

OVERVIEW

Between July and September 2020 the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in Libya increased exponentially (from below 900 by end of June to over 34,500 cases by end of September) as community transmission continued to affect larger number of people.¹ Simultaneously a corresponding negative socio-economic impact related to various restrictions on freedom of movement and the resulting loss of livelihoods has also been observed.

To measure the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 on vulnerable migrant and displaced populations in Libya, DTM carried out a specialized assessment as part of its displacement tracking activities. This fourth report based on the periodic data collection aims at providing evidence and analysis to facilitate a better understanding of the socio-economic impact of COVID-19, specifically the impact related to mobility restrictions and curfews on vulnerable mobile populations in Libya.

This report presents the aggregated findings of data collected between July and September 2020, covering 53 municipalities (baladiya) in Libya with significant IDP and migrant presence. A total of 454 key informant (KI) interviews were conducted, (142 KI interviews conducted in July, 161 in August, and 151 in September 2020).

METHODOLOGY

This assessment was carried out through Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) conducted at municipality (baladiya) and community (muhalla) level, with the analysis and findings presented at municipality (baladiya) and regional levels. In line with the UN framework for the immediate socio-economic response to COVID-19², the UN Secretary General's policy brief: COVID-19 and People on the Move³, and IOM's institutional statement on COVID-19 and Mobility⁴, this report presents the findings of a series of indicators on the mobility restrictions, their impact on vulnerable mobile populations, employment and other key coping mechanisms to facilitate a better understanding of the humanitarian situation of migrants, IDPs, and host communities (local residents) in Libya.

Furthermore, an integrated DTM Rapid Market Assessment was implemented 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 locations covered.

1 WHO Libya : Health response to COVID-19 in Libya #14 ([Link](#))

2 UN Framework for Immediate Socio-Economic Response to Covid-19 ([Link](#))

3 UNSG Policy Brief: COVID-19 and People on the Move - June 2020 ([Link](#))

4 IOM Statement: COVID-19 and Mobility ([Link](#))

HIGHLIGHTS

In **64%** of the municipalities assessed hygiene items such as hand sanitizers and surface disinfectants were not sufficiently available on local market.

In **90%** of assessed locations, migrants who rely on daily labour opportunities were negatively affected due to the COVID-19 related economic slowdown.

In **79%** of assessed locations IDPs and host community members were also reported to be negatively affected by mobility restrictions and curfews.

In **31%** of assessed locations residents including IDPs and host community members depending on daily wages faced loss of livelihoods and employment opportunities.

27% of the migrants interviewed reported being unemployed, representing an 8% increase in migrant unemployment compared to March-April 2020⁵.

UNEMPLOYMENT remains one of the major risk factors affecting vulnerability of migrants in Libya⁶.

41% of the employed migrants when asked about occupational hazards reported feeling unsafe at work due to health risks caused by inadequate protective measures.

In **27%** of the assessed cases migrants in Libya were found to be potentially food insecure⁷.

In **13%** of assessed locations, migrants were reported to be unable to move freely within the municipality (due to the mobility restrictions / curfew).

5 DTM Libya Migrant Report R32 ([Link](#)).

6 DTM Libya Migrant Vulnerability and Humanitarian Needs Assessment ([Report link](#)).

7 DTM Migrant Emergency Food Security Assessment ([Report link](#)).

FINDINGS OF ASSESSMENT

During the months of July, August and September DTM assessed the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 related mobility restrictions on vulnerable mobile populations including migrants and IDPs via key informant interviews (KIIs) in 53 municipalities. The mobility restrictions implemented as public health measure and the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 assessed through mobility related proxy indicators varied significantly from area to area.

During this period, vulnerable populations in the municipalities of Gharb Azzawya, Janoub Azzawya, and Arrajban were found to face negative socio-economic impact of COVID-19 to a higher extent than other locations assessed (see further details on pages 3 and 4).

Unemployment and lack of access to livelihoods amongst migrants in Libya is a significant vulnerability factor with multi-sectoral implications such as increased food insecurity, reduced access to social services, and an overall reduction in access to coping strategies.⁸ The assessments conducted indicate that migrants and Libyan host community members dependent on daily wages through casual labour were the hardest hit by the socio-economic impact of COVID-19; this finding is in line with previous assessment cycles. Mobility restrictions were found to affect migrant workers seeking livelihood opportunities disproportionately as they reportedly faced stricter restrictions on mobility while livelihood opportunities reported to be available to them continued to remain low.

Key informants in 90% of the municipalities assessed reported that migrants relying on daily labour opportunities for their livelihoods were negatively affected due to socio-economic impact of COVID-19. Similarly, IDPs and resident host community members dependent on casual work opportunities in a third of the assessed municipalities were also reported to have been impacted due to loss of access to livelihoods resulting from restrictions on movements.

On average, Migrants in only 13% of the municipalities assessed were reported to be unable to face challenges in being able to commute to work within these municipalities or to seek livelihoods due to restrictions on movement. Furthermore, migrants were still reported to be unable to leave or return to 43% of the municipalities assessed because of curfews and restrictions put in place (e.g. closure of checkpoints). In 17% of the municipalities assessed by DTM, migrant workers were observed to be completely absent from street side work recruitment points where they used to gather before the crisis in search of casual labour work, further indicating possible negative socio-economic impact of COVID-19.

⁸ DTM Libya Migrant Vulnerability and Humanitarian Needs Assessment ([Report link](#)).

During this assessment cycle, key informants in 8 municipalities reported that IDPs arriving in these areas may face challenges in accessing safe locations due to curfews and restrictions on freedom of movement imposed to prevent the spread of COVID-19. While new displacements due to armed conflict decreased throughout the reporting period, this finding indicates a need for establishing safe humanitarian corridors to facilitate evacuation of affected areas in case of re-emergence of conflict during the pandemic.

Key informants in 77% of the municipalities assessed reported that residents (including IDPs and Libyan host community) in these municipalities faced negative socio-economic impact of COVID-19 due to curfews and restrictions on freedom of movement. In 62% of the municipalities assessed the residents and host community members dependent on daily wages were reported to be the worst affected due to loss of access to livelihoods and the economic slowdown.

The integrated DTM Rapid Market Assessment implemented during July, August and September identified reports on supermarkets and other shops being closed to varying extent in 75% of the assessed municipalities, while in 25% of the municipalities no such closures were reported. In comparison during the June assessment supermarkets and other shops were reported to be closed in 84% of the assessed municipalities. During the reporting period in only 11% of the municipalities assessed more than half of the supermarkets and shops were reported to be closed. However, these closures in market largely applied to stores carrying non-essential items and were therefore found to have limited impact on the majority of households' access to essential food and non-food items of daily use.

During July and September 40% of the key informants reported that the prices for essential food and non-food items had increased over the previous months' prices in their local market, compared to the 38% reporting price hikes during June 2020 data collection.

50% of the key informants reported that health facilities in their municipalities were either not functional or closed in the seven days preceding the assessment. This finding related to the lack of adequate functional health facilities in conjunction with reports on insufficient supply of water indicate increased risks for vulnerable populations.

In 94% of the assessed municipalities key informants reported that at least some level of local awareness campaigns against the spread of COVID-19 had been carried out, however targeted risk communication and community engagement (RCCE) was still needed as community transmission of COVID-19 continued throughout the reporting period.

⁹ DTM Libya IDP and Returnee Report ([Report Link](#))

IMPACT OF MOBILITY RESTRICTIONS COMPARISON BY MUNICIPALITIES

The analysis presented here through municipality level comparison is based on key proxy indicators aimed at understanding the extent and impact of COVID-19 related mobility restrictions such as curfews or area level quarantines on the residents of these areas, including migrants and IDPs.

These findings are indexed and ranked by municipality areas (baladiya) according to their overall impact on the vulnerable mobile populations, and residents at large.

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 livelihoods and markets
- Loss of work opportunities for migrants and host community members dependent on daily wages

The findings of the geographical analysis on the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 related mobility restrictions in Libya indicate that the impact on communities and vulnerable people on the move including migrants and IDPs varies significantly depending on how rigidly these restrictions are imposed. However, during the reporting period, despite a rise in the number of cases of COVID-19, an easing of mobility restrictions was observed.

Fig 1 The extent and impact of Covid-19 public health measures including mobility restrictions as per the key proxy indicators on the vulnerable mobile populations in Eastern Libya

	Area Assessed (Municipality/Baladiya)	Impact Level	IDPs (IND)	Migrants (IND)	
Eastern Libya	Albayda	Orange	1650	9200	
	Shahhat		1885	3250	
	Aujala		255	9185	
	Alkufra		6855	23896	
	Ejkherra		225	4559	
	Almarj		610	4100	
	Jalu		1650	15716	
	Albrayga		400	1090	
	Emsaed		Yellow	100	230
	Derna			220	2500
	Tobruk	1595		5235	
	Ejdabia	22355		41003	
	Benghazi	34050	32047		

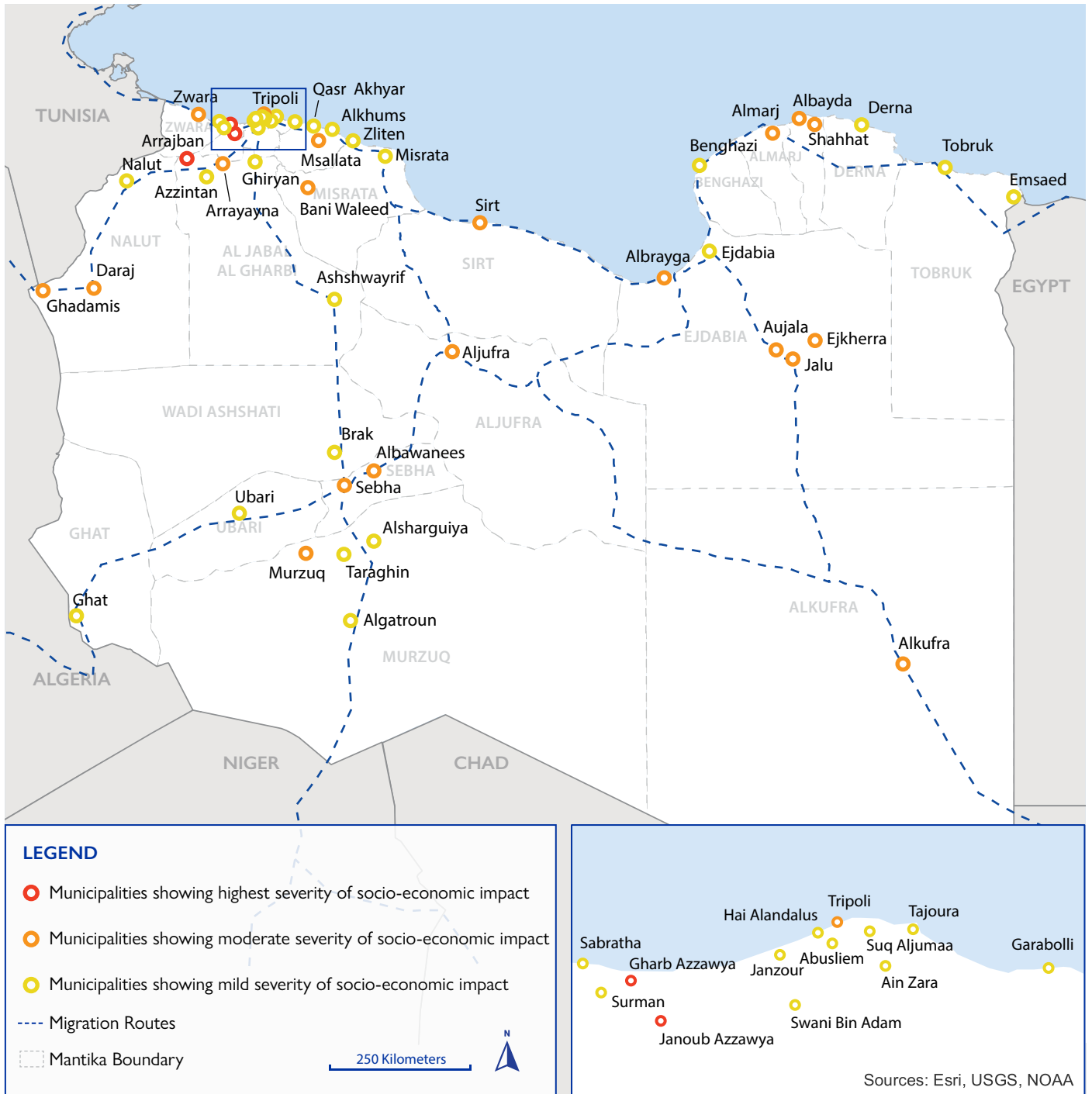
Fig 2 The extent and impact of Covid-19 public health measures including mobility restrictions as per the key proxy indicators on the vulnerable mobile populations in western and southern Libya

	Area Assessed (Municipality/Baladiya)	Impact Level	IDPs (IND)	Migrants (IND)
Western Libya	Gharb Azzawya	Red	8245	5345
	Janoub Azzawya		700	2100
	Arrajban		45	440
	Sirt	Orange	13000	4290
	Zwara		315	3341
	Daraj		600	2480
	Msallata		6564	850
	Arrayayna		325	370
	Bani Waleed		9560	2020
	Al Qalaa		75	420
	Ghadamis		90	2100
	Tripoli		8677	7785
	Abusliem		7830	20050
	Sabratha	3465	10470	
	Ghiryan	4800	1776	
	Tajoura	36383	10840	
	Swani Bin Adam	3710	3060	
	Qasr Akhyar	4600	1776	
	Garaboli	8629	3593	
	Azzintan	1935	17500	
	Hai Alandalus	9812	7610	
	Janzour	6800	14990	
	Surman	2515	3390	
	Misrata	16625	44170	
	Ain Zara	6195	29180	
	Alkhums	11642	4585	
	Nalut	905	935	
	Zliten	10600	9950	
Suq Aljumaa	28625	7675		

	Area Assessed (Municipality/Baladiya)	Impact Level	IDPs (IND)	Migrants (IND)
Southern Libya	Aljufra	Orange	1350	10900
	Murzuq		7770	4790
	Albawanees		275	1270
	Sebha	20700	36530	
	Alsharguiya	Yellow	3875	14032
	Brak		950	2425
	Ashshwayrif		50	4200
	Ghat		8135	12392
	Ubari		5720	9920
	Algatroun		4170	15425
	Taraghin		1505	5545

Impact levels are color coded based on the analysis of responses received to the proxy indicators showing impact where ■ red implies highest severity of impact, ■ orange implies moderate impact, ■ yellow implies mild impact, and ■ green implies that the situation is closer to the pre-crisis levels.

Fig 3 Map showing municipalities in Libya as per the extent and impact of mobility restrictions using key proxy indicators



AREA ANALYSIS

FINDINGS BY MUNICIPALITIES

WEST

○ Gharb Azzawya, Janoub Azzawya, and Arrajban

Between July and September, migrants were reported to be absent from roadside work recruitment points in the municipalities of Gharb Azzawya, Janoub Azzawya, and Arrajban as key informants in all three municipalities reported that livelihood opportunities for migrants seeking casual labour were not available. Furthermore, migrants were reported to be unable to freely move around these three municipalities, or to leave and return, which also explains the absence of migrants at roadside work recruitment points. Key informants reported that restrictions on freedom of movement had severely affected migrants. Key informants in these three municipalities also reported that because of the mobility restrictions residents (including IDPs and host community) faced challenges in accessing workplaces or areas of livelihoods, and markets.

○ Sirt, Zwara, Daraj, Msallata, Arrayayna, Bani Waleed, Al Qalaa, Ghadamis, Tripoli

During the months of July and September, key informants in Sirt reported that restrictions on freedom of movement inside the municipality were implemented to a stricter level compared to previous months, as residents were not allowed to leave or return to the municipality outside of the curfew hours. In all other municipalities people were largely reported to be able to freely move around within the municipality and leave and return as well.

Migrants were reported to be present at roadside recruitment points in all of these municipalities, except for Daraj and Ghadamis where migrants were not observed at usual recruitment points. Key informants in all of these municipalities except for Sirt, Zwara and Sabratha reported that work opportunities for migrants seeking casual work were not available due to economic slowdown. In all of these municipalities key informants reported that the livelihoods and casual work opportunities for migrants had been negatively impacted due to COVID-19 related economic slowdown. However, migrants were reported to be able to freely move in and around these municipalities outside of the curfew hours.

Key informants in all of these municipalities except Ghadamis reported that other residents of the municipalities also faced negative socio-economic impact of restrictions on freedom of movement. Residents in Sirt, Zwara and Bani Waleed were reported to face challenges in accessing livelihoods and workplaces due to restrictions on movement, while in Daraj and Sirt market closures were also reported to affect the residents in these municipalities (including migrants, IDPs and host community).

○ Abusliem, Sabratha, Ghiryan, Tajoura, Swani Bin Adam, Qasr Alkhyar, Garaboli, Azzintan, Hai Alandalus, Janzour, Surman, Misrata, Ain Zara, Alkhums, Nalut, Zliten, Suq Aljumaa

Between July and September, in these nineteen municipalities of Western Libya, key informants reported that migrants were present at roadside work recruitment points. Reportedly, casual work opportunities were available to migrants, although to a lesser extent compared to before the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. Migrants in Abusliem were reported to face challenges in moving within the municipality due to stricter implementation of the curfews. In the municipalities of Abusliem, Almarj, Ghiryan, Qasr Alkhyar, Swani Bin Adam, and Tajoura migrants were reported to face challenges in leaving and returning to these municipalities during the curfew hours resulting in limited working hours and therefore reduced earnings from hourly wages.

In the municipalities of Almarj, Ghiryan, Qasr Alkhyar, Swani Bin Adam, Tripoli, Azzintan, Garaboli, Hai Alandalus, Janzour, Tajoura, Ain Zara, and Alkhums key informants reported that all residents (including IDPs and host community members) faced challenges in accessing workplaces and livelihoods due to various restrictions on freedom of movement.

EAST

○ Albayda, Aujala, Shahhat, Almarj, Jalu, Alkufra, Albrayga, Ejkherra

During the reporting period, key informants in the municipality of Alkufra reported that residents faced extensive curfews restricting their movements within the municipality. While in Alkufra and Jalu key informants reported that residents also faced challenges in leaving or returning to these two municipalities due to area wide restrictions on freedom of movement.

Key informants in all these municipalities except Jalu and Albrayga reported that migrants were absent from the roadside work recruitment points. In Albayda, Aujala, Alkufra, and Shahhat key informants also reported that job opportunities were not available for migrants seeking daily work opportunities, while in all of these locations migrants' livelihoods were negatively impacted due to COVID-19 mobility restriction induced economic slowdown. Furthermore, key informants in Albayda, Alkufra, and Shahhat also reported that migrants were unable to freely move around inside the municipality during the curfew hours.

In all of these municipalities other residents including IDPs and

host community were also reported to have been negatively affected by COVID-19 related restrictions on freedom of movement, as they were reported to be unable to access livelihoods and workplaces. In the municipalities of Albayda, Alkufra, Jalu, and Ejkherra residents dependent on daily wages earned through casual labour were also reported to have been negatively affected as restriction on freedom of movement meant that they were unable to search for work.

○ Emsaed, Tobruk, Derna, Ejdabia, Benghazi

Less strict restrictions on freedom of movement were imposed in these municipalities compared to other areas surveyed in Eastern Libya, and key informants here reported that migrants were present at roadside work recruitment points. Key informants in all of these municipalities reported that casual labour jobs were generally available for migrants, however migrants' livelihoods were negatively impacted due to COVID-19 induced economic slowdown. Other residents of these three municipalities, including IDPs and host community were also negatively affected due to COVID-19 related restriction on freedom of movements as they faced challenges in accessing workplaces and markets due to the curfews imposed.

SOUTH

○ Aljufra, Murzuq, Albawanees, Sebha

Key informants in Albawanees reported in September that residents were not allowed to leave or return to the municipality. In all these municipalities migrants were reported to be present at roadside work recruitment points outside of the curfew hours, although the number of migrants in the key transit locations of Murzuq, Sebha and Alsharguiya were reported to have decreased in comparison to the period before the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. In all four municipalities the number of work opportunities available to migrants seeking casual labour were reported to have been negatively affected by the restrictions on freedom of movement.

Key informants in Murzuq reported that migrants faced challenges in arriving and leaving at these municipalities due to the restrictions on freedom of movement imposed to curb the spread of COVID-19. Other residents of these municipalities (including IDPs and host community members) were also reported to have been negatively affected by the restrictions on freedom of movement imposed as a public health measure. In Aljufra, Murzuq, and Albawanees key informants reported that residents faced challenges in accessing livelihoods and workplaces due to various restrictions on movement implemented during the reporting period.

○ Alsharguiya, Brak, Ashshwayrif, Ubari, Ghat, Algatroun, Taraghin

During the reporting period, key informants in all seven municipalities reported that migrants were present at roadside work recruitment points and jobs were usually available for those seeking casual labour work. However, the number of migrants observed at roadside work recruitment points in Alsharguiya and Brak was lower compared to the previous months.

In all seven municipalities key informants also reported that the number of jobs available to migrants seeking casual labour work opportunities had been negatively affected by the slowdown in economic activity. Key informants in Alsharguiya reported that due to restrictions on freedom of movement migrants were unable to leave or return to the municipality during the curfew hours. Other residents (including IDPs and host community) of these seven municipalities were also reported to face negative impact of COVID-19 related restrictions on freedom of movement, as key informants in Alsharguiya and Ubari reported that residents faced challenges in accessing workplaces and livelihoods due to the restrictions on freedom of movement implemented.

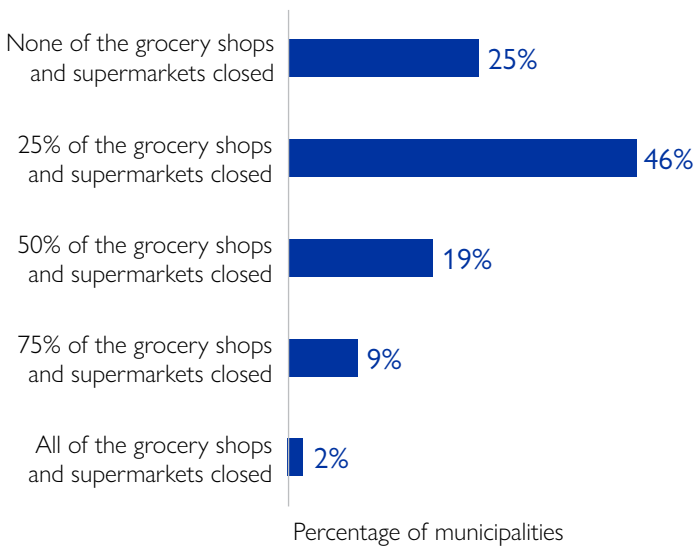
RAPID MARKET ASSESSMENT

During this assessment cycle of the DTM Rapid Market Assessment in the context of COVID-19 pandemic closures of supermarkets and shops were reported to varying degrees in 75% of the municipalities assessed (40 out of 53 municipalities).

In 11% of the municipalities (6 out of 53) assessed more than 50% of the shops and stores were reported to be closed, while in 19% of the assessed municipalities up to half of the shops and stores were reported as closed.

Figure 4 shows the extent of market closures by percentage of municipalities assessed, indicating that the spread and extent of market closures differed significantly from municipality to municipality.

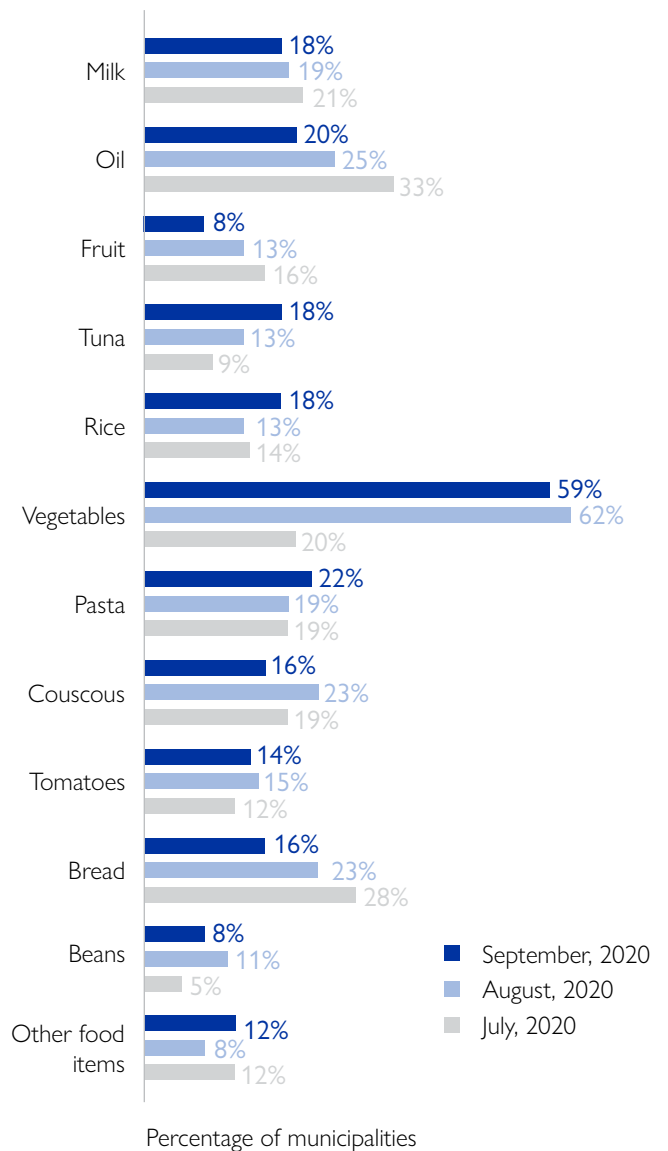
Fig 4 Extent of market closures by municipalities



Between July and September, 40% of the key informants reported that the price of food and non-food items was higher than they were in the previous months. Furthermore, 24% of the key informants interviewed during the months of July and September reported that customers who could afford stocked up on essential items. Continuous decline in this figure since April indicates that the initial consumer shock in the face of restrictions imposed to curb the spread of COVID-19 may have passed.

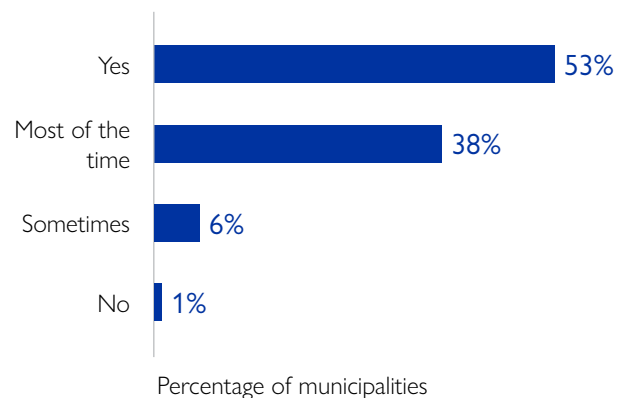
However, a wide range of food and non-food items were still reported to be unavailable in the consumer markets during the months of July, August and September indicating supply chain issues. Figure 5 shows food items by percentage of municipalities where key informants reported these items as missing (limited in supply or temporarily unavailable) compared between the months of July, August and September. Vegetables remained the most reported food items that were in short supply and frequently unavailable. The prices of some staple food items such as couscous, pasta and cooking oil were reported to have increased during these months, as key informants reported that the price of couscous - where available - had increased from 4 LYD to 9 LYD.

Fig 5 Food items reported to be missing in the markets (limited in supply or temporarily unavailable) shown as percentage of municipalities reporting each missing item



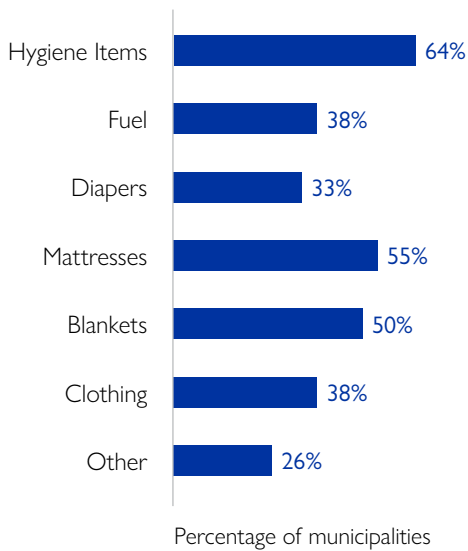
In 53% of the areas assessed, key informants reported that people were able to safely access markets. Between July and September residents, including migrants and IDPs of various municipalities, faced challenges in accessing markets to varying degrees as shown in figure 6 below.

Fig 6 Can people safely access the markets?



With regards to access to non-food items (NFIs) key informants in 64% of the municipalities assessed reported that hygiene items such as hand sanitizers and surface disinfectants were not readily available in the local markets. The level of availability of other NFIs is shown in figure 7 by percentage of municipalities where key informants reported their limited availability.

Fig 7 Non-Food Items (NFIs) reported as limited in availability by percentage of municipalities assessed

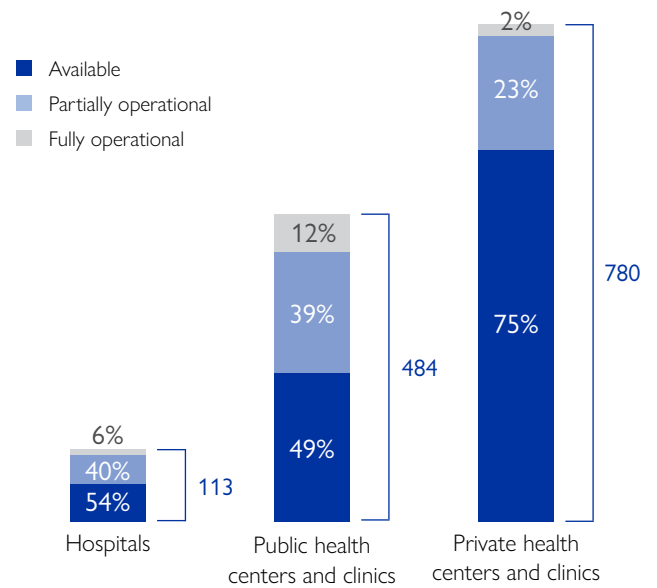


PUBLIC SERVICES

DTM's Mobility Tracking under the component of Multi-Sectoral Location Assessment (MSLA) also collects data on the availability of public services throughout Libya. Figure 8 shows the status of health facilities in the assessed municipalities.

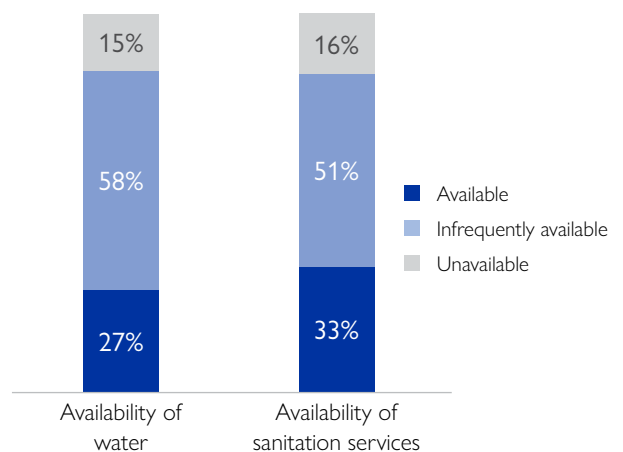
A total of 113 hospitals were reported in the assessed municipalities, however only 54% of these hospitals were reported to be functional, while an additional 40% were reported as partially functional with limited availability of various services, and 6% were not functioning at all. Similarly, the trends related to public and private health clinics can be seen in figure 8. However, functional health facilities may still face periodic shortages of medical supplies, and for the clinical management of critical COVID-19 patients intensive or critical care units may be required.

Fig 8 Availability of health services in the municipalities assessed.



Regarding availability of public water and other public services such as solid waste management and sewage disposal, as shown in figure 9, availability of public water supply was reported to be limited (58% infrequently available, and 15% unavailable) in the majority of municipalities assessed, while similarly solid waste management and sewage disposal services were unavailable in 16%, and infrequently available in 51% of the assessed municipalities. Adequate and dependable availability of these public services is critical in enabling individuals and households in Libya to take infection prevention measures against COVID-19.

Fig 9 Availability of public services in the municipalities assessed.



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