

MIGRANT EMERGENCY FOOD SECURITY ASSESSMENT

Preliminary Findings - May 2020



DTM



BACKGROUND

In Libya, the first cases of COVID-19 were reported in March 2020. The subsequent measures implemented to curb the spread of the virus have resulted in a rise in food prices and scarcity of some types of food in certain areas, which can constitute a threat to the food security, safety and wellbeing of migrants, refugees and IDPs. In addition, according to field observers, those measures have significantly reduced daily labor opportunities on which many migrant workers rely on for subsistence.

At the same time, clashes continue in Libya and, in some cases have intensified, particularly in and around Tripoli. This surge of attacks has resulted in renewed displacement and damage to civilian properties and infrastructure, including hospitals and other medical facilities, some of which were designated to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic.

ABOUT THE SURVEY

Survey period: 1-23 April 2020

1350 migrants surveyed

21 / 22 regions (mantika)

HIGHLIGHTS

32% of migrants in Libya reported inadequate food consumption*

52% of migrants who normally seek work on a daily basis reported that it had been difficult to find work over the past seven days

24% of migrants reported being unemployed, an increase of 7% compared to Jan-Feb 2020 data

38% of migrants who are unemployed reported inadequate food consumption

71% of migrants living in informal settings reported being highly food insecure

11% of migrants reported not having access to a kitchen (49% of which are food insecure)

653,800 migrants were identified during Round 29 of data collection for the period Jan - Feb 2020

FOOD SECURITY SITUATION

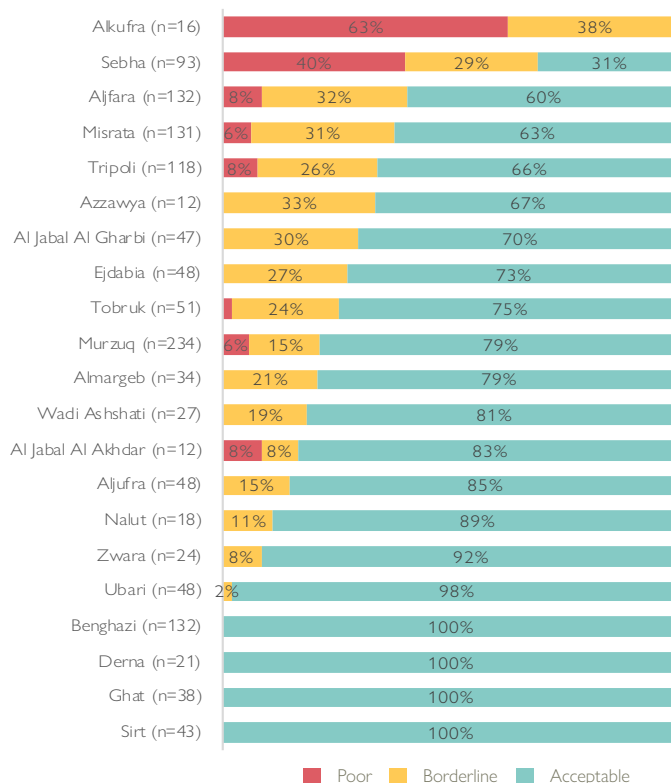
• Food consumption levels, which are measured by the frequency and diversity of foods consumed over the past seven days, were generally low and dietary diversity was poor for nearly one in three migrants (32%) interviewed*.

• In the West, food insecurity was most acute amongst migrants in urban settings in and around Tripoli region (mantika), such as in Abusliem municipality, where 85 per cent of interviewed migrants had borderline or poor food consumption levels, Tajoura (39%), Ain Zara (29%) and Hai Alandalus (6%). In addition, in Zliten, in the Misrata region, 84 per cent of migrants interviewed had low levels of food consumption.

• In the South, food insecurity levels were high in Albawanees (77%), in Sebha (66%) (where migrants reported to have been affected by increased food prices in February 2020) and to a lesser extent in Algatroun (17%).

• In the East, Al Kufra stands out as being highly food insecure with all migrants reporting a daily diet that is insufficient in diversity and nutrients. Around 63 percent of migrants interviewed had poor food consumption levels and 37 percent were classified as borderline.

Food security levels per region (mantika)



* calculated after applying sample weights to make the sample representative as per migrants' population by region / mantika (based on data from Round 29 of DTM Mobility Tracking, Jan-Feb 2020)

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COPING STRATEGIES

- Due to a lack of food or means to buy food, 65 per cent of migrants surveyed had to resort to a stress, crisis or emergency livelihood coping strategy in the past 30 days. For example, over a third of the migrants interviewed reported having to spend their savings to buy food (34%), one in five reported having to work in exchange for food (20%) and/or having to reduce their expenditure on essential non-food items (19%). The other most frequently adopted coping strategies included borrowing money to buy food (15%) and reducing health or medicine-related expenses (7%).
- The most common food coping strategies that migrants employed over the week prior to the survey were to consume less preferred and/or less expensive food items (on average more than twice a week), to limit portion sizes at mealtimes (nearly twice a week) and, most critically and frequently, to reduce the number of meals eaten in a day (on average more than once a week).

POTENTIAL DRIVERS OF VULNERABILITY



EMPLOYMENT STATUS

- The reported rate of unemployment amongst surveyed migrants increased from 17 per cent (for the period of Jan - Feb 2020) to 24 per cent in April 2020.
- More than half (52%) of migrants who normally seek work on a daily basis reported that it had been difficult to find work over the past seven days.
- Food consumption was not adequate for over a third of unemployed surveyed individuals (38%). Food consumption scores were borderline for 21 per cent and poor for 17 per cent of migrants.
- These findings confirm that migrants who depend on the ability to move for their safety, livelihoods and overall wellbeing are likely to be more vulnerable and suffer from food insecurity to a larger extent because of the measures implemented to tackle COVID-19 and the effects of the deteriorating security situation.



HEALTH

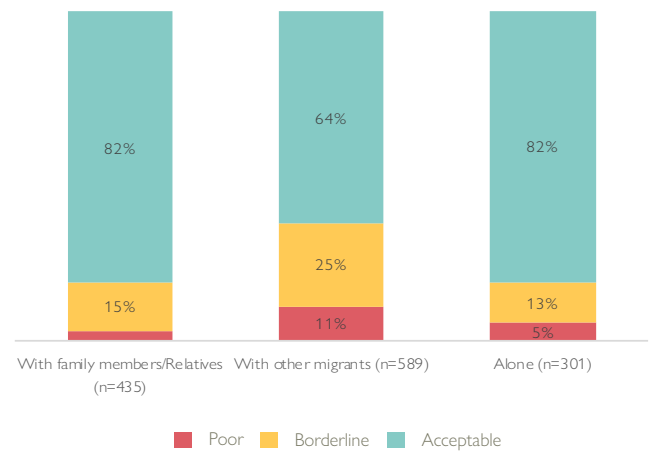
- Migrants' access to health services emerged as a critical constraint for 71 per cent of migrants interviewed in Round 29 of DTM data collection who reported having limited or no access to health services. This is of critical concern, especially in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.



ACCOMMODATION

- Living in unstable and improper accommodation seems to negatively influence food consumption at the individual level. More than 70 per cent of migrants living in informal settings (such as makeshift shelters) reported having poor levels of food security. In addition, 41 per cent of migrants who live in rented accommodation paid by others reported borderline (32%) or poor (9%) food consumption.
- Moreover, of the 148 migrants who do not have access to a kitchen, nearly half (49%) show borderline or poor consumption levels. Similarly, of the 154 migrants who reported not having access to kitchen utensils, 51 per cent have low levels of food security (borderline (23%) and poor (28%)).
- The number of food insecure migrants is highest for those living with other migrants (36%) compared to those living either with family members and relatives (18%) or alone (18%).

Food security levels per type of living arrangement



DURATION OF STAY

- The survey results confirm that the length of stay in Libya has an influence on migrants' vulnerabilities and humanitarian needs. Those who have arrived recently suffer from greater levels of food insecurity. For example, of migrants who arrived in Libya less than a year ago, 43 per cent showed either borderline or poor food consumption scores. In comparison, for those who have been in country for one to four years, this proportion falls to 19 per cent and to 6 per cent for those who have been there for five years or longer.