



IOM-MMC WEBINAR SERIES 2023

Webinar 2 The Impact of COVID-19 on Migrants

4 April 2023, 14:00 – 15:00 EAT

IOM-MMC Webinar Series 2023

Webinar 1

Relationships in Transit

14 March 2023

15:00-16:00 EAT

Webinar 2

Impact of COVID-19 on Migrants

4 April 2023

14:00-15:00 EAT

Webinar 3

Economic and Social Remittances

3 May 2023

14:00-15:00 EAT

Webinar 4

Migration and Climate Nexus

16 May 2023

14:00-15:00 EAT

Agenda

- Introduction (5 m)
- Overview of the migratory corridors and methodology (5 m)
- Key Findings (15 m)
- Reflections on the impact of COVID-19 on migrants (10 m)
- Q&A (20 m)

Speakers

Laura Nistri – Regional Data Hub Coordinator

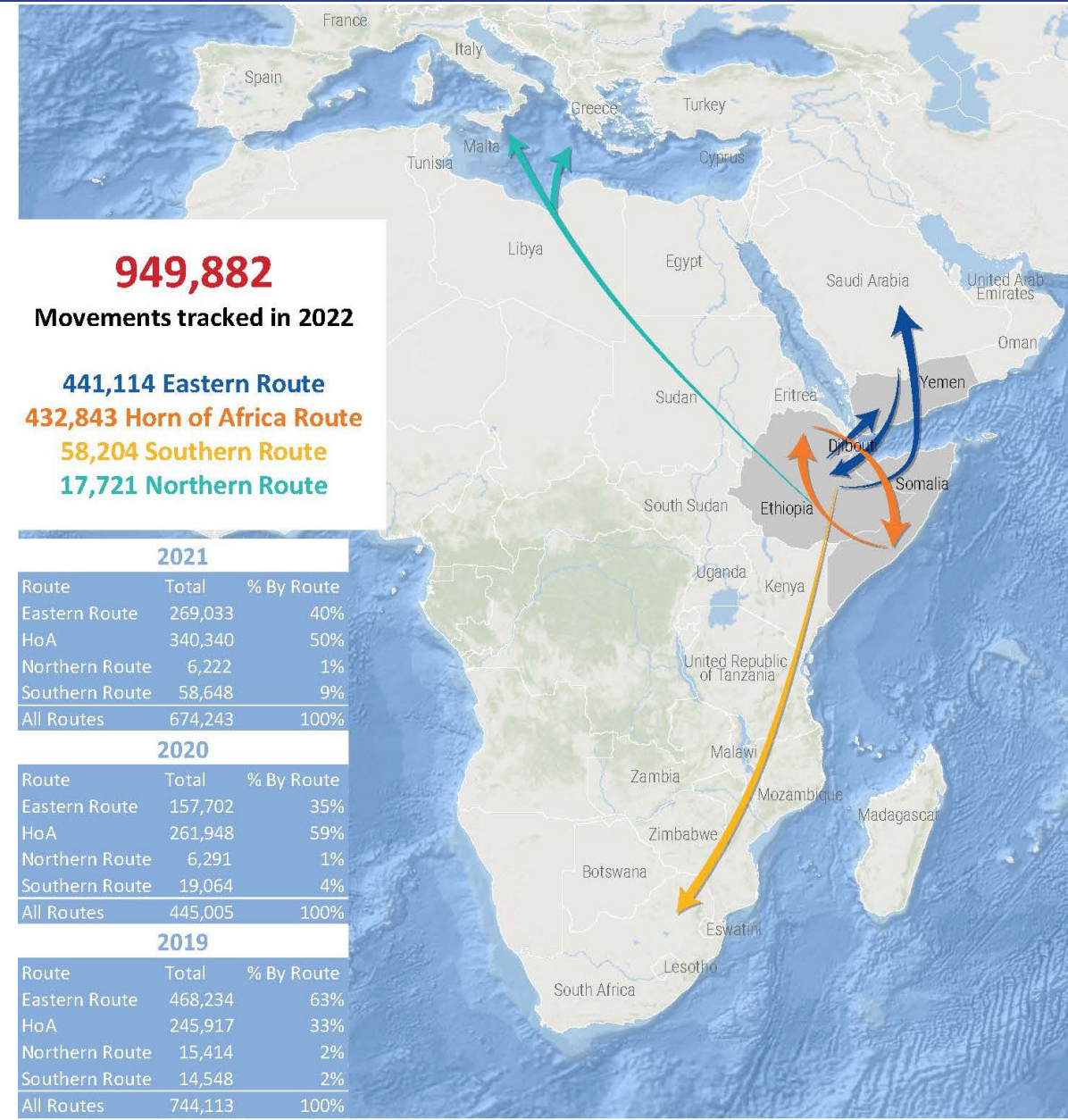
Naomi Burnett – Regional Data Hub Analyst

Prof. Jo Vearey – Associate Professor and Director of the African Centre for Migration and Society (ACMS), Wits University, South Africa

Migration Routes and Context

Migratory movements across the routes increased by 41% (ER +64%; NR +185%)

- End of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on migration flows
- Increased impact of the drought



949,882

Movements tracked in 2022

441,114 Eastern Route

432,843 Horn of Africa Route

58,204 Southern Route

17,721 Northern Route

2021

Route	Total	% By Route
Eastern Route	269,033	40%
HoA	340,340	50%
Northern Route	6,222	1%
Southern Route	58,648	9%
All Routes	674,243	100%

2020

Route	Total	% By Route
Eastern Route	157,702	35%
HoA	261,948	59%
Northern Route	6,291	1%
Southern Route	19,064	4%
All Routes	445,005	100%

2019

Route	Total	% By Route
Eastern Route	468,234	63%
HoA	245,917	33%
Northern Route	15,414	2%
Southern Route	14,548	2%
All Routes	744,113	100%

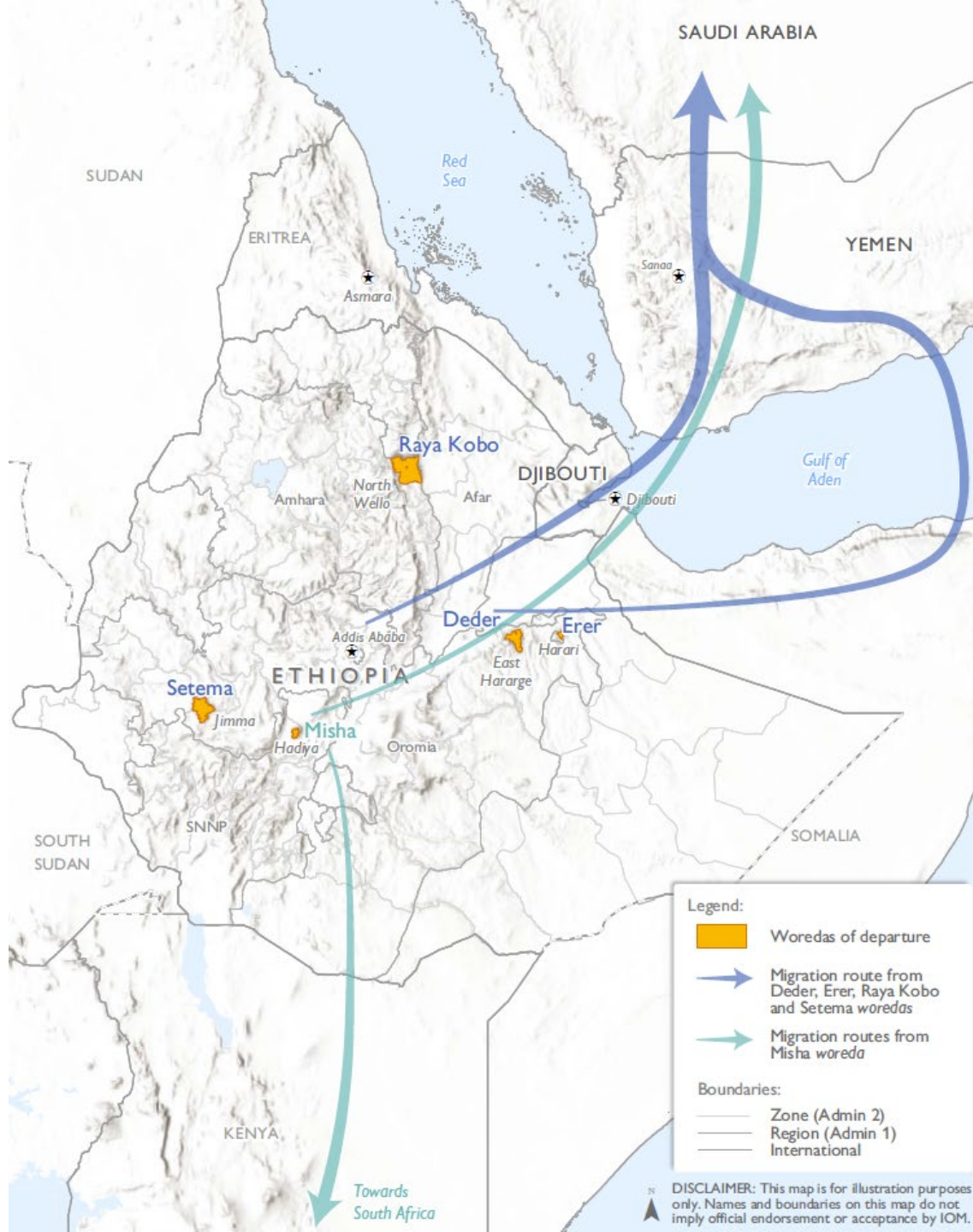
Methodology

PHASE III: ETHIOPIA (2021)

- 5 communities of high emigration
- Rapid community profiles in each location
- 500/600 HH surveys per location (control group)
- 8 KI interviews and 4-6 FGDs per location

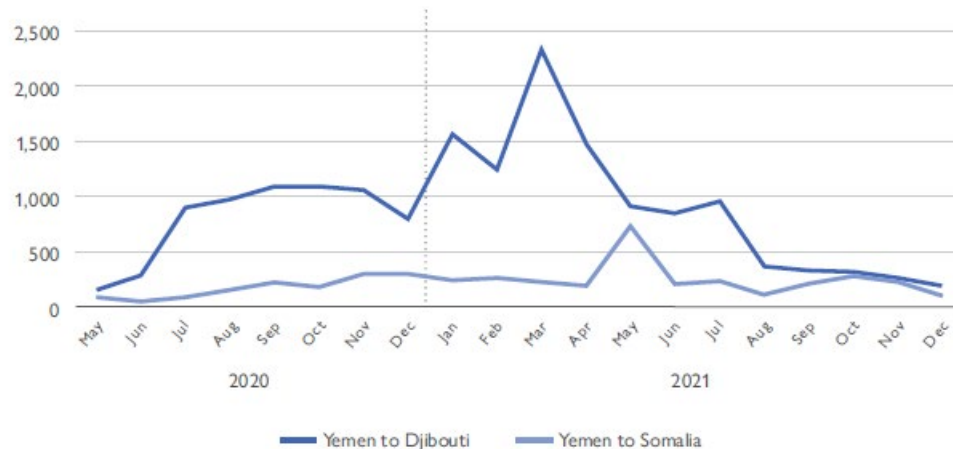
OBJECTIVES

- Examine COVID-19s impact on migration aspirations.
- Explore the role families and communities play in migration decisions as well as how migration, and in particular remittances and their usage, impact families and communities at origin.
- Explore information sources and knowledge gaps shaping the migration process and related risk awareness.
- Investigate returnees' ambitions and experiences.



COVID-19 Impact on Mobility Trends (1/2)

- The first cases of COVID-19 in the region were identified in March 2020.
- Many Ethiopian migrants traveling to Saudi Arabia found themselves stranded en route.
 - At the end of 2020, almost 3,000 migrants were stranded in the HoA and over 30,000 were stranded in Yemen.
- Over 13,000 spontaneous returns to Djibouti and Somalia tracked in 2021.



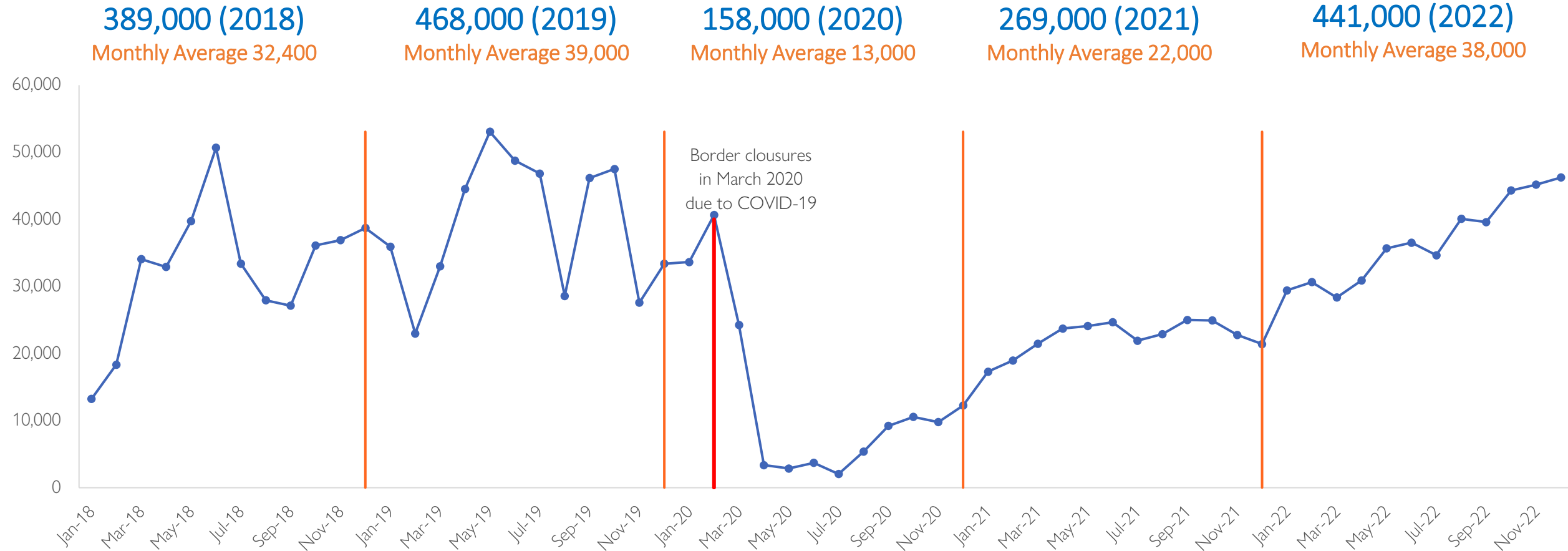
Unaccompanied child stranded in Bossaso hoping to return to Ethiopia due to fear of contracting COVID-19 during migration.

© IOM 2020



COVID-19 Impact on Mobility Trends (2/2)

Movements tracked along the Eastern Route (2018 – 2022)



COVID-19 Impact on Communities

- COVID-19 related measures and restrictions greatly affected communities in the early months of the pandemic.
- In mid-2021, 70% of households reported that living standards in their community were not affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Communities were impacted differently.
 - Surveys suggest that rural areas were less severely impacted than urban areas.

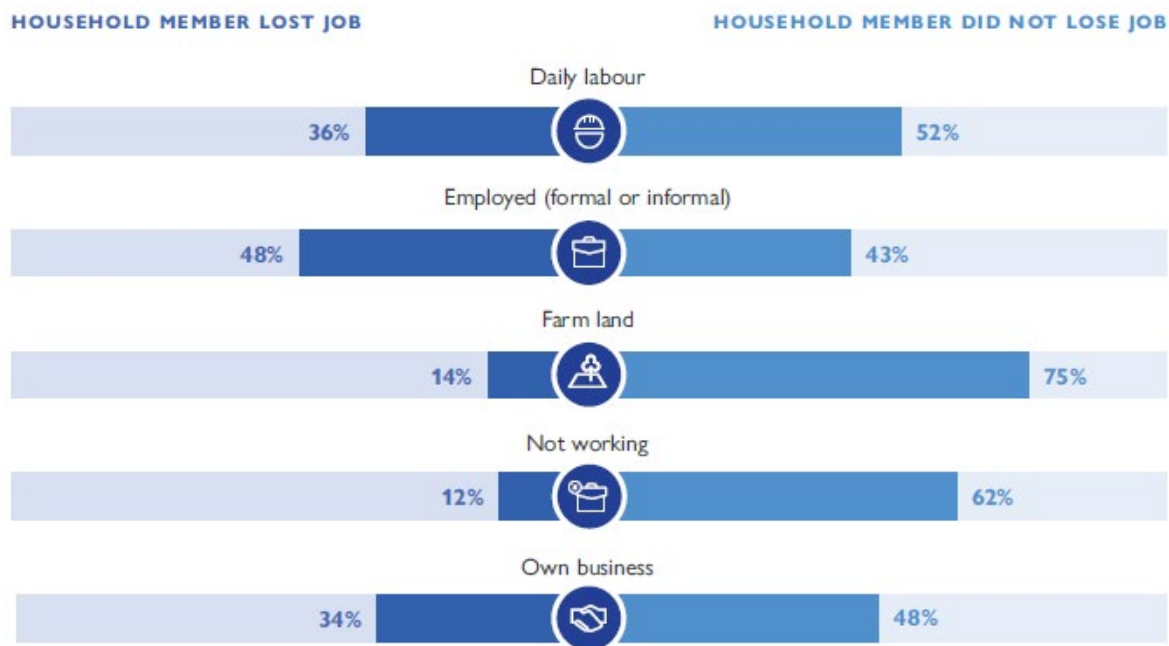


Migrants found returning through the desert to Obock on foot and supported by IOM's mobile unit in the area.

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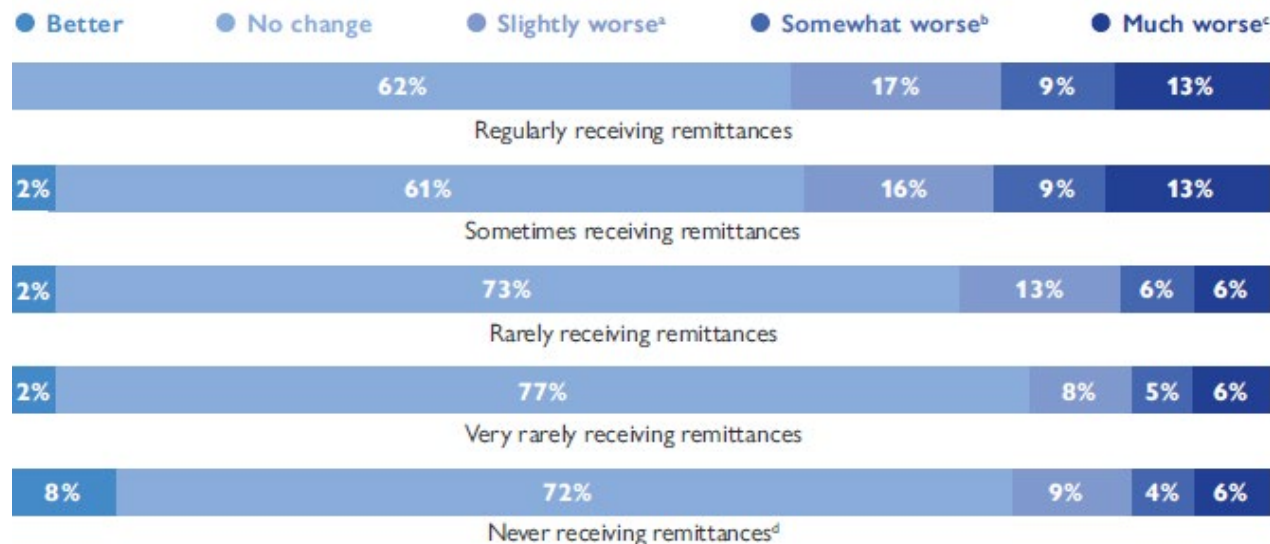
COVID-19 Impact on Household Livelihoods

- Bigger households exhibited higher levels of resilience during the pandemic, likely due to more diversified income sources.
- Households in which heads of household had higher levels of education were impacted more.
- Land ownership and reliance on agriculture is associated with greater livelihood stability during the pandemic.



COVID-19 Impact on Migrant Households

- The communities with the highest migration rates had the highest share of households reporting worsened livelihood situations.
- Deterioration of living standards in most migrant households is likely due to a reduction in remittance flows.
 - In over 85% of households, remittances are used to finance everyday living costs.



IOM's mobile unit rescues migrants returning from Yemen to Obock through the desert.

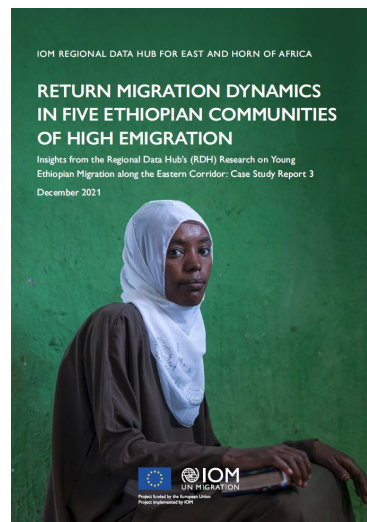
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COVID-19 Impact on Returnees

- All communities witnessed a sharp rise in migrant returns during COVID-19.
- Returnees experienced more challenging return environments due to the pandemic.
- COVID-19 posed additional challenges to their economic reintegration.

For more information →

<https://eastandhornofafrica.iom.int/route-based-research>



A child waits with his family and other returnees at Aden Airport to start their journey home to Ethiopia.

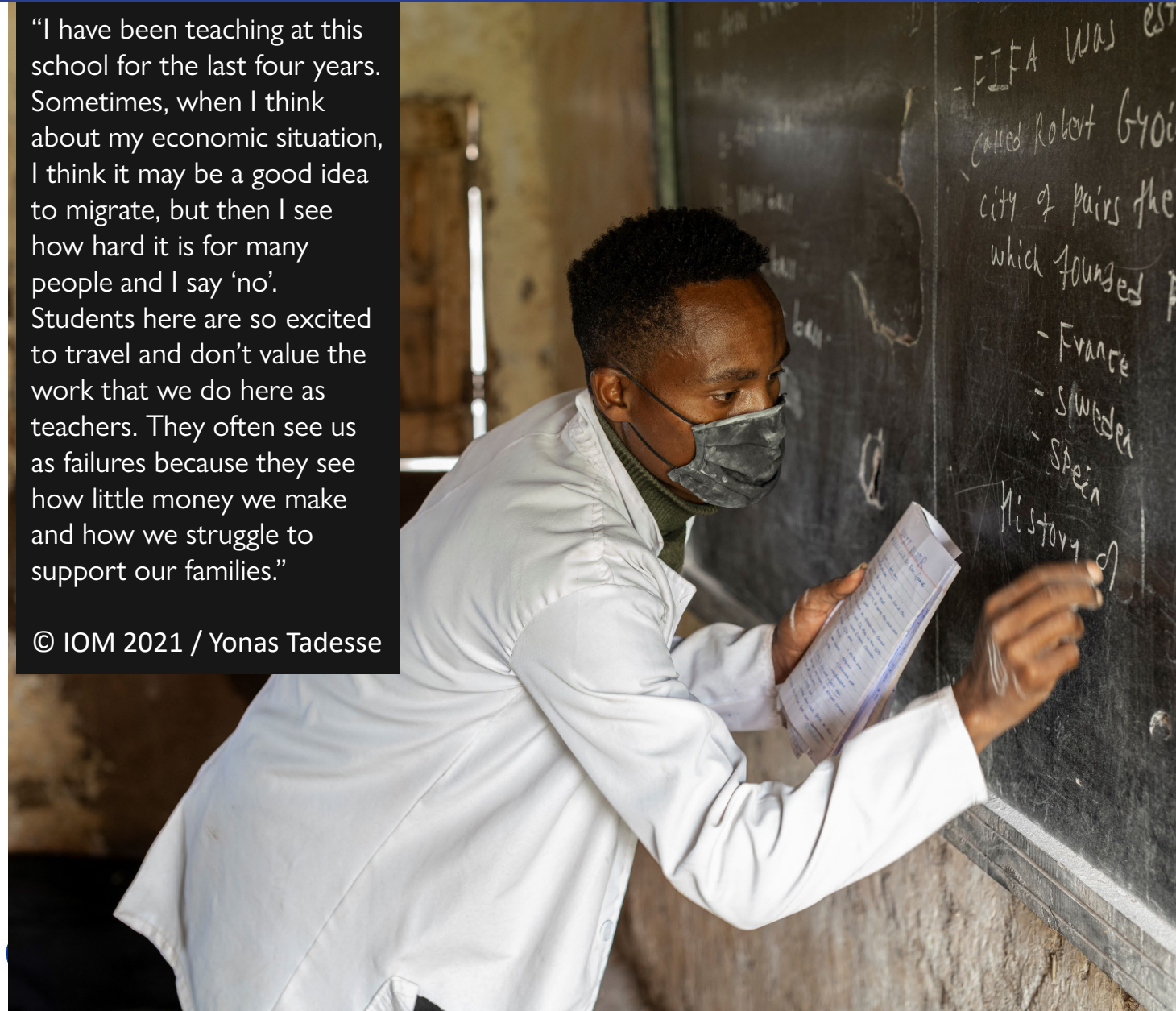
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COVID-19 Impact on Migration Aspirations

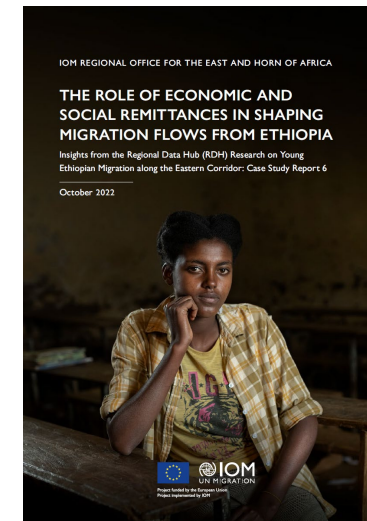
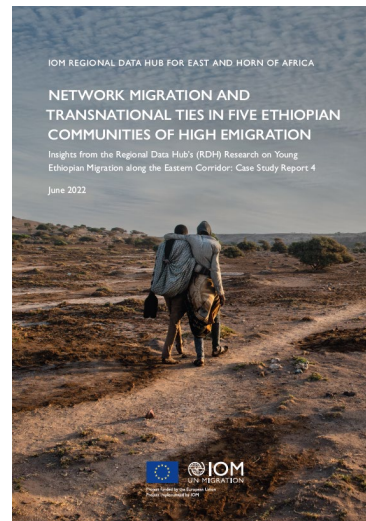
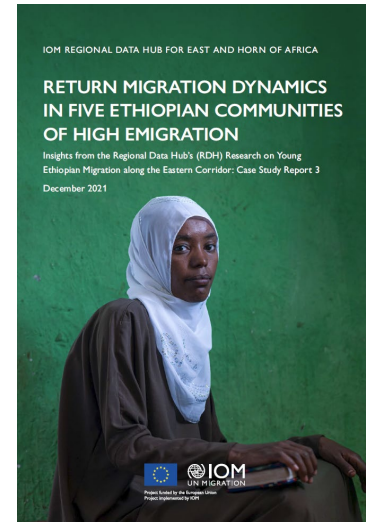
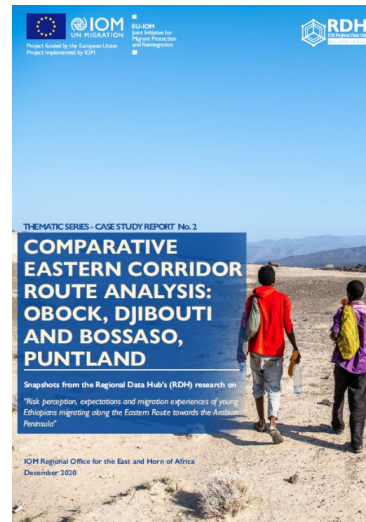
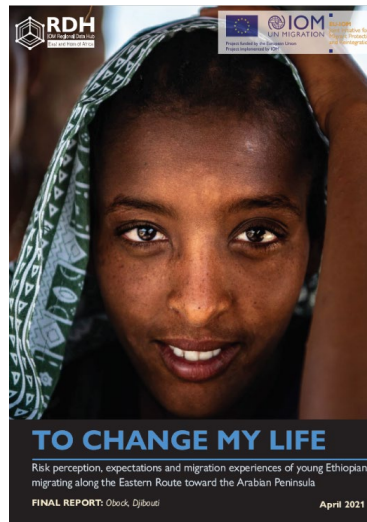
- Households as well as aspiring migrants agreed that COVID-19 had heightened migrants' vulnerabilities.
- However, the desire to migrate has generally not decreased.
- Would-be-migrants reported that they did not fear the risks associated with migrating during the pandemic more than other migration-related risks.

"I have been teaching at this school for the last four years. Sometimes, when I think about my economic situation, I think it may be a good idea to migrate, but then I see how hard it is for many people and I say 'no'. Students here are so excited to travel and don't value the work that we do here as teachers. They often see us as failures because they see how little money we make and how we struggle to support our families."

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Research Products



To Download:

<https://eastandhornofafrica.iom.int/route-based-research>



Thank you!
Any questions?
