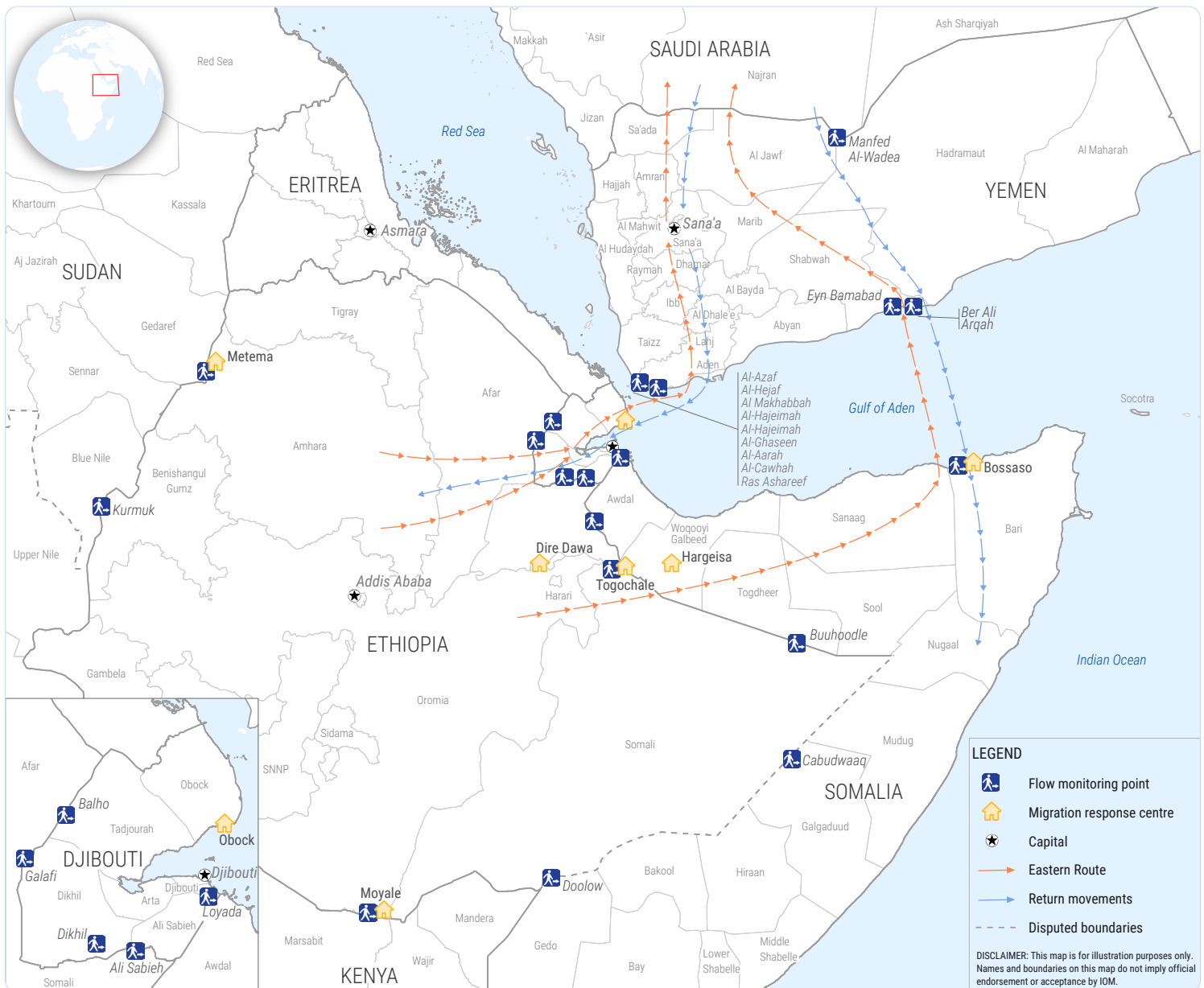


### About the report

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

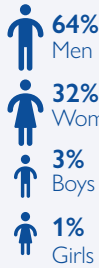
- Migrant entries into Djibouti decreased by 10% from October.
- While the number of spontaneous returns from Yemen decreased by 14% between October (588) and November (505), numerous migrants are still observed returning to Ethiopia in key transit locations, such as in Obock (935) or Tadjourah (144).
- Women and children still represent over one-third (36%) of all entries and around one in ten (8%) of all children were travelling alone (all boys).
- Stranded migrants increased by 5% since October (from 800 to 835), with women (18%) and children (30%) representing around half of stranded migrants.
- The number of migrants registered in the Obock MRC more than tripled between October (174) and November (543).
- IOM carried out nine AVRRC convoys in which 609 people received voluntary assistance to return to their place of origin. Due to the renewed conflict in northern Ethiopia, return of migrants to the Amhara region is suspended until further notice.

## Entries into Djibouti

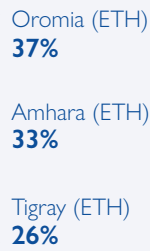
Cumulative 2023  
**125,729**

**9,296**  
Entries  
November 2023

### Sex & Age Group



### Region of Origin



### Intended Destination



### Migrants surveyed in November 2023

**262**

#### Migration Drivers

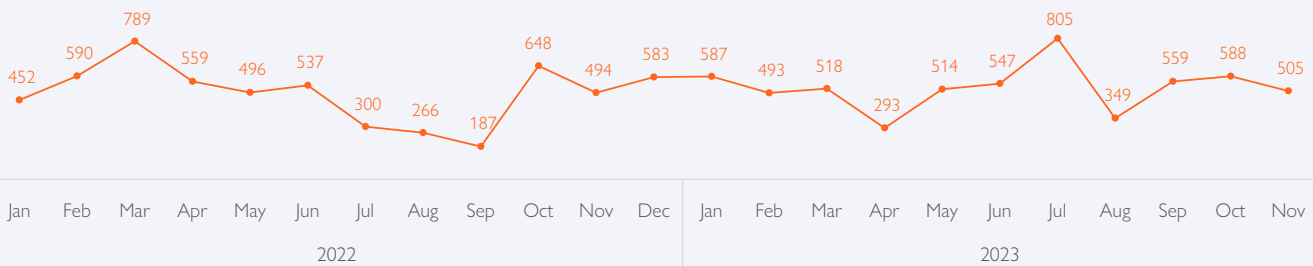


## Spontaneous Returns from Yemen to Djibouti

Cumulative 2023  
**5,758**

**505**  
Returns  
November 2023

### Sex & Age Group



## Migrants Seeking Assistance

Cumulative 2023  
**2,745**

**543**  
MRC registrations  
November 2023

### Sex & Age Group



**838**

Stranded migrants  
November 2023



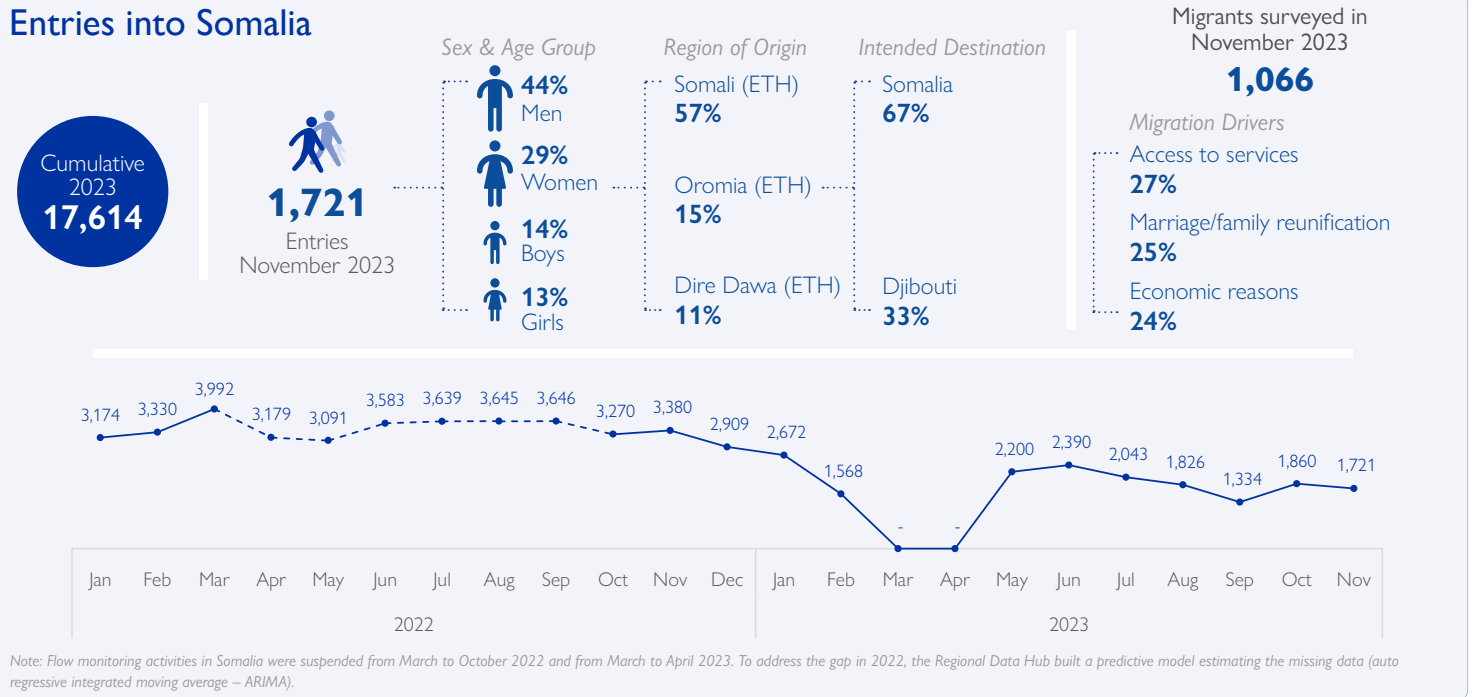
**None reported**

Dead/missing migrants  
November 2023

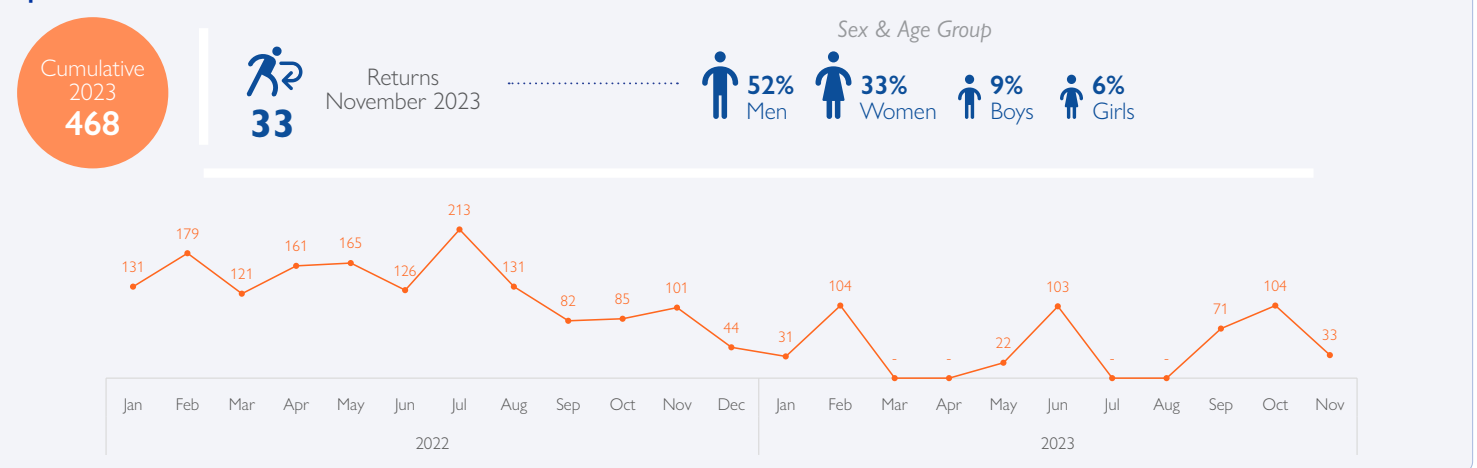
# Migration Through Somalia

- Migrant entries into Somalia decreased by 7% from October.
- The Ethiopian Community Committee in Borama has reported that 1,300 Ethiopian migrants have entered the country.
- At the beginning of November, roads became muddy due to heavy rains, making migrants' journeys towards Bossaso difficult between the towns of Dhahar and Waciye. Some migrants shared their concerns about travelling the long distance on foot (about 42 kilometres) between the two towns.
- There were reports of clashes between two groups of migrants in the mining district of Milxo near Bossaso, where two migrants were killed, and two were injured. They were referred to Bossaso General Hospital for secondary medical assistance.
- The MRC team in Bossaso reported big lorries carrying up to 300 migrants entering Bossaso, some of whom reported high travel costs during their journey and mentioned that the transport cost had doubled. Some of them also mentioned that they experienced physical violence.
- Registrations at MRCs increased by 57%, mainly due to the increase in registrations in Bossaso between October (30) and November (165). Almost three-quarters (70%) of the registrations were by women (17%) and children (53%). Also, around one-third (34%) of children were travelling alone.
- Those seeking assistance at the MRCs were largely driven by economic motivations (36%) and educational opportunities (33%), while almost a quarter (23%) were fleeing conflict. Most of the people registered departed from Oromia (86%).

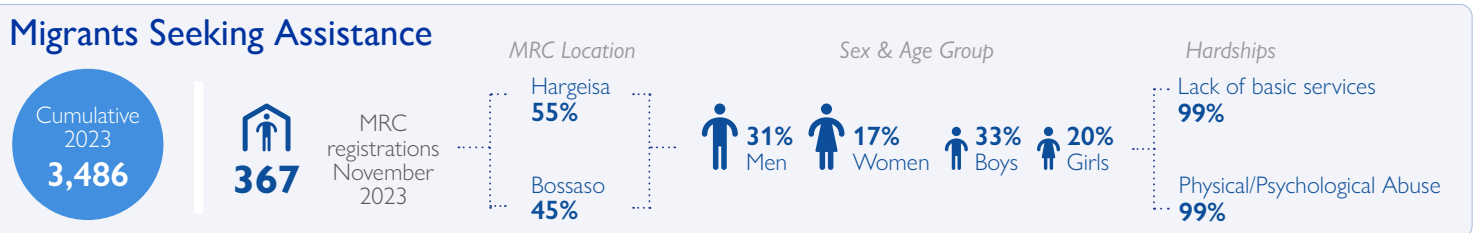
## Entries into Somalia



## Spontaneous Returns from Yemen to Somalia



## Migrants Seeking Assistance



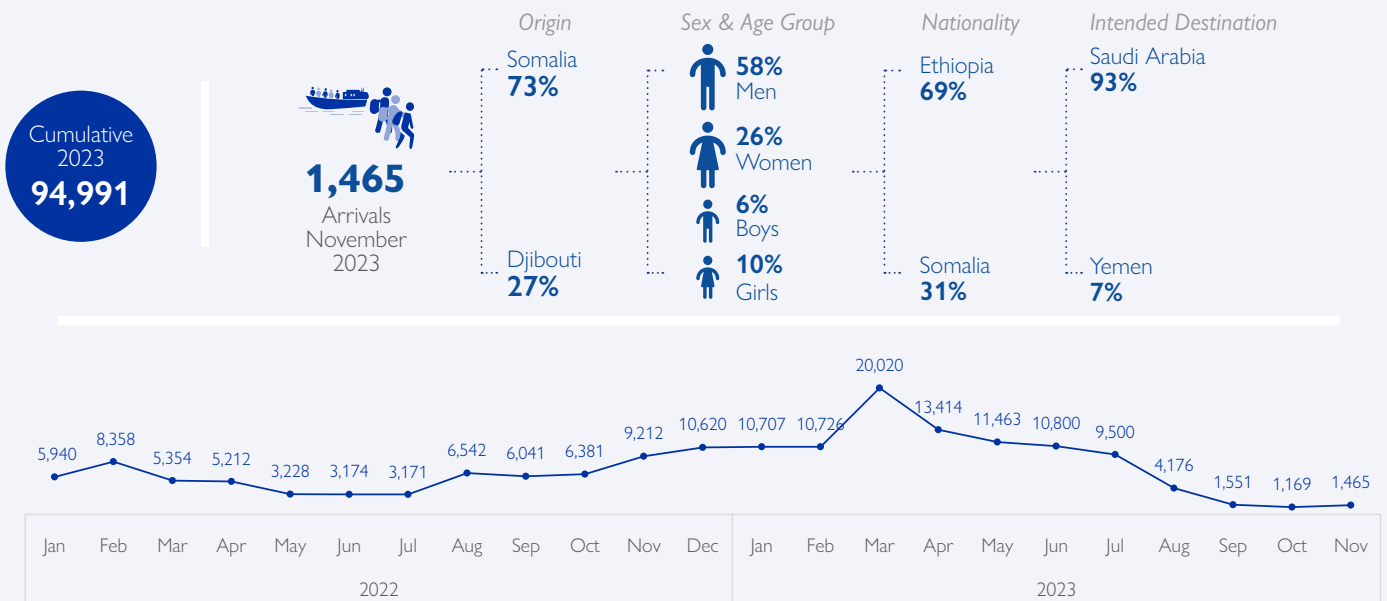
**6,080** Stranded migrants November 2023

**2** Dead/missing migrants November 2023

# Migration Through Yemen

- After seven consecutive months of decrease, November observed a **25% increase** in migrant arrivals.
- This increase is attributed to the **resumption of boats** departing Djibouti, which did not observe any departures in October. Despite the resumption of departures from Djibouti, arrivals to Yemen from Somalia have been higher than those from Djibouti for the third consecutive month.
- A **new migration trend** has been observed by boats departing Djibouti. To avoid coast guards, these boats travelled around 450 kilometers eastwards from the Bab el-Mandeb Strait towards the Gulf of Aden before **disembarking along the Shabwah coast**, which has historically mostly received migrants departing from the Somali coast. Therefore, November marks the **second consecutive month without migrants arriving at the Lahj coast**.
- Most of the migrants arriving in Yemen were fleeing **conflict (61%)** or in search of **better economic opportunities (39%)**.
- IOM teams continue to receive reports of **forced relocations** of migrants from the de facto authority to Internationally Recognized Government areas.
- In Ma'rib, IOM witnessed around **450 migrants being smuggled into pickup trucks under very crowded conditions** from an informal settlement towards the Saudi Arabia border. Also, there was an increase in migrant movements from Shabwah to Mafraq Alsad attributed to the orange season, which offers numerous job opportunities in local farms.
- Migrants continue to report being subjected to **multiple protection risks**, such as abduction, extortion, and physical and sexual harassment, while others are grappling with a severe case of watery diarrhoea with limited access to health care. Stranded migrants in Aden have also raised concerns about harassment, robberies and evictions.
- On 12 November, a boat carrying around 90 migrants (including 60 women) sank in the Bab el-Mandeb Strait due to overloaded capacity and engine failure exacerbated by strong winds. Although 26 survivors were rescued by the Yemeni Coast Guard, **64 migrants are feared dead**, the second major shipwreck of the year in these waters.
- Key informants and partners reported an estimated **50 migrants injured and 19 dead** in Sa'dah governate on their journey to Saudi Arabia. In addition, one migrant was killed and another was seriously injured by a landmine when travelling from Hareeb to Ma'rib Alwadi.

## Arrivals in Yemen from the Horn of Africa



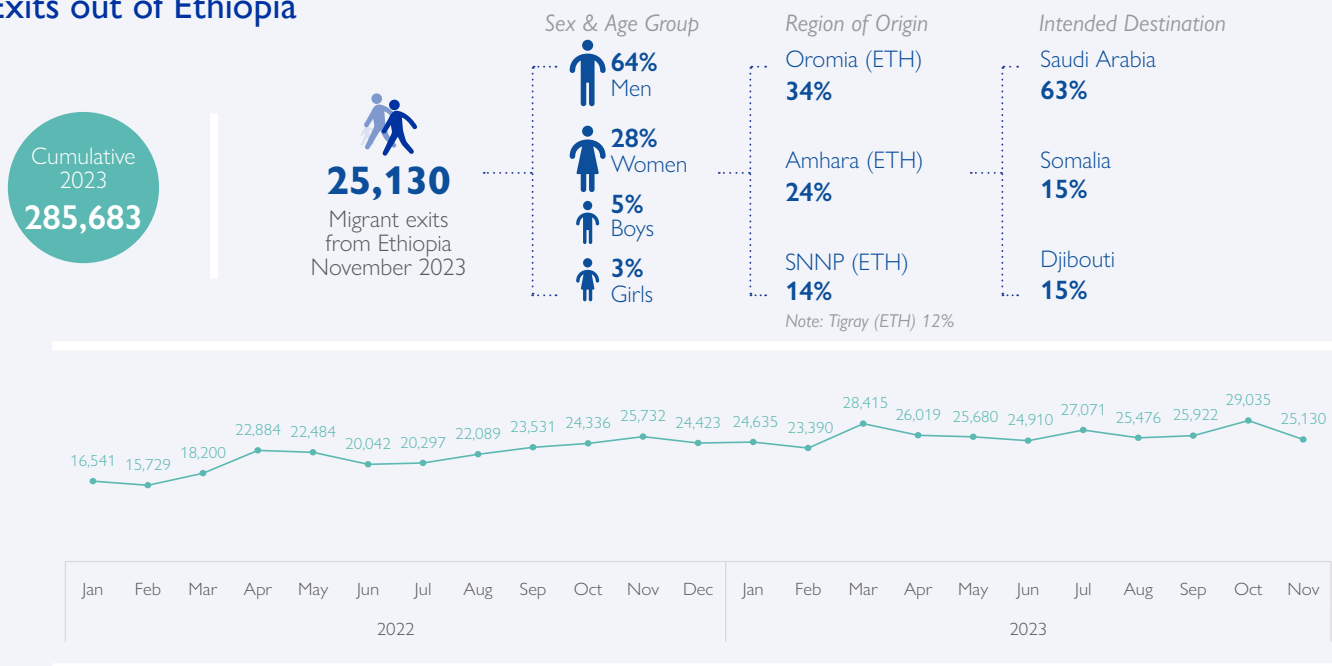
**40,000** Stranded migrants November 2023

**84** Dead/missing migrants November 2023

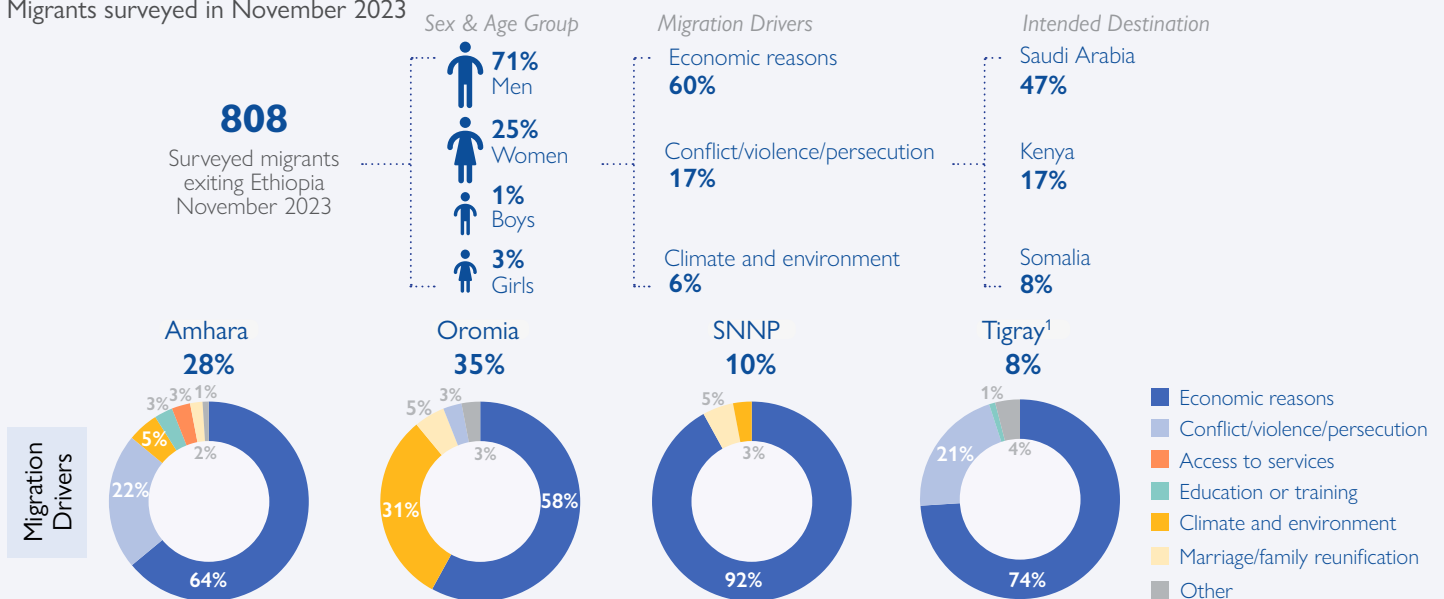
# Migration Through Ethiopia

- Migrant entries through Metema decreased by 17% from October (from 4,538 to 3,753), while entries through Kurmuk also decreased by 7% (from 169 to 157).
- Sudanese nationals continued to enter Ethiopia in the largest numbers (57%), followed by Ethiopian nationals returning home (40%) and people from 14 other nationalities (3%) fleeing the crisis.
- Although migration through Djibouti continues to be economically driven, around one-fifth (17%) of people departing from Amhara were fleeing conflict, while 7% reported food insecurity. Also, one in ten migrants leaving Oromia did so due to natural disasters (6%) or conflict (4%).
- Women and children represented more than half of all entries (27% and 24%, respectively), while 40% of all children were younger than five years.
- Forced returns from Saudi Arabia almost doubled (+87%) between October (794) and November (1,485), while there were 28 voluntary humanitarian returns from Yemen.
- The number of people seeking assistance at the MRC in Metema on the Sudan–Ethiopia border remains high, with 1,329 people registered in November, a 53% increase from October (871) and almost sevenfold (+582%) increase from pre-conflict numbers in March (195). Meanwhile, registrations in Moyale increased by 46% from October, largely by economic migrants from the SNNP region.
- The 396 registered children in Ethiopia formed one-fifth (20%) of people seeking assistance, and almost one in ten children were unaccompanied (9%), all of them in Togochale (21) and Moyale (16).
- The number of migrants reporting physical or psychological abuse in Metema more than doubled (+118%) between October (589) and November (1,284) and the proportion of migrants reporting such abuses has increased in Metema from 40% to 49%. In Togochale near the Ethiopia–Somalia border, individuals seeking assistance continue to report being detained in Somalia at high rates (84%), often by armed groups or people engaging in aggravated smuggling, and are subsequently released following negotiations and/or payment.

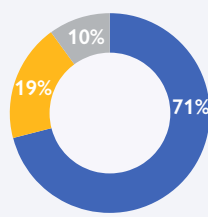
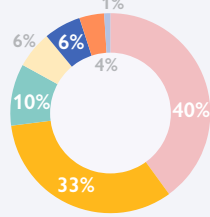
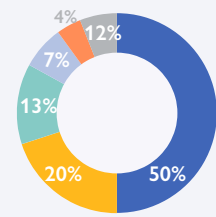
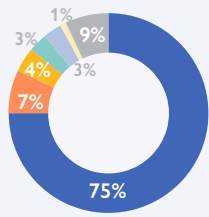
## Exits out of Ethiopia



## Migrants surveyed in November 2023



Intended Destination



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

## Migrants Seeking Assistance

Cumulative 2023  
**27,884**

**2,028**  
MRC registrations  
November 2023

MRC Location

- Metema **66%**
- Dire Dawa **23%**
- Moyale **7%**
- Togochale **4%**

Sex & Age Group

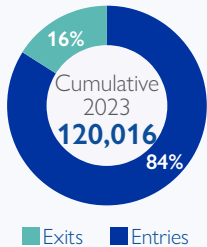
- 56%** Men
- 24%** Women
- 11%** Boys
- 9%** Girls

Hardships

- Lack of basic services **100%**
- Physical/psychological abuse **63%**
- Imprisonment/detention **10%**

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

### Metema Border Point



**578**  
Migrant exits from Ethiopia  
November 2023

**40**  
Surveyed migrants exiting Ethiopia  
November 2023

Migration Drivers

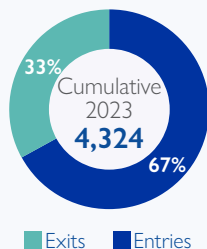
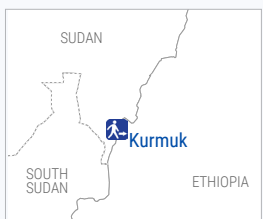
- Marriage/family reunification **35%**
- Conflict/violence/persecution **31%**
- Other **23%**

**3,753**  
Migrant entries into Ethiopia  
November 2023

**313**  
Surveyed migrants entering Ethiopia  
November 2023

- Conflict/violence/persecution **86%**
- Marriage/family reunification **7%**
- Economic reasons **5%**

### Kurmuk Border Point



**586**  
Migrant exits from Ethiopia  
November 2023

**3**  
Surveyed migrants exiting Ethiopia  
November 2023

Migration Drivers

- Economic reasons **67%**
- Conflict/violence/persecution **33%**

**157**  
Migrant entries into Ethiopia  
November 2023

**3**  
Surveyed migrants entering Ethiopia  
November 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  
**21,296**

**1,258**  
Migrant children entries  
November 2023

Into Somalia **58%**  
Into Djibouti **31%**  
Into Yemen **11%**

**64%** Boys  
**36%** Girls  
**14%** Unaccompanied

**629**  
Migrant children seeking assistance  
November 2023

In Ethiopia **63%**  
In Somalia **31%**  
In Djibouti **6%**

**57%** Boys  
**43%** Girls

**369**  
Migrants surveyed who are caring for children (20% of all respondents)  
November 2023

Travelling with children **17%**  
Having children in the country of intended destination **31%**  
Who left children behind in the country of origin **52%**

Caretakers of migrant children not travelling with the migrant parent

My spouse/partner **47%**  
Grandparents or extended family **26%**  
My older children (18 and over) **23%**  
Other **4%**

## Returns from Saudi Arabia



**6,596**

Returns  
November 2023

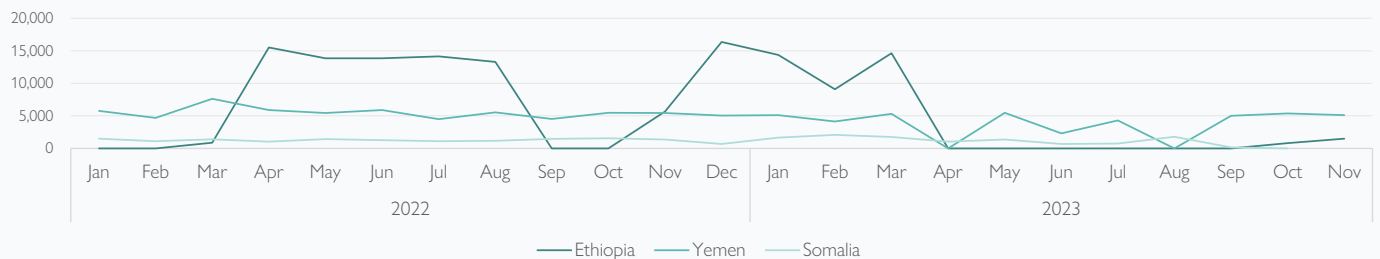
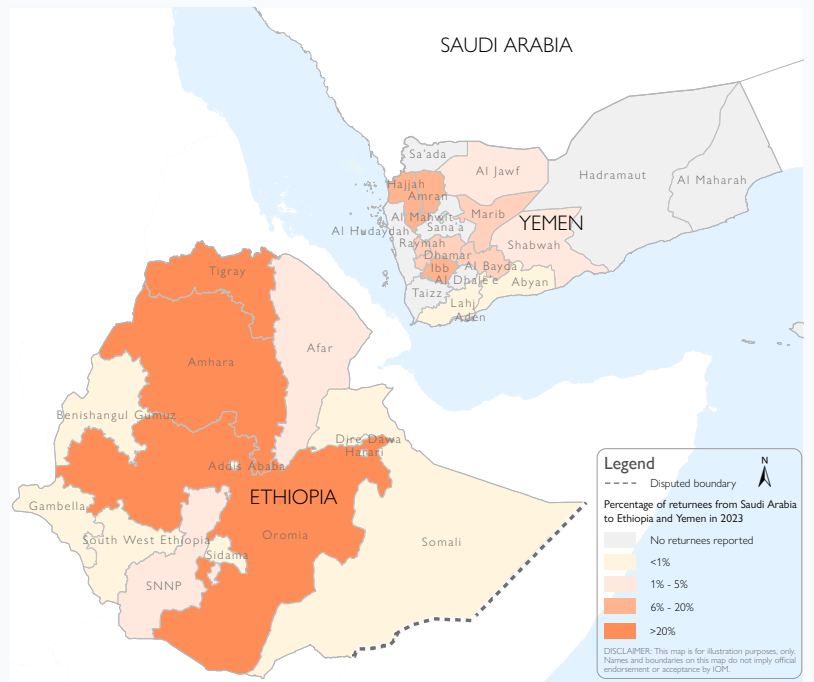
Cumulative 2023  
**103,104**

Returns to

Ethiopia	Yemen	Somalia	Ethiopia	Yemen	Somalia
<b>1,485</b>	<b>5,111</b>	<b>None reported</b>	<b>41,497</b>	<b>50,375</b>	<b>11,232</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. Returns were again suspended from early April 2023 for unspecified reasons and resumed in October 2023. IOM has only partial information on returns to Somalia for 2023 and data were not available for November 2023.

## 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)