Migration Response Centres (MRCs) are situated along key migration routes, where they fill critical gaps by facilitating the identification of migrants in vulnerable situations and ensuring that they receive appropriate and immediate support. Migrants are assisted with shelter, food, non-food items, health and psychosocial assistance, among other types of assistance. Migrants wishing to return to their places of origin are supported with assisted voluntary return and reintegration1 while returning migrants are provided with direct assistance and information over available services. The assistance is provided either directly at the MRCs, via mobile outreach, or via referral to partners.

In East and the Horn of Africa and Yemen, MRCs are currently operational in Hargeisa, Bossaso, and Mogadishu in Somalia; Obock in Djibouti; Semera, Metema, Dire Dawa, Togochele, and Moyale in Ethiopia; and Khartoum, Gedaref, and Kassala in Sudan; and Aden and Marib in Yemen. The services provided by each MRC vary based on location and needs.

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1. Voluntary humanitarian return for the context in Yemen.

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Staff at MRC Gedaref attend to migrants who have dropped in to make enquiries. © IOM 2021 / Muse Mohammed
Services delivered by the MRC and its mobile response team

- Registration and vulnerability assessment
- Provision of food and non-food items
- Assisted voluntary return, including pre-return assistance and coordination with embassies of migrants’ countries of origin and exit clearance from the government of Sudan (in coordination with MRRC Khartoum)
- Language assistance and interpretation
- Mobile outreach and awareness raising
- Capacity building of partners on migrant protection
- Capacity building of migrant communities on community-based protection initiatives
- Humanitarian assistance to detained migrants
- Partner coordination through facilitating Mixed Migration Group meetings

Services delivered to MRC beneficiaries in collaboration with partners

- Medical assistance (primary medical assistance: Sudan Family Planning Association; secondary and tertiary medical assistance: public and private hospitals)
- Mental health and psychosocial support (Trauma Centre)
- Assistance of persons of concern to UNHCR

Other partners

State Ministry of Health and Social Development
State Child Welfare Council

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