



Regional mixed migration summary for February 2013 covering mixed migration events, trends and data for Djibouti, Eritrea/Sudan, Ethiopia, Kenya, Puntland, Somalia, Somaliland and Yemen.



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Country	Events /trends/ data / analysis
<p>Djibouti</p>	<p>New Arrivals: In February 2013, an estimated 7,648 migrants arrived on Yemen's shores via Djibouti, a 30% increase from January. The migrants were 24% less than those who landed on the coast of Yemen via Djibouti in February 2012. Migrants journey from Loya Ade, to Tadjoura and onward to Obock. Obock remains the main departure point from Djibouti to Yemen.</p> <p>Boats: A total of 100 vessels left via the Red Sea for Yemen carrying an average of 76 passengers per trip in the month of February.</p> <p>Migrant vulnerability: Many Ethiopians journey on foot between Dewelle (Ethiopia/Djibouti border) and Tadjora (Djibouti) a journey of 8 days. At least 10 Ethiopians were abandoned in the desert, unable to proceed due to exhaustion and dehydration. Continued reports of the brutal rape of female migrants persist. In one reported case, an Ethiopian woman was gang raped by the Yemeni smuggling crew and thrown overboard as the vessel approached the coast. Other passengers on the vessel were unable to intervene.</p> <p>Arrest and deportation of refugees: It was reported that the Djiboutian coast guards intercepted and detained migrants and smugglers at a coast guards base in Obock. Migrants had to pay bribes or face possible deportation to their countries of origin. In one instance, migrants reportedly paid USD1000 to secure their release.</p> <p>Response: IOM donated two patrol boats, life saving and communication equipment to the Djibouti Ministry of Equipment and Transport, in an attempt to strengthen the capacity of the Djibouti Coast Guard, in providing life saving assistance to migrants at risk in the Gulf of Aden and the Bab el Mandeb Strait. The initiative is part of a wider project to enhance Djibouti's capabilities in rescue at sea as well as border management.</p>
<p>Somaliland</p>	<p>Modalities of the Movement: Somaliland as a region of origin records few migrants making the mixed migration movement to Yemen. As at February 2013, Somaliland had a total of 84,000 IDPs, 1,867 refugees, and 4,807 asylum seekers. According to UNHCR, refugees and asylum seekers in Somaliland are predominantly of Ethiopian origin.</p>
<p>Eritrea (Sudan/ South Sudan)</p>	<p>Eritrean Soccer team granted refugee status: The Ugandan Government granted refugee status to the Eritrean soccer team and coach that disappeared in Kampala, Uganda following East and Central Africa Football Association's (CECAFA) Senior Challenge in December 2012. 17 players including their team doctor sought asylum in Uganda citing fear of conscription into their country's mandatory military service. In many cases, conscripts are forced to serve indefinitely in training camps and at state-owned construction sites.</p> <p>The Eritrean Democratic Alliance (EDA) protests kidnapping and abuse: Eritreans largest opposition group, a coalition of 11 Eritrean resistance groups based in Ethiopia, called for urgent action to stop the rising cases of kidnapping and disappearance of refugees sheltered at Shagarab refugee camp in Eastern Sudan. Arrivals at the camp have dropped from nearly 2000 per month to hundreds, and the population of the camp is down to 30,000 from 80,000. In January, UNHCR reported 29,445 in the camp. The drop in numbers is attributed to fear of imminent abuse among migrants. UNHCR has indicated it is working with IOM, and Sudanese authorities to curb the risk of abductions and kidnapping, but EDA claims the Sudanese Government is doing little to address the plight of the Eritreans.</p>

	<p>Eritrean migrants continue to face resistance in Israel. In February Israel attempted to deport 25 Eritrean asylum seekers in violation of international conventions, according to an Israeli NGO supporting the rights of migrants. A group of 25 Eritrean migrants were pressured by Israeli immigration officials to sign a declaration consenting to removal from Israel to Uganda. When they discovered they were scheduled to travel to Eritrea they refused to board the plane.</p> <p>South Sudan: Salva Mathok, South Sudan's, Deputy Interior Minister, confirmed the deportation of over 1000 irregular migrants every day, in an effort to reign in illegal migrants, blamed for rising insecurity in South Sudan. Juba is home to undocumented migrants from Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia, Eritrea and Somalia. The Government plans to enhance checks in the border areas of Nimule, Aswa, Nesitu, Upper Nile, Warrap, Unit and Western Bar el Ghazal states to verify the background of migrants.</p> <p>Sudan: Sudanese migrants secretly deported from Israel: UNHCR has demanded that Israel provide an explanation for the secret deportation of more than 1,000 Sudanese migrants via a third country. Israel's Border and Immigration authority stated that hundreds of Sudanese migrants had agreed to return to Sudan voluntarily and refutes claims that the country deports migrants against their will. Sudan defines Israel as an enemy state and allegedly prohibits any of its citizens from traveling to Israel. As a result deportees face imminent danger and even death upon return. Israel had apparently attempted to protect the migrants by deporting them via an unnamed third country to conceal their origin. Migrants claim Jordan and Egypt act as countries of transit. Aid groups estimate there are around 60,000 irregular African immigrants in Israel, with the largest numbers coming from Sudan, Libya, South Sudan, Ethiopia and Eritrea. They are mostly fleeing poverty, armed conflict, and governmental persecution over tribal or religious identity.</p> <p>Migrant vulnerability: A 19 year old Sudanese man was shot dead by Egyptian border guards while trying to enter Israel. It is alleged that Egyptian border guards frequently open fire on African migrants trying to sneak into Israel.</p>
<p>Ethiopia</p>	<p>New Arrivals: An estimated 8,758 Ethiopians made their way to Yemen in February 2013. Ethiopians who have dominated the movement since 2009 represented 86% of the migrants landing on the coast of Yemen. They also recorded a 29% increase from January 2013, and a 16.5% decrease from February 2012. Migrants continue to cite the search for economic opportunities as the main push to travel to Yemen. Farmers have reiterated the imposition of high taxes by the Government of Ethiopia as their reason for flight. Few of the new arrivals cited persecution as their reason for travelling to Yemen.</p> <p>Modalities of Travel: It is reported that quite a number of Ethiopians landing on the coast of Yemen in February were re-attempting their journeys, having previously transited through Yemen en-route to Saudi Arabia where they faced deportation. Many migrants reported having approached a known smuggling ring based in Dire Dawa and paying between USD 380 and 450 for the journey to Yemen. As they journeyed towards Duelle, at the Ethiopian/Djiboutian border and onward to Tadjora and Obock in Djibouti, they were handed over to different smugglers/brokers who helped them avoid Djiboutian authorities. Migrants departing from West Hararge and Arsi region to Jijiga journeyed to Borama and crossed into Djibouti at the Loya Ade border. They paid about USD 270.</p> <p>Refugees in Ethiopia: In February, Ethiopia recorded 7,083 new refugee arrivals. The total refugee population is now 388,805 a 1.82% increase from January. Somalis and Sudanese nationals constitute 60% and 22% respectively of the refugee population. Few arrivals were recorded as a result of fighting in the Blue Nile State. Dollo Ado camp has the largest camp population of 190,446 migrants. The camp receives a daily average of 174 individuals.</p>
<p>Kenya</p>	<p>Kenyan courts temporarily halt the move for the encampment of urban refugees: A conservatory order issued 23rd January, 2013 has been extended to 21st March when the suit seeking to halt the relocation of urban refugees to camps in the North will be mentioned for further direction. The Government is yet to restore services to refugees in urban centres. Refugee advocate groups are of the opinion that the conservatory order restored the status quo prior to the Government directive of 18th December, 2012 and as such, services to migrants in urban centres should resume until such time that the court makes its final determination on the suit.</p> <p>Refugees flee insecurity in Kenya: It is reported that almost 20,000 Somalis have left Kenya since the Government directive of 18th December, 2012 seeking to enforce an encampment policy. In one isolated case, a</p>

	<p>Somali refugee previously resident in Kenya journeyed to Yemen pushed by the directive. Senior Somali Government officials have indicated that at present the Government does not have the capacity to absorb mass influxes of returnees.</p> <p>Arrest and Deportation of Migrants: The arrest and arraignment in court, for unlawful presence in Kenya of 21 Ethiopians intercepted in Makueni county, was reported in February. In the Pangani area of Nairobi County, 20 Ethiopian migrants were intercepted and arrested. A senior police officer stated that the area had been infiltrated by Ethiopians and Eritreans which prompted the police to crack down on the migrants. The migrants were charged with being irregularly in the country and face jail time or deportation.</p>
<p>Puntland</p>	<p>Arabian Sea arrivals in Yemen: In February 2,497 migrants crossed the Arabian Sea to Yemen. In line with growing trend in recent years 74% of the migrants arriving on the Yemen coast via the Arabian sea were Ethiopians with the remainder being Somalis. Puntland as a region of origin contributes very few migrants to the mixed migration movement to Yemen.</p>
<p>Somalia (S-C)</p>	<p>Somali movements to Yemen: A majority of the Somali nationals fleeing to Yemen originate from South and Central Somalia. Somalis from Mogadishu, Bay and other parts of South and Central Somalia indicate that the conflict between Al Shabaab and the Somali Defence Forces (SDF) persists, evidenced by suicide bombings in Mogadishu. In addition, Somali men in the Government controlled Mogadishu and Bay regions continue to claim that they are subject to arbitrary arrest and detention on suspicion of affiliation to or support of the militant group Al Shabaab. Somali women and girls residing in urban areas particularly Mogadishu reported that rape has become rampant. Perpetrators are allegedly, mostly Government authorities/troops. Victims that attempt to seek recourse to justice are reportedly prosecuted or persecuted. In one case, a Somali woman from Mogadishu reported the beheading of two women claiming they had been raped by SDF soldiers. The above are some of the reasons for flight cited by migrants at the Yemeni coast.</p> <p>Modalities of Travel: A majority of Somalis approached smuggling rings based in Mogadishu, paying about USD 450 for the journey to Yemen. They boarded a flight to Hargeisa, were received by other smugglers who aided their journey to Loya Ade, across the Djiboutian border, to Tadjora and onward to Obock before they embarked on the sea journey to Yemen. Those that journeyed independently paid about USD 150 for the boat journey to Yemen. They also had to contend with paying bribes to Djiboutian authorities if intercepted to avoid deportation.</p> <p>Security related incidences: Insecurity remains a key challenge. One person was confirmed dead and three others injured when a vehicle bornb improvised explosive device attack was carried out by a suicide bomber in Mogadishu's Abdiaziz district.</p> <p>IDPs: IDP levels in Somalia remain approximately 1.1 to 1.3 million individuals. Approximately 4700 people were reported displaced in the month of February. The number of migrants displaced in January were approximately 10,000 originating from in and around South Central Somalia. Displaced migrants cite cross border movement, IDP temporary return and insecurity as contributory factors leading to their displacement.</p> <p>Somali's continue to flee: Turkish airline officials and the Somali Government have indicated that the airline is being targeted by traffickers and smugglers to move asylum seekers from Mogadishu to Turkey as a gateway to Europe using false passports. Majority of Somali migrants do not hold travel documents and where they do, they are unable to obtain visas making them turn to smugglers as their only means of entry into European countries.</p> <p>Somalis Encouraged to Return: President Hassan Sheikh of Somalia, on a visit to Britain in February, urged Somalis living in the Disapora to return home and assist in re-building the nation, citing increased peace and security. Britian hosts the largest Somali population in Europe. The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) has reported it will provide a grant worth 1.5 million U.S. dollars to finance innovative Diaspora projects in Somalia in a new initiative to tap investment.</p> <p><i>This document does not seek to extensively detail conditions and events in Somalia (including displacements) as the subject is dealt with in great detail by various dedicated agencies.</i></p>

Yemen

Arrivals in January: In February 2013, 10,145 migrants crossed into Yemen via the Red Sea (Djibouti) and the Arabian Sea (Somaliland / Puntland). This was a 26% increase from January 2013 and a 19% decrease from February 2012. This year 17,663 migrants have already landed on the Yemeni coast, a 23% decrease from the collated numbers of January/February 2012. Ethiopians constitute 85% of these migrants. A majority of them hail from Oromia regions including Hararge, Arsi and Bale. Few are of Amharic, Afari, or Ogadeni origin. Many are illiterate, having worked as farmers and herders. The Somalis hail from South and Central Somalia, and particularly, Banadir, middle Shabelle and Juba. A few hail from Waqoyi Galbeed, Sanaag and Togdher regions of Somaliland while fewer still hail from Puntland, including Garoowe and Bari regions. Most belong to the majority clans of Hawiye, Dir, and Darood, with few from the Jareer or Madiban clans. Many are illiterate, having worked as petty traders in urban areas or as farmers and pastoralists. Some of the new arrivals are content with remaining in Yemen while others, mainly Ethiopians, seek to travel further on to Saudi Arabia in search of economic opportunities.

Red Sea arrivals: The number of migrants making crossing into Yemen via the Red Sea were 7,648, while 2497, 33% of the new arrivals, used the Bossaso-Yemen crossing. During focus group discussions, migrants revealed that they opted to journey across the Red Sea/Gulf of Aden after learning from relatives or friends that have previously journeyed to Yemen that the risks of crossing the Arabian Sea far surpassed those of crossing the Red Sea/Gulf of Aden. Reported risks across the Arabian Sea include forced landing, passengers being thrown overboard and physical assaults on migrants by the smuggling crews.

Boats & passengers: There were a total of 133 migrant boat trips that arrived on the Yemeni coast in February 2013. The average number of passengers on each boat was 76 people per trip (not including smugglers/crew).

Haradh Yemen: In 2012, a total of 11,308 destitute and stranded migrants were registered and assisted in Haradh, 90% being men and the remaining 10% distributed among women, boys and girls. The situation in Haradh is increasingly desperate compounded by inadequate resources, constraining the humanitarian response. UNHCR reported a highly visible migrant population in Haradh, as well as 20-30 villages where mostly female migrants are being held against their will.

Migrant vulnerability: Some of the new arrivals reported that their boat stopped in the middle of the sea, with the crew claiming that it had run out of oil. The passengers were asked to add USD 500 if the journey was to proceed. They remained at sea for at least 12 hours before they were rescued. An Ethiopian female migrant travelling from Obock via the Red Sea crossing was reportedly gang raped by the smuggling crew and subsequently thrown overboard before reaching the Yemen coast. In total, 65 women were subjected to Sexual and Gender Based Violence. The trafficking of women and girls is rampant. Ethiopian women are separated from their male counterparts and transported to unknown locations. An estimated 289 migrants were kidnapped. New practices are emerging with regard to kidnapping for ransom. Previously kidnapped migrants are re-taken hostage upon their release, as gangs of armed Yemenis riding motor cycles maraud the coastal routes. Some of the gangs now demand upwards of USD1000 for the migrants to be released. Female migrants are threatened or subjected to rape while their male counterparts are physically assaulted as the criminals press for their demands. One Ethiopian male is believed to have died in captivity following physical assault by his captors. Some migrants held captive attempt escape at the risk of being shot. One Ethiopian male migrant sustained a bullet wound injury to his leg as a result of such escape.

Arrest and Deportation of Migrants: In situations where the Yemeni authorities are successful in intercepting smugglers or traffickers, the migrants being irregularly moved are often arrested and detained. It was reported that 228 migrants were arrested and detained on arrival in Yemen. Screening teams in Bab el Mandeb are however allowed to access such migrants in various detention facilities in Lahj. On recommendation of the screening teams, Yemeni authorities are mostly amenable to their release.

Modalities of Travel: The cost of the journey to Yemen for Somalis or Ethiopian migrants approaching smuggling rings in their countries of origin (usually Mogadishu or Dire Dawa) ranges between USD 380 and 450.

Yemen curbs smuggling and trafficking:

There has been a notable decrease in the number of smuggling vessels landing in Lahj. This may be attributed to previously reported campaigns against trafficking and smuggling by the military, coast guards and community monitoring groups. Boat traffic has shifted to Taiz coast. Military authorities based in Taiz have also initiated campaigns against trafficking and smuggling. The impact by the Taiz authorities on landings of smuggling boats at the coast is yet to be witnessed. There were reported incidences of gun battles between smugglers/criminal

	<p>gangs and Yemeni authorities attempting interception. Yemen coast guards intercepted migrants/smugglers at sea near the Mayun Island (close to Al Ghureira village). In one such incident it seems that smugglers engaged the coast guards in a gun battle. No fatalities or injuries onboard the vessel were reported.</p> <p>IDPs: In late January and early February, thousands of persons became displaced due to recent fighting in Rada'a district in Al Bayda Governorate. Many IDPs have taken shelter with host families, in farm sheds, and even in caves in Rada'a district and in Dhamar Governorate.</p> <p>Caveat: <i>Despite the network of local partners collecting data along parts of the Arabian and Red Sea coasts it cannot be assumed that this data captures all new arrivals. Particularly, there may be those that arrive along the northern stretches of the Red Sea coast, beyond the data networks. Consequently the actual numbers of new arrivals in Yemen may be higher. Yemen Red Crescent and the Danish Refugee Council are planning to extend the patrol area further north along the Red Sea coast.</i></p>
<p>Other Regional news</p>	<p>Dar es Salaam: The Home Affairs Deputy Minister cites corruption among immigration stakeholders as fueling a massive syndicate that drives the smuggling of migrants in the sub Sahara region. He urged the East African Community (EAC) and Southern African Development Community (SADC) to make collective efforts to address the vice. Migrants using the Eastern Corridor often have in mind South Africa as their final destination due to its relative economic prosperity in the region.</p>

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