

REGIONAL MIGRANT RESPONSE PLAN

FOR THE HORN OF AFRICA AND YEMEN, 2023



MRP
Regional Migrant Response Plan
Horn of Africa and Yemen

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Two migrant friends from Ethiopia, transiting through Somalia on their way to join their families in Saudi Arabia. Bosaso, Somalia. Photo: © Yonas Tadesse/IOM 2021.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The regional Migrant Response Plan (MRP) for the Horn of Africa (HoA) and Yemen is an inter-agency and inter-regional plan that brings together 48 appealing organizations to provide urgent life-saving humanitarian and protection support and enhance access to basic services and medium- to long-term actions aimed at addressing the drivers of migration for migrants and host communities. The plan's overall implementation is led by governments and supported by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), UN agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and international non-governmental organizations (INGOs), and civil society organizations (CSOs), and other partners (think tanks, academic institutions, etc.), while the International Organization for Migration (IOM) leads the coordination efforts for the plan's implementation. The MRP lays the foundation for accountable, inclusive, and flexible coordination in responding to large-scale and complex migrant situations. It provides the vehicle through which partners, a broad range of other key actors, and development and financial institutions seek to foster joint humanitarian, development, and migration management programming initiatives. The MRP provides a route-based, coherent, consistent, and essential strategic framework to ensure a whole-of-government and whole-of-society response to address the drivers of migration and migrant vulnerabilities in the HoA and Yemen.

Through inter-agency planning, the MRP works through existing strategic frameworks towards the humanitarian-development-peace nexus (HDPN), which demonstrates the international community's joint effort and commitment to complement and strengthen national and regional comprehensive responses of governments and local partners to address the multiple vulnerabilities comprehensively and foster strong socioeconomic outcomes for migrants and communities of origin, transit, and destination. The MRP leverages partners' multisectoral and complementary capacity, reflecting a commitment towards the collective outcomes to provide a comprehensive and effective response that maintains a balance between

immediate, life-saving humanitarian assistance and longer-term responses directed towards resilience and sustainable solutions.

In 2023, migration flows along the Eastern Route are anticipated to return to pre-COVID-19 levels. In 2023, the number of people in need (PiN) of humanitarian assistance is projected to reach 1,428,234. MRP partners will target 1,045,832 people, including 403,295 migrants and 642,537 host community members. A total of \$84.2 million will be required to meet the needs of the target population for 2023 across the four countries that conform to the MRP: Djibouti, Ethiopia, Somalia, and Yemen.

Migration in the HoA continues to be triggered by persistent insecurity and conflict, environmental degradation, harsh climatic conditions, public health emergencies, socioeconomic drivers, and traditional seasonal factors. MRP partners foresee the ongoing drought in the HoA impacting migration,¹ particularly in host communities, who frequently interact with and support migrants along the Eastern Route. The challenges along the migration corridor require complex cooperation and multi-partner engagement as it cuts across two regions and requires all stakeholders to work together to address the most pressing needs and vulnerabilities of migrants and ensure the continuity of services across the whole route.

1 Interactions between local communities and transiting migrants in Hargeisa – Mixed Migration Centre, 19 August 2022.

CONTEXT OVERVIEW

The Eastern Route comprises migrant movements from Ethiopia and Somalia transiting through Djibouti and/or Somalia across the Red Sea/Gulf of Aden to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and other Gulf States via Yemen. Overall, the Eastern Route accounts for over 50 per cent of all regional migratory movements.² In 2022, over 256,288 Ethiopian migrants were observed traveling towards Yemen and/or the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.³ As of December 2022, 97 per cent of recorded arrivals to Yemen were Ethiopian and three per cent were Somali.⁴ In 2022, arrivals to Yemen more than doubled compared to 2021, with over 73,000 people arriving by boat.⁵ The primary reasons for leaving their country of origin are mainly economic (83%), followed by environmental shocks (5%), and conflict (5%).⁶ Furthermore, as of December 2022, 45,072 migrants were estimated to be stranded across the Eastern Route (43,000 in Yemen, 672 in Djibouti, and 1,400 in Somalia). Throughout their journey along the Eastern Route, migrants face life-threatening situations and are at grave risk of violence, exploitation, and abuse. Most migrants travel long distances on the Eastern Route by foot through extreme heat and rugged terrain, resulting in dehydration and exhaustion. In 2022, MRP partners recorded 89 missing or dead migrants along the Eastern Route⁷ with 38 dead and missing in Djibouti, 29 in Yemen, 18 in Somalia, and four in Ethiopia. Many more deaths go unreported. Additionally, migrants are often apprehended by smugglers, border guards, or militias, who frequently utilize violent practices, including kidnapping.⁸ Women and children, who comprise 32 per cent of the migrant population along the Eastern Route, are the most vulnerable to these protection risks and vulnerabilities.

In addition to outward flows from Ethiopia and Somalia, a complex variety of return movements (including but not limited to voluntary, spontaneous, and non-voluntary returns) calls for humanitarian and development interventions in areas of first arrival and destination. In 2022, over 93,527 migrants had been non-voluntarily returned to Ethiopia from the Gulf States,⁹ at the rate of over 11,000 arrivals to Bole Airport per month.¹⁰ Approximately 64 per cent of non-voluntarily returned migrants in 2022 intended to return to conflict-affected regions of Ethiopia, including 42 per cent to Amhara, 20 per cent to Tigray and two per cent to Afar. As of October 2022, an estimated 2,689 non-voluntarily returned migrants were stranded in Addis Ababa, unable to return to their place of origin.¹¹ Although the conflict in Ethiopia is expected to end following the peace agreement reached between the warring parties in November 2022, the lifesaving and protection needs for returnees originating from the conflict-affected areas, who have been stranded in Addis Ababa and often forced to move elsewhere in the country or re-migrated, will remain high as the communities move towards transition and recovery.¹² In 2022, MRP partners also recorded 6,148 non-voluntary returns from Djibouti at the Dewele point of entry (PoE) in Northern Ethiopia. In addition, the ongoing drought in the HoA, the most severe in the last four decades, has already affected over 36 million people in the region. Future rainy seasons are forecasted to be far lower than the usual rainfall.¹³ Between January 2021 and September 2022, 50 per cent of returnees from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and other Gulf States reported originating from drought-affected areas of Ethiopia.¹⁴

2 A Region on the Move 2021: East and Horn of Africa, IOM, 12 August 2022.

3 Migration along the Eastern Corridor – Report 34 – IOM Regional Data Hub, February 2023.

4 Ibid.

5 Ibid.

6 Ibid.

7 IOM Missing Migrants Project.

8 They Snatched from Me My Own Cry – IOM, 8 March 2021.

9 Return of Ethiopian Migrants from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia – Annual Overview 2022 – IOM, 26 January 2023.

10 Non-voluntary returns to Ethiopia from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and other Gulf States were suspended on 31 August due to overcrowding and limited reception capacity in temporary shelters in Addis Ababa and resumed in November 2022.

11 Ethiopia Migration Programme, Monthly Atmospheric Report #18 – October 2022.

12 Drivers and aspirations of Ethiopians impacted by the Tigray conflict: Data from Somalia and Sudan – Mixed Migration Centre, 27 May 2022.

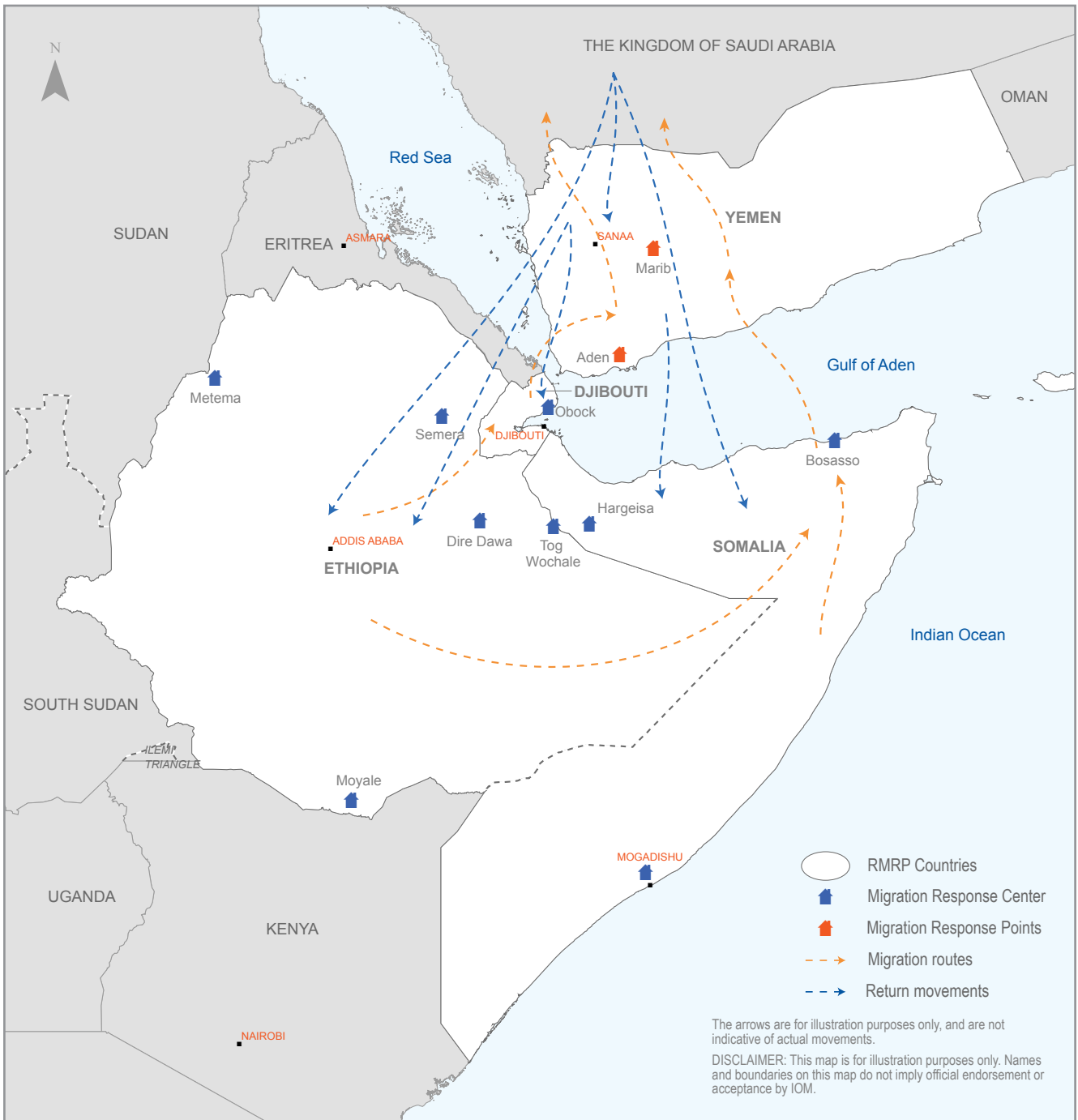
13 Horn of Africa Drought: Regional Humanitarian Overview & Call to Action – OCHA, 28 November 2022.

14 IOM Regional Data Hub, 2022.

MRP partners foresee the drought impacting migration, particularly in host communities that frequently interact with and support migrants along the Eastern Route.¹⁵ The drought is anticipated to continually deplete the

resources of host communities, limiting their ability to support migrants along the Eastern Route and pushing more individuals to migrate irregularly.

MRP Countries and the Migration on the Eastern Route



15 Interactions between local communities and transiting migrants in Hargeisa – Mixed Migration Centre, 19 August 2022.

LIST OF ACRONYMS

| | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| 4Mi | Mixed Migration Monitoring Mechanism Initiative |
| ASDEPO | Action for Social Development and Environmental Protection |
| ATD | Alternatives To Detention |
| BLMA | Bilateral Labour Migration Agreement |
| BPDO | Beza Posterity Development Organization |
| COOPI | Cooperazione Internazionale |
| CSO | Civil Society Organization |
| CT | Counter-Trafficking |
| DRC | Danish Refugee Council |
| DTM | Displacement Tracking Matrix |
| ECC-SDCO | Ethiopian Catholic Church Social and Development Commission |
| EECMY-DASSC- NCES-BO | Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus Development and Social Service Commission North Central Ethiopian Synode Branch Office |
| FMP | Flow Monitoring Point |
| FTR | Family Tracing and Reunification |
| GBV | Gender-Based Violence |
| GCM | Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration |
| GHO | Global Humanitarian Overview |
| GIZ | Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit |
| HDPN | Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus |
| HoA | Horn of Africa |
| HPC | Humanitarian Programme Cycle |

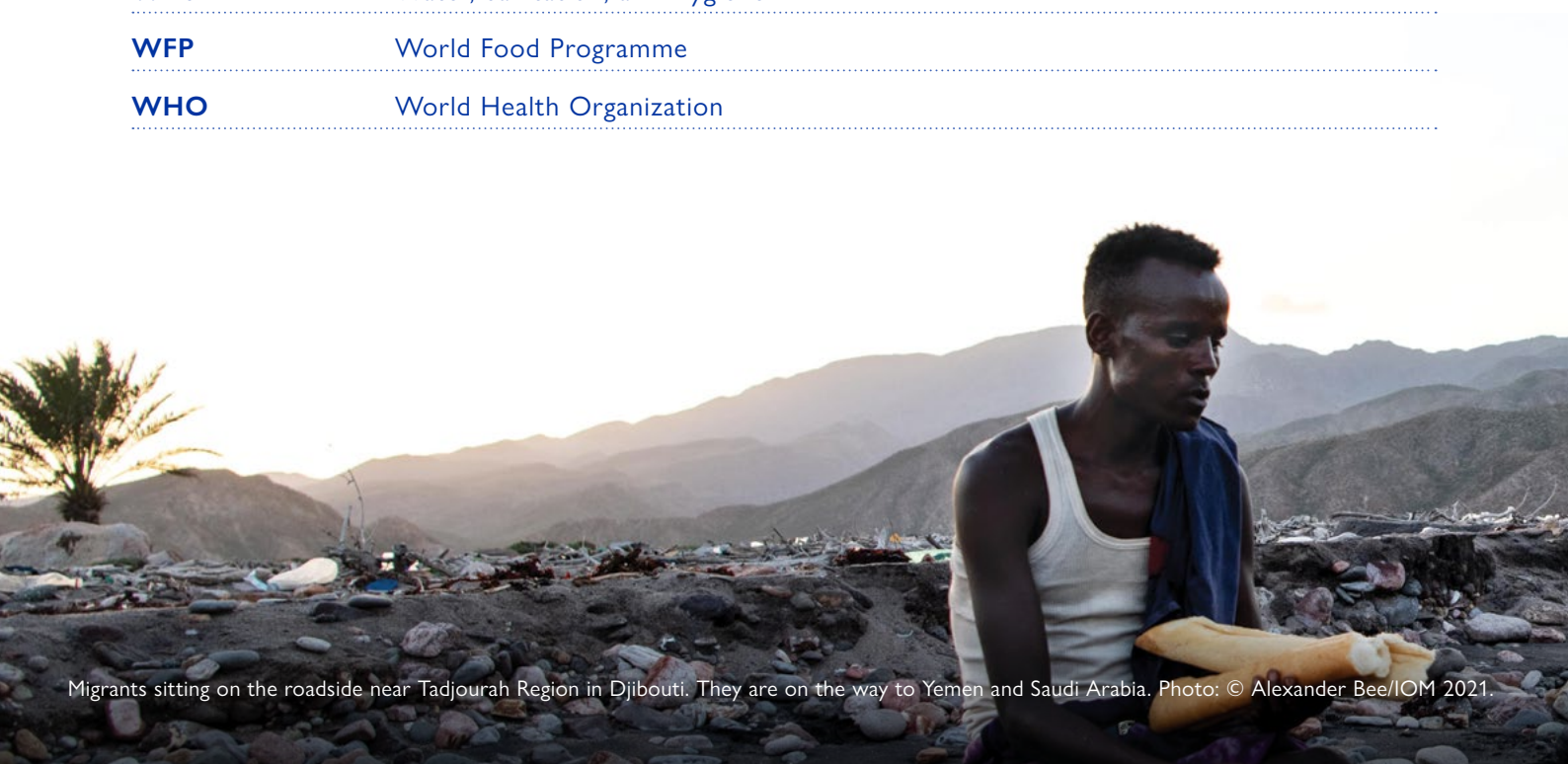
| | |
|--------------|---|
| HRP | Humanitarian Response Plan |
| ICCG | Inter-Cluster Coordination Group |
| ICPAC | IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre |
| ICRC | International Committee of the Red Cross |
| IDP | Internally Displaced Persons |
| IEC | Information, Education, and Communication |
| IGAD | Intergovernmental Authority on Development |
| ILO | International Labour Organization |
| IMS | Information Management System |
| IMWG | Information Management Working Group |
| IND | Somali Immigration and Naturalization Directorate |
| INGO | International Non-Governmental Organization |
| IOM | International Organization for Migration |
| IRC | International Rescue Committee |
| MDM | Médecins du monde |
| MECC | Migration, Environment, and Climate Change |
| MHPSS | Mental Health and Psychosocial Support |
| MMC | Mixed Migration Centre |
| MMTF | Mixed Migration Task Force |
| MMWG | Mixed Migration Working Group |
| MoL | Ministry of Labour |
| MPCA | Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance |
| MPWG | Migrant Protection Working Group |
| MRC | Migration Response Centre |



| | |
|---------------|--|
| MRP | Migrant Response Plan |
| MSF | Médecins Sans Frontières |
| NCM | National Coordination Mechanism |
| NDF | National Development Framework |
| NFI | Non-food Item |
| NGO | Non-Governmental Organization |
| NPC | National Partnership Coalition |
| NRC | Norwegian Refugee Council |
| OCHA | United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs |
| OHCHR | Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights |
| OPRIFS | Organization for Prevention, Rehabilitation, and Integration of Female Street Children |
| PAD | Positive Action for Development |
| PiN | People in Need |
| PoE | Point of Entry |
| PSEA | Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse |
| PwD | Persons with Disabilities |
| RCC | Regional Coordination Committee |
| RCPN | Regional Child Protection Network |
| RD | Regional Directors |
| RDAF | Regional Direct Assistance Fund |
| REC | Regional Economic Community |
| RMFM | Regional Ministerial Forum on Migration |
| RMMS | Refugee and Migrant Multisector |
| RPC | Regional Partnership Coalition |



| | |
|-------------------|--|
| SCI | Save the Children International |
| SDG | Sustainable Development Goals |
| SNNP | Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples' Region |
| SOP | Standard Operating Procedures |
| SRH | Sexual and Reproductive Health |
| TiP | Trafficking in Persons |
| TOC | Transnational Organized Crime |
| ToT | Training of Trainers |
| UASC | Unaccompanied and Separated Children |
| UNDP | United Nations Development Programme |
| UNFPA | United Nations Population Fund |
| UN Habitat | United Nations Human Settlement Programme |
| UNHCR | United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees |
| UNICEF | United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund |
| UNIDO | United Nations Industrial Development Organization |
| UNNM | United Nations Network on Migration |
| UNODC | United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime |
| UNSDCF | United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework |
| VHR | Voluntary Humanitarian Return |
| VoT | Victims of Trafficking |
| WASH | Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene |
| WFP | World Food Programme |
| WHO | World Health Organization |





Migrants board the voluntary humanitarian return (VHR) flight to return home, in Ma'rib, Yemen. Photo: © N. Nadhem/IOM 2021.



RESPONSE PRIORITIES

A group of migrants play volleyball as part of MHPSS activities implemented by MRP partners in Obock, Djibouti. Photo: © Alexander Bee/IOM 2022.

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 local capacities in line with priorities. The multi-annual and inter-agency approach employed in the MRP will ensure that humanitarian and protection assistance and longer-term development activities are delivered to the target populations synergistically and sustainably, prioritizing the most vulnerable. In 2023, MRP partners will prioritize several government initiatives established during the consultative processes.

PROTECTION

Priority Needs

Protection response remains a key priority for the MRP in 2023, considering the various protection risks and vulnerabilities faced by migrant men, women, boys, and girls along the Eastern Route. Transnational Organized Crime (TOC), including human smuggling and trafficking in persons (TIP), remain critical protection concerns. The existence of complex smuggling and trafficking networks in the HoA and the Gulf States compounds the matter. Movement restrictions, discrimination, xenophobia, and challenges in accessing basic needs and essential services, including health, continue to pose significant threats to the safety, health, and

well-being of migrants. This is exacerbated by the growing criminalization of irregular migration, which has increased the risk of inhumane and degrading treatment, detention, and non-voluntary return of migrants. The risks and complexity of living in situations with limited options for regularization and leading a productive life continue to push migrants to return to their countries of origin, where they face significant challenges. Migrants often arrive in their countries and communities of origin in a vulnerable state and, in many instances, face stigmatization (as they are perceived to have failed in their migration), struggle to resume their normal lives as they were before migration, making it difficult for migrants to reintegrate sustainably. As such, the likelihood of irregular re-migration remains high. The inability of some returnees to return to the intended destination (due to conflict and other adverse factors) exacerbates their vulnerabilities.

Response Strategy

In 2023, MRP partners will seek to enhance the quality of protection responses, including ensuring that services are comprehensive, accessible, tailored, and provided promptly. Interventions will cut across various protection sub-themes such as Child Protection,¹⁶ Gender-Based Violence (GBV), Counter Trafficking (CT),¹⁷ alternatives to detention (ATD), access to justice and legal aid, access to documentation, medical assistance including clinical management of rape, safe shelter, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), family tracing and

16 The interventions will include the provision of technical support and guidance to national partners for capacity enhancement of front-line officials, social workforce, health workers, and immigration officials (in the 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.

17 The MPWG also utilizes the IOM and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) – Framework document on developing SOPs to facilitate the identification and protection of victims of trafficking (VoTs). This document intends to encourage the development of SOPs between IOM and UNHCR at field level and suggests a procedure for cooperation to ensure that the available expertise, capacities, and potential of each organization are effectively employed and coordinated to deliver the best possible protection and assistance for VoTs.

reunification (FTR), voluntary return and reintegration, consular protection, and housing, land, and property. A key component of protection service provision will also comprise interventions for missing migrants, mainly documentation, identification, and dead body management for deceased migrants. The above protection interventions will be implemented through the delivery of direct assistance; capacity building (training, technical cooperation, secondments, material, and logistical support); thematic guidance (development of standard operating procedures (SOPs), guidelines, and tools); data collection and analysis; convening and dialogue; and advocacy and communication. MRP partners will enhance coordination and collaboration of interventions through the Migrant Protection Working Group (MPWG), which will also ensure linkages with relevant protection coordination fora such as the Regional and National Child Protection Networks and the Regional GBV Working Group. Through the MPWG, MRP Partners will collaborate with the IGAD and ensure linkages with relevant Regional Economic Communities (RECs) across the Eastern Route.

SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS ACROSS THE HUMANITARIAN-DEVELOPMENT-PEACE NEXUS

Response Strategy

In 2023, the MRP will be implemented across the HDPN, adopting a whole-of-government and whole-of-system approach among key actors to ensure adequate policies and operations are in place to enhance community stabilization and sustainable solutions for migrants and host communities. As such, the MRP will seek to address the root causes and drivers of irregular migration in hotspot areas of irregular migration and return in collaboration with and in support of government priorities. The interventions will include community-based initiatives to foster or maintain peace and resilience through access to basic services and sustainable livelihoods across the HDPN, promote social cohesion, and mitigate the drivers of

irregular migration. In 2023, this will be most relevant in Somalia, Ethiopia, and Djibouti for migrants at destination¹⁸ and host community members. The response will target at-risk, vulnerable groups, such as women and children, through inclusive, resilience-based strategies at the individual-level and community-based sustainable reintegration initiatives that support progress toward sustainable solutions, including return and reintegration.¹⁹ Furthermore, MRP partners, in partnership with a broader range of stakeholders, will support member states to strengthen capacity, promote policy coherence, and synergize operational efforts toward achieving improved migration governance across the migratory corridor. In 2023, MRP partners will develop a dedicated HDPN framework with measurable impacts and timelines to ensure a unified approach to the nexus across the Eastern Route.



An IOM doctor distributes water and cookies provided by WFP to migrants walking along the route in Djibouti. Photo: © Alexander Bee/IOM 2021.

- 18 Migrants at destination in Djibouti typically comprise migrants who ultimately decide to settle in Djibouti rather than returning to their place of origin or continuing along the Eastern Route but are not stranded.
- 19 Return and reintegration will prioritize vulnerable groups, including unaccompanied and separated children (UASC), pregnant and lactating women, women-headed households, GBV survivors, VoTs, older persons, persons with disabilities (PwD), and people with medical conditions.

HEALTH

Priority Needs

Migration is a social determinant of health, and actions taken during migration can affect the health of individuals and communities along migration pathways. Failure to address migrants' health can potentially increase mortality, morbidity, and disability within migrant and host communities along the migration journey and burden healthcare systems, which may not be prepared for tailored migration-related health interventions. Furthermore, the continuous re-emergence of outbreaks and epidemics of international health concerns such as COVID-19, Ebola, and cholera in the region affect migrants directly and increase the negative stigma towards them along the Eastern Route. Public health threats require an agile health system that can detect, prevent, and respond to public health threats while continuing to provide essential health services and care to all, including migrants.

Response Strategy

Health interventions are critical priorities for the MRP 2023 across the HDPN. MRP partners will strengthen multi-sectoral partnerships and coordination of health responders to ensure the inclusion of migrants in national policies²⁰ and support the design, delivery, and strengthening of the health systems to be responsive and adaptable to the needs of vulnerable migrants and non-migrant populations. MRP partners will assist in revising and developing national policies²¹ to promote, protect, and strengthen knowledge on the health of migrants through research and information dissemination to ensure evidence-based programming and policy development.

MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

Priority Needs

MHPSS is a crucial area of assistance to migrants, returning migrants, and host communities. Migrants originating from and returning to the HoA region can face extreme physical exhaustion, physical abuse and violence, sexual abuse and sexual violence, labour exploitation, racism, and discrimination. These negative experiences can directly impact mental health, well-being, and the overall societal fabric. These experiences can also determine how successfully people will engage socially and economically in society and the pace and outcome of the reintegration process.

Response Strategy

In 2023, MRP partners will facilitate access to quality, multi-layered MHPSS services for migrants, returning migrants, and host community members through direct service provision, technical assistance, and capacity building. This will include promoting community-level support structures and tackling stigmatization, marginalization, and isolation issues that can exacerbate suffering for migrants and their families. Fundamental MHPSS principles and approaches will be integrated into the reintegration assistance and community stabilization initiatives provided by MRP partners, including economic and employment initiatives, through the development of SOPs and guidelines. In line with the UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3 – Universal Mental Health Care and Psychosocial Support that leave no one behind. MRP partners will contribute to the MHPSS policy development and systems strengthening activities that align with national priorities to enhance access to MHPSS services among migrants and host communities.²²

20 Advocating for the right to health and well-being for everyone regardless of their status.

21 The national policies will be revised to be migrant-inclusive according to the Africa Migration Framework, the Global Compact on Migration (GCM) objective 15 and the World Health Organization's (WHO) resolutions on migrants' and refugees' health, including sexual and reproductive health (SRH) rights and menstrual health management.

22 Resources to prevent, identify and treat mental health problems are scarce across the EHoA region, with approximately one psychiatrist for every one million people. Structural barriers limit even the general population's access to mental health services. Kan (2020) found that lack of MHPSS services, poor quality of services and cost of services played a significant role in access to MHPSS services among returnees in Somalia, Ethiopia, and Sudan.

MIGRATION AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Priority Needs

MRP partners recognize the growing impact of environmental degradation, climate variability, and change on migration. They will work to enhance well-managed migration and the availability and flexibility of pathways for regular migration in the context of disasters and climate change along the Eastern Route.

Response Strategy

The response will support better preparedness, operational readiness, and regional/bilateral cooperation and coordination with IGAD and their Member States when responding to and providing protection in situations where people are displaced within and across borders in the context of disasters and the adverse effects of climate change. MRP partners will also improve the environmental sustainability of centres that support migrants located at key transit areas along the Eastern Route. This will include retrofitting the centres with solar/hybrid energy, establishing green spaces and common places for host communities, and building water harvesting infrastructure to support green spaces. MRP partners will advocate for whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches for policy coherence to ensure that migration considerations in the context of disasters, climate change, and environmental degradation are incorporated across relevant policy areas in line with commitments articulated in the Kampala Ministerial Declaration on Migration, Environment and Climate Change (MECC).

MIGRANT DEATHS AND DISAPPEARANCES

Response Strategy

In 2023, the MRP will prioritize the documentation of migrant deaths and disappearances along the Eastern Route primarily in partnership with IOM's Missing Migrants Project,²³ which records incidents in which migrants have died within their national borders or in the process of migrating to an international destination. Through its partnership with the Missing Migrants Project, the MRP aims to advocate for safe, humane, and legal migration routes and improve data on missing migrants to help inform policies to end migrant deaths and address the needs of the families left behind. In addition, MRP partners will support efforts towards recovery, identification, documentation, notification to families, transfer, and dignified burial of the remains.

INTER-STATE DIALOGUES

Priority Needs

The challenges of irregular migration along the migration routes in the HoA and Yemen are complex. They require concerted efforts by various stakeholders, including governments, the UN, NGOs, INGOs, CSOs, and academia. MRP partners recognize the importance of dialogue to advance inter-regional and inter-state cooperation to improve the management of migration along the Eastern Route from the HoA to the Gulf States.

Response Strategy

The MRP partners in 2023 will prioritize dialogues to promote the delivery of migration responses along the Eastern Route to ensure that ongoing and future efforts to manage migration address the regional dimensions of the migration linking the HoA and Yemen. The dialogue will explore the challenges, opportunities, and capacities of Member States along the Eastern Route and the Gulf States to:

23 The Project hosts the only existing open-access database of records of deaths during migration on the global level, which informs the SDG Indicator 10.7.3 on the “[n]umber of people who died or disappeared in the process of migration towards an international destination.” Missing Migrants Project is also a concerted effort towards informing the GCM Objective 8, which commits signatory states to “save lives and establish coordinated international efforts on missing migrants.”

- a. Address adverse drivers of irregular migration and support sustainable reintegration of migrants and community stabilization approaches.
- b. Enhance protection and assistance of migrants at all stages of migration and upon return to countries of origin.
- c. Facilitate safe, regular, and orderly migration.

ENHANCING THE EVIDENCE BASE

Response Strategy

MRP partners at the regional level will seek to enhance the understanding of the drivers of migration and the persistent vulnerability of migrants in the HoA and Yemen and their implications through strengthening the evidence base, as this is critical to inform evidence-based migration management along the route. MRP partners will enhance the evidence base through individual and joint needs assessments and analysis tailored to different populations and contexts across the Eastern Route. Specifically, in 2023, the response will prioritize strengthening the evidence base on migration patterns, migration experiences, root causes, the adverse effects of climate change, protection needs, risks, and vulnerabilities of migrants, returnees, and host communities. Information on migrants' flows will be collected through the IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), Mixed Migration Monitoring Mechanism Initiative (4Mi) data collection,²⁴ and other existing tools at the national level. Information on migrant vulnerabilities and protection concerns will be collected through protection assessments, protection monitoring, and protection studies/research. The evidence base generated through these initiatives will inform policy formulation and protection advocacy efforts at the national and regional levels. Furthermore, MRP partners will research the impact of the ongoing HoA drought on migration along the Eastern Route, including drought as a potential driver of migration and how the effects of drought impact transiting, returning, and migrants at destination.



A returnee working in a coffee plantation nursery project led by Jimma University in Ethiopia. This project targets 100 migrants and host community members. Photo: © Alexander Bee/IOM 2022.

24 The 4Mi is the Mixed Migration Centre's (MMC) regular, standardized, and quantitative data collection system using network of field enumerators to collect information regarding individual profiles, drivers of migration and future aspirations, experiences and decision-making along the journey, interactions with smugglers, aspirations, and destination choices.

DEFINITION OF POPULATION GROUPS

The following categories of population groups have been included in the MRP and defined for this plan as set out below:



Departing migrants: Migrants that are departing their home countries. Within the framework of this MRP, this includes primarily Ethiopian and Somali migrants who have started or are expected to begin their journey but are still within their country of origin.



Transiting migrants: Migrants who have begun their journey, left their countries of origin, and are in transit in another country before reaching their intended destination or returning to their country of origin. This also includes stranded migrants who cannot continue their journey, either in their own or a transit country, and cannot return.²⁵ 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 non-voluntarily.²⁶



Migrants at destination: Migrants who have decided to settle in a country along the migration route (Djibouti, Somalia, or Yemen).



Host community: Communities where migrants live or return to in areas of origin, transit, and destination along the Eastern Route in Djibouti, Ethiopia, and Somalia.²⁷



Asnake Belachew, 19 years old, waiting for an opportunity to continue to Saudi Arabia. Pictured in Burao Somaliland. Photo: © Yonas Tadesse/IOM 2021.

25 Under this Plan, transiting migrants are in-need and targeted in Djibouti, Somalia, and Yemen.

26 For this plan, this does not include returnees in Somalia (from Yemen). This plan does not include Ethiopian returnees from Sudan.

27 The host community members in Yemen are covered under the Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) and are not under the MRP.

LEAVING NO-ONE BEHIND – THE SOUTHERN ROUTE

MRP partners in 2023 will remain focused on the needs of vulnerable migrants traveling along the Eastern Route but will also continue to monitor the situation of migrants from the HoA region along the Southern Route. This comprises mixed migration flows from the HoA en route to different Southern African destinations.

Migration Flows

The Southern Route is popular among young Ethiopians, Somalis, and Eritreans, but this route remains understudied, with relevant quantitative and qualitative information remaining scarce. According to IOM Flow Monitoring data, around 41,000 movements were tracked in 2021 at the Moyale Flow Monitoring Point (FMP) located at the Ethiopian-Kenyan border.²⁸ Twenty-five per cent of the identified individuals were headed to South Africa (10,243 movements). Migrants, most commonly Ethiopian men from the two regions of Southern Nations, Nationalities, and People's (SNNP) and Oromia, cross at Moyale and proceed via Isiolo to Nairobi and then to the United Republic of Tanzania and onward to South Africa. In 2021, one per cent of migrants headed to South Africa were females, and eight per cent were male children.

Migrant Vulnerabilities

Irregular migration along the Southern Route is often facilitated by an intricate network of smugglers and traffickers who often use aggressive means²⁹ to avoid authorities' detection, which puts migrants' lives in danger. In 2022, the bodies of 27 Ethiopian migrants were found abandoned in Chongwe Ngwerere, Zambia, a tragedy that came less than two months after the bodies of 30 Ethiopian migrants were also discovered in a mass grave in neighbouring Malawi.³⁰ Two years before these incidents, 64 Ethiopian men were found dead through asphyxiation in a sealed shipping container in Mozambique.³¹ According to the Bureau of Labour and Social Affairs in Southern Ethiopia, 4,265 deaths and 1,707 disappearances of migrants from the Southern districts of Ethiopia were recorded along the Southern Route between 2012 and 2019. Several Ethiopian families interviewed in the Missing Migrants Project confirmed losing at least one family member along the Southern Route, suggesting that smuggling along this route is violent, exploitative, and perilous.³² Migrants along the Southern Route also face the risk of detention by border officials. While detailed assessments are required, IOM recorded around 5,000 Ethiopians in detention centres in the United Republic of Tanzania and hundreds in detention in Malawi, Zambia, and Mozambique in 2022.³³

Furthermore, according to East African News, more than 15,786 irregular migrants, mainly from the HoA and the Great Lakes region, were arrested in Tanzania between 2020 and 2021.³⁴ Ninety-three Ethiopians were intercepted in Malawi en route to southern Africa in February 2022.³⁵ Migrants (including UASCs) may serve sentences for as long as seven years. They are detained in different countries along the Southern Route with significant consequences for their physical and mental health. The weak protection environment for migrants as they traverse countries along the Southern route is exacerbated by limited resources and capacities to address their humanitarian and protection needs comprehensively. In addition, limited inter-state cooperation exposes migrants to untold suffering, violence, and exploitation.

Priorities

Establishing protection mechanisms to provide timely, comprehensive, and tailored direct assistance and specialized services to migrants is critical. Inter-regional dialogues geared towards addressing the challenges of irregular migration and strengthening cross-border collaboration are required, given the nature of the issues presented along this route. Considering the situation of migrants and in line with the SDG pledge to Leave No One Behind, the MRP for the HoA and Yemen will include an emergency fund to respond to the needs of the most vulnerable and those left furthest behind along the Southern Route, on a case-by-case basis, while a long-term and sustainable response is being developed.³⁶ In 2023, MRP partners will continue to monitor migration patterns, root causes, routes, and migrant stocks, as well as protection, risks, needs, and vulnerabilities of migrants and host communities throughout the HoA and Yemen and along the Southern Route.

28 Migrating in Search of the Southern Dream: the Experiences of Ethiopian Migrants Moving along the Southern Route, Regional Data Hub – 31 May 2022.

29 This includes unsafe means of transportation and subjecting migrants to violence, exploitation, and abuse.

30 Ethiopians found in Malawi mass grave thought to have suffocated - The Guardian, 1 November 2022.

31 Sixty-four Ethiopians found dead in truck in Mozambique – The Guardian, 24 March 2020.

32 Families of Missing Migrants: Their Search for Answers, the Impacts of Loss and Recommendations for Improved Support.

33 Ethiopian Embassy, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

34 "Tanzania decries rising number of immigrants", The East African, 08 January 2-2022.

35 93 Ethiopians, Malawian Arrested for Contravening Immigration Laws", MBC, 24 February 2022.

36 Migrants in need along the Southern Route are excluded from the MRP 2023 PiN and target.

MRP RESPONSE FRAMEWORK

MRP OVERALL OBJECTIVE

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

MRP GOAL

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

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

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



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1

Provide life-saving assistance to vulnerable migrants and host communities.



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2

Provide quality, timely, accessible, and inclusive protection assistance and specialized and tailored services to migrants, returnees, and host communities in vulnerable situations.



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3

Strengthen access to return, sustainable reintegration, and community stabilization.



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 4

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

2023 RESPONSE PLAN OVERVIEW

PLANNING ASSUMPTIONS

In 2023, migration along the Eastern Route is anticipated to remain the most significant in the HoA, with most migrants departing from Ethiopia to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and other Gulf States via Djibouti, Somalia, and Yemen. In 2023, 1,428,234 people (458,605 migrants and 969,629 host community members) will need lifesaving and protection assistance.³⁷ The drought in the HoA is likely to continue into 2023, depleting the livelihoods of affected communities and their ability to support migrants and driving internal displacement and irregular migration. While the conflict actors in Northern Ethiopia have reached an agreement and ceasefire, the specific details of the implementation and how this will impact access to the Northern regions of Ethiopia remain unclear. This will likely affect returns to places of origin affected by conflict. MRP partners have identified the following planning assumptions as the basis for the MRP response in 2023:

- The migration routes will not change, and migrants will continue to use the Eastern Route on their way to the Gulf States.
- While the Eastern Route remains the largest migration route in the region, the Southern and Northern Routes are becoming eminent.
- The leading departing country will be Ethiopia, and the main transit countries will continue to be Somalia, Djibouti, and Yemen.
- All the measures and migration restrictions adopted by national states concerning COVID-19 will be lifted with an anticipated return to pre-COVID migration flows in 2023.
- The presence of stranded migrants is likely to increase as a result of an increase in migratory flows due to the worsening economic situation attributed to the ongoing drought and the effects of the Ukraine conflict. Consequently, an increase in the number of stranded migrants and outflows will result in increased vulnerabilities of migrants.
- The protection environment for migrants in transit and destination countries will remain weak, characterized by various protection risks and human rights violations.
- No notable changes in the government policies that might impact migration along the Eastern Route are anticipated.
- MRP partners will conduct regular monitoring to understand the following dynamics better:
 - Impact of drought on migration as the fifth rainy season is expected to be below average.
 - Conflict, stability, and recovery in Ethiopia and the impact on migration, including flows between Ethiopia and Sudan.

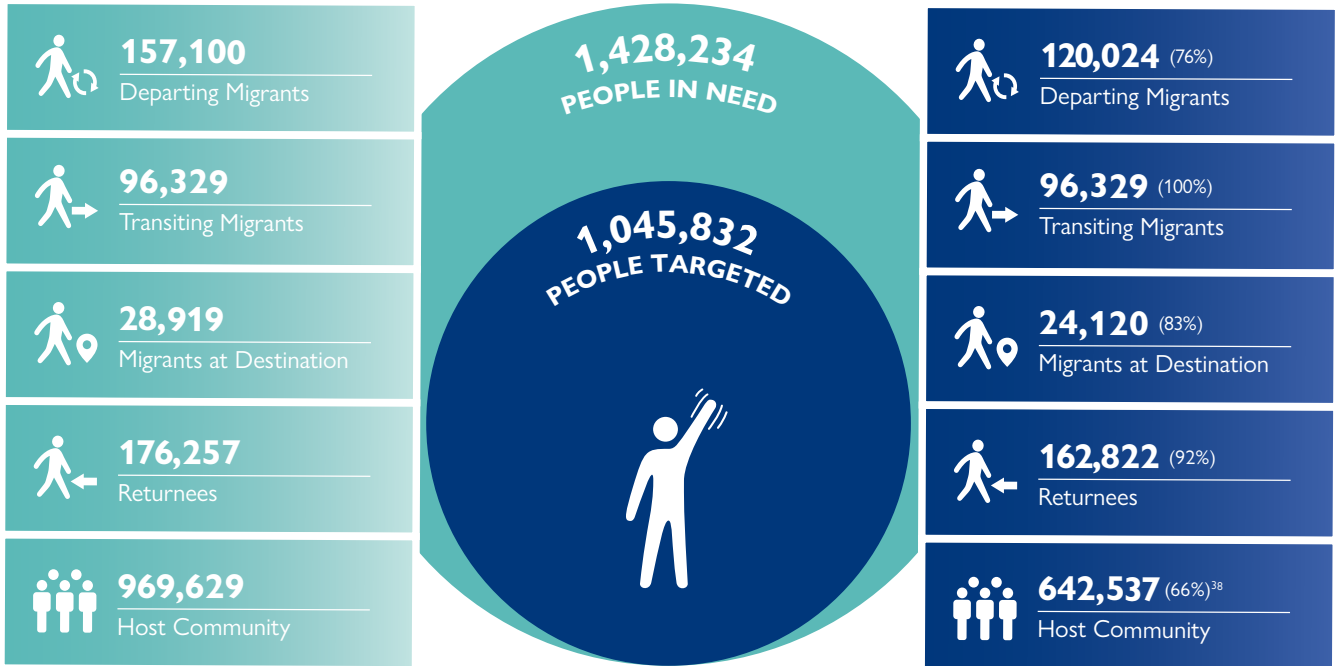


³⁷ The 2023 response will incorporate both humanitarian and development modalities. Development modalities will include community stabilization and reintegration interventions.

PLANNING AND RESPONSE FOR 2023

1,428,234
People in Need

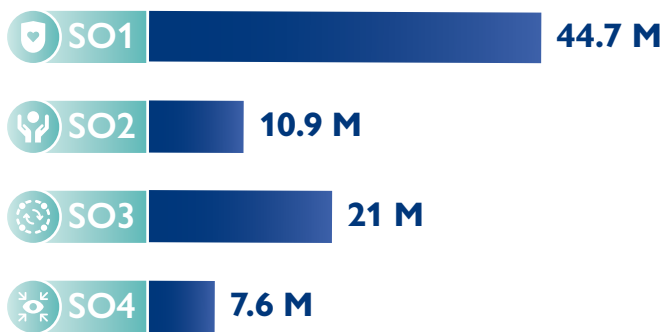
1,045,832
People Targeted



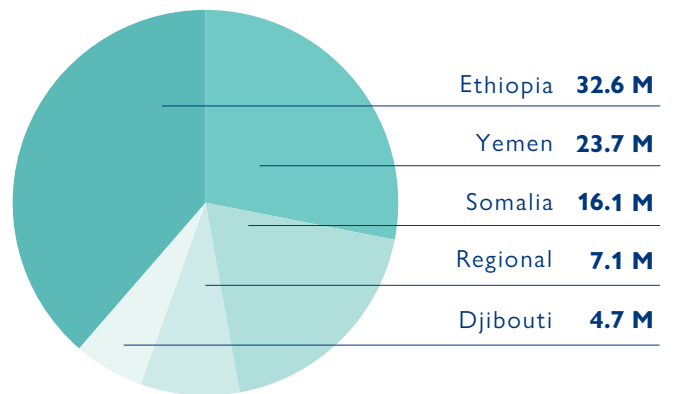
FUNDING REQUIREMENT BY STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

USD 84.2 Million

FUNDING BY STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE



FUNDING REQUIREMENT BY COUNTRY



MRP 2023 APPEALING PARTNERS



³⁸ The MRP 2023 plan aligns with the HRP at the country level in Ethiopia, Somalia, and Yemen. In Ethiopia and Somalia, there is no overlap in beneficiary targeting between the MRP and HRP. However, there is a full overlap between the MRP and HRP in Yemen, which is coordinated directly with the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

PARTNERSHIPS AND COORDINATION

The MRP brings together 48 partners, including humanitarian and development actors, at the strategic and operational coordination levels to ensure a coherent and predictable response to the targeted populations along the Eastern Route. The MRP is integrated into relevant networks such as the Regional Ministerial Forum on Migration³⁹ (RMFM), the RCPN, and the GBV Working Group. MRP partners coordinate annually and whenever there is a need to assess the situations and conditions of the target populations, agree on shared priorities and develop synergistic and comprehensive responses to the needs. Coordination, informed policymaking, joint advocacy, and resource mobilization are crucial to ensuring a comprehensive response to the complex inter-regional migration dynamics. GCM, amongst other things, calls for a whole-of-government approach to migration. Partners work towards collective outcomes jointly pursued by government and non-governmental actors, including civil society, affected communities, the private sector, research/academia, and the international community.

Furthermore, the MRP coordination provides the following dividends for the response:

1. Supports service delivery by providing a platform for agreement on the complementarity amongst partners and eliminating duplication.
2. Promotes local NGOs' localization and capacity building to enhance the response's sustainability.
3. Promotes effective information sharing, monitoring, analysis, and reporting on the MRP plan and results.
4. Enhances joint advocacy to address identified concerns on behalf of partners and the affected populations.
5. Facilitate the implementation of the relevant pillars of the IGAD Regional Migration Policy Frameworks at the national levels.



Two Ethiopian migrant children play on a swing at the CARITAS Centre in Djibouti. Photo: © Alexander Bee/IOM 2021.

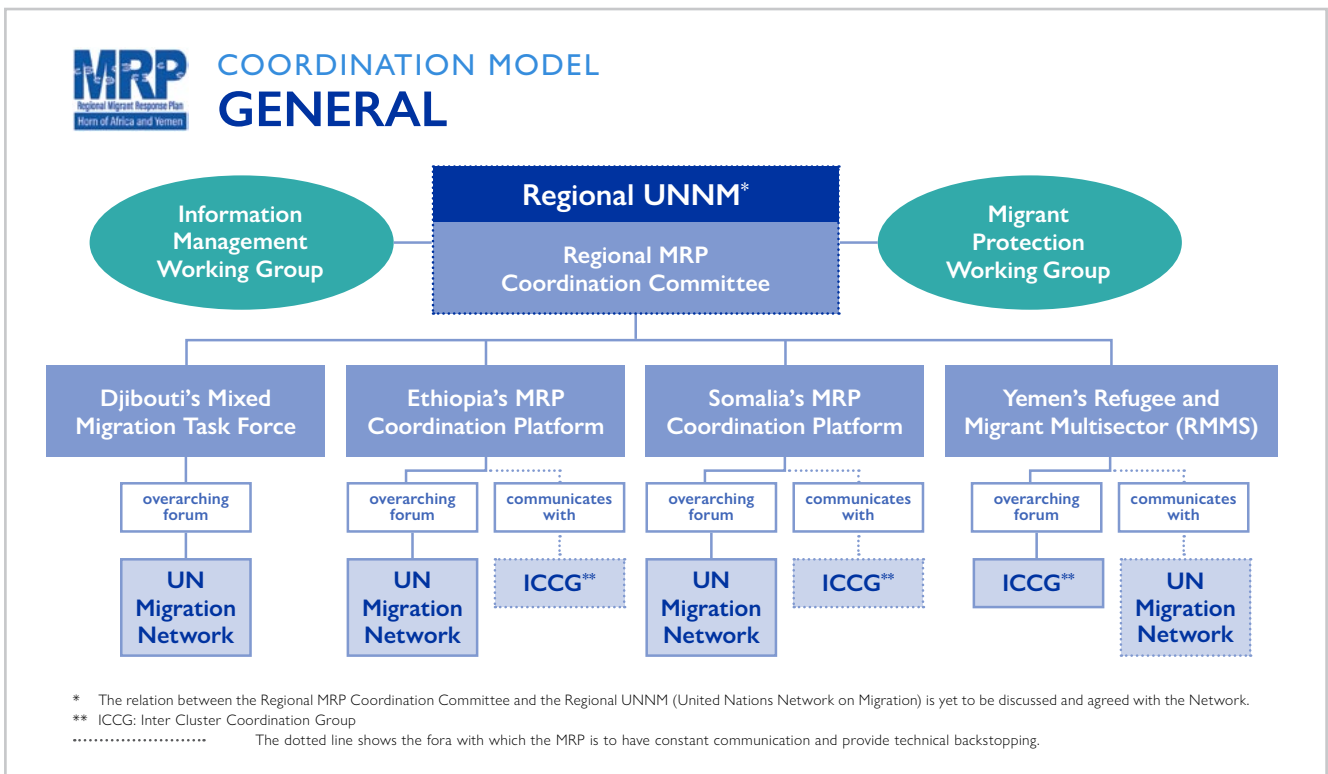
39 The Regional Ministerial Forum on Migration for East and Horn of Africa is an Inter-State Consultation Mechanism on Migration (ISCM) bringing together 11 States from the East and Horn of Africa Region to jointly address labour migration policies, foster labour mobility and protect the fundamental human, labour, and social rights of migrant workers migrating within the continent and from Africa to the European Union, Gulf Cooperation Countries' Member States and other countries.

REGIONAL LEVEL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The MRP Regional Coordination Committee (RCC) comprises 15 partners, including IGAD, UN agencies, and INGOs.⁴⁰ In addition, donors, the private sector, and academia are encouraged to participate in the regional coordination processes. The RCC is set up at two levels of coordination; firstly, for MRP partners' Regional Directors (RDs) who set the broader strategic direction. The technical level RCC supports the RDs in operationalizing and promoting shared responsibilities towards the collective outcomes as detailed in the MRP Strategic Framework. The RCC technical forum operates

through a light, results-oriented coordination platform, which fosters accountability and clarity to the MRP's strategic objectives. It supports the implementation of the MRP objectives at the regional and country levels.

At the regional level, the MRP partners **established sub-committees to elaborate on specialized tasks and thematic areas prioritized by the MRP partners (Information Management and Migrant Protection Working Groups)**. Membership of the sub-committees is drawn from the RCC membership.



Information Management Working Group

The Information Management Working Group (IMWG), chaired by IOM, supports the RCC through a coordinated information management approach to support the MRP programming cycle and facilitate collective advocacy and policy influence. In particular, the IMWG enhances institutional engagement between

the MRP partners and promotes learning and knowledge of operational realities. Through the IMWG, MRP partners at the regional level developed a common analytical framework to analyze migrants' needs along the MRP's coverage region, including estimating the affected populations, PiN, and people targeted. The coordination of MRP partners at the regional level provides strategic guidance on the MRP Information

40 The partners include the Danish Refugee Council (DRC), IGAD, International Rescue Committee (IRC), IOM, MMC, NRC, UNFPA, UNHCR, the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), OCHA, Save the Children, WHO, and World Food Programme (WFP). Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) are observer partners to the MRP.

Management Strategy, including strengthening the capacities of MRP partners on harmonized data collection methods, data standards, analysis, and reporting. The IMWG also serves as a platform to coordinate with the Humanitarian Programme Cycles (HPC) and development frameworks to align the MRP programme cycle timeframe and caseload and lead a harmonized representation of the MRP within the relevant global and regional planning mechanisms.

Migrant Protection Working Group

The MPWG,⁴¹ co-chaired by IOM and DRC, was established at the regional level to provide overall strategic guidance and direction to the MRP partners at the regional and country levels to enhance

protection needs, risks and vulnerabilities of stranded and returning migrants as well as host communities along the Eastern Route. The MPWG liaises with MRP countries through relevant existing coordination mechanisms established at the country levels. In 2022, the MPWG identified joint activities for implementation in 2022-2023, including CT, child protection, access to justice, GBV, and ATD. The strategic priorities of the MPWG will support the implementation of crucial protection priorities in the MRP 2023 framework, including increased evidence base, capacity building, thematic guidance, advocacy, and engagement with relevant regional coordination mechanisms (Regional Child Protection Network (RCPN), Regional GBV WG, etc.), to advance protection responses for migrants along the Eastern Route.



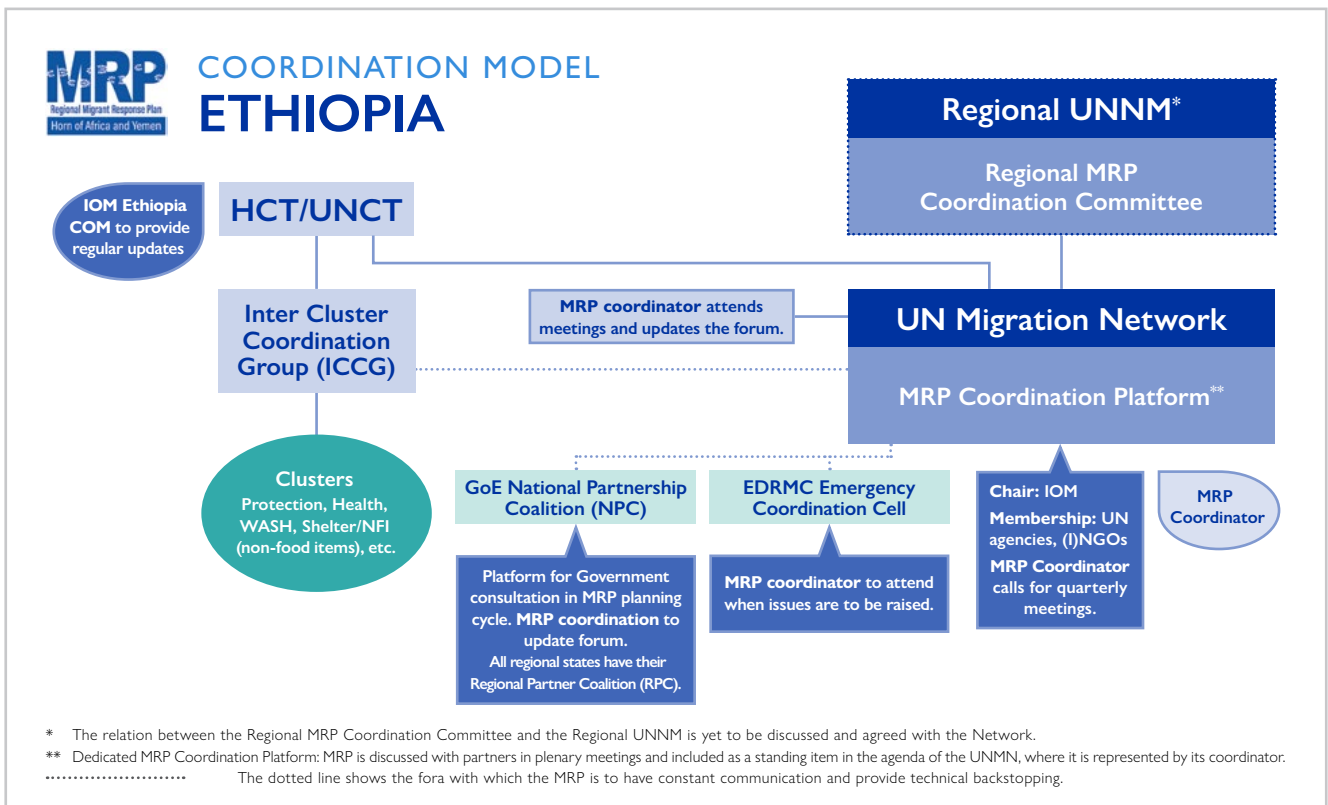
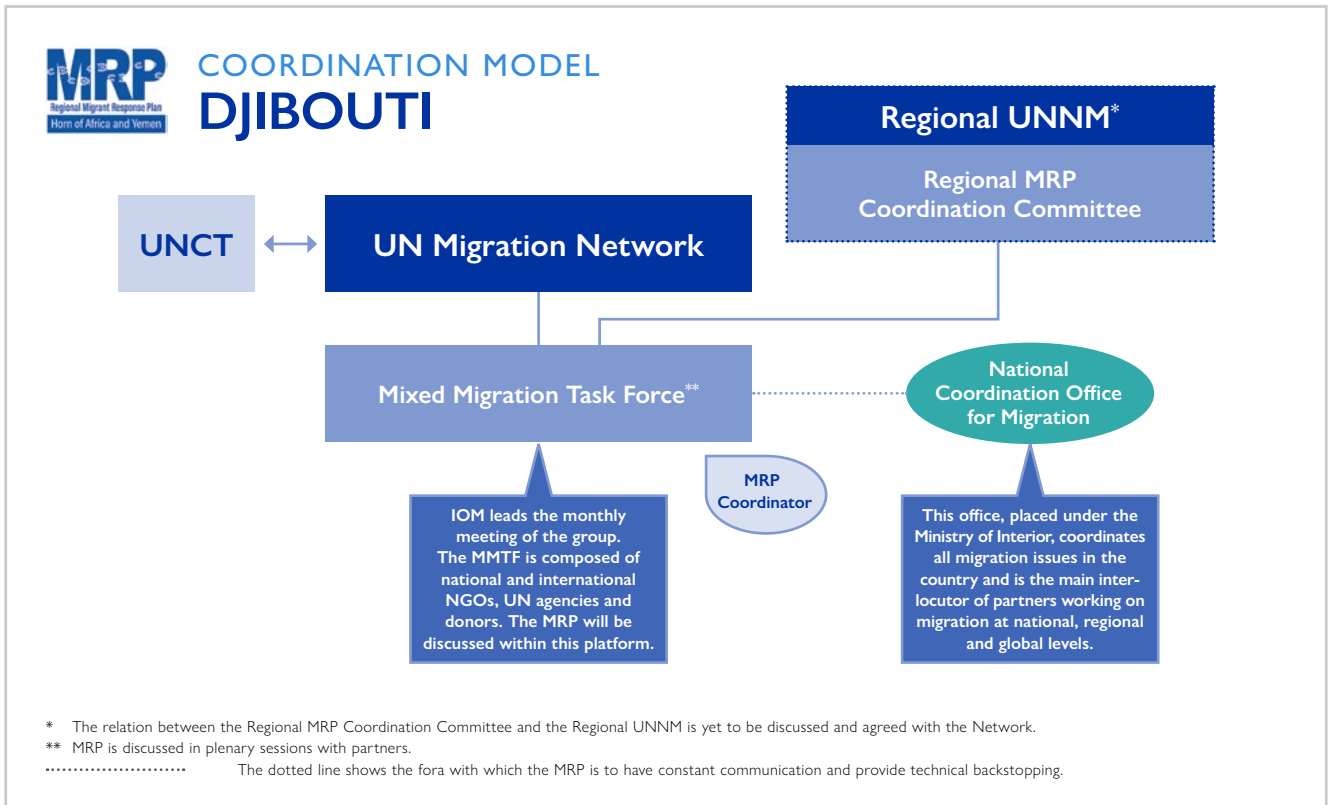
Women from the Migration Response Centre (MRC) are going to the beach as part of Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) activity in Obock region, Djibouti. Photo: © Alexander Bee/IOM 2022.

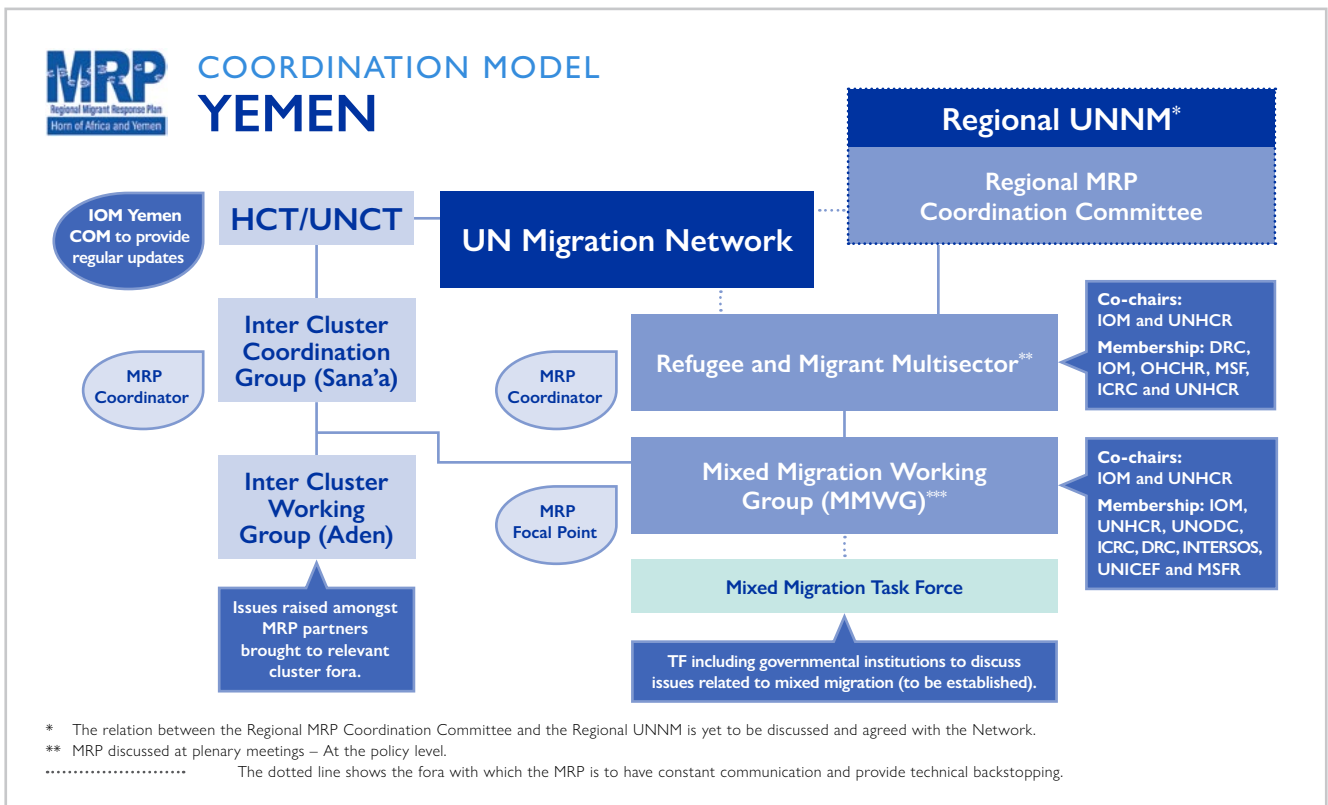
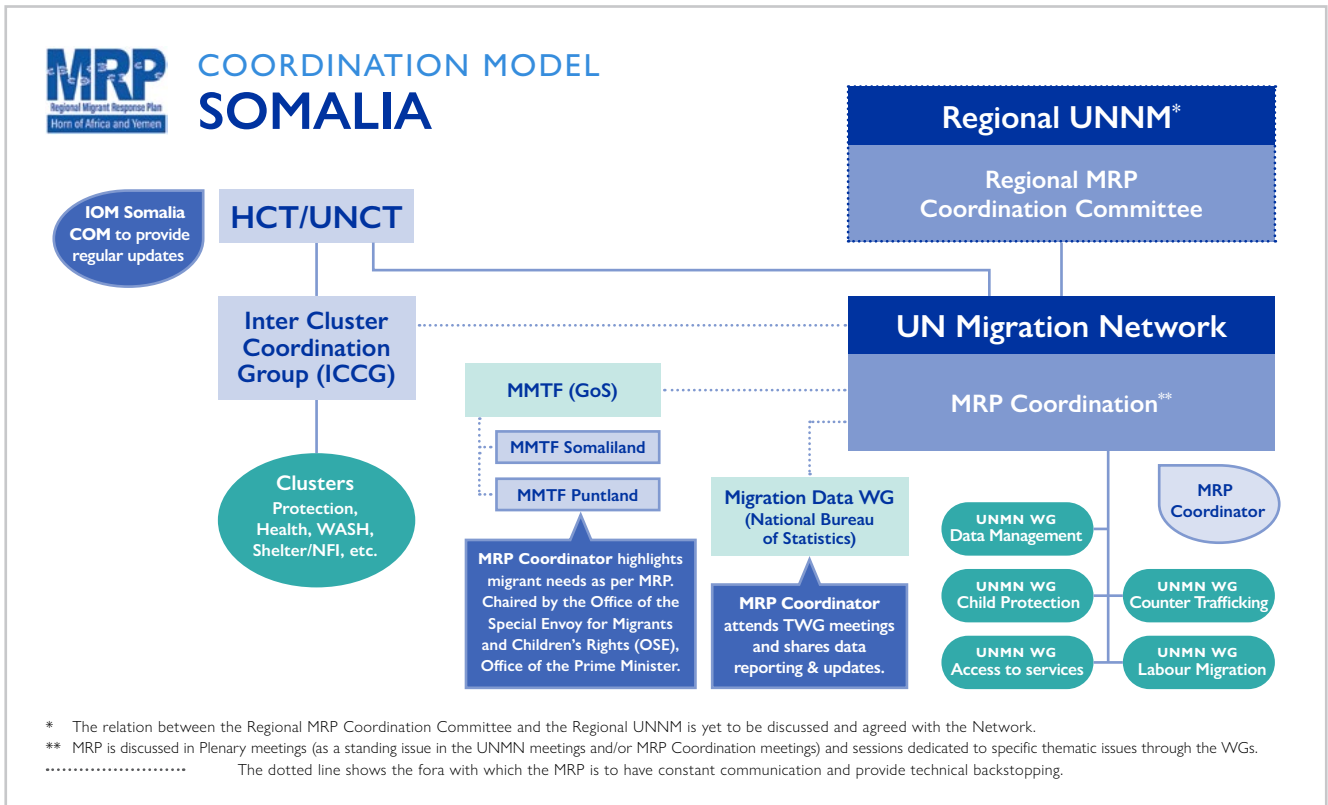
COUNTRY LEVEL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

At the country level, the coordination mechanisms are not standardized, and the MRP mainly works within existing frameworks to reflect each country's humanitarian and development priorities. In Djibouti, Ethiopia and Somalia, the UNNM is the overarching platform to which the MRP is aligned. The Mixed Migration Task Force (MMTF), an existing structure in Djibouti and Somalia, composed of relevant government authorities, the UN, and relevant NGO partners, serves as the coordination and information-sharing platform for the MRP. In Ethiopia, the National Partnership Coalition (NPC) / National Coordination Mechanism (NCM) is a

multi-stakeholder platform spearheaded by the Office of the Federal Attorney General that coordinates all aspects of migration management in Ethiopia. MRP partners in Ethiopia have also established a dedicated MRP coordination platform to complement the existing platforms. The RMMS frames the coordination structure for the MRP in Yemen, unlike the rest of the region, which has the UNNM as the overarching structure. This is explained by the fact that the response in Yemen focuses mainly on providing humanitarian and protection assistance to transiting migrants, with no response planned regarding reintegration or stabilization.

⁴¹ The MPWG comprises regional partners, including DRC, IOM, IRC, MMC, the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), Save the Children (SCI), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), UNHCR, and UNICEF.





LINKAGES WITH HUMANITARIAN AND DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORKS

The MRP is a multi-country response plan which seeks to promote effective regional responses to migrants and promote the inclusion of the needs of migrants into country-level discussions and planning. The MRP ensures complementarity and coherence with existing strategic assistance frameworks, including National Development Frameworks (NDF), UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks⁴² (UNSDCF), and HRPs. The MRP seeks to harmonize priorities, budgets, and targets in countries where such planning already occurs. The HoA and Yemen have the following HRPs:

- Ethiopia's Humanitarian Response Plan
- Somalia's Humanitarian Response Plan
- Yemen's Humanitarian Response Plan

MRP partners will continue to advocate for the inclusion of migrants' needs into the HRPs for the relevant target countries. To avoid double-counting, host community members and some migrant population groups for Ethiopia, Somalia, and Yemen who were already included in the respective HRPs were not included in the calculation of the total affected population for the response plan. The MRP links with IGAD's Regional Migration Policy Framework,⁴³ which details internal and international migration types, migration realities and trends, and challenges and opportunities for IGAD member states. The framework also details recommended strategies to be adopted in addressing specific issues in migration management, including irregular migration, migration data, migration, and development, as well as inter-state and inter-regional cooperation.



A migrant pictured leaping in the air during a dance at the Obock Migration Response Centre (MRC) in Djibouti. Photo: © Alexander Bee/IOM 2022.

42 Various MRP countries have signed UNSDCFs including Ethiopia, Somalia, and Djibouti.

43 IGAD Regional Migration Policy Framework – IGAD, 2012.

REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

FOR 2023

A migrant waits in Koussour Koussour Dikhil Region before continuing his journey to Obock, Djibouti May 2021. Photo: © Alexander Bee/IOM 2021.

In line with the member states priorities and in collaboration with partners in the affected countries, regions, and RECs, the MRP partners at the regional level have outlined **the following regional activities to be implemented in 2023 to provide support to the identified target populations:**



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1

Provide life-saving assistance to vulnerable migrants and host communities.

- Develop a holistic case management and monitoring tool to monitor service provision based on anonymized data from beneficiaries reached through Migration Response Centres (MRCs) and their activities.
- Promote the sustainability of services provided by MRCs by improving access to infrastructure, such as electricity, through renewable energy sources.
- Improve the quality of care provided to migrants through the standardization and dissemination of integrated health care services, including the development of SOPs and protocols and the digitalization of the health records of migrants through engagement with IGAD.
- Reinforce the preparedness and response at the key PoEs along the migration route through a multi-sectoral and integrated approach to the continued containment, recovery, and strengthening of health systems, including preparedness and response for potential health threats in collaboration with IGAD.



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2

Provide quality, timely, accessible, and inclusive protection assistance and specialized and tailored services to migrants, returnees, and host communities in vulnerable situations.

- Enhance the capacity of state and non-state actors on human rights of migrants rooted in International Human Rights law and the specific obligations of governments, targeting government and NGOs as well as migrant and host communities to ensure their adequate protection in transit and destination countries as well as upon return to their country or origin.
- Strengthen regional, national, and cross-border child protection systems through capacity building of child protection actors and government institutions to provide comprehensive child protection services to children at risk, including UASC and victims of human rights violations.
- Collaborate with relevant actors to enhance the understanding of the international legal framework relating to detention, including supporting the implementation of ATDs for migrant children; constructive dialogue with Member States and technical assistance/capacity building of government actors.
- Support comprehensive programming on CT focusing on prevention, protection, prosecution, and partnership; develop joint regional CT measures/initiatives; support the implementation of existing international, regional, and national legislative frameworks; strengthen cross-border coordination on human trafficking and strengthening protection and assistance to VoTs.

- Strengthen regional, national and cross-border GBV prevention and response mechanisms through data collection and analysis, direct assistance, convening and dialogue, advocacy, and law and policy development and implementation.
- Strengthen access to justice and legal aid for migrants and returnees in vulnerable situations by analyzing barriers, building capacity, and providing legal assistance.
- Conduct protection monitoring, protection assessments, and studies to enhance the understanding of the nature and scale of protection concerns affecting migrant men, women, boys, and girls, including the systematic identification, reporting, and documentation of migrants who are victims of human rights violations and ensure linkages/referral to specialized and tailored protection services in all stages of the migration journeys.
- Enhance understanding of humanitarian actors and communities on the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) through developing, distributing, and implementation of Guidelines, training, and Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials.
- Enhance the quality and accessibility of MHPSS services through technical support and capacity building of relevant actors at national and sub-national levels and conduct community-level MHPSS activities to foster social support systems to address issues of stigmatization, marginalization, and isolation.



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3

Strengthen access to return, sustainable reintegration, and community stabilization.

- Support the development of a regional return and reintegration framework and implement procedural guidelines on return and reintegration.
- Set up a regional direct assistance fund (RDAF) to assist stranded migrants.
- Support the protection assessments and analysis of the situation in areas of return to ensure evidence-based returns.

- Launch an annual East and HoA summer school on migration, return, and reintegration, in collaboration with academic partners from both within and outside the region, to create a platform for networking and dialogue on migration issues.
- Organize training and awareness-raising programs on gender and migration, International Migration Law, and the rights of migrant workers, drafting bilateral labour migration agreements (BLMAs) for embassies, local security agents, ministries of labour and foreign affairs, and immigration government ministries.



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 4

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

- Strengthen the coordination among MRP partners by supporting regular meetings, joint field visits, collaborative monitoring, and inter-agency capacity-building initiatives to provide overall strategic direction to the MRP partners on relevant thematic areas for a coherent and coordinated approach to planning and operationalizing the shared strategic objectives through the established regional coordination mechanisms (such as the RCC, the MPWG, the Communications Working Group, the IMWG, and MHPSS specific coordination mechanisms etc.).
- Support the convening of dialogues with relevant governments, RECs and national partners to seek solutions and commitment towards addressing the challenges of irregular migration and strengthen cross-border collaboration to enhance protection including referral mechanisms for migrants and host communities.
- Research and publish reports on various migration topics⁴⁴ to expand the evidence base to inform programming and policy directives.

⁴⁴ The topics will include, mixed migration dynamics linked to the drought, the relationship between reintegration and climate-smart agriculture child protection, migrant smuggling and TIP, documented policies, legislative, and regulatory barriers to access GBV and SRH services.

- Through a network of flow monitoring points, systematically monitor population movements, analyze trends, and disseminate information by publishing regular and ad-hoc country and regional-level analysis reports.
- Develop a centralized MRP website to track the MRP's progress, highlight partners' achievements, provide updated information on the Eastern Route and serve as a central point for research and publications.
- Set up and promote regional and national working groups with IGAD and IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC) to address migration in the context of climate change and environmental degradation.



A migrant seated in the sandy beach in Obock. Photo:
© Alexander Bee/IOM 2022.

RESPONSE MONITORING

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 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 to establish clear links and evidence between the individual partner interventions and the MRP objectives. The MRP monitoring plan will provide strategic direction on how monitoring and evaluation will contribute to accountability, learning, and decision-making by collecting data, conducting performance monitoring of indicators, and supporting knowledge management. More specifically, this will include developing standardized tools and harmonized methods, which MRP partners can adapt to their respective operating contexts. Progress in meeting the expected results will always be disaggregated by sex, age, and beneficiary type (migrant, host community, etc.). Where and when applicable, achievements will be disaggregated by country, project location, and MRP partner.

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. Annual assessments will be conducted to measure the perception of MRP partners on the extent to which the MRP is achieving the set objectives. Findings, best practices, and lessons learned will be communicated to the partners through coordination meetings and reports. Information Management Systems (IMS) are critical and 2023 will see further enhancements of the IMS to improve the response system and make it more coordinated and efficient based on the analysis of the data collected. 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.

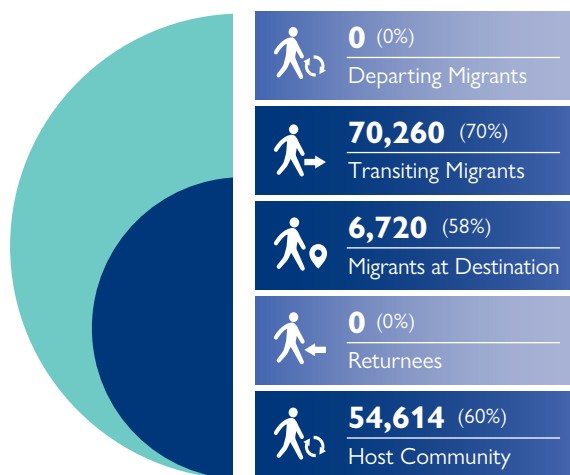
Country Chapters

DJIBOUTI

Migrants intercepted by coast guards while trying to cross to Yemen are waiting for transport assistance to the Migration Response Centre (MRC) in Obock, Djibouti. Photo: © Safa Msehli/IOM 2022.

202,915
PiN

131,594
People Targeted



TOTAL FUNDING REQUIRED

USD 4.7 M

MRP PARTNERS

4

FUNDING BY STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

SO1 2.2 M

SO2 1.5 M

SO3 630 K

SO4 419 K

Context

Given its strategic location between the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden, Djibouti is a major transit country for migrants moving toward the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and other Gulf States via Yemen. Djibouti's southern border with Ethiopia, where the largest caseload of migrants begins their journey, makes Djibouti a key country along the Eastern Route. Thousands of migrants pass through Djibouti by foot, bus, or other vehicles, before taking boats across the Gulf of Aden. Migration flows into Djibouti increased following the ease of COVID-19 restrictions. In 2022, more than 145,000 migrants entered Djibouti from Ethiopia, which more than doubled compared to the same period in 2021 (68,258 arrivals from Ethiopia).⁴⁵ Migrants seeking smugglers to travel through the Eastern Route often cannot afford the high smuggling service costs and either become stranded, remain vulnerable to extortion by smugglers, or face detainment or non-voluntary returns by immigration officials. Collectively, these protection risks increase migrants' vulnerability, reducing their ability to continue their journey safely and, simultaneously, their capacity to generate livelihoods when stranded in transit locations. As of December 2022, 672 migrants were stranded in ten informal sites, mainly in the Ali-Sabieh and Dikhil regions, where migrants usually enter Djibouti from Ethiopia.⁴⁶ In 2023, entries into Djibouti from Ethiopia are anticipated to return to pre-COVID-19 pandemic levels. The high poverty rate in Ethiopia, with nearly 70 per cent of the population classified to be in poverty and another 18 per cent vulnerable to poverty,⁴⁷ will continue to drive migration through Djibouti in 2023.

45 Migration along the Eastern Corridor – Report 34 – IOM Regional Data Hub, February 2023.

46 These informal sites are spread across Dikhil, Tadjourah, Obock, and Ali-Sabieh.

47 Multidimensional Poverty Index 2022 – Ethiopia – UNDP, 2022.

The ongoing HoA drought also impacts population movements in Djibouti by worsening conditions for migrants and local populations in terms of the availability of food and water, as well as exhausting the resilience of host communities supporting migrants in Djibouti. On 13 February 2022, the Government of Djibouti issued a drought alert in the country, citing critically low groundwater levels, deteriorated vegetation, and pasture due to lack of rain and record-high temperatures. Furthermore, the UN System in Djibouti published an advocacy note highlighting that 199,327 people would be affected by the drought between October 2022 and March 2023. In September 2022, MRP partners in Djibouti recorded 1,506 drought-induced migrants and 6,000 drought-induced internally displaced people (IDPs).⁴⁸ As the drought stretches into 2023, migration along the Eastern Route will likely increase, and the impacts on the various population groups (migrants and host communities) will also worsen.

Identified Needs

As the leading transit country along the Eastern Route, MRP partners project that many migrants will continue passing through Djibouti in 2023. In addition, many migrants will be unable to continue their journey due to insufficient resources. A significant number of migrants in very vulnerable situations will continue to return from Yemen spontaneously, and this will result in a substantial need for lifesaving and protection interventions. Migrants transiting through Djibouti endure harsh physical conditions, including extreme heat and long journeys, requiring life-saving assistance such as water, food, temporary shelter, NFIs, Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) services, and medical support along the migration corridor. Some migrants are at risk or have been exposed to different degrees of abuse and exploitation (including GBV, arbitrary detention, forced labour, and TIP) along their migration journey and will require tailored protection assistance, including case management and access to MHPSS services. Stranded migrants, particularly women and children in Djibouti city and other urban areas of Obock, Ali-Sabieh, and

Dikhil, often have limited access to essential services, live in makeshift shelters, leaving them more vulnerable to protection risks (including arbitrary detention and non-voluntary returns). As such, protection assistance tailored to the needs of vulnerable migrants will serve as a central element of the MRP response in 2023. Furthermore, recurrent and severe droughts have led to a significant deterioration in food security, a scarcity of natural resources, and a depletion of assets due to a lack of sustainable livelihoods. It is also important to note host communities' high level of involvement in transiting migrants regarding the provision of aid and employment.⁴⁹ As such, assistance will be required to support both host communities and migrants.

Targets and Planned Response


The response in 2023 will target 131,594 vulnerable migrants and host communities (including 70,260 transiting migrants,⁵⁰ 6,720 migrants at destination, and 54,614 host community members) projected to need assistance in Djibouti. Emphasis will be placed on the 'country's southern regions to address heightened needs resulting from the HoA drought. To address migrant protection needs at large, the plan will engage relevant stakeholders, including government counterparts, to reinforce migrants' access to tailored protection services and strengthen the National Referral Mechanism, which was developed and validated in March 2022. The plan will build on the existing initiatives, including alternative care arrangements for UASC. MRP partners will also conduct contextualized studies on migration trends in the country to ensure an evidence-based response by relevant actors. Key research areas will focus on understanding the migration patterns, profiles, needs, and vulnerabilities of different migrant population groups. Additionally, MRP partners will support government counterparts in implementing the recently launched Action Plan of the National Migration Strategy.

48 Rapid Assessments of the Impact of the Drought in the 5 Regions of Djibouti – IOM, September 2022.

49 Relationships in Transit: Local communities' interactions with transiting migrants along the Eastern Route in Djibouti and the Somaliland region – Mixed Migration Centre & IOM, 22 December 22.

50 The double-counting of transiting migrants across Eastern Route countries is accounted for in the total 2023 target. However, the full number of transiting migrants is provided in each country to show the large caseload experienced by MRP partners in each country.

The following actions will be implemented under each MRP strategic objective in 2023:

 **STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1**

Provide life-saving assistance to vulnerable migrants and host communities.

- Provide food for vulnerable migrants and host communities.
- Distribute NFIs and multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA) to vulnerable migrants and host communities.
- Provide medical care to vulnerable migrants, including primary health care and referrals to secondary health care.
- Provide shelter and WASH services for migrants.
- Provide operational support to manage MRCs, transit centres, and mobile units.
- Strengthen the capacities of government officials, local authorities, service providers, and local CSOs through close collaboration on the logistical organization of food and NFI distributions, rehabilitation of health and WASH structures, and donation of equipment.

 **STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2**

Provide quality, timely, accessible, and inclusive protection assistance and specialized and tailored services to migrants, returnees, and host communities in vulnerable situations.


- Conduct protection monitoring, awareness provide individualized protection assistance.
- Provide a package of social services, including psychosocial support, legal aid, and FTR, with a focus on UASC, to ensure that their basic needs are covered and are protected from violence, exploitation, and abuse.
- Provide protection services to victims of abuse and exploitation and assist VoTs or those at risk of trafficking.

- Strengthen the capacity building of government officials on CT and/or smuggling of migrants, child protection, GBV, referral mechanisms, and MHPSS.
- Support the Government of Djibouti with the implementation of activities in line with the national migration strategy and correspondent action plan in support of the protection needs of vulnerable migrants.

 **STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3**

Strengthen access to return, sustainable reintegration, and community stabilization.

- Set up and strengthen pilot livelihood projects for migrants at destination and host community members.
- Provide voluntary return assistance to transiting migrants.

 **STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 4**

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

- Produce flow monitoring reports based on data collected from migrants passing through key transit points to inform protection programming, policy, and advocacy.
- Organize meetings to enhance coordination, encourage learning and mutual capacity development, and support national, regional, and bilateral government coordination initiatives.
- Conduct context-specific research, which includes in-depth interviews with transiting and stranded migrants and host community members on relevant topics.

DJIBOUTI PARTNERS

1. Caritas
2. Danish Refugee Council (DRC)
3. International Organization for Migration (IOM)
4. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
5. United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR)
6. United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF)
7. World Food Programme (WFP)

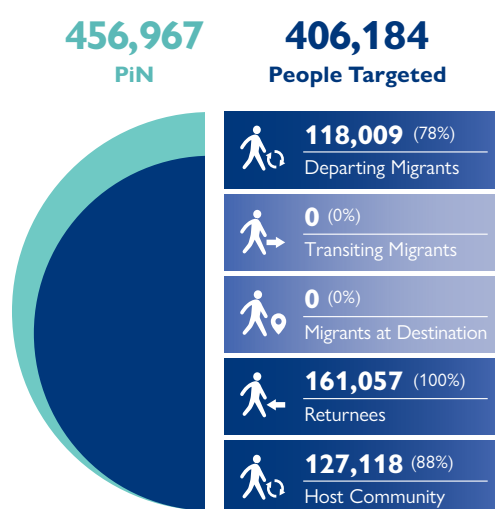


A woman learns to sew during an MHPSS activity at the MRC in Obock, Djibouti. Photo: © Alexander Bee/IOM 2022.

Country Chapters

ETHIOPIA

A migrant child gets a haircut from a migrant barber apprentice at AGAR (NGO) centre in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Photo: © Alexander Bee/IOM 2022.



Context

In 2022, MRP partners recorded 256,288 outgoing movements of migrants from Ethiopia.⁵¹ In a survey conducted in December 2022, 52 per cent of outgoing migrants expressed their intention to travel to the Gulf States via Yemen.⁵² According to the Ministry of Labour (MoL), the main regions of origin of irregular migration continue to be Tigray, Amhara, and Oromia, while many migrants transit through Afar, Dire Dawa, Harari, and Somali regions. Migrants departing from Ethiopia decided to migrate for economic reasons, as cited by 83 per cent of departing migrants interviewed in December 2022.⁵³ In addition, the World Bank estimates that 27 per cent of Ethiopians earned less than 1.90 USD per day and ranked below the international poverty line between 2019 to 2021.⁵⁴ Further research estimates that approximately 50 per cent of youth are unemployed in some regions of Ethiopia.⁵⁵ Beyond economic drivers, other commonly cited reasons for departure included conflict and climate change. Ethiopian migrants face physical hardships along the Eastern Route, including extreme weather conditions leading to dehydration and exhaustion. Migrants are also often abducted along the route by smugglers, tortured, and used as leverage for ransom from the migrant's family.⁵⁶ Simultaneously, non-voluntary returns of migrants from the Gulf States to Addis Ababa continued throughout 2022. In 2022, 93,527 non-voluntary returns were recorded,⁵⁷ with 42 per cent intending to return to Amhara, 31 per cent to Oromia, 20 per cent to Tigray, four per cent to SNNP, two per cent to Afar, and one

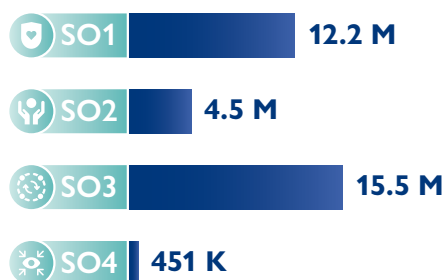
TOTAL FUNDING REQUIRED

USD 32.6 M

MRP PARTNERS

13

FUNDING BY STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE



51 Migration along the Eastern Corridor – Report 34 – IOM Regional Data Hub, February 2023.

52 Ibid.

53 Ibid.

54 Multidimensional Poverty Index 2022 – Ethiopia – UNDP, 2022.

55 Youth Unemployment: lessons from Ethiopia – Africa Renewal – United Nations.

56 They Snatched from Me My Own Cry – IOM, 08 March 2021.

57 Migration along the Eastern Corridor – Report 34 – IOM Regional Data Hub, February 2023.

per cent to Addis Ababa. The rapid, non-voluntary return of migrants results in overcrowded housing facilities in arrival cities such as Addis Ababa. The overcrowding is worsened by the challenges in returning migrants to their places of origin due to the conflict in Northern Ethiopia. With the cessation of hostilities, the conflict seems to be ending, but the operational details of return remain unclear. Non-voluntary returns have also been recorded at the Dewele PoE at the border with Djibouti on Ethiopia's northeastern border, totaling 6,148 in 2022. In 2023, MRP partners anticipate Ethiopia to remain the main country of departure for migrants, with outward flows projected to continue at the pace seen in 2022. In addition, nonvoluntary returns from the Gulf States are expected to continue in 2023.

Identified Needs

Humanitarian needs in Ethiopia are extremely high considering the heavy caseload of migrants, underlining how Ethiopia is a major country of origin, transit, and destination for migrants along the Eastern Route. Heightened efforts to improve the economic situation in hot spots of migration in Ethiopia would reduce the push to migrate irregularly, as the main reason to migrate continues to be economical. In addition, research suggests that the campaigns aimed at increasing awareness of the risks of irregular migration are an incomplete intervention to reduce irregular outflows as local communities tend to perceive the rewards of successful migration to outweigh the risks.⁵⁸ As such, economic empowerment, livelihoods, training, education, and community stabilization are key needs. Humanitarian assistance will be required to address the sizeable needs of departing and returning migrants, such as food, NFIs, WASH, healthcare, and MHPSS. In recognition of the risk of detainment by immigration authorities and severe protection risks posed by smugglers, protection assistance will be a priority intervention for migrants and host communities. Furthermore, returning migrants will also need tailored sustainable reintegration and livelihood support in their areas of origin/return. The conflict in Northern Ethiopia caused severe damage to livelihoods, services, and infrastructure in communities where irregular migration is a common phenomenon,

compromising the capacity of communities to support returning migrants. Approximately one-third of all returns from the Gulf States originate from areas devastated by conflict, with 20 per cent of the total caseload originating from the Tigray regional state.⁵⁹ The security and accessibility of many communities remain directly affected by the conflict, leaving many migrants stranded in other parts of the country, unable to return home, reunify or contact family members.

Targets and Planned Response

In 2023, MRP partners, in collaboration with the Government of Ethiopia and affected populations, will respond to the humanitarian and protection needs of 279,066 vulnerable migrants and 127,118 host community members in areas of high outward migration in Ethiopia. The MRP and related activities will be aligned to government priorities and plans, and the government will work closely with MRP partners and the MRP coordination mechanisms in Ethiopia. The government and MRP will jointly monitor progress towards the various MRP targets. The response will support departing and returning migrants and affected communities by providing food, water, NFIs, MPCA, shelter, and health care, including MHPSS. Priority will be placed on the needs of migrants returning to Addis Ababa, where shelters are overcrowded, and service providers are overstretched. In addition, MRP partners will address protection risks and threats through the provision or referral to inclusive protection specialized services and engagement with duty bearers and other key stakeholders. This involves child protection, FTR, or other alternative care, and provision of services to vulnerable returnees such as VoTs and GBV survivors through a case management approach and protection monitoring to the response. The 2023 plan also includes the enhancement and strengthening of sustainable long-term solutions at the individual, community, and systemic levels, including support with voluntary return, internal transportation assistance, socio-economic reintegration and empowerment, improvement of border and migration management processes, as well as capacity development to government officials and stakeholders on international legal and policy

58 They Snatched from Me My Own Cry – IOM, 08 March 2021. <https://publications.iom.int/books/they-snatched-me-my-own-cry>.

59 Migration along the Eastern Corridor – Report 34 – IOM Regional Data Hub, February 2023. <https://eastandhornofafrica.iom.int/resources/eastern-corridor-report-december-2022>.

frameworks. Lastly, the plan will aim to increase the evidence and understanding of migration flows, routes, root causes, and vulnerabilities to improve coordination among actors and government officials operating on the Eastern Route. Relevant interventions will use the HDPN approach to ensure greater collaboration with key stakeholders in joint data collection, joint analysis, and integrated programming so that various interventions will reinforce rather than counteract each other.



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1

Provide life-saving assistance to vulnerable migrants and host communities.

- Register migrants to receive lifesaving assistance at response points, including MRCs, mobile clinics, way stations, and child protection desks along the Eastern Route.
- Provide lifesaving assistance, including NFIs, medical assistance, accommodation, food and nutrition, and MPCA to vulnerable migrants based on their individual needs.
- Refurbish WASH infrastructure at PoEs and migrant interim reception facilities run by the government.
- Provide capacity building for the provision of life-saving assistance for government representatives and CSOs.
- Manage and strengthen shelters and response points along the Eastern Route.



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2

Provide quality, timely, accessible, and inclusive protection assistance and specialized and tailored services to migrants, returnees, and host communities in vulnerable situations.

- Provide direct protection assistance for migrants in vulnerable situations, including MHPSS screenings, in the response points, including MRCs, through referrals and mobile outreaches.
- Operationalize the National Referral Mechanism for VoTs and other vulnerable migrants.

- Conduct protection monitoring and vulnerability assessments.
- Upgrade the intake capacity of shelters, maintenance of damaged shelters, and equip existing shelters.
- Facilitate community consultations and mass awareness-raising campaigns, including on risks of irregular migration, rights of migrants, and existing services to enhance social cohesion and inclusion of migrants/returnees with host communities.
- Provide training of trainers (TOT) for migrants on peer counseling and information sharing.
- Map formal and informal protection service providers and provide support for regular monthly review and coordination meetings to strengthen referral mechanisms for case management services.
- Strengthen child protection information management systems.
- Train government and nongovernment frontline workers on protection sub-thematic areas, including child protection, GBV identification, prevention, and response mechanisms, MHPSS, psychological first aid, the Mental Health gap action program, and the humanitarian intervention guide.



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3

Strengthen access to return, sustainable reintegration, and community stabilization.

- Provide sustainable reintegration assistance (including through community-based integration)
- Conduct an organizational capacity assessment for government and non-state actors at the federal and regional levels and support the implementation of the recommendations/action plan from the evaluation.
- Implement community initiatives that foster social and economic stabilization.
- Provide support to strengthen the border and migration management processes at selected border posts.
- Conduct technical and vocational trainings on entrepreneurship, value-chain, marketing, and financial management for vulnerable returnees.

- Strengthen the government’s ability to implement national migration and migrant protection strategies and policies, including the technical and operational capabilities of task forces combating TIP and migrant smuggling.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 4
Building evidence, partnerships, and coordination to enhance the humanitarian response and migration management throughout the migration route.

- Support cross-border dialogues on migrant protection.
- Collect data and collate reports on migration flows and topics through existing flow monitoring points and research initiatives.
- Conduct research on the migration health profile for the country.
- Hold coordination meetings to align and enhance a coherent migration response in Ethiopia.
- Strengthen the government's capacity to assist and protect vulnerable migrants and returnees.

| ETHIOPIA PARTNERS |
|--|
| 1. Action Against Hunger |
| 2. Action for Social Development and Environmental Protection Organization (ASDEPO) |
| 3. Agar Ethiopia Charitable Society (AECS) |
| 4. Bethany Christian Services Global |
| 5. Beza Posterity Development Organization (BPDO) |
| 6. Brightstar Relief and Development Association |
| 7. CARE International in Ethiopia |
| 8. Cooperazione Internazionale (COOPI) |
| 9. Danish Refugee Council (DRC) |
| 10. Danish Red Cross |
| 11. Ethiopian Catholic Church Social and Development Commission (ECC-SDCO) |

| ETHIOPIA PARTNERS |
|---|
| 12. Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus Development and Social Service Commission North Central Ethiopian synode Branch Office (EECMY-DASSC-NCES-BO) |
| 13. Ethiopian Kale Heywet Church |
| 14. Ethiopian Red Cross Society (ERCS) |
| 15. Good Samaritan Association (GSA) |
| 16. Humedica e.V. |
| 17. International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) (observer) |
| 18. International Labour Organization (ILO) |
| 19. International Medical Corps (IMC) |
| 20. International Organization for Migration (IOM) |
| 21. Mahibere Hiwot for Social Development |
| 22. Mary Joy Development Association |
| 23. Medecins du Monde – France (MDM) |
| 24. Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) (observer) |
| 25. Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) |
| 26. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) |
| 27. Organization for Prevention, Rehabilitation, and Integration of Female Street Children (OPRIFS) |
| 28. Positive Action or Development (PAD) |
| 29. Save the Children International (SCI) |
| 30. United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) |
| 31. United Nations Human Settlement Programme (UN-Habitat) |
| 32. United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund (UNICEF) |
| 33. UNWOMEN |
| 34. World Health Organization (WHO) |

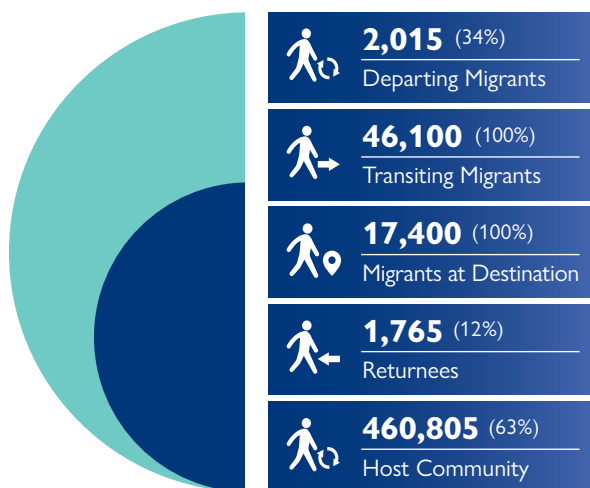
Country Chapters

SOMALIA

"I left Ethiopia for a better life. I am now waiting in Bossaso until my family can send me money for the boat to Saudi Arabia." – Eyasu Molla, 24 years old, Bossaso, Somalia. Photo: © Yonas Tadesse/IOM 2021.

818,495
PiN

528,085
People Targeted



Context

Each year, thousands of migrants, mainly from Ethiopia, intending to reach the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and other Gulf States, transit through Somalia via Northern port cities such as Berbera and Bossaso. As such, northern coastal areas of Somalia serve as hot spots for the departure of migrants. In December 2022, nearly a quarter of arrivals into Yemen departed from Somalia.⁶⁰ In 2022, an estimated 40,836 migrants were recorded entering Somalia from Ethiopia.⁶¹ However, it is important to note that flow monitoring activities in Somalia were suspended for seven months between March and 15 October 2022, resulting in far lower figures. Nevertheless, entries recorded in January and February 2022, respectively, exceeded the 2021 monthly average by roughly 20 per cent. Over a quarter of the entries comprised women, and over a third were children. Migrants transiting through Somalia often exhaust their resources and become stranded, unable to continue their journey or return to their place of origin. As of December 2022, 1,400 migrants were stranded between Bossaso and Hargeisa. In addition to being a transit country, migrants from Somalia also migrate along the Eastern Route. In December 2022, three per cent of migrants arriving in Yemen were Somali. Key drivers of migration include protracted conflict in addition to the ongoing HoA drought, which contributes to a lack of livelihoods and increases vulnerability to irregular migration. According to the National Development Plan 2020-2024, more than 60 per cent of the population lives under the poverty line, with a similar percentage facing unemployment. In 2023, migration conditions for transiting migrants will worsen, and host communities

TOTAL FUNDING REQUIRED

USD 16.1 M

MRP PARTNERS

4

FUNDING BY STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

SO1 **10.2 M**

SO2 **1.6 M**

SO3 **4 M**

SO4 **298 K**

⁶⁰ Migration along the Eastern Corridor – Report 34 – IOM Regional Data Hub, February 2023.

⁶¹ Flow monitoring activities in Somalia were suspended between March 2022 and mid-October 2022. To address this gap, MRP partners built a predictive model to estimate the missing data, producing an estimated migrant entry figure.

will be less able to support transiting migrants as the drought is anticipated to continue. Host communities will also become more vulnerable to irregular migration. In addition, migrants spontaneously return from Yemen via boat to Somalia, with 1,539 migrants recorded in 2022. Migrants are also non-voluntarily returned from the Gulf States to Somalia, with 15,061 returns as at the end of December 2022.⁶²

Identified Needs

As a key transit country and a country of origin of the Eastern Route, identified needs in Somalia include humanitarian aid, protection assistance, and addressing the drivers of irregular migration in hotspots. Migrants transiting through Somalia endure extreme weather conditions and will need food, water, NFIs, WASH, temporary accommodation, and medical assistance to recover physically. Nearly all (93%) of the migrants who registered for assistance at the MRCs in November 2022 reported a lack of basic services as the main hardship experienced traveling along the Eastern Route.⁶³ Furthermore, research conducted by DRC and UNHCR in 2022 across four regions in Somaliland with 220 migrant respondents reported food as the priority need, followed by accommodation.⁶⁴ Most migrants reported resorting to negative coping strategies such as begging to meet their food needs and sleeping outside due to being unable to pay rent and, as such, faced protection and security risks. Moreover, research conducted by the Mixed Migration Centre revealed that water and food were the most common forms of assistance that local community members in Hargeisa reported giving migrants (92%).⁶⁵ Migrants also face considerable protection risks in Somalia, mainly from smugglers who frequently facilitate poorly planned and dangerous journeys. Migrants are often kidnapped, tortured, and financially extorted as well. The national protection system is fragmented and poorly financed, resulting in inadequate provision of appropriate services compared to the needs on the ground. Specific groups such as children, women, the elderly,

and people with medical and other forms of disabilities are particularly vulnerable to abuse and exploitation, such as GBV, family separation, human trafficking, and labour exploitation. Beneficiary needs will be further exacerbated due to recurrent droughts, conflicts, and potential famine in Somalia. Migrant returnees also face difficulties reintegrating due to ongoing conflict, resource availability, and stigmatization.

Targets and Planned Response

MRP partners will target 67,280 migrants (2,015 departing migrants, 46,100 transiting migrants,⁶⁶ 17,400 migrants at destination living in Somalia, and 1,765 returnees) and 460,805 host community members. In 2023, due to the impact of the HoA drought, the MRP will target a larger proportion of host community members than in previous years. The MRP response in Somalia will focus on providing life-saving humanitarian and protection assistance as well as sustainable solutions. The most urgent forms of life-saving assistance will include food, water, NFIs, protection kits, MHPSS, and medical support to address the complex needs of migrants and host community members enduring protracted conflict and drought. Returning migrants will be provided with post-arrival assistance to facilitate reintegration, including internal transportation assistance, reception services, post-arrival medical and MHPSS, and accommodation. The support will also ensure communities of return, as well as those along migratory routes, are provided with tailored assistance to ensure successful reintegration, sustainable solutions, and community stabilization. MRP partners will also look at other strategic priorities centering on support to protection, community stabilization and most importantly strengthening of partnerships through HDPN. The response in Somalia for 2023 will also emphasize migration management capacity building for both government and non-state actors, advocating for an inclusive and holistic response to the needs of migrants. Capacity-building activities for government agencies will also focus on collecting migration data to support policy development.


62 Migration along the Eastern Corridor – Report 34 – IOM Regional Data Hub, February 2023.

63 Migration along the Eastern Corridor – Report 32 – IOM Regional Data Hub, January 2023.

64 Mixed Migration Assessment Report – Somaliland – DRC – UNHCR, 30 January 2022.

65 Relationships in Transit: Local communities' interactions with transiting migrants along the Eastern Route in Djibouti and the Somaliland region – Mixed Migration Centre, 22 December 2022.


66 The double-counting of transiting migrants across Eastern Route countries is accounted for in the total 2023 target. However, the full number of transiting migrants is provided in each country to show the large caseload experienced by MRP partners in each country.



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1

Provide life-saving assistance to vulnerable migrants and host communities.


- Provide food and nutrition, NFI, and WASH kits for migrants, returnees, and host communities.
- Provide integrated essential primary healthcare through static and mobile health clinics to reach remote areas/populations.
- Provide post-arrival medical assessment and temporary accommodation for vulnerable migrants and host communities.
- Provide secondary medical assistance to returnees who require intensive medical support.



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2

Provide quality, timely, accessible, and inclusive protection assistance and specialized and tailored services to migrants, returnees, and host communities in vulnerable situations.

- Provide MHPSS assistance.
- Organize technical trainings on the assistance and protection of migrants, including issues related to CT, child protection, GBV, and MHPSS with frontline government stakeholders.
- Coordinate awareness-raising initiatives promoting intra-community dialogue about the risks of irregular migration, including TIP and smuggling for people on the move.




STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3

Strengthen access to return, sustainable reintegration, and community stabilization.

- Conduct community stabilization projects focused on reducing conflict over natural resources.
- Implement community-based integration for returnees.

- Provide land and on-air internal transportation assistance to migrants and returnees.
- Train government officials and stakeholders on migration, international legal and policy frameworks, and bilateral/regional labour agreements, including ethical recruitment.
- Implement community initiatives that foster stabilization and resilience through access to quality basic social services (including health), sustainable livelihoods, and other initiatives addressing the root causes of migration.



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 4

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

- Conduct and publish needs and border assessments and research at main PoEs to increase evidence-based information on migration patterns, root causes, routes, migrant stocks, child protection, TIP, and smuggling patterns, and the protection risks, needs, and vulnerabilities of migrants.
- Enhance the capacity of key government counterparts such as the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, the Ministry of Justice, Foreign Affairs, Immigration, attaches, and social partners on critical components of a BLMA.
- Support medical and awareness-raising outreach field visits in transit locations in collaboration with local authorities and MRP partners.
- Conduct coordination meetings and capacity-building interventions on priority thematic areas, including communications and visibility, joint advocacy and programming, and monitoring.

SOMALIA PARTNERS

1. ActionAid International
2. Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)
3. Danish Refugee Council (DRC)
4. International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) (observer status)
5. International Labour Organization (ILO)
6. Medecins Sans Frontiere (MSF) (observer status)
7. Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)
8. Oxfam
9. Save the Children International (SCI)
10. United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
11. United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
12. United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund (UNICEF)
13. United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
14. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
15. UNWOMEN



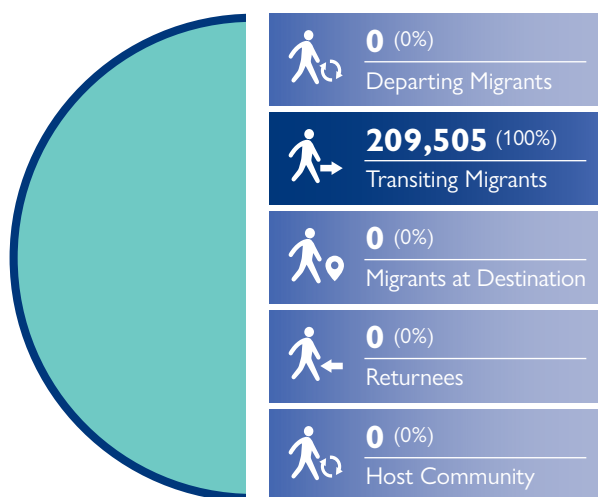
Country Chapters

YEMEN

Migrants returning from Yemen on their way to Obock, Djibouti. Photo: © Alexander Bee/IOM 2021.

209,505
PiN

209,505
People Targeted



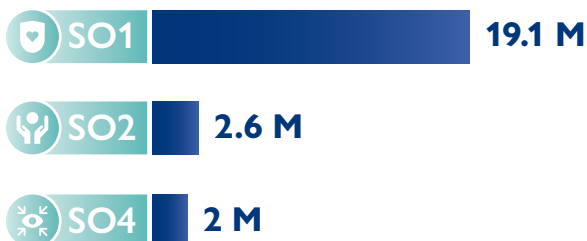
TOTAL FUNDING REQUIRED

USD 23.7 M

MRP PARTNERS

3

FUNDING BY STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE



Context

Along the Eastern Route, Yemen is a major transit point for migrants between the HoA and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and other Gulf States. In 2022, MRP partners 73,233 migrants arriving in Yemen along its southern coast.⁶⁷ Roughly 77 and 23 per cent of migrant arrivals in December 2022 from the HoA departed from Djibouti and Somalia, respectively. Compared to 2021, migration inflows into Yemen from the HoA over doubled, with 27,693 arriving migrants recorded in 2021. By the end of the second quarter of 2022, the number of migrants arriving in Yemen from the HoA reached the annual total for 2021. MRP partners assume this increase resulted from the relaxation of COVID-19-related movement restrictions, climate change, and/or livelihood depletion, incentivizing migration along the Eastern Route. Furthermore, it is estimated that over 43,000 migrants were stranded in various regions of Yemen as of December 2022. Stranded migrants cannot continue their journey or return to their countries of origin and depend entirely on humanitarian service provision to subsist. The primary migration routes through the country remain under the grip of smugglers and traffickers, a reality increasingly indicated by protection monitoring reports. Smugglers maintain strong networks preying on migrants' vulnerable situations, where extortion, forced/unpaid labour and rape, among other forms of abuse, are utilized to keep migrants trapped in inhumane conditions. In transit areas, such as Ma'rib, smugglers have a very visible presence and considerable influence over movements in and out of the governorate, onwards to the north of Yemen toward the northern border. Border areas are particularly hazardous for migrants, who routinely seek emergency assistance

67 Migration along the Eastern Corridor – Report 34 – IOM Regional Data Hub, February 2023.

from MRP partners following violent attacks. In regions near landing points, such as Lahj governorate, migrants routinely report physical abuse and detention upon arrival, often for exploitation.

Identified Needs

In Yemen, where millions continue to grapple with one of the world's worst humanitarian crises, migrants remain among the most vulnerable persons in the country. Many migrants have poor or no access to essential services, especially those in isolated rural areas. In 2023, an estimated 209,505 migrants will need humanitarian assistance. This comprises both stranded and transiting migrants, who mostly originate from Ethiopia and travel en route to Gulf countries in search of improved economic opportunities. Migrants are routinely subjected to gross human rights violations in Yemen, including at the point of arrival and along the entirety of the migratory route until their departure or attempted departure at the borders. Kidnapping for ransom, extortion, restrictions on movement and liberty, violence, abuse, harassment, denial of access to services and assistance, detention, forced transfers, and deliberate targeting by parties to the conflict are commonplace. Key vulnerabilities of migrants include the lack of documentation and fear of detention by local authorities, which prevents migrants from accessing humanitarian and social services. Lack of documentation also prevents UASC from enrolling in schools, resulting in increased vulnerability to smuggling, TIP, child labour, and other forms of exploitation.

Additionally, many migrants remain unaware of the dangers of the conflict in Yemen and other risks they are likely to face along their migration routes. Language barriers further expose many migrants to discrimination, abuse, forced labour, and an inability to access legal protection. The systematic campaign of forced deportation and transfer has meant that migrants intending to move north into the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and other Gulf States are increasingly prone to arrest, some form of detention, and/or transfer to other governorates within Yemen. Detention centres are typically unsanitary and cramped, and detainees

lack access to health care, WASH, recreation space, or information. Above all, children remain the most affected by detention, which can cause psychological trauma, post-traumatic stress, and subsequent stunting in growth and development.

Targets and Planned Response

In Yemen, the 2023 plan aims to assist 209,505 migrants.⁶⁸ MRP partners will continue to provide integrated protection and health assistance to people on the move through Yemen, with a focus on the extremely vulnerable, including women and girls at risk, UASC, the elderly, the chronically ill, people with disabilities, or other specific needs, VoTs, and survivors of human rights violations. This will be provided via static⁶⁹ and mobile services, including teams that patrol the main migratory routes (where access permits), providing on-the-spot emergency first aid, food, water, NFI kits, and information assistance. The 2023 response includes case management, cash support, shelter for extremely vulnerable individuals, referral for specialized services, and emergency and longer-term healthcare. Considering the high caseload of stranded migrants, awareness campaigns on safe routes, case management, and cash-for-work options will be included.

MRP partners will assist migrants with voluntary and dignified return from Yemen to their countries of origin through the voluntary humanitarian return (VHR) programme. In particular, VHR provides a lifeline to migrants stranded in Yemen. Assistance includes the provision of 'fit-to-travel' medical screenings and medical escorts as needed before and during travel, with support provided upon return to their communities of origin for particularly vulnerable individuals. Monitoring and reporting on human rights violations will be critical to the response to better inform evidence-based advocacy for the protection and promotion of the rights of people on the move in Yemen. To support MRP partners in targeting and assisting the most vulnerable groups, the 2023 plan aims to improve data collection on movement trends and key needs of migrants on the move. Best practices will include concise, relevant data collection, comprehensive evaluations, and informed

⁶⁸ The double-counting of transiting migrants across Eastern Route countries is accounted for in the 2023 target. However, the full number of transiting migrants is provided in each country to show the large caseload experienced by MRP partners in each country.

⁶⁹ Migrant Response Points in areas where migrants congregate for more comprehensive assistance.

analyses to reach underserved migrants and tailor partners' responses accordingly. Specifically, MRP partners will aim to implement the following activities under each MRP Strategic Objective.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1



Provide life-saving assistance to vulnerable migrants and host communities.

- Provide life-saving assistance, including food and/or nutrition assistance, NFIs, MPCA (for basic needs), primary health care, and accommodation.
- Counsel, register, and assist vulnerable migrants with VHR.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2



Provide quality, timely, accessible, and inclusive protection assistance and specialized and tailored services to migrants, returnees, and host communities in vulnerable situations.

- Provide direct protection assistance, including assistance for VoTs and human rights violations, GBV services, community-based structure, protection hotlines, MHPSS, life skills trainings, shelters offering specialized protection services, clinical management of rape victims, legal aid counseling, and FTR services.
- Establish or improve national or cross-border referral mechanisms for vulnerable migrants, particularly for UASC.
- Conduct capacity-building initiatives for migrants (ToTs on peer counseling and information sharing) as well as for government and non-state actors (MHPSS, migrant protection needs, referral mechanisms).
- Document cases of migrant deaths or disappearances and refer witnesses for MHPSS.
- Conduct protection monitoring and vulnerability assessments.
- Conduct awareness-raising campaigns and distribute information materials on the migration context in Yemen.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3



Strengthen access to return, sustainable reintegration, and community stabilization.

- No actions are planned under this objective in Yemen.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 4



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

- Produce monthly flow monitoring reports.
- Conduct needs assessments on the situation of migrants in Yemen.
- Develop research studies, advocacy documents, and communication products highlighting the challenges facing migrants in Yemen.
- Conduct meetings with regional and sub-regional representatives and support regional or bilateral government dialogue initiatives related to the Eastern Route and the Yemen migration context.
- Establish or strengthen cross-border coordination initiatives and mechanisms.

| YEMEN PARTNERS |
|---|
| 1. International Organization for Migration (IOM) |
| 2. Danish Refugee Council (DRC) |
| 3. INTERSOS |



Migrants walking in the desert of Obock, Djibouti, hoping to reach the shores to embark on a boat that will take them to Yemen. Photo: © Alexander Bee/IOM 2021.

ANNEXES: FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

| FUNDING REQUIREMENTS BY PARTNERS AND COUNTRY | | | | | | |
|--|-----------|------------|-----------|------------|-----------|-------------|
| Sum of Funding requirements for the activity in US | Djibouti | Ethiopia | Somalia | Yemen | Regional | GRAND TOTAL |
| Agar Ethiopia Charitable Society | | 970 000 | | | | 970 000 |
| Bethay Christiane Services Global | | 2 150 511 | | | | 2 150 511 |
| Beza Posterity Development Organization (BPDO) | | 1 443 432 | | | | 1 443 432 |
| Bright Star Relief and Development Association | | 2 070 355 | | | | 2 070 355 |
| Danish Refugee Council (DRC) | 665 000 | 743 392 | 1 300 000 | 991 000 | | 3 699 392 |
| EECMY-DASSC | | 2 461 066 | | | | 2 461 065 |
| Ethiopian Red Cross Society | | 529 039 | | | | 529 039 |
| Good Samaritan Association | | 199 453 | | | | 199 453 |
| International Organization for Migration (IOM) | 3 455 000 | 19 651 758 | 9 665 750 | 20 812 900 | 4 912 474 | 58 497 882 |
| INTERSOS | | | | 1 934 000 | | 1 934 000 |

| FUNDING REQUIREMENTS BY PARTNERS AND COUNTRY | | | | | | |
|---|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Sum of Funding requirements for the activity in US | Djibouti | Ethiopia | Somalia | Yemen | Regional | GRAND TOTAL |
| Maryjoy Development Association | | 250 000 | | | | 250 000 |
| Mixed Migration Centre (MMC) | | | | | 844 238 | 844 238 |
| Norwegian Refugee Council | | | | | 600 000 | 600 000 |
| Positive Action For Development (PAD) | | 568 815 | | | | 568 815 |
| Save the Children (SCI) | | 1 563 200 | 4 720 000 | | 453 795 | 6 736 995 |
| United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) | | | 450 000 | | | 450 000 |
| United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) | 350 000 | | | | | 350 000 |
| World Food Programme (WFP) | 187 000 | | | | | 187 000 |
| UNFPA ESARO | | | | | 210 000 | 210 000 |
| GRAND TOTAL | 4 657 000 | 32 601 020 | 16 135 750 | 23 737 900 | 7 020 507 | 84 152 178 |



✉ mrphoayemencoordnairobi@iom.int

MRP HOA/Yemen Coordination Unit RO, Nairobi

Boats intercepted by coast guards with smuggled migrants on board. The boat on the right was carrying 136 migrants. Obock, Djibouti. Photo: © Alexander Bee/IOM 2022.