



Regional mixed migration summary for September 2016 covering mixed migration events, trends and data for Djibouti, Eritrea, South Sudan, Sudan, Ethiopia, Kenya, Puntland, Somalia, Somaliland and Yemen.

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

| Country | Events /trends /data /analysis |
|---------------------|---|
| <p>Yemen</p> | <p><i>The conflict in Yemen entered its eighteenth month with shelling and fighting putting civilians at risk. As previously reported, due to the conflict, monitoring and data collection activities along the Red Sea and Arabian sea coasts continued to be affected, with a majority of monitoring exercises suspended. The data presented in this report on arrivals in Yemen is therefore not conclusive of the actual number of arrivals during this period.</i></p> <p>Internal displacement: At the end of September 2016, there were an approximate 2.2 million internally displaced persons in Yemen, around 8% of the country's population. More than 1.8 million of these people have been displaced for twelve months or more.</p> <p>Continued arrivals from the Horn of Africa: A total of at least 10,600 migrants and asylum seekers (77% Ethiopians and 23% Somalis) arrived from the Horn of Africa to Yemen via the Red Sea, Arabian Sea and Gulf of Aden in September 2016. For the second time this year, the proportion of Somali migrants and asylum seekers travelling to Yemen was sustained above the 20% mark, a trend not witnessed since 2014.</p> <p>An estimated 1,662 (1,632 Ethiopians and 30 Somalis) migrants and asylum seekers arrived on the Red Sea coast of Yemen in September 2016, a 30% drop from the spike witnessed in August, but on par with average arrivals so far in 2016. Despite the overall decrease, the number of female Ethiopians increased by over 40%. The migrants arrived aboard 28 boats which departed from Obock, Djibouti landing in various towns in Ta'iz and Lahj governorates. Due to the reduction of monitoring missions along Yemen's coast, it is likely that the actual number of arrivals from the Horn of Africa to Yemen was higher during the period.</p> <p>In keeping with recent trends, the majority (98%) of Ethiopian nationals were of Oromo ethnicity. Migrants cited a variety of reasons for migration, including a lack of livelihood opportunities, unemployment, and drought. Some migrants seeking asylum reported being detained following student demonstrations or because they were believed to have been a member of the outlawed Oromo Liberation Front. Several migrants mentioned that they could not apply for asylum in Djibouti because they believed that the diplomatic relationship between Djibouti and Ethiopia would prevent them from accessing asylum. All interviewed Ethiopian migrants reported that they had had relied on the assistance of smugglers to cross into Djibouti and paid between 6,000-9,000 Ethiopian Birr (approx. USD 270 – 405). All except one Ethiopian migrant expressed an intention to travel onwards to Saudi Arabia to look for work.</p> <p>Somali nationals largely originated from Wootqoy Galbeed and Banadir, with others coming from other regions in Somaliland, Puntland and South Central Somalia. Although the majority of Somalis left Somalia in the hopes of securing better economic opportunities, there were a number of reasons given for migrating including, the unstable government and the presence of Al Shabaab. Somalis paid between USD 30-200 for the trip to Djibouti, relying on a smuggler once they crossed the border from Somalia via the border town of Loya Ade. Some chose to fly directly to Loya Ade from Mogadishu and Hargeisa before making the crossing on foot or in a car. Both Somalis and Ethiopians paid between USD 100-150 per person for the sea crossing from Obock to Yemen.</p> <p>An additional 8,938 migrants and asylum seekers (73% Ethiopian, 27% Somali) arrived on Arabian Sea coasts of Yemen in September 2016.</p> <p>Migrant vulnerability: This month, the majority of migrants reported an uneventful sea crossing to Yemen from Djibouti. Migrants did however report that the boats used were small and overcrowded. In one report, a smuggler was heard contacting a suspected group of human traffickers on the shore who directed the boatman to land at a specific location on the coast.</p> |

Upon arrival in Yemen, migrants continued to report attempts by armed smugglers and/or traffickers stationed along the coastline to abduct newly arrived migrants. Based on interviews with 619 new arrivals in Yemen in September, migrants reported a total of 1,749 violations were reported in September. Of these, migrants reported 592 cases of abduction and 372 instances of interception, accounting for 34% and 21% of all violations respectively. Interviewed migrants reported that criminal groups hold abducted migrants in “dens” where they are mistreated until they can raise enough money to secure their release. Two men reported that they, along with 83 others, including 5 women, had been abducted from the coast in mid-August and had only been released after their families had paid 4,000 Ethiopian Birr each (approximately USD 180). Over 50 women and girls were reported to have been abducted by gangs immediately after landing in Yemen; their whereabouts are unknown.

Protection issues reported by migrants transiting through Djibouti on their way to Yemen are reported in the Djibouti country section below.

Irregular migrants detained in Yemen: Dozens of African migrants, mostly from Ethiopia, are being detained in Yemen on the suspicion that they might be recruited to join militant groups in the country. According to the [head of security in Aden](#), “We noticed that many are coming here, especially Ethiopians. They are all young men. We had some doubts and to be careful, we have put them in detention because we believe our enemies Houthis and (former President) Ali Abdullah Saleh are recruiting them to fight in the war against our sons in the south”.

Deportations from Yemen: According to IOM, hundreds of migrants are being deported to Djibouti from Yemen, with projections that another 3,000 migrants may be deported in a number of days. The Migration Response Centre (MRC) in Obock, managed by IOM in collaboration with the Ministry of Interior, is currently hosting over 600 Ethiopian migrants who were deported from Southern Yemen. Another 314 migrants are being housed in tents outside the facility. There are concerns thousands of Ethiopian migrants might become stranded in Djibouti if efforts to close this route – used by more than 10,000 migrants and asylum seekers every month – are continued.

Departures from Yemen: As of 30th September 2016, the number of people fleeing Yemen to the Horn of Africa (Djibouti, Ethiopia, Somalia and Sudan) had totalled 89,621 persons (36,162 in Djibouti, 33,579 in Somalia, 13,299 in Ethiopia, and 6,581 in Sudan). Yemenis and Somalis continue to represent the largest proportion of people moving out of Yemen, accounting for 30% and 35% of movements respectively. Djibouti is the primary destination for Yemeni nationals, with 73% of those moving opting to travel to Djibouti.

N.B. The figures for Djibouti arrivals between May and September were not received in time to update this report. The figures for Djibouti therefore reflect arrivals at the end of April 2016. The latest statistics and overview of the displacement situation arising out of the Yemen crisis can be found on the [UNHCR data sharing and information portal](#).

Djibouti

Departures to Yemen: During September 2016, an estimated 1,662 (1,632 Ethiopians and 30 Somalis) migrants and asylum seekers arrived on the Red Sea coast of Yemen, a 30% decline from the spike witnessed in August, but on par with average arrivals so far in 2016. Despite the overall decrease, the number of female Ethiopians increased by 48% from 172 females in August to 254 females in September. The migrants arrived aboard 28 boats which departed from Obock, Djibouti landing in various towns in Ta'iz and Lahj governorates. Due to the reduction of monitoring missions along Yemen's coast, it is likely that the actual number of arrivals from the Horn of Africa to Yemen was higher during the period.

Migrant vulnerability: In a continuing trend witnessed over the past few months, migrants, asylum seekers and refugees arriving in Yemen on the Red Sea coasts in September reported a high number of deaths among migrants in Obock. While hunger and thirst continue to be a serious concern, migrants reported death as a result of diarrhoea and possibly cholera as a major concern. This coincides with reports by UNHCR over an outbreak of Acute Watery Diarrhoea in Obock. At least 174 cases of death resulting from diarrhoea were reported by migrants, with some indicating that as many as 10-20 people are dying daily from illness. In one report, migrants stated that approximately 120 migrants who had been ill were rounded up by Djiboutian police forces and taken to the capital city. Their whereabouts thereafter are unknown. In Yemen, 15 cases of cholera were confirmed in Sana'a and Al Bayda, although the source of the outbreak remains unclear.

Migrants also reported instances of assault and robbery at the hands of Afari smugglers and residents, and detention and deportation of Ethiopian nationals from the capital. 8 women were reportedly raped at the coast by

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| | <p>smugglers.</p> <p>New arrivals reported that as many as 2,000 migrants are in and around Obock waiting to make the crossing to Yemen. Migrants are typically stranded in Obock after being deceived by smugglers or people posing as smugglers.</p> <p>Arrivals from Yemen: As of 30th April 2016, a total of 36,162 persons had arrived in Djibouti from Yemen since the outbreak of the conflict in March 2015. Djibouti is the primary destination for Yemeni nationals who account for 55% of the arrivals so far. Third Country Nationals make up 38% and Djiboutian returnees account for 6%. More recent figures are not available.</p> <p>Refugee arrivals from Yemen: As of 30th September 2016, there were 3,732 refugees from Yemen registered in Djibouti, including 3,555 Yemeni nationals. Markazi camp hosts over 1,400 refugees.</p> |
| <p>Somalia/ Somaliland</p> | <p>Arrivals from Yemen: As of 30th September 2016, a total of 33,579 migrants/refugees/returnees had arrived in Somalia (Somaliland, Puntland and South Central Somalia) since the beginning of the conflict in Yemen in March 2015. This includes 28,688 returnees, 4,603 Yemenis and 288 third country nationals.</p> <p>Internal displacement: According to UNHCR, there are approximately 1.1 million internally displaced persons across the whole of Somalia (Somaliland, Puntland and South Central Somalia).</p> <p>Refugees in the neighbouring countries: UNHCR figures indicate that there were 900,759 registered Somali refugees and asylum seekers displaced in neighbouring countries in the region as of 30th September 2016. The majority of the refugees are hosted in Kenya (37% or 334,197), Yemen (28% or 254,294) and Ethiopia (28% or 254,277).</p> |
| <p>South Sudan</p> | <p>Regional displacement surpasses the one-million mark: According to UNHCR, there were 1,113,753 refugees and asylum seekers from South Sudan displaced in the region at the end of September 2016. The majority of refugees are hosted in Uganda (410,283), where daily arrivals averaged 1,678 individuals in September 2016. Other host countries include Ethiopia (313,754), Sudan (248,780), Kenya (91,281), DRC (44,724) and CAR (4,931).</p> <p>Internal displacement: According to UNHCR there were 1,610,000 internally displaced persons in South Sudan as of 30th September 2016. UNHCR has raised concern for civilians' safety in South Sudan's Yei region where an estimated 100,000 people are reportedly trapped following an escalation of attacks on civilians by armed group allied with the opposition and military operations in neighbouring areas in mid-September.</p> <p>Refugees in South Sudan: As of 30th September 2016, UNHCR notes that there were 261,280 refugees being hosted in South Sudan. The majority (92%) of refugees are from neighbouring Sudan. 82% of the entire refugee population are women and children.</p> <p>South Sudan accedes to the African refugee convention: South Sudan has become the 46th country to accede to the 1969 OAU Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa. The 1969 Convention is a regional compliment to the 1951 UN Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and applies a wider definition of a refugee, offering legal protection to a broader category of people, including those fleeing war and civil strife.</p> |
| <p>Sudan</p> | <p>Internal Displacement: The number of Sudanese nationals displaced within the country stood at an approximate 3.2 million persons at the end of September 2016. A new report by Amnesty International documents alleged "horrific evidence" of repeated use of chemical weapons against civilians, including against very young children, by Sudanese government forces in Darfur over the past eight months. More than 200 civilians, with many being children have reportedly lost their lives with hundreds more surviving the attacks. Sudanese authorities have denied the claims as "fabricated and unfounded accusations". Protracted armed conflict in Darfur, South Kordofan and Blue Nile states continue with devastating effects, forcing hundreds of thousands to flee their homes. NGOs</p> |

[have urged](#) the Human Rights Council to appoint a Special Rapporteur to monitor and report on ongoing human rights violations in the three states.

Arrivals from Yemen: As of 30th September 2016, a total of 6,581 persons had arrived into Sudan from Yemen since the outbreak of conflict in March 2015. Sudanese nationals account for the largest group arriving in the country at 58%, followed by Yemeni nationals at 21%. Other nationalities (including Somalis) account for 21%.

Harrassment of Sudanese asylum seekers in Egypt: Sudanese nationals from Darfur region who fled to Egypt have complained of being subjected to constant harrassment and being arbitrarily arrested by Egyptian police. According to [media sources](#), delays in processing asylum claims has led hundreds of Sudanese nationals to attempt the perilous sea crossing to Europe from Egyptian shores. [Unverified reports](#) received by RMMS in August 2016 indicate that hundreds of Sudanese civilians attempting to migrate to Europe from Egypt are being detained by Egyptian authorities before being forcefully repatriated to Sudan.

Thousands of Sudanese nationals stranded in Libya: An estimated 1,200 Sudanese nationals are reportedly stranded in the port city of Tobruk in Libya and in need of urgent humanitarian assistance after waiting for two months to be repatriated to their home country. Sudanese authorities acknowledge the presence of the Sudanese civilians in Libya saying that plans are underway to resolve the problem.

European governments' cooperation with Sudan: 20 senior Sudanese immigration officials have been trained on essentials of border management by the Italian government through the Italian Cooperation Agency. This follows the signing of a [Memorandum of Understanding](#) between Sudan and Italy in early August on cooperation in areas such as fighting international organized crime, irregular migration and human trafficking.

According to a [local media source](#), the German and Sudanese government are in talks on the transfer of crime-fighting technology to curb irregular migration through Sudan. In talks held in October 2016, the two governments reportedly discussed ways to promote cooperation between the two country's police forces, and ways to provide technical, logistical and training support to Sudan.

Sudan's RSF leader demands lifting of economic sanctions: The commander of Sudan's Rapid Support Forces (RSF) has called on the international community to [lift economic sanctions](#) imposed on the country as a pre-condition for cooperation in the fight against terrorism, human trafficking and smuggling operations, pointing out that these efforts "serve the interest of international community." Speaking to a Sudanese media agency, the RSF commander pointed out that "if the international community responded to the demands of the Sudanese people, the RSF are ready to thwart the human trafficking operations and eradicate extremists".

In August 2016, [RSF claimed](#) that EU did not adequately appreciate efforts by RSF forces to fight irregular migration and human trafficking in the country and along the border with Egypt, Libya and Chad. Sudan is considered a country of origin and transit for people in mixed migration flows and the European Union (EU) has granted the country a EUR 100 million development package to address the root causes of irregular migration.

Diverting migration routes through Darfur: There is anecdotal evidence that groups in Darfur are increasingly involved in migrant smuggling and human trafficking. Several sources suggested that migrants from the Horn of Africa (particularly Eritreans) are increasingly transiting through Darfur, to enter Chad for onward movement into Libya to avoid recent efforts by pro-government militias to intercept migrant convoys on the more direct routes from Khartoum to the Libyan border with Sudan. The town of El Fashir is believed to be emerging as a hub for these crossings, yet information on the networks operating out of these areas, remains scarce.

Eritrea

Eritrean people smuggler to stand trial: A Palermo court ruled that an Eritrean man, believed to be people smuggler Medhanie Yedhego Mered, will face trial with the first hearing in November. Mered is accused of being the mastermind behind smuggling operations from the Horn of Africa to Europe, and is believed to have smuggled up to 8,000 migrants a year into Italy.

Ethiopia

Arrivals from Yemen: As of 30th September 2016, there were a total of 13,299 arrivals into Ethiopia from Yemen since the outbreak of violence in March 2015. The majority (69%) of those arriving continue to be Ethiopian nationals, with Yemeni nationals accounting for 10% of arrivals. Only 10 arrivals were recorded in September

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| | <p>following the general decline of arrivals into the Horn of Africa from Yemen since November 2015.</p> <p>Refugees in Ethiopia: As of 30th September 2016, there were 761,302 refugees and asylum seekers registered in Ethiopia. The majority of refugees are from South Sudan (300,644), Somalia (254,812) and Eritrea (159,636). 20,025 new arrivals were registered in September. According to the UN, new arrivals continue to enter Ethiopia at the average daily rate of 1,200 people.</p> <p>European Investment Bank and World Bank pledge support for Ethiopian “Jobs Compact”: Ethiopia has announced a partnership with the European Investment Bank (EIB) and the World Bank to create 100,000 jobs in Ethiopia to help tackle the migrant crisis. USD 500 million will be made available for the construction of two industrial parks that are expected to increase employment for Ethiopian nationals, as well as 30,000 refugees. The investment in Ethiopia is driven by the country’s role as a transit point for migratory movements to Europe. The President of the EIB is reported as stating that “Ethiopia is for many a stopping point before making the dangerous onward journey to final destinations in Europe, and initiatives and projects like this provide people with a choice to stay closer to home and an opportunity for economic growth as well”.</p> <p>This announcement was made during the UN Leaders’ Summit on Refugees organised in the context of the UN Summit on Addressing Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants (more on this below).</p> |
| | |
| <p>Kenya</p> | <p>Refugees in Kenya: As of 30th September 2016, there were 501,531 registered refugees and asylum seekers in Kenya, including refugees from Somalia (332,725), South Sudan (91,212), DRC (27,555) and Ethiopia (26,754). Dadaab refugee complex hosts 275,467 refugees and Kakuma camp hosts 163,192 refugees. An additional 62,872 refugees reside in the capital city of Nairobi.</p> <p>Voluntary repatriation of Somali refugees: Following a spike in Somali refugee returns to Somalia in August 2016, return movements significantly slowed in September. 3,055 persons returned during the month, representing a 70% decline in movements. This drop is a direct consequence of a decision made by Jubbaland authorities in Somalia, who prevented returnees from moving out of the transit centre in Doble town due to concerns about the lack of humanitarian support available to returnees in their final destinations. This decision prompted a halt on the departure of refugees from the way station in Dadaab. A total of 26,731 persons have returned to Somalia since the beginning of 2016.</p> <p>Agencies raise concern over return process: In a damning report of refugee returns to Somalia, Human Rights Watch have termed the operation as one that is “fuelled by fear and misinformation” and one that “does not meet international standards for voluntary refugee return”. In the report, around 100 refugees and asylum seekers described alleged intimidation by the Kenyan government, silence on alternative options to return, and inadequate information on conditions in Somalia, which Human Rights Watch says are resulting in the <i>refoulement</i> of Somali refugees in Kenya in contravention of the Tripartite Agreement, the 1969 OAU Refugee Convention (to which Kenya is a party) and UNHCR’s own rules on voluntary repatriation.</p> <p>A new report published by Médecins San Frontiers puts to “serious question” whether voluntary repatriation of Somali refugees is a feasible option at this time. The report, which is based on interviews with Somali refugees in Dadaab, alleges that 86% of Somali refugees are unwilling to return to Somalia and that 83% deem Somalia as “very unsafe”. Refugees raised concerns over security, access to basic services including food, water, shelter, education and health, and employment opportunities as stumbling blocks to their return. In a rebuttal to the report, the Kenyan government cast “serious doubts” on the figures stating that “many refugees are willing to leave”. However, results of a camp-wide verification exercise carried out by UNHCR between July and August 2016 showed that only 25% of refugees in Dadaab were willing to go back to Somalia.</p> <p>In a similar report the Norwegian Refugee Council concluded that the returns process as originally conceptualised under the Tripartite Agreement “is no longer voluntary”. According to the report, refugees have expressed that they feel trapped and “forced to choose between receiving assistance to return to areas that they may not be ready to go back to, or waiting and facing the uncertain consequences of staying put”.</p> <p>In order to achieve the repatriation target of 150,000 persons by the end of 2016, an average of 41,089 persons would have to be returning to Somalia every month between October and December.</p> |
| | |

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>Israel</p> | <p>Israeli government vows to appeal asylum decision on Eritrean asylum seekers: Israel's Interior Minister Aryeh Deri has vowed that the government will appeal a court decision compelling it to reconsider its official position on asylum applications by Eritrean nationals. The Israeli government considers fleeing military service (the reason given by most Eritreans seeking asylum) as insufficient to fall within the definition of "persecution" within the 1951 Refugee Convention. This has resulted in the de facto universal rejection of asylum application by Eritrean nationals in Israel.</p> <p>In its ruling, the court found that while desertion in and of itself doesn't constitute grounds for granting political asylum, that in Eritrea's context desertion "is seen as expressing a political view...for which the punishment exceeds reasonable bounds, [and therefore] could amount to persecution in the sense in which Israel interprets the Refugee Convention". The court further discounted the government's claim that granting many Eritreans refugee status would threaten the state's Jewish character. Reportedly, Eritrean nationals submitted 7,218 requests for asylum between 2009 and the beginning of July 2016, of which only 8 were approved (0.1%), and of which 3,105 were still pending determination.</p> |
| <p>Other regional news and news from other regions</p> | <p>Egypt promises justice after migrant boat capsizes: Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi ordered the arrest of five crew members believed to have been responsible for the sinking of a boat on 21st September carrying almost 600 migrants as they attempted to travel to Italy by sea. Rescue workers and fishermen recovered the bodies of at least 202 migrants and rescued a further 169, suggesting many more may have perished. Officials reported that the boat was carrying Egyptian, Sudanese, Eritrean and Somali migrants. According to Egypt's state media smugglers charged 35,000 Egyptian Pounds (approximately USD 3,591) per Egyptian national and USD 3,000 for each foreigner.</p> <p>Egyptian police later arrested 23 people for suspected involvement in migrant smuggling activities. According to the Interior Ministry, 11 of those arrested were specialised in luring youth seeking work opportunities in Europe. The EU's border agency Frontex estimates that more than 12,000 migrants arrived in Italy from Egypt between January and September this year, compared to 7,000 in the same period in 2015.</p> <p>Libya turns back migrants heading to Europe: Libyan patrols reportedly intercepted 1,425 migrants attempting to depart from the western coastal city of Sabratha, with the intention of crossing the Mediterranean to Europe. According to a naval spokesman, the migrants were apprehended aboard five inflatable rafts and three wooden boats. It is unclear what happened to the migrants once they were discovered.</p> <p>Libya rejects EU-proposed migrant camp: Libya has rejected proposals by the European Union to build a migrant camp in the country to control migration to Europe via the Mediterranean. Libyan Foreign Affairs Minister Mohamad Taher Siala stated that such a project "would mean that the European Union is refusing to assume its responsibilities and placing it on our shoulders". European governments have been pushing for the establishment of an EU deal with North African states to send back rejected asylum seekers from the bloc.</p> <p>In October, the UN Security Council extended its authorisation for Member States to intercept vessels on the high seas between Libya and Europe, suspected of being used for human smuggling or human trafficking from Libya for an additional year. The resolution was adopted with 14 votes in favour and 1 abstention by Venezuela. Venezuela raised doubt that the authorisation was the appropriate mechanism to deal with the great flow of people, and that deaths continued even with the mechanisms in place.</p> <p>UN Member States adopt New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants: On 19th September 2016, the UN General Assembly hosted a high-level summit to address large movements of refugees and migrants, with the aim of bringing countries together towards a more humane and coordinated approach. States adopted the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, which sets out a new approach to responding to refugees through a Comprehensive Refugee Response (CPR) Framework. The Framework includes a range of activities ranging from addressing route causes to emphasizing self-reliance of refugees. The Declaration has set ground for negotiations leading to an international conference and the adoption of a global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration in 2018.</p> <p>RMMS presented in a high-level side event at the summit, alongside UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi, IOM Chief William Lacy Swing, and several heads of state. The panel discussed large movements of refugees and migrants in the context of the global challenge, regional responses and comprehensive strategies.</p> |

Merkel seeks economic cooperation to curb African migrant flow: In early October, German Chancellor Angela Merkel conducted a three country tour to Mali, Niger and Ethiopia with the hopes of seeking investment opportunities to drive economic development and curb future migration to Europe. Merkel has described Africa as “[the central problem](#)” in the current migration landscape, and has previously called for the establishment of [EU-Turkey type migration deals](#) with North African countries. Italy’s foreign minister says his country “[would appreciate](#)” an agreement between the European Union and North African countries.



Source: UNHCR

Mediterranean Sea arrivals: As of 30th September 2016, a total of 301,460 refugees and migrants had arrived in Europe by sea since the beginning of the year, a 42% decrease on arrivals recorded for the same period in 2015. 19,719 people arrived in September 2016, a 23% reduction on arrivals in August, and a more significant 88% decline on arrivals in September 2015, attributable largely to the decline in numbers on the Eastern Mediterranean route into Greece.

Along the Central Mediterranean route to Italy, 16,792 people were reported to have arrived in September 2016. 15,922 persons used this route in September 2015, representing a slight 5% increase on movements in 2016. Overall, 131,860 people have used this route between January and September 2016, in comparison to the 132,071 that used the route in 2015.

EU’s Border and Coast Guard launched: On 6th October 2016, the EU established the European Border and Coast Guard Agency. The mandate of the agency will be to: ensure implementation of an integrated border management system, oversee border control at the external border of the EU, provide increased operational and technical support to Member States, support search and rescue operations, and play an enhanced role in returns.

The new agency assumes the operations of Frontex and will have access to a pool of 1,500 border guard officers and support staff and equipment that it will be able to deploy on short notice. Beginning January 2017, the agency will begin rolling out vulnerability assessments that will weigh the capacity and readiness of Member States to face challenges at its external borders, including migratory pressure. Based on these assessments States will be expected to address any deficiencies identified. Moreover, the agency will have an expanded role in returns of irregular migrants and failed asylum seekers. In addition to coordinating forced return operations, the agency will also have the power to organise returns on its own initiative, including through the chartering of aircraft or other means of transport.

Operations at the external borders of Member States can be initiated by the agency on request of a Member, or by the agency itself with a recommendation for a joint operation or rapid border intervention based on the results of a vulnerability assessment.

The new agency was launched amid controversy that European border guards are using weapons to stop boats driven by suspected human smugglers and injuring or killing migrants and refugees in the process. Unredacted and published versions of Frontex documents describe the use of firearms a part of the [standard rules of engagement](#) for stopping boats at sea. A [letter](#) signed by 42 Members of the European Parliament asks if the new agency will continue to use firearms against boats carrying migrants and refugees.

EU relocation scheme performing poorly: According to UNHCR figures, the EU’s emergency relocation mechanism established in September 2015 to relocate a target 160,000 asylum seekers from Greece and Italy to other European nations, has yet to make significant headway a year after it was signed. As of 21st September, a total of 5,290 asylum seekers were relocated (4,134 from Greece and 1,156 from Italy), equivalent to 3 percent of the target. The EU has until September 2017 to complete the relocation in accordance with its plan.

Migrant deaths: Data compiled by [IOM’s Missing Migrants Project](#), shows that as of 30th September 2016, a total of 4,687 persons have lost their lives globally while migrating by sea and overland this year. 3,054 of these deaths, equivalent to 65%, were recorded along the Central Mediterranean route, which is frequented by migrants and

| | |
|--|--|
| | <p>refugees from sub-Saharan Africa. There were 322 recorded deaths in September, making it one of the deadliest months for sea crossings on record in 2016.</p> <p>In early October, Italian coastguards rescued more than 11,000 migrants from numerous vessels in the Mediterranean Sea over the course of 72 hours, 6,000 of whom were rescued in a single day. The migrants were rescued in international waters between Libya and Europe. At least 22 migrants had died in the hold of one of the boats, and Libyan officials reported that 11 migrant bodies had washed up on a beach near Tripoli. During August, more than 13,000 migrants were rescued from wooden boats and rubber dinghies as they also attempted to make the crossing to Europe. According to Italian coastguards favourable weather conditions have played a role in encouraging more migrants to depart.</p> <p>Burundi refugees in neighbouring countries: The socio-political situation in Burundi remains tense and continues to spur displacement into neighbouring countries in the region. As of 4th October 2016, there were a total of 303,952 Burundian refugees and asylum seekers in countries in the region since the outbreak of political violence in 2015. The majority of refugees are located in Tanzania (165,224) and Rwanda (81,279). According to UNICEF, the number of refugees has almost doubled in September, compared to previous months. On 30th September 2016, the UN Human Rights Council adopted four resolutions on the Burundi situation, including a resolution to establish of a commission of inquiry to conduct a thorough investigation into human rights violations and abuses in the country since April 2015.</p> |
| <p>New Research, reports or documents</p> | <p>Uganda country profile: A new addition to RMMS' series of country profiles that examines key mixed migration characteristics in Uganda.</p> <p>Tackling the Global Refugee Crisis: From Shirking to Sharing Responsibility: This report documents the precarious situation faced by many of the world's 21 million refugees, the vast majority of which are hosted in low and middle-income countries, while many of the world's wealthiest nations host the fewest and do the least. If all – or most – countries were to take a fair share of responsibility for hosting refugees then no one country would be overwhelmed and the lives of refugees would be significantly improved. Amnesty International calls for all countries to put in places refugee resettlement programmes and to increase safe and legal routes for refugees to enter the country.</p> <p>Connecting Refugees. How Internet and Mobile Connectivity can Improve Refugee Well-Being and Transform Humanitarian Action: In an increasingly connected world, this report by UNHCR discusses the fact that displaced people are living without the connectivity they need to obtain vital information, communicate with loved ones, access basic services and to link to the local, national and global communities around them. The report shows that many refugees need additional support to access reliable internet and mobile communications. The findings also confirm the need for an increased engagement from the private sector – in particular, large technology companies and mobile network operators – to achieve the vision.</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.