

REGIONAL DATA HUB FOR THE EAST AND HORN OF AFRICA

INFO SHEET 2022

Established in 2018, the [Regional Data Hub \(RDH\)](#) for the East and Horn of Africa supports evidence-based, strategic and policy-level discussion on migration through a combination of initiatives. In particular, the RDH uses multiple tools and processes to investigate the migration narrative in the region and gain a more in-depth understanding of the actors, dynamics and risks of migration. These initiatives aim to fill existing gaps by strengthening the regional evidence base on migration, which will further improve policymaking and programming. The RDH strategy is in line with the objectives of the [IOM Migration Data Strategy \(MDS\)](#).



OBJECTIVE 1 Strengthen the global evidence base on migration

The RDH produces regular data analyses on the main migration trends following a route-based strategy (Eastern, Horn of Africa, Northern and Southern Routes) as well as provides technical support and reinforces the data management capacity of IOM staff in the region to strengthen coordination, harmonization and inter-operability of IOM operational data sources. The RDH also strives to keep up with new and innovative trends by developing customized digital solutions to facilitate migrant registration, certification, profiling and service management. In addition, the RDH has put in place a communication strategy via bimonthly newsletters, interactive online portals and social media to promote information sharing and increased access to migration data.

DISPLACEMENT TRACKING MATRIX

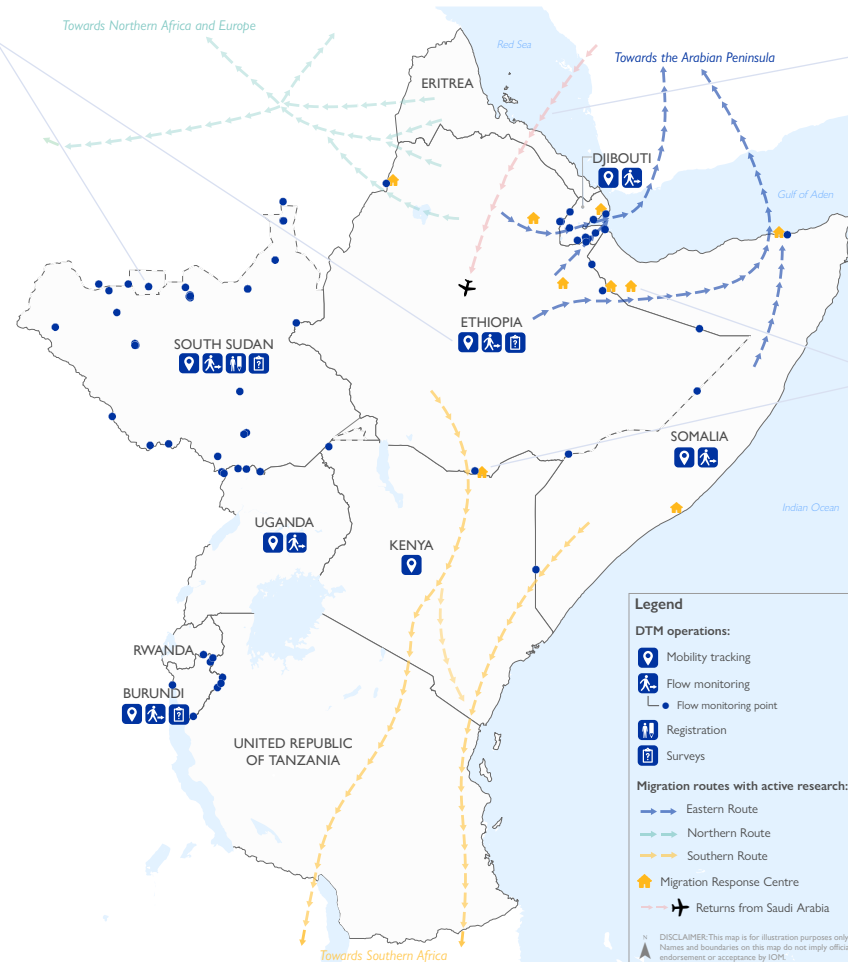
The Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) is the official provider of internal displacement figures in Burundi, Ethiopia and South Sudan, while the regional network of flow monitoring points established in key areas of high mobility tracks cross-border movement trends. [Read more](#)

MISSING MIGRANTS PROJECT

The Missing Migrants Project (MMP) tracks incidents involving persons who have died or gone missing while migrating towards an international destination. The RDH has been growing the data-sharing network with local partners to expand the reach of MMP, in coordination with MRCs. [Read more](#)

EASTERN CORRIDOR ANALYSIS

This regional report provides monthly updates on the complex migratory dynamics along the Eastern Corridor through Djibouti, Somalia, Yemen and Ethiopia based on multiple data sources and consultations with key informants in the four countries. [View reports](#)



RETURNS FROM SAUDI ARABIA

Mass involuntary returns from Saudi Arabia began in 2016, when the Saudi Government tightened its immigration policies. Since 2017, IOM has been electronically registering Ethiopian returnees arriving in Addis Ababa by air. [Read more](#)

MIGRATION RESPONSE CENTRES

Migration Response Centres (MRCs) identify migrants in vulnerable situations and provide life-saving, immediate and short-term support to them. Data is collected upon registration using the MRC Information System (MRCIS), a custom-built software developed by the RDH to digitalize and harmonize data across MRCs. [Read more](#)

ROUTE-BASED RESEARCH

To inform policy actors and provide practitioners and other stakeholders with strategic and evidence-based data on migration, a research strategy was developed to examine migration dynamics along the Eastern, Southern and Northern Routes. [Read more](#)

A REGION ON THE MOVE

This flagship publication explores mobility dynamics in the region across its broader spectrum: from providing a regional overview of data and trends on international migrants to discussing specific groups of migrants, namely migrant workers, refugees, asylum seekers, internally displaced persons and irregular migrants along the main migratory corridors. [Read more](#)



OBJECTIVE 2 Develop capacity of States and other relevant partners to enhance the national, regional and global migration evidence base

To strengthen the regional evidence base on migration, the RDH closely collaborates with national statistical offices (NSOs), key line ministries and regional economic communities (RECs) to enhance the production, harmonization and dissemination of official migration statistics. Relevant capacity development initiatives are designed to address country-specific migration data needs and gaps across Member States, which are further harmonized with interventions at the regional and continental level.



CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

The RDH shaped a phased capacity development strategy with NSOs and Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) engaged in migration data production. This strategy entails conducting multiple consultations to assess the migration data capacity across MDAs, supporting the establishment of migration data governance systems, and facilitating learning visits and peer exchanges between NSOs and related centres of excellence.



TECHNICAL WORKING GROUPS ON MIGRATION DATA

Support was provided to formalize technical working groups (TWGs) on migration data in Djibouti, Ethiopia, Somalia and South Sudan. These bodies aim to harmonize definitions and concepts of migration; standardize templates used for administrative data collection and reporting; design data sharing modalities and related normative frameworks; and establish automated migration data storage systems. Regional TWGs were also established at the regional level, with the East African Community (EAC) and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD).



ONLINE MIGRATION DATA COURSE

The [Introductory Course to Migration Data in Africa](#) was developed in collaboration with the IOM Global Migration Data Analysis Centre (GMDAC) and the IOM E-Campus platform. The course provides key concepts, definitions and sources of migration data, while building awareness of best practices in migration data based on development initiatives in the region.



EXPERT GROUP ON REFUGEE, IDP AND STATELESS STATISTICS

In close collaboration with partners of the Expert Group on Refugee, IDP and Statelessness Statistics (EGRIS), the RDH supports the implementation of the International Recommendations on IDP Statistics (IRIS) by contributing to joint workshops on how to strengthen displacement statistics across the main data sources and facilitating the inclusion of displacement data under the mandate of the existing TWGs. The RDH also plans to provide direct training to NSOs and counterparts on how existing operational data methods can relate to IRIS.



OBJECTIVE 3 Ensure more evidence-based IOM- and United Nations system-wide programming, operations, policy advice and communications

The RDH has become a technical hub able to provide data and information management services for evidence-based programming, policy and advocacy, by working closely with the RECs and within the United Nations system, specifically under the Migration Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) and the Migrant Response Plan for the Horn of Africa and Yemen (MRP). The RDH is also continually improving its data ecosystems to enable sound information and knowledge management, and to reinforce its analysis to guide policy and communications. In addition, the RDH helped advance the implementation of the MDS in the region by leading an MDS workshop in late 2021 with over 20 data focal points.



CONSOLIDATING DATA ECOSYSTEMS

A data warehouse was established in 2019 to store and record the vast amount of migration data collected in the region, foster analysis across data sources through the harmonization of indicators, and facilitate data management, sharing and consolidation. A research repository was also developed to facilitate accessing and sharing the existing knowledge in the region and build synergies across planned and future research projects.



PROMOTING THE STRENGTHENING AND SYSTEMATIC USE OF THE MIGRATION EVIDENCE BASE

Under the Migration MPTF, the RDH supports the IGAD Climate Predictions and Applications Centre (ICPAC) with the integration of human mobility in the analysis of their impact risk in climate forecasts. The RDH also co-hosted the Second IGAD Scientific Conference on Migration and Displacement in February 2021 to discuss human mobility in the context of COVID-19. Under MRP, the RDH leads the MRP Information Management Working Group and provides mobility planning figures to inform programming and coordination.



DATA AND RESEARCH PARTNERSHIPS

The RDH is working jointly with the United Nations University-Maastricht University (UNU-MERIT) on a foresight study on the future demand for assisted voluntary return and reintegration, and with the Mixed Migration Centre on mixed-method research designed to monitor specific trends along the Eastern Route. The RDH also collaborated with the World Food Programme on a joint report on the impact of COVID-19 on hunger, migration and displacement.



APPLIED RESEARCH AND ADVANCED EVALUATION

The RDH supported the conceptualization, design, implementation and dissemination of the research and evaluation ecosystem of the [EU-IOM Joint Initiative for Migrant Protection and Reintegration](#). Among these initiatives were the [IMPACT study](#), the mental health and psychological support evaluation and the re-migration discrete choice experiment, which were undertaken in collaboration with academic institutions and the private sector.