



April 2016

Regional mixed migration summary for April 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 twelfth month with escalation of 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>Yemeni peace talks postponed indefinitely: On the 1st May 2016, the United Nations Special Envoy for Yemen announced a suspension of the latest round of peace talks between the government and Houthi rebels, following a government pull-out of its participation in the negotiations. The Special Envoy noted that he will continue to investigate and halt all breaches of the cessation of hostilities agreement that was signed on 10th April.</p> <p>Internal displacement: At the end of April 2016, there were more than 2.75 million persons internally displaced within Yemen.</p> <p>Continued arrivals from the Horn of Africa: A total of 11,245 migrants and asylum seekers (91% Ethiopians and 9% Somalis) (85% male, 15% female) arrived from the Horn of Africa to Yemen via the Red Sea, Arabian Sea and Gulf of Aden aboard 112 boats in April 2016. This represents an 8% increase in arrivals recorded in March 2016. The proportion of Ethiopian arrivals was particularly high in April. This was particularly evident along the Red Sea route where Ethiopian nationals accounted for 98% of crossings.</p> <p>An estimated number of 1,918 (1,884 Ethiopians and 34 Somalis) migrants and asylum seekers were recorded to have arrived on the Red Sea coast of Yemen in April 2016, a 45% increase on arrivals in March. Consistent with reports in March, new arrivals reported a tightening of the Djiboutian border at crossing points from Ethiopia and a higher presence of Djiboutian coast guards. In one incident two smuggling boats reportedly carrying more than 100 migrants each were intercepted by Djiboutian coast guards and passengers deported back to Ethiopia. The migrants arrived aboard 24 boats which departed from Obock, Djibouti landing in various towns in Ta'iz and Lahj governorates and in Al-Hodeida port. Due to the reduction of monitoring missions along Yemen's coast, it is likely that actual number of arrivals from the Horn of Africa to Yemen was higher during the period.</p> <p>Ethiopian migrants continued to report higher than usual smuggling fees for the journey from Ethiopia to Yemen. On average they spent between 8,000-10,000 Ethiopian Birr (approx. USD 365-455). Somalis on the move paid USD 50 to cross the Djibouti border via Loya-Ade and an additional USD 150 to Djiboutian brokers who facilitated the journey through Djibouti and onwards to Yemen. A small group of Somalis who travelled from Mogadishu to Berbera paid USD 200 to board a commercial boat heading to Hodeida in North Yemen.</p> <p>98% of Ethiopian arrivals cited difficult living conditions, drought and limited work opportunities as the main reasons for their migration. Somali nationals cited poverty, instability and a lack of work opportunities for their migration. All Ethiopian economic migrants and a number of Somali migrants indicated an intention to travel onwards to Saudi Arabia to look for work.</p> <p>An additional 9,327 migrants and asylum seekers (8,334 Ethiopians, 982 Somalis and 1 Djiboutian) arrived on Arabian Sea coasts of Yemen aboard 88 boats in April 2016. This is almost on par with arrivals recorded in March 2016.</p> <p>Migrant vulnerability: Migrants, asylum seekers and refugees arriving in Yemen on the Red Sea coasts continued to report witnessing or being victim to numerous violations in April. New arrivals specifically reported numerous instances of rape of Ethiopian female migrants by smugglers in Obock. Other arrivals reported on the drowning of</p>

	<p>2 Ethiopian migrants following a forced disembarkation of migrants in deep water as smugglers tried to avoid military patrols on the coast.</p> <p>New migration route through Yemen: Reports received by RMMS suggest the emergence of a new smuggling route to Europe that passes through Yemen. The passage is predominantly used by Somali youth, who depart from remote locations on the Puntland coast and travel to Yemen by sea. Once in Yemen smuggling networks transport the arrivals across land to western coasts in Yemen, from where they depart by sea towards Sudan and join the smuggling route via Sudan and Libya across the Mediterranean to Europe. The numbers using this route are currently unknown, but estimates suggest as many as 400-900 people month may be moving in this way.</p> <p><i>More information on the emergence of this route will be included in an upcoming RMMS Briefing Paper.</i></p> <p>Refugees in Yemen: As of 31st March 2016, there were 267,874 refugees in Yemen (253,632 Somali, 5,734 Ethiopian, 3,406 Iraqi, 3,064 Syrian, 1,358 Eritrean and 680 persons of various nationalities). According to UNHCR most of them live in urban centres such as Sana'a and Aden, while some 18,000 live in Kharaz refugee camp. Somali refugees continue to receive <i>prima facie</i> refugee status recognition The security situation has compelled a number of urban refugees to relocate to rural areas for safety reasons.</p> <p>Departures from Yemen: As of 30th April 2016, the number of people fleeing Yemen to the Horn of Africa (Djibouti, Ethiopia, Somalia and Sudan) had totalled 86,738 persons (35,562 in Djibouti, 32,120 in Somalia, 12,768 in Ethiopia, and 6,288 in Sudan). Yemenis and Somalis represent the largest proportion of people moving out of Yemen, accounting for 30% and 35% of movements respectively. Djibouti remained as the primary destination for Yemeni nationals, with 75% of those moving opting to travel to Djibouti.</p> <p>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.</p>
<p>Djibouti</p>	<p>Departures to Yemen: Data from monitoring teams along the Red Sea coasts indicate that at least 1,918 (1,884 Ethiopians and 34 Somalis) migrants and asylum seekers departed from Obock and arrived in coastal towns in Yemen, consistent with the pace of arrivals in March. As in March, new arrivals reported a tightening of the Djiboutian border at crossing points from Ethiopia and an increased presence of Djiboutian coast guards. In one incident two smuggling boats reportedly carrying more than 100 migrants each were intercepted by Djiboutian coast guards and passengers deported back to Ethiopia. New arrivals reported that the cost of the journey from Ethiopia to Yemen was between 8,000-10,000 Ethiopian Birr (approx. USD 365-455), in keeping with the higher numbers reported in March.</p> <p>Arrivals from Yemen: As of 30th April 2016, a total of 35,562 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%.</p> <p>Refugee arrivals from Yemen: As of 17th April 2016, UNHCR and ONARS (the government refugee agency) had registered 6,510 refugees, including 6,272 Yemeni nationals. A total of 576 refugees from Bab Al Mandab in Yemen are reported to have spontaneously returned home from Obock (Markazi camp and Obock town). A further 283 are believed to have also returned, but this is subject to verification.</p> <p>New anti-human trafficking and smuggling law: In March 2016, the Djiboutian government passed a new law regarding the smuggling and trafficking of migrants. The law borrows heavily from the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, and the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air. This will significantly improve the ranking of Djibouti in the US Department of State's Trafficking in Persons Report, which has been on the Tier 2 Watch List for four consecutive years.</p>

<p>Somaliland</p>	<p>Arrivals from Yemen: As of 8th May 2016, a total of 10,072 migrants/refugees/returnees (79% Somali, 20% Yemeni) had arrived in Somaliland since the outbreak of conflict in Yemen in March 2015. New arrivals docked in the towns of Berbera, Hargeisa, Lughaya, Maydh and Zeila. 92 persons arrived during April, a 12% increase on arrivals recorded in March.</p> <p>Returning refugees and asylum seekers in Somaliland: Of the 7,916 Somalis that have arrived in Somaliland since the beginning of the conflict 42% (3,364) had previously acquired refugee status or sought asylum in Yemen.</p> <p>Somaliland arrests 22 for aiding migrants: According to media reports, authorities in Somaliland arrested and detained 22 people suspected to be involved in smuggling migrants. The nationality of the suspects is unknown. The Somaliland Police Commissioner is reported as saying that the police have enough evidence on the charges of the suspects for indictment. The detained group were reportedly found in possession of false traveling documents and photos of would-be migrants.</p>
<p>Puntland</p>	<p>Arrivals from Yemen: As of 8th May 2016, a total of 21,723 migrants/refugees/returnees (90% Somali, 9% Yemeni) had arrived in Puntland since the beginning of the Yemen conflict. Arrivals have been recorded in the towns of Alula, Bargal, Bosasso, Elayo and Qandala. 185 persons arrived April, an 18% reduction on arrivals recorded in March.</p> <p>Returning refugees and asylum seekers in Puntland: Of the 19,610 Somalis that have returned from Yemen to Puntland since the conflict, 6,516 (33%) people had previously acquired refugee status or sought asylum in Yemen.</p>
<p>Somalia (South Central)</p>	<p>Arrivals from Yemen: No new arrivals from Yemen were registered in South Central Somalia in the reporting period. The number of persons having fled from Yemen directly to South Central Somalia remains at 367. However, consistent with data from previous months, a significant number (52%) of those arriving in Somaliland and Puntland indicate an intention to return to Mogadishu specifically.</p> <p>Internal Displacement: According to UNHCR figures, there are 1.1 million internally displaced persons across the whole of Somalia (Somaliland, Puntland and South Central Somalia).</p> <p>Refugees in the neighbouring countries: According to UNHCR figures, there are currently 978,031 registered Somali refugees and asylum seekers displaced in neighbouring countries in the region. The majority of the refugees are hosted in Kenya (43%), Ethiopia (26%) and Yemen (26%).</p> <p>Somali arrivals in Europe: As of 30th April 2016, Somali nationals made up 9% of arrivals along the Central Mediterranean route to Europe in 2016. 2,529 Somalis have arrived in Europe using this route since the beginning of 2016, a 32% reduction when compared to the same period in 2015. Arrivals in April (1,025) were almost on par with arrivals recorded in March (1,060), showing a sustained pace of movements. This is in line with the general increase of arrivals noted along the Central Mediterranean route (see below on Mediterranean sea arrivals), and may in part be attributed to better weather conditions.</p> <p>Somali smuggler sentenced to 30 years in prison: A Somali smuggler, Mouhamud Elmi Mihidin, was sentenced to 30 years in prison by the Palermo Court of Appeal. Muhidin was the captain of a vessel carrying migrants that sank off the coast of Lampedusa in Italy in October 2013, claiming at least 366 lives.</p> <p>Somali government bans citizens from travelling to Sudan: In late April, the Federal Government of Somalia announced a ban on its citizens travelling to Sudan. "The department of immigration has confirmed that most of the Somali citizens who perished in the Mediterranean Sea had gone through Sudan to reach Europe. No ordinary Somali is allowed to travel to Sudan effective today except on diplomatic missions," said the head of Somalia's immigration and naturalisation department.</p> <p>The announcement followed reports that around 200 Somali nationals had drowned after their boat capsized en route to Italy from Egypt. Sudan is a popular transit country for migrants from the Horn of Africa who intend to travel to Europe.</p>

South Sudan	<p>Regional displacement: As of 6th May 2016 a total of 713,010 South Sudanese asylum seekers and refugees had sought refuge in the region since the start of the conflict in December 2013. The majority of those displaced are hosted in Ethiopia (230,311), followed by Sudan (224,620), Uganda (202,265), and Kenya (55,814). An additional 123,348 who were displaced before the December 2013 conflict are also hosted in the region.</p> <p>Internal Displacement: As of 30th April 2016, there were approximately 1.7 million persons internally displaced in South Sudan.</p> <p>Refugees in South Sudan: South Sudan continues to host refugees from neighbouring countries. As of 30th April 2016, there were 266,916 registered refugees and asylum seekers in the country.</p> <p>South Sudan's Machar sworn in as vice president: South Sudanese rebel leader Riek Machar was sworn in as vice president on 26th April, hours after he returned to the capital for the first time since conflict erupted in the young nation in December 2013. Machar took up the post under the terms of a peace agreement signed in August 2015 that will see the formation of a transitional government of unity. "Now that Dr. Riek has taken the oath of the first vice president, we will immediately proceed with the establishment of the transitional government of national unity," said President Kiir after the swearing in ceremony.</p>
Sudan	<p>Internal Displacement: UN figures estimate that there are 3.2 million internally displaced persons in the country as of the end of April 2016. Fighting between government forces and armed movements and inter-tribal tensions and conflict in the Darfur region continue to cause mass displacement.</p> <p>Refugees in Sudan: As of 30th April 2016, there were 355,361 refugees and asylum seekers in the country. The largest group are South Sudanese nationals who account for 63%, followed by Eritreans (29%), and other nationalities (8%). According to UNHCR, the influx of South Sudanese refugees that began in late January continues into East Darfur, South Darfur and West Kordofan.</p> <p>In early April, UNHCR began to receive reports of the arbitrary arrest of South Sudanese nationals in Khartoum. Over 1,000 South Sudanese have reportedly been arrested for alleged lack of documentation and charged a fine of 1,000 Sudanese Pounds (approx. USD 167). This is despite the fact that the majority of South Sudanese are in possession of a registration card that is issued by the Sudanese Directorate of Passports and Immigration. According to UNHCR, many of those arrested were subsequently released, but many remain in detention.</p> <p>The arrests follow a government directive that was issued in mid-March announcing tightened restrictions for South Sudanese nationals living in Sudan, and a later announcement that Sudan was officially closing its borders with South Sudan amid allegations of the South Sudanese government arming militia in its territory.</p> <p>Arrivals from Yemen: As of 30th April, there were 6,288 arrivals from Yemen into Sudan since the outbreak of conflict in Yemen in March 2015. The largest number of arrivals are returning Sudanese nationals (3,800). Yemeni arrivals number 1,144 persons.</p> <p>Sudanese nationals crossing into Europe: As of 30th April 2016, Sudanese nationals made up 5% of arrivals along the Central Mediterranean route to Europe. 1,505 have arrived in Europe using this route since the beginning of 2016, a 48% increase on arrivals recorded in the same period in 2015. There was a significant increase in Sudanese arrivals recorded in April when compared to March. 744 arrivals were recorded in April, accounting for 56% increase on the 476 arrivals in March. This is in line with the general increase of arrivals noted along the Central Mediterranean route (see below on Mediterranean sea arrivals), and could be attributed in part to better weather conditions.</p>
Eritrea	<p>Eritrean arrivals in Europe: As of 30th April 2016, Eritrean nationals made up 8% of arrivals along the Central Mediterranean route to Europe. 2,202 have arrived in Europe using this route since the beginning of 2016, compared to 5,388 during the same period in 2015; a 145% reduction. Nonetheless, there was a significant spike</p>

	<p>in Eritrean arrivals recorded in April when compared to March 2016. 1,587 arrivals were recorded in April, accounting for a 260% increase on the 441 arrivals recorded in March. This is in line with the trend of movement in 2015, where there was a notable increase in Eritrean arrivals into Europe in April 2015. If the trend witnessed in 2015 continues, we can expect a sustained pace of Eritrean nationals arriving in Italy in the coming months. It is also in line with the general increase of arrivals noted along the Central Mediterranean route (see below on Mediterranean sea arrivals), and could be attributed in part to better weather conditions.</p>
<p>Ethiopia</p>	<p>Arrivals from Yemen: As of 30th April 2016, there were a total of 12,770 arrivals into Ethiopia from Yemen since the outbreak of violence in March 2015. The majority (69%) of those arriving are returning Ethiopian nationals, with Yemeni nationals accounting for 10% of arrivals. Ethiopia grants prima facie refugee status to Yemenis and also recognises Somali refugees who received refugee recognition in Yemen as prima facie refugees in Ethiopia. Other nationalities undergo individual Refugee Status Determination.</p> <p>Refugees in Ethiopia: As of 30th April 2016, there were 734,931 refugees and asylum seekers registered in Ethiopia. The majority of refugees are from South Sudan (284,306) Somalia (250,988) and Eritrea (155,276). According to UNHCR, 81,078 Eritrean refugees previously registered as living in the camps as part of the 154,491 refugees are believed to have spontaneously settled elsewhere in Ethiopia. This figure remains subject to verification.</p> <p>Refugees and asylum seekers are generally expected to reside in camps, although a number are permitted to reside in urban areas for medical, security or humanitarian reasons. 8,616 such refugees reside in Addis Ababa. Eritrean refugees who are able to show that they can sustain themselves are allowed to reside out of the camps in an “out-of-camp” policy.</p> <p>Ethiopian arrivals in Europe: As of 30th April 2016, Ethiopian nationals made up 2% of arrivals along the Central Mediterranean route to Europe. 690 have arrived in Europe using this route since the beginning of 2016. There were 391 arrivals recorded in April, a 246% increase on arrivals in March.</p>
<p>Kenya</p>	<p>Kenya announces closure of refugee camps: In an unexpected statement released by the Government of Kenya on 6th May 2016, Kenya announced that it would no longer continue to host refugees in the country. Citing “very heavy economic, security and environmental burdens” it has borne on behalf of the region and international community, the government declared that “hosting of refugees has to come to an end”. The government simultaneously disbanded the Department of Refugee Affairs, the body responsible for all administrative matters concerning refugees in Kenya and for coordinating activities and programmes relating to refugees.</p> <p>Kenya’s Interior Principal Secretary Kibicho said that the directive would only apply to the Dadaab refugee camp (on the border with Somalia) and would not affect Kakuma camp (on Kenya’s north-western border with South Sudan), as it “does not pose any threat”. The government has committed to close Dadaab by May 2017 and has reportedly set aside 1 billion Kenya Shillings (USD 10 million) to support the exercise. The government also announced establishment of a taskforce that will steer the repatriation exercise. It will, amongst other things, guide on the modalities, timelines and costs of the repatriation. The taskforce is expected to release a report on the timetable of the exercise by May 31.</p> <p>Kenya has previously made similar calls for the closure of the Dadaab refugee complex, following a string of attacks on Kenyan soil by Somali-based terror group Al Shabaab in 2013 and 2014, which later lost steam. In a show of strength, Kenya’s Foreign Affairs Cabinet Secretary, Amina Mohamed is reported as saying: “We are now serious about this and we do not want anyone to have any doubts [about our intention to close the camp]”. Kenya’s Cabinet Secretary for Interior also affirmed continuing construction of the border wall between Kenya and Somalia.</p> <p>In August 2015, the Kenyan government made an extraordinary presentation to the African Union’s Peace and Security Council on plans to close Dadaab refugee camp. A decision of the 590th meeting of the African Union’s Peace and Security Council in April 2016, which preceded the government’s announcement, acknowledged “the legitimate security concern of Kenya that the Dadaab Refugee Camps, in existence for more than 25 years, have been infiltrated and have become hideouts of Al Shabaab terrorist group, which exploits the camps to plans and carry out attacks against Kenyan institutions, installations and civilians”. And while it called for “accelerated</p>

repatriation measures be put in place”, these were to facilitate “the *voluntary* return of Somali refugees...on the basis of either a re-negotiated Tripartite Agreement or a new mechanism to be negotiated and agreed upon by Kenya Somalia and the UNHCR” (emphasis added).

One week before the government announcement, on 29th April, the government published a gazette notice [revoking the prima facie refugee status](#) of asylum seekers from Somalia. The revocation takes effect retroactively from the 1st April 2016. All asylum seekers arriving after this date are subject to individual Refugee Status Determination. However with the disbandment of the Department of Refugee Affairs, which is responsible for status determination, asylum seekers can no longer undergo such an assessment.

Kenya’s unilateral announcement has been strongly criticised by [rights campaigners](#) and [NGOs](#), and the [UN has urged Kenya to reconsider its position](#). Kenya is a signatory to both the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol, and the 1969 OAU Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa. Kenya has further domesticated the provisions of these treaties into national legislation through the Refugees Act of 2006. Critics of the government argue that Kenya will be in breach of the principle of *non-refoulement*, which protects asylum seekers and refugees from being returned to places where their lives and freedoms could be threatened. Kenya, Somalia and UNHCR are parties to a [Tripartite Agreement](#) that paved the way for the “safe and dignified voluntary repatriation of Somali refugees”. UNHCR has maintained that the [conditions in Somalia are not conducive for mass return](#).

[Somalia’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs has protested the move by the Kenyan government](#), stating that the closure of Dadaab would negatively affect the refugees and increase the risk of insecurity in the region. “This decision will negatively affect the majority of Somali refugees...and will make the threat of terrorism worse, not better,” said the ministry.

It remains to be seen how the announcement and possible action by the Kenyan government on the closure of refugee camps will affect the refugee population in Kenya, and whether this may spur a mass [onward movement of refugees to countries such as Uganda](#) as they did following a deterioration of living conditions and security in Kenya.

Refugees in Kenya: As of 30th April 2016, there were 598,646 registered refugees and asylum seekers in Kenya, including refugees from Somalia (70%), South Sudan (16%) and Ethiopia (5%). Dadaab refugee complex hosts 343,884 refugees and Kakuma camp is home to 190,822 refugees. An additional 63,940 refugees reside in the capital city of Nairobi.

The disbandment of the Department of Refugee Affairs, which took charge of the Refugee Status Determination of all refugees in the country from UNHCR on 1st July 2015, has affected the registration of newly arrived refugees in Kakuma camp, where reception centres are full.

Voluntary repatriation of Somali refugees: As of 30th April 2016, a total of 13,883 Somali refugees had been supported to return to Somalia since UNHCR began supporting the exercise in 2014. 7,703 refugees have repatriated in 2016 so far, 1,241 of who moved in April, a 42% reduction on repatriations in March. Planned return movements from Dadaab to Somalia have stalled since the government announcement on the disbandment of the Department of Refugee Affairs.

Other regional news and news from other regions

Egyptian migrants killed in Libya: At least nine Egyptian migrants and three people smugglers were killed in Libya following a money dispute between the two groups. According to reports, the group of Egyptians had killed the Libyan smugglers and attempted to drive the bodies away, but were uncovered at a checkpoint along their journey. A fourth smuggler is reported to have gone to the police station where the migrants were being held and opened fire, killing them and others. The UN mission to Libya said that as many as 13 Egyptians had been killed and called for an investigation.

Libya’s unity government asks for help in fighting irregular migration: Libya’s newly formed, and internationally backed, national unity government has called on the international community to collaborate with Libya in combating irregular migration through its territory. According to media reports, the [Libyan government deported more than 200 African migrants](#) of various nationalities (including Mali, Niger, Gambia, Eritrea and Ivory Coast) to their countries of origin in April 2016. According to IOM, [numbers of migrants leaving Libya for Europe have surged in April](#) and are likely to continue.

Media reports also covered plans by NATO to launch a naval mission off Libyan shores with an aim to close the Central Mediterranean migrant route to Europe. The mission is set to be approved by NATO members at a summit on 7th July. Italy is preparing to lead a UN-backed peacekeeping force into Libya, if and when the new government obtains authority to ask for international help in stabilising the country. Speaking on this support, Italy's Interior Minister is [reported as saying](#): "We hope Libya block both its northern border, from where [migrants] leave to reach us, and its southern border, through which people coming from places such as the Horn of Africa enter the country and use it as a hub to reach Europe...I will tell my Libyan colleague that Italy is ready to give any help and cooperation."

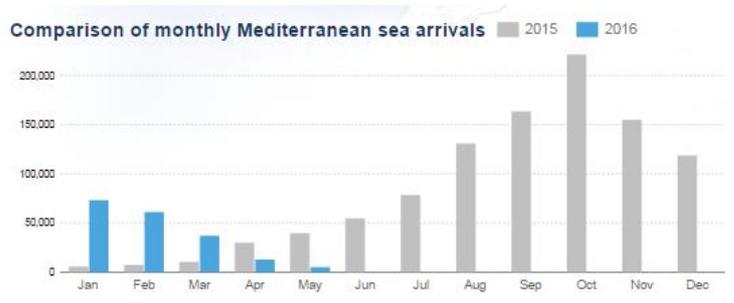
EU mission 'failing' to disrupt people-smuggling: According to a [UK House of Lords EU Committee report](#), the European Union operation to tackle smuggler boats in the Mediterranean does not "in any meaningful way" disrupt smuggler operations. The report suggests that the destruction of wooden boats has forced smugglers to use rubber dinghies, putting migrants and refugees at even greater risk. The report further goes on to state that "the arrests made to date have been of low-level targets...[and that there are] significant limits to the intelligence that can be collected about onshore smuggling networks from the high seas", concluding that "there is therefore little prospect of Operation Sophia overturning the business model of people smuggling". The first phase of "Operation Sophia" was launched in June 2015 which authorised the use of naval surveillance for the detection and monitoring of smuggler boats. In October 2015 the EU activated a second phase allowing for the European naval vessels to intercept, board, search, seize, and divert vessels suspected of being used for smuggling and trafficking operations.

European Commission announces plans to overhaul European refugee system: The European Commission launched a [package of proposals](#) aimed at managing the refugee crisis in Europe. One of the proposals would introduce a revised relocation system based on a country's population and economy. EU Member States would be able to opt out of the scheme but would be required to make a 'solidarity contribution' of EUR 250,000 per asylum seeker they refuse to take under the scheme to the State taking responsibility for the asylum seeker's claim. [Previous attempts](#) to encourage EU Member States to voluntarily accept refugees from frontline states in Europe have failed; only 937 of the target 160,000 were resettled in the first six months of the operation.

As part of the same package, the Commission also drafted a proposal to lift the visa requirement for Turkish citizens who hold a biometric passport. Turkey's president Erdogan has [warned](#) that they would not uphold their part of the EU-Turkey '[one-in-one-out](#)' deal, if this is not implemented.

Austria passed a controversial new law that allows asylum seeker's claims to be rejected directly at the border. The new asylum law allows the government to declare a state of emergency and reject most asylum seekers, including those from countries such as Syria, and limits successful claims to three years. Austria further announced plans to restrict access through the Brenner Pass between Italy and Austria, which sparked violent protests. The Brenner Pass is one of the main routes that migrants use as they head north through Europe.

Mediterranean sea arrivals: As of 30th April 2016, 183,931 refugees and migrants had arrived in Europe by sea since the beginning of the year, a 246% increase on arrivals recorded for the same period in 2015. 12,799 arrived in April, marking for the first time in 2016 a reduction (133%) on arrival figures in 2015. Arrival figures in April continue to follow the month-on-month decline since January 2016, in comparison to the upward monthly trend experienced in 2015. The majority of arrivals continue to be recorded in Greece (155,102), followed by Italy (27,926) and Spain (903).



Source: UNHCR

In what appears to be an almost immediate result of the EU-Turkey refugee deal blocking refugee and migrant arrivals into the EU from Greece, numbers recorded along the Eastern Mediterranean route through Greece reduced significantly in March 2016. 26,971 arrivals were recorded in March, a 53% reduction from the 57,066 arrivals recorded in February. Conversely, the Central Mediterranean route through Italy noted a marked increase in arrivals in March with 9,676 arrivals recorded in the month; a 53% increase on arrivals in February. Moreover, the total arrivals between January and March 2016 along this route represent a 324% increase on arrivals in the

	<p>same period in 2015. It remains to be seen whether an increase in arrivals via the Central Mediterranean route will become a regular one, it may be attributed to better weather conditions, but there is evidence suggesting the ability of smugglers to adapt to new scenarios.</p> <p>Along the Central Mediterranean route, arrivals from the Horn of Africa (Eritrea, Ethiopia, Somalia and Sudan) account for 17% of all arrivals (18,777) in 2016. All nationalities experienced a significant boost in monthly arrivals in March 2016, accounting for a 765%, 49%, 523%, and 201% respective increase on arrivals in February.</p> <p>Deaths at sea: According to IOM's Missing Migrant project, as of 13th May 2016, there were a total of 1,357 recorded migrant and refugee deaths in the Mediterranean out of 1,655 reported worldwide. No further deaths were reported in the Horn of Africa in April, however monitors encountered by monitoring teams noted the death of at least 2 Ethiopian nationals, who drowned while crossing the Arabian Sea to Yemen after being forced to disembark from the boat in deep water.</p> <p>Burundi refugees in neighbouring countries: As of 15th May 2016, there were 262,027 Burundian refugees and asylum seekers in countries in the region since the outbreak of political violence in 2015.</p>
<p>New Research, reports or documents</p>	<p><u>A Perfect Storm? Forces shaping modern migration and displacement:</u> In the third of its series, co-written by RMMS and the Global Initiative, this discussion paper identifies the different aspects of globalisation and governance through the lenses of economy, culture, demography, communications, crime and security, that collectively have contributed to a new era in mixed migration, refugee movements and displacement. It argues that the ability or inability of migration and refugee policy at all levels to adapt to recent developments is critical to whether future mobility and displacement becomes a source of conflict, crisis and social unrest, or whether it will be managed.</p> <p><u>Shifting Tides: The changing nature of mixed migration crossings to Yemen:</u> This new RMMS feature, examines the changing patterns of mixed migration movements of migrants and refugees from the Horn of Africa crossing to Yemen. It identifies a tipping point of movements in 2014, signalled by a major change in departure points from Djibouti to Puntland, correlated to the high number of abuses reported by those moving from Djibouti to Yemen across the Red Sea.</p> <p><u>Anything new under the sun? Analysing the shifting flow of Eritrean asylum seekers to Europe:</u> This new RMMS feature examines the movement of Eritrean asylum seekers and considers the factors that may or may not be contributing to the ebb and flow of arrivals into Europe.</p> <p><u>Forced Migration Review Vol. 52: Thinking ahead: Displacement transition, solutions:</u> The latest issue of FMR explores the ideas and practices that are being tried out in order to engage both development and humanitarian work in support of 'transitions' and 'solutions' for displaced people.</p> <p><u>In safety and dignity: addressing large movements of refugees and migrants:</u> This report of the UN Secretary General provides the background and recommendations in preparation for the high-level plenary meeting on addressing large movements of refugees and migrants, to be held on 19th September 2016. It provides an overview of trends, an analysis of the causes of large movements of refugees and migrants, and a discussion of their particular needs en route and on arrival. It calls for new global commitments to addressing such movements and provides recommendations to ensure: respect of the human rights, safety and dignity of refugees and migrants, addressing the causes of such movements, protecting those who are compelled to undertake such journeys, and preventing discrimination and countering xenophobia encountered.</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.