

# Global Migration Futures (GMF)

## Horn of Africa and Yemen region: patterns, drivers and future scenarios of migration



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The Horn of Africa and Yemen region is home to one of the most highly visible mixed migration flows, with the number of people moving increasing over the last two decades.<sup>1</sup> Despite the regional nature of these flows, the regional dialogue on this issue remains weak and current initiatives tend to be local and scattered. Moreover, research into the journeys of migrants from this region tends to focus on those whose destinations lay in Europe.<sup>2</sup> While the migration literature recognises the main drivers of movement in the region, it does not explore how they change over time and the implications for the future. This project aims to address these gaps.

### Objectives

From January to June 2012, the Global Migration Futures project of the International Migration Institute will collaborate with the Regional Mixed Migration Secretariat (RMMS) in Nairobi to develop scenarios for future international migration to, from and within the Horn of Africa and Yemen in 2030. They will investigate:

- The patterns and drivers of contemporary movement and the potential futures of migration flows with the accompanying risks and opportunities
- The scale and scope of the various protection and assistance mechanisms required for the near and mid-term future

1 IOM (2009). 'Addressing Mixed Migration Flows'. Presentation by the International Dialogue on Migration. Available at: [http://www.iom.int/jahia/webdav/shared/shared/mainsite/about\\_iom/en/council/96/Mixed\\_Migration\\_Flows\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.iom.int/jahia/webdav/shared/shared/mainsite/about_iom/en/council/96/Mixed_Migration_Flows_FINAL.pdf)

2 UNHCR and IOM (2010, September 6-7) 'Mixed Movements and Irregular Migration from the East and Horn of Africa and Great Lakes Region to Southern Africa'. Concept note for Regional Conference on Refugee Protection and International Migration: Dar es Salaam. Available at: [www.unhcr.org/4d5256469.pdf](http://www.unhcr.org/4d5256469.pdf)

The scenarios will serve as tools for strategic and innovative thinking about possible migration futures. The accompanying insights will be invaluable, particularly for governments and humanitarian and development actors in the region.

### Research design

The following questions will guide our investigation:

- Which factors are most uncertain when thinking about the future of migration in the Horn of Africa and Yemen? Which of these 'uncertainties' are likely to have the greatest impact on migration?
- Which factors are relatively certain when thinking about the future of migration in the region? Which of these relative 'certainties' are likely to have the greatest impact on migration?
- Who are the primary migration stakeholders in the region, what are their interests, and how do they impact migration dynamics, now and in the future?



## First Component

Collect, compile, and analyse existing data and social scientific literature on migration drivers, patterns and trends in the Horn of Africa and Yemen from the fields of economics, politics, demography, geography, development studies, anthropology and sociology. Develop preliminary migration megatrends and uncertainties for both sending and receiving countries in the region.

## Second Component

Disseminate an online survey to scholars and non-academic stakeholders from governments, international organisations, businesses and civil society organisations, who have insight into and expertise on issues related to migration in the region. The survey will ask respondents about past, present, and potential future drivers and patterns of migration in the Horn of Africa and Yemen. It will help to establish a baseline of the currently held beliefs on regional migration dynamics as well as the perceived opportunities and challenges associated with migration.

## Third Component

Convene a stakeholders workshop in Nairobi with 25 experts from governments, international organisations, businesses and civil society organisations, working on issues related to migration in the region. Stakeholders will use information from their daily work as well as their broader knowledge of global processes and changes that may affect the region and collaborate to develop scenarios on future migration in the Horn of Africa and Yemen. The workshop will prompt stakeholders to be active contributors to the production of knowledge as well as 'users' of scenarios in their future work.

For policy makers, this approach is helpful in exploring the factors leading to future shifts in global migration patterns and in examining possible future responses. For academics, this experience may increase awareness of future lines of investigation that have so far remained overlooked. For individuals working in the private sector, this knowledge will enhance their capacity to serve migrant needs in the future.

### Project funders

This project in the Horn of Africa and Yemen region is funded by the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office via the Danish Refugee Council.

IMI is a member of the Oxford Martin School at Oxford University, and received additional funding from Dr James Martin (founder of the school) to match the grants already received for the Global Migration Futures project. This project theoretically and methodologically complements other IMI research projects, including DEMIG, THEMIS and the Mobility in the African Great Lakes Project.

**RMMS** Regional  
Mixed Migration  
Secretariat

OXFORDMARTIN  
SCHOOL

### Project background and team

The Global Migration Futures project explores how migration dynamics may evolve in the future, based on a thorough understanding of past and current migration trends.

The team has developed scenarios for North Africa and Europe, and is now extending its reach into the Horn of Africa and Yemen through an innovative partnership with the Regional Mixed Migration Secretariat (RMMS), funded by the Danish Refugee Council.

RMMS supports agencies, institutions and forums in the Horn of Africa and Yemen sub-region to improve the management of protection and assistance response to people in mixed migration flows in the Horn of Africa and across the Gulf of Aden or Red Sea in Yemen.

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