

IOM LIBYA IDP AND RETURNEE REPORT

MARCH - APRIL 2021

ROUND 36



DTM



Project funded by
the European Union

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Cover photo: IOM Libya staff collecting beneficiary information at a Hygiene Kit and COVID-19 Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) distribution for IDPs during the months of March 2021.
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KEY FINDINGS

Round 36 (March - April 2021)

IDPs



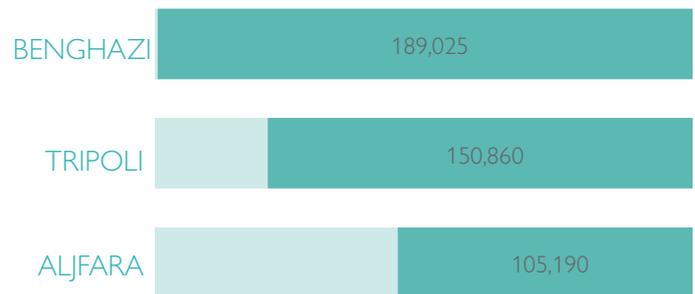
Returnees



TOP 3 REGIONS WITH IDPs



TOP 3 REGIONS WITH RETURNEES



659 of 667
COMMUNITIES



100% of
MUNICIPALITIES

1,944 Interviews with key informants
(Round 35, Mobility Tracking)



Project funded by
the European Union

OVERVIEW OF DISPLACEMENT IN LIBYA

This report presents the findings of round 36 of the Mobility Tracking component of IOM Libya's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) programme, covering March – April 2021. The reporting period also marks two years since the start of 2019 western Libya armed conflict and six months from the October 2020 permanent ceasefire agreement.

As the security situation continued to be stable, by end of April 2021, no new displacements were reported as the trend of previously displaced families returning to their places of origin continued. The number of returnees identified during the reporting period increased to 642,408 individuals, compared to 623,219 returnees reported in the previous round's report.

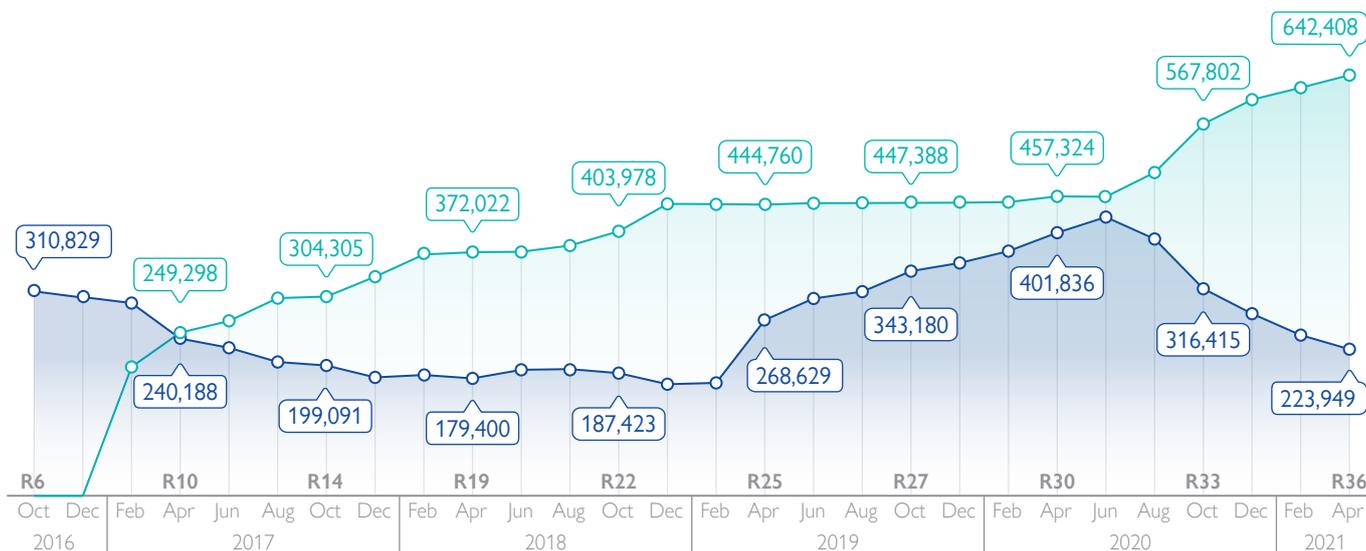
Whereas a corresponding decline in the number of IDPs in Libya was observed, as the total number of IDPs reduced to 223,949 by April 2021 from 245,483 identified during the previous round.

The current displacement dynamics, in terms of the number of people displaced, shows that the prevalent displacement trend is on course to reflect pre-April 2019 situation where the number of IDPs in Libya was on decline (see figure 1: displacement and return timeline). If the security situation remains stable a further decline in the number of individuals displaced is expected in the months to come as previously displaced families return to their places of origin.

Protracted Displacement:

However, further analysis shows that the decline in IDP figures and increase in return is largely driven by spontaneous return of IDPs displaced since April 2019 from the armed conflict affected areas in Tripoli and Alfara regions (mantika). Despite this recent increase in return a significant proportion of IDP population in Libya is facing protracted displacement due to damaged houses and infrastructure in their places of origin.

Fig 1 Libya displacement and return timeline



Tawergha IDPs in Protracted Displacement

Over 40,000 individuals were reported to have displaced from Tawergha in 2011 due to armed conflict. While at least 1,700 previously displaced families (8,500 individuals) from Tawergha are reported to have returned to their homes, a significant proportion of IDPs from Tawergha face protracted displacement due to lack of viable durable solutions.

A DTM intention survey with the Tawergha IDPs identified that while 64% of the surveyed IDP households intended to return to Tawergha, a vast majority were deterred from returning as their houses had been destroyed or badly damaged over the course of the armed conflict. 61% of the IDP households also identified a need for support in repairing their houses or reconstruction.¹

Murzuq IDPs

During August - September 2019, over 28,000 individuals were displaced from Murzuq municipality due to armed conflict and remain displaced. As of this rounds' data collection around 10,000 IDPs from Murzuq were still reported to be displaced in Algaroun, Alsharguiya, Taraghin, Wadi Etba and within areas of Murzuq municipality. While an additional 17,800 Murzuq IDPs were also reported to be still mainly displaced in the various areas of Aljufra, Albawanees, Edri, Benghazi, Ghat, Sebha, Alghrayfa, Bint Baya, Brak, Sabratha, Alkufra, Tobruk, Suq Aljumaa, and Sabratha municipalities.

Considering the overall trend of increased returns of previously displaced families in Libya, the case of IDPs displaced from Tawergha and Murzuq represent specific cases where focus on durable solutions programming, stabilization, peacebuilding and reconciliation may be required due to lack of return trends in these two areas.

Various Other Displacement Trends

In addition to the specific cases of IDPs displaced from the communities of Tawergha and Murzuq, various other displacement trends also exist. However, these trends can be broadly summarized in two categories reflecting geographic displacement patterns:

- IDPs from Benghazi displaced to Alkhums, Msallata, Misrata, and Tripoli
- IDPs from various western Libya municipalities such as Tarhuna, Sirt and Tripoli displaced to Benghazi
- Locally displaced: A significant proportion of IDPs in Libya are displaced from their homes locally within their municipality or region, but unable to return to their damaged or destroyed houses due to reduced financial capacity resulting from disruption of livelihoods and local economy



IDPs



223,949
Individuals



44,786
Families



82
Municipalities



418
Communities



Returnees



642,408
Individuals



128,370
Families



51
Municipalities



198
Communities

1. DTM Libya - Intention Survey of Tawergha IDPs ([Report can be accessed here](#))

DISPLACEMENT AND RETURN DYNAMICS

The overall situation in Libya remained stable during the months of March - April 2021, encouraging return of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and further resulting in a reduction in the number of people displaced by around 21,500 individuals.

A total of 223,949 IDPs were identified during this round, a 9% reduction in the IDP figures from the previous round. While the number of returnees increased to 642,408 individuals during this round,

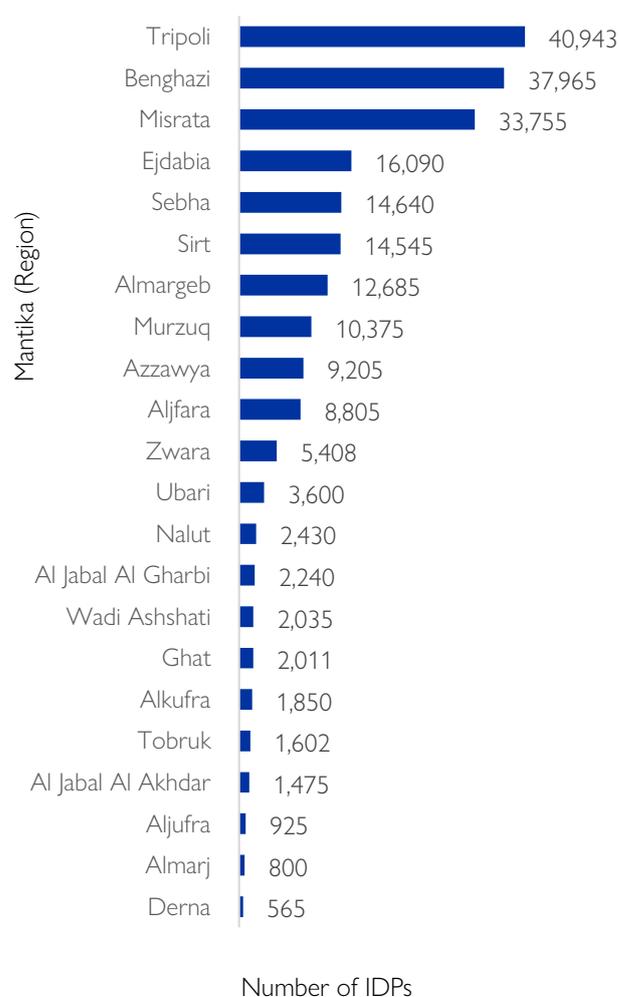
The Tripoli region (mantika) continues to host the largest displaced population in Libya with over 40,943 IDPs present in its six municipalities. The municipalities of Suq Aljuma hosts 35% of the IDPs in the region of Tripoli. While Tajoura hosts and Hai Alandalus hosted 25% and 19% respectively.

The region of Benghazi continued to host the second largest population of IDPs with 37,965 IDPs (individuals) present in the region during the months of March - April 2021. A vast majority of these IDPs (73%) are reported to face protracted displacement since 2017 within the Benghazi municipality, as no IDP families were reported to have returned to their homes during the months of March - April 2021.

The region of Misrata hosts the third largest IDP population in Libya with 33,755 individuals displaced. Nearly half of these IDPs were in the Misrata municipality and also reported to face protracted displacement having arrived from the municipalities in eastern Libya.

Damage to public infrastructure and housing remain the main obstacles preventing the return of most families displaced in Libya.

Fig 2 Number of IDPs by Region (Mantika)



During March - April 2021, an additional 3,838 families (around 19,189 individuals) were identified to have returned to their places of origin, as the total number of returnees in Libya reached 642,408 individuals.

The highest number of previously displaced families had returned to their places of origin in Benghazi region (mantika) with 189,025 returnees reported to be present there. Nearly all of these IDPs had returned to Benghazi municipality (99%) prior to 2019.

Tripoli region has the second largest number of returnees with 150,860 individuals returned, followed by Aljbara with 105,190 individuals previously displaced having returned to their houses by April 2021.

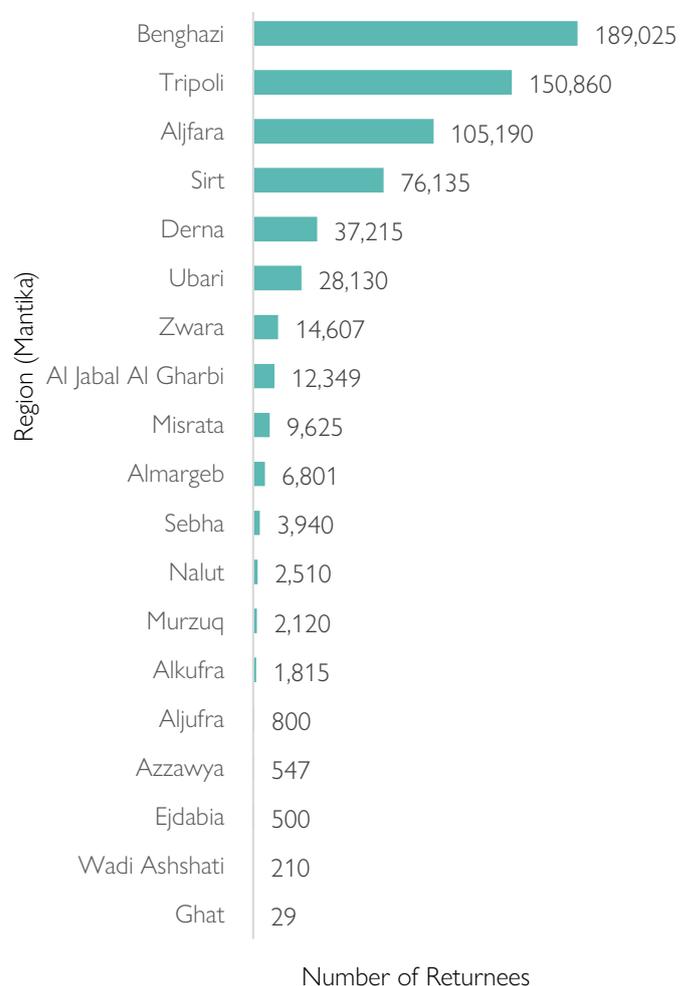
The highest increase in previously displaced IDPs returning to their places of origin was identified in Almargeb region during this round, as over 2,400 individuals returned during this reporting period.

DTM's Round 36 Mobility Tracking data collection also gathered data on the drivers of displacement, which helps to better understand why those who remain displaced initially had to leave their homes. As reported in previous rounds, displacement in Libya is primarily linked to security related issues, such as the 2019-2020 armed conflict in Western Libya.

However, as the number of IDPs decreased during this round, due to increase in returns since the cessation of armed conflict, insecurity as a driver of displacement was reported less frequently (88% compared to 92% in the previous round, and 94% in December 2020).

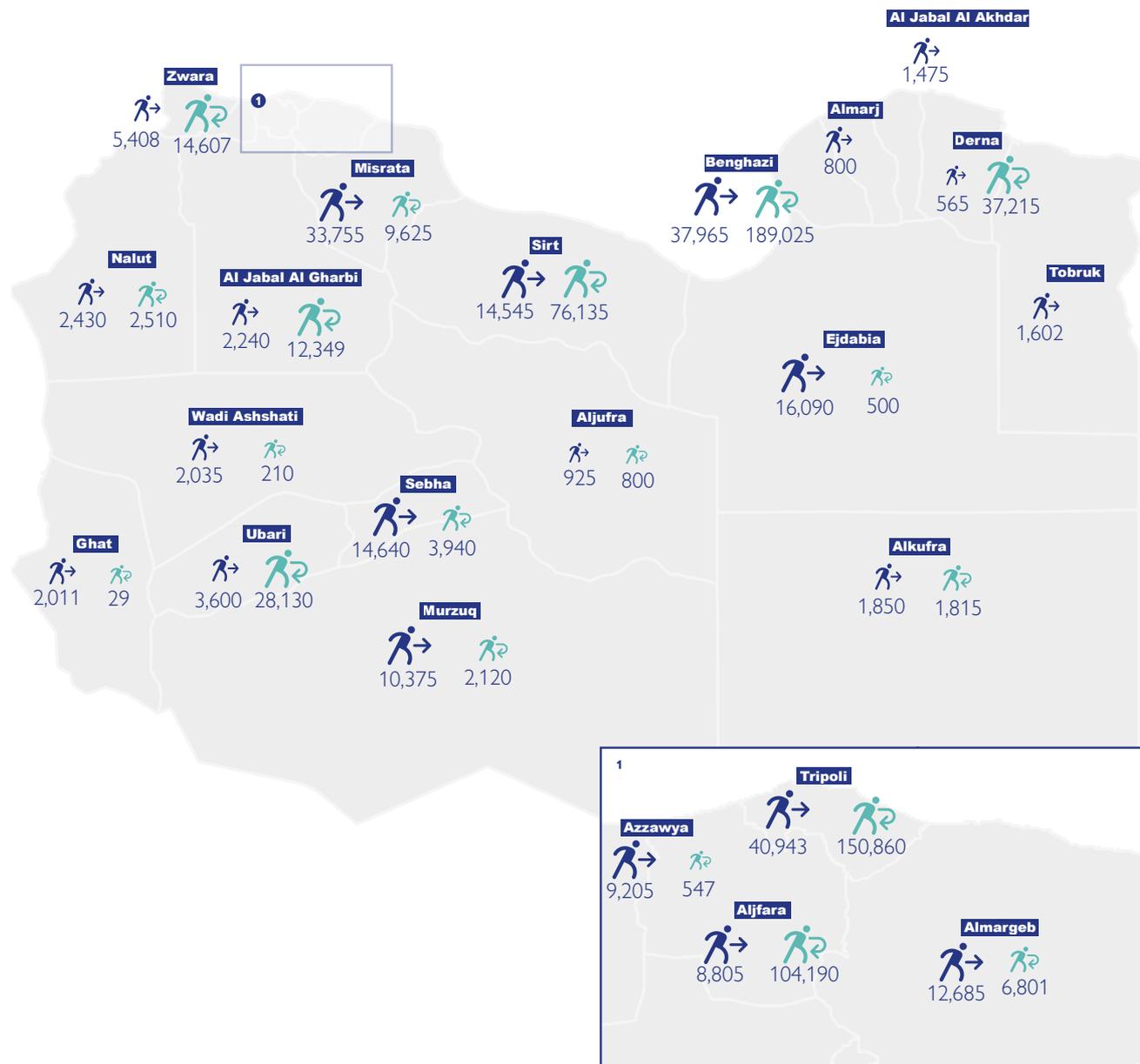
While for 92% of returnees an improvement in security situation was reported as the main factor driving their return.

Fig 3 Number of Returnees by Region (Mantika)



LOCATIONS OF DISPLACEMENT AND RETURN MAP

Fig 4 Map of IDPs and returnees by region (mantika)

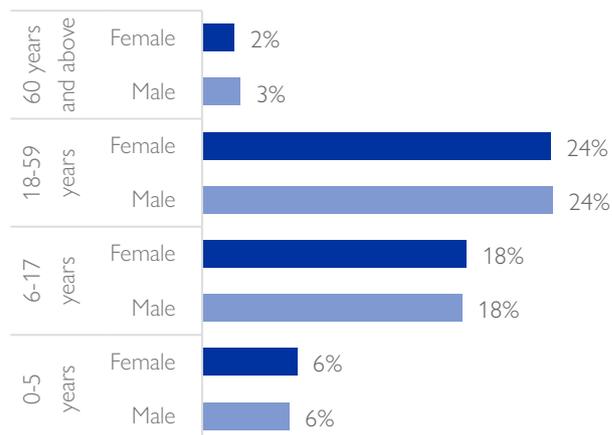


DEMOGRAPHICS

Demographic composition of IDP families as per DTM rapid profiling of displaced households is shown in figure 7. This demographic data is from a sample of 87,573 IDPs (16,530 families).



Fig 5 IDP Profiling: Age - Gender Disaggregation



MULTI-SECTORAL LOCATION ASSESSMENT

DTM Libya's Mobility Tracking includes a Multi-Sectoral Location Assessment (MSLA) covering all regions (mantika) and municipalities (baladiya) of Libya. The MSLA key informant interviews regularly collect sectoral baseline data on availability and access to services and priority humanitarian needs. The regular and continuous implementation of the MSLA is aimed at supporting both strategic and operational planning of humanitarian programming via identification of specific sectoral issues and needs at community-levels. This round 36 report presents the multisectoral priority needs of IDPs and returnees during the months of March - April 2021. The following sections also cover key findings related to education, food, health, nonfood items (NFI) and access to markets, protection security and Mine Action), water sources (WASH), and other public services, across Libya.

HUMANITARIAN PRIORITY NEEDS

The humanitarian priority needs reported for IDPs during March - April 2021 data collection were related to food assistance, accommodation, and access to health services as shown in figure 6.

Whereas for returnees the top priority humanitarian needs reported were related to food, Non-Food Items (NFIs), and access to health services (figure 7).

Similar to the previous rounds, the main challenge faced by affected populations in fulfilling these needs was related to financial vulnerabilities brought on by the erosion of coping mechanisms over the course of Libyan crisis. Access to health services was reportedly constrained due to irregular supply of medicines, and several health facilities reported as not fully operational.

The chart shows ranked priority needs of affected population groups based on the top three needs reported at community (muhalla) levels. Area analysis of priority humanitarian needs shows variation in the reported priority needs for the top three regions (mantika) as per the population figures for IDPs and returnees in these regions (more details in the next section).

Fig 6 Priority Needs of IDPs (Ranked)

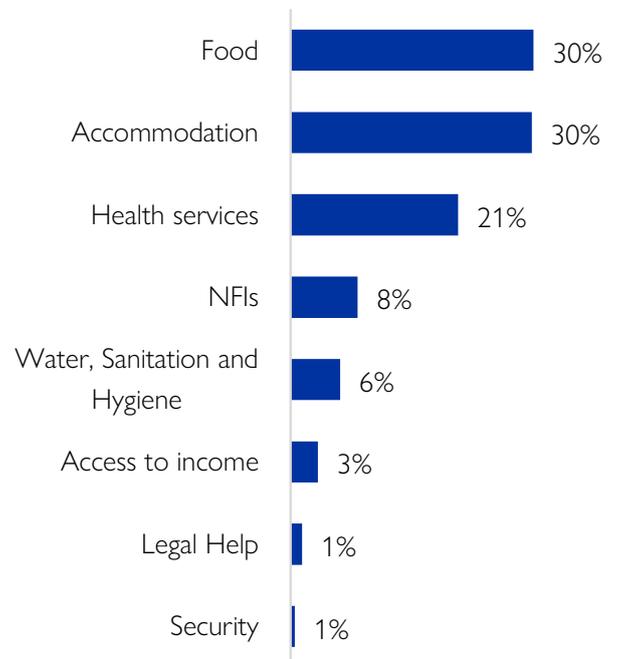
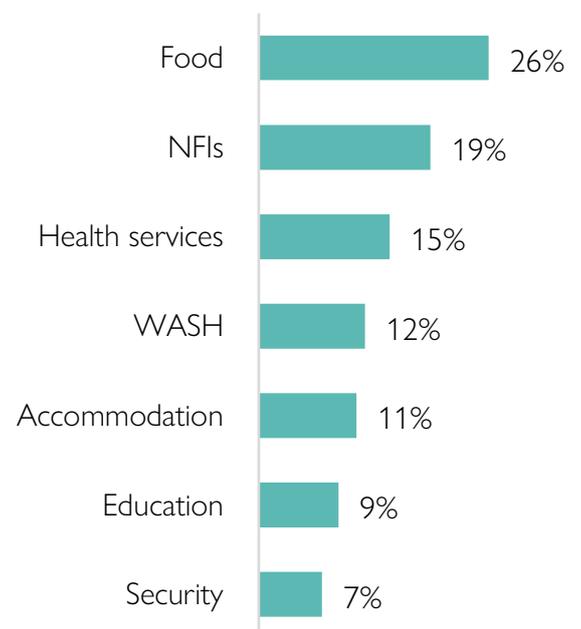


Fig 7 Priority Needs of Returnees (Ranked)



Area analysis of priority humanitarian needs shows variation in the reported priority needs for the top three regions (mantika) as per the population figures for IDPs and returnees in these regions (more details in the next section).

HUMANITARIAN PRIORITY NEEDS BY REGION

The top three ranked humanitarian needs for the regions (mantika) with the largest IDP and returnee populations are shown below. The ranking is based on the weighted average score calculated for the highest number of people with humanitarian needs. This indicates regional variation in the humanitarian needs of IDPs and returnees identified by key informants.

For IDPs in the Tripoli region, the top three humanitarian needs were related to shelter assistance, access to health services (particularly critical in the context of COVID-19), and provision of food assistance.

For returnees in the Benghazi region the top three needs were related to improved access to water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services, access to Education, and nonfood items (NFI).

Fig 8 Priority humanitarian needs of IDPs (ranked) for top three regions (mantika) with highest IDP populations.

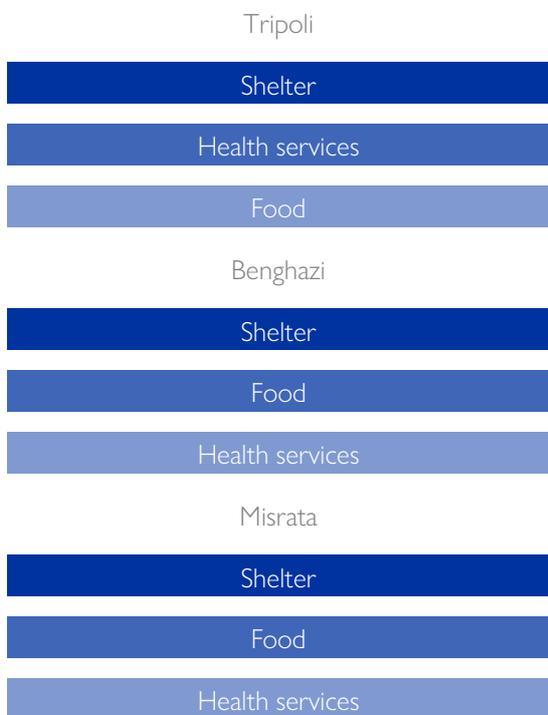


Fig 9 Priority humanitarian needs of returnees (ranked) for top three regions (mantika) with highest returnee populations.



HEALTH

As part of the Multi-Sectoral Location Assessment (MSLA), 62% of the public and private health facilities in Libya were reported to be operational, while 33% were reported to be partially operational, and 5% were reported to be not operational at all. Figure 10 provides more detailed statistics on reported operational, partially operational, and non-operational private as well as public health facilities.

With regards to functionality of health facilities, the range of services available in operational health facilities was often reported to be limited due to various factors, such as shortages of medicines for chronic disease.

The number of municipalities reporting irregular supply of medication decreased from 96 in the previous round to 82 municipalities during March - April 2021.

Round 36, also included a set of questions aimed at understanding the extent of COVID-19 public health or social measures implemented. Figure 8 shows the entire range of public health and social measures put in place shown as percentage of municipalities where these were being implemented. The comparison with previous rounds' findings, from February 2021, shows that implementation of most measures had reduced.

Fig 10 Availability of health services in the assessed municipalities

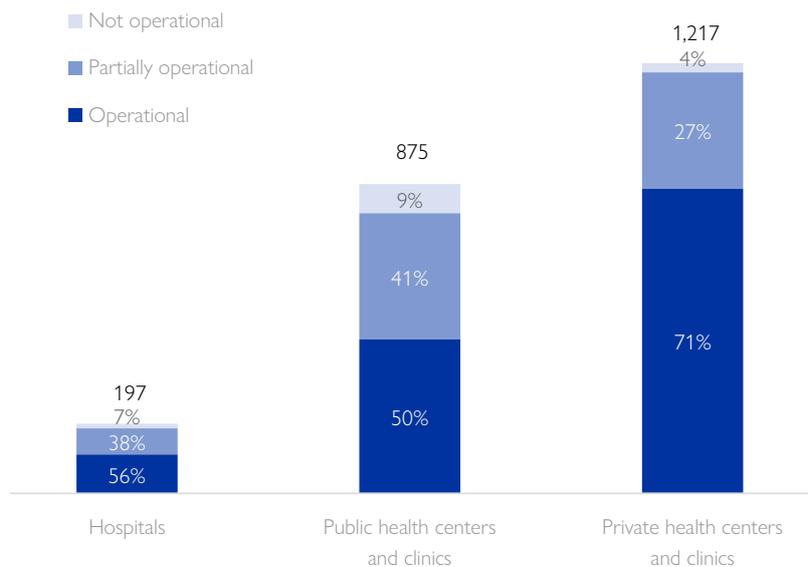
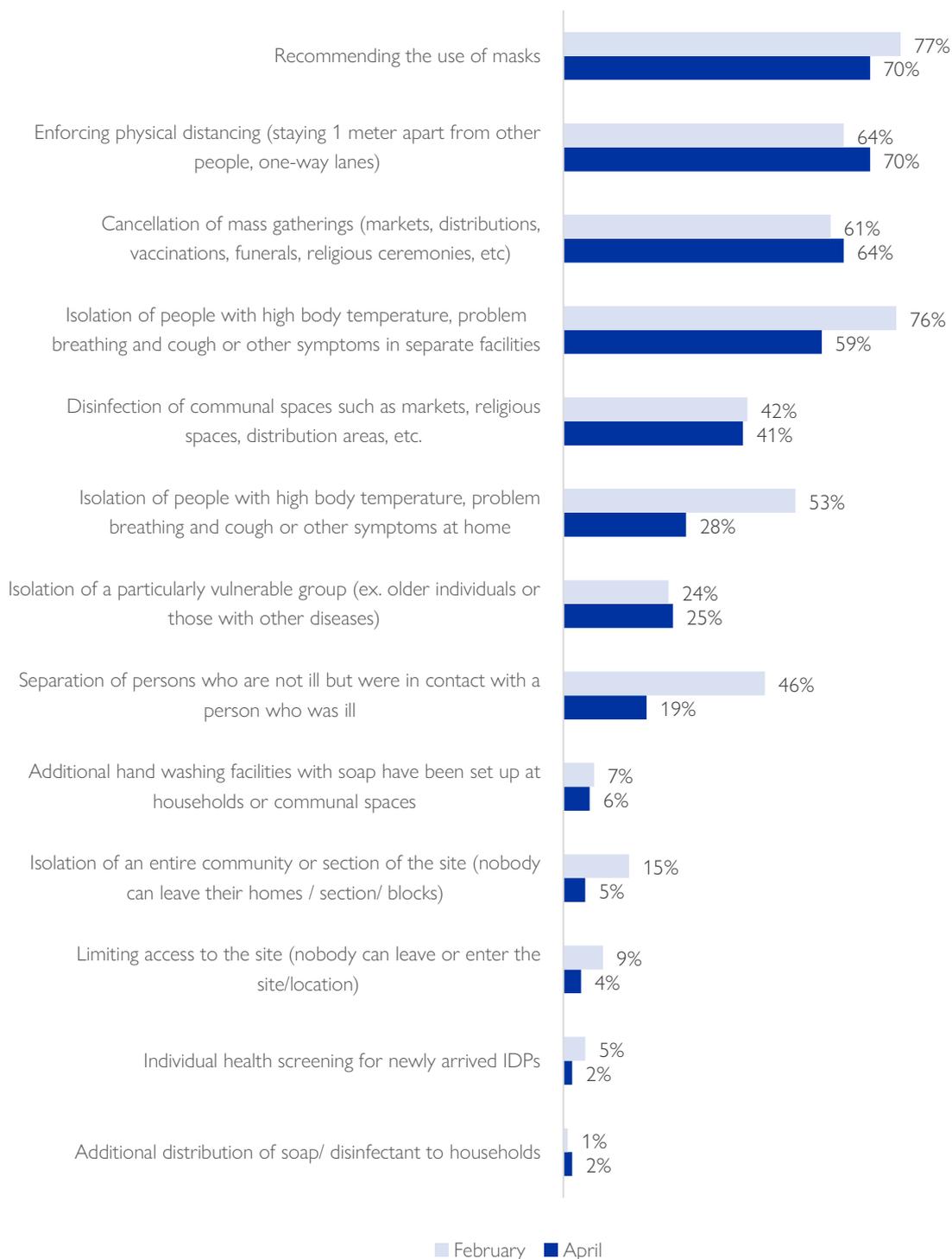


Fig 11 Irregular supply of medication reported in 82 municipalities (baladiya)



Apart from enforcement of physical distancing and cancellation of mass gatherings, all other public health and social measures aimed at preventing the spread of COVID-19 were reported to a lesser extent compared to the previous round. This shows that further implementation of public awareness and infection prevention measures was required.

Fig 12 Public health and social measures in place (% municipalities)



SECURITY AND MINE ACTION

In Round 36, security-related indicators were collected in all municipalities across Libya, including questions related to mine action (Mine Action Area of Responsibility).

The objective was to understand the challenges faced by residents in moving safely within their municipalities, the reasons preventing safe movement, and awareness of the presence of unexploded ordnances (UXOs).

The number of municipalities where presence of UXOs was reported during this round decreased in comparison to the previous round of data collection. The number of municipalities decreased from 11 in the previous data collection round to 8 municipalities in the present round.

Furthermore, residents were reported as not being able to move safely within their area of residence in 6 municipalities.

In municipalities where movement was restricted, the main reasons were insecurity (4 municipalities), road closures (3 municipalities) and presence or threat of unexploded ordinance (1 municipality).

Fig 13 Presence of UXOs reported in 8 municipalities



Fig 14 Reasons for restrictions on freedom of movement as reported in 6 municipalities

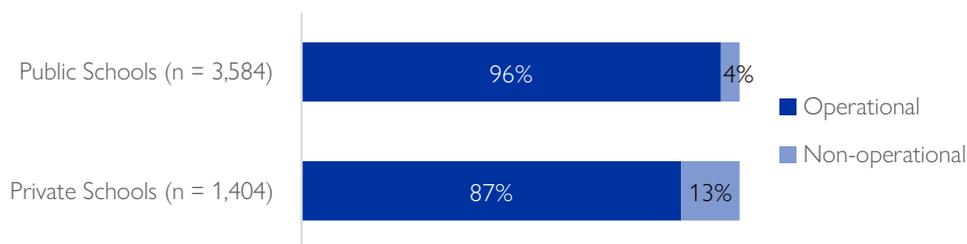
Municipality	Reason for Restricted Freedom of Movement
Alkufra	Insecurity
Al Aziziya	Road closed
Qasr Bin Ghasheer	Road closed, Insecurity, Other
Sidi Assayeh	Insecurity
Abu Qurayn	Road closed, threat/presence of explosive hazards, Other
Zliten	Insecurity

EDUCATION

During the months of March - April 2021, 4% of the public schools and 13% of private schools were reported as non-operational. Whereas 42 schools were reported to be fully destroyed due to armed conflict. See figures 15 and 16 for further details.

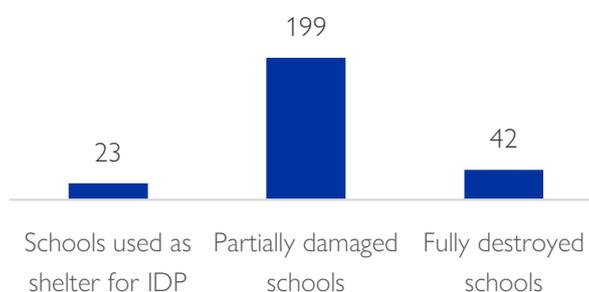
During the assessment period COVID-19 related mobility restrictions and closures were reported to have been relaxed, and schools were also reported to be open throughout Libya.⁴

Fig 15 Operational and non-operational schools



Percentage of schools reported operational / non-operational

Fig 16 Number of schools reported as partially and fully destroyed or being used as shelter for IDPs

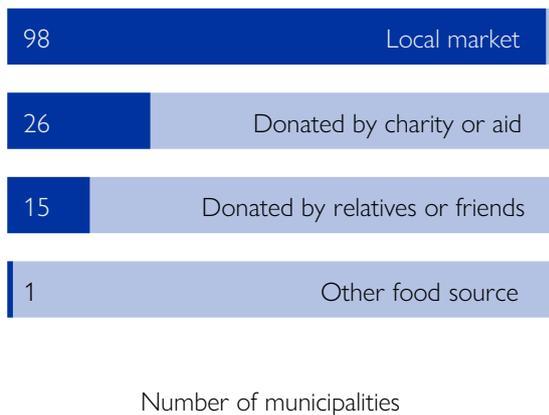


4 DTM COVID-19 Impact In Libya Dashboard (April - May 2021) dashboard can be accessed [here](#).

FOOD

In 98 municipalities, local markets, such as grocery stores, supermarkets, and open markets, were reported to be the main source used by residents to procure food items, including IDPs and returnees. In 26 municipalities food distributions by charity or aid organizations were also identified as a source of food supply for vulnerable populations as shown in the figure below.

Fig 17 Sources of food supplies for residents by number of municipalities (multiple choice)



The modes of payment utilized for purchasing food were reported to be payments in cash, followed by ATM cards and purchases made on credit (see figure 18 on the right).

The biggest obstacle related to adequate food supply to meet household needs was reported to be food prices, often considered to be too expensive by key informants compared to the purchasing power of affected populations.

Fig 18 Various modes of payment used for purchasing food by number of municipalities (multiple choice)

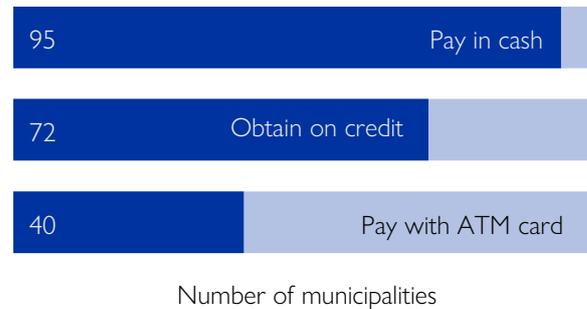
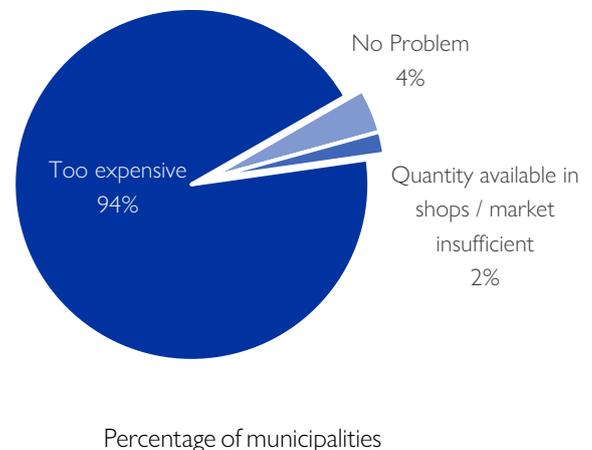


Fig 19 Main problems related to food supply



NFI AND ACCESS TO MARKETS

DTM’s data collection on humanitarian priority needs also included non-food items (NFIs). The most commonly cited obstacle in accessing NFIs was that items were too expensive for those in need of assistance. Furthermore, in 14 municipalities a challenge in accessing non-food items was also reported to be poor quality of items available on local markets, while distance from local markets was indicated as key challenge in 13 municipalities.

The most commonly reported NFI to be needed by IDPs and Returnees were mattresses, gas or fuel, and hygiene items.

Fig 20 Main challenges reported in obtaining the required Non-Food Items (multiple choice)

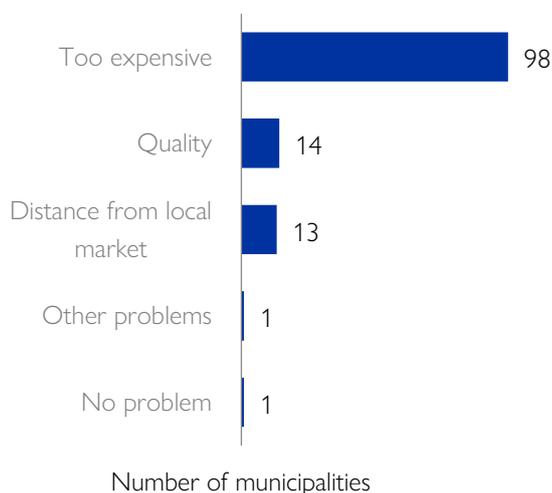
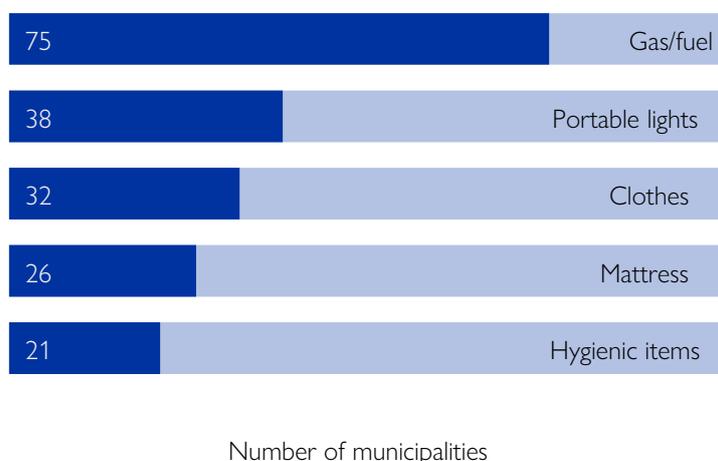


Fig 21 Most reported priority Non-Food Items in need (multiple choice)

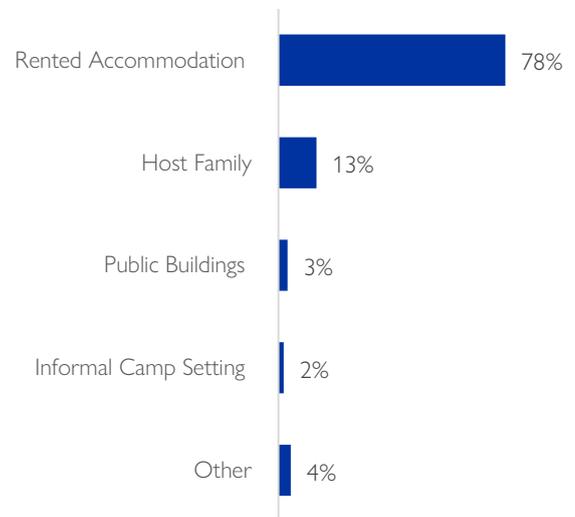


ACCOMMODATION

During March - April 2021, 78% of all IDPs identified in Libya were reported to be residing in privately rented accommodation, while 13% were staying with host families without paying rent, and 9% were taking shelter in other settings including public buildings and informal camp like settings utilized on a temporary basis.

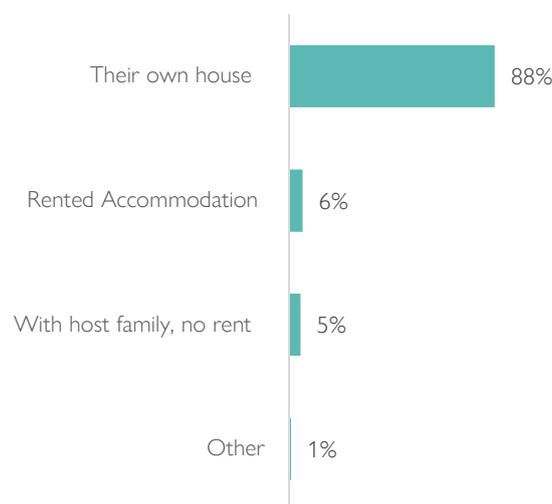
For those families who were previously displaced and now returned to their places of origin, 88% were reported to be have returned and staying in their own houses. The remaining returnees were in rented accommodation (6%), with host families (5%) or utilizing other accommodation arrangements (1%) primarily because of being unable to return to their pre-displacement houses due to damaged buildings and infrastructure.

Fig 22 Accommodation types utilized by IDPs



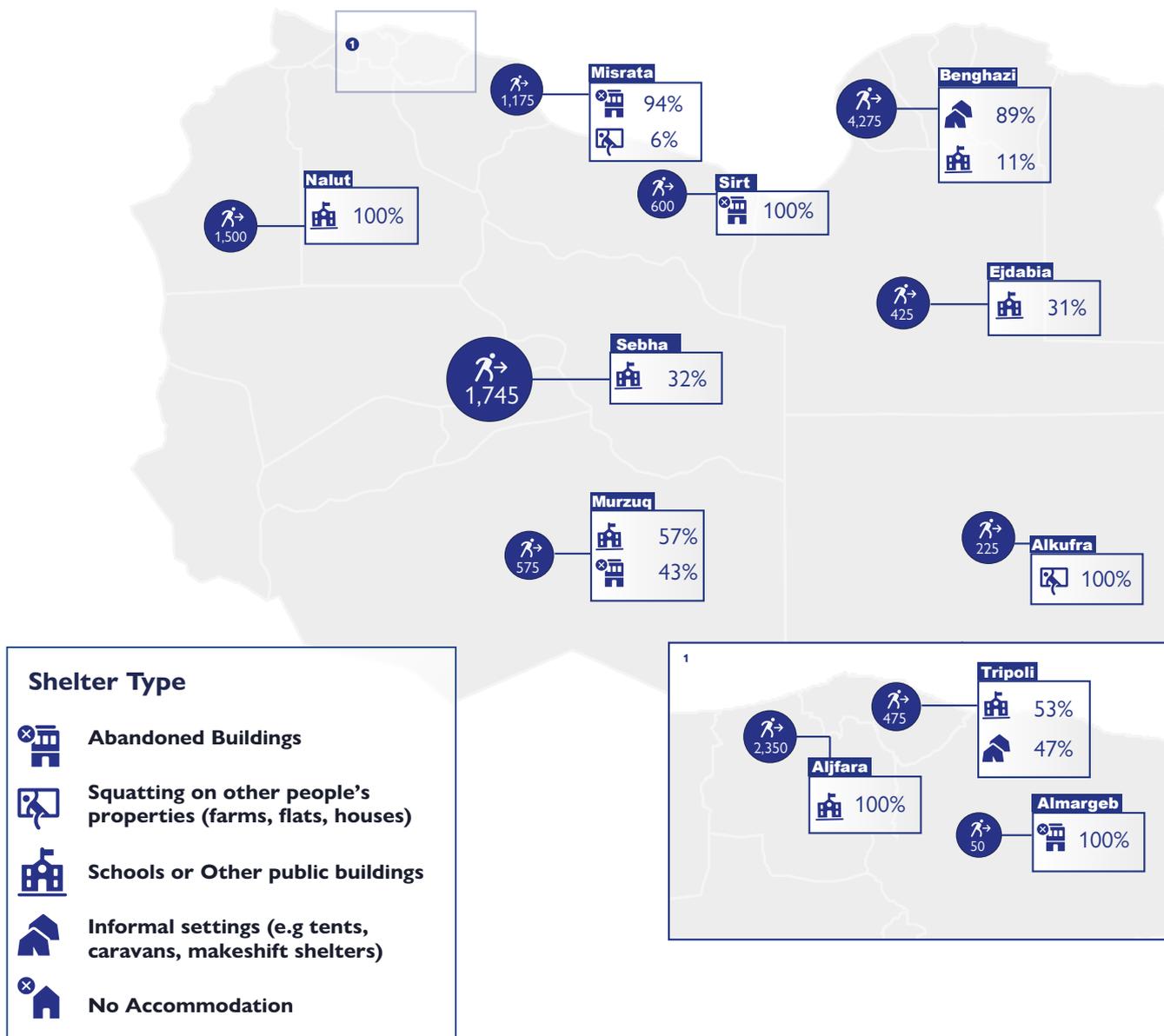
Percentage of IDP families

Fig 23 Accommodation types utilized by returnees



Percentage of Returnee families

Fig 24 Map of public shelter or communal accommodation types used by IDPs by location



WATER SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)

In 68 municipalities water trucking was reported as the primary means to meet the water needs of residents, including IDPs, returnees, host community and migrants. Furthermore, in 61 municipalities open wells (boreholes) were reportedly frequently utilized while the public water network only constituted one of the main water sources in 44 municipalities. The entire distribution of the main water sources reported can be seen in figure 25.

Analysis of water source availability and utility by municipality shows that in 28 municipalities only one source of water was available and therefore utilized.

Figure 26 below shows that in 12 municipalities of the 28 municipalities (43%), that depended on one source of water, open wells were the most common source of water, followed by 32% (9 municipalities) depending mainly on water trucking.

The reliance on water trucking – reported by 68 municipalities – as a source of water for household use was the most common in Libya, followed by open wells reported as one of the main water sources in 61 municipalities and water network in 44 municipalities.

Fig 25 Sources of water in use by the number of municipalities (multiple choice)

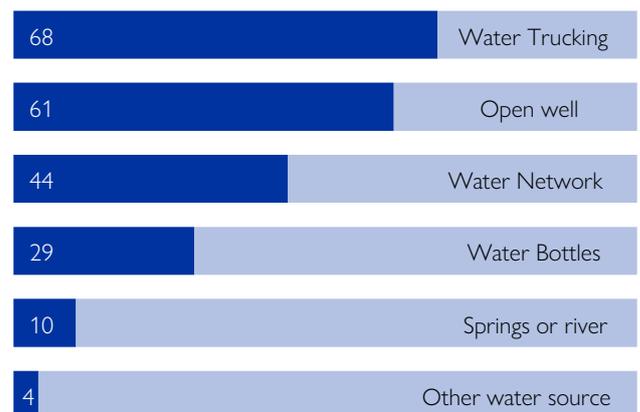
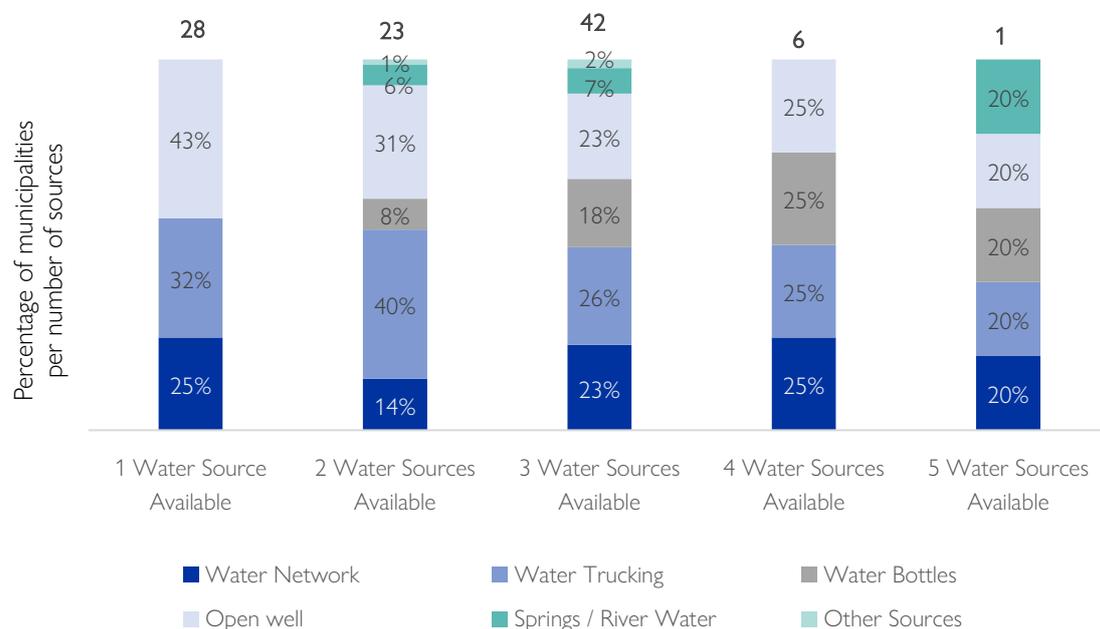
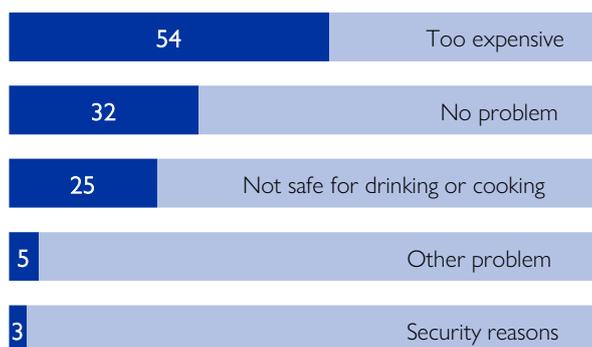


Fig 26 Analysis of number of water sources in use by municipality and their diversity



The most frequently cited obstacle related to access to water of residents, IDPs and returnees was the price reported as being too expensive for those in need in 54 of surveyed municipalities. This issue was observed primarily in communities dependent on resource intensive water trucking and use of bottled water. Furthermore, in 25 municipalities available water was reported not to be safe for drinking or cooking. While in 32 municipalities no problem in accessing water was reported.

Fig 27 Challenges related to water availability by number in municipalities (multiple challenges reported by several municipalities)



Number of municipalities

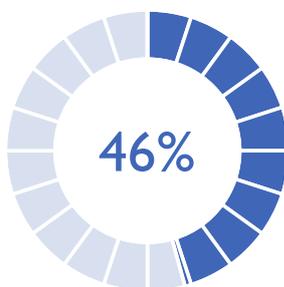
METHODOLOGY

The data in this report is collected through DTM's Mobility Tracking module. Mobility Tracking gathers data through key informants at both the municipality and community level on a bi-monthly data collection cycle and includes a Multi-Sectoral Location Assessment (MSLA) component that gathers multisectoral baseline data. A comprehensive methodological note on DTM's Mobility Tracking component is available on the DTM Libya website.

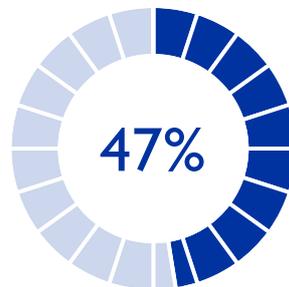
In Round 36, DTM assessed all 100 municipalities in Libya. 1,944 key informant interviews (KIIs) were conducted during this round. 286 KIIs were carried out at the municipality level and 1,658 at the community level. 31% KIIs were with the representatives from various divisions within the municipality offices (Social Affairs, Muhalla Affairs etc.), 14% were local crisis committee representatives, 13% were from key civil

society organizations, and 10% were representatives of health facilities. 3% KIIs were with female key informants, whereas 97% were male key informants.

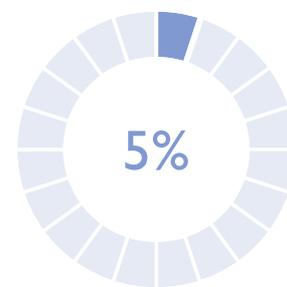
46% of data collected was rated as "very credible" during the Round 36, while 47% was rated "mostly credible", and 5% was "somewhat credible". This rating is based on the consistency of data provided by the Key Informants, on their sources of data, and on whether data provided is in line with general perceptions.



Very Credible



Mostly Credible



Somewhat

IOM Data collection in numbers

 **75**
Enumerators

 **5**
Implementing Partners

100%
coverage

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 DTM Libya website:

dtm.iom.int/libya



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