

# 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 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](https://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 migrants travelling along similar routes, using similar means of travel – often travelling 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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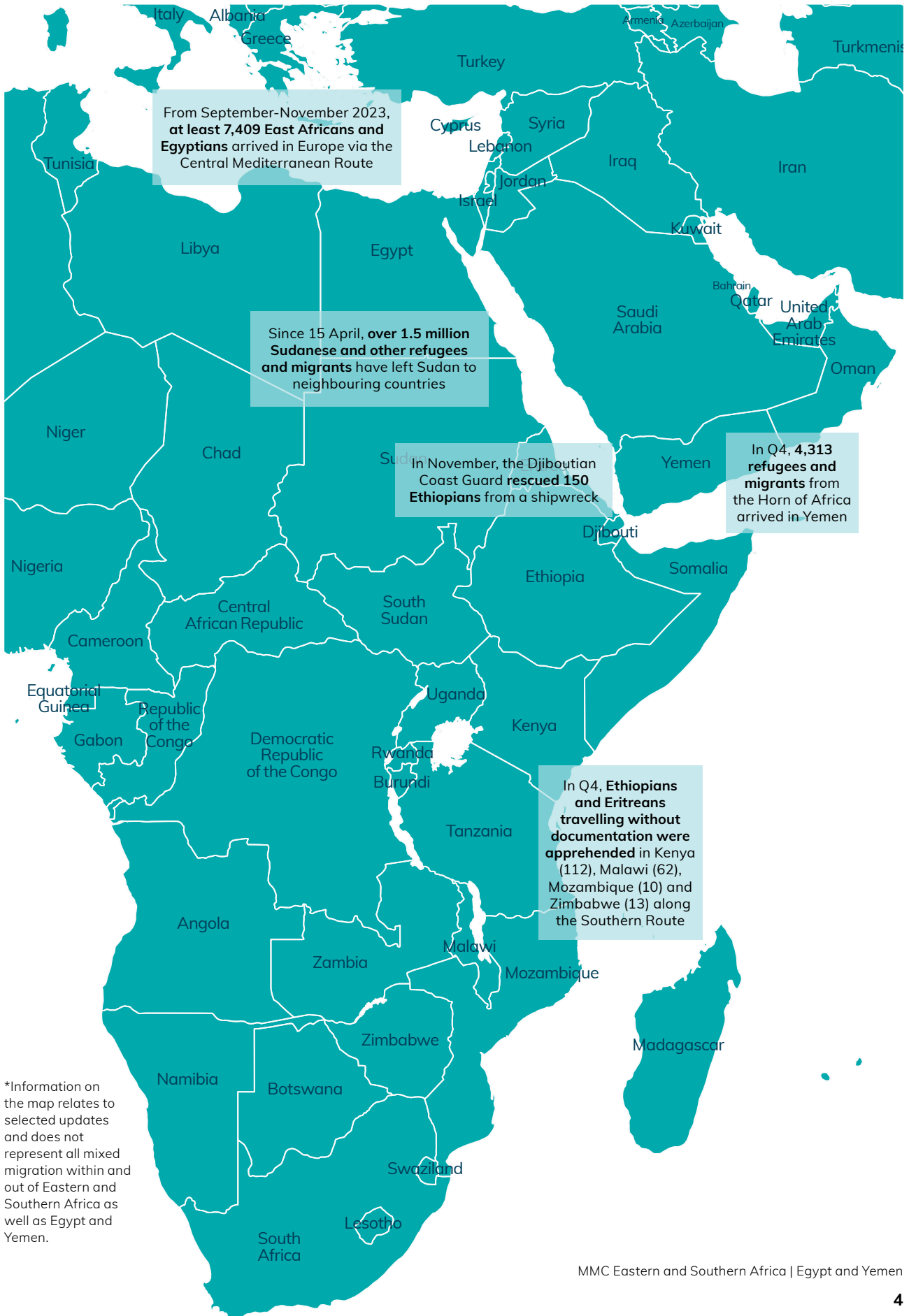
# Quarterly Mixed Migration Update: Eastern and Southern Africa | Egypt and Yemen

## Quarter 4 - 2023

## Key Updates

- Ongoing conflict in Sudan continues to fuel internal displacement, cross-border displacement and forced immobility:** compared to the previous quarter, [cross-border movements](#) have increased by 65% in South Sudan (463,660), 39% in the Central African Republic (CAR) (25,835), 28% in Chad (616,051), 26% in Libya (5,182), 23% in Ethiopia (101,385), and 6% in Egypt (343,230).
- Decrease in arrivals in Yemen:** from [October-December](#), 4,313 refugees and migrants entered Yemen, marking a 72% decrease from Q3. However, arrivals to Yemen in 2023 overall increased by [36%](#) compared to 2022.
- Continued Egyptian and East African arrivals along the Central Mediterranean Route:** compared to the [last quarter](#), the arrivals of Egyptians to Italy increased by [12%](#), while the arrivals of Sudanese decreased by [6%](#).
- Tanzania, Burundi and UNHCR representatives met to outline a roadmap for the return of Burundian refugees from Tanzania.** At the same time, in November, foreign [policy experts](#) raised the alarm that up to 100,000 Burundians could be forcefully returned to Burundi “under the guise of voluntary expatriation”.
- British Supreme Court rejects UK-Rwanda migrant deal:** in November, the UK’s highest court [rejected](#) the government’s attempt to deport asylum seekers from the UK to Rwanda as the five judges unanimously identified a genuine risk of individuals being sent back to their countries of origin, where they would face persecution.
- Ethiopians and Eritreans intercepted along the Southern Route:** in Q4, in Kenya, [49 Ethiopians](#) and [63 Eritreans](#) were apprehended while en route to South Africa. In Malawi, two groups of [16](#) and [46 Ethiopians](#) were intercepted. A further [10 Ethiopians](#) were stopped in Mozambique, and [13 Ethiopians](#) in Zimbabwe.
- South Africa may withdraw from UN Refugee Convention:** in November, South Africa [announced](#) it seeks to withdraw from the UN Refugee Convention while it is working on an overhaul of its immigration policy framework.

## 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

### Continued displacement in and from Sudan as peace talks face setbacks

The war in Sudan, with large-scale armed conflict between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), is approaching its ninth month at the time of writing. The violence has led to Sudan becoming the [largest internal displacement context](#) worldwide. Similar to [previous quarters](#), internal and cross-border displacement figures in Q4 continue to increase. As of [31 December](#), 5,942,580 people in Sudan have been internally displaced, representing a 38% increase compared to the end of the [previous quarter](#) (4,295,092). Moreover, 1,555,344 individuals have fled Sudan to neighbouring countries, constituting a 31% increase compared to the end of the previous quarter (1,190,633). The majority have been reported in Chad (616,051), South Sudan (463,660), Egypt<sup>1</sup> (343,230) and Ethiopia (101,385). Since the beginning of the conflict, an estimated 63% of arrivals in neighbouring countries are Sudanese nationals and 37% are foreign nationals and returnees.

[At the end of October](#), a new round of Sudan peace talks in Jeddah was announced, after the SAF and RSF had accepted an invitation from the United States (US) and Saudi Arabia. Ultimately, the talks were unsuccessful and broke off in early December, after they reached a [deadlock](#) when the parties were unable to agree on ceasefire implementation arrangements, the withdrawal of military presence from towns and other confidence-building measures. This has resulted in prolonged fighting up until the end of the year, including the RSF capture of Wad Madani, Sudan's second largest city and capital of Al Jazirah state, on [18 December](#). The city had become known as an '[aid hub](#)', due to hosting large numbers of internally displaced people who had fled Khartoum and other areas since the start of the conflict. Many have now become displaced again, with IOM [reporting](#) at least 300,000 individuals fleeing the city upon its capture by the RSF. [At the end of December](#), a face-to-face meeting between the two top commanders, General Abdel-Fattah Burhan (SAF) and General Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo (RSF), in Djibouti was postponed until 2024.

Since the capture of Al Jazirah state, [local Sudanese media](#) have reported that the number of arrivals in Egypt has "increased dramatically" and that most new arrivals have used smugglers to enter irregularly, given that visa procedures at the Wadi Halfa border crossing are taking up to two months. Moreover, according to these reports, several people who have crossed the border irregularly aided by smugglers have died. At the end of November, local authorities in Wadi Halfa represented by the Head of Transport Chambers, had petitioned Egyptian authorities to ease visa restrictions for Sudanese drivers, to decrease the number of people stranded at the border. Egypt introduced a series of new visa policies in [May and June](#) 2023, requiring all Sudanese citizens seeking to enter the country to obtain a visa in advance. In practice, this has led to increased delays in entering the country, as described above.

1 Figures reported by DTM for Egypt come from the Egypt Ministry of Foreign Affairs and were last updated on 19 October 2023.

## Sudan conflict spurs humanitarian crises in South Sudan and Chad

Since the outbreak of conflict in Sudan on 15 April 2023, over 463,000 people have sought refuge in South Sudan, including South Sudanese, Sudanese, as well as third-country nationals. As [reported earlier](#), the high number of arrivals presents large humanitarian challenges to South Sudan, with reception centres at border points being overcrowded and assistance stretched to a “[breaking point](#)”. By mid-December, more than [24,000 Sudanese refugees remained stranded in Renk](#), in Upper Nile State, unable to reach the refugee camps in Maban County, Upper Nile State. From April to mid-December, IOM reports having facilitated the movement of over 105,000 people by river and 59,000 by plane from Renk to safer locations elsewhere in the country. Currently, South Sudan is also experiencing a severe food insecurity and malnutrition crisis provoked by climate change, conflict and poverty. This situation has positioned the nation among the world’s most pressing food emergencies, with an estimated 1.6 million children, including newly arrived refugees and returnees, expected to suffer from acute malnutrition up to June 2024. At the same time, due to humanitarian funding cuts, support is being reduced and rations are halved. Untenable situations in South Sudan for returnees, Sudanese refugees and third-country nationals have led to them considering onward movement, including to Uganda. In Q4, [Uganda](#) received on average more than 2,259 Sudanese refugees and asylum seekers per month who had transited through South Sudan.

In Chad, the high number of new arrivals (up to 616,051 at the end of December) has [exacerbated tensions](#) between host communities and newcomers, with [deteriorating security conditions](#) in and around refugee camps in Eastern Chad. These challenges are heightened as humanitarian organizations face obstacles in providing assistance due to significantly strained resources. In [November](#), the World Food Programme (WFP) reported its operations in Chad, which provide assistance to new arrivals fleeing Sudan as well as vulnerable host communities, are severely underfunded and may risk coming to a halt. Insufficient access to aid, moreover, compounds the vulnerabilities of particularly Sudanese women in refugee camps in Chad, who are unable to leave the camps and are at serious risk of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), as reported by the Darfur Women’s Forum in [October](#).

## Tanzanian authorities push for Burundian returns

In [December](#), the 24th Meeting of the Tripartite Commission for the Voluntary Repatriation of Burundian Refugees living in Tanzania took place between the Governments of Tanzania and Burundi and UNHCR. The parties outlined a comprehensive roadmap for the promotion of voluntary repatriation, including improvements in infrastructure, expansion of reception facilities and enhanced awareness and counselling services. The announcement marks a shift in returns policy, from facilitation to promotion. The Tanzanian Ministry of the Interior, moreover, ensured that necessary preparations were in place for a “[massive and rapid repatriation](#)”, while also hinting at ending refugee status for Burundians in Tanzania. In November, [foreign policy experts](#) had warned that over 100,000 Burundians could be expelled from Tanzania “under the guise of voluntary repatriation”, while concerns over their protection upon return to Burundi remain. An insecure situation upon return [may lead](#) to returnees considering remigration, including engaging in mixed migration in the Great Lakes region and farther afield. An MMC 4Mi [snapshot](#) published in Q3 reveals that Burundian returnees experience significant difficulties accessing housing, food and water.

## UK Supreme Court unanimously rejects Rwanda deal

In November, the UK's Supreme Court unanimously [rejected](#) the government's repeated attempts to deport asylum seekers to Rwanda through a "migrant deal" with the East African country. All five judges at the Supreme Court unanimously supported an earlier High Court of Appeal decision that identified a genuine risk of deported asylum seekers having their claims inaccurately assessed in Rwanda, or being sent back to their country of origin where they would face persecution. Despite the Supreme Court's declaration, the UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak immediately announced he would pursue a [new deal](#) with Rwanda. If successful, the new deal would fall under the Illegal Migration Act (July 2023), which states that any individuals who enter the UK irregularly can be removed from the country, face a ban on future re-entry and are barred from applying for British citizenship.

## Kenya and Rwanda announce visa-free entry

In December, Kenyan President William Ruto declared Kenya's intention to transition to a [visa-free nation](#) for all incoming visitors, effective January 2024, with the aim of promoting [socio-economic progress](#) in the country. The decision has initiated debate among experts regarding its potential ramifications for the nation's economy, security and regional collaboration. While some view it as a positive step for boosting tourism and trade, others have expressed concerns about the [risks](#) for incoming migrants and local workers. They particularly cited the potential for [increased tensions](#) between these two groups, as visa-free travel may create an incentive for employers to deploy migrant workers who are willing to accept lower salaries. This could generate a downward trend in terms of wages, or 'a race to the bottom', impacting working conditions and employee rights. Migrant workers are employed across a broad spectrum of jobs in [Kenya's informal sector](#), including as domestic workers, hairdressers and porters, and in the construction and transportation sectors. Prior to Kenya's announcement, in November, Rwanda's president Paul Kagame declared [visa-free travel](#) for all African nations, emphasising the free movement of people and trade as key to the continent's future.

## The Eastern Route from East Africa to the Arabian Peninsula

### Mixed Migration in Djibouti

From October-November, [45,677 entries](#) were recorded into Djibouti from Ethiopia, which represents a 16% increase compared to the previous quarter ([39,417 from July-September](#)).<sup>2</sup> According to IOM, the increase could be linked to eased border controls with Ethiopia, and rumours about boats resuming departures from Obock to Yemen. From [January-November 2023](#), 110,338 Ethiopians arrived in Djibouti, representing a 21% increase compared to the same period in 2023 (91,144). Spontaneous sea returns from Yemen to Djibouti continued in Q4 (1,093) but decreased by 36% compared to Q3 (1,701) due to high tides. On 16 October, the [Djiboutian Coast Guard](#) rescued 150 Ethiopians, including 87 men and 63 women, from a capsized boat in the Red Sea off Khor-Angar, north of Obock.

<sup>2</sup> Figures for December were not published by IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix at the time of publishing this QMMU.

In November, a local Ethiopian news outlet [reported](#) on the rising number of Tigrayans seeking to migrate to the Arabian Peninsula, citing their flight out of Ethiopia is triggered by the increasingly dire humanitarian situation in Tigray, including food insecurity and limited job prospects. According to interviewed locals, Tigrayans travel from the regional capital Mekelle to Addis Ababa, before they traverse the Afar region and its capital Semera, and then enter Djibouti to move onwards.

## Mixed Migration in Yemen

From October-December 2023, [4,313 migrants](#) arrived in Yemen, marking a sharp 72% decrease from Q3 ([15,227](#)). The decrease is the direct result of a military campaign launched in Q3, and continuing in Q4, aimed at cracking down on irregular crossings and detaining smugglers. Given the focus of the military campaign on Lahj Governorate, arrivals to this area have steadily decreased compared to earlier months in 2023. In August, 2,249 migrants were recorded arriving in Lahj, followed by 548 in September, and none in October and November. Arrivals from Djibouti and Somalia in Q4 were exclusively recorded in Shabwah Governorate, which is located approximately 450 kilometres east of Lahj. Despite a decrease in arrivals in Q4, overall in 2023, almost [95,000 migrants](#) reached Yemen, surpassing the total number of arrivals in 2022 (around 70,000), and representing a 36% increase.

In December, reporting the urgent needs of stranded migrants in Yemen, IOM announced it would resume voluntary repatriation flights from Yemen to Ethiopia as part of its voluntary humanitarian return (VHR) programme, despite constrained resources. The flights had been temporarily stopped in September. At the end of 2023, [IOM estimated](#) that around 200,000 migrants, many of whom are stranded, required humanitarian assistance in Yemen.

## Malawi and Kenya send migrant workers to Israeli farms

At the end of November, Malawi announced it would be sending young men to Israel to work on farms. A first flight with [221 young men](#) departed from Malawi on 22 November, with the Malawian government announcing more to follow. Israeli farms are cited to face a significant labour shortage since the outbreak of the war in Gaza. The lost workforce includes foreign workers who returned home to flee the unrest, and Palestinians from Gaza whose Israeli work permits were revoked after the attacks. Malawi's Labour Secretary, Wezi Kayira, highlighted Israel as one of the selected countries in a government labour export programme aimed at [providing jobs for youth](#) and generating foreign exchange, amidst a [struggling local economy](#). Political opposition in Malawi criticised the agreement, dubbing it a "secretive deal", and stating that "no sane parent can send his or her child to work in a country that is at war."

In December, [Kenya also announced](#) its plans to send migrant workers to Israel to work in agriculture. The agreement entails sending up to 1,500 farm workers, who would receive a three-year renewable contract, and a monthly net income of USD 1,500. Israel is also in discussions with Uganda and Tanzania to reach similar migrant worker agreements.

While critics have expressed concerns about worker safety, referencing past reports of unsafe practices and poor living conditions in Israel, supporters argue that the agreement provides crucial job opportunities.



Responding to the criticism, the Malawian Minister of Labour has assured the safety of the migrants, stating they would work in certified locations reported as “[fit and safe](#)”. Moreover, Israel’s Ambassador to Kenya, Michael Lotem, stated that measures are in place to ensure fair treatment of foreign workers, allowing them to file complaints which would be promptly addressed. Despite these efforts, Israel has faced allegations in the past from Human Rights Watch for the reported [maltreatment of migrant workers](#) in their agricultural sector.

## Routes towards the Mediterranean

### East African arrivals along the Mediterranean

Continuing the trend from [previous quarters](#), East Africans were not among the main nationalities to move along the Central Mediterranean Route (CMR) and arrive in Italy this quarter. [Between October and December](#), 68,782 refugees and migrants arrived in Europe through land and sea routes. This represents a 34% decrease compared to the previous quarter (103,516). However, arrivals in 2023 (264,371) increased by 66% compared to 2022 (159,410).

Egyptians represented the 5th most common nationality to arrive in Italy from [January-November](#) with a total of 10,994 arrivals. From September-November, 2,516 Egyptians arrived in Italy, compared to 2,246 from June-August, representing a 12% increase.<sup>3</sup> Other nationalities to arrive since the beginning of the year include Sudanese (5,802; 9th), Eritreans (3,843; 12th), Ethiopians (895; 19th) and Somalis (539; 21st).

The number of Sudanese arriving in Italy remained relatively steady at 2,819 between September and November, compared to 2,983 between June and August. This suggests that some Sudanese are journeying along the CMR from Sudan and neighbouring countries (of first displacement) as a result of the outbreak of conflict. In December, the Libya INGO Forum reported that, while the Sudan-Libya border crossing at Awihat remained officially closed, the local authorities in Alkufra, in Southeastern Libya, were allowing families to pass through, with around 50-60 families crossing into Libya daily.

In [Greece](#), the most represented nationalities among arrivals from January-September include Somalis (2,321; 4th), Eritreans (1,513; 5th), Congolese (942; 6th), Sudanese (776; 7th), Yemenis (739; 10th), Egyptians (310; 14th) and Ethiopians (80; 16th). These figures demonstrate that Somalis continue to move in larger numbers along the Eastern Mediterranean Route (EMR) than the CMR, while a shift might be taking place among Eritreans, who ranked higher among nationalities arriving in Greece than Italy.

### 600 Egyptians deported from Libya

[Libya deported](#) around 600 undocumented Egyptians in November. The individuals were reportedly rounded up outside the premises of the Directorate of Combatting Illegal Migration (DCIM), in Tripoli. DCIM transported the group, consisting of mostly men, by bus to Libya’s eastern border with Egypt at the Esmaed border crossing. In earlier reporting on deportations from June 2023, unverified footage leaked depicting

<sup>3</sup> 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 and January to November.

Libyan soldiers forcing nearly 1,000 Egyptians to walk to the Egyptian border by foot. For years, Libya has functioned as a labour hub for Egyptians, who are primarily employed in agriculture and construction. Some transit Libya to join the CMR, intending to make the crossing towards Europe.

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

### Ethiopians and Eritreans intercepted along the Southern Route

In November, authorities in Nairobi arrested [49 Ethiopians](#) in two estates, who were awaiting transportation to South Africa. The group, aged 14-45, had gone without food for several days. In a similar incident in Wajir County, police arrested [63 Eritreans](#) seeking transport to Nairobi on their way to South Africa. On both occasions, the arrested individuals faced detention prior to deportation to Ethiopia and Eritrea, respectively.

Further south along the Southern Route, in November, [16 Ethiopians](#) were apprehended in Northern Malawi for irregular entry. They remained in police custody, awaiting legal proceedings. Within the same month, Malawian authorities detained a group of [46 Ethiopians](#). During these two operations, five Malawian nationals were arrested for assisting in the irregular entry of the Ethiopians, and four vehicles and two motorcycles used in these operations were confiscated.

In December, Mozambican authorities apprehended [10 Ethiopians](#) aged 19-35, who had irregularly entered the country, during a police inspection in the district of Machanga. They had entered Mozambique from Malawi and had intended to board a bus to Maputo, en route to South Africa.

Also in December, Zimbabwean authorities arrested [13 Ethiopians](#) for irregular entry into the country. The group of men was arrested at a house in Victoria Falls, after they had allegedly entered the country from Zambia. Local media noted the likely involvement of Zimbabwean locals in Victoria Falls in facilitating the transport of undocumented Ethiopians to Bulawayo, where smugglers would take them to South Africa.

### Visa and passport-free travel agreements in Southern Africa

In November, the Governments of [South Africa and Ghana](#) announced entering into a reciprocal visa waiver agreement, enabling citizens from both nations to travel visa-free. South Africa reached a similar agreement with Kenya in January 2023.

In December, [Zimbabwe and Botswana](#) announced a bilateral agreement to waive passport requirements for their citizens, allowing for free movement between the two countries. Botswana had earlier formed a similar agreement with Namibia, as reported in [Q1](#). The governments cited the importance of facilitating seamless travel and promoting regional cooperation for economic and trade benefits.

## South Africa announces intention to withdraw from UN Refugee Conventions

In November, South Africa's Department of Home Affairs (DHA) shared its intentions to temporarily withdraw from the 1951 United Nations Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol. The move comes amidst an announced overhaul of the country's immigration system, in which it intends to send back refugees to countries "not deemed dangerous". The Home Affairs Minister, Aaron Motsoaledi, clarified that South Africa would [rejoin](#) these UN conventions after the new immigration framework is in place, and after [opting out of certain clauses](#) pertaining to refugee rights, with the aim to restrict their ability to work, access education and claim citizenship.

During a [press conference](#), Motsoaledi added that the current immigration system is deemed untenable, and that South Africa lacks the resources necessary to sustain the economic rights of refugees and migrants in the country. According to [HRW](#), the DHA would propose in the new framework a "safe first country" rule, implying it would deny asylum to those who have travelled through other "safe countries" to reach South Africa. A potential lack of safeguards for the protection of refugees sent back to transit countries could put individuals at risk of forced return and prosecution in countries of origin.

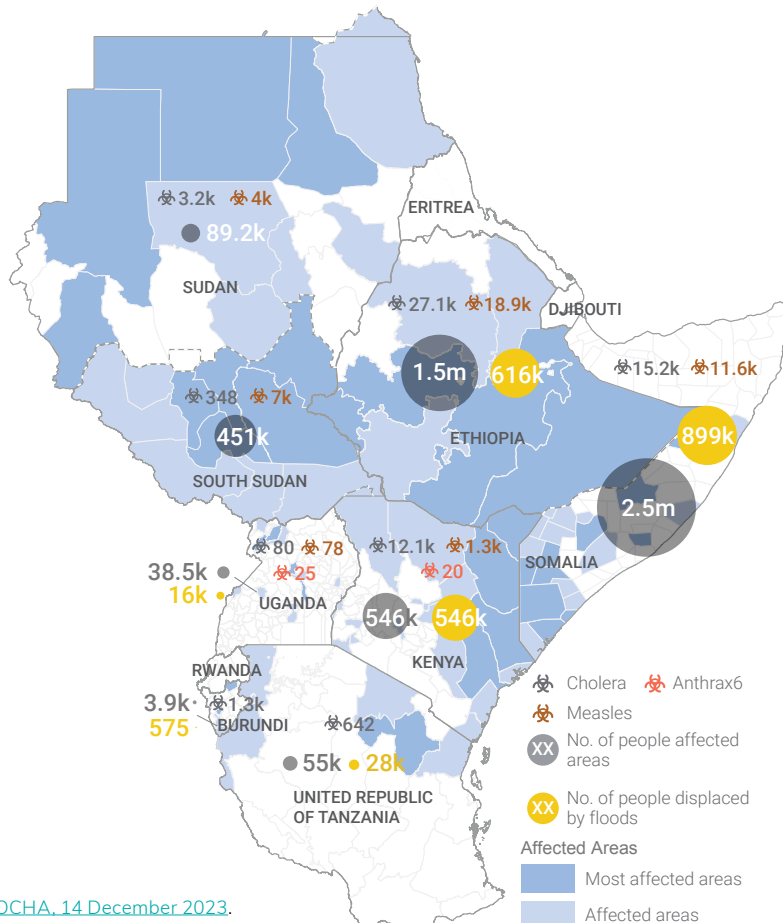
In October, the South African government announced the launch of a [new border force](#). This strategic initiative links to immigration being designated as one of the key issues of South Africa in the lead-up to the 2024 general elections, with certain political parties incorporating [immigration-related concerns](#) into their campaigns.

# Thematic Focus: Displacement caused by severe floods in the Horn of Africa

## Background

After experiencing the longest drought in decades from 2021-2023, heavy rains and floods linked to El Niño persisted in Eastern Africa over the second half of 2023, impacting countries including Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda. Severe flooding has led to the loss of lives, the erosion of livelihoods due to crop devastation and livestock loss and the extensive destruction of property. These have triggered large numbers of individuals and households to leave their areas of origin and become displaced, on top of the already high displacement figures from the preceding drought period. According to [OCHA](#), between September and December 2023, over 5.2 million people around the region were affected by adverse weather conditions, and at least 479 people lost their lives. Somalia remains the country with the most affected individuals (2.5 million), followed by Ethiopia (1.5 million), South Sudan (451,000) and Kenya (546,000). As of 15 December, nearly two million individuals were displaced in Kenya, Somalia, Uganda, Burundi and Ethiopia.

**Figure 1. Flood-affected areas/diseases/displacement**



Infographic source / credit:  
[El Niño Impact Snapshot, OCHA, 14 December 2023.](#)

The Horn of Africa region typically experiences [two rainy seasons](#): the “short rains” from October to December, and the “long rains” from March to May. Due to the impact of El Niño, rainfall during this season, particularly through mid-November, has been reported to surpass normal levels by [more than double or quadruple](#) in Southern and Western Ethiopia, Somalia and Kenya. Moreover, there is an 80% likelihood of El Niño’s effects persisting until at least [May 2024](#) in East Africa. Given the strength and the magnitude of the destruction of this season’s El Niño, in Somalia, the government declared a state of emergency in October. According to [OCHA](#), the country is grappling with flooding seen “once-in-a-century.”

## Context and figures

As depicted in the infographic above, 899,000 people were reported to have become displaced in Somalia since the start of El Niño in the second half of 2023, up until 14 December. In Kenya, during the same reporting period, floods displaced 546,000 individuals, including around [261,847 children](#). In the Dadaab refugee settlements, Somalis who had recently arrived due to the impacts of the drought and who had yet to be registered became displaced within Dadaab as the informal area where they settled had become flooded. The UN [estimates](#) around 25,000 people to be affected in Dadaab, with the situation worsening daily, and flooded and destroyed roads impeding movement in and out of the settlements. In Ethiopia, floods have displaced 616,000 people up until 14 December. Moreover, according to [CARE International](#), only 8% of affected communities in Ethiopia are currently receiving assistance.

## Implications for mixed migration

Particularly in Sudan, as well as in parts of Somalia and South Sudan, the challenges of the floods are being felt alongside civil war and localized conflict, further compounding individuals’ vulnerabilities and eroding their opportunities to remain in locations of origin. [MMC research](#) published in August focusing on drought-induced internal displacement has demonstrated that individuals and households may turn to mobility as a “last resort option”, rather than being a planned strategy, once other coping strategies may have been (unsuccessfully) applied or depleted.

As reported by those interviewed by MMC during in-depth interviews in locations of first displacement in Ethiopia and Somalia, if access to assistance remains challenging in initial locations of settlement, some may consider moving across borders and engaging in longer-distance mixed migration journeys. As these populations are likely to move with little resources after having depleted other coping strategies, they could be particularly vulnerable to abuses occurring on longer journeys. In an effort to examine links between recent episodes of flooding and cross-border mobility, in Q1 of 2024, MMC will be collecting data with Ethiopians and Somalis who have crossed into Northern Kenya because of the impacts of floods, and other climate shocks to generate an evidence base on their movement decision-making process, protection experiences, needs and onward movement intentions.<sup>4</sup>

4 In 2022, MMC collected data with drought-affected populations who engaged in cross-border movements in [Djibouti](#) and [Somalia](#).

# Highlighted New Research and Reports



## [“My life, my plans and dreams are falling apart.” Voices from the Sudan conflict](#)

### **IOM | November 2023**

This report focuses on the migration and displacement patterns of Sudanese and refugees and migrants who were in Sudan during the outbreak of the conflict and are now either internally displaced, or have fled to Egypt. It examines their migration drivers, their experiences in Khartoum prior to leaving, the gender-specific aspects of their migration, the methods they used to escape Khartoum, the challenges encountered during their journey and their experiences at the destination. The report also seeks to better understand immobility and makes use of quotes to highlight the voices of those affected by the crisis.

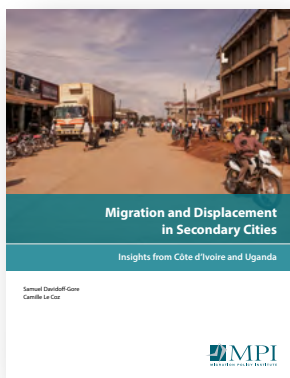


## [African Intermediary Cities as Actors and Partners in Urban Migration Governance: Gulu, Uganda & Garissa, Kenya](#)

### **Equal Partnerships Project | November 2023**

The Equal Partnerships Project (EPP) was jointly developed by the Friedrich-Alexander University Erlangen-Nürnberg, United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) Africa, the German Institute of Development & Sustainability (IDOS) and Samuel Hall. The project focuses on participatory research, workshops and networking to unite local, national and international stakeholders around the topic of migration governance. The goal is to generate practical ideas and policy recommendations for collaboratively shaping multi-stakeholder partnerships in the governance of urban migration in African intermediary cities. EPP has published two case studies in the East Africa region, focusing on multi-stakeholder partnerships in Gulu (Uganda) and Garissa (Kenya).

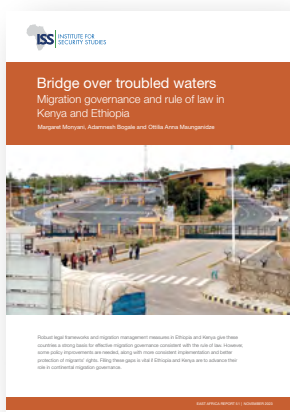




## Migration and Development in Secondary Cities: Insights from Côte d'Ivoire and Uganda

### **MPI | November 2023**

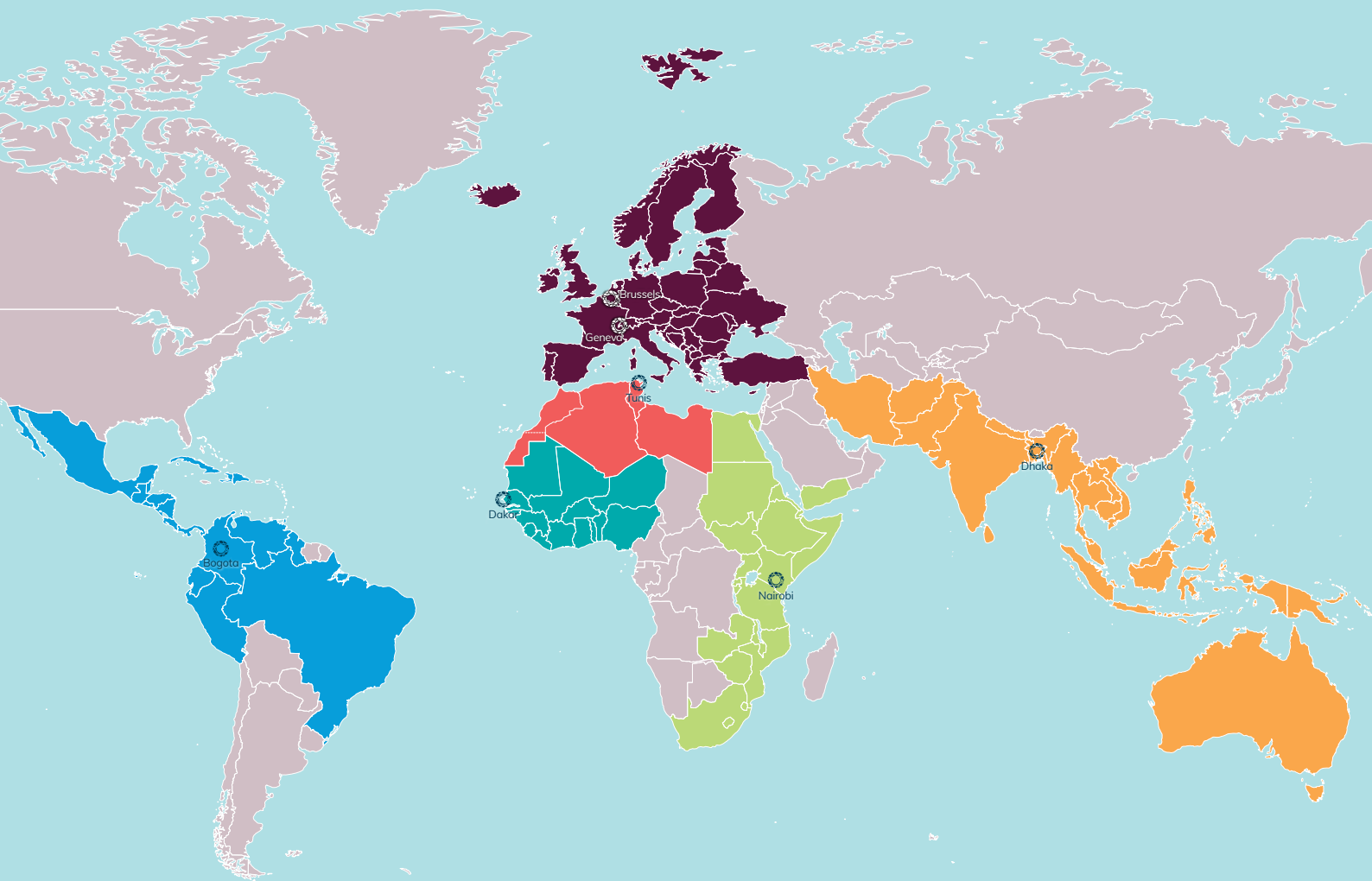
This report investigates strategies for creating effective migration and development programmes and enhancing socio-economic inclusion for migrants and refugees in African secondary cities. Drawing on research from Uganda, as well as Côte d'Ivoire, it explores the socio-economic challenges posed by mobile populations in urban settings, with a focus on gender dynamics. The report also delves into the responses of cities, deconcentrated services and civil society to these challenges. It outlines ways in which local, national and international partners can contribute to overcoming difficulties and promoting social inclusion.



## Bridge over troubled waters: Migration governance and rule of law in Kenya and Ethiopia

### **ISS | December 2023**

The report examines the steps Kenya and Ethiopia have taken to enhance their legal systems and institutions, aiming to protect the rights of refugees and migrants in their societies. However, the study highlights particular disparities between international agreements and domestic laws. These gaps may have arisen due to inadequate or poorly coordinated implementation of national policies. The study delves into the intricate relationship between migration governance and the rule of law, using Ethiopia and Kenya as specific case studies.



MMC is a global network engaged in data collection, research, analysis, and policy and programmatic development on mixed migration, with regional hubs 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 mixed migration 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](https://mixedmigration.org) and follow us at [@Mixed\\_Migration](https://twitter.com/Mixed_Migration)

