INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT IN LIBYA

Displacement from Tripoli during hostilities in 2019-2020

IOM
UN MIGRATION

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

LIST OF FIGURES AND TABLES

LIST OF ACRONYMS

DTM	Displacement Tracking Matrix
IDC	Information and Documentation Center (IDC)
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
IOM	International Organization for Migration
MoD	Libya Ministry of Displaced People's Affairs
MSLA	Multi-Sectoral Location Assessment
MT	Mobility tracking (DTM data collection methodology)
NFIs	Non-Food Items
RRM	Rapid Response Mechanism
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WFP	World Food Programme

1. OVERVIEW & CONTEXT

In 2019-2020, spikes in conflict and insecurity have been the central driver of the surge in internal displacement of over 250,000 individuals[1] and the deterioration in the humanitarian situation in Libya (Figure 1). Between April 2019 and June 2020, the number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) more than doubled and reached its peak at over 425,000 individuals[2] in June 2020. At the same time, the number of IDPs returning to their habitual place of original residence (returnees) was constrained until the end of hostilities in summer 2020[3]. The following report presents an overview of trends, movements, profiles and demographics of IDPs who were displaced in 2019-2020 based on information analysed by the Ministry of Displaced People's Affairs and IOM Libya's Displacement Tracking (DTM) Programme.

Figure 1 Displacement and Return Timeline (source: DTM)

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[1] According to DTM Mobility Tracking data.

[2] Idem

[3] This report covers the displacement crisis from South Tripoli between April 2019 and June 2020, subsequent spontaneous return of some of the IDPs after the reporting period (at the time of writing still ongoing) not part of this report.

Top 3 Priority Needs
since April 2019
(source: DTM)

Shelter

Food security

Health

The protracted crisis, coupled with escalations in fighting, has impacted the physical and mental well-being of IDPs, while also exposing them to significant protection risks. For example, those newly displaced often relocated to areas ill-equipped to accommodate large population movements, increasing their levels of vulnerability, especially for those living in informal settlements. In addition, children have been significantly impacted as they represent nearly half of the newly displaced people (48%)[4]. Overall, IDPs' priority humanitarian needs were primarily centered around the provision of shelter, food assistance and health services and, to a lesser extent, Non-Food Items (NFIs) as well as Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH).

A quarter of IDPs at the peak of the crisis were hosted in municipalities of Tripoli, such as Tajoura, Suq Aljumaa and Hai Alandalus. The majority of these IDPs were displaced from conflict affected areas in and around southern Tripoli, such as Ain Zara. A large number of IDPs were also displaced from Southern and Western Libya.

25% of all IDPs were hosted in municipalities in and around Tripoli, while others were displaced to locations along the Libyan Coast and Western mountains.

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[4] According to DTM Mobility Tracking data.

In order to facilitate humanitarian interventions and support to IDPs, the Ministry of Displaced People's Affairs (MoD) established an IDP registration system in June 2019. In close collaboration, MoD and IOM facilitated complimentary use of available IDP registration data and movement tracking, including meetings with local crisis committees and municipalities to foster the sharing of best practices, streamline the flow of information between stakeholders and to identify different IT solutions and tools to support the process.

In this complex environment, and to complement the Ministry of Displaced People's Affairs efforts, IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) has been providing a common operating picture of the displacement in Libya. Through DTM's mobility and event tracking activities, humanitarian actors are provided with a better understanding of the scope of humanitarian assistance needed and the most critical needs of IDPs are identified. These activities facilitate the coordination of timely and targeted humanitarian interventions at the same time as it contributes to evidence which can guide policy discussions.

In addition, DTM Libya supports other humanitarian partners through the provision of emergency tracking updates in case of sudden population movements as well as the facilitation of humanitarian assessments as part of the Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) jointly implemented with UNICEF, WFP and UNFPA.

IOM assisted more than 250 displaced Libyan families with critically needed items in Surman, west of Tripoli. Credit: © IOM February 2020

2. PURPOSE & TOOLS

The findings presented in this report are based on the analysis of data collected through the registration of IDPs carried out by Libyan municipalities in coordination with the Ministry of Displaced People's Affairs as well as IOM Libya's DTM Mobility Tracking activities. Through the use of complementary data collection tools, this report provides information on the trends, movements, profiles and demographics of IDPs who were displaced between April 2019 and June 2020. The data collected also gives insights into accommodation settings used by IDPs after being displaced as well as humanitarian priority needs.

NATIONAL IDP REGISTRATION SYSTEM (MINISTRY OF DISPLACED PEOPLE'S AFFAIRS)

In April 2019, under the Ministry of Displaced People's Affairs strategic plan, and in coordination with the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs a joint-emergency cell was established between the governmental service sectors and international humanitarian organizations. An initial meeting was held on 2 April 2019, where possible scenarios of expected displacement were discussed.

Following the start of hostilities in Tripoli on the 4th of April 2019, the emergency cell met on a daily basis with the objective to exchange information, coordinate efforts to avoid duplication of assistance delivery and to identify priorities.

In May 2019, the Presidential Council allocated 120 million dinars to provide assistance to IDPs and affected populations in the concerned areas of the 62 municipalities in Western Libya, under resolution number 597/2019. Subsequently, the Ministry of Displaced People's Affairs established the National IDP registration system under the supervision of the Information and Documentation Center (IDC), in the Office of the Prime Minister.

Initially, in May 2019, the registration process targeted IDPs living temporarily in public shelters, before being expanded to all IDPs in July 2019.

The registration of IDPs was conducted under the direction of the Ministry of Local Governance and in coordination with the mayors of municipalities hosting IDPs.

After registration, the data entered in the system were submitted to the Department of Information in the Social Solidarity Fund (SSF) in order for the administration of SSF to conclude the full registration process of IDPs.

The Ministry of Displaced People's Affairs organized technical meetings with IOM Libya to build on its technical expertise and improve the systems and programmes of data collection based on universal standards in the fields of data collection and analysis.

IOM ensured the preparation of technical programmes and organized training sessions on data collection and analysis. The Ministry is continuously striving to improve the skills of civil servants working in this field. The Ministry will continue to focus on this technical support at the earliest opportunity.

MOBILITY TRACKING (IOM DISPLACEMENT TRACKING MATRIX)

The Mobility Tracking Assessment is the DTM tool designed to track mobility, determine numbers and locations of forcibly displaced people, reasons for displacement, places of origin, along with basic demographics of the group as well as vulnerabilities and priority needs. The information is mainly captured through interviews with local experts, such as IDP community leaders, municipalities, first responders and others, at each of Libya's administrative levels (baladiya, muhalla) and cross-referenced with secondary sources where available. This component tracks population movements to establish baseline estimates of various populations in the areas assessed and includes a Multi-Sectoral Location Assessment (MSLA) module that gathers data on the availability of services, multi-sectoral humanitarian needs, and various other indicators of interest. Mobility Tracking covers all of Libya with data disaggregated to the municipality level (Baladiya – Admin 3) for data on services and needs, and to the community or locality level (Muhalla; Admin 4) for population estimates. Through Mobility Tracking DTM assesses all 100 municipalities in Libya. Over 2,000 interviews with local experts were conducted in each bi-monthly rounds of data collection. A total of 377 interviews were carried out at the municipality level and 1,920 at the community level. A total of 30 per cent of interviews were with representatives from various divisions within the

municipality offices (Social Affairs, Muhalla Affairs, etc.), 12 per cent from key civil society organizations, and 11 per cent with local crisis committee representatives. Lastly, seven per cent of interviews were with female key informants, whereas 93% were male key informants.

JOINT-WORK OF THE MINISTRY OF DISPLACEMENT AND IOM-DTM

The Ministry of Displaced People's Affairs and IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) have been working jointly over the past year to leverage the complementarity of local IDP registration systems and DTM's movement tracking component to provide a comprehensive understanding of the displacement situation in Libya. This includes regular technical coordination meetings to work on further refining data collection methodologies and tools. Furthermore, in July 2019, a workshop was held at IOM's Office in Tripoli to facilitate sharing of best practices, common challenges and technical guidance between local crisis committees, municipal representatives, Ministry of Displaced People's Affairs and the Prime Minister's Office Information and Documentation Center (IDC). The workshop was organized to bring together different stakeholders working with IDP data in the context of recent displacement from Tripoli.

The Ministry of displacement and DTM worked jointly to establish an improved and centralized system of IDP registration in Municipalities.
Credit: © IOM 2020

During the meeting best practices of IDP registration at municipality-level were shared, and flow of information between stakeholders working on IDP data was mapped to support centralized data processing by the Ministry of Displaced People's Affairs and the IDC. Furthermore, discussing data protection principles for handling personal data of IDPs as well as looking together at different IT tools and solutions to support ongoing efforts had also been identified as goals for the workshop.

The Ministry of displacement and DTM worked jointly to establish an improved and centralized system of IDP registration in Municipalities. Credit: © IOM 2020

3. AREAS AFFECTED BY INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT

A total of 14,303 internally displaced households (70,270 individuals) are registered with the National IDP Registration System of the Ministry of Displacement out of which 68 per cent (9839 households) were registered on or after 1 January 2019. The majority of these were registered in or after April 2019, which coincides with the offensive to seize Tripoli and the subsequent escalation of conflict and displacement (Figure 2). This is also confirmed through data collected by DTM which shows that the majority of IDPs (96%) left their communities because of the declining security situation. The deterioration of the economic situation, which, in some cases,

is closely linked to rising insecurity, is also a factor which was mentioned in 30 per cent of interviews as being an additional driver of displacement. Less than a third cited access to humanitarian services (32%), availability of basic services (32%) and access to livelihood opportunities (31%) as the main factors that influenced where they chose to relocate.

Figure 2 IDP Registration timeline from Jan 2019 – Feb 2020 (source: MoD)

BALADIYA OF ORIGIN

The sustained use of air strikes and artillery shelling in the vicinity of residential areas continued to negatively impact the safety and lives of the civilian population in southern Tripoli region and other conflict-affected areas in Libya. Data from the National IDP Registration System of the Ministry of Displacement shows that out of the 9838 households registered since January 2019, the majority of IDPs seeking shelter and protection were displaced from the conflict affected areas of Ain Zara (19%) and

Abusliem (8%) in Tripoli and from the municipalities of Qasr Bin Ghasheer (17%), Al Aziziya (16%), Swani Bin Adam (9%) and Espeaa (8%) (Table 1).

Table 1 IDP registration per municipalities in Tripoli and Aljfara, Feb 2020 (source: MoD)

Baladiya	Number of households	Percentage of total number of households displaced
Ain Zara	1862	19%
Qasr Bin Ghasheer	1692	17%
Al Aziziya	1611	16%
Swani Bin Adam	885	9%
Espeaa	821	8%
Abusliem	804	8%
Tripoli	634	6%
Tajoura	270	3%
Other	291	3%
Unknown	969	10%

BALADIYA OF DISPLACEMENT (DESTINATION)

According to Mobility Tracking data collected through DTM, the municipalities of Tripoli hosts the bulk of IDPs in western Libya (31%) most of whom have been displaced to the municipalities of Suq Aljumaa (12%), Tajoura (8%), Hai Alandalus (6%) and Abusliem (5%). While other families have also been displaced to municipalities such as Misrata (7%) and Zliten (4%) (Figure 3 and 4).

In the majority (70%) of surveys conducted, IDPs were reported to have decided to move based on better security prospects. An additional factor mentioned by 56 per cent of respondents in the relocation of households is the presence of relatives or existing social and cultural bonds at the destination (location of displacement).

Figure 3 Top 10 baladiya of displacement in the West region (source: DTM MT Round 29)
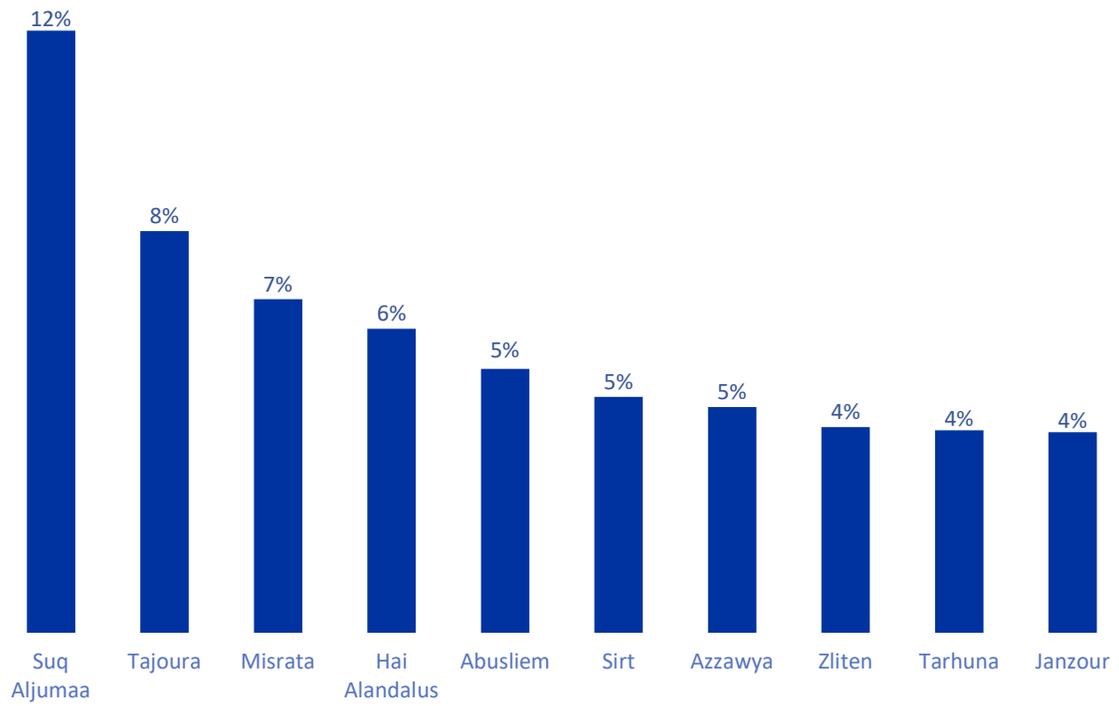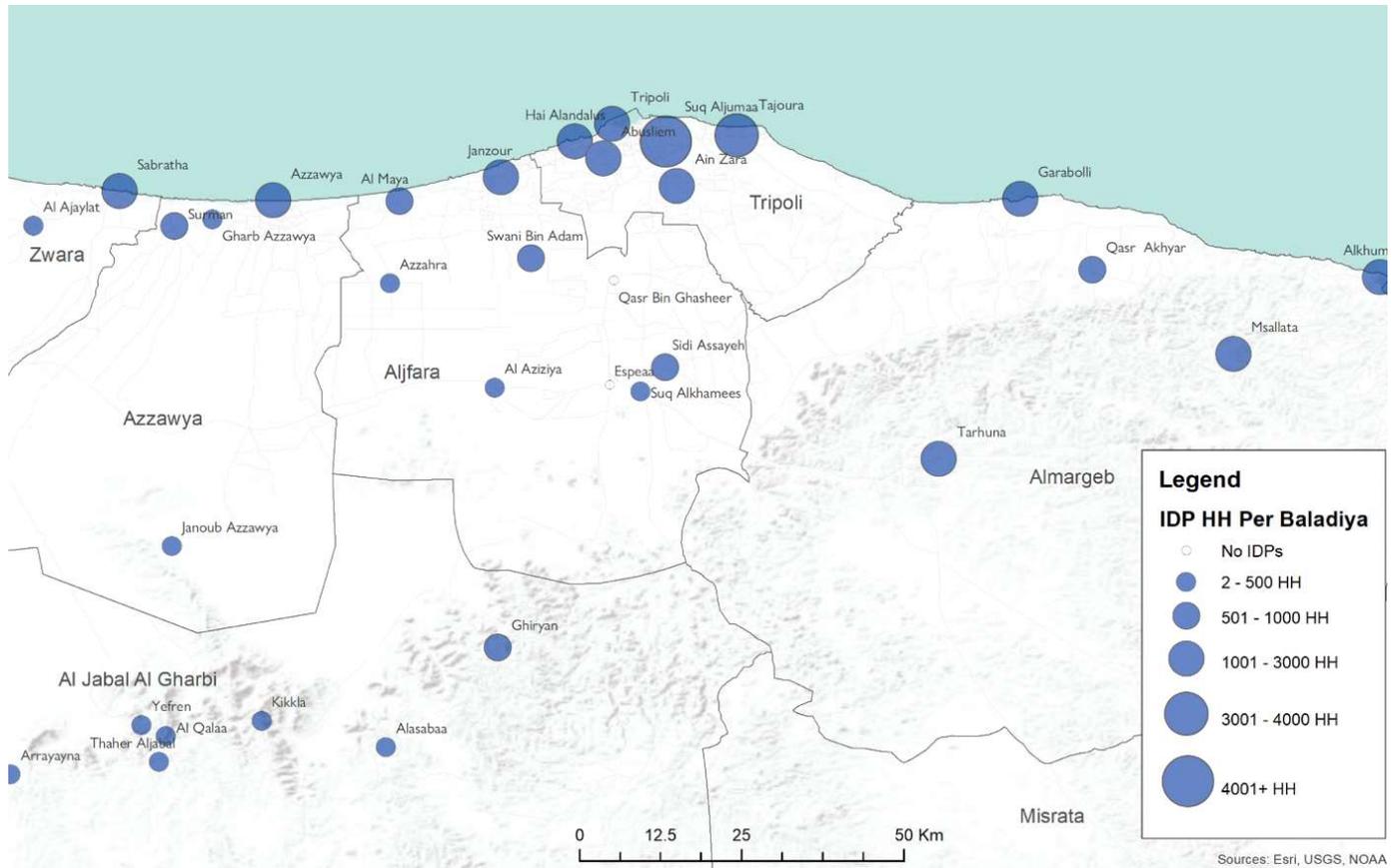
Figure 4 Levels of displacement in Western Libya per baladiya (source: DTM MT Round 29)

According to the National Registry System Data of the MoD, Qasr Bin Ghasheer, Espeaa and Ain Zara are the three baladiya from which the greatest displacement has occurred (Figure 5). The majority of households (84%) which were displaced from Ain Zara relocated to Suq Aljumaa (37%), within the baladiya of Ain Zara (27%), in Azzawya (12%) or Janzour (7%).

The majority of people displaced from Qasr Bin Gasheer (78%) moved to Azzawya (29%), Suq Aljumaa (28%) and Janzour (21%).

In Espeaa, the majority (67%) of displaced households relocated to either Suq Aljumaa (18%), Tripoli (17%), Azzawya (9%), Alkhums (7%), Abusliem (6%), Janzour (6%) or Zliten (6%).

Figure 5 Movement of IDPs from the three most affected baladiya (source: MoD)
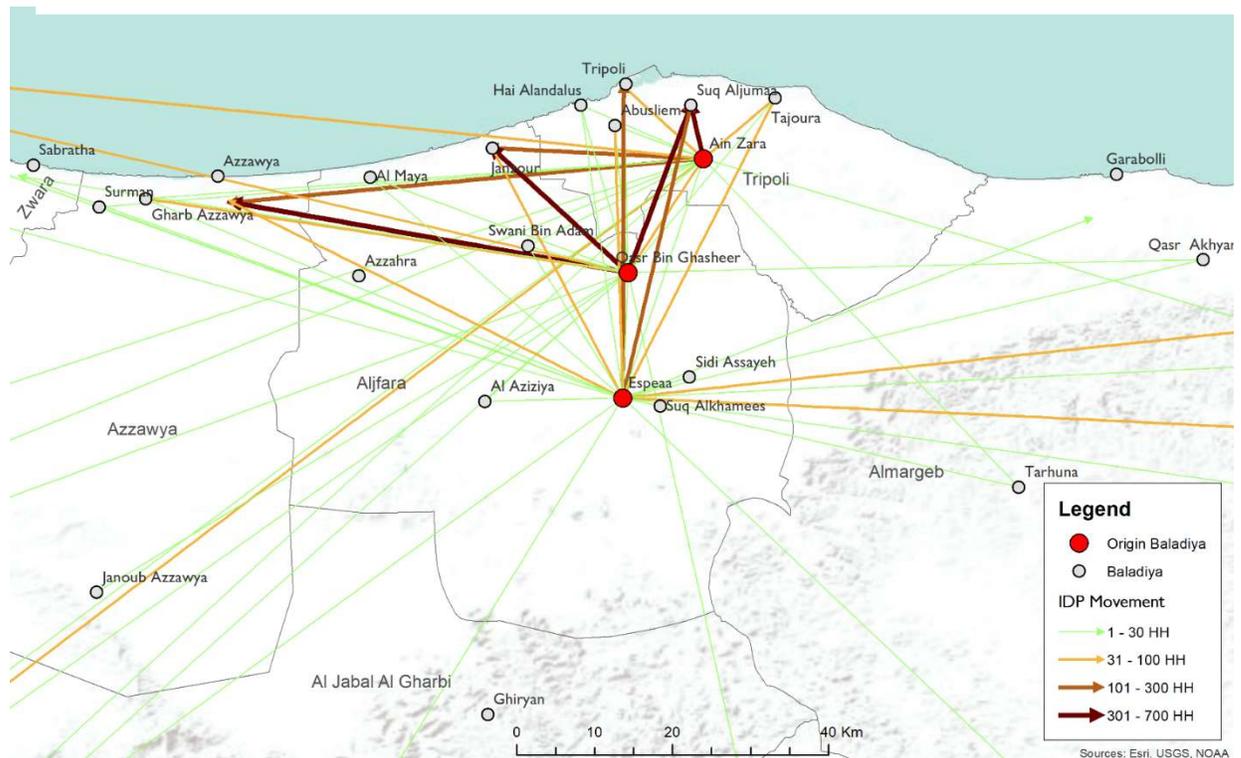
4. IDPS: WHO ARE THEY?

The analysis of the demographic composition of internally displaced households registered with the National Registry System data reveals that there are on average five members in each household registered. The size of the majority (55%) of IDP households ranged from five to seven family members and most frequently were comprised of six members.

The male to female breakdown of IDPs is approximately 50-50.

IDP household size
(source: MoD)

1 to 4 — 27%

5 to 7 — 55%

8 to 10 — 16%

more than 10 — 2%
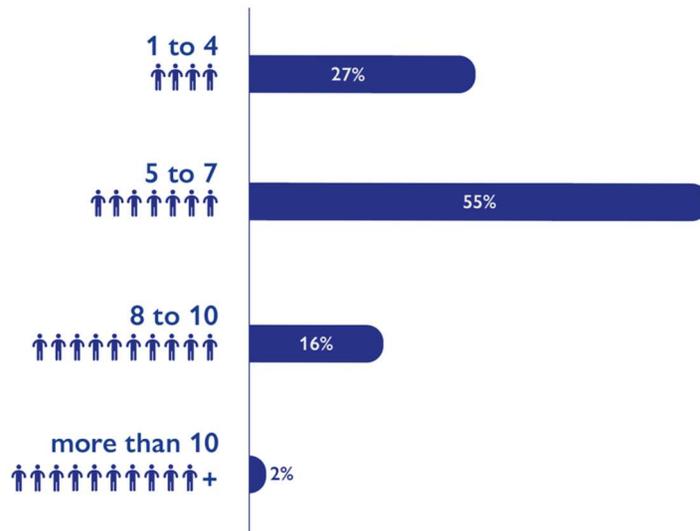
Gender breakdown
(source: MoD)

49.9%
34,507 individuals

50.1%
34,692 individuals

ACCOMMODATION

IDP accommodation types
(source: MoD)

Schools — **32%** — 4479 households

Host families — **30%** — 4097 households

Rented accommodation — **29%** — 4021 households

Temporary shelter — **5%** — 662 households

No shelter — **2%** — 239 households

Other — **2%** — 327 households

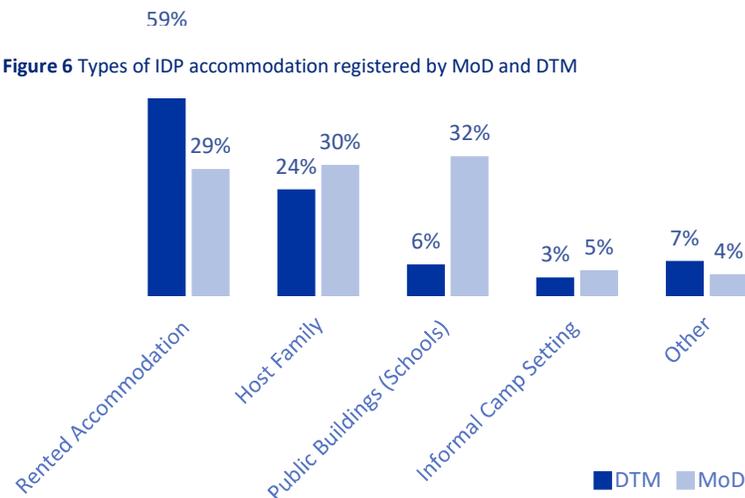According to data from the National Registry System, the most common type of accommodation where IDPs were registered were schools (32%), closely followed by host families (30%) or rented accommodations (29%).

Similarly, data collected by DTM, show that the majority of tracked IDPs were living in rented accommodation (59%), with host family (24%) or in public buildings (6%). The difference between the two datasets can be explained by the different methodologies used in the data collection (Figure 6). Whereas the DTM data was collected through a series of interviews with local stakeholders, the National Registry System data was collected through individual interviews with heads of households.

Moreover, data from DTM from the last three data collection cycles (September – February 2020) point towards an increase of IDPs staying with host families (without paying rent) rather than in rented accommodation. This could signal the erosion of coping strategies of several IDPs who, unable to return home due to the protracted nature of the

Figure 6 Types of IDP accommodation registered by MoD and DTM

Rented Accommodation: DTM 59%, MoD 29%
Host Family: DTM 24%, MoD 30%
Public Buildings (Schools): DTM 6%, MoD 32%
Informal Camp Setting: DTM 3%, MoD 5%
Other: DTM 7%, MoD 4%

■ DTM ■ MoD

conflict, are increasingly struggling to afford paying rent. Furthermore, there have been reports of increases in accommodation rental prices in areas considered safe from conflict.
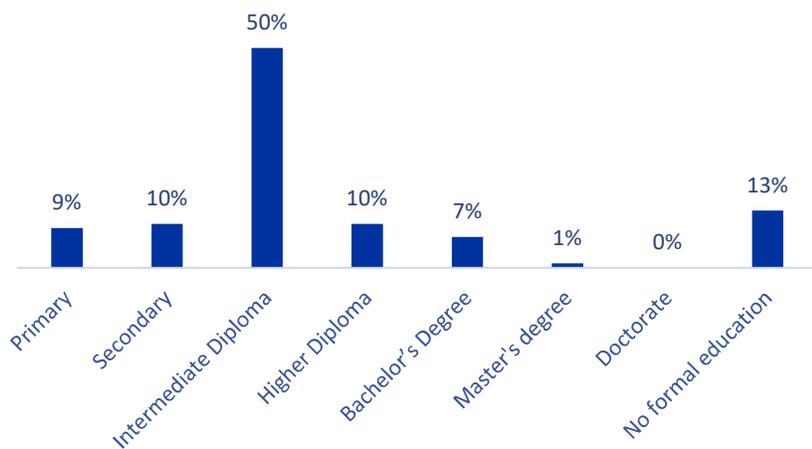
EMPLOYMENT STATUS

The majority (79%) of heads of displaced households registered in the Ministry of Displacement's system held government jobs while 12 per cent owned a private business and a minority (9%) were unemployed (Figure 7).

Figure 7 Employment status (source: MoD)

12%
Unemployed

9%
Private business owner

79%
Government job
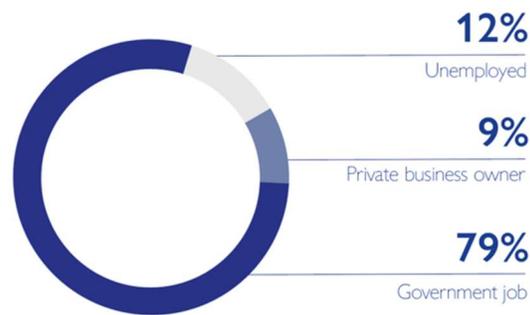
EDUCATION STATUS OF HEADS OF HOUSEHOLD

More than two thirds (68%) of the heads of displaced families registered with the MoD have an intermediate or higher-level diploma, or a tertiary

Primary	9%	
Secondary	10%	
Intermediate Diploma	50%	
Higher Diploma	10%	
Bachelor's Degree	7%	
Master's degree	1%	
Doctorate	0%	
No formal education	13%	

level of education (Bachelor's or Masters' level). (Figure 8). A minority (14%) held no formal education diploma. A total of 10 per cent have a secondary-level education and 9 per cent have completed primary-level education.

HEALTH CONDITION

According to the Ministry of Displacement's data, nearly one household in five (18%) reported that one family member suffered from at least one illness. The most frequently reported diseases were diabetes (38%), blood pressure related (27%) and heart diseases (8%). This is in line with phone surveys conducted amongst 1748 respondents by DTM over the period

Types of diseases reported by IDPs
(source: MoD)

|		
38% Diabetes	**27%** Blood pressure	**15%** Other
8% Heart disease	**3%** Asthma	**2%** Special needs
2% Kidneys (dialysis needed)	**2%** Injured	**1%** Epilepsy

May 2019 – May 2020 according to which 25 per cent of IDPs reported that (at least) one family member suffers (of at least) one illness.

MARITAL STATUS

The majority of heads of households registered in the National Registry System were married (90%) while a minority were either widowed (7%), single (2%) or divorced (2%) (Figure 9).

Figure 9 Marital status of IDPs (heads of households) (source: MoD)
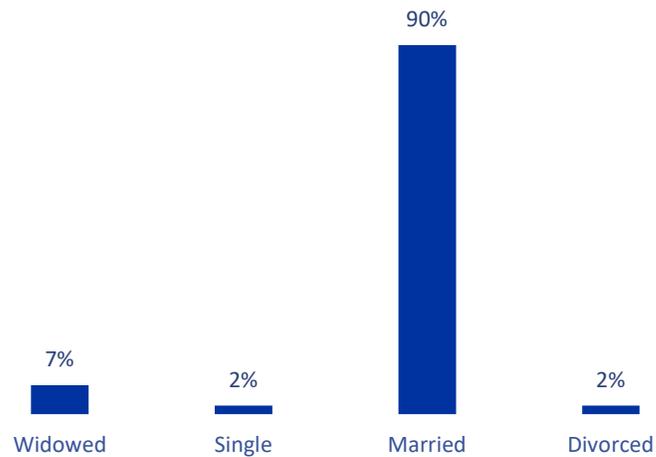
Priority humanitarian needs
(source: DTM)

36%
shelter

23%
NFIs

22%
Food

4%
health care

5. HUMANITARIAN NEEDS

DTM Libya's Mobility Tracking includes a Multi-Sectoral Location Assessment (MSLA) covering all municipalities (baladiya) of Libya. This activity regularly collects sectoral baseline data on the availability of services and priority needs at community level with the primary aim to support humanitarian programming.

According to data collected between April 2019 and April 2020, IDPs' and returnees' priority needs were centred around accommodation, food and non-food items as well as access to health care. Other humanitarian needs which were mentioned less frequently included water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), education, access to an income or a livelihood, and security. This is also confirmed by phone surveys conducted amongst 1748 respondents between May 2019 and May 2020.

EDUCATION

Between April 2019 and April 2020, the number of schools reported as being destroyed because of the armed conflict ranged from 37 to 51 while the number of those that were reportedly partially damaged ranged from 182 and 209. In addition, the public health measures implemented to curb the spread of COVID-19, have led to a complete closure of schools as of March – April 2020.

Full and equal access for IDPs to safe education, and vocational and skills training can strengthen self-reliance and economic independence to factor that can heighten protection risks and in the opposite case can heighten protection risks.

FOOD

The most frequently mentioned obstacle in accessing adequate food to meet household needs was cost. Food being too expensive was consistently mentioned as being the cause of lack of access to food in 92 to 98 per cent of cases over the period April 2019 – April 2020.

However, insufficient food availability in markets was also reported in three municipalities (Bani Waleed, Tahurna and Sidi Assayeh) in March – April 2020.

Most recently, it was reported that IDPs and returnees in need were unable to meet their basic needs such as food and non-food items due to reported price hikes (inflation) and limited or irregular supply of the needed items on the market, particularly in the Tripoli region.

HEALTH CARE

Across Libya, 63 to 64 per cent of health facilities have been operational throughout the period April 2019 – April 2020. Furthermore, the range of services available has regularly been reported as being limited due to shortages of medical supplies, such as medicines for chronic diseases

Overall, Aljufra, Alkufra and Ghat are the three regions that have been consistently (for the period November 2019 – April 2020) identified as having the most severe needs for availability of health services.

NON-FOOD ITEMS (NFIS) AND ACCESS TO MARKETS

The most commonly cited obstacle to accessing NFIs was cost however in some municipalities, distance (from a local market) and quality of items were also mentioned as being the main challenges.

Mattresses, hygienic items and gas/fuel were the NFIs that were consistently cited as being the most needed by IDPs. To a lesser extent, clothes and portable lights were also amongst the most commonly reported needed NFIs.

IOM provided NFIs to Libyans displaced from Suq Aljumaa following the onset of the conflict in Tripoli. Credit: © IOM February 2020.

SECURITY AND MINE ACTION

Throughout the period April 2019 – July 2020, the main challenges faced by residents in moving safely within their municipalities were insecurity, road closures and, to a lesser extent, the awareness, or the threat, of the presence of unexploded ordinances (UXOs). On average, the presence of UXOs was reported in eight municipalities and restrictions of movements on residents in 17 municipalities.

The presence of land mines and explosive remnants of war, or the threat of their presence, can restrict freedom of movement and block access to essential services such as markets, health centres, schools and water supplies.

Furthermore, the inability, in some cases, of people to move safely within their municipalities because of insecurity, road closures or presence of UXOs may affect IDPs when returning to their original place of residence.

In addition, damage made to houses may also hinder the safe return for many IDPs. On average, during the period April 2019-2020, 83 per cent of returnees were reported to be living back in their own home while the remaining were in rented accommodation, with host families and other shelter arrangements.

ACCOMMODATION

IDPs experience specific forms of deprivation, such as the loss of accommodation, which can lead to heightened or particular protection risks. During the period June 2019 until July 2020, data collection indicated that IDPs are increasingly staying with host families (without paying rent) rather than in rented accommodation (self-paid) which points towards the erosion of their coping mechanisms given the protracted nature of the conflict.

❝   *IDPs experience specific forms of deprivation, such as the loss of accommodation, which can lead to heightened or particular protection risks.*

In Tripoli, out of those IDPs living in collective or public shelters, the proportion of IDPs living in informal settings (e.g. caravans, tents or makeshift shelters) has ranged from nine to 23 per cent over the period August 2019 – April 2020 (*period for which such data is available).

WATER SUPPLY, SANITATION, HYGIENE AND PUBLIC SERVICES

The armed conflict has been affecting the regular provision of services such as water and electricity. For example, throughout the period April 2019 – July 2020, collected data showed that between 44 to 48 per cent of municipalities had regular access to the water network, while between 51 and 61 per cent of municipalities had regular electricity supply. Inadequate water quantity and quality is the underlying cause of the majority of health-related problems in crises, which is ever more relevant in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

6. CONCLUSIONS

Displacement causes a severe impact on the lives, health and well-being of individuals and communities. The loss of access to the protective presence of a home, family and community can increase the risk of exposure to threats such as crime, violence and abuse. At the same time, the lack of access to food and life-saving assistance and services, such as basic health care and public services can create greater safety and security risks to IDPs lives as well as difficulty in recovering from the harmful effects of conflict.

In the face of such risks, IDPs have demonstrated a remarkable degree of resilience and strength. In parallel, and in responding and coordinating on the ground, State actors and the humanitarian community can help ensure that such protection factors are at the core of the response. The provision of assistance and services to fulfil basic humanitarian needs can reduce exposure to, or mitigate the effects of, crime, violence and abuse. As such, the implementation of the MoD IDP registration system, and when needed complimentary use of other available IDP data, can help facilitate humanitarian interventions and support to IDPs.

Lastly, the end of hostilities in Tripoli in summer 2020 further highlighted the need for continued collection of vital information on IDPs and returning IDPs to support durable solutions in the aftermath of conflict.

INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT IN LIBYA

Displacement from Tripoli during hostilities in 2019-2020