



# Regional mixed migration summary for March 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><b>Djibouti</b></p>	<p><b>New Arrivals:</b> In March 2013, an estimated 8,568 migrants arrived on Yemen's shores via Djibouti, a 12% increase from February. Numbers of Ethiopians crossing the Red sea in March 2013 were 40% more than those who crossed in January. A total of 21,658 migrants crossed into Yemen via the Red Sea in the first quarter of 2013, 16% less than the first quarter of 2012. 90% of the first quarter totals crossing from Djibouti were Ethiopian. The rest were Somali.</p> <p><b>Boats:</b> A total of 100 vessels left via the Red Sea for Yemen carrying an average of 85 passengers per trip in the month of March.</p> <p><b>Migrant vulnerability:</b> Cases of migrants thrown overboard continue to be reported. An Ethiopian man was thrown overboard by smugglers because he did not have an additional USD 50 demanded by smugglers. An unknown number of migrants, some of whom could not swim, jumped overboard, frightened by a fierce gun battle between community members off the Lahj coast and an inland smuggling gang. The community members had denied the smuggling vessel an opportunity to land on the coast. Some of those who jumped, mostly Ethiopian, remain unaccounted for and it is feared that they are drowned. Two Somali men reportedly passed away in Loya Ade after falling sick, they were either previously ailing or succumbed to exhaustion. Reports indicate that the gang rape of females is rife during the boat journey from Obock to Yemen. Almost every female encountered confirmed being the victim of or witnessing a rape during the boat journey. In addition, young females face possible abduction while awaiting departure to Yemen in Obock. It was reported that seven females, including minors, were held hostage in the house of a smuggler in Obock.</p> <p><b>Arrest and Deportation:</b> In January 2013, it was reported that 40 Ethiopian refugees and asylum seekers were deported from Djibouti to Ethiopia. The deportation sparked the movement of seven Ethiopians who had previously sought asylum in Djibouti to travel to Yemen in March.</p> <p><b>Response:</b> In the first quarter of 2013, IOM assisted 161 Ethiopians to return home from Djibouti, up from 10 in the first quarter of 2012 and 69 for the entire year. In March 2013, 20 migrants were awaiting assisted voluntary return to Ethiopia at the MRC in Obock.</p>
<p><b>Somaliland</b></p>	<p><b>Modalities of the Movement:</b> Most migrants hail from Woqoyi-Galbeed, Togdheer and Sanaag. They travel to Yemen in search of economic opportunities. Somalis from Togdheer, Awdal and Woqoyi-Galbeed journey to Hargeisa, make contact with a smuggling broker, and pay about USD180 each for the journey to Yemen. Two Somalis travelled from Hargeisa to Zaila departure point of Somaliland. They paid USD150 to Somaliland crew. They disembarked at the Al-Ghuraira coast.</p>
<p><b>Eritrea (Sudan/ South Sudan)</b></p>	<p><b>Eritrean and Sudanese migrants continue to face resistance in Israel.</b> Eritrean and Sudanese migrants including asylum seekers detained in Israel are being threatened with prolonged detention to pressure them to leave. The criterion is either return or face extended periods of detention. In this regard, returns may not be voluntary. UHNCR has said that there is inadequate access to the asylum process and low approval of refugee claims. Both groups of migrants face possible persecution on return. Sudanese migrants risk 10 years in prison for visiting Israel, while Eritreans may face persecution for evading compulsory national military service. The</p>

	<p>Attorney General in March called for a halt to returns of irregular migrants until relevant legal issues could be clarified. The directive was made after an Eritrean man was forced to leave for Uganda or face 3 years in prison. Uganda denied the man entry, and he was sent to Egypt. Egypt also denied the man entry and he was scheduled for return to Israel. Reports indicate that Israel is holding an estimated 2,000 African migrants including 1,100 Eritreans and 600 Sudanese in two detention centres near its border with Egypt.</p> <p><b>South Sudan:</b> The South Sudanese Embassy in collaboration with the African Inland Church assisted 1000 South Sudanese in camps in Khartoum to return to South Sudan. Over 40,000 South Sudanese reportedly live in poor conditions in camps in and around Khartoum and are in need of return and other humanitarian assistance.</p> <p><b>Sudan:</b> The Sudanese National Assembly has received a proposed law to combat human trafficking from the cabinet. The Bill proscribes human trafficking, ascribing a penalty of upto to 20 years for perpetrators. The law also addresses the issue of cross border crime. It is reported that a section of the Government blames human trafficking activities on the presence of foreigners in the country. Presently the penal code, maritime law and child law have provisions dealing with human trafficking. The US State Department report on human trafficking defines Sudan as a source, transit and destination country for men, women and children subjected to forced labour and sex trafficking.</p>
<p><b>Ethiopia</b></p>	<p><b>New Arrivals:</b> An estimated 10,106 Ethiopians made their way to Yemen in March 2013. In total, 25,096 Ethiopian migrants crossed into Yemen in the first quarter of 2013, 9% less than the number crossing in the first quarter of 2012. New arrivals cite the search for economic opportunities and many seek to travel further North to Saudi Arabia. The Oromo community mostly from Hararge and Jimma dominate the number of new arrivals. However, Ethiopians of Ogaden, Amharic, Tigray and Afari descent are also part of the movement. Many are illiterate farmers. Occasionally, students are part of the movement and cite flight on the grounds of persecution for political beliefs. Migrants report that defectors of the Oromo Liberation Front (OLF) fear persecution from the group and young men fear persecution from the State as a result of real or perceived membership to the OLF. Ethiopian farmers fleeing from West Hararge indicate that drought and occasional flash floods frustrated their livelihood opportunities. Some farmers continue to cite imposition of high government taxes as prompting their decision to leave, and others cited land appropriation by the Government in favour of multinational corporations. Farmers indicated that objection to arbitrary land appropriation led to arrest and possible detention.</p> <p><b>Modalities of Travel:</b> Travel is financed through money borrowed from relatives or remittances from the large diaspora community. Ethiopians rely on a smuggling ring with a base in Dire Dawa. A new ring seems to be emerging in East Hararge. They paid between USD270 and USD380 for the journey to Yemen, including the sea crossing. From Dire Dawa, they walked for seven to nine days with the aid of Ethiopian and Djiboutian smugglers to Tadjoura, where they boarded a vehicle for Obock. Some reported waiting up to 20 days at the Obock departure point before departing for Yemen. Many face starvation and dehydration during the waiting period under the strict control of armed smugglers in Djibouti. Those who travel independently indicated paying about USD120 to brokers/smugglers they met in Djibouti for the sea crossing.</p> <p><b>Arrest and Deportation of Migrants:</b> 29 Ethiopians were arrested in Malawi, apparently on their way to a camp in Lilongwe. They stated that they travelled through Kenya and Tanzania and then utilized unauthorized routes to enter Malawi.</p>
<p><b>Kenya</b></p>	<p><b>Kenyan courts temporarily halt the move for the encampment of urban refugees:</b> Following the issuance of a conservatory order temporarily halting relocation on 23rd January, 2013, still in place, UNHCR reported a notable decrease of pressure on refugees in March. However harassment has caused many to flee. With regard to the suit, the government has thus far failed to enter appearance. The High Court will mention the matter in April pending further direction on hearings. The recent change in government may cause the push for refugee returns to be temporarily placed in abeyance as the new government deals with establishing required governance structures.</p> <p><b>Refugees and Asylum seekers in Kenya:</b> Kenya hosts a total of 608, 974 asylum seekers and refugees. Majority are Somali nationals (509,803), followed by South Sudanese (38,993), and Ethiopians (32,123). Kenya</p>

	<p>also hosts refugees and asylum seekers from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Sudan, Rwanda, Burundi, Eritrea and Uganda. Overall UNHCR has 46,000 pending asylum applications. In the first quarter of 2013, 891 asylum applicants were recognised as refugees, while 1,213 asylum applications were rejected. Refugees and asylum seekers reside in Nairobi (52,117), and the Northern camps Daadab (283,360), Alinjurgur (159,471), and Kakuma (114,026).</p> <p><b>Refugee returns from Kenya:</b> UNHCR reported a total of 459 refugee returns, 210 from Ifo 2, 195 from Ifo 1, and 54 from Nairobi. They travelled to locations in Somalia including Juba Hoose, Banaadir, Juba Dhexe and Hiraaan regions. Reasons for return include harsh living conditions at the camps, improving security situation in Somalia and the desire to rebuild their properties and farms in Somalia. The returnees reported food, shelter, livelihood support, protection from conflict and health as urgent needs. A total of 71% returnees were female. Employed routes are through Kismayo and Barawa which takes nine days, or Dhobley and Afgooye, which takes five days. New arrivals speak of a long, difficult and expensive journey (USD 105 per family) especially with young children. They also complain of robbery and harassment particularly at Al Shabaab controlled check points. Their immediate needs, now in Mogadishu, are access to livelihood and shelter.</p>
<p><b>Puntland</b></p>	<p><b>Arabian Sea arrivals in Yemen:</b> In March 3,238 migrants crossed the Arabian Sea to Yemen a 22% increase from February 2013. Majority were Ethiopians (70%) while the rest were Somali. The Arabian crossing has become less popular than the Red Sea crossing in recent years perhaps because it is longer taking 10 to 30 hours as opposed to the Red sea crossing which takes between three and five hours.</p> <p><b>Migrant vulnerability:</b> In Bosasso, two men were arrested at the southern checkpoint of Garowe, after they were found trafficking seven young girls aged between five and seven years from Southern Somalia to Lasanood in Sool region. The children were handed over to Ministry of Women and Family Affairs, and family tracing and reunification efforts were underway.</p>
<p><b>Somalia (S-C)</b></p>	<p><b>Somali movements to Yemen:</b> In March, Somalis arriving on the Yemeni coast originated from the Shebelles, Bay, Banadir and Juba regions of South and Central Somalia. Many belong to the majority clans of Dir, Darood and Hawiye. A handful belonged to minority clans such as Rahanweyn or Jareer. Typically, the migrants have only basic level education, and may have previously worked as farmers, herders or petty traders prior to their flight. Arrivals from Lower Shebelle and Mogadishu continue to cite arbitrary arrest on suspicion of Al Shabaab affiliation, and youth claim that they are subjected to ill treatment as government authorities attempt to obtain confessions. Those fleeing from Belet Weyne decried the imposition of a daytime curfew by the Ethiopian military in Somalia indicating that this had negatively impacted on their ability to eke out a living. Some Somali refugees claimed that they had defected from Al Shabaab and feared reprisals.</p> <p><b>Modalities of Travel:</b> Somalis from South and Central Somalia continue to indicate that they made contact with a smuggling ring (s) based in Mogadishu and paid USD 450 each for the journey to Yemen. This fee covered their flight to Berbera, journey to Loya Ade and across the Djiboutian border, onwards to Obock and for the sea journey to Yemen. Those opting for independent travel made their own way to Djibouti and then paid USD150 to a smuggling broker contact once in-country. This covered the cost of journeying through Djibouti to Obock and for boat fees for the sea journey to Yemen. The travel route across Somalia was generally from Mogadishu to Jowhar, Belet Weyne, Galcakyo and then Hargeisa before proceeding to Loya Ade. Some of those that opted to travel overland by vehicle indicated that they faced arrest at checkpoints mounted in Garowe, Puntland. Following the charge of affiliation to Al Shabaab, they were likely to be released on paying a USD 50 bribe.</p> <p><b>Security related incidences:</b> Overall the relative security situation in Mogadishu is said to have improved following the inauguration of President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud in August 2012. This fact was acknowledged by arrivals from South and Central Somalia. However sporadic suicide attacks, conflict-related population displacement and socio-economic problems persist. On 18<sup>th</sup> March a car bomb in Mogadishu killed several people. Al Shabaab claimed responsibility for the attack.</p> <p><b>IDPs: IDP levels in Somalia remain approximately 1.1 to 1.3 million individuals,</b> Between 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> of March, at least 4,553 people were displaced from different areas in Puntland and South Central, mainly due to</p>

	<p>insecurity (Xudur town in Bakool), IDP evictions in Mogadishu, lack of livelihood opportunities, drought and IDP returns. Major areas of return/movement include Bari, Bakool, Banaadir, Juba Hoose and Shabeele Hoose, as well as Bari, Nugaal (Puntland), Togdheer and Waqooyi (Somaliland). Priority needs reported include food, shelter, livelihood support and civilian protection.</p>
<p><b>Yemen</b></p>	<p><b>New Arrivals:</b> In March 2013, 11, 806 migrants crossed into Yemen via the Red Sea (Djibouti) and the Arabian Sea (Somaliland/Puntland). This was a 14% increase from February 2013 and a 9% increase from February 2012. In the first quarter of 2013, 29,469 migrants landed on the Yemeni coast representing a 12% decrease from first quarter arrivals in 2012. Ethiopians constituted 85% of first quarter arrivals. Some new arrivals make their way to Kharaz camp as refugees, others proceed to urban Yemen in search of economic opportunities while others hope to journey onward to Saudi Arabia.</p> <p><b>Boats &amp; passengers:</b> There were a total of 143 migrant boat trips that arrived on the Yemeni coast in March 2013. The average number of passengers on each boat was 82 per trip (not including smugglers/crew).</p> <p><b>Migrant abuse in Haradh, Yemen:</b> In March 2012, “According to the testimonies collected, it appears that the majority of the approximately 3,000 women held by smugglers in Haradh over the past year were raped, many of them repeatedly,” said UNHCR’s Taklu-Nagga. The discovery of 70 battered men and women held captive in a remote area of Yemen’s Hajjah Governorate near the Saudi Arabian border sparked an investigation into the torture and extortion of African immigrants by criminal gangs, local authorities reported. The men and women, Oromos and ethnic Somalis from Ethiopia’s Somali region, had been held for some time in a house in the Sharqia area of Haradh city. According to an Interior Ministry report, 170 Africans were held captive, tortured and mistreated by criminals in Haradh between January 2011 and February 2012. The victims include 91 young men, 10 women, 50 children and 19 elderly men, and most had been beaten, scalded or punched in the face, leaving some with visual and hearing problems. The Haradh Security Department identified 19 owners of properties with yards and high walls in villages outside the city suspected of being used as detention centres.</p> <p><b>Migrant vulnerability:</b> Migrants continue to be taken hostage for ransom upon arriving at the Red Sea/Gulf of Aden. Demanded ransom amounts varied from USD 270 to USD 400. On 4th March, inland criminals shot at migrants who resisted boarding waiting vehicles. An Ethiopian female was injured and two Ethiopian men were shot dead. Armed men riding motorcycles continue to assail new arrivals as they walk along the Red sea/Gulf of Aden coastal roads with the intention of taking them hostage. In one instance, they opened fire towards new arrivals injuring four Ethiopians, among them two females. Reports indicate that one gang has obtained the services of an Ethiopian female as an interpreter. It remains unclear if she willingly renders her services. One death at sea was reported. On 25th of March 2013, local media reported that Yemeni security services in Al-Zuhra district of Hodeida Governorate had rescued 52 Ethiopian migrants held hostage by a criminal gang headed by a 35 year old smuggler. The Ethiopians were bound with iron and showed signs of physical abuse. The survivors reported that two migrants had died as a result. Three individuals were arrested awaiting arraignment, while the head of the gang is at large. The Ethiopian nationals received medical attention facilitated by the Yemeni government.</p> <p><b>Arrest and Deportation of Migrants:</b> The Deportation Department in the Immigration and Passport Authority has extradited 2,500 illegal African migrants from Yemen since the beginning of 2013, according to officials. In March, 850 migrants were detained and returned to their home countries. A majority of the migrants were intercepted in the Northern governorate of Sada’a.</p> <p><b>Yemen curbs smuggling and trafficking:</b> As a result of increased surveillance at the Lahj coast only one smuggling vessel landed there, traffic was diverted to the Taiz coast. Reports on human trafficking and irregular movement of migrants from Yemen to Saudi Arabia through the Southern border are raising national security concerns in Riyadh and Sana’a. The border is 1800km of mountainous terrain. Criminals and terrorists are also allegedly exploiting the movement to smuggle militants and weapons across the border. It is reported that Security officials in Saudi Arabia fear that some of the migrants may have links with Al Shabaab.</p> <p><b>Responses:</b> Officials in Saudi Arabia announced they were working in collaboration with the Yemeni government to curb the illegal immigration trend and reign in on human trafficking and other illegal activities at the borders. Human rights groups and NGOs are calling for a review of the Yemeni legislation on trafficking, judicial reforms that will better address trafficking, irregular movement and other illegal activities. Presently, the penal code</p>

	<p>ascribes a penalty of 10 years for those involved in the buying and selling of human beings, however enforcement has been poor.</p> <p><b>Caveat:</b> <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 in 2013.</i></p>
<p><b>Other Regional news</b></p>	<p><b>Libya:</b> It was reported that Eritrean migrants in Libya are being denied access to UNHCR and 76 of them have been forced to clear landmines in Sirte. The migrants are forced to work all day clearing landmines despite their lack of relevant professional experience. It is estimated that about 1,580 Eritreans are detained under harsh conditions at various prison facilities in Libya.</p> <p><b>Saudi Arabia:</b> The Saudi Press Agency reported an amendment to Article 39 of the Saudi Arabian labour law in an attempt to curb the overwhelming number of foreign workers flooding the country, majority of who are Yemeni. The amendment requires foreign workers to work only for their sponsor, the Saudi Arabian individual or company that originally brought them to the country, and prohibits them from opening and running their own business. The amendment could leave over 300,000 Yemenis out of work, and at risk of deportation for being in contravention with the law. A family of 4 was been deported from Saudi Arabia to Mogadishu.</p> <p><b>Rwanda:</b> Camps in Rwanda located in five sites in Gihembe, Kigeme, Kiziba, Nkamira and Nyabiheke, hosting approximately 43,000 Congolese refugees are running out of space a senior Government official has reported. In 2012, over 25,000 Congolese entered Rwanda from Eastern DRC seeking refuge. In March a new wave of Congolese refugees including combatants fleeing recent fighting between two factions of M23 rebels were reported to have crossed into North Western Rwanda overnight.</p> <p><b>Uganda:</b> Children from Uganda trafficked to Juba and forced to sell goods on the street from early morning to late evening and then work late preparing the following days sale were rescued and returned to Uganda. They were identified by 'good Samaritans' in Juba who alerted the Ugandan High Commission of their plight. The 5 children aged between 10 and 16 years were sheltered by an NGO in Juba prior to being assisted to return to Uganda by IOM which was approached for assistance by the Ugandan High Commission. Anecdotal evidence suggests that human trafficking is on the rise in South Sudan. In August 2012, two Kenyan teenage victims of trafficking forced into domestic servitude in Juba were identified and assisted to return. An official from the Anti Human Trafficking Task Force of the Ministry of Internal affairs Uganda reported that the government has information on girls being trafficked to Juba for prostitution in brothels.</p>

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