

RETURN OF ETHIOPIAN MIGRANTS FROM THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA

Regional Office for the East and Horn of Africa

5 MAY 2017 - 31 OCTOBER 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, 2-8 June and since September.

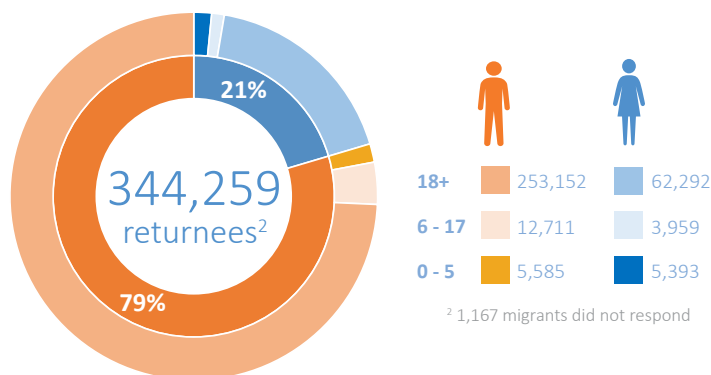
BACKGROUND

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.

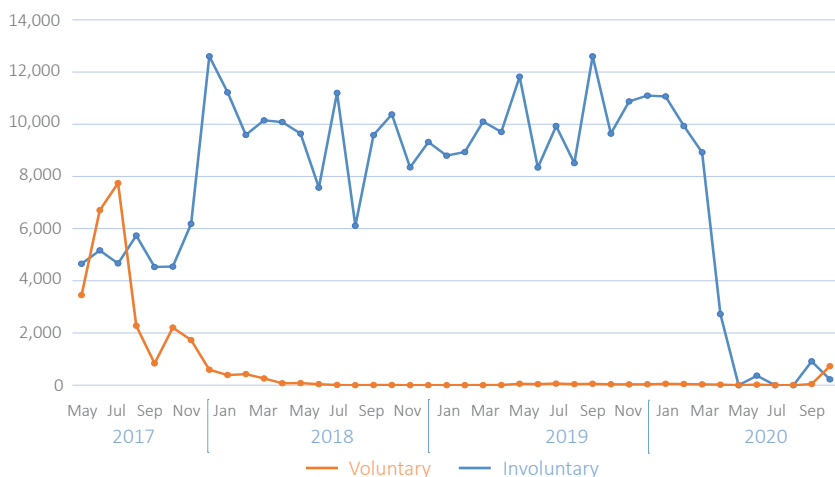
Returnees arrive at Bole International Airport in Addis Ababa, where they are registered by IOM staff before continuing on to their destination. IOM also provides travel support to the most vulnerable migrants. IOM teams have registered a total of **351,001** returnees since April 2017, although the organization estimates that returns to Ethiopia following the decree are likely to be even higher. Since May 2017, IOM has electronically registered **344,259** returnees whose profiles are presented in this factsheet.

DEMOGRAPHICS

Migrant Sex and Age Breakdown



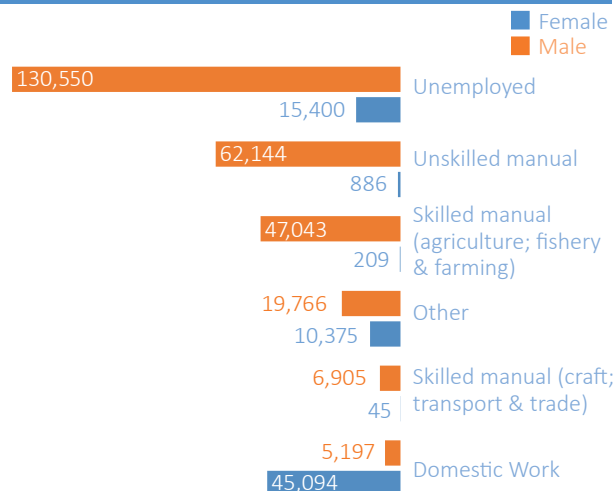
Total Number of Voluntary and Involuntary Returns (by month)



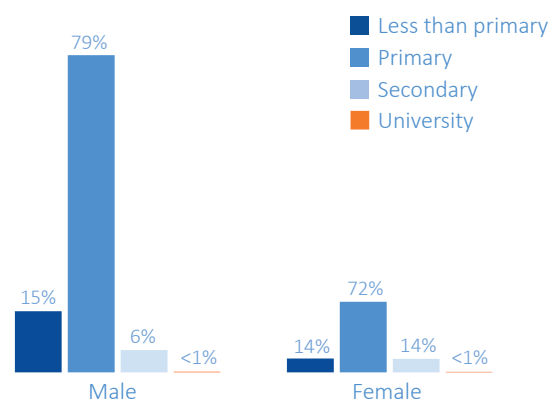
NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

- 351,001** registered by IOM staff at Bole airport since April 2017
- 344,259¹** electronically registered and profiled by IOM since May 2017
- 27,648** minors registered by IOM staff at Bole airport since May 2017
- 8,197** 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.
¹ IOM began collecting data on returnees from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in April 2017 and switched to electronic registration in May 2017.

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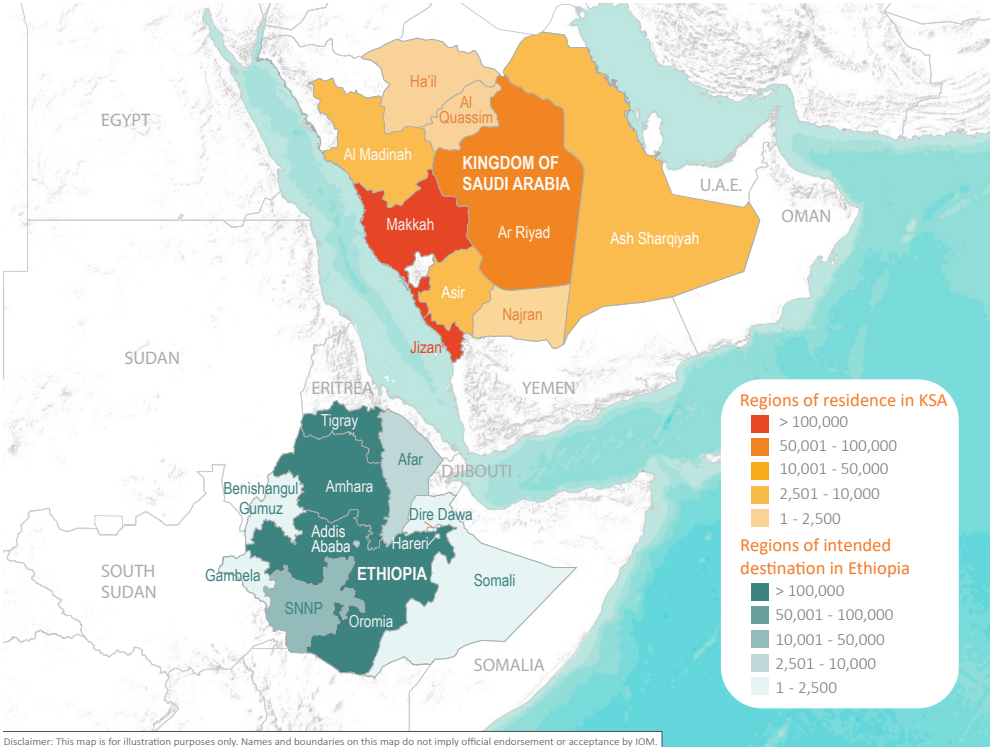
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Number of Migrants Returning from KSA to Ethiopia by Region of Residence in KSA* and Region of Intended Destination in Ethiopia



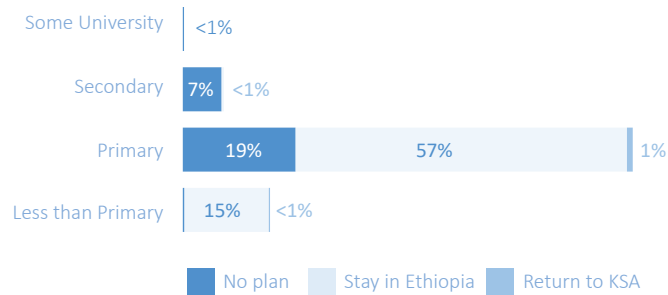
Region of Residence in KSA*	No. of Migrants ³
Jizan	145,015
Makkah	101,068
Ar Riyad	70,765
Al Madinah	8,646
Asir	5,064
Ash Sharqiyah	3,109
Najran	804
Ha'il	531
Al Quassim	19

³ 7,320 migrants did not respond

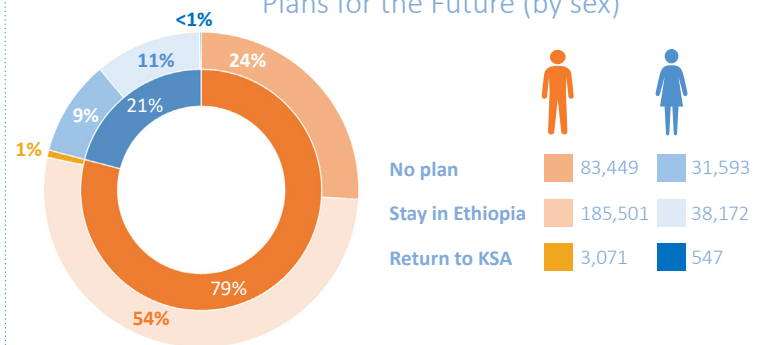
Region of Intended Return in Ethiopia	No. of Migrants ⁴
Oromia	107,276
Amhara	107,048
Tigray	105,384
SNNP	10,266
Afar	5,912
Addis Ababa	5,050
Dire Dawa	1,382
Somali	744
Hareri	542
Benishangul Gumuz	496
Gambela	63

⁴ 96 migrants did not respond

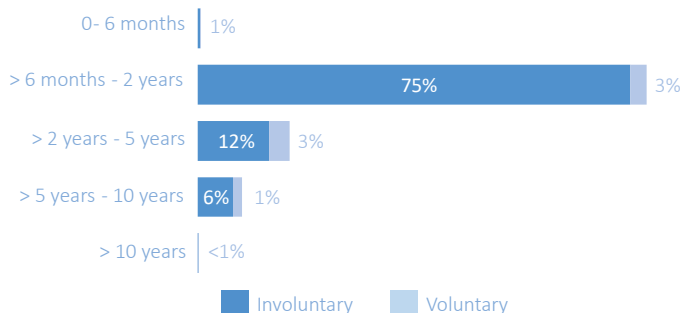
Plans for the Future (by level of education)*



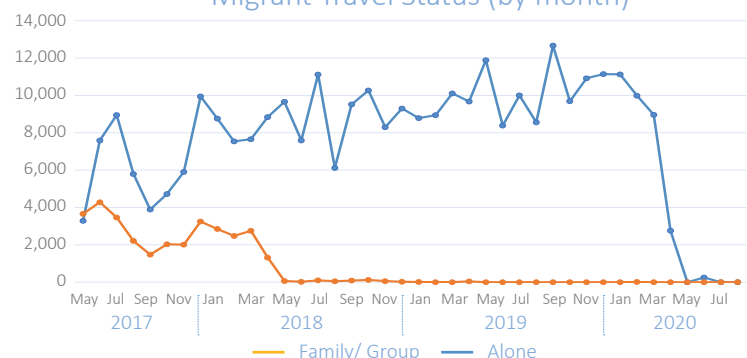
Plans for the Future (by sex)*



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



Migrant Travel Status (by month)*



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