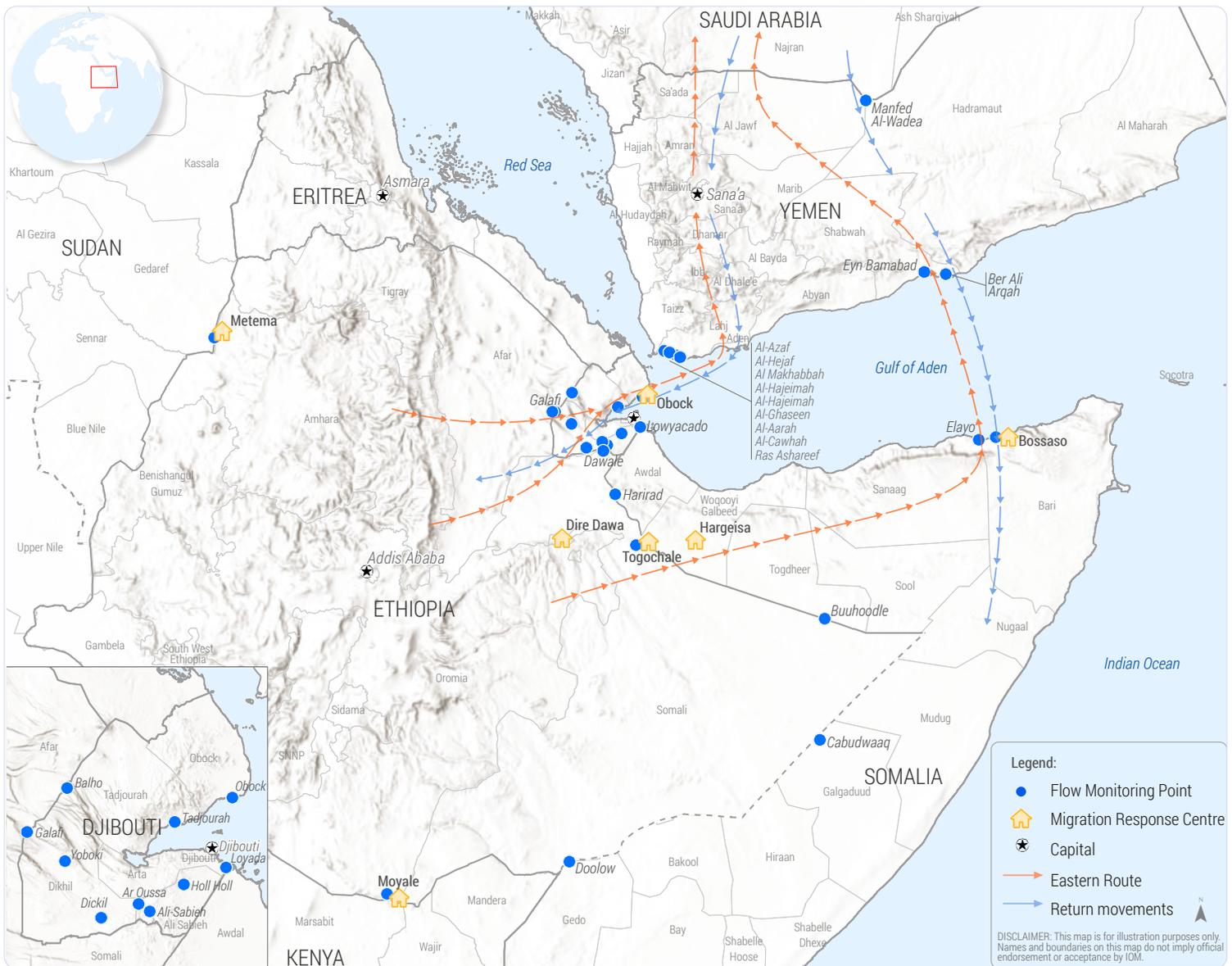


### About the report

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

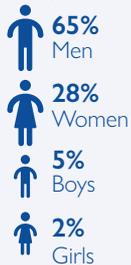
- Migrant entries into Djibouti **increased by 11%** from February. This increase was due to **improved security conditions** along the migratory routes between Djibouti and Ethiopia combined with the opportunity of the month of **Ramadan**. Migrants generally consider this month ideal to go to the Arabian Peninsula due to the perception that border authorities tend to decrease their coverage and mobility restrictions are eased.
- **Women and children** represented 35% of all entries. 39% of all children were **travelling alone**, most of whom were **boys (94%)**. Most of the children travelling alone (93%) were from the Oromia region of Ethiopia.
- Although economic reasons were the main migration driver, 60% of movements originating in the Somali region of Ethiopia and 11% from Tigray were due to **food insecurity**.<sup>1</sup>
- Many migrants became **stranded after being abandoned by smugglers** while in transit in Djibouti, increasing the number of stranded migrants in the country **by 10%** (from 733 to 804). Stranded migrants were mainly concentrated in the northern coastal area of Obock (45%) and in the southern region of Dikhil (30%), bordering Ethiopia. Almost half of those stranded were **women (15%) and children (32%)**.
- Many of the stranded migrants requested assistance at the Obock MRC, with registrations **almost tripling** from February (93). Due to limited reception capacity, the MRC only admitted the **most vulnerable migrants** while others received assistance outside the MRC.
- **368 migrants received AVR** assistance to return to Ethiopia. Since November 2022, the most vulnerable migrants arriving at the MRC in Obock have benefited from AVR assistance, while the non-vulnerable migrants have benefited from return without reintegration due to limited reception capacity in Ethiopia.

## Entries into Djibouti

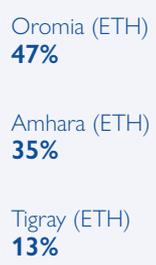
Cumulative 2023  
**38,753**

**12,318**  
Entries  
March 2023

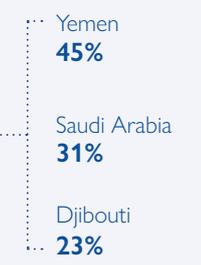
### Sex & Age Group



### Region of Origin



### Intended Destination



Migrants surveyed in March 2023

**426**

### Migration Drivers



## Spontaneous Returns from Yemen to Djibouti

Cumulative 2023  
**1,598**

**518**  
Returns  
March 2023

### Sex & Age Group



## Migrants Seeking Assistance

Cumulative 2023  
**248**

**448**  
MRC  
registrations  
March 2023

### Sex & Age Group



**804**  
Stranded migrants  
March 2023

**0**  
Dead/missing migrants  
March 2023

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

# Migration Through Somalia

- The security situation in **Las Anod**, located on one of the main migratory routes to reach Bossaso, continued to deteriorate and the number of **stranded migrants more than doubled**, reaching around 6,000 in March. Migrants in this area were extremely **vulnerable** and likely exposed to getting caught in crossfire, and some decided to **change transit points** along their journey.
- Many migrants from Somalia continued to move to IDP camps in **Ethiopia** and refugee camps in **Kenya** due to **drought**. At the same time, Ethiopians from the Somali region came to Somalia's Gedo region to **search for humanitarian aid** at the camps in Doolow.
- On 28 March 2023, a vehicle transporting Ethiopian migrants near Bossaso overturned and **11 people lost their lives** and 20 were injured. In a separate incident, an Ethiopian migrant reported surviving a car crash that **killed 3 friends migrating** with him when travelling through Las Anod after the driver was injured by a bullet. In another incident in Berbera, of a group of people who had been on the move for seven days without adequate food and water, **1 person** was unable to continue the journey and passed away. A further **2 Ethiopian men** died in Xariirad due to interclan violence and **1 Ethiopian woman** due to gunshot while crossing the border in a vehicle transporting migrants near Tog Wajaale.
- 120 Ethiopian migrants** from the Oromia region had a **car accident** in Hargeisa while on the way to Bossaso. **No deaths** were reported; however, 35 migrants were injured.

## Entries into Somalia

IOM flow monitoring activities suspended in March

Cumulative 2023  
**4,240**



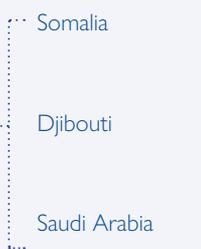
Sex & Age Group



Region of Origin



Intended Destination



Migrants surveyed in March 2023

- Migration Drivers
- Economic reasons
- Access to services
- Marriage/family reunification



Note: Flow monitoring activities in Somalia were suspended from March to October 2022 and in March 2023. To address the gap in 2022, the Regional Data Hub built a predictive model estimating the missing data (auto regressive integrated moving average – ARIMA).

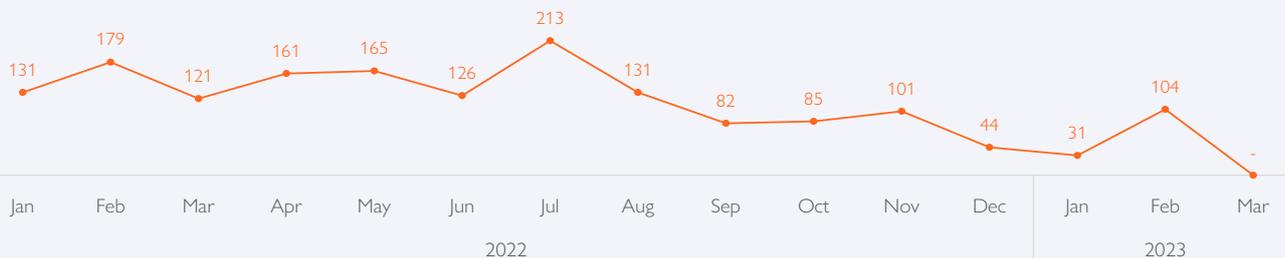
## Spontaneous Returns from Yemen to Somalia

Cumulative 2023  
**135**



Returns March 2023

Sex & Age Group



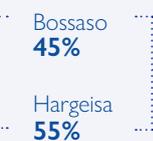
## Migrants Seeking Assistance

Cumulative 2023  
**1,244**



MRC registrations March 2023

MRC Location



Sex & Age Group



Hardships

- Lack of basic services **97%**
- Extortion/bribes **1%**
- Other **2%**

**5,950** Stranded migrants March 2023

**18** Dead/missing migrants March 2023

# Migration Through Yemen

- Migrant arrivals in Yemen increased by 87% from February and was the highest figure recorded so far.
- The number of boys arriving in Yemen more than doubled in the past month (from 1,800 to 4,100), representing 21% of all arrivals in March (compared to 17% in February).
- Migrants arriving through the Lahj coast more than doubled in the past month. This increase was likely due to more favourable conditions at sea as well as smugglers using more boats per trip (up to 5) and shifting the route from Dhubab, Taiz to Al Arah, Lahj. Similarly, arrivals through the Shabwah coast increased by 37% due to similar factors and eased patrols during Ramadan, making the arrival to Saudi Arabia appear more attainable to migrants.
- During Ramadan, migrants suffered from heightened hunger and thirst due to lack of provision of food from the local community and restaurants where migrants can sometimes eat leftovers.
- Due to reports of human rights violations and detention at the border with Saudi Arabia, a new migration trend was noticed whereby migrants were arriving in the Hadramaut and Al Mahrah governorates with the intention of accessing economic opportunities in Oman. These areas have fewer military checkpoints, relative stability and good acceptance of migrants by the host community. Furthermore, the Yemeni Coast Guard is less present in the coastal areas leading to Mukalla, Hadramaut, rendering it a preferred transit point. As of March 2023, over 5,200 migrants were estimated to be present in the Al Mahrah governorate, located along the Omani border. However, health and social services are limited in this area and migrants continue to face physical and human rights violations, which has tipped the vulnerability scale to alarming levels. In addition, due to strict immigration laws in Oman, migrants are reportedly being forcibly returned from Oman.

## Arrivals in Yemen from the Horn of Africa



**43,000** Stranded migrants March 2023

**0** Dead/missing migrants March 2023

# Migration Through Ethiopia

- Migrants exiting Ethiopia increased by 21% from February.
- Movements exiting Ethiopia that originated in Tigray continued to increase due to improved security (+42%) and the number recorded in March 2023 (2,764) was the highest ever recorded. Most Tigrayans were travelling through Galafi (70%), yet around one third (34%) of all Tigrayans still reported moving due to conflict, violence or persecution.
- Movements from Ethiopia to Kenya through Moyale increased by 48% in the last month, with most movements due to economic reasons (84%), although 11% were drought-related movements.
- Movements from Ethiopia to Somalia via Togochale also increased (+46%). Although most movements were economically driven (89%), drought-related movements quadrupled between February (66) and March (283). Movements towards Somalia via Dawale due to conflict (57%) and drought (23%) also increased from February.
- The Government of Ethiopia announced in late March 2023 that returns from Saudi Arabia will be suspended as of early April. It is unclear if and when returns will resume.
- 1,702 migrants (93% male and 7% female) were returned from Aden in Yemen to Ethiopia through VHR, mainly to the Oromia region. A halt in these movements is expected from mid-April 2023.
- Migrants seeking assistance at MRCs increased by 45% from February to March and over half (57%) of children were unaccompanied.

## Exits out of Ethiopia

Cumulative 2023  
**76,440**

**28,415**  
Migrant exits from Ethiopia March 2023

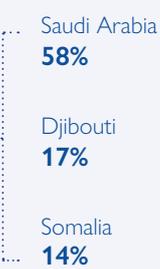
### Sex & Age Group



### Region of Origin



### Intended Destination



## Migrants surveyed in March 2023

**888**  
Surveyed migrants exiting Ethiopia March 2023

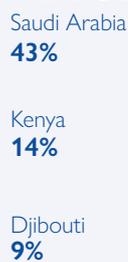
### Sex & Age Group



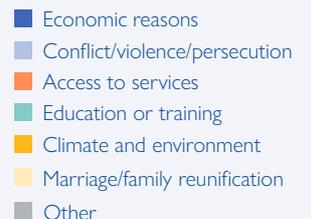
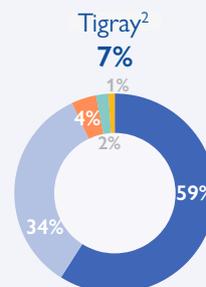
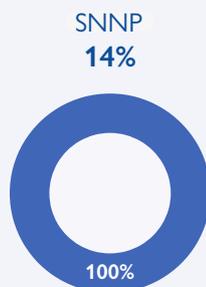
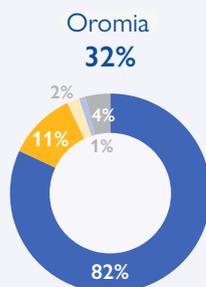
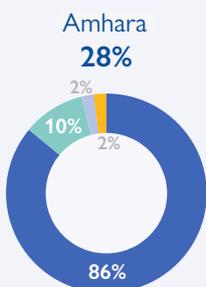
### Migration Drivers



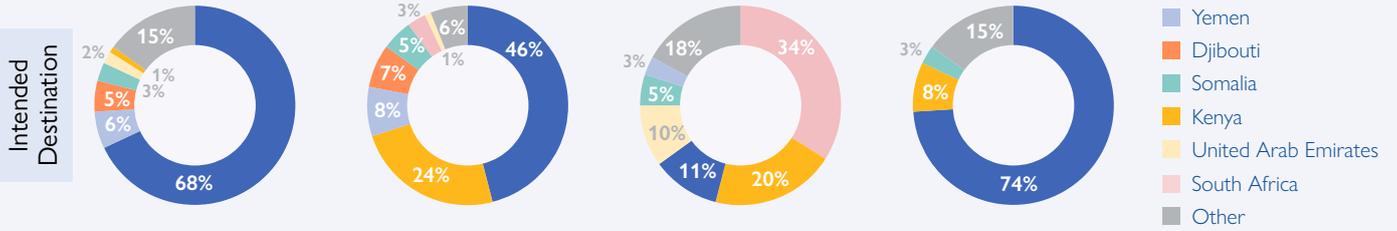
### Intended Destination



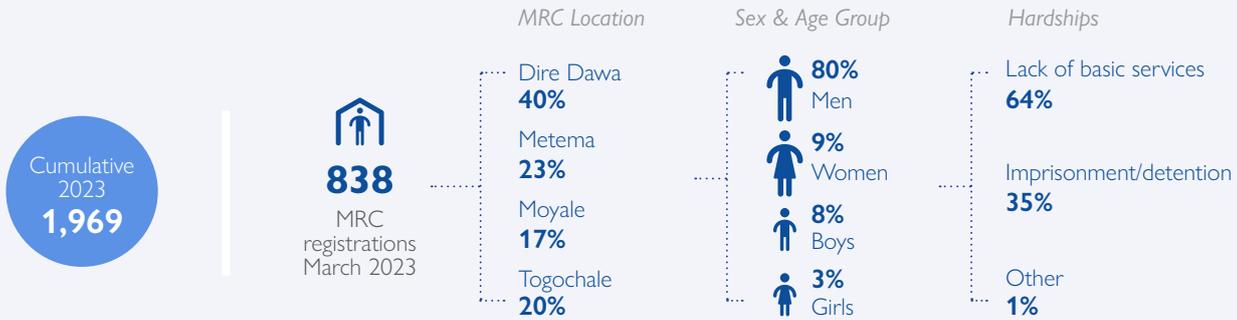
### Migration Drivers



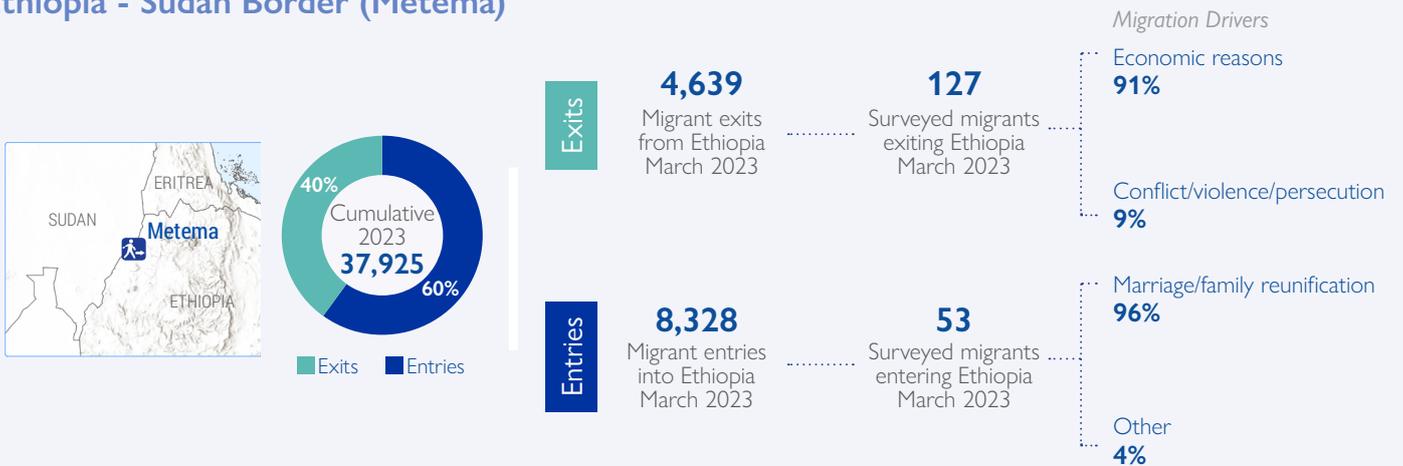
<sup>2</sup> Only 62 respondents surveyed from Tigray.



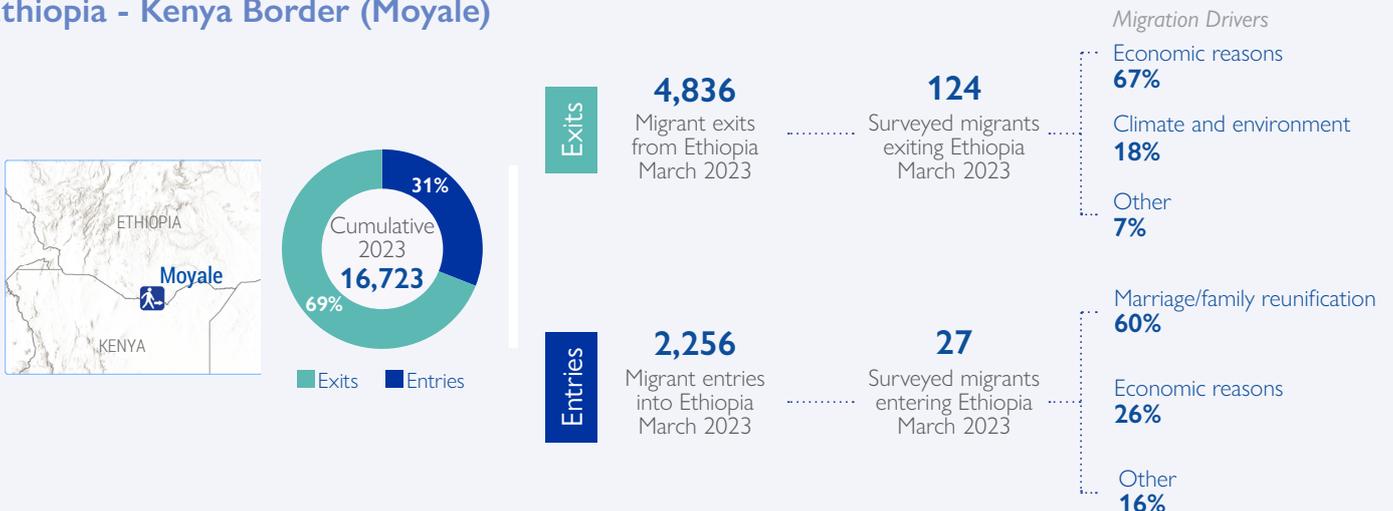
## Migrants Seeking Assistance



## 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  
**7,581**

**2,346**  
Migrant children entries  
March 2023

Into Djibouti  
**38%**  
Into Somalia  
**-**  
Into Yemen  
**62%**

**69%** Boys  
**31%** Girls

**35%**  
Unaccompanied

**269**  
Migrant children seeking assistance  
March 2023

In Djibouti  
**5%**  
In Ethiopia  
**34%**  
In Somalia  
**61%**

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

**218**  
Migrants surveyed who are caring for children (17% of all respondents)  
March 2023

Travelling with children  
**14%**  
Having children in the country of intended destination  
**<1%**  
Who left children behind in the country of origin  
**86%**

Caretakers of migrant children not travelling with the migrant parent

My spouse/partner  
**52%**  
Grandparents or extended family  
**39%**  
My older children (18 and over)  
**4%**  
Other  
**5%**

## Returns from Saudi Arabia



**19,927**

Returns  
March 2023

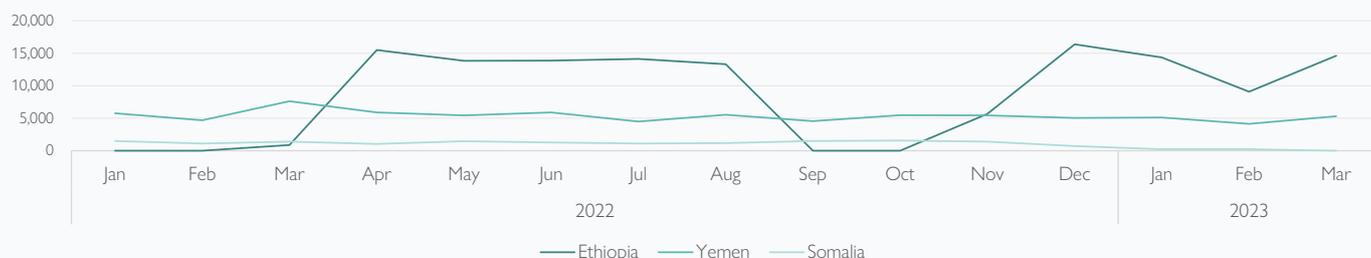
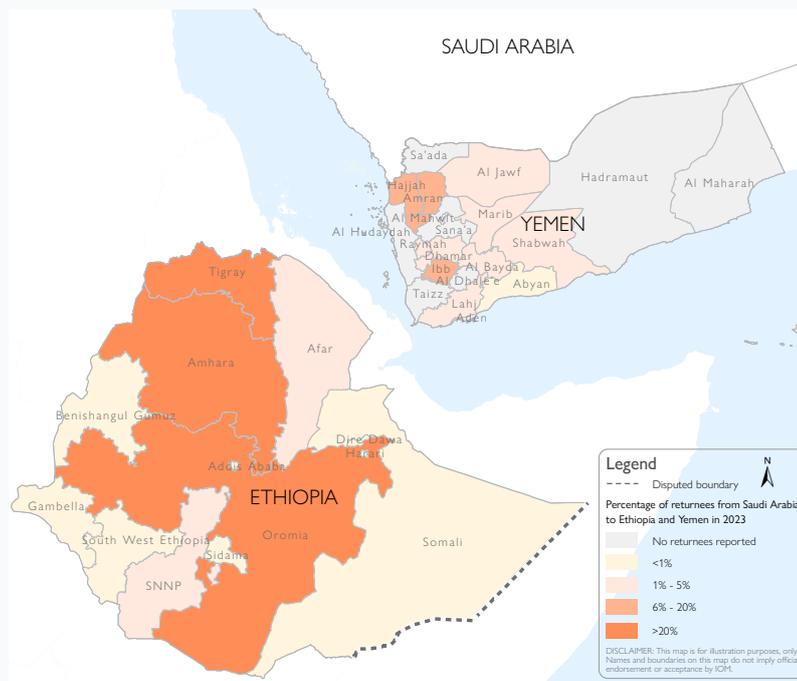
Cumulative 2023  
**53,000**

Returns to

Ethiopia	Yemen	Somalia	Ethiopia	Yemen	Somalia
<b>14,623</b>	<b>5,304</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>38,047</b>	<b>14,542</b>	<b>411</b>

Region of intended return in Ethiopia 2023

Amhara	Oromia	Tigray	SNNP	Afar
<b>35%</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>1%</b>



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 and data were not available for March 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)