



**Regional mixed migration summary for March 2014 covering mixed migration events, trends and data for Djibouti, Eritrea, Sudan/South 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, and refugees). If the case load mentioned refers only to refugees, asylum seekers or trafficked persons, it will be clearly stated.

Country	Events /trends/ data / analysis
<p><b>Djibouti</b></p>	<p><b>New arrivals in Yemen:</b> In March 2014, an estimated 3,028 migrants/refugees arrived on Yemen's shores via Djibouti, a 65% increase from arrivals in February 2014, but a 62% average decrease from the migrants/refugees that arrived in March 2012 and 2013. The sudden rise in March new arrival figures suggests the steep decline witnessed at the end of 2013 and January 2014 resulting from the crackdown on labour migrants in Saudi Arabia may be coming to an end, and the coming months may exhibit arrival trends closer to those witnessed in 2012/13.</p> <p><b>Boats:</b> A total of 55 vessels left via the Red Sea for Yemen carrying an average of 55 passengers per trip.</p> <p><b>Migrant vulnerability:</b> Reports indicate that migrants/refugees continue to converge in Obock and its environs. They report lack of food and water as their primary concern as they await transportation across the Red sea to Yemen. In addition, reports of heightened security at the Djibouti/Ethiopia Dawalle border point continued in March 2014. The Djiboutian coast guard is also reported to have intensified patrols along the coastline, resulting in the interception of 2 vessels and the arrest of an estimated 60 migrants/refugees, mainly Ethiopian nationals, including 9 women. The sea journey from the Obock departure point to the Yemeni shore took an average of 3-9 hours during March.</p>
<p><b>Somaliland</b></p>	<p><b>Irregular movement to Libya:</b> An estimated 270 migrants/refugees including 20 minors were intercepted and arrested at the border of Ethiopia and Sudan in March. The intercepted migrants were scheduled for return to Somaliland. It is estimated that an average of 600 migrants (presumed to be mainly economic migrants) have been returned by Ethiopian authorities to Somaliland since the beginning of 2014.</p>
<p><b>Israel</b></p>	<p><b>Asylum seekers leave Israel:</b> The Interior Ministry is reported to have confirmed that asylum seekers in Israel are voluntarily returning to their countries of origin or departing for third countries. Departing asylum seekers receive a grant of USD 3,500 and an air ticket. However, civil society actors continue to question the 'voluntariness' of departures. Conditions of stay for asylum seekers in Israel reportedly preclude the acquisition of refugee status rights, and expose migrants/asylum seekers to the possibility of prolonged detention. A December 2013 amendment to the Anti-infiltration law provides for detention without trial for a period of 1 year for migrants/asylum seekers irregularly entering Israel, and indefinite detention for asylum seekers who cannot be returned to their countries of origin because of persecution risks. An estimated 3,000 migrants/asylum seekers are held in detention in Israel out of a population of 50,000, 36,000 Eritreans and 14,000 Sudanese. An estimated 1, 705 asylum seekers departed in February, up from 780 that departed in January 2014, 325 in December 2013 and 63 in November 2013.</p> <p><b>Advocacy groups seek intervention from the courts:</b> A suit to challenge the legality of the December 2013 amendment to the Anti-infiltration law was heard by an expanded panel of 9 judges at the beginning of April 2014. Civil society actors arguing the suit are advocating that migrants/asylum seekers should not be held in detention unless parallel or concurrent processes for removal are being effected. In addition, the organisations argue that detention must be time bound and accompanied by appropriate legal procedures such as removal as mentioned above, or adjudication of asylum claims. The civil society actors were however challenged to suggest agreeable alternatives that the state could implore to effectively address the situation of migrants/asylum seekers, while the state was put to task on its near non-existent track record of granting refugee status.</p>

<p><b>Sudan/ South Sudan</b></p>	<p><b>South Sudanese flee for safety:</b> The situation in South Sudan remains tense with continued fighting reported between government and opposition forces. An estimated 803,200 are internally displaced and another 283,400 are reported to have fled since the beginning of the current crisis in mid-December 2013. By 10<sup>th</sup> April 96,983 South Sudanese are reported to have fled to Uganda, 92,450 to Ethiopia at the rate of 800-1000 every day, 60,568 to Sudan, and 33,399 to Kenya including over 4,000 separated children. At the time of writing this report (mid-April) continuing attacks were being reported with new movements of those fleeing the violence. This will be reported in more detail in next month's report.</p> <p><b>Sudanese and Ethiopian police sign cooperation agreement:</b> Police authorities in Sudan and Ethiopia are reported to have signed an agreement aimed at enhancing collaboration in policing, including combating human trafficking and other cross border crimes. Reports also indicate that Sudanese and Egyptian defence authorities are in discussion to set up joint border units to respond to human trafficking and smuggling along their common boundaries. Sudan is reported to have recently enacted a federal law on the prevention of human trafficking and smuggling aimed at curbing and addressing the crimes. Members of the United Nations Human Rights Council in mid-March are reported to have called on Sudan and Egypt to investigate the kidnapping and torture of Eritreans in the Sinai peninsula, identify and provide assistance to victims, and prosecute perpetrators. The members also called on the Special Rapporteur on Trafficking in Persons to visit the concerned countries and keep the Council apprised on developments. UNHCR in March indicated that reports of Kidnapping of refugees and migrants have declined in recent months attributed to police and military action complimented by support from international actors.</p>
<p><b>Eritrea</b></p>	<p><b>United Nations Special Rapporteur on violations resulting from national service:</b> The Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Eritrea (Sheila B. Keetharuth) is reported to have concluded a visit to Germany and Switzerland at the end of March. During the visit she collected first-hand information from Eritrean migrants/refugees on human rights violations in Eritrea. The Special Rapporteur cited in accordance to earlier findings that indefinite national service dominates life in Eritrea. She highlighted various abuses citizens endure including regular military roundups for arbitrary reasons, or reasons that remain unknown. She also highlighted the harassment of family members of those who have fled in the form of arrest, detention or payment of heavy fines in an environment where access to justice mechanisms may not be immediately available. The Special Rapporteur has yet to be granted a visa to visit Eritrea. See her statement <a href="#">here</a>. The Permanent Mission of the State of Eritrea in Geneva is reported to have released a statement disputing the assertions made by the Rapporteur available <a href="#">here</a>.</p> <p><b>Trial of 3 suspected Eritrean smugglers begins in Germany:</b> It was reported that the trial of 3 Eritrean men charged with collaborating in the smuggling of migrants begun in Frankfurt, Germany. The men are alleged to have provided accommodation to the migrants in Frankfurt following their arrival in Italy by boat and subsequent movement to Germany.</p> <p><b>Eritrean refugees and asylums seekers released:</b> Reports indicate that Djiboutian authorities released 266 Eritrean refugees/asylum seekers held in detention at the Nagad Police Academy in Djibouti. The Eritreans were reportedly transferred to UNHCR's Ali Addeh refugee camp. Some of the detainees had been held for over 5 years at the Nagad Police Academy in Djibouti according to a statement released by the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Eritrea available <a href="#">here</a>.</p>
<p><b>Ethiopia</b></p>	<p><b>New arrivals in Yemen:</b> An estimated 4,476 Ethiopians made their way to Yemen in March 2014, a 68% increase from the February 2014 arrivals but a 51% average decrease from the migrants/refugees who arrived in March 2012 and 2013. New arrivals were predominantly from Oromia, while others travelled from Amhara, Harar, Tigray and Somali regions. Ethiopians report fleeing primarily for economic reasons. However, some new arrivals reported flight as a result of religious and political persecution, as well as perceived affiliation to the Oromo Liberation Front (OLF). Some new arrivals reported attempting the journey for a second time, following recent deportation from Saudi Arabia.</p> <p><b>Refugees and asylum seekers:</b> Ethiopia is host to over 500,000 refugees. The largest single nationality among the refugee population remains Somali (243,824), with a rapidly growing South Sudanese population. The South Sudanese population has surpassed the 90,000 mark with a rate of between 800 and 1,000 arrivals recorded</p>

every day.

**Modalities of travel:** New arrivals reportedly travelled from Jigjiga to Wajale by bus, then proceeded to Borama and Djibouti via Loya Ade. They also travelled from West/East Harage to Dire Dawa, then to Djibouti by car, while some walked for up to eight days before entering Djibouti at the Dawalle border point, and proceeding to Obock (maritime departure point) via Tadjoura. They reportedly paid between USD 250 and 360 for entire the journey to Yemen.

**The Ethiopian government responds to irregular migration:** The expulsion of almost 160,000 Ethiopian labour migrants by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia prompted the Ethiopian government in collaboration with IOM and the civil society to launch a public awareness campaign on the risks of irregular migration. The campaign involves creating forums to discuss local alternatives to migration and mechanisms to combat irregular migration. The initiative is targeting 5 high risk migration areas, including Oromia, Tigray, Amhara, SNNPR National Regional States and Addis Ababa City Administration. The initiative compliments other awareness raising efforts including national and regional workshops, radio programmes and touring theatre shows.

## Kenya

**Refugees and asylum seekers in Kenya:** Kenya is host to 555,980 refugees and asylum seekers, 50,815 of them in Nairobi (urban refugees). The largest number of refugees and asylum seekers remain Somali nationals (428,428 ), followed by South Sudanese (63,211), and Ethiopians (30,144). Between February and March the Somali refugee population decreased by 3,491 individuals while the South Sudanese refugee population in Kenya increased by 8,038 individuals. It is estimated that there are tens of thousands undocumented migrants from neighbouring countries and further afield who reside in Kenya, predominantly in urban areas.

**Progress on the Tripartite Agreement:** Reports indicate that Kenya, Somalia and UNHCR have nominated all 12 representatives required to sit on the Tripartite commission tasked with advancing voluntary and organized repatriation of refugees as well as the reintegration of returnees in Somalia. The commission's first meeting is scheduled for April 2014 in Mogadishu. An estimated 2,600 refugees have registered their interest with UNHCR to return to various parts of Somalia. The [Tripartite Agreement](#) was signed on 10th November 2013.

**Restatement of the encampment directive:** On 25th March 2014 the Interior Ministry restated a government directive requiring all refugees residing in urban areas to move to designated camps in the Northern part of the country. The initial directive issued in December 2012 was abrogated by the High court of Kenya in mid-2013 for being in contravention with constitutional guarantees.

**Operation Usalama Watch:** At the end of March 2014 the Interior Ministry launched a security operation dubbed 'usalama watch' aimed at addressing rising terror related attacks in Kenya. The security operation resulted in the roundup of over 4000 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers, mostly of Somali origin, following police operations in Nairobi, Mombasa, Baragoi, Naivasha and Nakuru. The Interior Ministry announced that the migrants/refugees were rounded up for a document verification exercise. The verification exercise resulted in the deportation to Mogadishu of 82 Somali nationals including 1 refugee according to UNHCR. ' *The deportees were accompanied to Mogadishu by the Somali ambassador to Kenya, Mohamed Ali Nur Ameriko, who told IRIN that the deportees had chosen to return home to Somalia*' according to an IRIN article in April. Media reports indicate that over 200 additional migrants/refugees are scheduled for deportation. In addition, over 280 refugees were moved from Nairobi to the Dadaab and Kakuma refugee camps in an exercise that is reported to be on-going. Numerous reports also indicate the interception, arrest and detention of migrants, mainly Ethiopian, transiting through Kenya with the aim of reaching South Africa.

**UNHCR and Civil Society disturbed by arrests and detention:** UNHCR voiced its concern over the police operation 'usalama watch' concentrated in Eastleigh, a neighbourhood dominated by Somalis. The refugee agency recently gained access to the Kasarani stadium and police cells where migrants are held and cautioned over reports of harassment and other abuses, overcrowding and inadequate sanitation in holding facilities, and the involuntary return of refugees to places where they may be exposed to risk. Civil society organisations have called for the government to direct persons who wish to claim asylum to appropriate channels and consider specific protection and health related risks that impel refugees to reside in Nairobi and other urban areas. Police harassment relating to refugees and asylum seekers within the security imperative is well documented most recently in the Human Rights Watch (HRW) Report "You Are All Terrorists" *Kenyan Police Abuse of Refugees in Nairobi* available [here](#).

<p><b>Puntland</b></p>	<p><b>Arabian sea arrivals in Yemen:</b> In March 2014, 2,403 migrants/refugees crossed the Arabian Sea to Yemen from Bossaso and other coastal areas of Puntland, a 65% increase from the migrants/refugees that made the crossing in February 2014. The March 2014 Arabian sea arrival figures averaged approximately 25% less than those recorded for the crossing in March 2012 and 2013.</p> <p><b>IOM assists stranded Ethiopians in Puntland:</b> IOM sub-offices in Bossaso, Garowe, Hargeysa and Jigjiga, together with humanitarian partners and the governments of Ethiopia, Puntland and Somaliland assisted 65 stranded migrants to return to Ethiopia from Puntland. The migrants received transport assistance, temporary accommodation, and a reintegration grant on arrival in Addis Ababa. Puntland is said to be experiencing a growing number of stranded Ethiopian migrants following a decision by Saudi authorities to expel almost 160,000 Ethiopian migrant workers. An additional 53 Ethiopian migrants/refugees were arrested in Puntland at the beginning of April, a deportation order was issued by a Puntland court and the migrants/refugees await return.</p>
<p><b>Somalia (S-C)</b></p>	<p><b>Somali movements to Yemen:</b> An estimated 955 Somalis arrived on the Yemeni shores in March 2014, a 48% increase from February 2014 arrivals. March 2014 arrivals averaged 53% less than the Somali arrival figures for March 2012 and 2013. New arrivals were mainly from South Central and Somaliland particularly Woqoyi Galbeed, Awdal and Togdheer. Economic reasons continue to drive the exodus from Somalia. New arrivals also mentioned conflict between Al Shabab and government forces as their reason for flight. A few women reported flight as a result of harrasment from Al Shabab for what they termed '<i>inappropriate dress</i>'. Somali arrivals intention was to seek asylum and reside at the Al Kharaz refugee camp in Yemen while awaiting resettlement to a third country.</p> <p><b>Refugees and asylum seekers:</b> In beginning of April 2014, there were 956,066 Somali refugees in the region hosted mainly in Kenya, Ethiopia, Yemen, Eritrea, Djibouti and Uganda. An estimated 5,200 Somalis have sought refuge in neighbouring countries since the beginning of 2014. Somalia hosts a total of 2,470 refugees including 64 Zanzibari refugees in Mogadishu, and 10, 506 registered asylum seekers, mainly from Ethiopia. The refugees are mainly hosted in the Northern regions of Somaliland and Puntland.</p> <p><b>Modalities of travel:</b> Somali new arrivals departed from Mogadishu, Kismayo, Togdheer, Awdal and Hargeysa and belonged to the tribes of Hawiye, Darood, Dir, and Digil. Migrants/refugees originating in Mogadishu travelled inland to Galkayo, Garowe and then Hargeysa. They spent between USD 30 and 120 to reach Loya Ade on the border with Djibouti. Migrants/refugees still risk being intercepted at the Garowe check point, where they are required to pay a bribe for their freedom. They paid between USD 150 and 250 for their travel from Loya Ade to the maritime departure point - Obock and onward to Yemen. Migrants/refugees travelling independently to the Obock departure point paid USD 200 for the sea crossing. Migrants/refugees also travelled from Mogadishu to Berbera by plane and paid between USD 350 and 450 for the entire journey to Yemen.</p> <p><b>Cross border movements:</b> UNHCR recorded an estimated 1,500 Somali refugee border crossings in March 2014 mainly from Kenya. An estimated 5,000 cross border movements have been recorded since the beginning of 2014.</p>
<p><b>Yemen</b></p>	<p><b>New arrivals:</b> In March, 5,431 migrants/refugees crossed into Yemen via the Red Sea (Djibouti) and the Arabian Sea (Somaliland/Puntland), a 184% increase from the numbers that reached Yemen in February 2014 but a 52% average decrease from those that arrived in March 2012 and 2013. Some new arrivals, well aware of the border constrictions between Yemen and Saudi Arabia as well as recent deportations, still harboured the hope of reaching Saudi Arabia and other Gulf countries. DRC protection monitoring teams encountered an estimated 141 arrivals who were re-attempting their journey to Saudi Arabia.</p> <p><b>Boats &amp; passengers:</b> There were a total of 85 migrant boat trips that arrived on the Yemeni coast in March 2014. The average number of passengers on each boat was 63 per trip (not including smugglers/crew).</p> <p><b>Migrant vulnerability:</b> Migrants/refugees continue to face the risk of kidnapping, and arrest by authorities on disembarkation at the Yemeni coast. In addition, collusion between the Yemeni smuggling crew and kidnapers/traffickers resulting in the extortion and mistreatment of migrants continues to be reported on the Yemeni shore. Migrants/refugees also risk assault and theft of money by law enforcement authorities patrolling the Red Sea coastline. Migrants reported being subjected to beating, food and water deprivation until they paid between USD 260 and 550 to secure their release from kidnapers.</p>

<p><b>Other Regional news</b></p>	<p><b>Italy votes to abolish ‘illegal migration’ offence:</b> It was reported that measures were underway to abolish the crime of illegal migration introduced in Italy in 2009. The measures effectively transform the crime into an administrative infraction and make way for the publication of a decree to abolish the crime of illegal migration. Irregular migrants will still face arrest and expulsion on detection, however irregular entry and residence will not be classified as a criminal offence, and the failure to adhere to expulsion orders will be dealt with administratively.</p> <p><b>Movement across the Mediterranean:</b> IOM reported that an unprecedented 4,457 migrants and asylum seekers reached Sicily in a period of 3 days, the bulk of them on 19th March (2,307) followed by 550 on 20th March and another 1,600 On 21st March, 2014. Ten more boats, believed to be carrying migrants, were spotted in the Channel of Sicily. More recent reports indicate 6,000 arrivals in 4 days on board more than 40 boats. The migrants are from various countries including Eritrea, Somalia, Nigeria, Syria, Mali, Gambia, Guinea Bissau and Senegal. In related news, 400 migrants/refugees were intercepted and detained by the Libyan coast guard off the coast of Tripoli, as they attempted to reach the shores of Europe in small boats. A large number of the detained migrants were of Somali and Eritrean nationality, with a handful of Ghanaians and Nigerians. The arrival of spring signals calmer waters that may bring with them increased movement across the Mediterranean. Nearly 20,000 migrants have arrived in Italy since the beginning of 2014 (i.e. in 3-4 months), while an estimated 43,000 arrived in the whole of 2013.</p>
<p><b>New Research, reports or documents</b></p>	<p><b>EU-Africa Declaration on Migration and Mobility:</b> The 4th EU Africa summit brought together leaders and delegations from both regions with the aim of reinforcing links between the two continents. Topics discussed included migration flows between the two regions culminating in the adoption of a declaration documenting agreed actions for the period 2014-2017. The agreed upon actions include combating human trafficking, addressing irregular migration, strengthening the nexus between migration and development, advancing legal migration and mobility, and strengthening international protection for refugees, asylum seekers and internally displaced persons. Read the declaration <a href="http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/ec/142097.pdf">http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/ec/142097.pdf</a></p> <p><b>IOM Counter Trafficking Manual:</b> The manual was developed by IOM in collaboration with the Catholic Bishops’ Conference of England and Wales and the Metropolitan Police Service. The manual was presented at the Vatican’s Second International Conference on Human Trafficking held on 9th and 10th April 2014. It outlines victim identification, victim referral, return and reintegration. Read the manual at <a href="http://www.iomuk.org/doc/ct/IOM-CTManual.pdf">http://www.iomuk.org/doc/ct/IOM-CTManual.pdf</a></p> <p><b>Conflict in South Sudan: refugees seek protection in Uganda and a way home:</b> The International Refugee Rights Initiative’s paper based on 55 interviews conducted in February 2014 focuses on the plight of those who have fled the recent outbreak of conflict, and are now living as refugees in Uganda’s Adjumani district, near the border with South Sudan. Although by no means representative of the views of those impacted by the violence as a whole – there may be significant variation among those who have fled to other countries; those who have become internally displaced; and those who have remained behind – these views give insight not only into the current circumstances in which many are now living, but also into the causes and dynamics of the conflict. See <a href="http://www.refugeerights.org/Publications/Papers/2014/14%20004%2001%20South%20Sudanese%20refugees%20FINAL.pdf">http://www.refugeerights.org/Publications/Papers/2014/14%20004%2001%20South%20Sudanese%20refugees%20FINAL.pdf</a></p>

*This information sheet is distributed to over 1,200 agencies, academic institutions, donors, embassies, journalists, government officials / departments, international and multi-national organisations and related non-government organisations.*

*Sources: Data is sourced from a wide variety of collaborators, partners, international and local organisations, media outlets and individuals in the region. The key refugee agency – UNHCR – and migration agency – IOM- are frequently the origin of specific refugee or migrant return-related data. RMMS is a unit/project within the Danish Refugee Council and also uses data and information generated by DRC activities. RMMS makes its own independent editorial decisions as to what sections and what data is included in this monthly update.*