

Cross-border Displacement



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Cross Border Migration in Africa



- The continent has the world's most mobile population (Curtin)
- Contrary to popular myths and claims of mass illegal flow across the Mediterranean to Europe, a majority of African migrants move within the continent
- Flow to Europe has increased but it is still quite small compared to intracontinental movement (Bakewell and De Haas, 2007)
- Migration in Africa has been tied to ancient traditions of small ethnic groups who moved around hunting and practicing nomadic agriculture (due to land losing fertility) and pastoralist (in search of grazing land)
- Lately, the more permanent migrations have been driven by warfare, population growth and economic factors. But to day some groups still maintain cyclical and seasonal mobility for pastoralist and agriculture

The Red Cross Movement and Role in Migration



- The issue of migration is a humanitarian concern for the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement
- The focus of the RCRC Movement policy is to better protect, support and assist people affected by migration regardless of their legal status
- RCRC Movement also advocates for unconditional access to migrants
- RCRC works to improve cooperation between National Societies in countries of origin transit and destination
- Our policy aims at tackling migrants vulnerability by providing assistance and protection
- We always include migrants in humanitarian programming

Four cases to examine cross-border migration



- PEV in 2008 with 1.2 Million people displaced within and outside the country
- Mandera – multiple displacements between Kenya and Somalia
- Moyale – Cross border conflict driven by the new power dynamics in Kenya
- Daadab – Security situation and migration





Displacement

Advocacy



- Displacement in and out of the country: 1.2 M People. A sizable number went to Uganda
- KRC provided services in shelter, relief, water and sanitation, Health
- The interventions included Tracing and psychosocial support for the displaced inside Kenya and those who had crossed the borders
- KRC worked in close collaboration with Uganda Red Cross and the ICRC to support those displaced into Uganda.
- We also partnered with IOM and UNHCR to make sure the needs of the displaced people were met

Mandera



- The area along the border of Kenya and Somalia has been a zone of turbulence mainly because of conflict and unstable governments
- The movement of people in this areas is also determined by the availability of grazing land and water for the livestock which is the mainstay of the population
- The recent drought, which was the worst in 60 years has also contributed to mass migration from Somalia into Kenya and Ethiopia
- Inter-clan conflict related to resource have been common leading to border displacement
- The border is a security zone and so the migrants are viewed “foreigners who are a threat” and hence deflecting attention away from the humanitarian dimension
- Kenyan Government official of Somali Origin brutalized by the police

Displaced In “no man’s land”



- Populations displaced due to the military excursion of Ethiopian Defence Forces into Somali in support of the TFG
- The population were initially displaced into Kenya and but the authorities kicked them out into no man’s land
- The population then moved into Somalia only to be displaced once again in the same month by an Al Shabaab offensive.
- About 10,000 people settled into camps set up by KRC in Mandera. These camps were operated by KRC with pledged support from UNHCR
- Tree weeks later the GoK decided to kick the refugees out arguing that the Gedo, and Bulahawo regions were safe
- KRC met with countless government officials and UNHCR to advocate for the rights of these migrants to no avail

KRC action in Mandera



- Humanitarian action including registration, food and shelter
- Camp management and camp coordination
- Water and sanitation
- Tracing services

KRC Registering Displaced People



Making calls to loved ones back home



Registering for tracing services



Dadaab



- The biggest refugee camp in the world
- It has been around for 20 years since the government of Siad Barre in Somalia collapsed.
- KRC is the latest entrant into Dadaab. Entered in the face of increased insecurity and withdrawal of major humanitarian agencies. (after several high profile kidnappings of Kenyans and foreigners)
- KRC providing services to close to 80,000 refugees in an area that has been rocked by explosions targeting security agents as well.
- The closure of the Kenya/ Somali border has led to criminalization of migrants who are seeking humanitarian assistance and hence opening space for abuse by locals as well as the police

Insecurity in Dadaab



- Kidnapings
- Explosion and shooting in North-eastern Kenya
- Black lash towards from the security forces and attendant harassment
- A cycle of fear and suspicion between refugees and state agencies
- Fear and intimidation of the refugee population by the elements involved in the conflict
- Movement to areas previously perceived as secure become a source of insecurity (between camps, to the rest of the country and across the border)

Moyale



- A complex interplay between ecology, politics and ethnicity
- Same ethnic groups on both sides of the border with age old conflicts over resources and political superiority
- Kenya's new constitution which devolves power and resources to the regions has worsened the conflict with jostling for leadership among the different ethnic groups in the North
- Security in Ethiopian side of the border but the Kenyan side it is virtually unknown
- Different ethnic groups fight in Kenya during the day and go to spend the night in Ethiopia where security is assured

KRC Interventions



- Peace building and conflict resolution
- Advocacy
- Providing food, health and Tracing services
- Now discussing rehabilitation of the health centres, schools and houses

Burned houses forcing displacement across the border



Kenyans displaced in Ethiopia



Conclusion



- Power dynamics within states and across state borders creates new patterns of vulnerabilities
- Migration and displacement seen as new vectors of insecurity and hence high resistance from states to accept cross border movement
- Natural and ecological movement patterns are disrupted through criminalization
- A new perspective of humanitarian assistance is required which encompasses cross border perspective and country focused programming may be limiting (KRC and IOM discussing possibilities in Moyale