

# Key Messages

Book 2 in series ‘Connected and Mobile:  
Migration and Human Trafficking in  
Africa’:

## *Roaming Africa: Migration, Resilience and Social Protection*

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# Part I. Theoretical Perspectives

## Chapter 1

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### **Roaming Africa: A Social Analysis of Migration and Resilience**

*Mirjam Van Reisen, Mia Stokmans, Munyaradzi Mawere & Kinfe Abraha Gebre-Egziabher*

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*Current approaches to migration are mainly based on the 'push-pull' theory of migration, which fails to explain the complexity and multifaceted situations of people on the move. This theory is premised primarily on economic considerations and oversimplifies how decisions are made, leading to policies that are misguided at best and harmful at worst. Alternatives are needed to understand why and how people move, and whether this contributes to resilience or undermines it. Social theory provides a useful lens, acknowledging that within the specificity of each situation a better understanding of motivations, dynamics and drivers can be obtained. This book aims to bring African voices to the fore, working with researchers close to ground realities in Africa, to explain why people in Africa are on the move and provide alternative approaches to setting agendas on this issue.*

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## Chapter 2

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### **All or Nothing: The Costs of Migration from the Horn of Africa – Evidence from Ethiopia**

*Kinfe Abraha Gebre-Egziabher*

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*In the first decade and a half of this century, Ethiopia is estimated to have lost at least a million productive people (mostly youth) and billions of US dollars to smugglers and human traffickers, along the three main routes: the Northern, Southern and Eastern migration routes. Pressure from smugglers and traffickers is emerging as a new cause of migration. Smugglers and traffickers are aggressively 'selling' a very bad product that entails high risks at a very high price. In order to stop this disturbing trend we need to create employable youths and employment opportunities and promote investment at home in Ethiopia. At the same time, stronger persecution is needed to rid the Horn of smugglers and traffickers, which requires strengthening of the rule of law.*

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## Chapter 3

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### Why do Foreign Solutions not Work in Africa? Recognising Alternate Epistemologies

*Gertjan Van Stam*

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*The misalignment between foreign solutions and local realities in rural Africa is often the cause of harmful cultural entropy. This clash in value systems undermines solutions that embolden and strengthen local communities. The recognition that value systems may differ is lacking in research on resilience in Africa. The undermining of resilience can lead to loss of trust in what 'home' has to offer and encourage people to move to new places. We need to take a fresh approach that values African epistemologies and ways of knowing and that nurtures local talent to take the lead. In order to solve African problems, there is an urgent need to see the situation through an African lens – both when defining the problem and coming up with locally-relevant solutions.*

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# Part II. Living Borders

## Chapter 4

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### **Continuation of Care across Borders: Providing Health Care for People on the Move in East Africa**

*Dorothy Muroki, Boniface Kitungulu & Leanne Kamau*

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*People on the move may need to access health services in countries other than their own – and it is important that they can, as their mobility can increase the spread of communicable diseases. However, access to health care outside the home country can be complicated: people on the move often do not have time to wait for results and are not available for follow up. This study looks at cross-border communities in five East Africa Community countries to determine the challenges in providing health care to people moving across borders. It finds that health programmes are country specific and nationally administered, giving rise to a need to integrate health services and patient follow up to ensure the continuation of care across the region.*

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## Chapter 5

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### **Mobility as a Social Process: Conflict Management in the Border Areas of Afar Region**

*Abdelah Alifnur & Mirjam Van Reisen*

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*The Afar pastoralists use mobility to optimise livelihoods, cope with drought, maximise efficient resource use and keep their animals free of disease. For the Afar, mobility is a social process, with complex rules in a highly evolved social system. This system also manages conflict, which mainly stems from rivalry over resources, using a combination of customary law, Sharia (religious) law and formal law, all applied in supplementary and complementary ways to achieve solutions that are suited to the context and strengthened by community buy-in. This chapter offers an in-depth analysis of how mobility contributes to resilience and how social processes can help mitigate conflict to optimise solutions for local communities.*

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# Part III. New Perspectives in Migration

## Chapter 6

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### Out of the Frying Pan into the Fire: Are Climate Disasters Fuelling Human Trafficking in Kenya?

*Radoslaw Malinowski & Mario Schulze*

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*Kenya is experiencing increased droughts, which are impacting on food security and vulnerability. This study investigates whether people affected by drought in Kenya are at higher risk of being trafficked. The study finds that drought-affected populations are more vulnerable to human trafficking, especially when combined with conflict and in locations where alternative sources of income are not available. The association between climate change and human trafficking is worrying. The findings confirm the need to strengthen resilience as a key element in policies to counter human trafficking. There is an urgent need to address the underlying causes of vulnerability, including climate change, as a relevant and important element in the fight against human trafficking.*

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## Chapter 7

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### Standing in Two Worlds: Mobility and the Connectivity of Diaspora Communities

*Antony Otieno Ong'ayo*

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*Diaspora communities live in an online/offline world between their places of origin in Europe and Africa – the 'here' and 'there'. This chapter looks at this connectivity and how it affects their mobility and transnational engagement. It finds that the online platforms established by diasporas enable them to transfer money and skills (financial and social remittances), with significant socio-economic and political impact in both places. The chapter points to the reality of diaspora communities in the digital world, where they take part in life in different spaces. The cyber-presence of diasporas in more than one world drives mobility through connectivity and needs to be recognised in migration studies.*

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## Chapter 8

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### **‘Europe is not Worth Dying For’: The Dilemma facing Somalis in Europe**

*Melissa Phillips & Mingo Heiduk*

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*Diaspora communities in Europe are often perceived as facilitators of migration. But, this study found that, contrary to what is generally believed, their views of newcomers to Europe range from ambivalence to resentment. These perceptions are influenced by the negative migration climate in host countries and by their own status, which is often insecure. Their perception of their own situation is affecting how they advise people back home who are considering migrating. Often their advice to potential migrants is that they should refrain from migrating. But, this advice is not always viewed as legitimate.*

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## Chapter 9

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### **Countering Radicalisation in Communities: The Case of Pumwani, Nairobi**

*Reginald Nalugala*

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*When the community in Pumwani realised that its mosque had been infiltrated by Al-Shabaab it tackled the problem at the community level, involving youth in the solution. It found social exclusion to be a root cause of radicalisation, as it gave rise to disorientation and frustration. The high-handed security approach taken by the authorities was also found to be counterproductive, increasing the sense of exclusion felt by youth. Collaboration between leaders of different faiths and listening to the problems of youth formed the basis of a new approach. By providing youth with a future through education and income generating activities, while involving them in leadership, the community was able to counter radicalisation at its roots and reignite pride in the community.*

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# Part IV. Livelihoods

## Chapter 10

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### Moving on to Make a Living: The Secondary Migration of Eritrean Refugees in Tigray, Ethiopia

*Bereket Godifay Kabsay*

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*Lack of livelihood opportunities is driving Eritreans in refugee camps in northern Ethiopia to embark on dangerous secondary migration journeys. This study looks at the livelihood opportunities available to youth in the camps and identifies the challenges to such opportunities. Although many livelihood projects have been put in place in the camps, ironically, the major challenge facing these projects is secondary migration, as it results in drop-out. This study found that there is much that can be done to improve these projects, which are failing to create a sustainable income for refugees in the camps. The study points to the many possibilities available to counter secondary migration through an increased focus on livelihoods, education and youth employment.*

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## Chapter 11

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### Inhospitable Realities: Refugees' Livelihoods in Hitsats, Ethiopia

*Kristína Melicherová*

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*Until recently, Eritrean refugees in Hitsats refugee camp in Ethiopia did not have access to income generating activities. This contributed to a sense of hopelessness and motivated secondary migration. Basic conditions for livelihoods have been inadequate – refugees have not had the right to work, to obtain a drivers' licence or live outside the camps. However, there has been a political shift in Ethiopia, which has brought new and positive attention to refugee issues and a focus on harnessing their potential. Combined with recent developments in the political and policy streams in Ethiopia, such as the adoption of the Nine Pledges and revision of the Refugee Proclamation, it seems that a policy window may be opening for refugees' livelihood issues to finally reach the agenda.*

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## Chapter 12

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### Young and On their Own: The Protection of Eritrean Refugee Children in Tigray, Ethiopia

*Tekie Gebreyesus & Rick Schoenmaeckers*

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*Unaccompanied children are fleeing Eritrea for many reasons, including to avoid being conscripted into indefinite National Service. Once in Ethiopia, they end up in refugee camps in Tigray. This chapter investigates whether the protection of unaccompanied and separated refugee children adheres to the standards set in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. It investigates the serious challenges resulting in the lack of provision of basic needs and social services for children in the camps. This inadequate level of protection is the cause of secondary migration which puts unaccompanied and separated children in vulnerable situations where they might not find the protection that they so desperately need.*

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# Part V. The Challenges of Return Migration

## Chapter 13

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### Home, but not Home: Reintegration of Ethiopian Women Returning from the Arabian Gulf

*Beza L. Nisrane*

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*Ethiopian women returning from the Arabian Gulf face many challenges with reintegration. Often migration does not bring about the economic gains and improved social status expected. This study found that betrayal by close family members, social expectations about money and gifts upon their return, and negative social perceptions about returnees affects their sense of belonging, influencing the returnees' remigration intention. There is a need for more in-depth investigation of return policies and the social dynamics within families entangled in the costs and benefits of overseas labour migration.*

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## Chapter 14

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### Shattered Dreams: Life after Deportation for Ethiopian Returnees from Saudi Arabia

*Shishay Tadesse Abay*

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*In 2013 and 2017, more than 243,000 Ethiopia migrants were expelled from Saudi Arabia, many without fulfilling their migration goals. These migrants face huge challenges in re-establishing their lives in Ethiopia. Migrants and their families usually invest huge sums of money, selling assets and taking loans, to send a family member abroad. Involuntary return exposes returnees to an unwelcome reception by their families and feelings of shame about failure, hindering reintegration and influencing returnees to re-migrate. While deportation is often seen as a logical policy to respond to increasing numbers of migrants, this chapter shows the sad reality that results from involuntary return.*

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## Chapter 15

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### Life after the Lord's Resistance Army: Support for Formerly Abducted Girls in Northern Uganda

*Primrose Nakazibwe & Mirjam Van Reisen*

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*When girls abducted by the Lord's Resistance Army in Uganda realised their dream of returning home, the reality was not what they expected. Often with children fathered by the rebels, they found themselves outcast and ill prepared for life. These girls are deeply traumatised as a result of the abuse and sexual violence experienced in captivity, which is compounded by the discrimination experienced on return. The government's rehabilitation programme needs to address these issues by reaching out to these girls with psycho-social support and mental health services, as well as improving their livelihoods by securing access to land and helping them develop the skills they need to survive.*

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# Part VI. Social Protection

## Chapter 16

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### **Is Trauma Counselling the Missing Link? Enhancing Socio-Economic Resilience among Post-war IDPs in Northern Uganda**

*Mirjam Van Reisen, Mia Stokmans, Primrose Nakazibwe, Zaminah Malole & Bertha Vallejo*

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*The civil war in Northern Uganda left communities traumatised and suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Although many government programmes have been implemented for rehabilitation, those with PTSD are often unable to grasp the opportunities presented due to underlying trauma. This study found that psycho-social support and trauma counselling increases the ability of people with PTSD to cope with hazard and misfortune. Importantly, the study found that psycho-social support directly and significantly increases socio-economic resilience and enhances the effects of social protection programmes.*

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## Chapter 17

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### **Roaming Lifestyles: Designing Social Protection for the Pastoralist Afar in Ethiopia**

*Zeremariam Fre & Naomi Dixon*

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*The pastoral lifestyle of the Afar people poses a challenge for social protection programmes, such as Ethiopia's Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP). This study looked at whether the design of this programme is relevant for the highly mobile Afar and if it has improved their socio-economic resilience. The study found that while the PSNP has the potential to contribute to the resilience of the Afar, their socio-political context needs to be better appreciated and reflected in programme design to increase local relevance. Efforts to improve the programme are certainly worthwhile given that it has the potential to contribute to the socio-economic resilience of the Afar.*

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### **Where is your Brother? Religious Leaders in Eritrea offer a Counter Narrative to Totalitarianism**

*Makeda Saba*

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*Referred to as an 'open-air prison' and the 'North Korea of Africa', Eritrea is ruled by an iron fist. The regime has taken full control of the civil and political space, including that of religious communities. In this extreme situation, the religious leaders in Eritrea have risen up to pose a different narrative to the one of totalitarian rule. By asking 'where is your brother?' they have shown that there is a space that the government can't own and thoughts that they cannot control. By reminding people that we are human beings with a responsibility to care for each other they are calling the government to account for the atrocities it has committed and standing up for people's right to family, to pursue a living and to live in dignity.*

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# Part VII. Defining Responsibilities at the National Level

## Chapter 19

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### Peace, but no Progress: Eritrea, an Unconstitutional State

*Bereket Selassie & Mirjam Van Reisen*

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*Although the signing of the peace agreement between Ethiopia and Eritrea in 2018 was heralded as a new beginning, the Eritrean people have not been able to reap the dividends of peace, as they are still living in a totalitarian dictatorship. This chapter investigates the relationship between peace, progress, and the Constitution of Eritrea, which has never been implemented. Although much awaited, the peace process must be accompanied by implementation of the Constitution, the rule of law, and mechanisms for the protection of human rights, so that the Eritrean people can benefit from peace, move towards rehabilitation and once again live in dignity.*

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## Chapter 20

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### Moving Through the Policy Window: Women in Constitution Making in Kenya

*Stella Maranga*

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*The rule of law is critical to ensure inclusive societies and political participation. This chapter investigates how political participation was increased as part of Kenya's constitutional review process in 2010, opening a policy window for women's rights and gender equality to be placed firmly on the decision-making agenda. The women's movement in Kenya united to move swiftly through this policy window, in what has been hailed as one of the most successful feminist engagements of our time, resulting in the inclusion of what some consider to be radical gender equality provisions in the Constitution of Kenya.*

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## Chapter 21

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### Where are the Youth? The Missing Agenda in Somalia's Constitution

*Istar Ahmed*

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*A constitution embodies the wishes and aspirations of a country. But where are Somalia's youth in its constitution-making process? And what are their wishes and aspirations? This chapter investigates the youth agenda in Somalia's constitution-making process and finds that it is glaringly lacking. With 67% of youth unemployed, their exclusion from economic and political participation could cause many to find alternatives elsewhere. If the voices of youth are excluded from the constitution it will not only impact on the legitimacy of this most important statute, it could also affect the future stability of Somalia.*

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