The Economics of Forced Migration

Darfur Livelihoods and Libya: Trade, Migration and Remittance Flows In Times of Conflict and Crisis

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Overview

• Methodology & approach
• Background and context
• Migration & trade routes
• Darfurians in Kufra
• Remittance mechanisms & flows
• Impact of conflict on Darfurians
Approach to fieldwork

- Partnerships
  - Libyan Red Crescent
  - (El Kufra University)
  - Ahfad University, Khartoum

- Libya Tufts team:
  - Abdal Monium Osman
  - Rebecca Dale

- Fieldwork in Libya:
  - Benghazi
  - Kufra

- Livelihoods framework
Qualitative methods

- Key informant semi-structured interviews
  - government - customs, immigration, veterinary services
  - Academics – University of El Kufra
  - Sudan embassy
  - Formal Sudanese Groups e.g. Sudanese Popular Committee
- Semi-structured individual interviews
- Focus group interviews
  - PRA techniques:
    - Mapping
    - Ranking
    - Timelines
    - Proportional piling
    - Direct observation
Background and context

• Historic links – trade, migration, religion
• Oil & the economy
• Economic sanctions & links with terrorism
• Libya & its foreign workforce
  ○ Open door policy followed by crackdowns
  ○ Further restrictions in early 2004
• 150,000 to 250,000 Darfurians in Libya
  ○ 4% of Darfur’s population
  ○ 25% of households with a family member in Libya
Causes of conflict in Darfur

- National level processes
  - Economic & political marginalization of Darfur
  - Wider regional conflicts
  - Tactical manipulation of ethnic identities by central authorities
- Local level processes
  - Failing institutions – NA, judiciary, policing
  - Failing development – services
  - Pressure on & competition for natural resources
  - Political polarization between tribal groups
Migration and trade routes
Migration flows

Surge in 1993

Decline in 2004:
- Border closure May 2004
- Insecurity north Darfur
- Absorption into tribal militias and warring factions

Source: Focus group exercises
Darfur Livelihood Strategies

Cultivation
Livestock
Trade
Labour migration
Natural resources
Employment in Kufra
Livelihoods of Sudanese before the border closure and mid 2004
(excludes those in transit)
Rates of pay

• Unskilled daily labourer: $2 per day
• Unskilled agricultural worker: $90 per month
• Experienced cook: $450 per month
• Skilled tailor: $190 to $380 per month
• Experienced lorry driver: $450 per journey to Darfur (
• Caravan herder: $188 per journey
• Caravan leader/guide: $1128 per journey
Remittance Mechanisms & Flows -

- Banks
- Hand-carried by individuals in cash and kind
- Hawala system: cash and trade based linking Libya, Arab States and Sudan

- Per annum
  - Higher paid workers: $812 - $958 (up to 40%)
  - Unskilled workers: $271 - $319 (20-30%)

- Married men send more
- Goods – clothes, rice, sugar, pasta, infant formula, oil
Impact of conflict

- Insecurity restricts freedom of movement – ‘livelihoods under siege’
- Border closure blocks international migration and remittance flows between Libya and Darfur
- Government closure of banks and customs points in North Darfur
- Blocking transnational trade – especially livestock
- Implications for war economy and taxation?
- Inflation in Darfur of basic commodities (food, household goods)
- Loss of remittances: $15,000,000
  (25% of 200,000 migrants remitting $300 per annum)
- Increase in distress migration to Khartoum
- Breakdown in communications
Conclusions & Recommendations

• Dual pressures on migrants – conflict & conditions in Libya

• Recommendations
  o Improve phone communications (mobile networks and access to landline)
  o Extend family tracing and reunification programmes
  o Open border with Libya – issue for peace talks
  o Improve security of transport routes & public transport
  o Discourage recruitment activity & support local skills development
  o Moves to legalize Sudanese migrants in Libya
  o End discrimination in Libya – health tests, food subsidies, education & healthcare
Thank you

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