From January to August 2019, IOM provided transportation assistance to 49,726 refugees in Ethiopia. The single largest transfer involved transporting 40,018 Eritrean refugees from the Endaba- guna Reception Center in Shire to Hitsats, Mayayni, Adiharush and Shimelba Camps.

1,226 Somali refugees who crossed into Ethiopia through Tigray were transported from Zalambassa border entry point. Of this number, 850 Somali refugees were provided with road transportation assistance to Shedder Camp in Jijiga and 32 Somali refugees were provided air transportation to Jijiga. The remaining 344 Somali refugees who arrived from Eritrea were transferred to Mekele Airport, flown to Melkedida Airstrip in Somali, before being transported to refugee camps around Dollo Ado. Additionally, 4,970 Somali refugees who arrived in Dollo Ado were provided with transportation to designated camps, and 225 Somali refugees were provided transport assistance from Gode to Shedder Camp in Jijiga.

Meanwhile, 2,429 South Sudanese and 533 Sudanese were transported from Assosa Reception Center to designated camps. 302 South Sudanese were also given air transportation assistance from Gambella to refugee camps in Assosa. Lastly, 18 Congolese and 5 Burundian refugees were provided with transportation from IOM’s Transit Center in Addis Ababa to refugee camps in Assosa.
The largest group of refugees assisted were Eritrean at 40,018 individuals (80.5%). The second largest group to receive assistance were Somali nationals at 5,852 individuals (11.8%), followed by South Sudanese at 2,731 individuals (5.49%) and Sudanese at 533 individuals (1.1%). Throughout the transportation process, additional assistance included fit-to-travel assessments, hot meals, high energy biscuits, water, non-food items and accommodation where necessary.

In terms of location, majority of transportation assistance was provided in Shire with 41,244 refugees assisted here, followed by 4,970 refugees assisted in Dollo Ado and 2,902 refugees assisted in Assosa. This project was made possible thanks to the support of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (PRM).