



**Regional mixed migration summary for December 2015 covering mixed migration events, trends and data for Djibouti, Eritrea, South Sudan, 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 caseload mentioned refers only to refugees or asylum seekers or trafficked persons it will be clearly stated.

Country	Events /trends /data /analysis
<p><b>Yemen</b></p>	<p><i>The conflict in Yemen entered its ninth month with escalation of shelling and fighting putting civilians at risk. As previously reported, due to the conflict, monitoring and data collection activities along the Red Sea and Arabian sea coasts continued to be affected, with a majority of monitoring exercises suspended. The data presented in this report on arrivals in Yemen is therefore not conclusive of the actual number of arrivals during this period.</i></p> <p><b>Saudi-led coalition announces end of ceasefire:</b> The end to a UN-backed truce, which came into effect on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2015, was announced by the Saudi-led military coalition in early January. The ceasefire, which coincided with the beginning of peace talks between sides, has been marked with repeated violations as both the Arab coalition and Houthi rebels continued to engage in the launch of air strikes and ballistic missiles into rival territories. A date for another round of peace talks has not yet been agreed.</p> <p><b>Internal displacement:</b> Widespread and unrelenting conflict continues to devastate the situation for people in Yemen. At the end of 2015 there were more than 2.5 million internally displaced persons in the country. With no political solution in sight, it is expected that the devastation and displacement will continue into 2016.</p> <p><b>Continued arrivals from the Horn of Africa:</b> An estimated number of 882 (852 Ethiopians, 28 Somalis and 1 Eritrean) migrants and asylum seekers were recorded to have arrived on the Red Sea coast of Yemen in December 2015. The migrants arrived aboard 12 boats which departed from Obock, Djibouti (carrying 806 Ethiopians, 24 Somalis and 1 Eritrean) and one boat which departed from Bosasso, Puntland (carrying 46 Ethiopians and 4 Somalis), landing in the towns of Al-Kadaha, Al-Hujaf, Al-Jadid, Al-Shura, Al-Soqaya, Al-Uzaf, and Wadi Koha in Ta'iz and Lahj governorates. Migrants reported paying between USD 120-150 for the journey across the Red Sea. Due to the reduction of monitoring missions along Yemen's coast, it is likely that actual number of arrivals from the Horn of Africa to Yemen was higher during the period.</p> <p>An additional 11,420 asylum seekers and migrants (1,038 Somalis and 10,382 Ethiopians) arrived on Arabian Sea coasts of Yemen in December 2015, marking a 77% increase from arrivals recorded in November 2015.</p> <p><b>Total arrivals from the Horn of Africa:</b> A total of 92,446 migrants and asylum seekers arrived on Red Sea (14,090) and Arabian Sea coasts (78,356) in Yemen in 2015. This is one of the highest annual arrival figures on record, with only 2012 (107,532) and 2011 (103,154) having higher arrivals figures. Almost 90% of arrivals were Ethiopian nationals.</p> <p>An analysis of arrival data also reveals a shift in landing sites in Yemen, with the majority (85%) of arrivals in 2015 being recorded on Arabian Sea shores. Between 2011 and 2014, asylum seekers and migrants had consistently preferred (66%) to depart and cross using the Red Sea. Since the outbreak of violence in Yemen in March 2015, some of the most intense conflict has been registered in Ta'iz governorate along the Red Sea coast, which may give some insight into the declining number of arrivals on that route.</p> <p><b>Migrant vulnerability:</b> In December 2015, 104 migrants and asylum seekers (12% of those arriving via the Red Sea) reported witnessing or being victim to numerous violations, including physical abuse, robbery, interception and detention. No incidences of abduction were reported in this period. Migrants specifically reported the rape of one female asylum seeker, who was held in captivity by Yemeni criminal gang. One male migrant was reportedly wounded by a bullet from gunfire by suspected Yemeni traffickers upon landing on the Red Sea coast. Many of the migrants reported a shortage of food and water in Obock, where they had to resort to begging or working menial jobs to afford the journey to Yemen.</p> <p>95 deaths were recorded in sea crossings to Yemen in 2015, marking the second-most deadly year for such</p>

	<p>journeys. 2014 was the most volatile year, with 246 deaths recorded.</p> <p><b>Refugees in Yemen:</b> According to the latest figures from UNHCR there are approximately 264,615 refugees situated around urban centres in the country, of whom 253,215 are Somalis.</p> <p><b>Departures from Yemen:</b> As of 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015, the number of people fleeing Yemen to the Horn of Africa (Djibouti, Ethiopia, Somalia and Sudan) had totalled 78,983 persons (31,584 in Djibouti, 11,397 in Ethiopia, 30,202 in Somalia, and 5,800 in Sudan). Yemenis and Somalis represent the largest proportion of people moving out of Yemen, accounting for 29% and 37% of movements respectively. Djibouti remained as the primary destination for Yemeni nationals, with 77% of those moving opting for Djibouti.</p> <p>The latest statistics and overview of the displacement situation arising out of the Yemen crisis can be found on the UNHCR data sharing and information <a href="#">portal</a>.</p>
<b>Djibouti</b>	<p><b>Departures to Yemen:</b> Available data from the still active monitoring teams along the Red Sea coasts indicate that at least 831 (806 Ethiopians, 24 Somalis and 1 Eritrean) migrants and asylum seekers departed from Obock and arrived in coastal towns in Yemen. The numbers of actual arrivals are likely to be considerably higher. Migrants reported paying between USD 120-150 to make the boat crossing to Yemen.</p> <p><b>Arrivals from Yemen:</b> As of 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015, a total of 31,584 persons had arrived in Djibouti from Yemen since the outbreak of the conflict in March 2015. Djibouti continues to be the primary destination for Yemeni nationals who account for 55% of the arrivals so far. Third Country Nationals make up 38% and Djiboutian returnees account for 6%.</p>
<b>Somaliland</b>	<p><b>Arrivals from Yemen:</b> As of 12<sup>th</sup> January 2016, a total of 9,583 migrants/refugees/returnees (81% Somali, 17% Yemeni) had arrived in Somaliland since the outbreak of conflict in Yemen in March 2015. New arrivals docked in the towns of Berbera, Hargeisa, Lughaya, Maydh and Zeila. 41 new arrivals have been registered in January so far.</p> <p><b>Returning refugees and asylum seekers in Somaliland:</b> Of the 7,787 Somalis that have arrived in Somaliland since the beginning of the conflict 43% (3,359) had acquired refugee status or sought asylum in Yemen.</p> <p><b>Migrant vulnerability:</b> According to <a href="#">media reports</a>, at least 112 migrants of Ethiopian and Somali origin died when a boat sank off the coast of Somaliland after suffering technical problems. It is presumed that the boat was ferrying migrants from Somaliland to Yemen. 75 others were rescued by the local coast guard. According to the authorities, three members of the crew were arrested as they tried to flee into nearby mountains and will be held for questioning.</p>
<b>Puntland</b>	<p><b>Arrivals from Yemen:</b> As of 12<sup>th</sup> January 2016, a total of 20,546 migrants/refugees/returnees (91% Somali, 8% Yemeni) had arrived in Puntland since the beginning of the Yemen conflict. Arrivals have been recorded through the towns of Bargal, Bosasso, Elayo and Qandala. 253 new arrivals have been registered in January so far.</p> <p><b>Returning refugees and asylum seekers in Puntland:</b> Of the 18,717 Somalis that have returned from Yemen to Puntland since the conflict, 6,071 (32%) people had acquired refugee status or sought asylum in Yemen.</p>
<b>Somalia (South Central)</b>	<p><b>Arrivals from Yemen:</b> No new arrivals from Yemen were registered in South Central Somalia in the reporting period. The number of persons having fled from Yemen directly to South Central Somalia remains at 367. However, consistent with data from previous months, a significant number (54%) of those arriving in Somaliland and Puntland indicate an intention to return to Mogadishu specifically.</p> <p><b>Internal Displacement:</b> According to UNHCR figures, there are 1.1 million internally displaced persons across the</p>

	<p>whole of Somalia (Somaliland, Puntland and South Central Somalia).</p> <p><b>Refugees in the neighbouring countries:</b> At the end of 2015, there were 973,751 registered Somali refugees and asylum seekers displaced in neighbouring countries in the region. The majority of the refugees are hosted in Kenya (43%) and Ethiopia (26%).</p>
<b>South Sudan</b>	<p><b>Regional displacement:</b> As 14<sup>th</sup> January 2016 there were a total of 645,052 South Sudanese asylum seekers and refugees displaced into neighbouring countries since the start of the conflict in December 2013. Ethiopia hosts the largest proportion of these refugees (226,473), followed by Sudan (194,888), Uganda (173,447) and Kenya (50,244). An additional 123,673 who were displaced before the December 2013 conflict are also hosted in the region.</p> <p><b>Internal Displacement:</b> There are approximately 1.7 million persons internally displaced in South Sudan.</p> <p><b>Refugees in South Sudan:</b> Despite the ongoing conflict country, at the end of December 2015 South Sudan continued to host 263,000 refugees from neighbouring countries. The majority (92%) of the refugees are from Sudan, followed by Democratic Republic of Congo (6%), and Ethiopia and Central African Republic (2%).</p> <p><b>South Sudan rivals agree on cabinet positions:</b> Warring parties in the country have reached an agreement on the sharing of ministerial positions in a transitional government of national unity. President Salva Kiir and his rival former vice president Riek Machar signed a peace accord in August 2015 to end a two-year conflict, which has seen more than 2.2 million people forced from their homes. Kiir's administration will nominate 16 ministers, while Machar's SPLM/A will appoint 10 ministers, with other opposition parties and a group of former political prisoners taking up four positions. The agreement stipulated that a transitional government would be created for a period of 30 months followed by an election.</p>
<b>Sudan</b>	<p><b>Internal Displacement:</b> UN figures estimate that there were 3.1 million Sudanese internally displaced persons in the country at the end of 2015. 2.5 million are displaced in Darfur, of which 233,000 were newly displaced in 2015.</p> <p><b>Refugees in Sudan:</b> As of 30<sup>th</sup> November 2015, Sudan hosted a total 375,729 refugees in the country, including 198,314 South Sudanese and 168,694 refugees from other countries.</p> <p><b>Sudanese nationals crossing into Europe:</b> UNHCR figures show that Sudanese nationals made 1% of the total sea arrivals (1,014,836) to Europe in 2015. Along the Central Mediterranean route, Sudanese made up 6% of the total crossings (153,600) in 2015.</p> <p><b>Jordan deports Sudanese asylum seekers:</b> In mid-December, Jordanian authorities detained and later deported 800 Sudanese asylum seekers, most of whom were from the war-afflicted Darfur region. The deportation was prompted by a month-long demonstration outside Jordan's UNHCR offices, where the asylum seekers had pitched tents to protest a lack of support and demand relocation.</p> <p>A Jordanian government spokesperson was <a href="#">reported</a> as saying that "asylum conditions don't apply to [Sudanese]", as they entered Jordan under the pretext of seeking medical treatment, and later claimed asylum. Jordan is not a State party to the UN 1951 Refugee Convention, but is bound by customary international law principle of <i>non-refoulement</i> which prohibits the government from returning people to places where they risk being persecuted, tortured, or exposed to inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. There are approximately 4,000 Sudanese asylum seekers in Jordan.</p>
<b>Eritrea</b>	<p><b>More than 150 Eritreans leave to Sudan everyday:</b> According to a senior official from the Sudanese migration department, at least 150 Eritreans leave their country and cross into Sudan every day. <a href="#">Reportedly</a>, the majority of Eritrean migrants camp at Wad Shareefi refugee camp in eastern Sudan before they start their journey to Libya and Egypt on their way to Europe.</p> <p><b>Eritrean arrivals in Europe:</b> As the end of 2015, Eritrean nationals accounted for 4% of the 1,014,836 arrivals in Europe via the Mediterranean. This was more pronounced on the Central Mediterranean route from Libya to Italy,</p>

	where Eritreans made up 26% of the 153,600 arrivals in 2015.
<b>Ethiopia</b>	<p><b>Arrivals from Yemen:</b> As of 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015, there were 11,397 arrivals into Ethiopia from Yemen since the outbreak of violence in March 2015. The majority (66%) of those arriving are returning Ethiopian nationals, with Yemeni nationals accounting for 10% of arrivals. Ethiopia grants prima facie refugee status to Yemenis and also recognises Somali refugees who received refugee recognition in Yemen as prima facie refugees in Ethiopia. Other nationalities undergo individual Refugee Status Determination.</p> <p><b>Refugees in Ethiopia:</b> At the end of December 2015, Ethiopia was host to 733,644 registered asylum seekers and refugees, retaining its title as the largest host of refugees on the continent. The largest groups of refugees are South Sudanese (282,033), Somalis (251,797) and Eritreans (155,207).</p> <p><b>Video showing distress call of Ethiopian migrant workers in Kuwait goes viral:</b> A mobile phone video showing a group of Ethiopian women calling for help from a Kuwaiti prison went <a href="#">viral</a> in December 2015. The women were reportedly detained in Kuwait and labelled as ‘absconding’ workers after leaving their employers following issues of non-payment, abuse or other exploitation. The detainees reportedly fled their places of work in the hope of finding undocumented work in the country’s black market but were arrested by police at checkpoints and in raids.</p> <p>As part of the country’s “Kuwaitization” policy, which aims to replace the expatriate workforce with local workers, the government has cracked down on undocumented migrant workers in recent years, with reports of the deportation of over <a href="#">25,000</a> migrant workers in 2014.</p> <p><b>Remittances to Ethiopia top 3 billion US Dollars:</b> According to Ethiopia’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs Ethiopia’s earning from remittances in 2015 hit a record high of <a href="#">USD 3.7 billion</a>, exceeding the total contribution from foreign donors in the same year. The figure quoted accounts for money remitted through legal channels, with the majority being sent via money transfer service providers to the National Bank of Ethiopia. However according to representatives from the Diaspora Information and Research Directorate at the ministry, the potential for harnessing remittances is currently underserved due to irregular migration, as the majority of Ethiopians who reside specifically in South Africa and Saudi Arabia were unable to remit any funds legally due to a lack of residence and work permits.</p>
<b>Kenya</b>	<p><b>Refugees in Kenya:</b> At the end of December 2015, there were 593,881 registered refugees and asylum seekers in Kenya. Somali refugees and asylum seekers are still the most populous group in the country (71%), followed by refugees and asylum seekers from South Sudan (16%) and Ethiopia (5%). The majority of refugees, numbering 532,531 persons (90%), are encamped in Dadaab, Alinjugur and Kakuma camps, with the remaining 61,351 (10%) residing in Nairobi.</p> <p><b>Voluntary repatriation of Somali refugees:</b> As of 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015, a total of 6,101 Somali refugees have been supported to voluntarily repatriate from Dadaab refugee camp in Kenya to Somalia since the beginning of the exercise in 2014, with 5,616 returning in 2015.</p> <p><b>Kenya detains irregular migrants:</b> <a href="#">Local media</a> reported on the arrest and detainment of three Turkish and one Ethiopian national at a police station in Isiolo for being in the country illegally. This follows the announcement by the Kenyan government of the launch of a new initiative to curb human smuggling from neighbouring Ethiopia.</p> <p><b>Kenyan remittances:</b> According to the World Bank’s <a href="#">Migration and Remittances Factbook 2016</a>, Kenya was the fourth highest recipient of remittances in 2015 in Sub-Saharan Africa, receiving USD 1.6 billion. This is a remarkable 700% increase from remittances recorded in 2014, which totalled USD 0.2 billion. World Bank remittance estimates are based on official remittance channels and are submitted by the Central Bank of Kenya. It is likely that remittances received through unofficial channels would push this figure much higher.</p>
<b>Israel</b>	<b>Asylum seeker detention centre is full:</b> The Israeli Prison Service announced that the Holot detention centre for migrants and asylum seekers who entered Israel irregularly is close to reaching full capacity. In August 2015, the

	<p>High Court of Justice ordered the government to release migrants and asylum seekers who had been held for more than a year at the site. But the facility, which has the capacity to hold 3,360 people now holds 3,050. The government is examining the possibility of extending the Holot centre or building additional similar facilities.</p> <p><b>Israelis charged for Eritrean migrant beating:</b> Four Israeli nationals were charged for brutally beating an Eritrean migrant who was mistaken for a gunman during a militant attack in October 2015. Habtom Zerhoum was first shot by a security guard at a bus station after wrongly being identified as an assailant in an attack that killed an Israeli soldier. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called on Israelis not to take justice into their own hands. Video footage of the attack went viral on the internet, with many viewing the incident as part of a <a href="#">wider problem</a> in Israel's treatment of African asylum seekers. Official figures show that there are 45,000 asylum seekers and irregular migrants in Israel, almost all of whom are from Eritrea and Sudan.</p>
<p><b>Other regional news and news from other regions</b></p>	<p><b>Egypt arrests irregular migrants:</b> In two separate incidents, local media reported of the arrest of <a href="#">100 migrants</a> and a further <a href="#">151 migrants</a> for attempting to cross through Egypt to Libya. The majority of those arrested are Egyptian nationals. Despite the continued unrest in neighbouring Libya, the country remains a destination for Egyptian migrant workers. An IOM report released in September, estimated that up to one million Egyptians remain in Libya.</p> <p><b>South Africa introduces stiffer penalties for human smugglers:</b> The South African government recently announced a move to crack down on human smuggling into the country. Cross-border transport operators, known locally as <i>omalayitsha</i>, will not now have to pay a fine of close to USD 1,000 for each person smuggled across South African borders without documents, or with expired passports, or no valid visas. South African Home Affairs spokesperson Mayihlome Tshwete announced the new regulation stating that it was necessitated by an increase in the number of undocumented travellers, particularly from Zimbabwe, being smuggled into the country. South Africa is a popular destination country for many irregular migrants from the Horn of African and Yemen region, who use the eastern corridor from Kenya to access the country.</p> <p><b>2015 Mediterranean sea arrivals break the one-million mark:</b> A total of 1,014,836 refugees and migrants arrived in Europe by sea in 2015. The largest proportion of those moving arrived through Greece (856,723), followed by Italy (153,600), and Spain and Malta (4,513). A total of 118,445 arrivals were recorded in December. The pace of arrivals in 2015 was unprecedented and marked a 363% increase on arrivals in 2014. More than 22,000 sea crossings have been recorded in January 2016 already. Forecasts indicate that, should the pace of arrivals remain constant, Europe can expect to receive <a href="#">three million migrants and refugees by the end of 2016</a>.</p> <p><b>2015 deadliest year for Mediterranean sea crossings:</b> According to IOM's Missing Migrant Project 3,771 migrants and asylum seekers died in Mediterranean sea crossings in 2015, marking the deadliest year on record. Globally, IOM estimates that over 5,350 migrants and asylum seekers died in 2015.</p> <p><b>Greece fears a bottleneck as Europe tightens borders:</b> As refugee and migrant arrival numbers in Europe have continued rise over the past year, far surpassing initial projections, EU member states have scrambled to put in place measures to reduce inward flows. More restrictive border restrictions stemming from border checks and additional border patrols and personnel, to the construction of border fences, which began in the <a href="#">Balkan states</a> but soon swept through Western Europe and now to <a href="#">Scandinavian countries</a>, have put to question whether the influx of migrants and refugees will spell the end for the <a href="#">Schengen region</a>.</p> <p>Greece, the main entry point for Mediterranean sea arrivals, <a href="#">now fears</a> that tighter border restrictions upstream will shift the country from being the main gateway into Europe to becoming the continent's bottleneck. "There is indeed a danger that the country will turn into a warehouse if these flows continue," said Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras.</p> <p><b>EU agree to fast-track plans for a new border force:</b> The European Commission has laid out plans for the establishment of a single EU border and coast guard force as part of an effort to curb the number of refugees and migrants arriving on the continent. The new border force will be able to monitor border security and migration flows in real time and deploy border guards to control a situation with or without a member states' support. The proposals follow the reintroduction of border controls and restriction by some states with the EU's internal Schengen area who have been overwhelmed with the pace of arrivals.</p> <p><b>Creeping pace of EU refugee relocations:</b> European countries have relocated just 0.17% of the 160,000 asylum seekers they had promised to transfer in September 2015. While 4,207 places have been made available by states</p>

	<p>so far, EU officials confirmed that only 272 Syrians and Eritreans have been formally transferred from frontline countries Greece and Italy to other countries on the continent. This stands in stark contrast to the accelerating nature of arrivals via the Mediterranean, which topped more than 1 million people in 2015.</p> <p><b>EU delivers its first package of actions for the Emergency Trust Fund for Africa:</b> The European Commission has approved a package of <a href="#">ten actions</a> amounting to EUR 253 million to address the root causes of irregular migration in Africa. The actions will invest in activities in Ethiopia, South Sudan and Uganda and will include activities aimed at stemming irregular migration, resilience building, provision of basic health and education, addressing development needs of people affected by long-term displacement. The package forms part of a larger commitment of EUR 1.8 billion endorsed in November 2015 as part of a joint commitment of EU and African partners to better manage migration.</p> <p><b>Burundi refugees in neighbouring countries:</b> Violence sparked by President Nkurunziza’s controversial third-term run in 2015 continues to displace thousands of Burundians across borders. As of 14<sup>th</sup> January 2016, there were 232,501 Burundian refugees and asylum seekers in countries in the region. <a href="#">Reports</a> now suggest that there may be an ethnic undercurrent to the violence, reminiscent of that experienced during Burundi’s ethnically fuelled civil war which ended in 2005.</p>
<p><b>New Research, reports or documents</b></p>	<p><b><a href="#">No asylum for ‘infiltrators’: The legal predicament of Eritrean and Sudanese nationals in Israel:</a></b> This article explores the precarious status of Eritrean and Sudanese nationals in Israel who, having crossed the Israeli-Egyptian border without authorisation, are defined by Israeli law as ‘infiltrators’. While Israel is party to both the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol, neither of these treaties have been incorporated into domestic law, providing no primary criteria for the determination of refugee status in the country. As a result, Eritrean and Sudanese nationals are left in legal limbo for indefinite periods as irregular, non-removable persons.</p> <p><b><a href="#">Understanding the root causes of displacement: towards a comprehensive approach to prevention and solutions:</a></b> This briefing paper by IDMC aims to rethink displacement and migration in the context of today’s crises. It stresses that understanding the root causes and complex patterns of displacement is key to better responses, prevention of crises and ensuring that those displaced are not displaced again. In a search for solutions IDMC suggests, among other things, that stakeholders will need to agree on a common terminology to discuss root causes of displacement, and to acknowledge that responses to displacement must be informed by a comprehensive analysis of drivers and their linkages.</p> <p><b><a href="#">The Uncounted: Detention of migrants and asylum seekers in Europe:</a></b> This joint report by the Global Detention Project and Access Info Europe concludes that there is a severe lack of information about the number of migrants and asylum seekers in detention across Europe. The report, which surveyed 33 countries (31 European countries, plus the United States and Canada), found that over half of the countries monitored did not disclose the locations of where migrants are detained; 12 did not provided statistics on the total number detained; 17 did not disclose information on the number of detained asylum seekers; and 19 failed to provide a breakdown on the number of unaccompanied and accompanied minors in detention. The report contests that this lack of information impedes informed public debate and adequate policy making.</p> <p><b><a href="#">Forced Migration Review, Issue 51. Destination: Europe:</a></b> This issue examines the legal, practical and moral issues surrounding the European “migration crisis”.</p> <p><b><a href="#">Asylum Betrayed: Recruitment of Burundian Refugees in Rwanda:</a></b> This report by Refugees International brings light to claims by Burundian refugees in Rwanda that they are being recruited into non-state armed groups as part of a systematic campaign involving both Burundian and Rwandan nationals.</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.*