



Many migrants on the Eastern Route travel by foot during part of their journey to reach the Red Sea and Arabian Sea in order to find boats destined for Yemen. High temperatures, fatigue, and extreme dehydration are among the many physical challenges they face during their journey. (Photo credit: Andrew Leyfers/IRIN-used with appreciation)

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## March 2017 Programme Updates

- IOM Regional Office (RO) Nairobi received the Social Impact external evaluation of the Regional Mixed Migration Program on March 15<sup>th</sup>. RO Nairobi provided a response to PRM on March 23<sup>rd</sup> regarding the main recommendations put forth by SI. Primary recommendations have been considered and are being addressed in the current project proposal for Phase VIII of the Mixed Migration Program.
- The Interim Regional Coordinator traveled on mission to Addis Ababa from April 3<sup>rd</sup> to April 5<sup>th</sup> to attend the Expertise France Steering Committee Meeting for the Addressing Mixed Migration Flows in Eastern Africa (AMMI) Project on April 4<sup>th</sup>. This also provided an opportunity to meet with IOM Addis staff on April 3<sup>rd</sup> to receive a briefing on mixed migration work in the context of Ethiopia and to discuss inputs for the PRM Phase VIII project proposal.
- On April 7<sup>th</sup>, the Coordinating Office in Nairobi submitted the draft proposal package to IOM Washington for upcoming phase VIII of the Regional Mixed Migration Program for fiscal year 2017-18. The proposal package will undergo the endorsement process with country offices while IOM Washington reviews and discusses the proposal with PRM.
- The announcement of a Training of Trainers (ToT) to be held on Migrants in Countries in Crisis Initiative (MICIC) guidelines and principles, and an induction covering the Migration Crisis Operational Framework (MCOF), was distributed to respective country offices and mixed migration focal points with a request for nominations from each office. The training will be held at IOM's African Capacity Building Center (ACBC) in Moshi, Tanzania from April 25-28, 2017. Nominations have now been received from all locations and final logistical arrangements are being coordinated by the MM team. This training will bring together IOM staff from the Mixed Migration Program in Ethiopia, Yemen, Djibouti, Somaliland, Puntland, and Kenya, as well as IOM staff from various locations outside the East and Horn of Africa region including Afghanistan, Bangkok, Turkey, Lebanon, Kazakhstan, RO Cairo, RO Dakar, HQ Geneva. This training forms part of the work within the 5<sup>th</sup> pillar (Emergency Migration Management) of the PRM Regional Migration Program Model. Read more about [MICIC](#) on the right of this bulletin.

## Summary of March 2017 Regional Migration Response Center Data Collection System

In March 2017:

- 563 (93% Ethiopian) migrants were interviewed in five MRC locations, a 13.1% increase from registrations in February 2017.
- Of the 563 migrants, 72% were interviewed in Somalia (Hargeisa and Bossaso) MRC locations.
- Fifty seven migrants (56% male and 44% female) were profiled to have medical needs and were referred for medical assistance while 55% were given psychosocial support.
- Approximately 68% of migrants intended to travel onwards to Saudi Arabia to either start a business or look for work.
- Migrants cited a number of reasons for migrating: 56% cited "economic reasons" as a major push factor while 39% cited war/armed conflict and poverty as the reasons for migration.
- For the first time since data collection began in mid-2016, 34 Saudi Arabian nationals were registered in Obock (26) and Bossaso (8).

## IOM News

### "IOM Inaugurates Rehabilitated Migration Response Center in Obock, Djibouti"

"Djibouti - Created in 2011, the Migration Response Center (MRC) in Obock, Djibouti, has been rehabilitated with the support of the Government of Japan. New premises including shelters for women and Unaccompanied Minor Children (UMCs) and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) facilities have been added to the previously existing structures.

The center directly managed by IOM hosts around 5,000 migrants annually as part of evacuation and voluntary return programs.

The inauguration ceremony of the new premises of the MRC was held on Thursday, 30 March 2017. This ceremony was attended by Djibouti's Minister of the Interior, Hassan Omar Mohamed, the Ambassador of Japan, Tatsuo Arai, the prefect of Obock Region, Hassan Dabaleh, and the Chief of Mission of IOM Djibouti, Lalini Veerassamy.

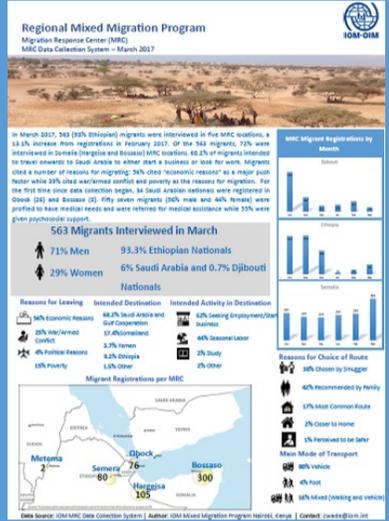
"Obock will remain a strategic transit point for migrants seeking for better opportunities in the Gulf Council Countries. With the increased trend – noted in spite of the Yemen crisis – it was important that IOM strengthens its capacity at the Migration Response Center for increased protection to these vulnerable migrants, with a high prevalence of Unaccompanied Minor Children," said the Chief of Mission of IOM Djibouti." [Read more](#)

This piece originally appeared in IOM News on March 31, 2017.

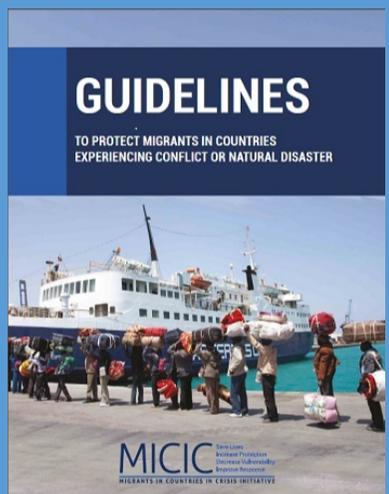
## Media Highlights related to Mixed Migration

- Over 40 migrants died [during an attack](#) on a vessel carrying approximately 145 people, reportedly mostly Somalis, approximately 30 miles off the coast of Al Hudaydah, Yemen on March 17<sup>th</sup>. The attack received wide media coverage, including by the [BBC](#), [CNN](#), [The Guardian](#), [The Independent](#), [New York Times](#), and [Washington Post](#).
- "[What a town in Djibouti could teach Europe about refugees](#)" by author [Natalia Paszkiewicz](#). This article focusing on Djibouti as a refugee-hosting nation argues that the size of a country has little to do with how it chooses to respond to hosting migrants and refugees. The author argues, "The reception of refugees, in fact, has nothing to do with a country's resources, size or population. It is only a matter of political will." [Read on](#)
- Author [Hein de Haas](#) explores misunderstandings and inaccuracies in an article entitled, "[Myths of Migration](#)." This author asserts, "There is an urgent need to see migration as an intrinsic part of economic growth and societal change instead of primarily as a problem that must be solved. It is inevitable that open and wealthy societies will experience substantial immigration in the future as well, whether they like it or not." [Read on](#)

### MRC Data Collection System March 2017 Report

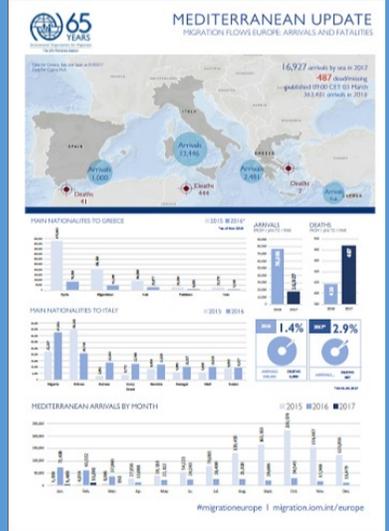


### MICIC Guidelines PDF available here



### IOM: Migration Flows to Europe as of 11 April 2017

[Click Here for Report](#)



### RMMS Mixed Migration Fourth Quarter 2016 Overview

[Click Here for Report](#)

