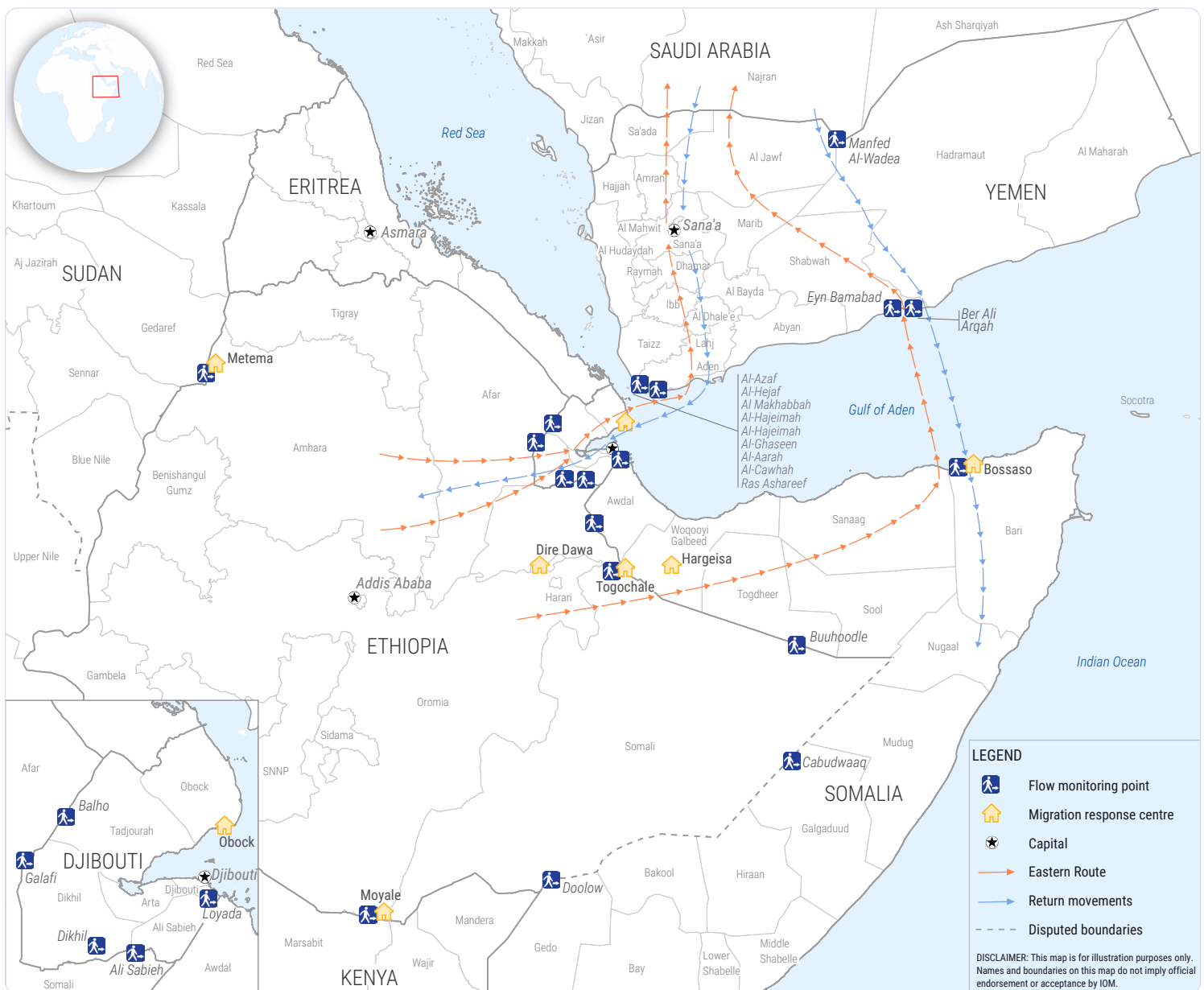


### About the report

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

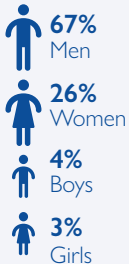
- Migrant entries into Djibouti **decreased by 10%** from April. Rumours of a security raid in the Lahj governorate in Yemen led to a decline in smuggling activities on the Obock–Lahj route, while the **crackdown on irregular migration** launched by the Government of Djibouti on 30 April 2023 resulted in a sharp increase in forced returns and exit movements to Ethiopia. In addition, there has been a growing interest by smugglers to use the route from **Somalia to Shabwah** in Yemen after tensions reduced in the Bari region.
- **Women and children** represented one third (33%) of all entries. 34% of all children were **travelling alone**, most of whom were **boys (97%)**.
- Although journeys were mostly economically driven, over one third (37%) of movements originating in the Somali region of Ethiopia were forced movements due to either **food insecurity (21%)** or **natural disaster (16%)**.<sup>1</sup>
- The number of **stranded migrants** remained high (914), many of whom were women (13%) and children (30%). Despite a slight decrease in the past month, around half were stranded along the Ethiopian border in **Dikhil (35%)** and **Ali-Sabieh (15%)** as the arrests and forced returns of migrants in the southern part of Djibouti prevented them from moving onwards towards the coastal areas of Tadjourah and Obock.
- After a significant decrease between March and April (-43%), the number of spontaneous returns from Yemen to Djibouti **increased by 75%** in the past month.
- **152 migrants** received AVRR assistance to return to Ethiopia.
- At the border between Djibouti and Ethiopia, **one person who died during migration** was discovered half buried by the local community and the incident was referred to the local authorities.

## Entries into Djibouti

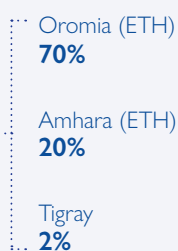
Cumulative  
2023  
**60,978**

**10,504**  
Entries  
May 2023

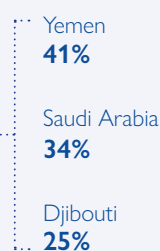
### Sex & Age Group



### Region of Origin



### Intended Destination



Migrants surveyed in May 2023

**286**

### Migration Drivers

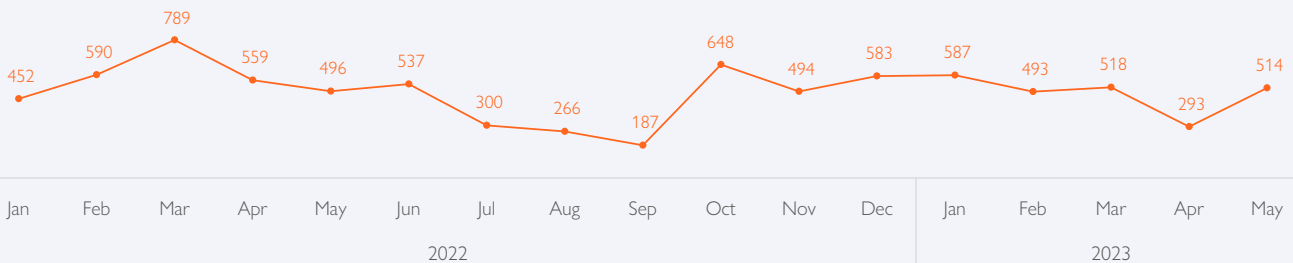
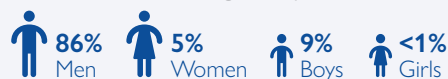


## Spontaneous Returns from Yemen to Djibouti

Cumulative  
2023  
**2,405**

**514**  
Returns  
May 2023

### Sex & Age Group



## Migrants Seeking Assistance

Cumulative  
2023  
**785**

**210**  
MRC  
registrations  
May 2023

### Sex & Age Group



**914** Stranded migrants  
May 2023

**1** Dead/missing migrants  
May 2023

<sup>1</sup> Data from DTM flow monitoring registry.

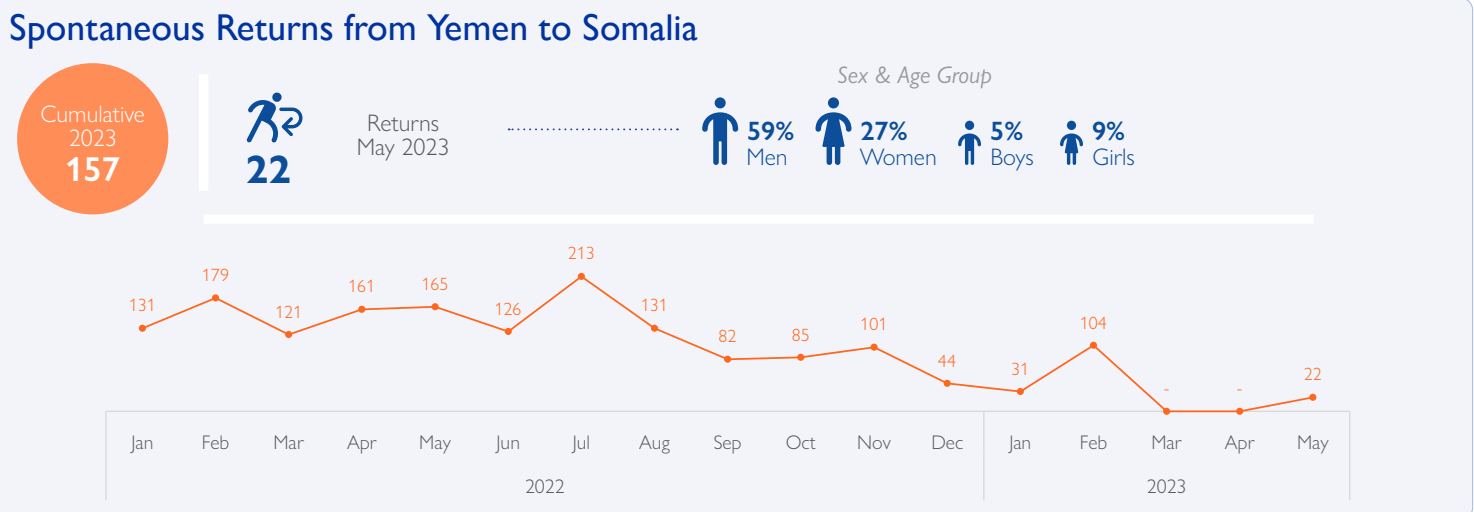
# Migration Through Somalia

- Migrant entries into Somalia increased by 40% from February.
- The security situation in **Las Anod**, located on one of the main migratory routes to Bossaso, continued to rapidly deteriorate and create an alarming and volatile environment, with tensions escalating on 17–19 May 2023. Migrants in and around Las Anod are extremely vulnerable and likely subjected to discrimination, exploitation and abuse as well as denied access to basic services and at risk of getting caught in crossfire.
- Migrants who passed through **Buuhoodle** – the main entry point for those transiting through Las Anod and Bossaso before heading to the Arabian Peninsula – lacked food and water during their travels and this lack was worsened by the prolonged drought.
- Mixed migration movements through **Hargeisa** increased and this trend is expected to continue in the coming months, resulting in a growing number of Ethiopian irregular migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers arriving in the area. Many of them will use the country as a gateway to reach the Arabian Peninsula, while others may choose to settle in and around Hargeisa.
- People seeking assistance at the MRC in Hargeisa were largely driven to move by economic reasons (50%), drought (37%) and conflict (11%). Children made up 60% of people seeking assistance in Hargeisa. In addition, stranded migrants in Hargeisa regularly visited the MRC for non-food items and food assistance.
- Migrants also face other protection risks, such as detention (reported by female migrants) and physical violence. Transportation costs also doubled due to inflation and high prices in Bossaso.
- One person died during migration from a snake bite in Bossaso.

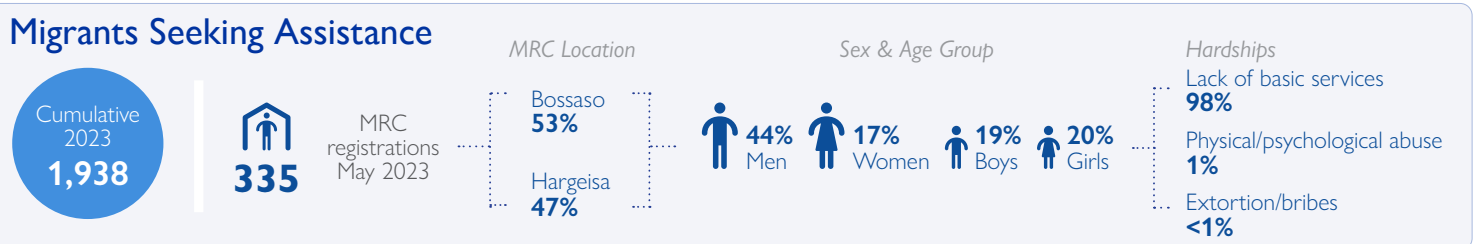
## Entries into Somalia



## Spontaneous Returns from Yemen to Somalia



## Migrants Seeking Assistance



**5,350** Stranded migrants May 2023

**1** Dead/missing migrants May 2023

# Migration Through Yemen

- Migrant arrivals in Yemen **decreased by 15%** from April in response to rumours concerning a **security raid** in Lahj, which raised fears among smugglers. Arrivals through the Lahj coast decreased by 25% in the last month.
- **Women and children** represented around a quarter of all arrivals (5% and 21%, respectively).
- Most migrants were looking for better economic opportunities (83%) while **17%** were moving due to **conflict, violence or persecution**.
- The arrival of **Somali nationals significantly increased (+72%)** in the past month. This increase was linked to the growing number of migrants arriving along the **Shabwah coast** following a **truce signed between conflicting parties in Bari**, one of the main routes used by smugglers.
- In some areas, such as Lahj, **arrest campaigns targeting specific smuggler groups** were reintroduced due to alleged disagreements between smugglers and local authorities. During these arrests, some migrants under the detention of smugglers were **released**.
- Due to the **hot weather** in Yemen, migration flows within the country **reduced** as many migrants opted to use **road transportation** instead of walking. Migrants travelling between Aden and Lahj were placed in **congested trucks** and were often **exploited for cheap labour** (such as offloading the trucks) as a means of compensating the smugglers for facilitating their transportation.
- The number of **stranded migrant children**, including unaccompanied, in **Sa'dah** – the main entry point into Saudi Arabia – increased considerably, from representing 10% of the stranded population in January (last protection monitoring visit) to **40%** in May.
- The number of female migrants being **exploited and abused** by other migrants and smugglers has been worrying. Many female migrants approached the migrant response point in Aden for assistance with **physical pain and trauma** and sought **safe shelter or means to return to their country of origin**. Some reported that they were confined and exposed to this experience for months, while others explained that they were released when they became pregnant or found a way to escape.

Cumulative  
2023  
**66,330**

**11,463**  
Arrivals  
May 2023

### Origin

Djibouti  
**76%**

Somalia  
**24%**

### Sex & Age Group

**74%**  
Men

**5%**  
Women

**17%**  
Boys

**4%**  
Girls

### Nationality

Ethiopia  
**94%**

Somalia  
**6%**

### Intended Destination

Saudi Arabia  
**100%**

Yemen  
**<1%**



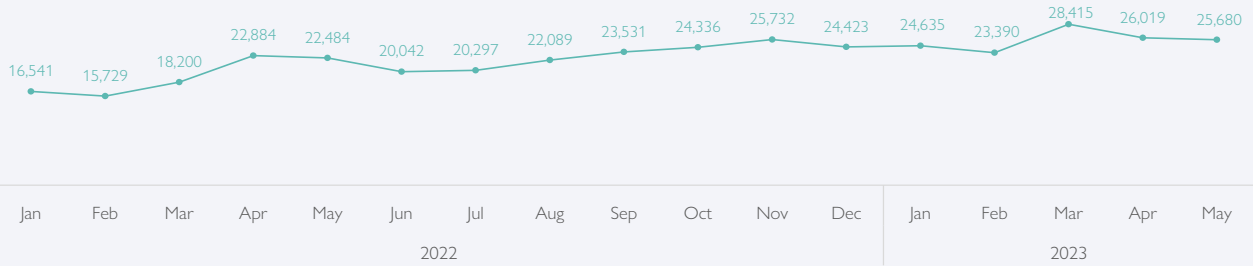
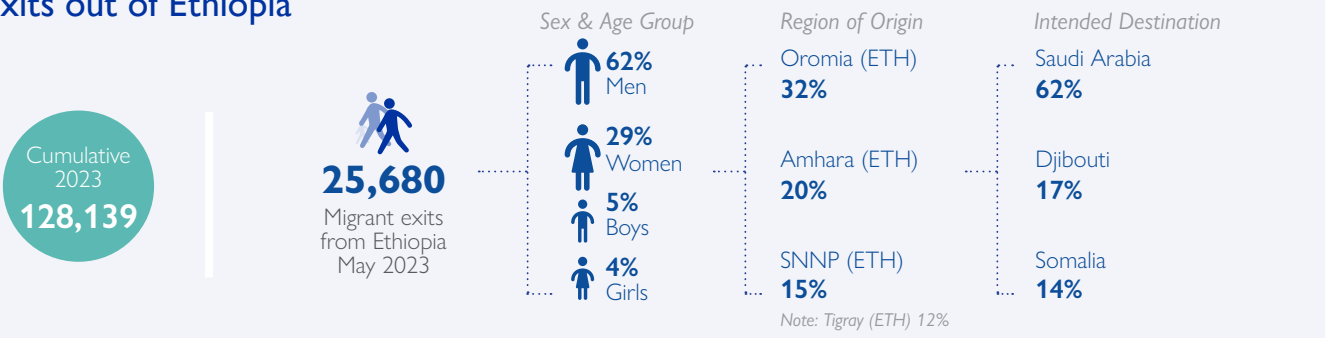
**43,000** Stranded migrants  
May 2023

**0** Dead/missing migrants  
May 2023

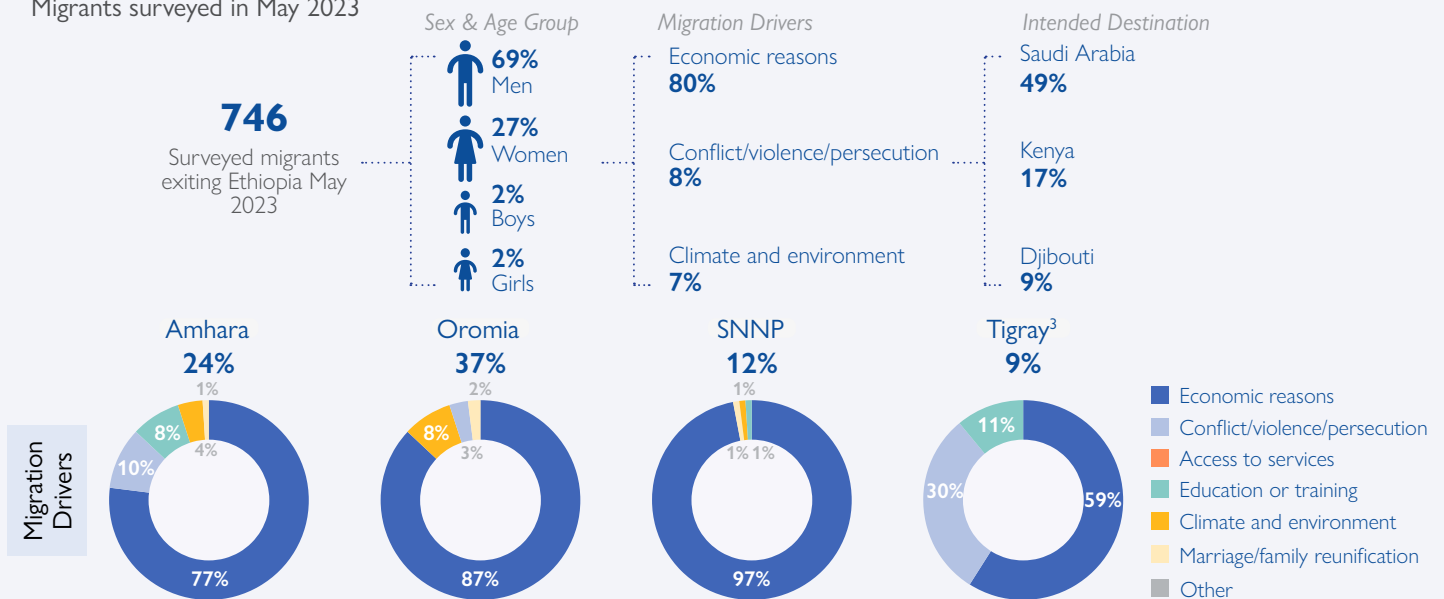
# Migration Through Ethiopia

- Due to the Sudan conflict that started on 15 April 2023, migrant entries into Ethiopia through the Metema border point more than doubled between April (10,700) and May (27,300). A new flow monitoring point was established in Kurmuk on 11 May 2023 to increase coverage and has since tracked over 500 entries into Ethiopia.
- Although most entries into Ethiopia were of Ethiopian (69%) and Sudanese (14%) nationals, there were also 4,600 people (17%) of 40 other nationalities leaving the Sudan via Metema, mostly Eritreans (15%).
- Women and children fleeing the Sudan represented more than half of all movements (34% and 25%, respectively). 59% of all children were younger than five years and more than 1,300 pregnant or lactating women were also on the move.
- Registrations at MRCs in May were eleven times higher than in April, with sharp increases recorded by the MRC in Metema (from 1,483 to 12,964) due to the crisis in the Sudan and by the MRC in Dire Dawa (from 14 to 4,369) due to the forced returns of Ethiopians nationals to the Dewele border point, organized by the Djiboutian Government.
- In Moyale, Ethiopians who have been affected by drought and climate change moved into Marsabit and Mandera Counties in Kenya in search of short-term employment. These cross-border movements tripled in the past month (from 530 to 1,568).<sup>2</sup>
- Returns from Saudi Arabia remained suspended. There is no clear indication of when returns might resume or at what rate.
- 997 migrants (96% male and 4% female) were returned from Marib and Aden in Yemen to Ethiopia through VHR, mainly to the Oromia region.

## Exits out of Ethiopia



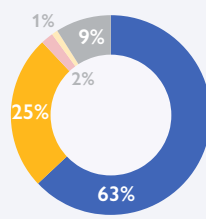
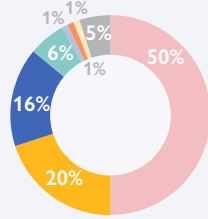
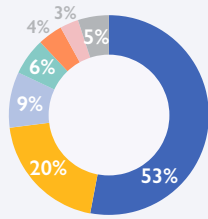
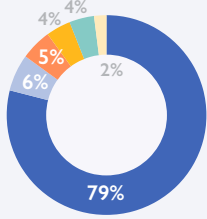
## Migrants surveyed in May 2023



<sup>2</sup> Data from DTM flow monitoring registry.

<sup>3</sup> Only 65 respondents surveyed from Tigray.

Intended Destination



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

### Migrants Seeking Assistance

Cumulative 2023  
**21,293**

**17,724**  
MRC registrations  
May 2023

MRC Location

- Dire Dawa **25%**
- Metema **73%**
- Moyale **1%**
- Togochale **1%**

Sex & Age Group

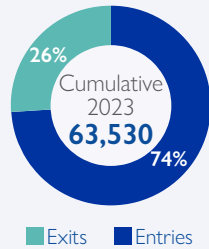
- 42%** Men
- 30%** Women
- 14%** Boys
- 15%** Girls

Hardships

- Lack of basic services **56%**
- Physical/psychological abuse **40%**
- Imprisonment/detention **2%**

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

#### Metema Border Point



Exits

**0**  
Migrant exits from Ethiopia  
May 2023

**0**

Surveyed migrants exiting Ethiopia  
May 2023

Entries

**27,279**  
Migrant entries into Ethiopia  
May 2023

**200**

Surveyed migrants entering Ethiopia  
May 2023

Migration Drivers

- Economic reasons **-**
- Conflict/violence/persecution **-**
- Conflict/violence/persecution **98%**
- Marriage/family reunification **1%**
- Access to services **<1%**

# Migrant Children Along the Eastern Corridor

Cumulative 2023  
**11,633**

**2,526**  
Migrant children entries  
May 2023

Into Djibouti **30%**  
Into Somalia **30%**  
Into Yemen **40%**

**63%** Boys  
**37%** Girls

**26%**  
Unaccompanied

**5,206**  
Migrant children seeking assistance  
May 2023

In Djibouti **<1%**  
In Ethiopia **97%**  
In Somalia **2%**

**49%** Boys  
**51%** Girls

**434**

Migrants surveyed who are caring for children (20% of all respondents)  
May 2023

Travelling with children **45%**  
Having children in the country of intended destination **9%**  
Who left children behind in the country of origin **45%**

Caretakers of migrant children not travelling with the migrant parent

My spouse/partner **67%**  
Grandparents or extended family **28%**  
My older children (18 and over) **3%**  
Other **2%**

# Returns from Saudi Arabia



**5,719**

Returns  
May 2023

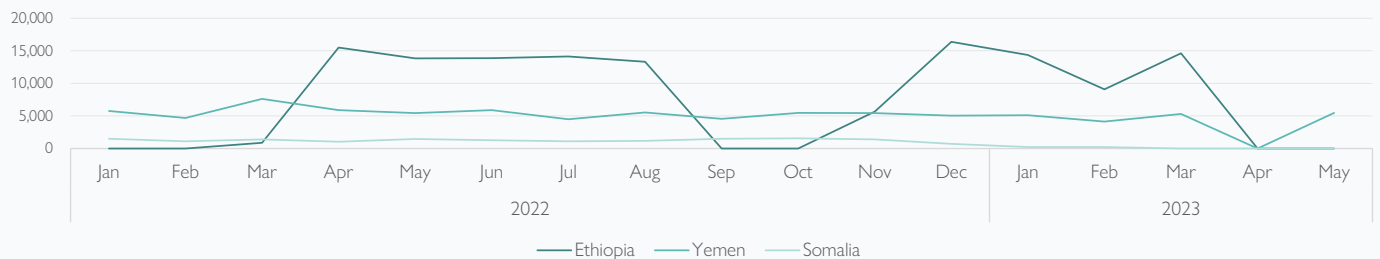
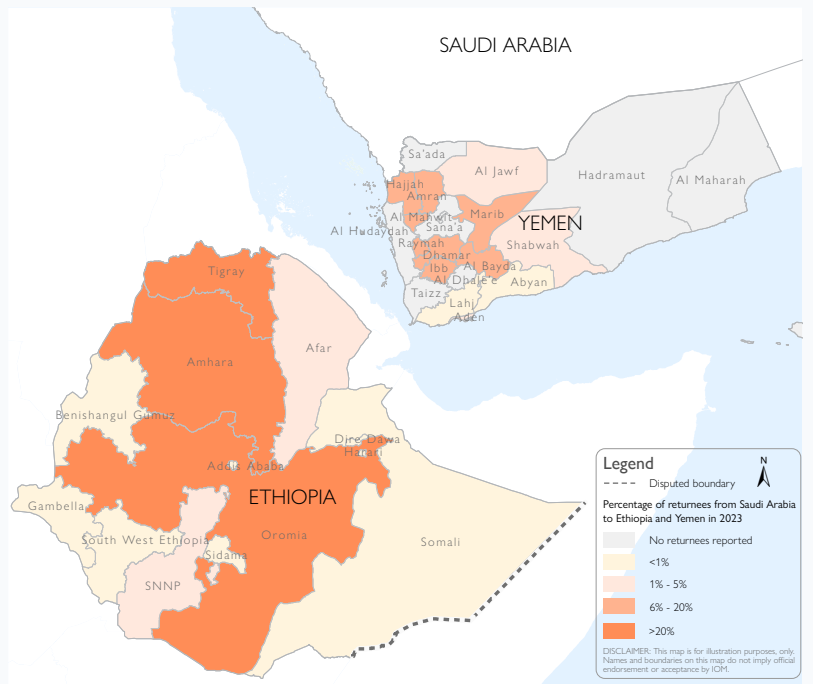
Cumulative 2023  
**64,185**

Returns to

Ethiopia	Yemen	Somalia	Ethiopia	Yemen	Somalia
-	<b>5,466</b>	-	<b>39,218</b>	<b>24,556</b>	<b>411</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 has only partial information on returns to Somalia for 2023 and data were not available for May 2023.

## Contact

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For more information on the RDH products:  
[eastandhornofafrica.iom.int/regional-data-hub](http://eastandhornofafrica.iom.int/regional-data-hub)