2021
First Quarter Update
January - March Edition

Regional Migrant Response Plan for the Horn of Africa and Yemen

Migrants on the Move
- 21,327 Entered Djibouti
- 11,079 Entered Somalia
- 5,113 Entered Yemen

Stranded Migrants
- 1,069 in Djibouti
- 400 in Somalia
- 32,700 in Yemen

Migrant Returns
- 5,128* Yemen - Djibouti
- 621* Yemen - Somalia
- 10,244** Saudi Arabia - Ethiopia

Population Reached in Q1
- 70,682
  - 52,910 Migrants;
  - 17,772 Host Communities

A migrant in Ethiopia is provided with medical screening at the IOM-run Migrants Transit Centre in Addis Ababa.
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* Spontaneous Returns
** Forced Returns
In the first quarter of 2021, migrant arrivals into Yemen remained low compared to pre-pandemic years, despite reductions in international movement restrictions and border security. Enumerators at the Flow Monitoring Points (FMPs) recorded 5,113 migrant arrivals in Yemen, compared with 27,948 in the same period in 2020, and 37,109 in 2019. However, the few migrants who have attempted to migrate irregularly to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia during the pandemic have typically found themselves stranded at some point along the journey in the Horn of Africa and Yemen due to COVID-19 movement restrictions.

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) estimates that more than 32,000 migrants are stranded across Yemen and are living in horrific conditions, usually with limited-to-no access to food, shelter, medical care and security, or in detention. They may also have been kidnapped for ransom and exposed to a myriad of protection risks including abuse, violence and exploitation by smugglers. In March 2021, a widely reported fire broke out in the Immigration, Passports and Naturalization Authority (IPNA) migrant detention facility in Sana’a and 170 migrants were reported to have died1.

Voluntary Humanitarian Returns (VHR) and Assisted Voluntary Return (AVR) movements have remained lower than usual due to COVID-19 related mobility restrictions. Since October 2020, over 7,400 Ethiopian migrants have requested VHR support. Migrants are turning to smugglers and traffickers to facilitate their return journeys and 5,128 returning migrants were tracked along the shore of Djibouti in the Obock region in Q1. Smugglers taking people from Yemen to Ethiopia use different smuggling routes and usually travel at night to avoid detection by border management authorities. Since the beginning of the year, 45 migrants, including 16 children, from the Horn of Africa have lost their lives when they were thrown overboard by smugglers while others perished when the boats capsized.

In Q1, 10,244 returnees (including 61 Unaccompanied and Separated Children, (UASC)) from Saudi Arabia to Ethiopia were registered by MRP partners, marking more than a four-fold increase compared to the last quarter of 2019 when 2,438 returnees were registered upon arrival. However, compared to last year’s returnees before the onset of COVID-19 pandemic, this represents an overall decrease in the number of returnees.

Tigrayan returnees continued to arrive in significant numbers from Saudi Arabia. The returnees who are unable or unwilling to return to Tigray and are choosing to reunify with family or relatives outside of Tigray.

The region continued to witness spontaneous returns of migrants from Yemen through Djibouti and to a lesser extent to Somalia by sea. The spontaneous returns are fueled by various factors, including loss of jobs, the ongoing conflict in Yemen, a growing volume of stranded and detained migrants owing to the continued movement restrictions, widespread xenophobic and discriminatory treatment, and limited access to basic services along the routes.

Achievements against Targets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Case 01 Funding Gap</th>
<th>Case 02 People Reached</th>
<th>Case 03 Activity Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>USD 13.2M</strong></td>
<td><strong>13% Reached</strong></td>
<td><strong>76 of 443</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Received</td>
<td>13.4% Funded</td>
<td>Activities Started</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>71K Reached</td>
<td>Pending (82%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Completed (1%)</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Ongoing (17%)</td>
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</tbody>
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*Activity is tracked down to the lowest SDU (Service Delivery Unit). This is the activity performed/completed/pending per partner X in Country Y and at location Z.

MRP Quarterly Update: Q1 | January - March 2021
As a consequence of COVID-19, migrant arrivals in Yemen remained extremely low in Q1. The Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) recorded approximately 5,113 arrivals (976 females and 4,137 males) at six FMPs along the southern coast of Yemen. This represents a decrease of 82 per cent as compared to the first quarter of 2020 when 27,948 migrant arrivals were recorded. Furthermore, this is a 16 per cent decline as compared to the last quarter of 2020 even though the mobility restrictions put in place were further eased, albeit slowly. The Yemen arrivals came from Somalia (2,910) and Djibouti (2,203). Most migrant arrivals into Yemen were Ethiopian nationals (87 per cent), while the remainder were Somali (13 per cent).

Migration towards the Arabian Peninsula continues to be characterized by a high volume of UASC, with 210 (4 per cent) being reported in the first quarter. The UASC comprised of 39 per cent of all the children travelling, which is a slight decrease as compared to the 48 per cent tracked in the last quarter of 2020. It is also a drastic decrease compared to the 80 per cent tracked in the first quarter of 2020.

As of 31 March 2021, 1,069 migrants on their way to the Arabian Peninsula were stranded in Djibouti and had gathered in 12 spontaneous sites located along the migration route. All of them were Ethiopian nationals and about 69 per cent were men.

In Somalia, IOM estimates that 400 migrants continue to be stranded in and around Bossaso, with few options available to continue their journeys or to return home.
In the first quarter of 2021, MRP partners adapted their services to the COVID-19 pandemic by maintaining COVID-19 preventive measures, engaging in awareness and sensitization for migrants as well as focussing on personal hygiene practices and providing lifesaving assistance. The direct assistance was provided at the Migration Response Centres (MRC), Migrant Response Points, through mobile outreaches, mobile health outreach teams, way stations and host communities. During Q1, MRP partners in the affected countries (Djibouti, Ethiopia, Somalia and Yemen) identified 52,910 migrants who received various forms of direct assistance. They included 4,521 in Djibouti; 19,213 in Ethiopia, 6,688 in Somalia and 22,488 in Yemen. Of the 52,910 migrants assisted; 2,111 were UASC.

The direct assistance comprises a diversified range of services including registration, counselling, water, food, non-food items (NFIs), primary health care and referrals to specialized care), along with multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA), WASH services, accommodation and VHR. MRP partners also adopted innovative approaches to integrate COVID-19 response in safe migration sensitization sessions and this included, reaching out to beneficiaries through Technical Vocational and Educational Training (TVET) centres, Plasma TV learning system and the establishment of listener groups at the community levels. MRP partners also ensured that their interventions have a strong focus on the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) in accordance with the UN Zero-tolerance to PSEA and the application of IASC guidance and procedure on PSEA. Examples of this include, mainstreaming PSEA in the COVID-19 response and including PSEA awareness raising training, the distribution of Behavioural Change Communication (BCC)/ Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials, active engagement of PSEA focal points to work directly with returnees, drafting PSEA key messages for respective MRCs, the nomination of PSEA focal points and alternates for MRCs and giving due attention to the children’s best interests. 

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### Migrant Assistance in Q1 2021

- **52,910** Migrants Assisted
- **20,935** Individuals received Non-Food Items (3,918 females and 17,017 males, including 1,520 UASC)
- **140** Individuals VHR: (9 females and 131 males, including 4 UASC)
- **33,457** Individuals benefited from primary health care

### Other Forms of Assistance Provided by MRP Partners in Q1 2021

- **4,578** Vulnerable migrants received food distribution during the reporting period.
- **20,935** Vulnerable migrants received Non-Food items
- **667** Vulnerable migrants received Multipurpose cash allowances
- **13,776** Vulnerable returnees and local community members benefited from improved WASH infrastructure and services at Points of Entry and in surrounding localities.
- **354** Vulnerable migrants were referred to local health facilities for more serious medical conditions.
- **3,722** 3,722
- **10,054** 10,054
- **512** 512
- **4,066** 4,066
- **3918** 3,918
- **17,017** 17,017
- **297** 297
- **370** 370
- **109** 109
- **245** 245
During Q1, a total of 17,015 migrants (3,422 females and 13,593 males) were provided with psychosocial assistance in the MRP countries. Adult and child migrants usually receive multiple sessions of individual counselling, caregiver/family psychosocial support, and referral to other basic social services including specialized mental health care (such as psychiatric treatment and care), education and health care.

In Ethiopia, 445 UASC received a range of specialized child protection services, including family tracing and reunification (FTR) support and rehabilitation assistance in the case of victims of trafficking.

Furthermore, 128 (12 female, 116 male – including 79 UASC) victims of trafficking were provided with temporary shelter at the Ethiopian Community Centre in Somalia, Agar Ethiopia Charitable Society, Hope for Justice, and Good Samaritan Association in Ethiopia and Caritas in Djibouti. The UASC accessed various shelter-based rehabilitation services including sanitary materials, meals, counselling, medical and psychiatric treatment, and legal follow up services.

In Somalia, a toll-free hotline number was set up at the recently established MRC in Mogadishu, providing returning migrants, stranded migrants and host community members with a free-of-charge and easily accessible mechanism to share their feedback, complaints or request for information/support.

Three hundred and twenty-two vulnerability assessments were conducted in collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Health (MoH) and the Ethiopian Public Health Institute (EPHI) at MRCs and border crossing points. This was meant to determine the MHPSS services available to returnees and host communities. In addition, three protection monitoring visits were conducted in Togwajale, Metema and Dire Dawa MRCs and PoEs. Two protection assessments were conducted for Togwajale and Dewele PoEs. One child protection assessment was conducted at different PoEs to explore the gender distribution in the child migrants’ population, along with migration drivers for different age groups, routes used, migrant protection issues and available services.
Strategic Objective 3 | Strengthen access to return, sustainable reintegration, and community stabilization

**10,425**
Returnees were provided with Onward transportation assistance (1,761 females and 8,664 males)

**7**
Community Development Projects
9,996 Individuals benefited from CDPs

**288**
Migrants benefited from AVR support

**848**
Individuals benefited from Sustainable Reintegration & Economic Empowerment Opportunities

Two hundred and sixty eight (48 females and 220 males, including 130 UASC) vulnerable returnees benefited from AVR support to Ethiopia from Djibouti, Somalia, Saudi Arabia and Oman. The UASC and their families were assisted with child protection services by social workers (registration, profiling, detailed assessment, psychosocial support, recreational services and FTR through case management).

In Ethiopia, a total of 1,456 vulnerable returnees and potential migrants, including 757 returnee and host community children were provided with reintegration support, including livelihood training (financial literacy, entrepreneurship, and business plan development), the provision of start-up kits for returnee children (basic trainings on entrepreneurship skills, life skill empowerment, successful adolescent transition, and financial literacy). Also covered was employment readiness training provided by the Technical, Vocational and Educational Training (TVET) department and emergency education kits, including school uniform and education support in order to maintain enrolment and improved livelihoods.

In Ethiopia, a total of 90 parents/primary caregivers and target children (18 females and 72 males, including 22 children) completed resilience building sessions which were facilitated by trained schoolteachers and para-social workers in Habru woreda in Amhara regional state.

Onward transportation assistance was provided to a total of 10,425 returnees (1,761 female, 8,664 male, including 533 accompanied children) from Addis Ababa to various communities of origin/destinations in Ethiopia.

In Yemen, MRP partners provided operational support to a centre for UASC and ensured referrals for voluntary/spontaneous return besides providing protection assistance to the children.

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS/OTHER SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS**

In Ethiopia, two community-based reintegration projects were ongoing in Q1:

- “Unlocking Job Opportunities for Migrant Returnees and Potential Migrants in Sokoru District of Jimma Zone through Gibe Dam Fish Farming”. The project is providing direct sustenance to 88 migrant returnees and 162 potential migrants through supporting the efficient management of fish production and marketing, the training of beneficiaries on basic business skills, sector-specific skills and financial literacy to ensure the sustainability of livelihood activities after the conclusion of the project.”

- “Sustainable Reintegration of Vulnerable Returnee Children in Eight Woredas in North Wollo Zone (Amhara Region) and East Hararghe Zone (Oromia Region)”: This project aims to ensure the sustainable reintegration of 65 children (40 returning migrants and 25 other vulnerable adolescents) from the local community in eight woredas in North Wollo and East Hararghe Zone.”

In Somalia, two community development projects were rolled-out with the following results:

- “Sustainable Livelihood & Re-Integration through TVET Skills Training in Farming and Apiculture. In March 2021, Hano Academy held the graduation ceremony for 50 students (3 female returnees, 17 male returnees, 25 female host community members, 5 male host community members; including 16 returnees from Saudi Arabia). The beneficiaries were equipped with beekeeping, honey manufacturing, and agroforestry skills throughout the life of a six month project and will have access to cultivated land and beehives over the next ten years.”

- “Support the psychosocial community-based reintegration of returnees and communities of return. Two meetings were conducted with 22 host community members (19 female, 3 male) to discuss ways to promote community inclusion in decision making.”

INTERSOS staff conducting awareness raising sessions on legal options to new arrivals in Yemen. Copyright: INTERSOS 2021
In Somalia, a total of 5,183 migrant community members and returning migrants (1,025 females and 4,158 males) were reached through several awareness raising sessions on COVID-19 infection prevention and control, safe migration messaging, job opportunities available for female youth in the city and the psychosocial impact of migration and return. The campaigns were conducted at the MRCs, Ethiopian Community Centre, across flow monitoring points and through weekly community hygiene promotion activities carried out in target areas.

In Yemen, MRP partners sensitized 3,658 migrants and host community members on several topics related to mixed migration.

In Djibouti, MRP partners in coordination with the National Malaria Control Programme (PNLP), organized awareness activities on the risks and preventive measures against malaria in two neighbourhoods of Djibouti City (Ambouli and Arhiba) where a significant proportion of migrants reside. These activities were organized with peer educators who spoke the Ethiopian languages (Amharic, Tigray and Oromo), and were complemented by the distribution of 7,500 treated mosquito nets to migrants and host communities in these neighbourhoods.

In Ethiopia, three safe migration awareness raising campaigns were conducted by returnees as peer education, reaching a total of 2,034 (1,116 females and 918 males) school children. In addition, 1,131 (604 girls and 537 boys) were reached with key messages on COVID-19 (poster campaigns), child protection and gender-based violence (GBV) during the International Women’s Day celebrations hosted by Woreda Offices of Women and Children Affairs and MRP partners’ frontline social workers.

Returnees in AGAR Shelter displaying their wares. Copyright: IOM 2021/ Kennedy NJAGI
Q1 saw the continuation of Flow Monitoring (FM) activities and surveys that led to the production of evidence-based data over internal flows and trends in the MRP countries along the Eastern Route.

During the reporting period, IOM released 20 reports (Djibouti: three FM reports and six bi-weekly migrants presence dashboards: https://dtm.iom.int/djibouti; Somalia: two DTM reports: https://dtm.iom.int/somalia; and Yemen: three FM and six bi-weekly internal SitRep: https://dtm.iom.int/yemen) through the DTM Flow Monitoring Points. Additionally, a Flow Monitoring Registration (FMR) online dashboard was launched in January 2021, available here: Somalia — Cross Border Movement

Surveys/Assessments/Researches

A Region on the Move

IOM’s Regional Data Hub (RDH) released a bi-annual report titled “Region on the Move” that highlights the 2020 mobility overview in the East and the Horn of Africa (EHoA) and the Arabian Peninsula by providing an in-depth overview of the main population movement trends in the EHoA, as the region continues to exhibit high mobility patterns, both internally (within countries) and across national borders. According to the report findings, out of 482,324 movements observed, 33 per cent were tracked along the Eastern Route, 54 per cent reported along the Horn of Africa (HoA) Route, one per cent along the Northern Route and 12 per cent along the Southern Route: https://ronairobi.iom.int/regional-data-hub-rdh/research

Identifying Climate Adaptive Solutions to Displacement in Somalia.

This study explores the interaction(s) between climate change, displacement and urbanization. The climate in Somalia is projected to become drier, warmer, more erratic, and more extreme than in recent decades and thus less favourable to crop, livestock, fisheries, and forestry-based livelihood systems. Other likely impacts include the reduction of vegetation for grazing and more variable water availability, with grave impacts on livestock herding and livelihoods. Rising sea temperatures and acidification will reduce fish stocks and change their distribution. In context of slow-onset natural hazard and environmental degradation, households and entire communities may have no other choice but to leave their places of origin in search of more inhabitable areas: report available here

In Ethiopia, partners contributed to the publication of a report entitled “Families of Missing Migrants: Their Search for Answers, the Impacts of Loss and Recommendations for Improved Support — Ethiopia Country Report”.

In Somalia, between 18 February and 1 March a COVID-19 Baseline KAP (Knowledge, Attitude, Practice) assessment was conducted across two districts in the Benadir Region (Hamar Jabab and Daynile), reaching more than 80 different locations and sites. The team surveyed a total of 695 respondents including IDPs, host community members and return-ing migrants. Overall, 99 per cent reported having heard about the virus, its symptoms and preventive measures, while 91 per cent affirmed knowing how the virus can be contracted. Radio, television and word of mouth are among the most common COVID-19 information sources. Overall, 69 per cent reported being very worried/fearful about the virus and 50 per cent reported that migrants are facing discrimination due to the Coronavirus and only six per cent reported that returnees face discrimination because of COVID-19.

In Yemen, several field assessments were conducted, and partners are planning to implement a comprehensive and integrated humanitarian response based on identified gaps. The mixed-migrants movement overview (updated monthly) triangulates information from protection teams deployed under different interventions.

Coordination

Several meetings were held at the regional and country levels with partners and donors where the profile of migrants and the severe risks that they face while on the move were discussed.

Regional Coordination

Three regional coordination meetings were held in Q1 as follows; the first meeting was of the Regional Coordination Committee technical level to review the draft MRP 2021-2024 in preparation for the validation of the strategic framework by the MRP Regional Directors. The Regional Directors validated the MRP 2021-2024 strategic framework in preparation for the launch of the response plan which was held on 25 March 2021. The virtual launch brought together over 140 participants including representatives from member states, UN agencies, NGOs and several donor partners. The panelists included the IOM Director General, Mr. Antonio Vitorino, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) Executive Secretary, H.E Dr. Workneh Gebeeyehu, high-level member states representatives from the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, the Republic of Djibouti, the Federal Republic of Somalia, and the Republic of Yemen, the Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Yemen, the representative from the Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM), the Head of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) for Southern and Eastern Africa, the Regional Director of the UNHCR’s Regional Bureau for the East, Horn of Africa and Great Lakes Region, Regional Director for the Middle East and North Africa, IOM and the Regional Director for the East and Great Lakes Regions of Africa, Danish Refugee Council (DRC). Regional Migrant Response Plan for the Horn of Africa and Yemen; 2021 - 2024 - Yemen.

Country Level Coordination

In Djibouti, one MRP meeting was held in February 2021 to develop the Djibouti country response for the MRP 2021-2024 with the participation of the National Office for the Assistance to Refugees and Disaster Stricken People (ONARS), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Better Migration Management (BMM), World Food Programme (WFP), the United Nations Resident Coordinator (UNRC) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).
Also, in Djibouti, a Technical Working Group (TWG) was set up in February to consolidate, harmonize and share migration data. The Terms of Reference for the TWG was validated by 20 actors from ONARS, the Ministry of the Interior, the National Office of Migration, UNHCR, the Coast Guard, the Gendarmerie, IGAD, and National Employment, Training and Vocational Integration Agency (ANEFIP).

In Ethiopia, two coordination meetings on child protection were held by MRP partners with 69 participants (25 females and 44 males) from government, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and community-based organizations. During the meetings, updates on child protection as well as returnee reintegration progress and challenges were presented and discussed by all respective service providers and agencies. In addition, MRP partners engaged in post-arrival assistance to vulnerable returnees met in Addis Ababa for the Returnee Response Coordination platform. Recommendations were made to strengthen the National Referral Mechanism for vulnerable migrants. Furthermore, the quarterly meeting of the UN Network on Migration for Ethiopia (UNMNE) was attended by 20 agencies who developed a draft Joint UN Work Plan on Migration for 2021/2022, which aligns with the MRP objectives.

In collaboration with EPHI and MoH MHPSS task force, an MHPSS TWG (co-led by IOM, EPHI and the MoH) was established by MRP partners in Mekelle and Shire, and a TOR and action plan were developed accordingly.

MRP partners in collaboration with the Attorney General Office and its regional structures supported the establishment of the Regional Partnership Coalitions in four regions and two city administrations. With technical support from partners, the Regional Attorney General (RAG) in coordination with Bureau of Women and Children Affairs (BoWCA) will establish partnership coalitions at hot spot woredas (Mile, Semera-Logia, Asayta and Elidar) in Q2.

In Yemen, several meetings were held through the Mixed Migration Working Group in Aden to raise attention to the challenges faced by migrants.
A vital component of the MRP is providing support to governments in the region. The support includes providing equipment, improving access to technology for more coordinated migration management processes and protocols, building existing migration management capacities and strengthening their ability to protect migrants in vulnerable situations.

In Djibouti, two training workshops on trafficking in persons were organized in March and 11 trainees from the Police and the Gendarmerie participated in these training workshops. Again in March, 21 participants from ONARS, National Union of Djiboutian Women, the Ministry for Women (UNFD), the Ministry for Women and Family, a local shelter for new borns and infants, the “Brigades des mineurs” (in charge of UMCs and separated children), the coast guard, Caritas, and the Ministry of Social Affairs and Solidarity attended the training on the identification and protection of migrants in vulnerable situations. The training recommended strengthening the coordination among entities working on migrant assistance and protection.

Also in Djibouti, MRP partners and the National Union of Djiboutian Women organized a training for police officers from the Guélilé border post, screening centre, as well as members of the Red Crescent, the prefecture, the regional council and the gendarmerie of Ali Sabieh on the identification and referral of victims of GBV.

Furthermore, a two-day consultation workshop on migration governance and training on the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration was held in February and 40 participants from ministries, prefectures, NGOs and international organizations attended the workshop.

In Ethiopia, several government departments were supported with technical and equipment support as outlined below:

- Training equipment to five TVET institutions for prospective migrant workers; supported in the renovation of the MoLSA-run Migration Resource Centre at the federal level which aims at providing migration related information on safe migration, ethical recruitment procedures and effective job searching. MRP partners also provided operational support to four shelter institutions in Amhara Regional State, Tigray Regional State and Addis Ababa to ensure that victims of trafficking receive comprehensive services.

- MRP partners supported several capacity development trainings and workshops including: provision of working tools to enhance the capacity of three newly assigned labour attaches in three key destination countries in the Middle East (Saudi Arabia, Qatar and United Arab Emirates) to provide adequate support to migrants working abroad; supported the familiarization workshop to Members of Parliament on key functions of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (including its mandate on promoting effective labour community mobilization and referral of migrants and other vulnerable children to access quality, appropriate and timely protection services), training social workers on child protection and GBV, case management and PFA, trained social workers on the National Case Management Framework and Migrant Protection and Victim Assistance. The revised Proclamation on Overseas Employment Services was endorsed during the reporting period and will be published in the official journal in Q2. The Proclamation will ensure improved access to regular labour migration channels for Ethiopians.

In Somalia, two trainings were conducted and the first one targeted 54 participants and covered the basic concepts of MHPSS, IASC Guidelines on MHPSS, Assessment of Psychosocial Components of Vulnerability of Migrants, PFA, Supportive Communication Skills for People in Vulnerable Situations, and Taking Care of Self. In the second training, 118 participants (45 females and 73 males) from various law enforcement authorities (such as judges, prosecutors, police officers and legal aid officers), local authorities, civic society representatives and community members attended the trainings and awareness raising sessions on victim identification and reporting for trafficked persons. Five hundred copies of the Trafficking in Persons Act were published in local languages and disseminated to stakeholders and community members.

Representative from National Office for the Assistance to Refugees and Disaster Stricken People (ONARS) distributing bread to migrants in Djibouti. Copyright: ONARS 2021
In Yemen, partners continue to face access restrictions in operating an independent Migrant Response Point (MRP) and in scaling up efforts to provide comprehensive support. In Djibouti, with the increasing trends of returns from Yemen and the limited capacity of the MRC in Obock to host migrants, MRP partners have been providing assistance to the most vulnerable migrants at the MRC, whilst the less vulnerable migrants are assisted with food, water and other assistance in front of the centre before they continue their journey (mainly on foot) back to Ethiopia.

Over the next quarter, MRP partners foresee COVID-19 mobility restrictions remaining in place and continuing to affect migration flows on the Eastern route. However, the pressure to ensure the safe return of stranded migrants will increase, as well as that of governments of destination countries to intensify forced returns. Significant caseloads of vulnerable migrants remain to be assisted in Yemen and other countries of transit and destination.

The MRP remains underfunded, with USD13.2M of the USD99M having been received by the end of the first quarter.

The regional Migrant Response Plan (MRP) for the Horn of Africa and Yemen 2021 – 2024 is an inter-agency migrant-focused humanitarian and development response strategy for vulnerable migrants from the Horn of Africa, specifically Somalia, Djibouti and Ethiopia, moving to and from Yemen. It provides an essential strategic framework to ensure a whole-of-society, whole-of-route and whole-of-government approach to addressing migrants’ protection needs, risks and vulnerabilities. The MRP is led by IOM’s Regional Office for the East and Horn of Africa based in Nairobi. MRP partners include intergovernmental and non-governmental actors working in close collaboration at the regional and country levels to set strategic objectives, determine yearly operational priorities and budgets, support country offices in implementation through capacity building and technical support, and identify challenges and trends that inform partners’ responses.
Contact Information

IOM Regional Office for the East and Horn of Africa

RONairobiPIU@iom.int