

MIGRATION FLOWS TRENDS DASHBOARD | November 2023

**22,968** migration movements observed,<sup>1</sup> including **28%** at the Obock flow monitoring point (FMP)

**+1%** movements compared to October 2023

**8,753** migrant flows from Ethiopia

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

**309** exits to Ethiopia

**838** stranded migrants in Djibouti as of 29 November 2023<sup>3</sup>

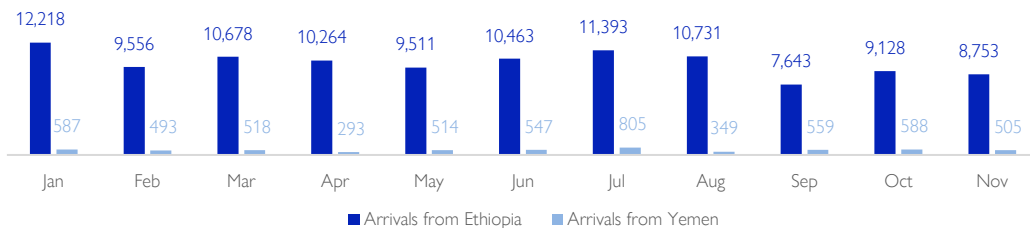
OVERVIEW

In November 2023, 22,968 migratory movements were observed at flow monitoring points (FMPs) in Djibouti, with a daily average of 766 migratory movements. Migration flows observed across all FMPs increased slightly by (1%) compared to October 2023 during which 22,709 movements were recorded.

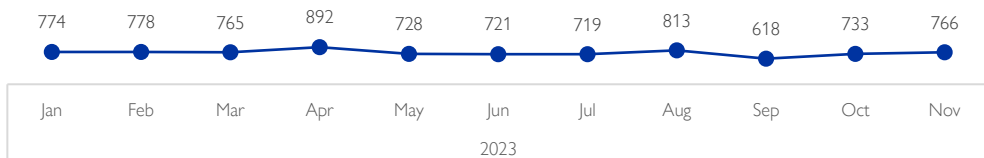
Of these 22,968 movements, 6,400 (28%) were observed in the Obock region where migrants cross the Gulf of Aden towards the Arabian Peninsula. Migration flows at the Obock FMP increased by (31%) compared to October 2023. This increase could be due to a reduction in border controls with Ethiopia combined with rumors of 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 November 2023, arrivals from Ethiopia (110,338) saw a significant increase of 21% compared to the same period of the previous year (91,144). Migration movements in November were mainly: towards the Arabian Peninsula (51%), inbound (39%), transiting towards Ethiopia (5%), transiting within Djibouti (4%), and outgoing (1%). Spontaneous returns from Yemen fell by (14%) due to high tides agitating the sea, going from 588 in October to 505 in November, including 79 women (16%).

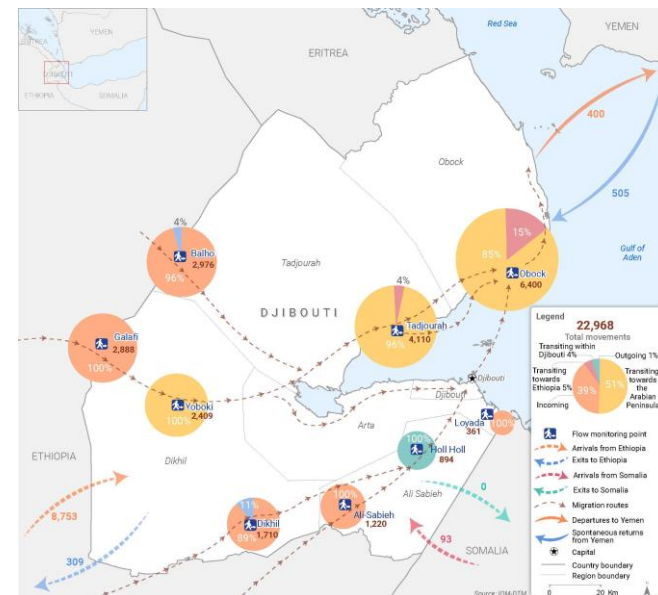
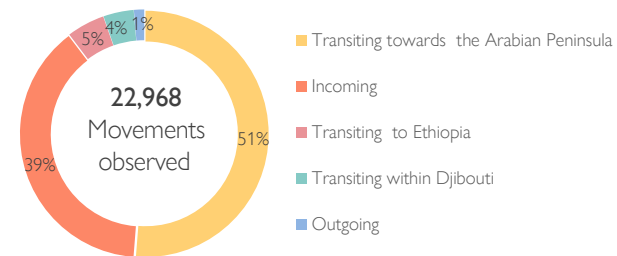
MIGRATORY FLOWS ARRIVING FROM ETHIOPIA AND YEMEN IN 2023



AVERAGE DAILY MOVEMENTS OBSERVED AT FMPs IN 2023



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.*

<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.

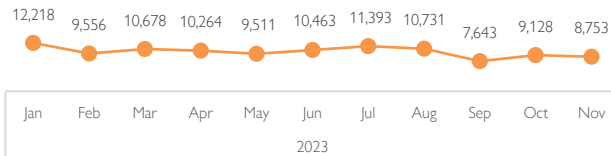
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## MIGRATION MOVEMENTS FROM ETHIOPIA

**110,338** Arrivals from Ethiopia in 2023

**8,753** Arrivals from Ethiopia in November 2023

### ARRIVALS FROM ETHIOPIA IN 2023

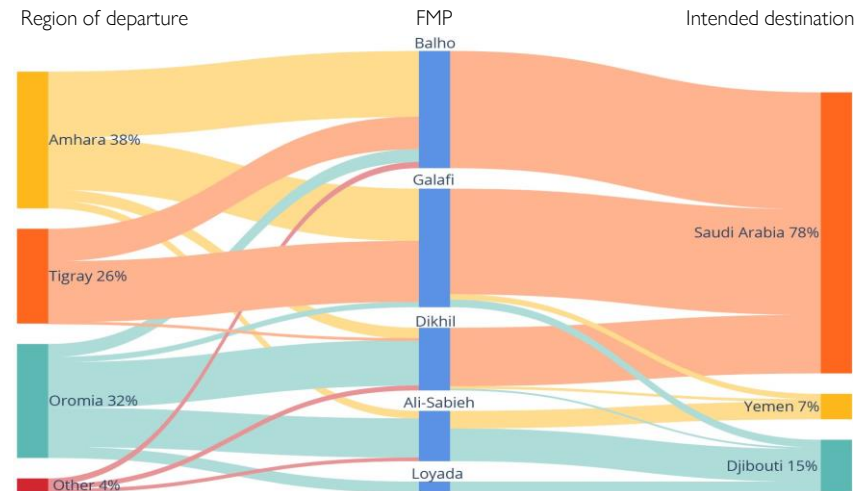


In November, half of the inbound movements from Ethiopia were observed in the Dikhil region (50%) via the Galafi (33%) and Dikhil (17%) FMPs. The Tadjourah region observed (33%) of incoming movements to Djibouti through the Balho FMP, while movements from Ethiopia observed in Ali-Sabieh accounted for 14%. The Loyada FMP, on the border with Somalia, accounted for (3%) of incoming movements from Ethiopia.

Compared to the previous month, a (4%) drop in movements from Ethiopia was recorded in November 2023. This drop is due to regular border controls by the Djiboutian authorities and on the main migratory routes around Ali-Sabieh, Balho and Galafi.

The main departure regions for migrants from Ethiopia were Amhara (38%), Oromia (32%) and Tigray (26%). Most migrants intended to reach the Arabian Peninsula, mainly Saudi Arabia (78%) and Yemen (7%), while (15%) had Djibouti as their destination country.

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

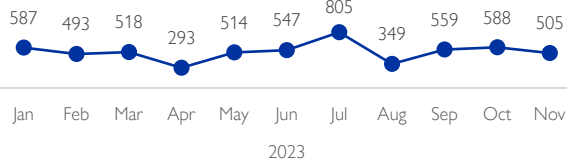


## RETURNS FROM YEMEN

**5,758** Returns from Yemen in 2023

**505** Returns from Yemen in November 2023

### RETURNS FROM YEMEN IN 2023



Male • 84% Female • 16%

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 November 2023, 505 returns were recorded, a decrease of (14%) compared to October (588). This drop is mainly explained by weather conditions, namely high tides making the sea very rough during this period.

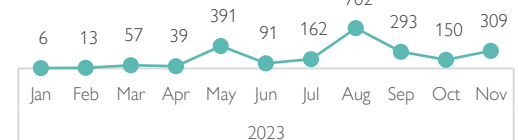
Moreover, the number of migrants rose to 548 in September, then fell to 0 in October, before rising to 400 in November, a change attributed to reduced border controls in Yemen.

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

**2,213** Exits to Ethiopia in 2023

**309** Exits to Ethiopia in November 2023

### EXITS TO ETHIOPIA IN 2023



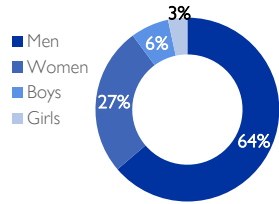
<sup>5</sup>the means of transport used by Ethiopian migrants vary; while most of them move from Obock to Ali-Sabieh on foot, the majority of Tigrayan migrants returning from Yemen cross the border at Balho and Galafi by car or by bus, which makes it more difficult to record their movements.

In November, 309 exits to Ethiopia were recorded, an increase of (106%) compared to October (150). The humanitarian crisis in Yemen and the difficulties encountered in reaching Saudi Arabia have pushed many migrants to return to Ethiopia.

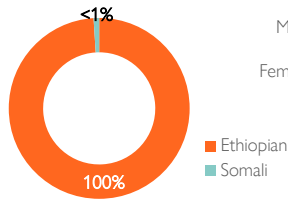
Exit movements were identified in the regions of Dikhil through the FMP of Dikhil (60%) and in Tadjourah through the FMP of Balho (40%) and were mainly going to the regions of Oromia (63%), Amhara (26%), Tigray (5%), Dire Dawa (4%) and Harari (2%).

# DEMOGRAPHIC AND SOCIOECONOMIC PROFILE

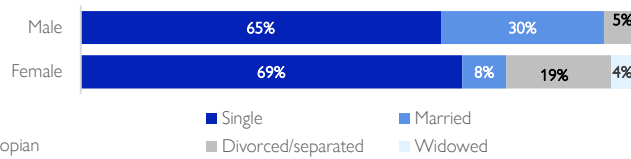
## SEX AND AGE GROUP



## NATIONALITIES



## MARITAL STATUS BY SEX



In November, most migrants identified in FMPs were adults (64% men and 27% women), while (9%) were children (6% boys and 3% girls). Almost all of them were Ethiopian, although there were 93 Somali nationals (<1%).

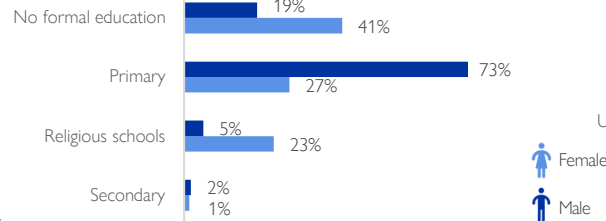
A total of 605 children were traveling alone (70% boys and 30% girls) and 328 children were heads of household.

Of the 298 respondents (75% male and 25% female) to the flow monitoring surveys (FMS), more than half of the migrants were single (66%), while (24%) were married (including 65% men and 8% women), (9%) divorced or separated and 1% widowed.

More than half of the migrants surveyed (61%) had received primary education (73% male and 27% female) and 24% had received no formal education (19% male and 41% female). Additionally, (23%) of female migrants had attended a religious school.

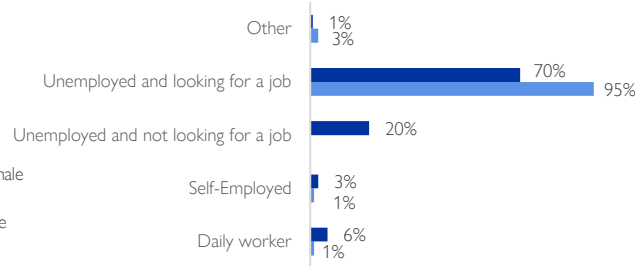
In addition, almost all of the female migrants interviewed (95%) were looking for work.

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



<sup>6</sup> 8% of female and 1% of male respondents did not answer this question.

## PROFESSIONAL STATUS BY SEX

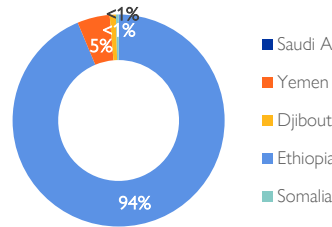


## TRAVEL CHARACTERISTICS

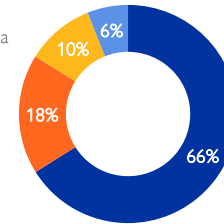
In November, almost all of the individuals identified at the FMP level had left Ethiopia (94%). Most of the migrants observed intended to reach the Arabian Peninsula (66% to Saudi Arabia and 18% to Yemen). The migrants observed traveled mainly for economic reasons (76%) and on foot (50%).

Furthermore, of the 298 people questioned via the FMS, (70%) declared having encountered difficulties during their journey. Male migrants are more likely to encounter or report difficulties (78%) than female migrants (46%). The most recurring challenges mentioned were lack of shelter (76%), lack of food and water (75%) and almost half of respondents who had encountered difficulties during their trip also reported financial difficulties (31%) or challenges at sea (17%).

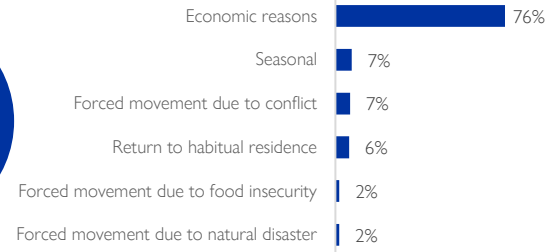
## DEPARTURE COUNTRIES



## INTENDED DESTINATIONS



## REASON FOR TRAVEL



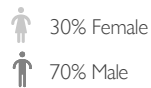
## MEANS OF TRANSPORT



## MIGRANTS STRANDED IN DJIBOUTI

838

Migrants stranded in Djibouti as of 29 November 2023



5

Informal sites



Several 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 November 29, 838 migrants were stranded in 5 informal sites distributed in the regions of Obock (40%), Dikhil (35%), Ali-Sabieh (23%) and Tadjourah (2%).

**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**

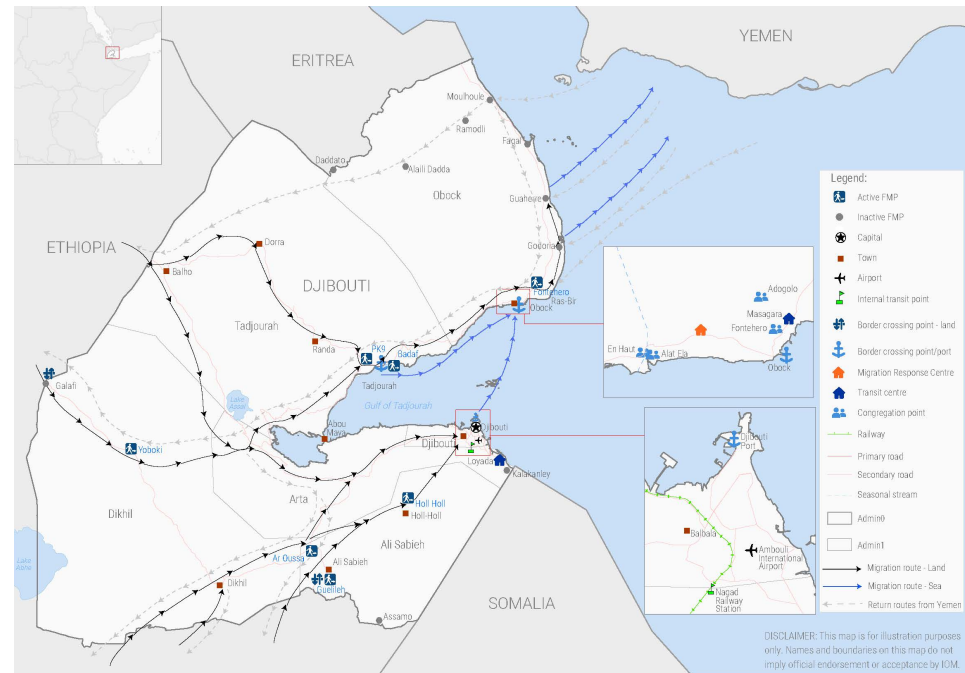
Spontaneous returns from Yemen are a component of IOM's DTM which started in May 2020. The objective of this data collection tool is to provide updated information on population flows returning from Yemen following the harsh conditions in Yemen and in the border between Saudi Arabia and Yemen. The information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