



International Organization for Migration (IOM)
The UN Migration Agency



SUDAN: ETHIOPIAN AND SOMALI MIGRANTS IN TRANSIT

A SNAP-SHOT REPORT ON ETHIOPIAN AND SOMALI NATIONALS IN TRANSIT

DISPLACEMENT TRACKING MATRIX (DTM)

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Sudan: Ethiopian and Somali migrants in transit

This desk review report is part of the outputs of the last phase of IOM's project implementation on data collection to enable a better understanding of migration flows from Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Iraq, Nigeria, Pakistan and Somalia towards Europe, a collaborative effort by the DTM support team and relevant IOM field missions funded by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The findings, interpretations and conclusions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the views of IOM or its Member States. The designations employed and the presentation of material throughout the work do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of IOM concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area, or of its authorities, or concerning its frontiers or boundaries.

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I. BACKGROUND

The project “Enabling a better understanding of migrations flows (and its root causes) from Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Iraq, Nigeria, Pakistan and Somalia towards Europe” was designed by IOM’s Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) and is funded by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MinBuZa). DTM is a set of tools and methodologies which enable systematic and regular primary data collection, analysis and dissemination on population movements, human mobility and forced migration (both internal and cross-border). DTM was first conceptualized in 2004 to monitor internal displacement in Iraq and has since been adapted for implementation in over 70 countries. In 2017 alone, DTM tracked over 30 million individuals (IDPs, returnees and migrants) in a broad range of contexts, including conflict, natural disaster, complex emergencies and protracted crises.

The research study centers its analysis around four different target populations: potential migrants that have not yet left their country of residence, migrants en route to Europe, migrants in destination countries as well as migrants upon return to their country of origin. Although the entire study aims to understand the migration patterns of various nationalities, this snapshot only focuses on Somali and Ethiopian migrants in transit, more precisely in Sudan. The “Comprehensive Migration Flows Survey (CMFS)” was found to be the DTM component best suited to obtain a better understanding about migration flows and its root causes in this case. For the implementation of the CMFS with respect to Somali and Ethiopian nationals, different field locations for data collection activities were chosen and Sudan was selected as one of the transit countries. The data collection and analysis in each of the field location aims to shed light on six thematic areas which have been designed under this project:

THEMATIC AREAS

TA 1 Migrant profiles (Socio-demographic)	TA 2 Migration drivers and decision making	TA 3 Vulnerability factors in origin, transit and destination countries	TA 4 Role of intermediaries	TA 5 Migrants’ perceptions towards Europe	TA 6 Migration Choices and Options
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Sudan was chosen as case study under this project because of its geographical and strategic significance in the context of migration journeys from Ethiopia and Somalia towards Europe. Significant numbers of migrants from the Horn of Africa (in particular from Ethiopia and Somalia) travelling by land are known to

use Sudan as a transit country.¹ Available estimates of the numbers of Ethiopians going to Sudan each year range from 18,000 up to 100,000².

In this context, it is important to acknowledge that the findings outlined in the next part of this snap-shot report are not representative of the whole Somali and Ethiopian migrant population transiting through Sudan during their journey to Europe. This snap-shot report only aims to derive general findings from the data collected amongst migrant groups in Sudan between late November 2017 and the end of December 2017. The sample size consists of 794 Ethiopian migrants and 403 Somali migrants and data was collected in the area of Khartoum, Sudan. Results should therefore not be overinterpreted and findings cannot be automatically extrapolated to the whole Ethiopian and Somali migrant community in Sudan.

II. SUDAN: ETHIOPIANS AND SOMALIS IN TRANSIT

PROFILES OF ETHIOPIAN AND SOMALI MIGRANTS IN SUDAN

A total of 1,197 interviews with migrants from Somalia and Ethiopia were conducted. The sample size consisted of 403 Somali and 794 Ethiopian migrants who had recently migrated from their home countries and were, at the time of data collection, passing through Sudan to reach their intended destination country in Europe. The Somali sample consisted of 268 (66.5%) male respondents and 135 (34.5%) female respondents. In the Ethiopian sample 491 (62%) men and 303 (38%) women were captured.

Almost 60 percent of Somali respondents were between the ages of 17 and 26 years old, while in the Ethiopia sample roughly 60 percent of the respondents were between the ages of 17 and 46 years old. More than half (60%) of the Somali respondents reported being single and 19 percent indicated being married, while the remaining 21 percent were either divorced, engaged or widowed. The share of married respondents was larger in the Ethiopian sample, with 41 percent reporting to be married, whereas roughly 40 percent reported being single. Checking for statistical significance, the results show that Ethiopian migrants in Sudan appear more likely to be married than Somali migrants in Sudan, as well as more likely to have children (45% of Ethiopian respondents indicated not having any children, while a majority of Somali respondents (70%) said they did not have children). Of the Ethiopian respondents that had children, the children were either with the respondent in Sudan (61%) and/or back in Ethiopia (40%). In the case of Somali respondents, the vast majority (83 percent) reported that their children were back home in Somalia,

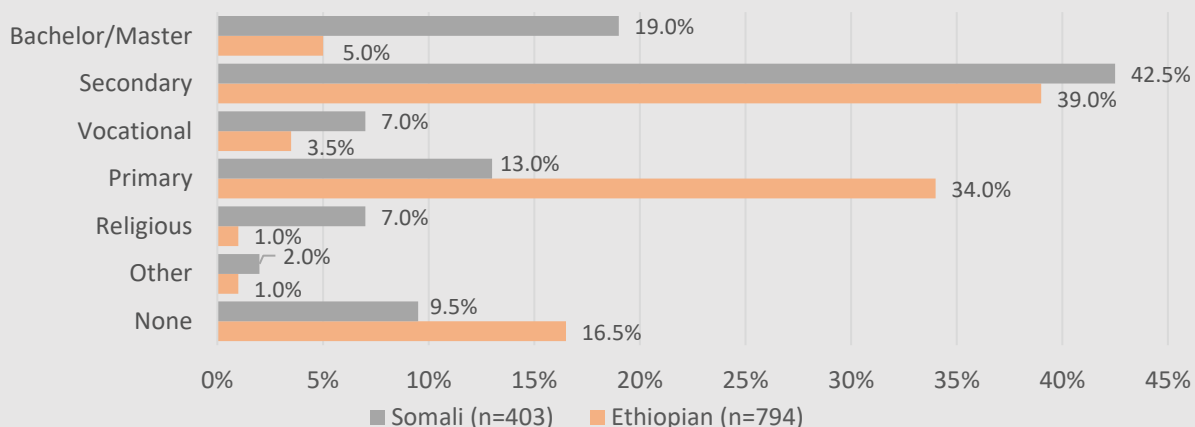
¹ Lutterbeck, D., Breines, M., Collyer, M., Mainwaring, C., Mainwaring, D., & Monzini, P. (2015). "Characteristics, responses and cooperation with third countries - Case Study 2: Ethiopia – Libya – Malta/Italy". European Commission, DG Migration & Home Affairs.

² RMMS (2014). Going West contemporary mixed migration trends from the Horn of Africa to Libya & Europe. Nairobi.

while only 17 percent of Somali respondents had their children with them in Sudan. On average both Somali and Ethiopian migrants had one child and the average household³ size lies at around 4 household members for Ethiopian migrants and at around 8 household members for Somali migrants.

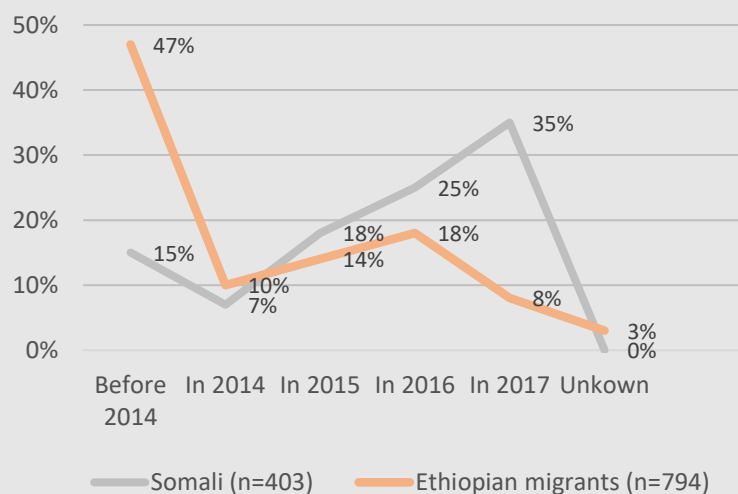
With regards to education, almost half of the Ethiopian respondents (47.5%) had at least attained secondary education or higher. This was the case for 69 percent of Somali respondents. Almost 20 percent of the Somali sample had completed a university degree (Bachelor and Master).

Figure 1: Completed Education Level by Nationality



The majority of the Ethiopian migrants had left their place of origin/ residence prior to or in 2014 (57%), while the largest shares of Somali respondents had left in 2016 (25%) or 2017 (35%). In contrast to Ethiopian migrants, the majority of which departed primarily from three provinces in Ethiopia, namely Tigray (36%), Amhara (28%) and Oromia (16%), Somali respondents left from various scattered locations in Somalia. The three largest groups departed from Woqooyi Galbeed (14%), Awdal (12%), Banadir (9%). The remaining 65 percent are distributed among 15 other provinces in Somalia.

Figure 2: Date of departure by nationality



³ A household is defined as all family members that share the same house/share the same meal on daily basis

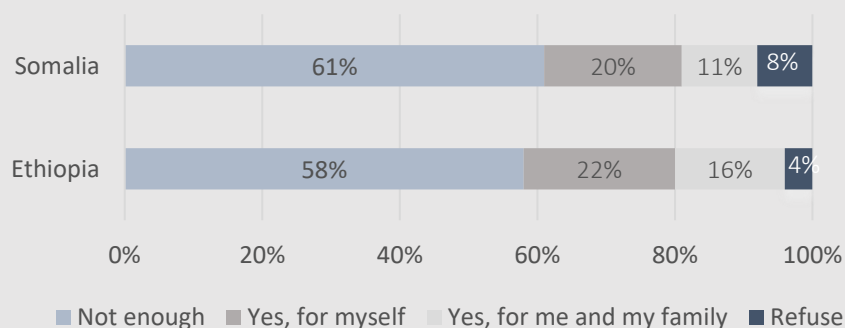
DRIVERS AND DECISION MAKING

DRIVERS

Although the drivers of migration from the Horn of Africa region are relatively well researched and covered in the recent literature, most studies only collect the data on drivers of migration at a macro level. DTM intends to shed additional light on the reasons for migration by a looking at the issue from micro and meso level perspectives and by considering the different factors influencing Somali and Ethiopian nationals in their decision-making process prior to migration. Before turning to the drivers, some socio-economic characteristics of migrants are analyzed to understand their conditions prior to departure. The data reveals that 11 percent of the Ethiopian respondents and 33.5 percent of the Somali respondents were unemployed prior to their departure. The share of students was particularly high amongst the Somali respondents, with almost 30 percent reporting to have been students before leaving Somalia. The most common form of employment for Ethiopian migrants appears to be employment in the private sector (32%) as well as daily wages (17%). When asked about their incomes, the majority of both Ethiopians and Somalis (58 percent and 61 percent respectively) reported that their monthly income six months before their departure was not enough to cover the monthly expenses.

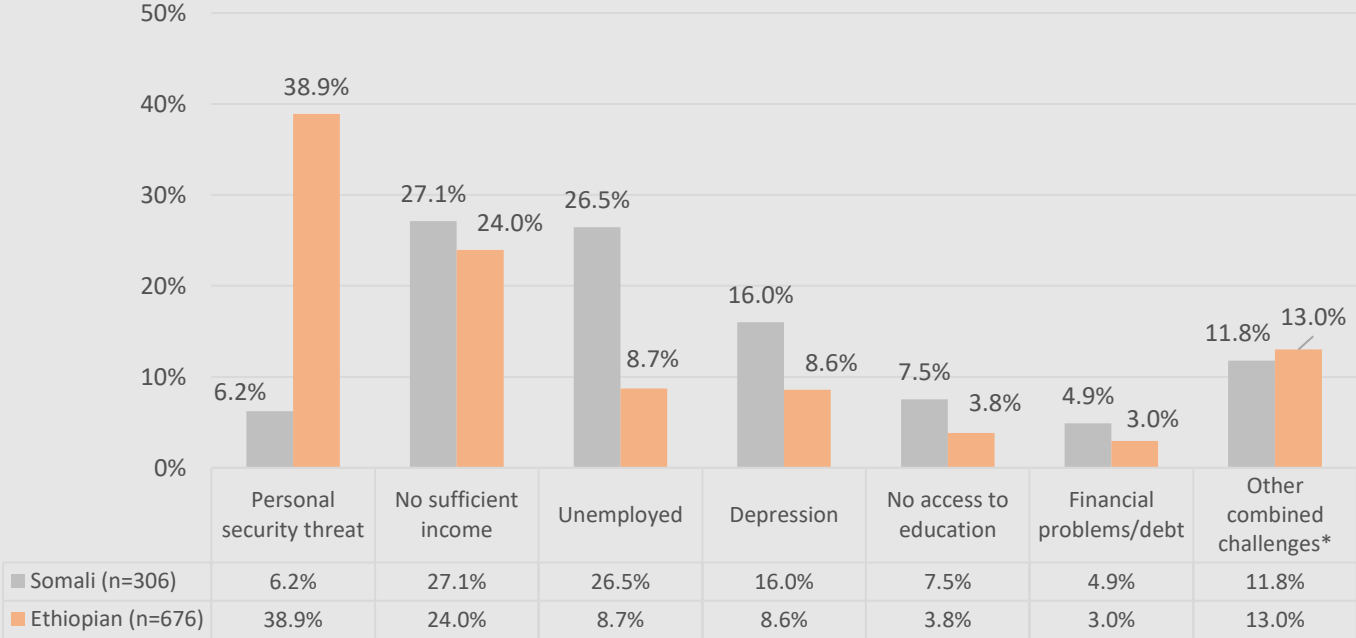
To better understand the drivers of migration at a micro and meso level, the respondents were asked to list the two most significant personal, household, as well as community level challenges they had faced up to six months prior to their departure. Overall, 85 percent of the Ethiopian respondents and 76 percent of the Somali respondents reported having faced challenges and problems on a personal level.

Figure 3 - Sufficiency of income before migration
(Somali n=403, Ethiopian n=794)



While personal security threats appeared to be the primary personal challenge faced by Ethiopian respondents (reported by 39% of those indicating personal challenges), in the case of the Somali respondents, 54 percent of those reporting personal challenges identified a lack of sufficient income and unemployment as a primary personal challenge.

Figure 4: Primary personal challenge six month before migration

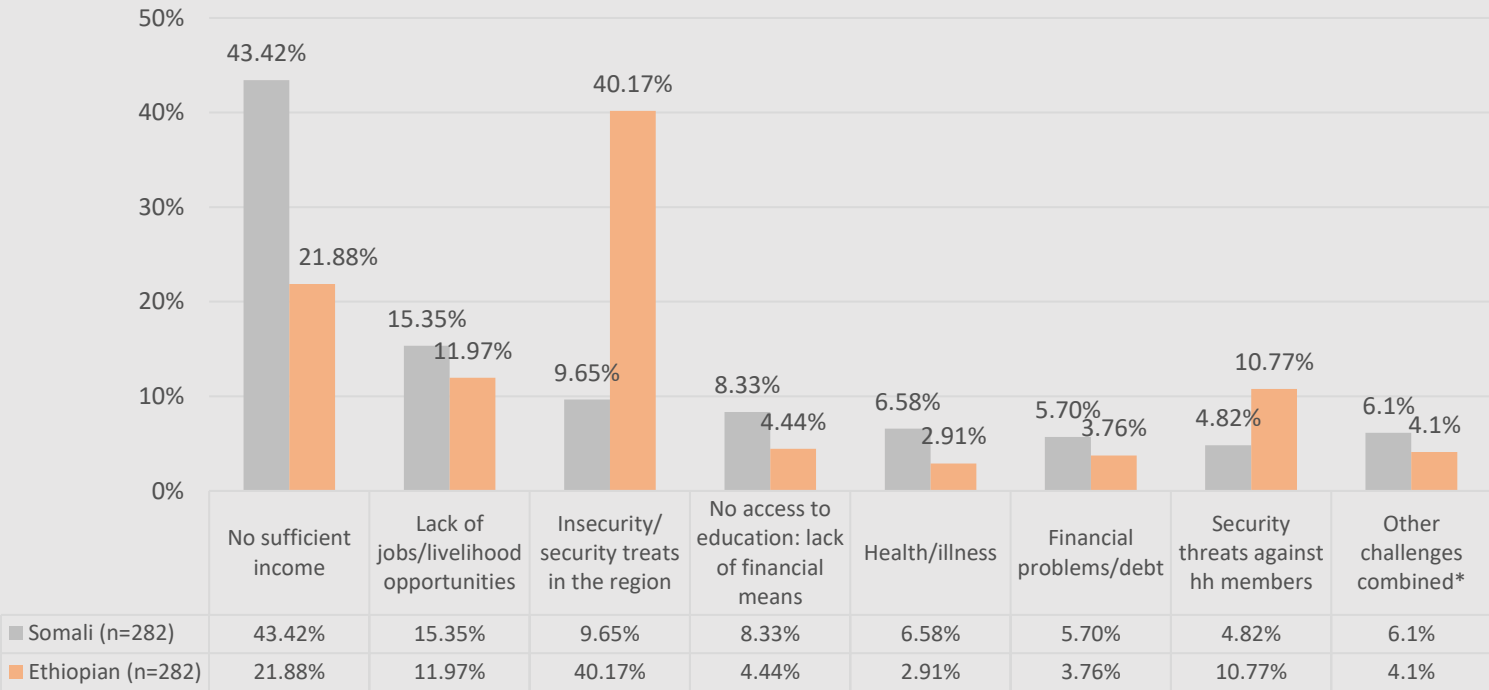


When asked about secondary challenges, the share of migrants of both nationalities identified depression as a personal challenge (25% for Ethiopians and 14% for Somalis who reported personal challenge) was higher than the share identifying depression as their primary personal challenge. Lack of sufficient income, unemployment and personal security threats remain common drivers of migration and constitute the highest-ranked primary as well as secondary personal challenges reported by respondents.

* Other combined challenges consist of:
 Ethiopians: Discrimination against individual because of ethnicity/religion (2.66%); Health/illness (1.33%); Persecution based upon sexual orientation (1.78%); Pressure from family/community to migrate (1.63%); Refuse to answer (0.3%); Other (5.33%)
 Somalis: Discrimination against individual because of ethnicity/religion (1.31%); Health/illness (4.9%); Persecution based upon different sexual orientation (0.98%); Pressure from family/community to migrate (1.63%)

Challenges at the household level were reportedly faced by 74 percent of Ethiopian and 57 percent of Somali respondents. Similar to the reported personal challenges, the primary challenge faced by Ethiopian households related to household insecurity or security threats in the region (40% of those reporting household challenges) followed by the lack of sufficient income, whereas Somali nationals reported lack of sufficient income (43% of those reporting household challenges) as well as lack of livelihood opportunities (15% of those reporting household challenges) as primary household challenges.

Figure 5: Primary household challenge six month before migration

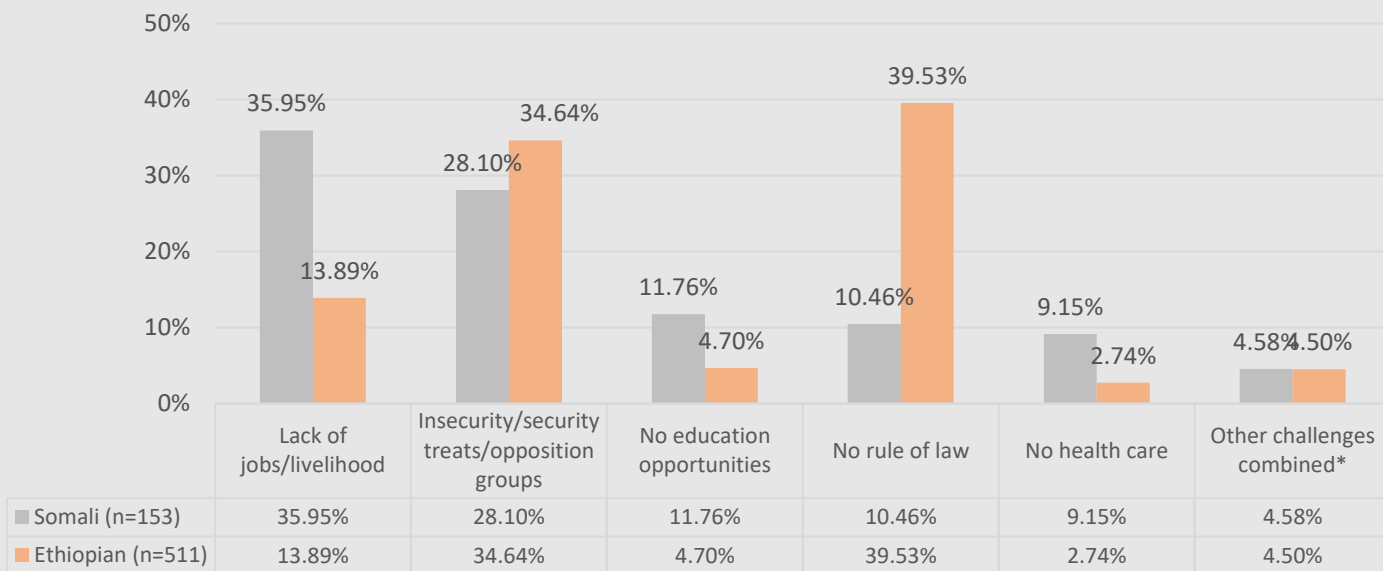


At the community level, 64 percent of the Ethiopian and 38 percent of the Somali sample reported that their respective communities had faced challenges six months prior to migration. For Ethiopian respondents, the absence of the rule of law emerged as one of the main primary challenges faced at the community level (40% of those reporting community challenges). For Somali respondents, the lack of jobs or livelihood opportunities was the most cited challenge faced by their community (36% of those reporting community challenges). While insecurity did not seem to play as much of a role for Somali migrants on a

* Other combined challenges consist of:
 Ethiopians: Discrimination against HH members because of ethnicity/religion (1.54%); No access to education: lack of quality education (0.34%); Other (2.22%)
 Somalis: Discrimination against HH members because of ethnicity/religion (1.32%); No access to education: lack of quality education (1.32%); Other (3.51%)

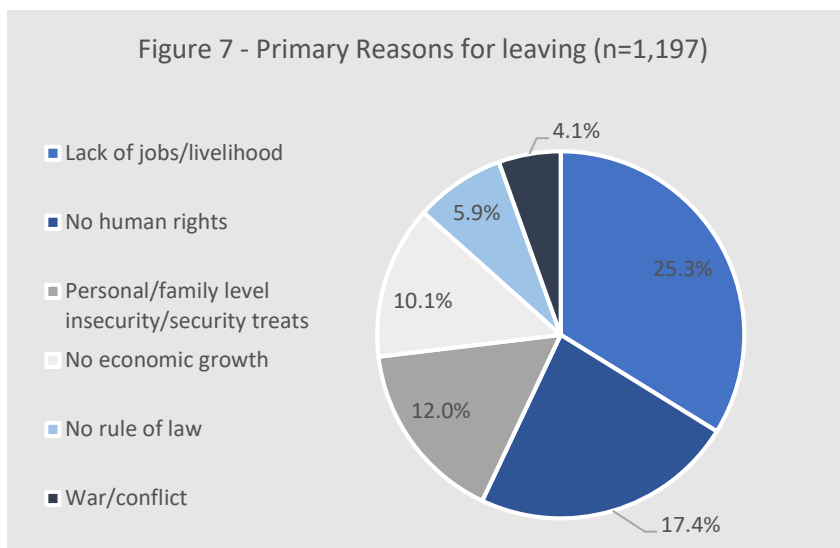
personal or household level, 28 percent of the Somali sample reporting community level challenges named insecurity as their primary community challenge.

Figure 6: Primary community challenge six month before migration



In addition to the main challenges faced on a personal, household and community level six month prior to the departure, respondents were further asked to identify their main reason for leaving. Similar to the challenges reported by migrants, the main identified reasons for leaving were a lack of jobs/livelihood, no protection of human rights, personal/family level insecurity, and the lack of economic growth in the country (see figure 7).

When looking at the secondary main reasons for leaving, the main reasons mentioned are the absence of rule of law (17% of those reporting a secondary reason for leaving), followed by



the lack of hope for a future in Somalia and Ethiopia (10% of those reporting a secondary reason) as well as the problem of corruption (6% of those reporting a secondary reason).

Next to the challenges faced in the country of origin and the main reason for leaving, respondents were asked about the specific events that triggered their final decision to leave for Europe. Being able to name more than one trigger, the majority of the respondents named at least two triggers. For the Ethiopian respondents the triggers were related to a security incident (51%), unemployment (23.5%), a UN relocation⁶ (13.5%), as well as due to the loss of employment (11%). In the case of the Somali sample the main triggers included, unemployment (38%), the loss of a job (17.5%), a family member that was leaving asked the respondent to join (17.5%) as well as the fact that many people in the community had previously left and the respondent decided to follow them (16%).

To understand migration patterns of the different target nationalities, respondents were also asked about previous migration movements either within the country of origin or across an international border. The share of Ethiopian and Somali respondents who had been previously displaced within their country was relatively similar, as 36 percent of the Ethiopian and 34 percent of the Somali sample reported to have been internally displaced before their migration across international borders. Figure 8 and 9 show the distribution of respondents identifying as previously having been internally displaced (IDPs) per region in Somalia and Ethiopia.



⁶ Relocation/resettlement is the transfer of refugees from an asylum country to another State that has agreed to admit them and ultimately grant them permanent settlement.

Figure 8 - Previously internally displaced by region in Somalia (total numbers) (n=137)

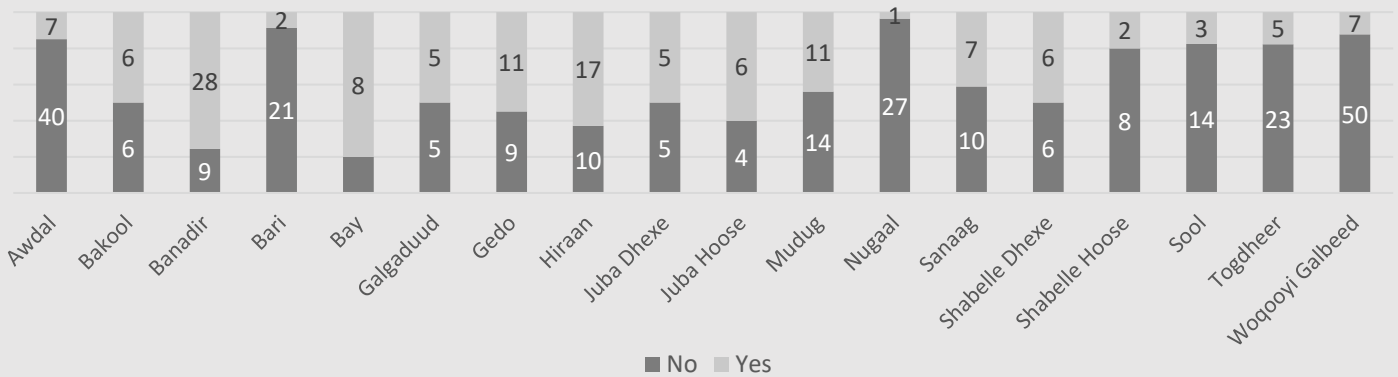
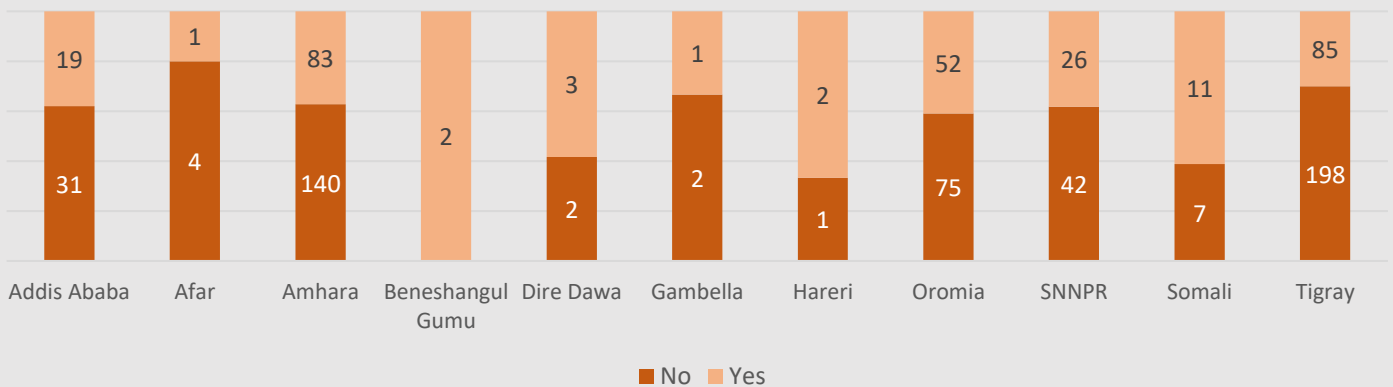
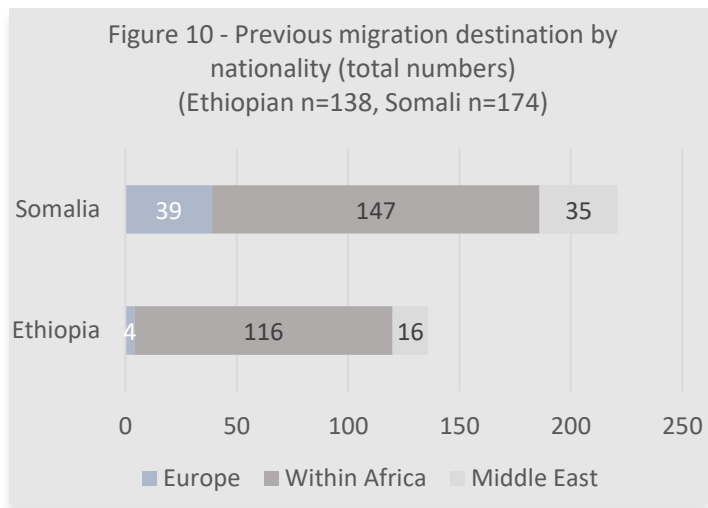


Figure 9 - Previously internally displaced by province in Ethiopia (total numbers) (n=287)



When asked about international migration, 17 percent of the Ethiopian respondents and 43 percent of the Somali respondents reported to have previously migrated internationally for at least six months. Ethiopian respondents largely migrated only once prior to the current journey, whereas a relatively larger share of Somali respondents reported to have migrated several times prior to the current migration. For both nationalities the largest share (84% of respondents who had previously migrated in both Ethiopian and Somali cohorts) had previously migrated regionally within Africa, and smaller shares to the Middle East (12% for Ethiopians and 20% for Somalis) and Europe (22% of Somalis and 3% of Ethiopians).

Figure 10 - Previous migration destination by nationality (total numbers) (Ethiopian n=138, Somali n=174)



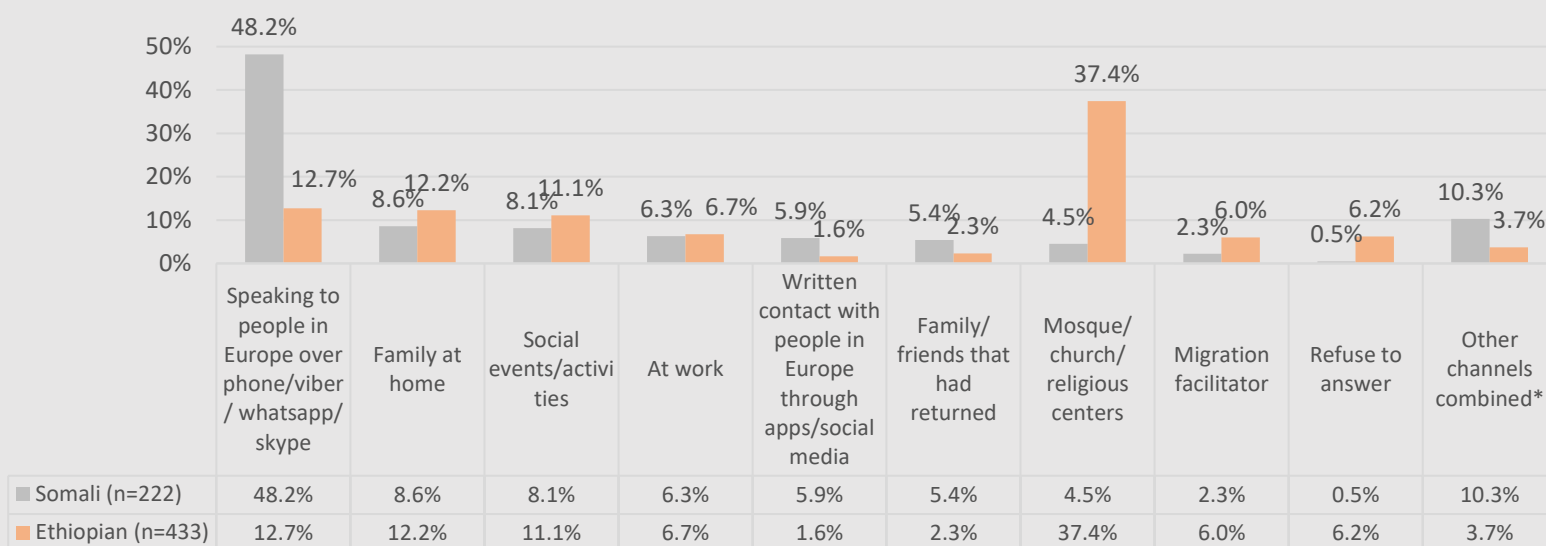
Next to the drivers, the research study also intends to enhance the understanding of the decision-making process migrants go through before their departure. Diasporas and networks abroad are known to have an influence on migrants' decision-making process with regards to their destination choices. The respondents were therefore asked if they had family and/or friends in Europe before they left. Amongst Ethiopian respondents, 21 percent reported that they had family living in Europe before they migrated and 42 percent reported that they had friends in Europe. A higher share of Somalis had family and friends in Europe, as 64 percent reported to have family, and 74 percent reported to have friends living in Europe prior to their migration. Testing for statistical significance, the results confirm that Somali migrants in Sudan are more likely to have friends and/or family living in Europe.

Respondents were further asked if they made the decision to migrate themselves or if someone made the decision for them. The data revealed that the share of those respondents who did not make the decision to migrate themselves was relatively small, with approximately 10 percent of both Ethiopian and Somali respondents saying they had not made the decision. Of the Ethiopian migrants who did not make the decision themselves, the parents (42%), a sibling (26%) or the spouse (15%) primarily made the decision. In the case of the Somali sample the decision was predominately taken by the spouse (31%) or a sibling (20%). Looking at the gender distribution of both nationalities, there appears to be no relationship between whether a respondent made the decision to migrate themselves and the gender of the respondent.

Respondents who indicated having made the decision themselves were also asked if they had discussed their plan/decision to migrate with anyone. The answers showed that 46 percent of Ethiopian and 66 percent of Somali respondents who had made the decision themselves confirmed that they had discussed their migration plans with others. In both groups, the majority had discussed their plans with either family or friends in the home country. In addition, over 80 percent of these respondents in both cohorts reported that the people with whom they had discussed their migration decision/plan had supported their decisions.

In order to further understand the actual decision-making process behind the decision to migrate, respondents were also asked what sources of information they based their decision to migrate to Europe on. For both nationalities the main sources of information were word of mouth, followed by Facebook and television. 38 percent and 32 percent of Ethiopian and Somali respondents, respectively, received the information on which they based their decision to migrate through word of mouth. As Figure 11 shows the most Somalis whose source of information was word of mouth had spoken to friends/family in Europe over the phone or through mobile communication apps (48%), while for Ethiopian migrants' information channels mainly consisted of conversations in churches/mosques or other religious centers (37%).

Figure 11: Primary channel of word of mouth for decision to migrate



Statistics on secondary channels of information exchange through word of mouth presented a similar picture. For these, a higher number of Somali respondents (12%) chose written contact with family/friends in Europe through social media, and 13% indicated family or friends who had returned from Europe as a secondary channel of information. For the 25% of Ethiopian interviewees who mentioned a secondary channel of information exchange, families at home were the most commonly referred to secondary source of information.

* Other combined challenges consist of:

Ethiopians: At school/university (1.85%); Social media feeds from friends/family in Europe (1.15%); Mediated contact with someone that has left (0.45%); Other (0.23%)

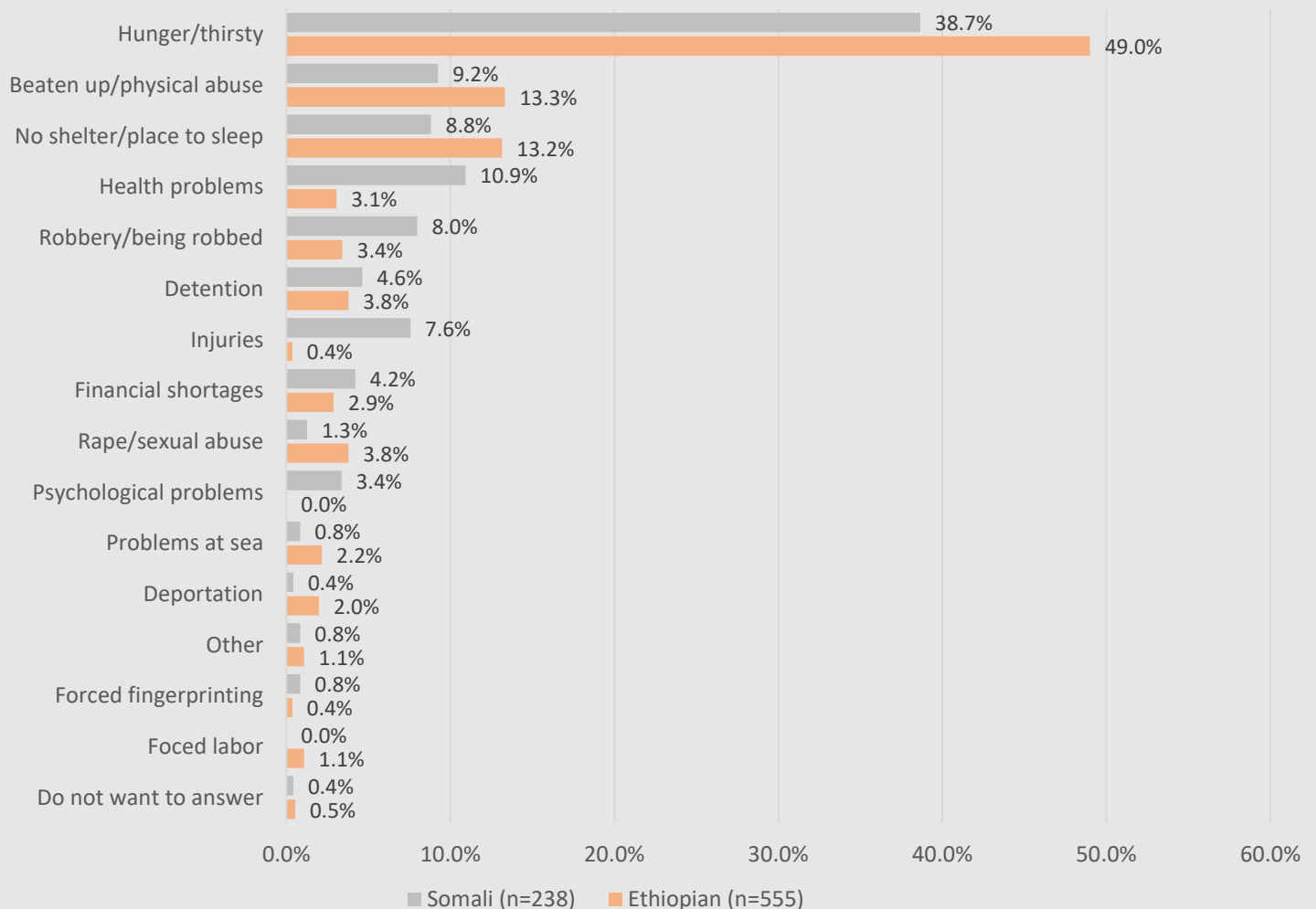
Somalis: At school/university (4.5%); Social media feeds from friends/family in Europe (1.35%); Mediated contact with someone that has left (4.05%); Other (0.45)

VULNERABILITIES

Migrants coming from the Horn of Africa region by land and sea are known to face harsh conditions en route, although hard evidence and quantitative data is often missing. For this reason, the survey included a question on the challenges and problems faced along the route as well as the locations and the actors – if any – involved. The data shows that about 70 percent of the Ethiopian migrants and 59 percent of the Somali migrants had faced problems up to the time of data collection in their journey.

The main challenge reported by respondents of both nationalities was hunger and thirst. The next most commonly given problems faced by Ethiopians after hunger/thirst were physical abuse and a lack of shelter/place to sleep, while Somali respondents faced problems related to their health situation, physical abuse, being robbed, as well as a lack of appropriate shelters (see figure 12).

Figure 12: Primary problem faced en route



In terms of actors involved, most problems were reported to involve smugglers, the national police, or other migrants. To be more precise the problem of hunger/thirst was most often ascribed to smugglers (68%), while physical violence was most commonly associated with national police/officials (57%) as well as smugglers (25%). The lack of shelter was linked to smugglers (44%), national police/officials (21%) as well as the national population (18%). Finally, respondents indicated that smugglers (32%), other migrants (26%) or the domestic population (21%) were involved in their robbing.

The problems mentioned as being the second- or third-most significant challenges encountered en route largely overlap with the challenges identified as primary challenges. Detention and forced labor are more frequently mentioned as a secondary and third problem as opposed to primary problems.

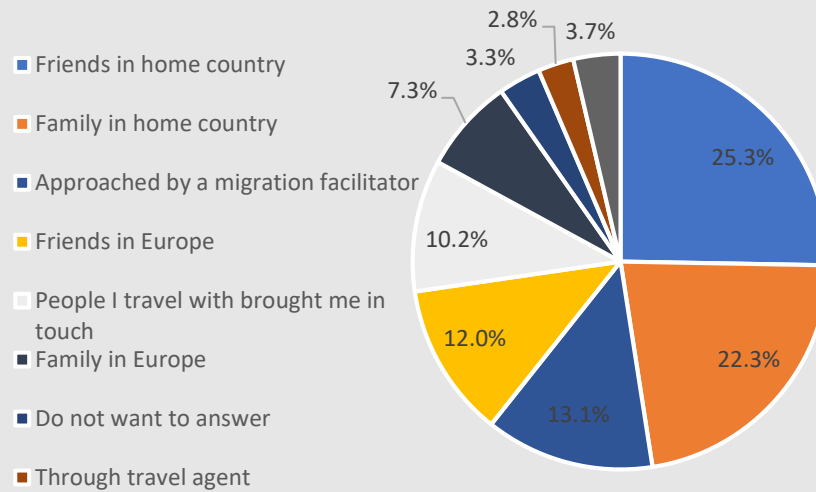
Often used as indicator for potential vulnerabilities is the mode of travel of migrants en route – whether migrants travel by themselves or are with their family, other travelers or a facilitator. It is not unusual for migrants to travel with multiple people for different parts of their journey. The data shows that the largest share of respondents from both nationalities travelled parts of the journey either with a group (36%), alone (34%), with friends (28%), and/ or with relatives (other than spouse/children). Only a small share travelled with their spouse and/or children (6.5% in total).

ROLE OF THE INTERMEDIARY

The majority of the Ethiopian (60%) and Somali (80%) respondents made use of migration facilitators to reach Sudan. Of the 40 percent of Ethiopian respondents who reported not to have used a facilitator, 36 percent indicated that they planned on using a facilitator for the onward migration and 9 percent did not know yet. Of the 20 percent of Somali migrants that had not yet used a migration facilitator 41 percent indicated that they planned to use one in their continuation of the journey, while 45 percent indicated that they do not know yet. Somali migrants had on average used between two and three migration facilitators to reach Sudan, while Ethiopian migrants had on average used two facilitators.

The data reveals no large differences between the respondents from the two nationalities on how migration facilitators were found. The largest share found an intermediary through friends or family in Somalia or Ethiopia. To a lesser extent, family/friends in Europe played a role in helping to find intermediaries (see figure 13).

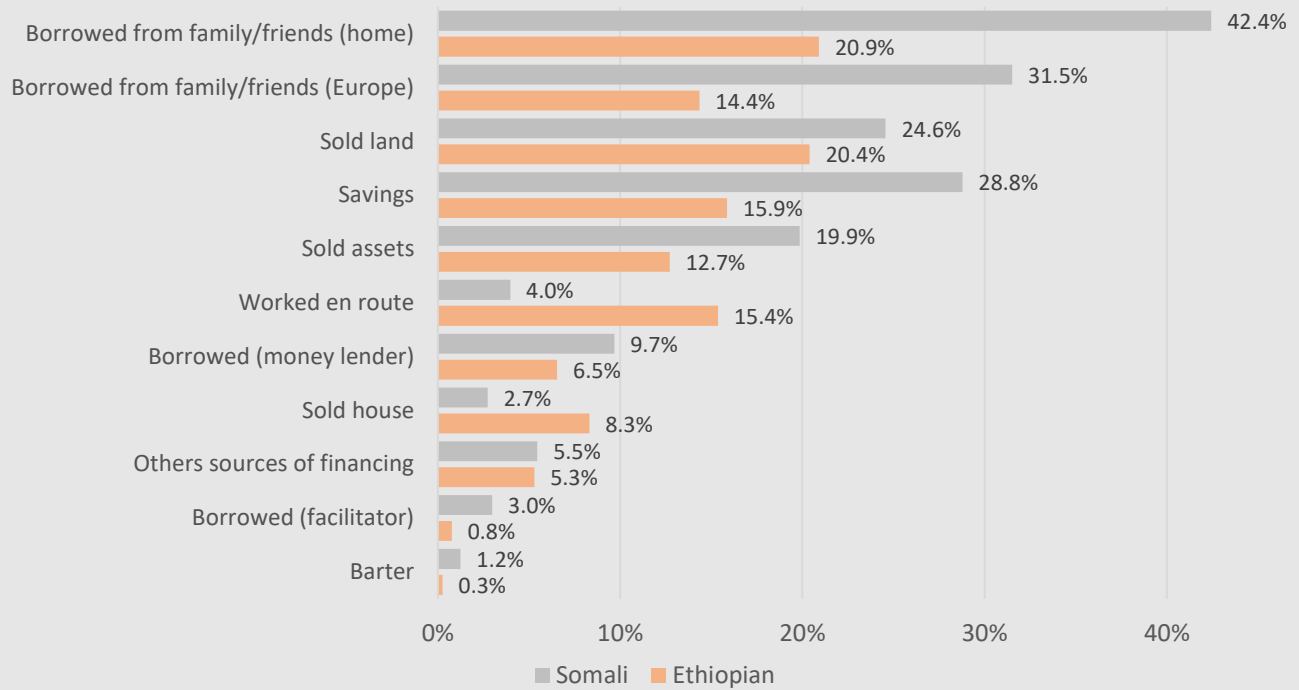
Figure 13 - Finding intermediaries (n=791)



Of the Ethiopian migrants who had used facilitators, a majority had paid the full amount up front (33%), through a third party (24%), or through cash installments throughout the journey (23%). On average, Ethiopian migrants had spent USD 540 to reach Sudan. By contrast, Somali respondents who had used facilitators most commonly used hawala system (58%), followed by payments through a third party (24%) as well as paying the full amount up front (10%), cash installments (8%), or payment upon arrival to Europe (7%) to pay the facilitators. Somali respondents had on average spend 2,189 USD to reach Sudan. As Somali migrants usually pass through other transit countries before reaching Sudan, it is expected that their costs are higher than of Ethiopian migrants who usually go straight to Sudan.

It appears that the migration journey was not paid for with one single source of money, as evidenced by the fact that several respondents, in particular Somali respondents, chose multiple financing options, as shown in Figure 14. It was most common for Somali migrants to borrow money from family/friends back home (42.4%), from family/friends in Europe (31.5%) and/or from money lenders (10%). For Ethiopian migrants, by contrast, the sale of land, assets and/or homes seemed to be the common ways to finance their migration journey (41% combined) along with borrowing money from friends/family at home, indicated by 20.9% of Ethiopian respondents.

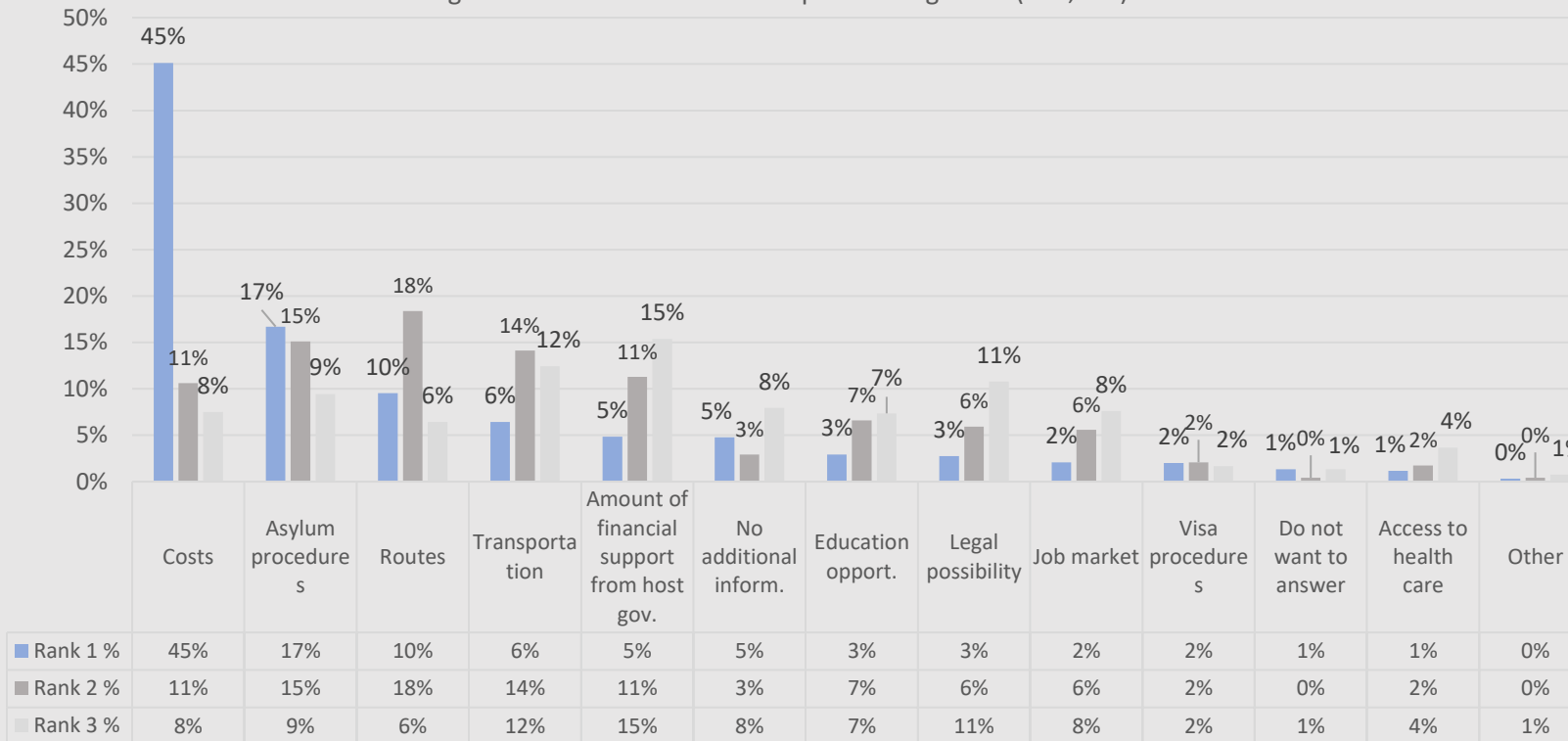
Figure 14 Financing of Journey



In addition, in order to understand the role of intermediaries and learn more about the preparation for the journey, migrants were asked about the kind of information which they collected prior to their departure and to rank this information’s importance. As Figure 15 shows, the information collected related largely to the costs of the journey (45% ranked this as the most important information), and asylum procedures (17% ranked this as the most important information). The second-most important type of information collected related to migratory routes (18% ranked it as the second-most important information received), asylum procedures (15% ranked it as the second-most important information received) as well as transportation means (14% ranked it as the second-most important information received).

Respondents indicated that they were also interested in learning about the financial support provided by the host government of the destination country (15% ranked it at as the third-most important information collected), as well as transportation means (12% ranked it as the third-most important information collected) and about the legal possibilities to enter Europe (11% ranked it as the third-most important information collected).

Figure 15 Information collected prior to migration (n=1,197)

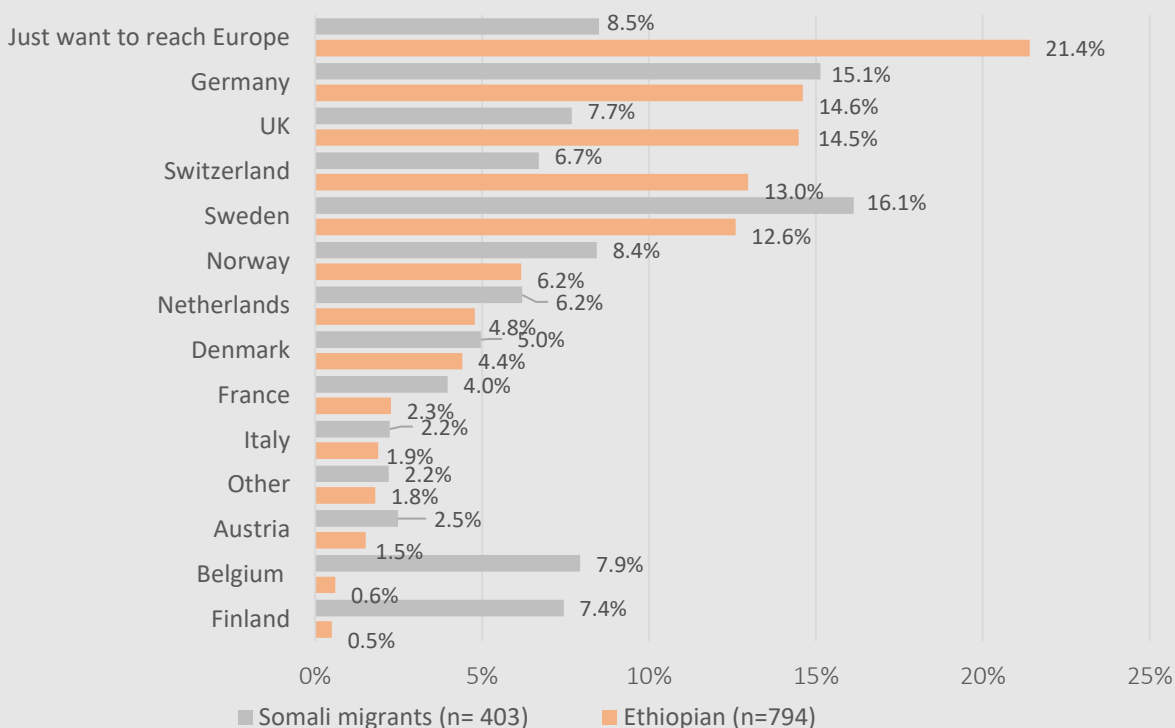


Next to information gathering, the respondents were also asked which other preparations they undertook besides collecting information, finding an intermediary and a raising money to finance their journey. While the majority of both cohorts, roughly 60 percent each, indicated that they did not make further preparations, 40 percent of the Somali respondents reported to have taken additional preparations, including obtaining a Somali passport (22%), informing friends/family in Europe (22%), and obtaining false documentation (8%). The Ethiopian respondents who took additional preparatory measures primarily spoke of informing family/friends along the route (not Europe) (20%), obtaining an Ethiopian passport (11%), as well as informing friends/family in Europe (7%). About 30 percent of the respondents reported that all the preparations for migration took them between three to four months, whereas 24 percent reported that they had needed one to two months. Around 38 percent needed 5 months or longer, whereas only 8 percent reported that it took them less than a month to arrange everything.

PERCEPTION TOWARDS EUROPE

During the data collection activity in Sudan, DTM also gathered information on intended final destination countries, looking at why migrants from Somalia and Ethiopia aimed to settle in one particular country as well as aiming to better understand their priorities and expectations upon arrival. As figure 16 shows, a large share (20%) of Ethiopian respondents did not aim to move to a specific country when they left for Europe. Roughly 15 percent of Ethiopian respondents mentioned Germany and the UK each as their intended destination countries. Switzerland and Sweden also appear to be popular countries for Ethiopian migrants (as both were chosen by around 13% of Ethiopian respondents). Somali respondents most commonly named Sweden (16%) and Germany (15%) as their intended destination countries in Europe. Other destination countries identified by the Somali respondents included Norway (8.5%), Belgium (8%) and the UK (7.7%).

Figure 16: Indended Destinations



The four main countries of destination for both nationalities (Germany, Sweden, UK, Switzerland) show that both Ethiopian and Somali migrants base their decision mostly on the arguments that human rights are respected in the chosen country, the presence of relatives and/or friends in the country, the country

being safe as well as the availability of jobs. One interesting observation in the data revealed that especially Germany was associated by Ethiopian respondents (30% of respondents choosing Germany) with the ease of access to asylum procedures compared to other countries. Ethiopian respondents also viewed the UK and Switzerland as countries with high respects for human rights (24 % and 42 % respectively). Somali respondents named the presence of relatives and/or friends in those two countries as their primary reasons for choosing Sweden (38%) and Germany (43%). Furthermore, 18 percent of the Somali respondents who chose Sweden as destination country and 15 percent of the Somali respondents who chose Germany as their destination identified the availability of jobs as a primary reason.

In order to understand migrants' perceptions in detail, the respondents were asked about their source of information on which they based their impressions of Europe. The general channels through which the respondents received their information were relatively similar for both nationalities and have therefore been compiled together into one graph. The largest share (30%) received their primary information through channels of word of mouth (30%), followed by Facebook (20%), television (19%) and the internet (11%).

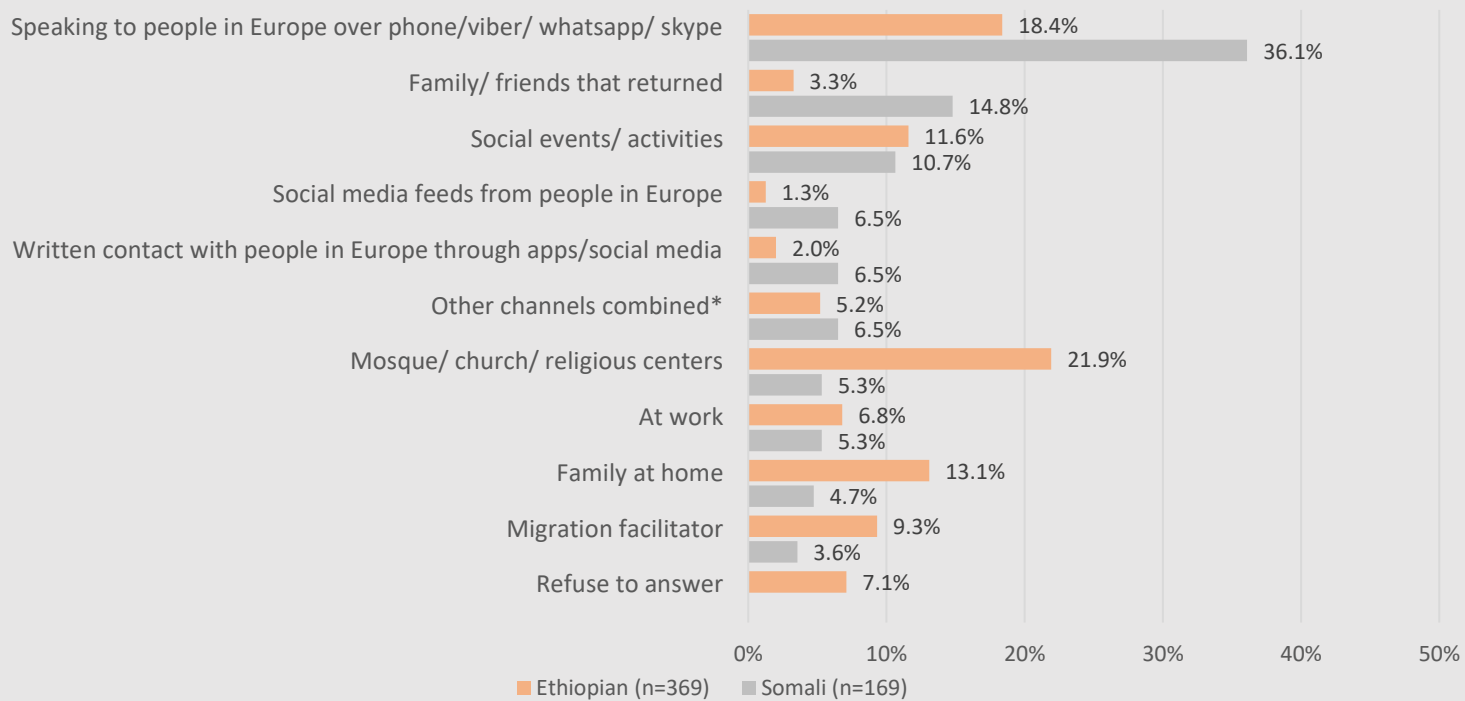
The distribution of secondary sources was similar, however 21 percent of the total sample reported to have only relied on one source. The 30 percent that based their impression of Europe on a source through word of mouth were asked to specify those channels. Unlike the other sources, the preferred channels of word of mouth differed between the two target nationalities. While for Somali respondents the primary channel of word of mouth was verbal contact with friends/family in Europe over phone or communication apps (36%), for Ethiopian migrants the largest share received information at mosques, churches, and/or religious centers (22%) (see figure 17).

* Other combined challenges consist of:

Ethiopians: At school/university (1.26%); Mediated contact with somebody that has left (3.27%); Other (0.76%)

Somalis: At school/university (3.55%); Mediated contact with somebody that has left (2.96%)

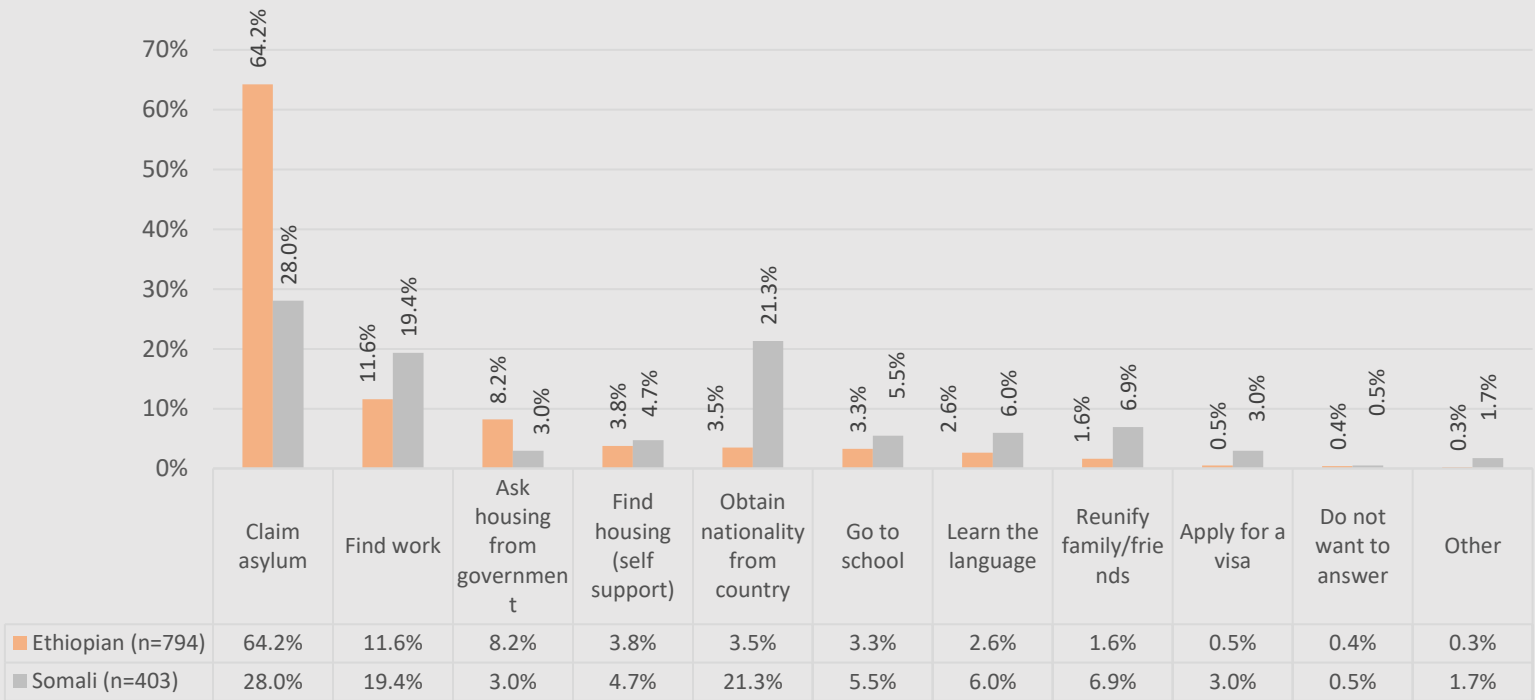
Figure 17: Primary channel of word of mouth for decision to migrate



As the findings discussed so far show, migrants make decisions based on specific information they received about a country and shaping certain expectations. Therefore, the next sections focus on migrants' expectations after their arrival in their destination countries, gathering information about their priorities upon arrival, the support they expect from the government, as well as the likelihood of facing problems in the new host community.

When asked about their two main priorities upon arrival in the final destination in Europe, both Ethiopian (64%) and Somali (28%) respondents stated that they would first claim asylum. While for Ethiopians the large majority associated their main priority with asylum, the priorities are distributed more equally among Somali migrants (see Figure 18). Next to claiming asylum, 21 percent also reported obtaining nationality from the destination country as well as finding work (19%) as their main priorities.

Figure 18: First main priority upon arrival

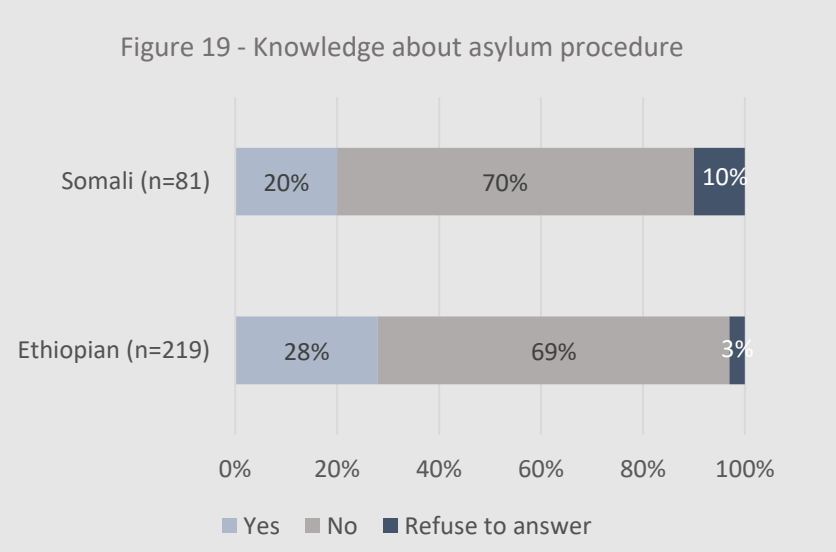


Looking at secondary priorities, the data shows that for Ethiopian respondents “asking for housing from the government” (40%) as well as finding work (21%) are important aspects. Somali respondents associate their second priorities mainly with “finding work” (35%) as well as with obtaining nationality from the host country and learning the local language (each identified by 15% Somali respondents). In this regard, the majority of Ethiopian respondents expect to obtain support in the form of being granted refugee status upon their arrival to Europe (45%) as well as free housing (16%), while Somali respondents expect to gain the nationality from the respective host country (28%), obtaining a refugee status (15%), and free housing (12%). Obtaining free housing (26%), monthly stipend for living (16%) and free education (14%) were equally cited by Ethiopian respondents as the main forms of secondary support they expected to receive from the host governments of the destination countries. As secondary support, Somali migrants expect support in bringing other family members to live with them (17%), and in obtaining free education (16%).

When asked about expected problems upon arrival in Europe, 34 percent of the Somali and 21 percent of the Ethiopian respondents indicated that they did not expect to face problems. Around 22 percent of the Ethiopian and 15 percent of the Somali migrants expressed the concern that they might get deported upon

arrival. Ethiopian respondents however also considered that a possible rejection of their asylum claim could be their primary problem (30%), whereas only 10 percent of the Somali sample named this as a primary problem. Facing possible deportation as well as a rejection of asylum claims were also mentioned most frequently as possible secondary problems which the respondents expect to face upon arrival.

Based on their existing perceptions, expectations and in some cases experiences of Europe, only 37 percent of the Ethiopian and 58 percent of the Somali respondents in Sudan reported that they would encourage others to migrate to Europe. The data reveals that, even though the surveyed Ethiopian and Somali migrants are still relatively early in their journey, 76 percent of the Ethiopian and 81 percent of the Somali respondents consider routes to be too dangerous and provide this as a reason for advising against it. In similar fashion, 34 percent of Ethiopian and 60 percent of Somali respondents said that there are too many difficulties on the route to Europe. On the other hand, when asked about why they would encourage others to migrate to Europe, respondents gave multiple varied reasons, and no statistically dominant reason emerged. Roughly 45 percent of both cohorts reported that they simply did not see a future in Somalia or Ethiopia. Other reasons relate to the alleged advantages of living in Europe: 19 percent of Ethiopian and 37 percent of Somali respondents said they would advise others to migrate because of the employment opportunities available in Europe, the respect of human rights (29% in total), the social welfare system in place (17%), and the better security in Europe (17%).



Since asylum procedures play an important role in migrants’ priorities and expectations, the respondents were also asked if they knew what an asylum procedure was and, if so, to explain it. As Figure 19 shows, only 28 percent of Ethiopian and 20 percent of the Somali respondents in Sudan indicated knowing what an asylum

procedure was. When asked to explain the asylum procedure, Ethiopian nationals generally associated the asylum procedure with asking for refugee status, especially upon arrival to the border of a European country. They described the asylum procedure as involving several steps, including crossing the

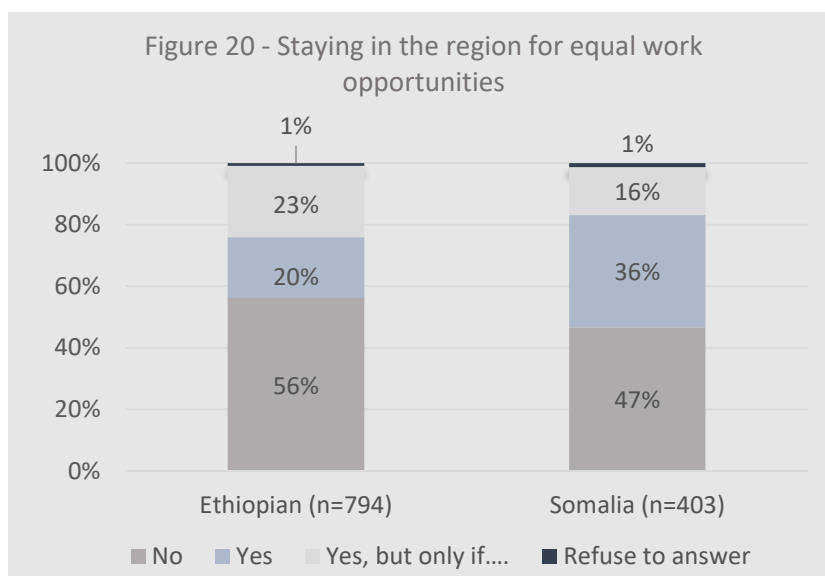
Mediterranean by boat to Italy; arriving to Europe; going to the immigration office, refugee camp, or embassy; filling out paper forms; being fingerprinted; completing an interview; and waiting (for weeks or months). In other cases, asylum was also associated with asking the state for protection from problems in their home country. Somali respondents, for their part, described the asylum process as applying for permission to live and work in a country as well as justifying a need for safety and a safe living environment. Reasons for applying for asylum included unsafe conditions (e.g. persecution, inhumane treatment, danger, war) in the home country. Respondents also associated the asylum procedure with receiving free housing and a stipend.

“A person who has a problem with the government of his or her country, who migrate[s] to another country and ask[s] for protection” (Ethiopian national in Sudan)

“When you can't [go] back your country because war and conflicts and other country gives sheltering, safe and good place, and respected you in order to know your country is very dangerous that is called asylum procedure” (Somali national in Sudan)

MIGRATION CHOICES AND OPTIONS

While the previous section provides a good overview of why people choose to go to Europe and what kind of expectations they have about the lives they will have there, less is known about why certain migrants choose migration to Europe over migration to other countries within the Horn of Africa region. Consequently, the respondents



were asked why they favored going to Europe rather than staying within the region. While for Ethiopian respondents the primary arguments in favor of migrating to Europe are associated with better protection of human rights (23%), life in general being better in Europe (19%) as well as the persisting lack of livelihood in the East and Host of Africa region (16%), Somali respondents indicated that their preference to move to Europe was founded on better access to jobs (20%), life being better (17%), and higher incomes (16%) in Europe, as well as a lack of livelihood in the East and Host of Africa region (16%).

In order to better understand the perceived incentives that drive the decision to leave, the migrants were asked if they would consider staying in the region had they been given equal chances to work and study in the region. As shown in Figure 20, the largest share of each sample (56% of Ethiopians and 47% of Somalis) reported that they would not have stayed in the region under any circumstances. Nonetheless, 20 percent of Ethiopian and 36 percent of Somali respondents indicated that they would consider staying if certain criteria were fulfilled. In the case of the Ethiopian respondents, those conditions were mainly related to improvements of living standards and to a smaller extent to a better political situation in terms of democratic values and freedom of expression. For Somali migrants, staying in the region was conditioned on achieving increased security and stability, followed by better incomes. Similar findings were observed when respondents were asked if they would consider staying if they had equal study opportunities as in Europe. Roughly 60 percent of both Ethiopian and Somali migrants indicated that they would not consider staying even if the region offered study opportunities which were as good as in Europe.

Because it often remains unclear if migrants are aware of the different migration options in terms of regular and irregular channels, migrants were asked how they planned to obtain their permission to stay in the destination country. A relatively large share of both groups (31% of Ethiopian and 44% of Somali respondents), reported that they had not thought about this yet. The majority of Ethiopian respondents (62%) claimed that they would apply for asylum. However, only 23 percent of Somali respondents intended to do so as well. Another 15 percent of the Somali respondents reported that they would ask for a national passport upon arrival. When the migrants were asked about their awareness of legal migration pathways to Europe, 43 percent of the Ethiopian and 53 percent of the Somali respondents said they were aware that such options existed. When asked to specify what these legal channels were, 60 percent of the Ethiopian respondents mentioned the asylum application, while 58 percent of the Somali respondents referred to family reunification. Different visas were also known, although to a lesser extent and different types of visas were known by the two nationality groups. 16 percent of the Ethiopian respondents knew about the Schengen visa, whereas only 4 percent named tourist visas in general, and 8 percent about the student visas. In the case of the Somali respondents only 7 percent named the Schengen visa, while 52 percent named either student or tourist visas.



III. CONCLUSION

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

The data collection activity in Sudan on Ethiopian and Somali nationals in transit to Europe surveyed a total of 1,197 migrants, of which 794 respondents originated from Ethiopia and 403 from Somalia. For both samples the gender distribution was male dominated, with 66.5 percent of the Ethiopian and 62 percent of the Somali respondents being male. Over two thirds of Somali respondents were between the ages of 17 and 31 years old, while two thirds of Ethiopian respondents were between 17 and 46 years old. The data also revealed that Ethiopian migrants en route in Sudan were more likely to be married as well as more likely to have children than Somali migrants. The largest share of respondents from both nationalities had at least completed secondary education. While Ethiopian nationals predominately had left their country in or prior to 2014 mainly from Tigray, Amhara and Oromia, most Somali nationals had left in 2016 or 2017 from all over the country (although a larger number departed from Woqooyi Galbeed, Awdal and Banadir). While Somali respondents in the sample were more likely to report to have been unemployed at the time of departure, it must also be highlighted that almost one third of the Somali sample were students prior to their departure. The majority of both nationality groups claimed that their income prior to their departure was not enough to meet their monthly expenses.

At all three levels (micro, meso and macro), the main challenged which Ethiopian migrants indicated having faced before leaving their home country were security threats/issues, followed by a lack of income/livelihoods as well as the absence of rule of law. The challenges mentioned by the Somali migrants, on the other hand, were mostly associated with the lack of jobs/income and unemployment, ahead of security challenges, particularly at the community level. Similar responses were also provided with regards to questions about reasons for leaving and personal triggers for migration: insecurity and lack of livelihood were often cited as main determinants, and reasons like the absence of human rights and absence of rule of law were also commonly cited. It appeared more common for Somali migrants to have their decision-making influenced by family and friends living in Europe. Speaking to friends/family in Europe over the phone or through communication apps was also a common source of information on which Somali migrants based their decision to migrate on. For Ethiopians, on the other hand, information was primarily obtained by speaking with people in churches/mosques or other religious centers.

Migrants coming from the Horn of Africa region are known to face challenges when travelling by land. Indeed, more than two thirds of Ethiopian and more than half of Somali respondents to the survey reported

to have encountered problems en route to Sudan. By far the most common challenges faced were hunger/thirst, followed by physical abuse, lack of access to shelter, health problems, and being robbed. These problems were most commonly committed by smugglers, national authorities or fellow migrants.

For respondents of both nationalities, more than half of the sample made use of a migration facilitator to reach Sudan (2 on average) and reported that they predominately found the intermediaries through friends or family in the home country. The largest proportion of respondents in both cohorts financed their journey by borrowing money from family/friends at home as well as from family/friends in Europe, although to a lesser extent. Savings and selling land were also commonly identified as sources of revenue to finance the journey. While Ethiopian respondents mainly paid the full amount upfront, through a third party or via cash installments, Somali respondents commonly made use of the hawala system as well as through other third-party systems.

Almost one quarter of the Ethiopian cohort did not have a specific destination country in mind when they left for Europe. Common destination countries for respondents from both nationalities were Germany, Sweden, the UK as well as Switzerland. Reasons for choosing these countries were most often associated with criteria like the respect for human rights, safety in the country, the ease of access to asylum procedures, and the availability of jobs. Respondents' perceptions of Europe for both nationalities were largely formed through word of mouth. One third of Somali respondents obtained their information by speaking with friends/family in Europe over the phone or other communication apps, whereas one quarter of Ethiopian respondents received information from people at churches/mosques/other religious institutions. The main priorities of migrants upon arrival as well as expected support were linked to applying for asylum, receiving the nationality of a European country, as well as receiving free housing. Based on their existing perceptions and expectations, only around a third of the Ethiopian and a little over half of Somali respondents in Sudan reported that they would encourage others to migrate to Europe. The main reason cited for not encouraging others to migrate was the dangerousness of migration routes as well as the difficulties faced throughout the journey.

IMMEDIATE NEEDS AND VULNERABILITIES

From the data collection activities on Somali and Ethiopian migrants in Sudan, it became clear that migrants faced immediate needs and challenges prior to their departure, en route as well as upon arrival in the destination country.

The prevalence of physical and sexual abuse of Somali and Ethiopian migrants in transit should be addressed and the protection of migrants traveling from the Horn of Africa region to Europe better guaranteed. There is also a need for better information on potential risks and threats that migrants are likely to face along the route, since the current information migrants seem to have about potential risks of migration does not reflect the actual challenges faced by migrants in the region. This goes along with informing migrants about where they can obtain access to basic needs such as food, shelter and legal assistance en route as well as in the destination country. Currently referral mechanisms are missing at several important transit points along the route to Europe.

Access to information could be drastically improved in different aspects. Migrants need to be better informed along the route (in countries of origin and transit countries) about potential destination countries in the EU, and what services and rights they will have access to within these different EU countries. The data revealed that almost all activities in Europe are connected to the success of being granted asylum or receiving the nationality/citizenship of a European country. As the analysis showed there is often a big gap between expectations and reality, especially regarding legal procedures such as family reunification, the acceptance rate of asylum claims, as well as on obtaining the nationality of a European country. Migrants need to be made aware of the different policies and what they can expect upon their arrival in Europe, and should be given more information on the asylum process in European countries.

Finally, the data collection activity has also shown how important mobile communication applications and social media have become in the migration decision-making process as well as in defining perceptions and expectations of life in Europe. The increasing use and importance of apps and social media should be considered when designing information campaigns as well as when trying to understand communication means and channels in the context of sharing knowledge and experiences about migration journeys and life in Europe.