

An aerial photograph of a camp. In the center, a green car is parked with its rear hatch open. A person is sitting on the ground next to it. To the left of the car, there are several people sitting on mats on the ground. They have various supplies around them, including cardboard boxes, bags, and blankets. The ground is a mix of concrete and dirt. The overall scene suggests a temporary settlement or a transit point for displaced people.

IOM LIBYA

IDP AND RETURNEE REPORT

OCTOBER - NOVEMBER 2021  
ROUND 39



**DTM**



Project funded by  
the European Union

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**Cover photo:** IOM Libya staff distributing a package of Non-Food Items (NFIs) as part of IOM direct assistance to IDPs.

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# KEY FINDINGS

Round 38 (October - November 2021)

## IDPs



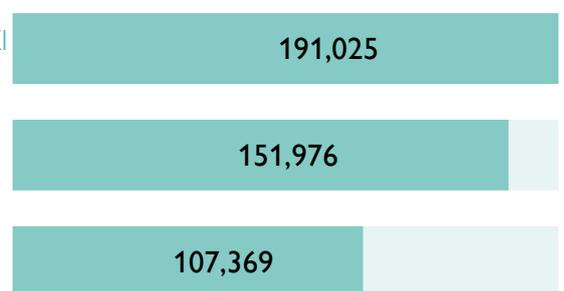
## Returnees



TOP 3 REGIONS WITH IDPs



TOP 3 REGIONS WITH RETURNEES



**663 of 667**  
COMMUNITIES



**100% of**  
MUNICIPALITIES

**1,843** Interviews with key informants  
(Round 39, Mobility Tracking)



Project funded by  
the European Union

# OVERVIEW OF DISPLACEMENT IN LIBYA

This report presents the data on internally displaced persons (IDPs) and returnees between October – November 2021. The data and findings represent round 39 of the Displacement Tracking Matrix’s (DTM) Mobility Tracking.

In Libya, no new mass displacements have been reported since June 2020, and throughout 2021 IDPs have continued to return to their communities of origin. Consistent with the annual trend, in this round of reporting, the numbers of IDPs within the country continued decreasing, with a parallel increase in the number of returnees.

As compared to an estimated 648,317 returnees reported in round 38, the number of those identified during round 39 increased to 661,892 individuals. This indicates a slight increase in the percentage of those returning (2%), after a period of plateauing across the past 6 months.

Following the returnee trend, the number of IDPs in Libya continued to decline during this round, with the total estimated number of IDPs decreasing from 199,949 in September 2021 to 179,047 by end of November. This accounted for a reduction of nearly 21,000 individuals (10%) across this reporting period as IDP families continued to return to their places of origin.

## IDPs

**179,047** Individuals **36,309** Families

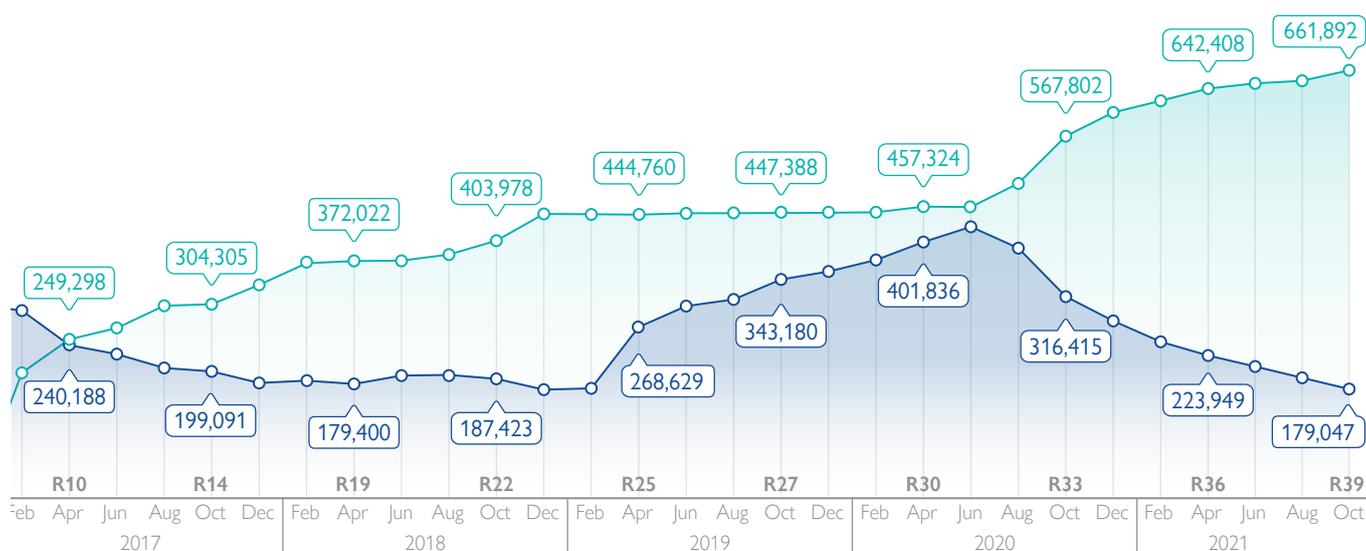
**82** Municipalities **411** Communities

## Returnees

**661,892** Individuals **132,412** Families

**56** Municipalities **229** Communities

Fig 1 Libya displacement and return timeline



## DISPLACEMENT AND RETURN DYNAMICS

When looking at IDP numbers across hosting regions, some changes in the geographical spread across Libya were observed during the months of October- November 2021.

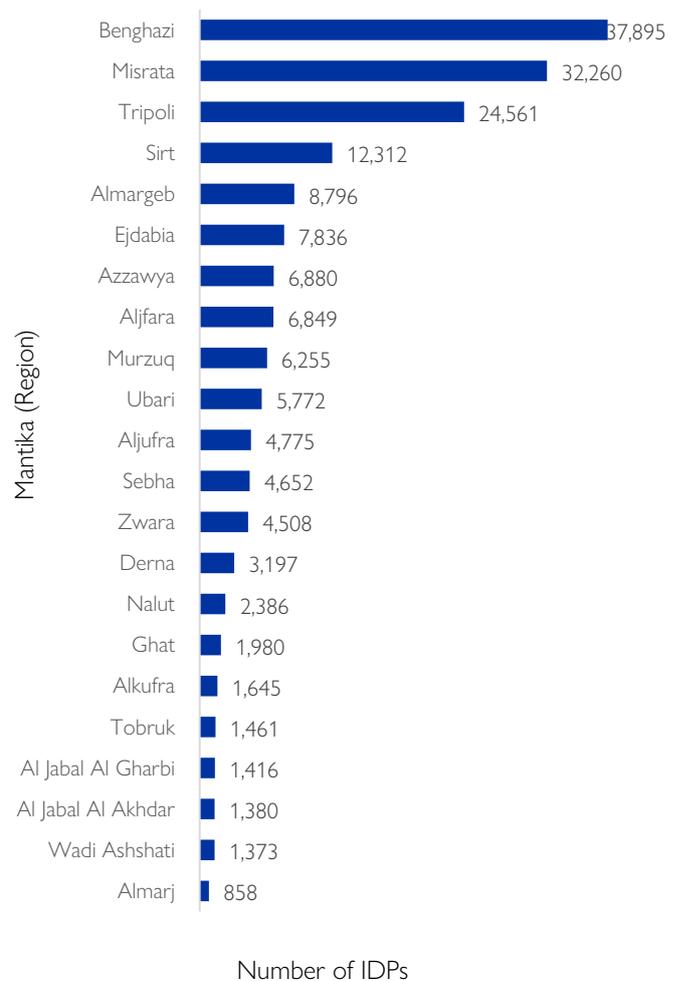
In the eastern regions of Libya, the Benghazi region continued to host the largest number of IDPs in Libya, with 37,895 IDPs identified across its six municipalities in round 39 compared to 37,940 identified in the previous round. A majority of IDPs in Benghazi face protracted displacement as they have been displaced since 2017 or earlier from areas previously damaged by armed conflict within the municipality. Conversely, in Ejdabia a significant reduction in the number of IDPs was seen between round 38 and round 39. While 14,181 IDPs were identified in round 38, in round 39 7,836 IDPs were identified, marking a 55% reduction in the number of people displaced in Ejdabia.

In the western regions of Libya, Misrata surpassed other cities in the region for hosting the most IDPs at 32,260 IDPs. Meanwhile in Tripoli, the estimated number of IDPs dropped from 36,051 in the last round to 24,561 IDPs in Round 39. While then number of IDPs in Sirt and Almargeb remained fairly stable, from 12,709 IDPs reported in round 38 as compared to 12,312 in round 39 and 8,911 and 8,796 IDPs respectively.

In the southern regions of Libya, numbers of IDPs hosted in Murzuq dropped more than 50% from the last round of reporting from 12,150 to 6,255. Concurrently, Ubari witnessed an increase in IDPs hosted, from 4,175 in round 38 to 5,772 in round 39.

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

Fig 2 Number of IDPs by Region (Mantika)

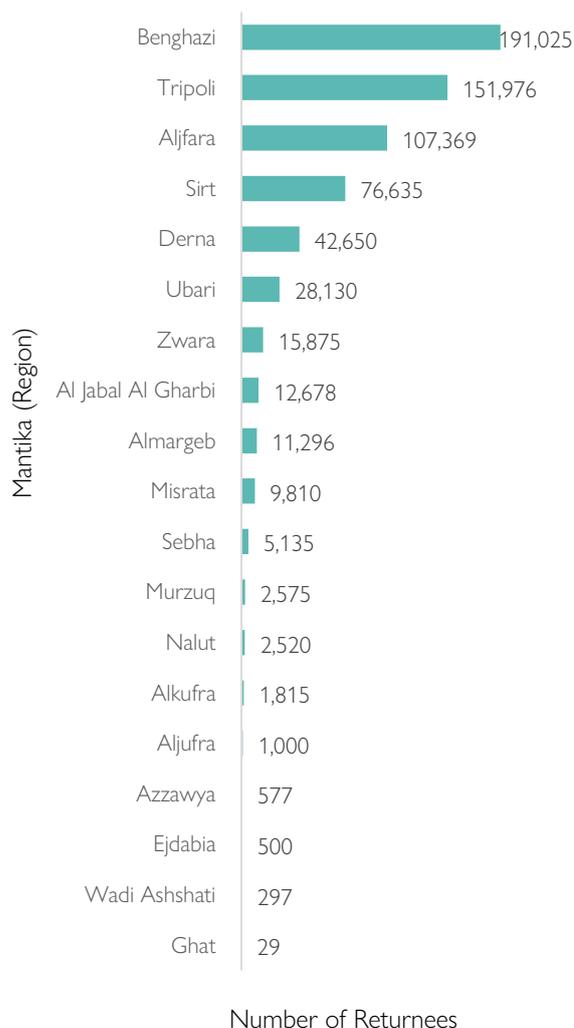


As mentioned at the beginning of the report, between October and November 2021, the total number of returnees in Libya increased to 661,892 individuals as previously displaced families continued to return to their places of origin. This represents an increase of 13,575 individuals in the returnee figure from 648,317 returnees reported in the previous round.

Consistent with the trend observed during most of 2021, regions of Benghazi, Tripoli, Aljara, Sirt and Derna continued to have the top 5 highest number of returnees in the country (Figure 4). Benghazi region (mantika) continues to host the highest number of returnees in Libya, at 191,025. This number has stayed consistent between round 38 and round 39 of reporting. The second largest number of returnees had returned to their places of origin in Tripoli region, with 151,976 individuals returned by November 2021, followed by Aljara with 107,369 individuals previously displaced having returned to their places of origin.

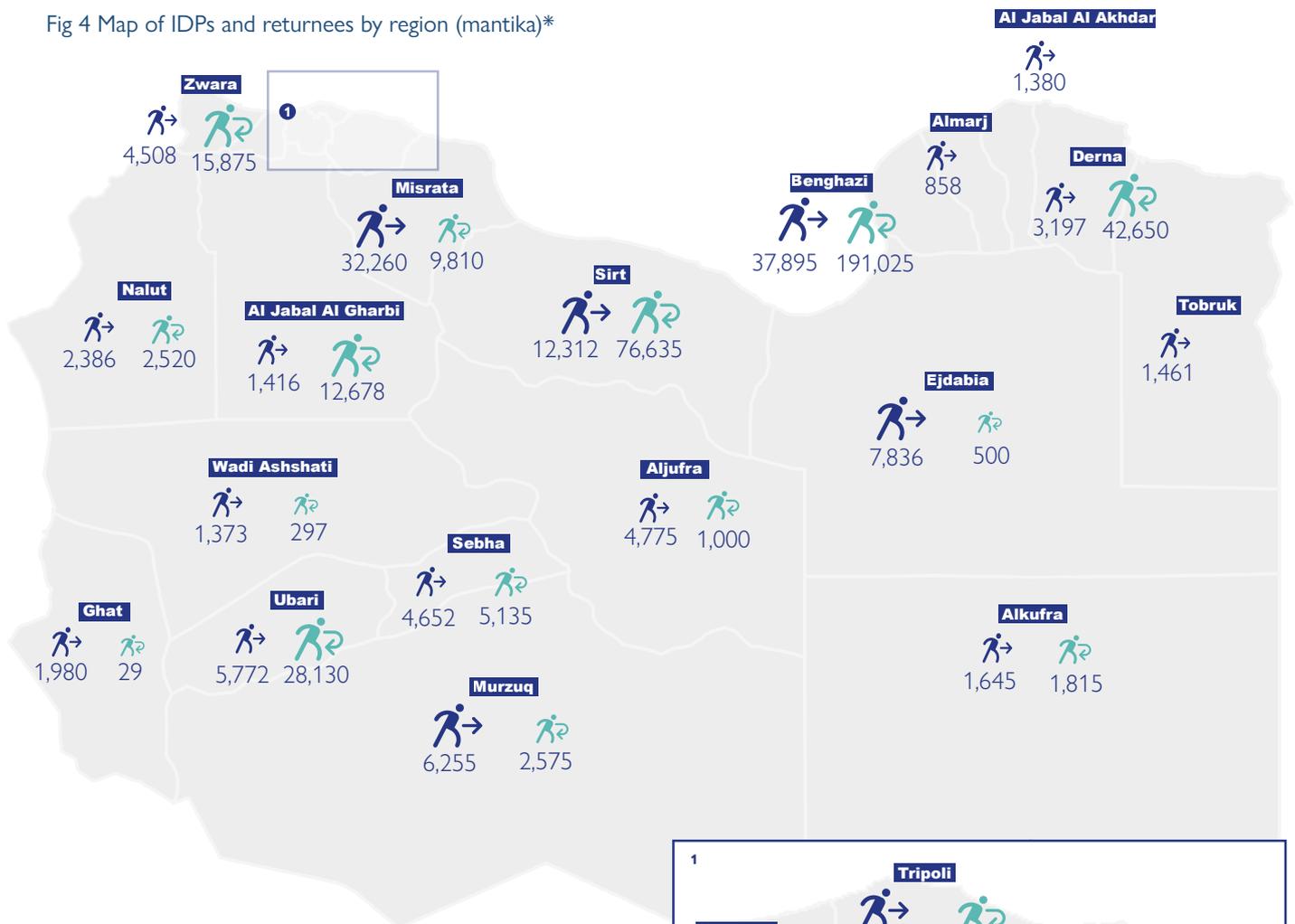
Data collected on drivers of displacement during round 39 continues to show that displacement in Libya is primarily linked to security related issues, such as the 2019-2020 armed conflict in Western Libya which caused the largest spike in displacements, and correspondingly improvements in general security situation since late 2020 have resulted in return of displaced families to their places of origin. In round 39, 98% of the respondents cited improved security situation as a main motivation of returns among other factors.

Fig 3 Number of Returnees by Region (Mantika)



# LOCATIONS OF DISPLACEMENT AND RETURN MAP

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



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

## DEMOGRAPHICS

Demographic composition of IDP families as per DTM rapid profiling of displaced households is shown in figure 7. This demographic data is from a sample of over 7,200 IDP households profiled by IOM during 2021.

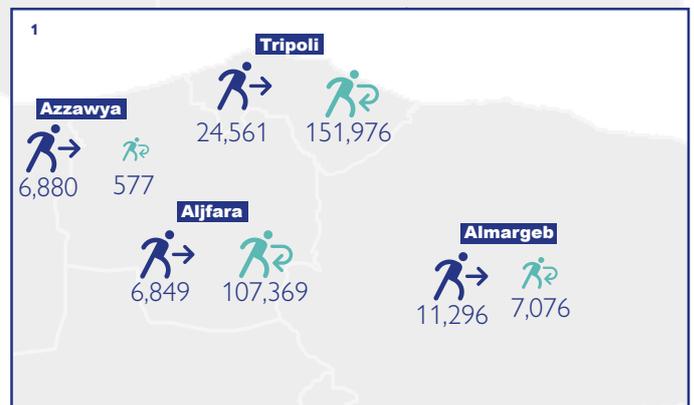
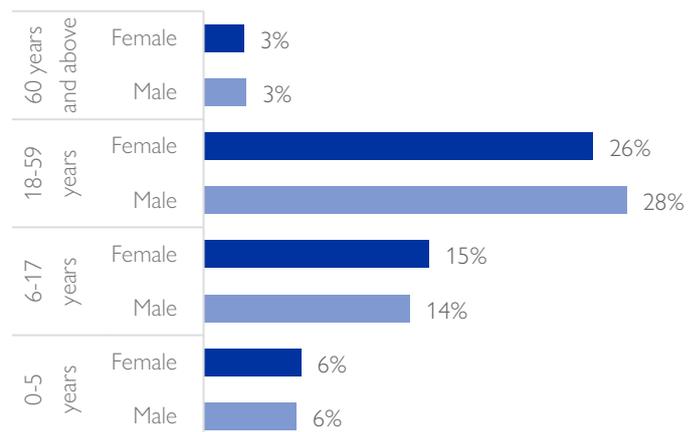


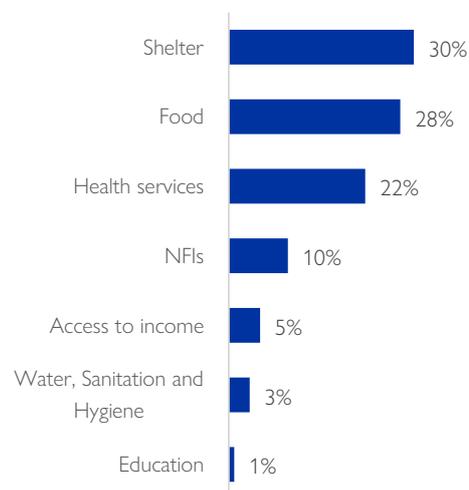
Fig 5 IDP Profiling: Age - Gender Disaggregation



## MULTI-SECTORAL LOCATION ASSESSMENT

DTM Libya's Mobility Tracking includes a Multi-Sectoral Location Assessment (MSLA) covering all regions (mantika) and municipalities (baladiya) of Libya. The MSLA key informant interviews regularly collect sectoral baseline data on availability and access to services and priority humanitarian needs. The regular and continuous implementation of the MSLA is aimed at supporting both strategic and operational planning of humanitarian programming via identification of specific sectoral issues and needs at community-levels. This round 39 report presents the multisectoral priority needs of IDPs and returnees during the months of October - November 2021. The following sections also cover key findings related to education, food, health, nonfood items (NFI) and access to markets, protection security and Mine Action), water sources (WASH), and other public services, across Libya.

Fig 6 Priority Needs of IDPs (Ranked)



## HUMANITARIAN PRIORITY NEEDS

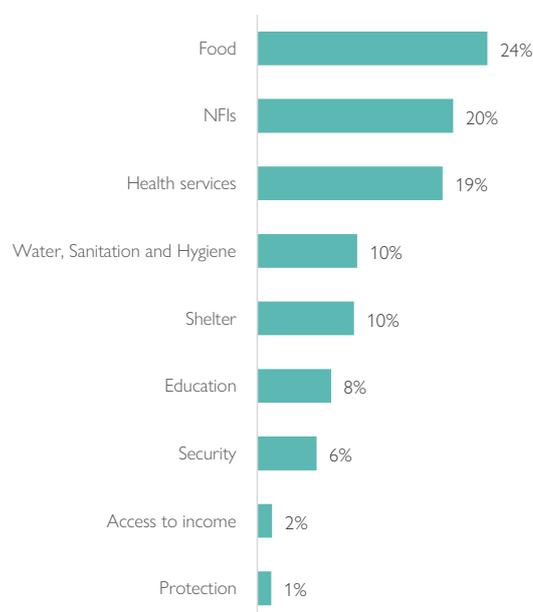
The top three humanitarian priority needs for IDPs stayed consistent between round 38 and round 39 of reporting. These humanitarian priority needs during October - November 2021 data collection were related to accommodation, food assistance, and access to health services as shown in figure 7.

Alternatively, the top priority humanitarian needs for returnees include food, Non-Food Items (NFIs), and access to health services (figure 8).

Similar to the previous rounds, the main challenge faced by affected populations in fulfilling these needs was related to financial vulnerabilities brought on by the erosion of coping mechanisms over the course of Libyan crisis and the compounding COVID-19 pandemic. In this round of reporting access to medicine was further constrained as compared to the last round of reporting, .

Figure 7 and 8 shows ranked priority needs of affected population groups based on the top three needs reported at community (muhalla) levels.

Fig 7 Priority Needs of Returnees (Ranked)



## HUMANITARIAN PRIORITY NEEDS BY REGION

Figures 9 and 10 below display the top three ranked humanitarian needs for the regions (mantika) with the largest IDP and returnee populations. The ranking is based on the weighted average score calculated for the highest number of people with humanitarian needs. This indicates regional variation in the humanitarian needs of IDPs and returnees identified by key informants.

The top three priority needs for IDPs in Benghazi, Misrata, and Tripoli remain the same between round 38 and round 39 of reporting. Access to accommodation (given both the price and availability) was cited as the top need in all three locations. For IDPs in the Benghazi region, access to accommodation was followed by health services identified as a priority humanitarian need (particularly critical in the context of COVID-19), and provision of food assistance.

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



For returnees (returning IDPs) in Benghazi, Tripoli and Aljfara the top three priority needs across round 38 and 39 remained same. For returnees in the Benghazi region the top three needs were related to water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services, education, and nonfood items (NFIs). Alternatively in Tripoli and Aljfara, the top three priority needs for returnees included food, health services and NFIs.

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



# HEALTH

As part of the Multi-Sectoral Location Assessment (MSLA), 66% of the public and private health facilities in Libya were reported to be operational, while 30% were reported to be partially operational, and 4% were reported to be not operational at all. Notably, private health facilities were more often reported operational as compared to hospitals and public health facilities. Figure 10 provides more detailed statistics on reported operational, partially operational, and non-operational private as well as public health facilities.

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

The number of municipalities reporting irregular supply of medication increased from 78 in the previous round to 84 municipalities during October - November 2021 indicating deterioration in the supply chain of essential medications.

Fig 10 Availability of health services in the assessed municipalities

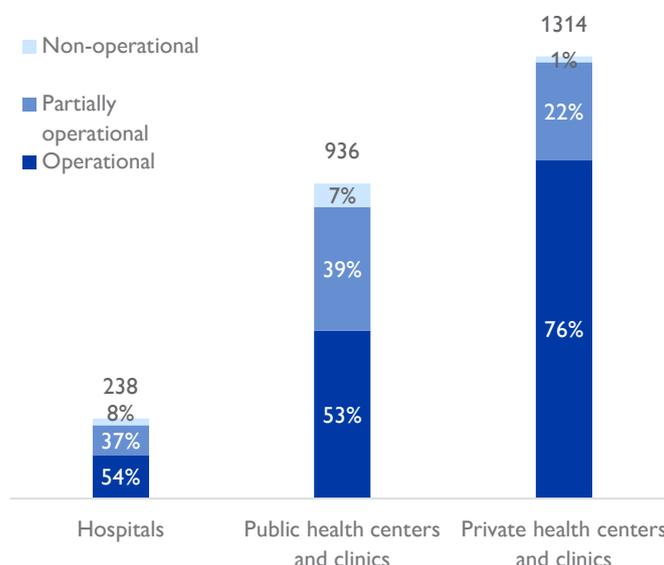
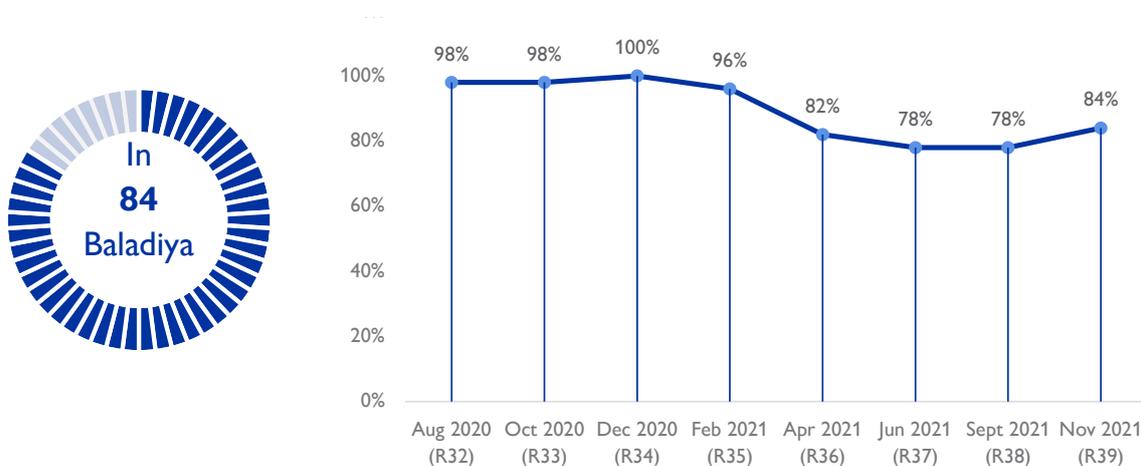


Fig 11 Irregular supply of medication reported in 84 municipalities (baladiya); indicating an improvement over the reports received during the previous year (as shown in the trend line on the right side below)



## SECURITY AND MINE ACTION

In Round 39, security-related indicators were collected in all municipalities across Libya, including questions related to mine action (Mine Action Area of Responsibility).

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

In seven municipalities presence of UXOs was reported during this round, as compared to 12 municipalities in the last round of reporting. Furthermore, residents were reported as not being able to move safely within their area of residence in two municipalities, as compared to five municipalities in the last round of reporting. The two municipalities reporting restricted movements were Alkufra and Murzuq.

In municipalities where movement was restricted, the main reasons reported were insecurity (Alkufra), and the presence of UXOs (Murzuq).

Fig 12 Presence of UXOs reported in 7 municipalities



Fig 13 Reasons for restrictions on freedom of movement as reported in 5 municipalities

Municipality	Reason for Restricted Freedom of Movement
Alkufra	Insecurity
Murzuq	Threat/presence of explosive hazards

## EDUCATION

During the months of October - November 2021, 3% of the public schools and 1% of private schools were reported as non- operational. Whereas 47 schools across 15 municipalities were reported to be completely destroyed due to armed conflict. See figures 15 and 16 for further details.

During the reporting period there were limited local level COVID-19 related mobility restrictions and closures reported, as well as widespread or complete school closures were also not reported.

Fig 14 Operational and non-operational schools

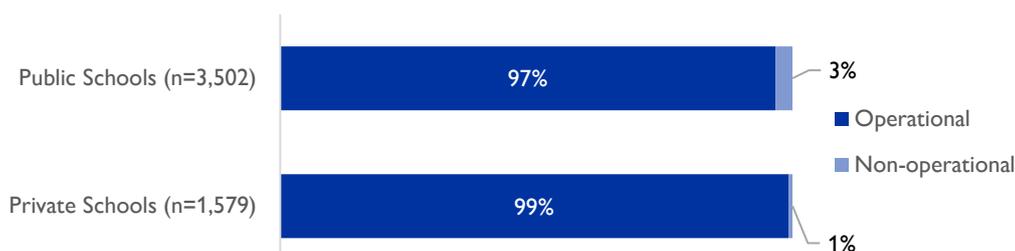
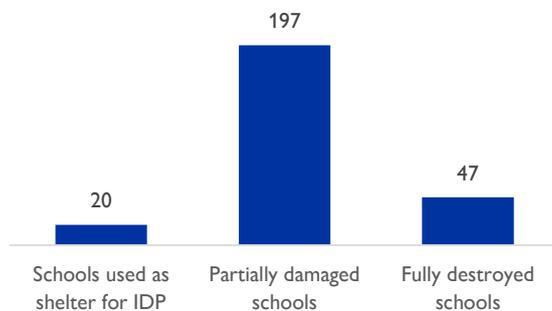


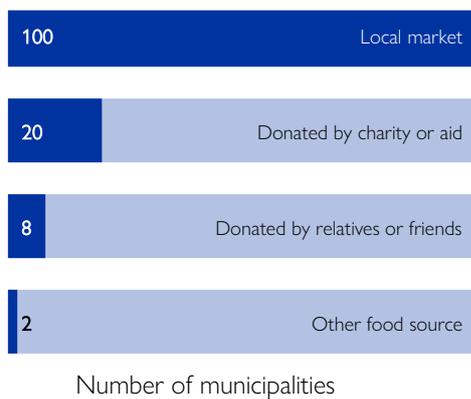
Fig 15 Number of schools reported as partially and completely destroyed or being used as shelter for IDPs



## FOOD

As in previous reporting periods, in all 100 municipalities of Libya, local markets, such as grocery stores, supermarkets, and open markets, were reported to be the main source used by residents to purchase food items, for both IDPs and returnees. In 20 municipalities food distributions by charity or aid organizations were also identified as a source of food supply for vulnerable populations as shown in figure 17 below.

Fig 16 Sources of food supplies for residents by number of municipalities (multiple choice)



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

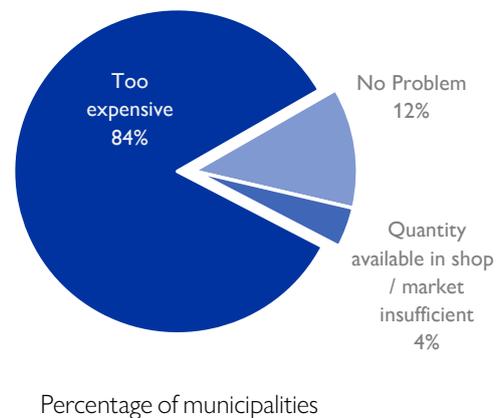
The biggest obstacle related to adequate food supply to meet household needs was reported to be food prices, often considered to be too expensive by key informants. A limited number of respondents (4%) also highlighted limited quantity also created some problems in access to food.

Fig 17 Various modes of payment used for purchasing food by number of municipalities (multiple choice)



Number of municipalities

Fig 18 Main problems related to food supply



Percentage of municipalities

## NFI AND ACCESS TO MARKETS

DTM’s data collection on humanitarian priority needs also includes non-food items (NFIs). For both IDPs and returnees, key informants noted that the cost of NFIs was the largest barrier in accessing these essential items for these affected populations. Furthermore, in 20 municipalities a challenge in accessing non-food items was also reported to be related to the poor quality of items available on local markets (as compared to 14 municipalities in round 38 of reporting), while distance from local markets was indicated as key challenge in 9 municipalities (as compared to 10 municipalities in round 38 of reporting).

The most commonly reported NFI to be needed by IDPs and returnees were mattresses, heaters, clothes, and hygiene items. In the last round of reporting, only those in 16 municipalities noted the need for heaters, as compared to 61 between October and November given the advent of the winter season in Libya.

Fig 19 Main challenges reported in obtaining the required Non-Food Items (multiple choice)



Fig 20 Most reported priority Non-Food Items in need (multiple choice)



## ACCOMMODATION

As displayed in Figure 22, during October - November 2021, 79% of all IDPs identified in Libya were reported to be residing in privately rented accommodation, while 11% were staying with host families without paying rent, and 10% were taking shelter in other settings including public buildings and informal camp like settings utilized on a temporary basis.

For those families who were previously displaced and now returned to their places of origin, 90% were reported to have returned and staying in their own houses. The remaining returnees were in rented accommodation (5%), with host families (4%) or utilizing other accommodation arrangements (1%) primarily because of being unable to return to their pre-displacement houses due to damaged buildings and infrastructure.

Fig 21 Accommodation types utilized by IDPs

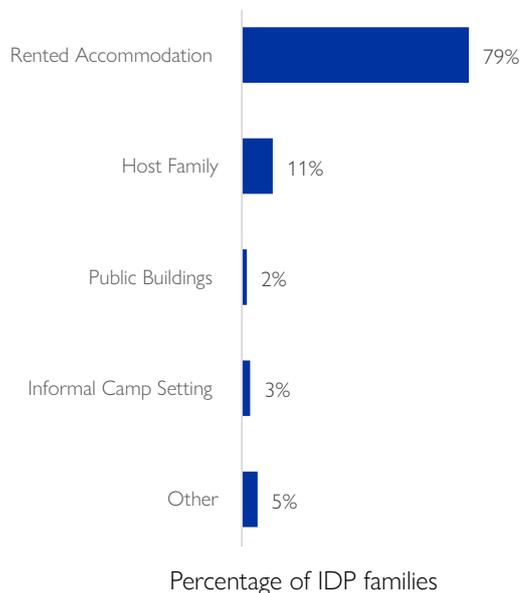


Fig 22 Accommodation types utilized by returnees

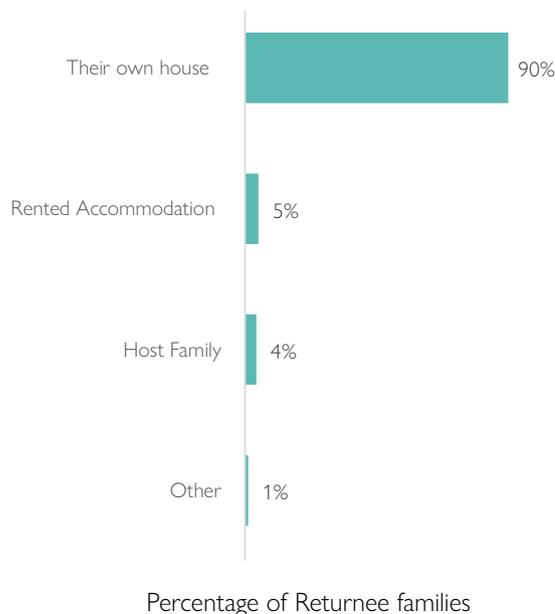
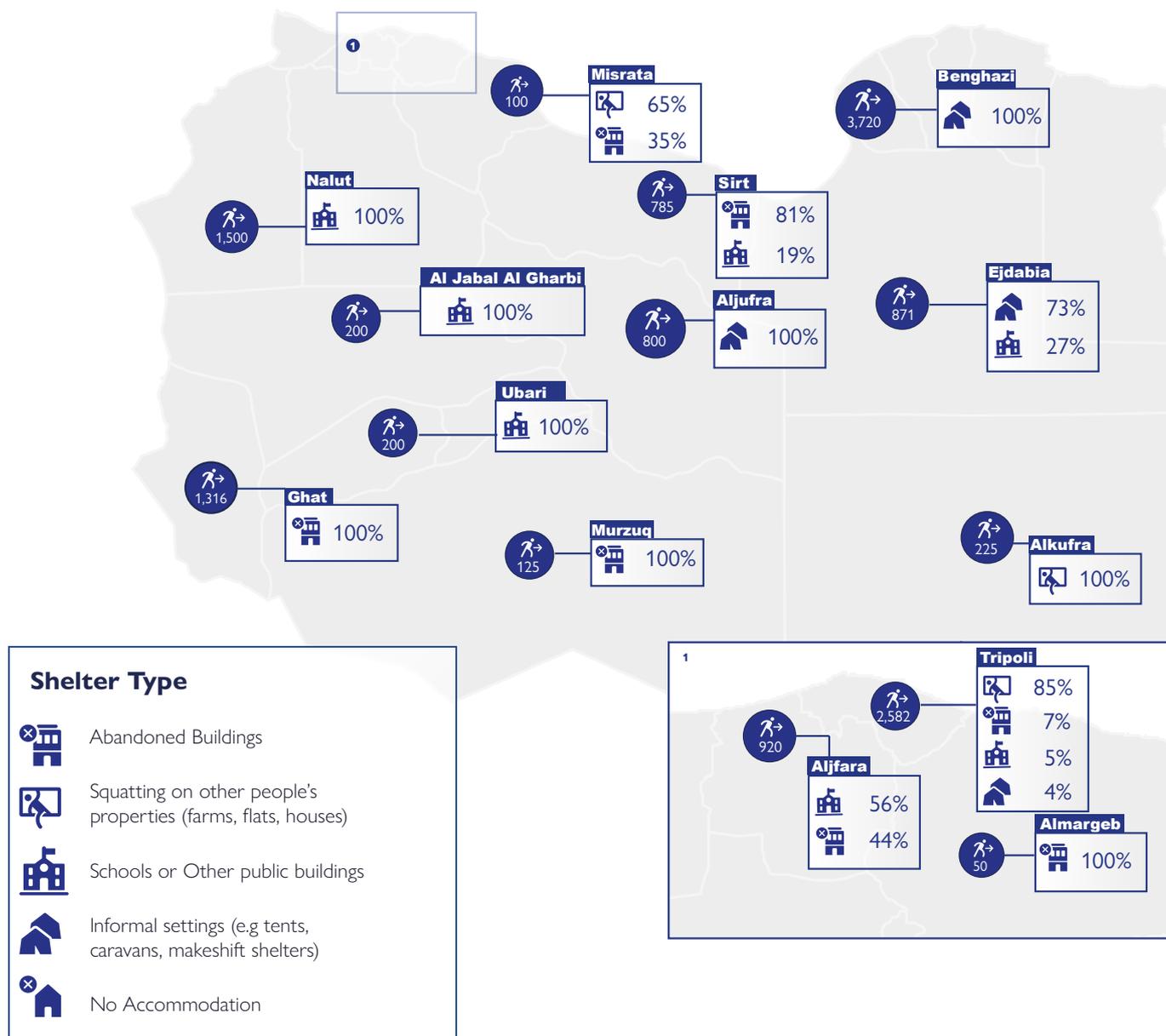


Fig 23 Map of public shelter or communal accommodation types used by IDPs by location



## WATER SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)

Access to the water network was reported across 68 municipalities. In 61 municipalities residents have to access water through water trucking. The entire distribution of the main water sources reported can be seen in figure 25.

The most frequently cited obstacle related to access to water of residents, IDPs and returnees was that the price or cost of accessing water was reported as expensive (56 municipalities). Furthermore, in 31 municipalities available water was reported not to be safe for drinking or cooking. While in 32 municipalities no problem in accessing water was reported.

Fig 24 Sources of water in use by the number of municipalities (multiple choice)

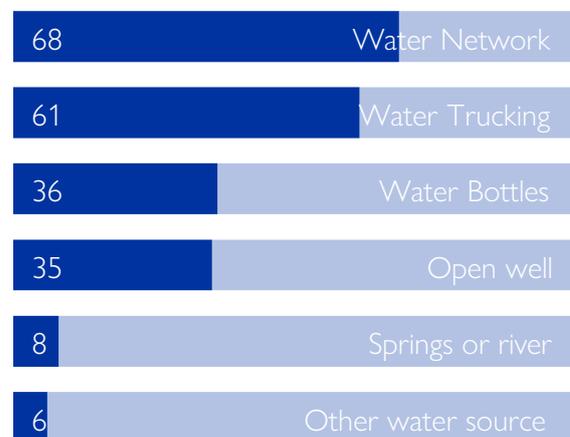


Fig 25 Analysis of number of water sources in use by municipality and their diversity

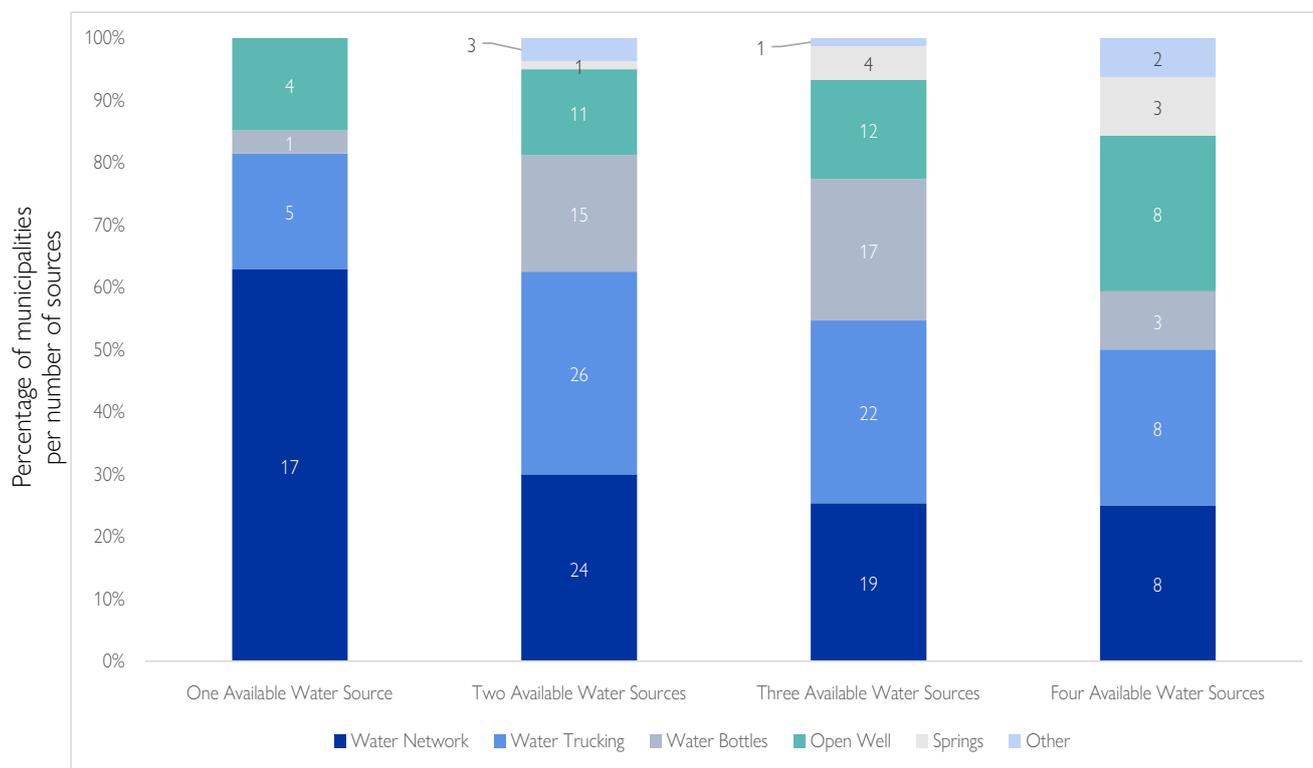
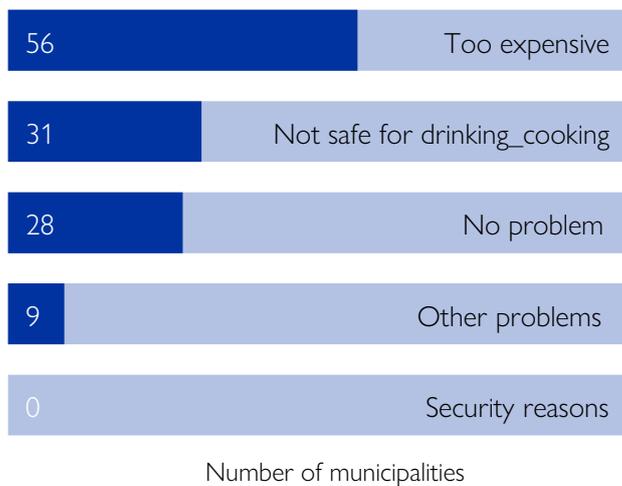


Fig 27 Challenges related to water availability by number in municipalities (multiple challenges reported by several municipalities)



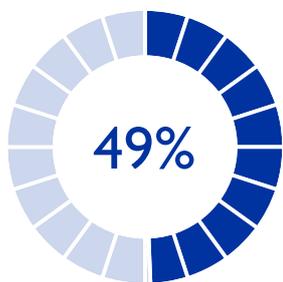
## METHODOLOGY

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

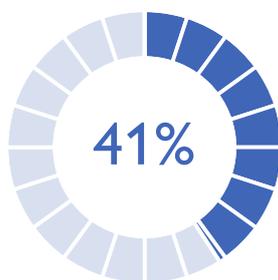
In Round 39 DTM assessed all 100 municipalities in Libya. 1,843 key informant interviews (KIIs) were conducted during this round. 325 KIIs were carried out at the municipality level and 1,443 at the community level. 34% KIIs were with the representatives from various divisions within the municipality offices (Social Affairs, Muhalla Affairs etc.), 12% were local crisis committee representatives, 12% were from key civil

society organizations, and 9% were with community/tribal representatives. 5% KIIs were with female key informants, whereas 95% were male key informants.

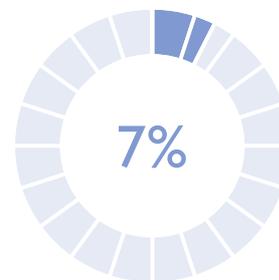
41% of data collected was rated as "very credible" during the Round 39, while 49% was rated "mostly credible", and 5% was "somewhat credible". This rating is based on the consistency of data provided by the Key Informants, on their sources of data, and on whether data provided is in line with general perceptions.



Mostly Credible



Very Credible



Somewhat Credible

### IOM Data collection in numbers



88

Enumerators

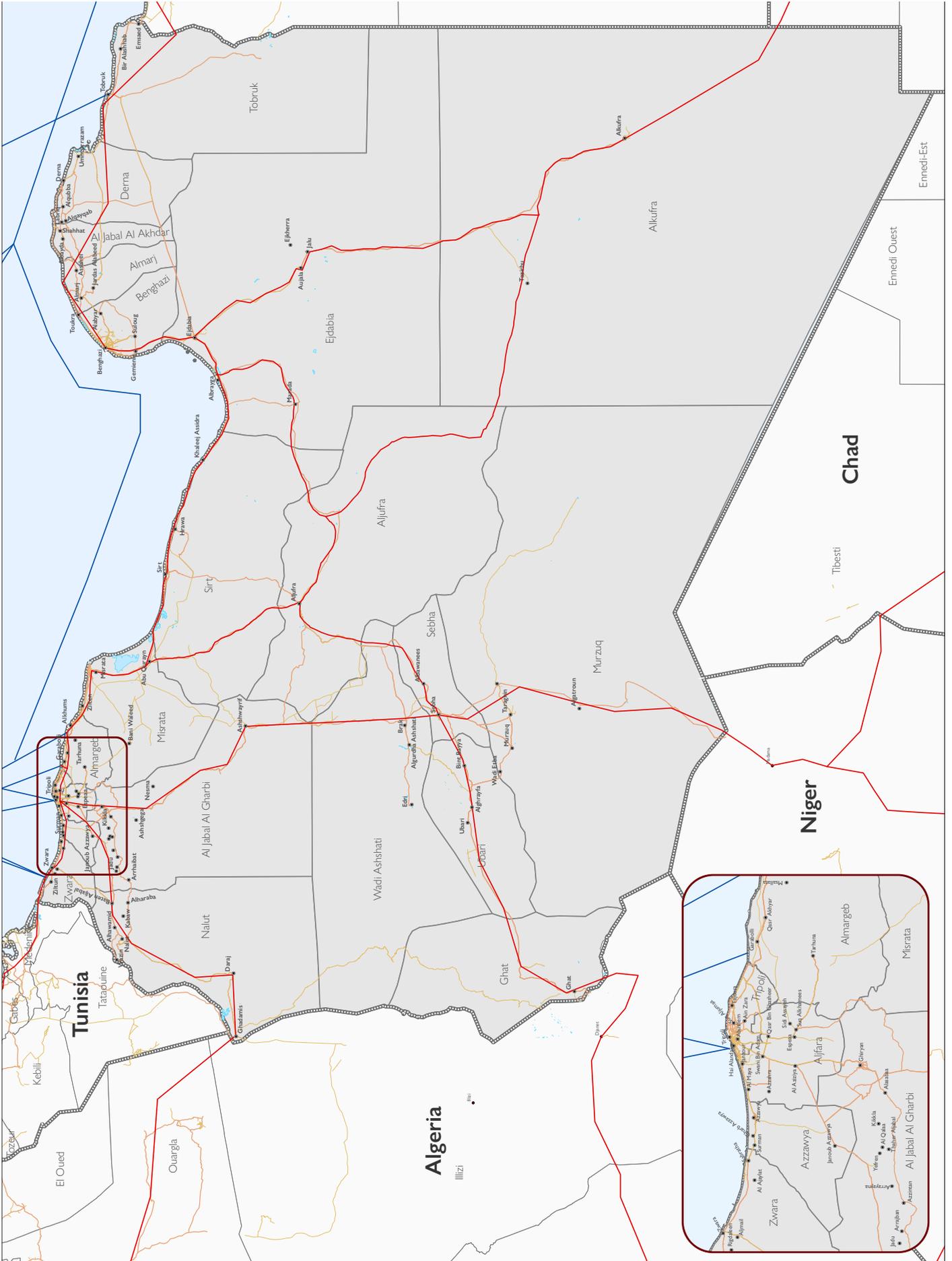


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Implementing Partners



# REFERENCE MAP - 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 website:

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



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