

Migration Response Centres (MRCs)

East and Horn of Africa

REGIONAL DATA HUB | RDH

01 January - 31 August 2018



International Organization for Migration (IOM)

The UN Migration Agency

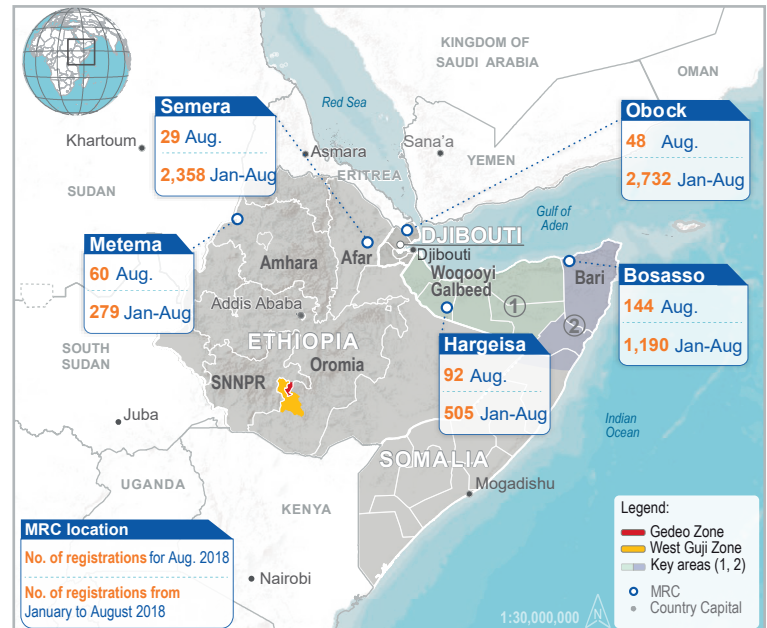
REGIONAL OVERVIEW: AUGUST 2018

A total of **373** migrants were registered at MRCs across the region in August. The largest number of migrants was registered in Bosasso (**144**), followed by Hargeisa (**92**), Metema (**60**), Obock (**48**) and Semera (**29**). The vast majority (**99%**) of MRC registrations in August were Ethiopian nationals, particularly from the Oromia (**34%**), Tigray (**20%**) and Amhara (**15%**) regions, as has been the case in previous months. While **43%** of registered migrants were headed on the Eastern Route towards the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, another **19%** were returning home to their country of residence. The majority of returnees were registered in Metema and Semera, most of whom were returning from Sudan (**64%**) and Djibouti (**35%**). In August, the **MRC Metema** registered **42** migrants returning to Ethiopia from Gedaref. Torrential rains and consequent flooding across Sudan since June, have resulted in significant infrastructural damage, impacting livelihoods in communities across the country. Gedaref, located in eastern Sudan close to the Ethiopian border, is one of the areas most severely affected by flooding.

The total number of registrations per month remained relatively constant across MRCs with the exception of Obock, where the number of registrations dropped to **48** in August, compared to relatively high numbers in the months of June (**930**) and July (**333**), during which the MRC was providing emergency and medical support to migrants following an Acute Watery Diarrhea outbreak in Djibouti. As was the case in previous months, the majority of migrants registered across MRCs were between **18-29 year old males** reportedly traveling without identity documentation (**83%**).

Migrants in most MRCs reported having stayed in the country of the MRC for less than one month, with the exception of the **MRCs in Bosasso and Obock**, where a majority of migrants reported having stayed for **1-6 months**. This finding mirrors reports of a build-up of migrants in Bosasso during the first half of 2018, due to rough seas caused by cyclones in the Gulf of Aden and stricter policies to manage irregular migrant flows in the area. Conversely, migrants at both MRCs overwhelmingly reported intending to stay in the respective MRC country for **less than one month**, thereby indicating that they would migrate onward if they were able to do so. Both **Obock** and **Bosasso** are gateways to Yemen, transited through by migrants on the Eastern Route towards Saudi Arabia. In contrast, a large majority of migrants at the MRCs in **Semera** and **Metema** reported intending to stay in Ethiopia indefinitely or wanting to settle there. All but one of the migrants registered in Metema and Semera were of Ethiopian nationality. The **MRC Hargeisa** continues to receive a relatively high number of families compared to other MRCs in the region.

MRC LOCATIONS & REGISTRATIONS*



Migration Response Centers (MRCs) are situated along key migration routes, where they fill critical gaps by providing direct assistance, including food and temporary shelter, information and service referrals to migrants on the move. Working collaboratively, MRCs bring together key partners to facilitate the identification of migrants in vulnerable situations, and ensure that they receive appropriate, immediate and longer-term support. Five MRCs are currently operational in the Horn of Africa: Hargeisa and Bosasso since 2009, Djibouti since 2011 and Semera and Metema since 2014. IOM is working closely with local authorities to open two further MRCs in the coming months. The services provided by each MRC vary based on location and needs.



Information Session at the MRC in Obock with Irregular Migrants from Fanta Hero, August 2018. © Moussa Tall (IOM Djibouti)

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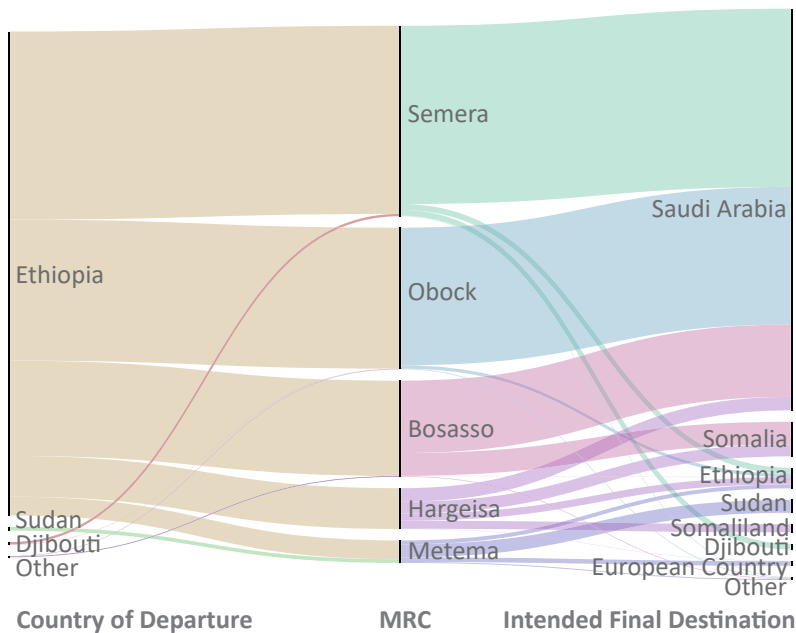
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MIGRANT JOURNEYS



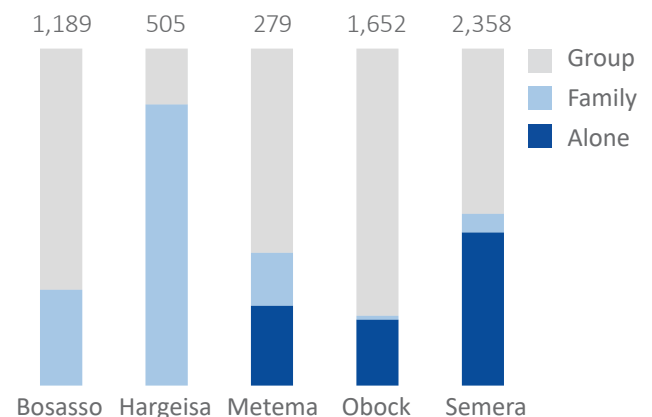
Country of Departure, MRC and Intended Destination¹



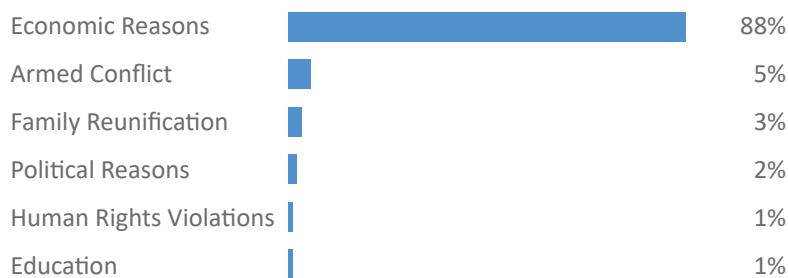
Top 4 Areas of Departure

Ethiopia	Tigray	2,415
Ethiopia	Amhara	991
Ethiopia	Oromia	966
Ethiopia	Afar	965

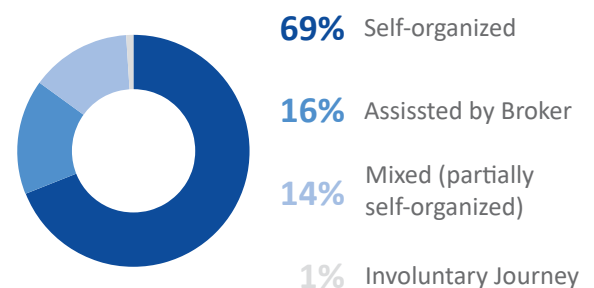
Migrant Travel Status¹



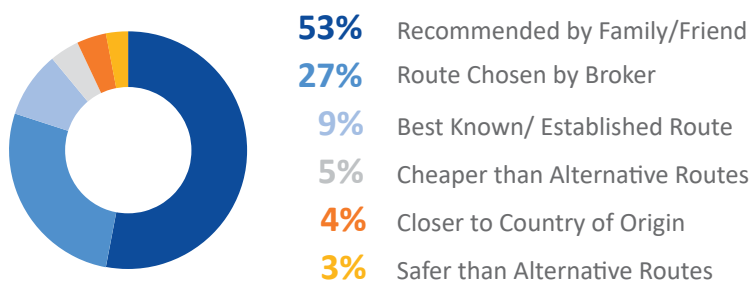
Most Commonly Reported Reasons for Migration^{1,2}



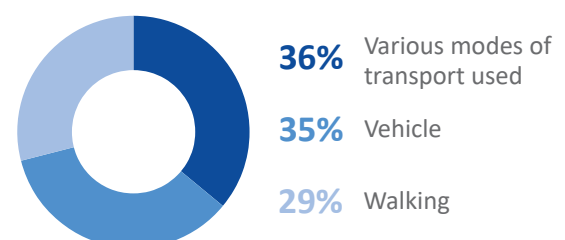
Journey Arrangements¹



Choice of Route¹



Main Mode of Transport¹



¹ June and July Obock data not yet available.

² Multiple choices allowed

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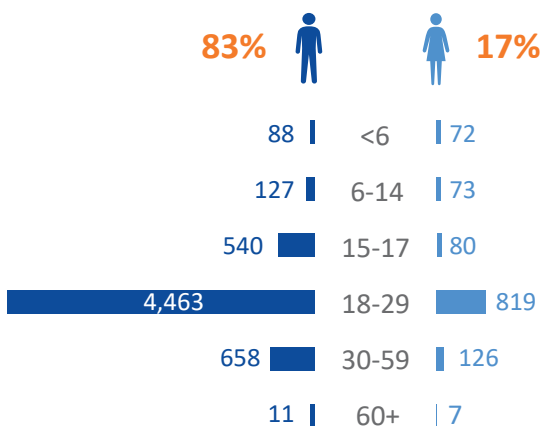
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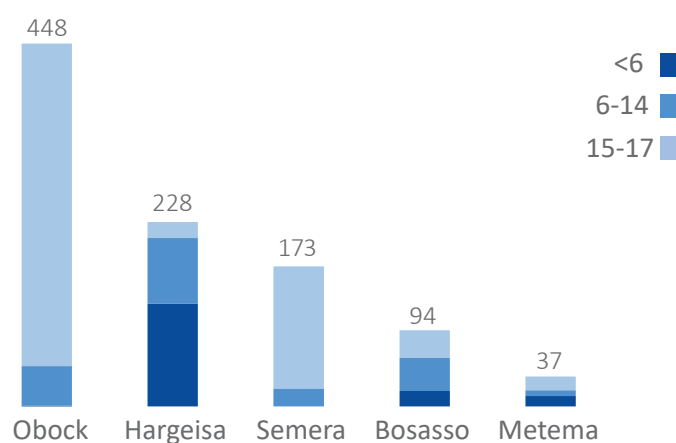
MIGRANT PROFILES, VULNERABILITIES AND INTENTIONS



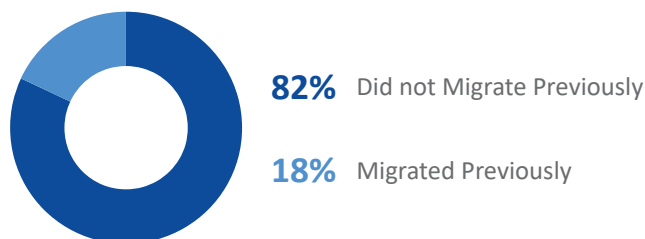
7,064 migrant observations in 2018



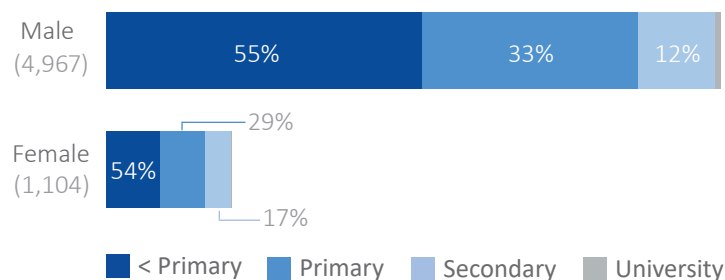
980 child migrant observations in 2018



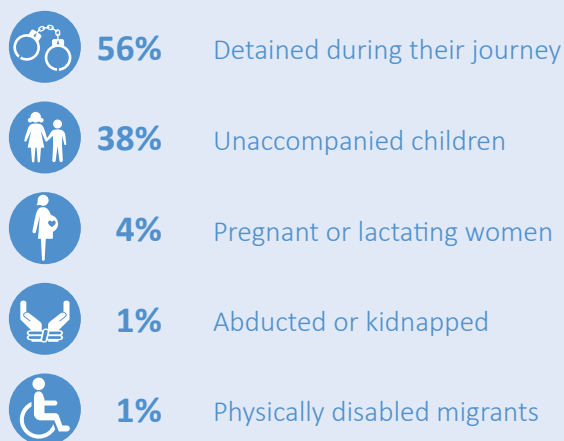
Previous Migration Attempts¹



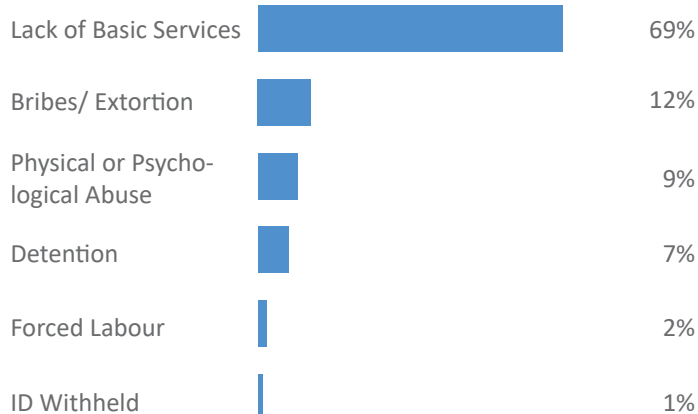
Migrant Gender and Educational Background¹



832 Vulnerable Migrants (12% of total)¹



Top 5 Reported Hardships During the Journey^{1,2}



¹ June and July Obock data not yet available.

² Multiple choices allowed

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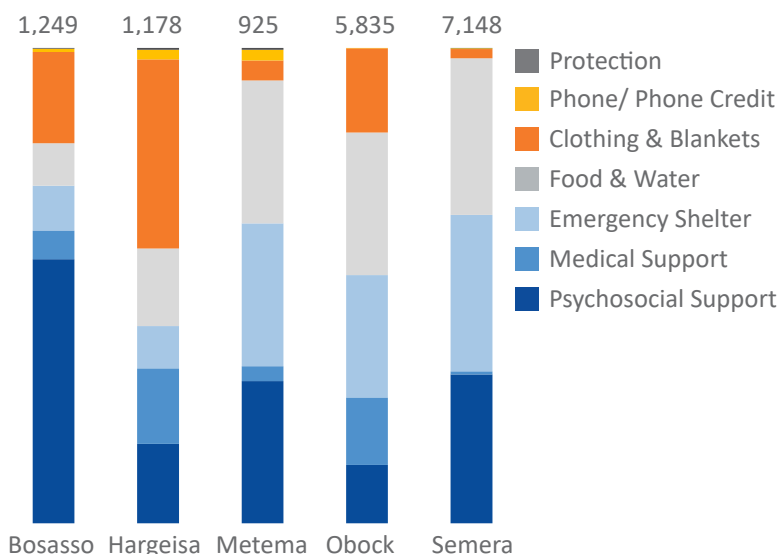


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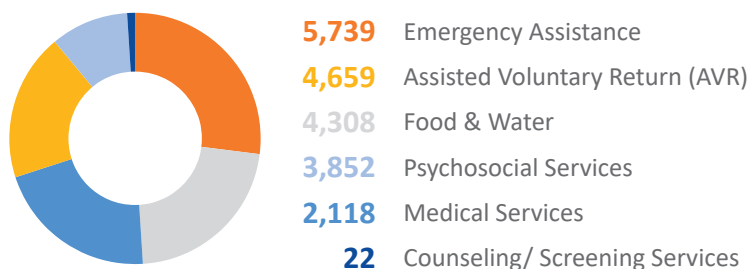
MIGRANT NEEDS AND SERVICE PROVISION

16,335 Multi-sectoral Needs Reported* ^{1,2}



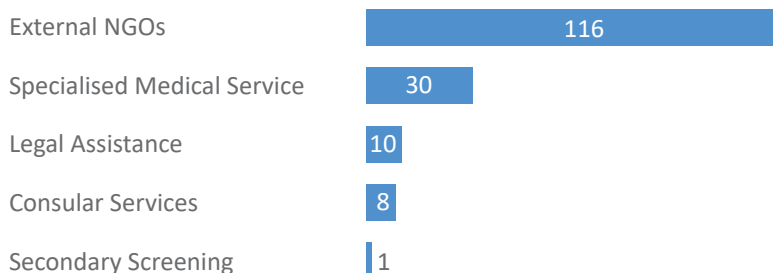
* The options 'Protection' and 'Phone/ Phone Credit' were added in August.

20,698 Services Provided at MRCs* ^{1,2}



* The option 'Counseling/ Screening Services' was added in August 2018. Data for options 'Food & Water' and 'AVR' not yet available for August.

165 Service Referrals Provided in August* ^{1,2}



* Data available from August 2018 onwards.

Background & Methodology

IOM established the MRC Regional Data Collection System, encompassing all MRCs in the Horn of Africa, in July 2016 to advance a standardized approach for collecting data and monitoring responses to mixed migration flows in the region. Data is collected upon migrant registration at the MRCs. Only the information of migrants that consent to their data being captured is collected. IOM does not share individual-level data. The MRC screening form was designed to foster a better understanding of migrant hardships, vulnerabilities and needs, as well as their motivations and intentions. The data collected is able to inform evidence-based policy and programming in the region.

In 2018, IOM revised the MRC Regional Data Collection System to strengthen the provision of relevant and robust data. First, a technical working group was established to revise the MRC screening form to better capture the fluidity of migrants' movements, their vulnerabilities and the services provided to them at the MRCs. Simultaneously, a regional network of Information Management Assistants was established to facilitate and harmonise data collection activities and further strengthen the MRC Data Collection System. Finally, all focal persons and other relevant MRC staff across the region received training on the MRC data collection procedures. They continue to receive technical support from the Regional Data Hub.

This factsheet presents key findings, rather than the entire range of information gathered in the MRC questionnaire. Information is collected in the MRCs by trained enumerators upon migrant registration. Findings are triangulated through other IOM data collection systems and secondary sources including news monitoring and humanitarian reports. All data presented in this factsheet should be taken as indicative rather than representative and should not be used to generalise across the region.

For more information on the methodology used, please contact: rdhronairobi@iom.int

The Regional Data Hub | RDH

Established in early 2018, the RDH aims to support evidence-based, strategic and policy-level discussion on migration through a combined set of initiatives. These include: strengthening regional primary and secondary data collection and analysis; increasing Information Management capacity across countries; providing technical support to ensure harmonization and interoperability of key methodologies used to monitor population mobility; and the engagement of key stakeholders and governmental counterparts in migration dialogue and consultation.

