IOM LIBYA

MIGRANT REPORT ROUND 49

JULY - SEPTEMBER 2023

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Cover photo: _IOM Libya conducted a session for migrant women and scout leaders on the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse © IOM / 2023_

CONTENTS

KEY FINDINGS

ROUND 49 (JULY - SEPTEMBER 2023)

DTM — IOM·OIM

697,532

migrants were identified by DTM Libya during round 49 of data collection (July-September 2023). Around eight in ten (79%) were adult males, 11 per cent adult females, and 10 per cent were children (among whom 4% were unaccompanied).

LOCATION

West 56%

East 31%

South 13%
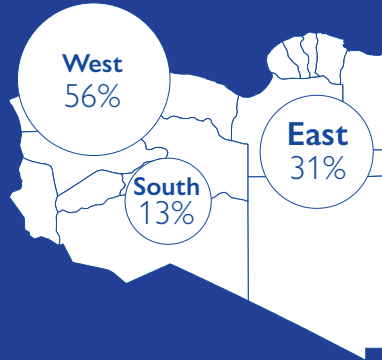
UNEMPLOYMENT

18%

of migrants interviewed between July and September 2023 stated that they were unemployed and actively seeking work — a rate that is on par with that of pre-pandemic levels (17%) for the first time in a year and a half (April 2022).

The percentage of female migrants who were unemployed and actively seeking work (48%) remains more than twice that of males (17%). A greater percentage of female migrants also mentioned facing financial difficulties (84%), a lack of clean drinking water (40%) and insecurity (e.g. attacks or assaults) (35%) compared to male migrants (57%, 17% and 22% respectively).

COST OF JOURNEY

Migrants reported that their journey to Libya cost on average 731 USD per person. For the majority of migrants (70%) the largest expense they incurred was related to the cost of migration facilitators. More than two thirds of migrants (69%) used their savings and 45 per cent incurred debt to fund their journey to Libya.

TOP 5 NATIONALITIES
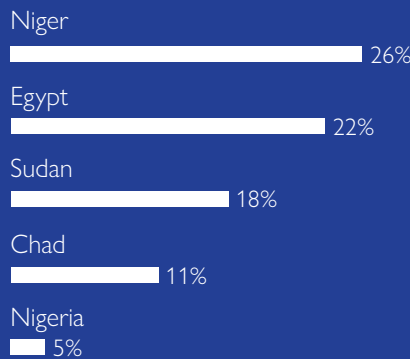
Niger — 26%

Egypt — 22%

Sudan — 18%

Chad — 11%

Nigeria — 5%

WHAT ARE THE THREE MAIN DIFFICULTIES MIGRANTS ARE FACING?

(multiple-choice question)

Financial issues — 58%

Identity document issues — 26%

Attacks or assaults — 22%

Lack of information (e.g. on employment opportunities) — 19%

Food or water insecurity — 18%

IOM — UN MIGRATION

OVERVIEW

IOM Libya's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) programme identified a total of 697,532 migrants from 45 nationalities in the 100 Libyan municipalities during round 49 of data collection (July - September 2023).

The number of migrants in Libya has continued to decrease slightly compared to the previous round of data collection (from 704,369 migrants, round 48 to 697,532 migrants, round 49) in line with a trend that started at the beginning of 2023 when there were 706,472 migrants (round 46, January - February 2023).

A range of factors may have contributed to the continued decrease in the number of migrants in Libya, including the fact that Niger's borders were momentarily partially closed following the coup d'état in July. Niger is a country of transit for migrants from Western Africa, including those travelling north towards Libya (and Algeria) in addition to being a country of destination and origin. Niger shares borders with Nigeria, Benin, Burkina Faso, Mali, Algeria, Chad and Libya. Overall, between January and September 2023 more than two fifths of migrants (43%) came from, or had transited through Niger on their way to Libya.

In parallel, the increased security controls along Libya's borders as well as a wave of arrests and collective expulsions into Chad, Egypt, Niger, Sudan and Tunisia noted by the UN Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) may have also further contributed to the decrease in the number of migrants.

Furthermore, a rise in the number of migrants attempting to cross the Mediterranean Sea from Libya was also observed during the reporting period as 68,302 arrivals from Libya and Tunisia were registered in Italy, making it the quarter with the highest number of recorded arrivals since 2016. In comparison, the arrivals of 44,157 migrant to Italy were documented during the corresponding period last year.

Since the beginning of 2021, and up until February 2023, the number of migrants in Libya had been increasing after having declined in 2020 as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and its socioeconomic impact.

For the first time since April 2022 the unemployment rate among migrants interviewed between July and September (18%) was on par with pre-COVID-19 pandemic levels (17%). Still, around three in five migrants

(58%) reported that financial difficulties were among the three main challenges they faced. In addition, the conditions of employed migrants continue to be characterised by precarity for nearly half of migrants (48%) who cited that job insecurity is one of the main risks they face on the labour market. Nearly half of migrants interviewed between July and September were employed on a short-term or casual basis (47%). Other challenges that migrants reported included employers paying lower wages than agreed (43%), verbal abuse (32%) and withheld wages (25%).
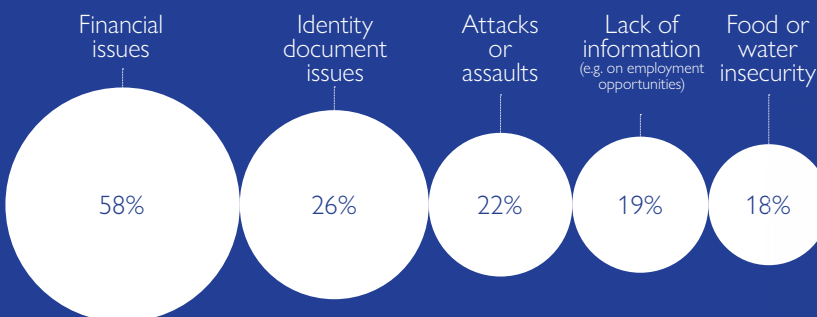
The percentage of female migrants who were unemployed and actively seeking work (48%) remains more than twice that of males (17%). A greater percentage of female migrants also mentioned facing financial difficulties (84%), a lack of clean drinking water (40%) and insecurity (e.g. attacks or assaults) (35%) compared to male migrants (57%, 17% and 22% respectively). The share of female migrants reporting difficulties was highest among those who were either single and never married, divorced, widowed or separated compared to males in the same situation (Fig 1).

Figure 1: Top three main difficulties faced by migrants by marital status and sex (multiple-choice question)

Financial issues
- Females (n=78): 85%
- Males (n=3,686): 60%
- Females (n=185): 83%
- Males (n=2,056): 51%

Hunger or lack of safe drinking water
- Females (n=78): 50%
- Males (n=3,686): 20%
- Females (n=185): 30%
- Males (n=2,056): 13%

Attacks or assaults
- Females (n=78): 46%
- Males (n=3,686): 22%
- Females (n=185): 30%
- Males (n=2,056): 20%

Identity documents issues
- Females (n=78): 10%
- Males (n=3,686): 28%
- Females (n=185): 32%
- Males (n=2,056): 23%

Lack of information
- Females (n=78): 10%
- Males (n=3,686): 19%
- Females (n=185): 29%
- Males (n=2,056): 18%

Single, widowed, separated or divorced
- Females (n=78)
- Males (n=3,686)

Married
- Females (n=185)
- Males (n=2,056)

Finding employment

The majority of migrants who were employed (64%) stated having found employment within two months of arriving in Libya while for a quarter (26%) it took longer. A minority (10%) had secured employment prior to arriving in Libya.

Individual interviews with migrants continue to point to the disproportionate difficulty for female migrants to secure work in Libya compared to males, in line with the findings of a previous DTM Libya study. For example, two thirds of male migrants mentioned having found work (65%) within two months of arriving in Libya compared to slightly over a third of female migrants (36%). Similarly, nearly twice as many females (59%) i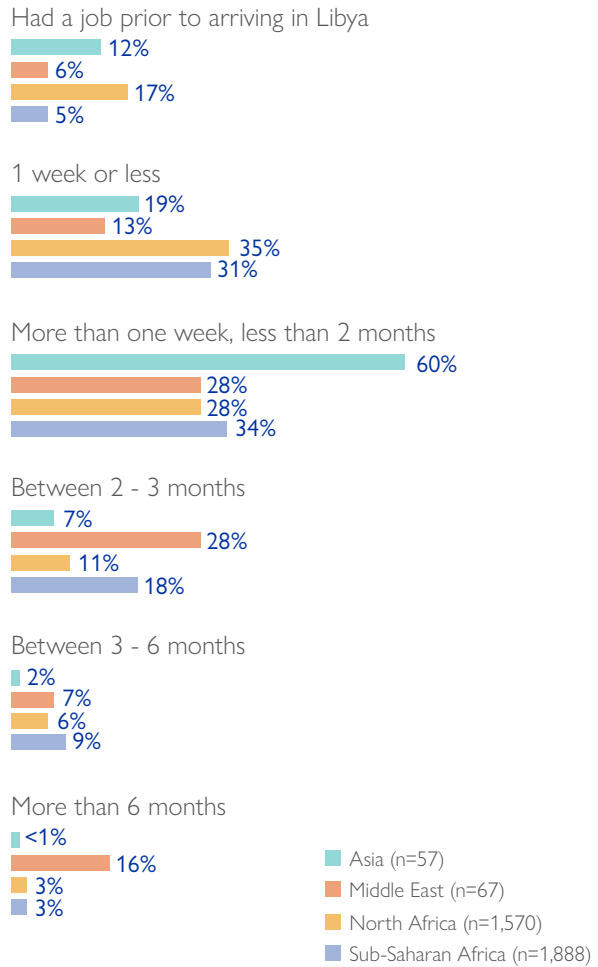nterviewed by DTM Libya between July and September 2023 compared to males (30%) stated that it took longer than two months for them to find work in Libya.

The unequal access to the labour market for women may be related to some companies being less willing to hire female migrant workers compared to their male counterparts, according to a UNDP report and an IOM Libya assessment. An additional factor that may restrict migrant women's access to livelihoods opportunities could be related to the increased security and safety threats (e.g. attacks, kidnapping and theft) they may face when traveling to seek livelihood opportunities (e.g. using taxis, passing through checkpoints). A greater proportion of female migrants interviewed by DTM Libya between July and September 2023 mentioned that attacks or assaults were one of the three main difficulties they faced (35%) compared to their male counterparts (22%). A recent DTM Libya study highlighted that these security issues were particularly acute for those who do not possess documentation, or lack cultural affinity with the Libyan society — two factors which have been identified as leading to an increased risk of detention.

Overall, a greater proportion of migrants from North Africa (17%) and Asia (12%) than those from the Middle East (6%) or sub-Saharan Africa (5%) had found work prior to coming to Libya (Fig 2). A higher percentage of individuals from the Middle East (36%) interviewed by DTM Libya necessitated more than two months to secure employment compared to those from sub-Saharan Africa (28%), North Africa (17%) and Asia (9%).

More than half of migrants (54%) had secured employment through their social networks; including through migrants from their own country (37%) or other countries (3%), through family members (8%) or other social connections (5%). Nearly one in three migrants mentioned having found

Figure 2: Length of time required by migrants to find employment in Libya by region of origin

Had a job prior to arriving in Libya
- 12%
- 6%
- 17%
- 5%

1 week or less
- 19%
- 13%
- 35%
- 31%

More than one week, less than 2 months
- 60%
- 28%
- 28%
- 34%

Between 2 - 3 months
- 7%
- 28%
- 11%
- 18%

Between 3 - 6 months
- 2%
- 7%
- 6%
- 9%

More than 6 months
- <1%
- 16%
- 3%
- 3%

- Asia (n=57)
- Middle East (n=67)
- North Africa (n=1,570)
- Sub-Saharan Africa (n=1,888)

employment at recruitment points (29%). A minority (13%) reported having found their current job through an employer who recruited them for their specific skills.

A greater proportion of female migrants (63%) than males (52%) reported having obtained their current job through their social networks while on the contrary more males (29%) than females (9%) mentioned having found employment at a work recruitment point where jobs offered tend to be physically demanding.

Environment and climate change

A quarter of migrants interviewed between July and September who were employed in their country of origin worked in the agricultural sector. A greater proportion of migrants from Chad (63%), Niger (40%), Mali (32%) and Sudan (30%) reported that their livelihood in their country of origin was related to crop or livestock production compared to those from Egypt (10%), Nigeria (3%) or Tunisia (<1%).

Slightly over two in five migrants (42%) who reported having been employed in the agricultural sector in their country of origin mentioned having experienced the loss of crops or livestock due to environmental factors (e.g. droughts, floods). This proportion was highest among migrants from Sudan (51%) and Chad (56%) compared to those from Egypt (44%) and Niger (33%).

Overall, one per cent of migrants mentioned that slow onset environmental degradation or disasters was the main driver of their migration to Libya. However, a recent DTM Libya study highlighted that because climate-related shocks are closely related to economic drivers they can be direct as well as indirect migration drivers through their negative impact on local economies and workers, particularly those reliant on agriculture. Nearly twice as many migrants interviewed by DTM Libya between July and September 2023 and whose primary source of income in their country of origin was agriculture reported having experienced a climatic shock prior to coming to Libya (35%) compared to those whose livelihoods were not related to agriculture (17%). The DTM Libya climate change study found that among migrants whose primary source of income was agriculture, a greater proportion of those who had endured a climatic shock identified insufficient income or a lack of job opportunities in their country of origin as a primary push factor (58%) compared to those who had not lived through at least one climatic shock (49%) highlighting the complex and intertwined nature of migration drivers.

Overall, a quarter of migrants (25%) interviewed by DTM Libya stated having experienced at least one environmental shock in the year prior to migrating to Libya.

Geographical patterns and trends

As in previous rounds of data collection more than three quarters of migrants in Libya (77%) were nationals from neighbouring countries: Niger (26%), Egypt (22%), Sudan (18%) and Chad (11%) (Fig 3).

Overall, and in line with an enduring trend around half of migrants in Libya were from sub-Saharan Africa (49%), two in five were from North Africa (42%) and a minority were from the Middle East (5%) or Asia (4%) (Fig 4). The largest migrant populations identified by DTM during round 49 of data collection were located in the coastal regions of Tripoli (16%), Benghazi (11%), Misrata (11%), Ejdabia (7%), Azzawya (7%) and Almargeb (6%) (Fig 5). The coastal area is home to the majority of urban settlements and crop land, while the rest of Libya (more than 95% of the total area) is mainly desertic or arid areas.

Figure 3: Proportion of migrants by nationality

NATIONALITY	NUMBER OF MIGRANTS	% MIGRANTS
Niger	179,193	26%
Egypt	153,510	22%
Sudan	128,536	18%
Chad	79,155	11%
Nigeria	31,734	5%
Syrian Arab Republic	25,975	4%
Bangladesh	22,621	3%
Ghana	13,702	2%
Mali	12,916	2%
Palestine	6,614	1%
Other	6,259	1%
Tunisia	5,695	1%
Pakistan	5,530	1%
Burkina Faso	3,787	1%
Senegal	3,213	0.5%
South Sudan	3,015	0.4%
Mauritania	3,006	0.4%
Eritrea	2,951	0.4%
Côte d'Ivoire	2,497	0.4%
Somalia	1,896	0.3%
Morocco	1,864	0.3%
Unknown	1,622	0.2%
Guinea	1,198	0.2%
Cameroon	1,043	0.1%
TOTAL FOR LIBYA	697,532	100%

Figure 4: Regions of origin of migrants

Sub-Saharan Africa 49%

North Africa 42%

Middle East 5%

Asia 4%
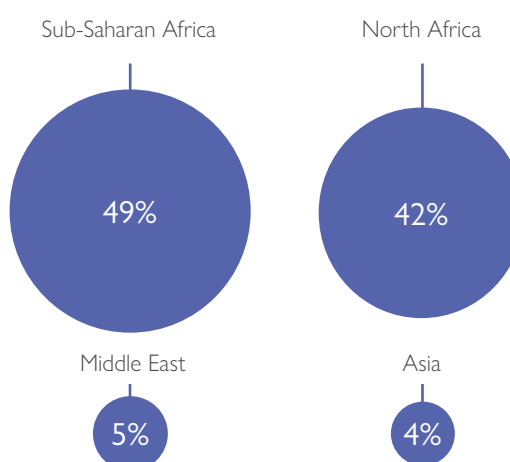
Figure 5: Number of migrants per region (mantika) during DTM round 49 of data collection.

AL JABAL AL AKHDAR
23,280

ZWARA
26,171

ALMARJ
6,435

DERNA
17,180

MISRATA
75,368

BENGHAZI
79,232

SIRT
12,425

NALUT
3,892

AL JABAL
AL GHARBI
28,572

TOBRUK
23,015

EJDABIA
49,150

WADI ASHSHATI
14,945

ALJUFRA
11,650

SEBHA
21,495

GHAT
3,600

UBARI
14,600

ALKUFRA
17,240

MURZUQ
25,618

1

TRIPOLI
112,173

AZZAWYA
45,960

ALJFARA
40,310

ALMARGEB
45,221
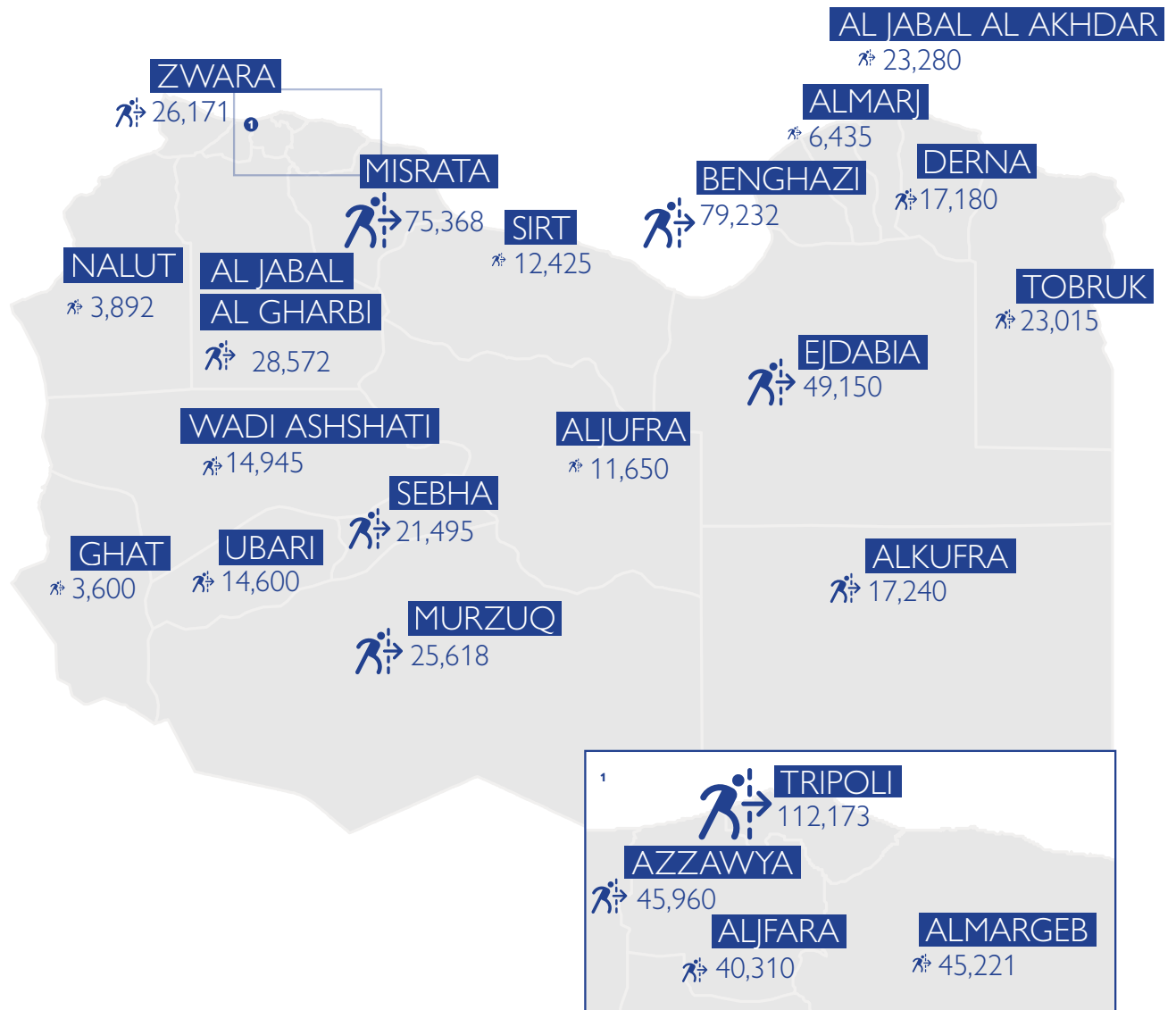
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IOM UN MIGRATION

HUMANITARIAN NEEDS

MIGRANT VULNERABILITY AND HUMANITARIAN NEEDS

To better understand migrant vulnerabilities and humanitarian needs, DTM conducted 6,195 individual interviews with migrants in Libya between July and September 2023. The thematic findings presented in this section rely largely on these interviews.

In parallel, interviews conducted by DTM Libya with 2,164 key informants across Libya between July and September 2023 highlighted that the main needs of migrants were related to health services (81%), accommodation (53%), non-food items (NFIs) (47%) and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) (22%). Moreover, nearly one in five migrants (18%) interviewed individually identified insufficient food or clean drinking water as one of the three main difficulties they faced. In line with the previous round of data collection, the percentage of migrants who reported that hunger or a lack of clean drinking water was one of the three main difficulties they faced was highest in the south (30%) compared to western (17%) or eastern Libya (13%).

According to key informant interviews, the high cost of food, clean drinking water, accommodation, essential non-food items and healthcare was the main issue affecting migrants' ability to fulfill their basic needs. These findings are further corroborated by the results of individual interviews with migrants that showed that financial difficulties continue to be the top issue reported by nearly three fifths of migrants (58%). Corroborating these results, a greater percentage of migrants who were unemployed reported facing financial issues (86%) as well as hunger or insufficient clean drinking water (33%) or attacks or assaults (31%) compared to those who were employed (49%,14% and 19% respectively).

Key informants also cited issues related to the lack of availability of the public water network and the lack of waste management or disposal system at the local level as affecting migrants' wellbeing.
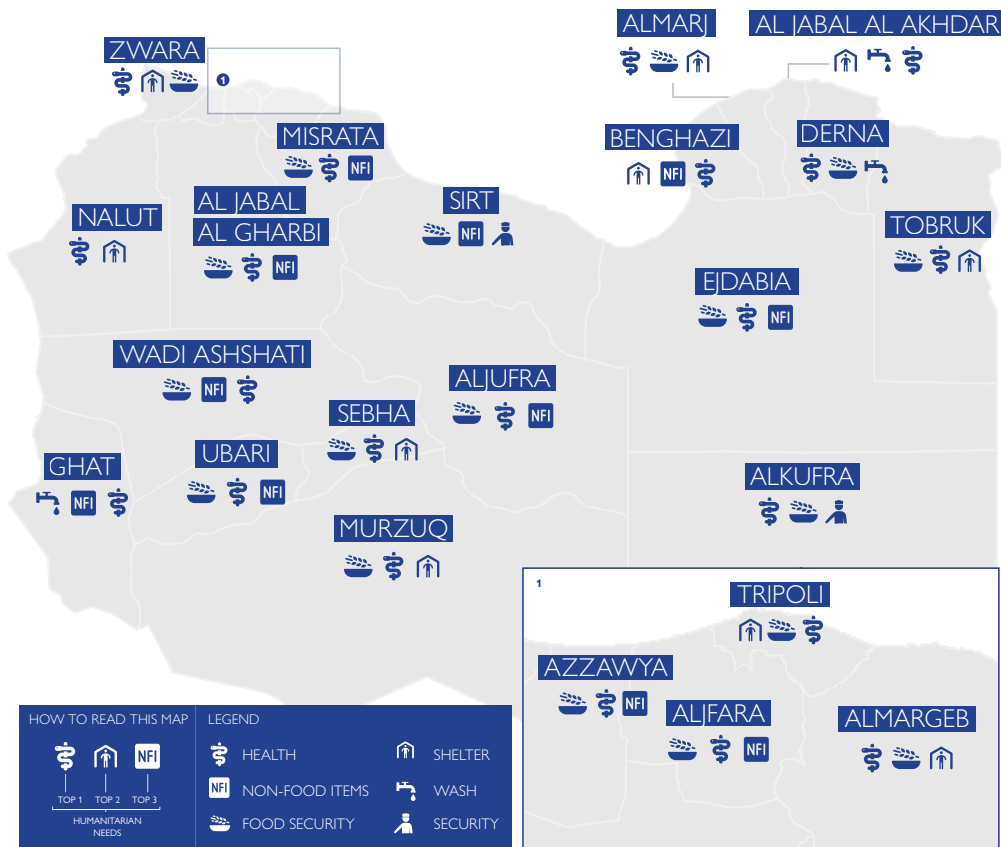
Figure 6: Humanitarian priority needs of migrants per region (mantika)

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WASH

In line with the previous round of data collection one in five migrants (18%) interviewed individually between July and September 2023 mentioned having insufficient clean drinking water mainly because of a lack of access to the public water network (5% had access to the public water network on a daily basis). Moreover, a smaller percentage of migrants who reported having insufficient access to clean drinking water mentioned having two or more alternative sources of water (44%) compared to those who had sufficient access to clean drinking water (54%).

A greater percentage of migrants from the Middle East (52%) and Asia (44%) reported that they experienced a lack of clean drinking water compared to those from sub-Saharan Africa (20%) and North Africa (14%).

Overall, more than twice as many female migrants (40%) than males (17%) mentioned lacking sufficient drinking water. Moreover, a greater percentage of female migrants (57%) than males (50%) cited having to use a communal toilet shared with more than six individuals. Having to use a public toilet or sharing facilities with men and boys may increase women and girls' risk of abuse and assault.

In line with previous reports, a greater percentage of migrants in western (22%) and southern Libya (20%) compared to the east (3%) mentioned having insufficient drinking water. A greater proportion of migrants in southern (73%) and western Libya (66%) mentioned relying on the public water network. The majority of migrants interviewed in eastern and western Libya reported relying on bottled water (55% and 83%, respectively) and/or the public water network (50% and 66% respectively) as their main sources of drinking water. While the public water network was also the main source of clean drinking water in southern Libya (73%) fewer migrants reported being able to access alternative sources of water such as bottled water, water trucking or protected wells compared to those from the western or eastern part of the country.

....

40%

of **female migrants** interviewed by DTM Libya reported **lacking clean drinking water** compared to 17 per cent of male migrants.

Health

Around three in five migrants (62%) reported having limited access to healthcare in Libya while nearly one in ten had no access (9%). A smaller proportion of migrants in western (23%) and southern Libya (22%) compared to the east (65%) reported having full access to healthcare services.

Those who had limited or no access to healthcare cited the cost of services (84%) as the main barrier. Nearly five times as many migrants who were unemployed mentioned lacking access to healthcare in Libya (26%) compared to those who were employed (5%). Other obstacles migrants reported facing when accessing healthcare in Libya included the irregular supply of medicines (29%), the inadequate quality of care (26%), the distance to reach services (22%) and the lack of safe access (20%).

Consistent with the previous round of data collection, more than twice as many females (18%) stated that they lacked access to healthcare compared to male migrants (8%). In both cases, the main issue highlighted for those who had limited or no access to healthcare was related to the cost of services (Fig 7). A greater proportion of female migrants reported both being unemployed (48%) and facing financial difficulties (84%) compared to males (17% and 57%, respectively).

Figure 7: Top 5 barriers to accessing healthcare services identified by migrants by sex (multiple-choice question)

Unaffordability of services
- 84%
- 81%
- 84%

Inadequate quality of care
- 26%
- 24%
- 26%

Irregular supply of medicines
- 30%
- 17%
- 29%

Distance to access services
- 22%
- 23%
- 22%

Lack of safe access
- 20%
- 21%
- 20%

Males (n=4,794)
Females (n=222)
Total sample (n=5,016)
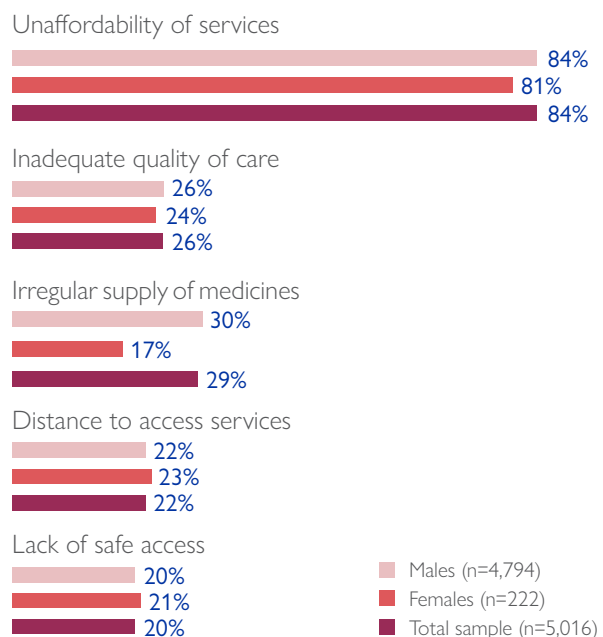
Education

A minority of migrants (7%) interviewed by DTM between July and September 2023 reported having family members aged between 5 and 18 in Libya. Among migrants who had school-aged family members, more than half (59%) mentioned that their children could not access school. A greater proportion of migrants interviewed in southern (90%) and western Libya (62%) stated that their children lacked access to school compared to those in the east (15%) (Fig 8).

In line with previous reports, the main obstacle for migrants' children to access school was related to financial issues (85%) (Fig 9). Corroborating these findings, three times as many migrants who were employed mentioned that their children could access school (48%) compared to those who were unemployed (16%).

Other barriers to accessing education included a lack of documentation (81%), problems related to social isolation and participation in the local community (64%) and the language barrier (59%). More migrants from the Middle East (95%) than those from North Africa (56%) or sub-Saharan Africa (16%) reported that their children could enroll in school in Libya.

Figure 8: Percentage of migrants who reported that their children have no access to school by region where they were surveyed
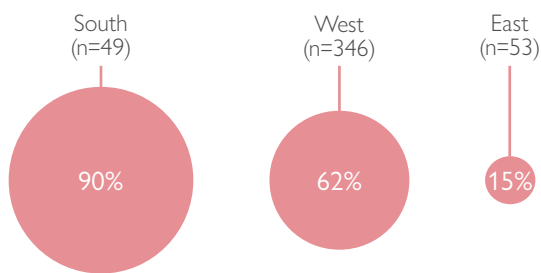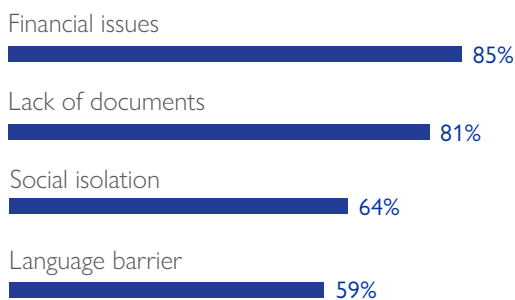

South (n=49) — 90%
West (n=346) — 62%
East (n=53) — 15%

Figure 9: Main issues hindering migrants' ability to send their children to school (multiple-choice question) (n=255)

Financial issues — 85%
Lack of documents — 81%
Social isolation — 64%
Language barrier — 59%

Accommodation

According to key informants and consistent with prior reports, the majority of migrants (82%) resided in rented accommodation for which they paid for themselves, or that was paid for by their employers or others. A greater proportion of migrants in urban areas (72%) than in rural settings (62%) lived in rented accommodation (for which they paid for themselves). On the contrary, more migrants in rural areas were sheltered in their workplaces (17%) than in urban areas (13%). In line with previous reports, a similar proportion were accommodated in housing paid for by their employers in both urban and rural settings (9% and 7%, respectively).

Based on individual interviews with migrants, the reported monthly rent varied greatly and ranged from USD 1 to USD 500. The median monthly rent was USD 25.

Overall, a total of two per cent of migrants interviewed by DTM Libya in July and September 2023 reported having been evicted or threatened with eviction in the past three months. This percentage remained the same when analysing across regions of origin but was higher for migrants interviewed in western Libya (3%) compared to those in eastern (1%) or southern Libya (<1%).

Migrants who had witnessed or experienced eviction mentioned that on average four families were evicted during the incident — although this number varied between 1 to 50. The majority of evictions were reportedly carried out by landlords themselves (73%) and in a minority of cases by non-governmental authorities (10%), local community members (8%) or local authorities (7%). Twice as many unemployed migrants (4%) stated having been threatened with eviction or evicted than those who were employed (2%) highlighting that housing and socioeconomic factors such as employment, safety and wellbeing are closely related. These findings align with a DTM Libya study which found that a lack of economic means was a key factor contributing to migrants' inability to secure adequate rental housing and increased vulnerability to ill-treatment and exploitative practices including extortion, threats of eviction, eviction and infringement on tenants' ability to enjoy their dwelling. This trend held true across the sexes, country of origin and migration intentions. The study also found that landlords generally prefer tenants based on their actual (or presumed) socioeconomic status, according to migrants who were interviewed across Libya.

IOM UN MIGRATION

Impact of storm Daniel on migrants

On 10 September 2023, storm Daniel made landfall in northeastern Libya resulting in severe weather conditions and causing two dams to break, sweeping away entire neighbourhoods in Derna. The storm led to thousands of deaths and significant infrastructure damage to the road, electricity, water and telecommunications networks.

Based on a November 2023 assessment, DTM Libya estimated that 44,862 individuals remained displaced because of the storm. A total of 1,715 migrants were displaced by the floods (Fig 10), the majority of whom (91% or 1,565 migrants) were originally living in the municipality of Derna at the time of the disaster. The bulk of migrants displaced by storm Daniel were concentrated in the municipalities of Albayda (48%), Alqubba (15%) and Tobruk (15%) (Fig 10).

1,715

migrants displaced due to the floods across 10 municipalities

Based on key informants interviewed between July and September 2023, the majority of migrants in the regions affected by the floods were males (83%) while a minority were females (9%) or children (8%) (among whom 2% were unaccompanied). Egyptians (46%) and Sudanese (22%) were the first and second most represented nationalities among migrants identified in the northeastern regions affected by Storm Daniel.

Figure 10: Number of displaced migrants by location as of November 2023
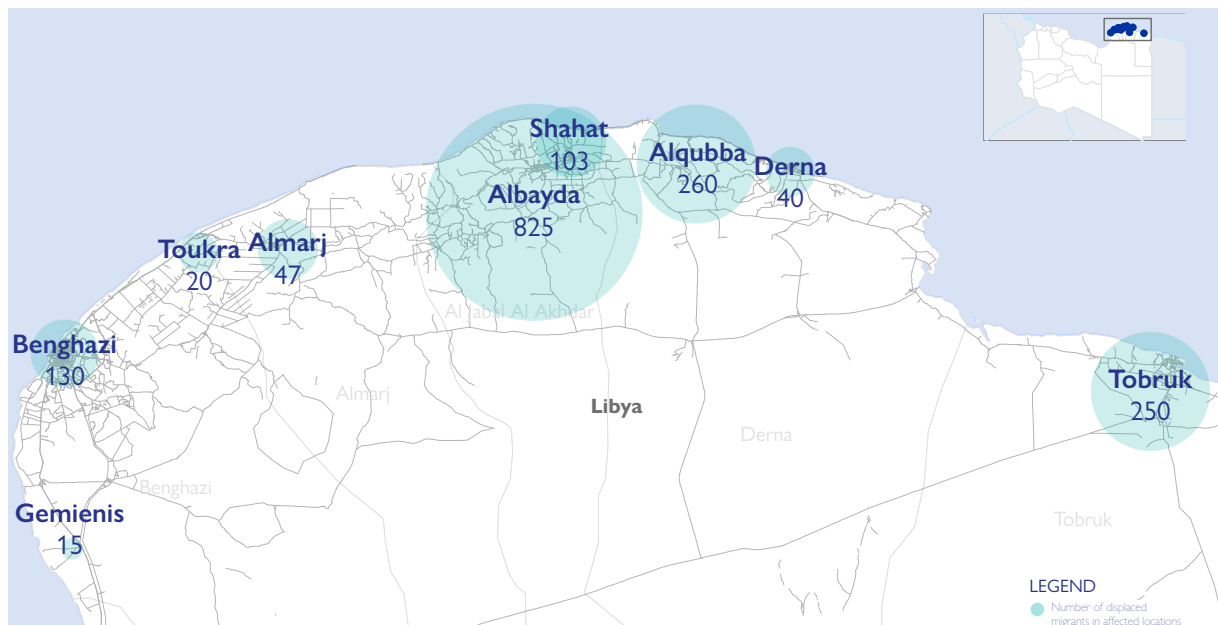
This map is for illustration purposes only. Names and boundaries on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by IOM. N.b. A total of 25 migrants were displaced to the municipality of Abusliem in the region of Tripoli (not shown on this map).

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MIGRATION FLOWS

The IOM protection team in Libya supports
vulnerable migrants through different activities,
including recreational activities for children to provide
psychosocial support to children.

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MIGRATION FLOWS

During the reporting period (July - September 2023) DTM Libya's 43 flow Monitoring Points (FMPs) monitored migration movements in 10 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 monitor migration flows and conduct individual interviews (Flow Monitoring Surveys (FMS)) to shed light on migrants' 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

234 assessments

10 municipalities

43 flow monitoring points (FMPs)

Figure 11: Regions (mantika) covered by flow monitoring and mobility tracking activities in Libya

- Regions covered by Mobility Tracking
- Regions covered by Flow Monitoring

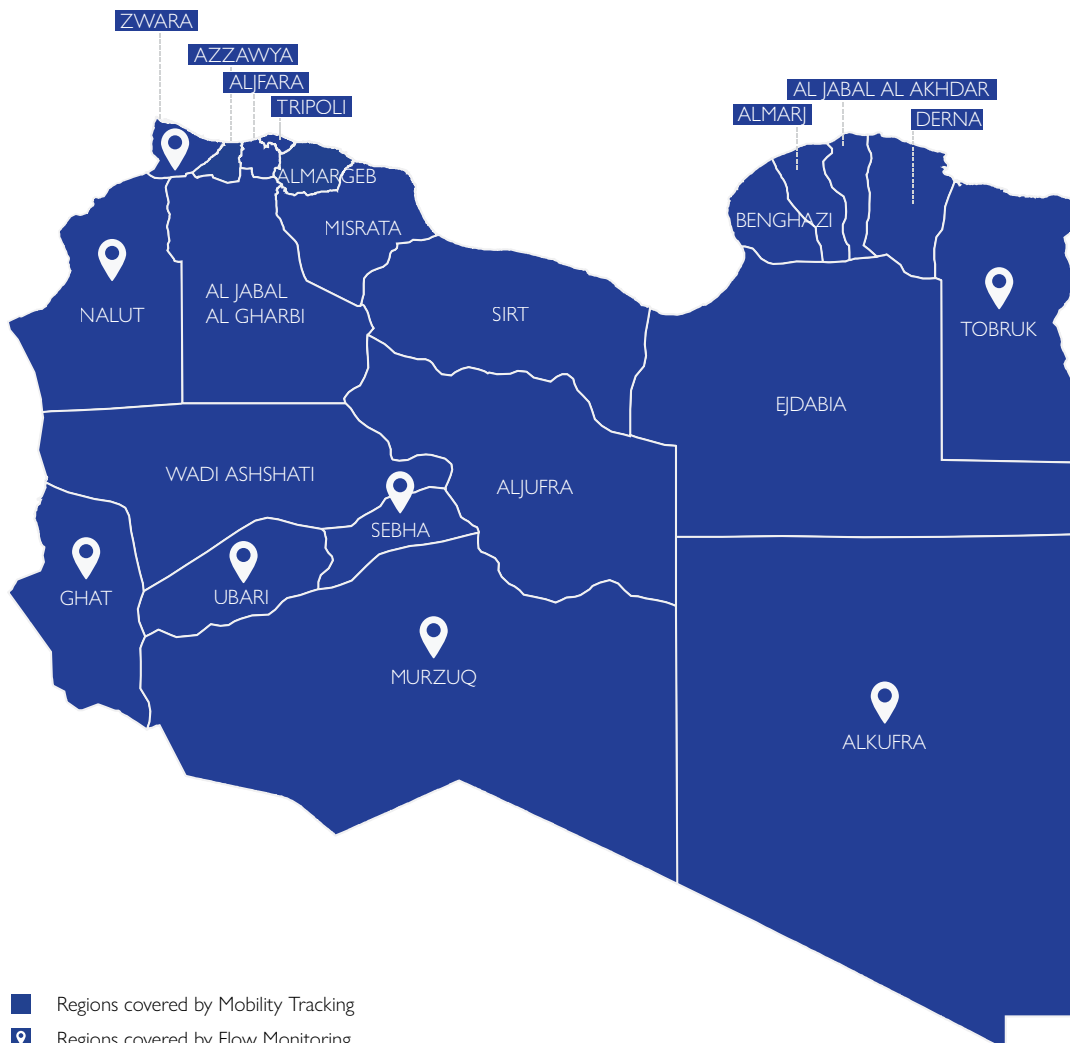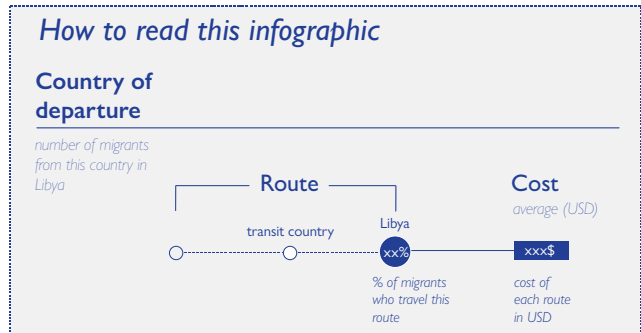# MIGRATION ROUTES TO LIBYA

This section maps the major migration routes that migrants from different countries of origin use to reach Libya. This analysis is based on 24,034 individual quantitative migrant interviews (DTM flow monitoring surveys (FMS)) conducted between January and September 2023 at key locations including transit points throughout Libya.

Between January and September 2023, aside from a small number of migrants entering via Tunisia (3%) and Algeria (<1%), the majority entered through Niger (43%), Egypt (20%), Sudan (14%) and Chad (13%).

Economic reasons such as the search for job opportunities abroad or insufficient income in the country of origin continue to be the most commonly cited primary migration driver by more than four in five migrants (86%). More than half of migrants (52%) mentioned that their journey cost over 500 USD. Although the price paid by migrants varied greatly based on routes taken and means of transportation, the biggest expense for 70 per cent of migrants was the cost of migration facilitators.

Overall, a total of 63 per cent of migrants stated having used the services of migration facilitators primarily for transportation (93%) or to help them cross difficult areas along the route (52%). A minority used the services of migration facilitators to help them with the provision of food and water (25%), information (20%), housing (16%), security (14%) and documents (5%).

More than two thirds of migrants (69%) reported having paid for their journey with their savings and around two in five (45%) mentioned having incurred debt to finance their migration to Libya.

The majority of migrants from Asia reported having arrived alone (62%) while on the contrary the majority of those from the Middle East (77%) reached Libya with a group that included family members. Nearly half of migrants from sub-Saharan Africa (48%) mentioned having entered Libya with a group of individuals whom they did not know prior to traveling.

Figure 12: 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 on the map below represent the percentage of migrants who reported having travelled along each route. For example, 43 per cent of migrants in Libya reported having arrived directly from or transited through Niger, including almost all migrants from Niger and those from Burkina Faso, Ghana, and Nigeria.

ASSESSMENT PERIOD:
JAN 2023 - SEP 2023
Total sample : **24,034**

This map is for illustration purposes only. Names and boundaries on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by IOM.
N.b. Around two per cent of respondents reported having arrived directly or indirectly to Libya via other countries including the United Arab Emirates, Jordan, Türkiye, Saudi Arabia and Togo.

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 - September 2023.
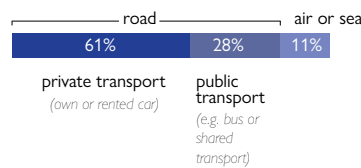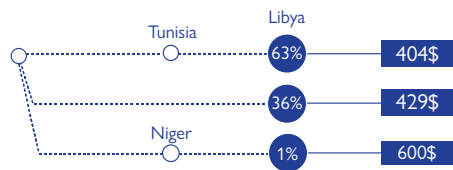
This table also includes the average cost of each route, the means of transportation migrants use and the total number of migrants from each country as well as their geographical distribution by regions of Libya (i.e. where individual interviews occurred).

How to read this infographic

Country of departure

number of migrants from this country in Libya

Route
transit country | Libya

Cost
average (USD)

xx% — xxx$

% of migrants who travel this route

cost of each route in USD

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

Algeria

			East	South	West

892 migrants

Tunisia — Libya
63% — 404$
36% — 429$
Niger
1% — 600$

road / air or sea
61% | 28% | 11%
private transport *(own or rented car)* — public transport *(e.g. bus or shared transport)*

East 5% | South 6% | West 89%

Bangladesh

22,621 migrants

Türkiye — Libya
51% — 3,910$
UAE — Egypt
9% — 3,647$
UAE — Türkiye
9% — 3,000$
*
31% — 2,012$

road *(public or private transport)* — air
2% | 98%
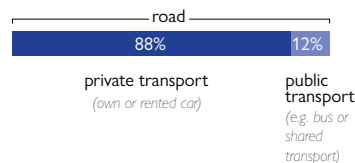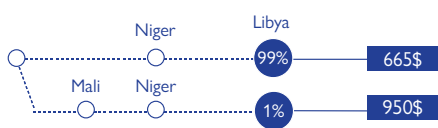
East 28% | South 1% | West 71%
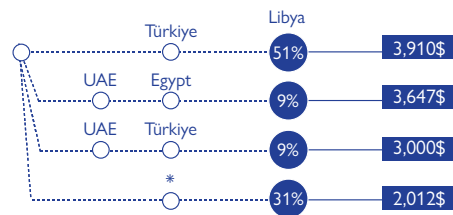
*Multiple routes used that included one or a combination of the following countries: Egypt, India, Jordan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the Syrian Arab Republic, Sudan, Türkiye, Tunisia, UAE (and other countries)

Burkina Faso

3,787 migrants

Niger — Libya
99% — 665$
Mali — Niger
1% — 950$

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

72% | 28%

IOM UN MIGRATION

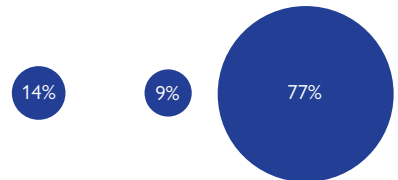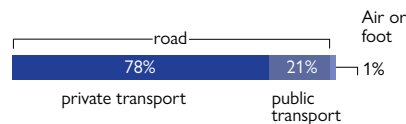| ROUTES	COST average (USD)	MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION	PRESENCE IN LIBYA BY GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS

Chad

79,155 migrants

East South West
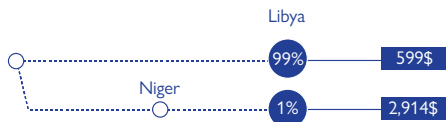
Libya
99% — 599$
Niger
1% — 2,914$

road
78% private transport | 21% public transport | Air or foot 1%

East 14% South 9% West 77%

Egypt

153,510 migrants

Libya
99% — 869$
Sudan
<1% — 2,713$
* <1% — 1,849$
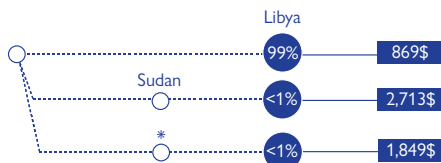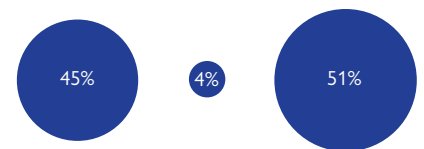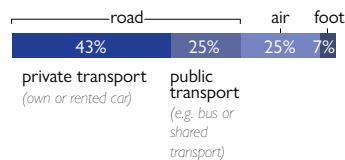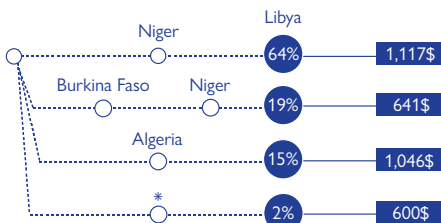
*Multiple routes used that included one or a combination of the following countries: Chad, Sudan, Tunisia and United Arab Emirates.

road
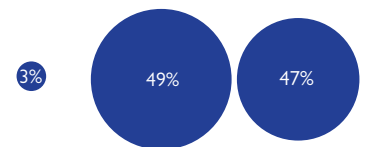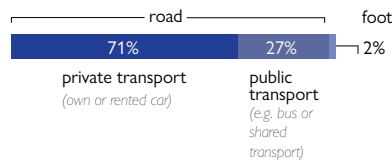43% private transport (own or rented car) | 25% public transport (e.g. bus or shared transport) | air 25% | foot 7%

East 45% South 4% West 51%

Mali

12,916 migrants

Niger Libya
64% — 1,117$
Burkina Faso Niger
19% — 641$
Algeria
15% — 1,046$
* 2% — 600$

*Multiple routes used including via one or a combination of the following countries: Algeria, Burkina Faso, Niger, Nigeria, Tunisia and Senegal.
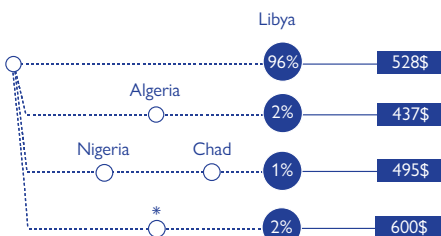
road
71% private transport (own or rented car) | 27% public transport (e.g. bus or shared transport) | foot 2%

East 3% South 49% West 47%

Niger

179,193 migrants

Libya
96% — 528$
Algeria
2% — 437$
Nigeria Chad
1% — 495$
* 2% — 600$

*Multiple routes used including via one or a combination of the following countries: Chad, Egypt, Mali, Nigeria, Sudan and Tunisia.

road
76% private transport (own or rented car) | 24% public transport (e.g. bus or shared transport)

East 1% South 33% West 66%

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

Nigeria

31,734 migrants

Niger — Libya
91% — 948$
Chad
4% — 1,331$
*
5% — 717$

*Multiple routes used that included one or a combination of the following countries: Niger, Chad, Mali, Tunisia and Algeria
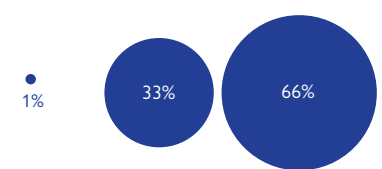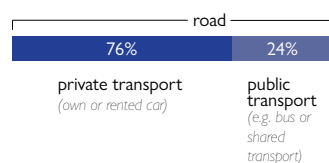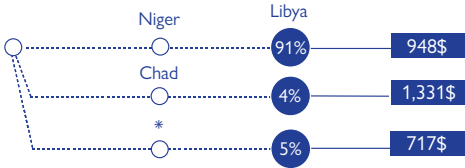
road — air or other
65% | 31% | 4%
private transport *(own or rented car)* — public transport *(e.g. bus or shared transport)*

East 4% | South 33% | West 63%

Sudan

128,536 migrants
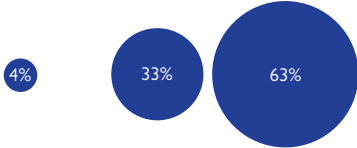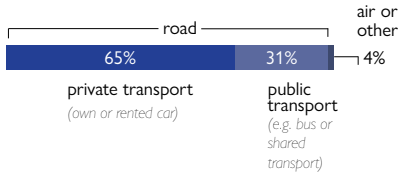
Libya
88% — 837$
Chad
8% — 524$
*
4% — 727$
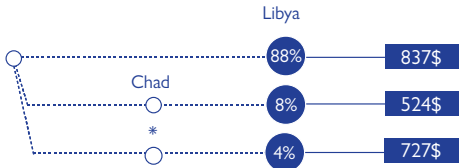
*Multiple routes used that included one or more of the following countries: Chad, Egypt, Niger and/or Tunisia
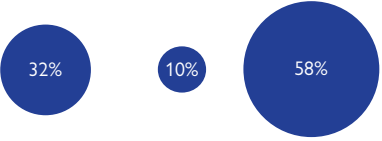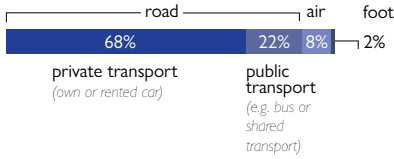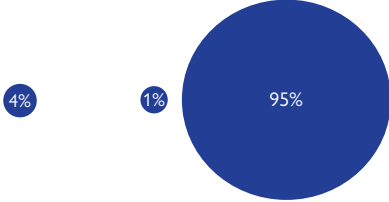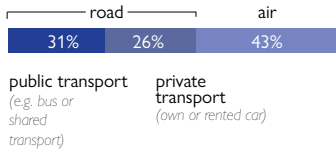
road — air — foot
68% | 22% | 8% | 2%
private transport *(own or rented car)* — public transport *(e.g. bus or shared transport)*

East 32% | South 10% | West 58%

Tunisia

5,695 migrants

Libya
100% — 260$

road — air
31% | 26% | 43%
public transport *(e.g. bus or shared transport)* — private transport *(own or rented car)*

East 4% | South 1% | West 95%

IOM UN MIGRATION

REGIONAL ANALYSIS

REGIONAL ANALYSIS - DISTRIBUTION

Key informant interviews conducted by DTM Libya in July, August and September 2023 revealed that over half of migrants were located in the west (56%), while a minority were in the east (31%) or the south (13%) (Fig 13).

Consistent with previous reports, the majority of migrants (58%) were located in the coastal regions of Tripoli (16%), Benghazi (11%), Misrata (11%), Ejdabia (7%), Azzawya (7%) and Almargeb (6%), in line with previous reports (Fig 14).

Based on key informants interviewed in May and June 2023 seven in ten migrants (70%) lived in urban settings while a third (30%) resided in rural areas. In comparison, it is estimated that 80 per cent of the Libyan population lives in urban areas, mainly concentrated in the major urban centres along the Mediterranean, such as Tripoli, Misrata and Benghazi.

Figure 13: Distribution of migrants by geographical area
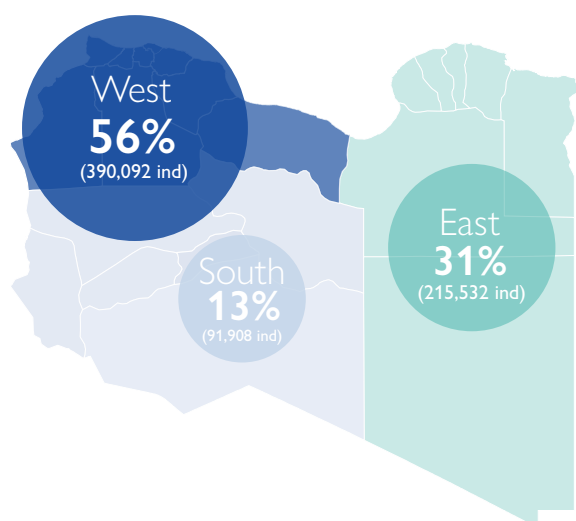
Figure 14: Migrants in Libya by region (mantika) (based on mobility tracking data)

MANTIKA (REGION)	NUMBER OF MIGRANTS	% BY REGION
Tripoli	112,173	16%
Benghazi	79,232	11%
Misrata	75,368	11%
Ejdabia	49,150	7%
Azzawya	45,960	7%
Almargeb	45,221	6%
Aljfara	40,310	6%
Al Jabal Al Gharbi	28,572	4%
Zwara	26,171	4%
Murzuq	25,618	4%
Al Jabal Al Akhdar	23,280	3%
Tobruk	23,015	3%
Sebha	21,495	3%
Alkufra	17,240	2%
Derna	17,180	2%
Wadi Ashshati	14,945	2%
Ubari	14,600	2%
Sirt	12,425	2%
Aljufra	11,650	2%
Almarj	6,435	1%
Nalut	3,892	1%
Ghat	3,600	1%
TOTAL FOR LIBYA	697,532	100%

The map below (Fig 15) shows the top four nationalities of migrants by region based on data collected by DTM Libya in July, August and September 2023.

This map highlights the influence of historical, socioeconomic, ethnic and cultural ties that developed through the circular migration of populations from bordering countries, particularly Niger, Egypt, Sudan and Chad. For example, migrants from neighbouring Niger and Chad were the most-represented nationalities in the southern and western regions of Al Jabal Al Gharbi, Murzuq and Sebha. 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 15: Map of top 4 migrant nationalities per region (mantika)

Tripoli
Niger	45%
Egypt	13%
Sudan	11%
Chad	6%

Zwara
Egypt	25%
Niger	20%
Sudan	17%
Chad	12%

Almargeb
Niger	32%
Egypt	22%
Sudan	14%
Chad	12%

Azzawya
Niger	18%
Egypt	18%
Sudan	16%
Chad	15%

Aljfara
Sudan	28%
Niger	23%
Egypt	23%
Chad	9%

Misrata
Niger	45%
Egypt	17%
Sudan	12%
Chad	7%

Benghazi
Egypt	32%
Sudan	23%
Chad	12%
Bangladesh	11%

Al Jabal Al Akhdar
Egypt	57%
Sudan	24%
Chad	8%
Syria	5%

Derna
Egypt	72%
Sudan	24%
Syria	2%
Chad	2%

Nalut
Niger	29%
Egypt	23%
Sudan	11%
Mali	9%

Al Jabal Al Gharbi
Niger	22%
Chad	21%
Egypt	21%
Sudan	17%

Sirt
Egypt	18%
Chad	15%
Bangladesh	14%
Niger	13%

Almarj
Egypt	42%
Sudan	27%
Chad	16%
Syria	6%

Tobruk
Egypt	68%
Sudan	15%
Syria	11%
Chad	3%

Wadi Ashshati
Niger	66%
Nigeria	12%
Egypt	7%
Ghana	6%

Aljufra
Niger	41%
Sudan	17%
Egypt	12%
Chad	11%

Ejdabia
Sudan	43%
Chad	27%
Egypt	19%
Bangladesh	5%

Ghat
Niger	35%
Mali	13%
Egypt	13%
Sudan	8%

Ubari
Niger	51%
Egypt	9%
Sudan	9%
Chad	9%

Sebha
Niger	46%
Chad	11%
Nigeria	10%
Sudan	7%

Murzuq
Niger	48%
Chad	17%
Nigeria	11%
Sudan	7%

Alkufra
Sudan	49%
Chad	26%
Egypt	8%
Nigeria	8%

Legend

Number of migrants identified per region (mantika)

- • < 10,000
- • 10,001 - 20,000
- ● 20,001 - 35,000
- ● 35,000 - 100,000
- ● 100,001 - 150,000

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

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REGION OF ORIGIN ANALYSIS

Based on key informant interviews conducted between July and September 2023 and in line with previous reports, migrants from North African countries (including Egypt and Sudan) continue to account for two thirds of migrants in eastern Libya (66%) while migrants from sub-Saharan African countries (such as Niger and Chad) represent the bulk of migrants in southern and western Libya (85% and 57%, respectively). The complete disaggregation of migrants' region of origins by regional location (mantika) in Libya is shown in the table below (Fig 16).

Figure 16: Migrants' region of origin by region in Libya

REGION (MANTIKA)		MIGRANTS FROM ASIA & MIDDLE EAST		MIGRANTS FROM SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA		MIGRANTS FROM NORTH AFRICA	
EAST	Al Jabal Al Akhdar	1,880	6%	2,180	5%	19,215	13%
	Alkufra	310	1%	7,014	17%	9,916	7%
	Almarj	625	2%	1,395	3%	4,415	3%
	Benghazi	19,149	62%	16,811	40%	43,257	30%
	Derna	359	1%	343	1%	16,478	12%
	Ejdabia	5,395	17%	13,123	32%	30,632	21%
	Tobruk	3,161	10%	645	2%	19,209	13%
EASTERN LIBYA TOTAL		30,879	14%	41,511	19%	143,122	66%
SOUTH	Aljufra	-	-	8,352	11%	3,298	27%
	Ghat	-	-	2,773	4%	827	7%
	Murzuq	283	25%	23,070	29%	2,265	18%
	Sebha	542	49%	19,090	24%	1,863	15%
	Ubari	210	19%	11,593	15%	2,794	22%
	Wadi Ashshati	80	7%	13,471	17%	1,394	11%
SOUTHERN LIBYA TOTAL		1,115	1%	78,349	85%	12,441	14%
WEST	Al Jabal al Gharbi	928	3%	15,773	7%	11,858	9%
	Aljfara	649	2%	18,670	8%	20,928	16%
	Almargeb	2,759	9%	26,297	12%	16,165	12%
	Azzawya	1,400	5%	27,222	12%	17,338	13%
	Misrata	6,369	21%	44,752	20%	24,247	18%
	Nalut	172	1%	2,087	1%	1,610	1%
	Sirt	4,172	14%	4,270	2%	3,892	3%
	Tripoli	12,647	43%	71,116	32%	26,951	20%
	Zwara	616	2%	13,604	6%	11,945	9%
WESTERN LIBYA TOTAL		29,712	8%	223,791	57%	134,934	35%
TOTAL FOR LIBYA		61,706		343,651		290,497	

Note: 1,678 migrants from other minority nationalities (including those whose nationalities could not be established) are not included in the table above.

IOM UN MIGRATION

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

Niger and Chad are the first and second most represented nationality from sub-Saharan Africa in Libya (52% and 23%, respectively) (Fig 17 and 18). In line with a trend that began in March 2023, the number of migrants from sub-Saharan Africa remained relatively stable compared to the previous four rounds of data collection and continued to hover around the number of migrants identified during the corresponding reporting period in 2022 (343,069 individuals, round 43, July-August 2022 compared to 343,651 individuals, round 49, July-September 2023).

Following the coup d'état in July and the partial closure of the country's borders, IOM Niger reported that no incoming flow from Niger to Libya had been recorded during the first two weeks of August. Overall, over two in five migrants (43%) interviewed in Libya in 2023 had transited through, or came from Niger.

A greater proportion of migrants from sub-Saharan African countries were unemployed (21%) than migrants from other regions (15%). Migrants from sub-Saharan Africa mentioned having spent on average 658 USD to reach Libya. A slightly greater proportion of migrants from sub-Saharan Africa (55%) than migrants from other regions (49%) mentioned that their remittances were their household's primary source of income.

Figure 18: Number of migrants from countries of origin in sub-Saharan Africa (top 6 nationalities)
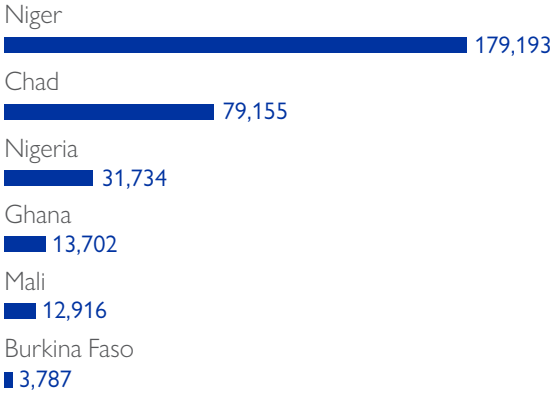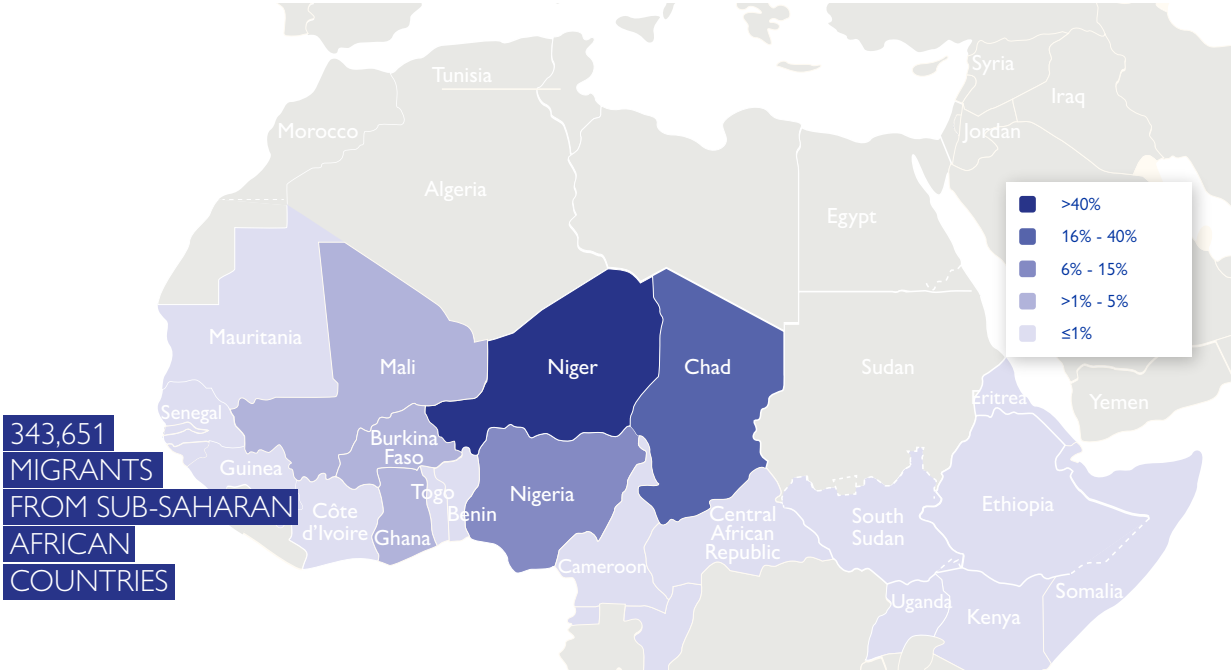
Niger
179,193

Chad
79,155

Nigeria
31,734

Ghana
13,702

Mali
12,916

Burkina Faso
3,787

Figure 17: Percentages of migrants by country of origin for the sub-Saharan Africa region

343,651 MIGRANTS FROM SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN COUNTRIES
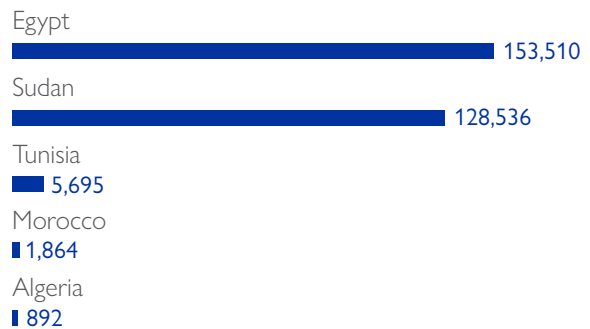
>40%
16% - 40%
6% - 15%
>1% - 5%
≤1%

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NORTH AFRICA

In line with a trend that started at the beginning of 2023, the number of North African migrants in Libya has continued to decrease slightly compared to the previous round of data collection. The number of individuals from North Africa in Libya declined from 304,545 in February 2023 to 290,497 in September 2023. Prior to this and since the end of 2021, the number of North African migrants in Libya had been on the rise. The increased security controls along Libya's borders as well as a wave of arrests and collective expulsions into Egypt, Sudan and Tunisia reported by the UN Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL), may have contributed to this development.

Consistent with previous reports, migrants from neighbouring Egypt and Sudan continue to be the two most represented nationalities among those from North Africa (53% and 44% respectively). Together, migrants from Tunisia and Morocco accounted for three per cent of the total number of migrants from North Africa while less than one per cent of migrants were from Algeria. Overall, more than two in five migrants in Libya were from North Africa (42%).

Figure 20: Migrants from countries of origin in North Africa

Egypt
153,510
Sudan
128,536
Tunisia
5,695
Morocco
1,864
Algeria
892

A smaller proportion of migrants from North African countries interviewed between July and September 2023 were unemployed in Libya (15%) compared to others (20%).

A total of 40 per cent of migrants from North Africa reported having been unemployed at the time of leaving their country of origin for Libya. Among those who were employed, the largest share were working in the construction sector (41%) or in the field of agriculture, forestry and fisheries (15%).

Figure 19: Percentages of migrants by country of origin for the North African region
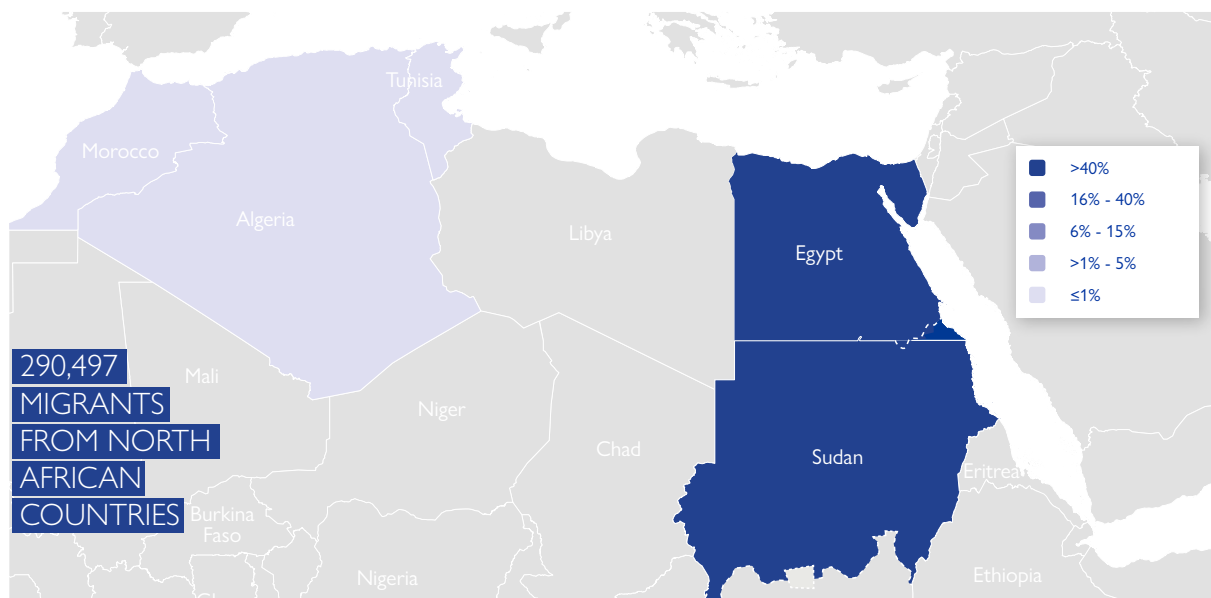
290,497 MIGRANTS FROM NORTH AFRICAN COUNTRIES

>40%
16% - 40%
6% - 15%
>1% - 5%
≤1%

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

MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA

A minority of migrants (9% or 61,706 individuals) identified during round 49 were from the Middle East (5%) or Asia (4%).

The majority of migrants from Asia and the Middle East were from the Syrian Arab Republic (25,975 individuals) and Bangladesh (22,621 individuals) accounting for 42 and 37 per cent of migrants (including refugees), respectively (Fig 21). Individuals from the Syrian Arab Republic and Bangladesh accounted for respectively four and three per cent of the overall migrant population in Libya.

In addition, there were 6,614 migrants who self-identified as Palestinians (11% of all migrants from the Middle East and Asia in Libya) and 5,530 migrants from Pakistan (9%). There were 966 individuals from various other nationalities who altogether accounted for two per cent of the migrant population from the Middle East and Asia.

A greater proportion of migrants from the Middle East (23%) were unemployed in Libya compared to others (18%) and nearly four times as many compared to those from Asia (6%).

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

The Syrian Arab Republic
25,975

Bangladesh
22,621

Palestine
6,614

Pakistan
5,530

Other
966
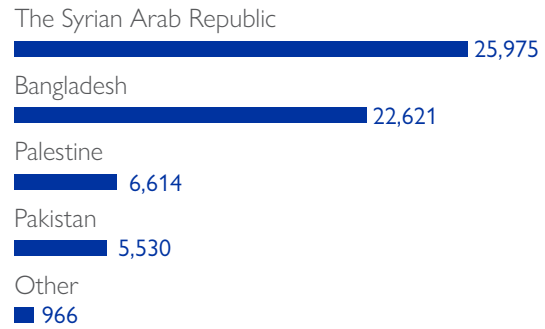
Two in five migrants (40%) from the Middle East who were interviewed by DTM Libya between July and September 2023 mentioned having left their country of origin primarily because of war, conflict, or targeted violence compared to eight per cent on average.

Figure 21: Percentages of migrants by country of origin for the Middle East and South Asia

>40%
21% - 40%
11% - 20%
5% - 10%
<5%

61,706 MIGRANTS FROM MIDDLE EASTERN AND ASIAN COUNTRIES

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MARITIME INCIDENTS

Arrivals to Italy and Malta

During the months of July, August and September 2023, a total of 68,432 migrants arrived in Italy and Malta from Libya and Tunisia via the Central Mediterranean Sea. While every year the number of arrivals to Italy and Malta is generally at its peak between June and September, the number of arrivals during the third quarter of 2023 represents an increase compared to the previous seven years during the corresponding period.

Overall, during the first three quarters of 2023, a total of 134,092 migrants arrived in Italy and Malta from Libya and Tunisia via the Central Mediterranean Sea more than during the corresponding period in 2022 (72,084 individuals) and nearly three times as many compared to 2021 (46,799 individuals). For the first time in six years the number of arrivals during the first three quarters of 2023 has surpassed that of the corresponding period in 2017 (105,409 individuals) and 2016 (132,043 individuals).

Figure 24: Arrivals by sea, returns and deaths on the Central Mediterranean Route to Italy and Malta
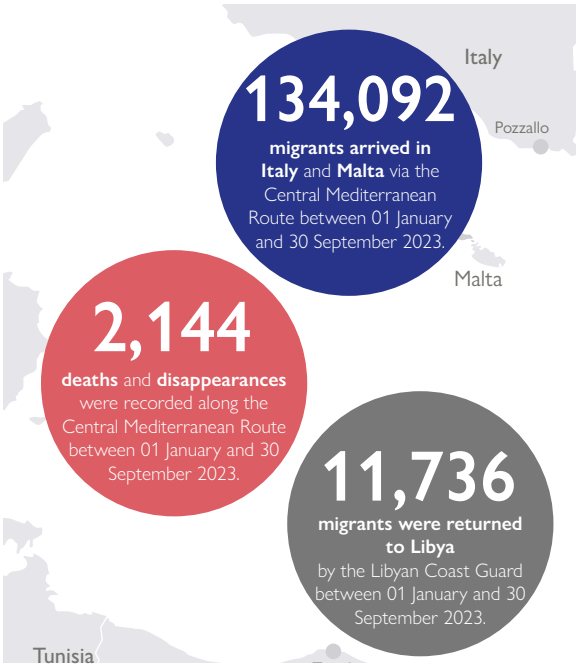
134,092 migrants arrived in **Italy** and **Malta** via the Central Mediterranean Route between 01 January and 30 September 2023.

2,144 deaths and disappearances were recorded along the Central Mediterranean Route between 01 January and 30 September 2023.

11,736 migrants were returned to Libya by the Libyan Coast Guard between 01 January and 30 September 2023.

Figure 23: Arrivals by sea via Central Mediterranean route to Italy and Malta (2019 - 2023) (number of individuals)
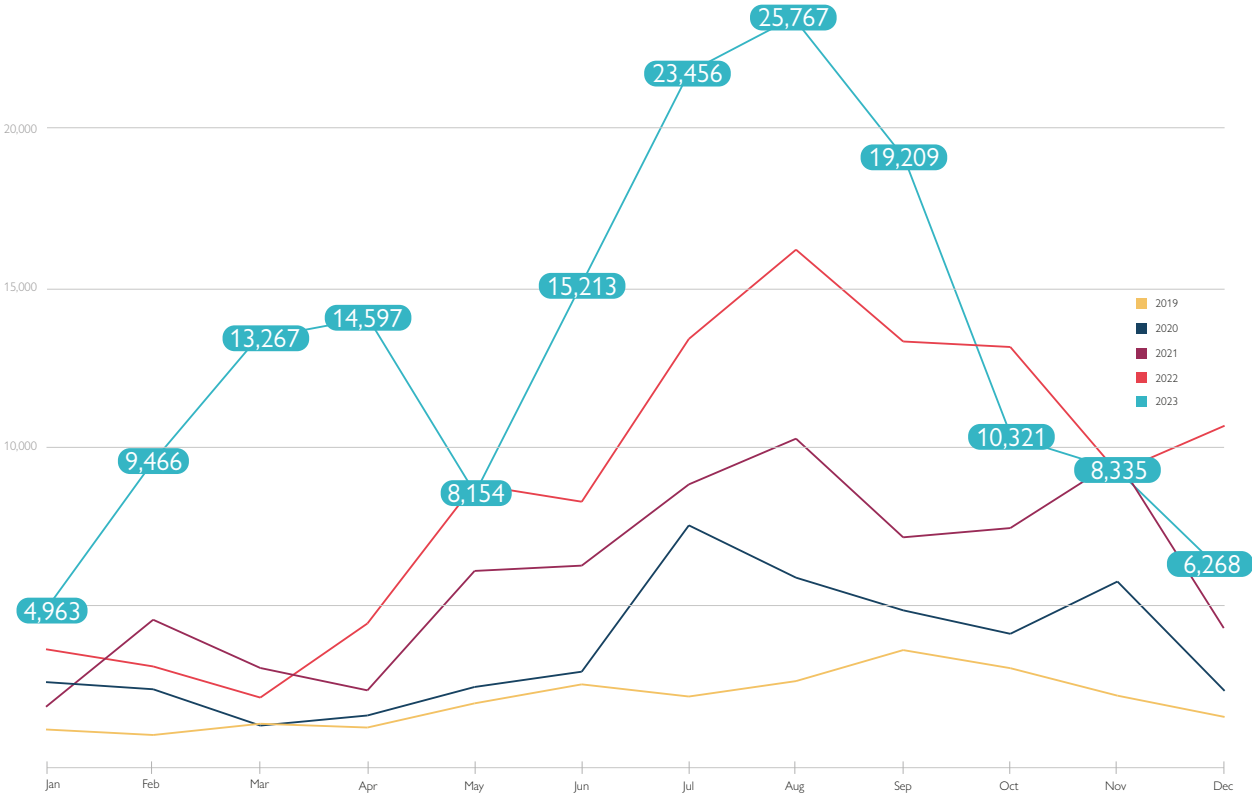
According to DTM Europe, during the third quarter of 2023, more than 80 per cent of those who arrived in Italy had departed from Tunisia while fewer had left from Libya (13%). A minority had departed from Türkiye (4%) or other countries including Algeria and Lebanon (<1%). According to data collected in 2022, migrants attempting to cross from Libya were primarily from Egypt (36%), Bangladesh (28%), and the Syrian Arab Republic (13%). The majority of them were men (84%) while a minority were children (13%) or women (3%).

Interceptions and returns to Libyan shores

In 2023, and as of 30 September, a total of 11,736 migrants who had attempted the Central Mediterranean Sea crossing had been intercepted and returned to Libyan shores which is fewer than in 2022 (16,627 individuals) and in 2021 (25,823 individuals) over the corresponding period.

Fatalities at sea

Between July and September 2023, a total of 371 deaths and disappearances were recorded on the Central Mediterranean route, which is similar to 2022 (369), 2021 (317) and 2020 (363) during the corresponding period (Fig 25). However, overall nearly twice as many deaths and disappearances were recorded between January and September 2023 (2,144) on the Central Mediterranean route, compared to the corresponding period in 2022 (1,163) and 2021 (1,140).

The first nine months of 2023 have been the deadliest on record since 2017.

Figure 25: Number of deaths and missing individuals on the Central Mediterranean route by year (2019 - 2023)
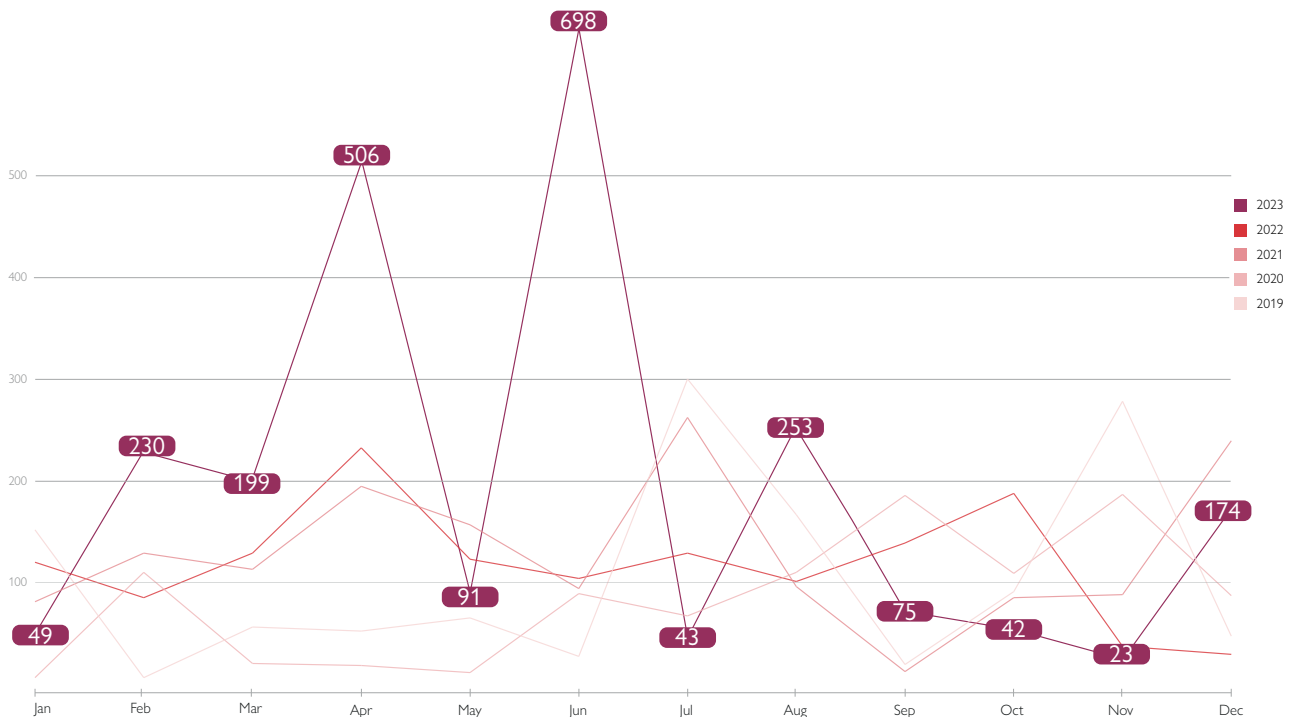
METHODOLOGY

This report utilizes data collected through different regular DTM data collection activities.

The migrant population figures and analysis is based on the data collected through 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.

Migration flow statistics are based on the data collected through a network of 43 flow monitoring points (FMPs) in eight regions of Libya.

Analysis of migrant routes, migrant vulnerabilities and humanitarian needs is based on 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 findings of this report 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 their 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 their 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	
112 enumerators	**6,195** migrants interviewed (round 49, flow monitoring survey)	**2,164** key informant interviews
3 team leaders	**43** flow monitoring points (FMPs) are active in 8 regions (mantikas) of Libya	

IOM UN MIGRATION

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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IOM
UN MIGRATION