

LABOUR MOBILITY & MIGRATION



IN THE EAST AND HORN OF AFRICA





REGIONAL MINISTERIAL FORUM ON MIGRATION (RMFM) ON HARMONIZING LABOUR MIGRATION POLICIES IN EHOA: A UNITED APPROACH ON SAFE, REGULAR AND HUMANE LABOUR MIGRATION

On January 20, 2020, the States of East and Horn of Africa acting in line with international and legal frameworks on human, economic, social, and labour rights of migrant workers and members of their families, formed the Regional Ministerial Forum on Migration (RMFM) on “Harmonizing Labour Migration Policies in East an Horn of Africa: A United Approach on Safe, Regular and Humane Labour Migration”, in response to challenges faced by labour migrants traveling to the Middle East from the EHOA region. The RMFM aims to harmonize labour related migration and labour migration policies and laws across a region, which is home to an estimated 331 million Africans. More than eight million are migrants and migrant workers who travel within the region and abroad. The East and Horn of Africa, which includes the nations of Republic of Burundi, the Republic of Djibouti, the State of Eritrea, the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, the Republic of Kenya, the Republic of Rwanda, the Federal Republic of Somalia, the Republic of South Sudan, the Republic of the Sudan, the Republic of Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania, is also home to an estimated ten million refugees, IDPs and asylum seekers impacted by some of the rules governing labor mobility and labor migration.

The RMFM signed a Communique and Call to Action Priorities by all the 11 countries, which endorsed; the importance of common and coordinated approach in regulation and enforcement of labour migration; regional cooperation; strategic approach to labour migration governance and policy; response to protection needs of migrant workers’ and members of their families addressing their social, economic, labour and human rights with particular attention to women and youth; and regulation and enforcement of bilateral labor migration agreements which would govern and facilitate safe, orderly, regular, and ethical labour migration to address protection needs of migrant workers’ rights within and outside of the EHOA region. Towards the implementation of the objectives of the RMFM, Government of Kenya as the Chair with the support of IOM/UN Migration EHOA Regional Office, has so far facilitated three (3) RMFM High Level Ministerial meetings, three (3) Technical Advisory Committees chaired by Permanent/Principal Secretaries, the development and adoption the Operating Modalities, a roadmap on Implementation of the Regional Ministerial Forum objectives, the Terms of Reference for the Technical Advisory Committees and two consultative meetings with the Ambassadors of the Gulf Cooperation Council Countries to discuss a number of issues ranging from

recruitment processes and protection of migrant workers from the region. Kenya has been honored to Chair the RMFM as part of the agreed yearly rotational tenure of the member states. On 1 April 2022 Government of Kenya and IOM EHOA RO is hosting in Nairobi/Kenya, the 3rd Ministerial Forum on Migration (RMFM) focusing on “Harnessing the Potential of Human Mobility”; following this 3rd High Level Ministerial meeting, the handover of the mantle will be given to Government of Ethiopia in order to continue strengthening labour migration governance in the region, for the good of EHOA people.

With funding from the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) of the Government of the United Kingdom, the Better Regional Migration Management (BRMM) on Labour Mobility and Regional Integration for Safe, Orderly and Humane Labour Migration in East and Horn of Africa aims to enhance labour migration governance and the protection of migrant workers and their family members’ human and labour rights through intra and inter-regional cooperation on a “whole-of-government and whole-of-society” approach. This includes supporting regional integration and facilitating mobility for transformative, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth, in addition to empowering youth and women. The project has a major Communications and Visibility component that encompasses strategies that seek to promote inclusion, tolerance, social cohesion, regional integration, gender and youth empowerment, and migrants’ rights.

The Regional Ministerial Forum on Migration is guided by the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, the objectives of the Global Compact for Safe and Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM), the African Union (AU) Agenda 2063 and the AU Free Movement Protocol to reach policy coherence and better development outcomes through migration, and takes into account good practices and approaches, tools and methodologies developed by UN partners, notably IOM/UN Migration, in the UN Network on Migration.

This photo book has been published by the International Organization for Migration (UN Migration) to acknowledge the positive contributions of migrants and the endless possibilities that are brought on by orderly migration. The images also bear witness to the vast socio-economic benefits that labour migration has the potential to bring including upgrading the workforce and bolstering labour-intensive sectors such as agriculture and construction.

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**MESSAGE FROM THE IOM/UN MIGRATION EHOA REGIONAL
DIRECTOR AND INTERNATIONAL GENDER CHAMPION
(IGC), NAIROBI HUB, EHOA**

MOHAMMED ABDIKER



Migration within Africa and specifically in the East and Horn of Africa (EHOA) region, is undisputedly on the rise with significant economic benefits. As highlighted in the 2020 IOM World Migration Report, contrary to the general debate, the bulk of African migration, 80%, takes place within the continent of Africa and is mainly for economic purposes.

In 2019, over 21 million Africans were living in another African country. It is estimated that on average 50% of these migrants are youth, of an average age of 25 years. Notably, women migrants – making up almost half of the migrants in the region – are more vulnerable to associated risks. This is especially so in cases of irregular migration, where we observe high numbers of migrant workers being used by transnational criminal networks, smuggled, and trafficked.

The East and Horn of Africa (EHOA) region hosts seven of the fifteen top intra-African migration/mobility corridors South Sudan to Uganda (900,00 no.2), Somalia to Kenya (485,000 no.6), Somalia to Ethiopia (467,000 no.7), South Sudan to Ethiopia (no.8) and Uganda to Kenya (no.13). EHOA also hosts four of the ten countries on the continent with the largest number of immigrants (Uganda, Ethiopia, Kenya, South Sudan). Djibouti is amongst the top five countries in Africa with the highest proportion of international migrants per share of the total population, 12.1%. Economic factors and demand for high and low-skilled labour drive intra-regional mobility and migration to diversified economies, such as Kenya and Rwanda. East Africa is a large and dynamic market with close to 174 million people, the majority being youth and ready to enter the labour market or seek opportunities abroad due to increased unemployment in countries of origin.

Pre-COVID-19, the region's economies were on a steady growth pathway, with Sudan, Ethiopia, Djibouti, and Eritrea experiencing between 5 and 9% GDP growth per annum. Production, investment and trade, however, were growing at an uneven pace depending on economic sectors, industries or geographic location. This continues to create incentives for populations from rural and less developed areas to seek livelihood opportunities in more advanced and vibrant urban economic zones – both within the region and outside of it.

In 2021, the International Office for Migration (IOM)/UN Migration in the East and Horn of Africa (EHOA) entered a partnership with the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO-UK) to ensure labour mobility and labour migration in the region remains safe, orderly, and humane. The Better Regional Migration Management (BRMM) program supports the bolstering of the Regional Ministerial Forum for Migration (RMFM) formed in 2020 by the States of East and Horn of Africa in order to protect the human, social, economic and labor rights of migrant workers' and members of their families, acting in line with international and legal frameworks. .

For this, IOM is affiliating with the InterGovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and East African Community (EAC) as the regional secretariat of the RMFM, in supporting EHOA Member States on the implementation of the Communiqué, Call to Action Priorities and the Draft Road Map.

This year, 2022, Government of Kenya, Chair of RMFM with support from IOM/UN Migration, are holding the 3rd Regional Ministerial Forum on Migration in Nairobi, Kenya. The theme for this year's forum, "Harnessing the Potential of Human Mobility" is especially relevant for East and Horn of Africa, which is one of the most highly mobile and diverse regions in the world, in areas of economic growth and investment on the one hand, and areas prone to violent conflict, political instability, humanitarian crises, and disasters linked to the adverse effects of climate change and environmental degradation on the other.

It is abundantly clear that while significant efforts have been made in the region to facilitate intra and inter-regional mobility, a lot more collective effort is critically needed at the continental, regional and national-levels to harness the full potential of human mobility for the socio-economic development of East and Horn of Africa and protection of rights of migrant workers and their family members originating from and returning to the region.

We need also to highlight that while the COVID-19 pandemic may not dominate our lives and daily discussions to the extent that it did the previous years, it has precipitated serious long-term challenges to the rights of migrant workers, and that there is a pressing need to redouble our commitment to harmonizing our national as well as regional labour migration policies.

The advancement made , since 2020, by the RMFM is testimony to the immense socio-economic benefits that labour mobility and labour migration bring to both countries of origin and destination. Migration is a source of employment and livelihood for particularly youth (women and girls, men and boys), addresses skills gaps in destination countries and brings in the much-needed remittances to migrants’ countries of origin. It is also one of the main avenues of technology knowhow and skills-transfer between countries. It is noteworthy that Kenya has been consistently ranked among the top five international remittance recipient countries in Africa while in 2020, Somalia (35%) followed by South Sudan (30%) became the top two remittance-receiving countries as a percentage of their gross domestic product (GDP).

We are also working to build the capacities of government and nongovernment entities to provide access to services (health, education, pension, and work benefits) to migrants and members of their families, irrespective of their immigration status through a “whole-of-government/whole-of-community” approach.

Through our engagement with the private sector and the diaspora, IOM/UN Migration EHOA aims to facilitate labour market access for migrants, to formulate vocational and language training for its workforce; to assess the needs and provide knowledge on national and local labour markets and identify key areas for migrant youth employment and jobs creation; and to enforce legal obligations regarding the protection of migrants’ human and labour rights. The engagement of media and other actors to highlight the positive contributions of migrants is also vital and part of IOM EHOAs intervention.

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MESSAGE FROM THE OUTGOING RMFM CHAIRPERSON

CS HON SIMON CHELUGUI, MINISTER OF LABOUR, GOVERNMENT OF KENYA



Labour mobility and labour migration has immense social and economic benefits to both the source and destination countries. However even with these benefits, there are challenges that continue to erode the gains that would have been realized in this sector. These include infringement of migrants’ rights; trafficking in persons; smuggling of persons and child labour; forced returns and inadequate return and reintegration frameworks; high cost of remittances; gender segregation; restrictions on freedom of expression and movement particularly in some counties.

As countries went into lockdown in late 2019 and early 2020, leaving many migrant workers jobless, without income to support with remittances their families and means to return home, thousands of East and Horn of Africans (EHOA) were left stranded in the subregion and beyond. The pandemic had a major impact on labor mobility and migration; both regular and irregular.

We have witnessed a new scramble for Africa, this time not for our natural resources, but for our Labour and human resources - which now calls for the need to approach the world market as a bloc in addressing migration matters. In response to this, on January 20, 2020, the States of East and Horn of Africa acting in line with international and legal frameworks on human, economic, social, and labour rights of migrant workers and members of their families, formed the Regional Ministerial Forum on Migration (RMFM) on “Harmonizing Labour Migration Policies in East an Horn of Africa: A United Approach on Safe, Regular and Humane Labour Migration”, then called ‘The Nairobi Process’, in response to challenges faced by labour migrants traveling to the Middle East from the EHOA region.

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Towards the implementation of the objectives of the RMFM, Kenya as the Chair has so far facilitated three (3) RMFM meetings, three (3) Technical Advisory Committees chaired by Permanent/Principal Secretaries, the development and adoption the Operating Modalities, a roadmap on Implementation of the Regional Ministerial Forum objectives, the Terms of Reference for the Technical Advisory Committees and two consultative meetings with the Ambassadors of the Gulf Cooperation Council Countries to discuss a number of issues ranging from recruitment processes and protection of migrant workers from the region.

Kenya has been honoured to Chair this forum as part of the agreed yearly rotational tenure of the member states. As I handover the mantle to my counterpart, Ethiopia's Minister of Labor and Skills, Her Excellency Muferiat Kemil, I envisage an even stronger regional collaboration that harnesses our togetherness to strengthen labour migration governance in the region, for the good of our people.

If we, EHOA, do not approach the world market as a block, we will be exploited and taken advantage of by destination markets. We have witnessed an increase in the number of migrant workers, especially the youth, who are seeking employment opportunities in international markets where their skills are in demand. This, therefore, calls for all of us to effectively manage labour migration in a safe, orderly and humane way and ensure the protection of all migrant workers and their families from our region.

We hold in high regard our partners in this venture – the International Organization for Migration/UN Migration(IOM), Regional Office for EHOA, International Labour Organization(ILO), the Intergovernmental Authority on Development(IGAD), and the East African Community(EAC), with whose support our endeavour to solidify our partnership as member states in the RMFM will be worthwhile.



H.E. Muferiat Kamil Minister of Labour and Skills Development in Ethiopia. and Hon. Simon Chelugui Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Labour - Republic of Kenya sign way forward for the RMFM chairmanship to the government of Ethiopia. ©IOM 2022. Haimanot Abebe.

A seamstress who was displaced by flooding outside of Bujumbura, Burundi, works in a displacement site operated by IOM and the Government of Burundi. ©2021 IOM Armel Nkunzimana



A miller in the Murembera commune of Rutana province, Burundi, takes a break from work. He benefitted from a Cash for Work programme sponsored by IOM that saw the community build the market just outside from his mill. © IOM 2021 Armel Nkunzimana





A woman displaying her catch in Bossaso, Puntland, Somalia. © IOM.



A young man taking farm produce to the local market in Rwanda © IOM Amanda Nero.

A hairdresser in his shop across from the Murembera commune market, Burundi, which was built as part of an IOM Cash for Work project. © IOM 2021 Armel Nkuzimana



Shopkeeper in Bossasso, Somalia, supported to open the business under IOM's Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration Programme. Photo ©Mohammed Muse, IOM 2021



Migrant returnees at the Agar Shelter in Ethiopia receive training on weaving, a skill they use to better their livelihoods © IOM 2021, Kennedy Njagi



Migrants cooking some rice in Fantahero, Obock, Djibouti, as they're waiting for a night departure to Yemen. © IOM 2021, Alexandar Bee



Abdiwasa Ibrahim is a 21-year-old Somali. Through his reintegration grant, he decided to open a photography business. © IOM 2020, Mohammed Muse



Migrant returnees from Djibouti sharing a moment at the IOM Transit Centre in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. © IOM 2021, Safa Msehli



Immigration Officer processing Travel Documents, at the Immigration Office, Kilambo, United Republic of Tanzania. ©IOM 2020, Robert Beechey

Makonde Dancer at the inauguration of the upgraded Kilambo Immigration Office, United Republic of Tanzania. ©IOM 2020, Robert Beechey



IOM and Ocean Training and Promotion (OTP) has improved the lives of migrants and IDPs in Somalia. © IOM Celeste Hibbert



A migrant sitting on the beach near Tadjourah, Djbouti in the evening. Him and his friend are on the way to Yemen and Saudi Arabia. © IOM 2021, Alexandar Bee.





IOM Returnee at his local business in Somalia. He returned with IOM's support from Libya and has used his reintegration grant to open a grocery store. © IOM, Muse Mohammed



Women working as tailors at a local market in Rwanda. © IOM, Amanda Nero



Dr Ubah stands in front of the emergency pediatric room in Mogadishu's Banadir Hospital, Somalia. © IOM



Nour Abdi Garaad is a Somali returnee in Burco who has now set up his own shop in the center town selling garments. © IOM, Muse Mohammed



Mother and child in IDP camp in Galkayo, Somalia. © IOM 2021, Rikka Tupaz



Through a cash-based intervention activity, 200 families in Baidoa, Somalia, received technical support to construct transitional shelters and be better protected from the elements. © IOM



*Trainer of skills training on how to construct fuel-efficient stoves in South Sudan.
© IOM, Rikka Tupaz*



*Construction worker from IDP community working on communal shelter construction. In South Sudan
© IOM, Rikka Tupaz*



Senate and Parliament Members in Kenya hold a meeting to review Migration Policy to review policies on labour migration. © IOM Watson Kanyi



Delegates representing the Governments of the Republic of Kenya and Republic of Burundi, sit together at the International Office for Migration's (IOM) Regional office in Nairobi, as they share experiences and exchange ideas on how they can cooperate in sharing knowledge, good practices, and challenges when dealing with the protection of their migrant workers' rights. © IOM 2022 Janet Adongo



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EDS TO BE
OF THESE
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1. Fake passports
 2. Lack of policy
 3. ↑ refugees/poor borders
 4. No recruitment policy implementation
 5. Lack of migrant worker awareness

Representatives of government and non-government agencies in Somalia receive training on BLMAs, International Migration Law and Migrants Rights. © IOM



Representatives of government and non-government agencies in Somalia receive training on BLMAs, International Migration Law and Migrants Rights. © IOM

A local film production that is being led by Nour Abdi Garaad, a returnee himself. With a handful of locals as well as returnees they are recording an advocacy piece highlighting the dang © IOM Mohammed Muse



Engineer Aliyow supervises one of the constructions he is working on in Baidoa, Somalia. © IOM Mohammed Muse



Twenty-eight-year-old Roam Khot in his small shop in Juba, South Sudan. Although business is at times slow, Roam is confident that his business will grow. © IOM 2021



Community members in Muyinga province, Burundi, leave an NFI kit distribution site smiling. IOM supports returnee refugees in areas of high returns to reintegrate into their communities. © IOM 2022 Amaury

The Regional Ministerial Forum on Migration (RMFM) on “Harmonizing Labour Migration Policies in East and Horn of Africa – A United Approach on Safe, Regular and Humane Labour Migration” endorse the following objectives.



RMFM
OBJECTIVE

1

**BILATERAL AND
MULTILATERAL LABOUR
MIGRATION AGREEMENTS
(BLMAS)**



RMFM
OBJECTIVE

2

**LEGAL AND POLICY
FRAMEWORKS
REFORM**



RMFM
OBJECTIVE

5

**ENHANCING
INTER-STATE, INTRA
AND INTER-REGIONAL
COOPERATION**



RMFM
OBJECTIVE

6


**STRENGTHENING
OF SOCIAL SECURITY
AND WELFARE
INSTITUTIONS**



RMFM
OBJECTIVE

3


**ESTABLISHMENT OF
LABOUR MARKET
INFORMATION
SYSTEMS**



RMFM
OBJECTIVE

4

**STREAMLINING LABOUR
MIGRATION DATA AND
STATISTICS**



RMFM
OBJECTIVE

7

**ALLEVIATING
GENDER INEQUALITY
FOR SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT**



RMFM
OBJECTIVE

8

**ENSURING EQUITABLE
ACCESS TO COVID-19
VACCINES AND
TREATMENT**



