



Regional mixed migration summary for September 2015 covering mixed migration events, trends and data for Djibouti, Eritrea, South Sudan, 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 caseload mentioned refers only to refugees or asylum seekers or trafficked persons it will be clearly stated.

Country	Events /trends /data /analysis
Yemen	<p><i>The conflict in Yemen entered its sixth month with escalation of shelling and fighting putting civilians at risk. As previously reported, due to the conflict, monitoring and data collection activities along the Red Sea and Arabian sea coasts continued to be affected, with a majority of monitoring exercises suspended. The data presented in this report on arrivals in Yemen is therefore not conclusive of the actual number of arrivals during this period.</i></p> <p>Conflict-related displacement: The situation in Yemen continued to deteriorate in the reporting period as increased air strikes and cross-border shelling claimed lives and caused injury. As of 29th September there were 1,439,118 people internally displaced within Yemen.</p> <p>Continued arrivals from the Horn of Africa: An estimated number of at least 449 (444 Ethiopians and 5 Somalis) migrants and asylum seekers arrived in Yemen on 10 boats via the Red Sea in September 2015. 18 unaccompanied minors were identified making the crossing. The new arrivals departed from Obock in Djibouti and docked in the towns of Al-Batin, Al-Shara, Al-Soqaia and Uzaf in Yemen. Migrants reported paying approximately USD 190 for the journey across the Red Sea. According to UNHCR 5,032 persons (4,508 Ethiopians and 524 Somalis) also arrived in Yemen along the Arabian coast between 28th September and 6th October 2015. Due to the reduction of monitoring missions along Yemen's coast, it is likely that actual number of arrivals from the Horn of Africa to Yemen was higher during the period. UNHCR estimate that more than 55,000 persons have arrived in Yemen by sea (Red Sea and Arabian Sea) since the beginning of the year, with 88 deaths at sea reported.</p> <p>Migrant vulnerability: In September 2015, migrants and asylum seekers arriving via the Red Sea reported 383 incidences of violations that they had encountered or witnessed on the journey to Yemen. This is an alarmingly large share (85%) and displays a continuing trend of a disproportionately high number of abuses reported of migrants and asylum seekers travelling to Yemen along this route. The violations included abduction, detention, extortion and torture. Migrants specifically reported the kidnap of 31 Ethiopians upon landing in Yemen, rape against three Ethiopian women by Djiboutian smugglers, and the arrest, detention and eventual deportation of Ethiopian nationals from Djibouti back to Ethiopia. Migrants unable to raise the full amount required for the sea crossing were also reportedly held in smuggling dens in Tadjoura, Djibouti where they were beaten until their family members were able to send more money. According to reports from new arrivals, migrants are being prevented from travelling northwards by Houthi rebel forces who have mounted checkpoints in Suweida.</p> <p>In October 2015, IOM reported on the release of 36 migrants (including Chadians, Ethiopians, Nigerians and Sudanese) who had been held in captivity by criminal gangs for a number of weeks in Hajjah. The migrants had reportedly been abducted, abused, tortured and deprived of food and water. All migrants were assisted by IOM.</p> <p>Refugees in Yemen: There are approximately 250,000 refugees and migrants situated around urban centres in the country, according to UNHCR figures. 240,000 of these are Somali refugees and 10,000 are migrants from Ethiopia, Eritrea, Syria and Iraq. These figures may not however represent the reality of the situation in the country, as they were last verified before the outbreak of conflict in Yemen.</p> <p>Departures from Yemen: The number of people fleeing Yemen to the Horn of Africa (Djibouti, Ethiopia, Somalia and Sudan) continued to climb in the reporting period. As of 11th October, 29,467 persons had arrived in Somalia, 25,561 in Djibouti, 11,787 in Ethiopia and a further 5,540 in Sudan. Of this group persons returning to their countries of origin represent the largest proportion of populations on the move from Yemen. 40,589 returnees have been recorded since the beginning of the conflict, with the majority (64%) returning to Somalia. Yemen nationals seeking refuge account for 23% (16,773) of those on the move.</p> <p>UNHCR launched a data sharing and information portal that presents a regional overview of the displacement</p>

	<p>situation arising out of the Yemen crisis offering statistics, situation reports and other related information.</p> <p>Return to Yemen: According to UNHCR, a number of migrants/refugees arriving in Somalia have indicated a desire to return to Yemen, and in particular to Aden, which was recently recovered by coalition forces.</p>
Djibouti	<p>Departures to Yemen: Available data from the still active monitoring teams indicate that at least 449 migrants (444 Ethiopians and 5 Somalis) departed from Obock and arrived in coastal towns in Yemen. This represents 8% of the total arrivals in Yemen from the Horn of Africa this month. The numbers of actual arrivals are likely to be considerably higher. Migrants reported paying approximately USD 190 to make the boat crossing to Yemen.</p> <p>Arrivals from Yemen: As of 29th September, Djibouti had received a total of 25,561 arrivals from Yemen since the outbreak of the conflict in March 2015. The majority of arrivals are Yemeni nationals (12,172), followed by Third Country Nationals (11,228). Djiboutian returnees number 1,865 persons.</p> <p>Refugees from Yemen: According to figures by UNHCR and ONARS (the government refugee agency), as of 29th September 2015 there were 3,125 refugees registered in Obock including 2,952 Yemeni nationals and various other Third Country Nationals. A government directive issued in May 2015 continues to restrict the movement of Yemeni refugees within Markazi camp located about 4 kilometres Obock. Nonetheless, the majority of refugees opt to relocate from the camp to the urban setting of the capital Djibouti City. The number of Yemeni refugees in the city, or of those moving on to other countries, is unknown.</p> <p>A mapping exercise of Markazi camp was conducted in September 2015. The new plot allocation will accommodate a maximum of 1,570 refugees, while the government expects to host more than 5,000 refugees. A request has been submitted to the government to approve the erection of a new camp to accommodate the additional numbers of refugees.</p>
Somaliland	<p>Arrivals from Yemen: As of 11th October 2015, a total of 9,335 migrants/refugees/returnees had arrived in Somaliland since the outbreak of conflict in Yemen in March 2015. New arrivals docked in the towns of Berbera, Hargeisa, Lughaya, Maydh and Zeila. In September, 167 new arrivals (51% Somali and 47% Yemeni) were recorded. 47 new arrivals have been registered in October so far. With the exception of arrivals recorded in March 2015, this represents the lowest number of new arrivals since the conflict began. According to new arrivals, this is in part a consequence of the proximity of the violence in Yemen to the main departure towns of Mokha and Mukalla, preventing safe passage out of the country.</p> <p>Spontaneous returns to Yemen: UNCHR continues to advocate for the non-return of persons to Yemen. However Yemeni nationals wishing to be voluntarily repatriated to Yemen can approach UNHCR for support. So far at least 43 Yemeni nationals have spontaneously returned to Yemen from Berbera, Somaliland.</p> <p>Returning refugees and asylum seekers in Somaliland: Of the 7,726 Somalis that have arrived in Somaliland since the beginning of the conflict 43% (3,352) had acquired refugee status or sought asylum in Yemen. Somaliland's Ministry of Resettlement, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction (MRRR) is undertaking a review of the legal status of Somali returnees from Yemen. Discussions are ongoing with UNHCR on the development of documentation to be given to Somali returnees under the category "persons of concern".</p>
Puntland	<p>Arrivals from Yemen: Puntland continues to account for the majority (67%) of arrivals from Yemen into Somalia. As of 11th October 2015, a total of 19,765 migrants/refugees/returnees had arrived in Puntland since the beginning of the Yemen conflict. Arrivals have been recorded through the towns of Bargal, Bosasso, Elayo and Qandala. 259 migrants/refugees/returnees arrived in Puntland in September 2015, a marginal increase on arrivals in August. 107 new arrivals have been recorded in October thus far. Nonetheless, the number of arrivals in recent months has been quite low when compared to previous months. The reduction in the number of arrivals can in part be attributed to the proximity of the violence in Yemen to the towns of Mokha and Mukalla, the two main departure points to Somalia.</p>

	<p>Returning refugees and asylum seekers in Puntland: Of the 18,102 Somalis that have returned from Yemen to Puntland since the conflict, 5,677 (31%) people had acquired refugee status or sought asylum in Yemen.</p>
<p>Somalia (South Central)</p>	<p>Arrivals from Yemen: No further arrivals were registered in South Central Somalia from Yemen in the reporting period. However a significant proportion (55%) of those arriving in Somaliland and Puntland indicate an intention to return to Mogadishu specifically.</p> <p>Military offensive to oust Al Shabaab continues to fuel internal displacement: Reports from UNHCR show that the ongoing military offensive in Somalia, mounted by the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and Somalia National Armed Forces (SNAF), continues to displace people in the country. Recent operations have displaced an estimated 8,640 people to Gedo, adding to the estimated 42,000 persons already displaced. The offensive is expected to last until the end of 2015 and possibly into early 2016. The majority of those displaced have sought refuge with relatives in nearby areas. Civilians and IDPs face particular risks in locations recovered from Al Shabaab. UNHCR have noted the presence of illegal checkpoints, where killings, torture, ill treatment, rape, forced recruitments, and extortion reportedly take place. According to UNHCR figures, there are 1.1 million internally displaced persons across the whole of Somalia (Somaliland, Puntland and South Central Somalia).</p> <p>Refugees in the neighbouring countries: There were 967,046 registered Somali refugees and asylum seekers displaced in neighbouring countries in the region as of 9th September 2015. Kenya continues to host the majority of refugees (43%), followed by Ethiopia (26%).</p>
<p>South Sudan</p>	<p>Regional displacement: Security conditions remain volatile as clashes between warring factions drive up displacement. According to UNHCR figures, 638,910 South Sudanese people have been displaced into neighbouring countries since the start of the conflict in December 2013. Ethiopia hosts the largest proportion of these refugees (255,286), followed by Sudan (197,942), Uganda (169,029) and Kenya (46,653). An additional 134,164 who were displaced before the December 2013 conflict are also hosted in the region.</p> <p>Internal Displacement: As of 30th September there were approximately 1.6 million displaced persons in South Sudan.</p> <p>Refugees in South Sudan: Despite the ongoing conflict, South Sudan continues to host 265,701 refugees in the country. The majority of these refugees are from neighbouring Sudan (92%), followed by Democratic Republic of Congo (6%). Refugees from Ethiopia and Central African Republic make up the remaining 2%.</p> <p>Re-drawing of state borders threatens peace deal: On 2nd October 2015, President Salva Kiir unilaterally decreed the division of the country's 10 states into 28 states. The announcement has placed the country on the precipice of sliding back into violence, with rebel forces regarding the move as one that will undermine the peace deal signed in August 2015. Rebel leader Riek Machar immediately denounced the move as "a clear message to the world that President Kiir is not committed to peace". More than seven negotiated ceasefires have failed to take hold since outbreak of violence in December 2013, displacing more than 2 million South Sudanese in the country and in the region.</p>
<p>Sudan</p>	<p>Internal Displacement: Longstanding and intense violent competition over land and resources in Darfur, South Kordofan and Blue Nile states continues to force thousands of Sudanese to abandon their homes. As at 11th October 2015, there were 3.1 million Sudanese internally displaced in the country, of who 2.5 million are in Darfur, with 223,000 newly displaced in the course of 2015.</p> <p>Refugees in Sudan: As at 11th October 2015, Sudan hosted a total 368,299 refugees in the country, including 193,049 South Sudanese and 175,250 refugees from other countries. With the sustained conflict in South Sudan, this number is expected to increase.</p> <p>Sudanese nationals crossing into Europe: Figures from the Italian Ministry of Interior show that 8,370 Sudanese nationals have made the Mediterranean sea crossing into Italy between January and September 2015. 93% of this group is male.</p>

<p>Eritrea</p>	<p>More than 35,000 Eritreans arrive in Europe since the beginning of 2015: According to statistics made available by the Italian Ministry of Interior 35,398 Eritrean nationals (66% male) have crossed the Mediterranean Sea to Italy since the beginning of the year. Eritreans are the single most populous group along this route, accounting for approximately 27% of people crossing. The UN Human Rights Council Commission of Inquiry on Human Rights in Eritrea released a report in June 2015 highlighting systematic, widespread and gross human rights violation, amongst others, as the key drivers of mass migration out of Eritrea. Eritrean nationals arriving in Italy and claiming asylum can be fairly confident of being recognised as refugees. Recognition rates between January and August 2015 show that 90% of claims lodged by Eritreans were positively received, with 89% securing international protection through the 1951 Refugee Convention, and 1% receiving complementary protection through other human rights instruments.</p>
<p>Ethiopia</p>	<p>Arrivals from Yemen: As of 10th October 2015, 11,787 individuals had arrived in Ethiopia from Yemen since the outbreak of violence in March 2015, the majority of who are returning Ethiopian nationals. Of those arriving UNHCR has registered 3,538 asylum seekers and refugees. The majority of this group are Somali (2,515) and Yemeni (1,014). According to UNHCR, the arrivals include Eritrean and Somali nationals who had been granted refugee status in Yemen and are crossing the borders from Djibouti and Somalia into the country. The decision to flee to Ethiopia is in part spurred by migrants/refugees links with the country. UNHCR report that most of the Yemeni nationals arriving were either born or had lived in Ethiopia for many years before moving to Yemen.</p> <p>Refugees in Ethiopia: As of 30th September 2015, Ethiopia was host to 733,312 registered asylum seekers and refugees, maintaining its positions as the host of the largest number of refugees on the continent. The ongoing turmoil in South Sudan continues to push more refugees over the border, with 289,188 refugees in the country. The Government of Ethiopia recently announced that it will grant <i>prima facie</i> refugee status to Yemeni asylum seekers. Eritrean and Somali refugees already benefit from a similar status in the country.</p> <p>Refugees and asylum seekers are generally expected to reside in the country's refugee camps, close to the borders with neighbouring countries, but some are permitted access to urban areas for medical, security and humanitarian reasons. 7,002 refugees are currently reside in Addis Ababa under such arrangements. The government's "out-of-camp-policy" specifically permits Eritrean refugees to reside in Addis Ababa or other locations in the country if they have the necessary means to support themselves.</p> <p>Detention of Ethiopian nationals in Malawi: According to media reports a large number of Ethiopian nationals face tough conditions in Malawi, where they are held in unsanitary, overcrowded prison facilities, with a lack of food and are at risk of contracting illnesses. The migrants, often detained after being charged for illegal entry into Malawi, are reportedly continuously held even though they have served a sentence or paid a fine, as there are no funds to repatriate them. A total of 387 Ethiopian migrants were assisted to return to Ethiopia by the International Organization for Migration (IOM), and further 70 with support from the United States Bureau for Population, Refugees and Migration (BPRM). Every year thousands of Ethiopian nationals irregularly migrate from Ethiopia, through Kenya, Tanzania, Malawi and Mozambique en route to South Africa.</p>
<p>Kenya</p>	<p>Refugees in Kenya: There were 593,529 registered refugees and asylum seekers in Kenya as of 1st October 2015. Somali refugees and asylum seekers account for the majority of this group (421,478), followed by South Sudanese (93,843), Ethiopians (30,805), and other Third Country Nationals (47,403). 90% of the refugee and asylum seeker population are encamped in Dadaab, Alinjugur and Kakuma camps, with 10% residing in the capital Nairobi.</p> <p>Voluntary repatriation of Somali refugees: The repatriation of Somali refugees continued at a steady pace in the reporting period. As of 4th October 2015 a total of 4,851 Somali refugees (999 households) had been supported to voluntarily repatriate from Dadaab refugee camp in Kenya to Somalia. The majority of returnees (80%) arrived in Kenya after 2010. Refugees are reported as returning to Kismayo (2,652), Mogadishu (1,089), Baidoa (923), Luuq (105), Afgooye (25), Badhaadhe (23), and other locations (34). According to UNHCR, there are no reports of further internal displacement of those returned to Somalia.</p> <p>UNHCR and the Department of Refugee Affairs have set up an integrated return help desk in Nairobi where</p>

	<p>refugees willing to return to Somalia can access information on the return process.</p>
<p>Israel</p>	<p>More than 8,000 asylum seekers coerced to leave Israel: According to statistics made public by Israel's Population, Immigration and Border Authority, 8,355 Eritrean and Sudanese asylum seekers were deported from Israel between January 2013 and July 2015. Despite international concern on the human rights conditions 5,667 asylum seekers (1,059 Eritreans and 4,608 Sudanese) were sent back to their countries of origin. 2,688 (1,980 Eritreans and 708 Sudanese) were sent back to other "safe" third countries (Uganda and Rwanda) on the continent. A report released by human rights group International Refugee Rights Initiative (IRRI) in September 2015 alleged that despite assurances made by the Israeli government on the protection of asylum seekers in third countries, they were unable to secure any form of legal status on their arrival. Asylum seekers interviewed by IRRI indicated an intention to move from Rwanda and Uganda through South Sudan, Sudan and Libya, towards Europe.</p> <p>Movement restriction on Eritreans and Sudanese draws criticism: The decision by the Israeli government to prevent Eritrean and Sudanese nationals from residing and working in Tel Aviv and Eliat has elicited criticism from Human Rights Watch for limiting the freedom of movement of those affected. The country's interior ministry announced the ban in August 2015, a few days before a High Court ruling mandated the government to release persons who has been held at Holot detention centre for more than one year. The government released almost 1,200 detainees on two-month conditional release permits. Sections 12 and 13 of the 1952 Entry into Israel Law allow officials to detain anyone breaching the conditions of these permits.</p> <p>The government did not give any reasons for the decision, which in the absence of a necessity to protect national security, public order, public health or morals, or the rights and freedoms of others may be a violation of international law. According to the Human Rights Committee, such restrictions must be proportional and non-discriminatory, and differential treatment on the basis of citizenship must be strictly justified. Official figures by the Israeli government show that 45,000 migrants are in Israel, who are mostly from Eritrea and Sudan.</p> <p>Israeli soldiers conduct at Egyptian border 'unjustifiable': A military investigation into the conduct of Israeli soldiers who opened fire on a group of 15 Sudanese asylum seekers at the country's border with Egypt in August 2015 concluded that the soldiers acted 'unjustifiably' and 'against the rules of engagement'. The shooting wounded three and left one hospitalised in a serious condition. Investigators will determine whether to pursue criminal charges against the soldiers. Israel completed construction a 395-kilometre barbed wire fence along its border with Egypt in December 2013.</p> <p>Spike in numbers of asylum seekers entering Israel: According to local media reports, 142 migrants/asylum seekers have entered Israel since the beginning of 2015, more than those entering in 2013 and 2014 combined. 101 are reported to have entered in August and September alone.</p> <p>Israel announces construction of border fence with Jordan: In September, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced the construction of a border wall on its border with Jordan, announcing that government "will not allow Israel to be submerged by a wave of illegal migrants and terrorist activists". The construction of the 30-kilometre marks the increasing securitised approach of the Israeli government to the attempt by refugees and migrants to pass through its territory. The government plans to extend this wall to the Golan Heights and is an extension of the wall built on the border with Egypt in 2013.</p>
<p>Other regional news and news from other regions</p>	<p>Consultations on African Regional Frameworks on Migration convene in Ghana: On 16th-18th September the Government of Ghana hosted the first Joint Annual Forum for Intra-Regional Consultations of African Regional Frameworks on Migration. The three-day conference was a joint initiative of the African Union Commission (AUC), International Organization for Migration (IOM), the Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and the International Labour Organization (ILO). The meeting was convened under the theme "Enhancing capacities of Africa Regional Frameworks on Migration to Facilitate Intra-Regional Labour Mobility, Free Movement of Persons and Integrated Border Management", with an aim to achieve this through sharing of knowledge, information and best practices.</p>

The Forum is expected to contribute to the implementation of the [African Union Assembly Declaration on Migration](#), adopted at its 25th Ordinary Session in Johannesburg in June 2015, and to provide input to the Africa-European Union Summit on Migration to be held in Valletta, Malta in November 2015.

Egypt drafts new law to criminalise human smuggling: Egypt is one step closer to passing a law that would, for the first time in the country's history, penalise persons who facilitate the undocumented passage of migrants in and out of the country. The proposed law, drafted by the National Coordination Committee for Preventing and Combating Illegal Migration, prescribes a number of possible penalties ranging from an unspecified prison term and a fine of 50,000-200,000 Egyptian Pounds, rising to life imprisonment and a fine 200,000-500,000 Egyptian Pounds if any lives are lost in the process. Egyptian authorities were compelled in the past to rely on an emergency provision in the law by invoking an article relating to threats to public safety. Moreover, the law considers undocumented migrants and "victims" and provides protections. The bill must now be approved by the national committee for legislative reform, before being ratified by the cabinet and signed into law by President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi.

This is the latest development by a government committed to crack down on irregular migration through the country. In a report released by Egyptian armed forces and reported by local [media](#), Egyptian border guards announced the arrest of 2,215 irregular migrants of multiple nationalities in September. Migrants were mainly apprehended in coastal areas including Matrouh, Saloum, Alexandria, Abu Qair, Rashid and El-Borolos, suggesting that the migrants were trying to travel elsewhere via Egypt. In other [reports](#), 34 migrants (19 Sudanese and 15 Ethiopians) and [another](#) 33 migrants (26 Sudanese and 7 Nigerians) were deported from Egypt after a failed attempt to cross into Libya and eventually Italy by sea.

Egypt has been in the centre of news recently following a concern raised by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) about the unusually high proportion of unaccompanied minors travelling from Egypt towards Italy. IOM estimate that 62% of Egyptian migrants arriving in Italy are unaccompanied minors.

Refugee and migrant sea-arrivals in Europe break the half-million mark: As of 5th October UNHCR recorded 550,682 refugee and migrant arrivals in the European Union (EU) by sea. Greece continued to be the most popular entry point accounting for 416,245 of arrivals, with 132,000 arriving in Italy and the remainder arriving in Malta and Spain. 176,176 refugees and migrants arrived in September alone, representing a 419% growth when compared with the same period in 2014. Migrants and refugees from the Horn of Africa continue to dominate the movements along the Central Mediterranean route to Italy (Eritreans 35,398, Somalis 10,050 and Sudanese 8,370 – as at 30th September). Moreover, the significant majority of those on the move (an average of 73% across these three groups) are male.

As the numbers have rapidly increased, political temperatures towards the arriving migrants and refugees have considerably cooled. Germany, which had previously announced a [waiver](#) of Dublin Regulation restrictions for Syrian refugees arriving in the country despite them passing through several EU states on their way, took an [about-turn](#) and reintroduced border controls. Further to the east, countries hurriedly began closing borders and erecting fences. Hungary, one of the countries facing the brunt of arrivals through the Balkans, [closed its borders](#) with Serbia and Croatia and announced plans to build a wall on its border with Romania. Austria declared its intentions to introduce border controls with Italy, Slovenia, Slovakia and Hungary, and Slovakia and Netherlands threatened to put in place similar measures.

In late September, EU interior ministers finally approved a [much-contested plan](#) to relocate 120,000 asylum seekers across the continent over the next two years. Asylum seekers will be moved from Italy, Greece and Hungary to other EU countries. The mandatory quotas faced opposition from Romania, the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Hungary, who voted against accepting the proposition. Syrians, Eritreans and Iraqis will be prioritised in the relocation and member states refusing to accept population will face a financial penalty of 0.002% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Under the EU's constitution, countries that do not agree with the policy have a right of appeal to the European Council if they feel that "the fundamental principles of its social security or legal system are under threat".

Mediterranean deaths at sea: According to figures compiled by IOM's Missing Migrant Project, as of 15th October 2015 3,106 persons had lost their lives in Mediterranean sea crossings since the beginning of the year, accounting for 70% of fatalities worldwide.

Launch of EU operation in Mediterranean: In early October the European Union, backed by Chapter VII resolution 2240 of the United Nations Security Council, activated the second phase of its naval operation to tackle

	<p>smuggler boats in the Mediterranean. Dubbed “Operation Sophia”, it authorises European naval vessels to intercept, board, search, seize and divert vessels suspected of being used for smuggling and trafficking operations. Operation Sophia is however limited to international waters, meaning that ships will have to stay 12 nautical miles away from the Libyan coast and it remains to be seen if and how effective it will be in tackling operations in the Mediterranean. The EU launched the first phase of its operation in June, which authorised the use of naval surveillance for the detection and monitoring of smuggler boats.</p> <p>EU proposes €1.8 billion Trust Fund for Africa: In late September 2015, the European Commission announced a proposal to provide 1.8 billion Euros in funding to African countries to contribute to tackling the root causes of irregular migration and forced displacement. The Fund, which will focus on the Sahel, the Horn of Africa and North Africa regions, will be channelled to projects to support employment creation, especially for young people and women. Support will also be leveraged to countries of origin to strengthen capacities for migration management, border management and countering radicalisation and extremism. The Commission is now counting on the European Parliament and Council to fast track the adoption of these measures before the Valletta Summit on migration in November 2015.</p> <p>UN expert on migrants postpones trip to Australia: The UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants, François Crépeau, cancelled a planned trip to Australia in September 2015 over fears that detention centre workers would face reprisals for talking about the conditions in asylum seeker detention centres in nearby Nauru and Papua New Guinea. Earlier this year, Australia passed the controversial Border Force Act into law, which criminalises the disclosure of “protected information” related to detention centres. Staff who reveal rights abuses could face up to two years in jail. In a written statement to the Australian government, Mr. Crépeau termed the threats to persons wishing to speak to him as “unacceptable”, and said it “prevents [him] from fully and freely carrying out [his] duties during the visit”.</p> <p>Burundi refugees in neighbouring countries: As of 15th October 2015, there were 203,492 Burundian refugees and asylum seekers in countries in the region displaced by election-related violence.</p>
<p>New Research, reports or documents</p>	<p>Yemen Regional Refugee and Migrant Response Plan: UNHCR and IOM presented the launch of a Regional Refugee and Migrant Response Plan (RRMRP) in October 2015. The plan is the outcome of a series of inter-agency planning processes that took place in Djibouti, Ethiopia, Somalia and Sudan. It covers the period October-December 2015 and offers a plan for the delivery of protection and humanitarian assistance to people fleeing conflict in countries around Yemen. The RRMRP projects that there will be an estimated 103,000 persons displaced into the Horn of Africa by the end of 2015, rising to a projected 202,000 by the end of 2016.</p> <p>Media and migration: This report by the Department of Immigration and Border Protection in Australia examines media discourse (broadcast and social media) on migrants and migration in a series of selected countries over a six-month period. The study found that while each country had their own particular set of migration issues being discussed, there was a higher level of consistency among destination countries compared with origin countries. Reporting was largely assessed as being neutral, but certain themes were more likely to be reported unfavourably, including ‘irregular migration’ and ‘immigrants’. Moreover, where the media stories related to irregular migration or people smuggling and trafficking, reporting tended to be framed in a national security context.</p>

This information sheet is distributed to over 1,200 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.