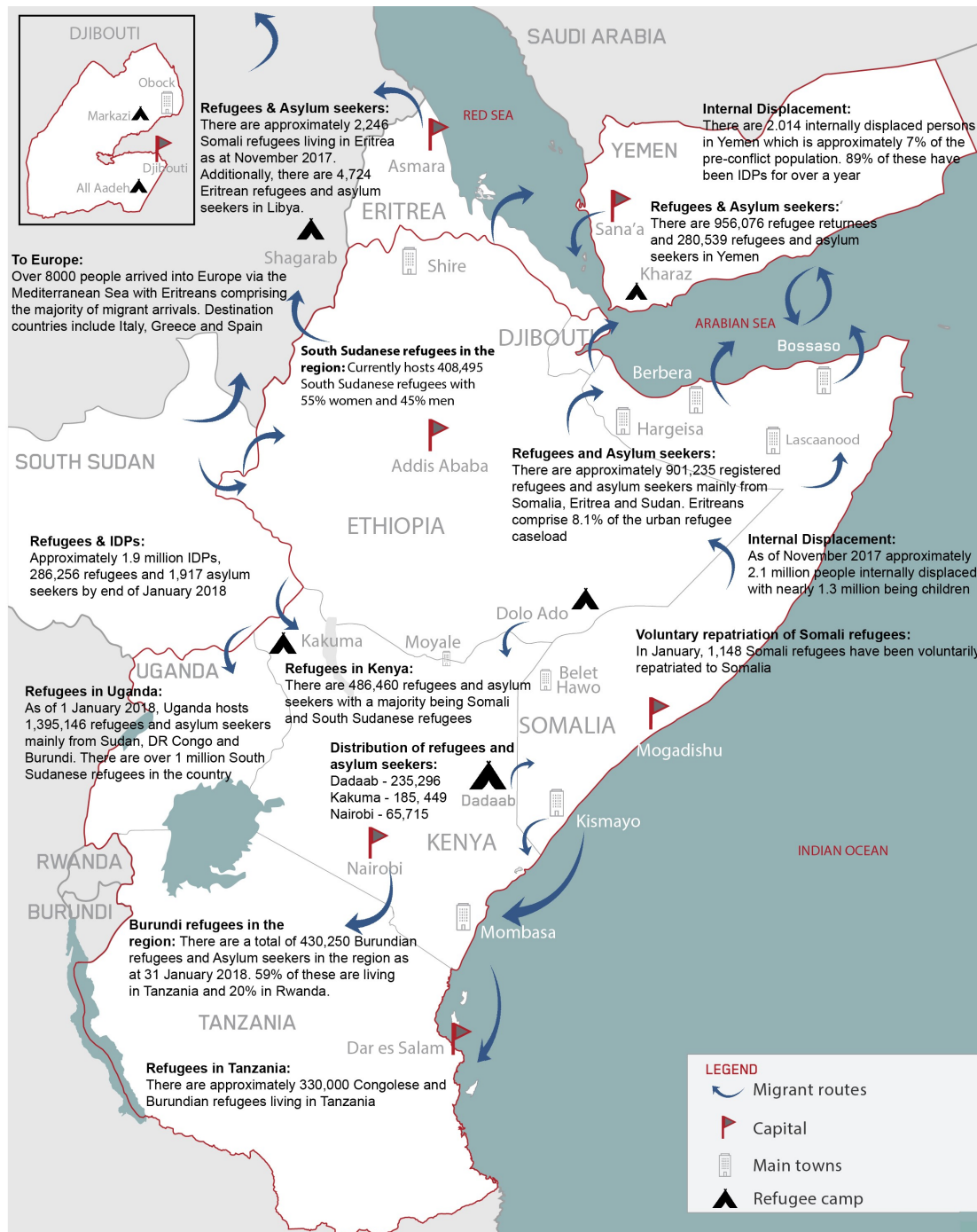




# Mixed Migration Monthly Summary

## January 2018 East Africa and Yemen

Regional Mixed Migration Secretariat (RMMS) summary for January 2018 covering mixed migration events, trends and data for Djibouti, Eritrea, South Sudan, Sudan, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Somalia / Somaliland and Yemen.



# Displacement Snapshot

	Somalia/ Somaliland	Yemen	South Sudan	Ethiopia	Eritrea	Djibouti	Kenya	Uganda
Refugees	14,866	280,539	286,256	901,253	2,246 (Somali)	26,915	429,006	1, 395,146mil
Asylum seekers	14,725		192,279					57,454
Internally dis- placed people (IDP)	2.1 mil	2.014 mil	1.9 mil	1.6 mil				
In need of humanitarian assistance / food aid	5.4 mil	22.2 mil		8.5 mil			3.5 mil	2.3 mil

**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 Profiles

### Djibouti

**Refugees & asylum seekers:** According to UNHCR, Djibouti had approximately 26,915 refugees and asylum seekers by the end of December 2017 most of whom were from Somalia and Ethiopia. A majority of these have settled at Ali Addeh camp with the camp holding 15,836 refugees and asylum seekers representing 59% of total refugee and asylum seeker population in the country.

**Policy dialogue:** In January, the government of Djibouti undertook awareness-raising exercises in the country aimed at sensitizing various actors on the [rights of the refugees](#) under the new Refugee Law that came into effect in December 2017. Actors

targeted during this awareness raising session include private sector businesses, host communities and refugees alike, as well as relevant line ministries. Similarly, the Ministry of Education and Vocational Training signed an agreement with the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) to enable LWF continue supporting educational programs therefore allowing for a smooth transition to the Ministry after the end of the current school year. With regards to refugee health, the Ministry of Health and UNHCR signed an agreement for the inclusion of refugees in national health systems.

### Somalia/Somaliland

**Refugees, Asylum seekers & Returnees:** By the end of January 2018, 14,866 refugees and 14,725 asylum seekers were registered in Somalia (20,501 of whom were [women and children](#)). A majority of the refugees were from Yemen at (73.7%) while Ethiopians comprised a large percentage of asylum seekers at 98.4%. The main areas of occupation for the refugees and asylum seekers are Woqooyi Galbeed in Somaliland, Bari, Nuugal and Mudug. In the Horn of Africa region however, there are approximately 871,568 Somali refugees living in Kenya (313,255), Ethiopia (249,903), Yemen (255,894), Uganda (37,193) and Eritrea (2,246). In Ethiopia, Dollo Ado, Jijiga, and Addis Ababa as at 31 January 2018.

**Repatriation of refugees:** In January 2018, UNHCR reported that there were 1,148 Somali Refugees that had voluntary been [repatriated](#) from camps in Kenya. Thirty-seven percent of the entire caseload were minors with 259 being between the ages of 0 and 4, 264 between 5 and 11, and 193 between 12 and 17 years

of age. A significant percentage of those undertaking voluntary repatriation are those that arrived in the camp in 2011 at 34.1%. In Somalia however, Kismayo & Mogadishu are the primary areas of return with 92.3% returning to Kismayo and 7.7% to Mogadishu including refugees who were not originally from these two districts. Cumulatively since 2014, 76,589 refugees have been voluntarily been repatriated from Daadab, Nairobi and Kakuma.

**Humanitarian Situation:** As of the end of January 2018, approximately [5.4 million](#) people are in need of 'humanitarian assistance' in Somalia, down from 6.2 million at the end of 2017. Similarly, 2.7 million people are in need of 'urgent life-saving assistance' down from 3.2 million at the end of 2017. This is as a result of improving food security situation across the country, increased humanitarian support and large scale and sustained prevention efforts for the drought experienced in the region.

**Internal displacement:** The total number of [internally displaced](#) people in Somalia stands at 2.1 million as of the end of January 2018, with nearly 1.3 million being children. This has been due to increased tensions in disputed areas, conflict, severe drought and increasing humanitarian needs which have resulted in overcrowding at settlements and immense pressure on already scarce resources and essential services. Of the 5.4 million people in need of humanitarian assistance, approximately 2.1 million are IDPs. A statement released by the Somali NGO Consortium on 9 January 2018 sheds lights on the [forced evic-](#)

[tions](#) and large-scale destruction of IDP settlements in December 2017 particularly in the outskirts of Mogadishu. Other structures destroyed include emergency schools, a GBV center, feeding and community centers, water points, latrines among others.

**Policy Dialogue:** A meeting was held in Nairobi with various experts including IGAD, the EU, UNDP, UNHCR and World Bank to review the first [bi-annual progress](#) report on the implementation of the Nairobi Action Plan. Various meetings on this are planned in the course of the year.

## Kenya

**Refugees & Asylum Seekers:** By the end of January 2018, Kenya was hosting a total of 486,460 [refugees and asylum seekers](#) in Daadab, Kakuma and Nairobi according to UNHCR (57,454 asylum seekers and 429,006 refugees). This number marks a decrease since 2014's over half a million refugees and asylum seekers and 2017's 488,415 refugees and asylum seekers. Approximately 57% of the entire caseload are Somali refugees and asylum seekers followed by South Sudanese and Congolese refugees and asylum seekers at 23% and 7.4% respectively with Daadab hosting majority of these. While adults between the ages of 18 and 59 comprise the highest number of refugees and asylum seekers, children between the ages of 5 and 11 comprise the second highest number at 22.5% of the entire caseload according to UNHCR.

**Voluntary Repatriation & Resettlement:** [Resettlement](#) is still ongoing within the country with 44,721 people having submitted their cases. Of these, Somalis, Ethiopians and Congolese refugees comprise the highest percentage of refugees being resettled to date but significantly lower from previous years (2011-2017). The top countries for resettlements are the United States and Australia although the number of slots has also significantly reduced from between 2011 and 2017. 2016 and 2017 also marked the highest caseload of voluntary repatriation and by January 2018, a total of 77,910 refugees and asylum seekers had been repatriated with a majority (98%) being Somali refugees and asylum seekers.

**Migrant workers in the Middle East:** In October 2014, the Kenyan government banned [recruitment agencies](#) from sending Kenyans to work in the Middle East pending fresh vetting. This followed numerous cases of abuses reported by Kenyans living in the Middle East- a move that received mixed reactions from various stakeholders in the country. In 2015, the Kenyan government gave Saudi Arabia a 'formal notification' not to issue visas for domestic workers from Kenya without prior approval from the country's Foreign Ministry and in 2017, Kenya signed an agreement with Saudi Arabia that saw around 100,000 skilled and semi-skilled workers move to Saudi Arabia. In November 2017, the Ministry of Labor lifted its [ban](#) and instead introduced a new set of measures aimed at safeguarding the interests and protection of Kenyan domestic workers from exploitation and abuse. Among these rules was the requirement to set up a vetting committee that would allow only approved agencies to recruit domestic workers. Within this framework, 29 agencies were vetted and approved. However, despite this move, [critics](#) such as Central Organization of Trade Unions (COTU's) Secretary General, Francis Atwoli, say that this lift of ban would mean that Kenyans working in these countries will again be subjected to exploitation and abuse.

**Policy Dialogue:** A [National Action Plan](#) and a draft document detailing the roll-out of the CRRF in Kenya has been drafted by the Refugee Affairs Secretariat. These documents will then be reviewed by various line ministries and counties and later followed by stakeholder consultations.

## Eritrea

**Refugees & Asylum seekers:** According to UNHCR, Eritrea currently hosts 2,246 Somali [refugees](#) in the country as of 30 November, 2017. However, in [Libya](#), Eritrean refugees and asylum seekers constitute among the highest number of people with 463 refugees and 4,261 asylum seekers in the North African country.

**Deportations:** In late 2017, the Israeli government put in place plans to deport around 40,000 African refugees and asylum seekers, most of whom were from Sudan (around 20%) and Eritrea (around 72%). This was as a result of the Israeli government claiming that a majority of these migrants did not have legitimate claims to their stay in Israel but were instead economic migrations seeking a [better quality of life](#) and further contributing to the rising crime in the country. Under Israel's deportation plan, migrants living in the country have been given an ultimatum of accepting US\$3,500 and leave 'voluntarily' or face imprisonment. In a rare interview on 31 January, the Eritrean President Isaias Afwerkiin

expressed his disapproval of Israel's deportation plan, saying that migrants deserve more than the US \$3,500 offered.

**Human Rights Abuses:** The Human Rights Watch group recently released the World Human Rights Report which showed that Eritrean President's Afewerki's regime was oppressive and that as a result about 12% of Eritrea's population fled the country. In addition, the report highlights the abuse in national service, indefinite conscription and forced labor as contributing to people's decision to flee the country.

# Ethiopia

**Refugees, asylum seekers & IDPs:** According to UNHCR, Ethiopia currently hosts approximately 901,235 registered refugees and asylum seekers: 41% adults; 26% children; 17% adolescents; 16% youth; 13% infants; and 2% elderly. The Gambella region currently hosts a majority of the refugee and asylum seeker population at 45.3% (408,494) followed by Melkadida in the South East with 24% (216,018). A significant number of Eritreans are also living in Ethiopia's urban areas from camps and comprise 8.1% of the entire caseload (73,078 refugees and asylum seekers). South Sudanese, Somalis, Eritreans and Sudanese comprise the majority of refugees and asylum seekers living in Ethiopia with South Sudanese comprising 47.6% of the entire caseload. Similarly, approximately 1.6 Million Ethiopians have been internally displaced due to drought and conflict, especially along the Somali-Oromia border. Drought has influenced internal movements and it is expected that this will further worsen particularly in the South, South-East and North-East regions in the coming months.

**Returnees from Saudi Arabia:** The government of Ethiopia has lifted a ban it had enforced in 2014 following a public outcry on the harsh conditions of Ethiopians living abroad, particularly in the Middle East. The ban had been enforced on Ethiopians travelling to the Middle East in search of domestic jobs which did not allow them access to foreign employment permits. This came after Saudi Arabia began expelling illegal migrants since 2013, including Ethiopian nationals who travelled to Saudi Arabia for economic reasons as well as fears of persecution by the Ethiopian government. The challenge, however, is that Ethiopian migrants living in Saudi Arabia cannot claim asylum or international protection as Saudi Arabia has no refugee law and is not party to the 1951 UN Refugee Convention. Upon arrival in Ethiopia, reports indicate that the migrants were detained and tortured in detention. In 2017, the Saudi Arabia government again made another declaration that all irregular migrants should voluntary leave, with there being approximately 500,000 Ethiopians. By the end of the Amnesty period, IOM reports that an average of 2,800 Ethiopian migrants were deported per week. It is estimated that 130,000 Ethiopians have returned to Ethiopia from Saudi Arabia with 101,217 arrivals registered and profiled by IOM with a majority being deportees (72.9%) and 27.1 voluntary returnees. Gender-disaggregated data shows that men comprised 72% and women 28% returnees and deportees.

**Human Rights Abuses:** On 20 January 2018, Ethiopian government security forces allegedly opened fire in the City of Woldia killing at least four civilians as residents of the city were celebrat-

ing the religious holiday of St. Michael's day. Regional officials claimed that the crowd refused to stop chanting 'political slogans' and threw stones at the police. Another attack happened in Kobo (50kms North East of Woldia) by military forces loyal to the TPLF, Agazi and which resulted in the death of 9 civilians and the injury of several others according to reports. During the incident, 3 government vehicles, a local administration office and four trucks were destroyed by protestors.

**Policy dialogues:** On 12 January 2018, Ethiopia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs held talks with the Norwegian Ministry of Immigration and Integration in Addis Ababa where the two respective Ministers talked about closer collaboration between the two countries on refugee and migration issues. Ethiopia's Foreign Minister, Hirut Zemene noted that the only way to mitigate migration is through tackling the root causes through different initiatives and within frameworks such as the African Union and the UN. Norway's Foreign Minister, Silvi Listhaug reiterated Norway's commitment to cooperate on issues of migration management with other European Countries and also with Ethiopia and called for cooperation. Both Ministers acknowledged the challenge of traffickers and smugglers and the need to prosecute such crimes.

Ethiopia held its second CRRF steering meeting to discuss the upcoming refugee legislation, the structure of the National Coordination Unit, participation in Technical Committee workshops as well as the setting up of the CRRF Secretariat. Refugees in Ethiopia will also now be able to obtain mobile phone SIM cards using their refugee ID Card following an agreement between the Ethiopian Administration for Refugee and Returnee Affairs and Ethio-Telecom. On 24 January, a meeting was held in Addis by the AU-EU-UN Task Force on the Stranded Migrants situation in Libya where the Commissioner of Social Affairs applauded efforts of the Libyan authorities for facilitating voluntary evacuations and for facilitating AU missions to Libya. During the meeting, members also recognized the need for comprehensive migration management and community development initiatives in support of the Libyan authorities in the long term. Additionally, the meeting noted that there was need for the Task Force to deploy and concentrate its efforts on decriminalizing African migrants in Libya as well as dismantling the detention centers model. The meeting also welcomed the EU proposal for a Tripartite Task Force mission to Libya in February 2018 as well as the establishment of a technical arm of the Task Force led by AU Commission's Migration Unit.

# Sudan

**Refugees, asylum seekers & IDPs:** As of 31 December 2017, UNOCHA reports that there were approximately 152,095 refugees and asylum seekers living in Sudan excluding South Sudanese refugees. Cumulatively, there are 770,110 South Sudanese refugees (65% of which are children) living in Sudan (post-December 2013) bringing the entire caseload of refugees and asylum seekers to 922,205. By the end of January 2018, there were approximately 2.3 million people internally displaced in Sudan including 1.1 million children according to UNICEF.

**Sudanese migrants:** In January 2018, the Libyan army managed to free a group of Sudanese migrants that had been detained and tortured by Libyan trafficking groups. This was following reports that Libyan authorities had arrested a group of traffickers and smugglers in Sirte of Palestinian and Libyan nationalities

where a shootout occurred between the smugglers and the Libyan security forces.

**Humanitarian Situation:** Currently 4.8 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance in Sudan, including 3 million in Darfur. Other people in need of humanitarian assistance include those displaced or affected by conflict in Blue Nile and South Kordofan. Food insecurity is expected to continue in areas such as North Darfur and Kassala as there has been poor seasonal performance to allow adequate crop production.



## South Sudan

**IDPs, Refugees & Asylum seekers:** According to UNHCR, the country currently hosts [1.9 million](#) internally displaced people, 286,256 refugees and 1,917 [asylum seekers](#) by end of January 2018 (including [2,223](#) new arrivals in January only). Similarly, there are 2,435,120 South Sudanese refugees living in the neighboring countries of Uganda, Sudan, Ethiopia, Kenya, Democratic Republic of Congo, and the Central African Republic. However, Uganda currently host over 1 million South Sudanese refugees followed by Sudan at 772,715 and Ethiopia at 421,867. In South Sudan however, majority of [refugees](#) are Sudanese currently at 92.7% (264,730). Refugees from DR Congo, Ethiopia, and the Central African Republic and other countries constitute 7.3% (20,926).

**Insecurity and Armed Violence:** In December 2017, South Sudanese government signed an [agreement](#) on 'Cessation of hostilities, protection of civilians and humanitarian access' under the auspices of IGAD's High Level Revitalization Forum. Signed in Addis Ababa, the South Sudanese government signed up to cease all hostile military actions and operations in the armed conflict between the various parties to the conflict. However, shortly after in January, over [10,000 people](#) fled their homes due to inter-communal clashes in Jonglei, Yuai, Waat, Walgak and other areas where others fled into neighboring Ethiopia's Gambella region. In Juba, there were reports of [attacks](#) by unknown parties on a government security installation as well as shooting incidents between security forces and criminals near protection of civilian (POC) sites according to the United Nations- acts which were reported as being in contravention to the agreement.

## Uganda

**Refugees and Asylum seekers:** As of 1 January 2018, Uganda hosted a total [1,395,146](#) refugees and asylum seekers mainly from South Sudan (1.03 million), DR Congo (242,406), Burundi (40,634), Somalia (37,193), Rwanda (15,260) and other nationalities (21,755). Areas within Uganda that currently hosts refugees include Kampala, Kyegwa and Kamwenge, Kiryandongo, in South West Uganda, Hoima and the North Western regions of Moyo, Yumbe, Arua and Adjumani. Reports show that of the over 1 million South Sudanese refugee population living in Uganda, [82%](#) are women and children. However, despite the high population of South Sudanese refugee population in Uganda, there has been an [influx](#) of Congolese refugees since December 2017 due to renewed attacks in North Kivu as well as looting, rape, violence and killings. To respond to the growing refugee population in Uganda, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) are distributing drought-resistant "[super beans](#)" to South Sudanese

refugees to help them reduce their dependency on food aid while also encouraging self-sufficiency.

**Policy dialogue:** On 31 January 2018, the government of Uganda hosted its second [Steering Group](#) meeting of the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) that was chaired by Uganda's Prime Minister Dr. Ruhakana Rugunda and attended by various stakeholders such as the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Filippo Grandi, government representatives, NGOs, refugee & host community representatives and other humanitarian partners. During this meeting, Uganda's CRRF roadmap was endorsed and an agreement was reached that this roadmap, including district-level coordination mechanisms.

## Yemen

**Humanitarian situation and access:** Approximately, [22.2 million](#) people in Yemen (around 75% of entire population) are in need of humanitarian assistance with the number likely to increase due to the ongoing conflict in the country, disrupted livelihoods, collapsed economy and lack of social services and infrastructure. This marks an increase from the 20.7 million people in need of assistance in [November](#) 2017. In addition, food insecurity and malnutrition continues to rise within the country in comparison to 2017. Following the lift of the Saudi-led blockade in December 2017, [commercial food vessels](#) and cargo ships have since docked at Hudaydah and Saleef ports bringing in much needed flour, wheat, sugar, corn and fuel. According to the 2018 [Humanitarian Needs Overview](#) for Yemen, the major humanitarian issues faced by the country this year include: protection crisis for civilians in light of the ongoing conflict; displacement and decline of the economy and provision of essential services; inadequate healthcare, food, water and sanitation; and loss of livelihoods for both urban (employed) and rural populations.

280,539 refugees and asylum seekers. Data collected in October 2017 showed that there were more than 190,000 Yemen refugees living in the region in Oman, Somalia, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Sudan and Saudi Arabia. [Data collection](#) within Yemen's main entry points still remain limited due to the ongoing conflict that has meant that the government structures in place are unable to function well or to track regular and irregular migrants.

**Disease Outbreak:** Between December 2017 and January 2018, Yemen has faced a major outbreak of Diphtheria. RMMS's November summary showed that [189 diphtheria cases](#) were reported in the country including 20 deaths. However, in 2018 so far, 610 suspected cases have been reported across 19 governorates with Al-Hudaydah and Ibb being the worst hit governorates. Management of the disease has proved difficult due to access and security challenges. However, [cholera](#) cases have significantly decreased and this has resulted in the closing down of close to 230 cholera treatment facilities.

**Internally Displaced Persons, Returnees & Refugees:** According to UNHCR, over 2 million people remain internally displaced with 89% of these being internally displaced for more than one year. In addition, there are 956,076 refugee returnees and

## Other News

**Israel's deportations:** Israel, currently hosting approximately 27,500 Eritreans and 7800 Sudanese asylum seekers, plans to deport thousands of asylum seekers under threat of [indefinite detention](#). The Israel Cabinet approved a proposal in November 2017 to close down the Holot detention center that currently houses over 1,000 African asylum seekers. Should this be approved, the Holot detention center will shut down by Mid-March 2018 and asylum seekers will either suffer detention in an Israeli prison or be deported to a third country in Africa. Local Israeli media reports that Israel plans to pay Rwanda USD 5,000 for each asylum seeker it takes in while also paying each asylum seeker USD 3,500 for their flight out of Israel.

**Arrivals to Europe:** According to IOM's latest report, [161,010](#) migrants and refugees have entered Europe between January and 22 November 2017 with 75% arriving into Italy

and 25% divided between Greece, Spain and Cyprus. This marks a decrease from the 345,831 arrivals into Europe in the same period in 2016. However within the 2017 period, 2,772 deaths were reported on the Central Mediterranean route, 60 in the Eastern Mediterranean route, and 161 in the Western Mediterranean route. The primary countries of origin for immigrants in Italy are Nigeria, Guinea, Bangladesh, Mali and Ivory Coast.

**Eritrean Diaspora Protests:** On 17 November, Eritreans living in Sweden gathered outside the Eritrean Embassy in Stockholm protesting the arrest of teachers and directors of Al Diaa Islamic School and showing solidarity to similar protests in Asmara.

## New Research/Reports

The **Regional Mixed Migration Secretariat (RMMS)** has recently launched its discussion paper titled "[Split Loyalties: Mixed Migrants and the Diaspora Connection](#)" that looks at the experiences of Afghan and Somali diaspora communities in Denmark and their role in irregular migration as well as their perceptions of irregular migration, mental trauma, and their conflicting attitudes towards irregular migration

The **Regional Durable Solutions Secretariat (ReDSS)** has launched the report "[Local Integration Focus: Refugees in Ethiopia](#)", that looks into gaps and opportunities for refugees that have lived in Ethiopia for 20 years or more. The report also builds on existing research and data to assess the level of local integration in Gambela and Somali regions as well as provide specific recommendations on how to improve local integration and self-reliance programming and policies.

The **International Refugee Rights Initiative (IRRI)** published a report titled "[Conflict and Displacement in Kasai](#)" that looks at the conflict dynamics in the Kasai region of the Democratic Republic of Congo including how the violence started, the vari-

ous violence dynamics, its effect on displacement, and the national political situation in the country.

The **International Organization for Migration (IOM)** has released its "[World Migration Report 2018](#)" that looks into both regional and global dimensions of migration and migration development, migration governance and existing architecture, migrant journeys, and violent extremism and social inclusion.

The **Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) & the International Labor Organization (ILO)** published a report titled "[How Immigrants Contribute to Developing Countries' Economies](#)". This report looks into various countries in Africa, Latin America, Central & South-East Asia and shows that immigrants are not a burden to host countries' economies and that their impact on economic growth, public finance and labor markets is generally limited but positive.

**Regional Mixed Migration Secretariat (RMMS)** is to support agencies, institutions and forums in the Horn of Africa and Yemen sub-region to improve the management of protection and assistance response to people in mixed migration flows within and beyond the Horn of Africa and across the Gulf of Aden or Red Sea in Yemen. [www.regionalmms.org](http://www.regionalmms.org).

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