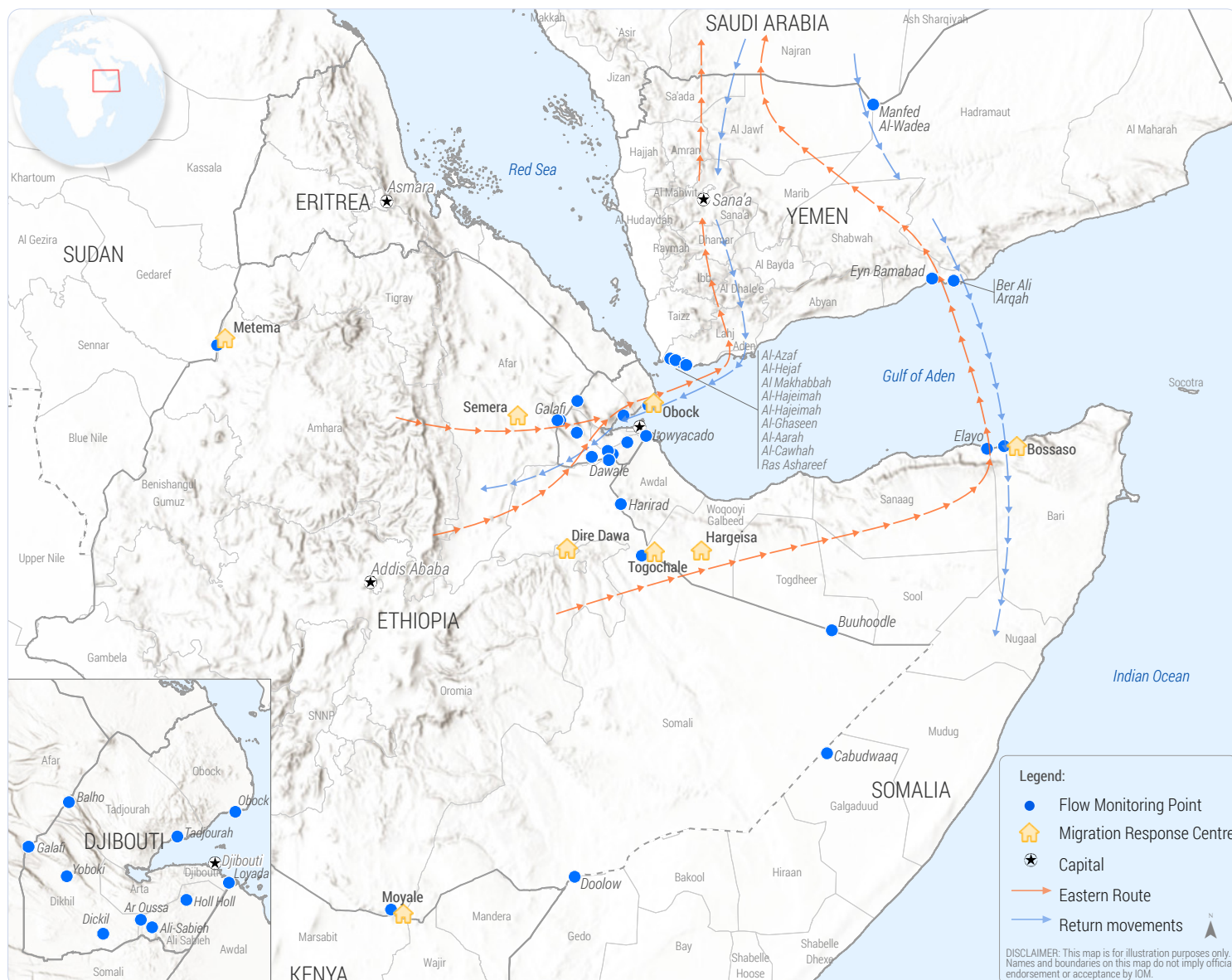


## About the report

The Horn of Africa and Yemen is one of the busiest and riskiest migration corridors in the world travelled by hundreds of thousands of migrants, the majority of whom travel in an irregular manner, often relying on smugglers to facilitate movement along the Eastern Route. This regional report provides monthly updates on the complex migratory dynamics through [Djibouti](#), [Somalia](#), [Yemen](#) and [Ethiopia](#) based on diverse data sources and consultations with key informants in the four countries. Moreover, it provides information on the main protection concerns for migrants along the journey, information on [the spillover effects of the conflict in Northern Ethiopia](#) observed at the border between Ethiopia, Kenya and Sudan, [a specific focus on children](#) and information on the [returns from Saudi Arabia](#) to Ethiopia, Somalia and Yemen.

### Data sources:

- [Displacement Tracking Matrix \(DTM\)](#) data collected at Flow Monitoring Points (FMPs), which includes Flow Monitoring Registry (group level) and Flow Monitoring Survey (individual level) data
- [Registration data](#) for migrants seeking assistance at [Migration Response Centres \(MRCs\)](#) in Obock (Djibouti), Bossaso, Hargeisa (Somalia), Dire Dawa, Metema, Moyale, Semera and Togochale (Ethiopia), which includes information on [Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration \(AVRR\)](#)
- [Voluntary Humanitarian Return \(VHR\)](#) from Yemen
- [Returns from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia](#)
- [Missing Migrants Project \(MMP\)](#) data on migrant deaths and disappearances

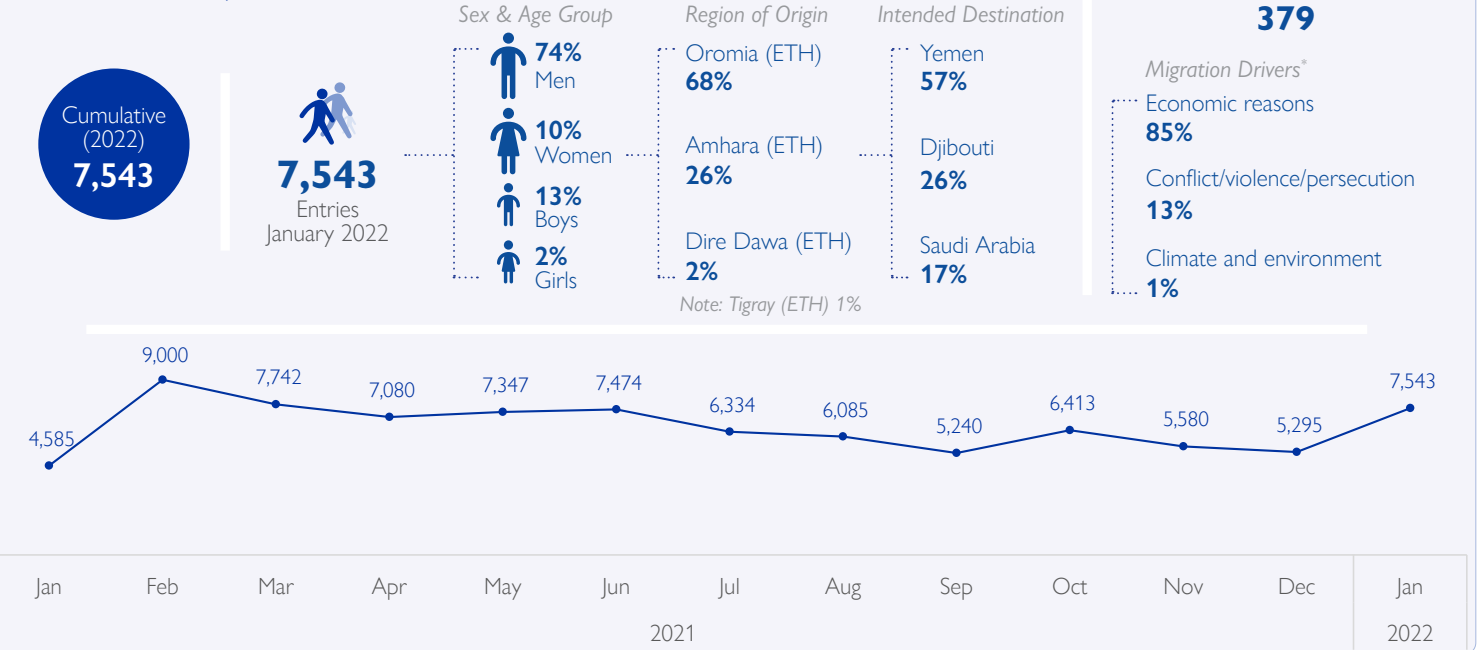


# Migration Through Djibouti

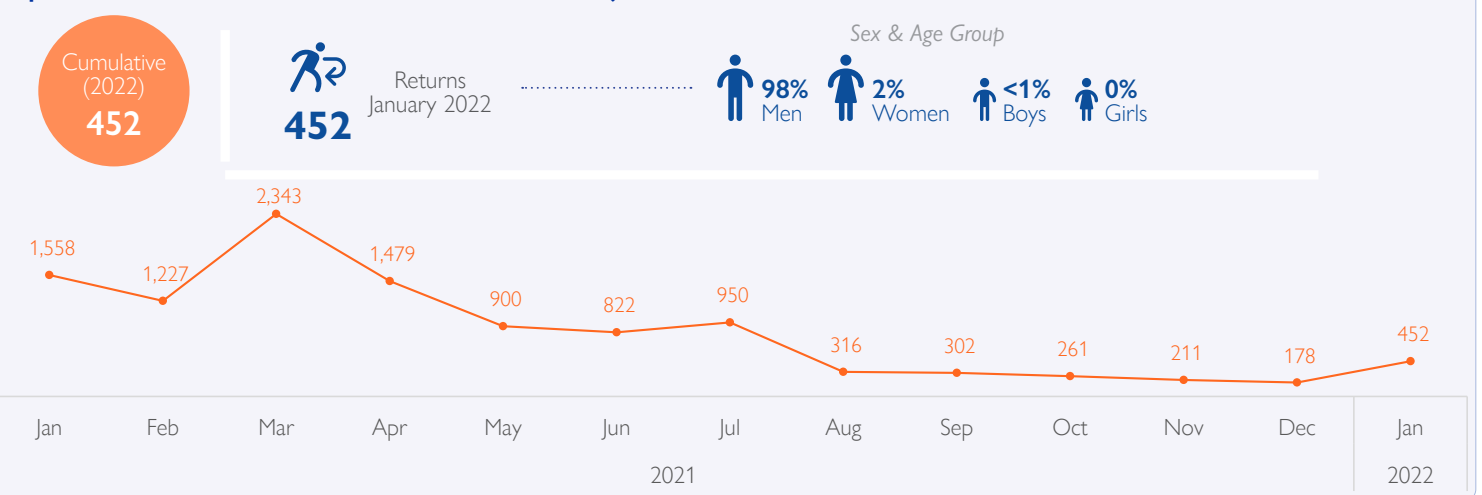
## Observations

Migration along the Eastern Corridor through Djibouti's western borders increased by 42% compared to the previous month. However, while crossings into Djibouti increased, there were reports of hundreds of Ethiopian migrants returning through the Dewele point of entry on the Ethiopian side of the border with Djibouti. Migration through Djibouti continued to be strongly gendered with men and boys representing 87% of the migrants observed. By far, Ethiopia's Oromia region remained the main area of origin for migration through Djibouti, followed by Amhara, while migration from Tigray, which historically has been significant, accounted only for 1% of the flows observed. This reduction in the proportion of Tigrayans has been observed since the conflict in Northern Ethiopia broke out in November 2020. Among the 379 migrants surveyed this month (86% male and 14% female), economic reasons continued to be the main driver, but conflict, violence and targeted persecution were reported by 13% of the migrants interviewed. However, among Tigrayans alone, the latter was reported by over one in two respondents (55%). Spontaneous returns from Yemen to Djibouti more than doubled compared to the previous month as assisted returns from Yemen remained suspended. With the lifting of the state of emergency in Ethiopia on 26 January 2022, AVRR from Djibouti is expected to resume in February 2022 and offer a solution to the 655 stranded migrants.

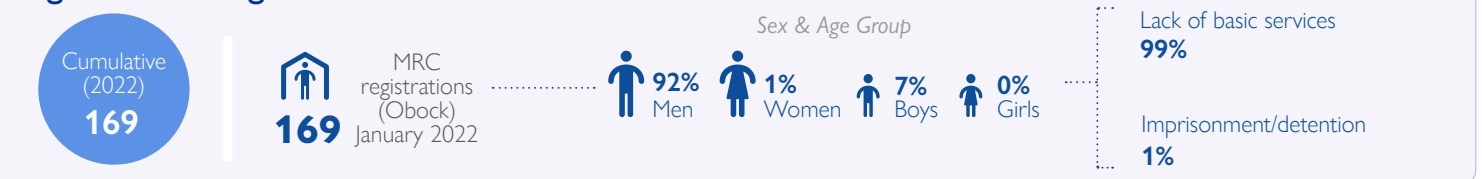
## Entries into Djibouti



## Spontaneous Returns from Yemen to Djibouti



## Migrants Seeking Assistance



**655** Stranded migrants January 2022

**0** Dead/missing migrants\*\* January 2022

\* Multiple answer question.

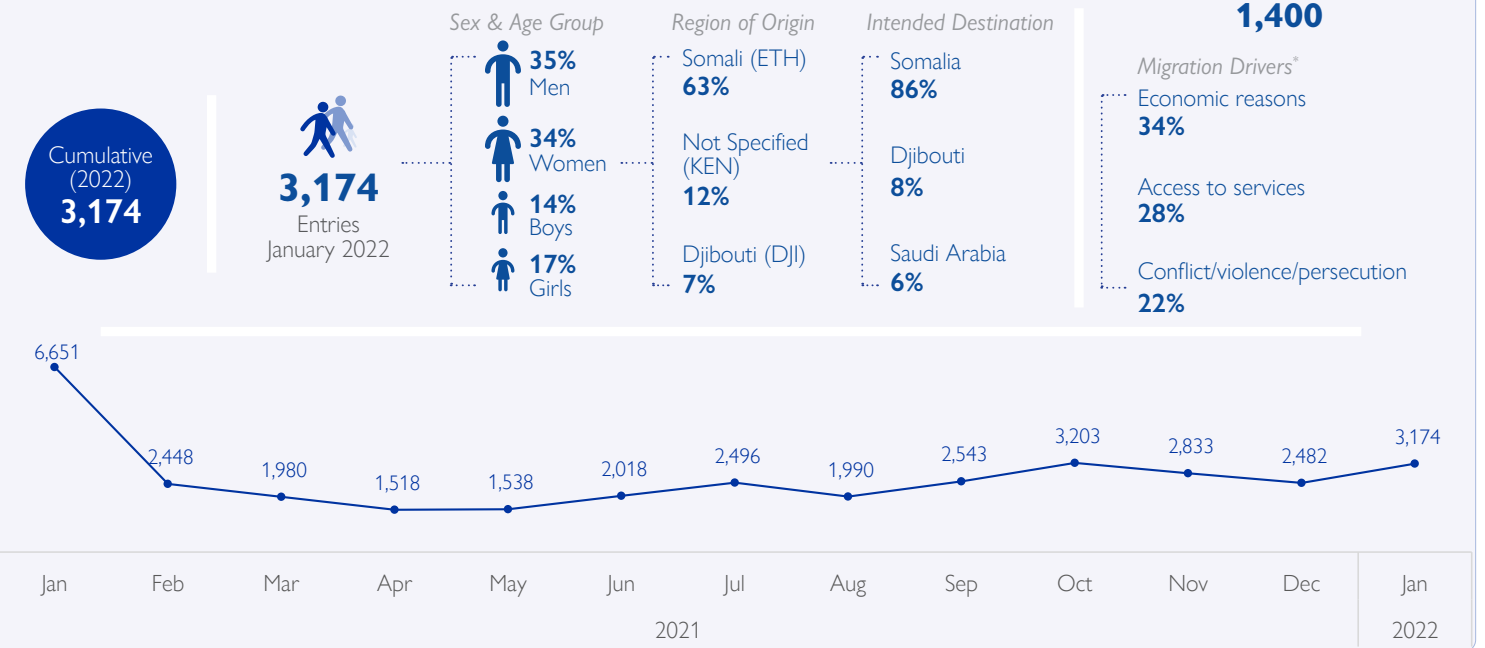
\*\* Reporting is based on reports of deaths and missing migrants that could be verified.

# Migration Through Somalia

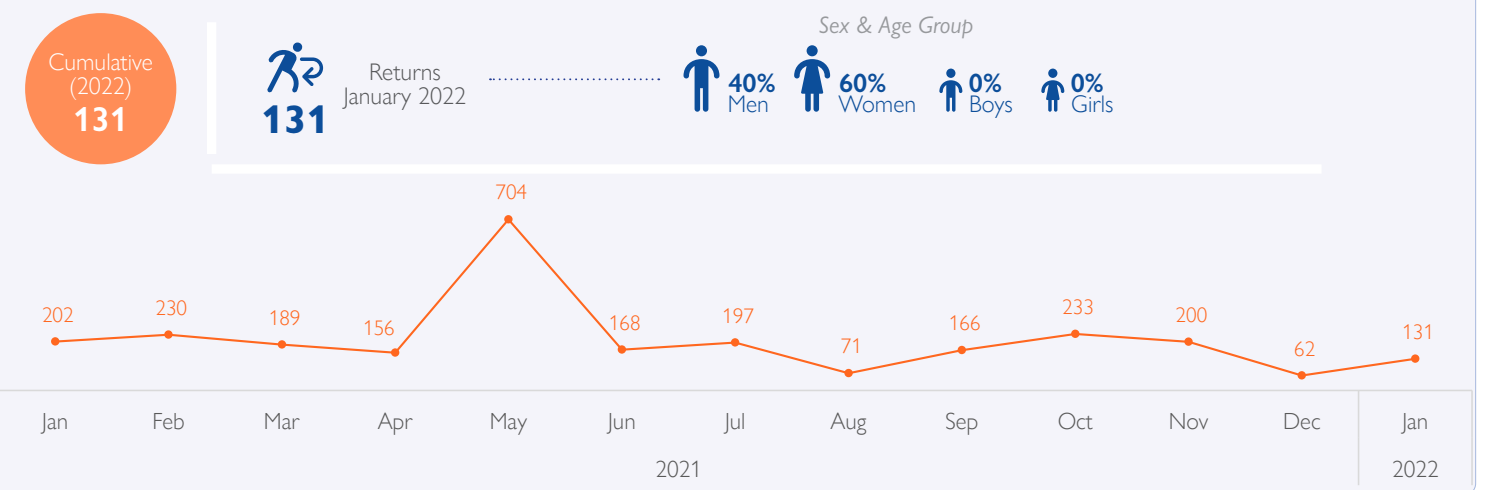
## Observations

Migration along the Eastern Corridor from Ethiopia to Somalia increased by 28% compared to the previous month. Women and girls represented 51% of the migrant flows observed. Spontaneous returns from Yemen continued with 131 returnees to Berbera (72) and to Bossaso (59). Out of the 1,400 migrants surveyed this month, one third were women and among them, access to services was almost twice as important as among men, while 13% reported to be moving for marriage or family reunification. Of the 374 new migrant registrations at the Bossaso and Hargeisa MRCs, women and girls accounted for almost half (41%) of those requesting assistance, mainly to access basic services. While AVRR is still suspended, 91 migrants registered for the service this month in both Hargeisa (51) and Bossaso (40), while 5,252 migrants were estimated to be stranded. One migrant death was reported on 15 January 2022 near Qaw village. The deceased was an Ethiopian man who was reportedly killed by his employers after a dispute. He was brought to Bossaso and was buried by the Ethiopian community, while the attackers are currently under investigation.

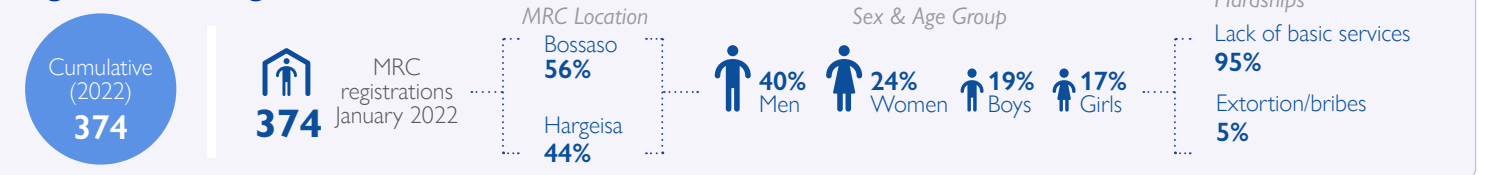
## Entries into Somalia



## Spontaneous Returns from Yemen to Somalia



## Migrants Seeking Assistance



**5,252** Stranded migrants January 2022

**1** Dead/missing migrants\*\* January 2022

\* Multiple answer question.

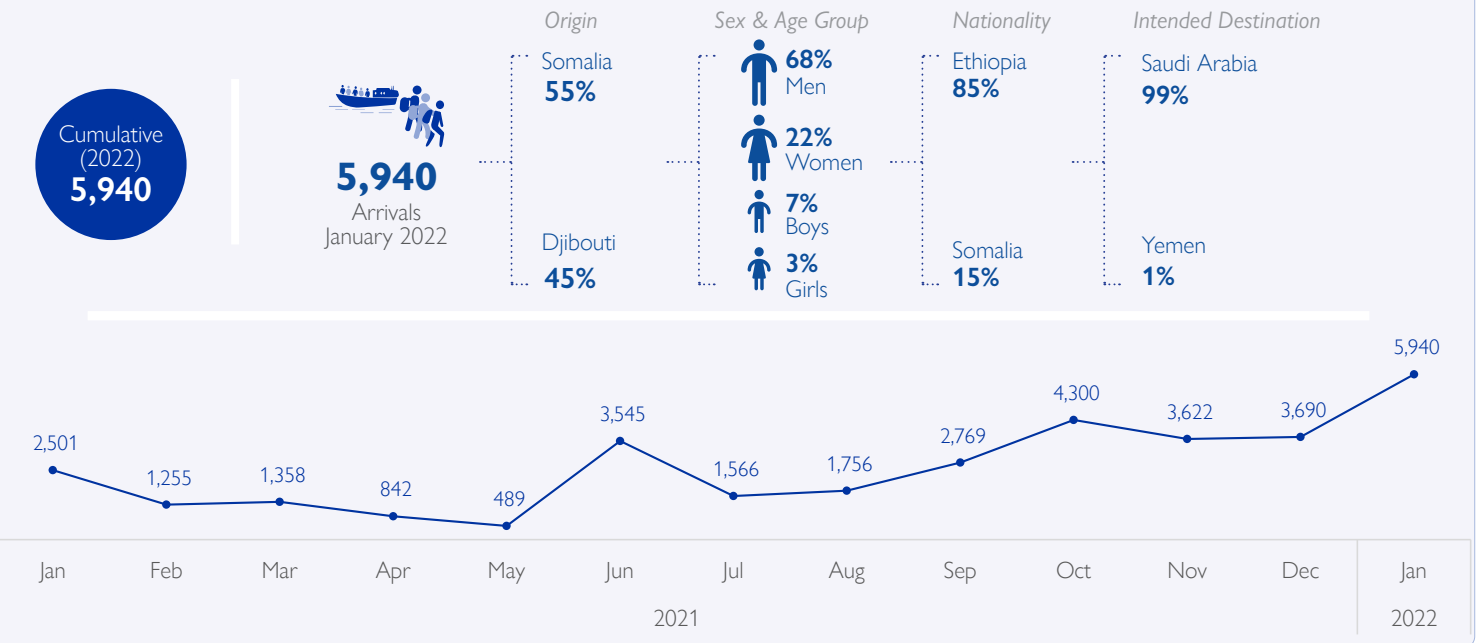
\*\* Reporting is based on reports of deaths and missing migrants that could be verified.

# Migration Through Yemen

## Observations

January was the deadliest month in three years in Yemen with over 650 casualties among the civilian population. Moreover, an airstrike hit a prison facility in Sa'ada, where many migrants are usually held, although none were reported to be killed in the attack. Despite this situation, migrant arrivals to Yemen from the Horn of Africa increased by over 60% from the previous month with almost 6,000 migrants disembarking on the southern shores of Yemen. Like in December 2021, most arrivals came from Bossaso in Somalia (55%), and to a lesser extent, from Obock in Djibouti (45%). IOM activated four additional FMPs in January 2022 to monitor new disembarkation points in Al Makhabbah, Al-Azaf, Al-Hajeimah and Al-Hejaf. Ethiopian nationals continued to make up the majority of all arrivals (85%) and men and boys contributed to three quarters of the migrant arrivals. However, conditions in Yemen continue to be extremely dangerous for migrants. It was reported that 4,000 migrants, including women and children, were transferred from the northern to the southern governorates during this month. An increase in the number of stranded migrants was also reported (from 35,000 as of December 2021) as VHR is still suspended. Moreover, the Saudi border continues to be extremely hard to cross with armed targeting of migrants and ongoing forced returns of Yemeni nationals.

## Arrivals in Yemen from the Horn of Africa



**42,000** Stranded migrants January 2022

**0** Dead/missing migrants\*\* January 2022

\*\* Reporting is based on reports of deaths and missing migrants that could be verified.

# Migration Through Ethiopia

## Observations

The state of emergency in Ethiopia, which was declared on 2 November 2021, was lifted on 26 January 2022, thereby easing to some extent the degree of control over border movements and documentation. There was a 15% increase in movements out of Ethiopia between November 2021 (14,340) and January 2022 and a 6% increase from December 2021 (15,686). The responses of the 2,067 migrants surveyed during this month were likely heavily influenced by the ongoing conflict and drought as over half (52%) reported economic reasons as their main reason for migration, one in five respondents (21%) reported conflict, violence and targeted persecution and 18% reported access to services. However, when looking at gender, females (28%) were twice as likely to report migrating to access services than males (14%), while males (25%) were more than twice as likely to report migrating due to conflict, violence and targeted persecution than females (11%). Looking at the regions of origin, one in three Amhara and one in two Tigrayans reported conflict, violence and targeted persecution among their main drivers for migration.

Of the 424 migrants registered at MRCs in Ethiopia, Moyale, at the border with Kenya, and Dire Dawa, at the border with Djibouti, recorded the highest proportion of registrations. Men and boys represented 86% of all new registrations. In January 2022, there was a partial resumption of assisted voluntary returns for Ethiopian migrants in Addis Ababa wishing to return to their communities of origin, except for those coming from Tigray, Amhara and Afar where there is either no access or access is being assessed. Returns from Saudi Arabia remained suspended as the Governments of Ethiopia and of Saudi Arabia negotiate bilaterally and it is expected that returns will resume soon.

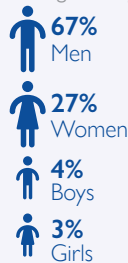
Looking at the possible spillover effect of the conflict in Ethiopia along the Northern and Southern Routes, most movements through Sudan towards Ethiopia (along the Northern Route) were motivated by family reunification (93%) and most movements from Ethiopia through Kenya (along the Southern Route) were driven by economic reasons (77%) as well as conflict, violence and targeted persecution (14%).

## Exits out of Ethiopia

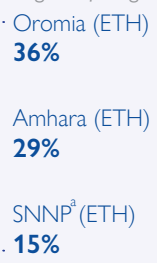
Cumulative (2022)  
**16,541**

**16,541**  
Migrant exits from Ethiopia January 2022

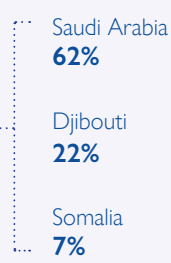
### Sex & Age Group



### Region of Origin



### Intended Destination



Note: Tigray (ETH) 2%

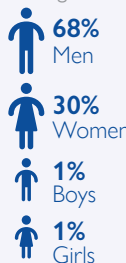


— Oromia — Amhara — Tigray  
Note: Movements from selected regions of origin

## Migrants surveyed in January 2022

**2,067**  
Surveyed migrants exiting Ethiopia January 2022

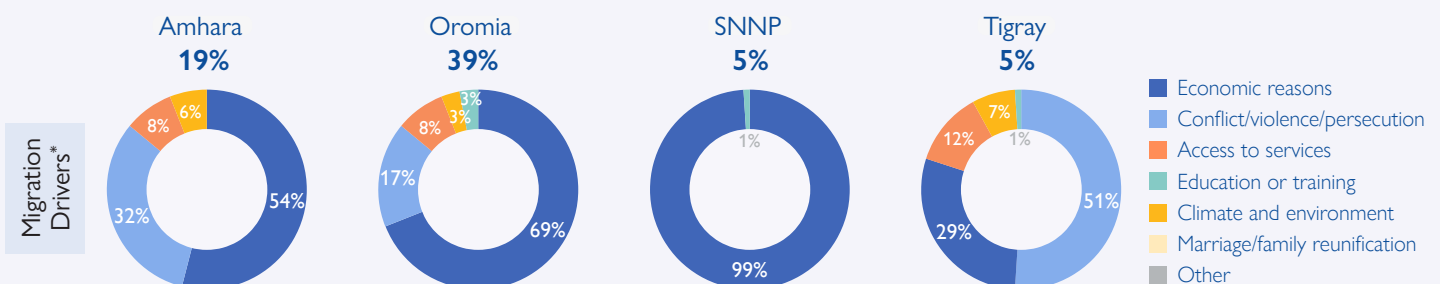
### Sex & Age Group



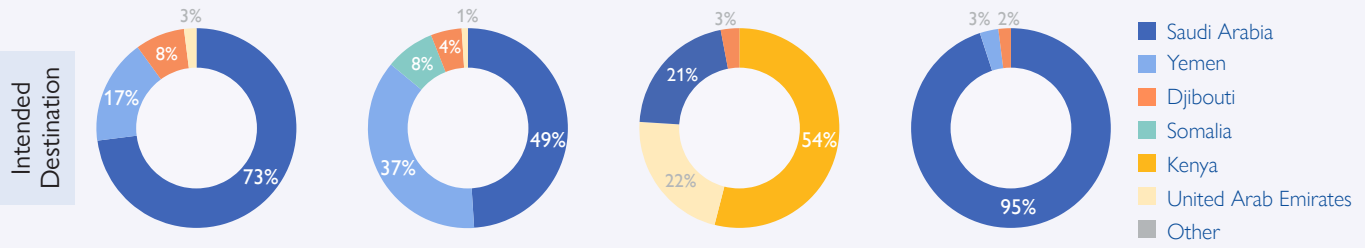
### Migration Drivers\*



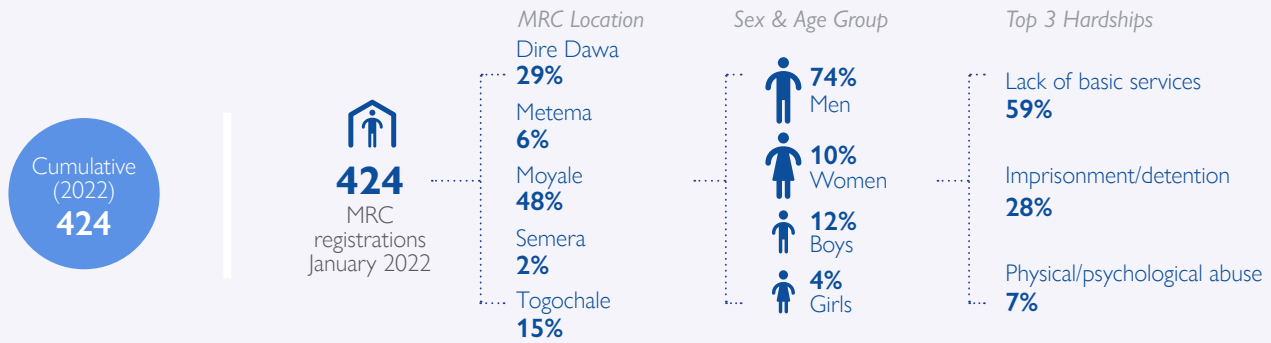
### Intended Destination



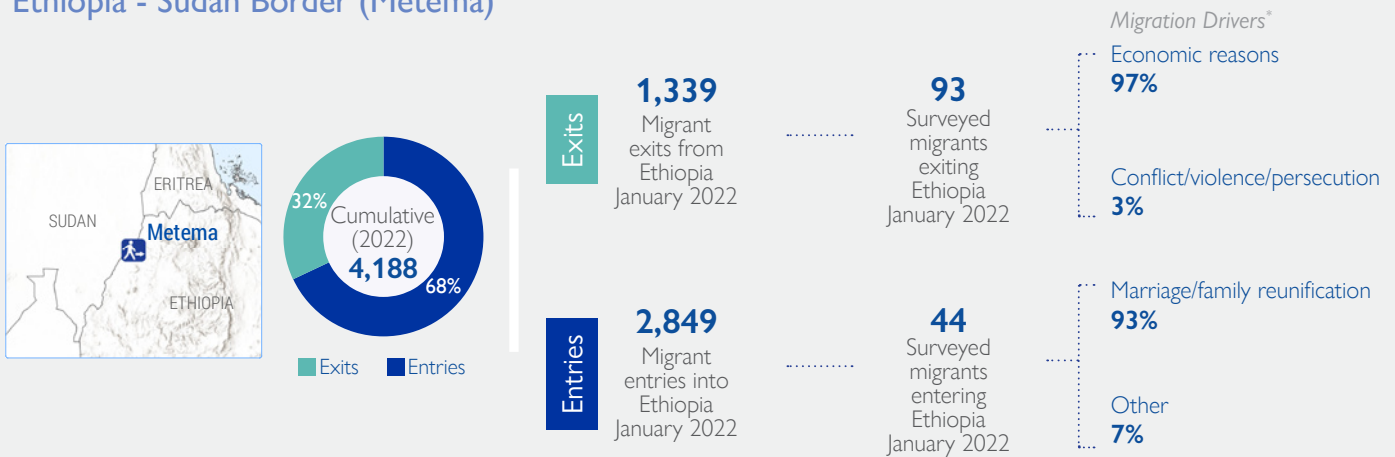
<sup>a</sup> Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples' Region.  
\* Multiple answer question.



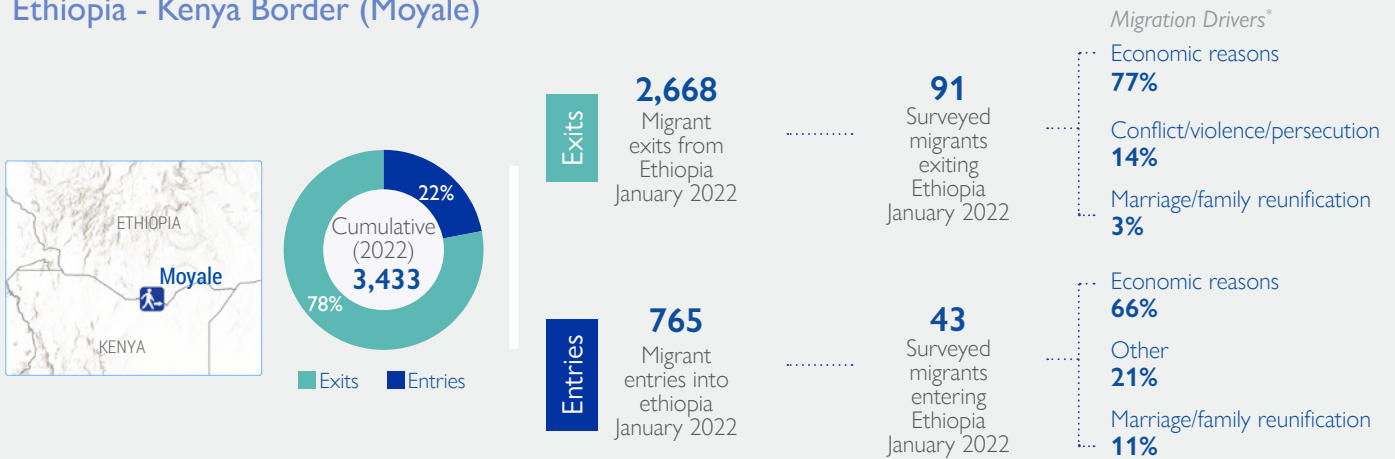
## Migrants Seeking Assistance



## Impact of the Northern Ethiopia Conflict along the Northern and Southern Corridors Ethiopia - Sudan Border (Metema)



## Ethiopia - Kenya Border (Moyale)



\* Multiple answer question.

## Migrant Children Along the Eastern Corridor

Cumulative  
(2022)  
**5,961**

**5,961**  
Migrant children  
entries  
January 2022

Into Djibouti  
**20%**  
Into Somalia  
**72%**  
Into Yemen  
**9%**

**56%**  
Boys  
**44%**  
Girls  
**1%**  
Unaccompanied

**215**  
Migrant children  
seeking assistance  
January 2022

In Djibouti  
**6%**  
In Ethiopia  
**32%**  
In Somalia  
**62%**

**63%**  
Boys  
**37%**  
Girls

**468**

Migrants surveyed  
who are caring  
for children  
(19% of all  
respondents)  
January 2022

Travelling with children  
**34%**  
Having children in the country of intended destination  
**13%**  
Who left children behind in the country of origin  
**53%**

Caretakers of  
migrant children  
not travelling  
with the migrant  
parent

My spouse/partner  
**44%**  
Grandparents or extended family  
**27%**  
My older children (younger than 18)  
**23%**  
My older children (18 and older)  
**6%**  
Friends  
**<1%**

## Returns from Saudi Arabia



**5,840**

Returns  
January 2022

Returns to  
Ethiopia  
**0**  
Somalia  
**80**  
Yemen  
**5,760**



Cumulative  
(2022)  
**5,840**

Returns to  
Ethiopia  
**0**  
Somalia  
**80**  
Yemen  
**5,760**

## Contact