

# DISPLACEMENT TRACKING MATRIX

## OVERVIEW

### REGIONAL DISPLACEMENT TRENDS

Total Number of IDPs

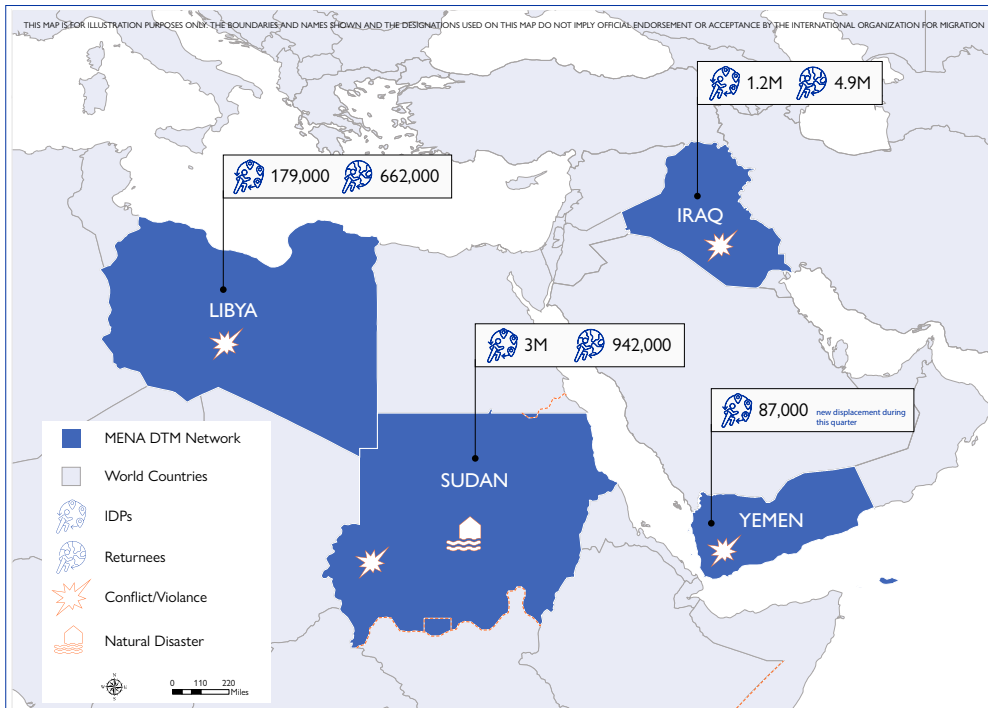
14.7M

Share of IDPs in MENA over Total IDPs in the world

27%

Share of IDPs in MENA over Total population in the region

4%



The Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) provides primary data and information on internal displacement and population movements in-country and at regional and global levels. DTM’s work worldwide informs humanitarian, recovery, transition and development interventions by providing timely data and analysis to relevant actors including governments, United Nations partner agencies, donors and other stakeholders. DTM operates in contexts where conflict, natural disasters and complex emergency settings can cause short-term or protracted displacement, as well as in mixed migration contexts.

In the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, there were 12.1 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) in 2020.<sup>1</sup> This figure constitutes 22 per cent of the global number of IDPs, making the MENA the region with the second highest concentration of IDPs following the sub-Saharan Africa region. Most displacement in the MENA region (98%) has been triggered by armed conflict, in particular in Iraq, Libya, Syria and Yemen.

DTM is active in five countries in the region (Iraq, Libya, Lebanon, Sudan and Yemen) and operates through the Humanitarian Country Teams (HCT) and inter-sectoral coordination structure of these countries. This Quarterly Report, covering the last three months of 2021, provides an update on the displacement situation in the four countries of the region – Iraq, Libya, Sudan, and Yemen –<sup>2</sup> as well as mixed migration flows to and from the region.

During the fourth quarter of 2021, without major hostilities and natural disasters in Iraq and Libya, the DTM data show a downward trend of IDP numbers. However, existing and newly erupted

inter-communal conflicts in Sudan resulted in hundreds of thousands of displacements. In addition, an escalation in hostilities between adversaries since September in Yemen exacerbated the displacement situation.

Below is a summary of contextual factors for the displacement and return trends for each country:

- In **Iraq**, while over 13,000 additional IDP returns were recorded during this quarter, 1.2 million people remain displaced. Housing is the category with the highest impact on the overall living conditions of IDPs, followed by infrastructure and services, livelihoods and social inclusiveness.
- In **Libya**, amid political uncertainty with the presidential election of December 2021 postponed until further notice, the number of IDPs continued to decrease (179,000 as of November), whereas the number of IDPs returning to their places of origin increased.
- In **Sudan**, the conflict observed since the beginning of 2021 continued to intensify. Several new inter-communal clashes have displaced at least 92,000 people in Darfur and Kordofan regions during this quarter.
- In **Yemen**, escalation of hostilities since early September resulted in a sudden spike of displacement across 13 governorates, including Ma’rib, Al Hodeidah and Al Bayda recording about 87,000 individuals displaced at least once during this quarter.

Note: due to the different timeframes of data collection in each country office in the region, the reporting period varies from country to country. Please refer to the country-specific section for details.

1. The Global Report on Internal Displacement 2021, published in May 2021 is available from [www.internal-displacement.org/global-report/grid2021/](http://www.internal-displacement.org/global-report/grid2021/). Unlike the GRID report, this regional DTM report includes Sudan for its MENA regional analysis, following IOM’s regional categories.  
 2. Lebanon started developing DTM analysis and products after the 4 August 2020 explosion that destroyed Beirut’s port and many of its immediate neighbourhoods. Multi-Sector Needs Assessment (MSNA) analysis and reports published by IOM identify the situation and needs of migrants displaced due to this event to inform immediate and mid-term responses since August 2020.  
 3. Figure taken from IDP and Returnee Master List Round 124 covering October–December 2021.

# IRAQ



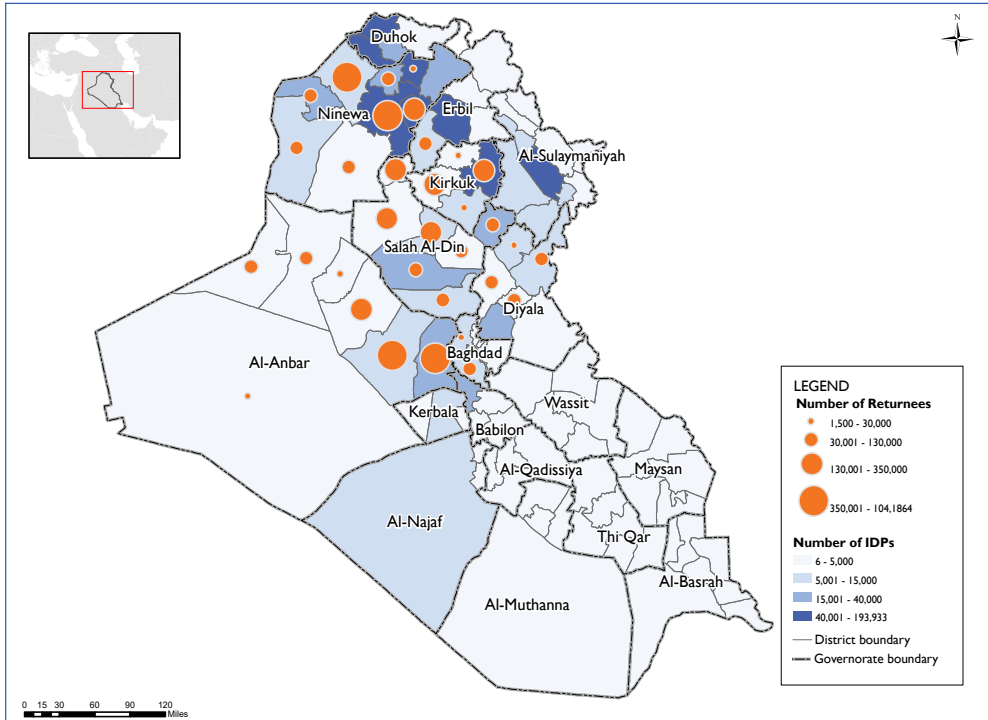
1,186,556

IDPs



4,952,232

IDP Returnees



By 31 December 2021, 1,187,000 IDPs were identified across all 18 governorates in Iraq – a decrease of about 3,000 IDPs from those recorded at the end of September 2021. Ninewa Governorate continues to be the area of origin with the highest number of individuals that continue to be displaced during the reporting period (56% or 665,000 of the total IDPs), particularly from the districts of Mosul, Sinjar and Al-Ba'aj. Out of the total number of IDPs recorded during the reporting period, 15 per cent are in camps.

The first round of the displacement index was published in October 2021. The Displacement Index is a tool used to understand the severity of living conditions in areas of displacement and is based on 17 indicators across five domains: (1) infrastructure and services, (2) safety and security, (3) livelihoods, (4) social inclusiveness and (5) housing. Factor analysis is used to examine the relationship between domains and their indicators and to obtain scores that capture both the relevance of each indicator for a certain domain and the importance of each domain for the overall index. The Index shows that the majority of IDPs (58%) are either in high or medium severity living conditions, particularly in Ninewa (21% of the total IDPs in high or medium severity conditions) and Salah al-Din (10% of the total IDPs in high or medium severity conditions) governorates. The domain with the highest impact on the overall living conditions of IDPs is housing followed by infrastructure and services, livelihoods and social inclusiveness.<sup>4</sup>

the longer reporting period, due to previously inaccessible areas of Anbar being reached in that round. The governorates with the highest numbers of returnees as of December 2021 include Ninewa (1,927,572 individuals), Anbar (1,542,492), Salah al-Din (737,706), Kirkuk (351,618) and Diyala (239,094).

On 10 November 2021, one of the remaining two formal camps for IDPs – the Ameriyat Al Falluja camp in Anbar Governorate, which hosted about 2,200 IDPs, was closed<sup>5</sup> as a part of the Iraqi government decision to close all IDP camps in the country in October 2020. As this camp has been reclassified as an informal site, all services previously provided by the government including food and non-food items were effectively suspended. Despite encouragement to return to the place of origin with cash assistance offered by the Government of Iraq, most IDPs are reluctant to leave the site due to the anticipated obstacles to return to their communities of origin.

**RESEARCH HIGHLIGHT - Home Again? Categorizing Obstacles to Returnee Reintegration in Iraq (December 2021)** – As Iraq witnesses the return of around 4.95 million IDPs to their places of origin as of the end of 2021, in the aftermath of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) conflict understanding the major obstacles hindering returnees' reintegration is critical. Based on five criteria – safety, security, and social relations; access to livelihoods and economic security; documentation; property restitution and compensation; and adequate standard of living – this report measures the level of sustainable reintegration of returnees. The findings reveal that although most returnees were able to build back their lives with individual efforts, structural, social, and institutional obstacles remain unaddressed.

In addition, slightly more than 13,000 additional returns were recorded during October–December 2021, which brought the total number of returnees to approximately 4,952,000. The number of new returns during this data collection period is much lower than that recorded in the previous round from August and September 2021 (55,000) despite

## DTM Operations



Mobilty Tracking



Flow Monitoring



Surveys and Research



Emergency Event Tracking

Click [here](#) to reach DTM Iraq webpage

4. For methodologies of the Displacement Index, check [here](#).

5. OCHA, Humanitarian Bulletin November–December 2021.

# LIBYA



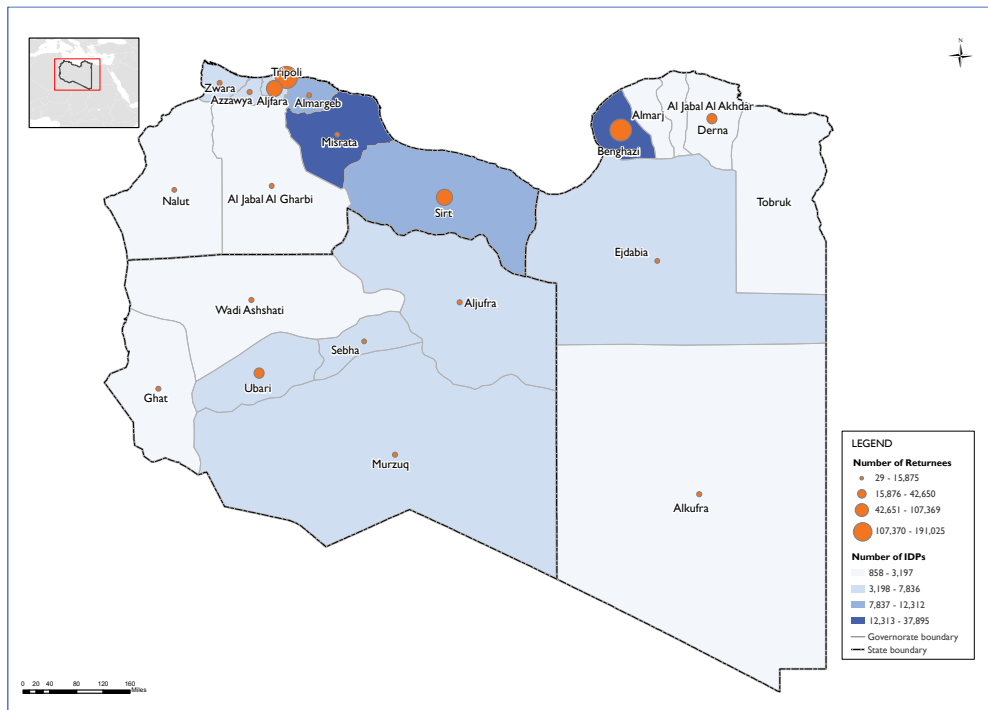
179,047

IDPs



661,892

IDP Returnees



## DTM Operations



Mobility Tracking



Flow Monitoring



Surveys and Research



Emergency Event Tracking



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Since the cessation of hostilities in October 2020, followed by the formation of the Government of National Unity provisional government, largescale hostilities have ceased. However, the political situation remains precarious as the proposed presidential election of 24 December 2021 was postponed and no new date or timeline towards elections have been put forward.

The upward trend in the number of returnees continued during this quarter, like in previous periods in 2021. However, about 179,000 individuals remained displaced by the end of November 2021. This represents a 10 per cent decrease compared to last quarter. On the other hand, approximately 662,000 IDPs were reported to have returned to their places of origin by November, which represents about a 40 per cent increase from the previous quarter. Regions with the highest number of IDPs are Benghazi (37,895), Misrata (32,260) and Tripoli (24,561). Regions with the highest number of IDP returnees include Benghazi (191,025), Tripoli (151,976) and Aljara (107,369).

The observed decline in the number of IDPs and increase in returns is largely driven by the improved security situation and the spontaneous return of IDPs who were displaced due to the armed conflict in western Libya that started in April 2019 and affected areas in Tripoli and Aljara regions (mantika). Ninety per cent of the returnees live in their previous homes. Nonetheless, a significant proportion of the IDP population in Libya face protracted displacement due to damaged houses and infrastructure in their places of origin.

The humanitarian needs of IDPs, as per the data collected through Multi-Sectoral Location Assessment covering all regions of Libya, were accommodation (30%), food (28%) and health services (22%). The identified priority needs

for returnees are almost identical to those of IDPs, except accommodation – food (24%), non-food items (20%), health services (19%) and water, sanitation and hygiene (10%).

**RESEARCH HIGHLIGHT - COVID-19 and Vaccination in Libya: An Assessment of Migrants' Knowledge, Attitude and Practice (December 2021)** – Some of the key findings of the report are that although there is generally a high level of awareness of preventive measures among migrants, the level of awareness was related to their education level and age. A lack of financial means, fear of detention and perception from the host community that migrants are carriers of the virus are the main barrier to accessing health care if they contract the disease. As well, there were low levels of awareness of vaccine accessibility and of relevant registration mechanisms; the main concerns among those who expressed not wishing to receive the vaccine were about the vaccine's safety and effectiveness.

**RESEARCH HIGHLIGHT - COVID-19 Socio-Economic Impact in Libya (December 2021)** – With the aim to shed light on the impact of the pandemic on vulnerable mobile populations, including on livelihoods, access to health care and market prices, as well as access to COVID-19 vaccines and willingness to get vaccinated, the report presents the findings of data collected during the months of April to November 2021, covering 53 municipalities (baladiya) with significant IDP and migrant populations through 445 key informant interviews. The study highlights that in more than 40 per cent of the assessed locations, migrants, daily labourers and the elderly were the groups reported to have been the most negatively impacted by the socioeconomic consequences of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) including loss of livelihoods and increased food prices.

# SUDAN



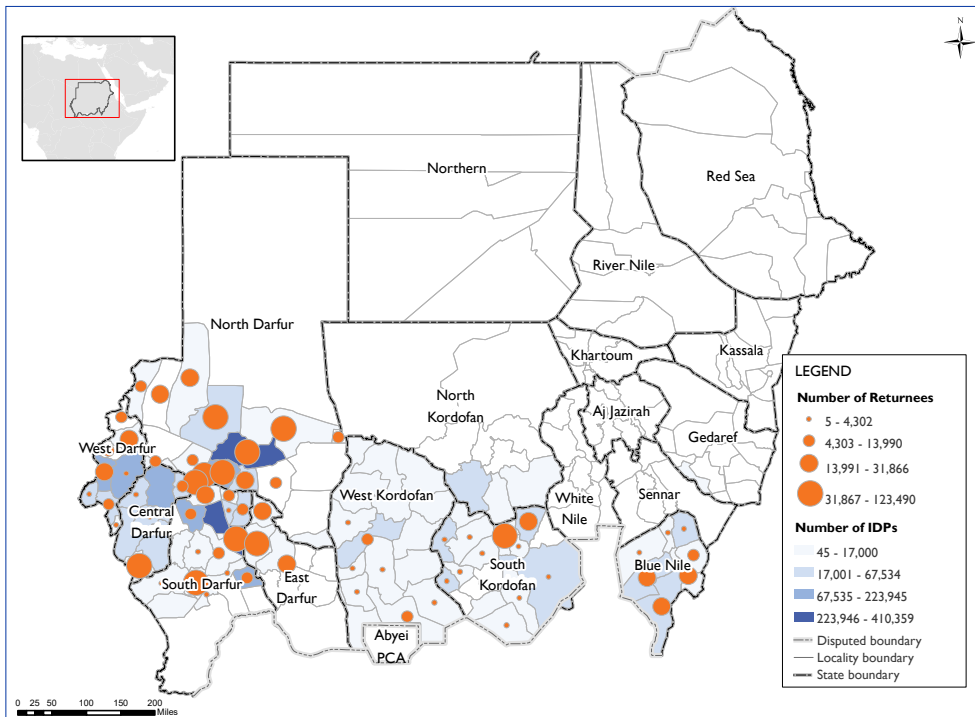
3,086,553

IDPs



942,299

IDP Returnees



## DTM Operations



Mobility Tracking



Emergency Event Tracking



Registration



Surveys and Research

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The Mobility Tracking round three, conducted in 1,538 locations in 11 states in Sudan during April–June 2021, identified the presence of around 3,087,000 IDPs (about 50,000 more than in round two)<sup>6</sup> 942,000 returning IDPs from internal displacement (about 27,000 fewer), 38,500 seasonal returnees (about 103,000 fewer), 93,000 returnees from abroad, and 389,000 foreign nationals in Sudan.

DTM in Sudan also implements Emergency Event Tracking (EET) to provide regular updates on displacement caused by specific events such as the inter-communal conflict in Darfur and natural disasters. During the fourth quarter of 2021, 72 security incidents and non-state armed groups attacks were recorded,<sup>7</sup> and DTM through its EET methodology estimates that more than 92,000 people were displaced in Darfur, Kordofan, Blue Nile, and Red Sea regions. In 2021, a total of 269 security incidents and non-state armed groups attacks led to the displacement of more than 440,000 people.

In West Darfur, two inter-communal clashes between two tribes in Jebel Moon locality on 9 October and again on 20 November displaced about 14,300 individuals. On 29 November, multiple inter-communal clashes in Kereneik locality in West Darfur displaced about 60,000 individuals. In Central Darfur, clashes between different tribal groups in Azum locality on 6 December resulted in the displacement of about 750 individuals who sought refuge in Soya village. In South Kordofan, inter-communal clashes on 9–10 December between two tribes erupted in Delami locality over livestock theft displaced more than 1,200 individuals. In West Kordofan, inter-communal clashes over a property theft in An Nuhud

locality resulted in the displacement of about 1,400 individuals. In North Darfur, Saraf Omra locality, violent clashes between various tribes following a dispute over property on 21 December led to the displacement of more than 5,100 individuals.

In addition to the above, hundreds of thousands of people displaced by the previous conflicts remained displaced including protracted conflict in Ag Geneina in West Darfur (105,000).

6. The data for the Mobility Tracking Round two was collected between November 2020 and March 2021, covering 10 states and 338 locations across Sudan.

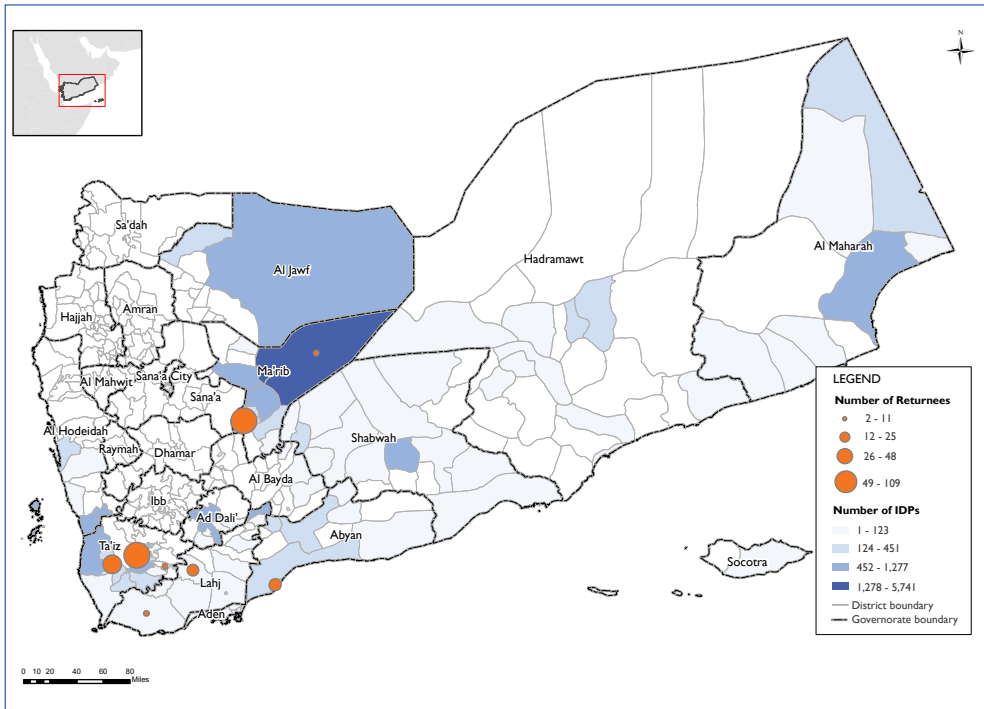
7. OCHA, Intercommunal Conflicts and Armed Attacks (January–December 2021).

# YEMEN



**87,000** (New displacement during the reporting period)

IDPs



## DTM Operations



Rapid Displacement Tracking



Flow Monitoring



Surveys and Research

IOM in Yemen last implemented a country-wide Mobility Tracking exercise at the end of 2018. Since then, DTM only collects country-wide weekly figures on new displacement through its Rapid Displacement Tracking (RDT) tool.

displacement. The latest report for December 2021 documents that more than 1,550 HHs cited COVID-19 as their primary reason for displacement since April 2020, when the pandemic broke out in Yemen.

IOM Yemen's DTM teams, operating across 13 governorates, 94 districts and over 911 locations in Yemen where they have access, estimate that about 14,440 households (HHs) (87,000 individuals) were displaced at least once between October and December 2021. The continued hostilities that intensified since early September 2021 were the main driver of displacement (99% or 14,245 HHs). The continued shifts in the active frontlines during this quarter resulted in the multiple displacement of many IDPs, some for the fourth or fifth time. In October and November 2021 alone, more than 600 civilian casualties were recorded, which led to the accumulated number of 13,310 casualties since December 2017.

The top five districts where people moved into are: Marib (8,218 HHs), Al Hodeidah (1,679 HHs), Taiz (1,271 HHs), Al Jawf (800 HHs) and Shabwah (672 HHs). In Marib, the most conflict-affected area in Yemen, most displaced populations were forced to flee to overcrowded displacement sites in Marib Al Wadi and Marib City. Some of the main needs of IDPs are shelter and housing (43%), food (23%), non-food items (12%), financial support (12%) and water, sanitation, and hygiene (10%).

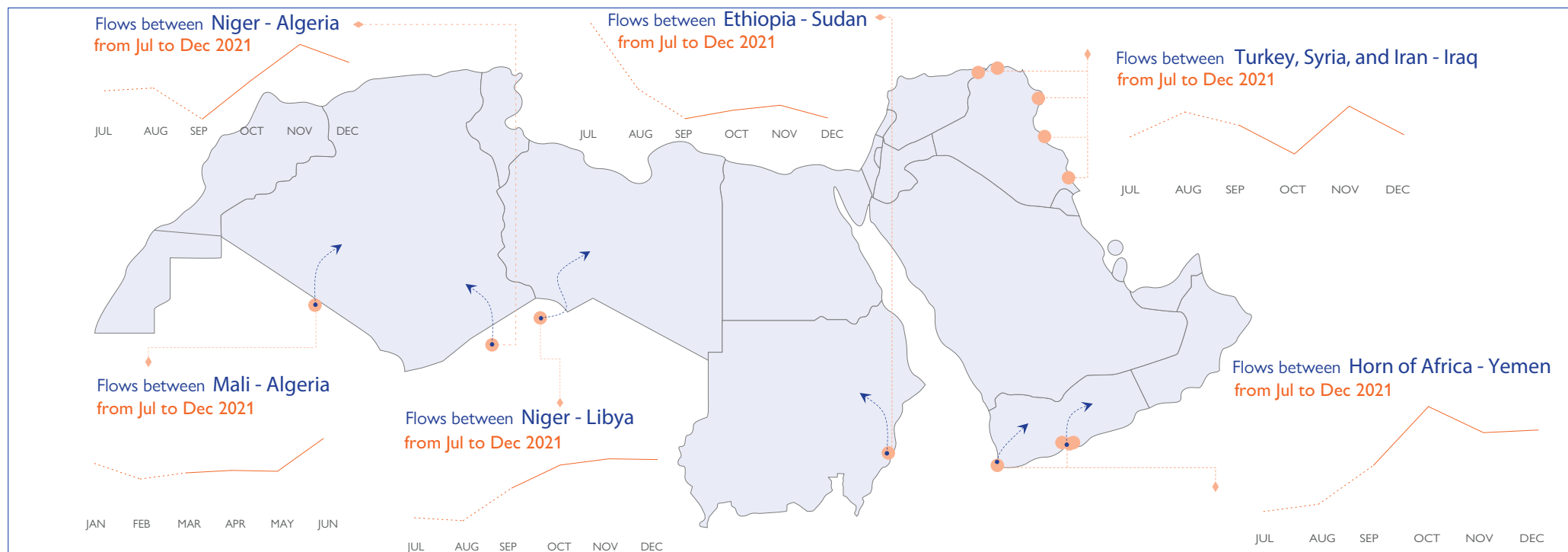
Since April 2020, through the RDT methodology, DTM Yemen has also been collecting data on COVID-19 induced

Click [here](#) to reach DTM Yemen webpage

8. DTM's data is not representative of all displacements occurring in Yemen and should therefore be understood as indicative of the areas in which IOM has access only.

9. Civilian impact Monitoring Project, [civilianimpactmonitoring.org](http://civilianimpactmonitoring.org).

# CROSS BORDER MOBILITY



This section describes international migration and movements in and outside the MENA region, analysing flows: from the Horn of Africa (Somalia and Djibouti) to the Arabian Peninsula or Yemen; from Iraq towards neighbouring countries (Syria, Iran and Turkey); between sub-Saharan and Northern African countries (between Mali and Algeria, Niger and Algeria and Niger and Libya) and from Ethiopia to Sudan.

This section also describes the cross-Mediterranean migration flows towards Europe from North Africa, through several routes including the East, West and Central Mediterranean routes.<sup>10</sup>

Map 6 shows the latest available data on mobility at border areas and between the MENA region and other regions. With respect to arrivals to Yemen from Horn of Africa, roughly 11,600 migrants (mainly Ethiopians and Somalians) arrived in Yemen during this quarter, which is nearly twice the number of the previous quarter. All migrants either travelled from Djibouti (about 58%) or Somalia (42%), and the proportion of the latter group showed a steep increase between October and November (from 29% to 47%). In total, about 28,000 migrants entered Yemen in 2021, the majority aiming to reach Saudi Arabia. Due to the difficulties migrants face upon arrival in Yemen

and their inability to move onwards towards Saudi Arabia, as well as to the ongoing conflict and harsh living conditions in Yemen, many migrants opt to return to their country of origin in the Horn of Africa. Yet, Ethiopian migrants are reluctant to return to Ethiopia given the ongoing conflict in the country. In 2021, about 13,000 migrants have returned to Djibouti and Somalia, bringing the number of total returns to 20,200 since May 2020. Approximately 35,000 migrants are stranded or trapped within Yemen's borders as of December 2021; they require urgent humanitarian assistance and are at-risk of serious protection risks along endemic smuggling and trafficking routes.

The number of Yemeni returnees from Saudi Arabia during this quarter (18,000) has more than doubled compared to the last quarter (8,800). In total, an estimated 28,000 migrants from the Horn of Africa (Ethiopia and Somalia) arrived in Yemen throughout the year of 2021. As to migrants' presence in Libya, DTM reported that as of November 2021, there were approximately 621,000 migrants (86% adults – 75% men and 11% women – and 14% children, of which 53% were unaccompanied) from 43 countries, with most from sub-Saharan Africa (56%) and two thirds from four countries – Niger (24%), Egypt (17%), Sudan (15%) and Chad (13%). Nine in ten interviewed reported

10. The "Western Mediterranean route" includes the sea journey from Morocco and the western coast of Algeria to the Spanish mainland and the Balearic Islands, as well as the crossing into Ceuta and Melilla, two autonomous Spanish enclaves in North Africa. The "Central Mediterranean route" is considered to be the migration route from the north coast of Africa to Italy and Malta, while the "Eastern Mediterranean route" is used to describe the sea crossing from Turkey to Greece and Cyprus. Although the Central, Eastern and Western Mediterranean routes are the most frequented migration passages across the Mediterranean Sea, not all people take these routes as they are defined, and there is evidence that these routes overlap.

that economic reasons were the primary motive behind their migration to Libya. The most important needs of migrants are health care, non-food items, accommodation, and water, sanitation and hygiene. As of December 2021, over 7,900 migrants had attended awareness-raising sessions on COVID-19 vaccination; however, awareness levels on vaccine availability and accessibility for migrants is still low.

As for movements between sub-Saharan Africa and North Africa, an increasing trend of outgoing flows was observed at monitored Points of Entry between Mali and Algeria (15%) and between Niger and Libya (65%). There was also a sharp increase in the flow at the border points between Niger and Algeria compared to last quarter (49%). Furthermore, an upwards trend was recorded at the border between Ethiopia and Sudan between the third and the fourth quarter of 2021.

Flows at five monitored border points in Iraq (3 with Iran, 1 with Turkey, 1 with Syria) show a slightly decreasing trend of outgoing flows of 5 per cent from the third to the fourth semester of 2021.

The number of migrants who reached Europe crossing the Mediterranean Sea along the Western, Central and Eastern Mediterranean corridors and along the Western African Atlantic Route decreased during the fourth quarter of 2021 compared to the last quarter, as seen in the decrease of flows towards Italy (-18%) and Spain (-3%) – decrease in sea arrivals (Italy) and increase in land arrivals (Spain) – and despite the slight increase in sea arrivals in Greece.

# DTM METHODOLOGIES

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**Note:** due to the different timeframes of data collection in each country office in the region, the reporting period varies from country to country. Please refer to the country-specific section for details.

For more regional DTM activity and publications, please visit Geopovrtal click [here](#)

For any comments or questions, please contact IOM's Middle East and North Africa Regional Data Hub: [ROCAIRODATAHUB@iom.int](mailto:ROCAIRODATAHUB@iom.int)

