



# Regional mixed migration summary for August/September 2013

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

**Terminology:** Throughout this report the term migrant/refugee is used to cover all those involved in the mixed migration flows (including asylum seekers, trafficked persons, smuggled economic migrants, refugees). If the case load mentioned refers only to refugees or asylum seekers or trafficked persons it will be clearly stated.

Country	Events /trends/ data / analysis
<p><b>Djibouti</b></p>	<p><b>New Arrivals:</b> In August, an estimated 2007 migrants/refugees arrived on Yemen's shores via Djibouti, a 45% decrease from July 2013 and a 66% decrease from August 2012. In September, 3,120 migrants arrived on the Yemeni shore via Djibouti a 35% increase from August 2013 and a 43% decrease from September 2012. Strong winds on the Red sea, coupled with increased surveillance by the Djibouti coastguard may be contributing to the decreased number of migrants/refugees making the crossing.</p> <p><b>Boats:</b> A total of 43 vessels left via the Red Sea for Yemen carrying an average of 46 passengers per trip in the month of August.</p> <p><b>Migrant vulnerability:</b> Obock remains the primary departure point for migrants/refugees seeking to reach Yemen. Migrants/refugees arriving in Yemen in August reported thousands of their counterparts stranded in Obock. Djibouti authorities are reported to have stepped up efforts to curb the smuggling trade mainly through increased patrols. Migrants/refugees reported demands of an extra USD 70 by smuggling crew who threatened to hand them over to criminal gangs upon arrival on the Yemeni shore if they did not pay the fee demanded.</p> <p><b>Irregular migrants rescued:</b> It was reported that the Djibouti coast guard rescued 100 irregular Ethiopian migrants/refugees after the vessel ferrying them to Yemen developed mechanical problems in August. The vessel which was drifting in Djiboutian waters was towed back to shore by the coast guard and the migrants provided with food and medical assistance.</p>
<p><b>Somaliland</b></p>	<p><b>Authorities arrest suspected smuggler:</b> Somaliland authorities arrested a 42 year old man suspected of engaging in smuggling activities. The man is accused of selling hundreds of forged passports to Somali migrants in addition to being a suspect in a case involving the death of 8 smuggled boys.</p> <p><b>Migrants/refugees depart from Somaliland:</b> In August, 5 vessels were reported to have departed from Somaliland; 2 from Loya Ade and 3 from Zeila. Reports in September indicate that at least 7 small fishing boats may have ferried migrants from Loya Ade under the stewardship of a Somaliland crew.</p>
<p><b>Eritrea (Sudan/ South Sudan)</b></p>	<p><b>Court declares Israel Anti-Infiltration law unconstitutional:</b> A panel of nine judges in September ruled that an amendment to the infiltration law introduced at the beginning of 2012, sanctioning the prolonged detention of migrants and asylum seekers was unconstitutional, and an infringement on their right to liberty, human dignity and freedom. The court stated that prolonged detention was an easy solution to deal with migrants and asylum seekers but not necessarily the correct one. One of the petitioners in the matter stated that administrative detention could not deter immigration and it was unfortunate that the state had imprisoned thousands of migrants and asylum seekers with no justification for their arrest. The State of Israel was ordered by the court to re-examine the status of all migrants held under the unconstitutional provisions within 90 days. An estimated 1,800 migrants/refugees mainly from Eritrea and Sudan are currently held in detention in Israel out of an estimated population of 55,000 migrants and asylum seekers.</p> <p><b>Asylum space, entry and departure from Israel:</b> It was reported that the Population Immigration and Border Authority has received 2,953 asylum requests since January 2013, with only 4 requests granted refugee status by August 2013. An estimated 17,194 asylum requests had been submitted to the Border Authority between July 2009 and August 2013 but only 26 of were successful by the end of August 2013. Further reports indicate that no</p>

	<p>migrant/refugee entered Israel through its southern border with Egypt in August 2013 compared to 193 migrants/refugees reported to have entered Israel in August 2012. According to the border authority 1,897 migrants had left Israel since January 2013, 59% of them nationals of Sudan. Many of the returnees left Israel (government organised) from the Saharonim detention centre.</p> <p><b>South Sudanese flee conflict in Jonglei state:</b> Attacks on civilians fearing for their safety in Jonglei state, Pibor County as a result of fighting between government and rebels forces continues to force thousands to flee their homes. It was reported that an estimated 120,000 civilians are displaced. Humanitarian agencies are constrained in reach because of alleged restrictions by the government, poor weather, logistical constraints and insecurity. An estimated 19,000 South Sudanese have fled to neighbouring countries, mainly Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda since January 2013.</p>
<p><b>Ethiopia</b></p>	<p><b>New Arrivals:</b> An estimated 3,129 Ethiopians made their way to Yemen in August 2013 compared to 3,198 in July. [September figures are still not available as this report goes to press and will added to the October report.] A majority of the new arrivals were from the Oromia region, particularly Hararge and Jimma, and the rest were of Amhara, Tigray, Silte, Ogaden and Afari origin. They were either illiterate or semi illiterate and were engaged in business, farming or pastoralism. Somali Ethiopians and Oromo's cite political persecution as their reason for flight while new arrivals who engaged in farming prior to their departure cite increased government taxation. In September, Muslim Ethiopian arrivals cited persecution on religious grounds. Civilian units recently introduced at known bus stations in Jijiga, Dire dawa and Dawelle, aimed at intercepting the irregular movement of migrants attempting to reach Yemen, may be contributing to the decreasing number of Ethiopian migrants/refugees arriving at the Yemeni coast.</p> <p><b>Refugees and asylum seekers:</b> At the end of August 2013, Ethiopia was host to approximately 420,579 refugees, 241,595 Somali, 75,763 Eritreans, 67,007 South Sudanese and 31,968 Sudanese. [September figures are still not available as this report goes to press and will added to the October report.] An increase in the number of new arrivals from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has been noted in recent months and an influx of asylum seekers is expected from Pibor county as the rainy season nears an end and roads become passable.</p> <p><b>Modalities of Travel:</b> Migrants/refugees may pass through Dhagahbur and Jijiga before traveling onward to Hargeysa and Loya Ade. Others travel from Jijiga to Wajale and onward to Boroma before crossing into Djibouti at Loya Ade. While others board a bus in Addis Ababa to Dire dawa, then walk to the Dawalle. They proceed to Djibouti through Dhikil, a journey that lasts 3 days. They then travel on foot to Tadjora and onward to Obock by bus. Reports indicate that recruiters are targeting children by enticing their parents with the prospect of better economic opportunities in Yemen and further afield. An increasing number of unaccompanied minors are arriving on the shores of Yemen. The minors originate from Jimma, Wallo and Arsi regions.</p>
<p><b>Kenya</b></p>	<p><b>High Court judgement on encampment of urban refugees:</b> The State law office filed a Notice of Appeal against the decision by the High Court in July quashing the government directive requiring the encampment of urban refugees. A source from the office stated that they were waiting to receive an official copy of the proceedings before they proceed to file their Memorandum of Appeal. The copy of proceedings was received on 22nd August 2013 and the State law office has until 22nd October 2013 to file their memorandum.</p> <p><b>Refugees and Asylum seekers in Kenya:</b> Kenya is host to over 570,000 , refugees and asylum seekers, over 51,000 of them in Nairobi. The largest number of refugees and asylum seekers remain Somali nationals (474,790), followed by South Sudanese and Ethiopians.</p> <p><b>Discussion continues on the return of Somali refugees:</b> Kenya, Somalia, and UNHCR continue to engage in dialogue with regard to a proposed tripartite framework agreement whose aim is to inform the voluntary return of Somali refugees in Kenya. Following the Westgate terrorist attack in September and allegations in mid-October that the attack was plotted in Dadaab refugee camp, there have been various calls by certain politicians for all Somali refugees to leave Kenya.</p> <p><b>Police in Garissa arrest a suspected smuggler:</b> It was reported that the Garissa County police arrested an individual involved in issuing identity cards to migrants/refugees to facilitate their movement from the border town of Liboi, North Eastern Province to Nairobi. Authorities are pursuing relevant charges against the suspect.</p> <p><b>Somali migrants/refugees fear backlash:</b> Following a terrorist attack on the Westgate Mall in Nairobi on 21st</p>

	<p>September 2013, by the terrorist group Al Shabab, Somalis residing in the Eastleigh suburb known as 'little Mogadishu' fear backlash from security forces as well as the Kenyan community. Reports from partners on the ground indicate that no systematic violence from security forces or the host community has been directed towards the community. Arrests effected seem directed towards individuals with links to the terror suspects and terrorist activity. Somali migrants/refugees living in Nairobi and its environs have decried the terrorist attack, distanced themselves from the terrorist group, and cited instances where they have been and continue to be victims of the group's violence. Members of parliament however demanded the closure of refugee camps following the Westgate attack. Kenya has a Somali refugee population of 474,790.</p> <p><b>3rd Regional Committee on Mixed Migration:</b> IOM in coordination with the Government of Kenya will host the 3rd Regional Committee Meeting on Mixed Migration on 30th and 31st October in Nairobi. The Regional Committee on Mixed Migration is a multi-ministry intergovernmental committee constituted following a Regional Consultation on Mixed Migration meeting among the Governments of Djibouti, Puntland, Somaliland, Ethiopia and Yemen in December 2010. The Committees 1st and 2nd meetings were held in December 2011 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and in September 2012 in Djibouti. Kenya is a first time committee participant following recommendations from the Djibouti meeting for its inclusion. The Federal Government of Somalia will also participate in this year's meeting.</p>
<p><b>Puntland</b></p>	<p><b>Arabian sea arrivals in Yemen:</b> In August 2013, 1,122 migrants/refugees crossed the Arabian Sea to Yemen from Bossaso and other coastal areas of Puntland, an 89% increase from July 2013 and a 55% decrease from August 2012. [September figures are still not available as this report goes to press and will be added to the October report.]</p> <p><b>Authorities arrest smugglers:</b> It was reported that the Puntland Police Marine Force (PMPF) arrested 19 Somali and Ethiopian suspected smugglers at Elayo, 25km west of Bossaso. The PMPF announced that the arrested individuals would be prosecuted.</p>
<p><b>Somalia (S-C)</b></p>	<p><b>Somali movements to Yemen:</b> An estimated 587 Somalis arrived on the Yemeni shores in August 2013, a 5% decrease from July 2013 and 75% decrease from August 2012. [September figures are still not available as this report goes to press and will be added to the October report.] New arrivals continue to originate from south and central regions including Bay, Banadir, Juba and the Shabelles. A majority of the new arrivals are illiterate and engaged in business and petty trade prior to their departure. Somalis from Banadir and the Shabelles cite the presence of Al Shabab as their reason for flight while Somalis in general continue to flee for a variety of reasons including insecurity and the search for livelihood opportunities. New arrivals belonged to the Hawiye, Digil Mirifle and Dir clans with few individuals from the minority clans of Rahanweyn and Jareer.</p> <p><b>Modalities of Travel:</b> Somali migrants/refugees used a smuggling ring in Mogadishu at a fee of USD 450 for the trip to Yemen which includes, the flight to Berbera airport, transportation to Hargeysa and onward to Loya Ade. Migrants/refugees travelling individually, journey by car through Gaalkacyo to Hargeysa then onward to Loya Ade at a cost of USD 75 and USD 150 for the boat journey to Yemen.</p> <p><b>IDP levels in Somalia remain approximately 1.1 million:</b> Over 57,800 Somalis have been displaced since the beginning of the year. In August over 6,970, Somalis were internally displaced a 40% increase from July 2013. Displacement was mainly due to evictions, floods, insecurity, lack of livelihood opportunities forced return and drought. Displaced populations moved mainly to Shabelle Dhexe, Banadir, Shabelle Hoose, Juba Hoose and Bay regions. An estimated 6,000 IDPs have spontaneously returned to their homes since January 2013. It was reported that the government of Somalia planned to restart the relocation of IDPs in Mogadishu, stalled in July by insecurity at proposed relocation sites such as Dayniile. Mogadishu hosts an estimated 369,000 IDPs.</p> <p><b>Somali Refugee Returns:</b> Over 26,500 Somali migrant/refugee returns have been recorded since January 2013, majority from Kenya. An estimated 1800 Somalis returned in August. However many of the returns are reported to be temporary, aimed at assessing the situation in Somalia.</p> <p><b>Malta and Somalia discuss irregular migration:</b> It was reported that Malta and Somalia for the first time held bilateral relations on irregular migration issues in New York. The discussions between Malta's Prime minister and Somalis deputy Prime minister were reported as an initial step towards collaboration on irregular migration issues. Concrete mechanisms were discussed to this end with Malta making a formal request to establish</p>

	<p>diplomatic relations with Somalia.</p> <p><b>Refugees and Asylum seekers:</b> There are an estimated 998,335 Somali refugees in the region hosted mainly in Kenya, Ethiopia, Yemen, Eritrea, Djibouti and Uganda. Over 21,000 Somalis have sought refuge in neighbouring countries since January 2013. Somalia is host to 2,339 refugees including 63 Zanzibari refugees in Mogadishu and 10,093 registered asylum seekers, mainly from Ethiopia.</p>
<p><b>Yemen</b></p>	<p><b>New Arrivals:</b> In August 3,129 migrants/refugees crossed into Yemen via the Red Sea (Djibouti) and the Arabian Sea (Somaliland/Puntland), an 18% decrease from July 2013 and a 63% decrease from August 2012. [September figures are still not available as this report goes to press and will be added to the October report.] A majority of the new arrivals have in mind Saudi Arabia as their final destination. The decrease in the number of new arrivals may be attributed to unfavorable weather conditions, civilian check points introduced in Ethiopia aimed at intercepting migrants/refugees seeking to travel to Yemen, and increased patrols of the Taiz coast by Yemeni authorities including the arrest of smugglers. Patrols at the Taiz coast made it increasingly difficult for smuggling vessels to operate in August. IOM has assisted 1,400 Ethiopians return from Yemen since June 2013. At least 20% of the migrant's encountered in September were re-attempting their journey to Yemen. New arrivals continue to report abduction on arrival.</p> <p><b>Boats &amp; passengers:</b> There were a total of 57 migrant boat trips that arrived on the Yemeni coast in August 2013. The average number of passengers on each boat was 54 per trip (not including smugglers/crew).</p> <p><b>Migrant vulnerability:</b> Reports of hostage taking continued through August but there were indications that hostage camps may have been relocated about 3 hours up the Jab al Nar road to the mountainous region of Jab al Nar, Mocha district. 1,546 cases of hostage taking were recorded in August, 15 sexual and gender based violence cases, and 153 shooting incidences. Reports indicate that migrants/refugees are facing multiple abductions resulting in ransom demands for their release and female migrants/refugees who are unable to pay ransom demands are sold off to Yemeni households to work as maids. There were no recorded landings in Lahj governorate in August, however the DRC protection team reported the possibility of future Lahj landings from the Zeila and Loya Ade departure points aimed at evading detection by Yemeni authorities. Migrants/refugees reported 3,141 violations in September compared to 2,063 in August 2013. In addition there were 2,529 recorded abductions, 30 sexual and gender based violence incidents, 198 migrant/refugee shootings and 273 migrants including 30 women indicated that they had been physically assaulted during the journey or upon arrival in Yemen.</p> <p><b>Response:</b> The Yemen coast guard continues to mount operations to stop smuggling at the Taiz coast. However in September all vessels landed on the Taiz coast at Al Hureiqa and Al Jadid coast. In August no vessels were able to land at the Taiz coast.</p> <p><b>Regional Conference on Mixed and Asylum from the Horn of Africa:</b> The conference is scheduled to take place on 11-13th November and will be hosted and coordinated by the Government of Yemen, IOM and UNHCR. The conference will seek to address the trafficking and smuggling of migrants, and will explore mechanisms to expand legal avenues for migration and assisted voluntary return programmes.</p>
<p><b>Other Regional news [ &amp; Breaking News]</b></p>	<p><b>UN holds High Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development:</b> The 2nd High Level Dialogue (HLD) on migration and development was held in New York on 3rd and 4th October 2013 aimed at generating action and deepening cooperation among states. Human Rights Watch (HRW) called on states to take measures towards limiting the use of immigration detention worldwide and promote dialogue on migration within a context that facilitates reasonable channels for regular migration. International Organization for Migration (IOM) highlighted health as an issue to be addressed, and the International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC) called on all actors to recognize human dignity as a core value.</p> <p><b>Breaking news: Double boat tragedy on the Mediterranean:</b> Reports indicate that over 300 migrants/refugees drowned half a mile off the island of Lampedusa, when the vessel they were travelling in, stalled and then caught fire in early October. The vessel originated in Libya with nearly 500 migrants/refugees on board, mainly of Eritrean and Somali origin. Victims of the tragedy included pregnant women and children. Among the 155 survivors of the boat tragedy were 6 women and 40 unaccompanied minors aged between 14 and 17 years. Prior to this tragedy an estimated 100 migrants/refugees had drowned off the coast of Italy in 2013 compared to 500 in 2012 and 1500 in 2011. An estimated 30,000 migrants had arrived in Italy by the beginning of October. Migrants</p>

	<p>report fleeing Eritrea to avoid indefinite military conscription. Barely a week into October another migrant boat sunk south east of Lampedusa, in what is considered Maltese waters, killing over 27 migrants. The boat was carrying between 350-400migrants/refugees and reports indicate over 200 migrants/refugees were rescued in a joint Maltese-Italian operation.</p> <p><b>Australian boat arrivals fall by half between July and August:</b> It was reported that since the announcement in July of a new asylum policy by Australia requiring migrants/refugees arriving by boat to be processed and settled in Papa New Guinea, new arrivals dropped from 4,236 in July to 1,585 in August. Over 100 migrants/refugees were rescued north of Christmas island by Australian authorities after their boat capsized in August, 2 of the migrants suffered minor injuries while it was unclear whether any were missing.</p>

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