



June 2017

Regional mixed migration summary for June 2017 covering mixed migration events, trends and data for Djibouti, Eritrea, South Sudan, Sudan, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, 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.

Yemen	
	<p><i>The conflict in Yemen entered its twenty-sixth month with escalation in fighting and deteriorating humanitarian situation being reported in some parts of the country. 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. Therefore the data presented in this report concerning new arrivals in Yemen cannot be considered comprehensive or conclusive.</i></p> <p>Internal displacement: There were approximately 2 million internally displaced persons in Yemen as of 01 June 2017. According to UNHCR, more than 84% of the IDPs in Yemen have been in displacement situation for more than a year. The Task Force for Population Movement (TFPM) co-led by IOM and UNHCR has identified 946,044 returnees across 20 governorates that were affected by the conflict. TFPM notes that 10.4% of the total population of Yemen has experienced the shock of displacement due to conflict in the last 26 months.</p> <p>Continued arrivals from the Horn of Africa: In May 2017, at least 2,861 migrants and asylum seekers (2,048 Ethiopians and 813 Somalis) arrived from the Horn of Africa to Yemen via the Red Sea, Arabian Sea and Gulf of Aden. Arrival figures in May reduced drastically by 50% compared to April 2017 (5,750) and were the lowest figures recorded since June 2015 (2,044). RMMS has previously reported several reasons which may be linked to the reduced movement of migrants and asylum seekers from the Horn to Yemen including the deportation of migrants from Yemen to the Horn, the drought situation in the Horn and its impact on resources and the expected mass deportations of undocumented migrants from Saudi Arabia (see more on this below in the Ethiopia country section). Nonetheless, due to the reduction of monitoring missions along the Yemeni coast, it is understood that the actual total number of arrivals from the Horn into Yemen is likely to have been higher during the period.</p> <p>Arabian Sea arrivals: In May 2017, an estimated 1,899 (1,096 Ethiopian and 803 Somali) migrants and asylum seekers arrived in Yemen via the Arabian Sea, a 51% decrease on figures reported in April 2017 (3,862).*</p> <p>Departures from Yemen: As of 30 April 2017, an estimated total of 95,807 persons had fled Yemen to countries within the Horn of Africa (37,428 in Djibouti, 36,763 in Somalia, 14,570 in Ethiopia and 7,046 in Sudan) since March 2015. Yemenis and Somalis continue to represent the largest proportion of people moving out of Yemen to the Horn of Africa, accounting for 30% and 35% of movements respectively. Djibouti is the primary destination for Yemeni arrivals to the Horn, with 69% of those moving opting to travel to Djibouti. As previously reported, the general outflow of persons from Yemen has reduced since peak figures in 2015. More recent figures were not available at the time of writing this report.</p> <p>Cholera: 332,658 suspected cholera cases and over 1,759 cholera deaths reported between 27 April and 13 July but the current outbreak is the direct consequence of more than two years of heavy conflict that has moved an already weak and impoverished country towards social, economic and institutional collapse. The war has decimated Yemen's health system, damaged key infrastructure and cut off 15.7 million people from access to adequate clean water and sanitation. The current cholera outbreak has overwhelmed what remains of Yemen's conflict battered health system. Hospitals and treatment centres are struggling to cope with large numbers of patients and medicines and intravenous fluids are quickly running out.</p>
Djibouti	
	<p>Departures to Yemen: In May 2017, an estimated 962 (952 Ethiopian and 10 Somali) migrants and asylum seekers arrived along the Red Sea coast of Yemen. 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>

Repatriation of migrants/asylum seekers from Djibouti to Yemen: On 21st May 2017, the UN Migration Agency (IOM) facilitated the [voluntary repatriation of 84 stranded migrants](#) and asylum seekers from Al Hudaydah Port in Yemen to Djibouti. According to IOM, most of the migrants were Ethiopian nationals and included 29 unaccompanied children, seven women and 48 other vulnerable cases. The rescued migrants reported that they were subjected to human rights abuses at the hands of migrant smugglers and criminal gangs in Yemen. Most of the migrants had intended to transit Yemen to reach Saudi Arabia but were trapped in the on-going conflict in Yemen. IOM has reportedly facilitated the voluntary return of 515 migrants / asylum seekers from Yemen to Djibouti, and onwards to countries of origin, since the beginning of 2017.

Somalia/Somaliland

Somali refugees in the neighbouring countries: As of 31 May 2017, there were 882,476 Somali refugees and asylum seekers being hosted in countries in the region. The majority of these refugees are hosted in three countries – Kenya (35%), Yemen (29%) and Ethiopia (28%).

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), however latest drought displacement data indicate that [739,000 people have been newly displaced](#) between 01st November 2016 and 31st May 2017 due to the worsening drought situation in Somalia. An estimated 46,000 people were displaced in the month of May alone. Baidoa and Mogadishu districts hosts about 22% each of the total population displaced by drought.

Humanitarian situation in Somalia: The drought situation in Somalia remains dire and the UN reports that about [3.2 million people are severely food insecure](#) across the country. The situation is expected to persist throughout 2017 due to the high likelihood of a third consecutive poor harvest in July 2017, the UN reports. The deteriorating humanitarian situation has been compounded by a cholera outbreak, one of the largest in five years, with 48,607 cases and 763 deaths reported in 48 districts since January 2017. Over 9,800 suspected measles cases have also been reported in 2017.

Somali refugee returns from around the world: According to UNHCR, as of 31 May 2017 a total of 66,796 Somali refugees have returned from Kenya since the beginning of the repatriation exercise in December 2014, 31,543 from Yemen since the beginning of conflict in March 2015 and 362 from other countries of asylum between 2014 and 2017 (362 from Djibouti, 33 from Eritrea, 2 from Tunisia and one from Pakistan).

Refugees in Somalia: As of 31 May 2017, there were 26,081 registered refugees and asylum seekers in Somalia. The majority of the refugees/asylum seekers originate from Ethiopia (62%) and Yemen (36%), with lesser numbers from Syria (164), Tanzania (71) and Eritrea (73). Most refugees are hosted in Woqooyi Galbeed (61%), Bari (22%) and Benadir (9%) regions.

South Sudan

Humanitarian situation in South Sudan: The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) reports that an estimated [5.8 million people across South Sudan](#) faced severe food insecurity as of June 2017, including 1.46 million people on the brink of famine. The country is also grappling with a cholera outbreak, exacerbated by an extreme lack of resources and access to health facilities. The raging conflict continues to displace populations both within and out of the country. Internal displacement continued to be reported during the month as a result of clashes and/or insecurity in Central Equatoria and Jonglei. In the midst of the displacement, the spread of cholera outbreak remained a concern with new cases being reported in Kapoeta South in Namoronyang State.

Regional displacement: As of 30 June 2017, there were 1,956,034 South Sudanese refugees displaced in the region. The majority of these refugees are hosted in neighbouring countries; Uganda (977,746), Sudan (406,995) and Ethiopia (380,258). In May 2017 alone, an estimated 60,000 South Sudanese fled their country as a result of the ongoing conflict/insecurity situation.

Internal displacement: As of 30 June 2017, there were a total of 2 million people displaced inside South Sudan. This figure includes 230,482 people in UNMISS Protection of Civilians sites.

Refugees in South Sudan: Approximately 524,558 refugees have been registered in South Sudan as of March 2017, the majority (92%) of whom are from neighbouring Sudan.

Sudan	
	<p>Sudan is a key transit country for migrants and asylum seekers from the Horn of Africa attempting the perilous journey across North African countries and the Mediterranean Sea to Europe. The European Union has launched several financial packages under the EU Trust Fund, to support countries in the Horn of Africa region to address irregular migration from / through countries in region.</p> <p>Refugees in Sudan: As of 31 March 2017, there were 144,866 refugees and asylum seekers from other countries other than South Sudan, in Sudan. More recent figures were not available at the time of writing this report. However, as of 15th July 2017, there were 410,354 South Sudanese refugees being hosted in Sudan since December 2013.</p>
Ethiopia	
	<p>Refugees in Ethiopia: As of 30 June 2017, there were 838,722 refugees and asylum seekers registered in Ethiopia, the majority of whom are South Sudanese (380,818), Somalis (251,086), Eritreans (161,772), Sudanese (42,170), Yemenis (1,669) and other nationalities (5,875). About 43% of the total refugee population in Ethiopia are hosted in Gambella (mostly South Sudanese) and 25% (mostly Somalis) are hosted in Melkadida refugee camps. According to UNHCR, 73,078 Eritrean refugees previously registered as living in camps have settled in urban areas. This follows the conclusion of a comprehensive refugee verification exercise.</p> <p>Following an announcement in March by the Saudi government for irregular migrants to leave the country within a 90-day grace period or face deportation, Ethiopians have reportedly started leaving Saudi Arabia. According to the Ethiopian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, by the beginning of July, 111,000 Ethiopians had agreed to leave Saudi Arabia and 45,000 had successfully returned to Ethiopia. Many remained stranded, largely due to an inability to get a seat on overbooked flights. With an estimated 400,000 undocumented Ethiopians living in Saudi Arabia, there are concerns about rights abuses and detention.</p>
Eritrea	
	<p>Mediterranean Sea arrivals: Statistics from the Italian Ministry of Interior and UNHCR appear to indicate a shifting trend in the movement of Eritrean nationals towards Europe. RMMS reported about the decline in arrival figures for Eritrean nationals to Italy in late 2016, a trend that continued to be observed during the first quarter of 2017; (530 Eritreans arrived in Italy by the end of March 2017 compared to 6,076 during the same period in 2016).</p> <p>Research shows that Eritreans have started to avoid Libya and use Egypt as a departure point for Europe. However, in its first quarterly analysis in 2017, Frontex reported no arrivals to Europe who departed from Egypt, indicating that many Eritreans could remain stranded in Egypt.</p> <p>However this trend appears to be changing, as arrival figures in April and May showed a moderate increase. 1,044 Eritrean nationals arrived in April (a 97% increase on March) and 1,300 arrived in May (a 25% increase on figures in April). As of 30 June 2017, 4,536 Eritrean nationals had arrived in Italy since the beginning of the year. While cumulative arrival numbers over this period are significantly lower than those recorded in the same period in 2016, this climb is noteworthy as it brings back Eritrean arrivals among the top ten most nationalities arriving by sea in Italy at nearly 5% of all migrants. It is also common for the summer months to see an increase in sea arrivals to Europe, as migrants take advantage of the more conducive summer weather to make the journey.</p>
Kenya	
	<p>Refugees in Kenya: As of 30 June 2017, there were 486,011 refugees and asylum seekers in Kenya, about 1% increase compared to April figures that have been attributed to arrivals from South Sudan. The total refugee figure includes refugees from Somalia (291,898), South Sudan (105,899) DR Congo (33,844), Ethiopia (27,284), Burundi (11,437), Sudan (9,868) and other nationalities. The majority of refugees live in refugee camps across the country (424,192), while 61,819 refugees reside in Nairobi.</p> <p>Voluntary repatriation of Somali refugees: As of 30 June 2017, 28,715 Somali refugees had been supported to return to Somalia since January 2017. Since the voluntary return programme began in 2014, a total of 69,109 Somali refugees have returned to Somalia.</p>

Uganda	
	<p>Refugees in Uganda: Uganda continues to receive refugees with an average daily arrival rate of 2,063 (the majority of these are South Sudanese). Currently Uganda hosts 1.25 million refugees (909,000 from South Sudan, 227,000 from DRC and 46,000 from Burundi).</p>
Other news on migration	
	<p>Burundian refugees in neighbouring countries: The political situation in Burundi continues to displace Burundian nationals into neighbouring countries. Latest figures from UNHCR indicate that there were 417,265 Burundian refugees and asylum seekers hosted in neighbouring countries as of 30 July 2017. The majority of the refugees are hosted in Tanzania (57%), Rwanda (20%), Uganda (11%), and DR Congo (9%) with smaller numbers in Kenya, Mozambique, Zambia and Malawi.</p> <p>Mediterranean Sea arrivals: A total of 27,899 migrants and asylum seekers arrived in Europe via the Mediterranean Sea in June 2017, representing a slight increase on figures reported in May 2017 (25,961). 90% of these flows were recorded along the Central Mediterranean route from North Africa to Italy. This is the highest monthly figure recorded on this route in 2017 and more than arrival figures recorded at this time of the year in 2016 (24,608) and 2015 (54,625). If the current trend of arrivals in Italy continues, 2017 will be a record year with an estimated 250,000 arrivals (compared to the previous record of 181,000) mainly caused by high numbers of migrants from West African countries and Bangladesh. According to UNHCR, migrant arrivals to Italy in 2017 were made up of 4,536 Eritreans, 2,103 Somalis, 565 Ethiopians between January and June 2017.</p> <p>Migrant deaths: Estimates from the UN Migration Agency (IOM) indicate that there were 2,259 migrant deaths (including maritime and overland) that occurred in the process of migrating from January to June 2017. In June alone, 547 migrants died, making this the second most deadly month in 2017. The Central Mediterranean route, linking North Africa with Europe via Italy, continues to be the most deadly maritime route, accounting for 98% (or 537). Migrants and asylum seekers from the Horn of Africa, as well as West Africa, have traditionally used this route to enter Europe.</p>
New Research, reports or documents	<p><u>Mixed migration updates and reports from other regions:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RMMS West Africa summaries. • 4Mi (Mixed Migration Monitoring Mechanism initiative) reports from the DRC Central Asia and Southwest Asia region. • Mixed Migration Platform (MMP) monthly summaries, feature articles and new research reports on mixed migration issues in the Middle East. <p>No Victimless Crime: This report by the Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime assesses the nature of the migrant smuggling market according to three inter-dependent smuggling 'systems' that feature along the major route from the Horn of Africa towards Europe. These include the Horn of Africa system, the Sahel system and the Maghreb coastal system. The report notes that addressing irregular migration and the burgeoning transnational organized crime of migrant smuggling remains a key challenge which states of the region should address in partnership with the international community. The report further proposes a more holistic series of programmatic interventions that could be pursued by development or other actors as well as a reorientation of some law enforcement priorities.</p> <p>The Annual Trafficking in Persons report from the US State Department for 2017 was released in June. The report gives an overview of what countries are doing vis a vis prevention of trafficking and related crimes, protection of victims of trafficking and vulnerable groups, and prosecution of those involved in trafficking activities (including anti-trafficking laws). "Human trafficking is one of the most tragic human rights issues of our time. It splinters families, distorts global markets, undermines the rule of law, and spurs other transnational criminal activity. It threatens public safety and national security."</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.