MIGRATION FLOWS TRENDS DASHBOARD | MARCH 2023

DTM IOM DISPLACEMENT TRACKING MATRIX

23,711 migration movements observed,[1] including
14% at the Obock Flow Monitoring Point (FMP)

+17% movements compared to February 2023

15,765 migrant flows from Ethiopia

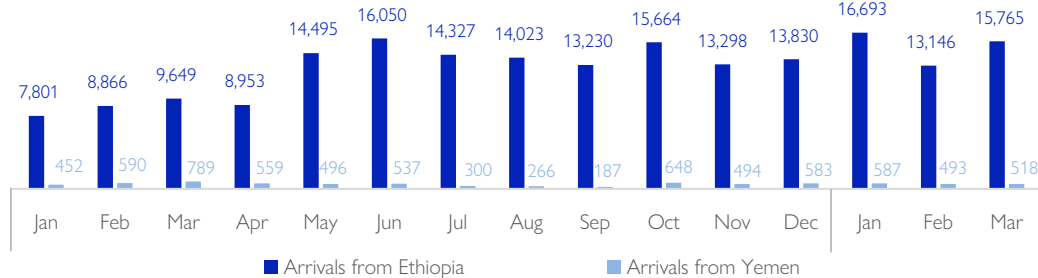**518** spontaneous returns from Yemen[2]

57 exits to Ethiopia

804 stranded migrants in Djibouti as of 31 March 2023 [3]
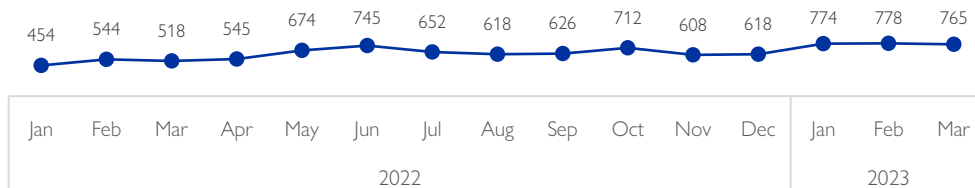
OVERVIEW

In March 2023, 23,711 migratory movements were observed at flow monitoring points (FMP) in Djibouti with a daily average of 765 migratory movements. The migratory flows observed in all FMPs increased by 17% compared to February 2023 during which 20,237 movements were recorded.

In March, migrant flows were significant at the FMP level in Tadjourah (17%), Yoboki (16%), Balho (15%) and Obock (14%). Across all FMPs, the trend in the daily average continues to rise in the first quarter of 2023 compared to the same period in 2022. In March 2023, 247 more migratory movements were recorded per day compared to March 2022 reflecting an increasingly intense migratory dynamic from one year to the next. Migrants mainly from Ethiopia cross the regions of Dikhil (37%), Tadjourah (32%), Ali-Sabieh (16%), Obock (14%) and Arta (1%) with a view to traveling to the Arabian Peninsula.

TYPE OF FLOWS

23,711 Movements observed

Incoming **12%**

Transiting/Outgoing [4] **88%**

MIGRATORY FLOWS ARRIVING IN DJIBOUTI SINCE 2022

Arrivals from Ethiopia: Jan 7,801 | Feb 8,866 | Mar 9,649 | Apr 8,953 | May 14,495 | Jun 16,050 | Jul 14,327 | Aug 14,023 | Sep 13,230 | Oct 15,664 | Nov 13,298 | Dec 13,830 | Jan 16,693 | Feb 13,146 | Mar 15,765

Arrivals from Yemen: Jan 452 | Feb 590 | Mar 789 | Apr 559 | May 496 | Jun 537 | Jul 300 | Aug 266 | Sep 187 | Oct 648 | Nov 494 | Dec 583 | Jan 587 | Feb 493 | Mar 518

■ Arrivals from Ethiopia ■ Arrivals from Yemen

AVERAGE DAILY MOVEMENTS OBSERVED AT FMPs SINCE 2022

2022: Jan 454 | Feb 544 | Mar 518 | Apr 545 | May 674 | Jun 745 | Jul 652 | Aug 618 | Sep 626 | Oct 712 | Nov 608 | Dec 618
2023: Jan 774 | Feb 778 | Mar 765

Balho 3,536 — 100%
Galafi 2,282 — 36% / 64%
Yoboki 3,704 — 10% / 90%
Tadjourah 4,097 — 100%
Obock 3,394 — 100%
Holl Holl 1,383 — 100%
Dikhil 2,733 — 100%
Ali-Sabieh 2,361 — 14% / 86%
Loyada 221 — 28% / 72%

Departures to Yemen: 15,714
Spontaneous returns from Yemen: 518
Arrivals from Ethiopia: 15,765
Exits to Ethiopia: 57

Legend
- 23,711 Total movements
- Incoming flows 12% / Outgoing/transiting flows 88%
- Flow monitoring point
- Arrivals from Ethiopia
- Exits to Ethiopia
- Migration routes
- Departures to Yemen
- Spontaneous returns from Yemen
- Capital
- Country boundary
- Region boundary

0   20 Km

Source: IOM-DTM

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

---

[1] As of March 2022, the movements of Djiboutian nationals (transiting, leaving or returning to the country) are included in the data except for internal movements.
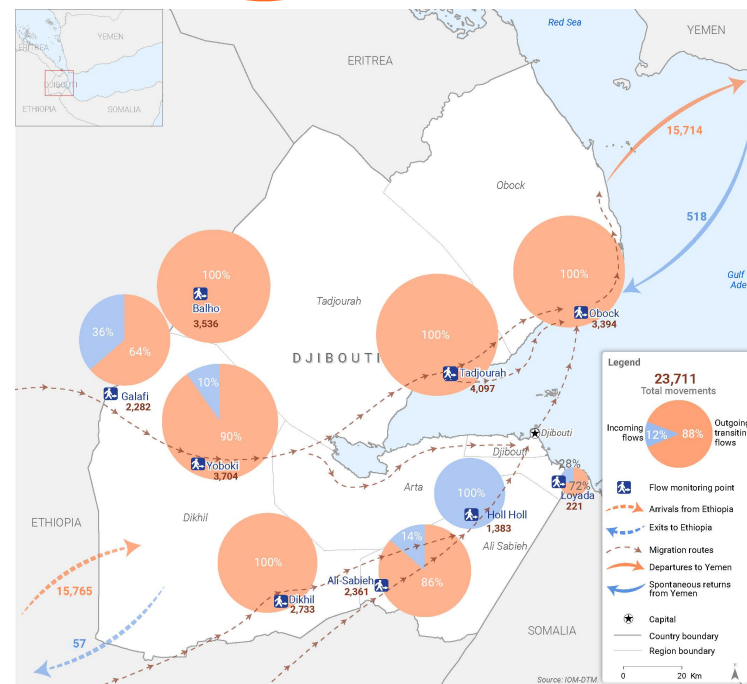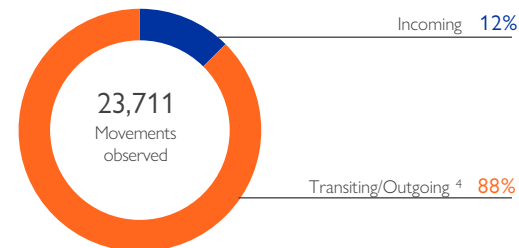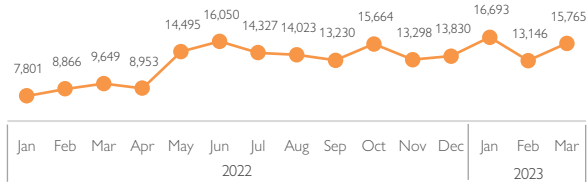[2] The data on returns from Yemen were collected through key informants.
[3] Information on the definition and methodology for counting stranded migrants in Djibouti is available on the last page of this Dashboard.
[4] In the framework of this report, incoming flows only include flows coming from a 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.

195,790 — Arrivals from Ethiopia since 2022

15,765 — Arrivals from Ethiopia in March 2023

ARRIVALS FROM ETHIOPIA SINCE 2022

7,801 · 8,866 · 9,649 · 8,953 · 14,495 · 16,050 · 14,327 · 14,023 · 13,230 · 15,664 · 13,298 · 13,830 · 16,693 · 13,146 · 15,765

Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec | Jan Feb Mar
2022 | 2023

In March 2023, the FMPs observed 15,765 migratory movements arriving from Ethiopia, an increase of 20% compared to February 2023. This increase is explained by the improvement in security conditions along the migratory routes between Ethiopia and Djibouti combined with the opportunity of the month of Ramadan generally considered ideal by migrants wishing to go to the Arabian Peninsula.
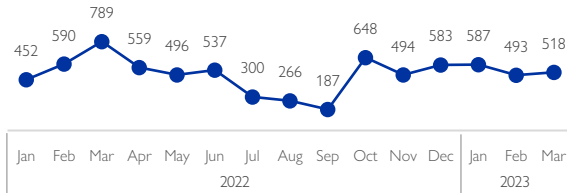
More than half of the migrant movements observed from Ethiopia (53%) passed through the Dikhil region, in particular through the FMPs of Dikhil, Yoboki and Galafi, 24% through the FMPs of Ali-Sabieh and Holl Holl in the Ali-Sabieh region, 22% through the FMPs of Balho and Tadjourah in the Tadjourah region and 1% through the FMP of Loyada in the Arta region. The main regions of departure for migrants from Ethiopia were Oromia (44%), followed by Amhara (41%) and Tigray (11%). Most migrants intended to reach the Arabian Peninsula, mainly in Saudi Arabia (45%) and Yemen (37%), while 18% had Djibouti as their destination country.

ARRIVALS FROM ETHIOPIA IN MARCH 2023 BY REGION OF DEPARTURE AND INTENDED DESTINATION

Region of departure | FMP Dikhil | Intended destination

Oromia 44% · Amhara 41% · Other regions 1% · Tigray 11% · Somali 1% · Addis Ababa 2%

Balho · Ali-Sabieh · Loyada · Galafi · Yoboki · Holl Holl

Saudi Arabia 45% · Yemen 37% · Djibouti 18%

RETURNS FROM YEMEN

7,499 — Returns from Yemen since 2022

518 — Returns from Yemen in March 2023

RETURNS FROM YEMEN SINCE 2022

452 · 590 · 789 · 559 · 496 · 537 · 300 · 266 · 187 · 648 · 494 · 583 · 587 · 493 · 518

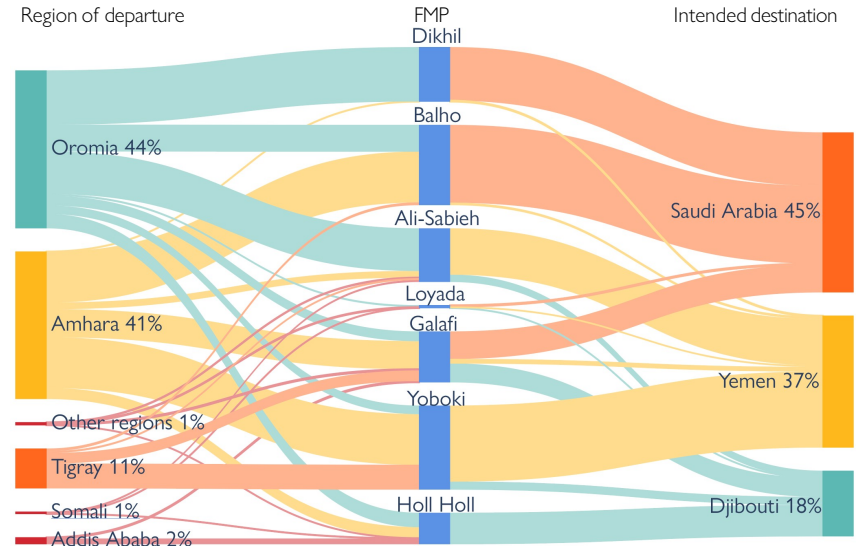Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec | Jan Feb Mar
2022 | 2023

Male · 96%   Female · 4%

In Obock, the coastal region of Djibouti where migrants cross the Gulf of Aden to the Arabian Peninsula via the eastern route, spontaneous returns of Ethiopian migrants from Yemen continue to be observed. In March 2023, 518 returns were recorded, an increase of 5% compared to February 2023.

In addition, according to the DTM in Yemen, 15,714 migrants from the Obock region arrived in Yemen in March 2023, which represents an increase of 102% compared to February 2023 (7,791). This increase can be explained by the favorable weather and sea conditions, the use of more boats by smugglers to send migrants to Yemen and the shifting of routes from Dhubab, Taiz to Al Arah, Lahj in Yemen.

EXITS TO ETHIOPIA [5]

6,243 — Exits to Ethiopia since 2022

57 — Exits to Ethiopia in March 2023

EXITS TO ETHIOPIA SINCE 2022

867 · 817 · 1,246 · 865 · 734 · 694 · 693 · 40 · 42 · 128 · 30 · 11 · 6 · 13 · 57

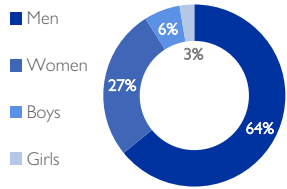Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec | Jan Feb Mar
2022 | 2023
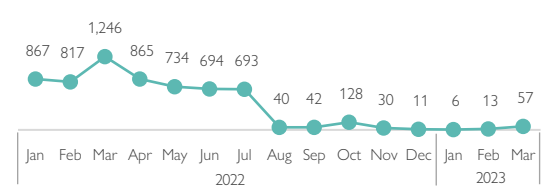
[5] It should be kept in mind that the means of transport used by Ethiopian migrants vary: while most of them move from Obock to Ali-Sabieh on foot, the majority of Tigrayan migrants returning from Yemen cross the border at Balho and Galafi by car or by bus, which makes it more difficult to record their movements.

Since 2022, 6,243 exits to Ethiopia have been recorded. However, these numbers have seen a steady decline since March 2022 (1,246) and a steep decline since July 2022 (693). With the exception of October (128), migrant outflows to Ethiopia hardly exceeded 50, while December (11) recorded the lowest number of the year 2022. In March, 57 outflows were observed.
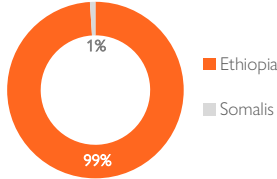
All migrants who headed to Ethiopia in March 2023 were identified in the Dikhil region were heading to the regions of Addis Ababa (68%) and Oromia (32%).

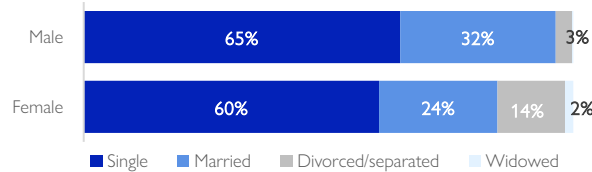# DEMOGRAPHIC AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROFILE

SEX AND AGE GROUP

- Men
- Women
- Boys
- Girls

Men 64%, Women 27%, Boys 6%, Girls 3%

NATIONALITIES

- Ethiopia 99%
- Somalis 1%

MARITAL STATUS BY SEX

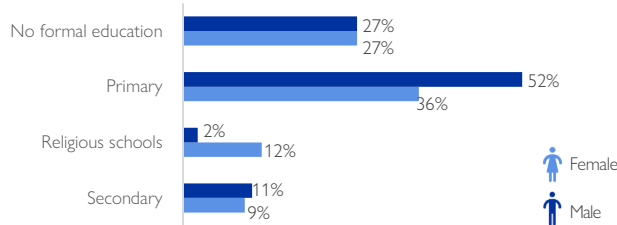|	Single	Married	Divorced/separated	Widowed
Male	65%	32%	3%	
Female	60%	24%	14%	2%

In March, most of the migrants identified in the FMPs were adults (64% men and 27% women), while 9% were children (6% boys and 3% girls).

Most of them were Ethiopian nationals. Of the 475 respondents (76% male and 24% female) to the Flow Monitoring Surveys (FMS), more than half were single (64%), while 30% were married (including 32% male and 24% female), 6% divorced or separated and 1% were widowed.

Also, almost half of the migrants surveyed (48%) had received a primary education (including 36% of females) and 27% had received no formal education (including 27% of males and 27% of females). It should also be noted that more than one in ten females (12%) has attended a religious school.
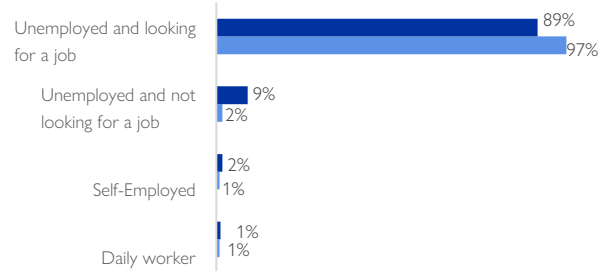
Moreover, 735 children were traveling alone (87% boys and 13% girls), there were 24 children under 5 years, and 17 pregnant or lactating women. Most female migrants surveyed (97%) were unemployed and looking for work.

EDUCATION LEVEL BY SEX[6]

	Female	Male
No formal education	27%	27%
Primary	52%	36%
Religious schools	2%	12%
Secondary	11%	9%

[6] 16% of females and 8% of males did not answer this question.

PROFESSIONAL STATUS BY SEX

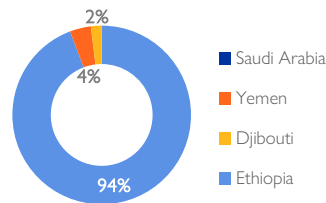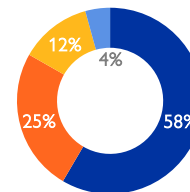|	Female	Male
Unemployed and looking for a job	89%	97%
Unemployed and not looking for a job	9%	2%
Self-Employed	2%	1%
Daily worker	1%	1%

TRAVEL CHARACTERISTICS

In March, most of the individuals identified at the FMP level had departed from Ethiopia (94%), Yemen (4%) or Djibouti (2%). Most of the observed migrants intended to reach the Arabian Peninsula (58% to Saudi Arabia and 25% to Yemen). The migrants observed traveled mainly for economic reasons (90%) and on foot (54%).

In addition, of the 475 people questioned via the FMS, 75% declared having encountered difficulties during their journey. Male migrants are more likely to encounter or report difficulties (80%) than female migrants (59%). The most recurrent challenges mentioned were lack of shelter (76%) and lack of food and water (65%). Almost half of respondents who encountered difficulties while traveling also reported financial hardship (48%), while others reported physical abuse (20%).
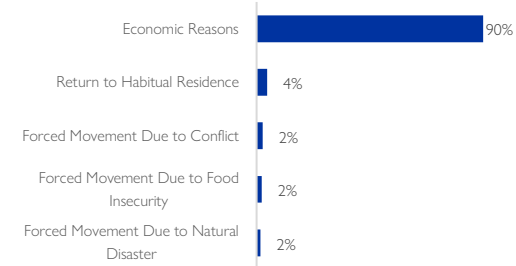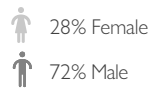
DEPARTURE COUNTRIES

- Saudi Arabia
- Yemen
- Djibouti
- Ethiopia 94%, Yemen 4%, Djibouti 2%

INTENDED DESTINATIONS

- Saudi Arabia 58%
- Yemen 25%
- Djibouti 12%
- Ethiopia 4%

REASON FOR TRAVEL

Economic Reasons	90%
Return to Habitual Residence	4%
Forced Movement Due to Conflict	2%
Forced Movement Due to Food Insecurity	2%
Forced Movement Due to Natural Disaster	2%

MEANS OF TRANSPORT

- 54% On foot
- 29% Car/Taxi
- 10% Bus
- 5% Truck
- 2% Boat

MIGRANTS STRANDED IN DJIBOUTI

804 Migrants stranded in Djibouti as of 31 March 2023

4 Informal sites

- 28% Female
- 72% Male

- 45% in Obock
- 30% in Dikhil
- 21% in Ali-Sabieh
- 4% in Tadjourah

Several migrants transiting through Djibouti on their way to or returning from the Arabian Peninsula remain stranded in Djibouti, mainly due to the lack of resources to continue their migratory journey. These migrants find themselves stranded in informal sites along the eastern route in Djibouti, where they have little or no access to basic services and are exposed to protection risks. Their priority needs are access to drinking water, food, hygiene kits and non-food items.

As of March 31, 2023, 804 migrants were stranded in 4 informal sites. Half of the migrants were in Obock (45%), followed by those from Dikhil (30%), Ali-Sabieh (21%) and Tadjourah (4%).

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 migrant 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.
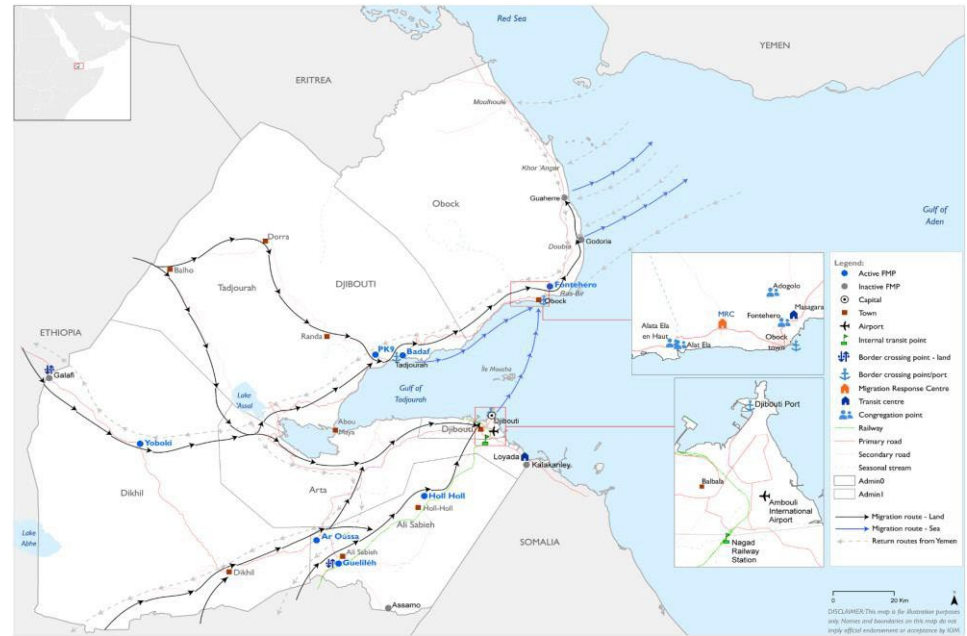
Spontaneous returns from Yemen
Spontaneous returns from Yemen are a component of IOM's DTM which started in May 2020. The objective of this data collection tool is to provide updated information on population flows returning from Yemen following COVID-19 movement restrictions in Yemen and the Kingdom 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, not all returns can 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 acute. 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 for more than once. 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 assures that the data included in this report is reliable, but stresses that it does not provide a complete picture of migration movements in Djibouti.
.

FUNDING SUPPORT