

MIGRATION TRENDS DASHBOARD FEBRUARY 2022

15,242 movements observed, including **16%** at the Obock Flow Monitoring Point (FMP)

+8% movements compared to January 2022

8,866 arrivals from Ethiopia

590 spontaneous returns from Yemen¹

817 exits to Ethiopia

586 stranded migrants in Djibouti as of 28 February 2022²

OVERVIEW

In February 2022, 15,242 movements were observed at the Flow Monitoring Points (FMPs) in Djibouti, representing a daily average of 544 movements. Migration flows increased by 20 per cent compared to the month of January 2022, during which an average of 454 movements had been registered daily. It is worth highlighting that migration flows have not yet reached pre-COVID-19 levels (between March 2019 and March 2020, the daily average was 621).

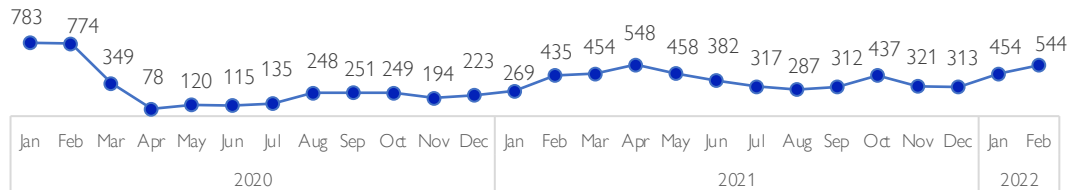
Of these 15,242 movements, 2,487 (16%) were observed in Obock. This coastal region of Djibouti is the main gateway for migrants going to and returning from the Arabian Peninsula. Migrants regroup at congregation points in the Obock region where they then cross the Gulf of Aden on boats along what is known as the Eastern route.

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 8,866 in February 2022. In addition, 11,589 Ethiopian nationals have returned from Yemen since January 2021. 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. Following a steady decrease in returns from Yemen observed since August 2021 due to several concurrent factors, this figure more than doubled between December 2021 (178) and January 2022 (452) and reached 590 in February 2022.

ARRIVAL IN DJIBOUTI SINCE JULY 2020⁴



AVERAGE DAILY MOVEMENTS OBSERVED AT FMPs, BY MONTH



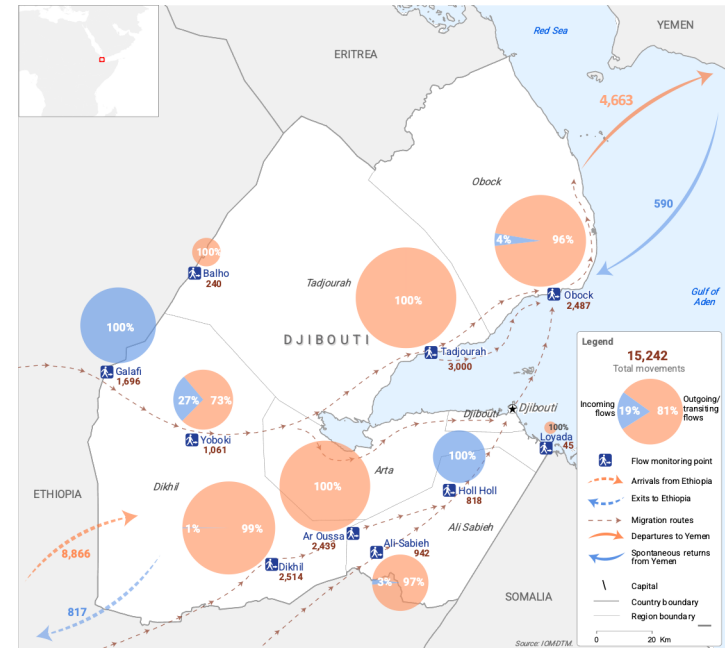
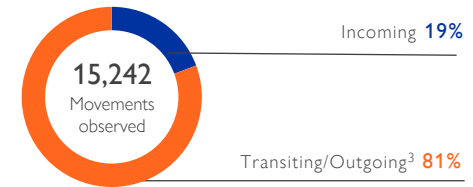
¹The data on returns from Yemen were collected through key informants.

²Information on the definition and methodology for counting stranded migrants 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.

ARRIVALS FROM ETHIOPIA

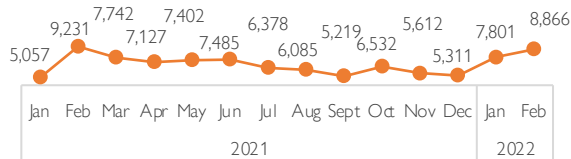
95,948

Arrivals from Ethiopia since 2021

8,866

Arrivals from Ethiopia in February 2022

ARRIVALS FROM ETHIOPIA SINCE 2021



In 2021, **79,181** migrants from Ethiopia entered Djibouti. While arrivals from Ethiopia had been on a declining trend since March 2021 until December 2021 (5,311 movements), a reverse trend was observed in 2022 with 7,801 arrivals in January and **8,866** in February. This rise may be due to the relative improvement in security conditions in certain regions of Ethiopia, providing easier access to Djibouti for migrants, mainly through the Afar region.

More than half of the migrants arriving from Ethiopia transited through the Dikhil, Yoboki and Galafi FMPs in the region of **Dikhil** (59%), while 38 per cent were observed in the region of Ali-Sabieh (at the Ar Oussa, Ali-Sabieh and Holl-Holl FMPs) and 3 per cent of them were observed in the region of Tadjourha (at the Balho FMP). The main region of departure of migrants coming from Ethiopia was **Oromia** (59%), followed by Amhara (28%) while 7 percent of migrants left from the region of Tigray. Most migrants from the regions of Oromia (86%), Tigray (85%) and Amhara (37%) intended to reach the Arabian Peninsula, while the majority of migrants who came from other regions in Ethiopia reported that they would stay in Djibouti.

RETURNS FROM YEMEN

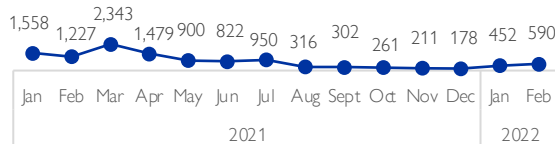
11,589

Returns from Yemen since 2021

84

Returns of Tigrayan migrants from Yemen since July 2021

RETURNS FROM YEMEN SINCE 2021



590

Returns from Yemen in February 2022



Men • 98%



Women • 2%

Since 2021, a total of **11,589** spontaneous returns from Yemen were registered. While the number had been consistently dropping since July 2021, reaching its lowest level in December 2021 (178 movements), it **more than doubled** in January 2022 with **452 returns** and continued to increase to **590 returns** from Yemen in February 2022 observed on the Djiboutian coast.

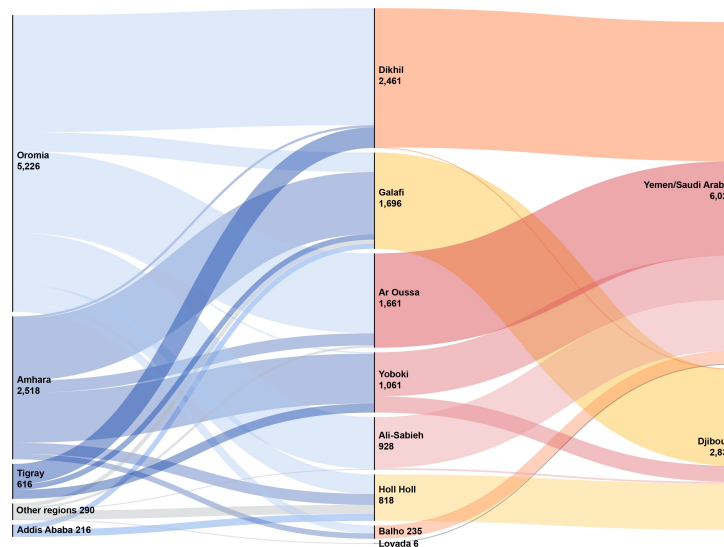
In addition, according to DTM Yemen, **4,663 migrants from the Obock region** arrived in Yemen in February 2022, which represents a 75 per cent increase compared to January 2022 (2,665) which is likely due to improved weather conditions.

ARRIVALS FROM ETHIOPIA IN FEBRUARY 2022, BY REGION OF DEPARTURE AND INTENDED DESTINATION

Region of departure

FMP

Intended destination



EXITS TO ETHIOPIA⁵

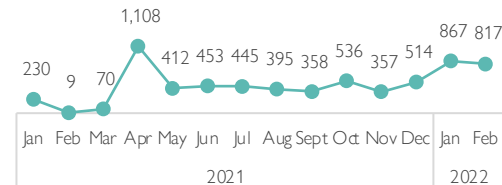
6,571

Exits to Ethiopia since 2021

817

Exits to Ethiopia in February 2021

EXITS TO ETHIOPIA SINCE 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.

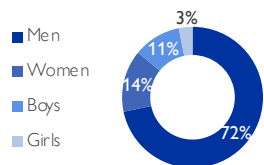
Since 2021, a total of **6,571 exits to Ethiopia** were registered. In February 2022, **817 exits to Ethiopia** were observed, which represents a 6 per cent decrease compared to previous month (867 in January 2022).

Most of the migrants who were headed to Ethiopia in February 2022 were identified in the region of **Ali-Sabieh** (97%), 2 percent transited through Dikhil and 1 percent passed through Balho in the region of Tadjoura.

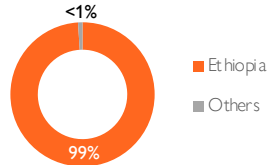
They were mainly travelling towards the region of **Oromia** (81%) and 19 per cent intended to reach Amhara.

DEMOGRAPHIC AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROFILE

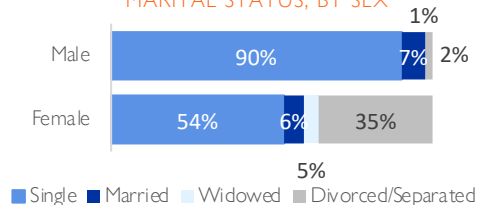
SEX AND AGE GROUP



NATIONALITIES



MARITAL STATUS, BY SEX

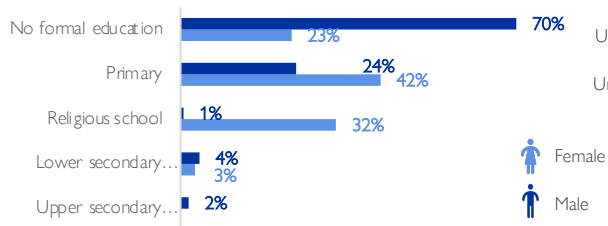


In February 2022, most of the migrants identified at FMPs were adults (72% men and 14% women), while 14 per cent were children (11% boys and 3% girls). Almost all of them (99%) were **Ethiopian nationals**. In addition, 37 pregnant or lactating women, 9 children aged under five years old and 2 elderly persons (aged 60 or older) were identified.

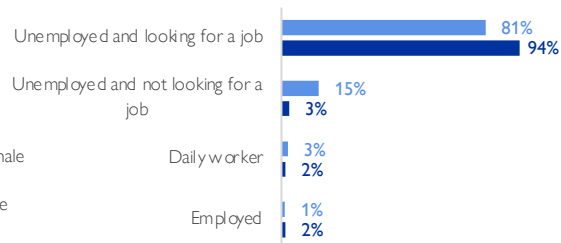
Among the 419 individuals surveyed (of which 86% were males and 14% were females) through Flow Monitoring Surveys (FMS), 63 per cent (notably 70% of males) of migrants had **not received any kind of formal education** and 27 per cent had reached the primary level. It is also worth highlighting that a significant proportion of females (32%) had received a religious education.

Most of the interviewed travellers (83%) were **looking for a job**. This category represented **almost all of the female respondents** (94%). Thirteen per cent were unemployed but not looking for work, 2 per cent were daily workers, 1 per cent were working for an employer and 1 per cent were either students, self-employed or did not answer the question.

EDUCATION LEVEL, BY SEX



PROFESSIONAL STATUS, BY SEX



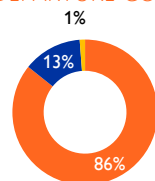
TRAVEL CHARACTERISTICS

In February 2022, most of the individuals identified at FMPs had departed from **Ethiopia** (86%) and 13 per cent came from Yemen. Most of the migrants observed intended to reach the **Arabian Peninsula** (54% to Yemen and 14% to Saudi Arabia).

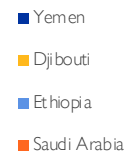
The migrants observed were mainly travelling for **economic reasons** (84%) while 12 per cent were returning to their place of habitual residence and 4 per cent were forced to move due to conflict or food insecurity. Most of them (80%) were travelling **on foot** at the transit points.

In addition, among the 419 individuals surveyed through the FMS, 68 per cent reported that they **faced obstacles** during their journey. The main **challenges** mentioned were hunger and/or thirst (cited by 83% of migrants who encountered difficulties). A significant proportion of people also lacked shelter for sleeping (32%) or faced trouble at sea (18%).

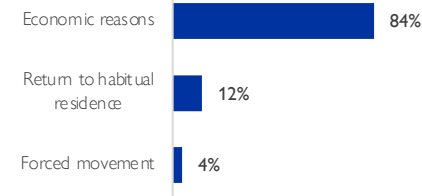
DEPARTURE COUNTRIES



INTENDED DESTINATIONS



REASON FOR TRAVEL



MEANS OF TRANSPORT



MIGRANTS STRANDED IN DJIBOUTI

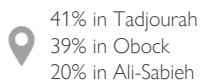
586

Migrants stranded in Djibouti as of 28 February 2022



7

Informal sites



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. **Their priority needs are drinking water, food, hygiene kits and non-food items.**

As of February 28, 2022, **586 migrants were stranded in seven informal sites**. The largest proportion (41%) were located in the region of Tadjourah, while 39 per cent were stranded in Obock and 30 per cent in Ali-Sabieh.

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

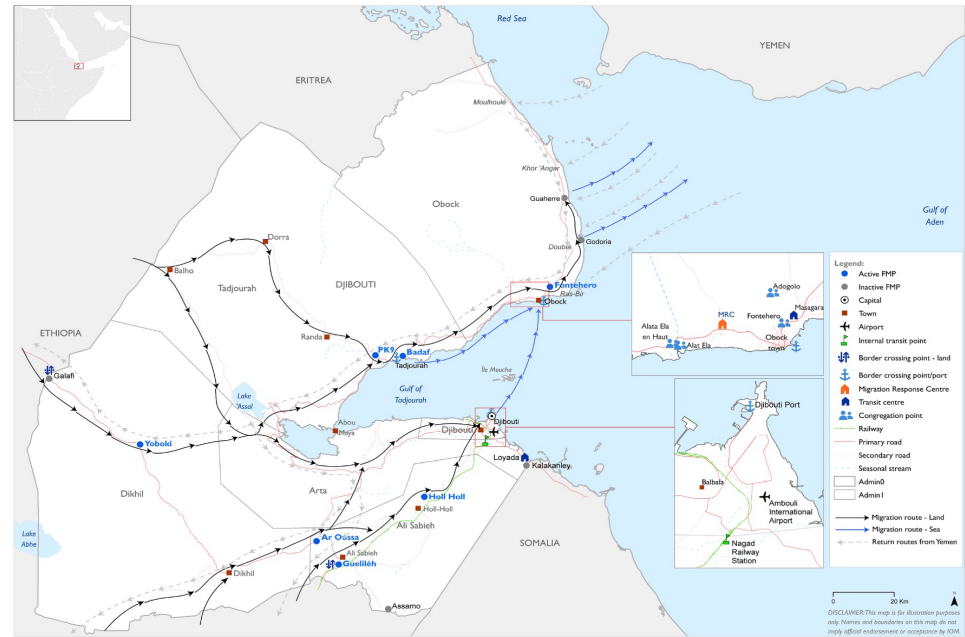
Spontaneous returns from Yemen are a component of IOM's DTM which started in May 2020. The objective of this data collection tool is to provide updated information on population flows returning from Yemen following COVID-19 movement restrictions in Yemen and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The information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



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