

Regional mixed migration summary for September 2014 covering mixed migration events, trends and data for Djibouti, Eritrea, Sudan, South 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, and refugees). If the case load mentioned refers only to refugees, asylum seekers or trafficked persons, it will be clearly stated.

Country

Events / trends / data / analysis

Movement: Migrants/refugees move from the Horn of Africa (Ethiopia and Somalia) to Yemen and Saudi Arabia

Yemen

New arrivals: In September 2014, 12,768 migrants/refugees crossed into Yemen via the Red Sea (Djibouti) and the Arabian Sea (Somaliland/Puntland), a 21% increase compared with the number of migrants/refugees that reached Yemen in August 2014, and double the number of migrants/refugees that arrived in September 2013. Approximately 74% of the migrants who reached Yemen in September were of Ethiopian origin while the rest were Somali, maintaining the approximate arrival ratio between the two groups that has existed for the last 3 years.

An estimated 61,224 migrants/refugees have arrived in Yemen since the beginning of 2014. The September 2014 migrant/refugee arrivals are the highest recorded monthly arrivals on the coast of Yemen since the year 2006. The Danish Refugee Council (DRC) protection monitoring team identified 14 migrants/refugees who were re-attempting their journey following deportation from Saudi Arabia in early 2014. UNHCR attributed the ongoing drought in South Central Somalia, the combined effects of conflict, insecurity, lack of livelihood opportunities in countries of origin, and a decreasing level of cooperation between the countries in the region to better manage migratory movements as possible reasons for the surge in arrivals on the coast of Yemen. A revised screening process for new arrivals introduced between June and September 2014 at the UNHCR Bab El Mandeb transit centre, Ahwar and Mayfyaa registration centers revealed that a majority of migrants are in search of economic opportunities as opposed to refugee protection.

Boats & passengers: A total of 216 migrant boat trips arrived on the coast of Yemen in September 2014. The average number of passengers on each boat was 59 per trip (not including smugglers/crew). The main points of landing were Al-Jadid, Uzaf, Al-Ordi, Al-Maqar, Al-Shura, Seikh Saeed, Al-Kadha, Al-Batin Al-Seimal, Al-Huriqia, Wadi and Al-Hober. Some boast are reported to have sailed from Loya Ade in September.

Migrant vulnerability: Kidnapping for ransom and the risk of detention continue to represent the main protection concerns facing migrants/refugees particularly Ethiopians. According to DRC protection monitoring reports, nearly 75% of the migrants/refugees that arrived in Yemen via the Red Sea coast between January and September 2014 were kidnapped and held for ransom on arrival. In September, the DRC protection monitoring team reported that several migrants may have sustained gunshot wounds upon arrival on the coast of Yemen following clashes with smugglers and traffickers. Collusion between boat crews transporting migrants/refugees from Djibouti and criminal groups in Yemen continue to be reported. Authorities in Yemen are reported to have released 71 migrants/refugees held hostage for ransom by criminal gangs in September. According to Ethiopian migrants/refugees freed from traffickers, numerous migrants were still being held hostage.

Legislation to address trafficking: The draft law to address human trafficking is still pending parliamentary approval. IOM and UNHCR are working together to assist governments in the region to follow up on the recommendations contained in the <u>Sanaa Declaration</u>. The Sanaa Declaration arose from a Regional Conference on Asylum and Migration held in Yemen in November 2013.

Authorities respond to trafficking and smuggling: The Yemen military is reported to have increased its patrols along the Red Sea coast, especially between Bab El Mandeb and Mokha (Ta'iz governorate). Raids by authorities against gangs of smugglers and traffickers were also reported. Numerous vessels were seized and burnt following the raids.

Death at Sea: UNHCR reported that 2014 has become the deadliest year at sea for migrants/refugees seeking to reach the coast of Yemen. An estimated 64 migrants and 3 crew members are reported to have drowned in early

October when their boat that was sailing from Somalia capsized in the Gulf of Aden. The death toll at sea for migrants from the Horn of Africa travelling to Yemen reached 215 in the first 10 months of 2014 (up to date of release of this report – 22nd October). Djibouti Departing from Djibouti: In September 2014, an estimated 5,403 migrants/refugees arrived on Yemen's shores via Djibouti, a 23% increase compared to number of migrants that arrived in August 2014. Red Sea arrivals in September 2014 were 73% higher than those recorded in September 2013. Approximately 42% of the migrants/refugees reaching Yemen in September 2014 utilised the Red Sea crossing from Obock, Djibouti. **Boats:** A total of 124 vessels left via the Red Sea for Yemen carrying an average of 43 passengers per trip. The sea voyage took between 5 and 8 hours to reach Yemen. Migrant vulnerability: Migrants/refugees reported tighter border controls in Ethiopia and Djibouti. Some migrants/refugees reported extortion by authorities patrolling the borders. On 12th September, Djiboutian police were reported to have arrested an estimated 200 irregular Ethiopian migrants/refugees together with 3 Ethiopian brokers that were facilitating their movement. The intercepted migrants/refugees were returned to Ethiopia. Migrants/refugees in Djibouti are faced with lack of food and water in Obock, Djibouti as they wait for an opportunity to make the sea crossing. **Puntland Arabian Sea arrivals in Yemen**: In September 2014, 7,365 migrants/refugees crossed the Arabian Sea to Yemen from Bossaso and other coastal areas of Puntland, a 20% increase compared to the migrants/refugees that made the crossing in August 2014. The September 2014 Arabian Sea arrival figures were 358% higher than those recorded for the crossing in September 2013. Somaliland Youth Exodus: Human rights actors and civil society organizations in Somaliland estimate that between 400 and 700 Somaliland youth join irregular flows to Libya through Ethiopia and Sudan every month. Some of these migrants/refugees fall prey to criminal gangs during their journey or upon arrival in Libya that take them hostage and demand ransom from their families back home in Somaliland. Migrants/refugees reportedly transit through Hargeysa, Somaliland on their way to Bossaso, Puntland which is the main departure point to Yemen. A small number of vessels may also be departing from Zeila, Adwal region of Somaliland to Yemen. Somalia Somali movements to Yemen: An estimated 3,325 Somalis arrived on the coast of Yemen in September 2014, a 42% increase from the August 2014 arrivals. The September 2014 arrivals were 253% more than the Somali arrival figures for September 2013. The majority of Somali arrivals in Yemen were from South Central Somalia. Most of those sailing across the Red Sea to Yemen travel from Somaliland, through Loya Ade, Wogoyi Galbeed, Awdal and Togdheer. The primary motivation for migrating is economic (lack of livelihood and of job opportunities), compounded by arbitrary detention and the fear of persecution for perceived affiliation to Al Shabab. Clashes between different clans were also mentioned by some Somali refugees as their reason for migrating. A majority of Somalis intend to seek asylum in Yemen while some new arrivals indicated that they would continue their journey to Saudi Arabia in search of economic opportunities. Refugees and asylum seekers: In September 2014, there were 967,038 Somali refugees in the region hosted mainly in Kenya, Ethiopia, Yemen, Eritrea, Djibouti and Uganda. Somalia has 2,540 registered refugees and 9,511 registered asylum seekers. Modalities of Travel: New arrivals indicated that they travelled from Galckayo, Burao and Hargeysa to Loya Ade and crossed the border to Diibouti with the assistance of a broker, who arranged their whole journey, including the sea crossing at a cost of between USD 300 and 350. Migrants/refugees may also travel by air from Mogadishu to Hargeysa then proceed to the Obock, Djibouti departure point at a cost of USD 300 including the sea crossing from Djibouti to Yemen.

Returns and movement in South Central Somalia: A reported 347 Somalis were deported by air to Mogadishu from Saudi Arabia during the month of September 2014. Due to humanitarian actors funding constraints the deportees received little assistance on arrival in Mogadishu. Since January 2014, more than 23,000 individuals have been forcibly evicted in the Somali capital, including 9,000 IDPs who were evicted in late August/early September in Hodan district. An estimated 7,300 new IDPs were recorded in August and September as a result of the AMISOM and Somali National Armed Forces offensive in South Central Somalia, particularly in Middle Juba and Lower Shabelle. Displacement resulting from insecurity particularly clan-fighting in Lower Shabelle was also recorded. By the end of September 2014 an estimated 9,800 individuals had been displaced as a result of clan fighting. An estimated 329 cross border movements from Kenya to Somalia (Lower Juba and Gedo) were observed in the month of September.

Israel

High Court orders closure of Holot Facility: The High Court of Israel ordered the State to close the Holot detention centre in September and disallowed the incarceration of migrants and asylum seekers without trial introduced via an ammendment to the 1954 infilatration law in December 2013. A similar provision was struck down by the same panel of judges in September 2013. Detractors of the law argued that it contravened Israels Basic Law on Human Dignity and Libery, placed conditions on asylum seekers that forced them to return to countries where they risk persecution, and the Holot facility was not an open center but an isolated facility run like a prison under the Israeli prison authority. The State argued that the law strikes a balance between the interest of the State, the rights of citizens and residents, and the interests of migrants and asylum seekers. An estimated 2,000 asylum seekers and migrants from Eritrea and Sudan held at the Holot detention centre between 10pm and 6am were required to present themselves for a head count three times a day and were prevented from working. The Holot facility has been ordered closed within 90 days and until then, residents will be required to report for 2 counts instead of 3 per day. As a result of the court ruling, authorities are currently allowed to detain asylum seekers for only 60 days as stipulated in the Entry into Israel Law. Read a summary of the ruling here.

South Sudan

South Sudanese flee for safety: An Implementation Matrix of the Cessation of Hostilities (CoH) Agreement was signed on 25 August 2014 by the Government of the Republic of South Sudan and the SPLM/A (In Opposition). The Implementation Matrix operationalizes the cessation of hostilites agreement of 23rd January 2014. The August agreement was violated shortly thereafter and warring parties met in Arusha, Tanzania in October to renew their commitment to the peace process. The sitatuon in South Sudan remains volatile. Overrall 1.8 million people have been displaced from the current crisis including over 1.3 million internally displaced persons. Over 468,067 South Sudanese have fled since mid-December 2013 to Uganda (128,964), Sudan (102,695), Kenya (43,587) and Ethiopia (192,821). In total the region is host to 598,896 South Sudanese refugees (pre and post 15th December 2013). South Sudan is host to 245,003 registered refugees from Sudan (223,000), Democratic Republic of Congo (15,000), Ethiopia and Central African Republic.

Sudan

Human trafficking in Sudan: UNHCR reported 8 cases of trafficking in Eastern Sudan and 10 cases in Khartoum in the first 8 months of 2014. The cases in Eastern Sudan are a 58% drop compared to reported incidences during the first 8 months of 2013. Two known trafficking cases are currently being prosecuted under the Sudanese Federal Trafficking Act 2014 and the Kassala State Smuggling and Kidnapping Act 2010. The Ministry of Interior is reported to have cited an increase in human trafficking in the country since the year 2007 particularly in the eastern States of Kassala, EL Gedaref, Red Sea and Darfur. Unconfirmed reports indicate that Sudanese authorities in October freed 17 Eritreans held by traffickers in Kassala, Eastern Sudan. The released Eritreans exhibited physical signs of torture.

Regional Conference on Trafficking and Smuggling: Sudan hosted the African Union (AU) Regional Conference on Human Trafficking and Smuggling in the Horn of Africa between 13th and 16th October 2014. The main objective of the conference was to enhance regional cooperation and identify contemporary mechanisms to address irregular movement. Sudan is reported to have ratified international instruments and adopted domestic legislation to address human trafficking and smuggling. The conference was attended by representatives from the governments of Sudan,

Eritrea, Yemen, Ethiopia and Egypt all affected by the trafficking and smuggling phenomena. It was co-organized by IOM and UNHCR with the participation of international and civil society organizations as well as delegations from transit and destination countries including Djibouti, Tunisia, Libya, Malta, Italy, and Saudi Arabia. It culminated in a ministerial conference aimed at adopting recommendations to address trafficking and smuggling in the Horn of Africa and surrounding region. Read a joint press release on the conference here. **Eritrea** New militarization campaign: The Government of Eritrea is reported to have launched a new recruitment campaign coordinated by local authorities to intensify militarization in early October. Recruits names were posted on notice boards in what was reported to be the first round of calls to be implemented in stages. This particularly call was said to be outside the normal military service required of students who have completed their highschool education. It was reported to target civilians who have not been trained by the National Service or the Peoples Army. It is feared that the call may contribute to the increasing number of Eritreans seeking refuge outside the country. In September, the UN Human Rights Council appointed Mike Smith of Australia and Victor Dankwa of Ghana to join Ms. Sheila Keetharuth, the Speical Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Eritrea, on a Commission of Inquiry to investigate human rights abuses in Eritrea. An estimated 32,000 Eritreans are reported to have arrived on the shores of Italy in the first 9 months of 2014. **Ethiopia** New arrivals in Yemen: An estimated 9,443 Ethiopians made their way to Yemen in September 2014, 15% higher than arrivals in August 2014, and 149% more than number of Ethiopians that arrived in September 2013. Ethiopian migrants were predominantly from Oromia and Tigray, Amhara, Harar, and Ogaden regions. Economic factors continue to be the primary motivation for migrating to Yemen and Saudi Arabia. However, new arrivals also mentioned the fear of persecution for their political and/or religious beliefs as their motivation for migrating. In particular, some Ethiopians reported cases of arbitrary detention and torture for perceived affiliation to the Oromo Liberation Front (OLF). Modalities of Travel: New arrivals mainly traveled from East/West Hararge and Dire Dawa. They entered Djibouti through Dawalle and Tadjoura and proceeded to Obock, Djibouti. They paid between USD 300 and 420 for the entire journey including the sea crossing. Refugees and asylum seekers: By the end of September 2014 Ethiopia was host to 643,955 refugees from South Sudan (256,147), Somali (246,301) and Eritrea (104,343) among other nationalities. A surge in Eritrean arrivals in Northern Ethiopia was noted at the beginning of September. An estimated 200 Eritreans were reported to be crossing into Ethiopia every day including unaccompanied minors and separated children. Migrants to be assisted to return home: IOM will assist over 450 Ethiopian migrants detained in Tanzania prisons for immigration violations to return home during the month of October. A team composed of representatives of IOM in Tanzania and Ethiopia, the Ethiopian Consulate in Tanzania and Tanzania immigration and prisons officials will visit 6 prisons to verify the nationality of detained Ethiopians. Following the verification exercise migrants will be issued with travel documents and return will take place at the end of October. Since 2009 IOM has assisted over 2500 Ethiopian returnees. Another 130 Ethiopians will be assisted to return by the end of 2014 in addition to the 450 scheduled for return in October and 220 that returned in April 2014. Every year thousands of migrants travel through the eastern corridor hoping to reach South Africa. Many of the migrants are young men looking for job opportunities but women, children and unaccompanied minors are increasingly being identified as part of the movement. Read the press briefing note here. Kenya Refugees and asylum seekers in Kenya: Kenya is host to 583,197 refugees and asylum seekers, 50,271 of them in Nairobi (urban refugees). The largest number of refugees and asylum seekers remain Somali nationals (428,987), followed by South Sudanese (87,205), and Ethiopians (30,476). Tens of thousands of undocumented migrants from neighbouring countries and further afield continue to reside in Kenya, predominantly in urban areas. Progress on the Tripartite Agreement: The Tripartite Agreement was signed on 10th November 2013. All 12 representatives from Kenya, Somalia and UNHCR were nominated to sit on the Tripartite commission in the first quarter of 2014. The commission is tasked with advancing voluntary and organized repatriation of refugees as well as the reintegration of returnees in Somalia. An official launch of the commission was scheduled for April in Mogadishu but was postponed to May in Nairobi and anticipated to take place in Nairobi during the month of August. The commission once again failed to launch in August. An estimated 3,000 Somali refugees in Dadaab refugee camp have expressed interest in returning to Somalia. Somali refugees who have registered for support to return are being informed in advance about the current situation in South Central Somalia, including drought and security challenges arising from AMISOM and Somali National Armed Forces offensive against Al Shabab.

Recruitment agencies licences revoked to protect Kenyan workers: The Government of Kenya revoked the licences of 930 private employment agencies recruiting Kenyan labourers for opportunities in the Middle East. The Labour Cabinet secretary is reported to have said that the move was necessary to safeguard the welfare and dignity of migrant workers. Recruitment agencies were directed to make fresh applications for accreditation with the Labour Ministry which will be issued following a stringent vetting process. Numerous cases of women girls in distress in the Middle East particularly Saudi Arabia and Lebanon continue to be reported.

Other Regional news

Movement across the Mediterranean: Between January and the start of October 2014 an estimated 165,000 migrants/refugees (nearly triple the 2013 number) including 10,000 minors had crossed the Mediteranean Sea. The majority of the arrivals were received on the Italian coast as a result of the Italian rescue at sea operation *'Mare Nostrum'*. An estimated 474 migrants had arrived in Malta by October 2014 compared to 2,008 in 2013. UNHCR reported that 90,000 migrants/refugees crossed the Mediterenean Sea between 1st July and 30th September 2014, nearly 50% of them Syrians and Eritreans. In the first half of the year 75, 000 migrants/refugees made the crossing with a recorded 800 deaths. The surge in crossings is expected to continue until the end of October when weather conditions may become more prohibitive.

Death at sea: An estimated 2,775 migrants died between 1st July and 30th Sepember. Collectively 3,343 migrants/refugees have died or gone missing in 2014, attempting the Mediteranean Sea crossing according to information from UNHCR. The risk of losing your life while attempting the Mediteranean Seavcrossing has so far doubled in the second half of 2014 compared to the first 6 months of the year. States have been urged to increase search and rescue efforts as well as regular channels of migration to stem migrant deaths. Reported deaths on the Mediteranean have included children.

Frontex to support *Mare Nostrum*: As from 1 November 2014, at the earliest, the Frontex coordinated joint operation '*Triton*' will start its activity in the Central Mediterranean in support of Italian search and rescue efforts. Italy has over the last year led the search and rescue mission *Mare Nostrum* (Our Seas) and continues to request for Europe-wide burden-sharing in the rescue of distressed migrants/refugees at sea. While details of the '*Triton*' operation are still under consideration, preliminary reports indicate that it will be restricted to the Italian coast as opposed to *Mare Nostrum* which rescued migrants in Libyan waters, and will include 3 ships and 2 survelliance planes. Further, it has been said that '*Triton*' will rely on human and technical resources made available by participating member States. Its overrall effectiveness will reportedly be dependant on financial and logistical support provided by member countries. Ongoing discussions indicate that the operations monthly projected budget is currently a third of *Mare Nostrum*'s monthly costs. The commissioner designate for migration and home affairs is reported to be striking a liberal cord with regard to opening up legal migration channels to Europe and respecting the rights of migrants/refugees. The Italian Prime Minister is reported to have assured the continuation of *Mare Nostrum* until the European Union (EU) can effect a similar or better rescue operation.

EU to launch mass hunt for irregular migrants: The EU plans to launch a police operation *Mos Maiorum* to address irregular movement between 13th and 26th October 2014. *Mos Maiorum* is a Joint Police Operation launched by the Italian Presidency of the Council of the European Union. Its aim is to weaken the capacity of organized criminal groups that facilitate irregular movement to the EU with a focus on irregular border crossing. The operation will also collect intellegience on irregular migration routes to the EU, the mode of operation of criminal facilitators and secondary movements. Human rights groups have voiced concern that operation will result in the rounding up, detention and deporation of tens of thousands of irregular migrants including those in need of protection. A final report on the results of the operation will be presented at a meeting of the Frontier Group in December 2014. A similar operation *Archimedes* coordinated by Europol aimed at dismantling organized criminal groups involved in smuggling and trafficking was conducted between 15th and 23rd September 2014. A reported 170 human smugglers were arrested in the operation. Nearly 450,000 asylum seekers make their way to the EU every year, with the number expected to rise in 2014. Read the Council's note on the operation here.

Global Dialogue on Migration and Development: At the begining on October, IOM and the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs hosted a workshop in Rome 'Integrating Migration into Development: Diaspora as a Development Enabler'. The workshop was designed to further the ongoing global dialogue on migration and development including; the outcome on the 2013 High Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development (HLD), the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD), and the IOM Ministerial Conference, with a focus on issues affecting the Mediterranean. Recommendations from the event will seek to promote the EU position on the UN post-2015 agenda framework for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and new Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The workshop was attended by government representatives, migration and development experts, and representatives of NGOs. The overall objective was to enable development policy makers and practitioners from participating countries to better integrate migration into their national development planning and regional cooperation strategies. Read IOMs press briefing note on the conference here.

New Research, reports or documents

Unaccompanied Migrant and Refugee Children: Alternatives to Detention in Malta (October 2014): The summary report stems from an IOM/UNHCR Joint Technical Mission to Malta in May 2014. The purpose of the mission was to support Malta in the management of mixed flows comprising unaccompanied minors and refugee children. The report highlights the current reception system in place for migrant children arriving from North Africa and makes seven recommendations amongst them consolidating institutional coordination, strengthening early identification and first reception procedures. Read the summary report <a href="https://example.com/here-en/bull-new-market

Lives Adrift: Refugees and Migrants in Peril in the central Mediterranean (September 2014): The Amnesty International report proposes that in the absence of safe and regular migration avenues for refugees and migrants to Europe, the EU and its member states must protect the lives of migrants attempting the Mediterranean crossing, allow access to the asylum process and review the Dublin Regulation. Read the report here.

So close, yet so far from safety (October 2014): The UNHCR report provides a succinct summary of movement across the Mediterranean Sea following the October 2013 Lampedusa boat tragedy that resulted in 366 fatalities. It highlights urgent action that should be taken to save lives, risks that migrants face during the crossing, push factors, and the most prominent nationalities identified among migrants crossing the Mediterranean. Read the report here.

Fatal Journeys: Tracking Lives Lost during Migration (September 2014): The IOM report estimates that since 2000 at least 40,000 migrants have died *enroute* to various destinations. The real number of migrant deaths could however be much higher (possibly three times higher) because some of the deaths may have occurred in remote locations and remain unrecorded. Europe is the world's most dangerous migrant destination costing the lives of over 22,000 migrants attempting the Mediterranean Sea crossing since 2000. Read the IOM report https://example.com/here/.

UNHCR Asylum Trends First Half of 2014 (September 2014): The UNHCR trends report documents the increasing search for asylum in industrialized countries in the first half of 2014 driven by conflict and instability in Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan and Eritrea. The report is based on data received from Europe, North America and parts of the Asia Pacific. Over 330,000 people sought refuge in the aforementioned regions in the first half of 2014 and

it is predicted based on previous trends that the number will be higher in the second half of 2014. Read trends report here.

This information sheet is distributed to over 1,400 agencies, academic institutions, donors, embassies, journalists, government officials / departments, international and multi-national organisations and related non-government organisations.

Sources: Data is sourced from a wide variety of collaborators, partners, international and local organisations, media outlets and individuals in the region. The key refugee agency — UNHCR — and migration agency — IOM- are frequently the origin of specific refugee or migrant return-related data. RMMS is a unit/project within the Danish Refugee Council and also uses data and information generated by DRC activities. RMMS makes its own independent editorial decisions as to what sections and what data is included in this monthly update. A media press listing of mixed migration events for this month can be accessed on RMMS's website here