

## OVERVIEW

The first confirmed case of COVID-19 in Libya was reported on 24 March 2020, while public health measures aimed at preventing the spread coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 had already begun in mid-March in the form of restrictions on freedom of movement, including closures of the points of entry (POE) to Libya<sup>1</sup>. Local measures such as curfews and area wide quarantines were implemented to prevent the community transmission of Covid-19.

While these public health measures in the form of restrictions on mobility are essential in reducing the risks associated with the spread of Covid-19, they also have the unintended potential of increasing other risks for vulnerable populations, especially those who depend on mobility for survival and subsistence.

DTM initiated a bi-weekly assessment component as part of its mobility tracking activities aimed at understanding the impact of Covid-19 related mobility restrictions and curfews on vulnerable mobile populations in Libya. The primary focus of this assessment is not epidemiology or health, but understanding the impact of mobility restrictions on vulnerable populations for whom mobility is critical, such as migrants and internally displaced persons (IDPs).

This report presents the findings of the first bi-weekly DTM assessment conducted in the last two weeks of April 2020, covering 39 municipalities (baladiya) of Libya with significant IDP and migrant populations.

## METHODOLOGY

This assessment was carried out through Key Informant Interviews (KIs) conducted at municipality (baladiya) and community (muhalla) levels, with the findings presented at municipality (baladiya) level. This report also presents an area level analysis of a series of indicators on the freedom of movement and mobility, their impact on employment and other key mobility dependent coping mechanisms with an aim of understanding their impact on the humanitarian situation of migrants, IDPs, and host communities (local residents). The findings are also compared by area to identify the areas and populations worst affected.

Furthermore, a DTM Rapid Market Assessment was also integrated in the overall assessment to ascertain the impact of Covid-19 on the availability of food, prices, and access to markets as well as availability of services in the target locations.

<sup>1</sup> DTM initiated tracking of mobility restrictions by late March 2020, for further details see DTM Libya — Mobility Restriction Dashboard #3, published 7 May 2020 ([Report can be accessed here](#)).

## HIGHLIGHTS

In **93%** of assessed locations, migrants who rely on daily labour were reported to have been negatively affected due to Covid-19 induced slowdown in economic activities

**UNEMPLOYMENT** is one of the major risk factors that increases vulnerability of migrants in Libya to harm and creates negative humanitarian consequences<sup>2</sup>

**24%** of migrants reported being unemployed during April 2020, an increase of 7% over Jan-Feb 2020 data<sup>3</sup>

**32%** of migrants in Libya reported inadequate food consumption during the month of April 2020<sup>2</sup>

In **35%** of assessed locations, migrants were reported to be unable to move freely within the municipality (due to the mobility restrictions / curfew)

In **28%** of assessed locations, residents and host community members were reported to be unable to move freely within the municipality (due to the mobility restrictions / curfew)

In **90%** of assessed location all residents including IDPs were reported to have been negatively affected to some extent (due to the mobility restrictions / curfew)

In **56%** of assessed location residents including IDPs and host community members depending on daily wages were reported to be affected due to loss of employment opportunities

<sup>2</sup> DTM Libya Migrant Vulnerability and Humanitarian Needs Assessment ([Report can be accessed here](#)).

<sup>3</sup> DTM Migrant Emergency Food Security Assessment ([Report can be accessed here](#)).

## FINDINGS OF ASSESSMENT

The impact of Covid-19 related mobility restrictions on vulnerable mobile populations such as migrants and IDPs was determined to be area specific. The municipalities assessed were found to have implemented mobility restrictions and curfews during the assessment period to varying degrees, however the vulnerable populations in the municipalities of Abusliem, Aljufra, Benghazi, Daraj, Ejdabia, Gharb Azzawya, Ghiryan, Janzour, Misrata, and Sabratha were found to face negative consequences to a larger extent than in other assessed locations (further details on pages 4-5).

The most significant impact of Covid-19 related mobility restrictions was found to be on migrants, specifically those migrants relying on daily wages earned through casual labour. In 93% of the municipalities (baladiya) assessed in the last two weeks of April 2020, casual labour opportunities available to migrants were reported to have significantly reduced due to the mobility restrictions imposed and the resulting slowdown in the economic activity.

Furthermore, in 35% of the municipalities assessed, migrants were reported to be unable to move freely, while in 50% of the municipalities' migrants were reported to be unable to leave or return to the areas assessed due to the curfews and restrictions in place (e.g. closure of checkpoints). Mobility restrictions, while important public health measures, have significant impact on migrants in terms of increasing their vulnerabilities by reducing access to employment and financial coping strategies.

In 17% of the municipalities assessed by DTM, migrant workers were observed to be completely absent from street side work recruitment points where they usually gather in search of casual labour jobs further indicating the negative impact of curfew and restrictions on freedom of movement.

The mobility restrictions imposed and the related reduction in the available employment opportunities are therefore found to have significantly increased the vulnerabilities of migrants. DTM Libya's Migrant Vulnerability and Humanitarian Needs Assessment had previously identified unemployment amongst migrants in Libya as a significant vulnerability factor with multi-sectoral implications such as increased food insecurity, reduced access to services, and an overall reduction in the positive coping strategies.<sup>1</sup>

Ability to move away from conflict affected areas to seek protection in safer areas is critical for the survival of internally displaced persons (IDPs). During the assessment period, in 9 municipalities IDPs were reported to be unable to arrive due to curfews and restrictions on freedom of movement imposed to prevent the spread of Covid-19. Six of these municipalities were in western Libya where conflict affected IDPs have continued to arrive over the past year.

Therefore, public health measures imposed in the form of curfews and restrictions on freedom of movement may also have the unintended consequence of increasing vulnerabilities of IDPs.

In 90% of the municipalities assessed all residents were reported to have been negatively affected to some extent by the curfews and restrictions on freedom of movement. In 56% of the municipalities assessed the residents and host community members depending on daily wages were reported to be most affected by the loss of employment opportunities.

The integrated DTM rapid market assessment component implemented identified that in 91% of the areas assessed significant market closures were reported as a reaction and negative consequence of Covid-19 related curfew and mobility restrictions. In 18 municipalities out of the 39 assessed more than 75% of the grocery stores and supermarkets were reported to be closed.

80% of the key informants reported that food and non-food items' prices had increased, confirming the trend observed by Libya Joint Market Monitoring Initiative's (JMIMI) 2-10 April 2020 report.<sup>2</sup> Furthermore, 92% of interviewed KIs also reported that customers were stocking up on essential items creating further shortage of essential supplies.

Regarding access to services, in 13 municipalities out of the 39 assessed, health facilities were reported to be infrequently open in the seven days preceding the assessment. The availability of water in 22 municipalities out of the 39 assessed, water supply was reported to be infrequent and unreliable. These findings on lack of adequate functional health facilities and insufficient supply of water indicate that vulnerable populations are at further risk of facing deteriorated conditions resulting in negative humanitarian consequences.

Lastly, in 92% of the municipalities assessed key informants reported that at least some local awareness campaigns against the spread of Covid-19 had been carried out, while need for further risk communication and community engagement (RCCE) exercises remains. In all locations assessed some levels of hygiene campaigns were also reported to have been carried out, although there still remains a need for further activities aimed at promotion of good hygiene practices to slow down and preventing the spread of Covid-19.

<sup>1</sup> DTM Libya Migrant Vulnerability and Humanitarian Needs Assessment ([Report can be accessed here](#)).

<sup>2</sup> Libya CMWG, Joint Market Monitoring Initiative (JMIMI) April 2020 ([Report can be accessed here](#))

**IMPACT OF MOBILITY RESTRICTIONS - COMPARISON BY MUNICIPALITIES**

The analysis presented here in the form of municipality level comparison is based on the findings along key proxy indicators aimed at understanding the extent and impact of restrictions on freedom movement in the form of curfew or area level quarantines on the residents of these areas, including migrants and IDPs.

These findings are indexed and ranked according to their overall impact on the vulnerable populations.

Key proxy indicators used to design the index are related to:

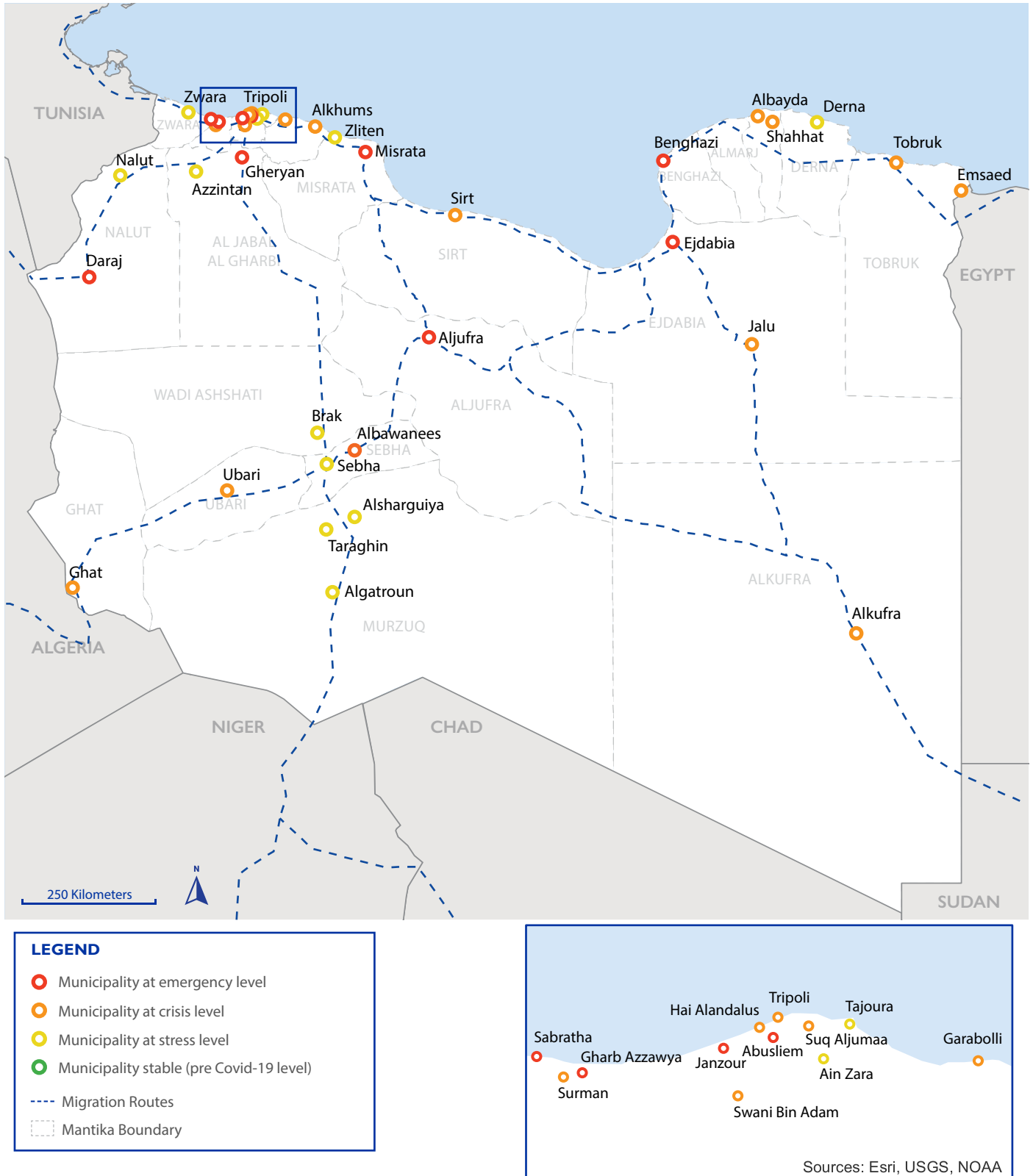
- Extent of the restrictions on freedom of movement
- Impact of these mobility restrictions or restriction on freedom of movement such as difficulties in accessing workplaces and markets
- Loss of work opportunities for migrants and host community members dependent on daily wages

Fig 1 Comparison by municipality showing the extent and impact of mobility restrictions as per the key proxy indicators

Area Assessed (baladiya / municipality)		Impact Level	IDPs (IND)	Migrants (IND)	Impact of Covid-19 Public Health Measures (Lockdown / Quarantine)	
West	Sabratha	Emergency	5,655	8,920	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Significant negative impact on migrants and residents reported, due to Covid-19 related mobility restrictions.</li> <li>• Areas in western Libya were already under stress due to conflict, and with slowdown in economic activities due to Covid-19 fears the work opportunities available to migrants dependent on daily wages were reported to have drastically reduced.</li> </ul>	
	Abusliem		12,700	34,200		
	Gharb Azzawya		881	6,785		
	Misrata		4,360	1,936		
	Ghiryan		16,392	44,510		
	Daraj		720	3,900		
	Janzour		9,760	13,020		
	Alkhums	Crisis	7,339	4,635	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Negative impact of Covid-19 related mobility restrictions was reported on migrants and residents.</li> <li>• Migrants dependent on daily wages were reported to face difficulties in finding work opportunities.</li> <li>• At several locations residents including migrants also faced difficulties in not only accessing workplaces but also in accessing markets for purchasing items of daily need.</li> </ul>	
	Garabolli		8,629	5,300		
	Suq Aljumaa		29,825	7,345		
	Tripoli		2,160	3,486		
	Surman		8,277	8,550		
	Sirt		13,993	7,790		
	Hai Alandalus		11,525	3,980		
	Swani Bin Adam		3,650	1,990		
	Ain Zara		Stressed	8,545		28,800
Zwara	2,165			19,690		
Azzintan	680	4,066				
Nalut	875	702				
Tajoura	23,778	11,955				
Zliten	10,025	9,510				
East	Benghazi	Emergency	27,265	29,865	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Significant negative impact on migrants and residents reported, due to Covid-19 related mobility restrictions.</li> </ul>	
	Ejdabia		11,855	39,240		
	Jalu	Crisis	435	8,600	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Negative impact of Covid-19 related mobility restrictions was reported on migrants and residents.</li> <li>• Including difficulties faced by migrants dependent on daily wages in finding work opportunities.</li> </ul>	
	Albayda		1,650	16,100		
	Shahhat		75	3,200		
	Tobruk	Stressed	6,855	31,356	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A reduction in the availability of work opportunities for migrants dependent on daily wages was reported.</li> <li>• Overall moderate impact of curfew on mobility reported.</li> </ul>	
	Alkufra		820	6,366		
	Emsaed		65	460		
Derna	165		1,850			
South	Aljufra	Emergency	1,945	14,050	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Significant negative impact reported due to curfew.</li> </ul>	
	Albawanees		770	1,060		
	Ubari	Crisis	5,720	9,570	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Negative impact of mobility restrictions was reported on migrants and residents, including difficulties in accessing workplaces and finding jobs if needed.</li> </ul>	
	Ghat		8,135	15,615		
	Brak		910	1,995		
	Sebha	Stressed	25,655	52,310	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A reduction in the availability of work opportunities for migrants dependent on daily wages was reported.</li> <li>• Overall moderate impact of curfew on mobility reported as residents of the assessed areas were able to move within and outside the areas assessed.</li> </ul>	
	Algatroun		4,170	20,147		
	Alsharguiya		3,875	25,697		
	Taraghin		3,395	17,685		

Impact levels are color coded based on the analysis of responses received to the proxy indicators where ■ red implies emergency, ■ orange implies crisis, ■ yellow implies stressed, and ■ green implies stable.

Fig 2 Map showing municipalities in Libya as per the extent and impact of mobility restrictions using key proxy indicators



## AREA ANALYSIS - FINDINGS BY MUNICIPALITIES

### West

#### Sabratha, Abusliem, Ghab Azzawya, Misrata, Ghiryan, Daraj, Janzour

Major parts of the municipalities of Sabratha, Abusliem, Ghab Azzawya, Misrata, Ghiryan, Daraj, and Janzour were reported to be under a strict lockdown with restrictions on movements outside and return to the area. As a result, IDPs were reported to face challenges in accessing some areas as well. Most of these municipalities in western Libya host significant IDP populations, and are also affected by the ongoing armed conflict.

Migrants could move within these municipalities but were not allowed to leave or enter. Migrants were reported to be present at street side work recruitment points in Abusliem, Ghiryan, and Janzour, while in the other municipalities migrants were not present at work recruitment points. Jobs for migrants dependent on casual labour were reported to be not available due to the Covid-19 crisis induced reduction in economic activities. Migrants were reported to be severely affected by the Covid-19 related restrictions on movement in several of these areas. Residents of these municipalities were reported to be affected in general, as people faced challenges in going to work, those dependent on daily wages struggled to find work, and during the assessment period residents were in some instances not allowed to go to markets or grocery stores.

#### Alkhums, Garabolli, Suq Aljumaa, Tripoli, Surman, Sirt, Hai Alandalus, Swani Bin Adam

In the municipalities of Alkhums, and Garabolli IDPs were reported to further face challenges in arriving to these areas from the nearby conflict affected locations due to Covid-19 related restrictions on freedom of movement during the assessment period. These municipalities host significant numbers of IDPs, and are directly or indirectly affected by the ongoing armed conflict in western Libya.

Migrants were reported to be present at street side work recruitment points in Suq Aljumaa, Tripoli, Surman, Sirt, Hai Alandalus, while in Alkhums, Garabolli, and Swani Bin Adam migrants were absent from such recruitment points. In all these locations a reduction in casual work or job opportunities available to migrants dependent on daily wages was reported due to slowdown in economic and market activities. Migrants also faced challenges due to the various levels of curfews and restrictions on mobility imposed, while other residents of these municipalities were also unable to freely move within, to and from the municipalities due to the reported closure of various check points, causing difficulties for those depending on work for daily wages.

#### Ain Zara, Zwara, Azzintan, Nalut, Tajoura, Zliten

Migrants in Jalu were reported to be negatively impacted due to a reduction in the number of jobs available due to slowdown in economic activities. Migrants were also reported to be unable to move within the municipality area due to restrictions on the freedom of movement. Overall, residents of the municipality were also reported to be negatively affected as they were unable to go to work, or for shopping and those who were outside the municipality area were not allowed to return.

### East

#### Benghazi, Edjabia

During the assessment, a strict curfew was observed in major parts of Benghazi and Edjabia. Restrictions on freedom of movement within, to and from the municipality were reported. Overall, vulnerable residents were reported to be affected in both municipalities, especially those dependent on daily wages. Residents attempting to return back to Benghazi were reportedly not allowed without mandatory quarantine, whereas residents of other areas who were inside the municipality were reported to be not allowed to leave. In Benghazi's Benina neighborhood the restrictions were reported to be less severe than in the rest of the municipality. While in Edjabia residents were reported to be unable to go to work or leave the municipality.

As a result, IDPs were reported to face challenges to enter, while migrants were unable to move within, to or out of both the municipalities. Migrants were not present at work recruitment points in Benghazi, while in Edjabia migrants were observed to be present at the street side work recruitment points, although to a lesser extent than normally. Casual labour jobs for migrants were also reported to be unavailable in Benghazi, while only few migrants were able to find casual work in Edjabia. Overall, migrants' work prospects were severely impacted, in turn resulting in negative humanitarian consequences with reduced coping strategies available, and exposure to further harm via use of emergency level coping strategies.

#### Jalu, Albayda, Shahhat, Tobruk

Migrants in Jalu, Albayda, Shahhat, were reported to be negatively impacted due to a reduction in the number of jobs available due to the COVID-19 induced economic slowdown. While migrants were observed to be present at work recruitment points at times,

they were reported to face challenges in moving within these municipality areas due to Covid-19 related restrictions on the freedom of movement. In Albayda and Shahhat migrants were reported to be severely affected by these restrictions, and the slowdown in activities.

Overall, residents of these municipalities were also reported to be negatively affected by the restrictions on mobility as they faced challenges in going to work, or for grocery shopping, with significant impact reported on those residents dependent on daily wages in Albayda, and Shahhat,. In Tobruk residents who were outside the municipality area during the assessment period were reported to be not allowed to return.

### Alkufra, Emsaed, Derna

In Alkufra, Emsaed, and Derna migrants faced significant challenges due to restrictions on freedom of movement, as they could not move within the municipality, go out or return, nor could they look for work opportunities at recruitment points. In Alkufra and Emsaed the jobs available to migrants dependent on daily wages were reported to have been negatively affected due to a slowdown in the economic activities, while in all three municipalities migrants were reported to be present at street side work recruitment points searching for jobs. In Alkufra, in specific, the combination of pre-existing dire conditions and the impact of Covid-19 public health measures was reported to have severely affected the situation of migrants. Closure of check points at the entrances to these municipalities was also reported to affect movements to and from these locations.

## South

### Aljufra

Residents in Aljufra were unable to move within the municipality or travel from/to Aljufra due to the curfew imposed and the closure of check points. The overall situation of migrants was reported to be severely affected and they were reported to be unable to find work due to a lack of available jobs. Migrants faced severe restrictions on their freedom of movement, as they could not move within the municipality, go out or return, nor could they look for work opportunities at recruitment points. Overall, the entire population of the municipality was substantially affected as people could not go to work, look for work if dependent on daily wages, and were not allowed to go to markets / shops.

### Albawanees, Ubari, Ghat

In Albawanees, due to imposed movement restrictions, people were not allowed to leave or enter the municipality. In the three municipalities of Albawanees, Ubari, and Ghat curfew and mobility restrictions had reportedly affected all residents, as they could not go to work and faced challenges in accessing markets or grocery stores for shopping. Migrants were reported to be present at work recruitment points in all three areas, while work opportunities available were reported to be reduced due to a slow down in the economic activity. In Ghat and Ubari resident's dependent on daily wages were reported to face challenges due to the mobility restrictions put in place.

### Brak, Sebha, Algatroun, Taraghin

The restrictions on freedom of movement implemented in the municipalities of Brak, Sebha, Algatroun, and Taraghin were reported to be not severe. Migrants were observed to be present at street side work recruitment points looking for casual labour; and although jobs were reported to be available, an overall reduction in the job availability was reported. Migrants were reported to be negatively affected by the slowdown in economic activities. In Brak, mobility restrictions had negatively affected all the residents during the assessment period, including those who were stuck outside and could not return due to closure of check points at the entrance to the municipality.



**RAPID MARKET ASSESSMENT**

The findings of the DTM Rapid Market Assessment shows that in all municipalities assessed during the reporting period, grocery shops and supermarkets were closed more than usual. In 91% of the areas assessed market closures were reported to be a negative consequence of Covid-19 related curfew and mobility restrictions, while in the rest of areas assessed there were mixed reasons for market closures. In 18 municipalities out of the 39 assessed (46%) more than 75% of the grocery stores and supermarkets were reported to be closed. Fig 3 shows the extent of market closures by percentage of municipalities assessed, indicating that the spread of market closures followed localized trends.

Fig 3 Extent of market closures by municipalities

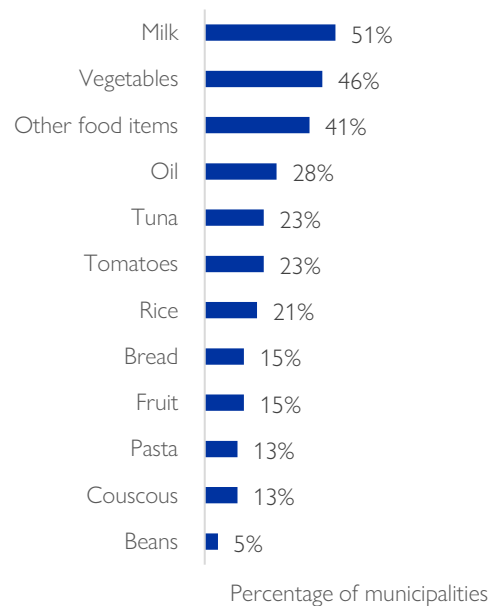


In terms of increase in prices of food and non-food items 80% of the key informants reported that the prices had increased, while 93% also reported that customers during the assessment time period were stocking up on essential items creating further shortages of essential supplies.

However, the assessment period overlapped with the start of the Muslim month of Ramadan, and therefore price hikes should not only be attributed to Covid-19 induced changes in the consumption patterns as is also observed in several other countries.

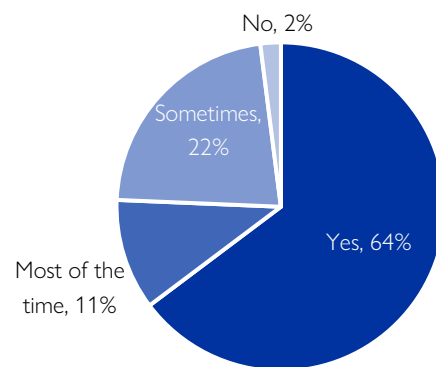
A wide range of food and non-food items were reported missing from the consumer markets during the assessment period. Figure 4 shows the food items by percentage of municipalities where key informants reported the unavailability of these items. In 51% of the municipalities assessed milk was reported to be unavailable in supermarkets and grocery stores, while simultaneously in slightly more than half of the other municipalities where milk was available key informants reported that the price of milk had increased significantly.

Fig 4 Food items reported unavailable by percentage of municipalities assessed



In 64% of the areas assessed key informants reported that people were able to safely access markets. Whereas only in one municipality (Sabratha, 2%) safe access to markets was reported as constrained, while residents including migrants and IDPs in rest of the areas faced challenges in accessing the markets to varying degrees as shown in figure 5.

Fig 5 Can people safely access the markets?



Furthermore, in all municipalities assessed except three, key informants reported that people were stockpiling food supplies during the assessment time period. In 80% of the municipalities assessed key informants also reported that there was a general perception amongst the residents of their municipalities that the food stocks may run out in the market, which may explain the stockpiling behavior. Libyan consumer market depends on several imported food stuff for local consumption, and border closures may impact the supply chain resulting in shortages of certain imported food items in the short to middle term.

In terms of non-food items (NFIs) key informants in 85% of the municipalities assessed reported that hygiene items such as hand sanitizers and surface disinfectants were not available in the local markets. The rest of the NFIs not available are recorded per the percentage of municipalities where key informants reported unavailability of these items in figure 6.

Fig 6 Non-Food Items (NFIs) reported unavailable by percentage of municipalities assessed

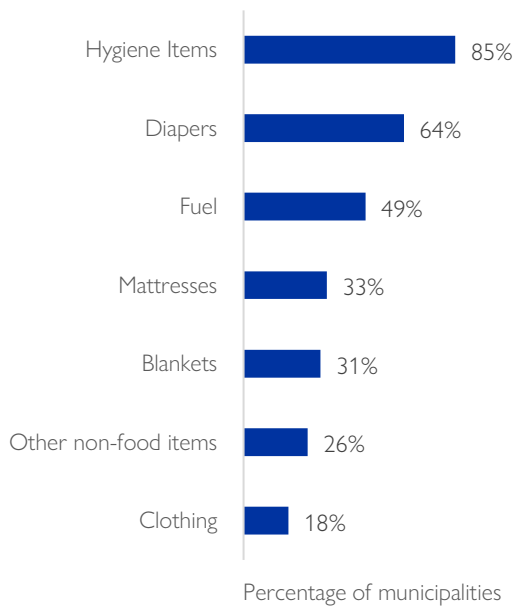
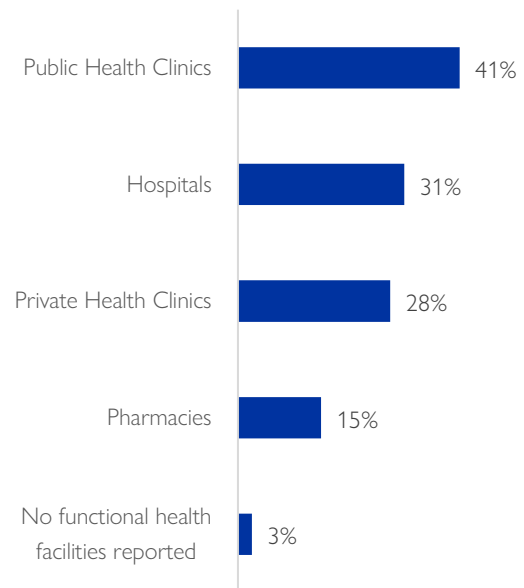
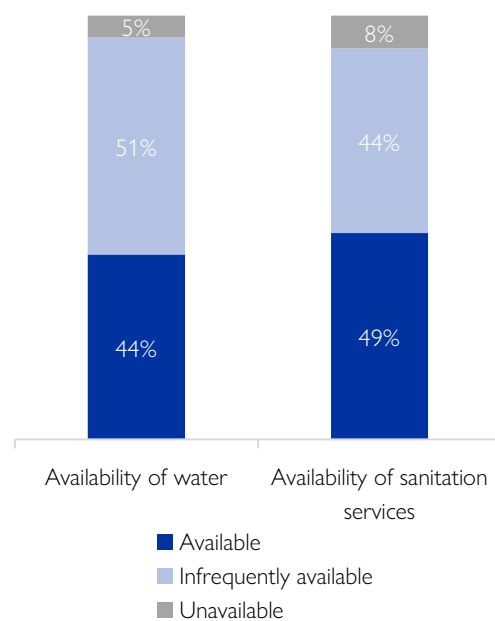


Fig 7 Availability of health services in the municipalities assessed.



From the findings of this rapid assessment critical gaps in the availability of WASH services are identified, that may increase Covid-19 related risks especially for the vulnerable populations.

Fig 8 Availability of WASH services in the municipalities assessed.



## PUBLIC SERVICES

DTM's Mobility Tracking and Location Assessment also aim to understand the availability of public services in the municipalities assessed. As shown in figure 7, in all municipalities assessed except for Gharb Azzawiya, key informants reported availability of various types of health services.

In all 39 municipalities assessed educational institutions were reported to be closed as part of the Covid-19 public health measures.

Regarding availability of water and sanitation (WASH) services, as shown in figure 8, availability of water was reported to be limited (51% infrequently available, and 5% unavailable) in the majority of municipalities assessed, while similarly sanitation services were unavailable in 8%, and infrequently available in 44% of the assessed municipalities. Adequate and dependable availability of water, hygiene, and sanitation (WASH) services is critical in enabling individuals and households in Libya to take infection prevention measures against Covid-19.