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# Regional Mapping of Trafficking and Vulnerable Migrants' Routes: Collective CSO Data on Migration Routes in the East and Horn of Africa

Freedom Collaborative  
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Implemented by





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## Foreword

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Civil society organizations across the seven states of the Horn of Africa welcome this mapping of regional routes, the relevant trends collaboration among groups in the region, and the enhanced cooperation around fighting human trafficking. Victims of human trafficking are subjected to all manner of human rights violations and sexual and labour exploitation including child marriage and severe human rights violations. The consequences are devastating for victims and communities, and the impact is felt on services across borders and nations. This Regional Routes Mapping among the CSOs is therefore a valuable asset as it is beneficial to the production of collective data through the facilitation of cooperation efforts, and helps in establishing trust in each other by, for instance, providing opportunities to share information that, over time, is accurate and useful. It is also a particularly good way to identify common ground and establish guidelines around timely data regarding victims of human trafficking and vulnerable migrants. This will also contribute to facilitating networking, capacity building and workshops for continued strengthening of relationships among CSOs nationally and regionally.

To better assist victims of human trafficking and vulnerable migrants, more cross-border cooperation and investigations are necessary to get a full picture of operating criminal networks which exploit vulnerable communities. There are many complex challenges requiring united fronts across borders and we give thanks to the BMM Programme for ensuring such work continues. As CSOs involved in the frontline of protection, we pay attention to the plight of victims and community voices that need to be heard through advocacy and sensitization. With greater cross-border and international cooperation, especially in the areas of prevention, protection, prosecution and partnership, we are optimistic that we will effectively counter the tools traffickers are using. This will be supported by expanding our communications and information sharing mechanisms, through effective data collection, and the sharing of best practice. The Regional CSO Network will continue to strengthen partnerships, as no one nation can combat the crime of human trafficking or safeguard vulnerable migrants alone.

Human trafficking has an impact on the individuals it victimizes in all areas of their lives. Every stage of the trafficking process may involve physical, sexual and psychological abuse and violence, deprivation, torture, manipulation and economic exploitation. All these cause fear and desperation among communities. We give thanks and appreciation to all the collaborating partners in this anti-trafficking space for their great efforts, determination and professionalism in working to end this crime. Great thanks and appreciation for the CSOs who took part in the Regional Routes Mapping.

On behalf of the Regional CSO Network: **Sarah Kakayi**  
**Coalition Coordinator, Coalition against**  
**Trafficking in Persons-Uganda**



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## About the contributors

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### **African Network for the Prevention and Protection against Child Abuse and Neglect (ANPPCAN)**

ANPPCAN, based in Ethiopia, is a non-religious, non-political and non-partisan national CSO established in 1990 as a member of the Pan African Network, with a vision “to see a society where children are free from all forms of maltreatment”. The organization’s core programs are: lobbying and advocating for children’s rights, child protection, education and early child development, HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment, healthcare, sanitation, the social and economic development of women/gender transformation, peace building, and prevention of the unsafe migration of women and girls.

### **AGAR Ethiopia Charitable Society**

AGAR is a non-profit NGO which primarily focuses on the rehabilitation and socio-economic reintegration of Ethiopian survivors of trafficking and returnees from the Middle East. Based in Addis Ababa, AGAR works to promote improved services and support for returnees, and to strengthen collaboration, stakeholder engagement, and networking to end risky migration. Since its establishment in 2005, it has implemented more than 15 projects in the areas of elderly support, survivors of GBV and trafficking victim reintegration using its centers in Addis Ababa, Oromia and Amhara.

### **Ahfad Trauma Centre (ATC)**

ATC is a mental health and psycho-social service unit based at the School of Psychology at Ahfad University for Women in Omdurman, Sudan. The center provides psychological support and healthcare to help rebuild lives and communities and to allow people to have hope and feel safe. ATC also works to respond to community and individual needs through specialist programs for trauma treatment, counseling and protection, and provides many of its services free of charge. It also offers integrated learning programs to raise community awareness about available services and the importance of combating the stigma of shame.

### **Association pour l'Avenir et le Développement d'Obock (AADO)**

AADO was created in 2012 by a group of university students in Djibouti. It aims to promote the development of the Obock region by fighting against school failure, lowering school dropout rates in urban areas, and tackling illiteracy, juvenile delinquency, drugs and poverty.

### **Bender Djedid**

An NGO focused on socio-economic development in Djibouti, Bender Djedid has three operational objectives: to develop programs and projects to contribute to the development of the country and mobilize human, material and financial resources for the benefit of these programs and projects; support for poverty alleviation, access to water, healthcare and education, and the advancement of women; and the promotion



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of human rights in line with treaties, conventions and international agreements signed or ratified by the country. Bender Djedid designs and conducts its actions in the spirit of sustainable development, taking into account the social, economic, ecological and cultural dimensions.

### **Candle of Hope Foundation (COHF)**

COHF is an NGO working in the East and Horn of Africa to promote empowerment, sustainability and resilience in vulnerable communities through initiatives on health and nutrition, education, livelihood, governance and inclusivity. It aims to ensure access to justice and support services for women, youth and people living with a disability, as well as victims of trafficking and survivors of GBV. The group's mission is to create inclusive communities that can drive their own development through participatory, transformative and innovative approaches, and its vision is the creation of community-driven development initiatives that enhance empowerment, sustainability and resilience.

### **Centre for Domestic Training and Development (CDTD)**

CDTD, based in Kenya, works toward better livelihood outcomes for girls and women in domestic labour; migrants; victims of trafficking, child labour and forced labour; refugees/asylum seekers; and victims of sexual and gender-based violence, through comprehensive programming geared towards recovery, social reintegration and economic empowerment. Since its registration in 2003, it has adopted numerous programs in order to assist the disadvantaged. While the Domestic Workers program remains its focal point, CDTD also now offers a Literacy Program, Continued Education Program, Rescue and Rehabilitation Program, and Refugee Rehabilitation Program. In total, more than 10,000 individuals have been transformed through CDTD's work.

### **Childline Kenya (CLK)**

Childline Kenya aims to prevent child abuse from happening in the first instance and to provide a platform for children and those around them to report their concerns and gain access to child protection services. It commits to keeping the helpline service open at all times and through multiple channels, so that every child has access from anywhere in Kenya. It actively facilitates the resolution of reported cases, and builds the capacity of child protection actors throughout the country to ensure the services provided are of the highest standards and in line with legal provisions. Since its launch in 2006, the helpline has received more than 7 million calls.

### **Coalition on Violence against Women (COVAW)**

COVAW invests in empowering women and girls in Kenya to claim their rights; enabling equitable access to services, resources and opportunities; facilitating greater access to justice for survivors of sexual and gender-based violence; and supporting change agents committed to the eradication of all forms of violence against women and girls (VAWG). It does this by supporting the development and implementation of gender progressive laws, policies and guidelines, and through



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consistent engagement with different actors to prevent and respond to VAWG and hold perpetrators of these violations accountable.

### **Community Empowerment for Progress Organization (CEPO)**

CEPO is a non-profit South Sudanese organization, formed to engage university students and South Sudanese university graduates in the building of their respective communities/societies on a voluntary basis. The organization was initially formed in Khartoum in 1999 and consisted of mostly university students, but its scope broadened after it expanded into Juba, Southern Sudan, where it was established as a separate entity. CEPO is engaged in the areas of peace and conflict mitigation, human rights, rule of law, livelihood, governance and democratic transformation.

### **Consolation East Africa (CEA)**

CEA is a Kenyan non-profit with a vision to see a Kenyan society that is just and gender mainstream. The mission of CEA is to ensure that vulnerable and marginalized people are socially included and that their human dignity is respected. The group works with vulnerable children, sex workers, addicts, prisoners, LGBTQ+ populations, women and girls, and those living in rural poverty, to address the structural barriers that exclude them from public spaces, services and healthcare, and lead to gender-based violence, stigma, discrimination and other human rights abuses.

### **Counter Human Trafficking Trust-East Africa (CHTEA)**

CHTEA was founded in 2006 as a response to an emerging human trafficking dynamic in Kenya and the sub-region of East Africa. In the subsequent years, the volume and complexity of crimes relating to trafficking in persons increased, and more comprehensive programs and interventions were needed. CHTEA seeks to redefine counter-TIP strategies through the promotion of enhanced coordination, training, exposure, research and documentation, while simultaneously seeking to offer holistic solutions to victims' plights and help bring perpetrators to justice. CHTEA also seeks to advise government policy makers in an effort to create a synergized approach towards TIP and other transnational organized crimes.

### **Ethio-Somali Mother and Child-Health Organization (EMCO)**

EMCO is an NGO based in Jijiga town, the capital city of Somali Region, Ethiopia. Established in 2016 to support vulnerable and marginalized communities, it works to encourage community participation by mobilizing resources from government and civil society. EMCO aims to develop self-reliant communities, particularly in rural areas, through inclusive healthcare, nutrition, education and sanitation services, and by providing innovative solutions to gaps faced by marginalized and rural populations. It hopes to see a world in which every Ethiopian mother and child enjoys the highest attainable standard of health, free from preventable morbidity and mortality.



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### **Good Samaritan Association (GSA)**

GSA's development schemes and activities are geared towards alleviating the plight of very-low-income female VoTs, as well as other low-income members of the community. Its vision is to see Ethiopian women and marginalized sections of the population free from poverty, with access to decent health and education services, and it aims to help improve their living conditions by strengthening basic social services and facilities such as health, education and water. GSA also provides shelter-based accommodation and health services in its Addis Ababa and Gondar shelters, and carries out reunification and reintegration activities for migrant returnees.

### **HAART Kenya**

Awareness Against Human Trafficking (HAART), an NGO, was founded in 2010 and is dedicated to ending all forms of human trafficking in Kenya and East Africa. Its commitment to survivor advocacy has helped it grow into a highly reputable organization with considerable reach throughout East Africa and the greater anti-trafficking community. It takes a survivor-centered approach to case management using multi-disciplinary programs based on the "four Ps": prevention, protection, prosecution, and partnerships.

### **Hope for Justice Uganda**

Hope for Justice is a global charity that currently operates in more than 30 locations across five continents. Using a trauma-informed approach, it aims to end human trafficking and modern slavery by preventing exploitation, rescuing victims, restoring lives and reforming society. In Uganda, Hope for Justice operates four shelters in which children rescued from trafficking and exploitative situations are supported with tailor-made restorative care in preparation for eventual reintegration into their families/communities or alternative care. Hope for Justice programmes are also designed to influence the attitudes and systems that lead to unsafe family-child separation.

### **IIDA Women's Development Organisation**

IIDA Women's Development Organisation is based in Mogadishu, Somalia, and its work is centered on peace building, active citizenship for women, and other initiatives in the local education, health and economy sectors. Its main objectives are to support the societal reconstruction process and champion women's rights in Somalia, and its main development aims include: the promotion of peace and peaceful conflict resolution; promotion of respect for human rights and diversity; assistance in the involvement of Somali women in the processes of reconciliation, reconstruction and economic development; the provision of training for women; prevention of female genital mutilation and GBV; and the promotion of the growth and development of women's associations.

### **Love Justice Kenya**

Love Justice works throughout Africa, and in Southeast Asia, Mexico and Eastern Europe, to intervene in the moments between freedom and slavery, working on the





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front lines to find and protect the vulnerable. It trains and places monitors at strategic transit points to identify and stop trafficking as it is occurring, before exploitation begins. As Love Justice intercepts hundreds of people monthly, intervening as the crime of trafficking occurs, it is able to collect immensely valuable data on traffickers and their networks. Through its data analysis and investigations, it has helped authorities arrest more than 1,100 trafficking suspects.

### **Mahibere Hiwot for Social Development (MSD)**

MSD was established in 1999 by volunteer youth in Ethiopia who were concerned about the spread of the HIV epidemic. A major focus of MSD's work continues to be in HIV prevention, care and support, and it also works in OVC care, youth sexual and reproductive health, family planning, migration, child protection, and environmental protection, and assists hard-to-reach groups such as early-married rural girls, people living with HIV/Aids (PLHA), and commercial sex workers. MSD strives to see women, youth and children achieve their greatest potential and actively participate in the socio-economic development of the country.

### **OKOA SASA**

OKOA SASA offers a home, education, healthcare, and psycho-social support to sexually exploited, abused and trafficked children in Kenya, and rehabilitates them into a safer life in the community. The organization also pursues legal channels and fights for justice for children who have been violated and victimized. Furthermore, it supports the children of sex workers, in an attempt to break the pattern in which many follow their mothers into prostitution.

### **Organization for Prevention, Rehabilitation and Integration of Female Street Children (OPRIFS)**

Working in three woredas (districts) of Addis Ketema, Ethiopia, OPRIFS has a vision of a society in which child abuse is eliminated and where children's dignity is fully protected and respected. It focuses on the promotion of safer migration for young females and seeks to improve the economic livelihood of the poorest women and girls through self-help groups. In particular, it reaches out to those currently in domestic work who are likely to be migrating, in order to negotiate improved working conditions with employers. OPRIFS also provides specialist support services to returnees, organizes community dialogues, and strengthens the collaboration of relevant stakeholders to improve the identification of returnees and potential migrant women and girls.

### **Root of Generations (ROG)**

ROG is an NGO based in South Sudan. Its primary focus is on women and children who are excessively affected by conflicts, war, poverty and discrimination, and its mission is to lead the empowerment of women through civic education, peace building, the promotion of human rights and the teaching of life skills for sustainable livelihoods. Its core objectives are the eradication of all forms of GBV, HIV/Aids, and early, teenage and forced marriage; the promotion of non-violence; advocacy for equal representation of youth and women at all levels of the government; and the



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establishment of a network that includes government, organized groups, institutions and individuals to help promote the value of human life.

### **South Sudanese Network for Democracy and Elections (SSuNDE)**

SSuNDE is a nationwide network of more than 150 diverse and non-partisan CSOs and faith-based groups who are united by a desire to contribute to the realization of a peaceful, democratic and dignified society. The network mobilizes citizens to participate in peace building and political processes and provides impartial and professional reports and recommendations on those processes to the South Sudanese public. Its mission is to promote the ability of South Sudanese people to participate freely and effectively in processes that enhance democratic governance, and to ensure that the outcome of those processes reflects the will of citizens.

### **Sudanese Development Call Organisation (Nidaa)**

Nidaa strives to empower Sudanese communities through training, advocacy and sustainable community development. The organization's vision is of rural people across Sudan, and particularly in areas of conflict, who are inspired and empowered to lead the process of change and development. Nidaa takes pride in basing itself directly within the communities in which it works. It has delivered many peace-building trainings, created a local network for conflict resolution, and worked to restore traditional conflict management practices between groups. It also provides agricultural resources and improvements, as well as health and women's services.

### **Terre des Hommes Netherlands**

Terre des Hommes Netherlands prevents child exploitation around the world, removes children from exploitative situations, and ensures these children can develop in a safe environment. As part of its prevention strategy it fights poverty, ensures that children attend school, raises awareness among parents and communities, and helps families find additional or new sources of income. It protects children by providing shelter, medical care, therapy, education and hope for a better future, and trains local police in how to deal with child victims. The organization also lobbies for better legislation and greater political attention on child exploitation through public campaigns and research studies.

### **Timret Lehiwot Ethiopia (TLHE)**

TLHE is a charity organization established in 2004 with a Social Enterprise wing. It focuses on implementing impactful projects within marginalized communities in Ethiopia to bring about sustainable and durable change. Currently, the organization is implementing the BMM program with a particular focus on migrant protection and capacity building for state and non-state stakeholders. The project represents an innovative and coordinated response to improve migration management, and in particular to address the trafficking and smuggling of migrants from Ethiopia, particularly in selected highly irregular migration source and transit/border areas.



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### **The Salvation Army**

The Salvation Army is a Christian organization that fights for justice and freedom. It has made its response to modern slavery and human trafficking a global priority and aims to make it a specialized and integrated part of all its work. Its publication *The Fight for Freedom: The Salvation Army International Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Response Strategy* is designed to activate every part of its organization – from those on the ground and frontlines to those in its headquarters. Specifically, it raises awareness and addresses the root causes of modern slavery and human trafficking, offers help to survivors as they regain their physical, mental, emotional, relational and spiritual health, and supports them through legal proceedings.

### **Trace Kenya**

Trace Kenya is a counter-TIP NGO based in Mombasa, founded in 2006 to help rescue, rehabilitate and re-integrate women, youth and child victims of human trafficking. Trace Kenya now works with individuals, communities, partners, institutions and organizations, as well as the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNCHR), to fight the trafficking and the commercial exploitation of children, youth, women and people with disabilities in the tourism and travel industry. It advocates for better protection of children who live and work on the streets, and facilitates migrant support, the protection of migrant laborers from trafficking, and psycho-social support for victims of forced labour and slavery.

### **Uganda Youth Development Link (UYDEL)**

UYDEL is an NGO which aims to enhance the socio-economic transformation of disadvantaged young people aged 10 to 24 years through evidence-based interventions that advocate for youth, create links to services and information, and encourage social and livelihood skills development for self-reliance. UYDEL has a direct presence in eight Districts of Uganda in which it runs 13 youth-friendly drop-in centers, five of which are girls' only safe spaces in which adolescent girls and young women can access a wide range of empowerment activities.

### **Willow International**

Willow International, now renamed EverFree, is a non-profit international organization with a mission to eradicate human trafficking at its root. It welcomes survivors of TIP to aftercare facilities in which they can access holistic services including shelter, clothing, food, medical support and economic empowerment activities. EverFree also works with government and the justice sector to protect victims and prevent trafficking through policy reform, awareness creation and education. It runs a victims' counsel program through which it partners with stakeholders to provide victim support and legal aid, along with capacity building for stakeholders such as public prosecutors, investigators and the judiciary.

### **Women's Action Advocacy Progress Organisation (WAAPO)**

WAAPO is a Somaliland-based NGO whose mission is to protect and support women, youth, and children by providing practical and emotional support, protection, economic empowerment and education, as well as campaigning for long-term



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change in their lives. WAAPO manages the only safe house in Somaliland, providing assistance to survivors of sexual and gender-based violence and survivors of child abuse who face serious safety and security concerns. It is actively involved in the fields of gender equality, advocacy and human rights, as well as community-based capacity-building programs.

## List of Abbreviations

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BMM	Better Migration Management Programme
BMZ	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development
CSO	Civil society organization
EUTF	European Union Emergency Trust Fund for Africa
GBV	Gender-based violence
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
NGO	Non-governmental organization
OVC	Orphans and vulnerable children
PLHA	People living with HIV/Aids
SGBV	Sexual and gender-based violence
TIP	Trafficking in persons
VAWG	Violence against women and girls
VoT	Victim of trafficking



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## Summary of key findings

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- In total, the 31 organizations contributed 517 route submissions which refer to 34 countries. Sixteen countries of origin and 26 destination countries were identified, and 19 countries were mentioned as transit locations. The data highlights the broad scope and scale of migration activity from, across and to the East and Horn of Africa, as well as the need to expand partnerships with stakeholders in all countries of origin, transit and destination, in order to realize effective cooperative international migration management.
- The dataset shows high migration activity across borders in the region and beyond and highlights regional dynamics and patterns. Even though the data should not be seen as complete, the substantial number of identified locations underlines the fact that migrants face a high risk of exploitation and abuse throughout the region and beyond. Based on the submitted data, one can say that there are no “safe” routes and locations and that, on the contrary, protection gaps exist universally. This should be seen as a push for stakeholders to turn towards greater responsibility-sharing and collaboratively addressing the – indeed shared – challenges.
- In addition to cross-border movement activity, the data includes substantive information on internal trafficking. This should function as a reminder that, while smuggling requires crossing of an international border, trafficking can occur within national borders. Furthermore, it should encourage the development of strategies in which other actors – such as humanitarian practitioners working in internal displacement contexts – can support and complement states’ anti-trafficking efforts. Very few humanitarian activities or development programmes are labeled as “anti-trafficking”, even though they have the potential to positively impact people at risk of trafficking, or those who have been trafficked. As set out above, international cooperation is essential. Yet, complementary efforts focusing on internal trafficking are also needed to address protection gaps.
- The dataset includes a substantial number of submissions relating to the exploitation of children. This indicates that minors make up most detected cases of victims of trafficking and abuse in the region. However, it is not necessarily a reflection of the scale of the exploitation of different vulnerable population groups as many of the organisations involved work with children specifically. A focus on children is common –influenced by both the interest of organizations and funding priorities. This data likely highlights an existing distortion within the sector and can guide intentional efforts to counter-balance or, at least, not further reinforce this bias.
- According to the data submitted by the contributing organizations, by far the biggest risk factor for exploitation is economic stress and poverty. The dataset did



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not reflect the commonly mentioned low levels of education as a risk factor within the anti-trafficking discourse. A lack of formal education is a structural factor contributing to unemployment and, potentially, to the understanding of risk. However, the data indicates that it is primarily economic plight that contributes most to peoples' desperation and the resulting exploitation risk – and which should therefore be a major focus when considering effective prevention and protection strategies.

- Gathering comprehensive information and data to determine the prevalence of re-trafficking is very difficult. However, the data submissions indicate that there are some instances of reintegrated victims of trafficking being re-trafficked. This might indicate protection gaps with regard to sustainable solutions for victims of human trafficking (VoTs), such as lack of access to effective rehabilitation care, as well as lack of long-term reintegration support. This
- Employment opportunities are the most common reason for migration, and it is noteworthy that in most cases migrants traveled in the pursuit of potential work opportunities rather than concrete job offers. In most cases, migrants were recruited through friends or at social events, or through family or at family events, with the recruiter themselves believing the false promises of the facilitator/trafficker. Notably, recruitment through a broker was only mentioned in two submissions. More research is needed to understand the factors that determine who becomes a perpetrator and who becomes a victim. However, what makes people vulnerable to becoming victims – economic stress and poverty – might also make them more prone to becoming traffickers. Generally, investing in better socio-economic opportunities for at-risk communities could reduce vulnerability for both victims and perpetrators.
- Information on payments made was, apparently, not commonly recorded in case files. However, such insights are important for gaining greater understanding of the financial situation of migrants and how debt may contribute to their vulnerability and potential inability to leave exploitative situations. Further research is needed on this topic.
- A number of submissions were made for boys (minors) working as domestic staff. While this means that the services of some CSOs are very specific, it also points to a particular area of exploitation, on which more attention and further interventions could be focused in the future.
- Physical abuse is the most common form of abuse mentioned among the referenced cases, followed by psychological abuse. This may again highlight the difficulty of identifying what it means to be exploited and trafficked: Likely, those cases considered more severe (i.e. of physical abuse) are more easily detected while other “less severe” cases, such as deception, are identified less often due to a lack of self-identification and the complexities of understanding and documenting coercion. More investment in training for frontline workers could help to mitigate



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the inconsistent application of indicators of exploitation and support improved victim identification.

- As part of this data collection, 30 high-risk routes were identified where clients have told organizations of another migrant dying or disappearing during their journey.

## Introduction

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The countries of the Horn of Africa region are characterized by high migration activity, with migrants, asylum seekers and refugees traveling both within and outside the area. Most migrants travel irregularly and are at great risk of abuse and exploitation – both during their migration journey and at their destinations.

Civil society plays a key role in protecting and upholding the rights of these vulnerable migrants, ensuring safe migration, and countering human trafficking. Civil society organizations (CSOs) also call on the region's governments to improve relevant policies and legislation in order to more effectively prevent the exploitation of at-risk populations and ensure adequate implementation of protection interventions. However, CSOs in the region face a myriad of challenges in the course of their work, including lack of access to relevant information and data that could support them in meeting the needs of the communities they serve, and allow them to be more effective actors for change. While CSOs are experts in the realities on the ground, there are few mechanisms they can use to share and analyze this information in a way that could allow for strategic decision-making and the strengthening of advocacy efforts.

The Better Migration Management Programme supports civil society organizations (CSOs) working with vulnerable migrants and countering human trafficking in Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda. Since 2017, more than 60 CSOs have come together as an informal Regional CSO Network to promote safe and fair migration. Supported through BMM, the network came together to initiate this first regional routes mapping, covering routes of vulnerable migrants and victims of trafficking for the period 2021. The objective of the Better Migration Management (BMM) II Programme is to support national authorities and institutions to facilitate safe, orderly and regular migration and to effectively address and reduce trafficking in human beings. The Programme is commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and co-financed by the European Union (EUTF).

Freedom Collaborative is committed to enhancing the ability of CSOs to effectively implement activities and initiatives while building a collective understanding of human trafficking and exploitation globally. By providing frontline partners with accessible



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data collection and analysis tools, Freedom Collaborative brings together data sets on exploitation activity, contextual factors, and the existing response landscape.

Together, Freedom Collaborative and BMM have worked with Kenyan and Somali CSOs since 2019, to collect and share comprehensive data on national level human trafficking and risky migration routes relating to their countries. This report analyzes the data of 31 CSOs from Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan and Uganda, who together contributed 519 submissions relating to cases of VoTs and/or vulnerable migrants on which they worked between January 2021 and December 2021.

The analysis not only provides an overview of the locations of origin, transit points and destinations of migrants from the region, but also insights into migration drivers and vulnerability factors as well as details on the *modi operandi* used to facilitate their journeys. It also details their exploitation experiences, including cases of abuse and missing migrants.

The following chapters break down these data insights as they relate to cross-border migration for each country and outline some internal migration patterns. The report then provides an overview of contextual factors for cases of international and internal trafficking, including demographics, risk factors, the facilitators involved and payments, and the abuse and exploitation experienced in these cases. Finally, it showcases data collected on missing migrants and the responses to this.

The commitment and support of the participating CSOs in this initiative is tremendously encouraging as it highlights a willingness to work across organizations and countries for a common goal. Together, CSOs have made a great step forward in increasing access to ground truth that can inform operational, tactical, and strategic decisions by relevant actors to strengthen the protection of vulnerable migrants across the region and beyond.

Even though the data set will never be able to show a complete picture, the available information still highlights potential trends and patterns, and increases shared knowledge on these complex issues. It will improve the collective efforts to address unsafe migration and human trafficking.

## Methodology

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To collect the data for this report, Freedom Collaborative worked closely with the participating CSOs to adapt Freedom Collaborative's Victim Journey Tracker tool for their data needs and the regional context. The CSOs provided information on specific data points that help build up a detailed understanding of the journeys and experiences of vulnerable migrants from the region, and that are most useful to support their programmatic and advocacy activities.





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For each submission, the organizations indicated the source of the information – 250 submissions relate to cases of human trafficking, and 217 submissions relate to cases of vulnerable migrants to whom the organizations provided support. In addition, 50 submissions have been made based on information from organizations' work in the field and other sources.

All the case data relates to cases that the participating CSOs worked on during 2021. As the Somali CSOs had already contributed their relevant data in the fall of 2021, Freedom Collaborative included these previous data submissions together with new case submissions relating to the last quarter of 2021.

All submissions include route location information (origin, transit, destination) as the main unit of analysis.

In addition, Freedom Collaborative collected data relating to cases of human trafficking (VoTs) and vulnerable migrants. The data collection instrument includes data points that relate to the three key elements of trafficking (act, means and purpose) plus other information that guides the understanding of the context of experiences along specific routes:

- Gender of the client
- Adult or minor client
- Nationality of the client
- Vulnerability factors
- Year that the route was taken by the client
- Recruitment channels
- One vs multiple facilitators
- Relationship to first facilitator/trafficker
- Solo travel vs group travel
- Transportation modes
- Duration of the journey
- Payment and payment methods
- Industry of exploitation (if VoT)
- Means of coercion (if VoT)
- Assistance received before CSO intervention (if vulnerable migrant)
- Any additional details or background information
- Cases of missing migrants along this route

The following chapters provide an overview of the collected data on cross-border movement as it relates to the countries in the region, as well as internal movement for those countries where CSOs submitted data, i.e. Uganda and Kenya. The information also highlights contextual trends and patterns of migration within and from the Horn of Africa.



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## How to interpret this report

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The analysis in this report is built upon the dedication of the contributing CSOs and the time they have taken to share their information with Freedom Collaborative. We applaud these organizations for participating in this data-gathering exercise, which addresses the need for more data coverage in the region and globally.

However, we want to emphasize that the dataset should not be understood as comprehensive, and wish to clarify the ways in which this report should be read and understood.

Most importantly, we want to state that all the data in this report has been submitted by CSOs working with VoTs and other vulnerable migrants and communities in East Africa and includes cases they worked on during 2021 only. While these organizations are the best source of this kind of detailed on-the-ground data, the information they have submitted cannot be viewed as an accurate representation of the overall scope of the trafficking and migration movement in the region. Because the data is based solely on CSOs' submissions, the following limitations and difficulties need to be considered when interpreting the findings in this report:

- The data is based on cases that CSOs submitted, which means that the dataset only includes cases of VoTs and vulnerable migrants who were in contact with these organizations. Victim identification is not easy and we must remember that these CSOs are neither set up nor funded in a way that is proportionate to the overall problem.. The data set, like almost all data on human trafficking, naturally includes some biases the reader should be aware of. These are based, for example, on the services the CSOs provide to their clients or the categories of vulnerable migrants for whom there is more funding available. This does not render the data less valuable, but it does require the data to be interpreted carefully.
- The number of CSOs that exist in each country varies. CSOs are not equally distributed across the region based on need but rather on structural factors such as funding and the operational feasibility of providing services in that country. In addition, the number of participating organizations from each country differed, and some contributed more data than others. Therefore, interpretation of the information should not lead to the conclusion that countries with greater amounts of data have a higher incidence of trafficking than those countries with little data, because that is not necessarily the case. That said, this effect is hedged by the fact that some CSOs in, say, destination countries, will also have information about routes in origin and transit countries. From the wider discourse, we know that exploitation and trafficking are problems across the region.



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- The information that the CSOs shared about each case varied. Each organization uses different case forms and works in resource-constrained environments, so the type of information they record and document can vary between organizations and even individual cases. Again, it is important to keep in mind that the data in this report is not complete.
- All CSOs had the chance to submit internal trafficking cases, but in many instances, substantive amounts of submissions were only made for cases that involve two countries, Kenya and Uganda. It is not the case that Kenya and Uganda have more internal trafficking than other countries, but CSOs in those countries submitted more data on internal trafficking for analysis, perhaps due to the prevalence of services they provide
- The data is a one-time snapshot and not a full trend analysis, as there is no “time-dimension” to it. Ideally, the information-gathering exercise is repeated in two years’ time to capture new trends and patterns in the organizations’ data.

These points should be kept in mind when interpreting the data. A good understanding of how this data set came into existence allows the reader to better understand the data and its uses.

## Data overview

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Together, the 31 organizations contributed 517 route submissions that relate to 34 countries. Sixteen countries of origin and 26 destination countries have been identified and 19 countries have been mentioned as transit locations.

The following were the most reported international origin and destination combinations:

- Uganda to Kenya (18 submissions)
- Somalia to Greece (15 submissions)
- Uganda to Jordan (15 submissions)
- Somalia to Libya (12 submissions)
- Somalia to Saudi Arabia (10 submissions)
- Uganda to South Sudan (9 submissions)



Map 1: All submitted cross-border routes.

The map above displays all the international routes that have been identified based on submissions by the contributing CSOs. In the respective chapters later in this report, we have also included overview maps of submissions of domestic routes in Uganda and Kenya.

## Countries of origin, transit and destination

The illustrations below provide an overview of the countries of origin, transit and destination that have been identified through the data submissions.

The 16 countries of origin included in the data set are: Burundi, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lebanon, Rwanda, Somalia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syria, Tanzania, Uganda and Yemen.



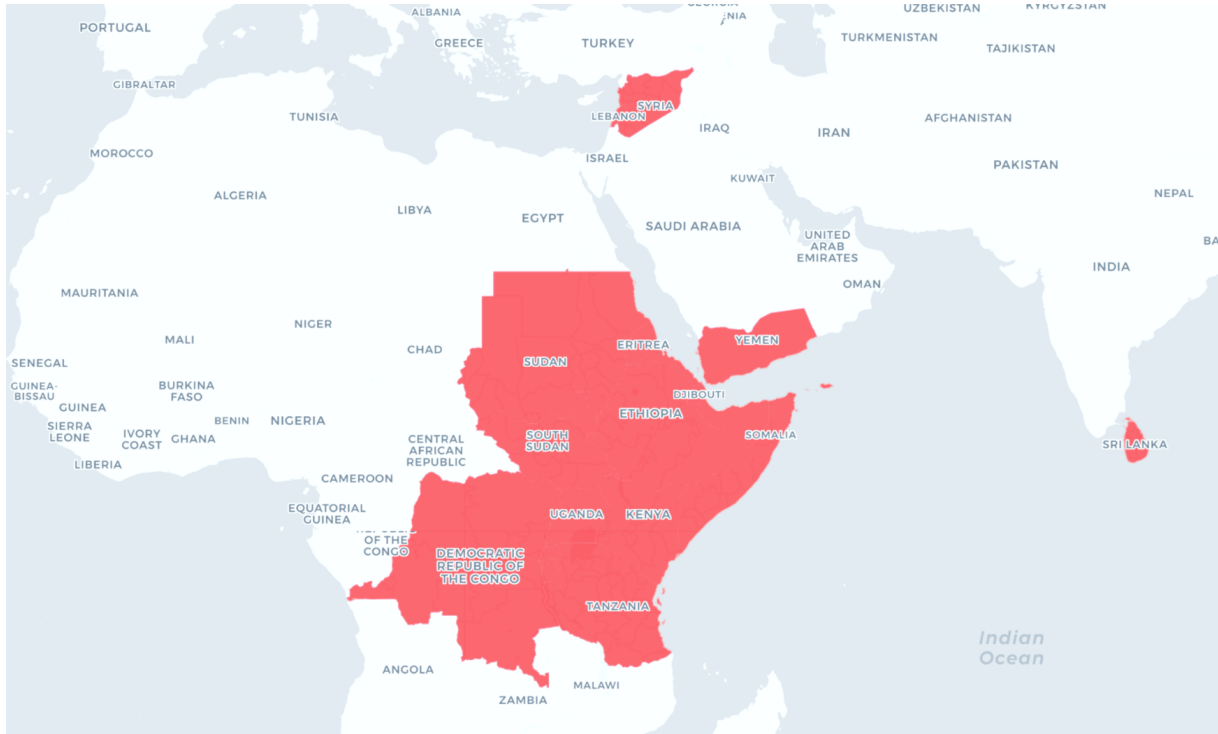
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Map 2: All countries of origin.

In addition, identified transit points located between countries of origin and migrants' final destinations refer to 19 countries. These include Afghanistan, Chad, Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia, Italy, Kenya, Lebanon, Libya, Malta, Oman, Rwanda, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen. Of these, Afghanistan and Chad have been only mentioned as transit locations, but not as locations of origin or destination.



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Map 3: All transit countries.

And 26 destination countries have been named in the route submissions by the participating organizations: Cyprus, Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Jordan, Kenya, Lebanon, Libya, Mozambique, Oman, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sudan, Switzerland, Tanzania, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen.



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Map 4: All destination countries.

## Cross-border movement per country

The submitted data shows extensive mixed migration flows within the East and Horn of Africa, as well as to destinations in Asia, Europe, the Middle East, North and South Africa, and North America.

The following sections break down the identified cross-border routes and locations of origin, transit, and destinations for all BMM focus countries:

### Djibouti

Five submissions of individual cases by five organizations mentioned Djibouti as country of origin, transit location or as final destination.

Migrants from Djibouti made their way to Saudi Arabia due to economic stress at home and in the hope of better employment opportunities.

Migrants from Dessie in Ethiopia transited through Tadjourah and Obock in Djibouti on their way to Aden, Yemen. Two other submissions referenced Djibouti as a transit



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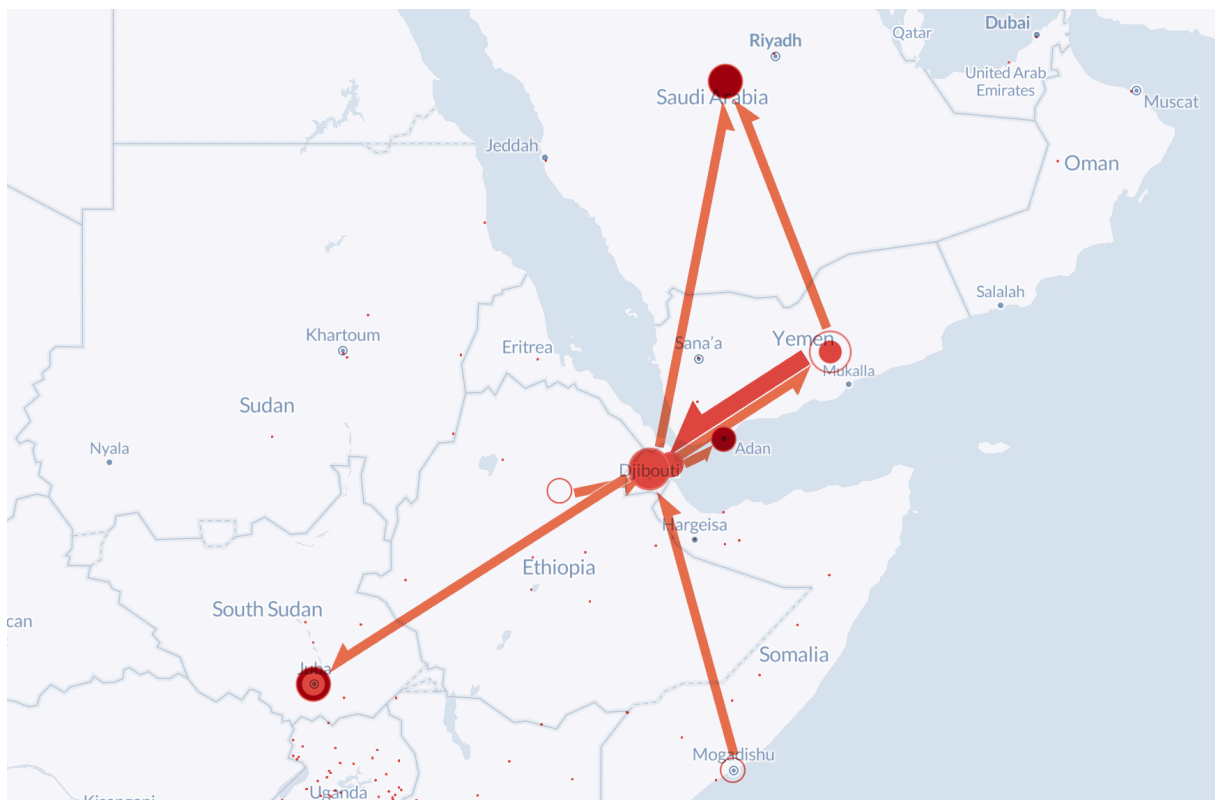
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point for Somali migrants traveling from Mogadishu to Juba in South Sudan, as well as from Yemen to Saudi Arabia.

Djibouti has also been referenced as a destination for Ethiopian migrants (via Yemen) who, in these cases, worked as domestic helpers and experienced violence and abuse by their employers.



1  
Map 5: Djibouti as a country of origin, transit and destination. The thicker arrows indicate that there have been multiple submissions for these routes between points.

## Eritrea

Two submissions were made by two different CSOs for cases involving victims of human trafficking from Eritrea who worked as domestic helpers in Nairobi, Kenya.

An adult and a minor were both recruited through family or family events and were promised better employment opportunities in Kenya, as well as the chance to migrate from there to the Middle East.

In both cases, the clients experienced false promises, deception and physical abuse.

<sup>1</sup> The red dots in this and the following maps indicate points of origin, transit and destination.





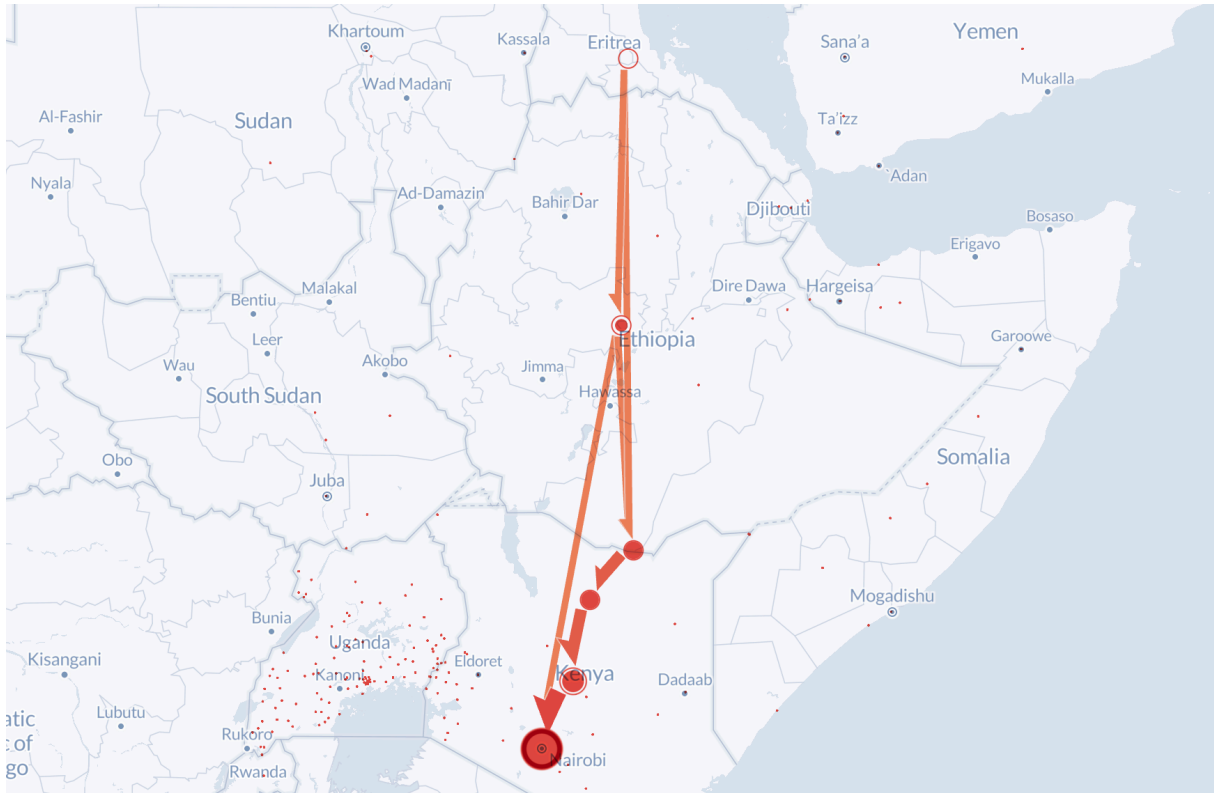
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Map 6: Eritrea as a country of origin.

## Ethiopia

Ethiopia's location, bordering with six countries, positions the country on a number of main migration routes in the region. Within this data collection, ten submissions were made that refer to Ethiopia as the country of origin, including routes with final destinations in Yemen, Djibouti, Kenya, South Sudan, and Sudan.



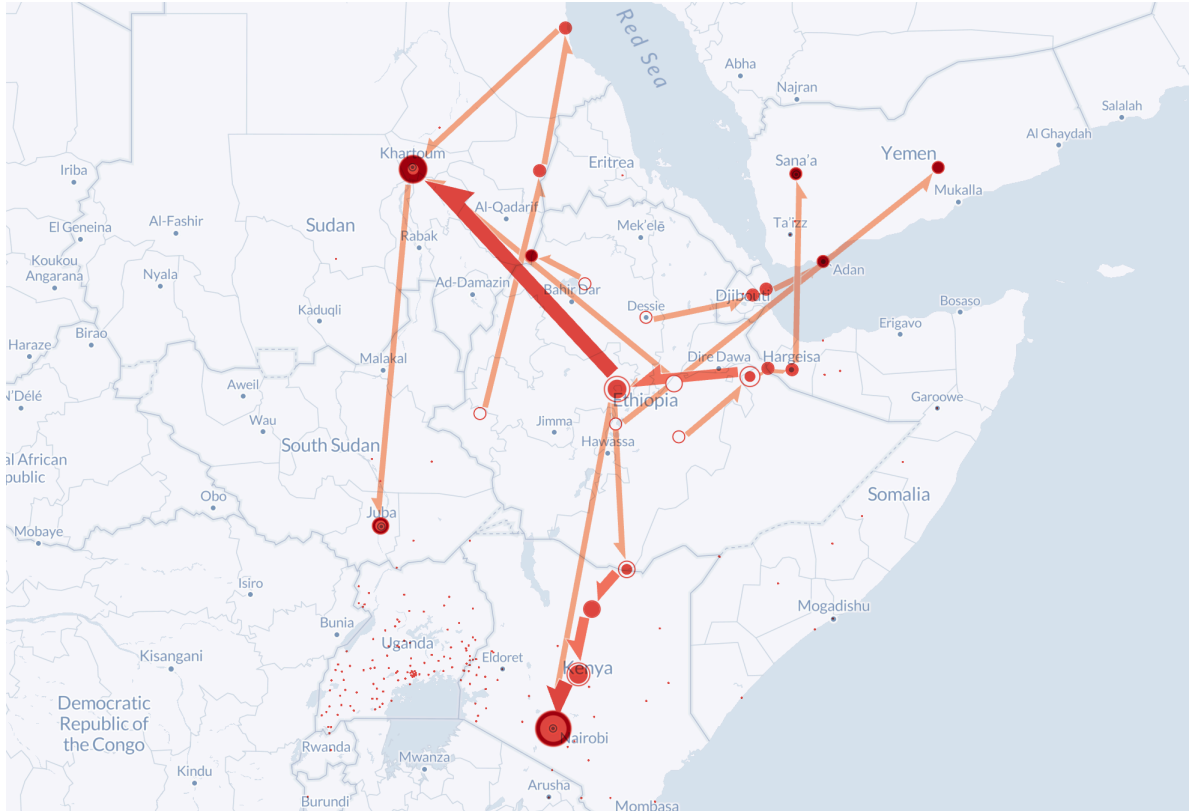
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Map 7: Ethiopia as a country of origin. The arrow pointing inwards indicates the route from Jijiga to Addis Ababa within Ethiopia.

All information relates to cases of both male (1) and female (9) and adult (6) and minor (4) Ethiopians who migrated for concrete or potential employment opportunities. The majority were recruited through friends or social events.

The Ethiopian migrants worked in a range of industries, including agriculture, domestic work, and hospitality/food services. The clients in the referred cases experienced a range of abuses, from threats to forced labour and physical and psychological abuse.

## Kenya

Kenya has been mentioned as country of origin in nine submissions that relate to Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Tanzania and Uganda as destinations for Kenyan migrants. All the submissions involve female victims of human trafficking – both adult and minors – who migrated for better employment opportunities as domestic workers in the above countries. They were recruited through family members or friends and experienced abuse at their final destination/place of employment.



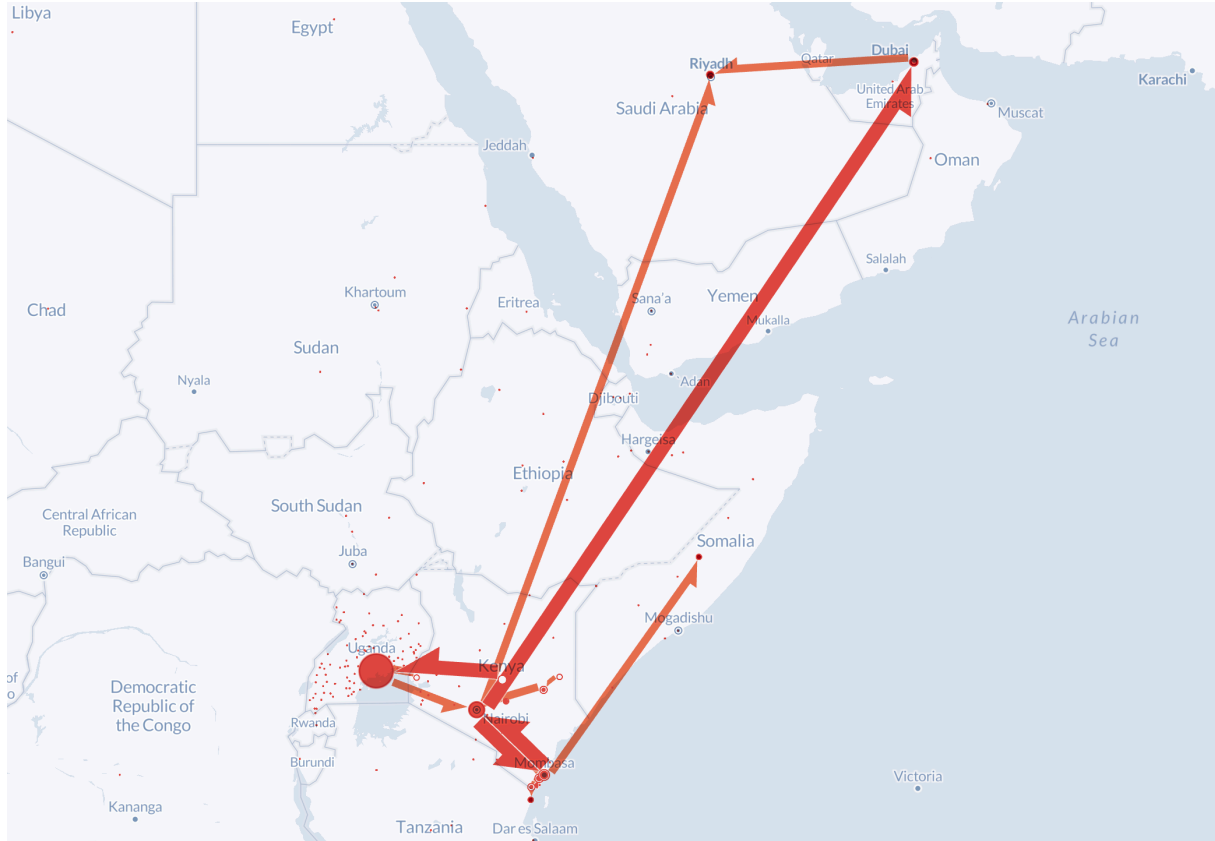
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Map 8: Kenya as country of origin.

Twelve submissions mention Kenya as a transit location. Migrants from Uganda, Tanzania and Somalia travelled through Kenya to their final destinations in Jordan, Mozambique, South Sudan, South Africa, Turkey, and the United Arab Emirates. Nairobi in particular is a transit hub for migration from East Africa to other regions.



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Map 9: Kenya as transit location.

Kenya has also been referred to as the destination for VoTs and migrants from Burundi, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Somalia, Uganda and Tanzania, in 17 submissions. These submissions included cases of human trafficking in the domestic work industry in Kenya, as well as instances of stranded and smuggled migrants who migrated for better employment opportunities. The majority of migrants experienced exploitation by their smuggler during transit and were threatened with arrest upon crossing the border.



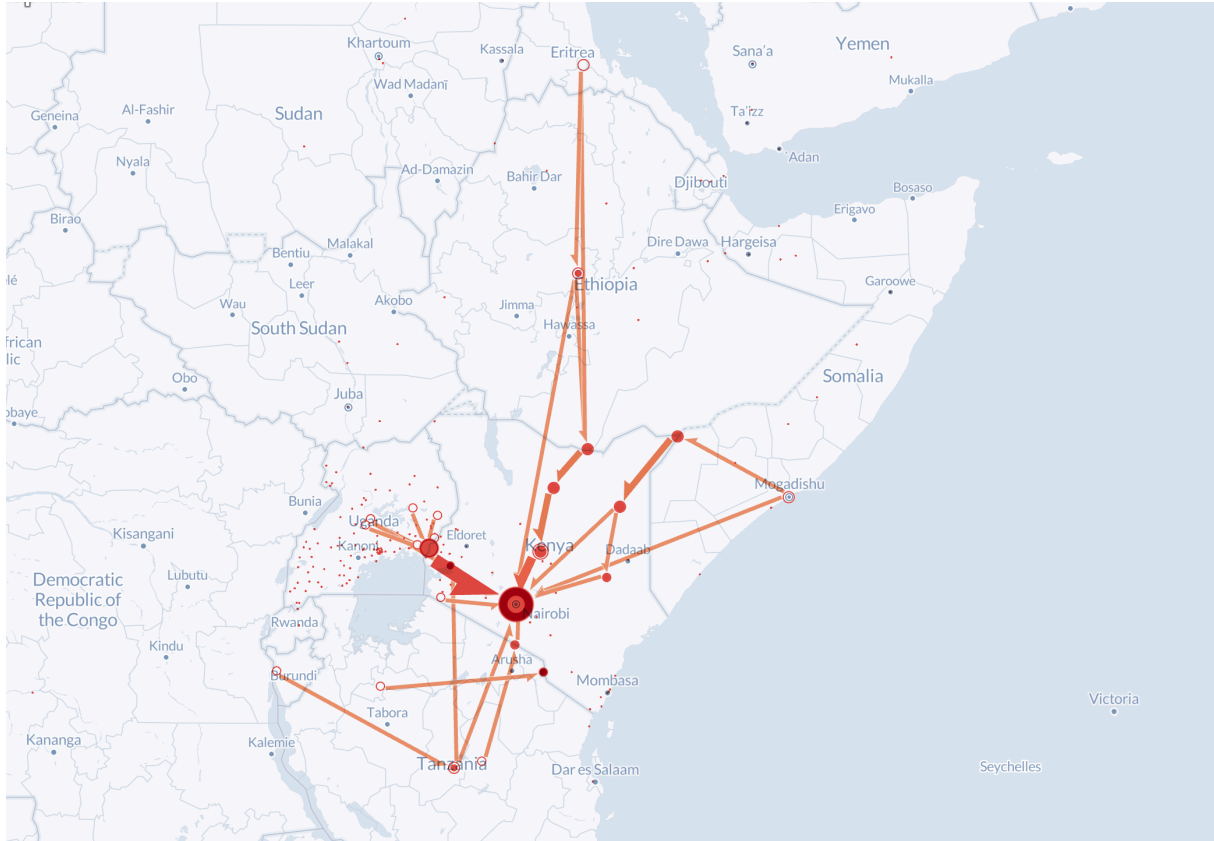
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Map 10: Kenya as a destination.

## Somalia

Forty-three submissions in the data set refer to Somalia as a country of origin for journeys to Cyprus, Egypt, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Kenya, Libya, Mozambique, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Sudan, Switzerland and Turkey.



Map 11: Somalia as a country of origin.

One submission refers to the Somali cities of Waajale and Hargeisa as transit locations for migrants from Oromia, Ethiopia, traveling to Sanaa, Yemen. The submission refers to a case of human trafficking involving a female migrant who worked in agriculture at the destination and experienced physical abuse.



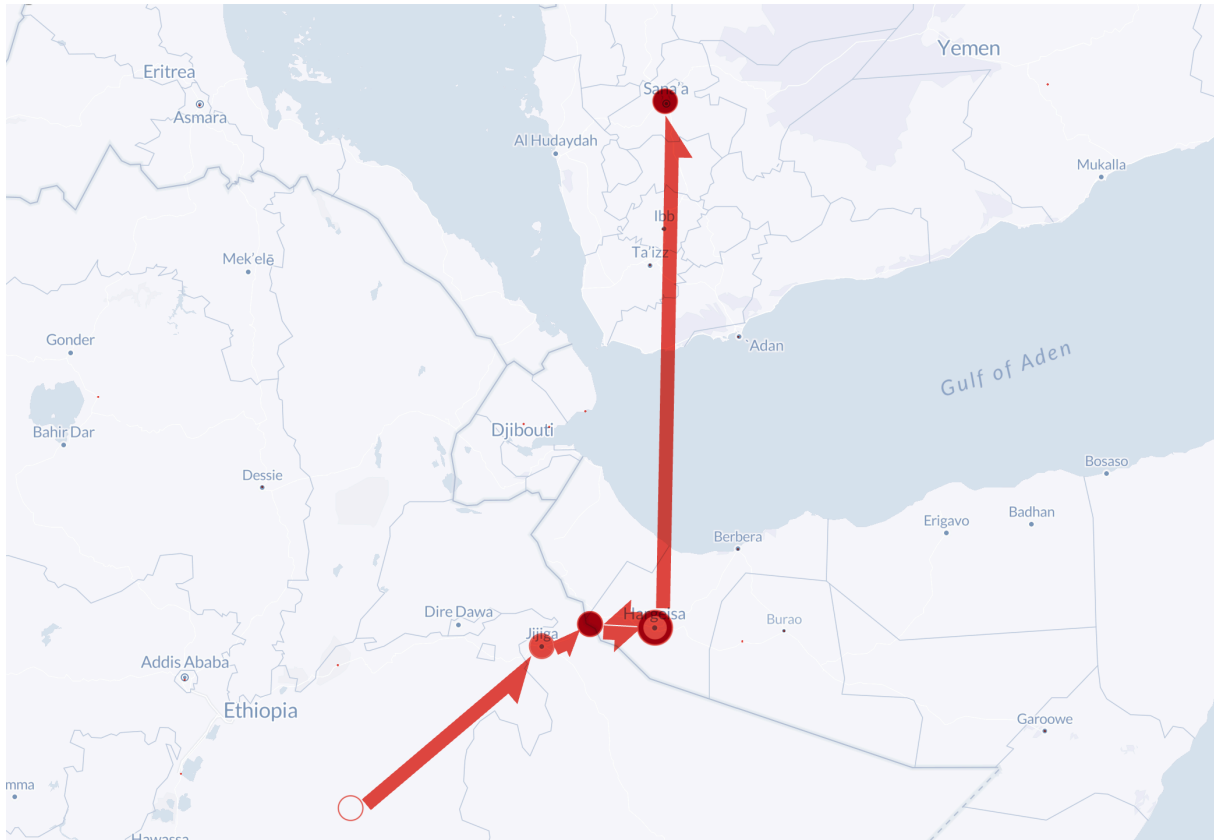
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Map 12: Somalia as a transit location.

And seven submissions reference Hargeisa as the destination for migrants from Kenya, Sri Lanka, Syria, Uganda and Yemen. In Hargeisa, the migrants worked in the sectors of agriculture, domestic work, hospitality/food service or manufacturing.



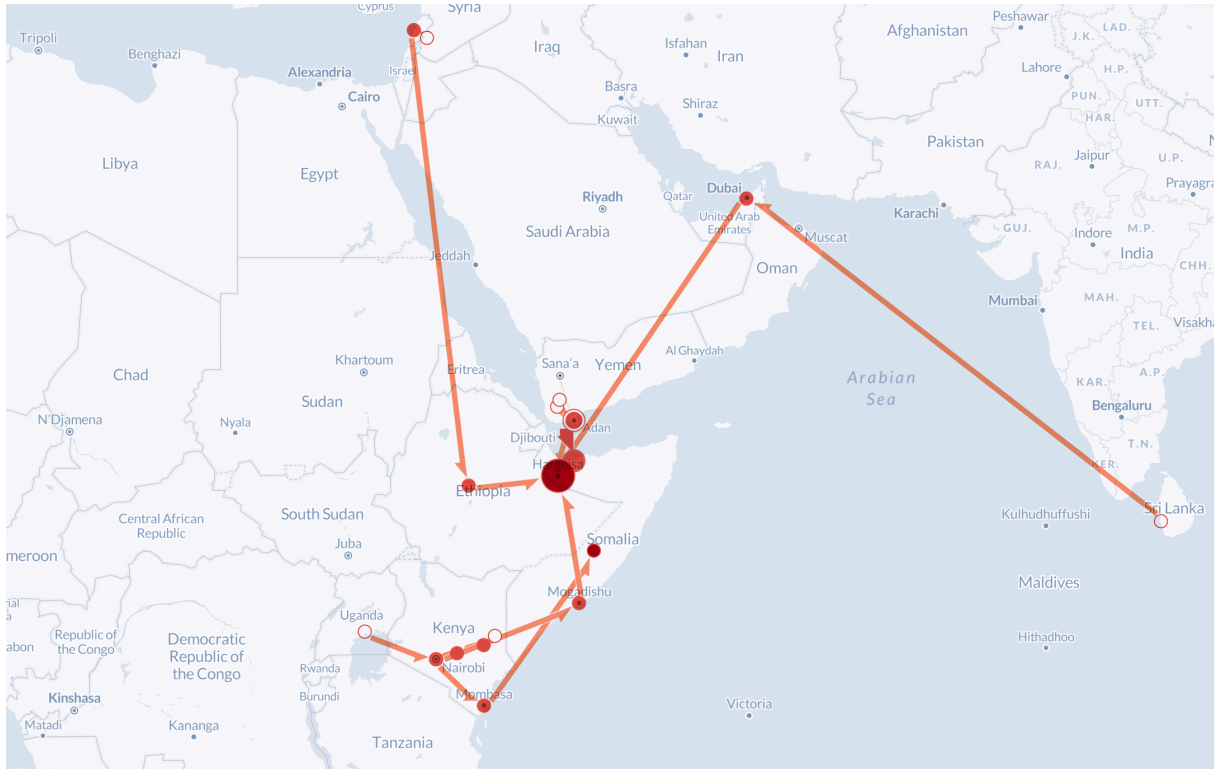
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Map 13: Somalia as a destination.

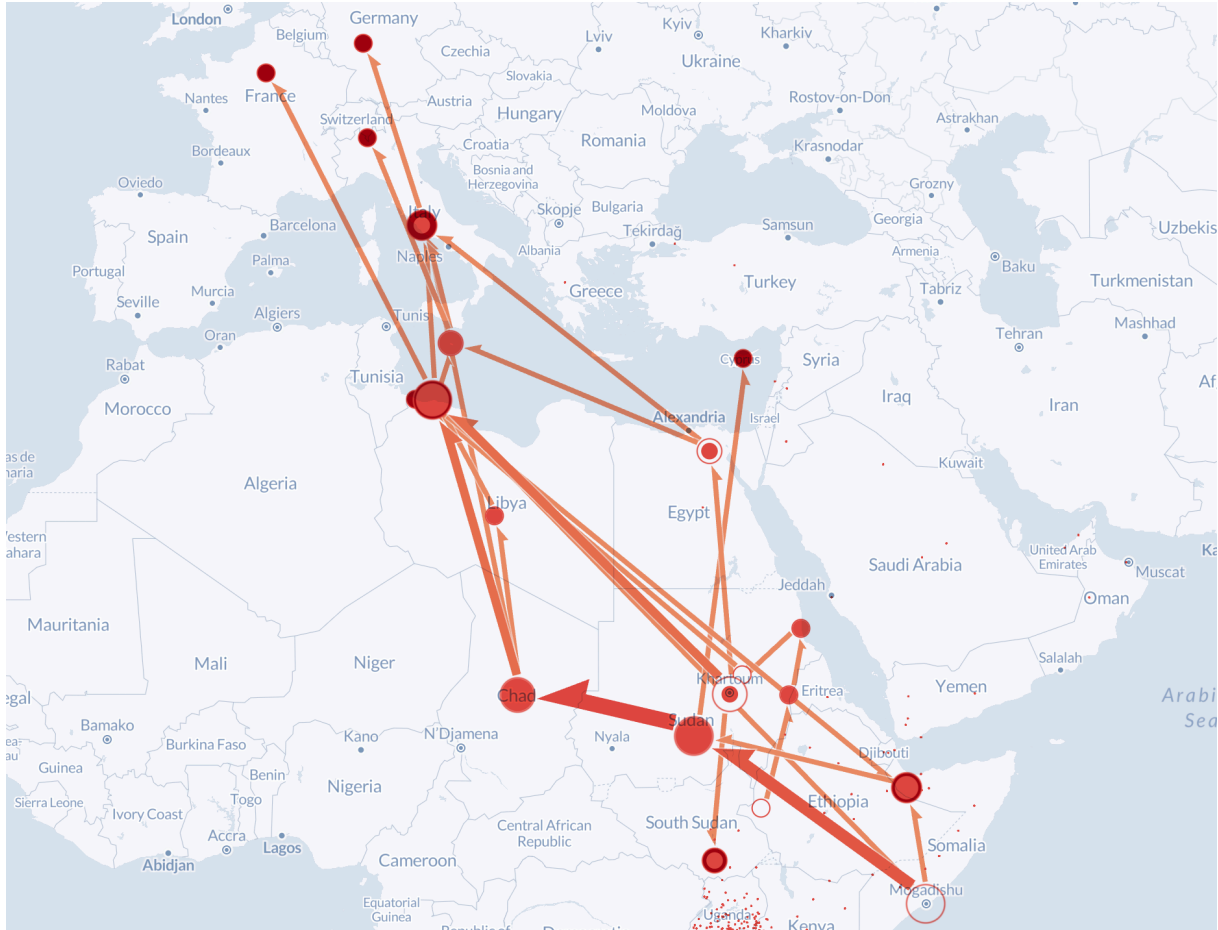
## Sudan

Two routes name Sudan as the country of origin and two as country of final destination, and ten submissions identified the country as a transit location.

Migrants from Khartoum as their place of origin traveled to places in Libya, including Tripoli and Zuwara, as their final destinations. In addition, migrants from Gambela in Ethiopia, and from Hargeisa, passed through Sudan on their way to South Sudan or – via Chad, Egypt and Libya – to their different destinations in Europe.

Sudan was also identified as the final destination in two cases of vulnerable migrants from Tabok, Ethiopia, who migrated in search for employment opportunities. In both cases, the migrants experienced physical abuse by their smuggler during the journey.





Map 14: Sudan as a country of origin, transit and destination.

## South Sudan

South Sudan has been mentioned in fourteen data submissions – six submissions relating to the country as a location of origin and eight submissions as a final destination.

In the submitted cases, minors from South Sudan fled from the war there to Kampala, Uganda, together with their family members. They were referred to the participating CSO in Uganda after being sold for marriage and experiencing sexual abuse.

South Sudan was also a destination for migrants from Uganda, as well as Ethiopia and Tanzania, who worked in the sectors of domestic work, hospitality and food service, and transportation.



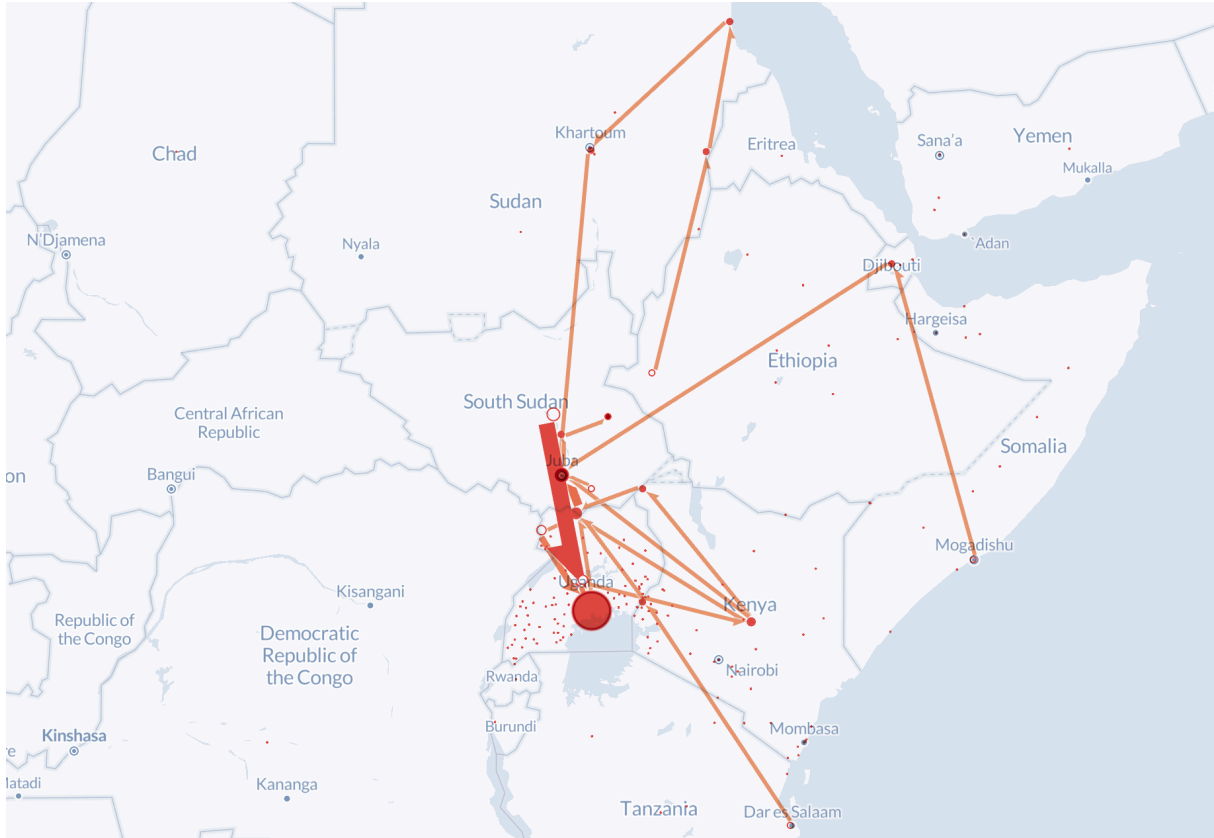
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Map 15: South Sudan as an origin and destination country.

## Uganda

Nineteen cross-border routes relate to Uganda as a country of origin for migration to Egypt, Jordan, Kenya, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Somalia and the United Arab Emirates. Economic stress, poverty and promised employment opportunities have been mentioned as the main push and pull factors for Ugandan migrants.



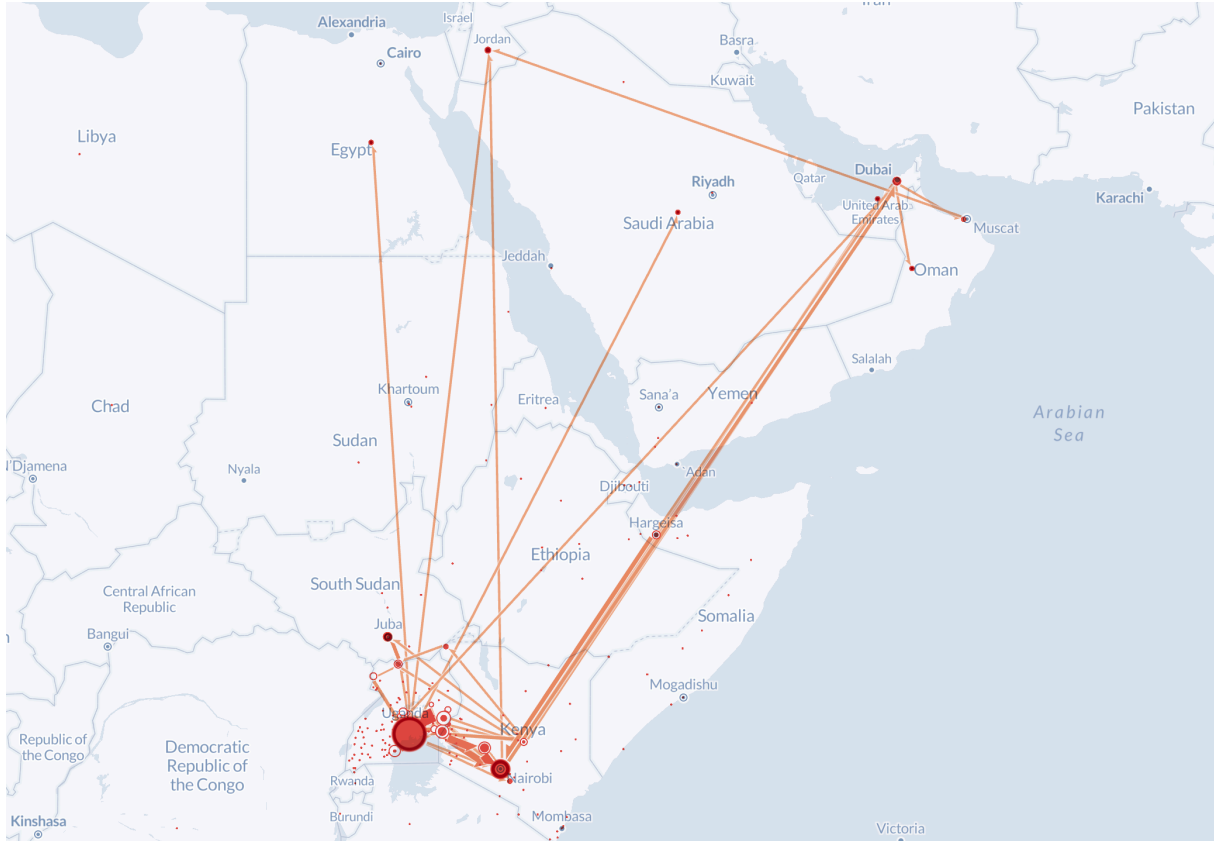
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Map 16: Uganda as a country of origin.

And fifteen submissions mentioned Uganda as a destination for migrants from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Rwanda and South Sudan. All submissions are based on cases of female minors/girls who were trafficked by family members and experienced a range of abuses during the journey and at their final destination.



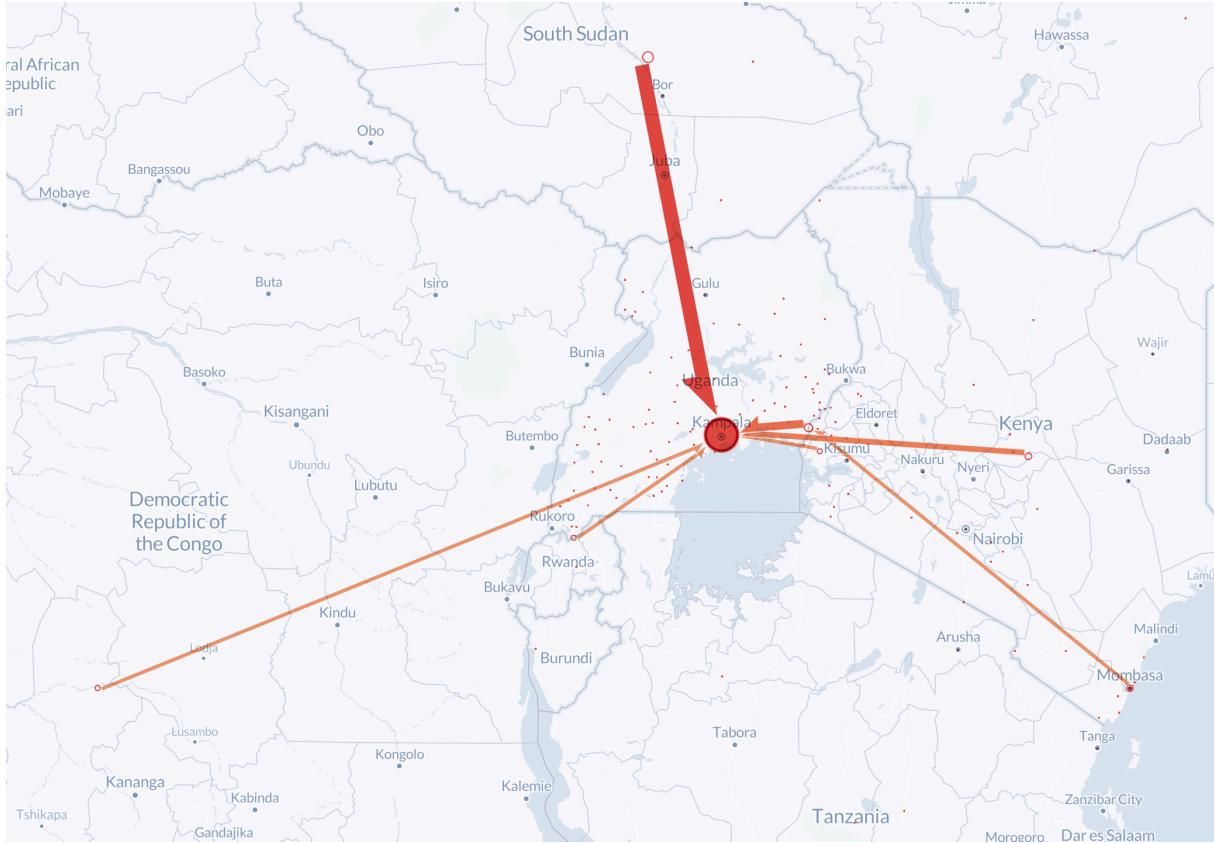
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Map 17: Uganda as a destination.

The data set shows high migration activity across borders in the region and beyond, highlighting regional dynamics and patterns.

In addition, CSOs from Kenya and Uganda submitted detailed information on internal trafficking and unsafe migration routes. The following chapter will provide an overview of these identified locations.

## Internal migration

### Kenya

The submitted data includes 37 routes used by migrants from all parts of Kenya traveling to the capital Nairobi. Locations of origin within Kenya include: Bungoma, Busembe, Busia, Cheptais, Eldoret, Isiolo, Kakamega, Kilyungi, Kitale, Kwale, Machakos, Migori, Mombasa, Msambweni, Mumias, Nairobi, Nakuru, Nambale, Nandi, Ngong, Trans-Nzoia and Wekelekha.

Busia, Nakuru and Mombasa have been identified as heavily frequented transit locations within the data set.



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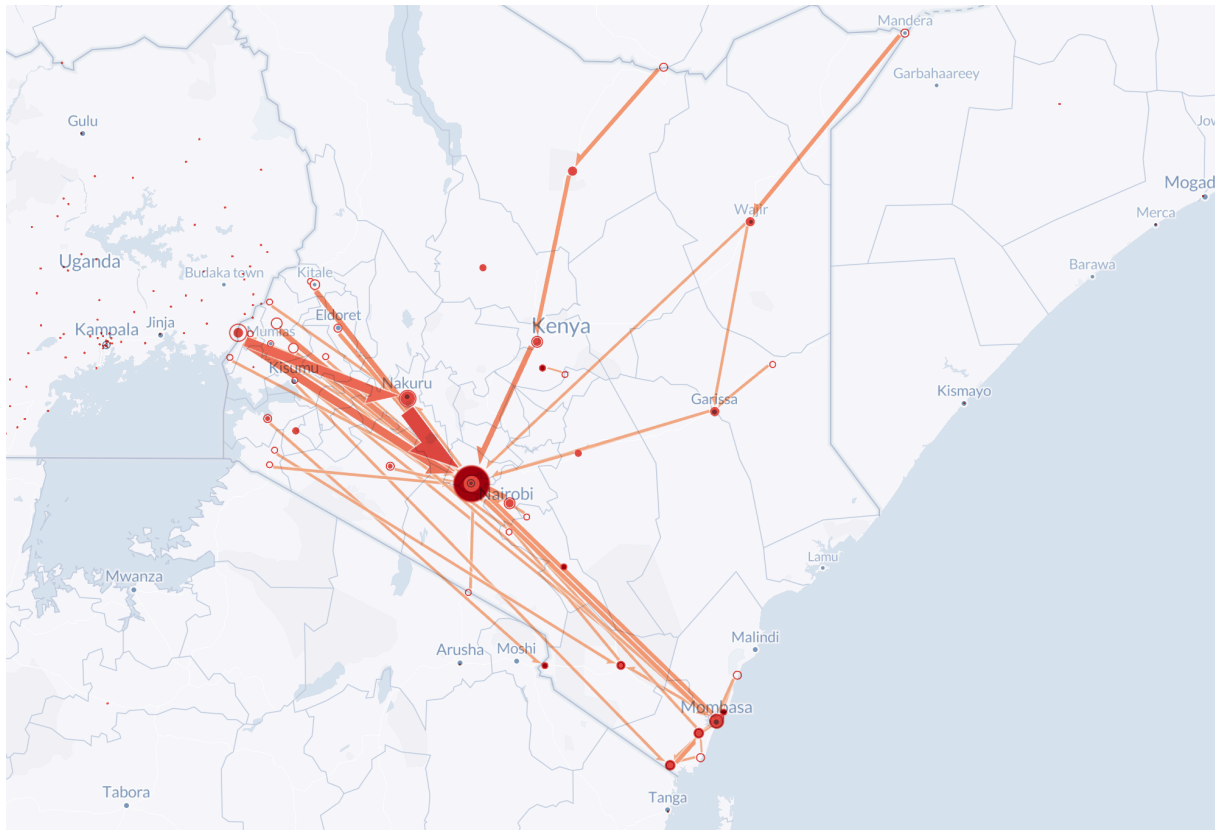
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Other mentioned routes include Arusha to Kwale, Bamburi to Mombasa, Bungoma to Makueni, Homa Bay to Taveta, Kilifi to Mombasa, Kilifi to Mtwapa, Kisumu to Lunga Lunga, Lunga Lunga to Kwale, Mombasa to Lunga Lunga, Msambweni to Lunga Lunga, Narok to Mombasa, Sare Awendo to Voi, and Tigania to Meru.



Map 18: Internal migration routes in Kenya.

The submitted information relates primarily to both adult and underaged female migrants who traveled most frequently by bus, but also by foot, car of the facilitator, or motorbike, on journeys which took one to two days in all cases. In Nairobi, they primarily found work as domestic staff, in which they experienced false promises, threats, and physical, psychological and sexual abuse.

The remaining submissions related to exploitation experienced in the agriculture and hospitality/food service sectors, and in security guard employment in other destinations within Kenya.

## Uganda

Kampala is the main destination hub for migrants from other parts of Uganda. Based on the submissions, 84 locations of origin in Uganda were mapped including: Abim, Arua, Bugiri, Buhweju, Buikwe, Bukedea, Bukomansimbi, Bulambuli, Bunyangabu,



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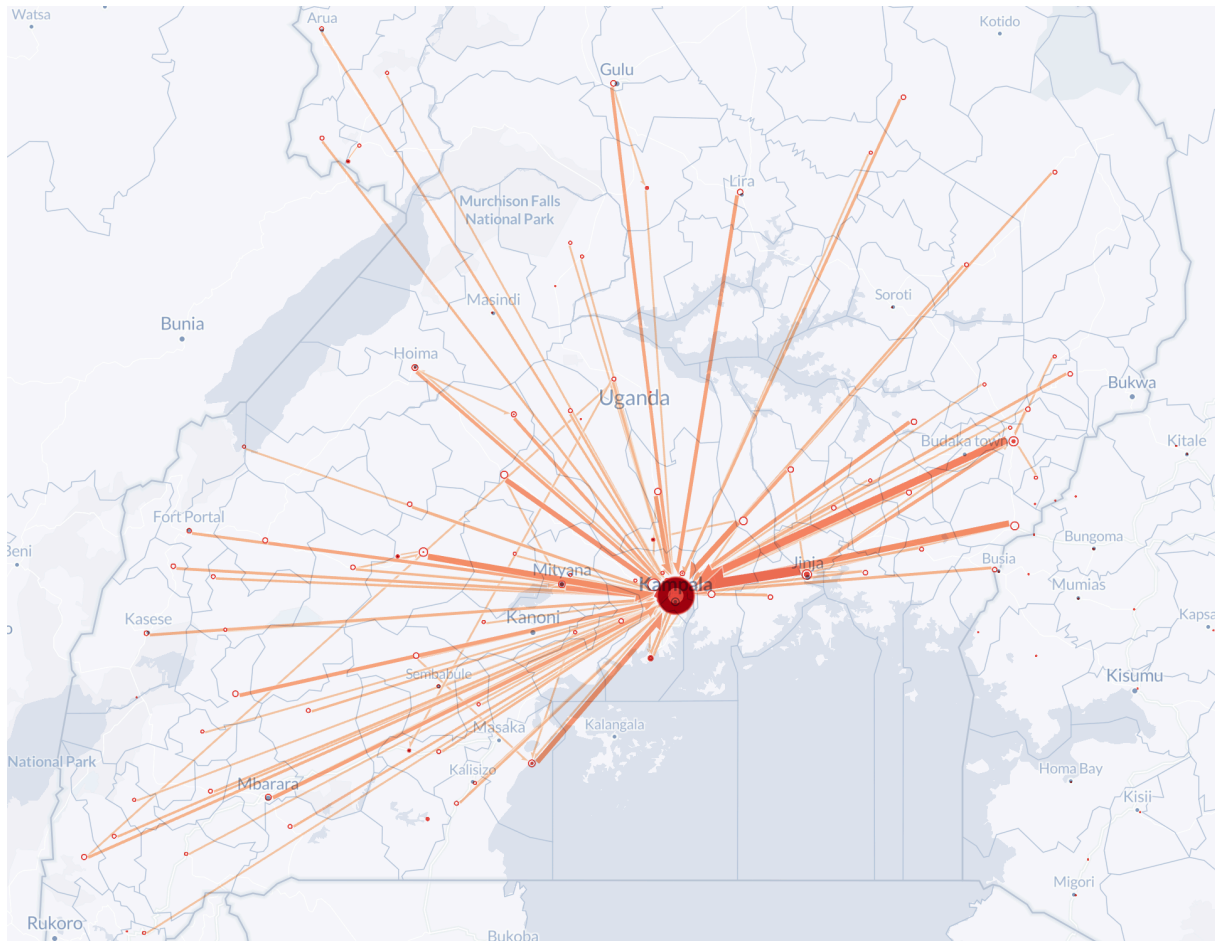
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Busia, Butambala, Buyukwe, Entebbe, Fort Portal, Gayaza, Gomba, Gulu, Hoima, Ibanda, Isingiro, Jinja, Kabale, Kakiri, Kakumiro, Kaliro, Kamuli, Kamwenge, Kanungu, Kapchorwa, Kasese, Kassanda, Katakwi, Kawanda, Kayunga, Kibale, Kiboga, Kiryandongo, Kiruhura, Kisaasi, Kyegegwa, Kyankwanzi, Kyebando, Kyenjonjo, Kyotera, Lira, Luuka, Luweero, Lwengo, Lyatonde, Madi-Okollo, Manafwa, Masaka, Matugga, Mayuge, Mbale, Mbarara, Mitooma, Mityana, Mpigi, Mubende, Mukono, Mutundwe, Nakaloke, Nakaseke, Nakawa, Namagoma, Namutumba, Napak, Nsambya, Ntoroko, Ntungamo, Otuke, Oyam, Pallisa, Rukungiri, Sembabule, Sheema, Sironko, Sembabule, Tororo, Wakiso, and Zombo.

Other internal routes include Kayunga to Entebbe, Nebbi to Jupangira Pawong, Mubende to Kasambya, Kanungu to Kilunga, Kayunga to Ndejje, Mbarara to Kyazanga, and Mubende and Kyegegwa to Mityana.



Map 19: Internal migration routes in Uganda.

The majority of the submissions did not include transit points, but Jinja is mentioned in a number of cases as a transit location for migrants on their way to Kampala. Migrants traveled within Uganda via foot, bus, their own car, lorry, motorbike or taxi, and the duration of the journeys ranged from one hour to multiple days.



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The submissions highlight the extent of child trafficking within Uganda – minors from the mentioned locations of origin were recruited by family members or friends, and in Kampala worked in the area of commercial sex, domestic work or hospitality/food service/tourism sectors. Others earned money through begging or scavenging for scrap at waste dumps and throughout the city.

One participant mentioned that sending children into towns to find work has become a “livelihood option” for most families, and that girls who return looking well fed and well-dressed act as an incentive for others to follow suit. The participant also mentioned gender-based violence (GBV) as a push factor affecting girls in particular, along with a cultural stigma attached to the education of females which makes finding employment difficult.

The children suffered a wide range of abuses from denial of food and drink, the giving of alcohol, physical, psychological and sexual abuse, and threats.

## Data insights on contextual factors

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### Demographics

Where this information has been submitted, the data relates to the cases of 185 female and 63 male VoTs. The majority of submissions relate to female VoTs in both cross-border and internal trafficking cases.



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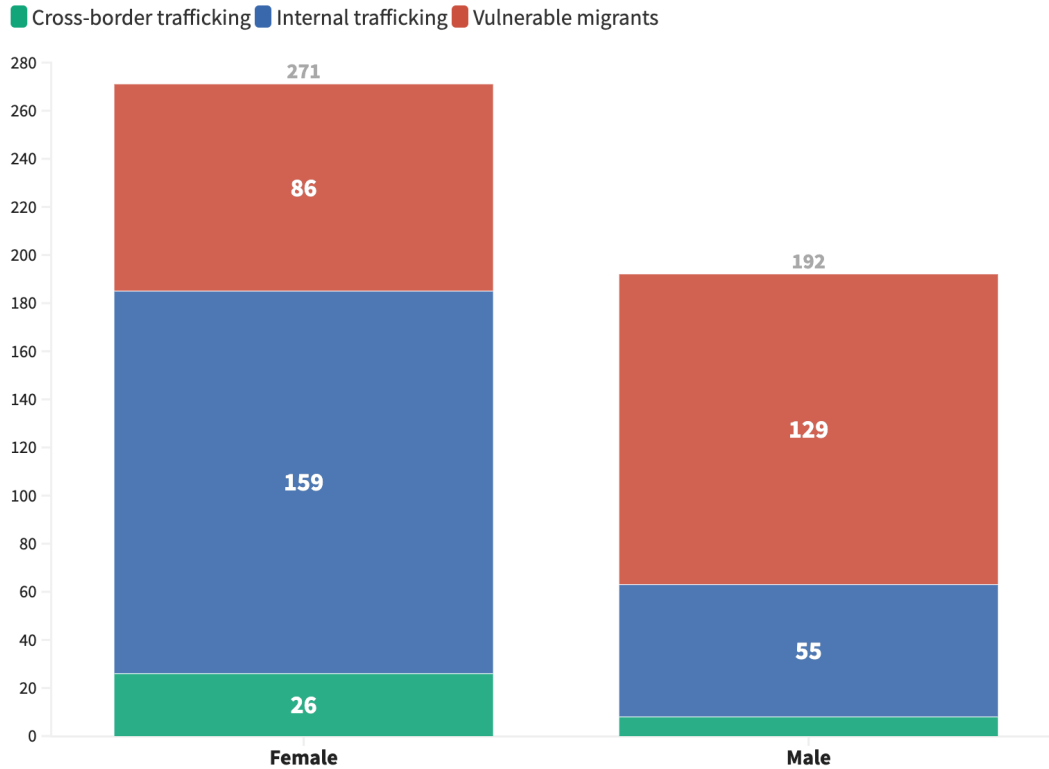


Figure 1: Demographic data – Gender of VoTs and vulnerable migrants.

In contrast, the submissions made for cases relating to vulnerable migrants referenced 129 male and 86 female migrants to whom the CSOs provided assistance.

Within the data set, 407 submissions refer to cases of minors, and 56 submissions to cases of adult VoTs. The cases of children can be grouped into 182 submissions for vulnerable child migrants, 205 cases of minors trafficked internally within their country of origin, and twenty cases of cross-border trafficking of children. Thirty-three submissions have been made relating to vulnerable adult migrants, nine for adult VoTs trafficked internally, and fourteen for cross-border trafficking cases of adults.





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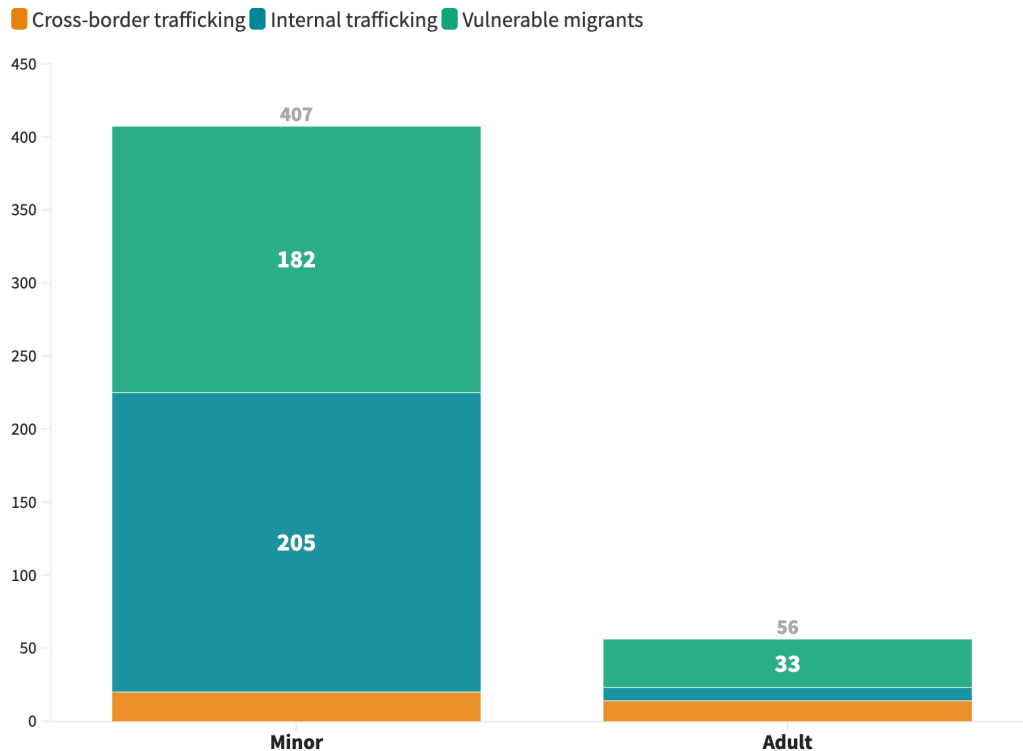


Figure 2: Demographic data - Age of VoTs and vulnerable migrants.

While the information highlights that exploitation of children is widespread across the region, these statistics should not be understood as providing an accurate reflection of prevalence of exploitation among vulnerable population groups. As the data is based on the submissions of CSOs, these demographic statistics are heavily influenced by the specific work of the participating organizations as many focus on children and women as their target populations. For these reasons, it is unwise to conclude that CSOs are interacting with or providing services to a representative set of trafficking victims and at-risk populations. Their data is still informative but should not be seen as an accurate representation of the scope of exploitation per demographic group.

## Vulnerability factors

Although anyone can fall victim to human trafficking and other types of exploitation of migrants, several vulnerability factors often overlap with each other and thus contribute to the vulnerability of migrants from the region.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup> See the IOM Handbook on Protection and Assistance for Migrants Vulnerable to Violence, Exploitation and Abuse, and its chapter on The Determinants of Migrant Vulnerability, for a deeper discussion of vulnerability factors. This analysis is based on data received for this study and while it does not correspond to the DoMV model in terms of structures, many of the factors (individual, household, community) are reflected in the CSOs' answers.



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According to the data submitted by the contributing organizations, by far the biggest vulnerability factor is economic stress and poverty. When people are struggling to pay for food or rent, school or healthcare, they become desperate for solutions. Combined with other, often structural factors that prevent them from earning money in their home provinces, this makes them susceptible to fraudulent job offers and false promises.

Abuse at home has been identified as the second most common vulnerability factor, in particular in cases of vulnerable migrants.

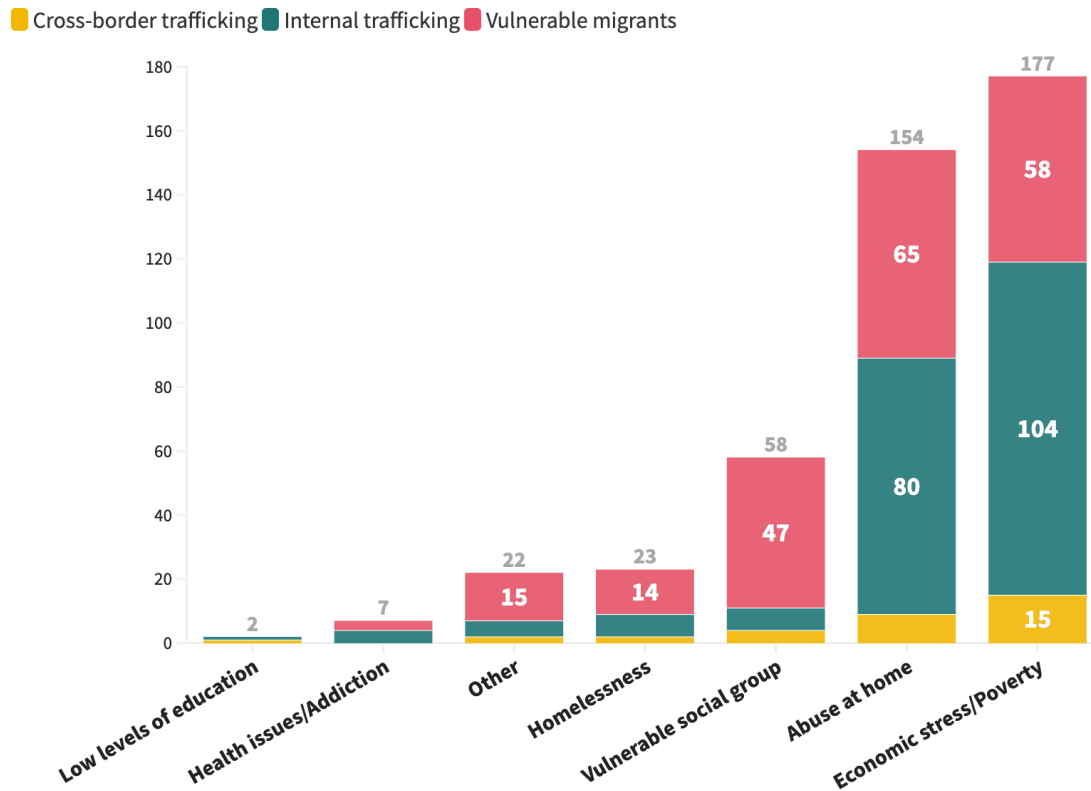


Figure 3: Vulnerability factors.

Other, but less common, vulnerability factors include being from a marginalized social group such as an ethnic minority. Homelessness, health issues and addiction, low levels of education, and refugee/asylum situations were mentioned less frequently.

The CSOs indicate multiple vulnerability factors but it is interesting to see that only a small number of submissions reference low levels of education, as lack of formal education is a structural factor contributing to unemployment and, potentially, to understanding risk. An explanation for this discrepancy in the data could be that a low level of education in itself does not increase vulnerability to trafficking or



exploitation while migrating – it is primarily economic plight that contributes most to peoples’ desperation and the resulting exploitation risk.

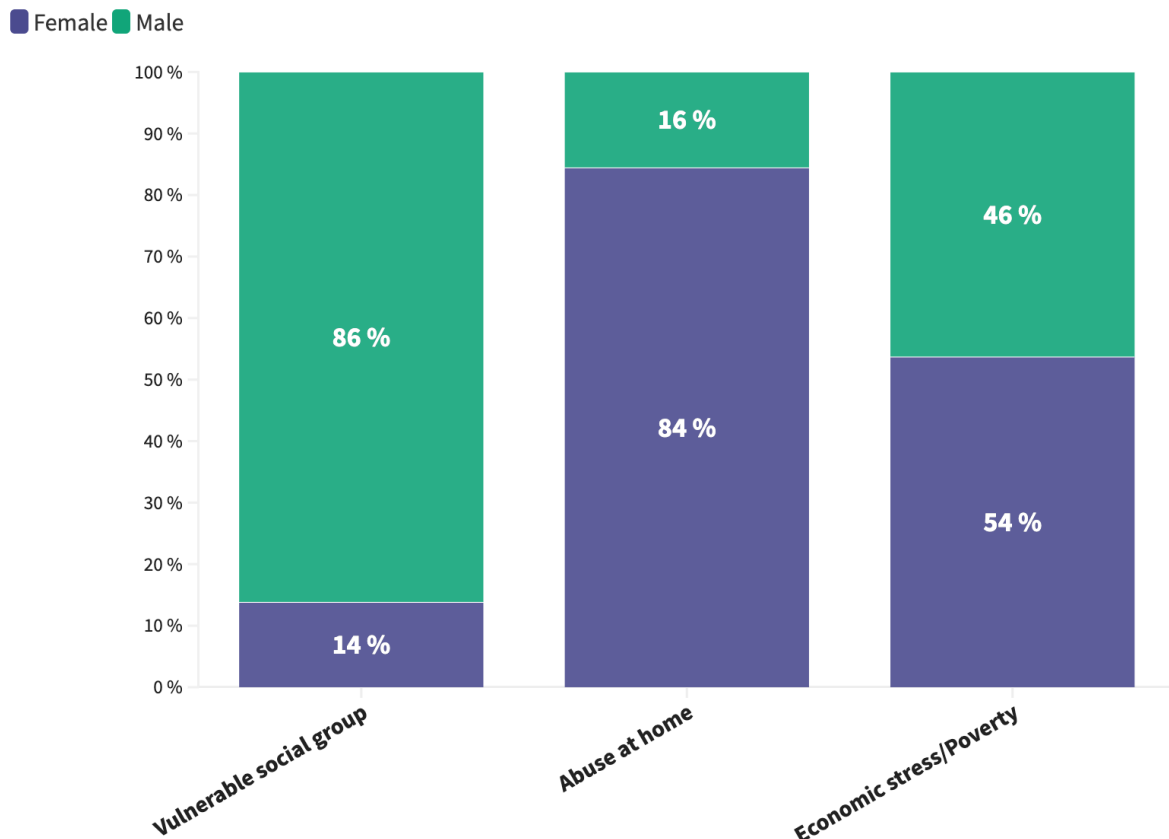


Figure 4: Main vulnerability factors by gender.

When looking at vulnerability factors across gender, it becomes clear that economic stress/poverty has been identified in a balanced number of submissions relating to male and female VoTs and migrants whereas the other two frequent vulnerability factors are heavily gendered. Abuse at home is a more prevalent vulnerability factor for females: women and girls run away from homes in which they are neglected and abused, putting them at risk of severe exploitation while they attempt to change their circumstances. A proportionately larger number of submissions have been made relating to male migrants and VoTs coming from a vulnerable social group as a vulnerability factor.

## Re-trafficking

In 23 cases, the victim of human trafficking had been re-trafficked after exiting a previous exploitative situation (250 cases of VoTs are in the data set, for the six remaining cases not reflected down below, the question was not answered). While



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we have no full information on the re-trafficked person’s first trafficking journey and any related service provision or reintegration efforts made, this might highlight protection gaps, such as lack of access to appropriate counseling and rehabilitation care, as well as lack of ongoing, long-term reintegration support.

#### Has this client been trafficked before?

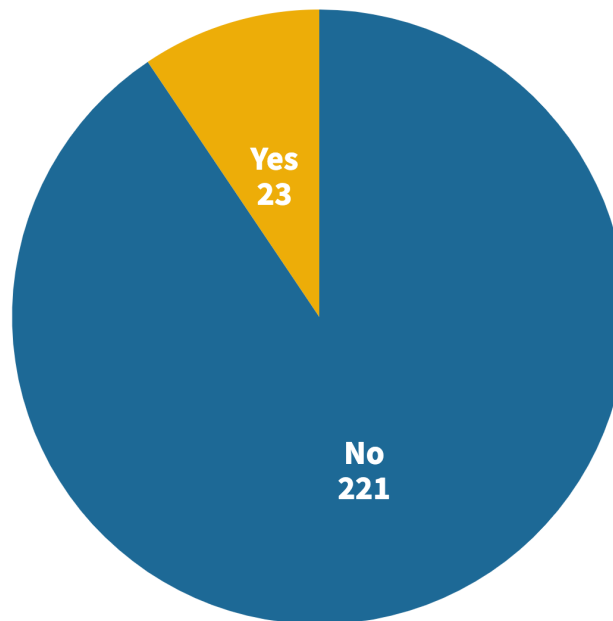


Figure 5: Cases of re-trafficking.

As no central database of records exists, gathering comprehensive information and data to determine the prevalence of re-trafficking is very difficult. Victims may be re-trafficked to another destination or for another purpose of exploitation, but for various reasons may choose not to disclose their previous experience, so any information on re-trafficking will always be partial. Yet, this insight of over 10 per cent of the trafficking cases where the status is known being re-trafficked shows that re-trafficking is a tangible phenomenon within the region.

### Reasons for the migration decision

The data set provides insights into migration decision-making, in particular the pull factors which attracted the target populations to their new destinations. Employment opportunities present the most common reason for the decision to migrate, in particular for rural to urban internal migration. It is noteworthy that in most of these cases migrants traveled in the hopes of potential work opportunities rather than for concrete job offers. For cross-border trafficking cases, slightly more submissions were made for cases where VoTs had concrete job offers.



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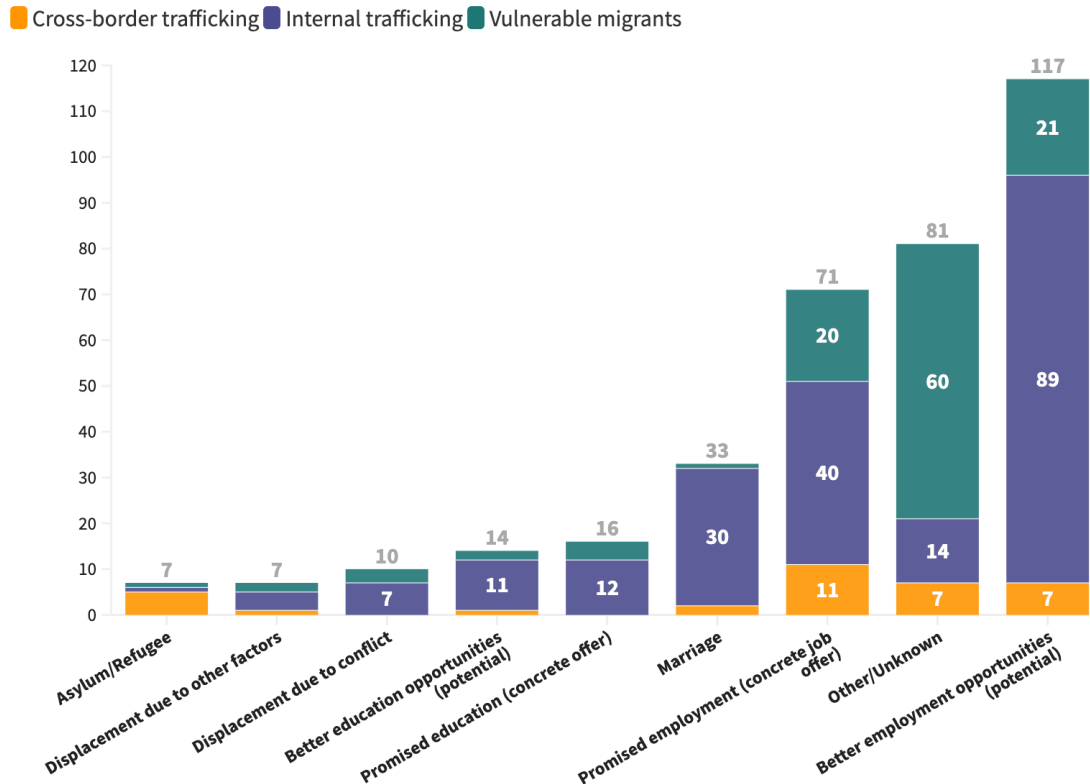


Figure 6: Reasons for the migration decision.

Other pull factors influencing the migration decision are marriage (often arranged by family members) and better concrete and potential education opportunities, as well as asylum and refuge. Displacement due to conflict and other issues are relevant push factors which leave affected populations in the region with little choice other than to migrate.

Sixty submissions relating to vulnerable migrants did not include specific information on the initial reasons for leaving their home. This may be because this information is not usually recorded by the CSOs in these cases or because it was not disclosed by the migrant.

## Recruitment

According to the details submitted by the contributing organizations, in most cases of cross-border and internal trafficking the victims were recruited through friends or at social events, or through family or at family events.

However, in most of the cases the recruiter and the facilitator/trafficker were not the same person. Migrants may be recruited by friends or family who themselves believe the false promises of the facilitator/trafficker.



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■ Cross-border trafficking ■ Internal trafficking

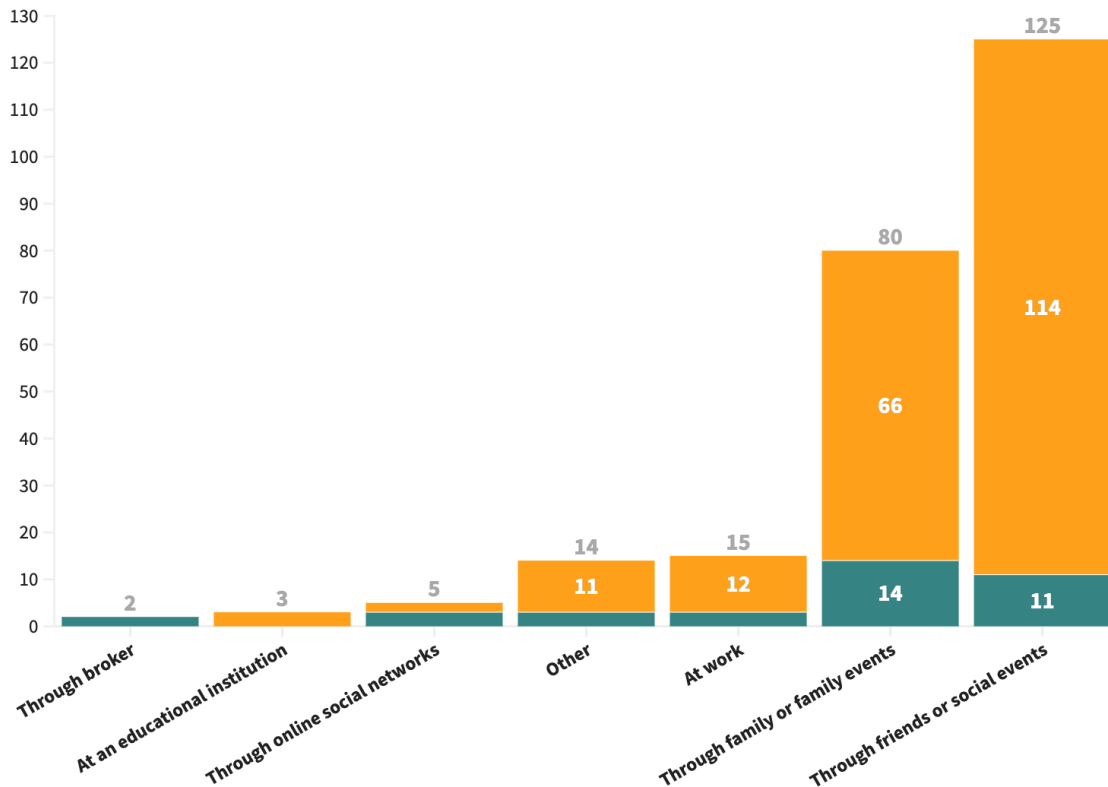


Figure 7: Channels/places of recruitment.

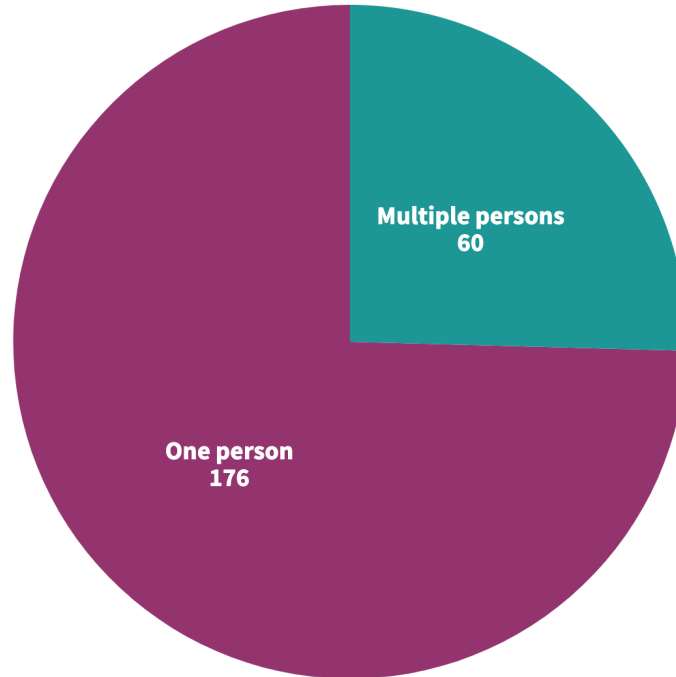
In other cases, recruitment took place through online social networks – in particular Facebook, at work, or at an educational institution. It is noteworthy that recruitment through a broker was only mentioned in two submissions.

## Profiles of facilitators and traffickers

In 176 of the submissions of cases of human trafficking that included this information, the contributing CSOs indicated that only one person facilitated the migration journey and/or trafficking. In 60 submitted cases, a system of facilitators and/or traffickers was involved. One facilitator as the more common trend held true proportionally for both cross-border and internal trafficking cases.



**Has there been one person/or multiple facilitators/traffickers involved?**



*Figure 8: Number of facilitators/traffickers*

In addition, while in 119 data submissions that included this information the (first) trafficker was not known to the client, in 79 instances the trafficker was a person the client knew and, in 24 cases, even lived in the same household as the victim. These trends primarily relate to internal trafficking cases.

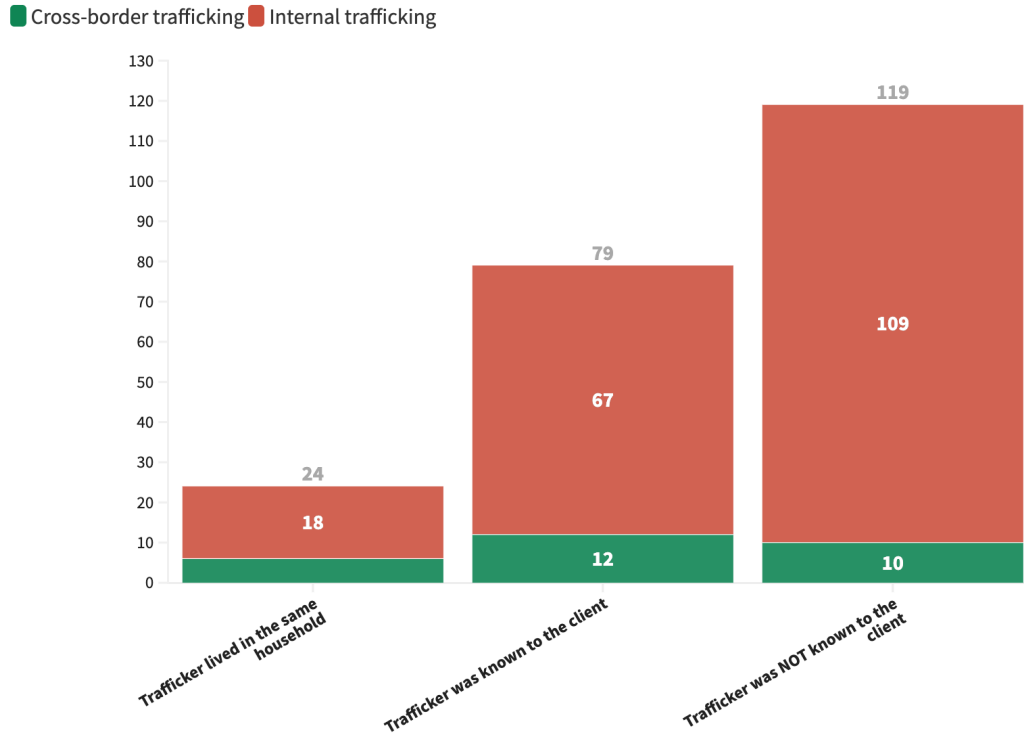


Figure 9: Relationship with the first trafficker

## Payment methods

Where migrants paid facilitator(s), 95 per cent of those payments were made in cash and only five per cent were made using a mobile/online money transfer service.





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### How was/were the facilitator(s) paid?

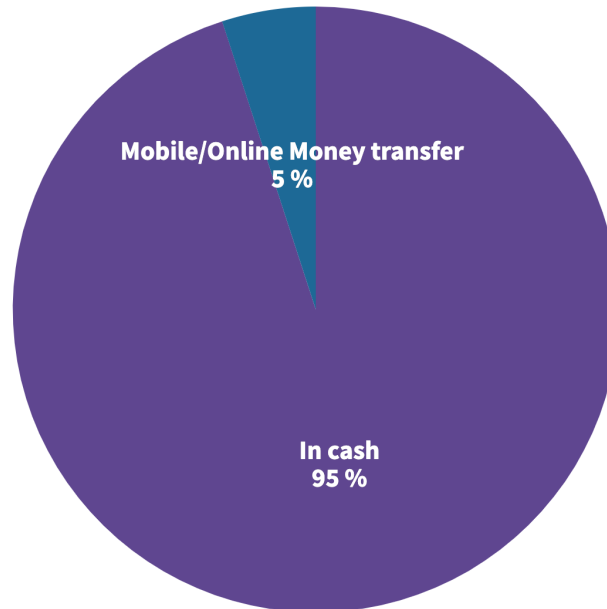


Figure 10: Payment methods.

There was little information about methods of payment within the data set. In only seventeen cases was the method of payment known. Out of these the overwhelming majority, sixteen cases, were paid in cash with only one case paid with a mobile money transfer. While this information is often not recorded in case files, such insights are important for gaining greater understanding of the financial situation of migrants and how debt may contribute to their vulnerability and potential inability to leave exploitative situations. From the limited insights gathered, it appears facilitation is first and foremost paid in cash.

## Migration journey

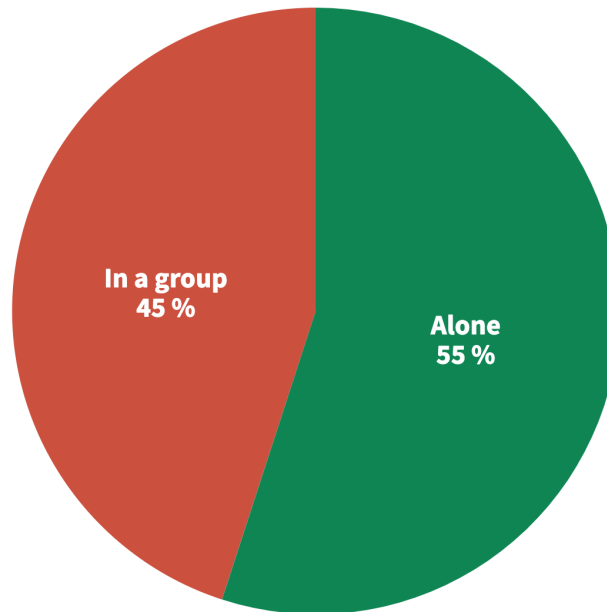
In order to understand more about the migration experiences of the clients the CSOs served, data points on the durations of the journeys were included. This included information on whether migrants traveled alone or in a group, and on the mode of transport used.

In the majority of cases, the migrants only needed a few days to reach their final destination. In only a few isolated cases did the CSOs indicate that the journey took several weeks. In these instances, the longer duration cannot be explained by the distance traveled, and no reason for the longer duration of the journey has been given.



Interestingly, 55 per cent of migrants, 252 migrants in total, traveled alone to their destinations and 45 per cent, 203 in total, traveled as part of a group.

**Did your client travel alone or in a group?**



*Figure 11: Travel alone vs. in a group*

Most migrants from the region traveled by bus/van, as well as by car – either their own or the car of the facilitator – or on foot. Motorbikes were used for shorter distances, and only few submissions relate to air or sea travel. This distribution is roughly the same for internal trafficking as well as cross-border movements. This information of bus/van being the prevalent method of transport might be useful for designing targeted prevention interventions.



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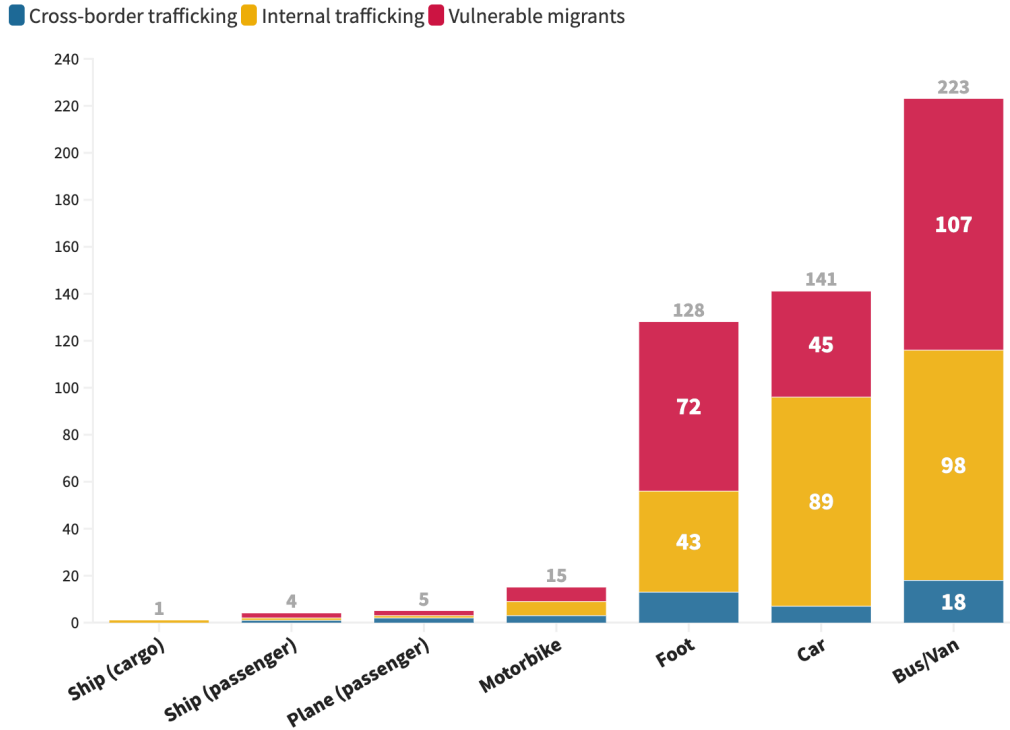


Figure 12: Methods of transport.

## Industries of concern

At their destinations, migrants from the region worked in a number of industries. By far the most submissions relate to cases of domestic work, followed by commercial sex, agriculture, hospitality/food service/tourism, and construction.

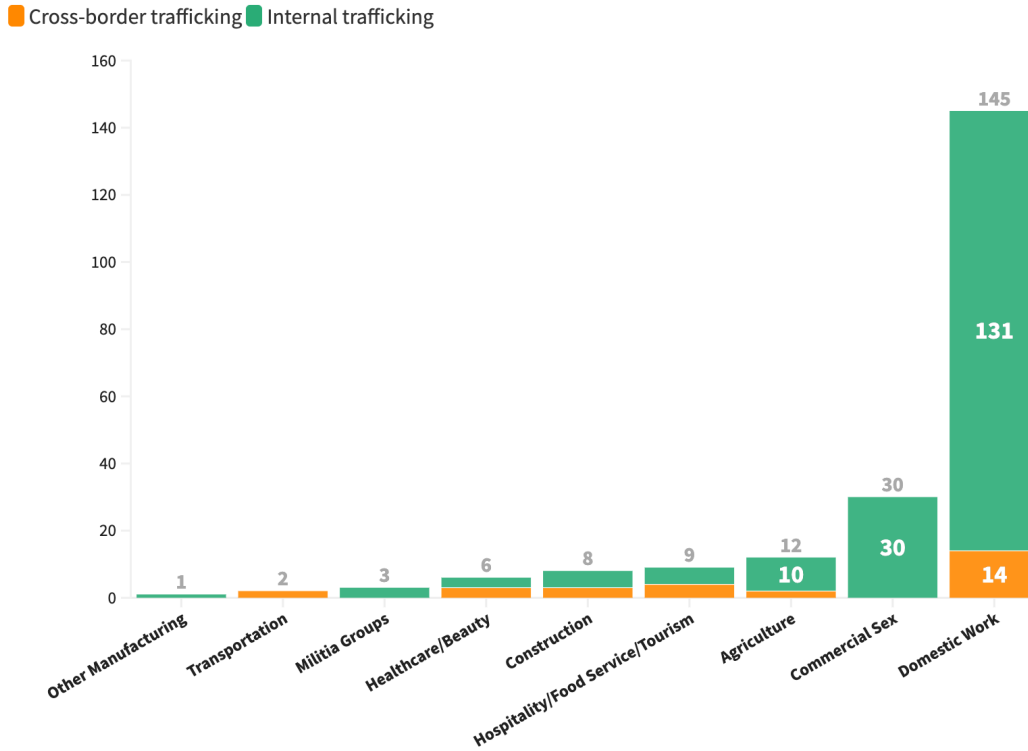


Figure 13: Industries of exploitation.

The data highlights that many of the VoTs that CSOs worked with were domestic workers. When interpreting this, it is important to keep in mind the funding structures the CSOs work with. CSOs often report that many more sources of funding are available for helping children and women than for adult men and other victims of labour trafficking, which might well contribute to the high case numbers relating to specific industries that tend to be associated more with female and child labour.



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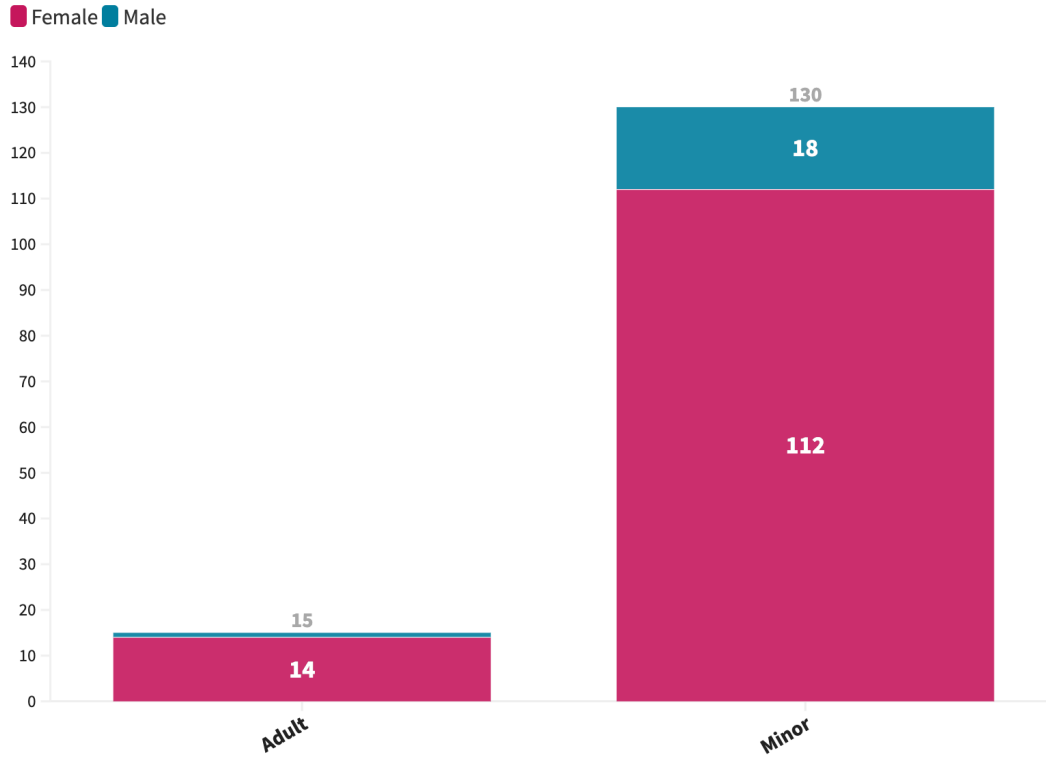


Figure 14: Cases of domestic workers by age and gender.

Looking at the submissions for cases of domestic workers more in depth, most relate to minors and include some cases of boys (minors) working as domestic staff as well.

### Types of abuse and coercion

The submitted cases highlight the wide range of abuse and coercion that migrants from the region experienced during their journeys and at their final destinations. Physical abuse is the most common among the referenced cases, followed by psychological abuse. Migrants also experienced false promises and deception, sexual abuse, denial of freedom of movement, threats to the individual or to their family, and denial of food and/or drink. Overtime and excessive work hours were only mentioned in a small number of submissions.



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■ Cross-border trafficking ■ Internal trafficking ■ Vulnerable migrants

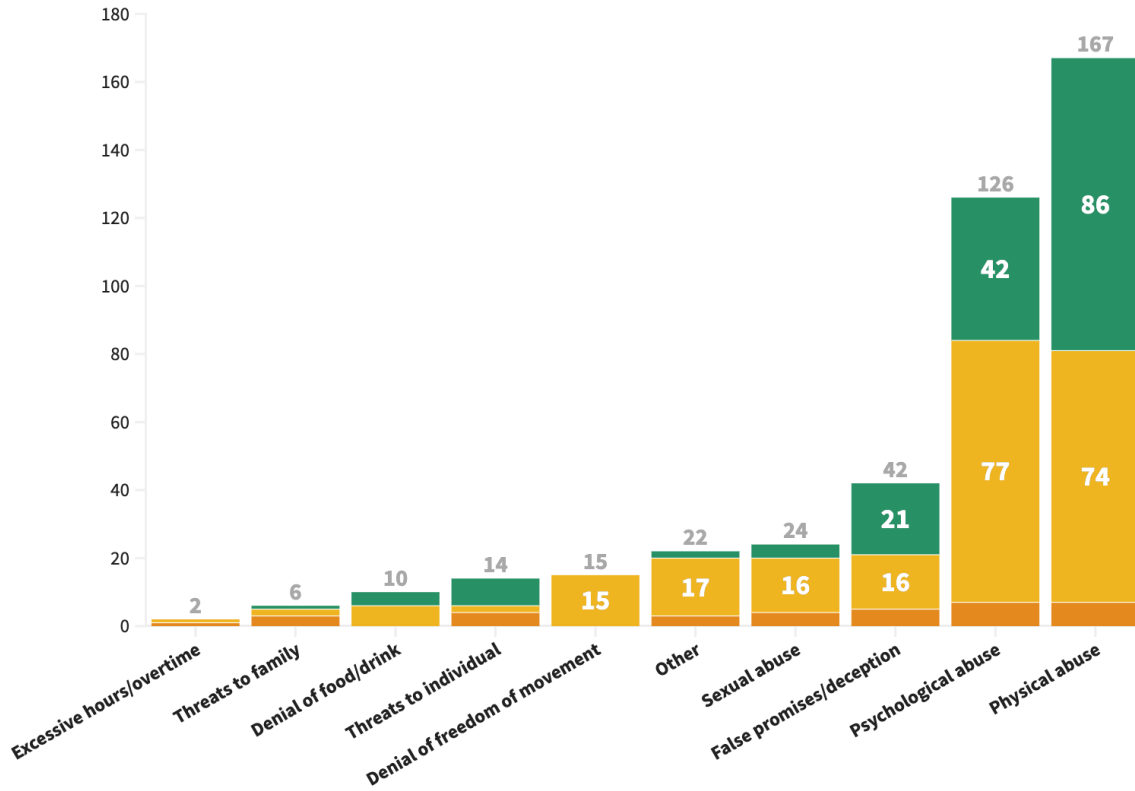


Figure 15: Types of abuse and coercion.

Looking at the types of abuse and coercion experienced by the vulnerable migrants and VoTs by age, we can see that in the referenced cases false promises and threats are more commonly experienced by adults than minors. However, denial of movement and of food and drink was only mentioned in cases of minors.



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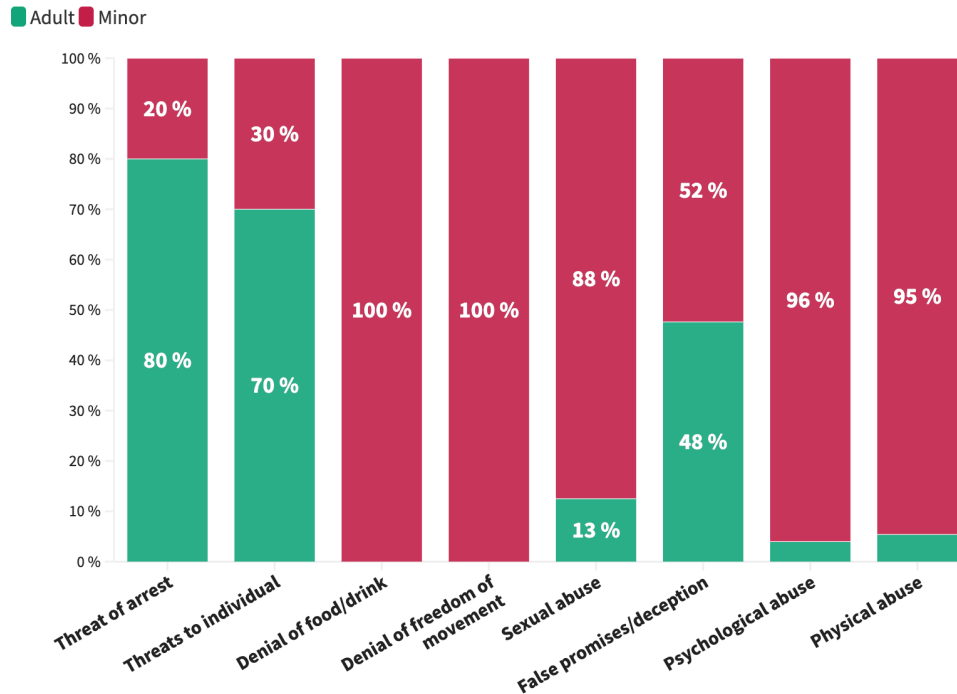


Figure 16: Types of abuse and coercion by age.

## Cases of missing migrants

This data collection also gathered information on routes of especially high risk where organizations have heard from their clients of another migrant dying or disappearing during their journey on this route.<sup>3</sup> Thirty of these high-risk routes were identified where cases of death or disappearances along these routes have been recorded:

- Mogadishu to Nairobi via Mandera and Wajir
- Asmara to Nairobi via Moyale and Marsabit and Isiolo
- Arua to Juba via Nimule
- Kampala to Juba via Nimule
- Mogadishu to Juba via Djibouti
- Addis Zemen to Metema
- Mogadishu to Garowe
- Mogadishu to Hiran
- Kilifi to Mtwapa

<sup>3</sup> The IOM Missing Migrants Project has kindly assisted with the initial consultations on the data collection for this section. To learn more about missing migrants in Africa, please visit the [IOM Missing Migrants Project website](#).



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- Msambweni to Nairobi via Kwale
- Bamburi to Mombasa
- Arusha to Kwale
- Mogadishu to Kenya
- Mogadishu to Wajale via Galkayo and Garoowe and Hargeisa
- Khartoum to Tripoli
- Dessie to Aden via Tadjourah and Obock
- Kampala to Abu Dhabi via Mbale and Nairobi
- Busia to Nairobi
- Bujumbura to Nairobi via Tanzania
- Addis Ababa to Nairobi via Moyale and Marsabi and Isiolo
- Baidoa to Mogadishu
- Kisumu to Lunga Lunga
- Msambweni to Lunga Lunga
- Mombasa to Lunga Lunga
- Eldoret to Nairobi
- Nandi to Nairobi
- Narok to Mombasa via Nairobi
- Mogadishu to Libya
- Oromia to Sanaa via Jijiga and Wajaale and Hargeisa
- Garowe to Cairo

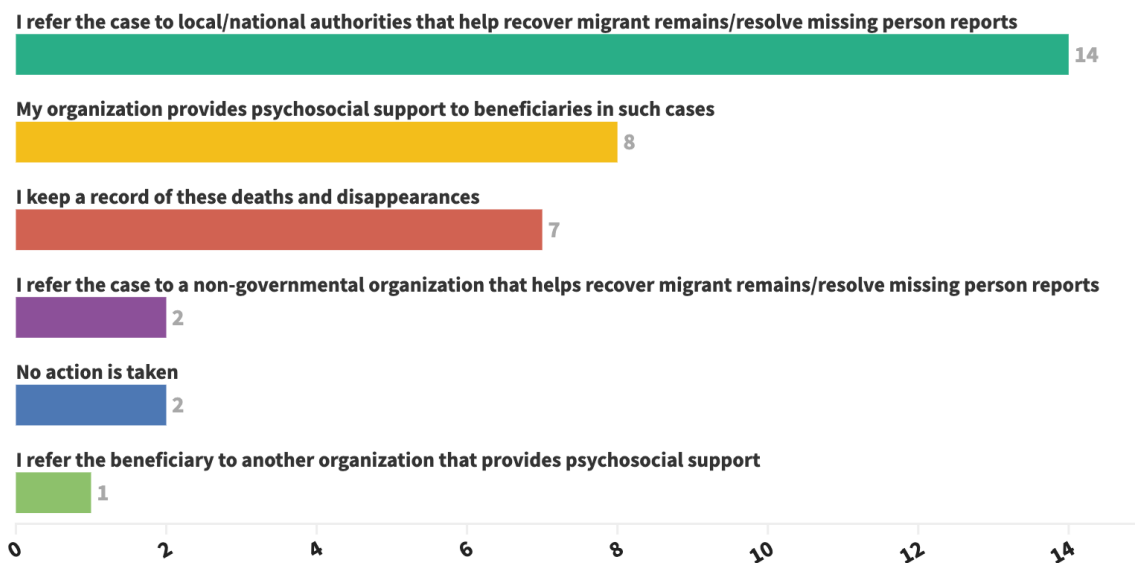


Figure 2: Information about missing migrants.





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The CSOs also were asked how they then act on the received information of disappearances or deaths. In the majority of submissions, the CSOs stated that they refer the cases to authorities that help recover migrant remains and work on missing person reports. They may also provide psycho-social support to the migrant who witnessed the disappearance / death or family members of the affected migrant.

## Conclusions and data applications

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The collected data reveals high migration activity across borders throughout the region, as well as significant amounts of internal movement. Females accounted for around three quarters of cases in which information on gender was made available, while at least four fifths were children. Poverty and abuse were the main reasons for migrant journeys to be undertaken, with the hope of better economic prospects as the major pull factor. Most of the journeys took no more than a few days, with buses, vans and cars as the most popular methods of transport. The vast majority of migrants ended up as domestic workers, with another significant proportion working in the commercial sex trade. Physical and psychological abuse were the most common forms of exploitation.

Ways in which this report could be utilized in order to inform responses to human trafficking and the exploitation of vulnerable migrants include the following:

- The CSO response is heavily focused on women and children and, while they are indeed among the most vulnerable populations, a better balance is needed to ensure that support is available to all migrants.
- Greater awareness of internal trafficking among humanitarian CSOs in general – not just those involved in the anti-trafficking sphere – could encourage the development of strategies and initiatives in which national efforts are made to intervene in trafficking cases throughout their various stages. Better understanding of push and pull factors, recruitment strategies, employment abuse and trafficking indicators could allow a greater number of practitioners to know what signs to look out for and which authority to contact for help.
- According to the data, economic hardship represents the most significant factor in the decision to migrate. This should be a major focus when considering which prevention and protection strategies would be the most effective.
- About 10 per cent of the victims of trafficking in this data set have been re-trafficked, indicating that re-trafficking is a significant challenge. Potential protection gaps, such as lack of access to adequate counseling and rehabilitation support, and a lack of long-term assistance for reintegration into the community, need to be addressed in order to reduce the risk of re-trafficking.



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- In most cases, migrants were recruited through friends or family members, many of whom were deceived about the true intentions of the facilitator/trafficker. Awareness training and education, as well as further investigation into the backgrounds and motivations of traffickers themselves, could help to break this initial link in the process.

- For both internal trafficking and cross-border movement, busses and vans were the most frequently used method of transport. This could inform outreach and prevent interventions to better target potential VoTs and vulnerable migrants at the point of transit, particularly when combining this information with the insights on high-risk routes.

- Caseworkers could be trained to ask a broader range of questions around both the migrant's journey and employment experience, in order to fill knowledge gaps, for instance about payment amounts and methods, and for improved victim identification.

As stated in the introduction, the commitment and support of the participating CSOs in this regional initiative is very encouraging. This effort not only demonstrates the power of collaboration when working across organizations and countries for a common goal, but also constitutes a great step forward in increasing access to valuable information that can inform the prevention and protection strategies of stakeholders across the region and beyond.

It is further hoped that the data can support relevant actors to:

- Identify at-risk communities and recruitment hotspots in order to better target prevention programming and protection messaging.

- Identify civil society and community-based organizations along the identified routes to provide emergency services.

- Identify destination hotspots in order to guide the development of bilateral partnerships and to foster collaboration, so that more robust protection and after-care services can be provided.

- Identify critical transit points in order to design more effective monitoring, outreach and intervention programming, and to inform the development of law enforcement/border protection and public-private partnerships (e.g. identify training needs for airport staff).

- Identify industries at higher risk of involvement with exploitative labour, in order to improve outreach and identification efforts and inform engagement with industry.



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## Further reading

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[Study on Migration Routes in the East and Horn of Africa](#), Maastricht Graduate School of Governance (2017)

[En route to Exile: Organizing Refugee journeys from the Horn of Africa towards Europe](#), Research and Evidence Facility, Working Paper Series (2018)

[On the Move in a War Zone: Mixed Migration Flows to and through Yemen](#), Migration Policy Institute (2019)

[Stakeholder Mapping in Mixed Migration Flows of Children and Youth in East and Horn of Africa](#), Save the Children (2020)

[Girls on the Move in Egypt, Ethiopia, and Sudan](#), Save the Children (2020)

[Conflict and Violence and Mixed Migration Flows of Children and Youth in East and the Horn of Africa](#), Save the Children (2020)

[The Eastern Migration Route: From Ethiopia to Saudi Arabia – risks and humanitarian needs](#), ACAPS Thematic Report (Nov 2021)

[Once Primarily an Origin for refugees, Ethiopia Experiences Evolving Migration Patterns](#), Migration Policy Institute (2021)



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## Imprint

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