

MIGRATION FLOWS TRENDS DASHBOARD

May 2023

**22,556** migration movements observed,<sup>1</sup> including **23%** at the Obock Flow Monitoring Point (FMP)

**-16%** movements compared to April 2023

**9,511** migrants flows from Ethiopia

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

**391** exits to Ethiopia

**914** stranded migrants in Djibouti as of 30 May 2023<sup>3</sup>

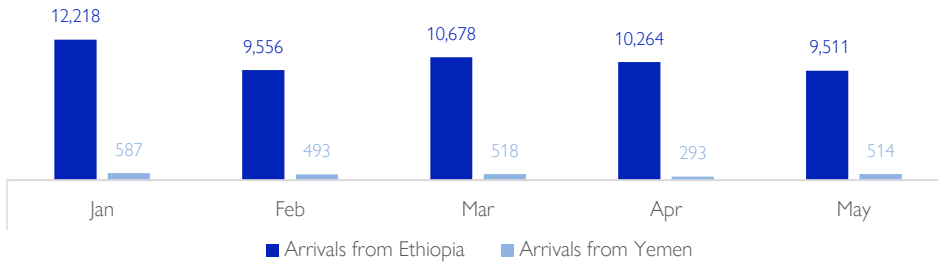
OVERVIEW

In May 2023, 22,556 migratory movements were observed at flow monitoring points (FMPs) in Djibouti with a daily average of 728 migratory movements. The migratory flows observed on all FMPs decreased by 16% compared to April 2023 due to the overall increase in reinforced controls along the main migratory routes and transit areas across the country.

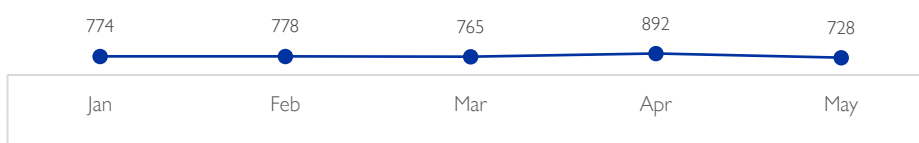
Of these 22,556 movements, 5,125 (23%) were observed in the Obock region where migrants cross the Gulf of Aden on their way to the Arabian Peninsula. Flows decreased by 36% at Obock FMPs in May compared to April 2023. This is mainly linked to the reduction in smugglers activities on the Obock-Yemen axis due to the fear aroused by some rumors of a security raid hitting the Lahj region of Yemen.

Compared to the period January to May 2022, movements from Ethiopia increased by 80% with 52,227 arrivals between January and May 2023. On the other hand, compared to April 2023, these movements decreased by 7% in May 2023. Migratory movements during the month of May 2023 were mainly: incoming (43%), transiting to the Arabian Peninsula (41%), transiting within Djibouti (7%), transiting to Ethiopia (7%) and outgoing (2%). In May, the number of spontaneous returns from Yemen (515) almost doubled (+75%) compared to April (293), including 44 boys (9%).

MIGRATORY FLOWS ARRIVING IN DJIBOUTI 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.

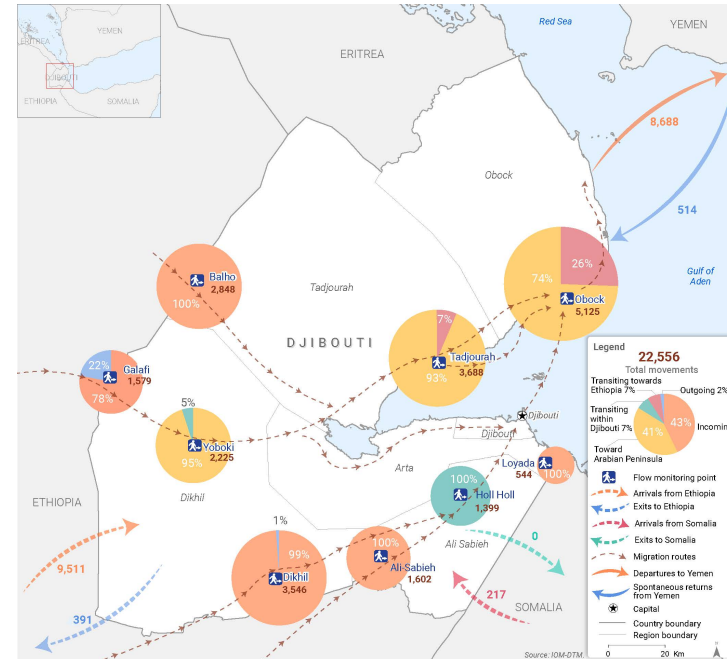
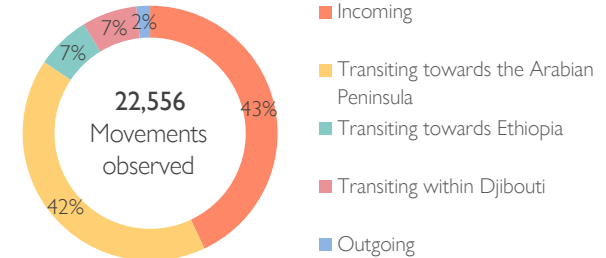
<sup>2</sup>The data on returns from Yemen were collected through key informants.

<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 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.

The following citation is required when using any data and information included in this information product: "International Organization for Migration (IOM), May 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>



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## MIGRATION MOVEMENTS FROM ETHIOPIA

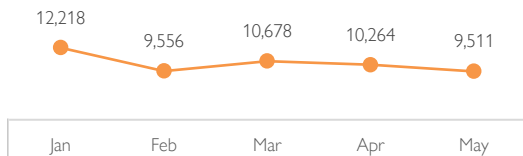
52,227

Arrivals from Ethiopia in 2023

9,511

Arrivals from Ethiopia in May 2023

### ARRIVALS FROM ETHIOPIA IN 2023

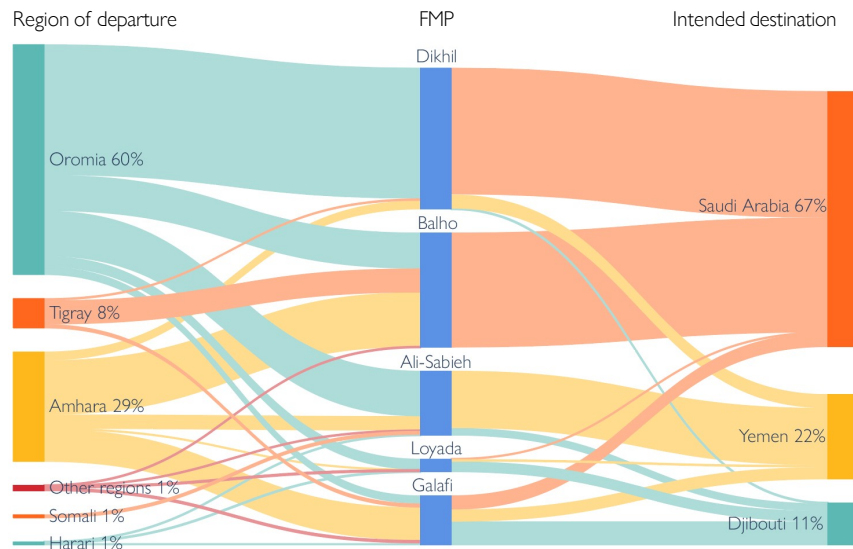


In May, almost half of the incoming movements from Ethiopia were observed in the Dikhil region (50%) via the FMPs of Dikhil (37%) and Galafi (13%). The Tadjourah region observed 30% of the movements entering Djibouti through the Balho FMP, while the movements from Ethiopia observed in Ali-Sabieh accounted for 17%. The Loyada FMP, on the border with Somalia, accounted for 3% of incoming movements from Ethiopia.

Compared to the previous month, a 7% drop in movements from Ethiopia was recorded in May 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 regions of departure of migrants from Ethiopia were Oromia (60%) and Amhara (29%). Most migrants intended to reach the Arabian Peninsula, mainly Saudi Arabia (67%) and Yemen (22%), while 11% had Djibouti as their country of destination.

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



## RETURNS FROM YEMEN

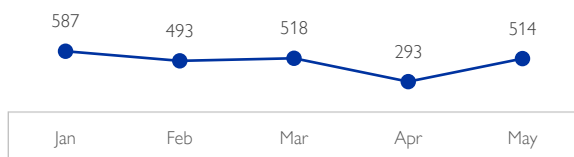
2,405

Returns from Yemen in 2023

514

Returns from Yemen in May 2023

### RETURNS FROM YEMEN IN 2023



Male • 95%



Female • 5%

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 May 2023, 514 returns were recorded, an increase of 75% compared to April 2023, mainly due to fear stemming from rumors of a security raid that would hit the Lahj region in Yemen.

In addition, according to the DTM in Yemen, 8,688 migrants from the Obock region arrived in Yemen in May 2023, which represents a decrease of 25% compared to the previous month. This drop could be explained by the decrease in the movement of migrants due to regular checks by the Djiboutian authorities and by the abandonment of smugglers who have reduced the flow of their activities on the Obock-Yemen axis.

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

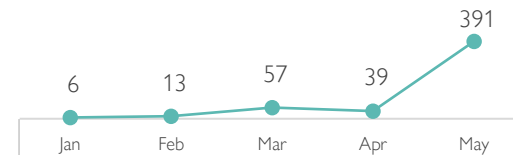
506

Exits to Ethiopia in 2023

391

Exits to Ethiopia in May 2023

### EXITS TO ETHIOPIA IN 2023



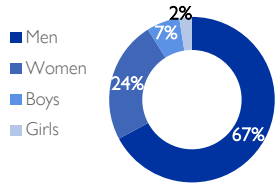
<sup>5</sup> It should be kept in mind that the means of transport used by Ethiopian migrants vary; while most of them move from Obock to Ali-Sabieh on foot, the majority of Tigrayan migrants returning from Yemen cross the border at Balho and Galafi by car or by bus, which makes it more difficult to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

From January to May 2023, departures to Ethiopia remained low compared to those observed monthly at the same period of the year 2022. In May 2023, departures to Ethiopia increased from 39 in April to 391. This increase may be due to the relative absence of smugglers for the crossing of the Gulf of Aden towards the Arabian Peninsula combined with the strengthening of controls on migratory flows inside Djibouti.

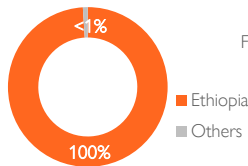
All migrants who headed to Ethiopia in May 2023 were identified in the Dikhil region via the Dikhil (12%) and Galafi (88%) FMPs and were mainly going to the Amhara regions (47%), Tigray (29%) and Oromia (18%).

## DEMOGRAPHIC AND SOCIOECONOMIC PROFILE

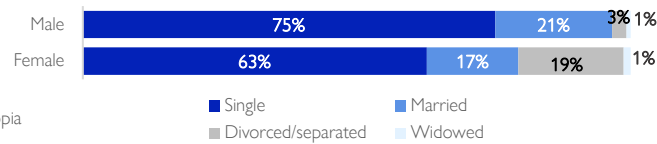
### SEX AND AGE GROUP



### NATIONALITIES



### MARITAL STATUS BY SEX



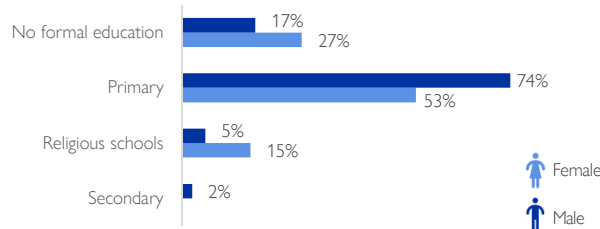
In May, most of the migrants identified in the FMPs were adults (67% men and 24% women), while 9% were children (7% boys and 2% girls). All of them (100%) were Ethiopian nationals.

Of the 345 respondents (77% male and 23% female) to the Flow Monitoring Surveys (FMS), nearly three-quarters were single (72%), while 20% were married (including 21% men and 17% women) and 6% divorced and separated.

More than half of the migrants surveyed (69%) had received a primary education (74% male and only 53% female) and 19% had received no formal education (17% male and 27% female). In addition, 15% of female migrants had attended a religious school.

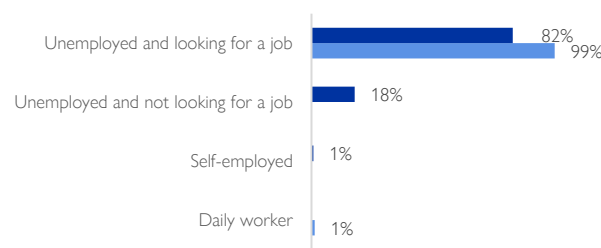
Moreover, almost all of the migrant women interviewed (99%) were unemployed and looking for work.

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



<sup>6</sup> 5% of female and 2% of male did not answer this question.

### PROFESSIONAL STATUS BY SEX

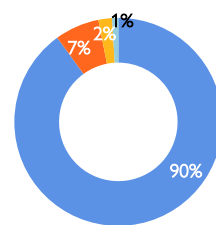


## TRAVEL CHARACTERISTICS

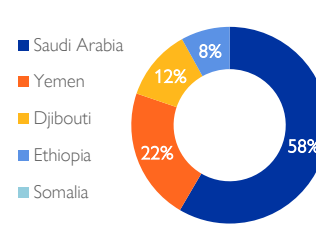
In May, almost all of the individuals identified at the FMP level had left Ethiopia (90%). Most of the observed migrants intended to reach the Arabian Peninsula (58% to Saudi Arabia and 22% to Yemen). The migrants observed traveled mainly for economic reasons (90%) and on foot (57%).

In addition, of the 345 people questioned via the FMS, 78% said they had encountered difficulties during their journey. Male migrants are more likely to encounter or report difficulties (85%) than female migrants (51%). The most recurrent challenges mentioned were lack of shelter (61%) and lack of food and water (57%). Almost half of respondents who had encountered difficulties while traveling also reported financial hardship (52%) or physical abuse (17%).

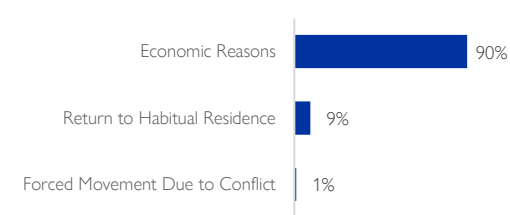
### DEPARTURE COUNTRIES



### INTENDED DESTINATIONS



### REASON FOR TRAVEL



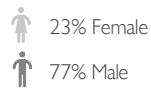
### MEANS OF TRANSPORT



## MIGRANTS STRANDED IN DJIBOUTI

914

Migrants stranded in Djibouti as of May 30, 2023



10

Informal sites



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, 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 May 30, 914 migrants were stranded in 10 informal sites distributed in the regions of Dikhil (35%), Obock (32%), Tadjourah (18%) 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**

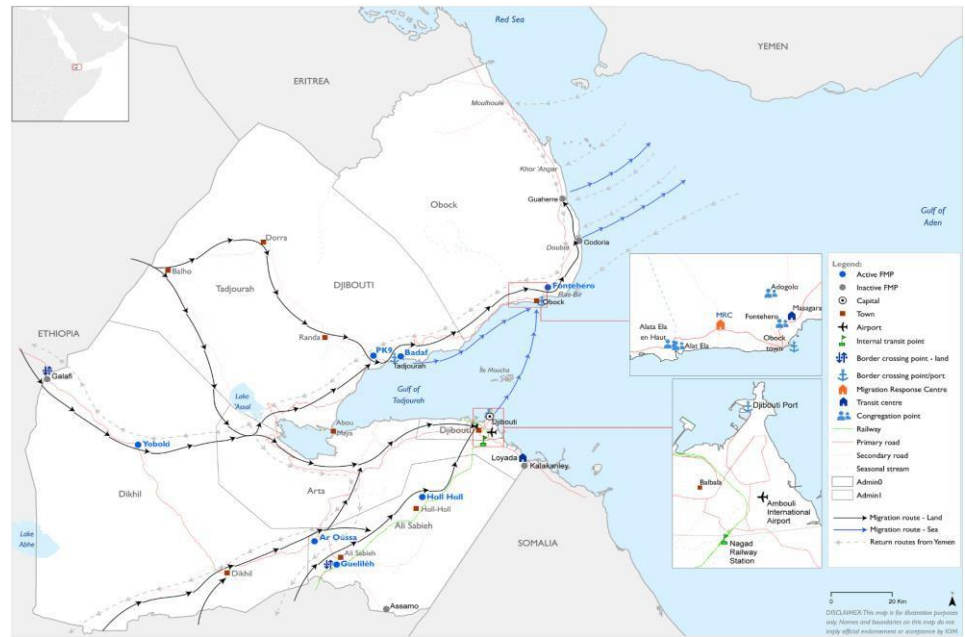
Spontaneous returns from Yemen are a component of IOM's DTM which started in May 2020. The objective of this data collection tool is to provide updated information on population flows returning from Yemen following COVID-19 movement restrictions in Yemen and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The information 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.



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