



Regional mixed migration summary for March 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>Internal displacement: 26th March 2016 marked one year since the escalation of conflict in Yemen, leading to a complete deterioration in the political, social, security and humanitarian situation in the country. The situation is characterised by continuing hostilities, airstrikes, shelling and ground fighting, resulting in the displacement of populations within the country and the region. The 8th report of the Yemen Taskforce on Population Movement confirmed that as of 5th April there were 2,755,916 internally displaced persons across the country, a 13% increase from figures reported in the last report. The internal displacement movements are marked with decreased displacements in the South and increased displacements in the North and are consistent with the political and security situation on the ground.</p> <p>On 10th April 2016, rival sides in the year-long conflict began a tentative truce, committing to halt hostilities, but maintaining the right to respond if the agreement was broken by the other side. The truce precedes peace talks planned for April 18 in Kuwait. This is the fourth ceasefire since March 26 2015 when Arab coalition forces began airstrikes in the country. All previous ceasefire agreements have failed to take hold.</p> <p>Continued arrivals from the Horn of Africa: A total of 10,424 migrants and asylum seekers (83% Ethiopians and 17% Somalis) (85% male, 15% female) arrived from the Horn of Africa to Yemen via the Red Sea, Arabian Sea and Gulf of Aden aboard 110 boats in March 2016. This represents a 35% increase in arrivals recorded in February 2016.</p> <p>An estimated number of 1,321 (1,275 Ethiopians and 46 Somalis) migrants and asylum seekers were recorded to have arrived on the Red Sea coast of Yemen in March 2016, consistent with the pace of arrivals in February. In February, new arrivals reported a tightening of the Djiboutian border at crossing points from Somalia and Ethiopia, which in part may account for the sustained reduced numbers in March. The migrants arrived aboard 22 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 actual number of arrivals from the Horn of Africa to Yemen was higher during the period.</p> <p>A number of Ethiopian migrants reported a significant increase in the cost of the journey from Ethiopia to Yemen. These new arrivals quoted figures of 10,000-13,000 Ethiopian Birr (approx. USD 465-600). The increase is being attributed to a weakening Ethiopian currency. Other migrants reported paying between USD 150-250 for the journey across from Djibouti to Yemen, the usual average for the journey.</p> <p>93% of Ethiopian arrivals reported life hardship and a lack of work opportunities. Ethiopians from Amhara and Oromia regions specifically identified drought conditions as a driving factor of their migration. Somali nationals reported that they had left Somalia due to poverty, insecurity and lack of work opportunities. Almost all Ethiopian nationals expressed their intention to continue their journey to Saudi Arabia. Conversely, Somali nationals expressed their intentions to remain in Yemen.</p> <p>Monitoring teams also encountered 10 Yemeni males who had returned from Djibouti to Yemen along with Ethiopians and Somali migrants and refugees. New arrivals in Yemen consistently reported that there are large numbers of migrants stationed in Obock preparing to make the journey to Yemen. Other anecdotal evidence</p>

received by RMMS suggests that 10 Yemeni families in Puntland opted to return to Yemen.

An additional 9,103 migrants and asylum seekers (7,390 Ethiopians, 1,712 Somalis and 1 Eritrean) arrived on Arabian Sea coasts of Yemen aboard 88 boats in March 2016. This represents a 43% increase in arrivals recorded in February.

Migrant vulnerability: In March 2016, 285 migrants and asylum seekers encountered by monitoring mission teams on the Red Sea coasts reported witnessing or being victim to numerous violations, which is a 66% reduction from reports in February. Nonetheless, the risk of abduction and trafficking remained very high with migrants reporting 218 cases of abduction (77% of all incidents reported this month) and 29 cases of trafficking (10%). Other reported violations include robbery and physical assault.

Refugees in Yemen: As of 31st March 2016, there were 253,632 Somali refugees in Yemen.

Departures from Yemen: As of 4th April 2016, the number of people fleeing Yemen to the Horn of Africa (Djibouti, Ethiopia, Somalia and Sudan) had totalled 85,064 persons (34,964 in Djibouti, 31,816 in Somalia, 12,025 in Ethiopia, and 6,259 in Sudan). Yemenis and Somalis represent the largest proportion of people moving out of Yemen, accounting for 30% and 36% of movements respectively. Djibouti remained as the primary destination for Yemeni nationals, with 76% of those moving opting to travel to Djibouti.

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: Data from monitoring teams along the Red Sea coasts indicate that at least 1,321 (1,275 Ethiopians and 46 Somalis) migrants and asylum seekers departed from Obock and arrived in coastal towns in Yemen, consistent with the pace of arrivals in February. In February, new arrivals reported a tightening of the Djiboutian border at crossing points from Somalia and Ethiopia, which in part may account for the sustained reduced numbers in March. A number of Ethiopian migrants reported a significant increase in the cost of the journey from Ethiopia to Yemen. New arrivals quoted figures of 10,000-13,000 Ethiopian Birr (approx. USD 465-600). The increase is being attributed to a weakening Ethiopian currency. Other migrants reported paying between USD 150-250 to make the crossing from Djibouti to Yemen.

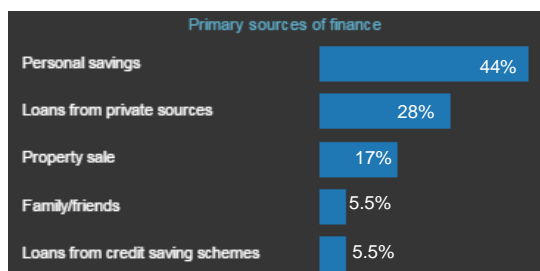
Arrivals from Yemen: As of 4th April 2016, a total of 34,964 persons had arrived in Djibouti from Yemen since the outbreak of the conflict in March 2015. Djibouti is the primary destination for Yemeni nationals who account for 56% of the arrivals so far. Third Country Nationals make up 37% and Djiboutian returnees account for 6%.

Refugee arrivals from Yemen: As of 17th March 2016, UNHCR and ONARS (the government refugee agency) had registered 6,920 refugees, including 6,694 Yemeni nationals, 160 are Somali, and 41 are Eritrean. 3,225 refugees reside in Markazi refugee camp, with the remaining refugees residing in Obock and Djibouti city. According to UNHCR, border monitoring missions at the ports of Djibouti indicate a slowing pace of new arrivals from Yemen.

According to UNHCR, Yemeni refugees have begun to [spontaneously return](#) from Djibouti to Yemen. As of 17th March 2016, 341 individuals had returned their refugee cards to UNHCR since the beginning of March. All returnees are from Mokha, in Ta'iz governorate, but information suggests that the returnees are now internally displaced in remote locations along the coast, where armed gangs are known to operate. The returnees are reportedly relying on information from families and contacts in Yemen that the areas are safe and that assistance is being provided to IDPs.

4Mi data on Djiboutian migration: Data from RMMS' [Mixed Migration Monitoring Mechanism Initiative \(4Mi\)](#) provides a range of information on Djiboutian migrants on the move from the Horn of Africa. An analysis of the profile of Djiboutian migrants shows that the majority are male (56%) and single (56%). One third were students in their country of origin, and a significant number stated that they were domestic workers (17%), professional workers (17%) or unemployed (17%). The average age of Djiboutian migrants is 24 years.

Economic factors were cited as a major primary push factor for migration (50%), with 70% of these respondents qualifying this as unemployment. 17% of respondents cited political reasons as primary push factor, 67% of whom broke this down to oppression.



56% of migrants said they were facilitated by others to migrate from Djibouti, with 80% of these respondents stating that they were enabled by a broker or smuggler. 44% of migrants had relied on personal savings as the primary source of finance for their departure. 28% had solicited loans. A significant proportion of migrants 39% were accessing money through informal means (*hawala*) on their journey. A similar number (39%) were accessing money through formal means (money transfer services such as Western Union).

Europe was indicated as the preferred final destination for 89% of interviewed Djiboutian migrants. Within Europe, Sweden (33%), Germany (26%) and the UK (21%) were cited as preferred destinations. 11% of migrants mentioned the USA as their preferred destination.

Somaliland

Arrivals from Yemen: As of 29th March 2016, a total of 9,932 migrants/refugees/returnees (79% Somali, 19% 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. 82 persons arrived during March, a 58% reduction on arrivals recorded in February.

Returning refugees and asylum seekers in Somaliland: Of the 7,874 Somalis that have arrived in Somaliland since the beginning of the conflict 43% (3,363) had previously acquired refugee status or sought asylum in Yemen.

Puntland

Arrivals from Yemen: As of 29th March 2016, a total of 21,462 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. 226 persons arrived March, a 56% reduction on arrivals recorded in February.

Returning refugees and asylum seekers in Puntland: Of the 19,416 Somalis that have returned from Yemen to Puntland since the conflict, 6,389 (33%) people had previously acquired refugee status or sought asylum in Yemen.

Return movements to Yemen: Anecdotal evidence received by RMMS suggests that 10 Yemeni families who had fled and were residing in Puntland opted to return to Yemen.

Somalia (South Central)

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.

Anecdotal evidence suggests that Yemeni families arriving in Somaliland and Puntland may be travelling further south. Information received by RMMS suggests that 91 Yemeni families are reportedly being housed at the Yemeni Embassy in Mogadishu.

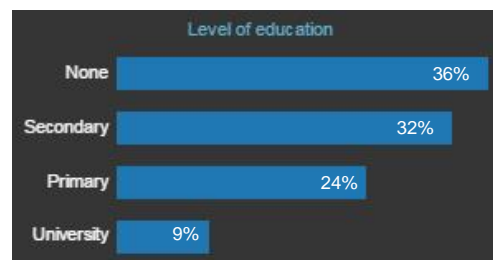
Internal Displacement: According to UNHCR figures, there are 1.1 million internally displaced persons across the whole of Somalia (Somaliland, Puntland and South Central Somalia).

Refugees in the neighbouring countries: According to UNHCR figures, there are currently 979,172 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%).

Somali arrivals in Europe: As of 31st March 2016, Somali nationals made up 8% of arrivals along the Central Mediterranean route to Europe in 2016. 1,504 Somalis have arrived in Europe using this route since the beginning of 2016, a 36% increase when compared to the same period in 2015. There was a significant spike in arrivals

recorded along the Central Mediterranean route in March when compared to February. 1,060 were recorded in March, accounting for 523% increase on the 170 arrivals in February. 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.

4Mi data on Somali migration: Data from RMMS' [Mixed Migration Monitoring Mechanism Initiative \(4Mi\)](#) project provides a range of information on Somali migrants and refugees on the move from the Horn of Africa. An analysis of the profile of Somali migrants and refugees shows that the majority are male (72%) and single (61%). The majority of migrants encountered (68%) are from South Central zone, with 18% and 14% coming from Somaliland and Puntland respectively. The educational profile of Somalis on the move varies, with 36% stating that they had no educational background, 32% reporting that they were educated to a secondary level, and 24% stating they were educated to a primary level. A significant proportion (29%) of migrants were labourers in their areas of origin, with 20% stating that they were students. The average age of Somalis is 27 years.



30% of interviewed migrants and refugees cited economic factors as the primary push factor for migration, with 53% of these respondents qualifying this as unemployment. Other primary push factors included political factors (15%) and conflict (11%).

56% said they were facilitated by others to migrate from Somalia, with 63% of these respondents relying on support from family and friends. Family and friends were cited as a significant (42%) source of migration financing, with 27% and 24% of migrants relying on personal savings and proceeds from the sale of property respectively. The majority of migrants (54%) were accessing money through informal means (*hawala*) on their journey.

Europe was named as the preferred final destination for 44% of interviewed Somali nationals, with 34% citing South Africa and 16% citing the USA as their preferred destination. Regarding Europe, Germany (28%), Norway (17%) and Sweden (15%) ranked highly.

Somali migrants and refugees reported witnessing or experiencing a number of different protection violations. Respondents reported 23 incidences of sexual abuse, of which 17 were rape. In 14 incidences, the sexual abuse was reportedly committed by brokers or smugglers. They also reported 26 deaths and 93 incidences of physical abuse.

South Sudan

Regional displacement: Conflict continues to displace South Sudanese nationals into neighbouring countries. As of 7th April 2016 a total of 705,733 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 (228,714), followed by Sudan (222,665), Uganda (199,838), and Kenya (54,516). An additional 123,401 who were displaced before the December 2013 conflict are also hosted in the region.

Internal Displacement: As of 28th March 2016, there were approximately 1.7 million persons internally displaced in South Sudan.

Refugees in South Sudan: South Sudan continues to host refugees from neighbouring countries. As of 31st March 2016, there were 270,767 registered refugees and asylum seekers in the country, 248,504 (92%) of whom were from Sudan.

South Sudan's rebel leader agrees to take up post: South Sudan's opposition leader Riek Machar is set to return to the capital on April 18. Machar is returning to Juba to take up his post as Vice President in a newly formed transitional government of national unity. His return is a significant step towards the implementation of a peace deal between the government and rebel forces. Political conflict broke out in the country in December 2013, resulting in the displacement of more than 2 million people.

Sudan

Internal Displacement: UN figures estimate that there are 3.2 million internally displaced persons in the country

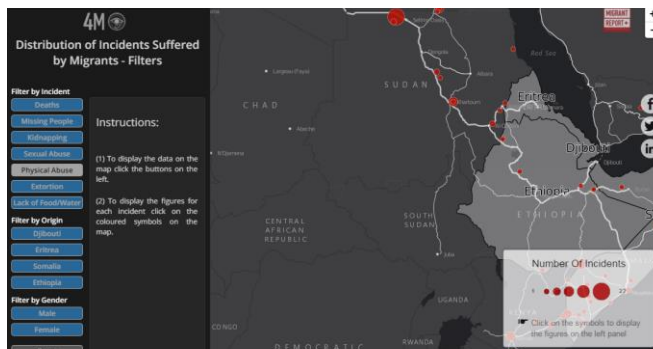
as of the end of March 2016. Fighting between government forces and armed movements and inter-tribal tensions and conflict in the Darfur region continue to cause mass displacement.

Refugees in Sudan: As of 31st March 2016, there were 352,203 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%). UN figures estimate that 55,000 South Sudanese have arrived in Sudan since the end of January 2016, equivalent to almost 1,000 persons per day. According to UNHCR, the number of South Sudanese fleeing their country is increasingly rapidly. Around 86% of these arrivals are into East Darfur and South Darfur, areas that refugees have not typically arrived in before.

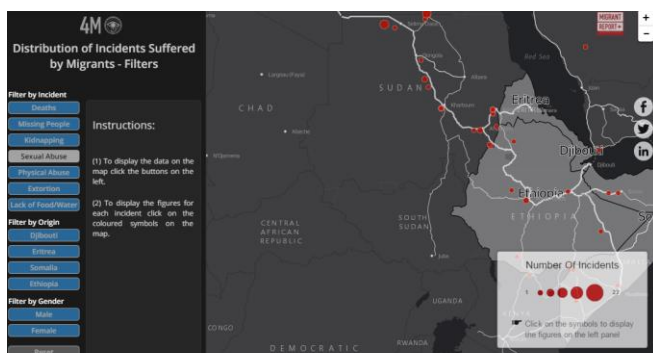
Arrivals from Yemen: As of 4th April 2016, there were 6,259 arrivals from Yemen into Sudan since the outbreak of conflict in Yemen in March 2015. The largest number of arrivals are returning Sudanese nationals (3,800). Yemeni arrivals number 1,116 persons.

Sudan tightens immigration restrictions on South Sudanese nationals: On 17th March 2016, Sudan's cabinet announced that it would tighten restrictions on South Sudanese people living in its territory and prosecute those without the necessary documentation. UNHCR has already witnessed the effects of the directive, with South Sudanese living within host communities in border areas in White Nile state in Sudan reporting that they had been instructed to present documents indicating that they had legally entered Sudan, or to relocate to existing refugee sites. New arrivals crossing the border into White Nile State are no longer being permitted to stay with host communities and are being requested to proceed to refugee sites.

Sudan closes its common border with South Sudan: On 29th March 2016, the Sudanese government announced that it had officially closed its borders with neighbouring South Sudan, over claims that Juba continues to support Sudanese rebels within the country. South Sudan denied these allegations and counter-accused Khartoum of arming militias in its territory. The border between the two countries was closed after the 2011 split and only re-opened in January 2016.



Abuse of migrants in Sudan: Data from RMMS' [Mixed Migration Monitoring Mechanism Initiative \(4Mi\)](#) project shows incidences of reported physical and sexual abuse all along the migratory route through Sudan. Sudan forms a major part of the migration route from the Horn of Africa to Libya and across the Mediterranean into Italy, and the migration route into Egypt and into Israel or, more recently, from Egypt across the Mediterranean to Italy.



Sudanese nationals crossing into Europe: As of 31st March 2016, Sudanese nationals made up 4% of arrivals along the Central Mediterranean route to Europe. 761 have arrived in Europe using this route since the beginning of 2016. There was a significant spike in Sudanese arrivals recorded in March when compared to February. 476 were recorded in March, accounting for 201% increase on the 158 arrivals in February. 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.

Eritrea

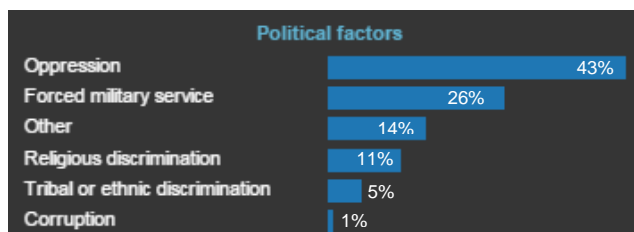
Eritrean arrivals in Europe: As of 31st March 2016, Eritrean nationals made up 3% of arrivals along the Central Mediterranean route to Europe. 615 have arrived in Europe using this route since the beginning of 2016, compared to 906 during the same period in 2015; a 32% reduction. Nonetheless, there was a significant spike in Eritrean arrivals recorded in March when compared to February 2016. 441 arrivals were recorded in March, accounting for a 765% increase on the 51 arrivals recorded in February. 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. It remains to be seen how these numbers will evolve over the coming months.

Anecdotal, but unconfirmed, evidence received by RMMS suggests that there are a large number of Eritrean migrants and refugees currently waiting in Khartoum. The migrants and refugees were reportedly waiting out winter conditions on the Mediterranean Sea. Many are also reportedly wary of the insecurity in Libya, which may steer them towards using Egypt as an embarkation point for the Mediterranean crossing.

Other unconfirmed anecdotal evidence also suggests an increasing presence of street children in urban centres in Eritrea, which is attributed to both parents being in national service in remote areas of the country. Reportedly, the children are increasingly being targeted and sold to criminal networks (including possible trafficking elements). This may account for the large numbers of unaccompanied minors in mixed migration flows to Europe. Figures from January to March 2016 show that 91% of all children using the Central Mediterranean route to Europe are unaccompanied. The number of Eritrean unaccompanied minors as part of this figure is unknown.

4Mi data on Eritrean migration: Data from RMMS' [Mixed Migration Monitoring Mechanism Initiative \(4Mi\)](#) provides a range of information on Eritrean migrants and refugees on the move from the Horn of Africa. An analysis of the profile of Eritreans on the move shows that the majority of migrants are male (60%) and single (64%). The majority (58%) of respondents were educated to a secondary school level. A significant proportion (42%) were enrolled in the military, with 24% stating that they were students. The average age of Eritrean migrants is 28 years.



For 65% of respondents, the primary push factor for migration from Eritrea was political in nature. Migrants qualified this in various ways, including oppression (43%) and forced military service (26%). This corroborates the [UN Human Rights Council report on the Commission of Inquiry on the Human Rights in Eritrea](#) that highlighted systematic and widespread human rights violations, including forced

military conscription, which contributed to the mass migration out of Eritrea. In an [oral update](#) to the Human Rights Council on 14th March 2016, the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Eritrea reiterated her continuing deep concern about the overall human right situation in the country. Speaking on the country's mandatory national service, Ms. Keetharuth stated that "conscripts cannot look forward to a life out of indefinite national service and forced labour in the near future".

Departure from Eritrea was facilitated in almost equal part by the migrants and refugees themselves (51%) and other parties (49%). Of those that were facilitated to migrate by others, 57% relied on the services of brokers or smugglers, and 40% were supported by family and friends. 44% financed their departure from Eritrea with resources from family and friends, and 25% relied on personal savings.

Europe was cited as the preferred final destination for 53% of interviewed Eritrean migrants and refugees, with 19% indicating the USA as their preferred destination, and 14% stating that their final destination would be decided by wherever they would be accepted. Regarding Europe, Italy (23%), the UK (20%) and Sweden (17%) were the most popular.

Interviewed Eritreans reported witnessing or experiencing a number of different protection violations on their journey. Physical abuse was common, with migrants specifically reporting 62 cases of mild physical abuse and 36 cases of extreme physical abuse. Migrants and refugees reported 80 incidences of sexual abuse, with 44 cases of rape. 49 deaths were also reported.

Ethiopia

Arrivals from Yemen: As of 4th April 2016, there were a total of 12,025 arrivals into Ethiopia from Yemen since the outbreak of violence in March 2015. The majority (67%) of those arriving are returning Ethiopian nationals, with Yemeni nationals accounting for 11% 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.

Refugees in Ethiopia: As of 31st March 2016, there were 735,165 refugees and asylum seekers registered in

Ethiopia. The majority of refugees are from South Sudan (284,016), Somalia (251,101) and Eritrea (154,491). 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 is however subject to verification.

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. 8,478 such refugees (largely Eritrean (4,803, as stated above, this number could be much higher and is subject to verification) and Yemeni (1,437) nationals) 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.

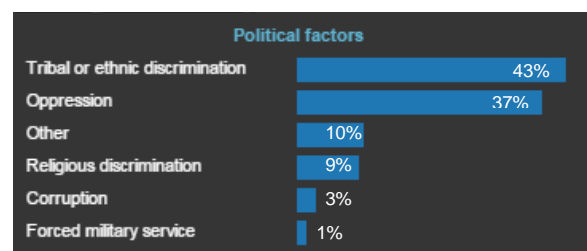
Ethiopian migrants arrested while in transit: According to [local media reports](#), six Ethiopian migrants were arrested in Tanzania for irregular entry into the country. In [other reports](#), 23 Ethiopian migrants were arrested in Zimbabwe on their way to South Africa. The migrants were each carrying passports that were reportedly last stamped in Kenya. They face deportation. Tanzania and Zimbabwe are a popular transit countries for migrants from the Horn of Africa, and particularly Ethiopians, who use the southern route from Kenya towards South Africa.

Ethiopian arrivals in Europe: As of 31st March 2016, Ethiopian nationals made up 2% of arrivals along the Central Mediterranean route to Europe. 299 have arrived in Europe using this route since the beginning of 2016. The number of Ethiopian arrivals in Italy in March resumed to levels recorded in January, following a slight lull in February. There were 113 arrivals in March, a 49% increase on the 76 arrivals recorded in February. 110 arrivals were recorded in January.

The proportion of Ethiopian arrivals in Italy in 2016 (2%), is almost on par with Eritrean arrivals in the same period (3%). It is unclear at this point whether that is due to the reduction in Eritrean arrivals, a boost in Ethiopian numbers, or improved systems in Italy to distinguish between Eritreans and Ethiopians who may be claiming Eritrean nationality on arrival.

4Mi data on Ethiopian migration: Data from RMMS’ [Mixed Migration Monitoring Mechanism Initiative \(4Mi\)](#) provides a range of information on Ethiopian migrants and asylum seekers on the move from the Horn of Africa. An analysis of the profile of Ethiopians on the move shows that the majority of migrants are male (68%) and single (60%). The educational profile of Ethiopians varies, with 34% stating that they were educated to a secondary school level, 28% reporting that had no education, and 20% stating they were educated to a primary level. A significant proportion (30%) of those interviewed were students and 20% stating that they were labourers. The average age of Ethiopians on the move is 28 years.

41% of Ethiopians cited political factors as the primary reason for migration from Ethiopia. This was qualified to include tribal and ethnic discrimination (40%) and oppression (37%). This is a significant finding given that 55% of respondents identified themselves as being of Oromo ethnicity. A 2014 [Amnesty International report](#) found that between 201 and 2014, 5,000 Oromo Ethiopians had been arrested based on their actual or suspected peaceful demonstration against the Ethiopian government, and alleged that in numerous cases, actual or suspected dissenters have been detained without charge or trial and killed by security services during protests, arrests and in detention. In December 2015, [Human Rights Watch](#) reported on the use of lethal force against Oromo protestors.



27% of migrants and asylum seekers reported economic factors as the primary push factor for their emigration, which qualified as unemployment (41%) and poverty (35%), among others.

The majority (77%) of Ethiopian respondents were facilitated to depart by others. Of these, 51% relied on support by family and friends and 37% were facilitated by brokers or smugglers. Financing for the migratory journey was sourced through a variety of sources, including family and friends (39%), personal savings (26%) and property sale (25%).

Of all the migrant groups, Ethiopians had the most diverse spread of preferred final destinations. Migrants and asylum seekers cited Europe (29%), South Africa (23%), the USA (17%) and other locations (17%) among their destination countries. Regarding Europe, Ethiopians mentioned Norway (22%), Sweden (20%) and Italy (19%) among the most popular destinations.

Ethiopian respondents reported witnessing or experiencing a number of different protection violations on their journey. Physical abuse was common, with migrants reporting 178 cases. Migrants reported 138 cases of sexual abuse, with 96 incidences of rape. 94 deaths were also reported.

Kenya

Refugees in Kenya: As of 31st March 2016, there were 597,683 registered refugees and asylum seekers in Kenya. Somali refugees and asylum seekers are still the most populous group in the country (70%), followed by refugees and asylum seekers from South Sudan (16%) and Ethiopia (5%). The majority of refugees, numbering 533,471 persons (89%), are encamped in Dadaab, Alinjugur and Kakuma camps, with the remaining 64,212 (11%) residing in Nairobi.

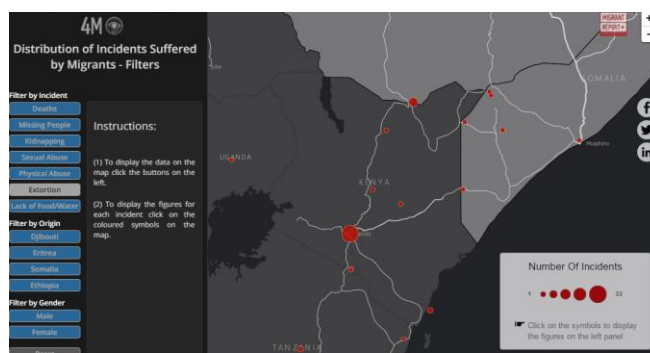
Voluntary repatriation of Somali refugees: Refugees in Dadaab continue to show interest in voluntarily repatriating to Somalia. As of 31st March 2016, a total of 12,563 Somali refugees had been supported to return to Somalia since UNHCR began supporting the exercise in 2014. 6,462 refugees have repatriated in 2016 so far, which tops the total repatriation figure for 2015 (5,616), and indicates an increase in the pace of repatriation movements. 2,143 Somalis repatriated in March, on par with the 2,417 returns recorded in February.

The apparent uptake in repatriation in 2016 may in part be attributed to better weather conditions since the beginning of the year. According to UNHCR, poor weather as a result of the rainy season in October-December 2015 limited return movements due to impassable roads in Somalia. During this period the return help desks in Dadaab were actively registering refugees, the backlog of who are being facilitated to return this year. An increase in cash grants to returning refugees from USD 80 to USD 120 at the end of 2015 may also have increased interest in repatriation.

According to an integrated plan of action drafted by the UNHCR and the Government of Kenya in 2015, it is projected that 135,000 Somali refugee returns will have taken place by the end of 2017. With 21 months remaining until the end of this period, this would require an approximate return of 5,830 refugees per month. Based on the highest monthly return rate of 2,417 persons so far, that would require a 141% increase in the pace of repatriation movements.

Kenyan authorities arrest over 100 irregular migrants: The Kenya police reportedly arrested 114 suspected irregular migrants in the outskirts of Nairobi. The arrests were part of an ongoing operation aimed at cracking down on irregular migrants in the city. The migrants were from various countries, including Nigeria and Ethiopia. In a similar and separate operation, police officers arrested 23 Ethiopian nationals in a Nairobi neighbourhood for being in the country illegally. The police are reportedly trying to locate the owner of the house where the migrants were discovered, suspecting it of being a “stopover” house for migrants on their way to South Africa, Europe and the Middle East.

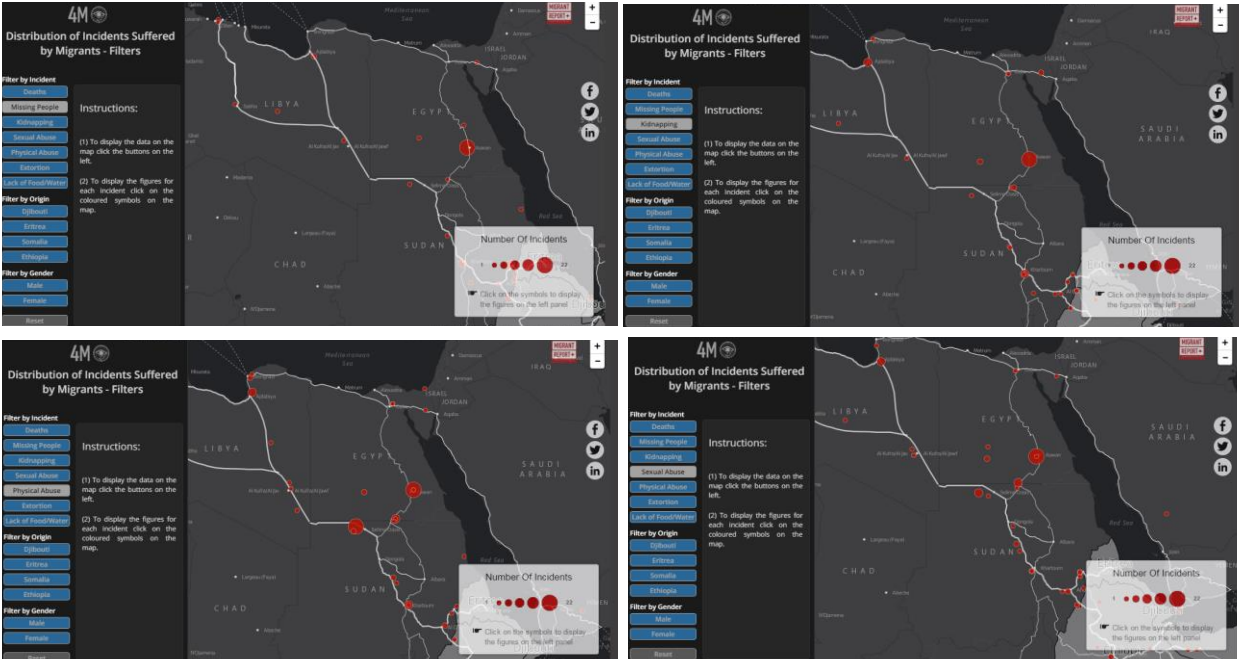
Kenyan police officers arrested for human smuggling: Three Kenyan police officers were arrested in conjunction with the smuggling of migrants. The officers were [reportedly](#) arrested for allegedly ferrying 23 Ethiopian migrants to Nairobi. The officers are currently under investigation. In November 2015, the Anti-Terrorism Police Unit (ATPU) and the Kenyan military joined forces to launch a new initiative to control rampant human smuggling from Ethiopia. Kenya is used as a major transit corridor for migrants from the region, who journey south towards South Africa.



incidents being reported in Nairobi.

Extortion of migrants in Kenya: Migrants and asylum seekers crossing into Kenya are often reportedly harassed by Kenyan security officers. Human rights organisations allege that many of those crossing from neighbouring countries experience harassment at border points, which may entail extortion, detention and /or deportation. Migrants interviewed in the RMMS' [Mixed Migration Monitoring Mechanism Initiative \(4Mi\)](#) project reported incidents of extortion along key migration routes in Kenya, with the highest number of

<p>Israel</p>	<p>Israel to raise height of Egypt border fence: Israeli defence officials announced that they will be raising the country's border wall with Egypt by an additional metre in an effort to keep out migrants. The construction of the current border fence was completed in 2013 as a deterrent for African migrants and asylum seekers and initially greatly reduced the number of migrant incursions. In 2014 only 14 people made it across the border, compared with some 12,000 in 2010. However in 2015, some 200 Eritrean and Sudanese nationals vaulted the fence.</p> <p>In September 2015, a military investigation into the conduct of Israeli soldiers who opened fire on a group of asylum seekers on the country's border with Egypt, concluded that the soldiers had acted 'unjustifiably' and 'against the rules of engagement'. In the same month, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced the construction of a border wall with neighbouring Jordan. The Defence Ministry announced that the extension is the first in a series of additional prevention methods that will be put in place to reduce the number of irregular border crossings.</p>
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<p>Other regional news and news from other regions</p>	<p>Egypt arrests migrants crossing into Libya: According to local media, Egyptian border guards arrested 112 people attempting to cross illegally into Libya through the southern border city of Salloum. The migrants included 22 Sudanese citizens, and the rest were Egyptian nationals.</p> <p>Egyptian nationals apprehended for irregular migration to Italy: Local media reported the arrest of 14 Egyptian nationals who were apprehended while attempting to cross the Mediterranean to Italy from an Egyptian coastal town. The migrants reportedly paid smugglers 30,000 Egyptian Pounds (approx. USD 3,400) for the journey. At the end of March, Egyptian border guards recovered the bodies of nine Egyptians that had drowned while attempting to cross the Mediterranean from northern Egypt.</p> <p>The Egyptian Central Agency for Public Mobilisation and Statistics (CAPMAS) recently reported that 61% of young Egyptian males were likely to emigrate to improve their living conditions, with the hope of finding jobs with higher salaries than those available in Egypt. Further the report emphasised that 31% of youth have previously migrated without a visa; 81% of them had no employment contracts and 69% of them travelled without a work permit. Italy routinely deports Egyptian migrants who cross into the country via the Mediterranean.</p> <p>Abuse of migrants in Egypt: A 2014 Human Rights Watch Report documented the sale of Eritrean migrants kidnapped in Sudan to Egyptian traffickers in the town of Aswan. This is corroborated by data from RMMS' Mixed Migration Monitoring Mechanism Initiative (4Mi) project, which shows a high prevalence of missing people and kidnapping of persons reported in the Egyptian town of Aswan, and a high number of incidences of physical and sexual abuse taking place on the Sudanese-Egyptian border and in Aswan.</p> 
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In October 2015 the Egyptian government announced plans to launch a special court to prosecute illegal immigration and human trafficking crimes. In November 2015, the Egyptian Cabinet approved a landmark anti-human smuggling legislation that will criminalise persons who facilitate the undocumented passage of migrants in and out of the country. In so doing, Egypt became the first country in the Middle East and North Africa to issue an anti-smuggling law that is in line with the standards set out in the “Smuggling Protocol” of the UN Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime. No known arrests or prosecutions have been made since its enactment.

EU-Turkey refugee deal comes into force: On 20th March 2016, the European Union signed a [controversial](#) deal with Turkey, aimed at stemming the flow of refugees and migrants into Europe. The deal, also known as the ‘one-in-one-out’ deal, will see the return of any new irregular migrants who arrived in Greece after the date to Turkey. In return, EU member states will accept one Syrian refugee from Turkey for every one sent back, and will offer visa-free travel to Europe for Turkish citizens from June 2016, speed up in releasing promised financial aid, and reinventoriate talks on Turkey’s membership of the EU.

The agreement came into effect on 4th April, and by the first week Greek officials had returned 326 individuals, the vast majority of whom were Pakistani nationals and had not claimed asylum. According to [media reports](#), the pace of returns have stalled due to a surge in asylum applications in Greece. The EU has pledged to deploy 400 asylum experts to Greece, but so far only a few have arrived, leading to a backlog in the processing of claims. Meanwhile, tensions broke out on the Greek border with the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM), where refugees and migrants protested the closure of the border between the two countries and attempted to tear down the border fence. The response of Macedonian police through the use of tear gas, stun grenades, plastic bullets and water cannons was [condemned by UNHCR](#).

Though in force, the deal between the EU and Turkey remains very precarious. Turkey’s president Recep Tayyip Erdogan has warned that the EU may be in violation of its side of the agreement. Referring to the EU’s commitments on visa liberalisation, EUR 3 billion in aid, and a re-energisation on Turkey’s accession to the EU, he is [reported](#) as saying: “There are precise conditions. If the European Union does not take the necessary steps, then Turkey will not implement the agreement...We have received lots of thanks for our action on the refugees and in the fight against terrorism. But we are not doing this for thanks.”

Moreover, a recent [Amnesty International report](#) alleged that Turkish authorities have been forcibly deporting Syrians, including women and children, to Syria on a near-daily basis since mid-January at the rate of 100 persons per day. In November 2015, [Human Rights Watch](#) reported on the effective closure of the border to Syrian asylum seekers. [UNHCR guidance](#) released in the same month stated that “nearly all parts of Syria are embroiled in violence”, urging all countries to ensure that persons fleeing Syria are admitted to their territory and are able to seek asylum. If substantiated, these pushbacks would be in violation of the principle of *non-refoulement* under international law, which prohibits the forcible return of refugees to situations where their lives or freedoms would be under threat.

Mediterranean sea arrivals: As of 31st March 2016, 170,867 refugees and migrants had arrived in Europe by sea since the beginning of the year, marking a 635% increase on arrivals recorded for the same period in 2015. 36,647 arrived in March alone, a 262% increase compared to March arrival figures in 2015. Nevertheless, the overall arrival trend in Europe via the Mediterranean in 2016 appears to reflect a month-on-month decline, in comparison to the upward monthly trend experienced in 2015. The majority of arrivals continue to be recorded in Greece (151,452), followed by Italy (18,777) and Spain (638).



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 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.

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.

Deaths at sea: As of 8th April 2016, there were a total of 714 recorded migrant and refugee deaths in the Mediterranean out of 941 reported worldwide. A further 60 deaths have been reported in the Horn of Africa region since the beginning of the year, 4 of which were recorded in March. These deaths recorded in the first three months of 2016 already account for 63% of the 95 deaths registered in the same region in the whole of 2015.

Burundi refugees in neighbouring countries: As of 11th April 2016, there were 257,081 Burundian refugees and asylum seekers in countries in the region since the outbreak of political violence in 2015. According to experts, Burundi is on the real brink of a civil war, after the government rejected an invitation to participate in peace talks with the opposition.

The European Union is taking a tougher stance on the Burundian government, following [reports](#) that the bloc plans to cut back its funding for Burundi's peacekeeping force in Somalia. The 5,400-strong contingent in the African Union Mission in Somalia reportedly earns the government USD 13 million per year. European diplomats hope that this will be enough to force President Nkurunziza into talks with opponents and away from the brink of ethnic conflict. Earlier in March, the European Council [suspended](#) direct financial support to the Burundian government following unsuccessful consultations under article 96 of the Cotonou Agreement, which provides for consultations between member states when essential elements of the Agreement (human rights, democratic principles, and the rule of law) are not respected.

**New
Research,
reports or
documents**

[Mixed Migration Monitoring Mechanism Initiative \(4Mi\):](#) In March 2016, the RMMS launched the results of its Mixed Migration Monitoring Mechanism Initiative (4Mi) project. 4Mi is an innovative, low-cost approach to collect and analyse data on mixed migration flows, initially out of the Horn of Africa. Through a network of thirty locally-recruited monitors in strategic migration hubs in Northern, Eastern, and Southern Africa, Southern and Eastern Europe, and the Middle East, the 4Mi project tracks Eritrean, Ethiopian, Djiboutian and Somali people on the move. The 4Mi project aims to: inform policy, debate and programmatic response; identify protection gaps; and establish deeper knowledge of the powerful and growing political economy of migrant smuggling.

[Kenya Country Profile:](#) This updated RMMS country profile for Kenya gives an overview of the key mixed migration characteristics in the country. It reviews Kenya as a mixed migration country of origin, transit and destination, reviews the situation of refugees, asylum seekers and IDPs in the country, as well as giving an overview of the main protection issues and vulnerable groups. Finally it provides a snapshot of all international and national legislation and policies relating to mixed migration in Kenya.

[Displacement, Violence and Vulnerability: Trafficking among Internally Displaced Persons in Kenya:](#) This new study by Awareness Against Human Trafficking (HAART) examines the link between internal displacement and human trafficking in Kenya by specifically looking at factors that might increase the vulnerability of IDPs to trafficking. The study develops a model with several variables that pertain to trafficking vulnerability and offers a number of recommendations towards the mitigation of vulnerability of IDPs to trafficking.

[Immigration Detention in Israel: Yearly Monitoring 2015:](#) This report by the Hotline for Refugees and Migrants assesses the conditions of four detention facilities in Israel, which currently hold around 5,000 asylum seekers and migrants. It concludes that there are major insufficiencies in the facilities including, overcrowding, limitations on freedom of movement, a lack of health services, deficiencies in the quality and quantity of food, and a lack of access to legal services.

[Unpacking a rapidly changing scenario: migration flows, routes and trajectories across the Mediterranean:](#) This report by the MEDMIG (Unravelling the Mediterranean Migration Crisis) project, led by the Centre for Trust, Peace and Social Relations at Coventry University, in collaboration with the University of Birmingham (UK), the University of Oxford (UK), ELIAMEP (Greece), FIERI (Italy), People for Change Foundation (Malta) and Yasar University (Turkey), aims to better understand the processes which influence, inform and shape migration across the Mediterranean. Based on interviews with 500 refugees and migrants travelling via the Central and Eastern Mediterranean routes in 2015 and interviews with more than 100 stakeholders, the report makes some important conclusions regarding the profiles of people on the move, drivers of movement, flows and trajectories, and policy implications of such movement.

No Way Out? Making Additional Migration Channels Work for Refugees: This report by the Migration Policy Institute (MPI) examines how governments, international organisations and other actors can support refugees' paths to self-sufficiency and stability by ensuring the accessibility of existing opportunities as well as creating new ones. It proposes that private sponsorship of refugees can bring down costs to the state and has the potential to involve new actors in the international protection regime. It also suggests that the innovative use of existing legislation as alternative approaches in countries where traditional protection might be politically sensitive.

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.