

RETURNED MIGRANTS FROM ABROAD

VILLAGE ASSESSMENT SURVEY (VAS) - ROUND 15

AMHARA AND OROMIA REGIONS - ETHIOPIA, NOVEMBER 2022 - JANUARY 2023



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I. INTRODUCTION

This snapshot report will present data on returned migrants from abroad collected by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) through its Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) methodology and Village Assessment Survey (VAS) tool in the Amhara and Oromia regions of Ethiopia between November 2022 and January 2023 (Round 15).

This report will focus on the two regions separately, in order to show a more nuanced understanding of return in these two regions. Firstly, the regional returned migrant

caseloads will be presented on maps and then tables disaggregated by zone.

Secondly, the regional returned migrant caseload will be disaggregated by zone and sex, followed by a presentation on countries/routes from which migrants in the assessed villages have returned from.

Thirdly, the length of stay abroad prior to return and the return timeline will be presented.

2. METHODOLOGY

The Village Assessment Survey (VAS) was used for the first time in Ethiopia in July 2019 in response to government-led return movements, in an effort to capture return trends and sectoral needs in areas reporting high return concentrations. All VAS data is collected in collaboration with the Ethiopia Disaster Risk Management Commission (EDRMC).

The purpose of VAS is to assess the capacity of villages to absorb returns through the availability of services with a focus on livelihoods and reintegration.

Round 15 of the VAS was conducted between November 2022 and January 2023 in accessible villages nationwide.* The findings of Round 15 VAS can be accessed [here](#).

The VAS is deployed in locations where consultations with key informants at the national, zonal and woreda level have identified at least 20 returning Internally Displaced Person (IDP) households that returned from 1 January 2021.

In addition to the regular assessment targeting returning IDPs, in Round 15 of data collection there was an additional focus on returned migrants from abroad in Amhara and Oromia regions. In these regions, the VAS was deployed in locations with returned migrants from abroad, regardless

of the number of returning IDP households identified in the consultations.

The indicators focusing on returned migrants from abroad which were included in the assessment were developed in coordination with IOM's Protection Unit (PxU). Figures collected through the VAS will differ from the number of migrants assisted by IOM Ethiopia's Assisted Voluntary Return (AVR) and Voluntary Humanitarian Return (VHR) programs, given the explained location selection criteria which does not take into account the assistance provided to those returned migrants from abroad.

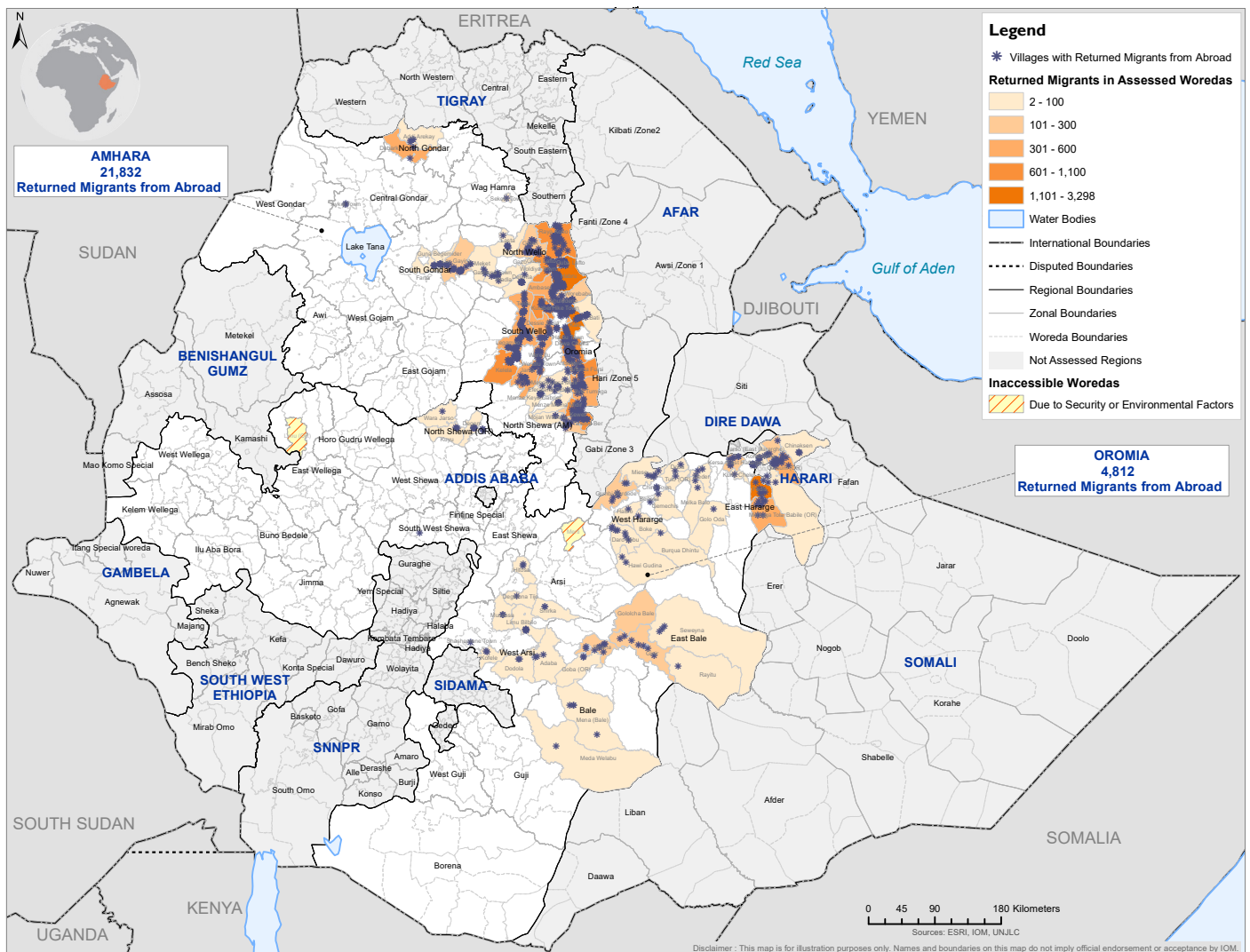
In the selected locations, at the village level, one group discussion with key informants was held in each location to assess the mobility, needs and vulnerabilities of the target population. Each group discussion is comprised of representatives from the target group and includes men, women, elderly and youth. The information is verified through direct observation, triangulation, and key informant interviews.

Out of the 1,139 assessed villages in Amhara region during Round 15 of VAS, returned migrants from abroad were identified in 730 villages. Out of the 249 assessed villages in Oromia region, returned migrants from abroad were identified in 174 villages.

* Please note that Tigray region was included in VAS Round 15 but the data was shared separately due to contextual constraints.



Figure 1: Returned migrants from abroad caseload in accessible villages in Amhara and Oromia regions

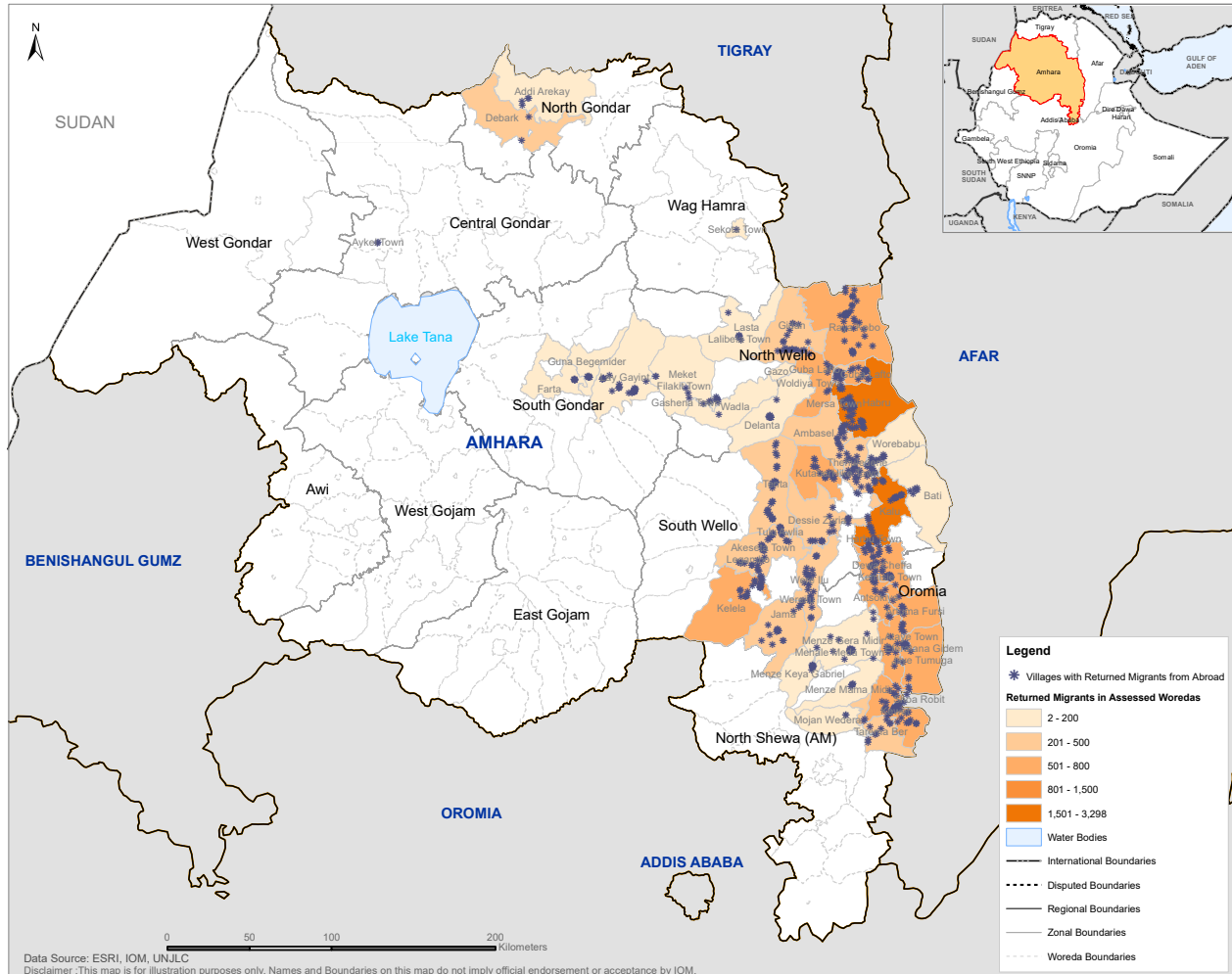


KEY FINDINGS OF THE IOM-DTM VILLAGE ASSESSMENT SURVEY (VAS) ROUND 15 WITH RETURNED MIGRANTS FROM ABROAD IN AMHARA AND OROMIA REGIONS

- A total of 21,832 returned migrants from abroad were identified in 730 villages in Amhara region. Out of the assessed 730 villages with returned migrants, the majority reported that migrants had returned from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (727 villages, 99.59%). In 375 villages (51.37%) the majority of returned migrants in the village had stayed abroad for more than 2 years prior to return.
- A total of 4,812 returned migrants from abroad were identified in 174 villages in Oromia region. Out of the 174 villages, the majority reported that migrants had returned from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (156 villages, 89.66%). In 112 villages (64.37%) the majority of returned migrants in the village had stayed abroad between 1 and 2 years prior to return.

3. RETURNS IN AMHARA REGION

Figure 2: Returned migrants from abroad caseload in Amhara region



In Round 15 of the Village Assessment Survey (VAS) conducted between November 2022 and January 2023, IOM DTM Ethiopia assessed 1,139 accessible villages in Amhara region, Ethiopia. A total of 21,832 returned migrants from abroad were identified in 730 villages.

As seen in Figure 3, out of the identified 21,832 returned migrants, the highest shares were identified in South Wollo (7,730 individuals, 35.41%), North Wollo (6,595 individuals, 30.21%), North Shewa (3,244 individuals, 14.86%) and Oromia zones (2,606 individuals, 11.94%).

Figure 3: Returned migrants in Amhara region, by zone

Zone	No. of returned migrants from abroad	Share of returned migrants
South Wollo	7,730	35.41%
North Wollo	6,595	30.21%
North Shewa (R3)	3,244	14.86%
Oromia	2,606	11.94%
Central Gonder	750	3.44%
North Gonder	460	2.11%
South Gonder	430	1.97%
Wag Himra	17	0.08%
Grand Total	21,832	100.00%



Figure 4: Sex breakdown of returned migrants from abroad in Amhara region, by zone



Overall, 42.05% of identified returned migrants from abroad in Amhara region were males and 57.94% were females. However, as seen in Figure 4, this share differs across zones. Whereas in most zones, the overall majority were females, the opposite is true in Oromia zone, where the largest share were males, and in North Shewa and North Wollo zones, where similar shares were males and females.

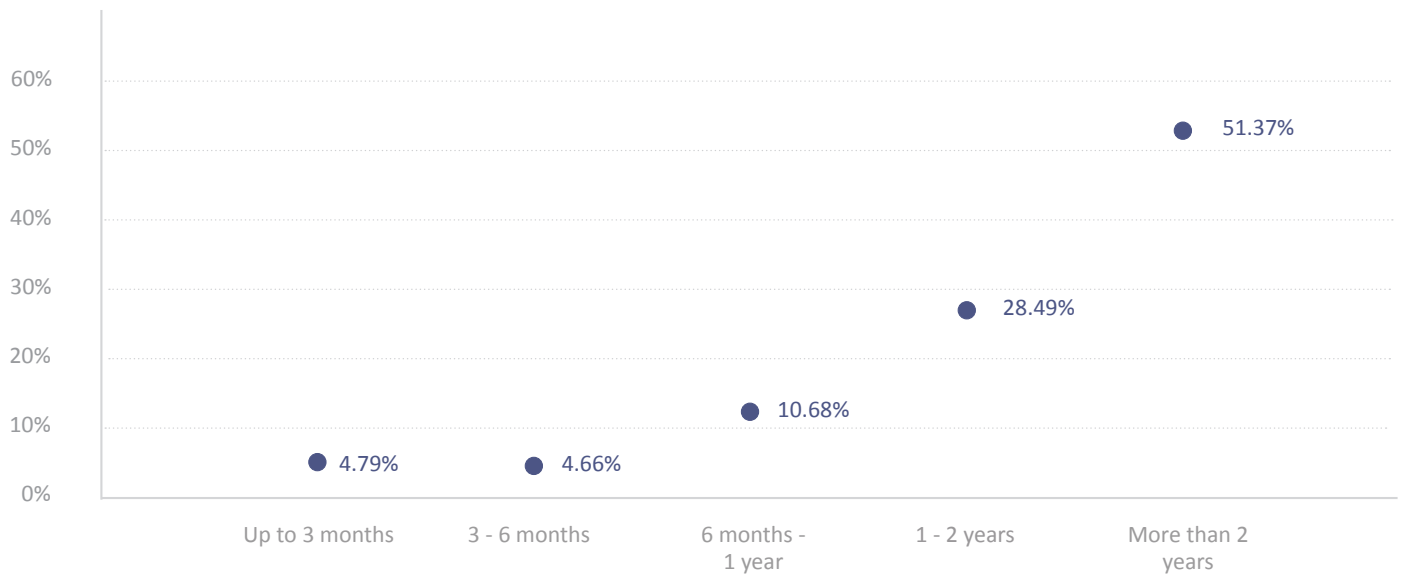
Figure 5: Return country/route of returned migrants from abroad in Amhara region (multiple choice)

Return country/route	No. of villages that reported migrants who returned from such country/route	Share out of total no. of villages with returned migrants from abroad
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	727	99.59%
Djibouti	46	6.30%
Yemen	21	2.88%
Southern route (Kenya, Tanzania, South Africa)	14	1.92%
Northern route (Sudan, Libya)	14	1.92%
Grand Total	730	100.00%

Key informants in group discussions in the 730 villages in Amhara region with returned migrants from abroad were asked where migrants in their village had returned from and they were allowed to give multiple answers. As seen in Figure 5, out of the 730 villages, the majority reported that migrants had returned from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (727 villages, 99.59%).



Figure 6: Length of stay abroad of the majority of returned migrants in the assessed villages in Amhara region



Among the assessed 730 villages in Amhara region with returned migrants from abroad, in 375 villages (51.37%) the majority of returned migrants in the village had stayed abroad for more than 2 years prior to return. This is followed by 208 villages where the majority of returned migrants stayed abroad for 1-2 years (28.49%) and 78 villages where the majority had stayed abroad between 6 months and 1 year (10.68%).

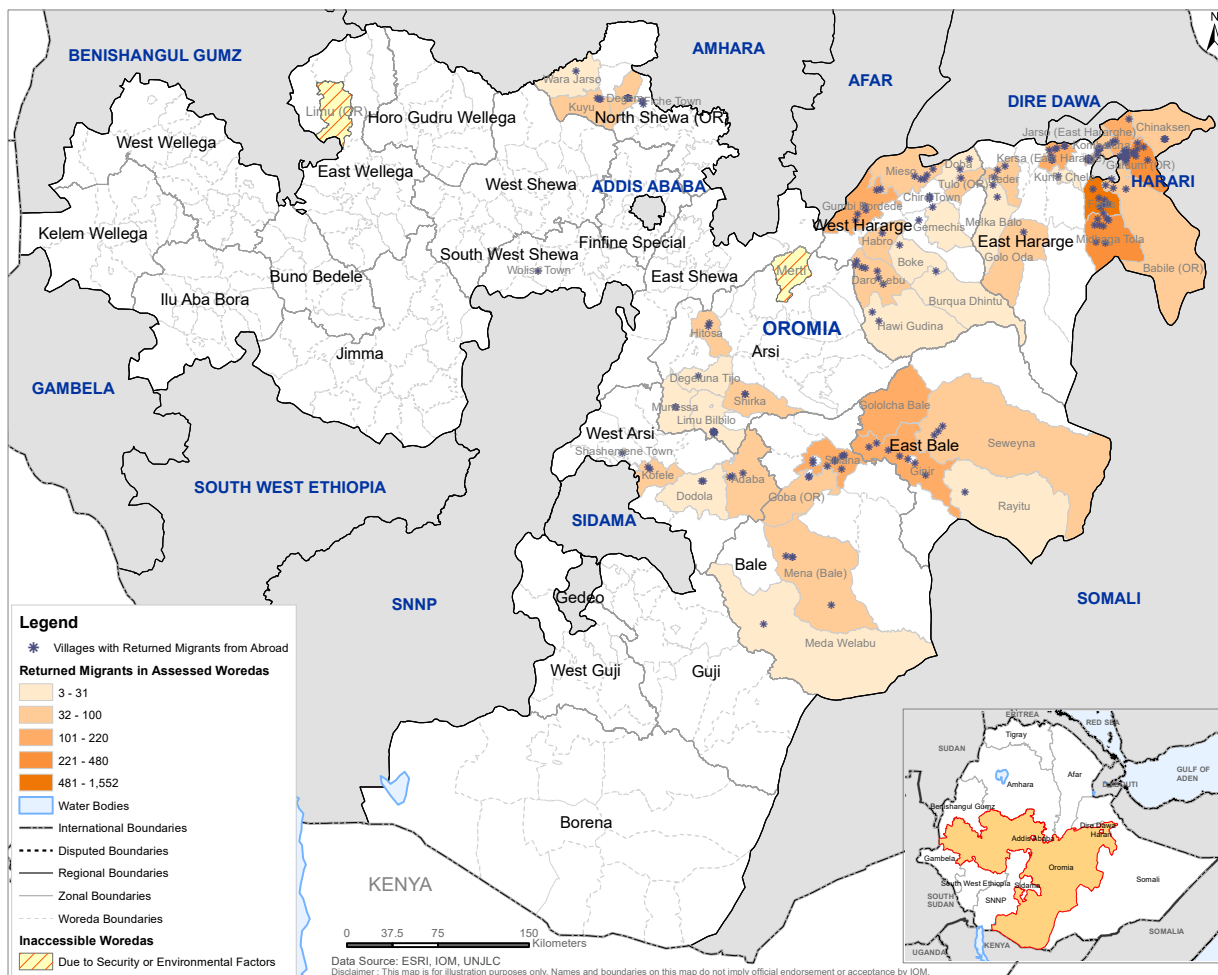
Figure 7: Return timeline of returned migrants from abroad in Amhara region

As reported by group discussions in the assessed 730 villages in Amhara region with returned migrants from abroad, in the majority of villages migrants had returned from abroad in the last 5 years (681 villages, 93.29%). This share is very high across all zones. In North Wollo zone, however, it is slightly less likely that migrants had returned from abroad in the last 5 years (75.41%) compared to the regional average (93.29%).



4. RETURNS IN OROMIA REGION

Figure 8: Returned migrants from abroad caseload in Oromia region



In Round 15 of the Village Assessment Survey (VAS) conducted between November 2022 and January 2023, IOM DTM Ethiopia assessed 249 accessible villages in Oromia region, Ethiopia. A total of 4,812 returned migrants from abroad were identified in 174 villages.

As seen in Figure 9, out of the identified 4,812 returned migrants from abroad, the highest share was identified in East Harerge zone (3,214 individuals, 66.79%). This is followed by West Harerge (569 individuals, 11.82%), East Bale (353 individuals, 7.34%) and Bale (251 individuals, 5.22%) zones.

Figure 9: Returned migrants from abroad in Oromia region, by zone

Zone	No. of returned migrants from abroad	Share of returned migrants from abroad
East Harerge	3,214	66.79%
West Harerge	569	11.82%
East Bale	353	7.34%
Bale	251	5.22%
West Arsi	193	4.01%
Arsi	134	2.78%
North Shewa (R4)	95	1.97%
South West Shewa	3	0.06%
Grand Total	4,812	100.00%



Figure 10: Sex breakdown of returned migrants from abroad in Oromia, by zone



Overall, 64.08% of identified returned migrants from abroad in Oromia region were males and 35.92% were females. However, as seen in Figure 10, this share differs across zones. Whereas in most zones, the overall majority were males, the opposite is true in North Shewa and South West Shewa zones*, where 100% of identified returned migrants from abroad were females.

Figure 11: Return country/route of returned migrants from abroad in Oromia region (multiple choice)

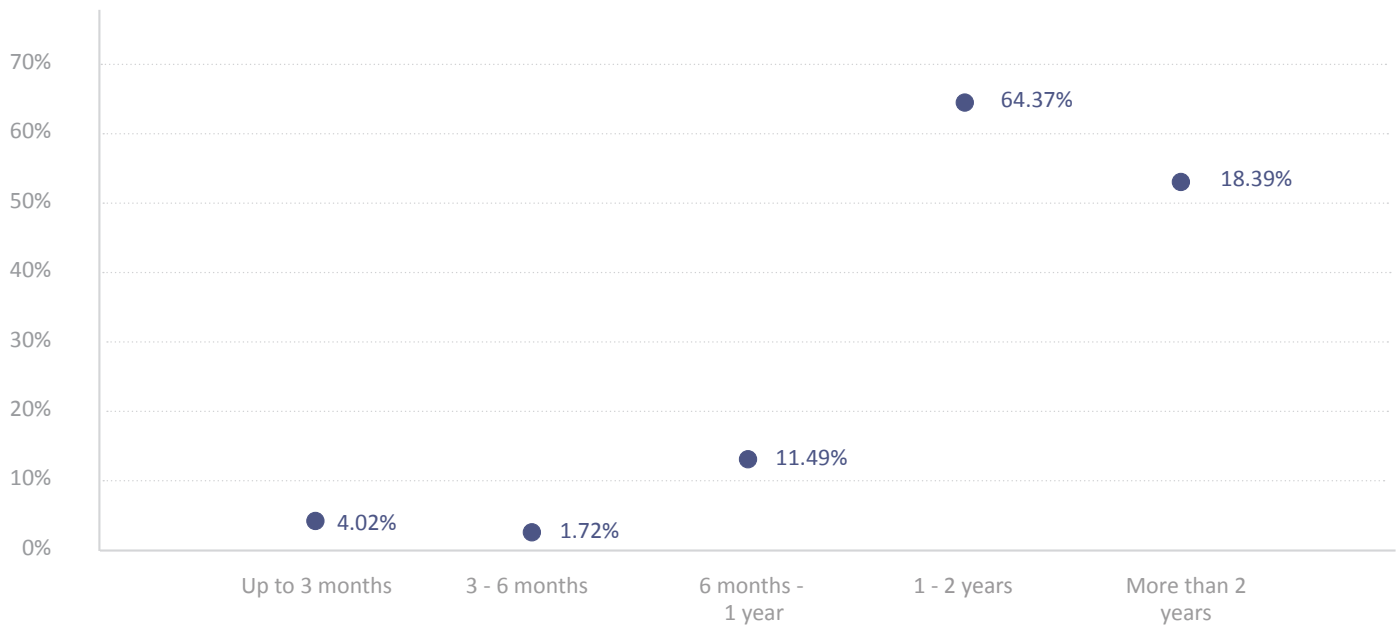
Return country/route	No. of villages that reported migrants who returned from such country/route	Share out of total no. of villages with returned migrants from abroad
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	156	89.66%
Djibouti	10	5.75%
Yemen	16	9.20%
Southern route (Kenya, Tanzania, South Africa)	2	1.15%
Northern route (Sudan, Libya)	21	12.07%
Grand Total	174	100.00%

Key informants in group discussions in 174 villages in Oromia region with returned migrants from abroad were asked where migrants in their village had returned from and they were allowed to give multiple answers. As seen in Figure 11, out of the 174 villages, the majority reported that migrants had returned from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (156 villages, 89.66%). This is followed by 21 villages where migrants had returned from the Northern route (Sudan, Libya) (12.07%) and 16 villages where migrants had returned from Yemen (9.2%).

* Please note that only 3 returned migrants from abroad were identified in South West Shewa zone



Figure 12: Length of stay abroad of the majority of returned migrants in the assessed villages in Oromia region



Among the assessed 174 villages in Oromia region with returned migrants from abroad, in 112 villages (64.37%) the majority of returned migrants in the village had stayed abroad between 1 and 2 years prior to return. This is followed by 32 villages where the majority of returned migrants stayed abroad for more than 2 years (18.39%) and 20 villages where the majority had stayed abroad between 6 months and 1 year (11.49%). In all 8 villages in West Arsi zone (100%) the majority of migrants had stayed abroad between 1 and 2 years prior to return. Villages in North Shewa zone were more likely to have the majority of migrants who had stayed abroad for more than 2 years (69.23%) compared to the regional average (18.39%).

Figure 13: Return timeline of returned migrants from abroad in Oromia region

As reported by group discussions in the assessed 174 villages in Oromia region with returned migrants from abroad, in the majority of villages migrants had returned from abroad in the last 5 years (167 villages, 95.98%). This share is very high across all zones.



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