



Regional Mixed Migration in the Horn of Africa and Yemen in 2012: 3rd Quarter trend summary and analysis

In the third quarter of 2012 (1st of July -30th of September), the following trends were recorded as relevant to mixed migration in the region:

Arrivals in Yemen

So far this year (from January to September), a total of 80,653 individuals have made the crossing to the Yemeni coast compared to 72,109 during the same period last year.

A total of 25,507 individuals were recorded as having disembarked from vessels on the Yemeni coast during this quarter. The quarterly tally is a 12.3% decrease when compared to the same time period in 2011. The number of Somalis and non-Somalis crossing to Yemen also decreased by approximately 29% and 10% respectively. The decrease can be attributed to various factors, the first is the diminishing performance of the Yemeni economy due to the political and security turmoil in the South which may be lowering the demand for labour; the second, rising cases of migrant kidnapping, abuse and extortion along the Yemeni border might also be a deterrent to migrant flows. However, it is also possible that there are lower numbers of migrants in the third quarter of 2012 as compared to the third quarter of 2011 because in 2011, the severe drought and famine had a direct impact on displacement and movement levels in the region.

Ethiopians crossing the seas to Yemen

During the third quarter, Ethiopians continued to be largest population making the crossing to Yemen. Between June and September 2012, 18,142 Ethiopian migrants crossed to Yemen representing approximately 71% of the total migrants flow during the quarter. The majority of migrants hailed from the Oromia region of Southern Ethiopia and mentioned fear of political persecution and lack of opportunities as the main reasons for migrating. In comparison to the 3rd quarter of 2011 we see a 9.8% decline in volume of Ethiopian migrants crossing to Yemen.

Smuggling gangs

During the quarter, there was information of new smuggling routes from Somalia and Ethiopia to Yemen. Using the new routes, migrants travelled from Mogadishu via Djibouti to the Red Sea at an average cost of \$350-\$400. The other migrant route was the Ethiopian route which begins in a town called Harar in Eastern Ethiopia to Jigjiga, Wajalle, Burama, Loya Ade and Obock in Djibouti. The latter however appears less organized due to the piece meal payments made to each broker at each travel point, the cost of the trip an average of \$300 USD.

'Commoditization' and insecurity for migrants

Over the reporting period, there was reporting of increased insecurity incidents and the kidnapping and holding for ransom of African migrants as they transited through various countries. While there is no hard data of the extent of the problem, Ethiopian migrants crossing to Yemen continually report being

kidnapped for ransom as evidenced in an RMMS research report *Desperate Choices* which details the various challenges migrants undergo while in transit and within Yemen.

Migrant kidnapping is also prevalent in the Sinai region of Egypt, a report from the University of Tilburg, 'Human Trafficking in the Sinai: Refugees between Life and Death,' details the trafficking/kidnapping and extortion by Bedouin tribesmen Eritrean, Ethiopian and Sudanese Migrants undergo when transiting through the Sinai region in the hope of getting to Israel fall victim to trafficking/kidnapping and extortion.

Refugee camp trends

Kenya

Daadab refugee complex

At the end of the third quarter on 30th September, 2012, the camp population in Dadaab was 471,692 persons. The camp's population between July and September, 2012 decreased by 800 persons with camp population at the beginning of July 472,420 persons. An [IRIN](#) report explained that the attrition was as a result of small number of refugees returning to their home villages to see how their villages were faring on after the long famine as well as insecurity that had led to over 152,000 Somali refugees fleeing from Somalia into Daadab in 2011. A UNHCR official quoted in the article clarified that the small numbers of persons returning to Somalia during the quarter were not permanent returns but rather persons who temporarily return to Somalia but would later return to the camp.

Apart from the exodus of Somali refugees living Somalia into Daadab drastically decreasing in 2012. It is also important to note that registration of refugees into Dadaab Camp had been suspended between October, 2011 and June 2012 because the Kenyan government felt that the camp was full to capacity and felt further influx of Somali refugees would be a threat to National Security as a result there were probably fewer registrations of refugees in the camps. Since the refugee registration resumed in June 2012, 1000 new refugees were registered during the quarter.

Kakuma

There were 2,647 refugees registered in Kakuma during the July to September, 2012 quarter. This was a 50 per cent drop in registrations as compared to the first two quarters of 2012 where there were 5,677 registrations in January to March quarter and 5356 registrations in the April to June quarter. The slowing down of refugee registration in Kakuma can be attributed to the lower numbers of Sudanese and South Sudanese refugees entering Kenya during the quarter.

Ethiopia

Statistics of the population under concern of UNHCR for Ethiopia were released on May 30th as well as 30th September which is slightly over the July – September quarter. However, during the said period the population of refugees in Ethiopia increased from 326,079 to 367,079 which is a 13 percentage increase in the refugee population of Ethiopia. As a result, of the high refugee numbers during the quarter, the Ethiopian government went into advanced negotiations with UNHCR and various partners to open up a sixth camp in Dollo Ado refugee complex after the existing five became completely full.



The Dollo Ado camp population surpassed 170,000 individuals making it the second largest camp in the world after the Dadaab refugee complex.