



MRP partners, and key stakeholders uphold the rights and the protection needs of stranded and retuning migrants. Photo: IOM/2022

SITUATION OVERVIEW

With several hundred thousand migration movements tracked entering and leaving Ethiopia in 2022, the country faces one of the most complex human mobility environments in the world, with a range of social, economic, political, and climatic factors resulting in migration and displacement within and outside its borders. Ethiopians mainly migrate towards the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the east, South Africa to the south, or Europe to the north. The Eastern route, which is covered under the MRP, is one of the busiest and most dangerous migratory routes in the world where migrants face extreme protection risks. A significant portion of migrants become stranded on the way, and those who make it to their final destination are likely to be detained and deported due to their irregular immigration status. On average, nearly 10,000 Ethiopian migrants involuntarily return to Ethiopia each month. Most require some form of post-arrival assistance – at a minimum, support to return to home communities, and in many cases, specialized medical, psychological, psychiatric, or other forms of assistance. High numbers of unaccompanied migrant children travel the route and require child protection services upon return.

The primary drivers of migration are, in most cases, economic. Natural and man-made disasters such as conflict, drought, and environmental degradation are also important factors in migrants' decisions to move. In this context, it is essential to provide migrants with viable options to irregular migration through socioeconomic interventions in home communities, including livelihood and psychosocial support.

November 2022 saw a 6% increase in migrants' exits from Ethiopia, making it the fifth consecutive month of increasing outgoing movements. While a slight decrease (-5%) was noticed in December 2022, these movements overall increased by 38 % between 2021 (185,849) and 2022 (256,288). Following the agreement between the governments of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Ethiopia, returns from Kingdom of Saudi Arabia reached more than 93,527 between March and December 2022. Among the caseload were 1,014 unaccompanied migrant children and 3,839 accompanied children. On the other hand, 8,200 people sought assistance at Ethiopia's land borders in 2022, 24% of whom were women and girls.



23,005

returnee migrants
received life-saving
assistance from MRP
partners



19,306

received protection,
family reunification and
officials received capacity
strengthening



9,625

Assisted with sustainable
reintegration and
community stabilization

REGIONAL MIGRANT RESPONSE PLAN

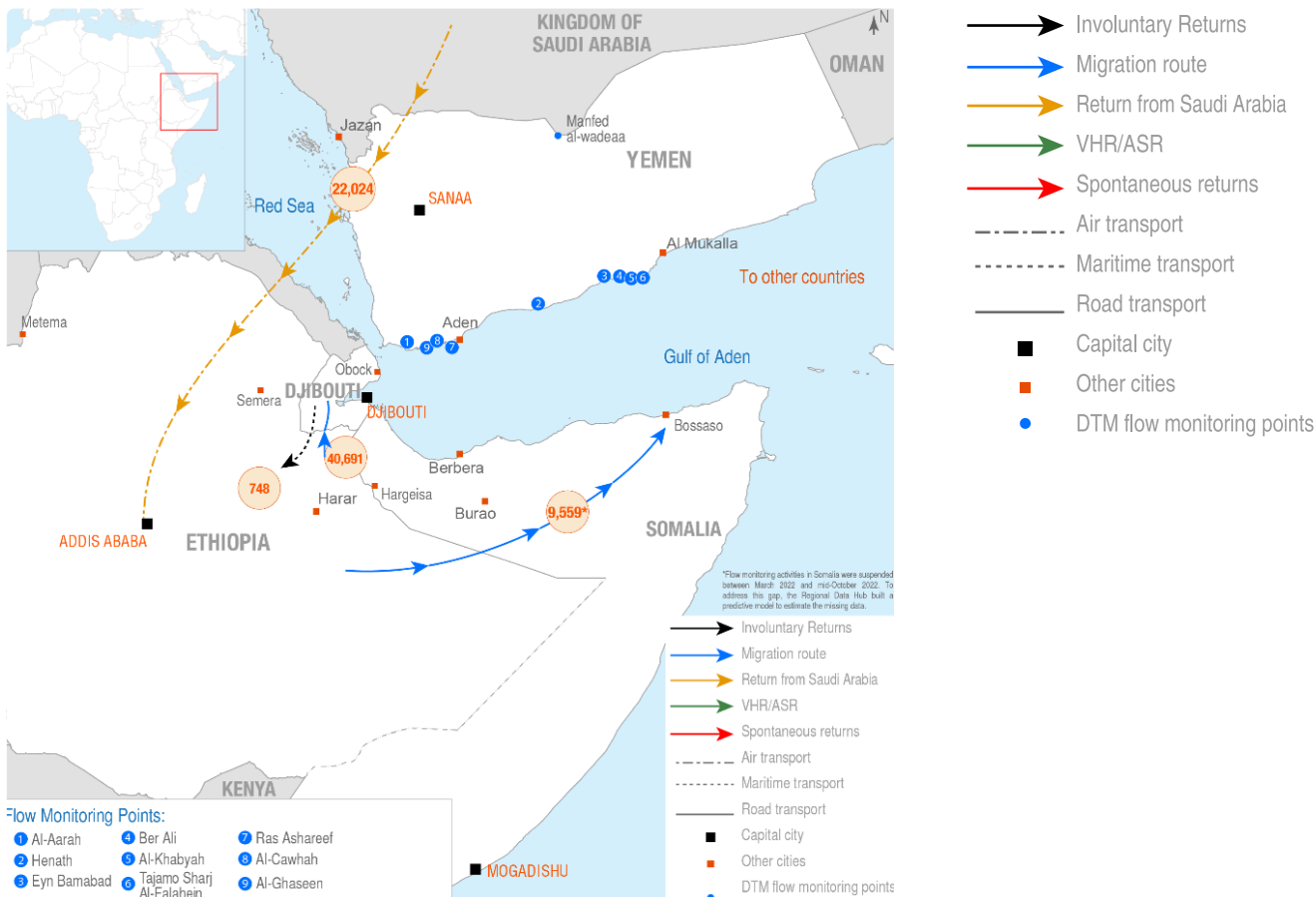
The Regional Migrant Response Plan (MRP) for the Horn of Africa and Yemen 2021 – 2024 is a migrant focused inter-agency framework to respond to humanitarian and protection needs, risks, and vulnerabilities of migrants from the Horn of Africa, specifically Somalia and Ethiopia, moving towards Kingdom of Saudi Arabia through Djibouti and Yemen.

There are 30 MRP partners in Ethiopia, coordinating through a platform dedicated for the MRP, with inter-linkage to other existing coordination mechanisms such as the UN Network on Migration in Ethiopia, and The National Emergency Coordination Center and Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP). The MRP partners are working closely with the Government of Ethiopia, migrants, aid partners, and key stakeholders to support migrants and their home communities.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

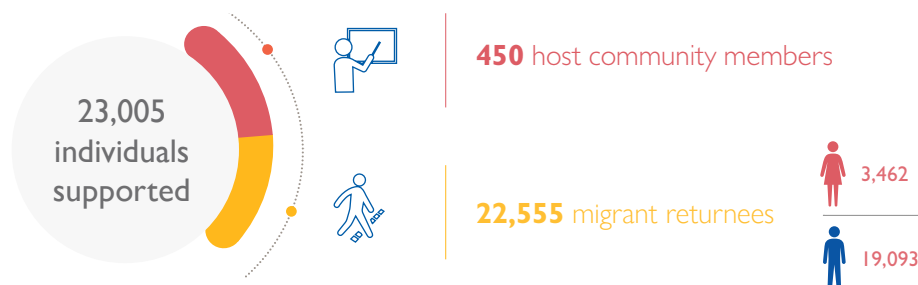
- 1  Provide life-saving assistance to vulnerable migrants and host communities.
- 2  Provide quality, timely and inclusive protection assistance and services to migrants and host communities.
- 3  Strengthen access to return, sustainable reintegration, and community stabilization.
- 4  Build evidence, partnerships, and coordination to enhance the humanitarian response and migration management, throughout the migration route.

Migration flows along the Eastern Route. IOM 2022



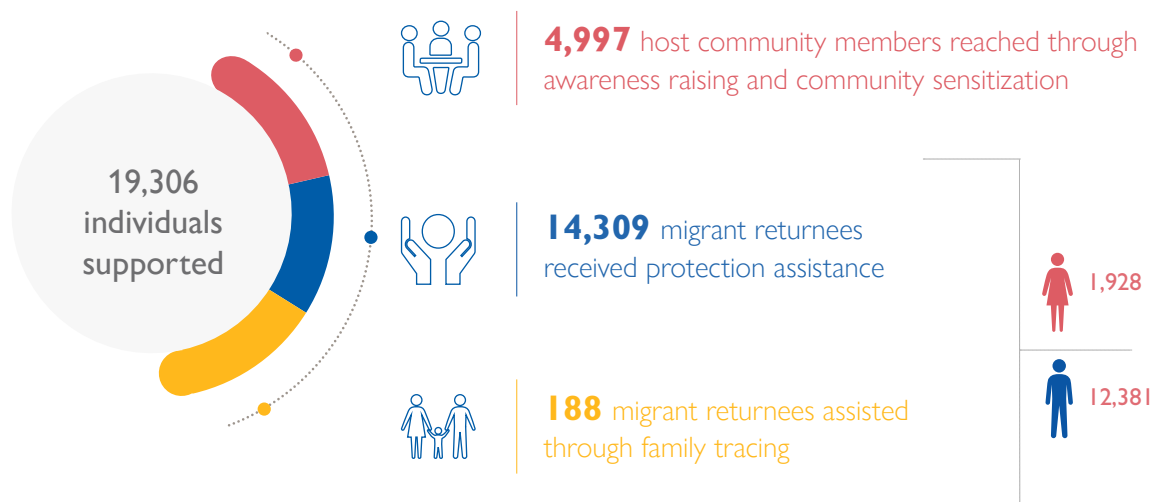
Strategic Objective 1 **Life-saving assistance to vulnerable migrants**

Through the Migration Response Centres, health clinics, mobile teams, way stations, and child protection desks, MRP partners provided life-saving assistance to migrant returnees and host community members.



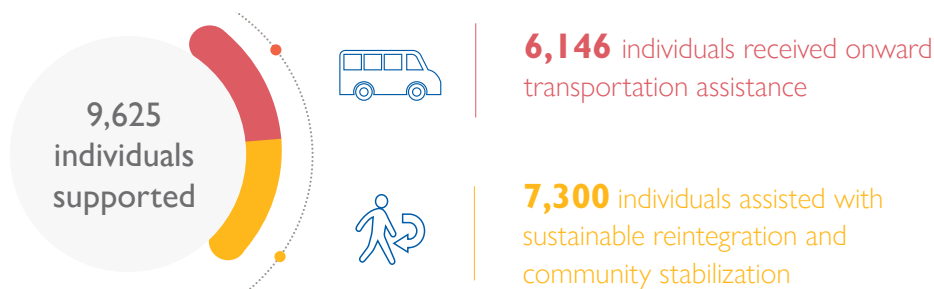
Strategic Objective 2 **Quality, timely and inclusive protection assistance**

MRP partners reached 5,217 migrant returnees and host communities with specialized protection assistance, including, legal aid counselling, and mental health and psychosocial support, awareness-raising and community sensitization activities on topics including impacts of unsafe and irregular migration, basic child rights, and service referrals.



Strategic Objective 3 **Return, sustainable reintegration and community stabilization support**

MRP partners facilitated access to return, sustainable reintegration, and community stabilization through onward transportation, and tailored individual and community-based reintegration assistance.



COMMUNITY STABILIZATION HIGHLIGHTS

A total of 120 (59 females and 61 males) unemployed youth migrant returnees and host community members were assisted to generate income by engaging in a compost production and charcoal production recycling khat waste. The one-year innovative community reintegration project run by Positive Action for Development (PAD) is showing progress.



A migrant returnee showing recycled products from Khat waste for the charcoal production. Photo: IOM/Alemayehu Seifeselassie

With funding from EU-IOM Joint Initiative for Migrant Protection and Reintegration in the Horn of Africa and the Government of the Netherlands, the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus- Development and Social Service Commission (EECMY-DASSC) has been implementing different individual and community-based reintegration projects in the North Wollo, South Wollo and North Shewa zones of Amhara region supporting more than 450 Households. With grants aimed at providing integrated sustainable reintegration assistance for Ethiopian migrant returnees and host communities with activities such as construction of water and soil conservation structures, planting fruit and tree seedlings, construction of irrigation.



Community-based reintegration projects in Amhara region. Photo: IOM/2022

Strategic Objective 4 Building evidence, partnerships, and coordination

During the reporting period monthly flow monitoring reports were produced by [IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix \(DTM\)](#) and by Mixed Migration Centre's (MMC) [quarterly reports](#).

IOM provided a capacity development training to MRP local implementing partners from 28-30 November 2022. The three-day training was aimed to equip partners with project planning and implementation as well as IOM's operational guidelines and ensure harmonized responses to the needs of vulnerable migrants. A total of 24 participants (5 females, 19 males) from eleven different organizations attended the three-day training session.



Study tour to Zambia on migration governance and mechanism for migrant protection from 27 Nov to 03 Dec 2022 organized by IOM. Photo: IOM/2022

RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS

The National Partnership Coalition (NPC) together with MRP partners conducted a validation of Ethiopia's National Referral Mechanism (NRM) for the protection of victims of human trafficking (VoTs) and other migrants in vulnerable situations from 10 -11 November 2022. The workshop was organized in Addis Ababa with relevant stakeholders to validate among others the NRM revised Standard Operating Procedures, minimum Service Standard, Service Directory, Referral Flow Chart etc. A total of 30 participants (11 females, 19 males) attended the two-day workshop. The representatives in attendance were from government, local and international non-government agencies, United Nations agencies, embassies and associations supporting migrants in vulnerable situations. Press note on the validation can be accessed [here](#).



NRM validation workshop in Addis Ababa. Photo: IOM/2022

SUCCESS STORIES FROM PARTNERS



Photo: PDA/2022

Shenkor Abdujelil is a migrant returnee from Djibouti who joined an association in Aweday town that is producing charcoal briquettes from recycled khat waste. The project is supported by Positive Action for Development (PAD).

After his return home, Addis did not have any source of income to support himself. He registered at the Bureau of Labour and Social Affairs for a job opportunity and was selected to join the project transforming khat waste into charcoal briquettes.

Most regions in Ethiopia grow khat, a plant whose fresh leaves and tops are chewed as a stimulant. In August 2022, PAD commenced a community project to help returnees reintegrate sustainably through livelihood projects that aim to improve their economic situation.

“Since our woreda is rich in khat plantations it will be easy to get raw inputs for the charcoal production,” says Shenkor.

To facilitate the project, PAD provided training in leadership and business management, in carbonization, and in crushing and charcoaling. The government provided land, transportation, and legal accreditation. In addition, PAD supports the project with materials, equipment and in project management.

“The main challenge we are facing is the change in the climatic season and the government forcing khat merchants to be licensed, meaning the amount of khat waste has decreased these days,” says Shenkor. “However, we continue to collect the waste that is obtainable, hoping more will be available again, as in the past.”

Shenkor is now happy with his life here. He has an income and the project has also introduced him to many people, which has improved his social life. The association has processed more than 4,000 kilogrammes of briquettes for marketing, which has improved their revenue and helped to process khat waste in an environmentally friendly way.

The collaborative effort of PAD, government, the community and associations is turning words into action and beneficiaries are now upskilled, inspired and motivated to keep improving their lives.



Photo: EECMY/2022

Rhama Hussien Yimer is a single mother who returned from Sudan after a painful experience during her journey to and stay in that country. She gave birth to her daughter while in Sudan.

Rahma and her daughter currently live in Mekdela Woreda, Amhara Regional State, with her mother.

Although she made the decision to travel abroad with her close friends in the hope of changing her difficult situation, she did not see a change for the better like she had envisioned.

“I returned with nothing, despite hoping to improve my family’s life,” says Rhama.

After her return she heard about the Integrated Sustainable Reintegration Assistance Project for Ethiopian Migrant Returnees in the Amhara region (ISRAP).

The project, which is implemented by Ethiopian Evangelical Church MekaneYesus, Development and Social Services Commission, North Central Ethiopia Synod Branch Office (EECMY- DASSC NCES BO), supports returnee migrants like Rhama.

She received housing support, including a bed, bedding materials, cooking utensils, and various other household items. With the support received, she has also managed to open a small retail shop.

Rhama says she is now motivated to do more to improve her life, and the future of her daughter and family. “My sun is displaying a new bright light!”

PUBLICATIONS



[Click here to read](#)

- [Regional Migrant Response Plan for the Horn of Africa and Yemen 2022](#)
- [Regional Migrant Response Plan for the Horn of Africa and Yemen 2023](#)

PREVIOUS REPORTS

[MRP Report Quarter 1 & 2](#)

[MRP Report Quarter 3](#)

MRP PARTNERS AND DONORS



Kingdom of the Netherlands



Co-funded by the European Union

