

**MMC Eastern and Southern
Africa | Egypt and Yemen**

QUARTER 3 2023



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.

Front cover photo credit:

Michael Kirby Smith (2013)

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

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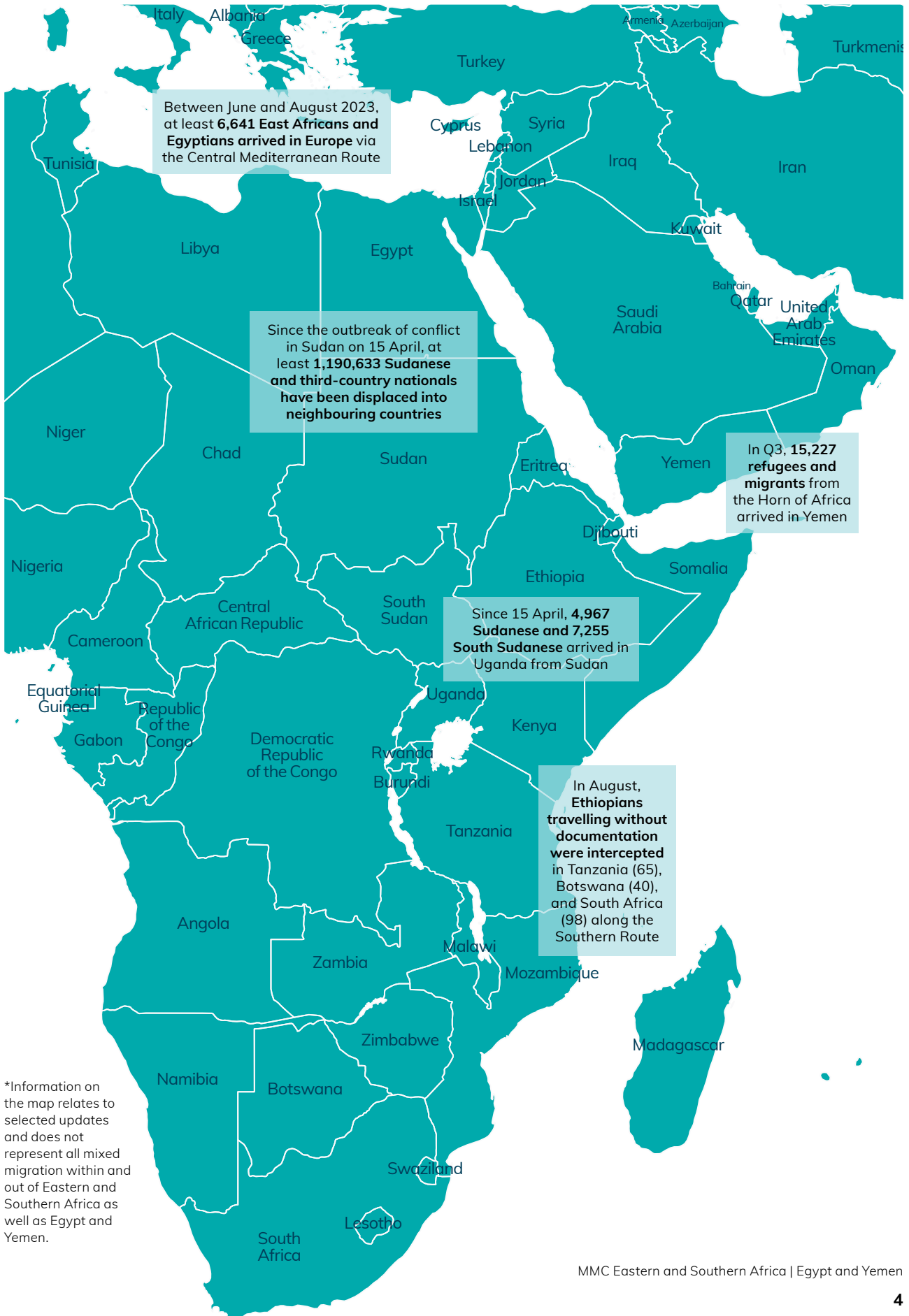
Quarterly Mixed Migration Update: Eastern and Southern Africa | Egypt and Yemen

Quarter 3 - 2023

Key Updates

- **Ongoing conflict in Sudan continues to fuel internal displacement, cross-border movement and forced immobility:** compared to the previous quarter, [cross-border movements](#) have increased by 166% in Chad (481,147), 108% in South Sudan (281,129), 82% in Libya (4,110), 48% in Ethiopia (82,403), 27% in Egypt (323,230) and 21% in the Central African Republic (CAR) (18,545).
- **Introduction of visa policies for Sudanese fleeing the conflict:** Due to increasing numbers of Sudanese displaced by the conflict in Sudan, both [Egypt](#) and [Ethiopia](#) have introduced new visa restrictions for Sudanese arrivals.
- **Decrease in refugee and migrant arrivals in Yemen:** From [July – September](#), 15,227 refugees and migrants arrived in Yemen, compared to 35,677 arriving in the [previous quarter](#).
- **Increase in spontaneous returnees from Yemen to the Horn of Africa:** This quarter, [1,713](#) refugees and migrants returned to the Horn of Africa from Yemen, compared to 1,354 in Q2, representing a 27% increase.
- **Anti-trafficking operations in Uganda:** In August 2023, police intercepted [20 Eritreans](#), including 12 adults and six children, who were being trafficked into the country. The same month, Ugandan police rescued [179 Ugandans](#) who were being trafficked to Kenya and arrested one trafficker.
- **Increase in East African arrivals along the Central Mediterranean Route:** Compared to the [previous quarter](#), between June and August, Sudanese arrivals in [Italy](#) saw a fourfold increase, while arrivals among Ethiopians, Somalis, and Eritreans, more than doubled.
- **Hundreds of deaths reported along the Yemen-Saudi border:** Between [March 2022 and June 2023](#), hundreds of Ethiopian migrants and asylum seekers were systematically killed by Saudi border guards on the border with Yemen. This quarter saw the release of reports by the Mixed Migration Centre and Human Rights Watch, and widespread media coverage and condemnation of these atrocities and increasing calls for investigations.
- **Ethiopians travelling without documentation intercepted along the Southern route:** In August, 65 Ethiopians were apprehended in [Tanzania](#), 40 in [Botswana](#), and 98 in [South Africa](#), with the latter group suspected to be victims of trafficking. In addition, 26 Ethiopians were apprehended in [Kenya](#), though their destination was unknown.
- **South Africa on curbing irregular migration:** South African Home Affairs Minister, [Dr Aaron Motsoaledi](#), said to the press that the government is in the process of changing its migration laws and that a radical overhaul is needed. A white paper detailing the changes is being reviewed by the Cabinet.

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

Conflict in Sudan continues to drive internal and cross-border displacement

Conflict in Sudan between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) is approaching its sixth month at the time of writing. The Khartoum, Darfur and Kordofan regions have been the epicentres of severe fighting and violence. As of 26 September, [4,295,092](#) people have been internally displaced since the start of the conflict, representing nearly a doubling compared to the [previous quarter](#) (2,152,936). Moreover, [1,190,633](#) individuals have fled Sudan into neighbouring countries, representing an 85% increase compared to [Q2](#) (644,861).

Since the beginning of the conflict, [67%](#) of cross-border arrivals tracked were Sudanese nationals, while an estimated 33% were foreign nationals and returnees. Arrivals are recorded in Chad (481,147), Egypt (323,230), South Sudan (281,129), Ethiopia (82,403), CAR (18,545) and Libya (4,110), as of 24 September. Internally displaced persons from Khartoum, totalling 2,911,641 individuals and comprising 68% of the newly internally displaced population, have predominantly fled to Northern, River Nile, Sennar and White Nile states. Of these, some may decide to engage in onward movement if, for instance, they do not feel safe in Sudan, are able to connect with family abroad, mobilise resources and/or feel their current access to assistance and services is inadequate. In August, [at least 120,000](#) were stranded in the border town of Wadi Halfa, intending to cross into Egypt (also see Thematic Focus). With no cessation of hostilities in sight, cross-border displacement is expected to reach [1.8 million people](#) by the end of 2023.

Impact of the conflict on South Sudan

Since 15 April, 281,129 people have sought refuge in South Sudan, a 107% increase compared to [Q2](#), with 91.3% consisting of South Sudanese. These arrivals come at a time of [increased political and ethnic tensions](#) in South Sudan, fed by recurring violence as well as [climate and economic](#) shocks. Political instability could further affect the humanitarian response to South Sudanese fleeing from Sudan and may pose additional security risks for those returning to areas they had previously fled due to ethnic conflict. According to the UN, the current tensions combined with the return of South Sudanese from Sudan have the potential to [incite intercommunal conflicts](#), potentially leading to renewed displacement of returnees and internally displaced, and further exacerbating the already dire humanitarian situation.

The current situation has led to overcrowding and a dire humanitarian situation at border points. At the Joda border point in Upper Nile State, a reception centre initially designed for [3,000 people now hosts over 8,000](#). Renk, located near South Sudan's border with Sudan, remains the main point of entry from Sudan, where reports cite over 12,000 returnees and refugees are hosted in the transit centre. An additional 6,000 are enduring challenging conditions in makeshift shelters outside the centre. While the South Sudanese authorities continue to [reject the creation of long-term housing facilities or new camps](#) to host returnees

and refugees in Renk, out of concern these could turn into permanent border settlements, the relocation of new arrivals from Renk to areas with better infrastructure is slow and many remain stuck at the border. For those who manage to move onwards by their own means, UNHCR reported in September that 7,255 South Sudanese who had been in Sudan, and 4,967 Sudanese, had arrived in [Uganda](#). New arrivals interviewed by [MMC](#) in Uganda stated they had moved onwards from South Sudan, transiting through Juba, with the expectation to receive better access to assistance in Ugandan refugee settlements.

Violent events involving Eritreans in Israel and Germany

In September, on two separate occasions, cultural events that involved the participation of the Eritrean diaspora in [Israel](#) and [Germany](#) turned into riots. On 4 September, an event organized by the Eritrean embassy in Israel to commemorate 30 years of independence turned violent when supporters and opponents of the Eritrean government of Isaias Afewerki clashed in Tel Aviv. The riot left more than 150 Eritrean asylum seekers and dozens of police injured. Similar events occurred in Stuttgart, Germany, on 19 September, at a cultural festival, when more than 200 Eritrean opposition supporters were arrested, with hundreds reportedly facing off against approximately 90 Afewerki supporters. The riots highlight the [deep political divide](#) among Eritrean diaspora members.

While many Eritreans who arrive in Europe are granted asylum on the grounds of persecution and forced conscription into the army, those arriving in Israel [face challenges](#) in obtaining refugee status. Moreover, Israel has employed various measures to encourage the [departure of African asylum seekers and migrants](#), including Eritreans. Some have been relocated to remote detention facilities, while other accounts allege portions of wages being withheld until Eritreans agree to leave the country. Israel has reportedly also provided financial incentives for relocation to other African destinations. Within this context, Benjamin Netanyahu, Prime Minister of Israel, announced after the riots he would request his government to develop proposals for deportation, in order to “[remove all infiltrators](#)”.

Dismantling of human trafficking networks in Ethiopia

In August, the Ethiopian government [reported](#) it had apprehended 158 individuals involved in human trafficking and brokerage throughout the country. It announced its commitment to dismantling complex human trafficking networks, in cooperation with organizations including IOM, the International Labour Organization and the Freedom Fund. Concurrently, Ethiopia [aims](#) to generate better economic prospects for its citizens with limited financial resources, to reduce their vulnerability to human trafficking.

Unregistered Kenyan recruitment agency investigated for fraud

Kenya's Directorate for Criminal Investigations (DCI) and Senate are investigating claims that more than [7,000 youth](#) from various regions of Kenya have been defrauded by an unregistered job recruitment agency. Some of the affected youths are seeking reimbursement for their [advance payments](#) to secure migrant worker jobs, particularly in Qatar, in anticipation of last year's World Cup. Individuals claim to have incurred [fees ranging from 400 to 8,000 USD](#). On 28 August, youth impacted by the job fraud organised a demonstration in the town of Eldoret.

The agency in question, First Choice Recruitment and Consultancy Agency, has refuted all allegations, attributing [visa processing delays](#) as the cause of not being able to place job applicants. In [Q1](#), IOM and 11 ministries of labour across countries in East and the Horn of Africa, including Kenya, committed to strengthening their collaboration and coordination on labour mobility especially to the Gulf and Europe. Failure to address the current allegations could undermine efforts to counter the activities of exploitive recruitment firms and smugglers falsely promising work opportunities abroad.

Apprehensions and anti-trafficking operations in Uganda

In August 2023, the Ugandan police intercepted a group of [20 Eritreans](#), including 12 men, two women, and six children, who were reportedly being trafficked, as they were travelling from Busia at the Kenya-Ugandan border to Kabalagala, a suburb of Kampala frequented by Eritrean and Ethiopian nationals. The interception took place in Jinja City and the local police have urged the Eritrean community residing in Jinja and Kampala to ensure they enter the country with the correct documentation.¹ In addition, on 23 August, the police apprehended [179 Ugandans, reportedly from a human trafficking operation](#), resulting in the arrest of one identified human trafficker who had collected money from the individuals, allegedly under the false promise of securing them jobs in Kenya.

Targeted violence against LGBTQI+ persons in refugee camps in Kenya and Uganda

Against a wider crackdown on LGBTQI+ rights in the region, reports of [abuse against LGBTQI+](#) in Kakuma refugee settlement have continued to appear this quarter. Targeted individuals report [destruction of property](#) by other residents as well as arrest and physical and sexual violence by police officers. Moreover, due to significant societal stigma, LGBTQI+ in Kakuma struggle to access services, making it challenging for them to receive medical treatment and education. As a [protective measure](#), UNHCR and the Department of Refugee Services (DRS) have relocated some particularly vulnerable LGBTQI+ from Kakuma to Nairobi and its surroundings. During this quarter, the Kenyan Parliament was still to [consider the Family Protection Bill 2023](#), which could further aggravate the precarious situation for LGBTQI+ refugees and asylum seekers in the country, including the hundreds of new arrivals from Uganda. The [new bill proposes](#) a 50-year jail term for “non-consensual same-sex acts”, while it also aims to “ban homosexuality, same-sex unions and LGBTQI+ activities and campaigns”.

In Uganda, following the passing of the new Anti-Homosexuality Bill in Q2, discrimination against the LGBTQI+ community has been on the rise. [LGBTQI+ refugees](#) express concerns about their safety if they were to leave the camps and attempt to self-settle in the country. In response to Uganda's anti-LGBTQI+ stance, in August, the [World Bank](#) declared its withholding of new loans to the country. Uganda's strained resources and the continued arrival of refugees from neighbouring countries underscores the urgency of prioritizing LGBTQ+ rights within refugee protection efforts.

¹ For this reason, it is unclear whether this incident was a case of trafficking in persons, or unauthorized migration as the report does not reference the Eritreans being transported against their will. The report and the police reference this as an anti-trafficking operation.

The Eastern Route from East Africa to Yemen

Mixed migration in Djibouti

From [July](#) – [August](#) 2023, 22,124 entries were recorded into Djibouti from Ethiopia, which is relatively consistent with the [previous quarter](#) (30,238 from April – June) when calculating the monthly average. 8,978 movements were observed in the coastal Obock region, where migrants depart for the Arabian Peninsula via the Gulf of Aden. From January – August 2023, 84,814 Ethiopians arrived in Djibouti, representing a [42% increase](#) compared to the same period [last year](#) (59,609). This quarter, the United States pledged financial aid of [five million USD](#) to Djibouti to alleviate the challenges faced by the country in dealing with the arrival and transit of migrants on route to the Arabian Peninsula.

In July, the Ethiopian embassy in Djibouti assisted the return of [197 Ethiopian](#) migrants, many of whom had been in Yemen and were seeking assistance to complete their return journey. Others were Ethiopians who were still on their outward journey but changed their migration plans. Following Djibouti's announcement of a crackdown to address the escalating issue of [undocumented migrants](#) in the country, Djiboutian authorities have continued carrying out migrant deportations. Data gathered by MMC on the ground in late June 2023 found that deportations occur weekly, with undocumented migrants transported both to the borders of Ethiopia and Somalia.

On 19 August, a shipwreck near Djibouti's coastline resulted in the disappearance and presumed drowning of over [24 migrants](#). Surviving migrants who were rescued from the incident reported that the vessel was carrying approximately 60 migrants, including 18 women and at least two minors under the age of 18. 26 migrants were rescued, while the remains of 11 individuals were retrieved.

Mixed migration in Yemen

While arrivals to Djibouti have remained steady, if slightly increased, arrivals in Yemen have decreased. From [July](#) – [September](#), 15,227 refugees and migrants arrived in Yemen from the Horn of Africa, representing a 43% decrease compared to the [previous quarter](#) (35,677) and a 57% increase compared to the same period [last year](#) (9,713). The number of migrants arriving at the coast of the Lahj region has dropped significantly because of a Yemeni military campaign initiated in early August. The campaign involved crackdowns on smugglers' properties, the apprehension of some smugglers and facilitators aiding in migrant transportation and the establishment of military checkpoints along the coast to deter smuggler boats.

Continued [deteriorating humanitarian conditions](#) in Yemen, coupled with the challenges associated with migrating to Saudi Arabia have led to 1,713 spontaneous returns to the Horn of Africa this quarter. This represents a 27% increase as compared to the previous quarter ([1,354](#)). Moreover, during this period, [225 migrants \(primarily Ethiopians\)](#) were deported from Oman back to Yemen by Omani authorities.

International reactions to reports on mass killings of Ethiopians at Yemen-Saudi border

This quarter, MMC released an [article](#) and Human Rights Watch (HRW) published a [report, accompanied by several videos](#) from TikTok and Facebook, on the systematic killings of Ethiopian migrants, including women and children, by Saudi border guards at the Yemen-Saudi Arabia border. The revelations received widespread attention from [international media outlets](#), sparking outcry among human rights activists and policy makers. In September, [MMC](#) released a series of in-depth first-hand accounts of the experiences of Ethiopians travelling from Yemen to Saudi Arabia, and on their return journey to Ethiopia.

American and German forces had [allegedly trained](#) the Saudi border guards on border management. This prompted Germany to [state](#) it had ended trainings when reports of mass abuses came out, while the [US statement](#) read that the trainings were organised for maritime security and coastguard operations only, not involving any land border guards. US Senator [Bernie Sanders](#) called upon the US to conduct investigations into the allegations of severe misconduct, including killings, torture and sexual violence by Saudi border guards. Researchers and activists have since published policy op-eds in which they lament how “[Saudi Arabia is getting away with murder](#)”.

Responding to the international media coverage on the killings of its nationals, the Ethiopian Government released a press statement announcing their commitment to launching an investigation after having taken note of the distressing reports. At the same time, its Ministry of Foreign Affairs [tweeted](#) on 22 August: “at this critical juncture, it is highly advised to exercise utmost restraint from making unnecessary speculations until investigation is complete,” adding that despite “the unfortunate tragedy”, the two countries “enjoy excellent long standing relations”. For its part, the [Saudi authorities responded](#) that the allegations were “unfounded”, [denouncing](#) the HRW report as “misleading”, while the two countries vowed to “[jointly investigate the incident](#)”. While an independent UN probe into the killings was being discussed at the end of September, the European Union suggested it would not back such an inquiry, as it would instead “[raise the allegations directly with Saudi Arabia and the Houthi de facto authorities in Yemen](#)”.

Routes towards the Mediterranean

East African arrivals along the Mediterranean route

As a continuing trend from [Q1](#) and [Q2](#), East Africans were not among the main nationalities to move along the [Central Mediterranean Route](#) and arrive in Italy this quarter. Between July and September, [102,799 refugees and migrants](#) arrived in Europe through land and sea routes. This represents a 124% increase compared to the [previous quarter](#), and a 73% increase when looking at the same period last year (59,292).

From January – August 2023, Egyptians arriving in [Italy](#) dropped from being the 2nd most common nationality to the 4th most common nationality, with a total of 8,478 arrivals. Compared to the arrivals of Egyptians in Italy during the [last reporting period](#), arrivals between June and August² decreased by

² The date range used in this QMMU is based on available data from IOM and UNHCR. The figures were derived by comparing data from January to May with that from January to August.

72%. [Other nationalities](#) to arrive since the beginning of the year include: Sudanese (2,983; 12th), Eritreans (2,844; 13th), Ethiopians (454; 21st) and Somalis (288; 22nd).

In contrast, Sudanese arrivals saw a fourfold increase when comparing data from January-May (599) with June-August (2,384). Whereas, Eritreans (1,270 to 1,574), Ethiopians (189 to 265) and Somalis (119 to 169) saw increases, but to a lesser extent, over the same periods. [Increased sea arrivals](#) in Italy could be attributed to not only the ongoing war in Sudan, but also the economic instability within Libya and Tunisia. [Reports](#) have stated that more people are coming to Tunisia from Libya including nationalities from Egypt, Eritrea and Sudan.

In [Greece](#), the most represented nationalities among arrivals from January up until the end of July include Somalis (999; 3rd), Eritreans (924; 5th), Congolese (521; 6th), Sudanese (462; 7th), Yemenis (422; 8th), Egyptians (63; 15th) and Ethiopians (45; 16th).

Migration policy discussions between Egypt and Cyprus

This quarter, the authorities of Egypt and Cyprus met to affirm their commitment to enhancing collaboration in "[addressing irregular migration](#)". The statement said this would be achieved through developing secure migration alternatives, including safe migration pathways, increased labour mobility and seasonal employment prospects for Egyptian youth in Cyprus. The reaffirmed collaboration would take place under the Revive Roots Initiative, which is a cooperation mechanism involving Egypt, Cyprus and Greece, aimed at enhancing public diplomacy and rekindling historical connections between the three countries.

The Southern Route towards South Africa and mixed migration within Southern Africa

Ethiopians stopped along the Southern Route

In August, authorities in Murang'a County, Kenya, [apprehended 26 Ethiopians](#), ranging in age from 22 to 32, upon their irregular entry into the country. During the same month in Tanzania, authorities intercepted a fuel truck headed for Zambia that was illegally transporting [65 Ethiopians](#). Police apprehended all the migrants as well as two Tanzanian nationals, including the fuel truck's driver. The migrants were [sentenced](#) to pay a fine of approximately 20 USD or serve three months in jail, while the two Tanzanians had either to pay a fine of 800 USD or face a 20-year jail term for aiding and transporting undocumented migrants.

In Botswana, in August, authorities intercepted a truck transporting [40 Ethiopians](#) without proper documentation en route to neighbouring South Africa. They arrested two Zambians and one Zimbabwean on human trafficking charges. Also in August, [Mozambique's police](#) detained over 700 undocumented individuals, without disclosing their nationalities and their intended destination(s), for border violations and irregular presence in the country.

In [September](#), an Ethiopian national received a 31-year prison sentence in Nairobi for human trafficking. The individual had allegedly trafficked 12 Ethiopians, after authorities had discovered these individuals chained in a room and emaciated during his arrest. The Ethiopians were awaiting transportation to continue their journey along the Southern Route, with South Africa as their intended destination. Additionally, a group of 30 Ethiopians were arrested and detained in Eastleigh, Nairobi, prior to their repatriation to Ethiopia.

Also in September, a road accident occurred with a [truck transporting 29 migrants](#) believed to be of Ethiopian origin. The incident occurred on the route to Tunduma, a city situated on the border between Tanzania and Zambia resulting in the loss of seven migrants' lives, while nine others sustained injuries and 13 remain unaccounted for.

South Africa's enforcement measures against undocumented entry

In September, local media cited the identification of [102 men](#) suspected to be victims of human trafficking in Johannesburg. The group comprised 98 Ethiopian nationals and four Malawians and all received medical care after being identified. In response to the incident, South Africa's Minister of Home Affairs, Dr Aaron Motsoaledi, stated the need for a [reform in policies](#) and for a significant overhaul of the country's migration system, referencing a white paper being sent to the Cabinet. As part of this overall, the country is allegedly considering withdrawing from the United Nations Refugee Convention and re-entering with reservations and repealing its domestic refugee, immigration and citizenship legislation to ["reshape" the nation's future](#).

Also towards the end of Q3, South African authorities reported they had exposed a [human trafficking ring](#) targeting Kenyans, Ethiopians and Zambians who intended to travel to South Africa. The event consisted of the arrest of two South African men for facilitating the unauthorized entry of eight individuals into the country, which more closely resembles an anti-smuggling operation. It is worth noting that countries across the region appear to be using anti-trafficking and anti-smuggling terminology interchangeably, which risks obscuring the level of protection needed by victims of trafficking and disproportionately criminalizing the actions of low-level facilitators of unauthorized but voluntary movement across borders.

The focus on securing borders against irregular migration, driven by perceptions of ["economic migration as a threat"](#), has prompted South Africa's Department of Home Affairs (DHA) to propose allocating public funds to private companies for upgrading the country's border posts. The same report cites concerns about the DHA's history of disproportionately targeting migrants from neighbouring countries, prompting them to use riskier options to enter the country.

Thematic Focus: Sudanese fleeing conflict faced with restrictive visa policies

Introduction

On [10 June](#), Egyptian authorities announced they would require all Sudanese arriving in Egypt to obtain an electronic visa prior to entering. [Previously](#), only men 16-50 years old were required to have such a visa. This policy development is part of a number of entry requirements for Sudanese introduced by Egyptian, as well as Ethiopian, authorities in response to the growing number of arrivals since the outbreak of conflict in Sudan on 15 April.

In June, [MMC](#) reported on potential mixed migration scenarios for the region, citing a risk of changing visa policies for Sudanese (and third-country nationals) linked to rising displacement figures. Continued monitoring and reporting on these dynamics remains essential because of the impact of restrictive measures on the needs and decision-making of those trying to leave Sudan, who risk being trapped in border regions. This Thematic Focus sheds light on the policy developments that have taken place in neighbouring countries experiencing a sharp increase in arrivals of Sudanese, as well as returnees, and non-Sudanese refugees and migrants who were hosted in Sudan.

Egypt

Before the conflict, Egypt hosted one of the largest Sudanese populations outside Sudan, with an estimated four million in 2022. Between 15 April and the end of September, 323,200 new arrivals have been recorded.

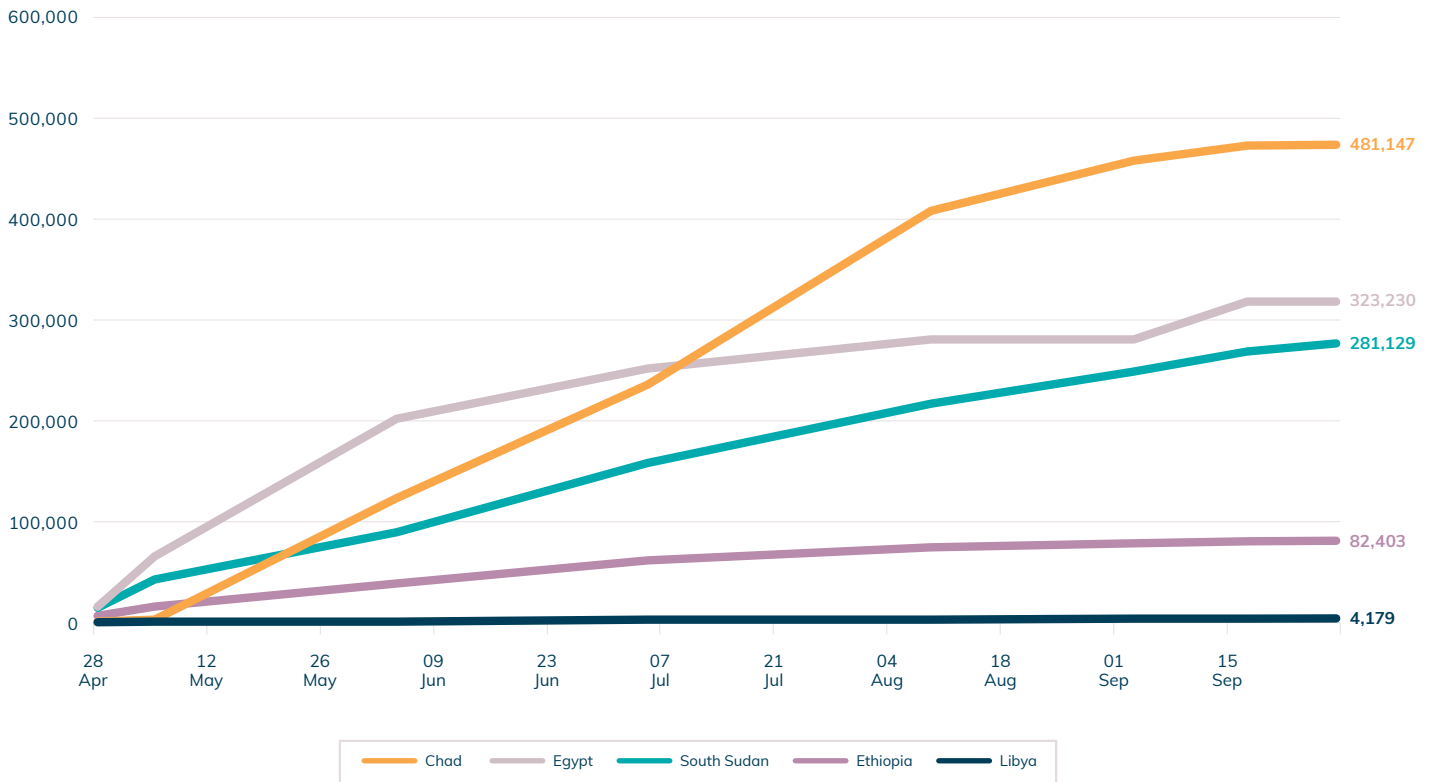
The decision announced on 10 June followed other measures targeting the arrival of conflict-affected Sudanese in May. These included no longer accepting Sudanese passports with extended validity or temporary travel documents in lieu of passports for visa applications. Children who were added to their parents' passport, moreover, were no longer granted access. On the Sudanese side of the border, in Wadi Halfa, the Sudanese Director of Passports and Immigration Services announced new regulations for the issuance of new passports and emergency travel documents, leaving those who have lost their passports during the conflict or who have expired documents in limbo.

Egyptian authorities stated the new measures “are meant to regulate rather than restrict entry, citing the responsibility that the government bears for providing basic needs, including healthcare services, for the displaced people in addition to the five million Sudanese who already live in Egypt”. This statement is in line with the “Egypt 2030 Vision”, wherein Egypt is committed to a “One Refugee approach”, which would entail equal assistance and quality of service to all refugees in-country. Moreover, Egypt announced it

would grant “migrants in refugee-like situations” the same access to basic services including healthcare and schooling as Egyptian citizens and those with refugee status. The new requirements shall also help detect forged documents and other “unlawful activities”.

The World Health Organization (WHO) reported at the end of August: “Following the decision, the number of daily arrivals from Sudan has markedly decreased”. Indeed, available data reveals a slowing down in the rate of arrivals in Egypt since May (Figure 1). The WHO’s statement follows reports, including from Human Rights Watch, claiming that the new policy means that “civilians fleeing conflict are turned away”. According to regional media outlets, thousands of Sudanese are stranded at the Sudan-Egypt border as they try to enter the country. In July, reports estimated 5,000 people were queuing daily in front of the Egyptian consulate in Wadi Halfa to obtain a visa, while IOM stated in August that at least 120,000 had become stranded in the border town.

Figure 1. Arrivals into neighbouring countries from Sudan since 15 April as of 24 September



Source: [IOM Displacement Matrix](#).

Ethiopia

At the end of May, the [Ethiopian Ministry of Foreign Affairs stated](#) Ethiopia would welcome any Sudanese who intended to cross the border due to the impact of the conflict. Moreover, it would not impose any visa requirement for anyone who wishes to stay in refugee camps, whereas for Sudanese who intended to remain in Ethiopia outside camps or move onwards to a third country, an entry visa would be required. [Other reports](#) have contradicted this, stating that all Sudanese are asked at the border to pay 80 USD for an entry e-visa, and that [people remain stuck at the border](#) if they do not have the means to pay. At a minimum, conflicting information is posing a challenge for Sudanese seeking entry into the country.

Media outlets have highlighted the [poor conditions](#) of a refugee settlement in Metema where Sudanese arrivals are hosted, citing there was no continued access to safe drinking water and other basic needs. It precedes large-scale reporting on the discovery of aid diversion in Ethiopia, which prompted the [UN to suspend](#) all food assistance to the country. While not directly linked to the Sudanese refugee response, the Ethiopian Government [noted](#) that the decision would likely affect millions, including new refugees from Sudan. Moreover, in July, fighting broke out in Ethiopia's Amhara region, which received the greatest number of new arrivals from Sudan through the border crossing in Metema. [Reports](#) from August noted that Amhara was in the grip of clashes, and major roads remained blocked, severely limiting movements in and out of the region. While fighting was [ongoing at the time of writing](#), Sudanese arriving in Ethiopia after fleeing war, regardless of visa requirements, are risking getting caught in further hostilities.

Mixed migration implications

If Sudanese are no longer guaranteed free access to neighbouring countries, humanitarian actors should anticipate a rise in forced immobility in Sudan's border areas, particularly in the difficult-to-access Northern state. Some individuals and families may increasingly be compelled to take riskier routes out of the country. This includes using smugglers to facilitate their movements and engaging in perilous journeys to neighbouring countries and farther afield. [ACAPS](#) found in August that the entry restrictions for Egypt had already led to increased use of smugglers to cross, with smugglers allegedly charging tens of thousands of dollars. Smuggler-facilitated crossings had also led to increased protection risks, which corroborates earlier MMC findings on the risks for those crossing the Sudan-Egypt border.

Moreover, as of [September](#), Sudanese arrivals to Libya amount to just over 4,000. It is not likely that movements to Libya and farther along the Central Mediterranean Route will take place on a large scale, owing to the resources required to undertake them, but given the [dangers associated with such journeys](#) through Libya and the extortionate smuggling dynamics therein, they should not be overlooked. Furthermore, with the conflict in Sudan and the absence of functioning governing and regulatory bodies, smuggling dynamics could develop similarly in Sudan, exposing those intending to leave to severe protection risks.

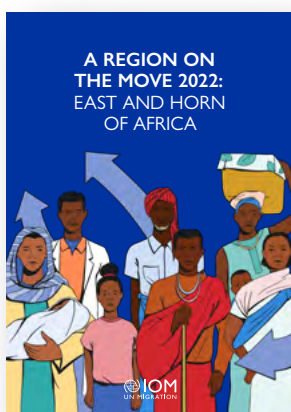
Highlighted New Research and Reports



[Mapping of migration policies in the East and Horn of Africa](#)

IOM and BMM | September 2023

This report assesses migration policies and practices in the East and Horn of Africa region, with the aim of enhancing the governance of migration and fostering better cooperation. The report delves into data handling, labour migration, border control, climate change, gender considerations, the treatment of refugees and asylum seekers and best practices. These efforts are guided by the regional strategy for 2020-2024, which underscores the importance of developing and implementing national policies and action plans on migration and involving both government and society.



[East and Horn of Africa – A Region on the Move 2022](#)

IOM | September 2023

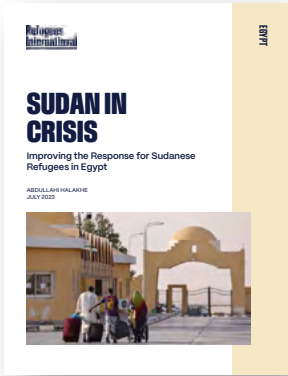
IOM's "A Region on the Move" report provides a comprehensive look at migration in the East and Horn of Africa region, covering migration dynamics and trends at large. The tenth report in the series provides an overview of data related to migration from official sources, including information on international migrants, labour migration and human trafficking. This edition offers new insights into population estimates, net migration, return, reintegration and the challenges faced by people on the move.



["They Fired on Us Like Rain": Saudi Arabian Mass Killings of Ethiopian Migrants at the Yemen-Saudi Border](#)

Human Rights Watch | August 2023

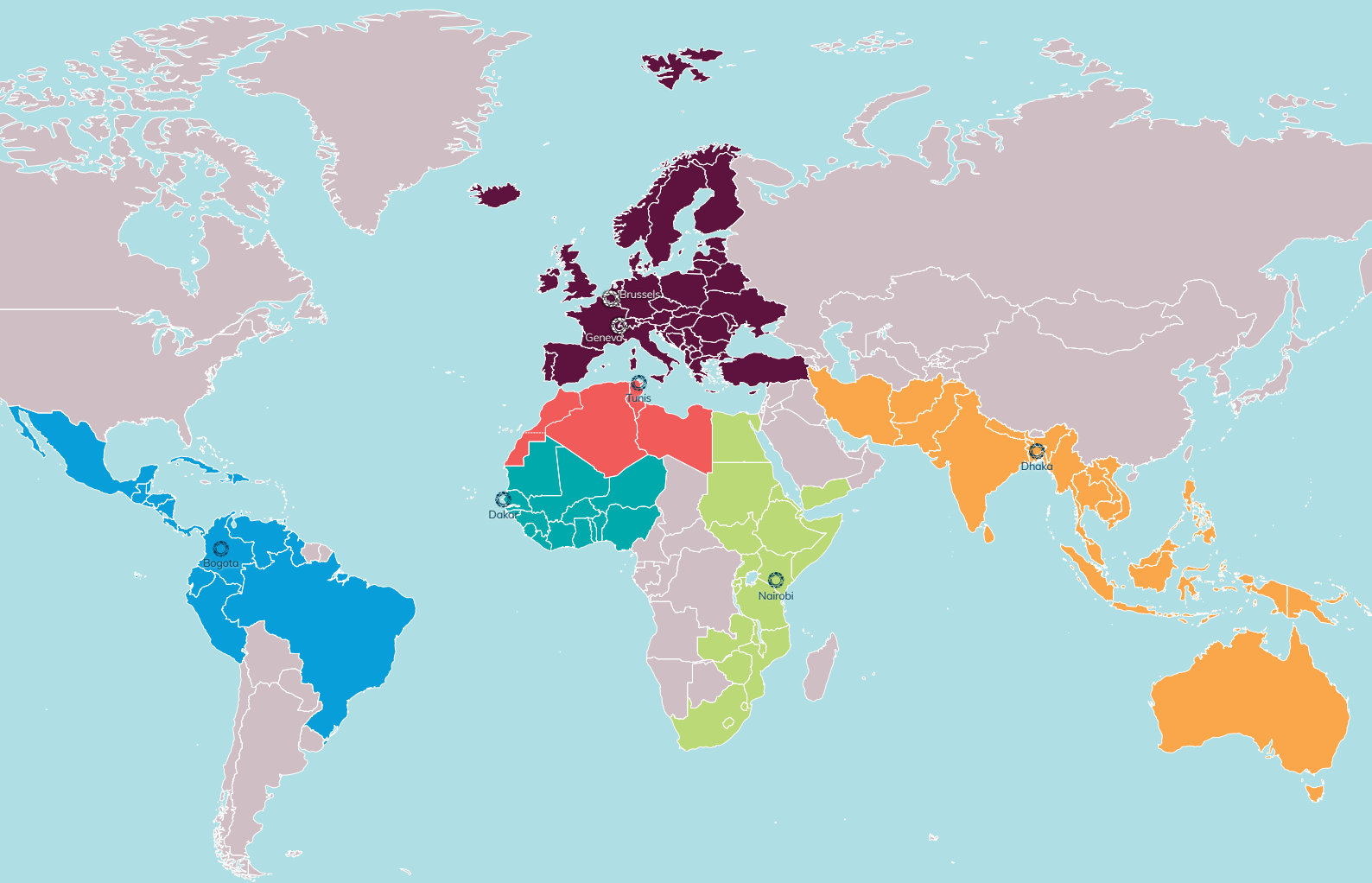
This report investigates the systematic killing of Ethiopian migrants, including women and children, by Saudi border guards at the Yemeni-Saudi border. The extensive nature of the extrajudicial killings and other human rights violations was uncovered through interviews with 42 individuals and the examination of numerous videos, photographs and satellite imagery.



[Sudan in Crisis: Improving the Response for Sudanese Refugees in Egypt](#)

Refugees International | August 2023

This report presents findings derived from comprehensive interviews conducted with UN agencies, recently arrived refugees and humanitarian organizations in Egypt in the wake of the outbreak of conflict in Sudan. The report highlights the challenges faced in Sudan and Egypt, with a particular emphasis on border experiences, visa restrictions and post-arrival in Egypt. The analysis aims to offer evidence-based recommendations to UNHCR, donors and the Egyptian government.



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 Copenhagen, 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)

