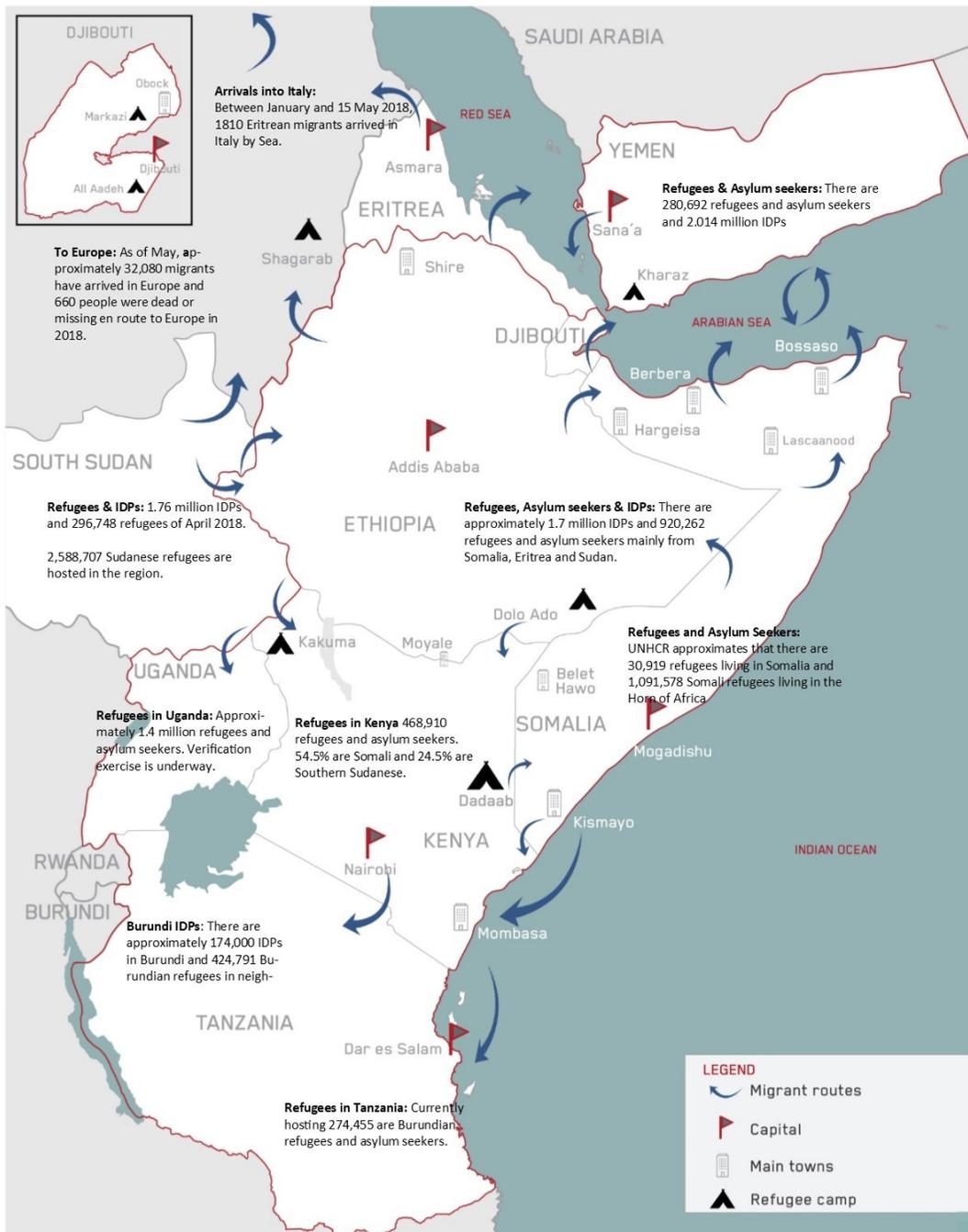




RMMS Mixed Migration Monthly Summary

May 2018 East Africa and Yemen

Regional Mixed Migration Secretariat (RMMS) summary for May 2018 covering mixed migration events, trends and data for Djibouti, Eritrea, South Sudan, Sudan, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Somalia / Somaliland and Yemen.



Displacement Snapshot

	Somalia/ Somaliland	Yemen	South Sudan	Ethiopia	Eritrea	Djibouti	Kenya	Uganda
Refugees	30,919	280,692	296,748	916,678	170,887	27,000	468,910	1.4 M
Internally displaced people (IDP)	2.1 M	2.014 M	1.76 M					
In need of humanitarian assistance / food aid	5.4 M	22.2 M	2.06 M	7.88 M				



Mixed
Migration
Centre

RMMS will soon be transitioning into the Mixed Migration Centre (MMC). The MMC was established in February 2018. It brings together various existing regional initiatives – hosted or led by the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) – engaged in data collection, research, analysis and policy development on mixed migration issues into a new global network of mixed migration expertise.

Key Terms

Refugee: A person who is unwilling or unable to return to their country of origin owing to a [well-founded fear](#) of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group, or political opinion. The 1951 UN Convention relating to the Status of Refugees is based on the fundamental principle of non-discrimination, non-penalization, and non-refoulement. *(UNHCR, 1951 UN Convention)*

Asylum seeker: A person who seeks safety from persecution or serious harm in a country other than his or her own and [awaits a decision](#) on their application for refugee status under relevant international and national instruments. *(International Organization for Migration)*

Mixed Migration: Cross-border movements of people including refugees fleeing persecution and conflict, victims of trafficking and people seeking better lives and opportunities. Motivated to move by a multiplicity of factors, people in mixed flows have different legal statuses as well as a variety of vulnerabilities. Although entitled to protection under international human rights law, they are exposed to multiple rights violations along their journey. Those in mixed migration flows travel along similar routes, using similar means of travel - often travelling irregularly and wholly or partially assisted by migrant smugglers. *(Operational definition by the Mixed Migration Centre)*

Country Profiles

Djibouti

Refugees and Asylum Seekers: Djibouti hosts more than **27,000** refugees and asylum seekers from Ethiopia, Eritrea, Somalia and Yemen.

On 6th May 2018, 132 Ethiopian migrants **arrived in Djibouti** from Yemen bringing the total number of evacuated migrants to 233. The migrants were evacuated by IOM from

Hodeida in Yemen following violent clashes in the area. Upon arrival, the migrants were offered humanitarian assistance, medical support and onward transportation to Ethiopia.

Ethiopia

Refugees, asylum seekers & IDPs: As at 31 May 2018, UNHCR reported that there were **920,262** people of concern in Ethiopia with 29,211 refugees and asylum seekers arriving in Ethiopia in 2018. 48.2% of the persons of concern are Southern Sudanese while 27.8% are Somalis. Gambella and Somali Regions host 73.8% of the refugee and asylum seekers.

Policy Dialogue: On 15 May 2018, the first **consultative meeting** of IGAD and core partners on the implementation of the Djibouti Declaration and Plan of Action on Refugee Education was held in Addis Ababa. The Djibouti Declaration makes a strong commitment for IGAD member states and development partners to take collective responsibility to ensure that every refugee, returnee and members of host communities have access to quality education in a safe learning environment without discrimination.

On 19th May 2018, the Council of Ministers **unanimously approved** the draft of a revised refugee proclamation that

caters for better and inclusive provision to refugees including pledges that Ethiopia has made to significantly improve the lives of refugees and the host community.

CRRF: In May, a series of regional **CRRF launch events** in the Gambella, Somali, Tigray and Afar Regions to introduce the new way of working with refugees and their hosts to the authorities and residents of the regions.

Support to Returnees: In May, **economic reintegration assistance** was provided to 91 Ethiopian irregular migrant returnees under the EU-IOM Joint Initiative for Migrant Protection and Reintegration in the East and Horn of Africa. The migrants returned to their areas of origin in the Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples' (SNNP) Region of Ethiopia which is prone to irregular migration. The group was trained in technical agricultural skills, business development and management.

Eritrea

Eritrean Refugees & Asylum seekers in the region: There are approximately **169,252** Eritrean refugees living in Ethiopia who make up 18.4% of the total refugee population in Ethiopia. The number of Eritrean refugees who have arrived in Ethiopia in 2018 stood at 4,055 at May 31st. In the same period, Kenya was host to **1,439** Eritrean refugees and asylum seekers while Somalia was hosting **90** persons. Egypt hosted **13,748** Eritrean refugees and asylum seekers as at 30th April 2018.

Between January and 15th May 2018, **1,810** Eritreans migrants had arrived in Italy by sea. The Missing Migrant Project had recorded 62 deaths of migrants from the Horn of Africa in the same period.

Kenya

Refugees & asylum seekers: As at 31st May 2018, [468,910 refugees and asylum seekers](#) were hosted in Kenya; 87% of whom are refugees while 13% are asylum seekers. 44% of the refugees and asylum seekers are hosted in Dadaab Refugee Camp while 40% are in Kakuma Refugee Camp and 16% reside in urban areas. A [majority of the refugees \(54.5%\)](#) are from Somalia and 24.5% come from South Sudan.

Voluntary Repatriation and resettlement: Between January and 31st May 2018, [4,728 Somali refugees were repatriated](#) from Kenya bringing the total number since the exercise began in 2014 to [80,533](#). During the same period, [997](#) refugees were submitted for resettlement to third countries with [274](#) departing for resettlement.

Policy Dialogue: On 17th May 2018, Refugee Affairs Secretariat and NGOs working with refugees held a workshop in Nairobi where they addressed the ‘whole-of-society’ approach to refugee response in Kenya. The approach calls on all actors to play an active role in the promotion of refugee protection and resilience under Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF).

CRRF: On 4th May 2018, International Finance Corporation (IFC) released findings of a customer and market study “[Kakuma as a Market Place](#)”, which looked at Kakuma Refugee Camp and its environs from the perspective of a private firm looking to enter a new market. The study found that the area economy is worth US\$56 and that there are more than 2000 businesses and small shops in Kakuma which create employment and promote self-reliance.

Somalia

Refugees, Asylum seekers, Returnees & IDPs: By 31st May 2018, there were [30,919](#) registered asylum seekers and refugees living in Somalia of which 50% are refugees while the other 50% are asylum seekers. 61% of the persons of concern are of Ethiopian while 37% are Yemeni. A majority of the persons of concern, (17,503) are residing in Woqooyi Galbeed Region. By January 2018, Somalia had [2.1 million](#) internally displaced persons and [1,091,578](#) Somalis refugees were living in neighbouring countries.

Somali Returnees: Since the repatriation of Somali refugees in Kenya began in 2014, [80,533](#) people have voluntarily returned to Somalia of which 4,728 returned in 2018. Women and children make up 85% of the returnees while 64% of the returnees were repatriated to Lower Juba and 18% to Banadir. 37,041 refugees returned to Somalia from Yemen between 2014 and 2018 with a majority returning to Banadir.

On 30 May 2018, humanitarian agencies, the EU and the governments of Libya and [Somalia facilitated the voluntary return](#) of 161 Somali migrants who were previously stranded in Libya. A majority of the migrants had been held in government-run detention centres.

Policy : On 15th May 2018, the Security Council voted in favour of [extending the African Union Mission in Somalia](#) until the end of July 2018. The Council also recalled its earlier decision to authorize the AU reduce the number of uniformed personnel and requested the UN Secretary-General to continue logistical support for AMISOM, the Somalia National Army operating with AMISOM and UN Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM).



Migrants waiting for boats to take them to Yemen from Somalia. © Nichole Sobacki

Humanitarian Situation: On 20th May 2018, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and the Government of Somalia launched a joint appeal for \$80 million after heavy rainfall caused floods which led to fatalities, massive displacement and damage to infrastructure and crops. The flooding which was caused by the heaviest rainfall in over thirty years which [affected more than 750,000 people with at least 229,000 displaced](#) from their homes. The appeal was preceded by humanitarian agencies in Somalia [increasing their response](#) to the floods by providing water, sanitation, hygiene, health, shelter and food assistance.

On 24 May 2018, Somalia’s international partners [expressed grave concerns](#) over armed clashes between Puntland and Somaliland forces in Northern Somalia and urged all parties to immediately halt the violence. The partners noted that the violence was compounding an already difficult humanitarian situation that has recently been aggravated by the impact of a recent tropical cyclone.

South Sudan

IDPs, Refugees & Asylum seekers: By 31 May 2018, the total number of refugees and asylum seekers from South Sudan in neighboring countries stood at [2,588,707](#), 42.8% of the refugees and asylum seekers were in Uganda while 30.8% were in Sudan and 17.9% were in Kenya.

As at end of April, UNHCR reported that the population of concern in South Sudan was 2.06 million with [296,748](#) being refugees and 1.76 million being IDPs. 99% of the refugees live in camps and settlements and 1% living in urban areas. Women and children represent 82% of the refugee population living in camps and settlements while 52% of the urban refugee population were women.

Policy Dialogue: The second phase of the [Revitalisation Forum on South Sudan](#) began on 2nd May 2018 in Addis Ababa,

Ethiopia. The session was attended by officials from the African Union Commission, IGAD, UN, various countries. Immediate objectives of the forum are the restoration of ceasefire in South Sudan, full implementation of the peace agreement and the development of a revised and realistic timeline and implementation schedule towards a democratic election in South Sudan at the end of the transition period.

On 15th May 2018, IGAD convened [seminar on governance and security](#) for representatives of the two parties in the South Sudan conflict. The seminar was aimed at creating a non-adversarial environment for both parties to reflect on the challenges of transitioning in the South Sudanese context.

Sudan

Refugees & IDPs: As at May 2018, Sudan hosted 765,243 refugees from South Sudan with 19,207 having arrived in 2018. 77% of this persons of concern reside outside refugee camps while 23% reside in camps. 63% of the refugee households are headed by women and the main areas of settlement are East (7659) and South Darfur (3722), West Kordofan (4,431) and White Nile (2,789)

Policy Dialogue: The Secretary General of the AU-UN Hybrid Operation for Darfur presented a report to the Security Council estimating the number of displaced persons in Darfur at [1.76 million](#). The report opined that for Darfur to be 'guaranteed of durable peace and development, durable solutions will have to be found for the plight of IDPs.'

Uganda

Refugees and Asylum seekers: According to UNHCR, Uganda currently hosts approximately [1.4 million](#) refugees. A verification of the actual number of refugees in Uganda is currently being conducted by the government of Uganda and UNHCR with [272,642](#)

[people verified](#) by 18th May 2018. The verification exercise following a directive by the government of Uganda to [authenticate data](#) contained in the government's refugee registration system.

Yemen

Humanitarian situation: By April 2018, the [number of people in need](#) of humanitarian assistance in Yemen stood at 22.2 million. This includes 2.014 million IDPs and 280,692 refugees and asylum seekers, a majority of who come from Somalia and Ethiopia. An estimated 100,000 people have been displaced in the past four months with an increase in protection and shelter needs of IDP families fleeing continued hostilities.

Human Rights Violations: On 8th May 2018, IOM [called for more protection of migrants](#) against smugglers and other criminal elements in Yemen. An estimated 7000 African migrants arrive in Yemen every month with many of them in transit to Gulf countries in search of economic opportunities. Many of the migrants use the services of smugglers in their journey which puts them at risk of being exploited by smugglers and other criminal elements. Abuse of migrants in Yemen includes physical and sexual abuse, torture for ransom, arbitrary detention which is often prolonged, forced

labor and even death. Yemen is currently in conflict and migrants are also caught up in the violent conflict.

Evacuation of Migrants: On 29th May 2018, [IOM assisted 101 Ethiopian migrants](#) to return home from Yemen through Hudayda where violent clashes had intensified. They included 51 women and 33 children who were in a larger group of 300 stranded migrants. The evacuation came weeks after IOM spoke of migrants in Yemen facing [appalling and inhumane conditions](#).

Other News

Global Compact for Migration: Between 14 and 18 May 2018, the fourth round of intergovernmental negotiations on the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration was held at the UN headquarters in New York.

On 28 May 2018, [Revision 2](#) of the Global Compact for Migration was released. This revision strengthened focus on human rights and the need for states to observe international human rights and humanitarian law. The revision also reflects the complex nature of mixed migration flows, where refugees and migrants may face similar challenges. The Mixed Migration Centre put out the [following statement](#).

Policy: On 3 May 2018, the Republic of Chad announced its formal [application of the CRRF](#) and pledged to build on the commitments of the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants. Chad affirmed its commitment to: improve access to secondary education for the 75,000 refugee children, facilitate access of arable land for up to 236,000 refugees, issue an estimated 140,000 refugee children born before 2013 with birth certificates, and to adopt the National Law governing the status of refugee and asylum seekers.

Khartoum Process: On 8 May 2018, the Senior Officials' Meeting of the Khartoum Process (EU-Horn of Africa Migration Route Initiative) was held in Nairobi, Kenya. At the meeting, member states gave updates on projects and implementation of the Thematic Meetings Conclusions. The roadmap to the 2018 Joint Villetta Action Plan was also deliberated upon.

Refugees and asylum seekers in Libya: As at 31st May, there were [52,739 refugees and asylum seekers](#) registered with UNHCR in Libya. In 2018, UNHCR has registered 8,149 individuals, 56% (4,591) of the registered persons are Sudanese nationals and 18% (1,475) are Eritreans. In the same period, Libyan Coast Guard rescued/intercepted [6,929](#) people in different locations along the Libyan Coast with 1,756 rescued/intercepted in May.

In late May 2018, more than 100 migrants [escaped from smugglers](#) who had been holding them captive in in Bani Walid, Libya. More than twelve immigrants died and twenty-five severely injured when the smugglers attempted to recapture them. The migrants who are of Eritrean, Ethiopia and Somali nationalities were travelling to Europe when they were held by traffickers who had sold them multiple times before they escaped.

Arrivals to Europe & Migrant Deaths: IOM reports that [28,368 migrants and refugees](#) entered Europe by sea in the first 143 days of 2018 and 636 migrants have died or are missing in the Mediterranean during the same period. 10,808 migrants have entered Europe through the Central Mediterranean route.

Migrants in Israel: On 27 May 2018, the government of Israel informed the High Court of Justice that it would [extend legal protection](#) to 300 asylum seekers from Sudan's Darfur, Nuba and Blue Nile regions by granting them humanitarian visa.

New Research and Reports

The Mixed Migration Center published a [statement](#) ahead of the fifth round of negotiations on the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM). Through this statement, the Mixed Migration Center reiterated that migrants in vulnerable situations who are not refugees risk falling through the cracks and therefore strongly suggests to explicitly include and highlight the principle of non-refoulement of migrants in the GCM.

RMMS published a feature article '[Return Migration- A Regional Perspective](#)' which looks at the challenges and opportunities presented by the return of migrants to their countries of origin. The article also looks at the realities of ongoing return programs and the situation on the ground in this regard.

The Guardian published a report titled [Deadly Journeys: How Despair Drives Young Ethiopians to Flee to Yemen](#). The piece details the hardship that young men from Ethiopia's Oromia Re-

gion face as they flee persecution across the Red Sea from Djibouti.

[Vice News](#) published material documenting treatment of migrants in Yemen, with a unique and tragic look at the migrant detention facilities.

In its [Economic Development in Africa 2018 report](#), United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) explores how migrants contribute to structural transformation in Africa and identifies opportunities for absorption of extra labour in different sectors across the continent. The report shows international migration in Africa is primarily a continental phenomenon contrary to popular perception and discusses the benefits of safe migration.

Regional Mixed Migration Secretariat (RMMS) is to support agencies, institutions and forums in the Horn of Africa and Yemen sub-region to improve the management of protection and assistance response to people in mixed migration flows within and beyond the Horn of Africa and across the Gulf of Aden or Red Sea in Yemen. www.regionalmms.org.

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