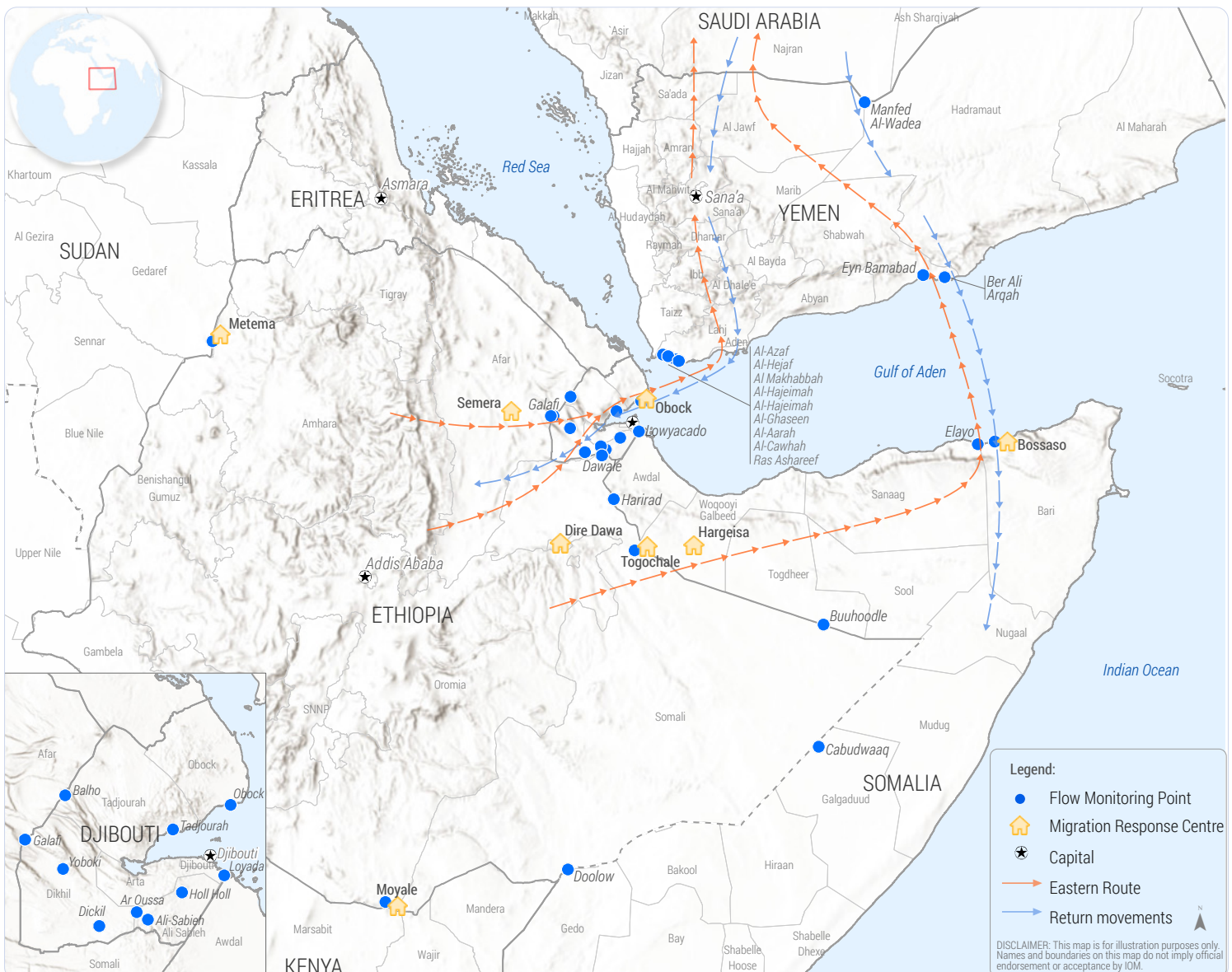


About the report

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 [the spillover effects of the conflict in Northern Ethiopia](#) observed at the border between Ethiopia, Kenya and Sudan, [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
- [Registration data](#) for migrants seeking assistance at [Migration Response Centres \(MRCs\)](#) in Obock (Djibouti), Bossaso, Hargeisa (Somalia), Dire Dawa, Metema, Moyale, Semera and Togochale (Ethiopia), which includes information on [Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration \(AVRR\)](#)
- [Voluntary Humanitarian Return \(VHR\)](#) from Yemen
- [Returns from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia](#)
- [Missing Migrants Project \(MMP\)](#) data on migrant deaths and disappearances

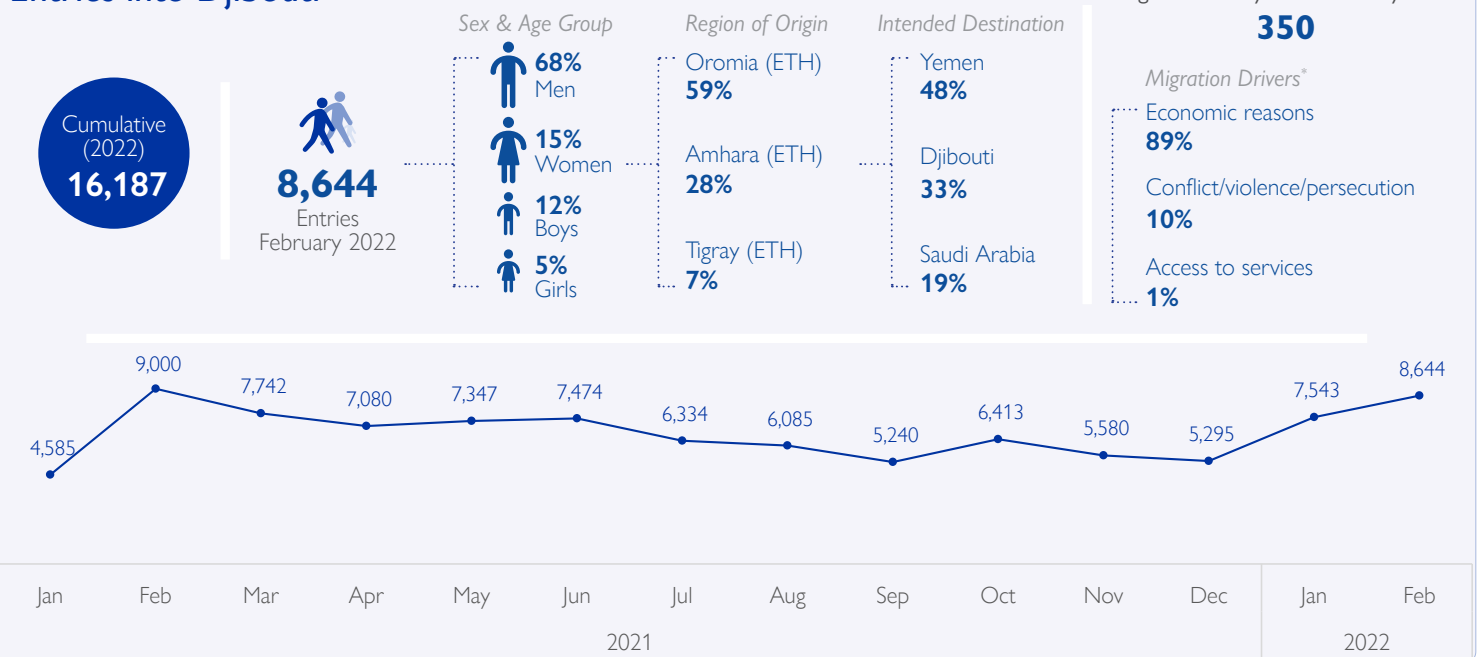


Migration Through Djibouti

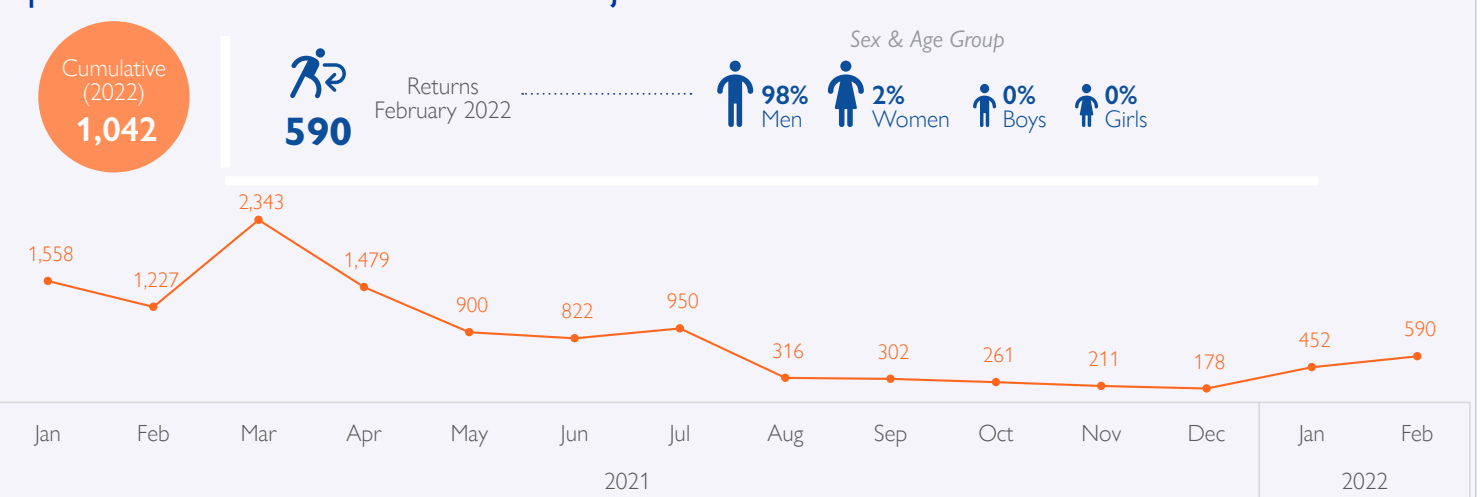
Observations

This is the second consecutive month that migration along the Eastern Corridor through Djibouti's western borders increased (up 14% compared to January 2022). With a continued rise in crossings into Djibouti, unquantified but significant return movements of Ethiopian migrants were reported through the Dewele point of entry on the Ethiopian side of the border with Djibouti. While the proportion of women and girls slightly increased (20%), migration through Djibouti continued to be predominately characterized by young men and boys (80%). By far, Ethiopia's Oromia region remained the main area of origin for migration through Djibouti, followed by Amhara, and Tigray from which flows rose from 1% to 7%. Most areas of origin in all three regions were affected by conflict, namely Arsi (27%), East Hararge (11%), West Hararge (5%), East Wellega, Jimma, and North Shewa (3% each) in Oromia, all locations in Amhara with most migrants coming from North Wello (16%), in addition to migrants from Central and Eastern Tigray. Among the 350 migrants surveyed this month (82% male and 18% female), economic reasons remained the main driver of migration, but conflict, violence and targeted persecution were also underlying reasons for the poor economic situation. However, among Tigrayans alone, almost one in two cited conflict and violence as the main drivers. Spontaneous returns from Yemen to Djibouti further increased by 31% in February 2022 as assisted returns from Yemen remained suspended. With more migrants in a vulnerable situation returning from Yemen and with the AVRRC services restarting in March 2022, registrations at the MRC in Obock are likely to increase in the coming months.

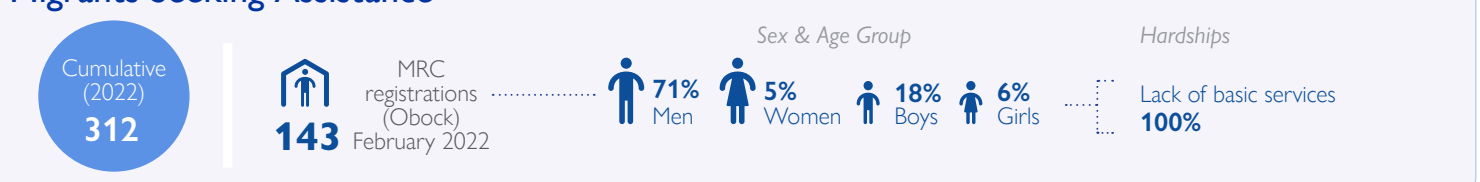
Entries into Djibouti



Spontaneous Returns from Yemen to Djibouti



Migrants Seeking Assistance



586 Stranded migrants
February 2022

0 Dead/missing migrants**
February 2022

* Multiple answer question.

** Reporting is based on reports of deaths and missing migrants that could be verified.

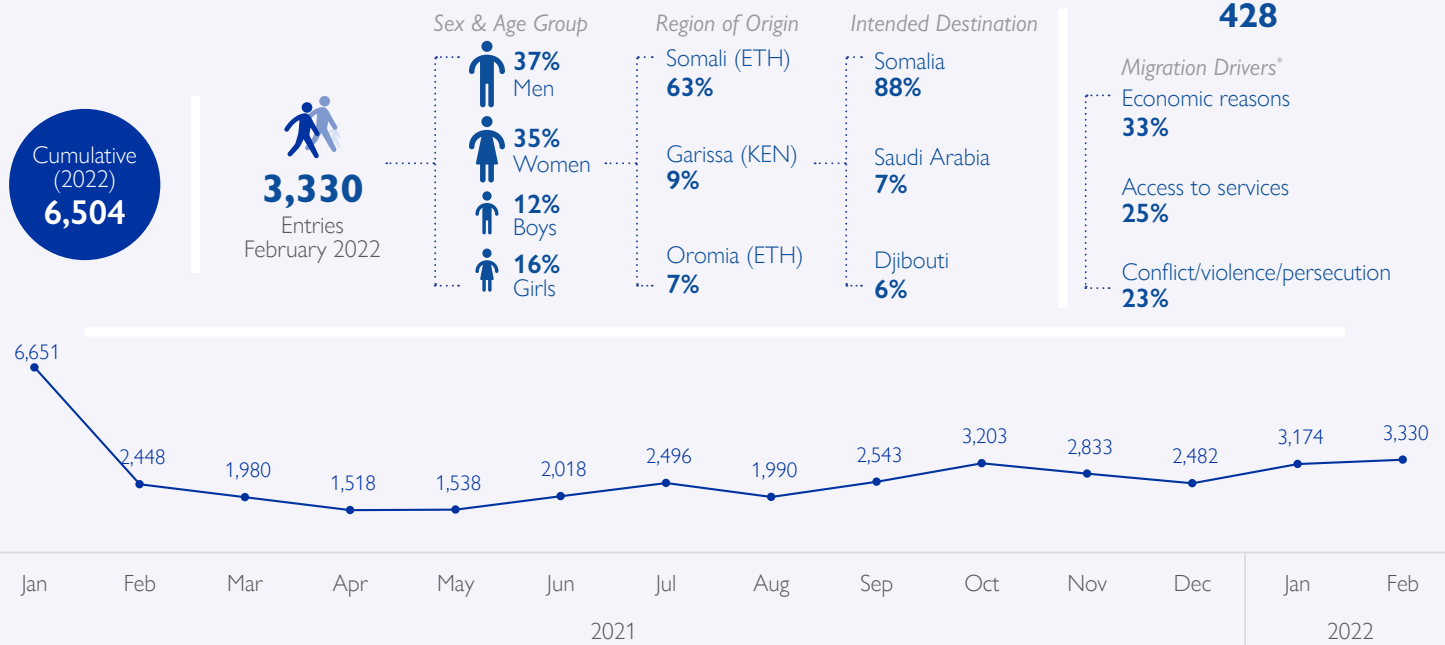
Migration Through Somalia

Observations

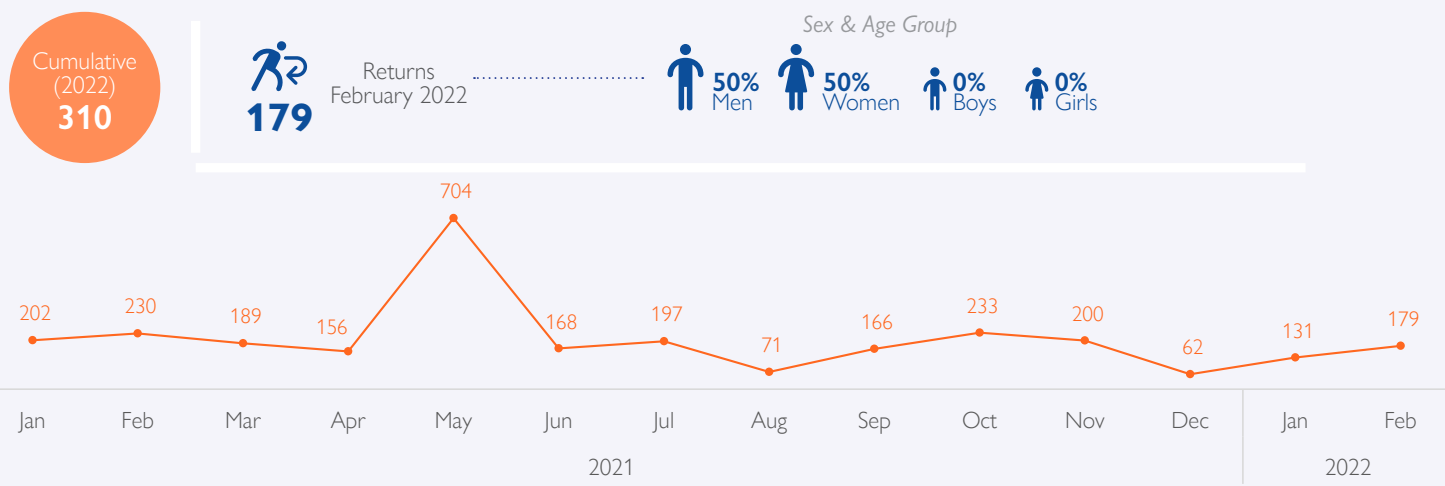
Migration along the Eastern Corridor from Ethiopia to Somalia rose by a slight 5% compared to the previous month. This is in line with trends observed in previous years whereby migrant movements often increase between January and May as the sea is generally calm. Moreover, all the checkpoints that had been established around Bossaso, following the political conflict that broke out in December 2021, were removed. IOM enumerators reported a change in transportation dynamics, observing that migrants, who previously were mostly entering Bossaso on foot, were now being transported onboard vehicles very early in the morning. Most of the migrants interviewed intended to go to Somalia, with few mentioning Saudi Arabia and Djibouti. Spontaneous returns from Yemen continued with 179 returnees to Berbera (112) and to Bossaso (67). Out of the 428 migrants surveyed this month, 39% were females and among them, 35% moved to access services, 32% for economic reasons and almost 20% for marriage or family reunification. Reported migration drivers among males were economic reasons (34%), conflict, violence and targeted persecution (32%) and access to services (19%). Among the males reporting conflict, 64% were from Tigray, followed by Benishangul Gumuz (56%), Amhara (39%) and Oromia (29%). In addition, women and girls accounted for almost half (45%) of migrants requesting assistance at MRCs in Bossaso and Hargeisa, mainly to access basic services. AVRR was still suspended and IOM estimated that over 6,700 migrants were stranded.

Entries into Somalia

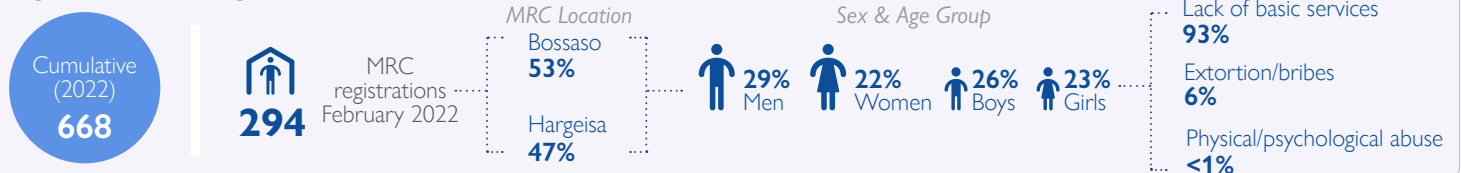
Migrants surveyed in February 2022



Spontaneous Returns from Yemen to Somalia



Migrants Seeking Assistance



6,761 Stranded migrants February 2022

0 Dead/missing migrants** February 2022

* Multiple answer question.

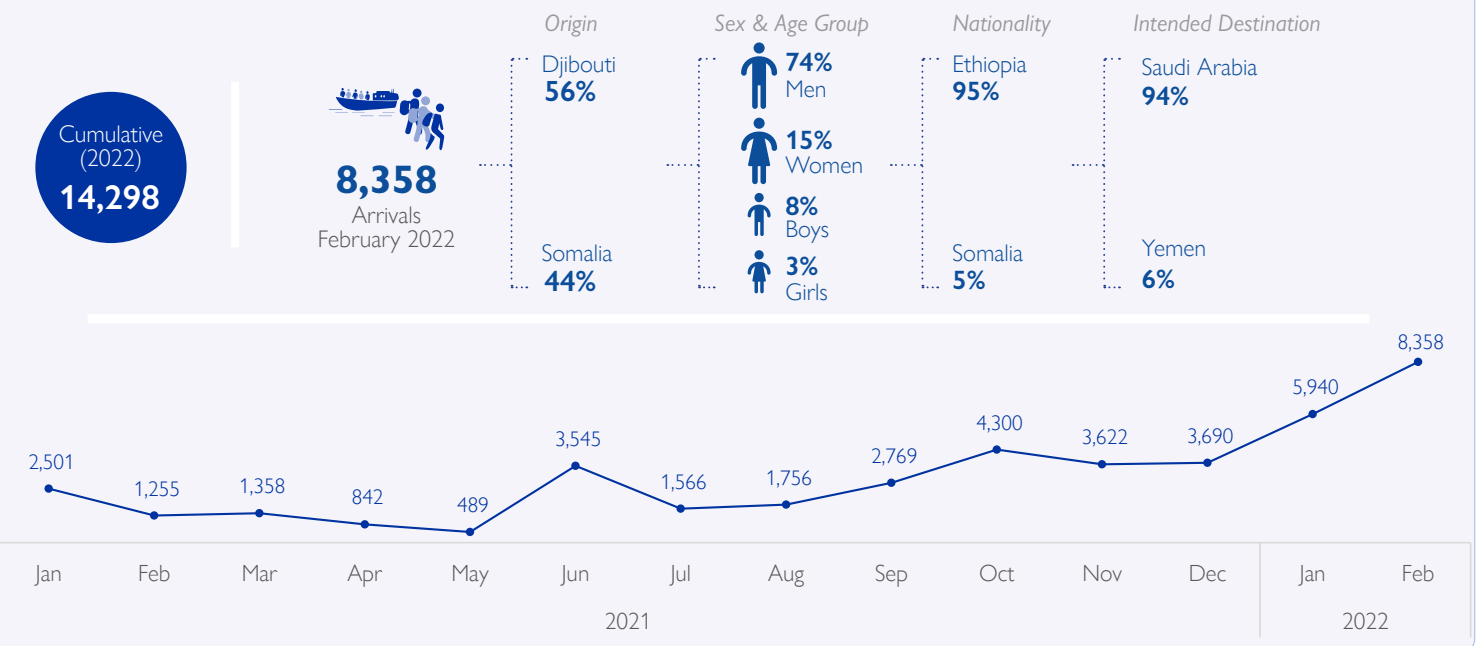
** Reporting is based on reports of deaths and missing migrants that could be verified.

Migration Through Yemen

Observations

Facilitated by good conditions at sea, migrant arrivals to Yemen from the Horn of Africa increased by 41% from the previous month with over 8,300 migrants disembarking on the southern shores of Yemen. Contrary to the past two months, most of the arrivals in February 2022 came from Obock in Djibouti (56%), and to a lesser extent, from Bossaso in Somalia (44%). Protection monitoring continued to identify alternate routes used by migrants to access entry points in the south of Yemen, particularly in Abyan, Aden and Shabwa. Due to changes in patrol routes by the Djiboutian Coast Guard, smuggler networks were forced to improvise route changes and consequent landing points in Yemen. Furthermore, due to the conflict and arrest campaigns in Yemen, migrant routes have now shifted with many migrants opting to use areas such as Hajjah from Marib to try to access Saudi Arabia when in the past, transiting migrants opted to use the western part of Al Jawf governorate. Ethiopian nationals made up the majority of migrant arrivals (95%) which continued to be dominated by a young male population. IOM estimated that approximately 40,000 migrants were unable to return home and/or move on further to Saudi Arabia as VHR was still suspended and the Saudi border continued to be extremely hard to cross with armed targeting of migrants and ongoing forced returns of Yemeni nationals. This has resulted in increased informal sites in areas such as Shabwa and Marib where humanitarian needs are glaring. Most of these informal sites are controlled by smugglers who continue to exploit vulnerable migrants leaving them in destitute conditions and in need of protection.

Arrivals in Yemen from the Horn of Africa



40,000 Stranded migrants February 2022

0 Dead/missing migrants** February 2022

** Reporting is based on reports of deaths and missing migrants that could be verified.

Migration Through Ethiopia

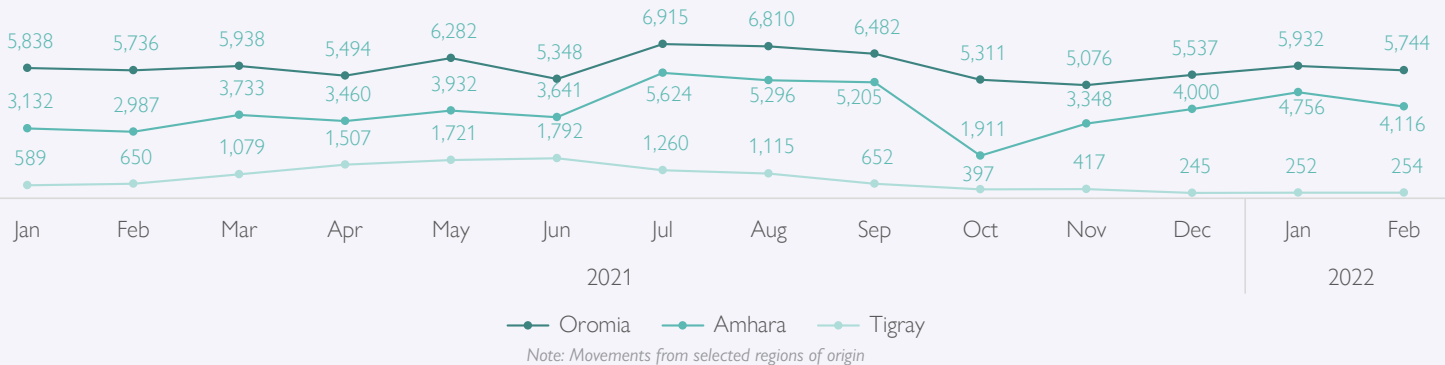
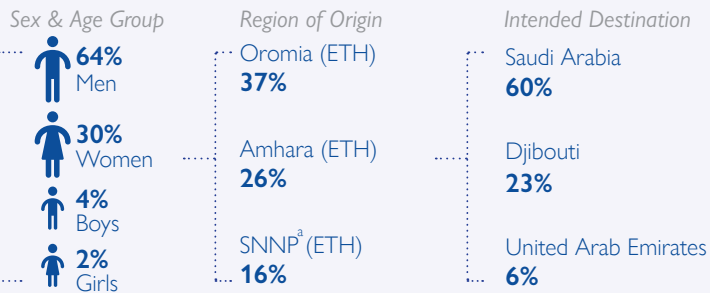
Observations

Despite the lifting of the state of emergency in Ethiopia in late January 2022, the overall exit movements observed did not change significantly (5% decrease). However, peace talks were held between Ethiopia and Sudan in February 2022 to address the conflict over al-Fashaga, a fertile borderland from which Sudan evicted thousands of Ethiopian farmers in December 2020 leading to the closure of the Metema-Gallabat border point in April 2021. Such discussions facilitated the return of Ethiopian migrants placed in administrative detention in Sudan. Of the 1,460 migrants surveyed across all FMPs during this month, women and girls represented roughly one third and there were no significant differences in migration drivers compared to male migrants. However, when looking at drivers by region of origin in Ethiopia, conflict, violence and targeted persecution were cited by over one in two Tigrayans and by almost one in five Amhara. There was a 40% increase in the number of migrants registered at MRCs in Ethiopia, with the highest registrations in Dire Dawa, at the border with Djibouti, and Moyale, at the border with Kenya. Assisted voluntary returns for Ethiopian migrants in Addis Ababa wishing to return to their communities of origin remained limited as IOM was still assessing the safety situation across the Afar and Amhara regions while the assessment of Tigray had to be postponed due to lack of cash and fuel. Returns from Saudi Arabia remained suspended as negotiations between the Governments of Ethiopia and of Saudi Arabia continued, with returns expected to resume in March 2022. Looking at the possible spillover effect of the conflict in Ethiopia along the Northern and Southern Routes, most movements through Sudan towards Ethiopia (along the Northern Route) were motivated by family reunification (99%) and males represented 77% of the flows, while migrants exiting Ethiopia were mostly female (70%) in search for economic opportunities. Movements from Ethiopia through Kenya (along the Southern Route) were driven by economic reasons (89%) as well as conflict, violence and targeted persecution (7%).

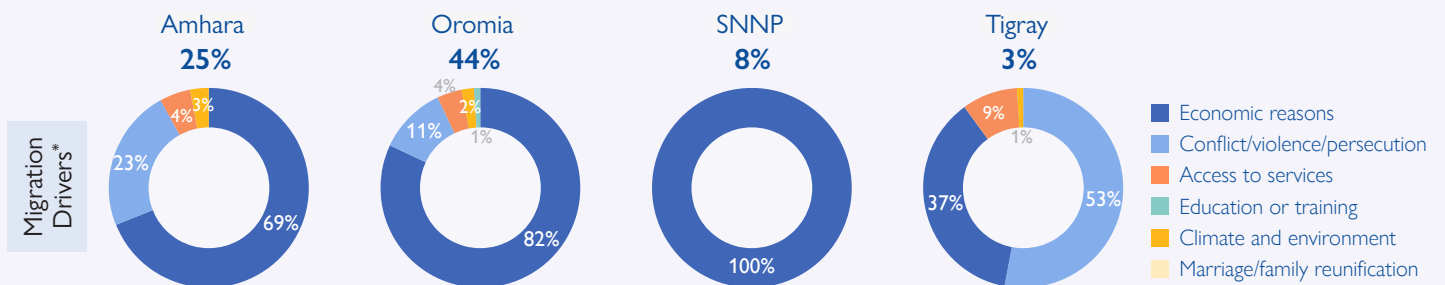
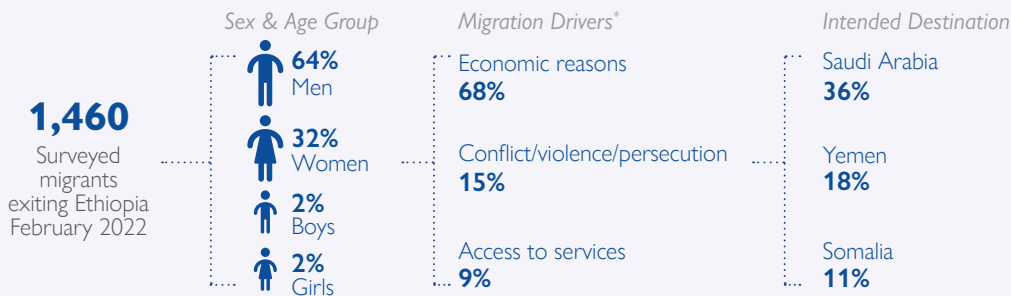
Exits out of Ethiopia

Cumulative (2022)
32,270

15,729
Migrant exits from Ethiopia February 2022

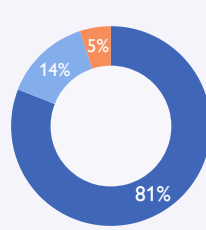
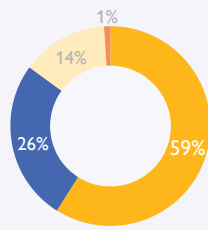
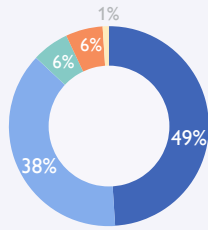
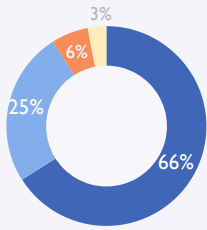


Migrants surveyed in February 2022



^a Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples' Region.
^{*} Multiple answer question.

Intended Destination



- Saudi Arabia
- Yemen
- Djibouti
- Somalia
- Kenya
- United Arab Emirates

Migrants Seeking Assistance

Cumulative (2022)
1,020

596
MRC registrations
February 2022

MRC Location

- Dire Dawa **44%**
- Metema **17%**
- Moyale **29%**
- Semera **0%**
- Togochale **9%**

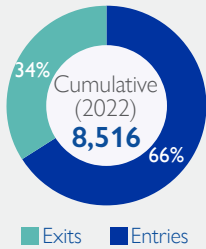
Sex & Age Group

- 62%** Men
- 23%** Women
- 10%** Boys
- 5%** Girls

Top 3 Hardships

- Lack of basic services **50%**
- Imprisonment/detention **33%**
- Physical/psychological abuse **12%**

Impact of the Northern Ethiopia Conflict along the Northern and Southern Corridors Ethiopia - Sudan Border (Metema)



Exits
1,584
Migrant exits from Ethiopia
February 2022

Entries
2,744
Migrant entries into Ethiopia
February 2022

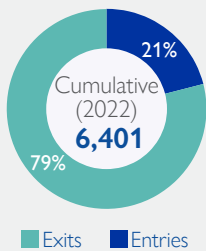
100
Surveyed migrants exiting Ethiopia
February 2022

35
Surveyed migrants entering Ethiopia
February 2022

Migration Drivers*

- Economic reasons **99%**
- Conflict/violence/persecution **1%**
- Marriage/family reunification **86%**
- Other **14%**

Ethiopia - Kenya Border (Moyale)



Exits
2,375
Migrant exits from Ethiopia
February 2022

Entries
593
Migrant entries into Ethiopia
February 2022

92
Surveyed migrants exiting Ethiopia
February 2022

53
Surveyed migrants entering Ethiopia
February 2022

Migration Drivers*

- Economic reasons **89%**
- Conflict/violence/persecution **7%**
- Marriage/family reunification **3%**
- Economic reasons **67%**
- Other **20%**
- Marriage/family reunification **13%**

* Multiple answer question.

Migrant Children Along the Eastern Corridor

Cumulative (2022)
11,627

5,666
Migrant children entries
February 2022

Into Djibouti
25%
Into Somalia
59%
Into Yemen
16%

56% Boys
44% Girls
2% Unaccompanied



267
Migrant children seeking assistance
February 2022

In Djibouti
13%
In Ethiopia
33%
In Somalia
54%

61% Boys
39% Girls

275

Migrants surveyed who are caring for children (19% of all respondents) February 2022

Travelling with children
24%
Having children in the country of intended destination
5%
Who left children behind in the country of origin
71%

Caretakers of migrant children not travelling with the migrant parent

My spouse/partner
41%
Grandparents or extended family
45%
My older children (younger than 18)
9%
My older children (18 and older)
5%
Friends
0%

Returns from Saudi Arabia

4,827
Returns
February 2022

Returns to
Ethiopia
0
Somalia
142
Yemen
4,685



Cumulative (2022)
10,667

Returns to
Ethiopia
0
Somalia
222
Yemen
10,445

Contact