

MIGRATION TRENDS DASHBOARD | MAY 2022

20,882 movements observed,¹ including **13%** at the Obock Flow Monitoring Point (FMP)

+28% movements compared to April 2022

14,495 arrivals from Ethiopia

496 spontaneous returns from Yemen²

734 exits to Ethiopia

673 stranded migrants in Djibouti as of 31 May 2022³

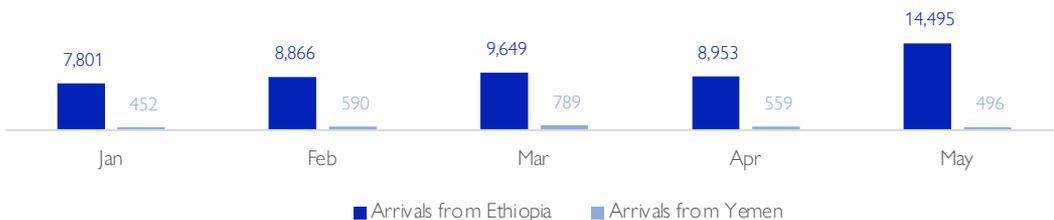
OVERVIEW

In May 2022, 20,882 movements were observed at the Flow Monitoring Points (FMPs) in Djibouti, representing a daily average of 674 movements. Migration flows increased significantly with 28 per cent compared to the month of April 2022, during which a total of 16,339 movements had been registered. For the first time, migration flows exceeded pre-COVID-19 levels (between March 2019 and March 2020, the daily average was 654).

Of these 20,882 movements, 2,707 (13%) 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.

Compared to the period January to May 2021, movements from Ethiopia have increased sharply by 37 per cent in 2022 (from 36,354 in the first five months of 2021 to **49,764** for the same time period in 2022). In addition, 2,886 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. An increasing trend of these returns has been observed since January 2022 until March 2022 followed by a decline in April 2022 and May 2022.

ARRIVALS IN DJIBOUTI IN 2022



AVERAGE DAILY MOVEMENTS OBSERVED AT FMPs, BY MONTH



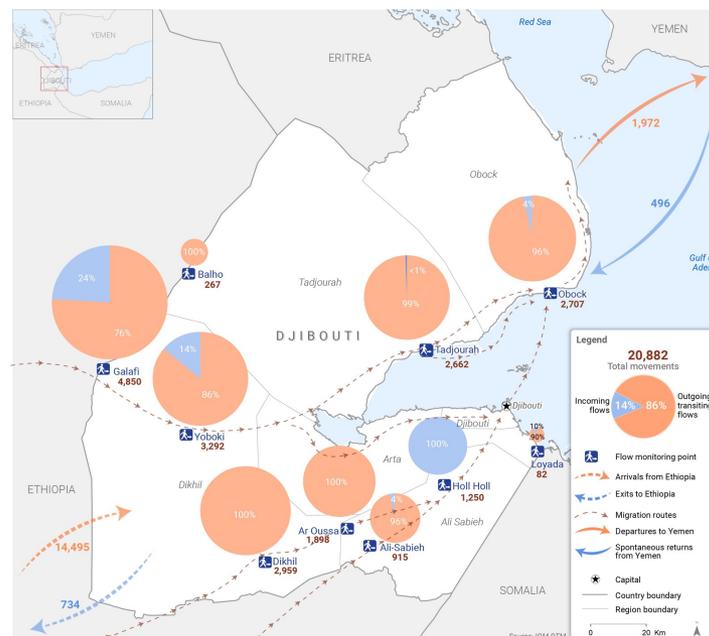
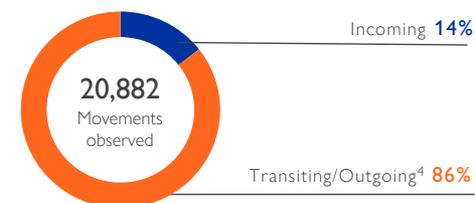
¹From March 2022, the movements of Djiboutian nationals (transiting, leaving or returning to the country) are included in the data except for internal movements.

²The data on returns from Yemen were collected through key informants.

³Information on the definition and methodology for counting stranded migrants in Djibouti is available on the last page of this Dashboard.

⁴In 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.

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

49,764 Arrivals from Ethiopia in 2022

14,495 Arrivals from Ethiopia in May 2022

ARRIVALS FROM ETHIOPIA IN 2022



In 2022, **49,764** migrants from Ethiopia entered Djibouti. An increasing trend has been observed since the beginning of the year although the figure decreased in April and then almost doubled in May. 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.

Almost three quarters of the migrants arriving from Ethiopia transited through the Dikhil, Yoboki and Galafi FMPs in the region of **Dikhil** (74%), while 24 per cent were observed in the region of Ali-Sabieh (at the Ar Oussa, Ali-Sabieh and Holl-Holl FMPs) while the remaining 2 per cent of them were observed in the region of Tadjourah (at the Balho FMP). The main region of departure of migrants coming from Ethiopia was **Amhara** (46%), followed by Oromia (29%) while 17 per cent of migrants left from the region of Tigray and 2 per cent from Addis Ababa. Most migrants from the regions of Tigray (98%), Oromia (91%), Amhara (72%) intended to reach the Arabian Peninsula, while the majority of migrants who came from Addis Ababa (100%), Dire Dawa (91%) and the Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples' Region (52%) reported that they would stay in Djibouti.

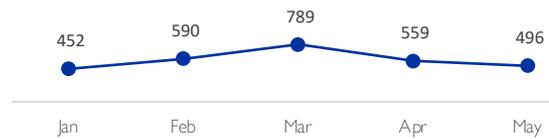
RETURNS FROM YEMEN

2,886 Returns from Yemen in 2022

84 Returns of Tigrayan migrants from Yemen since July 2021

496 Returns from Yemen in May 2022

RETURNS FROM YEMEN IN 2022



Men • 95%

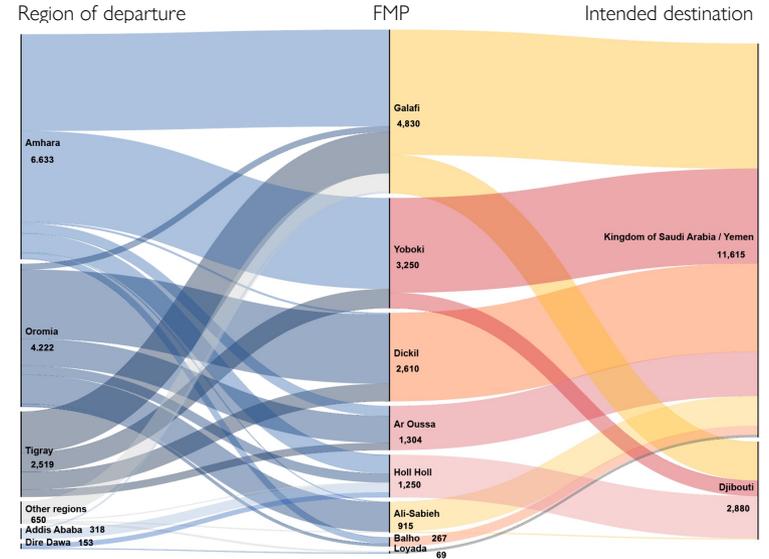
Women • 4%

Boys • 1%

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, **2,886 spontaneous returns from Yemen** were recorded in 2022. An increasing trend of these returns has been observed since January 2022 until March 2022 followed by a decline in April and May 2022.

In addition, according to DTM Yemen, **1,972 migrants from the Obock region** arrived in Yemen in May 2022, which represents a 33 per cent decrease compared to April 2022 (2,950). This decrease can be explained by the difficulties faced by migrants during their journey as several of them were reported stranded in Djibouti with no money after the smugglers abandoned them.

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

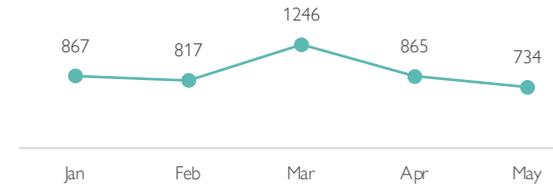


EXITS TO ETHIOPIA⁵

4,529 Exits to Ethiopia in 2022

734 Exits to Ethiopia in May 2022

EXITS TO ETHIOPIA IN 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.

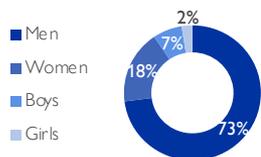
Since January 2022, **exits to Ethiopia** have significantly increased compared to those observed monthly during the previous year which more than doubled (148%). A total of **4,529 exits to Ethiopia** were registered in 2022. This increase may be due to the improved security situation in some areas of origin in Ethiopia.

Most of the migrants (81%) who were headed to Ethiopia in May 2022 were identified in the region of **Ali-Sabieh** while 18 per cent transited through Dikhil and 1 per cent in the region of Arta.

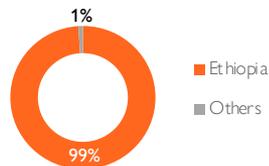
They were mainly travelling towards the region of **Oromia** (76%), 23 per cent intended to reach Amhara and 1 per cent Dire Dawa.

DEMOGRAPHIC AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROFILE

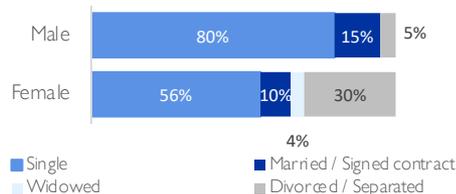
SEX AND AGE GROUP



NATIONALITIES

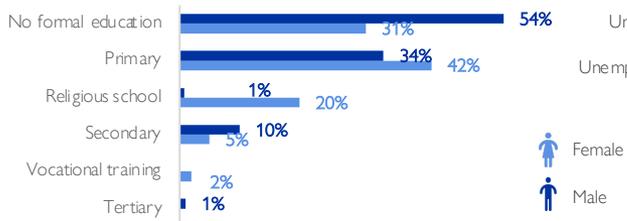


MARITAL STATUS, BY SEX

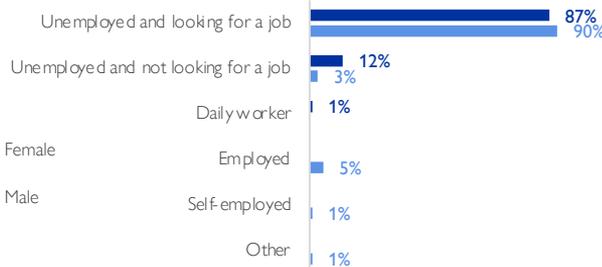


In May 2022, most of the migrants identified at FMPs were adults (73% men and 18% women), while 9 per cent were children (7% boys and 2% girls). Almost all of them (99%) were Ethiopian nationals. In addition, 892 non accompanied children (622 boys and 270 girls), 40 pregnant or lactating women, and nine children aged under five years old were identified and 2 elderly persons (aged 60 or older) were identified.

EDUCATION LEVEL, BY SEX



PROFESSIONAL STATUS, BY SEX



Among the 579 individuals surveyed (of which 84% were males and 16% were females) through Flow Monitoring Surveys (FMS), 51 per cent (notably 54% of males) of migrants had **not received any kind of formal education** and 35 per cent had reached the primary level. It is also worth highlighting that a significant proportion of females (20%) had received a religious education.

Most of the interviewed travellers (87%) were **unemployed and looking for a job**. This category represented **almost all of the female respondents** (90%). Ten per cent were unemployed but not looking for work, 1 per cent were daily workers, 1 per cent worked for an employer and 1 per cent were students or apprentices.

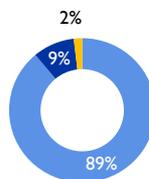
TRAVEL CHARACTERISTICS

In May 2022, most of the individuals identified at FMPs had departed from **Ethiopia** (89%) and 9 per cent came from Yemen. Most of the migrants observed intended to reach the **Arabian Peninsula** (44% to Yemen and 32% to Saudi Arabia).

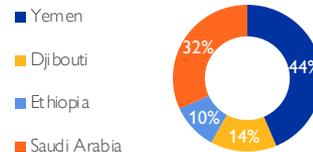
The migrants observed were mainly travelling for **economic reasons** (82%) while 10 per cent were returning to their place of habitual residence and 8 per cent were forced to move due to conflict or food insecurity. Most of them (70%) were travelling **on foot** at the transit points.

In addition, among the 579 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 89% of migrants who encountered difficulties). A significant proportion of people also faced trouble at sea (54%) or lacked shelter for sleeping (51%).

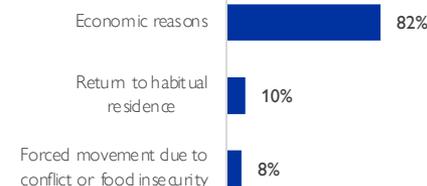
DEPARTURE COUNTRIES



INTENDED DESTINATIONS



REASON FOR TRAVEL



MEANS OF TRANSPORT



MIGRANTS STRANDED IN DJIBOUTI

673

Migrants stranded in Djibouti as of 31 May 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 May 31, 2022, **673 migrants were stranded in seven informal sites**. The largest proportion (37%) were located in the region of Dikhil, while 34 per cent were stranded in Obock and 29 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

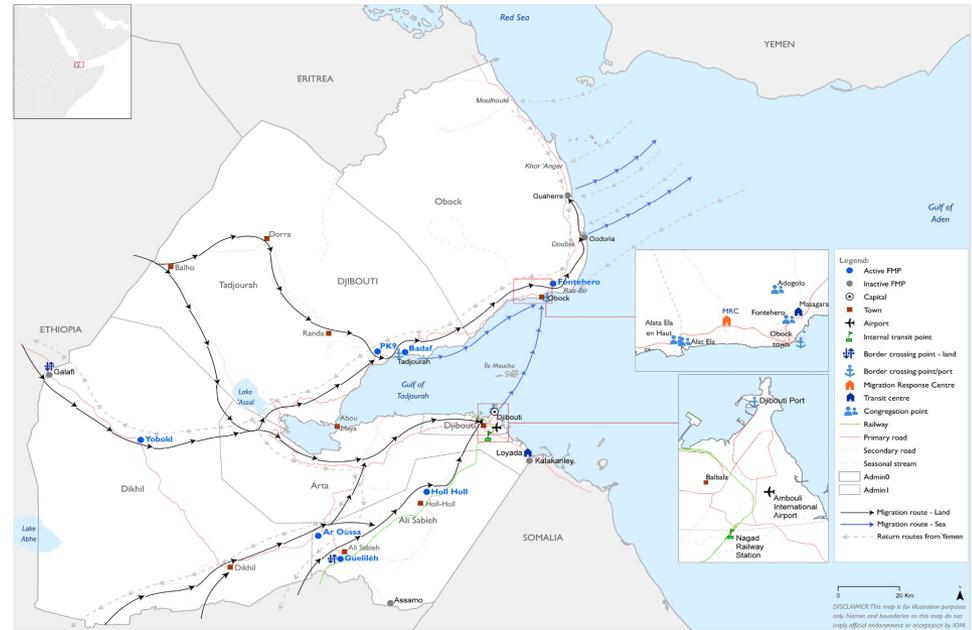
Spontaneous returns from Yemen are a component of IOM's DTM which started in May 2020. The objective of this data collection tool is to provide updated information on population flows returning from Yemen following COVID-19 movement restrictions in Yemen and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The information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