

# RETURN OF ETHIOPIAN MIGRANTS FROM THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA

Regional Office for the East and Horn of Africa

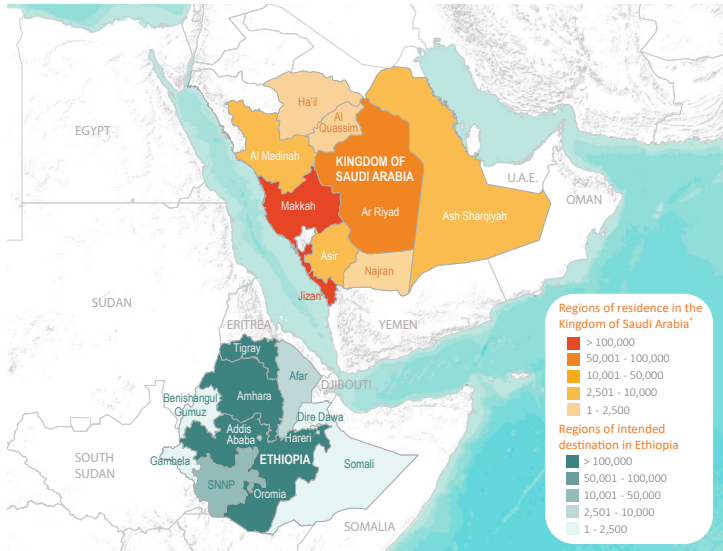
REGIONAL DATA HUB | RDH

Annual Overview 2020



**RDH**  
IOM Regional Data Hub  
East and Horn of Africa

## RETURNS FROM SAUDI ARABIA TO ETHIOPIA



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

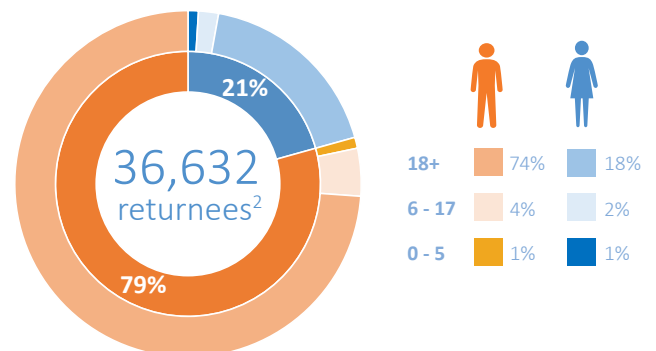
## BACKGROUND

In April 2017, the Government of the Kingdom 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. An estimated 500,000 migrants were present in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia when the campaign was launched in March. After multiple extensions, the amnesty period ended in November 2017. 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. Since May 2017, IOM has electronically registered **345,741** returnees, of whom **36,632** returnees were registered in 2020. This represents an almost **70%** decrease compared to the number of returnees in 2019 (120,825). Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, returns were temporarily halted on 22 March, and resumed on 3-13 April, 2-8 June and from September to December 2020.

### NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

- 352,483** registered by IOM staff at Bole airport from March 2017 to December 2020
- 345,741<sup>1</sup>** electronically registered and profiled by IOM from May 2017 to December 2020
- 36,632** electronically registered and profiled by IOM in 2020
- 3,041** minors registered by IOM staff at Bole airport in 2020
- 3,053** returnees arriving at Bole airport on average each month in 2020
- 93%** of registered migrants returned involuntarily in 2020

### SEX AND AGE BREAKDOWN

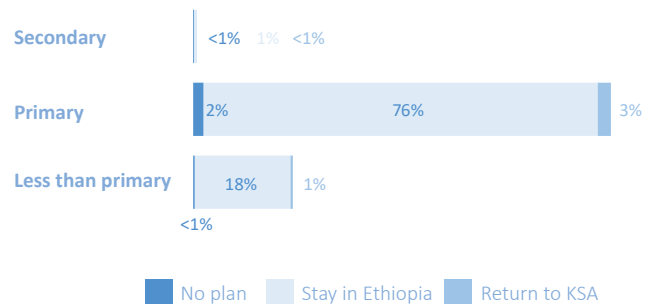


### PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

#### BY SEX\*



#### BY HIGHEST LEVEL OF EDUCATION COMPLETED\*



\* Data for this indicator was not available between September and December 2020.

<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.

<sup>2</sup> 48 migrants did not respond.

