



Dr Melissa Phillips, Regional Mixed Migration Secretariat
'Mixed Migration: A View from the Horn of Africa'
Presentation to CeSPI seminar, 24 November 2014

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The bestselling pan-African magazine



Immigration: 'More barriers in Europe, more torture in Libya'

Key sign operation Mos Maiorum, immigrants' rights group says

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Three more Ethiopians killed in Saudi Arabia

Tigrai Online, Update on November 12, 2013





Outline

- View from Horn of Africa – trends, profiles, flows
- View from Europe – deterrent based policies & limited (if any) regular migration or family reunion
- Where to from here? Future scenarios ...



- Irregular migration disproportionately affecting Africans
- Deaths at sea/borders [[IOM report](#)]
- Payment of ransoms impoverishing families
- Informal migration = unable to capitalise on remittances

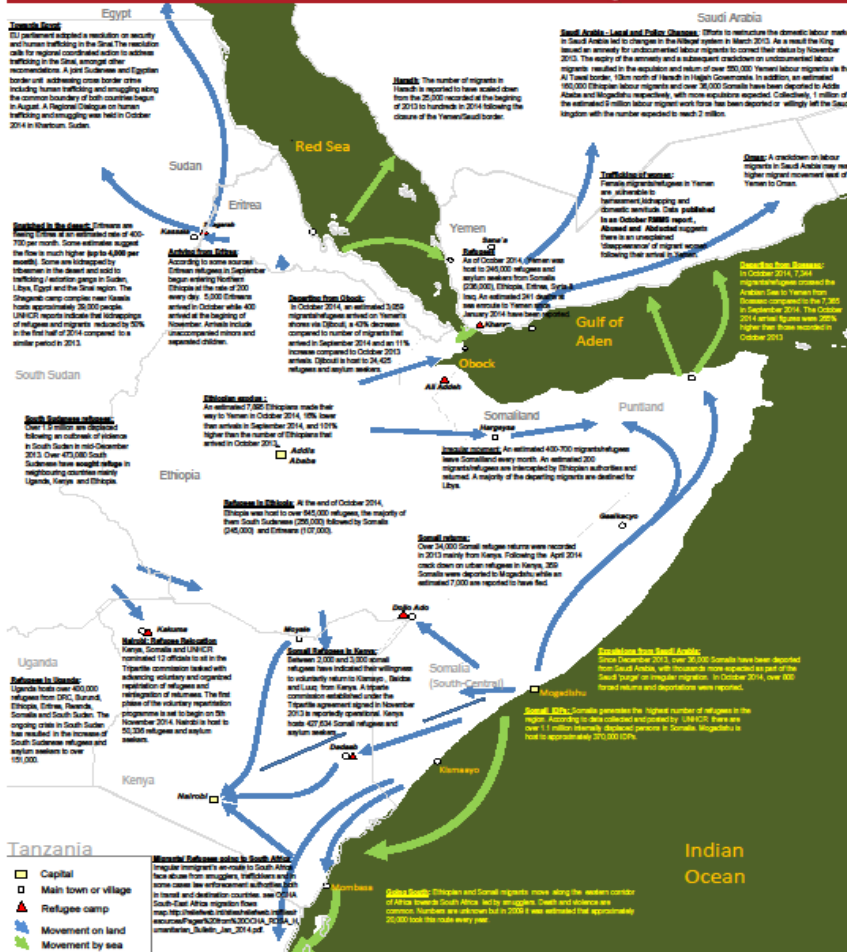


- ‘Migrant’ label subsumes a complex group of refugees, asylum seekers and economic migrants originating from many countries
- Main profile – young (incl. UAM) single, male
- Driver to migrate by a complex number of factors that both drive (‘push’) and encourage (‘pull’)
- Continent on the rise but benefits unequal



MIXED MIGRATION IN HORN OF AFRICA AND YEMEN

October 2014



- **North/West** – transiting through Ethiopia-Sudan-Libya
- **East** – via Djibouti-Yemen to Saudi Arabia
- **South** – through Kenya-Tanzania-Mozambique to South Africa



Most dangerous
sea crossing

25,000 registered
refugees & asylum
seekers + thriving
smuggling economy

Hosting 109,594
Eritreans in
camps/urban areas
(some up to 40 yrs)



Sinai border
closed

36,6768 Eritrean
arrivals in Europe
(2014 to date)

Most significant
sea crossing

Host to Africa's
largest refugee
pop. (630,000)



Main Countries of Origin

Eritrea	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Listed by Freedom House as one of 10 worst countries for press freedom• UN Human Council Inquiry (ongoing)• Estimates of 4,000 people fleeing monthly
Ethiopia	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Human Development Index (ranked 173 of 195)• 2nd largest population in Africa (est. 90 million)• Limitations on human rights, press freedom etc
Somalia	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Close to 1M displaced in Horn of Africa (esp. Kenya)• Returns to South/Central Somalia not advised• Few thousand voluntarily returning (Tripartite Agr.)
Somaliland	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Estimated 400-700 youth depart to Libya monthly• Driven by unemployment, aspire to migrate• Social media and diaspora influence



Italy needs EU help to handle tide of refugees, U.N. says



Lampedusa tragedy raises questions about asylum policies



Contrastingly:

- ‘Burden of arrivals’ vs burden sharing
- Deterrent based policies
- 9.5M euro spent on *Mare Nostrum*
- Few, if any, durable solutions for refugees
- Lack of meaningful regular migration options (family reunion, temporary migration, scholarships etc)



View from Africa ctd.

- 960,000 people in need of resettlement [UNHCR estimates for 2015]
- Funding shortfall for refugee/IDPs in Africa (projected total need = \$1.9billion)
- 80% of journeys facilitated by smugglers or criminal groups [Global Initiative against Transnational Organized Crime]
- What about temporary/seasonal migration?



Scenarios: It's time to think 'out of the box'

'Head in sand'

- More arrivals, more deaths, more smuggling
- Irregular migration becomes the norm

'What if'

- Government in the driver's seat: regular migration realised, commitments honoured
- Skills/knowledge shared between AU-EU
- Civil society dialogue & migrants' voices raised

Regional Processes in Horn of Africa and Yemen

Saana Declaration (2013)*

Recommendations on:

- Root causes
- Law enforcement
- Increased support for return programmes
- Enhancing cooperation in employment opportunities
- Awareness-raising campaigns
- Strengthening the refugee protection system
- Regional and international cooperation
- Data collection and analysis
- Follow up mechanism

Khartoum Process (2014)

- AU-HOA Initiative on Human Trafficking and Smuggling of migrants
- 1st Regional Conf. on Human Trafficking & Smuggling in the Horn of Africa held in Khartoum (Nov 2014)
 - Core Countries: Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia & Sudan with neighbouring countries (Djibouti, Kenya, Somalia and South Sudan) & partner countries/organisations
 - Two meetings per year, AUC, IOM and UNHCR as Secretariat

Regional Committee on Mixed Migration (Annual)**

- Government-led multi-Ministry, intergovernmental committee on mixed migration
- Aims to achieve greater regional collaboration
- Launched in Ethiopia (2011) then held in Djibouti (2012), Kenya (2013) and Ethiopia (2014)

Other Regional Processes

Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons & Related Transnational Crime (2002)

Rabat Process, Euro-African Conference on Migration and Development (2006) & Dakar Strategy

Implemented by State Parties with support from international organisations, NGOs and civil society



“One country cannot be the holding place of these never-ending arrivals”

Vice-Admiral Foffi, Commander – Italian Fleet

“... [B]ecause the West has had a long but uneven engagement with Africa, it is imperative that it also play an important role in forging solutions to Africa’s myriad problems. This will require good will and concerted effort on the part of all those who share the weight of Africa’s historical albatross” *Chinua Achebe*



Further resources:

RMMS website: regionalmms.org

@Mixed_Migration and [Facebook](#)

Email: addis.pm@regionalmms.org

mixed migration

“Migration – when it is safe, legal, and voluntary – is the oldest poverty-reduction and human-development strategy.”

IOM Director General, William Lacy Swing



Credit: Courtesy of IOM



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC



RMMS Regional
Mixed Migration
Secretariat

www.regionalmms.org