



**Regional mixed migration summary for February 2015 covering mixed migration events, trends and data for Yemen, Djibouti, Somalia, Ethiopia, Eritrea, South Sudan, Israel and Kenya.**

**Terminology:** Throughout this report the term migrant/refugee is used to cover all those involved in the mixed migration flows (including asylum seekers, trafficked persons, smuggled economic migrants, and refugees). If the case load mentioned refers only to refugees, asylum seekers or trafficked persons, it will be clearly stated.

Country	Events / trends / data / analysis
<b>Movement: Migrants/refugees move from the Horn of Africa (Ethiopia and Somalia) to Yemen and Saudi Arabia</b>	
<b>Yemen</b>	<p><b>New arrivals:</b> In February 2015, 9,560 migrants/refugees crossed into Yemen via the Red Sea (Djibouti) and the Arabian Sea (Somaliland/Puntland), a 9% increase compared with the number of migrants/refugees that arrived in Yemen in January 2015 and a 400% increase compared to the number of migrants/refugees that arrived in February 2014. Irregular flows to Yemen appear to be steadily increasing despite the deteriorating security situation.</p> <p><b>Boats and passengers:</b> A total of 69 boats arrived on the Yemeni coast in February with an average number of 40 passengers on board. The main entry points included Al-Jadid, Bir Essa, Al-Kadha Sheikh Saeed, Al-Ma'qar, Al-Seimal, Dubab, Al-Huraiqia, Uzaf, Al-Shura and Al-Watia.</p> <p><b>Incidents of migrant drowning:</b> 50 migrant fatalities were reported as of 28<sup>th</sup> February 2015 with 32 fatalities alone reported in one incident that occurred on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2015 when a vessel that departed from Obock, Djibouti capsized.</p> <p><b>Migrant vulnerability:</b> During the reporting period, abductions for ransom, torture, physical assaults and rape were the highest reported forms of abuse towards migrants. In February 1,891 migrant/refugees have been reportedly abducted off the coast of Yemen. On 16<sup>th</sup> February migrants took control of a boat whose crew was in contact with traffickers on the Yemeni shore; this indicates that in some instances smugglers and traffickers are in collusion.</p>
<b>Djibouti</b>	<p><b>Departures from Djibouti:</b> In February, 2,766 migrants/refugees departed from Obock for Yemen consisting of 244 Somalis and 2,522 Ethiopians. 18% of the departures were females. The numbers of migrant/ refugees departing from Djibouti have remained steady from the previous month when 2,746 migrants were reported to have departed.</p> <p><b>Protection concerns:</b> Migrants/ refugees continue to face difficulties in Djibouti mainly due to a lack of food, water, adequate shelter and medical assistance.</p> <p><b>Vulnerability of female migrants:</b> Findings of a recent report released by RMMS: <i>“Protecting women on the move: mixed migration drivers, trends and protection gaps in Djibouti”</i> on protection gaps for female migrants crossing Djibouti, indicate that sexual and gender based violence remains one of the most prominent protection risks faced mostly by women and children.</p> <p><b>Authorities’ response to migrants:</b> Djiboutian authorities have reportedly exercised tighter controls on the borders with Ethiopia and along the Djiboutian coastline. On 22 February 2015, local media also reported that the border between Somaliland and Djibouti was closed by Djiboutian authorities. No official statement was given for the closure. There have been reports of deportation of migrants to their countries of origin, as well as reports of violation of migrants’ rights by Djiboutian officials at borders.</p>

<p><b>Somalia</b></p>	<p><b>Somali Returns:</b> During February, the third month of the Pilot Phase for UNHCR support to Somalia refugee returns from Kenya, a total of 497 Somalis returned to areas of origin in Somalia. This pilot return project expected to run for six months, offers support to Somali refugees in Kenya who originally came from Luuq, Baidoa and Kisimayo. Since the launch of the pilot project in December 2014 to end of February 2015, there have been 1,954 supported refugee returns from Kenya.</p> <p><b>Somali movement to Yemen:</b> The majority of Somalis departures to Yemen via Djibouti were from South Central Somalia and the most cited reasons for migrating are economic reasons (search for improved livelihoods and job opportunities), insecurity and general instability.</p> <p><b>Modalities of travel:</b> Migrants made the crossing into Djibouti through Dikhila and Loya Ade and traveled to Tadjoura and then on to Obock.</p> <p><b>Returns and movement in South Central Somalia:</b> In February 2015, there were 6,810 persons forcibly evicted in Mogadishu according to UNHCR. There are 1,106,000 internally displaced persons in Somalia and 12,239 registered non-Somali Refugees/Asylum seekers.</p>
<p><b>Ethiopia</b></p>	<p><b>New arrivals in Yemen:</b> Available data from DRC teams at the Red Sea shoreline, show that 2,522 Ethiopians made their way to Yemen via the Red Sea in February 2015, a 79% percent increase from February 2014 arrival figures. Disaggregated data from the Arabian Sea on countries of origin is not available. The migrants were mainly from Oromia and Tigray regions and according to those interviewed, the pursuit of employment in Saudi Arabia and inadequate livelihood opportunities in Ethiopia are among the primary reasons for migrating.</p> <p><b>Migratory Routes:</b> Migrants from Ethiopia to Yemen tend to use the Dewele -Tadjoura –Obock route. Others used the Jimma-Addis Ababa-Diredawa route. Those who travelled from Jimma, Arsi and West Hararge reported that their travel route was Nazarayti- Diredawa-Dawalle-Dhibouti-Obock. A few other Ethiopians travelled from Arsi and went to Nazarayti-Hawash- Logaya- Asayta-Obock.</p> <p><b>Arrivals from South Sudan:</b> In February 2015, UNHCR reported 708 new arrivals from South Sudan to the Gambella region, a significant decrease from the 31,351 arrivals reported in same month in 2014.</p>
<p><b>Eritrea</b></p>	<p><b>Eritrean refugees meet with UN expert:</b> The United Nations Special Rapporteur on the human rights situation in Eritrea, Sheila Keetharuth, interviewed Eritrean refugees in Belgium on the state of human rights in Eritrea. The Special Rapporteur indicated that the compulsory indefinite national service was quoted as the main reason inciting Eritreans to leave their country. Similar visits have been conducted in Djibouti, Ethiopia, Germany, Malta and Italy in 2014. See the Special Rapporteur’s latest report to the UN Human Rights Council <a href="#">here</a>.</p> <p><b>Continued exodus of migrants:</b> A recent BBC feature highlights the situation of Eritrean children who are journeying westward due to conscription from National Service. They risk abduction and violence en route as they travel towards Libya. The feature is available <a href="#">here</a>.</p>
<p><b>South Sudan</b></p>	<p><b>South Sudan Peace talks stall:</b> Following a cease fire deal signed in January and another on 2nd February, the United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Hervé Ladsous, in a briefing to the Security Council, reported that tensions between the factions risks creating renewed violence. More on the situation can be found <a href="#">here</a>. There are currently 496,477 South Sudanese refugees in the region and a further 1,498,500 internally displaced within the country.</p> <p><b>IDP relocation initiative:</b> In February, UNHCR carried out <a href="#">fact-finding missions</a> to Leer, Akobo and Pagak to explore the possibility of assisted relocation of internally displaced persons (IDPs) from two Protection of Civilian sites located in Wau and Bor hosting 2,837 people. Meetings were held with local government and military authorities, traditional leaders, women and youth representatives, as well as with humanitarian actors and IDPs to find a transitional solution.</p>

	<p><b>New arrivals in Yida (Unity State):</b> UNHCR reports that with food scarce and hospitals destroyed, thousands of people displaced by violence in the Nuba Mountains of South Kordofan (Sudan) continue to cross into South Sudan. The agency estimates that in February, approximately 712 Sudanese refugees a week arrived at the border town of Yida to escape ongoing fighting. A majority of the new arrivals were women and children who, after registration and receiving medical attention in Yida, continued on to Ajong Thok refugee camp.</p>
<p><b>Israel</b></p>	<p><b>High Court to rule on Prevention of Infiltration Law:</b> Following ongoing legal challenges of the asylum/detention regime in Israel reported on throughout 2014, a third amended version of the Prevention of Infiltration Law was passed by the Knesset, allowing for newly arrived migrants/asylum seekers to be held for up to 3 months at Saharonim Prison, down from 1 year. The new amendment also limits the head count for persons held at the Holot detention facility to once a day, down from 3 times a day. The law outlines penalties for persons who employ irregular migrants. The High Court had earlier issued a temporary order against implementation of a previous version of the law in December 2014. Israel is host to approximately 53,000 refugees with over 60% from Eritrea.</p>
<p><b>Kenya</b></p>	<p><b>Kenya repatriates over 500 Ethiopians:</b> Over 500 Ethiopians serving six month sentences for illegal presence were repatriated back to Ethiopia. Many of the Ethiopians detained in Kenya were en route to South Africa in search of jobs.</p> <p><b>High Court declares limitation to refugee population unconstitutional:</b> On 23<sup>rd</sup> February, the High Court ruled that the clause in the Security Laws (Amendment) Act 2014, attempting to limit the number of refugees in the country to 150,000 was unconstitutional and a violation of Kenya's international obligations. Whilst the clause limiting the number of refugees has been declared void, other clauses in the Act impacting refugees remain in place including a requirement that anyone who has applied for refugee status remain in designated refugee camps "until the processing of their status is concluded." <a href="#">UNHCR</a> estimates that there are over 50,000 non-camp based refugees living in Kenya's capital, Nairobi.</p> <p><b>Pilot project supporting voluntary return of Somali refugees:</b> As of 5<sup>th</sup> February 2015, UNHCR reported 1,274 refugees had been repatriated under the pilot phase of the voluntary repatriation project. The pilot return areas include Luuq, Baidoa and Kismayu.</p> <p><b>Ethiopians arrested in Nairobi:</b> On 23<sup>rd</sup> February, 101 Ethiopians were arrested in Nairobi for being in Kenya illegally. The migrants were in a house awaiting travel to Tanzania and South Africa without travel documents. There has been a spate of arrests in Kenya with <a href="#">media</a> reports quoting a figure of 143 Ethiopians arrested since January 2015.</p> <p><b>New Arrivals:</b> Between December 2014 and February 2015, Kenya received 45,222 asylum seekers from South Sudan in Kakuma refugee camp. Asylum seekers from South Sudan into Kenya are granted recognition on a <i>prima facie</i> basis since June 2014.</p>
<p><b>Other Regional news</b></p>	<p><b>Migrant deaths in the Mediterranean:</b> In February, over 2,600 migrants have been rescued by off the coast of Italy. So far, <a href="#">reports</a> indicate that over 300 migrants have died in February while making the crossing mainly through drowning but also hypothermia resulting from exposure in winter temperatures. The continuing increase in departures from Libya during this winter season, has led many to predict a surge in arrivals in the summer months.</p> <p><b>EU border operation extended:</b> The European Union has extended the period for its Mediterranean border control initiative, Operation Triton, to the end of 2015 and provided an additional 13.7 million Euros as emergency funding. Calls for expanding the mandate of Triton to encompass full search and rescue components have continued most recently by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.</p> <p><b>Denmark asylum figures decline after review of criteria:</b> In response to a large influx of refugees, the Danish Immigration Service tightened its immigration regime including the introduction of a year long residence permit</p>

	<p>and limiting family reunification if the residence permit is renewed. Eritrean asylum seeker figures have reduced significantly with only 3 applications in January. This follows the publication in November 2014 of a <a href="#">fact finding report</a> into country conditions in Eritrea.</p> <p><b>UN Expert calls on Europe to open borders to migrants:</b> The United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants, François Crépeau, during an official visit to Brussels, urged EU States to actively pursue the overall goal of having migrants using official channels to enter and stay in Europe – as opposed to investing financial and human resources primarily on securing borders. He noted that in order to avoid asylum seekers having to take to dangerous land and sea routes, European States, in partnership with other Global North States, should implement a refugee resettlement programme with a distribution key for attributing responsibilities. It is currently estimated that in 2014, more than 150,000 migrants and asylum seekers arrived in Europe by sea – a substantial number of these arrivals originating from the Horn and North of Africa. The end of mission statement is available <a href="#">here</a>.</p>
<p><b>New Research, reports or documents</b></p>	<p><b>Analysis of Displacement in Somalia:</b> The World Bank Global Program on Forced Displacement analyses the displacement patterns with the objective of identifying and informing development partners responses to different dimensions of vulnerability of displaced persons in Somalia. The full report can be found <a href="#">here</a></p> <p><b>Amnesty International Report 2014/15: The State of the World’s Human Rights:</b> This latest international report documents the state of human rights in 160 countries and territories during 2014 covering certain key events from 2013 as well. The refugee crisis fuelled by non-state armed groups is highlighted with the report pointing out that refugees are one of the groups most vulnerable to human rights abuses worldwide. The report highlights the fact that large numbers of refugees and migrants are losing their lives in the Mediterranean Sea attempting to cross into Europe compounded by the lack of support from some EU Member States for search and rescue operations. Read the full <a href="#">report</a>.</p> <p><b>First issue of the African Human Mobility Review:</b> The Scalabrini Institute for Human Mobility in Africa (SIHMA) has published its inaugural issue of the African Human Mobility Review (AHMR) available <a href="#">here</a>. AHMR is an interdisciplinary, peer-reviewed on-line journal created to encourage and facilitate the study of trends, migration patterns and some of the most important migration-related issues of Human Mobility in Africa.</p> <p><b>New RMMS study - protecting women on the move:</b> RMMS has published a new report, “<i>Protecting women on the move: mixed migration drivers, trends and protection gaps in Djibouti</i>” in which the protection gaps faced by female migrants and refugees in transit are explored. The Executive Summary of the report will shortly be made available on the RMMS website for download.</p>

*This information sheet is distributed to over 1,200 agencies, academic institutions, donors, embassies, journalists, government officials / departments, international and multi-national organisations and related non-government organisations. Sources: Data is sourced from a wide variety of collaborators, partners, international and local organisations, media outlets and individuals in the region. The key refugee agency – UNHCR – and migration agency – IOM- are frequently the origin of specific refugee or migrant return-related data. RMMS is a unit/project within the Danish Refugee Council and also uses data and information generated by DRC activities. RMMS makes its own independent editorial decisions as to what sections and what data is included in this monthly update.*