

# IOM LIBYA IDP AND RETURNEE REPORT



MAY - JUNE 2021  
ROUND 37



**DTM**



Project funded by  
the European Union

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**Cover photo:** IOM Libya staff collecting beneficiary information before providing direct assistance in Benghazi during the months of May 2021.

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# KEY FINDINGS

Round 37 (May - June 2021)

## IDPs



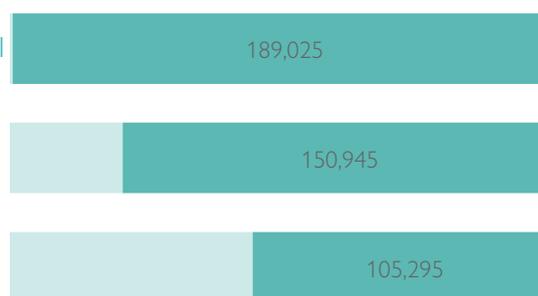
## Returnees



TOP 3 REGIONS WITH IDPs



TOP 3 REGIONS WITH RETURNEES



**659 of 667**  
COMMUNITIES



**100% of**  
MUNICIPALITIES

**1,912** Interviews with key informants  
(Round 37, Mobility Tracking)



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the European Union

# OVERVIEW OF DISPLACEMENT IN LIBYA

This report presents the IDP and Returnee data covering May – June 2021. The data and findings represent round 37 of the Displacement Tracking Matrix’s (DTM) Mobility Tracking in Libya.

As the security situation continued to be stable, by end of April 2021, no new mass displacements were reported while the trend of previously displaced families returning to their places of origin continued.

The number of returnees identified during the reporting period increased to 643,123 individuals, compared to 642,408 returnees reported during the previous round. This indicates a slight plateauing of the return trend as several IDPs face protracted displacement due to challenges such as lack of security or social cohesion in the place of origin, damaged infrastructure, unavailability of basic services in their places of origin, and houses destroyed due to armed conflict and uninhabitable upon return.

The trend of decline in the number of IDPs in Libya continued during this round, as the total number of IDPs decreased to 212,593 by end of June from 223,949 in April 2021.

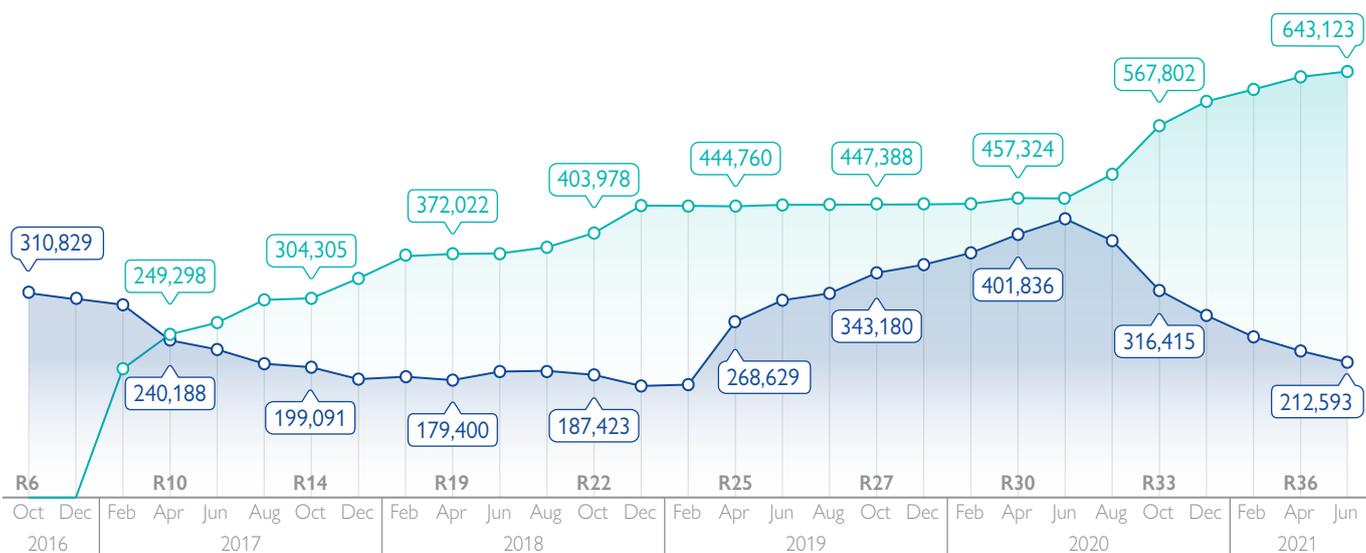
## IDPs

- 212,593 Individuals
- 42,506 Families
- 82 Municipalities
- 413 Communities

## Returnees

- 643,123 Individuals
- 128,519 Families
- 52 Municipalities
- 202 Communities

Fig 1 Libya displacement and return timeline



## DISPLACEMENT AND RETURN DYNAMICS

No major changes in the overall situation in Libya were observed during the months of May - June 2021, from the previous round, as return of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) continued albeit at a gradual pace. A further reduction in the number of people displaced (around 11,300 individuals) was observed as IDP families continued to return to their places of origin.

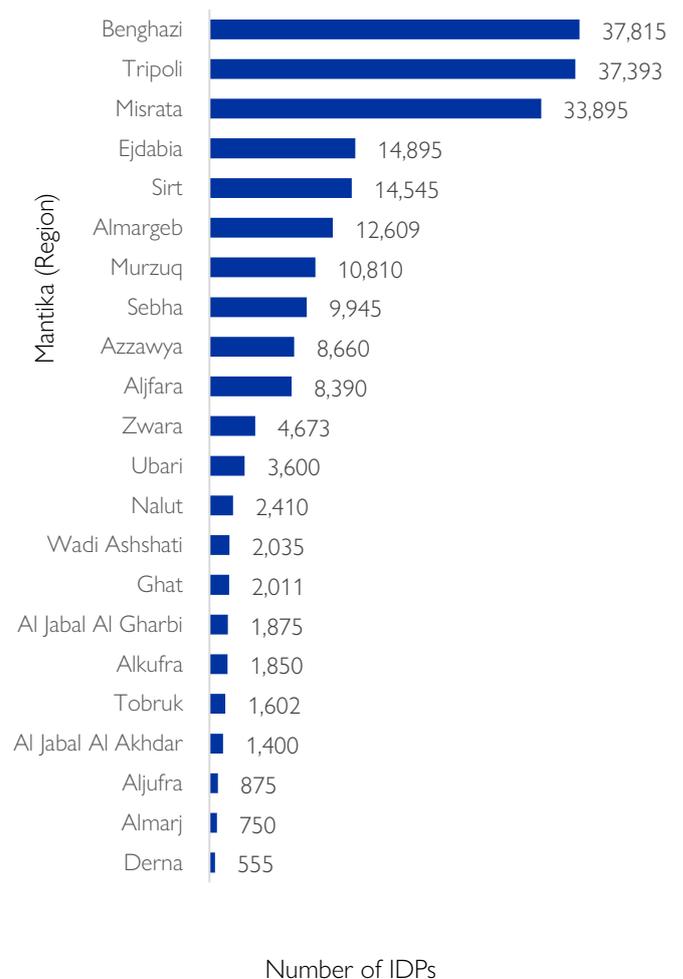
A total of 212,593 IDPs were identified during this round, marking a reduction of 5% in the IDP figures from the previous round. Whereas, the number of returnees increased to 643,123 individuals during this round.

As returns from the Tripoli region (mantika) continued, it moved down from previously hosting the largest displaced population in Libya to the second place on this list (figure 2) with 37,393 IDPs displaced within its six municipalities. Benghazi continued to host a significant and now the largest number of IDPs in Libya as 37,815 individuals were reported to be displaced there during this round. A majority of these IDPs in Benghazi face protracted displacement as they have been displaced since 2017 or earlier from areas previously damaged by armed conflict within the municipality.

During this round of data collection the region of Misrata hosted the third largest IDP population in Libya with 33,895 individuals displaced. Around half of these IDPs were reported to be displaced in the municipality of Misrata from the municipalities in eastern Libya, and were also reported to face protracted displacement.

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)



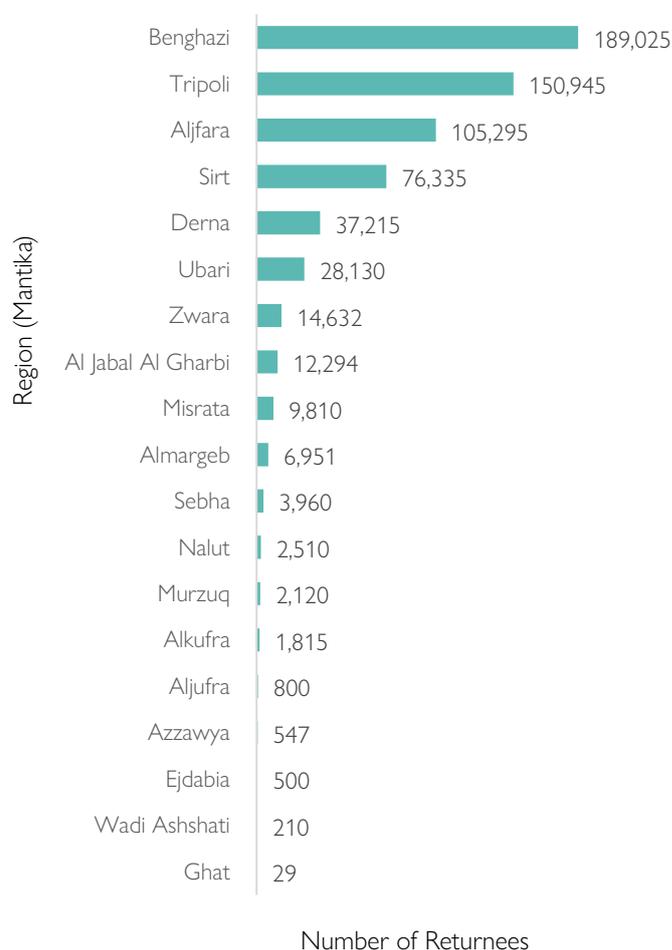
During May - June 2021, the total number of returnees in Libya increased to 643,123 individuals as previously displaced families continued to return to their places of origin. This represents a slight increase in the returnee figure from 642,408 returnees reported in the previous round as only 715 individuals were identified to have returned during May-June 2021. This indicates that while several previously displaced families had returned from their places of displacement they were yet to be recorded and identified as returnees in their places of origin.

Benghazi region (mantika) hosts the highest number of returnees in Libya, as 189,025 previously displaced individuals had returned to their home. Nearly all of these previously displaced individuals in Benghazi region had returned to Benghazi municipality (99%) prior to 2019 and represented a fairly stable caseload.

The second largest number of returnees had returned to their places of origin in Tripoli region, with 150,945 individuals returned by June 2021, followed by Aljbara with 105,295 individuals previously displaced having returned to their places of origin.

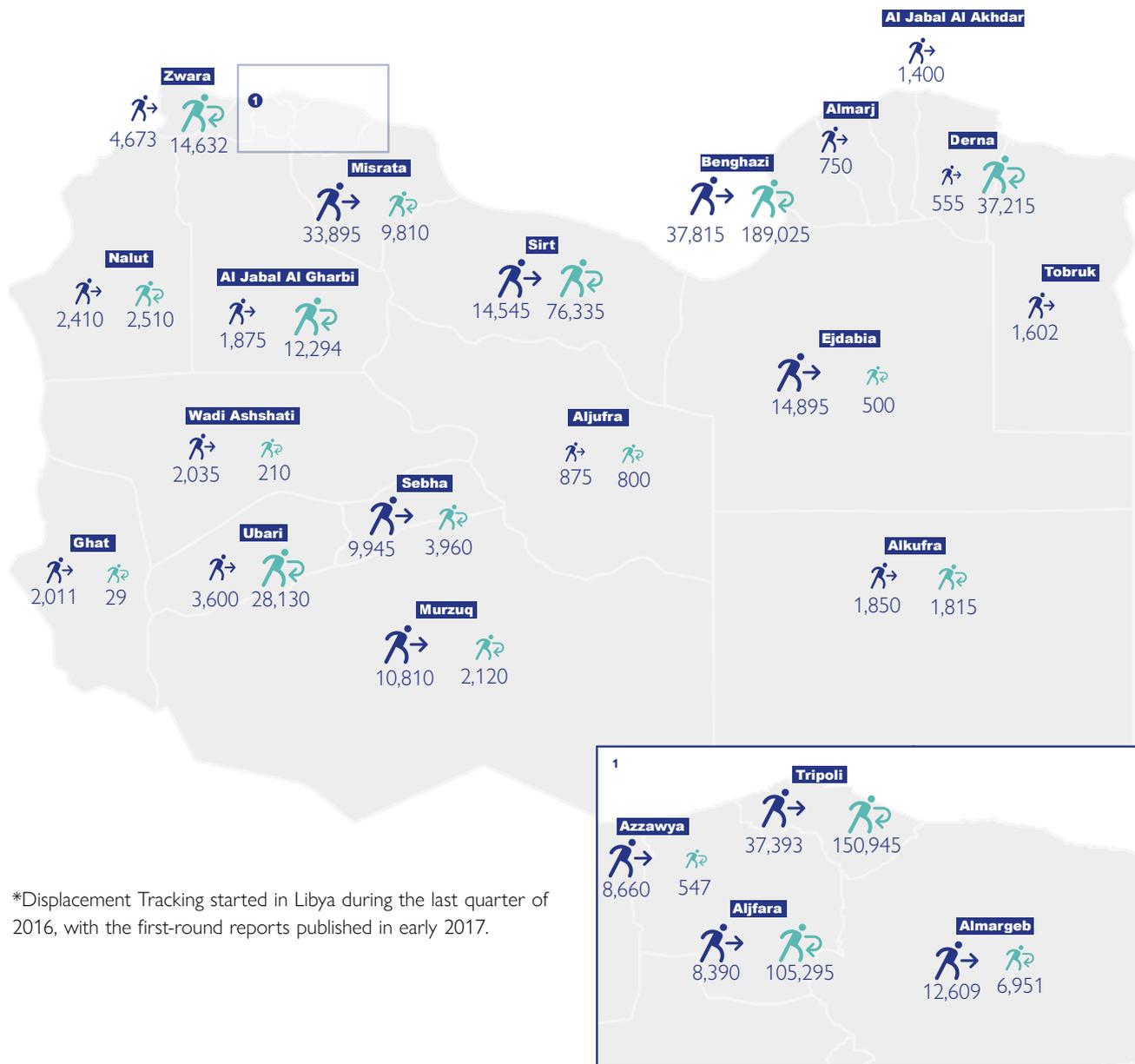
Data collected on drivers of displacement during round 37 continues to show that displacement in Libya is primarily linked to security related issues, such as the 2019-2020 armed conflict in Western Libya which caused the largest recent spike in displacements, and correspondingly improvements in general security situation resulted in return of displaced families to their places of origin.

Fig 3 Number of Returnees by Region (Mantika)



# LOCATIONS OF DISPLACEMENT AND RETURN MAP

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



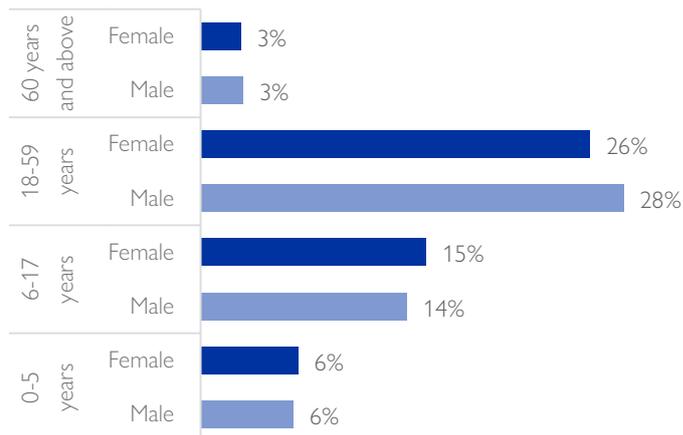
\*Displacement Tracking started in Libya during the last quarter of 2016, with the first-round reports published in early 2017.

## 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 over 7,200 IDP households profiled by IOM during 2021.



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 37 report presents the multisectoral priority needs of IDPs and returnees during the months of May - June 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 May - June 2021 data collection were related to accommodation, food assistance, 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 were reported to be not fully operational.

The chart shows ranked priority needs of affected population groups based on the top three needs reported at community (muhalla) levels.

Fig 6 Priority Needs of IDPs (Ranked)

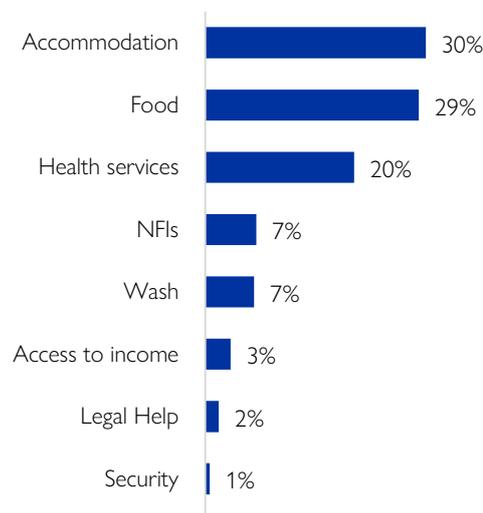
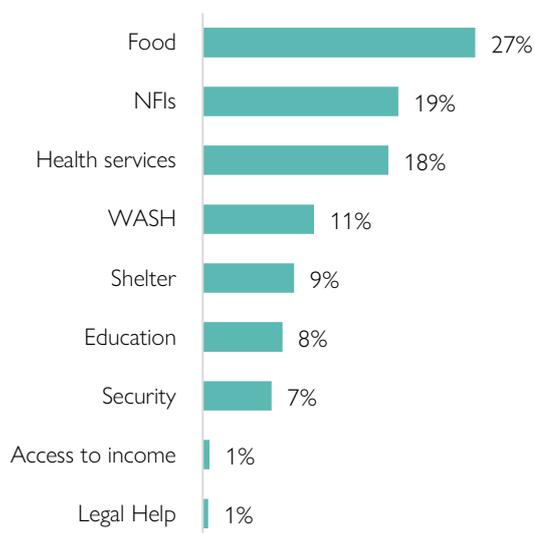


Fig 7 Priority Needs of Returnees (Ranked)



## 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.

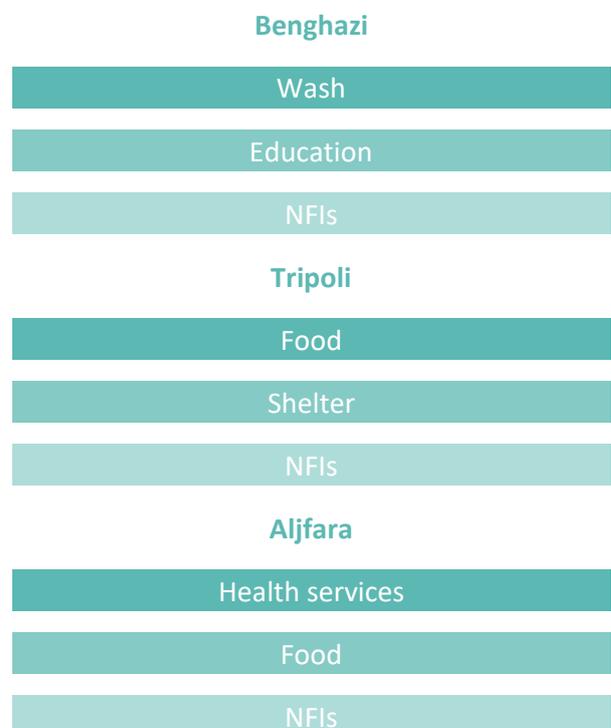
For IDPs in the Tripoli region, the top three humanitarian needs were related to shelter assistance, access to health services (particularly critical in the context of COVID-19), and provision of food assistance.

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), 59% of the public and private health facilities in Libya were reported to be operational, while 35% were reported to be partially operational, and 6% 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 further decreased from 82 in the previous round to 78 municipalities during May - June 2021 indicating improvements in the supply chain of essential medications.

Indicators aimed at understanding the extent of COVID-19 public health or social measures implemented are shown in Figure 12 (next page) with data presented as percentage of municipalities where these measures were implemented during May - June 2021.

Fig 10 Availability of health services in the assessed municipalities

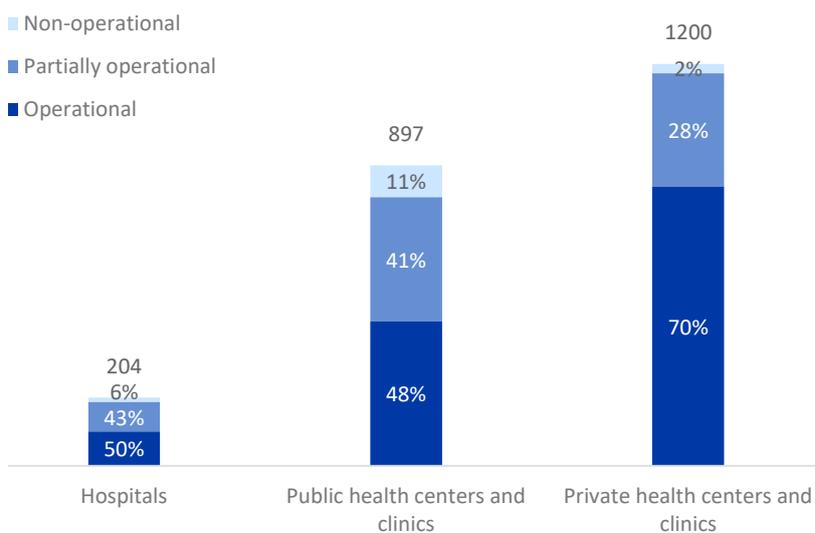
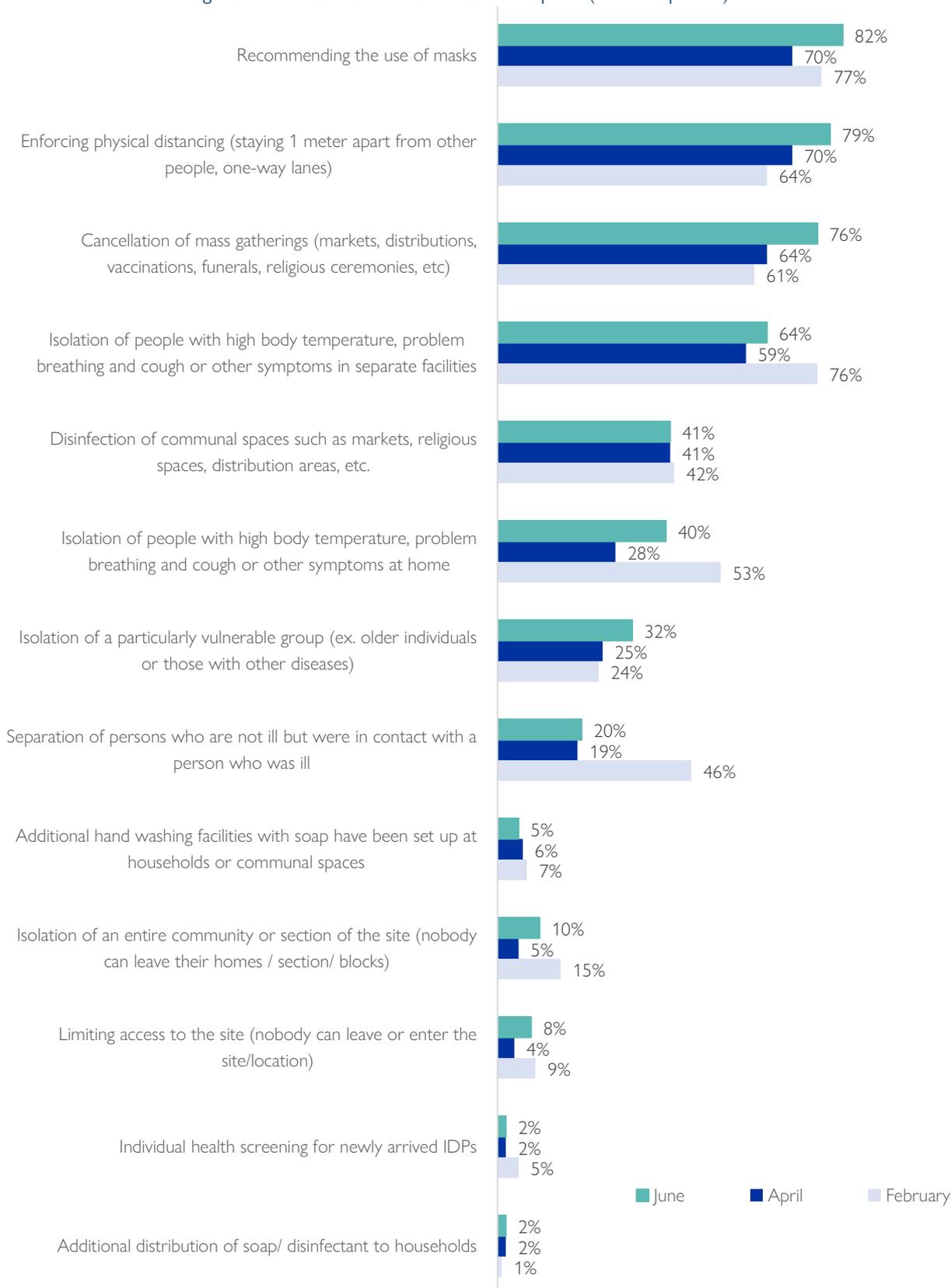


Fig 11 Irregular supply of medication reported in 78 municipalities (baladiya)



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 37, 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).

In 6 municipalities presence of UXOs was reported during this round. Furthermore, residents were reported as not being able to move safely within their area of residence in 7 municipalities.

In municipalities where movement was restricted, the main reasons reported were insecurity (6 municipalities), road closures (3 municipalities) and other reasons such as presence of UXOs (3 municipalities).

Fig 13 Presence of UXOs reported in 6 municipalities



Fig 14 Reasons for restrictions on freedom of movement as reported in 7 municipalities

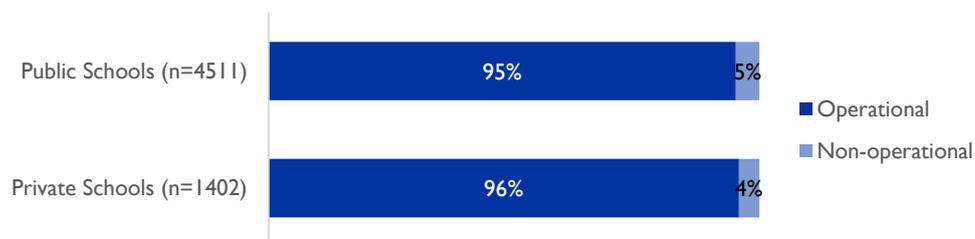
Municipality	Reason for Retricted Freedom of Movement
Albayda	Insecurity
Alkufra	Insecurity
Arrhaibat	Road closed, Other
Al Aziziya	Road closed, Insecurity, Other
Qasr Bin Ghasheer	Insecurity
Sidi Assayeh	Insecurity
Abu Qurayn	Road closed, Insecurity, Other

## EDUCATION

During the months of May - June 2021, 5% of the public schools and 4% of private schools were reported as non-operational. Whereas 41 schools were reported to be completely destroyed due to armed conflict. See figures 15 and 16 for further details.

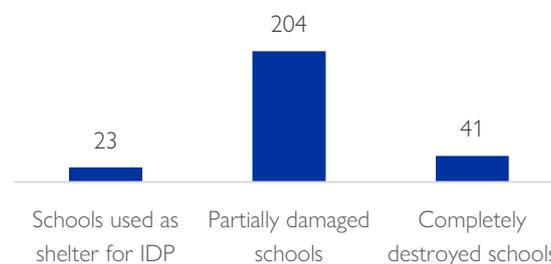
During the assessment period limited local level COVID-19 related mobility restrictions and closures were reported, and while widespread or complete school closures were also not reported, schools in various areas were following altered schedules to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Fig 15 Operational and non-operational schools



Percentage of schools reported operational / non-operational

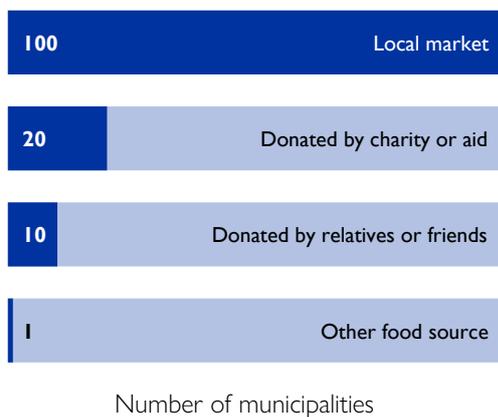
Fig 16 Number of schools reported as partially and completely destroyed or being used as shelter for IDPs



## FOOD

In all 100 municipalities of Libya, 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 20 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)



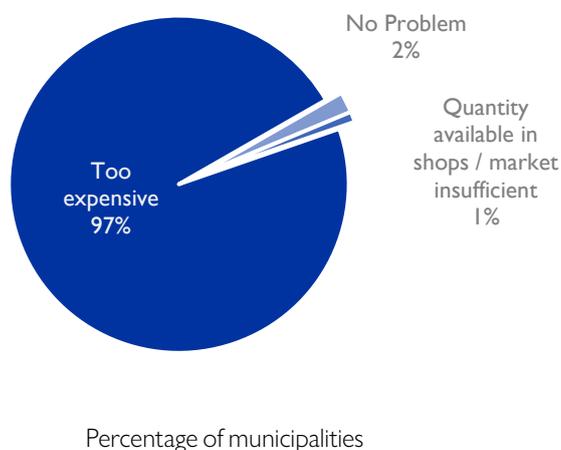
The modes of payment utilized for purchasing food were reported to be payments in cash, followed by ATM cards and purchases made on credit (see figure 18 on the right).

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 IDPs and returnees in need of NFI assistance. Furthermore, in 17 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 12 municipalities.

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

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

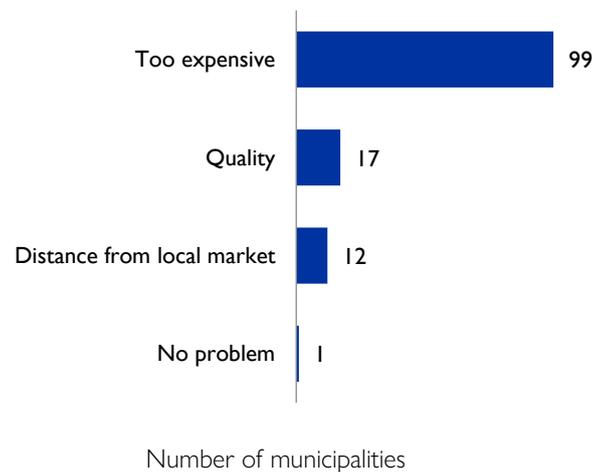
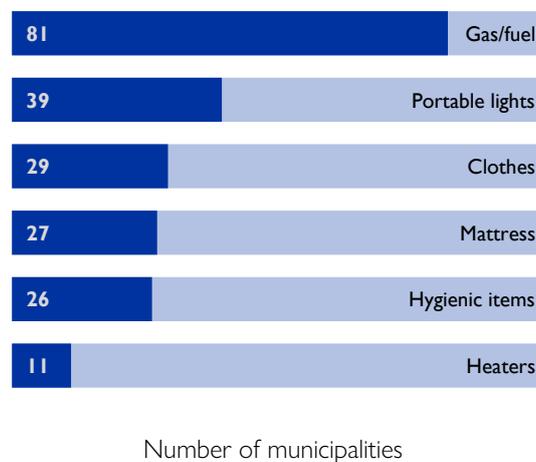


Fig 21 Most reported priority Non-Food Items in need (multiple choice)

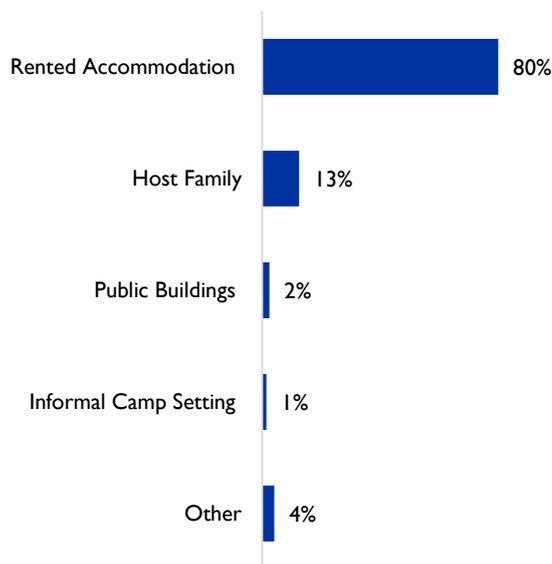


## ACCOMMODATION

During May - June 2021, 80% 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 7% were taking shelter in other settings including public buildings and informal camp like settings utilized on a temporary basis.

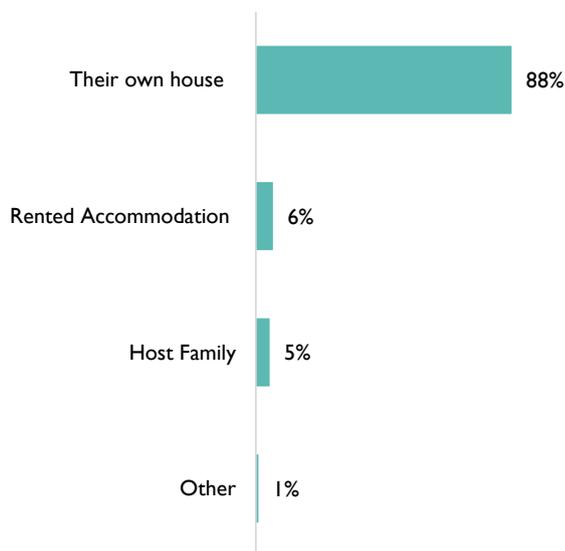
For those families who were previously displaced and now returned to their places of origin, 88% were reported to have returned and staying in their own houses. The remaining returnees were in rented accommodation (6%), with host families (5%) or utilizing other accommodation arrangements (1%) primarily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

Fig 22 Accommodation types utilized by IDPs



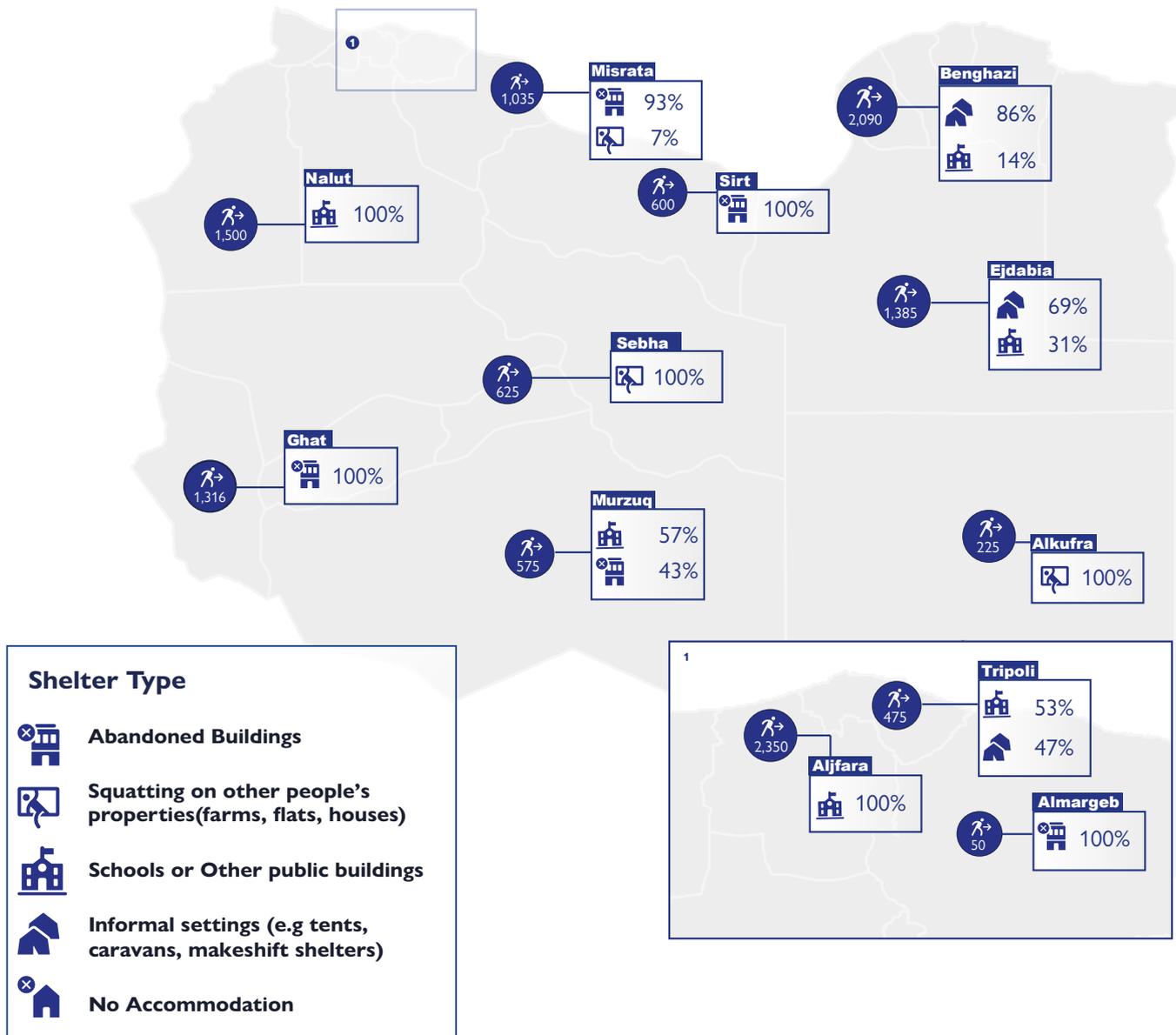
Percentage of IDP families

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 71 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 62 municipalities open wells (boreholes) were reportedly frequently utilized while the public water network constituted one of the main water sources in 42 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 the analysis of water sources in use and their diversity by number of municipalities. The analysis shows that in 26 municipalities IDPs, returnees and host community had access to only 1 source of water. In 13 of these 26 municipalities (50%) open wells were the most common source of water available, followed by 31% (8 municipalities) where water trucking was reported to be the main source of water, while water network was only available in 19% of these municipalities (5 municipalities) that reported 1 source of water. See figure 26 for the complete analysis.

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

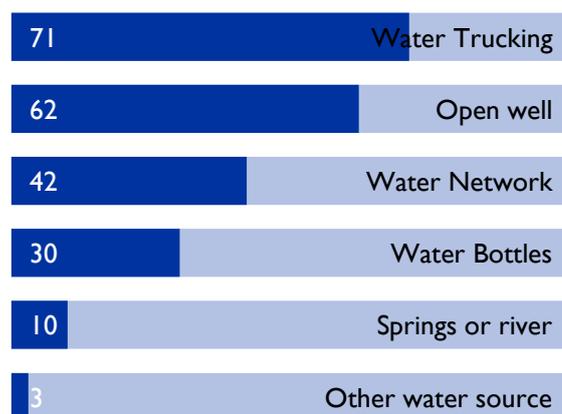
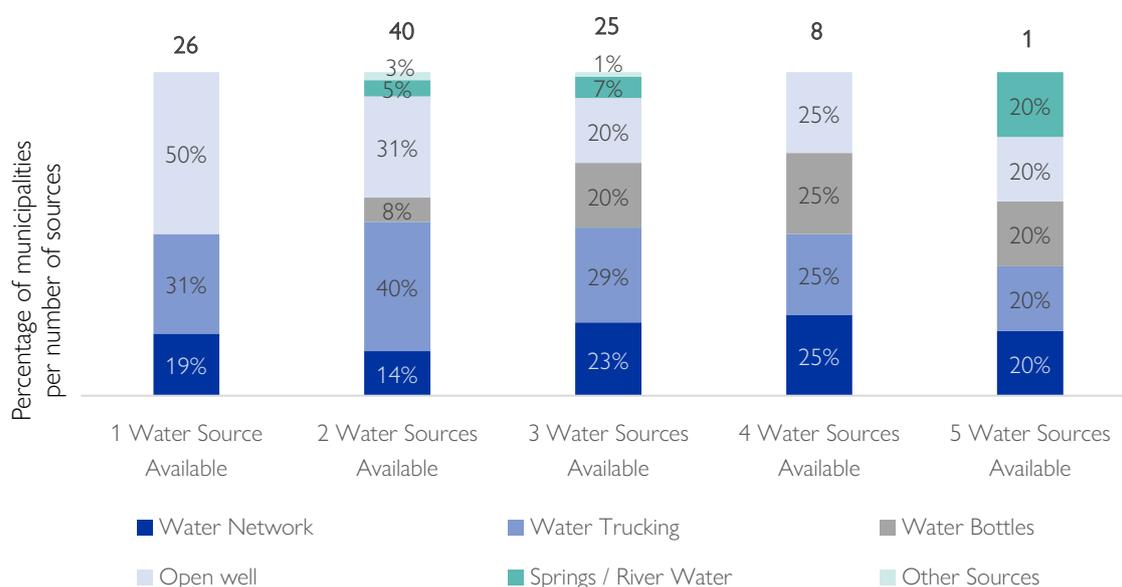
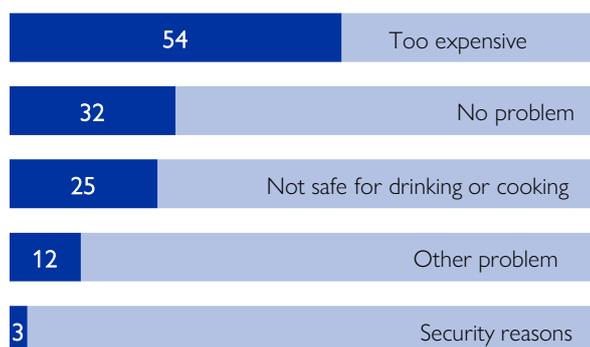


Fig 26 Analysis of number of water sources in use by municipality and their diversity



The most frequently cited obstacle related to access to water of residents, IDPs and returnees was that the price or cost of accessing water was reported as expensive (54 municipalities). The price or cost of water was largely reported to be expensive in communities that depended on resource intensive water trucking and use of bottled water. Furthermore, in 26 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

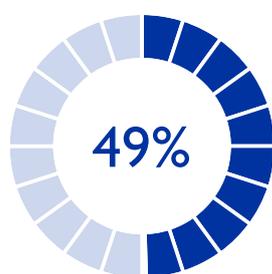
# METHODOLOGY

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.

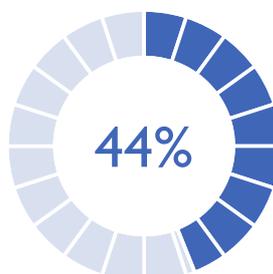
In Round 37 DTM assessed all 100 municipalities in Libya. 1,912 key informant interviews (KIIs) were conducted during this round. 288 KIIs were carried out at the municipality level and 1,624 at the community level. 31% KIIs were with the representatives from various divisions within the municipality offices (Social Affairs, Muhalla Affairs etc), 17% were local crisis committee representatives, 12% were from key civil

society organizations, and 12% were representatives of health facilities. 4% KIIs were with female key informants, whereas 96% were male key informants.

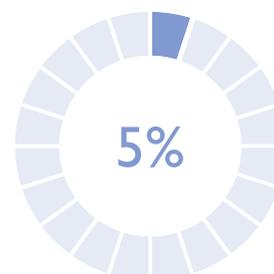
49% of data collected was rated as “very credible” during the Round 37, while 44% was rated “mostly credible”, and 5% was “somewhat credible”. This rating is based on the consistency of data provided by the Key Informants, on their sources of data, and on whether data provided is in line with general perceptions.



Very Credible



Mostly Credible



Somewhat

## IOM Data collection in numbers

 **88**  
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](https://dtm.iom.int/libya)



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