African Migration Trends: Key Facts and Figures

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• IOM facts & figures

• Key Migration Trends

• Characteristics and Patterns of African Migration

• Migration Routes in Africa

• Conclusion: Framework for Migration Governance
Established in 1951, as the principal intergovernmental organization for migration.

- 155 Member States. A further 11 states hold observer status.

- IOM’s programme budget for 2013 exceeded USD 1.3 billion, funding over 2,300 active programmes.

- IOM has 7,800 staff members serving in more than 470 field offices in over a hundred countries.
An individual’s decision for migration may be motivated by a range of factors!

- Economic factors
- Governance and public services
- Demographic imbalances
- Conflict
- Environmental factors
- Transnational networks
More than half of the top 20 migration corridors from South to South

Top 20 migration corridors worldwide (migrant stock, in thousands), using the World Bank classification, 2010

Source: IOM calculations, based on UN DESA, 2012b.
Most of the 232 million international migrants move from the South to the North or between countries in the South.

Migration Trends – Forcibly Displaced People

- Global migration figures have increased from 154 million in 1990 to 175 million in 2000 and over 232 million in 2013
- Africa is expected to have the largest population growth of any region in the world between now and 2050
- At a global level, the number of IDPs has increased from 26 million in 2011 to 33 million in 2013

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<th>Migrants (in millions)</th>
<th>Refugees (in millions)</th>
<th>Internally displaced persons (in millions)</th>
<th>Population (in billions)</th>
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Out of USD 550 billion in remittances worldwide, some USD 404 billion are flowing from migrants to developing countries.

The growth in remittance flows to developing countries is expected to accelerate at an annual average of 8.4% over the next 3 years.

Efforts to reduce the costs of remittance transfers have resulted in an estimated savings to migrants and their families of USD 42.5 billion over the period 2009-2013.

More can be done! (In 173 corridors, average costs are above 5%, while only in 47 corridors, costs are below 5%)
Remittances in Africa

• In 2013, an estimated 30 million African migrants sent an estimated $60 billion in remittances to support more than 120 million family members back home.

• Nigeria is by far the largest recipient of remittance inflows in SSA, accounting for about 67 percent of the inflows to the region in 2012.

• Other major recipients are Senegal, Kenya, Sudan, and South Africa.
Diaspora, Labour Migration, and Skills Surpluses/Shortages

- Many governments are encouraging diaspora members to become involved in the development of their countries of origin.

- 39% of governments globally had policies to encourage immigration of highly-skilled workers in 2011, up from 22% in 2005.

- Approximately 105 million people are international labour migrants (almost 50% of the global migrant stock).

- Immigrants from developing economies contributed an estimated 40% of labour force growth in advanced economies between 1980 and 2010.

- By 2020, there will be a potential shortage of 38-40 million workers in tertiary education and 45 million in secondary education in developing countries.
Migration across national boundaries, particularly in West Africa, was prominent prior to the attainment of political independence and the emergence of well-defined territorial boundaries--most migrants move quite freely, unhindered by 'artificial' frontiers.

The frontier, seasonal, and short-term migrant workers regard their movements as simply an extension across national boundaries of internal movements and of rural-rural migration.

In the absence of official channels of assistance, migrants in Africa rely on their network of social relations -- friends, relatives, townsfolk -- to give the signal for migrating, provide accommodation on arrival and assist in securing employment.
Characteristics of African Migration

- Clan solidarity is fully operative; brothers, uncles and cousins sheltering their brothers, cousins and nephews

- Mixed Migration Flows: Movements consisting of groups of migrants comprising refugees, IDPs, labour migrants, asylum-seekers, victims of trafficking, smuggled migrants, etc.
Migration is not just a one-way movement—most countries are both migrant-receiving and migrant-sending countries.

Migration by individuals is often not just from one country to another—it may be circular and multi-directional, involving returns to the country of origin and further movements to other countries of destination.

- Diversification of destinations
- Feminisation of migration
- Brain-drain and brain circulation
- Labour migration in Sub-Saharan Africa
- Displaced populations: Internally displaced persons and refugees
- The HIV/AIDS epidemic and migration
International migratory movements in Africa have become more complex in recent years and are increasingly mixed in character.

Major categories of migrants are economic migrants, refugees, asylum seekers, stateless persons, victims of trafficking, smuggled migrants, and unaccompanied minors and children.

Refugees and irregular migrants moving with the “aid” of smugglers face rough handling, abandonment, lack of food and water or medical support, confinement, beatings, drowning, sexual attacks, extortion, detention, robbery, kidnapping and death.

Push factors are conflicts, droughts, floods, absence of good governance, endemic poverty.
Migration Routes in East and Horn of Africa

Characterised by both intra-regional and international mixed migratory movements

Major source countries are Ethiopia, Somalia, and Eritrea
The three major migratory routes are the following:

- **Northward** to the Mediterranean region and on to Europe via the Horn of Africa to Sudan and Egypt or Libya

- **Eastward** to the Middle East (often Saudi Arabia), normally through Djibouti and Northern Somalia across the Gulf of Aden

- **Southward** to Southern Africa, to reach South Africa travelling through the Great Lakes and SADC regions
Route Map of Africa

North Africa Route

Sinai Route

Northern Route

Southern Route
Migration Routes in Central Africa

• The top country of origin of refugees in the region is the Central African Republic.

• Central Africa is one of the principal centres of refugee movement, with most refugees in the region located in Chad, Cameroon, and Congo.

• Gabon hosts the largest number of migrant workers in Central Africa (due to oil).

• Countries such as Gabon and the Republic of Congo are transit countries for irregular migrants from the Central Africa region or from West Africa, whose ultimate destination tends to be Europe.

• West and Central Africa regions have high numbers of children on the move.
Migration Routes in West Africa

- More than 70 percent of movements take place within the sub-region.
- The 1979 ECOWAS Free Movement Protocol allows for greater intra-regional, rather than international, migration.
- Over the last decade, labour mobility has increased significantly in the ECOWAS Zone.
- Asian migrants are often smuggled in West Africa to reach other European and non-European destinations.
- The Libyan crisis was an important destabilising factor for the region.
Intra-regional migration and circulation are estimated to involve 7 million economically active persons and an unspecified number of undocumented migrants.

44 percent are female and 20 percent are under 19 years of age.

A significant rise in mixed and irregular migration flows that mostly originate from the Horn of Africa, particularly Ethiopia and Somalia.

- Increasing flow of unaccompanied minors.
Migration Routes in North Africa

- 2011 “Arab Spring” shockwaves
- Thousands of migrants escaped violence by crossing Libya’s borders with Algeria, Egypt, and Tunisia and other neighbouring countries
- Thousands of Sub-Saharan African migrants often risk their lives to reach Europe
- Extortion and mistreatment of migrants along routes that originate in the Horn of Africa, cross Egypt’s southern border with Sudan, and extend through the Sinai Peninsula to Israel
A state supports migration that is humane, orderly, and benefits migrants and society when it:

- **Adheres to international standards**, particularly human rights obligations, and protects vulnerable migrants.
- **Makes policy that is based on evidence** and is developed in close collaboration with partners.
- **Addresses the socio-economic needs** of migrants, and communities of origin, transit, and destination.
- **Is responsive and resilient** in the face of crises and mitigates the risks associated with the movement of people.
- **Ensures access to available regular migration mechanisms** through transparent and effective implementation of migration law.
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