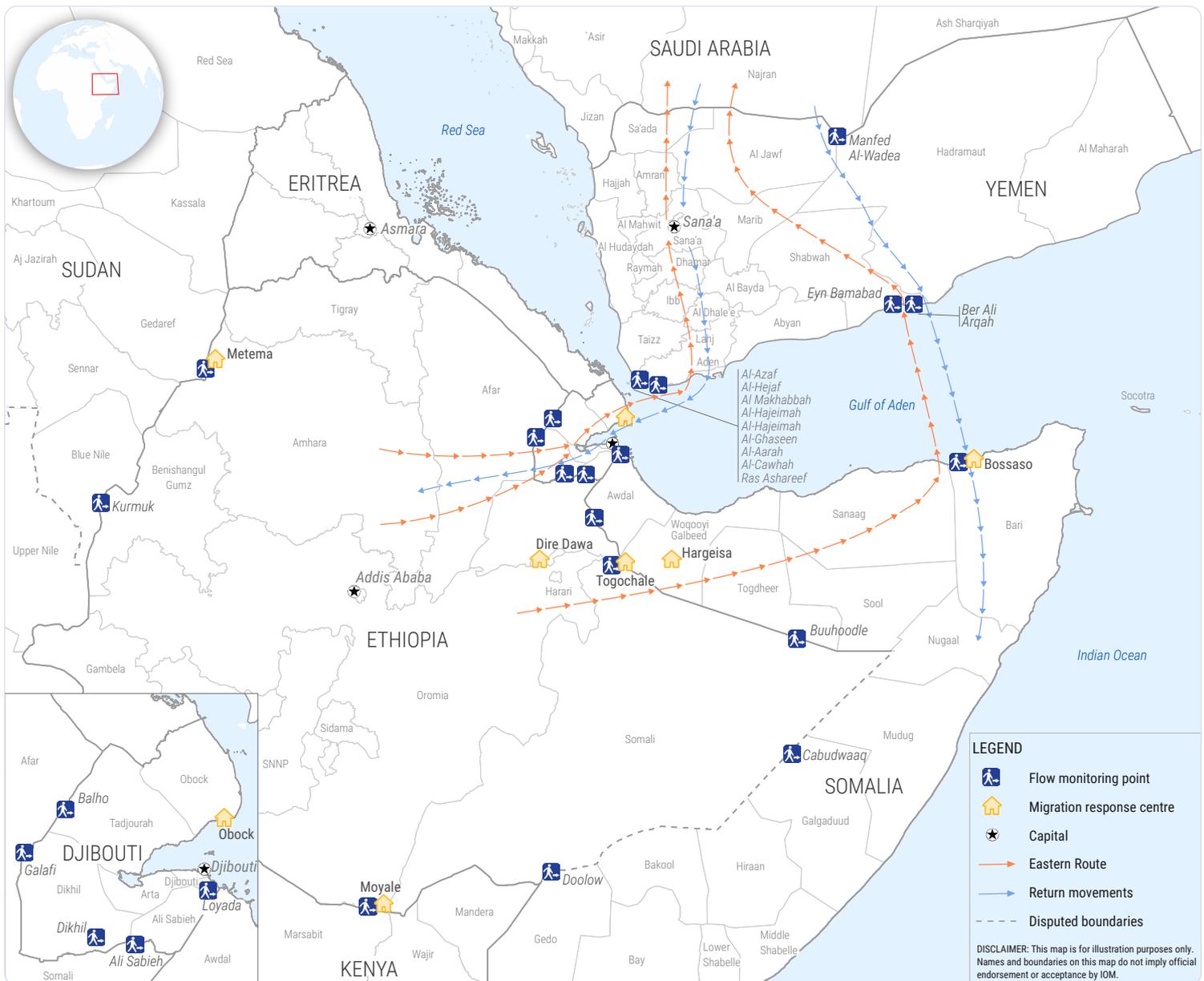


### About the report

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 33%** from August due to increasing surveillance activities against irregular migration by Djiboutian authorities, including an increase on Coast Guard patrolling.
- Consequently, migrants have been observed **returning to Ethiopia** in key transit locations, such as in Obock (920) and Tadjourah (300), while in bordering locations with Ethiopia, such as Dikhil and Ali-Sabieh, an undefined number of deportations to Ethiopia have been reported.
- Migrants who are either on their way back to Ethiopia or stranded in sites close to the Ethiopian borders are said to be informing other migrants about the difficulties linked to the migration journey, including **surge pricing for smuggling services** and **increased surveillance** against irregular migration.
- **Women and children** represented over one third (38%) of all entries and around one third (31%) of all children were **travelling alone** (all boys).
- Although migration continues to be economically driven, more than half of migrants departing from the **Somali region** of Ethiopia were travelling due to **conflict, violence and persecution (64%)**, while around one quarter (23%) were doing so due to natural disasters. Additionally, almost one in ten migrants leaving Amhara (9%) were fleeing conflict.
- The number of **spontaneous returns** from Yemen increased by **60%** from August due to strengthened controls by Yemeni authorities and the inoperability of some smugglers who are expected to facilitate the journey from Yemen to Saudi Arabia.
- Women (14%) and children (29%) represented more than one third of the **stranded migrant population**.
- **279 people** received AVRR assistance to return to Ethiopia.
- **10 people** died while migrating, several of whom perished in the desert or in remote areas. Most bodies of the deceased were discovered by locals or by the IOM mobile team.

## Entries into Djibouti

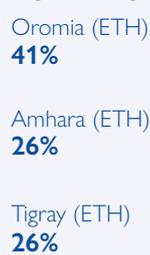
Cumulative 2023  
**106,066**

**9,085**  
Entries  
September 2023

### Sex & Age Group



### Region of Origin



### Intended Destination



### Migrants surveyed in September 2023

**229**

#### Migration Drivers



## Spontaneous Returns from Yemen to Djibouti

Cumulative 2023  
**4,665**

**559**  
Returns  
September 2023

### Sex & Age Group



## Migrants Seeking Assistance

Cumulative 2023  
**2,028**

**210**  
MRC registrations  
September 2023

### Sex & Age Group



**761** Stranded migrants  
September 2023

**10** Dead/missing migrants  
September 2023

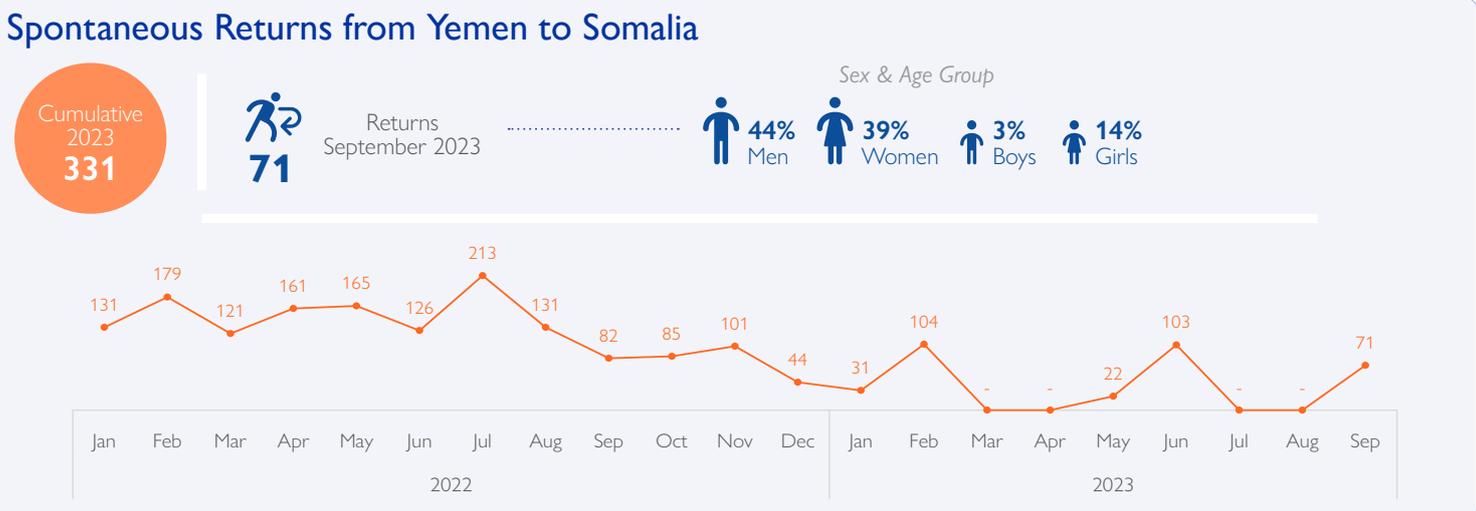
# Migration Through Somalia

- Migrant entries into Somalia decreased by 27% from August. However, migration movements within Somalia increased, with arrivals in Bossaso rising by 10% from August. Local authorities in Berbera intercepted a vehicle smuggling around 100 Ethiopian migrants intending to reach Yemen. Those migrants were, thereafter, deported to Waajale town at the border with Ethiopia.
- Some migrant women reported encountering challenges on their journey before reaching Harirad. This includes pregnant women who fell sick after travelling long distances in overpopulated vehicles. Around one quarter (23%) of pregnant and lactating women tracked in Somalia (237) were in Harirad.
- An undefined number of migrants was forced to walk a long distance after they were dropped off by their smugglers far from Elayo, one of the main sea crossing departure points to Yemen. Moreover, most migrants transiting through Cabudwaaq reported experiencing a lack of food and water during their journey.
- The number of stranded migrants increased by 29% from August (6,300) to September (8,120). Almost half were women (42%) and children (6%).
- People seeking assistance in Hargeisa were driven by economic (69%), environmental (17%) and conflict/violence (13%) motivations. Some Oromo and Amharan Ethiopians seeking assistance reported their fields were burned due to inter-clan strife that pushed them on the move.
- Two thirds (67%) of people seeking assistance at the MRC in Hargeisa were children.

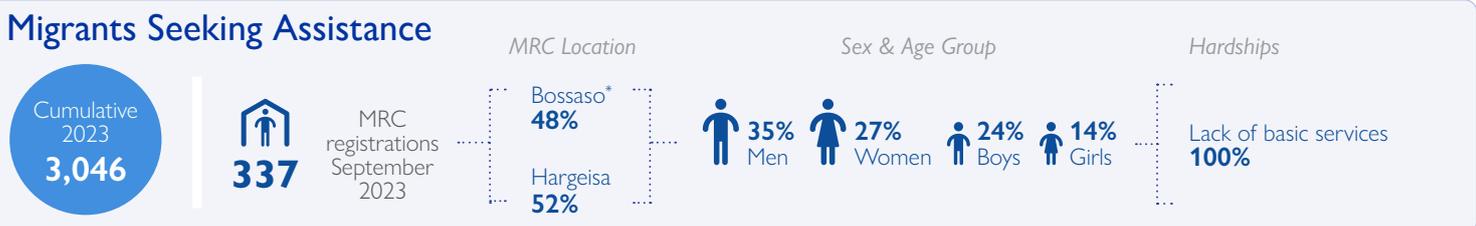
## Entries into Somalia



## Spontaneous Returns from Yemen to Somalia



## Migrants Seeking Assistance



**8,120** Stranded migrants  
September 2023

**0** Dead/missing migrants  
September 2023

\* Due to operational constraints, no data were collected in Bossaso on hardships faced during the journey.

# Migration Through Yemen

- Migrant arrivals in Yemen decreased for the sixth consecutive month (-63% from August), representing the lowest number recorded since July 2021. The raids on smuggling dens carried out by local security forces in Lahj since August, and the deployment of military points at the coast to monitor for smugglers' boats, explain the drastic drop in the number of migrant arrivals from Djibouti (-76% from August).
- Moreover, smugglers in Obock have considerably increased the price of boat travel, going from 10,000 to 40,000 Djiboutian francs (56 to 225 USD). These rising costs have discouraged migrants, while the Djibouti Coast Guard has stepped up operations to intercept all migrants travelling from Djibouti to Yemen.
- There were also reports of **arrests targeting migrants** during September in Aden after the outbreak of violent clashes between migrants, stemming from tensions linked to the suspension of voluntary humanitarian return assistance to Ethiopia. Migrants were arrested and/or rounded up and left in front of the IOM Departure Center in Aden without food or water.
- Consequently, the number of **stranded migrants** increased.
- These events reflect a shift in the migration dynamics in the Horn of Africa and Yemen, as for the first time since September 2022, **migrant arrivals to Yemen from Somalia were higher than those from Djibouti**.
- Women and children represented more than one third of all arrivals (24% and 12%, respectively).

## Arrivals in Yemen from the Horn of Africa



**No data**

Stranded migrants  
September 2023

**No data**

Dead/missing migrants  
September 2023

# Migration Through Ethiopia

- Migrant entries through Metema decreased by 18% from August (from 5,300 to 4,400), while entries through Kurmuk also decreased (-45%) from 250 to 140.
- Sudanese nationals continued to enter Ethiopia in the largest numbers and slightly increased in proportion of all entries (64%), followed by Ethiopian nationals returning home (29%) and people from 21 other nationalities fleeing the crisis.
- Women and children represented around half of all entries (27% and 16%, respectively), while 41% of all children were younger than five years.
- There were around 500 voluntary humanitarian returns from Yemen. Forced returns from Saudi Arabia remained suspended and there is no clear indication of when returns might resume or at what rate.
- Registrations at the MRC in Metema increased by 144%, mostly by people fleeing conflict in the Sudan.
- Across all MRCs in Ethiopia, 68% of people suffered from lack of access to basic services and 29% reported being detained. Children formed a quarter (24%) of people seeking assistance, while 63% of children were unaccompanied.

## Exits out of Ethiopia

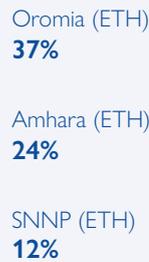
Cumulative 2023  
**231,518**

**25,922**  
Migrant exits from Ethiopia  
September 2023

### Sex & Age Group



### Region of Origin



### Intended Destination



## Migrants surveyed in September 2023

**690**  
Surveyed migrants exiting Ethiopia  
September 2023

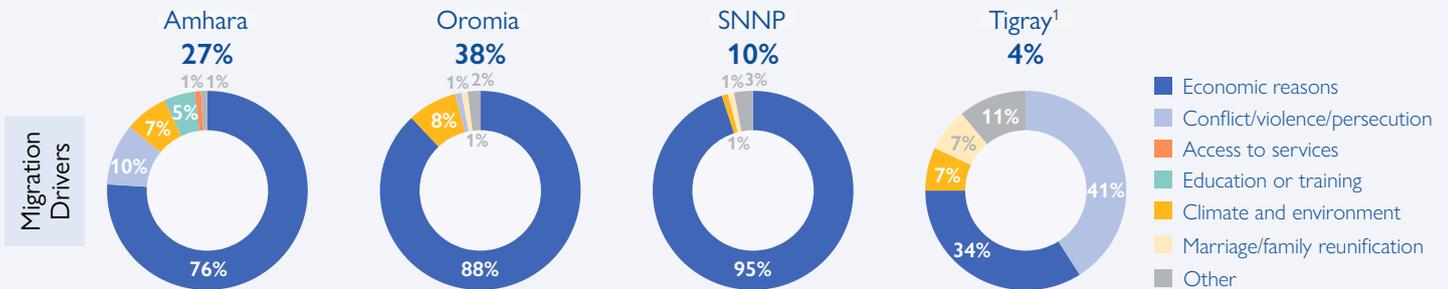
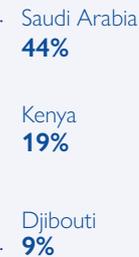
### Sex & Age Group



### Migration Drivers

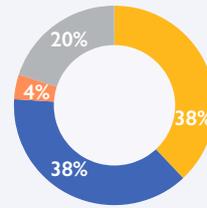
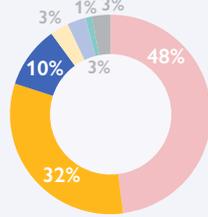
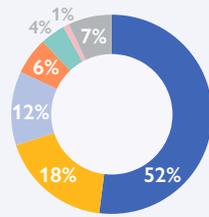
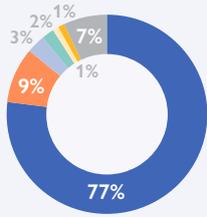


### Intended Destination



<sup>1</sup> Only 26 respondents surveyed from Tigray.

Intended Destination



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

## Migrants Seeking Assistance

Cumulative 2023  
**24,210**

**900**  
MRC registrations  
September 2023

MRC Location

- Dire Dawa **28%**
- Metema **29%**
- Moyale **14%**
- Togochale **29%**

Sex & Age Group

- 57%** Men
- 19%** Women
- 17%** Boys
- 6%** Girls

Hardships

- Lack of basic services **68%**
- Imprisonment/detention **29%**
- Physical/psychological abuse **2%**

## Impact of the Sudan Conflict Along the Border with Ethiopia

### Metema Border Point



**951**  
Migrant exits from Ethiopia  
September 2023

**25**  
Surveyed migrants exiting Ethiopia  
September 2023

Migration Drivers

- Economic reasons **50%**
- Marriage/family reunification **10%**
- Conflict/violence/persecution **7%**

**4,387**  
Migrant entries into Ethiopia  
September 2023

**478**  
Surveyed migrants entering Ethiopia  
September 2023

- Conflict/violence/persecution **86%**
- Access to services **8%**
- Economic reasons **2%**

### Kurmuk Border Point



**4**  
Migrant exits from Ethiopia  
September 2023

**0**  
Surveyed migrants exiting Ethiopia  
September 2023

Migration Drivers

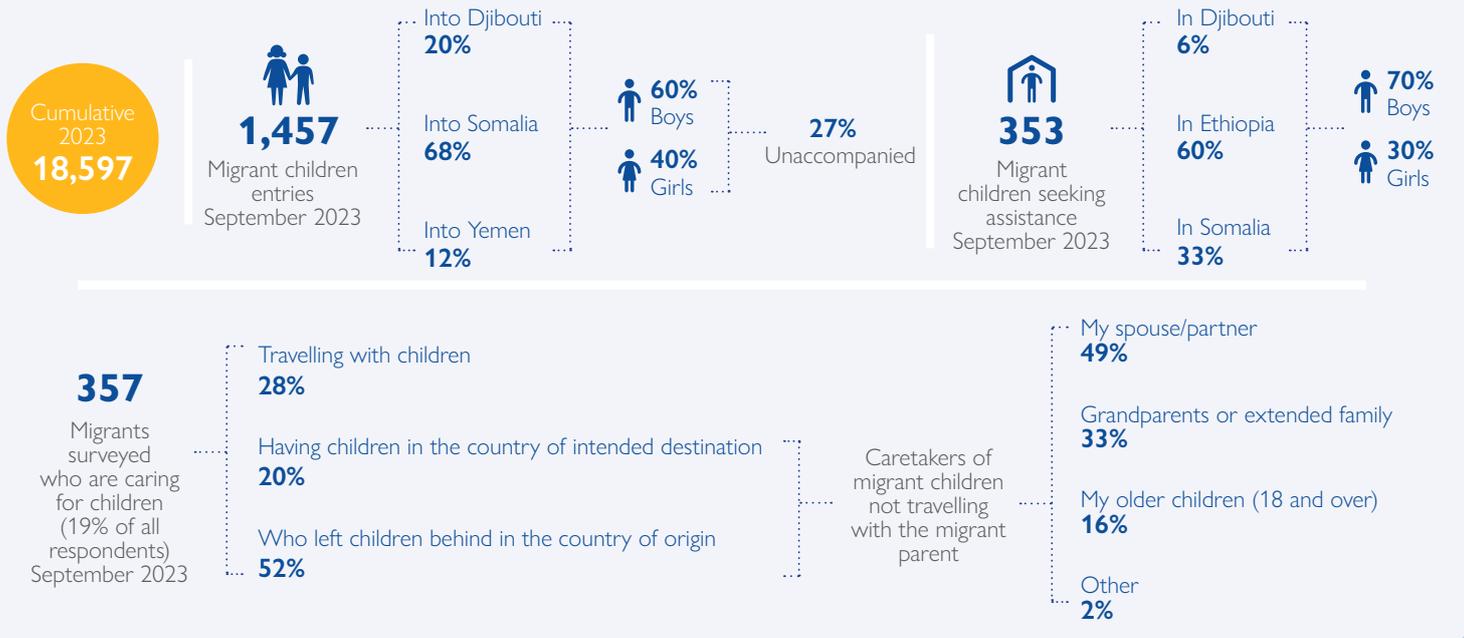
- Conflict/violence/persecution **100%**

**137**  
Migrant entries into Ethiopia  
September 2023

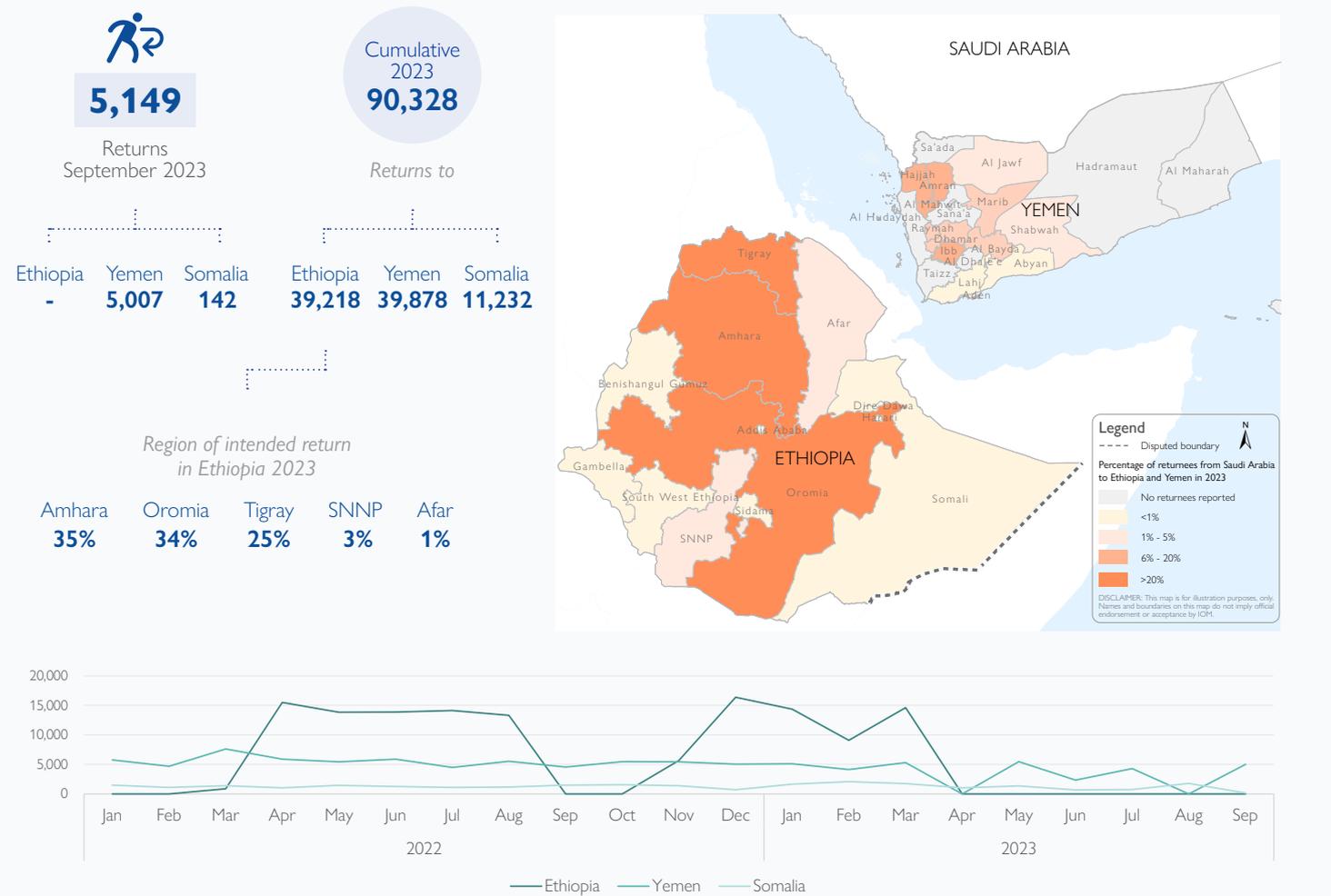
**2**  
Surveyed migrants entering Ethiopia  
September 2023

Note: A new flow monitoring point was established in Kurmuk on 11 May 2023 to increase coverage.

# 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 September 2023.

## Contact