

MIGRATION FLOWS TRENDS DASHBOARD | September 2023

17,292 migration movements observed,¹ including **21%** at the Obock Flow Monitoring Point (FMP)

-31% movements compared to August 2023

7,643 migrants flows from Ethiopia

559 spontaneous returns from Yemen²

293 exits to Ethiopia

761 stranded migrants in Djibouti as of 28 september 2023

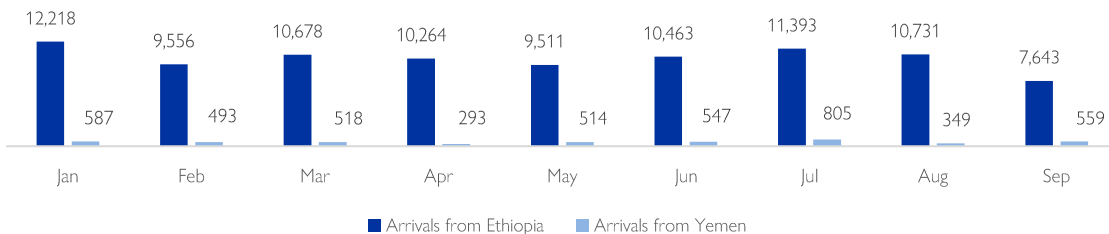
OVERVIEW

In September 2023, 17,292 migratory movements were observed at Djibouti's flow monitoring points (FMPs), with a daily average of 618 migratory movements. The migratory flows observed at all the FMPs fell by 31% in September compared with August 2023 due to increased border control operations in Djibouti and Yemen, which slowed down the flow of migrants en route from Ethiopia.

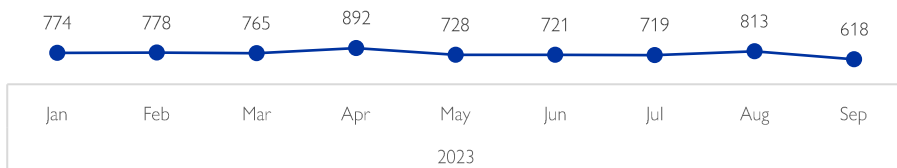
Of these 17,292 movements, 3,691 (21%) were observed in the Obock region, where migrants cross the Gulf of Aden on their way to the Arabian Peninsula. Migration flows at the Obock FMPs were down by 15% compared with August 2023. This drop can be attributed to the increased border controls carried out by the Djibouti coastguard in Obock.

Between January and September 2023, arrivals from Ethiopia (92,457) increased significantly by 32% compared with the same period the previous year (69,874). Migration movements were mainly: incoming (45%), transit to the Arabian Peninsula (41%), transit within Djibouti (5%), transit to Ethiopia (7%) and outgoing (2%). Spontaneous returns from Yemen rose by 60%, from 349 in August to 559 in September, including 61 women (11%).

MIGRATORY FLOWS ARRIVING IN DJIBOUTI IN 2023



AVERAGE DAILY MOVEMENTS OBSERVED AT FMPs IN 2023



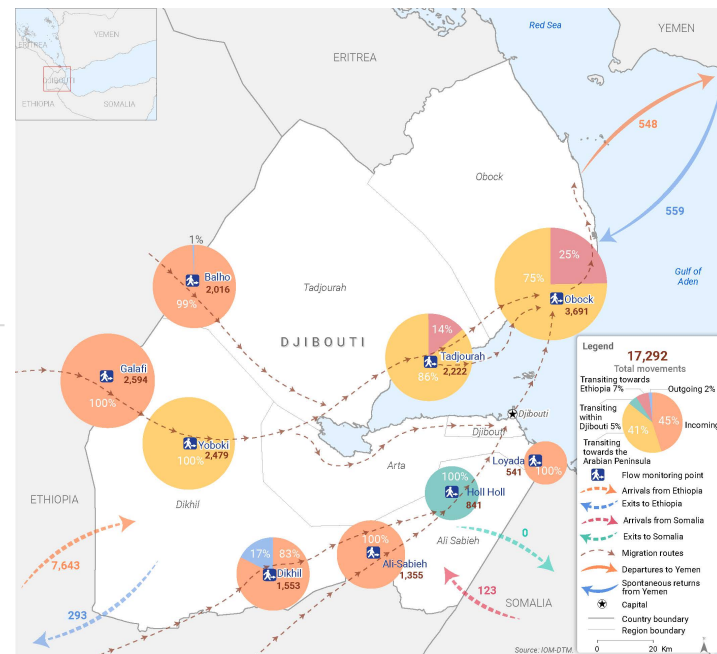
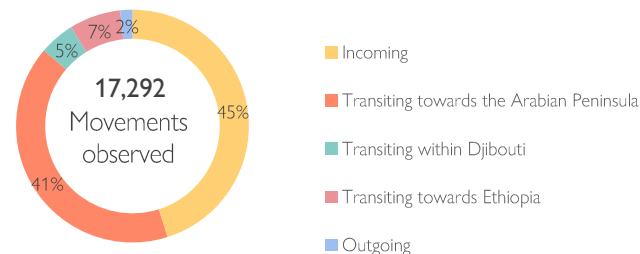
¹As of March 2022, the movements of Djiboutian nationals (transiting, leaving or returning to the country) are included in the data except for internal movements.
²The data on returns from Yemen were collected through key informants.

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

⁴In the context of this report, the method of analysis has changed compared to previous reports. The analysis considered that infows 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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TYPE OF FLOWS⁴



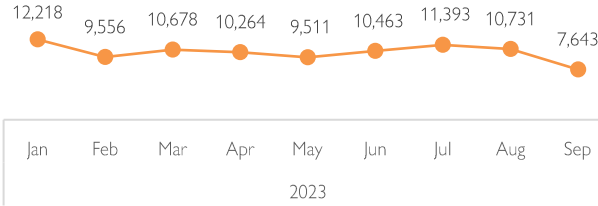
Disclaimer: This map is for illustration purposes only. Names and boundaries on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by IOM.

MIGRATION MOVEMENTS FROM ETHIOPIA

92,457

Arrivals from Ethiopia in 2023

ARRIVALS FROM ETHIOPIA IN 2023



7,643

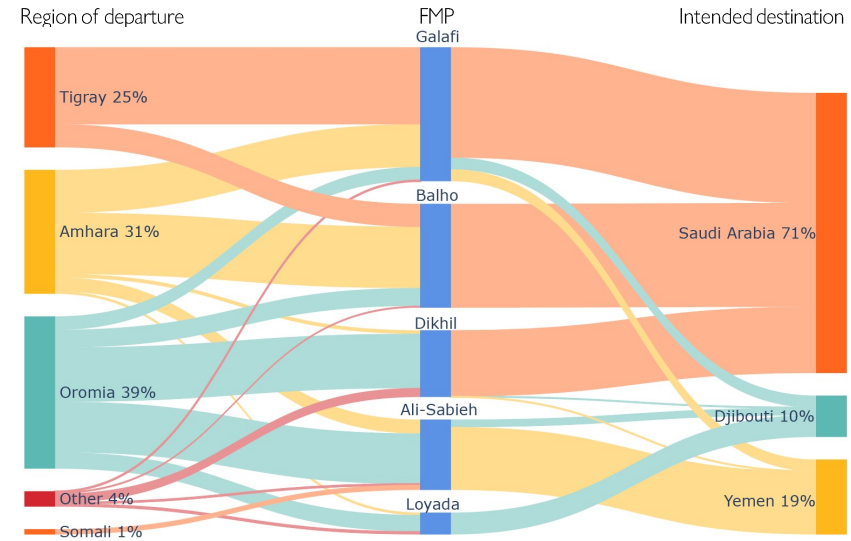
Arrivals from Ethiopia in September 2023

In September, half of the inbound movements from Ethiopia were observed in the Dikhil region (51%) via the Galafi (34%) and Dikhil (17%) FMPs. The Tadjourah region observed 26% 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 5% of inbound movements from Ethiopia.

Compared to the previous month, a 29% drop in movements from Ethiopia was recorded in September 2023 due to regular border controls by the Djiboutian authorities and on the main migratory routes around Galafi and Balho. An increase in insecurity or risks associated with migration on Ethiopian routes to Djibouti, and higher prices charged by smugglers also explain the decrease in incoming movements from Ethiopia.

The main departure regions for migrants from Ethiopia were Oromia (39%), Amhara (31%) and Tigray (25%). Most migrants intended to reach the Arabian Peninsula, mainly the Saudi Arabia (71%) and Yemen (19%), while 10% had Djibouti as their destination country.

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

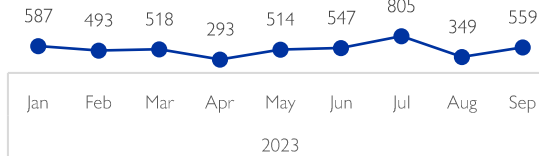


RETURNS FROM YEMEN

4,665

Returns from Yemen in 2023

RETURNS FROM YEMEN IN 2023



559

Returns from Yemen in September 2023



Male • 89%



Female • 11%

In Obock, the coastal region of Djibouti where migrants cross the Gulf of Aden to the Arabian Peninsula via the Eastern corridor, spontaneous returns of Ethiopian migrants from Yemen continue to be observed. In September 2023, 559 returns were recorded, an increase of 60% compared with August 2023, linked to the intensification of controls by the Yemeni authorities, prompting several migrants to return to Djibouti.

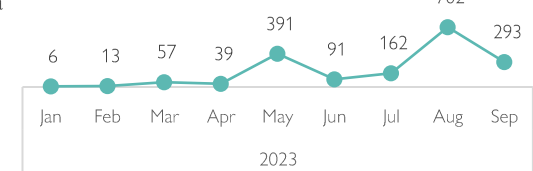
Furthermore, according to the DTM in Yemen, 548 migrants departing from the Obock region arrived in Yemen in September 2023, a drop of 76% compared with the previous month (2,249). This sharp drop was probably due to the presence of a joint security campaign which was launched at the beginning of September. The campaign included raids on smugglers' properties and the arrest of some of them, as well as Ethiopian guides who helped transport migrants from Ethiopia, and the deployment of military points on the coastal strip to pursue smugglers' boats.

EXITS TO ETHIOPIA⁵

1,754

Exits to Ethiopia in 2023

EXITS TO ETHIOPIA IN 2023



293

Exits to Ethiopia in September 2023

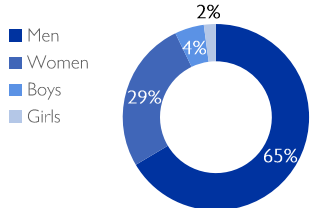
⁵ It should be kept in mind that the means of transport used by Ethiopian migrants vary, while most of them move from Obock to Ali-Sabieh on foot, the majority of Tigrayan migrants returning from Yemen cross the border at Balho and Galafi by car or by bus, which makes it more difficult to record their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

In September, 293 departures to Ethiopia were recorded, representing a 58% decrease from August (702). This drop can be attributed to the frequent deportations of stranded migrants carried out by the authorities in Ali-Sabieh, Dikhil and Tadjourah, which were not taken into account by the DTM teams on the ground.

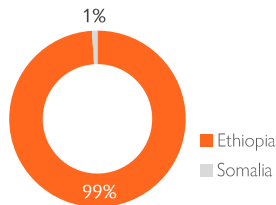
All the migrants who headed for Ethiopia in September 2023 were identified in the regions of Dikhil through the Dikhil FMP (92%) and Galafi (3%) and Tadjourah through the Balho FMP (5%) and were mainly heading for the Oromia (91%) and Amhara (9%) regions.

DEMOGRAPHIC AND SOCIOECONOMIC PROFILE

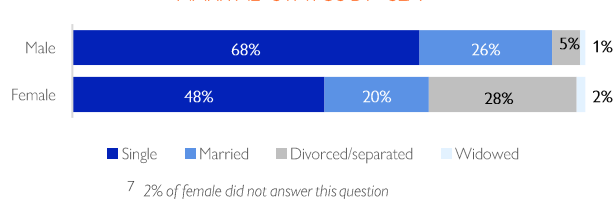
SEX AND AGE GROUP



NATIONALITIES



MARITAL STATUS BY SEX⁷



In September, most migrants identified in FMPs were adults (65% men and 29% women), while 6% were children (4% boys and 2% girls). Almost all of them (99%) were Ethiopian nationals.

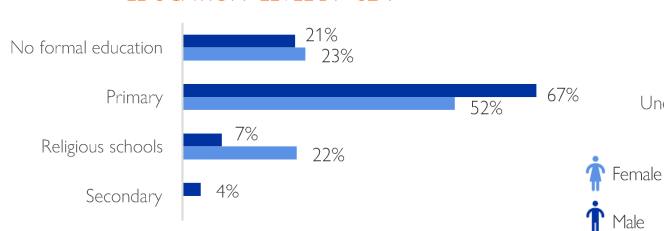
A total of 481 children were traveling alone (82% boys and 18% girls) and 279 children were heads of household.

Of the 261 respondents (77% male and 23% female) to the flow monitoring surveys (FMS), two thirds were single (63%), while 25% were married (including 26% men and 20% women) and 11% divorced or separated.

More than half of the migrants surveyed (64%) had received primary education (67% male and 52% female) and 22% had received no formal education (21% male and 23% female). Additionally, 22% of female migrants had attended a religious school.

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

EDUCATION LEVEL BY SEX⁶



PROFESSIONAL STATUS BY SEX

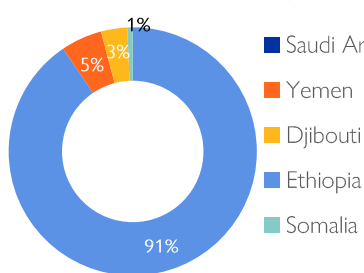


TRAVEL CHARACTERISTICS

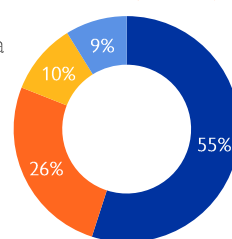
In September, almost all of the individuals identified at the FMP level had left Ethiopia (91%). Most of the migrants observed intended to reach the Arabian Peninsula (55% to Saudi Arabia and 26% to Yemen). The migrants observed traveled mainly for economic reasons (77%) and on foot (55%).

Furthermore, of the 261 people questioned via the FMS, 72% declared having encountered difficulties during their journey. Male migrants are more likely to encounter or report difficulties (82%) than female migrants (38%). The most recurring challenges mentioned were lack of shelter (77%), lack of food and water (75%) and around half of the respondents who had encountered difficulties during their trip also reported financial difficulties (43%) and around one quarter challenges at sea (24%).

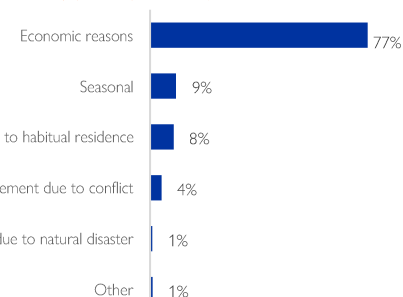
DEPARTURE COUNTRIES



INTENDED DESTINATIONS



REASON FOR TRAVEL



MEANS OF TRANSPORT



MIGRANTS STRANDED IN DJIBOUTI

761

Migrants stranded in Djibouti as of September, 28 2023



5

Informal sites



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 or opportunities with smugglers to continue their migratory journeys. These migrants find themselves stranded in informal sites along the Eastern Corridor moving forward 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 September 28, 761 migrants were stranded in 5 informal sites distributed in the regions of Tadjourah (40%), Dikhil (20%), Ali-Sabieh (20%) and Obock (20%).

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

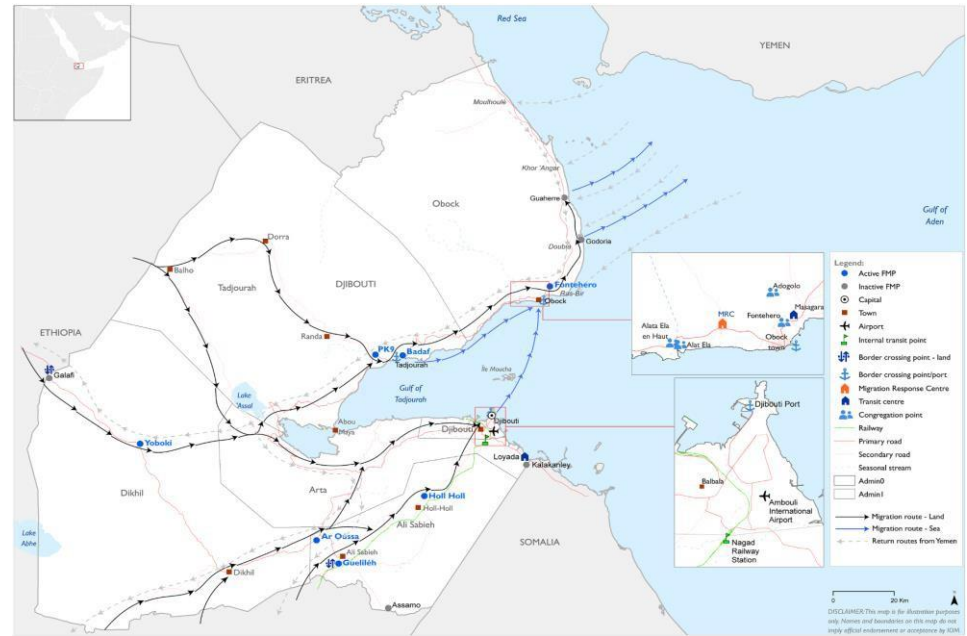
Spontaneous returns from Yemen are a component of IOM's DTM which started in May 2020. The objective of this data collection tool is to provide updated information on population flows returning from Yemen following the harsh conditions in Yemen and in the border between Saudi Arabia and Yemen. The information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