

Migration Response Centres (MRCs)

East and Horn of Africa

01 JANUARY - 31 DECEMBER 2020



RDH
IOM Regional Data Hub
East and Horn of Africa

REGIONAL OVERVIEW: DECEMBER 2020

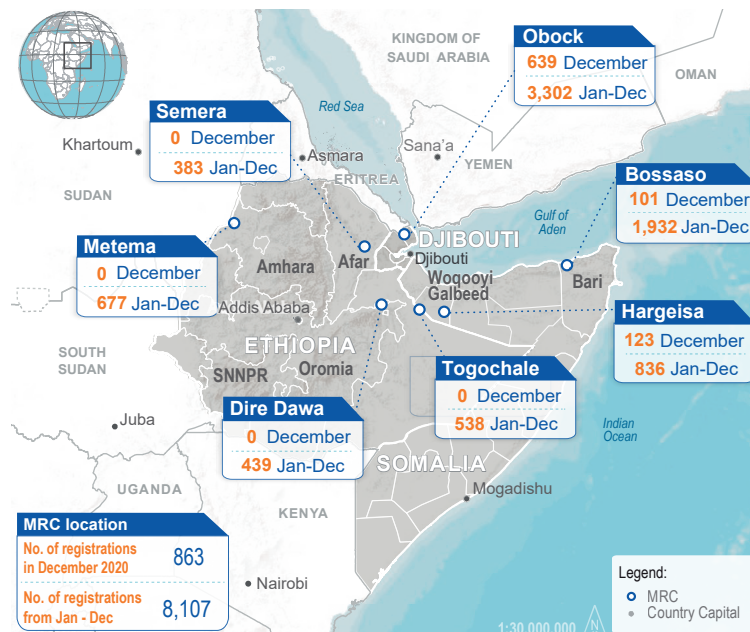
A total of **863** migrants were registered at MRCs across the region in December, an almost **20%** decrease compared to November. This brings the total registrations in 2020 to **8,107** migrants. Only **three out of seven** MRCs recorded registrations in December. Most migrants were registered in Obock (**639**), followed by Hargeisa (**123**) and Bossaso (**101**). No migrants were registered in Ethiopia at the MRCs in Dire Dawa, Metema, Semera and Togochale.

Despite a **25%** decrease compared to November, a large number of arrivals continue to be recorded at the MRC in Obock due to the closure of the Massagara reception site in October. This decision followed an agreement between IOM and the Government of Djibouti which stipulates that all migrants who have returned to Obock, the vast majority of whom returned from Yemen, are now being registered at the MRC in Obock. At the same time, the MRC in Obock temporarily resumed its Assisted Voluntary Return (AVR) services at the end of December. A total of **43** migrants returned to their country of origin, including **35** unaccompanied migrant children (UMCs). Similarly, the MRC in Hargeisa resumed its services, although at reduced levels, with a total of **8** AVR movements processed in December.

Similar to the previous month, more male adults (**78%**) were registered in December than female adults (**7%**), while **15%** of registrations were children. This is consistent with the large volume of new registrees at the MRC in Obock who were mostly Ethiopian men returning from Yemen, aged between 18 and 29 years. Meanwhile, child registrations **almost doubled** over the past month, passing from **86** in November to **128** in December. Most migrant children were registered in Hargeisa (**56%**), followed by Obock (**34%**) and Bossaso (**10%**). While **almost all** the children registered at the MRC in Hargeisa (**97%**) were accompanied, **most** children tracked in Bossaso (**92%**) and Obock (**85%**) were unaccompanied.

Almost all the registered migrants were Ethiopian nationals (**99.8%**), and the majority reported departing from Yemen, in particular from Aden (**50%**) and Marib (**18%**). The remaining migrants mainly departed from the Oromia (**24%**) and Somali (**2%**) regions of Ethiopia. **Almost all** the registrees in Obock (**92%**) were planning to go back to their country of origin, whereas **almost all** the registrees in Bossaso (**96%**) reported their intention to continue their journey to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. In addition, **5%** of all the registrees in Hargeisa reported their intention to go to Yemen. Overall, most migrants reported migrating for economic reasons (**90%**).

MRC LOCATIONS & REGISTRATIONS



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. The services provided by each MRC vary based on location and needs.



Medical Assistance Provided to Migrants Before Their Return Home as Part of IOM's AVR Programme © MRC Bossaso, 2020

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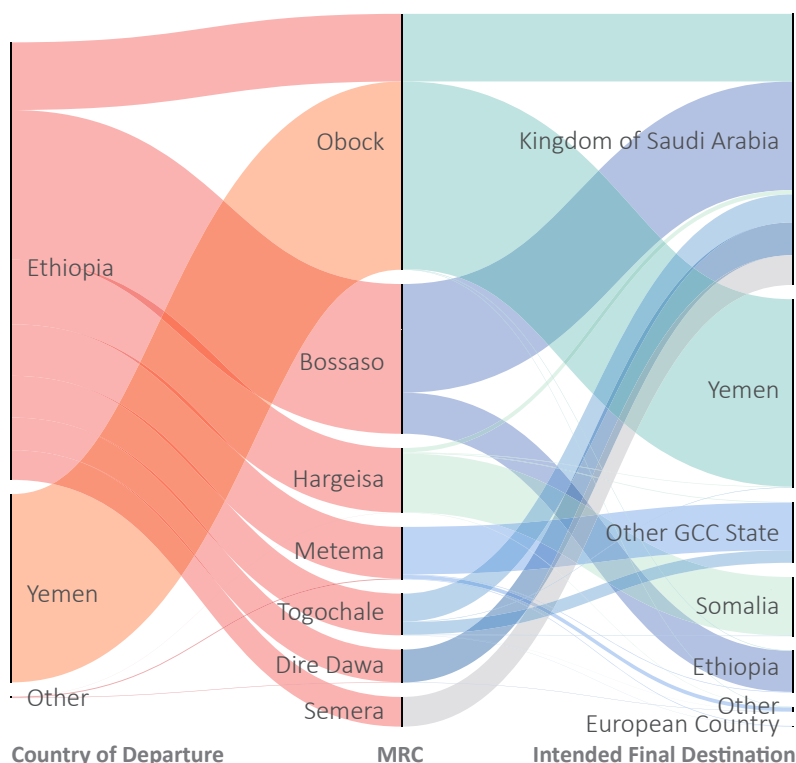


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MIGRANT JOURNEYS



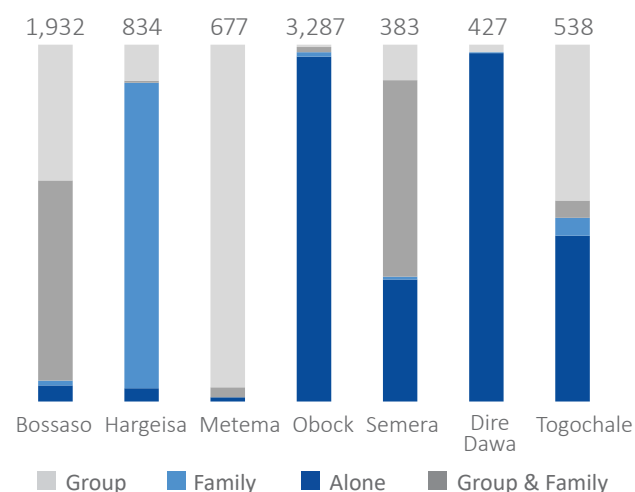
Country of Departure, MRC and Intended Destination



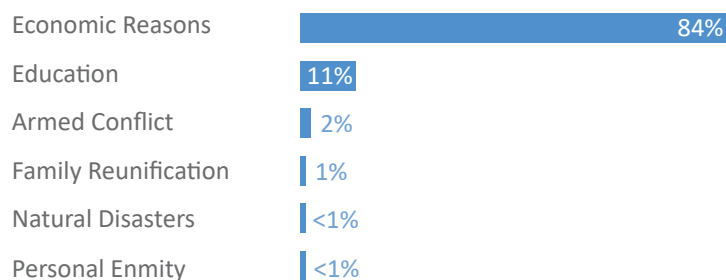
Top 4 Areas of Departure

Ethiopia	Oromia	39%
Yemen	Aden	24%
Ethiopia	Amhara	10%
Ethiopia	Tigray	8%

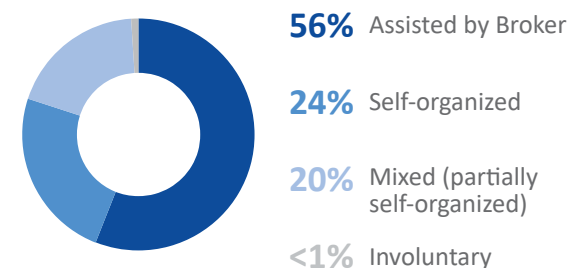
Migrant Travel Status



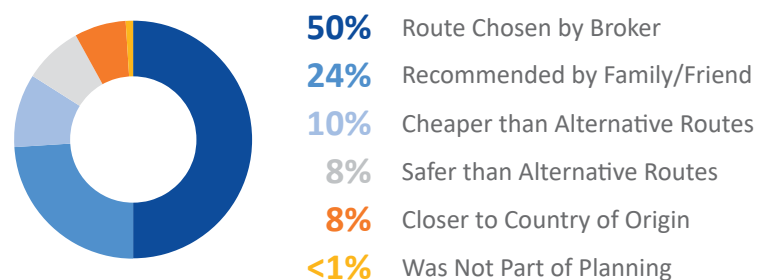
Most Commonly Reported Reasons for Migration *



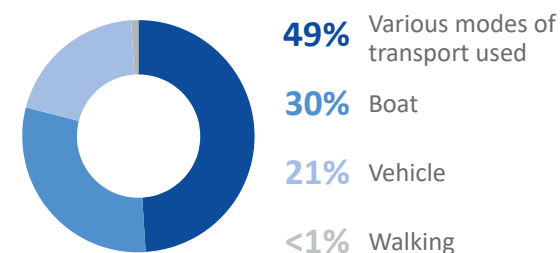
Journey Arrangements



Choice of Route



Main Mode of Transport



* Multiple choices allowed.

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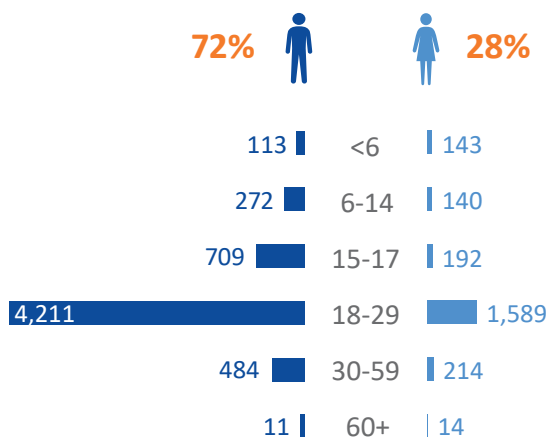


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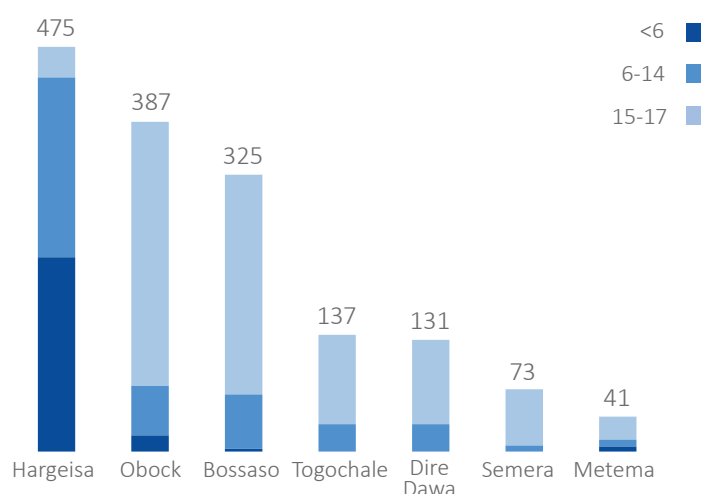
MIGRANT PROFILES AND VULNERABILITIES



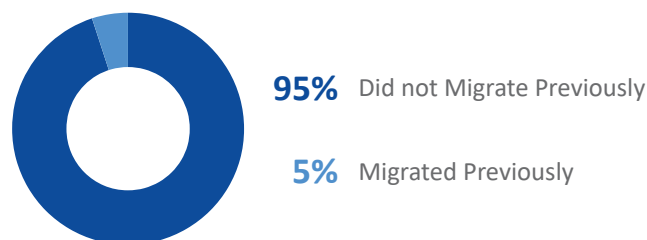
8,092 migrant registrations ¹



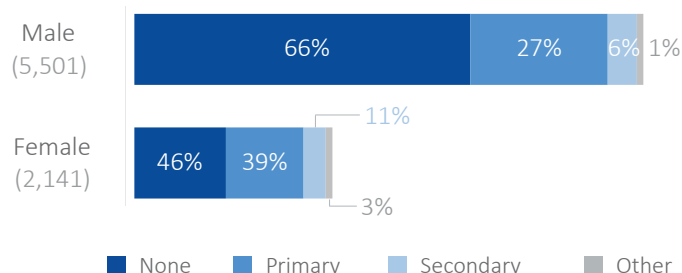
1,569 child migrant registrations



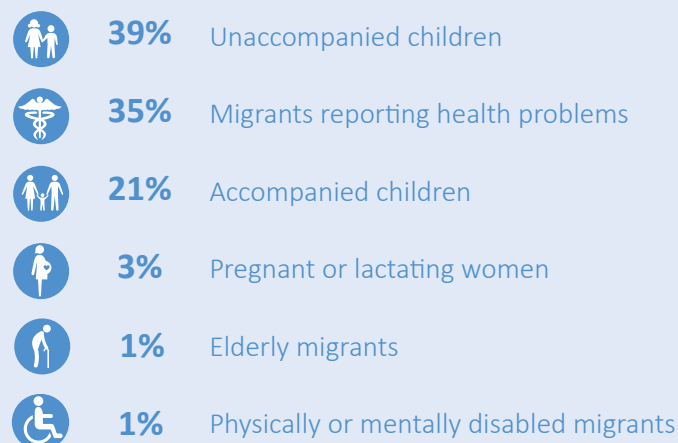
Previous Migration Attempts



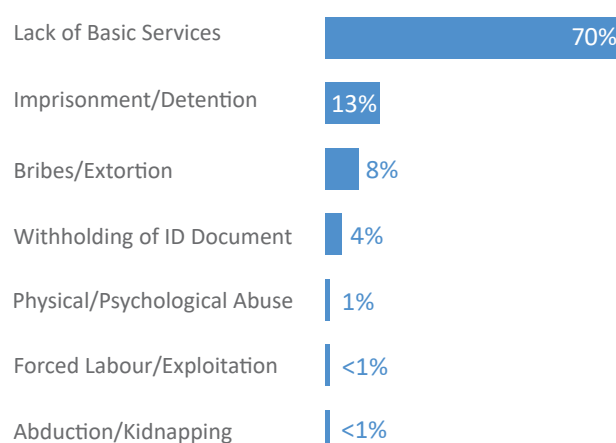
Educational Background by Sex



2,498 Vulnerable Migrants (31% of total) *



Most Reported Hardships During the Journey *



* Multiple choices allowed.

¹ 15 migrants preferred not to have their data collected.

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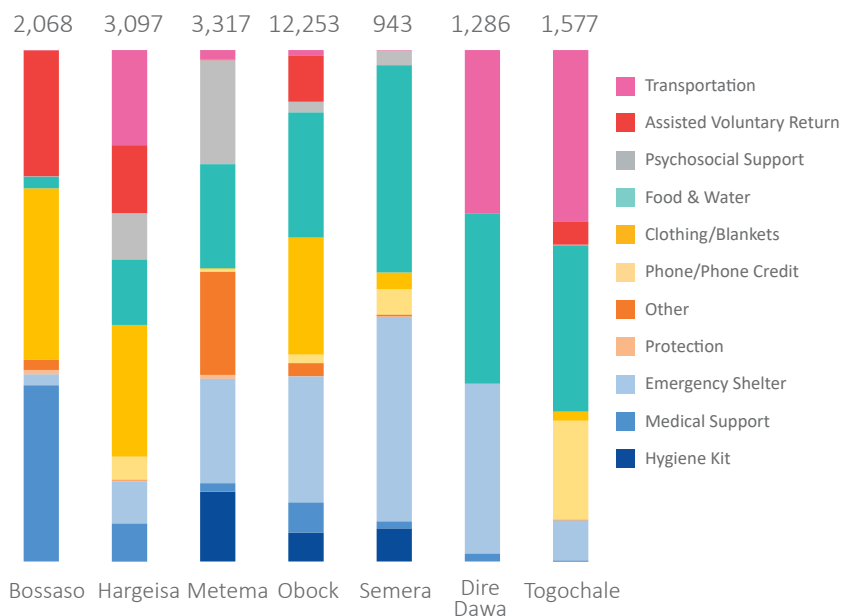
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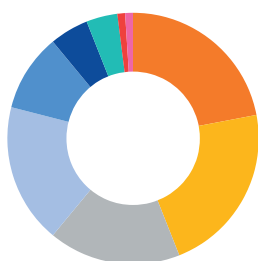
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MIGRANT NEEDS AND SERVICE PROVISION

24,541 Multi-sectoral Needs Reported *



23,576 Services Provided at MRCs *



5,269	Food & Water
5,191	Emergency Assistance
4,154	Psychosocial Services
4,152	Medical Services
2,349	Communication with Family
1,263	Assisted Voluntary Return
1,018	Transportation Assistance
138	Counseling/Screening Services
42	Protection

145 Service Referrals Provided *

Specialized Medical Service	100
Other Services/Organisations	32
Child Protection Service	4
UNHCR or Refugee Agency	3
Legal Assistance	3
Consular Service	2
Secondary Screening for Potential VoTs ²	1

Background & Methodology

IOM established the MRC Regional Data Collection System, encompassing all MRCs in the Horn of Africa, in July 2016 to advance a standardized approach for collecting data and monitoring responses to mixed migration flows in the region. Data is collected upon migrant registration at the MRCs. Only the information of migrants that consent to their data being captured is collected. IOM does not share individual-level data. The MRC screening form was designed to foster a better understanding of migrant hardships, vulnerabilities and needs, as well as their motivations and intentions. The data collected is able to inform evidence-based policy and programming in the region.

In 2018, IOM revised the MRC Regional Data Collection System to strengthen the provision of relevant and robust data. First, a technical working group was established to revise the MRC screening form to better capture the fluidity of migrants' movements, their vulnerabilities and the services provided to them at the MRCs. Simultaneously, a regional network of Information Management Assistants was established to facilitate and harmonise data collection activities and further strengthen the MRC Data Collection System. Finally, all focal persons and other relevant MRC staff across the region received training on the MRC data collection procedures.

This factsheet presents key findings, rather than the entire range of information gathered in the MRC questionnaire. Information is collected in the MRCs by trained enumerators upon migrant registration. Findings are triangulated through other IOM data collection systems and secondary sources including news monitoring and humanitarian reports. All data presented in this factsheet should be taken as indicative rather than representative and should not be used to generalise across the region.

Regional Data Hub | RDH

Established in early 2018, the RDH aims to support evidence-based, strategic and policy-level discussion on migration through a combination of initiatives. Its strategy is structured along four main pillars: strengthening regional primary and secondary data collection and analysis; increasing Information Management capacity across countries; conducting regional research and analysis, and enhancing knowledge-sharing across programmatic and policy-level stakeholders; and providing technical support to key governmental and non-governmental stakeholders to enhance their migration data portfolio in line with regional and global initiatives.

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* Multiple choices allowed.

² Victims of trafficking.

RDH donors at the regional level:



EU-IOM
Joint Initiative for
Migrant Protection
and Reintegration



MIRAC
MIGRATION RESOURCE
ALLOCATION COMMITTEE

Donors supporting the MRC activities:



ROYAL NORWEGIAN EMBASSY

