



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 from Somalia, Djibouti and Ethiopia, and who are moving to and from Yemen.

The MRP is an inter-agency strategy developed by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in coordination with 40 regional and country-level non-governmental (NGOs) and intergovernmental partners, providing an essential strategic framework to ensure a whole of society approach to address the needs of vulnerable migrants and host communities and ensure the continuity of services along this route.

In 2022, IOM and its MRP partners will require **USD 11.3 million** for Somalia to meet the humanitarian and protection needs of over **300,000 vulnerable migrants and host or returnee community members** in need of assistance.

COUNTRY OVERVIEW

Somalia remains shrouded in a protracted conflict and cyclical natural hazards that continue to drive displacement and exacerbate the vulnerabilities of mobile populations. At the same time, it is also a country of origin and the main transit country for migrants from Ethiopia en route to Yemen and onward to the Gulf States.

With sixty-eight per cent of the youth falling under the national poverty line, it is common for many of them to migrate irregularly as a result of low educational enrolment and limited educational infrastructures. These challenges can facilitate the recruitment of youth and children in armed conflicts, particularly by extremist groups like Al-Shabaab and ISIS.

Somalia also represents a host country for Ethiopian migrants who decide to settle and earn a living in either Somaliland or Puntland instead of proceeding towards the Gulf states or Yemen.

The current crisis in Ethiopia has affected the Assisted Voluntary Return (AVR) programs, further exacerbating the situation of Ethiopian migrants stranded in Puntland and Somaliland. Furthermore, it is estimated that some 25,000 Somali migrants are forcibly returned from Gulf states each year. The affected population requires lifesaving assistance and medium and longer-term solutions in Somalia, including food, water, non-food items, medical support, shelter, mental health and psychosocial support, specialized protection services, longer-term reintegration, and sustainable solutions.

In response to these challenges, the MRP in Somalia 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. Furthermore, the response will support the development of policies and laws to improve the protection of migrants' rights while strengthening community-based protection structures to support return, long-term reintegration and strengthen referral mechanisms between locations along the route.

