

MMC Eastern and Southern
Africa | Egypt and Yemen

QUARTER 4 2022



Quarterly Mixed Migration Update: Eastern and Southern Africa | Egypt and Yemen

This Quarterly Mixed Migration Update (QMMU) covers the Eastern and Southern Africa region plus Egypt and Yemen (ESA). The core areas of focus include the Eastern route, from East and the Horn of Africa towards the Arabian Peninsula; the Southern route from East Africa and the Great Lakes towards South Africa; the Central Mediterranean Route (also called the Northern Route) from East and the Horn of Africa towards North Africa; as well as intra-regional mixed migration dynamics. Depending on the quarterly trends and migration-related updates, more attention may be given to any of the countries over the rest.

The QMMUs offer a quarterly update on new trends and dynamics related to mixed migration and relevant policy developments in the region. These updates are based on a compilation of a wide range of secondary (data) sources, brought together within a regional framework and applying a mixed migration analytical lens. Similar QMMUs are available for all MMC regions.

MMC is a global network engaged in data collection, research, analysis, and policy and programmatic development on mixed migration, with regional hubs hosted in Danish Refugee Council (DRC) regional offices in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Europe and Latin America, and a global team based across Geneva and Brussels. For more information on MMC, the QMMUs from other regions and contact details of regional MMC teams, visit mixedmigration.org and follow us at [@Mixed_Migration](https://twitter.com/Mixed_Migration)

MMC's understanding of mixed migration

"Mixed migration" refers to cross-border movements of people, including refugees fleeing persecution and conflict, victims of trafficking, and people seeking better lives and opportunities. Motivated to move by a multiplicity of factors, people engaged in mixed migration have a range of legal statuses as well as a variety of vulnerabilities. Although entitled to protection under international human rights law, they are exposed to multiple rights violations along their journey. Mixed migration describes refugees and migrants traveling along similar routes, using similar means of travel – often traveling irregularly, and wholly or partially, assisted by migrant smugglers.

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Michael Kirby Smith (2013)

Ethiopian migrants outside the Migrant Response Centre in Haradh, Yemen, May 2013.

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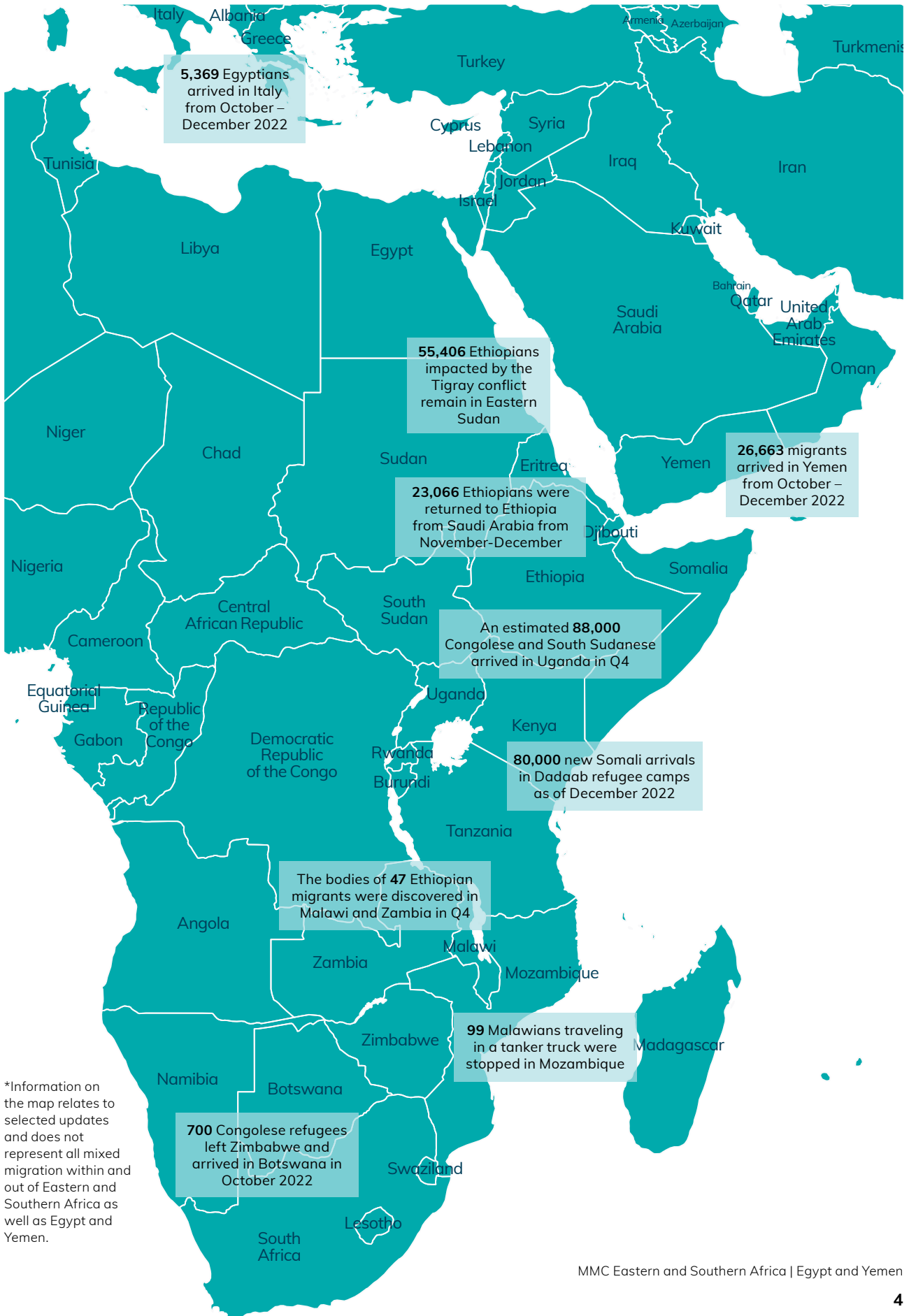
Quarterly Mixed Migration Update: Eastern and Southern Africa | Egypt and Yemen

Quarter 4 - 2022

Key Updates

- **More than 2 million people in the Horn of Africa are estimated to have become displaced** by the drought crisis, while **23-26 million are projected to face acute food insecurity** in 2023.
- **Increasing Somali movements into Kenya** to seek refuge from protracted conflict and the effects of prolonged drought. As of December 2022, an estimated 80,000 had arrived in Dadaab refugee camps.
- In November, **the Ethiopian Federal Government and the Tigray People's Liberation Front signed a peace treaty** to end hostilities in Tigray. The 2-year civil war has internally displaced millions of people in Ethiopia, and approximately 55,406 remain in refugee camps in Sudan.
- Between 2021 and 2022, **arrivals in Yemen along the Eastern Route almost doubled**, at 53,401, with 26,663 entering in Q4 2022 alone.
- Between November 12th and December 30th, **23,066 Ethiopians were returned to Ethiopia from Saudi Arabia**, including 2,673 women and 724 children.
- An estimated **88,000 Congolese and South Sudanese refugees fleeing conflict and violence arrived in Uganda** in Q4, marking a total of 146,000 new arrivals in Uganda in 2022.
- **Egyptians represented the most common nationality** of refugees and migrants traveling along the Central Mediterranean Route in 2022, with 5,369 arriving in Italy from October – December and 21,301 since January.
- **The bodies of Ethiopian migrants were discovered in Malawi (25) and Zambia (27)** in October and November 2022, respectively, prompting the Ethiopian government to reiterate its commitment to reduce the irregular migration of its nationals and to repatriate those in dire situations abroad.
- **The conflict in Northern Mozambique marked its fifth year in Q4**, and 945,500 people are estimated to be internally displaced. The number of those displaced across borders remains unknown.
- **Serbia abolished a visa-free scheme for Burundians**, which had been in place from 2018 – 2022, to align its policies with the European Union.

Regional Overview*



*Information on the map relates to selected updates and does not represent all mixed migration within and out of Eastern and Southern Africa as well as Egypt and Yemen.

Mixed Migration Regional Updates

Mixed Migration within East Africa and the Great Lakes

Prolonged drought in the Horn of Africa

The Climate Hazards Group at the University of California Santa Barbara predicts the Horn of Africa will experience an unprecedented [sixth failed rainy season](#) in 2023. By February 2023, the Food Security and Nutrition Working Group (FSNWG) forecasts that [23-26 million people](#) in the Horn of Africa will face acute food insecurity. As of November, the [United Nations Population Fund \(UNFPA\)](#) estimated that 24.1 million people were affected by the drought in Ethiopia, 7.8 million in Somalia, and 4.35 million in Kenya. Moreover, the [Famine Early Warning Network \(FEWS\)](#) projected in December that the Bay area as well as the capital Mogadishu will reach the highest level of famine by March-April 2023. In Ethiopia, the drought is expected to prevail [until at least mid-2023](#) impacting households whose main source of income is livestock.

By the end of December 2022, more than [2 million](#) people were forced to move from their homes, including 1.3 million in Somalia, 534,000 in Ethiopia and more than 340,000 in Kenya. This includes internally displaced people (IDPs) in Somalia who had been displaced in previous years due to violence, and were [again forced to move](#) due to the prolonged drought. A full update on the regional mixed migration dynamics of the drought crisis can be found in this issue's Thematic Focus.

Health concerns in Kenyan refugee camps

The drought crisis and continued protracted conflict in parts of Somalia have led to an increase in Somalis entering Kenya in need of assistance over the last two years. As of December 2022, [80,000 Somalis have crossed into Kenya, mostly arriving in Dadaab refugee camps, and to a lesser extent Kakuma refugee camps, with 24,000 arriving in Dadaab between September and December alone](#). This number is expected to rise to 120,000 by early 2023. Reports explain that limited resources and insufficient sanitation options have led to refugees in Dadaab defecating in the open. Combined with floods during the short rainy season at the end of the year, hygiene in the camps has deteriorated.

In Q3, [MMC](#) reported on the passing of the deadline announced by the Kenyan government to close Dadaab and Kakuma. In Q4, no further deadlines or reports on the future of these camps have been issued. Additionally, in October, UNHCR and the Kenyan authorities [warned](#) of the need to curb the rising prevalence of cholera and measles linked to poor hygienic conditions in camps. As of [December](#), measles and cholera had killed at least 5 people, whereas between November 1st and December 18th, [cholera cases increased from 9 to 504 cases in Dadaab](#).

Dual impact of conflict and climate change on displacement in South Sudan

Escalating violence and floods have led to mass displacement in South Sudan in the last quarter of 2022. In particular, the Greater Pibor Administrative Area has seen an upsurge in ethnic-fuelled violence, leading to the [displacement of 30,000 people](#). In Fashoda, in Upper Nile State, [over 9,100](#) were forced to leave since clashes broke out in November. According to [UNICEF](#), 75% of those fleeing in the month of November were women and children. The escalating violence has forced people, including entire families, to cross borders into neighbouring countries, primarily Uganda and Sudan, which respectively host 37.5% and 35% of the South Sudanese refugee population in the region, according to [UNHCR](#) as of November.

Being highly vulnerable to climate change, South Sudan has experienced flash floods for the fourth consecutive year, with Jonglei, Unity and Upper Nile the hardest hit states. [UNHCR](#) reported that in October, two-thirds of the country experienced flooding and 900,000 people were directly impacted by floods. Due to rising water levels, relief trucks carrying monthly food rations and relief items could not reach 75,000 Sudanese refugees living in the Doro Refugee camp, until airlifts could bring limited relief. However, the costs associated with airlifts cannot be sustained. According to Crisis Group, the flooding has [increased tensions as well as movements by driving displaced](#) pastoralists south to the Equatoria region. Moreover, in October, UN Human Rights Experts found the South Sudan [peace process to be “extremely slow”](#), with increased complexities attributed not only to conflict but also to recent floods and previous droughts.

Update on UK asylum partnership with Rwanda

In [April 2022](#), a 5-year partnership was signed between the United Kingdom’s (UK) Home Secretary Office and Rwanda’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs, allowing the UK to ‘relocate’ asylum seekers to Rwanda. As mentioned in the [previous quarter](#), the European Court of Human Rights stated the relocation agreement is in breach of the 1951 Refugee Convention; however, on [December 19th](#), the UK’s High Court ruled in favour of the lawfulness of the agreement. Rwanda has remained committed to the agreed partnership notwithstanding criticism by humanitarian organizations and political actors.

While relocations under the UK-Rwanda deal are yet to be implemented, [three asylum seekers](#) from Sri Lanka who have sought refuge on Diego Garcia island, a British Indian Overseas Territory, shall soon be transported to Rwanda for medical treatment. These three are a part of a larger group of approximately 200 who arrived by boat to Diego Garcia starting in October 2021. British authorities have prevented this group from claiming asylum in the UK, and are determining whether they are to be returned to Sri Lanka or, potentially, relocated to Rwanda.

Ethiopia reaches peace agreement with TPLF, while conflict intensifies in Oromia

On November 2nd, the Federal Government of Ethiopia and the Tigray People’s Liberation Front (TPLF) [signed a peace treaty](#), titled the Permanent Cessation of Hostilities Agreement (COHA), following a 2-year

civil war in Northern Ethiopia. After signing the agreement, the Ethiopian government also reached an agreement for the [Eritrean military to leave Tigray](#). The civil war forced over 5 million to become internally displaced, and thousands to flee across borders. As of November 30th, 55,406 Ethiopians who fled the conflict are still in Eastern Sudan and Sudan's Blue Nile State, according to [UNHCR](#). Out of these, 21,987 are hosted in Tunaydbah refugee camp, and 16,295 in Um Rakuba refugee camp. [Refugees may be hesitant to return](#) to Tigray owing to a lack of specific arrangements within the peace agreement safeguarding their return and sustainable reintegration.

While international attention has been concentrated around the conflict in Tigray, protracted conflict and civil unrest in the Oromia region have intensified, and may lead to increased displacement and cross-border mobility of people affected by violence and [general insecurity](#). Attacks occurring in the Kiremu and Gida Ayana districts on November 25th and 29th, led to dozens of deaths and the displacement of [350,000 people](#).

Arrest of two Eritrean human traffickers

In October, the Netherlands charged an alleged Eritrean human trafficker with the [large-scale trafficking of Eritrean refugees and migrants](#) from 2014 – 2020. The broader trafficking network brought Eritreans from Libya to the Netherlands, whereas the trafficker in question is accused of extorting diaspora family members residing in the Netherlands to free imprisoned Eritreans in Libya. Also in Q4, another [Eritrean human trafficker](#) was charged with international organized crime membership and human trafficking after his arrest in Addis Ababa airport, after which he was extradited to Italy.

Mixed migration in the Democratic Republic of Congo

From October – December 2022, [UNHCR](#) facilitated the repatriation of 3,677 Congolese to DRC. From January – December 2022, 10,459 Congolese individuals and 2,470 families returned to DRC, mostly from Zambia, Angola and South Africa.

While most returns take place to areas in Western and Southern DRC, particularly Kinshasa, on November 18th, UNHCR published a [note](#) restating their position to [ban forced returns to the Eastern DRC provinces](#) of North Kivu, South Kivu, Ituri and adjacent areas. In the last three years, as [UNHCR](#) reports, intensified conflict and violence have further deteriorated the overall security context, not guaranteeing a conducive environment for return. [UNHCR](#) reported a total of 146,000 new arrivals of Congolese and South Sudanese refugees in Uganda at the end of 2022.

Serbia abolishes visa-free travel for Burundians

[In October](#), under pressure from the European Union to align its visa policies, Serbia abolished a visa-free scheme for Burundians. [The policy granting Burundians visa-free travel](#) dated from 2018, in response to Burundi withdrawing its recognition of Kosovo. Earlier this year, [investigative media reports](#) revealed that through fraudulent schemes, Burundi nationals in Serbia used this as a business opportunity to deceive Burundians into paying a sum of money that would guarantee them asylum in Europe. This created

a system of Burundians trying to cross into the EU from Serbia in search of opportunities, facilitated by smuggling networks operating out of Serbia.

COP-27: Implications for mixed migration in Eastern Africa

The 27th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP-27) took place from November 6th – 8th and, in a historic move, allocated funds towards loss and damage caused by the climate crisis on developing nations. [4%](#) of these funds shall be directed towards countries vulnerable to climate change in Africa, mostly in the form of loans. While climate-induced migration was not on the COP-27 agenda, it was [discussed as a key concern](#). Parts of Eastern Africa are experiencing unprecedented periods of drought, while others experience massive flooding, which has forced many to move from their locations of origin. More than 30 million in the Horn of Africa are currently estimated to be affected by the drought and, [by 2050](#), it is expected that 113 million people will be displaced across the continent as a direct impact of climate change. During the COP-27, [IOM](#) called for UN leaders to join forces and urgently address climate-induced human mobility through measures to increase adaptation actions towards climate change. The Mixed Migration Centre [held a side event](#) at the Climate Mobility Pavilion at COP-27, presenting the findings on the complex relations between climate change, environmental stressors and mobility from [fieldwork](#) in Angola, Egypt, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Senegal and Uganda, conducted as part of the [Africa Climate Mobility Initiative](#).

The Eastern Route from East Africa to the Arabian Peninsula

Returns to Ethiopia via the Eastern Route

Between [November 12th and December 30th](#), 23,066 Ethiopians were forcibly returned from Saudi Arabia. This included 421 people whom Ethiopia's Ministry of Women and Social Affairs revealed had suffered 'difficult conditions' in Saudi Arabia, as well as 2,673 women and 724 children. Since the start of 2022, more than 102,000 Ethiopians had been forcibly returned, including those who had been detained for prolonged periods in Saudi Arabia. The latest figures on forced returns from November and December follow earlier [reports](#) citing 71,000 returns were reached in August since the start of 2022, when Saudi Arabia and Ethiopia signed an agreement on returns. Many Ethiopians who migrate to Saudi Arabia are exposed to protection risks, including dire working conditions and detention, as well as inhumane conditions within detention centres, according to a December report by [Amnesty International](#).

Through IOM's Voluntary Return Programme, [129 Ethiopian migrants](#), including unaccompanied minors, returned to Ethiopia from Sana'a, Yemen, in October 2022. Looking at returns along the Eastern Route from Yemen to Djibouti, a total of 1,725 returned in Q4, compared to 753 in Q3. As of October, [IOM](#) estimated that another 43,800 Ethiopian migrants were stranded in Yemen, with many thought to be "under the control of dangerous smuggling networks."

Mixed migration in Djibouti and Yemen

In Q4, [IOM's Flow Monitoring Points \(FMP\)](#) observed 42,792 arrivals in Djibouti from Ethiopia, representing a 3% increase compared to Q3 (41,580). Arrivals from Ethiopia in 2022 (150,186) almost doubled compared to the same period in 2021 (79,181).

Additionally, a ship intending to reach Yemen which sank on the coast of Djibouti was recovered on October 30th. Three bodies were found and at least [28 migrants are presumed dead or missing](#). At the end of December, [253 Ethiopian migrants including 98 women](#) were rescued after their boat capsized in an attempt to cross the Bab al Mandab Strait from Djibouti to Yemen. This was followed by the detention of four smugglers involved in Djibouti.

In Yemen, 26,663 refugees and migrants arrived this quarter: [6,831](#) in October; [9,212](#) in November; and [10,620](#) in December, representing an increase of 69% compared to [Q3](#). IOM cited this increase could be due to favourable weather conditions and decreased border patrolling in Djibouti. Compared to [2021](#), arrivals in Yemen have almost doubled in 2022 with [53,401](#) recorded, although these numbers are still lower than those reported in years prior to COVID-19. Additionally, from January – October 2022, [55,269](#) Yemenis had returned to Yemen, mostly coming from Saudi Arabia.

Reports published on human rights violations at the Yemen-Saudi border

[UN experts](#) (in October) and [Human Rights Watch](#) (in December) published findings on grave allegations of human rights abuses against migrants, refugees and asylum seekers perpetrated in the first 4 months of 2022 by Saudi security forces at the border between Sa'dah governorate, Yemen, and Jizan province, Saudi Arabia. Saudi security forces allegedly fired artillery shells and small firearms at refugees and migrants, killing more than 400 and injuring more than 600. 30% of victims were reportedly women and 7% children. Those who survived were at risk of capture, torture and rape by Saudi security forces. The UN report reveals that migrants and refugees traveling along this final leg of the migration route to Saudi Arabia continue to be subject to attacks by both Saudi forces and Yemeni de facto authorities. Since the decline in activity along the northern frontlines in 2022, instead of being caught in cross-fire as was previously the risk, migrants and refugees are now being directly targeted by Saudi security forces to stop border crossings.

Routes towards the Mediterranean

East African arrivals along the Mediterranean routes

Between October and December, [42,656 refugees and migrants arrived in Europe](#) via Mediterranean land and sea routes. This represents a 28% decrease compared to the [previous quarter](#). Despite this decrease, 2022 (154,290) has seen an overall 20% increase in refugees and migrants entering Europe via the Mediterranean routes as compared to 2021 (123,318). Zooming in on movements from East and the Horn of Africa as well as Egypt, [between January – December 2022](#), Egyptians were the most common nationality to arrive in Italy (21,301), followed by Eritreans (2,143; 10th), Sudanese (1,058; 15th), Ethiopians (383; 19th) and Somalis (249; 24th). [In Greece](#), Somalis (1,304) were the 3rd most common nationality to arrive, followed by Eritreans (383; 6th), Yemenis (315; 7th), Sudanese (272; 8th), Egyptians (160; 11th), Ethiopians (116; 14th) and Congolese (DRC) (114; 15th) between January – October 2022.¹ For 2022, while no specific nationalities were detailed, IOM's Missing Migrants Project has recorded at least [1,337](#) fatalities and disappearances along the Central Mediterranean Route.

EU launch of Team Europe Initiatives

To promote EU priorities in Europe and partner countries in line with the EU programming agenda 2021 – 2027, the EU has developed an international partnership approach entitled [Team Europe](#). It focuses on identifying critical priorities that constrain development in a country or region, addressing these through joining forces, and pooling resources and expertise. Aimed at addressing current challenges linked to unsafe migration, the EU launched in December 2022 two routes-based Team Europe Initiatives ([TEIs](#)), one focused on the Western Mediterranean and Atlantic Routes and one on the Central Mediterranean Route. Through the implementation of a whole-of-route approach, the Central Mediterranean Route TEI will work with the governments of Ethiopia, Eritrea, Somalia, Sudan, Tunisia and Egypt alongside the European Commission and the European External Action Service. The EU and its member states reached an agreement to mobilize €1.13 billion aimed at achieving the five pillars of the initiative together with its African partners. The initiative was designed particularly to address the reported increase in protection abuses and the exploitation of people on the move along mixed migration routes.

The Southern Route towards South Africa

Fatalities of Ethiopians in Malawi and Zambia

On [October 19th](#), the bodies of 25 Ethiopian men were discovered in a mass grave in a forest in the Mzimba area of Malawi. [Four more bodies](#) were uncovered 2 days later. All victims were suspected to be 25 - 40 years old, and died due to [suffocation](#). [According to Malawian authorities](#), the victims were believed to have been transiting Malawi en route to South Africa. [Evidence](#) links Malawi's ex-President's stepson to the graves. He was detained on November 23rd while inquiries proceeded. Less than 2 months later, on

¹ Figures for November and December 2022 were not yet published at the time of publication of this QMMU.

[December 12th](#), another 27 bodies of Ethiopian nationals, aged between 20 to 38 years old, were found dead and abandoned on a road close to Lusaka, Zambia. [One victim](#) was found alive and transported to the hospital. The exact cause of the deaths was still under investigation at the time of writing. Ethiopians see South Africa, a country with a [settled Ethiopian diaspora](#), as a viable economic destination offering better livelihoods. The overland, irregular journeys that some Ethiopians undertake to South Africa are long and perilous, exposing many to abuses, hunger and starvation.

In light of the above atrocities, on [December 24th](#), the Government of Ethiopia reiterated its commitment to prevent the irregular migration of its nationals and return them from dire situations abroad. From September 8th – November 24th, [794 undocumented Ethiopians](#) were returned from Zambia to Ethiopia. In November, [344 Ethiopians](#) who had been in detention in Malawi were repatriated. Ethiopia's Federal Council of Ministers is yet to approve a national migration strategy that is in line with the country's priorities and the migration policy frameworks of the African Union (AU) and Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD).

Mixed migration in Mozambique

The [conflict](#) in Cabo Delgado Province in Northern Mozambique marked its 5th year in Q4 and can be characterized by episodes of [extreme violence and mass displacement](#). As of November 2022, [UNHCR](#) estimated that [945,500 people](#) were internally displaced and facing [challenges with](#) access to shelter, food, water and medical services. From [October](#) to [December](#), approximately 36,620 individuals arrived in districts, 12,497 departed and 3,882 returned – demonstrating the high degree of internal movements. The arrivals of displaced individuals were mostly concentrated in the cities of Lalaua, Namuno and Nampula, and the returns to Memna, Mocimba da Praia and Mueda. It is noteworthy to mention that of displaced individuals recorded in November, approximately 65% were displaced for the first time, and around 52% were children. In December, close to 35% were displaced for the first time, and 49% of the displaced were children.

On October 23rd, Mozambican authorities [intercepted](#) a [tanker truck](#) transporting 99 migrants, [mostly from Malawi](#). The migrants are thought to have entered Mozambique via the adjacent province of Tete. They were halted on National Road Seven, a key road of transit for those who are [heading to South Africa](#). One month later, 80 Malawians, including women and children, were [deported](#) from Mozambique due to their irregular status in the country. They allegedly travelled to Mozambique for the purpose of finding employment on agricultural fields.

The Government of Mozambique approved in October a [law proposal](#) that aims “to combat irregular immigration and human trafficking.” Facilitators and individuals responsible for transporting migrants irregularly will be held liable under this law. The government also intends to strengthen policies related to the entry and exit of minors. In November, a local NGO [denounced](#) the [detention](#) of dozens of nationals from different African countries (including Guinea, Senegal, DRC, Ethiopia, Somalia, among others) at police stations in inhumane conditions.

Departures from South Africa due to increased xenophobia and insecurity

In October, Botswana expressed concerns over an “[influx](#)” of Congolese and Somali refugees and migrants arriving from Zimbabwe and South Africa. Many were thought to have sought asylum in South Africa, but were forced to flee due to ongoing xenophobia violence and insecurity. Some [700 refugees](#) who arrived from Zimbabwe cited poor conditions in refugee camps in the country as a driver for their onward movement. On December 30th, Zimbabwe [recorded](#) more than 20,000 migrants crossing into the country at the Beitbridge border crossing, most of them being Zimbabwean nationals returning from South Africa.

Migrant arrests and deportations and a new decree in Mayotte

As reported in [Q3](#), Mayotte, an overseas French territory, has seen increasing numbers of migrant arrivals over the past years, mostly consisting of Comorians seeking [better living conditions](#) on the island. The [Prefecture of Mayotte](#) published in October a [report](#) containing official data on arrivals in Q1 of 2022. A total of 588 kwassas (wooden vessels) were detected, of which 432 were intercepted. In total, 5,912 undocumented migrants were arrested, and 267 smugglers were prosecuted, with 47 condemned to prison and a three-year ban on entering the territory. Based on the arrests of undocumented migrants on land, 19,959 people were deported in 2022, most of them to Comoros and Madagascar. On [December 27th](#), [France issued a decree](#) to further combat “irregular immigration and smuggling” in Mayotte. Specialised judicial police investigators based in Mayotte will be working directly on the issue instead of bringing in experts from metropolitan France.

Thematic Focus:

Update on drought crisis and drought-related movements

The Horn of Africa faces large-scale food insecurity as drought prolongs and expands

As the drought in the Horn of Africa continues, its impacts have now stretched further into the wider Eastern Africa region, including large parts of Djibouti and extended areas of Ethiopia, Eritrea and Kenya, according to [IOM](#).

As of November, UNOCHA reported [36.4 million](#) people have been affected by the drought and 23 million people were estimated to be food insecure. This includes 4.9 million acutely malnourished children. The prolonged climate crisis has forced more than [1 million people to become displaced](#) in Somalia in search of water, food and pasture. Several regions of Somalia are expected to reach the highest level of food insecurity – famine – in early 2023, according to [FEWS](#). In Ethiopia, [1.9 million](#) people were displaced in drought-stricken areas up until the end of October 2022. The regions most affected by the drought in Ethiopia remain Somali Region, Oromia and Afar. Over the course of 2022, [IOM estimated](#) that 28% of all migrants leaving Ethiopia were from drought-affected areas. Moreover, 37% of migrants entering Djibouti were from drought-affected areas in Ethiopia. In Kenya, IOM recorded 3,500 stranded migrant households in Garissa. Furthermore, 52% of migrants who entered Kenya had moved into drought-affected areas after their entry.

Djibouti: context and 4Mi data

In Q4, the impacts of the regional drought crisis extended to Djibouti, with 200,000 people estimated to be affected and 6,000 displaced as of November, according to [IOM](#). With Djibouti not being formally included in regional drought-response programming, it is the most underfunded drought response, with just 1% of required programming funded at the end of November, as compared to 11% for Kenya, 18% for Ethiopia and 21% for Somalia. At the same time, boasting some of the warmest climates around the world and assessed as a country extremely vulnerable to climate change, the [drought in Djibouti is expected to persist](#) with even higher temperatures and rising sea levels.

Not only is Djibouti directly experiencing the effects of the drought crisis, but also it is a country of transit and increasingly a country of destination for Ethiopians and Somalis impacted by the drought who are engaging in international migration as a coping mechanism. According to 4Mi data collected by MMC in Djibouti between October and November 2022,² 27% of Ethiopian³ and Somali respondents who had

2 In partnership with IOM, MMC collected 877 surveys in four locations in Djibouti with Ethiopian, Somali and Eritrean respondents. Out of the total, 583 came from regions in Ethiopia and Somalia projected to reach either level 4 or 5 of food insecurity in October 2022 according to [FEWS](#). From those 583, 88% (513) were Ethiopians and 12% (70) were Somali.

3 As of November 2022, IOM cited an estimated 37% of Ethiopians arriving in Djibouti was coming from drought-affected areas.

crossed into Djibouti from food-insecure regions in their home countries had cited the drought as a reason for their departure. Out of all respondents, 92% were intending to move onward, while 75% reported that one or more other members of their household also left their location of origin due to the drought, mostly to a nearby location within their country of origin. These data demonstrate how the impacts of the drought intersect with mixed migration, and show the different mobility patterns linked to environmental disasters.

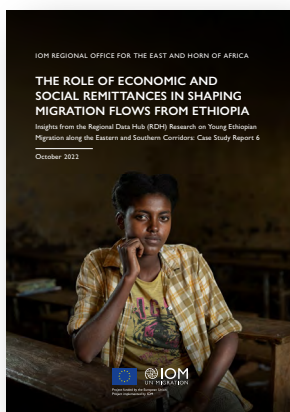
Impact of drought-related mobility on health and protection

Displacement induced by the drought has led to increased vulnerability to disease and poor health outcomes, with the [World Health Organization](#) and [IOM](#) stressing poor sanitation, hygiene and malnutrition due to overwhelmed critical services in camps and urban environments hosting those displaced by the drought around the region. Moreover, impacted livelihoods have led to increased protection abuses, including sexual violence, exploitation and abuse, as well as [child marriage, child labour and female genital mutilation](#), according to [UNICEF](#) and [international media outlets](#). From January – April 2021 and the same period in 2022, a 115% increase in child marriages was noted in Ethiopia, particularly in areas affected by drought. It remains to be seen whether the first quarter of 2023 will reveal similar trends.

Drought response: pivoting towards resilience

In a [joint Op-ed](#) published in November 2022, Regional Directors for Eastern and Southern Africa representing UNICEF, the World Food Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization and the International Fund for Agricultural Development have stressed it is key to break the cycle of devastating drought impacts in the larger region and work towards the long-term resilience of communities against the adverse effects of climate change through “forward-thinking solutions”, in order for communities to have the opportunity to recover in between drought seasons. Without long-term investments that go beyond emergency assistance, including social protection, alternative approaches to water access, drought-resistant crops, and sustainable feed production, the authors state, there will be a continued cycle of disasters, of which the world has now received “a taster of what is to come in the coming decades.” They also emphasize that while funds have been increasing, almost all allocated money is serving immediate interventions, while structural challenges remain. Therefore, agencies are pleading for an additional 3.3 billion USD to develop innovative approaches that provide both urgent life-saving assistance and climate resilience support together. To integrate mobility linked to the drought in its regional programming, IOM has developed a [regional strategic framework](#) for East and the Horn of Africa that runs from 2020 to 2024 aimed at “mitigating the influence of climate change and environmental degradation acting as drivers of forced migration.” Further, an [October report published by MMC](#) on climate-mobility interventions in Khartoum Process countries argues for states to consider supporting voluntary mobility, where appropriate, as an adaptation or resilience strategy led by migrants themselves.

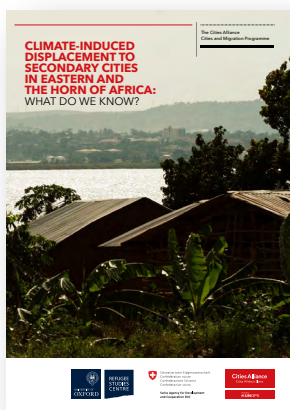
Highlighted New Research and Reports



[The Role of Economic and Social Remittances in Shaping Migration Flows from Ethiopia](#)

IOM | October 2022

This report aims to provide an in-depth understanding of the monetary and social benefits which shape migration journeys from Ethiopia. It builds on a series of briefing papers focusing on five communities from Ethiopia. The study finds that remittance flows to Ethiopia from particularly South Africa and Saudi Arabia have significantly fostered the wellbeing of households who have stayed behind in areas of high emigration.



[Climate-Induced Displacement to Secondary Cities in Eastern and the Horn of Africa: What do we know?](#)

Cities Alliance | October 2022

Cities Alliance explores how secondary cities in East and the Horn of Africa can adopt actions to mitigate the impact of climate change on their residents. The data collected for this research examines climate-induced displacement from cities, the impact on displaced people in urban settings, and strategies implemented by cities. Some of the good practice adaptation strategies emerging from the research include: the overall inclusion of climate change considerations in programming, engaging cities and municipalities during planning and decision-making around addressing climate-induced migration and displacement, and undertaking household-level interventions to scope the need for urban interventions to improve access to resources, including water and food security.



[Africa Borderlands at a Glance](#)

UNDP | December 2022

Based on quantitative data collected from 8 African borderland regions as part of UNDP's Borderlands Centre's flagship research, this report provides data and stories from these regions, including five in Eastern Africa (Ethiopia – South Sudan, Kenya – Ethiopia, Kenya – South Sudan, Kenya – Uganda, and Uganda – South Sudan). The report aims to understand the sources of resilience and opportunities for agro-pastoralist communities' borderlands.



[Tipping Points to Turning Points: How Can Programmes and Policies Better Respond to the risks of Child Trafficking and Exploitation on the Central Mediterranean Route?](#)

Save the Children & Samuel Hall | December 2022

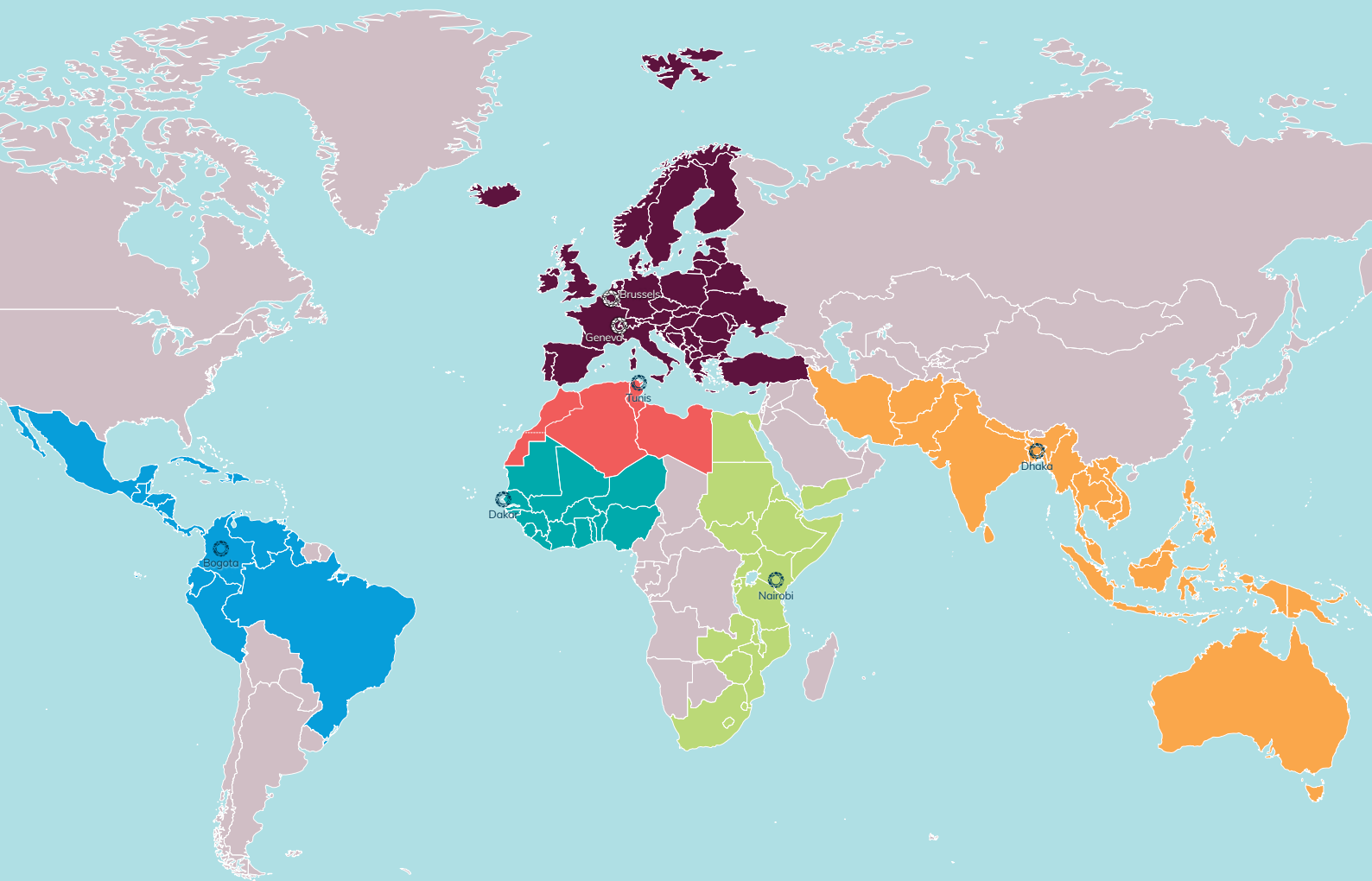
This research report is based on a study conducted by Samuel Hall commissioned by Save the Children to facilitate understanding of how policymakers and practitioners can work on reducing the incidence of child trafficking and exploitation and enhance responses. Focusing on East African migration routes through Ethiopia, Sudan and Egypt, 200 individuals including experts, community members and interviewed children participated in the research. The study analyses trafficking dynamics, child migration (smuggler-facilitated journeys), protection risks and risk multipliers, and existing gaps in current protection policies and responses. The report aims to further enhance the development of risk prevention and global protection policies for children on the move.



[Relationships in Transit: Local communities' interactions with transiting migrants along the Eastern Route in Djibouti and the Somaliland region](#)

MMC & IOM | December 2022

Based on primary quantitative and qualitative data collection in Djibouti and the Somaliland region, this report focuses on places of transit, the role of host communities, their perceptions of migration, and their interactions with transiting Ethiopian migrants along the Eastern Route towards the Arabian Peninsula, or returning to Ethiopia. It presents multiple perspectives on relations between both communities, and shines light on the role of local communities as providers of assistance to transiting migrants in need along the Eastern Route.



MMC is a global network engaged in data collection, research, analysis, and policy and programmatic development on mixed migration, with regional hubs hosted in DRC regional offices in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Europe and Latin America, and a global team based across Geneva and Brussels.

MMC is a leading source for independent and high-quality data, research, analysis and expertise. MMC aims to increase understanding of mixed migration, to positively impact global and regional migration policies, to inform evidence-based protection responses for people on the move and to stimulate forward thinking in public and policy debates on mixed migration. MMC's overarching focus is on human rights and protection for all people on the move.

MMC is part of the Danish Refugee Council (DRC).

For more information visit:
mixedmigration.org and follow us at [@Mixed_Migration](https://twitter.com/Mixed_Migration)

