# Regional Migrant Response Plan

for the Horn of Africa and Yemen

## 2021 Third Quarter Update

**July - September**

### Migrants on the Move

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Entered Djibouti</th>
<th>Entered Somalia</th>
<th>Entered Yemen</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>17,659</td>
<td>7,029</td>
<td>6,091</td>
</tr>
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</table>

### Stranded Migrants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stranded in Djibouti</th>
<th>Stranded in Somalia</th>
<th>Stranded in Yemen</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>993</td>
<td>444</td>
<td>30,000</td>
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</table>

### Migrant Returns

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Returns in Yemen - Djibouti</th>
<th>Returns in Yemen - Somalia</th>
<th>Kingdom of Saudi Arabia - Ethiopia</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1,568*</td>
<td>434*</td>
<td>40,016**</td>
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### Population Reached in Q3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population Reached</th>
<th>190,343</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>110,350 Migrants</td>
<td>79,993 Host Communities</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*A Spontaneous Returns  ** Forced Returns

A female migrant receiving medical support and Assisted Voluntary Return (AVR) at the Migration Response Centre (MRC) in Hargeisa. ©Claudia Rosel / IOM 2021
Migrants moving along the Horn of Africa and Yemen Route endure extreme weather conditions and harsh terrain during their journey, increased protection risks and vulnerabilities including but not limited to physical assault, xenophobic, discriminatory attacks and inadequate access to healthcare and other basic services and overall difficult living conditions in transit and destination countries. Migrants also face the dangers of human trafficking, abduction, arbitrary arrest and detention, various forms of gender-based violence (GBV), and the risk of death while crossing the Bab-el-Mandeb strait to the Gulf of Aden. The continued impact of COVID-19 and stricter controls along the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Yemen border, the protracted conflict in Yemen and the widespread economic challenges have compounded the challenges faced by migrants. An estimated 30,000 migrants are currently stranded in Yemen. The stranded migrants live in overcrowded informal settlements, transit hubs, with extremely limited or no access to essential services.

As of 30 September 2021, 993 migrants on their way to the Arabian Peninsula were stranded in Djibouti and gathered in 11 spontaneous sites along the migration route. In Somalia, an estimated 444 migrants remain stranded in and around Bossaso, unable to continue with their journeys or return home.

Smugglers often hold migrants captive for extended periods with significant protection risks and threats to their lives, safety, and dignity. At the same time, thousands of migrants in Yemen are also being held in detention centres. Migrants also endure stigmatization as potential COVID-19 carriers resulting in reduced, or denial of access to essential services such as primary health care, food, or shelter assistance at various points throughout their journey, with limited support from local communities. Migrants’ options for safe return to countries of origin is also limited.

In Ethiopia, the large-scale returns of migrants from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia further exacerbates the situation as many of them arrived in vulnerable states. In Q3, a total of 40,016 returnees (11,918 females, 28,098 males, many traveling with infants and young children) were returned to Ethiopia thus increasing the need to provide life-saving assistance and specialized protection interventions to returnees. In addition, the ongoing conflict in some areas of return, particularly in Tigray and parts of Amhara and Afar regions, where 37 percent of all returnees in 2021¹ are from have exacerbated an already dire situation. The volatile security situation in these conflict-affected areas has compromised capacities for safe return and increased humanitarian and protection needs, risks and vulnerabilities in areas where migrants have temporarily found refuge.


Achievements against Targets | January - September, 2021

- **Funding status**
  - USD33M Received
  - 33% Funded

- **People reached**
  - 291K Reached
  - 52% Reached

- **Activity status**
  - 122 of 443 Activities ongoing
  - (72%) Pending
  - (28%) Ongoing

Overall achievement against target
Country-wise achievement against target
Overall gaps against targets

Funding status

- Djibouti: 43% Funded
- Ethiopia: 21% Funded
- Somalia: 34% Funded
- Yemen: 32% Funded

People reached

- Djibouti: 39% Reached
- Ethiopia: 50% Reached
- Somalia: 51% Reached
- Yemen: 58% Reached
Following the slight relaxation of mobility restrictions due to COVID-19, migrant arrivals in Yemen increased slightly in Q1 but decreased again in Q2 as the seas got too rough to cross safely during the later summer months. However, an uptick in arrivals was observed in Q3 as the weather improved. The Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) recorded approximately 6,091 arrivals (898 females and 5,193 males) at five Flow Monitoring Points (FMPs) along the southern coast of Yemen. This represents an increase of 305 per cent as compared to the third quarter of 2020, when only 1,505 migrant arrivals were recorded due to COVID-19 induced travel restrictions. Furthermore, this represents a 19 per cent increase compared to the first quarter of 2021, even though the mobility restrictions put in place were further eased, albeit slowly.

The Yemen arrivals came from Somalia (1,727) and Djibouti (4,364). Most migrant arrivals into Yemen were Ethiopian nationals (88 per cent), while the remainder were Somali (12 per cent). Around 95 unaccompanied and separated children (UASCs; 2% of total movements) were tracked upon arrival in Yemen. This represents 12 percent of all the children travelling, which is almost similar to the 13 percent tracked in the second quarter of 2021. In Djibouti, 2,870 spontaneous returns were tracked along the shores of Obock region in the third quarter of 2020 when compared to 1,568 in the same period in 2021.
In Q3, MRP partners provided diversified and specialized range of services to 190,343 migrants and host communities (73,023 females and 117,320 males) as follows:

- Djibouti, 4,242 (617 females, 3,625 males)
- Ethiopia 39,940 (11,918 females, 28,022 males)
- Somalia 116,641 (54,002 females, 62,639 males)
- Yemen 29,520 (6,486 females, 23,034 males)

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

Other specific achievements in Q3 include:

- In July 2021, MRP partners supported a second nationality verification mission for 2,278 Ethiopian migrants requesting support through the Voluntary Humanitarian Return (VHR) programme in Yemen. In close collaboration with the government of Ethiopia and local authorities in Yemen, 1,839 (191 females and 1,648 males, 201 UASC) stranded migrants were able to return to Ethiopia in Q3. One VHR flight carrying 79 migrants departed from Sana’a, where VHR assistance had been blocked since 2019.

- A new Migrant Response Point was established in Marib city in Yemen and MRP partners are coordinating with health authorities to provide access to COVID-19 vaccinations and life-saving assistance to stranded migrants.

- In Somalia, MRP child protection partners coordinated with the Federal and State Ministry of Health (MOH) and delivered direct health assistance to 36,187 returnees (11,995 girls, 11,525 boys, 6,460 over five females and 6,207 males over five years) in five states and Banadir region of Somalia. MRP partners also rolled out disease outbreak preparedness, including management of communicable and non-communicable diseases, mental health, and psychosocial support (MHPSS), immunization, and health education.

**OTHER FORMS OF ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY MRP PARTNERS IN Q3 2021**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assistance Category</th>
<th>Beneficiaries</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vulnerable migrants received food distribution during the reporting period</td>
<td>31,102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People reached with Water, Sanitation and Hygiene items, services and infrastructure</td>
<td>6,684</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vulnerable migrants received Non-Food items</td>
<td>18,193</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People reached with Multipurpose cash allowances</td>
<td>3,883</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vulnerable migrants were referred to local health facilities for more serious medical conditions</td>
<td>751</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 The NFIs included dignity kits, blankets, shirts, and sanitary pads (for females- 2-3 packs each) and hygiene kits, including personal protective equipment (PPE), such as sanitizers and face masks.

2 The type of health services included life-saving emergency and primary healthcare curative services with focus on maternal, newborn and children (<5yrs), basic emergency and obstetric and neonatal care (BEmONC).
KEY ACHIEVEMENTS THROUGH THE MRCs

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


Development of the MRC strategy

• In Q3, a regional MRC Strategy for East and Horn of Africa and Yemen (2021-2024) was developed through a collaborative process by partners from governments, UN agencies, non-governmental organizations, and migrant community associations.

• The purpose of the strategy is to define direction and priorities for the MRCs, harness partners’ contributions and streamline coordination amongst all stakeholders involved, and effectively communicate the MRCs’ work and vision to others.

• The three strategic priorities agreed by the partners include (i) Contribute to the prevention of protection risks and vulnerabilities amongst migrants and host communities in vulnerable situations; (ii) Strengthen immediate and longer-term tailored direct assistance and specialized protection services to migrants vulnerable to violence, exploitation, and abuse; and (iii) Strengthen ownership and capacity of MRC through strategic partnerships.

01
2,528 migrants registered

02
1,629 migrants provided with non-food items

03
1,174 migrants provided with health support

04
1,241 migrants supported with food and water assistance

05
1,147 migrants supported with psychosocial assistance

* The factsheet presents key findings during information gathered in the MRC during screening rather than the entire report and should be taken as indicative rather than representative and should not be used to generalize across the region.
Strategic Objective 2

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

In Q3, MRP partners contributed towards improved quality and timely protection assistance and services to migrants and host communities:

- 805 UASC (258 females and 547 males) received specialized child protection services, including family tracing and reunification and case management services. The assistance was provided through the MRCs and MRP partner shelters¹ (Agar Ethiopia Charitable Society, Hope for Justice, and Good Samaritan Association). Additionally, 11 (8 girls and 3 boys) children were referred for protection services as some of them had experienced GBV or required specialized services.

- 2,466 Migrants provided with mental health and psychosocial support and life skills training (346 females, 2,120 males including 278 UASC)

- 1,233 Vulnerability Assessments conducted at the MRCs (147 females and 1,086 males)

- 122 Victims of Trafficking supported with rehabilitation packages (52 females, 70 males including 31 UASC)

- The vulnerability assessments were conducted at the MRCs and Points of Entry (POEs) as part of the case management procedure for providing tailored protection assistance for migrants and effective case planning and referrals. To improve living conditions for stranded migrants in Aden, MRP partners instituted cash for work programme in November 2020, which continued throughout the third quarter of this year. This programme is providing 1,200 migrants who have no income or awaiting to return through VHR assistance with the means to sustain themselves.

¹The shelters provide accommodation, food, water, clothing, medication, education, counselling, and reintegration assistance.
During Q3, the following progress was made towards strengthening access to return and sustainable reintegration:

A total of 1,602 migrant returnees (358 females, 2,244 males, including 131 children) were assisted with onward transportation to return to their communities of origin.

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS/OTHER SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS**

As part of the programs to promote income-generating activities in Djibouti, MRP partners collaborated with the Ministry of Women and Family Affairs and trained 20 members from two women’s cooperatives in poultry farming. The training in the Dikhil, Kontali and Cheikati regions provided the women with skills in poultry farming techniques and promoted their economic and social empowerment.

In Ethiopia, 58 returnees received reintegration support through the MRP partners’ rehabilitation centres. In delivering the reintegration services, the MRP partners followed a victim-centred and trauma-informed approach, ensured safeguarding of child protection policies and procedures, and provided comprehensive quality counselling services to beneficiaries. The returnees were also provided with opportunities including, livelihoods training, vocational and basic business skills. MRP partners supported the returnees to establish an alliance group for survivors.

In Somalia, two meetings with 19 community members were held within the framework of the community-based reintegration project: ‘Support the psychosocial community-based reintegration of returnees and communities of return.’ The project is implemented by SOYDAVO in Somaliland to discuss ways to promote social inclusion and mainstream psychosocial support for returnees in Hargeisa.

In Yemen, MRP partners promoted participatory and community-centred approaches and engaged local communities by involving community members and local leaders in decision-making to ensure ownership and accountability to affected populations.

**Awareness Raising Campaigns**

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

- A discussion was held with 38 members of the community of Fanteherou and five migrants to better understand the dynamics within the host community and improve cohabitation and social cohesion.
- In Obock, focus group discussions on human trafficking and smuggling of migrants targeting 60 migrants were organized in the localities of Fanteherou and Badaf. A documentary film on the risks and dangers of human trafficking and irregular migration was screened to benefit migrants residing at the MRC.
- An awareness-raising and discussion workshop on trafficking in persons legislation for 20 civil society actors and local authorities was jointly organized by MRP partners and the Ministry of Justice and Penitentiary Affairs on the occasion of the World Day against Trafficking in Persons.

In Ethiopia, several awareness-raising activities were conducted in Q3, including:

- A weekly radio program was aired on Oromia Broadcasting Corporation Radio Program targeting potential migrants to raise awareness on the dangers of irregular migration and highlight available options for safe migration.
- MRP partners distributed 4,804 Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials on the same topics.
- Twenty host community members received orientation as part of the community Behavioural Change Communication Intervention.
- The Community Conversation Programme reached 2,750 persons with safe migration messaging in hotspot communities.
- 563 hotline calls were received from 271 females and 292 males, through the Dessie Hotline, in the Amhara Regional State. The Dessie Hotline provides information services to potential migrants in the regional state.

In Somalia, awareness-raising activities conducted by MRP partners included:

- Seven awareness raising sessions on the risks of irregular migration, services available at the MRC and COVID-19 Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) were held at the MRCs in Hargeisa and Bosasso reaching a total of 3,112 migrants and host community members (2,589 females and 523 males).
- Returnees and host community members hired and trained by MRP partners as hygiene promoters distributed 1,000 hygiene kits to 1,000 households in Mogadishu.

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

- MRP partners conducted regular hygiene promotion sessions and awareness-raising on COVID-19 IPC and the importance and benefits of the vaccination against COVID-19 among the migrant population and local communities. The response also advocated for the equitable inclusion of migrants in vaccination campaigns in Aden and Marib.
- The Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) designed, printed and disseminated Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials on integrated protection assistance, migration and displacement. The IEC materials were disseminated to beneficiaries and key stakeholders during legal aid mobile clinics. The materials were developed in line with social and cultural considerations, mindful of the security situation in Yemen, contextualized and translated to meet the needs of the migrants.
Towards increasing the evidence base on mobility patterns along the Eastern route, eight FM reports and six migrants’ presence dashboards were released in Q3 as set out below:

- Djibouti: One FM report and six migrants presence and stranded migrants reports: https://dtm.iom.int/djibouti;
- Ethiopia: Two FM reports: https://dtm.iom.int/ethiopia;
- Somalia: Two FM reports: https://dtm.iom.int/somalia;
- Yemen: Three FM reports https://dtm.iom.int/yemen and three internal protection monitoring monthly reports were produced by MRP partners. These protection monitoring exercises were crucial in identifying key protection concerns and migrant flows throughout the quarter.

**Surveys/Assessments/Research**

**Regional Data Hub**

The IOM Regional Data Hub (RDH) released the Eastern Corridor Migrant Situation Report September 2021 on the effect of COVID-19 mobility restrictions on migrants along the Eastern corridor. The findings show some resumption in mobility trends, although the COVID-19 impact is still present across most of the mobility dimensions analyzed.

The RDH also released A Region on the Move: Mid-Year Mobility Overview (January to June 2021). The report provides insights on the primary protection concerns for migrants, the assistance provided and COVID-19 risk mitigation measures. Some key highlights related to the Eastern Route:

- The Horn of Africa (HoA) Route still reports the highest volume of migration movements (52%), followed by the Eastern Route (39%), Southern (8%) and Northern Route (1%). These trends are in striking difference from the usual mobility dynamics observed in the region, which usually was Eastern Corridor dominated.

- While around 10,000 new arrivals from the HoA were tracked along the coast of Yemen (Jan to June 2021), for the first time since 2018, more migrants were observed returning from Yemen than arriving in Yemen from the Horn (from Feb to May 2021, 7,228 migrants were tracked returning against 3,944 arriving in Yemen). This provides compelling evidence on how deteriorating the situation for irregular migrants in Yemen is between being stranded, detained, or unable to proceed onward in their journey.

- In Somalia, ten members (all male) of the Puntland Mixed Migration Task Force, including UNHCR, Puntland Ministry of Interior, DRC and IOM, held a meeting in Bossaso to discuss the impact of the conflict in northern Ethiopia on the voluntary return of Ethiopian migrants from Somalia. The partners will refer asylum seekers to UNHCR and the Ministry of Women Development & Family Affairs will provide long-term shelter to UASCs.

- In Ethiopia, MRP partners held a coordination meeting for all partners involved in responding to forced returns from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The MRP coordination unit published the digital version of the MRF Photobook 2021.

- The MRP Photobook compiles striking images and powerful accounts of the women, men and children who bravely travel along the Eastern Route. Though these images represent only a few of the thousands of journeys undertaken by migrants between the Horn of Africa and Yemen each year, the photos convey the gravity of the dire conditions faced by migrants who are simply searching for a better, safer life. Furthermore, the photobook provides a glimpse into the life-saving assistance provided to migrants, supporting reintegration into communities, thus changing the narrative into stories of hope and life.
Capacity Building

In Djibouti:

- In July 2021, MRP partners donated equipment to the Djibouti Coast Guard. The equipment, consisting of first aid kits, body bags and life jackets, will facilitate rescue operations at sea and assist vulnerable migrants transiting through Djibouti.
- In August, MRP partners held a workshop for 26 civil society actors to present the national referral mechanism for vulnerable migrants, map the available protection services for the migrants in Djibouti and discuss the challenges and needs for migrant's protection and assistance.
- In September 2021, with the support of H.E.M Abdoulkader Kamil Mohamed, the Prime Minister of Djibouti and the Minister of Interior launched the National Migration Strategy and the IOM Country Strategy (2021-2024) in the presence of members of the government, Ambassadors and heads of UN agencies. The National Migration Strategy, which was developed in close collaboration with relevant ministries, sets out the Government of Djibouti's migration priorities and will serve as the basis for the work of the National Migration Coordination office, which was established in July 2021 under the Ministry of Interior.

In Ethiopia:

A total of 761 participants (445 males and 316 females) participated in different capacity building initiatives as follows:

- Training of Trainers (ToT) workshop for government officials from Immigration, Nationality and Vital Events Agency (INVEA) and border control posts (BCPs) to strengthen the capacity of the officials on the Immigration responsibilities and migration concepts, Integrated Border Management, fraud detection and forensic document examination for INVEA officials, revision of the standard operating procedures on service provision for returnees, training on the Migrants in Countries in Crisis framework, counter-trafficking and/or smuggling of migrants, MHPSS, and Migrant Protection and Victim Assistance.
- Child Protection Information Management Specialist and community mobilizers were trained on child protection, monitoring and evaluation, and case management to strengthen child protection information management systems. A workshop was conducted for child protection actors in Diredawa to establish and strengthen child protection information management system to closely monitor protection issues and services for migrants and returnee children.

In Somalia:

Three trainings were conducted targeting 58 people (21 females and 37 males) as outlined below:

- MRP partners jointly facilitated two trainings aimed at increasing knowledge of child protection practices for migrant children both stranded in the country as well as returning migrants and strengthening the collaboration between MRP partners.
- The AVRR, National Displacement and Refugee Agency (NDRA) Advisor facilitated training on Migrant Protection Principles and Practice and Basics of Smuggling and Human Trafficking for MRC staff and three male returnees in Hargeisa.
- MRP child protection partners developed institutional capacities to address public health threats while strengthening preparedness through staff training to improve prevention and response protocols, surveillance systems and close monitoring of disease trends.

Equipment support was provided by MRP partners as indicated:

In Ethiopia

- Provided INVEA with equipment and technical support to set up the first forensic document examination laboratory at the Bole International Airport.
- Donated twenty motorcycles to INVEA to enhance the mobility for the Immigration officials’ border patrol coverage at various PoEs in the country.
- Provided the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MoLSA) with Information Technology equipment to enable the operationalization of the established Migration Resource Centre.

In Somalia:

Participants included officials from the MRC in Mogadishu, representatives from the Ministry of Women, Human Rights Development, Benadir Regional Administration (BRA), Warsada, Somali Women Development Centre and University social workers, Ethiopian community, police, immigration, MRC, Marines and Ministry of Employment, Social Affairs and Family (MESAF in Hargeisa).

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In Djibouti, with the ongoing trends of returns from Yemen and the limited capacity of the MRC in Obock to host migrants, MRP partners have been hosting and assisting the most vulnerable migrants at the MRC. The less vulnerable migrants are assisted with food, water and NFIs in front of the centre before they continue their journey (mainly on foot) back to Ethiopia.

The ongoing conflict in Northern Ethiopia which is expected to continue into Q4 and beyond will result in a deteriorated protection environment for civilians currently in these locations and at the same time hinder sustainable reintegration of returnees providing an impetus for irregular migration and re-migration. MRP partners anticipate increased requests in the next reporting period to provide psychosocial support and rehabilitation services for the returnees from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia who cannot return to their communities of origin. The MRP partners foresee an increase in the demand for alternative care solutions for those returnees who cannot go back to their communities of origin.

The regional Migrant Response Plan (MRP) for the Horn of Africa and Yemen 2021 – 2024 is an inter-agency migrant-focused humanitarian and development response strategy for vulnerable migrants from the Horn of Africa, specifically Somalia and Ethiopia, transiting through Djibouti, moving to and from Yemen. It provides an essential strategic framework to ensure a whole-of-society, whole-of-route, and whole-of-government approach to addressing migrants’ protection needs, risks and vulnerabilities. The MRP is led by IOM’s Regional Office for the East and Horn of Africa based in Nairobi. MRP partners include intergovernmental and non-governmental actors working in close collaboration 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.