

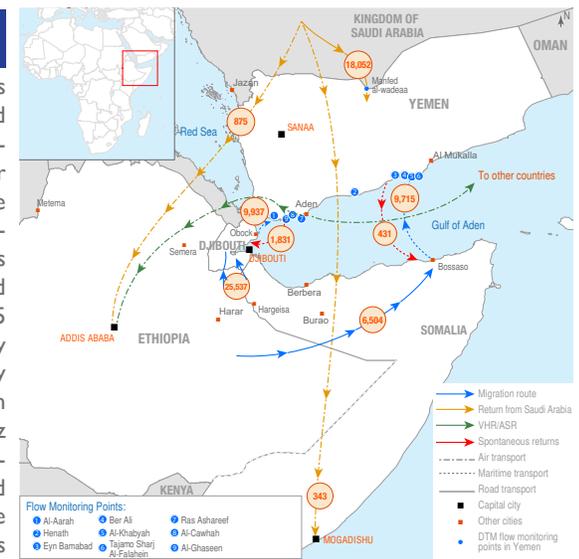
Migrant Response Plan Update for the Horn of Africa and Yemen First Quarter | 2022



Female migrants transiting in Yemen @ IOM 2022

Situation Overview

During the first quarter of 2022, 73,225 individuals were registered at flow monitoring points along the Eastern Route¹. IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) recorded an estimated 19,662 migrants arriving from the Horn of Africa to Yemen during Q1², equaling a monthly average of almost triple that reached in 2021. The increase was partly due to the improved weather conditions, which facilitated boat movements from Somalia. MRP partners observed an increase in arrivals from Lahj Governorate in Southwest Yemen, transiting through Aden to reach Abyan Governorate in Southcentral Yemen. An estimated 40,667 migrants were stranded across significant metropolitan hubs in Yemen, including Aden, Marib, Shabwa, Al Bayda, Sana'a, and Sadah. Furthermore, the MRP observed 4,938 stranded migrants in Somalia and another 765 stranded in Djibouti. The number of Ethiopian migrants transiting through Somalia increased by 36 per cent in the first two months of Q1 compared to the last two months of Q4 2021, mainly due to the easing of COVID-19 restrictions³ in Somalia and Yemen, as well as the humanitarian crisis in Northern Ethiopia. Conflicts in Tigray, Afar, Oromia, Amhara and Benishangul Gumuz regions, as well as severe drought in Somali, Afar, Oromia and the Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples' (SNNP) regions, have resulted in further displacement as well as increased vulnerabilities and additional push factors for irregular migration in the Horn of Africa. Reverse movements on the Eastern Route were witnessed mainly due to the continued forced returns of migrants from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. In the first quarter of 2022, the governments of Ethiopia and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia reached an agreement to return 102,000 Ethiopian migrants at a rate of nearly 4,000 migrants weekly for seven months. The operation started on 30 March 2022, and 875 migrants were involuntarily returned from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to Ethiopia⁴ in the two days before the end of Q1. MRP partners in Somalia also observed an increasing number of spontaneous returnees from Yemen to Bossaso since the start of the year, likely due to conflict in the port city of Mukalla, Hadramaut Governorate in eastern Yemen. A total of 310 spontaneous returns (167 men and 143 women) were recorded from Somalia to Yemen in January and February 2022, compared to 262 recorded in November and December 2021. In Ethiopia, the humanitarian crises in Northern Ethiopia (particularly Tigray, Amhara and Afar regions) and socio-political instability in other parts of the region have been affecting the pace and operational environment of humanitarian assistance programmes. Access challenges to the Tigray region have severely hampered humanitarian support for the internally displaced populations and migrants in the region and restricted family reunification efforts. MRP partners scaled up activities to assist returnees, including distributing non-food items (NFI), medical support, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) and child protection interventions. The government and MRP partners also resumed return assistance to Ethiopian migrants whose areas of return are safe, accessible, and stable.



Migration flows along the Eastern Route in Q1 of 2022 @IOM 2022

Migrants on the Move	Stranded Migrants	Migrant Returns	Population Reached in Q1
<p>25,537 Entered Djibouti</p> <p>6,504 Entered Somalia</p> <p>19,662 Entered Yemen</p>	<p>765 In Djibouti</p> <p>4,938 In Somalia</p> <p>40,667 In Yemen</p>	<p>1,831 Yemen - Djibouti</p> <p>431 Yemen - Somalia</p> <p>875 Kingdom of Saudi Arabia - Ethiopia</p>	<p>26,684 Migrants, host communities, and government officials</p>

¹ Migration Along The Eastern Corridor – Report 25 | as of 31 March 2022, 5 May 2022, IOM RDH

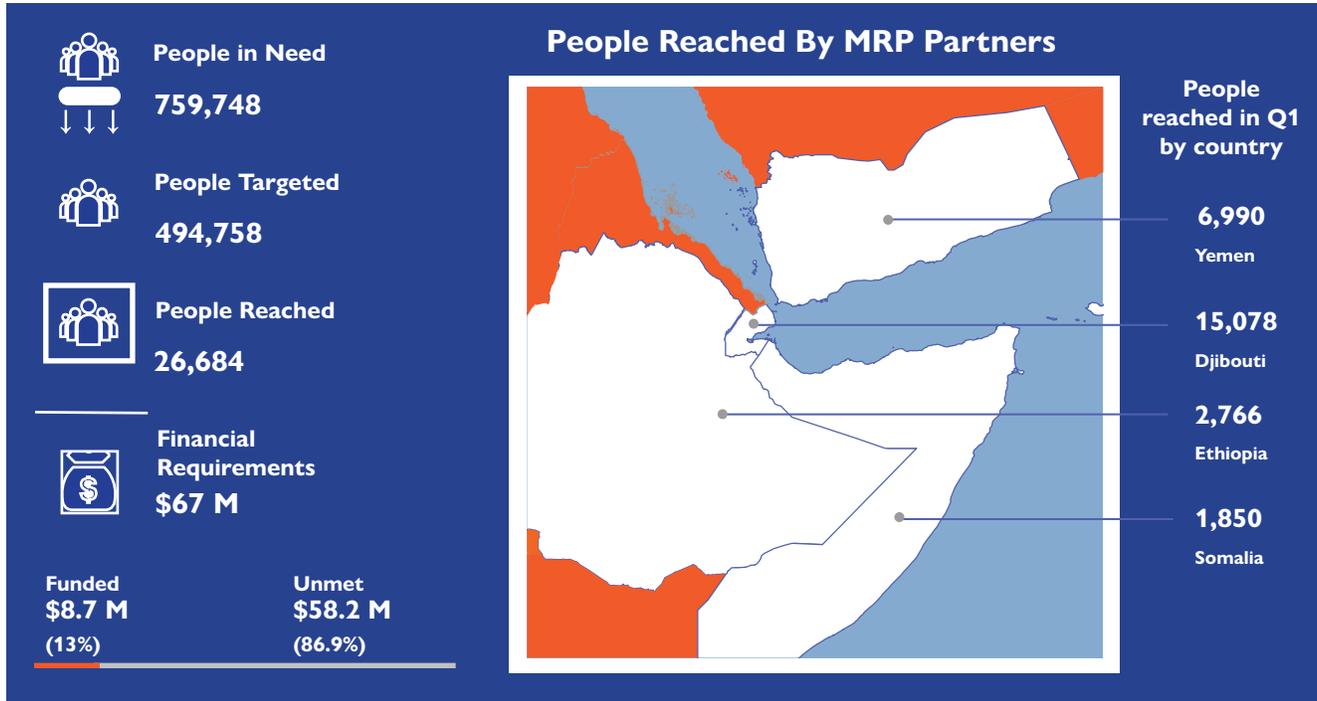
² Flow Monitoring Registry Dashboard - Non-Yemeni Migrant Arrivals and Yemeni Migrant Returnees in March 2022, IOM DTM

³ Yemen COVID-19 Mobility Restrictions - March 2022, IOM DTM

⁴ "Funding Needed to Assist Over 100,000 Ethiopian Migrants Returning from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia", 30 March 2022, IOM

Achievements

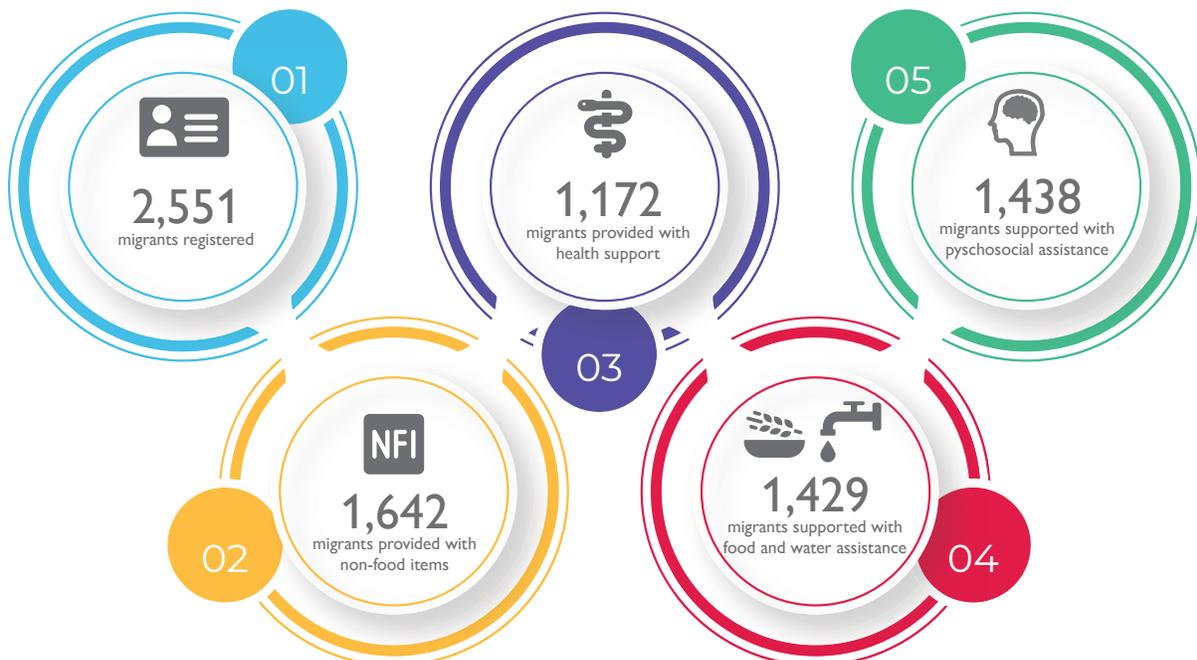
MRP partners continued to respond to the needs of migrants and host communities along the Eastern Route in Ethiopia, Djibouti, Somalia, and Yemen in the first quarter of 2022. Areas of intervention remained in line with the MRP Framework consisting of life-saving assistance; quality, timely, and inclusive protection assistance and services; the strengthening of access to return, sustainable reintegration, and community stabilization; and the building of evidence, partnerships, and coordination to enhance the humanitarian response and migration management throughout the migration route. MRP partners reached a total of 26,684 beneficiaries across the sectors mentioned above, including 19,184 men, 2,960 women, 983 girls, and 2,783 boys, as well as 774 government officials (313 men and 461 women), reaching 5.4 per cent of the 2022 annual target population across the four countries during the quarter under review. During the reporting period, the MRP received roughly \$8.7 million, representing 13 per cent of the 2022 MRP financial appeal.



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

MRP partners continued to provide life-saving assistance to vulnerable migrants and host communities in target countries along the Eastern Route, including assistance through the Migration Response Centres (MRCs). Assistance provided included food, NFIs, multi-purpose cash assistance, primary and secondary healthcare, water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH), safe and dignified accommodation, health clinics, mobile teams, way stations, and child protection desks. During Q1, MRP partners reached a total of 24,515 beneficiaries (18,237 men, 2,580 women, 2,724 boys, and 974 girls) with life-saving humanitarian assistance.

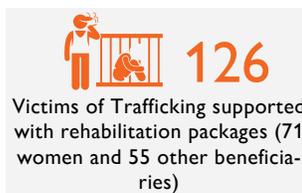
KEY ACHIEVEMENTS THROUGH THE MRCs



Strategic Objective 2 | Provide quality, timely and inclusive protection assistance and services to migrants and host communities

During the first quarter, MRP partners provided quality, timely, and inclusive protection assistance and services to migrants and host communities. These activities included providing specialized services to survivors of gender-based violence (GBV), victims of trafficking, and migrants at risk of trafficking and smuggling, in addition to child protection assistance for migrant children. MRP partners also led capacity-building efforts for government officials, front-line actors, and partners focused on child protection, case management, GBV, and counter-trafficking. MRP partners reached 2,532 beneficiaries (1,614 men, 516 women, 296 boys, and 106 girls) with specialized assistance (protection, child protection, GBV services, human rights violations, legal aid counseling, and MHPSS) and awareness-raising sessions. MRP partners trained 1,070 government officials (459 men and 611 women) in the prevention, mitigation, and response to GBV, counter-trafficking and smuggling of migrants, child protection, case management and MHPSS. Some of the highlights of the capacity building interventions are outlined below:

- In Somalia, MRP partners fostered linkages between the Marka District Peace and Safety Committee (DPSC) and the Women's Networking Group (WNG) in Marka by strengthening referral mechanisms for GBV cases, serving as a conduit between victims and informal/formal justice mechanisms in the absence of functional court, as well as enhancing connections to the for the provision of protection assistance to migrant and host community populations in Marka.
- MRP partners in Somalia conducted capacity-building workshops on community stabilization for the Ministry of Interior at the federal level and in three Federal Member States.
- In Ethiopia, MRP partners provided capacity building for Ethiopian Disaster Risk Management Commission (EDRMC) staff and other stakeholders on basic child protection and safeguarding. In addition, MRP partner shelters received donations of materials for child-friendly spaces.
- In Somalia, MRP partners conducted a Law Enforcement Bodies Training in Shashemene town, Somalia. The training aimed to familiarize 40 participants (frontline law enforcement officials from Sidama Regional State Bureaus of Justice, police officers, judges and prosecutors) on the protection of victims of trafficking and how to conduct victim-centered investigations on human trafficking and smuggling of migrants.



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

During Q1, MRP partners strengthened access to return, sustainable reintegration, and community stabilization through the provision of onward transportation assistance, assisted voluntary return, tailored and sustainable reintegration assistance. Economic empowerment opportunities such as livelihoods, training, and education, community initiatives fostering stabilization and resilience by serving communities were strengthened in Q1. The interventions included four community projects implemented in Ethiopia and three in Djibouti and MRP partners reached 2,527 beneficiaries (1,551 men, 693 women, 169 boys, and 114 girls).

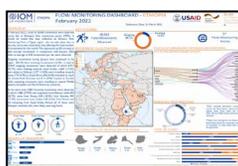


Community Stabilization Highlights

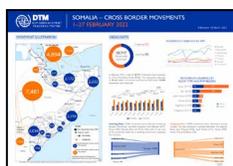
MRP partners in Ethiopia partnered with a local non-governmental organization (NGO) in Soro Woreda, SNNP, to implement a project to improve the response mechanisms and engagement of the community and government structures to ensure sustainable livelihoods for migrant returnees and potential migrants. This project included the construction of a micro-irrigation scheme, a modern silo, and hollow blocks for building, providing livelihood opportunities for 90 migrant returnees and potential migrants and 30 farmers' cooperatives. In Somalia, MRP partners constructed a community information centre in Barwaaqo in South West State, benefiting 1,106 individuals (357 men and 749 women), including migrants, returnees, and host communities. The centre will provide a strategic venue for community meetings, complaints and feedback mechanism services, and education and awareness-raising programmes.

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

During Q1, MRP partners produced and published flow monitoring reports, research studies, policy documents, and communication products. MRP partners published eight flow monitoring reports and three migration trends dashboards. MRP partners conducted three protection monitoring/assessment missions in Yemen, reporting specific trends and movements along the migratory routes linking the North-Marib Shabwa coastal areas in the south. See below for IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) publications and the Mixed Migration Centre's (MMC) Quarterly Mixed Migration Update for Q1. Key findings of MMC's Q1 update included a 69 per cent increase in migrant arrivals in Yemen from the Horn of Africa during the reporting period compared to the final quarter of 2021.



<https://dtm.iom.int/ethiopia>



<https://dtm.iom.int/somalia>



<https://dtm.iom.int/djibouti>



<https://dtm.iom.int/yemen>



MMC Q1 Update

Migration Evidence Gap Mapping

IOM commissioned a Migration Evidence Gap mapping to assess available migration research in Ethiopia and improve the accessibility of evidence around social norms, stigma, drivers and consequences of trafficking in persons (TiP). Based on the mapping report, IOM identified three migration researchers in Ethiopia who presented their findings at the National Migration Research Dissemination and Media Professionals Award event on 29 March 2022. The report indicates a lack of research regarding male migration, trends, migrants at places of destination, and dynamics of diaspora. The exercise also found a lack of a centralized database containing all migration research.

Atmospherics Report⁵

The Danish Refugee Council's (DRC) Ethiopia Migration Programme (EMP) produced three research publications examining forced returns from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The research reveals significant assistance and protection gaps for these cases, including shortfalls in service provision for returnees staying for long periods in shelters and transitional shelters. The EMP is funded through the United Kingdom Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Coordination

The MRP includes 41 partners across the four target countries, in line with the MRP's overall goal to enhance coordination and partnerships as critical enablers towards more effective response and effective use of scarce resources. The MRP Regional Coordination Committees (RCC) for Regional Directors and technical focal points comprises 15 partners at the regional level. The below section includes key highlights of MRP coordination at the regional and

Regional Coordination

MRP partners launched the Migrant Response Plan for the Horn of Africa and Yemen 2022 on 3 February. The launch event brought together 165 participants, including the IOM Director General and Ministers and high-level government officials from the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, the Republic of Djibouti, the Federal Government of Somalia, and the Republic of Yemen as well as donors, including the United States Government, European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), and the King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Center (KSRelief). The key highlights from the launch included:

- The acknowledgment that the situation of migrants along the Eastern Route, particularly vulnerable groups such as women and girls and UASC, requires complex cooperation and multi-partner engagement.
- The plan was applauded for its comprehensiveness as a strategic framework, inclusivity, and inter-regional and route-based approach.
- A unified call to donors and partners to ramp up efforts and increase the allocation of resources to the MRP.



National Task Force Meeting & Training on Anti-Child Trafficking in Ethiopia @ SCI 2022

MRP coordinators from IOM met on 20-22 February 2022 to discuss strengthening internal coordination mechanisms, strategic planning, information sharing, resource mobilization, visibility, and communications during a strategic retreat in Nairobi, Kenya. The development of a comprehensive action plan detailing and unifying actions both at the regional and country-level until 2024 was drafted during the retreat. The MRP will hold a corresponding retreat for partners in Q2.

Country Coordination

- In March 2022, MRP partners in Ethiopia established a dedicated MRP coordination platform and 19 local/international NGOs and UN agency representatives attended the first meeting. During the meeting, partners revised the MRP Terms of Reference (ToR) and identified priority areas for joint programming. This meeting served as a considerable milestone for the MRP coordination in Ethiopia.
- MRP partners in Ethiopia organized the first National Migration Research Working Group meeting in March to discuss yearly action plans and a five-year strategic plan. The 13 officials from government and UN agencies who attended the conference addressed the performance and challenges of the five-year strategic plan and the yearly operational plan. The participants also developed an action plan for 2022.

Projected Situation For Q2

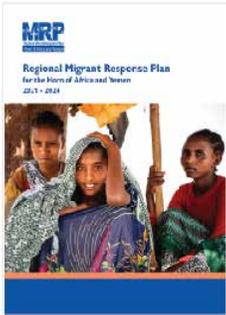
In Yemen, the number of stranded migrants in all Southern governorates is expected to remain high in addition to the migrants deported from Northern Yemen to Lahj and Aden governorates, leading to increased demand for voluntary repatriation. In response to the increased request for voluntary repatriation, MRP partners in Yemen plan to resume Voluntary Humanitarian Returns (VHR) to Ethiopia in close collaboration with MRP partners in Ethiopia and authorities from Yemen and Ethiopia.

VHR from Yemen is expected to start in May to support the movement of approximately 5,000 migrants. A delegation of Ethiopian officials is expected to travel to Yemen in the second quarter of 2022 to conduct nationality verifications and issue travel documents for stranded migrants in Aden and Marib willing to return voluntarily to Ethiopia. Following the agreement between the Governments of Ethiopia and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, MRP partners anticipate that more than 50,000 migrants will be involuntarily returned to Ethiopia in the next quarter.

About the MRP

The regional Migrant Response Plan (MRP) for the Horn of Africa and Yemen 2021 – 2024 is an inter-agency migrant-focused humanitarian and development response strategy for vulnerable migrants from the Horn of Africa, specifically Somalia and Ethiopia, transiting through Djibouti, moving to and from Yemen. It provides an essential strategic framework to ensure a whole-of-society, whole of-route, and whole-of-government approach to addressing migrants' protection needs, risks and vulnerabilities. The MRP is led by IOM's Regional Office for the East and Horn of Africa based in Nairobi. MRP partners include governments, intergovernmental actors, including UN Agencies, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), and non-governmental actors working in close collaboration at the regional and country levels to set strategic objectives, determine yearly operational priorities and budgets, support country offices in implementation through capacity building and technical support, and identifying challenges and trends that inform partners' responses. In 2022, the MRP consists of 41 organizations across the four countries.

Publications



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



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



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



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



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

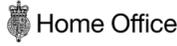


[Download](#) the Regional Migrant Response Plan for the Horn of Africa and Yemen 2022



[Download](#) the Regional Migrant Response Plan Photobook

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