

MRP

Regional Migrant Response Plan

Horn of Africa and Yemen




Regional Migrant Response Plan

for the Horn of Africa and Yemen

2021

Fourth Quarter Update

October - December

Migrants on the Move	Stranded Migrants	Migrant Returns	Population Reached in 2021
 <p>22,583 Entered Djibouti</p> <p>8,518 Entered Somalia</p> <p>11,612 Entered Yemen</p>	 <p>615 in Djibouti</p> <p>5,500 in Somalia</p> <p>35,000 in Yemen</p>	 <p>650* Yemen - Djibouti</p> <p>495* Yemen - Somalia</p> <p>14,188** Kingdom of Saudi Arabia - Ethiopia</p>	<p>375,174 Migrants and Host Community</p>



Beneficiary of reintegration support provided in Ethiopia. © IOM 2021

* Spontaneous Returns

** Forced Returns

SITUATION OVERVIEW

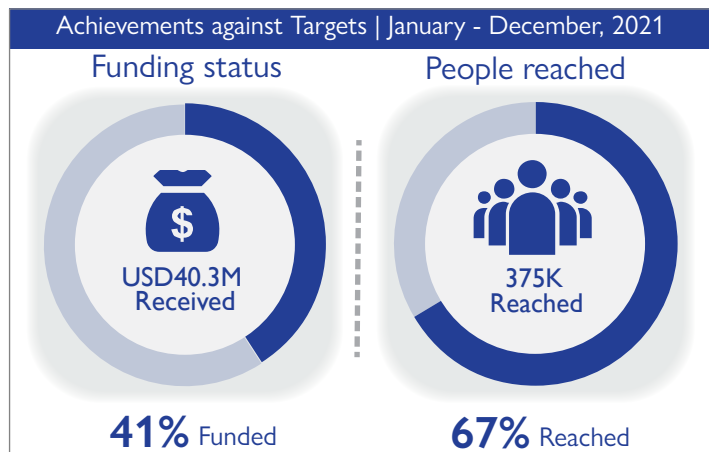
The Horn of Africa and Yemen is a region of origin, transit, and destination for hundreds of thousands of migrants, the majority of whom travel in an irregular manner, often relying on smugglers to facilitate movement along the Eastern Route (originating from Ethiopia and Somalia and transiting through Somalia, Djibouti and Yemen) with the intention of crossing the Gulf of Aden towards the Gulf States to seek better livelihood opportunities. The route is also one of the busiest, most complex and dangerous migratory routes globally, with approximately 140,000 yearly arrivals in Yemen during pre-COVID-19 times. Although movements have increased since the easing of COVID-19 restrictions in many parts of the world, the number is still far below pre-COVID-19 levels, with 27,693 migrants along the Eastern Route crossing into Yemen in 2021. Despite the relatively lower levels of arrivals in Yemen in 2021, movements along the Eastern Route made up 40 per cent of the 674,265 movements tracked along all routes across the region. Whilst in transit, migrants often resort to begging or casual labour to fund their onward journey. Once in Yemen, many migrants reported being abducted or held hostage by smugglers, exposed to physical abuse, torture, extortion, and deprivation of food during their stay in detention centres.

The fourth quarter of 2021 saw 4,826 migrants moving from Somalia to Yemen compared to 2,586 migrants in the third quarter, likely due to an improvement of weather and sea conditions. At the end of December 2021, an estimated 35,000 migrants were stranded and required humanitarian support in different parts of the northern governorates in Yemen. Migrants in Sa'ada governorate reported a limitation of their freedom of movement as they are rounded up from the streets and transported to detention centres before being transferred to the southern borders, mainly in Taiz governorate.

In Q4, the armed conflict in Ethiopia continued its geographical expansion, reaching Debre Sina in the Amhara Regional State, 190 km from Addis Ababa. The number of migrants transiting through Djibouti, more specifically those arriving from Ethiopia, declined gradually following the declaration of a nationwide State of Emergency on 2 November 2021 by the Government of Ethiopia. The ongoing conflict is expected to continue into 2022, likely resulting in a deteriorated protection environment for civilians in Tigray and parts of the Amhara and Afar regions. At the same time, the conflict hinders return to conflict affected regions resulting in migrants being stranded in transit and destination countries. Those who have returned to Ethiopia and are unable to go back to their place of origin remain stranded in the capital city and other areas where their sustainable reintegration cannot be guaranteed, providing an impetus for irregular migration and re-migration. Somalia is facing another severe drought, currently affecting 2.9 million people according to recent OCHA estimates¹. The combined effects of drought, river flooding, high levels of poverty due to limited livelihood opportunities, land disputes, agro-pastoral

competition, and inter-clan tensions continue to render Somalia highly vulnerable to destabilizing forces, including violent extremism; all of which are drivers of irregular migration. A key gap in the drought response plan is the lack of early action to mitigate the impact of mass internal displacement to urban areas, creating the potential for irregular migration of vulnerable populations from Somalia in search of livelihood opportunities.

At the end of December 2021, the number of Ethiopian migrants stranded in Somalia (in and around Borama, Bossaso, Burao, and Hargeisa) and Djibouti was estimated to be 5,500 and 615², respectively, and are currently assisted through the Migration Response Centres (MRCs).



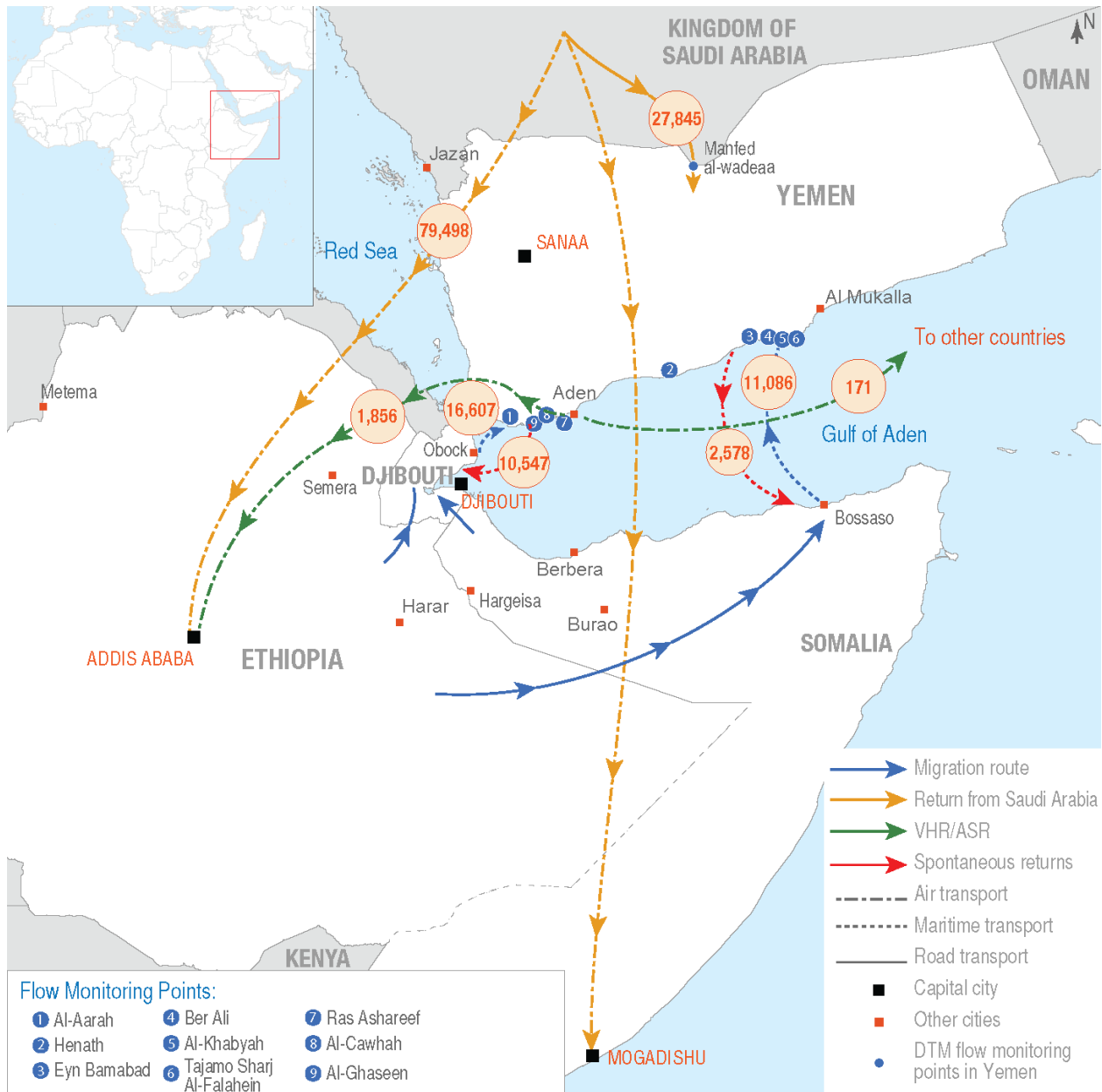
Migrants sharing their experiences during an awareness session ©DRC 2021

¹OCHA – Somalia Humanitarian Bulletin – December 2021; <https://reliefweb.int/report/somalia/somalia-humanitarian-bulletin-december-2021>

²IOM - Impact of COVID-19 Movement Restrictions on Migrants Along the Eastern Corridor; <https://reliefweb.int/report/yemen/impact-covid-19-movement-restrictions-migrants-along-eastern-corridor-report-22-31>

Mobility Flows

Population Movements Overview | January - December 2021



Following the slight relaxation of mobility restrictions due to COVID-19, migrant arrivals in Yemen increased slightly in Q1 but decreased again in Q2 as the seas became too rough to safely cross during the later summer months. However, an increase in arrivals was observed in Q3 and Q4 as the weather conditions improved. The Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) recorded 11,612 arrivals (2,237 females and 9,375 males) at nine Flow Monitoring Points (FMPs) along the southern coast of Yemen in Q4. This represents an increase of 163 per cent compared to the fourth quarter of 2020, when only 4,413 migrant arrivals were recorded due to COVID-19 induced travel restrictions. Furthermore, this represents a 127 per cent increase compared to the first quarter of 2021, as the mobility restrictions put in place were further eased, albeit slowly.

The Yemen arrivals in Q4 came from Somalia (4,826) and Djibouti (6,786). Most migrant arrivals into Yemen were Ethiopian nationals (89%), while 11 per cent were Somali nationals. Eleven unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) were tracked upon arrival in Yemen in Q4 (in October 2021), with no UASC reported in November and December 2021. This represents 1.3 per cent of all the children travelling, which is a decrease from the 12 per cent tracked in the third quarter of 2021. In Djibouti, 650 spontaneous returns were tracked along the shores of Obock region in the fourth quarter of 2021 compared to 2,872 in the third quarter of 2021.



Identification of new migrants in Yemen. ©INTERSOS 2021

Strategic Objective 1 | Provide life-saving assistance to vulnerable migrants and host communities

99,462
Registered for direct assistance

NFI 1,016
Individuals received Non-Food Items
(41 females and 975 males)

1,825
Voluntary Humanitarian Returns (VHR)
(254 females and 1,571 males)

66,500
People assisted with or referred for primary healthcare
(23,102 females and 43,398 males)

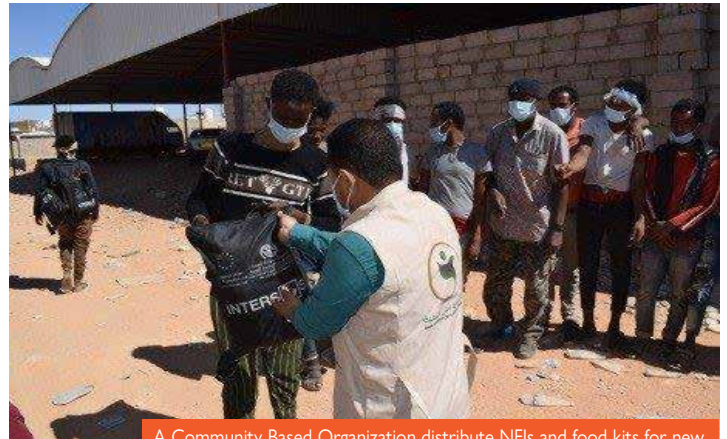
In Q4, MRP partners provided diversified and specialized range of services³ to 99,462 migrants and host communities (19,783 females, 44,444 males, 32,475 accompanied children, 33 UASC, and 2,727 host community members) as follows:

- Djibouti, 3,070 (71 females, 2,927 males, 39 accompanied children, 33 UASC)
- Ethiopia 25,110 (51 women, 24,999 men, three girls, and 57 boys)
- Somalia 59,540 (18,660 females, 7,759 males, 30,394 children, and 2,727 host community members)
- Yemen 11,742 (1,001 women, 8,759 men, 408 girls, 1,574 boys)

Other specific achievements in Q4 include:

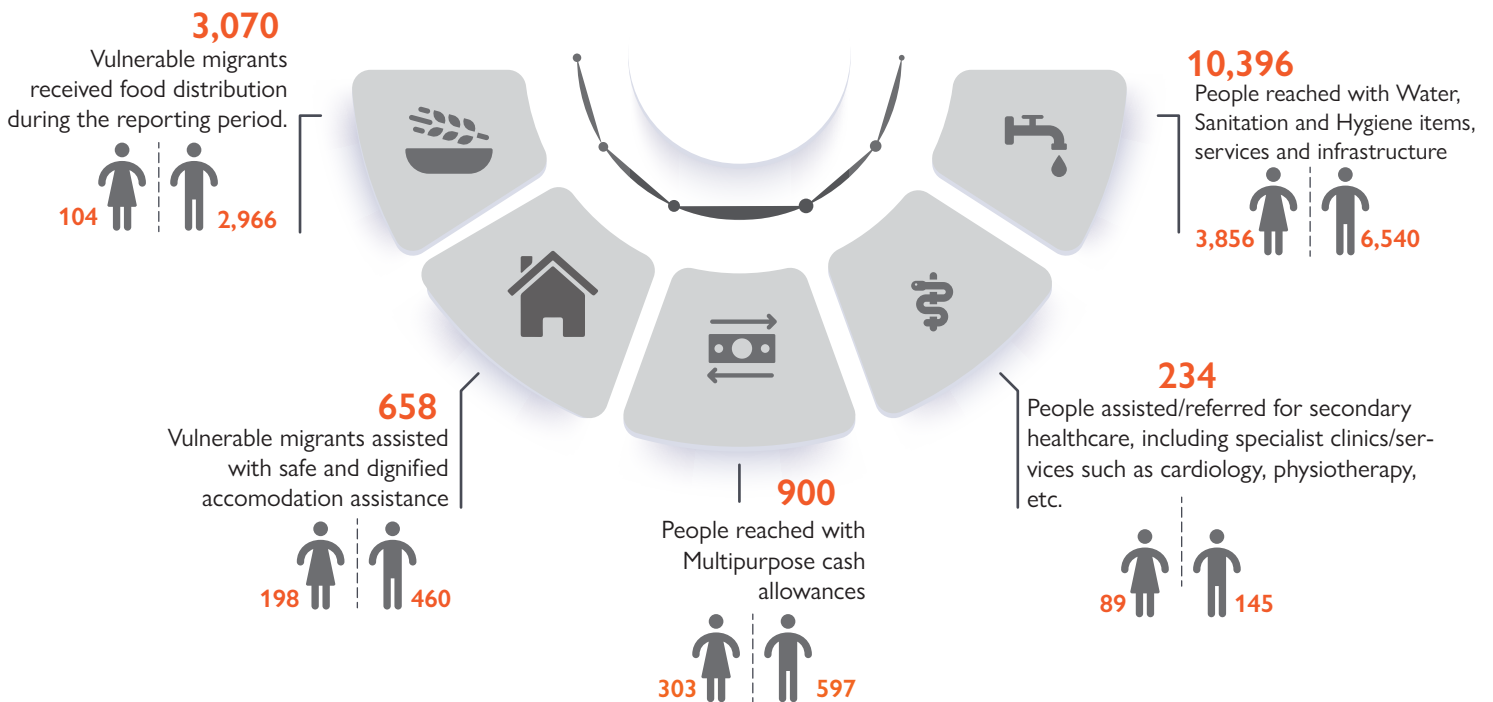
- MRP partners provided 66,500 migrants (23,102 females and 43,398 males) with primary health care including COVID-19 screening and assistance at points of entry, medical screening, emergency health support, vaccinations and treatments for tuberculosis, hepatitis, HIV/AIDS and other non-communicable diseases.
- Three hundred and ninety seven involuntarily returned migrants (108 females, 221 males, and 68 UASC) from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia were assisted with accommodation in a transit centre in Mogadishu.

MRP partners in Yemen also assisted 261 migrants (37 women, 122 men, 19 girls, and 83 boys) in Aden with safe and dignified accommodation assistance during the reporting period.



A Community Based Organization distribute NFIs and food kits for new arrivals in North Hadramout, December 2021. ©INTERSOS 2021

OTHER FORMS OF ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY MRP PARTNERS IN Q4 2021



³ The assistance included registration, medical support, counselling, water, food, and nutrition (cans of milk powder for children under 5 years), non-food items (NFIs), multi-purpose cash assistance, placement with foster families and referrals for specialized medical and protection services.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS THROUGH THE MRCs

Migration Response Centres (MRCs) are located along key migration routes. Through them, MRP partners are able to come together to facilitate the identification of migrants in vulnerable situations and ensure that critical gaps are addressed by providing direct assistance, including food and temporary shelter, information and service referrals to migrants on the move and returnees. Nine MRCs are currently operational in the Horn of Africa as part of the MRP, including in Hargeisa, Bossaso, Mogadishu, Obock, Semera, Metema, Dire Dawa, Togochale and Moyale; alongside two Migration Response Points in Aden and Marib in Yemen. See link below MRCs factsheet:

https://eastandhornofafrica.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbdl701/files/documents/iom_rdh_mrc_factsheet_december2021.pdf⁴

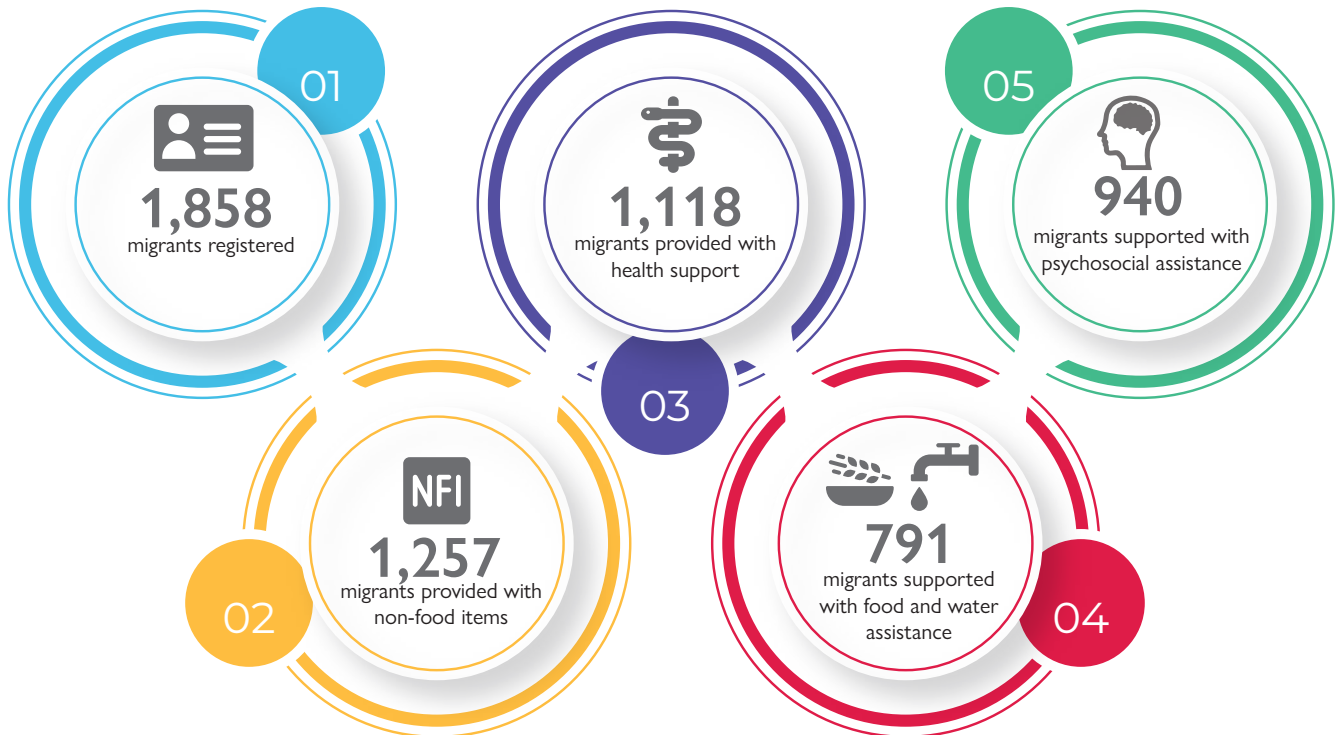
- To commemorate the World Mental Health Day on 10 October 2021, a series of recreational activities aimed at contributing to the physical and mental well-being of migrants hosted at the Obock MRC were organized.
- On 23 November 2021, 81 (37 females and 44 males) representatives of governments, donors, and partners virtually visited the MRCs in Djibouti, Ethiopia, Somalia, Sudan, and Yemen. During the virtual visit, IOM presented the Regional MRC Strategy for East and Horn of Africa and Yemen (2021-2024), developed with over 40 partner institutions and organizations under the framework of the Regional Migrant Response Plan. The Ethiopian Ministry of Labour and Skills presented on the government engagement in the MRCs



Beneficiary of reintegration support provided in Ethiopia. © IOM 2021

- Between 18 and 19 December 2021, MRP partners celebrated International Migrants Day in three locations including Bossaso, Hargeisa, and Mogadishu, reaching a total of 191 individuals (52 females and 139 males). The event provided a platform where youth and returnees exchanged experiences linked to migration, opportunities and challenges faced. In addition, MRC Mogadishu officials raised awareness of services available to migrants and returnees.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS THROUGH THE MRCs



⁴ The factsheet presents key findings during information gathered in the MRC during screening rather than the entire report and should be taken as indicative rather than representative and should not be used to generalize across the region.

Strategic Objective 2

Provide quality, timely and inclusive protection assistance and services to migrants and host communities

In Q4, MRP partners contributed to improved quality and timely protection assistance and services to migrants and host communities as set out below:

In Ethiopia, 32 victims of trafficking or migrants at risk of trafficking and/or smuggling (five adult males and 27 UASC (1 female and 26 males)) were identified and assisted with specialized protection and gender-based violence (GBV) services.

MRP partners in Ethiopia established a new transit centre in Addis Ababa and also improved an existing transit centre through the addition of a child-friendly counselling and interview room with appropriate materials and furniture.

In Q4, MRP partners in Ethiopia provided specialized child protection services, consisting of family tracing and reunification as well as rehabilitation in the case of victims of trafficking (VoTs), to 114 UASC (one female and 113 males).

In Djibouti, migrants were informed of their right to asylum and a total of 105 migrants, including two from the Tigray region, were referred to the ONARS (Office National d'Assistance aux Réfugiés et Sinistrés) and transferred to a refugee camp managed by ONARS and UNHCR, located in Holl-Holl in the region of Ali-Sabieh.



Migrants provided with mental health and psychosocial support (2,136 females and 4,720 males)



Victims of Trafficking supported with rehabilitation packages



MRP Partners conduct legal awareness for migrants in Abyan, Yemen. ©INTERSOS 2021

Strategic Objective 3 | Strengthen access to return, sustainable reintegration, and community stabilization



Migrants benefited from voluntary return support (24 women, 320 men, five boys, and 67 UASC (63 boys and four girls))



Individuals benefited from Sustainable Reintegration & Economic Empowerment Opportunities (68 females and 67 males)

During Q4, a total of 305 migrant returnees (103 females and 202 males) were assisted with onward transportation to return to their communities of origin. In addition, 416 migrants (24 women, 320 men, five boys, and 67 UASC (63 boys and four girls)) benefited from voluntary return support to Ethiopia from Djibouti and Somalia. Lastly, 135 individuals, including 68 females and 67 males, benefited from Sustainable Reintegration & Economic Empowerment Opportunities in Ethiopia.



Migrants sharing their experiences during an awareness session ©DRC 2021

Awareness Raising Campaigns

In Ethiopia:

- Sixty spots in Amharic and 50 spots in Oromia on the risks of irregular migration were aired on the National Fana Broadcasting Corporation and the Southern Radio and TV agency.

In Djibouti, MRP partners conducted the following awareness-raising activities:

- A total of 1,283 migrants (96 females and 1,187 males) were sensitized on the risks of irregular migration and on COVID-19 prevention measures.
- To commemorate International Migrants Day on 15 December 2021, MRP partners organized a lecture and discussion with more than 200 young individuals from schools and community development centres in Djibouti City on the dangers of irregular migration. On 21 November 2021, in the presence of the Prime Minister H.E. Abdoukader Kamil Mohamed, the Ministers of Interior, Trade, Ambassadors of the European Union, France, Japan, the United Kingdom, the Resident Coordinator and representatives of UN agencies and the Prefect of the Obock region, IOM inaugurated a photo exhibition entitled “En chemin” or “On my way” in English at Villa Camille in Djibouti City. This fundraising event, which lasted until 9 December 2021, offered an unprecedented image of the lives and journeys of migrants along the migration corridor in Djibouti, as well as of

the host communities. Funds raised from the sale of the photos during the exhibition will be used to support vulnerable migrant women, men and children, as well as host families and communities.

In Yemen:

- Awareness-raising sessions⁵ were conducted and reached 883 migrants (105 women, 740 men, eight girls, and 30 boys) via phone calls, averaging roughly 12 calls per day. From this total, 33 urgent medical cases (23 females and 10 males) were referred to a clinic run by MRP partners in Sana'a city for medical support.
- During the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence, awareness sessions on gender equality, GBV (early marriage and domestic violence), and human rights were conducted, reaching over 490 migrants in Aden. Dignity kits and food were distributed as well.

Strategic Objective 4 | Building evidence, partnerships and coordination to enhance the humanitarian response and migration management throughout the migration route

Towards increasing the evidence base on mobility patterns along the Eastern Route, 18 flow monitoring (FM) reports (Djibouti, 1; Ethiopia, 3; Somalia 11 and Yemen 3), three Migration Trends reports/dashboards (Djibouti, 3) and three protection monitoring reports (Yemen, 3) were released in Q4⁶:

- <https://dtm.iom.int/ethiopia>
- <https://dtm.iom.int/somalia>
- <https://dtm.iom.int/yemen>
- Djibouti: Three Migration Trends reports: <https://dtm.iom.int/djibouti>
 - October: Djibouti — Migration Trends Dashboard 3 (October 2021) | Flow Monitoring <https://dtm.iom.int/reports/djibouti-%E2%80%94-migration-trends-dashboard-3-october-2021>
 - November: Djibouti — Migration Trends Dashboard 4 (November 2021) | Flow Monitoring <https://dtm.iom.int/reports/djibouti-%E2%80%94-migration-trends-dashboard-4-november-2021>
 - December: Djibouti — Migration Trends Dashboard 5 (December 2021) | Flow Monitoring <https://dtm.iom.int/reports/djibouti-%E2%80%94-migration-trends-dashboard-5-december-2021>

⁵ The messaging included safety and security, rights and local laws, human smuggling and trafficking, safe border-crossing, referrals (mainly medical), COVID-19 risks, and local customs including Arabic key words

⁶ These protection monitoring exercises were crucial in identifying key protection concerns and migrant flows throughout the quarter.

Surveys/Assessments/Research

The IOM Regional Data Hub (RDH) published the report “Return Migration Dynamics in Five Ethiopian Communities of High Emigration.” The research focuses on young Ethiopian migrants along the Eastern Route and builds on the analysis of data collected during the various stages of this research project. Data gathered in communities of high emigration was compared to data collected in the first two research phases in Obock and Bossaso.

Key findings:

- The research shows migrants return to Ethiopia for a variety of reasons: i) making a voluntary choice to return, ii) reconsidering migration while in transit for reasons such as illness, iii) having run out of money to pay for onward passage, iv) deportation from their destination country, or v) following detention in transit. For example, along the Eastern Route, returns from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia seem to be primarily forced, and migrants often return to Ethiopia without having achieved the goals and aspirations that triggered their migration in the first place. Only one per cent of surveyed households stated that migrants returned from Saudi Arabia because they “earned enough money,” 59 per cent returned as they were deported from Saudi Arabia, and 28 percent did not manage to reach Saudi Arabia or returned through voluntary returns programmes, which are offered in key transit locations en route.
- Similarly, households with returnees from Yemen mainly reported that their relatives returned due to forced returns (66%) or unsuccessful journeys (29%).

Impact of COVID-19 Movement Restrictions on Migrants along the Eastern Corridor, Report 22

The RDH also examined the impact of COVID-19 movement restrictions on migrants along the Eastern Route, providing a snapshot of the COVID-19 epidemiological situation, the current migration trends along the Eastern Route, in addition to an analysis of the impact that movement restrictions have had in Djibouti, Ethiopia, Somalia, and Yemen. It also provided information on the main protection concerns for migrants and assistance provided, and COVID-19 risk mitigation measures. Mobility restrictions remain largely unchanged in Djibouti, Ethiopia, Somalia and Yemen as of the end of 2021. The report can be found [here](#).



Coordination

Regional Coordination

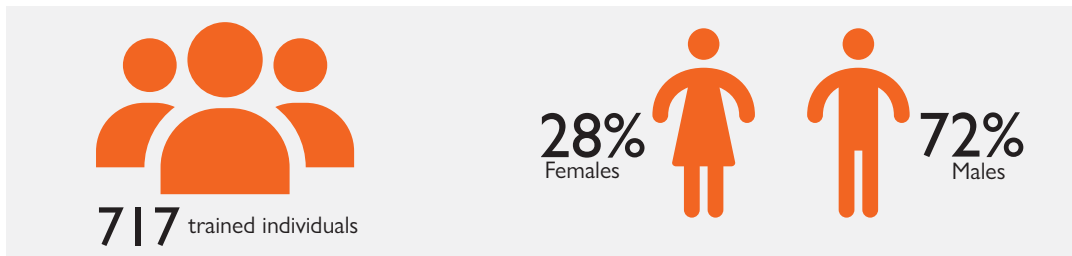
On 27 October 2021, the Migrant Response Plan Coordination Unit held a meeting for the Regional Coordination Committee to review and validate the outcomes from 2022 MRP country-level consultations that were concluded in Djibouti, Ethiopia, Somalia, and Yemen.

Key highlights and recommendations:

- In 2021, more than 375,000 vulnerable migrants and host communities were supported with life-saving aid and protection assistance through the Plan.
- A regional Migrant Protection Working Group was established, which will be co-led by the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) and IOM. The working group will strengthen the enhancement of the protection response to migrants and host communities along the Eastern Route.
- Inclusion of the MRP into the financial tracking system, which is critical for transparency among MRP partners towards their donors and Member States.
- The development of the Regional Migration Response Centre Strategy for the East and Horn of Africa for the same period as the MRP plan (2021-2024), which defines the direction and priorities for these centres.
- The following recommendations were made for MRP partners in 2022:
 - Strengthen linkages with other regional strategies, which would improve communication between other countries and regions.
 - Establish other working groups such as the Information Management Working Group
 - Initiate the MRP programming cycle as early as July 2022 for partners' inputs to have sufficient review and validation time.
 - Enhance engagements with country and regional level partners on how to strengthen synergies for a more coherent response to the needs along the Eastern Route.
 - Increase cooperation with relevant agencies on dead body management, through restoring family link services and establishing an awareness-raising strategy.

Country Level Coordination

- In Djibouti, IOM and UNICEF signed a memorandum of understanding in October that aims to strengthen collaboration between the two agencies on thematic topics related to child protection, water, sanitation and hygiene, and mental health programmes for populations targeted by both agencies. This agreement will facilitate the implementation of assistance and protection programmes for migrants (including migrant children) and vulnerable populations in Djibouti.
- In Yemen, during the reporting period, the mixed migration working group (MMWG) met monthly with the participation of DRC, IOM, INTERSOS and all other partners linked to mixed migration projects to discuss issues related to human rights violations, protection risks, challenges facing mixed migration, and action points.



In total, MRP partners trained an estimated 717 individuals (200 females and 517 males) during the reporting period. Training topics included migration health, integrated border management, and counter-trafficking, among others.

Djibouti



- MRP partners organized a training session on 27 October 2021 for 20 inhabitants of the community of Fantaherou, within the framework of the project on Migration, Environment and Climate Change. Those who participated in this training will be able to cultivate and manage a fodder plot in their locality and will be able to benefit from the income generated by it.
- As part of the national COVID-19 vaccination campaign, the Ministry of Health and MRP partners trained 14 Ethiopian peer educators on the benefits and risks of COVID-19 vaccination and how to sensitize migrant communities in Djibouti City to get vaccinated.
- From 12-16 December 2021, a training was organized for members of the National Coordination Bureau and Government members to build the capacity of government actors working on migratory issues based on the National Migration Strategy, which was officially launched in September 2021.
- In October 2021, two workshops on dead body management were organized by IOM and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Tadjourah and Djibouti City. This workshop brought together various partners who intervene in case of death on the migration corridor, including local authorities, representatives of the Ministry of Health, the gendarmerie and the coast guard, and aimed to promote reflection on the proper and dignified management of mortal remains

Somalia



- Forty one officials (five females and 36 males) from the Mogadishu Integrated Border Management Committee⁷ (IBMC) were trained on Trafficking in Persons, Smuggling of Migrants, and the Criminal Justice System in Somalia to enable the participants to understand the national and international legal instruments to prevent and combat transnational organized crime.

Ethiopia



- MRP partners facilitated a three-day capacity development training in partnership with the Ministry of Justice and Federal Police University for law enforcement bodies of Dire Dawa, Harar, and Somali regions from the Eastern Route, reaching 76 participants (five females and 71 males).
- Forty government officials (29 females and 11 males) received training on counter-trafficking and/or smuggling of migrants.
- In Q4, MRP partners trained 315 students (84 females and 231 males) under the peer education programme in Southern Nations, Nationalities, and People's Regions (SNNPR) and Oromia regional states. In addition, 101 migrants were trained under the Migrants as Messengers initiative in these two regional states.
- A two-day migrant protection workshop was held in Dire Dawa and Jijiga targeting 77 immigration officials and other stakeholders (10 females and 67 males) with roles in border management. The aim of the training was to enhance their knowledge and skills to provide vulnerable migrants with the support and protection they require. Key topics included migrant protection, migration health, MHPSS and a brief introduction to Emergency Migrant Response Centres standard operating procedures.

Yemen



- During the reporting period, MRP partners promoted participatory and community-centred approaches at a grassroots level and engaged local communities through involving community members and local leaders in decision-making processes, to ensure ownership and accountability to affected populations.

⁷The committee comprised of several agencies working together at the Mogadishu point of entry with the aim of better coordination and cooperation in their varied roles and common goal of border management.

PROJECTED SITUATION FOR THE NEXT QUARTER

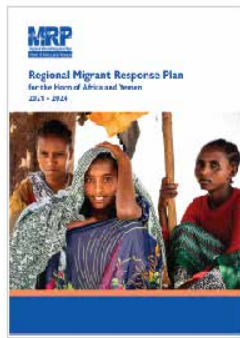
In Yemen, the number of stranded migrants in all southern governorates are expected to continue to increase and high numbers of migrants deported from the North will continue being reported in Lahj and Aden. As such, the demand for voluntary repatriation are expected to be high and MRP partners are expected to require additional funding to increase services to match the demand.

MRP partners in Ethiopia anticipate that forced returns from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia will continue. Those forcibly returned are expected to need psychosocial, stabilization and reintegration support to help them to reintegrate successfully into their communities. Demands for the rehabilitation services for those not able to reunite with their families and communities within a couple of days of their arrival due to health, psychological, economic, and other related situations are expected to increase in the next reporting period.

ABOUT THE MRP

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 and Ethiopia, transiting through Djibouti, 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 with Governments and 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 identifying challenges and trends that inform partners’ responses.

Publications



[Download](#) the four-year Regional Migrant Response Plan for the Horn of Africa and Yemen 2021-2024 and 2021 Appeal.



[Download](#) the Regional Migrant Response Plan Quarterly Update: January - March 2021



[Download](#) the Regional Migrant Response Plan Quarterly Update: April - June 2021

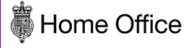


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