

populist political groups taking action towards the restriction of immigration space.

9. Severe: Protection deficits of migrants & asylum-seekers & widespread impunity

In light of the rising 'commoditization' of individuals in mixed migratory flows, RMMS expects that undocumented migrants and asylum-seekers will continue to suffer from severe protection deficits emanating from both state authorities and private actors. Many migrants and asylum-seekers are expected to be subjected to abduction, torture, sexual violence, and other forms of exploitation in their journeys towards countries where they hope to find better economic opportunities and/or refuge. The pattern of criminal elements (human traffickers/smugglers) operating with impunity and with the collusion of state authorities is expected to continue.

10. Continuing: Failure of states to uphold international human rights standards

Despite the existence of a comprehensive international legal framework protecting the fundamental human rights of migrants, refugees, and asylum-seekers, it is expected that many states will fail to implement and uphold their international legal obligations in 2014. RMMS predicts that there will be frequent instances of unlawful refoulement, prolonged and unnecessary detentions, expulsions, denial of due process rights during repatriation and deportation procedures, and failures in holding individuals engaging in criminal activities to account.

11. New: Large scale expulsions of migrants continues

The large scale expulsion of migrants in undocumented situations, which was witnessed at the end of 2013 and early 2014 when Saudi Arabia repatriated an unprecedented number (almost 500,000) of migrants, is likely to continue.



Regional Mixed Migration Secretariat

Core Functions:

- Information & data management
- Coordinates & support
- Analysis & Research
- Policy dialogue & networking

The RMMS is an independent body established in mid – 2011. It is co-located with and hosted by the Danish Refugee Council regional office in Nairobi. The co-founders and Steering Committee members for the RMMS include UNHCR, IOM, DRC, INTERSOS and the Yemen Mixed Migration Task Force (MMTF).

RMMS Regional
Mixed Migration
Secretariat



Danish Refugee Council office for the Horn of Africa & Yemen

Lower Kabete Road (Ngecha Road Junction)

P.O. Box 14762, 00800, Westlands, Nairobi.

Office: +254 (20) 4180403/4/5 (ext. 143)

Cell: +254 (0) 717722341

info@regionalmms.org



MIXED MIGRATION

within, and out of, the Horn of Africa and Yemen.

TRENDS 2014

RMMS Regional
Mixed Migration
Secretariat



www.regionalmms.org





Trends in 2014

Based on events and developments already evident or highly likely in 2014, RMMS offers brief highlights of expected trends that may significantly impact mixed migration in the region. The summary of 2013's trends can be found on the RMMS website (www.regionalmms.org).

Trends to watch

- Unchanging: Hardship, livelihood challenges, political drivers
- New: Organized return of Somali refugees
- New: Host country reassessment of Somali refugees
- Recent: Revaluation of labour migration from Horn the Middle East
- Long-term: Natural hazard & climate-change induced displacement
- Rising: Economic growth & education gains fuelling migration
- New: Consolidation of alternative routes & destinations
- Recent: Anti-migrant sentiment continues
- Severe: Protection deficits of migrants & asylum-seekers & wide spread impunity
- Continuing: Failure of states to uphold international human rights standards
- New: Large scale expulsions of migrants to continue

1. Unchanging: Hardship, livelihood challenges, political drivers

A major contributor to movement within and out of the Horn of Africa and Yemen is the economic and political hardships that are lived realities for many individuals in the region. High unemployment rates, limited economic opportunities, inequality, resource scarcity, poor governance, civil unrest, and political tensions, all mean that hundreds of thousands of poor unskilled workers continue to seek a better life elsewhere.

2. New: Host country reassessment of Somali refugees

The perceived and expected peace and security gains in Somalia may strengthen push factors in countries hosting Somali refugees, diaspora and irregular migrants. It is likely that the general trend witnessed in 2013 will continue in 2014 where an appreciable number of Somali refugees in the Horn of Africa and Yemen (some 1 million individuals); Somali diaspora (estimated at 1-2 million), and undocumented Somali migrants will return.

3. New: Organized and voluntary return of Somali refugees from Kenya to Somalia

Important steps towards resolving the protracted Somali refugee situation in Kenya are expected in 2014. This follows the adoption of a Tripartite Agreement between Kenya, Somalia and UNHCR in 2013 creating a framework for the organized and voluntary return of Somali refugees in Kenya to Somalia. Once the Commission responsible for advancing the repatriation process is fully operational – and because Kenya has strong expectations that a significant number of refugees will return – it is likely that the repatriation process will be stepped up considerably during the year.

4. Recent: Re-evaluation of labour migration from the Horn to the Middle East

Labour policy reassessments by some Middle Eastern countries are expected to have a continued impact on the young unemployed demographic in the Horn region who have, over the recent years, moved to Arab states for better employment opportunities and livelihoods. The crackdown on irregular labour migration by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) and the resumption of the construction of a border fence with Yemen is likely to reduce the number of undocumented labour migrants travelling to the region from the Horn and may also shift the route of entry for those still trying to enter KSA away from the Yemeni coast. It remains to be seen if there will be new agreements opening up regular labour migration channels (for work Saudis are unwilling to perform) after the change in labour migration policies.

5. Long-term: Natural hazard and climate-change induced movement & displacement

Trends in movement, as well as displacement induced by natural hazards and environmental stresses linked to climate-change, are expected in 2014. The migratory flows are likely to be voluntary and permanent as individuals abandon increasingly harsh and unprofitable environments in search of alternative livelihoods, as well as involuntary and temporary when communities are displaced by natural disasters. It is expected that the movements will be internal and cross border in nature.

6. Rising: Economic growth & educational gains fuelling migration

Economic growth and educational gains made in some countries in the region will continue to act as a pull and push factor for economically empowered and disempowered migrants alike – with both groups seeking opportunities, security and services outside their countries. It is likely the trend of educated and skilled migrants leaving the region will continue.

7. New: Consolidation of alternative routes & destinations

Stricter immigration laws and policies in preferred destination states as well as the construction/completion of border fences is expected to push migration flows away from the northern passage (towards Israel) and the eastern route (towards Saudi Arabia) into alternative routes – with increasing numbers travelling westwards towards North Africa and Europe, as well as southwards to South Africa.

8. Recent: Anti-migrant sentiment continues

Increasing anti-migrant, refugee, and asylum-seeker sentiment is a trend that is expected to be witnessed in transit and destination countries in 2014. The economic, social and security costs of hosting migrants and refugees is likely to feature with greater prominence in national discourses, with some governments and