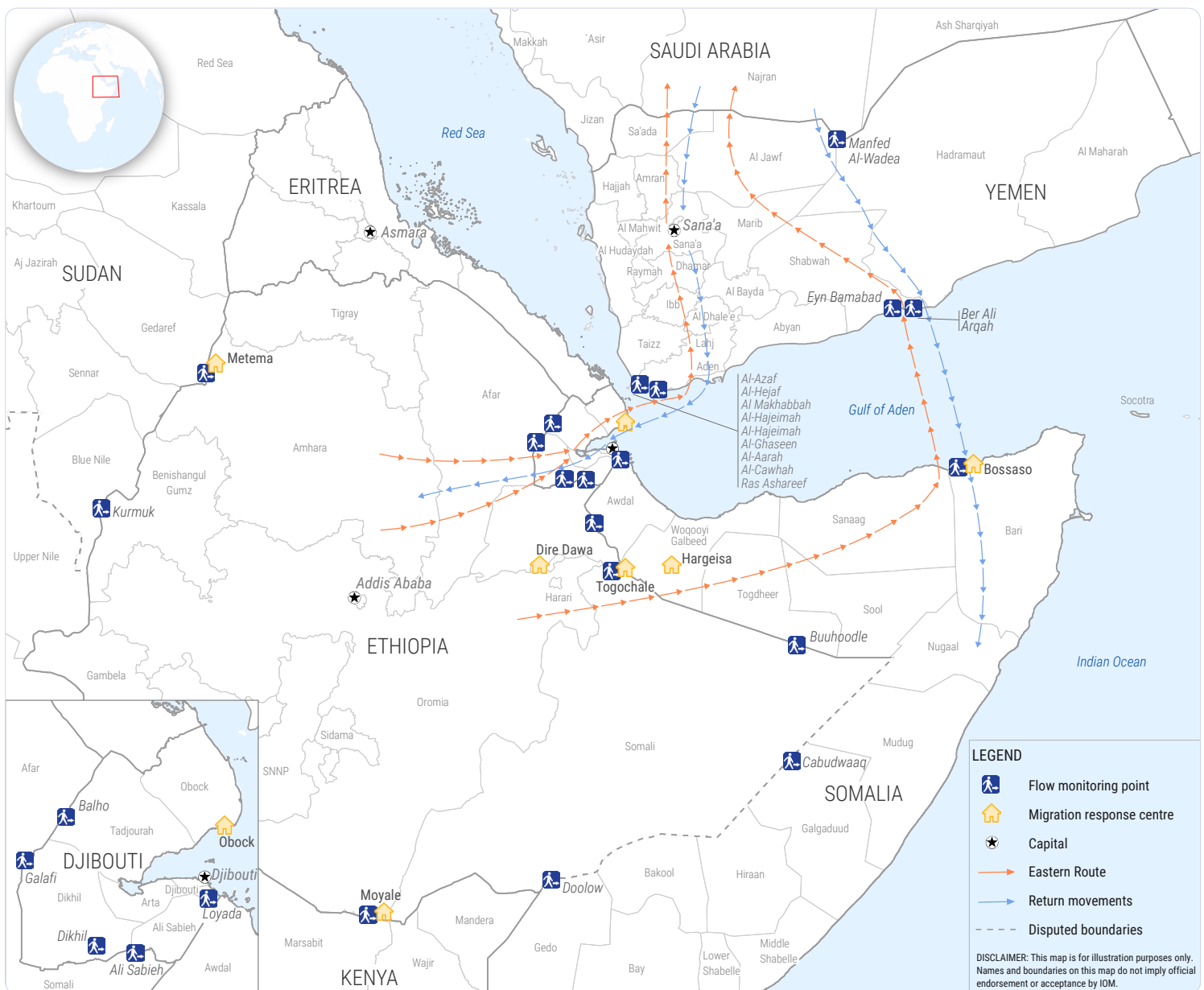


### About the report

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

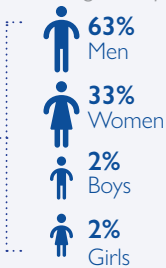
- Migrant entries into Djibouti increased by 19% from July due to continued favourable weather conditions following the two hot months of June and July.
- Women and children represented more than one third (37%) of all entries and more than one quarter (26%) of all children were travelling alone (82% boys).
- Although migration continues to be economically driven, more than half of migrants departing from the Somali region of Ethiopia were travelling due to natural disasters (51%). Movements due to food insecurity almost doubled in the last month, most of which departed from Oromia, Tigray and Amhara.
- The number of spontaneous returns from Yemen decreased by 57% from July. This drop may be attributed to increased surveillance by the Djibouti Coast Guard along the coast of Obock in addition to the strong winds and rough seas that prevented migrants from crossing the Gulf of Aden.
- Women (17%) and children (31%) continued to represent around half of the stranded migrant population, which increased by 21% from July as tighter controls by the Djibouti Coast Guard reduced smuggling activities and many migrants were abandoned by their smugglers.
- 275 people received AVRR assistance to return to Ethiopia.
- 47 people died or disappeared while migrating, 37 of whom were reported after a boat capsized near the coast of Obock on 18 August 2023. The other deaths were reported by locals, IOM staff, or travelling companions and their deaths were attributed to drowning, illness with lack of access to medical care and unknown causes. Some had perished from 1 week to 3 months prior to their discovery.

## Entries into Djibouti

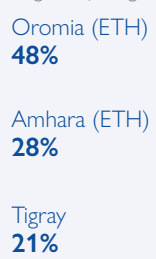
Cumulative 2023  
**96,981**

**13,647**  
Entries  
August 2023

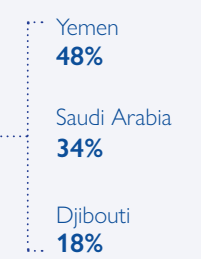
### Sex & Age Group



### Region of Origin



### Intended Destination



### Migrants surveyed in August 2023



## Spontaneous Returns from Yemen to Djibouti

Cumulative 2023  
**4,106**

**349**  
Returns  
August 2023

### Sex & Age Group



## Migrants Seeking Assistance

Cumulative 2023  
**1,818**

**361**  
MRC  
registrations  
August 2023

### Sex & Age Group



**983**

Stranded migrants  
August 2023



**47**

Dead/missing migrants  
August 2023

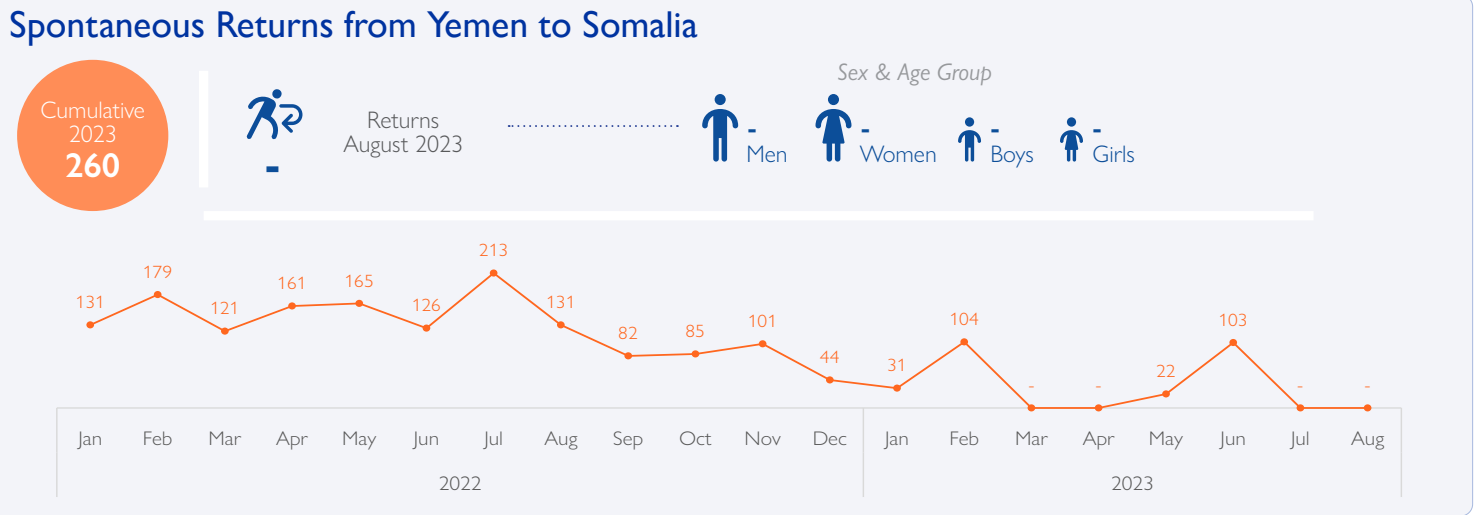
# Migration Through Somalia

- Migrant entries into Somalia decreased by 11% from July.
- However, migration movements within Somalia increased, with arrivals in Bossaso rising by 39% from July. The season following the hot summer months of June and July is a popular time for migrants to undertake sea travel.
- Tensions in Las Anod, located on one of the main migratory routes to Bossaso, were still ongoing and an escalation of violence occurred on 25 August 2023. Since then, the situation has calmed; however, the safety conditions and protection environment are deteriorating. Some migrants were detained in Las Anod. In particular, two unaccompanied and separated children were detained and subsequently released with the assistance of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). They applied for AVRR assistance to return to Ethiopia.
- Migrants transiting through Somalia, especially in uncontrolled areas around Las Anod, continue to face very abusive smuggling practices and remain at a high risk of becoming victims of trafficking, as their journey can become nonconsensual or coercive, such as through practices of physical/sexual abuse, forced labour to pay debts or extortion. While smugglers are known to take advantage of people who move irregularly, migrants can be even more vulnerable to exploitation during conflict and this combination creates great protection concerns.
- The number of stranded migrants remained high, at around 6,300 people.

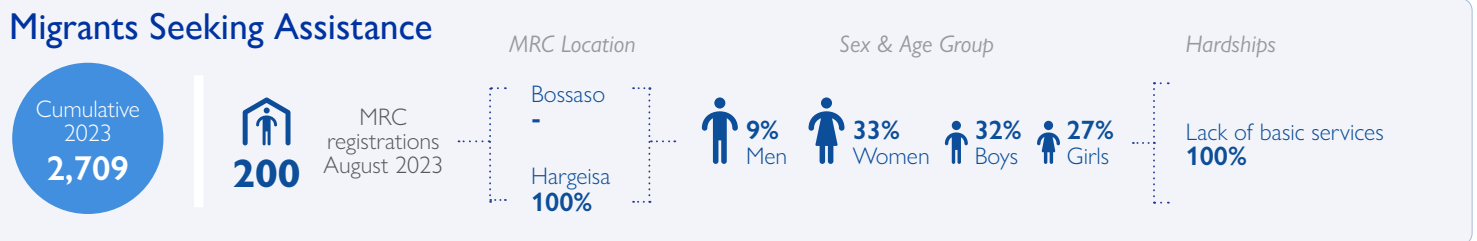
## Entries into Somalia



## Spontaneous Returns from Yemen to Somalia



## Migrants Seeking Assistance



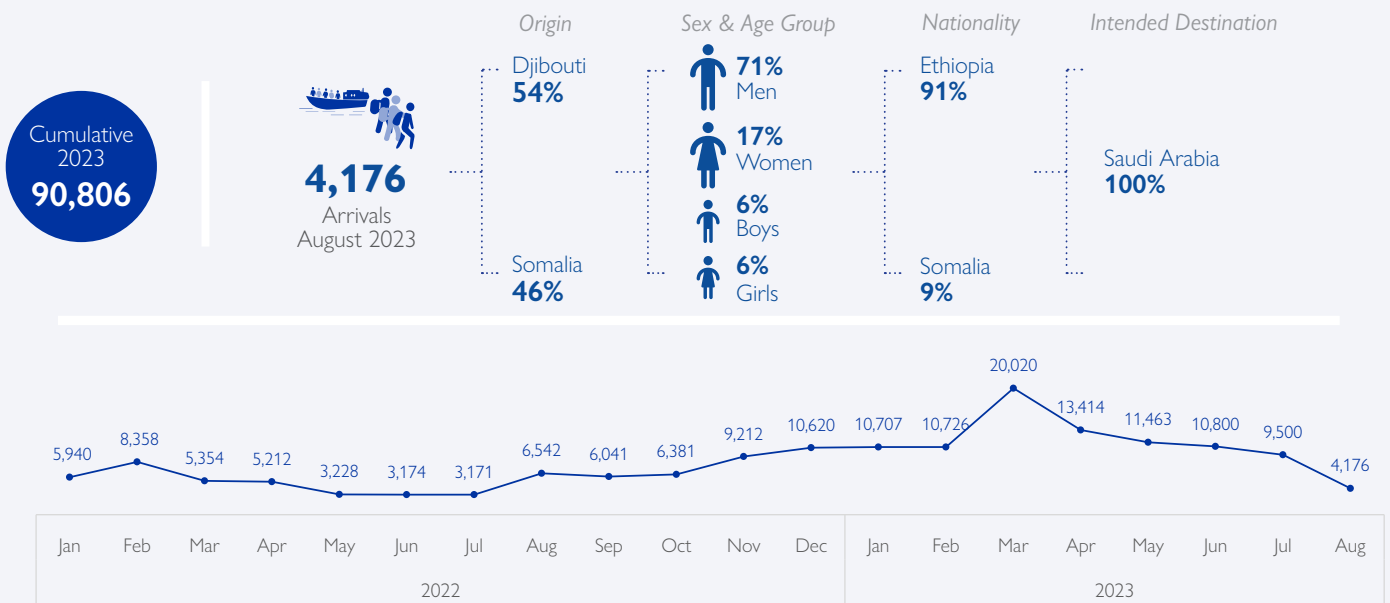
**6,300** Stranded migrants August 2023

**0** Dead/missing migrants August 2023

# Migration Through Yemen

- Migrant arrivals in Yemen decreased for the sixth consecutive month (-56% from July), representing the lowest number recorded since July 2022. This decrease was likely due to the security campaign launched in early August that included arrests of smugglers, raids on their properties and military deployment along the coast to track smugglers' boats. As a result, arrivals at the Lahj coast of Yemen from Djibouti decreased by 71%. Conversely, arrivals to the Shabwah coast from Somalia increased by 16% due to improved weather conditions at sea.
- Women and children represented more than a quarter of all arrivals (17% and 12%, respectively).
- Most migrants were looking for better economic opportunities (75%), while 25% were moving due to conflict, violence or persecution.
- The protection environment for migrants across Yemen further deteriorated, with increased reports of arbitrary arrest, detention and forced movement, in addition to continued pushbacks and targeted violence against migrants near the northern border. The security operations in Lahj targeted and destroyed sites operated by smugglers and traffickers that hosted approximately 4,500 migrants. Local security forces also reported that they put 1,200 Ethiopian migrants in fishing boats to Djibouti.
- Ma'rib continues to host significant numbers of stranded migrants, with increasing pressure on IOM from migrant communities to support safe paths home through VHR flights. The situation of migrants in Ma'rib remains dire with high levels of violence and exploitation of migrants, including trafficking in persons. Migrants require access to health, food and material assistance to meet their basic needs as well as to specialized mental health and psychosocial support.
- Social cohesion issues continued to persist. In Aden, tensions between migrant and host communities escalated, while in Al Bayda, around 60 Ethiopian men were denied their wages earned working on khat farms.

## Arrivals in Yemen from the Horn of Africa



**43,000** Stranded migrants August 2023

**17** Dead/missing migrants August 2023

# Migration Through Ethiopia

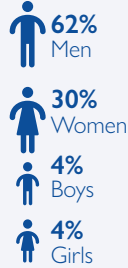
- Migrant entries through Metema decreased by 65% from July (from 15,300 to 5,300) due to renewed tensions in Amhara. Entries through Kurmuk also decreased by 39% (from 400 to 250).
- Sudanese nationals continued to enter Ethiopia in the largest numbers and increased in proportion of all entries (63%), followed by Ethiopian nationals returning home (29%) and people from 25 other nationalities fleeing the crisis.
- Women and children represented around half of all entries (27% and 22%, respectively), while 35% of all children were younger than five years.
- Returns from Saudi Arabia remained suspended. There is no clear indication of when returns might resume or at what rate.
- Registrations at MRCs increased by 17% mainly due to forced returns by authorities and the Sudan conflict. Around 800 people received onward transportation assistance at MRCs in Ethiopia. Still, the security situation in the Amhara region, which has once again deteriorated, hindered onward transportation assistance for migrants in Metema who fled from the Sudan and wished to return to their communities of origin.

## Exits out of Ethiopia

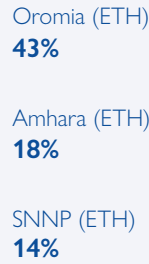
Cumulative  
2023  
**205,596**

**25,476**  
Migrant exits  
from Ethiopia  
August 2023

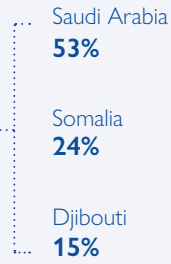
### Sex & Age Group



### Region of Origin



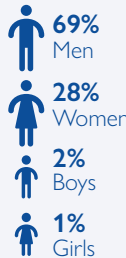
### Intended Destination



## Migrants surveyed in August 2023

**694**  
Surveyed migrants  
exiting Ethiopia  
August 2023

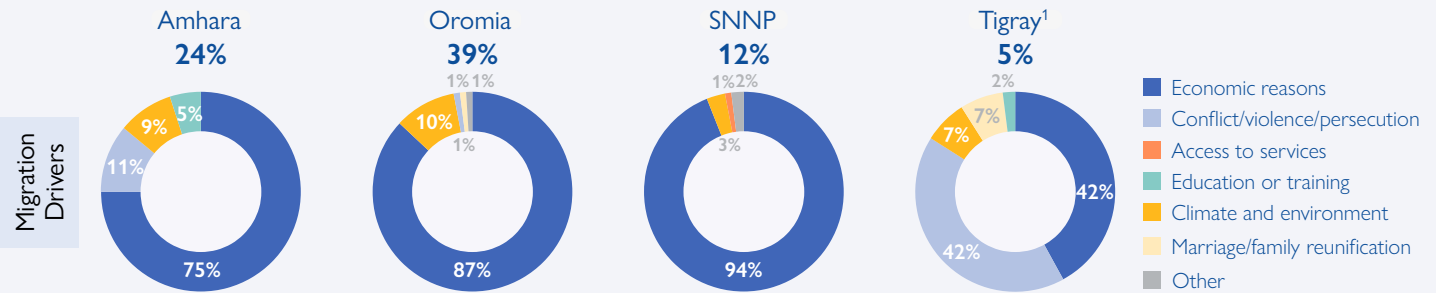
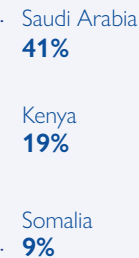
### Sex & Age Group



### Migration Drivers

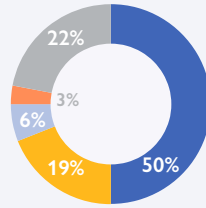
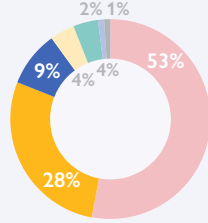
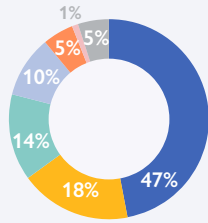
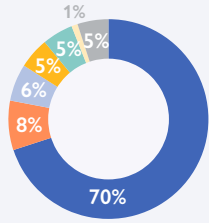


### Intended Destination



<sup>1</sup> Only 32 respondents surveyed from Tigray.

Intended Destination



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

## Migrants Seeking Assistance

Cumulative 2023  
**23,310**

**852**  
MRC registrations  
August 2023

MRC Location

- Dire Dawa **62%**
- Metema **13%**
- Moyale **12%**
- Togochale **13%**

Sex & Age Group

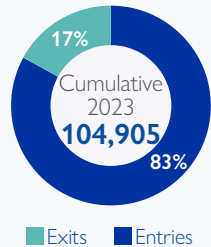
- 75%** Men
- 9%** Women
- 13%** Boys
- 4%** Girls

Hardships

- Lack of basic services **65%**
- Imprisonment/detention **16%**
- Physical/psychological abuse **15%**

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

### Metema Border Point



Exits

**348**  
Migrant exits from Ethiopia  
August 2023

Entries

**5,330**  
Migrant entries into Ethiopia  
August 2023

Migration Drivers

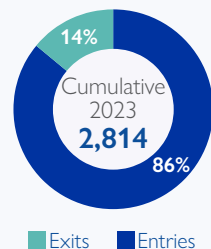
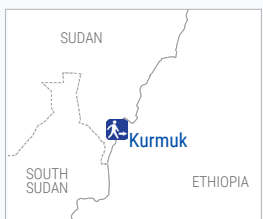
**8**  
Surveyed migrants exiting Ethiopia  
August 2023

Economic reasons **100%**

**275**  
Surveyed migrants entering Ethiopia  
August 2023

- Conflict/violence/persecution **92%**
- Access to services **5%**
- Others **3%**

### Kurmuk Border Point



Exits

**2**  
Migrant exits from Ethiopia  
August 2023

Entries

**247**  
Migrant entries into Ethiopia  
August 2023

Migration Drivers

**0**  
Surveyed migrants exiting Ethiopia  
August 2023

**6**  
Surveyed migrants entering Ethiopia  
August 2023

Conflict/violence/persecution **100%**

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  
**17,140**

**1,807**  
Migrant children entries  
August 2023

Into Djibouti  
**27%**  
Into Somalia  
**49%**  
Into Yemen  
**24%**

**54%**  
Boys  
**46%**  
Girls

**29%**  
Unaccompanied



**317**  
Migrant children seeking assistance  
August 2023

In Djibouti  
**19%**  
In Ethiopia  
**44%**  
In Somalia  
**37%**

**67%**  
Boys  
**33%**  
Girls

**428**

Migrants surveyed who are caring for children (19% of all respondents)  
August 2023

Travelling with children  
**38%**

Having children in the country of intended destination  
**8%**

Who left children behind in the country of origin  
**54%**

Caretakers of migrant children not travelling with the migrant parent

My spouse/partner  
**61%**

Grandparents or extended family  
**35%**

My older children (18 and over)  
**2%**

Other  
**2%**

## Returns from Saudi Arabia



**5,500**

Returns August 2023

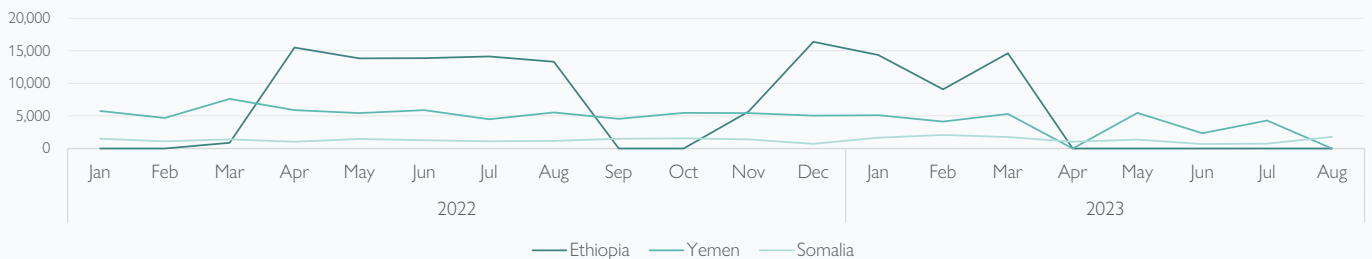
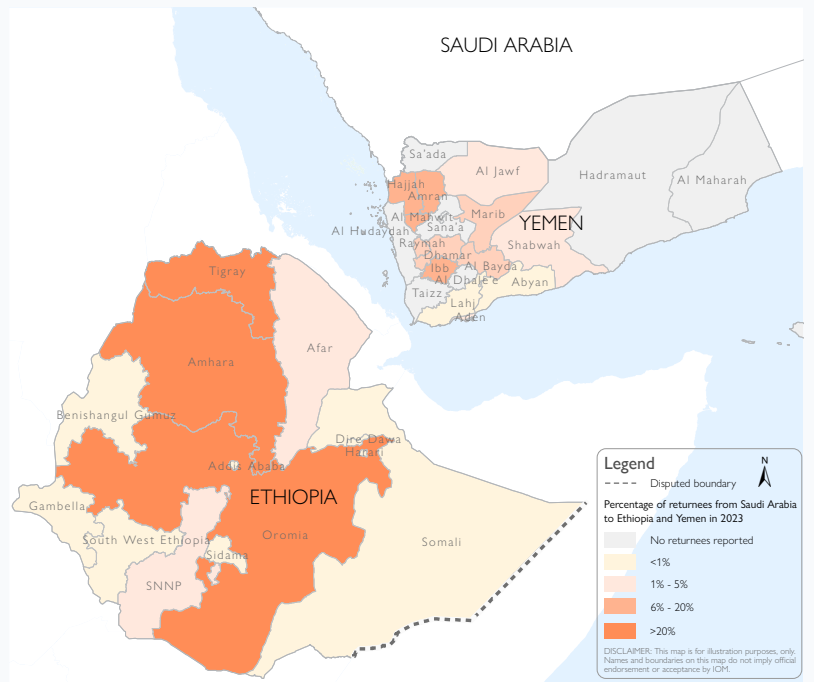
Cumulative 2023  
**85,179**

Returns to

Ethiopia	Yemen	Somalia	Ethiopia	Yemen	Somalia
-	<b>3,707</b>	<b>1,793</b>	<b>39,218</b>	<b>34,871</b>	<b>11,090</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. These returns were also suspended from early April 2023 and it is unclear if and when returns will resume. IOM was able to gather all return data for Somalia from the Immigration and Naturalization Directorate, which explains the differences from the previous month.

## Contact

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[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)