

RETURN OF ETHIOPIAN MIGRANTS FROM THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA

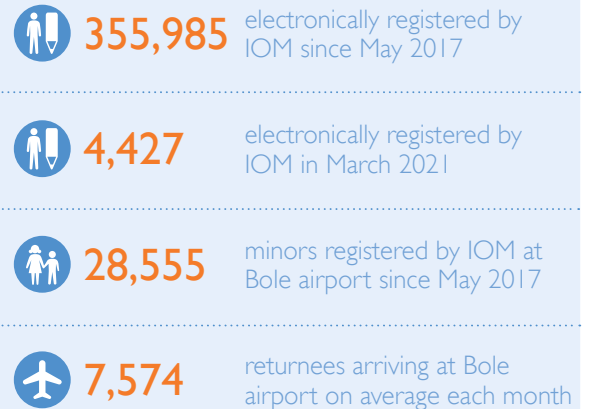
5 MAY 2017 - 31 MARCH 2021

IOM Regional Office for the East and Horn of Africa

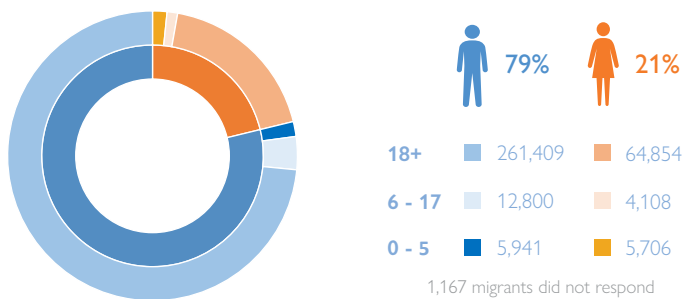
Background

In April 2017, the Government of Saudi Arabia launched a campaign titled 'A Nation without Violations', granting all irregular migrants an amnesty period of 90 days to leave the country without facing penalties. After multiple extensions, the amnesty period ended in November 2017. Since then, many Ethiopians have been arrested, detained and sent back to Ethiopia on chartered flights. Returnees arrive at Bole International Airport in Addis Ababa, where they are registered by IOM staff before continuing on to their destination. IOM also provides travel support to the most vulnerable migrants. IOM teams have registered a total of **362,727** returnees since April 2017, although the organization estimates that returns to Ethiopia following the decree are likely to be even higher. Since May 2017, IOM has electronically registered **355,985**¹ returnees whose profiles are presented in this factsheet. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, returns were temporarily halted on 22 March, and resumed on 3-13 April, 2-8 June and since September 2020.

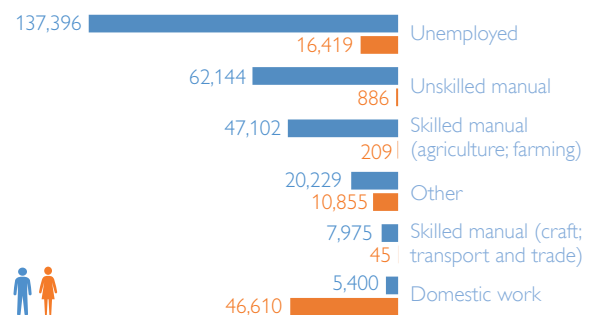
Numbers at a Glance



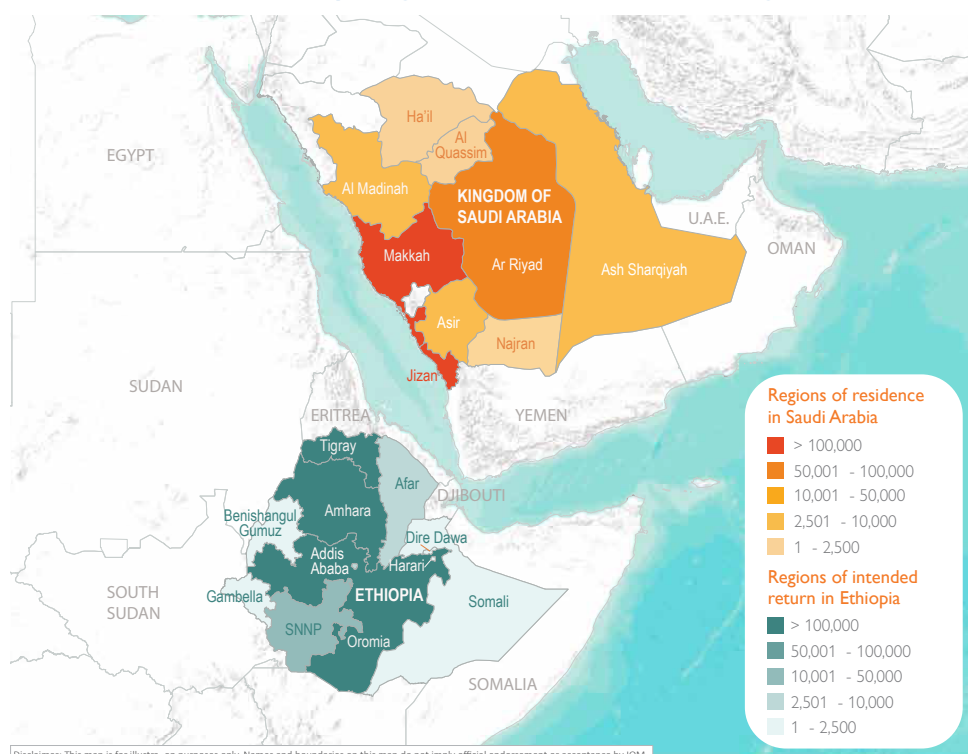
Migrant Sex and Age Breakdown



Occupation in Saudi Arabia



Number of Migrants Returning from Saudi Arabia to Ethiopia by Region of Residence* and Region of Intended Return



Region of Residence in Saudi Arabia ¹	No. of Migrants
Jizan	145,068
Makkah	102,769
Ar Riyad	72,067
Al Madinah	8,649
Asir	5,069
Ash Sharqiyah	3,109
Najran	804
Ha'il	531
Al Quassim	19

8,683 migrants did not respond

Region of Intended Return in Ethiopia	No. of Migrants
Tigray	110,351
Oromia	110,338
Amhara	110,065
SNNP	10,659
Afar	6,037
Addis Ababa	5,128
Dire Dawa	1,425
Somali	752
Harari	569
Benishangul Gumuz	501
Gambella	64

96 migrants did not respond

Disclaimer: This map is for illustrative purposes only. Names and boundaries on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by IOM.

¹ IOM began collecting data on returnees from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in April 2017 and switched to electronic registration in May 2017.

* Data for this indicator was not available between September 2020 and February 2021.