IOM • OIM

DTM

LIBYA'S MIGRANT REPORT

January - February 2021

ROUND 35

Project funded by the European Union

Photo (cover page):

As part of emergency work to ensure basic life-saving services are provided to migrants, IOM provided essential hygiene items and conducted a hygiene promotion and COVID-19 awareness-raising session for migrants in western Libya. © IOM 2021

Contents

OVERVIEW

In January and February 2021, 575,874 migrants from over 41 nationalities were identified in all 100 Libyan municipalities during Round 35 of DTM data collection. In line with the last round of data collection, the number of migrants identified in Libya by DTM in January and February 2021 remained fairly stable compared to November - December 2020.

The unemployment rate (22%), which continues to remain slightly above pre-pandemic levels (17%) but lower than in June 2020 (29%) coupled with the suspension of fighting as well as the easing of some of mobility restrictions are factors likely contributing to a stabilization of the migrant population stock in Libya compared to previous rounds. The number of migrants had dropped by an estimated 80,000 individuals by December 2020 as many moved from Libya to neighbouring countries following the start of the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020,.

While steady progress continues towards the implementation of the Libyan Political Dialogue Forum roadmap, the economy and labour market still suffer the effects of the conflict, diminished oil revenues and COVID-19 pandemic. When asked about the three main issues migrants faced, the most frequently cited challenges were financial issues, followed by the lack of identity documents, insufficient information and protection risks.

Individual interviews with migrants conducted by DTM in January and February 2021 highlighted hat a greater proportion of unemployed migrants reported facing hunger, thirst, insecurity, financial issues and lack of identity documents at the time of survey than those who were employed. A DTM study showed that unemployment is one of the most significant risk factors that increases migrants' vulnerability in Libya, particularly among those who suffer income loss or have limited access to social protection programmes, such as unemployment and health insurance schemes. According to recent interviews conducted by IOM in collaboration with national and international partners, the majority of migrants (95%) reported not benefiting from any social protection mechanism, a proportion which was slightly higher than among the surveyed Libyan population (87%).

The number of migrants who attempted to cross the Mediterranean Sea, while only a minority of the total migrant population in Libya, increased significantly during the reporting period. In the first three weeks of February 2021 alone, more than 3,100 migrants were rescued at sea -- a quarter of the total number of migrants intercepted and returned to Libyan shore in 2020.

Despite a drop in the migrant population stocks in Libya, migration patterns remain heavily shaped by geographical proximity and diasporic ties. More than two thirds of migrants are from neighbouring countries: Niger (21%), Egypt (18%), Chad (15%) and Sudan (15%).

In line with a trend that has been consistent throughout the last year, the largest migrant populations were identified in the regions of Tripoli (15%), Ejdabia (12%), Misrata (10%), Benghazi (7%), Azzawya (7%) and Murzuq (6%).

22%

unemployment rate
which is 5% higher than the pre-pandemic rate (17%) (Round 29, Jan - Feb 2020) but 5% lower than Round 32 (27%) (July - Aug 2020).

Fig 1 Regions of origin of migrants

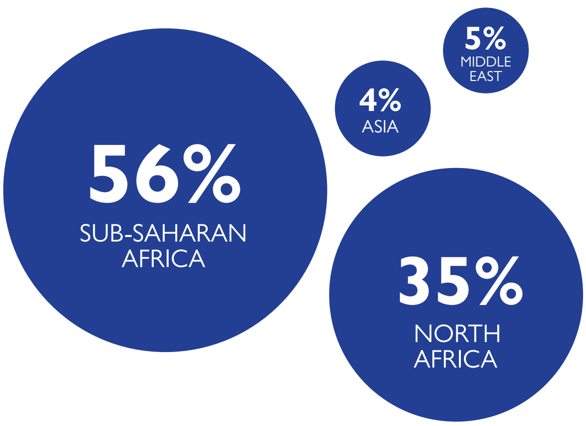
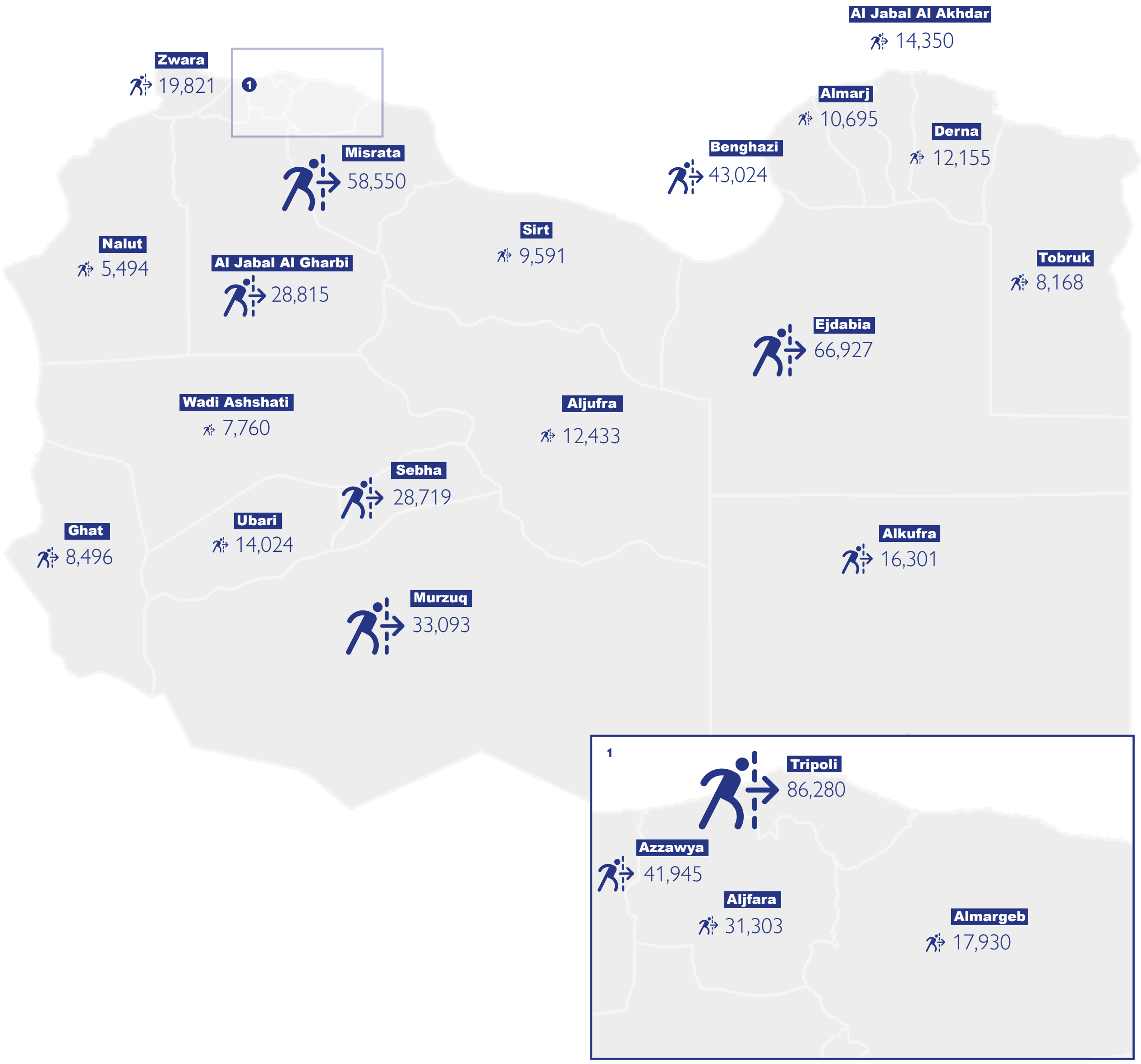


Fig 2 Number of migrants per region (mantika) during DTM Round 35 data collection.



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KEY FINDINGS

Round 35 (January - February 2021)

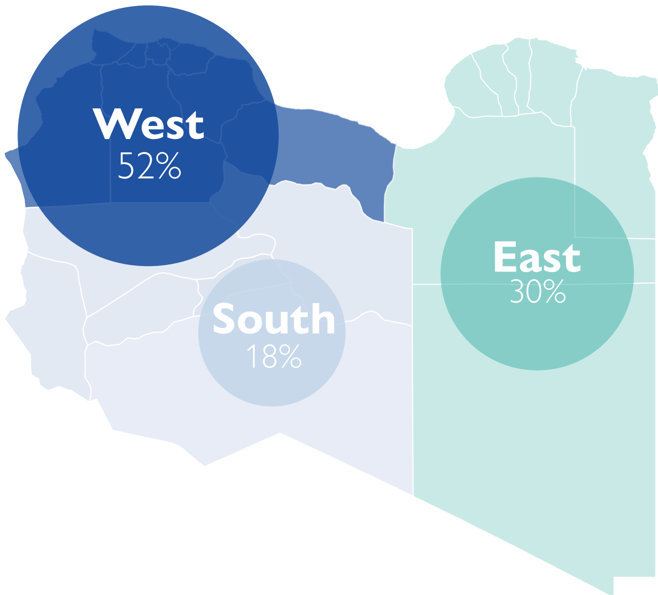
Project funded by the European Union

575,874
migrants in Libya

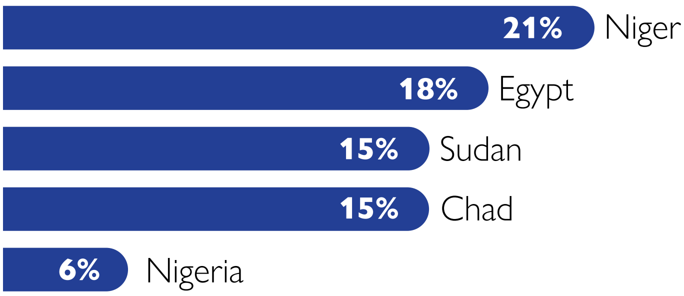
US$ 887
migration journey cost
(average per person)

33%
of migrants reported that the remittances they send home are the primary source of income for their household

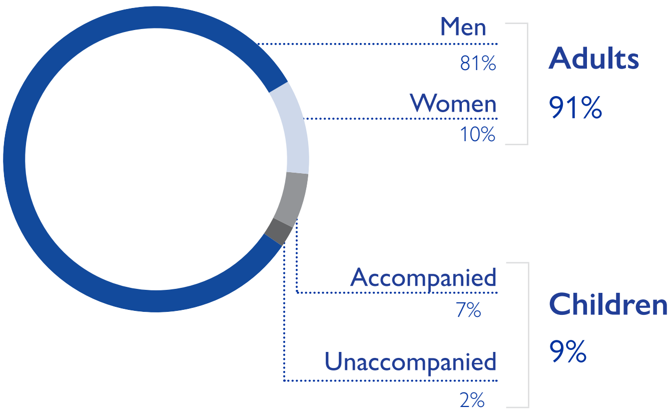
Distribution of migrants per geographical areas



Top 5 nationalities



Demographics



Migrants were present in:

579 communities (out of 667)

100 municipalities (out of 100)

2,222 Interviews with key informants

4,166 Interviews with migrants (Flow Monitoring Surveys)

100% coverage

HUMANITARIAN NEEDS

In February, IOM provided core relief items including hygiene kits and conducted health awareness-raising information sessions on COVID-19 impacts and prevention as well as on hygiene for migrants in western Libya.

MIGRANT VULNERABILITY AND HUMANITARIAN NEEDS

Interviews with 2,222 key informants across Libya in January and February 2021 highlighted that the primary needs of migrants were centred around health services (84%), NFIs (45%), accommodation (36%), and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) (26%).

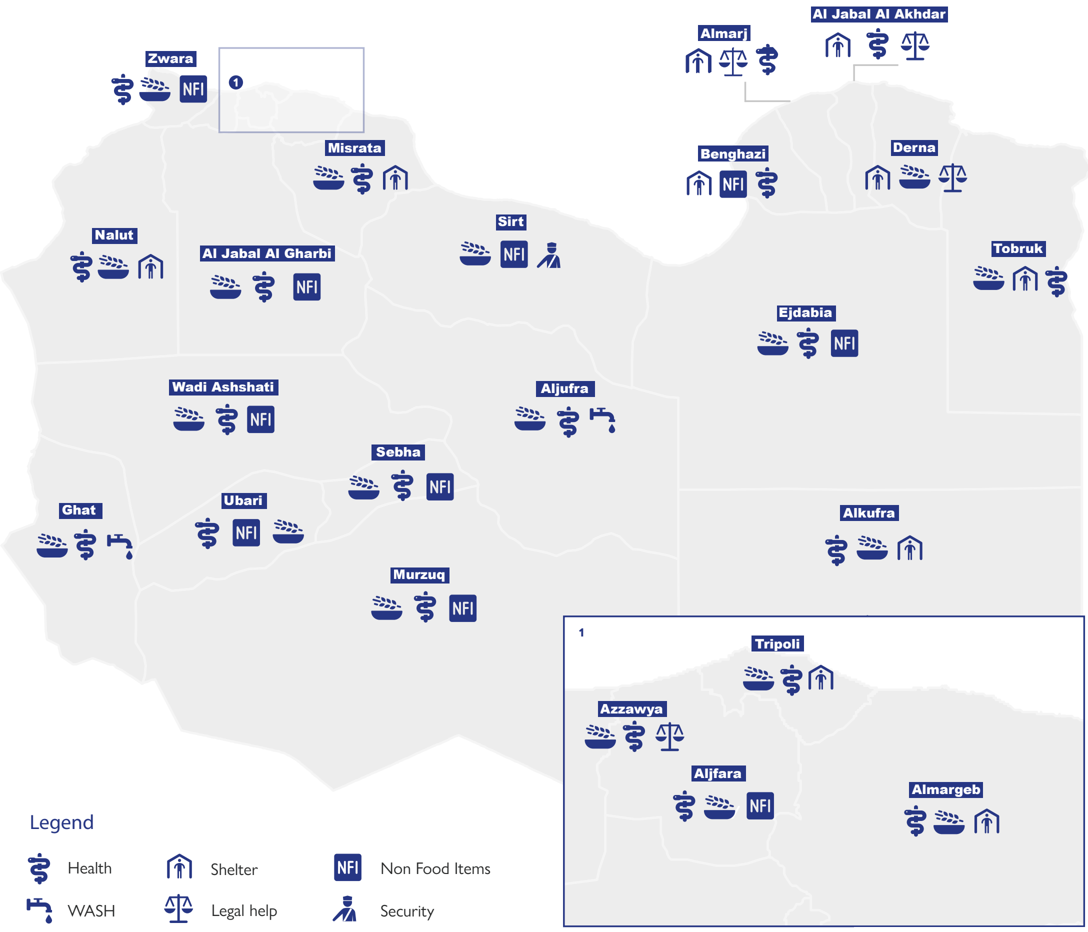
Similar to previous rounds, key informant interviews highlighted that cost and affordability of food and other core items as well as housing and services, such as health care, remain the main obstacle migrants are faced with in fulfilling their essential needs. A joint IOM-WFP assessment is currently ongoing to shed more light on the food security status of migrants in Libya.

According to a recent Libya Joint Market Monitoring Initiative report the cost of food and other essential goods increased slightly by more than 6 per cent in February compared to January 2021, and remains 18 per cent higher than pre-pandemic levels (March 2020).

The median price of essential goods and food items in the South (893 LYD) remains significantly higher compared to the East (707 LYD) and West (713 LYD).

In addition, insufficient toilet and washing facilities were the second most important barrier migrants faced after the cost of accessing water, sanitation and hygiene services, according to key informant interviews. Individual interviews with migrants conducted by DTM found that a total of 54 per cent only had access to a communal or public toilet, shared with 6 or more other individuals. According to a recent DTM study of migrants' housing conditions, 16 per cent of respondents reported not having access to improved sanitation facilities or any toilet at all, a proxy indicator of access to basic sanitation. Improving sanitation systems and infrastructure can help protect the water, air, soil and food from contamination at the same time as reducing the risk of diseases.

Fig 3 Humanitarian priority needs of migrants per region (mantika)



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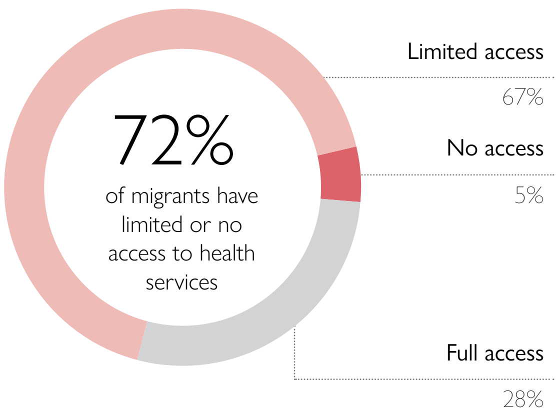
Health

The majority of migrants surveyed (72%) continued to report limited or no access to health care, consistent with previous reports (Fig 4). A greater proportion of migrants continue to report limited or no access to health services in the West (80%) and South (73%) compared to the East (43%).

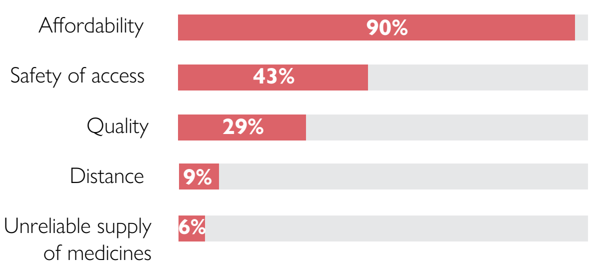
According to WHO, the health care system remains over-stretched across the country but the severity of the health sector needs is most severe in the south as well as in central Libya.

Fig 4 Migrants' reported access to health services (sample size 4,166 interviews)



Among those who had no access to health services, the majority (90%) reported having issues accessing health services because of issues related to its affordability -- a rate which has been consistently increasing over the last three rounds of data collection of November – December 2020 (87%), September-October (84%) and July-August (77%). Safety of access was the second most important barrier to accessing health services for 43 per cent of migrants.

Fig 5 Main issues hindering migrants' access to health services (sample size 212 interviews)



Recent interviews conducted by IOM and partners with 115 migrants highlighted that while a majority of respondents (87%) reported they would access health facility for immunization, nearly a third (32%) reported that they could not afford to access health care. A minority (9%) reported that they feared they would not be able to access health care because of their ethnicity, race or tribe.

In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, there are 16,242 migrants and refugees who are classified as high-risk population, meaning they are either frontline health-care workers, 60 years old or above and with co-morbidity or pregnant and lactating women.

In addition, the incidence of tuberculosis in Libya is on the rise, according to WHO and the National Tuberculosis Programme lacks trained staff, equipment and supplies. IOM and WHO are working together to strengthen TB screening, laboratory diagnosis and treatment for vulnerable populations in Libya, including migrants. .

Food security

According to the Libya Food Security Sector, there are an estimated 123,090 migrants in need of food and livelihood assistance as of February 2021. The highest concentration of food insecure migrants are in the regions of Benghazi, Sebha, Aljfara, Ejdabia and Murzuq. Preliminary findings of WFP vulnerability analysis point to increased food insecurity in eastern Libya.

WFP continues to report receiving a high volume of requests for food assistance due to insecurity and the socioeconomic impacts of COVID-19.

Since the Central Bank introduced a new unified exchange rate in January 2021, the prices of some imported food items, such as vegetable oil and milk have increased by 60 and 25 per cent, respectively, according to the February Libya Joint Market Monitoring Initiative report.

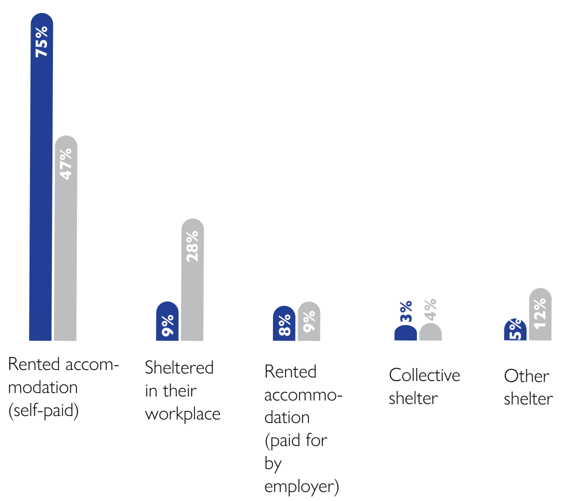
Accommodation

Consistent with previous reports, key informant interviews highlighted that the majority of migrants live in rented accommodation (77%) (Fig 6). A greater proportion of migrants were accommodated in their workplaces in rural areas (28%) than in urban areas (9%). A DTM Libya study on migrants' housing conditions found that a greater proportion of migrants housed in their workplaces were living in overcrowded conditions of which the structural quality was substandard than migrants who lived in other types of accommodation.

A total of 2 per cent of migrants interviewed by DTM in January and February 2021 reported having been threatened with eviction (1%) or having been evicted (1%) from their home in the past three months. Among them, the main reasons for having been evicted or threatened to be were the inability to pay rent (45%), a disagreement with other tenants or neighbours (29%) or because the landlord required the accommodation for other tenants (14%).

A greater proportion of unemployed migrants reported living in abandoned buildings or informal settings, such as makeshift shelters (2%) compared to those who were employed (<1%). Often as a result of limited access to adequate housing, migrants may resort to living in substandard apartments, rooms or informal settlements, with limited access to services or facilities. A recent DTM study highlighted that access to adequate housing was closely related to an individual's employment status. Unemployed migrants were shown to be lacking access to adequate housing to a greater extent than those who were employed.

Fig 6 Migrants' types of accommodation



Education

A minority of migrants interviewed by DTM in January and February 2021 reported having family members aged between 5 and 18 years old (6%) in Libya. Among them, the majority (52%) reported that their family members aged 5 to 18 years old were unable to access education. The majority (81%) cited that cost was the main barrier to accessing education. The lack of documents was the second most quoted obstacle by nearly three quarters of migrants (73%) while social isolation within the host community and language barrier were mentioned by 55 and 45 per cent of respondents, respectively.

52%

of migrants in Libya with family members aged 5-18 reported that they were unable to access education

Fig 7 Percentage of migrants with family members aged 5-18 in Libya

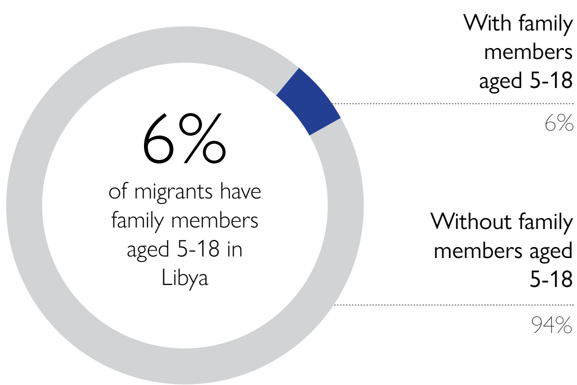
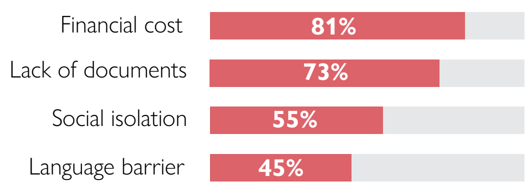


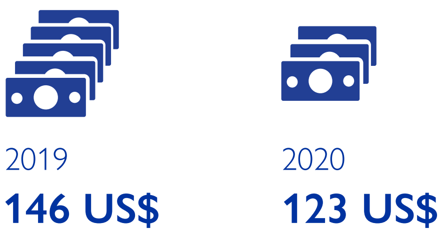
Fig 8 Migrants' reported barriers to accessing education



Remittances

A total of 30 per cent of migrants interviewed by DTM in January – February 2021 reported having sent money home in spite of the pandemic and conflict, while 31 percent reported they intended to do so in the future. A recent study on remittances conducted by DTM Libya showed that the conflict and the COVID-19 pandemic have affected the financial capacity of migrants to send money home. Fewer migrants report having been sending remittances since 2019 and the average monthly amount sent by migrants dropped in 2020, from 123 US$ to 146 US$ (Fig 9).

Fig 9 Average remittance sent by migrants per month in 2019 and 2020



A total of 33 per cent of migrants interviewed by DTM in January and February 2021 reported that the remittances they sent home were the primary source of income of their household. Remittances serve as an important source of income as well as a risk diversification strategy for migrants' households in their country of origin. An in-depth DTM study on remittances found that in most cases (94%) remittances covered family's daily needs such as food costs, utility bills or other essential items. More than two thirds of migrants who reported sending remittances also mentioned that the money they sent home contributed to building their household's savings or investments, such as building a house. In the majority of cases, the primary beneficiary of remittances were migrants' close family members (spouse, children, parents and/or siblings) in their country of origin.

The most recent DTM Libya study on remittances also highlighted that migrant workers and those being in Libya for economic reasons were more likely to send remittances than other migrants who either intend to return to their country of origin or migrate to another country. The majority of migrants (83%) who intended to stay in Libya reported their wish to send remittances, although only a minority (29%) were able to transfer remittances due to various obstacles, including unemployment, lack of adequate or low earnings or limited reliable money transfer services.

WASH

In line with previous reports, a total of 17 per cent of migrants interviewed by DTM reported having insufficient drinking water, a proportion which was higher in the South (21%) and in the West (18%) than in the East (6%).

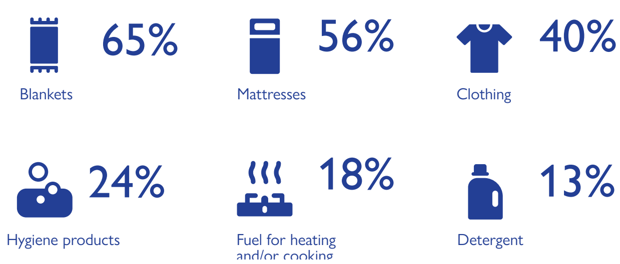
The majority of migrants (76%) had access to the public water network on most days or on a daily basis. However, a greater proportion of migrants reported having infrequent or no access (24%) to the public water network than in the previous round of data collection (16%). The proportion of migrants who reported lacking sufficient drinking water was greater among those who were unemployed (24%) than those who were employed (14%). Among migrants who had infrequent or no access to the public water network, the majority reported having to resort to using bottled water (71%) or water trucking (28%) to meet their needs, which both involve higher costs and are generally not considered improved drinking water sources.

UNICEF recently highlighted the deteriorating WASH situation in Libya as a result of the conflict, including past attacks on the Great Man-Made River project, which remains unrepaired, as well as a lack of funding and resources of the public water network and desalination plants. UNICEF estimates that four million people are at risk of imminent water shortages.

NFIs

The majority of migrants (87%) interviewed by DTM reported being in need of NFIs. The main items that were most needed included blankets (65%), mattresses (56%), clothing (40%) and hygiene products (24%) and cooking or heating fuel (18%) (Fig 10). A higher proportion of migrants who were unemployed (97%) reported being in need of essential NFIs than those who were employed (84%).

Fig 10 Migrants' reported NFI needs



MIGRATION FLOWS

On January 22, over 80 migrants were rescued at sea and returned to Libyan shores by the coast guards. IOM staff provided emergency supporting, including medical assistance. Overall, in January and February 2021, nearly 4,000 migrants were rescued at sea and disembarked in Libya, an increase compared to 2020 when 2,181 had been rescued at the same time last year. IOM © IOM 2021

MIGRATION FLOWS

During the reporting period (January - February 2021) DTM Libya's 43 Flow Monitoring Points (FMPs) monitored migration movements in 16 municipalities and in 10 regions (mantika) of Libya. Flow Monitoring Points (FMPs) are set up at key transit locations along major migration routes within Libya where migrants are observed arriving and departing.

At these flow monitoring points, DTM Field Staff regularly conduct surveys with migrants concerning their intentions, profiles, humanitarian needs and vulnerabilities. The following section presents an overview of both quantitative and qualitative information collected during the reporting period.

Flow monitoring points in numbers

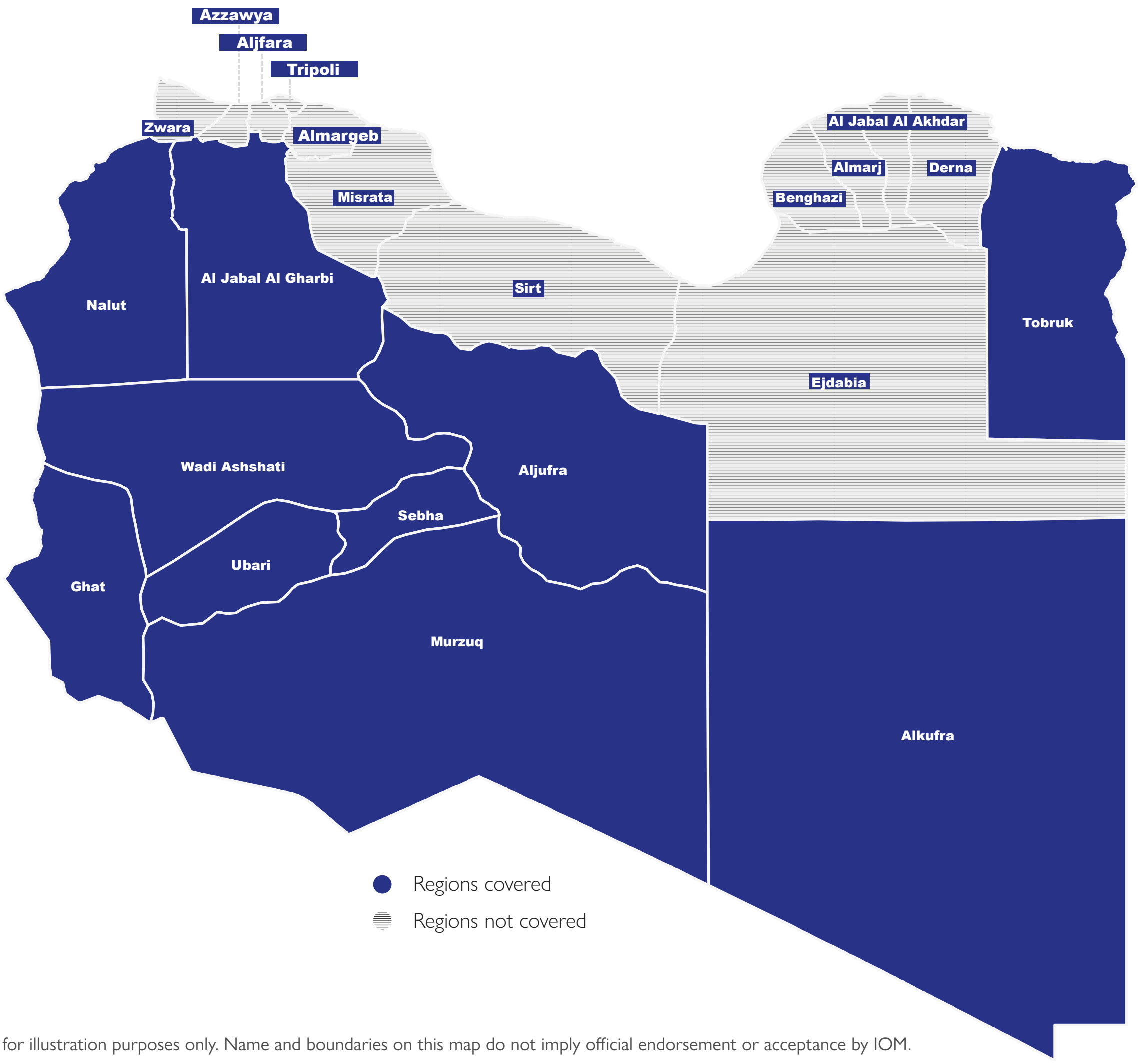
10 regions covered

553 assessments

16 municipalities

43 flow monitoring points (FMPs) active

Fig 11 Regions (mantika) covered by the network of FMPs monitoring migration flows in Libya



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ANALYSIS OF MIGRATION FLOWS & PRESENCE

The analysis of migration flows is based on the mobility trends observed on the ground during the reporting period, in addition to primary data collected through the Flow Monitoring Points (FMPs).

EASTERN LIBYA

Alkufra

In Alkufra, the number of migrants identified during Round 35 increased by 12 per cent in comparison to Round 34, up from 13,850 to 15,530 migrants.

Migrants were observed traveling to Alkufra with camels to sell livestock, a seasonal occurence. Cross-border livestock trade, much of which is informal, occurs between Sudan, Chad and Libya and Alkufra is a merging point for camels coming from Darfur, for example.

Field reports highlight that migrants were also transiting through the municipality of Alkufra and either heading north in Libya or returning to their countries of origin through the Sahara Desert. Migrants who were returning home were reportedly able to proceed through checkpoints and across borders.

Among migrants observed in Alkufra, the majority were Sudanese while fewer were nationals of Chad, Nigeria, and other countries.

Derna

During the reporting period, the security situation in the municipality of Derna was reportedly stable with the economic situation improving. Many economic activities are being implemented and several construction projects are ongoing, some of which aim to urbanize the municipality and improve road conditions.

Increased demand for labour in the construction sector is among the factors likely explaining an increase in the number of migrants identified in the municipality of Derna, which rose by one fifth from 3,300 migrants in Round 34 data collection to 3,950 migrants.

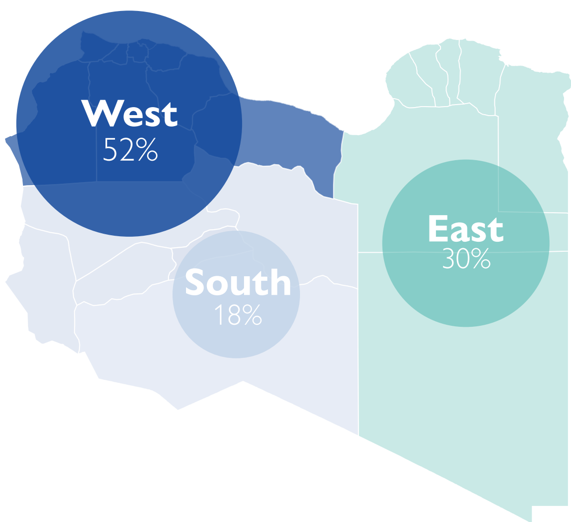
SOUTHERN LIBYA

Sebha

The number of migrants observed in the municipality of Sebha during Round 35 of data collection decreased by 12 per cent in comparison to Round 34 data collection, down from 31,150 migrants to 27,350 migrants.

According to field observers, the security situation in Sebha remains volatile and migrants have reportedly been victims of armed robberies and other threats to their personal safety. Migrants were unable to move freely inside the municipality, which is further limiting their access to employment opportunities. In addition, lack of equipment and shortages of medical supply in the health sector in Sebha coupled with an increase in COVID-19 cases represented another challenge for migrants living in Sebha. According to WHO the low numbers of confirmed COVID-19 cases in the municipality of Sebha is a reflection of the low level of testing.

Fig 12 Distribution of migrants by geographical area



WESTERN LIBYA

Azzintan

According to field observers, migrants living in Azzintan reported being impacted by both the increased prices of essential commodities, including food and non-food items, and limited or loss of income due to a lack of employment opportunities.

According to the January 2021 Libya Joint Market Monitoring Initiative report prices in Azzintan were nearly 20 per cent higher than in March 2020 and had increased by nearly 5 per cent compared to December 2020.

Qasr Akhyar

In January and February, the number of migrants identified in Qasr Akhyar remained stable (2,560 in Round 35 in comparison to 2,580 in Round 34).

According to field observers, fewer migrants were present at work recruitment points due to the scarcity of job opportunities and the cold weather. In addition, social distancing measures which were implemented given the extent of the spread of COVID-19 also limited movements within the municipality.

Many migrants were observed moving to coastal areas to find seasonal work in the construction sector as opportunities to build summer resorts become available.

Ashshwayrif

The number of migrants in the municipality of Ashshwayrif dropped by 34 per cent during Round 35 in comparison to Round 34 data collection, from 4,400 to 2,900 migrants.

The western municipality of Ashshwayrif represents a key transit points for migrants intending to continue their journey towards other municipalities in western Libya or to other countries.

In January, the cold weather represented a challenge for migrants looking for work opportunities or intending to continue their journey to other countries. Fewer migrants were observed at recruitment points and transit areas. In February, more migrants were observed transiting towards regions of Libya further north.

MIGRATION ROUTES TO LIBYA

This section of the migrant report presents an analysis of the major migration routes used by migrants from different countries of origin to reach Libya. This analysis is based on individual quantitative migrant interviews conducted at key locations including transit points throughout Libya (through DTM Flow Monitoring Surveys) (FMS) between January 2020 and February 2021.

Between January 2020 and February 2021, DTM interviewed more than 23,824 migrants via Flow Monitoring Surveys (FMS) out of which 14,696 migrants shared details of the migration routes they used to reach Libya.

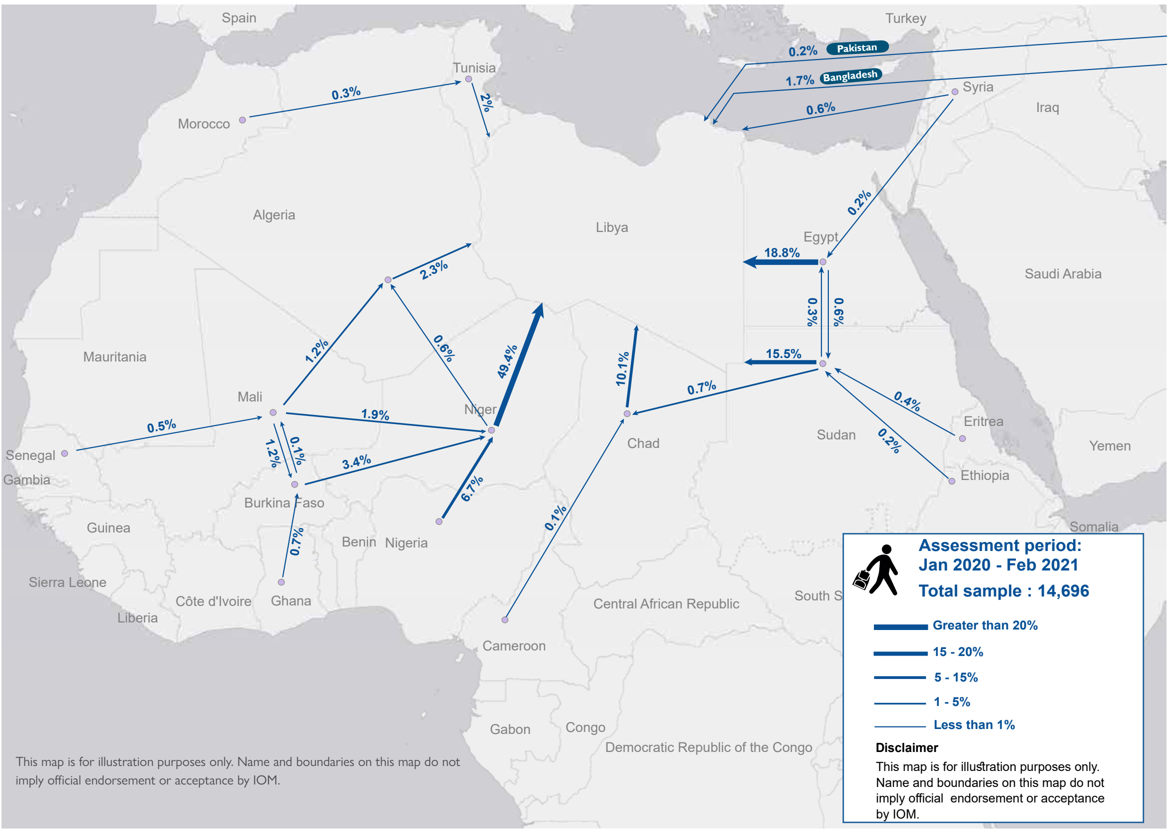
An analysis of the data collected on migration routes confirms that neighbouring countries continue to play a key role as transit countries along the main migration routes – a trend which has held true since before the pandemic. Migrants from neighbouring countries also constitute the bulk of migrants in Libya.

A recent DTM study on migrants' social networks found that based on the information and the idea they had of migrating to or through Libya prior to departure a greater proportion of migrants from neighbouring countries reported that their experience was neither worse or better than they had expected than migrants from other countries. Individual interviews with migrants conducted in January and February 2021 highlighted that around half (49%) of migrants were not aware of the risks their migration journey could potentially involved.

Fig 13 Major migration routes reported by migrants interviewed via DTM Flow Monitoring Surveys (FMS)

How to read this map

The percentages shown along each route segment in the map below represent the percentage of migrants reporting to have travelled along the respective route. For example, more than 49 per cent of migrants in Libya reported having arrived directly from or transited through Niger, including almost all migrants from Niger and those from Burkina Faso, Ghana, and Nigeria.



MIGRATION ROUTES: ANALYSIS AND TRENDS

This section of the report outlines the different routes taken by migrants (i.e. through which countries they transit before reaching Libya) and the percentage of migrants who use these routes by country of origin.

This table also includes the average cost of each route, the means of transportation migrants use and the total number of migrants from each country as well as their geographical distribution by regions of Libya.

How to read this infographic

Country of departure

number of migrants from this country in Libya

Route: transit country → Libya (xx% — *% of migrants who travel this route*)

Cost *average (USD)*: xxx$ — *cost of each route in USD*

ROUTES	COST *average (USD)*	MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION	PRESENCE IN LIBYA BY GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS

Algeria

1,721 migrants

Libya	78%	573$
Tunisia → Libya	22%	720$

Means of transportation: road — private transport (*own or rented car*) 56%; public transport (*e.g. bus or shared transport*) 19%; air 25%

East	South	West
14%	19%	67%

Bangladesh

20,351 migrants

Turkey → Libya	27%	3,853$
UAE → Turkey → Libya	14%	3,879$
UAE → Egypt → Libya	11%	5,053$
* → Libya	47%	3,691$

*Multiple routes used including via: India, Jordan, Qatar, UAE, Egypt, Turkey, Tunisia, Kuwait (and other countries) only or in combination

Means of transportation: sea or road 3%; air 97%

East	South	West
28%	1%	71%

Burkina Faso

1,960 migrants

Niger → Libya	89%	1,036$
Nigeria → Niger → Libya	3%	645$
Mali → Algeria → Libya	5%	3,612$
Algeria → Niger → Tunisia → Libya	2%*	778$

*combination of routes

Means of transportation: road — private transport 86%; public transport 13%; air 1%

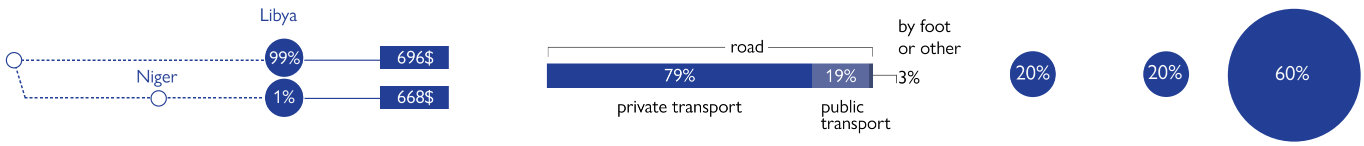
East	South	West
0%	84%	16%

ROUTES	COST *average (USD)*	MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION	PRESENCE IN LIBYA BY GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS

East South West

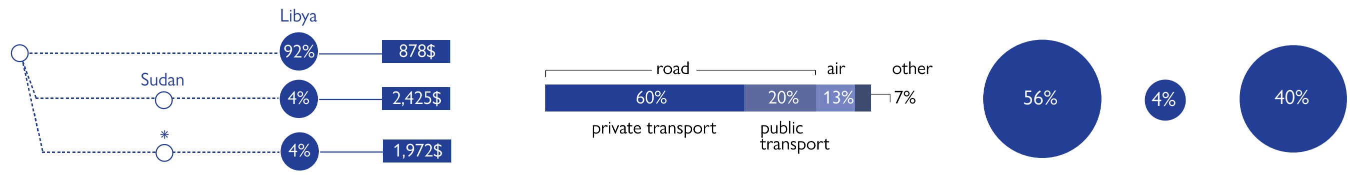
Chad

84,124 migrants



Egypt

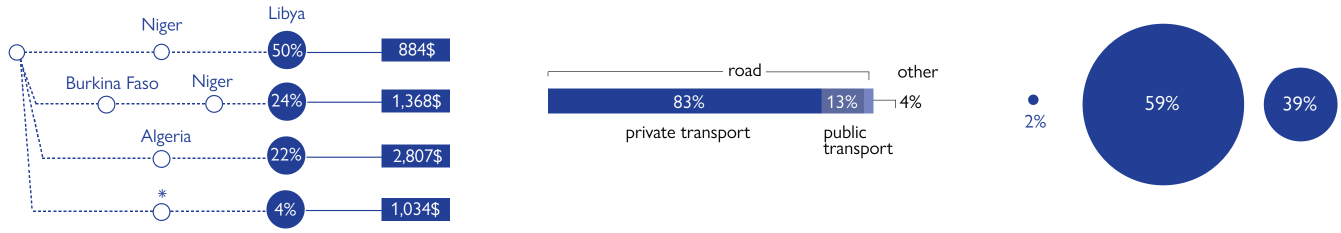
103,326 migrants



*Multiple routes used that included one or a combination of the following countries: United Arab Emirates, Syria, Turkey, South Sudan, Jordan, Chad, Niger and Burkina Faso

Mali

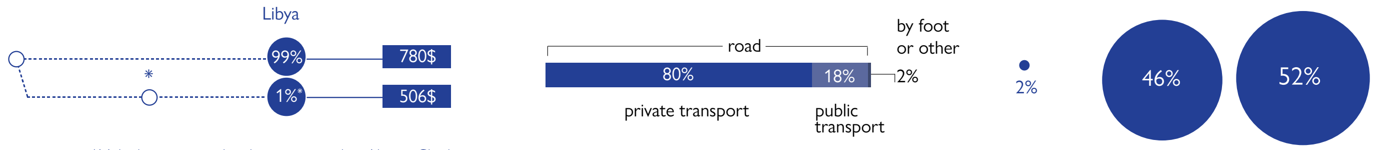
24,865 migrants



*Multiple routes used including via one or a combination of the following countries: Niger, Algeria, Burkina Faso, Chad and Sudan.

Niger

121,023 migrants

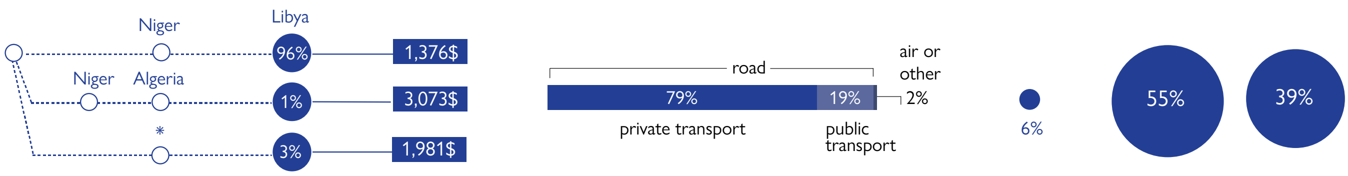


*Multiple routes used with transit via either Algeria, Chad, Egypt or Nigeria

ROUTES	COST *average (USD)*	MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION	PRESENCE IN LIBYA BY GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS
			East *South* *West*

Nigeria

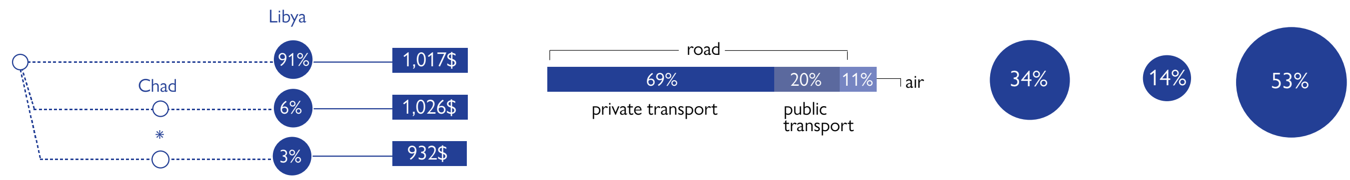
35,235 migrants



*Multiple routes used that included one or a combination of the following countries: Niger, Chad, Sudan, Burkina Faso, Tunisia, Turkey, Cameroon, Algeria and Sudan

Sudan

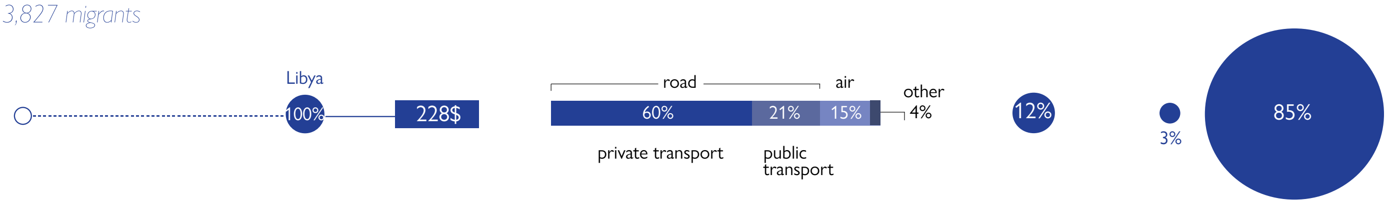
86,815 migrants



*Multiple routes used that included one or more of the following countries: Chad, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Niger, Tunisia, South Sudan, Kenya and Central African Republic

Tunisia

3,827 migrants



REGIONAL ANALYSIS

In January, migrants were assisted to voluntarily return home from Libya on a charter flight to Mali. Through IOM's Voluntary Humanitarian Return (VHR) Programme these migrants will receive reintegration support and assistance in their home communities.
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REGIONAL ANALYSIS - DISTRIBUTION

Consistent with previous reports, most migrants interviewed in January and February 2021 were located in the West (52%), while nearly a third were in the East (30%) and less than a fifth (18%) in the South.

Despite the pandemic, half of migrants (51%) were located in the coastal regions of Tripoli (15%), Ejdabia (12%), Misrata (10%), Benghazi (7%) and Azzawya (7%).

In comparison, it is estimated that more than 90 per cent of the Libyan population is concentrated in the major urban centers along the Mediterannean, such as Tripoli, Misrata and Benghazi.

51%

of migrants are located in the coastal regions of Tripoli, Ejdabia, Misrata, Benghazi and Azzawya

Fig 14 Migrants in Libya by region (mantika) (based on Mobility Tracking data)

Mantika (Region)	#Migrants (IND)	% by region
Tripoli	86,280	15%
Ejdabia	66,927	12%
Misrata	58,550	10%
Benghazi	43,024	7%
Azzawya	41,945	7%
Murzuq	33,093	6%
Aljfara	31,303	5%
Al Jabal Al Gharbi	28,815	5%
Sebha	28,719	5%
Zwara	19,821	3%
Almargeb	17,930	3%
Alkufra	16,301	3%
Al Jabal Al Akhdar	14,350	2%
Ubari	14,024	2%
Aljufra	12,433	2%
Derna	12,155	2%
Almarj	10,695	2%
Sirt	9,591	2%
Ghat	8,496	1%
Tobruk	8,168	1%
Wadi Ashshati	7,760	1%
Nalut	5,494	1%
Total for Libya	**575,874**	**100%**

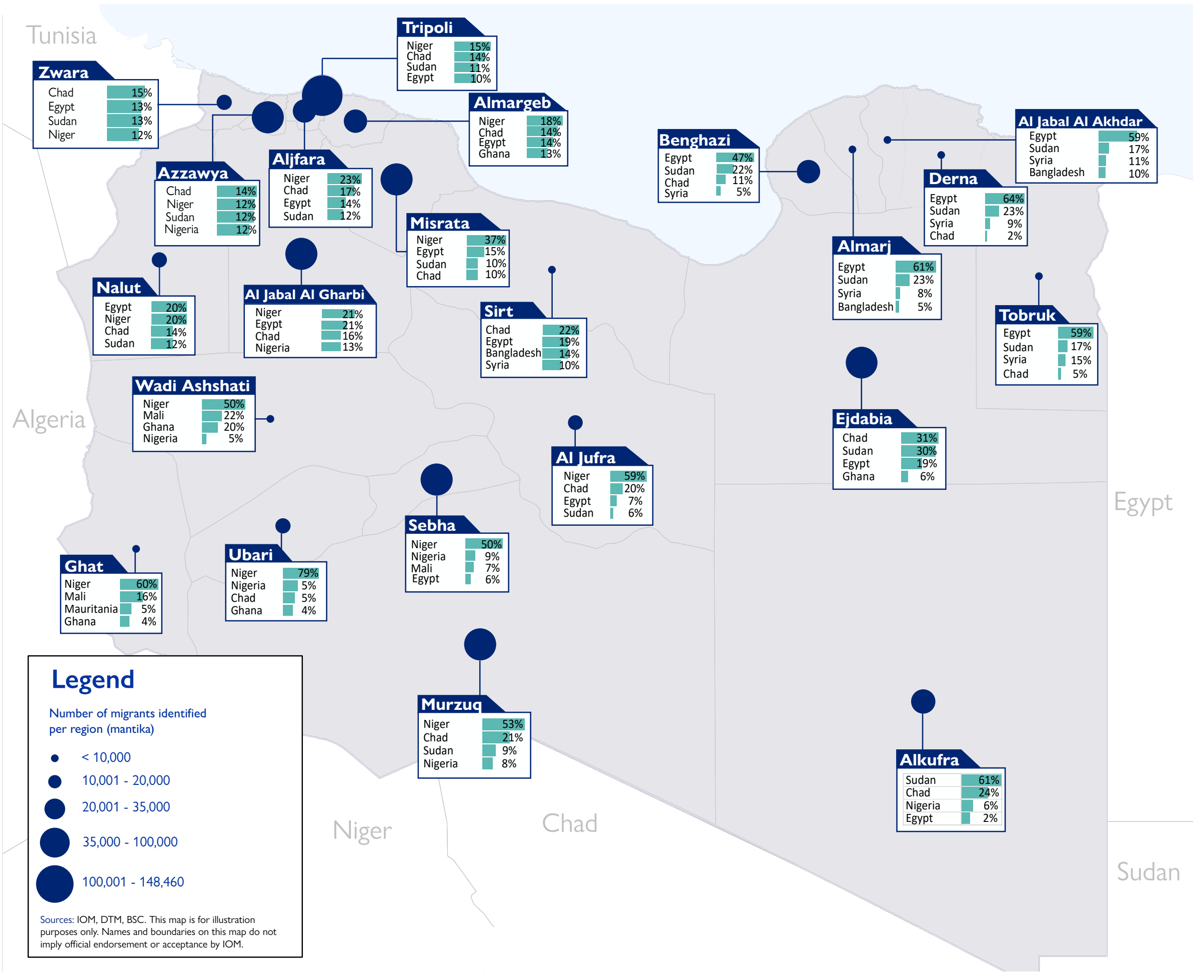
REGIONAL ANALYSIS - NATIONALITIES OF MIGRANTS

The map below shows the top four nationalities of migrants by region as per Mobility Tracking Round 35 data collection (January - February 2021). The geographical distribution of migrants by nationality remains heavily influenced by geographical proximity, despite the COVID-19 pandemic and associated mobility restrictions.

For instance, the bulk of migrants in the Southern and Western regions of Murzuq, Sebha, Al Jufra, Ubari, Al Jabal Al Gharbi, Wadi Ashshati and Ghat are consistently from neighbouring Niger. Chadians and Sudanese constitute the majority of migrants in the region of Alkufra, which borders Chad and Sudan to the north. Migrants from Chad are also the second most important cohort of migrants in most Southern and Western regions such as Murzuq and Al Jufra.

Egyptians constitute the bulk of migrants in the eastern coastal regions of Libya, such as Al Jabal Akhdar, Derna, Almarj, Tobruk and Benghazi. However, Tunisians and Algerians do not constitute the majority of migrants in bordering regions and only constitute 1 per cent or less of migrants in Libya (1% and 0,3%, respectively).

Fig 15 Map of top 4 migrant nationalities per region (mantika).



This map is for illustration purposes only. Name and boundaries on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by IOM.

REGION OF ORIGIN ANALYSIS

Consistent with previous reports, migrants from countries in North Africa (including Egypt and Sudan) represent nearly two thirds of migrants in Eastern Libya (64%) while migrants from Sub-Saharan African countries (such as Niger and Chad) account for the majority of migrants in Southern and Western Libya (89% and 63% respectively). The complete disaggregation of migrants' region of origins by regions (mantika) of Libya is shown in the table below (Fig 14).

This analysis highlights the interlinkages and kinship networks that characterize migration to Libya and that developed over time through the circular migration of populations from bordering countries. There are multiple factors involved in the decision to migrate and social networks is one among them. A recent DTM study on migrants' social networks found that migrants rely on their social networks for an array of services and that migrants from neighbouring countries tended to be better informed than others.

Fig 16 Migrants' region of origin by regions in Libya

Region (Mantika)		Migrants from Asia (Including Middle East)		Migrants from Sub-Saharan Africa		Migrants from North Africa	
		#	%	#	%	#	%
East	Al Jabal Al Akhdar	3,035	16%	460	1%	10,855	10%
	Alkufra	-	0%	5,911	14%	10,390	9%
	Almarj	1,300	7%	395	1%	9,000	8%
	Benghazi	5,194	28%	8,241	19%	29,539	27%
	Derna	1,085	6%	540	1%	10,530	10%
	Ejdabia	6,823	36%	26,993	63%	33,111	30%
	Tobruk	1,380	7%	629	1%	6,159	6%
Eastern Libya total		**18,817**	**11%**	**43,169**	**25%**	**109,584**	**64%**
South	Aljufra	660	31%	10,016	11%	1,757	19%
	Ghat	3	0%	7,842	8%	651	7%
	Murzuq	25	1%	29,780	32%	3,285	35%
	Sebha	1,340	63%	23,779	26%	3,600	38%
	Ubari	100	5%	13,724	15%	200	2%
	Wadi Ashshati	-	0%	7,760	8%	-	0%
Southern Libya total		**2,128**	**2%**	**92,901**	**89%**	**9,493**	**9%**
West	Al Jabal Al Gharbi	507	2%	17,722	9%	10,551	13%
	Aljfara	1,306	4%	20,959	11%	8,958	11%
	Almargeb	1,845	6%	12,960	7%	3,125	4%
	Azzawya	2,800	10%	28,055	15%	11,090	14%
	Misrata	4,146	14%	37,859	20%	16,545	20%
	Nalut	257	1%	3,325	2%	1,912	2%
	Sirt	3,156	11%	3,341	2%	2,792	3%
	Tripoli	14,360	49%	52,800	28%	19,120	23%
	Zwara	979	3%	10,976	6%	7,866	10%
Western Libya total		**29,356**	**10%**	**187,997**	**63%**	**81,959**	**27%**
Total for Libya		**50,301**	**9%**	**324,067**	**56%**	**201,036**	**35%**

Note: 470 migrants from other minority nationalities (including those whose nationalities could not be established) are not counted in the table above.

NORTH AND SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

Consistent with previous reports and despite the impact of the pandemic, migrants in Libya continue to come primarily from Sub-Saharan Africa (56% or 324,067 individuals). Migrants from Niger (37%) and Chad (26%) constitute the two main nationalities among Sub-Saharan African migrants in Libya.

During the reporting period, while the overall number of Sub-Saharan migrants in Libya remained stable, the number of migrants from Niger increased by 6 per cent compared to Round 34 of data collection. This finding is in line with reports from Niger, which highlighted that outgoing flows (to Libya) in January and February were greater than incoming flows (to Niger).

Fig 17 Migrants from countries of origin in Sub-Saharan Africa

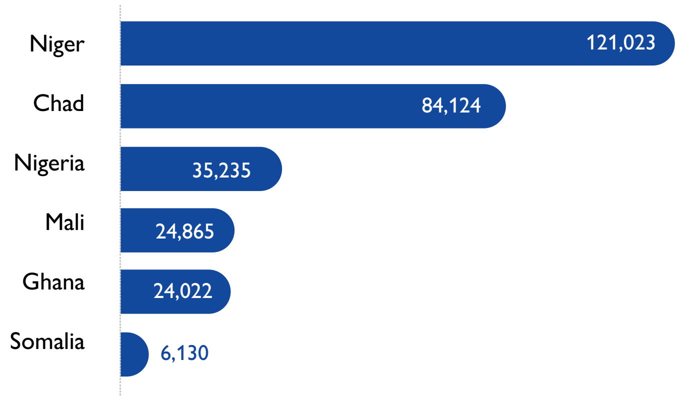
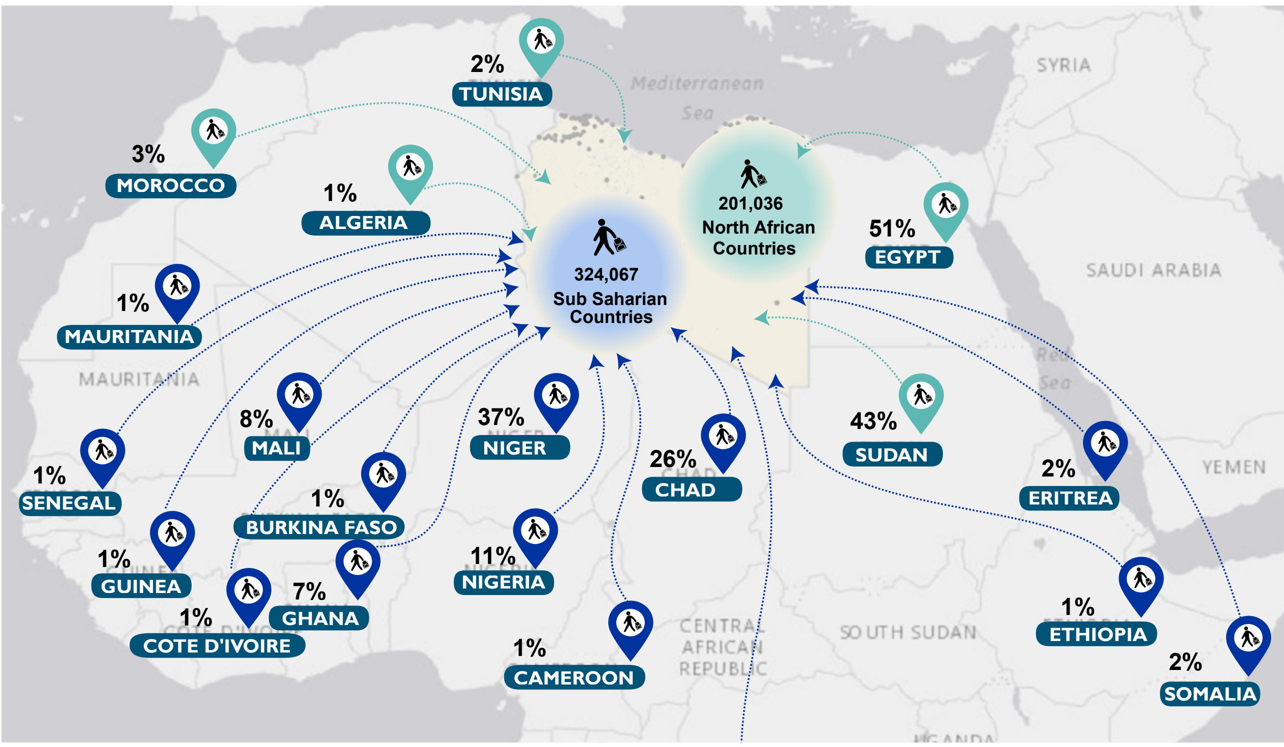


Fig 18 Percentages of migrants by country of origin for the North and Sub-Saharan Africa regions.



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In line with previous reports, the majority of North African migrants in Libya are nationals of Egypt (51%) and Sudan (43%) while migrants from Tunisia, Morocco and Algeria together account for 5 per cent of the total number of migrants from North Africa. More than a third of migrants in Libya are from North Africa (35% or 201,036 individuals).

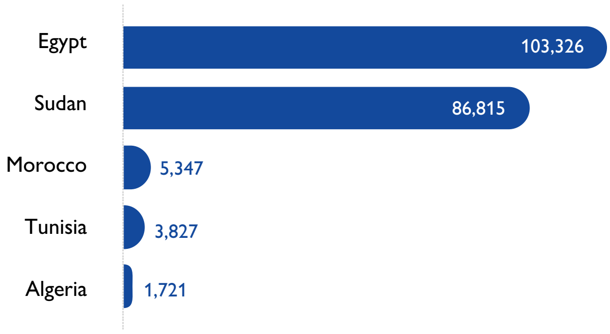
While the proportion of Sub-Saharan African migrants in Libya has declined since the start of the pandemic, the proportion of North African migrants has been increasing.

The proportion of Northern African migrants rose from 31 per cent in May – June 2020 to 35 per cent in January – February 2021. Overall, the number of North African migrants increased by 9 per cent or around 15,985 individuals since May – June 2020. The number of Egyptian and Sudanese migrants continued to increase compared to previous Round 34. and grew by 2 per cent (or 2,153 and 1,728 individuals, respectively).

Fig 19 Proportion of migrants by nationality

Nationality	Number of Migrants (ind)	% Migrants
Niger	121,023	21%
Egypt	103,326	18%
Sudan	86,815	15%
Chad	84,124	15%
Nigeria	35,235	6%
Mali	24,865	4%
Ghana	24,022	4%
Syria	21,539	4%
Bangladesh	20,351	4%
Somalia	6,130	1%
Palestine	5,426	1%
Morocco	5,347	1%
Eritrea	4,869	1%
Guinea	4,735	1%
Senegal	4,281	1%
Tunisia	3,827	1%
Other	3,192	1%
CôtedIvoire	3,131	1%
Mauritania	3,117	1%
Pakistan	2,095	0.4%
BurkinaFaso	1,960	0.3%
Ethiopia	1,863	0.3%
Algeria	1,721	0.3%
Zambia	1,635	0.3%
Gambia	1,245	0.2%
Grand Total	**575,874**	**100%**

Fig 20 Migrants from countries of origin in North Africa



MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA

In line with previous reports, a minority of migrants (9% or 50,301 individuals) identified during Round 34 were from Asia (4%) or the Middle East (5%). Among migrants from Asia and the Middle East, the majority came from Syria (21,539 individuals) and Bangladesh (20,351 individuals) accounting for 43 and 40 per cent of migrants (including refugees), respectively. Syrians and Bangladeshi migrants both account for 4 per cent of the overall migrant stock population in Libya. In addition, there were 5,426 migrants who self-identified as Palestinians (11%) and 2,095 from Pakistan (4%).

Fig 21 Migrants from countries of origin in Asia and the Middle East

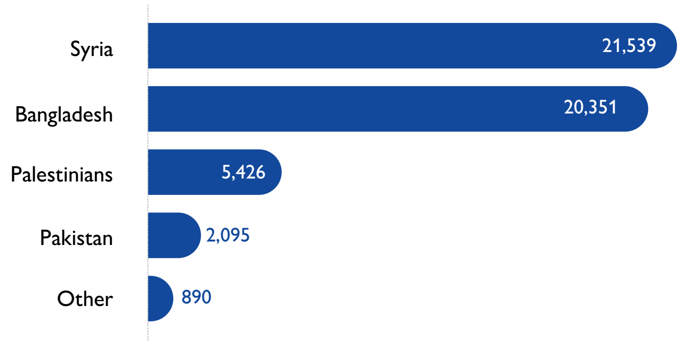


Fig 22 Percentages of migrants by country of origin for the Middle East and South Asia

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In January and February 2021 more than 4,000 individuals were intercepted at sea and returned to Libya while attempting to cross the Mediterranean Sea. On 10 February 2021 (pictured) more than 200 migrants received emergency assistance from IOM staff after having been intercepted at sea and returned to shore. IOM teams are present at disembarkation points to provide food, water, health assistance and carry out protection assessments to ensure the needs of all migrants are addressed. © IOM 2021

MARITIME INCIDENTS

Arrivals to Italy and Malta

A total of 5,099 migrants arrived in Italy and Malta via the Mediterranean Sea in January and February 2021 representing an increase compared to the corresponding period in 2020 (3,542 individuals) and 2019 (311 individuals) (Fig 23).

Rescue at sea

Overall, in January and February 2021, a total of [3,953 migrants](#) were rescued at sea and disembarked in Libya. In comparison, 2,181 and 776 migrants were rescued and disembarked in Libya in the same months in 2020 and 2019, respectively (Fig 24).

Among the rescued migrants in January and February 2021, there were 3,221 men, 284 women as well as 222 children (the gender or age of 226 individuals was not available). The majority of individuals disembarked in January and February 2021 were from Mali (20%), Sudan (17%), Guinea Conakry (9%), Côte d'Ivoire (7%) or Nigeria (5%) and various other nationalities.

Fatalities at sea

At least 193 migrants have drowned or are presumed to have drowned in the Mediterranean Sea while attempting to cross from the shores of Libya or Tunisia in January and February 2021 compared to 116 in 2020 and 158 in 2019 during the corresponding months.

On 19 January, the first shipwreck off the coast of Libya of 2021 claimed the lives of 43 people. In 2020, the Central Mediterranean route is where the highest number of fatalities along a single migration journey worldwide occurred.

Fig 24 Arrivals by sea, returns and deaths on the Central Mediterranean Route to Italy and Malta in 2021

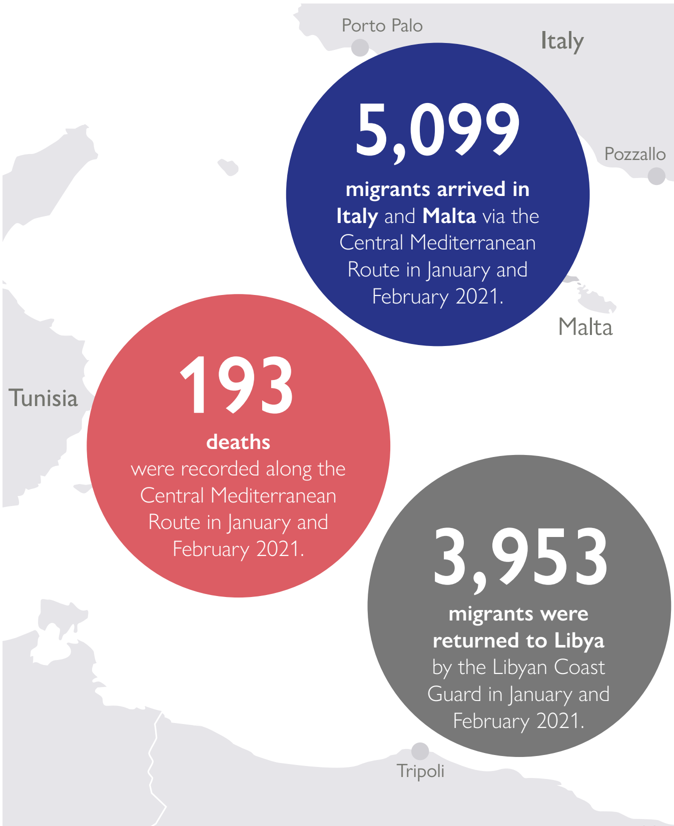
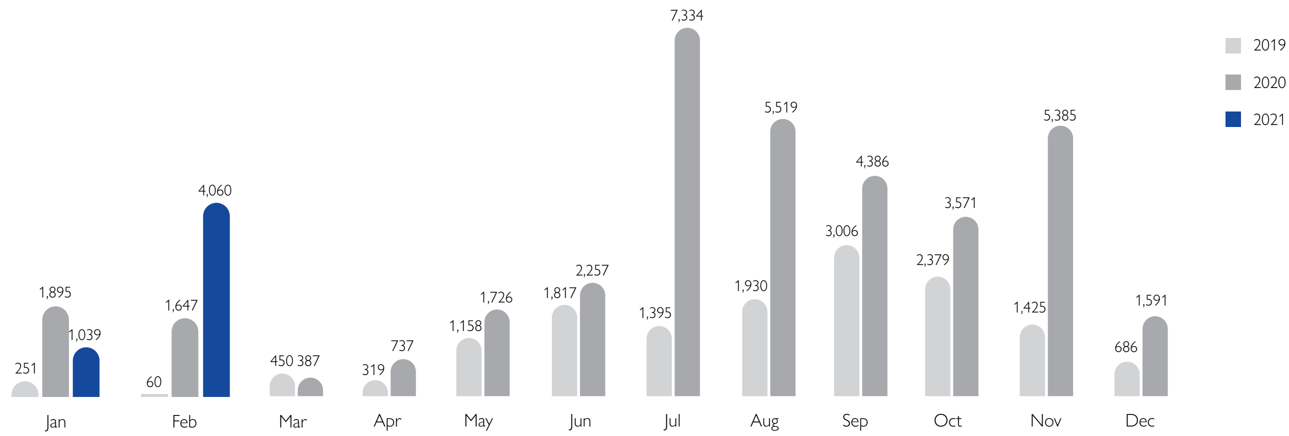


Fig 23 Arrivals by sea via Central Mediterranean Route to Italy and Malta (2019 / 2020 / 2021) (number of individuals)



For more information, visit : https://migration.iom.int/europe

METHODOLOGY

DTM's Migration Information Package includes DTM Libya Migrant Report and Migrant Public Dataset, and is part of the IOM Libya's Flow Monitoring operations that ensure regular delivery of data and information on migration to, through and from Libya.

This DTM Libya Migrant Report utilizes data collected via different regular DTM data collection activities.

The migrant population figures (stock figures), and their analysis is based on the data collected via DTM Mobility Tracking (including Multi-Sectoral Location Assessment) that identifies the overall population figures in Libya including that of migrants, and helps identify priority humanitarian needs via Key Informant Interviews conducted at regional (admin 2: mantika), and municipality (admin 3: baladiya) levels.

Statistics of migration flows are based on the data collected via DTM Flow Monitoring Points (FMP) that cover nine regions (mantika) via a network of 43 active flow monitoring points in 11 regions of Libya.

Analysis of migrant routes along with other aspects of migration, including migrant vulnerabilities and humanitarian needs is based on the micro-level data collected through quantitative interviews with migrants via Flow Monitoring Surveys (FMS).

Definition of migrant

IOM characterizes 'Migrant' as an umbrella term, not defined under international law, reflecting the common lay understanding of a person who moved away from his or her place of usual residence, whether within a country or across an international border, temporarily or permanently, and for a variety of reasons. The term includes a number of well-defined legal categories of people, such as migrant workers; persons whose particular types of movements are legally defined, such as smuggled migrants; as well as those whose status or means of movement are not specifically defined under international law, such as international students.

For the purposes of collecting data on migration, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) defines "international migrant" as "any person who changes his or her country of usual residence" (UN DESA, Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration, Revision 1 (1998) para. 32).

This report only takes into consideration the "international migrants" in Libya as defined above.

IOM Data collection in numbers

100% coverage

76
Enumerators

3
Team leaders

5
Implementing Partners

4166
migrants interviewed
(Round 35, Flow Monitoring Survey)

43
Flow Monitoring Points (FMPs)
are active in 10 regions (mantikas) of Libya

Funded by the European Union, the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) in Libya tracks and monitors population movements in order to collate, analyze and share information to support the humanitarian community with the needed demographic baselines to coordinate evidence-based interventions.

To consult all DTM reports, datasets, static and interactive maps and dashboards, please visit:

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