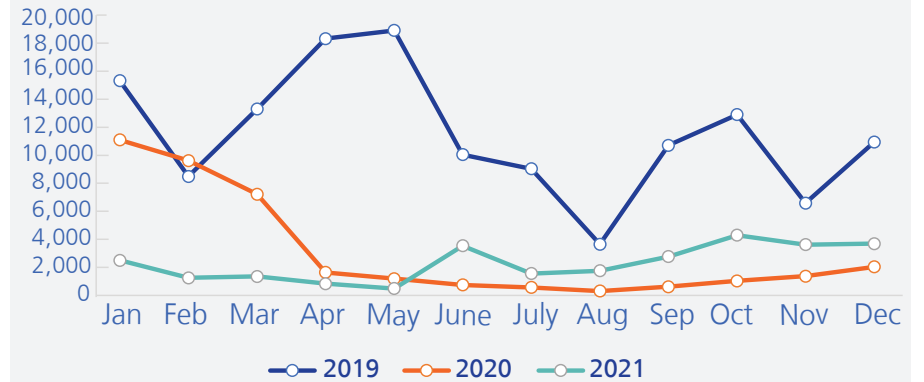


NON-YEMENI MIGRANTS OVERVIEW

IOM Yemen's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) was launched in Yemen in April 2015 in an effort to better inform the humanitarian community about the location and needs of the displaced populations in Yemen. By the end of 2016, IOM Yemen began implementing the Flow Monitoring (FM) assessments to track the movement flows of groups and individuals through key points of origin, transit locations and intended destinations. The Flow Monitoring Registry (FMR) tool provides up-to-date information on the scale of third country migrant populations and transnational movements of Yemeni populations and their respective migration profiles.

In Yemen, DTM's FMR monitors non-Yemeni migrant arrivals on the southern coastal border and Yemeni return locations on Yemen's northern border with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA). Enumerators placed at Flow Monitoring Points (FMPs) document approximate numbers of arrivals of migrants and returning Yemeni nationals in order to identify different patterns of migration and to provide quantitative estimates to help define the population of irregular migrants entering the country. FMR is not representative of all flows in Yemen and should be understood as only indicative of cross-border movement trends during the time frame indicated. Access constraints limit the ability to collect data along additional migration corridors.

Number of Migrant Arrivals tracked per Month and Year



NON-YEMENI MIGRANT TRENDS

NON-YEMENI MIGRANT ARRIVALS IN 2021

In 2021, a total of 27,693 non-Yemeni migrant arrivals were recorded at ten Flow Monitoring Points along the southern coast of Yemen.

While the number of migrant arrivals during 2021 remained low compared to pre-pandemic years, the highest numbers were recorded during the year's fourth quarter. This is said to be due to improved weather conditions, the easing of COVID-19 related mobility restrictions and the worsening security situation in Ethiopia along with the worsening economic situation in Somalia.

Most of the arrivals in Yemen were Ethiopian- (88%), followed by Somali nationals (12%).

Obock in Djibouti was the main area of departure (60%), while Bossaso in Somalia only represented 40 per cent.

Economic drivers remained the main (94%) reason for migration along this route.

The majority of migrants (94%) arriving in Yemen intended to reach the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

This route was mostly traveled by men (76%), while children accounted for ten per cent.

Over **27,600**

Migrants arriving in Yemen through DTM Flow Monitoring Points in 2021

- 14%** Women
- 76%** Men
- 3%** Girls
- 7%** Boys

Nationality Arrived	Arrived from	Intended Destination
88% Ethiopian	60% Djibouti	94% KSA
12% Somali	40% Somalia	6% Yemen

NON-YEMENI MIGRANT ARRIVALS IN 2020

In 2020, a total of 37,535 non-Yemeni migrant arrivals were recorded at six Flowing Monitoring Points along the southern coast of Yemen.

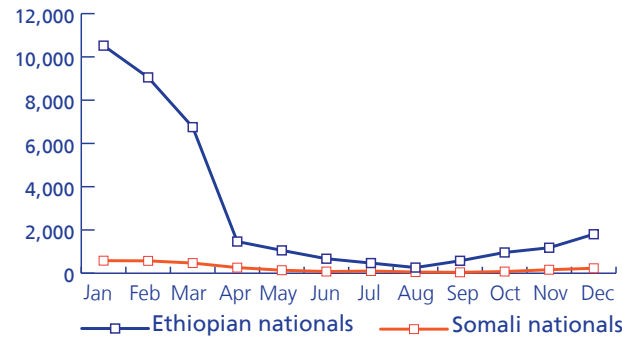
While migrant crossings continued throughout the year, the numbers decreased drastically following March 2020 likely because of the mobility restrictions put in place following the global COVID-19 outbreak. Around 75 per cent of all movements during this period was tracked in the first quarter of the year.

Most of the arrivals in Yemen were Ethiopian (93%), followed by Somali nationals (7%).

Bossaso in Somalia was the main area of departure (67%), while Obock in Djibouti only represented 33 per cent.

Economic drivers remained the main (99%) reason for migration along this route.

The majority of migrants (94%) arriving in Yemen intended to reach the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. This route was mostly traveled by men (72%), while children accounted for 11 per cent.



Over 37,500 Migrants arriving in Yemen through DTM Flow Monitoring Points in 2020

	Nationality Arrived	Arrived from	Intended Destination
16% Women			
72% Men	93% Ethiopian	66% Somalia	94% KSA
3% Girls			
9% Boys	7% Somali	34% Djibouti	6% Yemen

NON-YEMENI MIGRANT ARRIVALS IN 2019

In 2019, a total of 138,213 non-Yemeni migrant arrivals were recorded at five Flow Monitoring Points along the southern coast of Yemen.

While migrant crossings continued throughout the year, the smallest number was observed during the third quarter (17%) most likely linked to heat waves in Djibouti and choppy seas in the Gulf of Aden.

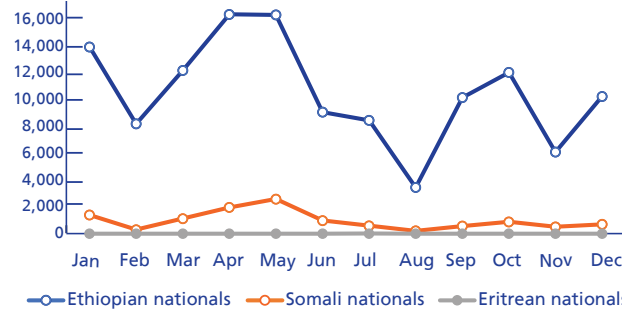
Most of the arrivals in Yemen were of Ethiopian national (92%), followed by Somali nationals (8%).

Bossaso in Somalia was the main area of departure (62%), while Obock in Djibouti only represented 38 per cent.

Economic drivers remained the main (98%) reason for migration along this route.

The majority of migrants (88%) arriving in Yemen intended to reach the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

This route was mostly traveled by men (72%), while children accounted for ten per cent.



Over 138,200 Migrants arriving in Yemen through DTM Flow Monitoring Points in 2019

	Nationality Arrived	Arrived from	Intended Destination
18% Women			
72% Men	92% Ethiopian	62% Somalia	88% KSA
3% Girls			
7% Boys	8% Somali	38% Djibouti	12% Yemen

NON-YEMENI MIGRANT ARRIVAL TRENDS

In 2021, DTM tracked that 27,693 migrants entered Yemen, a 26 per cent drop compared to 37,484 migrant arrivals in 2020. However, almost 75 per cent of migrants who arrived in 2020 came in the first three months of the year, before strict COVID-19 measures came into force. DTM tracked that 138,213 migrants arrived in (pre-pandemic) 2019 alone.

Whilst flows have reduced due to the COVID-19 pandemic, intensified barriers to movements brought on by the pandemic and the reinforcement of movement reducing policies have left thousands of migrants stranded across Yemen with limited options for safe movement and the risk of forcible transfer across frontlines. Reduced migrant arrivals throughout the years, as a consequence to the pandemic and increased controls along the KSA border, has resulted in smugglers adopting increasingly inhumane methods to ensure profit and maintain their networks.¹ IOM estimates that nearly 35,000 migrants are stranded throughout the country, grappling with dire condition and vulnerable to experiencing grave abuse.

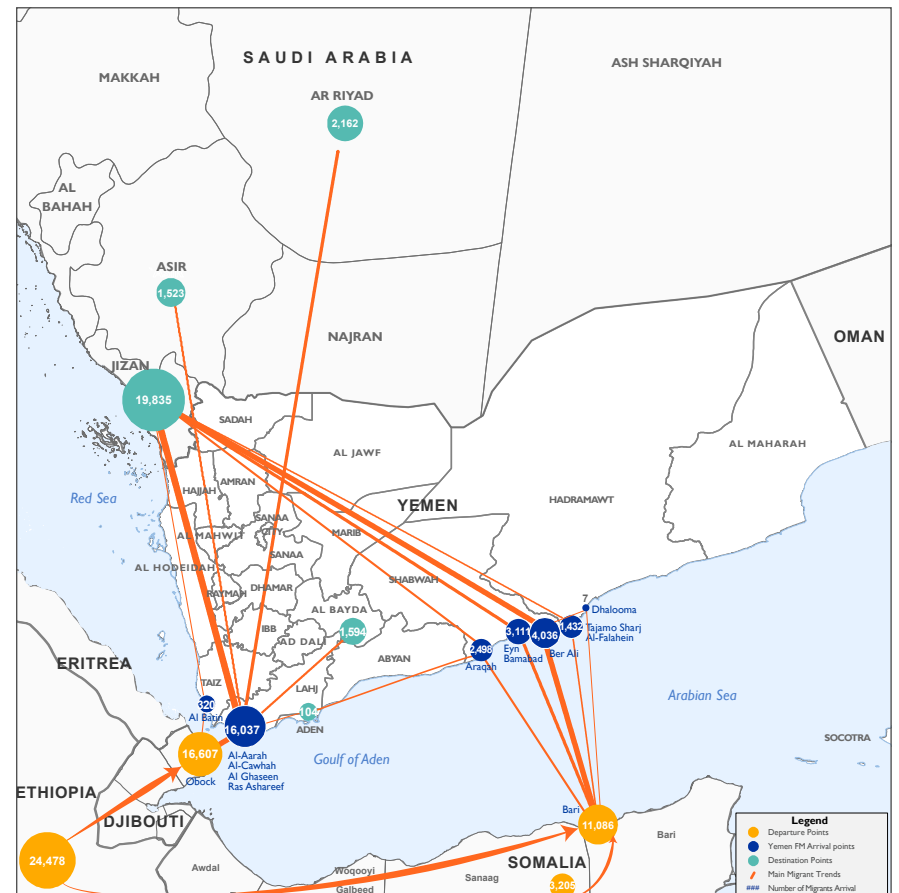
During the first quarter of 2021, flow volumes significantly dropped compared to the same period in pre-pandemic years. Between January and March 2021, DTM recorded 5,114 migrants arriving in Yemen, compared with 27,948 in the same period in 2020, and 37,109 in 2019.

During the second quarter of 2021, the number of migrant arrivals in Yemen remained low, relatively similar to the same period during 2020, when COVID-19 related movement restrictions first took effect. DTM recorded 4,876 migrants arriving in Yemen between April and June 2021, compared to 3,669 migrants in the same months of 2020- a significant drop compared to the same period in (pre-pandemic) 2019 when 47,269 migrant arrivals were recorded.

In pre-pandemic years, the third quarter usually witnesses a decreasing trend in migrant arrivals into Yemen because of the unfavorable seasonal and tidal changes. In 2019, between July and September, 23,403 migrants arrived in Yemen, the lowest number recorded in a single quarter that year. Even in 2020, when migrant flows significantly plummeted due to COVID-19 mobility restrictions, the third quarter continued to receive the lowest number of migrant arrivals.

Despite the harsh weather and rising tides, the number of migrant arrivals increased in the third quarter of 2021. DTM recorded 6,091 migrant arrivals, showing a slight rise from preceding quarters and a significant upsurge from the same period in 2020 when 1,505 migrants arrived. This increase is most likely due to the loosening of COVID-19 related mobility restrictions.

The rising trend of migrant flows continued in the fourth quarter of 2021 and is most likely linked to improved weather conditions and the easing of COVID-19 related mobility restrictions. According to anecdotal evidence, the rise was also heavily influenced by the worsening security situation in Ethiopia, with the recently imposed mandatory enlistment in the military service, along with the deteriorating economic conditions in Somalia. Between October and December 2021, IOM tracked 11,612 migrants arriving in Yemen, marking the highest number recorded in a single quarter in 2021. This represents an increase compared to the same period in 2020 when 4,413 migrants arrived, yet a decrease from (pre-pandemic) 2019 when 30,432 migrants arrived.



Disclaimer: This map is for illustration purposes only and should not be used for navigation. IOM can not take responsibility for any damage or injury resulting from the use of this map.

1- See related "Impact of COVID-19 on Migrants and Refugees in the Arab Region" by ESCWA, UNHCR, ILO, 2020. And "How covid-19 restrictions and the economic consequences are likely to impact migrant smuggling and cross-border trafficking in persons to Europe and North America" by UNDOC, 2020

NON-YEMENI MIGRANT PROFILES AND ROUTES

Unlike previous years, the majority of migrants during 2021, 16,607 tracked by DTM (60%), arrived from Obock in Djibouti to Lahj and Ta'iz governorates in Yemen, and 11,086 (40%) arrived through Bossaso in Somalia to Shabwah and Hadramawt governorates in Yemen.

During 2020 and 2019, the majority (67% and 62% respectively) arrived from Bossaso in Somalia to Yemen.

Between 2019 and 2021, the profile of migrants in Yemen remained the same. Ethiopia was the main origin country of migrants crossing from the Horn of Africa to Yemen. The majority of migrants were Ethiopian nationals and a smaller number Somali nationals.

The majority of migrants intended to reach KSA, seeking better economic opportunities, primarily from Sadah governorate in Yemen. According to anecdotal evidence, the majority expressed being unaware of the conflict and challenges in Yemen, only learning of the harsh realities of the situation upon arrival. DTM field staff observed that some migrants were unaware of COVID-19 related mobility restrictions and had not taken any infection prevention measures during their journey.

NON-YEMENI MIGRANTS RETURNING FROM YEMEN AND KSA TO THE HOA

Irregular migrants, mainly from Ethiopia, travel to Yemen via boats, from Djibouti and Somalia, and face severe protection risks, which worsen upon arrival in Yemen. Most migrants intend to reach the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, but the majority end up stranded at some point along the journey in Yemen due to the ongoing conflict and barriers to movement.

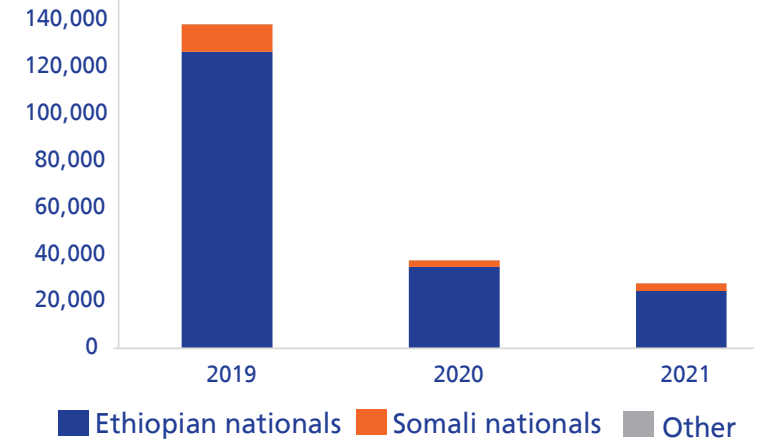
As of 2021, IOM estimates that there are around 35,000 stranded migrants across Yemen, although the number is likely to have increased since due to a continued positive net influx of migrants. Stranded migrants are left with limited options for safe movement and the potential risk of forcible transfer across frontlines.

Migrants reach Yemen via dangerous boat journeys, yet when they find themselves stranded and with limited return solutions, many seek irregular pathways once again to return home. Reduced migrant arrivals throughout the years, as a consequence to the pandemic and increased controls along the KSA border, has resulted in smugglers adopting increasingly inhumane methods to ensure profit and maintain their networks. Despite the harsh treatment experienced at the hands of these smugglers, DTM teams in Somalia and Djibouti recorded an estimate number of migrants who took the risky return by board from Yemen. In 2021, DTM Somalia estimates that 1,073 migrants returned from Yemen to Somalia, compared to 899 in 2020 and 1,797 in 2019. Additionally, DTM Djibouti estimates that 10,547 migrants returned from Yemen to Djibouti, compared to 7,652 in 2020.

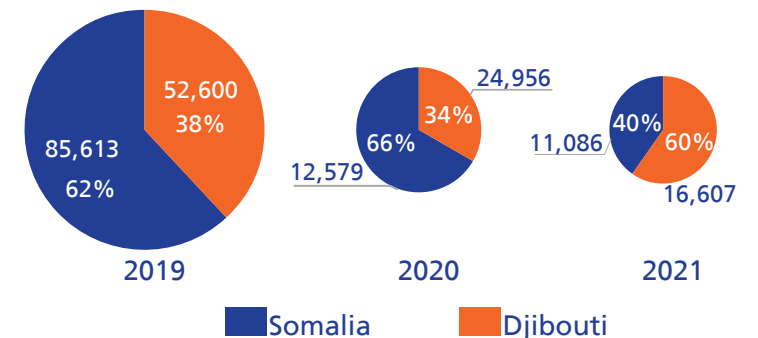
Thousands have approached IOM seeking return assistance, in particular to Ethiopia. The IOM Migration Management Unit (MMU) in Ethiopia recorded the safe arrival back home of 1,857 migrants in 2021, 247 in 2020 and 3,747 in 2019 via the Voluntary Humanitarian Return (VHR) programme.

Of those migrants who managed to reach Saudi Arabia, thousands have been sent back to Ethiopia. The MMU in Ethiopia estimates that during 2021, there have been 79,500 migrant returns from KSA to Ethiopia, compared to 36,624 in 2020 and 120,825 in 2019.

Number of tracked Migrant Arrivals by year and nationality



Migrants by Country of Departure in 2019 to 2021



Migrants by Country of Destination in 2019 to 2021

