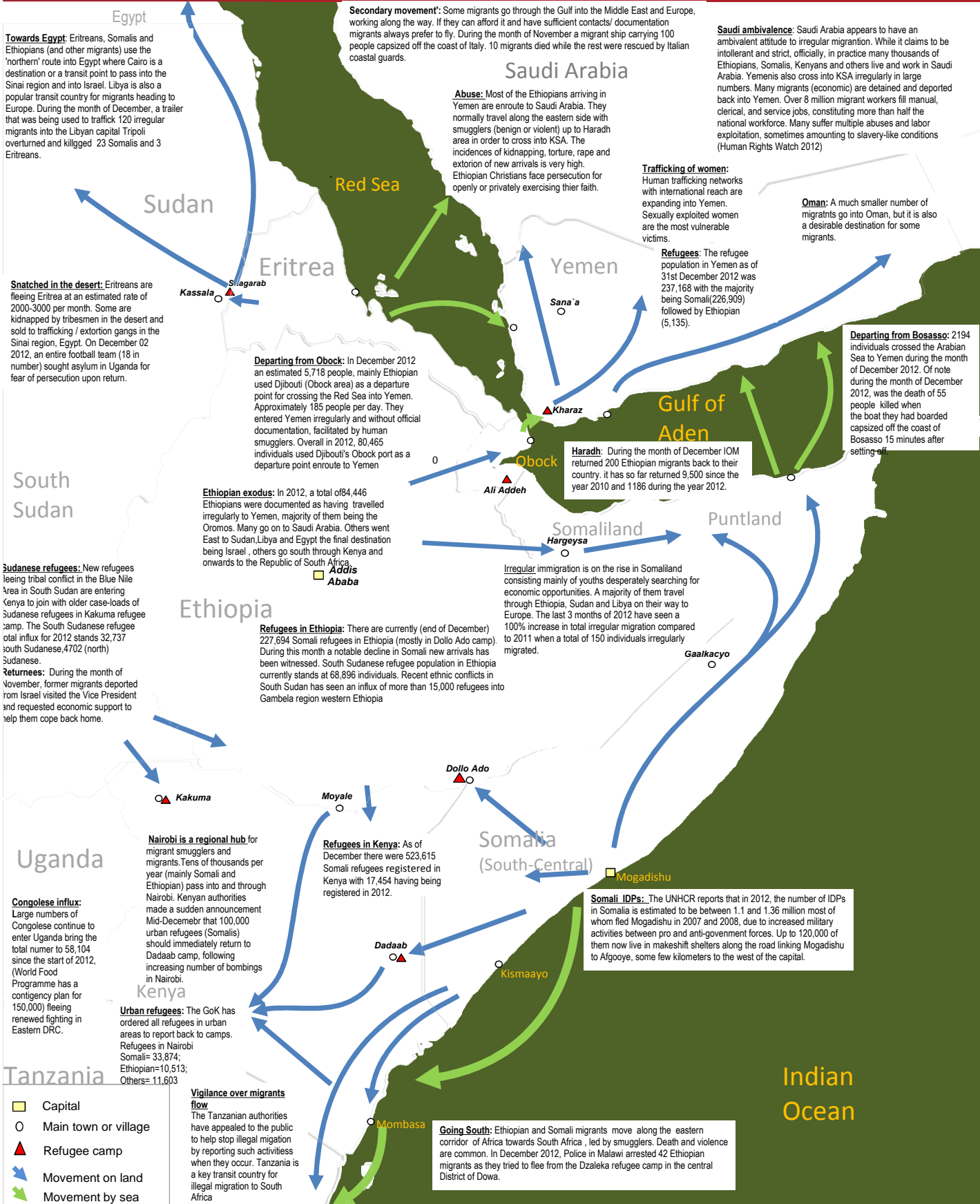


MIXED MIGRATION IN HORN OF AFRICA AND YEMEN

December 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. Libya is also a popular transit country for migrants heading to Europe. During the month of December, a trailer that was being used to traffick 120 irregular migrants into the Libyan capital Tripoli overturned and killed 23 Somalis and 3 Eritreans.

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.

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.

Congolese influx: Large numbers of Congolese continue to enter Uganda bring the total number to 58,104 since the start of 2012, (World Food Programme has a contingency plan for 150,000) fleeing renewed fighting in Eastern DRC.

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-December that 100,000 urban refugees (Somalis) should immediately return to Dadaab camp, following increasing number of bombings in Nairobi.

Urban refugees: The GoK has ordered all refugees in urban areas to report back to camps. Refugees in Nairobi: Somali= 33,874; Ethiopian=10,513; Others= 11,603

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

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.

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 their faith.

Trafficking of women: Human trafficking networks with international reach are expanding into Yemen. Sexually exploited women are the most vulnerable victims.

Refugees: The refugee population in Yemen as of 31st December 2012 was 237,168 with the majority being Somali(226,909) followed by Ethiopian (5,135).

Departing from Bosaso: 2194 individuals crossed the Arabian Sea to Yemen during the month of December 2012. Of note during the month of December 2012, was the death of 55 people killed when the boat they had boarded capsized off the coast of Bosaso 15 minutes after setting off.

Departing from Obock: In December 2012 an estimated 5,718 people, mainly Ethiopian used Djibouti (Obock area) as a departure point for crossing the Red Sea into Yemen. Approximately 185 people per day. They entered Yemen irregularly and without official documentation, facilitated by human smugglers. Overall in 2012, 80,465 individuals used Djibouti's Obock port as a departure point enroute to Yemen

Ethiopian exodus: In 2012, a total of 84,446 Ethiopians were documented as having travelled irregularly to Yemen, majority of them being the Oromos. Many go on to Saudi Arabia. Others went East to Sudan, Libya and Egypt the final destination being Israel, others go south through Kenya and onwards to the Republic of South Africa

Refugees in Ethiopia: There are currently (end of December) 227,694 Somali refugees in Ethiopia (mostly in Dollo Ado camp). During this month a notable decline in Somali new arrivals has been witnessed. South Sudanese refugee population in Ethiopia currently stands at 68,896 individuals. Recent ethnic conflicts in South Sudan has seen an influx of more than 15,000 refugees into Gambela region western Ethiopia

Refugees in Kenya: As of December there were 523,615 Somali refugees registered in Kenya with 17,454 having being registered in 2012.

Somali IDPs: The UNHCR reports that in 2012, the number of IDPs in Somalia is estimated to be between 1.1 and 1.36 million most of whom fled Mogadishu in 2007 and 2008, due to increased military activities between pro and anti-government forces. Up to 120,000 of them now live in makeshift shelters along the road linking Mogadishu to Afgooye, some few kilometers to the west of the capital.

Irregular immigration is on the rise in Somaliland consisting mainly of youths desperately searching for economic opportunities. A majority of them travel through Ethiopia, Sudan and Libya on their way to Europe. The last 3 months of 2012 have seen a 100% increase in total irregular migration compared to 2011 when a total of 150 individuals irregularly migrated.

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 December 2012, Police in Malawi arrested 42 Ethiopian migrants as they tried to flee from the Dzaleka refugee camp in the central District of Dowa.

Saudi Arabia

Saudi ambivalence: Saudi Arabia appears to have an ambivalent attitude to irregular migration. While it claims to be intolerant 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)

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

Haradh: During the month of December IOM returned 200 Ethiopian migrants back to their country, it has so far returned 9,500 since the year 2010 and 1186 during the year 2012.

Yemen

Yemen