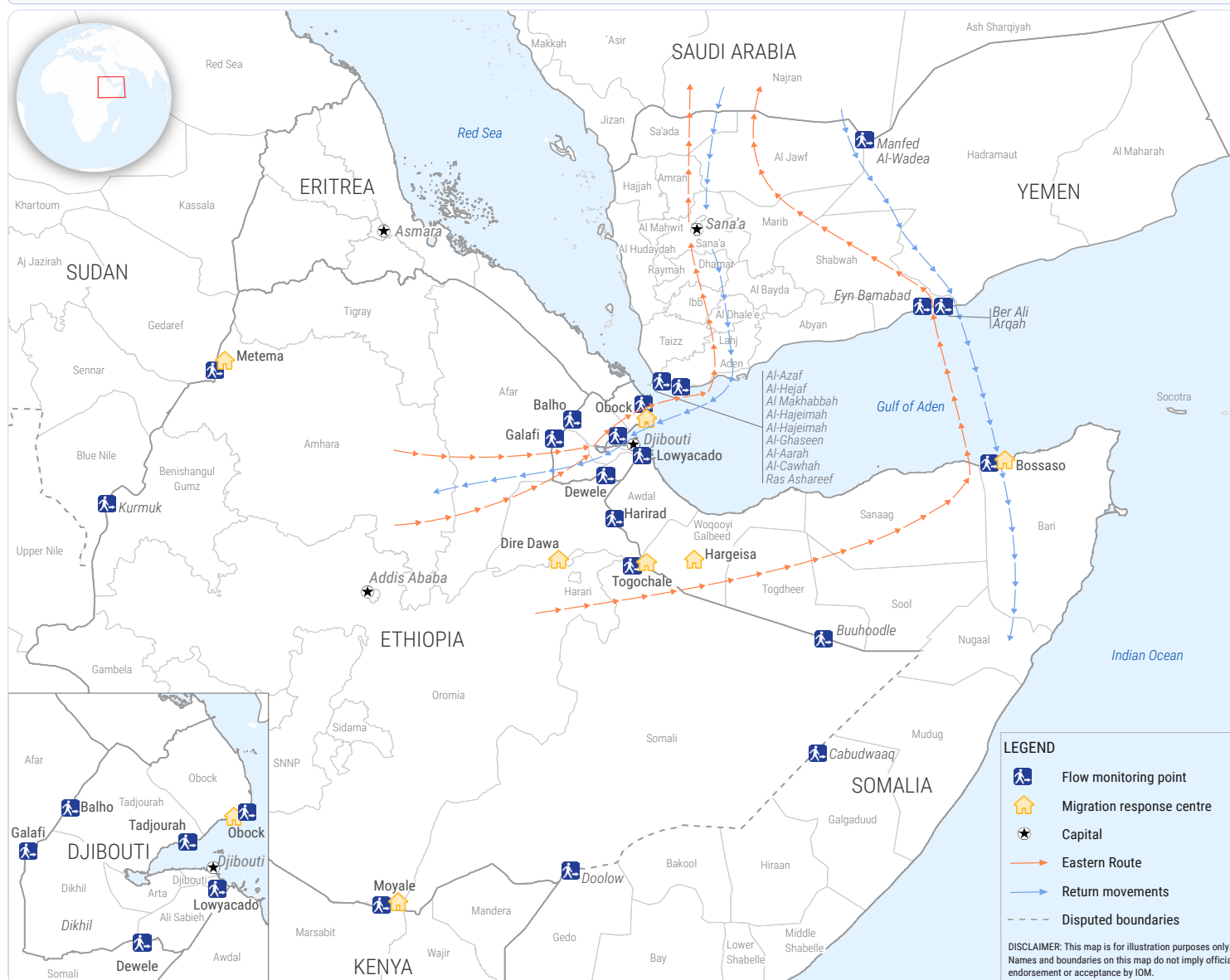


Report 52 | as of 30 June 2024

IOM Regional Office for the East and Horn of Africa

Publication: 24 July 2024



Migration Through Ethiopia

Migration Trends

- Around 108,000 exit movements from Ethiopia have been tracked between January and June 2024, an **18% increase** when compared with the same period in 2023 (91,321).
- Such **increase** has been observed across all population categories, with an increase in the number of men (+26%, 75,000), women (+2%, 27,700), boys (+20%, 3,400) and girls (+15%, 1,800).
- Those departing from Tigray more than doubled (+117%), followed by those departing from Afar (+57%), Harari (+26%) and Amhara (+10%).
- Around 1,100 return movements from Djibouti and Somalia have been tracked between January and June 2024, a **23% increase** when compared with the same period in 2023 (895).

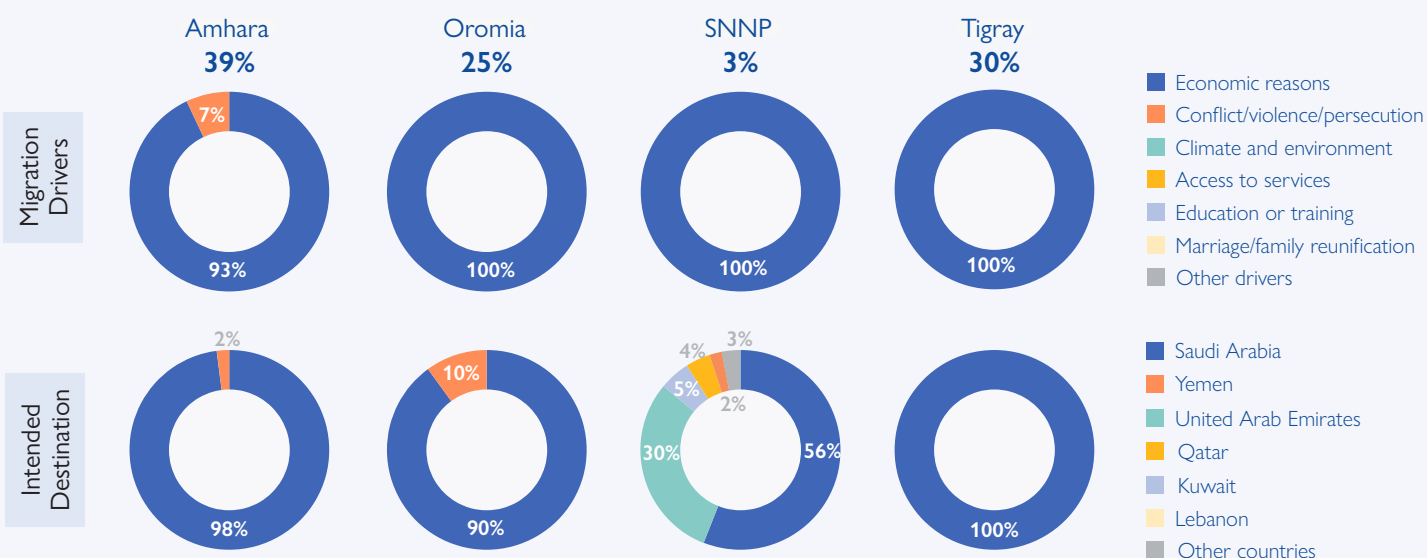
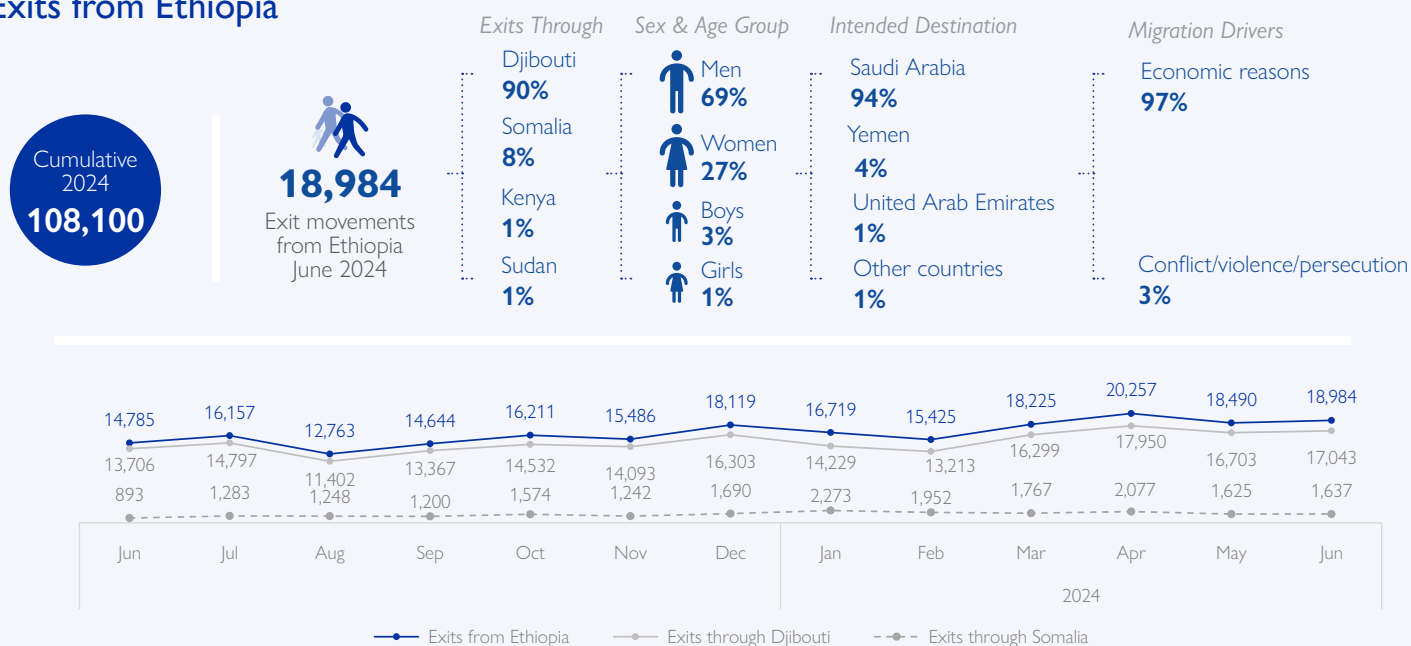
Protection and Returns from Saudi Arabia

- While the overall number of children travelling alone increased by 13% between 2023 and 2024 for the period January – June (girls travelling alone increased by 34%), the number of migrant children reported to be head of household quintupled (from 440 to 2,260).
- As of June, forced returns from Saudi Arabia to Ethiopia (57,075) surpassed all returns in 2023 (42,948), a 33% increase. Such increase has been particularly pronounced on those returning to Tigray (+69%, 16,600), Amhara (+45%, 20,100) and Oromia (+31%, 17,600).
- Over a third (35%) of those returning from Saudi Arabia as of June 2024 are returning to Amhara, where ongoing conflict exposes them to security and protection risks.
- Similarly, around one-third (29%) of the returns are heading to Tigray, where the 2-year conflict damaged basic services and infrastructure, such as health and education.
- Additionally, 144 migrants benefited from voluntary humanitarian return.

Migrant Response Centres

- Due to reported deportations and spontaneous returns from Djibouti and Somalia to Ethiopia, the number of migrants seeking assistance significantly increased between May and June in the MRCs of Dire Dawa (from 6 to 318), and Togochale (from 130 to 311).
- The services provided to these migrants in both MRCs were food and water, transportation, shelter assistance and psychological support, while 53 and 39 migrants required medical assistance in Togochale and Dire Dawa MRCs respectively.

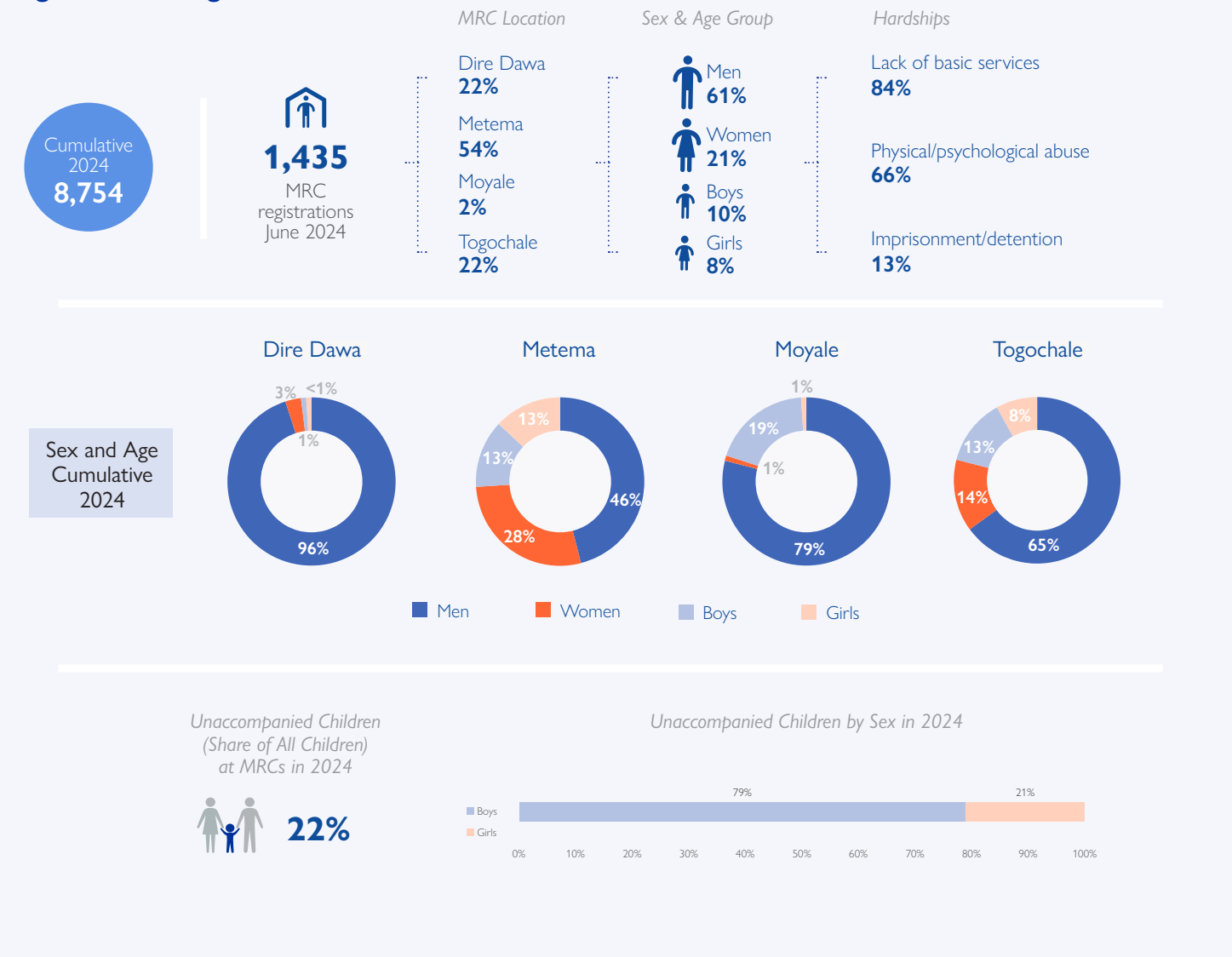
Exits from Ethiopia



Return Movements to Ethiopia



Migrants Seeking Assistance



Migration Through Djibouti

Migration Trends

- Movements tracked in Obock towards the Arabian Peninsula increased by 58% between May and June, surpassing the highest number of movements tracked in December 2023. Thus, **June 2024 marks the highest figure since the beginning of flow monitoring operations in Obock in 2019.**
- Similarly, these movements increased by 41% from 2023 (22,698) for the period January – June.

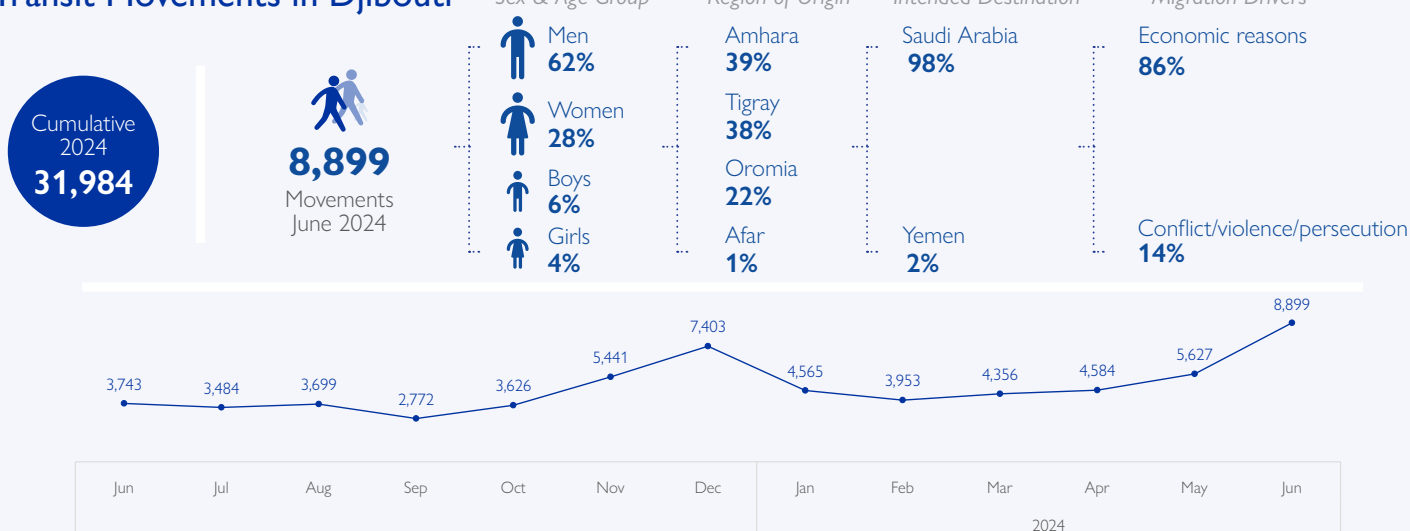
Protection

- **Women (+40%) and children (+81%) tracked in Obock attempting to reach Yemen increased by 49% between May (2,244) and June (3,337).**
- IOM Djibouti carried out six convoys for 336 migrants who wished to voluntarily return from Yemen. However, assisted voluntary return and reintegration from Obock to the regions of Amhara and Tigray is suspended until further notice as they are still considered inaccessible.
- **Five dead migrants were reported in Obock**, two of which were found by nomad communities. Another migrant passed away after enduring two weeks of hardship with dwindling supplies. Local authorities also reported that one migrant died following an assault by a local, who was thereafter arrested, while another migrant died at a smuggler's assembly point after being sick for a week.
- **A female migrant was found dead by the local community in the town of Dorra, Tadjourah.**
- **Two migrants were reported dead in Ali Sabieh.** A male migrant died from severe neuromalaria, while a female migrant died from dehydration.

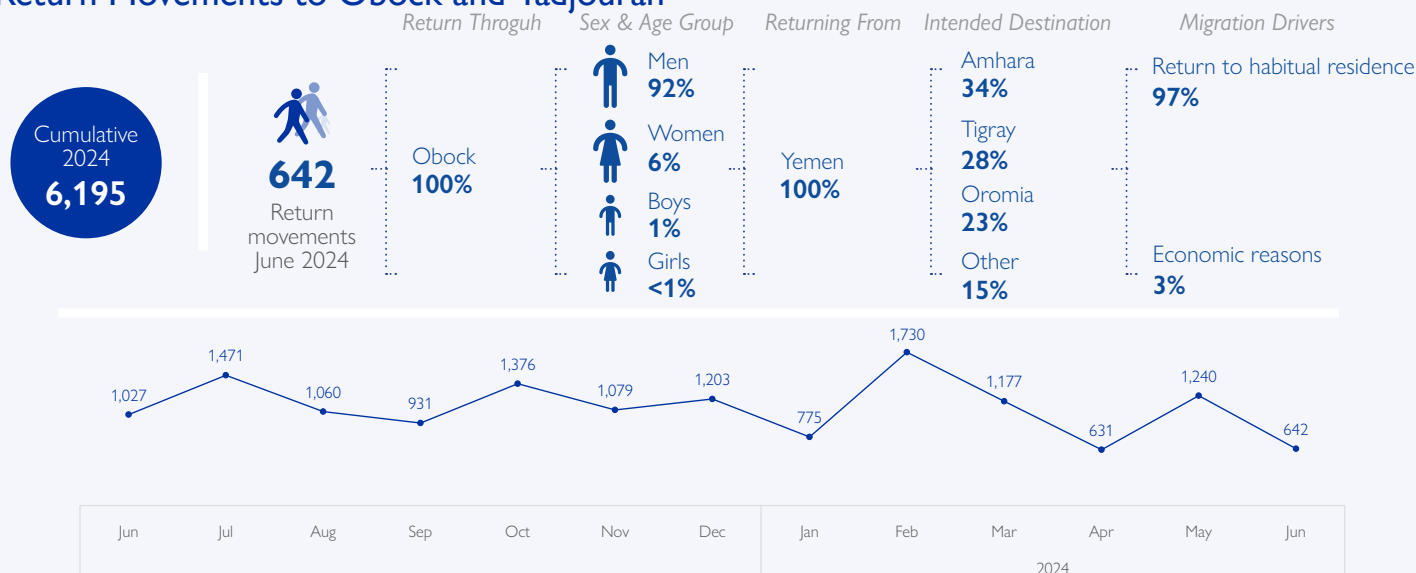
Migration Response Centers

- Migrants seeking assistance in Obock increased by 61% from April, being the highest figure since November 2023 (543), and a 19% increase between 2023 and 2024 for the period January – June.
- Except for one child, all children registered in the MRC were unaccompanied.

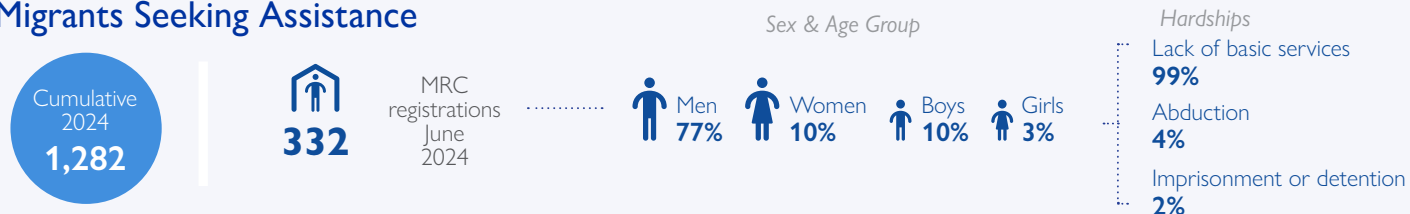
Transit Movements in Djibouti



Return Movements to Obock and Tadjourah



Migrants Seeking Assistance



831

Stranded migrants June 2024

8

Dead/missing migrants June 2024

Migration Through Somalia

Migration Trends

- Overall movements tracked in Bossaso heading to Yemen decreased by 17% between May and June.
- Despite this overall decrease, movements departing from the Amhara region of Ethiopia increased by 7% (from 2,029 to 2,165), and all movements driven by conflict, violence or persecution departed from Amhara (107).
- However, when comparing the period January – June between 2023 (19,476) and 2024, there is a 43% increase in movements tracked in Bossaso heading to Yemen.

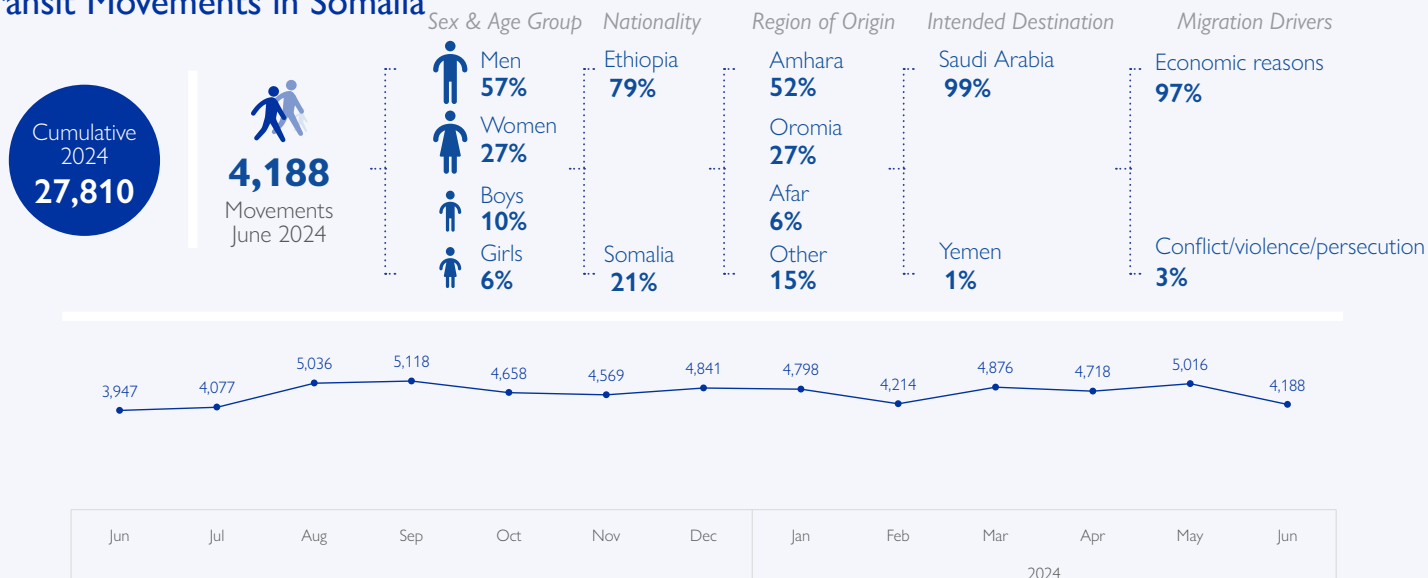
Protection

- Despite the overall decrease in movements between May and June, the number of children tracked in Bossaso attempting to cross to Yemen increased by 7% (from 625 to 668).
- Children tracked in Bossaso more than doubled between 2023 (1,414) and 2024 (3,918) for the period January – June, representing 14% of overall movements in 2024 (7% in 2023). Children travelling alone increased by 36% between 2023 (630) and 2024 (850).
- Local communities expressed their concerns to authorities on the recent surge in irregular migration, raising the possibility of forced returns in the coming months, and prompting concerns among humanitarian organizations and migrant advocacy groups. IOM has been actively engaging with authorities to advocate for a humane and rights-based approach to address the situation.
- Stranded migrants remained similar (-7%) from May (6,113), with a small increase in boys (+9%).

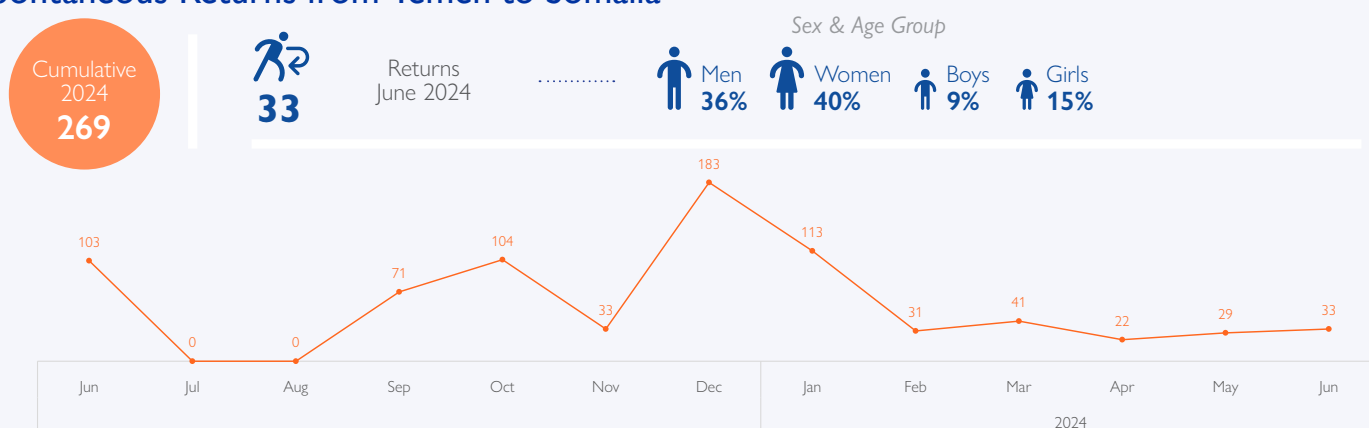
Migrant Response Centers

- Around two-fifths (40%) of migrants seeking assistance reported health problems (all in Bossaso), while one-third (33%) of children registered were travelling alone.
- Hargeisa MRC conducted awareness raising through a football match between migrants and host community members, while 307 newly and previously registered migrants received medical assistance. Further 48 migrants benefited from non-food items and dignity kits.

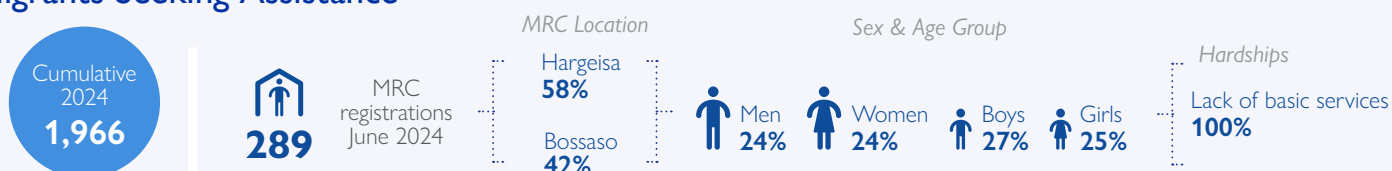
Transit Movements in Somalia



Spontaneous Returns from Yemen to Somalia



Migrants Seeking Assistance



5,715

Stranded migrants June 2024

None reported

Dead/missing migrants June 2024

Migration Through Yemen

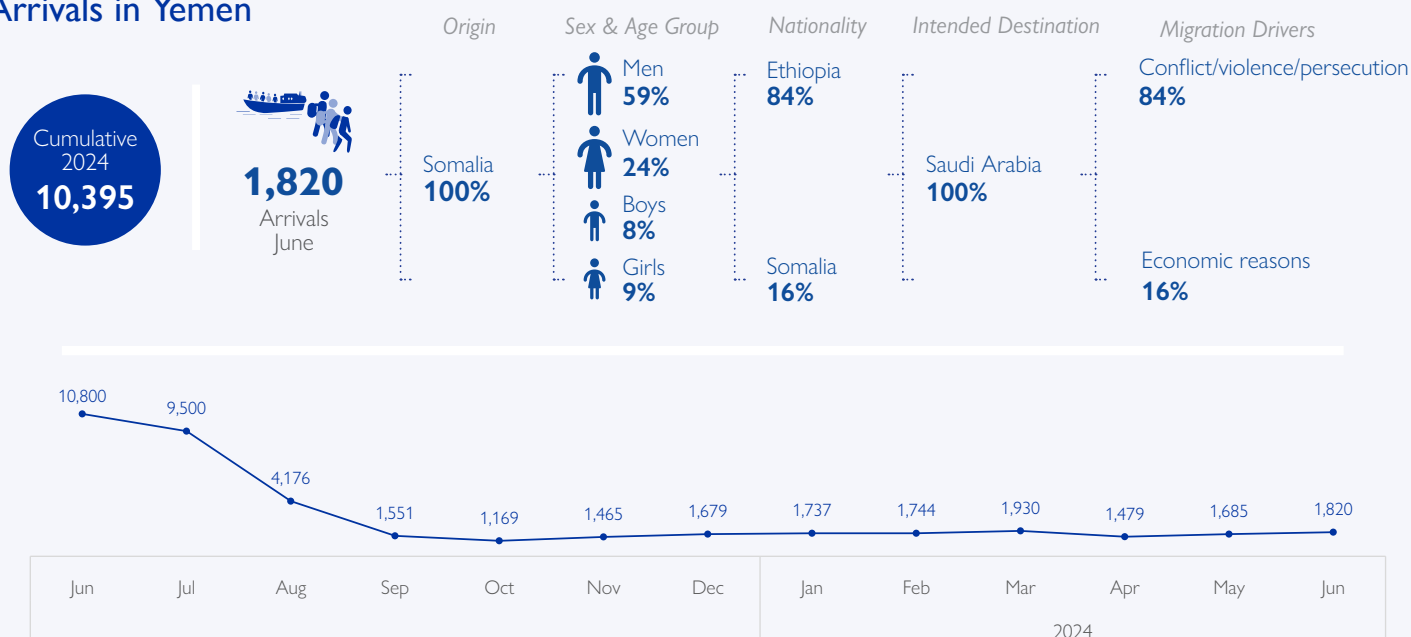
Migration Trends

- Migrant arrivals from the Horn of Africa to Yemen increased by 8% between May and June. Despite this, arrivals to Yemen decreased by 87% between 2023 (77,130) and 2024 for the period January – June.
- Such decrease is largely attributed to operations against irregular migration in Lahj governorate, the main landing point of migrants crossing the Bab al-Mandab Strait from Djibouti. Operational constraints, such as access to preexisting or new landing points may also explain this significant reduction in migrants arriving to Yemen.

Protection

- DTM teams in the field reported that 267 Ethiopian migrants were deported from Oman back to Yemen through the Deifen Point of Entry in the Shahan district of Al Maharah governorate.
- So far in 2024, 1,095 migrants have been deported from Oman to Yemen, a 40% increase when compared with 2023 (781).
- Around 850 migrants were tracked in Lahj governorate, either deported or voluntarily returning to Djibouti. However, DTM teams in Djibouti were only able to verify 642 returns from Yemen, highlighting the operational constraints in tracking all movements in coastal areas. This issue is emphasized by many Ethiopians in the north who, unable to wait for VHR (181 migrants were assisted in June), began returning to Ethiopia irregularly by travelling through Djibouti by boat.
- At least 49 migrants died and 140 others went missing after a boat capsized off the coast of Yemen. The vessel carrying 260 migrants capsized on 10 June near Alghareef in Shabwah governorate. Among those who lost their lives, there were 31 women and six children. According to the survivors, the boat departed from Bossaso, carrying 115 Somali nationals and 145 Ethiopians, with 90 women among them.
- IOM mobilized two mobile medical teams to provide immediate assistance to the survivors, including six children. Out of the 71 survivors, eight required further medical attention and were referred to a hospital, while the remaining 63 survivors received first aid. Around 40 survivors received mental health support from IOM psychologists.
- Local communities, including fishermen, played a crucial role in the aftermath by assisting with the recovery efforts and helping to lay the deceased to rest at Ayn-Bamaabed cemetery.
- On June 26, 2024, a fire in the Bin Muaili migrant settlement worsened existing challenges, causing extensive damage and affecting 60 migrants. Despite this, IOM teams ensured timely medical referrals and the distribution of food, hygiene kits, tents, blankets, and mattresses to those affected.
- In Sana'a, more migrants requested to return in June due to the tense situation, while in Sa'dah, there has been an increase in migrant minors attempting to cross the border to Saudi Arabia.

Arrivals in Yemen



30,000

Stranded migrants
June 2024



189

Dead/missing migrants
June 2024

Migrant Children Along the Eastern Corridor

Cumulative
2024
14,665

2,630
Migrant children
June 2024

Djibouti
40%
Ethiopia
23%
Somalia
25%
Yemen
12%

Boys
63%
Girls
37%

20%
Unaccompanied
21%
Heads of household

454
Migrant children seeking
assistance
June 2024

In Ethiopia
58%
In Somalia
33%
In Djibouti
9%

Boys
56%
Girls
44%

80

Migrants surveyed
who are caring for children
(10% of all respondents)
June 2024

Left children behind in the country of origin
99%

Travelling with children
11%

Having children in country of intended destination
1%

Caretakers of
children not
travelling with
the migrant
parent

My spouse/partner
88%

Grandparents or extended family
26%

My older children (18 and older)
8%

Forced Returns from Saudi Arabia



22,506

Returns
June 2024

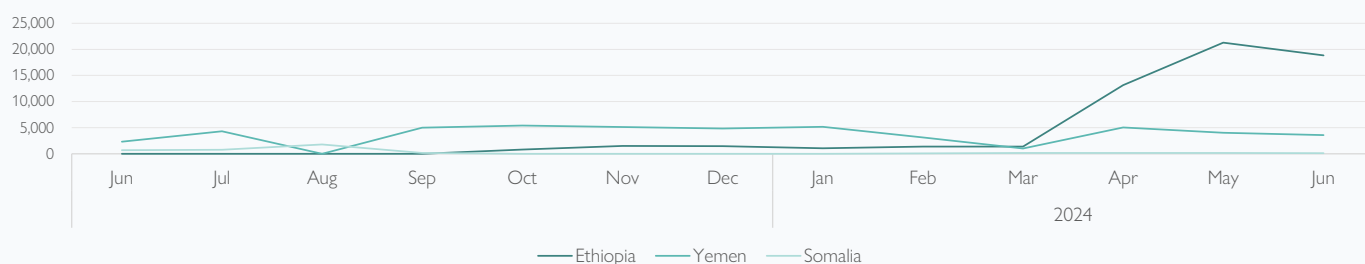
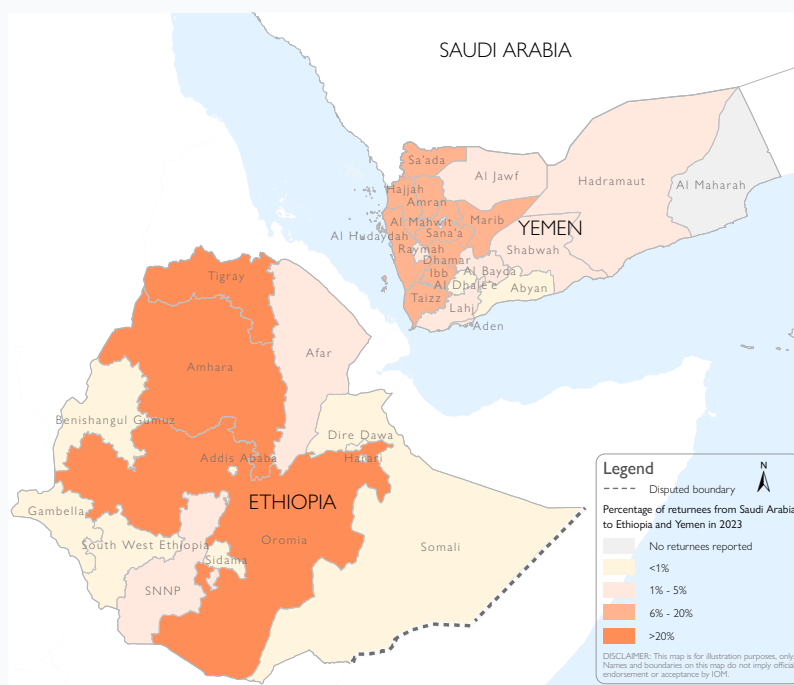
Cumulative
2024
79,504

Returns to

Ethiopia	Yemen	Somalia	Ethiopia	Yemen	Somalia
18,860	3,556	90	57,065	21,867	562

Region of intended return
in Ethiopia 2024

Amhara	Oromia	Tigray	SNNP	Afar
35%	31%	29%	3%	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

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

For more information on the RDH products:
eastandhornofafrica.iom.int/regional-data-hub