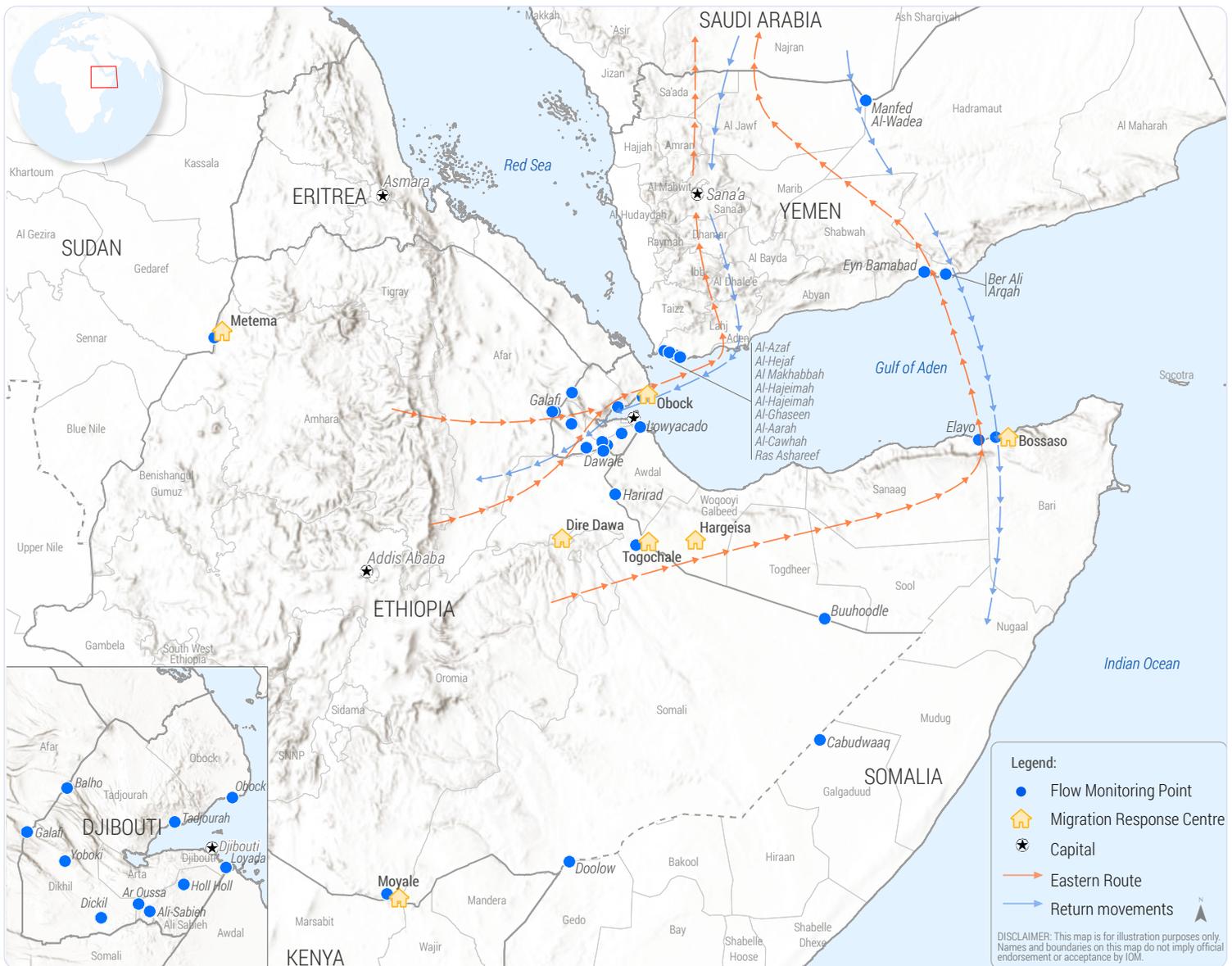


### About the report

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
- [Migration Response Centre \(MRC\)](#) data on migrants seeking assistance in Djibouti, Somalia and Ethiopia, including information on [assisted voluntary return and reintegration \(AVRR\)](#)
- Voluntary humanitarian returns (VHR) from Yemen
- [Returns from Saudi Arabia](#)
- [Missing Migrants Project \(MMP\)](#) data on migrant deaths and disappearances (reporting based on those that could be verified)



# Migration Through Djibouti

- Migrant entries into Djibouti **increased by 22%** from December 2022.
- **Women and children** represented 29% of all entries.
- 36% of all children were travelling alone.
- **Migrants from Tigray** more than doubled from December 2022 (from 1,112 to 2,462) and such movements represented 16% of all movements, compared to 9% in December 2022. Most movements originating in Tigray were due to economic reasons (89%), although migrants were still fleeing conflict, violence or persecution (11%) despite the peace deal signed between the Ethiopian Government and the Tigray People's Liberation Front in early November 2022.
- As the **drought** continues to worsen with a forecasted sixth consecutive failed rainy season (March to May rains typically account for 60% of the total annual rainfall in the region), drought-related migration increased by 29% in the last month.<sup>1</sup>

## Entries into Djibouti

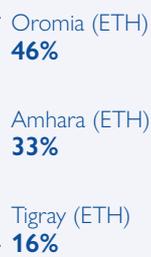
Cumulative 2023  
**15,387**

**15,387**  
Entries  
January 2023

### Sex & Age Group



### Region of Origin



### Intended Destination



Migrants surveyed in  
January 2023

**452**

### Migration Drivers



## Spontaneous Returns from Yemen to Djibouti

Cumulative 2023  
**587**

**587**  
Returns  
January 2023

### Sex & Age Group



## Migrants Seeking Assistance

Cumulative 2023  
**107**

**107**  
MRC  
registrations  
January 2023

### Sex & Age Group



**786**

Stranded migrants  
January 2023

**0**

Dead/missing migrants  
January 2023

<sup>1</sup> Data from DTM flow monitoring registry.

# Migration Through Somalia

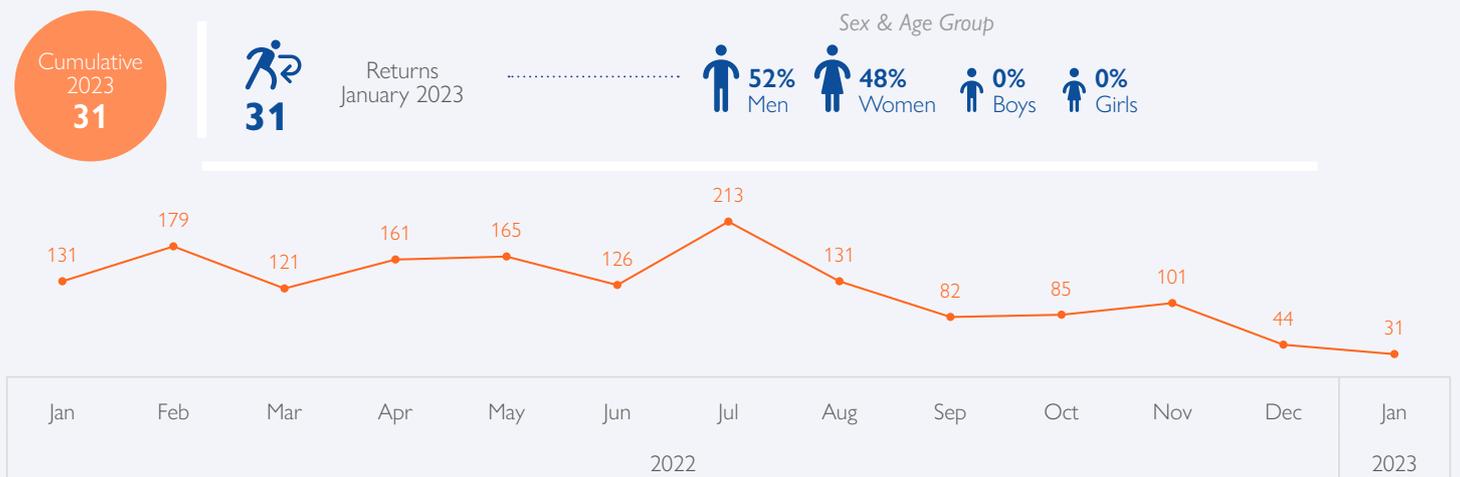
- Migrant entries into Somalia decreased by 8% from December 2022.
- Tensions continued in Las Anod, a city located on one of the primary routes used by migrants to reach Bossaso, in the disputed region of Sool. Such instability disrupted migration dynamics and increased fear among migrants in Bossaso, most of whom postponed their journey as they had to spend more time in transit.
- Some people from Las Anod also had to move to Buuhoodle and neighbouring towns to seek safety. They moved along the same routes used by migrants and reported lacking food and drinking water during their travels.
- Strong winds and rough seas reduced movements in Elayo. With the ongoing elections in the Puntland region, movements in Elayo were also restricted to avoid registering voters who do not live in the area, and as a result, **boat transportation of migrants only resumed in mid-January**.
- Many migrants continued to **move to IDP and refugee camps due to drought**. Pastoralists who lost their livestock arrived in Doolow, on the border with Ethiopia, some of whom came from Ethiopian camps and crossed the border to seek humanitarian assistance at the camps in Doolow. Overall, 90% of movements tracked in Doolow were heading to an IDP or refugee camp.

## Entries into Somalia

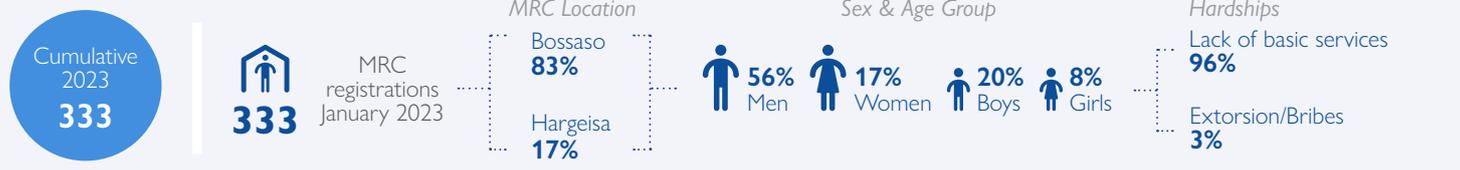


Note: Flow monitoring activities in Somalia were suspended between March 2022 and mid-October 2022. To address this gap, the Regional Data Hub built a predictive model to estimate the missing data (auto regressive integrated moving average – ARIMA).

## Spontaneous Returns from Yemen to Somalia



## Migrants Seeking Assistance



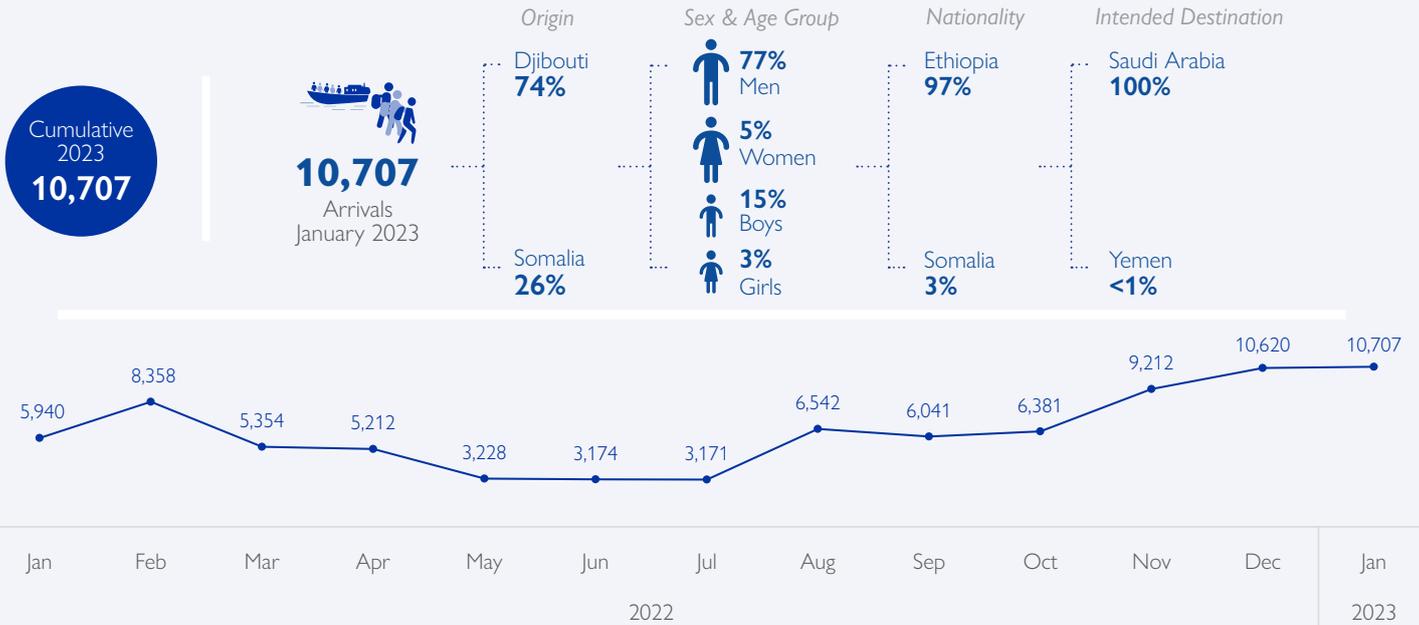
**2,050** Stranded migrants January 2023

**0** Dead/missing migrants January 2023

# Migration Through Yemen

- Migrant arrivals in Yemen followed a similar trend as in December 2022 (+1%).
- Two boats heading to Shabwah in Yemen had to return to Somalia as they could not cross the Gulf of Aden due to strong winds.
- A small group of Somali nationals in Hadramaut used Yemeni fishing boats to cross over to Yemen.
- New migrants arrived in Marib from Shabwah due to increased hostility towards migrants from the host community and local authorities following an isolated incident of violence towards the host community in December 2022. Once in **Marib**, migrants are largely under the **tight control of smuggling networks and are increasingly hard to reach**.
- The protection situation for migrants in Yemen remains extremely dire, **particularly for women and girls** who are routinely abused and exploited, leading to a considerable number of gender-based violence cases requiring assistance. While self-disclosure is problematic, health and protection teams often identify cases through evidence of pregnancy and other sexual and reproductive health complications (including among children).
- The northern border of Yemen remains dangerous for migrants crossing into Saudi Arabia, with many migrants requiring **emergency medical intervention** for gunshot wounds and other injuries.

## Arrivals in Yemen from the Horn of Africa



**43,000** Stranded migrants January 2023

**0** Dead/missing migrants January 2023

# Migration Through Ethiopia

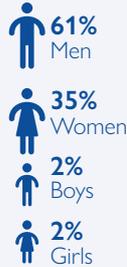
- Migrants exiting Ethiopia followed a similar trend as in December 2022 (+1%).
- Movements exiting Ethiopia that originated in Tigray more than tripled from December 2022 (from 404 to 1,515) and the number recorded in January 2023 is the highest reported since June 2021 (1,792). This increase is linked to the improved security situation in the northern parts of the country, facilitating road access between the Afar and Tigray regions. Consequently, higher volumes of migrants have been observed travelling from Tigray towards Saudi Arabia (84%), mainly through Galafi (75%). Among the challenges faced by migrants in Galafi were the lack of food and water, harassment and sickness.
- However, 43% of Tigrayan migrants still reported moving due to conflict, violence or persecution.
- 22% of movements exiting Ethiopia towards Kenya, which were tracked in Moyale, were drought-related (95% originated in Oromia), an increase from 4% in the previous month.
- Returns from Saudi Arabia continued at the same rate of nine flights per week, amounting to approximately 3,000–4,000 returns per week.
- There were no VHR flights from Yemen this month, but they are expected to continue from February 2023.

## Exits out of Ethiopia

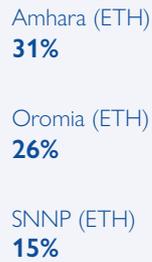
Cumulative 2023  
**24,635**

**24,635**  
Migrant exits from Ethiopia January 2023

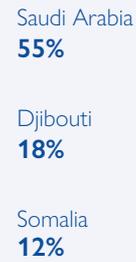
### Sex & Age Group



### Region of Origin



### Intended Destination



## Migrants surveyed in January 2023

**859**  
Surveyed migrants exiting Ethiopia January 2023

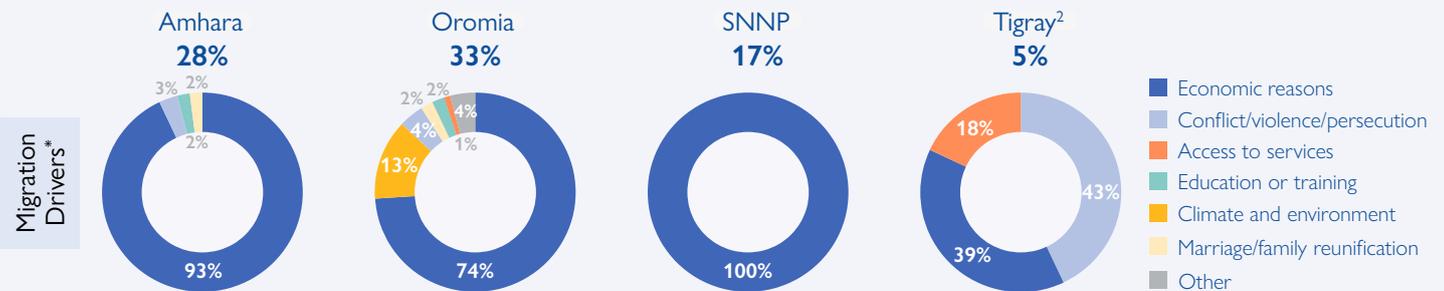
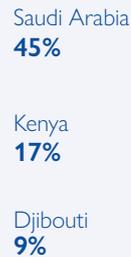
### Sex & Age Group



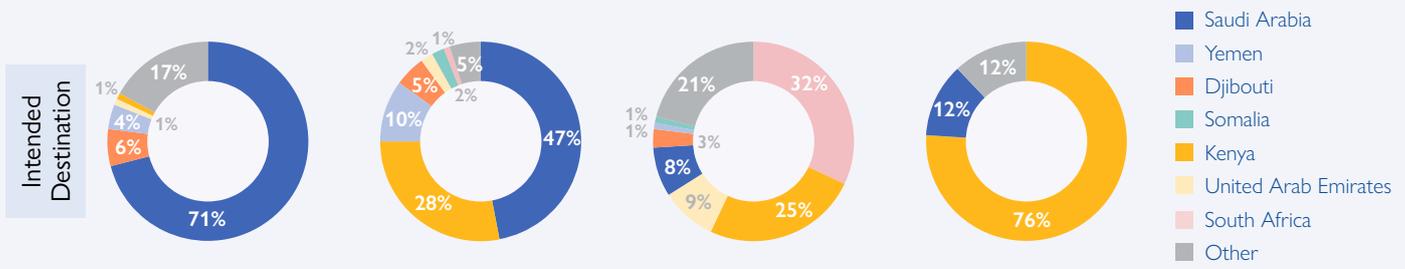
### Migration Drivers



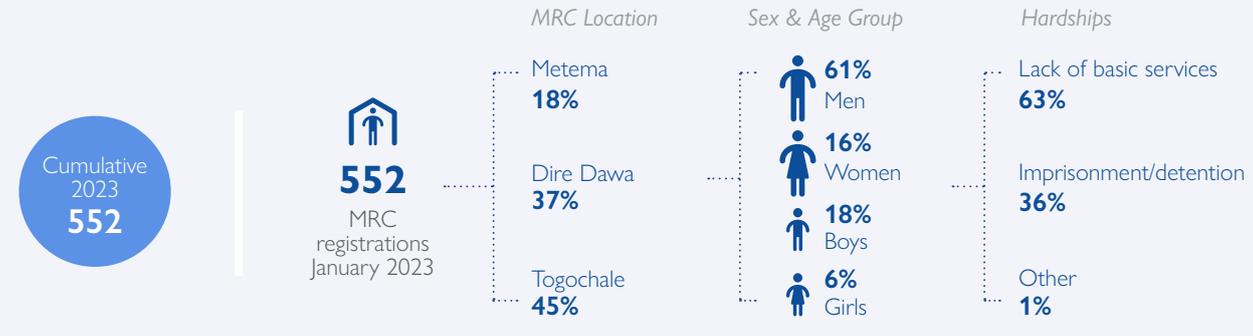
### Intended Destination



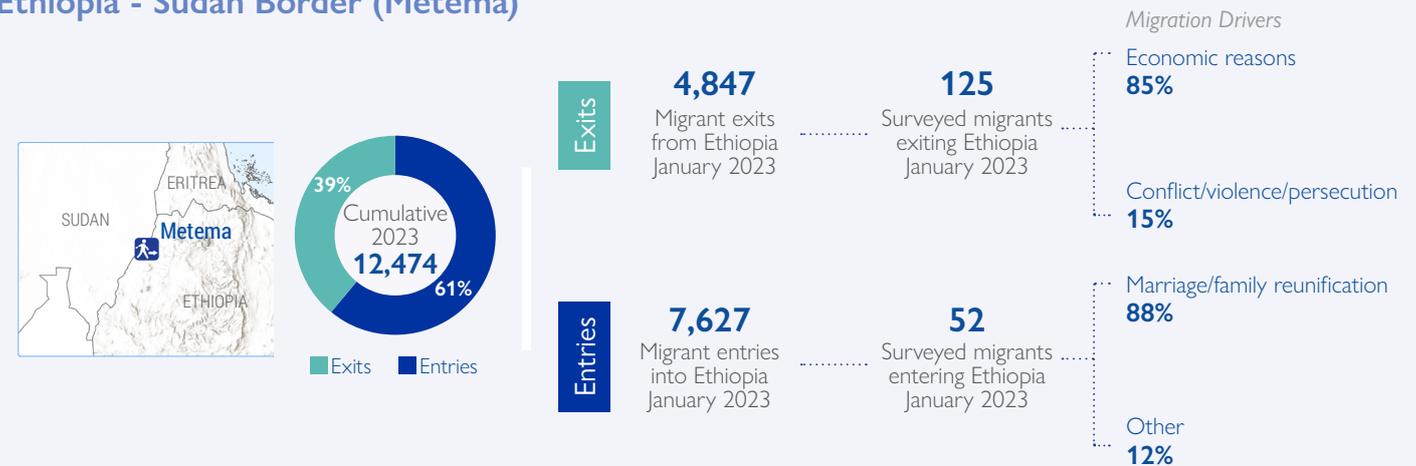
<sup>2</sup> Only 40 respondents surveyed from Tigray.



## Migrants Seeking Assistance



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



## Ethiopia - Kenya Border (Moyale)



## Migrant Children Along the Eastern Corridor

Cumulative 2023  
**2,828**

**2,828**  
Migrant children entries  
January 2023

Into Djibouti  
**38%**  
Into Somalia  
**32%**  
Into Yemen  
**30%**

**61%** Boys  
**39%** Girls

**30%**  
Unaccompanied



**262**  
Migrant children seeking assistance  
January 2023

In Ethiopia  
**49%**  
In Somalia  
**35%**  
In Djibouti  
**16%**

**77%** Boys  
**23%** Girls

**508**

Migrants surveyed who are caring for children (23% of all respondents)  
January 2023

Travelling with children  
**19%**  
Having children in the country of intended destination  
**<1%**  
Who left children behind in the country of origin  
**80%**

Caretakers of migrant children not travelling with the migrant parent

My spouse/partner  
**63%**  
Grandparents or extended family  
**31%**  
My older children (18 and over)  
**3%**  
Other  
**3%**

## Returns from Saudi Arabia



**19,661**

Returns  
January 2023

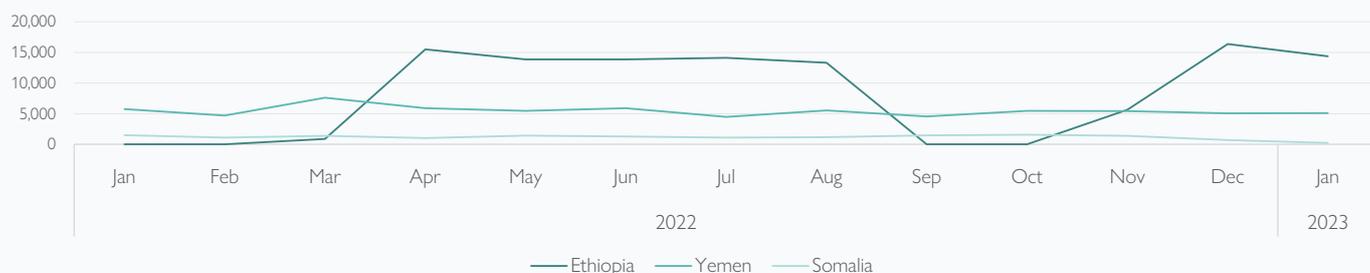
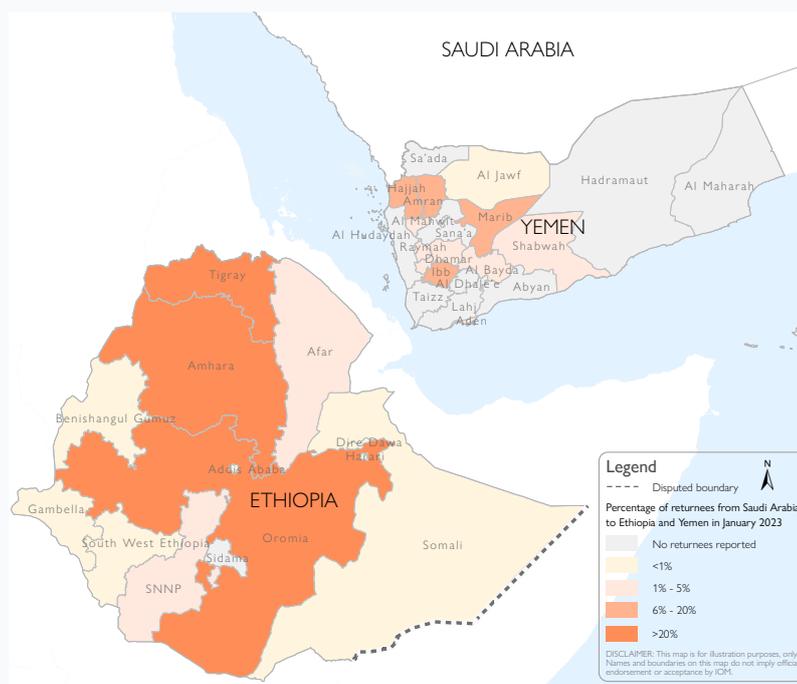
Cumulative 2023  
**19,661**

Returns to

Ethiopia	Yemen	Somalia	Ethiopia	Yemen	Somalia
<b>14,352</b>	<b>5,100</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>14,352</b>	<b>5,100</b>	<b>209</b>

Region of intended return in Ethiopia 2023

Amhara	Oromia	Tigray	SNNP	Afar
<b>33%</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>2%</b>



Note: From December 2021 to February 2022 and from September to October 2022, returns to Ethiopia were temporarily suspended due to the conflict in northern Ethiopia. IOM has only partial information on returns to Somalia for 2023.

## Contact

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For more information on the RDH products:  
[eastandhornofafrica.iom.int/regional-data-hub](http://eastandhornofafrica.iom.int/regional-data-hub)