IOM • OIM DTM

Project funded by the European Union

IOM LIBYA MIGRANT REPORT ROUND 46

January - February 2023

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Cover photo: *In January, IOM organized the Global Migration Film Festival in Benghazi with the participation of the Libyan House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee, the Italian consul, Libyan stakeholders and migrants to raise awareness of social issues related to migration and to foster dialogue.*

IOM
UN MIGRATION

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KEY FINDINGS

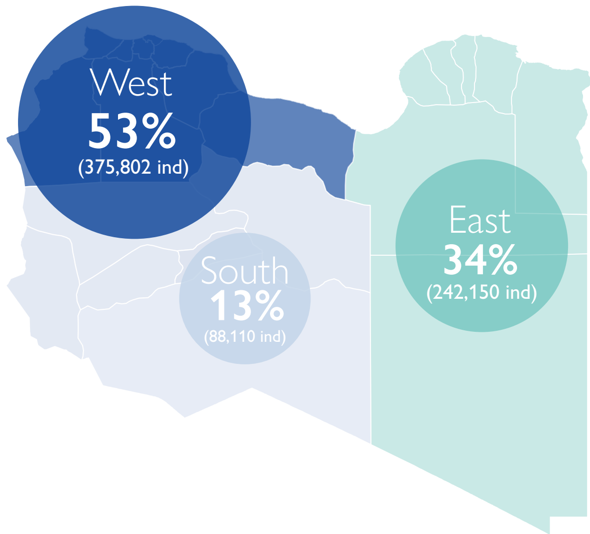
Round 46 (Jan - Feb 2023)

706,062
migrants in Libya

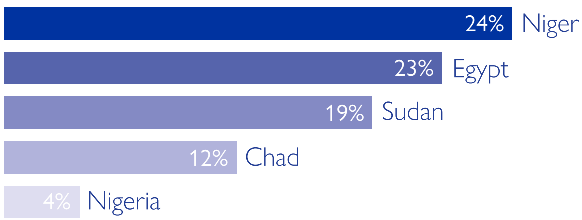
USD 786
migration journey cost
(average per person)

46%
of migrants reported that the remittances they send home are the primary source of income for their household

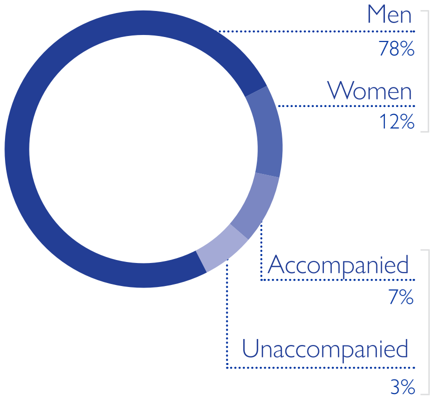
DISTRIBUTION OF MIGRANTS PER GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS



TOP 5 NATIONALITIES



DEMOGRAPHICS



Migrants were present in:

641 COMMUNITIES (out of 667)

100 MUNICIPALITIES (out of 100)

IOM Libya conducted:

2,205 INTERVIEWS WITH KEY INFORMANTS (Mobility Tracking)

6,337 INTERVIEWS WITH MIGRANTS (Flow Monitoring Surveys)

Project funded by the European Union

IOM UN MIGRATION

OVERVIEW

IOM Libya's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) programme identified a total of 706,062 migrants from over 44 nationalities in the 100 Libyan municipalities during round 46 of data collection (January - February 2023).

The number of migrants in Libya has continued to increase slightly compared to the previous round of data collection (694,398 migrants, Round 45, November – December 2022).

In 2020, the number of migrants in Libya had declined as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and its socioeconomic impact. Since 2021, the number of migrants has been increasing, yet it remains far lower than prior to the onset of conflict in 2011, when there was an estimated 2.5 million migrants in Libya.

Migration journey and background

Economic factors and the search for a (better) livelihood continue are the main reasons for migration to Libya. Nearly nine in ten migrants (89%) cited reasons related to economic difficulties, such as a lack of job opportunities or insufficient income in their country of origin as the top driving factors that led them to migrate to Libya.

The most frequently mentioned reason to migrate to Libya by both female (39%) and male migrants (51%) interviewed by DTM was insufficient income in the country of origin (Fig 1). However, a larger proportion of female migrants reported that war or conflict (20%) or targeted violence or persecution (14%) had driven their migration to Libya compared to male migrants (4% and 3%, respectively). A greater proportion of respondents from Somalia (71%), Syria (53%), Eritrea (43%), Ethiopia (33%) and Sudan (20%) compared to those from Chad (8%), Nigeria (4%), Niger (3%) and Egypt (2%) identified war, conflict or targeted violence as the top reason that explained their journey to Libya.

Climate-related migration drivers

A small proportion of migrants identified slow onset environmental degradation (2%) (e.g. drought, water scarcity and changing rainfall patterns) or sudden natural disasters (<1%) as the top reason behind their migration to Libya.

Fig 1 Main reasons for migrating (top 10) by sex

However, this is likely an underestimation of the number of migrants whose migration journey is directly or indirectly related to climate change given that economic drivers, such as the lack of job opportunities and rural unemployment can be closely linked to climate-related hazards and environmental factors. For instance, climate change related events can drive migration that is otherwise typically understood as related to economic motivations by indirectly weakening economies and affecting workers who are dependent on natural resources, such as agricultural labourers. A recent IOM Niger study, for example, highlighted that the lack of natural resources to develop subsistence activities was a primary driver of migration (internal or international) in all regions of Niger surveyed, highlighting the role of climate change as a risk multiplier, exacerbating pre-existing vulnerabilities.

While a minority of migrants (6%) interviewed by DTM Libya stated having been employed in the agricultural sector in their country of origin, more than a third of them (37%) had experienced crop or livestock production losses due to environmental factors (e.g. droughts, floods). This percentage was higher among those from Sudan (62%) and Chad (47%) compared to those from Egypt (34%) or Niger (24%).

Overall, research has highlighted that migration drivers are influenced by multiple and complex individual, socio-cultural and macro-level (e.g. environmental and economic) factors that facilitate, enable, constrain and trigger migration to varying degrees.

Economic situation and labour market

With the resumption of oil production in July 2022 — and if it is sustained — the International Monetary Fund (IMF) predicts that the Libyan economy will grow by over 17 per cent in real gross domestic product (GDP) terms in 2023. Despite this forecast, one in four migrants interviewed by DTM in January and February 2023 reported being unemployed and the unemployment rate among migrants across Libya continues to be higher than pre-pandemic levels (17%, Round 29, February 2020). The IMF reported that the Libyan economy had shrunk by over 12 per cent in 2022.

The unemployment rate was significantly higher among migrants interviewed in southern Libya (41%) than those in the west (22%) or east (12%). The economy in southern Libya has been characterized by a lack of economic opportunities and a weak private sector, despite the presence of national and international oil companies in the region.

Migrants reported that job insecurity was the main risk they faced at work (38%). Around a quarter or less of migrants stated that the main issue they faced at work was being paid less than agreed (24%), verbal abuse (22%) or delayed salary payments (21%).
Overall, a total of 39 per cent of female migrants and 76 per cent of male migrants interviewed by DTM Libya in January and February 2023 reported being employed in Libya.

A slightly greater proportion of female migrants (54%) mentioned that a lack of job security was an issue they faced compared to males (48%) (Fig 2). Conversely, a higher percentage of male migrants (27%) cited delayed wages as a top risk they experienced at work compared to females (21%). More males also reported having two or more income-generating activities (13%) compared to females (9%).

A WHO report recognises that the physical environment, including workplaces, but also housing, communities and roads as well as food and nutrition are critical determinants of migrants' health, along with individual characteristics and the socioeconomic environment.

Socioeconomic situation

In line with the previous round of data collection, financial issues continue to be the most frequently cited difficulty experienced by migrants interviewed in January and February 2023 (61%). A fifth or more of migrants also reported facing issues related to identity documents (28%), a lack of information (22%), attacks or assaults (22%) or food and water insecurity (20%). A greater proportion of female migrants reported facing financial difficulties, a lack of information, security issues, and hunger or water insufficiency compared to male migrants

Figure 2: Percentage of migrants who reported facing risks at work by type of risk and by sex

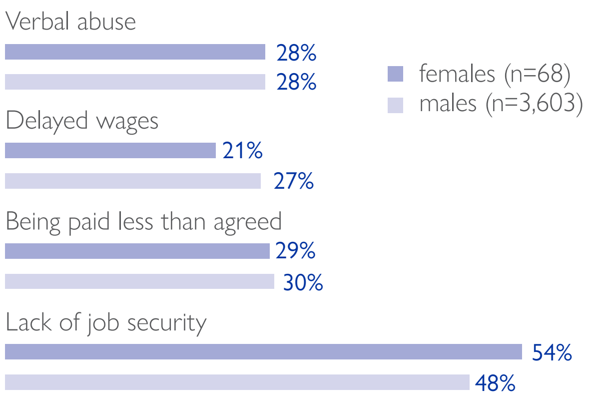
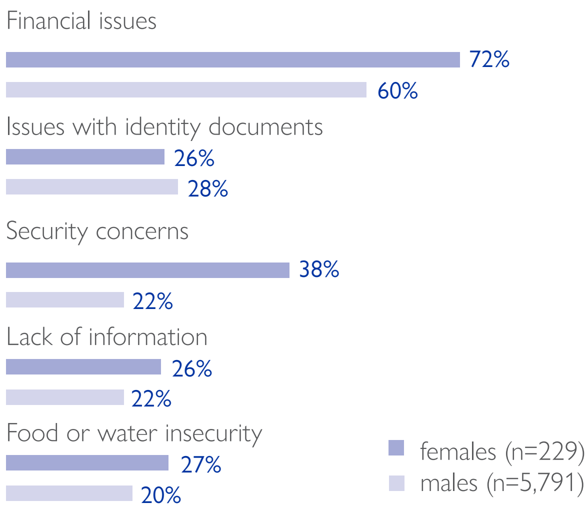


Figure 3: Main difficulties faced by migrants by sex



(Fig 3). This could be related to the fact that a higher percentage of female migrants (43%) were not working and actively looking for work compared to male migrants (24%).

However, more males than female migrants mentioned experiencing difficulties related to identity document issues, which could be linked to the fact that more male migrants tend to work outside the home, travel to work and wait at recruitment points, potentially increasing their vulnerability to arrest and detention.

A recently published DTM assessment highlighted that a lack of documentation and the fear of being arrested were commonly cited concerns among migrants who participated in focus group discussions, regardless of nationality and sex. Many male and female migrant respondents mentioned that the fear of getting arrested as a result of lacking documentation also represented a barrier to obtaining (decent) employment, which can in turn impact one's financial ability to pay for their own and for their family's access to essential services, such as healthcare.

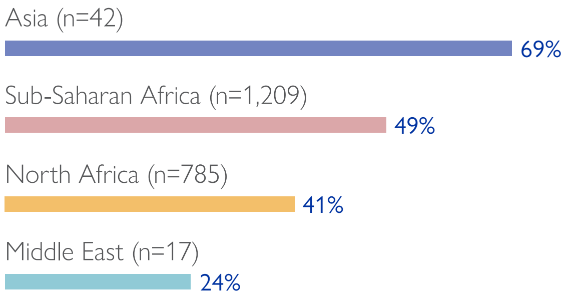
A larger percentage of migrants interviewed in the west (26%) and south (22%) of Libya than in the east (12%) mentioned that attacks or assault was one of the three main difficulties they faced at the time of survey. During the reporting period (January - February 2023), several clashes and persisting rivalries among local armed groups were observed in the western and southern regions of Libya while sporadic security incidents occurred in the east, such as arrests and kidnappings.

Remittances

Around a third of migrants (32%) interviewed by DTM Libya in January and February 2023 mentioned having sent remittances since arriving in Libya and an additional third of respondents (30%) stated that they would do so upon earning or saving enough.

Remittances can help improve the economic situation of receiving households by supplementing or being their primary source of income. Remittances have also been shown to be an important source of financing for many developing countries. More than half of migrants from Asia (69%) stated the money they send home are their family's primary source of income compared to slightly fewer of those from sub-Saharan Africa (49%), North Africa (41%) and the Middle East (24%) (Fig 4).

Figure 4: Percentage of migrants who reported that their remittances were their family's primary source of income by region of origin

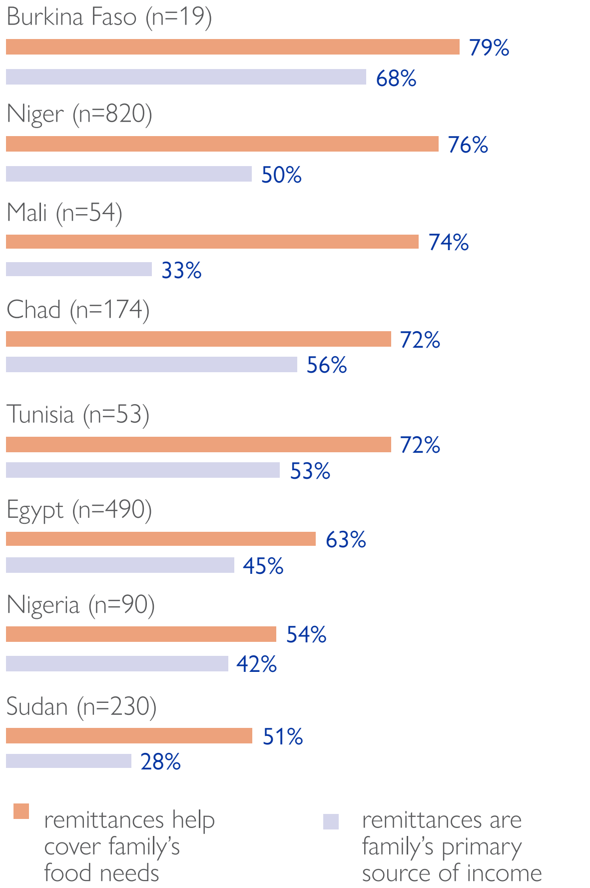


Overall, among migrants who reported being employed, fewer females stated having sent money home to their families (17%) compared to males (40%). Although a minority of women surveyed in Libya reported sending remittances, a slightly greater proportion of female migrants (50%) than males (46%) mentioned that these remittances were their family's primary source of income.

While the majority of migrants in Libya who reported having sent remittances were male (99%), a recent study on migration, the environment and climate change in Niger highlighted that more and more women are migrating (both internally and internationally), likely as a means of adaptation to environmental degradation and the changing climate to improve their economic situation and help their relatives.

More than two in three migrants (68%) surveyed by DTM during round 46 of data collection (January - February 2023) stated that the remittances they send cover their family's food needs. The percentage of migrants who reported that the money they send home helps cover their family's food needs was particularly high among those from Sahel countries including Burkina Faso (79%), Niger (76%), Mali (74%) and Chad (72%) (Fig 5) where according to the World Food Programme (WFP) acute food insecurity is on the rise as a result of a combination of conflict, climate shocks, COVID-19 and high food prices. Studies have shown that remittances can contribute to better food security and nutrition outcomes for households in the country of origin.

Figure 5 Percentage of migrants who reported that their remittances help cover their food needs and that their remittances are their family's primary source of income by nationality



Geographical patterns and trends

In line with previous rounds of data collection the majority of migrants in Libya are nationals from neighbouring countries: Niger (24%), Egypt (23%), Sudan (19%) and Chad (12%) (Fig 6). This trend highlights the influence of geographical proximity and diasporic ties as significant factors influencing migration patterns in Libya.

Overall, half of migrants in Libya were from sub-Saharan Africa (49%), over two in five were from North Africa (43%) and a minority were from the Middle East (4%) or Asia (4%) (Fig 7).

The largest migrant populations identified by DTM during round 46 of data collection were in the coastal regions of Tripoli (16%), Benghazi (12%), Misrata (10%), Ejdabia (8%), Azzawya (6%) and Almargeb (6%) (Fig 9). The coastal areas is home to the majority of urban areas and crop land, while the rest of Libya (more than 95% of the total area) is mainly desertic or arid areas.

Figure 6: Proportion of migrants by nationality

NATIONALITY	NUMBER OF MIGRANTS	% MIGRANTS
Niger	171,614	24%
Egypt	160,699	23%
Sudan	133,979	19%
Chad	86,439	12%
Nigeria	30,153	4%
Syria	24,396	3%
Bangladesh	22,119	3%
Ghana	14,606	2%
Mali	12,828	2%
Tunisia	7,150	1%
Palestine	6,701	1%
Other	4,483	1%
Eritrea	3,587	1%
Burkina Faso	3,418	0.5%
Senegal	3,388	0.5%
South Sudan	3,300	0.5%
Mauritania	2,623	0.4%
Côte d'Ivoire	2,431	0.3%
Pakistan	2,043	0.3%
Morocco	1,991	0.3%
Somalia	1,883	0.3%
Unknown	1,500	0.2%
Ethiopia	1,386	0.2%
Gambia	1,174	0.2%
Cameroon	1,150	0.2%
Guinea	1,021	0.1%
TOTAL FOR LIBYA	706,062	100%

Figure 7: Regions of origin of migrants

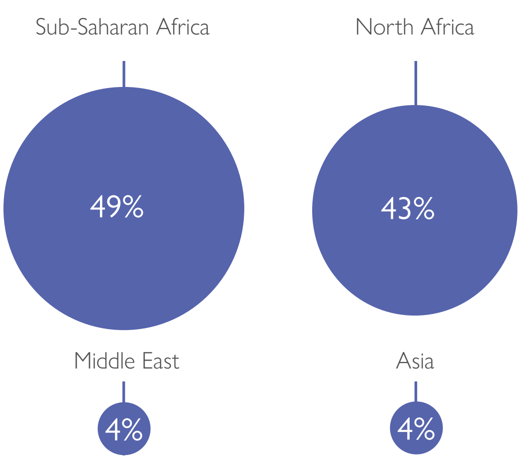
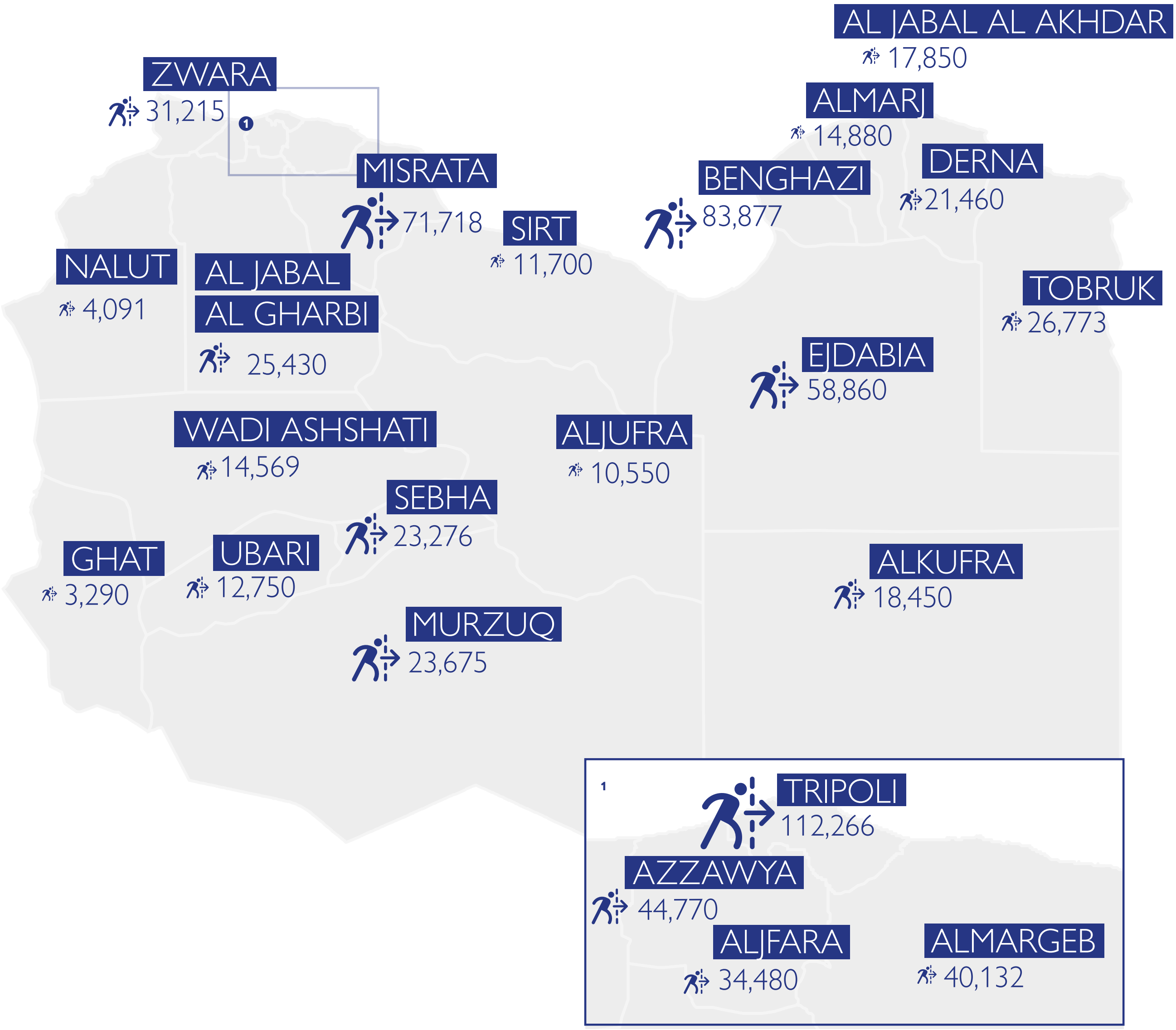


Figure 8: Number of migrants per region (mantika) during DTM round 46 data collection.



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HUMANITARIAN NEEDS

In April, IOM in collaboration with partner 'I Am Tawfik' distributed individual food kits and essential non-food items to 85 migrants in Tripoli, as well as members of the host community.

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MIGRANT VULNERABILITY AND HUMANITARIAN NEEDS

To better understand migrant vulnerabilities and humanitarian needs, DTM conducted 6,337 individual interviews with migrants in Libya in January and February 2023. The thematic findings presented in this section rely largely on these interviews.

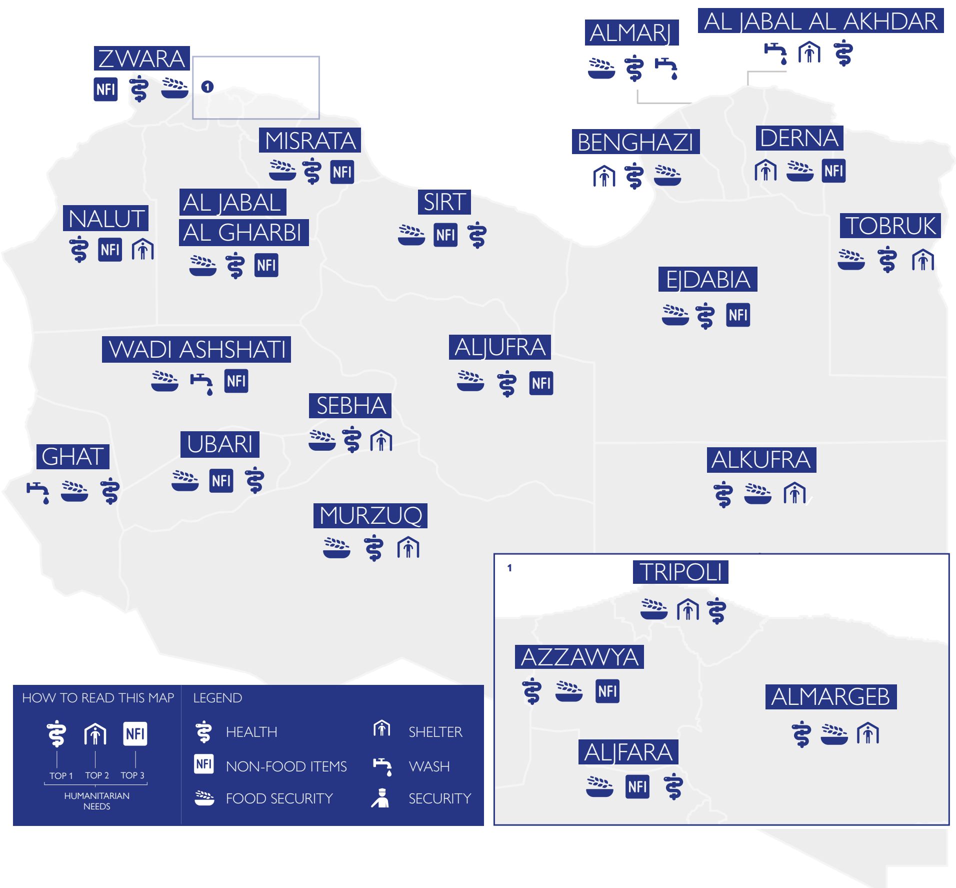
In parallel, interviews conducted by DTM Libya with 2,205 key informants across Libya in January and February 2023 highlighted that the main needs of migrants were related to health services (78%), non-food items (NFIs) (52%), accommodation (51%) and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) (22%). Food insecurity also remains a challenge, particularly for those who are most vulnerable such as unemployed migrants, and the situation is further exacerbated by food price increases. For example, nearly twice as many unemployed migrants (31%) reported that insufficient food or water was one of the three main difficulties they faced compared to those who were employed (16%).

Consistent with prior reports, according to key informants interviewed by DTM Libya the unaffordability of food, non-food items, housing and healthcare remains the main barrier for the majority of migrants to fulfil their basic needs.

The lack of accommodation options was also mentioned by key informants as an important obstacle preventing migrants from being able to secure housing.

Issues related to the lack of availability of the water network, the unaffordability of clean drinking water and the lack of waste management or disposal system at the local level were also highlighted by key informants as being essential WASH concerns affecting migrants' wellbeing.

Figure 9: Humanitarian priority needs of migrants per region (mantika)



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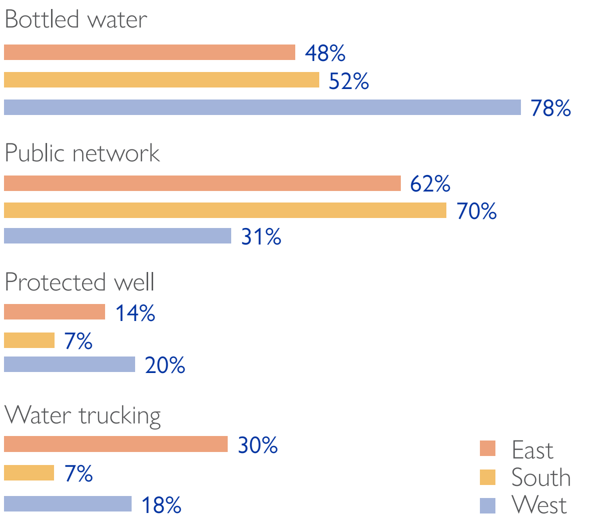
WASH

A total of 16 per cent of migrants interviewed individually in January and February 2023 stated having insufficient clean drinking water, potentially affecting their health and hygiene levels. In line with previous reports, the lack of access to clean drinking water related to a lack of infrastructure remains more problematic in southern (23%) and western Libya (17%) than in the eastern regions (4%). Moreover, a greater share of migrants surveyed in southern Libya (42%) reported having only one source of water available compared to those in the west (31%) or east (32%) of Libya.

Overall, migrants identified bottled water (62%) and the public water network (46%) as the main sources of water they relied upon. The majority of migrants interviewed in western Libya reported relying on bottled water and on the public water network in the south and east (Fig 10). A minority also mentioned that they relied on protected wells (17%), water trucking (17%) and public outdoor taps (12%) for clean drinking water. A larger share of migrants in the east (10%) and west (13%) mentioned having never access to the public water network compared to two per cent in the south. UNICEF reports that the over-exploitation of groundwater reserves in Libya is depleting the quality of the water extracted as it leads to the increased salinity and mineralization of water resources.

A third of migrants interviewed mentioned having to resort to using communal toilet shared with more than 10 individuals. This percentage was slightly greater among female migrants (36%) than males (33%).

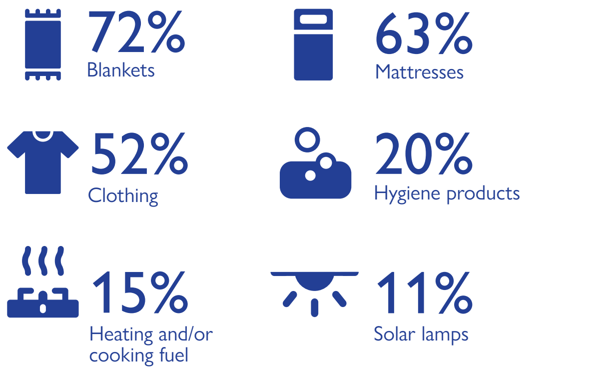
Figure 10: Main sources of drinking water (top 4) by geographical area (multiple-choice question)



NFIs

More than half of migrants interviewed by DTM Libya in January and February 2023 reported needing blankets (72%), mattresses (63%) and clothing (52%) (Fig 11). Fewer migrants identified hygiene products (20%), heating or cooking fuel (15%), solar lamps (11%), cooking utensils (10%) and detergents (6%) as items they needed.

Figure 11: Top three main non-food items needed (multiple-choice question)

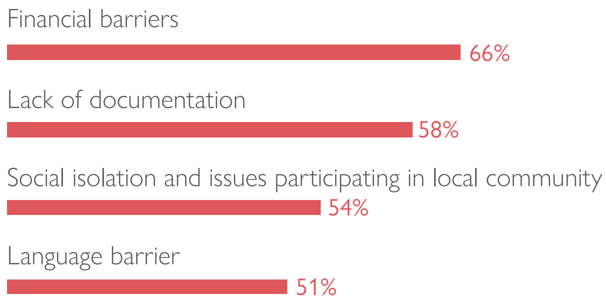


Education

A minority of migrants (6%) interviewed by DTM in January and February 2023 reported having family members aged between 5 and 18 in Libya.

Among migrants who had school-aged family members, around two in five (43%) reported that their children could not access school. The main obstacles they cited were related to financial barriers (66%), lack of documents (58%), problems related to social isolation and participation in the local community (54%) and language barrier (51%) (Fig 12).

Fig 12 Main barriers to accessing education for their children (multiple-choice question) (n = 168)



Accommodation

According to key informants, the majority of migrants (81%) lived in rented accommodation for which they paid for themselves, or that was paid for by their employers or others (Fig 13). A greater proportion of migrants in urban areas (71%) than in rural settings (60%) lived in rented accommodation (for which they paid for themselves) (Fig 14). On the contrary, more migrants in rural areas were sheltered in their workplaces (19%) than in urban areas (14%). In line with previous reports, a similar proportion were residing in housing paid for by their employers in both urban and rural settings (8% and 9%, respectively).

Unsurprisingly, unemployed migrants appeared to fare worse than those who were employed. A greater proportion of unemployed migrants interviewed by DTM Libya in January and February 2023 mentioned having been evicted or threatened with eviction (3%), particularly those who were unemployed and not actively seeking work (e.g. spouse responsible for household chores and childminding) (7%), compared to those who were employed (2%). Similarly, a higher percentage of unemployed migrants stated they live in informal housing such as occupied public or private properties, informal settings or abandoned buildings (5%) compared to those who were employed.

Moreover, unemployed migrants reported sharing their room with an average of five other individuals, compared to four for those who were employed. Living in overcrowded accommodation may be an indicator of vulnerability and can lead to unsanitary conditions that can increase the likelihood of outbreaks of food- and waterborne diseases.

Socioeconomic status, including employment situation and income levels, was identified as one of the most important determinants in migrants' ability to navigate the rental housing market in a recent DTM Libya assessment. Other factors of influence included language skills, nationality, cultural affinity and gender.

Figure 13: Migrants' types of accommodation

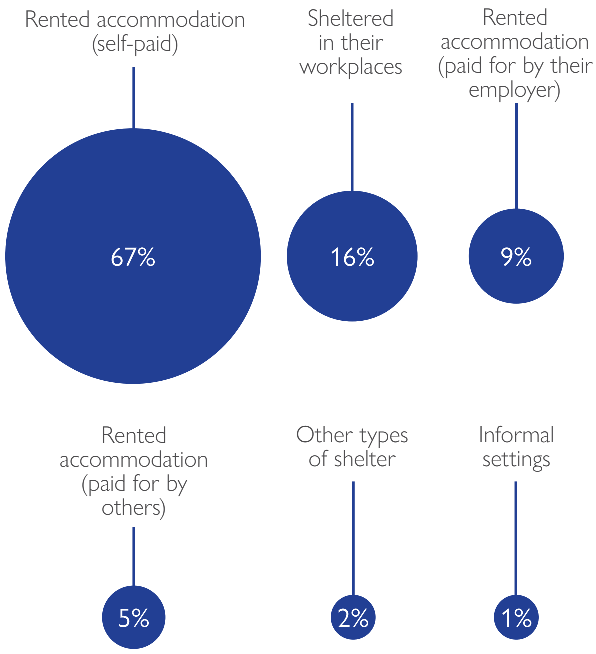
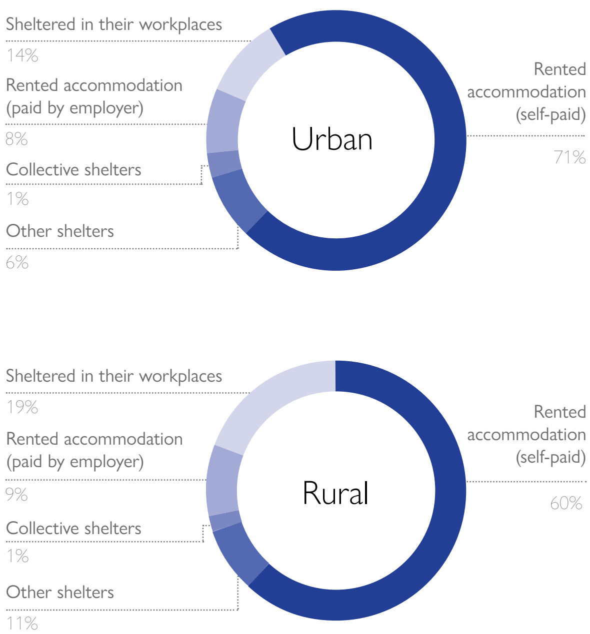


Figure 14: Migrants' types of accommodation in urban and rural settings



Health

Nearly three quarters of migrants (72%) reported having limited or no access to healthcare services in Libya. A greater proportion of migrants mentioned that their access to healthcare was constrained in the south (84%) and west (76%) of Libya compared to the east (43%).

A larger proportion of females (13%) than male migrants (9%) stated having no access to healthcare. A recent DTM study on health highlighted that a greater proportion of migrants mentioned it had been difficult to receive healthcare for female family members (29%) than males (11%), particularly for girls (under 18 years old) (67%) (compared to boys (under 18 years old) (33%)).

There appears to be a strong inverse relationship between the age of migrants and the level of access to healthcare services (Fig 14). For example, 15 per cent of those aged less than 20 mentioned having full access to healthcare compared to more than half of those aged 50 or over.

Those who reported having limited or no access to services identified being constrained by the cost (92%), the irregular supply of medicines (38%), the distance to reach care (33%), the inadequate quality of care (26%) or the lack of safe access (25%).

A recent DTM study on migrants' access to healthcare highlighted that four in five migrants had to pay (or have a family member pay) out of pocket the last time they obtained medical care. Moreover, respondents reported having paid an average of 48 LYD for a consultation with a healthcare professional, which is higher than the indicative price (set at 20 LYD). Many migrants mentioned that they would first consult a traditional healer or a pharmacist to avoid the cost of a medical consultation and would only consult a doctor if they were forced to either because of the severity (or worsening) of their condition.

The WHO Libya annual report highlighted that under-investment and the aftermath of the prolonged conflict had led to the reduced availability of basic healthcare services as well as severe shortages of staff, medicines and supplies, particularly in southern Libya.

Fig 15 Level of access to healthcare services by age group

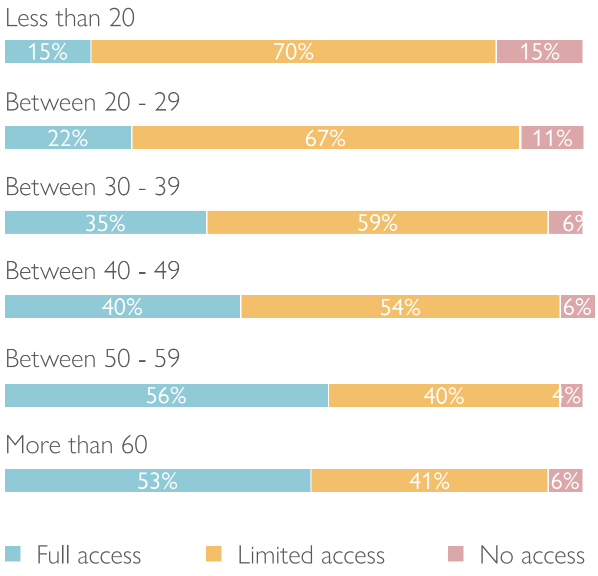
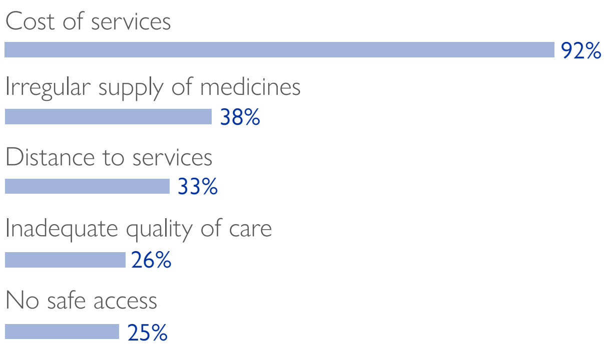


Fig 16 Main barriers to accessing healthcare services identified by migrants by location of survey (multiple-choice question)



MIGRATION FLOWS

In April, IOM in collaboration with partner 'I Am Tawfik' distributed individual food kits and essential non-food items to 85 migrants in Tripoli, as well as members of the host community.

MIGRATION FLOWS

During the reporting period (January - February 2023) DTM Libya's 43 Flow Monitoring Points (FMPs) monitored migration movements in 13 municipalities and in 8 regions (mantika) of Libya. 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 observe and measure migration flows in addition to conducting individual interviews via Flow Monitoring surveys (FMS) 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

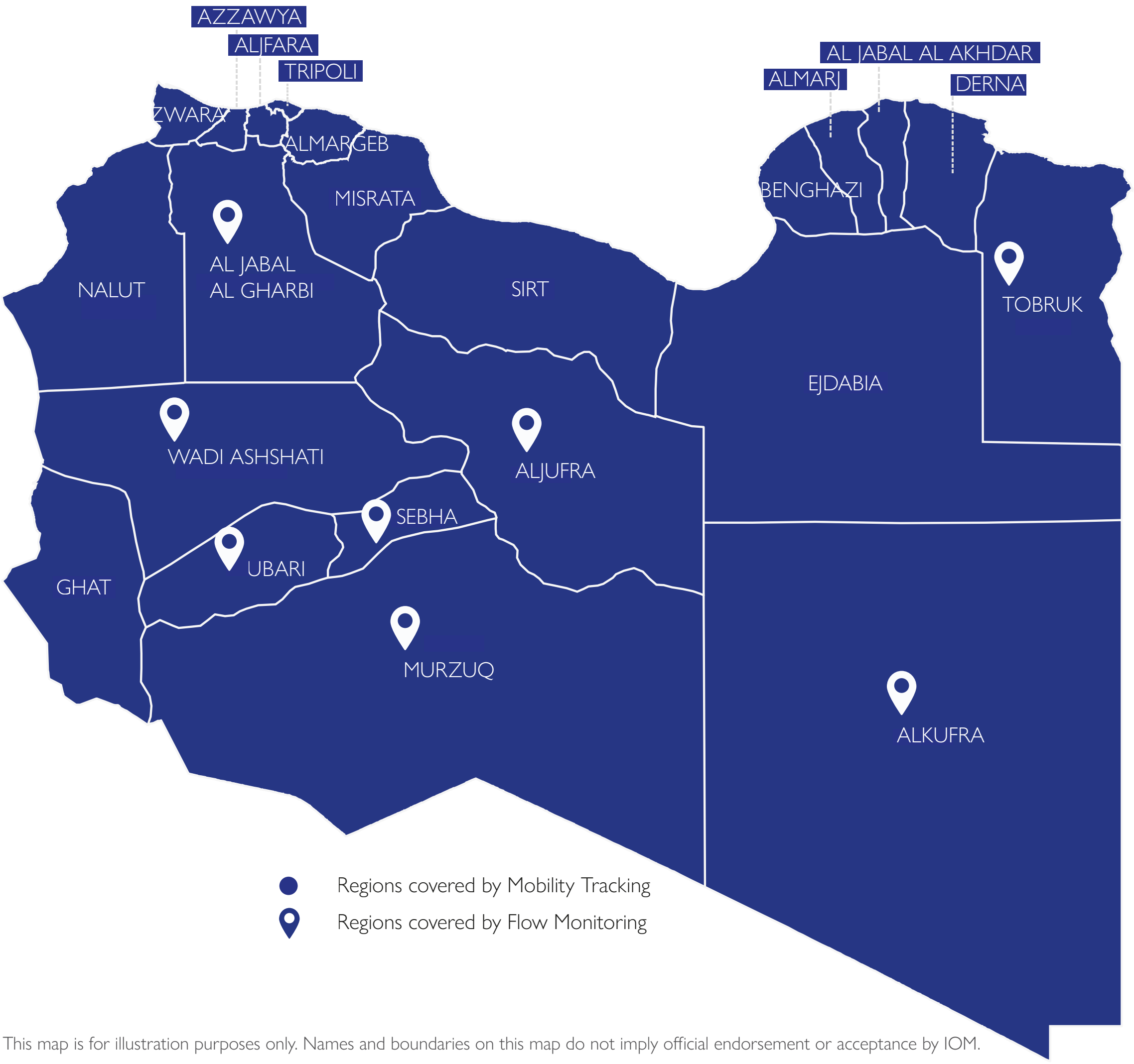
8 regions covered

447 assessments

13 municipalities

43 flow monitoring points (FMPs)

Figure 17: Regions (mantika) covered by flow monitoring and mobility tracking activities in Libya



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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 quantitative migration flow data collected through Flow Monitoring Points (FMPs).

WESTERN LIBYA

Janoub Azzawya

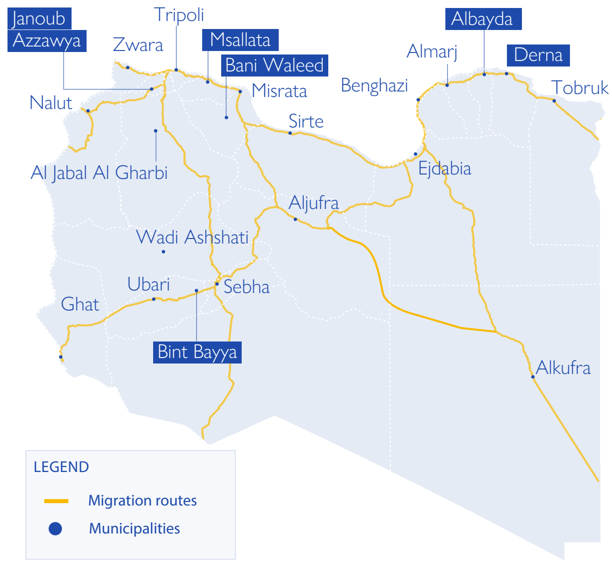
The number of migrants in the municipality of Janoub Azzawya during round 46 of data collection (2,870 migrants) was slightly higher than during the previous reporting period (Round 45, December 2022, 2,640 migrants). The municipality of Janoub Azzawya is a transit location for migrants travelling to western coastal cities. Moreover, February is the olive harvest in Janoub Azzawaya and as such according to field observers more employment opportunities were available to migrants. All migrants who were interviewed by DTM Libya in January and February 2023 in the municipality of Janoub Azzawya reported being employed.

Msalatta

The number of migrants during round 46 data collection (February 2023, 8,570 migrants) in the municipality of Msallata, located 100 kilometres southeast of Tripoli decreased slightly compared to the previous reporting period (Round 45, December 2022, 8,820 migrants). According to field reports, some migrants moved to surrounding municipalities due to a lack of job opportunities and the increasing prices of food in Msallata. A total of 39 per cent of migrants interviewed by DTM Libya in January and February 2023 were unemployed compared to 25 per cent across Libya. Moreover, a greater proportion of migrants interviewed in the municipality of Msallata (69%) than across Libya (61%) reported facing financial difficulties confirming the field reports.

Based on field reports, some migrants also reportedly expressed concerns about a lack of availability of health services and the high cost of healthcare. All migrants (100%) interviewed in Msallata stated having limited or no access to health services in Libya compared to 72 per cent across Libya.

Figure 18: Map of municipalities analysed



Bani Waleed

The number of migrants in Bani Waleed during round 46 data collection (February, 4,687 migrants) increased slightly compared to the previous reporting period (Round 45, December, 4,285 migrants). Bani Waleed, located around 170 kilometres southeast of Tripoli is a transit location for migrants traveling to coastal cities.

In February, many buildings were destroyed as part of a campaign by the Libyan authorities to demolish buildings deemed illegally constructed. According to field reports, some of the buildings destroyed were used as accommodation by migrants while others were workplaces where migrants were employed. Nearly half of migrants interviewed by DTM Libya in January and February 2023 in the municipality of Bani Waleed (49%) were unemployed compared to 25 per cent across Libya.

EASTERN LIBYA

Derna

The number of migrants in Derna during round 46 data collection (February, 9,210 migrants) increased compared to the previous reporting period (Round 45, December, 8,810 migrants). According to field observers, migrants moved from neighbouring municipalities to Derna due to the availability of job opportunities. A minority (3%) of migrants interviewed by DTM Libya in January and February 2023 were unemployed, a percentage that is significantly lower than the migrant unemployment rate across Libya (25%) confirming the field reports. A lower proportion of migrants interviewed in Derna (25%) also reported that financial issues were among the three main difficulties they faced compared to those surveyed across Libya (61%).

Albayda

The number of migrants in Albyada during round 46 data collection (February, 14,300 migrants) increased compared to the previous reporting period (Round 45, December, 10,400 migrants). According to field reports, migrants moved to Albayda from neighbouring municipalities in search of job opportunities. All migrants interviewed by DTM Libya in January and February 2023 were employed. Moreover, half as many migrants in Albayda (30%) reported that financial issues were among the three main difficulties they faced compared to those surveyed across Libya (61%).

SOUTHERN LIBYA

Bint Bayya

The number of migrants in Bint Bayya during round 46 data collection (February, 4,750 migrants) increased compared to the previous reporting period (Round 45, December, 4,560 migrants). According to field reports, the stable situation and safe environment in the municipality of Bint Bayya likely contributes to attracting many migrant workers in search of job opportunities and intending to reunite with their families and relatives in Libya.

Field observers noted that the health facilities in the municipality were inadequate for both migrants and local inhabitants. Among migrants interviewed in Bint Bayya by DTM Libya in January and February 2023, all reported having limited (60%) or no access (40%) to health services. The main barriers they identified were related to the cost of services (75%), the distance needed to travel to reach healthcare (71%) and the inadequate quality of care provided (44%).

MIGRATION ROUTES TO LIBYA

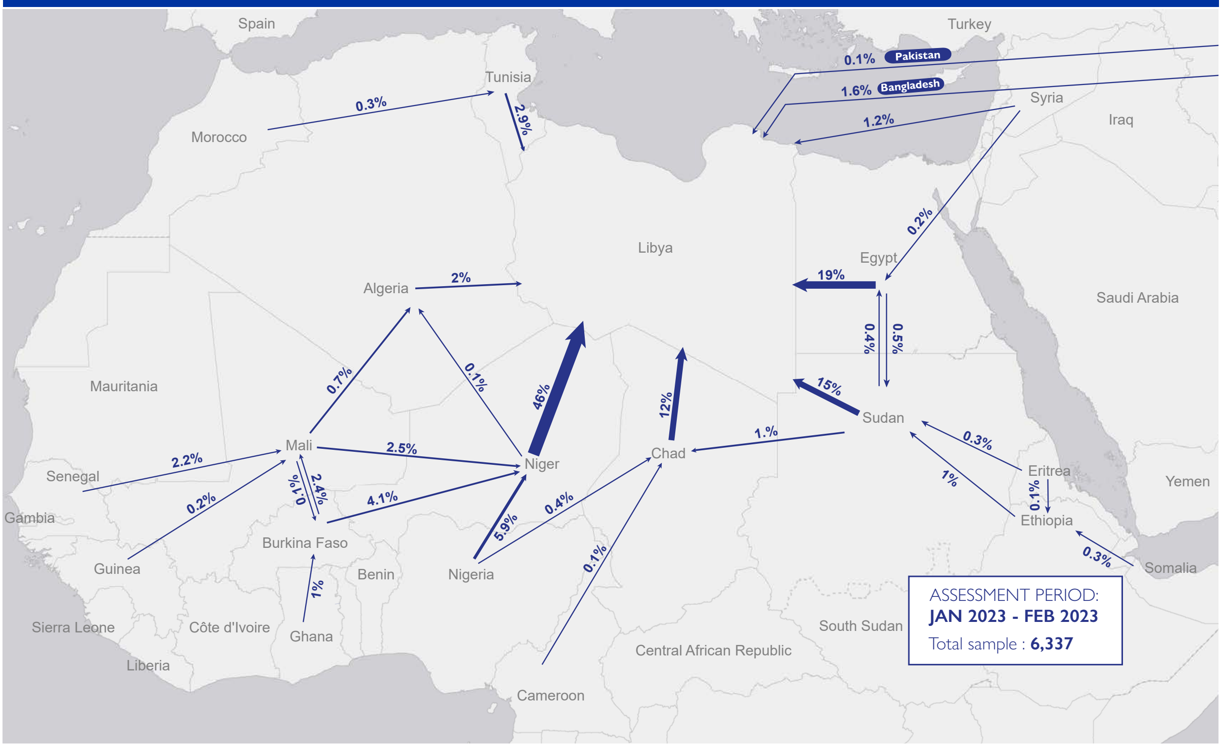
Libya shares more than 4,300 km of land borders with six countries. This section maps the major migration routes that migrants from different countries of origin use to reach Libya. This analysis is based on 6,337 individual quantitative migrant interviews conducted at key locations including transit points throughout Libya (through DTM Flow Monitoring Surveys (FMS)) in January and February 2023.

Two thirds of migrants (66%) interviewed in January and February 2023 reported having used the services of migration facilitators, which also represented the largest expense incurred for the majority of migrants (72%) during their journey to Libya. The majority of migrants mentioned having hired the services of migration facilitators primarily for transportation (91%). Around half reported having paid for migration facilitator services to help them cross difficult areas along the route (49%). A minority used the services of migration facilitators for help with food and water (27%), information (23%), housing (16%), security (15%) and documents (6%).

Figure 19: 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.



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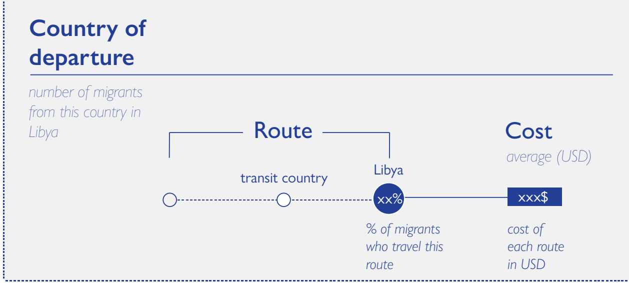
MIGRATION ROUTES: ANALYSIS AND TRENDS

This section 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 drawing on data collected by DTM Libya over the period January - February 2023.

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



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

Algeria

726 migrants

Tunisia → Libya	56%	499$
Direct → Libya	41%	509$
Niger → Libya	3%	600$

road: private transport (own or rented car)	road: public transport (e.g. bus or shared transport)	air
63%	19%	18%

East	South	West
11%	7%	82%

Bangladesh

22,149 migrants

Türkiye → Libya	47%	3,695$
Direct → Libya	25%	3,398$
UAE → Egypt → Libya	7%	2,907$
* → Libya	21%	2,050$

*Multiple routes used that included one or a combination of the following countries: Egypt, India, Jordan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the Syrian Arab Republic, Sudan, Türkiye, Tunisia, UAE (and other countries)

road (public or private transport)	air
1%	99%

East	South	West
18%	2%	80%

Burkina Faso

3,418 migrants

Niger → Libya	98%	658$
Mali → Niger → Libya	2%	450$

road: private transport (own or rented car)	road: public transport (e.g. bus or shared transport)
88%	12%

East	South	West
	90%	10%

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

Chad

86,439 migrants

Libya	99%	625$
Niger → Libya	1%	381$

road		
private transport	83%	
public transport	17%	

East	South	West
14%	11%	75%

Egypt

160,699 migrants

Libya	97%	1,099$
Sudan → Libya	2%	3,591$
* → Libya	1%	3,281$

*Multiple routes used that included one or a combination of the following countries: United Arab Emirates, Chad, Sudan and Tunisia.

road: private transport *(own or rented car)*	48%
road: public transport *(e.g. bus or shared transport)*	21%
air	25%
foot	6%

East	South	West
43%	4%	53%

Mali

12,828 migrants

Niger → Libya	65%	682$
Burkina Faso → Niger → Libya	22%	706$
Algeria → Libya	13%	737$

road: private transport *(own or rented car)*	72%
road: public transport *(e.g. bus or shared transport)*	26%
foot	1%

East	South	West
3%	60%	37%

Niger

171,614 migrants

Libya	96%	520$
Algeria → Libya	2%	458$
Chad → Libya	2%	657$

road: private transport *(own or rented car)*	72%
road: public transport *(e.g. bus or shared transport)*	28%

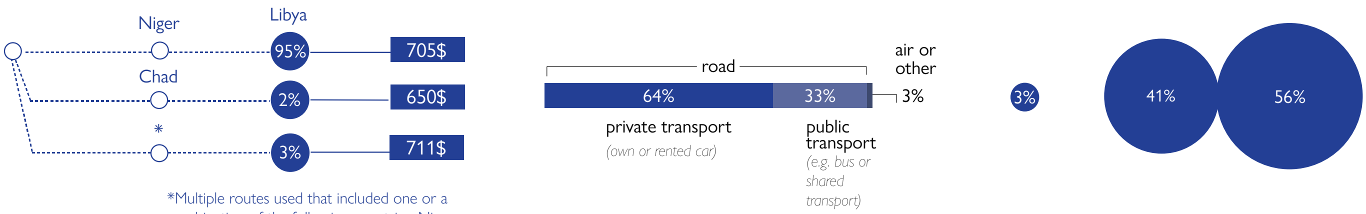
East	South	West
1%	37%	62%

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

East *South* *West*

Nigeria

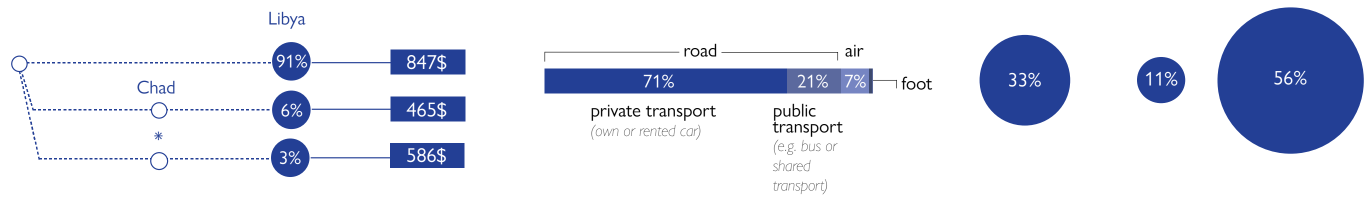
30,153 migrants



*Multiple routes used that included one or a combination of the following countries: Niger, Chad, Mali, Tunisia and Algeria

Sudan

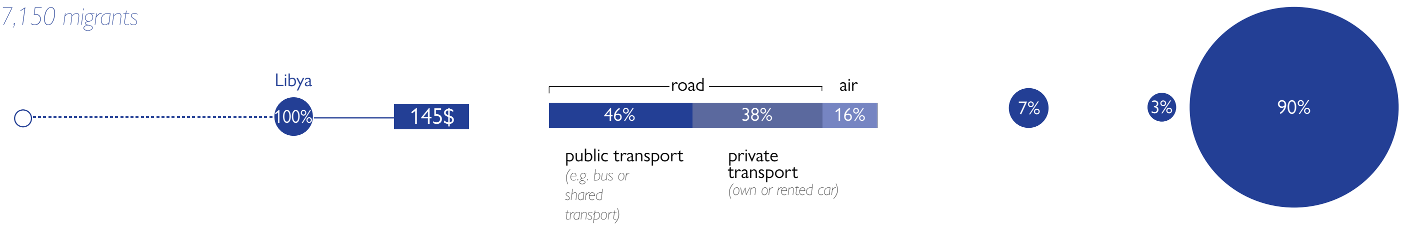
133,979 migrants



*Multiple routes used that included one or more of the following countries: Chad, Egypt, Niger and/or Tunisia

Tunisia

7,150 migrants



REGIONAL ANALYSIS

Before being assisted to return home, a migrant's health is being assessed by an IOM employee in Benghazi. Migrants who sign up for the Voluntary Humanitarian Return programme are also provided with pre-departure transportation assistance, counselling services and undergo a protection screening.

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REGIONAL ANALYSIS - DISTRIBUTION

Key informant interviews conducted by DTM Libya in January and February 2023 revealed that over half of migrants were located in the west (53%), while a minority were in the east (34%) or the south (13%).

More than half of migrants (58%) were located in the coastal regions of Tripoli (16%), Benghazi (12%), Misrata (10%), Ejdabia (8%), Azzawya (6%) and Almargeb (6%), in line with previous reports.

Key informants interviewed in January and February 2023, estimated that two in three migrants (67%) lived in urban settings while a third (33%) resided in rural areas. In comparison, it is estimated that 80 per cent of the Libyan population reside in urban areas, mainly concentrated in the major urban centres along the Mediterranean, such as Tripoli, Misrata and Benghazi.

2 in 3

migrants identified by DTM Libya during round 46 lived in urban areas

Figure 20: Distribution of migrants by geographical area

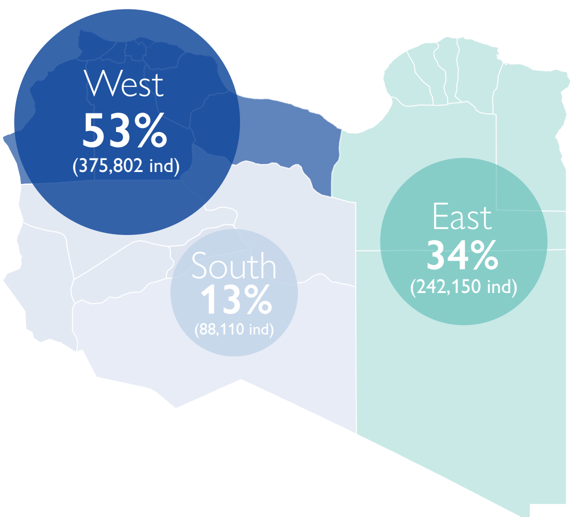


Figure 21: Migrants in Libya by region (mantika) (based on Mobility Tracking data)

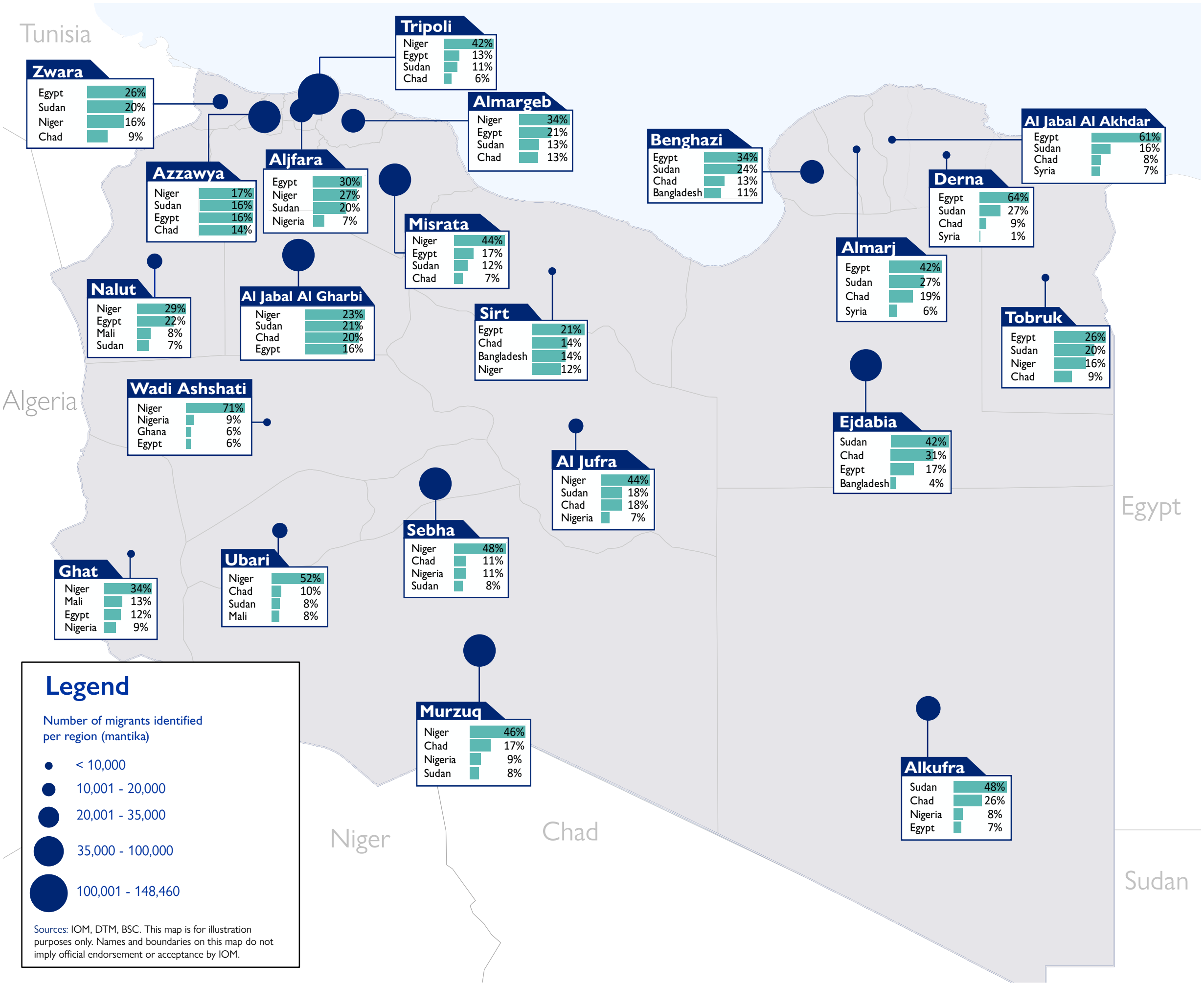
MANTIKA (REGION)	NUMBER OF MIGRANTS	% BY REGION
Tripoli	122,266	16%
Benghazi	83,877	12%
Misrata	71,718	10%
Ejdabia	58,860	8%
Azzawya	44,770	6%
Almargeb	40,132	6%
Aljfara	34,480	5%
Zwara	31,215	4%
Tobruk	26,773	4%
Al Jabal Al Gharbi	25,430	4%
Murzuq	23,675	3%
Sebha	23,276	3%
Derna	21,460	3%
Alkufra	18,450	3%
Al Jabal Al Akhdar	17,850	3%
Almarj	14,880	2%
Wadi Ashshati	14,569	2%
Ubari	12,750	2%
Sirt	11,700	2%
Aljufra	10,550	1%
Nalut	4,091	1%
Ghat	3,290	<1%
TOTAL FOR LIBYA	706,062	100%

REGIONAL ANALYSIS: NATIONALITIES OF MIGRANTS

The map below (Fig 22) shows the top four nationalities of migrants by region as per Mobility Tracking round 46 data collection (January and February 2023). This map highlights that the distribution of migrants in Libya is largely influenced by the socioeconomic, ethnic and cultural ties that developed over time through the circular migration of populations from neighbouring countries, particularly Niger, Egypt, Sudan and Chad.

Migrants from neighbouring Niger and Chad were the most-represented nationalities in the southern and western regions of Murzuq, Sebha and Ubari. Sudanese and Chadians represented the majority of migrants in the region of Alkufra, which is the main entry point for migrants traveling to Libya particularly those coming from or transiting through Chad and Sudan. Similarly, migrants from Egypt constituted the largest share of migrants in the eastern coastal regions of Libya, such as Al Jabal Al Akhdar, Derna, Almarj, Tobruk and Benghazi.

Figure 22: Map of top 4 migrant nationalities per region (mantika)



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REGION OF ORIGIN ANALYSIS

Based on key informant interviews conducted in January and February 2023, migrants from North African countries (including Egypt and Sudan) continue to account for over two thirds of migrants in eastern Libya (67%) while migrants from sub-Saharan African countries (such as Niger and Chad) represent the bulk of migrants in southern and western Libya (87% and 57%, respectively). The complete disaggregation of migrants' region of origins by regional location (mantika) in Libya is shown in the table below (Fig 23).

Figure 23: 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	2,031	8%	1,825	3%	13,974	9%
	Alkufra	303	1%	8,011	15%	10,136	6%
	Almarj	1,132	4%	3,481	7%	10,267	6%
	Benghazi	16,474	61%	18,526	35%	48,877	30%
	Derna	172	1%	1,858	4%	19,430	12%
	Ejdabia	5,104	19%	18,697	35%	35,059	22%
	Tobruk	1,812	7%	619	1%	24,342	15%
EASTERN LIBYA TOTAL		**27,028**	**11%**	**53,017**	**22%**	**162,085**	**67%**
SOUTH	Aljufra	-	-	8,244	11%	2,306	22%
	Ghat	-	-	2,538	3%	752	7%
	Murzuq	227	24%	21,180	28%	2,242	21%
	Sebha	515	54%	20,609	27%	2,152	20%
	Ubari	144	15%	10,597	14%	2,009	19%
	Wadi Ashshati	65	7%	13,406	18%	1,098	10%
SOUTHERN LIBYA TOTAL		**951**	**1%**	**76,574**	**87%**	**10,559**	**12%**
WEST	Al Jabal al Gharbi	720	3%	14,239	7%	10,461	8%
	Aljfara	699	2%	16,201	8%	17,580	13%
	Almargeb	1,872	7%	24,311	11%	13,949	11%
	Azzawya	1,327	5%	26,926	13%	16,517	13%
	Misrata	6,184	22%	42,503	20%	22,985	17%
	Nalut	166	1%	2,346	1%	1,550	1%
	Sirt	4,155	15%	3,720	2%	3,825	3%
	Tripoli	12,399	44%	69,851	33%	28,524	22%
	Zwara	855	3%	13,850	6%	16,510	13%
WESTERN LIBYA TOTAL		**28,377**	**8%**	**213,947**	**57%**	**131,901**	**35%**
TOTAL FOR LIBYA		**56,356**		**343,538**		**304,545**	

Note: 1,623 migrants from other minority nationalities (including those whose nationalities could not be established) are not included in the table above.

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

Individuals from neighbouring Niger and Chad constitute three quarters of migrants from sub-Saharan Africa in Libya (50% and 25%, respectively) (Fig 24 and 25). In line with previous reports, the number of migrants from sub-Saharan Africa, including nationals of Niger and Chad, has risen slightly compared to the previous round of data collection from 340,057 to 343,538 individuals.

In January 2023, DTM Niger observed an increase in the number of migrants traveling to Libya for economic reasons coinciding with the end of the harvest season in their countries of origin. However, DTM Niger also noted a decrease in incoming and outgoing flows of individuals traveling to and from Libya in February corresponding to the beginning of the month of Ramadan and individuals traveling home to spend time with family, as well as an increase in the price of fuel, making it less attractive to travel to Libya to seek economic opportunities because of a surge in transportation costs.

Overall, more than half of migrants (58%) interviewed in Libya in 2023 had transited through, or came from Niger or Chad.

Figure 25: Number of migrants from countries of origin in sub-Saharan Africa (top 6 nationalities)

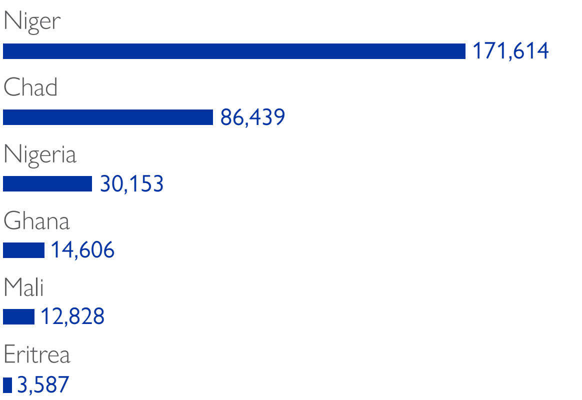
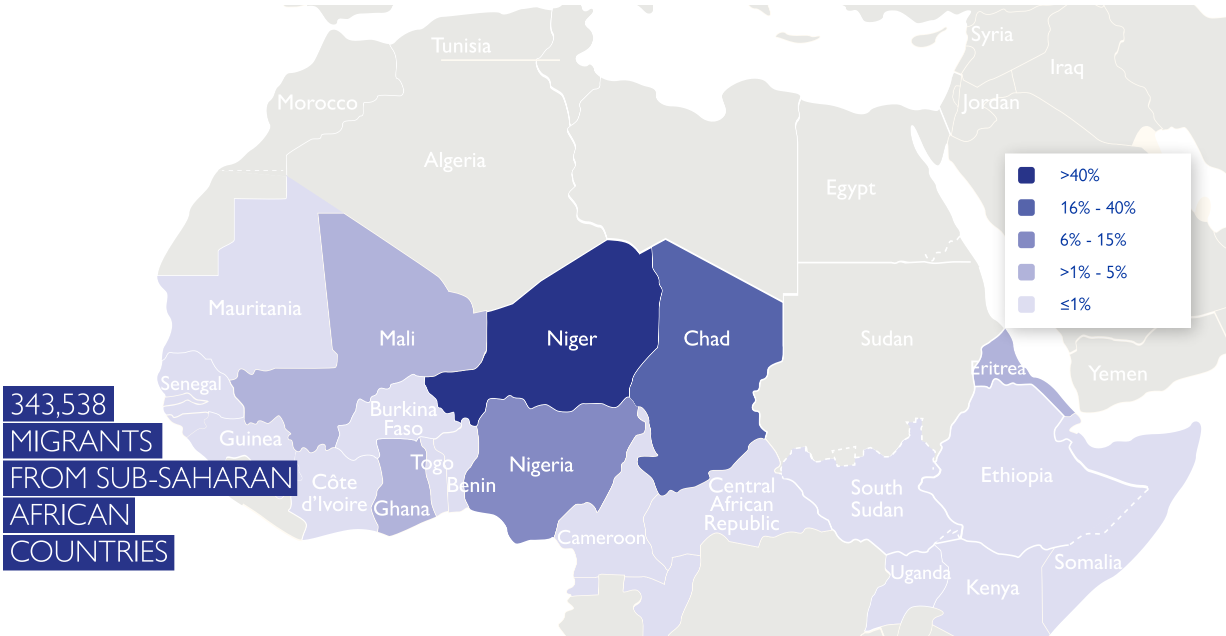


Figure 24: Percentages of migrants by country of origin for the sub-Saharan Africa region



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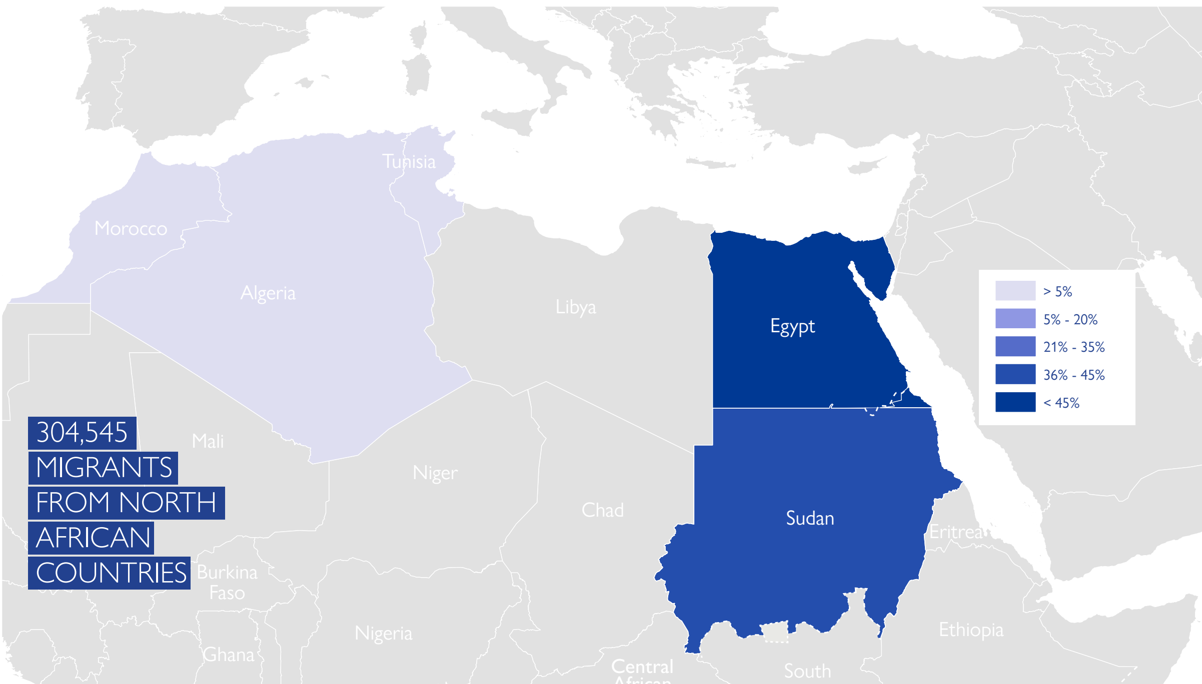
NORTH AFRICA

In line with a trend that started at the end of 2021, the number of North African migrants continued to rise slightly compared to the previous round of data collection from 297,505 individuals in December 2022 to 304,545 in February 2023.

In line with previous reports, more than half of North African migrants in Libya were nationals of Egypt (53%) and Sudan (44%) while migrants from Tunisia and Morocco together accounted for three per cent of the total number of migrants from North Africa. Overall, more than two in five migrants in Libya were from North Africa (43% or 304,545 individuals).

Figure 27: Migrants from countries of origin in North Africa

Figure 26: Percentages of migrants by country of origin for the North African region



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MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA

A minority of migrants (8% or 56,356 individuals) identified during round 46 were from the Middle East (4%) or Asia (4%).

The majority of individuals from Asia and the Middle East were from Syria (24,396 individuals) and Bangladesh (22,119 individuals) accounting for 43 and 39 per cent of migrants (including refugees), respectively (Fig 29). Individuals from Bangladesh and Syria each accounted for three per cent of the overall migrant population in Libya. In addition, there were 6,701 migrants who self-identified as Palestinians (12% of all migrants from the Middle East and Asia in Libya) and 2,043 migrants from Pakistan (4%). There were 1,097 individuals from other nationalities who accounted for two per cent of the migrant population from the Middle East and South Asia.

A recently published DTM Libya brief highlighted that the cost of travel of migrants from Bangladesh to reach Libya ranged between 450 to 4,889 USD. In 2022, 15,228 migrants from Bangladesh arrived in Italy via the Central Mediterranean Route with a majority transiting through Libya. A total of 4,448 migrants from Bangladesh who attempted the sea crossing were intercepted and returned to Libya.

Figure 29: Migrants from countries of origin in Asia and the Middle East

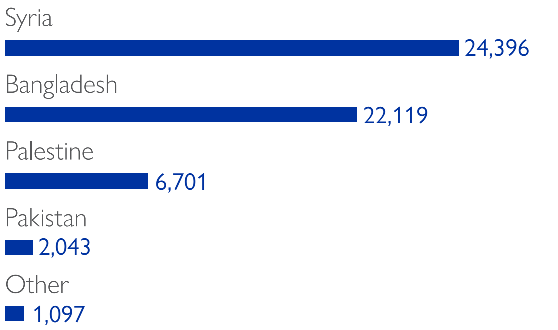
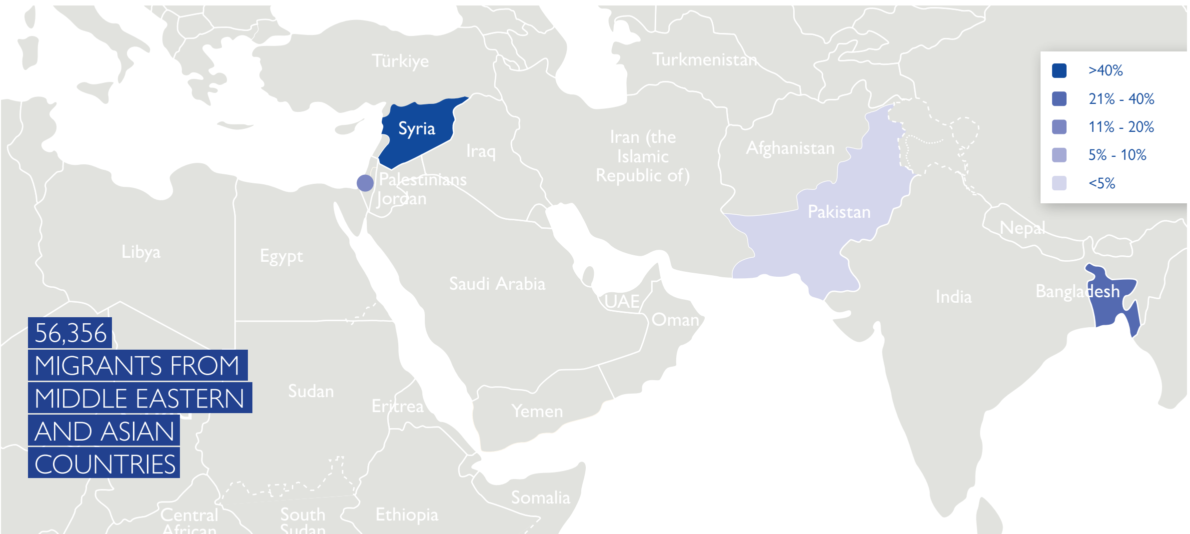


Figure 28: Percentages of migrants by country of origin for the Middle East and South Asia



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MARITIME INCIDENTS

Arrivals to Italy and Malta

During the months of January and February 2023, a total of 14,948 migrants arrived in Italy and Malta from Libya and Tunisia via the Central Mediterranean Sea compared to 5,474 individuals during the corresponding period in 2022 and 5,098 in 2021 (Fig 30).

Interceptions and returns to Libyan shores

During the reporting period, and as of 04 March 2023, a total of 3,046 migrants who attempted the Central Mediterranean Sea crossing were intercepted and returned to Libyan shores which is more than in 2022 (2,933 individuals) but fewer than in 2021 (4,029 individuals) over the corresponding period.

Fatalities at sea

In January and February 2023, a total of 279 deaths and disappearances were recorded on the Central Mediterranean route, which is more than in 2022 (205), 2021 (210) and 2020 (116) during the same period (Fig 31).

Of note, more than 70 people were reported missing and presumed dead following a shipwreck off the Libyan coast on 14 February 2023.

The Central Mediterranean route remains the deadliest among all migratory routes to Europe

Figure 30: Arrivals by sea via Central Mediterranean route to Italy and Malta (2019 - 2023) (number of individuals)

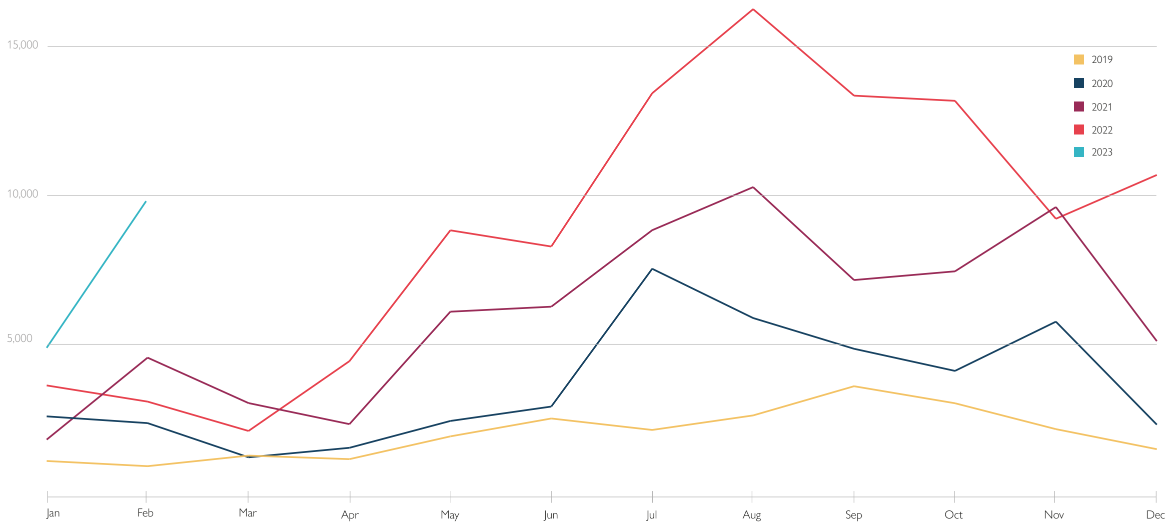
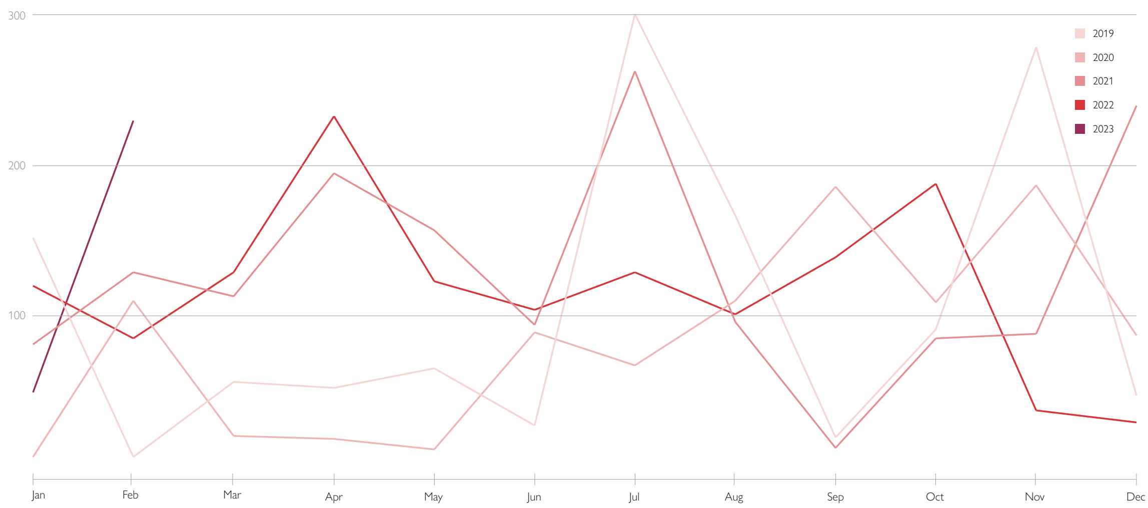


Figure 31: Number of deaths and missing individuals on the Central Mediterranean route by year (2019 - 2022)



METHODOLOGY

DTM's Migration Information Package includes DTM Libya Migrant Report and Migrant Public Dataset and is part of 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 Multisectoral 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 44 flow monitoring points (FMPs) in eight regions of Libya.

Analysis of migrant routes along with other aspects of migration, including migrant vulnerabilities and humanitarian needs is based on the microlevel data collected through quantitative interviews via Flow Monitoring Surveys (FMS) with migrants who provided their informed consent.

Limitations

Migrants in Libya are a highly heterogenous group and their situation is very dynamic. The face-to-face interviews took place mainly in markets, public buildings, work recruitment points, collective accommodations and transit points along key migration routes, which means that the results of the assessment are representative of migrants who frequent these public places. Migrants who may not be able to frequent these public places are less likely to have been included in the assessment. While this (purposive) sampling approach limits the findings on migration routes and migrant vulnerabilities from being fully statistically representative of the demographic make-up of the entire migrant stock in Libya, it represents a large-scale assessment of migrants present in Libya.

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 several 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	
108 enumerators	**6,337** migrants interviewed (Round 46, Flow Monitoring Survey)	**2,205** key informant interviews
3 team leaders	**43** Flow Monitoring Points (FMPs) are active in 8 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:

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