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





### Situation Overview

During the reporting period, partners of the Regional Migrant Response Plan (MRP) for the Horn of Africa and Yemen observed the continued exiting of migrants from Ethiopia, with 115,880 migrants reported having left Ethiopia between January and June 20221, mainly for economic reasons. According to IOM's flow monitoring data, 79 per cent of surveyed migrants reported leaving Ethiopia due to economic reasons, while approximately 11 and 6 per cent of surveyed migrants reported climate change and environmental factors and conflict as reasons for leaving, respectively<sup>2</sup>. Furthermore, about 30 per cent of surveyed migrants reported protection concerns of arrest and detention<sup>3</sup> during the migration experience. In Quarter 2 (Q2), migrant outflows from the Amhara and Oromia regions of Ethiopia through Djibouti to Yemen and the Arabian Peninsula indicate an increase of 17 per cent and 30 per cent, respectively, compared

Since the beginning of the year, an estimated 64,000 migrants have entered Djibouti, showing a 48 per cent increase compared to the same period in 2021. In line with the agreement signed between the governments of Ethiopia and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to return 102,000 migrants over seven months from 30 March 2022, 43,199 involuntary returns were recorded in Q2, amounting to an average of almost 3,500 migrants per week. The ongoing drought in the Horn of Africa have also complicated the returns of migrants to Ethiopia. Between January 2021 and June 2022, IOM Ethiopia recorded 32% of the returnees from Saudi Arabia returning to drought affected areas of Ethiopia. MRP partners in Ethiopia also reported increased involuntary

Migration flows along the Eastern Route in Q2 of 2022 @IOM 2022

returns of migrants from Djibouti to the Ethiopian point of entry at Dewele, with 1,644 and 2,442 individuals returning in Q1 and Q2, respectively. The returnees endured adverse conditions, including extreme hot weather and lack of food and water. MRP partners also reported considerable health needs among this population. To respond to the situation of migrants at the Dewele point of entry, MRP partners are constructing a Migration Response Centre (MRC) and conducting multi-purpose cash distribution to the migrants in situations of vulnerability to support them to return to their communities of origin in Ethiopia. The cash assistance is anticipated to be exhausted at the end of August 2022, worsening an already desperate situation for migrants. MRP partners have recommended supporting the governments of Djibouti and Ethiopia to establish a cross-border engagement mechanism to coordinate the development of standard operating procedures to guide humane and dignified returns of migrants as well as for the training of border officials and other front-line workers on protection, including but not limited to addressing gender-based violence (GBV), counter-trafficking, and the needs of unaccompanied

and separated children (UASC). In Q2, MRP partners could not monitor migration dynamics in Somalia due to the continued suspension of flow monitoring activities. The MRP partners are engaging the Federal Government of Somalia to resume the activities. MRP partners observed an increase in host communities seeking humanitarian assistance at internally displaced persons (IDP) camps, suggesting that the ongoing drought in the Horn of Africa region is limiting the ability of local communities to support migrants<sup>5</sup>. MRP partners recorded 434 migrants involuntarily returned from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to Somalia<sup>6</sup> in Q2.

Migrants in Yemen continued to face dire situations along the journey to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the other Gulf States, including Oman. During Q2, 11,614 migrants arrived in Yemen via treacherous boat journeys from Djibouti (7,035) and Somalia (4,579). This figure represents a 40 per cent decrease from the first quarter of 2022 when 19,662 migrants arrived in Yemen. This decrease is likely due to seasonal high tides between Somalia/Djibouti and Yemen, as well as tightened security measures on the borders of Djibouti and Yemen. Furthermore, MRP partners in Yemen estimate that over 43,000 migrants are stranded in various regions throughout the country. According to the IOM Missing Migrants Projects, 35 dead, or missing migrants (26 in Djibouti, 5 in Somalia, and 4 in Ethiopia) were recorded in Q2 and causes included drowning, harsh environmental conditions, illness, violence, mine collapse, hazardous transport, etc.

Migration Along the Eastern Corridor, Report 28 as of 30 June 2022 – IOM Regional Office for the East and Horn of Africa – 28 July 2022



Migrants on the Move\*

38,411
Entered Djibouti
11,614
Entered Yemen

632
In Djibouti
3,992
In Somalia
43,000
In Yemen

Migrant Returns

1,632
Yemen - Djibouti

452
Yemen - Somalia
2,442
Djibouti - Ethiopia
434
Kingdom of Saudia Arabia - Somalia
43,199
Kingdom of Saudia Arabia - Ethiopia

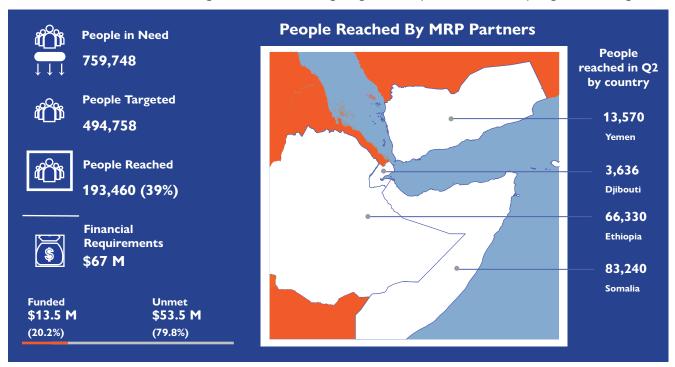
Population Reached in Q2

166,776

Migrants, host communities, and government officials

### **Achievements**

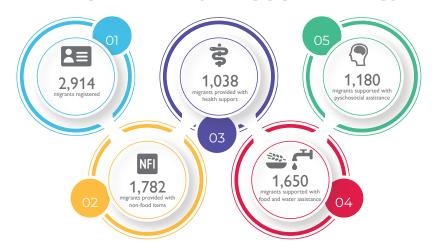
In Q2, MRP partners reached 166,776 beneficiaries, including 71,275 migrants (55,243 men, 12,872 women, 2,265 boys, 895 girls), 95,210 host community members, as well as 291 government officials (169 men and 122 women), reaching 39 per cent of the 2022 annual target population across the four countries to date. By Q2, the MRP partners had received a collective \$13.2 million, representing 20 per cent of the Plan's 2022 financial appeal. Notably, MRP partners conducted several awareness-raising activities in Q2, resulting in high beneficiary achievement but requiring limited funding.



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

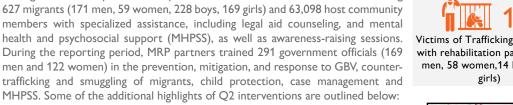
MRP partners provided life-saving assistance<sup>7</sup> to 97,837 beneficiaries, including 65,725 vulnerable migrants (51,292 men, 11,670 women, 2,037 boys, and 726 girls) and 32,112 host community members along the Eastern Route. Of this total, 54,427 beneficiaries (43,462 men, 10,117 women, 608 boys, 240 girls) received food and/or nutrition assistance; 11,441 beneficiaries, including 11,275 migrants (7,823 men, 1,541 women, 1,427 boys, and 484 girls) and 166 host community members, received non-food items; 31,466 beneficiaries, including 23 migrants (seven men, 12 women, two boys, two girls) as well as 31,443 host community members, received primary health care assistance; and 503 host community members accessing Migrant Response Points in Taizz, Yemen. The assistance was provided through MRP Partners, the Migration Response Centres (MRCs), health clinics, mobile teams; way stations; and child protection desks.

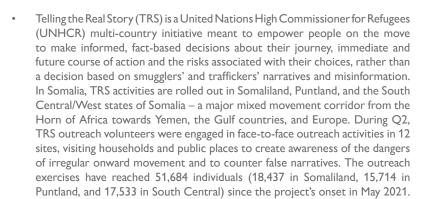
### KEY ACHIEVEMENTS THROUGH THE MRCs



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

During the second quarter, MRP partners reached 63,725 beneficiaries, including 627 migrants (171 men, 59 women, 228 boys, 169 girls) and 63,098 host community members with specialized assistance, including legal aid counseling, and mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), as well as awareness-raising sessions. During the reporting period, MRP partners trained 291 government officials (169 men and 122 women) in the prevention, mitigation, and response to GBV, countertrafficking and smuggling of migrants, child protection, case management and







Victims of Trafficking supported with rehabilitation packages (32 men, 58 women,14 boys, four



Migrants provided with mental health and pyschosocial support (27,133 men, 6,567 women, five boys, and 60 host community members)



- During the reporting period, MRP partners' migrant response teams in Yemen provided information to 2,780 migrants and communities hosting migrants on several issues, including legal rights, possible risks they may face, how to avoid them, survival techniques, complaint mechanisms, and available assistance. In addition, 135 host community members most likely to encounter migrants, such as schoolteachers, mosque imams, security checkpoints staff and fishermen, participated in awareness sessions covering issues faced by migrants, migrants' legal rights, and how to assist and refer migrants to available services.
- MRP partners conducted an alternatives to detention (ATD) workshop in Kenya, bringing together 36 participants (20 men and 16 women), including key actors in migrants' rights such as the Human Rights Commission, Immigration and Attorney General offices, and civil society organizations from Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, and Uganda to share experiences and international/regional best practices on ATD for irregular migrants.

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

During Q2, MRP partners facilitated access to return, sustainable reintegration, and community stabilization through onward transportation assistance, assisted voluntary return and tailored and sustainable reintegration assistance to 4,923 beneficiaries (3,780 men and 1,143 women). Of this total, 4,280 beneficiaries (3,268 men and 1,012 women) were assisted with onward transportation assistance; 344 beneficiaries (289 men and 55 women) were assisted with assisted voluntary return, and 299 beneficiaries (223 men and 76 women) were assisted with tailored and sustainable reintegration assistance (including through community-based interventions) and economic empowerment opportunities such as livelihoods, training, education, among others.



Migrants benefited from voluntary return support (289 men and 55 women)



Individuals benefited from Sustainable Reintegration & Economic **Empowerment Opportunities (223** men and 76 women)

#### **Community Stabilization Highlights**

- The Ethiopian Red Cross Society began implementing a four-year migration project, which will run until 2025 in Amhara, Oromia, Tigray, and Addis Ababa administrations. The project will provide returnees with MHPSS, social cohesion, livelihood support, and recreation services. Baseline assessments show that livelihood challenges are the leading cause of vulnerabilities for returnees. The project will invest a significant percentage of the budget in these interventions.
- As part of the EU-IOM Joint Initiative for Migrant Protection and Reintegration in the Horn of Africa region, launched in March 2017 until 2022, community-based reintegration (CBR) projects contribute to sustainable reintegration by addressing specific needs as identified by the communities themselves. This includes a plastic recycling and compost production project in Dire Dawa, Ethiopia. Following a series of trainings delivered by the government in plastic recycling, compost production, environmental protection, cooperative management, life skills, entrepreneurship, savings, branding, and marketing, project beneficiaries were assisted to legally form cooperatives. The government also conducted assessments and feasibility studies, availed working shade, electricity, water, office space for the cooperatives, as well as vehicles to transport waste to the project site, organized experience sharing visits, facilitated market linkage with the private sector, farmers' union and government offices. To date, project participants have started generating income through the collection of over 50,000 kg of plastic bottles for recycling and 200,000 kg of organic waste which was turned into produced compost. The project remains ongoing.



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

During Q2, MRP partners produced and published nine reports (three flow monitoring reports, three migration trends dashboards, and three flow monitoring dashboards), which are available on the respective DTM sites of Ethiopia, Djibouti and Yemen below. In addition, MRP partners in Djibouti produced an assessment report in May 2022 detailing the experiences of Ethiopian migrants traveling towards or returning from the Arabian Peninsula<sup>8</sup>. Seven focus group discussions were held with 40 participants (24 men, 4 women, and 12 boys) to examine the experiences of migrants in Djibouti and Yemen. Key findings of the assessment showed that the impact of the conflict in Ethiopia and Yemen, the economic effects of COVID-19, and the drought in the region have put a strain on both migrants and the host communities along the migratory route, making an arduous journey even harder.

See below IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) publications and the Mixed Migration Centre's (MMC) Quarterly Mixed Migration Update for Q2. Some of the key findings from the Mixed Migration Centre's (MMC) Quarter Two Migration Report include:

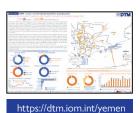
- An examination of the impacts of climate change on mixed migration, specifically in Somalia, where livelihood challenges stemming from the drought and ongoing conflict drive internal displacement. At the time of writing the report, an estimated 805,000 people were displaced and could not return to their homes under the current conditions. MMC suggests that within this group, those with higher resources and aspirations may migrate within the region rather than internally, particularly as the majority of current humanitarian assistance continues to be directed toward COVID-19 response and many response plans remain underfunded and inadequately supported.
- A study of African youths in East and Southern Africa showed that 52 per cent of the youth on the continent had considered migrating at least temporarily.9













MMC Q2 Update

# Surveys/Assessments/Research

### IOM Yemen - Quarterly Migration Overview<sup>10</sup>

IOM Yemen produced a quarterly migration overview covering migration trends from the Horn of Africa to Yemen in Q2. The report details the immense protection needs of migrants in Yemen regarding abduction, extortion, violence, abuse, exploitation, forced labour, and prostitution. The report also features a video documenting the voluntary return of a migrant in Yemen from Marib. Key recommendations from the report include the need for continued support for safe and dignified return, upholding human rights for all migrants in Yemen, humane detention to be used as a last resort, cessation of inhumane forced relocation, unconditional humanitarian access, and migrants to be included in all humanitarian programming.



### Mixed Migration Centre: Drivers and aspirations of Ethiopians impacted by the Tigray conflict<sup>11</sup>

MMC produced a snapshot exploring the migration drivers and aspirations of Ethiopians in Somalia and Sudan who have left Ethiopia since the outbreak of conflict in Tigray in November 2020. The report sheds light on how the conflict has impacted mixed migration dynamics in the region and farther afield, including movements east to Somalia, where some Ethiopians join routes towards the Gulf. This snapshot aims to inform protection responses outside of Ethiopia, highlighting the need for a route-based approach and coordinating responses across routes, given the complex movement dynamics emanating from the crisis.



### IOM Regional Data Hub: To Change My Life - Risk perception, expectations and migration experiences of young Ethiopians migrating along the Eastern Route towards the Arabian Peninsula<sup>12</sup>

During the reporting period, IOM's Regional Data Hub commissioned a study to better understand young Ethiopians' expectations, experiences, decision-making, and risk perceptions along the Eastern Route. Participants in this study included first-time migrants, those remigrating, and those who decided to stop their journey and return to Ethiopia. The interviews were conducted in Obock, Djibouti and Bossaso, Somalia. Key highlights from the survey are listed below:

- Ninety-eight per cent of the respondents indicated that their motivation to migrate stemmed from economic reasons.
- The research indicated that most migrants were not adequately aware of the cost and risk associated with the journey, either through their underestimation or due to deception on behalf of brokers. Knowledge of the journey largely depended on each individual's experience along the route rather than pre-departure sources.
- Survey respondents also indicated a strong culture of migration among young Ethiopians, particularly irregular migration, as regular migration was perceived to be too cumbersome, time-consuming, and expensive.
- Furthermore, strong networks between migrants' origin and destination facilitated the flow of information, money, and migrants, creating an enabling environment for irregular migration.



Quarterly Mixed Migration Update: East and Southern Africa, Quarter 2, 2022 – Mixed Migration Centre - 20 July 2022

Quarterly Migration Overview, April-June 2022 - IOM Yemen - 25 July 2022

'Drivers and aspirations of Ethiopians impacted by the Tigray conflict – Data from Somalia and Sudan – 4MI Snapshot – Mixed Migration Centre – 27 May 2022



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>Djibouti – Migrating along the Eastern Route #1 – IOM Djibouti – 26 May 2022

#### Atmospherics Report<sup>13</sup>

The Danish Refugee Council's (DRC) Ethiopia Migration Programme (EMP) produced three research publications on migration trends in Ethiopia during the reporting period. The April report indicated that while women, children, and vulnerable individuals comprised initial returns, returns after the second half of April comprised primarily adult men. In addition, while MRP partners are providing temporary accommodation in addition to the shelters sponsored by the Government of Ethiopia, they were close to reaching their total capacity to meet the considerable needs due to the rapid rate of returns. The EMP is funded through the United Kingdom Foreign, Commonwealth, and Development Office (UK FCDO).

### Coordination

The section below includes key highlights of MRP coordination<sup>14</sup> at the regional and country levels during Q2:

### Regional Coordination

#### **MRP Photo Exhibit**

The IOM Regional Director hosted a photo exhibition on 10 June 2022 in London, the United Kingdom, to raise awareness about the challenges and difficulties faced by migrants along the Eastern Route, which are often hidden and underreported. The photo exhibition also reflected on the achievements and assistance provided by MRP partners to vulnerable migrants and host communities along the migration route. Attendees of the exhibit included representatives from the FCDO, the United Kingdom Home Office, and various diaspora associations. The event was well-received among the attendees, who felt the images were moving. Participants appreciated having a photo exhibit to more easily digest the complex topic and to understand the gravity of migrants' conditions while traveling along this route. The event was publicized on Facebook, Twitter, as well as through a video.

### Migrant Protection Working Group (MPWG)

The MRP hosted a meeting of the Migrant Protection Working Group (MPWG) on 31 May<sup>15</sup>. The partners discussed the re-endorsement of the terms of reference, developing linkages between the MPWG and other coordination structures at the country and regional levels, country-specific and regional updates on protection priorities and planned joint activities for the next six months.

#### **Information Management Working Group (IMWG)**

The MRP hosted the Information Management Working Group meeting on 29 June<sup>16</sup>. The IMWG partners discussed the overview, data gaps for the 2023 MRP planning process, and ways to strengthen the MRP's evidence base. Presentations of partner research publications and assessment reports to inform a secondary data review as part of the MRP 2023 process were also made. Overall, the meeting provided an initial glimpse of available data sources to inform a formal secondary data review and prepare the MRP's regional partners for the MRP 2023's overall processes.

### **Regional Coordination Committee**

The Migrant Response Plan Coordination Unit organized a strategic retreat in Nairobi for 40 MRP partners from the regional level and representatives of the national coordination structures from Ethiopia, Somalia, Djibouti, and Yemen to discuss ways to strengthen coordination, strategic planning, resource mobilization, reporting, financial

MRP Partner Retreat in Nairobi, Kenya @ IOM 2022

tracking, and communications and visibility. The retreat resulted in a comprehensive list of country-specific recommendations, an action plan and road map to provide strategic guidance for enhancing the MRP coordinated response at the regional and country levels.

## ■ Country Coordination

#### **Ethiopia MRP Partner Coordination Meeting**

A two-day MRP partner coordination meeting was held in Ethiopia in June 2022. Forty technical representatives from the Government of Ethiopia, the UN, international non-governmental organizations (INGOs), and local MRP partners participated in the meeting to share, discuss, and explore pathways to strengthen the coordination and operationalization of the MRP 2022 and shape the way forward for the planning of the MRP 2023 in Ethiopia. The primary outcomes of the meeting included:

- Better strategic-level understanding of the MRP coordination structures and functions.
- Improved understanding of MRP reporting tools, reporting process, financial tracking, and resulting deliverables.
- Review and appraisal of the MRP National Coordination Committee terms of reference.
- Development of a joint MRP 2022-2023 work plan for Ethiopia.

### **Yemen UN Migration Network Working Group**

The first UN Migration Network Working Group meeting in Yemen was held in June 2022, with attendance from UN agencies and international NGOs. The discussion focused on the human rights violations of migrants at the northern border. The MRP meetings in Yemen were held monthly as part of the Mixed Migration Working Group (MMWG) in the south of Yemen.



Representatives from IOM, Save the Children, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), World Food Programme (WFP), Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), MMC, DRC, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and UNHCR attended the meeting.





<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup>Ethiopia Migration Programme, Monthly Atmospherics Report #12-14 - April - June 2022

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup>The MRP includes 41 partners across the four target countries, in line with the MRP's overall goal to enhance coordination and partnerships as critical enablers towards more effective response and effective use of scarce resources. The MRP Regional Coordination Committees (RCC) for Regional Directors and technical focal points comprises 15 partners at the regional level.

### Capacity Building Highlights

During Q2, MRP partners held a three-day training in Nairobi, Kenya, on the One-Stop Border Post (OSBP) concept with an emphasis on enhancing cross-border cooperation for border and migration management agencies, mainly from OSBPs as well as other officers involved in cross-border cooperation from Djibouti, Ethiopia, Somalia, Kenya, South Sudan, and Uganda. During the training, a total of 21 participants (16 men and five women) learned the fundamental concepts of the OSBP, preventing and countering violent extremism (PCVE), transnational organized crime, trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants, and Humanitarian Border Management (HBM). The training improved participants' understanding of how an inter-agency, coordinated border management approach can enhance and accelerate the smooth operationalization of the OSBPs and developed synergies with non-MRP programmes in the region.

### Projected Situation For Q3

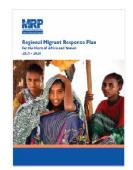
In Q3, MRP partners anticipate an increase in migration toward Yemen due to the improvements in weather conditions expected from the onset of the summer season. Additionally, MRP partners expect the continuation of involuntary returns of Ethiopian migrants from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in line with the agreement signed between the two governments to reach 102,000 returns by the end of 2022. However, returnees from Tigray and Northern Amhara zones, close to the Tigrayan border, are not yet able to return home due to the continued security threats in these areas. In addition, with the ongoing drought in the Horn of Africa, the MRP expects continued drought impacts on returning migrants to drought-affected areas. As such, additional attention will have to be given to the life-saving needs of returning migrants and migrant-hosting communities in drought affected areas.

MRP partners will continue to respond to the needs of migrants, including identifying and assessing the needs of the most vulnerable returnees and victims of trafficking and providing medical and psychiatric treatments, including structured counseling services. In Q3, the MRP anticipates funding gaps and subsequent challenges in addressing the immense needs of migrants, including voluntary humanitarian returns from Yemen and long-term accommodation solutions, especially for migrants with special needs, such as unaccompanied children and pregnant and lactating women in Ethiopia.

### About the MRP

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

### **Publications**



<u>Download</u> the four-year Regional Migrant Response Plan for the Horn of Africa and Yemen 2021-2024 and 2021 Appeal



<u>Download</u> the Regional Migrant Response Plan Quarterly Update: January - March 2021



<u>Download</u> the Regional Migrant Response Plan Quarterly Update: April - June 2021



<u>Download</u> the Regional Migrant Response Plan Quarterly Update: July - September 2021



<u>Download</u> the Regional Migrant Response Plan Quarterly Update: October - December 2021



<u>Download</u> the Regional Migrant Response Plan Quarterly Update: January - March 2022



<u>Download</u> the Regional Migrant Response Plan for the Horn of Africa and Yemen 2022



<u>Download</u> the Regional Migrant Response Plan Photobook

## MRP Partners and Donors



































































































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