



**DTM**



# IOM LIBYA MIGRANT REPORT

July - September 2021

ROUND 38



**Photo:** In September, IOM's Migrant Resource and Response Mechanism (MRRM) mobile teams provided assistance to migrants in Ain Zara, Libya.

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## OVERVIEW

DTM Libya identified a total of 610,128 migrants from over 44 nationalities in the 100 Libyan municipalities during Round 38 of data collection (July – September 2021).

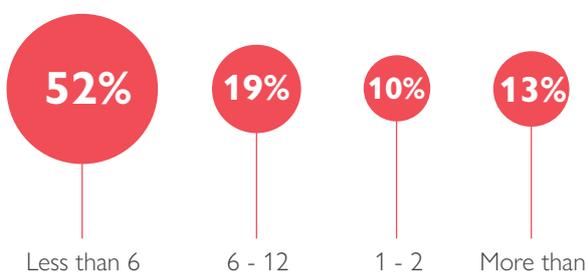
The number of migrants has continued to increase during the reporting period, continuing a trend which started in [January 2021](#). However, the number of migrants in Libya continues to remain slightly lower than pre-pandemic levels and significantly below that of 2019 for the corresponding period of time (655,144 migrants present during June - July 2019; [Round 26](#)). Before the beginning of 2021, the migrant population in Libya had decreased consistently following the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent economic downturn which resulted in increased unemployment, a reduction in available labour opportunities, tightened security controls and mobility restrictions.

### Employment and labour market

While the security situation in Libya remains calm but [fragile](#), the economic situation continues to be hampered by years of conflict and the added burden of the pandemic, which is also affecting migrants. According to Labour Force Survey data as referenced in a newly published [labour market assessment](#), migrant workers are estimated to represent around a third of the work force in Libya. Yet, the unemployment rate among migrants, while on par with the previous reporting period (20%) is still higher than pre-pandemic levels ([17% in February 2020](#)).

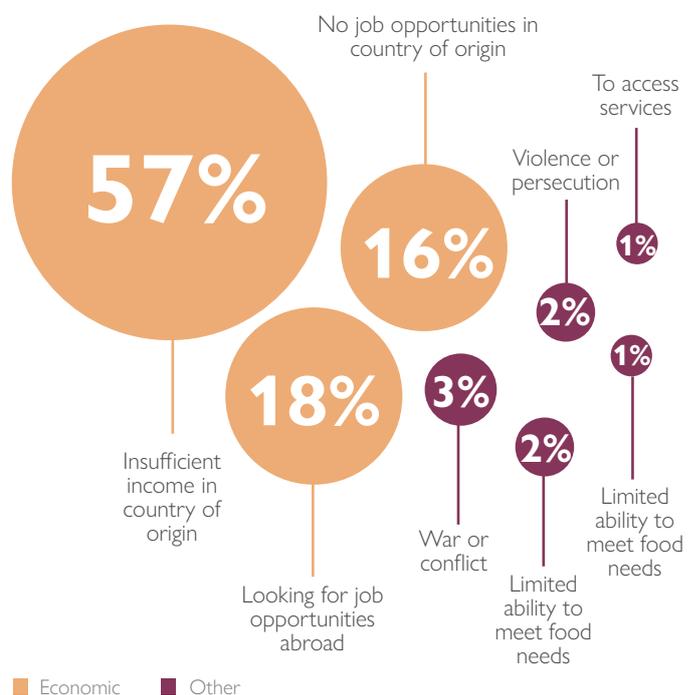
Unemployed migrants interviewed by DTM between July and September consistently reported facing more difficulties, such as financial and security issues as well as lack of access to drinking water than those who were employed. Moreover, a greater proportion of migrants who arrived in Libya more recently generally faced higher levels of unemployment than migrants who had been in Libya for longer periods of time (Fig 1). This has been [identified](#) as a significant risk factor which adds to migrants' vulnerability at the individual level.

Fig 1 Unemployment rate by length of stay in Libya



Nine in ten migrants interviewed by DTM between July and September reported that economic reasons had been the primary driver for leaving their country of origin (Fig 2). This finding is in line with the results of an assessment conducted by DTM in Niger, which found that nearly three quarters of Nigeriens [surveyed](#) in November 2020 reported that migration had had a positive impact on their family.

Fig 2 Primary reasons to leave country of origin



### Fields of employment

Consistent with previous reports, the majority of migrants who were employed reported working in the fields of construction (34%), domestic work (9%), agriculture, pastoralism, forestry and fisheries (7%) and manufacturing or factory work (7%). Sectors of construction, agriculture and manufacturing, where traditionally a significant share of the labour force includes migrant workers, were also identified in the previously mentioned [labour market assessment](#) to have the highest overall potential for employment creation.



# 9 in 10

migrants left their country of origin primarily for economic reasons

Nearly all migrants (93%) interviewed by DTM reported poor contract conditions. The majority had oral working agreements with their employer (70%) or no contract (23%). These findings appear to confirm the findings of the recent IOM [labour market assessment](#), which found that most migrants surveyed were without a contract with a fixed end-date or pre-set working hours.

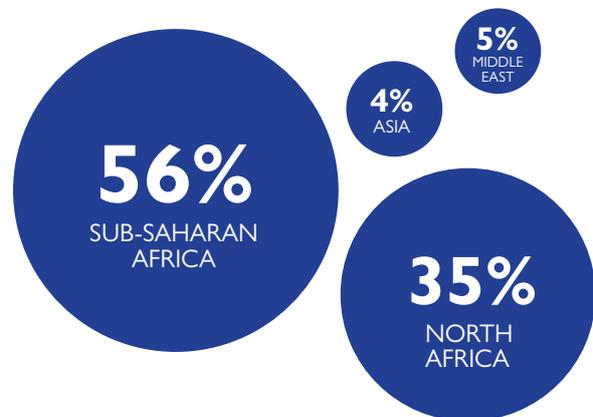
#### *Geographical patterns and trends*

Migration patterns in Libya remain heavily shaped by geographical proximity and diasporic ties. The majority of migrants originate from neighbouring countries: Niger (20%), Egypt (18%), Sudan (15%) and Chad (14%)

More than half of migrants in Libya are from Sub-Saharan Africa (56%), more than a third are from North Africa (35%) and a minority are from the Middle East (5%) or Asia (4%) (Fig 3).

The largest migrant populations identified by DTM during Round 38 of data collection were in the regions of Tripoli (15%), Misrata (11%), Ejdabia (9%), Benghazi (8%), Azzawya (8%), and Aljara (6%).

Fig 3 Regions of origin of migrants



## 20%

#### **unemployment rate**

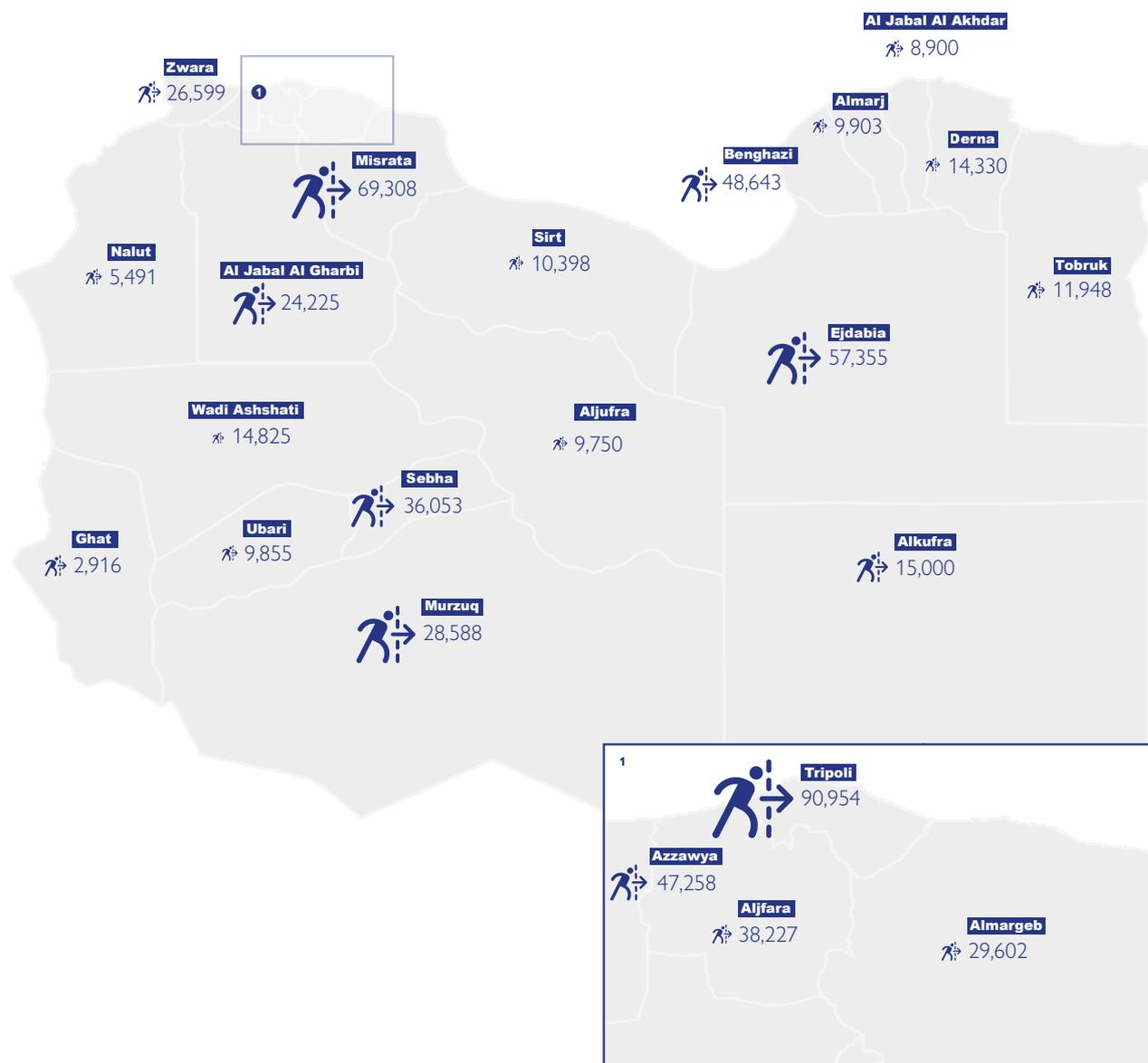
which is 3% higher than the pre-pandemic rate (17%) (Round 29, Jan - Feb 2020) but 7% lower than Round 32 (27%) (July - Aug 2020).



In September, IOM's Migrant Resource and Response Mechanism (MRRM) mobile teams provided assistance to migrants in Ain Zara, Libya.

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Fig 4 Number of migrants per region (mantika) during DTM Round 38 data collection.



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# KEY FINDINGS

Round 38 (July - September 2021)



**610,128**  
migrants in Libya

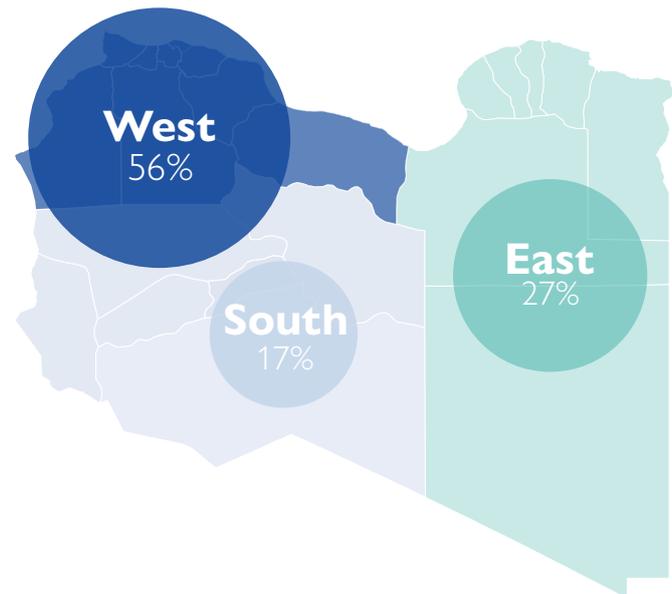


**US\$ 909**  
migration journey cost  
(average per person)

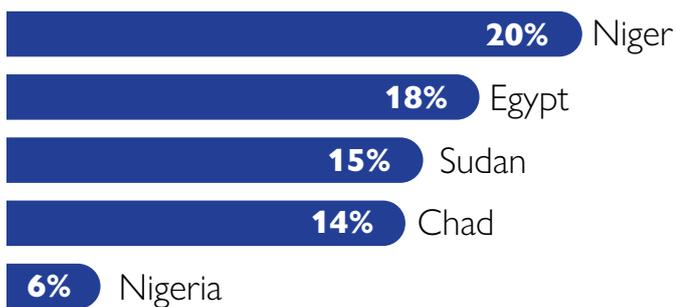


**38%**  
of migrants reported that the remittances they send home are the primary source of income for their household

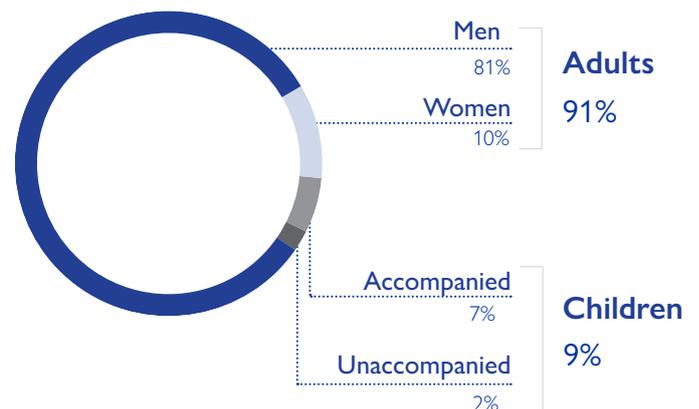
## Distribution of migrants per geographical areas



## Top 5 nationalities



## Demographics



Migrants were present in:

**630** communities  
(out of 667)

**1,821** Interviews with key informants

**100** municipalities  
(out of 100)

**7,824** Interviews with migrants  
(Flow Monitoring Surveys)



# HUMANITARIAN NEEDS



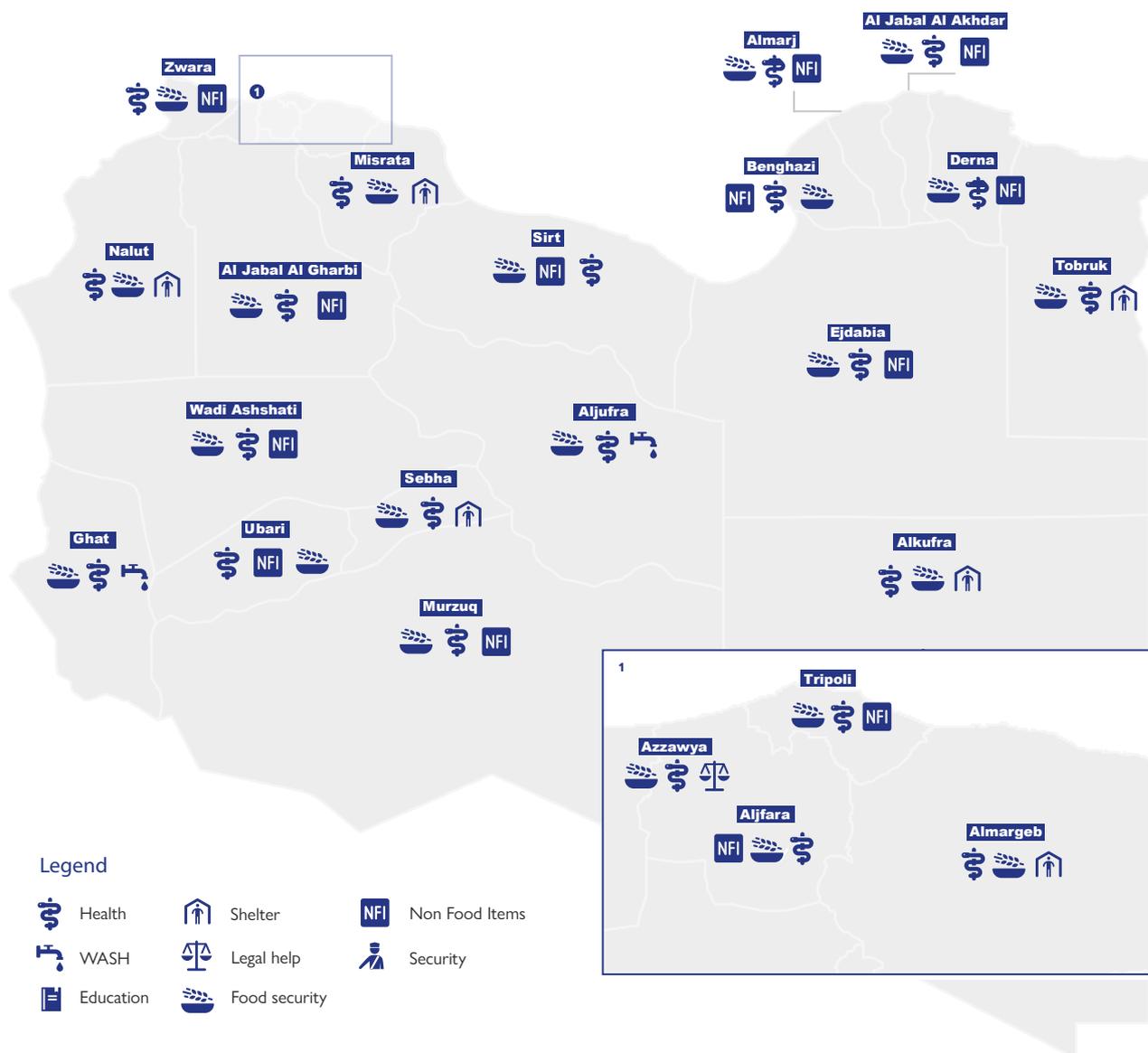
Photo: In August, IOM's Migrant Resource and Response Mechanism (MRRM) mobile teams also supported migrants in Sebha with hygiene kits, ready to eat rations and other core relief items.

## MIGRANT VULNERABILITY AND HUMANITARIAN NEEDS

Interviews with 1,821 key informants across Libya between July and September 2021 highlighted that the primary needs of migrants were centred around health services (83%), NFIs (52%), accommodation (28%) and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) (20%). Consistent with previous reports, key informant interviews highlighted that cost and affordability of food and other essential items as well as housing and services, such as health care, remain the main hurdles for the majority of migrants to fulfil their needs.

Food security also continues to be a concern for many migrants. A joint WFP and IOM [report](#) estimates that one in five migrants is food insecure. Moreover, while the cost of essential food and non-food items [increased](#) by 2 per cent between June and July, mainly driven by cooking fuel prices, overall it remains more than 13 per cent more expensive to buy food and non-food items than prior to the pandemic in March 2020.

Fig 5 Humanitarian priority needs of migrants per region (mantika)



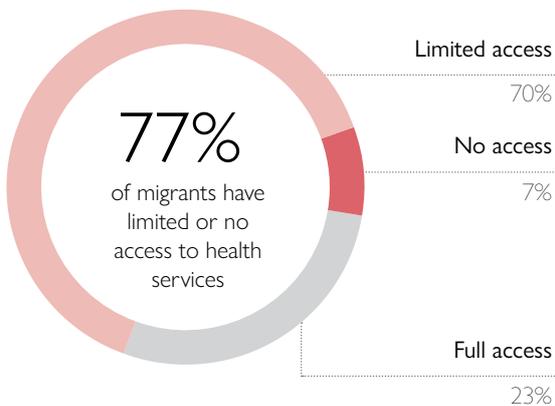
This map is for illustration purposes only. Names and boundaries on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by IOM.

**Health**

In line with previous reports, over three quarters (77%) of migrants reported lacking access to basic healthcare, including emergency services. Limited or lack of access to health services was most severe in the West (84%) and South (77%) compared to the East (51%).

In August, while the COVID-19 positivity rates [decreased](#) in the West, they increased in the South from 60 to 70 per cent, well above WHO recommended rates (5%).

Fig 6 Migrants' reported access to health services (sample size 7,824 interviews)



In addition, the Libya Health sector [reports](#) the worsening of the health situation in the South compounded by shortages of fuel for health facilities, power cuts, cash liquidity issues and the deterioration of the security situation, especially in Sebha.

Based on key informant interviews, the primary obstacle to migrants' ability to access health services was the affordability of care. In addition, the inability for migrants to access services (e.g. being denied care) and the inadequate quality of services were also mentioned as being issues.



**80%**

of migrants who reported lacking access to health care reported that **affordability** was amongst the main issues they faced.

A recent OHCHR [report](#) found that during the COVID-19 pandemic inadequate living conditions, existing barriers to health care access and discrimination disproportionately prevented migrants from accessing health care services, already weakened by years of conflict.

A recent IOM [assessment](#) conducted in collaboration with the Libyan National Centre for Disease Control and WHO, found that six per cent of the 391 interviewed migrants reported disease syndromes, including respiratory infections, jaundice and diarrheal disease. Migrants were surveyed at key transit locations in Bani Waleed, Ubari, Sebha, Algatroun, Emsaed and Alkufra.

There are an [estimated](#) 301,026 migrants in need of health assistance according to the 2022 health sector humanitarian needs overview.

**WASH**

In line with previous reports, one in five migrants (21%) reported not having sufficient clean drinking water, compromising their health and hygiene levels. The situation remains most particularly dire in the South (64%) compared to the West (17%) or East (8%).

OCHA [reports](#) that the sanitation and sewage network in the South are widely damaged, which has affected the supply of drinking water and public health. In parallel, in July, WHO [reported](#) that the highest COVID-19 transmissions rates were in the South and that the number of cases and deaths [remained](#) very high in most districts in August. The provision of water, sanitation and hygienic condition is key to [protecting](#) health during all infectious disease outbreaks, including the current COVID-19 pandemic.

Migrants interviewed by DTM between July and September 2021 reported that their main sources of drinking water were bottled water (60%) and the public water network (49%) while a minority also mentioned using protected wells (19%), water trucking (16%) or public outdoor taps (14%).

A total of 22 per cent of migrants mentioned having irregular or a lack of access to the public water network. In July, major damage to the water network in Benghazi and an attack which destroyed some of the water system infrastructure in Aljbara [resulted](#) in the disruption of services for an estimated 1.5 million or more people. In August, the obstruction of the eastern branch of the Man-Made River, which provides 60 per cent of

all freshwater used in Libya, forced its closure, which jeopardized levels of health and hygiene among the population and increased the risk of community diseases to spread, [according to UNICEF](#).



# 1 in 5

migrants reported not having sufficient clean drinking water compromising their health and hygiene levels.

## Remittances

Nearly one in three migrants (29%) interviewed by DTM between July and September 2021 reported having sent money home. An additional 34 per cent of migrants reported that while they had not yet done so they intended to send remittances in the future. Respondents reported having sent a monthly average of 96 US\$ home in July, August and September 2021, which is lower than both the 2019 and 2020 average of 146 US\$ and 123 US\$, respectively (Fig 7).

A recent DTM [study](#) on remittances identified that the factors preventing migrants from sending remittances included a lack of (stable) employment or inadequate earnings (given that migrants generally aim to accumulate savings before sending remittances) and a lack of reliable money transfer services. Moreover, findings from [DTM Niger](#) highlight that nearly three quarters of households surveyed (73%) in November 2020 reported that the amount of money they received from a family member

Fig 7 Average amount of remittances sent by migrants



2019  
**146 US\$**

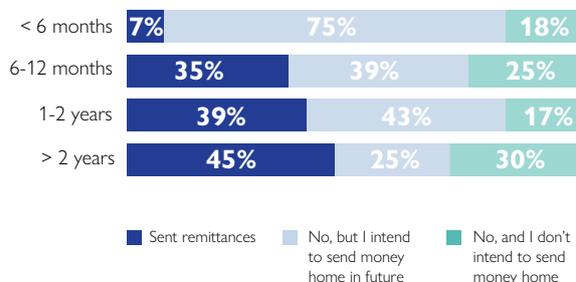


2020  
**123 US\$**



2021 (July-September)  
**96 US\$**

Fig 8 Percentage of migrants who have sent remittances since they have arrived in Libya by length of stay in the country



abroad had decreased since the start of the public health crisis. The assessment also showed that 69 per cent of Nigerien households surveyed mentioned a decrease in the frequency of remittances received since mid-March 2020, coinciding with the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result, nearly a third of surveyed households quoted a reduction on food expenses, including the quantity and quality of food.

The proportion of migrants who reported sending remittances was significantly greater among those who were employed (41%) compared to those who were unemployed (13%). However, more than half of unemployed migrants (52%) reported their intention to send money home in the future compared to 22 per cent of employed migrants.

Similarly, a greater proportion of migrants who have been in Libya for a longer period reported sending remittances than those who have arrived in Libya more recently (Fig 8). For example, 7 per cent of migrants who reported having been in Libya for less than six months had sent remittances compared to 45 per cent of those who had been in Libya for more than two years.

A total of 38 per cent of migrants reported that the remittances they send home are their household's primary source of income and help cover various expenses, such as food, family, rent and utilities and contribute to building their savings, investments or paying off debts.



Remittances are [understood](#) as the money or goods that non-nationals send back to their families and friends in their countries of origin.

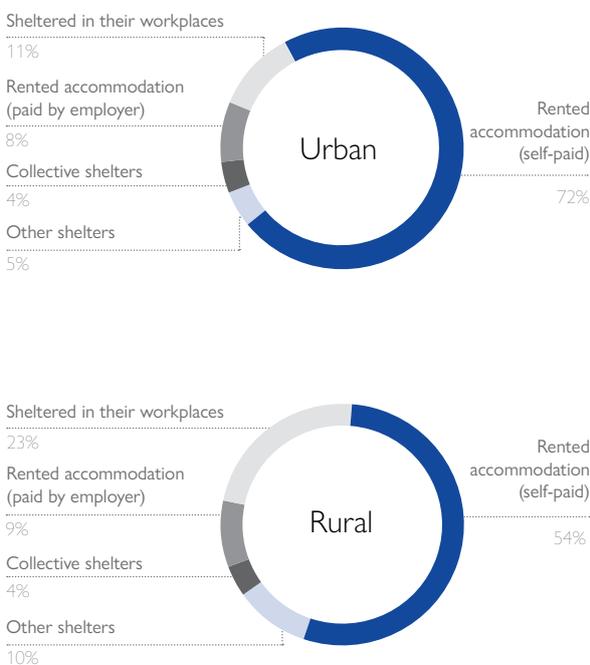
### Accommodation

In line with a long-standing trend, key informant interviews reported that the majority of migrants lived in rented accommodation (76%). However, a greater proportion of migrants in urban areas reported living in rented accommodation (81%) than in rural settings (65%). More migrants in rural areas lived in their workplaces (23%) or in accommodation paid for by their employers (9%) than in urban areas (11% and 8%, respectively) (Fig 9). A similar proportion of migrants (4%) lived in collective shelters in both rural and urban settings.

On average migrants reported sharing their room with four other individuals, although the number of room inhabitants ranged between zero (single occupancy) and 120 individuals.

A total of one per cent of migrants (95 respondents) interviewed by DTM between July and September reported having been threatened with eviction, the majority of which were in Ain Zara (34%) or in Zwara (21%).

Fig 9 Migrants' types of accommodation

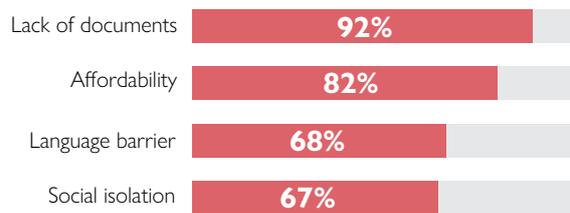


### Education

In line with previous reports, a minority of migrants (6%) interviewed by DTM between July and September reported having family members aged between 5 and 18 years old in Libya. Among them, a total of 53 per cent

reported that their school-aged children lacked access to education mainly because of a lack of documents (92%) and financial barrier (82%) (Fig 10). The language barrier (68%) and social isolation (67%) were also among the issues that prevented migrants' children aged 5-18 years old from accessing education in Libya.

Fig 10 Barriers to accessing education for migrants' school-aged children (sample = 238 respondents)



### NFIs

More than four in five migrants (86%) reported being in urgent need of NFIs, among which mattresses (47%), blankets (47%), clothing (40%) and hygiene products (28%) were the most needed items (Fig 11).

A significantly greater proportion of migrants who were unemployed reported being in need of NFIs (99%) than those who were employed (83%). Generally, a greater percentage of migrants who have arrived more recently in Libya reported needing NFIs than those who have been in Libya for longer. For example, 93 per cent of migrants who have been in Libya for less than six months reported requiring NFIs compared to 71 per cent of those who have been in Libya for more than five years.

Fig 11 Migrants' reported NFI needs





# MIGRATION FLOWS

**Photo:** IOM's Migrant Resource and Response Mechanism (MRRM) team in Al Gatroun conducted a door-to-door distribution of ready-to-eat kits in partnership with WFP to 20 affected migrants from Chad. The partnership aims to support the food security of migrants in need and displaced people affected by the COVID-19 pandemic in Libya.

# MIGRATION FLOWS

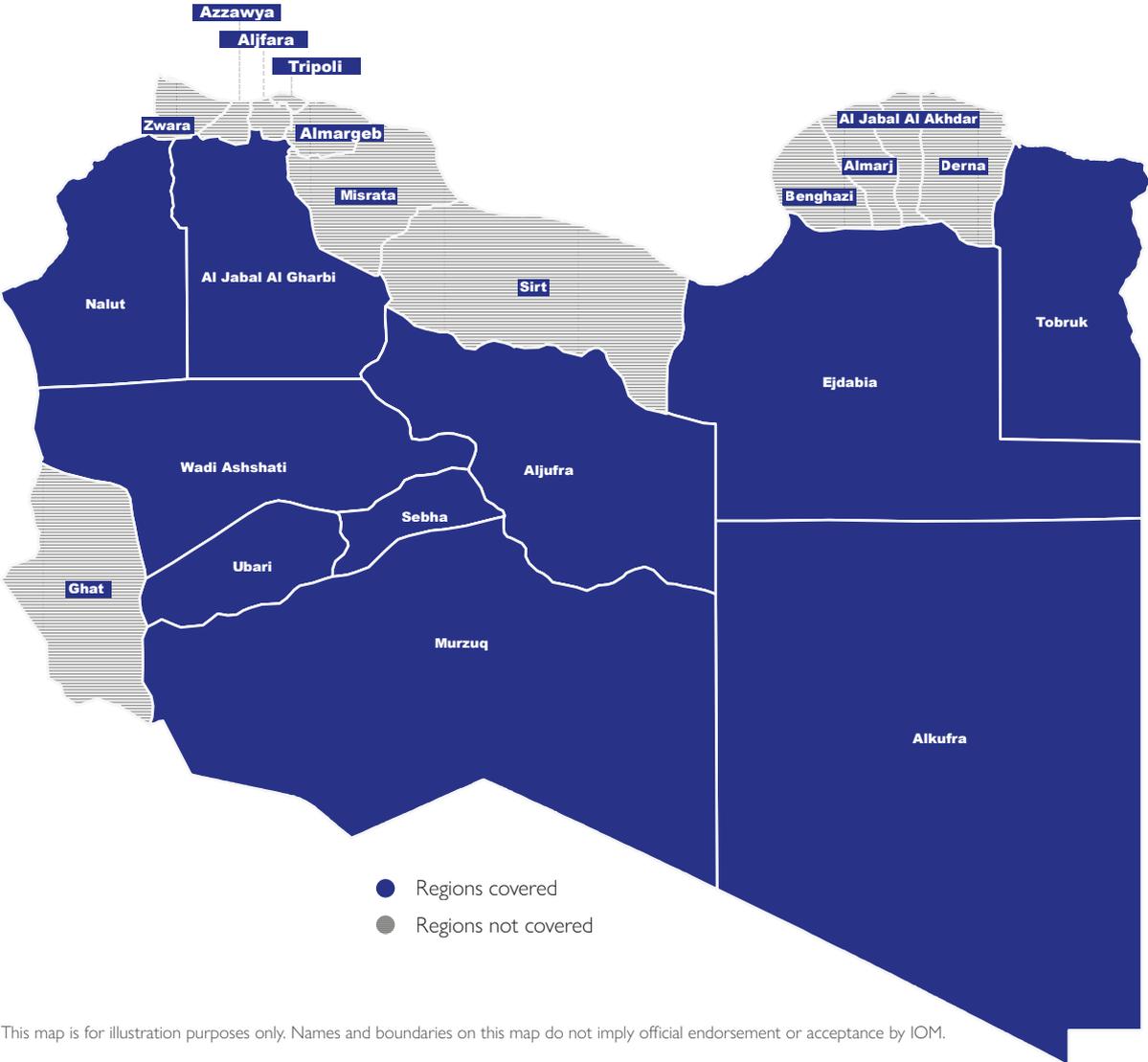
During the reporting period (July - September 2021) DTM Libya's 56 Flow Monitoring Points (FMPs) monitored migration movements in 15 municipalities and in 10 regions (mantika) of Libya. Flow Monitoring Points (FMPs) are set up at key transit locations along major migration routes within Libya where migrants 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
-  **777** assessments
-  **15** municipalities
-  **56** flow monitoring points (FMPs)

Fig 12 Regions (mantika) covered by the network of FMPs monitoring migration flows in Libya



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

## 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

#### Benghazi

The number of migrants observed in the municipality of Benghazi during Round 38 of data collection increased by seven per cent in comparison to Round 37 data collection, from 34,402 migrants to 36,889 migrants.

Field observers also noted an increase in the number of nationals of Egypt, Syria and Bangladesh arriving by air to Benina airport as access has reportedly become easier.

According to key informants, many Egyptians come to Libya on a seasonal basis to work in the sector of fisheries from the end of July until October. Others find employment in the construction and crafts sector.

A recently published DTM [study](#) on circular migration highlighted that the majority of migrants who engage in circular migration were from Libya's neighbouring countries. A total of 79 per cent of seasonal migrants interviewed by DTM in the East were Egyptians.

In parallel, during the reporting period, field observers noticed a significant number of migrants attempting to cross the Central Mediterranean Sea by boat leaving from Benghazi but who failed to make the journey.

#### Jalu

During the reporting period, the number of migrants in the municipality of Jalu remained largely stable (16,000 migrants during Round 38 compared to 15,995 migrants during Round 37).

The municipality of Jalu has become an important transit point connecting the Libyan southern borderland to the northern coastal regions. During the reporting period, field observers noted an increase in the number of migrants – particularly from Bangladesh and Ethiopia -- transiting through flow monitoring points.

Several Egyptian migrants come to Jalu at the start of the summer season to work in the sectors of agriculture and construction. Migrants in Jalu represent around 80% of work force of the local labour market.



Photo: A DTM Libya staff member interviews a man in August 2021.

## WESTERN LIBYA

### Misrata

During the reporting period, the number of migrants identified in Misrata rose by 23 per cent from 46,755 during Round 37 to 57,483 during Round 38.

In July, restrictions were implemented to address the spread of COVID-19 in Misrata. For example, the local authorities introduced a partial lockdown and closed many restaurants and supermarkets. These measures negatively affected the livelihoods of migrants throughout the month of July.

In August and September, the partial lockdown in Misrata was lifted, encouraging more migrants to look for job opportunities in the municipality. However, the number of available labour opportunities has not matched the increased demand for employment driven by migrant workers.

### Qasr Akhyar

In Qasr Akhyar, the number of migrants identified during Round 38 nearly doubled in comparison to Round 37, from 2630 to 5,150 migrants.

In July, the local authorities implemented a partial lockdown in Qasr Akhyar due to an increase of COVID-19 cases. According to key informants, both migrants and the Libyan population were affected by the COVID-19 restrictions, and the situation was compounded by the soaring prices of essential goods.

The security situation was stable throughout the reporting period. However, migrants were struggling to fulfill their basic needs due to the lockdown and the decrease in labour opportunities in the construction sector -- one of the main sectors of employment for migrants in Qasr Akhyar. Starting in August 2021, migrants in the municipality have been included in the COVID-19 vaccination campaign.

## SOUTHERN LIBYA

### Algatroun

During the reporting period, the number of migrants in the municipality of Algatroun dropped by 32 per cent, down from 15,655 in Round 37 to 10,618 in Round 38.

According to field observers, there were reports of robbery and shootings as well as truck accidents involving migrants during the reporting period.

Migrants in Algatroun are predominantly nationals of Sudan, Chad and Niger. A significant proportion of them relies on daily work opportunities or on the sale of agriculture products.

### Sebha

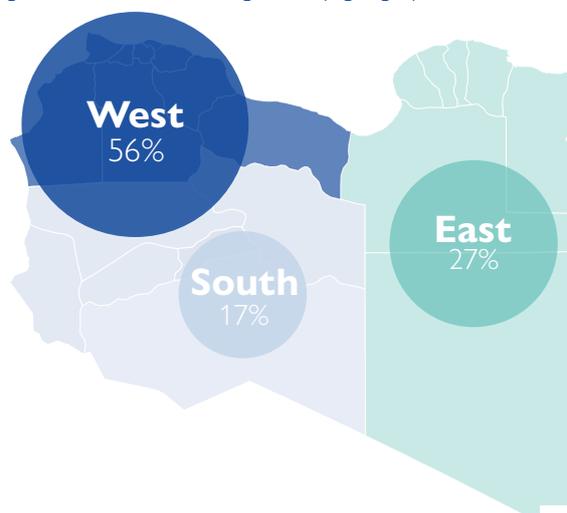
In Sebha, the number of migrants increased significantly during Round 38 data collection (from 27,400 migrants during Round 37 to 35,788 during Round 38).

However, according to field reports, the situation in the municipality remains difficult for many migrants. Incidents of armed theft, kidnapping of migrants for ransom and other criminal activities were reported.

The municipality of Sebha also suffers from an economic recession affecting both the Libyan and the migrant populations, and most particularly those who have arrived in the country more recently. Field observers reported migrants struggled with increased food and healthcare costs, as well as rental expenses.

In September, OCHA [reported](#) a deterioration of the humanitarian situation in Sebha as the region experienced lengthy power cuts, shortages of fuel and surging prices of essential goods. In September, for example, operations were suspended at the Sebha isolation centre, including COVID-19 testing, because of a shortage of fuel.

Fig 13 Distribution of migrants by geographical area



## MIGRATION ROUTES TO LIBYA

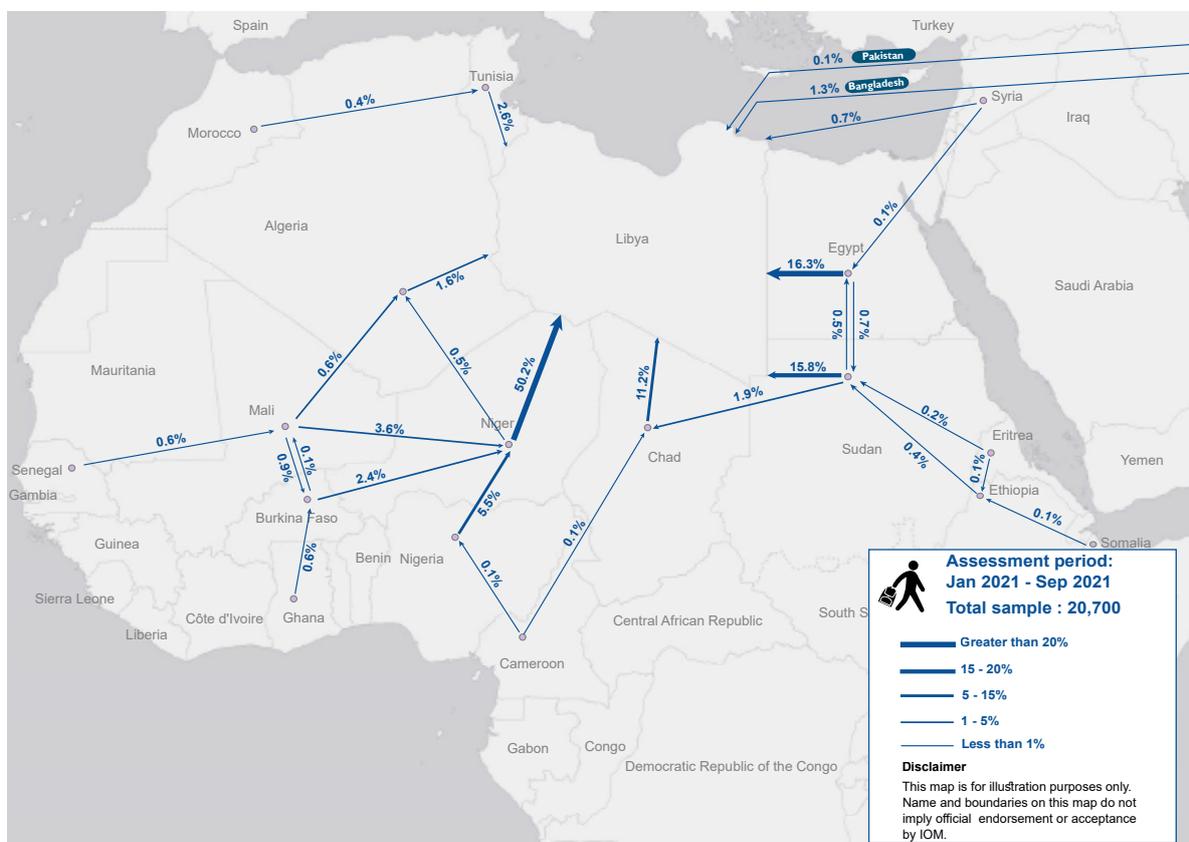
Libya shares more than 4,300 km of land borders with six countries. This section maps the major migration routes used by migrants from different countries of origin to reach Libya. This analysis is based on 20,701 individual quantitative migrant interviews conducted at key locations including transit points throughout Libya (through DTM Flow Monitoring Surveys (FMS)) between January 2020 and September 2021.

Migrants in Libya are mainly nationals of neighbouring countries, primarily as a result of the interlinkages and kinship networks that developed over time through human mobility, trade as well as cultural and social exchanges between and within populations from Libya's bordering countries.

Fig 14 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 50 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

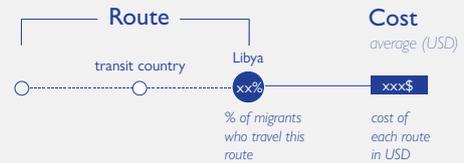
This section of the report outlines the different routes taken by migrants (i.e. through which countries they transit before reaching Libya) and the percentage of migrants who use these routes by country of origin.

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

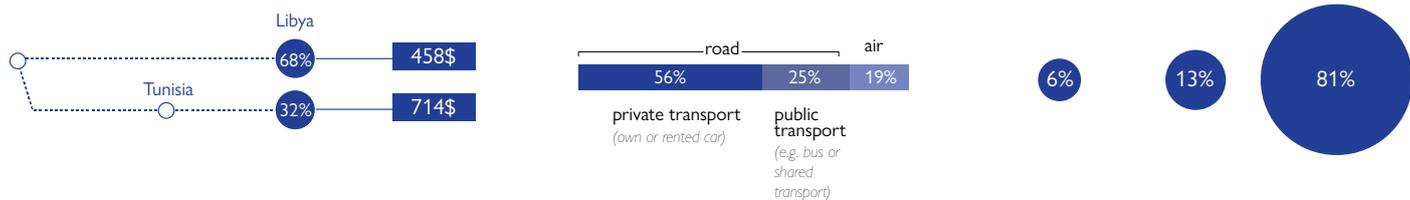
number of migrants from this country in Libya



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

1,764 migrants



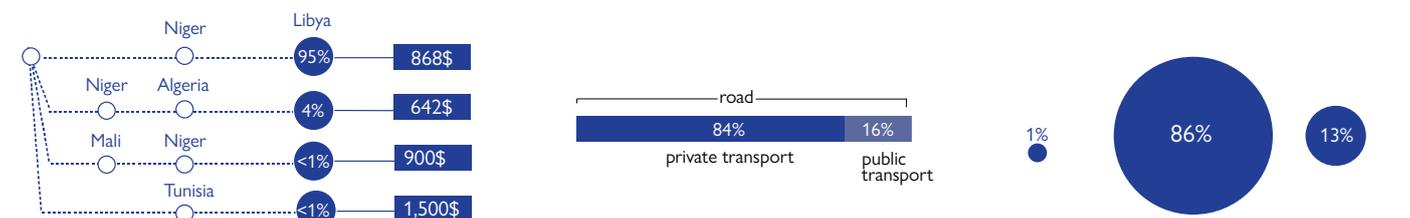
## Bangladesh

23,032 migrants



## Burkina Faso

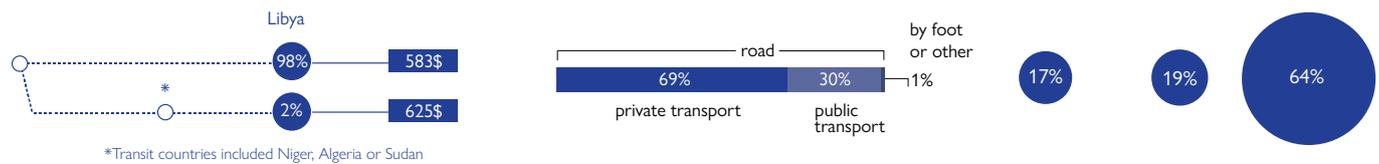
4,962 migrants



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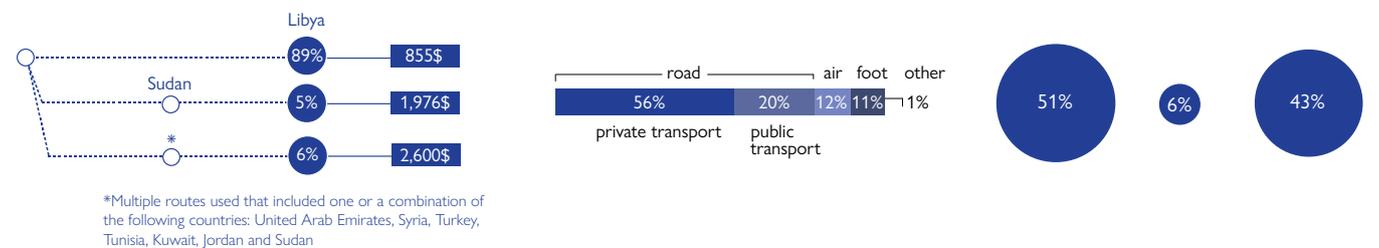
### Chad

83,894 migrants



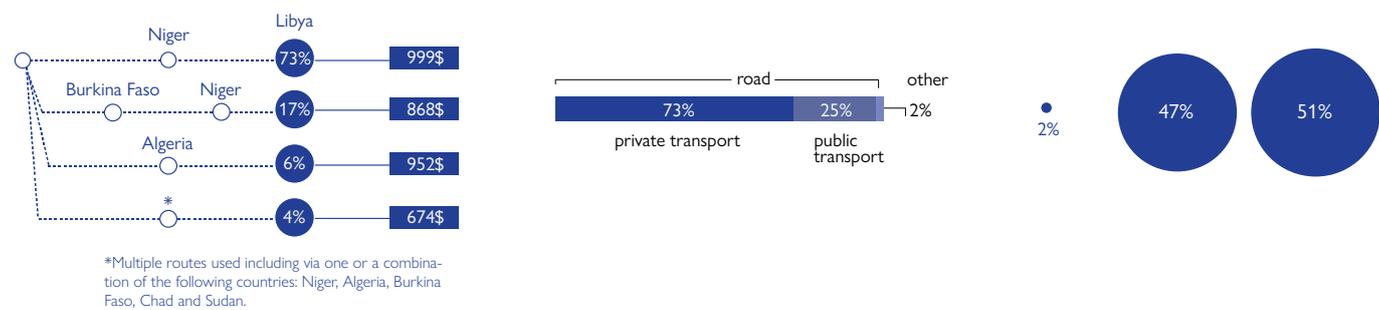
### Egypt

108,152 migrants



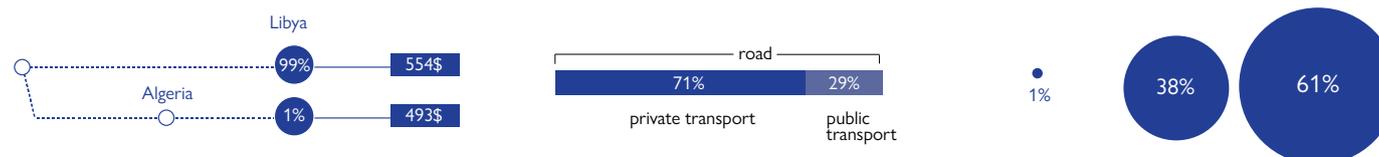
### Mali

24,910 migrants



### Niger

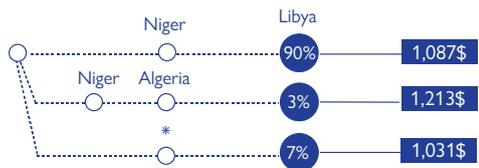
122,364 migrants



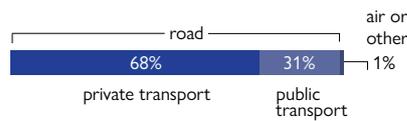
ROUTES	COST <i>average</i> (USD)	MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION	PRESENCE IN LIBYA BY GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS		
			East	South	West

### Nigeria

39,348 migrants

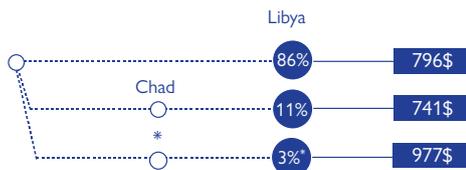


\*Multiple routes used that included one or a combination of the following countries: Niger, Chad, Sudan, Burkina Faso, Tunisia, Turkey, Cameroon, Algeria and Sudan

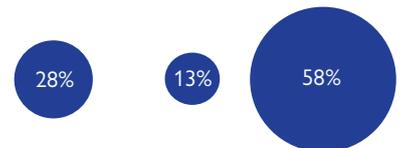
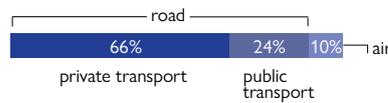


### Sudan

92,155 migrants

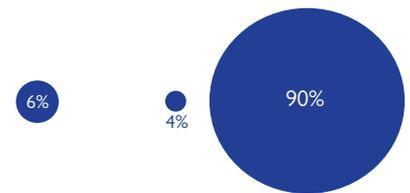
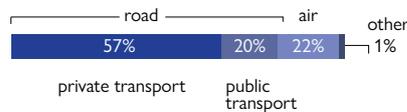


\*Multiple routes used that included one or more of the following countries: Chad, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Niger, Tunisia, South Sudan, Kenya and Central African Republic



### Tunisia

5,235 migrants



KNOW THE RISKS

**Photo:** In the lead up to World Day Against Trafficking in Persons, IOM conducted a two-day event in Tripoli bringing together a group of migrant community leaders and survivors of human trafficking to discuss ways to combat human trafficking in Libya. An art-based activity was also conducted for children and women who survived trafficking.

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# REGIONAL ANALYSIS



## REGIONAL ANALYSIS - DISTRIBUTION

In line with previous reports, more than half of migrants interviewed in July, August and September 2021 were located in the West (56%), while nearly a third were in the East (27%) and a minority were in the South (17%).

Half of migrants were located in the coastal regions of Tripoli (15%), Misrata (11%), Ejdabia (9%), Benghazi (8%) and Azzawya (8%). In comparison, a recent labour market [assessment](#) conducted for IOM found that 62 per cent of the Libyan labour force is concentrated in the urban centres of Tripoli, Benghazi, Al Jabal Al Gharbi, Misrata and Almageb.

Based on key informants interviews held in July, August and September 2021, it is estimated that nearly two thirds of migrants (64%) live in urban areas. Comparatively, around 90 per cent of the Libyan population is [concentrated](#) in the major urban centers along the Mediterranean, such as Tripoli, Misrata and Benghazi.

# 51%

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

Fig 15 Migrants in Libya by region (mantika) (based on Mobility Tracking data)

Mantika (Region)	#Migrants (IND)	% By region
Tripoli	90,954	15%
Misrata	69,308	11%
Ejdabia	57,355	9%
Benghazi	48,643	8%
Azzawya	47,258	8%
Aljifara	38,227	6%
Sebha	36,053	6%
Almageb	29,602	5%
Murzuq	28,588	5%
Zwara	26,599	4%
Al Jabal Al Gharbi	24,225	4%
Alkufra	15,000	2%
Wadi Ashshati	14,825	2%
Dema	14,330	2%
Tobruk	11,948	2%
Sirt	10,398	2%
Almarj	9,903	2%
Ubari	9,855	2%
Aljufra	9,750	2%
Al Jabal Al Akhdar	8,900	1%
Nalut	5,491	1%
Ghat	2,916	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>610,128</b>	<b>100%</b>

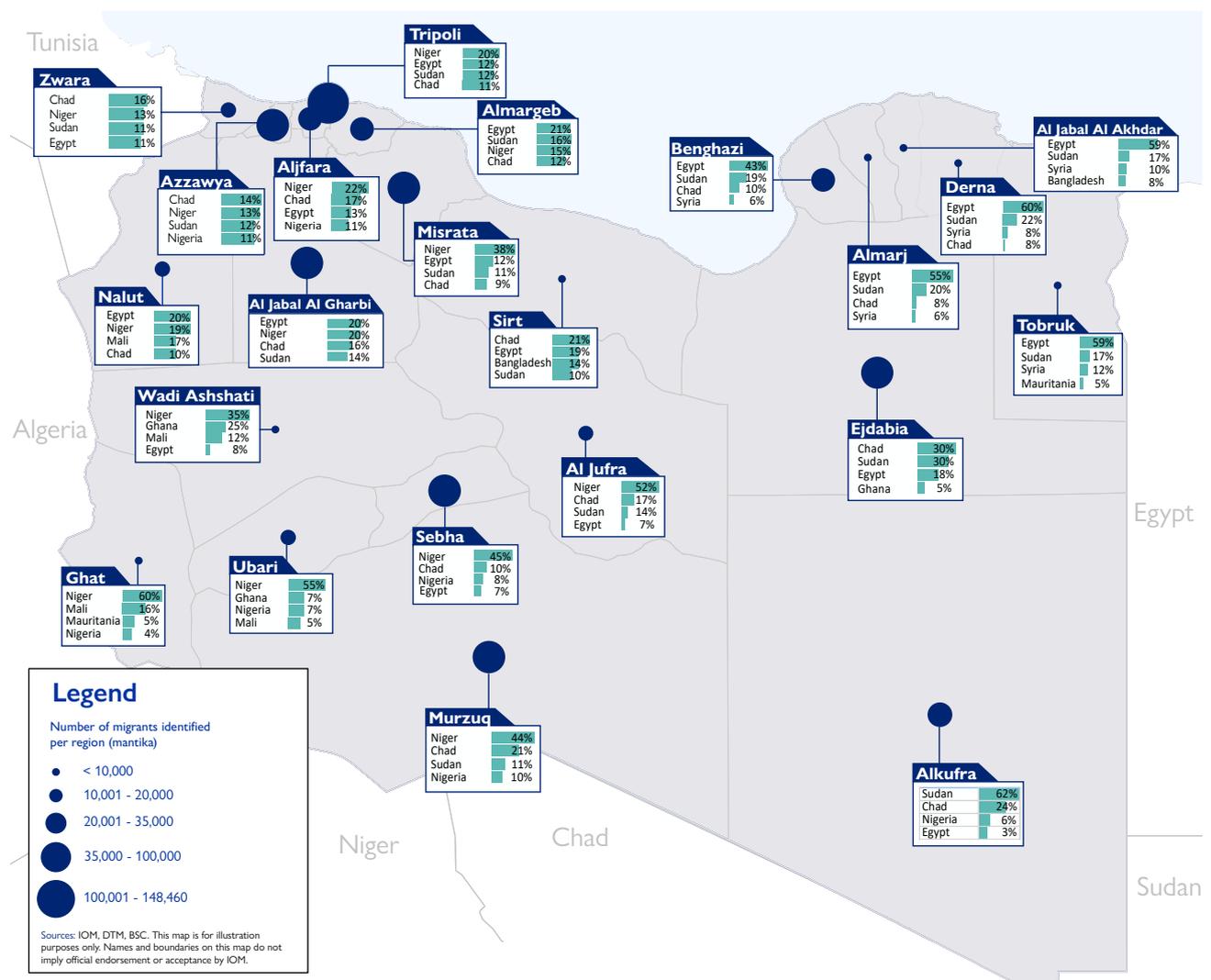
## REGIONAL ANALYSIS - NATIONALITIES OF MIGRANTS

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the regional distribution of migrants within Libya remains heavily shaped by geographical proximity as well as socio-economic, ethnic and historical linkages (Fig 16).

The map below shows the top four nationalities of migrants by region as per Mobility Tracking Round 38 data collection (July - September 2021). A significant proportion of migrants in the Southern and Western regions of Murzuq, Sebha, Aljufra, Ubari, Al Jabal Al Gharbi, Wadi Ashshati and Ghat are from neighbouring

Niger. Chadians and Sudanese constitute the bulk 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. Similarly, 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% and 0,3%, respectively, of migrants in Libya.

Fig 16 Map of top 4 migrant nationalities per region (mantika)



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

## REGION OF ORIGIN ANALYSIS

In line with previous reports and despite the pandemic, migrants from North African countries (including Egypt and Sudan) continue to represent the majority of migrants in Eastern Libya (62%) while migrants from Sub-Saharan African countries (such as Niger and Chad) account for the bulk of migrants in Southern and Western Libya (85% and 61%, respectively). The complete disaggregation of migrants' region of origins by regional location (mantika) in Libya is shown in the table below (Fig 17).

This analysis highlights the connections and social networks that have contributed to and continue to shape

migration to Libya and that developed over time through the [circular migration](#) of populations from neighbouring countries. While there are various factors involved in the decision to migrate, social networks is one among them. Individual interviews with migrants conducted by DTM between August and September highlighted that three in four migrants reported having been most encouraged to migrate by family or friends at home or abroad. These findings are in line with a DTM [study](#) on social networks, which highlighted that migrants are influenced by interlinkages and kinship networks throughout the process of migration.

Fig 17 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	1,669	8%	432	1%	6,799	7%
	Alkufra	-	0%	5,371	12%	9,629	9%
	Almarj	1,083	5%	1,380	3%	7,431	7%
	Benghazi	7,031	36%	11,088	25%	30,475	30%
	Derna	1,181	6%	1,402	3%	11,747	11%
	Ejdabia	7,175	36%	22,730	52%	27,450	27%
	Tobruk	1,635	8%	1,127	3%	9,186	9%
<b>Eastern Libya total</b>		<b>19,774</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>43,530</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>102,717</b>	<b>62%</b>
South	Aljufra	374	16%	7,303	8%	2,073	16%
	Ghat	1	0%	2,691	3%	224	2%
	Murzuq	34	1%	24,853	29%	3,701	29%
	Sebha	1,825	77%	29,717	34%	4,356	34%
	Ubari	103	4%	8,950	10%	802	6%
	Wadi Ashshati	48	2%	13,279	15%	1,498	12%
<b>Southern Libya total</b>		<b>2,385</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>86,793</b>	<b>85%</b>	<b>12,654</b>	<b>12%</b>
West	Al Jabal Al Gharbi	839	2%	14,213	7%	9,134	9%
	Aljara	1,732	5%	25,301	12%	10,624	11%
	Almargeb	1,875	6%	16,519	8%	11,208	12%
	Azzawya	3,304	10%	31,734	15%	12,220	13%
	Misrata	6,121	18%	44,640	21%	18,547	19%
	Nalut	212	1%	3,468	2%	1,803	2%
	Sirt	3,484	10%	3,585	2%	3,058	3%
	Tripoli	14,616	43%	53,709	26%	22,530	23%
Zwara	1,810	5%	16,688	8%	8,066	8%	
<b>Western Libya total</b>		<b>33,993</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>209,857</b>	<b>61%</b>	<b>97,190</b>	<b>28%</b>
<b>Total for Libya</b>		<b>56,152</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>340,180</b>	<b>56%</b>	<b>212,561</b>	<b>35%</b>

Note: 1,235 migrants from other minority nationalities (including those whose nationalities could not be established) are not included 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 originate mainly from Sub-Saharan Africa (56% of the total migrant population stock or 340,180 individuals). Migrants from neighbouring Niger (36%) and Chad (25%) constitute the two main nationalities among Sub-Saharan African migrants in Libya (Fig 18).

As during Round 37 of data collection, the number of Sub-Saharan and North African migrants in Libya continued to increase slightly over the reporting period compared to May and June 2021. However, the number of Niger nationals has decreased slightly compared to the previous round of data collection. In July, DTM Niger [reported](#) that the border was blocked and checkpoints had been reinforced with police officers to prevent criminal activities while in August the establishment of a barrier to enter and leave Sebha had led to a decrease in the flows [observed](#) at the Séguédine and Madama points, which record cross-border movement to and from Libya.

The majority of West and Central African migrants [transit](#) through Niger on their way to Libya.

Fig 18 Migrants from countries of origin in Sub-Saharan Africa

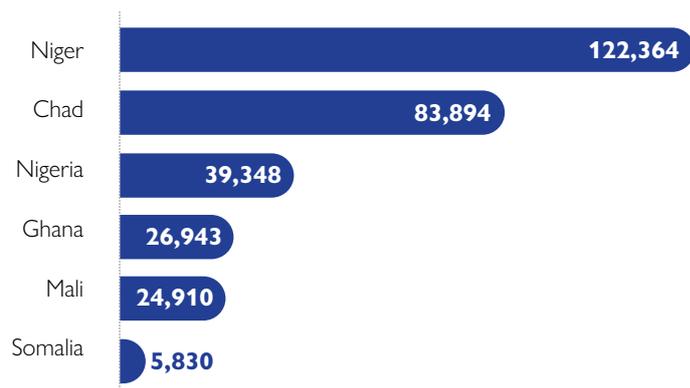


Fig 19 Percentages of migrants by country of origin for the North and Sub-Saharan Africa regions.



Consistent with previous reports and a long-standing trend, 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 6 per cent of the overall number of migrants from North Africa. A total of 35 per cent of migrants in Libya are from North Africa (212,561 individuals), a proportion which remains in line with previous reports.

The overall number of Northern African migrants also remained fairly stable compared to previous the previous [round](#) of data collection. During the reporting period, as the country entered a third wave of COVID-19 cases in July, land and air borders with Tunisia were temporarily [closed](#) until mid-September.

Fig 20 Migrants from countries of origin in North Africa

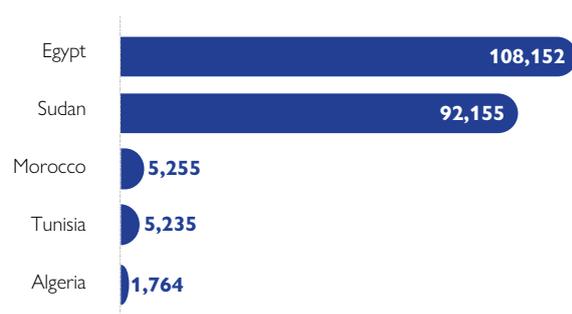


Fig 21 Proportion of migrants by nationality

Nationality	Number of migrants (ind)	% Migrants
Niger	122,364	20%
Egypt	108,152	18%
Sudan	92,155	15%
Chad	83,894	14%
Nigeria	39,348	6%
Ghana	26,943	4%
Mali	24,910	4%
Bangladesh	23,032	4%
Syria	22,124	4%
Palestine	6,491	1%
Senegal	5,830	1%
Somalia	5,659	1%
Morocco	5,255	1%
Tunisia	5,235	1%
Other	5,116	1%
Guinea	5,043	1%
BurkinaFaso	4,962	1%
Eritrea	4,910	1%
Mauritania	3,453	1%
Côte d'Ivoire	2,920	0.5%
Pakistan	2,870	0.5%
Ethiopia	2,044	0.3%
Zambia	1,888	0.3%
Algeria	1,764	0.3%
Cameroon	1,394	0.2%
South Sudan	1,338	0.2%
Gambia	1,034	0.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>610,128</b>	<b>100%</b>

## MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA

In line with previous reports, a minority of migrants (9% or 56,152 individuals) identified during Round 38 were from Asia (4%) or the Middle East (5%). Among migrants from Asia and the Middle East, the majority came from Syria (23,032 individuals) and Bangladesh (22,124 individuals) accounting for 41 and 39 per cent of migrants (including refugees), respectively. Syrians and Bangladeshi migrants both account for four per cent each of the overall migrant stock population in Libya. In addition, there were 6,491 migrants who self-identified as Palestinians (12% of all migrants from the Middle East and South Asia in Libya) and 2,870 migrants from Pakistan (5%).

Fig 22 Migrants from countries of origin in Asia and the Middle East

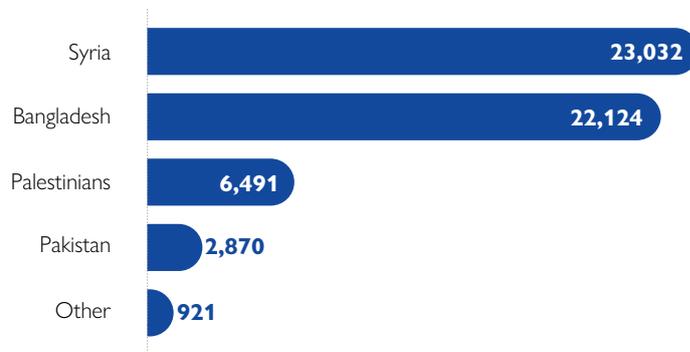
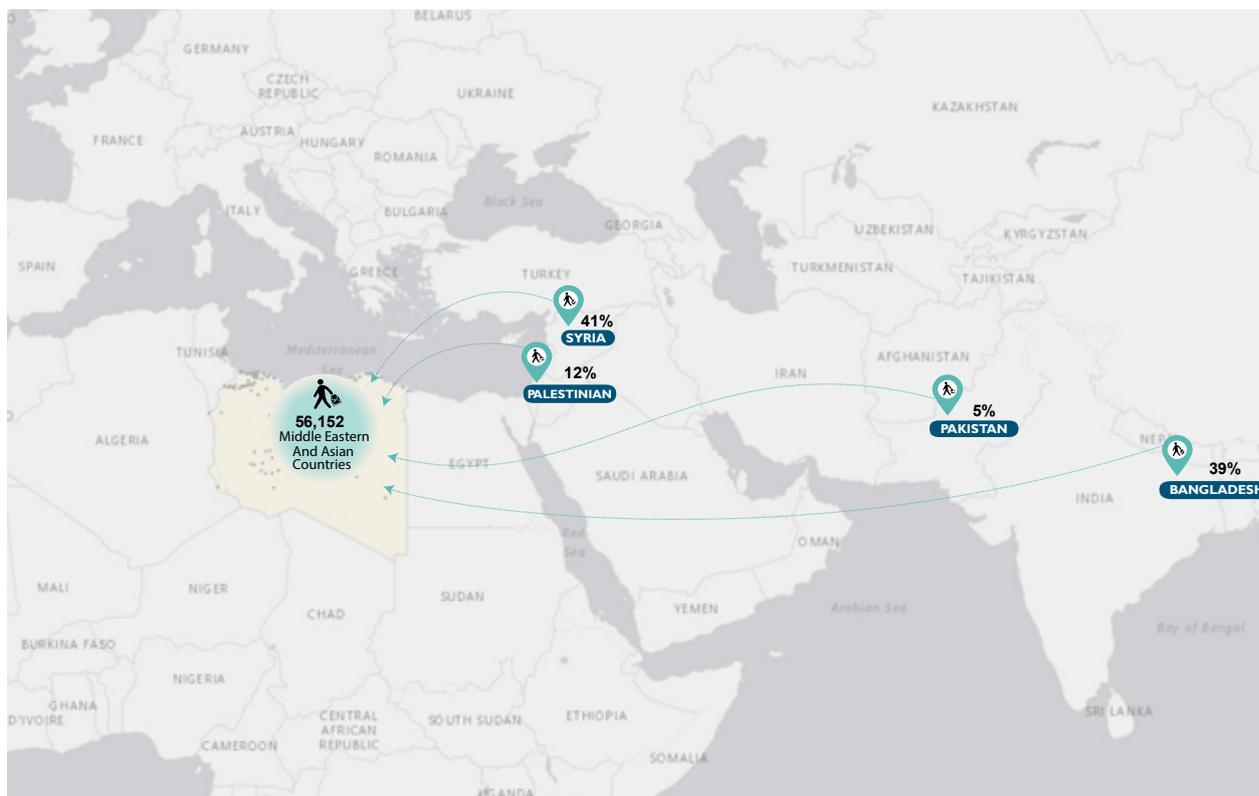


Fig 23 Percentages of migrants by country of origin for the Middle East and South Asia



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In September, IOM mobile teams continued to provide assistance to migrants in Libya. In Ain Zara, migrant workers were supported with health care, hygiene kits and food kits as well as information on the risks of irregular migration.

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## MARITIME INCIDENTS

### Arrivals to Italy and Malta

Between 01 January and 30 September 2021, a total of 46,626 migrants [arrived](#) in Italy and Malta via the Central Mediterranean Sea, more than double the number of arrivals recorded during the last reporting period (20,782 individuals at the end of Round 37, June 2021). The number of arrivals in 2021 also represents an increase compared to the corresponding period in 2020 (25,888 individuals). Around the same number of migrants (25,844 individuals) arrived in Italy and Malta between July and September 2021 as during the first nine months of 2020.

The number of migrants arriving in Italy and Malta by sea has been consistently higher in 2021 than in 2019 or 2020 since February (Fig 24).

According to a recently published [IOM report](#), in the first half of 2021, most individuals who arrived in Italy by sea had departed from Libya (62%), while a minority had set off from either Tunisia (18%), Turkey (14%), Algeria (2%), Greece (2%) or Egypt (2%). In comparison, in 2020, Tunisia was the country from which migrants reported having most frequently departed from (43% of all arrivals in Italy).

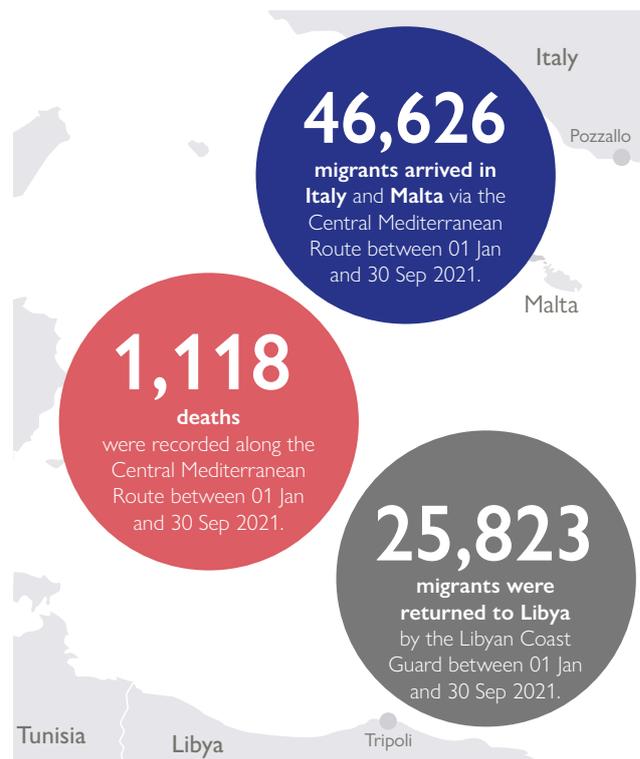
### Rescues at sea

As of 02 October, a total of 25,823 individuals had been rescued at sea and disembarked in Libya between July and September 2021. Among those who were taken back to shore by the Libyan Coast Guards, there were 22,950 men, 1,778 women and 934 children. There was no sex and age disaggregated data available for 161 individuals.

### Fatalities at sea

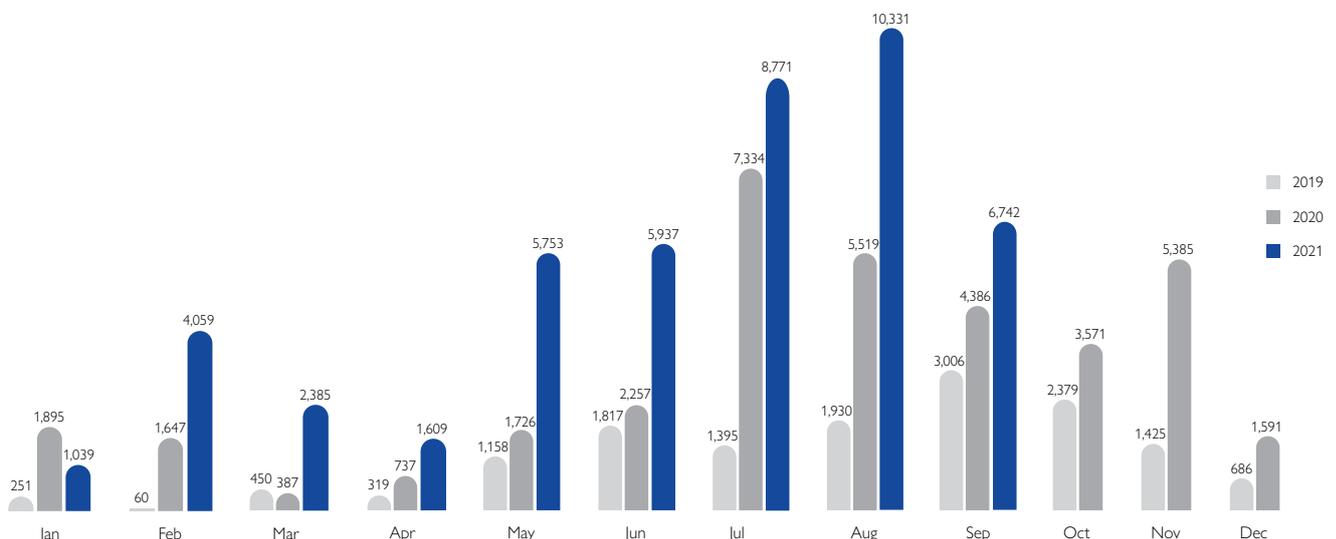
At least 1,118 deaths off the coast of Libya have been recorded so far in 2021, among which 349 occurred during the months of July, August and September.

Fig 25 Arrivals by sea, returns and deaths on the Central Mediterranean Route to Italy and Malta in 2021



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

Fig 24 Arrivals by sea via Central Mediterranean Route to Italy and Malta (2019 / 2020 / 2021) (number of individuals)



## 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 community (admin 4: mahalla), and municipality (admin 3: baladiya) levels.

Statistics of migration flows are based on the data collected via a network of 56 flow monitoring points (FMPs) in 10 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



**88**

Enumerators



**7,824**

**migrants interviewed**

(Round 38, Flow Monitoring Survey)

**100%**  
coverage



**3**

Team leaders



**56**

**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:

## DTM LIBYA

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