

Focus: IOM Migration Response Centers in the Horn of Africa and Yemen

Together with its partners, IOM has established a network of Migration Response Centers (MRCs) in the Horn of Africa and Yemen to identify and project migrants in need, and to build the capacity of governments to respond to protection challenges of in mixed migration contexts. The first MRC was established in 2010 in Bosasso, Puntland, followed by the MRCs in Hargeisa, Somaliland and Obock, Djibouti in 2011. In 2012 and 2013, two MRCs were set up in Ethiopia: one on the western border with Sudan in the town of Metema, and one in Mille, a transit town on the route from Ethiopia to Djibouti. Similarly, across the Gulf of Aden and Red Sea, IOM established a MRC in Haradah, a town in the north of the country on the border with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia that serves as a major migrant waypoint.

Established in strategic locations along the key migratory routes, MRCs provide individualized, direct assistance to migrants in need, but they also establish systems to timely identify and refer migrants in need to the specialized services they need. To do so, IOM has put in place cooperation agreements with various Government, UN and NGO partners, that set out the specific role and duties of each organization involved in the MRC's referral network to ensure that migrants in need can effectively access immediate and longer-term assistance.

