

# RETURN OF ETHIOPIAN MIGRANTS FROM THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA

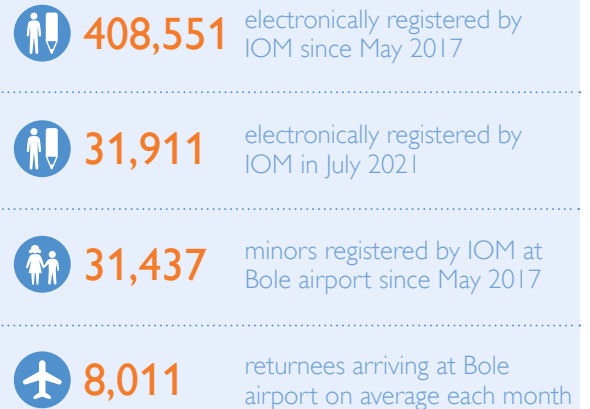
5 MAY 2017 - 31 JULY 2021

IOM Regional Office for the East and Horn of Africa

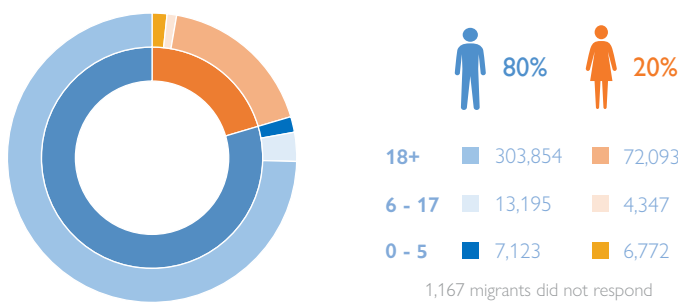
## Background

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 **415,293** 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 **408,551**<sup>1</sup> 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.

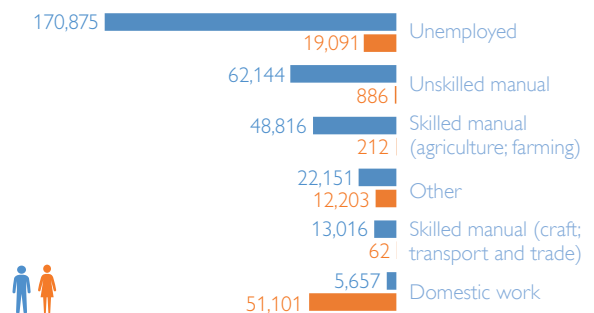
## Numbers at a Glance



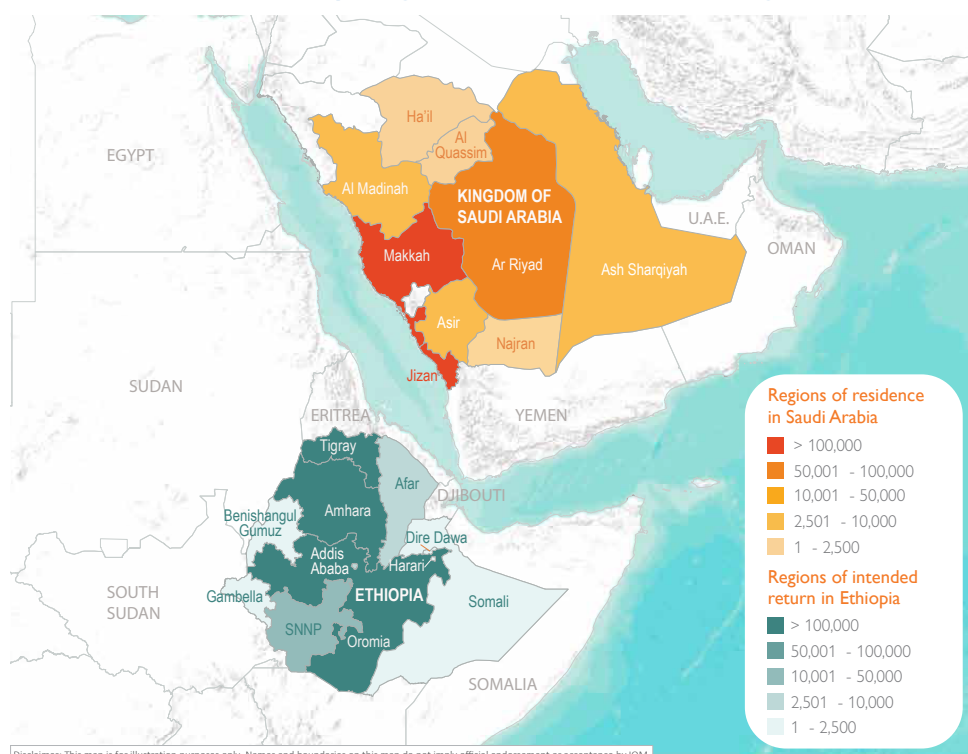
## Migrant Sex and Age Breakdown



## 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 <sup>1</sup>	No. of Migrants
Jizan	145,117
Makkah	139,569
Ar Riyad	87,535
Al Madinah	8,667
Asir	5,081
Ash Sharqiyah	3,119
Najran	806
Ha'il	554
Al Quassim	20

8,866 migrants did not respond

Region of Intended Return in Ethiopia	No. of Migrants
Tigray	129,051
Amhara	126,866
Oromia	124,432
SNNP	12,130
Afar	6,998
Addis Ababa	5,330
Dire Dawa	1,574
Somali	780
Harari	620
Benishangul Gumuz	603
Gambella	71

96 migrants did not respond

<sup>1</sup> 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.