



**DTM**

A photograph showing an IOM staff member in a blue vest and green face mask interviewing two migrants sitting on the ground. The staff member is holding a clipboard and a folder, while the migrants are looking at the documents. In the background, another person is carrying a large piece of equipment on their back.

# IOM LIBYA MIGRANT REPORT ROUND 39

October - November 2021

**Photo:** Throughout the Libyan national COVID-19 vaccination campaign led by the The National Centre for Disease Control in collaboration with IOM, mobile medical teams conducted awareness-raising and vaccination sessions in several locations including Ganfouda, Shara Zawya, Triq al Sika and Wadi Al Hai detention centres, as well as in the urban areas of Hay Alandalous, Janzour, Suq al Jumaa and Tajoura (pictured).

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## OVERVIEW

DTM Libya identified a total of 621,007 migrants from over 43 nationalities in the 100 Libyan municipalities during Round 39 of data collection (October – November 2021).

In line with a trend which started at the beginning of 2021, the number of migrants in Libya has continued to increase during the months of October and November while remaining slightly lower than in 2019 for the corresponding reporting period (654,081 migrants during [Round 28](#)). In 2020, the migrant population in Libya decreased following the start of the COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent economic downturn as well as tightened security controls and mobility restrictions.

### Employment and labour market

The majority of migrants (61%) interviewed in October and November 2021 reported that financial issues were among the three main difficulties they faced in Libya. Other challenges migrants cited included lack of identity documents (39%) and lack of information (e.g. on migration or available services) (30%). While the general security situation continued to be relatively calm during the reporting period, the overall political context remained [volatile](#). A total of 14 per cent of migrants interviewed reported security related issues, such as attacks and assaults as the main challenge they faced.

Furthermore, the unemployment rate among migrants (23%) stayed higher than pre-pandemic levels (17% in February 2020). Based on the [2022 HNO](#), less than half of migrants (46%) hold a predictable source of income (from a permanent job) while 69 per cent of migrants noted difficulties securing work. This unpredictability is further compounded by the fact that many migrants are engaged in informal and temporary employment, often without access to social protection schemes.

In November, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on labour mobility was [signed](#) between Libya's Minister of Labour and Rehabilitation and Niger's Minister of Employment and Social Protection. The agreement seeks to protect migrant workers through effective work visa issuance before employment, and to better respond to Libya's labour market needs. Two thirds of Nigerien migrants interviewed in October and November 2021 reported being employed in elementary occupations or the craft and trade sector.

Moreover, nearly a quarter of migrants (24%) interviewed by DTM Libya in October and November 2021 stated being employed without a written contract or oral agreement while nearly three quarters (73%) reported only holding an oral agreement. A minority of three per cent reported having a written and signed employment contract (Fig 1). Around the world, migrant workers are generally [more likely](#) to have informal or non-standard contracts, and to be employed for shorter periods of time and in low-skilled occupations than comparable natives.

Fig 1 Contractual arrangements of employed migrants

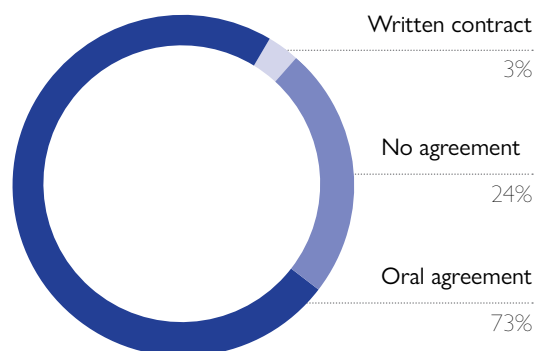
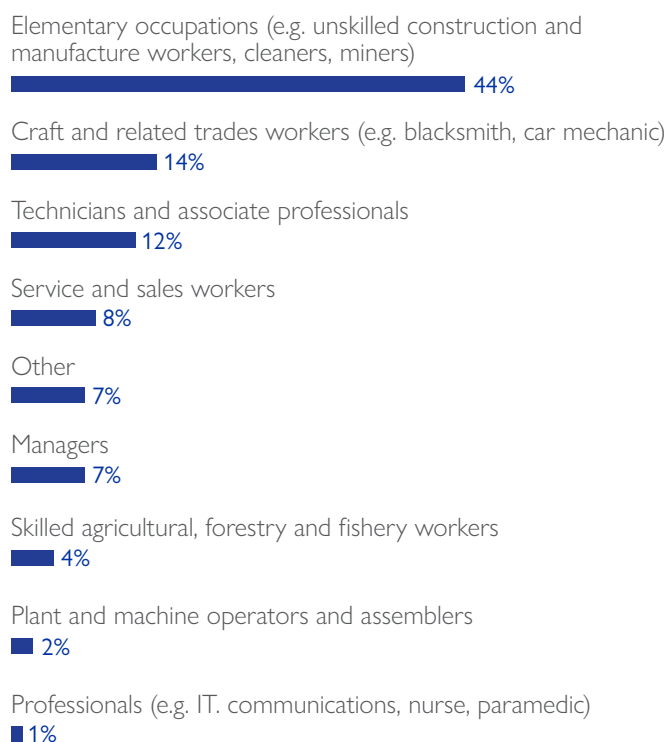


Fig 2 Fields of employment



The bulk of migrants (44%) surveyed by DTM Libya stated working in elementary occupations (e.g. employed as unskilled construction workers). The crafts and related trades sector (e.g. blacksmith or carpenters) employed the second highest number of migrants (14%) (Fig 2).

Consistent with previous reports, the majority of migrants (90%) interviewed by DTM in October and

November reported that economic reasons had been their primary motive to leave their country of origin (Fig 3). For the majority of migrants (52%) insufficient income in their country of origin was the top reason for leaving their home country while for nearly a quarter (23%) it was the search for job opportunities abroad.

### COVID-19 Vaccination Campaign

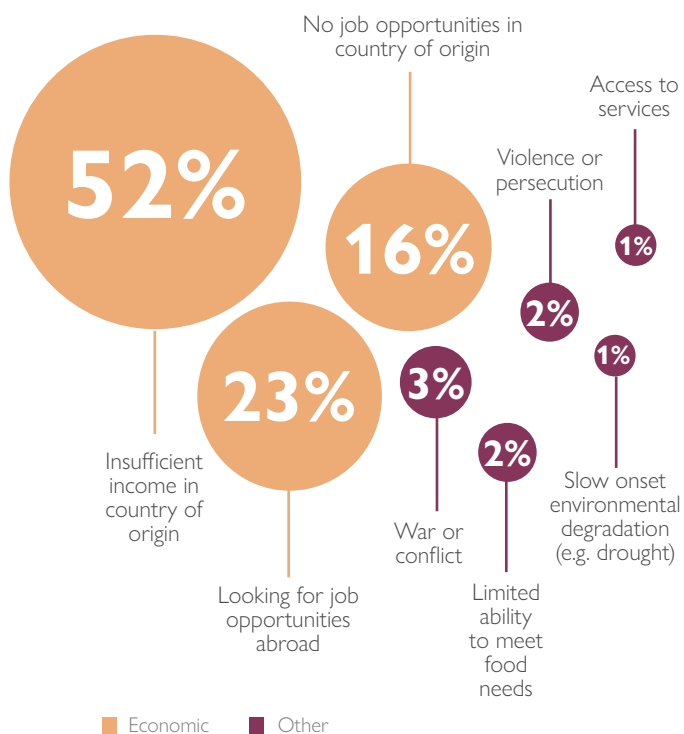
The COVID-19 vaccination campaign for migrants led by the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) [began in October](#).

By [December 2021](#) over 7,900 migrants had attended awareness-raising sessions on COVID-19 vaccination in 12 detention centres and community settings in five municipalities (Hai Alandalus, Alkufra, Janzour, Suq Aljumaa and Tajoura), and a total of 7,366 migrants had been vaccinated against COVID-19.

Interviews conducted by DTM Libya with migrants in August and September [found](#) that there were low levels of both awareness of COVID-19 vaccine availability and accessibility for the non-Libyan population.

To address this issue, since the beginning of the vaccination campaign, trained community mobilisers, accompanied by medical teams, have been holding information sessions with migrants and detention centre staff to discuss the voluntary vaccination scheme as well as COVID-19 vaccines benefits, dosage and potential side effects, and to answer their questions about the vaccination process.

Fig 3 Primary reasons to leave country of origin



**Photo:** The NCDC-IOM joint vaccination campaign began in October 2021. During this month, IOM community mobilisers, in collaboration with IOM and NCDC medical teams, provided over 7,000 migrants with information on COVID-19 vaccination and prior to vaccination addressed questions and misconceptions expressed by the migrants in detention centres and urban settings. By December, a total of 7,366 migrants had been vaccinated against COVID-19.

### Geographical patterns and trends

In line with prior reports, the significant influence of geographical proximity and diasporic ties on migration dynamics in Libya persists. The majority of migrants are nationals from neighbouring countries: Niger (24%), Egypt (17%), Sudan (15%) and Chad (13%) (Fig 4).

Over 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 5).

The largest migrant populations identified by DTM during Round 39 of data collection were in the regions of Tripoli (16%), Misrata (11%), Benghazi (10%), Azzawya (8%), Ejdabia (8%), and Aljara (7%) (Fig 6).

Fig 5 Regions of origin of migrants

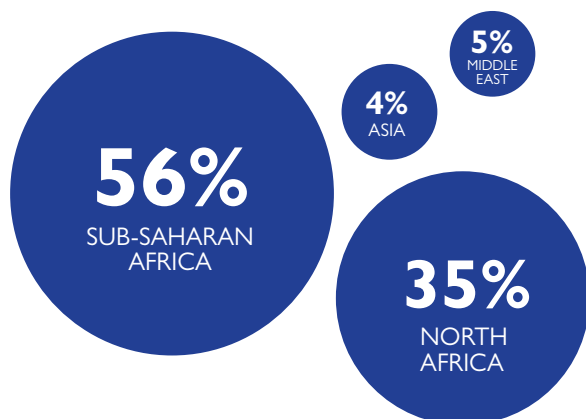
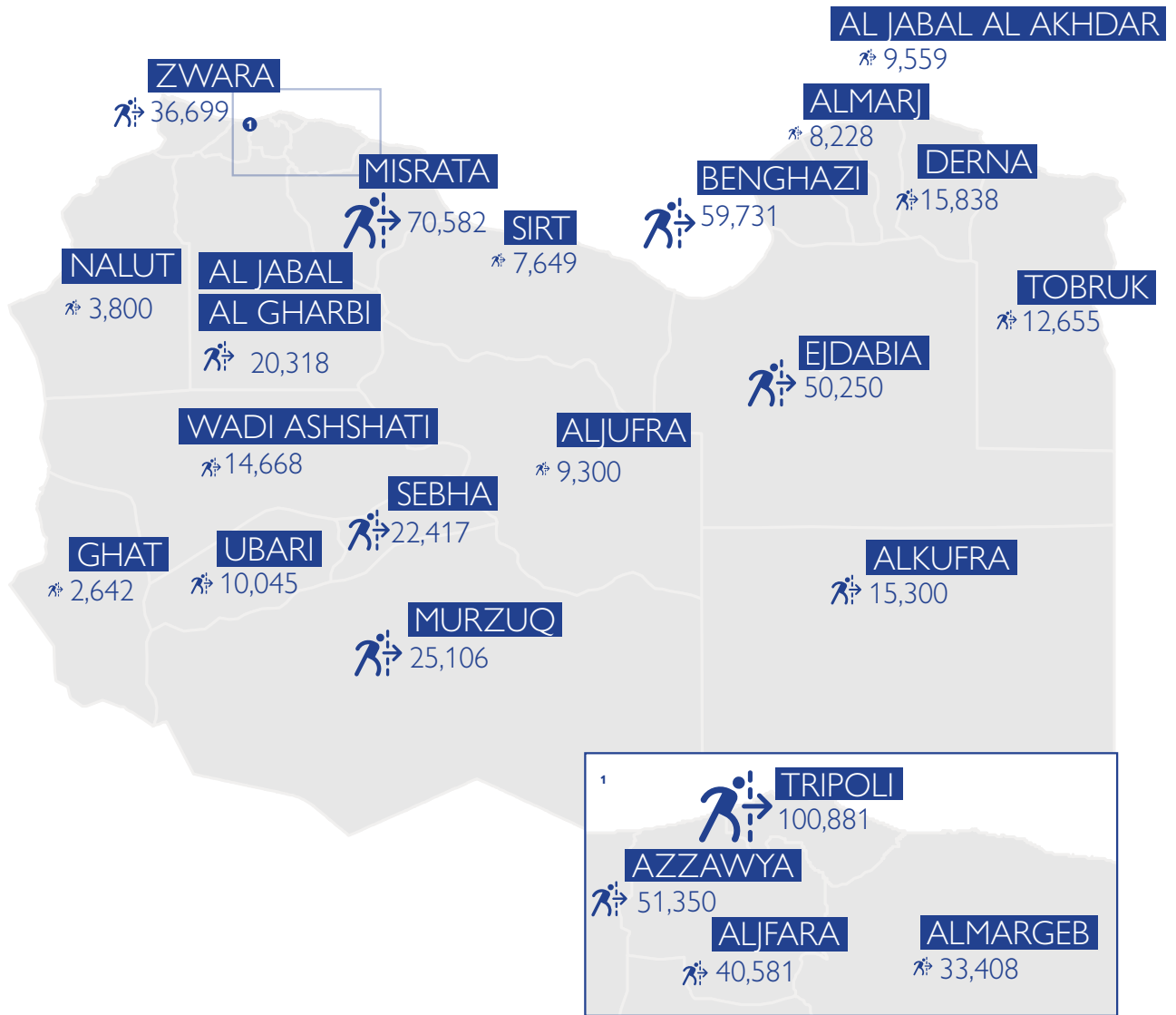


Fig 4 Proportion of migrants by nationality

NATIONALITY	NUMBER OF MIGRANTS	% MIGRANTS
NIGER	148,619	24%
EGYPT	108,084	17%
SUDAN	96,081	15%
CHAD	78,601	13%
NIGERIA	35,088	6%
SYRIA	21,930	4%
GHANA	21,557	3%
BANGLADESH	20,254	3%
MALI	20,144	3%
SENEGAL	8,286	1%
PALESTINE	7,754	1%
TUNISIA	6,359	1%
MOROCCO	5,860	1%
SOMALIA	5,696	1%
PAKISTAN	4,238	1%
BURKINA FASO	4,201	1%
GUINEA	4,162	1%
ERITREA	3,576	1%
OTHER	3,289	1%
CÔTE D'IVOIRE	3,028	0.5%
CAMEROON	2,164	0.3%
MAURITANIA	1,954	0.3%
ZAMBIA	1,918	0.3%
ETHIOPIA	1,913	0.3%
SOUTH SUDAN	1,876	0.3%
ALGERIA	1,858	0.3%
UNKNOWN	1,438	0.2%
GAMBIA	1,079	0.2%
<b>TOTAL FOR LIBYA</b>	<b>621,007</b>	<b>100%</b>

Fig 6 Number of migrants per region (mantika) during DTM Round 39 data collection.



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

# KEY FINDINGS

Round 39 (October - November 2021)



**621,007**  
migrants in Libya

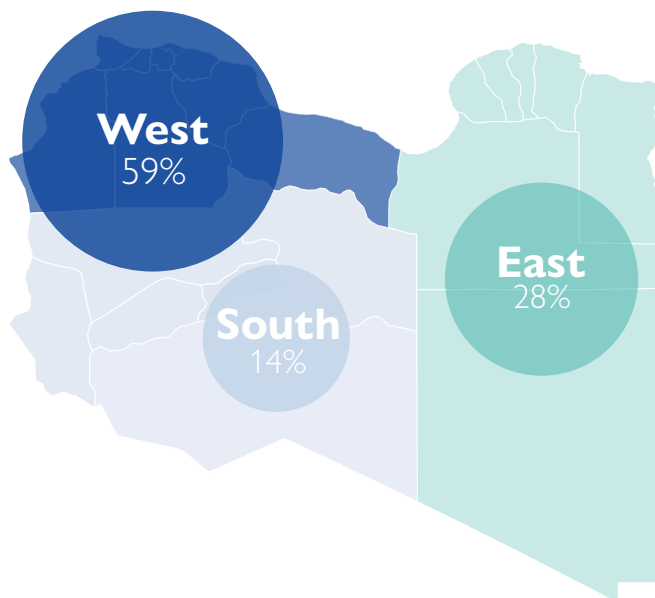


**US\$ 866**  
migration journey cost  
(average per person)

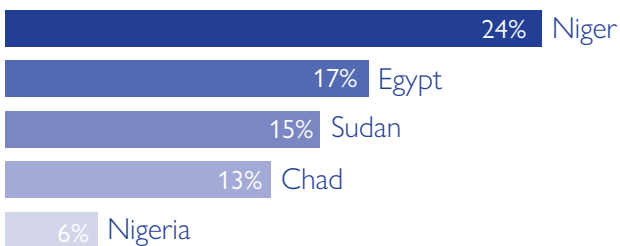


**36%**  
of migrants reported that  
the remittances they send  
home are the primary  
source of income for  
their household

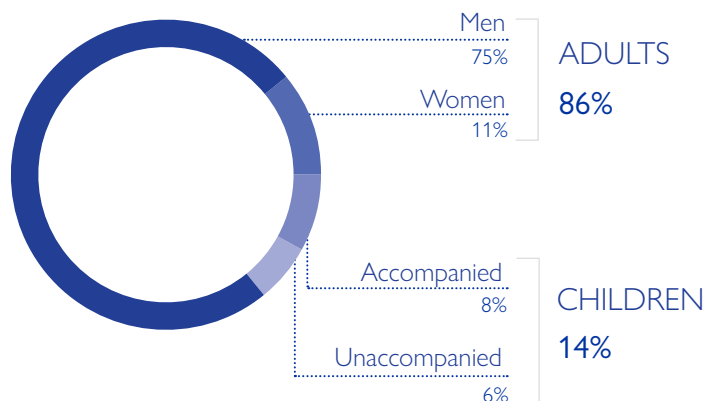
## DISTRIBUTION OF MIGRANTS PER GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS



## TOP 5 NATIONALITIES



## DEMOGRAPHICS



*Migrants were present in:*

**635** COMMUNITIES  
(out of 667)

**100** MUNICIPALITIES  
(out of 100)

*IOM Libya conducted:*

**1,843** INTERVIEWS WITH  
KEY INFORMANTS

**3,748** INTERVIEWS WITH MIGRANTS  
(Flow Monitoring Surveys)



Project funded by  
the European Union






# HUMANITARIAN NEEDS



**Photo:** IOM and WFP partnered to help improve the food security situation of migrants affected by the COVID-19 pandemic in Libya. In October, IOM's Migrant Resource and Response Mechanism (MRRM) mobile team in Sebha conducted door-to-door distribution of ready-to-eat kits to several households of vulnerable migrants from Niger, Sudan, Gambia, Chad, Guinea Conakry and Mali.

The ready-to-eat kits include essential food items that do not require cooking, such as canned beans and tuna as well as halawa, and date bars.

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 المنظمة الدولية للهجرة

Funded by  
 the European Union  
 الإتحاد الأوروبي

**Ration Content / محتويات الكرتونة**

#	Description	الوصف	Net Weight / الوزن الصافي
1	CHICKPEAS - HUMMUS	الحمص - مطبخ	4.0
2	PULSES - CANNED	فول - مطبخ	4.0
3	TUNA FISH - CANNED	التونة	1.6
4	HALAWA	حلوى شامية	0.5
<b>NET TOTAL WEIGHT</b>			<b>صافي الوزن الاجمالي</b>
			<b>10.1 KG</b>

# MIGRANT VULNERABILITY AND HUMANITARIAN NEEDS

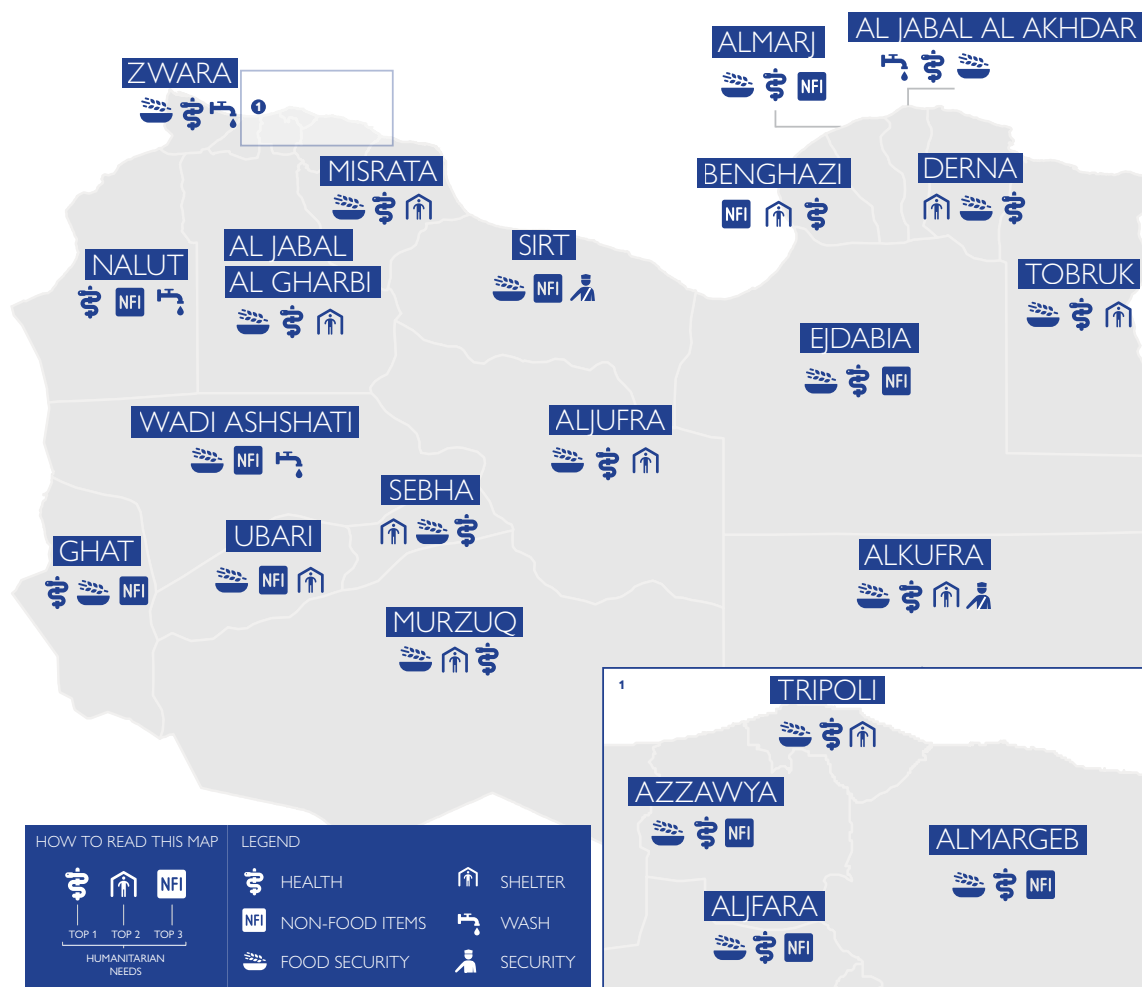
According to the [2022 Humanitarian Needs Overview](#), migrants and refugees represent the most affected group of population in terms of severity of needs, with 43 per cent estimated to have unmet needs, which impacts their wellbeing, living standards and resilience. The key determinants of vulnerability for the migrant population in Libya highlighted in the 2022 HNO include the lack of access to healthcare, clean water and education services as well as restrictions in movements and need for basic accommodation improvements.

Interviews conducted by DTM Libya with 1,843 key informants across Libya in October and November highlighted that the primary needs of migrants were

centred around health services (73%), NFIs (53%), accommodation (47%) and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) (25%). Consistent with previous reports, key informant interviews underscored that cost and affordability of food, non-food items, housing and services, such as health care, remain the main hurdles for the majority of migrants to fulfil their needs.

According to the latest Joint Market Monitoring Initiative (JMMI)<sup>1</sup> [report](#) the price of essential food and non-food items has increased consistently between August and October 2021 likely due to inflation. Overall the price of essential food and hygiene items monitored increased by 30 per cent compared to pre-pandemic levels.

Fig 7 Humanitarian priority needs of migrants per region (mantika)



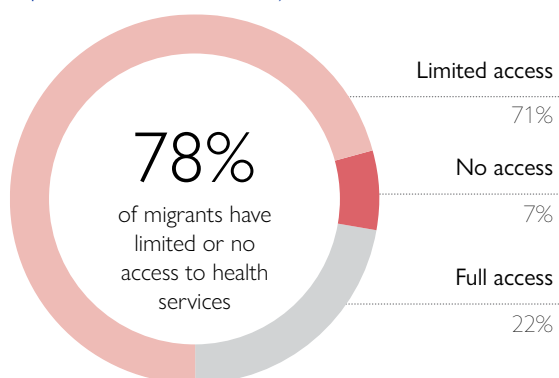
This map is for illustration purposes only. Names and boundaries on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by IOM.

<sup>1</sup> The JMJI was created by the Libya Cash & Markets Working Group (CMWG) in June 2017 to inform cash-based interventions and better understand market dynamics in Libya. The initiative is led by REACH and supported by the CMWG members.

## Health

Over three quarters of migrants interviewed by DTM Libya in October and November (78%) reported having limited or no access to healthcare services, including life-saving emergency services (Fig 8). In line with previous reports, limited or lack of access to health services was most severe in the West (91%) and South (75%) compared to the East (53%).

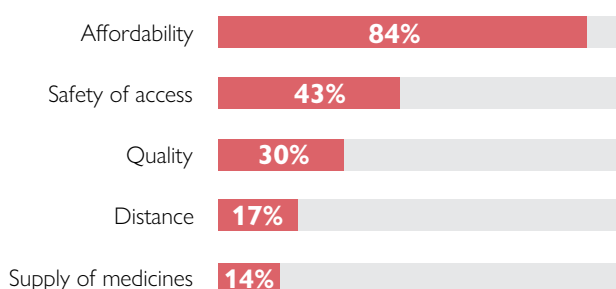
Fig 8 Migrants' reported access to health services (sample size 3,683 interviews)



The Libyan health system remains affected by health facilities closures due to shortages of medical supplies and fuel, power and water cuts as well as a lack of human resources, a situation which has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. According to OCHA, in November, for example, a nation-wide strike by doctors throughout public health facilities over low wages and working conditions slowed down the COVID-19 vaccination programme.

Individual interviews with migrants conducted in October and November 2021 highlighted that the main barriers hindering migrants' access to health services was the unaffordability of services (84%) (Fig 9). A recent DTM study found that the main barriers to accessing healthcare if infected with COVID-19 were related to financial difficulties, mainly the inability to afford healthcare or the fear of experiencing a loss of income if their employer became aware of their infection status.

Fig 9 Main issues hindering migrants' access to healthcare (sample size 245 interviews)



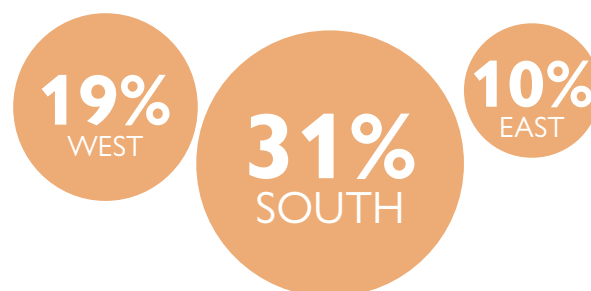
Moreover, according to the 2022 HNO, migrants continue to suffer from discrimination and stigmatization by communities as carriers of diseases and perpetrators of crime. A DTM study found that half of migrants interviewed (51%) feared that not being accepted or being discriminated against by health facilities could be a hurdle to getting vaccinated against COVID-19.

Based on the November 2021 Libya health sector assessment, COVID-19 remains classified as a high public health risk despite both cases and death incidence having begun to plateau following a decreasing trend in mid-August.

## WASH

Similar to previous rounds of data collection, one in five migrants (20%) reported not having sufficient clean drinking water, compromising their health and hygiene levels. This issue remains more prominent in the South (31%) than in the West (19%) or East (10%) (Fig 10).

Fig 10 Percentage of migrants without sufficient clean drinking water by geographical location in Libya



The provision of water, sanitation and hygienic conditions are essential to protect health during all infectious disease outbreaks, including the current COVID-19 pandemic. A recent DTM Libya study found that one in two migrants reported that a lack of access to clean water on a regular basis was a barrier to handwashing regularly. Moreover, analysis of the data collected highlights that this issue was more widespread among female respondents (58%) than among their male counterparts (48%) as well as among those who reported being unemployed (56%) than employed (48%).

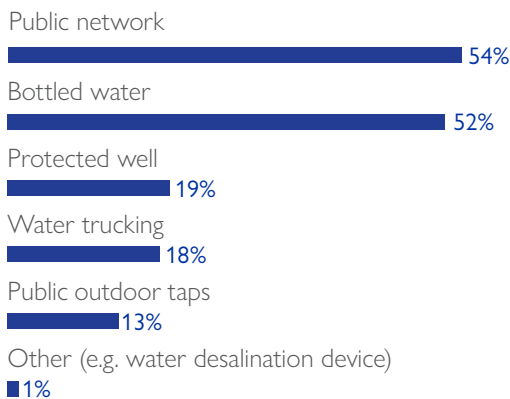
Migrants interviewed by DTM in October and November 2021 reported that their main sources of drinking water were the public water network (54%) or bottled water (52%) while fewer reported also using protected wells (19%), water trucking (18%) or public outdoor taps (13%) (Fig 11).

The main alternative sources of drinking water for those who reported having rarely or never access to the public

water network were bottled water (73%) and water trucking (49%) while a minority reported relying on protected wells (27%) or public outdoor taps (5%).

According to the [2022 HNO](#), the Libyan water infrastructure, such as the Man-Made River (MMR) water supply project and Libya's eight desalination plants continue to be impacted by a lack of essential operational maintenance, financial support, and technical capacity. Moreover, according to [OCHA](#), only ten of the 24 public waste water treatment plants are currently functional.

Fig 11 Migrants' sources of drinking water



### Remittances

Less than a third of migrants reported having sent remittances home since their arrival in Libya (28%) while 37 per cent reported their intention to send remittances when able to do so. Respondents interviewed stated having sent a monthly average of 103 US\$ home in October and November 2021, which is lower than both the 2019 and 2020 average of 146 US\$ and 123 US\$, respectively (Fig 12).

These findings are in line with those of [WFP's latest Migration Pulse](#), which found that fewer migrants were sending remittances in 2021 compared to 2020 and

Fig 12 Average amount of remittances sent by migrants



that those sending remittances were sending less money home. Among those who noted having reduced the amount of money they send home, nearly half (45%) reported having reduced that amount by more than 50 per cent. Six per cent of interviewed migrants had stopped sending money home altogether.

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. For example, six per cent of migrants who reported having been in Libya for less than six months had sent remittances compared to 37 per cent of those who had been in Libya for more than two years.

More than a third of migrants (36%) reported that the remittances they send home are their household's primary source of income and help pay various expenses, such as food, family, rent and utilities and contribute to building their savings, investments or paying off debts.

### Education

A minority of migrants (5%) reported having family members aged between 5 and 18 years old in Libya. Among them, more than half of migrants (56%) reported that their school-aged children lacked access to education.

According to the [2022 Humanitarian Needs Overview](#), an estimated 27,585 migrant and refugee children are in need of education assistance related to access or quality of education, which marks an increase compared to the previous year.

Distance and online learning also represent a challenge, particularly for migrant children, for whom less than 10 per cent reportedly have access to distance education, according to OCHA.

The majority of migrants interviewed reported that a lack of documents (90%) and financial issues (87%) were the main obstacles for their school-aged children to access education. Language barrier (68%) and social isolation (59%) were other difficulties frequently mentioned.

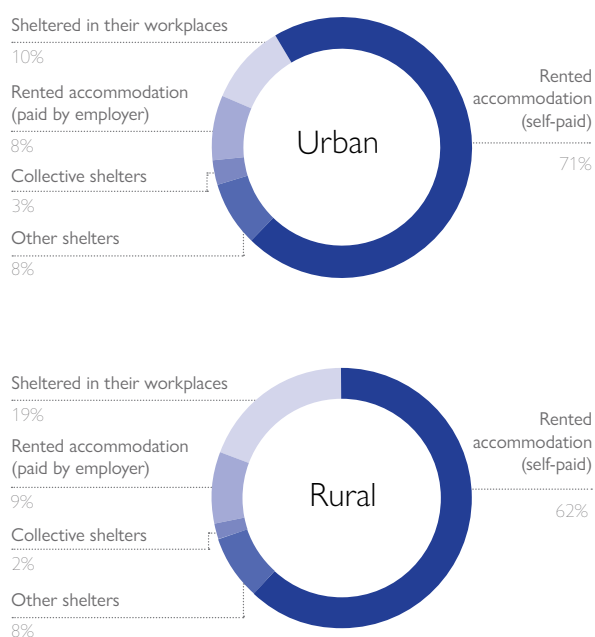


## Accommodation

In line with previous reports, key informant interviews reported that the majority of migrants lived in rented accommodation (80%). However, a greater proportion of migrants in urban areas reported living in rented accommodation (for which they paid themselves) (71%) than in rural settings (62%). More migrants in rural areas were sheltered in their workplaces (19%) or in accommodation paid for by their employers (9%) than in urban areas (10% and 8%, respectively) (Fig 13).

On average migrants interviewed by DTM Libya reported sharing their room with five other individuals, although the number of individuals sharing a room ranged between zero (single occupancy) and 500 individuals (median number of occupants was 4 individuals). Migrants reported paying a monthly average of 44 US\$ for their accommodation.

Fig 13 Migrants' types of accommodation



A total of one per cent of migrants (26 respondents) interviewed by DTM in October and November 2021 reported having been threatened with eviction, the bulk of which were in Ain Zara (45%). A total of six respondents stated having been evicted in the past three months at the time of survey.

The [2022 Humanitarian Needs Overview](#) highlights that the lack of legal ability to enter the rental market for migrants translates into undocumented or no lease agreements, increased risk of eviction, arbitrary rental increases, sparse housing maintenance, limited access to services and lower quality of accommodation.

## Food security

Food security remains a concern highlighted by both key informants and migrants interviewed by DTM Libya in October and November 2021. The most recent [WFP Migration Pulse](#)<sup>2</sup>, highlights that the proportion of food insecure migrants among those surveyed in 2021 was greater (25%) than in 2020 (19%). A larger share of migrants consumed one meal or less on the day prior to the survey in 2021 (41%) than in 2020 (28%). Moreover, 42 per cent of migrants surveyed reported adopting food-based coping strategies over the past seven days prior to the survey due to the inability to access enough food.

WFP analysis also shows that food insecurity levels increased across all groups but that the situation is more severe among migrants who are young (14 – 20 years old), who have moved to Libya more recently (less than 2 years), as well as those who have an irregular source of income and rely on informal activities and food assistance.

According to the FAO's latest food security [snapshot](#), farmers have reported that power cuts and the increased price of inputs, such as seeds, water and fuel impede their ability to cultivate the land. A total of 14 per cent of migrants interviewed by DTM reported working in the agriculture, fisheries and forestry sector (skilled or unskilled labourers).

Furthermore, [FAO](#) reports that food security in Libya is being impacted by limited access to food due to high unemployment and is further compounded by food price inflation and the restrained supply of subsidized food items, such as flour which is reported to be sold by traders at a higher price than that set at national level.



14%

of migrants reported being employed in the agriculture, fisheries and forestry sector

<sup>2</sup> It should be noted that given the nature of the web-based methodology, the sampled population only included those who are literate internet users and more importantly with connectivity to the internet, which represent a relatively better-off population group.

## MALE AND FEMALE MIGRANTS' PROFILES

The below analysis is based on data collected through 20,696 individual interviews conducted by DTM Libya with migrants between January and September 2021, unless stated otherwise.

### Age

Analysis of data collected by DTM showed that female migrants in Libya were generally older than male migrants. For example, 63 per cent of males were under the age of 30 compared to 50 per cent of females.

### Marital and family status

The majority of male migrants (65%) were single while most women were married (66%). Similarly, four in five male migrants (81%) were without a spouse while most women were with their partners (84%). Correspondingly, a greater proportion of female migrants (35%) reported being with their children in Libya than male migrants (5%).

A DTM Libya [study](#) on social networks highlighted that a minority of female migrants reported having travelled independently and that women were in general more likely to base their decision to migrate on family and close friends.

This may point to the gender norms, societal expectations and acceptability in countries of origin and the ways in which they [influence migration dynamics](#). In addition, literature suggests that male and female migrants can face different obstacles and opportunities as a result of gender-based social norms. For example, some national laws, customs and beliefs might [proscribe or dissuade](#) women from traveling independently or seeking employment outside of their home countries while some male migrants may [feel a loss of status or](#)

[purpose](#) if unemployed and unable to send remittances as it clashes with the cultural norm of being providers for their families.

Moreover, across the African continent, women also tend to generally move [internally or over shorter distances](#) for short-term cross-border trade between and within regions, for example, than men.

### Length of stay

Overall, female migrants interviewed had generally been in Libya for a longer period of time than their male counterparts. A smaller proportion of female migrants (20%) interviewed had been in Libya for less than a year compared to male migrants (30%). Similarly, a greater proportion of female had been in Libya for over five years (30%) than male migrants (10%).

### Education

A greater proportion of female migrants (49%) reported having never attended school, or not having completed primary school than male migrants (40%). However, a similar proportion of female migrants reported having completed high school (12%) or a post-secondary education (9% and 7% for female and male migrants, respectively).

### Employment

A greater proportion of female migrants (36%) than male migrants (21%) reported being unemployed.



**Photo:** In October, the Libya National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) and IOM launched the joint vaccination campaign against COVID-19 for migrants in detention centres and urban settings.

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# MALE AND FEMALE MIGRANTS' PROFILES

The below analysis is based on data collected through 20,696 individual interviews conducted between January and September 2021, unless stated otherwise.

## FEMALE

There is a total of

**70,313**  
adult female  
migrants in Libya

Source: DTM Mobility Tracking data Round 39

On average

**32**  
years old

Female migrants account for

**13%**  
of the adult migrant  
population in Libya

Source: DTM Mobility Tracking data Round 39



## MALE

There is a total of

**465,699**  
adult male  
migrants in Libya

Source: DTM Mobility Tracking data Round 39

On average

**29**  
years old

Male migrants account for

**87%**  
of the adult migrant  
population in Libya

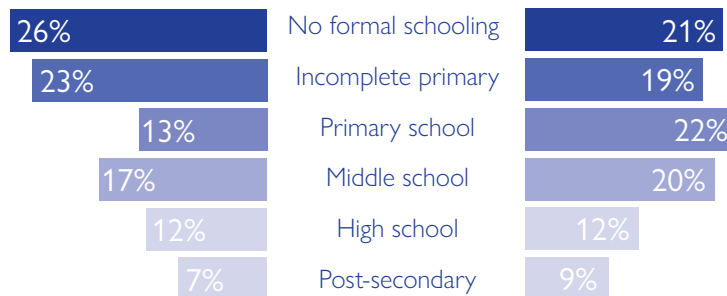
Source: DTM Mobility Tracking data Round 39



## LENGTH OF STAY IN LIBYA



## EDUCATION LEVEL



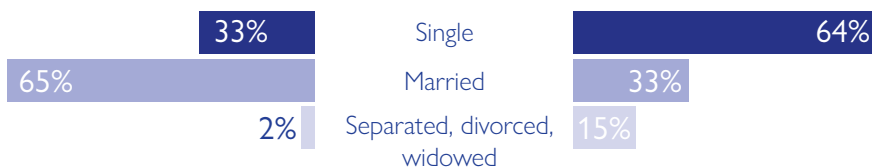
**84%**

are in Libya  
with their  
spouse

**19%**

are in Libya  
with their  
spouse

## MARITAL STATUS



**Photo:** In October, 127 Gambian migrants were assisted to voluntarily return to The Gambia through IOM's Voluntary Humanitarian Return programme once humanitarian flights from Libya resumed.

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# MIGRATION FLOWS





# MIGRATION FLOWS

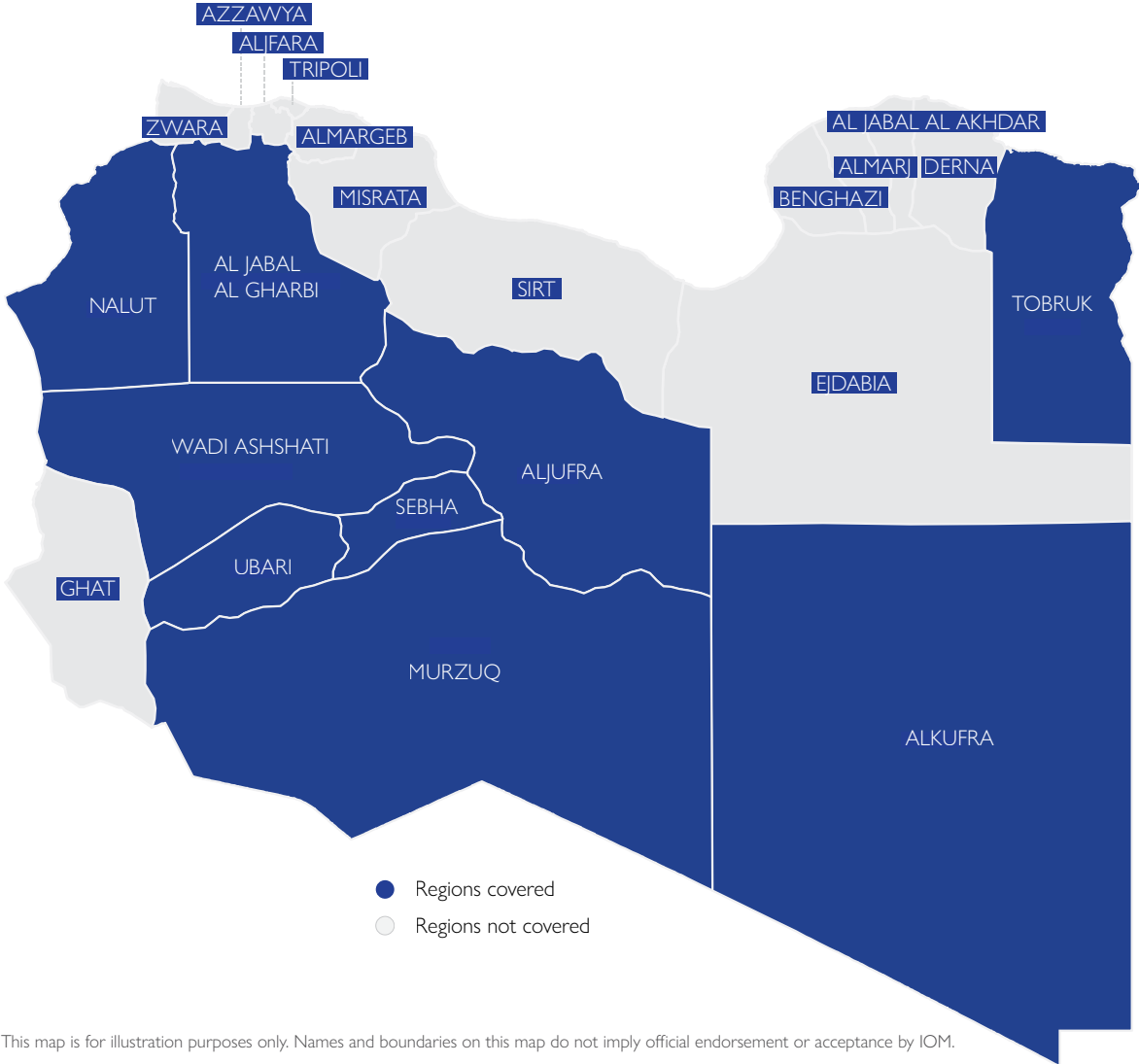
During the reporting period (October - November 2021) DTM Libya's 37 Flow Monitoring Points (FMPs) monitored migration movements in 12 municipalities and in 9 regions (mantika) of Libya. Flow Monitoring Points (FMPs) are set up at key transit locations along major migration routes within Libya where 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

-  **9** regions covered
-  **515** assessments
-  **12** municipalities
-  **37** flow monitoring points (FMPs)

Fig 14 Regions (mantika) covered by the network of FMPs monitoring migration flows in Libya



# 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

### Ejdabia

The number of migrants observed in the municipality of Ejdabia during Round 39 of data collection (18,920 migrants) was significantly lower in comparison to Round 38 (27,030 migrants). According to field reports, this reduction is related to a decrease in movements on the routes between Chad, Sudan and Libya that pass through Ejdabia. Based on field observers, migrants living in Ejdabia also suffered from job scarcity and the rising prices of goods and food items which may have deterred many from staying in Ejdabia. Based on the October Libya Joint Market Monitoring Initiative<sup>3</sup> [report](#) the price of essential food and non-food items in the municipality of Ejdabia remains more than 32 per cent higher than pre-pandemic levels (March 2020).

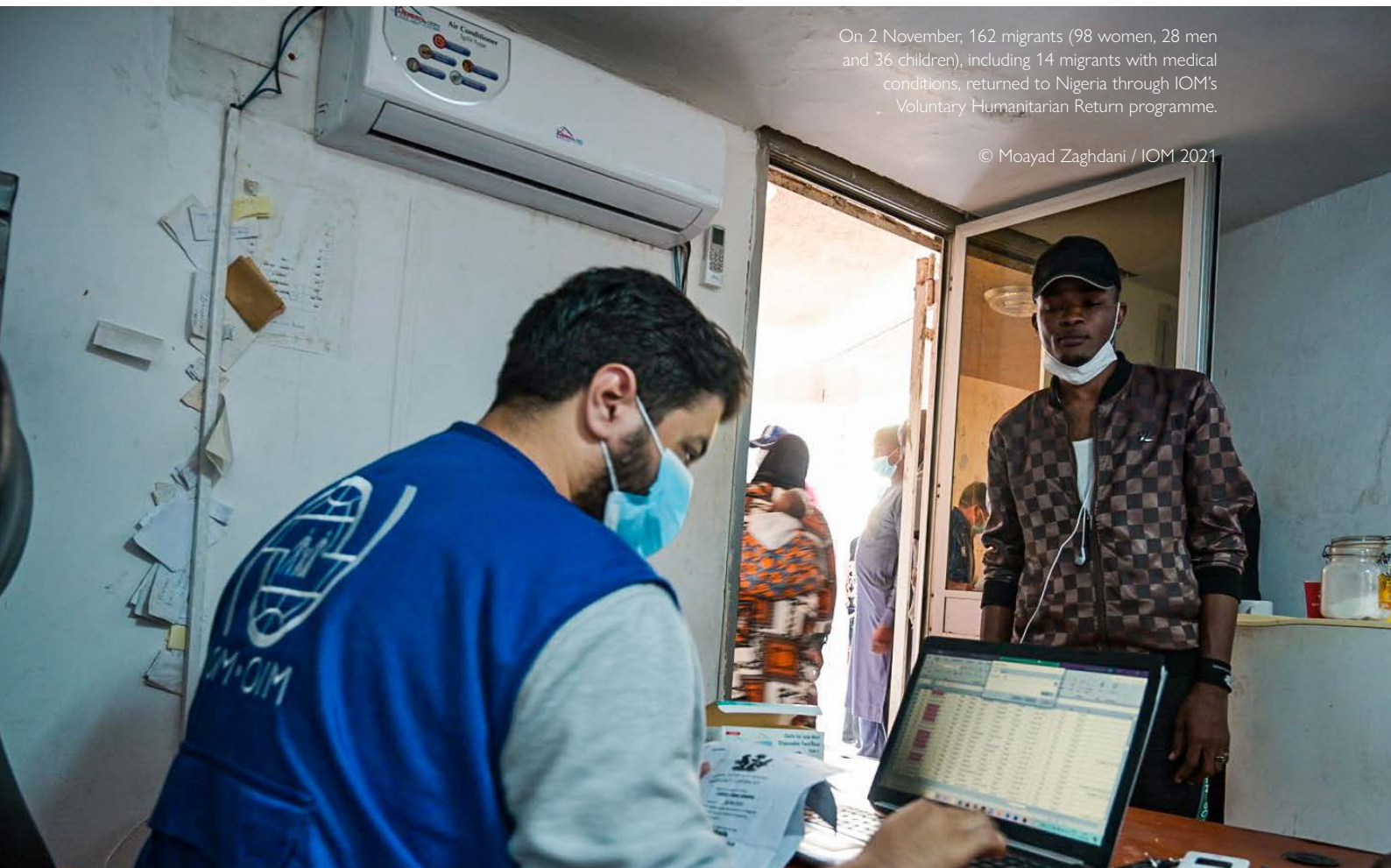
### Emsaed

During the reporting period, the number of migrants present in the municipality of Emsaed remained largely stable (3,700 migrants during Round 38 compared to 3,900 migrants during Round 39). According to field observers, the security situation in the municipality of Emsaed was calm in October and November 2021. However, the availability of job opportunities in the construction sector, which employs many migrants, was affected by the increased prices of construction materials. As a result, according to field reports, many migrants struggled to fulfil their basic needs and were unable to save as well as send remittances to their families. Field observers also reported a tightening of border controls following increased efforts to tackle smuggling networks.

<sup>3</sup> The JMIMI was created by the Libya Cash & Markets Working Group (CMWG) in June 2017 to inform cash-based interventions and better understand market dynamics in Libya. The initiative is led by REACH and supported by the CMWG members.

On 2 November, 162 migrants (98 women, 28 men and 36 children), including 14 migrants with medical conditions, returned to Nigeria through IOM's Voluntary Humanitarian Return programme.

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## WESTERN LIBYA

### Ain Zara

The number of migrants identified in Ain Zara during Round 39 (24,200 individuals) increased compared to Round 38 (17,500 individuals). This increase can be linked to the movement of migrants from Hai Alandalus to Ain Zara in early October following their large-scale [detention and subsequent](#). Moreover, the municipality of Ain Zara is in post-conflict recovery and reconstruction, and the security situation is relatively stable, which has contributed to generating employment and has driven more migrants to move to Ain Zara, especially those originating from Niger, Egypt, Sudan and Chad.

### Tajoura

During the reporting period, the number of migrants identified in Tajoura increased slightly (from 20,530 in Round 38 to 22,553 in Round 39). During the reporting period, the municipality of Tajoura organised a vaccination campaign for migrants at work recruitment points. Moreover, based on field reports, the security situation improved markedly in Tajoura as security forces were deployed to help in the fight against human and drug smuggling networks.

## SOUTHERN LIBYA

### Algatroun

During the reporting period, the number of migrants present in the municipality of Algatroun (8,200 individuals) continued to drop following a trend which started during Round 37 (15,655 individuals) and continued during Round 38 (10,618 individuals). According to field reports, this decrease in the number of migrants in the municipality of Algatroun could be linked to the relatively unstable security situation, particularly following reports of crimes involving migrants.

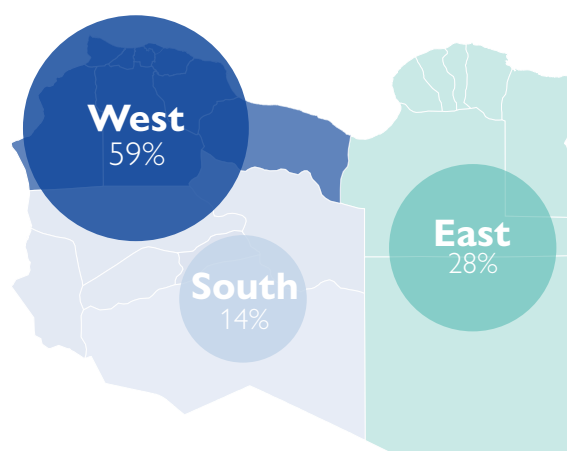
### Sebha

The number of migrants present in Sebha has varied during the last three rounds of data collection indicating [seasonal trends](#). According to a DTM Libya study, the majority of seasonal workers leave between the months of October and December, which corresponds with the end of the date palm season, which employs many

migrants in Sebha, for example. For example, during Round 39 the number of migrants present in Sebha declined to 22,057 individuals compared to 27,400 migrants in Round 37, and 35,788 in Round 38.

According to field reports, migrants in Sebha felt unsafe due to reports of armed robberies and kidnappings for ransom. This feeling of insecurity has negatively impacted their freedom of movement as well as migrants' ability to search for livelihoods. A total of 61 per cent of migrants interviewed in the municipality of Sebha by DTM Libya in October and November reported being unemployed compared to 23 per cent across all municipalities. Similarly, nearly all migrants (95%) reported that financial issues were among the three main issues they faced compared to 61 per cent of migrants across Libya.

Fig 15 Distribution of migrants by geographical area



# MIGRATION ROUTES TO LIBYA

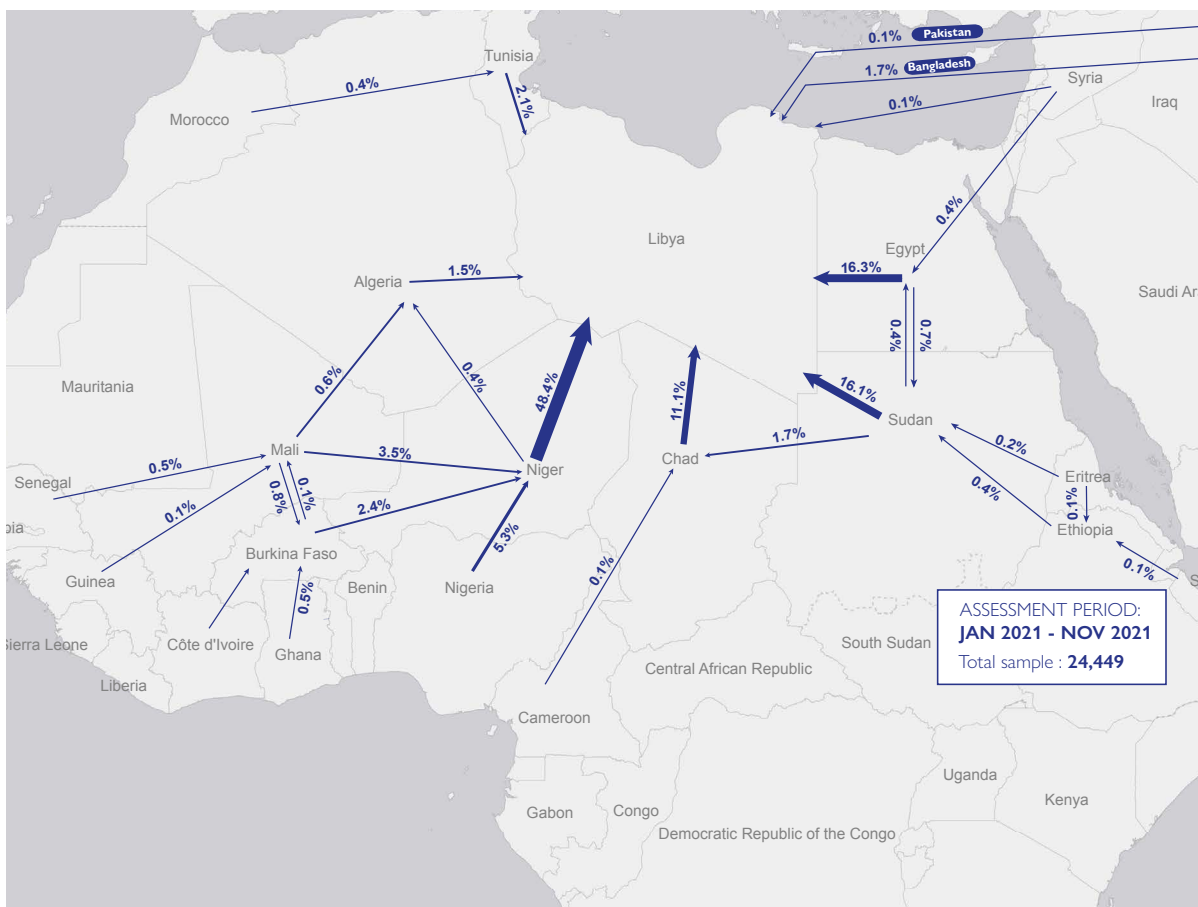
Libya shares more than 4,300 km of land borders with six countries. This section maps the major migration routes used by migrants from different countries of origin to reach Libya. This analysis is based on 24,449 individual quantitative migrant interviews conducted at key locations including transit points throughout Libya (through DTM Flow Monitoring Surveys (FMS)) between January and November 2021.

DTM Libya data highlights that migrants in Libya are mainly nationals of neighbouring countries, primarily as a result of the social 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 16 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, nearly half 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

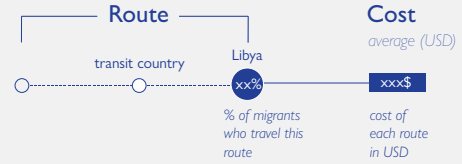
This section of the report outlines the different routes taken by migrants (i.e. through which countries they transit before reaching Libya) and the percentage of migrants who use these routes by country of origin.

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

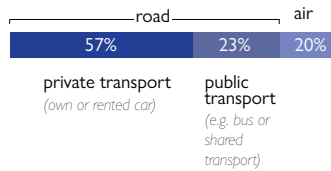
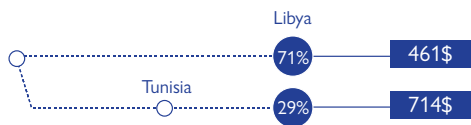
number of migrants from this country in Libya



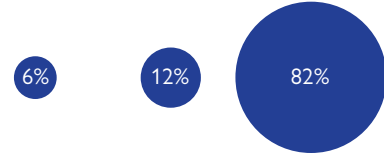
ROUTES	COST average (USD)	MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION	PRESENCE IN LIBYA BY GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS		
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## Algeria

1,858 migrants

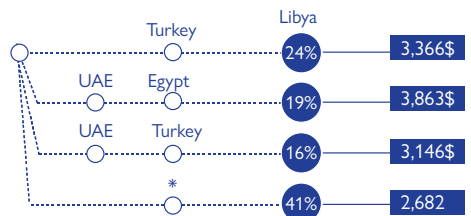


East South West

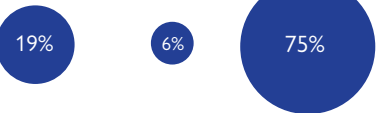


## Bangladesh

20,254 migrants

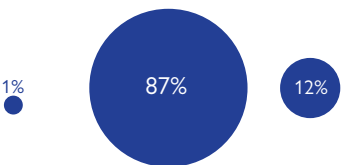
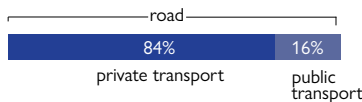
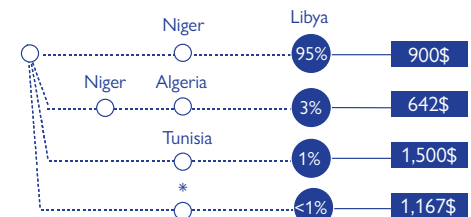


\*Multiple routes used including via: India, Jordan, Qatar, UAE, Egypt, Turkey, Tunisia, Kuwait (and other countries) only or in combination



## Burkina Faso

4,201 migrants



## ROUTES

**COST**  
average  
(USD)

## MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION

## PRESENCE IN LIBYA BY GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS

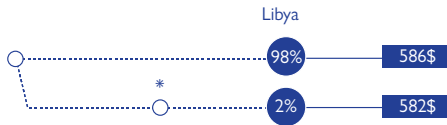
### Chad

78,601 migrants

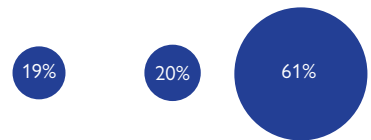
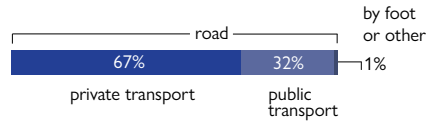
East

South

West

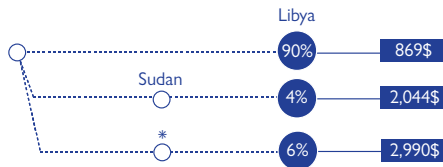


\*Transit countries included Niger, Algeria or Sudan

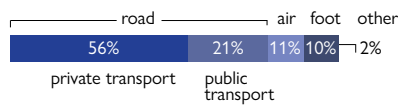


### Egypt

108,084 migrants

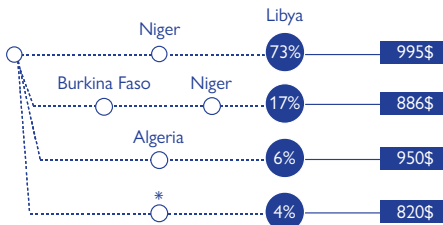


\*Multiple routes used that included one or a combination of the following countries: United Arab Emirates, Syria, Turkey, Tunisia, Kuwait, Jordan and Sudan

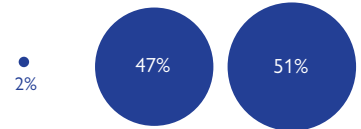
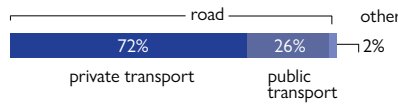


### Mali

20,144 migrants

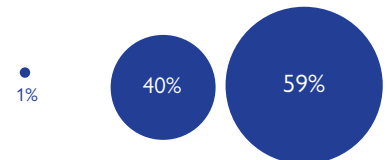
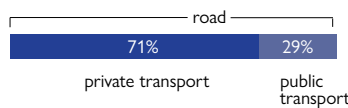
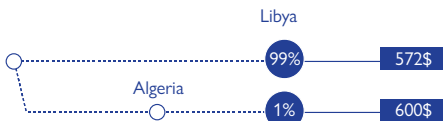


\*Multiple routes used including via one or a combination of the following countries: Niger, Algeria, Burkina Faso, Chad and Sudan.



### Niger

148,619 migrants



## ROUTES

**COST**  
average  
(USD)

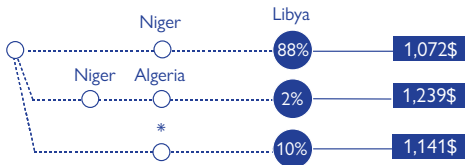
## MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION

## PRESENCE IN LIBYA BY GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS

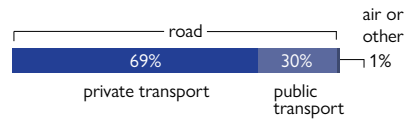
### Nigeria

35,088 migrants

East South West

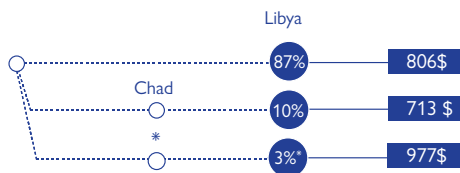


\*Multiple routes used that included one or a combination of the following countries: Niger, Chad, Sudan, Burkina Faso, Tunisia, Turkey, Cameroon, Algeria and Sudan

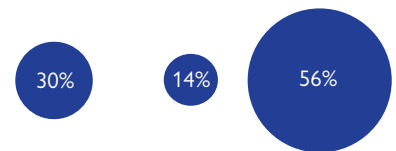
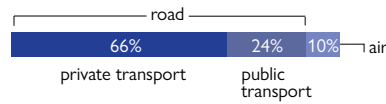


### Sudan

96,081 migrants

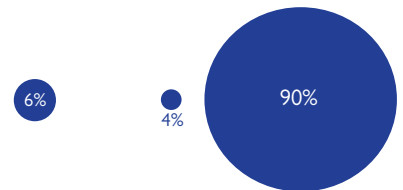
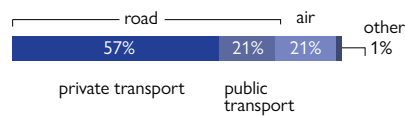


\*Multiple routes used that included one or more of the following countries: Chad, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Niger, Tunisia, South Sudan, Kenya and Central African Republic



### Tunisia

6,359 migrants





**Photo:** The NCDC-IOM joint vaccination campaign began in October 2021. During this month, IOM community mobilizers, in collaboration with IOM and NCDC medical teams, provided 7,007 migrants with information on COVID-19 vaccination and prior to vaccination addressed questions and misconceptions expressed by the migrants in detention centres and urban settings.



## REGIONAL ANALYSIS - DISTRIBUTION

Based on key informant interviews conducted in October and November 2021, more than half of migrants were located in the West (59%), while a minority were recorded in the East (28%) or the South (14%).

In line with previous reports, more than half (54%) of migrants were located in the coastal regions of Tripoli (16%), Misrata (11%), Benghazi (10%), Azzawya (8%) and Ejdabia (8%).

According to key informant interviews held in October and November 2021, it is estimated that seven in ten migrants 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.

### 7 in 10

migrants in Libya live in urban areas while 3 in 10 reported living in rural locations

Fig 17 Migrants in Libya by region (mantika) (based on Mobility Tracking data)

MANTIKA (REGION)	NUMBER OF MIGRANTS	% BY REGION
TRIPOLI	100,881	16%
MISRATA	70,582	11%
BENGHAZI	59,731	10%
AZZAWYA	51,350	8%
EJDABIA	50,250	8%
ALJFARA	40,581	7%
ZWARA	36,699	6%
ALMARGEB	33,408	5%
MURZUQ	25,106	4%
SEBHA	22,417	4%
AL JABAL AL GHARBI	20,318	3%
DERNA	15,838	3%
ALKUFRA	15,300	2%
WADI ASHSHATI	14,668	2%
TOBRUK	12,655	2%
UBARI	10,045	2%
AL JABAL AL AKHDAR	9,559	2%
ALJUFRA	9,300	1%
ALMARJ	8,228	1%
SIRT	7,649	1%
NALUT	3,800	1%
GHAT	2,642	0%
<b>TOTAL FOR LIBYA</b>	<b>621,007</b>	<b>100%</b>

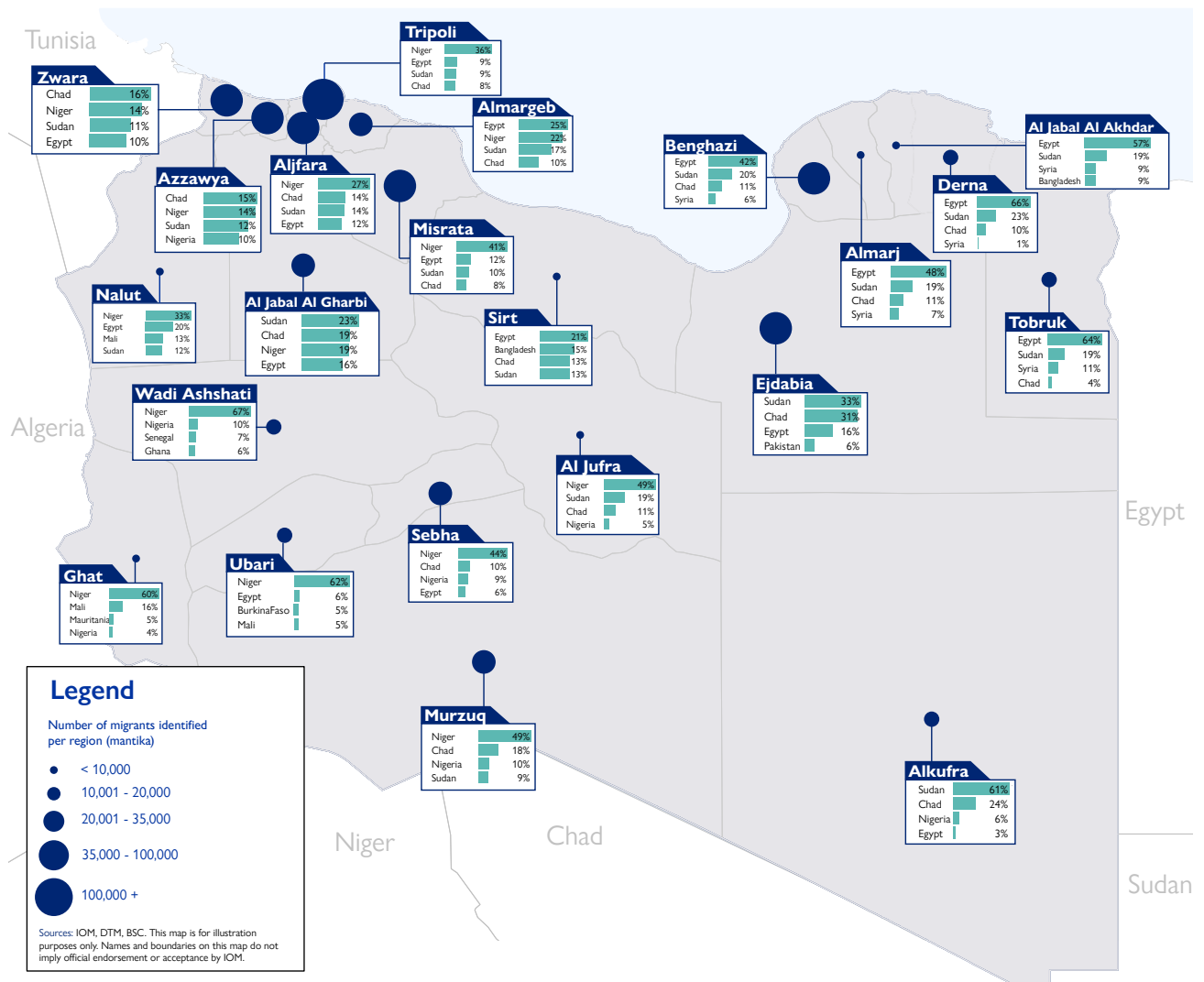
# REGIONAL ANALYSIS - NATIONALITIES OF MIGRANTS

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 18).

The map below shows the top four nationalities of migrants by region as per Mobility Tracking Round 39 data collection (October - November 2021). The bulk of migrants in the Southern and Western regions of Murzuq, Sebha, Aljufra, Ubari, Wadi Ashshati and Ghat are from neighbouring Niger. Chadians and Sudanese

constitute the majority of migrants in the region of Alkufra, which borders Chad and Sudan to the north. Migrants from Chad are also the second largest cohort of migrants in most Southern and Western regions such as Murzuq and Sebha. Similarly, Egyptians constitute the largest share 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, overall.

Fig 18 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

Consistent with previous reports, migrants from North African countries (including Egypt and Sudan) continue to represent the majority of migrants in Eastern Libya (63%) while migrants from Sub-Saharan African countries (such as Niger and Chad) account for the bulk of migrants in Southern and Western Libya (87% and 63%, respectively). The complete disaggregation of migrants' region of origins by regional location (mantika) in Libya is shown in the table below (Fig 19).

This analysis highlights the linkages and social networks and kinships that have shaped and continue to shape migration patterns 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 many. Individual interviews with migrants conducted by DTM in October and November 2021 highlighted that over three quarters of migrants (77%) reported having been most encouraged to migrate by family or friends at home or abroad.

Fig 19 Migrants' region of origin by region in Libya

REGION (MANTIKA)		MIGRANTS FROM ASIA (including middle east)		MIGRANTS FROM SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA		MIGRANTS FROM NORTH AFRICA	
EAST	AL JABAL AL AKHDAR	1,705	8%	658	2%	7,196	7%
	ALKUFRA	-	0%	5,572	13%	9,728	9%
	ALMARJ	1,111	5%	1,628	4%	5,477	5%
	BENGHAZI	9,079	45%	13,579	32%	36,963	34%
	DERNA	130	1%	1,649	4%	14,059	13%
	EJDABIA	6,649	33%	19,162	45%	24,439	23%
	TOBRUK	1,600	8%	562	1%	10,493	10%
<b>EASTERN LIBYA TOTAL</b>		<b>20,274</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>42,810</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>108,355</b>	<b>63%</b>
SOUTH	ALJUFRA	-	0%	7,150	10%	2,150	22%
	GHAT	-	0%	2,441	3%	201	2%
	MURZUQ	71	5%	22,339	31%	2,696	28%
	SEBHA	1,221	83%	18,377	25%	2,749	29%
	UBARI	136	9%	8,936	12%	973	10%
	WADI ASHSHATI	40	3%	13,808	19%	820	9%
<b>SOUTHERN LIBYA TOTAL</b>		<b>1,468</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>73,051</b>	<b>87%</b>	<b>9,589</b>	<b>11%</b>
WEST	AL JABAL AL GHARBI	756	2%	10,462	5%	9,090	9%
	ALJFARA	1,532	5%	26,360	11%	11,903	12%
	ALMARGEB	1,956	6%	17,497	8%	13,955	14%
	AZZAWYA	3,661	11%	33,632	15%	14,057	14%
	MISRATA	7,026	21%	45,609	20%	17,947	18%
	NALUT	119	0%	2,257	1%	1,414	1%
	SIRT	2,823	8%	2,230	1%	2,596	3%
	TRIPOLI	12,862	38%	68,509	30%	19,110	19%
ZAWARA	2,804	8%	23,619	10%	10,226	10%	
<b>WESTERN LIBYA TOTAL</b>		<b>33,539</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>230,175</b>	<b>63%</b>	<b>100,298</b>	<b>28%</b>
<b>TOTAL FOR LIBYA</b>		<b>55,281</b>		<b>346,036</b>		<b>218,242</b>	

Note: 1,448 migrants from other minority nationalities (including those whose nationalities could not be established) are not included in the table above.

## SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

The bulk of migrants in Libya are nationals of Sub-Saharan Africa countries (56% of the total migrant population or 346,036 individuals). Migrants from neighbouring Niger (43%) and Chad (23%) constitute the two main nationalities among Sub-Saharan African migrants in Libya (Fig 20).

In line with Round 37 and 38 of data collection, the number of Sub-Saharan African migrants in Libya continued to increase slightly over the reporting period compared to July, August and September 2021.

The number of Niger nationals increased compared to the previous round of data collection. This finding is in line with analysis from DTM Niger which highlighted an increase of eight per cent in the number of individuals traveling through flow monitoring points in [October](#) and [November](#) compared to the month of [September](#). For example, in September, DTM Niger recorded that 55 per cent of travellers leaving Niger<sup>4</sup> were going to Libya compared to 61 per cent in October and 67 per cent in November.

<sup>4</sup> Among those transiting through and recorded at the IOM Niger flow monitoring point of Séguédine, which captures outgoing flows from Niger to Libya. A minority of migrants were going to Chad or moving internally within Niger.

According to DTM Niger, this increase can be explained by the fact that individuals have reportedly been traveling to Libya to find work as the harvest season in Niger came to an end.

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

Fig 20 Number of migrants from countries of origin in Sub-Saharan Africa (top 6 nationalities)

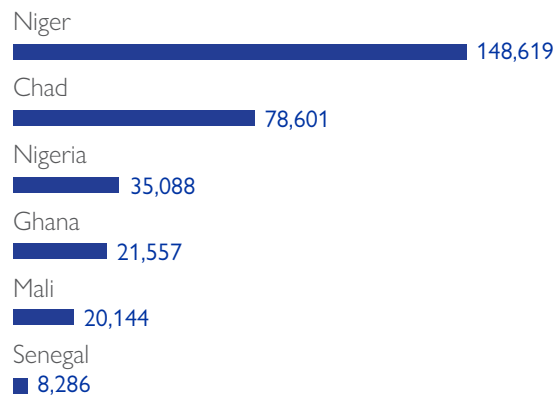
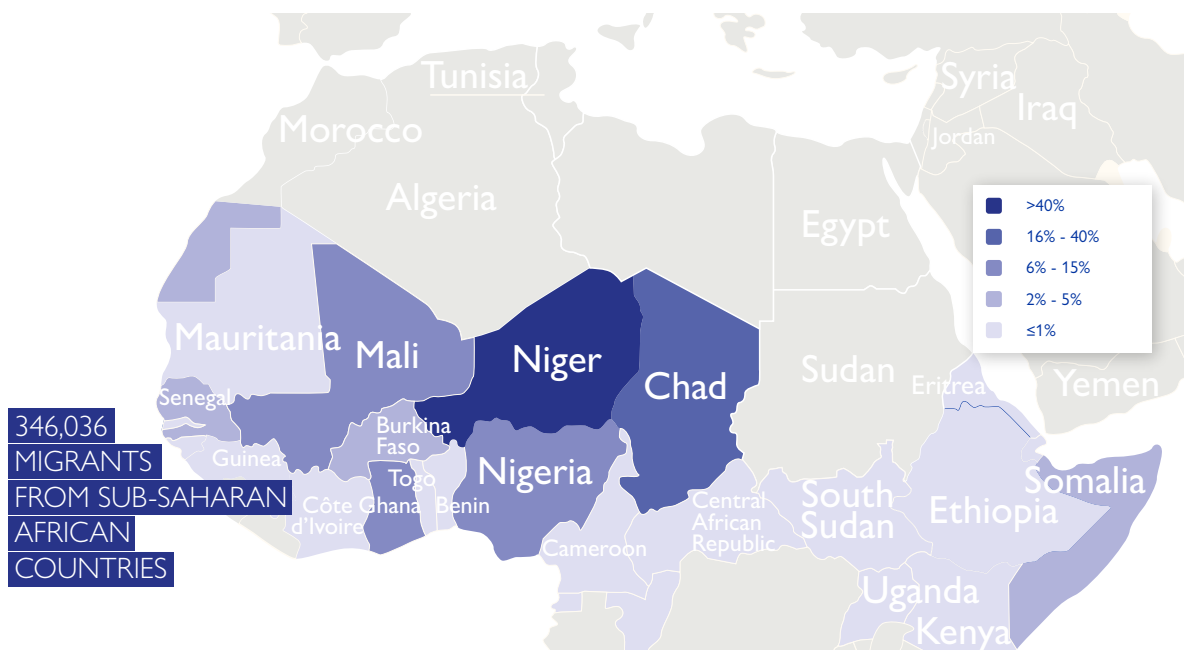


Fig 21 Percentages of migrants by country of origin for the Sub-Saharan Africa region



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## NORTH AFRICA

Consistent with previous reports and with a long-standing trend, the majority of North African migrants in Libya are nationals of Egypt (50%) and Sudan (44%) while migrants from Tunisia, Morocco and Algeria together account for six per cent of the overall number of migrants from North Africa (Fig 22). Nationals of Egypt and Sudan represent respectively the second and third most populous migrant group in Libya.

Overall, the number of North African migrants (218,242 individuals) increased slightly compared to the previous round of data collection (212,561 individuals, Round 38), but the proportion they represent of the overall migrant population stock remains in line with previous report (35%).

Fig 22 Migrants from countries of origin in North Africa

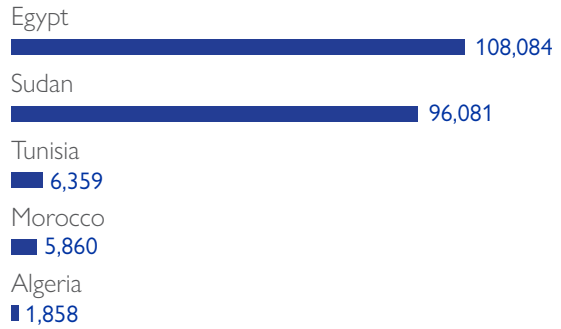


Fig 23 Percentages of migrants by country of origin for the North African region



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# MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA

Similar to previous reports, a minority of migrants (9% or 55,281 individuals) identified during Round 39 were from Asia (4%) or the Middle East (5%).

Among migrants from Asia and the Middle East, the majority came from Syria (21,930 individuals) and Bangladesh (20,254 individuals) accounting for 40 and 37 per cent of migrants (including refugees), respectively (Fig 24). Syrians and Bangladeshi migrants account for four and three per cent respectively of the overall migrant stock population in Libya. In addition, there were 7,754 migrants who self-identified as Palestinians (14% of all migrants from the Middle East and South Asia in Libya) and 4,238 migrants from Pakistan (8%).

Fig 24 Migrants from countries of origin in Asia and the Middle East

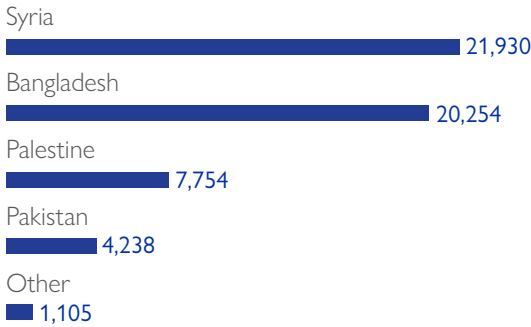


Fig 25 Percentages of migrants by country of origin for the Middle East and South Asia



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



**Photo:** An IOM employee is providing information to a migrant at the IOM clinic of Hai Alandalus in the region of Tripoli, one of the locations where the vaccination campaign against COVID-19 for migrants is taking place.

# MARITIME INCIDENTS

## Arrivals to Italy and Malta

Between 01 January and 30 November 2021, a total of 63,660 migrants [arrived in Italy and Malta](#) from Libya and Tunisia via the Central Mediterranean Sea compared to 36,435 migrants over the corresponding period in 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 27).

According to a recent DTM Europe [report](#), in the third quarter of 2021 arrivals from Libya decreased as a share of total arrivals to Italy compared to the second quarter. Since the beginning of the year, while Libya still represents the country where the largest share of arrivals have departed from, the overall share of departures from Libya has dropped from [62 per cent](#) to [45 per cent](#). Tunisia and Turkey account for the second and third most important country of departure with 36 and 14 per cent of departures, respectively. Others had set off from either Algeria, Greece, Egypt, Albania or Montenegro. 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

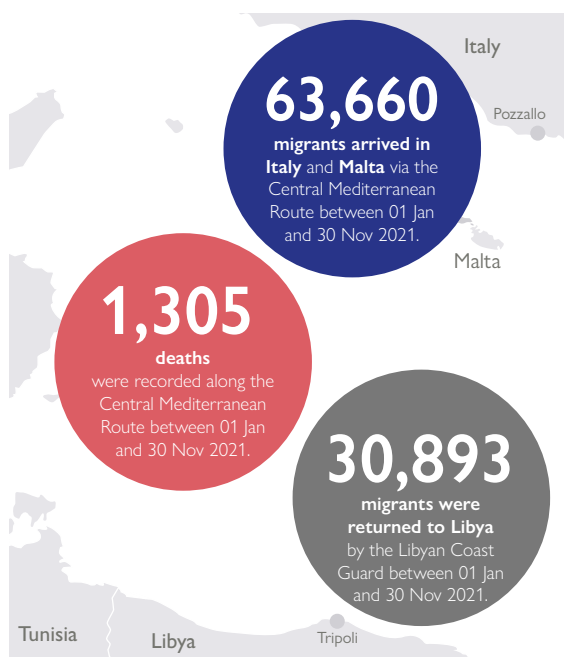
As of [04 December](#), a total of 30,990 individuals had been rescued at sea and returned to Libyan shores. Among those who were taken back to shore by the Libyan Coast Guards there were 27,219 men, 2,344 women, 849 boys and 417 girls. There was no sex and age disaggregated data available for 161 individuals.

## Fatalities at sea

Over 75 migrants [drowned](#) on 20 November after departing from Libya according to 15 survivors rescued by fishermen and taken to Zwara.

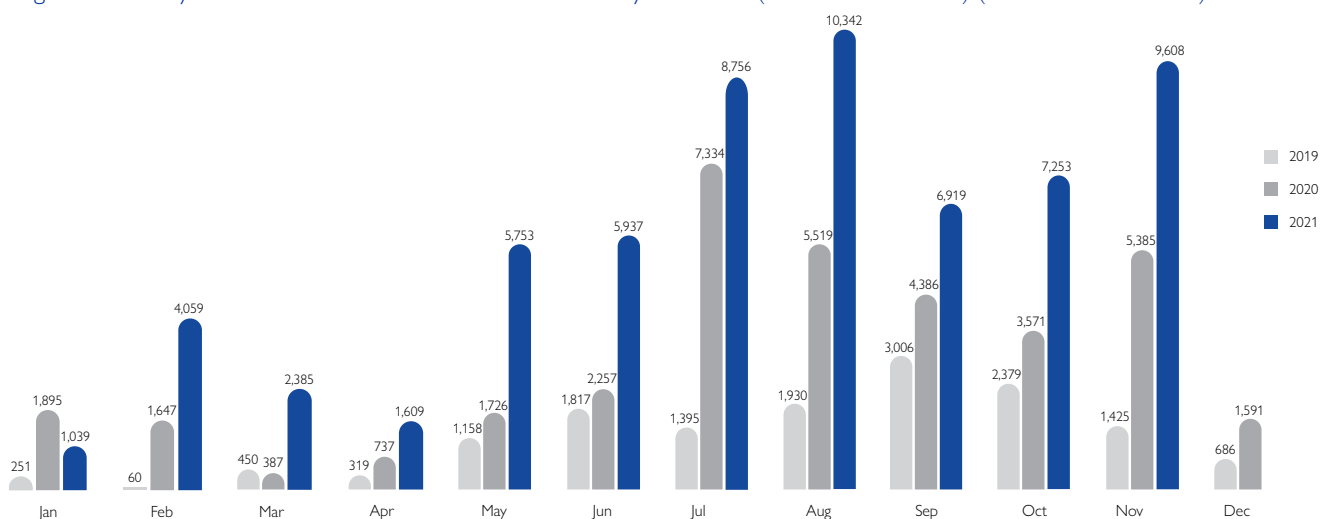
Overall, 1,305 deaths off the coast of Libya were [recorded](#) during the period 01 Jan - 30 Nov 2021, among which 173 occurred in October and November.

Fig 26 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 27 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 municipality (admin 3: baladiya), and community (admin 4: muhalla) levels.

Statistics of migration flows are based on the data collected via a network of 37 flow monitoring points (FMPs) in 9 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		
TEAM	IN NUMBERS	
<p><b>88</b> Enumerators</p>	<p><b>3,748</b> migrants interviewed <small>(Round 39, Flow Monitoring Survey)</small></p>	<p><b>1,843</b> key informant interviews</p>
<p><b>3</b> Team leaders</p>	<p><b>37</b> Flow Monitoring Points (FMPs) <small>are active in 10 regions (mantikas) of Libya</small></p>	

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

 [dtm.iom.int/libya](https://dtm.iom.int/libya)

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