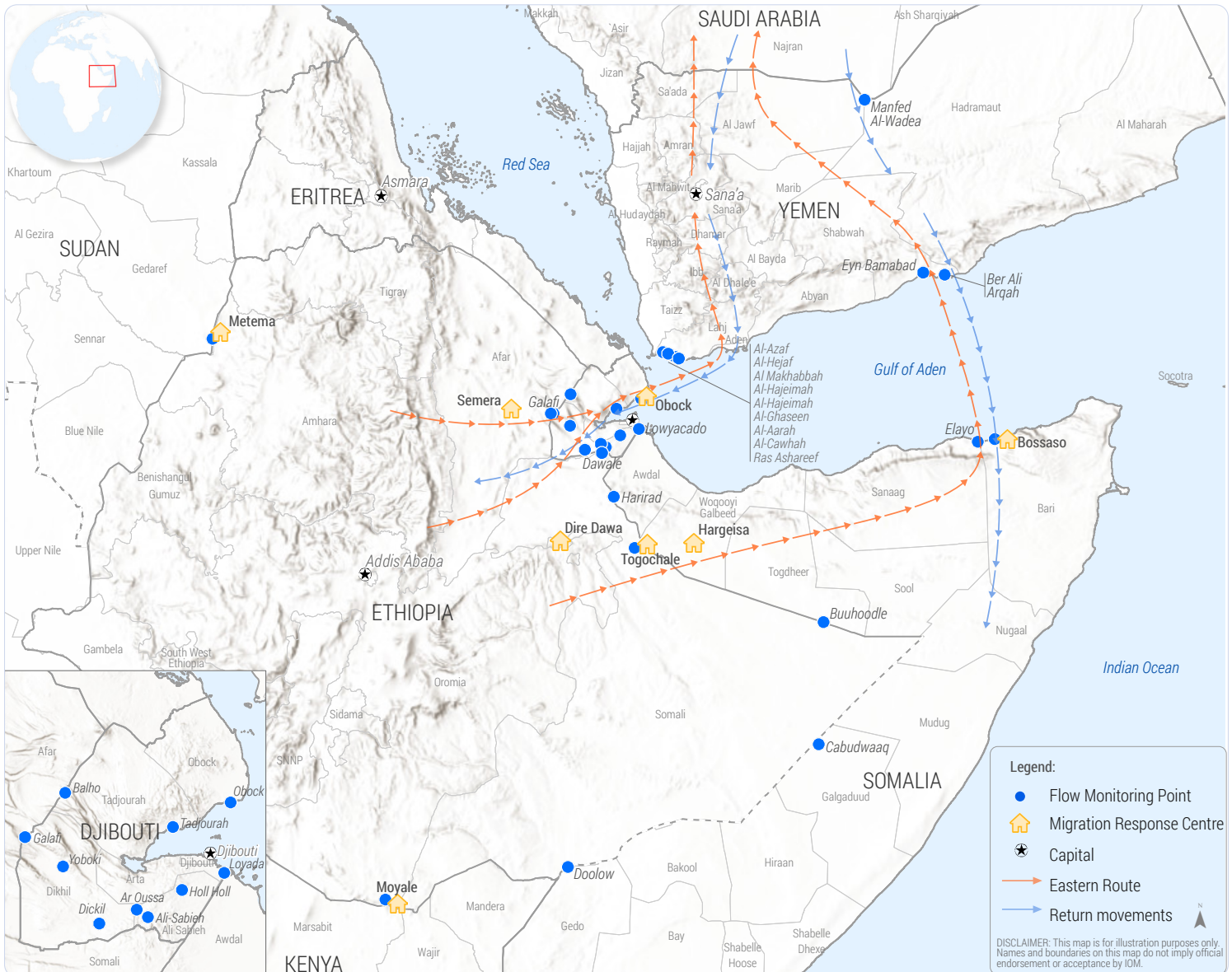


### About the report

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](#) 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), including information on [Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration](#)
- [Voluntary Humanitarian Return](#) from Yemen
- [Returns from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia](#)
- [Missing Migrants Project](#) data on migrant deaths and disappearances

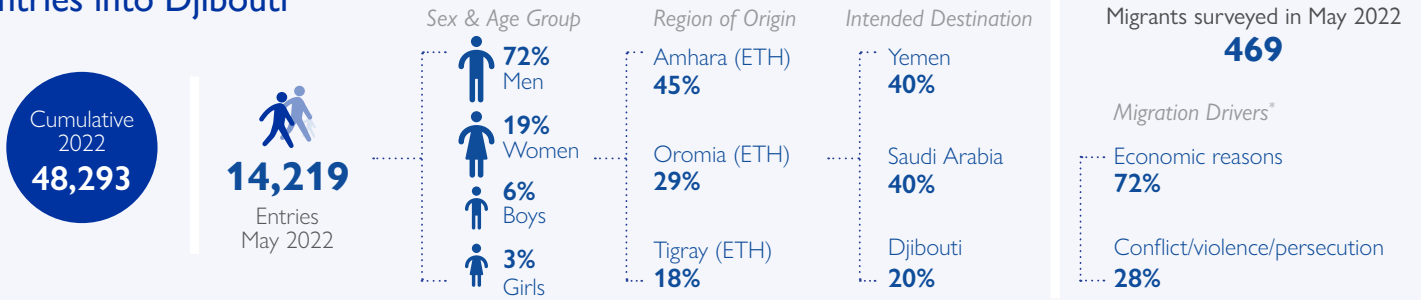


# Migration Through Djibouti

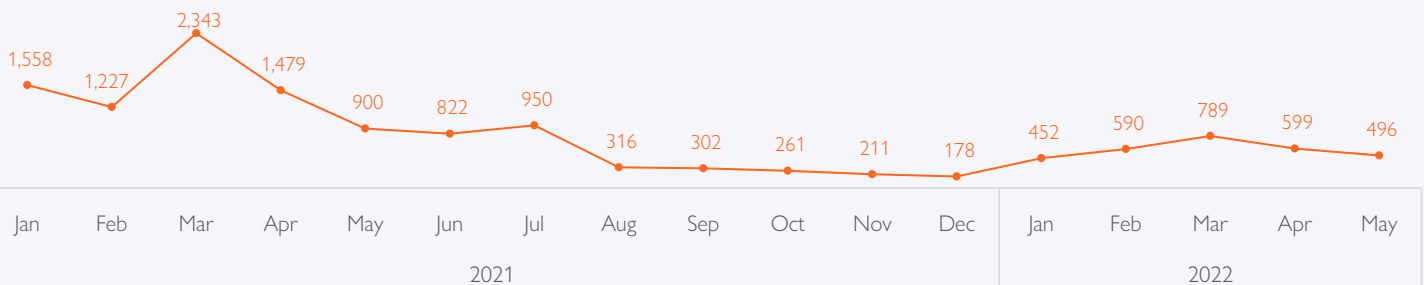
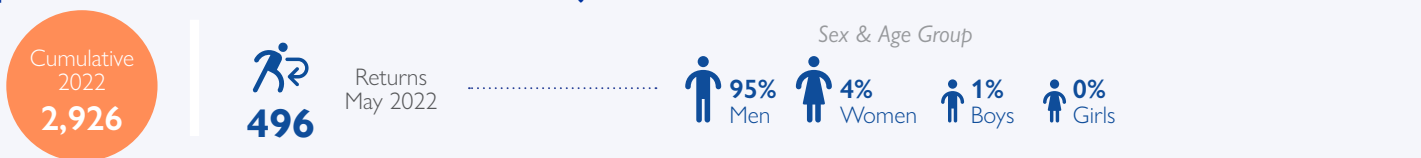
## Observations

In May, migrant entries into Djibouti increased by 67 per cent since April, exceeding pre-pandemic levels. Over two in five migrants entering the country reported coming from Amhara while one in five reported coming from Tigray. The number of migrants from Tigray, which in 2019 represented roughly 30 per cent of all entries, and after the northern Ethiopia conflict represented only 10 per cent of flows, greatly increased. A significant shift was also observed in drivers of migration, with economic reasons still the most prevalent, but with conflict, violence and persecution reported by almost one in three respondents. This is not surprising, given North Wello in Amhara is the area of origin for 23 per cent of migrants entering Djibouti, unspecified areas in Tigray for 12 per cent and western Tigray for 3 per cent. Arsi continues to be the main departure point for Oromo migrants, and while the conflict has ceased, the area is heavily destroyed. Such a significant increase in migrants entering Djibouti is likely due to a relative decrease in active conflict coupled with the realization that the conflict has destroyed homes, livelihoods and productive assets. Spontaneous returns from Yemen to Obock further decreased by 17 per cent compared to April, mostly by Oromo migrants who have not found work in Yemen and have suffered violence and abuse. Another significant change was observed in the population at the MRC, which welcomed 143 new migrants, 40 per cent of whom were women and girls; in the first quarter of 2022, this group represented only 4 per cent of persons seeking assistance. According to MRC staff, a large number of Oromo women sought assistance after waiting for several days for smugglers in Obock who did not make contact due to more frequent Coast Guard patrols. In May, 20 migrants lost their lives in five separate incidents due to hazardous transport, illness and violence in Obock and Dikhil.

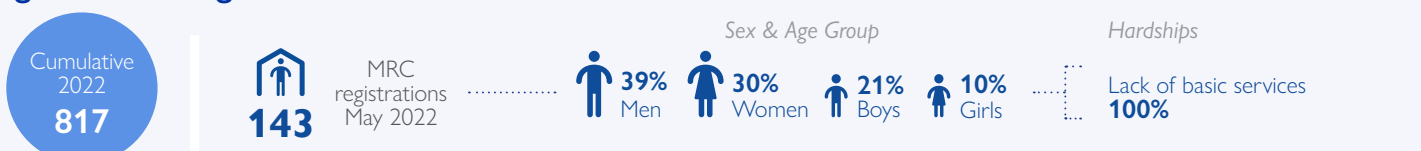
## Entries into Djibouti



## Spontaneous Returns from Yemen to Djibouti



## Migrants Seeking Assistance



**673** Stranded migrants May 2022

**20** Dead/missing migrants\*\* May 2022

\* Multiple answer question.

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

# Migration Through Somalia

## Observations

The presidential election of Somalia was held on 15 May 2022 following repeated postponements. His Excellency Hassan Sheikh Mohamud was elected for the second time, defeating incumbent Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed and appointing a member of the lower house of parliament, Hamza Abdi Barre, as the new Prime Minister. President Mohamud returned to power after serving as president from 2012 to 2017. Migration dynamics remained difficult to monitor due to the continued suspension of flow monitoring activities through the month of May as IOM Somalia engages with the Federal Government of Somalia. According to informal reports from IOM staff and partners, during the month of May, migrants entering Somalia mostly came from conflict-affected areas in Oromia and Tigray in search of economic opportunities. Conditions in Somalia continued to be difficult as the anticipated Gu rainy season, for the most part, failed. This posed alleged repercussions for both the Somali population, with reports of host communities increasingly seeking humanitarian assistance in IDP camps, and for migrants suffering from hunger and thirst along the way, with less support from host communities, limited opportunities to find employment and challenges to pay higher smuggling fees due to an increase in fuel prices. Spontaneous returns from Yemen to Somalia continued similar to the previous month, but in May, over half of the returnees were women and girls. One migrant lost their life drowning off the coast of Bossaso near the port on 24 May.

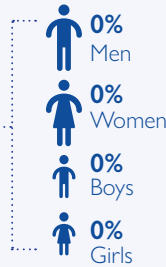
## Entries into Somalia

IOM flow monitoring activities suspended in May

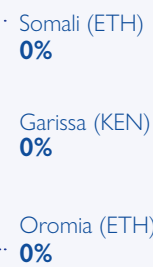
Cumulative 2022  
**6,504\***

Entries May 2022  
**0**

Sex & Age Group



Region of Origin



Intended Destination



Migrants surveyed in May 2022

**0**

Migration Drivers\*\*

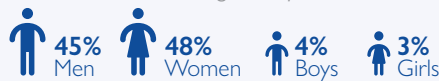


## Spontaneous Returns from Yemen to Somalia

Cumulative 2022  
**757**

Returns May 2022  
**165**

Sex & Age Group

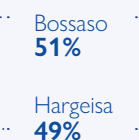


## Migrants Seeking Assistance

Cumulative 2022  
**1,756**

MRC registrations May 2022  
**304**

MRC Location



Sex & Age Group



Hardship

Lack of basic services  
**100%**

**5,364** Stranded migrants May 2022

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

\* As of February 2022.

\*\* Multiple answer question.

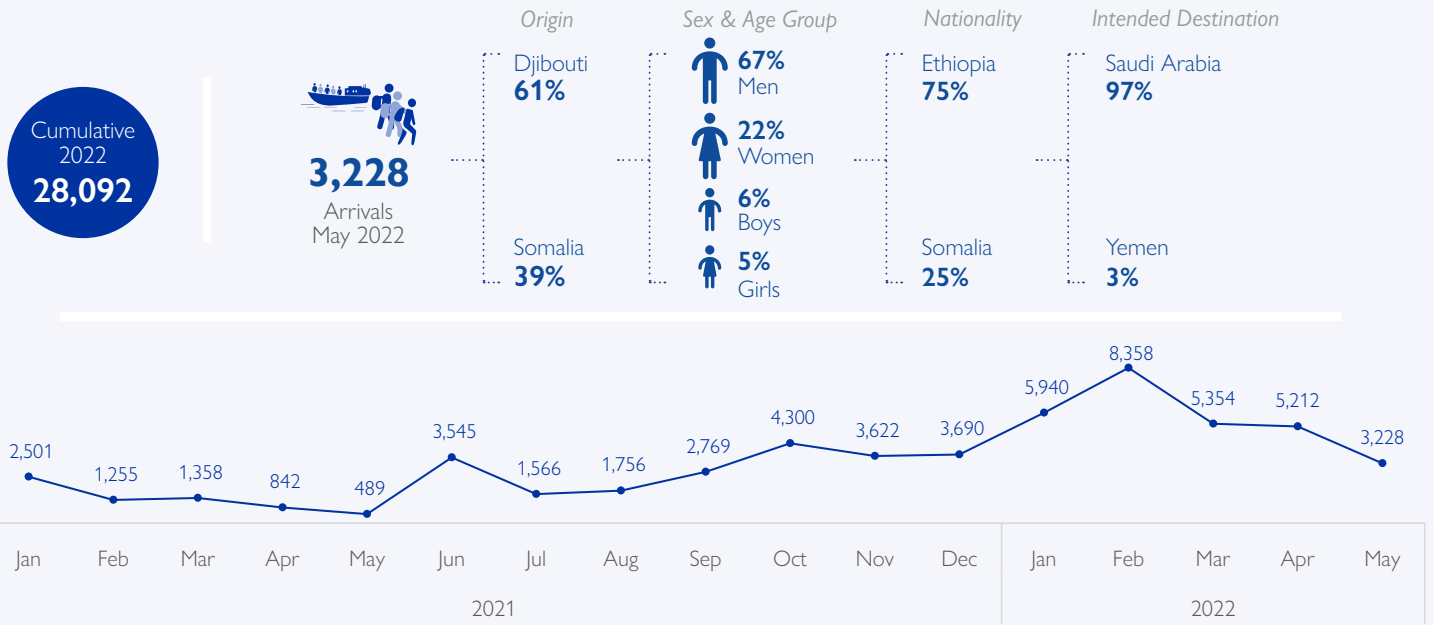
\*\*\* Reporting is based on reports of deaths and missing migrants that could be verified.

# Migration Through Yemen

## Observations

In May 2022, the Displacement Tracking Matrix at IOM Yemen recorded 3,228 migrants entering the country from the Horn of Africa, a 38 per cent decrease from the arrivals (5,212) in April 2022. In particular, arrivals through Yemen's Lahj coast adjacent to Djibouti decreased by 33 per cent, while arrivals through the Shabwah coast, across the Red Sea from Somalia, decreased by 44 per cent. The decrease in migration flows is likely related to seasonal changes, including difficult weather conditions and high tides, as well as to more frequent Coast Guard patrols in Djibouti and an increase in the cost of fuel for smuggling services. Multiple violations perpetrated against migrants were recorded in May. These include abduction and detention by smuggling networks, forced labour and other exploitative practices such as forced prostitution, and forced transfers. The latter, which was estimated at 500 forced transfers per week, may now be as high as 1,000 per week, although IOM is unable to verify this information. This was particularly noted in the Marib governorate where smugglers increasingly contained migrants, forced onward movement in order to prevent migrants from registering for voluntary humanitarian return, and displayed hostile behavior, rendering service delivery particularly challenging. Exploitation and extortion remain key concerns for migrants throughout the country, where duty bearers and smugglers appear to work in concert to extract as much money as possible from the migrants. Passage through checkpoints in some parts of the country is reportedly facilitated by duty bearers in exchange for payment to shorten the journey time to the northernmost governorates. Incidents of deliberately targeting of migrants and others on the move continue to be recorded. Reports for May indicate that 45 migrants were killed (all men) and 173 injured (49 men, 15 women and 109 boys) as a result of violence along the migratory route. This high number of affected children is a new trend that warrants further investigation in coordination with mandated child protection actors. Meanwhile, on 12 May, flights resumed to assist migrants in Yemen to voluntarily return to Ethiopia, with 905 migrants returned from Aden. This lifeline remains the only viable solution for stranded migrants at risk in Yemen.

## Arrivals in Yemen from the Horn of Africa



**40,000** Stranded migrants May 2022

**45** Dead/missing migrants\*\* May 2022

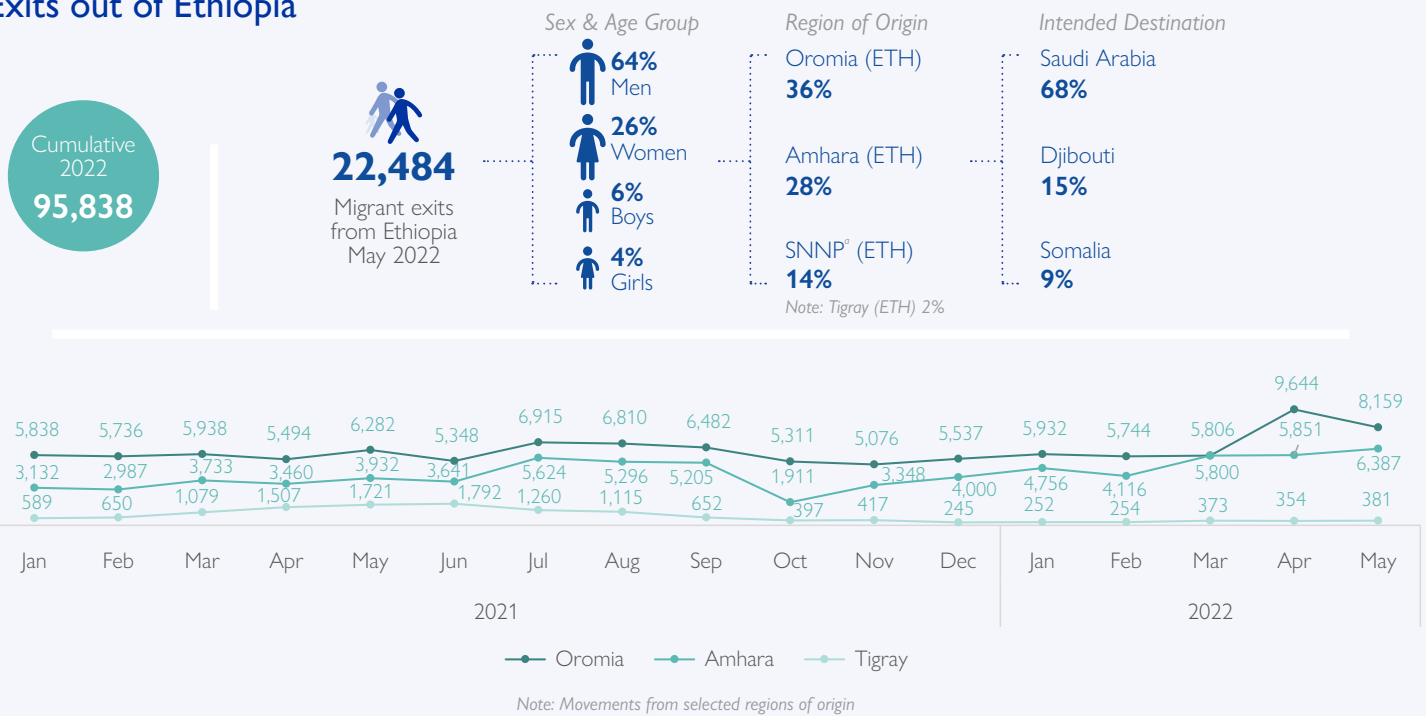
\*\* Reporting is based on IOM Yemen information and is being verified according to Missing Migrants Project criteria.

# Migration Through Ethiopia

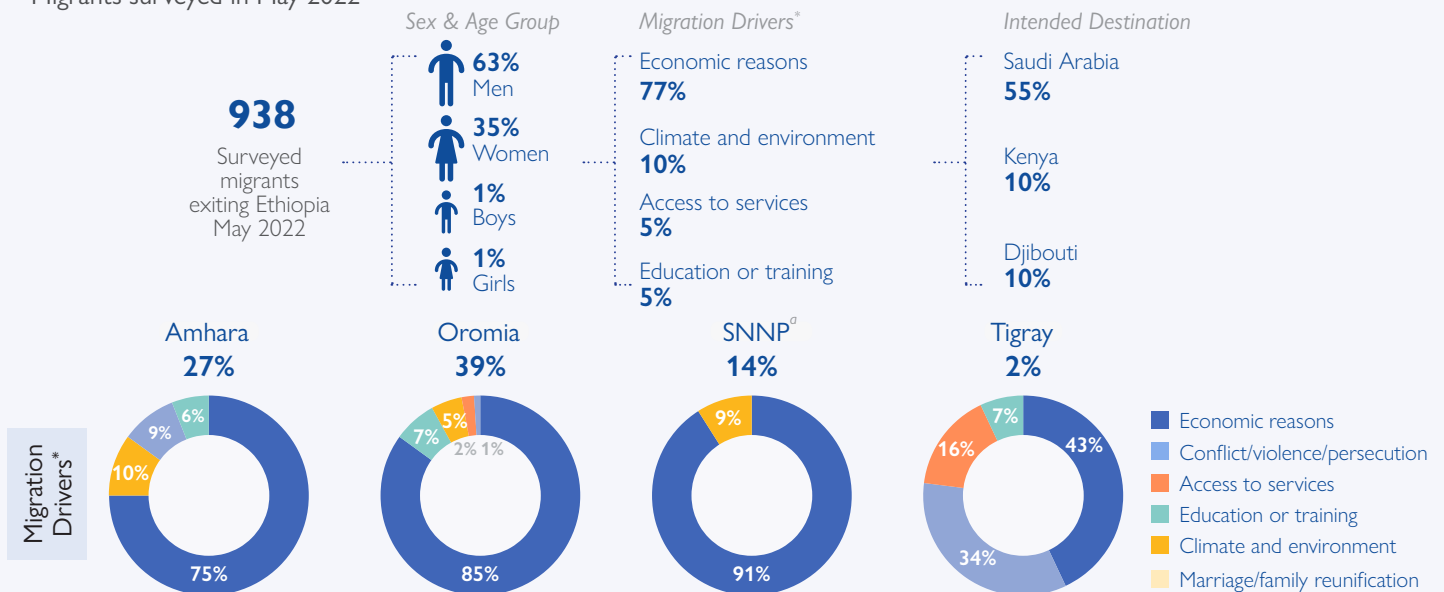
## Observations

The number of migrants observed exiting Ethiopia in May was similar to that of April in regard to the volume of flows, the profile of the migrants and their intended destinations. Of the over 900 migrants surveyed, the majority continued to report economic reasons for their migration decision, but the share of migrants reporting other reasons increased, including those reporting climate change and environmental factors (10%), conflict (5%) and search for services as a push factor. Among respondents from the Tigray region in Ethiopia, conflict was reported by 34 per cent of respondents and access to services by 17 per cent. The drought in the region has also resulted in an increase in the number of outgoing movements towards the Southern Route, for which most migrants travelled through the Moyale FMP. Movements due to food insecurity reportedly increased in May, with most movements originating from the highlands of Ethiopia. Conflict and insecurity in parts of the Oromia, SNNP and Southwest Ethiopia Peoples' regions are also inducing movements across the Moyale FMP, with some migrants reporting to be fleeing in search of safety and security. While the number of returns to Ethiopia in May has increased by 14.5 per cent since April, the largest number of returnees was recorded through the Dawale FMP. This FMP has seen a 243.8 per cent increase in the number of returnees. All such returnees originated from Djibouti (89%) and Yemen (11%) and were mainly returning due to increased frequency of border patrols in Djibouti and due to the conflict in Yemen, respectively. Almost all returnees reported that their return was involuntary.

## Exits out of Ethiopia

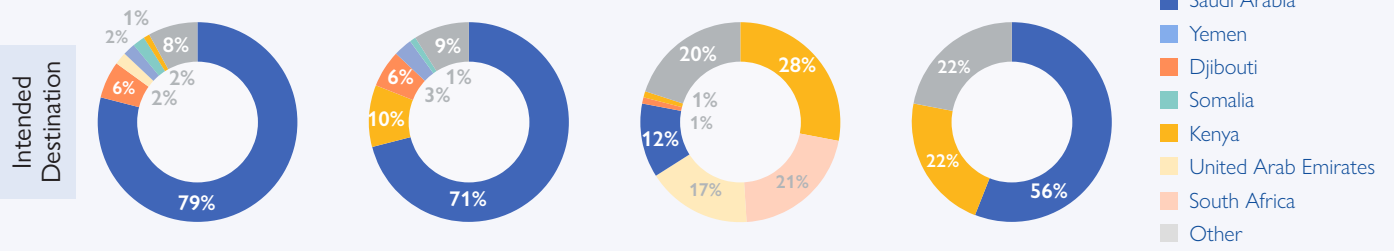


## Migrants surveyed in May 2022

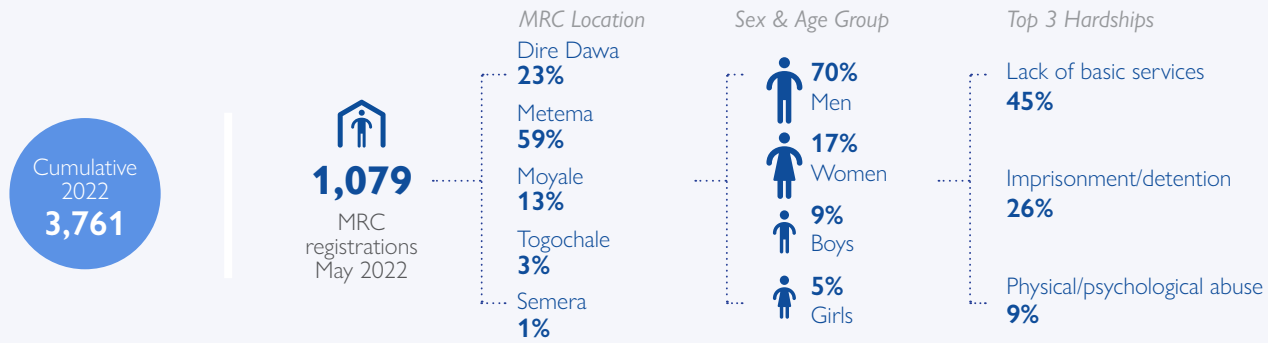


<sup>o</sup> Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples' Region.

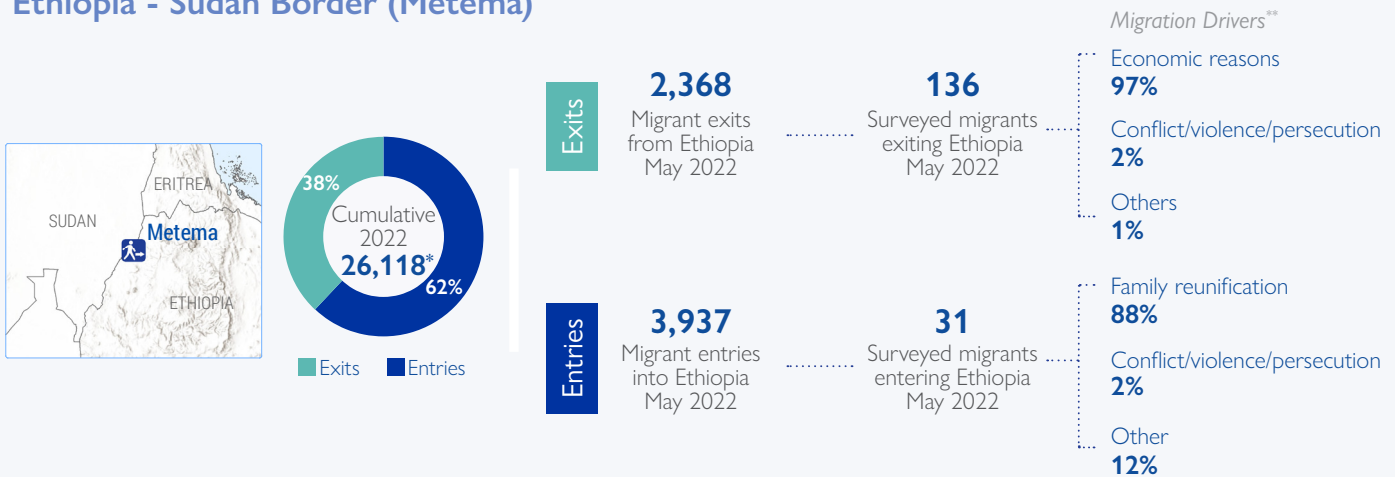
\* Multiple answer question.



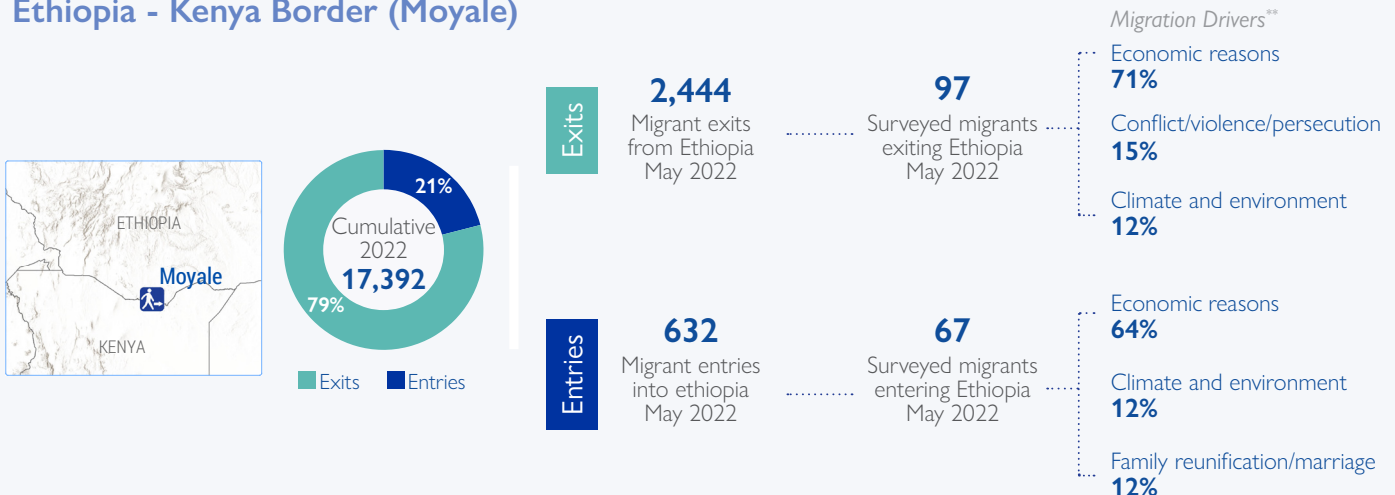
## Migrants Seeking Assistance



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



## Ethiopia - Kenya Border (Moyale)



\* This figure is smaller than that of the April 2022 report due to an error in the previous month's publication.

\*\* Multiple answer question.

## Migrant Children Along the Eastern Corridor

Cumulative  
2022  
**16,060**

**1,439**  
Migrant children  
entries  
May 2022

Into Djibouti  
**87%**  
Into Somalia  
**No data available**  
Into Yemen  
**13%**

**67%**  
Boys  
**33%**  
Girls

**43%**  
Unaccompanied

**346**  
Migrant  
children seeking  
assistance  
May 2022

In Djibouti  
**13%**  
In Ethiopia  
**42%**  
In Somalia  
**45%**

**67%**  
Boys  
**33%**  
Girls

**292**

Migrants  
surveyed  
who are caring  
for children  
(21% of all  
respondents)  
May 2022

Travelling with children  
**13%**

Having children in the country of intended destination  
**2%**

Who left children behind in the country of origin  
**85%**

Caretakers of  
migrant children  
not travelling  
with the migrant  
parent

My spouse/partner  
**51%**

Grandparents or extended family  
**44%**

My older children (18 and over)  
**2%**

Other  
**3%**

## Returns from Saudi Arabia

**19,454**  
Returns  
May 2022

Returns to

Ethiopia  
**13,849**

Somalia  
**165**

Yemen  
**5,440**

Region of intended return in Ethiopia  
May 2022

Amhara  
**45%**

Oromia  
**31%**

Tigray  
**18%**

SNNP<sup>a</sup>  
**4%**

Afar  
**1%**

Returns to

Ethiopia  
**30,219**

Somalia  
**669**

Yemen  
**29,390**



<sup>a</sup> Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples' Region.

## Contact