

RETURN OF ETHIOPIAN MIGRANTS FROM THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA

5 MAY 2017 - 28 FEBRUARY 2021

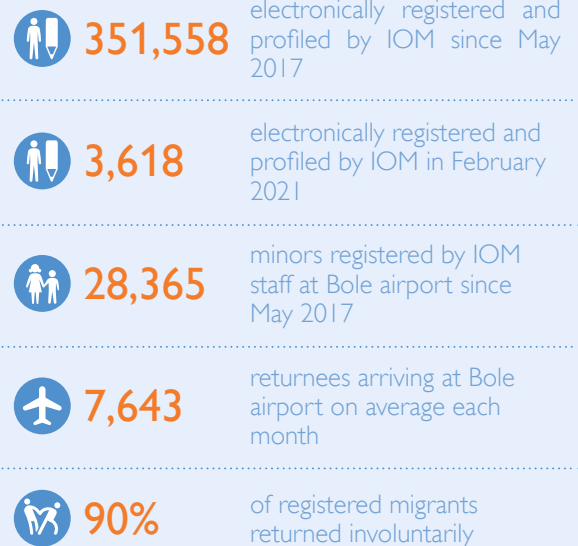
IOM Regional Office for the East and Horn of Africa

Background

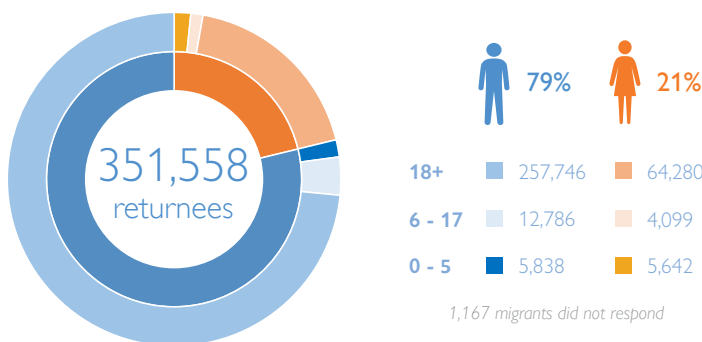
In April 2017, the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia launched a campaign titled 'A Nation without Violations', granting all irregular migrants an amnesty period of 90 days to leave the country without facing penalties. An estimated 500,000 migrants were present in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia 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 **358,300** 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 **351,558**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.

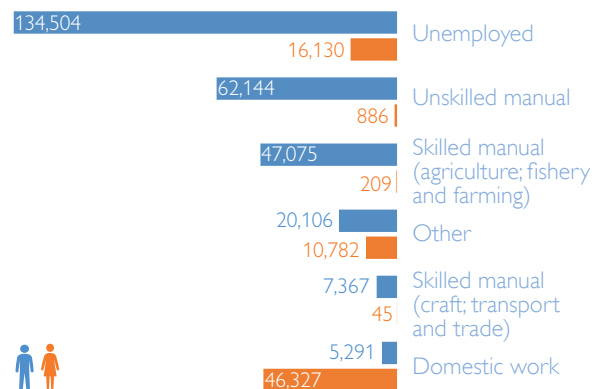
Numbers at a Glance



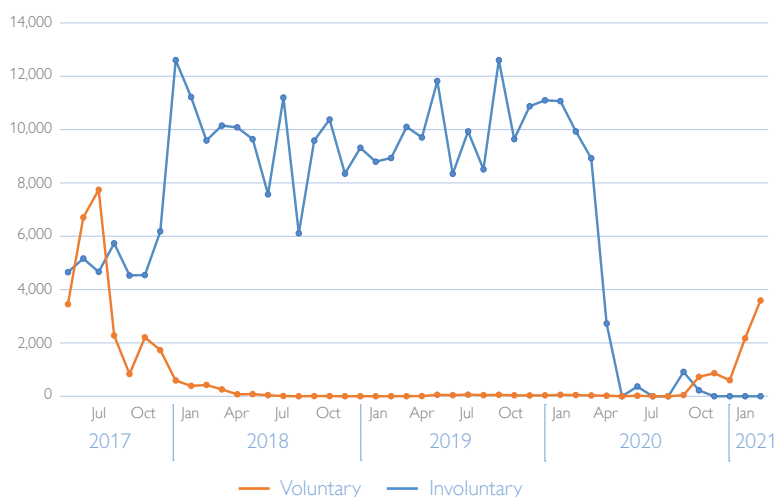
Migrant Sex and Age Breakdown



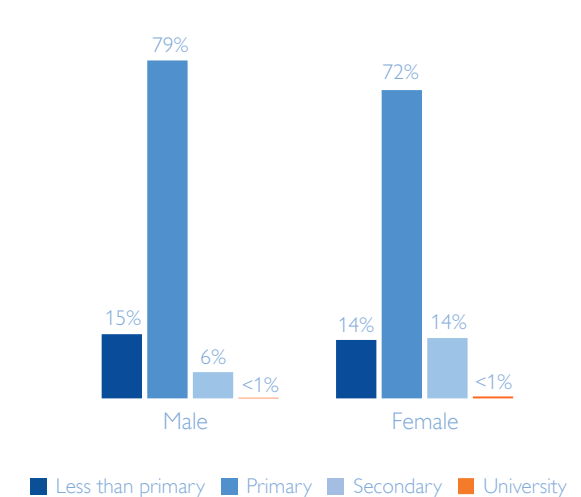
Occupation in Saudi Arabia



Total Number of Voluntary and Involuntary Returns



Highest Level of Education Completed



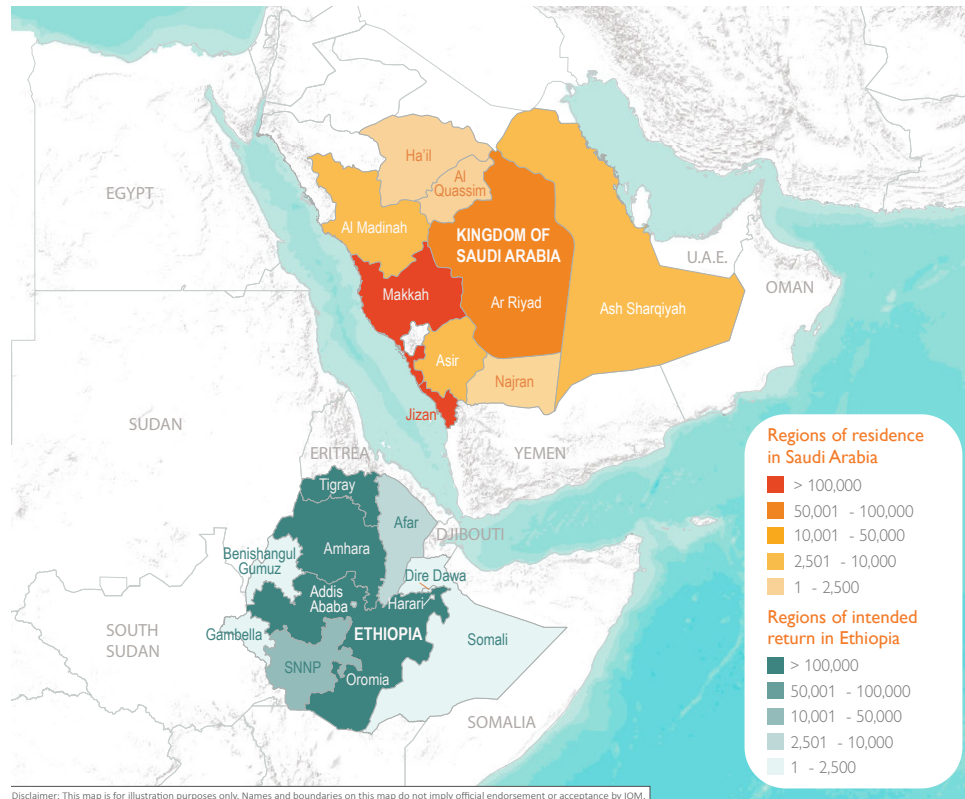
¹ IOM began collecting data on returnees from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in April 2017 and switched to electronic registration in May 2017.

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



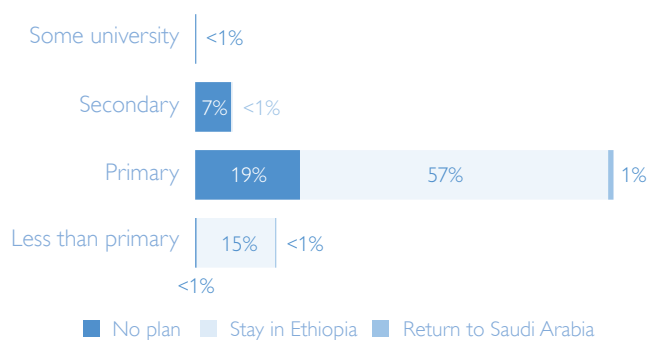
Region of Residence in Saudi Arabia*	No. of Migrants
Jizan	145,015
Makkah	101,068
Ar Riyad	70,765
Al Madinah	8,646
Asir	5,064
Ash Sharqiyah	3,109
Najran	804
Ha'il	531
Al Quassim	19

7,320 migrants did not respond

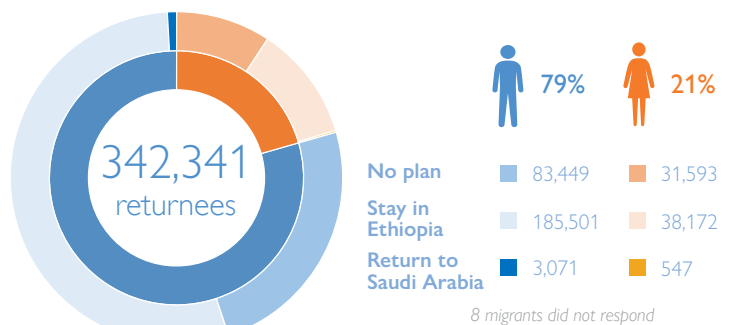
Region of Intended Return in Ethiopia	No. of Migrants
Tigray	108,885
Amhara	108,875
Oromia	108,871
SNNP	10,453
Afar	5,988
Addis Ababa	5,101
Dire Dawa	1,411
Somali	750
Harari	564
Benishangul Gumuz	501
Gambella	63

96 migrants did not respond

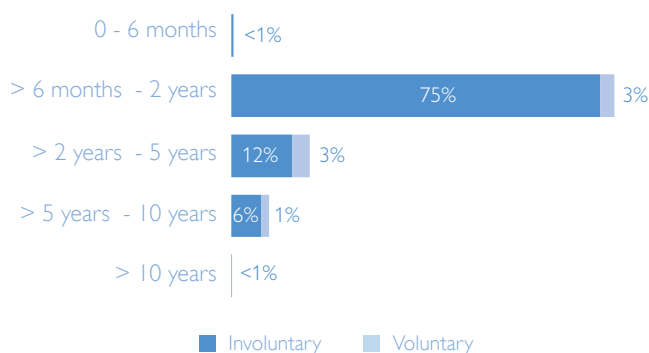
Plans for the Future (by level of education)*



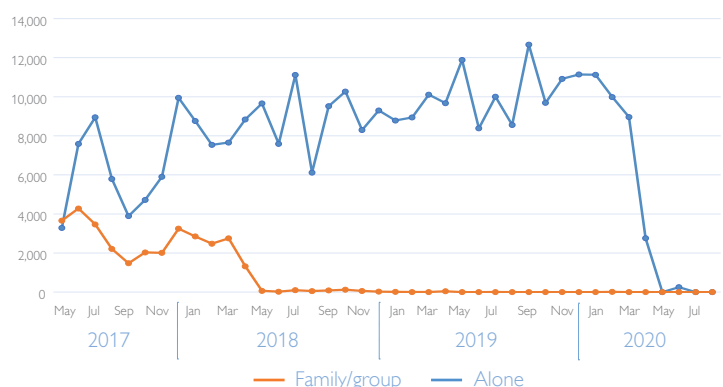
Plans for the Future (by sex)*



Duration of Stay in Saudi Arabia*



Migrant Travel Status*



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