



International Organization for Migration (IOM)

The UN Migration Agency

# **MIXED MIGRATION IN THE HORN OF AFRICA AND IN THE ARAB PENINSULA**

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**Cover Photo:** Jamal and Ahmed, two Ethiopian migrants, travelling across the border into Djibouti  
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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>GLOSSARY OF ACRONYMS</b>	<b>ii</b>
<b>HIGHLIGHTS</b>	<b>iii</b>
Region	iii
Yemen	iii
Djibouti	iii
Somalia	iii
Ethiopia	iii
<b>REGIONAL OVERVIEW</b>	<b>1</b>
Flow Monitoring	1
Migration Response Centers/Points	5
<b>YEMEN</b>	<b>9</b>
Flow Monitoring	9
Migration Response Points	11
Humanitarian Evacuations	12
Forced and Voluntary Returns from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	13
<b>DJIBOUTI</b>	<b>14</b>
Flow Monitoring	14
Migration Response Centers	18
<b>SOMALIA</b>	<b>20</b>
Flow Monitoring	20
Migration Response Centers	25
Spontaneous Returns	27
Forced Returns from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	27
<b>ETHIOPIA</b>	<b>28</b>
Flow Monitoring	28
Migration Response Centers	29
Forced and Voluntary Returns from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	31
<b>METHODOLOGIES</b>	<b>32</b>

## GLOSSARY OF ACRONYMS

ASR:	Assisted Spontaneous Returns
AVR:	Assisted Voluntary Return
AVR/R:	Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration
DTM:	Displacement Tracking Matrix
FM:	Flow Monitoring
FMP:	Flow Monitoring Point
FMR:	Flow Monitoring Registry
FMS:	Flow Monitoring Survey
GCC:	Gulf Cooperation Council
GoKSA:	Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
HNO:	Humanitarian Needs Overview
IPNA:	Immigration Passport and Naturalization Authority
IOM:	International Organization for Migration – The UN Migration Agency
KSA:	Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
MRC:	Migrant Response Center
MRP:	Migrant Response Point
SADD:	Sex and Age Desegregated Data
UAE:	United Arab Emirates
UMC:	Unaccompanied Migrant Children
UNHCR:	United Nations High Commission for Refugees

**HIGHLIGHTS** The International Organization for Migration (IOM) is active in a number of Migrants' Assistance projects and Human Mobility data collection activities in the Horn of Africa and in the Arab Peninsula and this report aims at providing an overview of the trends observed in the second half of 2017 on the Western route across Yemen, Djibouti, Somalia and Ethiopia.

**Region:** 174,654 migrants were tracked between June and December 2017 through the network of 25 flow monitoring points in Yemen (7), Somalia (12) and Djibouti (6). Two main migration trends were observed: one was to reach the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia or other Gulf Countries (**46%**), the other is the circular movement<sup>1</sup> between Somalia (**20.3%**) and Kenya (**14.1%**). Migrant Response Center (MRC) and Migrant Response Point (MRP) data shows that of the 6,080 contacts<sup>2</sup> which were registered across the 8 facilities present in the region, almost **99%** were Ethiopians. Regionally, **80%** of contacts were male and **20%** were female, but with significant differences in the proportion of females across countries (Somalia **32%**, Ethiopia and in Djibouti **20%**, and Yemen only **11%**). Children regionally made up for **20%** of the contacts. A total of 3,325 unaccompanied children were tracked during this time, the majority in Djibouti (**62%**), followed by Yemen (**31%**) and Somalia (**7%**). Following the end of the amnesty period for expulsions of irregular migrants from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) on the 15th of November 2017, forced returns spiked 4 folds totalling 54,092<sup>4</sup>.

**Yemen:** Over 22.2 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance, and 11.3 million are in acute need of assistance<sup>4</sup> in Yemen. During 2017, migrant arrivals in Yemen reached 99,516 (IOM and UNHCR data), of which **11%** were children (**9%** boys and **2%** girls), and **89%** were adults (**77%** males and **13%** females). Of the 1,118 vulnerabilities identified, **93%** were cases of unaccompanied children. The intended destination of migrants was the KSA for **99.9%** of the migrants tracked at flow monitoring points. Most migrants in Yemen reportedly used either land vehicles (**41%**) or boat (**33.5%**). According to the data collected at MRPs, **96%** of contacts were Ethiopians and their intention was to remain in Yemen (**42%**), move onwards to KSA (**31%**) or return to Ethiopia (**23%**). **26%** of the contacts were children and **74%** were adults. **99%** of contacts assisted at MRPs had no documents. Between June and December 2017, 1,483 third country nationals were evacuated by IOM from Yemen to Somalia and Ethiopia (via Djibouti). Men and boys represented **56%** of the population while women and girls **44%**. Through a flow monitoring point in Manfed Al Wadeaa at the border with the KSA, IOM recorded a total of 9,563 irregular migrants who were returned, all Yemeni nationals.

**Djibouti:** Of the 21,248 migrants tracked through flow monitoring, **14%** were children (**9.7%** the total population were unaccompanied children). Over **97%** of the migrants tracked were Ethiopian, or travelling from Ethiopia, and **30%** expressed the intention of going to KSA, while **66%** expressed their intentions of travelling to Yemen. **96%** declared to be migrating for economic reasons, **3.4%** due to natural disaster and less than **1%** due to conflict. **76%** of migrants were travelling on foot. At MRCs, of the 628 contacts assisted, of which over **99%** were Ethiopian, **21%** were children. **97%** intended to go to KSA and only **3%** wanted to return home. **90%** cited economic reasons as the main driver for migration.

**Somalia:** Through flow monitoring, 32,222 migrants were tracked between June and December 2017. Children made for a very high **49%** of the migrant population observed (adults **49%** and elderly **2%**). This is the country with the highest percentage of female migrants (**50%** females and **50%** males). At MRCs, of the 1,812 contacts assisted, **99.9%** of contacts were Ethiopians, **59%** of which wanted to go to KSA and **34%** wanting to stay in Somalia.

**Ethiopia:** Of the 1,913 contacts assisted in Semera and Metema **74%** were adult males, **18%** adult females and **9%** were children (**4%** of which unaccompanied). **86%** of contacts wanted to migrate to KSA, **4%** wanted to reach Europe, **3%** respectively Sudan, Djibouti and remain in Ethiopia. Drivers included economic reasons and poverty (**79%**) and family reunification (**20%**). During June – December 2017, 44,182 Ethiopian migrants were returned from KSA and arrived by air to Addis Ababa.

<sup>1</sup> Circular movement or migration is defined as the fluid movement of people between countries, including temporary or long-term movement which may be beneficial to all involved, if occurring voluntarily and linked to the labour needs of countries of origin and destination- <https://www.iom.int/key-migration-terms#Circular-migration>

<sup>2</sup> Migrants assisted at MRCs/MRPs – they are not necessarily new arrivals

<sup>3</sup> <http://saudigazette.com.sa/article/524650/SAUDI-ARABIA/253086-illegals-arrested-in-five-weeks-over-54000-deported>

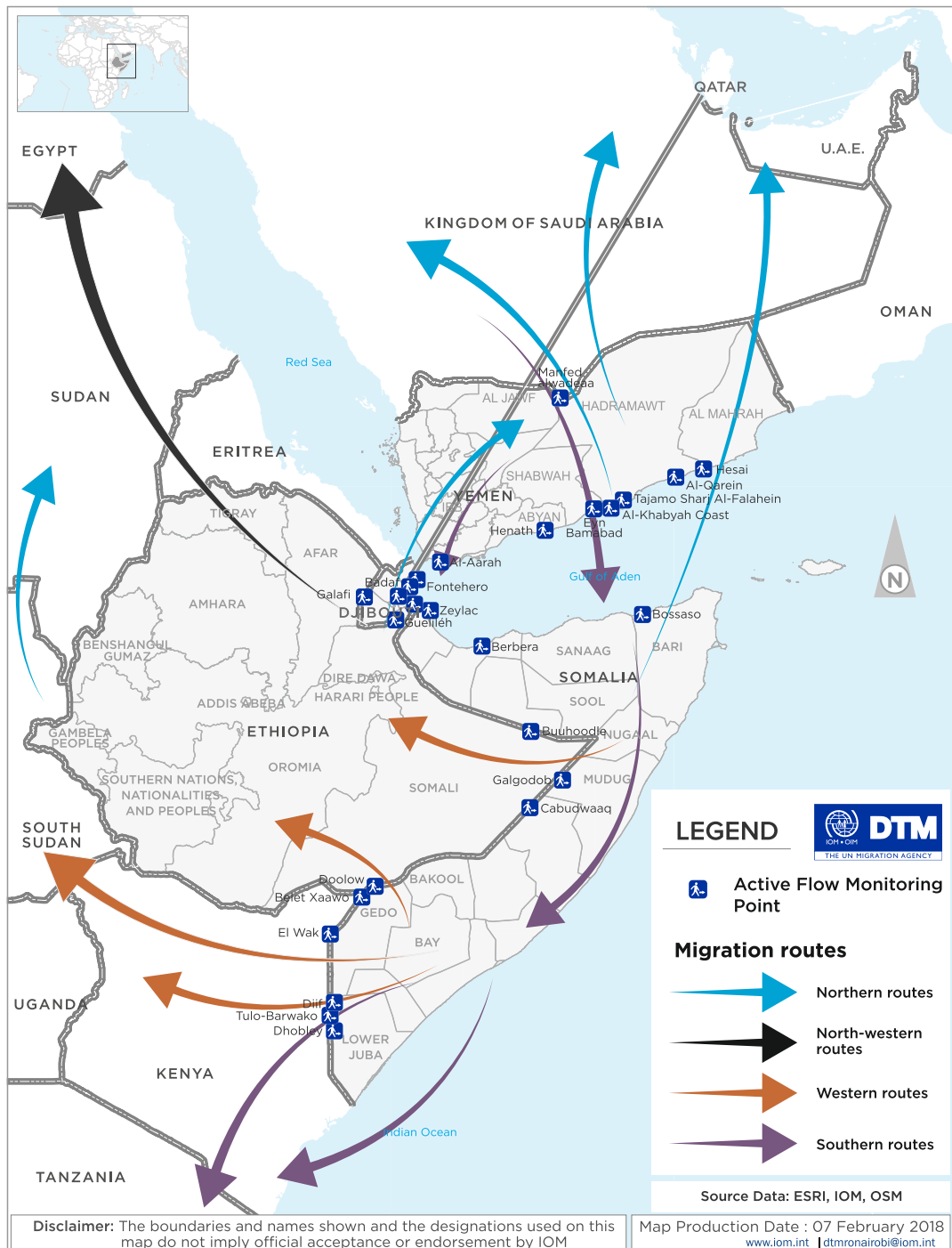
<sup>4</sup> 2018 Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO)-Yemen

## REGIONAL OVERVIEW

### FLOW MONITORING

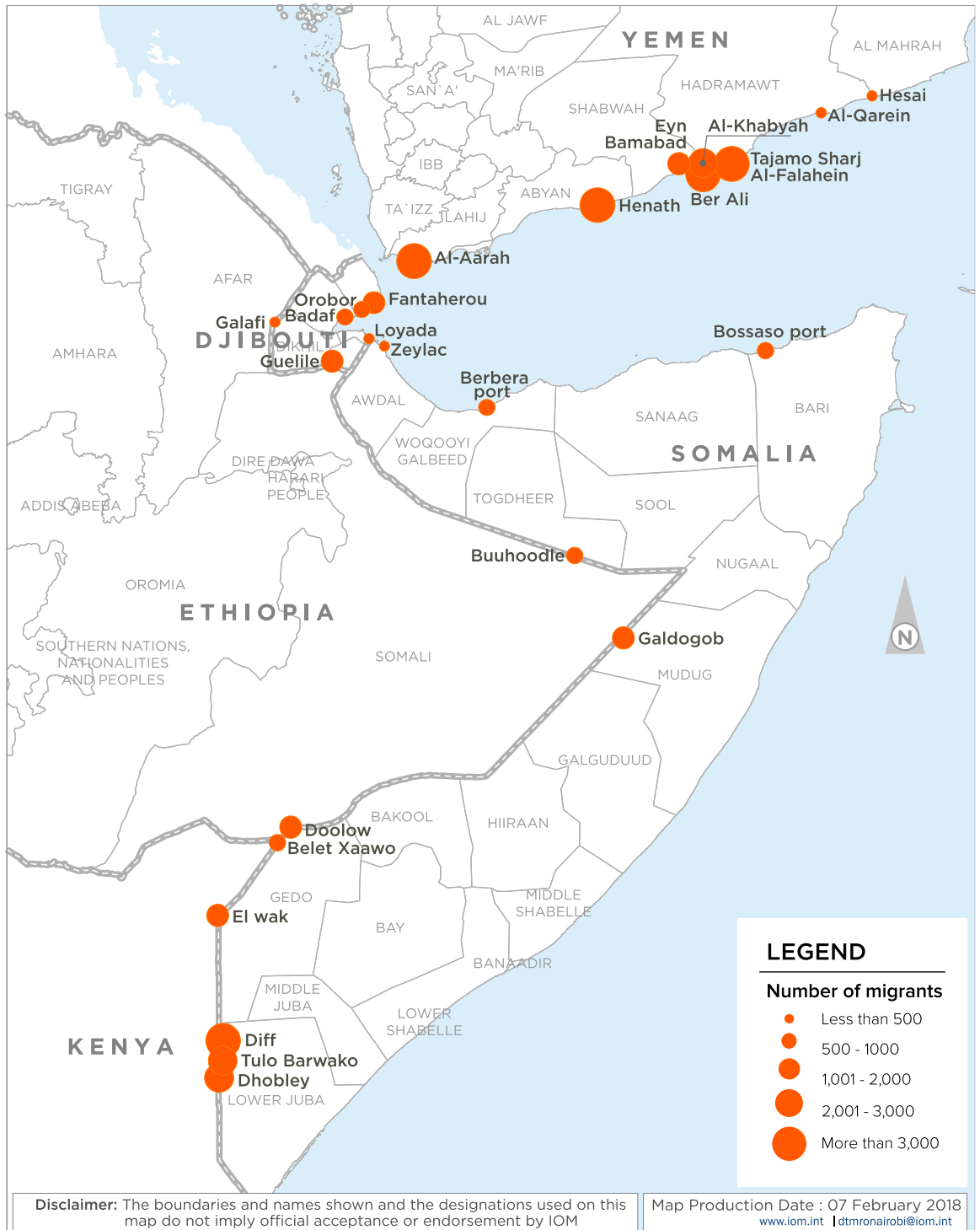
The Horn of Africa and the Arab Peninsula have had historically very tight cultural, economic and political ties. Migration within, to and from this Region is hence the natural expression of such ties, it is a coping mechanism and the manifestation of the ambition to find better opportunities.

**Migration Routes:** the three main axes of movement from the Horn of Africa are the Western - Northern route towards Libya or Egypt and onwards (for some) to Italy and other European countries; the Eastern route towards Yemen and onwards to Saudi Arabia and the Gulf States, and the Southern route to Kenya and onwards to southern Africa. Through a network of Flow Monitoring Points (FMPs) strategically positioned on the shores of Yemen, in Djibouti and in Somalia, IOM has observed in the period from June to December 2017 migration flows with particular attention to the movements from the Horn towards the Arab Peninsula, which is currently suffering from a severe humanitarian crisis which has been ongoing since 2015.



Map 1: Map of the Horn of Africa and of the Arab Peninsula showing the main migration routes

**Flow Monitoring Points Network:** a network of 25 flow monitoring points was activated in Yemen (7), Djibouti (6), and Somalia (12) in close collaboration with national and local authorities. Of the 174,654 migrants tracked passing through the flow monitoring points, over 69% were identified in Yemen, over 18% in Somalia and over 12% in Djibouti with significant decrease in the number of migrants identified in Yemen during the month of December compared to the previous months.



Map 2: Map of the location of the Flow Monitoring Points weighted according to the number of migrants identified as transiting through the points between June and December 2017

Locations were selected because of their relevance as locations through which many long-term migrants (6+ months) pass through on their journeys to other countries. In November, IOM carried out verification assessments of high mobility locations to determine the relevance of the selected flow monitoring points and identify possible alternatives for those that are no longer used by migrants and their smugglers as routes keep changing. In Yemen, from October to December, FMPs were established in 7 locations, with 2 more to be activated soon, and several deactivated from previous months. In Djibouti, 6 FMPs were operationalize, however most of the flows pass through Badaf in Tadjourah district, Fantahero and Orobor in Obock District and Guelile in Ali Sabieh district. In Somalia, 10 points were fully active, though plans are underway to activate 2 more points in Buuhoodle and Cabudwaaq. Ethiopia’s Flow Monitoring Points have not yet been activated, but are expected to come live in 2018 providing a richer picture of migrants’ movements in the Region.

The FMPs on the South-Western portion of the coasts of Yemen indicate a significant influx, but the Bossasso Flow Monitoring Point in Somalia indicates a very small number of migrants, though this is expected to increase in the coming months<sup>5</sup>. In fact, in recent years movement of Ethiopians through Somaliland and Somalia through the port of Bosasso and continuing on to Yemen and other Gulf countries has increased indicating a shift from the Red Sea crossing preferred by migrants between 2009 and 2014<sup>6</sup>.

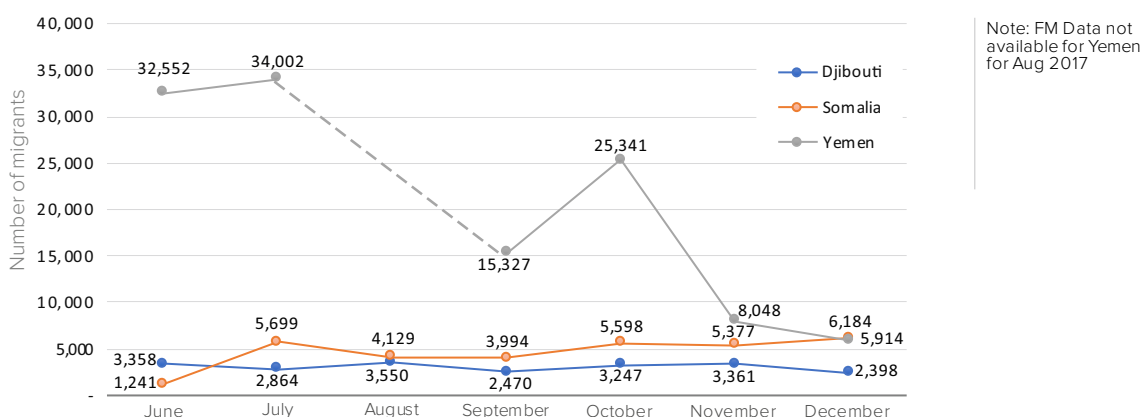


Figure 1: Progression graph showing the number of migrants passing through flow monitoring points by selected country between June and December 2017

**Migrants’ Migration Intentions:** Ethiopians were the largest nationality observed at FMPs, followed by Somalis, Kenyans and other nationalities. All migrants passing through flow monitoring points were asked about their intended destination.

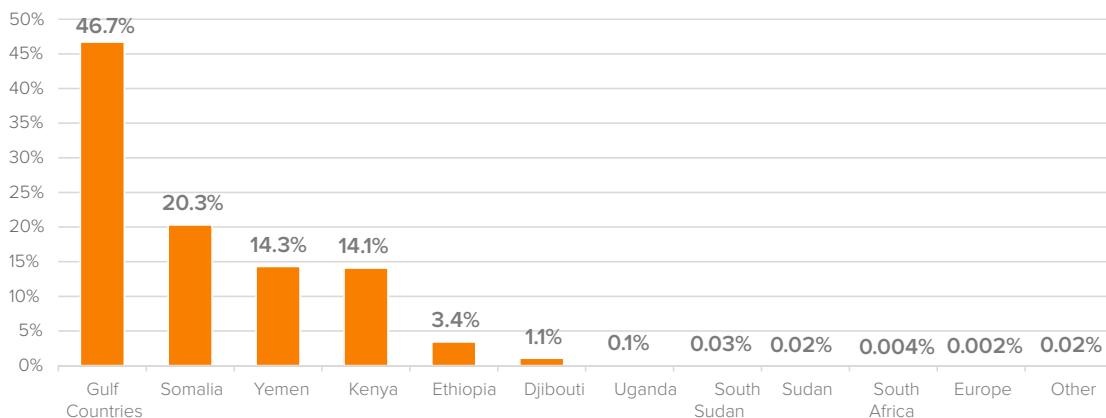


Figure 2: Intended destinations of migrants passing through FMPs (June - December 2017)

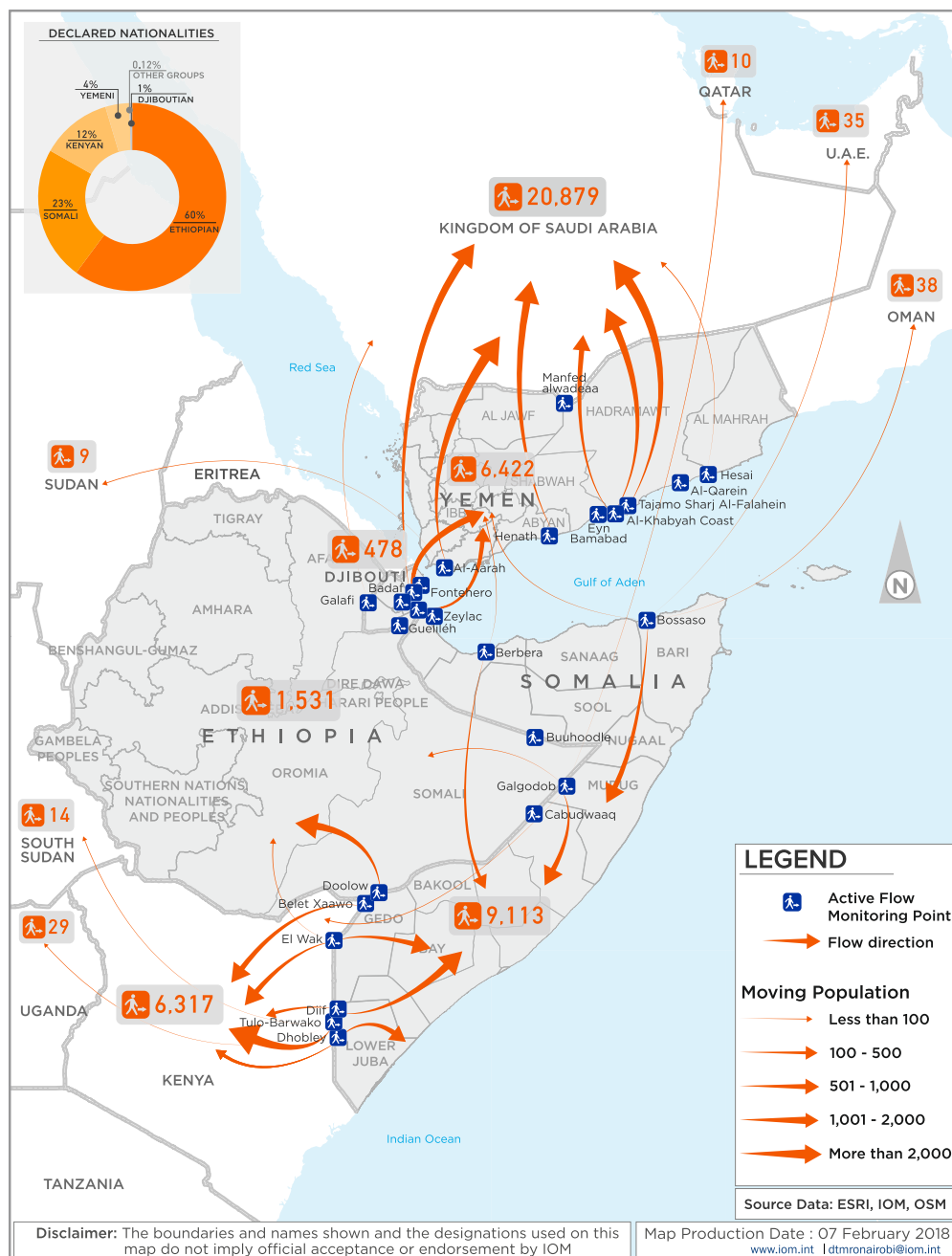
<sup>5</sup> Bossaso point had just been established as a pilot point towards the end of November, hence in 2018 IOM expects to see the much greater movements from the Regions of Sanaag and Bari.

<sup>6</sup> Migration and Conflict in the Horn of Africa: a Desk Review and a Proposal for Research, A Research and Evidence based Facility comprised by: SOAS, International Migration Institute (Oxford) and Sahar Research (Nairobi), March 2017.



The movements observed indicate two main intentions: one is the movement of migrants wanting to find better opportunities in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) and other Gulf Countries (46.7%) and the second, between Somalia and Yemen (respectively 20.3% and 14.3%), followed by Kenya at 14.1%, which shows circular movement intentions which are most likely influenced by the presence of the Dadaab refugee camp and the very close family, tribal and commercial ties between the two countries.

The map below shows the intended destination of migrants and the locations of the flow monitoring points at which migrants were asked about their travel intentions between October and December 2017. More than 20,000 declared wanting to reach KSA, even though the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (GoKSA) declared on the 29th of March 2017 that all irregular migrants in KSA should voluntarily leave the Country, among which an estimated 500,000 Ethiopians. Following this declaration, GoKSA has given an amnesty period which was extended four times until the 15th of November 2017. Overall, 9,113 migrants declared wanting to reach Somalia, 6,422 were intending to go to Yemen, 6,317 wanted to reach Kenya and 1,531 Ethiopia.



Map 3: Map of the Horn of Africa and the Arab Peninsula showing the declared intended destinations of migrants passing through flow monitoring points between October and December

The diagram below shows where different nationals passing through the different flow monitoring points in Yemen, Somalia and Djibouti were directed to: Ethiopians and Somalis were mainly directed to KSA and Yemen, Somalis and Kenyans were mostly moving between the two countries. Yemenis passing through Bossaso and Berbera were directed to Somalia.

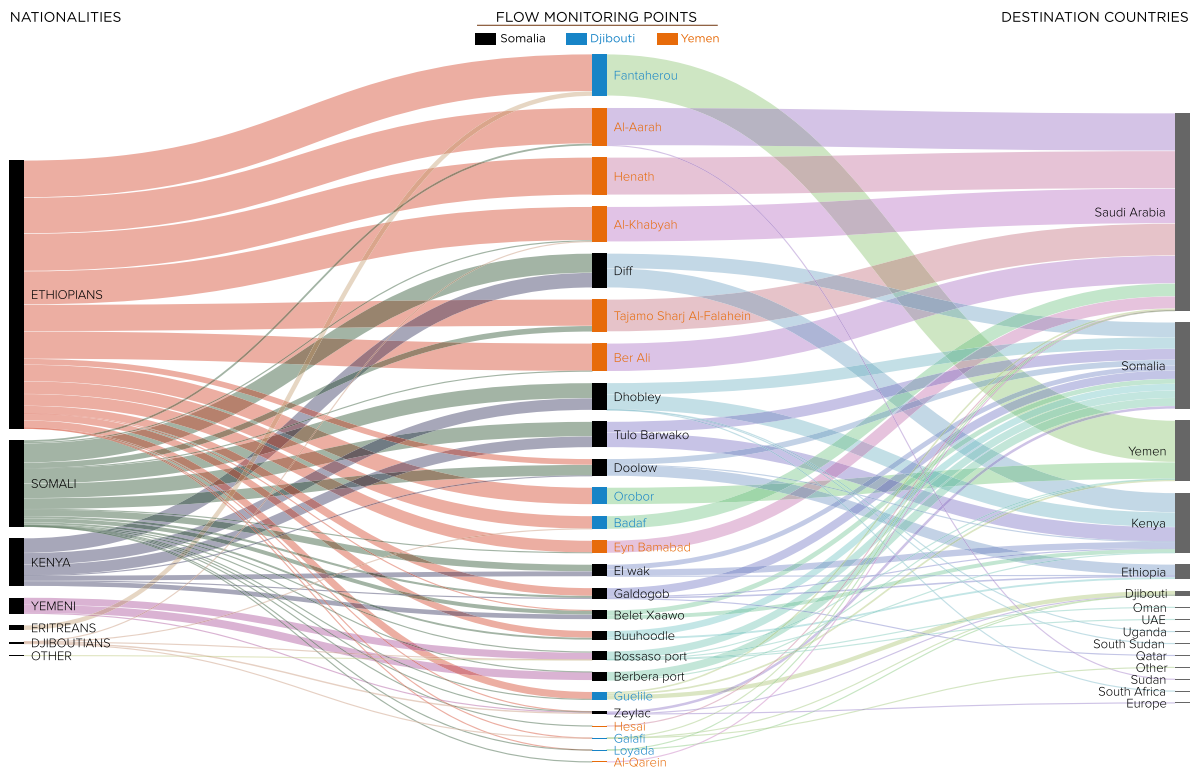


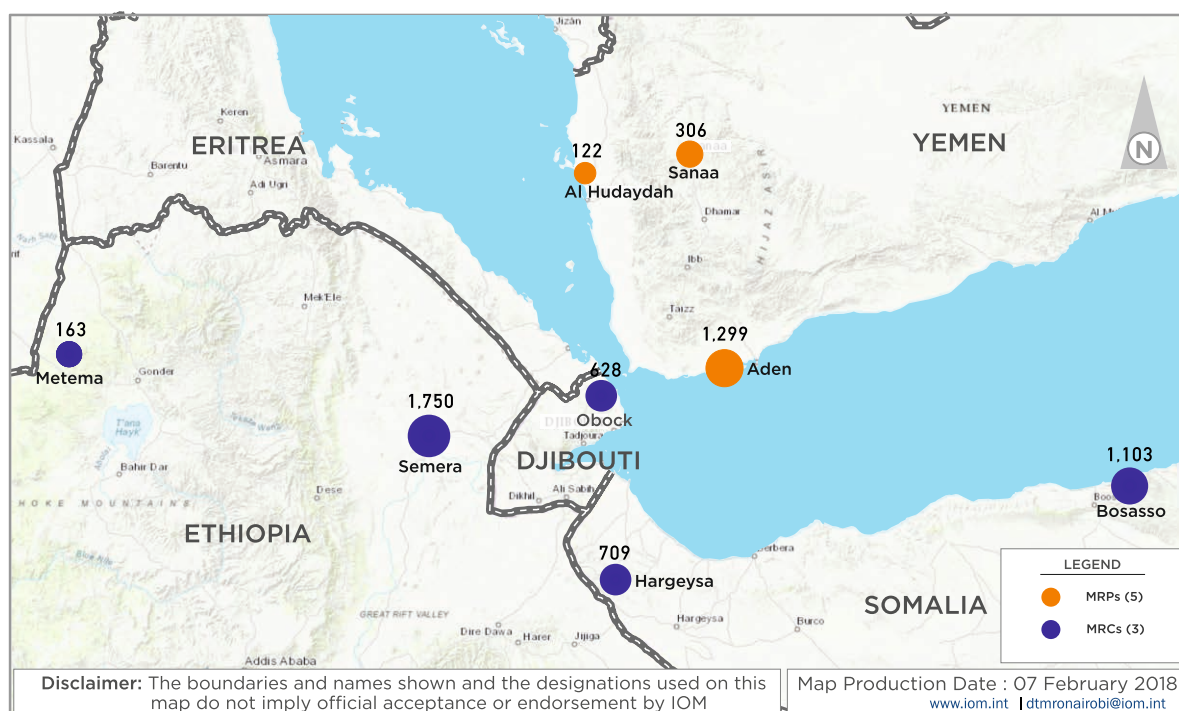
Figure 3: Sankey diagram showing the destination intentions of migrants by nationality passing through different flow monitoring points in Somalia, Djibouti and Yemen.

**MIGRATION RESPONSE CENTERS/POINTS**

Migrants’ journeys are arduous, covering often on foot hundreds of kilometers passing through deserts, mountains, seas, willing to cross war ravaged territories at the mercy of smuggler networks that are growing more and more violent and unaccountable. Some migrants are no longer willing or are no longer in the conditions to continue their journeys and seek assistance to either return to their countries of origin or regain strength in a safe place. Among the few dedicated resources for migrants are the Migration Response Centers (MRCs) and Migration Response Points (MRPs) operated by National Governments, IOM and other partners in the Horn of Africa and the Arab Peninsula.

Through the network of MRCs, migrants in need of food, NFIs, medical care, protection, shelter, psychosocial and transportation assistance receive support. The first MRC was established in 2010 in Bosasso, Puntland, followed by the MRCs in Hargeisa, Somaliland and Obock in Djibouti in 2011. In 2012 and 2013, two were set up in Ethiopia: one on the North-Western border with Sudan in the town of Metema, and one in Mille – later replaced by Semera, a transit town on the route from Ethiopia to Djibouti. Similarly, across the Gulf of Aden and Red Sea, IOM established a MRC in Haradah in 2010, a town in the north of the country on the border with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia that serves as a major migrant waypoint.

**Assistance at MRCs and MRPs:** Between June and December 6,080 contacts were registered at Migration Response Centers or Migration Response Points. Of these, 32% were catered for in Ethiopia, 30% in Somalia, 28% in Yemen and 10% in Djibouti. The map below shows the locations of the MRCs and of the MRPs by number of contacts assisted.



Map 4: Map of MRPs and MRCs weighted by number of contacts assisted between June and December 2017

In Ethiopia, a spike in the number of contacts assisted in Semera was observed between September and December 2017. This corresponded with communal clashes which broke out between the Oromia and Somali regions. Oromia and Somali are, respectively, the two largest regions in the country, sharing a border of more than 1,400 km. While Somalis are mostly pastoralists, living from their animals, Oromos tend to be farmers, as well as pastoralists and conflicts have been simmering for years around border areas. In 2004, the Ethiopian government held a referendum to settle the territorial dispute giving about 80 percent of the disputed districts to Oromia Regional State. Renewed clashes sparked in 2017 as the Ethiopian government announced that the two regions had agreed to rearrange their boundaries per the outcome of the 2004 referendum<sup>7</sup> and as the security situation deteriorated an increased number of migrants came to the Semera MRC. Most of the migrants assisted in Semera's MRC from September to December 2017 were not originally from Oromia and Somali regional state. Instead due to the border conflict between the Oromos and Somalis, the Bossaso route became risky. Therefore, irregular migrants from different parts of the country, mostly from Tigray regional state, changed their migration route from Bossaso to Djibouti. This in turn contributed to the increased number of migrants assisted in Semera.

The graph below shows the number of contacts assisted between June and December 2017 broken down by country and by MRC and MRP. The MRC in Obock assisted 10.3% (628) contacts, in Ethiopia Semera assisted 91% (1,750) of the contacts while Metema catered for 9% (163). In Somalia, 61% (1,103) of the contacts was assisted in Bossasso and 39% (709) in Hargeysa. Of the Yemen MRPs, 75% (1,299) of contacts was assisted in Aden, 18% (306) in Sana's and 7% (122) in Al-Hudaidah.

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-41278618>

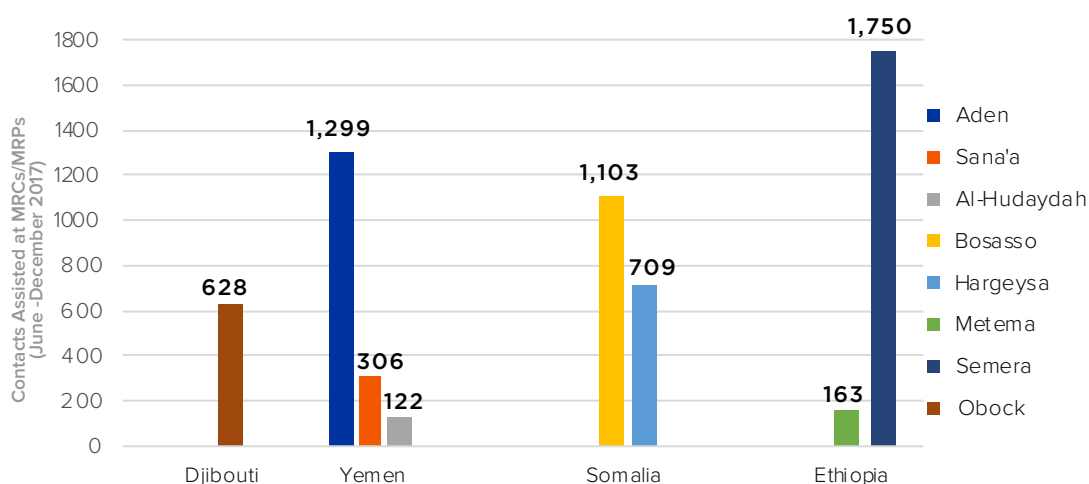


Figure 4: Graph of the contacts assisted at Migration Response Centers and Migration Response Points between June and December 2017 (\*. Sana'a not official MRP – it's a facility operated by IPNA – Immigration Passport and Naturalization Authority, though it provides registration and assistance to Migrants similar to other MRPs)

Profiles of migrants assisted at MRCs and MRPs: of the 6,080 contacts assisted at Migration Response Centers or Migration Response points between June and December 2017, 99% were Ethiopians and of these, 81% were man and 19% were women. Women in higher numbers were assisted in MRCs in Somalia (32%) and in Ethiopia (20%), whereas only 11% of the migrants asking for assistance at MRPs in Yemen were women. Of the contacts assisted, 26% was children with a female to male breakdown of respectively 3% and 23% and the MRC in Hargeisa was the one assisting the majority of underaged migrants.

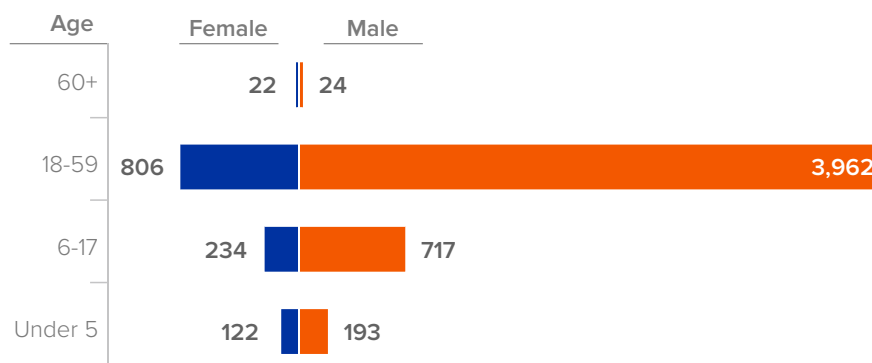


Figure 5: SADD of migrants assisted at MRCs and MRPs (June - December 2017)

The high number of Ethiopians being registered at the MRCs is not necessarily indicative of the profile of migration in the country. Although Flow Monitoring (FM) data does show Ethiopians make up a large portion of migrants in the region, the MRC sample is skewed towards Ethiopians possibly because other nationalities might opt for services offered by other humanitarian actors in the region – Somalis, for example, are often considered ‘refugees’ and supported through UNHCR programmes.

The overwhelming majority of contacts assisted at MRCs are economic migrants (97%), followed by stranded migrants<sup>8</sup> (22%), migrants that were in detention because of their irregular status (6%) and unaccompanied children (3%); these are overlapping categories.

<sup>8</sup> There is no globally accepted definition of the term “stranded migrant”. The term describes situations in which a migrant is unable to stay in the country of destination/transit, unable to return to the home country, and unable to move to a third country, and typically subject to severe vulnerability and distress. Crises and emergencies represent one scenario among many others which can lead to stranding.

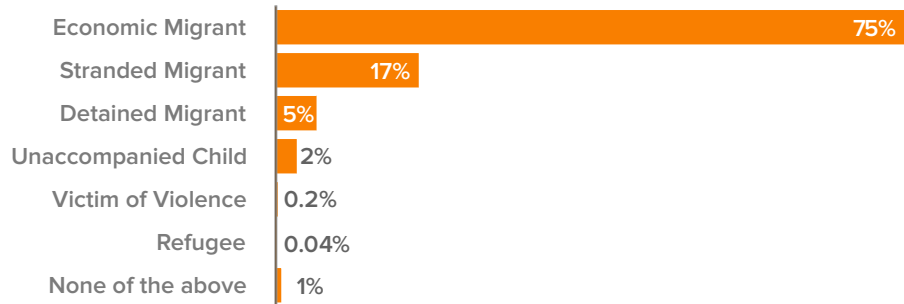


Figure 6: Percentage of Migrants (overlapping categories) (June and December 2017)

When asked about their experience with hardship and abuse during their journey, migrants reported inability to satisfy basic needs such as shelter, water and food (44%), extortion and robbery 13%, imprisonment, discrimination or forced work (7%), psychological or physical abuse, including sexual abuse (5%), and other general abuse (1%). Around 29% did not respond, or said they were not abused or have any hardship. These were overlapping categories, as people may have faced more than one type of hardship.

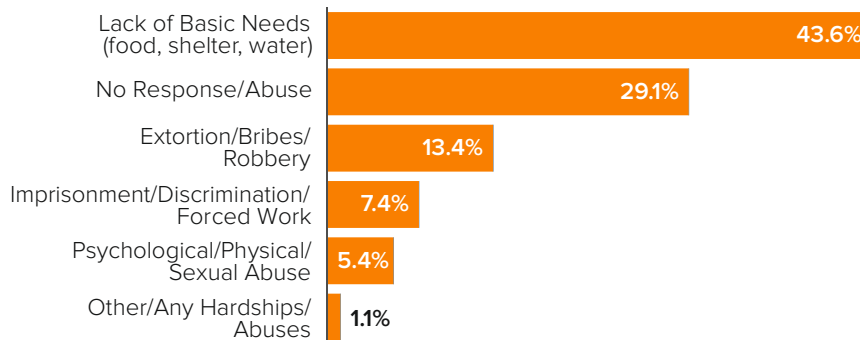


Figure 7: Hardship and abuse experienced by migrants during their journeys (June and December 2017)

The diagram below shows the origins, nationalities and intended destinations of migrants registered at the MRCs and MRPs in the four countries through 8 centers/points. As we can see, the largest number of contacts were made at Semera MRC in Ethiopia, followed by Aden in Yemen, while the largest majority of migrants are intending to migrate to KSA, followed by Yemen.

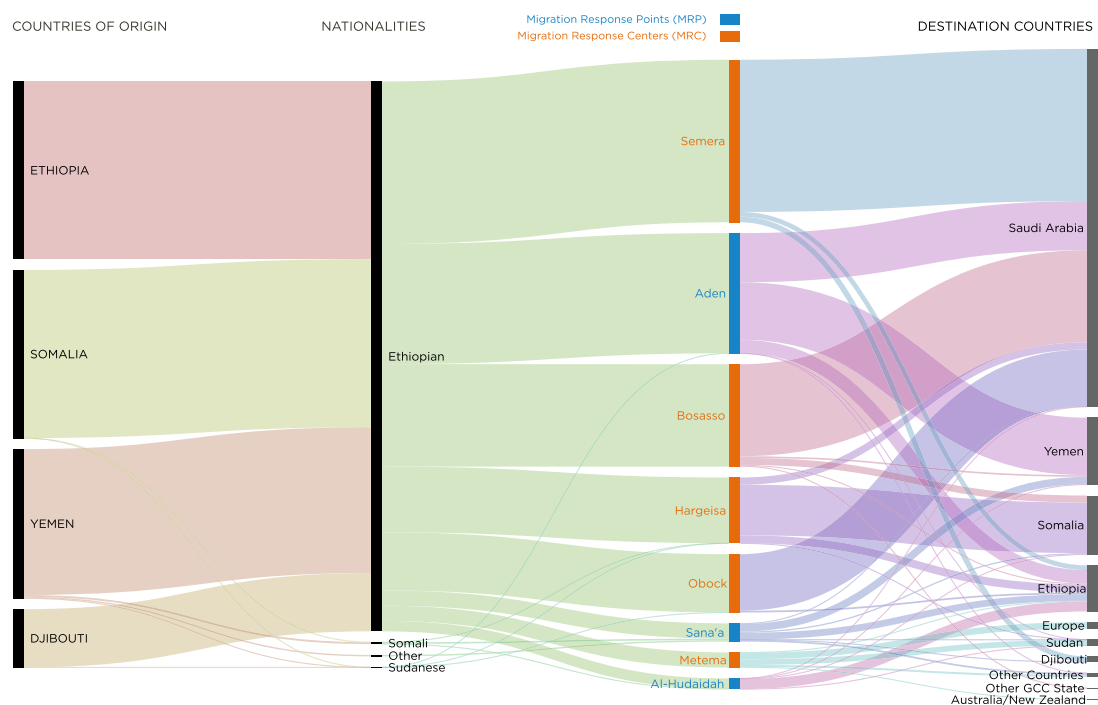


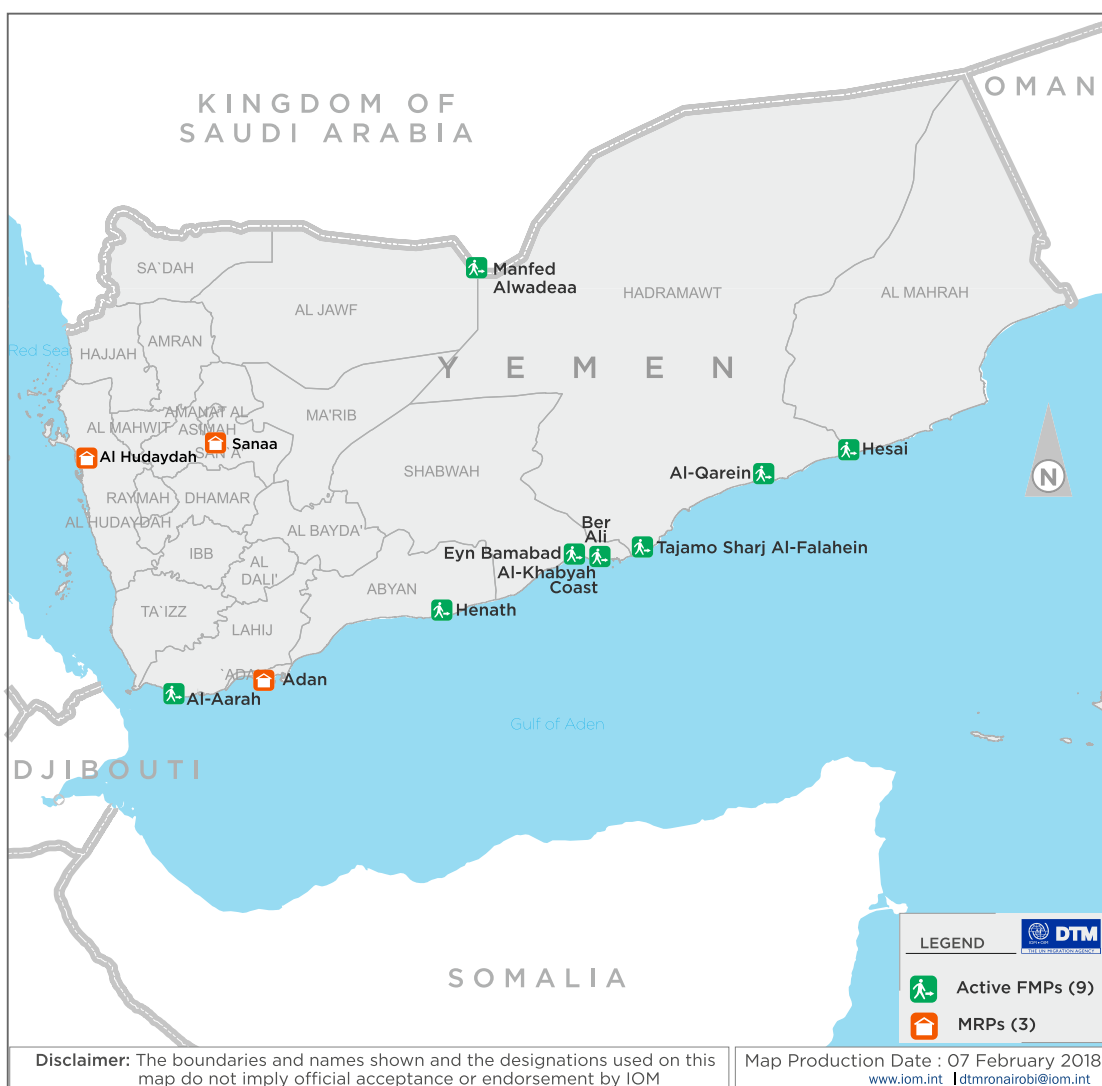
Figure 8: Diagram showing origins of migrants of diverse nationalities across MRCs/MRPs and their intended destinations (June and December 2017)

## YEMEN

Since the degradation of the conflict in 2015 Yemen has been characterized by widespread violence, attacks carried out against civilians which included the deliberate destruction of public infrastructure, including hospitals, water and sanitation systems. Moreover, the continued closure by the Saudi-led coalition of critical seaports and airports aggravated food insecurity and compromised access to life saving assistance while multiple ground operations and more than 120 strikes were undertaken by the US army in 2017 (6 times the number of strikes carried out in 2016)<sup>9</sup>. The 2018 Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO)<sup>10</sup> estimated that at the closing of 2017 and the start of the new year, 22.2 million people in Yemen needed humanitarian assistance or protection, of which including 11.3 million who are in acute need.

### FLOW MONITORING

**Total arrivals:** In 2017, it was estimated that at least 99,516<sup>11</sup> migrants arrived in Yemen. Total number of arrivals to Yemen had peaked in 2016 with a total of 117,107 persons<sup>12</sup>. According to IOM and UNHCR data, in 2017 migrant arrivals decreased by 0.15% despite Yemen being the largest man-made humanitarian crisis in the world and the number of total arrivals might be conservative as flow monitoring points are not set up at all points on the border.



Map 5: Map of Yemen showing in green Flow Monitoring Points (FMPs) and in orange the Migration Response Points (MRPs)

<sup>9</sup> U.S. Central Command: <http://www.centcom.mil/MEDIA/PRESS-RELEASES/Press-Release-View/Article/1392401/airstrikes-kill-aqap-militants-in-yemen/>

<sup>10</sup> <https://reliefweb.int/report/yemen/yemen-2018-humanitarian-needs-overview-enar>

<sup>11</sup> For the period January-March UNHCR data and April to December IOM data as UNHCR discontinued registration activities.

<sup>12</sup> UNHCR, New Arrivals in Yemen Comparison 2014- 2017 (updated to 31st of March 2017).

**Flow Monitoring Points:** Data on migrants’ arrivals to Yemen was collected through a network of FMPs active in 12 of the 22 governorates in Yemen, and data was collected on migrants both arriving and departing. All coastal flow monitoring points are located on the Southern coast of Yemen on the Gulf of Aden as access on the Red Sea coast was not possible due to ongoing conflict. The Manfed Alwadeaa FMP, located at the border between Yemen and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, is not included in the flow monitoring analysis as this FMP was specifically established in October to look at returns from KSA to Yemen resulting from the end of the amnesty period for expulsion of irregular migrants.

**Migrants Profiles:** of the 121,184 migrants identified at FMPs in Yemen between June and December, 11% were children (8% Male and 3% female) 89% were adults (77% male and 12% female)<sup>13</sup>. Nationality breakdown shows that 95% of migrants were Ethiopian, 5% were Somali and 0.1% other countries’ nationals and the busiest FMPs are in Shabwah Governorate, followed by Lahj<sup>14</sup>.

**Migrants’ vulnerabilities:** 1,118 vulnerabilities were identified at FMPs. In particular, 93% of the migrants were unaccompanied minors and 4% pregnant or lactating women<sup>15</sup>.

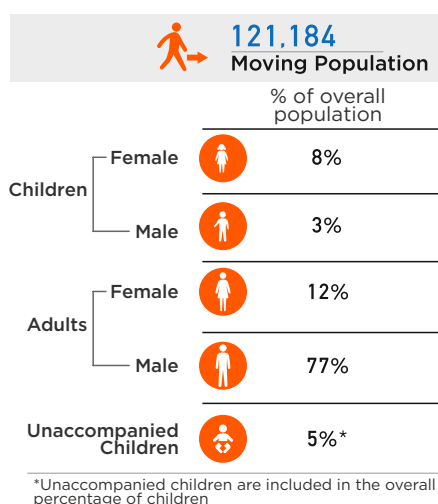


Figure 9: SADD of migrants of FMPs in Yemen

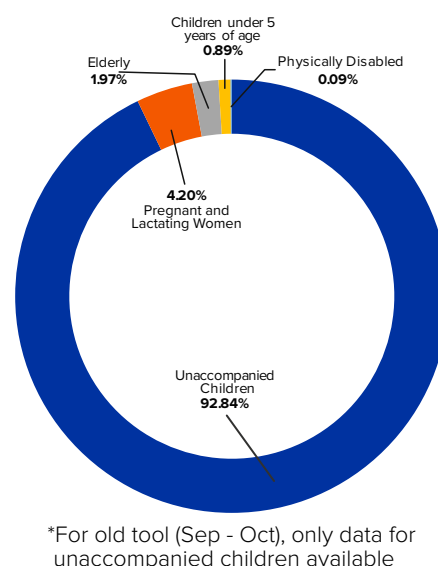


Figure 10: Graph of the breakdown of vulnerabilities reported by migrants at FMPs in Yemen (June-December 2017).

**Migrants’ intentions and drivers:** 99.9% of migrants tracked in Yemen expressed the intention of going to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the remaining were going to Sudan. It should be noted that as the flow monitoring methodology is streamlined in coming months, the flow Somali nationals traveling to Sudan is expected to rise as there is informal reports of groups of Somali migrants traveling via boat to Sudan from Al Aarah.

<sup>13</sup>The sex breakdown figures were only available for the period September-December 2017 following a revision of the data collection tool.

<sup>14</sup>Nationality breakdown only available for October to December.

<sup>15</sup>Vulnerability information was only collected starting in September 2017.

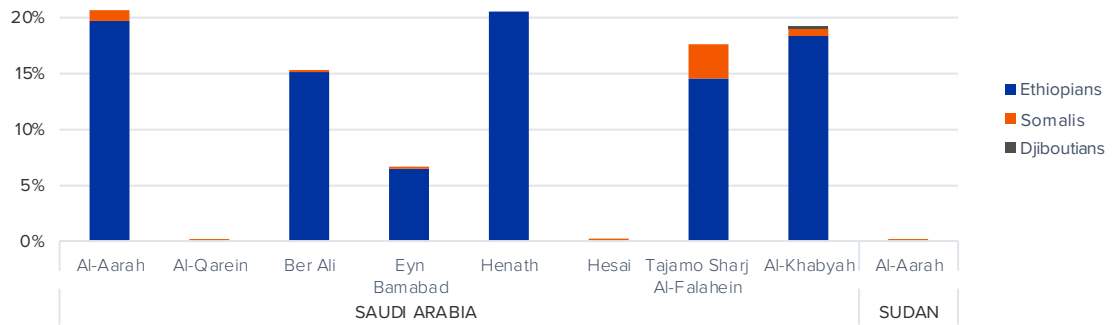


Figure 11: Nationalities Per FMP Per Destination Oct - Dec 2017 (FMR)

The graph on the right shows the categories of migrants according to their migration intentions. The majority of migrants (39%) used a vehicle, 34% arrived on boat, and the rest used other transportation modes, such as walking (19%), bikes (7%), and trucks and buses less than 3%. The few migrants who declared having arrived with means other than boats are those passing through FMPs located a couple of kilometers inland from the coast. Boats arrive during the night and early in the morning and flow monitoring enumerators capture migrants at the FMP and through Key Informants alerting about new arrivals.

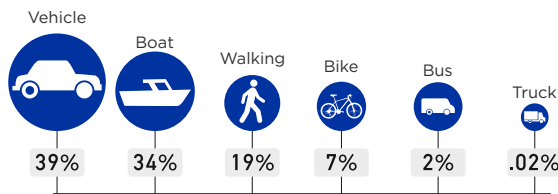


Figure 12: Modes of transport used by migrants at FMPs in Yemen between June and December 2017.

**MIGRATION RESPONSE POINTS**

Migrants arriving on the shores of Yemen are determined to find better opportunities in the Gulf countries and particularly in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Only very few of the migrants are willing or can access assistance, including return assistance. In Yemen, IOM undertakes a number of migration interventions, with 2 Migrant Response Points operating respectively in Aden and Al Hudaydah governorates. In Sana'a, IOM is operating a foster family assignment system for the most vulnerable cases, while also providing registration of, and assistance to migrants in the holding facility based in Immigration Passport and Naturalization Authority (IPNA) similar to MRPs, though it is not an official MRP. The most common

intervention is lifesaving humanitarian assistance, including food and water, medical assistance, and basic clothing and hygiene items. In the period between June and December 2017, IOM has assisted 1,727 contacts, the majority of which were assisted in Aden.

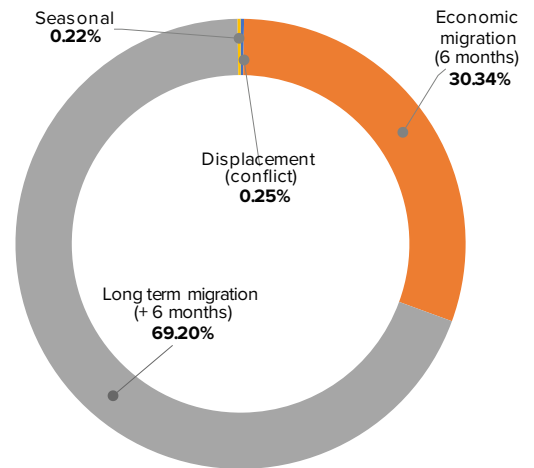


Figure 13: Migrant categories according to their migration intentions

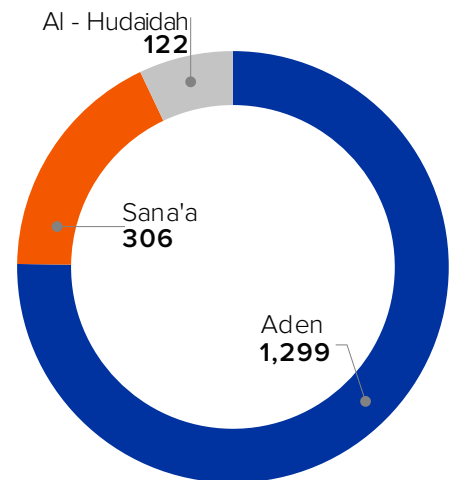


Figure 14: Migrants Registered



**Contacts' profiles and vulnerabilities:** 96% of the assisted population was Ethiopian, 2.20% was Somali and 0.29% was Sudanese. 26% of the contacts assisted at MRP were children and almost exclusively male (girls being only 3%). The percentage of women was slightly higher among adults, at 8.5%.

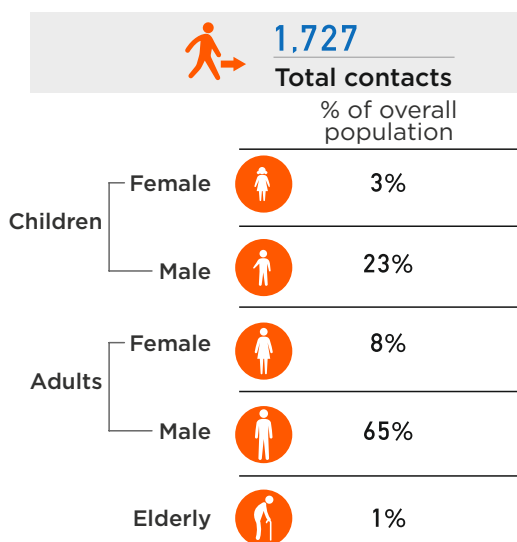


Figure 15: SADD of migrants tracked at FMPs in Yemen

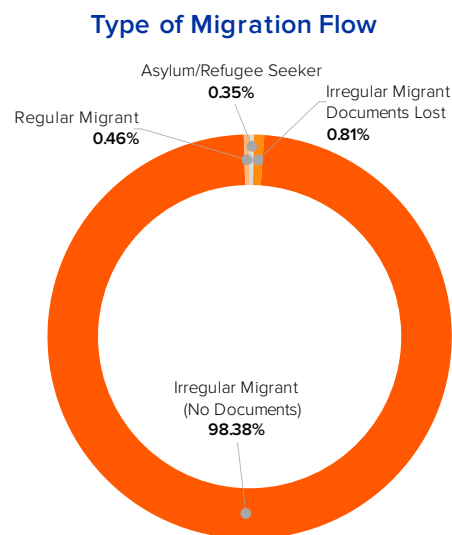


Figure 16: Chart of the status of migrants assisted at MRPs between June and December 2017

Of the migrants asking for assistance, almost all (98%) irregular with no documents. Only 0.81% irregular migrants claimed to have lost their documents, 0.46% were regular migrants caught in crisis and only 0.35% were asylum seekers or refugees, as the majority were possibly assisted directly by UNHCR.

## HUMANITARIAN EVACUATIONS

Between June and December 2017, 1,483 third country national were evacuated by IOM from Yemen to Somalia and Ethiopia (via Djibouti). Evacuations to Somalia were organized by boat and the port of arrival was Berbera. Men and boys represented 56% of the population while women and girls, 44%. The graphs below show the breakdown of nationalities (left) and the sex and age breakdown of the assisted population (right).

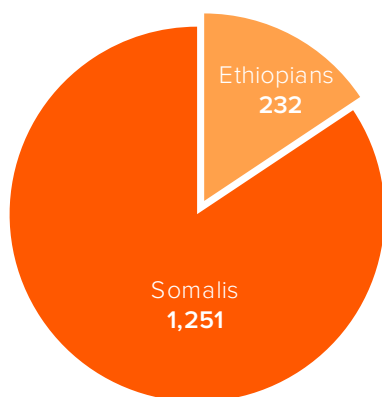


Figure 17: Humanitarian evacuations of third country nationals

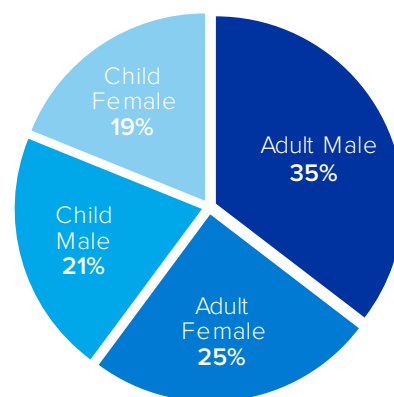


Figure 18: Age and Sex Distribution

**FORCED AND SPONTANEOUS RETURNS FROM THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA**

As of the end of October 2017, IOM was granted access to open a flow monitoring point in Manfed Al Wadea at the border with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. KSA had announced in March 2017 that all irregular migrants in the Country should voluntarily leave KSA while tightening immigration requirements for migrants wanting to work with a regular status. Following these measures, GoKSA has given an amnesty period which was extended four times until the 15th of November 2017 when the forced returns spiked up 4 folds. The graph below shows the resulting forced and voluntary returns from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia by nationality.

A total of 9,563 migrants were returned, all Yemeni nationals, which includes irregular migrants expelled from KSA and migrants no longer able to meet residency requirements who voluntarily left the Country. Further investigation is required to better understand the dynamic of these movements.

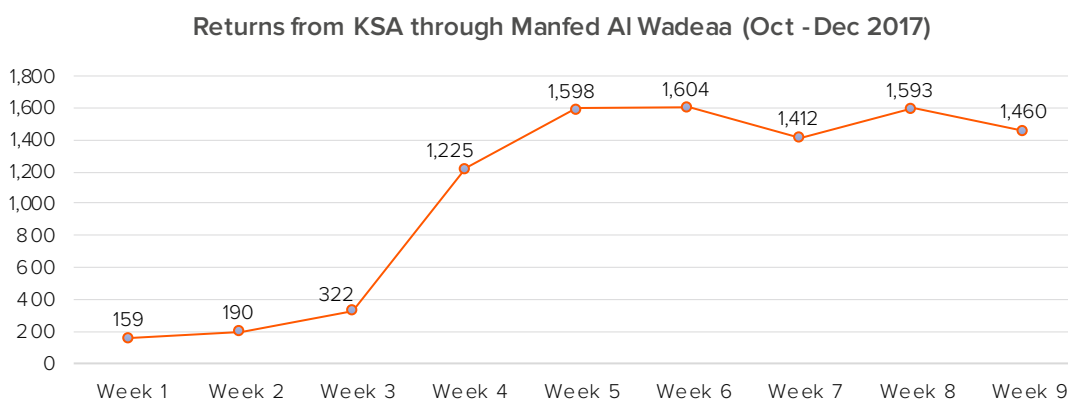


Figure 19: Progression graph of forced and voluntary returns from KSA to Yemen from the 31st of October to the end of December 2017

## DJIBOUTI

Djibouti is a small country in the North-East of the African continent – the unique position of this country makes it an important migration hub for all migrants hoping to cross the narrow gulf over to the Arabian Peninsula. Most of the migrants that arrive in Djibouti do so with the intention of moving onwards into Yemen, and potentially migrate further into the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) and the Gulf countries - and most of these migrants are Ethiopian.

### FLOW MONITORING

**Flow Monitoring Points:** IOM’s enumerators work in collaboration with Government partners to carry out flow monitoring at the various points established all over the country in order to better understand migration trends and drivers as well as basic information on migrants’ needs and vulnerabilities. Between the period of June and December 2017, there were six (6) FMPs functional in the country, though most of the flow of migrants was concentrated in four (4) locations. The busiest FMPs were Fontehero, Orobor and Badaf in the north, which were mainly used by migrants hoping to travel towards the Arabian Peninsula, and Guelileh in the South, which mostly tracks migrants entering the country.



Map 6: Map of Djibouti showing in green Flow Monitoring Points (FMPs) and in orange the Migration Response Centers (MRCs)

**Migrants' flows:** during these seven (7) months, 21,248 migrants were tracked of which over 38% were tracked through Fontehero. There were two significant trend changes tracked in the migration flows – there was a spike in almost all major FMPs in the month of August, and an increase in migrants passing through Obock in October, but a decrease in Ali Sabieh. This can partially be explained by the cyclical nature of migration that tends to spike before and after major holidays – the first spike is following the holy month of Ramadan and the second is right before the holiday season. In addition, a minor decline in flows can also be observed during the month of December, which can also be indicative of the security situation in Yemen and the resulting decrease in migrants intending to travel to the region.

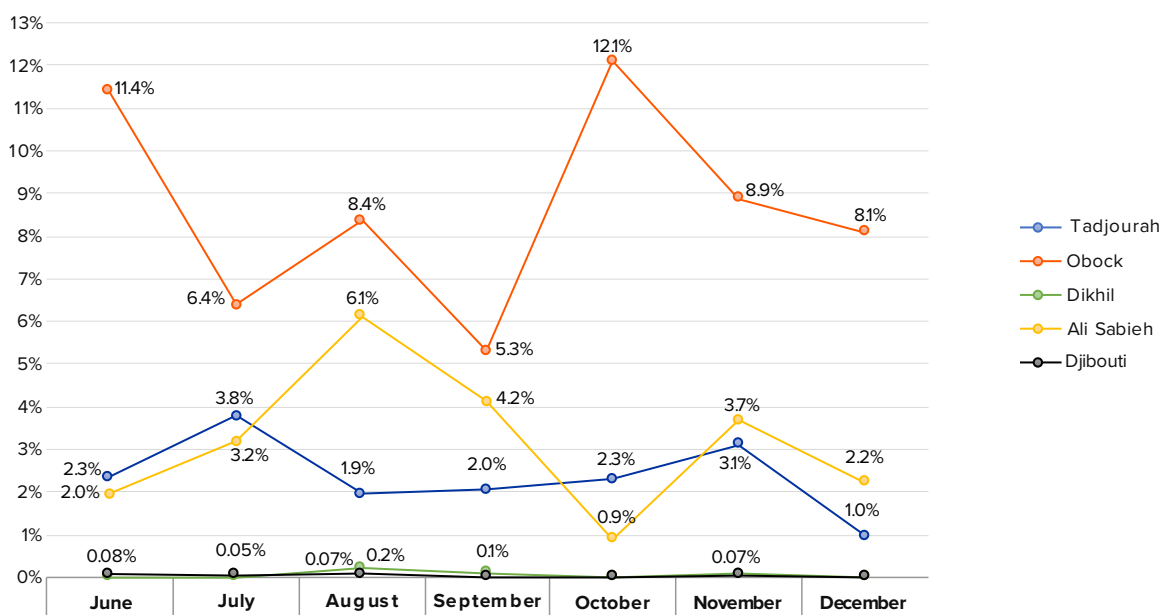


Figure 20: Flow of Migrants over last 6 months through 5 Districts in Djibouti

Of the other countries in the region, Djibouti is the one country that uniquely sees a fairly steady flow of both incoming and outgoing migrants due to its unique position. The flows captured during the current reporting period are illustrative of only a portion of actual migration. IOM carried out assessments in locations of high mobility in the month of November to determine where new FMPs should be established, and whether the existing ones continued to be relevant in capturing migration flows. There are plans in place to establish 8 additional FMPs in the country, bringing the total FMPs to 14 in 2018.

**Migrants Profiles:** enumerators in the various locations also collect basic information about the profiles of the migrants. Of the total population moving through FMPs in Djibouti, over 73.5% were adult male while only 12% were adult female. Current estimates show that of the total population, almost 14.5% were children (3,086), of which almost 10% (2066) were unaccompanied children. Of these migrants, over 96% were Ethiopian, or of Ethiopian origin while 3% were Eritreans, and the rest were Djiboutian and Somali<sup>16</sup>.

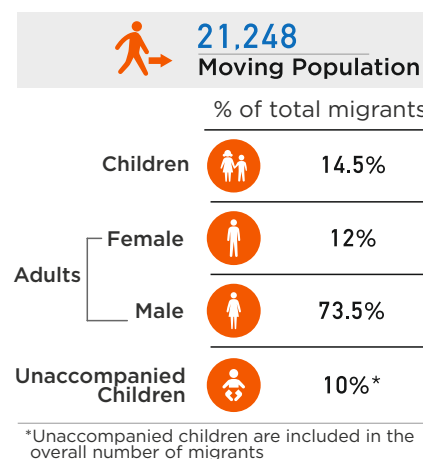


Figure 21: SADD of migrants tracked at FMPs in Djibouti

<sup>16</sup> The data tracks origins, or nationalities, but not both for all the FMPs as different methodologies are followed in north and south.

**Migrants' Vulnerabilities:** a total of 2,066 unaccompanied children were tracked through the FMPs, corresponding to around almost 10% of the total population. This is an unusually high number, especially when compared to other countries in the region. According to IOM's data, most unaccompanied minors were tracked in Fontehero (6%) and Orobor (2.5%). In addition, almost all of these were from Ethiopia (8.6%), in line with the finding that most migrants were travelling from Ethiopia, or are Ethiopians. Although data for all the points is not available, in the southern region, of the 4,871 migrants, most of which were passing through Guelile (97%), over 15% were elderly females while almost 20% were elderly male (over 35% in total). The high number of children and elderly people may suggest entire families moving together. It is interesting to note that all of the tracked elderly were Ethiopian nationals. For the 3 FMPs in the south, the busiest of which was Guelile, the most common vulnerability was minor/female head of household – of the 4,871 migrants, over 6% did not have an adult, male head of household. Instances of other vulnerabilities are low enough to not warrant much attention at this point, however with an increase in the coverage of FMPs and streamlining of flow monitoring methodology, it is expected that further insights will soon be available.

**Migrants' intentions and drivers:** of the 21,248 migrants that were monitored at 6 FMPs during the last seven (7) months of 2017, over 25% expressed the intention of going to KSA while almost 70% were intending to travel to Yemen. Those traveling to KSA – most were in Badaf FMP (14%), followed by Guelile (9%), while of those traveling to Yemen, most were tracked in Fontehero (37%), followed by Orobor (21%). Although most of these were Ethiopians, a small 3.13% of Eritreans were also tracked, and most were intending on traveling onwards to Yemen. A smaller, but still significant percentage of migrants also expressed their intentions of remaining in Djibouti (5%) – most of these were tracked in Guelile, and were Ethiopian nationals.

Reasons for migration are only available for 3 southern FMPs, but according to the data, of the 4,871 migrants tracked, over 94% were economic migrants, while only 3.5% had migrated due to conflict and 2.5% had migrated due to natural disaster.

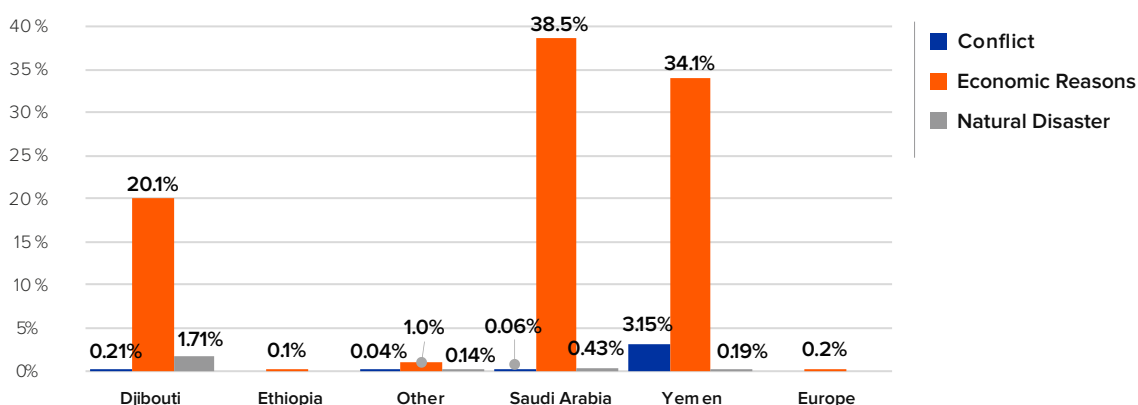


Figure 22: Reasons for migrating by intended destination in the period June-December 2017

The map below shows the flow of intended movement in and out of Djibouti. It is important to note here that this is only illustrative of reported intentions of the migrants and doesn't show the actual movement of migrants in the country. As already mentioned, most migrants intend to move onwards towards Yemen and KSA. This is not to say that those heading towards Yemen are also not intending to move into KSA.



Map 7: Map showing the flow of intended migrant movement in and out of Djibouti

Of all the migrants tracked at the 6 FMPs in Djibouti, over 77% reported to be travelling on foot, 18% traveled on train while the rest traveled by a road vehicle.

Migrants enter Djibouti and, depending on the financial means available to them, they either continue their journey on foot or they use small busses or other vehicles. Different groups of smugglers indicate the route or arrange for transportation and most of the migration routes in Djibouti follow water points and wells. Based on evidence gathered by IOM field staff, the majority walk through arid lands, which can reach temperatures of over 40 degrees Celsius during the summer months. Migrants rarely enter into towns - instead they wait a few kilometers from urban centers, hiding on the hills or into the bush. Smugglers get the necessary supplies in town, which range from water and food to fuel and by dawn migrants are again on their way.

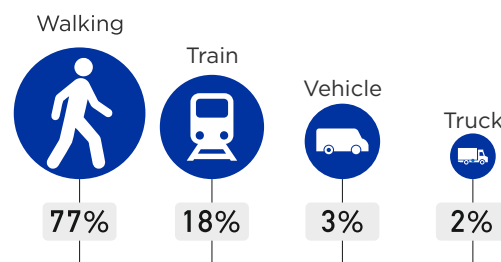


Figure 23: Type of transport used by migrants tracked at FMPs in Djibouti

**MIGRATION RESPONSE CENTERS**

Of the network of Migration Response Center (MRC) operated by IOM or by Government counterparts, the town of Obock in Djibouti hosts one of the centers which is operated directly by IOM. Here migrants can access assistance ranging from water, food, shelter, medical care or return assistance. 628 contacts were made at the MRC in Obock between June and December 2017, out of which over 25% needed emergency shelter, almost 23% were in need of medical assistance and over 21% needed food and water. Over 16% were in need of Non-Food-Items and almost 14% were in need of psycho-social support.

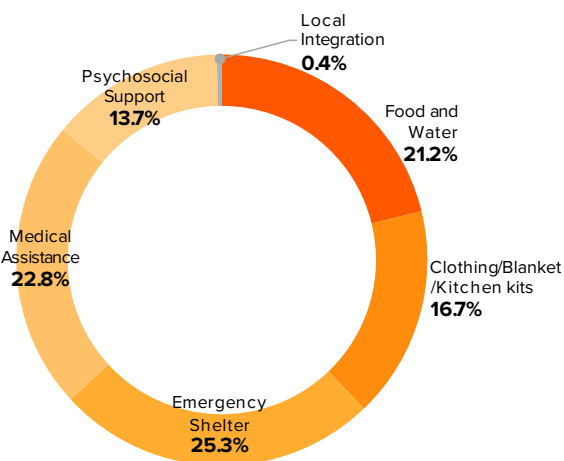


Figure 24: Graph indicating the needs expressed by migrants seeking assistance at the Obock MRC between June and December 2017.

**Contacts' Profiles and Vulnerabilities:** most of the contacts made at the MRC were adult males (75%) while only 3.18% were adult females. Over 21% of total contacts made were children, with almost all being boys, and only 0.3% being girls, while only 0.32% of the population was elderly. Of the total contacts, 88 (14%) were unaccompanied children, 2 of which were female while the rest were male. 2 migrants were over 60 years of age. Almost the entire caseload of assisted migrants was Ethiopian (99.8%)

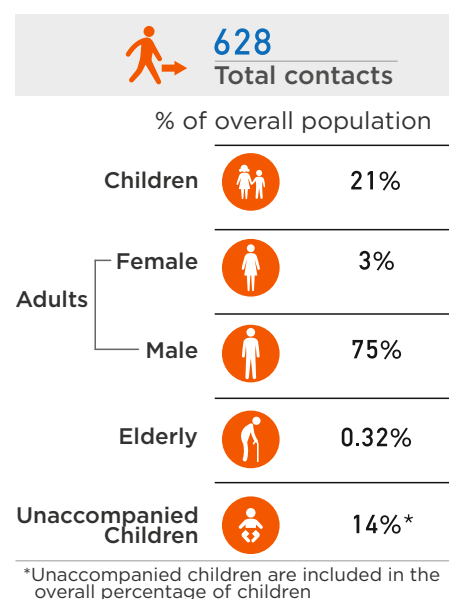


Figure 25: SADD of contacts tracked in MRCs in Djibouti

**Migrants' intentions and drivers:** The migrants that approached the MRC within the reporting period were mostly of Ethiopian nationality, and most (97%) were intending to travel onwards to KSA, while a much smaller percentage (3%) were Ethiopians intending to return home to Ethiopia. The very small percentage of Sudanese were also intending to travel onwards to KSA. Over 90% of the migrants cited economic reasons as the main driver of migration, while a little under 4% had migrated due to war or conflict. Almost 3% migrated due to poverty, while 2% migrated to escape human rights violations and around 1% had made the trip to join other family members. Around 23% did not have a response for this question.

**Intended destinations by nationality**

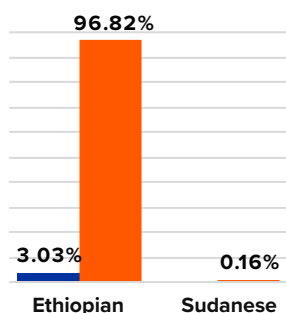


Figure 26: Graph showing the intended destinations of Ethiopians and Sudanese migrants who were assisted in the MRC between June and December 2017.

**Reasons for Migration**

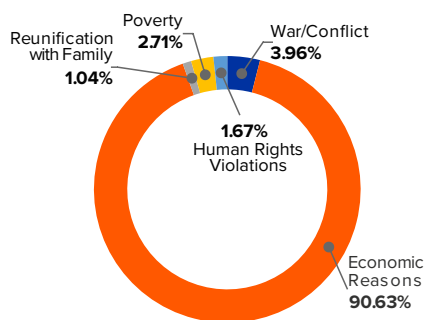


Figure 27: Pie chart showing the reasons why migrants asking for assistance at the Obock MRC decided to migrate for.

It should be noted here that, similar to other MRCs in Somalia and Ethiopia, as well as the MRPs in Yemen, the proportion of migrants approaching Governments or international organizations for services and assistance is not representative of the migrant population in need, and only illustrates the profile and needs of those who knew about the possibility of being assisted, those who chose a migration route that passed by an MRC and had sufficient trust in the MRC's staff that they would not be turned in to the authorities.

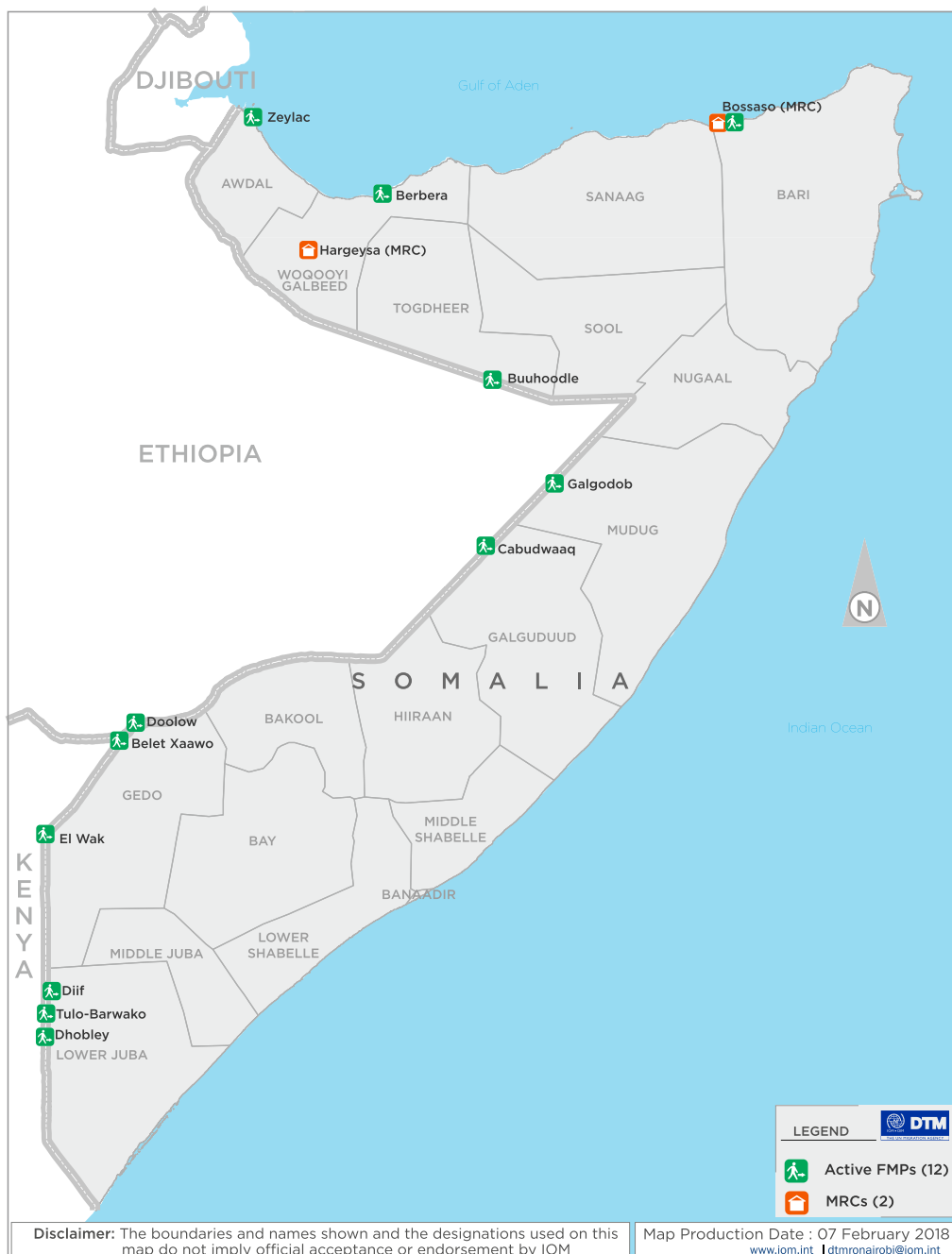


## SOMALIA

Somalia is one of the largest countries in the region, and one of the main countries of origin for migrants moving across the region. The unstable political situation in the country, and the regular occurrence of droughts in the region are effective migration drivers. Despite the dangerous and often fatal channel crossing across the Gulf of Aden, thousands of migrants attempt to make this journey, most from Puntland, often to escape persecutions and human rights violations, or in search of better economic opportunities. Most of the population of Somalia is Sunni Muslim, hence most of the migrants who migrate out do so with the intention of moving to the most stable and developed economy with similar religious majority in the region – KSA - in the hopes of finding better economic opportunities.

### FLOW MONITORING

**Flow Monitoring Points:** IOM DTM teams are currently carrying out flow monitoring through six (6) FMPs in South-Central Somalia, two (2) in Somaliland and three (3) in Puntland. There are currently 12 official FMPs active in Somalia, though most of the flow monitoring was carried out through eleven (11) FMPs between June and December 2017. It is to be noted that flow monitoring was also carried out



Map 8: Map of Somalia showing Flow Monitoring Points (FMPs) and Migration Response Centers (MRCs)

occasionally at unofficial monitoring points. IOM regional office, in coordination with all the missions, is in the process of streamlining the flow monitoring methodology for all the countries in the region, and as a result of assessments in locations of high mobility, establishing official flow monitoring points in the locations illustrated on the map<sup>17</sup>.

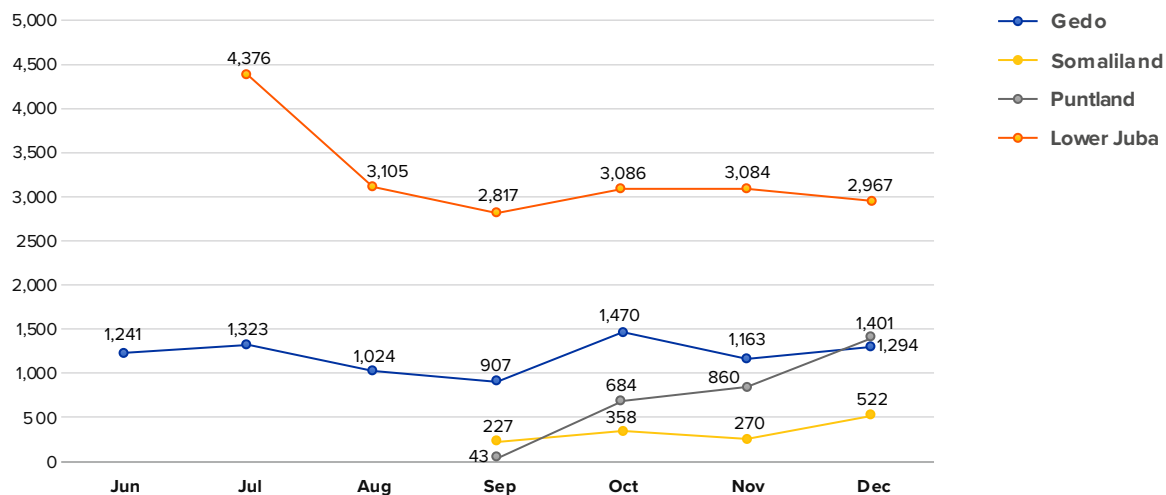


Figure 28: Flows of migrants aggregated by Region for the period June-December 2017.

The chart above shows the flow of migrants through the 12 FMPs in the 4 regions of Gedo, Somaliland, Puntland and Lower Juba. There are three (3) FMPs in Lower Juba (Dhobley, Diff, and Tulo Barwako) which is the south-west region of the country and shares a border with Kenya, and three (3) FMPs in Gedo (Belet Xaawo, Doolow and Elwak) which is also in the west and shares a border with both Kenya and Ethiopia – both of these regions are part of South-Central Somalia. In addition, to these, there are four (4) official FMPs in Puntland (Bossasso port, Buhoodle, Galdogob and Cabudwaaq), all of which except for one were operationalized in the relevant time period, and all except Bossasso bordering Ethiopia. Bossasso is the main gateway for migrants hoping to cross the Gulf of Aden and travel to the Arabian Peninsula. There are also two (2) FMPs on Somaliland (Berbera port and Zeylac).

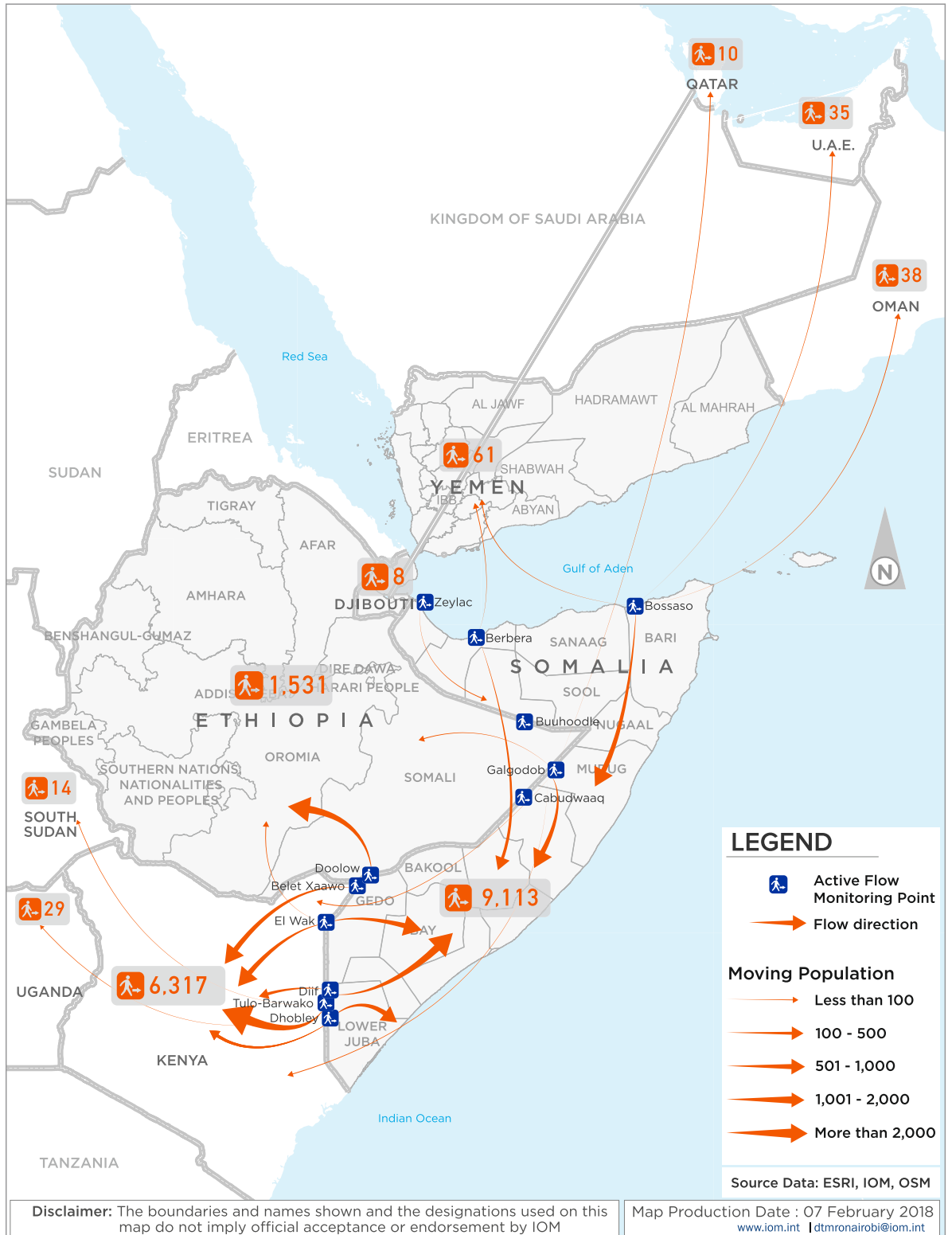
Of these 12 FMPs, the majority of migrants were tracked through Dhobley (over 21%), followed by Tulo Barwako (under 21%) and Diff (19%), most being of Kenyan origin and hoping to move to Somalia and stay in the country. A similarly large number of migrant also used these same crossings to migrate to Kenya (42%) from Somalia.

The map on the next page shows these movements in detail. Compared to the total flows, only a very small percentage of people were tracked through the coastal FMPs – 0.87% through Zeylac, 3.40% through Berbera and 2.83% through Bosasso. This is contrary to historical data, and qualitative information, which shows that Bossasso is the main gateway for exit from Somalia and travel towards Yemen, and eventually, KSA or the Gulf Countries. The reason for this anomaly is operational – the FMPs in Puntland were activated in the last month of the year. This is also the reason for the sharp spike in the data for Puntland as shown in the line chart above, whereas the flows across the other regions has remained fairly even during the 7 months. It is worthwhile, therefore, to see how this picture changes in the coming months.

Another important migration route as seen from the map as well as the chart is the movement of migrants from Somalia towards Ethiopia (13%), which would normally be unusual as Ethiopia is mostly a country of origin and not destination for migrants, but can be explained if most of this population consists of Ethiopians returning to their country.

<sup>17</sup> The flow monitoring point in Bossasso was activated only towards the end of the year following the granting of access by the authorities.

The sharp drop mid-year in Middle Juba can be explained by the decrease in spontaneous and voluntary returns from Dadaab and surrounding areas. Return movements in Somalia seem to be resuming in 2018, so these trends are expected to change over the next few months.



Map 9: Map showing the flow of intended migrant movement in and out of Somalia

**Migrant Profiles:** as mentioned in the previous page, during the relevant time period for this report, a total of 32,222 migrants were tracked through the various FMPs in the country, of which over 49% were adults and around the same percentage were minors (below 18 years of age). A much smaller 2% were over the age of 60, which seems to imply that either young, single people, or families tend to migrate from the country. This is also illustrated by the fact that partial families moving (44%) almost as likely to migrate as whole families (56%). Somalia is the only country in the region where the flow of female migrants (50%) is similar in volume to the flow of male migrants (50%). A lot of Somali migrants tend to get stranded in Yemen due to strict border controls, or get deported back to their home countries by KSA even if they do manage to enter the country.

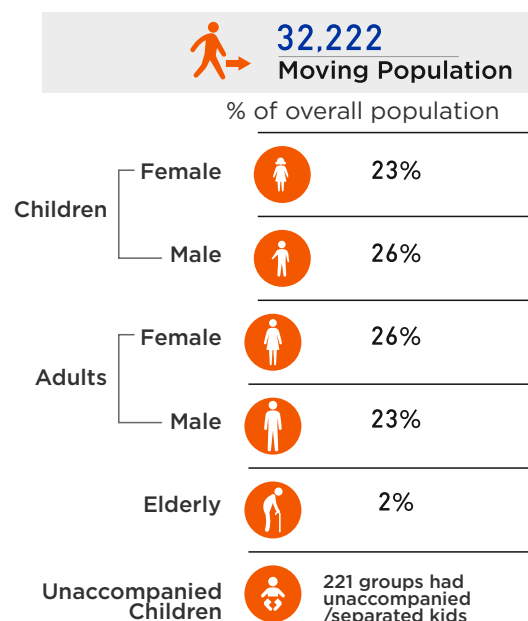


Figure 29: SADD of migrants tracked in MRCs in Somalia

The proportion between males and females is also fairly even, which as mentioned above, is very unusual for the region where most migrants from other countries tend to be young and male. As illustrated in the infographic on the right, 26% of the population is adult female, 23% is adult male, while a very high 49% are children, of which 26% are male children, and 23% female children, and only 2% are elderly. This is in line with the age pyramid of Somalia<sup>18</sup>.

The FMPs also tracked 221 unaccompanied children (sex breakdown not available), which is less than 1% of the total population of migrants tracked through the FMPs.

With regards to the head of the household, it is again interesting to note that the proportion between males and females was fairly even – almost 96% of the head of households were adults between the ages of 18-59, and surprisingly, there were more females (50%) as compared to males (49.9%). This could further illustrate the fact that many single women migrate from and to Somalia, and/or families travel separately in the hopes of rejoining later.

**Migrant Vulnerabilities:** the migrants were also inquired about specific vulnerabilities and other related conditions they may be facing, and many of the migrants responded with more than one vulnerability, hence the reporting will be done by ‘instances of vulnerabilities’ as opposed to ‘vulnerable migrants’.

As illustrated in the graph below, the highest instance of vulnerability faced by a migrant is being a single parent. Out of a total of 32,222 migrants tracked during the relevant time period, over 6% were single parents. Apart from that, over 5% had legal and special protection needs, and almost 5% identified themselves as women at risk. Only around 1.5% had physical disabilities and a little over 4% had serious medical conditions, while less than 1% of unaccompanied children were present.

By segregating the vulnerabilities by gender of head of household, it can be noted that proportionately, more female head of households are/have women at risk, are single parents and/or are/have pregnant women.

<sup>18</sup> See population estimation Survey of Somalia (PESS) 2013-2014. <http://somalia.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/Population-Estimation-Survey-of-Somalia-PESS-2013-2014.pdf>

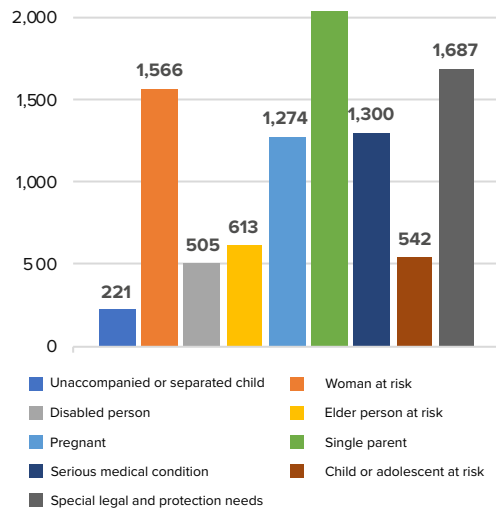


Figure 30: Breakdown of Vulnerabilities

In terms of legal and protection needs, male headed households were more likely to fall in this category as opposed to female headed households, though the difference was not very significant. Overall, female headed households tend to be more vulnerable as compared to male headed households.

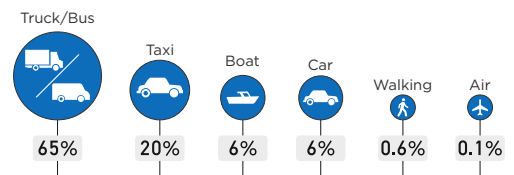


Figure 31: Type of transport used by migrants tracked at FMPs in Somalia

**Migrants' intentions and drivers:** most migrants that reported they traveled either by truck or bus 65%, or used other modes of land transport 26%, while only 6% said they used boat as the main mode of transportation. When looking at flows from individual FMPs, this breakdown is validated since the data from the FMPs on the coast is limited – it is expected to see some different results in subsequent reporting.

The data also shows that most of the migrants tracked during the current reporting period are most likely economic and /or voluntary migrants as opposed to those who had been forced to flee their homes as a result of safety and security issues. The majority of migrants are making the move because of food insecurity, followed by reasons of health and environment respectively. As the pie chart below shows, the majority of the migrants cited 'Food' as the main migration driver, and another 9% migrated due to 'Environment' which can be linked to drought and potentially food and economic insecurity, while 17% migrated for health reasons. 15% came in search of better employment opportunities while only 12% were potentially conflict/insecurity driven migrants. Around 6.5% are potentially short term (less than 6 months) migrants visiting or managing farmland while around 10% came for education.

The gender breakdown does not reveal anything particularly interesting as the proportions remain the same as overall percentages, though females are slightly more concerned about food and environmental factors, and males are slightly more likely to migrate in search of employment. As mentioned earlier, these are potentially overlapping categories as multiple answers were possible.

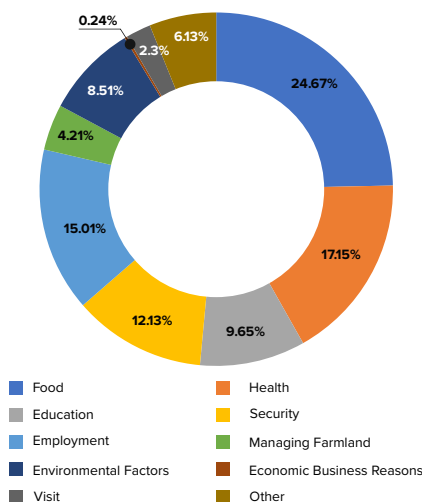


Figure 32: Reasons for migration

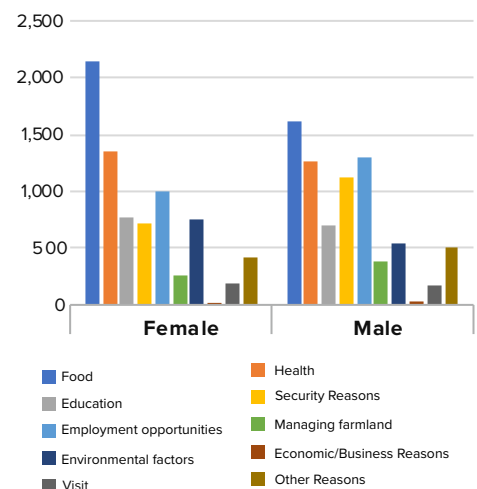


Figure 33: Reasons for migration by gender in Somalia

Further looking at breakdown of migration drivers by country, migrants coming from Somalia (which can be country of origin or transit and moving outwards) were proportionately much more likely to migrate for ‘Food’ while those migrating to Kenya were most likely doing so for employment reasons. Migration from Yemen is more likely due to security reasons.

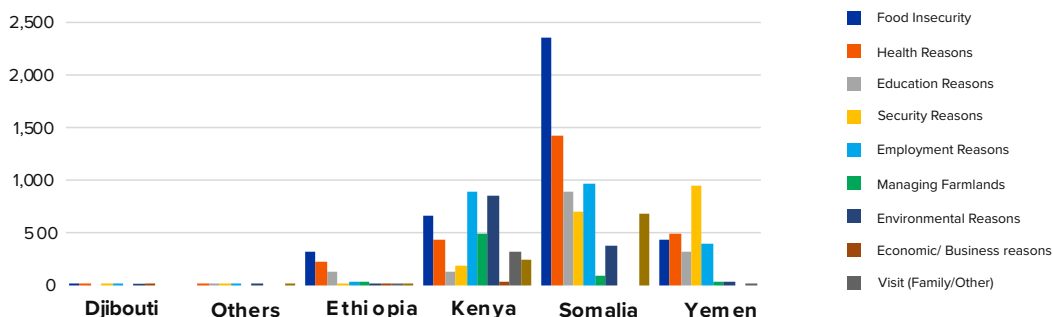


Figure 34: Migration flow type per Country of origin

**MIGRATION RESPONSE CENTERS**

Two (2) of the five Migration Response Centers (MRCs) are in Somalia – in Bosasso (Puntland) and Hargeysa (Somaliland), and during the period June – December 2017, the MRCs catered to 1,812 migrants that voluntarily approached the centers - 61% in Bosasso and 39% in Hargeysa. This is the second-highest caseload of migrants that was catered for in a country, after Ethiopia.

The specified caseloads of migrants had numerous needs, and out of 2,742 needs specified by this group over a period of 7 months (multiple options were allowed), the largest majority were in need of clothing/blankets/kitchen supplies (33.5%) or psycho-social support (33.4%). Around 13% needed food/water, and a little over 7% were in need of medical assistance, while only 7% wanted emergency shelter. As opposed to Djibouti and Ethiopia, a slightly higher 6% of the migrants were interested in local integration, which meaning they were not interested in onward travel or returning to their homes.

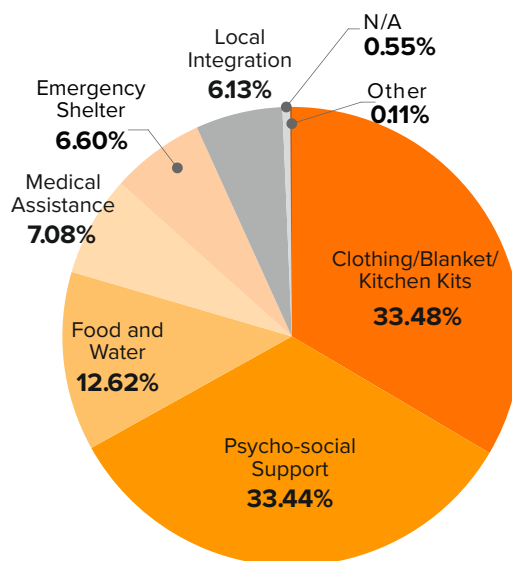


Figure 35: Needs of Migrants at MRCs

**Contacts’ profiles and vulnerabilities:** as with other MRCs, the majority of contacts made, by a large margin, were Ethiopian (99.9%) with 1 Somali and Sudanese each, both of which were interested in going home. Conversely, only a little over 5% of Ethiopians wanted to return to Ethiopia, and the largest majority wanted to move onwards to KSA (59%) or stay in Somalia (34%). A little over 1% of migrants (all, Ethiopian) wanted to travel further to Yemen or other GCC states.

Contrary to what illustrated in the demographic breakdown of migrants in flow monitoring, majority of the contacts made at the 2 Somali MRCs were adult and male 52%, while only 17% were adult females, and 29% were children, and less than 1% were unaccompanied children. Since this is a non-representative sample of people, it could potentially be explained by assuming that only certain family members visit the MRCs, to secure basic needs for their families, and cultural context is such that male family members usually act as representatives for the whole family. Another explanation can be that only male migrants are privy to information about facilities available to migrants – if that is the case, and a lot more research is needed before this conclusion can be drawn - this is an area where humanitarian organizations needs to act in. In terms of mode of transportation, we can see that most of the contacts made in the MRCs had been walking 68% while 30% used some mode of land transportation and a little over 2% used other/mixed means of transportation. This is different to what we see in Flow Monitoring because, unlike FMPs which are meant to be on the borders or coasts, MRCs are usually present further inland.

**Migrants’ intentions and drivers:** of the 480 responses received regarding the migration drivers, a clear majority (over 90%) said they had migrated for Economic reasons, and around 3% had migrated due to poverty, while only a little over 5% had migrated due to conflict or human rights violations. Only one non-Ethiopian responded to this question (Sudanese) and he had also opted to migrate due to Economic Reasons.

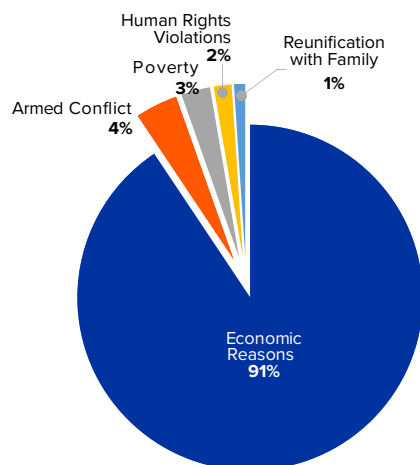


Figure 38: Migration drivers

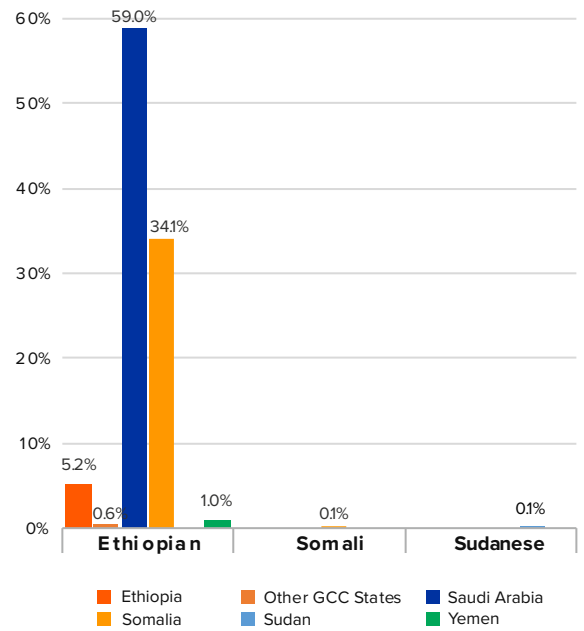


Figure 36: Nationalities by Intended Destination at MRC

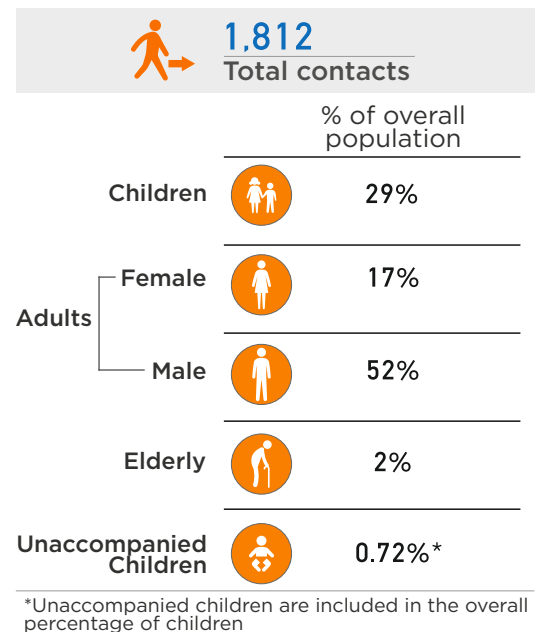


Figure 37: SADD of contacts tracked in MRCs in Somalia

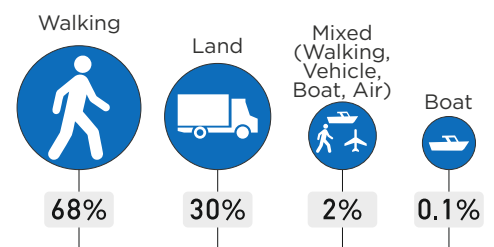


Figure 39: Type of transport used by migrants tracked at MRCs in Somalia

**SPONTANEOUS RETURNS**

During June – December 2017, 2,642 migrants were reported as having returned spontaneously<sup>19</sup> from Yemen to Somalia. Of these, almost 74% were Somali nationals, while 25% were Yemeni nationals and just over 1% were Ethiopians. Most of the evacuees were sent to Puntland (80%). Apart from that, IOM also carried out organized evacuations from Yemen to Somalia, the details of which have already been discussed in the Yemen section earlier in the report.

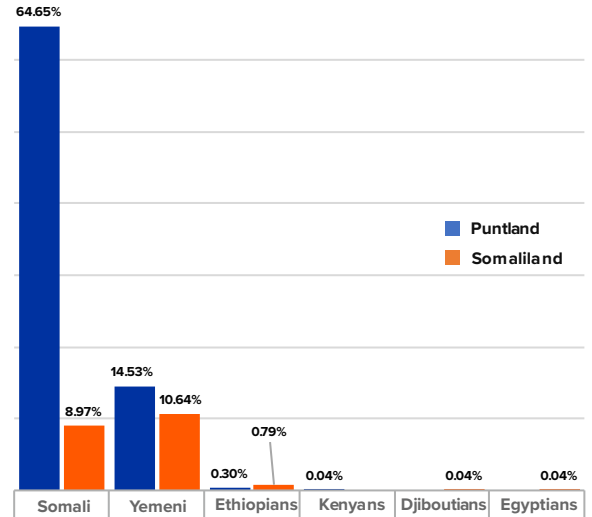


Figure 40: Desegregation by nationalities of spontaneous returns from Yemen to Somalia (June - December 2017)

**FORCED RETURNS FROM KSA**

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has also been forcibly returning migrants who are flown by air to Mogadishu in Somalia. Between June – December 2017, a total of 21,405 migrants were deported from KSA to Somalia. In terms of gender breakdown, although more males (59%) are deported as compared to females (41%), the difference between the two is not big. As can be seen from the trends chart below, the frequency of deportation has been on the rise in the more recent months.

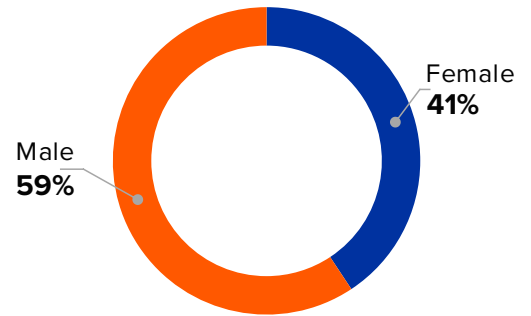


Figure 41: Sex Breakdown for Somalis deported from KSA

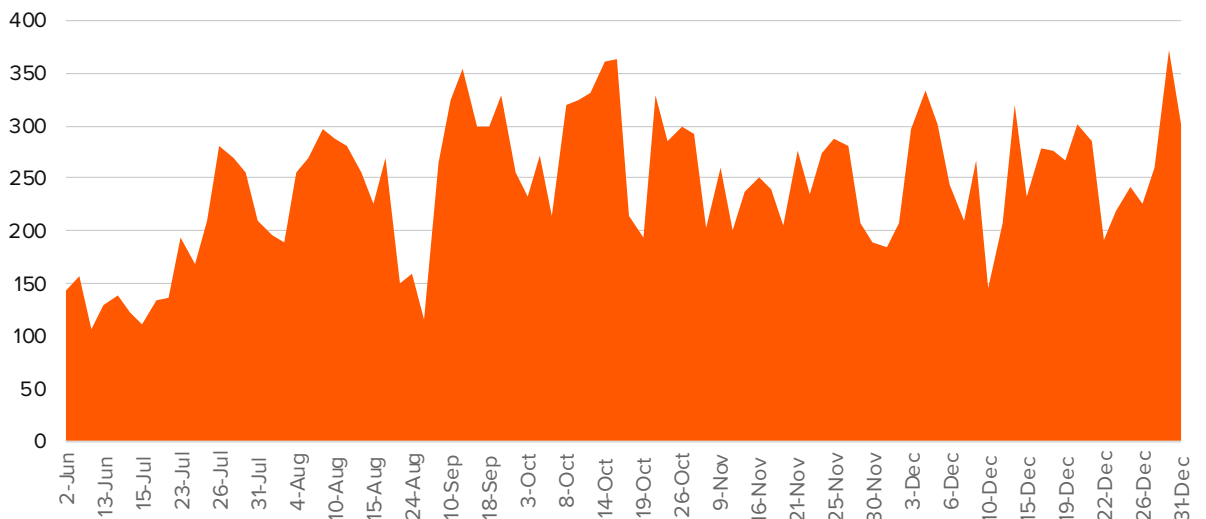


Figure 42: KSA - Somalia Forced Return Trends

<sup>19</sup> The assisted spontaneous returns (ASRs) from Yemen are those emigrants that opt to return to Somalia on a voluntary basis. They are provided assistance by IOM and passage home by UNHCR due to their prima facie refugee status in Yemen. The programme was scheduled to end in December 2017



## ETHIOPIA

This document at various points has reported on migration in the region, and overwhelmingly, the majority of the migrants tend to be Ethiopian nationals. Ethiopia is the continent's oldest country, as well as the second-most populous. Ethiopia has suffered periodic droughts and famines<sup>20</sup>. Migrants from the country usually migrate for both natural as well as conflict-driven reasons, and migrate southwards towards South Africa, westwards and north from Sudan and also east and north from Somalia/Djibouti to Yemen and KSA.

### FLOW MONITORING

As of December 2017, no flow monitoring points were active in Ethiopia, though the high mobility location assessments are ongoing, as are the negotiations with the Government for granting of access and space for FMPs. DTM plans to set up 10 FMPs in all the points which have historically been used by migrants as passageways in and out of the country, initially along the border with Sudan, Somalia, Kenya and Djibouti.



Map 10: Map of Ethiopia showing planned Flow Monitoring Points (in grey) and Migration Response Centers (in orange)

<sup>20</sup><http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-13349398>

**MIGRATION  
RESPONSE  
CENTERS**

Similar to Somalia, there are two Migrant Response Centers in Ethiopia, one each in Metema and Semera. Of the three countries in the region, the MRCs in Ethiopia made the most migrant contacts between June – December 2017, and catered to a total of 1,913 migrants, over 91% in Semera while the rest in Metema MRC. Semera is closer to the border with Djibouti which is a major transit country for migration which may be one reason why this MRC sees more traffic as compared to the one in Metema which is closed to the Sudan border. In addition to that, promotional campaigns conducted by IOM and government partners also resulted in a spike in visits to the Semera MRC, which shows that availability of information regarding services offered at MRCs plays a large role in the traffic seen by each center.

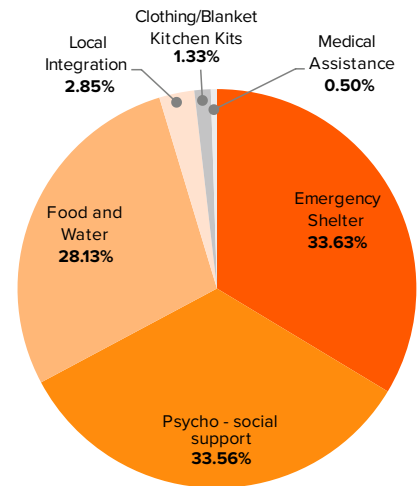


Figure 43: Needs of Migrants tracked at MRCs in Ethiopia (June - December 2017)

In terms of needs, Emergency Shelter, psycho-social support and food/water were top three, while medical assistance was lowest in terms of urgency – keeping in mind that a migrant can have more than one need. The migrants that approach these MRCs were looking for more emergency support, which was due to the reason that most were looking to move onwards and outwards. This is further proven by the fact that all the migrants that approached the MRCs in Ethiopia were Ethiopians – these could be potentially returning Ethiopians who were looking for temporary support to help them reintegrate into their own country, or much more likely, Ethiopian nationals who were eager to move to another country (whether for the first time or migrating again) and were approaching the MRCs for some support to aid them in doing so. The data shows us that only 3% of the Ethiopians that approach the MRCs were interested in staying in the country, while the large majority were aiming to migrate to other countries.

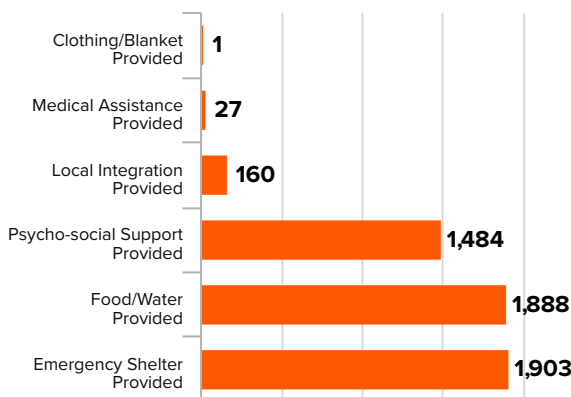


Figure 44: Support and needs sought by migrants tracked at MRCs in Ethiopia (June - December 2017)

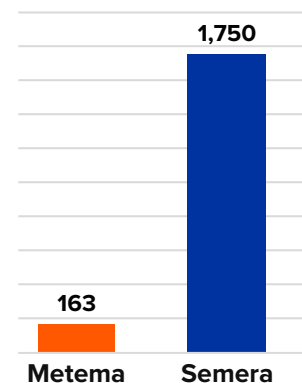


Figure 45: Migrants caseloads tracked at MRCs in Ethiopia (June - December 2017)

**Contacts’ Profiles and Vulnerabilities:** Similar to the trends observed in all countries apart from migrants in Ethiopia, the majority of the contacts made in the Ethiopia’s MRCs were adult and male (74%), while only 18% were adult female, and 9% were children. The percentage of the elderly was the lowest in the region (0.05%) while 4% were unaccompanied children. As mentioned earlier, this population was not necessarily representative of the migrant population in the country, and only illustrates the profile of the subset that was aware of availability of these facilities, had the means to travel to access them and was not afraid of approaching the facilities which register them.

All the contacts made at the two (2) MRCs were Ethiopians, but with regards to their intended destination, the results were slightly more varied as compared to what we have seen in other MRCs. Although the majority (85%) were intending to go to KSA, some small minorities were also hoping to travel to Sudan (3%), Djibouti (3%) and Europe (4%). Only 3% were actually aiming to stay in Ethiopia.

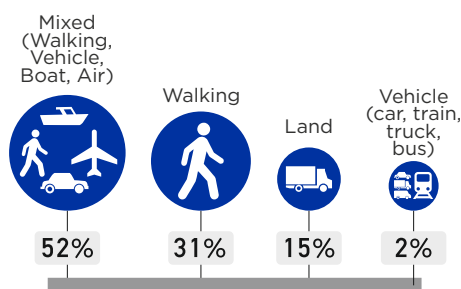


Figure 46: Type of transport used by migrants tracked at MRCs in Ethiopia (June - December 2017)

The mode of transportation for Ethiopians approaching the MRCs was more varied than other population samples we have been looking at – most (52%) had been using a combination of land, air and water based transportation, while 31% had been walking, and only 17% used land vehicles only.

The migration drivers were what we would expect to see with a population with current profile – economic reason and poverty were almost equally strong migration drivers, with reunification with families coming in third, which was essentially a combination of the other two as families may travel separately but main driver would still be economic in nature. Less than 1% of the population had migrated due to non-economic reasons related to conflict and political upheaval, though that doesn't mean the factors aren't related – conflict and political crises can have an impact on economic activity and employment, and hence poverty which then spurs migration.

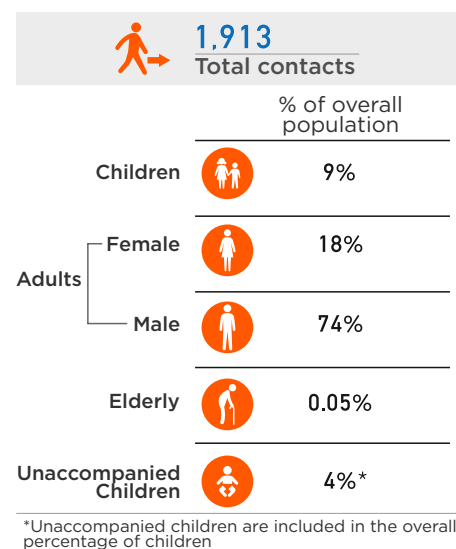


Figure 47: SADD of contacts tracked in MRCs in Ethiopia (June - December 2017)

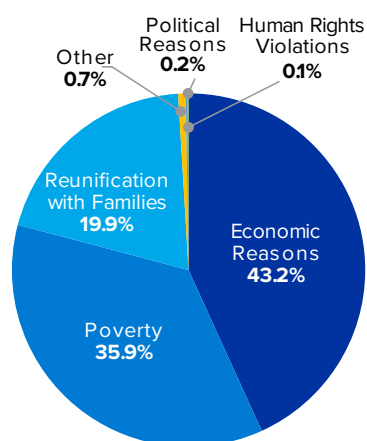


Figure 48: Migration Drivers - MRC Contacts in Ethiopia (June - December 2017)

**FORCED AND VOLUNTARY RETURNS FROM THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA**

**Intended Destination - Ethiopia**

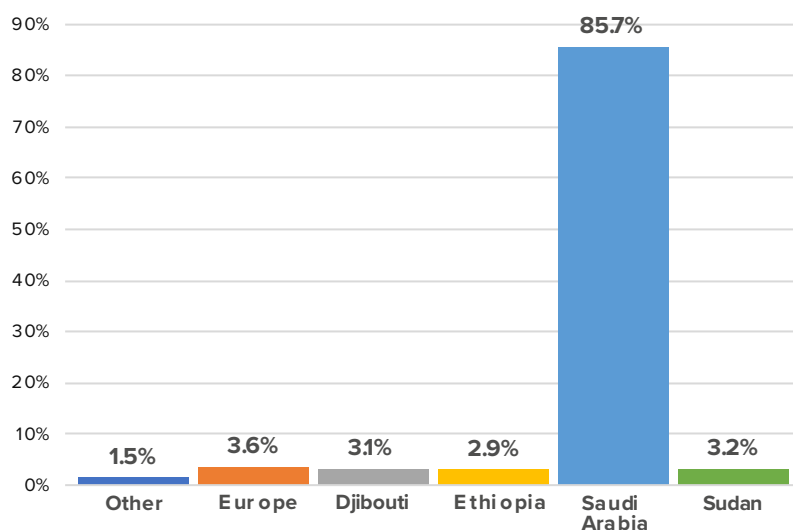


Figure 49: Intended destinations for migrants from Ethiopia

During June – December 2017, 44,182 Ethiopian migrants were forcibly and voluntarily returned from KSA. Of these, 87% (38,252) were male, while 13% (5,930) were female. No unaccompanied children were observed by IOM field staff among this population.

As can be seen from the chart on the right, the number of forced returns remained consistent in the latter half of the year, but there was a sharp increase in December, when the number of forced returnees more than doubled as compared to the previous month. This was likely due to the ending of the November 15th deadline for the amnesty period given by the Saudi Government for irregular migrants to voluntarily leave the country, or face the possibility of being detained or deported.

All of the returning migrants were Ethiopian nationals, and were flown into the country, arrived at Bole International Airport in Addis Ababa, and were provided support by IOM as part of the Post Arrival Emergency Assistance Initiative that provides emergency assistance to forced returnees, including registration and profiling, temporary shelter, psychological and medical assistance, referral assistance, family tracing (and reunification for unaccompanied children, if any) as well as onward transportation<sup>21</sup>.

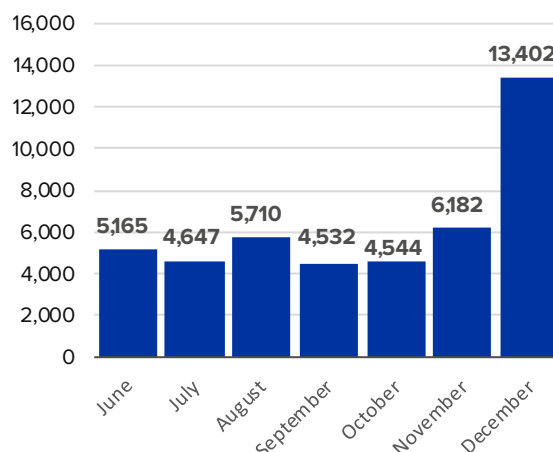


Figure 50: Temporal movement of forced and voluntary returns to Ethiopia from KSA (June - December 2017)

<sup>21</sup>There are also programmes in places to support forced returnees from other countries, including Europe.

## METHODOLOGIES

**Flow Monitoring:** the purpose of flow monitoring is to provide regularly updated information on the scale and profile of population movements. The information and analysis provided by flow monitoring also aims to better understand and define shortcomings and priorities in the provision of assistance along the displacement/migratory routes. Flow monitoring methodology consists of 3 basic steps:

- *High Mobility Area/Location Assessments:* aimed at mapping of locations of high mobility where to set up Flow Monitoring Points through key informants.
- *Flow Monitoring Registry (FMR):* aimed at capturing quantitative data about volumes of migrants, nationality, sex and age disaggregated information, origin, destination and observable vulnerabilities.
- *Flow Monitoring Survey (FMS):* aimed at capturing qualitative information about the profiles of the migrants, migration drivers and their needs. This is done on a sample of migrants passing through the FMPs.

In 2018, the flow monitoring registry will be harmonized across all FMPs and flow monitoring surveys will be launched, but for this report, the flow monitoring registry tool was slightly different from country to country and in particular:

### YEMEN:

- Data on vulnerabilities and age/gender disaggregation was only available from October onwards. For this reason, some indicators are analyzed using data from the last quarter of 2017, while overall figures are presented using data from both old and new FM tools and methodology
- The previous methodology for FM tracked both internally transiting migrants as well as new arrivals, and to an extent, migrants exiting Yemen.
- Due to ongoing conflict, DTM activities are only ongoing in 12 southern governorates. The western border is not currently covered, hence any migration flows from the 10 northern governorates are not being captured by IOM.

### SOMALIA:

- The former flow monitoring methodology mainly looked at entries and exits, hence the data is heavily skewed towards “migrants from Somalia” (nationalities unknown).

### DJIBOUTI:

- The northern FMPs collected less information than the southern FMPs where data was collected also about vulnerabilities and needs.

### ETHIOPIA:

- FM was not initiated during the time period for this report, however, the first round of high mobility location assessments has been completed, and plans are underway to operationalize 10 FMPs in the new year.

Overall, the flow monitoring methodology tends to naturally focus on irregular migration, especially in the case of Djibouti. There are other schemes of irregular migration that are ongoing for those with more resources, and/or those less wary of being apprehended by authorities.

**Migrant Response Centers and Points:** data for MRCs is collected through mobile registration of individual migrants upon arrival. The type of information collected at MRCs is standardized and is slightly different than the one at MRPs, but registration of newly arrived migrants is also carried out at MRPs. As migrants at both MRCs and MRPs are not biometrically registered, there is the possibility that the same person might seek assistance at the facilities multiple times and although enumerators ask whether the migrant is new to the MRC or is a returning beneficiary, IOM cannot exclude a risk of double counting. Hence in the report, reference is made to contacts instead of migrants.

**Humanitarian Evacuations:** data on humanitarian evacuations from Yemen to Somalia and Ethiopia (via Djibouti) was extracted from passengers' manifests and provided by IOM Yemen (non-personal data).

**Assisted Spontaneous Returns:** data is collected by the Government of Somalia and IOM on an individual level upon arrival.

Forced returns from KSA to Somalia and Yemen: There are two kinds of forced returns from KSA – land deportations that are carried out through Manfath Al-Wadeeah, the northern FMP in Yemen, where IOM enumerators use the FMR, and deportations by air to Mogadishu, Somalia where registration are carried out at the airport.

**Forced and Voluntary Returns from KSA to Yemen:** data is collected through the flow monitoring methodology and in particular the flow monitoring registry tracking busses from KSA as they stop close to the Manfed Al-Wadeea port (Yemen). The caseload includes Yemeni returnees expelled from KSA because of their irregular status as well as regular migrants no longer able to meet the new immigration requirements. Coverage of the flow monitoring point is ensured by an IOM enumerator during day time and key informants at night.

**Forced Returns from KSA to Somalia:** Data is generated by through the registration of individuals being forcibly returned by KSA authorities through the airport of Mogadishu.

**Forced and Voluntary Returns from KSA to Ethiopia:** Data is generated through the individual registration and profiling of voluntary returnees and deportees at the Bole International Airport by IOM.



*Obsa trains on his acrobatic moves on the beach in the morning. As an Ethiopian migrant, he came to Djibouti when he was a child looking for work. In the beginning, he would spend his nights sleeping on the very same beach until a local organization gave him shelter and he enrolled in school where he learned French. Over the years he looked for any kind of work from shining shoes to waiting tables at restaurants. Now at 19, he works as a dancer and wishes that he will be able to save enough money to bring back to his family in his poor village.*

