During the month of March 2020, 11,222 movements were observed at flow monitoring points in Djibouti. This number has decreased by half compared to the 22,461 movements observed in February. The intended final destinations were the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (85%), Djibouti (11%) and Ethiopia (4%).

The majority of the observed population were male (70% adults and 8% minors), while 22% of identified persons were female (20% adults and 2% minors). Economic reasons (98%) and family visits (2%) were the main reasons for travel.

A significant decrease in the number of migrants arriving in Djibouti was observed starting from the third week of the month. This was mainly due to the closure of the borders between Djibouti and Ethiopia since 19 March 2020.

At the same time, from the third week of the month, a decrease in arrivals from Obock to Manfath Al-Wadeelah in Yemen was noted. This decrease was due to the closure of the borders in Yemen from 17 March 2020.

During the first two weeks of March, the number of movements observed in Obock was similar to that of February before dropping significantly during the third week (78% decrease compared to the third week of the month of February). This was mainly due to the closure of the borders between Djibouti and Ethiopia since 19 March 2020.

Similarly, movements from Obock observed at Manfath Al-Wadeelah in Yemen decreased significantly in the third week of March 2020 (a decrease of 63% compared to the second week of the same month). The main cause was the closure of maritime borders by Yemen.

The continuous arrival of migrants combined with the closing of borders in Yemen explained the increase in the number of migrants residing in different sites in Djibouti City and along the migration corridor.
Flow monitoring

Flow monitoring is a component of the IOM’s Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM). The objective of the flow monitoring component is to regularly provide updated information on population flows and on the profile of populations on the move (migrants, internally displaced persons, returnees, etc.). The information and analyses offered by the flow monitoring methodology provide a better understanding of the difficulties encountered by migrants throughout their migratory route or forced displacement in order to better define priorities in terms of assistance.

DTM in Djibouti

IOM works in collaboration with the Government of Djibouti to better understand the migratory dynamics in Djibouti as well as the profile of migrants transiting the country. IOM implements flow monitoring, a DTM component which consists in collecting data in the localities through which migrants transit (flow monitoring points). The data presented in this monthly report gives an overview of the movements and profiles of the mobile population in Djibouti.

Limitation

The spatial and temporal coverage of the surveys carried out is partial and does not allow all migratory flows in the country to be captured. The data presented in this report mainly shows migration trends. In addition, the data on the vulnerabilities are based on direct observations by the enumerators and should only be taken as an indication. Finally, it is possible that migrants crossing several flow monitoring points may be counted several times. Thus, the total number of migrants observed at the flow monitoring points does not necessarily reflect the true migratory flows in each region. All data included in this report are based on partial observations and are not representative of the entire migrant population. IOM guarantees the data included in this report; however we cannot give a complete picture of migratory movements.