REGIONAL OVERVIEW: JULY 2021

A total of 1,210 migrants were registered at MRCs across the region in July, a 37% increase compared to June and the highest number of registrations recorded so far during this year. This brings the total registrations in 2021 to 5,555 migrants. The largest number of migrants were registered in Metema (336), followed by Bossaso (279), Obock (199), Hargeisa (156), Semera (112), Togochele (76), Moyale (51), and Dire Dawa (1).

More male adults (50%) were registered in July than female adults (32%), while 18% of registrations were children. Child registrations slightly decreased by 8% compared to June, however, female adult registrations tripled between June (128) and July (387). Almost all registered females were Ethiopian nationals (99%), of whom more than half (51%) came from the Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples’ (SNNP) region. A large majority of female adults (90%) were between 18 and 29 years old. While all the children registered at the MRC in Hargeisa and over half of the children registered at the MRC in Metema (57%) were accompanied, all the children registered in Bossaso, Semera and Moyale as well as most children registered in Obock (93%) and Togochele (92%) were unaccompanied.

Almost all registered migrants were Ethiopian nationals (98%), and the majority reported departing from the Oromia (34%), SNNP (25%) and Amhara (14%) regions of Ethiopia. Some migrants were also returning from Yemen, in particular from Aden (9%) and Marib (2%). Half of the migrants (50%) reported that they intended to continue their journey to Saudi Arabia. All migrants registered in Semera were heading to Saudi Arabia. Overall, most migrants reported migrating for economic reasons (75%).

Background and Methodology

Migration Response Centres (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. Eight MRCs are currently operational in the Horn of Africa: Hargeisa and Bossaso since 2009, Obock since 2011, Semera and Metema since 2014, Dire Dawa and Togochele since the end of 2019, and Moyale since March 2021.

IOM established the MRC Regional Data Collection System in July 2016 to advance a standardized approach for collecting data and monitoring responses to mixed migration flows and informing evidence-based policy and programming in the region. In 2018, IOM revised the system to strengthen the provision of relevant and robust data. In 2020, a new software application, the MRC Information System (MRCIS), was developed to better address the data management needs of these centres.

This factsheet presents key findings, rather than the entire range of information gathered in the MRC questionnaire. Data is collected upon migrant registration at the MRCs by trained enumerators. Only the information of migrants that consent to their data being captured is collected. IOM does not share individual-level data. All data presented in this factsheet should be taken as indicative rather than representative and should not be used to generalise across the region.
MIGRATION RESPONSE CENTRES (MRCs)
1 JANUARY - 31 JULY 2021
IOM Regional Office for the East and Horn of Africa

MIGRANT JOURNEYS

Travel History

- Top 4 Areas of Departure
  - Ethiopia Oromia 42%
  - Ethiopia SNNP 20%
  - Ethiopia Amhara 11%
  - Yemen Aden 10%

- Departure MRC Intended destination
  - Ethiopia Oromia Hargeisa
  - Ethiopia SNNP Hargeisa
  - Ethiopia Amhara Dire Dawa

Most Reported Reasons for Migration *

- Economic reasons 76%
- Education 16%
- Armed conflict 3%
- Natural disasters 2%
- Family reunification 1%
- Personal enmity 1%
- Forced into the journey <1%

Most Reported Hardships During the Journey *

- Lack of basic services 71%
- Imprisonment/detention 11%
- Physical/psychological abuse 7%
- Withholding of ID documents 6%
- Bribery/extortion 3%
- Forced labour/exploitation <1%

MIGRANT PROFILES AND VULNERABILITIES

- Migrant Registrations
  - 5,555
  - 74% male
  - 26% female
  - 2653
    - 126 <6
    - 276 6-14
    - 635 15-17
    - 398 18-29
    - 33 30-59
    - 18 60+

- Child Migrant Registrations
  - 1,427
  - Hargeisa: 476
  - Bossaso: 397
  - Obock: 381
  - Semera: 62
  - Togochale: 54
  - Metema: 30
  - Dire Dawa: 16
  - Moyale: 11

- Most Reported Vulnerabilities *
  - 27% Migrants reporting health problems
  - 24% Unaccompanied children
  - 15% Accompanied children
  - 3% Pregnant or lactating women
  - 1% Elderly migrants
  - 1% Migrants with a physical or mental disability

Note: The vulnerabilities are presented as a percentage of all reported vulnerabilities (3,698), and not of the total number of registered migrants.
*Multiple choices allowed.