

RMIMS

Regional
Mixed Migration
Secretariat



Presentation:

1. **Structure and role of RMMS**
2. **Movement in the region**
3. **Research initiative**

Mixed Migration

- **People travelling in an irregular manner along similar routes, using similar means of travel, but for different reasons**

Includes:

- Migrants (irregular) (dislodged by poverty, climate, natural disasters, 'inability to thrive' or motivated by aspirations, desire to unite with family etc)
- Refugees
- Asylum-seekers
- Trafficked persons / stateless persons
- Unaccompanied / separated children
- IDPs ? (normally not included)

Origins: Inter-agency Standing Committee MMTF : protection needs

- **Regional conferences in Yemen (2008) Djibouti (2009)**
- **Djibouti 2011 (March) detailed the TOR for the RMMS**
- **July 2011 RMMS established**

Midwives & Steering Committee

- UNHCR
- IOM
- Danish Refugee Council (host)
- INTERSOS
- Yemen Mixed Migration Task Force

The MMTF network

- Yemen
- Somalia (south central) from Nairobi
- Somaliland
- Puntland
- Djibouti
- Addis? Galcaayo? Kenya?

RMMS = regional hub

- coordination
- Analysis
- Information management
- Advocacy
- Catalyst / Synthesis

Overarching focus on human rights, protection, assistance

The RMMS platform....

- Also as an interface for stakeholders and others who are unlikely to have direct contact, or time, to engage with individual agencies in different countries.
- Strong interest in regional trends, statistics, migration and development issues and regional dynamics as part of the global phenomenon

A regional focus within a global context

Mixed migration movements within and out of the regions:

Primary focus is the 'north eastern' corridor (sea crossing into Yemen and beyond)

Secondary focus:

- North (Egypt / Sinai)
- West (via Sudan into North Africa)
- southern mixed migration flow (Through eastern seaboard to RSA and beyond).

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A taste of mixed
migration issues /
displacement in the
region

Eritrea

- Approximately 3000 per month flee Eritrea east through Sudan...
- 80,000 in Shagarab camp in Sudan just over the border...
- Over 50,000 in camps in northern Ethiopia
- October 2011 Sudan deported 300 back to Eritrea

Ethiopia

- Hosts over 170,000 refugees
- Over 90,000 came in this year (2011)
- Two thirds of the caseload travelling to Yemen with smugglers are Ethiopian (this year will be approx 70,000)
- Thousands also move irregularly into Kenya and transit Kenya for RSA annually
- Frequent cases of death and abuse

Somaliland

- Stopped any asylum-seekers or migrants from registering for asylum in 2008
- In September 2011 made expulsion proclamation against all '80,000 illegal foreigners' (Ethiopians). Thousands left.
- Smugglers operate increasingly in Somaliland coast as Puntland push them west.

Puntland

- Approx 4000 people per month depart with smugglers from Bossaso (and environs) and cross the Gulf of Aden.
- In August / September 2011, started arresting/detaining males (approx 300) in mixed migration flow from South Central

Djibouti

- Rising numbers leave from Obok and its environs for Yemen(circa 280 per day as of November)
- About 1000 per month (mostly Somalis) arrive at Loyade border / Ali Ade camp
- 18,000 at Ali Ade camp
- Cases of abuse and deaths common

Kenya

- Kenya hosts circ 550,000 refugees (mainly Somali) 175,000 arrived this year (2011)
- Thousands of Ethiopians and Somalis pass through Kenya en route to RSA with smugglers.

Yemen

- Over 85,000 already arrived this year. (65% Ethiopian 35% Somali.) Exactly double last year.
- Country of transit and destination
- 3000 Ethiopians in Harad (north) waiting to go into KSA or previously deported.
- IOM already conducted AVR for 9000 Ethiopians send back by RSA.
- High levels of abuse, extortion, beatings, rape...

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RESEARCH:

Future scenarios for
region

Factors and determinates ...

- Demographics of the region (COO)
- Demographics of COD
- Labour demands of region
- Labour demands of COD
- Food security issues / soil productivity / overpopulation etc
- Physical security issues

Factors and determinates ...cont'..

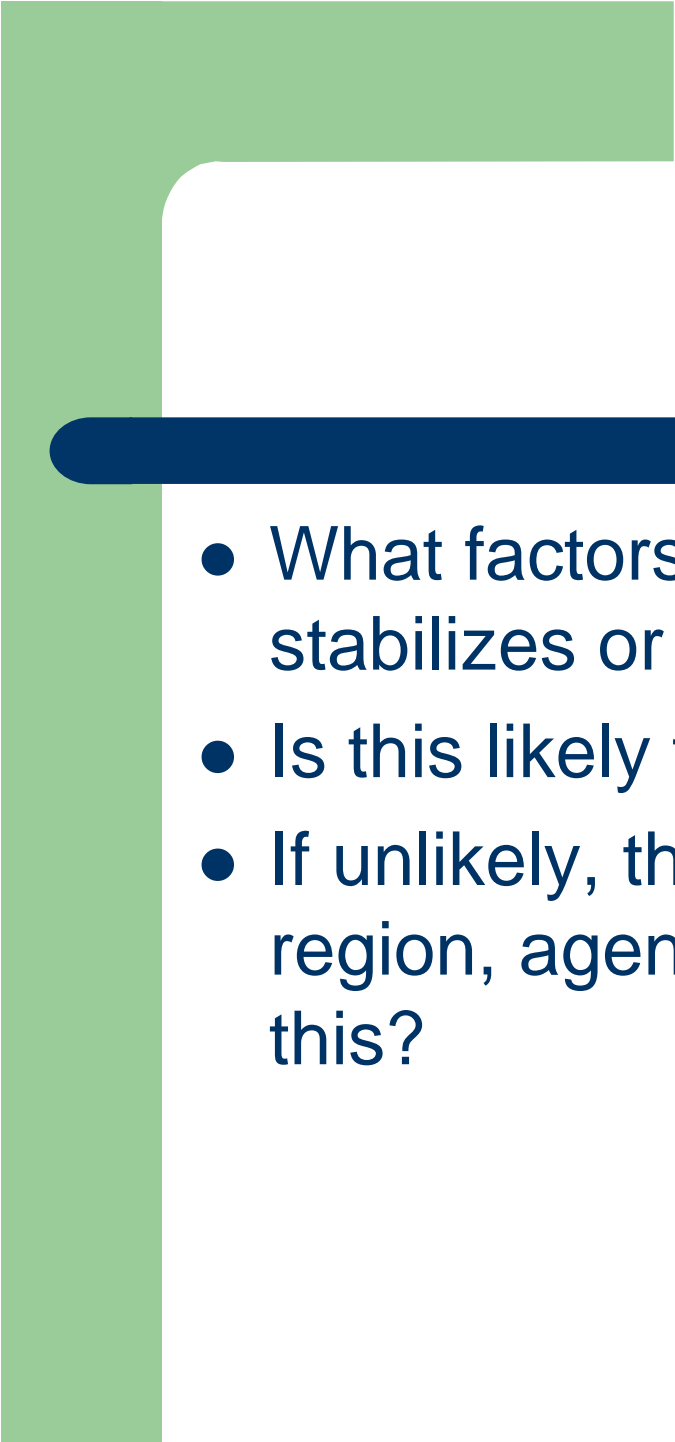

- Governance issues / political regimes
- Legal regimes (migration laws, citizenship, refugee laws, criminalisation of migrants)
- Conflict prevalence
- Meteorological trends and expectations
- Natural disasters and climate changes
- Growth and extension of organised crime
- 'Cultures of migration'/ aspirations / digital age

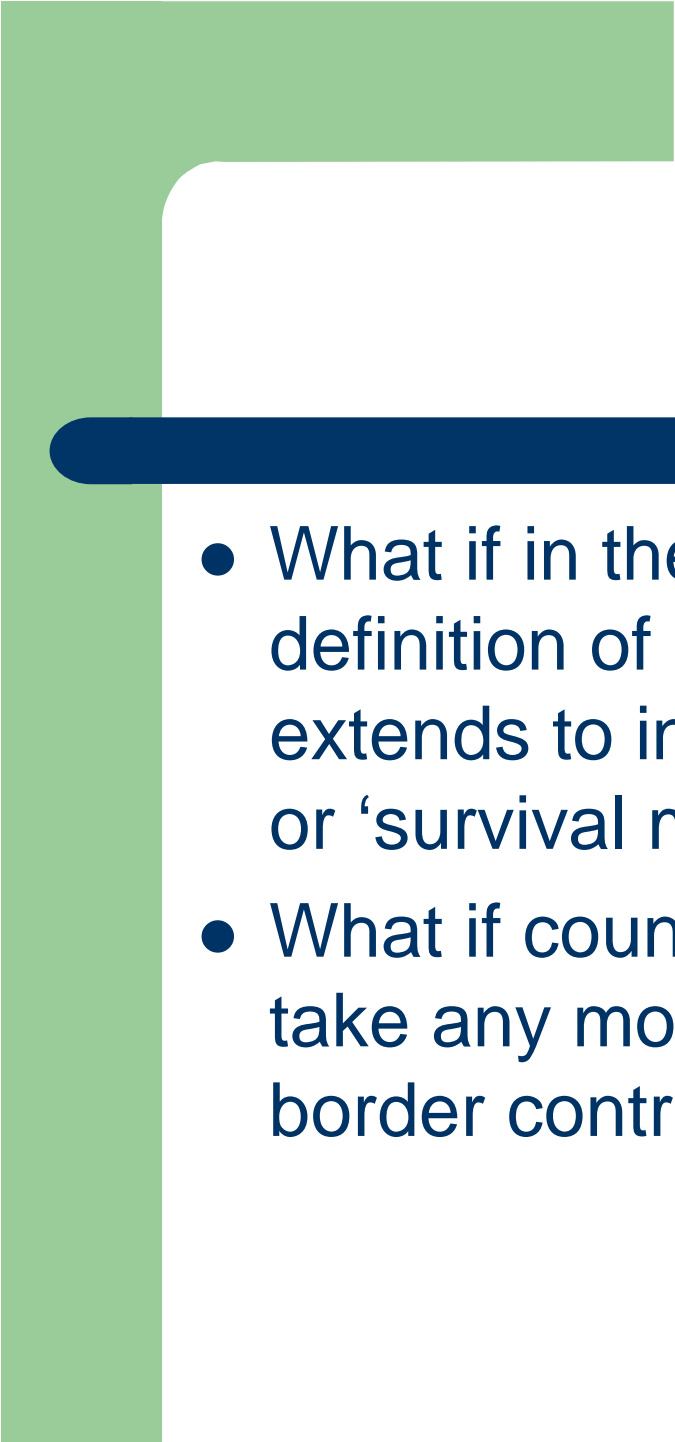

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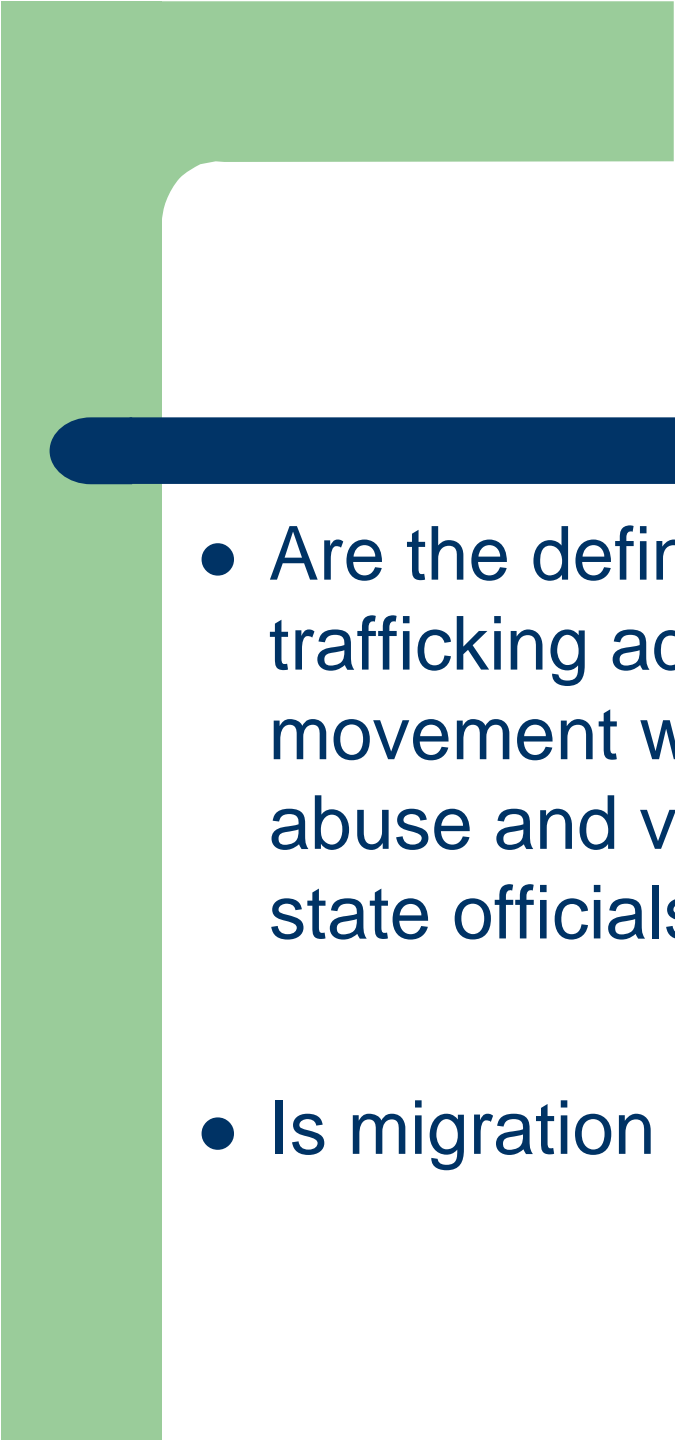



Food for thought....



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- What factors would make mixed migration stabilizes or shrink in and from the region?
 - Is this likely to happen?
 - If unlikely, then how are the countries in the region, agencies and the COD preparing for this?

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- What if in the next few years the *de facto* definition of refugee and asylum-seekers extends to include ‘environmental migrants’ or ‘survival migrants’?
 - What if countries like Kenya simply refuse to take any more refugees and apply a robust border control?

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- Are the definitions used for smuggling and trafficking adequate to capture the type of movement where migrants face high levels of abuse and violence from smugglers, bandits, state officials and others?
 - Is migration the problem or the solution?

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Is migration the problem
or the solution?

