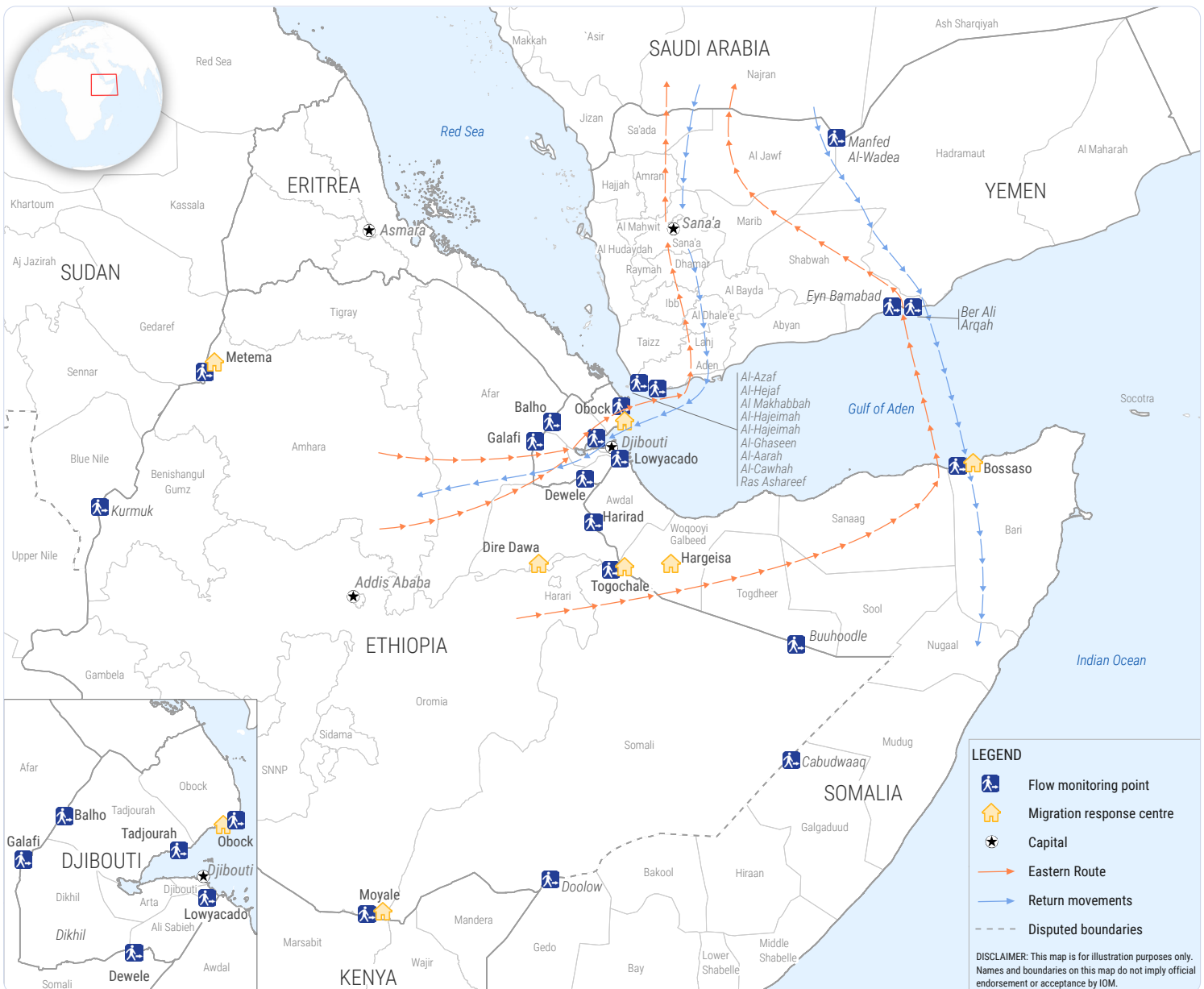


About the report

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:

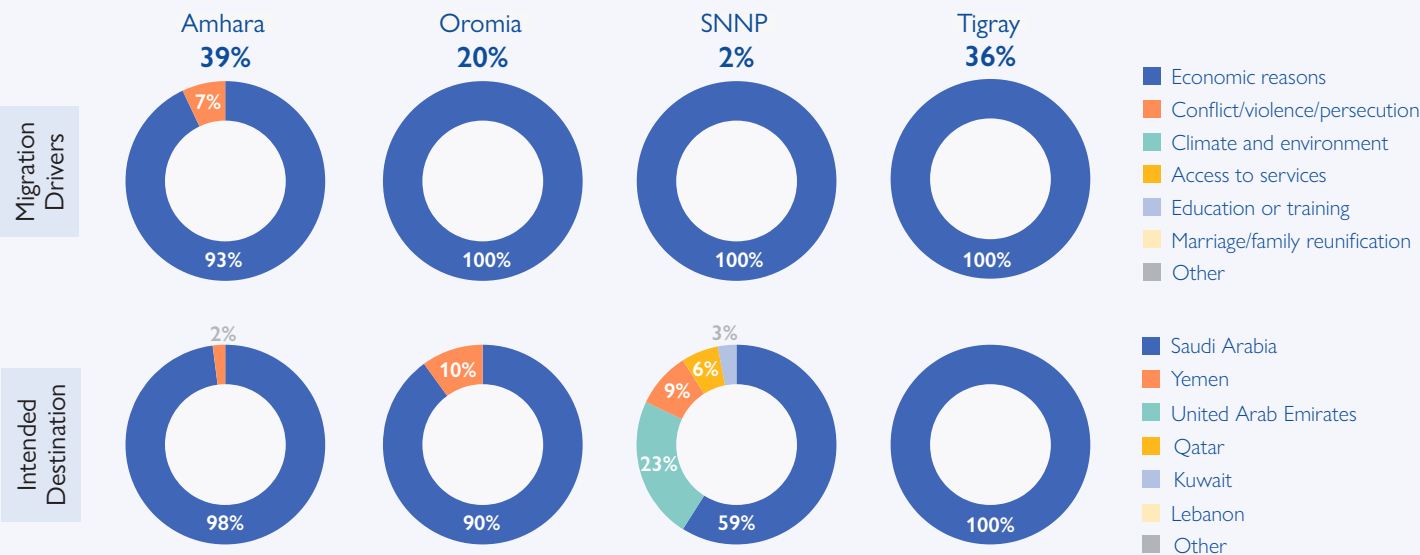
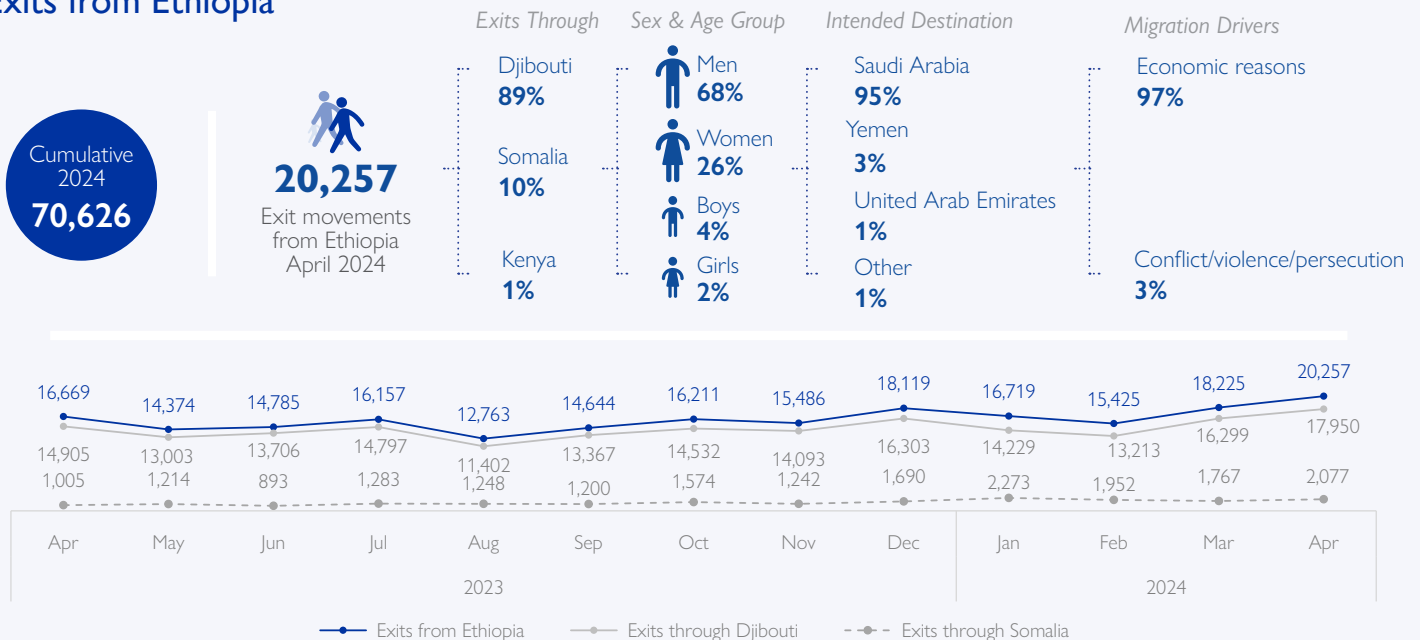
- Exit movements from Ethiopia (20,260) were the highest tracked since 2018, an 11% increase from the previous highest figure in March 2024.
- In April, two separate shipwrecks occurred in which 87 people making return journeys to the Horn of Africa perished near Obock, including children. The boats departed from Yemen and capsized off the coast of Djibouti due to overloading of the vessels.
- In the Ma'rib governorate of Yemen, flooding occurred in areas hosting stranded migrants, which exerted pressure on their dilapidated shelters and triggered pushed many on the move once again.
- Due to the campaign against irregular migration in the Bab-al Mandab Strait, there have been almost no migrant arrivals from Djibouti in the Lahj Governorate since October 2023.
- As it remains difficult for migrants to obtain employment on farms in Ma'rib Al Wadi, many chose to return to their home countries via the Red Sea using smugglers for the risky journey, while others were deported by boat from Yemen to the Horn of Africa.
- Over 13,000 people were forcibly returned from Saudi Arabia to Ethiopia in April, the largest number since April 2023.



Migration Through Ethiopia

- Overall exit movements from Ethiopia increased by 11% in the past month, marking the highest number of movements tracked since 2018, and an increase of 11% compared with the previous highest figure reported in March 2024. This increase was observed across all four migratory routes through Somalia (+18%), Djibouti (+10%), Kenya (+8%), and it was particularly pronounced in those travelling along the Sudan route (from 5 movements in March to 63 in April) despite the ongoing conflict.
- Despite the decrease (-3%) in the number of migrant children between March (1,139) and April (1,102), there was a **significant increase (+46%) in the number of migrant child heads of household** (from 380 to 554). While in March they represented 33% of children, this share increased to 50% in April.
- The number of children travelling alone also increased (+16%) from March (451) to April (521). Among all children, the share of **children travelling alone** also increased from 40% to 47%.
- Linked to the overall increase in exit movements, **departures from Tigray** increased by 25% between March (5,756) and April (7,201), and while in March they represented 32% of all movements, this increased to 36% in April. Departures from the Somali region of Ethiopia (+56%) and Addis Ababa (+43%) also increased from the previous month, although these departures continue to be relatively low (61 and 173 movements, respectively).
- The number of **movements due to conflict, violence or persecution** decreased by 25% between March (731) and April (550), most of which departed from Amhara (97%), comprising around one in ten (7%) movements from the administrative region. On the other hand, return movements to Ethiopia decreased for the second consecutive month (-42%).
- Over 13,000 people were forcibly returned from Saudi Arabia to Ethiopia in April, around ten times the number of people returned in March and the largest number since April 2023.
- At the MRCs in April, one in five (19%) people registered for assistance was a child and around two in five (37%) children were unaccompanied.
- Most people seeking assistance in Moyale (100%) and Togochale (99%) reported being **detained** and **physical or psychological abuse** was widely reported by people at the MRCs in Metema (89%) and Togochale (52%).

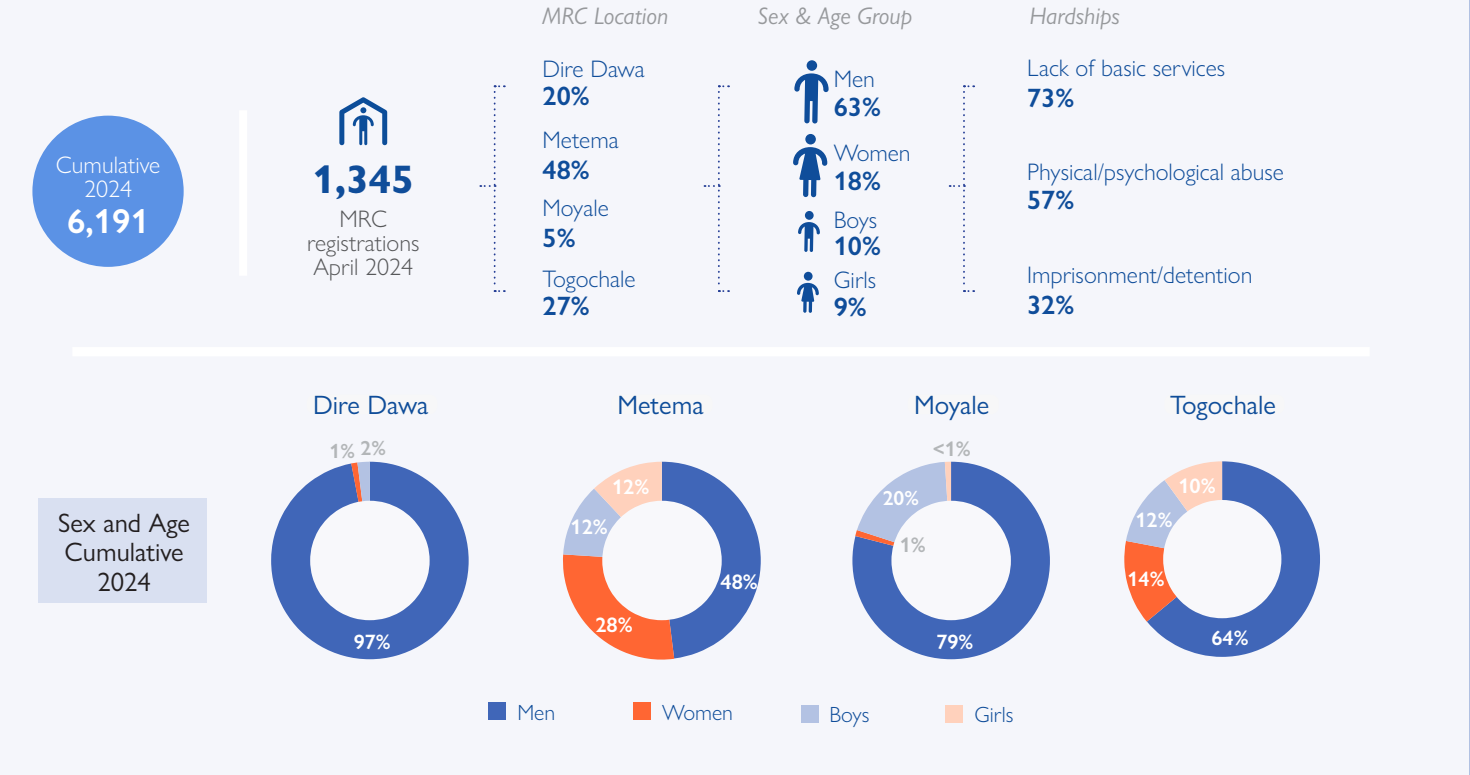
Exits from Ethiopia



Return Movements to Ethiopia



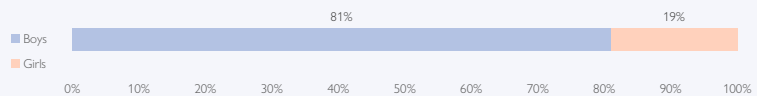
Migrants Seeking Assistance



Unaccompanied Children
(Share of All Children)
at MRCs in 2024



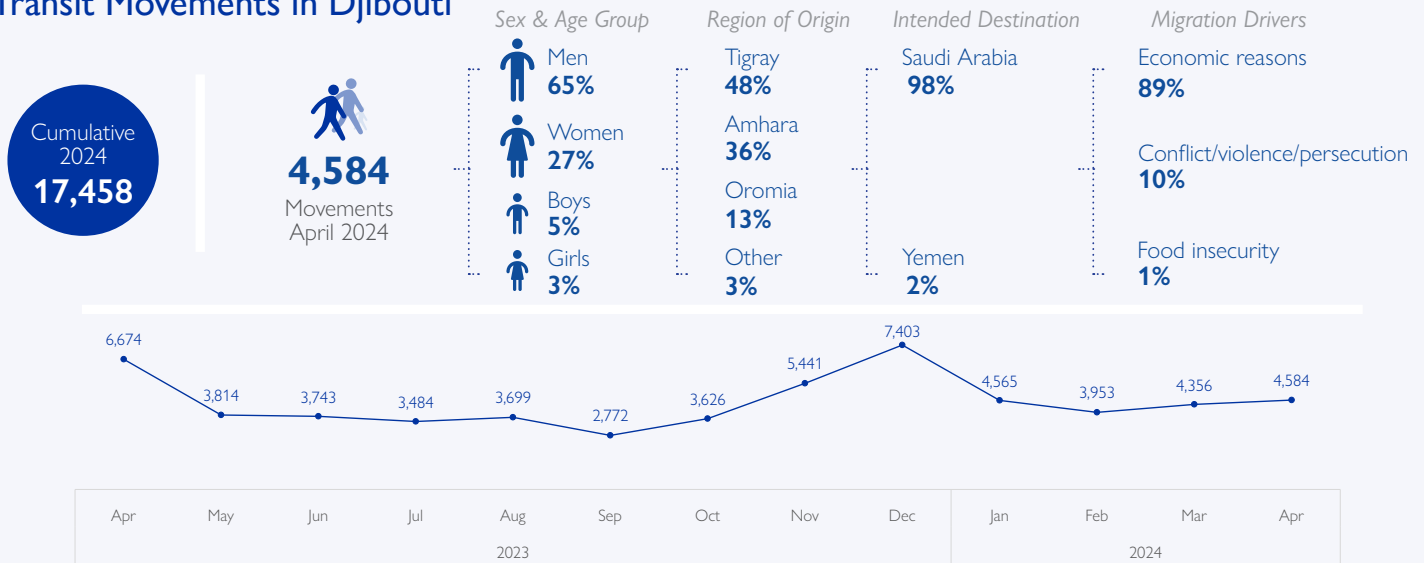
Unaccompanied Children by Sex in 2024



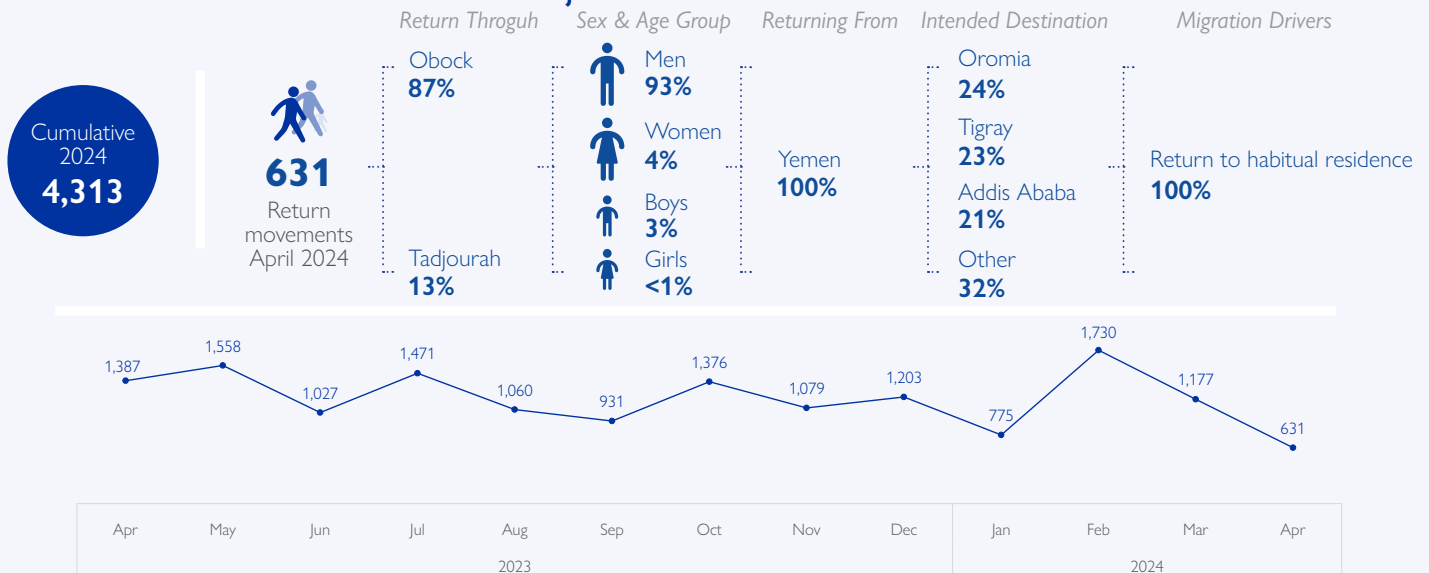
Migration Through Djibouti

- Movements tracked in Obock towards the Arabian Peninsula observed a 5% increase, with a particular increase in the number of girls (+16%).
- The increase was particularly pronounced for those who originally departed from Tigray (+23%), who represented 48% of movements in April (41% in March). Movements originally departing from Afar also increased (from 18 in March to 87 in April), although they were still relatively low in number compared with departures from other regions of Ethiopia. Movements originally departing from Oromia (-27%) and Amhara (-3%) decreased.
- Return movements to Obock and Tadjourah decreased by 46%. However, despite this overall decrease and insecurity in Amhara, those planning to return to Amhara increased by 47% (from 83 to 122), representing around one-fifth (19%) of overall returns in April (7% in March).
- On 8 April and 22 April, two separate shipwrecks occurred in which a total of 87 people perished near Obock, including 5 children. In both cases, the migrants were believed to be returning to the Horn of Africa after making unsuccessful attempts to reach Saudi Arabia. The boats departed from Yemen and capsized off the coast of Djibouti due to overloading of the vessels. Between the two calamities, 56 survivors were identified.
- In April there were six return movements tracked from Yemen to Djibouti through Somalia, totalling to 26 so far in 2024, all of which were tracked at the Lowyacado FMP at the border between Djibouti and Somalia.
- Stranded migrants increased by 28% between March (631) and April (807).
- In April, IOM Djibouti carried out five convoys for 266 migrants who received assisted voluntary return to their country of origin.
- At the MRC in Obock, two in five people registered (42%) reported health problems.

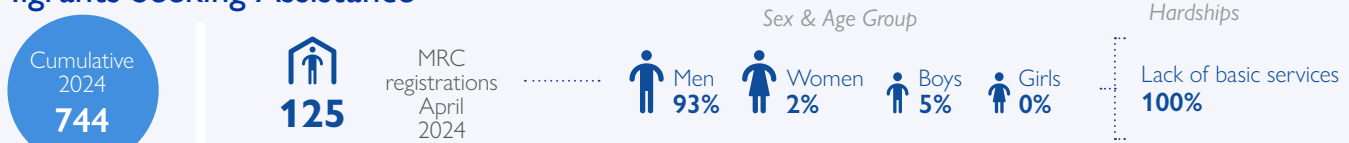
Transit Movements in Djibouti



Return Movements to Obock and Tadjourah



Migrants Seeking Assistance



807 Stranded migrants April 2024

Stranded migrants April 2024

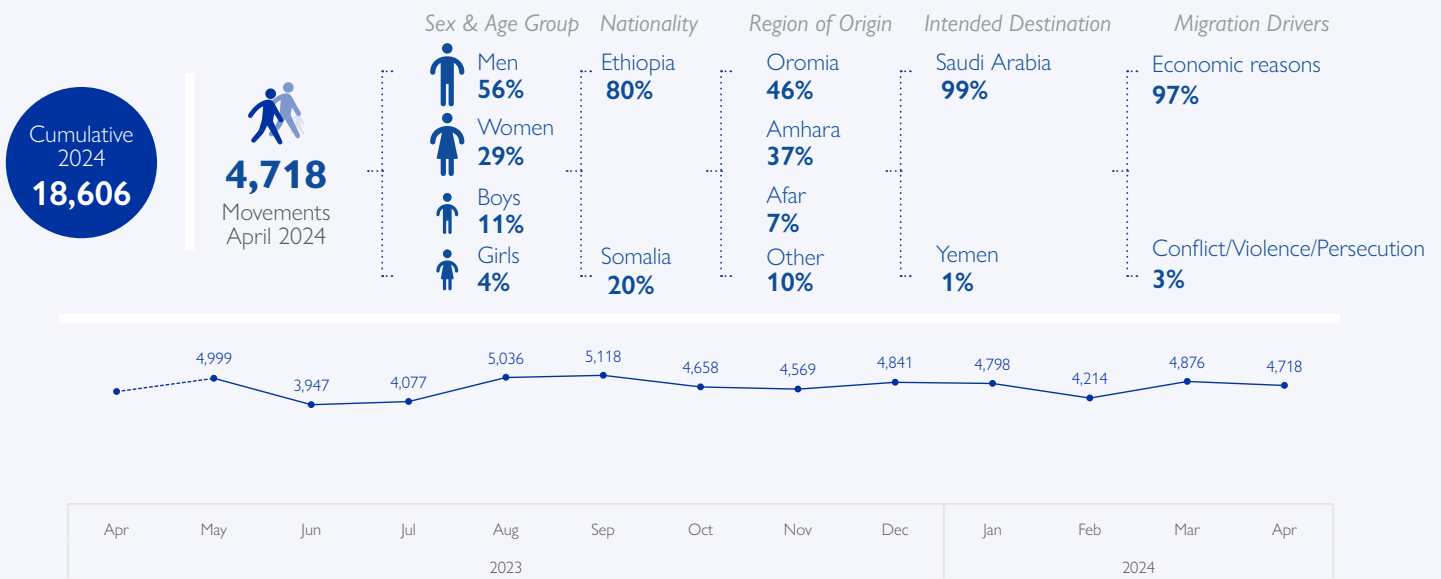
87 Dead/missing migrants April 2024

Dead/missing migrants April 2024

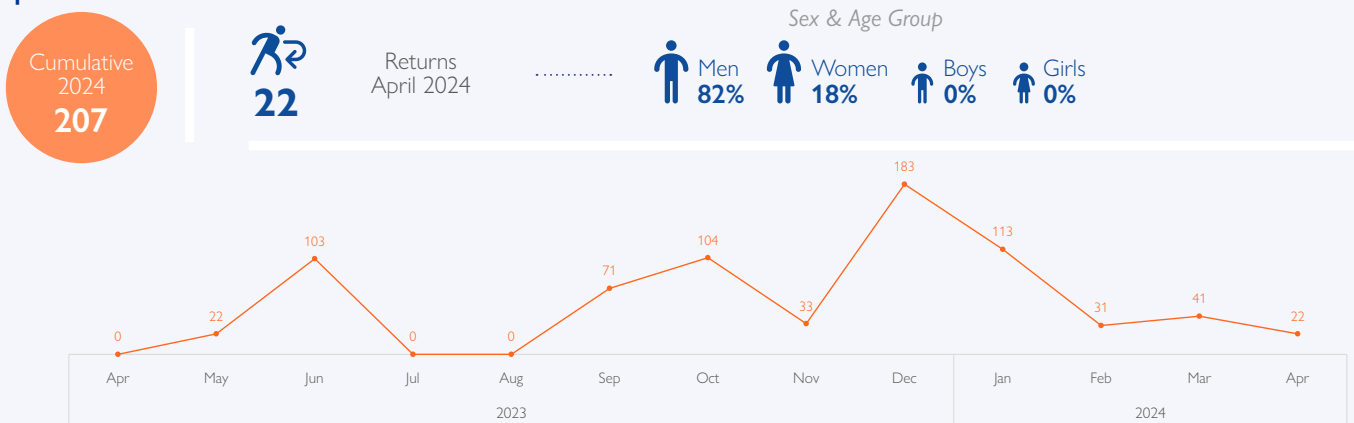
Migration Through Somalia

- The number of tracked children decreased by 21% between March (892) and April (708). However, the number of children travelling alone increased by 26% (from 154 to 194), representing more than a quarter (27%) of all children (17% in March).
- Some of the migrants who arrived in Bossaso reported walking long distances because they did not have enough money for transportation. Some of them mentioned they began their journey on foot from Buuhoodle and that it took them 26 days to cover the 700 kilometers between both cities. Also, some of the migrants tracked in Buuhoodle reported that they had no food and little water during their journey.
- Heavy rainfall severely damaged the Galcaio–Garowe–Bossaso roads, which slowed migrants' journeys and increased their shelter and food needs.
- Many women, including those pregnant, experienced illness during their journey as the vehicles they were travelling on were overcrowded.
- The number of stranded migrants in Bossaso and Hargeisa in April (6,144) reduced by 14% from March (7,176). Immigration authorities in the Sanaag region reported 172 stranded migrants (including 76 women and girls) at the shores of Maydh city.
- A migrant death was reported by IOM staff; however, details have not been disclosed.
- In Bossaso and Hargeisa, 831 migrants received protection services, including healthcare, psychosocial support, non-food items, voluntary return, and hotline services. Over three quarters were women (40%) and children (21% boys and 17% girls) and one third of children (35%) were travelling alone.
- With the advent of the monsoon season and stronger summer winds in the coming weeks, sea conditions are expected to worsen, making the crossing to Yemen through the Gulf of Aden more perilous. Thus, sea crossings are expected to reduce, which may result in an increase in stranded migrants who may be exposed to protection risks.
- Nearly half (47%) of people registered at MRCs in April were children, and all children seeking assistance in Bossaso (48) were unaccompanied.

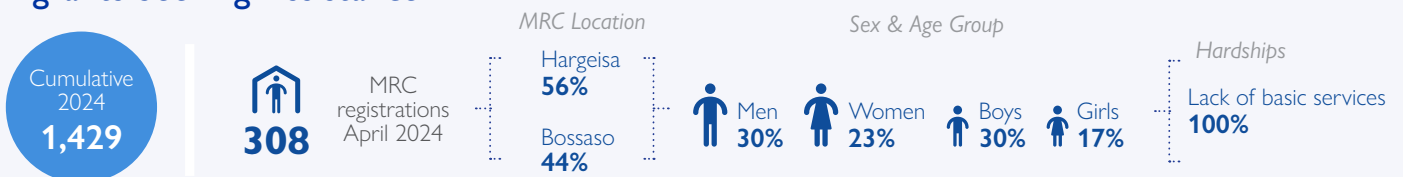
Transit Movements in Somalia¹



Spontaneous Returns from Yemen to Somalia



Migrants Seeking Assistance



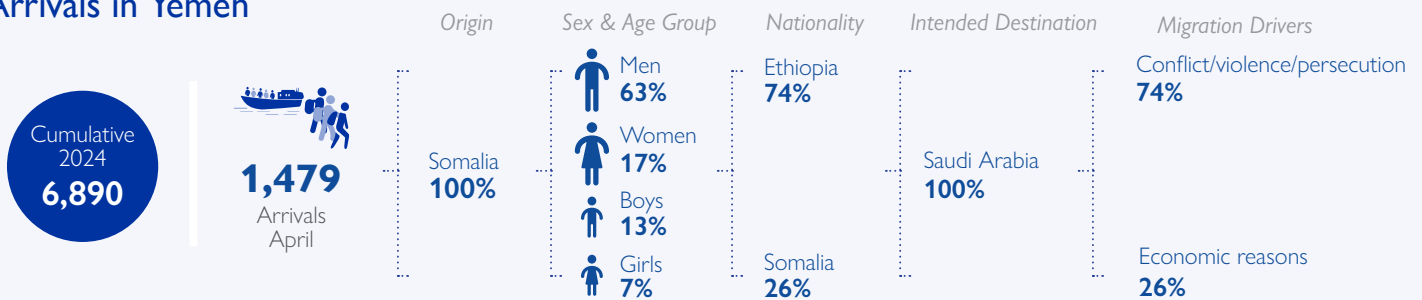
6,144 Stranded migrants April 2024 **1** Dead/missing migrants April 2024

¹ Due to operational constraints there was a Flow Monitoring data collection suspension in April 2023.

Migration Through Yemen

- Migrant arrivals from the Horn of Africa to Yemen decreased by around one quarter (-23%) between March and April.
- For the third consecutive month there have not been reports of arrivals from Djibouti to Yemen. In fact, due to the campaign against irregular migration in the Bab-al Mandab Strait, which has been ongoing since August 2023, there have not been migrant arrivals from Djibouti in the Lahj Governorate since October 2023, with a single exception in December 2023, when a boat carrying 110 migrants managed to arrive at the shores of Lahj.
- Due to a decrease in the movements attributed to economic migration (-54%), conflict-induced movements in April represented 74% of arrivals in Yemen (57% in March), although these figures between March (1,102) and April (1,097) remained largely the same.
- Since it remains difficult for migrants to obtain employment on farms in Ma'rib Al Wadi, coupled with challenges in Yemen, some migrants opted to take the risky journey back to their countries with smugglers while others were deported by boat from Yemen to the Horn of Africa.
- DTM teams in the field were able to track 819 migrants in April (-30% from March) who were returning to the Horn of Africa. However, DTM teams in Djibouti were only able to verify 631 arrivals in Obock and Tadjourah during April, which demonstrates the complexity of tracking movements along the Eastern Corridor.
- DTM teams also tracked 191 Ethiopian migrants that were deported from Oman back to the Deifen point of entry in Shahan district of the Al Maharah governorate.
- In the north of Yemen, DTM teams identified 5,046 Yemeni returnees in April 2024, a 19% increase compared with March (4,226). Among those, only 277 individuals returned to Yemen with valid exit stamp, while the remaining were deported due to lack of valid documents to cross or to remain in Saudi Arabia.
- In Ma'rib governorate, flooding occurred in areas hosting stranded migrants, which exerted pressure on their dilapidated shelters and pushed many on the move once again.
- Migrants in the Shabwah governorate were detained by a smuggler who demanded a ransom of 300 to 600 dollars when the migrants were en route from Aden to Ma'rib.
- In April, five migrants (3 Pakistani, 1 Ethiopian and 1 Indian) were able to return to their countries of origin from Aden through voluntary humanitarian return flights.

Arrivals in Yemen



30,000 Stranded migrants April 2024

None reported Dead/missing migrants April 2024

Migrant Children Along the Eastern Corridor

Cumulative
2024
9,993

2,487
Migrant children
April 2024

Djibouti
35%
Ethiopia
24%
Somalia
29%
Yemen
12%

Boys
68%
Girls
32%

29%
Unaccompanied
24%
Heads of household

402
Migrant children seeking assistance
April 2024

In Ethiopia
62%
In Somalia
36%
In Djibouti
2%

Boys
57%
Girls
43%

53

Migrants surveyed who are caring for children (11% of all respondents)
April 2024

Left children behind in the country of origin
81%

Travelling with children
19%

Caretakers of children not travelling with the migrant parent

My spouse/partner
73%

Grandparents or extended family
27%

Forced Returns from Saudi Arabia



18,347

Returns
April 2024

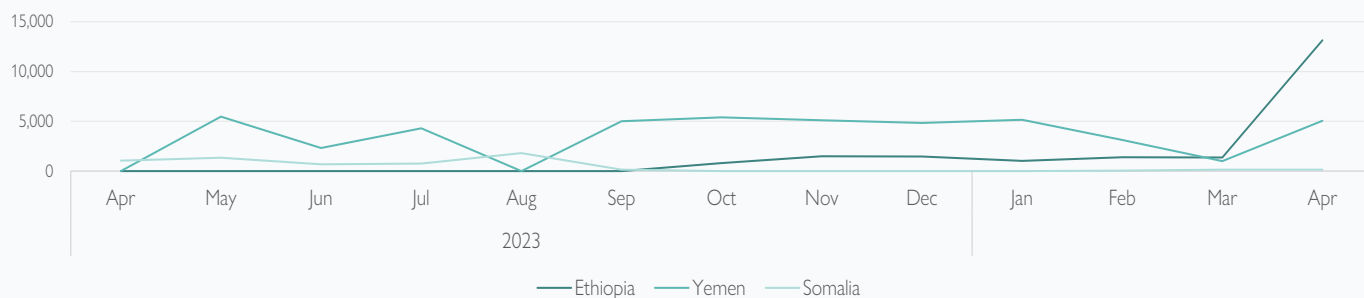
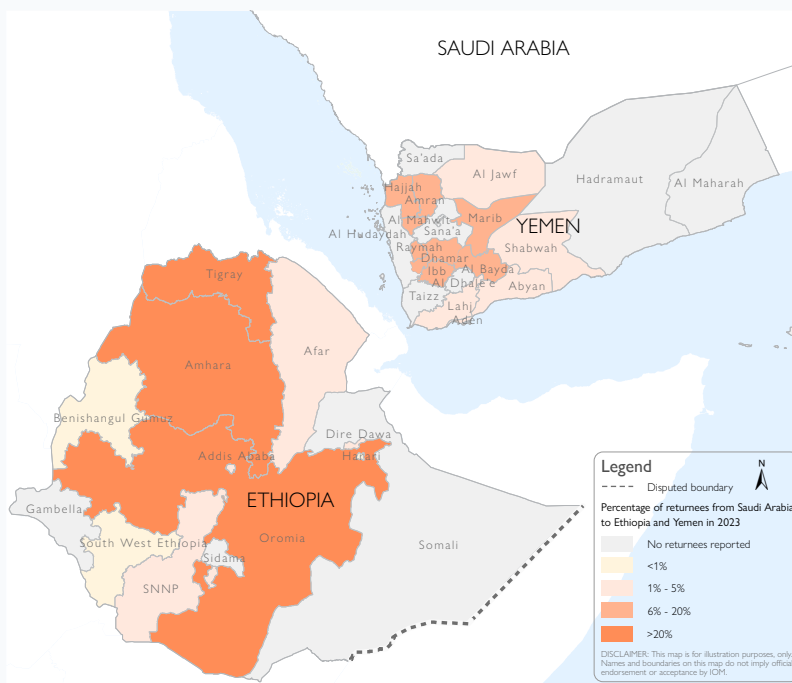
Cumulative
2024
31,549

Returns to

Ethiopia	Yemen	Somalia	Ethiopia	Yemen	Somalia
13,155	5,046	146	16,922	14,301	326

Region of intended return
in Ethiopia 2024

Oromia	Amhara	Tigray	SNNP	Afar
38%	32%	25%	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