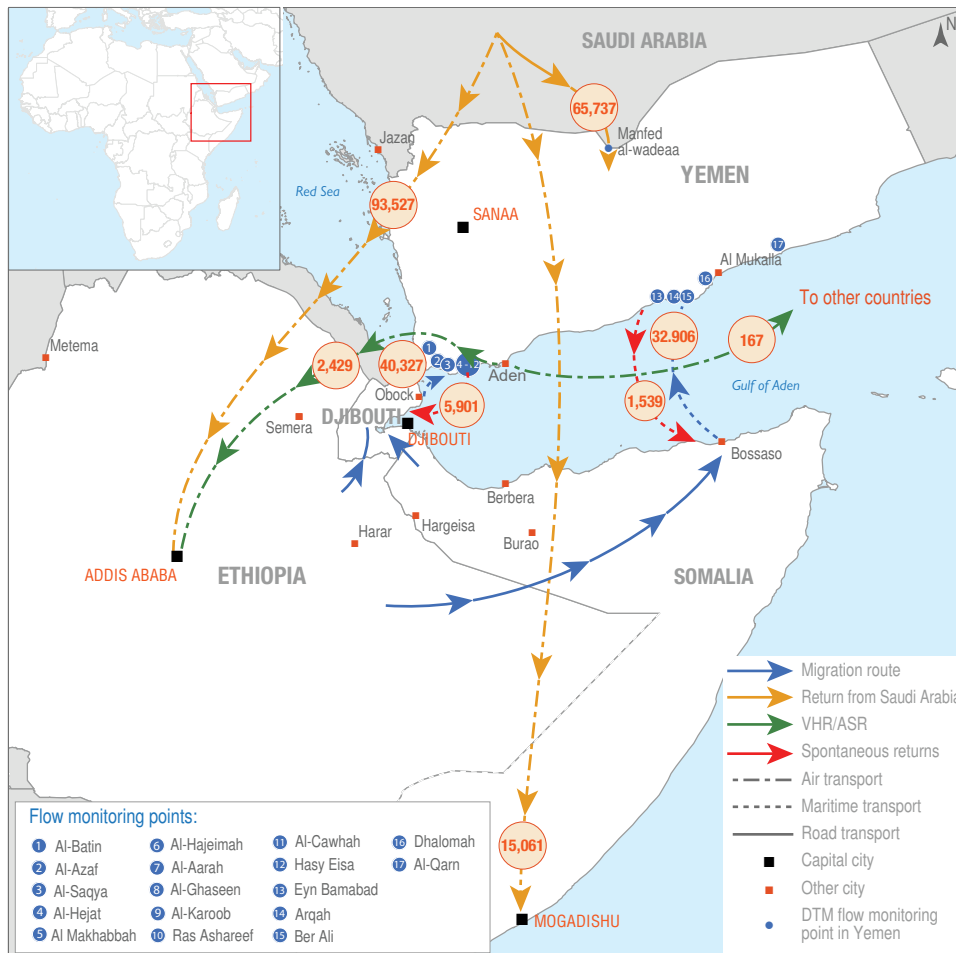


Migration picked up significantly across the three migratory corridors in the East and Horn of Africa region in 2022, thus marking the end of the impact of COVID-19-related restrictions on mobility flows. Migration along the Eastern Route, which runs from the Horn of Africa to the Arabian Peninsula, mostly to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, increased by 64 per cent between 2021 and 2022 (from 269,000 to 441,000 migrant movements).¹ The number of children travelling alone doubled in the last year (from 7,300 to 14,900) and these unaccompanied children represented 38 per cent of all children tracked in 2022 (39,700). Similarly, the number of female migrants travelling along the Eastern Route also doubled (from 53,200 to 106,700).

The increased number of women and children migrating along this corridor is linked to the lack of livelihood opportunities and income sources at home, as well as incidents of localized violence in some parts of the region. Many more migrants, especially in Djibouti, Somalia and Yemen, reported being forced to move due to food insecurity, conflict and violence. As the Horn of Africa has been experiencing its worst drought in 40 years, the deteriorating humanitarian environment in countries of origin has pushed more people to migrate² as well as strained populations' resilience and displacement-related vulnerabilities. Moreover, mobility dynamics may change over longer spans of time. In Djibouti, for instance, people who had never migrated began moving short and medium distances towards resources to survive the drought, including elderly women and large families.³ Overall, while still predominantly economic in nature, migration along the Eastern Corridor became increasingly mixed in 2022.

In general, the Eastern Route remains a highly busy migratory corridor with significant bidirectional flows. Arrivals in Yemen have almost tripled from 2021 (27,700) to 2022 (73,200). Although these movements are only around half of the numbers tracked in the pre-COVID-19 period (160,000 estimated arrivals in 2018 and 138,000 in 2019), arrivals picked up considerably in the last quarter of 2022 and are expected to continue at a high pace in 2023. Meanwhile, forced returns from Saudi Arabia to the Horn and Yemen as well as spontaneous returns to Djibouti and Somalia were ongoing. The signing of the northern Ethiopia peace deal in early November 2022 should help ease the return process for migrants previously stranded in governmental transit centres in Addis Ababa. Of the 93,500 Ethiopian migrants returned from Saudi Arabia in 2022, 64 per cent intended to return to the conflict-affected regions of Amhara (42%), Tigray (20%) and Afar (2%).

The IOM Missing Migrants Project documented the deaths and disappearances of 89 migrants along this route in 2022. The most frequent cause of death along this route was drowning, attributed to a single incident in which an overcrowded boat capsized in the Bab al-Mandab Strait, followed by lack of adequate shelter, water and food, mainly in Djibouti and Somalia. In addition, significant numbers of migrants are known to die or go missing in Yemen as a result of deliberate targeting by armed groups, including parties to the conflict; being extorted, exploited and abused by smugglers and traffickers; or disappearing during forced transfers by authorities.

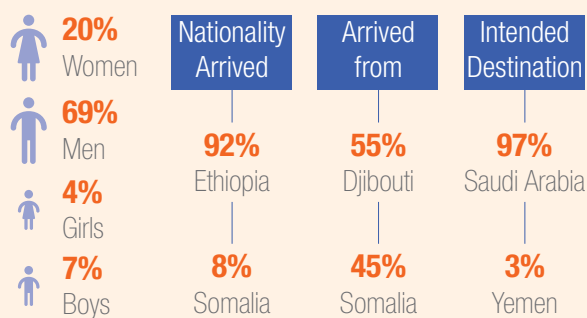


DISCLAIMER: This map is for illustration purposes only. Names and boundaries on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by IOM.

¹ Flow monitoring activities in Somalia were suspended between March and mid-October 2022. To address this gap, the Regional Data Hub built a predictive model to estimate the missing data (Auto Regressive Integrated Moving Average – ARIMA). However, only the number of movements was estimated and the data was not broken down by flow monitoring indicator.
² Quantifying drought-induced population mobility is challenging because of how environmental drivers, especially in slow-onset disasters, are difficult to isolate from the economic, health or conflict impacts that may occur simultaneously, often as a result of deteriorating environmental conditions.
³ Focus group discussions conducted by IOM (forthcoming report).

YEMEN ARRIVALS FROM THE HORN OF AFRICA

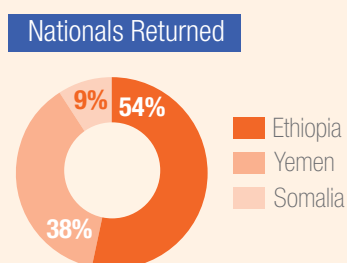
73,233 Migrants arrived in Yemen through DTM flow monitoring points



Migrant arrivals at the shores of Yemen from Djibouti and Somalia more than doubled between 2021 (27,700) and 2022 (73,200). Nearly half of all arrivals (48%) were reported in the Lahj governorate in Yemen, where migrants cross the Bab al-Mandab Strait from the coastal region of Obock in Djibouti. Although representing only a quarter of all migrant arrivals in 2022, the number of female migrants nearly quadrupled in the last year (from 4,800 in 2021 to 17,600 in 2022). Moreover, over 8,000 migrant children arrived in Yemen in 2022, of whom around 200 were younger than five years and 1,900 were travelling alone. Most migrants were travelling for economic reasons (84%); however, 16 per cent of movements were also due to conflict, violence or persecution.

RETURNS FROM THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA

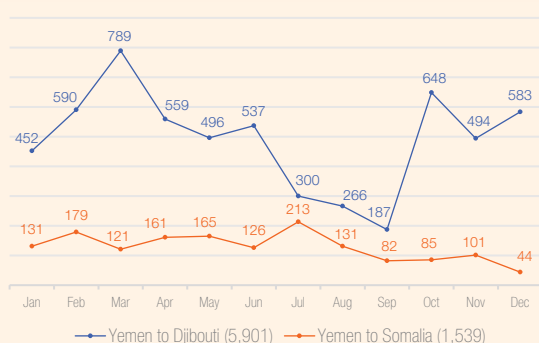
174,325 Migrants returned from Saudi Arabia to Ethiopia, Yemen and Somalia



In 2022, around 175,000 people were forcibly returned from Saudi Arabia to Ethiopia (93,500), Yemen (65,700) and Somalia (15,000). Migrants repatriated to Ethiopia were registered by IOM upon arrival at Bole Airport in Addis Ababa (82% men, 13% women, 3% girls and 3% boys). In 2022, nearly 60,000 Ethiopians intended to return to the conflict-affected regions of Amhara, Tigray and Afar. However, due to the conflict, many returnees found themselves stranded in shelters in Addis Ababa (3,000 estimated as of October 2022). The overcrowding of these shelters strained reception capacity, leading to a temporary suspension of return flights in late 2022. Meanwhile, returns to Yemen more than doubled in the last year (27,800 in 2021) and most returnees were men (95%), followed by women (2%), boys (2%) and girls (1%). Around 34 per cent of returned children were unaccompanied (compared to 57% in 2021). In Somalia, returns decreased by 43 per cent compared to 2021 (26,200) and were mostly intended towards Mogadishu and Hargeisa.

SPONTANEOUS RETURNS FROM YEMEN

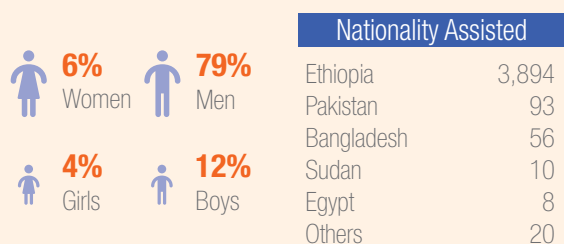
7,440 Migrants returned from Yemen to Djibouti and Somalia



Due to the harshening of the situation in Yemen for migrants and the challenges in moving onwards towards Saudi Arabia, many migrants have opted to return to the Horn of Africa. A total of 7,440 migrants spontaneously returned from Yemen to Djibouti (79%) and Somalia (21%) in 2022. Spontaneous returns in 2022 represented almost half (43%) of all spontaneous returns tracked in 2021 (13,125). This significant decrease might be explained by the increasing number of voluntary humanitarian return (VHR) flights from Yemen to Ethiopia organized by IOM in coordination with Ethiopian authorities. However, many migrants decide to make the journey back to Ethiopia by their own means. These migrants still face various challenges at sea and are also likely to be exploited by smugglers, who leave them with little or no resources for their return journey.

IOM ASSISTED RETURNS FROM YEMEN

4,081 Migrants assisted by IOM to return home from Yemen



Through its VHR programme, IOM provides safe, voluntary and dignified return solutions to migrants stranded in Yemen. In total, 4,081 migrants stranded in Yemen were returned to their countries of origin in 2022, 400 of whom were unaccompanied minors. As was the case in previous years, the majority of those assisted were Ethiopian nationals (95%). All migrants receiving VHR assistance were individually counselled by case managers and provided with the necessary information to make an informed decision in line with their needs. In addition, 600 Somali refugees received return support in 2022 through the UNHCR assisted spontaneous return (ASR) programme.