

# REGIONAL MIGRANT RESPONSE PLAN (MRP)

FOR THE HORN OF AFRICA TO YEMEN  
AND SOUTHERN AFRICA, 2024



**MRP**  
Regional Migrant Response Plan  
for the Horn of Africa to  
Yemen and Southern Africa



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Migrants washing clothes in Fantaherou, Djibouti. © MRP 2022/Alexander Bee

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Regional Migrant Response Plan (MRP) for the Horn of Africa to Yemen and Southern Africa is an inter-agency and inter-regional plan that unites 48 organizations to deliver urgent life-saving humanitarian and protection support, improve access to essential services, and implement medium- to long-term development actions addressing migration drivers for migrants and host communities along the Eastern and Southern routes towards the Arabian Peninsula and Southern Africa respectively.

Governments provide overall oversight of the implementation of the plan, with support from the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), United Nations (UN) agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), international NGOs (INGOs), civil society organizations (CSOs), and other partners, including think tanks and academic institutions. The coordination of the plan is led by the International Organization for Migration (IOM). The MRP serves as a flexible coordination mechanism for partners, key actors, and development and financial institutions to collaboratively address migration drivers and vulnerabilities along the Eastern and Southern Routes, providing a route-based, coherent, and comprehensive strategic framework for joint humanitarian and development programs in migration management. The MRP aligns with existing strategic frameworks through inter-agency planning in alignment with the humanitarian-development-peace-nexus (HDPN). This approach signifies the international community's joint effort to complement and reinforce the comprehensive responses of national and regional governments and local partners.

The MRP leverages partners' multisectoral and complementary capacities, demonstrating a commitment to collective outcomes. It aims to provide a comprehensive and effective response that balances immediate, life-saving humanitarian assistance with longer-term efforts toward resilience and sustainable solutions.

Migration in the Horn of Africa (HoA) continues to be triggered by persistent insecurity and conflict, environmental degradation, harsh climatic conditions, socioeconomic drivers, and traditional seasonal factors. In 2024, MRP partners anticipate the impacts of the HoA drought and other weather-related events, including El Niño, to continue to drive outward irregular migration from the HoA. Furthermore, the conflict in Northern Ethiopia will likely affect the situation of returning migrants. The challenges along the migration corridor require complex cooperation and multi-partner engagement as it cuts across two regions and requires all stakeholders to work together to address the most pressing needs and vulnerabilities of migrants and ensure the continuity of services across the whole route.

In addition to Djibouti, Ethiopia, Somalia and Yemen, the MRP 2024 includes Kenya and the United Republic of Tanzania as part of the progressive expansion to incorporate the needs of migrants along the Southern Route. This expansion on the placeholder for the Southern Route acknowledges the intricate challenges faced by Ethiopian and Somali migrants along this route. In 2024, migration flows along the Eastern and Southern Routes are anticipated to continue to increase, as observed in 2023. In 2024, the number of people in need (PiN) of humanitarian assistance is projected to be 2.2 million people, including 906,398 migrants and 1,266,689 host community members. MRP partners will target 1.4 million people, including 628,947 migrants and 757,783 host community members. A total of \$112.2 million will be required to meet the needs of the target population for 2024 across the six countries that conform to the MRP: Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, the United Republic of Tanzania, and Yemen.

## CONTEXT OVERVIEW

The HoA is a region of origin, transit, and destination for migrants and other populations on the move along three main interregional routes – the Eastern Route, the Southern Route, and the Northern Route- and flows within the region.

The Eastern Route accounts for the largest number of migrants, and it is the most dangerous migratory corridor in the region due to the harsh climatic conditions, insecurity, and conflict faced by those on the move. This route runs from the HoA to the Arabian Peninsula, and it is mainly used by Ethiopian and Somali migrants transiting through Djibouti and Somalia across the Red Sea or the Gulf of Aden through Yemen to reach the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and other Gulf States in pursuit of better livelihood opportunities.<sup>1</sup> Approximately 95,000 arrivals to Yemen from the HoA were recorded as of November 2023,<sup>2</sup> a sharp increase compared to 2022 arrivals.<sup>3</sup> The areas around Obock in Djibouti and Bossaso in the Puntland region of Somalia are the main embarkation hubs for migrants crossing the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden to Yemen after crossing the Djiboutian desert. With over 125,000 entries as of November 2023,<sup>4</sup> Djibouti has traditionally been the main transit country for Eastern Route migrants. However, increased migration movements through Somalia and a decrease in migrants arriving in Yemen from Djibouti have been observed during the last quarter of 2023 and will be further monitored into 2024. Ethiopia (85%) and Somalia (15%) are the main countries of origin of migrants moving along the Southern Route, who transit through Kenya, the

United Republic of Tanzania, Mozambique, Zambia, and Zimbabwe to reach South Africa.<sup>5</sup> Anecdotal evidence suggests an increase in the number of migrants in transit along the Southern Route over the past years, potentially influenced by droughts and environmental degradation negatively affecting livelihoods in countries of origin.

While still predominantly economic in nature, migration along the Eastern Corridor is driven by various factors, including socioeconomic conditions, insecurity and conflict-related violence, environmental degradation, climatic shocks, and traditional seasonal factors. Stark income disparities between countries of origin and destination also fuel migration aspirations. Ethiopians resorting to irregular migration along the Southern route move for economic reasons, conflict, environment, and climate change. Various reasons drive Somali migration, including political instability, insecurity, violence, drought, and the desire for better opportunities.<sup>6</sup> Migration along the Eastern and Southern routes is predominantly male. However, qualitative research indicates that the number of women and girls on the move along the Southern route may be increasing.<sup>7</sup> Conversely, observations indicate that the number of migrant women and girls recorded in Yemen has been progressively declining throughout 2023.<sup>8</sup> However, this does not indicate a reduction in the number of female migrants but rather a shift in female migration dynamics, resulting in fewer women being recorded through flow monitoring. More specifically, women are reported to increasingly stay in “safe houses”

1 IOM Regional Data Hub for the East and Horn of Africa, Migration along the Eastern Route, report n. 45, November 2023. [https://eastandhornofafrica.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbdl701/files/documents/2024-01/iom\\_eastern-corridor-migrant-situation\\_30112023\\_2.pdf](https://eastandhornofafrica.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbdl701/files/documents/2024-01/iom_eastern-corridor-migrant-situation_30112023_2.pdf).

2 Ibid.

3 IOM Regional Data Hub for the East and Horn of Africa, Migration along the Eastern Route, report n. 33, December 2022. [IOM\\_Eastern-Corridor-Migrant-Situation\\_31122022.pdf](https://eastandhornofafrica.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbdl701/files/documents/2022-12/iom_eastern-corridor-migrant-situation_31122022.pdf).

4 IOM Regional Data Hub for the East and Horn of Africa, Migration along the Eastern Route, report n. 45, November 2023. [https://eastandhornofafrica.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbdl701/files/documents/2024-01/iom\\_eastern-corridor-migrant-situation\\_30112023\\_2.pdf](https://eastandhornofafrica.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbdl701/files/documents/2024-01/iom_eastern-corridor-migrant-situation_30112023_2.pdf).

5 IOM Regional Data Hub for the East and Horn of Africa, The Southern Route Dream: Exploring Migration Dynamics from the Horn of Africa to South Africa along the Southern Route, April 2023. [The Southern Dream: Exploring Migration Dynamics from the Horn of Africa to South Africa Along the Southern Route \(iom.int\)](https://eastandhornofafrica.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbdl701/files/documents/2023-04/the-southern-dream-exploring-migration-dynamics-from-the-horn-of-africa-to-south-africa-along-the-southern-route.pdf).

6 Regional Migrant Response Plan for the Horn of Africa and Yemen, Migrants Needs Overview 2024 Eastern & Southern Route. December 2023. <https://eastandhornofafrica.iom.int/resources/migrants-needs-overview-2024-regional-migrant-response-plan-horn-of-africa-and-yemen>.

7 IOM Regional Data Hub for the East and Horn of Africa, The Southern Route Dream: Exploring Migration Dynamics from the Horn of Africa to South Africa along the Southern Route, April 2023. [The Southern Dream: Exploring Migration Dynamics from the Horn of Africa to South Africa Along the Southern Route \(iom.int\)](https://eastandhornofafrica.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbdl701/files/documents/2023-04/the-southern-dream-exploring-migration-dynamics-from-the-horn-of-africa-to-south-africa-along-the-southern-route.pdf).

8 Sourced from IOM internal flow monitoring data.

instead of walking along the road alone (like most men and boys) and pay more for a safer journey that utilizes new locations. This shift in context may imply an increased exposure to protection risks and vulnerabilities.

During their journey along the Eastern Route, migrants face life-threatening situations and are highly exposed to risks of violence, exploitation, and abuse. Migrants travel long distances on the Eastern Route by foot through extreme heat and rugged terrain, resulting in dehydration and exhaustion. They are also at risk of being apprehended by various non-state actors. Similarly, migrants along the Southern Route mainly move irregularly. They are, therefore, vulnerable to multiple protection risks, including human trafficking, torture, physical assault, forced labour, psychological and emotional abuse, and sexual violence.<sup>9</sup> Migration along both corridors relies heavily on well-established smuggling networks. Clan and ethnic linkages play a crucial role in Southern route migration, with family and diaspora networks providing logistical and financial support to migrants en route and at their destination.<sup>10</sup>

The Eastern and Southern routes are highly bidirectional, with various voluntary and involuntary return movements, including deportations. Given the challenges faced by migrants while in transit and the dire humanitarian situation in Yemen, many opt to return to Ethiopia and Somalia, either spontaneously or in the framework of assisted return programs. Although over 6,000 spontaneous returns from Yemen to Djibouti and Somalia were recorded as of November 2023, an estimated 40,000 migrants remain stranded in Yemen.<sup>11</sup> Along the Southern Route, migrants are at risk of being abandoned by their smugglers with no means to continue the journey when they encounter law enforcement controls, leaving large numbers of stranded migrants who end up in detention with no means to return or to obtain regular status.<sup>12</sup> Additionally, returning

migrants arrive in their country and community of origin exhibiting various forms of vulnerability and face economic, social, and psychological challenges upon return. Returning migrants often suffer from trauma after experiencing extreme violations during their journey. Migrants also reported facing stigmas in their returning communities, particularly from their own families, due to the sunk cost of the failed journey. Due to conflict, drought, and other adverse conditions, some areas of return are inaccessible, forcing returnees to settle in alternative locations where integration options are limited, making them highly prone to re-migrate.<sup>13</sup>



A migrant receives a bottle of water as he proceeds on the AVR journey home from the Migration Response Centre in Obock. © MRP 2021/Alexander Bee

9 Ibid.

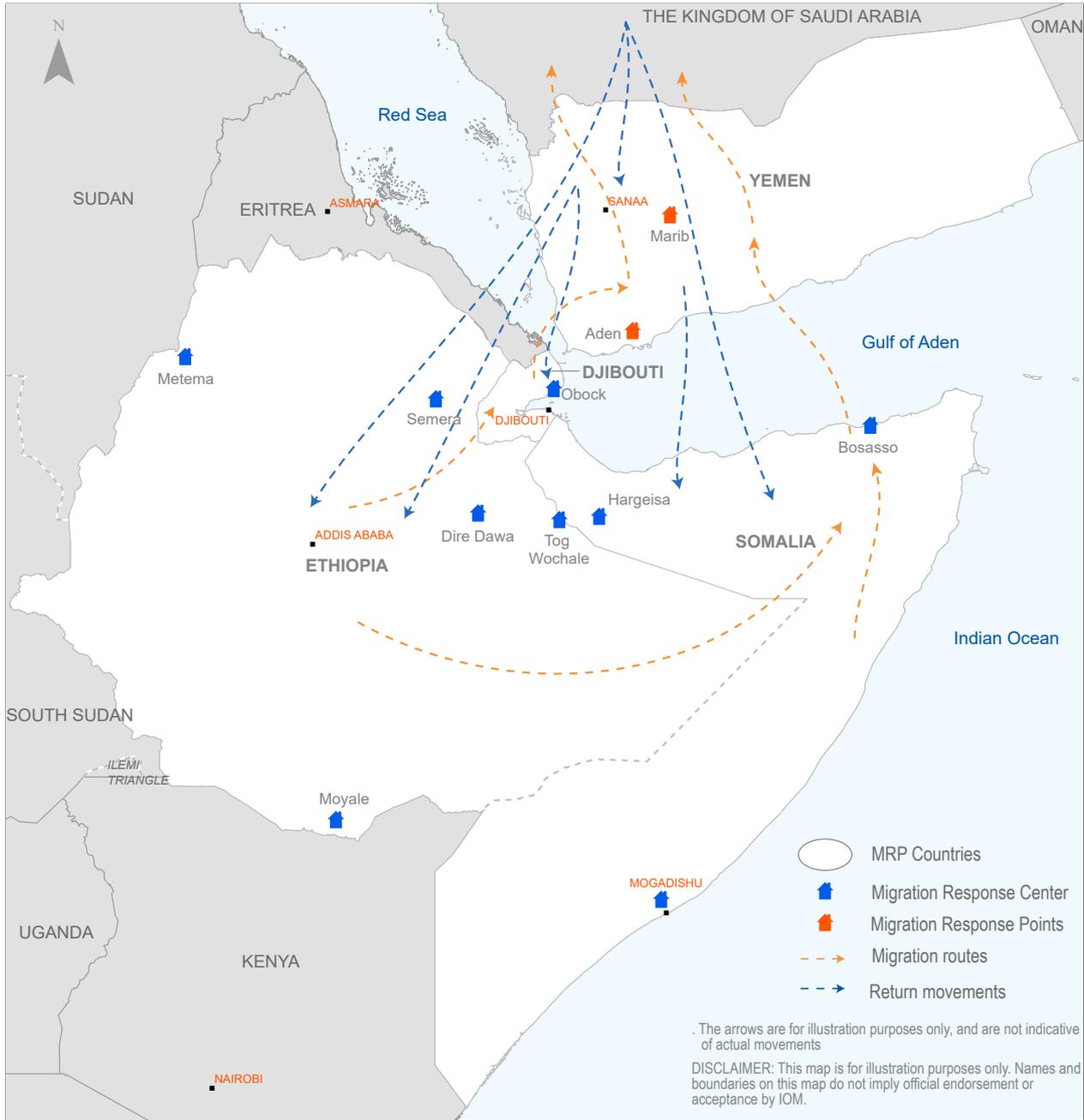
10 Regional Migrant Response Plan for the Horn of Africa and Yemen, Migrants Needs Overview 2024 Eastern & Southern Route. December 2023. <https://eastandhornofafrica.iom.int/resources/migrants-needs-overview-2024-regional-migrant-response-plan-horn-africa-and-yemen>.

11 IOM Regional Data Hub for the East and Horn of Africa, Migration along the Eastern Route, report n. 45, November 2023. [https://eastandhornofafrica.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbd1701/files/documents/2024-01/iom\\_eastern-corridor-migrant-situation\\_30112023\\_2.pdf](https://eastandhornofafrica.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbd1701/files/documents/2024-01/iom_eastern-corridor-migrant-situation_30112023_2.pdf).

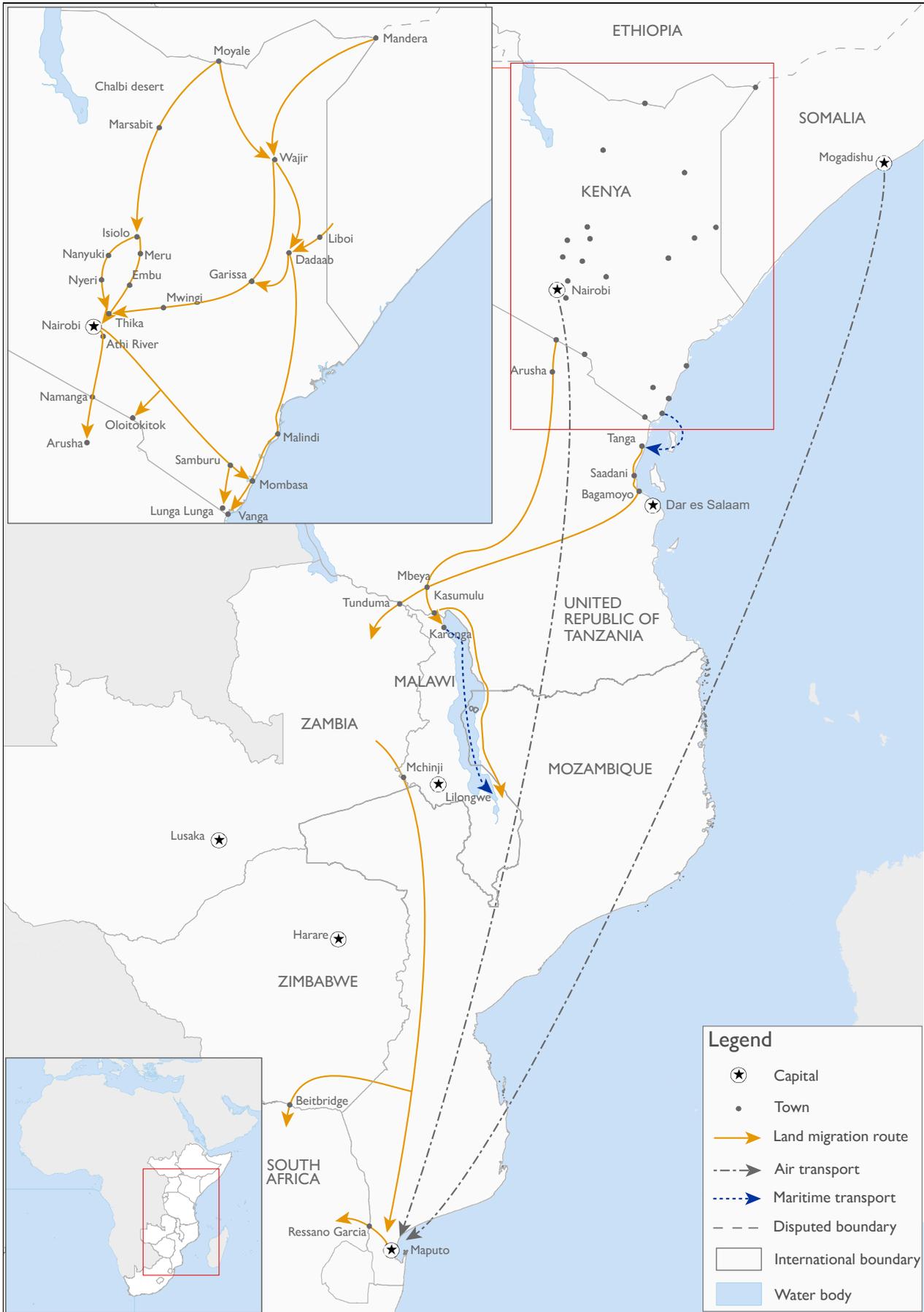
12 IOM Regional Data Hub for the East and Horn of Africa, The Southern Route Dream: Exploring Migration Dynamics from the Horn of Africa to South Africa along the Southern Route, April 2023. *The Southern Dream: Exploring Migration Dynamics from the Horn of Africa to South Africa Along the Southern Route* (iom.int).

13 Regional Migrant Response Plan for the Horn of Africa and Yemen, Migrants Needs Overview 2024 Eastern & Southern Route. December 2023. <https://eastandhornofafrica.iom.int/resources/migrants-needs-overview-2024-regional-migrant-response-plan-horn-africa-and-yemen>.

### Migration on the Eastern Route



### Migration on the Southern Route



## LIST OF ACRONYMS

**4Mi** Mixed Migration Monitoring Mechanism Initiative

**AAP** Accountability to Affected Populations

**AVR** Assisted Voluntary Return

**AVRR** Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration

**BIP** Best Interest Procedures

**COOPI** Cooperazione Internazionale

**CSO** Civil Society Organization

**CWG** Communications Working Group

**DBM** Dead body management

**DRC** Danish Refugee Council

**DTM** Displacement Tracking Matrix

**FGM** Female Genital Mutilation

**FTR** Family Tracing and Reunification

**GBV** Gender-Based Violence

**GCM** Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration

**GIZ** Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit

**HDPN** Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus

**HoA** Horn of Africa



<b>HLP</b>	Housing, land, and property
<b>HPC</b>	Humanitarian Programme Cycle
<b>HRP</b>	Humanitarian Response Plan
<b>ICRC</b>	International Committee of the Red Cross
<b>IGAD</b>	Intergovernmental Authority on Development
<b>ILO</b>	International Labour Organization
<b>IMWG</b>	Information Management Working Group
<b>INGO</b>	International Non-Governmental Organization
<b>IOM</b>	International Organization for Migration
<b>IRC</b>	International Rescue Committee
<b>ISCM</b>	Inter-State Consultation Mechanism on Migration
<b>KDMECC</b>	Kampala Ministerial Declaration on Migration, Environment and Climate Change
<b>MIDAS</b>	Migration Information Data Analysis System
<b>MHPSS</b>	Mental Health and Psychosocial Support
<b>MMC</b>	Mixed Migration Centre
<b>MMP</b>	Missing Migrants Project
<b>MMTF</b>	Mixed Migration Task Force
<b>MoWSA</b>	Ministry of Women and Social Affairs
<b>MPWG</b>	Migrant Protection Working Group
<b>MRC</b>	Migration Response Centre



<b>MRP</b>	Migrant Response Plan
<b>MSF</b>	Médecins Sans Frontières
<b>NCM</b>	National Coordination Mechanism
<b>NDF</b>	National Development Framework
<b>NFI</b>	Non-food Item
<b>NGO</b>	Non-Governmental Organization
<b>NPC</b>	National Partnership Coalition
<b>NRC</b>	Norwegian Refugee Council
<b>OCHA</b>	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
<b>PiN</b>	People in Need
<b>PSEA</b>	Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse
<b>RCC</b>	Regional Coordination Committee
<b>RCPN</b>	Regional Child Protection Network
<b>RD</b>	Regional Director
<b>REC</b>	Regional Economic Community
<b>RMF</b>	Results Monitoring Framework
<b>RMFM</b>	Regional Ministerial Forum on Migration
<b>RMMS</b>	Refugee and Migrant Multisector
<b>RPWG</b>	Regional Protection Working Group



<b>SADC</b>	Southern Africa Development Community
<b>SDG</b>	Sustainable Development Goals
<b>SNNP</b>	Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples' Region
<b>SOP</b>	Standard Operating Procedures
<b>SRH</b>	Sexual and Reproductive Health
<b>UASC</b>	Unaccompanied and Separated Children
<b>UHC</b>	Universal Health Coverage
<b>UN</b>	United Nations
<b>UNFPA</b>	United Nations Population Fund
<b>UNHCR</b>	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
<b>UNICEF</b>	United Nations Children's Fund
<b>UNNM</b>	United Nations Network on Migration
<b>UNODC</b>	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
<b>UNSDCF</b>	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
<b>VHR</b>	Voluntary Humanitarian Return
<b>VoT</b>	Victims of Trafficking
<b>WASH</b>	Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene
<b>WFP</b>	World Food Programme
<b>WHO</b>	World Health Organization





An Ethiopian migrant takes a break and a moment of reprieve to wash his face with water from a pond, in Alat Elat, Djibouti. © MRP 2023/Alexander Bee

# RESPONSE PRIORITIES

MRP partners support staff review travel documents at the Departure Centre in Aden, Yemen. © MRP 2023/Eva Sibanda

The MRP comprises a comprehensive strategy involving humanitarian, transition, and development initiatives to address the needs of migrants and host communities along the Eastern and Southern Routes. Simultaneously, it seeks to address the root causes of migration, aligning with local priorities and reinforcing community capacities. Employing a multi-annual and inter-agency approach, the MRP is structured to ensure the cohesive and sustainable delivery of humanitarian, protection, and long-term development interventions, emphasizing prioritizing the most vulnerable populations. In 2024, the MRP will prioritize the following themes related to the response identified through a consultative process with member states and partners.

## PROTECTION

### Priority Needs

Irregular migration along the Eastern and Southern routes continues to be characterized by various protection risks and vulnerabilities, including grave human rights violations. The movement of migrant men, women, boys, and girls along these routes continues to be facilitated mainly by smugglers and traffickers who endanger migrants' lives and subject them to various forms of violence, exploitation, and abuse, often resulting in tragic consequences. Smuggled migrants often end up being trafficked mainly for forced labour and sexual exploitation. Reports of sexual violence against migrant women and girls as they traverse migration routes, in detention facilities, places of work, and informal settlements, resulting in unwanted pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases, are common. Migrants are often held captive and tortured for ransom, resulting in life-threatening injuries. Movement

restrictions and criminalization of migration along the routes, evidenced by arbitrary arrest and detention of migrants, including children, for immigration-related offenses, continue to be reported. Pushbacks, as well as injuries sustained from explosive ordnance and mines in conflict-affected areas, remain a concern. Child protection concerns, especially of unaccompanied and separated children (UASC), are significant along the routes. Thousands of migrant children remain stranded in transit and destination countries, being homeless and in unsupervised care arrangements, adding to their vulnerability. Migrants continue to be perceived as posing competition for scarce resources and used as scapegoats for, among others, insecurity, and economic decline. These perceptions serve as catalysts for xenophobic and discriminatory attitudes, resulting in targeted violence against their property and person and denial of access to basic needs and essential services. Despite the identification of the above protection risks, regular and systematic data collection on protection needs, risks, vulnerabilities, and capacities of migrants and returnees is limited. Protection concerns remain vastly under-reported, making it difficult to ascertain their nature and scale and how migrant and returnee women, men, boys, and girls of different types of diversity may be affected. Services established to respond to the protection needs, risks, and vulnerabilities of migrants and returnees in vulnerable situations, including victims of violence, exploitation, and abuse, remain limited. Where these services exist, they are often not comprehensive and fall short in quality and standards of care. While some services may be provided to a migrant in one location, the same service is often not guaranteed if the victim continues their journey across borders, significantly affecting outcomes.

The return of migrants along the routes occurs voluntarily and involuntarily, with the latter lacking the necessary protection safeguards and exposing migrants to additional risks and vulnerabilities. The risks and complexities of living in situations with limited options for regularization and leading a productive life also push migrants to return to their countries of origin. Migrants often arrive in their countries and communities of origin in a vulnerable state and, in many instances, face stigmatization and struggle to resume their normal lives. Returning to similar or worse conditions that drove their migration makes it difficult for returnees to reintegrate sustainably, and as such, the likelihood of irregular re-migration remains high. The inability of some returnees to return to their intended destination, mainly due to conflict and other adverse factors, further exacerbates their vulnerabilities.

## Response Strategy

In 2024, MRP partners will continue to promote and uphold the rights of migrants, host communities, and other vulnerable populations. MRP partners will address protection risks and support governments to manage migration in a rights-based manner by implementing preventive, responsive, and remedial actions. Protection interventions will focus on data and research to enhance understanding of the needs, risks, and vulnerabilities of migrants, returnees, and other vulnerable populations; provision of direct and tailored assistance, including referrals to service providers; capacity development of relevant stakeholders to enhance knowledge and skills and consequently improve the quality and delivery of protection interventions; development, dissemination, and support in the implementation of legislation, policies, including guidance and standards on key issues; advocacy for the protection of migrants rights including to highlight the needs of migrants and gaps; facilitate dialogue with relevant stakeholders including governments/authorities to share, learn and improve collaboration/cooperation on various protection themes.

Protection interventions will cut across various protection sub-themes, including but not limited to child protection, Gender-Based Violence (GBV), counter-trafficking (CT), alternatives to detention (ATD), access to justice, legal identity/access to documentation, mine action, medical assistance including clinical management of rape, safe shelter, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), family tracing and reunification (FTR), voluntary return and reintegration, consular protection, and housing, land, and property (HLP). A key component of protection service provision and area of collaboration with health actors will also comprise interventions for missing migrants, mainly documentation, identification, and dead body management (DBM) for deceased migrants. MRP partners will enhance coordination and collaboration on protection interventions at the country level through existing protection coordination fora and at the regional level through the Migrant Protection Working Group (MPWG). MRP partners will further collaborate with Regional Economic Communities (IGAD and SADC) across the Eastern and Southern Routes to advance protection objectives. The MRP also coordinates with other protection working groups at the regional level, such as the Regional Child Protection Network (RCPN), Regional Protection Working Group (RPWG) and the regional GBV working group.

## HEALTH

### Priority Needs

Human mobility characteristics along the Eastern and Southern Routes expose people on the move to health hazards and increased vulnerability to ill health, which might result in increased morbidity and mortality. Migrants experience inadequate access to food, water, or shelter, which has detrimental impacts on their physical and mental well-being.<sup>14</sup> These hardships are heightened by the increase in regional humanitarian crises, which have negatively impacted the capacity of health systems to deliver health services. The migration process can also expose migrants to health risks, such as dangerous journeys, psychosocial stressors, and abuses,

14 IOM, *Migrating in Search of the Southern Dream: The Experiences of Ethiopian migrants moving along the Southern Route*. May 2022. [Migrating in Search of the Southern Dream: The Experiences of Ethiopian Migrants Moving Along the Southern Route \(iom.int\)](#).

nutritional deficiencies, changes in lifestyle, exposure to infectious diseases, limited access to prevention and quality health care, or interrupted care. Migrants in 'irregular situations', those forced to move, the low-skilled or low-educated, and other vulnerable or disadvantaged migrants are more likely to suffer from a compromised health status as compared to others.

Depending on states' policies and legal frameworks, migrants may not be granted equitable access to affordable health care, and local health systems may not have adequate capacity to meet migrants' health needs. Other barriers to health services include discrimination and stigmatization, administrative hurdles, restrictive norms generating fear of deportation, or the loss of employment for those affected by medical conditions. When health services are available to migrants, these may not be culturally, linguistically, and socially sensitive to their needs, leading to delayed or undiagnosed conditions or ineffective treatment. Ensuring regional preparedness and response for regional health emergencies and outbreaks calls for well-defined policies, plans, and strategies that prioritize the most vulnerable, including women and children, and support to implement these plans and strategies.

## Response Strategy

In 2024, MRP partners will address the primary and secondary healthcare needs of migrants along the Eastern and Southern routes, either through direct assistance or referrals. Partners will foster and strengthen intergovernmental public health policies and programmes that address migrant health to reduce health inequalities and provide assistance in developing and operationalizing inclusive health plans comprising outbreak preparedness, response, and Universal Health Coverage (UHC). This will be achieved by promoting access to social protection and health financing through a minimum package of essential health services delivered across borders to serve as a regional guideline. In addition, MRP partners will focus on human mobility in the context of the One Health Approach<sup>15</sup> by conducting a regional cross-border assessment for border officials.

RP partners will also promote health governance and advocacy for an inclusive health system that includes migration-sensitive and responsive service delivery to complement the service delivery at the facility levels. This will be achieved through outreach interventions and community engagements and by implementing a comprehensive package of disease surveillance at borders and along mobility corridors, including conducting sensitization/awareness trainings with healthcare providers, border officials, and other government officials about the health needs of migrants and the services available for appropriate referrals.

## MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

### Priority Needs

Providing Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) is a pivotal component in assisting migrants and host communities. Individuals originating from and returning to the HoA region, as well as those traversing the Eastern and Southern migration routes, face a spectrum of challenges, including severe physical exhaustion, physical abuse, violence, sexual abuse, sexual violence, labour exploitation, racism, and discrimination.

Despite limited data on migrants' experiences on the Southern route, a recent report<sup>16</sup> underscores instances of deception by smugglers, exploitation, ill-treatment, and fatalities or the witnessing of fellow migrants' deaths. These adverse encounters can directly influence mental health, overall well-being, and the broader societal fabric. Furthermore, these experiences play a pivotal role in determining individuals' ability to engage effectively on social and economic fronts within society and significantly influence the pace and outcome of the reintegration process. As such, MHPSS will be a crucial priority for the MRP in 2024.

15 One Health, World Health Organization [https://www.who.int/health-topics/one-health#tab=tab\\_1](https://www.who.int/health-topics/one-health#tab=tab_1).

16 IOM, Migrating in Search of the Southern Dream: The Experiences of Ethiopian migrants moving along the Southern Route. May 2022. [Migrating in Search of the Southern Dream: The Experiences of Ethiopian Migrants Moving Along the Southern Route \(iom.int\)](https://www.iom.int/publications/migrating-in-search-of-the-southern-dream-the-experiences-of-ethiopian-migrants-moving-along-the-southern-route).

## Response Strategy

In 2024, MRP partners will facilitate access to quality, multi-layered MHPSS services for migrants, including returning migrants and host community members that align with a spectrum of MHPSS needs. Interventions will address the individual and the community levels, looking at the person, their immediate social network, and the overall recovery environment. This can include community and family-level interventions such as socio-cultural activities and peer support; focused support delivered by non-specialists such as counselling; and access to specialized services for those with complex mental health needs. These interventions will be delivered through direct service provision, technical assistance (development of standard operating procedures (SOPs), guidelines, and tools), and capacity building (training, secondments, materials, and other logistical support). MHPSS interventions will take a community-based approach, restoring and strengthening local support and collective structures that promote recovery and resilience. This approach is important to tackle stigmatization, marginalization, and isolation issues that can exacerbate suffering for migrants and their families. A community-based approach can address some of the significant social drivers of migration and re-migration.

Fundamental MHPSS principles and approaches will also be integrated into other areas of service provision, reintegration assistance, and community stabilization initiatives provided by MRP partners, including economic and employment initiatives. Incorporating elements of MHPSS (for example, including a peer support element to business skills training) can improve outcomes and overall well-being. This will be achieved through developing SOPs and guidelines and capacity-building initiatives. In line with the UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3 – Universal Mental Health Care and Psychosocial Support that leaves no one behind, MRP partners will contribute to MHPSS policy development and systems strengthening activities that align with national priorities to enhance access to multi-layered MHPSS services among migrants and host communities.<sup>17</sup>

<sup>17</sup> Resources to prevent, identify and treat mental health problems are scarce across the HoA region, with approximately one psychiatrist for every one million people. Structural barriers limit even the general population's access to mental health services. Kan (2020) found that lack of MHPSS services, poor quality of services and cost of services played a significant role in access to MHPSS services among returnees in Somalia, Ethiopia, and Sudan.

## MIGRATION AND CLIMATE CHANGE

### Priority Needs

MRP partners recognize the growing impact of environmental degradation, climate variability, and change on human mobility with both sudden onset events and slow onset processes leading to different migratory outcomes and experiences. Urgent action is needed to prevent forced migration, to facilitate regular migration for those who need and want to move, and to protect people who are already on the move. Partners will continue to work to enhance well-managed migration and the availability and flexibility of pathways for regular migration in the context of disasters and climate change.

### Response Strategy

The landmark Kampala Ministerial Declaration on Migration, Environment and Climate Change (KDMECC) was established in July 2022 by the states in the East and Horn of Africa region, with a continental expansion (KDMECC-AFRICA) in September 2023 during the first Africa Climate Summit held in Kenya. MRP partners will emphasize the implementation of the KDMECC commitments, which focus on the challenges and opportunities that climate change and related mobility can bring to development by building the resilience of the populations to adapt to climate change. It is a comprehensive and action-oriented framework with commitments that cut across social inclusion and human livelihoods, finance and investment, policy and regulatory activities, and climate mitigation and adaptation. It also addresses the challenges and opportunities of climate-induced mobility in practical and effective ways.

In 2024, MRP partners will enhance preparedness, operational readiness, and regional/bilateral cooperation with IGAD and its Member States to respond to and safeguard individuals displaced across borders due to disasters and climate change impacts. Advocacy efforts by MRP partners will emphasize a comprehensive approach involving both government and society, ensuring policy coherence that integrates migration considerations in disaster, climate change,

and environmental degradation contexts. Additionally, MRP partners will enhance the environmental sustainability of Migration Response Centres (MRCs) at key transit points along the Eastern and Southern Route.

## MIGRANT DEATHS AND DISAPPEARANCES

### Priority Needs

While IOM's Missing Migrants Project (MMP)<sup>18</sup> documented 157 deaths across the Eastern Route and eight deaths along the Southern Route in 2023, these figures are almost certainly an undercount due to the risky, hard-to-document crossings of deserts and seas. Extensive reports of violence against migrants point to a possible higher number of migrants dying or going missing along the route. To address the challenge of under-reporting migrant deaths and disappearances in the region, the priority is to build a robust data system, including improving data collection by enhancing regional collaboration with key informants as well as building the capacities of governments and other partners to save migrant lives and address the impacts of missing migrants on affected families and communities.

### Response Strategy

In 2024, the MRP will collaborate with the IOM's MMP and prioritize the documentation of migrant deaths and disappearances along the Eastern and Southern routes. This joint effort involves systematically recording incidents of migrant fatalities and disappearances within national borders or during the process of migration to international destinations. Critically needed information on migrant deaths and disappearances along both routes will be captured by integrating the MMP module into DTM data collection operations along the regional migration flow networks, including rolling out the MMP incident tracking tool in remote areas along the key migration routes. Through this partnership, the MRP aims to advocate for establishing safe, humane, and legal migration routes. The overarching goal is to enhance data collection on missing migrants, informing policies and programming to prevent migrant deaths and address the needs of affected families and communities. Additionally, MRP partners will actively contribute to recovery, identification, documentation, family notification, transfer, and the dignified burial of the remains, embodying a comprehensive approach to addressing migrant deaths and disappearances.



A stranded migrant lies on a makeshift mattress outside a building in Lahj. © IOM 2020/Rami Ibrahim

18 The International Organization for Migration (IOM)'s Missing Migrants Project, established in response to incidents of migrant deaths, maintains the sole open-access global database on deaths during migration. The Project hosts the only existing open-access database of records of deaths during migration on the global level, which informs the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Indicator 10.7.3 on the number of people who died or disappeared in the process of migration towards an international destination. Beyond the database, the Project releases reports, briefings, and infographics, analysing data on migration-related deaths. Missing Migrants Project is also a concerted effort towards informing the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) Objective 8, which commits signatory states to "save lives and establish coordinated international efforts on missing migrants.

## SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS ACROSS THE HUMANITARIAN- DEVELOPMENT-PEACE-NEXUS

### Priority Needs

Large-scale movements along the Eastern and Southern Routes call for mid and long-term sustainable solutions to address the underlying drivers of migration in the region: poverty, insecurity, and climate change. The quest to address the drivers of migration will remain a key priority in 2024. Comprehensive migration policies and regular pathways are paramount to tackling irregular migration. At the same time, the lack of sustainable reintegration opportunities and development interventions in migration-prone areas may lead to re-migration. Additionally, limited resources and infrastructures available in host communities hinder social cohesion and exacerbate protection risks and social tensions. A whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach is paramount to ensure a HDPN framework which reduce people's needs, risks, and vulnerabilities by progressively shifting from humanitarian assistance to prevention and development interventions. This requires approaches that promote mutually reinforcing engagement at policy and operational levels. As such, MRP partners will develop a HDPN framework that ensures a unified approach across the migratory routes. The HDPN framework will highlight the interventions to be undertaken by MRP partners at the community level in areas of origin, transit, return and host communities to reduce outward irregular migration pressure so that migration can increasingly represent an individual choice rather than a necessity.

### Response Strategy

MRP partners will promote social cohesion activities that foster migrants' and returnees' participation in the economic and social life of their host communities and communities of return while simultaneously addressing the adverse drivers of migration through investments in sustainable reintegration, benefiting returnees and broader communities of return. Interventions will include community-based initiatives to promote access to essential services and sustainable livelihoods to foster or maintain peace, social cohesion, and resilience. Furthermore, MRP

partners and other key stakeholders will focus on strengthening capacity, promoting policy coherence, and synergizing operational efforts toward achieving improved migration governance.

Recognizing that reintegration requires a holistic and needs-based approach at the individual, community, and structural levels, MRP partners will implement individual and community-based reintegration initiatives that promote self-sufficiency, social stability, and psychosocial well-being of migrants and their communities. At the policy level, MRP partners will advocate for the inclusion of the needs of migrants and their communities in relevant discussions and planning to ensure that adequate policies and operations are in place to enhance community stabilization and sustainable solutions. Furthermore, MRP partners will support governments in strengthening their capacity in government-led interventions that promote safe and dignified migration, ensure policy coherence, and promote regular migration pathways to achieve improved migration governance across the Eastern and Southern routes.



After receiving assistance at the Tog-Wajalle MRC, transportation is provided for stranded migrants to return to their home. © MRP 2023/ Rahel Negussie

## INTER-STATE DIALOGUES

### Priority Needs

Recognizing the importance of enhancing -regional and inter-state dialogue and cooperation to improve the management of migration along the Eastern Route, MRP partners have identified five key priority needs that require concerted efforts to address the challenges of irregular migration and improve migration management, notably:

- To address the adverse drivers of migration and support sustainable reintegration. Comprehensive data analysis is crucial to better understanding the drivers of irregular migration and informing policy planning to strengthen the resilience of populations living in irregular migration hotspots and support the sustainable reintegration of those returning to these areas.
- To enhance state capacity on immigration and border governance to reduce the incidence of irregular migration through cooperation, coordination, exchange, and support among states in the context of integrated border governance.
- To enhance the protection and assistance of migrants at all stages of migration and upon return to their countries of origin. Legislation, policies, and frameworks that include protection considerations for migrants regardless of their status are crucial to strengthening the existing protection environment.
- To strengthen legal pathways for labour mobility to facilitate safe and regular migration. Cooperation in ethical recruitment and labour agreements are paramount to promote orderly human mobility.
- To establish partnerships and coordination through a comprehensive and effective framework for capacity enhancement, data collection and analysis, and resource mobilization.

### Response Strategy

To address the challenges of irregular migration and improve the management of migration, MRP partners will promote Regional Dialogues to address the priority needs outlined above. The dialogues will serve as a platform for exchanging views and experiences and advance understanding

of the opportunities and challenges identified by Eastern Route and Southern Route countries in their effort to manage migration along these routes. Discussions will focus on the current state of play with a focus on policy and practice while identifying good practices, opportunities, challenges, lessons learned, and areas for interstate cooperation leading up to the development of a roadmap that participating states will progressively implement to manage migration along the Eastern Route effectively. Given the multi-faceted nature of the dialogue, a whole-of-government approach will be encouraged, along with the participation of relevant stakeholders.

## IMMIGRATION AND BORDER GOVERNANCE

### Priority Needs

Immigration and border governance in the Horn of Africa are critical issues impacting the region's stability. Located at the crossroads between Africa, the Middle East, and Asia, the Horn of Africa has witnessed a significant movement of people seeking economic opportunities, and a better life. However, these ongoing migratory flows, porous borders, and weak governance mechanisms pose several challenges. Two prominent challenges are irregular migration and transnational crime. Nevertheless, amidst these challenges, the legal identity and regional integration agenda emerge as possible key solutions to fostering stability in the region through improving cooperation, promoting economic development, and ensuring the protection and rights of migrants.

To achieve the above main priority needs for immigration and border governance in the Horn of Africa, member states' initiatives should revolve around establishing legal identity and legal identity systems for its citizens. Many individuals in the region lack proper identification, hindering their access to essential services, including migration processes, education, healthcare, and employment opportunities. Member states must address this issue as it would assist in expanding regular pathways for migration and promote inclusive development and social well-being. By providing legal identity to their citizens and migrants within these territories, the

Horn of Africa states can enhance their capacity to manage migration more effectively, ensuring that individuals have the necessary mindsets and supporting documentation to migrate safely and legally.

Additionally, there is an urgent need for better border security to ensure safer mobility within the Horn of Africa. Strengthening border management information systems and mechanisms is essential to address migration management and security concerns while preventing unauthorized movements. Improving infrastructure, such as ports of entry, border crossings, and checkpoints, and enhancing the capacity and training of border personnel can facilitate the orderly and safe movement of people and goods across borders. This will contribute to regional stability and facilitate informal cross-border trade, legal trade, and economic development.

At the same time, it is imperative to intervene and reduce irregular migration, particularly by tackling transnational organized crimes such as migrant smuggling and human trafficking. The Horn of Africa is one of the most prominent regions for irregular migration routes, exposing vulnerable individuals, including women and children, to exploitation and abuse. Member states must enhance their law enforcement and judicial systems to combat these criminal activities effectively. Robust international cooperation, improved intelligence sharing, and increased law enforcement capacity would go a long way in reducing irregular migration and protecting the welfare of migrants and, again, expanding on regular pathways, making irregular migration an unviable option.

## Response Strategy

In 2024, MRP partners will continue to promote better border governance and management structures to MRP member states and render a better border management experience to migrants by focusing on key aspects that support the migration management efforts of states and the migrants themselves.

To achieve this, MRP partners will facilitate and streamline regional conversations and member states' efforts within the legal identity arena by focusing on developing roadmaps for national identification systems that ensure migrants and citizens have a

legal identity pathway from birth and accompanying documents. Other activities, include, but are not limited to conducting awareness campaigns to educate governments and citizens on the importance of legal identity and the benefits it can foster and bring to individuals and states alike, strengthening data protection and privacy measures to ensure the security of citizens' personal information and establishing partnerships with international organizations and neighbouring countries to improve cross-border identification systems, which will facilitate legal migration within the region. Through MRP partnerships, Border Security will be prioritized, specifically enhancing infrastructure at border crossings to support the regional integration agenda and training border personnel on modern border management techniques, including document verification, risk analysis, and detection of fraudulent activities. Strong focus areas will also include gender, and gender and trade at ports of entry.

The MRP will also seek to coordinate efforts better focused on interventions in the Irregular Migration domains through existing channels in the EAC and the IGAD, as well as support better international Law Enforcement liaison through the RECs, recognizing the unstable and ever-changing nature of the region, the spillover syndrome from the Middle East and the Gulf of Aden and Suez, as these proximities will affect the MRP coverage areas and impact on migration and migrants.

## ENHANCING THE EVIDENCE BASE

### Priority needs

MRP partners recognize the need for data and evidence to inform response strategies and interventions. By increasing the evidence-based information on mobility patterns, root causes, routes, migrant stocks, smuggling patterns, and needs and vulnerabilities of migrants and host communities along the Eastern and Southern migratory routes, MRP partners will provide a more robust and targeted humanitarian, development, and migration management strategy throughout the migration routes.

## Response Strategy

At the regional level, MRP partners aim to understand migration drivers better and the enduring vulnerabilities of migrants in the HoA, Yemen, and along the Southern Route. This understanding, continuously adjusted by a strengthened evidence base, is pivotal for informing evidence-based migration management along the routes. To achieve this, MRP partners will fortify the evidence base by conducting individual and collaborative needs assessments and analyses tailored to diverse populations and contexts along the Eastern and Southern Routes. Notably, in 2024, the focus of the response will prioritize fortifying the evidence base related to migration patterns, experiences, root causes, the adverse impacts of climate change, protection needs, and the risks and vulnerabilities of migrants, returnees, and host communities. Collection of information on migrants' flows will be facilitated through tools such as the IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), the Mixed Migration Centre's (MMC) Mixed Migration Monitoring Mechanism Initiative (4Mi) data collection, and other existing mechanisms at the national level.

MRP partners will conduct data collection for protection assessments, monitoring, and studies/research focused on migrant vulnerabilities and protection concerns. Furthermore, the evidence generated through these initiatives will actively inform policy formulation and advocacy efforts for protection at both national and regional levels. Furthermore, MRP partners will research how the recent historic drought, unprecedented rainfall, new eruptions of violence in Sudan and elsewhere, and protracted instability and insecurity impact migration along the Eastern and Southern Routes.

## DEFINITION OF POPULATION GROUPS

The following categories of population groups have been included in the MRP and defined for this plan as set out below:



**Departing migrants:** Migrants that are departing their home countries. Within the framework of this MRP, this includes primarily Ethiopian and Somali migrants who have started or are expected to begin their journey but are still within their country of origin.



**Transiting migrants:** Migrants who have begun their journey, left their countries of origin, and are in transit in another country before reaching their intended destination or returning to their country of origin. This also includes stranded migrants who cannot continue their journey, either in their own or a transit country, and cannot return.<sup>19</sup>



**Returnee migrants:** Individuals that have returned to their countries of origin, either spontaneously, voluntarily, or non-voluntarily.<sup>20</sup>



**Migrants at destination:** Migrants who have decided to settle in a country along the migration route (Djibouti, Kenya, Somalia, or Yemen).



**Affected host communities:** members from the communities where migrants live or return to in areas of origin, transit, and destination and need access to similar assistance along the Eastern Route in Djibouti, Ethiopia, and Somalia.<sup>21</sup>

19 Under this Plan, transiting migrants are in-need and targeted in Djibouti, Kenya, Somalia, United Republic of Tanzania, and Yemen.

20 Returnees in Somalia (from Yemen) included in the MRP overlap with beneficiaries identified in the HRP. This plan does not include Ethiopian returnees from Sudan.

21 The host community members in Yemen are covered under the Yemen HRP and are not under the MRP.

# REGIONAL MIGRANT RESPONSE PLAN

## RESPONSE FRAMEWORK

### MRP OVERALL OBJECTIVE

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The overall MRP objective is to establish a more efficient response to address the humanitarian and protection needs, risks, and vulnerabilities of migrants and host communities and contribute to community stabilization and resilience in the HoA, Southern Africa, and Yemen. The MRP promotes comprehensive, quality, timely, and inclusive humanitarian, protection, and migration management responses across the Eastern and Southern Routes through a dynamic, comprehensive, and effective framework for coordination, capacity enhancement, analysis, and resource mobilization that recognizes, responds to, and addresses the regional dimensions of migration linking the Horn of Africa, Southern Africa, and Yemen.

**To achieve the overall objective, in response to the identified needs and in line with national priorities, the following objectives underpin the MRP interventions:**

### STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

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#### STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1

Provide life-saving assistance to vulnerable migrants and host communities.



#### STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2

Provide quality, timely, accessible, and inclusive protection assistance and specialized and tailored services to migrants, returnees, and host communities in vulnerable situations.



#### STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3

Strengthen access to return, sustainable reintegration, and community stabilization.



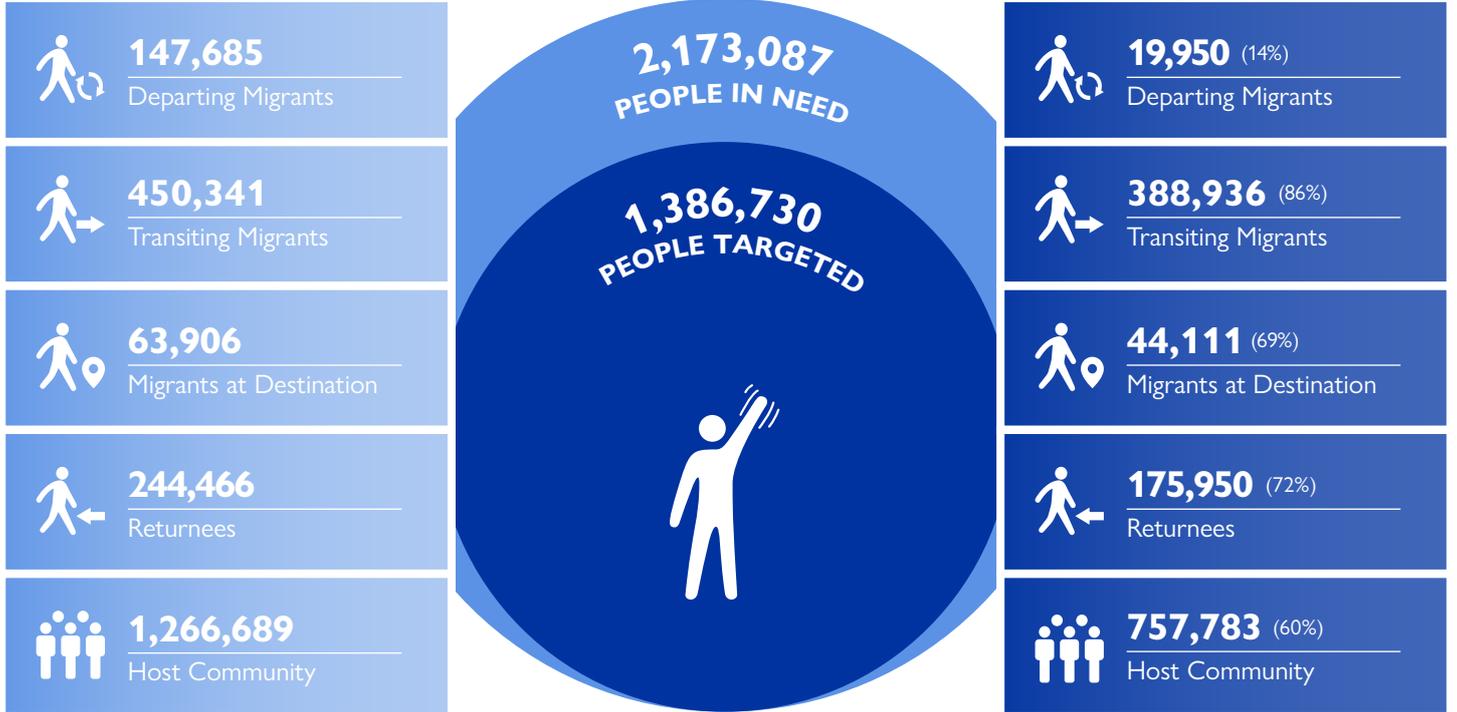
#### STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 4

Building evidence, partnerships, and coordination to enhance the humanitarian response and migration management throughout the migration route.

PLANNING AND RESPONSE FOR 2024

**2,173,087**  
People in Need

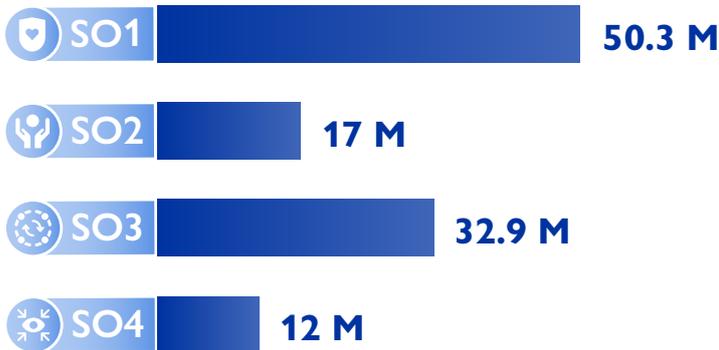
**1,386,730**  
People Targeted



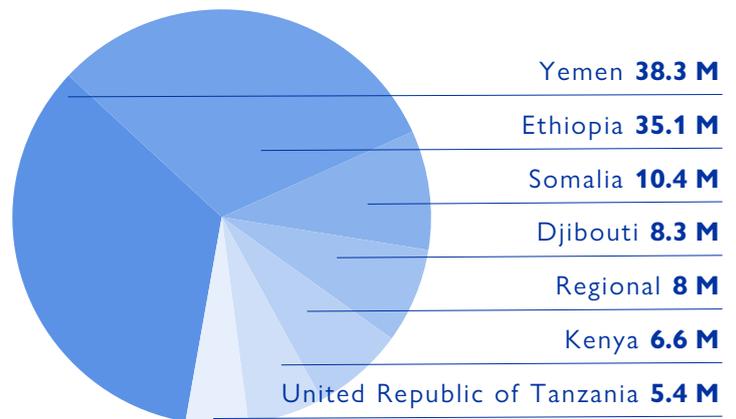
FUNDING REQUIREMENT BY STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

**USD 112.2 Million**

FUNDING BY STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE



FUNDING REQUIREMENT BY COUNTRY



MRP 2024 PARTNERS



**48**  
TOTAL PARTNERS

## 2024 RESPONSE PLAN OVERVIEW

### PLANNING ASSUMPTIONS

In 2024, migration along the Eastern Route is anticipated to remain the most significant in the HoA, with most migrants departing from Ethiopia to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and other Gulf States via Djibouti, Somalia, and Yemen. Migration along the Southern Route will also continue from the origin countries, including Somalia and Ethiopia, aiming to reach South Africa via Kenya, the United Republic of Tanzania, and other Southern African countries.

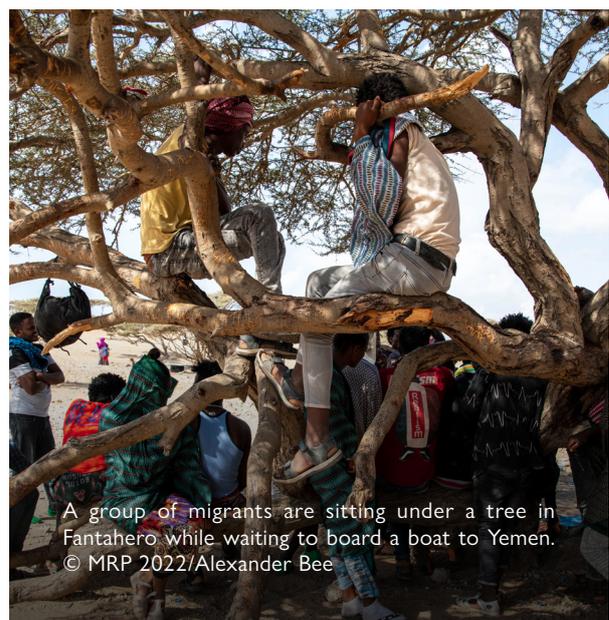
While the HoA drought has ended, the prolonged nature of the drought will result in lasting impacts such as deteriorated livelihoods and resilience due to livestock depletion, loss of arable lands, and over-dependence on negative coping strategies. Furthermore, the effects of climate change, including the onset of El Niño, will result in extreme weather conditions. Heavy rains are anticipated in certain areas, resulting in flooding exacerbated by drought-impacted lands, while lower rainfall is expected in other regions. Worsened climate conditions may result in increased outward migration and certainly increase the vulnerabilities of migrants in transit. In addition, the conflict in Northern Ethiopia, in Oromia and Amhara, will likely impact outward migration and prevent returnee migrants from successfully reintegrating. MRP partners have identified the following planning assumptions as the basis for the MRP response in 2024:

- The migration routes will not change in 2024, and migrants will continue to use the Eastern Route on their way to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.
- While the Eastern Route remains the largest migration route, the Southern and Northern routes are becoming important. For example, stranded migrants along the Southern route are seeking assistance from humanitarian partners.
- Ethiopia will be the main departing country, and the main transit countries will continue to be Somalia, Djibouti, Yemen (eastern), Sudan<sup>22</sup> (northern), Kenya, and the United Republic of Tanzania (southern).

- The presence of stranded Ethiopian population in the transiting countries will increase, increasing the number of Ethiopian returnees entering the country in 2024.

Additionally, MRP partners concur on the need to understand better and regularly monitor:

- The impact of climatic events, including El Niño and Indian Ocean Dipole, leading to potentially increased rainfall throughout the region.
- The conflict in Northern Ethiopia.
- Las Anod conflict: A critical vulnerability for Eastern Route migrants in Somalia includes ongoing conflict in Las Anod, a city in Northern Somalia located on one of the main migratory routes to Bossaso.
- The movements from Sudan: The conflict-related inflow of entries from Sudan may impact departures along the Eastern Route. Communities hosting migrants from Sudan may likely be further strained, and incoming migrants may find reintegration challenging, leading to irregular migration. However, these effects may not be witnessed until the situation stabilizes.



A group of migrants are sitting under a tree in Fantahero while waiting to board a boat to Yemen.  
© MRP 2022/Alexander Bee

<sup>22</sup> Migrants reportedly perceive that attaining a visa to Gulf States is easier through Sudan. As such, MRP partners have observed movement from Ethiopia to Sudan to facilitate migration to Gulf States via regular pathways.

## POPULATION IN NEED AND TARGET POPULATION 2024

Based on these assumptions, it is expected that the overall needs in 2024 will be higher compared to 2023, with 2,173,087 people (906,398 migrants and 1,266,689 host community members) projected to need lifesaving and protection assistance,<sup>23</sup> reintegration assistance, and development-focused initiatives addressing the drivers of migration.

The 2024 PiN includes the following:

- 147,685 migrants departing from countries of origin.
- 450,341 transiting migrants (both towards the destination and returning to the country of origin who are already in the transiting country).
- 63,906 migrants at destination.
- 244,466 returnees.
- 1,266,689 host community members.

Given the multi-dimensional aspects of migration flows, migrants may belong to more than one population group as they move along their migration journey towards their country of destination (or return). Therefore, to avoid the double counting of migrants, transiting migrants are not included in the total PiN calculation. Additionally, the PiN calculation was coordinated with the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) at the country and regional levels to ensure complementarity with country-level Humanitarian Response Plans (HRPs).

In 2024, MRP partners seek to meet the humanitarian and protection needs of 1,386,730 persons (including 628,947 migrants and 757,783 host community members) in need of, as set out below:

- 19,950 departing migrants
- 388,936 transiting migrants
- 44,111 migrants in destination
- 175,950 returnees
- 757,783 host community members

## PARTNERSHIPS AND COORDINATION

The MRP brings together 48 partners, including humanitarian and development actors, at the strategic and operational levels to ensure a coherent and predictable response to the targeted populations along the Eastern and Southern Routes. MRP partners coordinate annually and whenever needed to assess the situations and conditions of the target populations, agree on shared priorities, and develop synergistic and comprehensive responses to needs. Coordination, informed policy-making, joint advocacy, and resource mobilization are crucial to comprehensively respond to the complex inter-regional migration dynamics. The MRP aligns with the GCM by calling for a whole-of-government approach to migration. The MRP furthers the GCM objectives by supporting governments along the Eastern and Southern routes to accomplish their commitments towards safe, orderly, and regular migration. Partners work towards collective outcomes jointly pursued by government and other stakeholders, including affected communities, the private sector, research/academia, and the international community.

Furthermore, the MRP coordination provides the following dividends for the response:

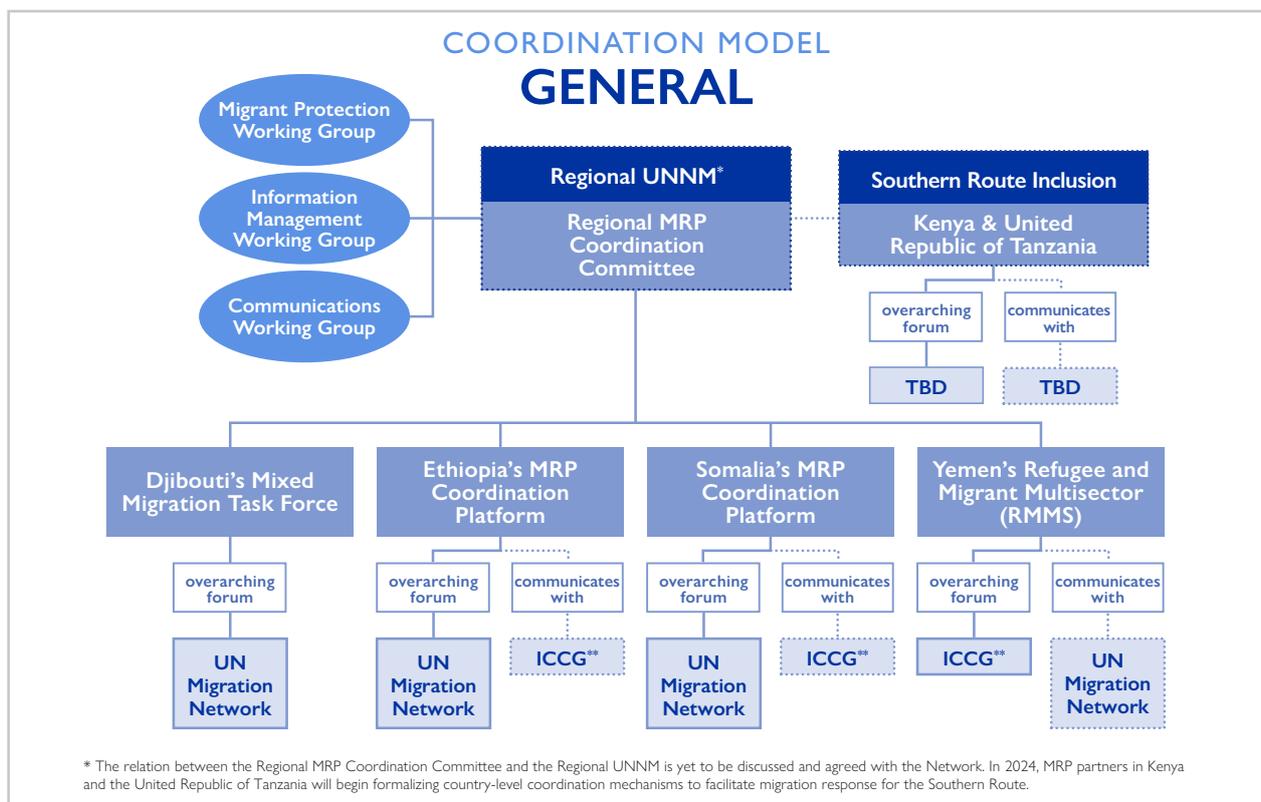
1. Supports service delivery by providing a platform for agreement on the complementariness amongst partners and eliminating duplication.
2. Promotes local NGOs' localization and capacity building to enhance the response's sustainability.
3. Promotes effective information sharing, monitoring, analysis, and reporting on the MRP plan and results.
4. Enhances joint advocacy to address identified concerns on behalf of partners and the affected populations.
5. Facilitates the implementation of the relevant pillars of the IGAD Regional Migration Policy Frameworks at the national levels.

<sup>23</sup> The 2024 response will incorporate both humanitarian and development modalities. Development modalities will include community stabilization and reintegration interventions.

## REGIONAL LEVEL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The MRP Regional Coordination Committee (RCC) comprises 15 partners, including IGAD, UN agencies, and INGOs.<sup>24</sup> In addition, donors, the private sector, and academia are encouraged to participate in the regional coordination. The RCC is set up at two coordination levels: for MRP partners' Regional Directors (RDs) who set the broader strategic direction. The technical level RCC supports the

RDs in operationalizing and promoting shared responsibilities towards the collective outcomes as detailed in the MRP Strategic Framework. The RCC technical forum operates through a light, results-oriented coordination platform, which fosters accountability and clarity to the MRP's strategic objectives. It supports implementing the MRP objectives at the regional and country levels.



The MRP partners established technical working groups at the regional level **to elaborate on specialized tasks and thematic priorities (Information Management, Migrant Protection, and Communications Working Groups)**. Membership in the technical working groups is drawn from the RCC membership. In 2024, these regional technical working groups will form sub-working groups dedicated to either the Eastern or Southern Route

and report to the broader working groups. As such, the MPWVG will have a sub-working group for the Eastern Route and another for the Southern Route, aiming to meet monthly to coordinate on protection matters. This structure will be reproduced in the other technical working groups. Furthermore, the MRP is integrated into relevant networks such as the Regional Ministerial Forum on Migration<sup>25</sup> (RMFM), the RCPN, and the Regional GBV Working Group.

24 The partners include the Danish Refugee Council (DRC), IGAD, International Rescue Committee (IRC), IOM, MMC, Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), UNHCR, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), OCHA, Save the Children, World Health Organization (WHO), and World Food Programme (WFP). Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) are observer partners to the MRP.

25 The Regional Ministerial Forum on Migration for East and Horn of Africa is an Inter-State Consultation Mechanism on Migration (ISCM) bringing together 11 States from the East and Horn of Africa Region to jointly address labour migration policies, foster labour mobility and protect the fundamental human, labour, and social rights of migrant workers migrating within the continent and from Africa to the European Union, Gulf States, and other countries.

## Information Management Working Group

The Information Management Working Group (IMWG), chaired by IOM and MMC, supports the RCC through a coordinated information management approach to support the MRP programming cycle and facilitate collective advocacy and policy influence. In particular, the IMWG enhances institutional engagement between the MRP partners and promotes learning and knowledge of operational realities. Through the IMWG, MRP partners at the regional level developed a common analytical framework to analyse migrants' needs along the MRP's coverage region, including estimating the affected populations, PiN, and people targeted. The coordination of MRP partners at the regional level provides strategic guidance on the MRP Information Management Strategy, including strengthening the capacities of MRP partners on harmonized data collection methods, data standards, analysis, and reporting. The IMWG also serves as a platform to align the MRP timeframes with the Humanitarian Programme Cycles (HPC) and development frameworks in all relevant countries, leading to a harmonized representation of the MRP within relevant global and regional planning mechanisms.

## Migrant Protection Working Group

The MPWG,<sup>26</sup> co-chaired by IOM and DRC, was established at the regional level to provide overall strategic guidance and direction to the MRP partners at the regional and country levels to enhance protection standards and ensure coherent and coordinated actions in response to the protection needs risks, and vulnerabilities of migrants and host communities along the Eastern and the Southern Routes. The MPWG liaises with MRP countries through relevant existing coordination mechanisms established at the country levels. The strategic priorities of the MPWG will support the implementation of protection priorities in the MRP 2024 framework, including increased evidence base, direct assistance, capacity building, law, policy development and standard setting, advocacy, and convening relevant stakeholders to address various protection concerns. The MPWG will coordinate with existing regional coordination mechanisms and RECs to advance protection responses for migrants along the Eastern and Southern routes.



In Fantahero, a group of Ethiopian migrants doing some laundry. © MRP 2020/Alexander Bee

26 The MPWG comprises regional partners, including DRC, IOM, IRC, MMC, NRC, Save the Children, UNFPA, UNHCR, and UNICEF.



Migrants leaving the Obock MRC for their country of origin through the AVR return programme. © MRP 2021/Alexander Bee

## Communications Working Group

The MRP Communications Strategy guides the Communications Working Group (CWG), which offers a strategic approach to increasing the visibility, stakeholder, and public awareness, and understanding of the MRP for the Horn of Africa to Yemen and Southern Africa. The MRP CWG aims to address and tackle the under-reporting of the Eastern and Southern Routes, help advocate for the rights of migrants and host community members, and coordinate a collaborative response required for the challenging environment due to the route-based approach of the MRP.

The [Communications Strategy](#) is designed to galvanize the donor community, governments, RECs, local and international NGOs, civil society, the private sector, the media, and other influential groups to support the response and seek long-term solutions for migrants.

IOM co-chairs the CWG with Save the Children and UNICEF.

The MRP CWG aims to:

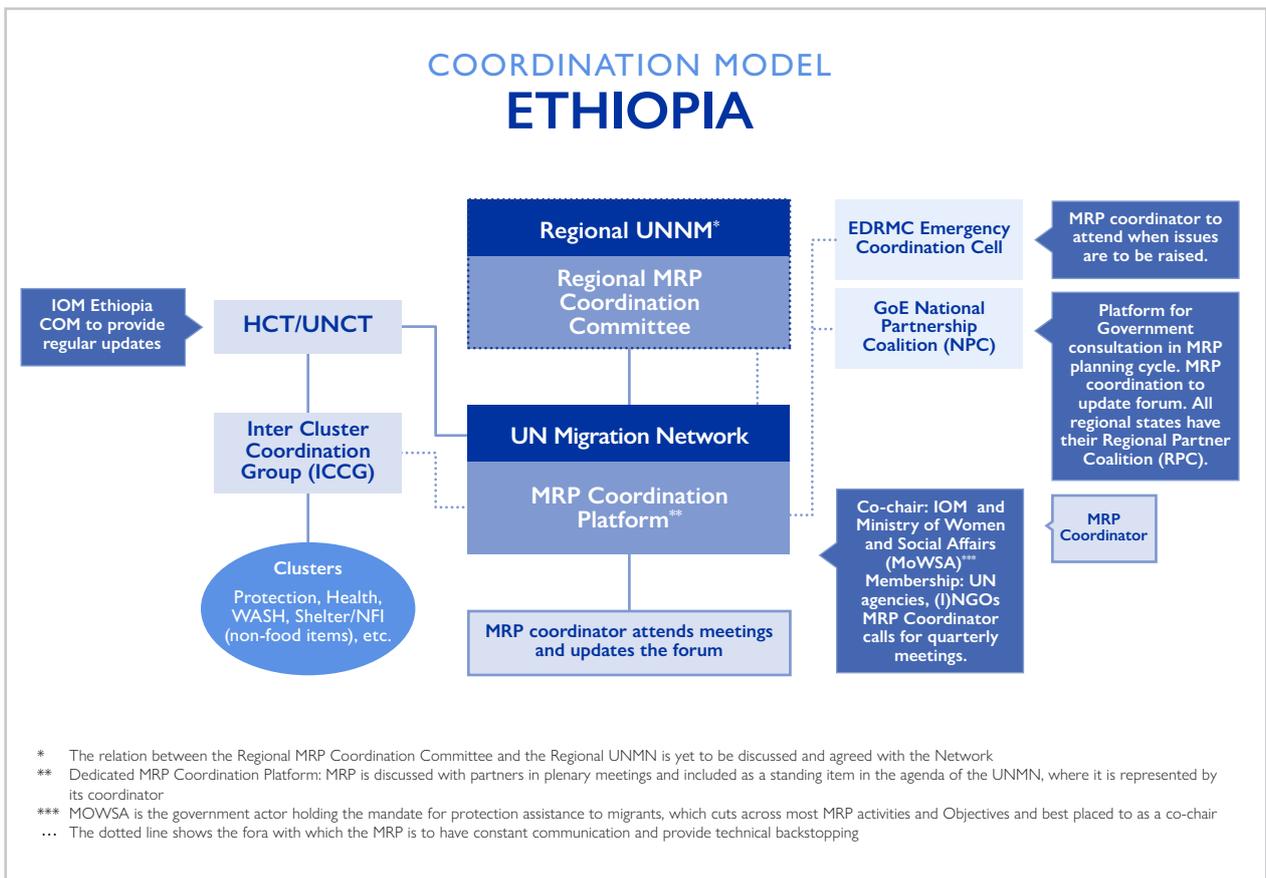
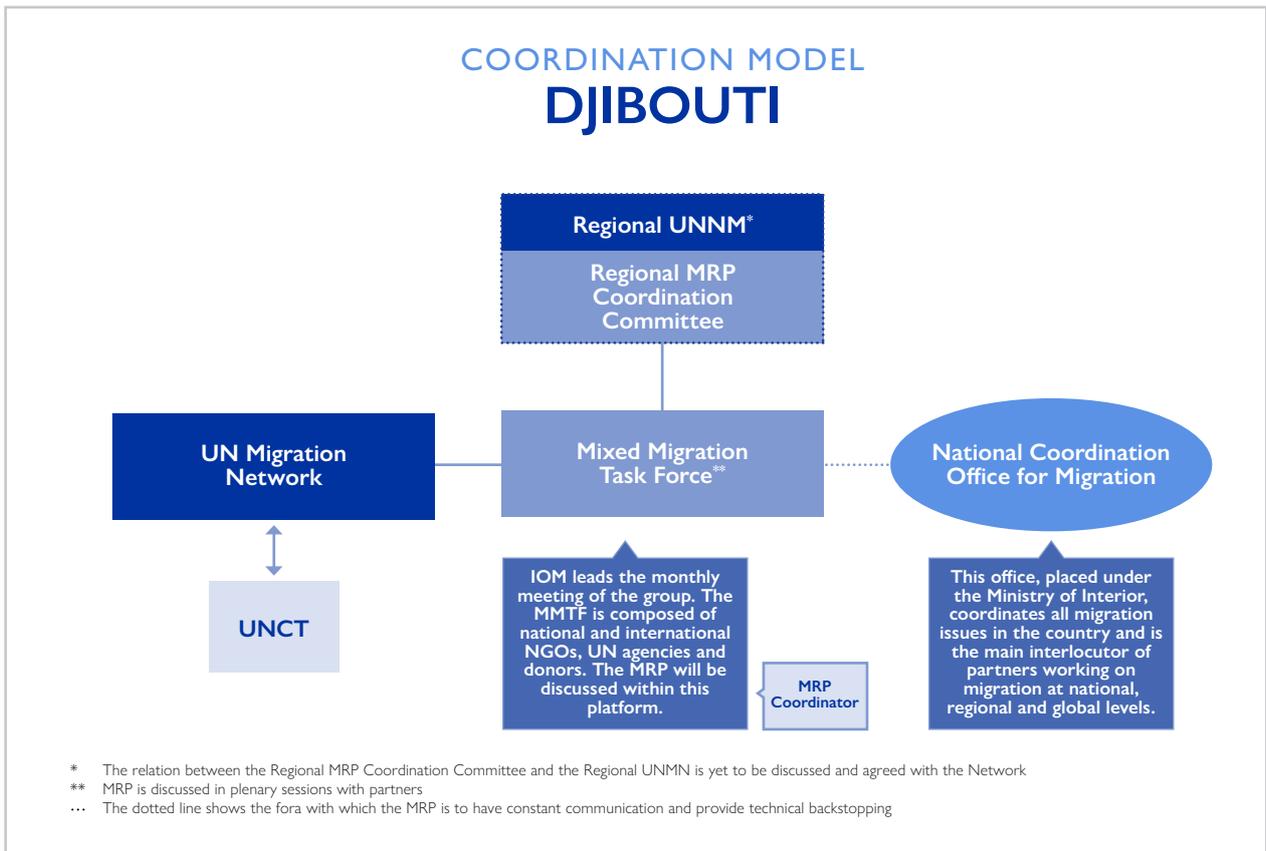
1. Identify joint advocacy priorities and key coherent messaging on migrants' rights and protection on the Eastern and Southern Route and the support offered by the MRP.
2. Identify key influence moments/opportunities and establish a joint advocacy calendar that includes deliverables (products, events, etc.) and persons accountable.
3. Share information and promote inter-agency communications and coordination on joint priority issues along the Eastern and Southern routes in a clear, concise, and unified voice.
4. Increase and enhance the Eastern and Southern Route visibility through media engagement and common branding.
5. Build the capacity of smaller grassroots MRP partners and share knowledge to enhance localization.
6. Jointly mobilize resources to increase the reach to the affected populations.

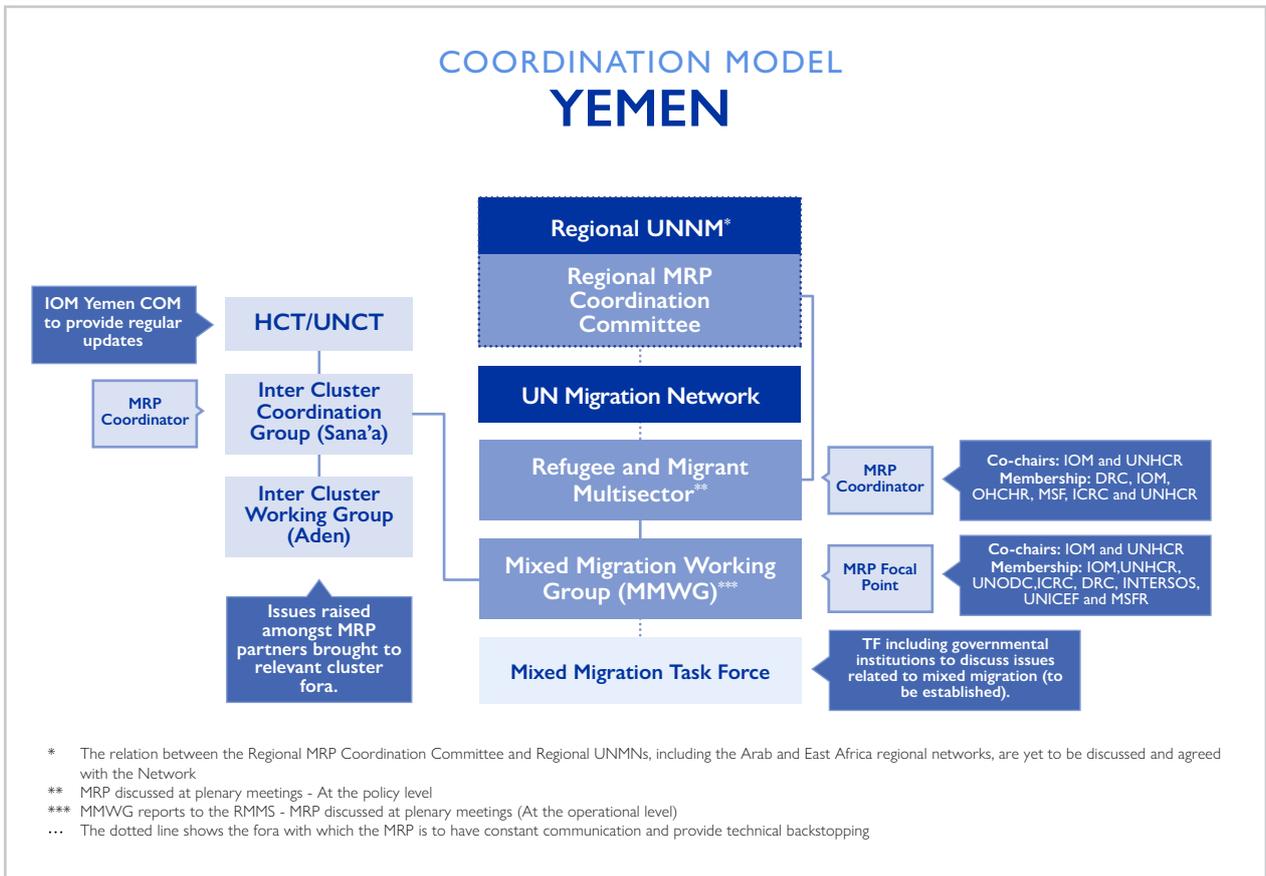
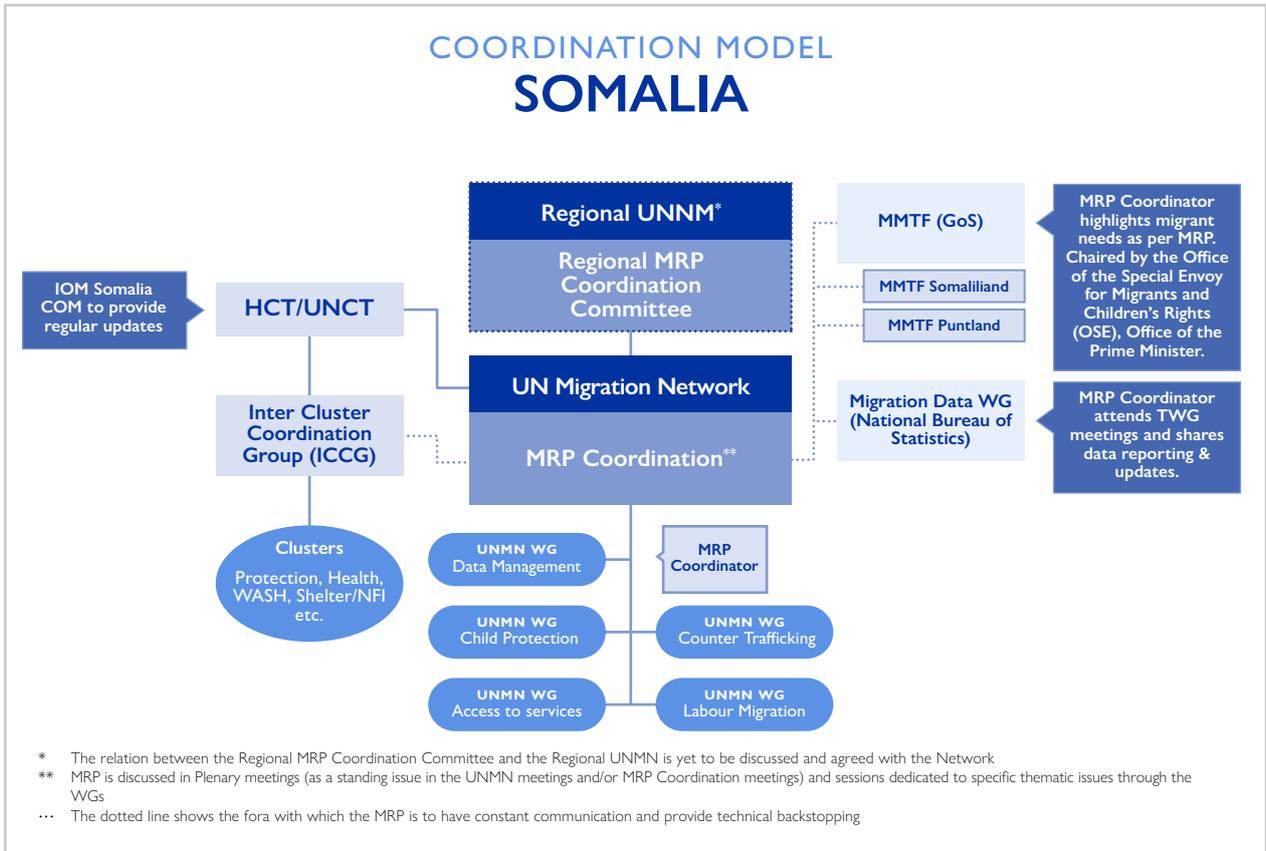
## COUNTRY LEVEL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

At the country level, the coordination mechanisms are not standardized, and the MRP mainly works within existing frameworks to reflect each country's humanitarian and development priorities. In Djibouti, Ethiopia, and Somalia, the United Nations Network on Migration (UNNM) is the overarching platform to which the MRP is aligned. The Mixed Migration Task Force (MMTF), an existing structure in Djibouti and Somalia, composed of relevant government authorities, the UN, and relevant NGO partners, serves as the coordination and information-sharing platform for the MRP.

In Ethiopia, the National Partnership Coalition (NPC) is a multi-stakeholder platform spearheaded by the Ministry of Justice that coordinates all aspects of migration management in Ethiopia. The NPC is responsible for coordinating the National Referral Mechanism (NRM), which is being reinforced to serve as the critical platform for coordinating referrals to needs-based and appropriate assistance for individual migrants. Several MRP partners – including the Ministry of Women and Social Affairs (MoWSA), which co-chairs the MRP coordination committee – have a stake in the NPC and NRM, ensuring that the goals and activities of the MRP and the NPC/NRM are closely coordinated. MRP partners in Ethiopia also established a dedicated MRP coordination platform, co-chaired by IOM and MoWSA to complement the existing platforms.

The Refugee and Migrant Multisector (RMMS) frames the coordination structure for the MRP in Yemen, unlike the rest of the region, which has the UNNM as the overarching structure. This is explained by the fact that the response in Yemen focuses mainly on providing humanitarian and protection assistance to transiting migrants, with no response planned regarding reintegration or stabilization. In 2024, MRP partners in Kenya and the United Republic of Tanzania will begin formalizing country-level coordination mechanisms to facilitate migration response for the Southern Route.





## LINKAGES WITH HUMANITARIAN AND DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORKS

The MRP is a multi-country response plan that seeks to promote effective regional responses to migrants and the inclusion of their needs into country-level discussions and planning. The MRP ensures complementarity and coherence with existing strategic frameworks, including the National Development Frameworks (NDF), UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks<sup>27</sup> (UNSDCF), and HRPs.

## LINKAGES WITH HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE PLANS

The MRP seeks to harmonize priorities, budgets, and targets in countries where such planning already occurs. The HoA and Yemen have the following HRPs:

- Ethiopia's Humanitarian Response Plan
  - The MRP and HRP coordinates response across humanitarian activities targeting migrants and host communities in Ethiopia. This involves coordinating closely on targets based on key points of entry and beneficiary types, particularly returning migrants. As such, the Ethiopia HRP includes migrants in planning, assumptions, as well as in the country-level cluster coordination mechanisms. In the previous two years, the MRP had been included as a separate chapter without inclusion into the PIN estimations and targeting figures.
- Somalia's Humanitarian Response Plan
  - In 2024, the MRP Somalia country chapter, for the first time, has been included in the HRP for Somalia as an annex. As a country experiencing a complex emergency including conflict and natural disasters (drought, flood, etc.), returning migrants may be affected by these emergencies and assistance across both plans are coordinated to ensure continuity of services.

- Yemen's Humanitarian Response Plan
  - The MRP and HRP in Yemen are fully linked. As such, estimations of the People in Need and targets for Eastern Route migrants transiting through Yemen are fully coordinated through the RMMS, which contributes to both plans.

MRP partners will continue to advocate for including migrants' needs in the HRPs for the relevant target countries. To avoid double-counting, host community members and some migrant population groups for Ethiopia, Somalia, and Yemen who were already included in the respective HRPs were not included in calculating the total affected population for the MRP's chapter in the Global Humanitarian Overview. Linkages with Development Frameworks

The UNSDCF is a comprehensive guide throughout the UN's 2030 agenda cycle for sustainable development, overseeing the planning, execution, monitoring, reporting, and evaluation of collective UN support. The framework is nationally owned and aligns with the country's development priorities, the 2030 Agenda, and UN Charter principles. Most importantly, the Cooperation Framework operates as a partnership with the government, with joint leadership in development, implementation, monitoring, and reporting activities. As a commitment to the people, especially the marginalized and vulnerable, the UNSDCF mandates the UN development system to:

- a. Support achieving national development goals and targets, focusing on leaving no one behind.
- b. Help develop national development indicator frameworks that align with the 2030 Agenda and the Global SDG Indicator Framework.
- c. Address national development needs by including those left behind throughout the Cooperation Framework cycle across all processes and programmes.
- d. Address accountability mechanisms as appropriate for different contexts.
- e. Make up-to-date information on the Cooperation Framework and expected results and progress publicly available; and

27 Various MRP countries have signed UNSDCFs including Ethiopia, Somalia, and Djibouti.

- f. Ensure people's meaningful participation in development, particularly those left behind.

The MRP for the Horn of Africa to Yemen and Southern Africa, as a humanitarian and development-oriented, route-based plan, aligns with country-level UNSDCFs throughout the four strategic objectives covering life-saving assistance, tailored protection assistance (for VoTs, human rights violations, and survivors of GBV), community reintegration and stabilization, coordination, and building evidence.

The MRP for the Horn of Africa to Yemen and Southern Africa also articulates initiatives to address the adverse drivers of irregular migration by investing in sustainable reintegration to alleviate migration pressures in the origin countries. In addition, the MRP aims to build the resilience of individuals and communities vulnerable to irregular migration to withstand shocks such as poor livelihoods and climate change. More specifically, the MRP includes activities focused on individual and community-level reintegration and other initiatives that foster stabilization and resilience in hot spots of transit, outward migration, and return to improve livelihoods, access to basic social services, and environmental degradation. Bolstering the capacity of government authorities is vital in the implementation of the UNSDCF, and the MRP also focuses on building the capacity of government officials on the provision of life-saving assistance, migrant protection, and assistance, including child protection, GBV, counter-trafficking, international legal and policy frameworks, and bilateral/regional labour agreements. Collectively, the MRP's development-focused activities speak directly to country-level UNSDCFs.

More generally, the MRP framework contributes to the following SDGs:



Additionally, the MRP links with IGAD's Regional Migration Policy Framework,<sup>28</sup> which details internal and international migration types, migration realities and trends, and challenges and opportunities for IGAD member states. The framework also details recommended strategies to be adopted to address specific issues in migration management, including irregular migration, migration data, migration and development, and inter-state and inter-regional cooperation. In 2024, MRP partners will further articulate the development aspects and linkages to the UNSDCFs.

# REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

FOR 2024

Migrants on the bus from Obock to the train station for AVR to their country of origin. © MRP 2023/Laetitia Romain

In 2024, MRP partners propose the following regional activities to address the needs of the identified target population. The regional activities respond to the priorities of Eastern and Southern route countries and will be implemented in collaboration with relevant stakeholders at the country and regional levels.

MRP regional activities will focus on Strategic Objective 2, Strategic Objective 3, and Strategic Objective 4. In contrast, activities under Strategic Objective 1 will be implemented exclusively at the national level due to their life-saving nature, as outlined in the country chapters.



## STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2

**Provide quality, timely, accessible, and inclusive protection assistance and specialized and tailored services to migrants, returnees, and host communities in vulnerable situations.**

- Develop a regional training manual on migrant protection for frontline workers, focusing on children on the move.
- Strengthen child protection case management and response for migrants.
- Set up an emergency fund to assist vulnerable migrants along the Eastern and Southern routes.
- Train government and frontline actors on international protection and protection of human rights of migrants, including counter-human trafficking, human smuggling, and GBV prevention.
- Develop awareness-raising materials for communication with communities on the risks of human trafficking.

- Provide support for the strengthening of cross-border and NRM SOPs and response for migrants and other people on the move.
- Conduct regional technical meetings for the development of a comprehensive, transnational database for the search and identification of dead and missing migrants.
- Strengthen MHPSS responses along the Eastern and Southern routes, including through the development of a regional guide on MHPSS for children on the move.
- Strengthen advocacy papers on protection issues along the routes.
- Conduct Participatory Protection Assessments to identify protection risks, needs, and vulnerabilities along the route.



## STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3

**Strengthen access to return, sustainable reintegration, and community stabilization.**

- Support countries to effectively address migration's negative drivers through mainstreaming in regional, national, and local planning processes. Efforts will focus on facilitating safe, orderly, and regular migration by strengthening existing legal and policy frameworks on migration to maximize the beneficial impact of migration.
- Facilitate regional workshops, training, and dialogue for government stakeholders to strengthen migration governance in alignment with global, continental, and regional frameworks.

- Conduct systematic monitoring of border-crossing points and detention centres along the Eastern and Southern Routes.
- Implement capacity-building activities for border officials, law enforcement officials, local authorities, and immigration department personnel and engage in relevant infrastructure construction and rehabilitation.
- Support the development of a regional voluntary return and reintegration framework.
- Conduct joint assessments and thematic analyses and produce regional data snapshots and publications on the most relevant migration dynamics.<sup>29</sup>
- Analyse how migrant needs are integrated into relevant national and regional policies, legislations, sectoral plans, and frameworks for access to health and protection services along the Eastern and Southern routes.
- Conduct a desk review of country and regional Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH), rights, and GBV work plans to determine their level of inclusion in response plans.



#### STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 4

**Building evidence, partnerships, and coordination to enhance the humanitarian response and migration management throughout the migration route.**

- Develop an HDPN framework for the MRP to strengthen national and regional comprehensive responses of governments and local partners to address the multiple vulnerabilities of migration and comprehensively foster strong socioeconomic outcomes for migrants and communities of origin, transit, and destination.
- Enhance multi-country and routes-based data collection and analysis to understand better the protection experiences, movement decision-making, drivers, aspirations, and protection risks of those on the move for policy formulation and program design.
- Implement data collection on mixed migration (4Mi) at priority border-crossing points between Somalia, Ethiopia, Kenya, and the Gulf of Aden.
- Strengthen data sharing between MRP partners to capture systemic data on onward movements along the Eastern and the Southern routes;
- Enhancing collaboration and capacity for Missing Migrant Data management by strengthening the network of stakeholders involved in key migration routes and building their capacity to report, validate, and share information on migrant deaths and disappearances.
- Strengthen cross-border collaboration and conduct interstate dialogue to address the challenges of irregular migration and enhance migration management along the Eastern and Southern routes.
- Strengthen the coordination among MRP partners by supporting regular meetings, joint field visits, collaborative monitoring, and inter-agency capacity-building initiatives to provide overall strategic direction to the MRP partners through the established regional coordination mechanisms.
- Facilitate regional and sub regional consultative dialogues to promote information sharing and strategy development for regional cooperation. This will ultimately lead to informed decision-making, enhanced regional stability, and coordinated actions on migration management.

<sup>29</sup> Including children on the move, climate-induced mobility and climate-migration-security nexus, regular pathways for migration, the impact of the Sudan conflict on long-distance movements, smuggling and trafficking dynamics, and pendular movements turning into longer-distance international movements.

## RESPONSE MONITORING

MRP partners are committed to systematically and transparently reporting on the activities proposed for 2024. The aim of the monitoring activities is to ensure that regular updates on the implementation status of the Plan are available to governments, donors, partners, beneficiaries, and other relevant stakeholders involved in the route-based response along the Eastern and Southern Routes. The funding status of the MRP is monitored through regular reporting of the amounts received by MRP partners through the Financial Tracking System (FTS) of UN-OCHA.

To facilitate this exercise, all appealing partners presented details on their planned activities for 2024 during the MRP planning stage, linking each activity to specific MRP Result Monitoring Framework (RMF) indicators. The MRP Result Monitoring Framework mirrors the MRP Strategic Objectives and Specific Objectives for 2024, and it will be used to measure the implementation progress of each activity throughout the year via Kobo.

MRP partners are responsible for monitoring their interventions' relevance, coherence, effectiveness, and efficiency in line with the MRP's strategic objectives. MRP partners must report on indicators disaggregating sex, age, and beneficiary type (migrant, host community, etc.). When applicable, achievements will be disaggregated by country, project location, and MRP partners. The MRP RMF is revised yearly through a consultative process among MRP partners, and additional monitoring indicators may be added on an exceptional basis following consultations with the MRP Coordination Unit. However, adjustments to the MRP framework are usually facilitated during the MRP planning process.

To align the MRP with the Agenda 2030 and the SDGs, the MRP results framework has been designed to facilitate data collection at the outcome level in line with the SDG results framework. Through this alignment, the MRP will support governments' efforts to integrate SDGs into their national development plans and strategies, thus strengthening the HDPN.

The MRP RMF is crucial to track how the objectives and targets of the MRP are being achieved. The data on the services offered and the beneficiaries achieved

allow MRP partners at regional and country levels to measure their implementation progress against their targets while representing a transparency and accountability tool. This also enables MRP partners to coordinate their interventions better, thus avoiding duplication of efforts and filling existing assistance gaps. Each appealing organization is responsible for quarterly reporting on its funding activities, which will be used to populate the quarterly reports published through the MRP website. The quarterly reports summarize the achievements of MRP partners at the regional and national levels along with a situation overview and projections.

Monitoring will inform advocacy efforts and programmatic adjustments during the current MRP cycle and will contribute to strategic and operational decision-making for the following one. Annual assessments will measure the impact of activities at the regional and country level, thus contributing to MRP accountability and knowledge management efforts. All activities will adhere to the do-no-harm principle, and non-discriminatory and needs-based approaches will be applied, prioritizing the safety and dignity of migrants and host communities. MRP partners are also committed to mainstream Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP) in their response. Into 2024, efforts will be made to foster target populations' empowerment and participation in monitoring and evaluating MRP actions.



Migrants in Sortie Gaherre, a section of the desert, draw water from a source installed by an MRP partner in Djibouti. © MRP 2022/Alexander Bee

## Country Chapters

# DJIBOUTI

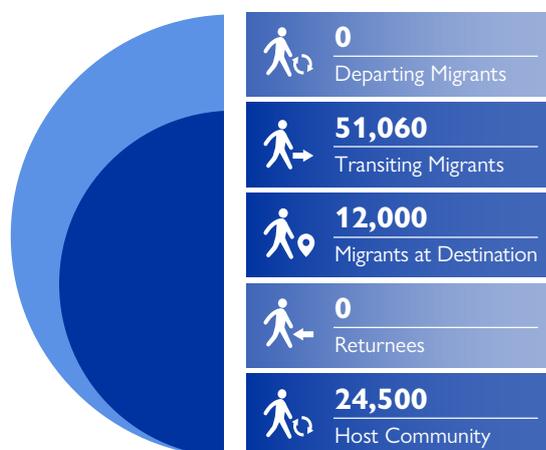
A group of migrants walking outside Tadjoura city, Djibouti. © MRP 2021/Alexander Bee

**142,897**

PiN

**87,560**

People Targeted



## Context

Strategically located by the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden across from Yemen, Djibouti is the main transit country along the Eastern Route. As of November 2023, over 125,000 migrants entered Djibouti, the vast majority proceeding from the Oromia (37%), Amhara (33%) and Tigray (26%) regions in Ethiopia.<sup>30</sup> Migrants transiting through Djibouti travel primarily for economic reasons (76%), and in most cases, their intended destination is the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (66%).<sup>31</sup> Ethiopian migrants enter Djibouti mainly through Dikhil and Ali-Sabieh's southern border points but also via the western borders of Balho and Galafi. From there, migrants head towards the coastal areas of Obock and Tadjourah to cross the Gulf of Aden by boat towards Yemen. Migrants transiting through Djibouti travel under extreme conditions, often crossing large expanses of desert by foot (50%).<sup>32</sup> Weather conditions highly influence movements, including heat waves, seasonal winds, and sea conditions. The presence of border authorities, including patrolling coast guards, also affects movements and crossings to Yemen. Migrant entries into Djibouti decreased by approximately 33 per cent between August and September 2023 due to an increase in the price of boat travel from Djibouti to Yemen, going from 10,000 to 40,000 Djiboutian francs (\$56 to \$225), in addition to increased coast guard

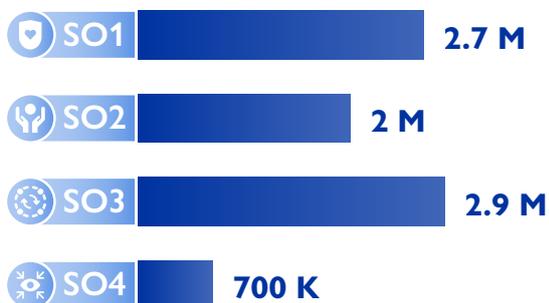
TOTAL FUNDING REQUIRED

**USD 8.3 M**

MRP PARTNERS

**7**

FUNDING BY STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE



30 IOM Regional Data Hub for the East and Horn of Africa, Migration along the Eastern Route, report n. 45, November 2023. [https://eastandhornofafrica.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbdl701/files/documents/2024-01/iom\\_eastern-corridor-migrant-situation\\_30112023\\_2.pdf](https://eastandhornofafrica.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbdl701/files/documents/2024-01/iom_eastern-corridor-migrant-situation_30112023_2.pdf).

31 IOM Djibouti DTM, Migration Flows Trends Dashboard, November 2023. [Djibouti – Migration Trends Dashboard \(November 2023\) | Displacement Tracking Matrix \(iom.int\)](#).

32 IOM Djibouti DTM, Migration Flows Trends Dashboard, November 2023. [Djibouti – Migration Trends Dashboard \(November 2023\) | Displacement Tracking Matrix \(iom.int\)](#).

patrols.<sup>33</sup> Most Ethiopian migrants on the move through Djibouti are mostly adult men (64%), while the percentage of women (27%) and children (9%) is significantly lower.<sup>34</sup> However, the presence of UASC (70% boys and 30% girls) and children-headed households have also been registered and the number of large families and the elderly is also growing. Even though it remains mainly a transit country, Djibouti has become, for many migrants, a final destination.<sup>35</sup> Field observations show that some localities, such as Ali Sabieh, have progressively shifted from transit to short- and long-term destination points.<sup>36</sup> While host communities generally provide assistance and support to migrants,<sup>37</sup> their resources are insufficient to meet the needs of migrants in transit, stranded, and at their destination. Recurrent droughts and consequent loss of livelihoods have progressively reduced available resources, while the number of migrants in need is rising.<sup>38</sup>

Irregular migration in Djibouti is bi-directional, with a considerable flow of spontaneous returns from Yemen. In 2023, more than 5,700<sup>39</sup> Ethiopian migrants returned from Yemen to Djibouti as of November 2023, the vast majority being men (84%).<sup>40</sup> This trend may be linked to the intensification of controls by Yemen authorities, as well as to the dire situation in the country. Additionally, as of November 2023, 838 migrants are estimated to be stranded in informal sites in the regions of Obock (40%),

Tadjourah (2%), Dikhil (35%), and Ali-Sabieh (23%) along the Djibouti leg of the Eastern Route, either abandoned by third-parties or lacking the resources to continue their outbound or return journey.<sup>41</sup> Despite a decrease in movements to and through Djibouti recorded in late 2023,<sup>42</sup> MRP projections anticipate that Djibouti will remain the main transit country along the Eastern Route in 2024. The worsening impact of global warming in the country will likely aggravate the adverse travel conditions, exacerbating the risk of migrant deaths. Additionally, host communities' drought-induced loss of livelihood will impact their capacity to assist migrants along the route. Reduced assistance capacity by the local population and infrastructures heightens protection risks and vulnerabilities and fuels social tensions.

### Identified Needs

Eastern Route migrants transiting through Djibouti travel under harsh conditions in remote and desert areas, exposed to extreme climates and temperatures. The harsh conditions have been compounded by the impacts of climate change, with heat waves being reported in 2023<sup>43</sup> and temperatures reaching above 50 degrees Celsius in the summer.<sup>44</sup> Under such circumstances, limited access to water, food, shelter, and medical care results in heightened vulnerability and life-threatening situations, often leading to death.

33 IOM Regional Data Hub for the East and Horn of Africa, Migration along the Eastern Route, Report n. 42, August 2023 [https://eastandhornofafrica.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbdl701/files/documents/2023-10/iom\\_eastern-corridor-migrant-situation\\_31082023.pdf](https://eastandhornofafrica.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbdl701/files/documents/2023-10/iom_eastern-corridor-migrant-situation_31082023.pdf) and report n. 43 September 2023. [https://eastandhornofafrica.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbdl701/files/documents/2023-11/iom\\_eastern-corridor-migrant-situation\\_30092023.pdf](https://eastandhornofafrica.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbdl701/files/documents/2023-11/iom_eastern-corridor-migrant-situation_30092023.pdf).

34 IOM Djibouti DTM, Migration Flows Trends Dashboard, November 2023. [Djibouti – Migration Trends Dashboard \(November 2023\) | Displacement Tracking Matrix \(iom.int\)](#).

35 IOM, Migrating Along the Eastern Route: Trends and Needs Within the Migration Context in Southern Djibouti (November 2022), 2023, [Migrating Along the Eastern Route: Trends and Needs Within the... | IOM Regional Office for East and Horn of Africa](#).

36 IOM, Migrating Along the Eastern Route: Trends and Needs Within the Migration Context in Southern Djibouti (November 2022), 2023, [Migrating Along the Eastern Route: Trends and Needs Within the... | IOM Regional Office for East and Horn of Africa](#).

37 MMC, Interactions between local communities and transiting migrants in Djibouti, 19 August 2022 <https://mixedmigration.org/resource/interactions-communities-migrants-djibouti/>.

38 Ibid.

39 IOM Djibouti DTM, Migration Flows Trends Dashboard, November 2023. [Djibouti — Migration Trends Dashboard \(November 2023\) | Displacement Tracking Matrix \(iom.int\)](#).

40 Ibid.

41 Ibid.

42 IOM Regional Data Hub for the East and Horn of Africa, Migration along the Eastern Route, report n. 44, October 2023. [RDH Eastern Corridor Report October 2023](#).

43 African News – Top 10 African countries facing record-breaking heat waves in 2023, 20 July 2023. <https://africanews.com/2023/07/20/top-10-african-countries-facing-record-breaking-heat-waves-in-2023/>.

44 IOM Regional Data Hub (RDH) – Annual Regional Overview, January – December 2022. [https://eastandhornofafrica.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbdl701/files/documents/2023-05/ehoa\\_mmp\\_24052023.pdf](https://eastandhornofafrica.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbdl701/files/documents/2023-05/ehoa_mmp_24052023.pdf).

Similarly, during the crossing from Djibouti to Yemen, migrants are also exposed to adverse sea conditions and risks of capsizing. In 2023, MRP partners identified 40 migrants who died off Godoria near Obock, Djibouti, and 50 cases reported off the coast of Mocha and Alghar, Qarn Salifi in Yemen.<sup>45</sup> Furthermore, 28 per cent of returning migrants surveyed in Djibouti reported experiencing challenges at sea.<sup>46</sup> Meanwhile, in Djibouti, Eastern Route migrants have few economic opportunities, and they can only attain employment occasionally and for meager daily wages, thus unable to achieve financial stability.<sup>47</sup> As a result, migrants remain in urban centres for prolonged periods with no means to support themselves. Stranded migrants are also highly exposed to humanitarian and protection concerns, as the lack of financial resources prevents them from accessing basic services, including health care and adequate housing, and continuing their migratory path.

Additionally, the protection and mental health needs are widespread among the migrant community in Djibouti. The presence of UASC, child-headed groups, and elderly people represents a significant concern for MRP partners. Local authorities report that an increasing number of women and girls are finding it difficult to find shelter at night, which exposes them to high protection risks.<sup>48</sup> Furthermore, the harsh conditions in Yemen have severe effects on migrants' mental health, and the limited availability of specialized services in Djibouti prevents these difficulties from being fully addressed.

Of the 298 people sampled for a flow monitoring survey of all migrants passing through the flow monitoring points in Obock, Tadjourah, Dikhil, and Ali-Sabieh in November 2023, 70 per cent reported encountering difficulties during their journey. The most recurring challenges along the road reported by transiting migrants were the lack of shelter (76%), food and water (75%), and financial difficulties (31%).<sup>49</sup> In a different survey, 15 per cent mentioned Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) as their main immediate need, along with onward transportation assistance (9%).<sup>50</sup> Data collected at the IOM MRC in Obock in 2023<sup>51</sup> confirmed that the immediate needs of migrants traveling under extreme conditions include life-saving assistance, such as food and water (12%); MHPSS support (14%) and medical assistance (11%), as well as emergency shelter (10%), hygiene items (9%) and clothing (9%), among other needs (6%). Other key needs include tailored protection assistance, livelihood support, and information dissemination to promote informed decision-making and communication with families in the country of origin (4%). Migrants often face protection risks transiting through Djibouti, with numerous instances of migrant deaths associated with vehicular accidents and migrants being abandoned.<sup>52</sup> Between May and June 2023, MRP partners reported increased cases of migrants being abandoned in Dikhil and Ali Sabieh as well as in coastal areas in Tadjourah and Obock, which resulted in a 35 per cent increase in stranded migrants, from 914 stranded migrants recorded in May to 1,233 in June.<sup>53</sup> Lastly, the migrants are often unaware of their rights and the assistance and services available to

45 IOM, "Over 64 Migrants Feared Dead in Yemen Shipwreck: IOM urges Action for Safe Migration Pathways", 16 November 2023. <https://eastandhornofafrica.iom.int/news/over-64-migrants-feared-dead-yemen-shipwreck-iom-urges-action-safe-migration-pathways>.

46 IOM Djibouti DTM, Migration Flows Trends Dashboard, October 2023. [Djibouti — Migration Trends Dashboard \(October 2023\) | Displacement Tracking Matrix \(iom.int\)](#).

47 IOM, Migrating Along the Eastern Route: Trends and Needs Within the Migration Context in Southern Djibouti (November 2022), 2023, [Migrating Along the Eastern Route: Trends and Needs Within the... | IOM Regional Office for East and Horn of Africa](#).

48 IOM, Migrating Along the Eastern Route: Trends and Needs Within the Migration Context in Southern Djibouti (November 2022), 2023, [Migrating Along the Eastern Route: Trends and Needs Within the... | IOM Regional Office for East and Horn of Africa](#).

49 IOM Djibouti DTM, Migration Flows Trends Dashboard, November 2023. [Djibouti — Migration Trends Dashboard \(November 2023\) | Displacement Tracking Matrix \(iom.int\)](#).

50 IOM Regional Data Hub for the East and Horn of Africa Migration Response Centres Dashboard.

51 Ibid.

52 IOM Djibouti – When Tragedy Strikes: A Migration Journey Ends Deadly for Ethiopians in Djibouti, 23 May 2022. <https://storyteller.iom.int/stories/when-tragedy-strikes-migration-journey-ends-deadly-ethiopians-djibouti>.

53 IOM Regional Data Hub - Migration along the Eastern Route – Report 40 as of 30 June 2023, 26 July 2023. [https://eastandhornofafrica.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbd1701/files/documents/2023-07/iom\\_eastern-corridor-migrant-situation\\_30062023.pdf](https://eastandhornofafrica.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbd1701/files/documents/2023-07/iom_eastern-corridor-migrant-situation_30062023.pdf).

them, and most of those in transit are not aware of the conflict in Yemen before crossing.<sup>54</sup>

Considering the multiple vulnerabilities faced by migrants and host communities in Djibouti, MRP partners estimate that 142,897 people will require humanitarian and development assistance in the country in 2024.

### Targets and Planned Response

The 2024 Plan aims to assist 87,560 beneficiaries in Djibouti, specifically targeting 51,060 transiting migrants, 12,000 migrants at destination, and 24,500 members of the host communities. Migrants in transit travelling through extreme heat without adequate resources will require food, water, non-food items (NFIs), Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), shelter, and medical care to survive. Due to the remote nature of the route across the desert, search and rescue operations and lifesaving mobile patrols in search of stranded migrants will be key to avoiding migrant deaths. For their part, vulnerable host communities will also require assistance to meet their basic needs.

The protection response will be beneficiary-focused but will also aim to improve the capacities of first responders. The immense exposure to protection risks and vulnerabilities migrants face in Djibouti necessitates a corresponding level of protection assistance that no response actor can provide alone. As such, government officials, frontline actors, and partners will receive capacity enhancement in migrant protection and assistance, including child protection, GBV, MHPSS, counter-trafficking, and equipment and infrastructure to improve their response to migrants in need.

Furthermore, income-generating activities bolstering migrant and host communities' livelihoods and resilience to face climate change and environmental degradation will be critical in 2024. Considering the sizeable caseload of stranded migrants, MRP activities in 2024 will include voluntary return support to countries of origin. Increased information dissemination efforts to enhance migrant awareness of available services and conditions along the route also remain a key need for the migrants in Djibouti.

The MRP's response in Djibouti in 2024 will also include support for governments, search and rescue operations for the National Coast Guard, and social cohesion activities to improve relationships between migrants and host communities. MRP partners will support the Government of Djibouti in exploring the development potential of migration governance, for example, through the regularization of migrants employed in urban and rural settings, who contribute to the local economy and facilitate the transfer of skills to host communities. Lastly, the MRP 2024 will facilitate the development of thematic strategies on different aspects of migration and will include activities to strengthen existing regional dialogues and cross-border mechanisms to ensure seamless service provision across borders with Ethiopia and Somalia. Migrant flows will be monitored across Djibouti to understand migration dynamics in the country better and to inform policy and humanitarian and development programming.

In 2024, some of the activities traditionally carried out in migration-affected areas of Obock and Tadjourah will be extended into southern Djibouti, specifically in Ali-Sabieh and Dikhil regions, in response to increasing migrant protection needs and the limited presence of migration-focused actors in these localities.



### STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1

#### Provide life-saving assistance to vulnerable migrants and host communities.

- Provide lifesaving assistance through support desks, transit centres, MRCs and mobile patrols in Ali Sabieh, Dikhil, Djibouti, Tadjourah and Obock regions.
- Provide food and NFIs to migrants and host communities in Ali Sabieh, Dikhil, Djibouti, Tadjourah and Obock regions.
- Assist migrants and vulnerable members of host communities with WASH services and infrastructure at the transit centres and MRCs in Djibouti, Tadjourah, and Obock as well as in migrant gathering points along the Eastern Route.

54 IOM, *Migrating Along the Eastern Route: Trends and Needs Within the Migration Context in Southern Djibouti* (November 2022), 2023, [Migrating Along the Eastern Route: Trends and Needs Within the... | IOM Regional Office for East and Horn of Africa](#).

- Assist migrants and vulnerable members of host communities with safe and dignified accommodation assistance in Djibouti, Tadjourah, and Obock.
- Provide primary health care assistance to migrants and refer them to secondary health services in Ali Sabieh, Dikhil, Djibouti, Tadjourah, and Obock regions.
- Train government and border management officials on life-saving assistance and search and rescue operations.



### STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2

**Provide quality, timely, accessible, and inclusive protection assistance and specialized and tailored services to migrants, returnees, and host communities in vulnerable situations.**

- Train relevant stakeholders on identifying, referring, and responding to protection needs and strengthen national referral mechanisms.
- Strengthen stakeholders' capacity and coordination to respond to child protection issues and enhance their knowledge on counter-smuggling, counter-trafficking, prevention, mitigation, and response to GBV and MHPSS, including training health actors on MHPSS and psychiatric care.
- Conduct regular protection monitoring visits in Ali Sabieh, Dikhil, Obock, and Tadjourah regions to identify emerging protection needs and establish synergies with existing protection actors.
- Conduct vulnerability assessments at the support desk, transit centres, and MRC in Ali Sabieh, Dikhil, Djibouti, Obock, and Tadjourah to define specialized protection interventions offered to beneficiaries.
- Provide specialized protection assistance and referral to specialized services to migrant children, migrant victims of human rights violations, survivors of GBV, and VoTs.
- Organize DBM workshops to strengthen stakeholders' capacities to identify and manage migrant deaths and disappearances.

- Strengthen stakeholders' capacities in and provide migrants with MHPSS services.
- Train migrants as trainers on peer counselling and information sharing.



### STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3

**Strengthen access to return, sustainable reintegration, and community stabilization.**

- Promote community initiatives that foster stabilization and resilience against environmental degradation and climate change through sustainable livelihoods.
- Promote community initiatives that foster stabilization and improved access to quality essential social services, including health.
- Promote social cohesion activities between migrants and local communities.
- Support migrants with AVRR.
- Provide key government entities with equipment and infrastructure to enhance migration management.
- Support the government of Djibouti in establishing a regularization system for migrants in Djibouti.
- Train key stakeholders on migration management, migrant rights, international legal and policy frameworks, and bilateral and regional labour agreements, including on ethical recruitment.



### STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 4

**Building evidence, partnerships, and coordination to enhance the humanitarian response and migration management throughout the migration route.**

- Promote the implementation of the Action Plan of the National Strategy on Migration.
- Develop a National Strategy on Migration, Environment, and Climate Change to guide government provisions and interventions.
- Develop a thematic strategy on labour migration to guide government provisions and interventions.

- Monitor migrant flows across Djibouti to better understand the country's migration dynamics and inform policy and humanitarian and development programming.
- Ensure that migrant disappearances in Djibouti are appropriately documented.
- Strengthen existing health cross-border committees.
- Support the ongoing Regional Government Dialogue on child protection.
- Conduct assessments at border points to assess the challenges encountered by Djibouti border officials to support their needs better.

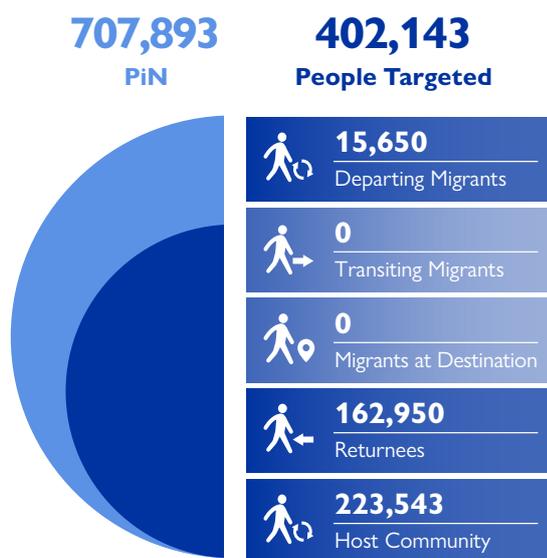
<b>DJIBOUTI PARTNERS</b>
<b>1. International Organization for Migration (IOM)</b>
<b>2. United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF)</b>
<b>3. World Food Programme (WFP)</b>
<b>4. Caritas</b>
<b>5. Danish Refugee Council (DRC)</b>



## Country Chapters

# ETHIOPIA

Young women and girl migrants from Ethiopia engage in a tapestry activity as part of mental health and psychosocial support at the Migration Response Centre in Obock, Djibouti. © MRP 2023/Eva Sibanda



## Context

With an average of 23,000 outward cross-border movements per month, Ethiopia is the main country of origin for migrants on the Eastern Route.<sup>55</sup> Over 285,000 Eastern Route migrants departed from Ethiopia in 2023 as of November, most aiming to reach the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and other Gulf States via Yemen. Most departing migrants in 2023 were men (64%), followed by women (28%), boys (5%), and girls (3%).<sup>56</sup> The number of children originating from Ethiopia traveling along the Eastern Route is on the rise, showing a 20 per cent increase between 2022 and 2023,<sup>57</sup> and so is the number of women and girls on the move. The number of women migrants along the route has doubled over the past two years, from 53,000 in 2021 to 106,700 in 2022.<sup>58</sup> The main regions of origin are Oromia (34%), Amhara (24%), Southern Nations, Nationalities, and People (SNNP) region (14%), and Tigray region (12%).<sup>59</sup> The migration situation in the Tigray region is also closely monitored by MRP partners, who report a growing number of youths willing to leave the region due to the post-war economic environment. Ethiopia is a bi-directional migratory corridor characterized by a significant inflow of returning migrants. This includes non-voluntarily returns from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Djibouti, spontaneously returning migrants from Djibouti and Somalia, migrants who receive assisted voluntary return (AVR) support, and migrants receiving voluntary humanitarian return (VHR) assistance from Yemen. Over 39,000 migrants

TOTAL FUNDING REQUIRED

**USD 35.1 M**

MRP PARTNERS

**25**

FUNDING BY STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

SO1 **9.3 M**

SO2 **3.2 M**

SO3 **21.1 M**

SO4 **1.5 M**

55 IOM Regional Data Hub, Migration along the Eastern Corridor report n. 46, November 2023.

56 Ibid.

57 Regional Migrant Response Plan for the Horn of Africa and Yemen, Migrants needs Overview 2024 Eastern & Southern Route. December 2023. <https://eastandhornofafrica.iom.int/resources/migrants-needs-overview-2024-regional-migrant-response-plan-horn-africa-and-yemen>.

58 IOM Somalia – Growing Number of Women and Girls Migrating via Perilous Eastern Route, 28 August 2023. <https://storyteller.iom.int/stories/growing-number-women-and-girls-migrating-perilous-eastern-route>.

59 IOM Regional Data Hub, Migration along the Eastern Corridor report n. 46, November 2023.

were involuntarily returned from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia before the temporary suspension of this practice in April 2023 since the beginning of the year,<sup>60</sup> with nearly 70 per cent of them intending to return to Amhara (35%) and Oromia (34%) regions.<sup>61</sup> The non-voluntary return movements resumed in October 2023 after an agreement was reached by the governments of Ethiopia and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, reaching over 41,000 migrants who were involuntarily returned as of November 2023 since the beginning of the year.<sup>62</sup> Additionally, more than 7,758 non-voluntary returns from Djibouti via the Dewele border point were recorded during 2023.<sup>63</sup> Although no recent statistics on the number of migrants undertaking the Southern Route are available, research conducted in 2023 reveals that approximately 85 per cent of them are Ethiopians.<sup>64</sup> Ethiopian migration along the Southern Route is predominantly male, but qualitative research suggests that the number of women there may be increasing.<sup>65</sup> SNNP is the main region of origin, notably the Hadiya and Kembata districts. Oromia region is also a Southern Route hotspot, from where Ethiopian migrants cross into Kenya at the Moyale border point or through informal crossing points along the porous border to avoid being intercepted, mainly with the support of smugglers.<sup>66</sup>

In 2024, MRP partners foresee that outflows of Ethiopian migrants along the Eastern Route will continue at similar trends. This may result in a growing number of stranded migrants along the Eastern Route, notably in Yemen. Additionally, the humanitarian impact of non-voluntary returns from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia will be dire, as most migrants return with little or no resources and often with mental and physical trauma suffered at different points of the migration journey. While more research on migration flows along the Southern Route is

needed, the sizable number of Ethiopian migrants stranded along the route suggests that this trend will continue. Economic recovery challenges in Tigray will continue to serve as drivers of irregular migration. At the same time, the persisting tensions in the Amhara and Oromia regions will likely lead to increased vulnerability, worsened livelihoods, and lack of access to services. Such circumstances will result in further irregular migration, hindering sustainable return and reintegration to those regions. The effects of the Sudan crisis on migration and displacement remain a key area of concern for 2024, and returnees from Sudan may face challenges reintegrating into their communities after extended periods abroad. Lastly, the MRP anticipates an increase in migrants leaving their communities of origin in search of livelihood opportunities, food, and water as a direct impact of the drought, which is anticipated to continue.<sup>67</sup>

### Identified Needs

MRP partners estimate that 707,893 migrants and members of the host communities will need humanitarian, transitional, and development assistance in Ethiopia in 2024. Hardships along the Eastern Route expose migrants to life-threatening conditions, including extreme temperatures and lack of adequate shelter, water, and food. Data collected in 2023 from 9,671 migrants passing through the MRCs in Dire Dawa, Moyale and Togochale<sup>68</sup> indicate that food and water are essential needs, as reported by 99 per cent of the people surveyed. Other needs include emergency shelter (89%), followed by NFIs such as clothing, blankets, and kitchen items (84%), hygiene kits (3.45%), as well as medical assistance (26%). It is important to note that migrants passing through the MRCs often need more than one service. Those on the move are also highly vulnerable to protection risks, including trafficking and smuggling,

60 IOM Regional Data Hub, Migration along the Eastern Route report n. 43, September 2023. [iom\\_eastern-corridor-migrant-situation\\_30092023.pdf](https://mrcs.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbdl701/files/documents/2024-01/iom_eastern-corridor-migrant-situation_30092023.pdf).

61 IOM Regional Data Hub, Migration along the Eastern Route report n. 41, July 2023. [iom\\_eastern-corridor-migrant-situation\\_31072023-1.pdf](https://mrcs.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbdl701/files/documents/2024-01/iom_eastern-corridor-migrant-situation_31072023-1.pdf).

62 IOM Regional Data Hub, Migration along the Eastern Route report n. 46, November 2023. [https://eastandhornofafrica.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbdl701/files/documents/2024-01/iom\\_eastern-corridor-migrant-situation\\_30112023\\_2.pdf](https://eastandhornofafrica.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbdl701/files/documents/2024-01/iom_eastern-corridor-migrant-situation_30112023_2.pdf).

63 IOM Regional Data Hub.

64 IOM Regional Data Hub for the East and Horn of Africa, The Southern Dream: Exploring Migration Dynamics from the Horn of Africa to South Africa Along the Southern Route, 2023. [The Southern Dream: Exploring Migration Dynamics from the Horn of Africa to South Africa Along the Southern Route \(iom.int\)](https://mrcs.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbdl701/files/documents/2024-01/iom_eastern-corridor-migrant-situation_30112023_2.pdf).

65 Ibid.

66 Ibid.

67 WFP, [Drought in the Horn of Africa: Situation Update](https://www.wfp.org/publications/drought-in-the-horn-of-africa-situation-update), July 2023.

68 IOM Regional Data Hub – MRCs – East and Horn of Africa Dashboard.

human rights violations, arbitrary detention, and GBV. Migrants from rural areas and young migrants are more at risk of trafficking than older migrants,<sup>69</sup> and migrant awareness of the dangers of the journey remains generally low.<sup>70</sup> Protection needs were mentioned 1,681 times (17%) by migrants assisted in the MRCs, but MRP partners estimate protection needs to be much higher along the route. Migrants surveyed in the MRCs also mentioned psychosocial support as a key need (71%), followed by the need to communicate with their families (24%). Despite the limitations in available research, the drivers and vulnerabilities below inform the needs of Ethiopian migrants along both the Eastern and Southern routes.

The challenging economic situation in the country is the primary driver of migration along the Eastern Route, as confirmed by 60 per cent of migrants surveyed in November 2023.<sup>71</sup> High youth unemployment, combined with economic pressure, lack of livelihoods, and widespread poverty, are the origin of irregular migration patterns along the Eastern Route. Climate and environmental degradation also increasingly affect migration, with eight per cent of respondents mentioning it as their main reason for migrating. Climate-related factors may also often cause economic drivers, as arable land degrades and becomes scarcer, and livelihoods become less viable. This relates mainly to the loss of crops, livestock, and income, food price increases, and food scarcity caused by the ongoing drought.<sup>72</sup> Instability in Amhara and Oromia regions is another key factor leading to migration along the Eastern Route (7% of respondents).<sup>73</sup> The economic deprivation driving migrants to move may also have its roots in conflict, with the economic structures and livelihood systems devastated by conflict in many areas in the north of the country - including the Tigray region. Lastly,

the impact of the ongoing conflict in Sudan, which started in April 2023, may also turn into an additional driver of migration.<sup>74</sup> The large influx of displaced populations into Ethiopia due to the conflict will likely put additional pressure on the already strained resources and services, thus leading to an increase in departures from host communities along the Eastern Route.

Similarly, various factors lead young Ethiopians to leave the Southern part of the country to head south along the Southern Route towards South Africa via Kenya, the United Republic of Tanzania, and other Southern African countries.<sup>75</sup> Environmental degradation directly affects livelihood opportunities in rural areas where communities of origin experience soil erosion and decreased soil fertility. Land remains a limited resource, allowing only for subsistence agriculture rather than for profit to bolster resilience. Matched with a growing population, land availability and, by default, livelihoods continue to diminish. With limited economic opportunities besides agriculture, many young men migrate to support their families.

Ethiopian migrants traveling along the Southern Route rely on diaspora networks from Hadiya and Kembata established in South Africa that offer guidance and financial support along the journey and at the destination.<sup>76</sup> The support received by Southern Route migrants from family and diaspora networks only partially contributes to reducing the risks along the Southern Route. During the journey, migrants experience physical hardship, exhaustion, and lack of access to services to meet their basic needs. Unsafe and life-threatening smuggling practices include transportation in airless fuel tankers and containers, as well as exposure to dangerous wildlife. In addition, those on the move are at risk of various forms of violence, exploitation, and abuse, including torture,

69 IOM 2022 Migrant movements between the horn of Africa and the Arabian Peninsula, February 2023. [IOM\\_Migration\\_Overview\\_Horn-of-Africa-Arabian-Peninsula\\_2022](#).

70 Ethiopia Migration Programme – Returnee Tracer Study – Second Round – Final Report. January 2023.

71 IOM Regional Data Hub, Migration along the Eastern Corridor report n. 46, November 2023.

72 Mixed Migration Centre, [The impact of the drought on migration from Ethiopia to Somalia](#), February 2023 and Mixed Migration Centre, [The impact of the drought on migration from Ethiopia to Djibouti](#), February 2023

73 IOM Regional Data Hub, Migration along the Eastern Route report n. 43, September 2023. [iom\\_eastern-corridor-migrant-situation\\_30092023.pdf](#).

74 Regional Migrant Response Plan for the Horn of Africa and Yemen, Migrants Needs Overview 2024 Eastern & Southern Route. December 2023. <https://eastandhornofafrica.iom.int/resources/migrants-needs-overview-2024-regional-migrant-response-plan-horn-africa-and-yemen>.

75 IOM Regional Data Hub for the East and Horn of Africa, The Southern Dream: Exploring Migration Dynamics from the Horn of Africa to South Africa Along the Southern Route, 2023. [The Southern Dream: Exploring Migration Dynamics from the Horn of Africa to South Africa Along the Southern Route \(iom.int\)](#).

76 Ibid.

physical assault, psychological and emotional abuse, and sexual violence. Irregular migrants intercepted along the Southern Route are also at risk of detention in transit and destination countries.<sup>77</sup> Both departing and returning migrants along the Southern Route, therefore, require life-saving humanitarian assistance such as food and NFIs, WASH services, shelter, medical care, MHPSS, and protection services.

Ultimately, migrant returnees from the Eastern and Southern routes face heightened vulnerabilities and require short and long-term support. Back home, migrants face the same drivers that led them to migrate in the first place and are often further burdened by debt or various forms of stigma, such as returning as single mothers with substance addictions or mental health issues. Large-scale returns without reintegration will likely result in negative stigma, social marginalization, and potential re-migration, especially when return is not voluntary. The economic, social, and psychosocial challenges returnees face may ultimately lead them to migrate again. Ethiopian returnees are highly vulnerable, and many lack the socioeconomic and emotional means to return and reintegrate into their community of origin successfully. As mentioned 9,522 times by respondents, onward transportation assistance was the second-most reported need expressed by returning migrants assisted in the MRCs in Ethiopia in 2023 (98%), as well as AVR (18%). The impact on the mental health of the hardship and abuses experienced during the journey, as well as the modality of return, strongly affects reintegration efforts, with non-voluntary returnees often opting to re-migrate.<sup>78</sup>

## Targets and Planned Response

In reflection of the context and vulnerabilities of migrants and host communities and in line with the priorities and plans of the Government of Ethiopia, the planned response for 2024 will focus on the provision of lifesaving assistance, tailored protection assistance, individual and community level reintegration, and empowerment activities. The Plan aims to reach 394,643 beneficiaries

along the Ethiopian leg of the Eastern Route and 7,500 departing migrants undertaking the Southern Route. Particular emphasis will be put on decreasing reliance on irregular migration through community-level awareness-raising on the risks of irregular migration and the promotion of regular migration pathways. This will be realized through individual, institutional, and structural support, which includes livelihood support, building local institutional capacities for better migration management, policy development and/or reinforcement, and other sustainable solutions. MRP activities responding to humanitarian needs and response under the MRP Strategic Objective 1 and Strategic Objective 2 within the MRP framework appeal are also included in the country HRP.

Both departing and returning migrants in Ethiopia will require life-saving humanitarian assistance, having endured the harsh conditions associated with the Eastern and Southern routes. The provision of food, NFIs, WASH assistance, accommodation, medical care, MHPSS, and multipurpose cash assistance will be vital for vulnerable migrants who have exhausted their resources as well as those returning in poor conditions, particularly those who are non-voluntarily returned and were placed in detention centres. Migrants departing from and returning to Ethiopia along the Eastern and Southern routes remain acutely vulnerable to smugglers and traffickers. They will need protection assistance tailored to VoTs and victims of human rights violations. Protection response should also incorporate MHPSS for migrants in need, with a particular focus on children and youth as well as survivors of GBV and human trafficking. Activities to strengthen the protection environment will also be key, including conducting vulnerability assessments and protection monitoring. This will also include capacity-building initiatives for government officials, front-line actors, and partners on case management, child protection, GBV, and counter-trafficking. Support to specific government instruments such as the NRM, the National Case Management Framework, and the NPC are key government-owned mechanisms that would benefit

77 IOM Regional Data Hub for the East and Horn of Africa, *The Southern Dream: Exploring Migration Dynamics from the Horn of Africa to South Africa Along the Southern Route*, 2023. [The Southern Dream: Exploring Migration Dynamics from the Horn of Africa to South Africa Along the Southern Route \(iom.int\)](https://eastandhornofafrica.iom.int/resources/migrants-needs-overview-2024-regional-migrant-response-plan-horn-africa-and-yemen).

78 Regional Migrant Response Plan for the Horn of Africa and Yemen, *Migrants Needs Overview 2024 Eastern & Southern Route*. December 2023. <https://eastandhornofafrica.iom.int/resources/migrants-needs-overview-2024-regional-migrant-response-plan-horn-africa-and-yemen>.

from further support. Information dissemination will also be necessary to spread awareness of the dangers of irregular migration.

Reintegration and economic empowerment will also be important for the MRP's response in 2024. The large caseloads of returning migrants will need support to reintegrate into their communities of origin successfully or where they ultimately decide to return. This could take the form of cash assistance, livelihood assistance, or relevant training and education initiatives. Beyond returning migrants, communities hosting returnees and communities experiencing high levels of irregular migration will also require assistance. Host communities will need support in receiving returning migrants. Furthermore, economic empowerment initiatives to bolster the resilience of communities in hotspots of irregular migration will be key in mitigating drivers of migration, including the impacts of the drought, increasing food prices, and lack of livelihoods. In general, activities focused on bolstering regular pathways for migration will be a priority for MRP partners in 2024. The MRP will also include cross-border activities, focusing on establishing or strengthening existing mechanisms to ensure seamless service provision across borders with Djibouti and Somalia.

Lastly, activities feeding into the HDPN, border management, health systems strengthening, policy development, and labour migration pathways will also be emphasized in 2024. The planned response, as detailed above, will be coordinated through the MRP coordination platform, which IOM and MoWSA co-chair.

### STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1

**Provide life-saving assistance to vulnerable migrants and host communities.**

- Provide lifesaving assistance to vulnerable returnees through the provision of essential services, including food and nutrition services, NFIs (including hygiene items and basic shelter kits), temporary shelter, accommodation and home rent support, primary and secondary healthcare, counselling, and multipurpose cash assistance, among other services.

- Facilitate recreational activities and life skills training for returnees to maintain and promote their mental and psycho-social well-being.
- Implement WASH projects at border crossing points and host communities with poor access to clean water, hygiene, and sanitation to facilitate access to safe water points.
- Provide technical assistance to Government officials to improve the capacity to identify and refer stranded migrants along the Eastern and Southern routes for appropriate lifesaving assistance.

### STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2

**Provide quality, timely, accessible, and inclusive protection assistance and specialized and tailored services to migrants, returnees, and host communities in vulnerable situations.**

- Strengthen and equip temporary shelter facilities for migrants with specific protection needs.
- Conduct vulnerability assessments and provide specialized protection assistance for migrants in vulnerable situations through direct assistance and referrals.
- Facilitate comprehensive protection services that consider the best interest procedure (BIP) to vulnerable children and youth on the move, including FTR support for UASC and referrals to alternative care arrangements for those who cannot be reunited with their families.
- Strengthen public and CSOs youth empowerment centres with comprehensive and inclusive services for youth, including peer dialogue, socialization, and awareness activities.
- Improve access for migrants, returnees, and community members with specific medical and MHPSS needs.
- Provide community-based MHPSS, safeguarding, and prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse for returnees and potential migrants.

- Map existing protection services and address protection gaps by developing the capacity of key stakeholders in contact with migrants, returnees, and vulnerable children and youth on community-based protection, child protection, prevention, mitigation, and response to GBV and climate resilience for improved protection assistance.
- Train border officials operating in Amhara, Oromia, Afar, Somali, Gambella, and Benishangul-Gumuz regions on protection mainstreaming.
- Work with the government on developing and reinforcing SOPs for service coordination, assistance modalities, and referral mechanisms.



### STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3

#### Strengthen access to return, sustainable reintegration, and community stabilization.

- Support vulnerable migrants with AVR and provide OTA to non-voluntary returnees willing to return to their communities of origin.
- Strengthen returnees and host community members' resilience through community-based and individual sustainable reintegration assistance and develop specific packages for female returnees and vulnerable women to promote their economic empowerment.<sup>79</sup>
- Provide vulnerable young returnees or those at risk of undertaking irregular migration paths with access to livelihood, life skills, vocational training, and education opportunities.
- Develop public-private partnerships for the implementation of livelihood activities.
- Strengthen the capacity of government institutions on return, reintegration, and community stabilization.
- Strengthen the operational capacity of border crossing points, including piloting the Migration Information Data Analysis System (MIDAS) at Bole International Airport.

- Establish Community Conversation Groups and peer support systems in key locations and strengthen their capacities to promote safe and regular migration.
- Promote awareness initiatives, including outreach activities through schools/teachers and community dialogues between host community members and migrants on the risks of irregular migration, human trafficking, migrant smuggling, child protection, and GBV.



### STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 4

#### Building evidence, partnerships, and coordination to enhance the humanitarian response and migration management throughout the migration route.

- Monitor migration flows to collect information on the volume and basic characteristics of the population in transit, thereby gaining a better understanding of intra- and inter-regional migration patterns and trends.
- Conduct a needs assessment along the routes to provide MRP partners with the evidence base for planning, advocacy, and response during the MRP cycle and organize regular MRP coordination and planning meetings;
- Conduct border assessments and facilitate a child protection field visit to assess the protection situation of Ethiopian migrant children, enhance cross-border services and referral mechanisms, and contribute to inter-state dialogues on migration management.

<sup>79</sup> Interventions will look at the economic dimension of reintegration (vocational and business skills training, seed capital and livelihood interventions), but also at the social and psychosocial aspects of return.

<b>ETHIOPIA PARTNERS</b>
<b>1.</b> Agar Ethiopia Charitable Society (AECS)
<b>2.</b> Bethany Christian Services Global**
<b>3.</b> Beza Posterity Development Organization (BPDO)
<b>4.</b> Brightstar Relief and Development Association**
<b>5.</b> CARE International in Ethiopia
<b>6.</b> Cooperazione Internazionale (COOPI)**
<b>7.</b> Danish Refugee Council (DRC)
<b>8.</b> Development for Peace Organization
<b>9.</b> Ethiopian Catholic Church Social and Development Commission (ECC-SDCO)
<b>10.</b> Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus Development and Social Service Commission (EECMY-DASSC)
<b>11.</b> Ethiopian Red Cross Society (ERCS)
<b>12.</b> Good Samaritan Association (GSA)
<b>13.</b> International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) (observer)
<b>14.</b> International Labour Organization (ILO)
<b>15.</b> IOM
<b>16.</b> Mary Joy Development Association
<b>17.</b> Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)
<b>18.</b> Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
<b>19.</b> Positive Action or Development (PAD)
<b>20.</b> Save the Children International (SCI)
<b>21.</b> United Nations Human Settlement Programme (UN-Habitat)
<b>22.</b> United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
<b>23.</b> United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
<b>24.</b> UNWOMEN
<b>25.</b> World Health Organization (WHO)



Full Name  
Date of Birth  
Place of Birth

PL No 0541002

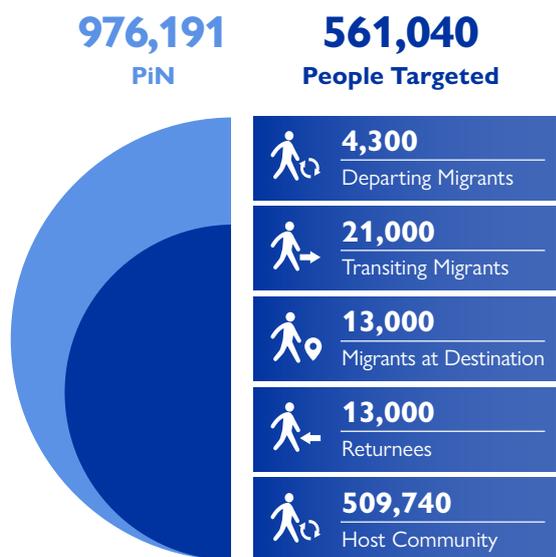
TO ALL IT MAY CONCERN  
We request the civil and military authorities of all friendly countries to allow the bearer  
to pass freely and without hindrance and to afford him or her every assistance of which  
he or she stands in need

Aden airport officials check travel documents of young male migrants boarding the IOM supported chartered "Yemenia" flight to Addis, Ethiopia. © MRP 2023/ Eva Sibanda

## Country Chapters

# SOMALIA

This student from Ethiopia was shot multiple times but managed to escape the people smugglers after crossing from Ethiopia to Somalia, trying to reach the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in search of work. © MRP 2023/Kaye Viray



## Context

Somalia remains a country of origin, transit, and, to some extent, a destination for migrants in the East and Horn of Africa. Somalia hosts large numbers of migrants, including Somali returnees, in a challenging context in terms of security and economic issues, as well as risks of disasters. Each year, tens of thousands of Ethiopian migrants cross the Somali borders in the northern regions, particularly Somaliland. They face threatening conditions (detention, discrimination, etc.) and continue their journey along the Eastern Route to Yemen via coastal areas in Bossaso, Puntland. With most of the migrants originating from Ethiopia, they continue their journey through Yemen to reach the Gulf States, with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as the main intended destination. According to IOM, in October 2023, 4,791 migrant incoming movements were recorded, with a relatively high number observed in Buhoodle near the conflict-affected areas in Las Anod.<sup>80</sup> Reports on the presence of migrant children throughout the Eastern Route show that Somalia registered 31 per cent of all entries in November 2023, with 27 per cent of them representing migrant children in need of assistance.<sup>81</sup> It is estimated that the overall entries to Somalia in 2024 will continue to follow similar trends as those seen in 2023, provided that the situation in the country, as well as the main country of origin of migrants (Ethiopia), does not deteriorate.

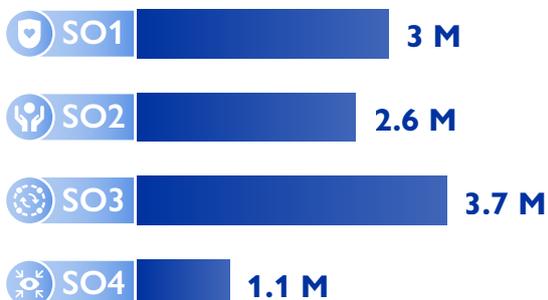
TOTAL FUNDING REQUIRED

**USD 10.4 M**

MRP PARTNERS

**15**

FUNDING BY STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE



80 IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix – Somalia – Border Point Flow Monitoring, October 2023. <https://dtm.iom.int/reports/somalia-border-point-flow-monitoring-october-2023?close=true>.

81 IOM Regional Data Hub, Migration along the Eastern Corridor report n. 46, November 2023. [https://eastandhornofafrica.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbd1701/files/documents/2024-01/iom\\_eastern-corridor-migrant-situation\\_30112023\\_2.pdf](https://eastandhornofafrica.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbd1701/files/documents/2024-01/iom_eastern-corridor-migrant-situation_30112023_2.pdf).

Reports show that more than 60 per cent of migrants transiting through Somalia use buses, 16 per cent trucks and taxis, and seven per cent use donkeys or travel by foot.<sup>82</sup> Migrants from Ethiopia constitute over 90 per cent of the migrants travelling through the Eastern Route, with smaller numbers of Somalis exiting Bossaso to Yemen to reach the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. In September 2023, migrants entering Yemen arriving from Somalia made up 65 per cent of all arrivals in Yemen with 21 per cent of all arrivals having Somali nationality.<sup>83</sup> For the first time since September 2022, migrant arrivals to Yemen from Somalia were higher than those from Djibouti,<sup>84</sup> which can be explained by increased patrols by the coast guard along the Djiboutian coast as well as reported increases in the price of boat trips from Djibouti to Yemen. Regarding migrants' returns in this corridor, Somalia observes large numbers of non-voluntary returns, mainly from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Between January and August 2023, 11,090 returnees were recorded by Somalia's Immigration and Naturalization Directorate (IND).<sup>85</sup> Spontaneous returnees from Yemen have also been recorded in smaller numbers. However, it is essential to note that these are often the most vulnerable populations, most of whom cannot meet their immediate needs when they arrive in Somalia. From January to October 2023, MRP partners supported 332 spontaneous returnees from Yemen with post-arrival reception assistance. Available data shows that over 80 per cent of arrivals from Yemen enter Somalia through the Bossaso port. In November 2023, 6,080 migrants were stranded in multiple transit locations in Somalia.<sup>86</sup> With over 17,000 entries in Somalia from the beginning of 2023 to November, migrant populations continue to face humanitarian and protection needs because of limited services and the presence of smuggling networks in transit locations.

## Identified Needs

In 2024, MRP partners identified 976,191 migrants and host communities in need, comprising 4,365 departing migrants, 20,760 returning migrants, 34,191 transiting migrants, 17,708 migrants at destination, and 899,167 host community members.

Through data collected via MRCs in Hargeisa and Bossaso, nearly all (97%) of the 3,100 migrants registered at the MRC from the beginning of 2023 to October indicated having immediate humanitarian needs in 2023. Over 2,200 migrants mentioned needing medical assistance, 1,824 migrants in need of clothing, blankets, and/or kitchen kits, 1,173 migrants in need of food and water, and 1,144 migrants in need of hygiene kits. In terms of protection needs, nearly 900 migrants indicated psycho-social support needs and nine migrants requested protection assistance for UASC/VoTs. Over 90 migrants stated an interest in AVR support. It is important to note that these needs only include a subset of migrants who pass through the MRCs seeking assistance. They only indicate more extensive needs of the entire caseload of transiting migrants, departing migrants, and host communities. MRP partners anticipate the need, protection, and reintegration assistance to be very high. Among all migrants seeking assistance in the MRCs in Somalia in November 2023, 99 per cent indicated a lack of basic services contributing to the hardships experienced along the Eastern Route.<sup>87</sup> Research on direct migrant needs remains limited, especially along the Southern Route. However, migrant drivers and vulnerabilities identified through changes in the migration context, as detailed below, convey the needs of migrants in 2024. Economic downturns and conflict are key drivers of irregular migration on the Eastern Route, exacerbated by climate-induced factors resulting in recurrent droughts and flooding in Somalia. Similarly, Somali migration along the Southern Route occurs for various reasons, including

82 IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix – Somalia – Border Point Flow Monitoring, October 2023. <https://dtm.iom.int/reports/somalia-border-point-flow-monitoring-october-2023?close=true>.

83 IOM Regional Data Hub – Eastern Route Report #43 as of 30 September 2023, 2 November 2023. [https://eastandhornofafrica.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbdl701/files/documents/2023-11/iom\\_eastern-corridor-migrant-situation\\_30092023.pdf](https://eastandhornofafrica.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbdl701/files/documents/2023-11/iom_eastern-corridor-migrant-situation_30092023.pdf).

84 IOM Regional Data Hub – Eastern Route Report #31 as of 30 September 2022, 31 October 2022. [https://eastandhornofafrica.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbdl701/files/documents/IOM\\_Eastern-Corridor-Migrant-Situation\\_30092022\\_0.pdf](https://eastandhornofafrica.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbdl701/files/documents/IOM_Eastern-Corridor-Migrant-Situation_30092022_0.pdf).

85 Immigration and Naturalization Directorate (IND).

86 IOM Regional Data Hub – Eastern Route Report #45 as of 30 November 2022, 12 January 2024. [https://eastandhornofafrica.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbdl701/files/documents/2024-01/iom\\_eastern-corridor-migrant-situation\\_30112023\\_2.pdf](https://eastandhornofafrica.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbdl701/files/documents/2024-01/iom_eastern-corridor-migrant-situation_30112023_2.pdf).

87 IOM Regional Data Hub – Eastern Route Report #45 as of 30 November 2022, 12 January 2024. [https://eastandhornofafrica.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbdl701/files/documents/2024-01/iom\\_eastern-corridor-migrant-situation\\_30112023\\_2.pdf](https://eastandhornofafrica.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbdl701/files/documents/2024-01/iom_eastern-corridor-migrant-situation_30112023_2.pdf).

political instability, insecurity, violence, drought, and the desire for better job opportunities.

A key vulnerability for Eastern Route migrants in Somalia includes the ongoing conflict in Las Anod, a city in Northern Somalia located on one of the main migratory routes to Bossaso. Despite attempts at establishing a ceasefire and international mediation, the conflict has continued with reports of repeated shelling by the Somaliland forces in March 2023. The active conflict in Las Anod between armed militias and the Somaliland army worsens the situation of vulnerable migrants crossing to Puntland and Bari Region to exit to Yemen. Migrants entering Somalia via Buhoodle, the main entry point for those transiting through Las Anod, are exposed to human rights violations and physical and sexual abuses by smuggling networks near conflict-affected locations in the Sool region.<sup>88</sup> The conflict in Las Anod can also result in a higher number of stranded migrants, unable to continue onwards to Bossaso, compounding migrant vulnerabilities and protection concerns. The conflict has also impacted host community members, including displacement and deaths of host community members, disrupting critical social support networks for transiting migrants. Despite the ongoing conflict and its risks, migration through Las Anod persisted between May and June 2023 when the number of migrants passing through Buhoodle increased by 25 per cent.<sup>89</sup> As such, MRP partners operating in Somaliland and Puntland continue to monitor the impacts of this conflict on transiting migrants and adjust their responses accordingly.

Furthermore, climate change and environmental degradation pose as major drivers of migration in the East and Horn of Africa, including floods and

severe droughts affecting Somalia. More specifically, flooding in Beletweyne<sup>90</sup> and recent heavy rains in South-West State displaced about 107,000 people in October alone this year.<sup>91</sup> These incidents displaced more than one million people between May–October 2023, and up to 7.8 million are already affected by extreme and long-lasting drought.<sup>92</sup> Additionally, on 26 October 2023, heavy rainfall flooded Berbera City, impacting migrants and host communities alike. These climate-induced conditions, poverty, and food price increases result in food insecurity. As of September 2023, prices of imported food items such as rice, wheat flour, and sugar experienced a slight rise (1-3%) due to limited supplies in Hirshabelle and South-West states.<sup>93</sup> In Baidoa, South-West State, a prominent destination for returnees from Yemen and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, host communities and returnees face floods and rises in commodity prices, worsening resilience and livelihoods. According to a study developed along active migratory corridors in Bossaso and Hargeisa, with the participation of migrants and host community members, lack of rainfall severely impacted sources of livelihood and income among the affected population, resulting in a loss of income (80%), crop failure (66%), loss of livestock (65%), food scarcity (53%), crop disease (45%), and high food prices (43%).<sup>94</sup> In addition, the intersection of climate change and conflict, including the current operations against Al-Shabaab, erodes the livelihoods of displaced communities in the Southern regions of Somalia. In 2022, 1.3 million and more than 600,000 people were displaced by drought and conflict, respectively.<sup>95</sup> These conditions negatively affect the journeys of stranded migrants and returnees seeking to achieve reintegration along this route. Furthermore, these conditions also impact

88 IOM Regional Data Hub – Eastern Route Report #42 as of 31 August 2023, 3 October 2023. [https://eastandhornofafrica.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbd1701/files/documents/2023-10/iom\\_eastern-corridor-migrant-situation\\_31082023.pdf](https://eastandhornofafrica.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbd1701/files/documents/2023-10/iom_eastern-corridor-migrant-situation_31082023.pdf).

89 IOM Regional Data Hub – Eastern Route Report #40 as of 30 June 2023, 26 July 2023. [https://eastandhornofafrica.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbd1701/files/documents/2023-07/iom\\_eastern-corridor-migrant-situation\\_30062023.pdf](https://eastandhornofafrica.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbd1701/files/documents/2023-07/iom_eastern-corridor-migrant-situation_30062023.pdf).

90 Danish Refugee Council – Somalia Flash Report #2 – Beletweyne Flooding May 2023, 21 May 2023. <https://reliefweb.int/report/somalia/somalia-flash-report-2-beletweyne-flooding-may-2023-21st-may-2023>.

91 OCHA – Somalia: Deyr rainy season 2023 Flash Update No. 1: Floods in South West State, 7 October 2023. <https://unocha.org/publications/report/somalia/somalia-deyr-rainy-season-2023-flash-update-no-1-floods-south-west-state-7-october-2023>.

92 Danish Refugee Council – Somalia Flash Report #2 – Beletweyne Flooding May 2023, 21 May 2023. <https://reliefweb.int/report/somalia/somalia-flash-report-2-beletweyne-flooding-may-2023-21st-may-2023>.

93 WFP – Somalia – Joint Markets and Supply Chain Update | 24 – 30 September 2023, 3 October 2023. <https://reliefweb.int/report/somalia/somalia-wfp-joint-markets-and-supply-chain-update-24-30-september-2023>.

94 Mixed Migration Centre/IOM – The Impact of the Drought on Migration from Ethiopia to Somalia – February 2023, 28 February 2023. <https://eastandhornofafrica.iom.int/resources/mmc-iom-impact-drought-migration-ethiopia-somalia-february-2023>.

95 SIPRI/NUPI – Climate, Peace, and Security Fact Sheet – Somalia, September 2023. [https://www.sipri.org/sites/default/files/2023-09/2023\\_sipri-nupi\\_fact\\_sheet\\_somalia\\_sep\\_.pdf](https://www.sipri.org/sites/default/files/2023-09/2023_sipri-nupi_fact_sheet_somalia_sep_.pdf).

host communities, affecting the already limited support available to migrants in transit in Somaliland and Puntland.

Migrant networks play a vital role in encouraging Somali migration along the Southern Route, as families and clans often fund migrants' journeys, and some migrants in South Africa, who run successful businesses, encourage others to migrate. Southern Route migration from Somalia adheres to clan lines, with most Somali migrants being part of the Garre clan, who are encouraged by fellow clan members to head to South Africa. Despite the support offered to newcomers by the diaspora once at their destination, the harsh conditions of the journey expose Somali migrants to life-threatening situations and protection risks like those outlined for the Eastern Route. Migrants on the move along the Southern Route face physical and legal barriers that force them to rely on smuggling networks and to use dangerous means of travel. Consequently, they are exposed to violence and GBV, abuse, and exploitation, as well as a lack of access to basic needs and services.

### Targets and Planned Response

In 2024, MRP partners aim to address the humanitarian, protection, and development needs of migrants in transit (21,000), at destination (13,000), returning (13,000) and departing (4,300) as well as 509,740 members of Somali host communities along the Eastern Route. These target groups need life-saving humanitarian assistance, protection support, and community stabilization and reintegration initiatives that foster their resilience and stem the risk of re-migration. Migrants crossing into Somalia in Awdal and Woqooyi Galbeed regions travel long distances on foot and need water, food, primary healthcare, temporary shelter, NFIs, and basic WASH services to address immediate vulnerabilities. Returning migrants will also require life-saving and onward transportation assistance, particularly those returning after long periods of detention. Host communities in areas affected by drought and flooding would also benefit from life-saving assistance to cope with the impacts of natural disasters and bolster resilience.

On top of humanitarian support, both migrants and returnees along this corridor need tailored protection support. Vulnerable female migrants, UASC, VoTs, and migrants who suffered from human rights violations

are in dire need of specialized services responding to their individual needs. Capacity-building activities to support government officials, frontline actors, and partners to better respond to migrant needs related to child protection, GBV, and counter-trafficking will also be essential.

Additionally, stranded vulnerable migrants and those affected by conflict while on the move will be offered access to safe and dignified voluntary return options and assisted with individual and community-level reintegration support to encourage a more seamless return process. Community stabilization and climate adaptation initiatives are paramount to strengthen community cohesion and co-existence and to promote equal economic opportunities. Such activities will be prioritized in areas experiencing tensions or prone to drought and flooding. Labour migration and ethical recruitment promoted by the Government of Somalia will also be supported. MRP partners will establish or strengthen existing cross-border mechanisms to foster regional labour mobility. Lastly, data collection and flow monitoring will be critical in the MRP's response in 2024.



### STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1

#### Provide life-saving assistance to vulnerable migrants and host communities.

- Provide food, NFIs, temporary shelter, and water assistance to vulnerable migrants in host communities, MRCs, and transit centres.
- Procure medical supplies to address the primary healthcare needs of migrants assisted in the MRCs and provide secondary healthcare to migrants needing specialized medical assistance.
- Provide multipurpose cash assistance to vulnerable migrants with identified protection risks residing with host communities.
- Conduct joint field outreach medical and awareness-raising events targeting the migrants with medical concerns and limited information about the risks along the Eastern Route.



## STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2

**Provide quality, timely, accessible, and inclusive protection assistance and specialized and tailored services to migrants, returnees, and host communities in vulnerable situations.**

- Facilitate access to services by disseminating protection information, conducting service mapping, conducting community-based awareness campaigns, and creating referral pathways.
- Support existing community-based coordination structures promoting the protection of returnees and host communities.
- Promote cross-border dialogues and raise community awareness of protection risks among community committees, youth groups, traditional leaders, and women's forums.
- Provide minimum standards of care to survivors of GBV and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and offer immediate medical attention, specialized care for FGM survivors, trauma-informed counselling, legal assistance, and security measures to ensure survivor safety.
- Establish dedicated complaint channels to enable individuals to report concerns or grievances and strengthen existing procedures and referral pathways for handling Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) cases.
- Ensure primary and secondary referrals for migrants and host communities in need of MHPSS, including girls, boys, and children with disabilities. Develop individualized case management plans and provide a range of interventions such as community based MHPSS, counselling, group therapy, and psychoeducation.
- Support the FTR of UASC and promote family cohesion.
- Train professionals to offer survivor-centred consultation services at local hospitals and coordinate support and referrals with other hospital departments and external services.

- Train immigration partners, government officials, and frontline respondents on GBV, child protection, counter-trafficking, and smuggling of migrants.
- Implement capacity-building initiatives on Integrated Border Management and rehabilitate border management infrastructures.



## STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3

**Strengthen access to return, sustainable reintegration, and community stabilization.**

- In coordination with national and local authorities, offer AVR to vulnerable Ethiopian migrants stranded in Somalia.
- Provide returning migrants with OTA and multipurpose cash assistance to facilitate their reintegration into the communities of origin.
- Support the newly established MRC for migrant workers in Mogadishu, conduct labour migration management training for government and social partners at the federal level, and organize capacity-building activities for female migrant workers.
- Support consular offices on the screening and nationality verification of migrants registered for AVR, followed by issuance of travel documents in transit locations in Somalia.
- Support the Government of Somalia in developing and implementing return and reintegration frameworks and referral service mechanisms for returning migrant workers and their families.
- Enhance governance for adaptation to climate change by restoring a large irrigation scheme in the Middle Shabelle region of Hirshabelle State.
- Contribute to stability and peace by creating conditions for restoring trust among communities and towards local leadership, providing a bridge to longer-term development interventions.
- Enhance resolution of security and justice problems in target locations while leveraging learning, social, and political influence to catalyse programmatic, policy, and systemic change.



#### STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 4

Building evidence, partnerships, and coordination to enhance the humanitarian response and migration management throughout the migration route.

- Develop an action plan to enhance the capacity of trade unions to protect the rights of migrant workers inside and outside Somalia.
- Monitor the flow of migrants across borders between Somalia, Kenya, and Ethiopia.
- Support the MMTF and the RMFM, which brings together 11 States from the East and Horn of Africa Region to jointly address labour migration policies and foster labour mobility.

#### SOMALIA PARTNERS

1. ActionAid International
2. Danish Refugee Council (DRC)
3. Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)
4. International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) (observer status)
5. International Labour Organization (ILO)
6. International Organization for Migration (IOM)
7. Medecins Sans Frontiere (MSF) (observer status)
8. Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)
9. Oxfam International
10. Save the Children International (SCI)
11. United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
12. United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
13. United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
14. United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
15. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
16. UNWOMEN

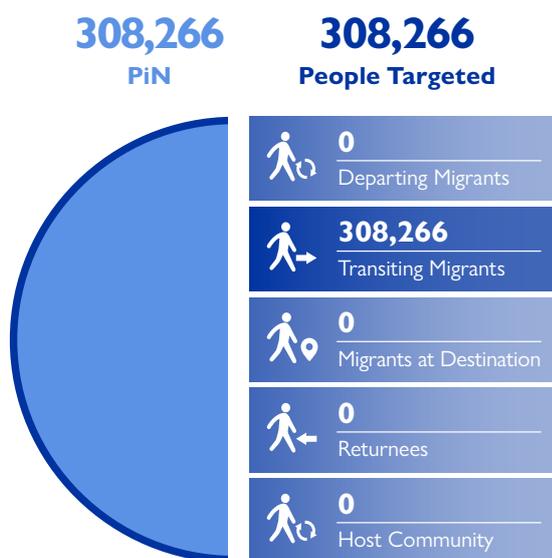


Migrant returnee engaged in a reintegration project in Hargeisa, Somalia. © MRP 2022/Claudia Rosel

# Country Chapters

# YEMEN

Ethiopian migrants prepare to fly to Addis Ababa from Sana'a on IOM's Voluntary Humanitarian Return flight. © IOM 2022/ Rami Ibrahim



## Context

Despite the ongoing conflict, Yemen is a main transit country for migrants arriving by boat from the Horn of Africa, intending to reach the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states. Migrants arrive on Yemeni shores from Djibouti and Somalia, from where they continue in two main directions: the southeastern route towards Hadramout and Shabwah governorates, as well as the northeastern route towards Lahj and Ta'iz governorates.<sup>96</sup> Nearly 95,000<sup>97</sup> migrants arrived in Yemen from the Horn of Africa in 2023, largely surpassing the number of arrivals registered during the previous year.<sup>98</sup> Ethiopia is the main country of origin (69%), followed by Somalia (31%).<sup>99</sup> In November 2023, 93 per cent of respondents surveyed by an MRP partner indicated the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as their intended destination.<sup>100</sup> While for most of 2023, Djibouti was the main country of transit, with over 80 per cent of arrivals from Djibouti in July 2023, this trend shifted towards the end of the year, with no reported arrivals from Djibouti to Yemen in

TOTAL FUNDING REQUIRED

**USD 38.3 M**

MRP PARTNERS

**3**

FUNDING BY STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

**SO1 31.8 M**

**SO2 4 M**

**SO4 2.5 M**

96 IOM Yemen, Quarterly Migration Overview: January – March 2023. [en-iom-yemen\\_migration-overview-q1-2023\\_0.pdf](#).

97 IOM Regional Data Hub for the East and Horn of Africa, Migration along the Eastern Rout, report n. 45, November 2023. [Migration Along the Eastern Corridor \(November 2023\) | Displacement Tracking Matrix \(iom.int\)](#).

98 IOM Regional Data Hub for the East and Horn of Africa, Migration along the Eastern Route, report n. 33, December 2022. [IOM\\_Eastern-Corridor-Migrant-Situation\\_31122022.pdf](#).

99 IOM Regional Data Hub for the East and Horn of Africa, Migration along the Eastern Route, report n. 45, November 2023. [Migration Along the Eastern Corridor \(November 2023\) | Displacement Tracking Matrix \(iom.int\)](#).

100 Ibid.

October 2023,<sup>101</sup> but a resumption in arrivals in November (400) and December (482)<sup>102</sup> which are still lower than arrivals from Somalia for the third consecutive month. In fact, since November, a new migration trend has been observed by boats departing Djibouti. To avoid coast guards, these boats travelled around 450 kilometres eastwards from the Bab el-Mandeb Strait towards the Gulf of Aden before disembarking along the Shabwah coast, which has historically received migrants departing from the Somali coast. MRP partners are closely monitoring the situation as it evolves.

Throughout 2023, the proportion of migrant women and girls recorded arriving in Yemen decreased. Between January and July 2023, on average, women and girls comprised eight per cent of all arrivals in 2023 compared to 25 per cent in the same period in 2022.<sup>103</sup> However, this does not suggest a decrease in the absolute number of women and girls on the move, but rather that female migrants may be separated from the main group upon arrival or may be moving through new locations with the support of smuggling networks. Alternatively, they may also be paying more for a safer journey, utilizing “safe houses”, and moving through the country faster. As in the other countries along the Eastern Route, migration in Yemen is bi-directional, with nearly 6,226 spontaneous returns by boat to Djibouti and Somalia recorded in 2023.<sup>104</sup> Tens of thousands of migrants remain stranded and are exposed to multiple protection risks and life-threatening situations in Yemen. Furthermore, options to return to the Horn of Africa, mainly to conflict-affected areas in countries such as Ethiopia, remain limited. As a result, an estimated 40,000 migrants were stranded in Yemen as of October 2023.<sup>105</sup> In 2024, MRP partners expect irregular migration to Yemen to exceed 2023 trends, potentially doubling. Weather conditions in the Gulf of Aden and coastal patrol operations are key factors

that may influence the scale of flows and the maritime routes used by Eastern Route migrants.

## Identified Needs

The nine-year ongoing conflict in Yemen has led to a dire economic crisis, the collapse of the public sector, and widespread violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law. The humanitarian and protection situation in the country is exacerbated for migrants, who are exposed to additional protection risks due to their irregular status. Migrants’ irregular status and avoidance of local authorities due to fear of detention bars them from seeking access to essential services, including, food, portable water, and healthcare, especially when transiting through isolated rural areas. At the same time, the hosting authorities have limited capacity to provide support against a backdrop of huge humanitarian needs for Yemeni nationals.

Migrants in Yemen face severe human rights violations, including abduction, extortion, violence, abuse, exploitation, restriction of movements, as well as forced detention and forced relocation.<sup>106</sup> Those on the move are exposed to violence and abuse by smuggling and human trafficking networks, who operate freely in the legal and public order vacuum left by the conflict. In 2023, for instance, MRP partners reported that migrants were taken immediately upon arrival to “smuggling dens” throughout the country, notably in Ma’rib, Shabwah, Al Mahrah, and Sa’dah governorates.<sup>107</sup> Additionally, migrants are at constant risk of remaining stranded in Yemen after having been abandoned along the route by their smugglers.<sup>108</sup> Furthermore, the lack of documentation and language barriers amplify pre-existing vulnerabilities. Migrants with limited Arabic fluency are often discriminated against, subjected to forced work, and unable to access legal

101 IOM Regional Data Hub for the East and Horn of Africa, Migration along the Eastern Route, report n. 44, October 2023. [Migration Along the Eastern Corridor \(October 2023\) | Displacement Tracking Matrix \(iom.int\)](#).

102 DTM Flow Monitoring Registry Database (as of December 2023).

103 Sourced from internal IOM flow monitoring data.

104 IOM Regional Data Hub for the East and Horn of Africa, Migration along the Eastern Route, report n. 45, November 2023. [Migration Along the Eastern Corridor \(November 2023\) | Displacement Tracking Matrix \(iom.int\)](#).

105 Ibid.

106 IOM Yemen, Quarterly Migration Overview: January – March 2023. [en-iom-yemen\\_migration-overview-q1-2023\\_0.pdf](#).

107 IOM Yemen, Quarterly Migration Overview: January – March 2023. [en-iom-yemen\\_migration-overview-q1-2023\\_0.pdf](#).

108 IOM Regional Data Hub for the East and Horn of Africa, Migration along the Eastern Route, report n. 40, June 2023. [iom\\_eastern-corridor-migrant-situation\\_30062023.pdf](#).

services. The lack of documentation also prevents migrant children from attending school, heightening their vulnerabilities to smuggling, trafficking, child labour, and exploitation. The situation is particularly dire for women and girls, who are routinely exposed to GBV. SRH and specialized protection are the primary needs identified for this group.<sup>109</sup>

The large caseload of stranded migrants and migrants in transit in Yemen also compounds the urgency to strengthen the protection environment, including specialized protection services and referral pathways for survivors of GBV.

### Targets and Planned Response

Considering the above, MRP partners estimate that in 2024, 308,266 Eastern Route migrants in transit in Yemen will need assistance. – an increase of nearly 100,000 from 2023. MRP activities in the country will focus on life-saving humanitarian assistance and tailored protection assistance under the framework's first and second strategic objectives. Additionally, coordination among humanitarian partners will be strengthened under Strategic Objective 4. Considering a non-functioning public sector and barriers to access faced by migrants, life-saving humanitarian assistance will be vital in supporting migrants. Migrants in Yemen will receive food, water, NFIs, as well as primary and secondary medical care to recover from their journeys across the Gulf of Aden. Furthermore, VHR will remain an option for stranded migrants willing to return to the Horn of Africa.

The rapidly evolving context in Yemen, primarily due to the ongoing conflict, necessitates regular protection monitoring and vulnerability assessments to continuously adapt to changing protection needs.

Above all, women and children, particularly UASC, remain the most vulnerable and will be prioritized in the response. Migrants exposed to human trafficking, human rights violations, GBV, and other protection violations posed by smugglers and human traffickers in Yemen will need comprehensive protection assistance. Migrants having experienced traumatic events will require MHPSS as well. Access to formal documentation and awareness campaigns on the safe routes, legal rights, and available services will

also be important for migrants. Lastly, partnership and coordination among humanitarian actors will be strengthened through the RMMS cluster to support evidence-based advocacy and programming in Yemen.



## STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1

### Provide life-saving assistance to vulnerable migrants and host communities.

- Regularly visit migrants' collective gathering points and other key locations to ensure the safe identification and referral of migrants needing immediate lifesaving assistance in coordination with local authorities, police, coastal guards, and host community members.
- Provide lifesaving support to vulnerable migrants through emergency WASH services, multipurpose cash (or basic needs) and by distributing meal vouchers and/or ready-to-eat food and NFIs, including dignity kits.
- Provide direct health support to migrants needing primary health care, including emergency first aid and emergency medical transportation, and ensure referrals to specialized secondary health services.
- Support mobile medical teams, primary health care centres and other health facilities and strengthen the health system by training border officials on international health regulations.
- Assist stranded migrants wishing to return to their country of origin with VHR.
- Promote community-based care by supporting temporary assistance and care to the most vulnerable migrant cases in facilities managed by carers from the migrant community.
- Train coast guards and border management officials of the Immigration and Passport National Authority in search and rescue operations and the provision of lifesaving assistance.

109 IOM Yemen, Quarterly Migration Overview: January – March 2023. [en-iom-yemen\\_migration-overview-q1-2023\\_0.pdf](https://www.iom-yemen.org/en-iom-yemen_migration-overview-q1-2023_0.pdf).



**STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2**

**Provide quality, timely, accessible, and inclusive protection assistance and specialized and tailored services to migrants, returnees, and host communities in vulnerable situations.**

- Conduct protection monitoring of migrants whose vulnerabilities are addressed by providing short-term or emergency multi-sector support via Migrant Response Points, Mobile Medical Teams, and protection hotlines.
- Provide assistance to migrants who have been victims of smuggling and exposed to conflict in border areas.
- Provide one-off cash for protection or referrals in Sa'Ada and Sana'A to support the most vulnerable and address their immediate needs.
- Offer psychosocial support and first aid to migrants gathered in key concentration points and refer migrants for further care when needed.
- Conduct awareness-raising sessions for migrants and host communities in Dhamar, Lahj, Sa'Ada, and Sana'A on various safe migration topics<sup>110</sup>.
- Train local authorities and host community leaders to enhance field facilitation, coordination, and cooperation in targeted governorates.
- Organize workshops for governorate and district authorities and security officials to provide a baseline understanding of mixed migration, protection principles, and prospects for future engagement in assisting migrants.
- Engage with influential community members, including local community leaders, teachers, mosque imams, security checkpoint workers, police stations, and fishermen, to foster their awareness of migrants' legal rights, challenges, and available support services to which migrants should be referred.
- Set up a communication and coordination network with local leaders in Abyan, Aden, and Shabwah to identify and report migrant cases

and gather information on routes, movement patterns, and migrant collection points.

- Organize legal awareness sessions for migrants in Abyan, Aden, and Shabwah on their legal rights in Yemen, the risks they may encounter, and strategies to mitigate them.
- Strengthen community-based MHPSS services for migrants through community-based protection committees, referrals for specialized MHPSS services, and training of government officials, front-line actors, and partners.
- Provide specialized services to VoTs and survivors of GBV, including shelter.
- Establish cross-border referral mechanisms with countries of return for assistance to vulnerable returning migrants.



**STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 4**

**Building evidence, partnerships, and coordination to enhance the humanitarian response and migration management throughout the migration route.**

- Conduct protection monitoring in the framework of the RMMS to support evidence-based advocacy and programming. Migration trends analysis reports will be issued quarterly to shed light on migration patterns in Yemen, including drivers, protection risks, vulnerabilities, and needs.
- Coordinate MRP partners' efforts to provide a coordinated response to vulnerable migrants in need.

<b>YEMEN PARTNERS</b>
<b>1. IOM</b>
<b>2. Danish Refugee Council (DRC)</b>
<b>3. INTERSOS</b>

<sup>110</sup> Including safety and security, rights and local and asylum seeker, and local customs.

# Country Chapters

# KENYA

Migrants congregate in an open area in Aden city where an estimated 4,000 migrants are stranded. Photo: © MRP 2020/Rami Ibrahim



## Context

Due to its geographical position and economic stability, Kenya is both a destination and a transit hub along the Southern Route for migrants from the Horn of Africa, notably Ethiopia (85%) and Somalia (15%).<sup>111</sup> Although not comprehensive, available data suggest an increase in the number of migrants entering Kenya over the past years. Anecdotal evidence indicates that the recent spike in the number of migrants in transit along the Southern Route may be due to environmental degradation – notably droughts in countries of origin that negatively affect livelihoods in rural areas. While the Southern Route migrants are predominantly male, qualitative research indicates that the number of women and girls may be increasing. For instance, an inflow of female Ethiopian migrants intending to work in Kenya has been reported by key informants.<sup>112</sup> Flow monitoring conducted by an MRP partner recorded nearly 20,000 migrants crossing through the Moyale border in 2021-2022, while an estimated 200-300 migrants were crossing the border nightly in 2023, according to key informants.<sup>113</sup> Entries through Moyale may happen through the official border point; however, many opt to cross at porous and unguarded locations to avoid being detected by immigration authorities. Although a bilateral agreement between Ethiopia and Kenya permits unrestricted movements across the two countries, most Ethiopian migrants travel irregularly due to the lack of documentation for lawful entry, transit, and residence in Kenya. Additionally, those possessing identity and travel documents often

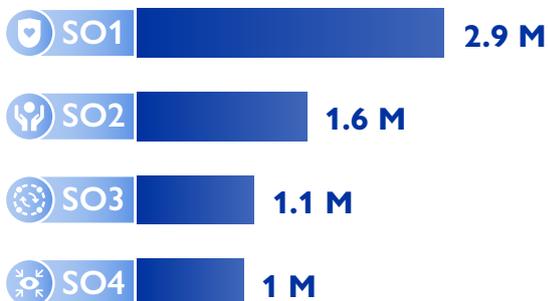
TOTAL FUNDING REQUIRED

**USD 6.6 M**

MRP PARTNERS

**10**

FUNDING BY STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE



111 IOM Regional Data Hub for the East and Horn of Africa, The Southern Dream: Exploring Migration Dynamics from the Horn of Africa to South Africa along the Southern Route, April 2023. [The Southern Dream: Exploring Migration Dynamics from the Horn of Africa to South Africa Along the Southern Route](https://www.iom.int/publications/the-southern-dream-exploring-migration-dynamics-from-the-horn-of-africa-to-south-africa-along-the-southern-route) (iom.int).

112 Ibid.

113 Ibid.

encounter extensive questioning by immigration officials regarding the purpose of their journey. Consequently, most migrants rely on smuggling networks to travel along the Southern Route.<sup>114</sup>

Migration dynamics around Moyale have shaped the area's economy on both the Ethiopian and the Kenyan sides of the border, where an informal industry offering transportation, food, and lodging has emerged. Approximately 60 per cent of the town's income is estimated to be derived from illicit trade, notably migrant smuggling.<sup>115</sup> Over the past years, the intensification of border patrolling and control measures has progressively led to a diversification of the routes.<sup>116</sup> Different means of transportation are used during the journey. While many opt to walk some segments by foot to avoid being detected, most of the journey involves the use of vehicles such as trucks, minibuses, cars, and pickups that are often changed along the route.<sup>117</sup> From Moyale, various factors influence the route selection, including the security situation, ethnic linkages, contacts along the route, and the availability of safe houses. In particular, the ethnicity of the smuggler plays a central role in the route choice. It impacts the outcomes of the journey, including access to safe houses and control by law enforcement authorities. Being the same ethnicity with law enforcement authorities allows smugglers to speak the same language or potentially cite family or community connections to garner trust and increased leniency.

For instance, the route through Marsabit to Isiolo – often preferred due to its infrastructure and paved road – is predominantly used by non-Somali-speaking smugglers, while the route that traverses Wajir – primarily consisting of rough gravel roads – is predominantly employed by smugglers of Somali ethnicity. From Isiolo, migrants will head towards Nairobi via Meru and Embu or the Nanyuki-Nyeri highway. For those proceeding via Wajir, the route passes through Garissa and Mwingi toward Thika.

From their side, Somali migrants enter Kenya via overland routes through Mandera or Liboi, from where they head towards Dadaab and Garissa. Such movements are strongly linked to family and ethnic networks, which play a key role in mobility along the Southern Route by providing logistical support to migrants en route. Many have social connections in northeastern Kenya or near Dadaab's refugee camp, where they spend a few days before continuing the journey either toward Nairobi or to Kenya's southern border via Malindi and Mombasa.<sup>118</sup> Nairobi is a key transit point along the Southern Route, from where smuggling networks organize onward journeys towards the United Republic of Tanzania with the support of new intermediaries. Migrants in transit mostly find accommodation in the Eastleigh neighbourhood and its outskirts. This area hosts sizable Ethiopian and Somali diaspora communities, and it is an effective hiding spot for migrants until smugglers organize them in groups for the following leg of the journey.<sup>119</sup>

Migrants use four different land routes to border between Kenya and the United Republic of Tanzania. The main route heads toward the southern coast, where smugglers can access land and coastal pathways until the permeable border crossing into the United Republic of Tanzania near Lunga Lunga or by boat. A second route goes via the Athi River toward porous entry points near the Namanga border crossing, while a third goes toward Oloitokitok in the Kilimanjaro area. Lastly, a different route takes migrants through the Taita-Taveta border crossing points. Here, migrants are exposed to heightened risks as they are taken through the Tsavo National Park until they reach designated points of connection. Additionally, Indian Ocean maritime routes between Kenya and the United Republic of Tanzania are used to circumvent checkpoints on the mainland.<sup>120</sup>

114 Ibid.

115 Ibid.

116 Ibid.

117 Ibid.

118 Ibid.

119 Mixed Migration Centre, *Southbound: Mixed Migration Routes, Experiences and Risks along the Journey to South Africa*, May 2023. [Southbound | Mixed Migration Centre](#).

120 Ibid.

## Identified Needs

As Southern Route migrants transiting through Kenya primarily rely on smuggling networks, they are particularly vulnerable to exploitation, abuse, and various protection risks. These include trafficking, torture, physical assault, forced labour, psychological and emotional abuse, and sexual violence. Migrant children are vulnerable to abduction, kidnapping, and forced labour.<sup>121</sup> Additionally, due to increased controls by state authorities at border points and key transit hubs, migrants may be abandoned by their smugglers when law enforcement presence intensifies, with no means to continue their journey. Migrants also frequently report being exposed to robbery (54%), bribery and extortion (52%), and risk of detention (56%) while in Kenya.<sup>122</sup> During the journey, migrants face many risks, including physical hardship and exhaustion. Precarious transportation practices along Kenya's leg of the Southern Route expose migrants to significant hazards and, in some cases, life-threatening circumstances. This includes using dangerous maritime routes between Kenya and the United Republic of Tanzania in hazardous boats and shipping containers, including extended journeys in airless fuel tankers and overloaded vehicles. Several incidents of migrants drowning at sea or suffocating within containers have been reported along both land and maritime routes. Additionally, migrants evading checkpoints on foot may spend nights exposed to the elements in forests, national parks, and other regions inhabited by dangerous wildlife.<sup>123</sup> Unethical recruitment practices also contribute to increasing migrants' vulnerability, further exposing them to abuse and exploitation.

While on the move, migrants are hosted in overcrowded safe houses, holding centres and makeshift shelters, where water and sanitation are often lacking. Similarly, they are exposed to overcrowded and unsanitary conditions in case of administrative detention. As a result, migrants live in unhygienic conditions, making them vulnerable to infectious diseases. Although research on migrants in Kenya remains limited, field observations allowed MRP partners to identify the most pressing needs

faced by those on the move. Basic needs include access to food and NFIs and safe and adequate shelter at the destination and in transit. During the journey, migrants frequently experience trauma and stress due to the hardships they face, including violence, loss of loved ones, and uncertainty about their future. They are, therefore, in dire need of tailored protection assistance, including MHPSS.

Based on the above findings, MRP partners estimate that at least 34,840 migrants in transit and at destination areas will need assistance in 2024.

## Targets and Planned Response

In 2024, MRP partners aim to reach 24,721 beneficiaries, including migrants at destination (19,111) and in transit (5,610).

The response will focus on life-saving humanitarian and protection assistance, access to return, and community stabilization. Building evidence on the Southern Route migration trends and needs and reinforcing existing partnerships among response actors will be equally needed to consolidate the route-based response in Kenya along the Southern Route. Southern Route migrants in Kenya will require essential provisions such as shelter, food, water, NFIs, dignity kits, and medical care to support their recovery from the perilous journeys. Migrants exposed to the grave risks of human trafficking and other protection violations by smugglers and traffickers in Kenya will require comprehensive and tailored protection support. Migrants who have undergone traumatic experiences will need access to MHPSS services. Special attention must be given to the most vulnerable groups, particularly women and children, including UASC, prioritizing them in the response efforts. Providing formal documentation is essential to access county services and bolster employment opportunities. Disseminating information about safe routes and available services is also crucial. Training government officials, frontline actors, and relevant partners will also be paramount to strengthening the protection environment. AVRRC will be a vital component of the MRP response in Kenya, along with efforts for the regularization of stay. Emphasis

<sup>121</sup> Ibid.

<sup>122</sup> Ibid.

<sup>123</sup> Mixed Migration Centre, *Southbound: Mixed Migration Routes, Experiences and Risks along the Journey to South Africa*, May 2023. [Southbound | Mixed Migration Centre](#).

will be given to private sector engagement in safe migration, notably by promoting ethical recruitment practices. Lastly, quantitative, and qualitative analysis of migration movements in Kenya will allow for a better understanding of Southern Route patterns, including the profile of migrants, intended destination, risks, and vulnerabilities.



### STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1

**Provide life-saving assistance to vulnerable migrants and host communities.**

- In collaboration with government entities, provide safe and adequate shelter to migrants in transit and at their destination in Kenya to ensure dignified temporary living conditions and longer-term housing solutions.
- Provide food and NFIs, including freshly cooked and ready-to-eat food, packed nutrition supplements, clothing, shelter items, and WASH items, including dignity kits, to migrants along the Southern Route.
- Support migrants in distress to access primary health services and trauma-informed through direct assistance, comprehensive community health and wellness outreach initiatives, partnerships with primary health service providers for screenings and vaccinations, and referrals to secondary health care providers.
- Facilitate access to WASH services, including distribution of water at reception points, construction of sanitary infrastructure, provision of WASH essential items, and organization of hygiene education sessions.
- Support the establishment of government-led centres/points for migrants on the move to register for assistance. Services will include referrals, needs screening, legal counselling, and information dissemination on safe migration.
- Provide multipurpose cash assistance to stranded and rescued migrants to meet their basic needs, including food, shelter, education, and healthcare, and support their financial stability while in Kenya;
- Offer training and capacity-building activities on search and rescue for government officials,

including advanced techniques for responding to emergencies, enhancing their ability to save lives and ensure security, ultimately strengthening border and cross-border management systems and safeguarding the safety of cross-border migrants.



### STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2

**Provide quality, timely, accessible, and inclusive protection assistance and specialized and tailored services to migrants, returnees, and host communities in vulnerable situations.**

- Provide specialized protection services to VoTs and vulnerable migrants at risk and promote multi-stakeholder joint interventions and collaborative efforts to provide comprehensive support for victims of human rights violations.
- Offer MHPSS including counselling, management of post-traumatic stress disorders and support the recovery process and enable access to MHPSS by VoTs and other migrants and returnees in situations of vulnerability.
- Empower local actors (local officials, first-line responders, and CSOs) by training them to better identify the unique needs of vulnerable migrants and raising awareness of referral mechanisms to ensure their rights and protection.
- Provide structural support to government-run shelters to enhance the protection of VoTs and other migrants with protection needs.
- Strengthen legal aid by supporting migrants throughout their journeys and conducting outreach and education activities to raise awareness among migrant communities about available legal aid services and establish Legal Aid Clinics for Rights and Justice offering migrant legal consultations, document assistance, referrals, and advocacy.
- Conduct regular protection monitoring visits and vulnerability assessments to identify protection issues and trends and to support informed decision-making.

- Strengthen Community-Based Protection for vulnerable migrants and returnees, including children and other at-risk groups.
- Promote migrant and host community awareness campaigns on the risks of irregular migration and existing protection mechanisms by developing clear, concise, and culturally appropriate messages.
- Conduct training of trainers for migrants to empower them with valuable peer counselling and information-sharing skills.
- Enhance the capacity of government and other key stakeholders and frontline partners on child protection, counter-trafficking, and counter-migrant smuggling, including prevention, identification, and response, enhancing their ability to address these critical issues effectively.
- Train government officials, frontline actors, and partners in GBV prevention, mitigation, and response and support the development of protocols to create a more victim-centred, efficient, and responsive judicial system.

### STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3

#### Strengthen access to return, sustainable reintegration, and community stabilization.

- Enhance border and migration management processes and establish a system that effectively maintains security while upholding migrants' dignity and human rights.
- Support the AVRR of Southern Route migrants to their country of origin, including UASC and other vulnerable groups.

- Promote private sector engagement on safe migration by engaging recruitment agencies and civil society organizations to promote protection and ethical recruitment practices.
- Organize a multi-stakeholder learning conference to promote awareness, knowledge exchange, networking, and capacity building to enhance safe migration practices, safeguard migrant rights, and encourage ethical migration practices.
- Support community-driven regularization efforts by organizing information sessions and workshops to educate migrants about the legal requirements and steps involved in the process, empowering them to make informed decisions to regularize their stay.

### STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 4

#### Building evidence, partnerships, and coordination to enhance the humanitarian response and migration management throughout the migration route.

- Conduct flow monitoring and needs assessment surveys to understand better the Southern Route migration patterns through Kenya and related vulnerabilities and needs.
- Coordinate MRP partners' efforts at the national and county levels to promote regular information exchange and provide a coordinated response to the needs of migrants and their host communities.
- Carry out a study on Southern Route migration in Mombasa, Kilifi, Kwale, Taita Taveta, and Tana River Coastal counties to analyze the demographics of those on the move and to evaluate the effectiveness of local policies in improving the well-being, protection, and integration of migrants.
- Raise awareness on safe migration practices by publishing advocacy material that promotes informed and responsible migration by informing potential migrants about their rights and responsibilities and how to migrate safely and regularly.

## KENYA PARTNERS

1. Candle of Hope
2. Centre for Domestic Training and Development
3. Counter Human Trafficking Trust, East Africa
4. Haki Africa
5. IOM
6. Love Justice
7. Refugee Consortium of Kenya
8. SAFE JAMII Social Justice Centre
9. Salvation Army
10. Trace Kenya

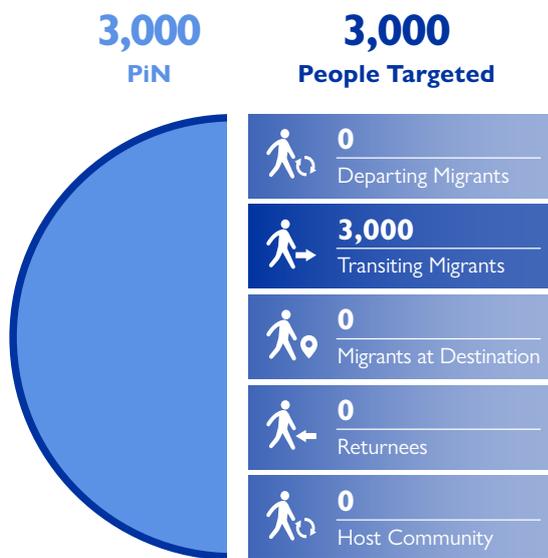


A group of migrants are napping under a tree in Fantaherou, Djibouti. © MRP 2022/Alexander Bee

## Country Chapters

# UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

In the early hours of the morning, an Ethiopian migrant woman rests at a smugglers' house in Bossaso. © IOM/Claudia Rosel



## Context

The United Republic of Tanzania is the main country of transit along the Southern Route used by migrants from the East and Horn of Africa en route to South Africa.<sup>124</sup> No comprehensive estimations of the number of migrants transiting through the United Republic of Tanzania are available, as migrants enter and exit the country irregularly through unofficial border crossings with the support of smugglers. Nevertheless, the high number of migrants in detention in the United Republic of Tanzania illustrates the magnitude of this phenomenon. According to the Foreign Affairs, Defence, and National Service Standing Committee of the Tanzanian Parliament, 7,493 irregular migrants were in detention as of February 2023,<sup>125</sup> the vast majority assumed to be migrants traversing the Southern Route. As of mid-2023, about 3,000 Ethiopian migrants were estimated to be in detention, and the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania has been encouraging migrants to make contact with family members in the country of origin to finance migrants' returns.<sup>126</sup> Indeed, immigration-related offences are often pardoned as a goodwill gesture, provided that the migrants are supported to return to their country of origin.<sup>127</sup>

Southern Route migrants who cross into the United Republic of Tanzania from Kenya follow several routes to continue their journey southbound. Those who enter via Namanga or Oloitokitok travel onwards

### TOTAL FUNDING REQUIRED

**USD 5.4 M**

### MRP PARTNERS

**2**

### FUNDING BY STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE



124 IOM Regional Data Hub for the East and Horn of Africa, The Southern Dream: Exploring Migration Dynamics from the Horn of Africa to South Africa along the Southern Route, April 2023. [The Southern Dream: Exploring Migration Dynamics from the Horn of Africa to South Africa Along the Southern Route \(iom.int\)](#).

125 The Chanzo Initiative 7 February 2023. <https://thechanzo.com/2023/02/07/the-chanzo-morning-briefing-february-7-2023/>.

126 Regional Migrant Response Plan for the Horn of Africa and Yemen, Migrants Needs Overview 2024 Eastern & Southern Route. December 2023. <https://eastandhornofafrica.iom.int/resources/migrants-needs-overview-2024-regional-migrant-response-plan-horn-africa-and-yemen>.

127 IOM, Migrating in Search of the Southern Dream: The Experiences of Ethiopian migrants moving along the Southern Route. May 2022. [Migrating in Search of the Southern Dream: The Experiences of Ethiopian Migrants Moving Along the Southern Route \(iom.int\)](#).

to Arusha. From there, they continue towards the Tunduma border in Mbeya along the Zambian border or the Kasumulu border in Kyela along the Malawian border. Those using the coastal route via Lunga Lunga-Horo Horo then move towards Saadani National Park in the Bagamoyo region, from where they arrange onward transportation to Mbeya, at the border with Zambia, or Kyela, at the border with Malawi. Alternatively, migrants may also exit the United Republic of Tanzania into Mozambique.<sup>128</sup> The migrants use different means of transportation, relying on smuggling networks. Land movements may take place via boda-boda (motorbikes), but migrants may also hide in haulage trucks and fuel tankers. Maritime transportation is also used when land border controls are intensified. Boats transporting migrants navigate through the small islands off the coast of Tanga.

### Identified Needs

Migrants in transit through the United Republic of Tanzania are exposed to multiple vulnerabilities and risks linked to the irregular nature of their movements. Approximately 68 per cent of Southern Route migrants surveyed by an MRP partner in 2023 reported having experienced severe incidents of violence and abuse at the hands of smugglers, including torture, physical assault, psychological and emotional abuse, and sexual violence.<sup>129</sup> Additionally, three per cent of migrants reporting experiencing incidents of violence and abuse – including children – indicated to have been abducted or kidnapped or had been exploited through forced labour to settle additional costs for smuggling services. Most migrants surveyed in the United Republic of Tanzania reported not being aware of the actual cost of the journey, not knowing that they would

be passed on to multiple intermediaries who would charge additional fees.<sup>130</sup> Another survey conducted among Ethiopian migrants in the United Republic of Tanzania reveals that less than 30 per cent had heard about incidents involving migrants. At the same time, almost none reported receiving information on the risks of irregular migration, migration policies in transit or destination countries, or individual migrant stories of failure.<sup>131</sup> Nine per cent of respondents reported incidents involving theft or extortion by smugglers, who, in some cases, resorted to violence and seized migrants' belongings.<sup>132</sup>

Large numbers of migrants, including minors, are apprehended during the journey and/or detained by law enforcement authorities under the clauses related to irregular entry within the Immigration Act of the United Republic of Tanzania.<sup>133</sup> These migrants remain stranded in detention in deplorable living conditions with no means to return to their country of origin or to obtain legal status to stay in the United Republic of Tanzania. Southern Route migrants are at high risk of remaining stranded while in transit in the United Republic of Tanzania and are exposed to life-threatening circumstances. Migrants often report witnessing the death of fellow travellers along the route, who perished as a result of being abandoned when they fell sick, due to starvation, dehydration, suffocation and drowning or because of accidents while being transported in unsafe conditions.<sup>134</sup>

Almost all migrants (98%) surveyed in the United Republic of Tanzania reported receiving insufficient food, water, and other basic items during their journey. The severe lack of access to shelter and basic goods and services, combined with poor sanitation, hygiene, and medical care, heightens the risk of

128 IOM Regional Data Hub for the East and Horn of Africa, *The Southern Dream: Exploring Migration Dynamics from the Horn of Africa to South Africa along the Southern Route*, April 2023. [The Southern Dream: Exploring Migration Dynamics from the Horn of Africa to South Africa Along the Southern Route \(iom.int\)](#).

129 Ibid.

130 IOM Regional Data Hub for the East and Horn of Africa, *The Southern Dream: Exploring Migration Dynamics from the Horn of Africa to South Africa along the Southern Route*, April 2023. [The Southern Dream: Exploring Migration Dynamics from the Horn of Africa to South Africa Along the Southern Route \(iom.int\)](#).

131 IOM, *Migrating in Search of the southern Dream: The Experiences of Ethiopian migrants moving along the Southern Route*. May 2022. [Migrating in Search of the Southern Dream: The Experiences of Ethiopian Migrants Moving Along the Southern Route \(iom.int\)](#).

132 IOM Regional Data Hub for the East and Horn of Africa, *The Southern Dream: Exploring Migration Dynamics from the Horn of Africa to South Africa along the Southern Route*, April 2023. [The Southern Dream: Exploring Migration Dynamics from the Horn of Africa to South Africa Along the Southern Route \(iom.int\)](#).

133 Ibid.

134 Ibid.

diseases among the migrant population in transit.<sup>135</sup> Additionally, the fear of imprisonment exerts psychological pressure on migrants, as detention can lead to prolonged sentences, with an average of two years spent in prison.<sup>136</sup> Additionally, the impact of stigma surrounding failed migration attempts and the consequent loss of investments associated with migrating should not be underestimated. For instance, around a third of migrants interviewed in the United Republic of Tanzania mentioned not having informed their families about their intention to migrate to hedge against negative stigmas should their migration attempt fail.

### Targets and Planned Response

Considering the above, migrants transiting through and those in detention in the United Republic of Tanzania require life-saving assistance, including medical care, tailored protection assistance, and AVR assistance in reflection of the severe protection risk and vulnerabilities and the long journeys endured from the origin countries. In 2024, MRP partners aim to assist 3,000 Southern Route migrants on the move and in detention. AVR assistance will be key for the MRP in 2024, particularly for migrants in immigration detention. In reflection of the high number of migrants detained in the United Republic of Tanzania, AVR assistance will be vital in assisting vulnerable migrants wishing to return to their country of origin. In addition, initiatives to identify alternatives to detention will be key in reducing the risk of detention of migrants transiting through the country. Protection assistance will target the most vulnerable groups, including VoTs, those who suffered human rights violations, and survivors of GBV. MRP partners will develop protection responses tailored to women and children, particularly UASC. Modalities of response will include direct protection response and capacity-building initiatives for government officials, frontline actors, and other partners on child protection, GBV, and counter-trafficking. Lastly, promoting a Regional Dialogue among the countries along the Southern Route will help to understand the migration patterns along this route better and define a coordinated response.

<sup>135</sup> Ibid.

<sup>136</sup> Ibid.



### STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1

#### Provide life-saving assistance to vulnerable migrants and host communities.

- Coordinate with the Tanzanian Immigration Services Department to identify the centres with a high population of migrants and organize the distribution of NFIs.
- Support the provision of medical services to vulnerable migrants in transit and detention centres.
- Provide multipurpose cash assistance to returning migrants to enable them to acquire basic goods and services upon arrival in their country of origin, including onward transportation.
- Coordinate with the Tanzanian Immigration Services Department and the Ministry of Community Development, Gender Women, and Special Groups to promote safe and dignified accommodation services to vulnerable migrants in dedicated shelters, notably UASC, otherwise at risk of detention.



### STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2

#### Provide quality, timely, accessible, and inclusive protection assistance and specialized and tailored services to migrants, returnees, and host communities in vulnerable situations.

- Coordinate with the Ministry of Community Development, Gender, Women, and Special Groups, train frontline workers on identifying and assisting vulnerable migrants with specific needs, and brief them on existing protection referral pathways.
- Collaborate with the Ethiopian Embassy and the Tanzanian Immigration Services Department to conduct quarterly protection monitoring visits and vulnerability assessments of migrants in detention centres to assess existing protection risks.
- Organize community sensitization workshops with the Tanzanian Immigration Services Department in the country's border regions, targeting local

actors and community members on the dangers and risks associated with irregular migration, and identification of victims of trafficking and other protection vulnerabilities.

- Train Police Gender and Children Desk personnel on protection and assistance to vulnerable migrants, with a focus on UASC, including case management and BIP.<sup>137</sup>
- Train government officials, front-line actors, and partners on MHPSS.<sup>138</sup>

### STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3

**Strengthen access to return, sustainable reintegration, and community stabilization.**

- Conduct capacity-building training for policymakers on International Migration Law, focusing on protecting migrant's rights, international legal and policy frameworks, and regional labour agreements.
- Provide infrastructural and technical support to the Border Management Control Unit of the Tanzanian Immigration Services Department and support the establishment of mobile border patrols for border security. This aligns with international efforts to combat transnational crimes, including the smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons.
- Facilitate the AVR of vulnerable migrants to their countries of origin.

### STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 4

**Building evidence, partnerships, and coordination to enhance the humanitarian response and migration management throughout the migration route.**

- Conduct data collection and analysis on Southern Route migration through the United Republic of Tanzania to identify and better understand migration trends, migrant profiles, intended destinations, preferable transit routes, and countries.

## UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA PARTNERS

1. IOM

2. United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)



Unaccompanied child migrants Abel and Dino (not their real names) at the MRC in Dire Dawa, Ethiopia.  
© MRP 2023/Eva Sibanda

137 This activity will include training of Social Welfare Officers, Officers from institutions hosting migrant children, immigration officials, police officers and civil society organizations supporting vulnerable migrants on child protection, case management and overall ethical border practices.

138 The activity will target Social Welfare Officers, Mental Health Coordinators, Police Officers, Immigration Officers, other actors engaged in supporting vulnerable migrants on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support.

## ANNEX

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS BY APPEALING PARTNERS AND COUNTRY								
Sum of funding requirements for the activity in USD	Djibouti	Ethiopia	Kenya	Somalia	United Republic of Tanzania	Yemen	Regional	Grand Total
Agar Ethiopia Charitable Society		\$775,000						\$775,000
Bethany Christian Services Global		\$128,360						\$128,360
Brightstar Relief and Development Association		\$994,260						\$994,260
Candle of Hope			\$798,224					\$798,224
Counter Human Trafficking Trust East Africa			\$1,256,606					\$1,256,606
COOPI		\$878,001						\$878,001
Danish Refugee Council				\$1,812,000		\$1,259,549		\$3,071,549
Ethiopian Catholic Church Social and Development Commission/ Caritas		\$168,000						\$168,000
Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus Development and Social Service Commission		\$757,200						\$757,200
Ethiopian Red Cross Society		\$1,406,560						\$1,406,560
Good Samaritan Association		\$529,723						\$529,723
International Labour Organization				\$142,000				\$142,000

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS BY APPEALING PARTNERS AND COUNTRY								
Sum of funding requirements for the activity in USD	Djibouti	Ethiopia	Kenya	Somalia	United Republic of Tanzania	Yemen	Regional	Grand Total
INTERSOS						\$2,964,000		\$2,964,000
International Organization for Migration	\$7,274,000	\$26,915,203	\$4,448,000	\$7,016,030	\$3,700,000	\$34,087,283	\$4,460,712	\$87,901,227
Mixed Migration Centre							\$930,000	\$930,000
Norwegian Refugee Council		\$1,039,111		\$450,000			\$700,000	\$2,189,111
OXFAM International				\$38,000				\$38,000
Positive Action for Development		\$388,532						\$388,532
SAFE JAMII Social Justice Centre			\$12,727					\$12,727
Save the Children International		\$1,017,594						\$1,017,594
Somali Mental Health Association				\$202,000				\$202,000
Somali Women Development Centre				\$439,500				\$439,500
TRACE Kenya			\$105,294					\$105,294
United Nations Population Fund							\$105,000	\$105,000
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees				\$265,000			\$1,596,430	\$1,861,430
United Nations Children's Fund	\$600,000	\$145,788			\$1,720,000		\$203,000	\$2,668,788
World Food Programme	\$450,000							\$450,000
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$8,324,000</b>	<b>\$35,143,332</b>	<b>\$6,620,851</b>	<b>\$10,364,530</b>	<b>\$5,420,000</b>	<b>\$38,310,831</b>	<b>\$7,995,142</b>	<b>\$112,178,685</b>



Mohammed seated with his father, Jamal, at Aden Airport in Yemen ahead of their VHR flight home to Ethiopia. © MRP 2023/Eva Sibanda



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Migrants washing with water from a constructed well in Fantaherou. © MRP 2020/ Alexander Bee