



**Committee: International
Organization for Migration**

Topic B: Internal Displacement and Migration in the Horn of Africa due to the drought.

MUNTCP

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Introduction to the Committee.

The United Nations International Organization for Migration (IOM) is an organ that was founded on December 6th 1951, it counts with a Director General and two Deputy Director Generals as well as The Council, a governing body composed of the heads of states that rules all the decisions made by IOM. It is part of the special agencies of the UN, and it also belongs to the Global Migration Group, which is an inter-agency group that was founded in 2003 by the United Nations Secretary-General.

IOM was founded after World War II aiming to bring order and security to the high number of migrants that surged from the (IOM, n.d.), it currently counts with 175 member states, and it works alongside other UN organizations such as the World Bank, and the International Labor Organization among others. Its main goal is to find humane solutions for migration issues worldwide as well as giving support to the migrants, this by the evacuation of vulnerable migrants, voluntary relocation, family relocation, making efforts to counter-trafficking and protection of migrants that are in vulnerable situations.

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Introduction.

Internally displaced people according to the OHCHR are “persons or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized border” (OHCHR, 2024). The IOM provides a similar definition as it defines internally displaced people as, people who move voluntarily within a country, and move for several reasons, both formally and informally.

A place where internal displacement and migration are particularly prevalent is the Horn of Africa, a region in the eastern part of the country that faces significant migration issues, it has the appearance of a horn and is formed by Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, and Somalia, this region of Africa has significant migration issues, as it owns part of the Eastern Migration Route, which is located in Yemen, and it is one of the busiest, most dangerous and most complex migration routes, where a large percentage of migrants are Ethiopian, and a small portion are Somalis, people often suffer from heat strokes and dehydration in this route,

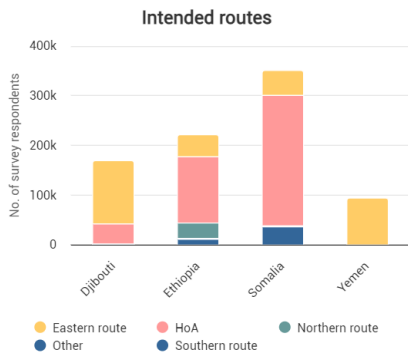
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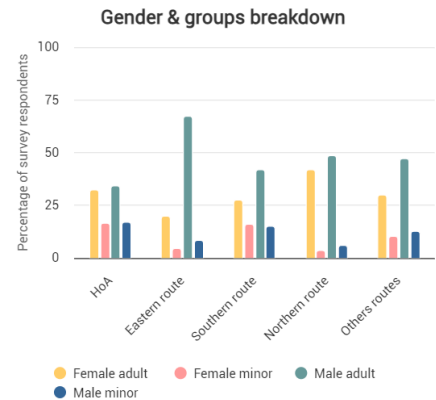
It also owns the Northern Route, this route is located in Sudan, and is formed by the Central Mediterranean Route and the Sinai Route, the Central Mediterranean Route is known as one of the deadliest routes of migration in all the world, according to the IOM nearly 2,500 people died or went missing as they attempted to cross the stretch in 2023, and the Sinai route, is currently under the control of cartels and human traffickers. Finally, the last migration route is the Southern Route, which is located in Kenya, Tanzania, and further in Southern Africa, this route is also risky since migrants that cross through this route often endure trafficking, abuse, and violence.



Routes taken by migrants per country.

per route

(IOM, 2024)



(IOM, 2024)

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Droughts are one of the main causes of migration in The Horn of Africa, which has suffered from these since 2010 and the most recent one happened in 2020, some causes of these droughts were Climate Change, which affects evaporation, humidity of the soils and the ocean temperatures. Another cause is excessive deforestation, this because it affects the amount of water that is released to the atmosphere by trees. Lastly, the strong winds in the atmosphere called jet streams also cause droughts because they modify the cycle of water.

This drought has had several repercussions, such as food insecurity, famine, rising prices of food and malnutrition, all this together is causing vulnerability to diseases, such as cholera, measles, malaria, tuberculosis and HIV, according to the IOM this also led to an increase in the COVID-19 cases, causing a decrease in the flow of migrants due to the constant border restrictions on Djibouti and Ethiopia, which mainly consisted on closing totally or partially the borders.

There was also no access to the COVID-19 vaccine due to the previously mentioned border restrictions and low vaccine acceptance, in October 2020, the routes were partially opened; some migrants were stranded in Djibouti, Yemen, and Somalia, while another part of these migrants returned from Yemen, this led migrants to take risky smuggling routes, causing physical assault, sexual abuse and robbery, leading to migrants

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who didn't reach their final destination and migrants who ended up with psychological affections causing difficulties on their adaptation.

Other causes for the migration were the armed conflicts like the Afar-Somali clashes which happened intermittently between the years of 2007 and 2022, these clashes were given between two ethnic communities, who were in dispute for a territory that includes the Awash River, which counts with important transport routes and resources for both countries. On the other hand, the Yemen-armed conflict, which started in 2014 when a group of insurgents took the capital and ended with a ceasefire on October 2022. These conflict caused psychological and mental affections for the citizens, a big economic impact in the monetary policies, and retained access to markets and monetary instruments. Leading to the increase in migrants looking for better opportunities and lifestyle for their families, and themselves, as can be reflected in statistics.

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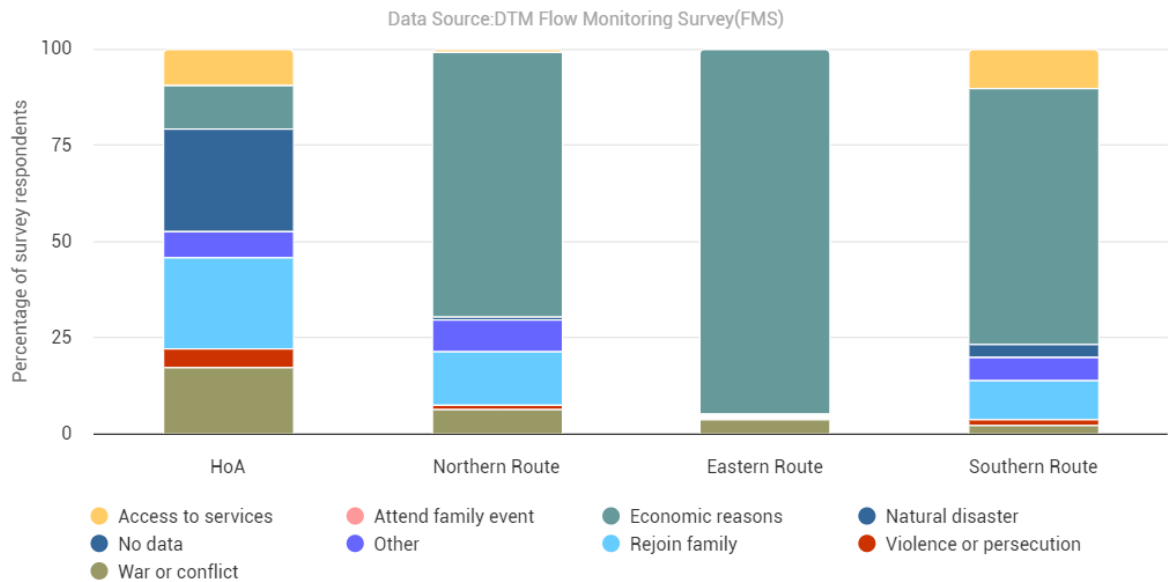
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What is the main reason for your Journey?

Surveys taken from January to December 2018 in Ethiopia, Somalia and Djibouti



Main reasons for migrants on the African Horn

(IOM, 2024)

It's also important to highlight the countries that are being affected and the internal issues they may be facing. As it can directly affect the ability of migrants to adapt correctly.

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To start with it, Sudan is currently grappling with multiple severe issues, including internal displacement due to ongoing conflicts, inadequate health services, and a lack of electricity. These challenges have led to widespread food insecurity, with millions at risk of hunger approximately half of the population requires humanitarian assistance, including food, water, and shelter. (United Nations, 2023; World Health Organization, 2023; International Energy Agency, 2023; United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, 2023; World Food Programme, 2023).

While Ethiopia is another country deeply affected by prolonged droughts, leading to significant crop failures and food shortages. This added to the economic difficulties have severely limited access to education, employment opportunities, and clean water (Famine Early Warning Systems Network, 2023; International Organization for Migration, 2023; UNICEF, 2023). The country also faces challenges with the forced return of many migrants from Saudi Arabia, who often endure harsh conditions.

Directly affecting Uganda, where the influx of unaccompanied and unprotected children fleeing conflict in neighboring countries has strained resources. The country faces challenges in providing education due to limited funds, and food insecurity has led to a significant number of deaths. Moreover, cholera outbreaks have been reported,

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particularly in overcrowded refugee settlements (UNHCR, 2023; Save the Children, 2023; World Food Programme, 2023; World Health Organization, 2023).

Similarly, Kenya hosts a significant number of refugees, leading to overcrowded camps and a shortage of essential resources such as clean water, sanitation, and healthcare. Furthermore, restrictions on movement for refugees have impacted their ability to work and integrate into the local economy (UNHCR, 2023; Médecins Sans Frontières, 2023; Human Rights Watch, 2023).

Correspondingly, in Italy, the arrival of numerous migrants from North and South Africa has strained resources and social services. These migrants face significant challenges, including racism, and are often targets of robbery and assault. Many seek to return to their countries of origin due to the difficult conditions they face in Italy (International Organization for Migration, 2023; Human Rights Watch, 2023).

On the other side, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) is facing severe food insecurity, with millions in need of emergency food assistance. The country also suffers from one of the highest rates of sexual violence, particularly in conflict zones, along with widespread gender-based violence, exacerbated by ongoing conflict and

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displacement (World Food Programme, 2023; UN Women, 2023; International Rescue Committee, 2023).

Likewise, Somalia is dealing with high levels of malnutrition, especially among children, due to prolonged drought and conflict, rising prices of food and basic goods, driven by political instability, have made these essentials inaccessible to many, further compounding the country's challenges (UNICEF, 2023; World Bank, 2023; International Crisis Group, 2023).

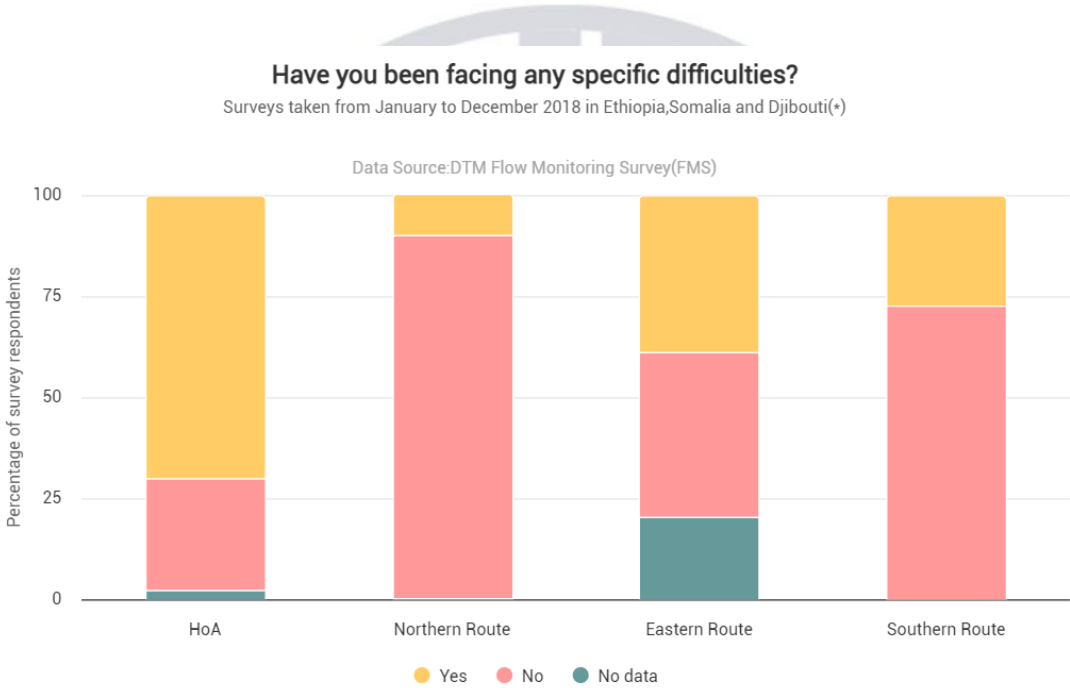
Yemen is at risk of large-scale famine, with two-thirds of the population in need of humanitarian assistance. The ongoing conflict has left much of the population reliant on aid for survival, making it one of the most critical humanitarian crises in the world (World Food Programme, 2023; United Nations, 2023).

Lastly, Malta has been criticized for its automatic detention law for migrants, which violates human rights. Although migrants are allowed to work in Malta, even if their refugee status is rejected, they lack the full rights of recognized refugees, making them vulnerable to expulsion at any time (Amnesty International, 2023; European Council on Refugees and Exiles, 2023; Human Rights Watch, 2023).

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Percentage of people who have suffered difficulties per route
(IOM, 2024)

Historical Background

Starting with the civil armed conflict in Sudan that was the first significant eruption of violence in the nation, going from 1955 to 1972 the conflict followed the

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rebelling of the southern region against the Khartoum central government because of the many differences between them, one being the political and economic marginalization made by the inequitable distribution of resources between the North and the South and the longstanding cultural and religious differences, as the North and South regions of Sudan have historically held distinct beliefs and practices. These, along with the government banning some religions practiced by various people in the South, caused the conflict to intensify. This armed conflict ended with the creation of the Addis Ababa agreement reached in 1972, this agreement included the protection of cultural and religious rights, better development of the South, and greater representation, these were some agreements, although this only decreased the conflict as it remained persistent.

The agreement gave Sudan relative peace for a decade, until the imposition of the Sharia (Islamic) law in 2010 by president Gaafar Nimeiry, which is formed by rules from the religious book of Islam that says what citizens can and cannot do from a religious point of view, some rules are daily routines, family obligations, etc. and it also provides many aspects of life for Muslims turning into a guide for the citizens. Some rules imposed were related with religion practices, since they were against ethnic and religious diversity, this aggravated the tensions, giving as a result the second civil armed conflict in Sudan which started in 1983 and took place until 2005.

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Its two sides were the Sudan Khartoum government in North Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) in South Sudan, the conflict was mainly a continuation of the first, and has been documented as one of the longest civil armed conflicts. This armed conflict, one of the most violent of the 21st century, has been marked by severe human rights violations, including mass displacements affecting over 4 million people, many of whom have been forcibly moved multiple times. The war has also been characterized by famine, large-scale atrocities, and widespread slavery perpetrated by both sides, resulting in approximately 2 million casualties. (Ray, n.d).

Throughout the years, the conflict evolved, with brief periods of ceasefire and ongoing negotiations failing to bring lasting peace. However, a turning point was reached with the signing of The Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) in 2005, which is a simplification of the six key agreements made by The Government of Sudan and the SPLA. The CPA was reached throughout two years of intense negotiation and it's formed by: The Protocol of Machakos: signed on 2002 in Machakos, Kenya. The Protocol on security arrangements: Signed in 2003 in Naivasha, Kenya. The Protocol on wealth-sharing: Signed in Naivasha, Kenya, 2004. The Protocol on Power-sharing, signed in Naivasha, Kenya, 2004. The Protocol on the resolution of conflict in southern Kordofan/Nuba Mountains and the Blue Nile States, signed in Naivasha, Kenya, 2004.

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And finally, The Protocol on the Resolution of Conflict in Abyei, signed in Naivasha, Kenya, in 2004.

Moreover, this compound of documents granted the South six years of autonomy, in which the country was meant to recuperate stability and prepare for the upcoming referendum. After these years, the referendum for South Sudan's autonomy was conducted, with the population overwhelmingly voting for its independence and setting South Sudan as a semi-autonomous nation. Nonetheless, conflicts have persisted within South Sudan, due to ethnic tensions, political instability and economic inequality

Meanwhile, Sudan was embroiled in internal conflict the rest of the Horn of Africa faced much different though equally devastating crises such as the Ethiopian drought, a period that created consequences in Ethiopian society and broader regions.

Ethiopia suffered one of its worst droughts during the 80s when an untimely series of droughts hit the Sahel region of Africa, with Ethiopia facing the worst of it by having recurring droughts that persisted from 1981 to 1984. These droughts resulted in widespread famine and a significant downfall of agricultural production. Giving, as a result, tensions among ethnic groups to have control over resources and power, governance was unable to handle the crisis, as it had a lot of corruption. This situation

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obliged people to move homes, the places where migrants went most were urban areas such as Asella, Adama, Mojo or Addis Ababa, some also went to neighboring Arab countries, but it is more dangerous.

The consequences of this drought continue to terrorize the Ethiopian population today as the affected regions still face food insecurity and inadequate infrastructure to respond to natural disasters such as droughts, earthquakes, or forest fires. As well as it lacks greater awareness of the issue of climate change and pests, while the improvement of response mechanisms and the need for improvement in agricultural practices are also important.

Another area of the Horn of Africa facing conflict during this time was Somalia, where the collapse of the Siad Barre government in 1990 triggered a civil war. This conflict led to severe humanitarian crises, worsening living conditions, and severely damaging the economy, making it difficult to access basic resources. The situation was exacerbated by a famine caused by droughts, and the collapsing government, plagued by corruption, rendered relief efforts largely ineffective. As a result, many people fled dangerous areas, seeking safety in other parts of the country. However, the conditions for these internally displaced people were dire; shelters were overcrowded, medical care was lacking, and food was scarce. Some people chose to migrate to neighboring countries like

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Ethiopia and Djibouti, which, despite doing their best to accommodate them, faced similar challenges due to their own resource shortages.

Ethiopia problems did not stop with the droughts since two decades later from 1998 to 2000 the country was cornered into an armed conflict with Eritrea where Ethiopia faced a significant quantity of casualties, being approximately 937,133, as well as the destruction of infrastructure, which included obliterated schools, hospitals and roads, this ensued great social and economic impact to the already weakened country. Exemplified by the countries gross national product reduction, which went from 8% to 1%, or the food insecurity crisis that affected millions of people which was a result of the aforementioned problems in addition to the trade blockages that led to hunger, malnourishment and an overall decline of living conditions.

As evidenced by these issues the Horn of Africa is a region that is vulnerable to climate change since it has shifting weather and depends on rain for its agriculture which is why it was greatly affected by the droughts in the year 2000, that caused food insecurity in all of its 5 countries as well as Uganda. The resulting impact on crops has only deepened the continuous suffering endured by the population such as food scarcity, millions of civilian casualties, rising prices of commodities resulting in a dire humanitarian crisis that has created an urgent need for effective measures (UNHCR, n.d.)

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To help areas that face these types of crises, the UN has created documents like the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, signed and adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1948, as a response to the Second World War. It sets forth a set of rights and freedoms to which all individuals are entitled. For the topic of migration, the Declaration asserts the right of everyone to seek asylum from persecution and emphasizes the importance of treating all individuals with dignity and respect, regardless of their migration status.

Current Relevance

The previously mentioned crises, especially climate change, are crucial as they are key drivers of migration and displacement in the Horn of Africa. The impact of environmental degradation and resources scarcity worsens the existing conflicts and forces populations to flee their homes. Addressing these issues requires global cooperation; failure to act swiftly and decisively could lead to more severe consequences, not just for the Horn of Africa but globally.

The division of Sudan into two states in 2011, following the second Sudanese Civil War, left unresolved political and social tensions that continue to fuel ongoing conflicts. These tensions, exacerbated by environmental challenges like drought and

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resource scarcity, have led to widespread displacement, forcing many to seek refuge in neighboring countries such as Uganda, Sudan, and Ethiopia, which are grappling with their own challenges. The absence of a comprehensive solution to the root causes of these conflicts has prolonged instability, underscoring the urgent need for a more effective approach that addresses both the environmental and political crises in the region.

In response to such crises, the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, adopted in 2016, underscores the international community's commitment to protecting human rights and supporting countries with large numbers of refugees, particularly in regions like Africa. The UN has also created the UN Global Compact on Migration, adopted in 2018, which provides a framework for international cooperation on migration. It aims to enhance global responses to migration and includes the participation of 38 entities of the UN. Its objective is to address migration challenges through comprehensive and cooperative measures, ensuring the safety and rights of migrants while fostering international solidarity and collaboration.

However, despite these commitments and frameworks, tragic incidents such as the discovery of 34 bodies in the Sahara Desert in 2016, where smugglers abandoned the migrants mid-journey, and the loss of 92 lives under similar circumstances in 2017,

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underscore the disparity between international commitments and the challenges faced by migrants.

The 2020-armed conflict in Ethiopia, known as the Tigray conflict, exacerbated these issues, leading to even more displacement and migration. Additionally, the recent drought (2020-2023) has exacerbated food insecurity and displacement in the Horn of Africa, leading many children to resort to perilous journeys in search of a better life. In response to these contemporary migration challenges, the 2022 Los Angeles Declaration on Migration seeks to promote safe and orderly migration. While the declaration addresses migration challenges, it primarily focuses on policies and management, without delving deeply into underlying factors such as environmental crises, which contribute to these severe conditions.

As seen by the most recent cases of migration and problems arising in the Horn of Africa, understanding the current challenges is crucial for the IOM to support and protect the population that is vulnerable to these challenges in the Horn of Africa.

International Actions

International cooperation has been needed to address the needs of the Horn of Africa. For instance, the European Union has implemented the Better Migration

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Management Programme (BMM), which with the support of IOM, UNOD, Civipol and the British Council has managed to help more than 50,000 migrants and victims of human trafficking, using a human rights based approach and guaranteeing protection services and assistance supported by the program. The objective of this program is to enable national authorities to facilitate migration, strengthen the cooperation between countries of origin, transit and destiny, address human trafficking by strengthening investigation and prosecution on this and enhance an effective strategy to protect migrants and victims of trafficking.

As a result of this, 22 new migration policies, strategies and legal frameworks were created, 11 host communities made recommendations on improved migration and “more than 23 700 actors supported in improving migration governance, for example through the regulation of work and residence rights for migrants and strengthened cross-border cooperation” (European Commission, 2024).

Internally the African Union launched the Migration Policy Framework for Africa, which was asked by the ministers of the Organization of African Union Council in 2001, being adopted for the first time in 2006 by the Gambia, officially drafted in 2018 and will be active till 2030. It has 8 main objectives, migration governance, labor

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migration and education, diaspora engagement, border governance, irregular migration, forced displacement, internal migration and migration and trade.

This policy framework aims to facilitate migration in a safer and more ordered way, it also seeks to make the migrants have a better socio-economic well-being, and it encourages the regional cooperation of labor migration policies; to have remittances to improve people's economic situation; to have a border governance for better management on the geographical borders of the countries. It also addresses migrant smuggling and human trafficking, for the migrants to have safer and better migration routes.

The United States of America, has also cooperated to address these issues, the USAID (US Agency for International Development) has been attending acute needs that droughts have left in the most affected countries, being Ethiopia and Somalia, providing food to Ethiopia between the years of 2015 and 2018, and providing help to Kenya and Somalia between 2018-2018, the USAID has also increased the efforts to respond to the drought in the Horn of Africa between 2022-2023, all these response efforts were made alongside AAH/USA, African Entrepreneurship Collective, CARE, Center for Victims of Torture, Concern Worldwide, CRS, DanChurchAid, DRC, Development for Peace Organization, ECC-SDCO-Harar, ERCS, FAO, FH, FIDO, Finn Church Aid and GOAL.

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In Eastern Africa, the IGAD (Intergovernmental Authority on Development) working with EAC and IOM created, in October 10th 2023, the High-Level Policy Roundtable discussion on Regional Integration and Human Mobility in East and Horn of Africa, which is a mainly focused project on allowing the migrants to cross the frontier with more ease. One of the strategies that were implemented to achieve this was the integration of border management, especially achieved through One-Stop Border Posts, other goals of this policy is a better integration of the migrants for them to get economic growth, a better mobility and security for the migrants and protection of the gender-based violence.

The African Development bank also launched an initiative called The Horn of Africa Initiative, which is driven by seven countries; Djibouti; Ethiopia; Eritrea; Kenya; Somalia; South Sudan and Sudan, and counts with the collaboration of the European Union, the World Bank, the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, and the UK Foreign Commonwealth. This initiative's principal objectives are to deepen regional economic integration to enhance resilience to foster peace and stability, and the other objective is to improve the living standards and conditions of the people living in the Horn.

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Lastly, the ICMPD (International Centre for Migration Policy Development) created the Support Project to the Africa-EU Migration and Mobility Dialogue (MMP), which is part of a strategy created by Africa and the U.S. being the European Union the main donor, it started its activities in 2016, and will end 10 years later in 2026. Its main aim is to facilitate migration and mobility making it safer and more ordered, currently it's on its third phase and continues to facilitate migration dialogue, it supports selected local initiatives of local authorities, this project sticks with the Joint Valletta Action Plan (JVAP), which is another project that aims to reduce migration problems in Africa and Europe.

UN Actions

Further on, the United Nations created the Regional Migrant Response Plan, which has been active since 2018, the MRP for the Horn of Africa and Yemen is an inter-agency plan that has brought together the IOM and 48 organizations to provide life-saving humanitarian and protection support, which includes provision of food, nutrition assistance, healthcare, economic resources with various purposes, water, sanitation and hygiene assistance, as well as protecting migrants, providing support designed specifically for victims of trafficking, victims of gender based violence and victims of human rights violations.

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The current MRP has four strategic objectives, which are “providing life-saving assistance to vulnerable migrants and host communities; providing quality, timely, accessible, and inclusive protection assistance and specialized and tailored services to migrants, returnees, and host communities in vulnerable situations; strengthening access to return, sustainable reintegration, and community stabilization; building evidence, partnerships, and coordination to enhance the humanitarian response and migration management throughout the migration route” (UN, 2023).

The MRP’s protection components strictly follow the principles derived from the Global Protection Cluster, which ensure the following, Right based approach; Equality and non-discrimination; Age, gender, and diversity approach; Prioritize safety, dignity, and avoid causing harm; respect among other things.

Also, the IOM and other 47 organizations appealed the 14th February 2023 for 84 million dollars to provide humanitarian and development assistance to over 1 million migrants and the hosting communities, many of which are vulnerable, the funding earned through this appeal was intended to help the addressing of the most critical needs of migrants in vulnerable situations, supporting their voluntary return to their countries and ensure that they reintegrate properly to the society.

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In the same way, the UNHCR this year allocated a budget of 2.149 billion dollars to solve issues in the Horn of Africa such as insecurity and violence, it is also destined to protect migrants since the migration routes that they have to take are some of the most dangerous in the world. In total \$426 million were destined to Ethiopia, \$409 were destined to Sudan, \$343 million were destined to Uganda, \$259 million were destined to South Sudan and \$177 million were destined to Somalia. Another action that UNHCR has taken is to provide emergency refugee camps for the internally displaced people and the refugees, providing them humanitarian aid.

Finally, UNICEF is currently working with the Uganda Red Cross Society, helping children and families to access nutrition, safe water and essential healthcare. In 2022, with the help of their donors, UNICEF reached more than 2 million children and women with life-saving healthcare services, treated almost 1.3 million children that were affected by severe acute malnutrition and provided safe water for almost 4.6 million people.

Points

to

Discuss

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1. Context

- a. Guaranteeing migrant security
 - i. Providing migrants with resources in the help centers and for their journey
 - 1. Healthcare
 - 2. Immigration orientation
 - ii. Dignified retention for migrants
- b. Reaffirming the correct relocation of migrants
- c. Addressing the causes of racism for migrants in migrant-receiving countries
- d. Ensuring the rights of migrants are being respected
 - i. They must not be returned to their original countries
 - ii. They should have a place to stay while they're being processed
 - iii. Moving to other countries is a right, and they should not be attacked because of doing it.

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- e. Facilitating processes for refugees
 - i. Being capable of providing enough space for refugees in camps
 - ii. Ensuring they will have access to lodgment while waiting to be located

2. Development

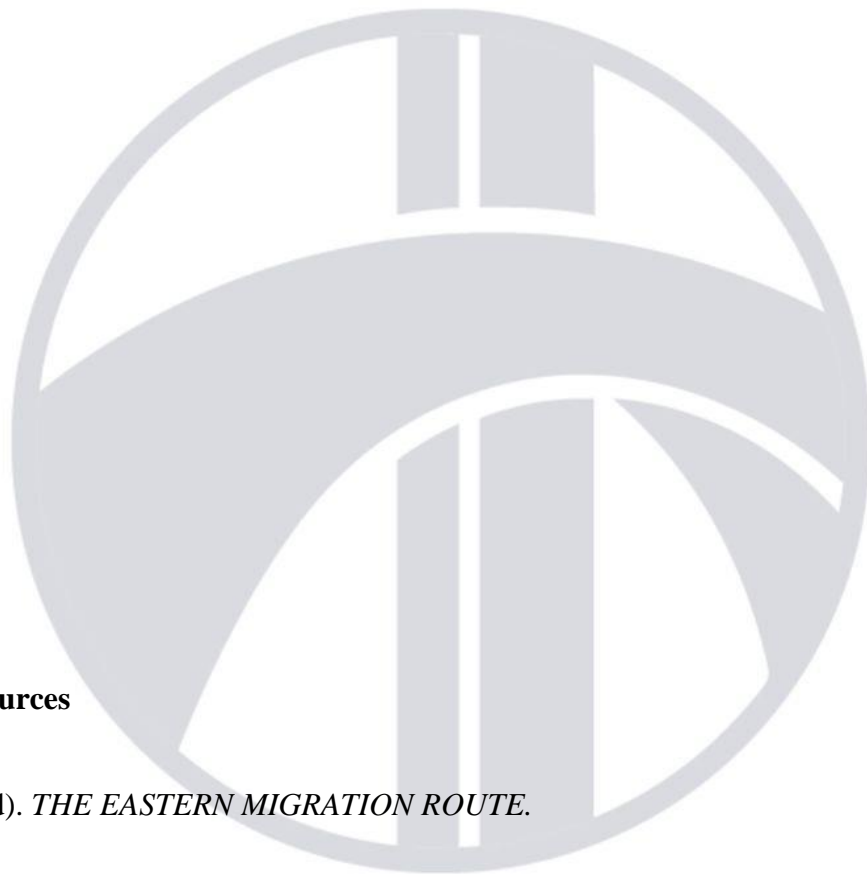
- f. Addressing the causes of migration
 - i. Facing the causes of migration
 - ii. Preventing a migration crisis from happening again
- g. Development of campaigns that prevent racism against migrants
- h. Addressing the causes of the drought
 - i. Facing causes of the drought
 - ii. Ensuring the Horn of Africa is prepared to face another drought
 - iii. Ensuring the collaboration of all involved countries

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