MIGRATION TRENDS DASHBOARD | APRIL 2022

16,339 movements observed,[1] including
18% at the Obock Flow Monitoring Point (FMP)

+2% movements compared to March 2022

8,953 arrivals from Ethiopia

559 spontaneous returns from Yemen[2]

865 exits to Ethiopia

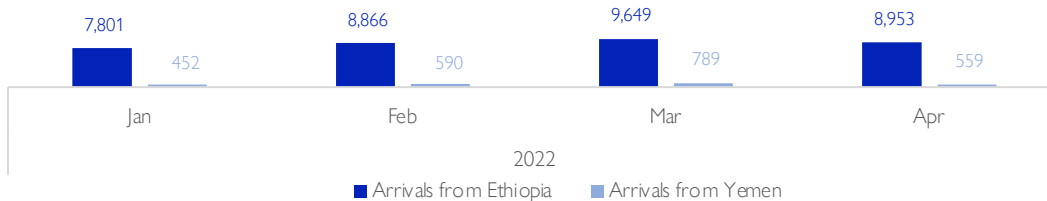**679** stranded migrants in Djibouti as of 30 April 2022[3]

OVERVIEW

In April 2022, 16,339 movements were observed at the Flow Monitoring Points (FMPs) in Djibouti, representing a daily average of 545 movements. Migration flows increased by only 2 per cent compared to the month of March 2022, during which an average of 518 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 654).
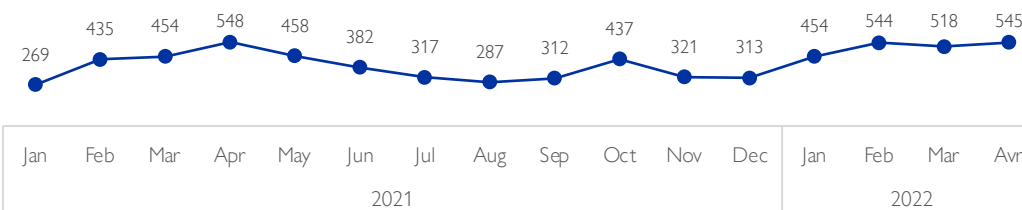
Of these 16,339 movements, 2,950 (18%) were observed in Obock. This coastal region of Djibouti is the main gateway for migrants going to and returning from the Arabian Peninsula. Migrants regroup at congregation points in the Obock region where they then cross the Gulf of Aden on boats along what is known as the Eastern route.

Since January 2022, movements from Ethiopia have increased sharply (21%) compared to those observed monthly last year during the same period. In 2022, a total of **35,269** migrants from Ethiopia entered Djibouti. In addition, 2,390 Ethiopians have returned from Yemen since January 2022. 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. The trend of these returns has been steadily increasing since the beginning of the year.
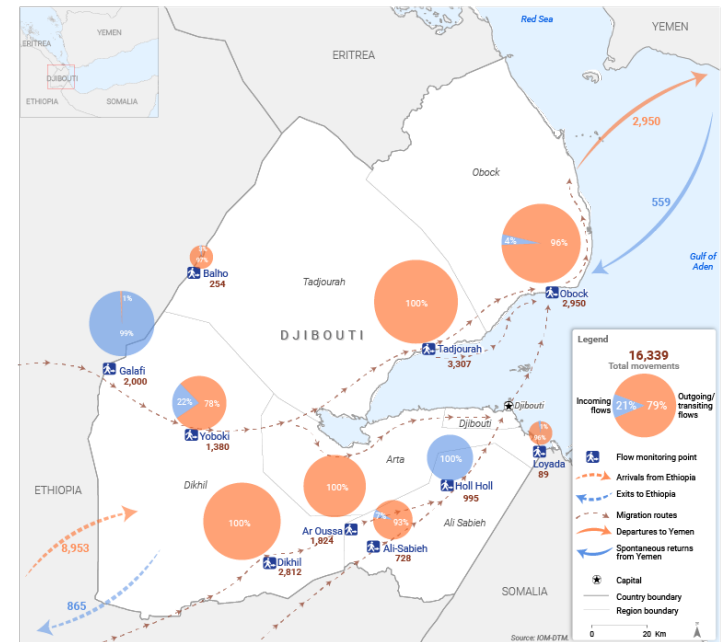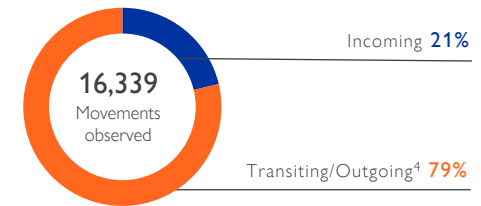
ARRIVALS IN DJIBOUTI IN 2022

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr
Arrivals from Ethiopia	7,801	8,866	9,649	8,953
Arrivals from Yemen	452	590	789	559

2022

■ Arrivals from Ethiopia ■ Arrivals from Yemen

AVERAGE DAILY MOVEMENTS OBSERVED AT FMPS, BY MONTH

2021												2022			
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Avr
269	435	454	548	458	382	317	287	312	437	321	313	454	544	518	545

TYPE OF FLOWS

16,339 Movements observed

Incoming **21%**

Transiting/Outgoing[4] **79%**

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

[1]From March 2022, the movements of Djiboutian nationals (transiting, leaving or returning to the country) are included in the data except for internal movements.
[2]The data on returns from Yemen were collected through key informants.
[3]Information on the definition and methodology for counting stranded migrants in Djibouti is available on the last page of this Dashboard.
[4]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.
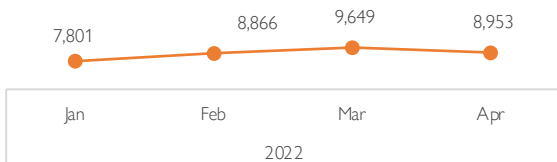
ARRIVALS FROM ETHIOPIA

35,269 Arrivals from Ethiopia in 2022

8,953 Arrivals from Ethiopia in April 2022

ARRIVALS FROM ETHIOPIA IN 2022

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr
	7,801	8,866	9,649	8,953

2022

In 2022, **35,269** migrants from Ethiopia entered Djibouti. An increasing trend has been observed since the beginning of the year. This upward trend 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** (66%), while 31 per cent were observed in the region of Ali-Sabieh (at the Ar Oussa, Ali-Sabieh and Holl-Holl FMPs) and 3 percent 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** (48%), followed by Amhara (37%) while eight per cent of migrants left from the region of Tigray and 4 per cent from Addis Ababa. Most migrants from the regions of Oromia (86%), Tigray (78%) and Amhara (35%) 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.

Region of departure — FMP — Intended destination

Oromia 4,337
Amhara 3,274
Tigray 669
Addis Ababa 324
Dire Dawa 232
Other regions 97

Dikhil 2,491
Galafi 2,000
Yoboki 1,380
Ar Oussa 1,080
Holl Holl 995
Ali-Sabieh 728
Balho 236
Loyada 43

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia / Yemen 5,473
Djibouti 3,346
Sudan 134

RETURNS FROM YEMEN

2,390 Returns from Yemen in 2022

84 Returns of Tigrayan migrants from Yemen since July 2021

RETURNS FROM YEMEN IN 2022

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr
	452	590	789	559
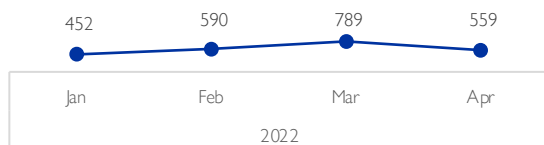
2022

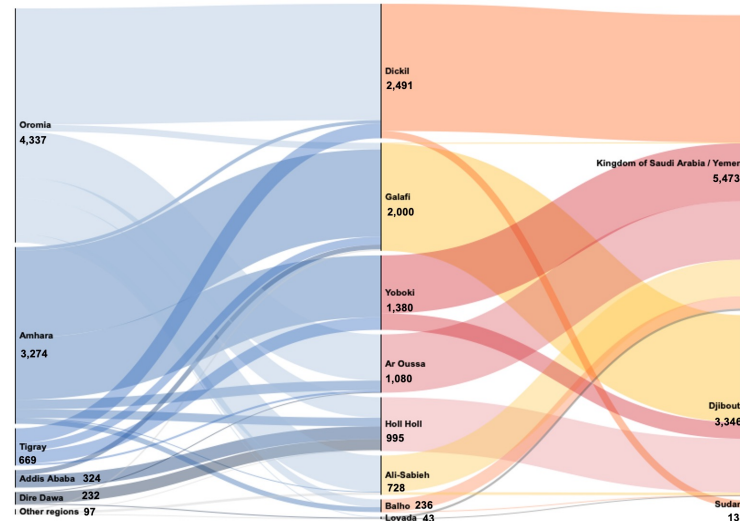**559** Returns from Yemen in April 2022

Men • 97%   Women • 3%

In Obock, this coastal region of Djibouti where migrants cross the Gulf of Aden to the Arabian Peninsula along the Eastern route, spontaneous returns of Ethiopian migrants from Yemen continue to be observed. Indeed, **2,390 spontaneous returns from Yemen** were recorded in 2022. Since January 2022, an increase has been observed in the number of returnee migrants in Djibouti from the Arabian Peninsula, although this number decreased from march to April.

In addition, according to DTM Yemen, **2,950 migrants from the Obock region** arrived in Yemen in April 2022, which represents a 14 per cent increase compared to March 2022 (2,609). This increase can be explained by the intensification of migrant movements on the approach or during the period of Ramadan due to the ease of crossing the road to Saudi Arabia.

EXITS TO ETHIOPIA[5]

3,795 Exits to Ethiopia in 2022

865 Exits to Ethiopia in April 2022

EXITS TO ETHIOPIA IN 2022

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr
	867	817	1,246	865

2022
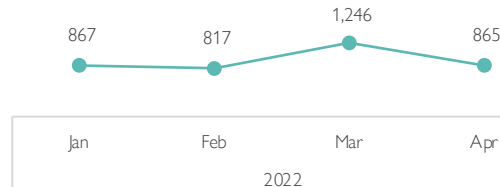
[5] It should be kept in mind that the means of transport used by Ethiopian migrants vary: while most of them return on foot from Obock to Ali-Sabieh, the majority of Tigrayan migrants returning from Yemen cross the border at Balho and Galafi by car or by bus, which makes it more difficult to record their movements.
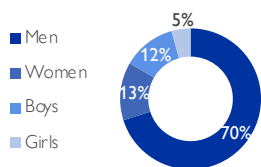
Since January 2022, **exits to Ethiopia** have significantly increased compared to those observed monthly during the previous year. A total of **3,795 exits to Ethiopia** were registered..

Most of the migrants (86%) who were headed to Ethiopia in April 2022 were identified in the region of **Ali-Sabieh** while 11 percent transited through Dikhil, 2 per cent in the region of Tadjourah and 1 per cent in the region of Arta.
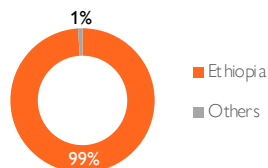
They were mainly travelling towards the region of **Oromia** (77%), 22 per cent intended to reach Amhara and 1 per cent Dire Dawa.
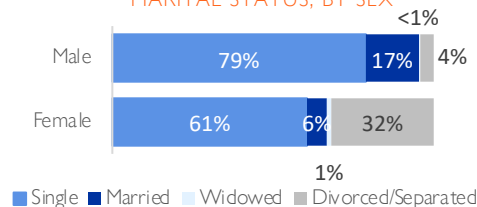
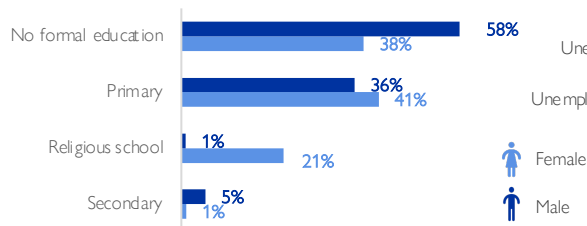# DEMOGRAPHIC AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROFILE

SEX AND AGE GROUP

- Men — 70%
- Women — 13%
- Boys — 12%
- Girls — 5%

NATIONALITIES

- Ethiopia — 99%
- Others — 1%

MARITAL STATUS, BY SEX

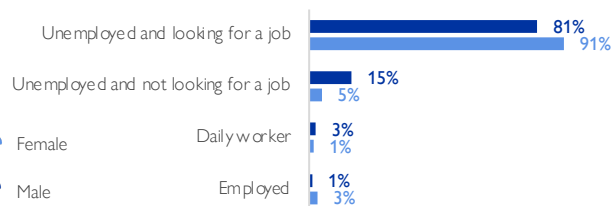|	Single	Married	Widowed	Divorced/Separated
Male	79%	17%	<1%	4%
Female	61%	6%	1%	32%

In April 2022, most of the migrants identified at FMPs were adults (70% men and 13% women), while 17 per cent were children (12% boys and 5% girls). Almost all of them (99%) were Ethiopian nationals. In addition, 1,917 non accompanied children (1,358 boys and 539 girls), 30 pregnant or lactating women, and 13 children aged under five years old were identified and three elderly persons (aged 60 or older) were identified.

EDUCATION LEVEL, BY SEX

- No formal education — Female 38%, Male 58%
- Primary — Female 41%, Male 36%
- Religious school — Female 21%, Male 1%
- Secondary — Female 1%, Male 5%

PROFESSIONAL STATUS, BY SEX

- Unemployed and looking for a job — Female 91%, Male 81%
- Unemployed and not looking for a job — Female 5%, Male 15%
- Daily worker — Female 1%, Male 3%
- Employed — Female 3%, Male 1%

- Female
- Male

Among the 524 individuals surveyed (of which 87% were males and 13% were females) through Flow Monitoring Surveys (FMS), 55 per cent (notably 58% of males) of migrants had **not received any kind of formal education** and 37 per cent had reached the primary level. It is also worth highlighting that a significant proportion of females (21%) had received a religious education.

Most of the interviewed travellers (83%) were **unemployed and looking for a job**. This category represented **almost all of the female respondents** (91%). Thirteen per cent were unemployed but not looking for work and 2 per cent were daily workers.
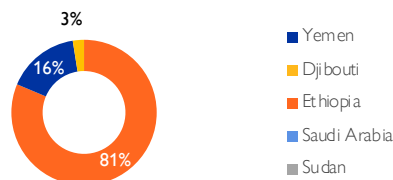
TRAVEL CHARACTERISTICS

In April 2022, most of the individuals identified at FMPs had departed from **Ethiopia** (81%) and 16 per cent came from Yemen. Most of the migrants observed intended to reach the **Arabian Peninsula** (47% to Yemen and 13% to Saudi Arabia).
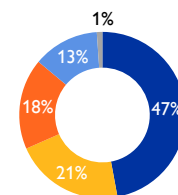The migrants observed were mainly travelling for **economic reasons** (81%) while 17 per cent were returning to their place of habitual residence and 2 per cent were forced to move due to conflict or food insecurity. Most of them (77%) were travelling **on foot** at the transit points.
In addition, among the 524 individuals surveyed through the FMS, 70 per cent reported that they **faced obstacles** during their journey. The **main challenges** mentioned were hunger and/or thirst (cited by 86% of migrants who encountered difficulties). A significant proportion of people also faced trouble at sea (58%) or lacked shelter for sleeping (47%).
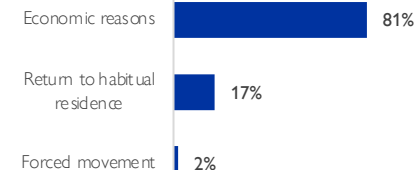
DEPARTURE COUNTRIES

- 81%
- 16%
- 3%

INTENDED DESTINATIONS

- Yemen — 47%
- Djibouti — 21%
- Ethiopia — 18%
- Saudi Arabia — 13%
- Sudan — 1%

REASON FOR TRAVEL

- Economic reasons — 81%
- Return to habitual residence — 17%
- Forced movement — 2%

MEANS OF TRANSPORT

- 77% On foot
- 11% Car/Taxi
- 6% Bus
- 5% Boat
- 1% Truck

MIGRANTS STRANDED IN DJIBOUTI

- **679** Migrants stranded in Djibouti as of 30 April 2022
- **7** Informal sites

- 15% Female
- 85% Male

- 39% in Obock
- 27% in Dikhil
- 21% in Ali-Sabieh
- 13% in Tadjourah
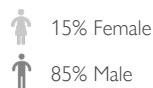
Some migrants transiting through Djibouti who are on their way or coming back from the Arabian Peninsula remain stranded in Djibouti, mainly due to the lack of resources to continue their migration journey. These migrants find themselves stranded in informal settlements along the migration corridor in 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 April 30, 2022, **679 migrants were stranded in seven informal sites**. The largest proportion (39%) were located in the region of Obock, while 27 per cent were stranded in Dikhil, 21 per cent in Ali-Sabieh and 13 per cent in Tadjourah.

DTM IOM DISPLACEMENT TRACKING MATRIX

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.
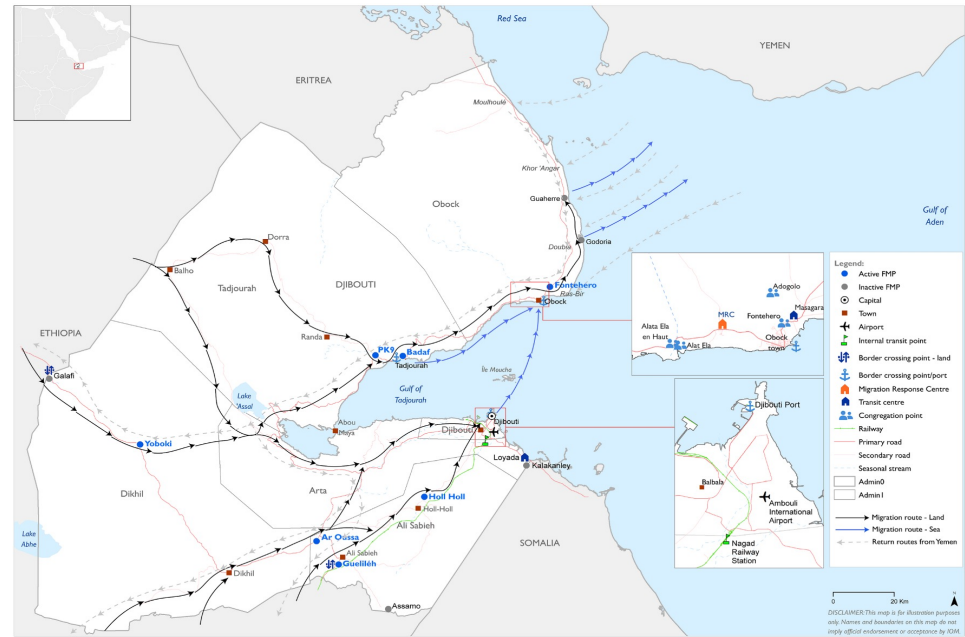
Spontaneous returns from Yemen

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.