

Update of Research Activities and Publications

Overview

The Research and Evidence Facility (REF) was established in May 2016 to conduct research relevant to the formulation and implementation of EU Trust Fund¹ activities in the Horn of Africa². It was created to collate and produce evidence and policy relevant knowledge on themes related to the Fund's activities. Research themes include (but are not limited to) the drivers of migration, dynamics of cross-border economies and centre/periphery relations, urbanisation and rural-urban linkages, return and displacement of refugees and internally displaced persons within the region, the features and limitations of migration management systems and social service provision, drivers of radicalism and violent extremism, and opportunities for strengthening resilience in the greater Horn of Africa. This region includes Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda.

The REF is implemented by a research consortium led by SOAS University of London with Oxford University, University of Manchester, and Sahan Research, based in Nairobi.

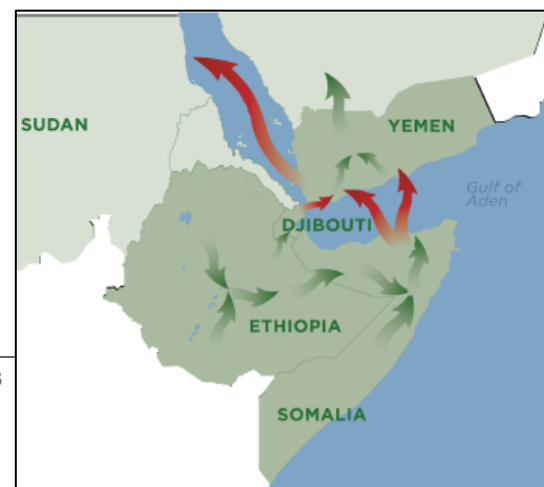
This research brief provides an update of research activities that have been completed since our first Research Brief was issued (April

2017). It includes information on initiated research and exciting preliminary findings as well as an outline of upcoming research outputs.

Migration Between the Horn of Africa and Yemen; A Study of Puntland, Djibouti and Yemen

This recently completed research study explores the drivers of migration from the Horn of Africa to Yemen, and the extent to which smuggling and trafficking networks are involved in facilitating these movements. It also examines³ the impact of these movements on the lives of migrants, the local communities and wider society. Finally, it examines the existing policy and programme responses to this migration in order to identify potential gaps and opportunities for future policy and programming.

Map: Migration routes from the Horn of Africa To/Through Yemen



¹ European Union Emergency Trust Fund for Africa

² Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda.

Key findings include:

1. The year on year increase in migration between the Horn of Africa and Yemen has slowed in the past twelve months.
2. The demographics and routes taken show significant changes, including the emergence of a new route taken mostly by Somalis from the Horn of Africa to Yemen (see map above), back through Sudan and onward to Egypt and Libya. This means that people on this route are taking three dangerous sea crossings as opposed to the single Mediterranean crossing previously being used.
3. Conflict in Yemen has had a significant impact on the movement choices and patterns of different groups of people.
4. Tactics of smugglers are changing, providing 'travel now, pay later' opportunities that attract many migrants
5. Drought and potential famine in the region does not appear to have contributed to migration along the routes in question.

The Yemen Trend 2017, published in July, cited this study as one of the key recommended readings for recent trends involving Yemen. The study is also being used for project identification for the EU in the region.

The Executive Summary of the study can be found here:

<https://www.soas.ac.uk/ref-hornresearch/research-papers/file122638.pdf>

And the Main Report is available at:

<https://www.soas.ac.uk/ref-hornresearch/research-papers/file122639.pdf>

Rural to Urban Mobility: Drivers, Dynamics and Challenges - Preliminary Findings

A study of rural-urban migration in secondary cities of the Horn was commissioned through the Rift Valley Institute. Field research was undertaken in Eldoret (Kenya), Gulu (Uganda), and Dire Dawa (Ethiopia) to identify similarities and differences in the experiences of migrants.

Key findings emerging include:

1. In Ethiopia, Uganda and Kenya, the gap between urban and rural development has widened in recent years, while the one between the secondary cities under examination and the capital cities in the respective countries has narrowed, at least in some sectors and for some segments of the labour market. Therefore, on the one hand, a growing number of rural migrants are attracted to the city by the possibility to pursue security and opportunities for upward and onward mobility; on the other, migrants are no longer targeting capital cities so exclusively, as was the case in the past. They are also moving to secondary, yet economically vibrant, cities such as Dire Dawa, Gulu and Eldoret. Secondary cities should, therefore, have more space in the national development agenda.

2. The neglect of rural areas appears as a key push factor for some categories of migrant. This includes not only farmers whose livelihood are threatened by environmental degradation or political violence, but also youth cultivating educational aspirations. Infrastructural development should focus not only on productivity, as can be seen with respect to industrial parks and agribusiness, but also on services for the population and non-agricultural livelihoods.

3. The integration of urban and rural economies should be harmonised through adequate policies that mitigate the gatekeeping role of middlemen and facilitate access to urban markets for

farmers who are disadvantaged by limited access to transport and communication infrastructures and the lack of reliable personal connections.

4. The study revealed different mobility patterns, bringing to the fore “split household” strategies and frequent commuting. This highlighted the importance of tackling road safety and the quality of transport as well as supporting communication technologies.

5. The issue of vulnerability in rural-urban migration is to a large extent gendered. Women are typically deemed more vulnerable to the ‘dangers’ associated with urban life or, broadly speaking, to life outside of the community of belonging. Protection should be extended to women in such positions.

6. A zoning policy should be designed and implemented in each of the three cities. A pragmatic approach should be adopted to recognise the settlements that have been built so far and ensure security of residence.

7. In urban centres, protection should be extended to informal workers without making them illegal. As most rural-urban migrants work in the informal sector, it should be a priority to curb exploitative working conditions

8. The historically cosmopolitan nature of Dire Dawa, Gulu and Eldoret should be acknowledged and valorised by local and national administrations through initiatives that emphasise values of diversity and social cohesion on which these cities can thrive as economic and cultural hubs.

The final research report from this study is currently being completed. Stay tuned for more details on rural to urban mobility through our Twitterfeed @REFHorn, our website, blog and our Facebook!

Guest Blog: Rural to Urban Migration of Refugees in Uganda by Kalyango Ronald, Lecturer from Makerere University and the lead researcher on the Gulu research, can be found here:

<https://blogs.soas.ac.uk/ref-hornresearch/2017/08/29/rural-to-urban-migration-of-refugees-in-uganda/>

Migration and Displacement In and From Darfur: Conflict, Livelihoods and Food Security

Research undertaken by the REF in collaboration with CEDEJ Khartoum, Oxfam Sudan and the Overseas Development Institute has considered the experiences of people migrating out of or through Darfur, Sudan towards Europe. The study considered the drivers, trends and constraints experienced by migrants, the impact of chronic conflict and regional instability on long-standing migration patterns, and the identification of possible appropriate policy responses in Sudan and in Europe. This project was co-funded with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Government of the Netherlands. Research was conducted in Khartoum, Darfur, the UK, Italy, France, and Belgium.

Data is now being analysed and will be publicly released in January 2018.

Looking ahead

Migration Management Research

Our research focuses on improving understanding of the actual and potential impact of migration management initiatives on sustainable development. Through qualitative interviews with key informants in government, private sector and civil society, it examines both how migration is seen to affect different areas of socio-economic activity and the actual or

potential impacts of migration management interventions on these sectors, with the aim to contribute to the design of interventions that have broader in-country support.

Displacement and return in Somalia

In December 2017, we will be launching a major study of displacement and return in Somalia. The study will consider the challenges posed by mass return and internal displacement within Somalia. The overall objective of this study is, through an evidence-based approach, to understand the different factors supporting and affecting internal displacement and return to and within Somalia as well as their impacts with a view to helping identify areas for donor intervention that may be effective in improving outcomes. Research will be centred on the cities of Mogadishu and Baidoa and the rural areas of central Somalia near Baidoa

Cross border economies and migration

The REF's study of borderland economies and mobility will build on a conceptual framework developed for the World Bank analysing migration decision-making in border areas. The study will consider movement in and across border regions, considering how borders both present opportunities as well as challenges for migration management and for would-be migrants. Research will take place in Ethiopia, Kenya, and Uganda.

Working Paper Series

In addition to in-depth research related to each of the 5 research themes, the REF team has established a working paper series to showcase related research being undertaken by researchers in and/or on the region.

For further details on the working paper series, please visit <https://www.soas.ac.uk/ref-hornresearch/working-papers/>

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Blog series: <https://blogs.soas.ac.uk/ref-hornresearch/>

The REF is funded by the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa. The Trust Fund has been created to support the most fragile and affected African countries. The Trust Fund aims to help foster stability in the regions to respond to the challenges of irregular migration and displacement and to contribute to better migration management.

