

Development, Demographics and Future Migration Trends in IGAD Region



10 March 2017

Aron Tekelegzi

IOM, Special Liaison Office
Addis Ababa
atekelegzi@iom.int

MIGRATION PATTERN IN IGAD

- Traditionally and historically low levels of migration rate – predominantly towards neighboring countries and North America
- Current migration pattern reveals a trend that is increasingly mixed and larger in volume
- A significant portion of out-bound migrant stock remains within the region – with the remaining portion spread between Middle East and Gulf Countries, Europe, North America and rest of Africa

- A misconception on poverty and conflict as being the only drivers of migration
- Socio-economic development and migration have direct correlation, with middle income societies exhibiting the highest level of mobility
- Development often brings better infrastructure and better access to information, paving the way for more mobility
- Poorer societies tend to migrate over smaller distances, either to neighboring countries, or even as IDPs

- With recent gains in economic and social development, and the relatively low overall levels, recent and current migration rate is only the beginning of a much larger out-bound mobility from IGAD
- A significantly higher fertility rate in the region is contributing to a population that is younger and prone to mobility
- The consequent huge “youth bulge” contributes to an increasing rate of annual labour market entrants much faster than corresponding new jobs economies in the region are capable of creating

- Overflow to aging and developed economies with much higher opportunity gaps likely to increase over the coming years
- Emerging drivers of migration - urbanization will likely become an important driver for both intra-state and intra-region migration
- Climate change likely to cause an unprecedented rise in international migration

LONG TERM SOLUTIONS

1. **Expand legal routes** - to facilitate safe, orderly & regular migration including labour mobility and family reunification
2. **Comprehensive policy** to govern migration - evidence-based & “whole-of-government
3. **Protect migrants’ rights** – especially migrants in situations of vulnerability, exploitation or abuse
4. **Integration & social inclusion**, incl. countering xenophobia
5. **Rationalization of processes** – close cooperation between stakeholders to avoid competing initiatives from undermining each other