


# A REGION ON THE MOVE



## 2019 Mobility Overview in the East and Horn of Africa and the Arab Peninsula

IOM Regional Office for the East and Horn of Africa



This project is co-funded by  
the European Union



Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the  
Netherlands





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Cover photo: A group of migrants is walking in the desert to reach Obock. Photo: © IOM / Alexander Bee



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*In Adogolo, migrants gather for a prayer while waiting for pickups to take them to the boats. Photo: © IOM / Alexander Bee*



# 01. HIGHLIGHTS

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Migrants are walking in the desert from Alat Ela to Fantahero. Photo: © IOM / Alexander Bee

## FORCED DISPLACEMENT

### Regional Overview

The East and Horn of Africa region was home to 6.3 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) and 3.5 million refugees and asylum-seekers in 2019.

### Ethiopia

Determined to address the issue of internal displacement, the Government of Ethiopia, through the Ministry of Peace (MoP) and the National Disaster Risk Management Commission (NDRMC), launched a nation-wide return process in April 2019, and the national Durable Solutions Initiative (DSI) in December 2019 to support the return, integration and voluntary relocation of IDPs.

### South Sudan

Alongside protracted conflict, and intercommunal and livestock-related clashes, food insecurity remained the main factor putting more than half of the South Sudanese population (7.5 million) in dire need of humanitarian assistance and protection. As of November 2019, the DTM-OCHA unified baseline reported a total number of 1,665,815 IDPs and 1,365,057 returnees.

### Burundi

In 2019, internal displacement in Burundi declined by 22 per cent, bringing the total IDPs to 104,191, mostly displaced by climatic events. Since the signing of a Tripartite Agreement between the Government of Burundi, the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania and UNHCR two years ago over the voluntary repatriation of Burundian refugees, a total of 79,720 individuals

were assisted to voluntarily return to Burundi, of which 20,953 from the United Republic of Tanzania in 2019 alone. However, many returnees continued to face reintegration challenges back home.

### Somalia

Recurring climatic shocks, especially drought and flooding, stressed Somalia's growing vulnerability to climate change. Food security further deteriorated due to the desert locust invasion, which caused massive damage to crops and pastures at the end of the year. To counter the impact of drought, the Government of Somalia in collaboration with aid agencies launched the Drought Impact Response Plan (DIRP) in June 2019. In November 2019, Somalia adopted the National Policy on Refugee-Returnees and IDPs aimed to provide protection and assistance to persons of concern, and ensure durable solutions to all forms of displacement, in addition to ratifying the Kampala Convention.

### Ebola Virus Disease in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

The Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) outbreak was declared a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) on 17 July 2019. As of 31 December 2019, 3,380 cumulative EVD cases, including 3,262 confirmed and 118 probable cases, and 2,232 cumulative deaths with a mortality rate of 66 per cent were recorded. Significant efforts were made to contain the outbreak by the Democratic Republic of the Congo and its neighbouring countries.

## REGIONAL MIXED MIGRATION TRENDS

### MIGRATION MOVEMENTS:

- Flow Monitoring (FM) Network in Public Health Context: **1,851,738** movements were tracked through a total of 38 Flow Monitoring Points (FMPs) established in South Sudan (20), Uganda (15), and Burundi (3).
- Migration Routes Network: **744,113** movements were tracked through 22 FMPs established in Somalia (7), Ethiopia (5), Djibouti (5), and Yemen (5).
- Burundi Returns Network: **539,667** movements were tracked through eight FMPs in Burundi.
- South Sudan Situation Cross-border Movements Network: **345,987** movements were tracked through 12 FMPs in South Sudan (6) and Uganda (6).

### MIGRATION ROUTES:

- **Out of the 744,113 movements observed, 63 per cent** were tracked along the Eastern Route, **33 per cent** along the Horn of Africa Route, **2 per cent** along the Northern Route and **2 per cent** along the Southern Route.
- Overall, **50 per cent** were migrating towards the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, **16 per cent** intended to travel to Somalia, **12 per cent** were headed to Yemen, **12 per cent** to Ethiopia and **5 per cent** to Djibouti.
- Along the Eastern Route, **79 per cent** were migrating towards the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, 20 per cent were headed to Yemen and only **1 per cent** to other countries on the Arab Peninsula.
- Along the Northern Route, only **5,753** movements were tracked with the intension of going to Europe, mainly to Germany (46%) and Italy (38%).
- IOM registered **120,825 Ethiopian nationals returning from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia** upon arrival at the Bole Airport in Addis Ababa between January and December 2019, 99.6 per cent of which reported that they were returning involuntarily. A further **50,077 Yemeni returnees** from Saudi Arabia were also tracked by DTM in Yemen and 2,284 Somali were returned to Somalia between January and March.
- In 2019, IOM facilitated the return of **3,751 Ethiopians** by air from Aden and Sana'a in Yemen to Ethiopia. In 2019, IOM facilitated the movement of **1,681 Somali refugees** to Somalia by boat from Aden in Yemen to a reception center in Berbera.
- During the same period, **138,213 new arrivals** from the Horn of Africa were tracked by FM teams through five FMPs along the costs of Yemen.
- The number of arrivals of East and Horn of Africa (EHOA) migrants by sea to Greece, Italy and Spain **decreased** by almost **27 per cent** compared to 2018 (from 4,624 in 2018 to 3,452 in 2019).

### MIGRATION ROUTES PROFILES:

- The **two** main nationalities of migrants tracked through FM were **Ethiopian (76%)** and **Somali (20%)**.
- **58 per cent** were adult males, **24 per cent** were adult females and **18 per cent** were children.
- Of the total population tracked, **4 per cent** were Unaccompanied Migrant Children (UMCs), **3 per cent** were children under the age of five years, **2 per cent** were pregnant and/or lactating women, another **2 per cent** were elderly (over the age of 60) and **1 per cent** were physically disabled.

### MIGRATION ROUTES REASONS:

- **58 per cent** were travelling for economic reasons, **12 per cent** due to seasonal reasons, **11 per cent** to escape conflict, **6 per cent** due to natural disaster, while **5 per cent** was short-term local movement, and **4 per cent** were moving for unknown reasons.

### MISSING MIGRANTS:

- In 2019, IOM's Missing Migrants Project recorded **66** migrants as dead and another **33** as missing in the EHOA region.

### MIGRATION RESPONSE CENTRES (MRCs):

- **12,948** migrants were registered across **7 MRCs** in the region in 2019.





Migrants are gathering outside of Obock under a tree while waiting for a boat departure to go to Yemen. IOM staffs are sensitizing on the risks of irregular migration and provides information on IOM's transit centre and assistance. Photo: © IOM / Alexander Bee

## 02. INTRODUCTION

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This year's *A Region on the Move* report aims to provide an overview of the main population movement trends in the East and Horn of Africa region (EHOA) in 2019.<sup>1</sup> Home to an estimated population of 322 million, of which 42 per cent are under the age of 15, the region hosted 6.5 million international migrants at mid-year 2019.<sup>2</sup> With more than six million internally displaced persons (IDPs) and more than three million refugees and asylum-seekers recorded by the end of the year,<sup>3</sup> countries in the region continue to experience significant levels of internal and cross-border mobility, including intra- and extra-regional movements.

Migration in the region is still triggered by a combination of persistent insecurity and conflict, harsh climatic conditions, public health emergencies alongside socio-economic drivers and more traditional seasonal and livelihood factors.

In 2019, the region observed a growing trend in intercommunal clashes, particularly in Ethiopia, Somalia and South Sudan, in addition to abnormal climatic events such as a severe drought, devastating floods and a critical desert locust invasion, all of which affected the EHOA in its entirety. Meanwhile, multiple countries reinforced their preparedness efforts to counter the risk of cross-border transmissions of the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) from the neighbouring Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Similar to previous years, most migration trends captured through flow monitoring were motivated by economic reasons in 2019. The region continues to be characterized by large movements towards the Arab Peninsula – along the Eastern Route – with 138,213 migrant crossings to Yemen from the Horn of Africa, notwithstanding the 120,825 returns of Ethiopian nationals led by the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in 2019 alone. Comparatively, the number of arrivals of EHOA migrants registered across European arrival points in Greece, Italy and Spain fell from 4,624 in 2018 to 3,452 in 2019.

Return trends and population movements induced by conflict and natural disasters are addressed in the Forced Displacement section of this report, while the Regional Mixed Migration Trends section turns the focus to a detailed analysis of migration trends along the four main migration routes – the Eastern, Northern, Southern and the Horn of Africa Routes – with an emphasis on migrant profiles, reasons for migration and protection challenges.

The analysis builds on multiple data sources, most of them directly managed and collected by IOM, with external sources used to further complement the mobility picture and provide a holistic understanding of such population movement dynamics. The IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) constitutes the main methodology used to track and monitor displacement and population mobility, as it maps IDP and returnees stocks, migration flows and the characteristics of the population on the move.<sup>4</sup> IOM collects further migrant data through modules targeting specific sub-groups of this population at different stages of their migration journey. At the regional level, a Regional Data Hub (RDH) was established to enhance coordination, harmonize the different data sources and foster a multi-layered analysis of regional migration data.<sup>5</sup>

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1. See 'Methodology' for details on the geographical definition of EHOA, and population categories considered (IDPs, refugees, returnees and migrants).

2. United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) Data 2019.

3. DTM Regional Office for East and Horn of Africa Flow Monitoring Data 2019.

4. For more information about the DTM methodology, please consult <https://dtm.iom.int>. Please also refer to DTM, Methodological Framework used in Displacement Tracking Matrix Operations for Quantifying Displacement and Mobility, December 2017. Available from <https://displacement.iom.int/content/methodological-framework-used-displacement-tracking-matrix-operations-quantifying>.

5. For more information about the RDH, please consult <https://ronairobi.iom.int/regional-data-hub-rdh>.



## SOUTH SUDAN

The Security Council adopts Resolution 2459 renewing the mandate of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) for an additional year

## KENYA

On 15 January, a terrorist attack on Riverside complex in Nairobi leads to the death of 21 people

## ETHIOPIA

On 10 March, Ethiopian Airlines Boeing 737 flight 302 from Addis Ababa to Nairobi crashes, killing 149 passengers and 8 crew members

## ETHIOPIA

On 8 April, the Government through the Ministry of Peace (MoP) and the National Disaster Risk Management Commission (NDRMC), launches a nation-wide return plan

### JANUARY

On 29 January, 52 Ethiopian migrants die and 18 go missing after a boat accident off the coast of Djibouti (Gdoria) on its way to Yemen

## DJIBOUTI

### FEBRUARY

Burundi forces the UN Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) to close after 23 years

## BURUNDI

Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni hands over EAC chairmanship to Rwandan counterpart Paul Kagame following intense debates on account of Burundi's opposition

## EAST AFRICA COMMUNITY (EAC)

### MARCH

On 7 April, Rwanda marks the 25th commemoration of the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi

## RWANDA



## ETHIOPIA

On 22 June, Ambachew Mekonnen, President of the Amhara Regional Government, Esez Wassie, Amhara Regional Government Office Advisor and the Ethiopian Army Chief of Staff, Seare Mekonnen are killed in attempts to detabilize the federal government

## EAST AND HORN OF AFRICA

A severe drought is declared in the region, affecting areas in Somalia, northern Kenya, and south eastern Ethiopia, as well as northern Uganda and Djibouti

APRIL

MAY

JUNE

On 17 April, President Omer Al-Bashir is overthrown and a Transitional Military Council takes power

## SUDAN \*

## AFRICAN UNION (AU) \*

The AU suspends Sudan as a member of the pan-African body after the 3 June crackdown, saying it will be reinstated only after a civilian-led transitional authority is established

On 11 June, Uganda declares an Ebola outbreak, following the informal border crossing of three persons with the disease from the Democratic Republic of the Congo to Kasese District, Uganda

## UGANDA

The Government of Somalia in collaboration with OCHA developed a comprehensive plan, the Drought Impact Response Plan (DIRP), to address the urging food insecurity situation in Somalia and scale up the humanitarian response

## SOMALIA

## \* DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Ebola cases in the Democratic Republic of the Congo top 2,000 as the rate of new cases triples. The outbreak was declared on 1 August 2018, and has continued to accelerate into 2019

## BURUNDI

The National Independent Electoral Commission (CENI) announces that the 2020 general elections will be held on 20 May

## EAST AND HORN OF AFRICA

Starting in July and October, until December, flash floods following unprecedented rainfall have destroyed houses and livelihoods, and displaced many from their homes in Djibouti, Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan and Sudan

## UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA / BURUNDI

On 24 August, the Governments of Burundi and of the United Republic of Tanzania announce plans to begin repatriating 183,000 Burunding refugees living in three camps in Tanzania

JULY

AUGUST

SEPTEMBER

South Sudan ratifies the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

## SOUTH SUDAN

On 17 July, the World Health Organization (WHO) declares the Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC)

## DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO \*

## ERITREA

The Government of the State of Eritrea commits to advancing the SDGs, especially SDG3 focusing on universal health coverage, by making remarkable progress in the areas of HIV, tuberculosis and malaria programmes

## SUDAN \*

Sudan forms a new government led by Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok as part of a three-year power-sharing agreement between the military, civilian representatives and protest groups.

On 12 September, Kenya and Uganda sign a pact to promote cross-border sustainable peace and development among three communities who live at the border of the two nations

## KENYA / UGANDA

On 11 October, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed is awarded the 2019 Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts to achieve peace and international cooperation with Eritrea, as well as for his domestic reform agenda

## ETHIOPIA

\* Although the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Sudan are not under the coordination of the Nairobi Regional Office, events in the countries affect countries in the region. The same applies to African Union (AU) events.



## SOMALIA

Somalia ratifies the Kampala Convention on 26 November 2019

## ETHIOPIA

The Government of Ethiopia, in collaboration with humanitarian and development partners, launches the National Durable Solutions Initiative (DSI) at the national level

## EAST AND HORN OF AFRICA

Climate conditions, including heavy rains, since October, cause an invasion of desert locusts across East Africa, mainly in Ethiopia and Somalia, but also spreading to Djibouti, Eritrea, Kenya, South Sudan, Sudan, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania

## SOUTH SUDAN

The deadline for the establishment of a unity government in South Sudan is extended from November 2019 to February 2020

OCTOBER

NOVEMBER

DECEMBER

On 23 October, Africa marks the 10th anniversary of the adoption of the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa, better known as the Kampala Convention

## AFRICAN UNION (AU) \*

The Democratic Republic of the Congo and its nine neighbouring countries hold a meeting in Goma to endorse a cross-border collaboration framework on EVD preparedness and response, and establish an Africa Ebola Coordination Task Force (AfECT)

## DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO \*

Developed with support from the International Development Law Organization (IDLO), Somalia adopts its first national policy on IDPs and returning refugees

## SOMALIA

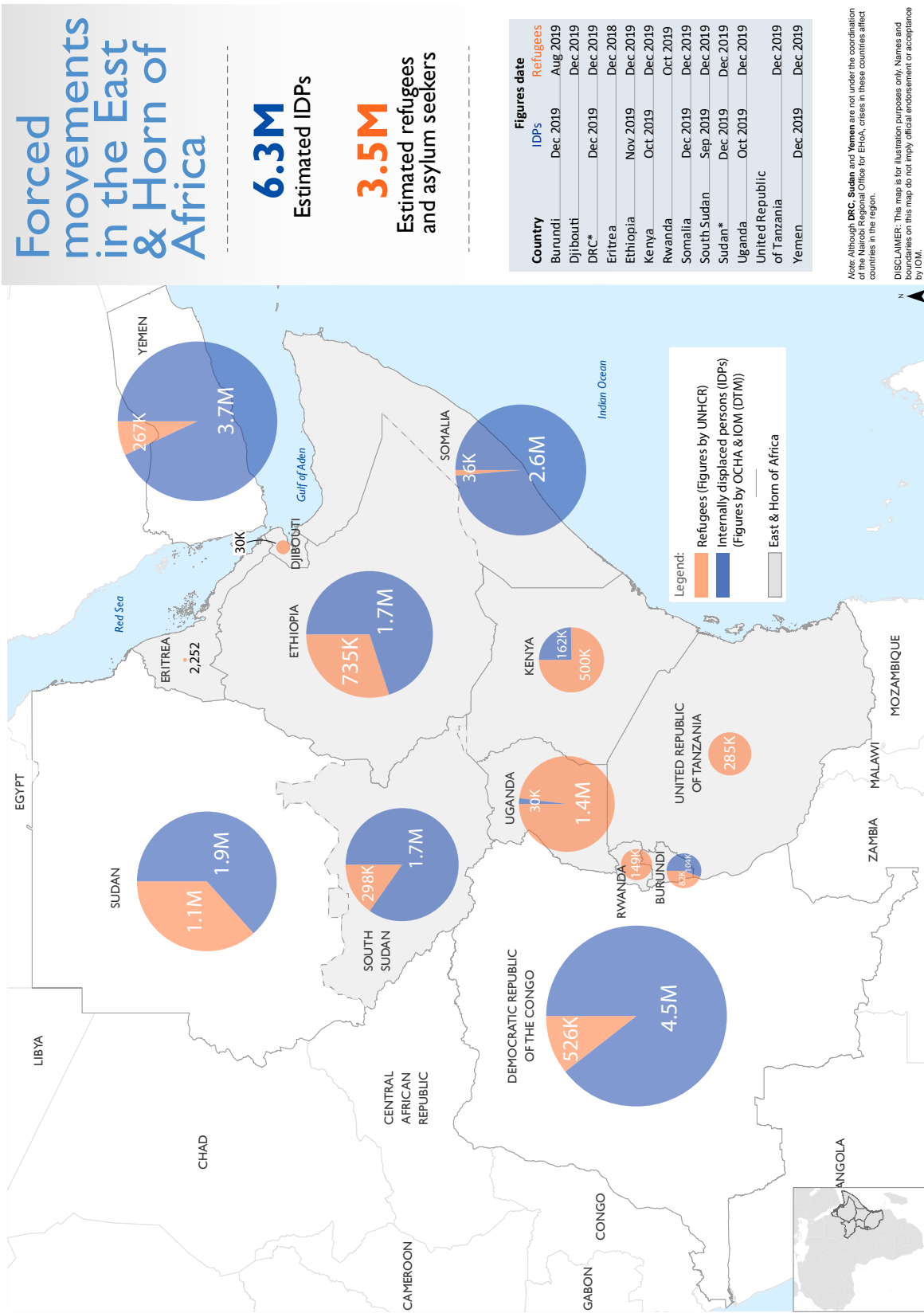


Figure 1: Displacement overview in the East and Horn of Africa of IDPs, refugees and asylum-seekers as of December 2019.

## 03. FORCED DISPLACEMENT

### OVERVIEW

2019 was declared *The Year of Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons* by the African Union (AU), while at the same time, marking the tenth anniversary of the AU Convention on the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa, commonly known as the Kampala Convention. The Convention is the first and only regional binding instrument providing a legal framework to protect, assist and ensure durable solutions for the internally displaced in Africa. To date, the convention has received 30 ratifications, including South Sudan's latest accession in June 2019 and Somalia's latest ratification in November 2019.

At the end of the year, internal displacement in the East and Horn of Africa (EHOA) region accounted for an estimated 6.3 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) and 3.5 million refugees and asylum-seekers, including 4.3 million IDPs and over 800,000 refugees in the Horn of Africa region alone.<sup>6</sup> Most countries in the region remained chronically affected by natural disasters and protracted conflict, all of which created new waves of forced displacement and exacerbated the already existing humanitarian needs.

New displacement in 2019 continued to be largely triggered by hydrometeorological hazards. These included a prolonged, severe drought in the Horn of Africa (HoA) region which maintained its negative impact on food security, for the most part in areas in Somalia, northern Kenya, southeastern Ethiopia, northern Uganda and Djibouti. Devastating floods following unprecedented heavy rains were also observed in the second half of the year, predominantly affecting communities in Djibouti, Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia and South Sudan. Such heavy rains further created favorable conditions for desert locust breeding and contributed to the current locust invasion across East Africa, mainly in Ethiopia and Somalia, but also spreading to Djibouti, Eritrea, Kenya, South Sudan, Sudan, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania.

Conflict-driven displacement fuelled by persistent instability and insecurity remained common in Somalia and South Sudan, while intercommunal clashes linked to ethnic tensions and cattle raiding were particularly prominent in Ethiopia and South Sudan, respectively. In addition, intensified violence was renewed in the Democratic Republic of Congo, especially in the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) affected provinces of Ituri, North Kivu and South Kivu, limiting operations and restricting access to vulnerable areas, therefore increasing the risk for cross-border transmission to neighbouring counties.

The EVD outbreak, which was declared a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) in July 2019, remained contained within the Democratic Republic of the Congo's borders, as increased regional preparedness sustained a low incidence of new EVD cases by the end of the year. However, the risk of EVD resurgence in the Democratic Republic of Congo and of a cross-border transmission remained present.

Despite the region's domestic challenges, 2019 was marked by some positive advancements. Ethiopia and Somalia developed national policies on IDPs and returnees aimed to ensure durable solutions to all forms of displacement. Kenya and Uganda signed a pact to promote cross-border sustainable peace and development among three communities who live at the border of the two nations. Meanwhile, the Government of Burundi and the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania held a meeting to discuss concerns and seek solutions for the voluntary repatriation of Burundian refugees in Tanzania, in collaboration with UNHCR. In addition, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and its nine neighbouring countries endorsed a cross-border collaboration framework on EVD preparedness and response, and established an Africa Ebola Coordination Task Force (AfECT).

6. IOM's geographical denomination for East and Horn of Africa includes Burundi, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, South Sudan, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania; for Horn of Africa includes Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia and Somalia.

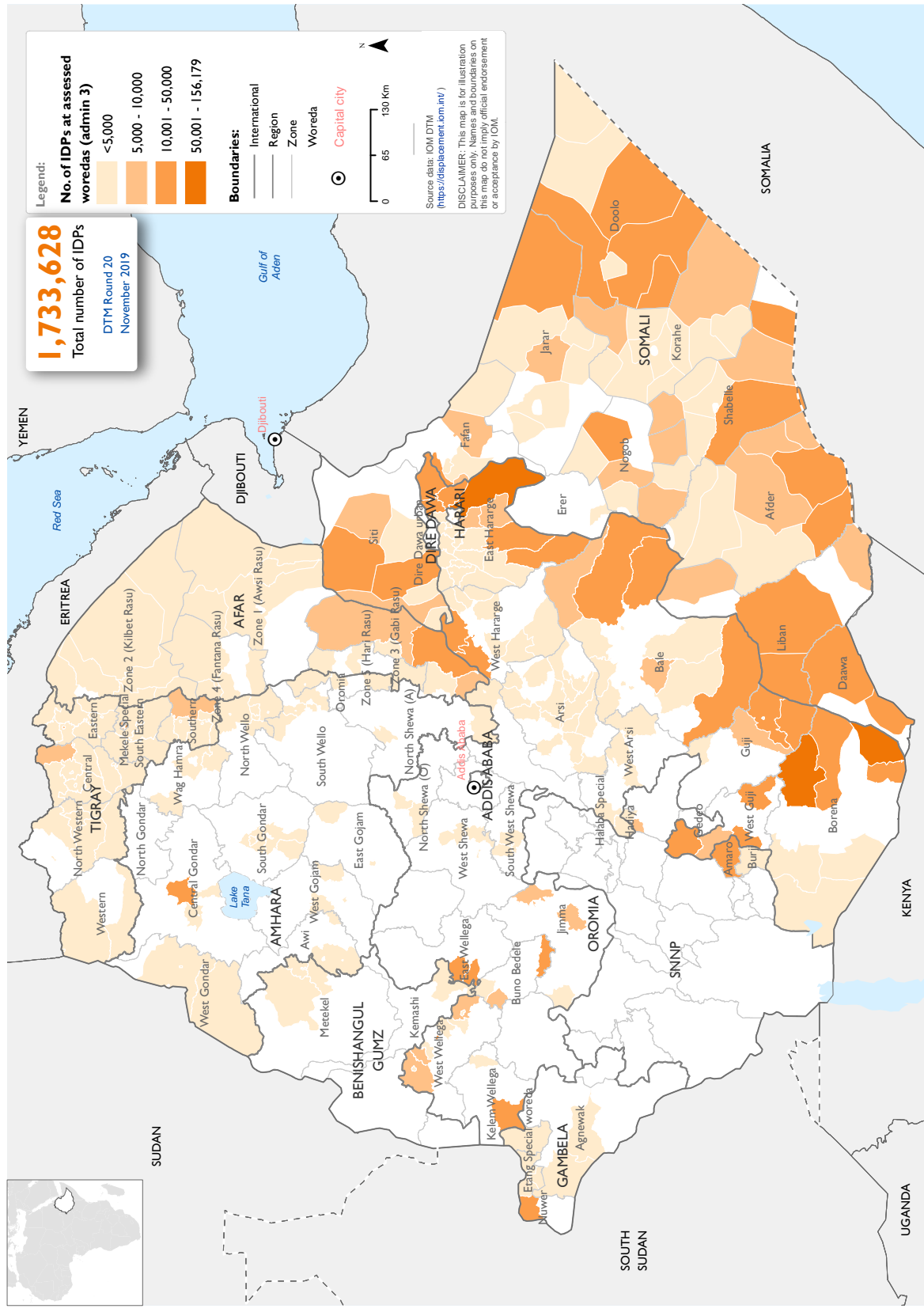


Figure 2: IDPs presence by woreda in Ethiopia as of December 2019.

## A YEAR OF CHANGE IN ETHIOPIA

Ethiopia continued to face significant internal displacement in 2019 on account of ongoing communal violence combined with conflict over resources, recurring drought and flooding. The country reached a peak of 3,043,695 IDPs in March 2019 as reported by IOM's DTM.<sup>7</sup> As of the end of November 2019, DTM identified 1,733,628 IDPs across 1,199 sites in Ethiopia, including 66 per cent conflict-affected IDPs, 22 per cent drought-affected IDPs, and 6 per cent people affected by seasonal floods.<sup>8</sup> This is the first time that the displacement caseload increased since the government initiated return operations in April 2019.<sup>9</sup>

As the country prepares for national elections in August 2020, Prime Minister and 2019 Nobel Peace Prize winner Abiy Ahmed continues to advance his reform agenda for democratization and economic change. Since the signing of the Ethiopia-Eritrea peace deal in July 2018, Ethiopia has encouraged institutionalized trade and travel opportunities with its neighbour. However, the existing internal tensions between Ethiopia's ethnic groups could delay reforms at home, thus hampering the sustained peace process and economic progress between the two countries.<sup>10</sup>

The largescale displacement that was observed in Ethiopia at the end of 2018 and that persisted throughout 2019 was primarily conflict-induced. Following the June events during which attempts to destabilize the federal government occurred,<sup>11</sup> violence renewed in the Amhara region and caused the displacement of some 15,000 people at the end of September.<sup>12</sup> Between October and December, a total of 259 access incidents were reported across the country, the majority of which were sparked by active hostilities with the Unidentified Armed Groups (UAG) and ethnic divisions in the Oromia region.<sup>13</sup>

As of November 2019, 55,072 conflict-affected people remained displaced in 63 sites in Amhara, while Oromia was home to 623,913 IDPs in 433 sites, mainly due to conflict in the West Guji, Guji, Borena, Wellegas and Hararghes zones.<sup>14</sup> Conflict displacement was also notable in the Somali (486,496 IDPs), Tigray (106,614 IDPs) and Afar (12,940 IDPs) regions.<sup>15</sup>

Climate-induced factors such as drought, floods and pests also had a significant damaging impact on agricultural and pastoralist communities in Ethiopia. As a result of the poor rainfall season in the Somali region from April to June, 290,572 people (34%) remained in a protracted displacement situation due to drought, as of November 2019. Flooding was also a driver of climate-induced displacement in 2019. In October alone, about 202,202 individuals were forced to flee their homes due to several flood incidences in the Afar, Oromia, Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples' (SNNP) and Somali regions.<sup>16</sup> Additionally, an unprecedented invasion of desert locusts affecting the Horn of Africa worsened the food security situation, causing substantial loss of crops and livelihoods in the Afar, Amhara, Dire Dawa, Oromia, SNNP, Somali and Tigray regions. Considering its ability to form swarms and travel across large distances, its rapid breeding as well as its huge appetite, feeding on vital crops and pastures, the desert locust is one of the most destructive migratory pests in the world. As reported by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), an estimated 430 square kilometers were covered by locusts in the Amhara and Tigray regions, with about 1.3 million metric tons of vegetation consumed in just two months.<sup>17</sup>

7. DTM, Ethiopia National Displacement Dashboard 16 (March-April 2019), June 2019. Available from <https://displacement.iom.int/reports/ethiopia-%E2%80%94national-displacement-dashboard-16-march-april-2019?close=true> (accessed 3 April 2020).

8. DTM, Ethiopia National Displacement Report 3 (November-December 2019), February 2020. Available from <https://displacement.iom.int/reports/ethiopia-%E2%80%94national-displacement-report-3-november-%E2%80%94december-2019?close=true> (accessed 3 April 2020).

9. Ibid.

10. United States Institute of Peace (USIP), "A Year After the Ethiopia-Eritrea Peace Deal, What Is the Impact?", 29 August 2019. Available from <https://www.usip.org/publications/2019/08/year-after-ethiopia-eritrea-peace-deal-what-impact> (accessed 3 April 2020).

11. Aljazeera, "Ethiopia's Amhara state chief killed amid regional coup attempt", 23 June 2019. Available from <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2019/06/ethiopia-army-chief-staff-shot-regional-coup-attempt-190623051059851.html> (accessed 3 April 2020).

12. United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA), Ethiopia Humanitarian Access Situation Report (August-September 2019), November 2019. Available from [https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/ocha\\_access\\_191106\\_situation\\_report\\_aug-sept\\_2019.pdf](https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/ocha_access_191106_situation_report_aug-sept_2019.pdf) (accessed 3 April 2020).

13. UN OCHA, Ethiopia Humanitarian Access Situation Report (October-December 2019), January 2020. Available from [https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/ocha\\_access\\_200108\\_situation\\_report\\_oct-dec\\_2019.pdf](https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/ocha_access_200108_situation_report_oct-dec_2019.pdf) (accessed 3 April 2020).

14. DTM, Ethiopia National Displacement Report 3 (November-December 2019).

15. DTM Ethiopia Site Assessment Round 20 Data. Available from <https://displacement.iom.int/datasets/ethiopia-site-assessment-round-20> (accessed 3 April 2020).

16. UN OCHA, Ethiopia Flooding Flash Update, 22 October 2019. Available from [https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/flood\\_flash\\_update\\_22\\_october.pdf](https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/flood_flash_update_22_october.pdf) (accessed 3 April 2020).

17. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), "The Desert Locust ravages the Horn of Africa", 13 December 2019. Available from <http://www.fao.org/africa/news/detail-news/en/c/1255390/> (accessed 3 April 2020).



Determined to address the issue of internal displacement, the Government of Ethiopia, through the Ministry of Peace (MoP) and the National Disaster Risk Management Commission (NDRMC), launched a nation-wide return process in April 2019. These return operations have reduced the number of displaced persons in the Oromia, Somali, SNNP, Amhara and Benishangul Gumuz regions. As of 11 December 2019, 1,303,736 returning IDPs were identified by DTM, the largest caseload in the Oromia region.<sup>18</sup> Remaining IDPs reported the lack of livelihoods, damaged or destroyed houses, and insufficient food as the major factors preventing their return.<sup>19</sup>

In December 2019, the Government of Ethiopia launched the national Durable Solutions Initiative (DSI), developed in collaboration with the United Nations, international and national non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and donors. As a principled operational framework and platform to design lasting solutions to internal displacement, this joint initiative aims to ensure that IDP communities in the country are supported to return, integrate or relocate voluntarily, as well as have access to livelihoods. The MoP is planning to implement the DSI together with federal-level durable solutions working groups, with initial projects in the Somali and Oromia regions.<sup>20</sup>

Promising initiatives have been adopted by the Government of Ethiopia, in collaboration with UNHCR, with regards to a better local integration of refugees in the Ethiopian economy and education system. With its registered 735,204 refugees and asylum-seekers,<sup>21</sup> the Government of Ethiopia adopted a revised refugee law on 17 January 2019, granting refugees the right to work and access to education among others.<sup>22</sup>

In line with the new law, 592 Somali refugees residing in Kebribeyah camp in the Somali region opened bank accounts with the Commercial Bank of Ethiopia (CBE) in September 2019.<sup>23</sup>

Further to this, the Administration for Refugee and Returnee Affairs (ARRA) in collaboration with UNHCR, the World Food Programme (WFP) and IOM, relocated 1,013 Somali refugees to the Melkadida and Jijiga areas in July 2019.<sup>24</sup> Following their relocation, these refugees were provided with food and equipped accommodation, including blankets, plastic sheets, solar lamps and sanitary pads, while at the same time, plans to rehabilitate a primary school for the next academic year were initiated by UNHCR and ARRA. Another 268 South Sudanese refugees were relocated from Pamdong Reception Centre in Gambella to Gure-Shembola camp in the Benishangul Gumuz region in December 2019.<sup>25</sup> Family emergency shelters were installed, and food and other essential aid items were provided to them by UNHCR.

In 2019, the Government of Ethiopia has been actively engaged in addressing conflict and displacement in the country. This is a challenging task, given the significant scale of displacement and the fact that durable solutions require a number of conditions to be satisfied including safety, security, satisfaction of basic needs and access to livelihoods. Such conditions are hard to meet, considering that they are in some cases not even available to the host communities, making achieving durable solutions a gradual, complex and often long-term process.

18. DTM, Ethiopia National Displacement Report 3 (November-December 2019).

19. Ibid.

20. United Nations Ethiopia, "Durable Solutions Initiative". Available from <https://ethiopia.un.org/en/31882-durable-solutions-initiative> (accessed 3 April 2020).

21. UNHCR, Ethiopia Factsheet December 2019, January 2020. Available from <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/download/73373> (accessed 3 April 2020).

22. UNHCR, "UNHCR welcomes Ethiopia law granting more rights to refugees", 18 January 2019. Available from <https://www.unhcr.org/news/press/2019/1/5c41b1784/unhcr-welcomes-ethiopia-law-granting-rights-refugees.html> (accessed 3 April 2020).

23. UNHCR, Ethiopia Bi-weekly Operational Update: 16-30 September 2019, October 2019. Available from <https://reliefweb.int/report/ethiopia/unhcr-ethiopia-bi-weekly-operational-update-16-30-september-2019> (accessed 3 April 2020).

24. UNHCR, Ethiopia Bi-weekly Operational Update: 16-31 July 2019, August 2019. Available from <https://reliefweb.int/report/ethiopia/unhcr-ethiopia-bi-weekly-operational-update-16-31-july-2019> (accessed 3 April 2020).

25. UNHCR, Ethiopia Bi-weekly Operational Update: 16-31 December 2019, January 2020. Available from <https://reliefweb.int/report/ethiopia/unhcr-ethiopia-bi-weekly-operational-update-16-31-december-2019> (accessed 3 April 2020).





Distribution of non-food items (NFLs) in the Somali region in Ethiopia. Photo: © IOM





A woman gazes at the surroundings of newly built communal shelters in Western Bahr el Ghazal in South Sudan. Photo: © IOM / Rikka Tupaz

## CAUTIOUS OPTIMISM FOR SOUTH SUDAN

In 2019, protracted conflict, food insecurity, protection challenges and access to water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) in South Sudan put more than half of the population (7.5 million) in dire need of humanitarian assistance and protection.<sup>26</sup> A year after the signing of the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan (R-ARCSS, September 2018), the ceasefire was still in place and the country witnessed a decline in political conflict. However, violence between government forces and rebel parties who are non-signatories to the peace deal continued, though remained contained to areas in the Equatoria region. Security incidents and humanitarian access constraints were predominantly reported in Central Equatoria.<sup>27</sup> Other parts of the country saw continued intercommunal as well as livestock-related clashes, mainly in Greater Bahr El Ghazal, Unity and Lakes. In November 2019, the deadline for the establishment of the Transitional Government of National Unity stipulated in the R-ARCSS was extended to February 2020.<sup>28</sup>

Food insecurity remained the main driver behind the Humanitarian Needs Overview 2020 for the number of people in need, particularly in the southern and southeastern regions. In August 2019, about 54 per cent of the South Sudanese population (or 6.35 million) were facing severe acute food insecurity, of which, an estimated 1.7 million people were facing emergency acute food insecurity, and an estimated 10,000 people were in famine-like conditions in Yirol East in former Lakes State.<sup>29</sup> Devastating floods in the second half of 2019 exacerbated the food security situation by disrupting livelihoods and destroying houses and infrastructures, and affected an estimated 908,000 people, causing additional displacement.<sup>30</sup>

The most flood-affected areas were located in Jonglei, Upper Nile, Warrap, Eastern Equatoria, Northern Bahr el Ghazal, Unity and Lakes.

As of August 2019, South Sudan's baseline on internally displaced persons was reset from 1.8 million to 1,465,542 following the publication of IOM's DTM Mobility Tracking Round 6 carried out in June 2019.<sup>31</sup> This achievement came as the result of a long and thorough review and consolidation exercise conducted by DTM and the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). Moving forward, DTM and OCHA will continue consolidating their respective datasets to validate and update figures on South Sudanese IDPs and returnees.

As of November 2019, the DTM-OCHA unified baseline reported 1,665,815 IDPs, mapped in more than 2,500 locations in all 78 counties across the country who have been displaced since 2014, including 406,715 IDPs who arrived at their current location in 2019.<sup>32</sup> The total number included 1,585,060 IDPs who were previously displaced within South Sudan, and 80,755 IDPs who were previously displaced abroad and who, after returning, were still in a state of displacement.<sup>33</sup> The IDP population was mainly concentrated in the Unity (15%), Warrap (14%), Upper Nile (13%), Central Equatoria (13%), Lakes (12%) and Jonglei (12%) states. Compared to the previous round, the reported net increase in the displaced population was attributed to expanded coverage, namely operational expansion and newly gained access, in addition to new displacements between October and November which accounted for 187,518 IDPs.<sup>34</sup> Yet, the slight increase observed by DTM between the two data collection rounds also indicated that the displacement reported by mid-year for re-assessed locations did not subside by the end of 2019.

26. UN OCHA, South Sudan Humanitarian Needs Overview 2020, November 2019. Available from <https://reliefweb.int/report/south-sudan/south-sudan-humanitarian-needs-overview-2020-november-2019> (accessed 3 April 2020).

27. OCHA, South Sudan Humanitarian Access Snapshot December 2019, January 2020. Available from [https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/sites/www.humanitarianresponse.info/files/documents/files/ss\\_20200116\\_access\\_snapshot\\_december.pdf](https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/sites/www.humanitarianresponse.info/files/documents/files/ss_20200116_access_snapshot_december.pdf) (accessed 3 April 2020).

28. IOM South Sudan, 2020 Consolidated Appeal, February 2020. Available from <https://southsudan.iom.int/media-and-reports/other-reports/2020-iom-south-sudan-consolidated-appeal> (accessed 3 April 2020).

29. Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC), South Sudan Key Messages (August 2019 to April 2020), September 2019. Available from [http://www.ipcinfo.org/fileadmin/user\\_upload/ipcinfo/docs/IPC\\_South%20Sudan\\_Key\\_Messages\\_August\\_2019.pdf](http://www.ipcinfo.org/fileadmin/user_upload/ipcinfo/docs/IPC_South%20Sudan_Key_Messages_August_2019.pdf) (accessed 3 April 2020).

30. OCHA, South Sudan: Severe flooding affects hundreds of thousands, humanitarian community responding to immediate needs, October 2019. Available from <https://reliefweb.int/report/south-sudan/severe-flooding-affects-hundreds-of-thousands-humanitarian-community-responding> (accessed 3 April 2020).

31. DTM, South Sudan Mobility Tracking Round 6 Initial Data Release, October 2019. Available from <https://displacement.iom.int/reports/south-sudan-%E2%80%94-mobility-tracking-round-6-initial-data-release?close=true> (accessed 3 April 2020).

32. DTM, South Sudan Mobility Tracking Round 7 Initial Data Release, January 2020. Available from <https://displacement.iom.int/reports/south-sudan-%E2%80%94-mobility-tracking-round-7-initial-data-release?close=true> (accessed 3 April 2020).

33. Ibid.

34. Ibid.



According to UNHCR, a total of 2,216,652 South Sudanese refugees and asylum-seekers remained displaced across the region as of the end of 2019.<sup>35</sup> The majority were hosted by Uganda (39%) and Sudan (37%), followed by Ethiopia, Kenya and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Despite its domestic challenges, South Sudan itself hosted a refugee population of 298,313 individuals as of December 2019, mainly coming from Sudan (92%), followed by the Democratic Republic of the Congo (6%), Ethiopia (1%), and the Central African Republic (1%).<sup>36</sup>

In 2019, UNHCR reported 74,947 new South Sudanese refugee arrivals in neighbouring countries, including 5,015 new refugee arrivals in December 2019 alone, mainly in Uganda.<sup>37</sup> According to flow monitoring exercises conducted by DTM between South Sudan and Uganda from January to December 2019, a total of 345,990 cross-border movements – which are localized, often shorter-term in nature – were tracked.<sup>38</sup> About 169,954 (49%) identified movements originating in South Sudan were headed to Uganda, while movements in the opposite direction accounted for 146,543 (49%). The majority of respondents departed from Koboko (28%) in Uganda, and were headed to the county of Morobo (31%) in Central Equatoria, two neighbouring areas inhabited by cross-border communities. Most movements were carried out by South Sudanese nationals – often refugees in Uganda – and were motivated by economic reasons (23%) or by family-related reasons (16%). In addition, 117,530 internal movements within South Sudan were observed through flow monitoring activities carried out between January and December 2019, with most respondents moving for family-related reasons or returning from voluntary travel.<sup>39</sup>

By November 2019, DTM had identified a total of 1,365,057 returnees.<sup>40</sup> Of this number, almost 70 per cent had returned since 2016, while returnees who returned since 2019 accounted for 417,189 individuals. For both waves of return, the proportion of returnees who were former IDPs and of returnees from abroad remained similar at around 66 per cent and 34 per cent, respectively.<sup>41</sup> Many returnees were reported to have returned to the states of Upper Nile (18%), Jonglei (14%), Western Bahr El Ghazal (13%), Western Equatoria (11%) and Central Equatoria (11%). In the period following the signing of R-ARCSS, from September 2018 to June 2019, 644,174 returnees returned to their areas of habitual residence, representing more than half of all returnees.<sup>42</sup> This ten-month period saw a spike in arrivals in the three months following the R-ARCSS and a declining trend in the first half of 2019, with a monthly returnee average of 56,110 individuals per month between January and June 2019 compared to a monthly returnee average of 102,505 individuals between October and December 2018.<sup>43</sup>

In an effort to better understand mobility dynamics between Protection of Civilian (PoC) sites and collective centres – which host civilians primarily fleeing violence and conflict – with regards to return communities, IOM's Displacement Site Flow Monitoring (DSFM) captured movements of individuals coming in and out of Bentiu, Malakal, and Wau PoC sites, and Wau collective centres. At the end of the year, the total population at these sites and collective centres stood at 167,895 individuals, the majority of which were recorded in Bentiu (69%).<sup>44</sup>

35. UNHCR, South Sudan Situation December 2019, February 2020. Available from <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/download/73852> (accessed 3 April 2020).

36. UNHCR, South Sudan Factsheet December 2019, February 2020. Available from <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/download/73924> (accessed 3 April 2020).

37. UNHCR, South Sudan Situation December 2019.

38. DTM Regional Office for East and Horn of Africa Flow Monitoring Data 2019.

39. DTM, South Sudan Flow Monitoring Dashboard December 2019, February 2020. Available from <https://displacement.iom.int/reports/south-sudan-%E2%80%94-flow-monitoring-dashboard-december-2019?close=true> (accessed 3 April 2020).

40. DTM, South Sudan Mobility Tracking Round 7 Initial Data Release.

41. Ibid.

42. DTM, South Sudan Mobility Tracking Report 6 June 2019, November 2019. Available from <https://displacement.iom.int/reports/south-sudan-%E2%80%94-mobility-tracking-report-6-june-2019?close=true> (accessed 3 April 2020).

43. Ibid.

44. DTM, South Sudan Displacement Site Flow Monitoring December 2019, February 2020. Available from <https://displacement.iom.int/reports/south-sudan-%E2%80%94-displacement-site-flow-monitoring-december-2019> (accessed 3 April 2020).



DSFM data observed an increase in return-related activities in Bentiu, and identified that a perceived lack of access to services, especially healthcare, was the main factor influencing those attempting to return home to locations in Guit, Rubkona and Koch (Unity state) to come back to the PoC site. Overall, most movements tracked through DSFM were same-day travel sustaining various livelihood activities or visiting friends and families, although Wau PoC Adjacent Area has seen a reduction in travel since clashes broke out mid-2019 in neighbouring Jur River.<sup>45</sup>

While South Sudan is still facing significant challenges, the country acceded to the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa, commonly known as the Kampala Convention, which was deposited in June 2019.<sup>46</sup> This is an important step in bringing about positive change and advancement for the displaced population in South Sudan.

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45. DTM, South Sudan Jur River Displacement to Wau (March-June 2019), August 2019. Available from <https://displacement.iom.int/reports/south-sudan-%E2%80%94-jur-river-displacement-wau-march-june-2019?close=true> (accessed 3 April 2020).

46. African Union (AU), List of countries which have signed, ratified/acceded to the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (Kampala Convention), 29 October 2019. Available from <https://au.int/sites/default/files/treaties/36846-sl-AFRICAN%20UNION%20CONVENTION%20FOR%20THE%20PROTECTION%20AND%20ASSISTANCE%20OF%20INTERNALLY%20DISPLACED%20PERSONS%20IN%20AFRICA%20%28KAMPALA%20CONVENTION%29.pdf> (accessed 3 April 2020).



**1,365,057**  
Returns

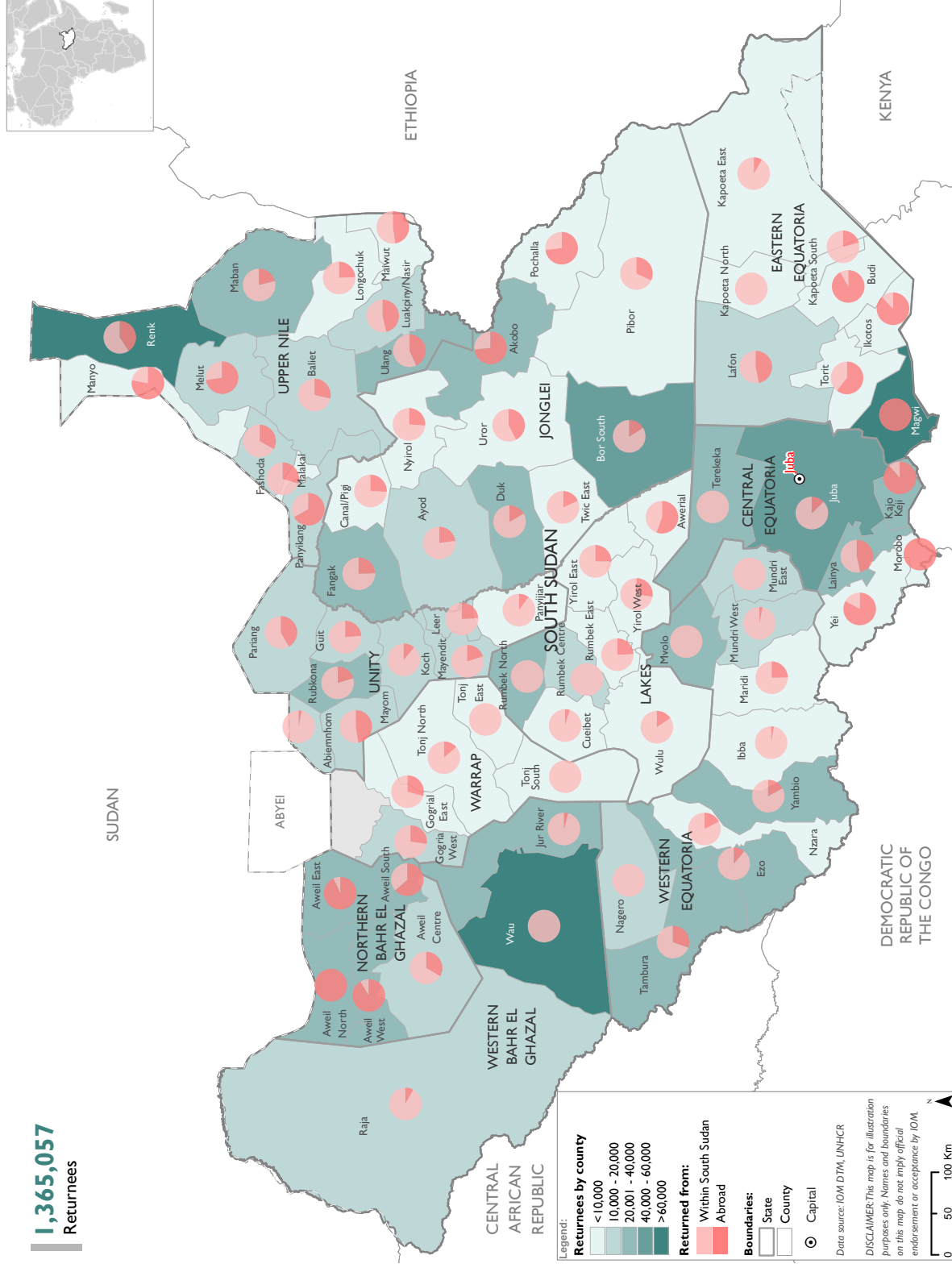


Figure 4: Returnees presence in South Sudan by county as of December 2019.

## DISPLACEMENT AND THE CHALLENGES OF RETURN TO BURUNDI

Internal displacement in Burundi followed a declining trend in 2019, falling from 134,054 IDPs in January to 104,191 IDPs in December, a decrease of about 22 per cent.<sup>47</sup> Higher IDP concentration was found in the provinces of Bujumbura Mairie, Cankuzo, Bujumbura Rural and Bubanza, with over three quarters of the displaced population reporting natural disasters as the main cause of displacement. Given that Bujumbura Mairie has the highest population density in Burundi, most IDPs were displaced within their province of origin, whereas for Kirundo, displacement to other provinces was driven by lack of food, caused by recurring droughts in the area. Newly displaced people in 2019 represented 11 per cent of the overall IDP population, and all movements were reportedly induced by natural disasters.<sup>48</sup>

According to IOM's DTM, over 31,000 people were affected by climatic events in 2019, with a peak of 12,749 affected people in December.<sup>49</sup> Disaster displacement provoked by torrential rains, strong winds and landslides accounted for 13,856 displaced people in 2019, mostly in the Bujumbura Mairie, Bujumbura Rural, Bubanza and Cibitoke provinces.<sup>50</sup>

Of the estimated 11.7 million people living in Burundi, 65 per cent live under the poverty line<sup>51</sup> and are therefore extremely vulnerable to shocks. Throughout 2019, heavy rainfall leading to floods and landslides destroyed crops and undermined livelihoods. Burundi's growing population mostly relies on agriculture for living and this leads to increased deforestation to create more agricultural land. Land erosion and heavy rains caused landslides and floods which contributed to the current levels of food insecurity in the country. In April 2019, 15 per cent of the Burundian population were suffering from severe acute food insecurity, including 263,000 facing crisis levels of food insecurity.<sup>52</sup>

Alongside the food security situation, intensified conflicts over resources were observed, triggered by the inflow of refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the increased number of returnees from the United Republic of Tanzania, in combination with the already high population density of Burundi.

The Government of Burundi which hosted 82,319 refugees and asylum-seekers as of August 2019, including 80,897 Congolese nationals,<sup>53</sup> experienced a sudden two-fold increase in the monthly inflow of Congolese refugees according to the World Food Programme (WFP) between October and November.<sup>54</sup> Due to the mounting insecurity in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Burundi was hosting a total of 84,469 Congolese refugees by December 2019.<sup>55</sup>

As of December 2019, a total of 333,554 Burundian refugees were residing in neighbouring countries, including 11,251 new arrivals in 2019.<sup>56</sup> The main host countries were located in the East and Horn of Africa region, with 50 per cent Burundians refugees hosted in the United Republic of Tanzania, 22 per cent in Rwanda and 14 per cent in Uganda, while another 14 per cent were hosted by the Democratic Republic of the Congo.<sup>57</sup>

Within its monitoring of cross-border movements between Burundi and the United Republic of Tanzania, DTM tracked 565,611 movements between January and December 2019.<sup>58</sup> A majority of respondents departed from Burundi and were headed to the United Republic of Tanzania (52%), while the rest were movements in the opposite direction (43%). Many were reportedly moving for economic reasons (41%), though of these, most intended to return within the same day (67%), or within a week (18%), while only 5 per cent were travelling for six months or longer.

47. DTM, Burundi Internal Displacement Dashboard December 2019, January 2020. Available from <https://displacement.iom.int/node/7596?close=true> (accessed 3 April 2020).

48. Ibid.

49. DTM, Burundi Displacement Dashboard for Natural Disasters (October 2018-December 2019), January 2020. Available from <https://displacement.iom.int/node/7551?close=true> (accessed 3 April 2020).

50. Ibid.

51. In 2019, the international poverty line was below 1.90 USD a day. WFP, Burundi Country Brief November 2019, January 2020. Available from <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/WFP-0000111689.pdf> (accessed 3 April 2020).

52. WFP, Burundi Country Brief November 2019.

53. UNHCR, Burundi Factsheet (July-August 2019), January 2020. Available from <http://reporting.unhcr.org/sites/default/files/UNHCR%20Burundi%20Fact%20Sheet%20-%20July-August%202019.pdf> (accessed 3 April 2020).

54. WFP, Burundi Country Brief November 2019.

55. UNHCR, Refugees and asylum seekers from DRC by Date. Available from <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/drc/location/6194> (accessed 3 April 2020).

56. UNHCR, Burundi Situation December 2019, January 2020. Available from <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/download/73663> (accessed 3 April 2020).

57. Ibid.

58. DTM Regional Office for East and Horn of Africa Flow Monitoring Data 2019.



Most Burundian nationals reported moving for economic reasons (46%), while many Tanzanian nationals reported short-term movement (21%) and tourism (19%) as the main two reasons for movements.

The voluntary returns, facilitated by UNHCR with logistical support from IOM, observed a peak in February 2019, followed by two steady increases over the March-May and August-October periods, while no returns took place in January and December.<sup>59</sup> Since the signing of a Tripartite Agreement between UNHCR and the Governments of Burundi and the United Republic of Tanzania two years ago over the voluntary repatriation of Burundian refugees, a total of 79,720 individuals were assisted to voluntarily return to Burundi,<sup>60</sup> including 20,970 in 2019, 20,953 of whom from the United Republic of Tanzania.<sup>61</sup> Most individuals departed from the Tanzanian Nduta, Mtendeli and Nyarugusu camps and returned to the provinces of Ruyigi, Muyinga, Makamba, Cankuzo and Kirundo in Burundi.<sup>62</sup> However, many returnees continued to face a great number of reintegration challenges back home. These included the lack of social and economic infrastructure for a sustainable reintegration, limited livelihood opportunities, and restricted access to land in addition to insufficient coping mechanisms in the face of food insecurity.

In August 2019, the Governments of Burundi and of the United Republic of Tanzania announced their plan to begin the repatriation of 183,000 Burundian refugees from the three camps. Following this agreement, Tanzanian authorities identified more than 200 Burundian unregistered refugees to return to their home country on 15 October 2019.<sup>63</sup> This raised major concerns over the voluntary nature of the returns from the Tanzanian camps.

Following the closing of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in March 2019<sup>64</sup> and ahead of the 2020 elections, the international community is closely following developments in Burundi where the situation remains unstable and fragile.

59. UNHCR, Voluntary Repatriation of Burundian Refugees (Update as of 31 December 2019), January 2020. Available from <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/download/73532> (accessed 3 April 2020).

60. Ibid.

61. IOM Voluntary Repatriation (VolRep) data for Burundians 2019.

62. UNHCR, Voluntary Repatriation of Burundian Refugees (Update as of 31 December 2019).

63. Human Rights Watch (HRW), "Tanzania: Asylum Seekers Coerced into Going Home", 29 October 2019. Available from <https://www.hrw.org/news/2019/10/29/tanzania-asylum-seekers-coerced-going-home> (accessed 3 April 2020).

64. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), "UN Human Rights Office in Burundi closes", 5 March 2019. Available from <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=24254&LangID=E> (accessed 3 April 2020).

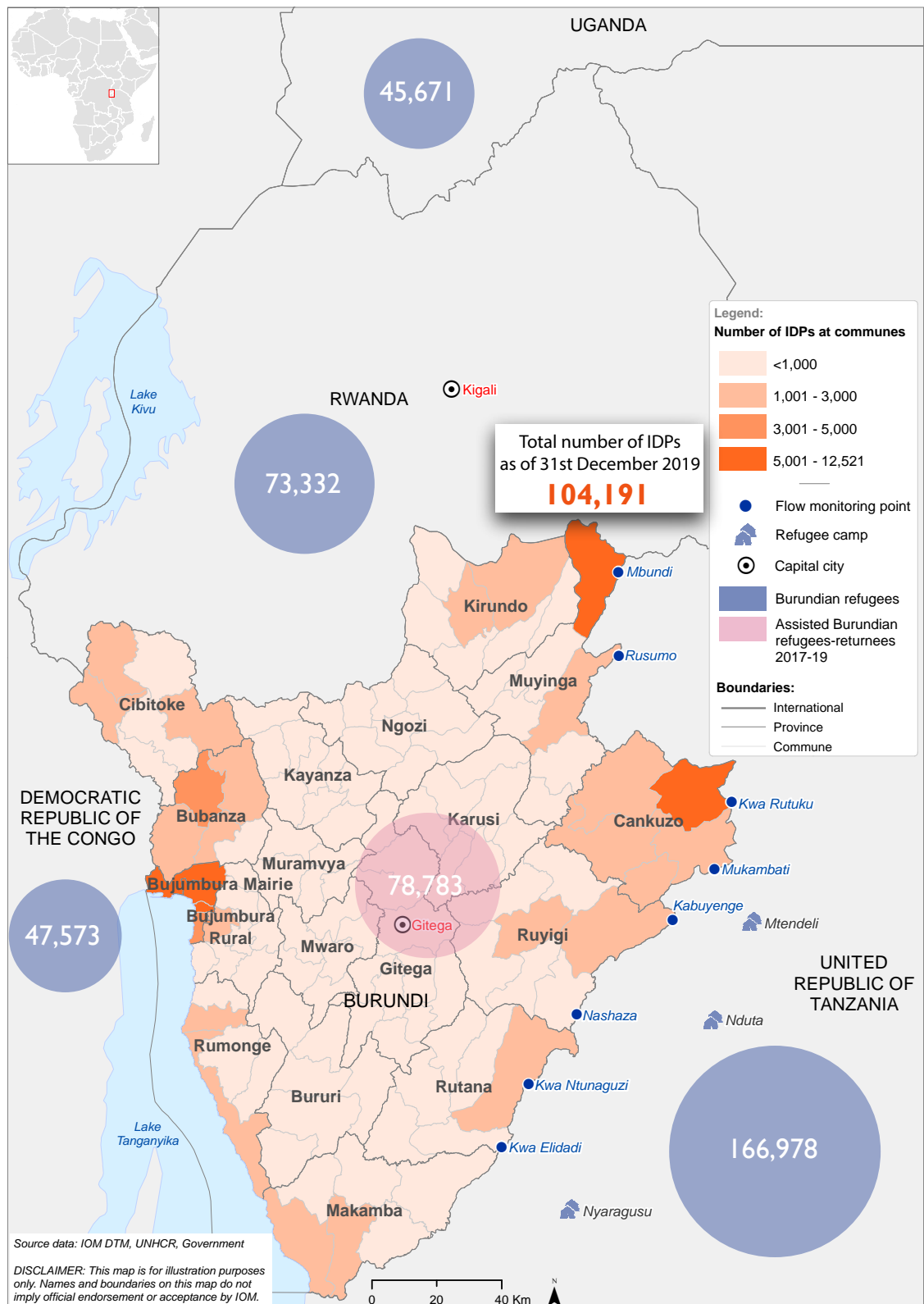


Figure 5: Burundi's returns, refugees and IDPs presence by commune as of December 2019.





Somali returnee. Photo: © IOM / Muse Mohammed





*A herd of goats cross the Dawa river in search of water. The dried up river used to be overflowing with water and served as a natural border between Somalia and Ethiopia. Photo: © IOM / Muse Mohammed*



## SOMALIA'S GROWING VULNERABILITY TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Throughout 2019, internal displacement remained complex and fueled by a combination of climate shocks, such as drought, flooding and the desert locust invasion, active hostilities across many regions and continued terror practices of non-state actors. With a population of 12.3 million, the fragile humanitarian context in Somalia put nearly 5.2 million people in need of assistance, including 2.8 million in need of protection assistance and 3.2 million children. The most severe and extreme needs were found in the Gedo, Bay, Bakool and Lower Juba regions.<sup>65</sup> Similar to the previous year, the intersectoral severity of needs in these areas, especially in terms of protection, nutrition and food security, remained the highest.

Internal displacement remained very significant in 2019 although updated countrywide IDP figures were not available and the last official Government-endorsed figure remained 2.6 million.<sup>66</sup> In an effort to update the displacement figure in 2020, different actors continued providing coverage in certain areas and IOM's DTM coverage is being expanded to provide a displacement baseline. In 2019, about 770,000 new internal displacements were monitored by the UNHCR-led Protection and Returns Monitoring Network (PRMN), of which 54 per cent were caused by floods, 25 per cent were conflict-induced, 19 per cent were drought-related, and 2 per cent were induced by other reasons.<sup>67</sup> New displacements reached a peak in October 2019, with about 363,000 IDPs due to flooding in the Hiraan region, and about 18,000 displaced within and from the Lower Shabelle region by continued military operations.<sup>68</sup> The overall displaced caseload was mainly concentrated in the Hiraan, Banadir, Middle Shabelle and Gedo regions.

Before flooding became the main driver of displacement in 2019, forced movements in Somalia were primarily conflict-induced with active fighting between the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), supporting the Somali security forces, and non-state actors in the Middle and Lower Shabelle regions, in addition to clan conflicts for the most part in the Hiraan, Galgaduug and Sanaag regions. The high level of insecurity in Somalia heightened protection risks and continued to hamper humanitarian access, with at least 51 aid workers directly affected by violent incidents in the first eight months of 2019, mainly in the southern and central parts of the country.<sup>69</sup>

Somali refugees, mostly hosted in neighbouring countries such as Kenya, Yemen, Ethiopia and Uganda, were estimated at 752,038 individuals as of December 2019, falling from 807,796 in June 2019.<sup>70</sup> Despite its domestic challenges, Somalia itself hosted 35,672 refugees and asylum-seekers as of December 2019, mostly from Ethiopia and Yemen, and other countries including Syria, Tanzania and Eritrea among others.<sup>71</sup> Regions with the highest refugee caseload were Woqooyi Galbeed, Bari, Nugaal and Banadir regions.

Protracted internal displacement caused by prolonged drought remained present in Somalia, as the country was still recovering from the 2016-2017 drought. As a result of the poor rainy season over the October-December 2018 period (*Deyr*), abnormally dry conditions lasted from January to March 2019 (*Jilaa*) and were followed by another below-average rainy season from April to June 2019 (*Gu*). Such conditions pushed Somalia, and the East and Horn of Africa region, into a severe, prolonged drought through 2019. While the delayed rainfall received mid-year eased drought conditions, the early start of the 2019 *Deyr* rainy season improved both harvest and food security prospects.

65. UN OCHA, 2020 Somalia Humanitarian Needs Overview, December 2019. Available from <https://reliefweb.int/report/somalia/2020-somalia-humanitarian-needs-overview> (accessed 3 April 2020).

66. IDP figure as shared by the Information Management Working Group - Technical Working Group (IMWG-TWG) and endorsed by the National Commission for Refugees and IDPs (NCR) in Somalia, as of February 2018.

67. UNHCR, Somalia Factsheet (1-31 December 2019), January 2020. Available from <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/download/73563> (accessed 3 April 2020).

68. UNHCR, Somalia Factsheet (1-31 October 2019), November 2019. Available from <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/download/72361> (accessed 3 April 2020).

69. UN OCHA, 2020 Somalia Humanitarian Needs Overview.

70. UNHCR, Horn of Africa Somalia Situation. Available from <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/horn> (accessed 3 April 2020).

71. UNHCR, Somalia Factsheet (1-31 December 2019).

Yet, unprecedented heavy rainfall since October caused severe flooding that affected many communities in the Hiraan and Middle Shabelle regions. Flash and riverine floods along the Shabelle and Juba rivers affected and displaced many individuals who were already vulnerable because of drought and conflict, particularly in the Belet Weyne and Jalalaqi districts of Hiraan, the Johar and Balcad districts of Middle Shabelle, and the Berdale district of Bay.<sup>72</sup>

According to DTM's flow monitoring exercises carried out between January and December 2019, 17,694 identified movements were due to natural disasters in Somalia.<sup>73</sup> These Somali nationals reportedly migrated due to natural disasters, and the majority travelled along the Horn of Africa route with about 84 per cent of movements heading to Ethiopia and 6 per cent to Djibouti. Another 6 per cent were travelling along the Southern route, mostly towards Kenya, while just over 3 per cent were headed to Yemen along the Eastern route.

An additional hit to food security in Somalia was caused by a desert locust invasion at the end of 2019, causing massive damage to crops and pastures. The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) reported that an estimated 70,000 hectares of land were infested by hoppers and breeding adult locusts.<sup>74</sup> Agropastoral and pastoral communities in rural areas in the northern and central parts of the country were the most affected. With the heavy rains creating favorable breeding conditions, the infestation is likely to continue through the March to May 2020 rainfall season as well as continue spreading to other countries in the region.<sup>75</sup>

Recurring climatic shocks, especially drought, clearly stressed Somalia's growing vulnerability to climate change. To counter the impact of drought, the Government of Somalia in collaboration with aid agencies launched the Drought Impact Response Plan (DIRP) in June 2019.<sup>76</sup> A total of 4.5 million drought-affected people were targeted by DIRP for nutrition and food security responses combined with interventions led by various other clusters, in consultation with government line ministries. To ensure an effective response, an intergovernmental coordination system was put in place for the oversight of the joint coordination between the Federal Government of Somalia and Federal Member States.

On 14 November 2019, Somalia adopted the National Policy on Refugee-Returnees and IDPs aimed to provide protection and assistance to persons of concern, and ensure durable solutions to all forms of displacement.<sup>77</sup> Between 2014 and 2019, UNHCR assisted a total of 91,531 Somali refugees to return home, for the most part from Kenya under Voluntary Repatriation and from Yemen within the Assisted Spontaneous Return (ASR) framework.<sup>78</sup> Most others returned from Djibouti, Libya, Sudan and Eritrea. The number of Somali returns in 2019 alone accounted for 4,041 refugee returnees, which represents less than half of the returnees registered in 2018 (10,753).<sup>79</sup> Regions of highest return were Lower Juba for those who returned from Kenya, and Banadir for returnees from Yemen.

To honour its commitment to assisting IDPs and providing lasting solutions to internal displacement, Somalia ratified the Kampala Convention on 26 November 2019.<sup>80</sup> After being passed in parliament, the instrument of ratification was signed by President Mohamed Abdullahi Farmaajo and deposited to the African Union Commission by the National Commission for Refugees and IDPs (NCRI).

72. UN OCHA, Somalia Flood Response Snapshot (as of 5 December 2019), December 2019. Available from <https://reliefweb.int/report/somalia/somalia-flood-response-snapshot-5-december-2019> (accessed 3 April 2020).

73. DTM Regional Office for East and Horn of Africa Flow Monitoring Data 2019.

74. UN OCHA, Somalia Humanitarian Bulletin (1-31 December 2019), January 2020. Available from <https://reliefweb.int/report/somalia/somalia-humanitarian-bulletin-1-31-december-2019> (accessed 3 April 2020).

75. World Meteorological Organization (WMO), "Heavy rains contribute to desert locust crisis in East Africa", 18 February 2020. Available from <https://public.wmo.int/en/media/news/heavy-rains-contribute-desert-locust-crisis-east-africa> (accessed 3 April 2020).

76. Government of Somalia, UN OCHA, Somalia 2019 Drought Impact Response Plan (DIRP), July 2019. Available from <https://reliefweb.int/report/somalia/somalia-2019-drought-impact-response-plan-dirp> (accessed 3 April 2020).

77. International Development Law Organization (IDLO), "Somalia Launches First Policy on Displaced Persons, Refugee-Returnees", 17 December 2019. Available from <https://www.idlo.int/news/somalia-launches-first-policy-displaced-persons-refugee-returnees> (accessed 3 April 2020).

78. UNHCR, Somalia Refugee Returnees to Somalia (as of 31 December 2019), January 2020. Available from <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/download/73564> (accessed 3 April 2020).

79. Ibid.

80. National Commission for Refugees and IDPs (NCRI), "NCRI Officially deposited the instrument of ratification of African Union Convention (Kampala Convention) at AU Office", 7 March 2020. Available from <http://www.ncri.gov.so/index.php/en/component/content/article/2-uncategorised/247-ncri-officially-deposited-the-instrument-of-ratification-of-african-union-convention-kampala-convention-at-au-office> (accessed 3 April 2020).

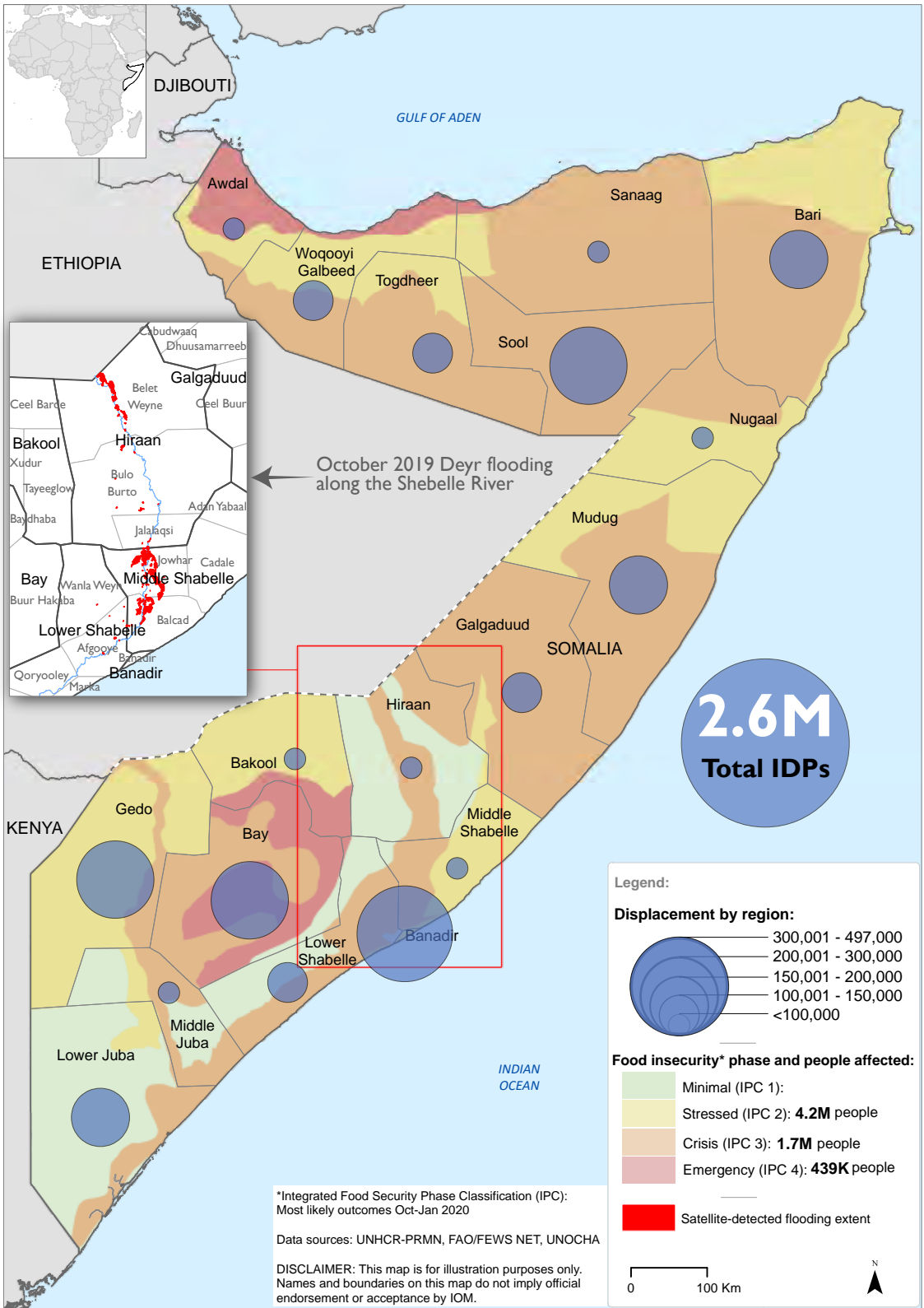


Figure 6: Food insecurity and IDPs presence by region in Somalia as of December 2019.





*A frontline worker at a Point of Control in Beni spreads messages about Ebola prevention techniques to people travelling through the endemic area. Photo: © IOM / Muse Mohammed*

## A REGIONAL APPROACH TO CURB THE EBOLA VIRUS DISEASE OUTBREAK

On 1 August 2018, the second deadliest outbreak of Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) in history was declared in Beni, North Kivu in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Almost a year later, on 17 July 2019, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared it a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC).<sup>81</sup> The current EVD outbreak raised major concerns as it occurred in a context of high cross-border mobility and ongoing violence, alongside significant population displacement across EVD-affected areas and to neighbouring countries. All these factors encouraged all neighbouring countries to heighten their preparedness in a bid to scale up their response capacity with the objective of avoiding cross-border transmissions of EVD and contain the outbreak within the Democratic Republic of the Congo's borders.

As of 31 December 2019, WHO reported a total of 3,380 EVD cases since the start of the outbreak, including 3,262 confirmed and 118 probable cases, and 2,232 cumulative deaths, which brought the mortality rate to 66 per cent.<sup>82</sup> Of all the cases, about 56 per cent were female, about 28 per cent were children under 18 years old, and 5 per cent were healthcare workers.<sup>83</sup> By the end of the year, new confirmed cases of EVD were restricted to four health zones in North Kivu province – Mabalako, Butembo, Kalunguta and Katwa – while the outbreak was initially active in 29 health zones across North Kivu, South Kivu and Ituri provinces.

Over the past year, the risk of an EVD cross-border transmission was high, and the outbreak observed a peak in April 2019 with an infection rate of 120 confirmed cases per week.<sup>84</sup> In June, the cross-border spread of the outbreak was confirmed after three members of a family travelling from Mabalako entered Uganda, while another case of EVD was confirmed at the end of August 2019.

All four subsequently died of EVD and no new cases have been recorded in Uganda since then. In July, a new EVD case was reported in the Democratic Republic of the Congo near the border with South Sudan, while another case of a traveller arriving from Butembo was confirmed in the major city Goma, bordering with Rwanda. During the same month, new confirmed cases were reported in South Kivu, near the border with Burundi. At the end of the year, there were no new confirmed cases of EVD outside the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Eastern Congo at the border with Burundi, Rwanda and Uganda is a major crossroads for mobile populations that cross the border on a daily basis for trade, family-related and insecurity reasons. Alongside South Sudan, which is linked to the Democratic Republic of the Congo by sizeable refugee communities as well as regular trade routes, all four neighbouring countries were considered Priority 1 risk countries. To strengthen preparedness and response to the EVD outbreak, IOM conducted population mobility mappings (PMM) through participatory techniques with key informants in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Uganda, Burundi and South Sudan.<sup>85</sup> Additionally, IOM deployed enumerators to collect data on mobility dynamics and travellers profiles, through DTM's flow monitoring.

In December 2019, DTM observed a total of 199,430 movements across 25 flow monitoring points in South Sudan and Uganda.<sup>86</sup> Most movements were motivated by economic reasons (42%), return to habitual residence (27%) or personal consumption (12%), while a little less than 2 per cent reported seeking healthcare. Of all movements, 78,438 (39%) observations originated in Uganda and were headed to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, while 70,828 (36%) observations were

81. World Health Organization (WHO), "Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo declared a Public Health Emergency of International Concern", 17 July 2019. Available from <https://www.who.int/news-room/detail/17-07-2019-ebola-outbreak-in-the-democratic-republic-of-the-congo-declared-a-public-health-emergency-of-international-concern> (accessed 3 April 2020).

82. WHO, Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) Democratic Republic of the Congo: Disease Outbreak News Update, 2 January 2020. Available from <https://www.who.int/csr/don/02-january-2020-ebola-drc/en/> (accessed 3 April 2020).

83. Ibid.

84. WHO, EVD Democratic Republic of the Congo: External Situation Report 67, November 2019. Available from <https://www.who.int/publications-detail/ebola-virus-disease-democratic-republic-of-congo-external-situation-report-67-2019> (accessed 3 April 2020).

85. See 'Population Mobility Mapping Methodology' under 'Methodology'.

86. DTM Regional Office for East and Horn of Africa Flow Monitoring Data 2019. PMM activities in Burundi were carried out between July and October 2019, therefore, no movements were recorded in Burundi for December 2019.



from the Democratic Republic of the Congo towards Uganda. Of the Uganda-Democratic Republic of the Congo movements, 15 per cent were tracked towards Congolese territories with health zones that had recently reported EVD outbreaks. Not all these movements were necessarily headed towards those specific health zones. These movements particularly included Ugandan nationals (33%) mostly travelling to Beni (88%), Butembo (7%), Lubero (3%) and Oicha (2%) territories, while most of the remaining were returning Congolese. Of the Democratic Republic of the Congo-Uganda movements, 51 per cent were tracked from Congolese territories with health zones that had recently reported EVD outbreaks, with the majority heading to the Kasese (72%), Bundibugyo (21%) and Kampala (2%) districts of Uganda.

Flow monitoring data in the Democratic Republic of the Congo continued to guide the prioritization of Points of Entry (PoEs) and the identification of new Points of Control (PoCs) as well as inform the overall EVD response from a mobility and public health perspective. In December 2019, three mobile PoCs were established in the Biena health zone in response to the changing geographic spread of the outbreak, while additional PoCs on the way to Goma received more support and supervision after the resurgence of EVD in Butembo.<sup>87</sup> In addition, IOM continued to provide support to EVD preparedness activities, in terms of screening and active surveillance, risk mapping, case management, infection prevention control (IPC) training, hygiene promotion and risk communication activities, and vaccination campaigns.

At the national level, South Sudan updated its EVD preparedness plan to cover the April-December 2019 period, building on gaps and achievements of the previous August 2018 to March 2019 period.<sup>88</sup> The revised plan prioritized a set of critical activities and services that mainly included scaling up existing activities in high-risk locations in terms of case management training,

IPC and the operation of isolation units, as well as strengthening the laboratory readiness at the national level, and ensuring the full financial capacity of existing rapid response teams. DTM's flow monitoring and PMM activities, in particular, helped inform the 2020 EVD National Preparedness Plan by providing partners with relevant information on population mobility and cross-border movements.<sup>89</sup>

Burundi's preparedness activities focused on high-risk provinces and involved active traveller's screening which was conducted at 21 border PoEs. Additionally, community engagement and interpersonal communication activities were also carried out along with vaccination of frontline healthcare workers, and simulation exercises at PoEs and at the military hospital.

Following the establishment of a high-level advisory committee to accelerate its preparedness activities, Rwanda revised and implemented Phase III of the National EVD Preparedness and Contingency Plan to cover the July to December 2019 period, based on lessons learned from the first two phases of the plan. Preparedness activities in the 15 priority districts included ongoing EVD screening and assessment of high-risk areas, in addition to the set-up of an Ebola Treatment Centre (ETC), increasing awareness and community engagement activities, and trainings for both medical staff and community health workers.

Uganda's preparedness efforts were instrumental in containing the EVD outbreak. Measures initiated by health authorities particularly included safe and dignified burials, contact tracing, and greater risk communication and surveillance. IOM, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and other partners, conducted a visit to 47 PoEs across border districts in September 2019 to monitor the effectiveness of border surveillance and to provide technical assistance to the border staff. In addition, a cross-border meeting between Uganda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo was held in Kampala on 25-26 September 2019 to strengthen information-sharing and the coordination of cross-border activities.

87. WHO, EVD Democratic Republic of the Congo: External Situation Report 74, January 2020. Available from <https://www.who.int/publications-detail/ebola-virus-disease-democratic-republic-of-congo-external-situation-report-74-2019> (accessed 3 April 2020).

88. Government of South Sudan, Updated National EVD Preparedness Plan (April-September 2019), May 2019. Available from <https://reliefweb.int/report/south-sudan/south-sudan-national-evd-preparedness-plan-april-september-2019> (accessed 3 April 2020); Government of South Sudan, National EVD Preparedness Plan April-September 2019 (Addendum), October 2019. Available from <https://reliefweb.int/report/south-sudan/south-sudan-national-evd-preparedness-plan-april-september-2019-addendum> (accessed 3 April 2020).

89. DTM, South Sudan Population Mobility Mapping for Ebola Virus Disease Preparedness December 2019, February 2020. Available from <https://displacement.iom.int/reports/south-sudan-%E2%80%94-population-mobility-mapping-ebola-virus-disease-preparedness-december-2019?close=true> (accessed 3 April 2020).



Despite the significant progress made in advancing EVD preparedness, some setbacks occurred in the second half of the year, mainly due to insecurity. Renewed violence in the Ituri province in early June forced an estimated 300,000 people to flee to Bunia, Ituri's capital, to camps around the province, and even to neighbouring Uganda.<sup>90</sup> The southern part of North Kivu also suffered from intensified violence, fuelling a wave of displacement of 687,500 IDPs in the territories of Masisi, Rutshuru and Walikale.<sup>91</sup> In November 2019, attacks on Ebola responders targeted the United Nations Ebola response coordination office in Beni, North Kivu and a WHO base in Biakato, Ituri. Those events had a negative impact on the public health response as they blocked access to some EVD-affected areas and disrupted response operations, especially along the Mambasa-Biakato-Mangina-Beni corridor, while no activities were possible in Biakato due to lack of access. Similarly, increased security concerns in South Sudan resulted in the suspension of three PoEs, in Yei and Morobo counties, along the border with the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

As the EVD outbreak entered its second year, the risk of cross-border EVD transmission remains high. Increased regional preparedness, with Rwanda and Uganda being at the top of the list, has resulted in a sustained response, alongside a lower incidence of new EVD cases in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Yet, a multi-country effort to counter the protracted situation as well as mitigate the effects of the EVD threat is still needed. In October 2019, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and its nine neighbouring countries held a meeting in Goma for the establishment of an Africa Ebola Coordination Task Force (AfECT) within the newly endorsed cross-border collaboration framework on EVD preparedness and response. This framework aims to enhance cooperation and information-sharing, harmonize resources, and minimize the social and economic impact of public health events, including of other diseases such as cholera and measles.<sup>92</sup> In particular, the AfECT will be managed in collaboration with WHO and the Africa Centre for Disease Control and will take over the work done in Priority 1 countries – Uganda, Rwanda, South Sudan and Burundi – through the signing of memoranda of understanding. Moving forward, the financial needs requested by WHO for the January to June 2020 period account for USD 83 million, under its Strategic Response Plan.<sup>93</sup>

90. UNHCR, "Massive displacement reported in north-eastern DRC amid new violence", 18 June 2019. Available from <https://www.unhcr.org/news/briefing/2019/6/5d089ee54/massive-displacement-reported-north-eastern-drc-amid-new-violence.html> (accessed 3 April 2020).

91. Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), "DR Congo: extra humanitarian assistance highly needed in southern North Kivu crisis", 16 December 2019. Available from <https://reliefweb.int/report/democratic-republic-congo/dr-congo-extra-humanitarian-assistance-highly-needed-southern-north> (accessed 3 April 2020).

92. WHO Africa, "Ten African countries endorse cross-border collaboration framework on Ebola outbreak preparedness and response", 21 October 2019. Available from <https://www.afro.who.int/news/ten-african-countries-endorse-cross-border-collaboration-framework-ebola-outbreak-preparedness> (accessed 3 April 2020).

93. WHO, EVD Democratic Republic of the Congo: Disease Outbreak News Update, 20 February 2020. Available from <https://www.who.int/csr/don/20-february-2020-ebola-drc/en/> (accessed 3 April 2020).

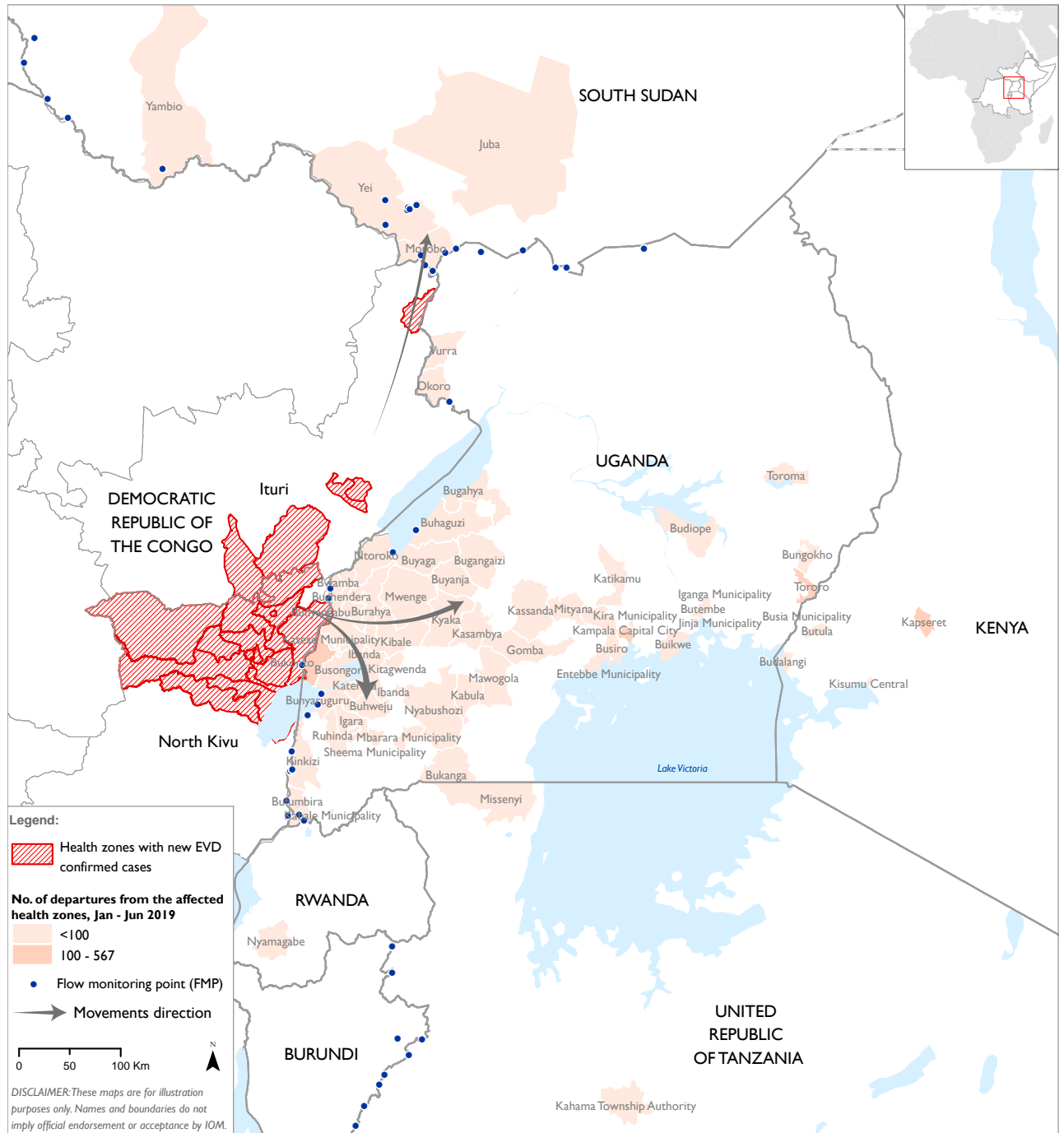


Figure 7: Areas of intended destination for movements originating from EVD-affected health zones in the Democratic Republic of the Congo from January to June 2019.

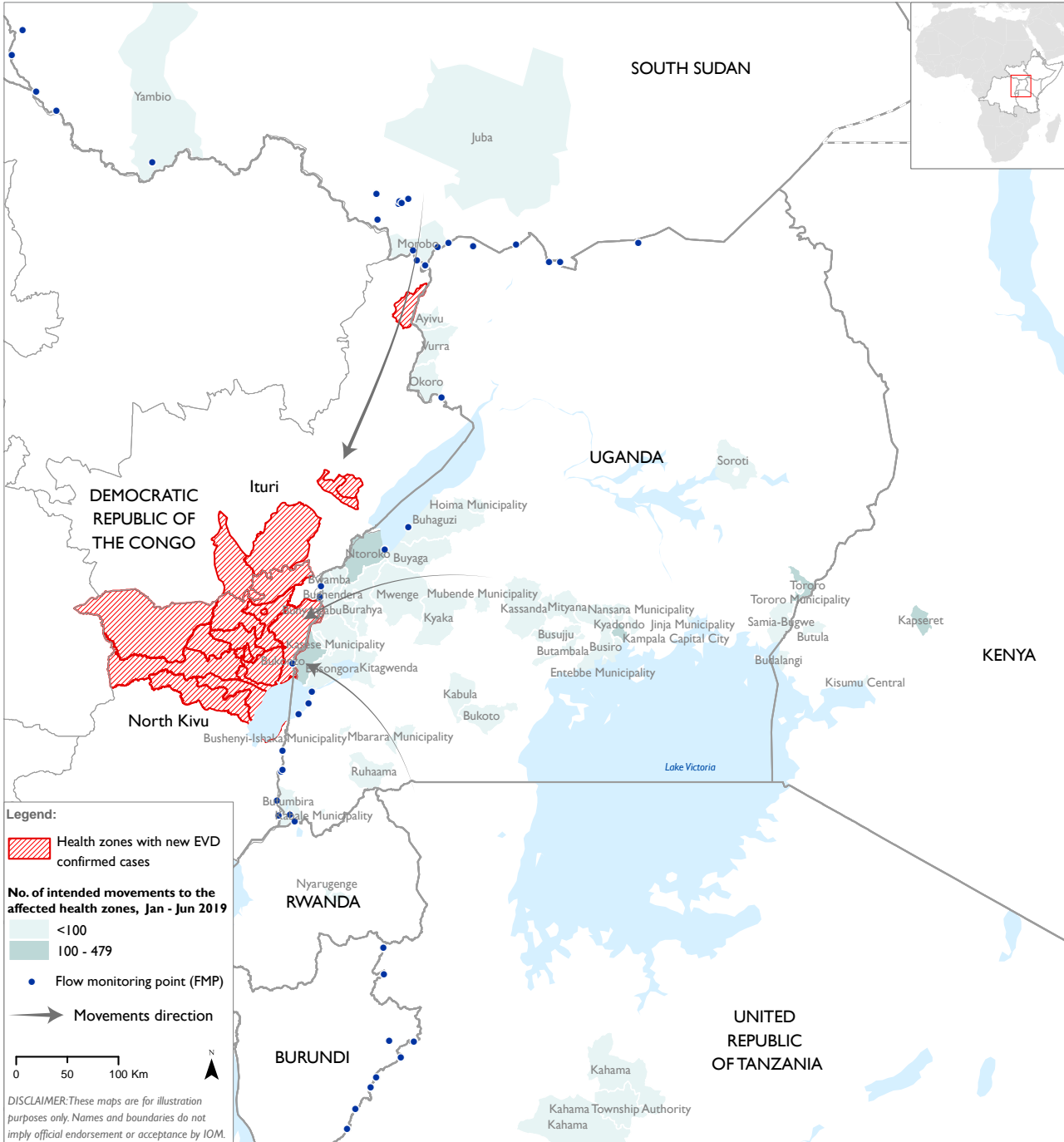


Figure 8: Areas of departure for intended movements into EVD-affected health zones in the Democratic Republic of the Congo from January to June 2019.



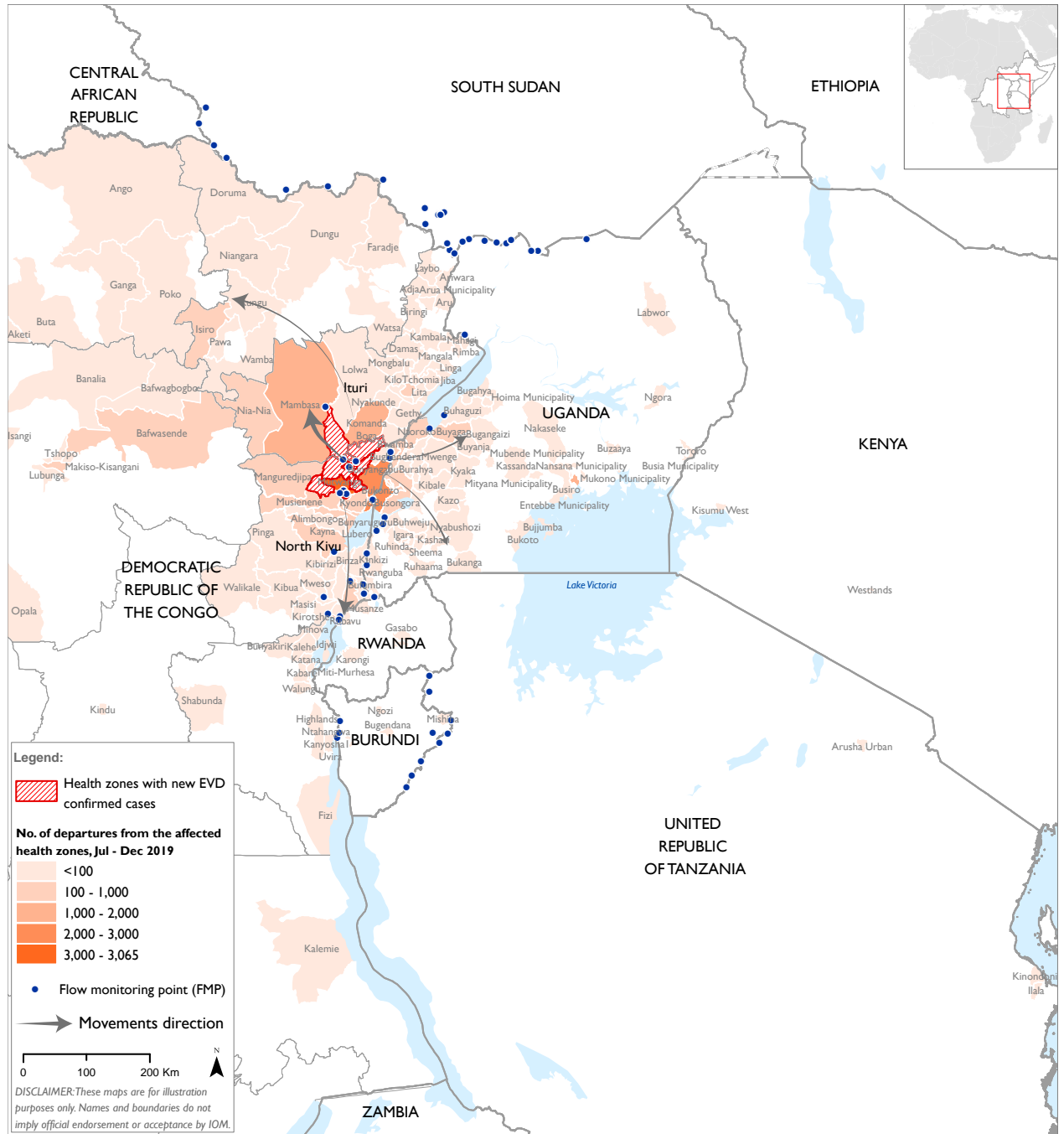


Figure 9: Areas of intended destination for movements originating from EVD-affected health zones in the Democratic Republic of the Congo from July to December 2019.

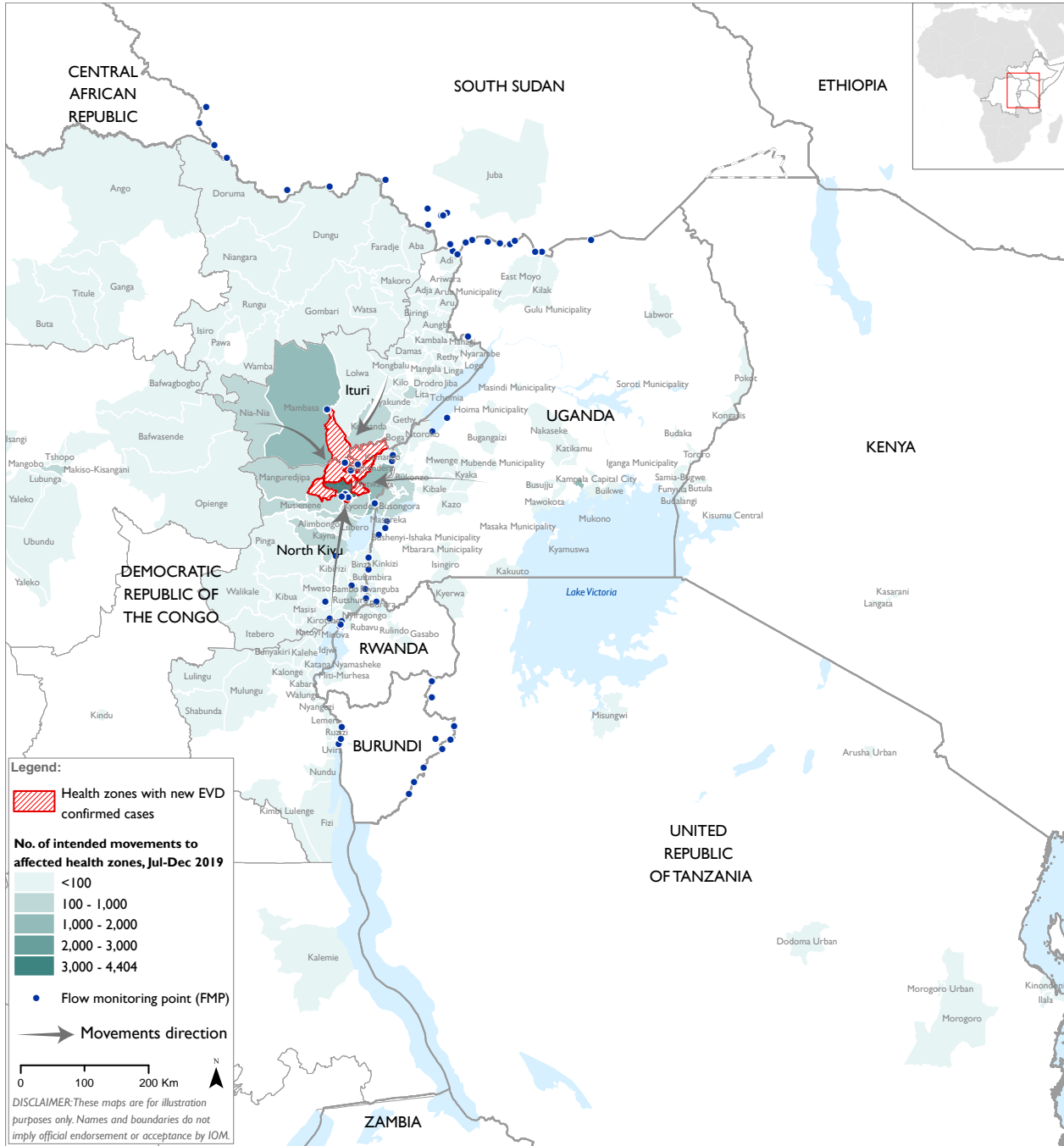


Figure 10: Areas of departure for intended movements into EVD-affected health zones in the Democratic Republic of the Congo from July to December 2019.

# 04. REGIONAL MIXED MIGRATION TRENDS

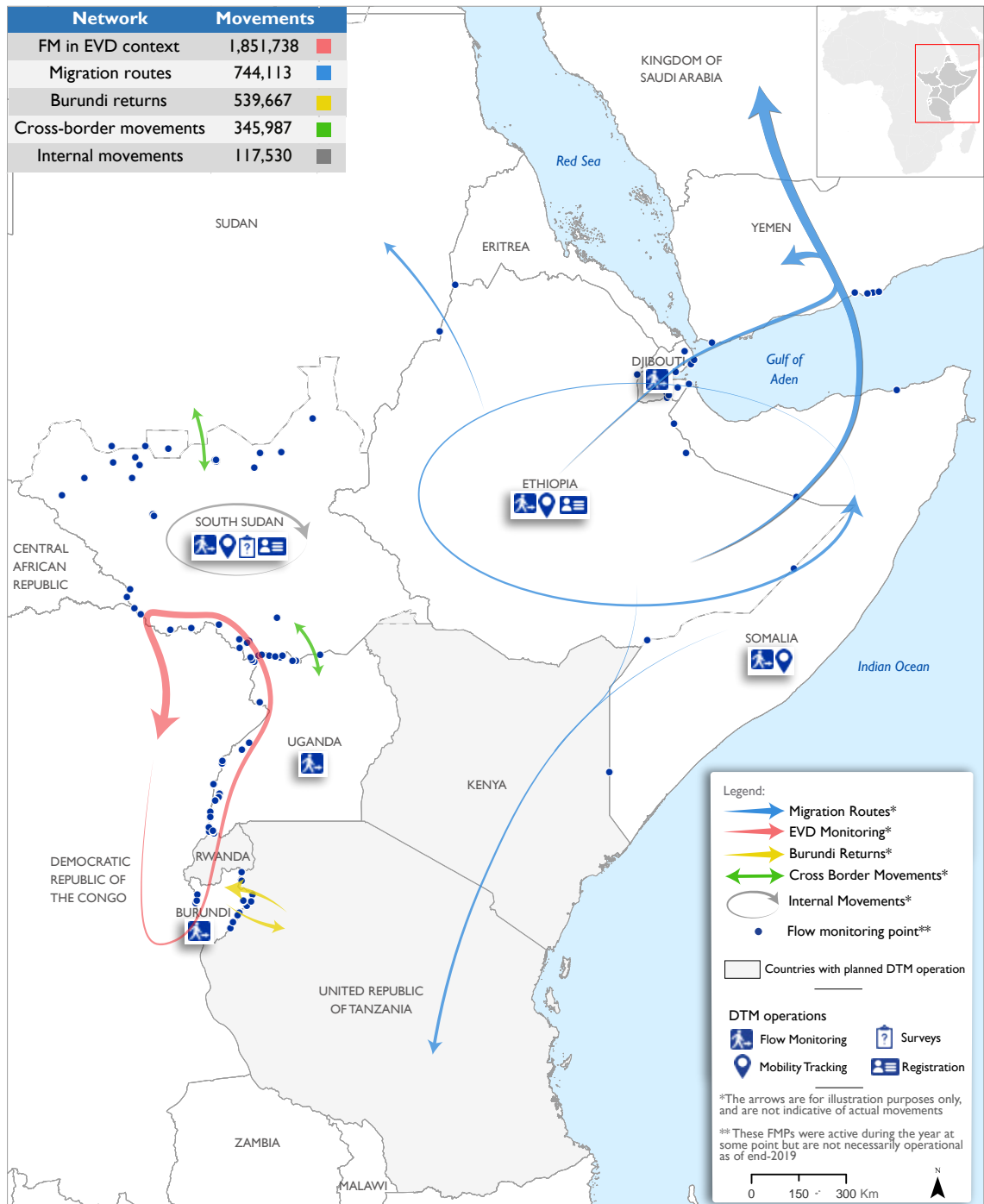


Figure 11: Migration networks tracked in the East and Horn of Africa as of December 2019.



## OVERVIEW



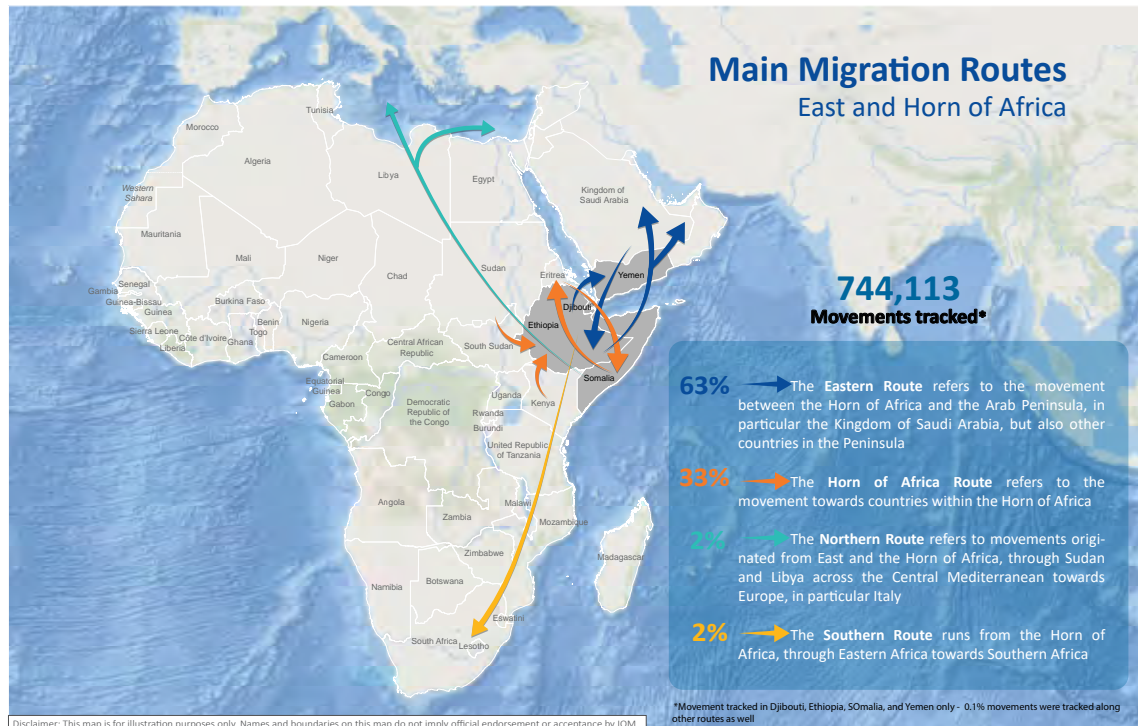
Portrait of a migrant waking up on the beach in Obock. Photo: © IOM / Alexander Bee

Flow Monitoring (FM) remained operational in all six countries with active DTM through a regional network of 80 Flow Monitoring Points (FMPs), including five in Yemen, with the main aim of tracking cross-border movements trends in the region. These FMPs established at key areas of high mobility aim to monitor different kinds of movements and can be categorized across four main networks; these include movements along the four main migration routes (Eastern, Horn of Africa, Southern, and Northern) that have been reported on since 2018. In addition, a system to monitor movements to and from areas affected by Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) was established in the wake of the health crisis that originated in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. DTM also tracked flows in the post-conflict context of Burundi, with the aim to monitor Burundian nationals returning home from the United Republic of Tanzania, particularly to track key mobility trends in the wake of the civil war. Lastly, shorter-term cross-border movements were also tracked, mainly between South Sudan and Sudan, and South Sudan and Uganda.

As Figure 11 shows, the overall movements included longer-term migration from the Horn of Africa (HoA) countries (Djibouti, Ethiopia, Somalia, and Yemen), along the four main migration routes – Eastern, Northern, Southern, and the Horn of Africa (HoA) - which made up 21 per cent of overall movements (744,113 through 22 FMPs). In addition, a large flow of movements was also tracked through FM in public health (EVD) context in Burundi, South Sudan, and Uganda, which made up 51 per cent of all movements tracked (1,851,738 through 38 FMPs). Cross-border movement trends were also tracked through eight FMPs established between Burundi and the United Republic of Tanzania and made up 15 per cent of overall observations (539,667). Shorter-term, cross-border movements tracked to evaluate return trends and cross-border travel to and from South Sudan made up 10 per cent of overall movements (345,987 through 12 FMPs).<sup>94</sup>

94. Flow Monitoring (FM) also tracks internal movements in South Sudan at key transit hubs, such as bus stations, air strips and ports, which represented 3 per cent of overall movements (117,530 through 11 FMPs).

## MIGRATION ROUTES NETWORK



**Figure 12: Main migration routes in the East and Horn of Africa as of December 2019.**

Although Flow Monitoring (FM) is an important tool for tracking trends related to different kinds of movement, and to trigger responses to situations that may arise as indicated by changes in flows, the longer-term migration tracked through the migration routes network is especially important given the specific needs and vulnerabilities people may face in relation to their migration attempts. DTM attempts to fill the information gap relate to these needs and give access to a consistent information source for actors that enable access to safe and humane migration. This section has been prepared using FM data gathered in Djibouti, Ethiopia, Somalia, and Yemen.

In 2019, a total of 744,113 movements were tracked in these four countries, which is a reduction of 11 per cent as compared to 2018, when 832,989 movements were tracked in the same four countries. Although the coverage remains largely unchanged, the FM networks have been streamlined since the latter half of 2018 to reduce redundancies, so the 2019 figure is likely to be a more realistic depiction of actual migratory trends in the region.

As Figure 12 shows, unlike 2018, when a majority of the movements tracked were headed towards countries located in the Horn of Africa (HoA) region (52%), the majority of the movements in 2019 were tracked along the Eastern Route (63%), with the majority of all movements heading to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (80%), with a little less than 20 per cent towards Yemen, which is often a transit country for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and around 1 per cent towards other countries in the Arab Peninsula). The second largest movement was along the HoA corridor (33%), with 49 per cent of movements towards Somalia, and another 35 per cent towards Ethiopia. About 15 per cent movements were also tracked towards Djibouti,<sup>95</sup> while less than 1 per cent were tracked towards Eritrea.

Of overall movements, 2 per cent were tracked along the Northern and Southern Routes each, with a majority of the movements towards Sudan (61%) along the Northern Route, and Kenya (94%) along the Southern Route. However, these movements are likely under-represented due to limited geographical coverage along these routes.

95. See 'The Desire to Thrive Regardless of the Risk: Research on Young Ethiopian Migrants in Obock, Djibouti' under 'Regional Mixed Migration Trends'.

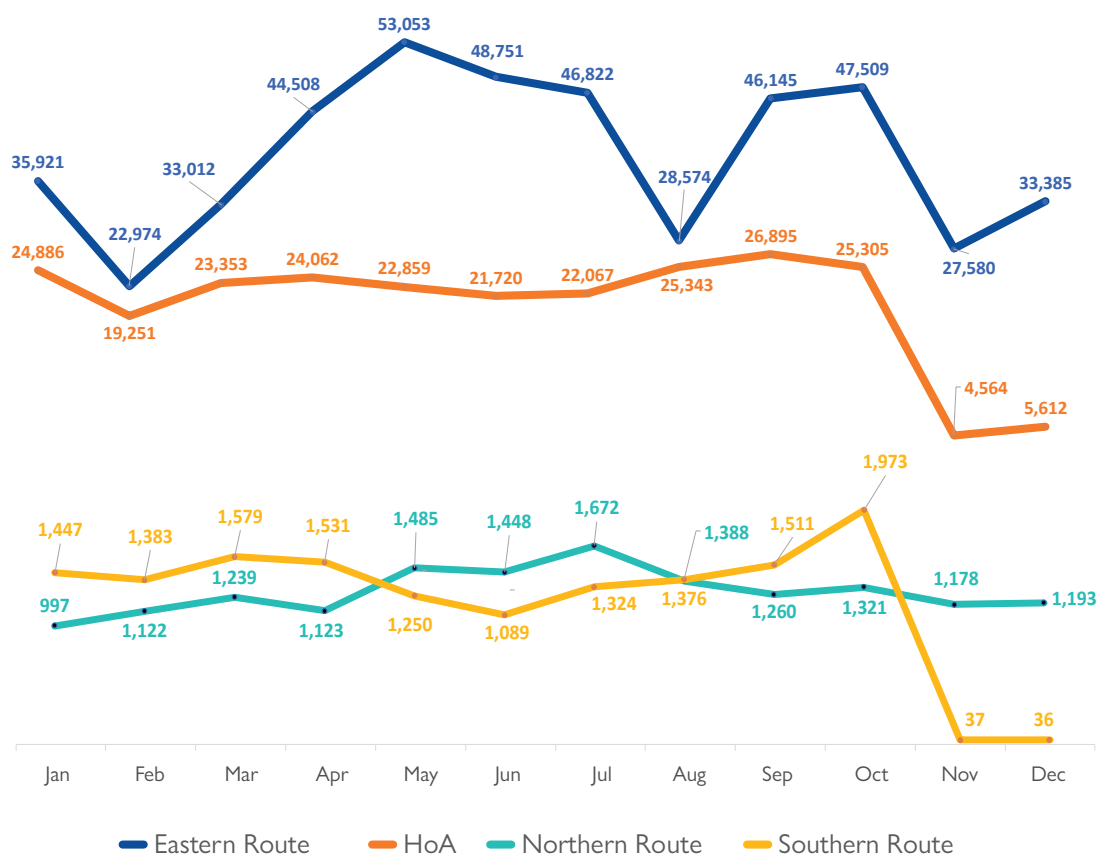


Figure 13: Number of movements tracked monthly by main routes between January and December 2019.

FM trends over time may be indicative of events that impact migration, either as a cause or an effect. Looking at the Eastern Route, findings are in line with the trends observed during 2018. As Figure 13 shows, migration tends to be higher in the first half of the annual year, and then dips down in the latter half, with a slight uptick before the end of the year. In addition, the holidays and seasons also tend to have an impact on migration, with a downward trend during the hot summer months, when crossing the Djibouti terrain on foot is very difficult. Migration also increased in the months leading up to Ramadan (May) when there is a perception that migratory restrictions will be eased, and then drops around the religious holiday of Eid ul Adha (June/July). These trends are witnessed every year, so spikes or dips that do not correspond to any of these reasons may be indicative of other attempts happening. For instance, the decrease in migration along the Eastern Route, and partially along the HoA Route, reported during February 2019 was triggered when two vessels carrying migrants capsized off the coast of Djibouti which resulted in the death of at least 52 migrants.<sup>96</sup> This led to a decrease in smuggling attempts to cross the Gulf of Aden, with several reports of migrants in Obock requesting assistance to return back home.

96. Aljazeera, "Death toll climbs after migrant boats sink off Djibouti", 30 January 2019. Available from <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2019/01/death-toll-climbs-migrant-boats-sink-djibouti-190130084453953.html> (accessed 3 April 2020).



# MOVEMENTS

The maps in Figures 14 and 15 show the areas of departure and intended destinations for all movements tracked between January and December 2019 through the 22 FMPs located in Djibouti (5), Ethiopia (5), Somalia (7), and Yemen (5). As can be seen from the maps, most of the movements originated in Ethiopia and intended to migrate towards the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. In Ethiopia, most of the movements originated in East Shewa, in Oromia region, or Doolow in Somali region. Instead, majority of the migration was intended towards Ar Riyadh in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

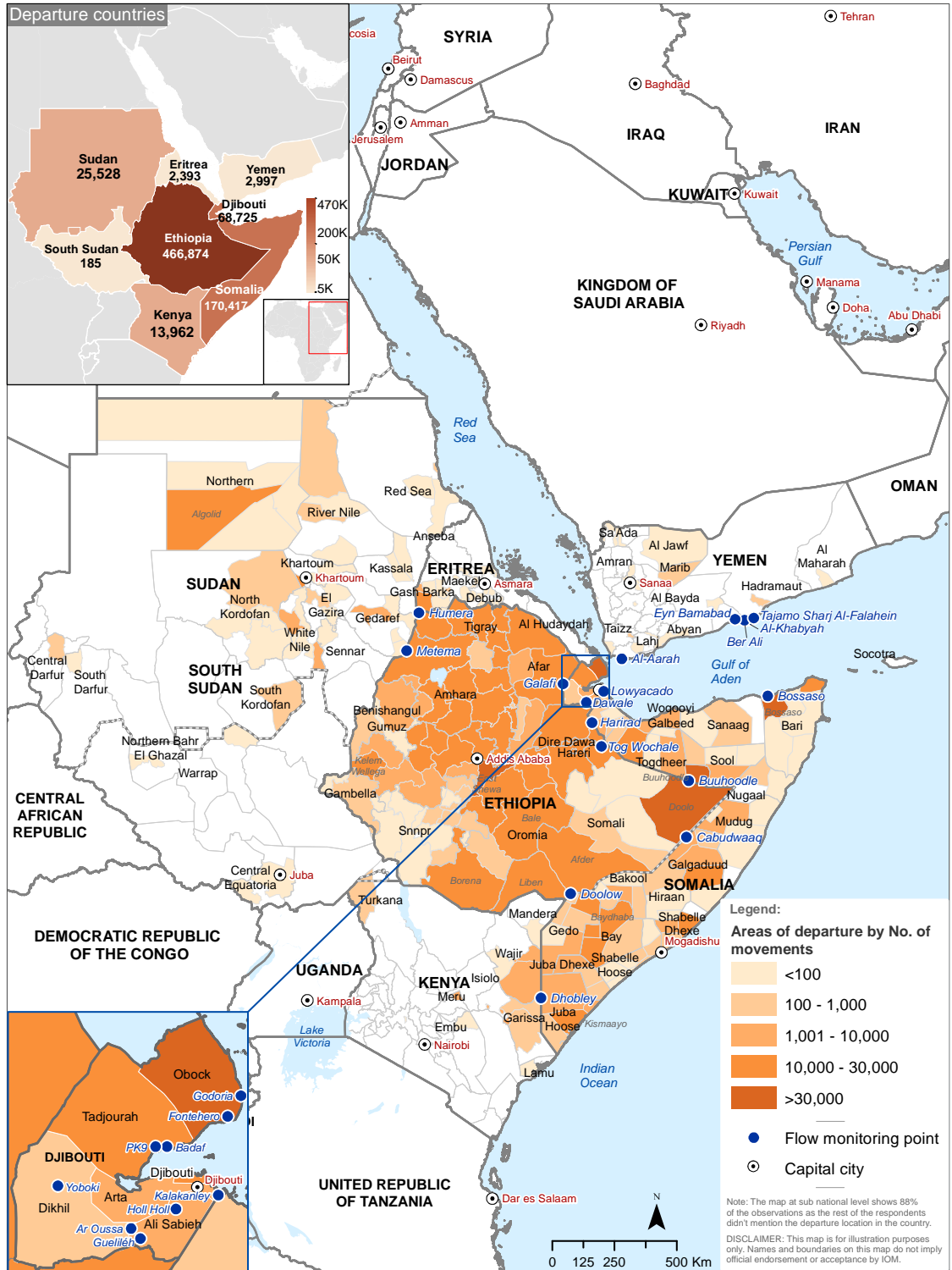


Figure 14: Main areas (admin 2) of departure (January to December 2019).

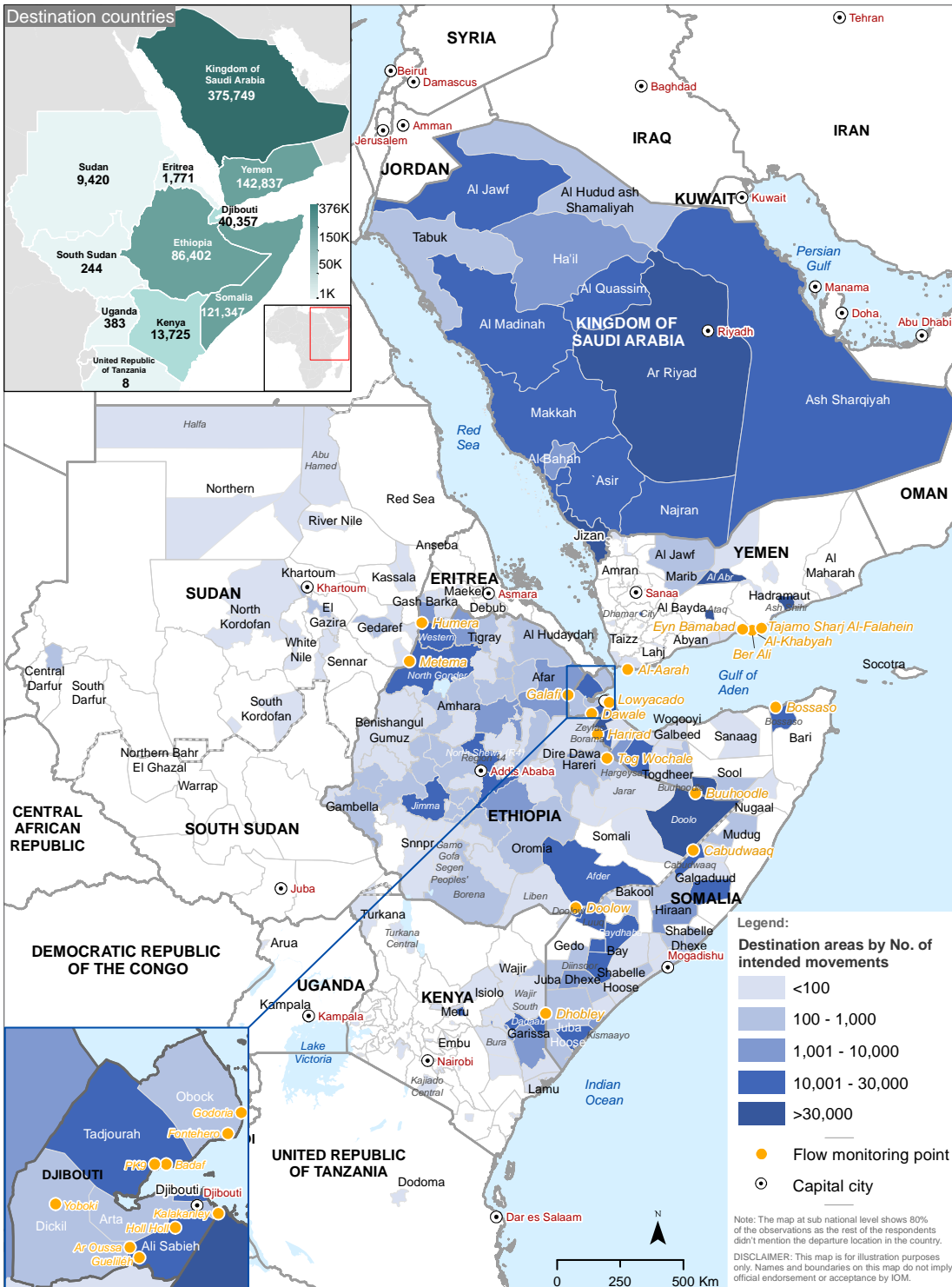


Figure 15: Main areas (admin 2) of intended destination (January to December 2019).

## EASTERN ROUTE

As predicted in the *A Region on the Move: Mid-year Mobility Overview January to June 2019* report,<sup>97</sup> the movements along the Eastern Route remained on an upward trend, with a total of 468,234 movements tracked along the Eastern Route in 2019, which is an increase of 7 per cent as compared to 2018, when 437,432 movements were tracked along this Route.<sup>98</sup>

The largest proportion of the movements were tracked in Djibouti (43%), followed by Yemen (30%), Somalia (15%), and Ethiopia (13%). In terms of origins, the majority of movements were departing from Ethiopia (70%), followed by Somalia (19%), with most travels towards the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (79%) or Yemen (20%).

By far, the largest proportion of unidirectional movement was from Ethiopia to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (53%) which is a decrease from 61 per cent tracked in 2018. This was followed by Somalia to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (18%) which decreased from 19 per cent tracked in 2018, and Ethiopia to Yemen (16%) compared to 12 per cent in 2018.

The points of origin, however, only provide a partial explanation of the migratory routes, since in terms of nationalities, similar to 2018 observations (95%), Ethiopian nationals were by far the majority (97%), followed by Somalis (3%), which is lower than the 5 per cent tracked in 2018, and other nationalities tracked accounted for less than 0.2 per cent.



Migrants are gathering in Adogolo. Photo: © IOM / Alexander Bee

97. RDH, DTM, *A Region on the Move: Mid-year mobility overview January to June 2019*, October 2019. Available from <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/region-move-mid-year-mobility-overview-january-june-2019> (accessed 3 April 2020).

98. As the overall movements in 2019 have actual decreased as compared to 2018, this 'increase' is likely to be indicative of streamlining of operations, and eliminations of redundancy in terms of movements along the HoA route, as opposed to an actual, absolute increase in movements.



## Migration Trends from the HoA to Yemen and the Arab Peninsula

Similar to previous reporting periods, the migration route from the Horn of Africa (HoA) towards the Arab Peninsula remain the single most important migration route in this region. Potential migrants travel to the peninsula by the thousands every month, intending to travel across Yemen, despite the precarious security situation, in the hopes of crossing the border into the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The perception amongst most migrants remain the expectation of high paying jobs in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia that would enable them to better support themselves, and more importantly, their families in their countries of origin. In terms of ease of access, there is also the perception that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is more accessible, both in terms of geographical proximity as well as migration regulations, as compared to European countries, which in recent years have restricted irregular migration.<sup>99</sup>

There is also limited information available about the dangers of the passage across the Gulf of Aden, as opposed to the Mediterranean crossing, which has been quite well researched and reported on by media and humanitarian agencies alike. Studies show that prospective migrants were either unaware of the dangers of the sea crossing, and the crisis in Yemen, or are overly confident about their chances in navigating them and finding a job in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.<sup>100</sup> Also, migrants who demonstrated some level of risk-awareness reported that the drivers (mainly lack of economic opportunity in Ethiopia) of migration were so strong that the chance of improving their life through remittances from Saudi Arabia outweighed the risks they might face during the journey. In many cases, their choice was either “migrate or die at home”, thereby indicating that migration, is often born from necessity and occurs irrespective of the challenges and dangers migrants expect.

The high rate of migration along this route is further compounded by the culture of migration, and the positive perception associated with migration that is evident across regions, acting as a facilitator of migration.

Migrants are able to easily identify brokers and returnees in their communities, both of whom are relied on heavily by migrants for information, whether accurate or inaccurate, and all migrants were aware of families within their communities who had improved their living standards through remittances from Saudi Arabia. These ‘success stories’ that are spread by brokers and witnessed by migrants with their own eyes offer highly convincing narratives that push young Ethiopians into migratory journeys towards the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, regardless of the challenges that await them.

While the previous section looked at migration tracked in the HoA, with the Arab Peninsula as their intended destination, this section looks specifically at actual arrivals tracked on the coast of Yemen. These are a better indication of actual migration as most of those that intend to travel to Yemen are not necessarily successful or may do some time in the future.

In terms of actual arrivals, there were more migrants travelling to Yemen, in hope of travelling onwards to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (138,213) as compared to migrants travelling north towards Europe from the whole continent. The actual number of arrivals to Yemen fell by 14 per cent as compared to 2018 (159,838). This decrease can partially be attributed to the capsizing of a boat in the beginning of the year off the coast of Djibouti which resulted in a decrease of migration attempts for a few weeks.<sup>101</sup> Although most of the migrants landing on the shores of Yemen are planning on moving onwards towards the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, there is little information available about their success rate. The fluidity of these trends should also be interpreted in light of the steady return operations managed by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia’s authorities to move back irregular migrants to their countries of origin.<sup>102</sup>

99. See ‘The Desire to Thrive Regardless of the Risk: Research on Young Ethiopian Migrants in Obock, Djibouti’ under ‘Regional Mixed Migration Trends’.

100. Ibid.

101. The New York Times, “At Least 52 Dead After Boats Capsize Off Djibouti, U.N. Migration Agency Says”, 30 January 2019. Available from <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/01/30/world/africa/migrants-dead-djibouti.html> (accessed 3 April 2020).

102. See ‘Returns from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia’ under ‘Regional Mixed Migration Trends’.

## Migration Profiles – Yemen Arrivals

Similar to the migrants tracked along the Eastern Route in the Horn of Africa (HoA), the majority of arrivals tracked in Yemen were Ethiopian nationals (92%), which is slightly lower than the 97 per cent tracked the coastal points in Djibouti and Somalia, prior to departure. The second largest group of migrants was Somalia nationals (8%) which is higher than the 2 per cent tracked in HoA at coastal points. While no Djiboutian nationals were tracked in HoA coastal points, the Yemen Flow Monitoring Registry (FMR) tracked 0.01 per cent other nationalities arriving in Yemen. As explained before, this just illustrates the fact that the en-route migrants do not all successfully make the journey to Yemen.

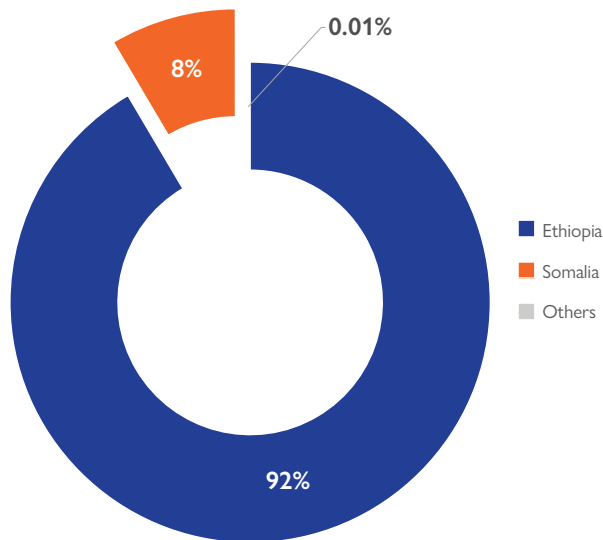


Figure 16: Nationality breakdown of arrivals to Yemen from the Horn of Africa.

The average migrant makes their journey towards the shores of Yemen on vessels that are barely seaworthy after weeks of walking across the searing terrain of Djibouti. Most are likely to be young men, aged between 18 and 24 years old.<sup>103</sup> As shown in Figure 16, the FMR data indicates that 69 per cent of migrants arriving in Yemen were adult males, which is almost the same as the average tracked amongst en-route migrants to the Arab Peninsula in coastal HoA (70%). Similarly, the percentage of adult females was also somewhat similar, with 18 per cent tracked upon arrival in Yemen, compared to 22 per cent tracked before departure in HoA.

The sex disaggregation of child migrants tracked on arrival in Yemen showed that male and female children were arriving in fairly even proportions. This is slightly different from data collected at departure points in the HoA, which show that male children outnumbered female children by a proportion of almost 2:1. A similar trend was also seen in 2018, when female child migrants in Yemen were less than one-third in proportion as compared to male child migrants.

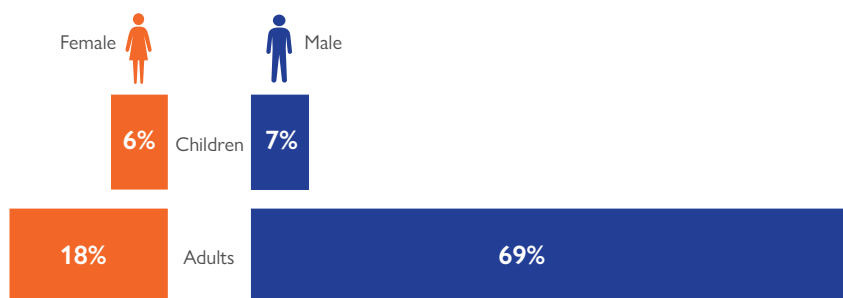


Figure 17: Sex and age breakdown for Yemen arrivals from the Horn of Africa.

103. See 'The Desire to Thrive Regardless of the Risk: Research on Young Ethiopian Migrants in Obock, Djibouti' under 'Regional Mixed Migration Trends'.

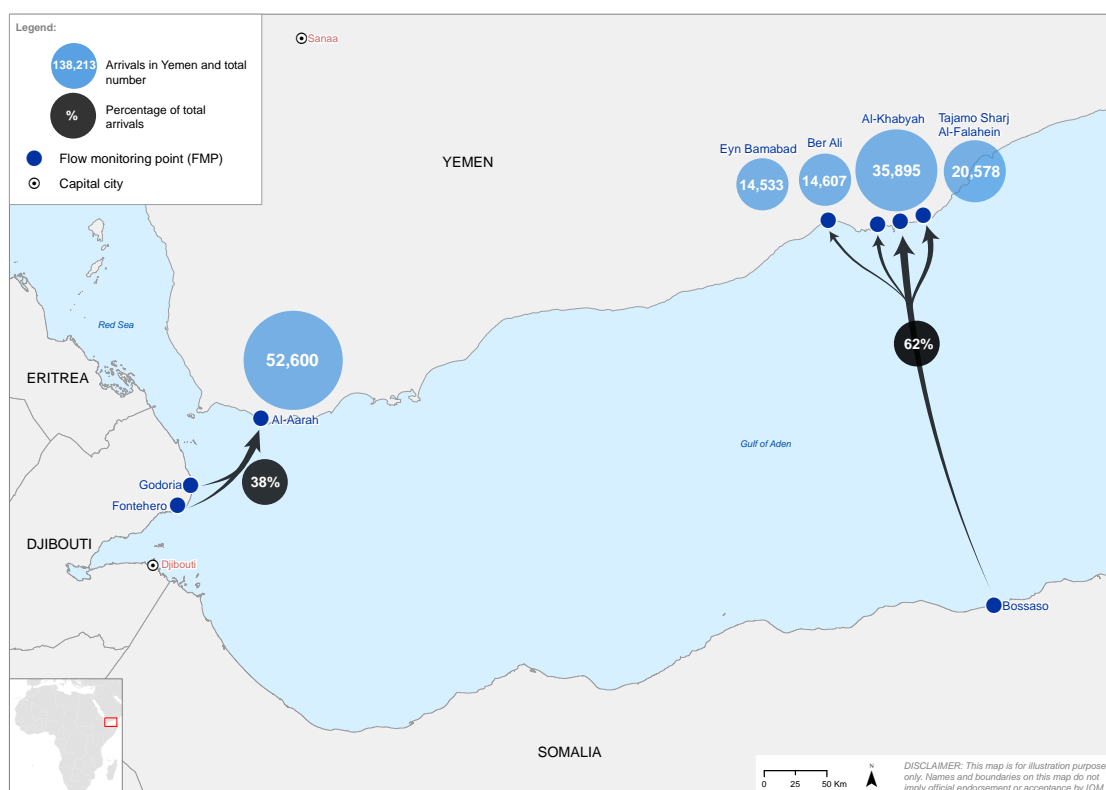


Figure 18: Map of Yemen arrivals from the Horn of Africa.

As Figure 18 shows, a majority of the arrivals in Yemen had departed from Bossaso in Somalia (62%) while 38 per cent had travelled from Obock in Djibouti.

In terms of vulnerabilities, the breakdown is much different from those tracked prior to departure in HoA, which is consistent with what was observed in 2018.






-  **6%** Unaccompanied migrant children
-  **0.1%** Children under 5 years of age
-  **0.01%** People living with disability
-  **0.01%** Pregnant and/or lactating women
-  **0.004%** Elderly (60+)

Figure 19: Vulnerabilities tracked amongst new arrivals in Yemen.

As Figure 19 shows, of the total population tracked on arrival in Yemen, 6 per cent were Unaccompanied Migrant Children (UMCs), which is much higher than the 3 per cent tracked prior to departure in 2019, and the 2 per cent tracked upon arrival in Yemen in 2018. Other instances of vulnerabilities were fairly low, though elderly migrants tracked in Yemen decreased from 1 per cent in 2018 to less than 0.001 per cent in 2018.

In terms of migration drivers, as expected, almost all of the migration tracked amongst arrivals in Yemen were reported to be driven by economic reasons (99%), while prior to departure, although the main migration driver was still economic (86%), another 13 per cent were also travelling due to conflict. The difference might be explained by differences in how migrants define primary drivers, what reasons seem more important at various points in the journey.



## Returns from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Migration to Saudi Arabia started in the 1970s, with well-established migration networks operating between Ethiopia and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia until this day. However, following the 2016 announcement of the 2030 vision reforms, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia committed to reducing unemployment among Saudis through the tightening of immigration policies for undocumented migrants. In 2017, an estimated 500,000 migrants were present in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia when the decree was issued. IOM estimates that around 340,000 have returned to Ethiopia since.

Ethiopian migrants were not the only ones affected by the decree. A further 123,260 returnees from Saudi Arabia were recorded in Yemen since data collection began in 2018. Of these 50,077 migrants who returned from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to Yemen in 2019, 85 per cent were men, 3 per cent were women and 11 per cent were children. Similarly, an estimated 2,284 Somali were returned to Somalia between January and March 2019,<sup>104</sup> while a further 4,714 Sudanese returnees were tracked by DTM in Sudan in 2019.<sup>105</sup>

In 2019, IOM registered 120,825 Ethiopian returnees upon arrival at Bole Airport in Addis Ababa. Among these, 99.6 per cent reported that they were returning involuntarily. The proportion of voluntary returns has shown a downward trajectory in the past years, with 35 per cent of returns in early 2017 being voluntary before decreasing to around 1 per cent in 2018.<sup>106</sup>

Of the Ethiopian returnees registered in 2019, 82 per cent were male and 9 per cent were children below the age of 18. Most returnees (78%) were between 18 and 29 years old. The majority of both males and females had primary level education (80% of males and 76% of females), while 19 per cent of males and 23 per cent of females reported having less than primary level education. Around 69 per cent of male returnees were unemployed in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, while 16 per cent were working as manual labourers.

In contrast, only 40 per cent of females had been unemployed in Saudi Arabia, while the majority of those who had been employed were domestic workers (59%).<sup>107</sup>

In 2019, most migrants were returning from the Saudi Arabian cities of Jizan (56%), Jeddah (23%) and Riyadh (15%) to the Tigray (33%), Amhara (31%) and Oromia (31%) regions of Ethiopia. Most migrants (84%) reported having stayed in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia between seven months and two years, 9 per cent had stayed for three to five years and 7 per cent stayed between six and 10 years. The vast majority of interviewed returnees (97%) reported that they planned on staying in Ethiopia, while only 1 per cent reported not having a plan regarding the future or wanting to return to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, respectively. In late 2018, the Ethiopian Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs announced that it had finalized bilateral labour agreements with receiving countries including the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, raising expectations that Ethiopians may resume legal travel to the Middle East in future as part of the labour programme.<sup>108</sup> In July 2019, Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed announced that Ethiopia will be training and sending 50,000 people to work in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) in 2019 and 2020, with ongoing discussions of sending around 200,000 Ethiopians over the next three years.<sup>109</sup>

104. Returns of Somali nationals from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia happened after March 2019, however, estimates from government authorities have not been shared yet.

105. DTM, Sudan 2019 Registration Factsheet, March 2020. Available from <https://displacement.iom.int/reports/sudan-%E2%80%94-2019-registration-factsheet> (accessed 6 April 2020).

106. IOM, Post-arrival registration: Return of Ethiopian Migrants from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia from May 2017 to December 2019.

107. Ibid.

108. The Reporter, "Ethiopian workers to resume travel to Middle East in October", 22 September 2018. Available from <https://www.thereporterethiopia.com/article/ethiopian-workers-resume-travel-middle-east-october> (accessed 3 April 2020).

109. The Business Times, "Ethiopia to send 50,000 workers to UAE", 8 July 2019. Available from <https://www.businesstimes.com.sg/government-economy/ethiopia-to-send-50000-workers-to-uae> (accessed 3 April 2020).

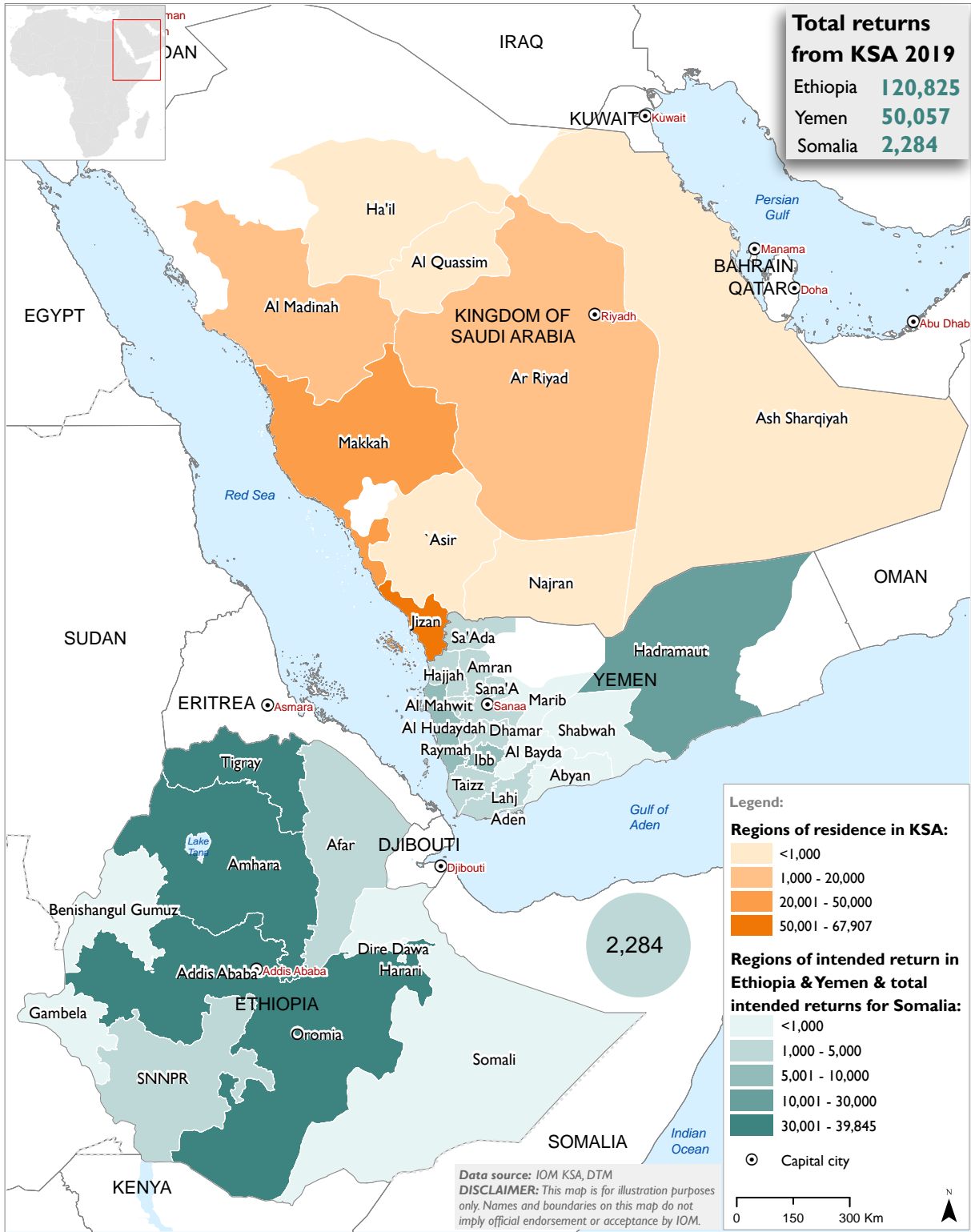


Figure 20: Returns from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia by areas of departure in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and intended destinations in their home countries (January to December 2019).

## Humanitarian Evacuations from Yemen

As the crisis in Yemen continued into its sixth year, humanitarian conditions kept deteriorating. As of 20 December 2019, Yemen was hosting 3.65 million displaced persons including 1.28 million IDPs as well as a large refugee and asylum-seeker population (277,820), mainly from Somalia and Ethiopia.<sup>110</sup> In February 2019, the United Nations (UN) declared that the humanitarian crisis in Yemen continues to be the worst in the world, with close to 80 per cent of the population in need of assistance and protection and the number of individuals with acute needs 27 per cent higher than in 2018, when Yemen was already considered to be the worst humanitarian crisis in the world.<sup>111</sup> Due to Yemen's deteriorating economic conditions, food insecurity, and the ongoing conflict, migrants continue to be exposed to great risks when transiting the country.

In order to assist migrants stranded in Yemen, IOM Yemen provided Voluntary Humanitarian Returns (VHR) for migrants in Yemen wishing to return to their home country. In 2019, IOM facilitated the return of 3,751 Ethiopians by air from Aden and Sana'a in Yemen to Ethiopia. The majority of those assisted were adult males (58%), 5 per cent were adult females and 37 per cent were children (65% of whom were male, and 35% were female).<sup>112</sup>

In partnership with UNHCR under the Assisted Spontaneous Return (ASR) programme, IOM also provided return support to assist Somali refugees stranded in Yemen to return to Somalia in a safe and dignified manner.<sup>113</sup> In 2019, IOM facilitated the movement of 1,681 Somali refugees to Somalia by boat from Aden in Yemen to a reception centre in Berbera. One third of those returning were men (33%), 27 per cent were women and 40 per cent were minors.



Wrecked boats in Obock, Djibouti. Photo: © IOM / Olivia Headon

110. UNHCR, Yemen: UNHCR Operational Update, 20 December 2019. Available from <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Yemen%20-%20UNHCR%20Operational%20Update%2C%2020%20December%202019.pdf> (accessed 3 April 2020).

111. UN News, "Humanitarian crisis in Yemen remains the worst in the world, warns UN", 14 February 2019. Available from <https://news.un.org/en/story/2019/02/1032811> (accessed 3 April 2020).

112. Another 34 stranded migrants received VHR support from Aden to their country of origin: main nationalities are Pakistan, Bangladesh, Morocco, Egypt, Nepal and India.

113. The Assisted Spontaneous Returns (ASRs) from Yemen are those emigrants that opt to return to Somalia on a voluntary basis. They are provided with assistance by IOM and passage home by UNHCR due to their prima facie refugee status in Yemen.



## HORN OF AFRICA ROUTE



An IDP woman and her child walk in the new section of the IDP camp in Doolow. Photo: © IOM / Muse Mohammed

Contrary to what was reported in 2018, when movements along the Horn of Africa corridor represented majority (52%) of all movements in the region, in 2019, 33 per cent (245,917) of all movements recorded reported to be travelling to Somalia (49%), Ethiopia (35%), Djibouti (15%), and Eritrea (1%). The largest proportion of the migration originated in Ethiopia (49%), followed by Somalia (25%), Sudan (10%), and Djibouti (6%), with the rest of the movements originating in various other countries, including Kenya (6%), Eritrea (1%), and Yemen (1%). The highest proportion of unidirectional movements were from Ethiopia to Somalia (36%), while the second highest was from Somalia to Ethiopia (18%), followed by Ethiopia to Djibouti (11%) and Sudan to Ethiopia (10%).

The movements towards Somalia and Djibouti may represent a significant portion of migrants that are intending to eventually travel onwards to the Arab Peninsula, since both Djibouti and Somalia are often used as transit countries. Instead, the movement from Sudan to Ethiopia represents a long tradition of seasonal migration for economic reasons.<sup>114</sup> A similar trend is observed when movements from Ethiopia to Sudan are considered (part of the Northern Route).

In terms of migration profiles, more diversity is seen along the Horn of Africa (HoA) Route as compared to other routes. The largest proportion of migrants were nationals of Somalia (47%), with an almost equally large proportion from Ethiopia (42%), with the remainder from various other countries. The migration was also diverse in terms of sex and age disaggregation, with the population consisting of approximately one-third adult males, one-third adult females, and one-third children.

The reduction in movements tracked along the HoA Route as compared to 2018 does not represent an actual reduction in migration, but is most likely indicative of a restructuring of the flow monitoring network that was carried out in the latter half of 2018 with the goal of minimizing redundancies.

114. European Union (EU) Emergency Trust Fund For Africa, "Sudan and Ethiopia met for the first time to discuss improvements to seasonal labour migration", 21 August 2018. Available from [https://ec.europa.eu/trustfundforafrica/all-news-and-stories/sudan-and-ethiopia-met-first-time-discuss-improvements-seasonal-labour\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/trustfundforafrica/all-news-and-stories/sudan-and-ethiopia-met-first-time-discuss-improvements-seasonal-labour_en) (accessed 3 April 2020).

## NORTHERN ROUTE: MIGRANTS FROM THE EAST AND HORN OF AFRICA IN EUROPE

The Northern Route for migration movements from Sub-Saharan Africa towards North Africa, and further towards European countries, has received widespread media attention, and often cited as one of the most utilized migratory routes on the globe. Despite the perceived importance of this route, so far there is very little evidence to suggest that Europe is a priority destination for migrants travelling from the East and Horn of Africa (EHOA) travelling through this route. Although DTM has had operational limitations in covering this route, the data collected through the various FMPs indicated that most migration along this route was from Ethiopia to Sudan (57%).

A total of 15,414 movements were observed along the Northern Route, which represents a reduction of 53 per cent as compared to the 32,840 movements observed in 2018.<sup>115</sup> Most of these were originating in Ethiopia (60%), while the remainder were originating in Somalia (35%) and Eritrea (3%), or travelling from various other countries in Africa. Of the movements tracked along the Northern Route, 5,753 movements (37%) were reported to be intended to travel towards a country in Europe, with majority selecting Germany (46%) or Italy (38%) as their intended final destinations. This is a reduction as compared to 2018, when 45 per cent of overall observed movements were intended towards Europe.

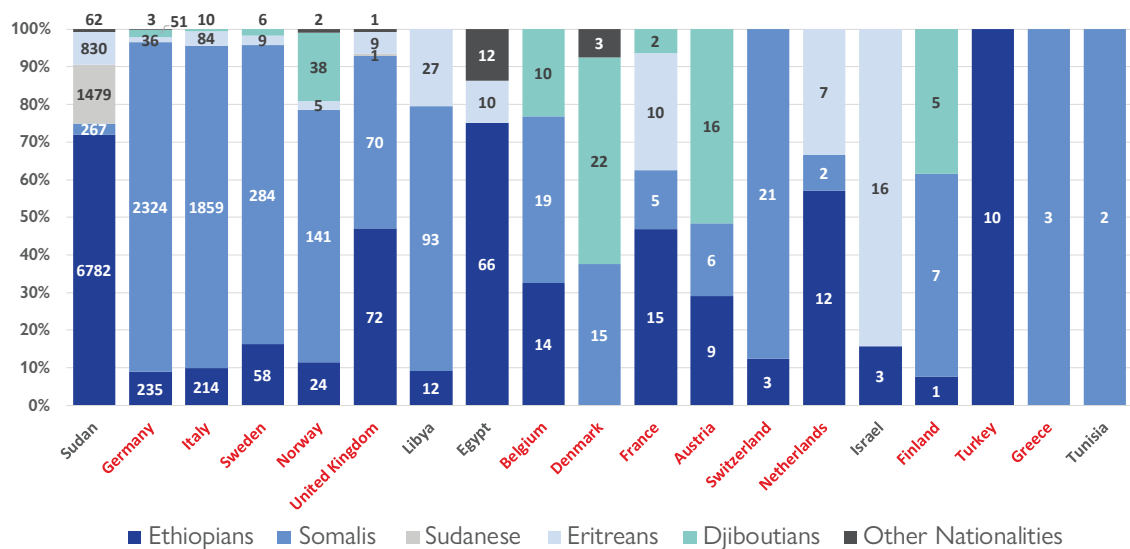


Figure 21: Nationalities tracked along the Northern Route by intended destinations.

As Figure 21 shows, despite countries of origin suggesting the contrary, the majority of migration intended towards Europe consisted of Somali nationals (83%), mostly travelling towards Germany (49%) or Italy (39%). Out of all individuals tracked along the Northern Route, 12 per cent were Ethiopian nationals, most of which declared Germany (35%) and Italy (32%) as countries of intended destinations. In addition, 3 per cent Eritrean and Djibouti nationals were also tracked travelling towards Europe, the latter of which is an unusual finding, and something which needs more research around. Overall, the movements towards Europe constituted less than 1 per cent of all movements tracked in the EHOA, which is consistent with what was reported in 2018. The demographics of the average migrant along the Northern Route is very similar to the migration along the Eastern Route. Most migrants were adult males (54%), or adult females (36%), and only 8 per cent male children, and 2 per cent female children, were travelling along this route. Of all migration, about 5 per cent consisted of unaccompanied children, which made up 45 per cent of all children observed. In terms of this proportion, this is the highest seen along any route. Most migrants travelled for economic reasons (74%) or are taking part in short-term local movement (12%).

As the last country of transit for migrants from the EHOA headed to Europe, Libya is a key country of transit for migrants travelling along the Northern Route. Migrants from the EHOA made up a small percentage (around 5%) of the total migrant stock recorded by IOM in Libya between November and December 2019. Of the 33,240 EHOA migrants recorded in Libya during this time period, 46

115. Likely indicative of operational changes/reduction in redundancies.

per cent were Somali nationals (15,445), 26 per cent were Eritrean nationals (8,663), 25 per cent were Ethiopian nationals (8,352) and 2 per cent were Kenyan nationals (780).<sup>116</sup>

Insights into the profiles of migrants on the move in Libya can be gleaned from interviews with 212 EHoA migrants who were surveyed as part of IOM's DTM Flow Monitoring Survey (FMS).<sup>117</sup> As was the case in 2018, most migrants (85%) of all EHoA nationalities were travelling in a group rather than alone, 56 per cent of these were travelling with relatives. Somalis (95%) and Eritreans (91%) were most likely to be travelling in groups, followed by Ethiopians (71%). Eritreans (59%) and Ethiopians (64%) were more commonly travelling with relatives than with non-relatives, while Somalis were slightly more likely to be travelling with non-relatives (54%).

To reach Libya, most Eritreans (95%) transited only through Sudan, while 5 per cent travelled through Sudan and Egypt. Similarly, most Ethiopians migrated through Sudan directly to Libya (74%). The remaining Ethiopians transited through Eritrea and Sudan before reaching Libya (11%), migrated via Sudan and Egypt (5%), travelled through South Sudan and Sudan to Libya (5%) or through Sudan and Chad (5%). Somalis most commonly travelled via Ethiopia and Sudan (50%) or through Yemen and Sudan (31%) to Libya. Another 8 per cent of Somalis transited through Djibouti before passing through Ethiopia, Sudan and Chad. Over 50 per cent of all EHoA migrants in Libya had been in Libya for more than one year at the point of interview, while 48 per cent had been in Libya for less than a year.

Overall, a lack of employment opportunities (25%) and other economic reasons (18%) were reported as the main reason for migration by slightly under half of the respondents. Eritreans most commonly migrated due to a lack of job opportunities (22%) or other economic reasons (22%), followed by insufficient income (16%). The proportion of Eritreans reporting 'war or conflict' as their primary reason for migration decreased from 39 per cent in 2018 to 12 per cent in 2019. Ethiopians most commonly cited the lack of employment opportunities (25%) or other economic reasons (16%), followed by war or conflict (14%), insufficient income (14%) and targeted violence or persecution (12%).

In contrast, Somalis were most likely to be migrating due to a lack of job opportunities (29%), war or conflict (22%), as well as targeted violence and persecution (20%). Eritreans (66%) and Somalis (63%) were more likely than Ethiopians (47%) to be unemployed prior to migration. Ethiopians were also the most likely to be employed in Libya (56%) compared to Eritreans (50%) and Somalis (44%). Overall, employment rates among EHoA migrants were reported to be substantially lower than the average of 79 per cent measured across all nationalities in FMS in Libya in 2019. Ethiopians, on average, displayed higher levels of education than the other two nationalities, with 75 per cent having attained at least middle school level, compared to 53 per cent of Eritreans and 38 per cent of Somalis.

IOM estimated that 1,204 migrants from the EHoA region were detained in government-run detention centres in Libya as of early 2020, including 1,006 Eritreans, 190 Somalis and 8 Ethiopians.<sup>118</sup> This is particularly concerning given the poor conditions in migrant detention centres in the country, with severe overcrowding, a lack of basic standards such as access to toilets, food and clean water and abuse frequently reported. DTM surveys conducted by IOM in Italy in 2018 give evidence to the very high number of migrants who reported experiences of exploitation, abuse and trafficking while travelling along the Central Mediterranean Route. Of the 1,606 migrants interviewed, 70 per cent answered 'yes' to at least one of the five indicators of human trafficking, abuse or exploitation and 61 per cent reported having experienced physical violence during their journey. Around 87 per cent of all abusive and exploitative events captured by these five indicators had taken place in Libya. Furthermore, over half of the migrants interviewed (55%) reported that they had been held against their will at some point during their journey by armed group and individuals not associated with relevant government authorities, 93 per cent of these incidents occurred in Libya.<sup>119</sup> However, it should be noted that interviews with arrivals in Europe do not necessarily reflect the experiences of Libya's migrant population as a whole, primarily composed of migrant workers attracted by economic opportunities in Libya.

116. DTM Libya Data Round 28, November - December 2019.

117. Of the interviewed migrants, 78 were Ethiopians, 70 were Eritreans, and 64 were Somalis.

118. DTM Libya Data January 2020.

119. IOM, Flow Monitoring Surveys Analysis: Profile and Reported Vulnerabilities of Migrants along the Eastern, Central and Western Mediterranean Route, April 2019.



In a study implemented in 2019 by DTM Libya and Columbia University, among 1,244 interviewed migrants who had been in Libya for more than one year, around 15 per cent of the sample indicated having experienced incidences of abuse.<sup>120</sup> Moreover, FMS data from Libya indicates that most migrants have 'limited access' (74%) or 'no access' (13%) to health services in Libya, with Ethiopians being most likely to have 'no access' (26%) compared to Eritreans (9%) and Somalis (6%).

IOM's DTM also publishes data on arrivals by sea in the Mediterranean region, provided by national authorities and based on declared and registered nationalities upon disembarkation. According to data collected from government authorities, a total of 3,452 migrants from the EHoA were registered across European arrival points in Greece, Italy and Spain upon disembarkation in 2019.<sup>121</sup> This marks a 27 per cent decrease compared to 2018, when 4,624 EHoA migrants were registered upon arrival in these three countries. Another 649 EHoA nationals were registered in Cyprus and Malta. In contrast to previous years when Eritreans were the most common EHoA nationality arriving in Europe, Somalis made up the majority of those arriving in 2019 (3,193 of the 4,101 arrivals), followed by Eritreans (610) and Ethiopians (109).

Moreover, Greece recorded the largest number of EHoA disembarking in Europe (70% of total), unlike in 2018 when the majority of EHoA were recorded in Italy. This trend is in line with an overall decrease of arrivals from Libya to Italy since 2017. This downward trend in EHoA arrivals to Europe is likely the result of changes in policy. In February 2017, Italy signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Libya's National Reconciliation Government to curb the flow of migrants from Libya to Italy. Shortly after, the Members of the European Council issued the Malta Declaration focused on actions to reduce migratory flows, reduce the activities of smugglers in the Mediterranean and save lives by providing trainings to the Libyan Coast Guard to enhance their search and rescue capacities.

This significantly impacted arrival numbers in Italy in 2017 (which dropped from 59,460 in Q2 to 21,957 in Q3), a decrease which continued throughout 2018 (23,370 in 2018 compared to 119,369 arrivals in 2017) and 2019.<sup>122</sup> These changes prompted Malta to begin conducting Search and Rescue (SAR) operations.

While the number of first-instance asylum applications lodged by Eritreans in Europe's southern countries, in particular Italy, has decreased compared to 2017 and 2018, the number of first-instance asylum applications lodged by Eritreans in other countries has increased or remains relatively constant, thereby indicating that migrants do not necessarily apply for asylum in the first country they arrive in Europe. Italy received 6,370 first-instance asylum applications by Eritreans in 2017, 845 in 2018 and only 240 in 2019, thereby marking a 96 per cent decrease from 2017 to 2019. The number of first-instance applications by Eritreans in Spain and Greece also decreased (from 150 in Spain in 2017 to 30 in 2019; from 320 in Greece in 2017 to 305 in 2019), although the number of Eritrean arrivals in these countries has been very low compared to the number arriving in Italy, the main disembarkation country for EHoA arrivals in Europe. Further north, however, the number of first-instance Eritrean asylum applications increased in Belgium by 59 per cent from 2018 to 2019 (from 725 to 1,155), increased by 53 per cent in Sweden (from 750 in 2018 to 1,150 in 2019) and remained fairly constant in Switzerland (2,495 in 2018 to 2,500 in 2019), thereby indicating that although arrivals have decreased, there may still be a significant number of EHoA migrants in Europe who have not been officially registered by local authorities.<sup>123</sup>

In 2019, 9,225 migrants including migrants from the EHoA were returned to Libya's shores, where concerns for their security continue to be great, due to the conditions in detention centres in the country.<sup>124</sup> Nearly 1,000 migrants were returned to Libyan shores in the first two weeks of 2020, as push-backs at sea continue into the new year.<sup>125</sup>

120. DTM Libya, Columbia University, Living and working in the midst of conflict: The status of long-term migrants in Libya (forthcoming).

121. The information on nationality breakdown provided in this report is based on the nationality declared by migrants as reported by the Hellenic Authorities, Italian Ministry of Interior and Spanish authorities. It is to be noted that Italian authorities only report the top-10 nationalities, hence the number of migrant arrivals from the EHoA might be slightly higher.

122. DTM, Mixed Migration Flows to Europe Monthly Overview (June 2019), August 2019. Available from <https://migration.iom.int/reports/europe---mixed-migration-flows-europe-monthly-overview-june-2019?close=true> (accessed 3 April 2020).

123. EUROSTAT Database [migr\_asyappctza] (accessed 3 March 2020).

124. IOM, IOM Libya Update (16-31 December 2019), January 2020. Available from <https://reliefweb.int/report/libya/iom-libya-update-16-31-december-2019> (accessed 3 April 2020).

125. Peter Kenny, "Nearly 1,000 migrants returned to Libya in 2020: IOM", 14 January 2020. Available from <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/africa/nearly-1-000-migrants-returned-to-libya-in-2020-iom/1702217> (accessed 3 April 2020).



Italian Coast Guards rescue migrants bound for Italy. Photo: © IOM / Francesco Malavolta



## SOUTHERN ROUTE



New migrants arrive at the IOM transit centre in Nairobi, Kenya. Photo: © IOM / Muse Mohammed

The Southern Route tracks movements intended towards countries mainly in Southern Africa (though a few movements towards other countries in Africa were also recorded). Current Flow Monitoring (FM) coverage along this route tends to be geographically and operationally limited. In terms of proportion, the percentage of movements along this route has decreased since 2018, from 6 per cent to 2 per cent of all movements (14,548) tracked. However, considering that the overall movements tracked in this year are lower than the previous, this is a reduction in absolute terms of 69 per cent as compared to the 47,545 movements tracked in 2018.<sup>126</sup> A large portion of this decrease may be attributed to a re-organization of the FMPs from Somalia to Kenya. The movements reduced from over 33,000 in 2018 to around 13,000 in 2019; these make up around 94 per cent of overall movements along the Southern Route, compared to 85 per cent in 2018.

Most of the movements from Somalia to Kenya in 2019 were short-term local movements and seasonal movements (54%, compared to 49% in 2018), likely part of the regular (circular) migration that happens along the border areas in the two countries. In addition, there was also 13 per cent forced movement due to conflicts and natural disasters which is a reduction from 23 per cent on 2018.

A reduction in FMPs along the Ethiopia-Kenya border due to resource limitations may also be the reason for this decrease in figures – movements towards the Republic of South Africa were 4,268 in 2018 (8%) compared to just 133 in 2019 (1%). Anecdotal stories, and literature available suggests that this route is far more important than the flow monitoring numbers suggest. The Republic of South Africa, in particular, as a more affluent African country, is perceived to be a beneficial destination for migrants looking to improve their financial circumstances. Most of the migration to this

<sup>126</sup> Reduction likely indicative of operational changes



country in 2018 was economically driven (94%), and similarly in 2019, the little migration intended towards the Republic of South Africa was mostly economic (90%).

In terms of overall departures, most movements along the Southern Route originated from Somalia (95%), while slightly less than 5 per cent originated in Ethiopia. Similarly, the vast majority of migrants were tracked were Somali nationals (92%) while 4 per cent were Kenyan nationals, and 2 per cent were Ethiopian nationals. This is slightly different from the migration tracked in 2018, when over 20 per cent Ethiopian, and only 2 per cent Kenyans were tracked on this route.<sup>127</sup>

The demographics of the migrants along the Southern Route are similar to the migration tracked along the Horn of Africa (HoA) Route, where there is an even sex and age balance, with a total of 34 per cent adult males, 29 per cent adult females, and 37 per cent children (20% female and 17% male) tracked along this route, and only 2 per cent (of total) were unaccompanied, while 11 per cent were under the age of five years. In addition, 7 per cent pregnant and/or lactating women, and 5 per cent elderly migrants were also tracked. Around 2 per cent of the moving population consisted of people living with disabilities.

The classic Southern Route, which runs from the East and Horn of Africa (EHoA) towards the Republic of South Africa, remains largely understudied with little current data available. In 2009, IOM estimated that as many as 20,000 migrants from the EHoA use this route per year.<sup>128</sup> In 2017, the Mixed Migration Centre estimated that between 14,750 and 16,850 migrants travel along this route annually.<sup>129</sup>

Between 17 June and 25 July 2019, IOM Tanzania conducted joint verification missions to 27 prisons across the United Republic of Tanzania in which Ethiopian nationals were detained, identifying 1,354 Ethiopian migrants in detention, of whom 219 were identified as minors. Other EHoA nationals were also identified, including Burundians (34), Somalis (10), Kenyans (5), Rwandans (3), Ugandans (3) and Eritreans (2). These number are merely indicative of the likely sizeable number of EHoA nationals who migrate along this route annually.

A previous research study on minors along the Southern Route, conducted jointly by the Mixed Migration Centre and UNICEF in 2018, offers some insight into the profiles of children migrating along the Southern Route to the Republic of South Africa (interviews were conducted in the Republic of South Africa, Zimbabwe and Zambia). Approximately half of the 870 children interviewed reported that their main motivation for migrating was violence and/or insecurity. Children's perceived chances of finding employment and sending remittances home, access to educational opportunities and medical care as well as the opportunity to reunite with family members were also reported as influencing destination choice.<sup>130</sup>

The same research study also revealed that regardless of their legal status in the country in which the children were interviewed, minors moving along the Southern Route face a multitude of protection challenges such as lack of access to basic services, kidnapping and detention. A shocking 25 per cent of children reported that they did not have access to clean drinking water or food and over half had no access to shelter. Protection risks were heightened in cases of unaccompanied children as well as for those travelling without documentation. Almost one fourth of all interviewees were unaccompanied and less than half (40%) were carrying documentation when they began their journey. Minors who are unable to identify themselves as children may be subjected to deportation and or detention as undocumented adults. Almost 16 per cent of children interviewed for the study reported having been detained, on average for around four months, and 12 per cent of children reported experiences of kidnapping or having been held against their will. In most cases (80%) criminals or smugglers perpetrated these abuses, usually until the children's families paid ransom.<sup>131</sup>

In 2020, IOM will launch a research project along the Southern Route to better gauge the nature of the movements, who is migrating, for what purpose and what protection challenges they face while doing so.

127. Operational issues in 2018 prevented complete nationality information from being collected, so these figures are estimates.

128. IOM, *In Pursuit of the Southern Dream: Victims of Necessity Assessment of the Irregular Movement of men from East Africa and the Horn to South Africa*, April 2009. Available from <https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/iomresearchassessment.pdf> (accessed 3 April 2020).

129. RMM'S Horn of Africa & Yemen, *Smuggled South: An updated overview of mixed migration from the Horn of Africa to southern Africa with specific focus on protections risks, human smuggling and trafficking*, March 2017. Available from <http://www.mixedmigration.org/resource/smuggled-south/> (accessed 3 April 2020), p.2.

130. IOM, *Fatal Journeys Volume 4: Missing Migrant Children*, June 2019. Available from [https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/fatal\\_journeys\\_4.pdf](https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/fatal_journeys_4.pdf) (accessed 3 April 2020).

131. Ibid.



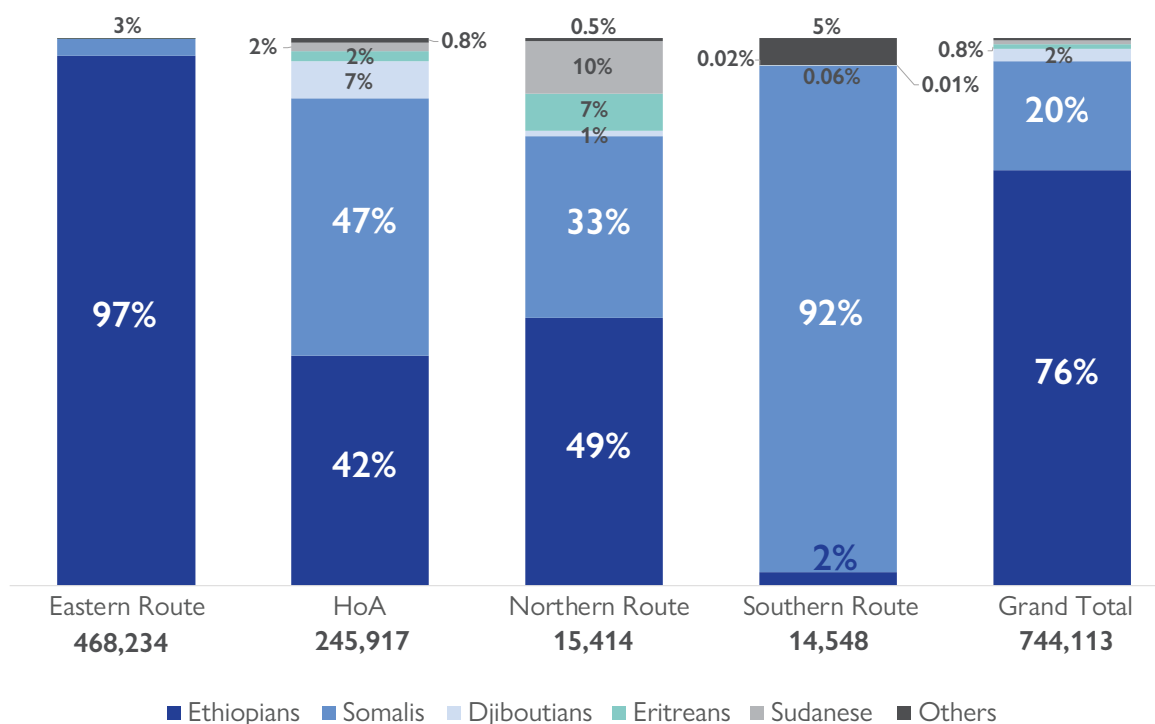


*In Alat Ela, migrants are filling up yellow cans with water taken out from a hole in the ground. Photo: © IOM / Alexander Bee*

## MIGRANT PROFILES

### Nationalities

Flow Monitoring Registry (FMR) data over the previous two and a half years consistently shows that most of the migration has been undertaken by nationals of Ethiopia. In 2018, DTM reported that 60 per cent of the tracked movements were Ethiopians, which increased to 76 per cent in 2019. The nationality with the second highest frequency has consistently been Somalia, with 27 per cent of those tracked in 2018, and 20 per cent in 2019. Nationals of Djibouti have the third highest overall representation amongst the mobile population, with 4 per cent tracked in 2018, and 2 per cent in 2019.



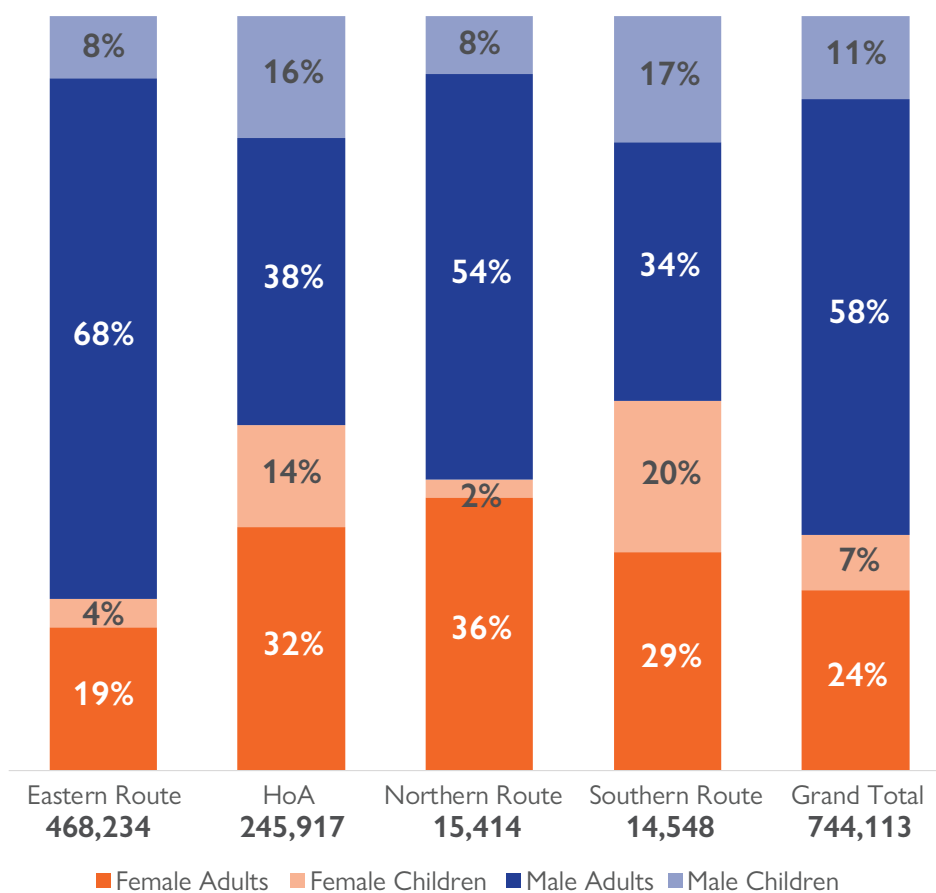
**Figure 22: Main nationalities tracked by route in the East and Horn of Africa (January to December 2019).**

As Figure 22 shows, Ethiopian nationals made up almost all the migrants along the Eastern Route (97%) which is a slight increase from 2018 (93%), while 3 per cent of the remaining migrants were made up of Somalia nationals (compared to 6% in 2018). The Horn of Africa (HoA) Route, as in previous years, saw an almost even divide of Somali and Ethiopian nationals (47% and 42% respectively), followed by Djiboutian nationals (7%). This is close to the movements tracked along the HoA route in 2018. Unlike 2018, when the Northern Route was dominated by Ethiopians (73%), in 2019 there was a more even balance between Ethiopian (49%) and Somali (33%) nationals. Along the Southern Route in 2019, almost all migrants (92%) were Somali nationals, however, as has been indicated, the FMPs mostly track movements between Somalia and Kenya.

### Sex and Age

Of all movements tracked through the FMPs established in the Yemen and Horn of Africa (HoA) region, the most common migrant demographic was adult male (58%). As Figure 23 shows, over half of the overall movements were undertaken by adult males, followed by adult females (24%), and male children (11%). Only 7 per cent of all migrants were female children. These patterns are not universal across the region, and across the various routes along the migration network they differ significantly. The sex and age profile of the average migrant is dependent upon the nature of migration, including reasons and duration. While migrants along the Eastern Route are overwhelmingly adult males (69%) followed by adult females (19%), those travelling along the HoA Route are adult males (38% of the total flow), adult females (32%), and children (30%).





**Figure 23: Sex and age breakdown of all movements tracked in the East and Horn of Africa region and Yemen.**

This is consistent with current literature indicating that economic factors are the primary driver along the Eastern Route. Shorter-term migration more prevalent in the HoA Route, which is often undertaken by whole families. The literature shows that migration along the Eastern Route is undertaken by individuals that are interested in building a stronger economic foundation to support their families in areas of origin.<sup>132</sup>

Although the sample sizes for Northern and Southern Routes are not large enough to draw definitive conclusions, the demographic breakdown for these is also consistent with literature, as it shows that the Northern Route is more popular with adult males (54%) who are interested in longer-term economic migration. As for the movements between Somalia and Kenya, the demographics of the mobile population are similar to those on the HoA Route, with 34 per cent adult males, 29 per cent adult females, and 37 per cent children. On the Southern Route, adult males tend to travel alone to the Republic of South Africa, while females tend to be flown into Mozambique or Zimbabwe and arrange for them to be smuggled the short distance into the Republic of South Africa.<sup>133</sup>

The sex and age distribution has remained fairly consistent over the past two years. In 2018, adults made up 66 per cent of migration along the Eastern Route, while the HoA Route had 34 per cent adult males (and 32 per cent adult females, and 33 per cent children). The Northern Route had an almost equal proportion of adult males (49%) and adult females (42%), and 9 per cent children as compared to 10 per cent in 2019. The Southern Route was male dominated, with 42 per cent males, 27 per cent females, and 31 per cent children.

132. See 'Reasons for Migration' and 'The Desire to Thrive Regardless of the Risk: Research on Young Ethiopian Migrants in Obock, Djibouti' under 'Regional Mixed Migration Trends'.

133. IOM, In Pursuit of the Southern Dream: Victims of Necessity Assessment of the Irregular Movement of men from East Africa and the Horn to South Africa, April 2009.

## Vulnerabilities

DTM collects information on vulnerabilities amongst moving populations through Flow Monitoring Registry (FMR). During 2019, a total of 97,148 vulnerabilities were tracked amongst 744,113 migration movements in Djibouti, Ethiopia, Somalia, and Yemen. As Figure 24 shows, the largest vulnerability group was Unaccompanied Migrant Children (UMCs), which made up 4 per cent of the overall population. This means that of the 136,763 children tracked through the FMPs, almost a quarter (23%) were unaccompanied.






-  **4.3%** Unaccompanied migrant children
-  **3.2%** Children under 5 years of age
-  **2.2%** Elderly (60+)
-  **2.1%** Pregnant and/or lactating women
-  **1.3%** People living with disability

Figure 24: Vulnerabilities tracked in the East and Horn of Africa region and Yemen.

There were also 3 per cent children under the age of five years tracked amongst the moving population, while 2 per cent of all movements consisted of elderly people (over the age of 60). In addition, 2 per cent were pregnant women, and 1 per cent of migrants recorded had disabilities. Since these vulnerabilities are self-reported, there is a high probability that they are under-represented in the data. UMCs particularly may be more prevalent as migrants are likely to provide false information about their being minors.

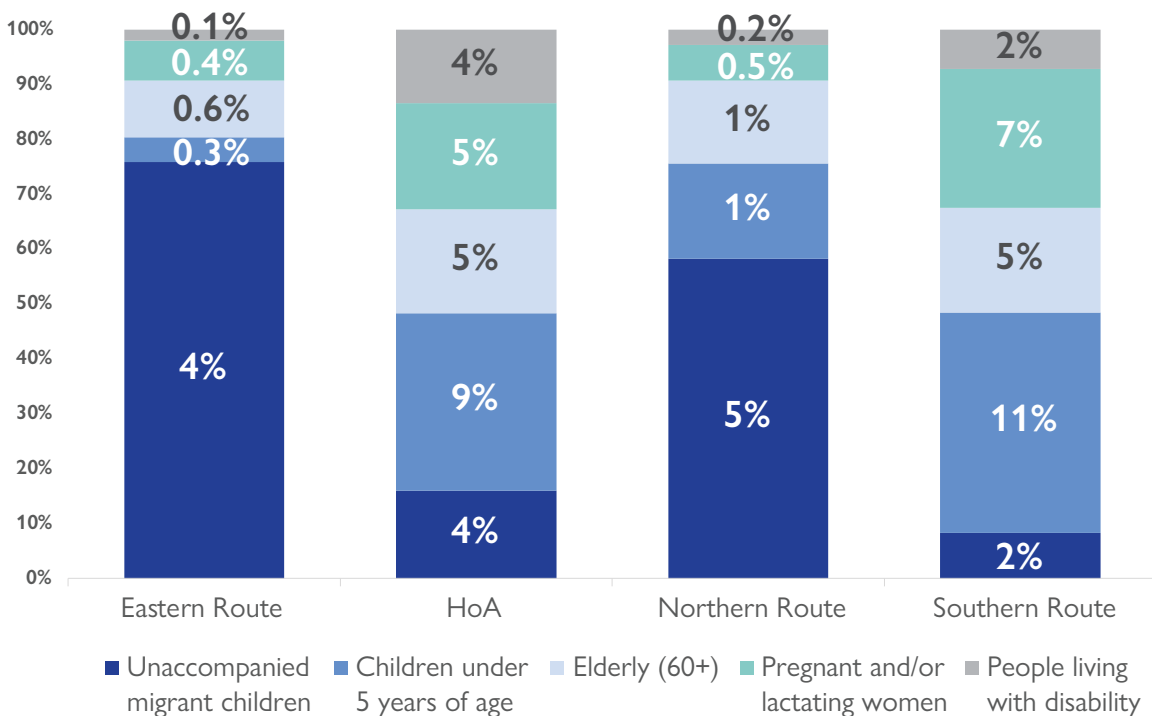


Figure 25: Vulnerabilities tracked in the East and Horn of Africa region and Yemen by route.

As Figure 25 shows, the highest instance of UMCs was tracked along the Northern Route (5%), closely followed by the Eastern and HoA Routes (4%, respectively). However, considering the absolute numbers of migrants tracked rather than the proportions, twice as many instances were recorded along the Eastern Route (20,236 children) as compared to HoA Route (10,491). This is more than an order of magnitude greater than the Northern Route (696). There is also some evidence to suggest that the number of UMCs along the Eastern Route is even higher as other sources have reported more UMCs,<sup>134</sup> and young adults have the incentive to lie about their age given they are travelling alone.

The largest vulnerability category on the HoA Route was children under five (9%). Similarly, the highest instance of vulnerability tracked along the Southern Route was also of children under the age of five, which constituted 11 per cent of the total moving population. The instance of pregnant and/or lactating women was highest along the Southern (7%) and HoA (5%) routes, while less than 1 per cent were tracked on both Eastern and Northern Route, respectively.

Similar to other indicators, the Southern and HoA Routes also had high instances of elderly persons (5% each), while around 1 per cent were tracked on Eastern and Northern Routes, respectively. Instances of people living with disabilities were fairly low along all routes, with the highest proportion being tracked on the HoA (4%) and Southern Routes (2%). As for UMCs, this is another vulnerability that is likely to be under reported due to the stigma attached to it, particularly if the disability is not immediately visible upon observation.

UMCs, in particular, are of prime importance from a protection standpoint. As Figure 26 shows, although the absolute numbers of UMCs was highest along the Eastern Route (20,236), in terms of proportion of overall children tracked, almost half of all children tracked along the Northern Route were unaccompanied.

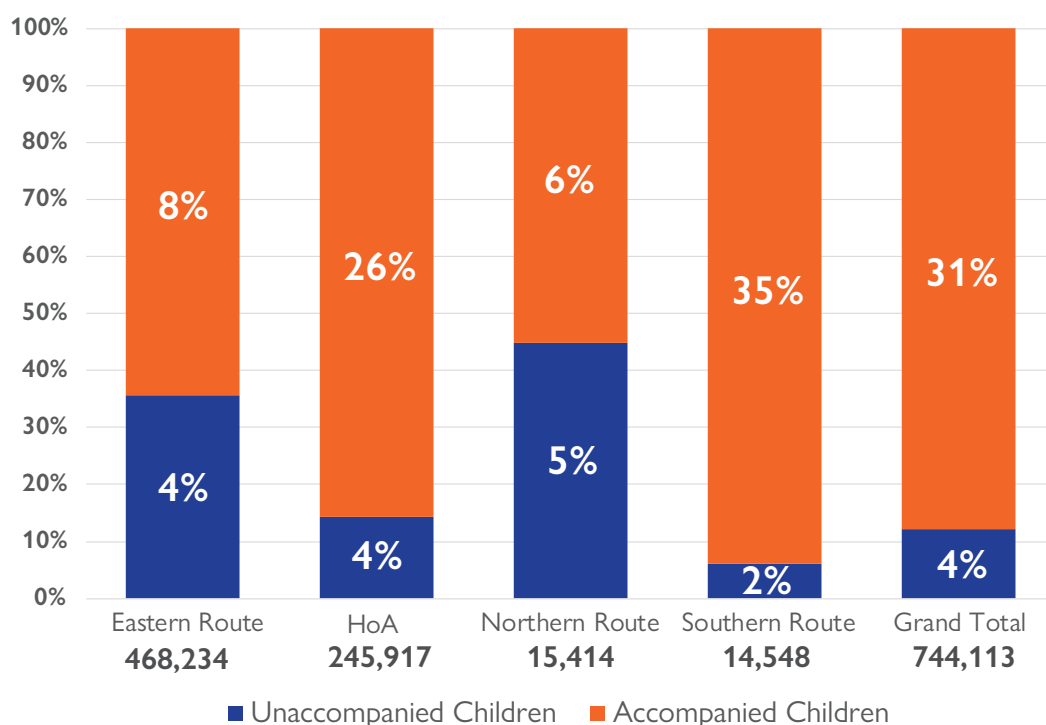


Figure 26: Unaccompanied children as a proportion of overall children.

134. See 'The Desire to Thrive Regardless of the Risk: Research on Young Ethiopian Migrants in Obock, Djibouti' and 'Migration Response Centres (MRCs) under 'Regional Mixed Migration Trends'.



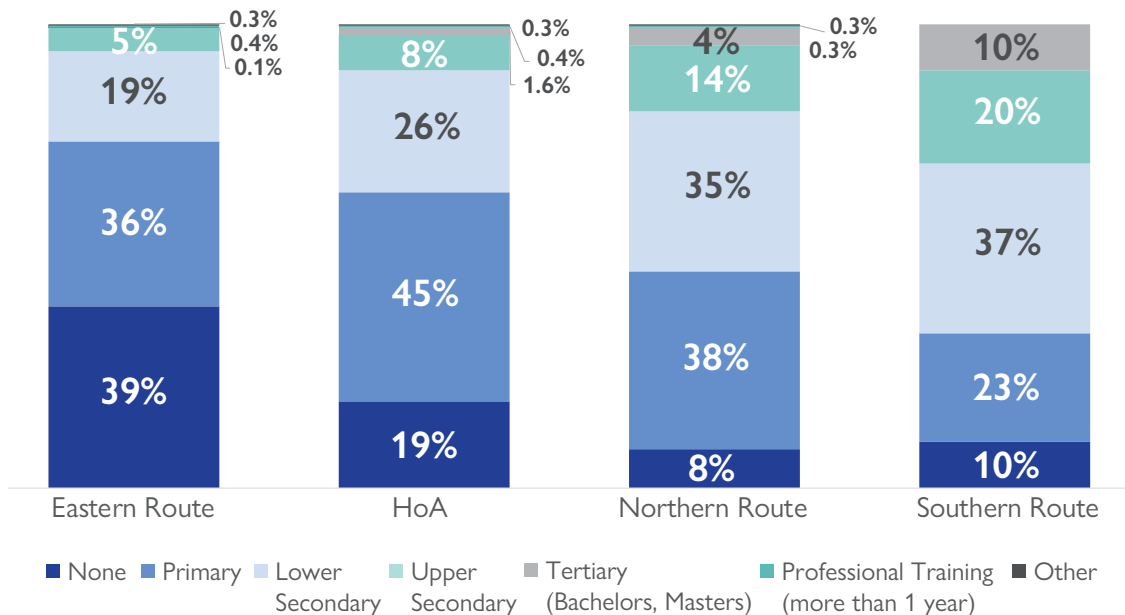




## Education and Employment

The data gathered through the Flow Monitoring Survey (FMS) served to expand on the insights gained through the Flow Monitoring Registry (FMR). It confirmed that most migration tracked in the region is motivated by economic factors. DTM teams carried out 7,489 surveys in Djibouti, Ethiopia, and Somalia – this is a smaller sample size than in 2018, when 11,936 surveys were conducted. The responses regarding migration drivers remain unchanged, with economic reasons being the primary drivers for migration in 2018 (43%) as well as 2019 (69%). The migration profile of the average migrant is consistent with that described earlier in the report, which indicates that migration was undertaken by those whose employment prospects in their country of origin were not adequate.

When educational attainment prior to migration is compared with the migration, it is evident that the least educated were more likely to attempt migration than those with a higher level of education – an assumption can be made that more economic opportunities are available for those with a stronger academic background. A majority of the migrants tracked in the three countries were either educated to primary level (39%) or had no formal education (28%). The proportion differs slightly when the various routes are considered.



**Figure 27: Education attained prior to migration by route.**

Figure 27 shows that on average, migrants on the Eastern and Horn of Africa (HoA) Routes were less educated as compared to those on the Northern and Southern Routes. Along the Eastern Route, 39 per cent migrants have no formal education, and 36 per cent have only primary level education. Along the HoA Route, 19 per cent have no formal education, and 45 per cent have completed primary school. On the other hand, along the Northern Route, a combined 49 per cent have completed some level of secondary school, compared to 57 per cent for migrants along the Southern Route. Only 8 per cent migrants along the Northern Route and 10 per cent along the Southern Route reported not having any formal education. In addition, the Southern Route also has the largest proportion of migrants with tertiary education (10%). The breakdown does not change significantly when the sex of the migrant is considered.

Migrants along the Northern Route have consistently been reported to be better educated when surveys from the last two years are considered. Only 7 per cent migrants along the Northern Route were uneducated in 2018. Along the Southern Route, 30 per cent of migrants had primary education, and 45 per cent migrants had secondary level education in 2018. However, the education profile of migrants along the HoA Route has changed from the previous year, when uneducated migrants were the largest category (49%). The trend has also changed for the migrants along the Eastern Route as compared to 2018, when only 31 per cent were completely uneducated.

Although a large portion of this may be due to sampling bias (samples for migrants travelling on Northern and Southern Routes were much smaller as compared to other routes), another explanation may be given by the fact that those travelling towards Europe (North) or the Republic of South Africa (South), are usually seeking more formal sector jobs, while those on the Eastern (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia) and HoA Routes are more likely looking for labor-intensive jobs.<sup>135</sup> There is also a perception amongst migrants that higher paying jobs are available in affluent countries, like those in Europe and the Republic of South Africa. Years of migration along the Eastern Route show that migrants are more aware of the types of jobs available in affluent middle eastern countries (including shepherding, daily labour, farming and domestic works for female), and understand that education is not necessarily a pre-requisite.<sup>136</sup>

The migrants surveyed were also asked about their prior employment experience, and most reported to have lacked formal employment. Over half of all migrants (58%) reported being unemployed and looking for a job prior to migration, while another 26 per cent were self-employed, likely in agriculture. As Figure 28 shows, the disparity is even more evident when the routes are disaggregated. Around 82 per cent migrants along the Eastern Route were unemployed prior to migration, and only 15 per cent were self-employed.

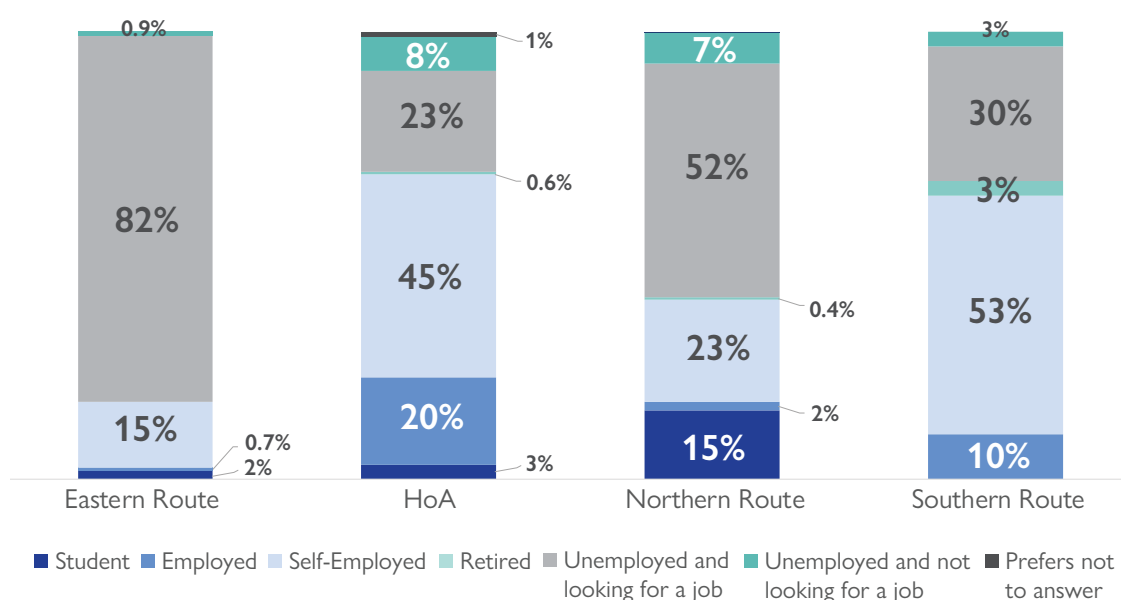


Figure 28: Employment status prior to migration by route.

Almost half of the migrants along the HoA Route were self-employed, while only 23 per cent were unemployed. This is consistent with most migration along this route being short-term and seasonal – and is likely related to agriculture. As for migrants along the Eastern Route, the majority of migrants on the Northern Route (52%) were also unemployed prior to migration, and 23 per cent were self-employed. This proportion is inverted for the migrants along the Southern Route, where most (53%) were self-employed prior to migration, and 30 per cent were unemployed. The proportions did not differ much between males and females, though females were slightly more likely to be unemployed and not looking for a job prior to migration (8%) as compared to males (3%), which is consistent with women being more likely than men to be home makers and care-givers.

The surveys in 2019 also painted a slightly different picture as compared to 2018, when only 42 per cent of migrants were unemployed and actively looking for a job prior to migration. A slightly lower 27 per cent were self-employed in 2018, while 8 per cent were students (compared to 5% in 2019). The proportion by route remained unchanged through the following year, with 74 per cent of migrants along the Eastern Route being unemployed before migration and 34 per cent of migrants along the HoA Route being self-employed in 2018, prior to migration. In 2018, the disparity between male and females was overall more pronounced.

135. Pew Research Center, "At Least a Million Sub-Saharan Africans Moved to Europe Since 2010", 22 March 2018. Available from <https://www.pewresearch.org/global/2018/03/22/at-least-a-million-sub-saharan-africans-moved-to-europe-since-2010/> (accessed 3 April 2020); United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), Economic Development in Africa: Migration for Structural Transformation. Available from <https://unctad.org/en/Pages/ALDC/Africa/EDAR2018-Key-Statistics.aspx> (accessed 3 April 2020).

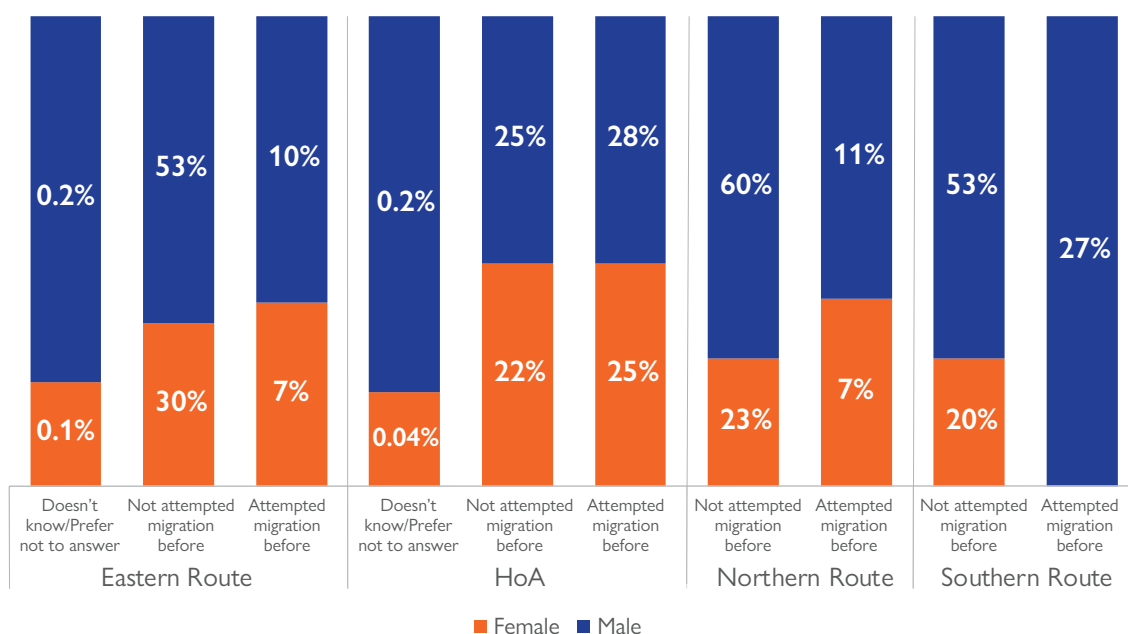
136. See 'The Desire to Thrive Regardless of the Risk: Research on Young Ethiopian Migrants in Obock, Djibouti' under 'Regional Mixed Migration Trends'.



## Previous Displacement and Migration Attempts

The Flow Monitoring Survey (FMS) is also useful to ascertain the supposed link between previous movements (displacement and migration) and subsequent migration attempts. Although the migration research carried out in Djibouti by the Regional Data Hub (RDH) delved into this subject in greater detail, the surveys conducted by DTM in the region indicate that there is likely to be correlation. Although a case can be made that migrants may not be completely open about their attempts at irregular migration, FMS data shows that for those currently attempting to migrate, 28 per cent had attempted migration before. This is slightly lower than in 2018, when 36 per cent migrants reported to have attempted migration at least once before.

There is some disparity between the attempts at migration depending upon the route migrants are travelling along. An estimated 53 per cent of migrants along the HoA Route had attempted migration before compared to 17 per cent along the Eastern Route, 27 per cent along the Southern, and 18 per cent along the Northern Route. This is consistent with indicators that demonstrate how migration along the HoA Route is more short-term and seasonal in nature.



**Figure 29: History of migration by sex as per FMS respondents (January to December 2019).**

As Figure 29 shows, although there are fewer female respondents (39%) than male respondents (61%) in the FMS, there are no marked differences to migration histories between sexes, except on the Southern Route where only males had attempted migration before. The sex breakdown is similar to 2018, with the exception that in the previous year, there were more females who were unaware of their migration status as compared to men.

Regarding displacement history, 9 per cent of the respondents (4% female, and 5% males) reported, in 2019, to have been displaced in the past. The highest percentage of those who experienced multiple displacements was observed along the Southern Route (50%), followed by the HoA Route (17%). This is consistent with the fact that displacement tends to be short term and limited to countries within the region. Of those travelling along the Eastern Route, only 2 per cent reported to have been displaced previously. This may be explained by the fact that those who have been displaced previously do not have the economic foundation to attempt long term migration, which is more prevalent along the Eastern Route.

As Figure 30 shows, the sex breakdown of this indicator has a higher variation. While females are more highly represented along the HoA Route as compared to the others, there was almost equal chance for females and males to have been displaced previously. This is consistent with the fact that families are usually displaced and move together.

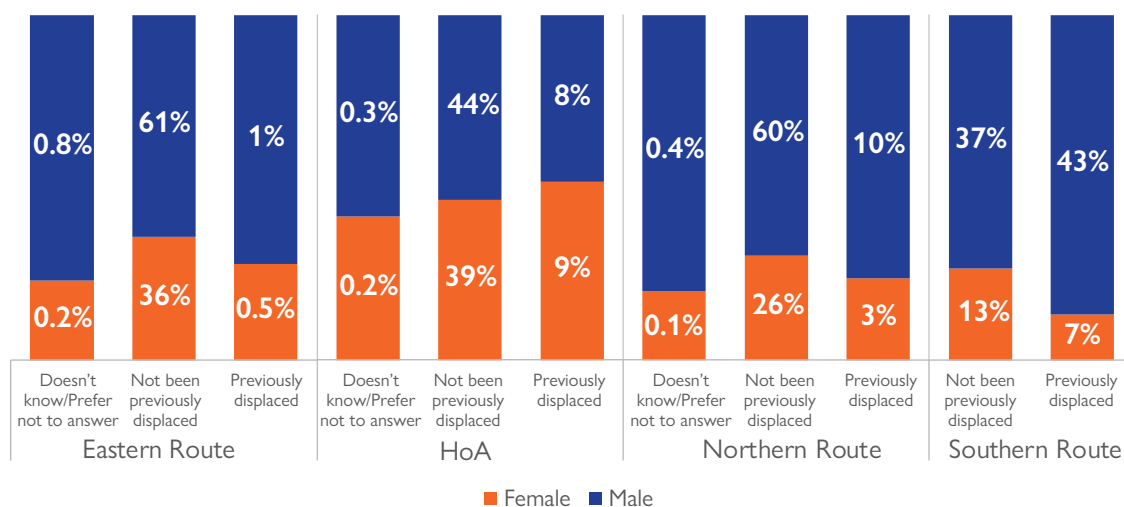


Figure 30: History of displacement by sex as per FMS respondents (January to December 2019).

Displacement histories are markedly different in 2019 compared to 2018, when 27 per cent of migrants reported to have been forcibly displaced prior to migration. Furthermore, in 2018, women were more likely to have been previously internally displaced (17%) compared to men (10%).

## Difficulties Faced

The Flow Monitoring Survey (FMS) provides insights on difficulties faced along the migration routes. However, the nature and quality of responses depends on both operational consistency, and methodological logic. In the current scenario, the results of this indicator are indicative of not just difficulties along the migration journey, but also the stage at which the respondent is most likely to have been surveyed. As in previous reporting periods, the highest instance of difficulties reported was along the HoA Route (70%), followed by the Eastern Route (28%), and the Northern Route (2%). No significant difficulties were reported along the Southern Route. In 2018, these proportions were very different, with 90 per cent of all difficulties being reported along the HoA Route, and only 3 per cent along the Eastern Route. Apart from operational differences, this may be indicative of the fact that more migrants in 2019 are being surveyed after having been en route for some time, as opposed to being at the beginning of their journey.

Figure 31 shows the breakdown of all reported difficulties. In 2018, as for 2019, the most commonly reported hardships were health issues, lack of shelter, and financial issues.

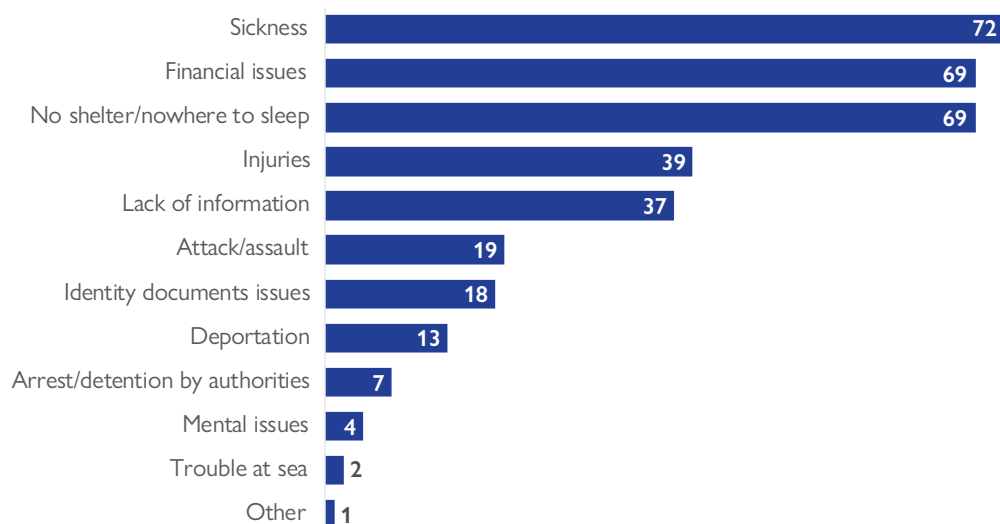


Figure 31: Difficulties faced in 2019.



Portrait of an Ethiopian migrant looking at the camera from inside the bus that will take him to Loayada from IOM transit centre in Obock. Photo: © IOM / Alexander Bee



## Reasons for Migration

Migration is a multifaceted event, driven by a combination of various factors and a complex decision-making process. Long-term migration may be particularly impacted by a different set of factors compared to short-term movements. Previous sections in this report have established that migration along the Eastern and Northern corridors is more long-term, and driven by economic factors. On the other hand, migration along the Horn of Africa (HoA) and Southern Routes, which encompass most countries in Africa, tends to be short-term.

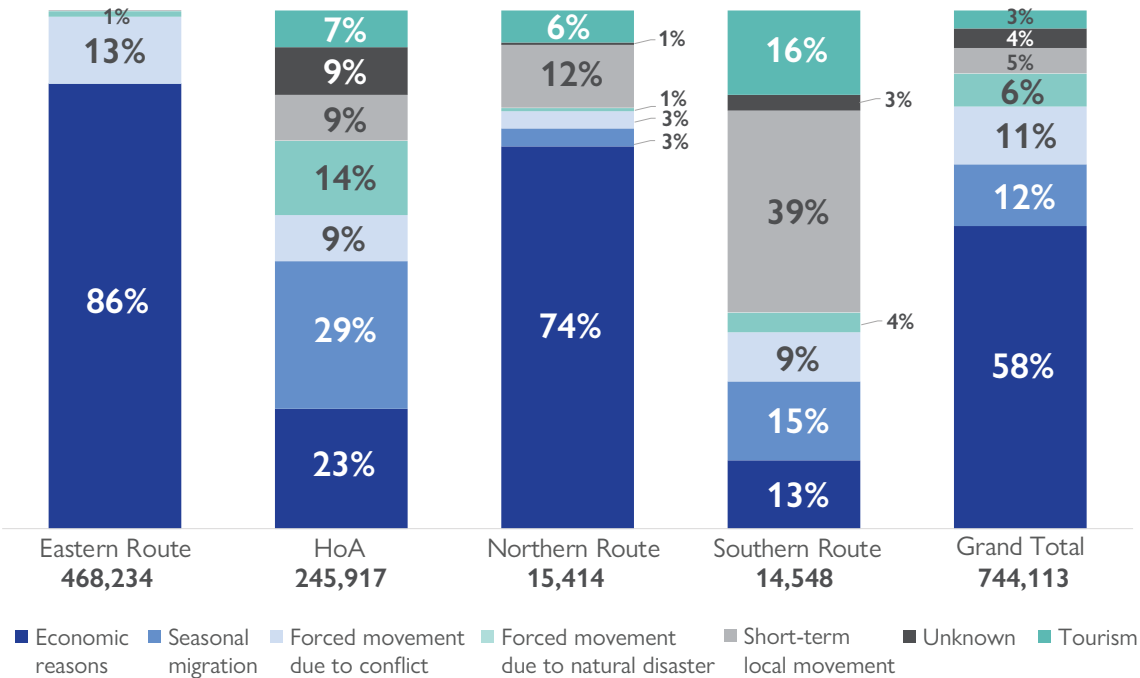


Figure 32: Reasons for migration by route.

Figure 32 illustrates the same point with more detail, taken from the data collected regionally by DTM through Flow Monitoring Registry (FMR). Along the Eastern and Northern Routes, economic migration dominated, accounting for 86 and 74 per cent of the total number, respectively. About 23 per cent and 13 per cent migration on HoA and Southern Routes was economically motivated, respectively. The latter routes had more evenly distributed migration drivers. The most frequently cited migration reason for HoA was seasonal migration (29%) while for Southern Route was short-term local movement (39%). The highest proportion of movements driven by conflict was also reported along the Eastern Route (13%), while the highest proportion of movements driven by natural disasters was reported along the HoA Route (9%).

In 2018, migration towards the East was predominantly motivated by economic reasons (85%), while the migration along the HoA Route was evenly balanced between the different drivers. The majority were seasonal (26%), followed by conflict driven (21%), economic (20%), and short-term local movement (14%).

## THE DESIRE TO THRIVE REGARDLESS OF THE RISK: RESEARCH ON YOUNG ETHIOPIAN MIGRANTS IN OBOCK, DJIBOUTI



*In Fantahero, a migrant is sitting on a branch while waiting to board a boat to Yemen during the night. Photo: © IOM / Alexander Bee*

In 2019, the Regional Data Hub (RDH) launched the first phase of a multi-stage research project aimed at better understanding the experiences, decision-making, perceptions, and expectations of young Ethiopians (15-29-year-olds migrating on the Eastern Route toward the Arab Peninsula) regarding their migration projects. Given the large number of young, Ethiopian migrants using this route, it was critical for IOM to understand what drives them to migrate east, despite the high-level of risk associated with this corridor. Obock and Bossaso were selected as the main study sites, as both receive a large number of Ethiopian migrants travelling on the Eastern Route, due to their location as one of the Horn's gateways to Yemen. The project involves both a quantitative phase and a qualitative phase in each study location, during which structured and semi-structured interviews as well as focus groups were conducted with a sample of young migrants. The final phase of this project will target communities of high emigration in

Ethiopia, where both returning, re-migrating and potential migrants will be interviewed to get a more comprehensive picture of their motivations, perceptions and expectations as well as a better understanding of the environment in which migration is occurring.

To better understand this group of migrants, the RDH surveyed 2,140 individuals belonging to three groups of young Ethiopian migrants at four congregation points in the Obock area between September and October 2019. Interviewees included first-time migrants (individuals migrating along the Eastern Route to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for the first time; 73% of total sample); re-migrating migrants (individuals migrating along the Eastern Route to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia who have attempted or successfully completed this journey at least once before; 14% of total sample) and returning migrants (individuals who have decided to return to Ethiopia with the help

of IOM's Assisted Voluntary Returns (AVR) programme; 12% of total sample).

Across all three migrant categories, economic factors were the most common drivers of migration. Between 72 per cent (returning migrants) and 83 per cent (re-migrating migrants) did not have a source of income in their communities prior to migration. Of those migrants who did have a source of income, 50 per cent of first-time migrants earned less than 61 USD per month, while 50 per cent of re-migrating migrants were earning less than 90 USD in their communities of origin. In contrast, 42 per cent of first-time migrants deem it 'likely' or 'very likely' that they will successfully enter the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and find employment, with the average expected income in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia at around 1,125 USD. For re-migrating migrants, 65 per cent of whom have attempted the journey at least twice prior to interview – it seems that previous migration projects and employment in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia have not increased their likelihood of finding employment in Ethiopia. Only 16 per cent had a source of income between migration journeys, compared to 21 per cent prior to their first migration, although it must be noted that 41 per cent of them spent less than one month at home before embarking on a new migration journey. Nonetheless, for those who did find employment in Ethiopia between migration projects, occupational status and earnings seem to have increased with daily labour no longer being the main source of monthly income (from 43% to 20%) and average earnings increasing from around 90 to 200 USD.

Despite Saudi Arabia's economic pull as a country where migrants can significantly increase their monthly earnings compared to their employment opportunities in Ethiopia, the vast majority interviewed for the study were looking forward to returning home in the future (90% of re-migrating and first-time migrants) once they have achieved their financial goals abroad, most commonly to open a business (16% of re-migrating migrants and 20% of first-time migrants) or build/buy a house (15% of re-migrating migrants and 11% of first-time migrants). Moreover, many study participants displayed strong levels of community connectedness, with 14 per cent of first-time migrants (11% of re-

migrating) reporting homesickness and 18 per cent of first-time migrants (19% of re-migrating migrants) expressing a desire to see and be reunited with their families. Returning migrants who have aborted their journey to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and are awaiting AVR at IOM's Migration Response Centres (MRCs), most commonly reported returning due to difficulties experienced during the journey. An estimated 38 per cent reported exhaustion, 12 per cent that the journey is dangerous, disease (14%) or not having funds to continue their journey (11%). The majority of migrants (87%) were planning on returning to their communities of origin, yet less than half of them informed their families of their return (46%), of whom 13 per cent reported their families had been disappointed with the news, 7 per cent said their families were 'angry' and 8 per cent reported that their families wished for them to migrate again. Nonetheless, only 1 per cent of returning migrants were planning another migration journey at the point of interview, with most migrants intending to find employment in Ethiopia (62%) or continue their education (19%). Of those migrants hoping to find employment in Ethiopia, only 32 per cent considered it 'likely' or 'very likely' that they will be able to find a job in Ethiopia.



## MISSING MIGRANTS PROJECT



Morning landscape of Alat Ela. Migrants are walking on the road. Photo: © IOM / Alexander Bee

In 2019, IOM's Missing Migrants Project recorded 66 migrants as dead and another 33 as missing.<sup>137</sup> The majority of recorded migrant deaths and disappearances (70) occurred during a boat incident off the coast of Djibouti on 29 January. The remaining incidents were a vehicle accident in October 2019, causing 11 fatalities as well as deaths due to dehydration, starvation or disease. It should be noted, however, that the actual number of migrant disappearances and deaths in the East and Horn of Africa region is likely far higher than the number recorded, as fatal incidents often occur in remote areas with little to no media coverage and on routes that have been chosen with the explicit aim of avoiding detection. Moreover, due to the irregular nature of most migration journeys in the region, it is difficult for migrants to report the deaths of fellow migrants and hard for authorities to trace and identify missing migrants and migrant fatalities. Limited resources among authorities and international organizations have further compounded the scarcity of information on migrant deaths.<sup>138</sup>

137. Actual numbers are likely higher. For more detail, visit <https://missingmigrants.iom.int/>.

138. Any information on incidents involving migrant fatalities should be reported to IOM's Missing Migrants Project at [MissingMigrants@iom.int](mailto:MissingMigrants@iom.int).

## MIGRANT RESPONSE CENTRES (MRCs)

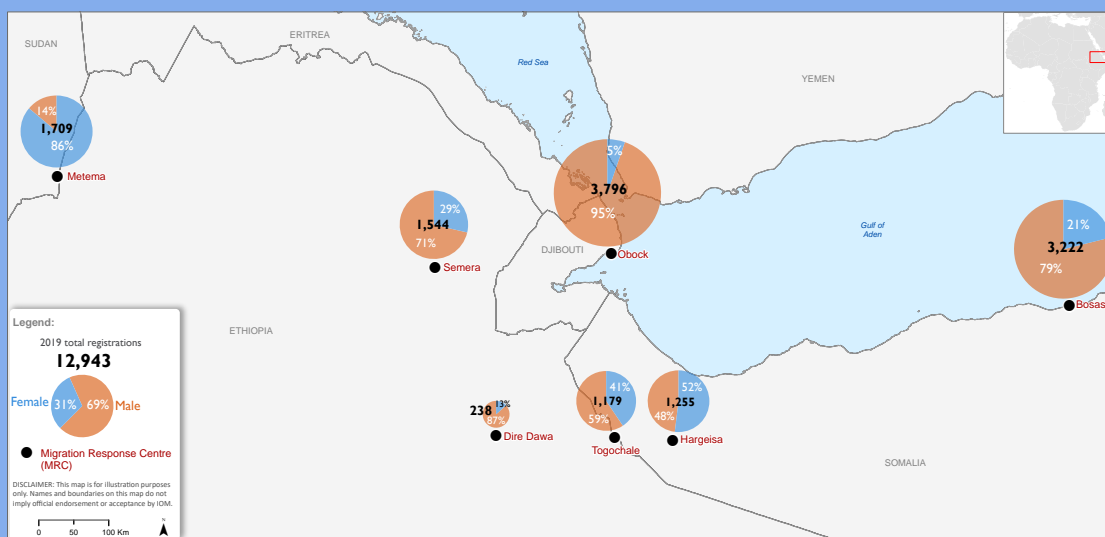


Figure 33: Caseload registered by sex at each MRC in the East and Horn of Africa.

Situated along key migration routes in Ethiopia, Somalia and Djibouti, the Migration Response Centres (MRCs) provide direct assistance, including food and health care as well as service referrals to migrants in need. The services provided by each MRC vary depending on migrant needs in the particular area. Seven MRCs are currently operated by national governments, IOM, and other partners in the East and Horn of Africa: Hargeisa and Bosasso since 2009, Djibouti since 2011, and Semera and Metema since 2014. In August 2019, upon request from the Government of Ethiopia, IOM opened two further MRCs in Dire Dawa and Togochale.

MRCs across the region registered 12,948 migrants in 2019. The largest number of migrants was registered in Obock (3,797), followed by Bosasso (3,222), Metema (1,710), Semera (1,544), Hargeisa (1,256), Togochale (1,179) and Dire Dawa (240). One third of all registrations were female (31%) and around 18 per cent were children. The largest numbers of children were registered in Hargeisa (744), Obock (540) and Bosasso (493). Children made up over half (59%) of all registrations in Hargeisa. While most registered children in Obock (85%), Semera (95%) and Bosasso (98%) were unaccompanied, almost all children in Hargeisa was accompanied (99%), as were the majority of children in Dire Dawa (74%). This reflects the nature of the respective MRCs, with Hargeisa receiving larger numbers of young children compared to other MRCs, due to its location in an area where many migrant families (particularly women and their children) have temporarily settled.

The vast majority of migrants registered at MRCs in 2019 were Ethiopians (99%), mostly coming from the Oromia (51%) and Amhara (22%) regions. Most were migrating along the Eastern Route towards the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (67%) or other Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) States (9%), while another 9 per cent were returning to their country of nationality. As was the case in 2018, economic reasons continued to be the most commonly reported reason for migration.









Portrait of a local elderly selling bread to migrants in Fantahero. Photo: © IOM / Alexander Bee

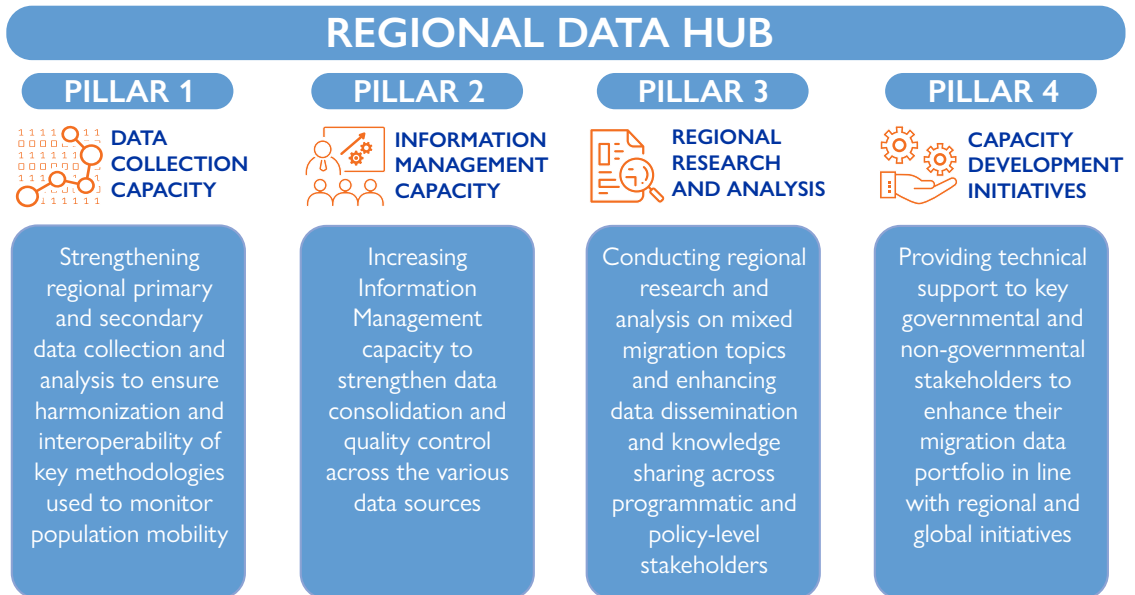


# 05. ANNEXES

## ANNEX 1: REGIONAL DATA HUB 2019 SNAPSHOT



Established in early 2018, the Regional Data Hub (RDH) for the East and Horn of Africa (EHOA) aims to support evidence-based, strategic and policy-level discussion on migration through a combination of initiatives. The RDH is largely funded through the generous support of the EU-IOM Joint Initiative for Migrant Protection and Reintegration in the Horn of Africa (EU-IOM JI). Regionally, other donors contribute to supporting the technical activities of the RDH, while at the country level, programmatic activities and initiatives are funded through multiple donors and funding mechanisms. The RDH strategy is structured along four main pillars:



RDH donors at the regional level:



## 2019 AT A GLANCE



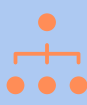
The RDH expanded its portfolio to include **larger-scale research studies** on regional migration dynamics across its main migration routes



A large-scale **IMPACT study** is being designed to conduct a robust impact evaluation of reintegration programming in the region



The RDH has become a **technical hub** able to provide multiple Information Management services to support programming, analysis, and data management functions



**New Information Management positions** were created to support the data management requirements of migrant protection programming, both within IOM and for governmental stakeholders



A **regional data warehouse** was established to store and record the vast amount of migration data collected in the region, foster analysis across different data sources through the harmonization of indicators as well as facilitate data management, sharing and consolidation



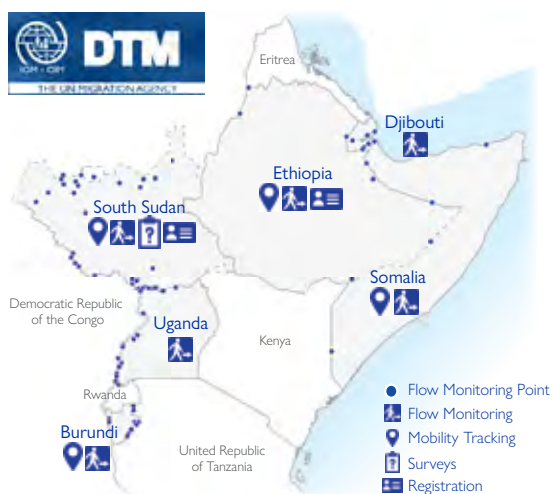
The RDH supported the significant expansion of **capacity development initiatives** to enhance national migration statistics in partnership with National Bureaux of Statistics (NBSs) at the country and regional level

## PILLAR 1 DATA COLLECTION CAPACITY

At the regional level, the RDH aims to enhance technical coordination, harmonize the different data collection activities and foster a multi-layered analysis of mixed migration movements, trends, and characteristics across the region. The regional analysis builds on multiple data sources, most of them directly managed and collected by IOM. External sources are used to further complement the mobility picture and provide a holistic understanding of such population movement dynamics. The following section highlights the main IOM data sources and Information Management systems active in the region.

### DISPLACEMENT TRACKING MATRIX | DTM

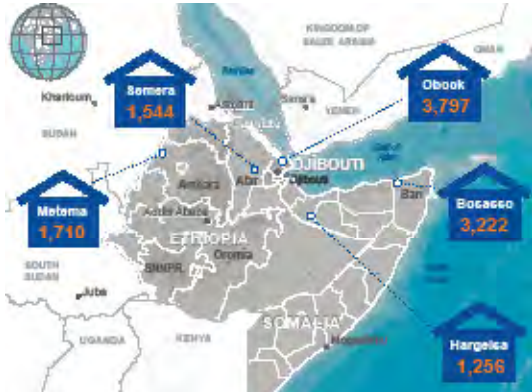
DTM is a system to track and monitor displacement and population mobility, provide critical information to decision-makers and responders during crises, and contribute to better understandings of migration flows. At the regional level, DTM operates under the RDH structure and constitutes the largest primary data source. More information can be found at [dtm.iom.int](http://dtm.iom.int)



6	Countries with ongoing DTM operations	137	DTM Staff
4m	IDPs tracked as of December 2019	1,770	Enumerators
2.5m	Returnees tracked as of December 2019	54,001	Key Informants
3.5m	Migrant movements December 2019	3	Regional DTM Staff
100	Flow Monitoring Points		



### MIGRANT RESPONSE CENTRES | MRCs



The RDH provides technical and analysis support to the MRCs, which are one-stop-shop facilities situated along key migration routes providing direct assistance and service referrals to migrants on the move. IOM established the Regional MRC Data Collection System in July 2016 to advance a standardized approach for collecting data and monitoring responses to mixed migration flows in the East and Horn of Africa region. In 2018, the system was strengthened by launching a new screening form to foster a better understanding of migrant profiles, hardships, vulnerabilities and needs, while establishing a regional network of Information Management assistants. In 2019, 11,529 migrants were registered across five MRCs. At the end of 2019, two new MRCs were being established in Ethiopia, while a process to further upgrade the MRC IM system was initiated.

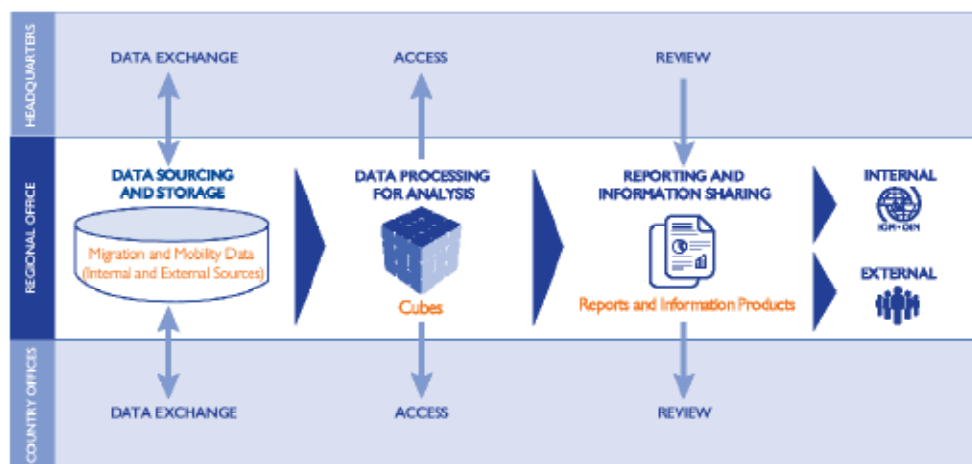
### MIGRANT MANAGEMENT OPERATIONAL SYSTEMS APPLICATION | MiMOSA



MiMOSA is IOM's main corporate system to collect and manage data on beneficiaries and link them with the various services received. Since 2017, MiMOSA has been a key component of the overall Information Management system to inform return and reintegration, and monitoring and evaluation activities under the EU-IOM Joint Initiative. The RDH provides regular assistance to country offices which includes: technical and strategic support on the usage of MiMOSA, definitions of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), training of end-users and focal points, customization of MiMOSA forms to capture project-specific data, and the creation of custom reports to extract data based on specific reporting requirements.

### REGIONAL DATA WAREHOUSE | RDW

The RDH data warehouse integrates tools, workflows and standards to acquire, consolidate, and analyze data from various sources, in order to provide comprehensive reports to leverage evidence-based programming and strategic discussions. This system provides access to analysis (Cubes) and reporting services (Power BI) to support the country offices in enhancing their analytical capacity, while facilitating data exchanges and works streams at the regional and headquarters levels. In addition, the advanced Geographic Information System (GIS) analysis component of the system allows for better understanding of the geospatial characteristics of the various migration themes investigated.



## PILLAR 2 INFORMATION MANAGEMENT CAPACITY

The RDH has prioritized the establishment of a solid network of Information Management (IM) staff across migration protection programming in the region, while convening regular trainings and technical meetings across the various thematic areas. Progressively, the RDH has become a technical hub able to provide Information Management services to countries in the region, in addition to Sudan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, for programming, analysis, and data management support. IM services include: technical support (database, GIS, tool creation, data analysis, and products packaging), data quality checks, and harmonization of methodologies and practices.



**17** New IM positions with technical profiles established between 2018 and 2019



**2** Technical meetings organized during the course of 2019



**9** Training packages provided on multiple IM systems: DTM (1), MRC (3), MiMOSA (5)



**10** Countries supported with IM services

## PILLAR 3 REGIONAL ANALYSIS AND RESEARCH

The RDH is engaged in multiple research efforts and the compilation of regular analytical products, while enhancing data dissemination and knowledge-sharing across both programmatic and policy-level stakeholders. The team also contributes to various data initiatives to increase the evidence base on migration in the East and Horn of Africa region. Publications can be consulted at [ronairobi.iom.int/regional-data-hub-rdh](http://ronairobi.iom.int/regional-data-hub-rdh).

### PERIODIC PUBLICATIONS

#### A Region on the Move Reports

Bi-annual publication providing an overview of the main population mobility trends and key socio-political events affecting the region

#### KSA Factsheets

Monthly publication providing information on returns of Ethiopian migrants from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA)

#### MRC Factsheets

Monthly publication on the registration data collected at IOM's Migration Response Centres

#### DTM Monthly Regional Reports

Monthly publication covering updates from the regional network of flow monitoring of migrants, as well as the tracking and monitoring of internal displacement in the different countries



**GMDAC**  
IOM's Global Migration Data Analysis Centre

#### Global Migration Data Portal

Launch of the regional page for [Eastern Africa](#) on the global migration data portal in collaboration with IOM's Global Migration Data Analysis Centre (GMDAC)



## RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

### YOUNG ETHIOPIAN MIGRANTS ON THE EASTERN ROUTE



In 2019, the RDH launched a multi-stage research project aimed at better understanding the experiences, decision-making, perceptions and expectations of young Ethiopians along the Eastern Route regarding their migration projects. By interviewing migrants leaving the Horn towards the Arab Peninsula, the project aims to investigate the nexus between decision-making, migrant expectations of what awaits during and at the end of the journey, compared to the realities on the ground. A more nuanced understanding of the decision to migrate will help inform strategy and programmatic planning for IOM and the wider humanitarian and development sector in the region. Obock and Bosasso were selected as the main study sites, as both receive a large number of Ethiopian migrants travelling on the Eastern Route, due to their location as one of the Horn's gateways to Yemen. Between September and October 2019, 2,153 surveys were conducted by ten IOM-trained enumerators at four congregation points in the Obock area. In addition, the research methodology will be further expanded to the communities of high emigration within Ethiopia.

## IMPACT EVALUATION



The IMPACT study is the first robust impact evaluation aiming to monitor and evaluate IOM's Integrated Approach to Reintegration as part of the EU-IOM Joint Initiative. IMPACT is based on a semi-experimental design that aims to measure the 'true' impact of the reintegration assistance provided by IOM on reintegration levels from external factors, such as shocks occurring at a community - or at the national - level, individual variability, and the non-linearity of the reintegration process. In addition, it is envisaged that IMPACT will inform the definition of a standard methodology for the evaluation of reintegration programmes, and also improve IOM's understanding of sustainable reintegration metrics. The study focuses on Ethiopia, Somalia and Sudan, the three target countries of reintegration under the EU-IOM Joint Initiative in the Horn of Africa.



## PILLAR 4 CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES

Initiatives on migration data capacity development in the East and Horn of Africa are one of the core aspects of the RDH mandate. The RDH commits to providing technical support to key governmental and non-governmental stakeholders to enhance their migration data portfolio in line with national, regional and global policy and development initiatives.

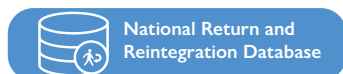
IOM recognizes that to inform effective migration management and good governance, timely, quality, disaggregated and harmonized migration data are required. Such commitment is now stressed in the **Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM)**, which calls for collection and utilization of “accurate and disaggregated data as a basis for evidence-based policies” in its first Objective. Similarly, the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** highlights the importance of quality and timely disaggregated data to guide decision-making and help measure progress. Above all, good migration governance at the continental, regional and national levels needs quality, harmonized migration statistics to support evidence-based strategies and effective implementation and monitoring, as codified in the revised **African Union’s Migration Policy Framework for Africa (AU-MPFA) and Plan of Action (2018-2030)**, the **Intergovernmental Authority for Development (IGAD) Regional Migration Policy Framework (RMPF)**, and the **East African Community (EAC) Common Market Protocol**.



The RDH, in close support with the missions and IOM’s Global Migration Data Analysis Centre (GMDAC), has launched multiple capacity building development initiatives to improve migration data at the national and regional level. Support was provided to establish Technical Working Groups (TWGs) on migration data to facilitate the harmonization, comparability and accessibility of migration statistics among key institutions and their National Bureau of Statistics (NBS). These TWGs are meant to facilitate the establishment of a functioning national migration data governance framework and data sharing protocols across agencies. At the IGAD level, the TWG will support the production, harmonization and comparability of migration data among Member States, including mainstreaming migration into development plans, data collection and management. These initiatives were achieved through several workshops and technical meetings, during which relevant capacity development tools were presented, targeting Tanzania, Ethiopia, Djibouti and IGAD countries.

## INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM SUPPORT

As part of the EU-IOM Joint Initiative, technical interventions have also been launched to improve the Information Management capacity of governmental counterparts involved in the provision of assistance to returning migrants alongside IOM. These operations generally entail the creation of software applications to systematically record information on returning migrants or facilitate referrals and service provision.



The EU-IOM Joint Initiative is supporting the development and deployment of a National Return and Reintegration Database for Ethiopia, an initiative led by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MoLSA) and the Administration for Refugee and Returnee Affairs (ARRA). The database and its related case management applications will increase government involvement in return and reintegration operations, while also informing and facilitating the implementation of the federal policy on the matter.



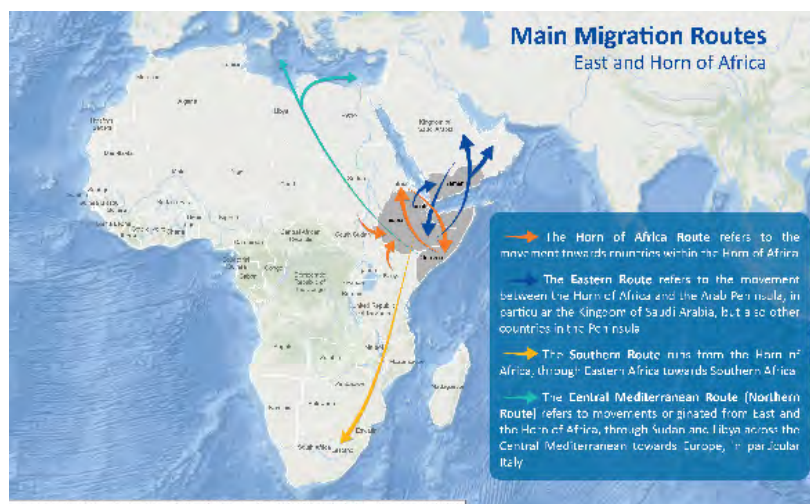
The RDH has created a registration and certification application for the National Displacement and Refugee Agency (NDRA) in Somalia, which is currently in use. NDRA is now able to issue registration certificates to returning migrants, which can be used to access services from government authorities.



Technical support to the Secretariat of Sudanese Working Abroad (SSWA) is currently being provided with the aim to digitalize registration and screening processes involving Sudanese returning migrants.







### FLOW MONITORING

DTM Regional office has supported the establishment of a network of 100 flow monitoring points along the four main migration corridors in the region in Burundi (13), Djibouti (5), Ethiopia (5), Somalia (7), South Sudan (47) and Uganda (23). Flow monitoring provides quantitative estimates of the flow of individuals through specific locations and informs about the profiles, travel history, intentions and needs of people on the move. In the region, this system also supports preparedness and response in public health emergencies by providing mapping and information on population movements in Burundi, Uganda and South Sudan, specifically in relation to the Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

### DISPLACEMENT AND MOBILITY TRACKING IN EMERGENCY

Mobility tracking: in a region with approximately 6 million IDPs, DTM is the official provider of internal displacement figures countrywide in Burundi, Ethiopia and South Sudan. DTM coverage is being expanded in Somalia.

Emergency Tracking: a sub-component of mobility tracking, is deployed in Burundi, Ethiopia and Somalia in instances in which events cause sudden displacement outside of regular rounds of data collection.

### A SERVICE FOR HUMANITARIAN PARTNERS AND GOVERNMENTS

DTM's added value is its contribution to a common definition of targets in a crisis, thus lowering entry costs for responders through the provision of reliable and regular data. DTM tools have been developed in close collaboration with Global Clusters to enhance data usability and support sectorial responses. Adaptations at local level are implemented in collaboration with the host governments and the humanitarian community.

### BIOMETRIC REGISTRATION

From 2014 to date, DTM South Sudan has biometrically registered over 900,000 beneficiaries in displacement sites and host community locations across the country. Biometric registration enables humanitarian partners to conduct distributions of food and other items in an accountable manner, maximizing targeting capacity. IOM works in close collaboration with WFP, and both organizations have achieved full interoperability of their respective registration systems - BRAVE and SCOPE - for exchanging data.

### PROTECTION MAINSTREAMED

DTM data is collected through protection-mainstreamed tools and approaches to improve operational responses to protection risks. These include sex and age disaggregated data, context-appropriate Gender-Based Violence (GBV) risk indicators and services relating to site layout and infrastructure; security and women's participation. GBV indicators are particularly used in Ethiopia and in South Sudan.

### CONTACT

For more information on DTM in the region:

[dtmronairobi@iom.int](mailto:dtmronairobi@iom.int) | [dtm.iom.int](http://dtm.iom.int)

For reports and datasets:

[displacement.iom.int](http://displacement.iom.int) | [migration.iom.int](http://migration.iom.int)

If you want to support, contact Regional Data Hub RO Nairobi:

[rdhronairobi@iom.int](mailto:rdhronairobi@iom.int)

### REGIONAL DATA HUB (RDH)

At the regional level, DTM operates under the Regional Data Hub. Established in early 2018, the RDH aims to support evidence-based, strategic and policy-level discussion on migration through a combined set of initiatives. These include: strengthening regional primary and secondary data collection and analysis; increasing information management capacity across countries; conducting regional research and analysis on mixed migration topics; providing technical support to key governmental and non-governmental stakeholders to enhance their migration data portfolio in line with regional and global initiatives.

### DTM REGIONAL SUPPORT

The Regional DTM Support team is based in Nairobi, working closely with DTM coordinators in country and with the DTM Global Support Team in headquarters. Composed of experts with various technical and operational backgrounds, the team strives to provide support services for DTM implementation in the region. Support includes strategy, methodology and tools design, deployment of technical expertise, capacity building support, quality control, analysis and development of information products, coordination of cross-border activities as well as intra-regional coordination.

### DTM GLOBALLY IN 2019

**24.9 million** Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

**16.5 million** IDPs

**4.6 million** Returnees from abroad

**6,000** Data collectors in the field

**400** Technical experts

**70** Operations active in 2019

**80 countries**  
DTM has been active since 2004

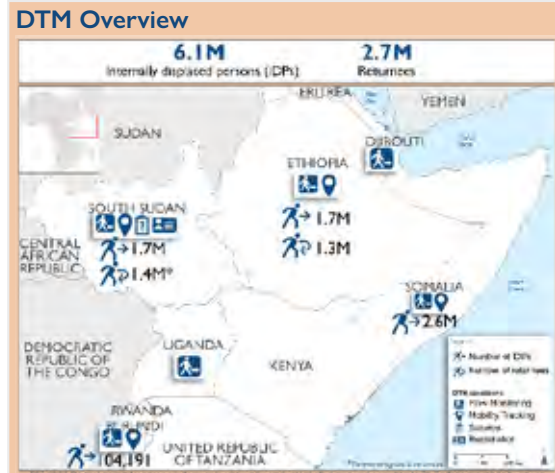




# ANNEX 3: DTM EAST AND HORN OF AFRICA AND YEMEN REGIONAL SNAPSHOT 2019

## Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) East and Horn of Africa and Yemen: Regional Snapshot 2019

Publication: April 2019



The Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) in the East and Horn of Africa (EHOA) region is currently active in six countries (Burundi, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Somalia, South Sudan, and Uganda), and its methodology includes four main components (mobility tracking, flow monitoring, registrations, and surveys).

As of the end of 2019, DTM in the region tracked 6.1M Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and 2.7M Returnees, as reported during the last round of DTM assessment for each country. The figures of IDPs and returnees for Ethiopia are as of Round 20 (Nov 2019), and the figures for South Sudan are as of Round 7 (Jun 2019). The IDP figure for Burundi is as of Round 48 (Dec 2019). While DTM coverage is being expanded in Somalia, the IDP figure indicated on this map is the most up-to-date data available shared by the Information Management Working Group - Technical Working Group (IMWG-TWG) and endorsed by the National Commission for Refugees and IDPs (NCRI) in Somalia, as of February 2018.

### Flow Monitoring Overview

Flow monitoring continues in all six countries with active DTM through a regional network of 80 Flow Monitoring Points (FMPs), including five in Yemen, with the main aim of tracking cross-border movements trends in the region. FMPs established at key areas of high mobility monitor different kinds of movements, including movements along the four main migration routes (Eastern, Horn of Africa, Southern, and Northern); movements to and from areas affected by Ebola Virus Disease (EVD); post-conflict movements of Burundi nationals returning from the United Republic of Tanzania; and other shorter-term cross-border movements, mainly tracked in South Sudan. *The movements along the Northern and Southern routes, in particular, are likely under-represented due to lack of geographical coverage.*

The following sections will present findings across these FM networks for 2019.

### Migration Routes Network

Total movements observed: 744,113 through 22 FMPs

- Eastern route (63%)**
    - Towards Kingdom of Saudi Arabia - 79%
    - Towards Yemen - 20%
  - HoA route (33%)**
    - Towards Somalia - 49%
    - Towards Ethiopia - 35%
  - Other routes (4%)**
    - Southern Route: 2%
    - Northern Route: 2%
- Yemen Arrivals: 138,213**
- Migrants were Ethiopians (92%) or Somalis (8%)
  - Departure from Somalia (62%) or Djibouti (38%) coasts

Most of the overall movements were driven by economic factors (58%), whereas along the Eastern route, there was 86% migration driven by economic reasons, along the HoA route, there was 23% migration for economic reasons, though seasonal migration was more prominent at 29%.

Along the Eastern route, there were 69% adult males, 19% adult females, and 12% children, of which, 4% were Unaccompanied Migrant Children (UMCs). Along the HoA route, there were 38% adult males, 32% adult females, and 30% children, of which, 4% were UMCs. The majority of the migrants along this network were Ethiopian nationals (76%), followed by Somalis (20%), and Djiboutians (2%).





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A migrant woman is walking in Fantahero. Photo: © IOM / Alexander Bee

## 07. METHODOLOGY

The East and Horn of Africa region, for IOM, is comprised of ten countries: **Burundi, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, South Sudan, Uganda**, and the **United Republic of Tanzania**. The IOM Regional Office for the East and Horn of Africa is located in Nairobi, Kenya. DTM components are active in six out of the 10 countries, including **Burundi, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Somalia, South Sudan**, and **Uganda**. Yemen is part of the Middle East and North Africa region, and although not part of the EHoA region, is integral to understanding the regional migration dynamics.

IOM defines a **migrant** as any person who is moving or has moved across an international border or within a State away from his/her habitual place of residence, regardless of (1) the person's legal status; (2) whether the movement is voluntary or involuntary; (3) what the causes for the movement are; or (4) what the length of the stay is.<sup>139</sup> An **internally displaced person**, or an **IDP**, is a persons or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized State border.<sup>140</sup> IDP is a specific kind of migrant, but for this report, 'migrant' is used to refer to any person, or group of persons, who have crossed an internationally recognized State border for any reason, whereas IDPs are displaced within their borders. Also, for the purposes of this report, a **returnee** (or returned IDP) is any person who was displaced internally or across an international border, but has since returned to his/her place of habitual residence.<sup>141</sup> The definition may vary at the country level and may encompass former-IDPs returning to the area of their habitual residence, and not necessarily their home, or hometown.

### FLOW MONITORING METHODOLOGY

The purpose of flow monitoring is to provide regular and updated information on the volume and profile of population movements. The information and analysis of flow monitoring data also aims to contribute to improved understanding of shortcomings and priorities in the provision of assistance along the displacement/migratory routes. Flow monitoring consists of three basic steps:

- **High Mobility Area/Location Assessments:** aimed at mapping locations of high mobility to establish where to set up Flow Monitoring Points (FMPs) through key informant interviews;
- **Flow Monitoring Registry (FMR):** aimed at capturing quantitative data about certain characteristics such as the volumes of migrants, their nationalities, sex and age disaggregated information, their origin, their planned destination and key vulnerabilities. This is done by enumerators at FMPs;
- **Flow Monitoring Survey (FMS):** aimed at capturing qualitative information about the profiles of migrants, migration drivers and migrants' needs. This is done through interviews with a sample of migrants passing through the FMPs.

**Analysis was undertaken according to the migration routes** (Horn of Africa, Eastern, Northern and Southern).

**Limitations:** Geographical coverage of FM activities is not exhaustive and is limited to selected FMPs. Information provided by FMR cannot be generalized to the overall population passing through the selected locations (FMPs) where they were collected. Moreover, FMR results are not indicative of movements in other non-monitored transit locations. The combined results must be read as indicative of change in trends, rather than exact measurements of mobility.

139. IOM, Who is a migrant?, 2019. Available from [www.iom.int/who-is-a-migrant](http://www.iom.int/who-is-a-migrant).

140. Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, UN Doc E/ CN.4/1998/53/Add.2.

141. IOM, International Migration Law: Glossary on Migration, 2004. Available from [https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/iml\\_1\\_en.pdf](https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/iml_1_en.pdf).

## POPULATION MOBILITY MAPPING METHODOLOGY

**Population Mobility Mapping (PMM)** has been developed through an adaptation of the DTM model. PMM involves analyzing the characteristics and dynamics of population mobility to facilitate informed decision-making in public health interventions. More broadly, it aims to improve prevention, detection and response to the spread of infectious diseases through an improved understanding of spaces of vulnerability and prevailing human mobility patterns. PMM is comprised of three separate but related stages that combine qualitative and quantitative methods:

- **Participatory Mapping Exercise (PME):** aimed at identifying and prioritizing strategic transit points (e.g. Points of Entry (PoE), Points of Control (PoCs), etc.). PME is conducted to rapidly collect information on human mobility profiles and patterns in order to inform effective, more targeted resource allocation at a time of a public health risk. This is done through group discussion, using basemaps prepared ahead of time as basis for discussion;
- **Site Observation:** aimed at assessing spaces of vulnerability that were identified and prioritized through PME (e.g. Priority Sites Assessment, Priority Health Facilities Assessment, Priority Markets Assessment, Priority Traditional Healers Assessment);
- **Flow Monitoring:** aimed at profiling the volume and dynamics of human mobility at selected strategic transit points connecting spaces of vulnerability, which are formal or informal PoEs/PoCs covering land, water and air transportation.

## MIGRATION NETWORKS

Migration in the East and Horn of Africa region has been broadly categorized in four main networks:

- **Migration Routes:** categorized as longer-term movement, migration along the four main routes (Eastern, Horn of Africa, Northern, and Southern) is mostly intended for relatively longer durations and may encompass border crossings of more than one country. Flow monitoring points in Djibouti, Ethiopia, Somalia, and Yemen are categorized as points that measure this kind of movement;
- **Flow Monitoring in Public Health (EVD) Context:** various points established in key locations in Burundi, South Sudan, and Uganda (as well as the Democratic Republic of the Congo), provide valuable information in terms of movements to and from areas affected by Ebola Virus Disease (EVD), though they operate under the standard Flow Monitoring methodology;
- **South Sudan Situation Cross-border Movements:** FMPs established mainly in South Sudan, at the border with Sudan, track this kind of movement, which is usually shorter-term in nature, and confined to these two countries;
- **Burundi Returns:** following the conflict in Burundi, many Burundian refugees are currently making their way back from the United Republic of Tanzania. Eight FMPs established along the border between the countries track the returns of this population, as well as other kinds of movements between the two countries;
- **Internal Movements:** various points in the region, mainly in South Sudan, also track internal movements within the country, though that has not been included in this report.

*Note: Although the points have been categorized in specific ways as per the location, and purpose of establishment, they continue to operate as standard FMPs and monitor all kinds of movements. Categorization is based on generalization of movements, and does not exclude other kinds of movements.*



## MIGRATION ROUTES

The routes are categorized by looking at the countries of intended **destination** and have been done so in the following way:

- **Eastern Route:** Bahrain, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen;
- **Horn of Africa (HoA):** Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, and Somalia;
- **Northern Route:** Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Egypt, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Libya, Morocco, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Tunisia, Turkey, and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland;
- **Southern Route:** Angola, Congo, Eswatini, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa, South Sudan, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

**Other routes:** There are some movements that were tracked going to other countries, mostly to the Eastern hemisphere, and North America, but those have not been considered for the purposes of this analysis as they were outliers, and not part of the regional migration trends. About 0.1 per cent observations were observed of these 'other' destinations; thus they did not have a substantial impact on the analysis.

It should be noted that the FMR and FMS data are likely to be biased, or incomplete, due to lack of operational coverage along these routes. In particular, the FMS data, which details the profiles of moving population, had a very small, highly unrepresentative sample along the southern route.

## GEOGRAPHIC LOCATIONS

- **Arab Peninsula:** Bahrain, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Yemen;
- **East Africa:** Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania;
- **Europe:** Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland;
- **HoA:** Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, and Somalia;
- **Middle East:** Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, and Lebanon;
- **North Africa:** Egypt, Libya, Morocco, Sudan, and Tunisia;
- **North America:** Canada, Mexico, and United States of America;
- **Other:** Afghanistan, American Samoa, Argentina, Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, and Thailand;
- **Southern Africa:** Eswatini, Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, Zambia, and Zimbabwe;
- **West and Central Africa:** Angola, Congo, Ghana, Liberia, and Nigeria.

*Note: Turkey, for the purposes of the IOM regional network, is managed by the European regional office and is thus considered as part of 'Europe' for geographic classifications, and is categorized within the 'Northern Route' as it is often a transit country for migration towards Europe. For the United Nations, Turkey is considered as part of Central Asia, which is not a categorization used in this report.*

## MOVEMENT CATEGORIES

- **Outgoing/Exiting Migrants:** migrants originating from and travelling out of the country where the FMP is located. Nationality is irrelevant.
- **Transiting Migrants:** migrants travelling through the country where the FMP is located, where both departure point, and the intended final destination, are not the country of FMP. Nationality is irrelevant.
- **Incoming Migrants:** both entering (non-nationals of the country with the FMP) and returning (nationals of the country with the FMP) migrants, where the intended destination is the country containing the FMP.
- **Internal Migrants:** where both the departure and the destination country are the country with the FMP. This includes circular migration.

## YEMEN ARRIVALS

IOM DTM teams in Djibouti, Ethiopia, and Somalia track movements along the Eastern corridor, and in Yemen. Yemen is the first country that is reached once the migrants cross the Gulf of Aden, or the Red Sea. DTM teams also monitor new arrivals. In this time period, Yemen DTM teams were able to capture arrivals from the Horn of Africa region in a more effective manner, which is why the analysis under the corresponding section is done using FMR data from Yemen FMPs only.

Yemen FM network covers the southern coast of Yemen only, which tracks new arrivals reaching the Peninsula from the HoA across the Gulf of Aden. Due to the ongoing conflict in the region, DTM teams do not have access to the Western coast of Yemen which borders the Red Sea. For this reason, it is likely that the figures reported by Yemen are under-estimating actual arrivals, and a large proportion of movements originating from Obock in Djibouti, likely headed across the Red Sea, are not captured through Flow Monitoring.<sup>142</sup>

142. For more information, visit: <https://migration.iom.int/reports/yemen-%E2%80%94-flow-monitoring-points-migrant-arrivals-and-yemeni-returns-saudi-arabia-2019>







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