

# REGIONAL MIGRANT RESPONSE PLAN FOR THE HORN OF AFRICA AND YEMEN

OCTOBER 2019 UPDATE

## 2019 Key Figures

**113,000**

Vulnerable migrants in need of life-saving assistance in 2019

**USD 53.8M**

Funding required by RMRP partners in 2019

**32%**

Funding secured by RMRP partners in 2019

**17**

RMRP partners in Djibouti, Ethiopia, Somalia & Yemen

## 2019 PLANNING POPULATION

Updates to the Regional Migrant Response Plan for the Horn of Africa and Yemen (RMRP) for 2019 reflect revised targets and priority activities based on consultations held with partners in August and September 2019, as well as relevant data available through June 2019.

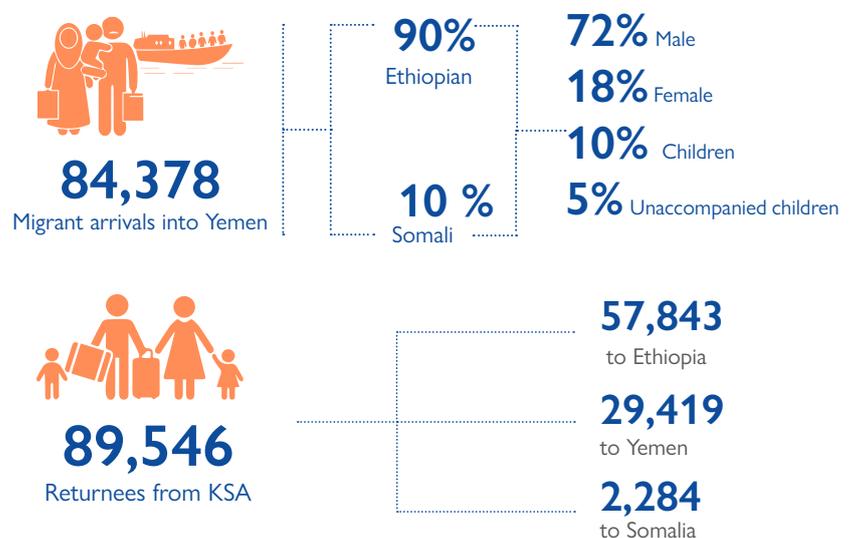
The planning population for 2019 was revised upward to 113,000 vulnerable migrants in need of life-saving assistance in Djibouti, Ethiopia, Somalia, and Yemen based on 84,378 arrivals from the Horn of Africa into Yemen recorded in the first half of 2019. This data suggests that an estimated 160,000 migrants will enter Yemen by the end of 2019, up from the estimated 100,000 arrivals that informed the 2018 planning population. Returns from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) have decreased slightly in 2019, with an estimated 130,000 Ethiopian and Somali migrants returning from KSA in 2019.

## 2019 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Vulnerable migrants stranded in Yemen continue to be the population requiring the highest level of humanitarian assistance and protection. Provision of emergency medical assistance, food, shelter and water, sanitation and hygiene support, as well as facilitating voluntary return continue to be priority actions for RMRP partners in 2019.

Vulnerable migrants in transit to Yemen require life-saving humanitarian assistance in Djibouti, Ethiopia, and Somalia, as well as counselling, support and awareness raising on the dangers of their journey.

## Migrant arrival and return trends, January to June 2019



Source: IOM Regional Data Hub

Between January and June 2019, the number of vulnerable migrants seeking assistance at Migrant Response Centres in these transit countries has nearly doubled as compared to the same period in 2018. Similarly, IOM facilitated the voluntary humanitarian return of 3,046 Ethiopians by air from Aden and Sana'a in Yemen to Ethiopia in the first six months of 2019 as compared to the 1,080 total humanitarian returns facilitated in all of 2018. These trends underscore the need for continued humanitarian, protection, and capacity building responses by partners in the four RMRP target countries.

Of particular concern in 2019 is an increase in the number of unaccompanied children (UAC) on the eastern route: approximately 5 per cent of all arrivals into Yemen in the first six months of 2019 were UAC, compared to 2 per cent in the previous year. RMRP partners seek to prioritize the special protection needs of children in 2019, focusing on interventions around psychosocial support, appropriate shelter, support with family tracing and reunification, and strengthened referral and case management mechanisms in countries of transit and return. Addressing the root causes of migration from source countries is also a high priority, with RMRP partners seeking to scale up community development and community-based reintegration efforts in Ethiopia and Somalia.

## RMRP 2019 PLANNING POPULATION

**113,000** Total number of vulnerable migrants in need of assistance

**60,000**

Vulnerable migrants in need of humanitarian support while transiting or stranded in Yemen



**53,000**



Vulnerable migrants returning home from KSA and Yemen, or in transit within RMRP target countries of Djibouti, Ethiopia, and Somalia, as follows:



**32,000**

Vulnerable migrants returning directly from KSA (via plane) to Ethiopia and Somalia, respectively 22,000 and 10,000



**14,000**

In need of humanitarian, protection, or return assistance (5,000 in Djibouti; 5,000 in Ethiopia, and; 4,000 in Somalia)



**4,000**

Vulnerable Ethiopian migrants in need of humanitarian voluntary return support from Yemen



**3,000**

Vulnerable Yemeni returnees from KSA

## YEMEN

Despite the protracted conflict, Yemen remains a transit and destination country for migrants from the Horn of Africa. The total number of migrant arrivals from the Horn of Africa is estimated to reach 160,000 in 2019 based on 84,378 arrivals tracked in the first six months of this year. The 2019 Humanitarian Needs Overview for Yemen estimates that at least 90 per cent of new arrivals are Ethiopian, and more than 30 per cent of all new arrivals in the country are unaccompanied minors. In total, there are an estimated 422,000 refugees, asylum-seekers, and migrants living in Yemen, many of whom have acute humanitarian and protection needs. The total number of Yemeni returnees from KSA in 2019 is also estimated to remain on par with 2018, with 30,000 returns tracked between January and June 2019.

### 2019 Response

Yemen targets in 2019 include 4,000 Ethiopian migrants in need of voluntary humanitarian return (VHR) assistance; 60,000 migrants provided with registration, food, NFI, counselling, medical support, or referral assistance, and; assistance to 3,000 Yemeni returnees from KSA. In line with relevant 2019 Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan priorities, targets, and budgets, RMRP partners in Yemen will undertake the following priorities in 2019:

#### Objective 1: To ensure humanitarian and protection assistance to vulnerable migrants in Yemen and the Horn of Africa.

- Continue facilitating voluntary humanitarian returns for vulnerable migrants to their home countries for those that lack the means to return home on their own;
- Continue the registration of migrants at Migrant Response Points and provide vulnerable migrants with counselling and referrals to relevant services or asylum procedures where necessary;
- Provide vulnerable migrants with humanitarian life-saving assistance including health services, NFI kits, food, water, temporary shelter and referral for protection. Priority will be given to migrants who have suffered extreme abuse, those with serious health conditions, unaccompanied or separated children, and women.

#### Objective 2: To support durable and development-oriented approaches to return, sustainable reintegration and community stabilization, is not applicable in the context of Yemen.

- Activities under this objective are not applicable to the context in Yemen.

#### Objective 3: To strengthen protection of migrants in the Horn of Africa and Yemen by building the capacities of Governments.

- Advocate with authorities for a framework that provides for safe and legal pathways for managing migration flows, centred on the protection of individuals particularly women, children, youth, and others with situational vulnerabilities;
- Continue capacity building on border management, counter-trafficking, counter-smuggling, and rescue-at-sea capacity.

#### Objective 4: To strengthen partnership and collaboration around evidence-based analysis of drivers of migration needs and trends of migration between the Horn of Africa and Yemen.

- Monitoring migration trends, focusing on Yemen's entry, transit and exit flow points will remain a priority in 2019 to be able to understand how migration evolves and maintain the relevance of the Plan's response;
- Conduct updated research and assessments on the protection, humanitarian, and reintegration needs of migrant arrivals from the Horn of Africa and Yemeni returnees from KSA.

YEMEN	Objective 1	Objective 2	Objective 3	Objective 4	Total
Budget required (USD)	13,216,000	N/A	50,000	520,000	13,796,000
Funding received (USD)	4,510,860	N/A	0	184,100	4,694,960



## DJIBOUTI

Djibouti's strategic location on the banks of the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden makes it host to some of the largest migrant flows on the African continent. From January to August 2019, more than 168,360 migrants were tracked in Djibouti through flow monitoring points and 31,481 persons have been observed in Yemen arriving from Djibouti between January to June 2019. The number of migrants seeking assistance at the Migrant Response Centre (MRC) in Obock in the first six months of 2019 has more than doubled compared to the same period in 2018, with many migrants stranded and requesting assistance to voluntarily return to their countries of origin rather than continue on the potentially perilous journey through Yemen.

### 2019 Response

With VHRs from Yemen to Ethiopia taking place via direct flights as of November 2018, targets in Djibouti will focus on the provision of life-saving humanitarian assistance to transiting migrants, and voluntary return assistance to vulnerable stranded migrants who lack the means to return home.

#### **Objective 1: To ensure humanitarian and protection assistance to vulnerable migrants in Yemen and the Horn of Africa.**

- Continue provision of humanitarian assistance, including registration, reception, counselling, food, temporary shelter, and referral to vulnerable migrants, particularly at the MRC in Obock, as well as via mobile response teams.
- Strengthen child protection mechanisms through the placement of dedicated child protection personnel and the creation of age-appropriate child-friendly spaces at the MRC in Obock.
- Strengthen existing referral mechanisms for vulnerable migrants, particularly unaccompanied children, by creating alternative care arrangements in key migratory route locations.

#### **Objective 2: To support durable and development-oriented approaches to return, sustainable reintegration and community stabilization.**

- Assist stranded migrants in Djibouti who wish to voluntarily return to their countries of origin but lack the means to make arrangements on their own. Priority will be given to unaccompanied migrant children and migrants with situational vulnerabilities;
- Support the livelihoods of youth in host communities along key migratory routes as a means of promoting economic opportunities and social cohesion;
- Support the regularization of stay for eligible migrants according to set criteria;
- Increase awareness about dangers of irregular migration for migrants in transit through Djibouti, to be reached at the MRC or through mobile outreach campaigns.

#### **Objective 3: To strengthen protection of migrants in the Horn of Africa and Yemen by building the capacities of Governments.**

- Support the Government of Djibouti with the development and strengthening of national migration policies in support of relevant protection and labour needs of migrants;
- Strengthen the government's capacity to meet the protection and basic social services needs of vulnerable migrants through targeted trainings on migrant protection;
- Continue to build the government's capacity to improve their border management at land, air, and sea border posts, particularly the Coast Guard's rescue at sea capacity.

#### **Objective 4: To strengthen partnership and collaboration around evidence-based analysis of root causes, needs and trends of migration between the Horn of Africa and Yemen.**

- Using DTM and MRC teams in Obock, migration partners in Djibouti will continue to monitor migration trends, focusing on Djibouti's entry, transit and exit flow points.

DJIBOUTI	Objective 1	Objective 2	Objective 3	Objective 4	Total
Budget required (USD)	1,262,500	610,000	580,000	569,000	3,021,500
Funding received (USD)	1,092,300	310,000	445,000	530,000	2,377,300



## ETHIOPIA

Ethiopia continues to experience a complex, climate and conflict-induced humanitarian crisis that has resulted in an estimated 2.8 million displaced persons in 2018. Population growth, limited livelihood and employment opportunities for youth, and the effects of climate change on pastoral communities has resulted in significant outward migration of Ethiopians seeking economic opportunities overseas, mostly in the Gulf Cooperation Council states. In the first six months of 2019, enumerators at key Flow Monitoring Points have tracked the arrival of 76,000 Ethiopians into Yemen, with 5 per cent of those being UAC.

In addition to the significant outflow of people into Yemen, Ethiopia has been impacted by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's decision to deport an estimated 500,000 Ethiopians residing in Saudi Arabia with irregular status. Following the end of an amnesty period in November 2017, an average of nearly 10,000 Ethiopian migrants have returned from Saudi Arabia every month. An estimated 200,000 Ethiopian migrants with irregular status remain in KSA, and the number of average monthly returns is expected to continue through 2019.

### 2019 Response

The target population for Ethiopia in 2019 will include 22,000 vulnerable migrants returning from KSA; 4,000 vulnerable migrants returning from Yemen; 5,000 migrants in need of humanitarian and protection assistance, and; 2,000 vulnerable migrants in need of reintegration assistance. Key priorities for partners in Ethiopia in 2019 will be:

#### Objective 1: To ensure humanitarian and protection assistance to vulnerable migrants in Yemen and the Horn of Africa.

- Continue providing assistance, counselling, and referral to vulnerable migrants, including psychosocial aid, temporary shelter, family tracing, NFIs, food, and medical support;
- Strengthen identification and assistance for vulnerable migrants, particularly unaccompanied children, at MRCs, Bole Airport, and the IOM Transit Centre by improving child protection services at these locations;
- Establish a temporary shelter facility for unaccompanied migrant children in Dire Dawa that provides services for children until they are reunified with family or placed in alternative family based care.

#### Objective 2: To support durable and development-oriented approaches to return, sustainable reintegration and community stabilization.

- Scale up assistance in the form of onward transportation and reintegration assistance to vulnerable migrants returning from Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Djibouti, and Somalia;
- Continue awareness-raising campaigns on the protection risks of irregular migration and on the promotion of local livelihood opportunities;
- Support the most impacted communities of origin and communities of high returns with community development projects and livelihood interventions to reduce push factors and support social cohesion.

#### Objective 3: To strengthen protection of migrants in the Horn of Africa and Yemen by building the capacities of Governments.

- Support the re-establishment of the KSA Returnee Task Force to support enhanced coordination among government and civil society actors responding to the protection needs of migrants returning from KSA;
- Support the development and improvement of bilateral labour agreements to provide migrants with safe pathways for employment overseas;
- Facilitate the recognition and integration of migrant-specific vulnerabilities into national and regional protection systems;
- Continue support to the Government with strengthening the capacities of immigration, child protection, port health, and law enforcement officials in the areas of vulnerability screening, protection, and humanitarian assistance.

#### Objective 4: To strengthen partnership and collaboration around evidence-based analysis of root causes, needs and trends of migration between the Horn of Africa and Yemen.

- Continue relevant mobility tracking programmes to monitor routes and trends;
- Support updated research on the root causes for migration in Ethiopia, particularly migration on the eastern route to Gulf Cooperation Council countries, and explore potential linkages between displacement and migration.

ETHIOPIA	Objective 1	Objective 2	Objective 3	Objective 4	Total
Budget required (USD)	3,620,000	24,620,000	984,700	187,000	29,411,700
Funding received (USD)	791,925	3,617,114	660,730	143,840	5,213,609



Groups of migrants sit under trees for shade, as they wait for smugglers to organize their travel to Yemen. They are typically hoping to eventually make it to Saudi Arabia. Photo © Olivia Headon/IOM

## SOMALIA

Somalia's migration and mobility environment remains multifaceted and complex, characterized by internal and external displacement due to conflict and natural disasters as well as irregular labour migration. Recurring drought continues to be a source of internal displacement, and the number of Somalis crossing into Yemen in search of economic opportunities has remained constant. Somalia remains a key transit country for migrants in the Horn of Africa: Nearly two-thirds (62 per cent) of the 84,378 arrivals tracked into Yemen between January and June 2019 departed from coastal points in the northern Somalia regions of Somaliland and Puntland. Data for the number of Somalis returning from KSA is limited, with 2,300 known returns in the first three months of 2019. Post-arrival assistance for migrants returning from KSA remains limited and is a key priority for partners in 2019.

### 2019 Response

The target population for the RMRP in Somalia will include 10,000 Somali migrants from KSA in need of humanitarian, protection, and onward travel assistance; 4,000 vulnerable migrants in transit along the eastern route in need of humanitarian and protection assistance, and; 2,000 vulnerable migrants in need of reintegration assistance.

#### **Objective 1: To ensure humanitarian and protection assistance to vulnerable migrants in Yemen and the Horn of Africa.**

- Strengthen protection at MRCs, particularly for accompanied and unaccompanied children, GBV survivors, and victims of trafficking, in the areas of identification, assessment, services, referral, and family tracing;
- Scale up mobile patrol outreach and establish other modalities, including referral structures, for identification and assistance of vulnerable migrants along key migratory routes in Somaliland and Puntland.

#### **Objective 2: Support durable & development-oriented approaches to return, reintegration and community stabilization**

- Scale-up provision of reception assistance, onward transportation, and reintegration for returning migrants;
- Support community development projects in communities of high returns;
- Target information campaigns to transit communities, particularly towards youth, in raising awareness about the dangers of irregular migration and providing migrants with information on alternatives to irregular migration.

#### **Objective 3: To strengthen protection of migrants in the Horn of Africa and Yemen by building the capacities of Governments.**

- Support the Government with development and strengthening of national migration policies;
- Support the Government to enhance migration governance, including institutional and operational capacity building of government institutions;
- Establish a new Migrant Response Center in Mogadishu to fill a critical gap for returning migrants in need of registration, counselling, food, temporary shelter, medical support, and referral assistance;
- Strengthen ability of port-of-entry personnel at Aden Adde International Airport (Mogadishu) to screen for vulnerabilities to identify vulnerable KSA returnees particularly victims of trafficking, GBV survivors, and unaccompanied minors and enhance available protection services and referrals;
- Strengthen inter-agency and inter-sectoral cooperation and coordination at policy and operational levels to respond protection needs of vulnerable migrants;
- Support governmental actors with capacity building in the areas of humanitarian border management and protection, and support intergovernmental coordination to promote enhanced protection responses to migrants by relevant authorities in the regions.

#### **Objective 4: To strengthen partnership and collaboration around evidence-based analysis of drivers of migration, needs and trends of migration between the Horn of Africa and Yemen.**

- Continue relevant mobility tracking and assessments in areas of high returns to identify gaps in access.

SOMALIA	Objective 1	Objective 2	Objective 3	Objective 4	Total
Budget required (USD)	324,000	3,400,000	2,385,000	1,495,000	7,604,000
Funding received (USD)	305,000	1,655,000	1,305,780	1,485,000	4,750,780

## 2018 RESPONSE

RMRP partners in the four target countries provided life-saving humanitarian assistance to 58,000 vulnerable migrants in the form of food, water, and temporary shelter in 2018. Voluntary humanitarian return assistance was provided to 1,080 Ethiopian migrants stranded in Yemen, with a notable achievement being the ability to facilitate voluntary returns by air instead of by sea as of November 2018. This provided for safer and faster voluntary returns that also resulted in less stress for the returning migrants.

As a result of inadequate access to water and sanitation facilities, as well as the extreme hot climate, an outbreak of acute watery diarrhea (AWD) among migrants occurred in Djibouti in 2018. Partners mobilized resources to reduce morbidity and mortality among the thousands of migrants traveling along key migratory routes on their way to Yemen and the Gulf countries. A diarrhea treatment center was established at the Migration Response Centre in Obock, where more than 450 suspected cases of AWD were triaged and over 300 migrants were referred for hospitalization. Partners also set up surveillance measures through health patrols along key migratory corridors, and government health workers were provided with on-the-job training on AWD diagnosis and international treatment protocols in addition to WASH and infection control measures.

Return and transport assistance to stranded vulnerable migrants was a significant component of the 2018 response. Partners in Djibouti, Ethiopia, and Somalia provided 15,000 vulnerable migrants with transport assistance to facilitate their voluntary return home. However, due to underfunding, partners were able to assist only 9,500 of the most vulnerable migrants returning to Ethiopia from KSA out of the estimated 200,000 migrants returning in 2018 alone.

## 2018 Key Achievements



**58,000**

Provided with food, water, and temporary shelter



**52,000**

Reached via community information campaigns on dangers of irregular migration



**15,000**

Provided with transport assistance to return home



**1,080**

Voluntary humanitarian returns from Yemen



**1,600**

Provided with tailored individualized reintegration assistance in Ethiopia and Somalia



**14**

Community development projects conducted in areas of high returns



**44%**

Funding secured by RMRP partners

## REGIONAL STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES AND COORDINATION FRAMEWORK

The Regional Migrant Response Plan for the Horn of Africa and Yemen (RMRP) 2018 - 2020 is a migrant-focused humanitarian and development strategy targeting vulnerable migrants moving to and from the Horn of Africa and Yemen. The RMRP aims to provide a framework for coordination, protection, capacity building, analysis and resource mobilization recognizing the regional dimensions of the migration linking the Horn of Africa and Yemen. The four strategic objectives of the RMRP are:

- To ensure humanitarian and protection assistance to migrants in vulnerable situations in Yemen and the Horn of Africa;
- To support durable and development-oriented approaches to return, sustainable reintegration and community stabilization;
- To strengthen protection of migrants in the Horn of Africa and Yemen by building the capacities of Governments;
- To strengthen partnership and collaboration around evidence-based analysis of drivers of migration, needs and trends of migration between the Horn of Africa and Yemen.

The Regional Migrant Response Plan for the Horn of Africa and Yemen is led by IOM's Regional Office for the East and Horn of Africa based in Nairobi. RMRP partners include intergovernmental and nongovernmental actors working in close collaboration at the regional and country levels to set strategic objectives, determine yearly operational priorities and budgets, and identify challenges and trends that inform partners' responses.

## PARTNERS

Caritas Djibouti • Comprehensive Community-Based Rehabilitation • Danish Refugee Council • Good Samaritan Association of Ethiopia • IGAD • International Committee of the Red Cross • International Rescue Committee • INTERSOS • IOM • Norwegian Refugee Council • RMMS • Save the Children • TASS • UNICEF • UNHCR • UNOCHA

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