



DTM



MIGRANT EMERGENCY FOOD SECURITY REPORT

LIBYA • MAY 2020

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Cover Photo: In response to challenges posed by conflict and COVID-19 in Libya, IOM teams expanded assistance to migrants and internally displaced persons by providing needed humanitarian items including WFP-provided food, © IOM 2020/Moayad Zaghdani

Photo page 7: IOM and WFP are partnering to provide humanitarian assistance to vulnerable civilians in Libya, © IOM 2020/ Moayad Zaghdani

Photo page 10: In May 2020, IOM and WFP provided food rations to vulnerable migrants in Tripoli, designed to sustain them for at least one month, © IOM 2020/ Moayad Zaghdani

Photo page 16: In response to challenges posed by conflict and COVID-19 in Libya, IOM teams expanded assistance to migrants and internally displaced persons by providing needed humanitarian items including food, © IOM 2020/ Moayad Zaghdani

Photo page 43: IOM and WFP are partnering to provide humanitarian assistance to vulnerable civilians in Libya, © IOM 2020/ Moayad Zaghdani



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LIST OF ACRONYMS

COVID-19	Coronavirus disease 2019
(r)CSI	(reduced) Coping Strategy Index
DTM	Displacement Tracking Matrix
FCS	Food consumption scores
IOM	International Organization for Migration
ILO	International Labour Organization
OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (UN Human Rights)
UN	United Nations
UNSMIL	United Nations Support Mission in Libya
WFP	World Food Programme



PART 1 HIGHLIGHTS

HIGHLIGHTS

Food security, which was already a challenge for migrants, is being compromised by a deteriorating security situation and the threat of COVID-19 and its socioeconomic impacts, which include the lack of daily casual labour opportunities.

Access to health services emerged as a critical constraint for the majority of interviewed migrants who reported having limited or no access to health services.

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

Migrants who are unemployed or rely on daily casual labour, those who have been in Libya less than a year and those living in urban centres in Western Libya and along the main migratory routes are more likely to suffer from high levels of inadequate food consumption.

The coping strategy adoption analysis confirms that the disruption of livelihoods caused by measures implemented to curb the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic can hamper resilience and living standards and increase migrants' vulnerability to food insecurity. Nearly two-thirds (65%) of migrants surveyed had to resort to a stress, crisis or emergency livelihood coping strategy in the past 30 days due to a lack of food or means to buy food.

56%

of migrants reported having to compromise their food intake, in the majority of cases to save money

32%

had inadequate food consumption levels

31%

had to resort to a crisis or emergency livelihood coping strategy due to a lack of food or means to buy food

Food coping strategies were widely adopted by 63 per cent of migrants due to a lack of food or means to buy food (in the seven days prior to the survey). Moreover, a high proportion of migrants with acceptable food consumption levels (64%) are using coping strategies to mitigate a lack of food or the means to buy food and should the security and economic situation continue to deteriorate, they could fall into food insecurity.

63%

of surveyed migrants had to resort to food-related coping strategies due to a lack of food or means to buy food

Type and availability of employment appear to be among the driving factors of food insecurity. Overall, there were consistently higher levels of inadequate food consumption amongst those who reported seeking casual labour on a daily basis (34%) than for those who enjoy regular employment (11%).

72%

of migrants who rely on daily casual labour stated that it had been difficult to find work in the past seven days prior to the survey

The survey results confirm that the length of stay in Libya has an influence on migrants' vulnerabilities and humanitarian needs as migrants who have arrived recently suffer from greater levels of inadequate food consumption. A total of 43 per cent of migrants who arrived in Libya less than a year ago have inadequate food consumption levels. This proportion is more than twice that of those who have been in the country for one to four years (19%) and over seven times that of those who have been in the country for five years or longer (6%).

43%

of migrants who arrived in Libya less than a year ago had inadequate food consumption levels compared to 6% for those who have been in the country for five years or longer

Food consumption levels were lower for migrants living in unstable and improper accommodation. More than 70 per cent of migrants living in informal settings (such as makeshift shelters) and 41 per cent of migrants who live in rented accommodation paid by others had inadequate levels of food consumption. Moreover, of the 148 migrants who do not have access to a kitchen, nearly half (49%) had low food consumption levels.

70%

of migrants living in informal settings had inadequate food consumption levels

PART 2 BACKGROUND

CONTEXT

In Libya, the first cases of COVID-19 were [reported](#) in March 2020. Libyan authorities subsequently implemented public health measures restricting travel and domestic mobility to curb the spread of COVID-19. As a result, official air, land and sea entry points were closed, or partially closed, and a curfew and social distancing measures were introduced, impacting many people's lives and livelihoods.

According to field observers, the containment measures have significantly reduced daily labour opportunities which can increase the vulnerability of migrants who rely on informal work for their food security, housing and access to health services and may be contributing to further eroding their capacity for resilience. According to [Key Informant Interviews](#) conducted by DTM Libya from 19 April – 07 May 2020, in 93 per cent of assessed locations, migrants who rely on daily labour reported to have been negatively affected by the economic slowdown brought by measures to curb COVID-19.

Vulnerability & Humanitarian Needs

This assessment uses IOM's [Determinants of Migrant Vulnerability \(DoMV\)](#) model as an analytical framework and which articulates vulnerability around risk and protective factors. Risk factors contribute to vulnerability, while protective factors improve capabilities to avoid, cope with, or recover from harm. Humanitarian needs are understood as gaps between the assessed conditions of migrants with regards to their vulnerabilities (at individual, household/family, and community levels) and the acceptable conditions which would enable them to effectively enjoy their human rights.

In parallel, according to the [Libya Joint Market Monitoring Initiative](#), in the first week of April 2020, the cost of the Minimum Expenditure Basket increased on average by almost 30 per cent, driven mostly by increases in cooking fuel. A rise in food prices and scarcity of some types of food in certain areas were also [reported](#), which can constitute a threat to the food security, safety and wellbeing of migrants, refugees and IDPs'.

At the same time, and despite calls for a global ceasefire to focus on curbing the spread of COVID-19, clashes continue in Libya and, in some cases have intensified, particularly in and around Tripoli as well as in other locations in western Libya. Between 1 January and 31 March 2020, the UN Support Mission to Libya (UNSMIL) [documented](#) at least 131 civilian casualties (64 deaths and 67 injuries), which represents a 45 per cent increase in civilian casualties compared to the previous three months. This deteriorating security situation has also 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.

PURPOSE

Amid a global public health crisis, rising food security concerns and a deteriorating security situation, IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) in collaboration with WFP Libya conducted a Migrant Emergency Food Security Assessment in Libya to:

1. Inform development and humanitarian actors on the food security status of migrants;
2. Identify the most vulnerable groups and the challenges they face to determine how best to assist these populations in their current location.

 **653,800**

migrants were identified by IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) during Round 29 of data collection for the period January – February 2020.

METHODOLOGY

This report presents findings of IOM Libya's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) migrant food security assessment conducted by IOM field staff between 01 - 23 April 2020 in 37 municipalities (baladiya) across 21 regions (mantika) amongst a total of 1350 migrants. Data was collected through individual interviews with migrants which were conducted in compliance with WHO guidelines on preventing the spread of COVID-19 and practicing physical distancing.

The assessment tool included questions on demographics, drivers of migration, employment, living arrangements, as well as health, access to health care and food security. Food security specific questions were developed in partnership with WFP Libya's team based on the main [WFP's standard food security indicators](#) to capture two key dimensions of food insecurity: current status and coping capacity.

Current food insecurity levels were assessed using Food consumption scores (FCS) and the reduced Coping Strategy Index (rCSI).

The food consumption score is a proxy indicator that measures dietary diversity and frequency of the household (including a single-person) consumption of nutritionally important food groups during a seven-day recall period. Based on defined thresholds, households are grouped into three categories: poor, borderline and acceptable food consumption.

- **Acceptable** Households that consume staples and vegetables every day, frequently accompanied by oil and pulses, and occasionally meat, fish and dairy.
- **Borderline** Households or individuals that consume staples and vegetables every day, accompanied by oil and pulses a few times a week.
- **Poor** Households or individuals that are not consuming staples and vegetables every day and never or very seldom consume protein-rich food such as meat and dairy.

The (reduced) Coping Strategy Index (CSI) is a comparison tool that can be used to measure food insecurity across different contexts. The CSI is based on a series of questions to determine how households (including individuals) manage to cope with a shortfall in food consumption with a simple numeric score.

The coping capacity of migrants was assessed using the Livelihood Coping Strategies, which measures the extent to which individuals engage in longer-term alteration of income earning or food production patterns, and one-off responses such as asset sales to meet their immediate food security needs in times of crisis or shock. It considers the impact of these coping strategies on the individual's livelihood as it may affect longer term productive ability, or capacity to cope with future hardship.

Limitations

- **Representativeness:** The report presents findings from a substantial sample of 1,350 interviews collected through surveys over a period of three weeks. As such, it provides a snapshot of a situation which is evolving quickly for a highly heterogenous group of the population. However, the findings are deemed plausible and representative of the broader migrant population in Libya as they are corroborated by the conclusions of other [reports](#).
- **Accessibility bias:** Migrants were interviewed face-to-face in public spaces, such as work recruitment points (where migrants gather to seek short-term casual labour), collective sites of accommodation and other locations like markets and public buildings, and transit points along key migration routes. Furthermore, migrants who are integrated in the formal economy are less likely to be captured due to the location of interviews. In addition, this exercise does not capture migrants living in detention centres and does not distinguish between economic migrants, asylum seekers and refugees. While this (purposive) sampling approach limits the assessed sample from being statistically representative of the demographic make-up of the entire migrant stock in Libya, it represents a large-scale assessment of migrants who are accessible for the provision of humanitarian assistance.

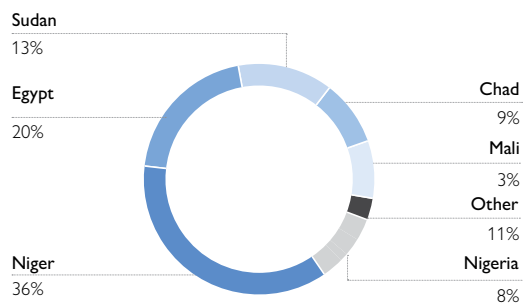
Despite these limitations, the assessment is perceived as providing an accurate picture of the situation of migrants in assessed locations.

MIGRANT DEMOGRAPHICS

Country of origin

Migrants surveyed were from 26 different nationalities. The majority (78%) came from neighbouring countries: Niger (36%), Egypt (20%), Sudan (13%) and Chad (9%), which is consistent with [previously observed trends](#) and matches the proportion of the migrant stock from Libya's neighbouring countries identified via DTM's Mobility Tracking ([Round 29](#)). Beyond the geographical proximity, historical ties and well-established migration patterns, including networks like diaspora or migrant communities, could be some of the reasons why most migrants in Libya are from neighbouring countries. A smaller proportion came from other African countries (mainly from the Sahel region): Nigeria (8%), Mali (3%) and Burkina Faso (2.5%) and to a much lesser extent from the Middle East (1%) or Asia (3%).

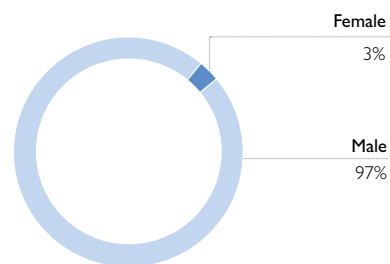
Fig 1 Respondents' countries of origin



Gender

The majority of surveys were conducted amongst male migrants (97%) while three percent of respondents identified as female. The under-representation of female in the sample can be attributed to three main factors. First, the majority of migrants in Libya are men (89% according to [Round 29](#)). Second, for socio-cultural reasons women respondents tend to be less likely to consent to interviews. Lastly, 62 per cent of interviews took place at job recruitment points which is likely to lead to an over-representation of young men who tend to look for work in these locations and under-representation of women who do not tend to seek work in these locations as jobs offered are mostly physically intensive.

Fig 2 Respondents' gender breakdown



Age

The majority (89%) of migrants were between the ages of 20 and 40. A minority of migrants interviewed were younger than 20 years old (3%) or older than 40 (8%) with only a very small minority (3 respondents, or 0.2%) who were older than sixty years old.

Education

In line with [previous reports](#), there is a disparity in the range of educational backgrounds. More than a third of migrants (36%) had either never attended school (20%) or did not complete primary school (16%). Around 44 per cent of migrants reported having completed up to primary (24%) or middle school levels (20%), while nearly two in five migrants (19%) had achieved high school or higher.

Main drivers of migration

The vast majority of migrants – independently of their time of arrival and length of stay in Libya – mentioned employment opportunities and economic reasons (90%) as the top reason that made them decide to leave their home communities and countries, which is consistent with results from previous [studies](#). Push factors included insufficient income (44%) or no job opportunities in country of origin (25%) and pull factors included looking for job opportunities abroad (21%), which largely reflects the results of past [studies](#).

Fig 3 Respondents per age group

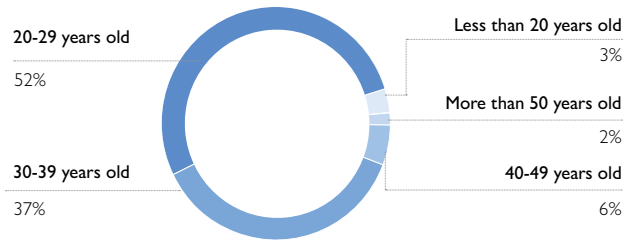
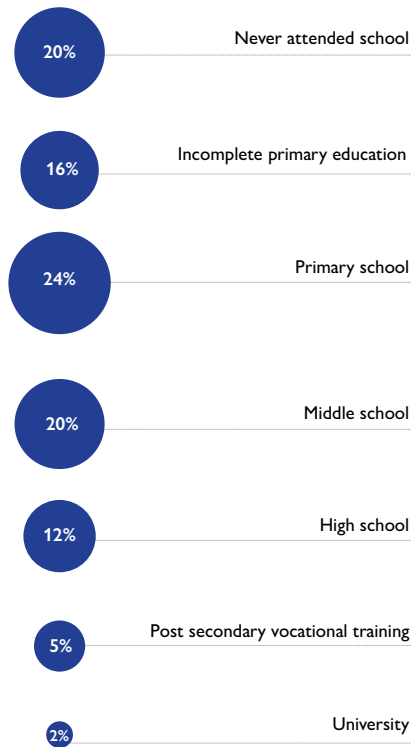


Fig 4 Respondents' levels of education





PART 3 FOOD SECURITY

FOOD SECURITY

Nearly a third of migrants are classified as food insecure (severely/moderately food insecure) (32%) according to both Food Consumption Scores and the Livelihood Strategies indicators. An additional third are considered marginally food insecure (34%) and at risk of food insecurity. This means that they have achieved minimally adequate food consumption without engaging in irreversible coping strategies. The 'marginally food secure' households have managed to meet the minimum food consumption through adopting livelihood coping strategies as is shown in the high rate (one in three) of adoption of stress level livelihood coping strategies. Food insecure migrants typically have significant food consumption gaps and/or adopt severe coping strategies with their budget stretched to buy food.



34%

of surveyed migrants are considered marginally food secure

Figure 5 presents the results of the classification of migrants' food security levels based on their current status (Food Consumption Scores) and their coping capacity (Livelihood Coping Strategies)¹.

Fig 5 Proportion of migrants classified according to food security indicators

		Proportion of migrants classified according to food security indicators			
Food security dimension	Food security indicator	Food secure	Marginally food secure	Food insecure	
				Moderately food insecure	Severely food insecure
Current status (food-related behaviours)	Food Consumption Score (group)	68% Acceptable consumption	-	23% Borderline consumption	9% Poor consumption
Coping capacity	Livelihood Coping Strategies	35% No coping	34% Stress coping	28% Crisis coping	3% Emergency coping

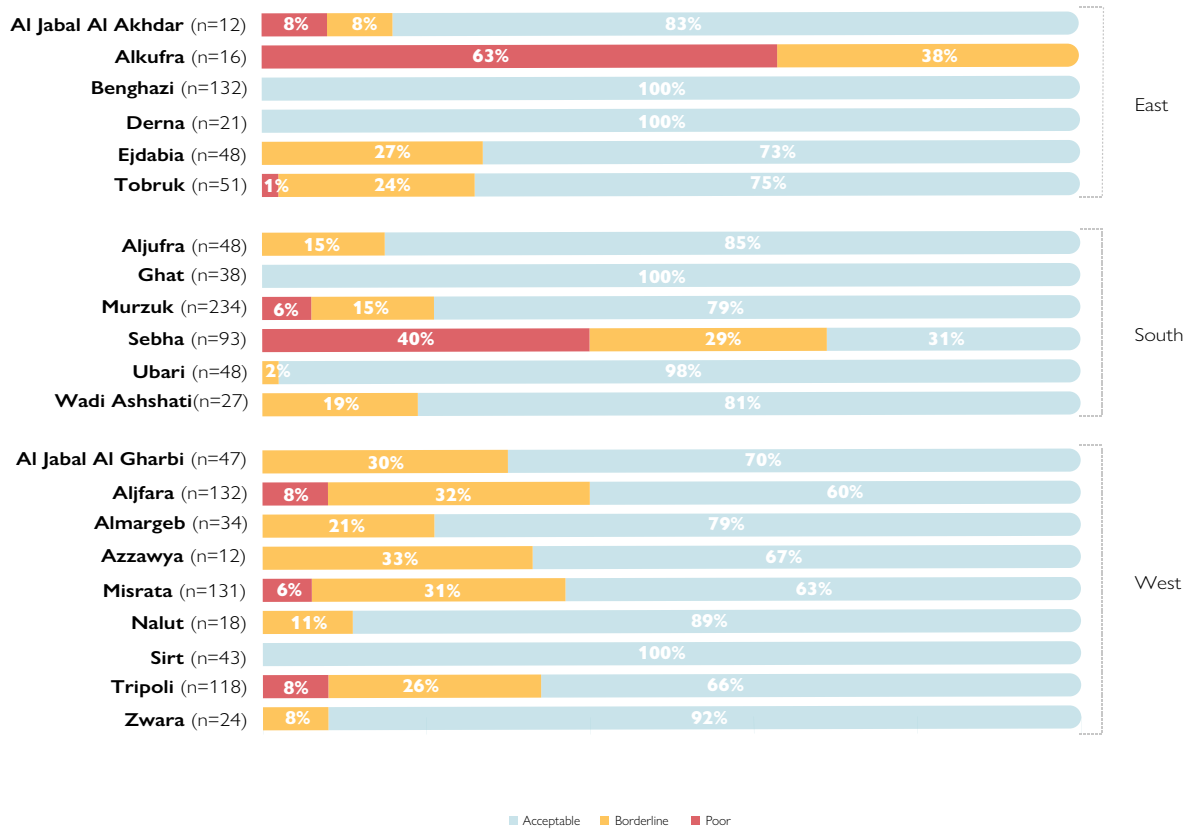
¹ No Food Security Index was developed due to the unavailability of economic vulnerability data.

FOOD CONSUMPTION SCORES

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 addition, the majority (56%) of migrants reported having to compromise their food consumption over the past seven days when they were surveyed in April 2020, mainly to save money.

Poor food consumption scores were observed primarily amongst migrants who: have recently arrived in Libya (less than one year), are reliant on casual labour in informal arrangements and those who live in urban centres along the Western coast.

Fig 6 Proportion of migrants' Food Consumption Scores per mantika (region)



West

Generally, in the West, low Food Consumption Scores were slightly more prevalent in urban centres (32%) than in rural areas (28%). More specifically, food consumption levels were most inadequate amongst migrants in urban settings in and around Tripoli region (mantika), where ongoing and intensifying clashes caused [renewed displacement in April](#). Poor and borderline food consumption levels were highest in the municipalities of Abusliem (85 % of interviewed migrants), Tajoura (39%), Ain Zara (29%) and Hai Alandalus (6%).

In the Misrata region, the situation is extremely concerning in Zliten where 84 per cent of migrants interviewed had low levels of food consumption. In Almargeb (region), in Garabolli one in five migrants (21%) reported being food insecure. This could be linked to the [recent](#) heavy shelling and fighting reported in April in the area between Tarhouna and Garabolli (approximately 70km east of Tripoli). In the region of Azzawya, in Gharb Azzawya inadequate food consumption levels reached 50 per cent and 25 per cent in Janoub Azzawya. In the region of Aljbara, over half of migrants in Qasr Bin Ghasheer (57%) had low levels of food consumption.

South

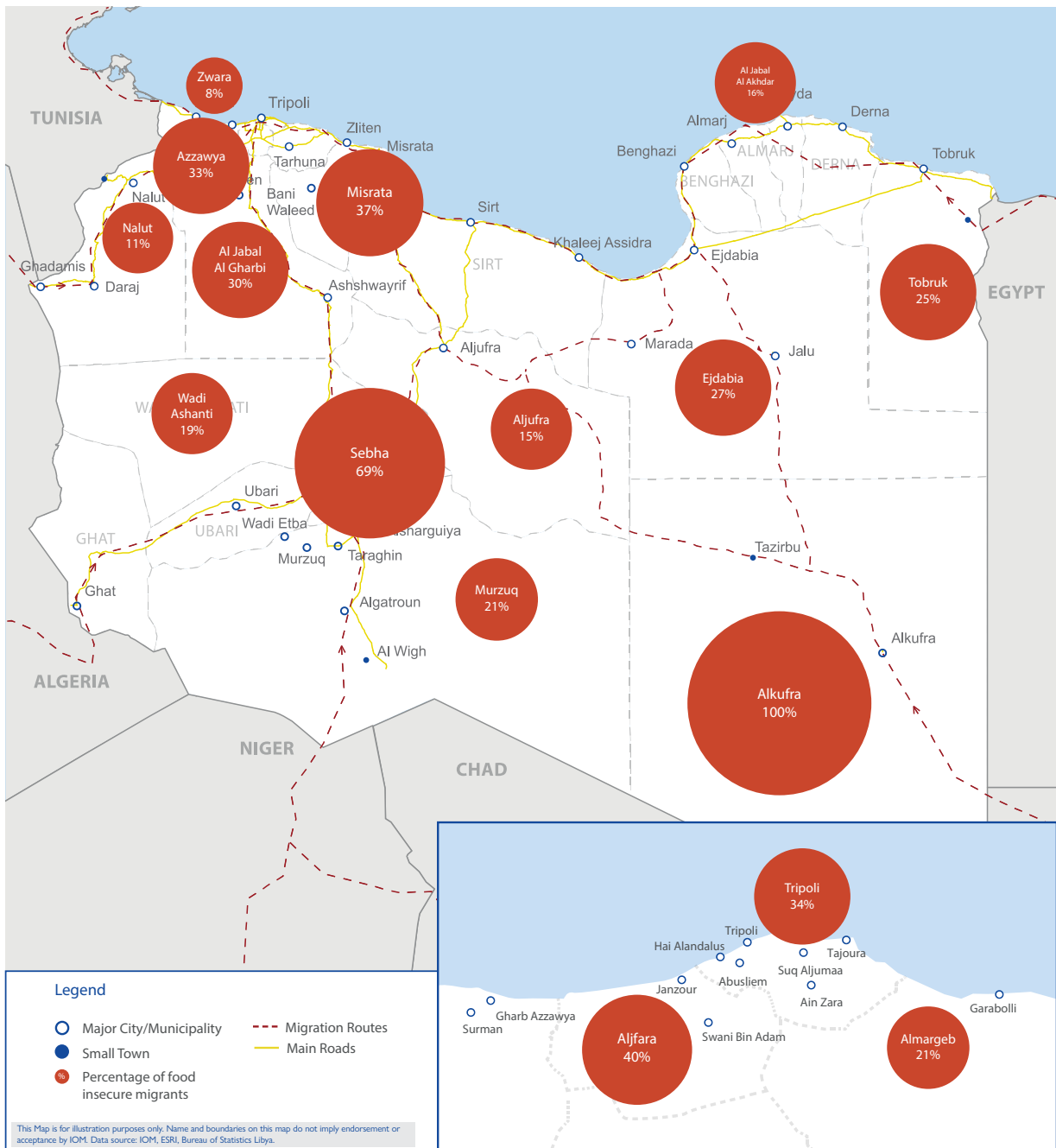
In the South, inadequate food consumption levels tend to be slightly higher in rural areas (27%) than in urban centres (25%), in municipalities such as Albawanees (77%), Taraghin (40%), Alsharguiya (21%) and Brak (19%). However, in Sebha municipality (baladiya) (mostly urban) more than two thirds of migrants (66%) had low levels of food consumption which could be linked to a deterioration of the economic situation and increased prices of some food items and medical services, which was [reported](#) by migrants interviewed in recent months as having impacted them negatively.

Aljufra, a major transit point for migrants entering from Chad and Sudan on their way to the western coast of Libya, shows a stark decrease in reported inadequate food consumption levels, down from 85 per cent in Jan-Aug 2019 to 15 per cent in April 2020. This is in stark contrast with the generally high levels of food insecurity. This could be due to the fact that all migrants interviewed were employed, and a majority (81%) have been in Libya for a year or longer, likely affording them more resilience.

East

In the East, Alkufra stands out with all migrants having reported insufficient food consumption levels. Around 63 percent of migrants interviewed had poor food consumption levels and 37 percent were classified as borderline. This is a trend which is consistent with previous [reports](#). In the East, food insecurity levels have been consistently high in governorates with major migration routes in desert areas like Alkufra and Ejdabia.

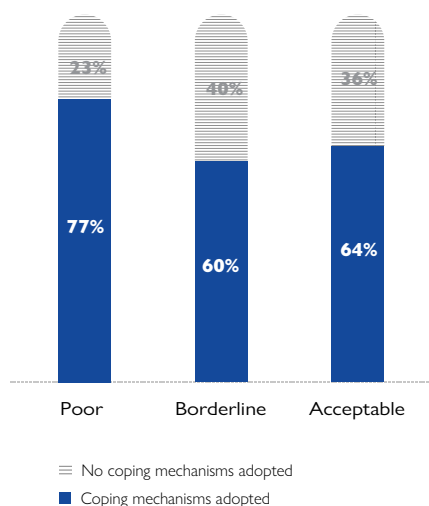
Fig 7 Proportion of migrants with poor or borderline Food Consumption Scores per mantika (region) (not including regions where inadequate food consumption levels are lower than 2%)



CONSUMPTION COPING MECHANISMS

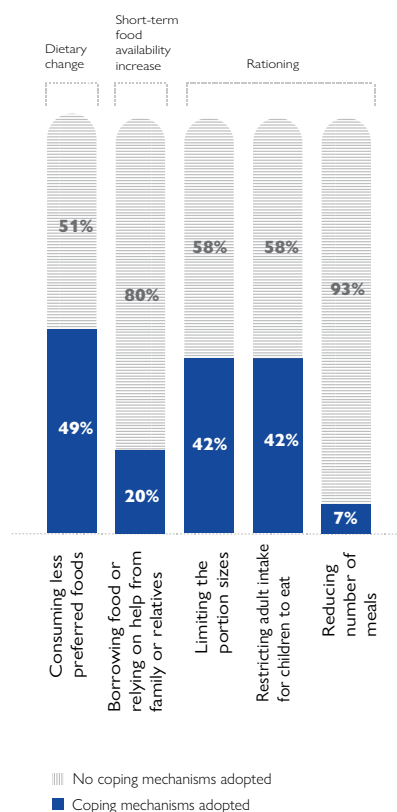
The frequent adoption of food-related coping behaviours to mitigate food challenges confirms sub-optimal food consumption for the majority of migrants. A total of 63 per cent of interviewed migrants reported using food coping mechanisms to mitigate food shortages. This is also verified by the higher rate of coping behaviours among migrants with poor and borderline food consumption levels. Nearly two-thirds of migrants (64%) who reported acceptable food consumption levels had to resort to food coping strategies. This proportion is slightly lower for those who had borderline food consumption levels (60%) and highest for those with poor food consumption levels (77%).

Fig 8 Percentage of adoption of food consumption coping mechanisms per migrants' food consumption levels



The most frequently adopted strategy in the week prior to the survey was “consuming less preferred or less expensive food” which was used by nearly one in two migrants overall (49%). In comparison, 15 per cent of surveyed migrants during the [January – August 2019](#) period reported adopting a similar strategy. Among the surveyed migrants, other most frequently adopted coping strategies involved rationing: “limiting portion sizes” (adopted by 42% of migrants) and “reducing the number of meals” (42%) and increasing short food supplies through short term but unsustainable strategies: “borrowing food or relying on help from family or relatives (20%)”. A total of 68 per cent of migrants reported living without any family or relatives (either alone (33%) or with other migrants, a host family, tenants or a combination (67%)).

Fig 9 Proportion of migrants who adopted each food consumption coping strategy



Across locations, the excessive use of the two most severe coping mechanisms was reported in the regions of Tripoli and Murzuq. The continued fighting and intensifying clashes in and around the capital may explain the situation in the Tripoli region. In Murzuq, the low levels of inadequate food consumption (21%) could be explained by the fact that migrants are using both

livelihood as well as food coping strategies to a greater extent due to a lack of food or the means to buy food. For example, nearly 27 per cent of migrants reduced the number of meals eaten in a day and borrowed food or relied on help to fulfill their food needs (22%); the two most severe food coping strategies.

Fig 10 Percentage of adoption of the two most severe food consumption coping mechanisms per mantika (region)

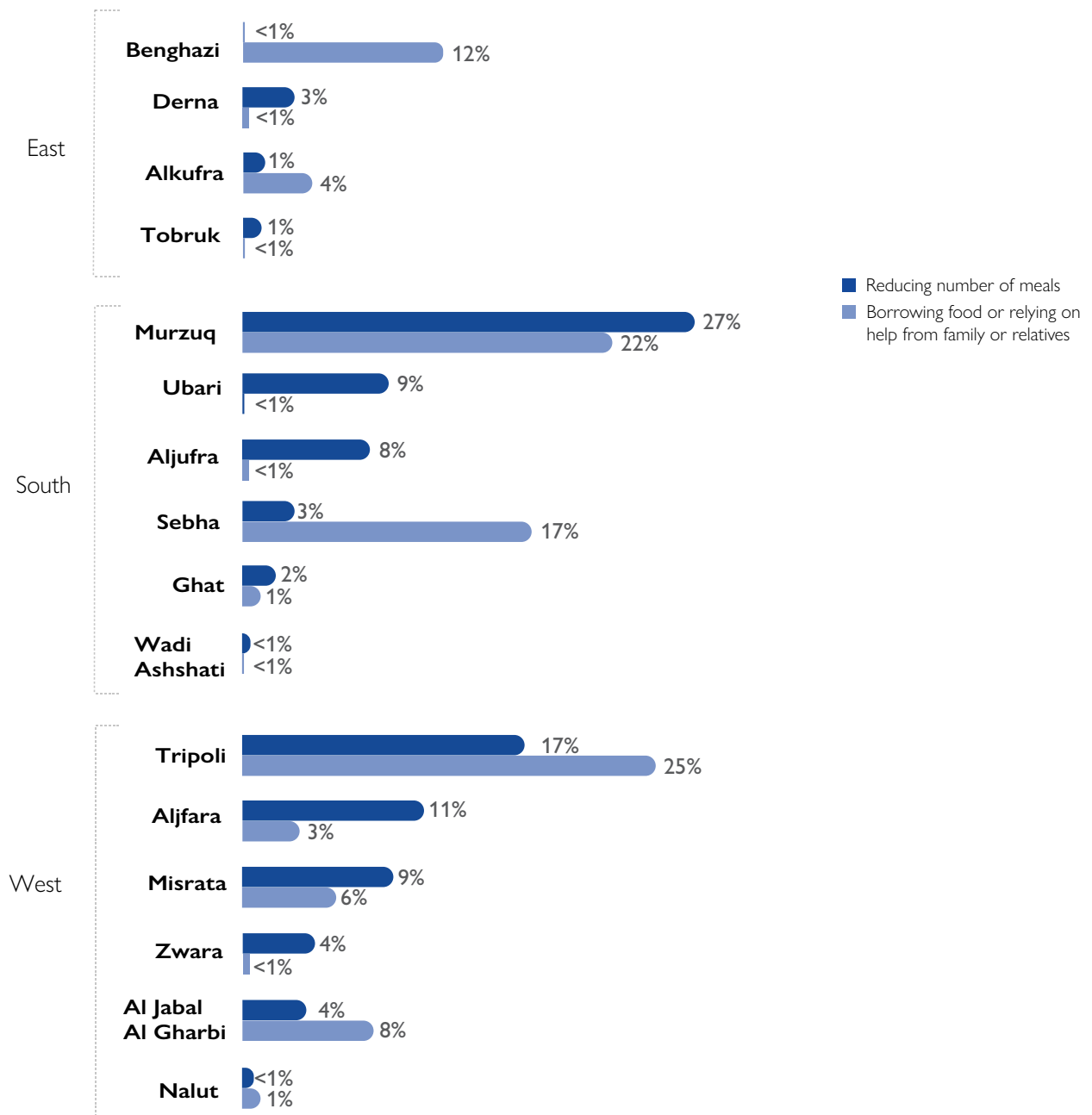


Figure 11 shows that to increase short-term food availability, migrants with higher acceptable levels of food consumption tend to generally rely on less severe coping mechanisms but to a greater extent than those with poor or borderline food consumption levels. Whereas those with poor or borderline food consumption levels tend to rely on more severe strategies (“borrowing food or relying on help” and “reducing the number of meals eaten in a day”) to a greater extent than those with acceptable levels of food consumption.

For example, those with acceptable food consumption levels relied on consuming less preferred and less expensive food on average nearly four days a week compared to twice a week for those with inadequate levels of food consumption. This could imply that migrants with lower food consumption levels might have exhausted less severe strategies and have been resorting to using more extreme coping strategies.

On average migrants with poor or borderline food consumption scores reduced the number of meals they ate in a day more than three days a week. If the conditions that are leading migrants to resort to them persist, it can reduce the ability of migrants to deal with future uncertainties. This indicates that nearly two thirds of those with acceptable food consumption levels (64%) are likely using coping strategies to mitigate inadequate food consumption. If the insecurity and the economic downturn continue to deepen, they could fall further into food insecurity.

The analysis of the reduced Coping Strategy index (rCSI), which measures the severity and frequency of strategies used by individuals to cope with acute food insecurity, shows that age, type and availability of employment and duration of stay are all factors in the adoption of food consumption mechanisms to mitigate food shortages and correspond to low levels of food security.



This indicates a worrying trend in which a high proportion of those with acceptable food security levels (64%) are likely using coping strategies to mitigate inadequate food consumption. If the insecurity and the economic downturn continue to deepen, they could fall further into food insecurity.

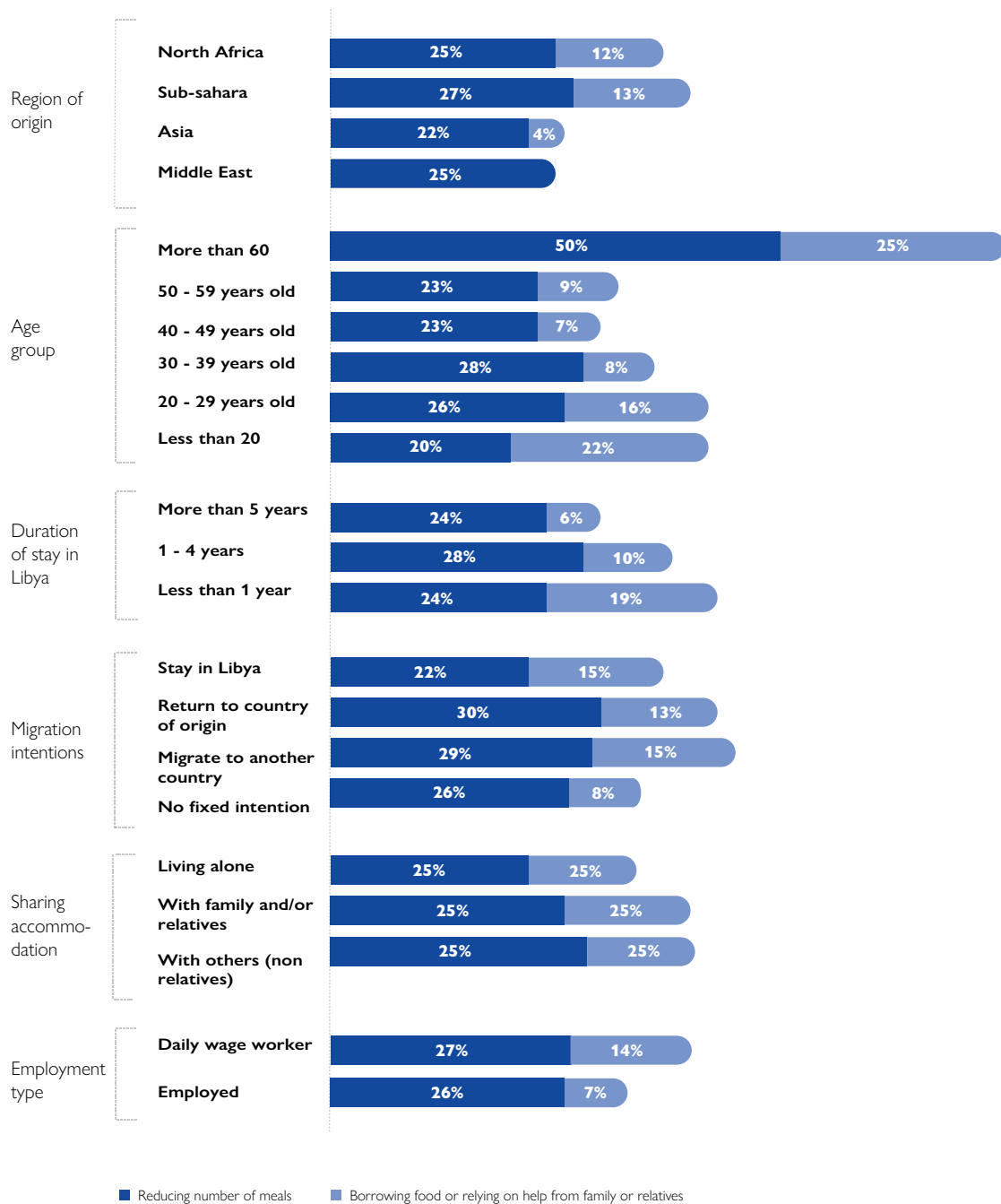
Fig 11 Average frequency of adoption of food coping mechanisms per food consumption level group



Figure 12 shows that daily wage workers were more likely to resort to the two most severe coping strategies. Similarly, migrants who have been in Libya for less than a year were using the most severe coping behaviours at a higher rate than those who have been in Libya for either

between one to four years while those who have been in Libya for more than five years reported having to resort to coping strategies the least. Migrants who are less than 30 years old were found to be the age group the most susceptible to employing coping strategies frequently.

Fig 12 Percentage of adoption of the two most severe food consumption strategies per demographic group



LIVELIHOOD COPING STRATEGIES

The use of livelihood coping mechanisms includes the longer-term alteration of income earning or food production patterns and one-off responses such as asset sales. By gauging how migrants have adapted to the recent situation, the analysis of the use of livelihood-based coping strategies can provide a rough idea of how resilient they will be to future challenges. Strategies are grouped under three categories depending on their severity:

- **Stress** strategies indicate a reduced ability to deal with future shocks because of a current reduction in resources or an increase in debts.
- **Crisis** strategies directly reduce future productivity, including human capital formation.
- **Emergency** strategies that affect future productivity or the human dignity of household members and are more difficult to reverse.

The excessive use of coping strategies confirms a high level of risk of food insecurity among migrants. A total of 65 per cent of migrants reported adopting livelihood coping strategies to overcome food consumption challenges and 31 per cent of migrants reported adopting crisis or emergency livelihood coping strategies to overcome food consumption challenges. More than a third of migrants (34%) reported resorting to spending their savings as a short-term fix for a lack of means to buy food while 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%). A total of 35 per cent of migrants reported not adopting any coping mechanisms. This could either be explained by a lack of available coping mechanisms or the absence of need to employ negative coping mechanisms.

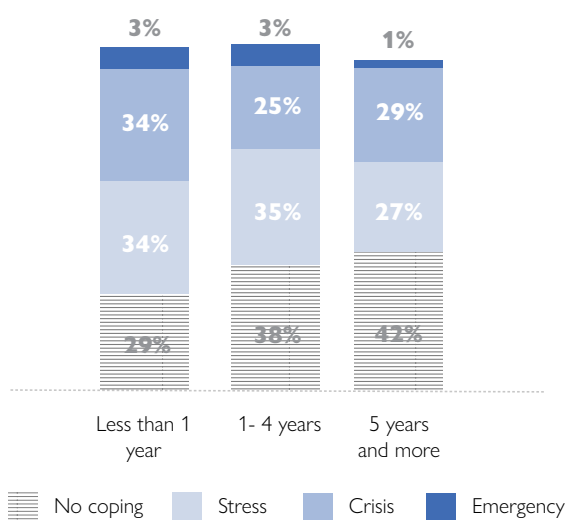
These strategies may be reversible but prolonged and, in cases, intensifying insecurity coupled with an economic downturn brought by COVID-19 related measures could lead to a reduced ability of migrants to deal with future uncertainties. Consistent with findings regarding the use of food coping mechanisms, the use of livelihood coping mechanisms indicate that the situation of migrants continues to erode their resilience over time despite a certain proportion being able to create a sustainable condition for themselves over time.

“

Stress strategies, such as spending savings, reduce the household's ability to deal with future shocks.

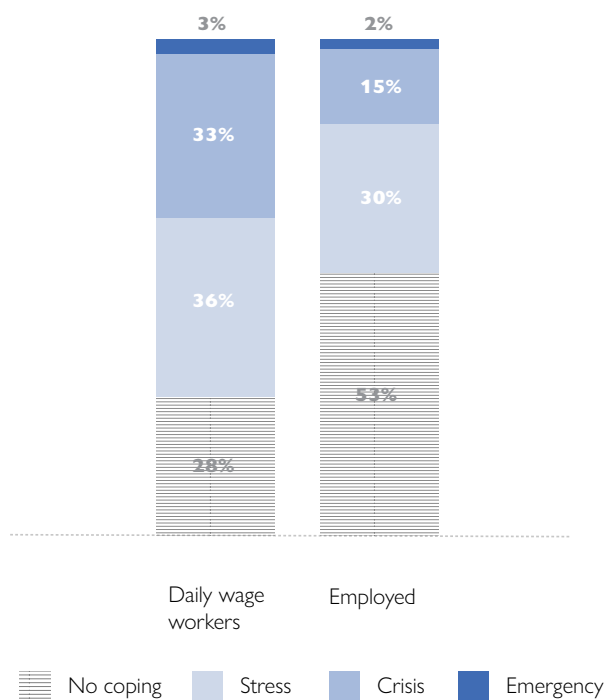
In line with rCSI and FCS results, the type and availability of employment status, age and length of stay in Libya prove to be determining factors in the adoption rates of livelihood-related coping strategies. For example, 42 per cent of migrants who have been in Libya for the longest (five years or more) tend to not have to resort to coping mechanisms whereas this falls to 38 per cent for migrants who have been in Libya for one to four years and 29 per cent for those who have been in the country for less than a year. Similarly, migrants who have been in country for less than a year adopt the most severe types of coping mechanisms (emergency and crisis) to a greater extent (37%) compared to those who have been there for longer periods of time (28% for migrants in Libya since 1-4 years and 30% for migrants in Libya for longer than 5 years).

Fig 13 Percentage of livelihood coping strategies adopted by migrants per length of stay in Libya



Likewise, migrants relying on casual work in informal arrangements resorted to the most extreme coping strategies (crisis and emergency) to a much greater extent (36%) than migrants who reported being employed (and were not looking for work on a daily basis). In the same way, migrants who are employed reported not having to resort to coping strategies in a larger proportion (53%) than those who rely on casual daily work (28%).

Fig 14 Percentage of livelihood coping strategies adopted by migrants per type of employment



DRIVERS OF VULNERABILITY

DTM Libya Migrant Vulnerability and Humanitarian Needs Assessment, conducted in 2019, had identified three key factors that significantly affect migrants' vulnerability and have implications on migrants' humanitarian needs: employment status, gender and duration of stay in Libya. The findings of this survey allow to confirm that employment status and duration of stay in Libya are both factors that seem to lead to increased food insecurity. Previous DTM food security assessments with larger sample size conducted outside the current emergency context also identified gender as a key vulnerability factor. In addition, migrants' vulnerability is likely to be exacerbated by shortages of basic food items coupled with an increase in prices reported in some cities.

Employment

Overall, more than two-thirds of migrants (70%) reported relying on casual work found on a daily basis which is in line with previous reports ([July 2019 Migration Pulse WFP](#)). This proportion is higher in the South (77%) and West (75%), whereas it was lowest in the East (50%).

As expected, the restrictions placed on freedom of movement in Libya as public health measures to curb the spread of COVID-19 seemed to have led to increased levels of unemployment amongst migrants. Analysis of surveys reveal that an alarmingly high number of migrants who only have access to casual labour through informal arrangements are having difficulty finding work. The majority of migrants (72%) who are not employed (contractually or self-employed) stated that it had been difficult to find work in the past seven days prior to the survey, especially in the West (75%) and South (72%) but also in the East (66%).

While a regular means of livelihood and employment in a decent work environment can enhance well-being, reduce vulnerability and improve food security, a lack thereof can have the [opposite effect](#). This could explain the consistently higher levels of inadequate food consumption amongst daily wage workers (34%) than for those who held regular employment (11%). Similarly, amongst daily wage workers those who reported having trouble finding daily work suffered higher levels of inadequate food consumption (34%) compared to those who did not (31%).

However, in the municipalities (baladiya) of Brak, Garaboli, Janoub Azzawya and Tobruk there was a higher percentage of migrants who had low levels of food consumption amongst those who are daily workers and reported that it was not difficult to find work in the past seven days. This could signal that the food insecurity incurred by these migrants is related to other factors than the availability of work (insecurity, access to markets, higher food prices, recent arrivals, etc.).

The availability and ease of finding work seems to be a critical factor of vulnerability for migrants who were interviewed in the South and West. The situation for migrants who are casual workers was worst in the West, where 38 per cent reported low levels of food consumption, and in the South (32%). In the East, one in five daily wage worker (20%) had an inadequate food consumption level.

West

In the West, the situation of daily wage workers was particularly dire in the Tripoli region, especially in Abusliem, where 87 per cent had inadequate food consumption levels, in Tajoura (50%) and Ain Zara (30%). South of Tripoli, in the Aljara region, levels of inadequate food consumption were high in Qasr Bin Ghasheer (67%), Swani Bin Adam (52%) and in the Misrata region in Bani Waleed (44%). Despite lower levels of inadequate food consumption in Hai Alandalus (6%), there was a slight increase in the number of migrants who moved there in search of work in January and February ([Round 29](#)). Given that in Hai Alandalus 97 per cent of surveyed migrants in April reported it had been difficult to find work in the past seven days, the measures taken to curb COVID-19 and consistent insecurity could lead to increased pressure and worsening food security outcomes. The rest of interviewed migrants (3%) had fixed employment.

South

In the South, the levels of inadequate food consumption were particularly concerning for migrants who rely on casual work and reported having had difficulty finding work in the last week in Albawanees (89% with poor and borderline food consumption levels), Sebha (77%) and Brak (43%). In Ghat (mantika) despite all migrants being identified as daily wage workers, food consumption levels were acceptable for 100 per cent of interviewed migrants. More concerning is the fact that in Ghat 98 per cent of migrants interviewed reported having limited access to health services, which is consistent with what was reported in DTM's [Round 29](#). In addition, in Ghat, all migrants who look for work on a daily basis (37% of the whole sample) reported to have found it difficult to find work, whereas the remaining 65 percent enjoyed fixed employment.

East

In the East, in Ejdabia (mantika), the prospects of finding casual labour has worsened for migrants compared to January and February ([Round 29](#)). All migrants who look for casual labour opportunities on a daily basis reported having had difficulty finding work and 24 per cent had inadequate food consumption levels. The rest of migrants interviewed in this region (66% of the sample) were employed on a regular basis.

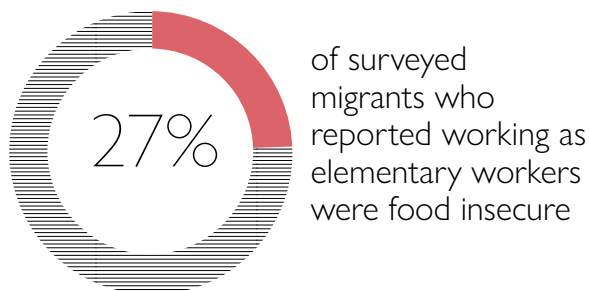


This seems to confirm that the deteriorating security and economic situation in Libya, including the lack of casual labor opportunities has affected migrants' ability to provide for themselves and their food security in urban areas in the West and along the main migratory routes, such as Bani Waleed and Sebha, in the South.

Type of livelihood

The majority of migrants who are employed reported working in fields that are associated with higher risk to health and safety and afford less protection against violence, exploitation and abuse -- such as construction (45%), factories and manufacturing (21%), agriculture and fisheries (9%), domestic and care work (4%) and food processing (3%).

When looking at job profiles of migrants who reported being employed, those working as elementary workers (agricultural labourer, street vendors, construction labourer, cleaner and manufacturing and factory labourer, for example) had the highest levels of inadequate food consumption (27%). In contrast, skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers and those with supervisor responsibilities showed slightly lower levels of inadequate food consumption (20% and 18% respectively).



Classification of livelihoods

The categories of livelihoods used for this report are those defined in the [ILO's International Standard Classification of Occupations \(ISCO\)](#), which provides a basis for international reporting.

Elementary workers include those working as cleaners, agricultural, mining, construction or manufacturing labourers, garbage collectors, street vendors, kitchen workers and bakers.

Professional workers include those working as engineers, medical doctors, veterinarians, nurses, pharmacists, teachers, lawyers as well as IT, finance or administrative professionals.

Type of contract

Most migrants who have fixed employment reported not having any formal type of written contract (90%). This is a potential source of increased vulnerability, especially given the measures taken to curb the spread of COVID-19, which could further exacerbate or put pressure on the food security situations of those who are employed. Not having a formal type of contract can limit migrants' ability to secure redress for wages withheld, unfair treatment, or compensation following workplace incidents, including accidents or illness. This is in addition to the risk that without a written contract, migrant workers are extremely [vulnerable to violence, exploitation and abuse](#).

Moreover, migrants who only have access to casual labour in informal arrangements where workers are not contractually employed are not afforded protection under relevant labour laws.

Debts

A significant proportion of migrants have incurred debts to migrate (46%) which may increase the need to secure a suitable livelihood. The majority of those who incurred debt did so by borrowing money from family and friends in their home country (82%) while 10 percent owe money to informal groups, such as smugglers, traders or shops and 8 per cent owe money to family and friends in Libya.

Limited or no access to jobs and means of earning wages – as is the case for 74 per cent of migrants who rely on casual labour opportunities – [may lead](#) vulnerable migrants to resort to unsafe work, illegal or criminal activities or work that may increase their vulnerability as they are at higher risk of exploitation and abusive practices.



90%

of surveyed migrants reported not having any formal (written) contract with their employer



46%

of surveyed migrants incurred debt to fund their journey to Libya

Health and access to health care

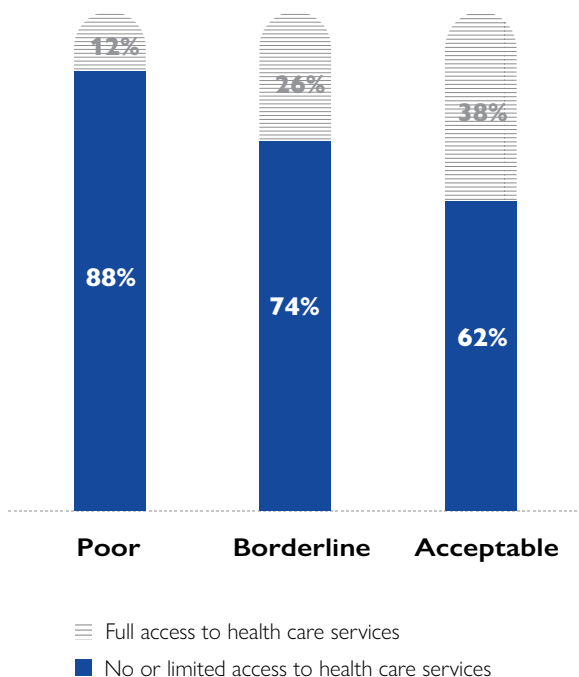
A total of 3 per cent (34 migrants) of migrants stated they currently suffer from an acute illness, nine per cent of which were female. One in five migrants (21%) who reported suffering from an acute disease stated that they had received treatment for their ailment. A total of 65 per cent of migrants reported having limited (64%) or no access (1%) to health services, which is similar to findings of [Round 29](#) for the January - February 2020 period (71%) and for the [January – August 2019](#) period (74%).

A higher proportion of migrants who had inadequate levels of food consumption reported not having or having limited access to health care services (88% for poor and 74% for borderline food consumption levels) than migrants with acceptable levels of food security (62%). Food insecurity represents a health risk while at the same time meeting one’s nutritional needs can maintain health and fortify the immune system to fight off infection.

In parallel, the vast majority of migrants (75%) who are looking for work on a daily basis have limited or no access to health care. This shows that declining and limited labor opportunities may also impact migrants’ ability to access other essential services, including health care. Particularly for migrants who do not have access to State services and need to pay for private service providers, or when services are not locally available and involve travel and associated costs.

Among migrants who reported not having access to health facilities, the majority (73%) stated that cost was the main reason preventing them. This is a stark increase compared to data collected over the [January – August 2019 period](#) (47%). Similarly, 64 per cent of migrants stated that distance was one of the main issues preventing them from accessing health facilities whereas this was mentioned by three per cent of respondents during the Jan – August 2019 period. Insecurity remains an issue mentioned by nearly one in five (18%) as it was the case in Jan – August 2019 (20%).

Fig 15 Access to health care services per food consumption level groups



All respondents who reported not having access to health facilities were in the rural areas of Swani Bin Adam (Aljara mantika) and in Azzintan (Al Jabal Al Gharbi mantika). However, the limited size of the sample (1%, 11 respondents) does not allow to draw conclusions with certainty.

Living arrangements and household composition

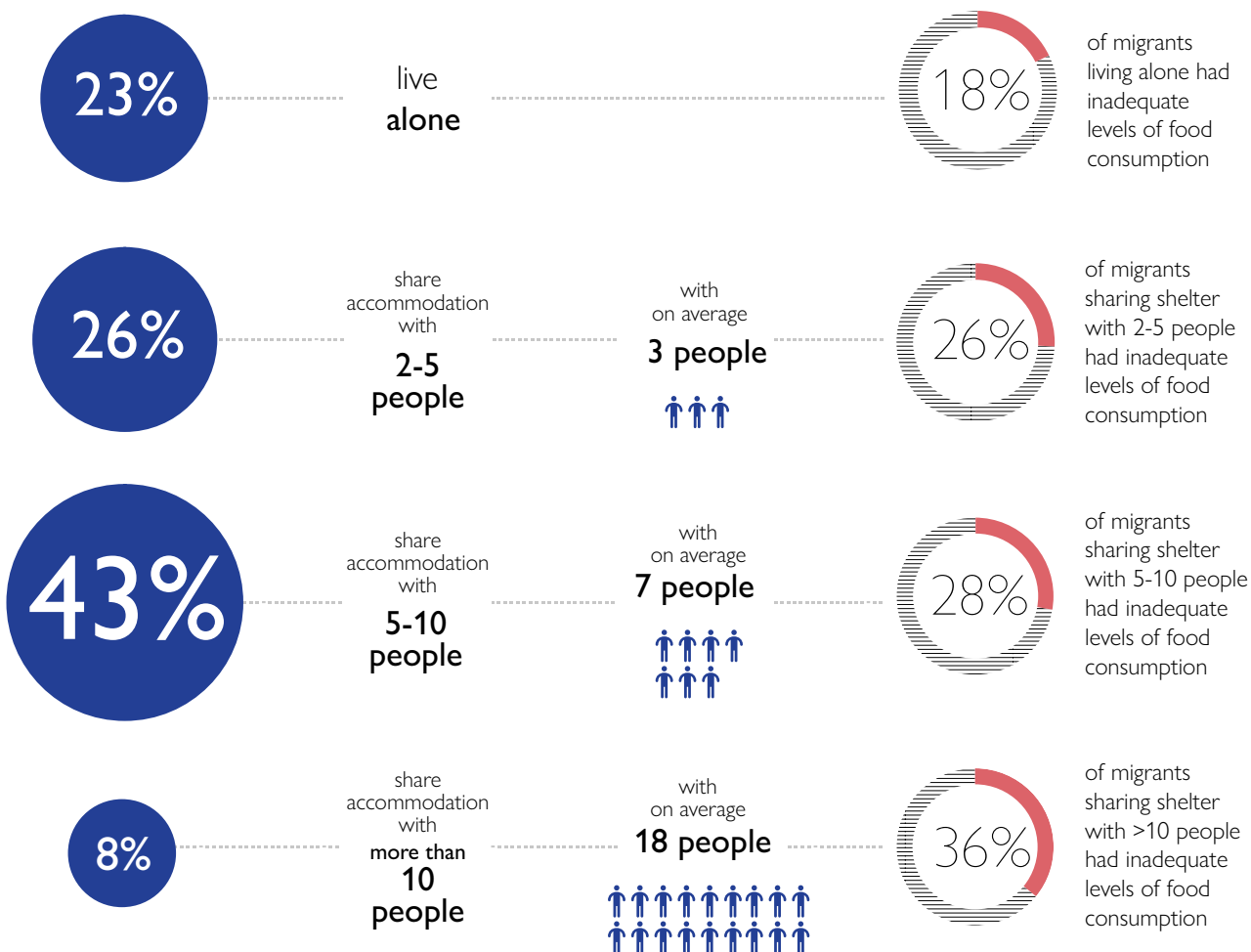
Inadequate food consumption levels were consistently higher for those living with a higher number of people. For example, inadequate food consumption levels reached 36 per cent for migrants sharing accommodation with more than 10 people, 28 per cent for those living with 5-10 people, 26 per cent for those living with fewer than 5 people and down to 18 per cent for migrants living alone.

The majority of migrants (93%) living with more than 10 people are also workers who look for work on a daily basis, 36 per cent of which have low levels of food

consumption. The majority of which (65%) are from Niger, have very low levels of schooling (never attended school, or didn't complete primary education) (43%) and live in the South (42%).

This is concerning as for migrants living in (over)crowded and high-density (housing, informal settlements or camp-like) settings increases risk or transmission and reduce people's ability to adhere to social distancing preventive measures while limiting access to functional basic services and essential household necessities.

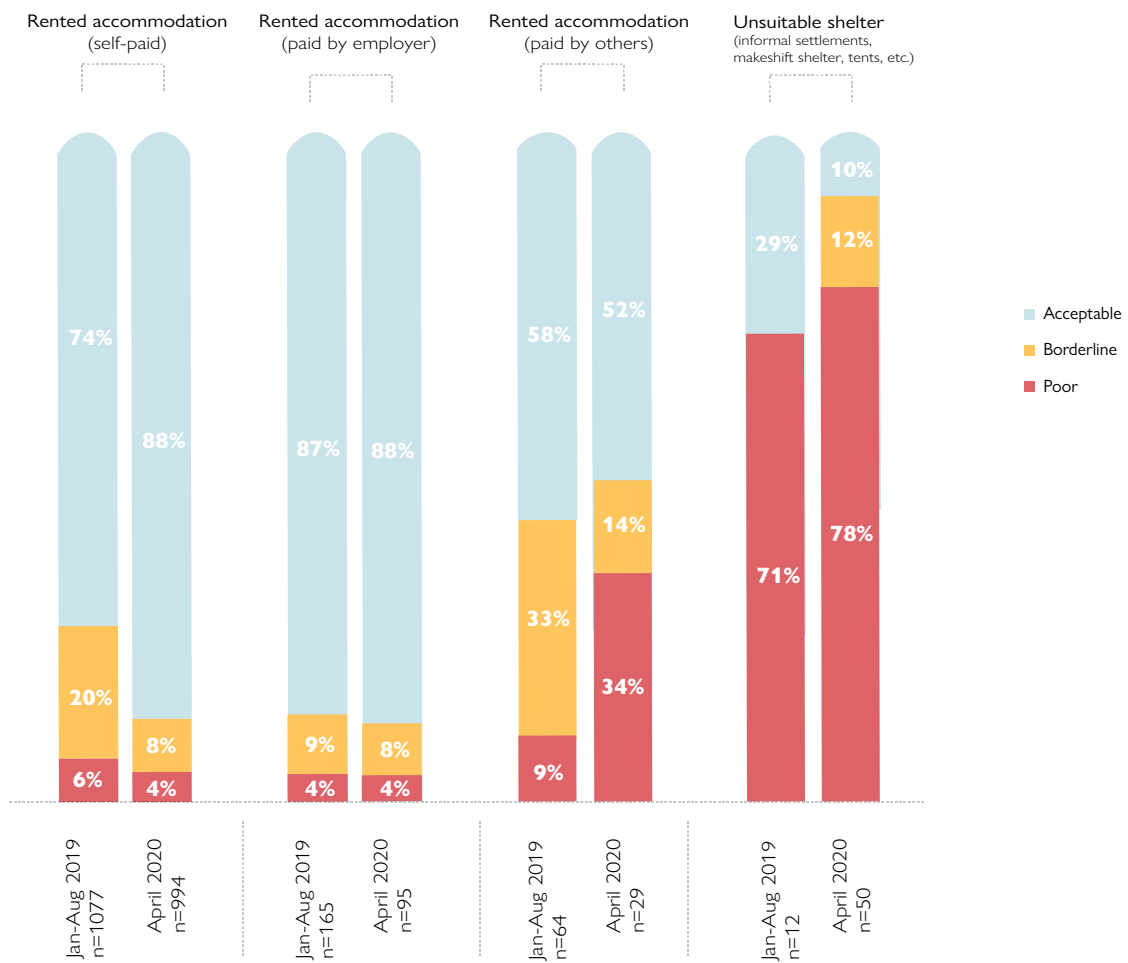
Fig 16 Breakdown of migrants' accommodation arrangements



In addition, with increasing prices of basic food and commodities and increasing difficulty to find casual work, migrants may struggle to afford goods in addition to paying the rent, which can increase the risk of eviction for those who rent accommodation. This can be confirmed by an increase of 3 per cent of migrants who reported having to delay payment of rent compared to none for the [period Jan-Aug 2019](#). This is especially concerning given that the majority of migrants (82%) reported living in (self-paid) rented accommodation and that their rate of inadequate food consumption levels (26%) has more than doubled since last Jan-Aug 2019 (12%).

A total of 13 per cent reported living in formal settings (such as tents, caravans or makeshift shelters), which represents an additional potential source of vulnerability for those unable to provide for themselves. Unsurprisingly, the rate of migrants living in inadequate shelters is the highest amongst all types of living arrangements. The higher proportion of migrants showing inadequate food consumption levels in 2019 compared to 2020 may be misrepresentative due to a very limited sample of 12 respondents (compared to 50 respondents in 2019).

Fig 17 Comparison of food consumption levels in Jan-Aug 2019 and April 2020 per type of accommodation



Kitchen access and arrangements

A total of 11 per cent of surveyed migrants reported not having access to a kitchen. Out of those (148 migrants), nearly half (49%) had borderline or poor consumption levels. In comparison, 23 per cent of migrants who have access to a kitchen had inadequate levels of food consumption.

Similarly, of the 154 migrants who reported not having access to kitchen utensils, 51 per cent had poor or borderline food consumption levels (28% and 23% respectively).



11%

of surveyed migrants reported not having access to a kitchen

Migratory intentions

The intention to stay in Libya or to migrate to another country was identified in [Hunger, Displacement and Migration](#), a joint WFP and IOM report as a potential factor contributing to worst food security outcomes. Data shows that one in three migrant who does not intend to stay in Libya has inadequate food consumption levels (33% amongst which 15% had poor and 18% had borderline levels of food consumption) whereas slightly fewer amongst those who intend to stay in Libya had low levels of food consumption (28%, amongst which 6% had poor and 22% had borderline levels of food consumption). This could be linked to the fact that those intending to stay in Libya may tend to invest more in settling down and securing the necessities to provide for themselves, whereas those who intend to move forward to another country might spare their savings to fund their onward journey, and/or be more reluctant to invest in settling down, which could lead to a more precarious food security situation.

Interestingly, the majority (66%) of migrants who moved to Libya because they reported they had a limited ability to meet their food needs in their country of origin are now acceptable food consumption levels.



66%

of surveyed migrants who reported having moved to Libya because of food insecurity now have acceptable food consumption levels

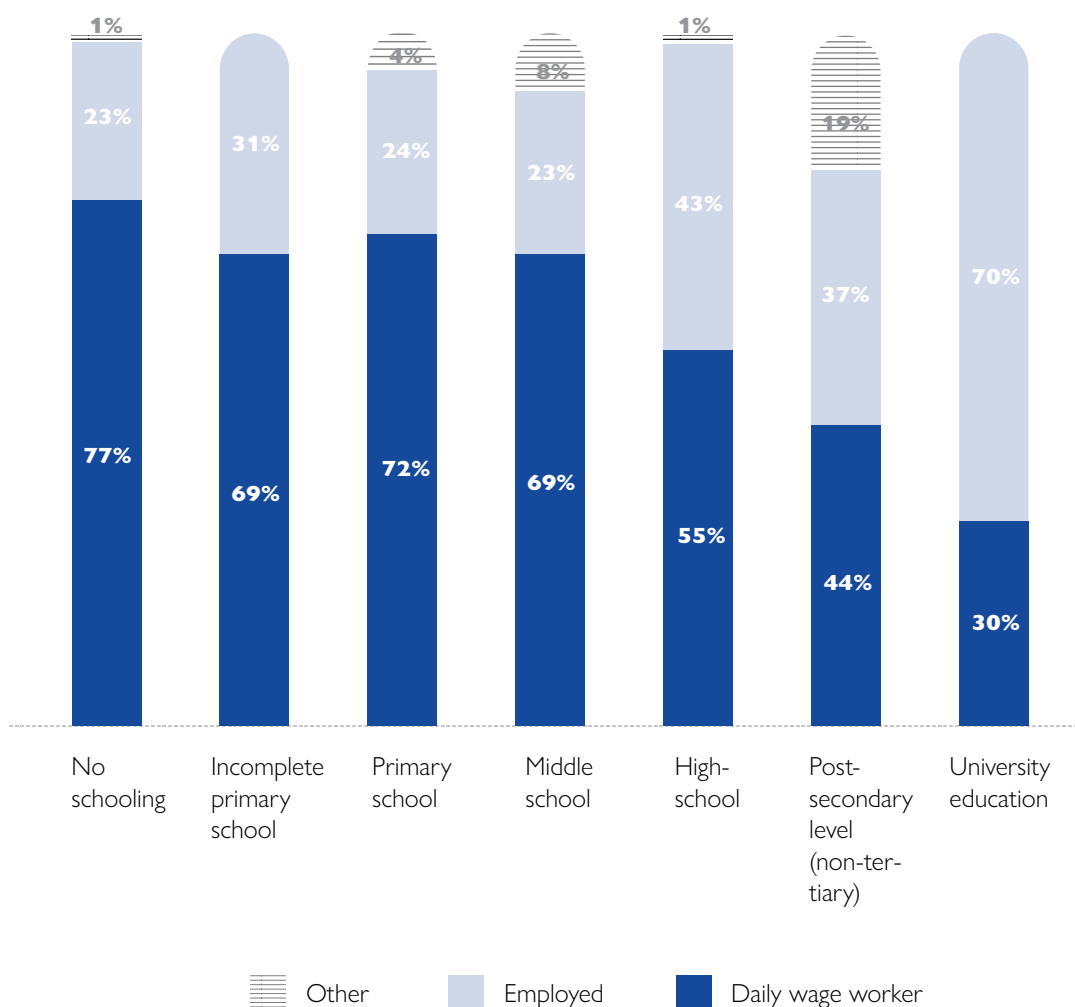
Education levels

More than a third of migrants who have never attended school had inadequate levels of food consumption (37%). In comparison, a smaller proportion of migrants who had a higher level of education (middle school and higher) had low levels of food consumption (19%). Having a higher level of education is a significant protective factor which can help achieve greater food security outcomes because individuals are more likely to be able to have more resources to draw upon, are more likely to have

decent work opportunities, to understand and advocate for their rights, critically engage with their circumstances and plan.

Analysis of the data shows that migrants with higher levels of education tend to be employed, whereas those who have lower levels of education tend to be daily wage workers.

Fig 18 Type of employment per education level



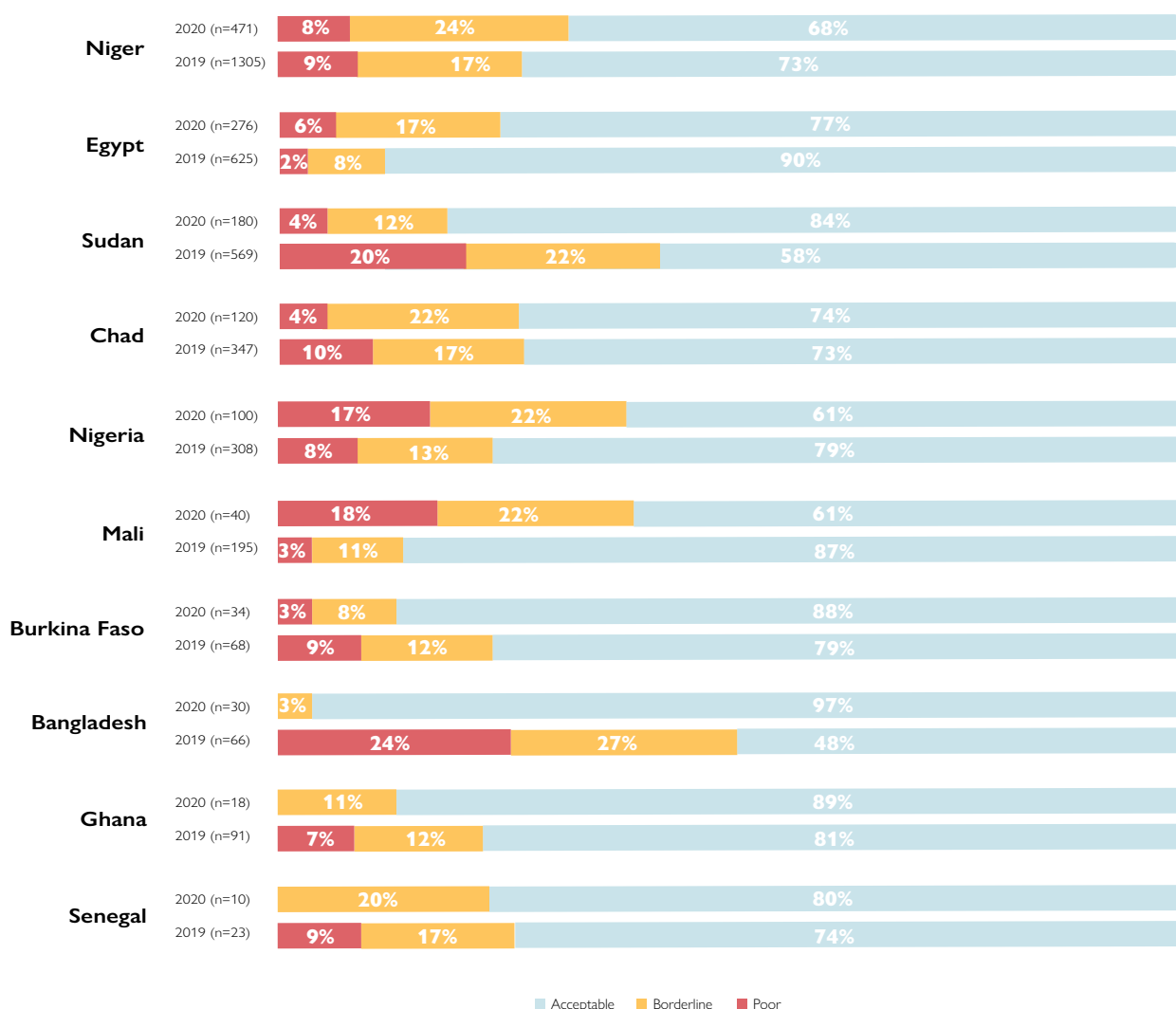
Country of origin

Nearly one in three migrants from Western and Central Africa (31%) had low levels of food consumption, whereas it was 17 per cent for those from East and Horn of Africa and 21 per cent for those from Northern Africa. A minority of migrants from Asia had inadequate food consumption levels (3%).

In [Hunger, Displacement and Migration](#), a joint WFP and IOM report, disaggregation of migrants' food consumption levels based on the region of origin showed that the situation was most acute for those from Southern

Asia and East Africa (with poor and borderline food consumption levels reaching 24% and 23%, respectively). While analysis of the data shows much better food security outcomes for migrants from Southern Asia and slightly better outcomes for those from East and Horn of Africa, it is not possible to confirm any trend or whether migrants from Asia benefit from higher levels of inadequate food consumption compared to migrants from other regions given the limited size of the sample (3% for migrants coming from Asia and 13% from East and Horn of Africa).

Fig 20 Comparison of food consumption levels per migrants' country of origin between April 2020 and Jan-Aug 2019 (top 10 countries with the most inadequate food consumption levels for which the sample included more than 3 respondents)

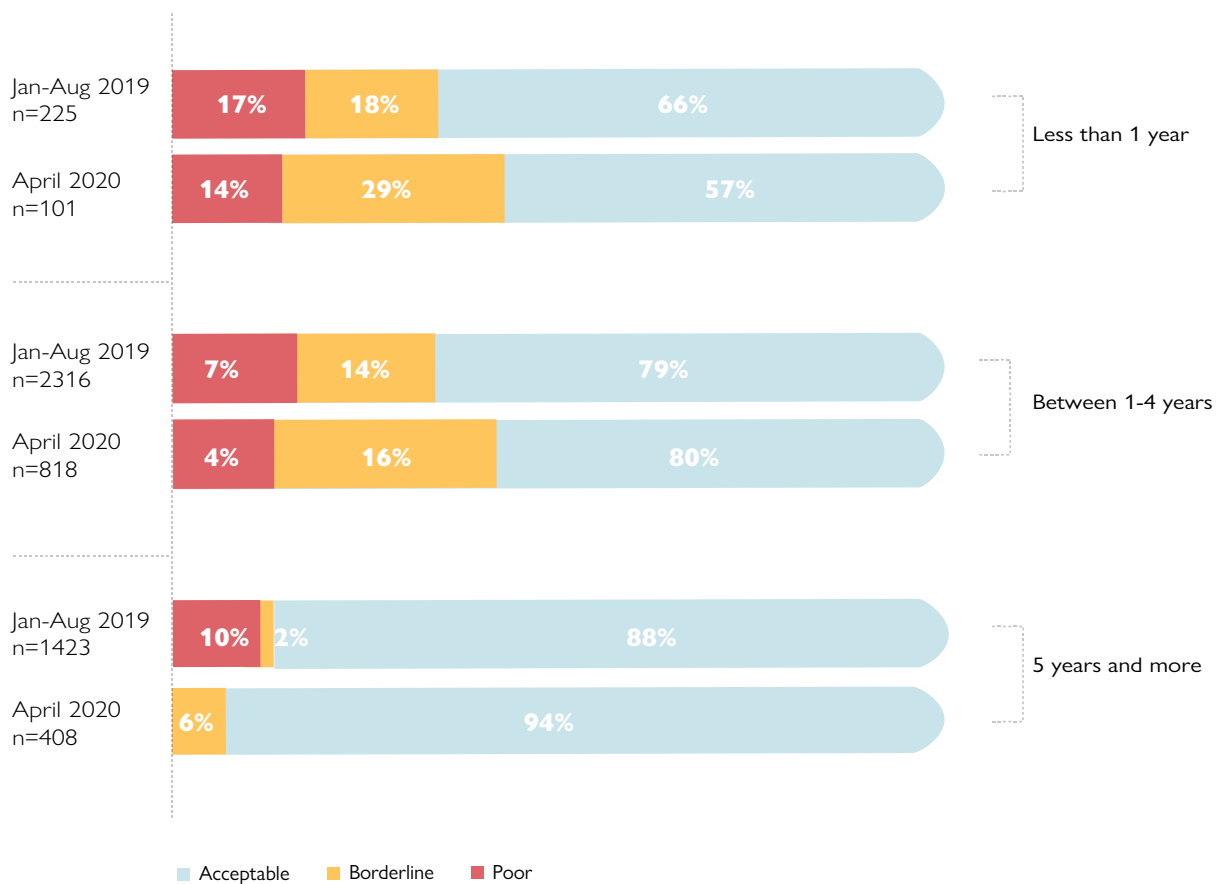


Length of stay

In line with previous reports, 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 in Libya tend to suffer from greater levels of inadequate food consumption levels. For example, of migrants who arrived in Libya less than a year ago, 43 per cent had 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 in Libya for five years or longer. While in line with results from surveys conducted over the January to August 2019 period, the proportion of migrants who had inadequate food consumption levels amongst those who have arrived in Libya less than a year ago has increased from 34 per cent in 2019, to 43 per cent in 2020.

Fig 21 Comparison of food consumption levels per length of stay



A photograph showing a man in a blue vest with orange sleeves handing a cardboard box to another man in a black t-shirt. They are standing in front of a truck bed filled with boxes. The boxes in the foreground are white with the WFP logo and text in Arabic and English. The background shows a stone wall and trees.

PART 4 CONCLUSIONS

CONCLUSIONS

Overall, the results of this survey confirm that food insecurity remains a challenge in Libya due to protracted displacement, disruption to markets, and dwindling food production in addition to disruption in the labour market due to measures implemented to curb the spread of COVID-19.

Based on the analysis of April 2020 Migrant Emergency Food Security Assessment, one in three migrants in Libya is estimated to be food insecure and in urgent need of assistance. The high levels of inadequate food consumption across Libya appear to be closely related to the deteriorating security situation and the fact that daily casual labour opportunities are limited due to containment measures. The lack of casual labour opportunities for migrants appear to be a critical concern as it can increase migrants' vulnerability and as the continued lack of work opportunities in safer areas due to the disruptions caused by the conflict and measures taken to curb the spread of COVID-19 can potentially force vulnerable migrants to engage in negative coping mechanisms for survival more frequently and more severely.



1 in 3

migrants reported inadequate food consumption (poor and borderline levels)



1 in 3

migrants reported having to resort to livelihood coping mechanisms which indicates they are likely to be moderately or severely food insecure

Recommendations

- Scale-up food assistance in Western urban centres and in key locations along the main migratory routes to address escalating food insecurity.
- Consider protection-related risks and vulnerabilities identified in the report, such as length of stay in Libya, availability and type of employment and age into potential programmatic interventions that would enhance the overall food security situation of migrants.
- Implement innovative programmes together with partners to address migrants' food insecurity without compromising their security and in light of the current context of the pandemic and associated containment measures and limitations.
- Support the development of labour migration policies and programmes considering the constraints brought by the pandemic and the demands of the Libyan labour market that can protect migrant workers, as well as improve their food security and optimize the benefits of labour migration.
- Conduct an update of the food security situation of migrants on a regular basis to assess the impact of COVID-19 related measures and increased insecurity as well as to inform the scale, duration and type of assistance required by migrants across Libya.
- Sustain food security and develop nutrition operations to avoid further deterioration of the situation and build resilience of migrants.

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