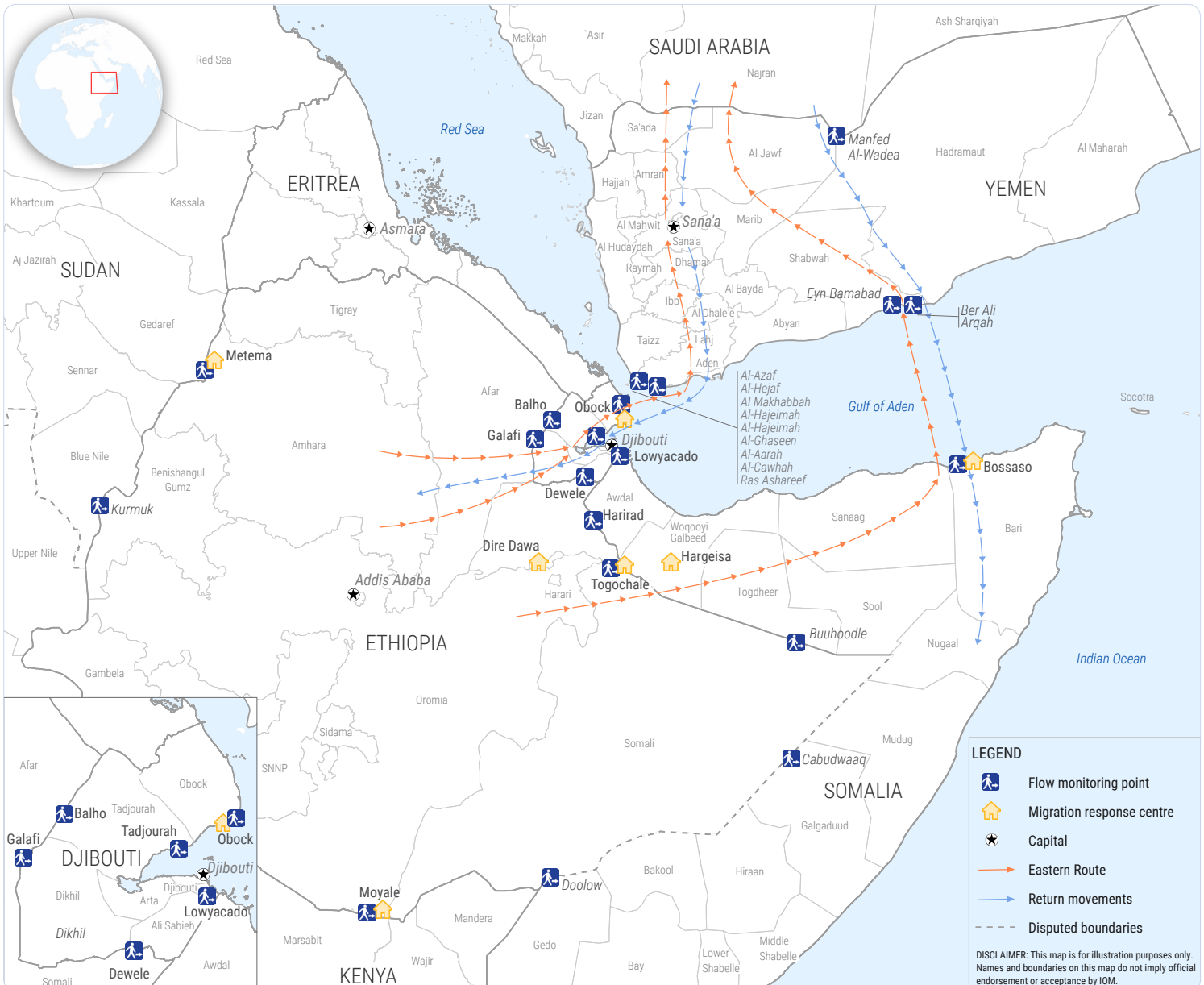


About the report

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 Corridor. This regional report provides monthly updates on the complex migratory dynamics through [Ethiopia](#), [Djibouti](#), [Somalia](#) and [Yemen](#) 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, [a focus on children](#) and information on the [forced returns from Saudi Arabia](#) to Ethiopia, Somalia and Yemen.

Key findings:

- For the first time since January 2024 (210), almost 200 migrants arrived in Yemen from Djibouti, a point of departure that has seen greatly reduced flows since the start of the the joint military campaign targeting the coastline of Lahj aimed at impeding migrants arrivals.
- Although economic reasons remain the main migration driver along the Eastern Corridor, the number of movements tracked in Obock travelling towards the Arabian Peninsula due to conflict, violence or persecution almost tripled between April (456) and May (1,266).
- Return movements to Obock and Tadjourah from Yemen almost doubled (+97%, 1,240) in May, which underscores the significant challenges that migrants face in Yemen and the desperate circumstances that lead them to take the risky journey back to the Horn of Africa.
- In May, the highest number of people were forcibly returned from Saudi Arabia to Ethiopia in a single month (21,293) since July 2021 (31,911), and the second highest when records began in 2017.



Migration Through Ethiopia

Migration Trends

- Overall exit movements from Ethiopia in January to May 2024 increased by 16% (89,116) when compared with the same period in 2023 (76,536).
- Despite an overall slight decrease between April and May (-9%), movements departing from Dire Dawa (+29%) and Harari (+14%) increased.

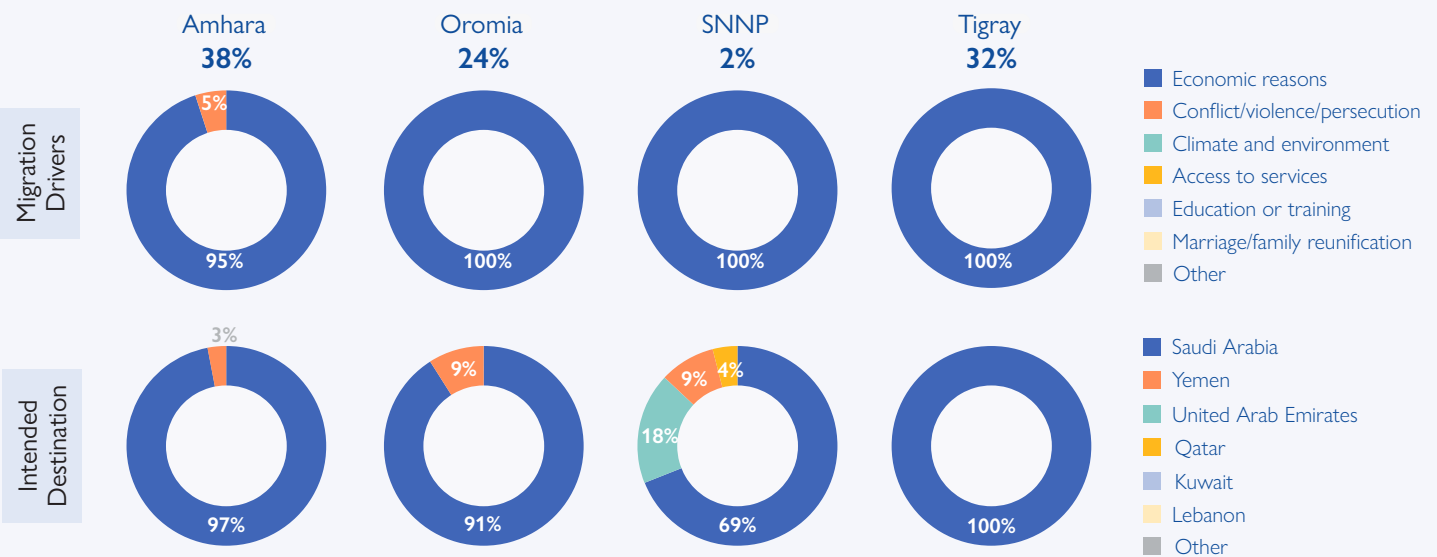
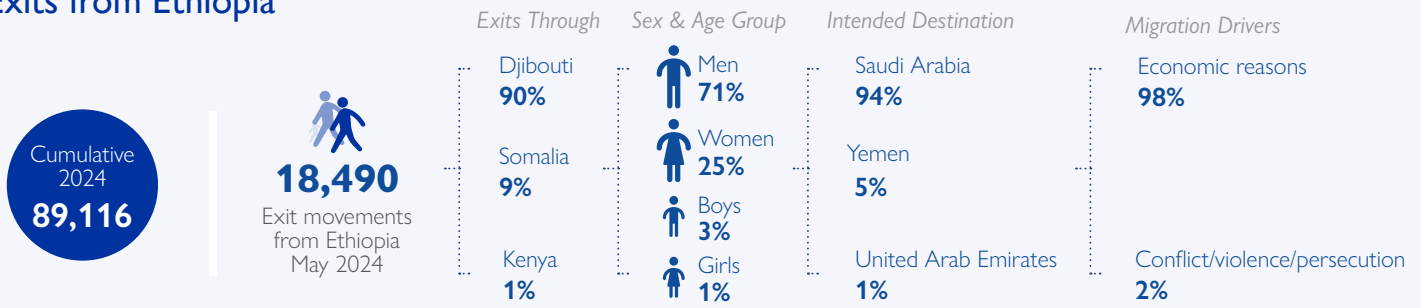
Protection and Returns from Saudi Arabia

- There was a 36% decrease in the number of child movements between April (1,102) and May (704), while the share of children who were travelling alone increased from 47% to 67%.
- Returns from Saudi Arabia to Ethiopia in May (21,293) increased by 62% from April (13,155). This represents 56% of all returns in 2024 (38,215). In fact, this represents the highest number of returns from Saudi Arabia in a single month since July 2021 (31,911), and the second highest when records began in 2017.

Migrant Response Centres

- Movement restrictions, combined with insecurity along the main Metema-Gonder-Addis Ababa road and the surrounding area, continues to hamper return movements, affecting MRC services due to the high number of returnees that seek services, overwhelming the center.
- Migrant arrivals at the MRCs in Dire Dawa in Togochale decreased by 98% and 64%, largely due to the high temperatures in these areas bordering Djibouti and Somaliland.

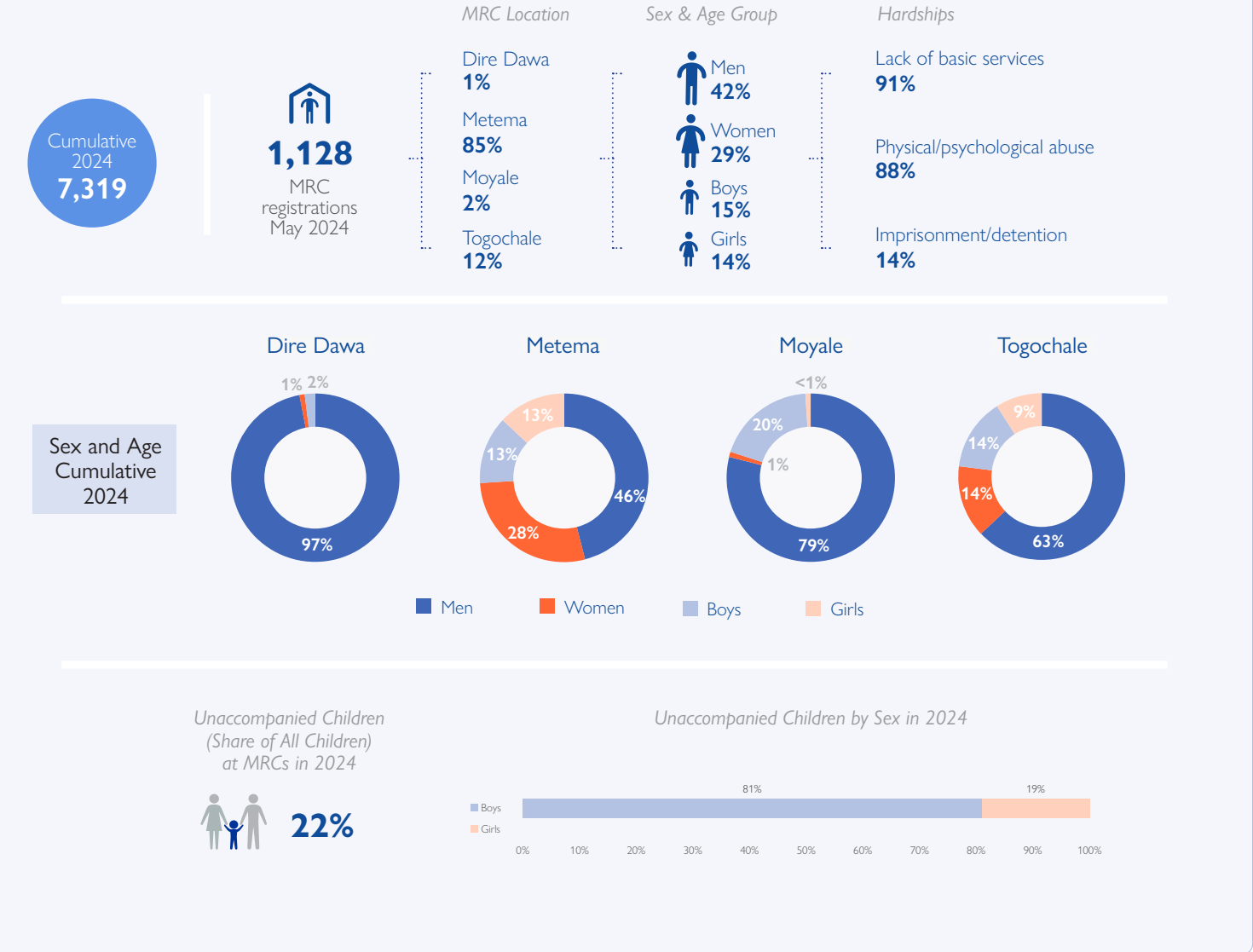
Exits from Ethiopia



Return Movements to Ethiopia



Migrants Seeking Assistance



Migration Through Djibouti

Migration Trends

- Movements tracked in Obock towards the Arabian Peninsula increased by 23% between April and May.
- Return movements to Obock and Tadjourah from Yemen almost doubled (+97%) in the past month, which underscores the significant challenges that migrants face in Yemen and the desperate circumstances that lead them to take the risky journey back to the Horn of Africa.
- Although economic reasons remain the main migration driver along the Eastern Corridor, the number of movements tracked in Obock travelling towards the Arabian Peninsula due to conflict, violence or persecution almost tripled (+178%) between April (456) and May (1,266).

Protection

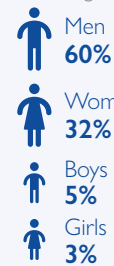
- Women (+44%) and children (+36%) tracked in Obock heading to Yemen increased by 42% between April (1,580) and May (2,244).
- Women returning to Obock and Tadjourah almost tripled in the last month (from 28 to 103), representing 8% of returns (4% in April).
- IOM Djibouti carried out an AVR convoy for 29 migrants who wished to voluntarily return to their country of origin.
- On 25 May, two women perished off the coast of Djibouti while migrating toward Yemen. According to the survivors of the incident, while the group departed, authorities arrived, causing panic to break out in the boat. Some of the passengers fell into the sea and the two people drowned.

Transit Movements in Djibouti

Cumulative 2024
23,085

5,627
Movements
May 2024

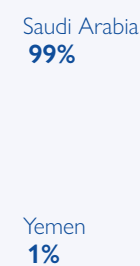
Sex & Age Group



Region of Origin



Intended Destination



Migration Drivers

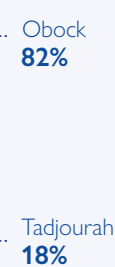


Return Movements to Obock and Tadjourah

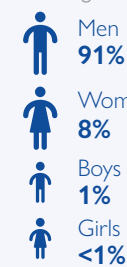
Cumulative 2024
5,553

1,240
Return
movements
May 2024

Return Through



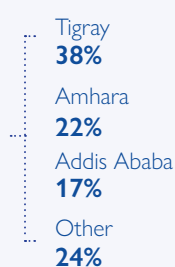
Sex & Age Group



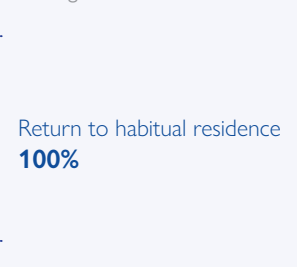
Returning From



Intended Destination



Migration Drivers



Migrants Seeking Assistance

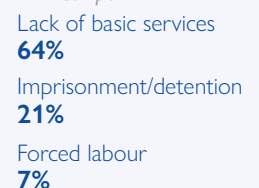
Cumulative 2024
950

206
MRC
registrations
May 2024

Sex & Age Group



Hardships



781

Stranded migrants
May 2024

2

2

Dead/missing migrants
May 2024

Migration Through Somalia

Migration Trends

- Overall movements tracked in Bossaso heading to Yemen increased by 6% between April and May.

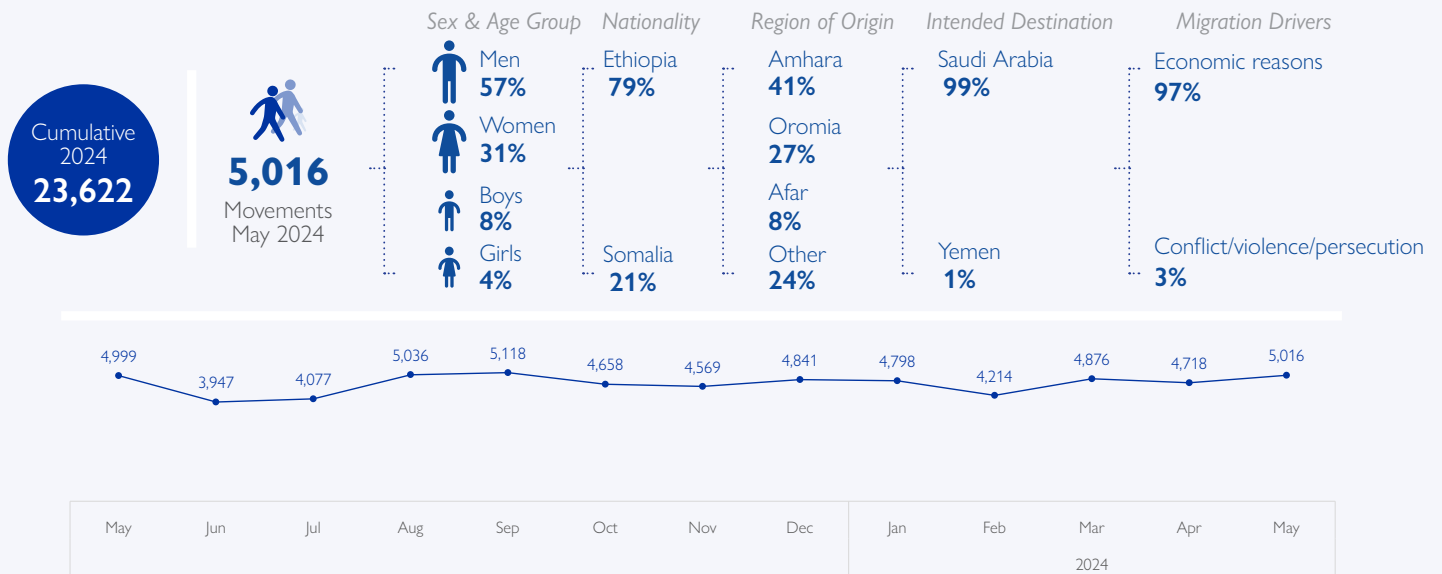
Protection

- A violent altercation among smugglers in Burao resulted in 104 Ethiopian migrants fleeing the scene. Consequently, **two migrants were critically injured and required hospital care.** The Ethiopian Community Center in Burao provided immediate assistance, transferring one of the severely ill migrants to Wajale to be reunited with family while the other remained hospitalized.
- Tensions in Las Anod forced migrants who travel on foot to take longer and more arduous routes through unpaved roads to reach Bossaso, prolonging their journey and heightening the risks they incur due to the harsh conditions and extended travel time.

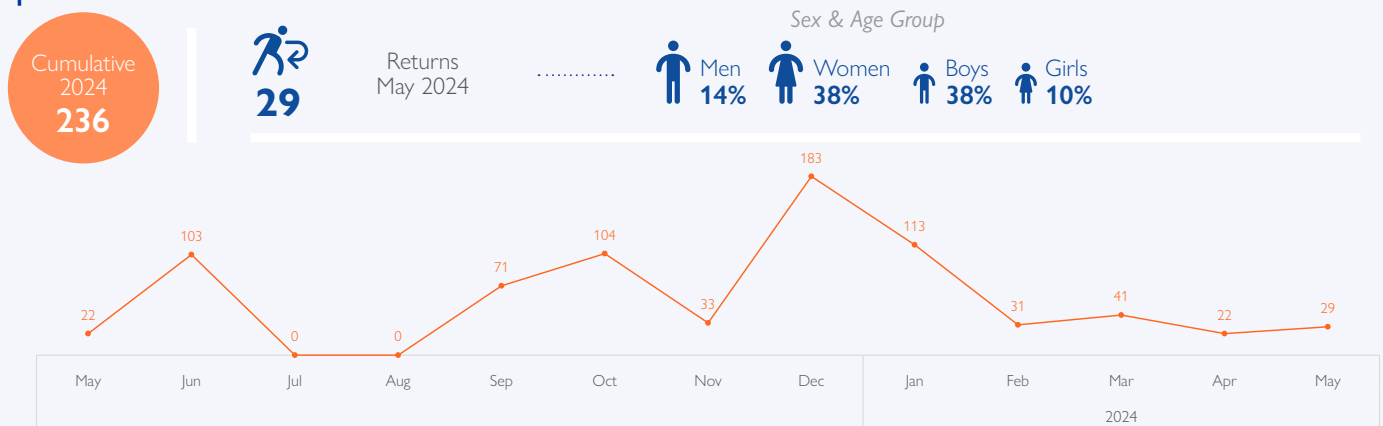
Migrant Response Centers

- At MRCs, the number of people requesting AVR services continues to increase month after month while funding for this service remains limited.
- In Hargeisa, stranded migrants continue to regularly visit the MRC in search of non-food items and other basic needs.

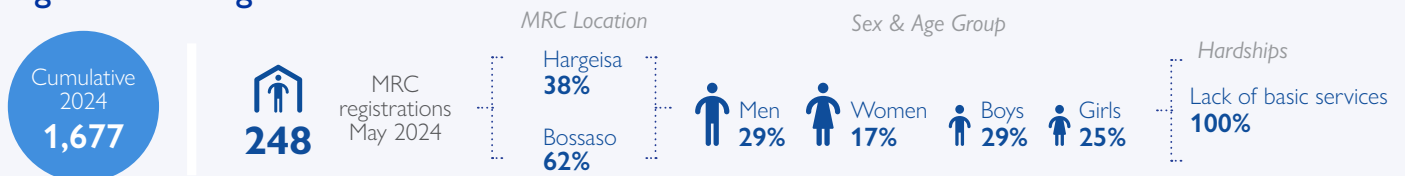
Transit Movements in Somalia



Spontaneous Returns from Yemen to Somalia



Migrants Seeking Assistance



6,113 Stranded migrants May 2024

Under verification

Dead/missing migrants May 2024

Migration Through Yemen

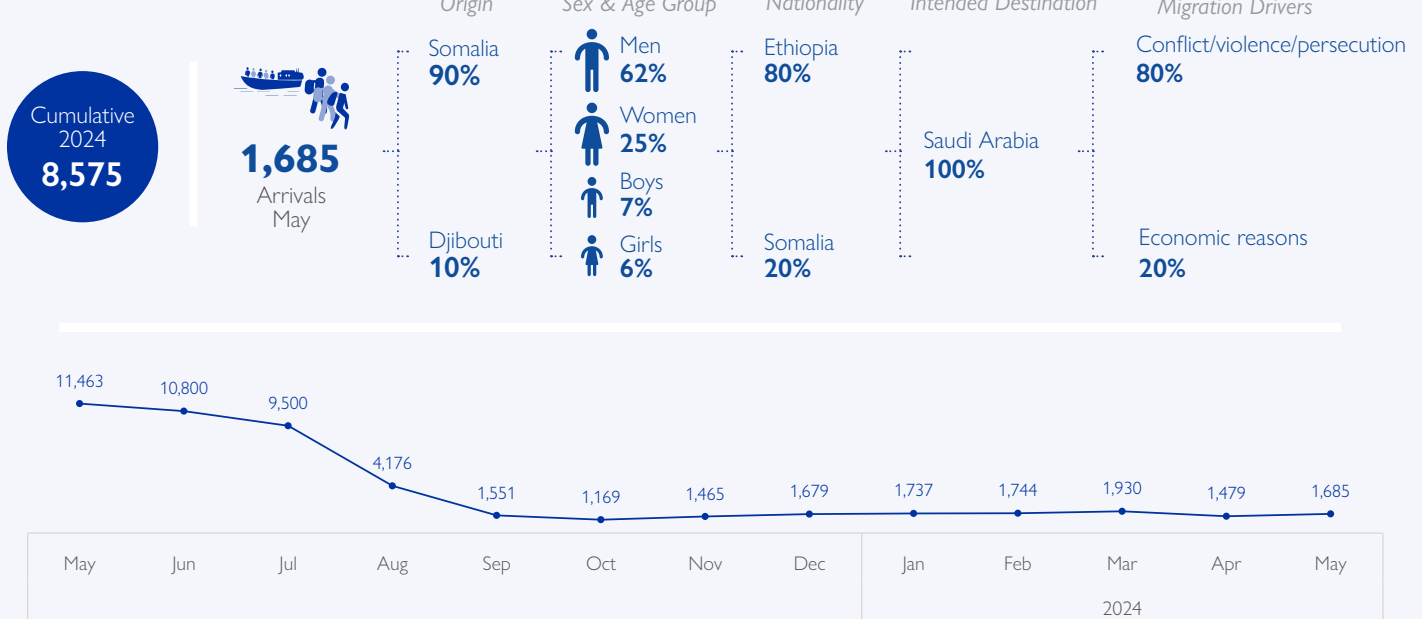
Migration Trends

- Migrant arrivals from the Horn of Africa to Yemen increased by 14% between April and May.
- Migration flows to Marib Governorate from various southern governorates such as Shabwah, Rada, and Al Bydha continued, while new landing points and informal migrant routes were identified in Shabwah and Abyan Governorates.
- The limited presence of the Yemeni Coast Guard at landing points across Shabwah continues to attract new migrant arrivals from Bossaso despite the more than 300 kilometers that need to be covered to cross the Gulf of Aden between Somalia and Yemen.
- For the first time since January 2024 (210), almost 200 migrants arrived in Yemen from Djibouti. Typically, Lahj serves as an entry point for migrants departing from Djibouti, whereas Shabwah observes migrants departing from Somalia. However, those departing from Djibouti in May arrived in Shabwah due to the joint military campaign targeting the coastline of Lahj, aiming at reducing and impeding the arrival of migrants by intercepting boats and detaining smugglers. This maritime route stretches around 450 kilometers between Djibouti and Yemen instead of the 25 kilometers in the Bab al-Mandab Strait, increasing the risk of shipwrecks.

Protection

- The number of women arriving in Yemen from the Horn of Africa increased by 68% between April (256) and May (430) and represented a quarter of the arrivals (17% in April).
- DTM teams in the field were able to track 750 migrants leaving Yemen towards Djibouti, either voluntarily or deported by boat, although this figure is believed to be an underestimate as DTM field teams at the shores of Djibouti were able to verify 1,240 migrants returning from Yemen, which underscores the significant challenges that migrants in Yemen face and the desperate circumstances that have led them to embark on such dangerous sea voyages.
- Additionally, DTM teams tracked 221 Ethiopian migrants that were deported from Oman back to Deifen point of entry in the Shahan district of Al Maharah Governorate, Yemen.
- IOM teams received reports of large groups of women arriving with traffickers in Bin Muaili and Alhosoon. These women were not allowed to leave their shelter and traffickers instead placed many of them in forced domestic work within the host community to benefit from their monthly payment, which is used to cover the cost of moving them to Saudi Arabia.
- Three people reportedly died while migrating in Yemen, two of them due to a car accident and one due to health conditions with limited access to adequate care.

Arrivals in Yemen



30,000 Stranded migrants May 2024

3 Dead/missing migrants May 2024

Migrant Children Along the Eastern Corridor

Cumulative
2024
12,035

2,042
Migrant children
May 2024

Djibouti
33%
Ethiopia
26%
Somalia
31%
Yemen
10%

Boys
64%
Girls
36%

28%
Unaccompanied
24%
Heads of household

475
Migrant children seeking assistance
May 2024

In Ethiopia
69%
In Somalia
28%
In Djibouti
3%

Boys
54%
Girls
46%

64

Migrants surveyed who are caring for children (13% of all respondents)
May 2024

Left children behind in the country of origin
79%

Travelling with children
19%

Having children in country of intended destination
2%

Caretakers of children not travelling with the migrant parent

My spouse/partner
73%

Grandparents or extended family
21%

My older children (18 and older)
6%

Forced Returns from Saudi Arabia



25,449

Returns
May 2024

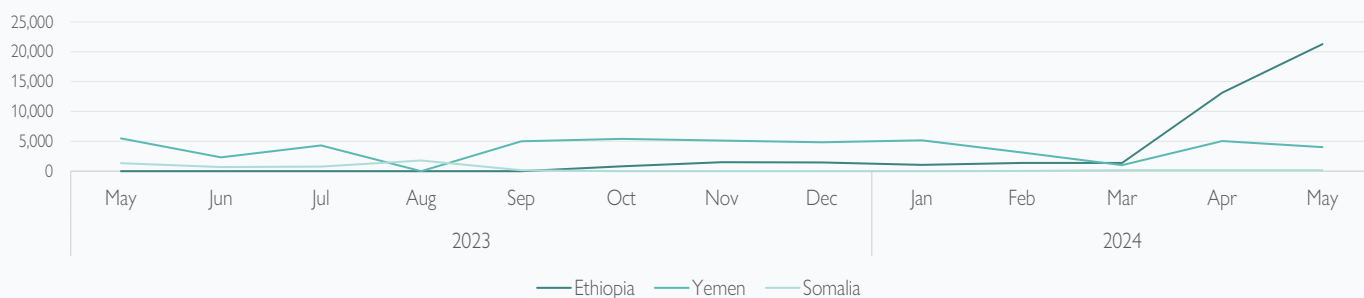
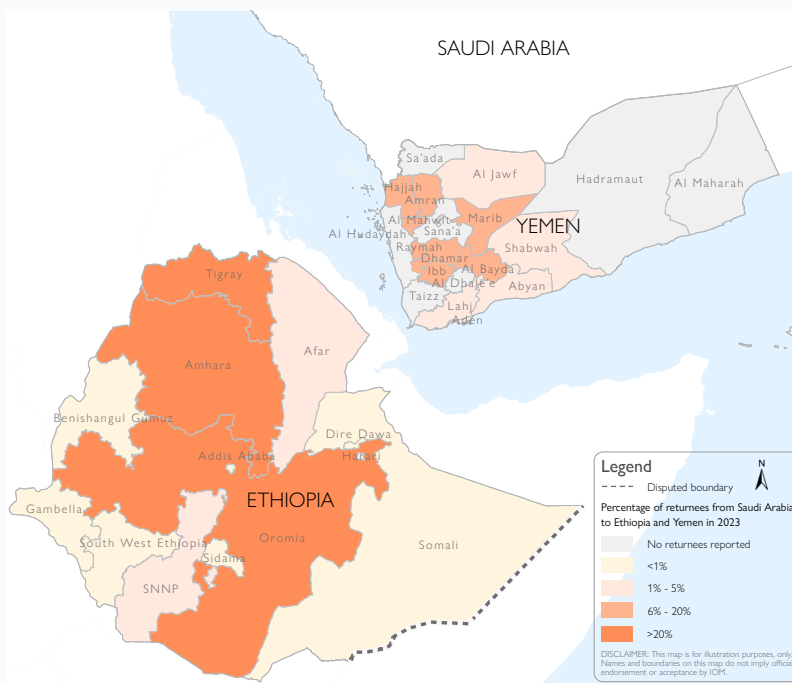
Cumulative
2024
56,998

Returns to

Ethiopia	Yemen	Somalia	Ethiopia	Yemen	Somalia
21,293	4,010	146	38,215	18,311	472

Region of intended return
in Ethiopia 2024

Amhara	Oromia	Tigray	SNNP	Afar
34%	33%	28%	2%	1%



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, including data on assisted voluntary return and reintegration (AVRR)
- Voluntary humanitarian returns (VHR) from Yemen
- [Forced returns from Saudi Arabia](#)
- [Missing Migrants Project \(MMP\)](#) data on migrant deaths and disappearances

Contact