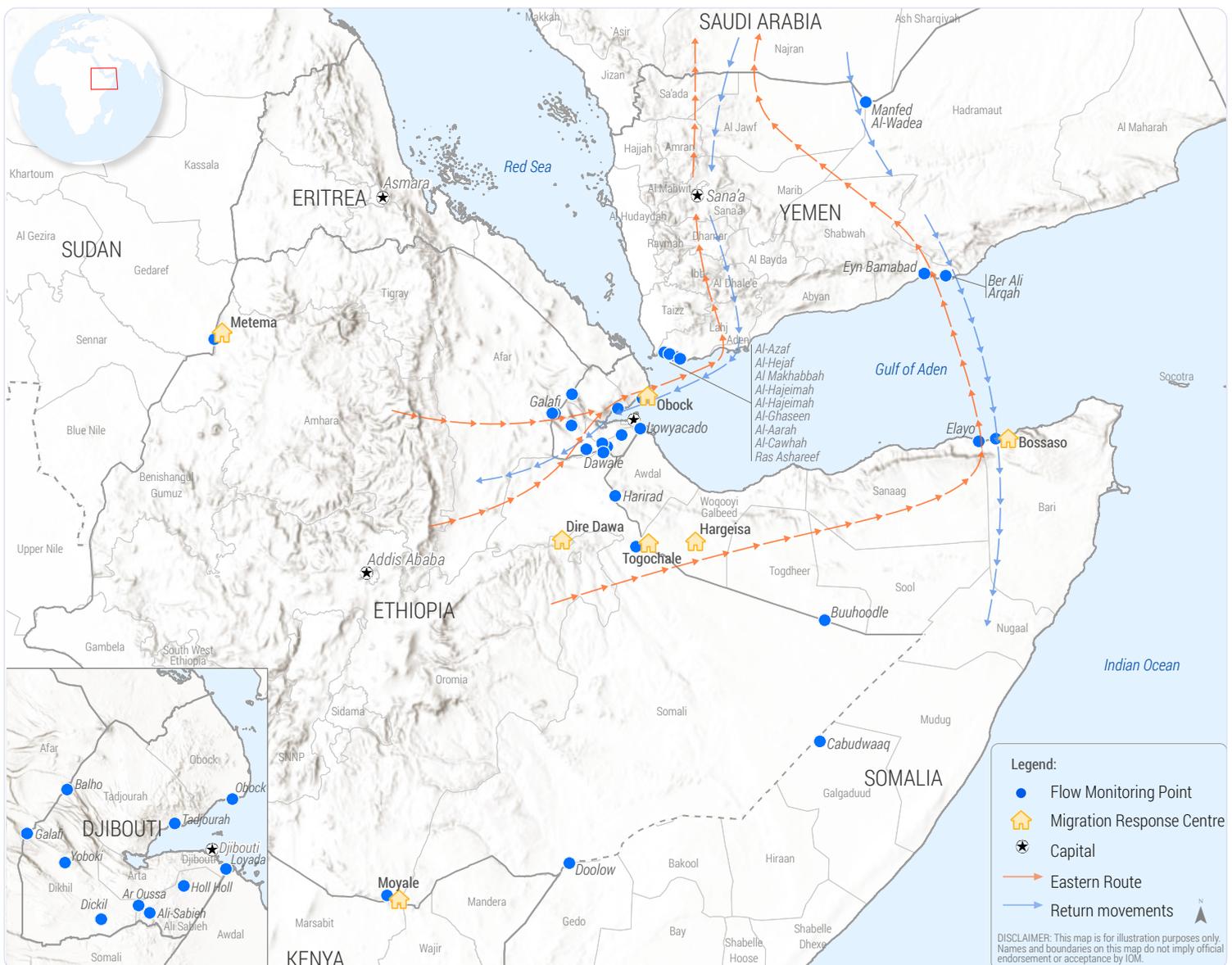


About the report

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 [spillover effects of the conflict in the Sudan](#) observed at the border with Ethiopia, [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 5% from March. This slight decrease was linked to the end of Ramadan, which is usually followed by a vigorous resumption of border control by the Coast Guard. In addition, many smugglers are unavailable around this time as they celebrate the holiday with their relatives.
- Women and children represented 38% of all entries. 32% of all children were travelling alone, most of whom were boys (94%).
- Although journeys were mostly economically driven, half (46%) of movements originating in the Somali region of Ethiopia were drought-related.¹
- The Government of Djibouti launched a crackdown on irregular migration on 30 April 2023 for security and public health reasons. Irregular foreigners working informally now must be registered, while unemployed migrants were requested to leave the country within 30 days. Forced returns started on 1 May 2023 and thousands of migrants were arrested and deported to Ethiopia. IOM Djibouti continues to assist migrants through food assistance, non-food items and AVRR through its MRC and referrals from the Ethiopian Embassy.
- The number of stranded migrants, therefore, increased by 25% (from 804 to 1,006). Many more migrants were stranded along the Ethiopian border in Dikhil (40%) and Ali-Sabieh (13%) as the arrests and forced returns of migrants in the southern part of Djibouti prevented them from moving onwards towards the coastal areas of Tadjourah and Obock.
- 85 migrants received AVRR assistance to return to Ethiopia.
- 5 people died during migration in April. In Yoboki, a woman was abandoned by a smuggler after falling into a coma due to severe dehydration and passed away in a hospital in Dikhil. In another case in Dikhil, two brothers were transiting together through the area when one was discovered dead in the morning due to unknown reasons. In Tadjourah, the local community discovered the bodies of two men that had washed ashore, while in Nagad, the local community discovered the body of a man who had taken his own life.

Entries into Djibouti

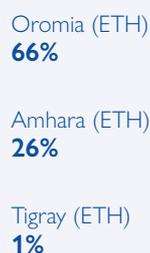
Cumulative 2023
50,474

11,721
Entries
April 2023

Sex & Age Group



Region of Origin



Intended Destination



Migrants surveyed in April 2023

358

Migration Drivers



Spontaneous Returns from Yemen to Djibouti

Cumulative 2023
1,891

293
Returns
April 2023

Sex & Age Group



Migrants Seeking Assistance

Cumulative 2023
574

126
MRC
registrations
April 2023

Sex & Age Group



1,006 Stranded migrants
April 2023

5 Dead/missing migrants
April 2023

¹ Data from DTM flow monitoring registry.

Migration Through Somalia

- Despite the flow monitoring suspension, key informants observed a **significant influx** of migrants entering Somalia, with an average of **30–35** individuals crossing the border **daily**. The main crossing points were the towns of Wajaale, Bali-Gubadle and Gorayacawl. Key informants estimated the number of new arrivals to be **over 4,000** in Bossaso and **over 1,000** in Hargeisa.
- 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** was **over 6,000**. The Ethiopian Community Centre reported that 200–300 migrants, on their way to Bossaso through Las Anod, were unable to proceed through the area and returned to **Burao** where they were stranded. Migrants in and around Las Anod are extremely **vulnerable** and likely subjected to discrimination, exploitation and abuse as well as denied access to basic services and at risk of getting caught in crossfire.
- Migrants also face other **protection risks**. Smugglers dropped a group of migrants far from their intended transit point, which **forced them to walk to Elayo** to continue their journey onwards. Another group, with many women and children, was stopped by an **armed roadblock** between **Al-Xamdullillah and Xingalool** for two days with insufficient water.
- A **man died** during migration due to **illness** and was buried in Bossaso. In Ceeldheer town, located near Bossaso, three migrants were seriously injured in a **road accident** involving two vehicles as they were travelling through rough terrain.

Entries into Somalia

IOM flow monitoring activities suspended in April

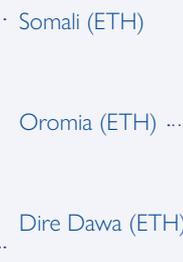
Cumulative 2023
4,240

Entries April 2023
-

Sex & Age Group



Region of Origin



Intended Destination



Migrants surveyed in April 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).

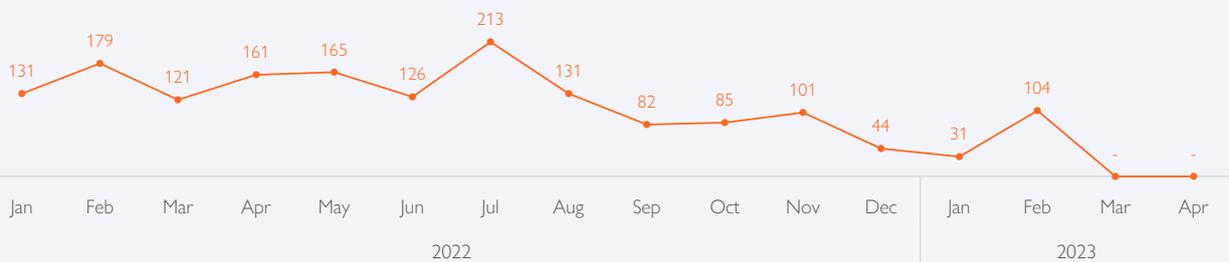
Spontaneous Returns from Yemen to Somalia

Cumulative 2023
135



Returns April 2023
-

Sex & Age Group



Migrants Seeking Assistance

Cumulative 2023
1,603

MRC registrations April 2023
359

MRC Location



Sex & Age Group



Hardships

- Lack of basic services **98%**
- Physical/psychological abuse **<1%**

6,100 Stranded migrants April 2023

1 Dead/missing migrants April 2023

Migration Through Yemen

- Migrant arrivals in Yemen **decreased by 33%** from March. Despite this decrease, the number of arrivals in April 2023 was still higher than the numbers reported in January and February (10,700 arrivals on average). In particular, the proportion of arrivals from **Djibouti increased** (from 78% to 87%) due to the **limited presence of the Yemeni Coast Guard** along the coastal areas of Aden, Mukalla, Shabwah and Abyan during **Ramadan**.
- **Women and children** represented a quarter of all arrivals (4% and 21%, respectively).
- Most migrants were looking for better economic opportunities (90%) while **one in ten** was moving due to **conflict, violence or persecution**.
- Migrants arriving along the **Lahj coast decreased by 26%** due to **disagreements between smugglers**, which affected the number of boats arriving in April. Similarly, arrivals through the **Shabwah coast decreased by 59%** due to the **tensions in Las Anod**, which prevent migrants from reaching their departure point in Bossaso, and due to the **rainy weather**, which restricted the movements of migrants and boats.
- Due to **Ramadan**, mobility within Yemen was **slower than usual** and migrants preferred to **stay within urban and peri-urban areas** such as Ma'rib, Aden and Sana'a to access **employment opportunities and food donations** from the host population. **Peaceful coexistence** between migrants and host populations particularly improved during this period.

Arrivals in Yemen from the Horn of Africa



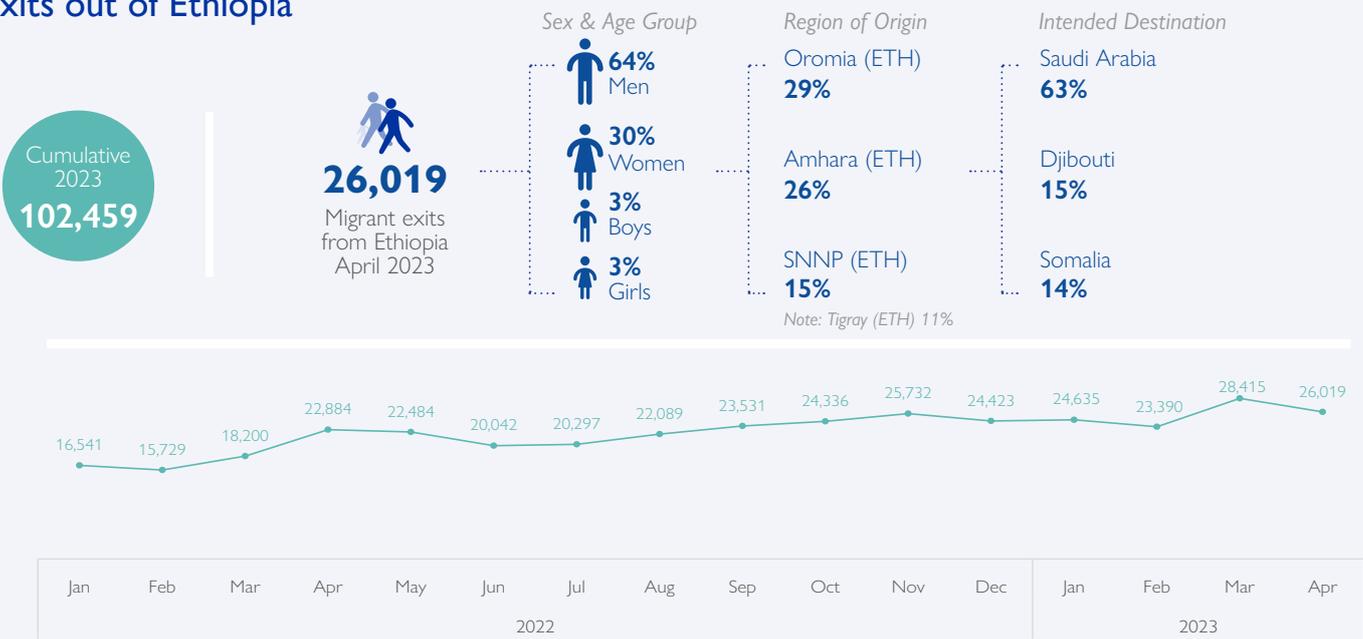
43,000 Stranded migrants April 2023

0 Dead/missing migrants April 2023

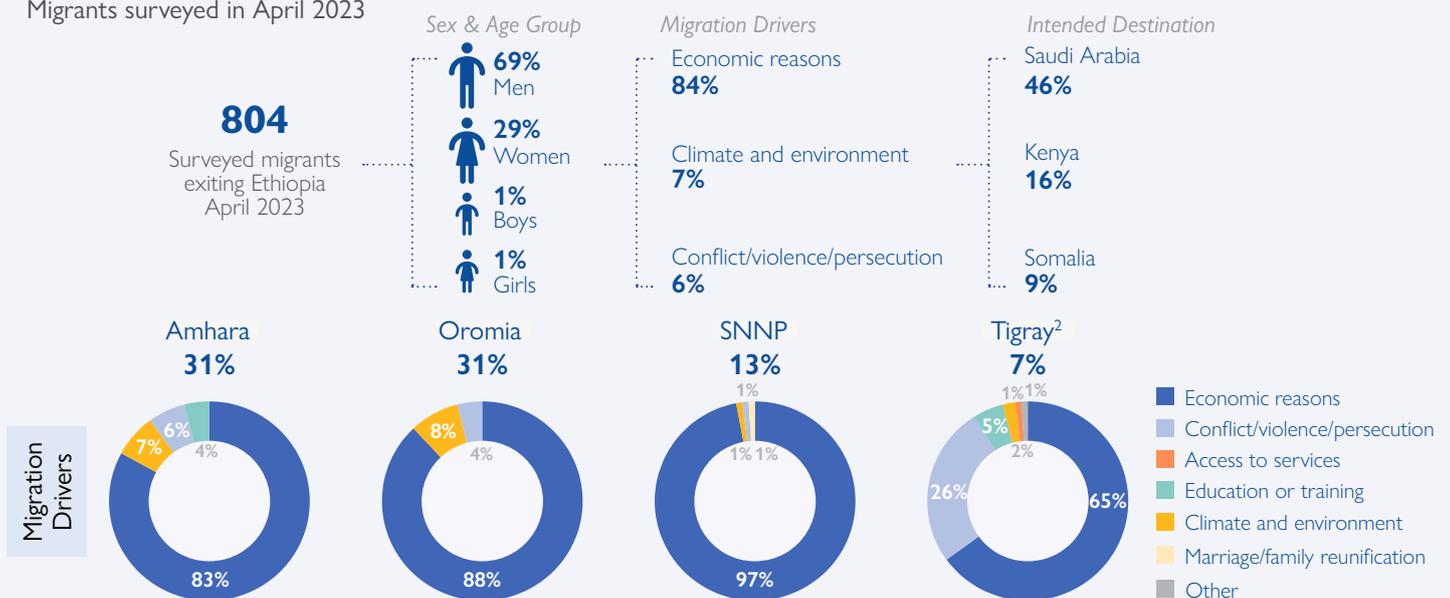
Migration Through Ethiopia

- Due to the **Sudan conflict** that started on 15 April 2023, migrant **entries** into Ethiopia through the Metema border point nearly quadrupled between March (2,900) and April (10,700). In particular, 9,600 entries were recorded between 15 and 30 April 2023, of which **9,000 (85% of all entries)** were recorded just from 23 to 30 April 2023. Meanwhile, migrant **exits** from Ethiopia to the Sudan via Metema **decreased by 70%**.
- Key informants also reported the arrival of **over 600 individuals** fleeing the Sudan to Ethiopia via **Kurmuk** in the Benishangul Gumuz region. A flow monitoring point is **planned to be established** in Kurmuk in May 2023 to increase coverage.
- Although most entries into Ethiopia were of **Ethiopian (39%)** and **Sudanese (14%)** nationals, there were also 4,900 people (46%) of **57 other nationalities** leaving the Sudan via Metema.
- **Women and children** fleeing the Sudan represented **half** of all movements (34% and 16%, respectively). Half of all children were younger than five years and more than 500 pregnant or lactating women were also on the move.
- The number of people registered at the MRC in **Metema** increased almost **eightfold** in the past month, driven by the crisis in the Sudan. The MRC registered around **450 children** in April (nearly 13 times the number recorded in March) and the number of **girls surpassed** that of boys for the first time in 2023 (54% and 46%, respectively). Over a quarter (26%) of people seeking assistance in **Metema** reported being driven by **conflict**, compared to none in March.
- **Returns from Saudi Arabia were suspended on 3 April**. There is no clear indication of when returns may resume or at what rate.
- **1,322 migrants** (99% male and 1% female) were returned from **Aden in Yemen to Ethiopia through VHR**, mainly to the Oromia region. The last VHR movement took place on 13 April 2023.

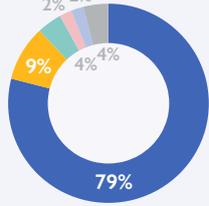
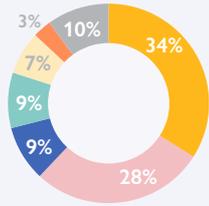
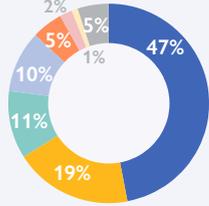
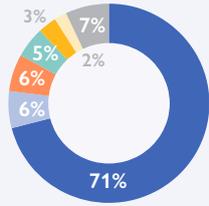
Exits out of Ethiopia



Migrants surveyed in April 2023



Intended Destination



- Saudi Arabia
- Yemen
- Djibouti
- Somalia
- Kenya
- United Arab Emirates
- South Africa
- Other

Migrants Seeking Assistance

Cumulative 2023
3,569

1,600
MRC registrations
April 2023

MRC Location

- Dire Dawa **1%**
- Metema **93%**
- Moyale **3%**
- Togochole **3%**

Sex & Age Group

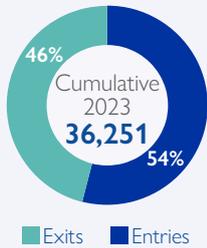
- 44%** Men
- 27%** Women
- 13%** Boys
- 15%** Girls

Hardships

- Lack of basic services **94%**
- Imprisonment/detention **6%**
- Physical/psychological abuse **<1%**

Impact of the Sudan Conflict Along the Border with Ethiopia

Metema Border Point



Exits

1,420
Migrant exits from Ethiopia
April 2023

52
Surveyed migrants exiting Ethiopia
April 2023

Entries

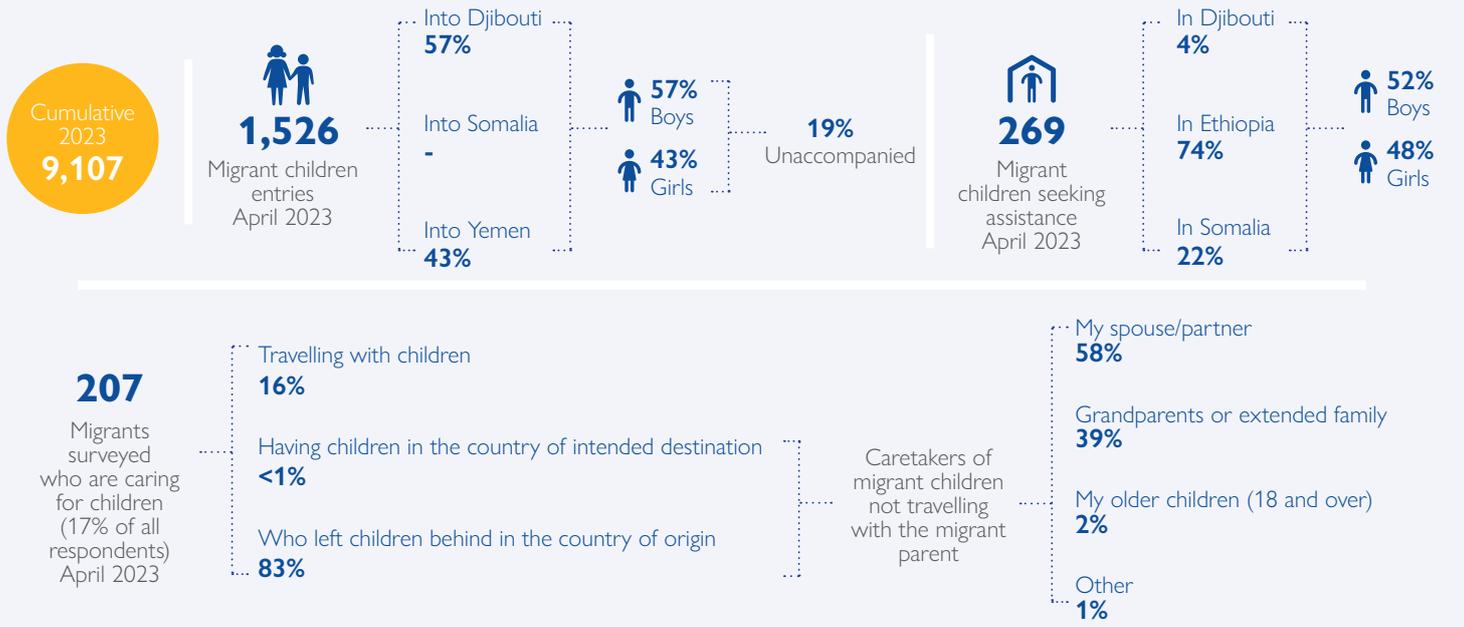
10,676
Migrant entries into Ethiopia
April 2023

148
Surveyed migrants entering Ethiopia
April 2023

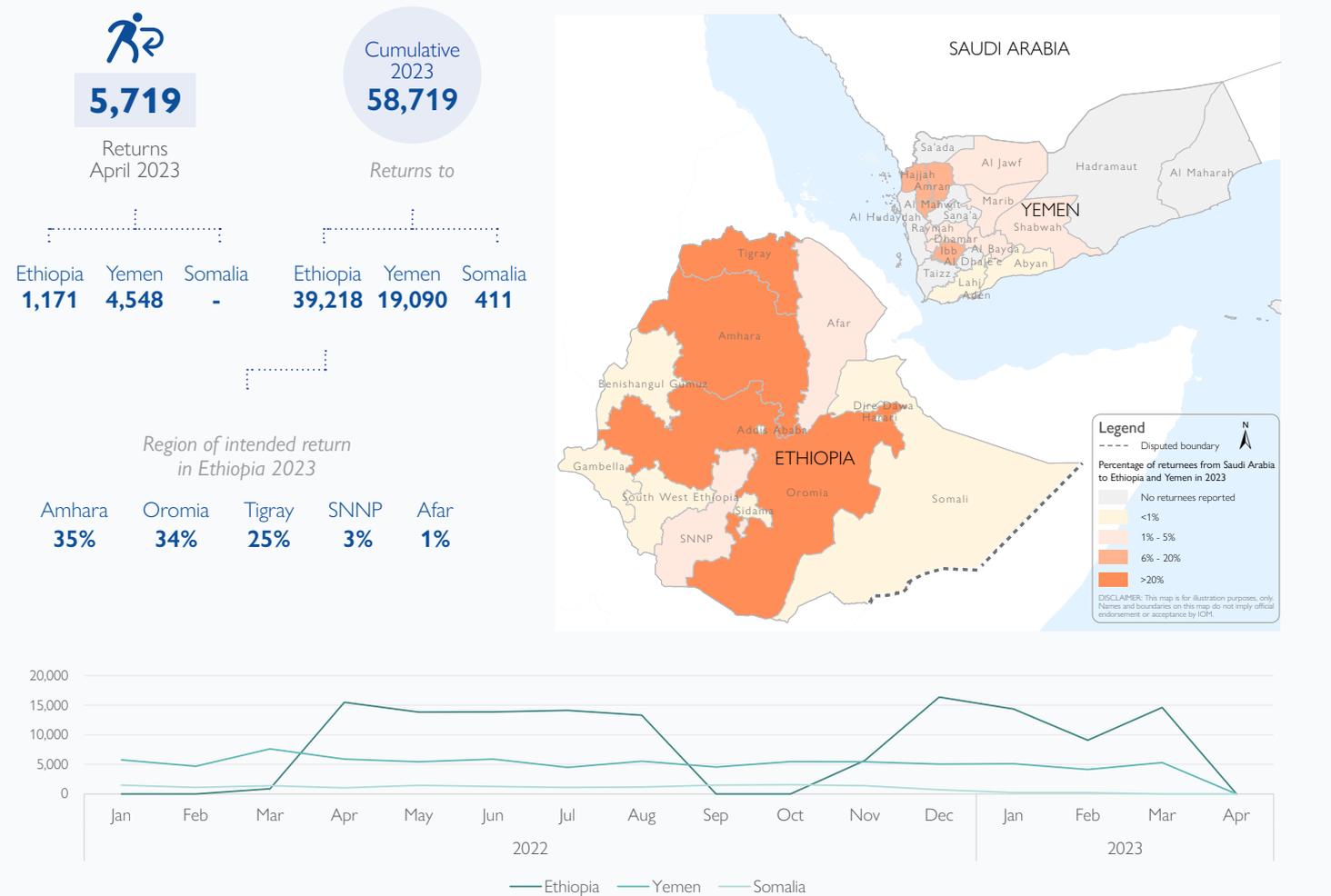
Migration Drivers

- Economic reasons **91%**
- Conflict/violence/persecution **9%**
- Marriage/family reunification **51%**
- Conflict/violence/persecution **36%**
- Other **13%**

Migrant Children Along the Eastern Corridor



Returns from Saudi Arabia



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. These returns were also suspended from early April 2023 and it is unclear if and when returns will resume. IOM has only partial information on returns to Somalia for 2023 and data were not available for April 2023.

Contact