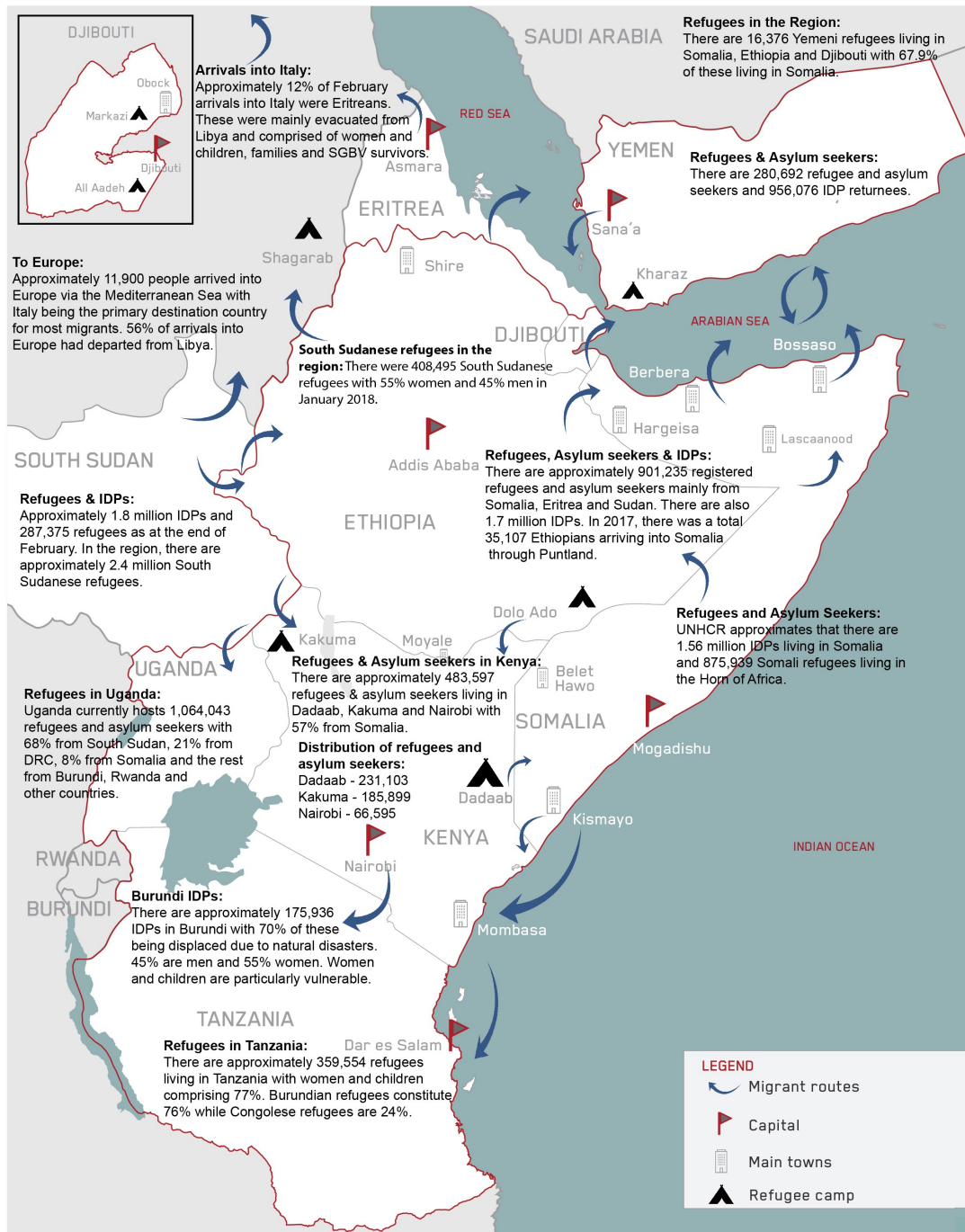




RMMS Mixed Migration Monthly Summary

February 2018 East Africa and Yemen

Regional Mixed Migration Secretariat (RMMS) summary for February 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		280,692	287,375	901,253	2,246 (Somali)	26,915	425,200	1, 1,064,043
Asylum seekers							58,397	
Internally dis- placed people (IDP)	1.56 mil	2.014 mil	1.8 mil	1.7 mil				
In need of humanitarian assistance / food aid	5.4 mil	22.2 mil		8.5 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.

Definition of Key Terms

Refugee: A person who is unwilling or unable to return to their country of origin owing to a [well-founded fear](#) of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group, or political opinion. The 1951 UN Convention relating to the Status of Refugees is based on the fundamental principle of non-discrimination, non-penalization, and non-refoulement. (*UNHCR, 1951 UN Convention*)

Asylum seeker: A person who seeks safety from persecution or serious harm in a country other than his or her own and [awaits a decision](#) on their application for refugee status under relevant international and national instruments. (*International Organization for Migration*)

Refoulement: Refers to the [expulsion](#) or return of a refugee to the frontiers of territories where his life or freedom would be threatened on account of his race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion. (*United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees*)

Mixed Migration: People engaging in cross-border movement owing to fear of persecution and conflict, trafficking and the search for better lives and opportunities. Such people often travel along similar routes, using similar means of travel (irregular, wholly or partially assisted by migrant smugglers), and who are motivated to move by a multiplicity of factors. Such people in mixed flows have different legal statuses and vulnerabilities & although entitled to protection under international human rights law, they are exposed to multiple violations along their journey. (*Operational definition by the Mixed Migration Center*)

Country Profiles

Djibouti

Parliamentary elections: The legislative elections in Djibouti took place on [23 February](#), 2018 where President Ismael Omar Guelleh's ruling party, Union for the Presidential Majority (UMP), took nearly 90% of parliamentary seats. Mr. Guelleh has ruled Djibouti since 1999 and was re-elected in 2016. Fifteen women, out of the stipulated 25%, won parliamentary seats with 14 of these from the ruling party. Prior to this, the Head of Election Observation Mission of the African Union, H.E Mr. Anicet-Gergoes Dologuélé and former Prime Minister of the Central African Republic met with the President of the Constitutional Council

of Djibouti, H.E. Mr. Abdi Ibrahim Absieh and the Secretary General of the Council, Mrs. Fahima Abdi on 19 February 2018 to share views on [Djibouti's preparedness](#) ahead of the legislative elections. Similarly, H.E. Mr Anicet later met with the President of the Independent National Electoral Commission Mr. Dini Mohamed Bourhan on 20 February 2018 where they discussed voting cards, ballots, polling stations and other election preparedness-related discussions.

Somalia/Somaliland

Refugees, Asylum seekers & Returnees: There are approximately [875,939](#) Somali refugees living in the Horn of Africa. A government of Puntland report for 2017 shows that 19% of migrants leaving Somalia via Mareero and Ceelaayo were Somalis with 65% of these originating from South Central Somalia. This route was also identified as being high risk with intensified brutality, torture and smuggling reported. The number of internally displaced persons living in Somalia is 1.56 million.

Repatriation of Somali nationals: Repatriation of Somali refugees is currently taking place in three contexts: Kenya, Libya and Yemen. In the Kenya situation, RMMS reported in [January](#) that voluntary repatriation was still ongoing with 76,589 refugees having been voluntarily repatriated from Daadad, Nairobi and Kakuma since 2014. However, reports show that while Somali refugees were voluntarily repatriated to Somalia, many are [regretting the move](#) as the situation back home in Somalia remains dire with the country facing the devastating effects of the drought which has negatively impacted livelihoods and food security. Cases of Somali refugees returning to Kenya have been reported, particularly when the refugees have exhausted their return package or their enhanced return package. Other reports show that owing to the alleged refusal of the Kenyan government to register refugees, there are [undocumented refugees](#) living in Daadab and others who have returned from Somalia and are unable to access goods and services due to lack of documentation. Simi-

larly, key Somali government officials received the 11 Somali refugees at the Mogadishu airport following their repatriation from [Libya](#) where the refugees recalled the horrors they faced while living in Libyan detention centers. Other reports however show reluctance on the part of some Somali migrants towards leaving Libya and returning to Somalia claiming that they have ["nothing else to lose"](#) and would rather undertake the dangerous journey to Europe. Return of Somali nationals from Yemen has also been on the rise in light of the ongoing conflict in Yemen. By the end of January 2018, approximately [11,015](#) Somali refugees had returned from Yemen with a majority settling in Somaliland and Central regions of Somalia.

Policy Dialogue: on 1 February 2018, IGAD launched a [National Consultation Workshop](#) regarding the IGAD Protocol on Free Movement of Persons in the IGAD Region. This event took place in Mogadishu and was attended by government stakeholders such as the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Somalia, donor agencies & representatives, UN agencies, private sector, media, academia and civil society organizations. The objective of the four-day workshop was to gather information on the benefits and barriers of the new Protocol, and to generate recommendations towards the provisions of the Protocol.

Returns package includes US\$200 for Somalis returning by road and US \$250 for Somalis with special needs. US \$150 for returnees travelling by air and US \$180 for returnees with special needs travelling by air. This also includes key relief items and support to road convoys to Somalia. [UNHCR, 2017](#).

[Enhanced returns package](#) includes a reinstallation grant of US\$200 per person; subsistence package of US \$200 per month for 6 months; education assistance of up to US\$25 per month per child for nine months; a standard package of core relief items such as jerry cans and plastic sheeting; a shelter package of US\$1,000 per family to construct localized permanent shelters; access to basic social services through community-based projects and rehabilitation/extension of common utilities; and livelihood support through provision of agricultural and pastoral inputs.

Eritrea

Asylum hearings in Israel: On 12 February 2018, an Israeli court ruled that Eritreans who deserted [military service](#) back home and came to Israel seeking refuge have grounds to be considered asylum seekers. Many Eritreans living in Israel claim to have fled Eritrea due to a restrictive regime that forced men to join a military service with slavery-like conditions. Majority of Eri-

trean asylum seekers in Israel have already had their asylum requests rejected by the Israeli Interior Ministry due to claims by the Israeli government that claims on army desertion were not grounds for asylum. However, officials now claim that the policy was "racist, noting that some 4,000 white Ukrainian and Georgians were deported for immigration offenses in 2017".

Arrivals into Italy: Italy still remains the main destination country for migrants from Africa. In February alone, the country had received 1,069 new arrivals with [12%](#) of these being Eritreans. Eritreans among other nationalities were evacuated from Libya on a charter flight from Libya to Rome. These group included SGBV survivors, persons with specific needs, unaccompanied

and separated children, and families. These migrants had been kept in Libyan detention facilities under harsh conditions and upon arrival in Rome, they underwent various [medical checks](#) and provided with food and clothing.

Kenya

Refugees: As at the end of February 2018, UNHCR reports that there were [483,597](#) refugees and asylum seekers in Kenya with 231,103 being in Daadab, 185,899 in Kakuma and 66,595 in Nairobi. Fifty eight per of the refugees in Daadab as at mid-February were children. To date, 1587 refugees and asylum seekers have been registered with 57% being from Somalia and 23% from South Sudan. Other nationalities living in the settlements are Ethiopians, Sudanese, Congolese, Eritreans, Ugandans, Rwandese and Burundians.

Policy Dialogue: The National Consultative Workshop on the IGAD Protocol on the Free Movement of Persons took place on 20 February 2018 in Naivasha and was attended by government representatives, civil society organizations, academic institutions, the media and the private sector. The aim of this meeting was to get input from experts and national stakeholders on the [benefits and barriers](#) to free movement of persons, to derive national recommendations towards the Provisions of the Protocol, and to develop a roadmap for the negotiation and adoption of the Protocol.

Ethiopia

Refugees, asylum seekers & IDPs: According to UNICEF Ethiopia currently hosts approximately 901,235 registered refugees and asylum seekers and 1.7 million internally displaced persons (up from 1.6 million in January and approximately 64% displaced due to [conflict](#)). Approximately 33% of the displaced population are adults between 18 and 59 years and 25% between 5 and 14 years. According to IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix report, conflict-induced displacement is common in Addis Ababa, Afar, Amhar, Gambella and Hareri, Oromia, Somali and Tigray regions while [climate-induced displacement](#) is common in all the aforementioned regions excluding Hareri.

The Ministry of Interior of Puntland released its annual summary report for 2017 where it showed that 98% of the 35,107 arrivals into Somalia through Puntland (Dhahar and Tukaraq) were from Ethiopia. Fifty-nine percent of these were men and 41% women. Forty-nine human trafficking cases were also reported and 161 children were recorded as unaccompanied in 2017. The government report also noted that there was a decline in Oromo migrants around September 2017 due to ethnic violence in Ethiopia. Dhahar route was preferred by female migrants while the Tukaraq route was used by migrants who could not afford the high cost of transportation from Oog to Dhahar. On the other hand, Mareero and Ceelayo were the common points of departure for most migrants using the Northwestern route with 32,586 recorded in total in 2017. Eighty-one percent of these were Ethiopians while 19% were Somalis. Men comprised 61% while women comprised 39%.

Returns from Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA): The average

number of irregular migrants returning to Ethiopia from KSA is roughly 2,800 per week since November 2017. To date, 140,000 Ethiopian migrants have been returned home with 108,306 registered by IOM. Of these 108,306, 75% are deportees and 25% voluntary returnees. Similarly, 73% are men and 27% women.

Political landscape: Ethiopia's Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn [resigned](#) in February as both Prime Minister and chairman of the country's ruling coalition, Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF), amidst unrest and political crisis citing his resignation as vital in the bid to carry out long-needed reforms within the country. The government of Ethiopia thereafter declared a [state of emergency](#) which is expected to last 6 months, announced by the [Minister of Defense](#), Siraj Fegessa on 21 February 2018.

Ethiopia-Sudan relations: At the beginning of 2018, Ethiopia and Sudan agreed to strengthen their [bilateral relations](#) when President Omar Al-Bashir of Sudan met with Ethiopian Foreign Minister Workneh Gebeyehu, while on an official trip to Khartoum. The Ethiopian-Sudan relation has evolved in light of Turkey's growing interest in the Red Sea region and support to Sudan which has an influence on broader regional conflict with primarily Egypt and Saudi Arabia. Sudan has recently supported Ethiopia's construction of a dam, the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam, on the Nile River that is estimated to cost US\$5 billion which the Egyptian government claims will control the flow of Nile and threaten Egypt's [water security](#).

South Sudan

IDPs, Refugees & Asylum seekers: According to UNHCR, the country currently hosts 1.8 million IDPs and [287,375](#) refugees as at 28 February 2018. In the region however, there are approximately 2.4 million South Sudanese refugees living in Uganda,

Sudan, Ethiopia, Kenya, Democratic Republic of Congo, and the Central African Republic. Ninety-nine percent of these refugees are living in camps and settlements and [82%](#) are women and children.

Human Rights Violations: Over 40 South Sudanese military officers have been identified as being responsible for [war crimes and crimes against humanity](#), according to UN Investigators from UNHCR South Sudan. Eight lieutenant generals and 3 state governors were among those identified with the Government's Foreign Ministry's spokesman, Mawien Makol, stating that perpetrators will be prosecuted.

Child Soldiers: On 8 February, the National Liberation Movement released more than [300 children](#) who had been recruited as child soldiers. [Reports](#) indicate that all sides to the conflict have recruited more than 19,000 children fighters to date and the release of the 87 girls and 224 boys is the first step in the process of releasing child soldiers. Despite this move, concerns still remain that recruitment of children is still ongoing.

Sudan

Refugees: Within the first half of February 2018, approximately [2,524](#) South Sudanese refugees had arrived into Sudan bringing the total number of arrivals in 2018 to 8,294. These refugees have settled in East and South Darfur, White Nile, West and South Kordofan states with around [3,484](#) having settled in Darfur. Seventy-eight percent of the refugees live outside camps and 59% are unregistered. Women-headed households constitute [65%](#) of the entire South Sudanese refugee population living in Sudan while school going children aged between 6 and 13 years account for 28%. In South Kordofan, there were 264 new refugee arrivals in February and 393 in 2018 in total while in West Kordofan, there were 966 arrivals in February and 2,396 in 2018. In White Nile, there were 783 new arrivals in February and 1,510 in 2018 alone.

The Darfur Situation: OCHA estimates that there are [3.14 million people](#) in need of humanitarian assistance in Darfur including 1.76 million IDPs, 300,000 refugees and 295,710 returnees. This includes 7,447 refugees from Chad and 2,181 from Central African Republic. However, there are 324,389 Sudanese refugees

living in Chad and 514 in Central African Republic. In February alone, there were 1,280 new South Sudanese refugee arrivals in East Darfur bringing the total to [3,565](#) new arrivals in 2018 only. In [South Darfur](#), there were 1,279 arrivals in February alone and 2,478 total in 2018.

Political relations with Eritrea and Egypt: In January 2018, Sudan announced its closure of the Eastern border with Eritrea following deployment of Sudanese troops in Kassala State. While this was met with suspicion, the Sudanese government reiterated that the closure of the border with Eritrea was a result of the 6 month state of emergency that was decreed in December 2017 according to [reports](#). However, other reports show that this was in response to alleged deployment of [Egyptian troops](#) to Asmara, Eritrea. The Foreign Minister of Sudan was quoted stating that the border closer move was part of security measures to protect Sudan from external aggression. Following this, the Sudanese government recalled its ambassador to Egypt.

Yemen

Humanitarian situation & displacement: By mid-February, the number of people in need of humanitarian assistance remained 22.2 million as reported in RMMS' January monthly summary. Growing conflict in the country has resulted in massive displacement of people as well as heightened humanitarian risks and needs. For example, Government forces supported by the Saudi Arabian government took control of [Hays District](#) in Al Hudaydah Governorate from the Ansar Allah forces. This resulted in the displacement of approximately 2,387 families & the closing down of 177 schools. In Aden, over 7000 households have been displaced since the end of 2017 with majority of the IDPs originating from Al Hudaydah, Al Bayda and Taizz.

Returnees & Refugees: By mid-February, Yemen was currently hosting 280,692 refugees and asylum seekers and 956,076 IDP

returnees. In the region, however, there are 16,376 Yemeni refugees with [11,122](#) living in Somalia, [3,468](#) in Djibouti as at end of January, and [1,786](#) in Ethiopia. Data collection in Yemen still remains limited as a result of the ongoing conflict.

Deportation from Saudi Arabia: The Saudi Arabian government in February claimed to have arrested more than [671,000](#) violators of the country's labor and residency regulations with 161,000 already deported. A statement released by the Saudi government points to 9,465 people having been detained while attempting to enter the country through its southern borders. Sixty five percent of these infiltrators were Yemenis and 32% Ethiopians.

Uganda

Refugees and Asylum seekers: According to UNHCR, Uganda currently hosts [1,064,043](#) refugees and asylum seekers with 68% from South Sudan, 21% from the Democratic Republic of Congo, 4% from Burundi, and 8% from Somalia, Rwanda and other countries. Between 1 January and 28 February 2018, there were approximately [10,158](#) new South Sudanese refugee arrivals into Uganda with the daily average of arrivals being 180 individuals. The increasing number of South Sudanese refugees is as a result of the ongoing conflict inside South Sudan which has resulted in insecurity, death, fear and lack of social services. Majority of the South Sudanese refugees have settled in Moyo, Adjumani, Arua and Yumbe in North-West Uganda.

Refugee Corruption Allegations: In early February, the Office of the Prime Minister was hit by a corruption scandal that resulted from the UN Country Representative's whistleblowing on the doubtful number of refugees in Uganda, [abuse of funds](#) and other resources, and trafficking in female refugees. Following these allegations, police investigations began spearheaded by a senior police commissioner. Although investigations are ongoing, donors such as the European Union, UK, and the United States have threatened to withhold their funding to Uganda.

Other News

Global Compact for Migration: On 5 February, the [Zero Draft](#) of the Global Compact for migration was published and which focused on 22 framework objectives. These objectives are centered on: data collection and utilization of this data; addressing drivers of migration with the aim of minimizing them; providing timely and adequate information at all stages of migration; proper identification and documentation of all migrants; enhancing legal pathways for regular migration; ethical recruitment and safeguarding decent work conditions; reducing migration vulnerabilities; establishing coordination efforts on missing migrants; strengthening response to smuggling; combating human trafficking; integrated border management; strengthening procedures and mechanisms for status determination; developing alternatives to detention; ensuring consular protection and assistance; access to basic social services to migrants; full inclusion and social cohesion for migrants; eliminating all forms of discrimination towards migrants; investment in skill development; creating conditions for migrant and diaspora engagement in sustainable development; cooperation on sustainable return, readmission and reintegration; and establishing mechanisms for the portability of social security entitlements. The development of the Zero Draft has been received with both positivity and concern from various stakeholders with some arguing that the Compact is [non-binding](#) and non-normative and therefore compliance cannot be guaranteed. Others claim that the withdrawal of the US could negatively affect the uptake of the Compact as the US still remains one of the major destination countries for migrants. Optimists point towards the clear distinction and acknowledgement of the different profiles of people on the move by distinctly differentiating refugees and migrants.

Arrivals to Europe & Migrant Deaths: UNHCR reports that there have been [11,900](#) migrant arrivals into Europe via the Mediterranean route in 2018 with 422 estimated to be dead. In Febru-

ary alone however, it is estimated that less than 3,900 refugees and migrants have entered Europe via Spain, Greece and Italy and 175 people have been reported as having died while trying to cross the Mediterranean Sea. Nevertheless, the main country of entry still remains Italy with 5300 arrivals recorded between December 2017 and February 2018 and 1,069 in February. This marks a decrease from the 2,327 in December and 4,189 in January.

Fifty-six percent of those arriving into Europe via Italy in February had departed from Libya, in spite of the Libyan coastguards intercepting over 700 migrants in February. Eritreans comprise 12% of the migrants while Tunisians and Nigerians combined form 53%. Approximately 150 asylum seekers, mainly Ethiopians, Eritreans, Somalis, and South Sudanese were evacuated by air from Libya to Italy with help from UNHCR. Greece and Spain combined received 2,774 migrants in February 2018 but 2900 and 3700 respectively between December 2017 and February 2018.

European Policy Discussions: In January 2018, reports showed [Hungary's hard stance](#) on asylum seekers in the country when the Prime Minister, Viktor Orban, allegedly defended his country's refusal of an EU-wide refugee resettlement quota stating that all Muslim refugees are 'Muslim Invaders' and that 'Multiculturalism is only an illusion'. He further claimed that most migrants to Hungary and Germany were economic migrants and not individuals seeking asylum out of fear for their own lives. Similarly, the European Court of Justice ruled in January that [sexual orientation tests](#) were unlawful following Hungary's move to make a Nigerian asylum seeker undertake psychological tests to determine whether or not he was gay.

New Research/Reports

The Mixed Migration Platform published a Note on the Zero Draft of the Global Compact for Migration. It proposes the need to recognize all [migrants as agents of change](#), the need to curb externalized approaches to migration governance, the need to go beyond data collection to counter anti-migration narratives, and the need to balance cooperation at local and global levels.

The Regional Mixed Migration Secretariat (RMMS) published a feature article focusing on maritime migration and the risks involved. The article can be found [here](#).

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.

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