



Regional Migrant Response Plan

for the Horn of Africa and Yemen

2021 - 2024



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Cover Page Photo: Migrant women crossing Djibouti | Photo credit: Alexander Bee/IOM 2020

LIST OF ACRONYMS

| | |
|---------|---|
| 4Mi | Mixed Migration Monitoring Mechanism Initiative |
| AAP | Accountability to Affected Populations |
| AVRR | Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration |
| AU | African Union |
| BIA/BID | Best Interest Assessment/Determination |
| BRA | Benadir Regional Administration |
| CSO | Civil Society Organization |
| DISED | Directorate of Statistics and Demographic Studies |
| DTM | Displacement Tracking Matrix |
| EAC | East African Community |
| ECC | Ethiopian Community Centre |
| FTR | Family Tracing and Reunification |
| GBV | Gender-Based Violence |
| GCM | Global Compact for Migration |
| HDPN | Humanitarian, Development, Peace Nexus |
| HLP | Housing, Land and Property |
| HNO | Humanitarian Needs Overview |
| HRP | Humanitarian Response Plan |
| IASC | Inter-Agency Standing Committee |
| IGAD | Intergovernmental Authority on Development |
| IDP | Internally Displaced Person |
| IHR | International Health Regulations |
| IMS | Information Management System |
| MENA | Middle East and North Africa |
| MHPSS | Mental Health and Psychosocial Support |
| MMTF | Mixed Migration Task Force |
| MoLSA | Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs |
| MoWaF | Ministry of Women and Family |
| MRC | Migration Response Centre |
| MRP | Migrant Response Plan |
| NCM | National Coordination Mechanism |
| NFI | Non-Food Items |
| NGO | Non-Governmental Organization |
| NDF | National Development Frameworks |
| NDRMC | National Disaster Risk Management Commission |
| NPC | National Partnership Commission |
| PiN | People in Need |

| | |
|--------|--|
| ONARS | Office of the National Assistance for Refugees |
| PFA | Psychosocial First Aid |
| PoE | Point of Entry |
| PSEA | Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse |
| RCC | Regional Coordination Committee |
| RCCE | Risk Communication and Community Engagement |
| SADC | South African Development Community |
| SADD | Sex and Age Disaggregated Data |
| SOP | Standard Operating Procedures |
| UASC | Unaccompanied and Separated Children |
| UN | United Nations |
| UNSDCF | Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework |
| VHR | Voluntary Humanitarian Return |
| VOT | Victim of Trafficking |
| WASH | Water, Sanitation and Hygiene |

Ethiopian migrants crossing Djibouti | Photo credit: Alexander Bee/IOM 2020



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The regional Migrant Response Plan (MRP) for the Horn of Africa and Yemen 2021 – 2024 is a migrant-focused humanitarian and development response strategy for vulnerable migrants from the Horn of Africa, specifically Somalia, Djibouti and Ethiopia, 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 2021 – 2024 is the result of an intra-regional field-driven strategic planning process, bringing together 23 appealing organizations, in consultation with host governments and authorities, United Nations agencies, civil society organizations (CSO), international and national non-governmental organizations (NGOs) as well as migrants and host communities. It complements affected countries' efforts and the work of humanitarian and development actors throughout the region in supporting safe migration, providing life-saving assistance and services, improving protection and promoting sustainable reintegration and community stabilization. The MRP provides a coherent and consistent response framework to the needs of migrants and their host communities within the Horn of Africa/Yemen region.

The increase in the number of partners appealing for funding under this plan to respond to the migration crisis along the Eastern Route shows that the plight of migrants and affected communities in the Horn of Africa and Yemen is increasingly recognized by governments and the international community. The increase is in line with a rise in the affected and targeted populations as the number of migrants and host community members along the Eastern Route needing assistance continues to grow.

The plan provides an overview of the strategic framework and priority themes that underpin the regional and country level responses. It seeks to respond to the main challenges that need to be addressed over the next four years while adjusting to the ever-increasing obstacles to mobility and the stigmatization of migrants that results in xenophobia and a worsening protection environment for people on the move. The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted on migrants, host communities and the wider populations in the region. It has significantly influenced the planning for this response which is still expected to continue to influence mobility patterns, and the broader health, humanitarian and development aspects of the affected countries for the foreseeable future. Despite the disruption caused by COVID-19, migration flows are expected to return to pre-pandemic times with the easing of restrictions and increasing economic hardship in affected countries. The MRP aims to serve as a flexible mechanism to respond to evolving migration trends, as well as broader health, humanitarian and socioeconomic developments on migrants and host communities for a more holistic response to irregular migration.

Transit migrants in Djibouti | Photo credit: IOM 2020

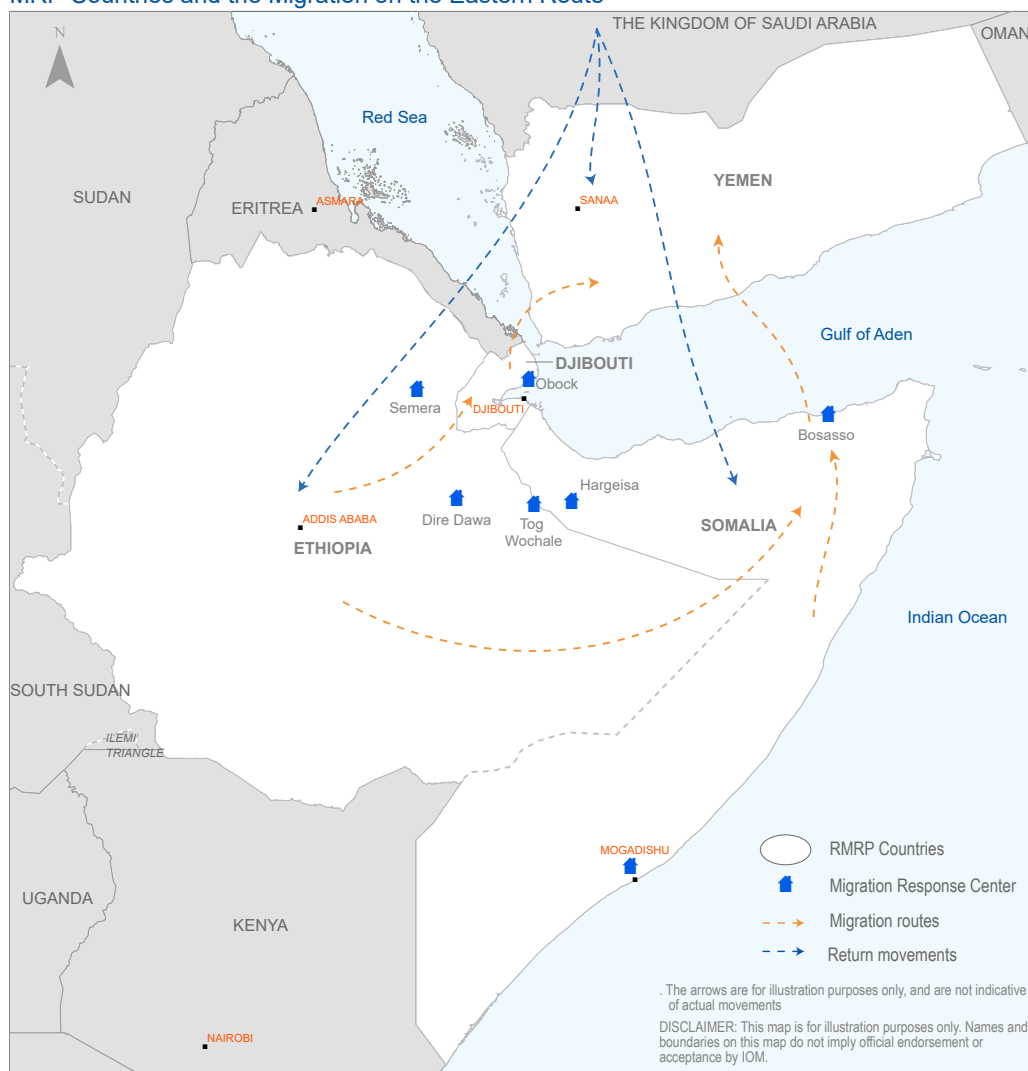


SCOPE AND OUTLOOK OF THE MIGRANT RESPONSE PLAN

The MRP aims to address the humanitarian, development and protection needs of migrants along the Eastern migratory route¹, including migrants in bi-directional movements between the Horn of Africa and Yemen, transiting migrants, stranded migrants, settled migrants and returnees. Vulnerable members of host and transit communities with significant numbers of departing, transiting, or returning migrants are also included in the scope of this plan. The MRP uses a route-based approach, and the geographical scope includes Djibouti, Ethiopia, Somalia, and Yemen. As such, the MRP cuts across two regions, the Horn of Africa and the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) regions, and linkages will be created between actors in each region covering all aspects of the MRP response. Asylum seekers, refugees, refugee returnees and internally displaced people are not specifically included as beneficiaries of this response plan but may benefit from assistance that is not status-oriented but is needs-based. Close links and referral mechanisms will be established at assistance, policy, coordination, and capacity-building levels.²

This route-based approach is in line with the United Nations Secretary-General's Agenda for Humanity, the United Nations Development System Reform, the Grand Bargain global commitments and the principles of the New Way of Working. These are call for collective and coherent support to reduce people's needs and vulnerabilities, based on comparative advantages of the humanitarian and development actors involved in addressing migrant needs across the region. With the aim of contributing to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)³, this multi-year and multi-partner strategy provides larger time frames to plan collective outcomes, map existing plans and adapt programming to the contexts and requirements in the affected countries. This also enables partners to enhance the support provided to governments in the areas of humanitarian and protection assistance and sustainable solutions while addressing the drivers of irregular migration. This document will provide the framework for the four-year strategic plan, while focusing on the more detailed response for 2021.

MRP Countries and the Migration on the Eastern Route



1. The MRP focuses on the Eastern Route – movement between countries in the East and Horn of Africa region to Yemen and towards countries on the Arab Peninsula.

2. Other population groups in need in the affected countries are targeted under the country-level Humanitarian Response Plans. MRP planned interventions are aligned and linked to those plans to ensure a comprehensive response to all persons in need.

3. United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs; <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>

BILL & MELINDA GATES foundation



FAAH-FAAHIN KU SAABSAN MASHRUUCA

MAGACA MASHRUUCA: BIXINTA TALAALKA JOOGTADA AH EE LA SIINAYO CARUURTA AY DA'DOODU KA YARTAHAY SHAN SANO IYO HOYADA UURKA LEH EDEGMADA CADAAD, GALMUDUG, SOMALIA.

PROJECT NAME: SOM_CHILD HEALTH_ROUTINE IMMUNIZATION IN ADADO DISTRICT GALMUDUG, SOMALIA

XOGTA MASHRUUCA- PROJECT DETAILS

Howsha (Activity): Expanded Programme on Immunization
Deeq bixiyaha Mashruuca (Funded by): Mashruucan waxaa maalgelliyay Bill & Melinda Gates foundation.

Waqtiga mashruucu soconaayo: (Taariikhda Bilowdga iyo Dhamaadka): 01 December 2019 ilaa 30 November 2020.

Goobta uu ka shaqeynayo: Mashruucan waxa uu ka shaqeynayaalix (6) tuulo oo ka tirsan degmada cadaado ee gobolka Galgadud, haayada badbaadada caruurta waxa ay ka fulineysaa mashruucan tuulooyinka kala ah: Kaxandl, Caadakibir, Dhagaxdher, Gidheys, Karaama, iyo Bakiin.



A migrant child vaccinated by the Save the Children International staff in Somalia. | Photo credit: Save the Children International, 2020

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

The migratory movement from the Horn of Africa along the Eastern Route to Yemen has traditionally been one of the world's busiest maritime routes,⁴ with numbers steadily rising over the last decade. Reports indicate that an estimated 160,000 migrants arrived in Yemen in 2018,⁵ while 138,213 (99,843 men, 24,160 women, 10,038 boys, 4,172 girls) arrived in 2019.⁶ In 2020, COVID-19 brought new challenges and risks for migrants travelling through the Eastern Route. The pandemic prompted governments in the Horn of Africa and the Gulf states to impose stringent border closures, increase movement restrictions and tighten security along known migratory routes. This had a significant impact on migrants and communities in the region, with regards to both mobility and access to basic essentials like health care, access to livelihoods, services, social cohesion and socio-economic aspects.

The movement restrictions impacted migrant flows, with 37,535⁷ (27,197 men, 5,854 women, 3,467 boys, 1,017 girls) new arrivals recorded in Yemen in 2020, representing a decrease of 73 per cent compared to 2019.⁸ Due to the border closures and the disruptions in humanitarian assistance in affected countries, migrants were increasingly forced to rely on human traffickers and smugglers to undertake even more perilous routes to avert border restrictions and border patrols. Thousands of migrants were also stranded throughout 2020, with an estimated 14,500 migrants in Yemen, 681 in Djibouti⁹ and over 900 in Somalia at the end of the year. However, with the easing of the restrictions, a reversal of this trend is to be expected. The last quarter of 2020 already saw a slow resumption of movements between East Africa and Yemen. Between October and December 2020, there was an increase of 193 per cent in arrivals in Yemen compared to the previous quarter.¹⁰

Ethiopia continues to be a major source, transit, and destination country for mixed migration flows, where climate change and conflict exacerbate the severe socioeconomic challenges faced by communities largely dependent on agriculture. Djibouti's geographical position on the Eastern migration route makes it a key transit country for irregular migrants towards the Middle East, especially Saudi Arabia. Recently released data shows that there are 119,700 migrants in Djibouti¹¹. Somalia continues to struggle with insecurity and armed conflict, climatic shocks, political tensions, and widespread poverty and is a country of origin, transit, and, to a lesser extent, destination. Yemen is largely a country of transit but also hosts many stranded migrants. Migrants in Yemen face the ongoing conflict, the threat of arrest, detention, gender-based violence (GBV) and forced transfers by the authorities. Since March 2020 to date, over 4,100 migrants in Yemen have been forcibly transferred across active frontlines or abandoned in secluded areas, with others falling into the hands of smugglers. Those who reach the Gulf States are similarly faced with exploitation, rights violations

by smugglers, and potential arrest, detention and forced return resulting from irregular entry.

Many of these factors make the Eastern Route one of the most dangerous migratory routes globally. Throughout their journey, migrants face extreme protection risks, including violence, trafficking, abduction, torture, forced labour, physical violence, exploitation, detention and GBV. Migrants also endure stigmatization as potential COVID-19 carriers and status-based discrimination 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. The protracted conflict in Yemen and forced returns of migrants from the Gulf States further exacerbate the risks for migrant security, jeopardizing the safety of their journey to their intended destinations or their capacity to return to their countries of origin. Human rights abuses, including physical and psychological abuse, xenophobia and stigmatization of migrants, have been on the increase, and protection concerns such as increased incidents of GBV, human trafficking, family separation, and safety and dignity concerns for migrant women and girls are further compounded. In 2020, at least 51 migrants died on the Eastern Route.¹²

The drivers for irregular migration continue to be primarily economic, resulting from an absence of stable income-generating options for households. Areas of outward-migration are often marked by communities with weak social cohesion, poor service delivery, and weak governance. Rural areas are reeling from the negative impacts of climate change, with more intense but shorter rainy seasons and more extended dry seasons destroying crops and washing away the topsoil. Daily labour is the primary source of earnings, with only 10 per cent of working migrants formally employed. As such migrants come from households that are unable to meet their basic needs.¹³ It is estimated that the socio-economic impact of the COVID-19 crisis will exacerbate the economic situation in areas of origin, further increasing push factors for irregular migration for many.

The majority of migrants embarking on the journey are Ethiopian (93%), with seven per cent coming from Somalia. They largely consist of young men or boys with low levels of education and marketable skills. They migrate due to deprivation and disparities in their areas of origin.¹⁴ While additional drivers include political, ethnic or religious persecution, armed conflict and/or violence, addressing drivers of irregular migration at areas of origin, specifically focusing on longer-term economic empowerment and development as well as investing in reintegration efforts, will be vital to reducing the pressure on communities and migrants to embark on this dangerous journey.¹⁵

In addition to the outward migratory flows, the region also experiences steady numbers of returns from abroad, many of which are involuntary. In 2019, 120,825 Ethiopian nationals

4 United Nations, UN News, 2020; Amidst protection challenges, Eastern Route outpaces Mediterranean for people leaving Africa; <https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/02/1057411>.

5 IOM, 2018; DTM - Flow Monitoring Points | 2018 Migrant Arrivals and Yemeni Returns from Saudi Arabia; https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/YE_2018_Migrant_Arrivals_and_Yemeni_Returns_From_Saudi%20Arabia_Dashboard.pdf; disaggregated data only available for 93,091 arrivals – 69,789 men, 14,684 women, 6,542 boys, 2,075 girls.

6 IOM, 2020; DTM - Flow Monitoring Points | Migrant Arrivals and Yemeni Returns from Saudi Arabia in 2019; https://displacement.iom.int/system/tdf/reports/YE-Migrants_FMR_%202019_Annual_Dashboard_08012020%20Final_0.pdf?file=1&type=node&id=7619.

7 IOM, 2020; DTM - Flow Monitoring Points | Migrant Arrivals And Yemeni Returns In 2020; <https://migration.iom.int/reports/yemen-%E2%80%94-flow-monitoring-points-migrant-arrivals-and-yemeni-returns-2020>.

8 IOM, 2021; COVID-19 Leads to 73% Drop in Migration from Horn of Africa to Gulf Countries; <https://www.iom.int/news/iom-covid-19-leads-73-drop-migration-horn-africa-gulf-countries>.

9 IOM, 2020; Stranded Migrants – Djibouti.

10 Mixed Migration Centre, 2021; Quarterly Mixed Migration Update, East Africa and Yemen, Quarter 4, 2020; <https://mixedmigration.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/qmmu-q4-2020-eay.pdf>.

11 UN DESA as of mid-year 2020, updated on 20 January 2021.

12 IOM, 2021; Missing Migrants Project; <https://missingmigrants.iom.int/>.

13 IOM Regional Data Hub East and Horn of Africa, 2020; The Desire to Thrive Regardless of the Risk; https://ronairobi.iom.int/sites/default/files/document/publications/IOM%20RDH%20Eastern%20Route%20Research_Background%20Analysis_Obock%20Djibouti.pdf.

14 IOM Regional Data Hub East and Horn of Africa, 2020; The Desire to Thrive Regardless of the Risk; *ibid*.

15 IOM Regional Data Hub East and Horn of Africa, 2020; The Desire to Thrive Regardless of the Risk; *ibid*.

(90,619 men, 18,124 women, 8,458 boys, 3,624 girls),¹⁶ 50,065 Yemeni migrants (44,993 men, 1,664 women, 2,305 boys, 1,103 girls)¹⁷ returned involuntarily. In 2020, over 82,000 returns to Ethiopia from Yemen and the Gulf States were recorded, including spontaneous returns from Yemen to Ethiopia (47,000), Djibouti (6,094) and Somalia (885)¹⁸ and 36,632 returnees (27,108 men, 6,594 women, 1,831 boys and 1,099 girls)¹⁹ from Saudi Arabia. However, total return figures are estimated to be much higher.²⁰ Involuntary return leads to increased risks and protection concerns for migrants. It often results in re-migration efforts, as many will opt to attempt the journey again, possibly resorting to riskier routes and means if necessary.

These movement dynamics also impact host communities in areas of origin, return and transit, and those communities where migrants choose to settle temporarily, straining already stretched services. Returning migrants often arrive in their countries and communities of origin in a vulnerable state and in need of urgent humanitarian and protection assistance to address immediate needs. They also require longer-term reintegration support. Areas of origin are usually already characterized by low levels of services, low socio-economic status and very few opportunities for the youth. Returning migrants not only put a strain on available resources but are also faced with the stigma of not having succeeded at their migration attempt and therefore not being able to contribute to the community. Faced with similar conditions as when they departed, they often have limited options and frequently choose to re-migrate.

The Southern route towards South Africa is also popular, particularly among young Ethiopians, Somalis, and Eritreans but this route remains understudied with relevant quantitative and qualitative information remaining scarce. The 2021 response will focus on expanding research into the dynamics, needs and gaps along the Southern route to inform programming along this route in the next years of programming under the MRP.

Impact of COVID-19 on the region and on migrants and host communities

The COVID-19 pandemic has significantly impacted migration trends across the East and Horn of Africa and Yemen. At the beginning of the outbreak, when restrictions were the most severe, a switch in routes was observed. In fact, with Djibouti's border closures being the most effective, many migrants tried to cross through Somalia instead. Soon enough, pockets of stranded migrants were reported in different parts of the Horn, unable to proceed or return to their **places of origin**. Public health measures imposed by countries led to a large number of migrants requiring referral to COVID-19 testing and treatment facilities, as well as support with quarantine measures. Given the already overstretched national health systems, **they required** resources significantly exceeded the existing capacity in the affected countries and risked draining resources further.²¹ The perceived nature of resources being directed to migrants²² resulted in a widespread xenophobic and discriminatory narratives, limited or **curtailed access** to coping strategies and basic services along the journey, as well as episodes of detentions and deportations. The socio-economic impact of COVID-19 has escalated the lack

of public finance available to support the economic sectors in target countries, resulting in increased unemployment, in particular for the youth. Migrant workers and other vulnerable populations in irregular situations have been affected by the movement restrictions as they face constrained access to humanitarian services, decreased incomes and purchasing power to procure food. The migrants are no longer able to cross borders to trade or search for jobs and opportunities. With governments and partners focused on responding to COVID-19, the pandemic has also resulted in disruptions in key health services for the treatment of other communicable and non-communicable diseases, such as Tuberculosis, HIV, malaria, as well as preventative services such as routine immunizations and reproductive health for women.

The COVID-19 response in the Horn of Africa and Yemen remains challenging. The establishment of COVID-19 containment measures, testing and care for millions of migrants, refugees and displaced people in the region is complicated since it requires intervening in different settings such as camps, detention centres, transit locations, urban environments, and cross-border areas. The dilemma of safeguarding resident populations while at the same time ensuring that no harm is caused to migrants on the route is also a challenge. Despite the understanding that the inclusion of a migration-specific awareness aspect within the COVID-19 response is essential for the effective control of the pandemic, in the spirit of leaving no one behind,²³ many countries in the region have limited capacity to respond. To address these challenges, a rethinking of traditional public health interventions to consider and respond to migrants' health needs along migration routes will be required. Surveillance and public health measures need to consider irregular flows of migrants, for instance screening and active surveillance along mobility pathways and where migrants congregate in border communities and embracing the concept of 'border spaces' as opposed to a focus solely on points of entry (PoE). The broadening of disease control measures to 'border spaces' during outbreak responses was recommended by the review committee on the role of the International Health Regulations (IHR) in the Ebola outbreak in 2016 (IHR 2016).

The MRP response mechanisms have mainstreamed COVID-19 by anticipating the impact of the pandemic on the movement flows in 2021 and subsequently on the total estimated people in need (PiN) and the affected countries' health system to mitigate and respond to the needs. Targeted individuals have been calculated based on these assumptions and COVID-19 has been considered in the response strategy. Current restrictions are expected to negatively affect the protection status of vulnerable migrants, requiring a prioritization and expansion of protection responses and life-saving interventions, particularly targeting stranded migrants. Policy level, coordination efforts and capacity-building are intended to promote the inclusion of migrants in all aspects of the COVID-19 response, including vaccination planning, and to ensure the restoration of services to those most affected. Data collection and research efforts²⁴ to strengthen the existing evidence base needs to be concluded in order to contribute to a better understanding of the impact of COVID-19 on migrants, migratory flows and trends and host communities.

16 IOM Regional Data Hub East and Horn of Africa, 2020; Return of Ethiopian Migrants from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/KSA%20Annual%20Overview%202019_Regional%20Data%20Hub.pdf.

17 IOM, 2020; DTM - Flow Monitoring Points | Migrant Arrivals and Yemeni Returns from Saudi Arabia in 2019; *ibid*.

18 The number of spontaneous returnees is estimates based on registration data in country.

19 IOM, 2020; DTM - Flow Monitoring Points | Migrant Arrivals and Yemeni Returns from Saudi Arabia in 2019; *ibid*.

20 IOM, 2020; based on various reports; <https://ronairobi.iom.int/reports>.

21 M. Martini and Migration & Human Mobility: New & Old Challenges for Global Health Security & Public Health in East Africa & Horn of Africa in the Context of Covid-19; Lancet Migration Health; <https://www.migrationandhealth.org/migration-covid19-briefs>.

22 IOM, 2021; 2020 Migrant movements between the Horn of Africa and the Arabian peninsula; https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/IOM_Migration%20Overview_Horn%20of%20Africa%20and%20Arabian%20Peninsula_2020.pdf.

23 Lancet Migration, 2020; Leaving no one behind in the Covid-19 Pandemic: a call for urgent global action to include migrants & refugees in the COVID-19 response; <https://www.migrationandhealth.org/statements>.

24 All data collection, processing and sharing by MRP partners will be in line with internationally accepted data-protection and privacy standards.

REGIONAL RESPONSE STRATEGY AND PRIORITIES 2021 - 2024



REGIONAL RESPONSE STRATEGY AND PRIORITIES 2021 - 2024

The MRP outlines humanitarian, transition and development activities aimed at responding to the needs of migrants and host communities along the Eastern Route while also addressing the root causes of migration, complementing and capacities in line with priorities. The multi-annual and inter-agency approach employed in the MRP will ensure that humanitarian and protection assistance as well as longer term development activities are delivered to the target populations in a synergistic and sustainable manner, prioritizing the most vulnerable.

For the next four years, the MRP route-based approach will focus on strengthening the evidence base while at the same time fostering an environment of cooperation and agreement between governments and among partners. Partners will also respond to the increasing protection and humanitarian assistance needs of migrants along the route, which include GBV risk mitigation and response, access to services and basic needs, addressing stigmatization and xenophobia, and supporting return, reintegration and social cohesion.

In addition, MRP partners are increasingly concerned about the needs of vulnerable migrants from the Horn of Africa moving along the Southern Route²⁵ necessitating the need for increased collaboration, and more action-oriented research around the impacts on the migratory dynamics along this route.

Definition of Population Groups

The following categories of population groups have been included in the MRP and have been defined for the purpose of this plan:

- **Departing Migrants:** Migrants that are departing their home countries. Within the framework of this MRP, this includes primarily Ethiopian and Somali migrants that have begun or are due to begin their journey but are still within their country of origin.
- **Transiting Migrants:** Migrants that have begun their journey and left their countries of origin and are in transit in another country prior to reaching their intended country of destination. Under this Plan, transiting migrants are in-need and targeted in Djibouti, Somalia and Yemen.
- **Returnee Migrants:** Individuals that have returned to their countries of origin, either spontaneously, voluntarily or involuntarily. For this plan, this does not include refugee returnees from Yemen to Somalia.
- **Stranded Migrants:** Migrants who are unable to continue their journey, either in their own country, or a transit country, and cannot return.
- **Migrants at Destination:** For this plan, this means migrants who have decided to settle in a transit country along the migration route (Djibouti, Somalia, or Yemen). The MRP does not include the response in destination countries such as the Gulf States.
- **Host Community:** Communities which are impacted by the migratory flow along the Eastern Route in Djibouti, Ethiopia and Somalia. The host community members in Yemen are covered under a Humanitarian Response Plan and are not under this Migrant Response Plan.

MRP Response Framework

Overall Objective and Goal

The overall MRP objective is to establish a more efficient response to address humanitarian and protection needs, risks and vulnerabilities of migrants and contribute to community stabilization and resilience in the Horn of Africa and Yemen.

The goal of the MRP is to promote comprehensive, quality, timely and inclusive humanitarian, protection, and migration responses throughout the Eastern Route ensuring a dynamic, comprehensive, and effective framework for coordination, capacity enhancement, analysis and resource mobilization that recognizes, responds to and addresses the regional dimensions of the migration linking the Horn of Africa and Yemen.

Strategic Objectives

To achieve the objective and goal, in response to the identified needs and in line with national priorities, the following objectives underpin the migrant response planning:

1. Strategic Objective 1: Provide life-saving assistance to vulnerable migrants and host communities.
2. Strategic Objective 2: Provide quality, timely and inclusive protection assistance and services to migrants and host communities.
3. Strategic Objective 3: Strengthen access to return, sustainable reintegration, and community stabilization.
4. Strategic Objective 4: Building evidence, partnerships, and coordination to enhance the humanitarian response and migration management throughout the migration route.

²⁵ Southern Route - runs from the East and Horn of Africa region to Southern Africa and generally transiting through Kenya, the United Republic of Tanzania, Malawi, Zambia, Mozambique and Zimbabwe; see for example: <https://migrationdataportal.org/regional-data-overview/eastern-africa>.

Results Framework MRP 2021 - 2024

Overall Objective:

A more efficient response to address humanitarian and protection needs, risks and vulnerabilities of migrants and contribute to community stabilization and resilience in the Horn of Africa and Yemen.

MRP Goal (intermediate goal/key enabler):

A dynamic, comprehensive, and effective framework for coordination, capacity enhancement, analysis and resource mobilization that recognizes, responds to and addresses the regional dimensions of the migration linking the Horn of Africa and Yemen.



Assumptions under the MRP Goal:

- Stakeholders /actors at different levels are motivated and have strengthened trust to collaborate and innovate towards coordinated responses in the region, which will lead to responses being more efficient and effective;
- Acknowledged gaps in data and knowledge regarding root causes and drivers of irregular migration are addressed;
- Data and information about root causes and drivers of irregular migration, needs of migrants and current trends is used to inform responses/programming by partners;
- All interventions within the scope of the MRP are captured under the MRP, and;
- Duplication is avoided across different actors as well as existing and new projects.

Assumptions under the overall Objective:

- Responses address the root causes and drivers of irregular migration and the regional nature of migration flows;
- Interventions respond to the different needs of the migrants (women, men, UMC) and communities and increase their agency;
- Local institutions are strengthened to provide humanitarian services to vulnerable migrants (women, men, UMC);
- Governments in the region have improved ownership and collaboration on strengthened migration management, and;
- All responses are localized to ensure sustainability.

Overview of Priority Themes

The MRP ensures a whole of society approach to addressing the needs of the migrants and host communities based on the priorities of the member states. The strategic framework works to complement the efforts of the governments through enhanced coordination with the regional and country level non-governmental and intergovernmental partners. This section provides an outline of the priority themes established by the governments during the consultative processes:

Enhancing Protection of Migrants and other vulnerable populations: Given the scale of protection risks and vulnerabilities faced by migrants along the Eastern Route, MRP partners will work on preventing and responding to the specific protection needs of vulnerable men, women, boys and girls. Migrants belonging to specific vulnerable categories such as UASC, women at risk, persons with disabilities and others will benefit from tailored assistance and services to respond to their specific needs and risks. Equally, MRP partners will work to prevent and respond to the needs of migrant victims of human rights violations including but not limited to the victims of human trafficking and survivors of GBV. Overall, migrant protection activities will include but are not limited to law and policy development, protection needs and risks identification through monitoring, assessments and research, capacity-building, protection advocacy in support of the human rights of migrants, provision of direct assistance, services and referral mechanisms, as well as strengthening data collection and analysis on the protection needs and risks. In coordination

and collaboration with protection related forums such as the Regional Child Protection Network (RCPN) and country level child protection bodies, including CP Networks, working groups and clusters, a special focus will be on the protection of migrant and other vulnerable children, at regional, national and local levels. The MRP child protection response will be in line with the minimum standards of the national case management and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) in the MRP target countries. In addition, the MRP partners will support the capacity-building of front-line officials, social workforce and border and migration management officials on child protection mechanisms, strengthen the multi-sectoral/ multi-partner cooperation mechanisms for the protection of children on the move,²⁶ and harmonize policies and procedures and migrant specific tools for their implementation. Specialized child protection services include but are not limited to family tracing and reunification, psychosocial support, medical assistance for victims of violence, legal services and reintegration support through enhanced child protection processes/safeguards in line with established standards.²⁷ Given the increasing concern of GBV and in particular, sexual violence of migrants in transit as well as destination countries, the MRP will also strengthen linkages with the regional and national GBV working groups, to ensure regional, national and local prevention and response initiatives in support of GBV survivors. Linkages with partners on counter-trafficking and the overall subject of the protection of human rights of migrants will be strengthened.



Migrant Returnees hosted at the Agar Centre. Photo credit: Kennedy Njagi/IOM 2021

²⁶ Mapping of the existing bilateral cooperation. Mechanisms will be conducted to determine areas which require strengthening or establishment of new mechanisms in line with member states priorities

²⁷ Including, for example, the Minimum Standards for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action; https://alliancecpa.org/en/CPMS_home.

Sustainable Solutions, including Voluntary Humanitarian Return, and Community Stabilization: Stranded migrants and returnees are in particular need of more sustainable solutions to mitigate the risk of unsafe and irregular migration or further marginalization. MRP partners will therefore focus on providing access to services to support progress towards solutions, including services to promote community stabilization. The MRP will promote an inclusive, resilience-based approach, embracing mobility strategies that support progress towards achieving sustainable solutions including voluntary humanitarian return (VHR), prioritizing particularly vulnerable groups including unaccompanied children, pregnant and lactating women, women headed households, GBV survivors, victims of trafficking (VOT), older persons, persons with disabilities, and people with medical conditions. The MRP aims to build resilience into reintegration, including economic, social and psychological as well as at the individual, household, community, and institutional levels. Housing, land and property (HLP) activities will be mainstreamed across community responses. The MRP will also enhance the humanitarian-development-peace nexus (HDPN) by delivering sustainable solutions to affected populations in order to avoid a cycle where returned migrants decide to pursue irregular migration several times to meet their needs. This includes community-based initiatives that foster stabilization and resilience through access to quality basic services, sustainable and climate-resilient livelihoods and other initiatives that address the needs of at-risk vulnerable groups as well as community cohesion efforts targeting migrants and host communities in hot spot areas of transit and migration. Community stabilization and cohesion activities will engage local governments, civil society and affected communities to identify and respond to local drivers of forced and irregular migration, in order to encourage alternatives to risky irregular journeys. Health systems will be strengthened to be more responsive to migration and more resilient across the migratory route.

Advocacy, Awareness Raising and Policy Development: To mitigate protection risks, stigmatization, xenophobia and the further marginalization of migrants, MRP partners will prioritize advocacy efforts, awareness raising and policy development

promoting a more favourable protection environment for migrants. Advocacy will focus on ensuring access to humanitarian assistance, health and social services, and social protection schemes for migrants, facilitating their urgent and safe release, return and reintegration, including migrants in national development frameworks, and issues regarding detention for immigration violations and alternatives to detention. Awareness raising on safe migration and mechanisms for the mitigation of protection risks including specific focus on key health risks and vulnerabilities related to COVID-19 and other communicable diseases, will be supported along with essential health assistance for maternal and child health including nutrition. Key policy developments efforts will focus on comprehensive national labour migration policies, access to legal pathways, child protection, counter-trafficking, alternatives to detention, return and reintegration and regularization and economic empowerment of migrants, registration/citizenship, access to basic services, and access to documentation. A main focus in the advocacy, awareness raising, and policy development efforts will also be on ensuring access of migrants to basic services regardless of their status and the inclusion of migrants in vaccination planning and response in the region.

Creating an evidence base for the MRP: To support a better understanding and more efficient response to migration crises, MRP partners will strengthen the evidence base for both policy influence and reform, and programming through individual and joint needs assessments and analysis tailored to different populations and contexts. Data will be used to better predict, understand, and analyze the drivers of migration and enhance the use of evidence for policy formulation and programme design, inform protection advocacy and programming at both the country and regional levels. Linkages will be made to the National Information Management Systems to promote the inclusion of migrants in the national systems, building on lessons learnt and complementarities with other existing tools such as the displacement tracking matrix (DTM) and the Mixed Migration Monitoring Mechanism Initiative (4Mi)²⁸ data collection and other existing tools at national level.



Migrant participating in the cleaning campaign. Photo credit IOM Yemen 2020

²⁸ 4Mi is the Mixed Migration Centre's (MMC) flagship primary data collection project on [mixed migration](#), contributing to the MMC's three core [objectives](#) of improving knowledge, informing policy, and contributing to more effective protection responses.

PLANNING AND RESPONSE FOR 2021



Ethiopian migrants crossing Djibouti | Photo credit: Alexander Bee/IOM 2020

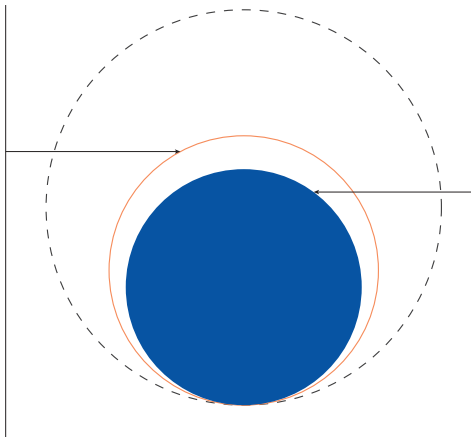
PLANNING AND RESPONSE FOR 2021

763,184
PEOPLE IN NEED



- Departing Migrants
138,356
- Transiting Migrants
213,922
- Migrants at Destination
36,730
- Returnee Migrants
177,524
- Host Community
410,574

1.7 M
AFFECTED POPULATION



563,128
PEOPLE TARGETED



- Transiting Migrants
106,528
- Migrants at Destination
33,511
- Returnee Migrants
111,290
- Host Community
311,799

TOTAL FUNDING REQUIREMENT

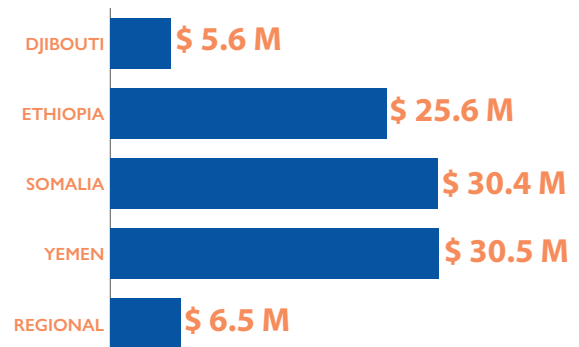


USD 98.7 Million

FUNDING BY STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

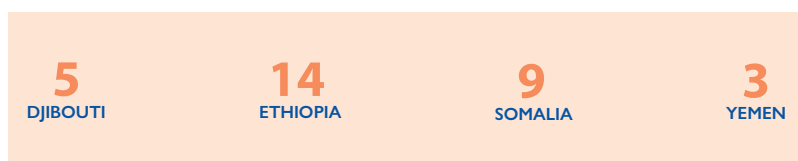
- \$ 50.4 M** SO1: Provide life-saving assistance to vulnerable migrants and host communities
- \$ 17.9 M** SO2: Provide quality, timely and inclusive protection assistance and services to migrants and host communities.
- \$ 20.8 M** SO3: Strengthen access to return, sustainable reintegration, and community stabilization.
- \$ 9.6 M** SO4: Building evidence, partnerships, and coordination to enhance the humanitarian response and migration management throughout the migration route.

FUNDING BY MRP COUNTRY



23

MRP APPEALING PARTNERS



Planning Assumptions

The movement of people across the Eastern corridor will be determined by a multitude of factors, including a lack of livelihoods and economic opportunities in the impacted countries, increasingly protracted crises, natural hazards and disease outbreaks, increasingly entrenched transnational organized crime and persistent vulnerability of migrants in irregular situations. The impact of COVID-19 is expected to increase the already significant protection and health risks for migrants and host communities along the route, while at the same time also increasing economic pressure on communities and potential migrants in areas of origin. With increasing negative sentiments towards migrants, restricted access to services and the stigma associated with mobility during the COVID-19 pandemic, it is expected that return movements will also continue and potentially increase in 2021. While planning is particularly difficult during this phase due to the uncertainty caused by the pandemic, MRP partners have identified the following planning assumptions as the basis for the MRP response in 2021:

- The flows of migrants from Ethiopia/Somalia and through Djibouti, Somalia and Yemen will continue in 2021.
- Drivers of migration have not reduced and people continue to attempt to migrate, as evidenced by the continuous, albeit reduced movements during phases of COVID-19 restrictions and border closures.
- It is anticipated that migrants will continue to leave their home countries to seek economic opportunities in the Gulf States due to poverty, economic disparities and/or conflict in their areas of origin, land-related factors such as land depletion, shocks of fluctuating commodity prices compounded by floods, extreme weather conditions and invasion by locusts resulting in economic vulnerability in the agrarian communities. .
- Migrant outflows from Ethiopia and Somalia will continue in 2021 and are expected to reach the 2019 levels , despite the continued impact of COVID-19, should borders remain open.
- The economic impact of COVID-19 in areas of origin may result in increased pressure to migrate. In the affected countries, COVID-19 has further aggravated the complex migration reality, as increasing incidence of the virus has triggered secondary negative impacts, including reduced economic opportunities as the countries are faced with severe economic decline as a result of limited economic activity. Overall needs of migrants and host community members will be in line with the previous years, including humanitarian assistance, protection, access to services and economic empowerment.
- Population group profiles will be maintained for each country, but the COVID-19 crisis has had an impact on the numbers for each profile.
- The presence of stranded migrant populations in target and third countries increased in 2020, resulting in an expected increase in the number of migrants returning to their countries of origin in 2021.
- The migration routes will not change, and migrants will continue to use the Eastern Route on their way to the Gulf States.
- Ethiopia will continue to be a major source, transit, and destination country for mixed migration flows. With limited options for regular migration available, many young aspiring Ethiopian migrants will continue to turn to irregular migration.



A migrant receiving treatment at a DRC run clinic in Yemen | Photo credit: DRC 2020

- Regardless of the reduced migrant flows on the Eastern Route because of the COVID-19 movement restrictions, migrants remain vulnerable and face substantial protection risks and human rights violations.
- The main departing country will be Ethiopia and the main transit countries will continue to be Somalia, Djibouti, and Yemen.
- The measures and mobility restrictions adopted by national states in relation to COVID-19 will continue to be reduced with increasingly vulnerable populations leaving the country.
- While border closures in the first half of 2020 impacted on movement flows along the route, it is assumed that with the removal of restrictions, reopening of borders and the increased pressure on livelihoods in countries of origin, movements are going to continuously increase in 2021, reaching levels of the previous years.
- Migrants will continue to face severe protection and health risks, some of which have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 response and related restrictions, in particular for stranded migrants.
- Migrants within Yemen will continue to face the ongoing conflict, threat of arrest, detention, GBV and forced transfers by the authorities.
- The impact of the COVID-19 outbreak on the East and Horn of Africa is expected to be far reaching and more catastrophic given concurrent morbidity among the general population, the population size, and status of health systems and health workforce, both of which have low resilience to external shocks and have insufficient critical care capacities.
- Migrants who are stranded due to COVID-19 will be among the most vulnerable population groups in need of sustained humanitarian assistance.
- The proportion of stranded migrants will increase if new border closures are enforced and if pushbacks continue.
- The risk of having to resort to smuggling and trafficking will increase considerably, particularly for those already in a vulnerable situation.
- Migrants from areas impacted by conflict will be at particular risk of being stranded as they may not be able to return to their areas of origin if the conflict continues.
- Women, girls and children will continue to be disproportionately affected in this crisis, especially in terms of risks of GBV and human trafficking.
- The impact of COVID-19 on economies and livelihoods in countries of origin, transit and destination may increase the likelihood of xenophobia or mistreatment against migrants and returnees as more people compete for reduced resources and access to services.
- Overstretched national capacities, as well as economic and political challenges in some countries of origin, transit and destination may adversely affect migrants and host communities.
- Countries will require continued institutional strengthening considering overstretched services and capacities due to the scale of current needs.

Population in Need and Target Population 2021

Based on these assumptions, it is expected that the overall needs in 2021 will be exacerbated compared to 2020, and the expected population in need (PiN) in 2021 will be comparable to 2019, with 1.7 million people projected to be affected and 763,184 people projected to be in need of humanitarian assistance (352,610 migrants and 410,574 host/returnee community members). The 2021 PiN includes:

- 138,356 departing migrants from countries of origin
- 213,922 transiting migrants (both towards destination and returning to country of origin)
- 36,730 settled migrants/migrants at destination
- 177,524 returnees (both spontaneous and forced)
- 410,574 host community members

Given the mobility aspect of the migration flows, migrants may belong to more than one population group along their migration journey. To avoid the double counting of migrants in the total PiN calculation, transiting migrants were not included so as not to duplicate with departing migrants and those at destination. Similarly, the PiN figure of returnees does not include spontaneous returnees from Yemen to Ethiopia (3,747), as these are included as transiting migrants in Yemen. The calculation of the PiN was coordinated with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) at the country and regional level to ensure complementarity with the country-level humanitarian response plans (HRP). As such, to avoid double counting, host community members for Somalia and Yemen who were already included in the Somalia and Yemen HRPs respectively were not included in the calculation of the total affected population for the MRP.

The 2021 MRP seeks to meet the humanitarian and protection needs of 563,128 vulnerable migrants (including 251,329 migrants and 311,799 host/returnee community members) in need of assistance from MRP partners based on the following identifiable groups:

- 106,528 transiting migrants²⁹ (both towards destination and returning to country of origin)
- 33,511 settled migrants/migrants in country
- 111,290 returnees (both spontaneous and forced)
- 311,799 host community members

Regional Activities for 2021

To provide support to these identified target populations, the MRP partners at the regional level have outlined the following regional activities to be implemented in 2021 in collaboration with partners in the affected countries, regions and Regional Economic Communities (RECs), within an action plan including timeline and responsibilities per partner:

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

- Provide support to scale up the provision of multi-sector life-saving and immediate assistance based on identified needs at country level.
- Provide technical support and guidance for capacity-building efforts for humanitarian border management and rescue at sea, including for coast guards and border management officials.

²⁹ The target population has been calculated to ensure no duplication between departing migrants, transiting migrants and in destination.

- Support the strengthening of the health response capacities along the migratory route, at cross-borders and in migration affected areas, through technical support and guidance for capacity-building to promote migrant friendly services and mobility competent health systems.
- Support targeted countries to establish/strengthen community- based protection mechanisms to ensure timely identification, reporting and response to the protection concerns of migrants and facilitate referrals to relevant service providers.

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

- Support partners and governments to map the capacity of partners providing assistance and specialized protection services including medical assistance (including clinical management of rape), mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), legal aid/access to justice, family tracing, safe shelter, and material assistance and establish a regional capacity building plan to address the identified capacity gaps through specialized trainings/ technical cooperation.
- Support the development SOPs and guidelines on the various protection assistance and services provided to vulnerable migrants and migrant victims of human rights violations (such as medical, legal, mental health and psychosocial support, safe shelter, FTR etc) to ensure the smooth delivery of services and implementation of activities in line with established standards.
- In close collaboration with governments and RECs, strengthen regional, national and cross-border child protection systems through capacity building of child protection actors and government institutions on provision of comprehensive child protection services to children at risk including UASC and children victims of human rights violations; inclusion of protection considerations for migrant children in relevant national legal frameworks; as well as building evidence-based and child-focused long-term solutions and advocacy interventions at the regional level.
- Support IGAD's efforts on strengthening and mainstreaming child-focused approaches in IGAD's programming.
- Collaborate with relevant actors to enhance the understanding of the international legal framework relating to detention, including supporting alternatives to detention, including in particular for migrant children, through constructive dialogue with Member States and technical assistance/capacity building of government actors.
- Support comprehensive programming on counter-trafficking; develop common regional counter trafficking measures including harmonization of anti-trafficking laws, support implementation of existing international, regional and national legislative frameworks; strengthen cross-border coordination on human trafficking and strengthening protection and assistance to VOT and support RECs and their member states to adopt and implement the Ouagadougou Action Plan to combat human trafficking.
- Establish a capacity building programme on the human rights of migrants rooted in IHR law and the specific obligations of governments, targeting government and non-governmental entities as well as migrant and host communities to ensure their effective protection in transit and destination countries as well as upon return to their country or origin.

- Provide technical support and guidance to national partners for capacity enhancement of front-line officials, social workforce, health workers and immigration officials (in country and cross border) to strengthen their understanding of the rights of migrant children and empower them to identify and respond more effectively to the individual needs of migrant children.
- Support programming that mainstreams MHPSS in service delivery effectively and profiled within relevant platforms to advocate for its increased resource building through the regional MHPSS Community of Practice focused on COVID-19 and provide guidance and technical support to build the capacity in psychosocial skills for frontline workers dealing with migrants to reduce and mitigate psychological trauma and stress.

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

- Support the development of a regional cooperation framework on return and reintegration, inclusive of theory of change and programmatic approaches targeting returning migrants and members of their families (documented and undocumented) and support country offices/governments to develop national policy frameworks and guidelines for safe and dignified returns and sustainable reintegration.
- Provide assistance to MRP countries to assess and support the process of developing/amending laws and policies which encourage regularization of stay and economic empowerment of migrants, and legislation governing identity management and civil registry services for Djibouti, Somalia, and Ethiopia.
- Support the mapping of current policies and legislation governing migration and movement of persons in the affected countries to assess and ensure the specific provisions for the protection of migrants' rights, as well as policies related to access to basic services.
- Support MRP target countries in enhancing and strengthening migrant assistance aimed at addressing root causes of irregular migration and the delivery of sustainable solutions to migrants, such as the regularization of stay, sustainable reintegration and livelihoods, community cohesion and improved service delivery, among other solutions.
- Provide guidance to country offices for the development and strengthening of community-based efforts aimed at fostering resilience, addressing evolving stabilization needs and supporting enhanced access to services and livelihoods for all persons affected.

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

- Work with IGAD to standardize monitoring / data information collection in the IGAD cross border areas and develop and run a regional online systems of data collection and repository of child rights violations in Ethiopia, Somalia and Djibouti.

- Support the creation of a stronger evidence base by continuing to collect migration relevant data, quantitative and qualitative, such as through Flow Monitoring and assessments at PoE, and conducting research on relevant topics, including, research on the impact of climate change in the Horn of Africa on child migration ; research to establish the unique vulnerabilities of migrant and displaced girls (Girls on the Move); mapping of coastal communities with a focus on the impact of maritime crime and criminality (migrant smuggling and human trafficking) on livelihoods and research analysis utilizing previous 4Mi data collected along the Southern Route.
- Promote sub-regional, bilateral and multilateral cooperation between states to strengthen cross-border case management, harmonize policies and procedures, and to bolster the advocacy, coordination, development and implementation of action plans to address the needs of migrants along the Eastern corridor, including for the protection of children on the move, migrant workers and members of their families, integrated border management, and cross-border health with a focus on COVID-19 response.
- Set up and promote regional and national working groups with IGAD30 and UN/NGO to address migration, including the implementation of the Protocol on Transhumance, and conduct studies on community-based solutions to irregular migration in the context of climate change and environmental degradation, inequality, labour mobility and human development.
- Conduct regular MRP coordination meetings, including with regional and sub regional representatives to enhance effective coordination, advocacy and information-sharing between the partners and implement inter-agency capacity-building initiatives on the MRP thematic areas including migration, migration health, international legal and policy frameworks, bilateral/regional labour migration agreements including on ethical and fair recruitment and protection of migrant workers (and members of their families) social, economic, labour and human rights.
- Establish a migrant protection forum to support the implementation of regional and national protection related activities of the MRP. Develop and implement MRP operational strategies, such as on information management and communications/knowledge management systems.

Cross Cutting Themes

The planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of actions under the MRP will be guided by the following core cross-cutting themes that aim to ensure an inclusive response taking into account the principles of do no harm, transparency, beneficiary engagement and sustainability:

Centrality of Protection

Protection will be at the centre of the regional response across all four objectives. As such, partners will ensure that those most at risk will be identified and risks will be addressed to prevent and stop violations of human rights. Data collection and information sharing on protection risks, violations and concerns will also be critical in this regional response. Improved coordination and capacities across the region will allow for a more efficient and effective response to address protection violations.

³⁰ Including the IGAD Climate Protection and Application Centre (ICPAC) and the IGAD Centre For Pastoral Areas and Livestock Development (ICPALD).

³¹ In line with the [IASC Action Plan for acceleration of PSEA in humanitarian response](#).

Gender

To ensure a gender sensitive response and include gender equity and equality considerations in service provision, all MRP interventions will be based on comprehensive gender needs analysis and include systematic collection of and reporting on sex- and age-disaggregated data (SADD) through the identification-screening and registration system and in the delivery of assistance and services. A focus on how the migration crisis is affecting women and girls differently in the region is particularly important given the gendered impact of COVID-19.

Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse

MRP partners will ensure that their interventions will have a strong focus on prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA), in accordance with the UN Zero tolerance to PSEA and the application of IASC guidance and procedure on PSEA in the three key outcome areas: reporting; survivor assistance; accountability.³¹ MRP coordination platforms will be utilized for sharing MRP partners best practices and updates including SEA preventive actions in the different interventions, raising awareness of the rights of affected populations, setting up feedback mechanisms and including PSEA in monitoring and evaluation systems.

Accountability to Affected Populations

MRP partners will ensure accountability to affected populations through community engagement, information sharing and the establishment of complaints and feedback mechanisms for effective two-way communication with migrants and host communities supported by interventions under the MRP. Affected communities will be given the opportunity to identify and take part in the design of the response to their needs and to engage with MRP partners and to provide both positive and negative feedback to improve interventions.

Capacity-building

Capacity-building will be mainstreamed across MRP interventions with a view to increase sustainability of the actions and build the resilience of migrants and their communities. This will take into account already existing capacities of members states, partners, target populations and communities and will aim at providing support to strengthen these capacities.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The MRP progress will be regularly monitored with the involvement of MRP partners and inclusive of vulnerable migrants and migrant communities to the extent possible. All the MRP partners at the country and regional levels are responsible for monitoring the relevance/appropriateness, coherence, effectiveness, and efficiency of the interventions under the MRP with the aim of establishing clear links and evidence between the individual partner interventions and the MRP objectives. Progress in meeting the expected results will always be disaggregated by target populations, sex and age and where and when applicable by country, project location, MRP partner, and type of stakeholder. The monitoring data collected will be analyzed for strategic, operational, and tactical decision-making and to inform advocacy efforts and programmatic adjustments during the MRP cycle. The MRP partners are expected to self-assess the plan towards the end of the year and to share their perceptions on the extent to which the underlying assumptions of the MRP framework have been addressed.

Information management systems (IMS) are critical and 2021 will see the development and operationalization of a robust IMS to improve the response system and make it more coordinated and efficient based on the analysis of the data collected through the IMS. The MRP partners will conduct all the interventions respecting the do no harm-principle and non-discriminatory and needs-based approaches, prioritizing safety and dignity, and fostering empowerment and participation of the vulnerable migrants.

Relevant Frameworks and Coordination Mechanisms

The MRP ensures complementarity and coherence with existing strategic assistance frameworks including National Development Frameworks (NDF) and is in line with the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration, and the WHO Global Action Plan for promoting the health of refugees and migrants. It will further strive to contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. UN Networks on Migration at the country level, the Forced Returns Task Force, the Regional Ministerial Forum on Migration and regional coordination mechanisms, such as the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), the African Union (AU) and the East African Community (EAC) will be important coordination and collaboration fora for MRP partners to provide leadership to mobilize action on migration by the UN system, governmental and inter-governmental partners. Important policy documents relevant to the MRP implementation are the Protocol to the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community Relating to Free Movement of Persons, Right of Residence and Right of Establishment (2018), the Protocol on Transhumance (2020), the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children (Palermo Protocol, 2000), the African Charter on Maritime Security and Safety and Development in Africa (Lomé Charter, 2016) and the African Union Convention on Cross-Border Cooperation (Niamey Convention, 2012). The MRP partners will engage with member states and inter-governmental coordination bodies to advance the development and implementation of relevant policies. The MRP will further support member states integration dialogue, specifically fostering relations between member states at PoEs that are on trade/migration routes.

Partnerships and Coordination

The MRP seeks to promote an effective and coordinated regional response for migrants in need, harmonize priorities towards collective outcomes, budgets, and targets as well as promote the inclusion of the needs of migrants into country-level discussions and planning frameworks, such as National Development Plans. The MRP is included in the Yemen HRP as a multisector and efforts to advocate for the inclusion of migrants needs into the HRPs and other national development for Ethiopia, Somalia and Djibouti respectively will be scaled up in 2021. MRP partners will pursue more systematic engagement to promote innovative partnerships and intentionality of effort to tap into cross-functionality and expertise amongst the partners to suit the geographical contexts of the response.

The MRP has a total of 39 partners across the four target countries, including 15 UN agencies, one regional economic commission, 11 international non-governmental organizations (INGOS) and 12 national non-governmental organizations

(NGOs). All partners commit to coordination and collaboration in support of the aims of the MRP, with 23 operational partners having appealed for funding under the 2021 appeal. At the regional level, the MRP Regional Coordination Committees for Regional Directors and technical focal points comprises 16 partners including the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Health Organization (WHO), OCHA, the World Food Programme (WFP), the United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the International Rescue Committee (IRC), Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), Danish Refugee Council (DRC), Save the Children, the Mixed Migration Centre (MMC), and IGAD. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) are observer partners to the MRP. Donors and the private sector and academia are encouraged to participate in the regional coordination processes. Participating membership will be open and flexible, with interested new partners at country and regional level welcomed to join every year.

While the overall implementation of the plan is led by government and supported by the United Nations agencies, NGOs and other partners, IOM leads the coordination efforts for the implementation of the plan, including information management, planning, monitoring and reporting at the regional and country levels. MRP coordination efforts are geared to facilitate improved coordination and dialogue among actors supporting migrants, including national and international partners to ensure an overall improved response and reduced harm for migrants and host communities along the route.

At the country office levels, the Mixed Migration Task Force (MMTF), an existing structure in Djibouti and Somalia, which is composed of relevant government authorities, the UN, and relevant NGO partners, serves as the coordination and information-sharing platform for the MRP. In Djibouti, the MMTF is co-led by IOM, UNHCR and the Office of the National Assistance for Refugees (ONARS). In Ethiopia, the MRP coordination is led by the National Partnership Commission (NPC), a multi-stakeholder platform spearheaded by the Office of the Federal Attorney General, coordinating all aspects of migration management in Ethiopia and operating in line with the IGAD National Coordination Mechanisms (NCM). The MRP is also tabled for discussion in the UN Network of Migration for Ethiopia. In Somalia, the MMTF is chaired by the Office of the Special Envoy on Migration and Children's Rights and co-chaired by IOM and UNHCR. In Yemen, the Multisector for Refugees and Migrants Cluster, co led by IOM and UNHCR, takes on this role. MRP engagement will continue through the existing coordination mechanisms while concurrently strengthening ongoing country efforts to enhance inclusivity, localization and whole of government approaches by member states.

Extension of the MRP along the Southern Route

Looking ahead, the MRP partners are increasingly concerned about the needs of vulnerable migrants from Ethiopia, Somalia, Eritrea and other countries in the East and Horn of Africa heading south, to South Africa and transiting through Kenya, the United Republic of Tanzania, Malawi, Zambia, Mozambique and Zimbabwe. The Southern route towards South Africa is popular, particularly among young Ethiopians, Somalis, and Eritreans but this route remains understudied with relevant quantitative and qualitative information remaining scarce. In 2009, IOM estimated around 20,000 migrants from the East and Horn of Africa³² had used this corridor and in 2017 the

32 IOM, 2009; In Pursuit of the Southern Dream: Victims of Necessity Assessment of the Irregular Movement of men from East Africa and the Horn to South Africa. Available from <https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/iomresearchassessment.pdf>

MMC estimated that between 14,750 and 16,850 migrants travel along this route annually.³³

At the same time, this mixed movement, much of which is irregular and organized by human smugglers, is of growing concern to states, who regard it as a violation of their national laws and a threat to their sovereignty, security and economy. The growing criminalization of irregular migration in several transit countries has increased the risk of detention and forced returns.³⁴ In 2020, many governments along the Southern Route requested assistance to return nationals from countries in the Horn of Africa that were facing hardship in detention centres. These included requests by the United Republic of Tanzania (1,342 Ethiopians), the Government of Zimbabwe for (42 Ethiopians), the Government of Zambia (64 Ethiopians) and that of Mozambique (11 Ethiopians).

As a result of these risks, most of the migrants are in need of protection along the course of their journey and in destination countries (discrimination, extortion and xenophobia)³⁵ but there is a lack of dedicated resources, protection mechanisms, capacities and legal support to respond to the various humanitarian, protection and other needs of the migrants. With the current global COVID-19 pandemic, migrants find themselves in even more precarious situations and particularly vulnerable to the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19, are they are perceived as carriers of COVID-19. This stigma leads to further exclusion from access to government-designed social and economic safety nets, access to healthcare and other

essential services and can result in movement restrictions and in some cases beatings and killings as was recently witnessed in Zambia.³⁶ In 2020, IOM has been working in coordination with the Ambassadors of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and non-SADC nationals in South Africa to collect data on stranded migrants in South Africa where 3,605 Ethiopian migrants (29% women) were identified as stranded and in need of assistance. However, more must be done to ensure the rights and legal protection of the migrants.

Inter-regional dialogues are required, given the nature of the issues presented by irregular migration, to properly address the increasing nature of challenges faced by migrants in countries of transit and destination. In view of the situation of migrants and in line with the SDG pledge to Leave no one behind, the MRP for the Horn of Africa and Yemen seeks to begin looking south and extend this migrant-focused humanitarian and development strategy for vulnerable migrants from the Horn of Africa in the MRP 2021-2024. Therefore, in the first year of the MRP, partners will work on increasing evidence-based information on mobility patterns, root causes, routes, migrant stocks and needs and vulnerabilities of migrants and host communities throughout the Horn of Africa, Yemen and along the Southern Route to inform evidence-based responses in the next planning cycles.



Humanitarian Border Management and COVID-19 training participants. | Photo credit: IOM 2020

33 Regional Mixed Migration Secretariat Horn of Africa and Yemen, 2017; Smuggled South; https://mixedmigration.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/016_smuggled_south.pdf

34 Marchand, K., Reinold, J. and Dias e Silva, R., 2017; Study on Migration Routes in the East and Horn of Africa, Maastricht Graduate School of Governance.

35 Irregular migrants are perceived as stealing economic opportunities from South Africans and competing for already scarce resources and opportunities – a perception that is not driven by much-needed data and analysis.

36 Zambia Reports, 2020; Ethiopian Murdered by Katete's Chibolya Residents;

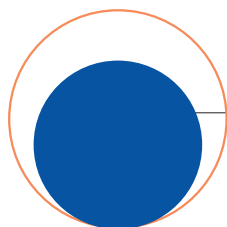
<https://zambiareports.com/2020/08/31/ethiopian-murdered-katetes-chibolya-residents>.

COUNTRY CHAPTER - DJIBOUTI

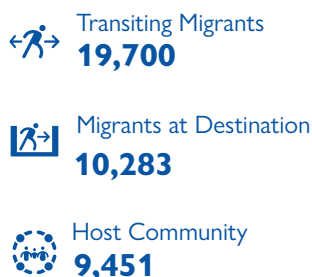


COUNTRY CHAPTER - DJIBOUTI

64,054
PEOPLE IN NEED



39,434
PEOPLE TARGETED



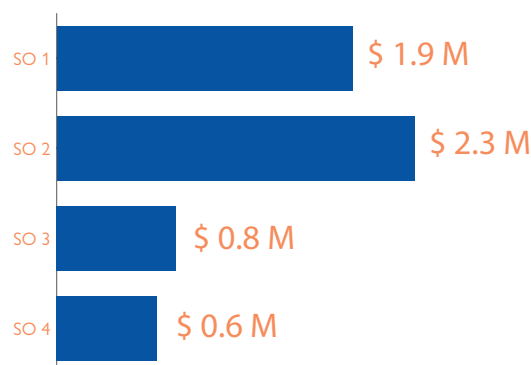
5
MRP PARTNERS

TOTAL FUNDING REQUIREMENT



USD 5.6 Million

FUNDING BY STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE



Country Overview

Djibouti's strategic location on the banks of the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden makes it host to some of the largest migrant flows on the African continent. Thousands of migrants pass through the country by foot, bus, or other vehicles, seeking to make their way across the Gulf of Aden, through Yemen, to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and other Gulf States in search of improved economic opportunities. In 2020, about 112,000 migrants were recorded at the flow monitoring points across the country, which is an almost 50 per cent decrease compared to 2019, when more than 215,000 migrants were tracked.³⁷ The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic contributed to this decreased migration trend as it prompted governments in the Horn of Africa (including Djibouti) and the Gulf States to impose stringent border closures, increase movement restrictions and tighten security along migratory routes.

The migrants transiting Djibouti mostly originate from Ethiopia and Somalia and the key drivers for migration include unemployment, intermittent or insufficient wages, as well as land-related factors such as climatic shocks and land depletion, resulting in economic vulnerabilities in agrarian communities³⁸ and conflict and instability. Stemming from different regions of Ethiopia and Somalia, migrants, mainly supported by smugglers, make their way to Obock region after having crossed the desert lands of the country. In 2020, as in previous years, most of the migrants transiting Djibouti were men (68%), followed by women (21%), boys (9%) and girls (2%)³⁹. Of concern is that⁴⁰ migrants predominantly gather in congregation points on the outskirts of Obock city before heading to the embarkation points along the coast and crossing the Bab El Mandeb strait to Yemen, which is roughly 30 kilometers wide at its narrowest

point. While the embarkation points in the Obock region are the most commonly used routes to reach Yemen, migrants entering Djibouti through its southern borders also travel to Djibouti city before heading to Obock.

In 2020, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, several new movements were tracked which were not previously observed in the past. These include the return of migrants from Yemen back to Djibouti via boats, as well as the spontaneous returns of migrants from Djibouti back to Ethiopia. In fact, migrants who had reached the Gulf States but were unable to sustain a living, have been increasingly returning to Djibouti along the same migratory route⁴¹. This is due to, among other reasons, border closures in the Gulf States, exposure to human rights violations, dire work and living conditions and the lack of economic opportunities. Smugglers that had previously facilitated movements from Obock to Yemen started capitalizing on the demand of migrants to return to the Horn of Africa⁴². Migrants allegedly pay around USD 200 to return, on often sea-unworthy vessels, to Djibouti from the Lahj coast in Yemen. Between May and December 2020, 6,094 spontaneous returns tracked along the shores of Djibouti in the Obock region. The journey is perilous, and at least 51 migrants have lost their lives at sea and while⁴³ attempting to cross the country. These migration trends are set to continue as long as the COVID-19 related movement restrictions remain in place. In addition, and despite the reopening of land borders between Djibouti and Ethiopia in July 2020, the resumption of assisted voluntary return and reintegration (AVRR) services from Djibouti to Ethiopia remains on hold in line with COVID-19 containment measures imposed by the Government of Ethiopia since March 2020.

37 IOM, 2020; Flow Monitoring in Djibouti; https://dtm.iom.int/reports?f%5B0%5D=report_country_facet%3A204

38 IOM Regional Data Hub East and Horn of Africa, 2020; A region on the move: Mid-year mobility overview January to June 2020; <https://migration.iom.int/node/9873>

39 IOM, 2020; Flow Monitoring in Djibouti; *ibid.*

40 IOM Regional Data Hub East and Horn of Africa, 2020; A region on the move: Mid-year mobility overview January to June 2020; *ibid.*

41 IOM, 2020; Flow Monitoring in Djibouti; *ibid.*

42 IOM Regional Data Hub East and Horn of Africa, 2020; A region on the move: Mid-year mobility overview January to June 2020; *ibid.*

43 IOM, 2021; Missing Migrants Project; <https://missingmigrants.iom.int> - It should be noted, however, that the actual number of migrant disappearances and deaths during 2020 in the EHoA region is likely much higher than the number recorded, as fatal incidents often occur in remote areas with little to no media coverage.

Hence, spontaneous, unassisted returns of stranded Ethiopian migrants in Djibouti have also been observed since mid-2020. Most of these migrants cross the border on foot at remote PoEs.

Over the past year, COVID-19 measures and the tightening of security along known migratory routes have made this already dangerous and difficult migration journey even more perilous. In addition to the bi-directional migration flows outlined above, increased movement restrictions and the temporary suspension of AVRR and VHR from Yemen have resulted in migrants becoming stranded along the migration route, including in Djibouti. As of the end of December 2020, more than 680 migrants were stranded in approximately 15 informal settlements along the migration corridor in Djibouti, where they lack access to food, water, non-food items and essential services such as health care. They also face increased protection risks, including exposure to smugglers, abuse and exploitation.

In addition to transiting and stranded migrants, Djibouti hosts a large number of people on the move⁴⁴ and it is estimated that at least 10 per cent of this population group lives below the poverty line.⁴⁵ Some of these are migrant children who do not leave the country and end up living on the streets of Djibouti city. A joint study by IOM, the Ministry of Women and Family (MoWaF) and the Directorate of Statistics and Demographic Studies (DISED) conducted in 2018 highlighted that up to 85 per cent of the children living on the streets are Ethiopian and only 11 per cent of them have legal documentation.

In light of the above, MRP partners continue to provide support to the Government of Djibouti to address migration challenges and provide enhanced life-saving assistance and protection services to people on the move, whilst building local capacities for better migration management, partnerships and coordination. As such, partners work in close collaboration with ONARS, under the Ministry of Interior, as well as other technical governmental counterparts. In Djibouti, the MMTF, which is co-led by IOM, UNHCR and ONARS, serves as the main coordination and information-sharing platform for the MRP.

Over the past year and since the start of the pandemic, MRP partners have, for example, been supporting the government to respond to the increasing needs of vulnerable and stranded migrants throughout Djibouti. The government, in partnership with MRP partners, set-up the Ar-Aoussa quarantine site in Ali-Sabieh region to quarantine and treat people transiting through Djibouti before their return to their countries of origin. Since its establishment in May 2020, more than 5,000 migrants have transited through the site where they receive food, water, NFIs and medical assistance. Life-saving assistance and protection services (including food, temporary shelter, NFIs, information, psycho-social and medical care and services) also continued to be provided by MRP partners to vulnerable migrants (including unaccompanied children) at the Migration Response Centre (MRC) in Obock as well as other formal and informal settlements along the migration corridor.

Identified Needs

As Djibouti is a transit country for migrants using the Eastern Route (many of which are using irregular migration channels), several categories of migrants, including transiting migrants traveling from and to the Gulf States, stranded migrants in

Djibouti, street children and vulnerable migrants in Djibouti city, as well as host communities are included in the MRP response strategy. Depending on their age, gender, vulnerability status and migratory experience, significant proportions of these migrants require tailored lifesaving and protection assistance.

Many transiting migrants using the Eastern Route face difficulties in Djibouti in terms of access to food and water, the harsh climate, exposure to human rights violations including but not limited to monetary extortion, physical assault, torture, and sexual violence and abuse by smugglers, as well as being exposed to risks of human trafficking. Irregular migrants continue to need assistance at the PoEs and at key transit points across the migration corridor in Djibouti as they transit, often on foot and in remote desert areas of the country, with very limited economic resources. The most critical needs include water, food, temporary shelter or accommodation, Non-Food Items (NFIs), WASH services, medical assistance, Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) on the risks of irregular migration and other pertinent topics (COVID-19 infection, prevention and control measures for example), AVRR and search and rescue in the Obock region.

The return journey from Yemen back to Djibouti is arguably even more difficult⁴⁶. Some male migrants reported being repeatedly beaten by security forces in detention centres in Yemen, whilst women have been subjected to GBV at the hands of smugglers and employers. Despite the prevalent fear of GBV reporting among the returning migrants assisted at the MRC in Obock, the cases were brought to attention as the victims became pregnant from the abuse or sought tailored medical care. Over the past year, many returning migrants hosted at the MRC in Obock suffered from mild to severe psychosocial trauma as they experienced physical abuse, sleep deprivation, illegal detention, forced labour and theft. Improved access to Psychological First Aid, protection and MHPSS services could be a relevant factor of resilience and recovery for vulnerable migrants who show negative psychological reactions including disorientation, sense of instability, lack of trust, isolation, anger and aggressive behaviors.

The living conditions of stranded migrants in Djibouti have significantly deteriorated since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. Migrants share the already scarce resources with host communities, which have resulted in increased social tensions and migrant stigmatization, especially in the Obock region. Tensions between different Ethiopian groups have been commonly registered in the MRC and other informal sites in Djibouti. Movement restrictions are exacerbating living conditions and relationships among migrants, as well as between migrants, security forces and host communities. Many of the migrants currently stranded in Djibouti live in overcrowded informal settlements where they lack access to the most basic services such as food and WASH and where they face protection risks including exposure to human trafficking, smuggling and ethnic disputes.

In an attempt to continue their journey, they often look for informal work opportunities. Even though there is limited information regarding the type of available employment opportunities for (stranded) migrants, there are reasons for concern regarding the often-exploitative nature of the employment and livelihood opportunities, as well as the perceptions of hosting communities on migrants engaged in paid labour.

44 "People on the move" include refugees, asylum seekers, migrants and internally displaced persons according to the definition contained in the UN policy paper "COVID-19 and People on the Move", published in June 2020.

45 National Statistics Institute of Djibouti.

46 IOM 2020; Ethiopian Migrants Returning from Yemen to Djibouti: a Qualitative Study; https://displacement.iom.int/system/tdf/reports/FGD%20Report-MigrantsFromYemen_EN_FINAL%5B5782%5D.pdf?file=1&type=node&id=9846.

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting migration trends has not been limited to the transiting and stranded migrants in Djibouti, but it is also increasingly affecting host community members. Along with the negative impact of COVID-19 on income and livelihoods, and the psychosocial stress due to the spread of the disease, host community members in Obock have expressed fear of the large number of Ethiopian migrants returning from Yemen and have advocated for increased support in terms of peaceful coexistence initiatives and support to local associations and community-based organizations aimed at promoting livelihood and educational opportunities as well as building mutual trust between different population groups.

Even though children, including UASC, use the same routes and modes of travel as adults and are exposed to the same risks, they are currently offered limited special protection along the way. This is of particular concern in Djibouti city where street children are exposed to increased protection risks due to limited access to basic services (food and water, temporary accommodation, health care and education). More than 34 per cent of the interviewed street children in the 2018 IOM, MoWaF and DISED study reported having suffered from verbal abuse, 32 per cent complained of having been victims of physical aggression and almost 5 per cent mentioned having been exposed to sexual abuse and exploitation. In Djibouti city, temporary accommodation, access to specialized protection services and family tracing and reunification support are crucial in preventing unaccompanied children from being left to live on the streets in very dire conditions.

Whilst the pandemic has generated new migration trends and re-shaped existing ones, flows of migrants in 2021 are expected to be similar to 2019. However, migration routes and population group profiles remain the same. The gradual reopening of borders, the easing of movement restrictions and the heightened economic vulnerabilities of potential migrants in communities of origin mean that the number of persons opting to migrate will likely be similar or may be higher than the numbers recorded in 2019. The easing of movement restrictions since the last quarter of 2020 has already prompted stranded migrants in Djibouti to either attempt to resume their journey to the Gulf States or to spontaneously return to Ethiopia. Spontaneous returns from Djibouti to Ethiopia are set to continue as long as the AVR services between Djibouti and Ethiopia are not fully resumed. In terms of needs and vulnerabilities, it is expected that the negative impact of COVID-19 on incomes in Ethiopia and the on-going conflict in Yemen and Tigray region of Ethiopia will continue increasing the vulnerabilities of migrants in Djibouti as they will be exposed to more protection risks. The increasing securitization of borders, the increase in smuggling service costs, the increasing spontaneous returns from Yemen, the limited provision of safe and dignified return options, among other factors, will have an impact on the protection status of vulnerable migrants.

Consequently, due to the negative effect of the COVID-19 on the economies, the government and partners' capacity to respond to these needs will be reduced, and the needs, risks, vulnerabilities and priorities are reflected in the MRP partners' response programming for 2021. It is estimated that approximately 64,054 migrants in Djibouti will be in need of assistance in 2021 (including 54,603 migrants and 10,283 host community members).

Targets and Planned Response

Based on the 2020 trends, MRP partners in Djibouti estimate that more than 44,000 transiting migrants and approximately

10,000 migrants currently residing in Djibouti city and Obock will need life-saving humanitarian assistance and voluntary return assistance for those lacking the means to return home. In addition, more than 10,000 host community members will be targeted through community-based activities. The response in Djibouti will focus on life-saving and basic needs support along the migration corridor while also engaging pertinent stakeholders, including governmental counterparts, in reinforcing migrants' access to protection services and strengthening referral mechanisms, such as the development and implementation of SOPs on migrant protection and assistance. Engaging the host community in the response, improving access to employment and livelihood opportunities and fostering social cohesion between both targeted population groups will also be prioritized in the framework of this plan. Finally, the collection, analysis and sharing of migration data as well as the building of partnerships will continue to be enhanced to ensure an informed and coordinated response by partners. The following actions will be implemented under each strategic objective for 2021:

Specific Objective 1: provide life-saving assistance to vulnerable migrants and host communities.

- Provision of humanitarian assistance to vulnerable migrants in the MRC, protection centres as well as in informal and formal settlements and quarantine sites along the migration corridor in Djibouti. Humanitarian assistance will include search and rescue, registration, the provision of food and NFIs (including personal protective equipment (PPE) and hygiene kits), temporary and safe shelter assistance, COVID-19 screening, medical care and psycho-social counseling, WASH services, such as the rehabilitation of WASH facilities at the MRC and other protection centres in the country, water trucking, hygiene promotion and RCCE.
- Collaborate with relevant government entities to strengthen their capacities in providing assistance to vulnerable migrants in line with established standards and support them with the provision of equipment and other resources, particularly for the Coast Guard's rescue at sea operations.

Specific objective 2: Provide quality, timely and inclusive protection assistance and services to migrants and host communities.

- Strengthen mechanisms for the identification of migrants' protection needs, risks and vulnerabilities through individual interviews/vulnerability screening and protection assessments through focus group discussions.
- Strengthen the provision of tailored assistance and protection services for vulnerable migrants, including victims of human rights violations and VoTs.
- Support the recruitment and training of staff at the MRC in Obock and other specialized protection partners, including governmental counterparts to ensure that services are provided in line with established standards.
- Conduct psychosocial screening and assessments and provide psychosocial and psychological support for migrants with MHPSS needs. Provide tailored child protection services for UASC at the MRC, in Djibouti city and in other protection centres across the country, as per the established minimum standards. This will include the establishment of sound child protection processes, including BIAs and BIDs, the provision of timely FTR assistance, temporary accommodation, food

and water, MHPSS, NFIs, medical screening and referral, informal education, life skills training and reunification with parents/guardians through government social workers.

- Build the capacity of migrant and host communities on migrant protection and assistance with a particular focus on human rights of migrants to ensure their effective protection in transit and destination countries as well as upon return to their country or origin.
- Conduct awareness campaigns about the dangers of irregular migration, amongst other topics, in areas identified as hotspots for irregular migration in Djibouti, such as along the migration corridor, in Djibouti city and at the MRC in Obock, through the facilitation of community dialogues, mobile outreach activities and building on existing campaigns undertaken by different partners, including governmental counterparts. Conduct protection advocacy in support of migrants' rights through constructive dialogue and technical assistance/capacity building of government actors.
- Advocate and ensure comprehensive programming on counter-trafficking with an emphasis on prevention, protection, prosecution and partnership. Provide capacity-building trainings for government officials, social workers and other protection partners on child protection, including case management, counter-trafficking and/or smuggling of migrants and MHPSS, among other topics.
- Develop, validate and implement a National Referral Mechanism for vulnerable migrants in Djibouti. The mechanism will also be supported through evidence-based prevention and response efforts, including joint needs assessments and data collection as well as advocacy, with a focus on mainstreaming migrant vulnerabilities in national protection and case management systems (child protection, GBV, etc.).
- Develop and/or strengthen referral mechanisms and/or Memorandums of Understandings with specialized service providers (medical structures, MHPSS services, among other services) to ensure improved case management for vulnerable migrants and host communities, including survivors of GBV and victims of trafficking.

Specific objective 3: Strengthen access to return, sustainable reintegration and community stabilization.

- Provide voluntary return assistance including pre-departure assistance (medical and vulnerability screening, pre-departure counselling, facilitation of travel documents, travel assistance) to vulnerable migrants who do not have the means to voluntarily return to their countries of origin. This will enable them to reach their communities of origin safely.
- Continue to strengthen the structures and procedures for enhanced border and immigration management, such as through the provision of trainings for border officials, the promotion of migrants' human rights at borders, the donation of equipment and materials and the rehabilitation of border posts.

- Rebuild trust between migrants and host communities, engaging them in targeted and guided activities that can significantly contribute to reducing tensions and facilitating dialogue. This includes supporting local associations and community-based organizations in capacity-building programmes, as well as provision of small grants to implement a range of activities aimed at restoring livelihoods, educational opportunities and promoting mutual trust between migrants and host community members.
- Building on the results and findings of livelihood assessments⁴⁷ which were conducted in the areas hosting large number of migrants (Obock and Tadjourah region), MRP partners will develop informed livelihood programming and income generating activities targeting migrants and host communities as a means of promoting economic opportunities.

Specific objective 4: building evidence, partnerships and coordination to enhance the humanitarian response and migration management throughout the migration route.

- Continue tracking migration flows in Djibouti, through data collection on the number of migrants passing through key transit points (including on the nationalities, age and sex breakdown, modes of transportation, main needs and vulnerabilities), as well as on the number of stranded migrants in the country due to COVID-19 mobility restrictions, to inform protection programming, policy and advocacy.
- Conduct context-specific research, which includes in-depth interviews with transiting and/or stranded migrants and host community members on relevant topics, such as the living conditions of stranded migrants in Djibouti and the returnees from Yemen as well as follow-up studies to the livelihood research conducted previously.
- Reinforce the MMTF coordination through the organization of regular meetings to discuss achievements and challenges in the implementing the MRP, establish a learning platform that promotes mutual capacity development among partners, as well as contribute to regional and bilateral government coordination initiatives.
- Revitalize the Migration Data Technical Working Group to foster dialogue among partners and build evidence that should be used as the basis for joint planning, policy development and coordination.
- Support the Government of Djibouti with the development and strengthening of national migration policies in support of protection needs of vulnerable migrants.

Djibouti Partners:

1. IOM
2. UNICEF
3. UNDP
4. WFP
5. NRC
6. DRC

⁴⁷ Danish Refugee Council, 2021; Youth livelihoods projects in Djibouti town, Tadjourah and Obock regions.

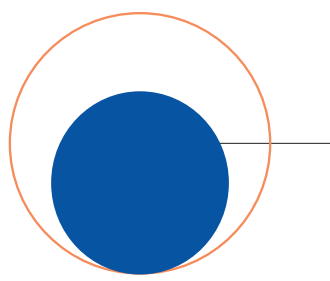
COUNTRY CHAPTER - ETHIOPIA



COUNTRY CHAPTER - ETHIOPIA

452,528
PEOPLE IN NEED

210,920
PEOPLE TARGETED



Departing Migrants
44,670

Returnee Migrants
93,088

Host Community
73,162



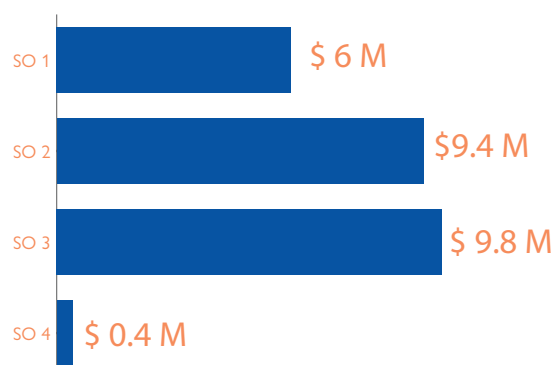
14
MRP PARTNERS

TOTAL FUNDING REQUIREMENT



USD 25.6 Million

FUNDING BY STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE



Country Overview

Ethiopia is a country of origin, transit, and destination for migrants in the Horn of Africa. Ethiopians are the most mobile population in the region, with tens of thousands of youths leaving the country every year on three major migratory routes: the Eastern Route via Somaliland, Puntland, Djibouti and Yemen to the Gulf States; the Southern route through Kenya, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Zambia, and Malawi to South Africa; and the Northern route through Egypt, Sudan, or Libya to Europe.

In 2019 alone, 138,213 migrants arrived in Yemen, with 91.5 per cent being Ethiopian nationals. In 2020, this figure dropped to 37,535 (92.2% Ethiopians), mostly owing to the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions. Out of the 482,234 movements that were tracked in the region in 2020, 54 per cent were within the Horn of Africa itself, while 33 per cent were on the Eastern Route, followed by the Southern (12%) and Northern (1%) routes. This represents a decrease of 35 per cent from the 744,113 movements tracked in 2019, whereby 63 per cent of the movements were taking place on the Eastern Route and 33 per cent within the Horn of Africa region.⁴⁸ Forced return figures of Ethiopian nationals from the Gulf States provide an accurate representation of the magnitude of mixed migration flows on the Eastern Route, with over 350,000⁴⁹ Ethiopian nationals having been returned from May 2017 to date, after Saudi authorities announced a mass deportation campaign. This corresponds to return rates of more than 8,000 per month. Return data indicate that the main areas of origin for irregular migration include the rural and densely populated areas of Amhara, Oromia and Tigray regional states for the Eastern Route. Afar, Somali regional states and Dire Dawa City Administration are main points of transit for migrants who cross the border to Djibouti or Somalia. Migrants on the Eastern Route are predominantly young male adults migrating

for economic reasons, with a significant proportion of females, also attracted by economic opportunities, to work mainly as domestic workers in the destination countries. Another trend observed in 2020 is a steadily rising proportion of UASC along all routes, particularly the eastern and southern ones.⁵⁰ In 2020, nine per cent, or 3,203, of all recorded arrivals in Yemen were UASC, which represents over 71 per cent of all children travelling on the route, a drastic increase from the 46 per cent tracked in 2019.⁵¹

The COVID-19 pandemic has significantly impacted movements within and outside of Ethiopia, also triggering a wave of spontaneous and forced returns from as the prominent countries of transit and destination for migrants along the Eastern Route. Between 1 April and 31 December 2020, more than 27,500 vulnerable migrants returned to Ethiopia through the country's land and air borders from destinations located on the Eastern Route. Returns from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and other Gulf States have drastically slowed down. In 2020, 36,632 vulnerable Ethiopian migrants were returned, 89 per cent of whom returned before 10 April 2020. To contain the spread of COVID-19, mass returns were suspended from April until September 2020, when they resumed at a rate of approximately 300 returnees per week. From April to December 2020, only 6,545 migrants were returned while 92,696 were returned over the same period in 2019, corresponding to a 93 per cent in arrivals. In 2019, 17.2 per cent of all the returnees were female, rising to 44.6 per cent in 2020. The proportion of UASC returnees also increased from 5.5 per cent in 2019 to 8.1 per cent in 2020.⁵²

In recently conducted studies, 87 per cent of the migrants detected along the Eastern Route identified economic reasons

48 IOM, 2020; Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) East and Horn of Africa and Yemen: Regional Snapshot 2019; https://displacement.iom.int/system/tdf/reports/2019_DTMRegionalSnapshot_EHoA_2019_0.pdf?file=1&type=node&id=8155.

49 IOM Regional Data Hub East and Horn of Africa, 2020; Return of Ethiopian Migrants from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; *ibid*.

50 IOM Regional Data Hub East and Horn of Africa, 2020; A region on the move: Mid-year mobility overview January to June 2020; *ibid*.

51 IOM, 2021; 2020 Migrant movements between the Horn of Africa and the Arabian Peninsula; *ibid*.

52 IOM, 2020. Registration database for arrivals from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

as a push factor for migration. Six per cent were seasonal migrants who were forced to migrate due to natural disasters while conflict accounted for seven per cent of the total movements.⁵³ Livelihoods in Ethiopia remain heavily based on rain-fed agriculture and are increasingly at risk due to the impact of climate change, resulting in fluctuating rainfall and decreasing crops yields. Ethiopia is additionally undergoing rapid demographic growth which seriously constrains access to land and brings more than two million youths on the labour market every year.⁵⁴ Ethiopia's equally sustained economic growth has not benefited all areas equally, meaning that job opportunities for the growing number of labour market entrants are unequally distributed. The combination of these factors coupled with the scarcity of regular labour migration opportunities, leads to a shortage of viable livelihood options in the country's rural and urban areas, creating economic drivers for irregular migration.

Identified Needs

Given Ethiopia's status as a country of origin, transit and return for migrants on the Eastern Route, several categories of migrants will be targeted by the MRP at different stages of the migratory journey, including departing migrants, transiting migrants, stranded migrants, returnees (including spontaneous returns and forced returns), and host communities. Whether they are departing or returning from the Eastern Route, significant proportions of migrants find themselves in need of life-saving humanitarian assistance, stemming from their age, gender and vulnerability status as well as their migration experiences. Migrants often travel with very few belongings and have limited access to income generating opportunities along the migration route to sustain themselves. Similarly, most migrants returning to Ethiopia cross the borders at remote PoEs where access to food and NFIs as well as adequate WASH services and facilities is often challenging. Temporary accommodation facilities used to shelter returnees after the closure of quarantine centres also require continued humanitarian support to ensure that migrant's basic needs are met. The most critical humanitarian needs identified by migrants and partners along the migration route as well as upon return include water and food, temporary shelter or accommodation, NFIs inclusive of PPE, WASH services, MHPSS, medical assistance and referrals to specialized services, onward transportation assistance, FTR assistance for UASC, RCCE on preventing the spread of COVID-19 as well as access to safe migration information. 55 Items such as formula milk and baby kits are also some of many needs on arrival by returning migrants, as are dignity kits for female returnees. In Addis Ababa, temporary accommodation, rehabilitation assistance and onward transportation or family tracing and reunification support are crucial in preventing migrants including UASC from being left to live on the streets in extremely precarious conditions. With the onset of the crisis in Northern Ethiopia, significant numbers of Tigrayan returnees will not be able to return safely to their communities of origin. This caseload will require extensive support in Addis Ababa or other locations outside of Tigray Regional State.

According to assessments on the migrant vulnerabilities in East and Horn of Africa, 79 per cent of the migrants within and from the Horn of Africa region directly witnessed or experienced one or multiple abuses during their journey including extortion, sexual violence and torture.⁵⁶ A recent study conducted in 2020 also showed that 100 per cent of returnees who participated in the survey reported having been physically and psychologically abused at least once.⁵⁷ Exposure to protection risks was reported to have started immediately upon departure from home communities, especially in the case of the most vulnerable groups, including UASC, pregnant and lactating women, women headed households, GBV survivors, VOT, elderly persons, and persons living with disabilities. Irregular migrants return to Ethiopia with very limited economic resources, often having experienced exploitation and abuse, with psychological and medical issues, and complicated psychosocial situations, and are one of the most vulnerable groups among the general population hard-hit by shocks such as the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. The complexity of the protection risks faced and experienced by migrants on the Eastern Route calls for a tailored response and protection monitoring to be conducted to identify protection issues and design responses in a timely manner coupled with systematic vulnerability screening for referral to specialized services.

Child protection is of particular concern at land border PoEs, where protection services, including FTR for UASC, are more challenging to provide than in Addis Ababa. UASC are particularly vulnerable during migration journeys. They use the same routes and modes of travel as adults, are exposed to the same risks, but are not afforded any special protection services along the way. For instance, among the 1,609 children returnees in 2019, 82.9 per cent did not have access to any assistance, including child protection services.⁵⁸ From April to December in 2020, 1,776 UASC were registered at COVID-19 quarantine centres, temporary accommodation, and PoEs, with 99.7 per cent coming from outside Addis Ababa and therefore needing FTR assistance, without which they would face severe protection risks including having no access to shelter or means to return home.⁵⁹ For those UASC for whom FTR is not possible due to the absence of caregivers/guardians or indicated otherwise by their BIA, there is a need for alternative care solutions to be facilitated in coordination with child protection actors. The Northern Ethiopian crisis may contribute to an increase in these cases.

Many returning migrants suffer from mild to severe psychosocial trauma from the physical abuse, sleep deprivation, illegal detention, forced labour, and theft including wage theft, they experienced before and during their travel. A recent study indicated that the prevalence of common mental disorders among returnees from the Middle East countries was found to be 29.2 per cent.⁶⁰ From March to December 2020, among those registered, 877 returning migrants suffering from psychosocial problems including excessive anxiety, addiction, and psychosomatic disorder such as headaches, body pains, flashback and post-traumatic stress disorder symptoms, were identified.

53 IOM Regional Data Hub East and Horn of Africa, 2020; A region on the move: Mid-year mobility overview January to June 2020; *ibid*.

54 Federal Government of Ethiopia, Job Creation Commission of Ethiopia, 2019; Plan of Action for Job Creation, 2020-2025.

55 IOM data collected from May to December 2020 among returning migrants at quarantine centres, temporary accommodation facilities, as well as points of entry indicated 73 per cent are in need of assistance.

56 Regional Mixed Migration Secretariat, 2017; Briefing Paper 5: Weighing the Risks - Protection risks and human rights violations faced by migrants in and from East Africa; <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/RMMS%20Briefing%20Paper%205%20-%20Weighing%20the%20Risks.pdf>

57 IOM, 2020; A Study on Child Migrants from Ethiopia; https://ronairbi.iom.int/sites/default/files/document/publications/IOM%20Ethiopia_A%20Study%20on%20Child%20Migrants%20from%20Ethiopia_Final.pdf

58 Médecins Sans Frontières, 2019

59 IOM Ethiopia registration data

60 Tilahun, M., Workicho, A. & Angaw, D.A., 2020; Common mental disorders and its associated factors and mental health care services for Ethiopian labour migrants returned from Middle East countries in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. BMC Health Serv Res 20, 681; <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12913-020-05502-0>

Data on returning migrants travelling from the Gulf states in 2020 also shows an increased prevalence of psychological and mental health problems as 50 per cent of the 2,208 individual medical consultations conducted in 2020 indicated symptoms related to anxiety and 20 per cent to depression.⁶¹ The number of psychiatric cases has also increased by 33.5 per cent compared to the previous year, with 183 cases in total,⁶² which is particularly significant given the reduction in migration flows in 2020. This indicates a significant need for Psychological First Aid for returnees upon arrival as well as assessments and referral of the most severe cases to specialized service providers for MHPSS. However, anxiety and fear of COVID-19 infection have been identified as some of the many hurdles hindering migrants from accessing assistance.

Incidents of GBV are reported to be prevalent during the migration journey and further contribute to the dire protection situation of Ethiopian migrants. Partners responded to more than 240 cases of GBV among returnees in 2020,⁶³ which included rape committed by smugglers, employers, and employers' family members and authorities.⁶⁴ Despite the prevalent fear of reporting GBV incidents among returning migrants due to fear of stigmatization, cases were reported as survivors became pregnant or sought medical treatment after developing medical complications such as fistula. It is estimated that the prevalence is much higher, as studies have pointed to a relative high proportion of respondents experiencing GBV, combined with an equally significant culture of silence and fear of reporting, reflecting significant underreporting.⁶⁵ Gender-based violence risk mitigation, provision of services and access to services and referral to specialized service providers along the whole migration route, including communities of return is key to the response.

According to a recent study conducted among a sample of 1,342 Ethiopian migrants returning through Metema, Moyale, and Galafi border towns, it was established that trafficking in persons is widespread along the Eastern Route, with a reported prevalence of human trafficking of 51 per cent.⁶⁶ The odds of being trafficked is positively associated with being female, low household wealth, using smugglers at departure, a high level of risk-opportunity imbalance before departure, and a strong feeling of hopelessness at success in the home-country. Comprehensive rehabilitation assistance for victims of trafficking both at PoEs and in communities of origin is needed.

The majority of woredas identified by OCHA as "priority 1" are prominent woredas of origin for irregular migration on the Eastern Route as they are deprived in an economic sense and suffer from natural disasters and conflict.⁶⁷ These communities of origin in Ethiopia often do not have the socio-economic resources necessary to reintegrate returnees, highlighting the need for sustainable solutions for returnees and members of their communities that are vulnerable to the adverse drivers of irregular migration. The overwhelming majority of migrants return to Ethiopia empty-handed, for which they are often stigmatized in their communities of origin, as well as for the perception of having engaged in criminal or morally reprehensible activities during their journeys. The lack of socio-economic resources in these communities has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic which has resulted in

business closures, rising unemployment and loss of livelihoods.⁶⁸ Assistance is therefore needed in the form of individual, family, and community-based reintegration support to ensure that the drivers of irregular migration are addressed in a sustainable manner.

In line with migration trends, it is assumed that Ethiopians will continue to form the majority of migrants on the Eastern Route, with Djibouti, Somalia, and Yemen as countries of transit and the Gulf States as the main destination countries. MRP partners also anticipate that COVID-19 movement restrictions will be further relaxed, thereby increasing numbers of forced returns from the Gulf States and larger outflows of migrants. However, it is also expected that the restrictions still in place will continue to exacerbate the risks and vulnerabilities migrants, as migrants turn to smugglers to avert the increased securitization of borders. The increase in smuggling services costs and involvement of criminal groups, and forced returns, put migrants in precarious conditions and limit possibilities for safe and dignified return options. COVID-19 will continue acting as a catalyst for movements in the region, with returns expected to continue from Djibouti, Somalia and Yemen, and heightened socioeconomic vulnerabilities in communities of origin, pushing higher numbers of youth to search for alternative livelihood options abroad.

In addition, the deterioration of the security situation and living conditions in main areas of origin may result in further instability in other areas, creating a push factor for irregular migration as well as preventing returnees from these areas from safely returning, placing them in further need of humanitarian assistance to meet their basic needs. Based on these assumptions MRP partners have determined that the needs of migrants will remain high and exacerbated by increased protection risks. Population group profiles are expected to remain the same in Ethiopia, including departing, transiting and returning migrants and members of host communities. Due to a slowdown in return movements during 2020, the presence of stranded Ethiopian populations in other countries has increased, also increasing the number of Ethiopian projected to return in 2021.

Targets and Planned Response

210,920 most vulnerable (44,670 departing migrants, 93,088 returnees and 73,162 host community members) for assistance. To address the urgent needs of these population groups, support will focus on humanitarian and protection assistance, community stabilization and strengthening of coordination in the migration response. Particularly vulnerable groups, including UASC, but also pregnant and lactating women, women headed households, GBV survivors, victims of trafficking, elderly persons, persons living with disabilities, and people living with chronic diseases will be prioritized. In order to ensure the appropriateness of the assistance, partners will mainstream gender, child protection, MHPSS and protection in all interventions, including technical support to frontline workers, such as the development and adaptation of SOPs, training of service providers, and the establishment of feedback and accountability mechanisms. All activities will be implemented taking into account the COVID-19 infection, prevention and control (IPC) guidelines from the Government of Ethiopia. The

61 IOM Ethiopia registration and assistance data.

62 Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) International; 2021; 2020 MSF Activities Abstract. PowerPoint Presentation.

63 IOM protection data and Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) International. Ibid.

64 Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) International. Ibid.

65 Mixed Migration Centre, 2018; Experiences of female refugees & migrants in origin, transit and destination countries; https://mixedmigration.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/050_experiences-of-female-refugees.pdf

66 Gezie, L.D., Yalew, A.W. & Gete, Y.K., 2019; Human trafficking among Ethiopian returnees: its magnitude and risk factors. BMC Public Health 19, 104; <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12889-019-6395-z>

67 OCHA, 2018; Ethiopia: Hotspot Woredas.

68 UNCT, 2020; UN Socio-economic Assessment of COVID-19 in Ethiopia, Addis Ababa.

following activities will be prioritized by MRP partners:

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

- Provide food and water, temporary shelter or accommodation assistance as well as NFIs, inclusive of PPE and menstrual hygiene management kits, to vulnerable outbound or inbound migrants.
- Conduct medical screening and referral, if needed, including referrals to primary and secondary healthcare, COVID-19 screening and treatment and MHPSS.
- Provide WASH services, including rehabilitation of WASH infrastructure at PoEs, water trucking, procurement and distribution of WASH NFIs, and hygiene promotion.
- Develop and disseminate RCCE strategies and materials to improve the information sharing and engagement with communities on COVID-19.
- Provide emergency multipurpose cash transfers to vulnerable returnee migrants for the purpose of reintegration. Cash transfers will cover the basic expenses of most vulnerable returnees for three months upon return.
- Support VHR operations, enabling migrants stranded in vulnerable situations in Yemen, Djibouti and Somalia to reach their communities of origin safely. This will include post-arrival assistance, consisting of airport arrival, local transportation, temporary accommodation, medical screening and referral, NFIs, food and water, mental health and psychosocial support, onward transportation to communities of origin and, when applicable, reintegration counselling.
- Provide general orientation on the security situation and access to basic services and food security in areas of origin for those originating from regions that are deemed not safe for return. MRP partners will support/facilitate returnees to communicate directly with their families to arrange for family accommodation in safe areas outside their area of origin and to gather first-hand information on the situation in accessible communities. For those not able to immediately return home, this will include the provision of temporary accommodation arrangements either in Addis Ababa or at the regional level in coordination with the National Disaster Risk Management Commission (NDRMC) and other relevant government offices, and the procurement and distribution of NFI kits for returnees to meet their WASH, COVID-19 protection, clothing as well as provide emergency food assistance.
- For UASC, MRP partners will engage shelter NGOs in Addis Ababa and the regions to provide temporary accommodation until the FTR process is completed and until such a time as the safety and stability of communities of origin are deemed adequate for reunification. Meanwhile, facilitate reunification with family members outside areas of instability and work to expand temporary accommodation capacity for UASC for whom reunification is not an option.

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

- Build the capacity of government and non-governmental

entities as well as migrant and host communities on migrant protection and assistance with a particular focus on the human rights of migrants to ensure their effective protection.

- Strengthen mechanisms for identification of migrants' protection needs, risks and vulnerabilities through individual interviews/vulnerability screening and protection assessments through focus group discussions.
- Conduct screening and assessments and provide psychosocial and psychological support for migrants and refer to local mental health facilities as appropriate. Ensure that spaces where migrants are accommodated are conducive to improved mental health, for example through access to recreational facilities, and staff having access to care.
- Strengthen capacities of service providers to ensure the provision of quality essential services for vulnerable migrants (such as GBV survivors and victims of trafficking), through effective case management and provision of assistance and services such, safe shelter, MHPSS, cash and voucher assistance, legal assistance, family tracing and reunification and medical services, to complement local capacity and in accordance with international standards.
- Address the protection needs of returning UASC by conducting BIA and where necessary BID and, provide timely child protection assistance and services including FTR, temporary accommodation/safe shelter, food and water, MHPSS, NFIs, medical screening and referral, informal education and life skills training, and reinsertion grants upon reunification. For those UASC whose BIA does not indicate FTR, facilitate alternative care arrangements in coordination with local partners and the Ministry of Women, Children and Youth.
- Increase the availability of specialized protection services for migrant returnees and vulnerable community members in regional capitals and other major regional cities through expansion of direct assistance and specialized protection services and strengthening of referral mechanisms. This will involve providing direct support to local shelter NGOs.
- Improve access to reliable information on safe migration options to promote informed migration decisions and increased understanding of mechanisms for mitigation of protection risks in hotspot communities, including by working with community-based protection structures to support vulnerable and returnee migrants, including children, and those at risk.
- Improve the coordination between migrant assistance service providers, including specialized protection services providers (UASC, GBV, MHPSS, VOT rehabilitation), both in Addis Ababa and in the main areas of origin for migrants by strengthening the National Referral Mechanism.
- Conduct protection advocacy in support of migrants' rights including but not limited to alternatives to detention, including in particular for migrant children, through constructive dialogue and technical assistance/capacity building of government actors.
- Ensure comprehensive programming on counter-trafficking focusing on prevention, protection, prosecution and partnership.

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

- Support the development and implementation of a national cooperation framework, policies and guidelines for sustainable return and reintegration.
- Provide AVRR assistance to migrants primarily in Djibouti and Somalia who have expressed the desire to return home. This will include post-arrival assistance in Ethiopia, and onward transportation and reintegration assistance in the area of origin.
- Deliver community stabilization initiatives designed to address irregular migration drivers and strengthen local capacities to mitigate or prevent the recurrence of displacement and irregular migration, including both individual micro-entrepreneurship assistance and skills building in targeted economic sectors (following market analyses), improving the provision of and access to basic services through the rehabilitation of infrastructure, provision of equipment and capacity building for improved service delivery, and efforts encouraging community cohesion, including conflict mediation to address long-standing grievances.
- Provide reintegration support using individual and community-based approaches in irregular migration hotspots. Community-based reintegration initiatives will support improved access to quality basic services, livelihoods and other initiatives, and will promote community cohesion, expanded service delivery and other efforts in host communities in hotspots.
- Promote increased access to safe and regular labour migration channels for Ethiopian migrant workers as viable alternatives to irregular migration, by supporting advocacy and negotiation skills for bilateral labour agreements and capacity development activities on ethical recruitment as well as contributing to increased access to training opportunities and reliable information for prospective migrants via equipment support, technical support in developing training curricula and establishing MRCs.
- Improve border and migration management processes for smoother crossing of borders and identification/referral of vulnerable migrants, such as GBV survivors and victims of trafficking. This will be done by working with key agencies mandated with border management to expand the number of official border crossing points on key mixed migration routes, as well as improving the technical capacities of border officials.

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

- Conduct and support relevant research and data management initiatives such as Flow Monitoring, DTM, research works on emerging migrant protection and migration governance topics, impact of conflict on migration trends, protection monitoring and profiling visits, joint monitoring, and needs assessment.
- Provide capacity development support to strengthen the national migration data management system.
- Improve coordination and synergies with national coordination platforms on migration including the

National Partnership Coalition, the UN Migration Network for Ethiopia (UNMNE), the EU+ Forum on Migration, as well as the humanitarian coordination system (cluster system) and the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF).

- Continue to collaborate inter-regionally, between the UNMN in Ethiopia and Saudi Arabia, to build on existing expressed interests of both governments to address the continued mixed migration flow between the countries, focusing on inter-regional dialogue on admission, readmission, return and reintegration.
- Strengthen MRP coordination through regular meetings to discuss achievements and challenges in implementing the response, establishing a learning platform that promotes mutual capacity development among partners, as well as contributing to regional and bilateral government coordination, information management, reporting and monitoring and evaluation initiatives.
- Increase efforts to promote cross-border collaboration, particularly in migrant protection, health and border management among others.
- Improve the visibility of MRP achievements among concerned government agencies, civil society, UN system, private sector and general public, emerging issues and trends and associated migrants' needs through the development of communication and research products.

The MRP enabled flexible programming, which allowed MRP partners to tailor activities to humanitarian needs emerging from the COVID-19 outbreak, including the provision of emergency cash reintegration grants to address immediate needs, as opposed to the usual in-kind assistance which was not feasible in COVID-19 settings.

In recent years, the Government of Ethiopia has made remarkable progress in terms of building a conducive policy environment that considers the special vulnerabilities and needs of migrants and integrates them into national policies. The government recently passed a new Proclamation to Provide for the Prevention and Suppression of Trafficking in Persons and the Smuggling of Persons (No. 1178/2020) which better equips the country's overall counter-trafficking response, including the establishment, of the National Partnership Coalition on Migration (NPC).

The NPC is a whole-of-government platform mandated to spearhead all migration related initiatives in the country including availing life-saving assistance and protection for vulnerable migrants, facilitating regular labour migration channels, improving immigration and border management, as well as addressing the adverse drivers of irregular migration.

This is in line with National Coordination Mechanisms which have been supported at the regional level under the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) in an effort to address migration-related challenges through improved national migration policies and governance systems.

Ethiopia is one of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) champion countries, and the UN Migration Network for Ethiopia was established to coordinate UN system support to the Government of Ethiopia in implementing the GCM. Currently the Government of Ethiopia is in the process of developing its first-ever National Migration Policy, which will be highly relevant to the provision of assistance to vulnerable migrants. MRP partners are providing support to the Government of Ethiopia in this development, to help ensure that key migrant protection concerns are mainstreamed and addressed in the document.

Linkages with Development/Humanitarian Plans

Activities in the MRP are mainstreamed in national humanitarian planning processes such as the Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) and Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) for 2021. In Ethiopia, this is the first time that returning migrants' needs have been reflected in either of these frameworks. In addition, the MRP contributes to development frameworks such as the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) and the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM).

Ethiopia Partners:

1. Action for Social Development and Environmental Protection Organization (ASDEPO)
2. Agar Ethiopia Charitable Society
3. CARE International in Ethiopia
4. Danish Red Cross
5. Danish Refugee Council (DRC)
6. Ethiopian Catholic Church
7. Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus Development and Social Service Commission North Central Ethiopian Synode Branch Office (EECMY-DASSC-NCES-BO)
8. Ethiopian Kale Heywet Church
9. Ethiopian Red Cross Society (ERCS)
10. Good Samaritan Association
11. Humedica e.V.
12. HUNDEE - Oromo Grassroots Development Initiative
13. International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)
14. International Labour Organization (ILO)
15. International Organization for Migration (IOM)
16. Mahibere Hiwot for Social Development
17. Médecins du Monde - France (MDM)
18. Médecins Sans Frontières Spain (MSF)
19. Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)
20. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
21. Organization for Prevention Rehabilitation and Integration of Female Street Children (OPRIFS)
22. Positive Action for Development (PAD)
23. Save the Children
24. Terre des Hommes Netherlands (TdHNL)
25. United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)
26. United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN WOMEN)
27. United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
28. United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
29. United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF)
30. World Health Organization (WHO)

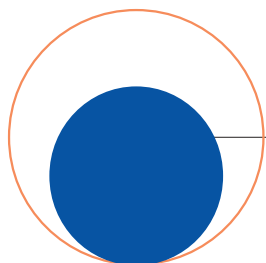
COUNTRY CHAPTER - SOMALIA



Children abandoned by smugglers gather at a community centre for Ethiopian migrants in Hargeisa. | Photo credit: IOM 2020

COUNTRY CHAPTER - SOMALIA

326,271
PEOPLE IN NEED



289,849
PEOPLE TARGETED

- Departing Migrants **10,261**
- Transiting Migrants **20,310**
- Migrants at Destination **8,143**
- Returnee Migrants **21,949**
- Host Community **229,186***



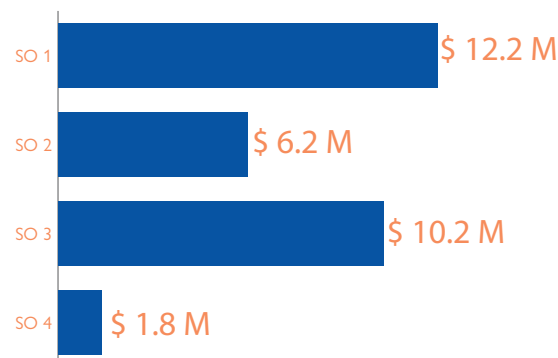
9
MRP PARTNERS

TOTAL FUNDING REQUIREMENT



USD 30.4 Million

FUNDING BY STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE



*Host community members under this plan have also been partially targeted under the Somalia Humanitarian Response Plan 2021.

Country Overview

Somalia continues to be faced with protracted conflict and cyclical natural hazards that cause displacement and increased vulnerabilities to mobile populations. On one hand, it is a country of origin for Somalis seeking better livelihoods in the Middle East countries, while on the other hand it is both a destination and the main transit country for migrants from Ethiopia travelling on the Eastern Route. Out of the 37,535 migrant arrivals recorded in Yemen in 2020, 7 per cent, or 2,768 were Somalis, while the remaining 93 per cent (34,763) were Ethiopian.⁶⁹ Overall, 66 per cent of all migrant arrivals recorded in Yemen in 2020, both Ethiopian and Somali nationals departed from Somalia, with 34 per cent departing from Djibouti.⁷⁰ The primary departure point in Somalia is Bossaso, Puntland.

With 73 per cent of the population living under the international poverty line and an estimated poverty rate among the youth as high as 68 per cent, the lack of employment especially among youth as highlighted in Somalia's National Development Plan 2017 – 2019 and low income, are the main push factors for migration in search of better livelihood opportunities abroad. Furthermore, education opportunities are also limited, and more than three million Somali children are out of school.⁷¹ Somali youth, making up almost 15 per cent of the overall population, are also particularly vulnerable to forced recruitment by armed militia and terrorist organizations such as Al-Shabaab,⁷² creating a further push factor for outward migration.

The humanitarian crisis and complex migration reality in Somalia has been further exacerbated by the outbreak of COVID-19 whose secondary effects on migrants and their livelihood is significant. Migrants have identified, among the major negative impacts of COVID-19 the increased difficulty for border crossing, the decrease in job opportunities in the

transit locations and the depleted financial support expected from family members. The main challenges experienced by migrants since the COVID-19 outbreak, pertain to the inability to purchase and access basic goods and the loss of opportunities for daily income generating activities which triggered a reduction in the quality and quantity of the food consumed daily as well as the decreased reliance on the wider network of migrants and community for basic needs.

Due to border closures and movement restrictions as part of the COVID-19 response, arrivals of Somali nationals in Yemen in 2020 dropped significantly, from 11,730 in 2019 to 2,768 in 2020. Similarly, overall departures from Somalia to Yemen decreased by 70 per cent, from 83,613 in 2019 to 24,956 in 2020. It is expected that with the easing of border restriction towards the end of 2020, migrant flows will again increase in 2021 and reach the levels of 2019.

The COVID-19 crisis further resulted in migrants being stranded along the migration route, as they could neither continue their onward journey nor return home. Most voluntary return programmes had to be suspended as borders closed and the resumption of the voluntary returns was met with limitations from receiving countries linked to the need for quarantine and testing in isolation facilities. It is estimated that at the end of 2020, approximately 680 migrants were stranded in and around Bossaso, with few options available to continue their journey or to return home.⁷³ In addition to transiting and stranded migrants, Somalia is also host to settled migrants, or migrants at destination, which are primarily Ethiopian nationals who choose to settle along the migration route in either Somaliland or Puntland. Both settled and stranded migrants are faced with increasing stigmatization and vulnerability, as they

69 IOM, 2020; DTM - Flow Monitoring Points | Migrant Arrivals and Yemeni Returns In 2020; *ibid*.

70 IOM, 2020; DTM - Flow Monitoring Points | Migrant Arrivals and Yemeni Returns In 2020; *ibid*.

71 UNICEF, 2021; Education; <https://www.unicef.org/somalia/education>.

72 Federal Government of Somalia, 2019; Somalia National Development Plan 2020 to 2024; <http://mop.gov.so/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/NDP-9-2020-2024.pdf>.

73 IOM, 2021; Impact of Covid-19 Movement Restrictions on Migrants along the Eastern Corridor, Report 10 | as of 31 December 2020; <https://ronairobi.iom.int/publications/covid-19-eastern-corridor-report-december-2020>.

are suspected of carrying COVID-19 by local communities and are finding it increasingly difficult to access labour opportunities due to COVID-19 measures, impacting on their ability to sustain themselves.⁷⁴ Migration Response Centres in Hargeisa and Bossaso registered 2,768 migrants seeking assistance in 2020.⁷⁵

Finally, Somalia is also a country of return with the highest number of migrants returning from the Gulf States. According to the Government of Somalia, in 2019, more than 4,000 migrants were returned from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia with limited support upon arrival due to the absence of post arrival and reintegration assistance tailored to this group. In 2020, MRP partners reached 1,332 returnees with onward transportation assistance, primarily those who required support to move beyond Mogadishu.⁷⁶ Most of the returnees are youth and male, who would have independently organized their journey from Somalia and reached the Gulf States via land through Yemen to access better employment opportunities. Recent return profiling revealed that 83 per cent of returnees are male, and 17 per cent female, with the vast majority (81%) aged between 18 and 37 and primarily working as domestic workers or in manual labour.⁷⁷ Significant proportions of returnees also report having experienced violations and abuse while working in the destination countries, including physical violence (62%), threats and denunciations (29%), movement restrictions and confinement (7%), and withholding of wages (3%).⁷⁸ COVID-19 has further exacerbated the vulnerabilities and provision of assistance for this cohort leading to longer periods in detention centres. As such there is need to adopt preventive measures upon arrival and shifting the focus from longer-term provision of humanitarian assistance to promote reintegration in the community of return. While some of the challenges related to border closures and movement restrictions are expected to decrease with the increased easing of COVID-19 measures, the impact of COVID-19 on migration patterns in Somalia is expected to continue. It is anticipated that migrants will remain longer in Somaliland and Puntland as they lack the financial means to either continue their journey and/or return home, which could be particularly the case if the pandemic situation requires a renewed tightening of restrictions.

Identified Needs

Migrants along the migration route in Somalia frequently require life-saving humanitarian assistance. They often enter the country by irregular means with very few belongings and require humanitarian assistance to cover basic needs and access to services. Migrants primarily stay in the host communities during their transit, while they seek temporary employment to fund their onward journey, and this puts an additional strain on the already struggling communities. Migrants stranded due to COVID-19 border closures face an increasing lack of access to temporary labour opportunities due to stigmatization and exclusion, and need humanitarian assistance, especially as host community support also decreases. Lack of access to basic services was reported by 70 per cent of migrants in the MRCs as one of the main challenges along the Eastern Route.⁷⁹ main needs identified are therefore both direct humanitarian assistance to migrants, such as the provision of food and NFIs, and access to services for both migrants and host communities, such as water, health care, and protection services, including

referrals to specialized service providers. The Somalia health system has its gaps and limitations and there is need to provide comprehensive and quality services to vulnerable populations and eliminating barriers to access due to culture, age and gender especially among migrants with specific needs.

Returning migrants are additionally faced with heightened vulnerabilities due to the often-involuntary nature of the return and the challenges faced during their migratory journey. The Government of Saudi Arabia is engaging with the UN on issues pertaining to screening of migrants and addressing protection concerns. Many returnees are traumatized from the exploitation, violence and abuse suffered during their journey to the Middle East and returnees often arrive in need of immediate post-arrival assistance, including medical attention and psychosocial support, as well as onward transportation assistance to their areas of origin.

Mobile populations within Somalia, and those aiming to reach Somalia and then travel onwards to Yemen and other countries in the Middle East are particularly vulnerable to smugglers and human traffickers who prey on their plight with promises of a better life. As such, enhanced awareness of mobile populations about the dangers of irregular migration but also domestic and cross border human trafficking is important as well as information about the available response via provision of assistance and specialized services including protection and health services. Specific groups such as children, women, elderly, and people with disabilities are particularly vulnerable to different forms of abuse and exploitation such as GBV, family separation, human trafficking and labour exploitation along the migration route. Migrants often struggle with trauma and psychological disorders from protection violations and mistreatment suffered along their journey. The national protection system in Somalia has limited capacity and the number of MHPSS providers is extremely limited, resulting in inadequate provision of services compared to the needs. To ensure access of migrants to protection and mental health services, an expansion of the protection and MHPSS response, including referrals to specialized service providers, such as child protection specialists, as well as capacity-building of relevant actors is needed. Comprehensive assistance for victims of trafficking is also required, as is the increased support to search and rescue operations to mitigate risks along the migration route.

Regardless of the method of return, whether involuntarily, voluntarily, or spontaneously, the needs for sustainable reintegration remain the same for all at individual, household and community levels. To reduce the impact of push factors and address root causes of irregular migration, sustainable solutions and longer-term solutions to sustainable livelihoods need to be developed and implemented in identified migration source areas and areas of high return. A successful intervention must respond to individual, household, community and structural vulnerabilities through promoting inclusivity of stakeholders in identifying the needs to be addressed and recommendations for reintegration activities that benefit both the returnees and host communities.

Adequate migration data and analysis of information is essential for an appropriate, effective, and inclusive migration response.

Government partners require support in the collection, analysis

74 Mixed Migration Centre, 2020; The impact of COVID-19 on Ethiopian refugees and migrants in Somaliland; https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/127_covid_snapshot_eay.pdf

75 IOM Regional Data Hub East and Horn of Africa, 2021; Migration Response Centres (MRCs) East and Horn of Africa. 01 January - 31 December 2020; <https://ronairobi.iom.int/publications/mrc-fact-sheet-december-2020>

76 IOM, 2021; registration data

77 IOM, 2021; Profiling of Somali Migrants Returned from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia between October-December 2020.

78 IOM, 2021; Profiling of Somali Migrants; *ibid*.

and sharing of migration data to promote evidence-based policy decision making. Partners also need to collaborate in developing harmonized information management systems to ensure that information gathered benefits all. The COVID-19 pandemic has become the new normal that has redefined migration globally. As such, there is a need to mainstream COVID-19 response in all interventions. MRP partners need to support the government to enhance its capacities to prevent and manage the treatment of populations on the move. Beyond testing and treatment, this also requires specific advocacy to include migrants in all aspects of the COVID-19 response, specifically also COVID-19 vaccinations, in line with the national response.

Targets and Planned Response

The MRP response in Somalia will focus on the provision of life-saving humanitarian and protection assistance to vulnerable migrants, including departing migrants, transiting migrants, migrants at destination and returnees based on adaptation to needs as identified through continuous monitoring and needs assessments. MRP partners will target 70,192 migrants including 35,036⁷⁹ departing migrants, 49,906 transiting migrants, 8,143 migrants at destination, living in Somalia, and 4,000 returnees from the Gulf States. The MRP response in Somalia will target 229,186 host community members who are not included in the HRP. Host communities in areas of high return and transit and those where migrants have settled, will be primarily targeted with community-based assistance to promote reintegration, sustainable solutions and community stabilization. MRP partners will further prioritize enhanced coordination and collaboration as well as strengthening the evidence base for a better and more efficient migration response in the country and across borders. As such MRP will conduct the following actions for each strategic objective:

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

- Provide direct assistance through the MRCs network in Somalia as well as Ethiopian Community Centres through the provision of NFIs, food and temporary shelter

assistance based on needs and vulnerability criteria.

- Enhance the capacity of medical staff at the MRCs clinics through trainings and strengthening of referral mechanisms to support the provision of primary and secondary health care in a timely and quality manner.
- Improve access to water for migrants and host communities through the provision of safe, equitable and affordable water as well as the rehabilitation of strategic water sources and communal, multi-use water reservoirs.
- Raise awareness on hygiene practise and support community led cleaning/disposal campaigns by training community mobilisers and leaders in vulnerable settlements and host communities and by recruiting and training migrants and community members as hygiene promoters on key health risks related to WASH, specifically regarding COVID-19 IPC.
- Conduct health outreach and provide assistance to migrants and host communities along primary and secondary migration routes through mobile health clinics and way stations to enhance screening of vulnerabilities and ensure continuation of essential health services and the COVID-19 response in hard-to-reach areas.
- Provide life-saving transportation and rescue assistance in a safe, humane and dignified manner to migrants by training coast guards in search and rescue operations, capacity-building of government officials for humanitarian border management and through training of border officials on International Health Regulations (2005).
- Strengthen reception assistance through tailored services, such as psychological first aid, Non-Food Items and medical assistance and onward transportation for returnees from the Gulf States.



IOM nurse checking migrants temperature at Aden airport IOM Yemen | Photo credit: N. Nadhem/IOM 2021

⁷⁹ Numbers indicate estimated People in Need (PiN) for 2021

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

- Build the capacity of government and non-governmental entities as well as migrant and host communities on migrant protection and assistance with a particular focus on human rights of migrants to ensure their effective protection in transit and destination countries as well as upon return to their country or origin
- Develop and strengthen referral mechanisms from MRCs, way stations, child protection desks and mobile units to pre-identified actors in Puntland, Somaliland and Banadir Regional Administration (BRA) or the provision of tailored services such as GBV, education, child protection and legal aid/counselling.
- Roll out capacity-building activities on international protection including child protection, GBV and counter trafficking for frontline actors in Puntland, Somaliland and BRA through training and development/review of appropriate standard operating procedures.
- Establish partnerships with shelter/temporary accommodation service providers in Puntland, Somaliland and BRA to enhance referrals of migrants in of need of assistance.
- Conduct vulnerability assessments and protection monitoring visits in migrant settings, including Bossaso, Hargeisa and Mogadishu, to identify needs and protection gaps with the aim of strengthening direct assistance and specialized services.
- Support the strengthening of MHPSS services by building the capacity of frontline actors on psychosocial first aid (PFA) and basic principles of MHPSS.

- Roll out peer to peer counselling among returning migrants through community-based projects and social cohesion activities aimed at reducing stigma linked to migration journey and enhance reintegration of migrants in their communities of origin and/or return.
- Increase access to specialized protection services for migrant returnees and vulnerable community members beyond the targeted locations including through mobile units and establishment of a referral mechanism.
- Conduct protection advocacy in support of migrants' rights including but not limited to alternatives to detention, including in particular for migrant children, through constructive dialogue and technical assistance/capacity building of government actors.
- Ensure comprehensive programming on counter-trafficking and smuggling of migrants, targeting both departing and transiting migrants, including the development of related awareness raising campaigns.

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

- Support the development and implementation of a national cooperation framework, policies and guidelines for sustainable return and reintegration.
- Strengthen reintegration assistance for returning migrants by providing livelihoods assistance (both skills building in promising economic sectors based on local market assessments, as well as enhancing entrepreneurial activities), creating a business enabling environment through individual and institutional capacity-building, promotion of business creativity and innovation through adoption of new approaches, provision of in kind and/or cash support for income generating activities as well access to credit.



Migrant Children Returning from KSA at the IOM Transit Centre in Addis Ababa. | Photo credit: Safa Msehli/IOM 2021

- Foster resilience in areas of origin through access to quality basic services, education services, property rights, and livelihood initiatives and trainings including provision of business guidance and skills enhancement to enable set-up of viable and sustainable income generating activities.
- Improve border and migration management processes through the establishment of Integrated Border Management Committees to facilitate cross border movement in line with free movement protocols established by IGAD and the AU.
- Strengthen community stabilization efforts to improve government-community engagement to respond to community needs and demands towards improved local governance, as well as to strengthen social cohesion.
- Enhance stability and contribute to creating a conducive environment to facilitate return and sustainable reintegration in hard-to-reach areas. Mainstream environment and climate change adaptation components in community-based activities, such as the inclusion of environmental conservation and improved disaster preparedness and response in community-based planning, prioritizing context-based, climate adaptive livelihoods, the inclusion of environmental restoration activities through cash-for-work and the promotion of environmental awareness and practices through information campaigns for migrants and host communities.
- Support the Government of Somalia to enhance labour migration governance structures, including the development of a national labour migration policy and deployment of diaspora experts.
- Strengthen collaboration with the Government of Somalia to ensure data access and ownership as part of their migration statistics.
- Foster inter-regional collaboration, between the UNMN in Saudi Arabia and similar mechanisms in Somalia, to build on existing interests of both governments to address the continued mixed migration flow between the countries, focusing on inter-regional dialogue on admission, readmission, return and reintegration.
- Conduct joint research on relevant topics, including child protection, human trafficking and smuggling of migrants and the impact of COVID-19 mobility restrictions to inform the response and awareness raising efforts.
- Support the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs in the development and implementation of bilateral labour migration agreements with selected country/ies in the Gulf States through capacity-enhancement of key government counterparts on key components these agreements.

MRP partners have been collaborating to address the upward trend in numbers of unaccompanied and separated children identified along the Eastern Route. A workplan covering the main three geographic areas of intervention (Somaliland, Puntland and Benadir Regional Administration) was developed, which included capacity-building activities for frontline officials on child protection safeguards, assessments in MRCs to understand needs and gaps and the development of cross-border SOPs on child protection. On 13 September 2020, a newly established MRC was handed over to the Benadir Regional Administration in Mogadishu. At the MRC, beneficiaries can access direct assistance, information, counselling, and referrals, as well as reintegration counselling and support. Operational as of November 2020, vulnerable returnees and stranded migrants, including victims of trafficking, in Mogadishu are benefiting for the first time from this one-stop service point for information and service provision.

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

- Establish and/or strengthen coordination mechanisms to enhance information sharing and consensus building on joint approaches to address vulnerabilities and challenges of mixed migration flows along the migratory route.
- Conduct timely and regular cross-cutting needs assessments to inform the response and ensure it is tailored to cater migrants' evolving needs and protection gaps.
- Conduct regular protection needs, risks and vulnerability assessments of migrant women, men, boy and girls transiting through Djibouti to inform protection programming, policy and advocacy.
- Conduct joint border assessments at main PoEs to increase evidence-based information on mobility patterns, root causes, routes, migrant stocks, human trafficking and smuggling patterns, and needs and vulnerabilities of migrants throughout the Eastern and Southern routes.
- Update the 2019 PoEs baseline assessment to reassess the selection of Flow Monitoring points to reflect changes in migratory routes.

Somalia Partners:

1. IOM
2. UNHCR
3. Danish Refugee Council
4. NRC
5. STC
6. UNICEF
7. UNIDO
8. UNODC
9. UNFPA
10. ICRC (observer status)

COUNTRY CHAPTER - YEMEN

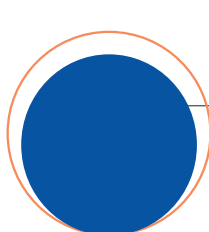


Migrants boarding to plane to go home from Yemen | Photo credit: N. Nadhem/IOM 2021

COUNTRY CHAPTER - YEMEN

138,000
PEOPLE IN NEED

121,613
PEOPLE TARGETED



Transiting Migrants
106,528

Migrants at Destination
15,085



3
MRP PARTNERS

TOTAL FUNDING REQUIREMENT



USD 30.5 Million

FUNDING BY STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE



Country Overview

Moving into 2021, after six years of armed conflict, Yemen continues to be affected by the largest humanitarian crisis in the world. The conflict has directly led to more than 233,000 deaths, including more than 3,000 children, since it began, according to the UN Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).⁸⁰ The conflict continues to exacerbate the vulnerabilities of internally displaced persons (IDPs), migrants and host communities. Yemen continues to be a major transit point on the Eastern Route. Some 37,535 migrants arrived in Yemen in 2020 an over 80 per cent drop from the previous year. While migrants already face severe protection risks as they transit through the conflict-affected country, increased barriers to movement brought on by the pandemic and the reinforcement of anti-migrant policies have left thousands of migrants stranded across Yemen with limited options for safe movement or access to basic services.

While reasons for migration vary, in general migrants from the Horn of Africa are traveling to or through Yemen for economic or forced migration factors (political instability and insecurity that may affect individuals' safety), and sometimes both. According to data available, 85 per cent initially migrated in 2020 for economic reasons, for example, employment, better economic opportunities. Though women and men report migrating for largely similar reasons, migratory movements of women are often driven by gender barriers or roles and gender discrimination in their country of origin.

Of the 37,535 migrants recorded as arriving on Yemen's coast in 2020, 93 per cent originated from Ethiopia and 7 per cent from Somalia; 11 per cent were children (9% boys and 2% girls) while 89 per cent were adults (73% men and 16% women). As countries begin to ease COVID-19 related border restrictions, increased arrival numbers are expected in Yemen in 2021, as well as a commensurate demand for VHR assistance. It is estimated that over 138,000 migrants will require immediate forms of life saving humanitarian assistance in 2021, including but not limited to access to clean water and sanitation, food,

health care and critical protection services.

During 2020, it is estimated that approximately 14,500 migrants were stranded across the main migrant transit hubs in Aden, Lahj, Marib, Sana'a and Sa'ada governorates because of COVID-19 related movement restrictions. This was particularly the case for those hoping to transit through the country to other countries in the Middle East. Numbers are likely to be higher but cannot be verified due to access constraints. Most migrants were young Ethiopian nationals with little-to-no access to basic services. Stranded migrants face increasing constraints on their traditional coping mechanisms, such as support from the communities hosting them. Border closures, movement restrictions, and increasingly discriminatory attitudes in Yemen impact on migrants' access to essential services such as food, water, shelter and health assistance.

Additionally, migrants stranded in Yemen have faced increased detention and have been subjected to forced transfers across front lines.⁸¹ Providing an accurate picture of migrant detention in Yemen remains challenging, however partners estimate that thousands of migrants are under some form of detention.⁸² Reportedly, a number of migrant detention sites are non-compliant with the obligation to provide a minimum standard of living, support and care, including access to legal aid. Humanitarian access to detention is limited and a framework for safe migration in Yemen does not exist, which hinders efforts to ensure compliance to international standards.

Along the border, groups of migrants are known to gather in preparation for their final crossing into the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. However, they increasingly face the threat of arrest and detention, becoming trapped in conflict areas, or face discrimination and stigmatization. These risks have remained heightened throughout 2020, and increased, as the discriminatory narrative that migrants are carriers of COVID-19 became prevalent in Yemeni media after the onset of the pandemic. Access to healthcare for migrants across the

⁸⁰ United Nations, 2020; UN humanitarian office puts Yemen war dead at 233,000, mostly from 'indirect causes';

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/12/1078972>

⁸¹ Human Rights Watch, 2021; World Report 2021; <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2021/country-chapters/yemen>

⁸² It is estimated that 6,000 migrants were detained over the course of 2020, but due to access restrictions to detention facilities, the accuracy of this figure cannot be guaranteed.

country is also exceptionally limited, often with migrants only able to access support through humanitarian aid provided by agencies. In Marib, 84 per cent of migrants currently do not have any access to health care.⁸³

Women and girls continue to be at risk of GBV, particularly also from smugglers and traffickers,⁸⁴ and violence against women in Yemen has increased during the COVID-19 pandemic.⁸⁵ Border restrictions have increasingly forced migrants to use traffickers and smugglers, which poses a core risk for migrants attempting to travel to the Gulf States. Sixty per cent of the migrants are understood to have been subjected to some form of sexual violence and abuse, exploitation and maltreatment by smugglers.⁸⁶ Children are particularly vulnerable to be exploited and abused, including being subjected to forced labour and prostitution.

MRP partners have also noted an increased intention to return to countries of origin in 2020, most likely pushed by increased forced movements, lack of livelihood opportunities along migratory routes exacerbated by COVID-19 and border closure with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia preventing migrants and other vulnerable populations from crossing. Voluntary return support had to be suspended due to COVID-19 related border and entry restriction and by the end of December, over 5,000 migrants in Aden had registered for VHR, awaiting documents from Ethiopian authorities.⁸⁷ Partners are monitoring the trends in return intentions to see how it will change in the following months, adapting support and services as needed.

The provision of humanitarian support continues to be challenging in an operational environment in parts of Yemen that remains highly restricted due to fighting and bureaucratic impediments. The humanitarian response in the country faces operational and access restrictions, where aid activities and efforts to bring in aid supplies are blocked in some locations. The humanitarian community has been working together to improve the situation, recognizing that affected communities are impacted the most by bureaucratic impediments and hindrances to humanitarian activities.

Identified Needs

It is estimated that in 2021 over 138,000 migrants will be in need of humanitarian assistance.⁸⁸ This number is derived from an understanding of flows from Horn of Africa to Yemen, transit through Yemen, and those potentially stranded and trapped around transit hubs and hard to reach areas. Critical needs reported by migrants and observed by humanitarian partners through direct data collection, which will be prioritized in the 2021 response include: food, shelter, access to health care, WASH, voluntary return options and specialized protection services including for abuse survivors and uUASC.

International border closures in Yemen, Djibouti, Somalia and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and other barriers to movement within Yemen related to COVID-19 left thousands of migrants stranded at various points along the main disembarkation points (Lahj, Taiz, Shabwah, Hadramout) and transit hubs within the country, for example, Aden, Marib, Sana'a and Sada'a, having limited access to basic services (particularly health and

shelter). As VHR had to be suspended due to movement restrictions, over 6,000 migrants returned home via Djibouti through smuggling boats, risking their lives at sea. Stranded but also transiting migrants continue to require life-saving support in the form of humanitarian assistance. Needs are expected to be exacerbated because of the COVID-19 restriction and stigmatization of migrants. For many migrants, access to basic services and livelihood opportunities in Yemen are affected by increasing discrimination linked to stigma associated with COVID-19, as well as fear of being arrested and detained. Many of them are sleeping out in the open, unable to continue their journey northwards to the Gulf States, and unable to return back home. They primarily need urgent support in the form of food, shelter and access to health care and WASH services, but also voluntary return options to mitigate the need to resort to smugglers and traffickers.

Migrants in Yemen continue to face the most egregious forms of protection violations at the hands of smugglers and traffickers, including GBV torture, abduction for ransom, forced labour and physical violence. The COVID-19 pandemic has worsened migrants' living conditions and exacerbated their vulnerabilities, further exposing them to smugglers' and traffickers' abuses, including violence, sexual and labour exploitation. Women and girls are particularly vulnerable and more likely to be trafficked and suffering abuses. Specialized protection services for survivors of torture, survivors of GBV, and other protection violations, are essential and need to be prioritized in the response. Many of those affected by protection violations suffer from psychological trauma and need urgent mental health and psychosocial support, including psychosocial first aid and referrals to specialized service providers. Unaccompanied and separated children are particularly vulnerable and have specific protection needs. Child specific responses, including BIAs, FTR and access to temporary accommodation are required. Given the context, at present a number of barriers persist in this regard, including significant gaps in referral support for children, women and GBV survivors and victims of trafficking. MRP partners are raising attention to this and attempting to find avenues to increase this level of specialized protection support.

Prior to departure, many migrants have limited or insufficient knowledge of the risks of migrating through Yemen related to conflict, instability and insecurity. This is because smugglers are the main source of information about the route for many migrants prior to their departure and during the trip. However, those that do know of the risks still often decide to enter Yemen and make the treacherous journey towards the Gulf States, risking life, safety and dignity. Increased awareness raising and cross-border collaboration is essential to provide reliable information to departing migrants and mitigate protection risks for those embarking on the journey.

The operational context and access to migrants by humanitarian actors remains fluid and tenuous. MRP partners currently have access to key transit hubs including Lahj, Aden, Shabwah, Hadramaut and Sana'a governorates. Unimpeded access to locations where migrants are known to gather and pass through on their journey to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, in key northern governorates of Sa'ada, Al Jawf, Al Bayda and Dhamar remains a problem. In southern governorates, access across differing areas

83 IOM, 2020; Health Funding Shortages in Yemen Put Thousands of Migrants' Lives at Risk; <https://www.iom.int/news/health-funding-shortages-yemen-put-thousands-migrants-lives-risk#:~:text=In%2020%2C%20mobility%20restrictions%20due,in%20May%2C%201%2C%20195%20were%20recorded>.

84 Human Rights Watch, 2021; World Report 2021' <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2021/country-chapters/yemen>.

85 UN WOMEN, 2020; In Yemen, women face added challenges posed by COVID-19 amidst ongoing armed conflict; <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2020/7/feature-yemen-covid-amidst-armed-conflict>.

86 UN HCT Yemen, 2021; Humanitarian Needs Overview; https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Yemen_HNO_2021_Final.pdf

87 IOM, 2020; Yemen Situation Report, December 2020.

88 UN HCT Yemen, 2021; Humanitarian Needs Overview; *ibid*

of control or where smuggling networks are most active, also continues to be a challenge.

Targets and Planned Response

The Yemen response is mainly focused on Objectives 1, 2 and 4 of the MRP: providing life-saving assistance to vulnerable migrants and host communities, providing quality, timely and inclusive protection assistance and services to migrants and host communities and building evidence, partnerships and coordination to enhance migration management along migration routes.

Given the current context in Yemen and the active conflict, support will be focused on providing life-saving humanitarian assistance (NFI, shelter, WASH, food, health) and protection support through a blanket approach to all migrants on the move identified by partner's mobile health and protection teams at disembarkation and crossing points and along migratory routes, and other individuals in need, regardless of status, vulnerabilities, age, disability and other vulnerability markers. Assistance will be delivered following an integrated health and protection approach mainly through migrant service facilities in key locations (for example Aden and Marib), support to existing clinics/hospitals and mobile migrant response teams deployed along the coast to provide immediate assistance to new migrant arrivals, as well as in areas with high presence of migrants. In particular, the strategy will consider much stronger case management, promoting new partnerships with specialized agencies to extend referrals and support for specialized protection cases and working to ensure that feedback from migrants continues to support an adaptive approach to service delivery. Categories of individuals prioritized for this response include vulnerable women and girls, unaccompanied or separated children, elderly, people with disabilities, survivors of GBV, victims of trafficking or other extremely vulnerable individuals who experience grave human rights violations. Through this response, Yemen MRP partners aim at delivering multi-sectorial assistance to a total of 121,613 vulnerable migrants in Yemen. MRP partners will implement the following activities:

Specific Objective 1: Provide life-saving assistance to vulnerable migrants and host communities.

- Provide humanitarian assistance to migrants at main disembarkation points along Yemeni coasts (Taizz, Lahj, Shabwah, Hadramaut governorates) and the main migratory routes and transit hubs. Humanitarian access permitting, the response will focus on northern governorates at the border with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (Sa'ada and Al Jawf), as well as key transit governorates (Sana'a, Dhamar, Al Bayda, Marib) and arrivals (Taizz, Aden, Shabwah, Hadramaut). At present the operational environment in Yemen is entirely or increasingly restrictive in northern governorates, and while partners will advocate for increased access, much of the response may have to be focused on southern governorates. This will include the provision of relief and hygiene items, emergency food, WASH (such as rehabilitation of water networks in proximity of migrant sites, distribution of hygiene kits), primary and secondary health care and referrals, and cash for work opportunities.
- Provide VHR services to vulnerable migrants who wish to return home. For all VHR movements, pre-departure assistance will be provided which will consist of movement logistics, nationality verification and issuance of emergency travel documents in coordination with officials from the Government of Yemen and the country of origin, a medical fit to travel assessment, and family

tracing for UASC. Transit support may include temporary shelter for the transiting migrants, continued medical assistance, continued coordination with officials from the country of origin for travel documents, and onward travel to their home. All migrants receiving VHR assistance are individually counselled and provided with necessary information to make an informed decision in line with their needs. During counselling, an initial assessment is made of any risks of ill treatment, persecution or other human rights violations that the migrant could suffer should they return to their country of origin.

Specific Objective 2: Provide quality, timely and inclusive protection assistance and services to migrants and host communities.

- Provide direct protection services where possible, including legal services, specialized case management and referrals, psychosocial and mental health support and temporary safe shelter. Specific interventions are aimed at enabling support for extremely vulnerable individuals including casualties of conflict, women, unaccompanied and separated children, persons with disabilities, GBV survivors and victims of trafficking. Activities will include provision of Individual Protection Assistance (IPA) determined through the case management approach (flexible and risk managed cash support as the predominant method and multi-sector support), and referrals to shelters, and facilities where individuals can be removed from harm. Assistance will be delivered by trained protection teams through the mobile team approach as well as in the MRC.
- Conduct awareness raising for migrants on the move and at the MRC, including information sessions on local laws, asylum application support, risks linked to the ongoing conflict, safe migration routes, trafficking awareness, availability of services along the routes, COVID-19 and prevention measures, including hygiene awareness.

Specific Objective 3: Strengthen access to return, sustainable reintegration and community stabilization.

No actions are planned under this objective in Yemen.

Specific 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 migratory trends, protection risks and migrant coping mechanisms through a coordinated approach by humanitarian partners to inform and adapt programming, as well as for advocacy purposes.
- Monitor key migrant arrival and Yemeni return locations on Yemen's northern border with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and southern coast using the DTM Flow Monitoring Registry (FMR), recording arrivals of migrants and returning Yemeni nationals to identify different patterns and types of migration, and providing quantitative estimates to help define the population of migrants entering the country. Where access constraints have limited the ability to collect data at migrant arrival points, such as Manfath Alwadeeah on the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia-Yemen northern land border point efforts will be undertaken to increase human resource capacity to support increased information about migrant arrivals and trends.

- Support advocacy efforts on the rights and needs of migrants on the Eastern Route at the country level through the existing migration coordination mechanism (Mixed Migration Working Group MMWG), as well as at the humanitarian country team level through the Refugees and Migrants Multi-Sectorial working group (RMMS). The MRP allows for Yemen MRP partners to take stock of policy and advocacy initiatives, as well as step up coordinated action at the regional level with all migration actors.
- Ensure regular coordination through the Refugees and Migrants Multi-Sector working group and the Mixed Migration Working Group platforms at strategic and operational level, working to a common and complimentary strategy and approach that is aimed at strengthening the protection and humanitarian outcomes of migrants.
- Coordinate with MRP partners at country level and regional level to improve bilateral and regional cooperation and ensure a route-based approach is applied to the migrant response actions undertaken under the MRP.

MRP partners have ensured minimum commitments to strengthening AAP for migrants, including the establishment of complaints and feedback mechanisms, such as hotlines and ongoing staff outreach to migrants, protection monitoring to identify exclusion of extremely vulnerable migrants, including women, children, elderly and persons of disabilities, from assistance, and training for staff, partners and other humanitarian actors on migrant protection, inclusion, and protection mainstreaming. MRP partners continue to inform migrants how assistance is delivered and about adaptations to the type of support provided through awareness raising, small scale focus groups and ongoing outreach to migrants, where they can be reached. Through regular coordination, MRP partners ensure that feedback from migrants and information gather from protection monitoring is considered in the response and adaptations to assistance are made accordingly.

Yemen Partners:

- 1. IOM**
- 2. DRC**
- 3. INTERSOS**



Migrants on the road receiving awareness raising on the dangers of irregular migration in Yemen | Photo credit: Intersos 2020

Funding requirements per organization per country

| Organizations | Funding Requirements (USD) | | | | | |
|--|----------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| | Djibouti | Ethiopia | Somalia | Yemen | Regional | Total |
| Action for Social Development and Environmental Protection Organization (ASDEPO) | | 368,750 | | | | 368,750 |
| Agar Ethiopia Charitable Society | | 240,000 | | | | 240,000 |
| Danish Red Cross | 1,500,000 | | | | | 1,500,000 |
| Danish Refugee Council | | | 1,420,000 | 893,692 | 2,500,000 | 4,813,692 |
| Ethiopian Catholic Church Social and Development Commission | | 270,000 | | | | 270,000 |
| Ethiopian Kale Heywet Church | | 90,000 | | | | 90,000 |
| HUNDEE-Oromo Grassroots Development Initiative | | 1,803,032 | | | | 1,803,032 |
| International Labour Organization | | 61,925 | | | | 61,925 |
| International Organization for Migration | 3,244,000 | 15,386,517 | 8,805,000 | 27,816,464 | 2,500,000 | 57,751,981 |
| INTERSOS | | | | 1,800,000 | | 1,800,000 |
| Medecins du Monde - France | | 295,000 | | | | 295,000 |
| Norwegian Refugee Council | | | 150,000 | | 1,000,000 | 1,150,000 |
| Positive Action For Development (PAD) | | 1,984,500 | | | | 1,984,500 |
| Save the Children | | 1,942,200 | 3,017,680 | | 502,800 | 5,462,680 |
| United Nations Children's Fund | 50,000 | 1,201,036 | 1,150,000 | | | 2,401,036 |
| United Nations Development Programme | 750,000 | | | | | 750,000 |
| United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees | | | 5,093,000 | | | 5,093,000 |
| United Nations Industrial Development Organization | | | 7,000,000 | | | 7,000,000 |
| United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights | | 15,000 | | | | 15,000 |
| United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime | | | 174,500 | | | 174,500 |
| United Nations Population Fund | | | 3,600,000 | | | 3,600,000 |
| WFP | 104,000 | | | | | 104,000 |
| World Health Organization | | 1,975,000 | | | | 1,975,000 |
| Total | 5,648,000 | 25,632,960 | 30,410,180 | 30,510,156 | 6,502,800 | 98,704,096 |

Funding requirements per country per strategic objectives

| Strategic Objectives | Funding Requirements (USD) | | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | Djibouti | Ethiopia | Somalia | Yemen |
| Strategic Objective 1 | 1,913,000 | 5,988,646 | 12,244,480 | 30,308,556 |
| Strategic Objective 2 | 2,315,000 | 9,386,801 | 6,158,100 | |
| Strategic Objective 3 | 770,000 | 9,848,704 | 10,216,500 | |
| Strategic Objective 4 | 650,000 | 408,809 | 1,791,100 | 201,600 |
| Total | 5,648,000 | 25,632,960 | 30,410,180 | 30,510,156 |

MRP

Regional Migrant Response Plan

Horn of Africa and Yemen

Contact information

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