

Migration Response Centres (MRCs)

East and Horn of Africa

REGIONAL DATA HUB | RDH

01 January - 28 February 2019



International Organization for Migration (IOM)
The UN Migration Agency

REGIONAL OVERVIEW: FEBRUARY 2019

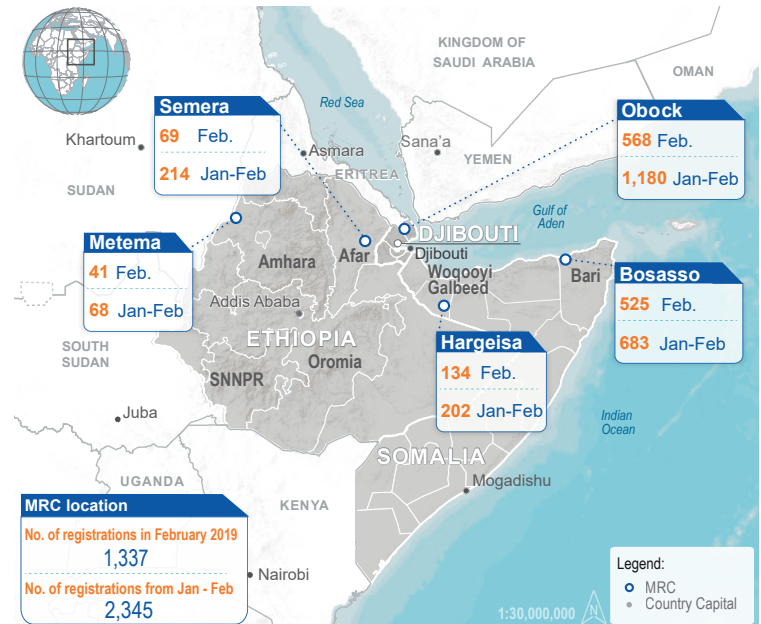
A total of **1,337** migrants were registered at MRCs across the region in February. The largest number of migrants was registered in Obock (**568**), followed by Bosasso (**525**), Hargeisa (**134**), Semera (**69**), and Metema (**41**). About **20%** of registrees in February were minors. The largest number of children were registered in Obock (**93**), Bosasso (**86**) and Hargeisa (**83**). While **all 83** minors in Hargeisa were accompanied, most minors in Bosasso (**84**) and Obock (**84**) were unaccompanied. Most minors in Hargeisa (**77**) were below the age of 14, while most minors in Bosasso (**70**) and Obock (**73**) were 15 or older. Of the **217** minors between the ages of 6 and 17, **75%** had received no form of education at the point of interview and only **4%** had completed primary school.

Of all the individuals registered across MRCs in February, **99%** were of Ethiopian nationality, most commonly from the Oromia (**80%**), Amhara (**6%**) and Somali (**4%**) regions. With the exception of Hargeisa where the majority of registrees were minors, migrants registered across MRCs were predominantly **18-29** years old. The MRC Hargeisa attracts larger numbers of families compared to other MRCs in the region, due to its location in an area where many migrant families have settled. Of the registered migrants, **96%** reported never having attempted a migration journey before. While **95%** of all registered men were traveling in a group or alone, females were most commonly traveling with their immediate family (**39%**) and only **30%** reported traveling alone.

A majority of registrees reported migrating for economic reasons (**75%**), while **14%** left their communities of origin in search of educational opportunities. A vast majority of migrants seeking educational opportunities were young, Ethiopian males registered in Bosasso, **19%** of whom were minors. Over **75%** of these migrants were returning to Ethiopia.

Fewer migrants than in previous months (**55%**) reported that they were headed along the Eastern Route to Saudi Arabia and almost a third (**31%**) of registered migrants were returning home to their communities of origin. A vast majority of returnees were registered in Bosasso, where a security campaign in February had resulted in fewer boat departures, causing many migrants to be stranded in Bosasso, where some were assisted by local authorities to return to their countries of origin.

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. Five MRCs are currently operational in the Horn of Africa: Hargeisa and Bosasso since 2009, Djibouti since 2011 and Semera and Metema since 2014. IOM is working closely with local authorities to open two further MRCs in the coming months. The services provided by each MRC vary based on location and needs.



MRC Hargeisa celebrates International Migrants Day on 18 December 2018 © MRC Hargeisa

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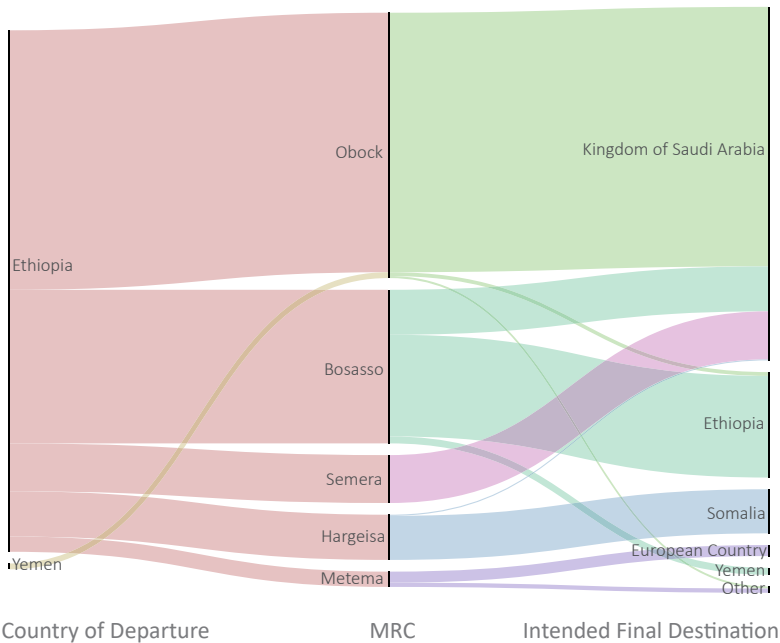


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MIGRANT JOURNEYS



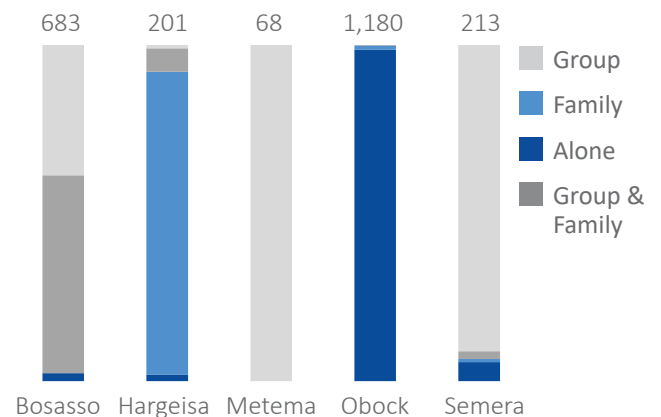
Country of Departure, MRC and Intended Destination



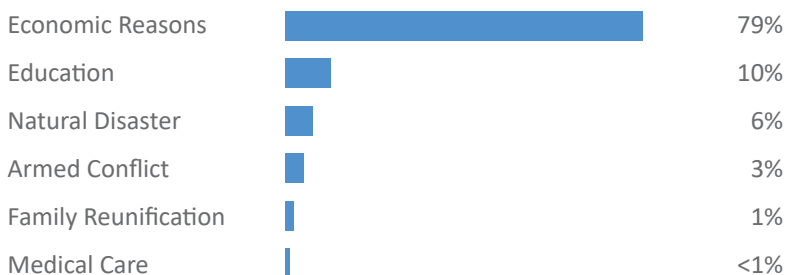
Top 4 Areas of Departure

Ethiopia	Oromia	1,734
Ethiopia	Amhara	323
Ethiopia	Tigray	91
Ethiopia	Somali	64

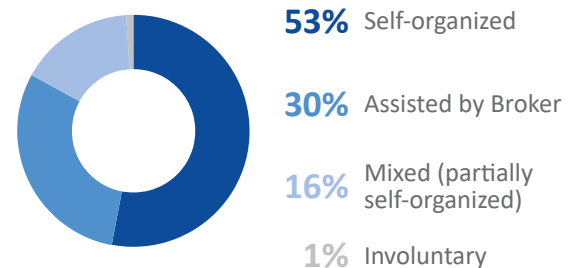
Migrant Travel Status



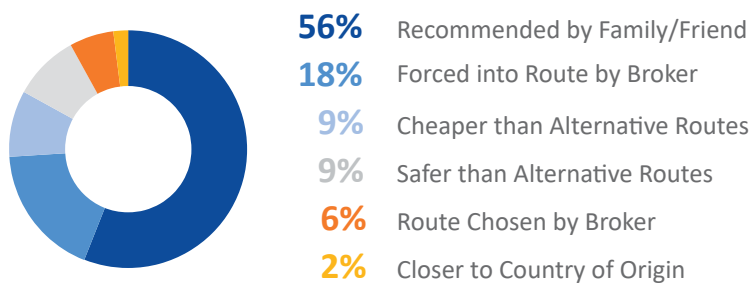
Most Commonly Reported Reasons for Migration ¹



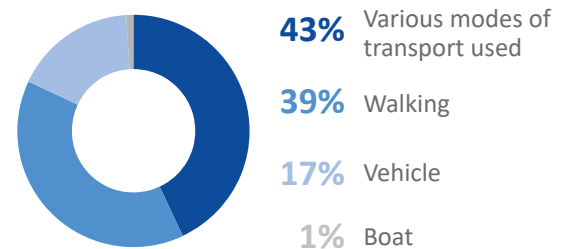
Journey Arrangements



Choice of Route



Main Mode of Transport



¹ Multiple choices allowed

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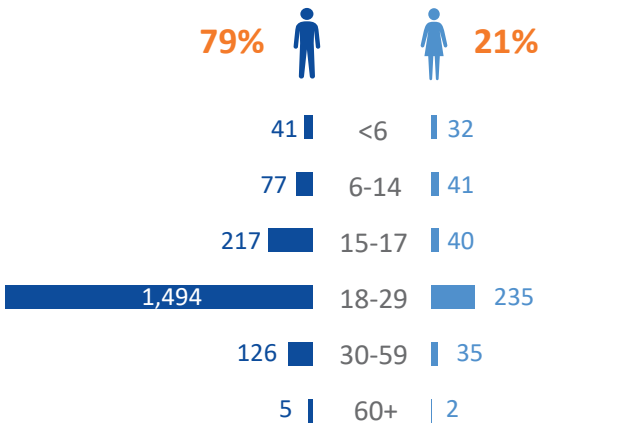


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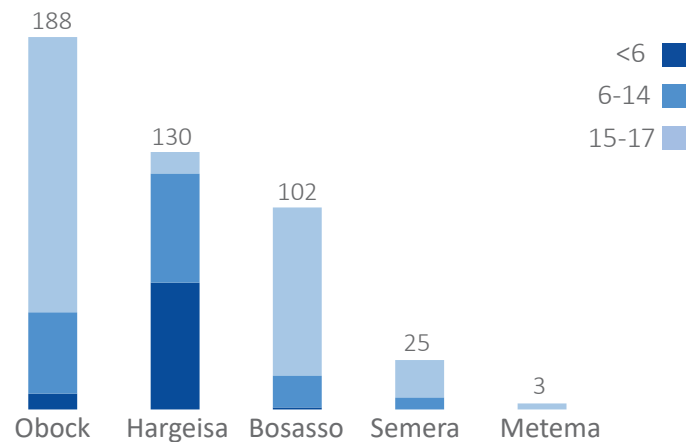
MIGRANT PROFILES AND VULNERABILITIES



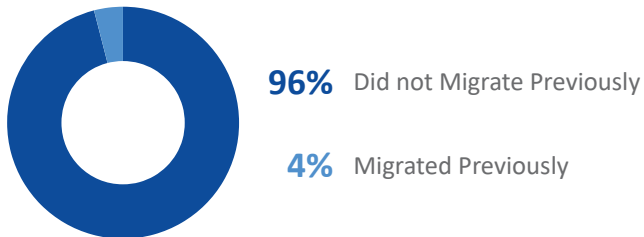
2,345 migrant registrations in February



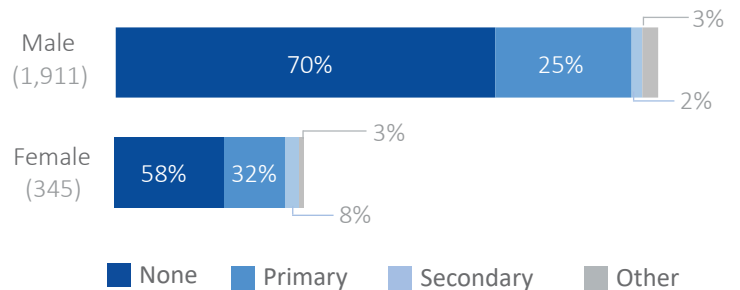
448 child migrant registrations in February



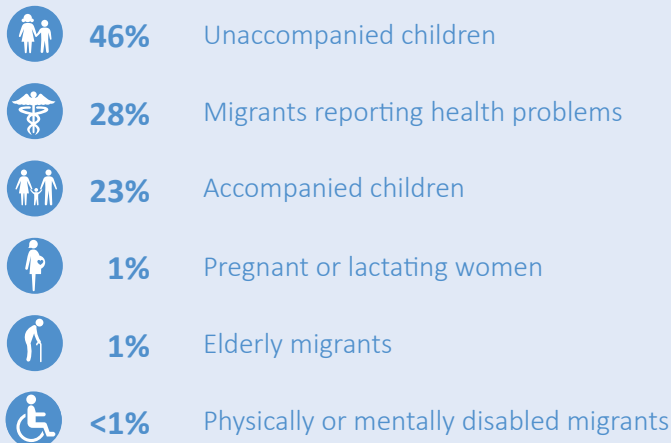
Previous Migration Attempts



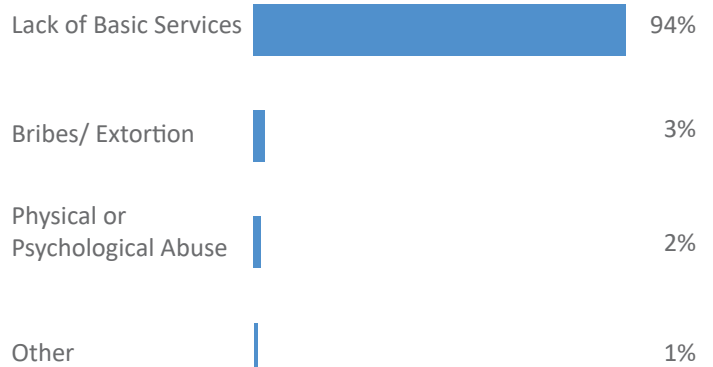
Migrant Gender and Educational Background



646 Vulnerable Migrants (28% of total)¹



Top 5 Reported Hardships During the Journey¹



¹ Multiple choices allowed

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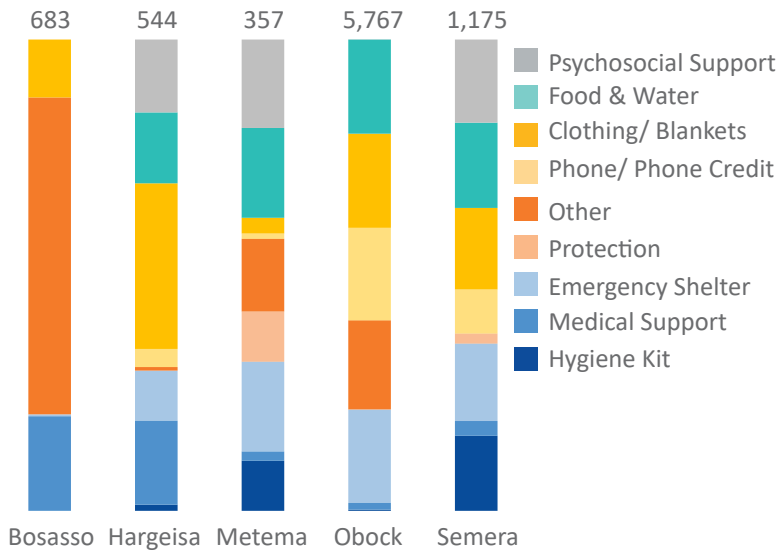
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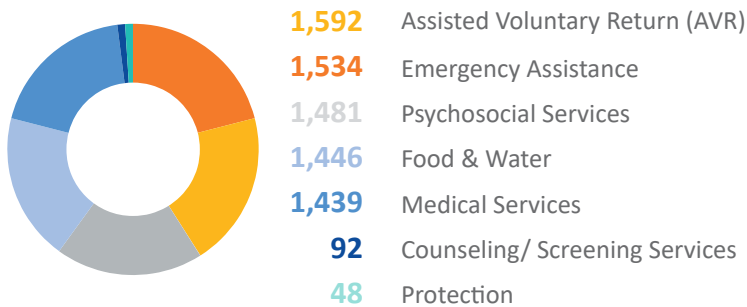
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MIGRANT NEEDS AND SERVICE PROVISION

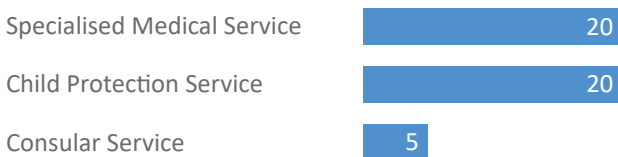
8,526 Multi-sectoral Needs Reported ¹



7,632 Services Provided at MRCs ¹



45 Service Referrals Provided 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. They continue to receive technical support from the Regional Data Hub.

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.

For more information on the methodology used, please contact: rdhronairobi@iom.int

The Regional Data Hub | RDH

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; providing technical support to ensure harmonization and interoperability of key methodologies used to monitor population mobility; and the engagement of key stakeholders and governmental counterparts in migration dialogue and consultation.

¹ Multiple choices allowed

