

# Regional Migrants Response Plan

for the Horn of Africa and Yemen 2018 - 2020

**2020 RMRP Appeal**



## CONTENTS

2020 Planning Estimates	3
2020 Strategic Priorities	4
YEMEN	6
ETHIOPIA	8
DJIBOUTI	10
SOMALIA	12
2019 Response	15
Regional Strategic Objectives and Coordination Framework	16



Young migrant receiving assistance at the MRC run by CARITAS, Djibouti | Photo credit: Alexander Bee/IOM

Cover photo: Migrants singing and dancing at MRC, Obock | Photo credit: ALEXANDER BEE/IOM

# 2020 PLANNING ESTIMATES



**235,000**

Vulnerable migrants in need of assistance in 2020



**USD 84M**

Funding required by RMRP partners in 2020\*



**26%**

Funding secured by RMRP partners in 2020



**28**

RMRP partners in Djibouti, Ethiopia, Somalia, Yemen

\*The RMRP 2020 budget includes USD 1M for IOM regional coordination support.

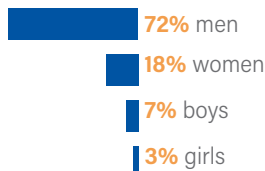
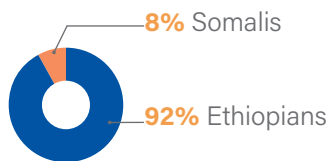
The 2020 Appeal for the Regional Migrant Response Plan for the Horn of Africa and Yemen (RMRP) reflects revised targets and priority activities based on country level consultations in Djibouti, Ethiopia, Somalia, and Yemen held with partners between March and June 2020, as well as relevant data available.

The planning estimate for 2020 was revised upward to meet the humanitarian and protection needs of an estimated 235,000 vulnerable migrants. This figure is comprised of 75,000 projected new arrivals in Yemen, and a total of 160,000 vulnerable migrants returning or in transit in RMRP target countries. This overall projection of 235,000 individuals includes those individuals in need of life-saving assistance in Djibouti, Ethiopia, Somalia, and Yemen based on available data of arrivals from the Horn of Africa into Yemen recorded in the first half of 2020, as well as projections for the resumption of returns to the Horn of Africa from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA), and Yemen and an estimated number of migrants in transit within, or

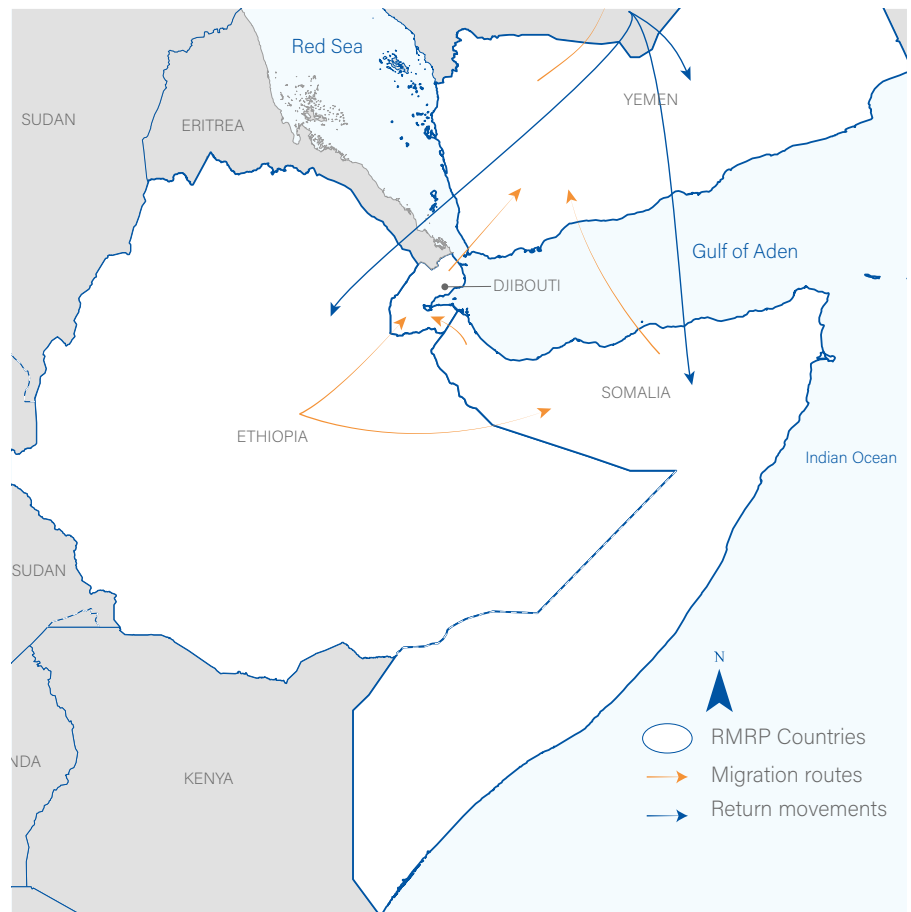
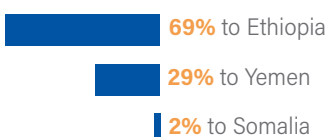
returning from, Horn of Africa countries following COVID-19 impacts in the region. Although arrivals into Yemen have reduced between the end of March and June 2020, it is estimated that up to 75,000 migrants may arrive from the Horn of Africa during 2020. The planning estimate for 2020 is defined by unprecedented, complex, and unpredictable dynamics as a result of the COVID-19 situation in the region, which was exacerbated by the underlying vulnerabilities of migrants along the Eastern Route. The entire 2020 planning migrant population will be targeted in the RMRP 2020 due to the enhanced vulnerability caused by this situation. In contrast to 2019, a larger number of migrants returning and in transit are targeted this year, as compared to those departing from the Horn of Africa to Yemen. In 2020, due to the requirement that all returning migrants must undergo mandatory quarantine upon arrival in Ethiopia, the entire caseload of migrants anticipated to return to Ethiopia from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia during the remainder of 2020 has been included in the planning estimate.

## Key Figures in 2019

**138,213** arrivals of migrants from the Horn of Africa to Yemen



**175,000** returnees from KSA



RMRP Countries and the migratory routes

## 2020 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

The following key priorities were identified during 2020 RMRP consultations with partners in Djibouti, Ethiopia, Somalia, and Yemen:

- **Integrate COVID-19 response into the Eastern Route migrant assistance activities, inclusive of support for quarantine sites, personal protective equipment (PPE), and for governments' preparedness;**
- **Scale up return and reintegration assistance to migrants returning from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Yemen in Ethiopia and Somalia as well as COVID stranded migrants returning voluntarily from Djibouti and Somalia to Ethiopia;**
- **Continue to meet the needs of the most vulnerable migrants in Yemen and in transit in Somalia and Djibouti by expanding the migrant assistance footprint through migrant response point and mobile patrolling activities;**
- **Continue to strengthen child protection structures including through enhancing case management systems in countries of transit and return and other child protection services;**
- **Continuously adapt programmes to respond to emerging issues with long-term durable solutions ensuring stronger social inclusion, sustainable protection and reintegration for migrants and returnees.**

The COVID-19 global pandemic gives rise to a new priority area in the RMRP for 2020: the mainstreaming of COVID-19 response measures in migrant assistance activities. New adaptations include the introduction of social distancing guidelines during provision of assistance, provision of PPE to authorities and other front-line responders, and introducing alternative modalities for reintegration support, among others. Newly defined activities for 2020 include providing support to quarantine sites and isolation centres with equipment, technical support, and guidelines and procedures based on infection prevention and control (IPC) principles.

Increasing the support for reception assistance and onward transportation assistance for returnees from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Somalia and Djibouti to Ethiopia and Somalia respectively is a renewed priority, also identified by RMRP partners as a priority last year. While figures for returns in 2020 are difficult to estimate given the current context, during 2019 approximately 10,000 migrants on average returned to Ethiopia from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia each month, highlighting a vast and only partially met need, as well as the imperative of collaboration and coordination among RMRP partners.

With Yemen now in its sixth year of conflict, and COVID-19 impacts being felt acutely within the country, vulnerable migrants stranded in Yemen continue to be the population requiring the highest level of humanitarian assistance and protection. Provision of emergency medical assistance, food, shelter and water, sanitation and hygiene support, including COVID-19 response measures, are priority actions for RMRP partners in 2020. When the situation allows, voluntary return options for stranded migrants

will resume as a continued priority action. Support to migrants in transit in Somalia will be increased through the introduction of way stations that facilitate access to otherwise unreachable vulnerable individuals.

Vulnerable migrants in transit to Yemen continue to require life-saving humanitarian assistance in Djibouti, Ethiopia, and Somalia, as well as counselling, support and awareness raising to make informed decisions on whether or not to proceed with the potentially perilous journey. Of concern is an increase in the number of unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) entering Yemen: approximately nine per cent of all arrivals into Yemen in the first six months of 2020 were UASCs, compared to five per cent in 2019. RMRP partners seek to prioritize the specialized protection needs of children in 2020, focusing on interventions around psychosocial support, appropriate shelter, support with family tracing and reunification, and strengthened case management mechanisms in countries of transit and return.

These trends underscore a need to scale up the humanitarian, protection, and capacity building responses of RMRP partners. In this regard, the RMRP will seek to continuously strengthen the coordination mechanisms between the RMRP partners to ensure complementarity of response to provide urgent humanitarian interventions and medium- to long-term actions aimed at addressing the drivers of migration, building local institutional capacity for better migration management, and providing sustainable socioeconomic infrastructure to support communities of origin, transit, and destination.

The 2020 RMRP planning estimate seeks to meet the humanitarian and protection needs of 235,000 vulnerable migrants in need of assistance from RMRP partners based on the following identifiable groups:

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**105,000** Migrants in need of assistance in Yemen:

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**75,000** new arrivals from the Horn

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**15,000** returns from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

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**15,000** estimated migrants already in-country

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Included in the planning population are **5,000** vulnerable migrants who will require voluntary humanitarian return (VHR) from Yemen to Ethiopia

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**130,000** Migrants returning to Ethiopia and Somalia, or in transit in Djibouti and Somalia:

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**3,000** assisted voluntary returns (AVR) from Djibouti to Ethiopia

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**500** assisted voluntary returns (AVR) from Somalia to Ethiopia

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**93,000** vulnerable migrants returning directly from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (via plane), with an estimated 90,000 to Ethiopia and 3,000 to Somalia.

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**33,500** returns to Ethiopia predicted from various other countries (Gulf, spontaneous migrant returns, etc)

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Migrants are participating to sensitization activities on the risks of irregular migration in Fantehero, Obock region | Photo Credit : Alexander Bee/IOM

# YEMEN



105,000

Vulnerable migrants in need of assistance in 2020



USD 31M

Funding required by RMRP partners in 2020\*



19%

Funding secured by RMRP partners in 2020



3

RMRP partners in Yemen

Despite the protracted conflict, Yemen continues to be the main transit country for irregular migrants from the Horn of Africa attempting to reach the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and other Gulf countries. Migrant flows into Yemen from the Horn of Africa are closely linked to regional dynamics including the security, political, economic and environmental situation in the Horn of Africa. IOM estimates that more than 138,000 migrants, 92 per cent of whom were Ethiopian nationals, entered Yemen in 2019, of which five per cent were unaccompanied minors<sup>1</sup>. While arrival trends in January and February 2020 were in line with trends from the previous years, beginning in March 2020, COVID-19 travel restrictions and tighter border controls in Djibouti and Yemen—and to a lesser extent Somalia—have meant that migrant arrivals into Yemen have slowed considerably in comparison with previous years. In April 2020, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, migrant arrivals decreased by 91 per cent as compared to arrival trends during the same period in 2019. In total, there are an estimated 270,806<sup>2</sup> refugees, asylum-seekers, and migrants living in Yemen, many of whom have acute humanitarian and protection needs, including food, shelter, medical, psycho-social needs.

Migrants along the Eastern Route face significant protection threats and risks at each stage of their journey through Yemen. They face serious human rights abuses, including physical and psychological abuse, kidnapping, extortion, torture, and death. They are at risk of forced recruitment into armed groups. They also lack access to basic services, such as shelter, food, and health care. Women and girls, as well as unaccompanied and separated children (UASC), are the most vulnerable groups moving through Yemen and are at a greater risk of being exposed to abuse by smugglers and traffickers. These vulnerabilities have been further exacerbated in the current context of the COVID-19 pandemic, with migrants being stigmatized as potential carriers of the disease from the very early stages of the global outbreak. In this new context, migrants' exposure to human rights abuses and discrimination is heightened further, entailing increased movement restrictions which may result in migrants being stranded within internal and international borders, reduced or denied access to essential services (including primary health care) as a result of migration status-based discrimination, forced

transfers to remote areas within the country or in proximity to the conflict's front lines, detention, and quarantine in circumstances not aligned with minimum public health standards, including COVID-19 prevention and IPC measures.

Since March 2020, RMRP partners have quickly scaled up COVID-19 preparedness and response activities in line with existing programming to meet the needs of mobile populations, including migrants. Migrant multi-sectoral humanitarian activities are ongoing through sixteen mobile health and protection teams and 32 stationary health facilities across the country and are in line with the key pillars of intervention proposed under the National Yemen COVID-19 Response Plan, in which migrants are fully integrated. Yemen's priorities for COVID -19 response for the mobile populations are centered around a) Risk communication and support to the most vulnerable to prevent transmission and ensure access to essential services; b) Case management of suspected and confirmed cases and roll out of isolation units (treatment points); c) Continuation, and where required, scaling-up of existing health capacity and first-line humanitarian assistance (e.g. food, water, sanitation, and hygiene/WASH, nutrition, protection, etc.). RMRP partners have also been engaging in advocacy at all levels around the stigmatization and abuse of migrants in the context of COVID-19, and against the pressure to contain migrants within quarantine centres that do not meet basic public health protocols.

## 2020 Response

The Yemen RMRP 2020 targets over 105,000 migrants who will be provided with registration, food, non-food items (NFIs), counselling, medical support, and/or referral assistance in Yemen in 2020, including 5,000 Ethiopian migrants in need of voluntary humanitarian return (VHR) assistance. Humanitarian assistance through Migrant Response Points (MRPs) and integrated health and protection mobile teams will continue to operate and will include additional interventions such as COVID-19 hygiene and health prevention awareness sessions, increased health interventions focused on risk communication and IPC, and the provision of personal protective equipment (PPE) to all staff.

1 <https://migration.iom.int/reports/yemen-%E2%80%94-flow-monitoring-points-migrant-arrivals-and-yemeni-returns-saudi-arabia-2019?close=true>

2 Extended Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan covering June to December 2020 [https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/sites/www.humanitarianresponse.info/files/documents/files/extension\\_yemen\\_hrp\\_2020\\_final\\_1.pdf](https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/sites/www.humanitarianresponse.info/files/documents/files/extension_yemen_hrp_2020_final_1.pdf)

\* 66% of the Yemen RMRP 2020 budget is also included into the [Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan 2020](#). 34% of the Yemen RMRP 2020 budget includes COVID 19 related costs, which are also reflected in the [COVID 19 GHRP 2020 \(July revision\)](#).

## Objective 1: To ensure humanitarian and protection assistance to vulnerable migrants in Yemen and the Horn of Africa.

- Continue facilitating voluntary humanitarian returns for vulnerable migrants to their home countries for those that lack the means to return home on their own;
- Continue the registration of migrants at Migrant Response Points (MRPs) and provide vulnerable migrants with counselling and referrals to relevant services or asylum procedures where necessary;
- Provide vulnerable migrants with life-saving humanitarian assistance, including health services (inclusive of referrals to secondary health facilities), NFI kits, food, water, temporary shelter, and referrals for protection services. Priority will be given to migrants who have suffered extreme abuse, those with serious health conditions, unaccompanied and separated children (UASC), and women.

## Objective 2: To support durable and development-oriented approaches to return, sustainable reintegration and community stabilization is not applicable in the context in Yemen.

- Activities under this objective are not applicable to the context in Yemen.

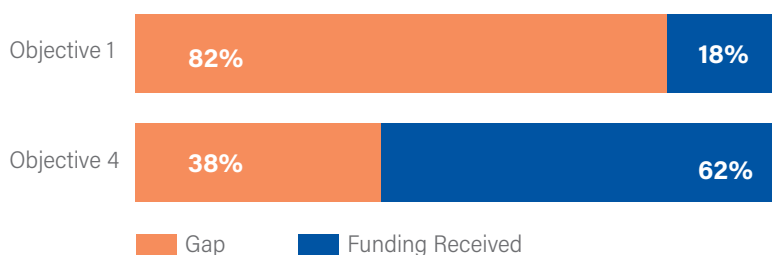
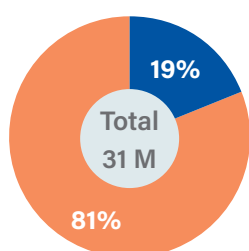
## Objective 3: To strengthen protection of migrants in the Horn of Africa and Yemen by building the capacities of Governments.

- Advocate with authorities for a framework that provides for safe and legal pathways for managing migration flows, centered on the protection of individuals—particularly women, children, youth, and others with situational vulnerabilities;
- Continue to provide support to authorities on the technical areas of border management, counter-trafficking, counter-smuggling, and rescue-at-sea.

## Objective 4: To strengthen partnership and collaboration around evidence-based analysis of drivers of migration needs and trends of migration between the Horn of Africa and Yemen.

- Monitoring migration trends, focusing on Yemen's entry, transit and exit flow points will remain a priority in 2020 for RMRP partners to be able to understand how migration evolves and maintain the relevance of the Plan's response;
- Conduct updated research and assessments on the protection, humanitarian, and reintegration needs of migrant arrivals from the Horn of Africa and Yemeni returnees from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in collaboration with key migration partners.

### Current Funding Status



# ETHIOPIA



**127,000**

Vulnerable migrants in need of assistance in 2020



**USD 43M**

Funding required by RMRP partners in 2020\*



**30%**

Funding secured by RMRP partners in 2020



**14**

RMRP partners in Ethiopia

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 subsistence agriculture. These compounding drivers of migration force thousands of young Ethiopians and their families to search for employment opportunities and remittances abroad. With regular migration channels blocked for many aspiring migrants, irregular migration is often the only available option. The most common destination is the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which offers earning potentials unachievable in migrants' home communities. In 2019, over 138,000 arrivals were recorded from the Horn of Africa to Yemen in 2019, the majority of which (92%) were Ethiopians. On the other hand, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia implements strict immigration policies, and has returned an average of 10,000 irregular Ethiopian migrants<sup>3</sup> every month since November 2017. In 2019, more than 120,000 Ethiopian migrants returned from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to Ethiopia. According to IOM's registration data, approximately 90 per cent of returnees are from Oromia, Tigray, and Amhara Regions.

The onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020 dramatically impacted migration dynamics to and from Ethiopia and made predicting migration flows extremely difficult. International and national travel restrictions complicate both inbound and outbound migratory movements. The pandemic has contributed to an anti-migrant sentiment and has had a significant impact on migrants' decision-making. At the same time, the immediate post-arrival assistance needs, and the longer-term reintegration support required by returnees have changed. The migrants are admitted into quarantine centres upon return and the uncertainties and loss of incomes has resulted in increased need for the provision of mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS);

strengthening child protection structures; and, cash based reinsertion assistance for the vulnerable migrants to pay for basic needs such as food, medicines and rentals when they settle in their areas of origin. IOM together with RMRP partners are also supporting the government in drafting guidelines and standard operating procedures (SOPs) related to quarantine and post-quarantine procedures for returning migrants.

## 2020 Response

The target population for Ethiopia in 2020 total 127,000 vulnerable migrants returning from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and transit countries such as Djibouti, Somali and Yemen who will be quarantined for the mandatory 14 days upon arrival in Ethiopia. This population includes an estimated 19,000 unaccompanied migrant children returning from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and transit countries.

The Government of Ethiopia recognizes the need for a whole-of-government approach to migration management, including establishing a robust referral mechanism responding to returning migrants' complex vulnerabilities. With support from RMRP partners, the government is planning to roll out a National Referral Mechanism for migrants in all 11 regional states in 2020 and has ambitious plans to provide regular avenues for labour migration to 30,000 Ethiopians and to expand awareness raising campaigns on the risks of irregular migration. Finally, to give young Ethiopians alternatives to irregular migration and the opportunity to build futures in their home communities, RMRP partners are undertaking livelihood promotion interventions aimed at individual returnees and their families as well as migration-prone communities.

<sup>3</sup> IOM registers all returnees from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia at Bole International Airport in Addis Ababa.

\* 16% of the Ethiopia RMRP 2020 budget is also included into the [Ethiopia Humanitarian Response Plan 2020](#). 58% of the Ethiopia RMRP 2020 budget includes COVID 19 related costs, of which 44% are also reflected in the [COVID 19 GHRP 2020 \(July revision\)](#).



## Objective 1: To ensure humanitarian and protection assistance to vulnerable migrants in Yemen and the Horn of Africa.

- Provide assistance, counselling, and referral to vulnerable migrants during and after COVID-19 quarantine, including psychosocial support, temporary shelter, family tracing, NFIs, food, and medical support;
- Strengthen Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) and Child Protection assistance provided to returnees from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and transit countries;
- Support coordination of assistance (such as NFI provision, health and psychosocial support) to returnees in quarantine centers among RMRP partners.

## Objective 2: To support durable and development-oriented approaches to return, sustainable reintegration and community stabilization.

- Strengthen continuity of assistance provision to returnees in their communities of origin including psychosocial support and socioeconomic reintegration in addition to family reunification or other alternative care for unaccompanied returnee children as per best interest determination process;
- Provide reintegration assistance both at the individual and community level by developing COVID-19-sensitive delivery modalities, including cash-based support;
- Continue awareness-raising campaigns on the protection risks faced by irregular migrants and on the promotion of social inclusion of returnees and local livelihood opportunities, while mainstreaming COVID-19 issues in these campaigns;
- Support the most impacted communities of origin and communities of high returns with community development projects and livelihood interventions to reduce push factors contributing to irregular migration and to strengthen social cohesion.

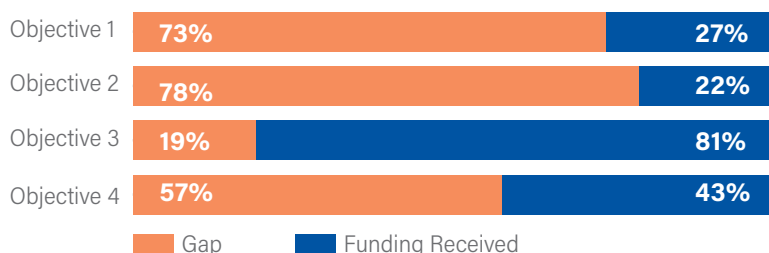
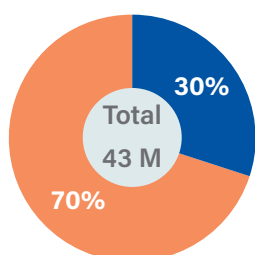
## Objective 3: To strengthen protection of migrants in the Horn of Africa and Yemen by building the capacities of Governments.

- Strengthen the capacity of government actors to counter human smuggling and trafficking at border crossing points;
- Support the Ethiopian government in establishing immigration control border posts in four regional states;
- Support the government's COVID-19 response by providing technical, material and operational support to quarantine centers and points of entry;
- Continue expanding the avenues for regular labour migration to Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries available to Ethiopian migrants;
- Facilitate the recognition and integration of migrant-specific vulnerabilities into national and regional protection systems;
- Continue providing support to the Government by strengthening the capacities of immigration, child protection, and law enforcement officials in the areas of vulnerability screening, protection, and humanitarian assistance.

## Objective 4: To strengthen partnership and collaboration around evidence-based analysis of root causes, needs and trends of migration between the Horn of Africa and Yemen.

- Continue relevant mobility tracking programmes, to monitor routes and trends;
- Support updated research on the root causes for migration in Ethiopia, particularly migration on the Eastern Route to GCC countries, and explore potential linkages between displacement and migration in migration-prone communities.

### Current Funding Status



# DJIBOUTI

 **9,700**

Vulnerable migrants in need of assistance in 2020

 **USD 3.5M**

Funding required by RMRP partners in 2020\*

 **63%**

Funding secured by RMRP partners in 2020

 **5**

RMRP partners in Ethiopia

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. From January to December 2019, of the 215,710 migrants tracked in the flow monitoring points in Djibouti, 49,059 (22% of the total flow in Djibouti) were tracked in Obock region and 52,600 persons (40% of the total flow to Yemen) have been observed in Yemen arriving from Djibouti in 2019. Almost all of them were Ethiopian nationals, mostly male (77%). Of those migrants, 13% were minors and 87% adults. They arrived in Djibouti mainly on foot (75%), by bus (16%) and truck (4%). Many migrants decided to leave their country of origin in order to escape from difficult economic conditions. Others migrate due to natural disaster or environmental conditions, political, ethnic or religious persecution, or war, armed conflict or violence. On the migratory route, many migrants face difficulties in terms of access to food and water, harsh climate, physical violence and abuse by smugglers and others, and risks of trafficking. On the way to Yemen, some migrants are involved in shipwreck incidents in the Northern Obock region, sometimes with casualties. In 2019, 3,796 migrants (3,592 male and 204 female) who decided not to continue the potentially perilous journey through Yemen sought assistance at the Migration Response Centre (MRC) in Obock, among which 3,169 migrants (2,993 male and 176 female) received medical assistance and 814 received psychosocial support (573 male and 241 female). 4,220 migrants (3,961 male and 259 female) were provided voluntary return assistance from Obock and Djibouti City.

Following the COVID-19 outbreak, the situation of migrants in the country, and most especially in the city of Obock has significantly deteriorated as migrants compete with host communities for the use of scarce resources which causes increased social tensions and stigmatization of the migrants. Migrants who find themselves stranded because of the border closures in Yemen and Kingdom of Saudi Arabia are being assisted by the Government of Djibouti in various formal and informal settlements. Many of them have expressed a desire to return home and will be assisted to return when the movement restrictions are lifted. A quarantine site has been established for travelers in country to observe quarantine public health provisions, with the support of RMRP partners.

## 2020 Response

In Djibouti, the RMRP in 2020 targets over 9,700 vulnerable migrants with provision of life-saving humanitarian assistance, and voluntary return assistance for those who lack the means to return home. In light of the challenges posed by the COVID-19 outbreak, partners will assist stranded migrants in the regions as well as support the Government in providing assistance in the formal and informal migrants' sites across the country. In line with the outcomes of the RMRP country consultations, partners will also target the most impacted host communities with support aimed at increasing access to services, employment, and fostering social cohesion.



Migrants are getting on the bus as part of voluntary return programme | Photo credit : Alexander Bee @ IOM 2020

\* 38% of the Djibouti RMRP 2020 budget includes COVID 19 related costs, which are also reflected in the [COVID 19 GHRP 2020 \(July revision\)](#).

### Objective 1: To ensure humanitarian and protection assistance to vulnerable migrants in Yemen and the Horn of Africa.

- Provision of humanitarian assistance including registration, reception, food, NFIs, WASH, temporary shelter, medical support, psychosocial and legal counselling to vulnerable migrants during and after COVID-19 quarantine requirements, in transit/protection centers and along the migration corridors;
- Strengthen child protection mechanisms by providing appropriate transit/recreational spaces for migrant's children and supporting alternative care arrangements;
- Strengthen existing referral mechanisms for vulnerable migrants, particularly unaccompanied children.

### Objective 2: To support durable and development-oriented approaches to return, sustainable reintegration and community stabilization.

- Assist stranded migrants in Djibouti who wish to voluntarily return to their countries of origin but lack the means to make arrangements on their own. Priority will be given to unaccompanied migrant children and migrants with vulnerabilities;
- Support the livelihoods of youth in host communities as a means of promoting economic opportunities and social cohesion;
- Support the regularization of stay for eligible migrants;
- Increase awareness about the dangers of irregular migration for migrants in transit through Djibouti, to be reached at the MRC in Obock or through mobile outreach campaigns.

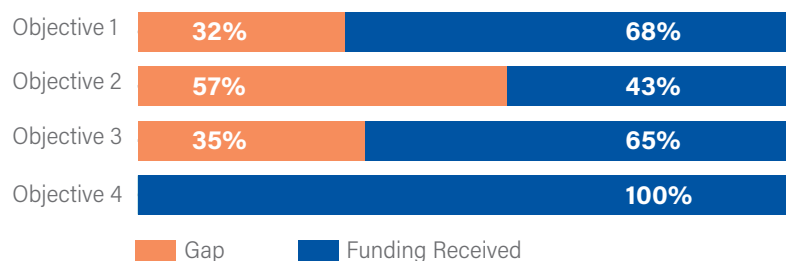
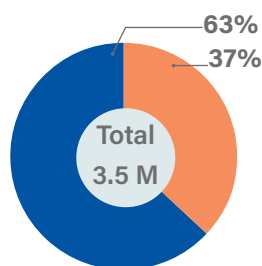
### Objective 3: To strengthen protection of migrants in the Horn of Africa and Yemen by building the capacities of Governments.

- Strengthen the Government of Djibouti's capacity to meet the protection and basic social services needs of vulnerable migrants through targeted trainings on migrant protection;
- Support the Government with the development and strengthening of national migration policies in support of relevant protection and labour needs of migrants;
- Continue to build the government's capacity to improve their border management at land, air, and sea border posts.
- Support the Government of Djibouti to respond to COVID through infrastructure support, risk communication and community engagement on COVID-19 to promote access and referrals to specialized services.

### Objective 4: To strengthen partnership and collaboration around evidence-based analysis of root causes, needs and trends of migration between the Horn of Africa and Yemen.

- Monitor migration flows at the border and identify key places of transit and congregation;
- Conduct a study on migrant presence in Djibouti to better understand the migration trends and the protection needs of migrants residing in and/or transiting through the city, especially UASC and female migrants;

## Current Funding Status



# SOMALIA

 **15,000**

Vulnerable migrants in need of assistance in 2020

 **USD 5.9M**

Funding required by RMRP partners in 2020\*

 **14%**

Funding secured by RMRP partners in 2020

 **5**

RMRP partners in Ethiopia

Along the Eastern Route, Somalia continues to be a key country of origin, transit and return for migrants in the Horn of Africa, with a multifaceted and complex mobility and migration environment characterized by conflicts, natural hazards and irregular migration. Nearly two-thirds (62 per cent) of the 138,213 arrivals who tracked into Yemen between January and December 2019 departed from Bossaso seaport, in the Somali region of Puntland<sup>4</sup>. A majority of these migrants originated from Ethiopia (94 per cent) with the remaining from Somalia<sup>5</sup>. On the other hand, data on the number of Somalis returning from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is limited, with an overall 4,000 reported to be returned to Somalia during 2019<sup>6</sup>.

Somalia's complex migration reality has been further exacerbated by the outbreak of COVID-19 in March 2020. As the direct impact of COVID-19 on the health of the Somali people becomes clearer, so will the secondary consequences of the economic impact. Already anticipated consequences include fluctuating commodity prices, reductions in exports – including of livestock and agricultural products – reduced remittances and domestic

revenues.

These risks might represent additional push factors towards outbound migration while, on the other hand, border restrictions and movement limitations will further worsen the conditions under which the migration journey takes place, exposing migrants to stigma and higher risk of abuse, violence and exploitation. The challenges Somalia faces are not new. Rather, COVID-19 is exacerbating existing hurdles and vulnerabilities, while putting further strain on nascent and fragile systems.

## 2020 Response

The target population for the RMRP in Somalia is a total of 15,000 vulnerable migrants, and includes 3,000 Somali migrants returning from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia who are in need of humanitarian, protection, onward travel assistance and reintegration, as well as 12,000 vulnerable migrants in transit along the Eastern Route in need of humanitarian, protection assistance and support to return to their country of origin, if willing.



Farhiya and her eight-month-old son await return assistance to Ethiopia at a reception centre in Bosasso, Puntland |Photo credit: Muse Mohammed/IOM

4 IOM DTM (2020), Flow Monitoring Annual Report available at <https://dtm.iom.int/reports/somalia---flow-monitoring-annual-report-january---october-2019>

5 IOM DTM (2020), Flow Monitoring Annual Report available at <https://dtm.iom.int/reports/somalia---flow-monitoring-annual-report-january---october-2019>

6 According to the Immigration and Naturalization Directorate (IND) of the Government of Somalia.

\* 30% of the Somalia RMRP 2020 budget is also included into the [Somalia Humanitarian Response Plan 2020](#), 32% of the Somalia RMRP 2020 budget includes COVID 19 related costs of which two percent are also reflected in the [COVID 19 GHRP 2020 \(July revision\)](#).

## **Objective 1: To ensure humanitarian and protection assistance to vulnerable migrants in Yemen and the Horn of Africa.**

- Support stranded migrants to access basic services and strengthen protection mechanisms at the Migration Response Centers (MRCs) and the Ethiopian Community Centers in Somalia through basic services such as Health Support, Water and Sanitation (WASH), Non Food Items (NFIs) tailored to needs and vulnerabilities, as well as specialized support in terms of child protection, psycho-social support (PSS), legal assistance and support to survivors of gender based violence (GBV);
- Scale up outreach activities and mobile patrols along migration routes – both primary and secondary ones – to support migrants and host communities by providing direct assistance, information about services available and to counter stigmatization and retaliation linked to outbreak(s) of COVID19, as well as making referrals to specialized support and assistance for vulnerable migrants according to identified criteria;
- Provide integrated mobile health services using mobile health clinics along migration routes to reduce barriers to access to primary healthcare services among the most vulnerable and hard-to-reach populations along migratory routes;
- Establish strategic way stations at key stop-over points along migration routes to provide direct assistance to vulnerable migrants, according to migrants' profile and vulnerabilities through screening<sup>7</sup>, as well as awareness raising about available services;
- Strengthen existing referral mechanisms for vulnerable migrants, with a focus on UASC, and support the establishment of service pathways among child protection service providers including, among others, Child Protection Desks.

## **Objective 2: To support durable and development-oriented approaches to return, sustainable reintegration and community stabilization.**

- Provide reception assistance and onward transportation for returnees from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia through the provision of tailored services, such as Psychosocial First Aid, Non-Food Items (NFIs) addressing needs and vulnerabilities, and medical assistance;
- Ensure reintegration assistance upon return through vulnerability assessment and individual support for specific protection needs and gaps as well as counselling on economic reintegration via job placements and business start-ups among others;
- Support returning migrants with the re-insertion into communities of origin and/or return through the development of community-based reintegration initiatives including host communities and in areas of high returns;
- Enable returning migrants and host communities in areas impacted by return to achieve locally led and defined solutions to migration crises to increase self-reliance, including increased participation for all in civic life, decision making and improved access to basic services;
- Enhance social cohesion and trust among diverse population groups, in areas impacted by return through participatory and inclusive community-driven art, culture and recreational activities as well as participatory plans and systems for dispute resolutions among returnees and host communities.

## **Objective 3: To strengthen protection of migrants in the Horn of Africa and Yemen by building the capacities of Governments.**

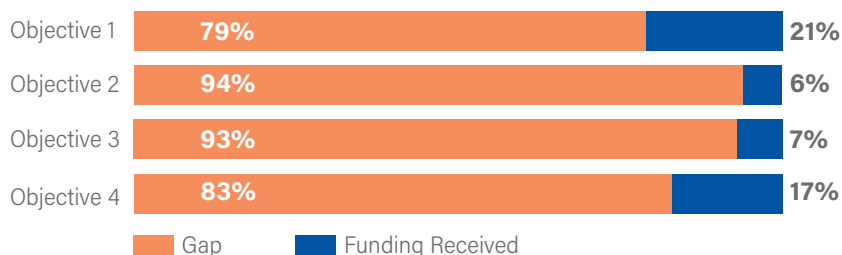
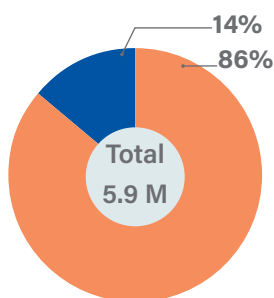
- Support the Government of Somalia to enhance migration governance, including institutional and operational capacity strengthening government institutions;
- Support the operationalization of the Migrant Response Center (MRC) in Mogadishu through the definition of SOPs and referrals as well as support in enhancing personnel capacity. The MRC will provide assistance to returning migrants through screening, counselling, and provision of basic services, including through referrals to partners;
- Strengthen capacity of personnel at key Points/Ports of Entry (PoE) along the Eastern Route to enhance screening and support in basic equipment;
- Support governmental actors with strengthening of capacity in the thematic areas of humanitarian border management and migrant protection including COVID-19 IPC and COVID-19 response training for frontline health, and immigration officers.

<sup>7</sup> Way stations will allow identification of vulnerable migrants to support provision of direct assistance according to pre-defined vulnerability criteria.

## Objective 4: To strengthen partnerships and collaboration around evidence-based analysis of root causes, needs and trends of migration between the Horn of Africa and Yemen.

- Compile information on mobility restrictions that can be made available to migrants intending to move to, transit through, or depart from Somalia through irregular migration pathways;
- Research the routes taken by migrants in Somalia as part of the regional Eastern Route to better inform migrant protection and assistance programming;
- Support active mobility surveillance through flow monitoring to understand mobility patterns at key transit and departure points, and to inform targeted and appropriate responses;
- Establish internal Flow Monitoring Points (FMPs) to produce evidence-based data around internal migration flows and trends in Somalia along the Eastern Route;
- Conduct analysis that integrates information on migration trends with district-specific COVID-19 incidence rates to improve understanding of how migration and the pandemic interact;
- Conduct a qualitative research with returning migrants from Gulf countries to better document, analyze and understand labor migration trends as well as root causes of irregular migration, including instances of trafficking and smuggling;
- Strengthen inter-agency and inter-sectoral cooperation and coordination at policy and operational levels to respond to protection needs of vulnerable migrants, including through supporting regular Mixed Migration Task Force (MMTF) meetings.

### Current Funding Status



Nour Abdi Garaad, a returnee leads the production of a local film in Burco. | Photo credit: Muse Mohammed/IOM

## 2019 Response

In 2019, 82,928 migrants were reached through the support provided by RMRP partners. RMRP partners in the four target countries provided life-saving humanitarian assistance to 63,919 vulnerable migrants in the form of food, water, and temporary shelter in 2019. A total of 77,127 migrants received health support from partners since the start of the year, with assistance delivered at key migrant response points in each of the four RMRP target countries and via mobile patrols along key migratory routes. Voluntary humanitarian return assistance was provided to 3,785 Ethiopian migrants stranded in Yemen. During 2019, a 31 percent increase was observed in migrants seeking assistance at Migration Response Centres (MRCs) along the Horn of Africa's Eastern Route, as compared to 2018. In Ethiopia, RMRP partners assisted 1,381 UMCs returning from KSA, or other Horn of Africa countries, with family tracing and reunification assistance.

Return and transport assistance to stranded vulnerable migrants was a significant component of the 2019 response. In total, 4,911 migrants opted to voluntarily return to Ethiopia from Somalia and Djibouti during 2019, while post-arrival return assistance (PARA) and onward transportation assistance (OTA) was provided to 6,918 migrants following their return to their home countries. Reintegration assistance was completed for 1,619 cases in Ethiopia. Meanwhile, RMRP partners have initiated several community reintegration and development projects in communities of high return, with 10 such community-based projects being initiated in Ethiopia since the beginning of 2019.

A key component of the RMRP is providing support to governments in the region, including through the provision of equipment and improving their access to technology, as well as building existing migration management capacities and strengthening their ability to protect vulnerable migrants. In 2019, RMRP partners supported the training of 319 frontline health officials, 451 frontline immigration officers and 196 law enforcement officials.

## Achievements



**82,928** migrants reached by RMRP partners in 2019



**77,127** migrants received health support



**63,919** provided food, water, and temporary shelter



**4,911** migrants received assisted voluntary return to Ethiopia from Somalia and Djibouti



**3,785** Voluntary humanitarian returns from Yemen



**1,619** Provided with tailored individualized reintegration assistance in Ethiopia



**1,381** unaccompanied migrant children provided with family reunification assistance



**10** Community development projects initiated in areas of high returns



**32%** Funding secured by RMRP partners

## Regional Strategic Objectives and Coordination Framework

The Regional Migrant Response Plan for the Horn of Africa and Yemen (RMRP) 2018 - 2020 is a migrant-focused humanitarian and development strategy targeting vulnerable migrants moving to and from the Horn of Africa and Yemen. The RMRP aims to provide a framework for coordination, protection, capacity building, analysis and resource mobilization recognizing the regional dimensions of the migration linking the Horn of Africa and Yemen. The four strategic objectives of the RMRP are:

- 1. To ensure humanitarian and protection assistance to migrants in vulnerable situations in Yemen and the Horn of Africa;**
- 2. To support durable and development-oriented approaches to return, sustainable reintegration and community stabilization;**
- 3. To strengthen protection of migrants in the Horn of Africa and Yemen by building the capacities of Governments;**
- 4. To strengthen partnership and collaboration around evidence-based analysis of drivers of migration, needs and trends of migration between the Horn of Africa and Yemen.**

The Regional Migrant Response Plan for the Horn of Africa and Yemen is led by IOM's Regional Office for the East and Horn of Africa based in Nairobi. IOM leads the coordination of the implementation of the plan, including information management, monitoring and reporting at both regional and country level. At the regional level, the following partners constitute the regional coordination committee; IOM, UNHCR, UNICEF, WHO, OCHA, the International Rescue Committee, NRC, DRC, Save the Children, RMMS and IGAD. The Mixed Migration Task Force, an existing structure in Djibouti, Ethiopia, and Somalia, including relevant government authorities, the UN, and relevant NGO-partners, serves as the coordination and information-sharing platform for the RMRP; in Yemen, the Multisector Cluster for Refugees and Migrants takes on this role. RMRP partners include governmental, intergovernmental, nongovernmental, and UN actors working in close collaboration at the regional and country levels to set strategic objectives, determine yearly operational priorities and budgets, and identify challenges and trends that inform partners' responses.

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### Partners

Action for Social Development and Environmental Protection Organization (ASDEPO) • Caritas Djibouti • Comprehensive Community-Based Rehabilitation • Danish Refugee Council • Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekaneyesus (EEC) • Ethiopian Red Cross • Good Samaritan Association of Ethiopia • IGAD • International Committee of the Red Cross • ILO • International Rescue Committee • INTERSOS • IOM • Mediciens du Monde • Mixed Migration Centre • MSF • Norwegian Refugee Council • Regional Mixed Migration Secretariat • Save the Children • TASS • Terre des Hommes NL • UNFPA • UNHCR • UNICEF • UNOCHA • UNODC • WFP

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