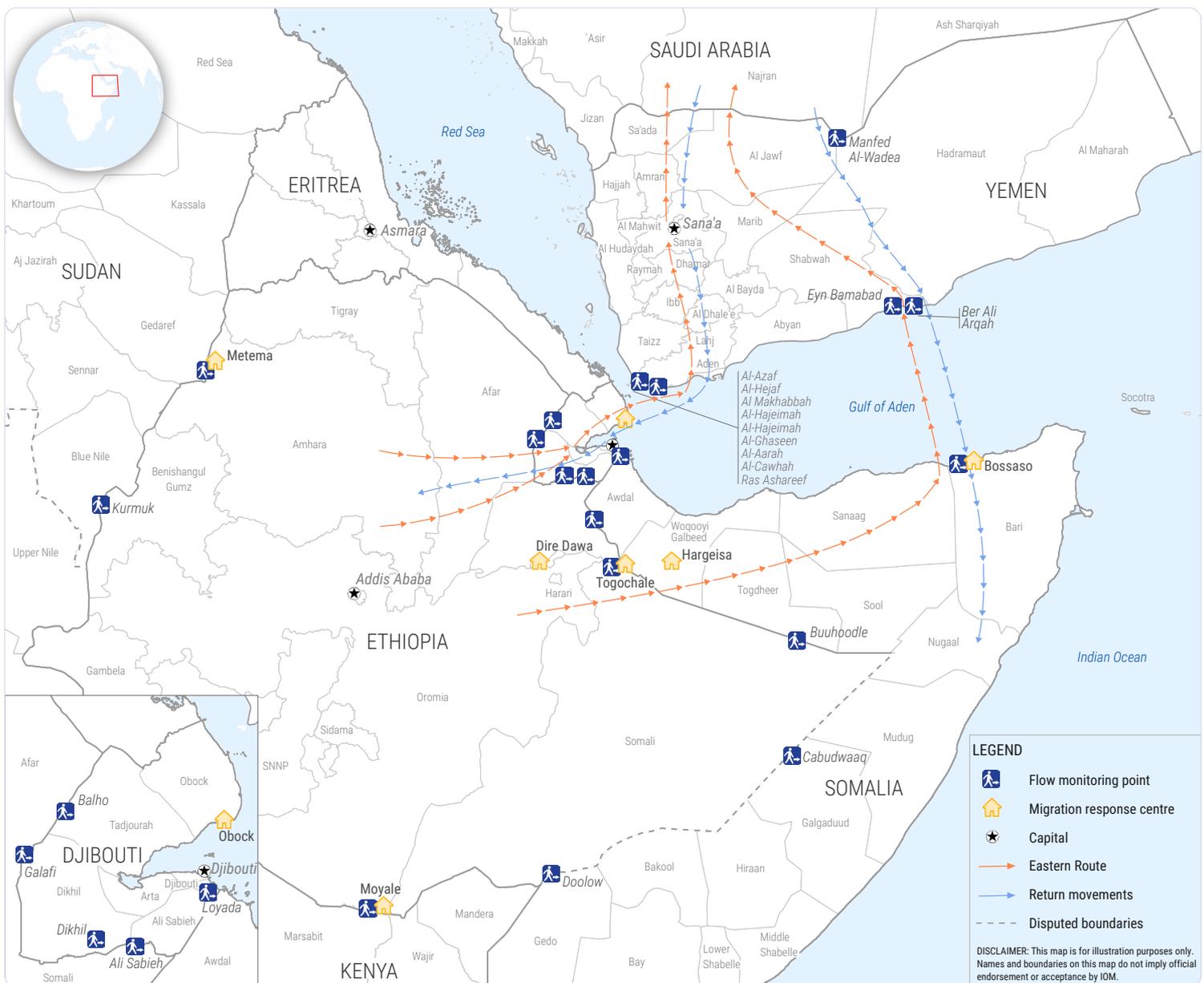


### About the report

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

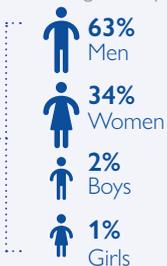
- Migrant entries into Djibouti increased by 14% from September.
- The number of spontaneous returns from Yemen increased by 5% from September, which might be explained by the increase in operations by authorities in Yemen against irregular migration. Numerous migrants are still observed returning to Ethiopia in key transit locations, such as in Obock (1,249) and Tadjourah (320).
- Women and children represented over one third (37%) of all entries and more than one in ten (14%) of all children were travelling separated or alone (all boys).
- Although migration continues to be economically driven, almost one in ten migrants departing from Oromia (9%) and all migrants departing from the Somali region of Ethiopia were travelling due to natural disasters. Additionally, 5% of migrants leaving Amhara were fleeing conflict.
- Stranded migrants increased by 5% since September (from 761 to 800), with women (21%) and children (32%) representing more than half of stranded migrants.
- No people received AVRR assistance to return to Ethiopia due to a lack of laissez-passer documents for the operation.
- Four people of Ethiopian origin, one woman and three men, died while migrating through Fantehero, Oulma, and Hamar due to terminal dehydration and lack of access to adequate medical care. The migrants were discovered the local community, one of whom was found by a nomad and estimated to have passed three months prior.

## Entries into Djibouti

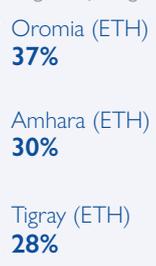
Cumulative 2023  
**116,433**

**10,367**  
Entries  
October 2023

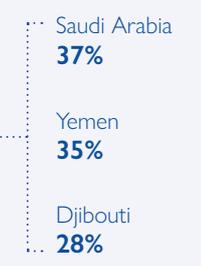
### Sex & Age Group



### Region of Origin



### Intended Destination



Migrants surveyed in October 2023

**225**

### Migration Drivers



## Spontaneous Returns from Yemen to Djibouti

Cumulative 2023  
**5,253**

**588**  
Returns  
October 2023

### Sex & Age Group



## Migrants Seeking Assistance

Cumulative 2023  
**2,202**

**174**  
MRC  
registrations  
October 2023

### Sex & Age Group



**800** Stranded migrants  
October 2023

**4** Dead/missing migrants  
October 2023

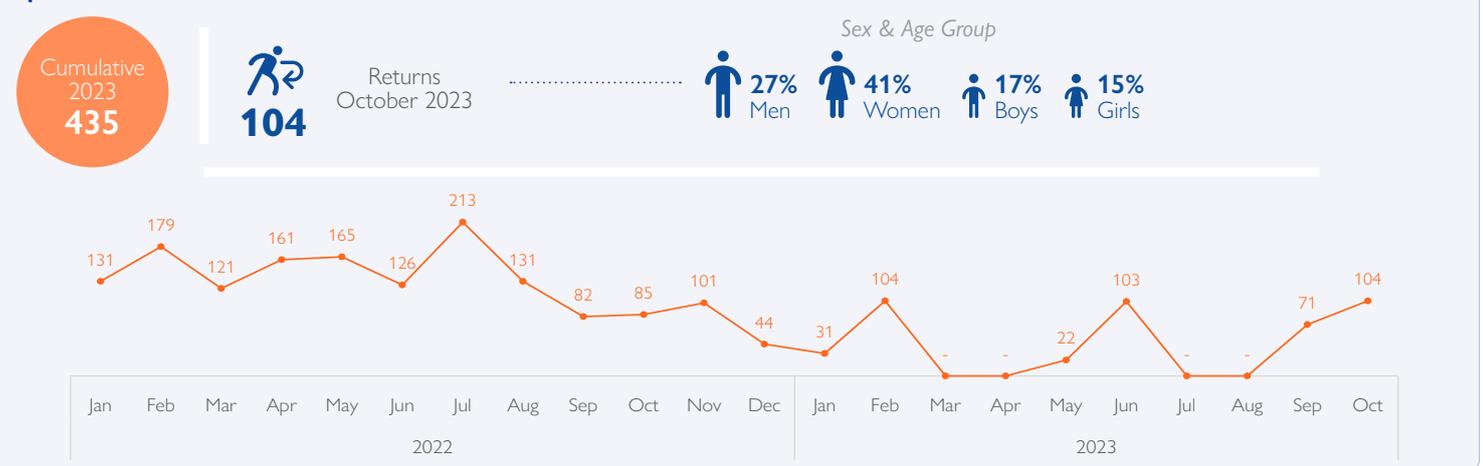
# Migration Through Somalia

- Migrant entries into Somalia increased by 39% from September. This increase was notable in Doolow (+179%), where migrants were returning to Somalia from camps in Ethiopia after collecting humanitarian aid due to the El Niño-related floods in the district, and in Buuhoodle (+64%), a major transit area for migrants towards Bossaso and Yemen.
- Migrants transiting through Buuhoodle FMP reported a lack of food and water during their migration journey.
- The number of stranded migrants observed a 26% decrease between September (8,120) and October (6,021). Around one quarter of those stranded migrants were women (18%) and children (8%).
- The number of spontaneous returns increased by 46% between September (71) and October (104), with almost three quarters being women (41%) and children (32%).
- Registrations at MRCs increased by 33% from September. Those seeking assistance in Bossaso were largely driven by economic motivations (55%) and education opportunities (42%), while those in Hargeisa were driven by economic motivations (76%) and natural disasters (21%). People were mostly Ethiopians of Oromo and Amharan origin, some of whom reported being pushed to move due to localized conflict that caused destruction to their fields.
- 87% of people seeking assistance at MRCs were women (28%) and children (59%). Most children (84%) registered at MRCs were travelling unaccompanied.

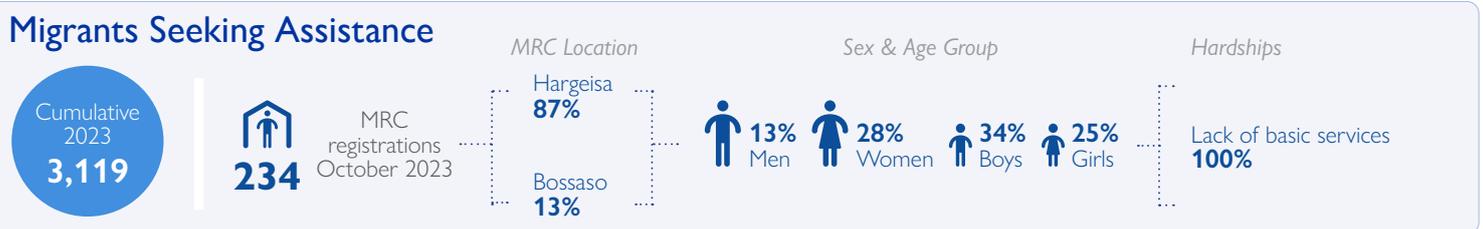
## Entries into Somalia



## Spontaneous Returns from Yemen to Somalia



## Migrants Seeking Assistance



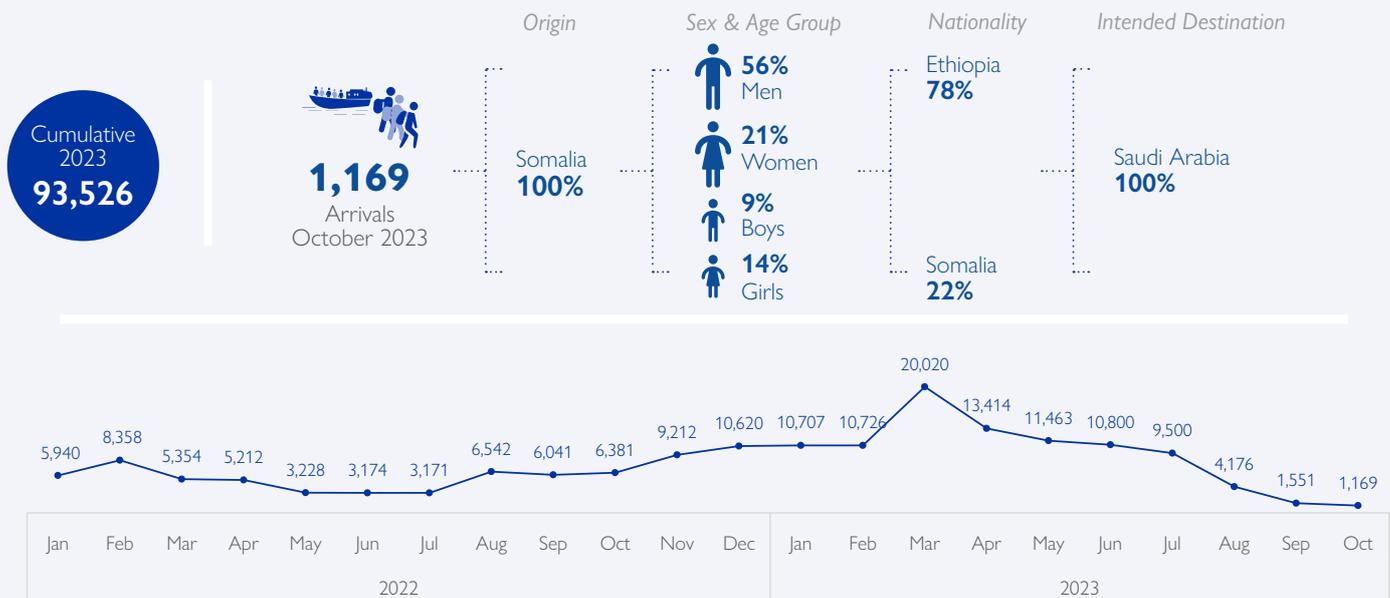
**6,021** Stranded migrants  
October 2023

**None reported** Dead/missing migrants  
October 2023

# Migration Through Yemen

- Migrant arrivals in Yemen decreased for the sixth consecutive month (-25% from September), representing the lowest number recorded since May 2021 (489).
- Since the joint campaign of the coast guards of Djibouti and Yemen began in August, the number of migrant arrivals at the coast of Lahj decreased significantly, with October being the first month since June 2020 (mid COVID-19 pandemic) with **no reported migrant arrivals from Djibouti to Yemen**.
- Since August, Yemen authorities have increased **surveillance activities against irregular migration** to target smugglers' boats, arrest smugglers who assist migrants and raid smugglers' properties.
- On the other hand, migrant arrivals from Somalia to the Shabwah coast of Yemen **increased by 17%** from September (1,003). This number would likely have been higher if not for the impacts of **tropical cyclone Tej**, which brought strong winds and high tides across the Gulf of Aden.
- Since October 2022, arrivals from Djibouti were higher than those from Somalia. However, as of September, this migration dynamic has **shifted**, which must be further monitored in the coming months.
- Notably, between September (36%) and October (44%) there was an increase in the proportion of women and children, and particularly relevant is the **74% increase in arrivals by girls** (from 95 to 162).

## Arrivals in Yemen from the Horn of Africa



**40,000** Stranded migrants October 2023

**22** Dead/missing migrants October 2023

# Migration Through Ethiopia

- Migrant entries through Metema increased by 3% from September (from 4,387 to 4,538), while entries through Kurmuk also increased (+23%) from 137 to 169.
- Sudanese nationals continued to enter Ethiopia in the largest numbers (65%), followed by Ethiopian nationals returning home (30%) and people from 20 other nationalities fleeing the crisis.
- Women and children represented around half of all entries (28% and 22%, respectively), while 42% of all children were younger than five years.
- After a five month pause, forced returns from Saudi Arabia resumed, with 794 new arrivals, while three people received voluntary humanitarian return assistance from Yemen.
- The number of people seeking assistance at the MRC in Metema on the Sudan–Ethiopia border remains high, with 871 people registered in October, a more than fourfold (+347%) increase from pre-conflict numbers in March. Meanwhile, registrations in Dire Dawa increased by 137% from September, largely by people who were forcibly returned from Djibouti.
- Across all MRCs in Ethiopia, nearly all people reported suffering from lack of access to basic services and 11% reported being detained. The 406 registered children in Ethiopia formed a quarter (25%) of people seeking assistance, and one third (31%) of children were unaccompanied. In Dire Dawa, three quarters (76%) of children were unaccompanied.
- Nearly 600 people in Metema reported suffering from physical or psychological abuse. Although onward transportation assistance was provided to people at the MRC in Metema, renewed conflict in Amhara continues to hinder access to some communities of origin.

## Exits out of Ethiopia

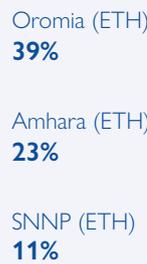
Cumulative 2023  
**260,553**

**29,035**  
Migrant exits from Ethiopia  
October 2023

### Sex & Age Group



### Region of Origin



### Intended Destination



## Migrants surveyed in October 2023

**800**  
Surveyed migrants exiting Ethiopia  
October 2023

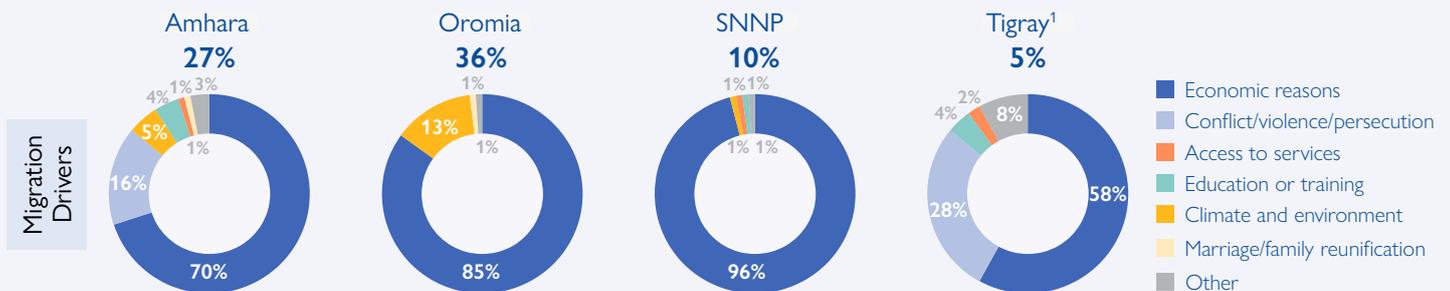
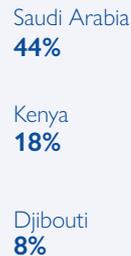
### Sex & Age Group



### Migration Drivers

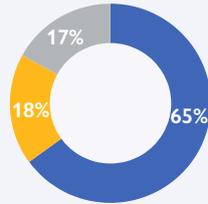
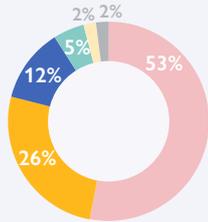
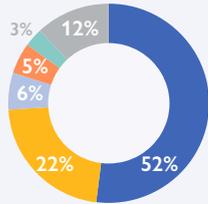
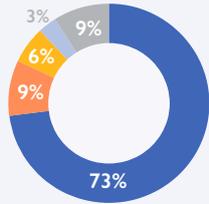


### Intended Destination



<sup>1</sup> Only 39 respondents surveyed from Tigray.

Intended Destination



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

## Migrants Seeking Assistance

Cumulative 2023  
**25,856**

**1,646**  
MRC registrations  
October 2023

MRC Location

- Metema **53%**
- Dire Dawa **36%**
- Moyale **6%**
- Togochale **5%**

Sex & Age Group

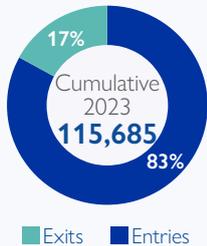
- 51%** Men
- 24%** Women
- 14%** Boys
- 11%** Girls

Hardships

- Lack of basic services **100%**
- Physical/psychological abuse **36%**
- Imprisonment/detention **11%**

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

### Metema Border Point



**903**  
Migrant exits from Ethiopia  
October 2023

**64**  
Surveyed migrants exiting Ethiopia  
October 2023

Migration Drivers

- Marriage/family reunification **6%**
- Conflict/violence/persecution **3%**
- Other **84%**

**4,358**  
Migrant entries into Ethiopia  
October 2023

**388**  
Surveyed migrants entering Ethiopia  
October 2023

- Conflict/violence/persecution **75%**
- Access to services **6%**
- Other **7%**

### Kurmuk Border Point



**457**  
Migrant exits from Ethiopia  
October 2023

**0**  
Surveyed migrants exiting Ethiopia  
October 2023

Migration Drivers

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

**169**  
Migrant entries into Ethiopia  
October 2023

**3**  
Surveyed migrants entering Ethiopia  
October 2023

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

## Migrant Children Along the Eastern Corridor

Cumulative 2023  
**20,038**

**1,441**  
Migrant children entries  
October 2023

Into Somalia  
**61%**  
Into Djibouti  
**21%**  
Into Yemen  
**18%**

**59%** Boys  
**41%** Girls  
**25%** Unaccompanied

**572**  
Migrant children seeking assistance  
October 2023

In Ethiopia  
**71%**  
In Somalia  
**24%**  
In Djibouti  
**5%**

**70%** Boys  
**30%** Girls

**421**  
Migrants surveyed who are caring for children (20% of all respondents)  
October 2023

Travelling with children  
**24%**  
Having children in the country of intended destination  
**27%**  
Who left children behind in the country of origin  
**48%**

Caretakers of migrant children not travelling with the migrant parent

My spouse/partner  
**54%**  
Grandparents or extended family  
**27%**  
My older children (18 and over)  
**18%**  
Other  
**1%**

## Returns from Saudi Arabia



**6,180**

Returns  
October 2023

Cumulative 2023  
**96,508**

Returns to

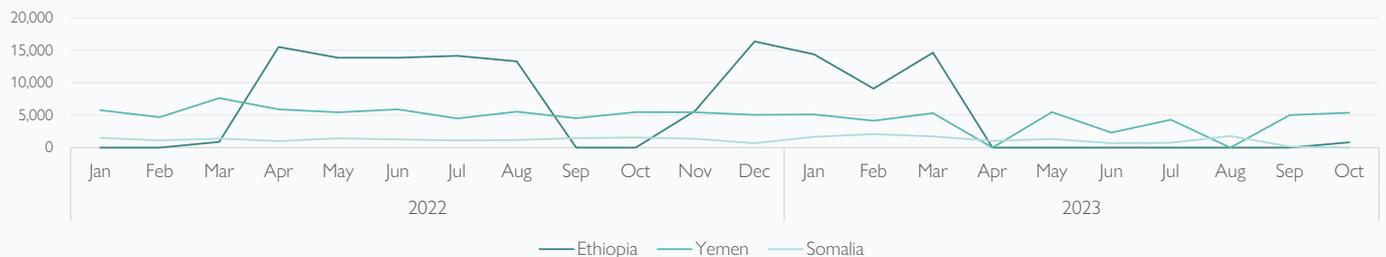
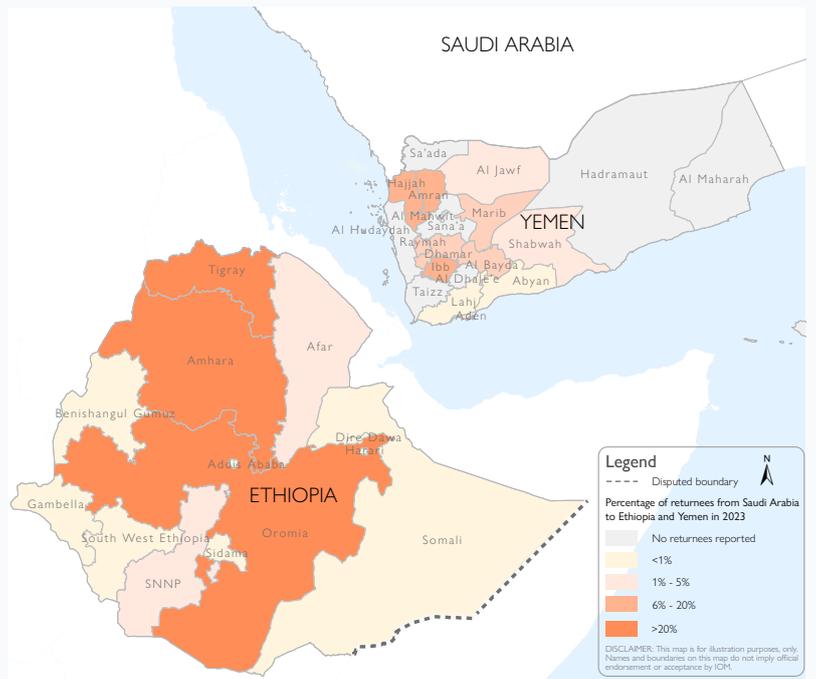
Ethiopia	Yemen	Somalia
<b>794</b>	<b>5,386</b>	<b>None reported</b>

Ethiopia	Yemen	Somalia
<b>40,012</b>	<b>45,264</b>	<b>11,232</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. Returns were again suspended from early April 2023 for unspecified reasons and resumed in October 2023. IOM has only partial information on returns to Somalia for 2023 and data were not available for October 2023.

## Contact

Regional Data Hub (RDH), IOM Regional Office for East and Horn of Africa  
[rdhronairobi@iom.int](mailto:rdhronairobi@iom.int)

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