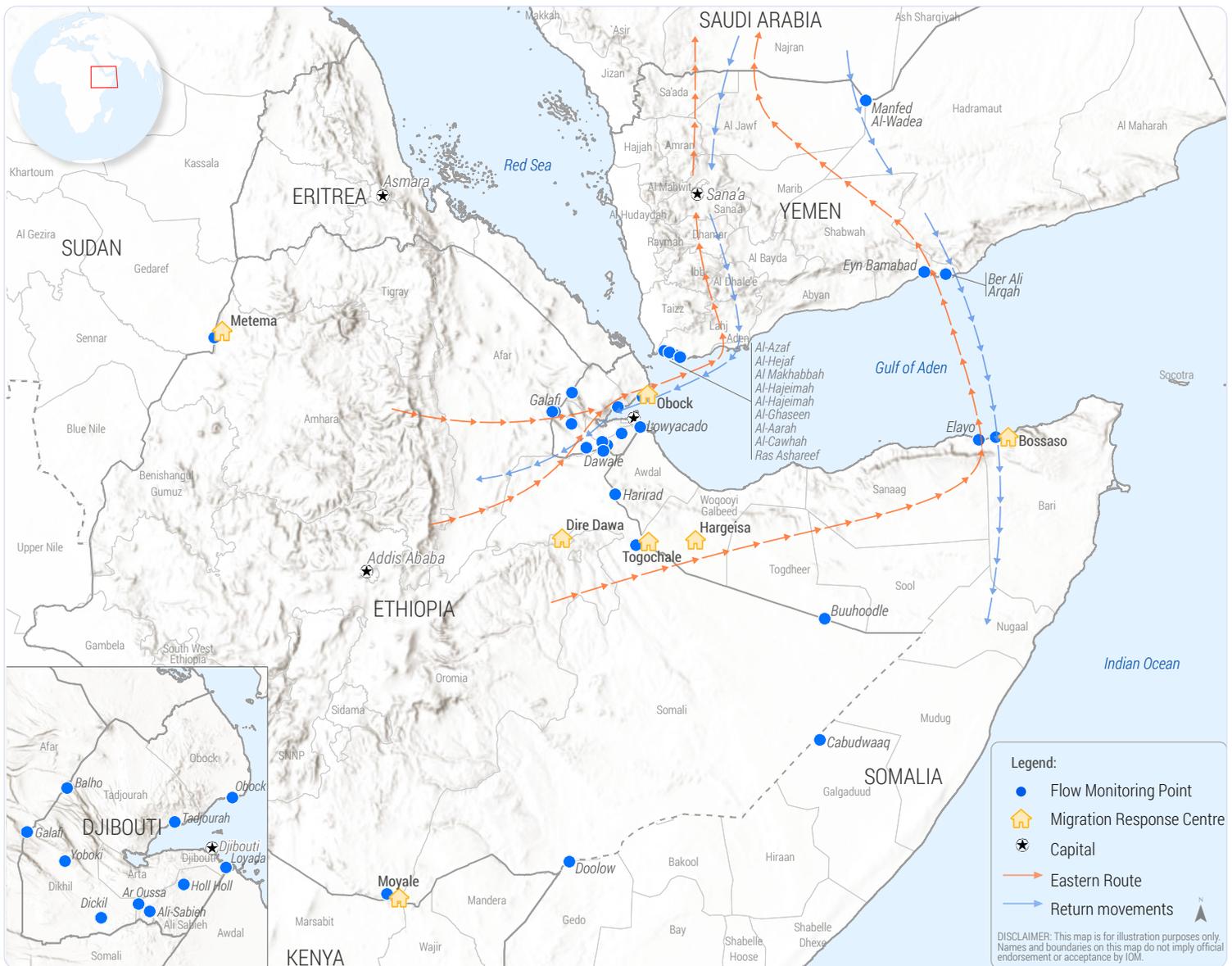


About the report

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)



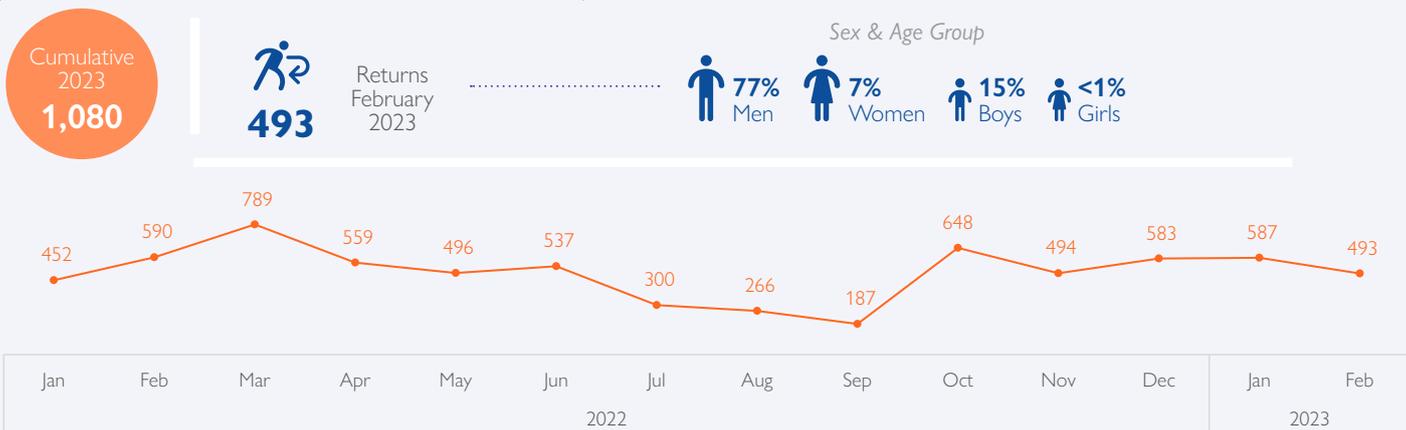
Migration Through Djibouti

- Migrant entries into Djibouti **decreased by 28%** from January and were the **lowest figure** recorded since April 2022. This decrease most likely resulted from a temporary halt in data collection due to a training of enumerators.
- **Women and children** represented 31% of all entries.
- 34% of all children were travelling alone, most of whom were **boys (93%)**. Most of the children travelling alone (86%) were from the Oromia region in Ethiopia.
- Although economic reasons were the main migration driver, 30% of movements originating in Oromia and 14% in Amhara were due to **conflict, violence or persecution**.¹
- During their transit in Djibouti, many migrants headed to Yemen became **stranded after being abandoned by smugglers** who left them with no money to continue their journey; this would explain the **decrease in migrant arrivals in Yemen** from Djibouti. In total, **733 migrants** were stranded in Djibouti, mainly in the northern coastal areas of Obock (45%) and Tadjourah (30%).
- Similarly, many of the stranded migrants requested assistance at the Obock MRC but due to **limited reception capacity**, the MRC only admitted the most vulnerable migrants while others received assistance **outside the MRC**.
- **2 people** lost their lives while transiting in Arta due to hazardous transport.

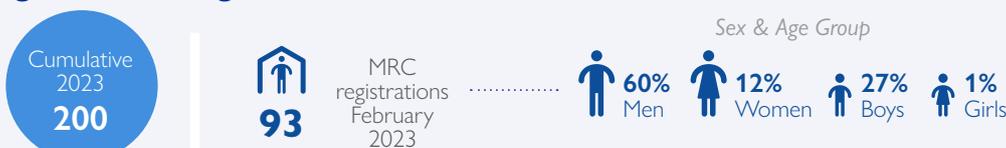
Entries into Djibouti



Spontaneous Returns from Yemen to Djibouti



Migrants Seeking Assistance



733 Stranded migrants February 2023

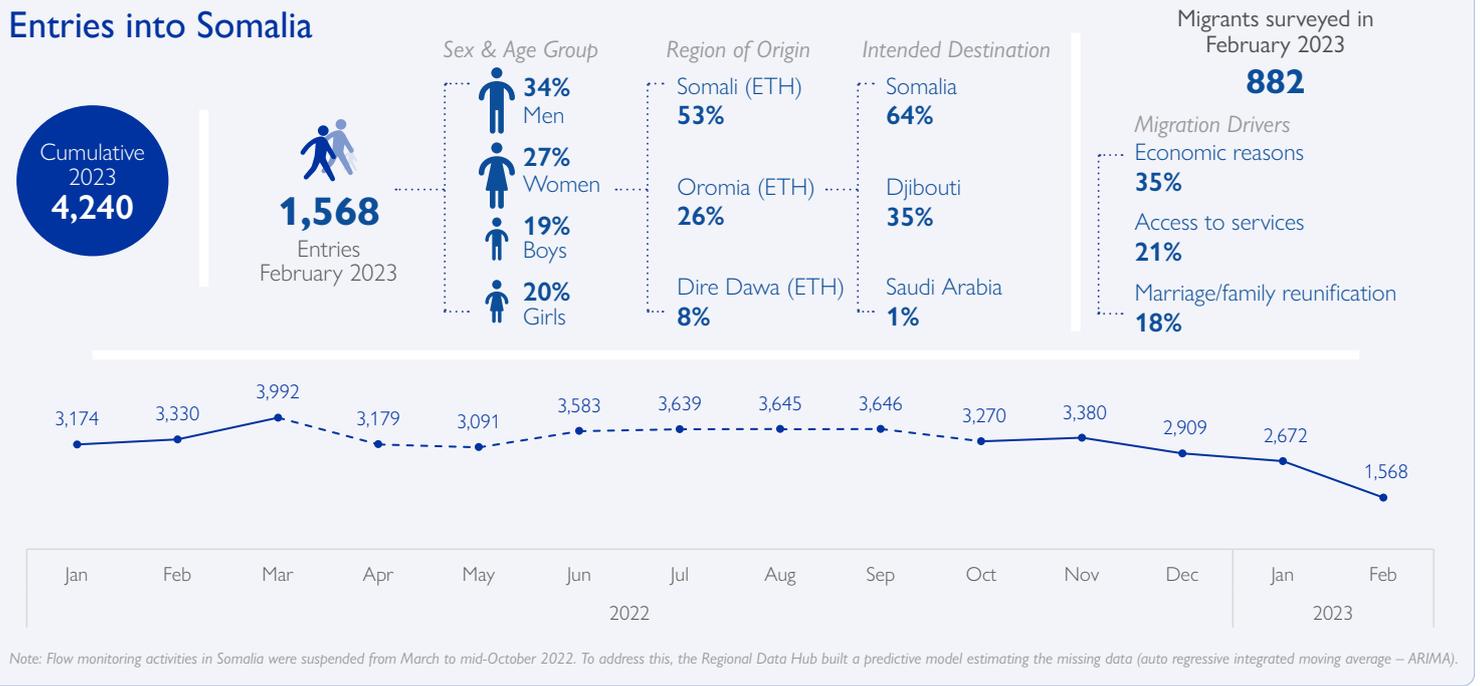
2 Dead/missing migrants February 2023

¹ Data from DTM flow monitoring registry.

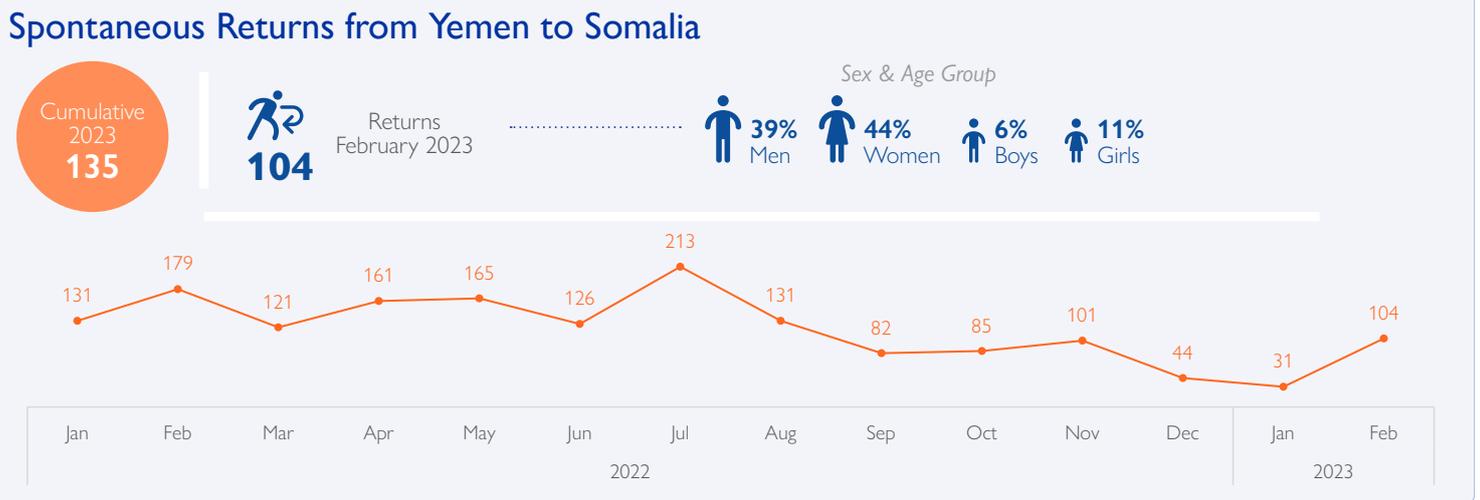
Migration Through Somalia

- Migrant entries into Somalia decreased by 41% from January.
- With the continued tensions in Las Anod, many migrants postponed their journeys, increasing the number of stranded migrants across the country (from 2,050 in January). Migrant entries through Buuhoodle – the main entry point used by migrants to transit through Las Anod and Bossaso before heading to the Arabian Peninsula – were half the number in January (from 1,700 to 750).
- The expansion of the Bossaso port began in February and informal settlements around it, which are commonly used by smugglers for migrants awaiting onward transportation, are planned to be torn down. The potential impact on migration and smuggling dynamics is yet to be seen.
- In Doolow, 82% of migrants were heading to IDP camps in Ethiopia to look for humanitarian aid; 98% of these movements were due to drought.² Drought movements into Kenyan refugee camps also occurred after UNHCR reopened previously closed camps.
- Spontaneous returns from Yemen more than doubled in the past month, with a high presence of women (44%), girls (11%) and boys (6%). These returns decreased from November 2022 when UNHCR assisted spontaneous returns (ASR) briefly resumed after a lengthy suspension due to COVID-19. As ASR movements were discontinued again from January 2023 with no clear resumption plan, more migrants have decided to return using their own means.
- 29 people (including 4 unaccompanied children) died during migration in 10 separate incidents. Those who died were often young (17–26) and lost their lives due to hazardous transport, starvation, torture by smugglers and getting caught in crossfire.

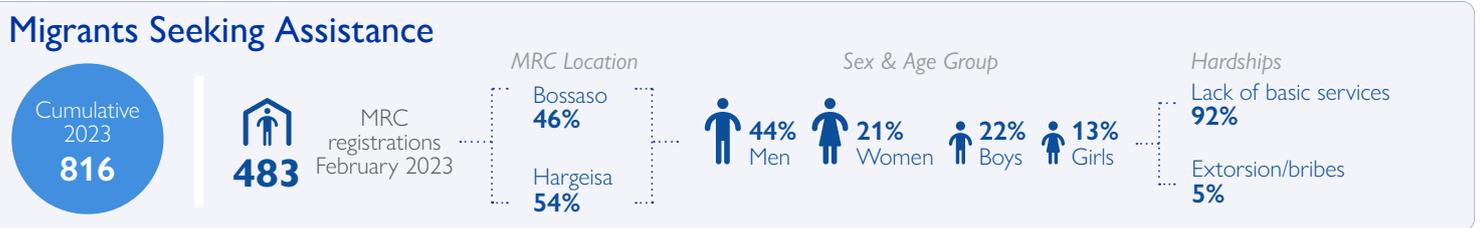
Entries into Somalia



Spontaneous Returns from Yemen to Somalia



Migrants Seeking Assistance



2,750 Stranded migrants February 2023

29 Dead/missing migrants February 2023

² Data from DTM flow monitoring registry.

Migration Through Yemen

- Migrant arrivals in Yemen followed a similar trend as in January (+0.2%) and were the **highest** figure recorded since January 2020.
- Migrants arriving from Somalia through the **Shabwah** and **Hadramaut** coasts in Yemen increased by **5%** in the past month, which may be attributed to increased instability in the Bari region.
- Strong wind conditions in Shabwah prevented boats from reaching Yemen. In Hadramaut, Somali migrants continued using Yemeni fishing boats to cross the gulf in small numbers.
- **Forced movements due to conflict, violence or persecution** have been on the rise since August 2022 and **26%** cited these drivers in February; of these, **32%** were children.³
- The **protection situation** for migrants in Yemen remains **extremely dire**. Migrants are routinely and systematically **exploited** by smugglers, traffickers and duty bearers, and are **deprived** of the most basic rights.
- **Gender-based violence** is a particular concern, predominately in areas with powerful trafficking networks, and a **dearth of referral partners** results in an **overstretched migrant response sector** with limited resources trying to prevent, mitigate and respond to incidents at scale.

Arrivals in Yemen from the Horn of Africa



43,000 Stranded migrants February 2023

0 Dead/missing migrants February 2023

³ Data from DTM flow monitoring registry.

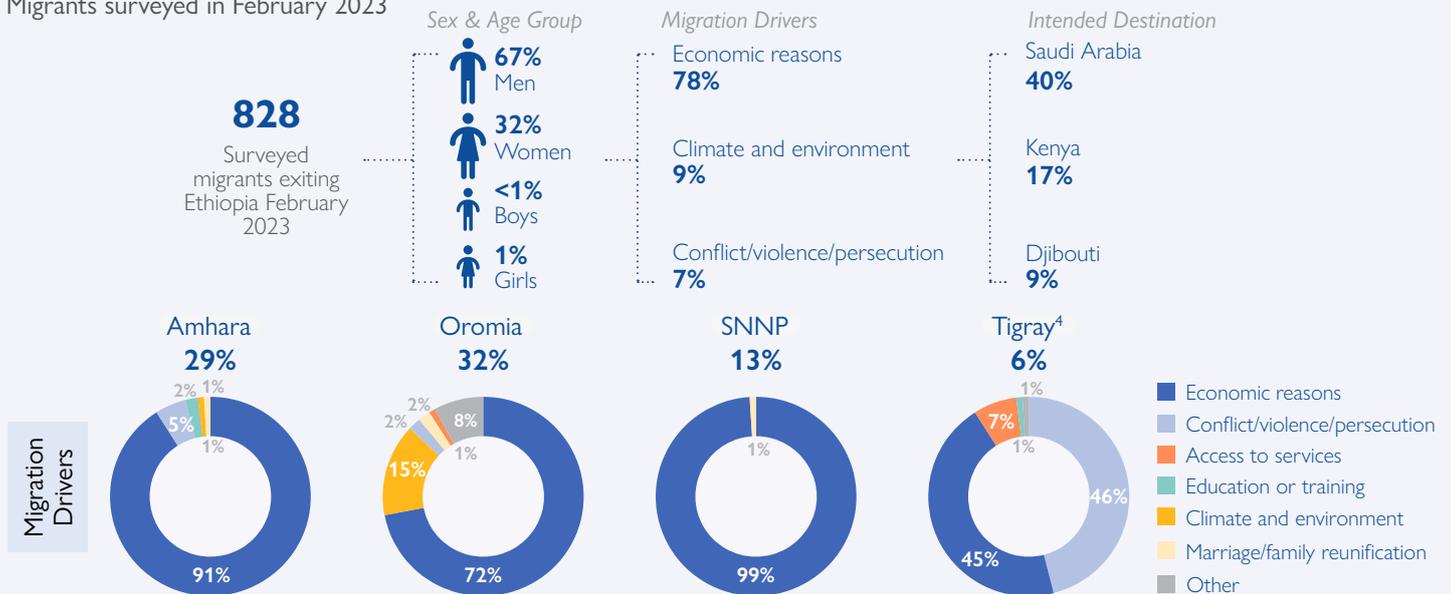
Migration Through Ethiopia

- Migrants exiting Ethiopia decreased by 5% from January.
- Movements exiting Ethiopia that originated in Tigray continued to increase due to improved security (+28%) and the number recorded in February 2023 (1,945) was the highest ever recorded. Most Tigrayans were travelling through Galafi (74%), yet nearly half (46%) of all Tigrayans still reported moving due to conflict, violence or persecution.
- Drought-related movements from Ethiopia to Kenya through Moyale significantly increased (+86%) from January and still represented nearly a quarter (23%) of all movements exiting Ethiopia towards Kenya.
- Due to the tensions in Las Anod, movements from Ethiopia to Somalia in Togochale decreased by 34% in the last month. However, the number of people moving in the opposite direction (from Somalia to Ethiopia) due to conflict, violence or persecution multiplied by 14 (from 39 to 557) as many were fleeing the ongoing conflict.
- 137 migrants (97% male and 3% female) were returned from Aden in Yemen to Ethiopia through VHR, mainly to the Oromia region.

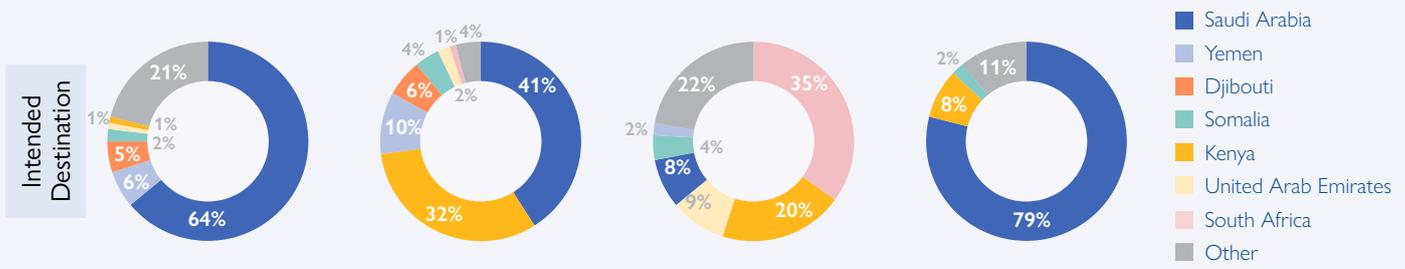
Exits out of Ethiopia



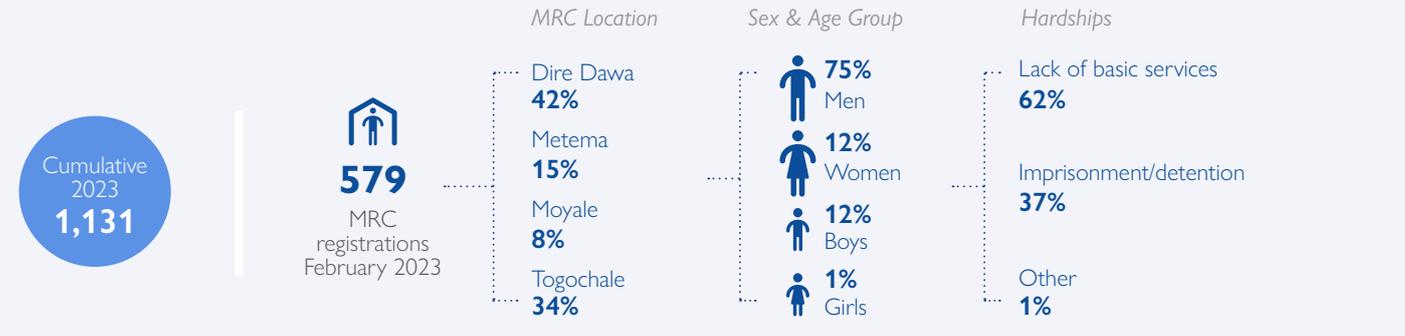
Migrants surveyed in February 2023



⁴ Only 48 respondents surveyed from Tigray.

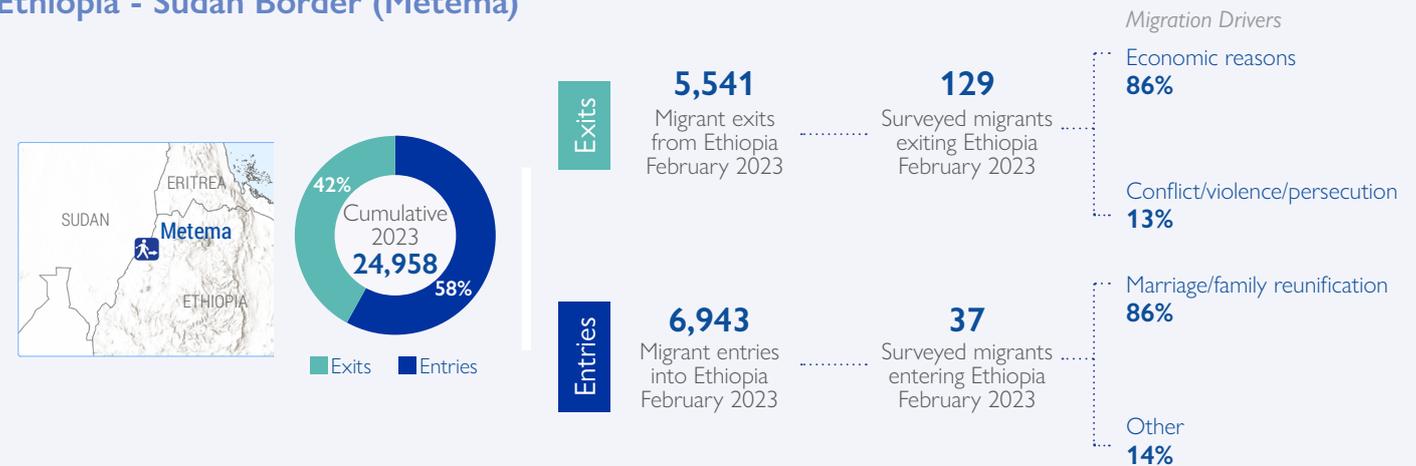


Migrants Seeking Assistance

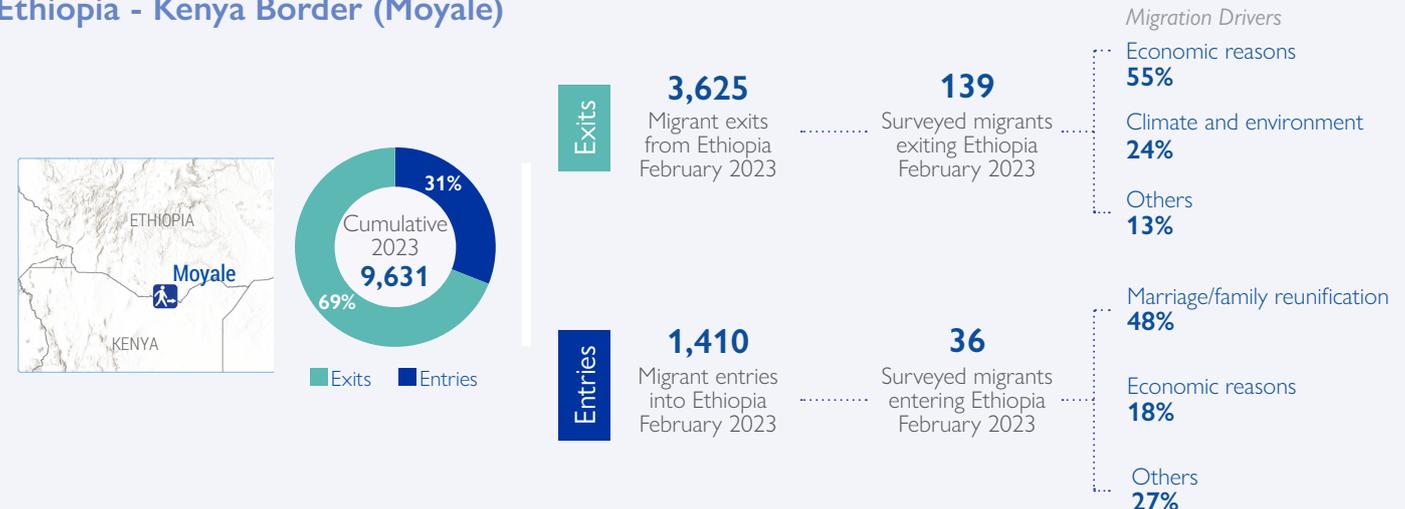


Impact of the Northern Ethiopia Conflict Along the Northern and Southern Corridors

Ethiopia - Sudan Border (Metema)



Ethiopia - Kenya Border (Moyale)



Migrant Children Along the Eastern Corridor

Cumulative 2023
5,235

2,407
Migrant children entries
February 2023

Into Djibouti
34%
Into Somalia
27%
Into Yemen
39%

51% Boys
49% Girls

32%
Unaccompanied

271
Migrant children seeking assistance
February 2023

In Ethiopia
28%
In Somalia
62%
In Djibouti
10%

75% Boys
25% Girls

423

Migrants surveyed who are caring for children (21% of all respondents)
February 2023

Travelling with children
44%

Having children in the country of intended destination
7%

Who left children behind in the country of origin
49%

Caretakers of migrant children not travelling with the migrant parent

My spouse/partner
65%

Grandparents or extended family
29%

My older children (18 and over)
5%

Other
1%

Returns from Saudi Arabia



13,412

Returns
February 2023

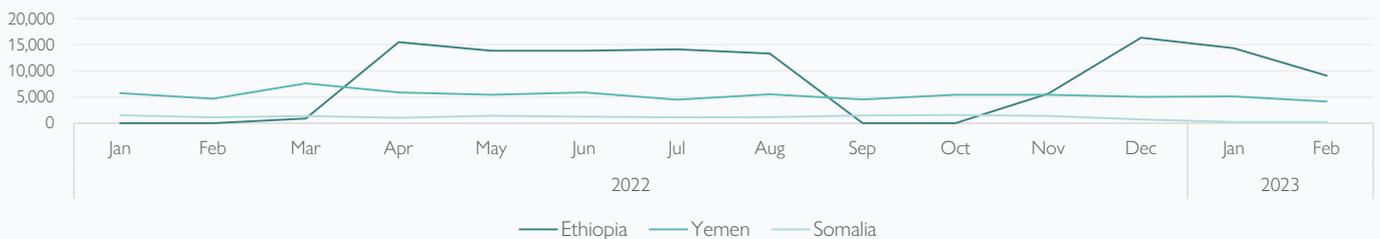
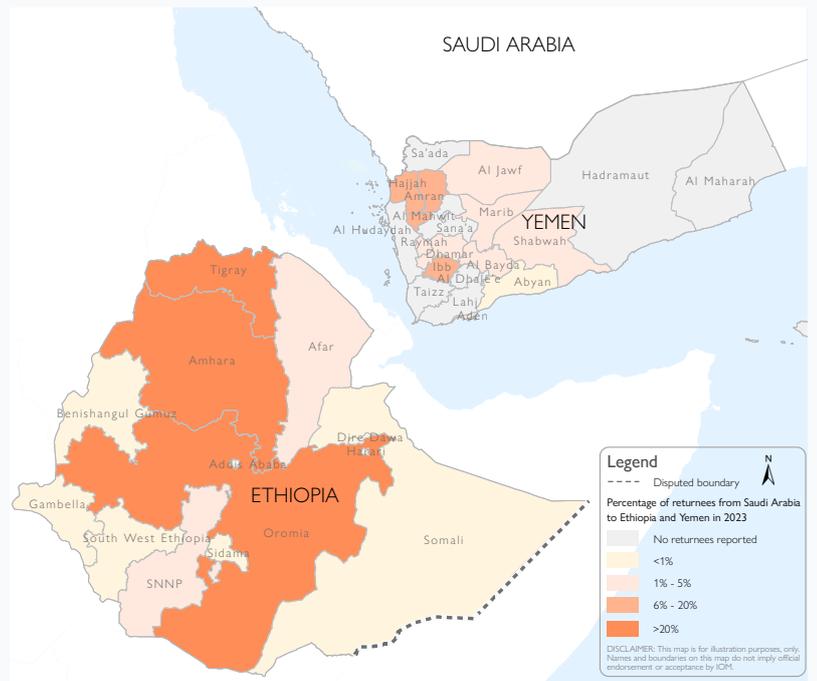
Cumulative 2023
33,073

Returns to

Ethiopia	Yemen	Somalia	Ethiopia	Yemen	Somalia
9,072	4,138	202	23,424	9,238	411

Region of intended return in Ethiopia 2023

Amhara	Oromia	Tigray	SNNP	Afar
35%	37%	22%	3%	1%



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

Contact

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eastandhornofafrica.iom.int/regional-data-hub