations under the Prevention of Infiltration law which allow prolonged detention and deportation of migrants who are suspected of committing offences were amended in July by expanding the category of suspected offences under which migrants/refugees can be detained and deported.</p> <p>South Sudanese flee conflict in Jonglei state: Fighting in Jonglei state, Pibor county resulted in over 3,000 South Sudanese fleeing to Ethiopia in July, contributing to the highest number of new arrivals since January 2013. An estimated 120,000 civilians have fled conflict between government forces, rebel and rival ethnic militia groups, to areas where aid is unable to reach them. The rainy season expected to last until December coupled with existing conflict has made movement difficult within Jonglei state.</p> |
| <p>Ethiopia</p> | <p>New Arrivals (to Yemen): An estimated 3,198 Ethiopians made their way to Yemen in July 2013. In total, 40,025 Ethiopian migrants/refugees have crossed into Yemen since January 2013, a 37% decrease from the number of Ethiopian migrants/refugees who entered Yemen in the first 7 months of 2012. In general new arrivals were mainly from the Oromia region, including Jimma, East and West Hararge, Bale and Arsi, while others were from the Somali region including Jijiga, Degehabur and Gode. The Tigray region recorded few arrivals. However, data collected along the Hajjah/Hodeidah coast following interviews with 138 Ethiopians, revealed that at least 29% were of Silte origin, 28% Amhara, 23% Oromo, 14% Tigray and 7% Affar. The team in Hajjah/Hodeidah in June/July recorded more Ethiopians of Silte origin than of Oromo origin. Many of the arrivals interviewed were abducted and held hostage on arrival in Yemen. The new arrivals were mainly illiterate and engaged in farming prior to their departure for Yemen. New arrivals cite the fear of persecution as a result of their real or perceived affiliation to the Oromo Liberation Front (OLF) or the Ogaden National Liberation Front (ONLF) and inability to continue with farming activities as their reason for flight.</p> <p>Refugees and asylum seekers: Ethiopia received 5,779 refugees in July a 38% increase from June 2013. Over 3000 (Gambella region) of the new arrivals originated from South Sudan and another 1,519 (Tigray region) came from Eritrea. A little over 1,000 refugees were recorded in Dollo Ado bringing the camp population in all 5 camps to 197,474. Monthly arrival rate for minors is 130 and it was reported that secondary movement including trafficking and smuggling resulted in the disappearance of an estimated 500 unaccompanied minors in the last 18 months. At the end of July 2013, Ethiopia was host to approximately 415,038 refugees, 240,266 Somali, 74,513 Eritreans, 65,447 South Sudanese, 30,614 Sudanese, and 4,238 from other countries.</p> <p>Modalities of Travel: New arrivals reported walking part of the journey or travelling by road from Dire Dawa. They paid a smuggling ring in Dire Dawa, USD 372 for the rest of the journey. Oromos entered Djibouti at the Dawalle border while Somali Ethiopians accessed Djibouti at the Borame border point. Some travelled independently on foot to the Obock departure point, and paid between USD 159 and 265 for the boat journey to Yemen.</p> <p>90 Ethiopian women assisted to return from Saudi Arabia: Ethiopians foreign minister recently visited the Ethiopian consulate in Jeddah where over 90 women were seeking refugee following abuse from their employers. The women were engaged in domestic work in Jeddah. They fled from their employers after suffering various abuses including physical and sexual assault, withholding of passports, long working hours, refusal to pay agreed upon salary and in some cases murder. Many of the women were in need of psychosocial assistance as a result of the abuse they experienced and expressed their desire to return home. They were assisted to return and arrived in Addis Ababa on 8th July.</p> <p>Government response to the irregular movement of Ethiopians: It was reported that an Ethiopian delegation visited Yemen in July and informed Yemeni authorities that a committee had been set up in Ethiopia with the aim of dissuading the irregular movement of migrants/refugees to Yemen. In response to the abuse of Ethiopian migrants the foreign minister called for a meeting of Heads of Mission in the Middle East, community members and ministry officials to discuss human trafficking and victim assistance. The Government of Ethiopia recently established a National Council against Human Trafficking to raise awareness on human trafficking, and the National Movement against Human Trafficking to reinforce government efforts in halting the vice.</p> |

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| <p>Kenya</p> | <p>High Court judgement on encampment of urban refugees: The High Court of Kenya ruled against the government directive of 18th December 2012 requiring the encampment of urban refugees, slated as a precursor to the eventual return of Somali refugees. The court stated that the directive was in violation of refugees right to dignity and free movement and showed no evidence of enhancing national security. The decision is set to lead to the resumption of services to refugees and asylum seekers in Nairobi and other urban centres including registration, issuance of documents, access to social services and protection from arbitrary arrest.</p> <p>Refugees and Asylum seekers in Kenya: Kenya is host to 576,972 , refugees and asylum seekers, 51,225 of them in Nairobi. The largest number of refugees and asylum seekers remain Somali nationals (471,878), followed by South Sudanese (43,780), and Ethiopians (30,802).</p> <p>Discussion continues on the return of Somali refugees: It was reported that Kenya, Somalia and representatives from UNHCR met to discuss a framework for the voluntary return of Somali refugees from Kenya. Among the discussions were deliberations on the necessity of Somali returns to assist in nation building and the need to ensure returns were safe, orderly and upheld the human dignity of the refugees. It has been reported that over 22,500 refugees from the region have returned to Somali voluntarily since January 2013. However, recent reports indicate that Al Shabab is harassing returning refugees from Kenya at road blocks mounted near the Kenya-Somali border. A conference to discuss modalities for the voluntary return of Somali refugees from Kenya scheduled for 28th and 29th August 2013 in Nairobi is reported to have been postponed to November 2013.</p> <p>Detention and Removal of Irregular migrants: In three separate incidences a total of 135 Ethiopians were intercepted in Nairobi, Lunga lunga in the Coast Region, and at the Nairobi airport. 89 of the Ethiopians were seized in Nairobi's Dagoretti area, pleaded guilty to being illegally present in the Kenya and were awaiting sentencing. 25 were arrested in Lunga lunga and following a guilty plea, sentenced to 4 months in prison or a fine of Kshs 20,000 which they could not raise. The 25 migrants/refugees had previously been imprisoned in Tanzania, where they were intercepted enroute to South Africa. Another 25 irregular migrants/refugees were flown back to Ethiopia by the Ethiopian embassy in Nairobi after being intercepted at the airport enroute to Beirut and other Arab countries. They had been tricked by illegal brokers who left them stranded after they paid between USD 159 and 265.</p> |
| <p>Puntland</p> | <p>Arabian sea arrivals in Yemen: In July, 122 migrants/refugees crossed the Arabian Sea to Yemen from Bossaso and other coastal areas of Puntland. This represents an 82% decrease from June 2013 and a 67% decrease from July 2012. Puntland in recent years has become a less common departure point to Yemen, partly because the Arabian sea crossing is longer in distance, taking up to 36 hours, and much more dangerous than the Red sea crossing. The Arabian sea experiences strong South west monsoon winds during the months of June, July and August resulting in rough seas. It was reported by a partner on the ground that the Puntland government has also established police posts, and have been cracking down on smuggling networks near Elayo and Marrero, well known departure points for migrants/refugees.</p> |
| <p>Somalia (S-C)</p> | <p>Somali movements to Yemen: An estimated 623 Somalis arrived on the Yemeni shores in July 2013, a 9% decrease from June 2013 and 57% decrease from June 2012. The decrease in Somali arrivals may be as a result of the change in the political situation in Somalia or the push from Saudi Arabia authorities who have tightened their border controls in recent months, as well as poor weather conditions resulting in unfavourable sea conditions. Somali migrants/refugees are mostly from south and central Somalia including Mogadishu, Benadir, Lower and Middle Juba and the Shabelles. They mainly belong to the Hawiye, Isaq and Darood clans but some new arrivals placed themselves within the minority clans of Digil Mirifle, Rahanweyn or Jareer. Many of the new arrivals have primary level of education. They cite insecurity in south and central Somalia, Alshabab attacks on civilians, fear of forced recruitment and the search for economic opportunities in gulf countries as their reason for flight.</p> <p>Modalities of Travel: Somalis continue to rely on a smuggling network in Mogadishu. They paid USD 450 for the trip to Yemen. They flew to Hargeisa and entered Djibouti at Loya Ade. Those who travel independently flew to Hargeisa at the cost of USD 120 and paid USD 70 for inland transportation from Hargeisa to Loya Ade and Obock. Migrants/refugees reported paying USD 150 for the boat journey to Yemen.</p> <p>IDP levels in Somalia remain approximately 1.1 million: Over 36,000 Somalis have been displaced since the</p> |

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| | <p>beginning of the year. In July, 4,130 Somalis were internally displaced a 22% decrease from June 2013. Displacement was mainly due to evictions, insecurity, lack of livelihood opportunities, clan conflict, forced return and drought. Displaced populations moved mainly to Shabelle Dhexe, Benadir, Shabelle Hoose, Juba Hoose and Bay regions. Since January 2013, 1,734 IDP families have been assisted to return home to the Bay and Shabelle region, and 980 IDPs spontaneously returned to their homes in and around Mogadishu in July 2013. An estimated 5,500 IDPs have spontaneously returned to their homes since January 2013.</p> <p>Somali Refugee Returns: An estimated 2,500 Somali refugee returns were recorded in July 2013. Since January 2013 over 22,500 Somali refugees have returned to Somalia primarily from Kenya, Ethiopia, Saudi Arabia and Yemen.</p> <p>Refugees and Asylum seekers: In July there were 1,015, 254 Somali refugees in the region. Kenya hosts the largest Somali refugee population followed by Ethiopia and Yemen. Over 21,612 Somalis have sought refuge in neighbouring countries since January 2013. Mogadishu is host to 62 refugees from Zanzibar.</p> |
| <p>Yemen</p> | <p>New Arrivals: In July 2013, 3,832 migrants/refugees crossed into Yemen via the Red Sea (Djibouti) and the Arabian Sea (Somaliland/Puntland), a 50% decrease from July 2012 and a 10% decrease from June 2013. A majority of the new arrivals have in mind Saudi Arabia as their final destination but some migrants/refugees expressed a desire to reach Oman.</p> <p>Boats & passengers: There were a total of 78 migrant boat trips that arrived on the Yemeni coast in July 2013. The average number of passengers on each boat was 49 per trip (not including smugglers/crew).</p> <p>Assistance to stranded migrants/refugees: In July, it was reported that UNICEF Yemen and Ethiopia offices, IOM and the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) coordinated the return of 137 unaccompanied minors, all male, to Ethiopia.</p> <p>Migrant vulnerability: Female migrants/refugees interviewed confirmed harassment, sexual assault or witnessing a rape incident during their boat journey to Yemen. There were 70 recorded incidents of sexual and gender based violence in the month of July. Migrants/refugees continue to face extortion during the boat journey. Smuggling crews stop mid-voyage and threaten to throw migrants/refugees overboard unless they pay an additional USD 50 or 100. Smuggling crew also threatened to throw a crying infant overboard if the mother did not stop the infant from crying.</p> <p>An estimated 2,995 migrant/refugee abductions (of new arrivals and existing migrants) were recorded in July 2013, 289 were female. In April 3,774 abductions were reported while 2,810 were reported in May 2013. Marauding gangs continue to patrol coastal roads on motorbikes in search of Ethiopians to kidnap/abduct for ransom. Released hostages risk re-abduction. The Danish Refugee Council (DRC) team in Hajjah/Hodeida encountered 128 Ethiopians who had been held hostage on arrival in Yemen. Criminality involving Kidnapping/abduction for ransom and trafficking in migrant/refugee women along the Yemeni coast is well documented. However, new reports indicate that criminal gangs operating along the Red sea may be venturing into organ harvesting. Two Ethiopians succumbed to dehydration in July.</p> <p>Somalis explore opportunities to return from Yemen: The Aden Immigration Office reported that at least 90 (74 households) Somalis registered their interest to return to Somalia in July 2013.</p> <p>Response to irregular movement: Reports indicate that community leaders in Jabal el Nar, Mocha in Taiz governorate where migrants/refugees are often held for ransom, are taking action against criminal gangs. In one incident, a Sheikh led members of his community in raiding a premises where Ethiopian migrants/refugees were held. Many of the migrants/refugees released had been assaulted and subjected to starvation. The Yemen coast guards sometimes mounts operations to stop smuggling in Taiz governorate. Intercepted migrants/refugees are arrested and detained at Taiz prison.</p> |
| <p>Other Regional news</p> | <p>South Africa signs 'Prevention and Combating of Trafficking Bill' into law: President Zuma signed into law the Prevention and Combating of Trafficking Bill giving South Africa a comprehensive piece of legislation to address human trafficking. Previous legislation on trafficking was restricted to the trafficking of children and trafficking for sexual exploitation. The new legislation creates the offence of trafficking punishable by life imprisonment. The legislation also criminalizes debt bondage, tampering with travel documentation and provides</p> |

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| | <p>for protection and assistance to victims of trafficking. The next step is operationalization of the law through the adoption of regulations by relevant government departments.</p> <p>Two men claiming to be Somalis attempt to enter mainland Australia: Two men claiming to be Somali nationals were found in Boigu island on the Torres Strait possibility en route to mainland Australia. The two travelled an extraordinary distance but because they arrived by boat they could not be processed or settled in Australia, in accordance to recently announced changes to the Australian asylum system for migrants/refugees arriving by boat. The Somali men were scheduled for health and identity checks before being transferred to either the island of Nauru or Papa New Guinea which recently entered into agreement with Australia to receive asylum seekers, seeking to enter Australia by boat. It has been reported that the recent agreement between Australia and Papa New Guinea sparked fears that a smuggling corridor would emerge in the North Eastern State of Queensland. A new deal between Australia and Nauru superseding last year's agreement was announced that allows asylum seekers to Australia to be processed and settled in Nauru.</p> <p>More than 200 Somali migrants/refugees rescued off Sicily: It was reported that a group of 116 migrants mostly Somali were drifting in the canal off Sicily before being rescued by a navy vessel and taken to the island of Lampedusa. Another 100 were picked up by Frontex, the European Union border control agency, handed over to the coast guard, and taken to Portopalo, a Sicilian port.</p> |
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