

MIGRATION FLOWS TRENDS DASHBOARD

August 2023

**25,213** migration movements observed,<sup>1</sup> including **17%** at the Obock Flow Monitoring Point (FMP)

**+17%** movements compared to July 2023

**10,731** migrants flows from Ethiopia

**349** spontaneous returns from Yemen<sup>2</sup>

**702** exits to Ethiopia

**983** stranded migrants in Djibouti as of 31 August 2023<sup>3</sup>

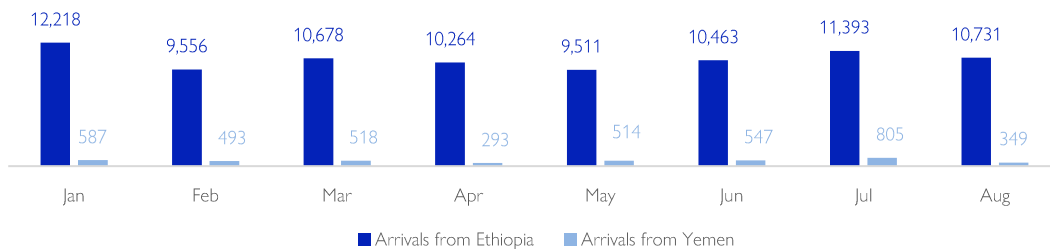
OVERVIEW

In August 2023, 25,213 migratory movements were observed at flow monitoring points (FMP) in Djibouti, with a daily average of 813 migratory movements. Migration flows observed across all FMPs increased by 17% in August compared to July 2023 during which 21,573 movements were recorded.

Of these 25,213 movements, 4,357 (17%) were observed in the Obock region where migrants cross the Gulf of Aden towards the Arabian Peninsula. Migratory flows to the FMP of Obock have seen a drop of 6% compared to the month of July 2023. This drop can be attributed to the amplification of surveillance operations by the Djiboutian Coast Guard in Obock and due to difficult weather conditions in this period of violent winds and rough seas.

Between January and August 2023, arrivals from Ethiopia (84,814) saw a significant increase of 42% compared to the same period of the previous year (59,609). Migratory movements were mainly: transiting towards the Arabian Peninsula (45%), incoming (43%), transiting within Djibouti (5%), transiting towards Ethiopia (4%), and outgoing (3%). Spontaneous returns from Yemen fell by 57%, from 805 in July to 349 in August, including 25 women (7%).

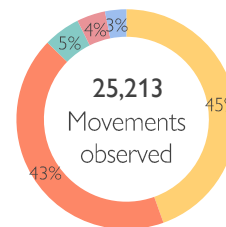
MIGRATORY FLOWS ARRIVING IN DJIBOUTI IN 2023



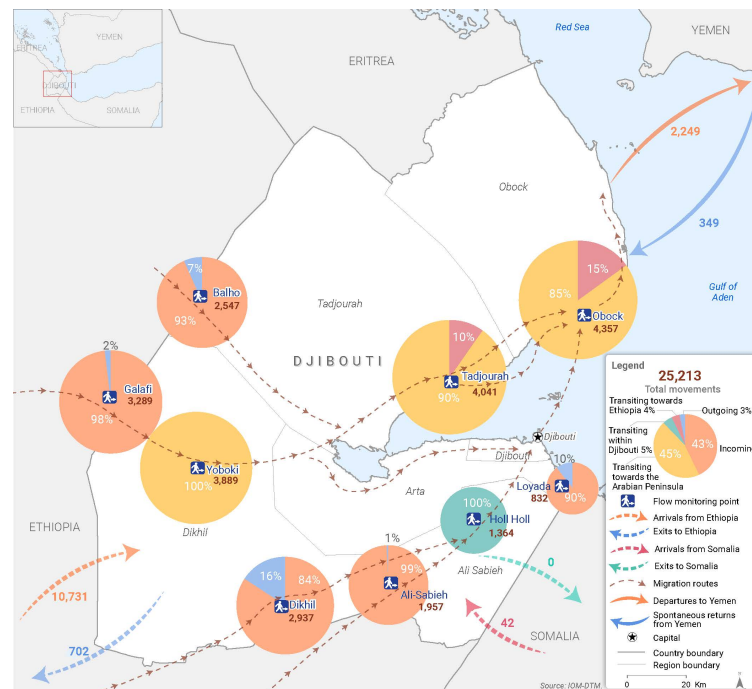
AVERAGE DAILY MOVEMENTS OBSERVED AT FMPs IN 2023



TYPE OF FLOWS<sup>4</sup>



- Transiting towards the Arabian Peninsula
- Incoming
- Transiting within Djibouti
- Transiting towards Ethiopia
- Outgoing



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

<sup>1</sup>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.

<sup>2</sup>The data on returns from Yemen were collected through key informants.

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

<sup>4</sup>In the context of this report, the method of analysis has changed compared to previous reports. The analysis considered that inflows only include flows from Ethiopia and Somalia border flow monitoring points. Transiting flows refer to flows crossing localities in Djibouti or leaving Djibouti to another country that is not the final destination. While outgoing flows are those that cross Djibouti to a country of final destination.

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## MIGRATION MOVEMENTS FROM ETHIOPIA

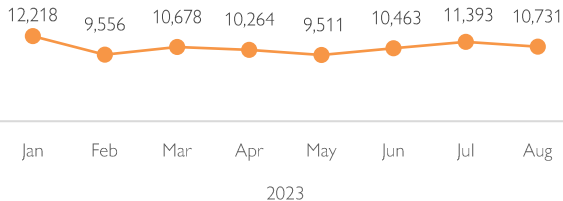
84,814

Arrivals from Ethiopia in 2023

10,731

Arrivals from Ethiopia in August 2023

### ARRIVALS FROM ETHIOPIA IN 2023



In August, over half of inbound movements from Ethiopia were observed in the Dikhil region (53%) via the Galafi (30%) and Dikhil (23%) FMPs. The Tadjourah region observed 22% of inbound movements into Djibouti through the Balho FMP, while movements from Ethiopia observed in Ali-Sabieh accounted for 18%. The Loyada FMP, on the border with Somalia, accounted for 7% of inbound movements from Ethiopia.

Compared to the previous month, a 6% drop in movements from Ethiopia was recorded in August 2023 due to regular border controls by the Djiboutian authorities and on the main migratory routes around Ali-Sabieh, Balho, Holl Holl and Yoboki.

The main departure regions for migrants from Ethiopia were Oromia (50%) and Amhara (30%). Most migrants intended to reach the Arabian Peninsula, mainly Saudi Arabia (66%) and Yemen (24%), while 10% had Djibouti as their destination country.

## RETURNS FROM YEMEN

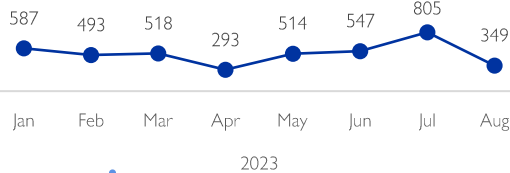
4,106

Returns from Yemen in 2023

349

Returns from Yemen in August 2023

### RETURNS FROM YEMEN IN 2023



Male • 93%

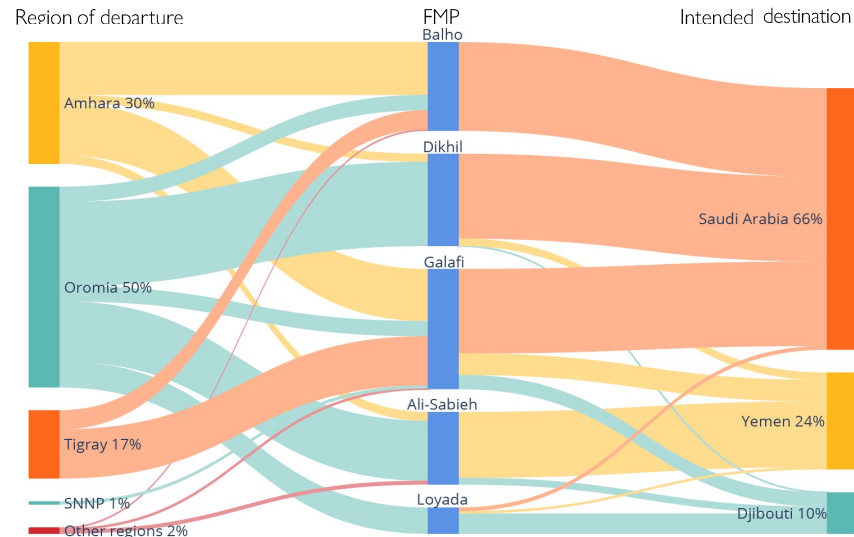


Female • 7%

In Obock, the coastal region of Djibouti where migrants cross the Gulf of Aden towards the Arabian Peninsula via the Eastern route, spontaneous returns of Ethiopian migrants from Yemen continue to be observed. In August 2023, 349 returns were recorded, a drop of 57% compared to July 2023. This drop is mainly explained by the weather conditions, namely high tides making the sea very rough during this period.

Furthermore, according to the DTM in Yemen, 2,249 migrants from the Obock region arrived in Yemen in August 2023, a drop of 71% compared to the previous month (7,835). This sharp decrease was likely due to the presence of a joint security campaign that was launched in early August. The campaign included searches of the smugglers' properties and the arrest of some of them as well as the Ethiopian guides who helped transport the migrants from Ethiopia, as well as the deployment of military points on the coastal strip to pursue smugglers' boats.

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



## EXITS TO ETHIOPIA <sup>5</sup>

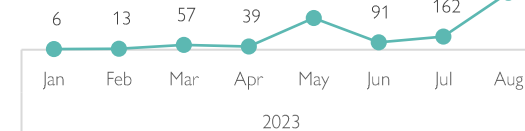
1,461

Exits to Ethiopia in 2023

702

Exits to Ethiopia in August 2023

### EXITS TO ETHIOPIA IN 2023

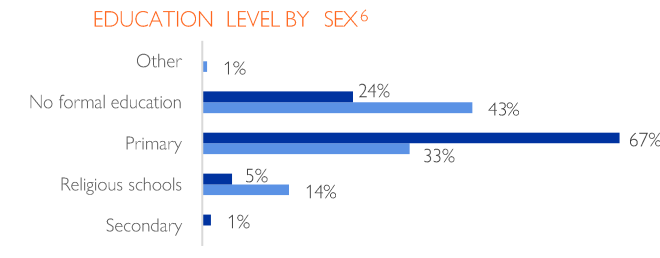
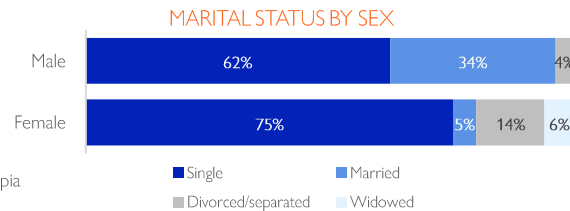
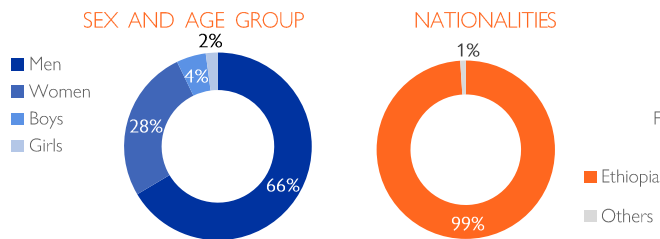


<sup>5</sup> It should be kept in mind that the means of transport used by Ethiopian migrants vary; while most of them move from Obock to Ali-Sabieh on foot, the majority of Tigrayan migrants returning from Yemen cross the border at Balho and Galafi by car or by bus, which makes it more difficult to record their movements.

Exits to Ethiopia multiplied more than 4 times in the last month (from 162 to 702). This increase may be due to the relative absence of smugglers for crossing the Gulf of Aden to the Arabian Peninsula combined with the strengthening of controls on migratory flows inside Djibouti and due to non favourable weather conditions to cross the Bab al-Mandab Strait.

All migrants who headed for Ethiopia in June 2023 were identified in the regions of Dikhil through the Dikhil (65%) and Galafi (9%) FMPs; Tadjourah through the Balho FMP (24%); and Ali-Sabieh through the Ali-Sabieh FMP (2%) and were mainly going to Oromia (67%), Amhara (30%) and Tigray (3%).

## DEMOGRAPHIC AND SOCIOECONOMIC PROFILE

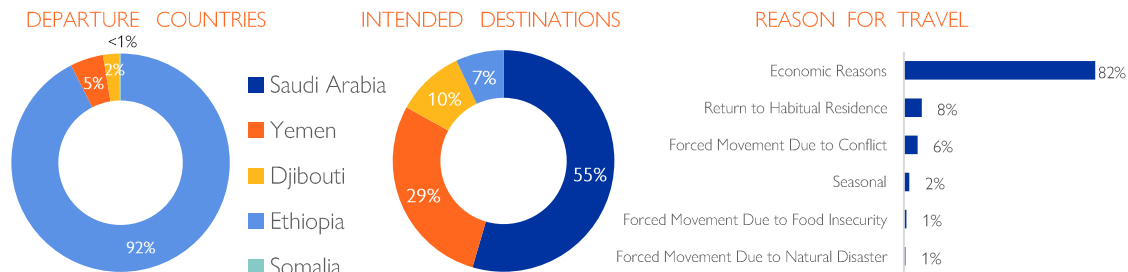


<sup>6</sup> 9% of female and 3% of male did not answer this question.

## TRAVEL CHARACTERISTICS

In August, almost all of the individuals identified at the FMP level had left Ethiopia (92%). Most of the migrants observed intended to reach the Arabian Peninsula (55% to Saudi Arabia and 29% to Yemen). The migrants observed traveled mainly for economic reasons (82%) and on foot (57%).

Furthermore, of the 484 people questioned via the FMS, 75% declared having encountered difficulties during their journey. Male migrants are more likely to encounter or report difficulties (82%) than female migrants (56%). The most recurring challenges mentioned were lack of food and water (80%) and lack of shelter (70%). Around half of respondents who had encountered difficulties during their trip also reported financial difficulties (52%) or challenges at sea (13%).



In August, most migrants identified in FMPs were adults (66% men and 28% women), while 6% were children (4% boys and 2% girls). Almost all of them (99%) were Ethiopian nationals.

A total of 596 children were traveling alone (78% boys and 22% girls) and 409 children were heads of household.

Of the 484 respondents (73% male and 27% female) to the flow monitoring surveys (FMS), almost two thirds were single (66%), while 26% were married (including 34% men and 5% women) and 6% divorced or separated.

More than half of the migrants surveyed (58%) had received primary education (67% male and only 33% female) and 29% had received no formal education (24% male and 43% female, female gender). Additionally, 14% of female migrants had attended a religious school.

In addition, almost all of the migrant women interviewed (95%) were looking for work.

## MIGRANTS STRANDED IN DJIBOUTI

**983** Migrants stranded in Djibouti as of August 31, 2023

26% Female  
74% Male

**5** Informal sites

44% in Dikhil  
41% in Tadjourah  
15% in Ali-Sabieh

Several migrants transiting through Djibouti on their way from or returning from the Arabian Peninsula remain stuck in Djibouti, mainly due to the lack of resources to continue their migratory journeys. These migrants find themselves stranded in informal sites along the Eastern Route 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 August 31, 983 migrants were stranded in 5 informal sites distributed in the regions of Dikhil (44%), Tadjourah (41%) and Ali-Sabieh (15%).

**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**

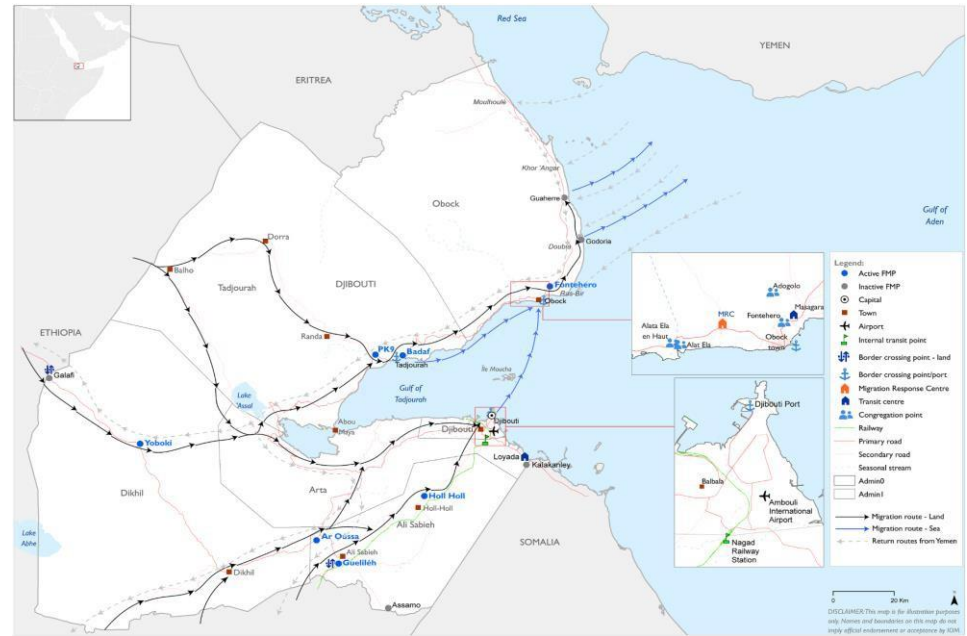
Spontaneous returns from Yemen are a component of IOM's DTM which started in May 2020. The objective of this data collection tool is to provide updated information on population flows returning from Yemen following the harsh conditions in Yemen and in the border between Saudi Arabia and Yemen. The information 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.



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