

ILLEGAL AFRICAN MIGRATION TO EUROPE: ITS CHALLENGES, IMPLICATIONS AND POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

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ABSTRACT

The sudden increase in African migration to Europe over the past 6 years has overwhelmed Europe, and response, some states have erected structures in order to limit or restrict the entry of migrants into their territories. By strictly analysing relevant literature related illegal African migration to Europe, it became clearly evident that the search for economic opportunities and the need to escape poverty are the major driving factors behind illegal African migration to Europe. The study uncovered that it has been difficult for Africa governments to fight illegal migration as African borders are porous in nature and are undermined and riddled with corruption. The study therefore, underscored the greater need for cooperation between the European Union and the African union in developing, implementing and monitoring policies that are aimed at fighting illegal migration, otherwise the problem threatens to grow at unprecedented levels with devastating implications.

Keywords: Illegal migration, European Union, African union, smuggling, policy, growth

INTRODUCTION

Without a commonly agreed policy on managing illegal migration, Europe over the past two years has witnessed an unprecedented increase in the influx of undocumented migrants, and unfortunately this has left Europe struggling to accommodate the increasing inflow of undocumented migrants from Africa. European governments have in response increased cooperation with African countries in order to find a solution to the problem; however, with high unemployment and poverty, it is unlikely that such an arrangement will bear fruit going forward. There are many causes responsible for the increasing illegal African migration to Europe, with limited economic opportunity been taunted as the major culprit. Nevertheless, some scholars have argued that to some extent, Europe's own foreign policy in Africa and the Middle East has contributed significantly to the problem, however, no matter what the major cause might be, it is evident that despite the death of migrant's en-route to Europe, the rate of those emptying to reach Europe is still significantly high. This has given to numerous human smuggling and trafficking

organizations, operation in the Libya and part of Tunisia, while those attempting to reach Europe see this as a way to out of poverty, smuggling syndicates have seen their desperation as a way to make money. The study seeks to identify the causes of illegal African migration to Europe, the challenges preventing African governments from dealing with the problem and the implications this has for Africa and Europe.

THEORETICAL SETTING

Less push/pull theory

Everest Lee, in his understanding and in-depth analysis of international migration concluded that the movement of people from one region to another was a result of push and pull factors that were influencing their decision migrate. Lee stated for a person to move from point A to point B, there has to be something pushing them to leave point A and there has to be something pulling them to point B. (Kivisto & Faist, 2009).

According to the theory, push factors that make people leave point A include, limited economic opportunities for one's development, hazardous environmental conditions, insufficient safety and security provisions, the inadequate provision of educational and health facilities and an increase in political uncertainty. While pull factors that draw people to point B include, the presence of better working conditions, better remuneration, a stable political climate and the availability economic opportunities for one's personal development (Digby 2001). The theory also states that there are factors in-between the point of migrating and these factors influence one's decision to migrate. These factors include the costs associated with the migration process, the distance, family connections back home, mountains and the restrictive immigration laws present in the preferred destinations. (Weber, 2010).

Many scholars and authors from different disciplines have over long periods of time dedicated numerous amounts of resources in trying to better understand the migration phenomenon.

Lemarchand & Schneegans (2014) state that poor rates of economic growth in Zimbabwe have over the years pushed many Zimbabweans to migrate in search of better economic opportunities. (Halter & Johnson (2014) mention that numerous migrants from West Africa have risked their lives in order to illegally travel to Europe in search of better economic conditions and to flee repressive regimes in the continent. du Sahel (2009) further states that many migrants interviewed in detention camps in Italy and Greece have cited the unavailability of economic opportunities and poverty in their home countries as major reason motivating them to migrate, they have stated that the availability of opportunities in Europe is the major pull factor that influenced their decision to migrate regardless of the obstacles they face. Migrants have faced many obstacles in their quest to reach Europe and some have perished along the way, however,

the dream of earning an income and living in a stable country supersedes any barrier that might discourage migrants from reaching their destination (du Sahel, 2009). Therefore, for the purpose of this study, Lee's push/pull theory will be used as the main theory which will guide the study. This notwithstanding, the important assumptions of the other theories which aim to explain the migration phenomena as they will be also widely consulted in order to get a different scholarly and disciplinary view of migration.

METHODOLOGY

The study relied on extensively secondary data as a means of collecting relevant and required information regarding the topic under examination. It employed strict textual analysis of the available literature relevant to the causes, challenges and implications relating to the ever increasing rate of illegal African migration to Europe. A Qualitative research approach was utilized in the course of this study. The purpose of this approach was to put into context of understanding the underlying causes, challenges and implications of illegal African migration to Europe for Africa and Europe and most importantly to uncover what can be done to reduce the outflow of illegal migrants from Africa to Europe. The method was meant to enable an in-depth scrutiny of the relevant literature in in order to deeply scrutinize the illegal migration problem in Africa and furthermore explore to what extent has the African Union and African government's done done to try and contribute effectively in the reduction of illegal migrants aiming to travel to Europe. Forrester (2010) asserts that qualitative research uses methods such as participant observation or case studies which result in a narrative descriptive account of a setting or practice. Various scholars have tried to understand the root causes and implications of illegal African migration to Europe, therefore there are rich sources of information. Though these sources may not comprehensively speak directly to cross borer migration within southern Africa and its overall benefits and problems, they nonetheless offer views on the subject matter which will be utilized to further enrich the study.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The International Organization for Migration (2006) opines that trends in international migration portray that the main driver for migration is economic opportunity and the escape from political uncertainty. Ceesay (2017) mentions that in Africa, West Africa and parts of Central and East Africa are major regions which are contributing to illegal migration to Europe. Castles, De Haas, & Miller (2013) state that regional governments and the African union have done little or nothing to stop illegal African migrants from attempting to reach Europe. Furthermore Mangala (2012) & Servent & Trauner (2017) mention that besides not having sufficient economic resources to curb illegal migration, the increase in illegal African migration to Europe has been further been exacerbated by the entrenchment of complex smuggling operations that are

prevalent in many parts of the continent. Samers & Collyer (2017) state no matter the efforts implemented by the European Union, there is a constant increase in the rate of Africans aiming to reach Europe illegally and this is further fuelled by illegal the increase in smuggling operations. Sabry (2015) states that there are numerous smuggling syndicates operating in costal countries such as Libya, Tunisia and morocco, and despite the huge number of migrants who have died attempting to reach Europe via the Mediterranean Sea, there is however still a huge appetite among Africans to migrant to Europe at all cost. The African union has been a huge disappointment, it has completely failed to act in aiding the containment of this growing problem. Therefore the inaction of the African union and African governments at large may lead one to hypothesize that perhaps many African governments, confronted by unemployment and poverty are more than happy to see an increase in Africans attempting to reach Europe as they are unable to socio-economically cater for them, perhaps this might be the case as many African governments, especially in the ECOWAS region have not prioritised polices aimed at discouraging illegal European migration. While the increasing rate of illegal African migration to Europe has had moderate impact on Africa, it has a sparked a political standoff between European member states who support the re-settling of migrants within the European Union and those that vehemently oppose the idea (Gebrewold & Bloom 2016). Wintour (2017) opines that indeed, this has resulted in political disagreements as states mostly from Eastern Europe have called the huge influx of migrants a threat to their security and to the European project as a whole. The unprecedented increase of illegal migrants to Europe has seen countries such as Hungary and Austria take unilateral action aimed at limiting the movement and entry of migrants within their territories, they have built huge fences to keep migrants out and increased patrols along the county's borders (Pogonyi, 2017). Such unilateral action is against the welcoming policy preached by the European Union 4 years ago, this shows that the influx of migrants has put tremendous pressure on some member countries, forcing them to act. Al-Shahi & Lawless (2013) however, mentions that Africa has not been the only continent responsible for the huge influx of migrants to the Europe, the political uncertainty in the Middle East, conflict and economic uncertainty has caused millions of people from Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan to illegally migrate to Europe. Rutter *et al* (2011) states that while many migrants from the middle east have been motivated by conflict and war, migrants from Africa are mainly motivated by the prospects of economic freedom and escaping poverty, implying that they are not motivated by conflict but by other socio-economic challenges prevalent in the continent. El-Gamaty (2017) mentions that the rise of migrants from Syria, Libya and Iraq are a direct result of Europe's own foreign policy. The European Union supported the bombing of Muammar Gaddafi and is currently supporting the US led coalition in Syria, hence to escape the conflict, many Syrians and Iraqis have illegally engaged in migration to Europe. Bosworth (2018) states that In 2014, there were 3.9 million Syrian refugees in Europe, 2.6 million afghan refugees, the international organization for

migration recorded a staggering 171, 635 of illegal migrants African and middle east in Europe, the 2016 figure was a massive 363, 504. Most migrants interviewed cited poverty and war as the major reasons behind their decision to migrate. Evidently, the influx of migrants to Europe has caused a political and human crisis in the continent (Konstadinides, 2017). The UN commissioner for refugees, Filippo Grandi, opined that in 2015 and 2016, there were a combined 7571 deaths in the Mediterranean Sea. Libya because of its strategic location, degrading of the rule of law and its close proximity to European countries has been the most preferred starting point for migrants (International organization for Migration, 2017). While reaching Libya is the main goal for migrants, once in the country, migrants face many challenges. To reach Europe, they have to pay smugglers \$2000 each in order to make the trip and failure to pay may result in one being mistreated and sold to slavery in the country (Sengupta, 2015). Baczynska (2017) opines that there are roughly 20 000 migrants and refugees illegally held in Libya and in order to be released, migrants and refugees have to pay a ransom fee of \$8000, those who fail to pay are beaten, abused and worse off forced into sexual exploitation. Donnelly (2017) mentions that the desperation of migrants to reach Europe has contributed significantly to the increasing rate of slavery in Libya. Weiss (2017) alludes that in Africa, states such as Senegal, Gambia, Nigeria, Eritrea, Somalia, Sudan, Ghana, Mali, Ethiopia and the Ivory Coast witness a huge number of their citizens aiming to illegally migrate to Europe, migrants from these countries have cited poverty, limited economic opportunity as the major reasons behind their desire to migrate, while those from Eritrea have cited the repressive government and abuse of human rights (Plaut, 2017). After pressure from the European Union, a number of African governments have outlined measures to clamp down on illegal migration, such action has been also motivated by the apparent abuse of migrants in detention camps in Libya. News24 (2017) mentions that Nigeria has announced a crackdown on those attempting to illegally migrate, threatening them with jail time, while Niger has threatened smugglers with 30 years in jail, Senegal has also increased border surveillance to try and regulate and monitor illegal movements. Frindéthié (2016) however, mentions that as long as Libya remains a lawless state it will be difficult for African states to regulate the movement of migrants within the continent, especially in West Africa. Furthermore, Monzini (2010) states that the existence of smugglers in Africa will continue being a compounding factor in the quest by African governments to fight illegal migration to Europe. poverty and economic opportunity in Africa will also continue being factors driving illegal migration to Europe. In 2016, 37 724 of migrants in Greece and Italy were of Nigerian origin, with economic freedom the major factor behind their migration (News24, 2017). Avramov & Cliquet (2005) concludes by mentioning that the inflow of migrants from Africa to Europe is unlikely to stop as Africa has failed to address root causes such as poverty and economic development. In its aim to help African countries battle illegal migration, the EU has offered \$2bn in economic development funding to countries which show that they are fighting illegal

migration. Rankin (2017) states that to a great extent, many African countries are going through an array of governance related issues and are confronted by rampant corruption, therefore the utilization of the funds for their intended purpose will be difficult to monitor. Moreover, funds alone won't contribute to the reduction in poverty, won't improve governance problems and they won't help in fight smuggling operation prevalent in the continent, hence a much more detailed plan of action should be developed which is fully supported by the African Union and European Union. There are many challenges that hinder African governments from successfully curbing illegal migration to Europe, these challenges are a combination of socio-economic.

CHALLENGES IN REDUCING ILLEGAL AFRICAN MIGRATION TO EUROPE

Porous borders and limited resources

Borders in Africa are porous in nature, hence the continent itself is internally characterised by high levels of illegal migration. Davis (2012) states that many African countries do not have the much needed resources to monitor border movement effectively. Kabia (2013) opines that in West Africa, porous borders are a major factors that contribute to illegal migration to Europe. Bernstein & Weiner (2002) states that border services in Africa often lack the needed resources that would enable them to do their jobs effectively. Furthermore, this has been compounded by inability of governments to prioritise resources for border services. Borders are often under staffed, lacked required skills, hence many countries in Africa are characterised by poor security within their borders which exacerbates the cross border crime, and smuggling. Illegal migrants have therefore, used this loopholes to further engage in illegal migration to Europe.

Complex smuggling operations

The increasing availability of smuggling services in Africa is becoming a worrisome factor. Many illegal smuggling operations currently operating in Africa have had a direct hand in the increase in those attempting to reach Europe, while they have been making millions of dollars in the process. Watford (2012) states that because Libya is currently at war, reducing the rate of smuggling operations would be difficult, as many smuggling syndicates bare operating in the country. Osborne (2016) mentions that Libyan coastal cities are making £325m in revenue because of smuggling people and most of these operations have been run by extremist groups which further increases the security threat to the region. To make matters worse, a UN report alleged that Libyan security forces maybe aiding rebel groups to control smuggling routes. Despite international backing, the Tripoli government has not been able to assert control in the country. Marc, Verjee & Mogaka (2015) opines that there is an increase in human smuggling cases in west Africa, where migrants have been promised great jobs in Europe only to be forced into sexual exploitation once there. Therefore, until the complex network of smuggling

operations is dismantled in Africa, they will continue hindering efforts of the EU in dealing with illegal African migration.

Corruption

Pretorius (2014) mentions that Africa loses \$148bn because of corruption and that it corruption is directly linked to poor governance and the lack of ethical leadership. Corruption at African borders is rife and has begun to gain the attention of African governments. The fraudulent issuing of identity documents, passports and travel permits is on the constant increase in Africa. Brenton & Isik (2012) mentions that unsatisfactory salaries of border services are another contributing factor in the increasing rates of illegal African migration to Europe. Poor governance, weak democratic institutions and the limited availability of resources are elements which make it harder for border services to effectively deal with the huge number of people engaging in illegal migration within the continent. In exchange for money, corrupt border services collude with migrants and smugglers, this making it very difficult for governments to deal with the illegal migration problem (Triandafyllidou & Maroukis 2012). Unfortunately, anti-corruption mechanisms adopted throughout the continent have not been able to deal with corruption and the influx of migrants to Europe has a direct link with corruption and smuggling (Udeze, 2009). The OECD, further states that smuggling is one of the most lucrative crimes and is well organized and for it to succeed, it requires regions which are characterised by corruption, weak governance and the absence of rule of law (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, 2015). Fatile (2012) concludes by alluding that corruption is contributing effectively to the decay of good governance principles in the continent and with many countries having governance-related challenges, the increase in illegal migration to Europe is highly probable.

Poverty and limited economic opportunity

The World Bank states that Africa is the world poorest continent, the continent is characterised by rampant corruption, nepotism, hunger, conflict and weak governance principles (Nwankwo & Ibeh 2014). Poverty is however the continent's major challenge, in 2012, it was reported that a staggering 501 million people or 47 percent of the population in sub-Saharan Africa were living in below \$1.90 (World Hunger Education Service, 2015). According to Odekon (2006) today, 40 percent of the population in sub-Saharan Africa live in absolute poverty. The Economist (2016) opines that poverty is another factor which drives illegal migration to Europe as migrant search for better economic opportunities. (), mentions that migrants feel once they reach Europe, there is an increase likelihood that they can find employment and provide for their families back home, implying the migrating to Europe is associated with financial benefits for the migrant. Africa's failure it spur development and reduce poverty will contribute to an increase in illegal migration

to Europe going forward. The lack of economic opportunity of migrants in their home countries will also increase their appetite to migrate to Europe.

Inactivity by the African union and African governments

It was only after the horrific emergence of a video clip showing the apparent abuse of migrants in Libya that African government began to speak and condemn what was happening in the country (Alonge, 2014). It was only after this that they started advocating for tougher laws and regulations pertaining to human trafficking and smuggling. The African union for its part has been very quiet and inactive in fighting illegal migration to Europe. The continental body has to a great extent, failed to pressure regional governments to implement laws that would help combat illegal migration to Europe (Withnall, 2016). With limited resources, regional governments can only do so much and surely when it comes to illegal migration, the death of many migrants at sea and the increasing rates of smuggling operations in Africa show that the inactivity of the African union has to a extent contributed to the prolonging of this problem (Triandafyllidou & Maroukis, 2012). The political will of governments in Africa to commit and reduce the outflow of migrants from the continent has also been called into question. Governments have failed to react in this regard and as a result the problem has grown at unprecedented levels.

Libyan political crisis and African government's financial constraints

Most migrants from west and central Africa use Libya as their point of departure and with Libya still embroiled in a seemingly never ending conflict, the possibility of strengthening regulations dealing with human smuggling seem to be way off, let alone their success rate in implemented (Seeberg & Eyadat, 2013). Shelley (2011) states that smugglers are making millions yearly in smuggling migrants to Europe and they will at all cost protect their operations, and with more and more Africans willing to risk their lives and travel to Europe, the smuggling operations will in Africa will surely increase going forward. Furthermore, African government's lack the financial resources needed to stop illegal migration. Economic growth is sluggish and countries are not economically growing at the required rates, hence the finances needed to spur economic development and reduce illegal migration are not available.

The failure of African governments and the African union will surely have major implications for both the African continent and Europe, hence the need for the establishment of policies that would ensure the problem is greatly tackled.

Implications of illegal African migration for African and Europe

The ever increasing rate of illegal migration to Europe will have dire implications for both African and Europe, hence the continued call for Europe and Africa to expedite the development

and implementation of policies that would aid in reducing the number of those attempting to engage in illegal migration

IMPLICATIONS FOR AFRICA

Loss of skills and innovation

The loss of skilled and innovation is the most worrying factor for Africa. Kefale & Mohammed (2016) opines that by observing the current trends in illegal migration to Europe, it can be seen that it is mostly young people who are engaging in illegal migration, these young people are mixture of educated and uneducated migrants, hence their loss negatively impacts human capital development and economic growth in their home countries. Many African countries are characterised by numerous cases of brain drain, and the loss of skills through illegal migration further compounds issues hindering development in Africa (Patterson, 2007).

Increase smuggling operations

The willingness of Africans to risk their lives order to reach Europe means that the establishment of smuggling syndicates and organizations in Africa will continue to rise as there will be a market for them to exploit (Hagher, 2011). Massey & Coluccello (2015) mentions that smuggling organizations (mainly in Libya) are operational because there is a huge appetite among Africans to migrate to Europe, hence the fight against smuggling syndicates becomes very difficult. The African union also has a huge role to play in fighting smuggling syndicates, this should be done via cooperation will African government to better deal with increasing smuggling rates of operations.

Corruption

Border services in Africa are poorly paid and African borders are porous. With porous salaries and determined Africans who are hell-bent on reaching Europe, this increases the likelihood that corruption related to illegal migration to Europe may manifest itself (Oladipo, 2016). The failure of African governments to effectively deal with corruption related to illegal migration will definitely impact the fight against illegal migration in Africa and there will certainly be an increase in money exchanging hands between migrants (Hope & Chikulo, 1999) border services and smugglers, hence the continued call by the European Union that African governments must do more to combat corruption

Increased abuse and death of migrants

The failure of the African union to deal with the growing problem of illegal African migration to Europe will result in an increase in the abuse and deaths of migrants (Polet, 2007). Opines that the death and abuse of migrants should have been a wakeup call for African states (News24,

2017) However, with economic opportunities hard to come by in migrants home countries and with the increasing rates of poverty in there will surely be an increase in those attempting to reach Europe, mostly motivated by the thrill of working abroad and escaping poverty.

IMPLICATIONS FOR EUROPE

Increased political tension

Visa guard countries, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia and Czech Republic have vehemently opposed the relocation of migrants under the European Union's quota scheme. These countries have erected fences and walls in order to keep migrants out. Germany, which has previously urged EU countries to show compassion and empathy towards immigrants has also started to implement tough measures aimed at curbing their movement and overall arrival to Europe (Dunai, 2017). The increase in the arrival of migrants has already overwhelmed border services and with the absence of a jointly coordinated policy on managing illegal migrants, surely we should expect more disagreements between member states when it comes to collectively dealing with illegal immigration (Fajola, 2015).

Tension with locals

Tensions have simmered between migrants in Sweden, Germany and Italy and by extension we have also seen an increase in hate crimes in the United Kingdom directed towards migrants (Scholten et al, 2015) Migrants have not been welcomed in some European countries and locals are very sceptical in terms of successfully integrating migrants in local communities or culture. Triandafyllidou (2016) states that this will continue to haunt the EU as long as the region does not have a jointly agreed policy on dealing with illegal African migration.

Threat to security

de Zwaan et al (2016) opines that the influx of migrants presents a huge security threat for Europe, especially with terror related crimes in the constant increase across Europe. Spencer (2017) opines that when migrants sexually assaulted woman in Germany on New Year's Eve in 2015/16, this should have been a wakeup call for Europe that the failure of the bloc to deal with the influx of illegal migrants will contribute significantly to the increase crimes and will be huge threat to the regions security. The Foreign policy chief of Europe, Frederic Mogherini opined that the influx of illegal migrants to Europe possess as a huge security threat to the bloc ability to protect its citizens (Sherwell & Squires 2015). She also opined that until Europe agrees on a mutual policy aimed at regulating and managing illegal migration, Europe's security will continue being severely under pressure.

Over-utilization of resources

The influx of migrants to Europe has overwhelmed resources of member states. Countries have had to utilize their navies to track smuggling syndicates operating in European waters, they have had to provide accommodation and medical care (Zavis & Simmons, 2017). Barker (2014) opines that migrants detention camps in Italy cost roughly € 100 million per month to maintain, Bulham (2018) further states that the UK has spent more than £ 500 million on migrant detention centres and this result of the blocs failure to commonly agree on a joint policy that will help in managing illegal migration.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

Illegal African migration has been very problematic for Europe and Africa. However failure to commonly agree on a joint policy to manage illegal migration will continue to hamper Europe's efforts to deal with illegal African immigration.

Europe union is failing to cope

It is obvious they the increasing influx of illegal immigrants has been burdensome for European countries especially countries located in eastern Europe who have acted unilaterally in order to limit the movement and arrival of migrants into their territories (Garavoglia, 2015). The failure of the region to jointly develop and agree on policy aimed at dealing with illegal migration has also added to the problem. Visa guard countries have erected structures and barriers to prevent the free movement of migrants, further showing their displeasure with the crisis and the way it has been handled by the region (Gocłowski & Than, 2018). Germany a previously welcoming country, has also started to backtrack on its open door policy, citing increasing rates of crime involving migrants and the overall threat to the country's security. All these actions clearly show that the region in failing to cope with the huge influx of migrants and the failure of the bloc's to promote the development of a policy that will regulate the influx of illegal migrants will pit states against each other going forward

African union has failed to act

The major talking point from this phenomenon of illegal African migration to Europe will be failure of the African union to act in terms on contributing to the reduction of illegal Africans migrants attempting to reach Europe (Scherer & Baczynska 2017). As a continental body responsible for advocating peace, security and the well-being of African nationals, the body should pressurize regional governments to implement policies that would discourage the illegal migration of African nationals, however, the African union has been rather issuing statements condemning the increasing rates of slavery in Libya, it has not however undertaken any observable action in terms of policy to aid in the reduction of those attempting to travel to Europe.

Smuggling on the increase

The willingness of Africans to risk their lives in order to reach Europe has also given rise to smuggling organizations who are making millions of dollars in the process (Gebrewold, Kostenzer, & Müller, 2017). Because of the lack of regional government policy and leadership from the African union, smuggling syndicates have established well connected and complex operations in the continent, all with the aim of smuggling Africans to Europe (Falola & Afolabi, 2007). Undoubtedly the rise of smuggling syndicates has been a result of the failure of the African union together with regional governments to deal with the increasing rates of illegal African migration to Europe.

Migrant intolerance growing in Europe

Hate crimes and the intolerance of migrants in Europe is growing at unprecedented levels. They are subjected to abuse and mistreatment in detention camps (United Nations Regional Information Centre, 2016). The failure of the European Union to deal effectively with illegal migration has also given rise to many euro-sceptic political parties who are vehemently opposed to the acceptance of refugees under the pretext they are not European and do not represent European culture.

Threat to security

Many countries in the EU have refused to admit migrants because they fear migrants will compromise their security. While this has not been proven, many countries associate illegal immigration with an increase in terror related activities and an increase in the overall crime levels (Wintour, 2017). The New Year's Eve event in Germany involving migrants further motivated many countries to reject migrant re-settlement programmes. Many countries such as France, Germany, Sweden and Italy have been witness to migrant related crimes hence the increase in euro-sceptic parties in these countries (Guarnieri, 2018).

African migration to Europe likely to increase

Poverty and economic opportunity will continue to push Africans to seek greener pastures in Europe, regardless of the risks involved (Boswell & Crisp, 2004). Economic growth is the key in ensuring that African governments can adequately provide for their citizens, however with growth prospects very low and appetite for migrating to ever growing among Africans, it's highly likely that illegal African migration to Europe will continue to rise.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

The African union and African governments have failed to address this problem and debatably one may opine that they have been inactive in contributing effectively to solutions needed to stop

illegal African migration to Europe. Smuggling syndicates have also increased in Africa, particularly in coastal countries such as Libya and Tunisia. There is an increasing tolerance toward migrants in Europe while other countries in the EU have implemented strict laws to regulate the movement of migrants, clearly showing that the increasing rates of illegal migration to Europe has been problematic for both sides and advocates for policies to be implemented in order to regulate and better deal with this growing problem, therefore, the study suggests:

Increases cooperation between the African union and regional states

One of the contributing factors to the illegal migration of Africans to Europe is that there is no policy alignment between the African union and African governments in terms of how effectively they can cooperate to reduce the number of those attempting to reach Europe. The African union needs to engage with regional governments on solutions that can be implemented to stop the problem because so far regional governments have been solely responsible for monitoring and dealing with the increasing rate of illegal migration, so there is greater need for cooperation and coordination between the African union and regional governments.

African union and European Union cooperation.

Instead of allocating \$2bn to states that are fighting illegal migration, the EU should bolster its cooperation with the African union in terms of policy development, advisory support and aid in the implementation of polices that would contribute to the eradication of this growing problem. The EU should also aid in monitoring and evaluation of polices that have been already implemented. The African union for its part should coordinate polices with the European Union so that the efforts to combat illegal migration to Europe can be synchronized successful.

Economic Sanctions on smugglers

The African union and the European Union should, through the United Nations Security Council petition the sanctioning of those found to be responsible for smuggling migrants to Europe. The sanctions should target include assets freezes, ban travel and cut financial supply routes to the smugglers. The sanctions would inflict serious loses to smugglers, hence this is very important toll to aid in reducing illegal African migration to Europe.

Invest in border services and root out corruption

The African union, should encourage countries to invest in border services as they play an important role in regulating the movement in the continent. Border services should have adequate resources and personnel as these are important elements in enabling border services to carry out their work effectively. Furthermore, corruption has significantly eroded the principles

of good governance in Africa, and urgent policy interventions are needed to eradicate it. Corruption within the continent's borders has been very rampant and contributed to the problem, hence the urgent need to countries to implement stricter rules and laws on to eradicate corruption.

While these suggestions may go a long way in reducing illegal African migration to Europe, it is however worth to note that illegal African migration to Europe is a complex phenomenon and with smuggling syndicates increasing in the continent, deeper integration between the African union, regional government and the European Union is the only way to deal with the problem.

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