



Regional mixed migration summary for February 2014 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, asylum seekers or trafficked persons it will be clearly stated.

Country	Events /trends/ data / analysis
<p>Djibouti</p>	<p>New Arrivals in Yemen: In February 2014, an estimated 1,054 migrants/refugees arrived on Yemen's shores via Djibouti, a 61% increase from arrivals in January 2014, and an 88% average decrease from the migrants/refugees that arrived in February 2012 and 2013.</p> <p>Boats: A total of 21 vessels left via the Red Sea for Yemen carrying an average of 50 passengers per trip in the month of February.</p> <p>Dead and Missing: IOM reported the death of 9 Ethiopian migrants/refugees when a boat believed to be ferrying 17 passengers, capsized in the Gulf of Aden, north of Obock, Djibouti city on 26th February, 2014. The boat is believed to have been rocked by strong winds that caused the engine to stall en route to Yemen. In a separate incident 7 migrants including 3 minors were found stranded, exhausted and evidently traumatized at Kor-angar, 45 km from Port Obock while 11 others, travelling with them, had left the site and could not be traced.</p> <p>Modalities of travel: The effects of constricting borders in the region continue to be felt. The concomitant effect is that migrants report an increase in bribes to officials. The smuggling costs also increased from USD 70 in January and USD 20 in previous months to between USD 50 to 100 for the Loya Ade-Djibouti crossing in February. A number of migrants/refugees are reported stranded in Djibouti, working to raise money for the Red sea crossing to Yemen. In the interim they are in need of food, accommodation and other basic necessities. The Djibouti authorities continued their crackdown on smugglers. The military raid smugglers and brokers houses, arrest migrants and deport them back to Ethiopia and Somalia. The sea journey from Obock to the Yemeni shore took between 5-10 hours.</p>
<p>Somaliland</p>	<p>Irregular movement to Libya: Reports continue to indicate that irregular migration from Somaliland to Libya is on the rise resulting in the interception and return of an unconfirmed number of youth every month by Ethiopian authorities.</p> <p>IOM Graduate interns complete 7 month internship: In response to reports that high unemployment among university graduates in Somaliland fuels irregular migration, IOM livelihoods programme recruited 40 interns (26 male and 14 female) to work in the local and regional government in Burao and Borama towards the end of 2013. Following the recent completion of their internship 26 of the participants were offered permanent positions in the public and private sector.</p>
<p>Israel</p>	<p>Asylum seekers leave Israel: A wave of asylum seeker departures are reported to have continued from Israel. An estimated 1, 705 asylum seekers left in February, up from 780 that left in January 2014, 325 in December 2013 and 63 in November 2013. A government grant of USD 3,500 is given to asylum seekers who voluntarily depart from Israel. The voluntariness of such departures has however been called into question in a country where asylum seekers are faced with minimal prospects for refugee protection, and imminent long term detention in prison like facilities. Unconfirmed reports that Israel entered into an agreement with a third country where Sudanese asylum seekers were being returned emerged again in February 2014. Israel is host to an estimated 53,000 asylum seekers mainly Eritreans (36,000) and Sudanese (14,000). While asylum seekers continue to demand adjudication and determination of their asylum claims, the Israeli government is reported to be reaffirming their position that the asylum seekers are in fact economic migrants.</p> <p>Advocacy groups seek intervention from the courts: The Israeli government is reported to have ordered 3,200</p>

	<p>asylum seekers to the recently opened Holot detention facility. District courts have delayed or cancelled some of these summons on the grounds that they are fundamentally flawed having overlooked the need to first determine applications for claims to asylum before ordering asylum seekers into detention facilities. A case to challenge the legality of the new amendment to the anti-infiltration law reducing detention to 1 year but effectively promoting indefinite detention for asylum seekers who cannot be returned to their countries of origin because of persecution risks is currently before the supreme court. A judicial officer was reported to have acknowledged a divergence between Israeli law which fundamentally upholds the rights of migrants/asylum seekers and implementation by politicians who in many instances have failed to comply with the basic law and other provisions.</p>
<p>Sudan/ South Sudan</p>	<p>South Sudanese flee for safety: A ceasefire agreement signed in January is reported to have been broken by fighting between government and opposition forces in mid-February. At least 705,800 South Sudanese are reported to be internally displaced while 226,000 have fled to neighbouring countries including Uganda (74,472), Ethiopia (65,389), Sudan (42,011) and Kenya (22,597). A further 75,000 are seeking physical protection in UN peace keeping mission bases. Further fighting arising from a dispute between soldiers is reported to have broken out in Juba in early March but subsequently calmed down. The situation in the country remains fluid and volatile with fighting reported in various parts of the country.</p> <p>UNHCR supports counter trafficking activities in Sudan: It was reported that the Sudanese government received financial support from UNHCR to boost police and law enforcement efforts to combat human trafficking. Sudan is also reported to be cooperating with Eritrea and Ethiopia to combat human trafficking in the refugee camps. A group monitoring mechanism among refugees has also reportedly been introduced in the camp. IOM and UNHCR in coordination with the Government of Sudan have been implementing a programme to combat human trafficking in Sudan, with cases reported to have reduced from over 300 in 2012 to just over 80 in 2013. Furthermore, Sudan is credited with prosecuting 25 cases of trafficking since 2012.</p>
<p>Eritrea</p>	<p>Difficulty in accessing exit permits pushing demand for smugglers: National service may not be the only impetus pushing Eritreans out of the country through smugglers. Eritreans also face difficulty and bureaucracy in accessing exit permits needed to leave the country. As such, they may be forced to turn to smugglers to facilitate travel in pursuit of education, job opportunities, health services, and family reunion.</p>
<p>Ethiopia</p>	<p>New Arrivals in Yemen: An estimated 1,408 Ethiopians made their way to Yemen in February 2014, a 71% increase from the January 2014 arrivals and an 85% average decrease from the migrants/refugees who arrived in February 2013 and 2012. New arrivals were predominantly from Oromia, Amhara, Harar, Tigray, Somali regions and Addis Ababa. Economic reasons continue to be the primary motivation for flight but some new arrivals mentioned persecution on religious grounds and for perceived affiliation to the Oromo Liberation Front (OLF) as their reason for flight.</p> <p>Refugees and asylum seekers: At the end of February 2014, Ethiopia was host to 500,143 refugees. The largest nationality among the refugee population remains Somali (47%), Eritreans (17%), South Sudanese (27%), and Sudanese (6%). A total of 31,591 new arrivals were recorded in February; 29,399 South Sudanese, 1,704 Eritreans, 400 Somalis and 83 Sudanese.</p> <p>Returns from Saudi Arabia: Over 158,000 Ethiopian labour migrants have returned to Addis Ababa in the last four months. IOM in coordination with the Ethiopian government and other humanitarian actors provided post arrival assistance to over 93% of the returnees in the form of transport assistance, temporary accommodation, psychosocial support, family tracing and reunification. A large number of returnees are reported to have returned empty handed and may immediately become a burden at the household level where their remittances can no longer supplement family income. Saudi authorities have reportedly deported over 250,000 of its 9 million labour migrant workforce since 4th November 2013.</p> <p>Modalities of Travel: Ethiopians relied on smugglers with a base in Dire Dawa and Jigjiga. They paid between USD 250 and 300 for the journey to Yemen, including the sea crossing. From Dire Dawa, they walked for eight days with the aid of Ethiopian and Djiboutian smugglers to Tadjoura, where they boarded a vehicle for the Obock, departure point. Some reported waiting up to 15 days at the Obock departure point before embarking on the sea journey to Yemen.</p>

	<p>The Ethiopian government responds to irregular migration: Ethiopians indicated that there was tightened security at the Djiboutian/Ethiopian border of Dawalle, with any individual caught attempting to cross irregularly likely to be subjected to arrest, and a beating before being handed over to the Ethiopian authorities. Those returned were given a grant of USD 50 and 100 for male and female returnees respectively. In addition the Government Communication Affairs Office is reported to have organised a meeting in February aimed at creating awareness on mechanisms to prevent irregular migration and human trafficking. The meeting was attended by civil society, returnees, civil servants, media practitioners, and the youth and women league.</p>
<p>Kenya</p>	<p>Refugees and Asylum seekers in Kenya: Kenya is host to 550,597 refugees and asylum seekers, 50,085 of them in Nairobi (urban refugees). The largest number of refugees and asylum seekers remain Somali nationals (431,919), followed by South Sudanese (55,173), and Ethiopians (30,107). Between January and February the Somali refugee population decreased by 7,847 individuals while the South Sudanese refugee population increased by 5,685 individuals.</p> <p>Progress on the Tripartite agreement: Reports indicate that Kenya and UNHCR have nominated officials to sit in the Tripartite commission tasked with advancing voluntary and organized repatriation of refugees as well as the reintegration of returnees in Somalia. The interior minister for Kenya is reported to have urged Somalia to nominate its representatives to the commission. By the end of February 2014, 2,624 Somali refugees had registered their interest to return to Somalia in an exercise that begun in December 2013. Potential returnees indicated the pursuit of livelihood opportunities, family reunification and the improved security situation amongst others as their reason for seeking return. The Kenya Interior minister is reported to have indicated that 20,000 Somali refugees had returned to Somalia following the November 2013 signing of the tripartite agreement in addition to 80,000 that had returned prior to the signing of the agreement. It is unclear how this estimate was derived but it could be from camp verification exercises, whose change in number does not necessarily signify return, but could be indicative of other factors such as double registration.</p> <p>Dadaab intention survey: IOM and UNHCR are conducting a 4 month intention survey of Dadaab based Somali refugees. The survey is intended to ensure the views and concerns of the refugees are considered in the returns planning process as provided within the framework of the Tripartite agreement signed in November 2013. Refugees from 9 regions of Somalia who arrived in 3 different phases will be targeted as respondents. The survey will in addition to gathering refugee's views on return, seek information on the previous situation in Somalia with regard to livelihood, property and reasons for flight. It will also seek to estimate the number of families willing to return and their reasons, and expectations upon return including access to services, security, employment and housing among others.</p> <p>'No place like home, returns and relocations of Somalia's displaced': An Amnesty International report published in February details intimidation, indiscriminate arrest, withdrawal of services and other human rights abuses as some of the factors pushing Somali refugees out of Kenya. The report highlights that a combination of harassment and insecurity may be contributing to undue pressure on the refugees to return. The safety and dignity of returnees which directly impacts the voluntariness of returns is also considered. The report recommends Somali authorities desist from forcing IDPs to return to areas where they may face persecution, encourages Kenya to explore all durable solutions including local integration and implores UNHCR to ensure returns are voluntary in accordance with international law and standards.</p> <p>Voluntary repatriation should not compromise aid to refugees: In an MSF briefing paper highlighting living conditions in Dagahaley, Dadaab camp, the organisation urged the international community to ensure the provision of humanitarian assistance and the Kenyan government to improve protection of refugees. Humanitarian organizations providing assistance to refugees in Dadaab are reportedly suffering funding cuts and a deteriorating security situation in the midst of the planned voluntary return process. The briefing paper further suggests that poor living conditions do not necessarily draw a correlation to the refugee's willingness to return.</p>
<p>Puntland</p>	<p>Arabian sea arrivals in Yemen: In February 2014, 852 migrants/refugees crossed the Arabian Sea to Yemen from Bossaso and other coastal areas of Puntland, a 52% increase from the migrants/refugees that made the crossing in January 2014. The February 2014 Arabian sea arrival figures averaged approximately 66% less than those recorded for the crossing in February 2012 and 2013.</p> <p>Modalities of Travel: Somalis travelled from Puntland and Hirran region and onward to Loya Ade, paying USD 30.</p>

<p>Somalia (S-C)</p>	<p>Somali movements to Yemen: An estimated 498 Somalis arrived on the Yemeni shores in February 2014, an 18% increase from January 2014 arrivals. February 2014 arrivals averaged 69% less than the arrival figures for February 2012 and 2013. New arrivals were mainly from South Central, and Somaliland particularly Woqoyi Galbeed, Awdal and Togdheer. They report fleeing general insecurity in South Central, persecution by Al Shabab, and persecution by government authorities based on perceived affiliation to Al Shabab. A large number of new arrivals however continue to report flight in pursuit of economic prospects and harbour hopes of reaching Saudi Arabia despite knowledge of border constrictions and ongoing labour migrant expulsions.</p> <p>Refugees and asylum seekers: In February 2014, there were 964,718 Somali refugees in the region hosted mainly in Kenya, Ethiopia, Yemen, Eritrea, Djibouti and Uganda. An estimated 22,000 Somalis were registered in the region in 2013.</p> <p>Modalities of Travel: Somalis from South and Central Somalia indicated that they contracted a broker based in Mogadishu and paid USD 450 each for the journey to Yemen. This fee covered their flight to Berbera, journey to Loya-Ade 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. This covered the cost of journeying through Djibouti to Obock and the boat fees for the sea journey to Yemen. The travel route across Somalia was generally from Mogadishu to Jowhar, Belet Weyne, Gaalkacyo and then Hargeysa before proceeding to Loya-Ade. Some of those that opted to travel overland by vehicle indicated that they were intercepted at checkpoints mounted in Garowe, Puntland. They were held on suspicion of being affiliated to Al Shabab but released on payment of a bribe.</p> <p>Cross border movements: UNHCR recorded an estimated 2,100 Somali refugee border crossings in January 2014 mainly from Kenya (1,300), followed by Ethiopia (530), and 270 returnees from South Sudan. Returnees largely travelled to Baidoa, Afmadow, Baardheere and Jamaame districts. Returnees from Kenya and Ethiopia were reported to be moving mainly for temporary reasons to pursue farming activities and land tenure in Somalia. An estimated 34,000 Somali refugees crossed the border with Kenya in 2013.</p> <p>Somali returns from Saudi Arabia: By mid-February 2014 more than 22,148 Somali nationals had arrived in Mogadishu since December 2013 pursuant to Saudi Arabia's forced expulsion policy for undocumented labour migrants. Minimal assistance is currently available to returnees and IOM is trying to overcome challenges to provide assistance to arriving migrants. So far, nearly 250 returnees received food and water on arrival while 29 had received accommodation and transport assistance to their areas of origin. The Ministry of Interior in Somalia confirmed that they expect 30,000 returnees but this figure has not been corroborated by Saudi authorities.</p>
<p>Yemen</p>	<p>New Arrivals: In February, 1,906 migrants/refugees crossed into Yemen via the Red Sea (Djibouti) and the Arabian Sea (Somaliland/Puntland), a 57% increase from the numbers that reached Yemen in January 2014 and an 83% average decrease from those that arrived in February 2012 and 2013.</p> <p>Boats & passengers: There were a total of 32 migrant boat trips that arrived on the Yemeni coast in February 2014. The average number of passengers on each boat was 59 per trip (not including smugglers/crew).</p> <p>Migrant Vulnerability: Migrants continue to face abduction upon arrival; several migrants have confirmed that on some occasions there is cooperation between crews of boats sailing from Obock (Djibouti) and smugglers /traffickers on the Yemeni coast. Abuses during the journey (including cases of rape, abduction for ransom and torture when migrants are not willing or unable to pay are common. Many migrants reported the existence of smuggling camps. Migrants face possible arrest upon disembarkation on the Yemen coast. A number of violations were reported including 249 kidnapped migrants (20 of them women), 2 gender based violence cases, 53 physical assault cases including 1 woman, and 51 detained migrants/refugees including 1 woman.</p> <p>Migrants die off the coast of Yemen: A boat ferrying migrants/refugees capsized off the coast of Beer Ali, in the southern Shabwa province at the beginning of March 2014. The boat was reportedly ferrying 77 men, women and children from Somalia (31) and Ethiopia (46). 33 people were rescued, but the remaining 44 were still missing and feared drowned. The boat was reported to have departed from Bossaso, Puntland on the north coast of Somalia, in the early evening on 7 March. It had run into strong winds and high waves off the coast of the southern Yemeni governorate of Shabwa.</p>

<p>Other Regional news</p>	<p>Migrant's storm border fence to cross into Melilla: An estimated 200-300 migrants were reported to have stormed a border fence in attempt to cross into the Spanish enclave Melilla from Morocco, the largest attempt in 8 years. An ensuing scuffle with Morocco authorities resulted in the injury of about 27 migrants, the arrest of 96 migrants and the successful crossing of 100 migrants according to BBC. Some security officials also suffered injuries. In mid-February a similar incident resulted in 150 migrants making it over the fence to Melilla while 14 migrants are reported to have drowned in February trying to reach another Spanish enclave Ceuta by sea. Police are reported to have fired rubber bullets at the migrants but Spanish authorities deny that this led to the drowning of the migrants. The migrants were mainly from Cameroon and Guinea. More than 600 migrants have scaled the border fence since January 2014.</p> <p>Australian Human Rights Commission probes detention of child refugees: The commission is reported to have launched a probe that will examine the impact of mandatory detention on more than 1,000 asylum seeker children held in immigration facilities in Australia. The children are detained under punitive government policies revived in 2013 that restrict asylum seekers arriving by boat to offshore pacific camps. The probe will seek to establish whether Australia is in breach of international child protection standards and the progress made since 2004 when a similar probe was conducted. In related news migrants/refugees, mainly Pakistanis are reported to have been turned back to Indonesia by Australian authorities in February.</p> <p>AU round table dialogue on durable solutions for displaced persons: The African Union Commission and Norwegian Refugee Council convened a high level dialogue on durable solutions for displaced persons in Nairobi on 10th February 2014. The roundtable was an opportunity for the commission to engage in policy dialogue with partners and acted as a follow up to the Annual African Union Humanitarian Forum held in October 2013. Key recommendations included creating a resource mechanism for durable solutions, broadening the durable solutions debate beyond established approaches, broadening partnerships in the areas of reintegration and livelihoods, and enhancing engagement with the Diaspora, private sector and affected populations. The next dialogue will be convened in Somalia.</p> <p>Movement across the Mediterranean: Frontex estimates a summer of 'high pressure migration' evidenced by the large number of migrants/refugees that are gathering in Libya in preparation for the Mediterranean crossing. The high numbers expected to make the crossing are reportedly compounded by rising political instability in Egypt. The Italian navy is reported to have rescued over 800 migrants off the coast of Lampedusa in less than 24 hours at the end of February 2014. Migrant/refugee rescue operations are ongoing.</p>
<p>New Research, reports or documents</p>	<p>'Beyond Imagination: Asylum seekers testify to life in Libya': The booklet recounts the experiences of asylum seekers from Eritrea and Somalia encountered on arrival in Malta following transit through Libya in 2012 and 2013. It summarises the asylum seekers experiences as living '<i>in fear, ... at the mercy of the whims of those – Libyan armed forces, militias or civilians – who hold them in their power, andas a useful commodity to be bought and sold, and exploited as forced labour.</i> Read the full booklet: https://www.jrs.net/assets/Publications/File/Beyond-imagination-jesuit-refugee-service-malta-libya-report.pdf</p> <p>UNODC'S contributions to the follow-up and implementation of, the 2013 high-level dialogue on international migration and development, and proposed ways and means to integrate migration into the implementation framework of the post-2015 united nations development agenda. Read the full paper: http://www.un.org/esa/population/meetings/twelfthcoord2014/documents/papers/07_UNODC.pdf</p> <p>No place like home, Returns and Relocations of Somalia's displaced: Amnesty International reiterates the need to ensure voluntariness in safety and dignity of Somali refugee returns from Kenya. Read full report: http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/asset/AFR52/001/2014/en/109361a7-4d78-493c-94ed-7d76d81faa6b/afr520012014en.pdf</p> <p>Dadaab Refugees, An Uncertain Tomorrow: MSF international highlights the unwillingness of Somali refugees in Dagahaley's Daadab refugee camp to return despite poor security and dwindling access to adequate service provision. Read full briefing paper: http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/bp-dadaab-march-2014-low.pdf</p> <p>EU parliament adopts resolution on security and human trafficking in the Sinai: The resolution calls for regional coordinated action to address trafficking in the Sinai, the improvement of the social and economic</p>

	<p>condition of the Bedouin tribes involved in smuggling and trafficking, urges Egypt to respect its anti-trafficking laws and stresses the importance of identification and assistance to victims amongst other measures. The adopted resolution will be published and forwarded to concerned governments and authorities. See a copy of the resolution: www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//NONSGML+TA+20140313+SIT-03+DOC+WORD+V0//EN&language=EN</p>
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