

MIGRATION TRENDS DASHBOARD | SEPTEMBER 2021

9,351 movements observed, including **27%** at the Obock Flow Monitoring Point (FMP)

5,314 arrivals from Ethiopia

302 spontaneous returns from Yemen¹

358 exits to Ethiopia

993 migrants stranded in Djibouti as of 30 September 2021²

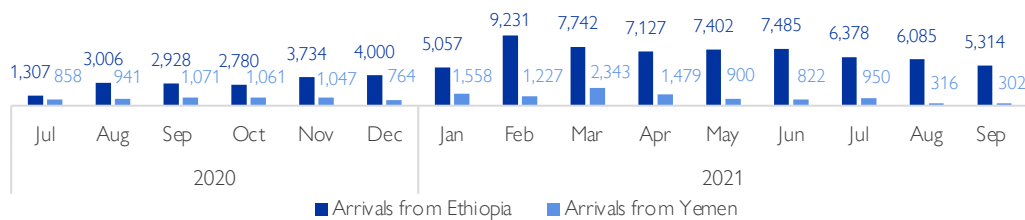
2 migrants deceased along the migration routes

OVERVIEW

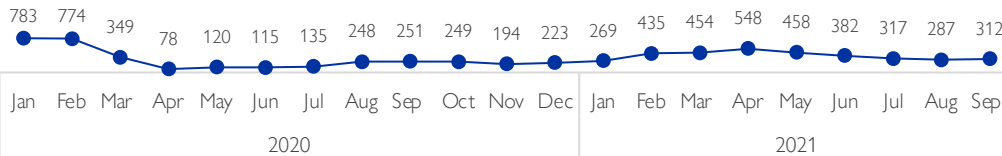
During the month of September 2021, 9,351 movements were observed at Flow Monitoring Points (FMPs) in Djibouti, representing a daily average of 312 movements. This is a 9 per cent increase compared to the 287 average daily movements observed in August 2021. Migration flows have not reached pre-COVID-19 levels (between March 2019 and March 2020, the daily average was 621). Of these 9,351 movements, 2,499 (27%) were observed in Obock. This coastal region of Djibouti is the main gateway for migrants going to and returning from the Arabian 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 5,314 in September 2021. In addition, 15,991 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 mobility 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, since August 2021, the average daily number of returns from Yemen has been declining (316 in August 2021 and 302 in September 2021).

ARRIVALS IN DJIBOUTI SINCE JULY 2020⁴



AVERAGE DAILY MOVEMENTS OBSERVED AT FMPs, BY MONTH



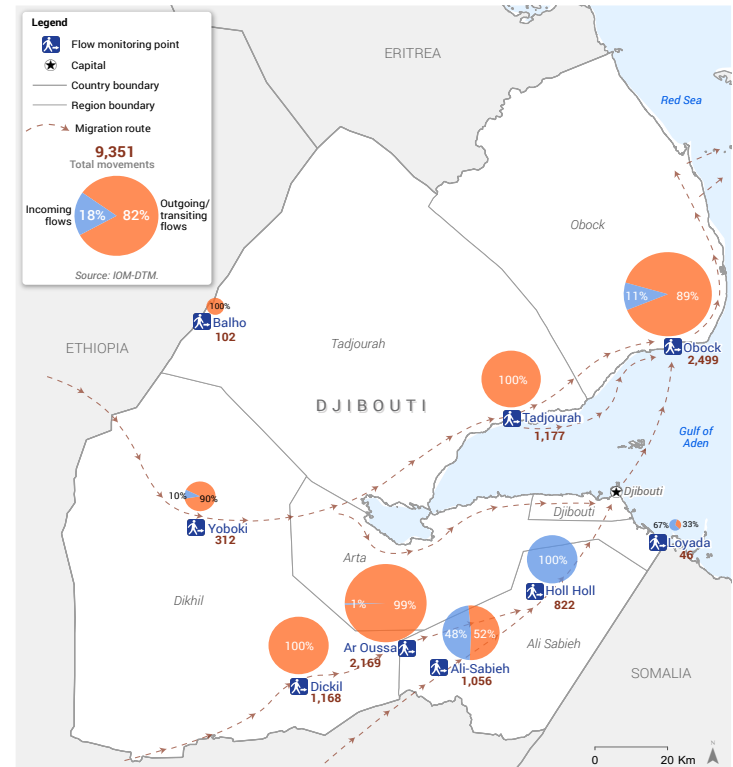
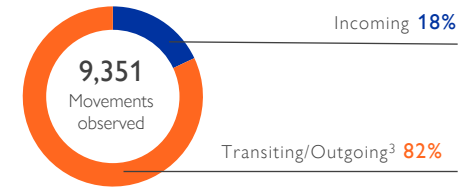
¹The data on returns from Yemen were collected through key informants.

²Information on the definition and data collection methodology of migrants stranded in Djibouti is available on the last page of this dashboard.

³In 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.

⁴Some 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.

TYPE 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.

RETURNS FROM YEMEN

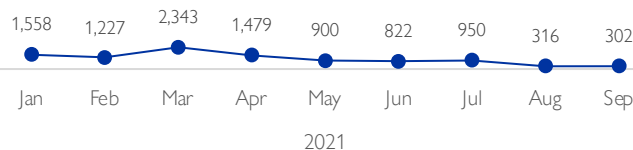
9,897 Returns from Yemen since January 2021

302 Returns from Yemen in September 2021

75 Returns of Tigrayan migrants from Yemen since July 2021

Men 97%
Women 2%
Boys 1%
Girls 0%

ARRIVALS FROM YEMEN IN 2021



Since the beginning of 2021, a total of **9,897** spontaneous returns from Yemen have been registered. During the month of September 2021, **302** migrants arrived from Yemen on the Djiboutian coast, which represents a **68 per cent decrease** compared to the flows observed in July 2021 (950 returns).

This decrease is notably attributable to the fact that **some migrants stranded in Yemen have started returning directly to Ethiopia through Voluntary Humanitarian Return (VHR) flights** organised by IOM Yemen on a regular basis since August 2021.

Of the 302 migrants returning from Yemen in September 2021, almost all (97%) were men, 2 per cent were women and 1 per cent were boys.

In addition, according to DTM Yemen, **1,462 migrants arrived in Yemen from the Obock region** in September 2021, which represents a 5 per cent decrease compared to August 2021.

ARRIVALS FROM ETHIOPIA

60,948 Arrivals from Ethiopia since January 2021

5,314 Arrivals from Ethiopia in September 2021

ARRIVALS FROM ETHIOPIA IN 2021



As the conflict in Ethiopia's Tigray region continues to unfold, access to Djibouti through the Afar region continues to be difficult. As a result, arrivals from Ethiopia continued to decrease in September 2021, with **5,314 entries from Ethiopia** observed, which represents a **13 per cent decrease** compared to August 2021 (6,085 movements). This brings the total entries from Ethiopia in 2021 to **60,948**.

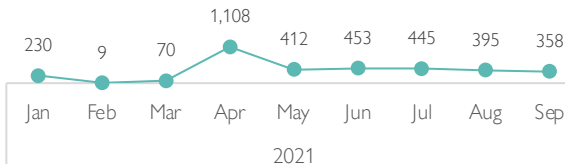
The main region of departure of migrants coming from Ethiopia was **Oromia (71%)**, followed by Amhara (19%). Only 2 per cent originated from Tigray. In addition, most of these migrants transited through the region of **Ali-Sabieh (69%)** and 28 per cent were observed in Dikhil.

EXITS TO ETHIOPIA⁵

3,480 Exits to Ethiopia since January 2021

358 Exits to Ethiopia in September 2021

EXITS TO ETHIOPIA IN 2021



⁵It 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.

In September 2021, **358 exits to Ethiopia** were observed, which represents a **9 per cent decrease** compared to the previous month (395 in August 2021).

This brings the total exits to Ethiopia in 2021 to **3,480**.

The majority (89%) of the migrants who were headed to Ethiopia in September 2021 were identified in the region of **Ali-Sabieh**, 7 per cent passed through Tadjourah and 4 per cent through Dikhil. They were mainly travelling towards the region of **Oromia (77%)** and 22 per cent intended to reach Amhara.

MIGRANTS STRANDED IN DJIBOUTI⁶

11 Informal sites

993 Migrants stranded in Djibouti as of 30 Sep. 2021

7% Female
93% Male

PRIORITY NEEDS



Some migrants transiting through Djibouti who are on their way or coming back from the Arabian Peninsula remain stranded in Djibouti, mainly due to the lack of resources to continue their migration journey. 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.

As of 30 September 2021, **993 migrants were stranded in 11 informal sites**. The largest part (39%) were stranded in the **Dikhil** region, 25 per cent were in Obock, 20 per cent in Ali-Sabieh and 16 per cent in Tadjourah.

⁶See the last page of this dashboard for more information on data collection methodology.

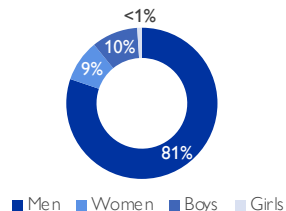
DEMOGRAPHIC AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROFILE

During the month of September 2021, most of the migrants observed at FMPs were adults (81% of men and 9% of women), while 10 per cent were minors (10% of boys and less than 1% of girls). Almost all of them (99%) were **Ethiopian nationals**. Children under five years old and persons living with a disability accounted for less than 1 per cent of the identified population.

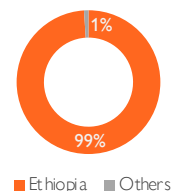
In addition, among the 464 migrants surveyed through the Flow Monitoring Surveys (FMS), 66 per cent (notably 71% of women) had **not received any kind of formal education** and 27 per cent had reached the primary level. It is also worth highlighting that a significant proportion of women (16%) had received a religious education.

Most of the migrants surveyed (87%) were **looking for a job**.

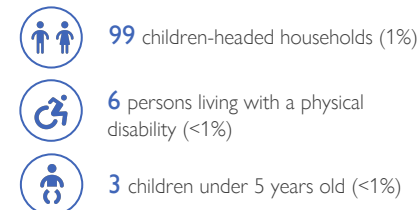
SEX AND AGE GROUP



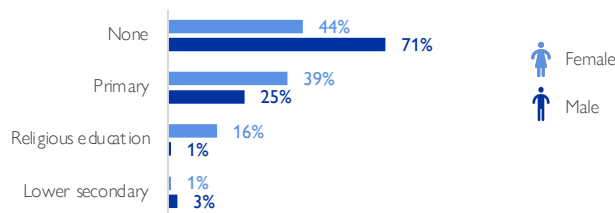
NATIONALITIES



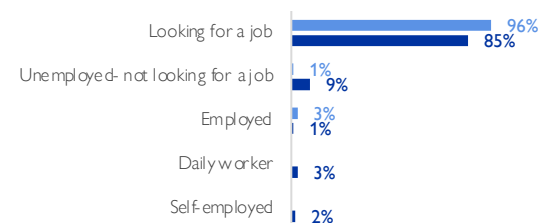
VULNERABILITIES



EDUCATION LEVEL, BY SEX

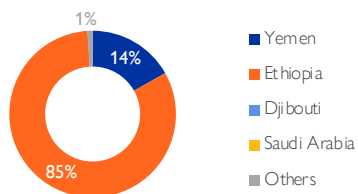


PROFESSIONAL STATUS, BY SEX

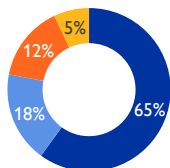


TRAVEL CHARACTERISTICS

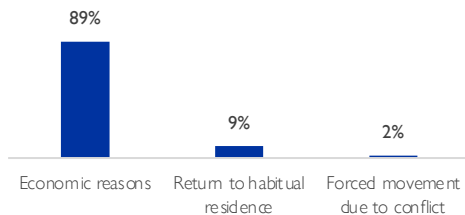
DEPARTURE COUNTRIES



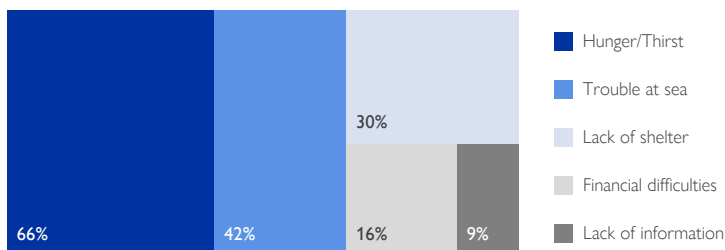
INTENDED DESTINATIONS



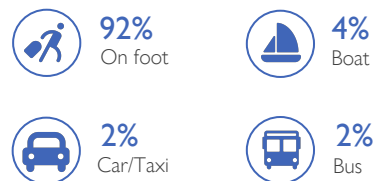
REASONS FOR TRAVEL



MAIN CHALLENGES



MEANS OF TRANSPORT



In September 2021, most of the migrants observed at FMPs had departed from **Ethiopia** (85%). Their main intended destination was **Yemen** (65%), followed by Djibouti (18%), Ethiopia (12%) and Saudi Arabia (5%).

The migrants observed were mainly travelling for **economic reasons** (89%; of which 82% were seeking job opportunities), while 9 per cent were returning to their place of habitual residence and 2 per cent had been forced to leave their place of origin due to conflict. Most of them (92%) were travelling **on foot** at the transit points.

In addition, among the 464 migrants surveyed through the FMS, the main **challenges** mentioned were hunger and/or thirst (cited by 66% of the individuals surveyed). A large proportion of migrants also faced trouble at sea (44%) or lacked shelter for sleeping (30%).

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 passing through 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 this 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 analyses obtained through 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

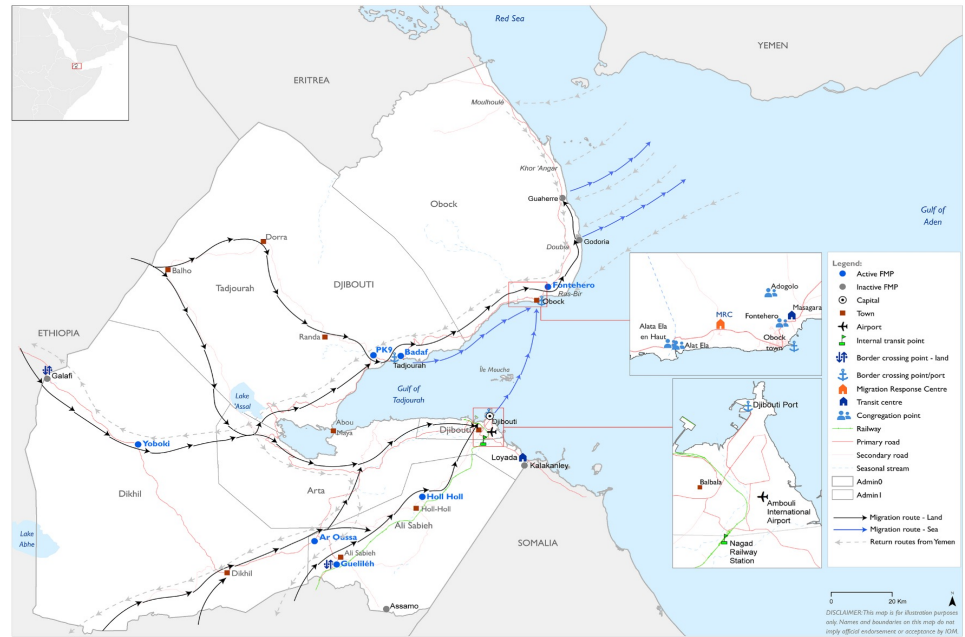
Spontaneous returns from Yemen are a component of IOM's DTM which started in May 2020. The objective of this data collection tool is to provide updated information on population flows returning from Yemen following COVID-19 movement restrictions in Yemen and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The information and analyses 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

Information on migrants stranded in Djibouti as well as on informal sites is collected through enumerators deployed at key transit points. Data is collected on a daily basis, during time slots when the flows are most important. Data in this dashboard does not include flows observed in Djibouti City.

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

The opinions expressed in the report are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the International Organization for Migration (IOM). The designations employed and the presentation of material throughout the report 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. IOM is committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and society. As an intergovernmental organization, IOM acts with its partners in the international community to: assist in the meeting of operational challenges of migration; advance understanding of migration issues; encourage social and economic development through migration; and uphold the human dignity and well-being of migrants. When quoting, paraphrasing, or in any other way using the information mentioned in this report, the source needs to be stated appropriately as follows: "Source: The International Organization for Migration [Month, Year], Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM)"