



Regional mixed migration summary for December 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 Yemen: In December, an estimated 244 migrants/refugees arrived on Yemen's shores via Djibouti, an 82% decrease from arrivals in November 2013, and a 96% decrease from the migrants/refugees that arrived in December 2012 and 2011. An estimated 40% of the new arrivals were attempting their journey for the second time. At least 100 additional migrants/refugees were reported stranded in Obock awaiting financing from relatives for their onward journey to Yemen. Some migrants returned to Ethiopia after receiving information on the expulsion of undocumented labour migrants by the Saudi Government which began mid- November 2013. The governments of Ethiopia and Djibouti are also reported to have increased surveillance along migration routes and departure points in the last couple of months to deter migration flows.</p> <p>Boats: A total of 11 vessels left via the Red Sea for Yemen carrying an average of 22 passengers per trip in the month of December.</p> <p>Migrant vulnerability: An estimated 224 migrants/refugees mainly Ethiopian, who reportedly arrived on the shores of Yemen between June and December 2013, were encountered <i>en route</i> to northern Yemen and indicated having been abducted on arrival from Obock, Djibouti. A total of 10,786 men and 1,840 women arrived on the shores of Yemen from Djibouti in the second half of 2013. Nearly 80% of the arrivals in the second half of 2013 were Ethiopian, followed by Somalis and an estimated 66 Eritreans. Somalis face frequent arrest in Djibouti on charges related to allegations of membership or affiliation to Al Shabab.</p>
<p>Somaliland</p>	<p>Migrants/refugees depart from Somaliland: Reports indicate that an average of 750 migrants/refugees continues to leave Somaliland every month hoping to reach Libya, in search of work or as a springboard to Europe. The migrants/refugees include a large number of educated Somaliland youth as well as Ethiopians and Somalis from Puntland and South Central. The Ethiopian government has been intercepting migrants moving from Somaliland in an attempt to irregularly reach Libya and local organizations report an average of 200 migrants/refugees being intercepted and returned to Somaliland every month.</p>
<p>Israel</p>	<p>Mass protests by migrants in Israel: Mass protests by up to 10,000 migrants/asylum seekers and human rights activists were reported in December 2013 and early January 2014 in Israel. The migrants and asylum seekers were protesting the Israeli government's detention policy and asserted their right to asylum and protection be recognised and adjudicated. Following a court ruling in September 2013 quashing an amendment to the Israel Anti-Infiltration law that allowed the 3 year detention of migrants and asylum seekers, the Israeli parliament responded by passing legislation that provides for the 1 year detention of migrants and asylum seekers without trial. In addition, a new detention facility, Holot centre in the Negev desert, was opened in mid-December and 500 migrants still detained at the Sa'aronim detention centre transferred to the facility.</p> <p>Human rights organisations moved to the High Court in mid-December seeking to nullify the new amendment which they argue contravenes the September High Court decision. According to UNHCR, Israel is host to 53,000 refugees and asylum seekers 36,000 from Eritrea and 14,000 from Sudan. The country is reported to have granted less than 200 asylum applicants refugee status since its establishment as a state in 1948, granting instead temporary protection which requires periodic renewal through conditional release visas. The Israeli government is reported to have approved a grant of up to USD 3500 to migrants/asylum seekers that return to their countries of origin voluntarily but advocacy groups question the voluntariness of migrant/asylum seeker returns where their only other option is detention.</p>

<p>Sudan/ South Sudan</p>	<p>South Sudanese flee for safety: Reports indicate that between 355,000 South Sudanese have been displaced throughout the country following an outbreak of violence in mid-December attributed to fighting between government forces and a rival faction. It is feared that the number of displaced could rise to 400,000 in the coming weeks. More than 78,000 South Sudanese sought refuge in neighbouring countries, approximately 42,654 in Uganda, 5,778 in Kenya, and 18,600 in Ethiopia. Unconfirmed numbers are said to have fled to Sudan with UNHCR estimating 10,000 while the Sudanese Government reports no more than just over 1300 arrivals. Further displacement is anticipated both within and beyond the border as fighting rages and mediation talks continue in Addis Ababa.</p>
<p>Eritrea</p>	<p>Eritreans return from Israel: More than half a dozen Eritreans are reported to have returned to Eritrea from Israel since the beginning of January 2014.</p>
<p>Ethiopia</p>	<p>New Arrivals in Yemen: An estimated 272 Ethiopians made their way to Yemen in December 2013, an 84% decrease from November arrivals and a 96% decrease from the migrants/refugees who arrived in December 2012 and 2011. A large number of the new arrivals are of Oromo origin, followed by Ogadens, Tigrays and Amharas. The new arrivals have little formal education and were engaged in farming prior to their departure for Yemen. Farmers cited restrictive government policy as their reason for flight. Oromos and Ogadens cited political persecution while Muslim youth arriving in Yemen cited persecution and discrimination on religious grounds as their reason for flight.</p> <p>Modalities of Travel: The three main routes utilized by Ethiopians were Afar/Diredawa to Dawale and onward to Obock; Jijiga to Borama then Loya Ade and onward to Obock; and Borama to Hargeysa then Bossaso and onward to Yemen. A number of Ethiopians are reported to have walked through mountainous regions to avoid arrest as a result of increased government surveillance aimed at curbing irregular migration.</p> <p>Refugees and asylum seekers: At the end of November, Ethiopia was host to 427,077 refugees from Somalia (56%), Eritrea (19%), South Sudan (16%), Sudan (7%) and refugees from several other countries (1%). More than 2500 new refugee arrivals were registered, 70% of them from Eritrea. The average monthly rate of Eritrean refugee arrivals ranges between 1,500 and 2,000. The Eritrean case load includes unaccompanied minors some as young as 6 years old and in need of special protection. In December, nearly 40,000 inhabitants of Northern Kenya crossed into Moyale, Ethiopia fleeing inter-communal conflict. In addition over 18,600 South Sudanese mainly from the Agnuak community crossed into Ethiopia through Akobo, Pagak and Raad in Gambella region since fighting broke out in South Sudan in mid-December.</p> <p>Returns from Saudi Arabia: By the end of the first week of January 2014 it was reported that 152,965 Ethiopian labour migrants had arrived in Addis Ababa from Saudi Arabia. The returnees included 94,060 men, 50,655 women and 8,250 children, including 461 unaccompanied minors. Daily arrival rates dropped to zero at the beginning of 2014 from 7,000 in mid-November at the height of the return exercise but returned to 1,000 daily by 7th January, 2014. Humanitarian assistance to returnees albeit constrained by lack of resources is on-going, with IOM among other agencies leading the response. Questions linger on the impact the returnees will have on existing land resources, remittances which many families depend on for sustenance and movement westward to Sudan where opportunities are said to exist for domestic and other work. Also concerning is the impact these tens of thousands of returnees will have on future migration flows out of Ethiopia.</p> <p>The Ethiopian government responds to irregular migration: Ethiopian authorities are reported to have launched anti-migration campaigns along established migration routes namely Diredawa to Loya Ade and Jijiga to Borama following the expulsion of 152,965 Ethiopian labour migrants from Saudi Arabia from November 2013. Unconfirmed reports emerged that Ethiopians caught selling their livestock to raise ransom money to release their kidnapped kin in Yemen were arrested. Smugglers and brokers are reported to be hiding to evade arrest as a result of joint security operations between Ethiopia and Djibouti that led to the arrest of over 40 smuggling brokers currently awaiting prosecution by Ethiopian authorities.</p>
<p>Kenya</p>	<p>Refugees and Asylum seekers in Kenya: Kenya is host to 584,223 refugees and asylum seekers, 50,400 of them in Nairobi (urban refugees). The largest number of refugees and asylum seekers remain Somali nationals (477,424), followed by South Sudanese (46,176), and Ethiopians (31,209).</p> <p>Kenya and Somalia agree to facilitate voluntary return of Somali refugees: A chorus of voices, by various government officials, calling for closure of the Dadaab refugee complex and Somali returns has created a widely</p>

	<p>held perception that Somali refugees may be forced to return to Somalia. Sections of the refugee population are reported to have voiced their willingness to return in principle but pointed out that the security situation in Somalia remains precarious and infrastructure such as schools and hospitals are still lacking.</p> <p>Criminal Investigation Department investigates smuggling racket: Reports indicate that investigations are ongoing to establish the alleged involvement of a senior police officer in a smuggling racket. The officer suspected of involvement in a multimillion smuggling racket is stationed in Kajiado county, along the Nairobi-Arusha, Tanzania highway, 80 kilometres south of the capital Nairobi. The implicated officer is accused by his juniors of providing security for Somali migrants/refugees moving in lorries from Konza, Mashuru and Loitokitok in Kajiado county before they cross into Tanzania. Somali refugees allegedly pay between USD 800-1200 for safe passage across the border. This flow of migrants represents the transit section through Kenya, of the southern direction of migrants towards South Africa.</p>
<p>Puntland</p>	<p>Arabian sea arrivals in Yemen: In December 2013, just 206 migrants/refugees crossed the Arabian Sea to Yemen from Bossaso and other coastal areas of Puntland, a 66% decrease from the migrants/refugees that made the crossing in November 2013. The December 2013 Arabian sea arrival figures were approximately 89% less than those recorded for the crossing in December 2012 and 2011.</p>
<p>Somalia (S-C)</p>	<p>Somali movements to Yemen: An estimated 170 Somalis arrived on the Yemeni shores in December 2013, a 47% decrease from November 2013 arrivals. November 2013 arrivals averaged 89% less than the arrival figures for November 2012 and 2011 respectively. New arrivals mostly belong to Dir and Darood clans. Somalis from Digil Mirifle, Jareer or Arab Furis clans were also recorded. A majority of the new arrivals were unemployed or engaged in petty trade prior to their departure for Yemen and possess basic level education. They cited insecurity particularly in Kismayo and Johwar as well as lack of access to basic services as their reason for flight. Some members of the minority farming community indicated fleeing because members of majority clans took possession of their property. Somalis from Al Shabab occupied areas of Jowhar and the Shabelles indicated fleeing as a result of floods and drought in their region. Youth cited persecution by Government forces on suspicion of affiliation to Al Shabab as their reason for flight.</p> <p>Modalities of travel: Somalis travel by flight from Mogadishu to Berbera or Hargeysa or by road through Galkayo to Hargeysa and onward to Loya Ade at a cost of between USD 400-500 for journey to Yemen.</p> <p>Refugees and asylum seekers: By the end of 2013 there were over 1 million Somali refugees in the region hosted mainly in Kenya, Ethiopia, Yemen, Eritrea, Djibouti and Uganda. Over 21,000 Somali asylum seekers sought refuge in neighbouring countries in 2013. Somalia is host to 2,373 refugees including 63 Zanzibari refugees in Mogadishu and 11, 093 registered asylum seekers, mainly from Ethiopia.</p> <p>Somali returns from Saudi Arabia: The Somalicurrent reported that more than 2,000 Somalis were returned to Mogadishu in 48 hours mid-January 2014 possibly pursuant to the ongoing crackdown on labour migrants in Saudi Arabia that begun in early November 2013, while 8,500 Somalis are reported to have been returned in December 2013. http://www.somalicurrent.com/2014/01/13/saudi-arabia-deports-2000-somali-migrants/</p>
<p>Yemen</p>	<p>New Arrivals: In December, 450 migrants/refugees crossed into Yemen via the Red Sea (Djibouti) and the Arabian Sea (Somaliland/Puntland), a 77% decrease from the numbers that reached Yemen in November 2013 and a 94% decrease from those that arrived in December 2012 and 2011. The December 2013 arrivals on the shores of Yemen were the lowest monthly arrival rates since July 2007. The drop in numbers can be attributed to the mass returns taking place from Saudi Arabia to Ethiopia and may be an indication that migrant/refugee movements west to Sudan and Libya, down the Eastern corridor to South Africa and east of Yemen to Oman are likely to increase. A total of 65,319 arrived on the shores of Yemen in 2013, 39% less than the migrants/refugees that arrived in 2012 (said to be a record breaking year) and 36% less than the migrants/refugees that arrived in 2011. Some new arrivals indicated being informed by smugglers that they could fill the labour gap in Saudi Arabia left by thousands of returning migrants, while others indicated that they were targeting Yemen as their final destination as opposed to a transit location to Saudi Arabia.</p> <p>Boats & passengers: There were a total of 14 migrant boat trips that arrived on the Yemeni coast in December</p>

	<p>2013. The average number of passengers on each boat was 32 per trip (not including smugglers/crew).</p> <p>Migrant Vulnerability: New arrivals continue to face the risk of kidnapping upon arrival on Yemeni shores. Women recount their rape experiences while migrants/refugees who are held for ransom are subjected to severe assault including beating and burning with metal pipes and hot oil. Ransom amounts to secure the release of abductees ranged between USD 530-800.</p> <p>Returns from Yemen: In the last half of 2013, 788 Somali families sought exit permits from the Yemen Immigration Office in Aden to facilitate their return to Somalia. To return, the Somalis are required to obtain a travel document from the consul at a cost of USD 7 and an exit stamp from the Yemeni authorities at a cost of USD 14 while boat fees average USD 25. Commercial firms have sprouted in Basateen, Aden offering Somali migrants/refugees seeking return an all inclusive fee of USD 84 including documentation and transportation. Somalis are reported to be selling their personal belongings to finance their return and the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) office in Aden reported that 22 families approached their office seeking assistance to return to Somalia. Local community contacts indicate that an unknown number of Somali migrants/refugees are stranded in Mukalla and are seeking assistance to return to Bossasso, Puntland. Nearly 200 Ethiopians were camped outside the UN office in Aden requesting return assistance. IOM assisted 2,050 Ethiopian and 10 Nigerian migrants under their voluntary assistance programme to return to their respective countries in 2013.</p> <p>Surveillance along the coastline: Smugglers are reported to be hiding out at sea for long periods to evade detection by Yemeni authorities and anti-smuggling units along the Red sea coast. At the end of December clashes were reported between weapons smugglers and Yemeni military, with no confirmed casualties.</p>
<p>Other Regional news</p>	<p>Responses to the October Mediterranean boat tragedies: The European Commission is reported to have endorsed a 38 point action plan to address risks that migrants/refugees face making the Mediterranean crossing in overcrowded sub-standard vessels in December. Implementation of actions agreed upon is set for review in July 2014. In related developments, the Libyan coast guard is reported to be ill equipped to handle the irregular movement of migrants across its 2,000km long shore. The coast guard lacks radar equipment, helicopters, and navy ships which have fallen into disuse following the fall of the Gadhafi regime. The EU has embarked on training exercises for the coast guard, and Libya is awaiting the arrival of vessels to assist them in their response to irregular migration across their shores.</p> <p>Observing International Migrants Day: 18th December was established as International Migrants Day in the year 2000 to promote the protection of migrant's rights. The UNODC as the guardian of the Transnational Organized Crime Convention and its protocols on smuggling and trafficking reiterated the need for '<i>better protection and more support for smuggled migrants</i>' in its message to mark International Migrants Day. UNODC added that tackling smuggling requires comprehensive action with intervention at the very preliminary stages supported by better intelligence and capacities on the ground, enhanced cooperation among countries of origin, transit and destination, and combating corruption. IOM called for decisive action to stem the loss of life of migrants/refugees who die in desperate attempts to cross international borders to safety. The UN urged governments to ratify and implement all core international human rights instruments, and reject xenophobia while embracing the benefits of migration.</p> <p>1000 migrants rescued off Lampedusa: In first week of 2014, two separate incidents were reported within 24 hours involving the rescue of 823, and 233 migrants/refugees off the coast of Lampedusa by the Italian coastguard. The rescued migrants who were ferried to Sicily included nationals from Somalia and Eritrea as well as 30 women and 42 children according to BBC. The rescue lends credence to indications that movement across the Mediterranean in the winter months thought to be riskier because of poor weather conditions is not abating, signaling migrants/refugees increasing desperation to reach Europe.</p>
<p>New Research, reports or documents</p>	<p>UNHCR guidelines on refugee claims related to military service: http://www.refworld.org/docid/529ee33b4.html</p> <p>Making life more bearable for detained migrants: International Rescue Committee (IRC), International Organization for Migration (IOM) and Yemen Red Crescent Society coordinate efforts to assist migrants in detention in Yemen: http://reliefweb.int/report/yemen/making-life-more-bearable-detained-migrants-video</p>

This information sheet is distributed to over 950 agencies, academic institutions, donors, embassies, journalists, government officials / departments, international and multi-national organisations and related non-government organisations.