

REGIONAL OVERVIEW: JANUARY 2021

A total of 610 migrants were registered at MRCs across the region in January 2021, an almost 30% decrease compared to December 2020 and a 47% decrease compared to January of 2020. Only four out of seven MRCs recorded registrations during this month. Most migrants were registered in Hargeisa (225), followed by Bossaso (181), Obock (173) and Togochale (31). No migrants were registered at the MRCs in Dire Dawa, Metema and Semera.

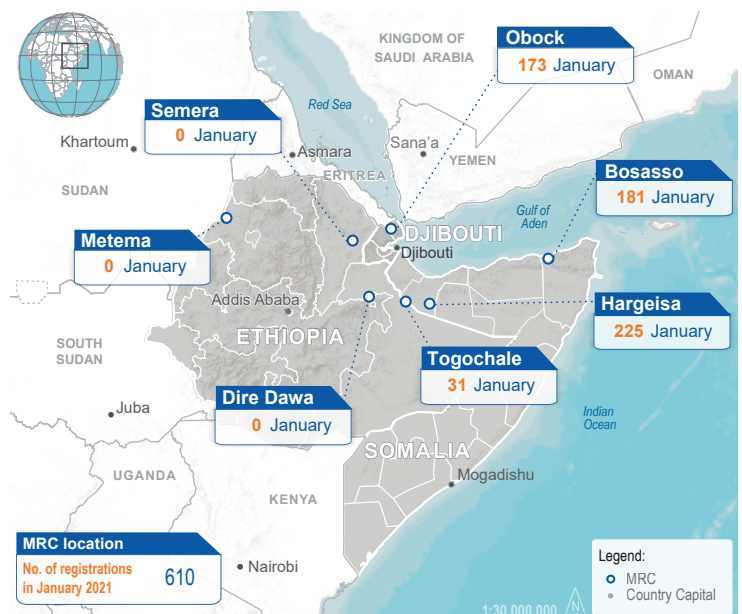
More male adults (34%) were registered in January than female adults (17%), while almost half of registrations were children (49%). Despite the number of total registrations having decreased compared to December 2020, child registrations more than doubled between December (128) and January (300). Most registered children (36%) were between 15 and 17 years old. Around 45% of all child migrants visited the MRC in Hargeisa, followed by Obock (33%), Bossaso (19%) and Togochale (3%). While almost all the children registered at the MRC in Hargeisa (99.3%) were accompanied, most children tracked in Bossaso (95%), Obock (80%) and Togochale (75%) were unaccompanied.

Almost all the registered migrants were Ethiopian nationals (99.7%), and the majority reported departing from the Oromia (45%) and Harari (18%) regions of Ethiopia. The remaining migrants were mainly returning from Yemen, in particular from Aden (19%) and Marib (5%). About 26% of migrants reported that they intended to continue their journey to Saudi Arabia, most of whom were registered in Bossaso (67%). Migrants registered in Obock (86%) were mostly intending on returning home. Overall, most migrants reported migrating for economic reasons (67%).



Migrants stranded in the desert are taken to the MRC in Obock, Djibouti. © IOM 2020/Alexander Bee

MRC LOCATIONS AND REGISTRATIONS



Background and Methodology

Migration Response Centers (MRCs) are situated along key migration routes, where they fill critical gaps by providing direct assistance, including food and temporary shelter, information and service referrals to migrants on the move. Working collaboratively, MRCs bring together key partners to facilitate the identification of migrants in vulnerable situations, and ensure that they receive appropriate, immediate and longer-term support. Seven MRCs are currently operational in the Horn of Africa: Hargeisa and Bossaso since 2009, Djibouti since 2011, Semera and Metema since 2014, and Dire Dawa and Togochale since end of 2019, following a request from the Government of Ethiopia in August 2019.

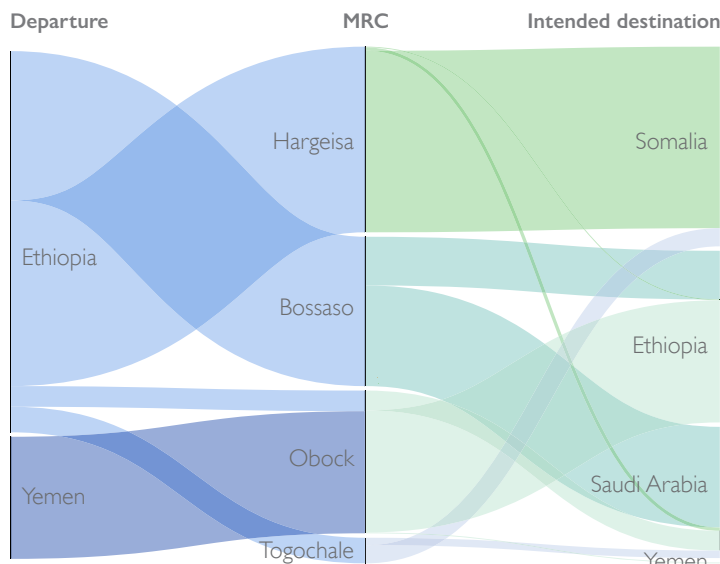
IOM established the MRC Regional Data Collection System in July 2016 to advance a standardized approach for collecting data and monitoring responses to mixed migration flows and informing evidence-based policy and programming in the region. In 2018, IOM revised the system to strengthen the provision of relevant and robust data. In 2020, a new software application, the MRC Information System (MRCIS), was developed to better address the data management needs of these facilities.

This factsheet presents key findings, rather than the entire range of information gathered in the MRC questionnaire. Data is collected upon migrant registration at the MRCs by trained enumerators. Only the information of migrants that consent to their data being captured is collected. IOM does not share individual-level data. All data presented in this factsheet should be taken as indicative rather than representative and should not be used to generalise across the region.

MIGRANT JOURNEYS

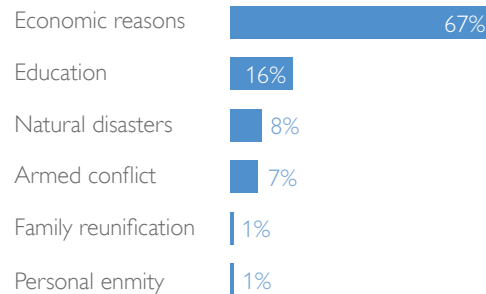


Travel History

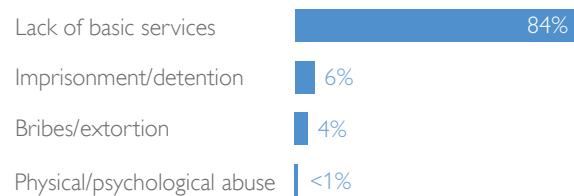


| Top 4 Areas of Departure | | |
|--------------------------|--------|-----|
| Ethiopia | Oromia | 45% |
| Yemen | Aden | 19% |
| Ethiopia | Harari | 18% |
| Yemen | Marib | 5% |

Most Reported Reasons for Migration *



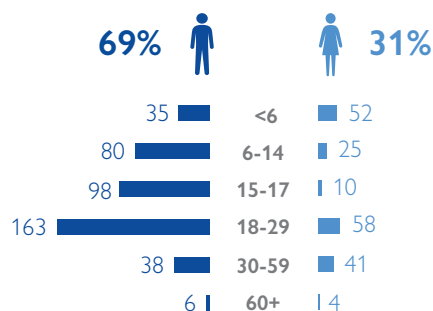
Most Reported Hardships During the Journey *



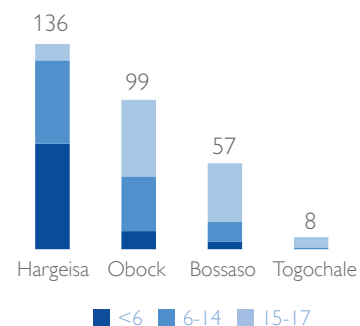
MIGRANT PROFILES AND VULNERABILITIES



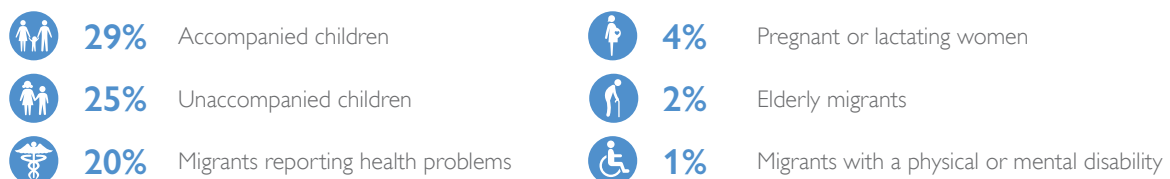
610 Migrant Registrations



300 Child Migrant Registrations



Most Reported Vulnerabilities *



*Multiple choices allowed.