

MIGRATION TRENDS DASHBOARD | AUGUST 2021

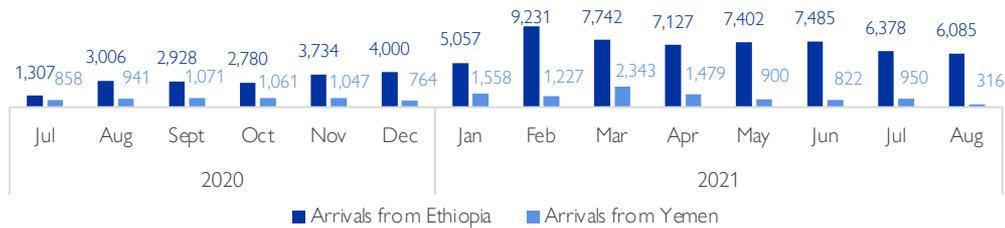
8,891 movements observed, including **23%** at the Obock Flow Monitoring Point (FMP) | **6,085** entries from Djibouti's western borders | **316** spontaneous return movements from Yemen* | **395** exits to Ethiopia | **1,547** migrants blocked in Djibouti as of 26 August 2021** | **3** migrants deceased along the migration routes

OVERVIEW

During the month of August 2021, 8,891 movements were observed at Flow Monitoring Points (FMPs) in Djibouti, representing a daily average of 287 movements. This is a decrease of 9 per cent from the 317 average daily movements observed in July 2021. Migration flows have not reached the levels registered during the pre-COVID-19 period (between March 2019 and March 2020, the daily average was 621). Of these 8,891 movements, 2,020 (23%) were observed in Obock. This coastal region of Djibouti is the main gateway for migrants going to and returning from the Arab Peninsula. Migrants regroup at congregation points in the Obock region where they then cross the Gulf of Aden on boats.

From January to June 2020, the number of entries observed from Djibouti's western borders decreased by 99 per cent due to the closure of Ethiopian borders. Since Djibouti and Ethiopia resumed land services in July 2020, the number of entries from Ethiopia has increased sharply. They went from 1,307 movements in July 2020 to 6,085 in August 2021. In addition, 15,689 Ethiopian nationals have returned from Yemen since May 2020. Between May 2020 and July 2021, the number of spontaneous returns from Yemen has been multiplied by nine, from 109 to 950. At the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, these movements were mainly due to movements restrictions imposed in Yemen and Saudi Arabia. Subsequently, the progressive deterioration of living conditions in Yemen also triggered growing numbers of spontaneous returns, which continue to this day. However, during the month of August, only 316 returns from Yemen were registered, which represents a 67 per cent decrease compared to July 2021.

ARRIVALS IN DJIBOUTI SINCE JULY 2020****

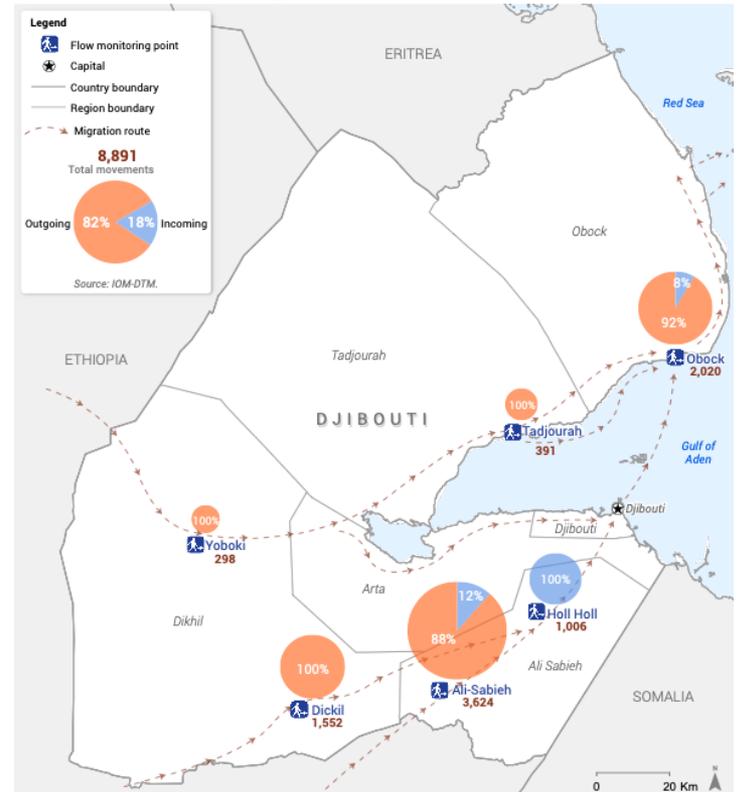


AVERAGE DAILY MOVEMENTS OBSERVED AT FMPs, BY MONTH



*The data on returns from Yemen were collected through key informants
 **Information on the definition and data collection methodology of migrants stranded in Djibouti is available on the last page of this dashboard
 **** In the framework of this report, incoming flows only include flows coming from a country other than Djibouti and headed to Djibouti. Outgoing flows cover the flows departing from Djibouti to reach another country, while transiting flows are those which pass through Djibouti, but whose departure and final destination countries are different from Djibouti
 *****Some of the data on arrivals from Ethiopia may be different from those reported in previous dashboards, because these numbers include the Dikhil FMP which was previously omitted

TYPES OF FLOWS



Disclaimer: This map is for illustration purposes only. Names and boundaries on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by IOM. ©

IMPACTS OF THE CONFLICT IN ETHIOPIA'S TIGRAY REGION ON MIGRATION FLOWS IN DJIBOUTI

KEY FIGURES

+113%

Arrivals from Ethiopia between November 2020 and August 2021

+61%

Exits to Ethiopia between November 2020 and August 2021

-95%

Arrivals from Tigray region between November 2020 and August 2021

42

Tigrayan migrants referred to the ONARS since July 2021*

*Office National d'Assistance aux Réfugiés et Sinistrés

ARRIVALS FROM ETHIOPIA

During the month of August 2021, **6,085 arrivals from Djibouti's western borders** were observed, which represents a **4 per cent decrease compared to July 2021** (6,334 movements). Almost all of the migrants (99%) entering Djibouti from Ethiopia in August were travelling for economic reasons. The main region of departure of migrants arriving from Ethiopia was **Oromia** (73%), followed by Amhara (19%). In addition, more than half of these migrants passed through the **Ali-Sabieh FMP** (53%). The other points of entry included Dikhil (25%), Holl Holl (17%) and to a lesser extent, Yoboki (5%). It is worth noting that during the month of August 2021, 1,003 migrants were stranded in the regions of Ali-Sabieh and Dikhil (see the dedicated section on page 4); the main regions of entry in Djibouti.

Since the onset of the Tigray crisis in Ethiopia, a total of **56,435 movements from Ethiopia** were observed, which represents a 34 per cent increase compared to the pre-conflict period (November 2019 – August 2020), during which 48,113 arrivals from Ethiopia were registered. Since the beginning of the conflict, these arrivals **increased by 113 per cent**, from 2,860 in November 2020 to 6,085 in August 2021. However, **movements coming from the Tigray region decreased by 95 per cent** between November 2020 (348) and August 2021 (18). Since the onset of the crisis, **6,915 movements** from this region were observed. This number is 29 per cent lower than the pre-conflict figures (9,746). In August 2021, among the 18 migrants who arrived in Djibouti from Tigray, all were travelling for economic reasons.

EXITS TO ETHIOPIA

EXITS TO ETHIOPIA SINCE NOV. 2020



In August 2021, **395 exits to Ethiopia** were observed, which represents an **11 per cent decrease** compared to the previous month (445 in July 2021). The great majority (94%) of the migrants who were headed to Ethiopia transited through the **Ali-Sabieh FMP**, while 6 per cent passed through Dikhil. They mainly intended to go to the region of **Oromia** (89%) and 11 per cent were going to the Amhara region.

Since the beginning of the conflict, **3,767 exits to Ethiopia** were observed. They **increased by 61 per cent**, from 246 in November 2020 to 395 in August 2021.

It should be kept in mind that the means of transport used by Ethiopian migrants vary: while most of them return on foot from Obock to Ali-Sabieh, the majority of Tigrayan migrants returning from Yemen cross the border at Balho and Galafi by car or by bus, which makes it more difficult to record their movements.

ARRIVALS FROM ETHIOPIA SINCE NOV. 2019

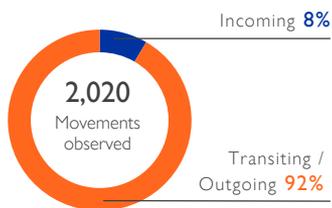


ARRIVALS FROM TIGRAY REGION SINCE NOV. 2019

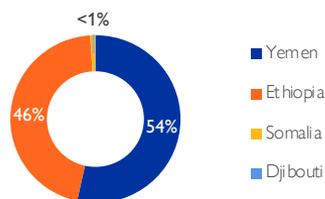


MIGRATION FLOWS OBSERVED IN OBOCK REGION

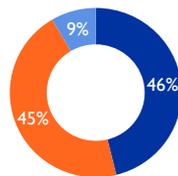
TYPE OF FLOWS



DEPARTURE COUNTRIES



INTENDED DESTINATIONS



Of the 2,020 migration flows observed at the Obock FMP in August 2021, 92 per cent transited through or exited Djibouti and 8 per cent entered the country. Almost all of the travellers observed at this transit point were Ethiopian (99%) men (88%).

They mainly came from Yemen (54%) and Ethiopia (46%), and most of them chose these two countries as their final destination (46% were headed to Yemen and 45% to Ethiopia).

Most migrants (72%) travelled for economic reasons, while 28 per cent were returning to their place of habitual residence.

MIGRATION FLOWS OBSERVED BETWEEN DJIBOUTI AND YEMEN

SPONTANEOUS RETURNS FROM YEMEN

316

Returns from Yemen in August 2021

-67%

Returns from Yemen between July and August 2021

9,595

Returns from Yemen Since January 2021

75

Returns of Tigrayan migrants from Yemen since July 2021

ARRIVALS FROM YEMEN SINCE JAN. 2021



Since the beginning 2021, a total of **9,595 spontaneous returns from Yemen** have been registered. During the month of August 2021, **316 migrants arrived from Yemen on the Djiboutian coast, which represents a 67 per cent decrease compared to July 2021**. This decrease is namely due to the resumption, since the beginning of August 2021, of **Voluntary Humanitarian Returns** of Ethiopian migrants stranded in Yemen, organised on a regular basis by IOM Yemen. Furthermore, since the last shipwreck which occurred in April 2021, **coast guards have increased their patrols along the shores of the Obock region** has intensified, in order to intercept boats coming from or headed to Yemen. Thus, smugglers had to change their operating procedures in order to minimise the risk of arrest, notably by using smaller crafts and by frequently changing embarkation and disembarkation points. As a result, in August 2021, according to key informants, many smugglers preferred to disembark in the north of Obock region, near the Eritrean border (around the village of Moulhoule). This also contributed to the **increase in travel costs** and is one contributing factor to why less migrants used this migratory route during the month of August. In addition, the significant decrease in spontaneous returns from Yemen observed in August 2021 is also attributable to the **rumours on the easing of movement restrictions at the border between Yemen and Saudi Arabia**, which can encourage some migrants in Yemen to try and reach Saudi Arabia in search of better economic opportunities. The great majority (93%) of migrants returning from Yemen were males (292 men and 3 boys), while 23 were women.

Since July 2021, of the 1,266 returns from Yemen observed, **only 75 Tigrayan migrants** were identified. In addition, only 12 Tigrayan migrants have been registered at Obock's Migration Response Centre (MRC) since November 2020.

EXITS TO YEMEN

1,536

Exits to Yemen In August 2021*

8,359

Exits to Yemen since January 2021*

EXITS TO YEMEN SINCE JAN. 2021



Since January 2021, 8,359 movements from Djibouti to Yemen have been registered. During the month of August 2021, **1,536 migrants arrived in Yemen from Obock region**. The downward trend observed since June 2021 is mainly attributable to the adverse weather conditions (strong winds, heavy rainfall, high tides) which made it difficult for migrants to travel by boat.

*DTM Yemen. [Flow Monitoring Registry Dashboard – Non-Yemeni Migrant Arrivals And Yemeni Returnees In August 2021](#)

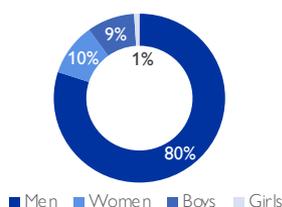
GENERAL DATA

MIGRANT PROFILE AND VULNERABILITIES

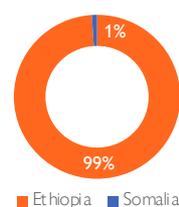
During the month of August 2021, most of the persons observed at FMPs were **adults** (80% of men and 10% of women), while 10 per cent were minors (9% of boys and 1% of girls). Almost all of them (99%) were **Ethiopian nationals**. Children under five years old and persons living with a physical or mental disability accounted for less than 1 per cent of the identified population.

In addition, among the 390 persons surveyed through the Flow Monitoring Surveys (FMS), 61 per cent had not received any kind of formal education and 31 per cent (notably 53% of women) had reached the primary level. It is also worth highlighting that a significant proportion of women (31%) had received a religious education. Furthermore, 85 per cent of surveyed migrants were **looking for a job**.

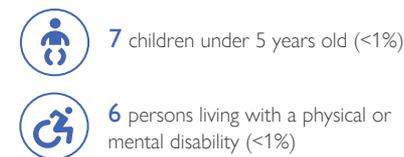
SEX AND AGE



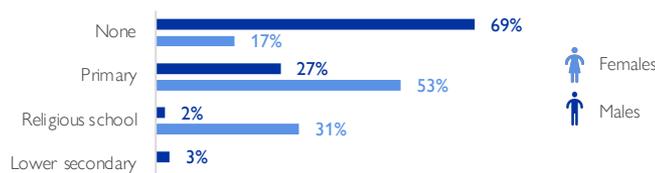
NATIONALITIES



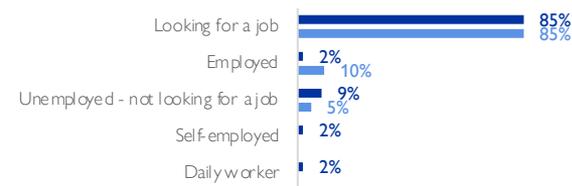
VULNERABILITIES



EDUCATION LEVEL, BY SEX

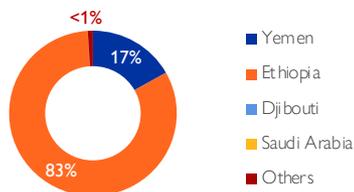


PROFESSIONAL STATUS, BY SEX

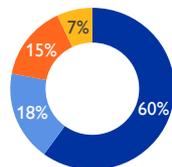


TRAVEL CHARACTERISTICS

DEPARTURE COUNTRIES



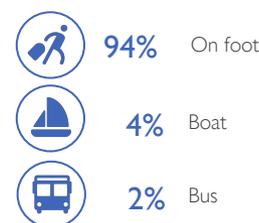
INTENDED DESTINATIONS



REASONS FOR TRAVEL

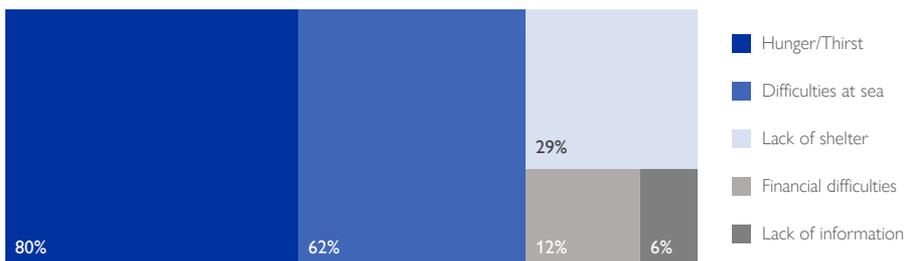


MEANS OF TRANSPORT



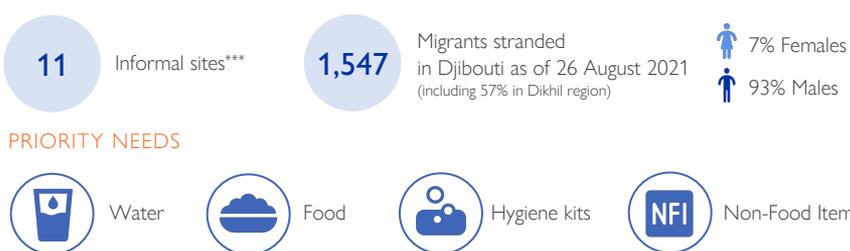
During the month of August 2021, most migrants departed from **Ethiopia** (83%). The main intended destination was **Yemen** (60%), followed by Djibouti (18%), Ethiopia (15%) and Saudi Arabia (7%). The migrants observed were mainly travelling for **economic reasons** (90%) and the great majority (94%) were travelling **on foot**.

MAIN CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED*



*Among the 282 persons surveyed through the FMS who reported having faced challenges

MIGRANTS STRANDED IN DJIBOUTI**



**See the last page of the dashboard for more information

***The list of the informal sites is available on the following link: <https://migration.iom.int/reports/djibouti-migrants-presence-26-august-2021?close=true>

DTM in Djibouti

IOM works in collaboration with the Government of Djibouti to better understand the migratory dynamics in Djibouti as well as the profile of migrants transiting the country. IOM implements flow monitoring, a DTM component which consists in collecting data in the localities through which migrants' transit (flow monitoring points). The data presented in this monthly report provides an overview of the movements and profiles of the mobile population in Djibouti.

Flow monitoring

Flow monitoring is a component of the IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM). The objective of the flow monitoring component is to regularly provide updated information on population flows and on the profile of populations on the move (migrants, internally displaced persons, returnees, etc.). The information and analyzes offered by the flow monitoring methodology provide a better understanding of the difficulties encountered by migrants throughout their migratory route or forced displacement in order to better define priorities in terms of assistance.

Spontaneous returns from Yemen

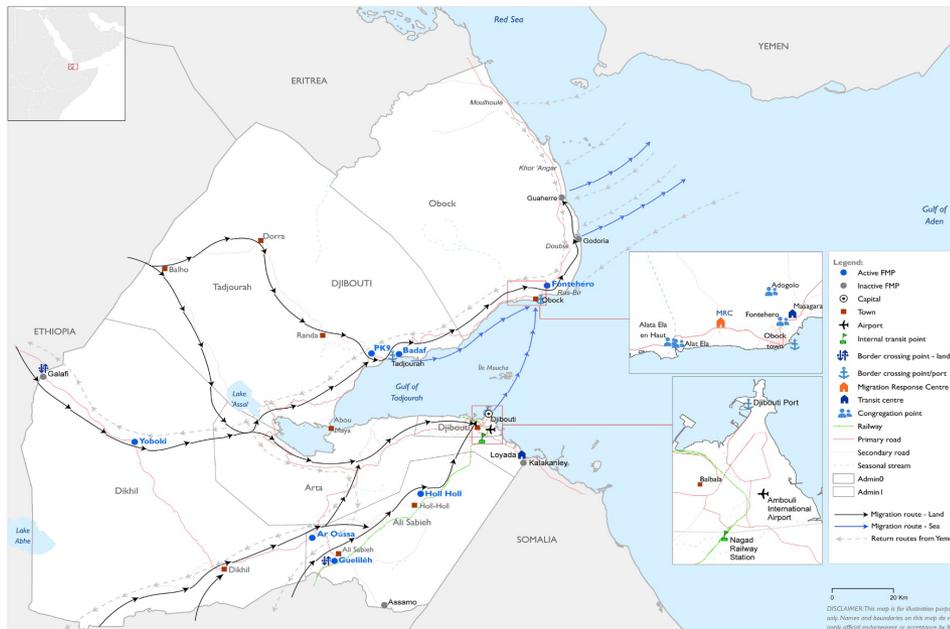
Spontaneous returns from Yemen are a component of the IOM's DTM which started in May 2020. The objective of this data collection tool is to provide updated information on population flows returning from Yemen following COVID-19 movement restrictions in Yemen and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The information and analyzes offered by DTM provide a better understanding of the current difficulties encountered by migrants throughout their migratory route. While the number of arrivals is gathered through a well established system, all returns cannot be captured due to their coastal location. Thus the number of arrivals from Yemen is most probably higher than reported.

Migrants stranded in Djibouti

The COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent prevention measures (such as movement restrictions) that have been put in place by the various governments in the region continue to negatively impact the living conditions of vulnerable populations, including those of migrants transiting through Djibouti. Although the borders between Ethiopia and Djibouti have been reopened since July 2020, some migrants transiting through Djibouti who are on their way or coming back from the Arabian Peninsula, remain stranded in Djibouti. This is due to, among other reasons, the lack of resources to continue their migration journey, as well as movement and security restrictions. These migrants find themselves stranded in informal settlements along the migration corridor in Djibouti, where they have little or no access to basic services and are exposed to protection risks.

Limitations

The spatial and temporal coverage of the surveys carried out is partial and does not allow all migratory flows in the country to be captured. The data presented in this report mainly shows migration trends. Furthermore, it is possible that migrants crossing several FMPs may be counted several times. Thus, the total number of migrants observed at the FMPs does not necessarily reflect the true migratory flows in each region. It is also worth highlighting that the number of enumerators responsible for data collection can change from one month to the other, which can partly explain some changes in the flows observed. In addition, the data on the vulnerabilities are based on direct observations by the enumerators and should only be taken as an indication. All data included in this report are based on partial observations and are not representative of the entire migrant population. IOM guarantees the data included in this report; however we cannot give a complete picture of migratory movements.



FUNDING SUPPORT



EU-IOM
Joint Initiative for
Migrant Protection
and Reintegration



Funded by
European Union
Civil Protection and
Humanitarian Aid

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