

# RETURN OF ETHIOPIAN MIGRANTS FROM THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA

Regional Office for the East and Horn of Africa

5 MAY 2017 - 31 JULY 2020\*



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

\*Due to COVID-19, returns from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to Ethiopia were temporarily halted on 22 March, and resumed on 3-13 April and 2-8 June. No returns were recorded in July.

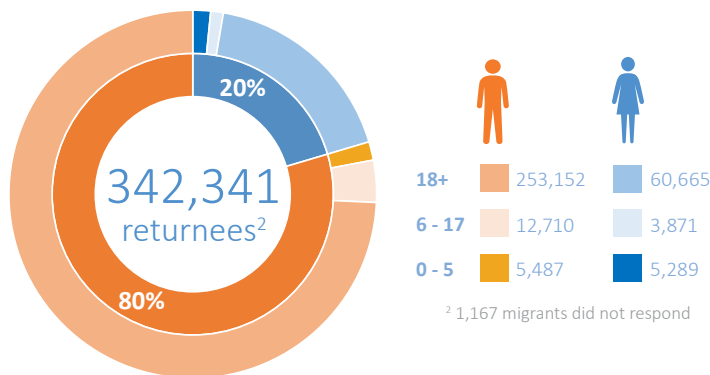
## BACKGROUND

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.

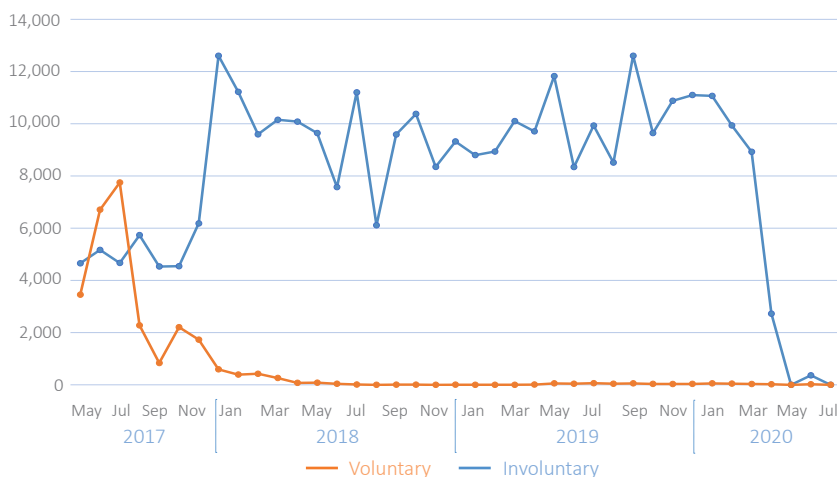
Returnees arrive at Bole International Airport in Addis Ababa, where they are registered by IOM staff before continuing on to their destination. IOM also provides travel support to the most vulnerable migrants. IOM estimates that around **390,000** have returned to Ethiopia since the decree was issued, **349,083** of whom have been registered since April 2017. Since May 2017, IOM has electronically registered **342,341** returnees whose profiles are presented in this factsheet.

## DEMOGRAPHICS

Migrant Sex and Age Breakdown



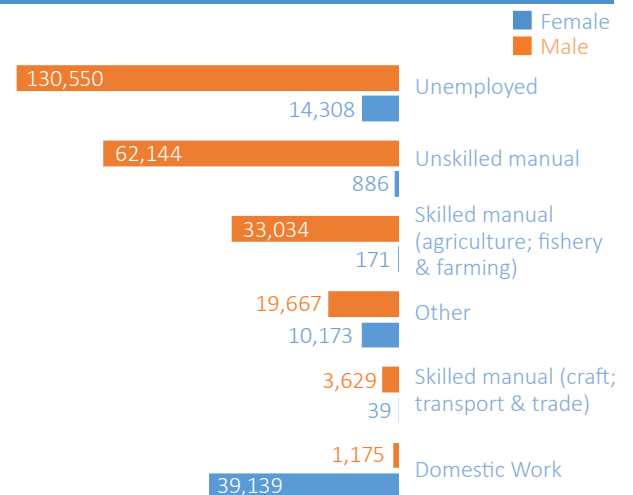
Total Number of Voluntary and Involuntary Returns (by month)



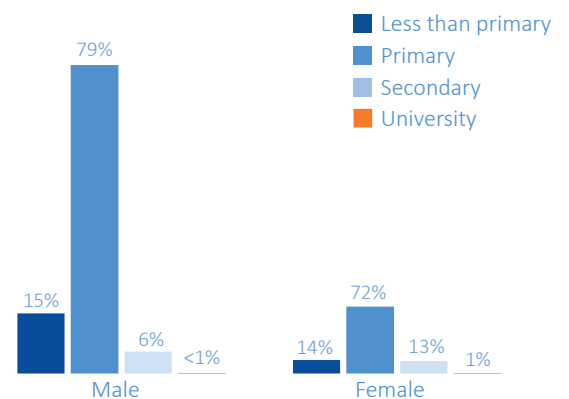
## NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

- 390,000** estimated to have returned to Ethiopia since March 2017
- 342,341<sup>1</sup>** electronically registered and profiled by IOM since May 2017
- 27,357** minors registered by IOM staff at Bole airport since May 2017
- 9,252** returnees arriving at Bole airport on average each month
- 92%** of registered migrants returned involuntarily

## Occupation in KSA (by sex)



## Highest Level of Education (by sex and age 6+)



Due to ongoing revision of the vulnerability screening process, the full publication of data relating to migrant vulnerabilities is currently on hold.

<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. The total number of returnees registered since April 2017 is 349,083.

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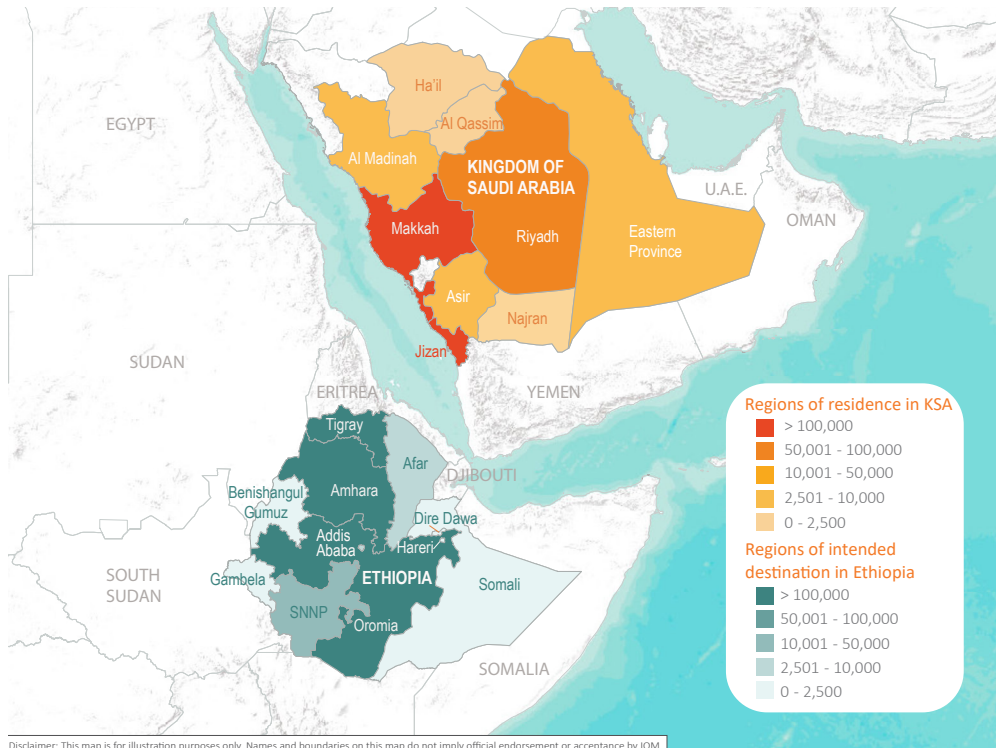
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## Number of Migrants Returning from KSA to Ethiopia by Region of Residence in KSA and Region of Intended Destination in Ethiopia



Region of Residence in KSA	No. of Migrants <sup>3</sup>
Jizan	145,015
Makkah	101,068
Riyadh	70,765
Al Madinah	8,646
Asir	5,064
Eastern Province	3,109
Najran	804
Ha'il	531
Al Qassim	19

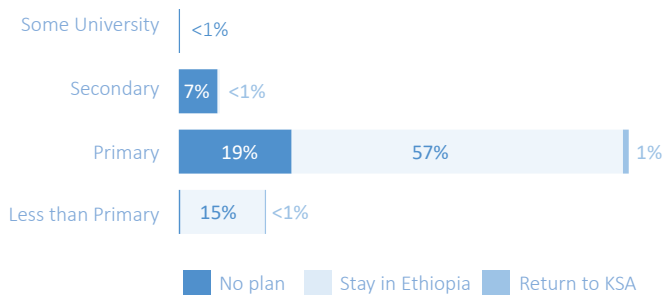
<sup>3</sup> 7,320 migrants did not respond

Region of Intended Return in Ethiopia	No. of Migrants <sup>4</sup>
Oromia	106,704
Amhara	106,613
Tigray	104,541
SNNP	10,234
Afar	5,903
Addis Ababa	5,034
Dire Dawa	1,375
Somali	744
Hareri	538
Benishangul Gumuz	496
Gambela	63

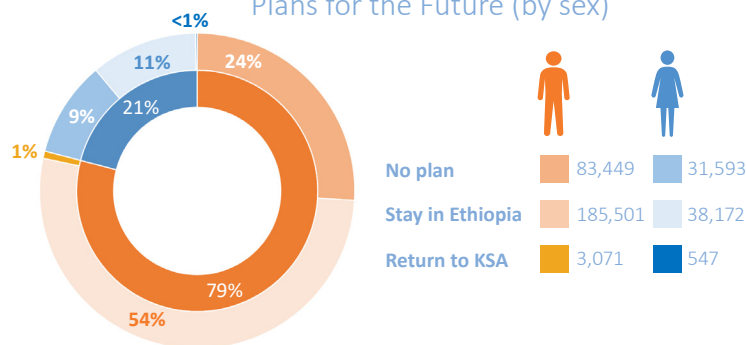
<sup>4</sup> 96 migrants did not respond

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

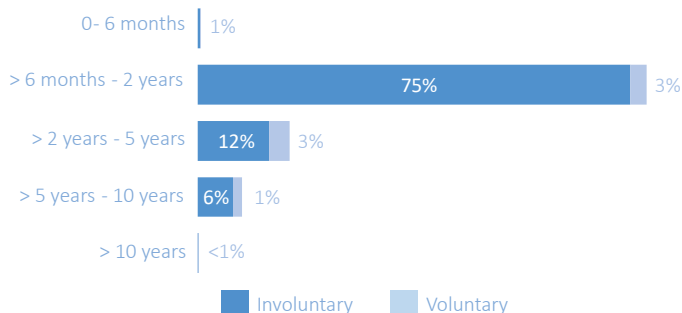
### Plans for the Future (by level of education)



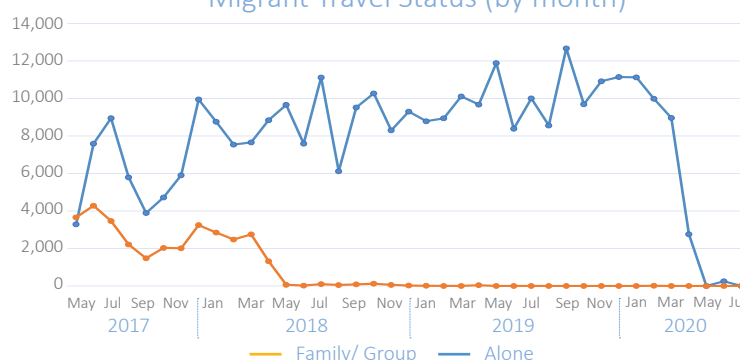
### Plans for the Future (by sex)



### Duration of Stay in KSA (by type of return)



### Migrant Travel Status (by month)



European Union  
Civil Protection and  
Humanitarian Aid