



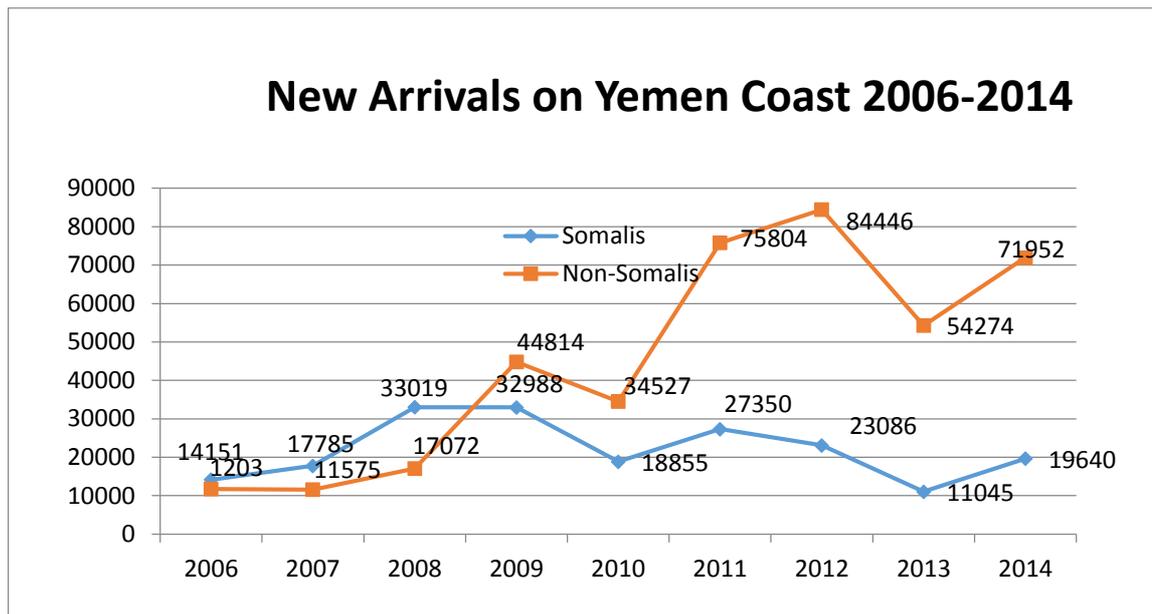
Regional mixed migration summary for December 2014 covering mixed migration events, trends and data for Djibouti, Eritrea, Sudan, South Sudan, Ethiopia, Kenya, Puntland, Somalia, Somaliland and Yemen.

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
Movement: Migrants/refugees move from the Horn of Africa (Ethiopia and Somalia) to Yemen and Saudi Arabia	
Yemen	<p>New arrivals: In December 2014, 11,053 migrants/refugees crossed into Yemen via the Red Sea (Djibouti) and the Arabian Sea (Somaliland/Puntland), a 19% decrease compared with the number of migrants/refugees that reached Yemen in November 2014, but a 1,880% increase compared to the number of migrants/refugees that arrived in December 2013. Approximately 86% of the migrants who reached Yemen in October were of Ethiopian origin while 14% were Somali. Normally the ratio of Somalis in the new arrivals is 20 – 25 per cent of the total, so these proportions represent a noteworthy change.</p> <p>In 2014, an estimated 91,592 migrants/refugees arrived in Yemen between January and December (inclusive). Although the 2014 total arrival figure marks a 14.8% decrease when compared to the 107,532 arrivals in 2012, it is a 40% increase compared to the 65,319 migrants/refugees that arrived in 2013. It therefore appears irregular flows to Yemen (and onwards to Saudi Arabia) have largely recovered despite the Saudi crackdown on irregular migration and unprecedented deportations which took place in late 2013.</p> <p>Ethiopian migrants/refugees mostly intend to travel to Saudi Arabia, which they view as their final destination. While Somalis mostly seek asylum in Yemen - as they are accorded <i>prima facie</i> recognition – even if they do not remain in Al Kharaz refugee camp (situated near Aden in the south).</p> <p>Refugees and asylum seekers: Yemen is currently host to 248,000 registered refugees, 236,803 of them are from Somalia while the rest are from Ethiopia, Eritrea, Iraq and Syria. Government officials have always claimed the actual number of Somalis in Yemen (many unrecorded) is much higher. Latest records indicate 22,000 refugees reside in the Al Kharaz refugee camp - almost all (over 96%) are of Somali origin.</p> <p>Boats and passengers: An estimated 320 migrant boat trips arrived on the coast of Yemen in December 2014. The average number of passengers on each boat was 27 per trip (not including smugglers/crew), suggesting smugglers are now using smaller boats to make the crossing, or, a less likely explanation – they are not overcrowding boats as they normally do. The main entry points in to Yemen were Al-Jadid, Uzaf, Al-Ordi, Al-Maqar, Al-Shura, Seikh Saeed, Al-Kadha, Al-Batin Al-Seimal, Al-Huriqia, and Wadi Al-Hober.</p> <p>Migrant vulnerability: Reports from monitoring teams in Yemen indicate that abduction on landing and the risk of being detained by authorities are the main protection concerns for asylum seekers and economic migrants arriving in Yemen. In December, 3,536 migrants were reportedly abducted, of which 609 were women. Generally, most tend to be released once payment is made. In January 2015, Al Jazeera reported an incident in which police in the southern province of Lahj released 23 refugees who were held hostage for weeks. According to the report, the individuals were tortured in order to pressure relatives in Ethiopia to pay a high ransom.</p> <p>Deaths at sea and on land: According to the Yemeni Government, upwards of 17 Ethiopian migrants and 1 smuggler drowned on December 26th after their boat capsized off the coast of Yemen’s central province of Taizz. 10 migrants were reported to have survived after swimming to shore. In contrast, media reports state that UNHCR received information 5 Ethiopians died in the same incident. The first week of December also witnessed a boat accident in which 24 Ethiopians died / went missing off the coast of Yemen near al-Makha port.</p> <p>In 2014 (January – December), some 246 persons were reported to have drowned, died or been lost in 11 separate incidents at sea when their overcrowded and unseaworthy smuggling boats capsized in high waters. This is a sharp</p>

increase of deaths at sea in the Gulf of Aden or Red Sea when comparing with similar data of the last three years (5 in 2013; 43 in 2012; and 131 in 2011). According to [IOM](#), at least 265 people perished along the Horn of Africa migrant route between January and December 2014. This represents 5.4% of the total number of known deaths that occurred along irregular migration routes globally.

The following graphic is compiled by UNHCR Yemen:



Djibouti

Departing from Djibouti: In December 2014, an estimated, 4,309 migrants/refugees arrived on Yemen's shores via Djibouti, an 11% increase compared to the number of migrants that arrived in November 2014. Red Sea arrivals in December 2014 were 1,665% higher than those recorded in December 2013. Approximately 48% of the migrants/refugees reaching Yemen in December 2014 utilised the Red Sea crossing from Obock, Djibouti indicating a shift in trend first noted in August 2014. The previous pattern (noted as far back as 2009), saw an estimated 60 to 75% of the migrants arriving on the coast of Yemen using the Red Sea crossing. Consequently in 2014, and for the first time since 2008, more migrants/refugees used the Arabian Sea crossing to reach Yemen than the Red Sea.

The shift in trend may be attributed to reports of higher smuggling fees for those departing from Djibouti to cross the Red Sea coast compared to the Bosaso coast crossing; the higher risk of kidnapping for ransom by criminal gangs on arrival on the Red Sea coast; stricter border controls and monitoring of departure points in order to curtail smuggling activities by authorities in Djibouti; and the increased presence of smuggling networks in Bosaso.

Boats: A total of 112 vessels left via the Red Sea for Yemen carrying an average of 38 passengers per trip. The sea voyage took between 4 to 12 hours to reach Yemen. Delays were attributed to instances where boat engines broke down; bad weather conditions (resulting in heavy storms and strong waves); or decisions by smugglers to delay anchoring to avoid coastal guards. Some boats were reported to be small and overcrowded.

Migrant vulnerability: Migrants/refugees reported the presence of criminal gangs robbing those travelling to and within Djibouti. Migrants/refugees also reported incidences where criminal gangs would wear fake army and police uniforms. There were also unconfirmed claims by some migrants/refugees that soldiers from the Djiboutian Armed Forces robbed and tortured them. Living conditions for migrants in Djibouti remain very difficult. According to the reports collected by monitoring teams, there have been many malaria cases among migrants/refugees, who in turn experience difficulties accessing health care. Furthermore, instances of fraud perpetrated by brokers in Djibouti were reported by several migrants, who also experienced very difficult living conditions at departing points due to a lack of food, water and adequate shelter.

Djibouti authorities' crackdown on irregular migration: Tighter controls by Djiboutian authorities on the borders with Ethiopia and along the Djiboutian coasts as well as cases of deportation of migrants to their countries of origin

	<p>were reported in December. There was an unconfirmed report of a large scale arrest of 50 migrants/refugees near Lake Assal on December 20th 2014 by the Djibouti Armed Forces. The Lake Assal environs is a congregation and resting point for migrants/refugees using different routes. Interviewed migrants/refugees claimed there were 400 migrants/refugees in the area at the time of the arrest. The raid reportedly occurred past midnight and the majority managed to flee into the night.</p> <p>Refugees and asylum seekers: Djibouti is host to an estimated 24,425 refugees and asylum seekers mainly from Somalia (19,745), Ethiopia (3,300), and Eritrea (1,249). Most are registered and reside at the Ali Addeh refugee camp in Southern Djibouti.</p>
<p>Puntland</p>	<p>Arabian Sea arrivals in Yemen: In December 2014, 4,603 migrants/refugees crossed the Arabian Sea to Yemen from Bosaso and other coastal areas of Puntland, compared to the 7,175 migrants/refugees that made the crossing in November 2014. The December 2014 Arabian Sea arrival figures were 2,134% higher than those recorded for the crossing in December 2013. Since August 2014, the Arabian Sea arrivals to Yemen have been higher than the Red Sea arrivals, a trend last witnessed at the beginning of 2009. In December, 52% of the migrants arriving on the coast of Yemen utilized the Arabian Sea crossing.</p> <p>Apprehension of Ethiopian irregular migrants and smugglers in Puntland: On December 20th 2014, police in Bosaso apprehended more than 200 Ethiopian irregular migrants who were planning to leave Marero (in the eastern coastal area of Bosaso) for Yemen. The operation by the police is a response to a network of smugglers who have reportedly contributed to the increased numbers of irregular migrants departing from Puntland in the recent months. The police arrested 14 suspected smugglers who have since been charged with different offences attracting between 3 to 5 years of imprisonment. The Ethiopian migrants were transported to the police station where it was established that they were very hungry, thirsty and tired. They were released after receiving food and water. In a separate incident also taking place in December, the Puntland Police Marine Force apprehended more than 71 Ethiopian migrants attempting to cross the Gulf of Aden/Arabian Sea. The smugglers were also arrested.</p>
<p>Somaliland</p>	<p>Youth exodus: As previously reported, an estimated 400 to 700 Somaliland youth join irregular flows to Libya through Ethiopia and Sudan every month. Authorities in Ethiopia are reported to be intercepting and returning an average of 200 migrants/refugees to Somaliland every month. Ethiopians from the Somali region of Ethiopia also transit through Somaliland <i>en route</i> to the coastal areas of Bosaso, Puntland in the hope of making the Gulf of Aden/Arabian Sea crossing to Yemen. Migrants/refugees are likely to be kidnapped and held for ransom by smugglers and criminal gangs on arrival in Libya and the Red Sea coast of Yemen.</p>
<p>Somalia</p>	<p>Somali movements to Yemen: An estimated 1,227 Somalis arrived on the coast of Yemen in December 2014, a 25% decrease from the November 2014 arrivals. The December 2014 arrivals were 589% higher than the Somali arrival figures for December 2013. In total, an estimated 19,640 Somalis arrived in Yemen in 2014. This is a 79% increase when compared to the total Somali arrivals in 2013.</p> <p>The majority of Somalis arriving in Yemen in December were from South-Central Somalia but several were from Somaliland (mainly Hargeisa, Borama and surrounding areas). Among the motivations for migrating, Somalis reported economic reasons (lack of livelihood and job opportunities), general instability (especially in central and southern Somalia), lack of freedom of movement, arbitrary detentions and accusations from authorities of supporting or belonging to Al Shabab.</p> <p>Modalities of travel: Somali refugees/migrants enter Djibouti principally through Dikhila (Djibouti border) and Loya Ade to reach Tadjoura and finally Obock. From there they cross the Red Sea for Yemen. Most Somalis intend to seek asylum in Yemen, though others cross the Red Sea and Arabian Sea looking for better living conditions and job opportunities in Saudi Arabia.</p> <p>Refugees and asylum seekers: In December 2014, there were 963,268 Somali refugees in the region hosted mainly in Kenya, Ethiopia, Yemen, Eritrea, Djibouti and Uganda. As of January 6th 2015, Somalia hosted 2,669 registered refugees and 9,569 registered asylum seekers mainly in the northern region.</p>

	<p>Returns and movement in South Central Somalia: An estimated 16,000 displacements were registered by UNHCR partners in December 2014. The main displacement trends were related to evictions, insecurity and lack of livelihoods. There were also cross-border movements (returns) from Kenya (see below). It is estimated that there are 1,106,751 internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Somalia.</p> <p>Somalia launches a new agency for refugees and internally displaced persons: Media reports indicate that the Federal Government of Somalia launched the new agency (named the National Agency for Refugees and IDPs) in December 2014. It is described as a national institution that will: anchor the future development of legal frameworks; be in charge of response planning; implement policy; and advocate on matters of internal displacement and refugee returns.</p>
<p>Ethiopia</p>	<p>New arrivals in Yemen: An estimated 7,685 Ethiopians made their way to Yemen in December 2014, an 18% decrease when compared to the arrivals in November 2014, and a 2,725 % increase when compared to the number of Ethiopians that arrived in December 2013. An estimated 71,952 Ethiopians arrived on the shores of Yemen in 2014, a 33% increase when compared to the number of Ethiopians that arrived in 2013.</p> <p>Ethiopian migrants/refugees arriving in Yemen in December 2014 were predominantly from the Oromia and Tigray regions. Economic factors continue to be the primary reasons for migrating to Yemen and Saudi Arabia, including the lack of livelihood opportunities as well as unemployment in Ethiopia. Consequently, the majority of Ethiopian economic migrants continue their journey to Saudi Arabia, while a few others travel to the main Yemeni urban centres (Aden, Sana'a, Ta'iz). However, several Ethiopians interviewed by monitoring teams also mentioned a fear of persecution for their political and/or religious beliefs. In particular, some Ethiopians have frequently reported cases of arbitrary detention and torture by state authorities after being accused of supporting or being affiliated to OLF movement.</p> <p>Modalities of travel: Migrants/refugees from Ethiopia have largely been following the route that goes from Dewele (southern border), reaching Tadjoura and Obock (Djibouti). Those who migrated from Jimma went to Addis Ababa continued to Dir Dawa and then to Djibouti.</p> <p>Refugees and asylum seekers: By the end of December 2014, Ethiopia hosted 660,987 refugees and asylum-seekers. The refugees/asylum seekers are from South Sudan (251,545), Somalia (244,886) and Eritrea (estimated at 111,321 individuals in November 2014) among other nationalities. Ethiopia is currently the largest refugee hosting nation in Africa, having over taken Kenya in July 2014. According to UNHCR's recently released Mid-Year Trends Report (covering the first half of 2014), relative to the size of its economy Ethiopia (along with Pakistan) bears the greatest burden hosting refugees and asylum-seekers globally.</p>
<p>Eritrea</p>	<p>Eritrean exodus: According to the Italian Ministry of the Interior, an estimated 34,329 Eritrean asylum-seekers/migrants arrived irregularly in Italy in 2014. This made Eritreans the second largest nationality group after Syrians to arrive on Italy's shores. In November 2014, UNHCR reported that 37,000 Eritreans sought refuge in Europe in the first 10 months of 2014. From September 2014, there was a spike in the number of Eritrean refugees arriving in Ethiopia, which brought the Eritrean refugee population in the Tigray region to more than 110,000. More than 15,000 Eritrean refugees were registered in Ethiopia between September 2014 and December 2014. Finally, in UNHCR's Mid-Year Trends released on the 7th of January 2015, Eritrea was described as an important source country of asylum-seekers - 23,300 new applications registered during the first half of 2014.</p> <p>Eritrea's President pledges new constitution to tackle inequality: In late December 2014, President Afwerki announced that his Government is drafting a new constitution that will tackle inequality and satisfy the demands of the Eritrean people. The content of the constitution and its completion date were not disclosed. According to a Bloomberg News the President 'described the large-scale migration of Eritrea's youth as a "declared war" and said they were being lured by "empty promises" of a better life abroad.' The President made a similar pledge of a new constitution in May 2014.</p> <p>The Commission of Inquiry on Human Rights in Eritrea is set to begin hearing testimonies in the United Kingdom: From the 24th to the 31st of January 2015, the Commission of Inquiry will visit the UK to hold meetings and collect testimonies and accounts on the human rights situation in Eritrea. Although the Commission has sought to cooperate with the Eritrean State in order to visit the country, it has not received any response. Eritreans interested in speaking with the Commission's representatives in the UK are invited to make contact as soon as</p>

	<p>possible. Moreover, any individual, group, organization, or State interested in making submissions on the alleged rights violations perpetrated in Eritrea may submit information by the 31st of January 2015. More information about these processes is available here. The Commission is scheduled to produce its final report in June 2015.</p> <p>Danish Immigration Service admits doubts about its report re-evaluating criteria for granting asylum to Eritrean nationals: The Danish Immigration Service (DIS) carried out a fact finding mission to Ethiopia in August and Eritrea in October 2014. The mission was prompted by a surge of Eritrean asylum seekers in Denmark in the summer months. The mission report was published in November 2014 and handed over to the Justice Ministry. It suggested that 'the human rights situation in Eritrea may not be as bad as rumoured and that Denmark should no longer offer blanket asylum to Eritreans fleeing compulsory – and often time indefinite – military service.' The report attracted backlash from human rights organizations including Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch (HRW). According to HRW, governments should 'await the outcome of the United Nations Commission of Inquiry on Eritrea...before considering any major policy changes concerning Eritrea.' Following the negative reaction, DIS reportedly admitted there are 'doubts' about the report and that 'Eritreans are likely to be granted asylum in Denmark even if they aren't personally persecuted, concluding that the agency now "expects to grant asylum in many cases.'"</p> <p>British House of Commons passes motion on the human rights situation in Eritrea: As of December 15th 2014, 42 British Members of Parliament (MPs) supported a motion that 'condemns the human rights abuses perpetuated by the government of Eritrea, including arbitrary arrest and detention and compulsory military services...which has led to an unprecedented exodus of Eritreans.' The motion also registers the MPs concern about the 'collusion between the government of Eritrea and...international mining companies from the UK, Canada and Australia, which [are allegedly] using the forced labour of Eritreans for work in extractive industries.' In a separate but related incident, 3 Eritrean refugees based in an Ethiopian refugee camp sued a Canadian company in a Vancouver court for allegedly conspiring with the Eritrean Government to force them and other conscripted workers to work in abhorrent conditions.</p>
<p>South Sudan</p>	<p>South Sudanese crisis: Over a year has passed since fighting broke out in South Sudan resulting in a crisis that has led to the mass internal and external displacement of civilians. As of January 9th 2015, the region (comprising of Ethiopia, Uganda, Sudan and Kenya) hosted 496,477 South Sudanese refugees displaced since December 2013. Furthermore, 1,498,500 people are internally displaced within South Sudan. In response to the dire humanitarian and security situation, UNHCR stated "if recent trends hold, the total number of refugees who have fled South Sudan since the conflict began could reach 821,000 in 2015.'</p> <p>A real political solution, which is arguably the surest way to stem the outflows, is yet to be realized. However in a bid to provide fresh impetus to the political negotiations, Sudan hosted a Chinese initiated conference on South Sudan's political and security situation on 12 January 2015. Representatives of President Salva Kiir's Government and the armed opposition led by former Vice President Riek Machar, as well as members of IGAD States, were present. After the conference, the Sudanese Foreign Minister announced that the warring factions agreed to work towards immediately stopping hostilities and speeding up the negotiations to form a transitional government.</p> <p>UNMISS releases report on attacks on civilians in towns of Bentiu and Bor: On January 9th 2015, the United Nations Mission in South Sudan released a report saying that there are reasonable grounds to believe that at least 353 civilians were murdered and another 250 wounded by attacks in the states of Unity and Jonglei in April 2014. Although nine months have passed since the incidents, no perpetrator in the South Sudanese Government nor opposition has been held accountable. In the report, UNMISS calls on both the Government of South Sudan and opposition forces to end hostilities as well as gross and serious violations of human rights and international humanitarian law. The Mission has also condemned the killing and displacement of civilians on the basis of their ethnic identity which have continued months after the events in April 2014.</p>
<p>Sudan</p>	<p>Eritrean asylum-seekers drown in a smuggling attempt out of Sudanese camp: Media reports indicate that at least 8 Eritrean asylum-seekers drowned while trying to cross the Atbarah River on the 24th of December 2014. The accident occurred as the asylum-seekers attempted to be smuggled out of Shagarab-1 refugee camp in the eastern state of Kassala. Media reports state that in addition to the 8 people who drowned, 2 are missing but 10 swam to safety.</p>

	<p>Sudan accedes to the UN Trafficking in Persons Protocol (TIP): On the 2nd of December 2014, Sudan acceded to the TIP, which supplements the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. In light of its earlier adoption of a Counter Human Trafficking Act in March 2014, Sudan has established a national and international legal framework to combat human trafficking. According to UNHCR's 2015 Global Appeal Update: ‘Sudan has been playing a proactive role in addressing human trafficking...and the number of verified [trafficking] incidents in Sudan has declined since 2012.’</p> <p>The European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) holds that the proposed return of two Darfuri men to Sudan would constitute ill treatment: In two separate cases handed down on the 15th of January 2015, the ECtHR ruled that France's proposed deportation of two Darfuri men to Sudan would constitute ill treatment and a violation of Article 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights. On the facts of the two cases, the Court established there was a real risk of their ill treatment in Sudan based on their ethnic origin, opposition activities, and the medical evidence corroborating their submissions of being tortured.</p>
<p>Kenya</p>	<p>Refugees and asylum seekers in Kenya: As of December 31st 2014, Kenya hosted 585,363 refugees and asylum seekers, 51,270 of whom lived in Nairobi (urban refugees). The largest number of refugees and asylum seekers remain Somali nationals (424,691), followed by South Sudanese (89,226), and Ethiopians (21,250). Tens of thousands of undocumented migrants from neighbouring countries and further afield continue to reside in Kenya, predominantly in urban areas.</p> <p>Eight clauses in the Security Laws (Amendment) Act are temporarily suspended: On January 2nd 2015, a Kenyan High Court temporarily suspended eight clauses in the Security Laws Amendment Act adopted by Kenyan Members of Parliament on the 18th of December 2014. It made this decision following a petition brought by parties including the Kenya National Commission of Human Rights. Among other things, the Act sought to amend the current Refugees Act by placing a cap on the number of refugees/asylum-seekers permitted to reside in the country. Under the Act, the cap is set at 150,000 individuals unless amended by Parliament. The High Court found that the petition raised weighty constitutional issues which required further judicial scrutiny. Further, the Court emphasized the irreparable harm that would result if the cap is implemented before the constitutionality of the Act is thoroughly considered. In light of this, the Court suspended the provision placing a ceiling on the number of refugees pending a full court hearing. Nevertheless, it appears the Executive branch of the Government is committed to the Act as it reportedly views it as a means of addressing emerging threats such as terrorism and ‘uncontrolled refugee accommodation’.</p> <p>UNHCR pilot project supports the spontaneous and voluntary return of Somali refugees from Kenya: The 6 month long initiative, which is taking place in the context of the Tripartite Agreement, began on 8th December 2014 with the first Somali refugees returning home. As of January 16th 2015, a total of 827 individuals have returned to Kismayo and Baidoa. Currently, the pilot project is assisting returns from Dadaab refugee camp, but based on interest may expand to other locations such as Kakuma refugee camp and urban areas. Overall, the pilot project targets an initial group of up to 10,000 Somali refugees who wish to return to Somalia.</p> <p>IOM, HAART Kenya, and the Government of Kenya assist Kenyan women stranded in Libya to return home: In December 2014, IOM, HAART Kenya, and the Kenyan Government assisted 29 Kenyan women to return home after being stranded in Libya for months. The women, who initially travelled to Libya for work, fell into varying degrees of hardship and exploitation as the security situation in the country deteriorated. 27 of the women assisted have been identified as victims of human trafficking. According to HAART Kenya: ‘many have gone through severe emotional, physical, psychological and sexual abuse in Libya.’ The women are receiving psychosocial support and reintegration services. In January 2015, IOM reported that it assisted 354 migrants (representing 13 different nationalities) leave Libya in 2014. The largest groups came from Sudan, Yemen, Sri Lanka, Ethiopia and Nigeria.</p>
<p>Israel</p>	<p>Mixed migration flows effectively curtailed to Israel: As previously reported, following the closure of Israel's border with Egypt in early 2013, mixed migration flows into Israel have drastically declined. In the past, thousands of migrants/asylum-seekers were entering Israel (mainly Eritreans) irregularly every month. In 2014, the Population, Immigration, and Borders Authority reported that 21 ‘infiltrators’ entered Israel irregularly; 6,414 were encouraged to leave voluntarily; and 2,350 were removed.</p>

Knesset passes new Anti-Infiltration Law: A [third amendment](#) to the Anti-Infiltration Law permitting the detention of asylum seekers in Israel for up to 20 months at the Holot detention center was passed in early December. As per the amendment, newly arrived migrants/asylum seekers may be held for up to 3 months at the Saharonim Prison, down from 1 year. The new amendment also limits the head count for persons held at the Holot detention facility to once a day, down from 3 times a day. The law also outlines stiff penalties for persons who employ irregular migrants. The first and second amendments, both overturned by the High Court in September 2013 and 2014, provided for the detention of migrants for a maximum of 3 years and 1 year respectively.

According to media reports, human rights groups, as well as Eritrean and Sudanese asylum-seekers, petitioned the Israel High Court in mid-December on the basis that the third amendment is almost identical to the previously struck down laws. The petition is yet to be decided. Consequently, in light of the new amendment, the Holot detention centre has remained open.

Conditions in the Holot Detention Centre: In early January 2015, human rights groups petitioned the High Court to compel the Israeli State to provide heating in the rooms in Holot. Temperatures in the Negev desert (where Holot is located) can plunge to 0 degrees Celsius at night. In response to the petition, the Israeli State promised the High Court to provide adequate heating to the approximately 2,300 Eritrean/Sudanese asylum seekers held. It is estimated that 50,000 African asylum-seekers (consisting of 36,000 Eritreans and 14,000 Sudanese nationals) reside in Israel.

Other Regional news

Irregular movement to Europe: According to the European Union (EU) Commissioner for Migration, Home Affairs and Citizenship, an estimated [276,000 migrants](#) entered Europe irregularly in 2014. This marks a 155% increase when compared to arrivals in 2013. With regard to the Mediterranean, 207,000 individuals made the sea crossing in 2014. In January 2015, Italy announced that a total of 170,100 migrants and asylum-seekers arrived on its shores by the end of 2014. This is a significant increase when compared to the number of arrivals recorded in 2013 (42,925 individuals).

New trends along Mediterranean route in 2014: A number of new trends emerged in 2014 (particularly in the last months) along the Mediterranean route. According to Frontex (the EU border control agency), the winter months saw an [unprecedented use of the central Mediterranean route](#) by undocumented migrants and asylum-seekers. In the previous years (going as far back as a decade), poor weather traditionally led to a decline in the number of migrants/asylum-seekers making the crossing. Although Libya remained the preferred departure point for smugglers facilitating entry into the EU in 2014, the last months of 2014 saw an appreciable number of boats arriving from Turkey. According to an IOM brief released in January 2015, new arrivals in Italy have mainly come from Turkey in recent months.

Frontex attributes this development to a number of inter-related factors. Namely, the increasing insecurity in Libya is making it an untenable operating environment – even for smugglers; the bolstering of border controls by Libya's neighbours makes it difficult for migrants/asylum-seekers to access the country by land; and Syrian asylum-seekers/migrants tend to be richer than their Asian and African counterparts and are therefore able to pay higher smuggling fees (a place on a freighter from Turkey is at least 3 times more expensive than the cost of a boat trip from Libya). Smugglers are reportedly capitalizing on these factors by using larger boats (e.g. freighters) which, while more expensive to 'commission', result in greater profits given the inelastic demand for passage to Europe from Syria. Furthermore, the use of larger boats also mitigates the risk of capsizing which is more likely in small boats in rough seas. There are also reports of a '[Ghost Ship](#)' trend where smugglers deliberately abandon the boats after placing the navigation system on automatic pilot.

Finally, Frontex believes that given the increased rescues made by merchant ships in recent months, smugglers have begun to time boat departures so that they intersect with commercial shipping routes to the Europe. If a distress call is sent, a merchant ship is obliged under international law to rescue the migrants/asylum-seekers and disembark them at the nearest port.

Celebration of International Migrants' Day and a call to action to save migrant lives: International Migrants' Day was celebrated on the 18th of December 2014 with the theme '[Saving Migrants' Lives](#)'. According to IOM, 2014 is the deadliest year on record with an estimated 4,868 migrants/asylum-seekers perishing on dangerous journeys globally. The highest death toll was recorded along the Mediterranean sea crossing where at least 3,224 migrants/asylum-seekers died between January and December 12th 2014. More information about migrant/asylum-seeker deaths in 2014 is available [here](#).

	<p>Precarious security situation in Libya leaves IDPs, asylum-seekers, refugees and migrants vulnerable: UNHCR reports that escalated fighting in some parts of Libya at the beginning of 2015 has led to new displacements. Although difficult to estimate, UNHCR places the number of internally displaced across the country at 400,000. In addition to this, Libya is host to an estimated 37,000 refugees and asylum-seekers of different nationalities whose humanitarian conditions are dire. According to IOM, an estimated 150,000 migrant workers remain stranded in the country.</p>
<p>New Research, reports or documents</p>	<p>The Kampala Convention two years on: time to turn theory into practice (December 2014): To commemorate the ground-breaking convention, this IDMC paper illustrates its achievements and how signatory countries like the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Mali, Zimbabwe and Cote d'Ivoire have taken different approaches to implementing its provisions. The paper is available here.</p> <p>Internal Displacement in Somalia (December 2014): This report by Jeff Drumtra offers an analysis of the internal displacement crisis in Somalia and provides recommendations to the Federal Government of Somalia and the international community on the action needed for an effective humanitarian response. It may be accessed here.</p> <p>A New Deal for Somalia's Displaced? Exploring opportunities of engagement for durable solutions with the Somalia new deal compact (December 2014): This Samuel Hall produced and ReDSS commissioned report seeks to place displacement on the development agenda by mainstreaming Somalia's displaced into the New Deal's peace and state building goals without compromising or interfering with humanitarian principles. It is available here.</p> <p>What if? Scenarios of implemented and enhanced migration legislation and policies in the Horn of Africa & Yemen' (January 2015): This is the first of a number of upcoming RMMS discussion papers. It seeks to emphasize that the implementation of existing legislation and expansion of migration related policy in the region is likely to have an array of outcomes – many of which may be judged to be positive when compared to the current range of unresolved and contested issues relating to the mixed migration phenomenon. It is available here.</p> <p>UNHCR Mid-Year Trends (January 2015): This report analyzes global displacement trends within the first half of 2014. It reveals that of the 5.5 million who were newly displaced, 1.4 million fled across international borders becoming refugees, while the rest were displaced within their own countries as IDPs. The report may be accessed here.</p> <p>Rescue at Sea. A Guide to Principles and Practice as Applied to Refugees and Migrants (January 2015): 'This leaflet is intended for masters, ship owners, government authorities, insurance companies, and other interested parties involved in rescue at sea situations. It provides guidance on relevant legal provisions, and on practical procedures to ensure the prompt disembarkation of survivors of rescue operations, and measures to meet their specific needs, particularly in the case of refugees and asylum-seekers.' It may be accessed here.</p> <p>Borders beyond control? (January 2015): In this web piece, Associate Professor Hein de Haas offers an overview of some important findings from a research project on the 'Determinants of International Migration' at the International Migration Institute (Oxford University). A main insight of the research is that although immigration restrictions often reduce immigration, the effects tend to be rather small. Moreover, 'restrictions often have four potential side-effects ("substitution effects") which further undermine their effectiveness or can even make them counter-productive.' The piece is available here.</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.