MIXED MIGRATION
IN HORN OF AFRICA AND YEMEN
November 2012

RMMS Regional Mixed Migration Secretariat

Towards Egypt: Eritreans, Somalis and Ethiopians (and other migrants) use the 'northern' route into Egypt where Cairo is a destination or a transit point to pass into the Sinai region and into Israel. During the month of November, 54 irregular migrants crossed from Egypt to Israel where they were arrested and put into custody. The figure represents a 90% drop within a 6 month period. It also highlights the relative success of Israel's infamous anti-infiltration bill that has resulted into improved security deployment and the erection of a high tech barrier to cub illegal immigration.

Secondary movement': Some migrants go through the Gulf into the Middle East and Europe, working along the way. If they can afford it and have sufficient contacts/ documentation migrants always prefer to fly. During the month of November a migrant ship carrying 100 people capsized off the coast of Italy. 10 migrants died while the rest were rescued by Italian coastal guards.

Saudi ambivalence: Saudi Arabia appears to have an ambivalent attitude to irregular migrants. While it claims to be intollerant and strict, officially, in practice many thousands of Ethiopians, Somalis, Kenyans and others live and work in Saudi Arabia. Yemenis also cross into KSA irregularly in large numbers. Many migrants (economic) are detained and deported back into Yemen. Over 8 million migrant workers fill manual, clerical, and service jobs, constituting more than half the national workforce. Many suffer multiple abuses and labor exploitation, sometimes amounting to slavery-like conditions (Human Rights Watch 2012)

Abuse: Most of the Ethiopians arriving in Yemen are enroute to Saudi Arabia. They normally travel along the eastern side with smugglers (benign or violent) up to Haradh area in order to cross into KSA. The incidences of kidnapping, torture, rape and extortion of new arrivals is very high.
Ethiopian Christians face persecution for openly or privately exercising thier faith.

Trafficking of women: There are alarming reports of women being separated from migrant groups and trafficked into KSA/ never to be heard of again.

Oman: A much smaller number of migrants go into Oman, but it is also a desirable destination for some migrants.

Snatched in the desert: Eritreans are fleeing Eritrea at an estimated rate of 2000-3000 per month. Some are kidnapped by tribesmen in the desert and sold to trafficking / extortion gangs in the Sinai region, Egypt. On December 02,2012 an entire football team (18 in number) sought asylum in Uganda for fear of persecution upon return.

Official refugees: As of November 02, 2012 some 223,732 Somalis have been registered as refugees in Yemen.

Departing from Obock: In November 2012 an estimated 6,511 people, mainly Ethiopian used Djibouti (Obock area) as a departure point for crossing the Red Sea into Yemen. Approximately 217 people per day. They entered Yemen irregularly and without official documentation, facilitated by human smugglers.

Departing from Bosasso: Migrants move through Somalia to Puntland and Bosasso. In September 2012, an estimated 2,852 left from Bosasso for Yemen.

In Kharaz: 16,000 Somali refugees registered. During the month of September 915 were airlifted to Ethiopia

Ethiopian exodus: In 2011, at least 75,000 Ethiopians travelled irregularly into Yemen. This year alone over 63,182 have crossed as at the end September 2012. Many go on to Saudi Arabia. Others went East to Sudan and Libya , others go south through Kenya and onwards.

Sudanese refugees: New refugees fleeing tribal conflict in the Blue Nile Area in South Sudan are entering Kenya to join with older case-loads of Sudanese refugees in Kakuma refugee camp. The South Sudanese refugee total influx for 2012 stands 32,737 south Sudanese,4702 (north) Sudanese.

Returnees: During the month of November, former migrants deported from Israel visited the Vice President and requested economic support to help them cope back home.

Deportation cases: In August some hundred Ethiopian asylum seekers, refugees and irregular migrants were arrested following a refusal to evict from a Social Welfare Centre and deported to Ethiopia. Later some estimated 40 were returned to Hargesia. 25 remain in detaintion and refuse to leave on their own accord.

Refugees in Ethiopia: There are currently (end September) 214,000 Somali refugees in Ethiopia (mostly in Dollo Ado camp), as well as 64,636 Sudanese, 60,052 Eritreans (end July). Somalis continue to flow into Dollo Ado. In September there was an increase of 2,586 Somali refugees.

Ethiopians fleeing violence Of the 20,000 who were displaced in July 2012, Most have since returned home, but about 2,500 are still taking refuge at a local primary school.

Nairobi is a regional hub for migrant smugglers and migrants.Tens of thousands per year (mainly Somali and Ethiopian) pass into and through Nairobi. Kenyan authorities made a sudden announcement Mid-Decemebr that 100,000 urban refugees (Somalis) should immediately return to Dadaab camp, following increasing number of bombings in Nairobi.

Refugees in Kenya: As of November there were 438,506 registered Somali refugees in Dadaab and 50,126 in Kakuma. Overall the total number of registered refugees and asylum seekers in Kenya as of October 2012 is 630,926.

Somali IDPs: Inside Somalia there are currently an estimated 1.36 million Internally Displaced People (1,129,000 in South Central). Most have been displaced many times as they respond to conflict or drought or both. In August, there were 8,999 IDP returnees recorded.

Congolese influx: Large numbers of Congolese continue to enter Uganda bring the total numer to 69,000 since the start of 2012, (World Food Programme has a contigency plan for 150,000) fleeing renewed fighting in Eastern DRC.

Urban refugees: Refugees in Nairobi
Somali= 33,808
Ethiopian=10,556
Others= 11,570

Vigilance over migrants flow The Tanzanian authorities have appealed to the public to help stop illegal migation by reporting such activitiess when they occur. Tanzania is a key transit country for illegal migration to South Africa

Going South: Ethiopian and Somali migrants move along the eastern corridor of Africa towards South Africa , led by smugglers. Death and violence are common. In June 2012 two cases involving drownings in Malawi (killing 48 Somalis) and suffocation in a container in Tanzania (killing 45 Ethiopians)

Egypt
Sudan
Red Sea
Saudia Arabia
Eritrea
Yemen
Kassala
Shagarab
Sana`a
Kharaz
Gulf of Aden
Obock
Ali Addeh
South Sudan
Puntland
Somaliland
Hargeysa
Addis Ababa
Ethiopia
Gaalkacyo
Dollo Ado
Kakuma
Moyale
Somalia (South-Central)
Mogadishu
Uganda
Dadaab
Kismaayo
Kenya
Nairobi
Tanzania
Mombasa
Indian Ocean

Capital
Main town or village
Refugee camp
Movement on land
Movement by sea

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