

MIGRATION TRENDS DASHBOARD | JANUARY 2022

**14,067** movements observed, including **19%** at the Obock Flow Monitoring Point (FMP)

**+44%** movements compared to December 2021

**7,801** arrivals from Ethiopia

**452** spontaneous returns from Yemen<sup>1</sup>

**867** exits to Ethiopia

**655** migrants stranded in Djibouti as of 27 January 2022

OVERVIEW

In January 2022, 14,067 movements were observed at Flow Monitoring Points (FMPs) in Djibouti, representing a daily average of 454 movements. Migration flows increased by 44 per cent compared to the month of December 2021, during which an average of 313 movements had been registered daily. It is worth highlighting that migration flows have not yet reached pre-COVID-19 levels (between March 2019 and March 2020, the daily average was 621). Of these 14,067 movements, 2,703 (19%) were observed in Obock. This coastal region of Djibouti is the main gateway for migrants going to and returning from the Arabian Peninsula. Migrants regroup at congregation points in the Obock region where they then cross the Gulf of Aden on boats.

From January to June 2020, the number of entries observed from Djibouti's western borders decreased by 99 per cent due to the closure of Ethiopian borders. Since Djibouti and Ethiopia resumed land services in July 2020, the number of entries from Ethiopia has increased sharply. They went from 1,307 movements in July 2020 to 7,801 in January 2022. In addition, 17,093 Ethiopian nationals have returned from Yemen since May 2020. At the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, these movements were mainly due to mobility restrictions imposed in Yemen and Saudi Arabia. Subsequently, the progressive deterioration of living conditions in Yemen also triggered growing numbers of spontaneous returns. Between May 2020 and July 2021, the number of spontaneous returns from Yemen has been multiplied by nine, from 109 to 950. Following a steady decrease in returns from Yemen observed since August 2021 due to several concurrent factors, this figure was multiplied by 2.5 between December 2021 (178) and January 2022 (452).

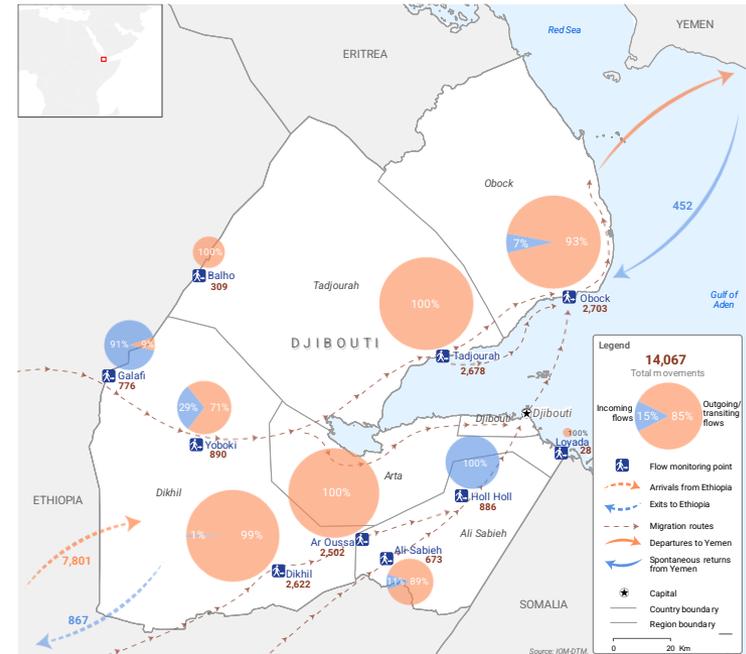
ARRIVALS IN DJIBOUTI SINCE JULY 2020<sup>3</sup>



AVERAGE DAILY MOVEMENTS OBSERVED AT FMPs, BY MONTH



TYPE OF FLOWS



*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>The data on returns from Yemen were collected through key informants.

<sup>2</sup>In the framework of this report, incoming flows only include flows coming from a country other than Djibouti and headed to Djibouti. Outgoing flows cover the flows departing from Djibouti to reach another country, while transiting flows are those which pass through Djibouti, but whose departure and final destination countries are different from Djibouti.

<sup>3</sup>Some of the data on arrivals from Ethiopia may be different from those reported in previous dashboards, because these numbers include the Dikhil FMP which was previously omitted.

## ARRIVALS FROM ETHIOPIA

79,181

Arrivals from Ethiopia in 2021

7,801

Arrivals from Ethiopia in January 2022

### ARRIVALS FROM ETHIOPIA SINCE JANUARY 2021



In 2021, a total of **79,181** migrants from Ethiopia entered Djibouti. While arrivals from Ethiopia had been on a declining trend since March 2021 and reached their lowest level in December 2021 (5,311 movements), they **increased by 47 per cent** in January 2022, with **7,801 arrivals** observed. This rise may be due to the relative improvement in security conditions in certain regions of Ethiopia, providing easier access to Djibouti for migrants, mainly through the Afar region.

More than half of the migrants arriving from Ethiopia transited through the Dikhil, Yoboki and Galafi FMPs in the region of **Dikhil** (55%), while 42 per cent were observed in the region of Ali-Sabieh (at the Ar Oussa, Ali-Sabieh and Holl-Holl FMPs). The main region of departure of migrants coming from Ethiopia was **Oromia** (68%), followed by Amhara (26%). Only 1 per cent originated from Tigray. Data show that most of the migrants who came from the regions of Tigray (94%), Oromia (87%) and Amhara (57%) intended to reach the Arabian Peninsula, while the majority of migrants who came from other regions in Ethiopia reported that they would stay in Djibouti.

## RETURNS FROM YEMEN

10,547

Returns from Yemen in 2021

84

Returns of Tigrayan migrants from Yemen since July 2021

### RETURNS FROM YEMEN SINCE JANUARY 2021



452

Returns from Yemen in January 2022

Men • 98%

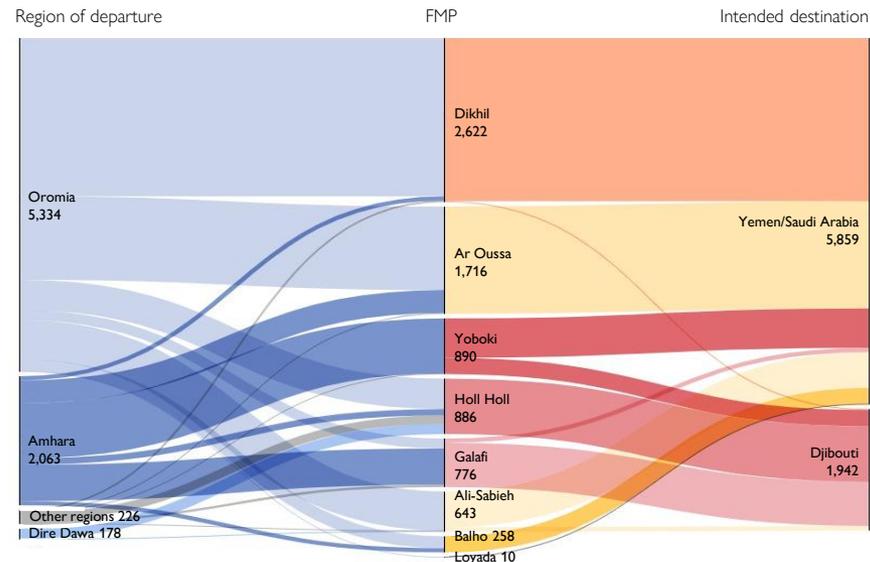
Women • 2%

Boys • <1%

In 2021, a total of **10,547 spontaneous returns from Yemen** were registered. While this number had been consistently dropping since July 2021, reaching its lowest level in December 2021 (178 movements), it was **multiplied by 2.5** in January 2022, with **452 returning migrants** observed on the Djiboutian coast. This increase is mainly attributable to the declaration of a nationwide state of emergency in Ethiopia in November 2021, followed by the suspension of Voluntary Humanitarian Return (VHR) flights organised by IOM Yemen, thus prompting returning migrants to pass through Obock to reach Ethiopia.

In addition, according to DTM Yemen, **2,665 migrants arrived in Yemen from the Obock region** in January 2022, which represents a 48 per cent increase compared to December 2021 (1,797), which is likely due to improved weather conditions.

## ARRIVALS FROM ETHIOPIA, BY REGION OF DEPARTURE AND INTENDED DESTINATION



## EXITS TO ETHIOPIA<sup>4</sup>

4,887

Exits to Ethiopia in 2021

867

Exits to Ethiopia in January 2022

### EXITS TO ETHIOPIA SINCE JANUARY 2021



<sup>4</sup>It should be kept in mind that the means of transport used by Ethiopian migrants vary: while most of them return on foot from Obock to Ali-Sabieh, 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.

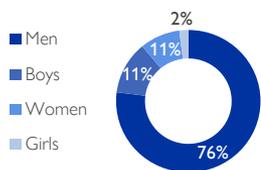
In 2021, a total of **4,887 exits to Ethiopia** were registered. In January 2022, **867 exits to Ethiopia** were observed, which represents a **69 per cent increase** compared to the previous month (514 in December 2021). This increase could be due to the de-escalation of the conflict in Ethiopia.

Most of the migrants who were headed to Ethiopia in January 2022 were identified in the region of **Ali-Sabieh** (94%) and 6 per cent passed through Balho in the region of Tadjourah.

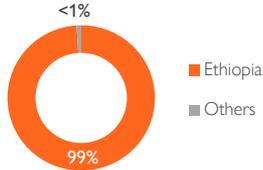
They were mainly travelling towards the region of **Oromia** (89%) and 11 per cent intended to reach Amhara.

## DEMOGRAPHIC AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROFILE

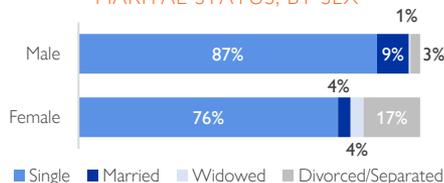
### SEX AND AGE GROUP



### NATIONALITIES



### MARITAL STATUS, BY SEX



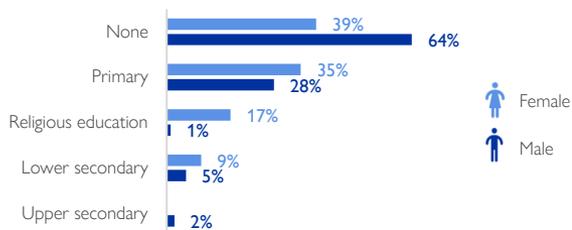
In January 2022, most of the migrants identified at FMPs were adults (76% of men and 11% of women), while 13 per cent were minors (11% of boys and 2% of girls). Almost all of them (99%) were **Ethiopian nationals**. In addition, 19 pregnant or lactating women, 7 children aged under five years old and 6 elderly persons (aged 60 or older) were identified.

Among the 443 individuals surveyed (of which 88% were males and 12% were females) through the Flow Monitoring Surveys (FMS), most (86%) were single, while 8 per cent were married, 5 per cent were divorced or separated and 1 per cent were widowed.

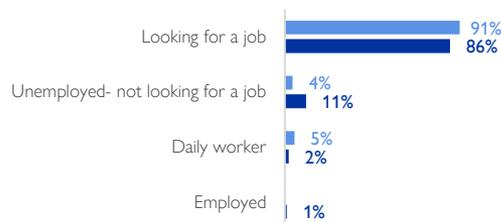
Data shows that 61 per cent (notably 64% of males) of migrants had **not received any kind of formal education** and 28 per cent had reached the primary level. It is also worth highlighting that a significant proportion of females (17%) had received a religious education.

Most of the interviewed travellers (86%) were **looking for a job**. Ten per cent were unemployed but were not looking for work, 3 per cent were daily workers and a small proportion (all males) were working for an employer.

### EDUCATION LEVEL, BY SEX



### PROFESSIONAL STATUS, BY SEX



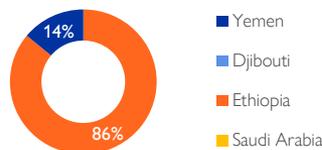
## TRAVEL CHARACTERISTICS

In January 2022, most of the individuals identified at FMPs had departed from **Ethiopia** (86%) and 14 per cent came from Yemen. Most of the migrants observed intended to reach the **Arabian Peninsula** (61% to Yemen and 11% to Saudi Arabia).

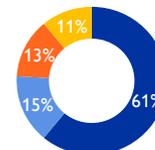
The migrants observed were mainly travelling for **economic reasons** (86%), while 13 per cent were returning to their place of habitual residence and 1 per cent were forced to move due to conflict or food insecurity. Most of them (89%) were travelling **on foot** at the transit points.

In addition, among the 443 individuals surveyed through the FMS, 66 per cent reported that they **faced obstacles** during their journey. The main **challenges** mentioned were hunger and/or thirst (cited by 85% of the individuals who encountered difficulties). A large proportion of migrants also faced trouble at sea (62%) or lacked shelter for sleeping (45%).

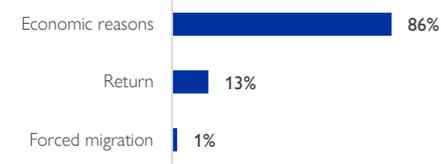
### DEPARTURE COUNTRIES



### INTENDED DESTINATIONS



### REASON FOR TRAVEL



### MEANS OF TRANSPORT



## MIGRANTS STRANDED IN DJIBOUTI

655

Migrants stranded in Djibouti as of 27 January 2022



8

Informal sites



Some migrants transiting through Djibouti who are on their way or coming back from the Arabian Peninsula remain stranded in Djibouti, mainly due to the lack of resources to continue their migration journey. These migrants find themselves stranded in informal settlements along the migration corridor in Djibouti, where they have little or no access to basic services and are exposed to protection risks. **Their priority needs include drinking water, food, hygiene kits and non-food items.**

As of 27 January 2022, **655 migrants were stranded in eight informal sites**. The largest proportion (34%) were located in the Obock region, while 30 per cent were stranded in Ali-Sabieh, 28 per cent in Dikhil and 8 per cent in Tadjourah.

**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 mobile 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**

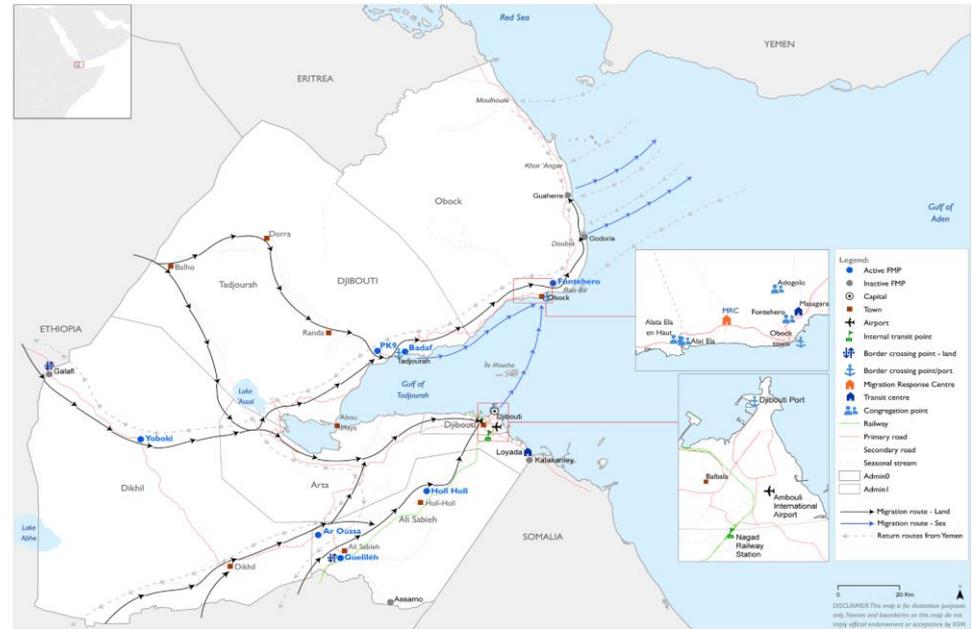
Spontaneous returns from Yemen are a component of IOM's DTM which started in May 2020. The objective of this data collection tool is to provide updated information on population flows returning from Yemen following COVID-19 movement restrictions in Yemen and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The information 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, all returns cannot 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 important. 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 several times. 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 guarantees the data included in this report; however we cannot give a complete picture of migratory movements.



FUNDING SUPPORT



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