

MIGRATION FLOWS TRENDS DASHBOARD | October 2023

**22,709** migration movements observed,<sup>1</sup> including **21%** at the Obock flow monitoring point (FMP)

**+31%** movements compared to September 2023

**9,128** migrant flows from Ethiopia

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

**150** exits to Ethiopia

**800** stranded migrants in Djibouti as of 25 October 2023<sup>3</sup>

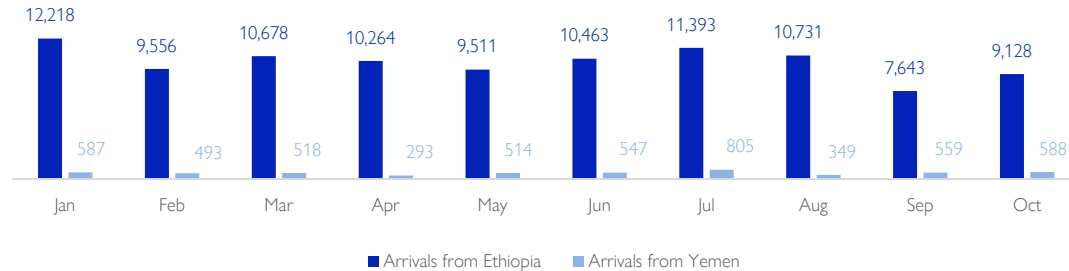
OVERVIEW

In October 2023, 22,709 migratory movements were observed at flow monitoring points (FMP) in Djibouti, with a daily average of 733 migratory movements. Migration flows observed across all FMPs increased by 31% in October compared to September 2023, during which 17,292 movements were recorded.

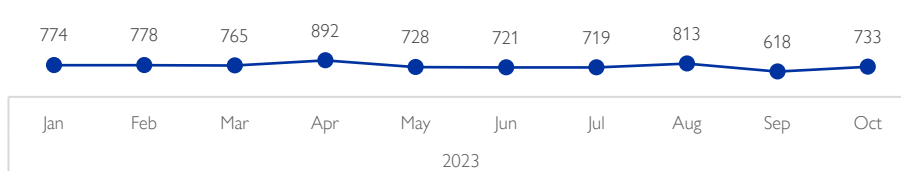
Of these 22,709 movements, 4,875 (21%) were observed in the Obock region where migrants cross the Gulf of Aden towards the Arabian Peninsula. Migration flows to the FMP of Obock increased by 32% compared to September 2023. This increase could be due to a reduction in border controls with Ethiopia combined with false rumors of the resumption of boat departures from the coasts of Obock where migrants are used to crossing the Gulf of Aden to reach the Arabian Peninsula.

Between January and October 2023, arrivals from Ethiopia (101,585) saw a significant increase of 24% compared to the same period of the previous year (81,889). Migratory movements were: towards the Arabian Peninsula (48%), incoming (41%), transiting within Djibouti (7%), transiting to Ethiopia (4%), and outgoing (1%). Spontaneous returns from Yemen increased by 5%, from 559 in September to 588 in October, including 20 women (3%).

MIGRATORY FLOWS ARRIVING FROM ETHIOPIA AND YEMEN IN 2023



AVERAGE DAILY MOVEMENTS OBSERVED AT FMPs IN 2023



<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.

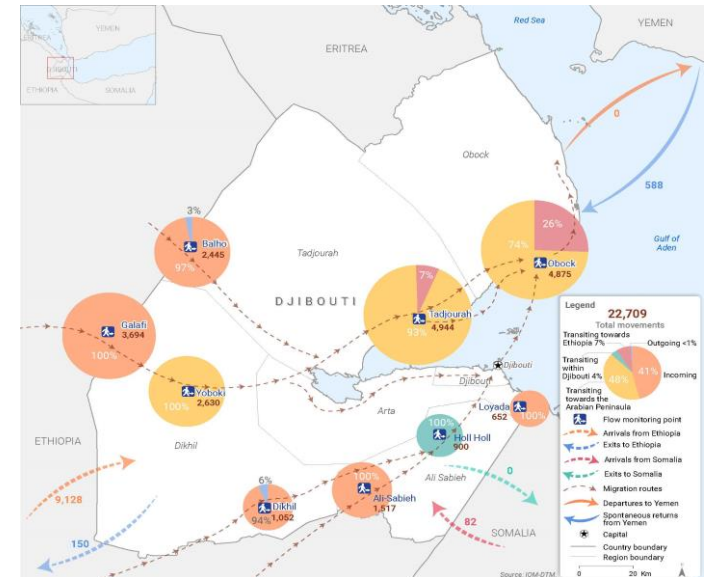
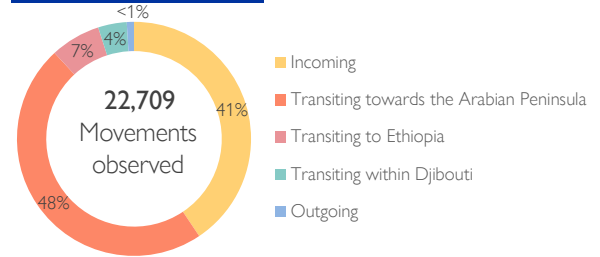
<sup>2</sup>The data on returns from Yemen were collected through key informants.

<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 refer to 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 the border of Djibouti and another country, where the latter country is the final destination.

The following citation is required when using any data and information included in this information product: "International Organization for Migration (IOM), October 2023. DTM Flow Monitoring Report. IOM, Djibouti." For more information on terms and conditions of DTM information products, please refer to: <https://dtm.iom.int/terms-and-conditions>.

TYPE OF FLOWS<sup>4</sup>



**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

**101,585** Arrivals from Ethiopia in 2023

**9,128** Arrivals from Ethiopia in October 2023

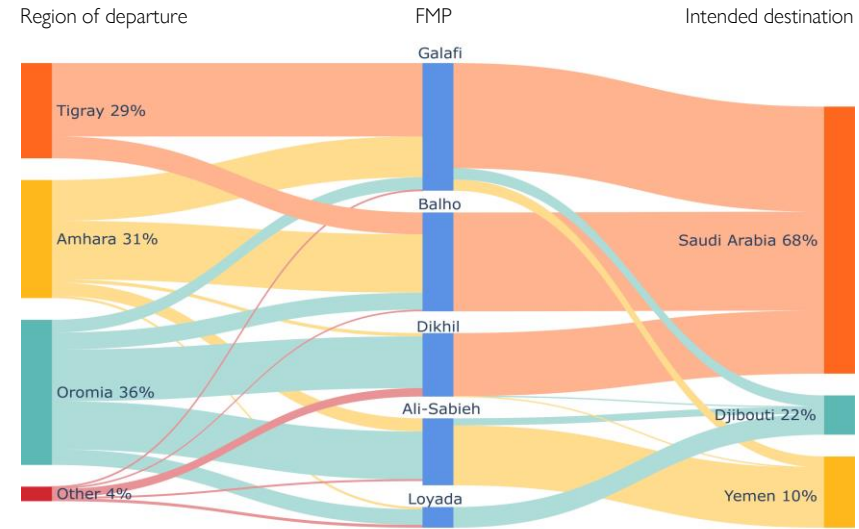


In October, half of the inbound movements from Ethiopia were observed in the Dikhil region (51%) via the Galafi (40%) and Dikhil (11%) FMPs. The Tadjourah region observed 26% of inbound movements into Djibouti through the Balho FMP, while movements from Ethiopia observed in Ali-Sabieh accounted for 17%. The Loyada FMP, on the border with Somalia, accounted for 6% of inbound movements from Ethiopia.

Compared to the previous month, a 19% increase in movements from Ethiopia was recorded in October 2023. This increase is due to the reduction in border controls with Ethiopia and false rumors of a resumption of the activities of smugglers controlling the sea crossing during the upcoming winter period.

The main departure regions for migrants from Ethiopia were Oromia (36%), Amhara (31%) and Tigray (29%). Most migrants intended mainly Saudi Arabia (68%) and Yemen (10%), while 22% reported Djibouti as their destination country.

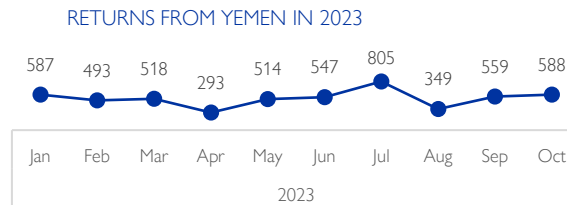
## ARRIVALS FROM ETHIOPIA IN OCTOBER 2023 BY REGION OF DEPARTURE AND INTENDED DESTINATION



## RETURNS FROM YEMEN

**5,253** Returns from Yemen in 2023

**588** Returns from Yemen in October 2023



Male • 96% Female • 4%

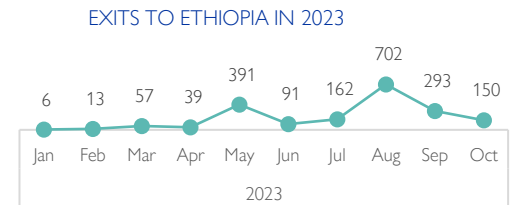
In Obock, the coastal region of Djibouti where migrants cross the Gulf of Aden towards the Arabian Peninsula via the Eastern route, spontaneous returns of Ethiopian migrants from Yemen continue to be observed. In October 2023, 588 returns were recorded, an increase of 5% compared to September 2023 linked to the intensification of controls by the Yemeni authorities pushing migrants to return to Djibouti.

Furthermore, according to the DTM in Yemen, there were no migrants arriving in Yemen in October 2023 from the Obock region.

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

**1,904** Exits to Ethiopia in 2023

**150** Exits to Ethiopia in October 2023



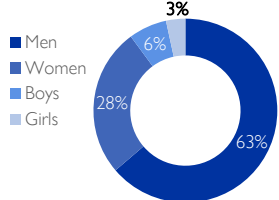
<sup>5</sup>the means of transport used by Ethiopian migrants vary: while most of them move from Obock to Ali-Sabieh on foot, the majority of Tigrayan migrants returning from Yemen cross the border at Balho and Galafi by car or by bus, which makes it more difficult to record their movements.

In October, 150 exits to Ethiopia were recorded, a decrease of 49% compared to September (293). This drop can be attributed to the decrease on surveillance operations against irregular migration carried out by authorities in Ali-Sabieh, Dikhil and Tadjourah, who frequently return stranded migrants to the border.

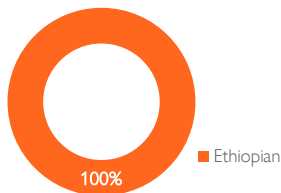
All migrants who headed to Ethiopia in October 2023 were identified in the regions of Dikhil through the Dikhil (44%) and Galafi (8%) FMPs and in Tadjourah through the Balho FMP (48%) and mainly went to the regions of Oromia (76%) and Amhara (24%).

## DEMOGRAPHIC AND SOCIOECONOMIC PROFILE

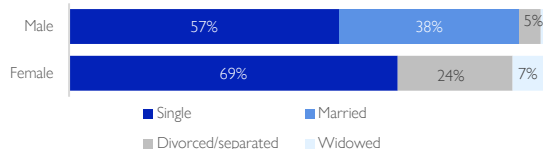
### SEX AND AGE GROUP



### NATIONALITIES



### MARITAL STATUS BY SEX



In October, most migrants identified at FMPs were adults (63% men and 28% women), while 9% were children (6% boys and 3% girls). All of them were Ethiopian nationals.

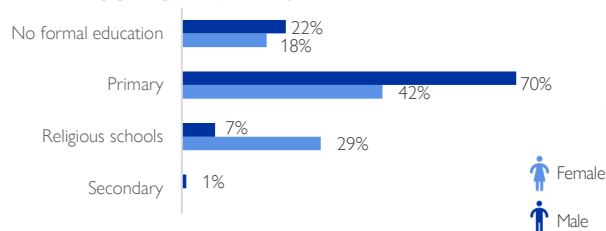
A total of 610 children were traveling alone (73% boys and 27% girls) and 309 children were heads of household.

Of the 278 respondents (78% male and 22% female) to the flow monitoring surveys (FMS), two thirds were single (60%), while 29% were married (including 38% male and 0% women) and 9% divorced or separated.

More than half of the migrants surveyed (64%) had received primary education (70% male and 42% female) and 21% had received no formal education (22% male and 18% female). Additionally, 29% of female migrants had attended a religious school.

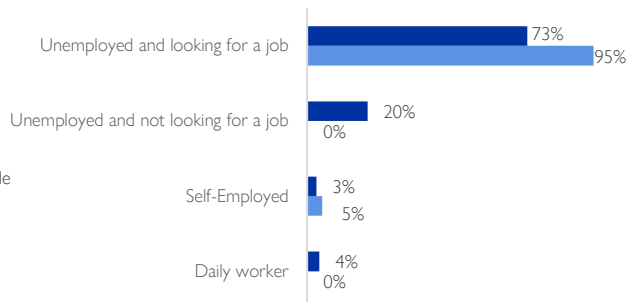
In addition, almost all of the migrant females interviewed (95%) were looking for work.

### EDUCATION LEVEL BY SEX<sup>6</sup>



<sup>6</sup> 11% of female respondents did not answer this question.

### PROFESSIONAL STATUS BY SEX

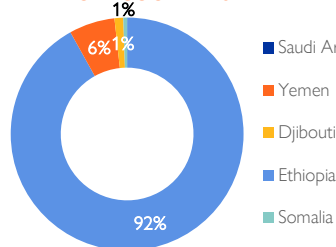


## TRAVEL CHARACTERISTICS

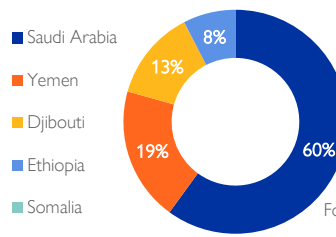
In October, almost all of the individuals identified at the FMP level had come from Ethiopia (92%). Most of the migrants observed intended to reach the Arabian Peninsula (60% to Saudi Arabia and 19% to Yemen). The migrants observed traveled mainly for economic reasons (72%) and on foot (44%).

Furthermore, of the 278 people surveyed via the FMS, 66% said they encountered difficulties during their journey. Male migrants are more likely to encounter or report difficulties (76%) than female migrants (31%). The most recurring challenges mentioned were lack of shelter (83%), lack of food and water (61%) and around half of respondents who had encountered difficulties during their trip also reported financial difficulties (43%) or challenges at sea (28%).

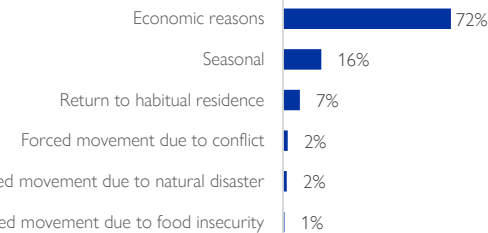
### DEPARTURE COUNTRIES



### INTENDED DESTINATIONS



### REASON FOR TRAVEL



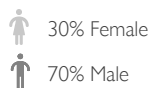
### MEANS OF TRANSPORT



## MIGRANTS STRANDED IN DJIBOUTI

800

Migrants stranded in Djibouti as of 25 October 2023



5

Informal sites



Many migrants transiting through Djibouti on their way to or from the Arabian Peninsula remain stranded 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 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 25 October, 800 migrants were stranded in 5 informal sites distributed in the regions of Tadjourah (49%), Dikhil (32%) and Ali-Sabieh (19%).

**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**

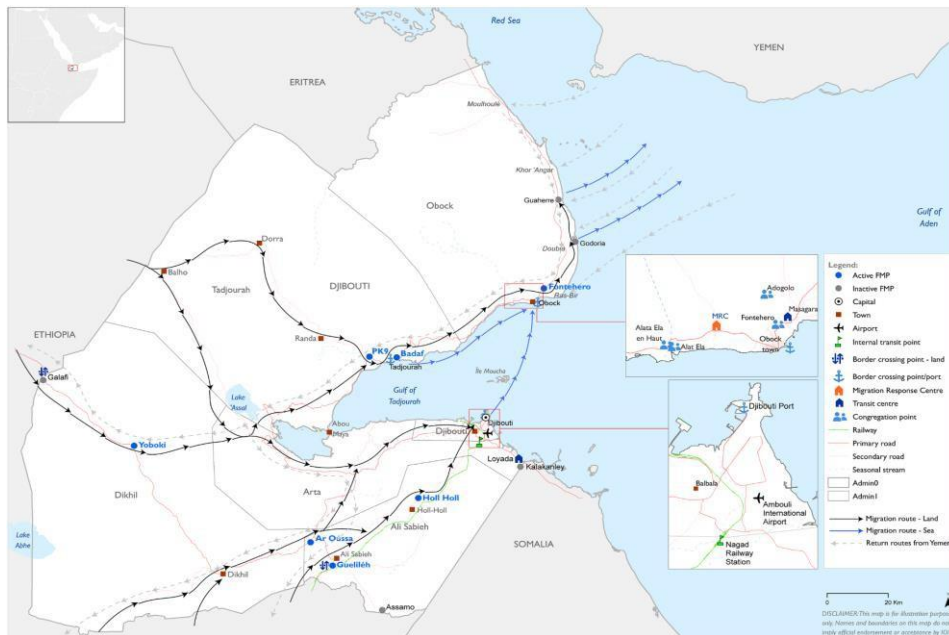
Spontaneous returns from Yemen are a component of IOM's DTM which started in May 2020. The objective of this data collection tool is to provide updated information on population flows returning from Yemen following the harsh conditions in Yemen and in the border between Saudi Arabia and Yemen. The information 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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*The opinions expressed in the report are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the International Organization for Migration (IOM). The designations employed and the presentation of material throughout the report do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of IOM concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area, or of its authorities, or concerning its frontiers or boundaries. IOM is committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and society. As an intergovernmental organization, IOM acts with its partners in the international community to: assist in the meeting of operational challenges of migration; advance understanding of migration issues; encourage social and economic development through migration; and uphold the human dignity and well-being of migrants. When quoting, paraphrasing, or in any other way using the information mentioned in this report, the source needs to be stated appropriately as follows: "Source: The International Organization for Migration [October 2023], Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM)"*