

# TOBRUK RAPID NEEDS ASSESSMENT



An analysis of Sudanese nationals in Tobruk who arrived in Libya after the onset of conflict in April 2023

APRIL 2024

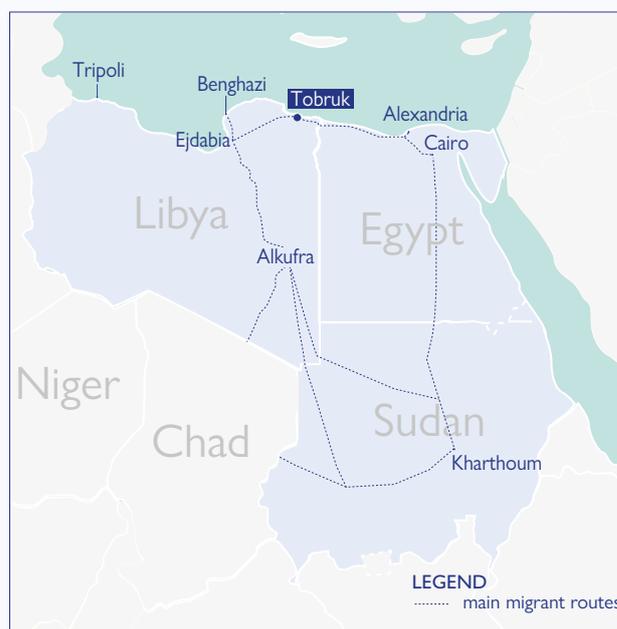
## BACKGROUND

DTM Libya conducted a brief assessment on 3 - 6 April 2024 to shed light on the situation of Sudanese nationals in the municipality of Tobruk who arrived after the [onset of conflict in Sudan](#) in April 2023. While most are coming directly from Sudan and arriving in Alkufra, a minority are traveling from Egypt and arriving in Tobruk (map 1).

The majority of Sudanese individuals interviewed in Tobruk in April 2024 by DTM Libya were single, male and between the ages of 20 and 49 in line with a recent DTM Libya [profile of Sudanese nationals](#) across Libya.

Based on the latest DTM Libya data, there are 136,455 Sudanese nationals in Libya, accounting for 19 per cent of the total migrant population in the country — the third most-represented nationality.

MAP 1: Main routes from Sudan to Egypt and Libya



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

## SUDANESE IN TOBRUK

### 2,300

Sudanese nationals are in the municipality of Tobruk based on DTM estimates compared to 1,245 in February 2024. According to key informants, as a result of the onset of conflict in April 2023 in Sudan, the Sudanese population in Tobruk has increased significantly since July 2023.

Overall, DTM Libya estimates that there are a total of 10,175 migrants in the municipality of Tobruk.

## DEMOGRAPHICS

According to key informants, around a third of Sudanese individuals in Tobruk are children (among them, one in five is estimated to be unaccompanied).

Overall, key informants estimates that the majority (60%) of Sudanese nationals in Tobruk are females and 40 per cent are males.

Key informants highlighted that around five per cent of Sudanese individuals in Tobruk or less have specific needs arising from physical or intellectual disability.

# HUMANITARIAN NEEDS

## TOP NEEDS

Accommodation was identified as the top need of Sudanese individuals interviewed in Tobruk, followed by access to legal assistance and job opportunities.

Sudanese nationals interviewed also mentioned lacking access to water, sanitation and hygiene facilities as well as electricity and basic telecommunication (e.g. phone, internet).

## ACCOMMODATION

According to key informants, many Sudanese nationals, particularly those who arrived in Tobruk more recently in 2024, are housed in collective shelters. Others are renting accommodation, living in informal settlements or are staying with family or friends.

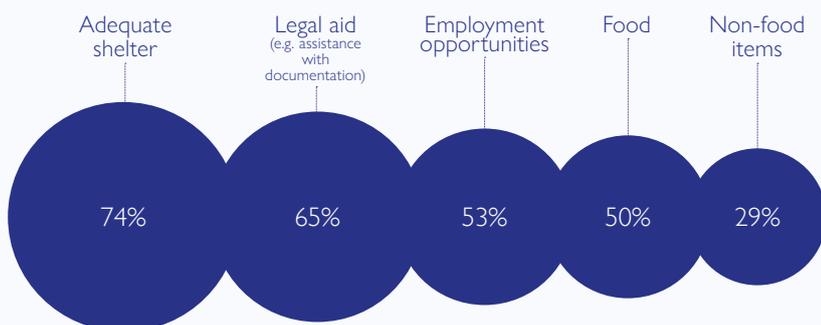
The unaffordability of rental prices is a significant issue for many according to key informants.

## HEALTH

Sudanese nationals in Tobruk reportedly have access to healthcare services but many reported the unavailability of psychosocial support and nutrition interventions. Access to healthcare for migrants is generally greater in eastern than in western or southern Libya. Based on key informants, healthcare facilities in Tobruk are in need of equipment and medical supplies.

## TOP NEEDS OF SUDANESE IN TOBRUK

(multiple-choice question)



## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES



Three in four Sudanese nationals interviewed in Tobruk mentioned that they lacked access to employment opportunities in Libya.

Unemployment has been highlighted in previous DTM Libya studies as one of the main factors of vulnerability among migrants, and has been associated with higher levels of food insecurity, increased difficulty accessing adequate housing and heightened pressure for those sending remittances, which can lead to the adoption of dangerous coping mechanisms.

Unemployment tends to be particularly high among migrants who have arrived more recently in Libya. The majority of Sudanese nationals interviewed by DTM Libya in Tobruk reported having arrived in Libya in 2024.

## FAMILIES' NEEDS

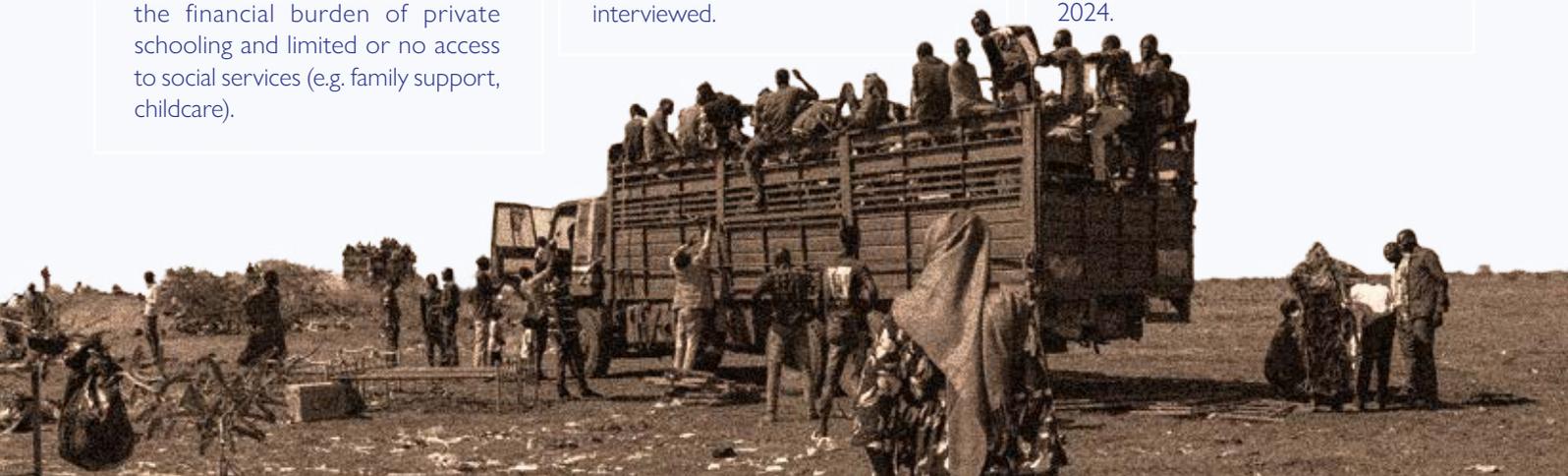
Key informants report that families are in need of essential supplies, such as children's clothing and diapers, in addition to lacking access to public schools.

Families' needs are exacerbated by high consumer prices, a limited number of job opportunities, the financial burden of private schooling and limited or no access to social services (e.g. family support, childcare).

## HEALTH NEEDS OF CHILDREN

According to key informants, some children are suffering from anemia, an indicator of poor nutrition and health.

The municipal authorities have provided some health support to children with anemia and individuals suffering from chronic illnesses, according to key informants interviewed.



# MIGRATION JOURNEY

## MIGRATION ROUTES

Sudanese nationals arriving in Libya typically follow one of two routes. They either travel directly from Sudan to Libya via Alkufra, or they enter Libya from Egypt through the Emsaed land border crossing point. The latter route is the primary and most frequently used route for migrants in Tobruk. The majority of Sudanese coming to Libya are arriving in Alkufra, a largely desertic and sparsely populated area and one of the **main entry points** for migrants traveling to Libya, particularly those coming from or transiting through Chad and Sudan.

## INTENTIONS

According to key informants, most Sudanese nationals intend to stay in Libya (many of whom in Tobruk). Based on key informant interviews, some Sudanese individuals have relocated to Benghazi or Ejdabia mainly because of the greater availability of job opportunities and more accessible transportation options to reach Tripoli, the only location where they can **register** with UNHCR. Three quarters of Sudanese nationals interviewed by DTM mentioned having registered with UNCHR in Egypt, and 85 per cent reported their intention to do so in Libya.

## SAFETY

The majority of Sudanese nationals interviewed by DTM Libya reported that they deemed their current situation in Tobruk as relatively safe but some mentioned that their movements were limited, particularly at nighttime out of fear of arrest because of a lack of documentation.

A lack of documentation is one of the main drivers of vulnerability among migrants in Libya as it can restrict their freedom of movement, economic participation and access to essential services.

## REASONS FOR HAVING LEFT EGYPT

The majority of Sudanese nationals interviewed by DTM Libya in Tobruk mentioned having left Egypt because of economic reasons, including the high cost of living. Inflation **remains high** in Egypt at around 35 per cent, and consumer prices have **increased significantly** over the recent years.

A minority of Sudanese individuals interviewed in Tobruk stated having left Egypt for Libya for reasons related to legal status and documentation, including the inability to renew their residency. The majority of Sudanese nationals interviewed in Libya mentioned having entered Egypt through an official crossing point.

A minority also reported having left Egypt to reunite with family or friends in Libya or because they intend on migrating onwards (e.g. to Europe).

## ASSISTANCE RECEIVED IN EGYPT

The majority of Sudanese nationals interviewed by DTM Libya in Tobruk in April 2024 mentioned having received some assistance while in Egypt, mainly through the provision of food and nutrition support as well as essential non-food items (e.g. clothing) and medical care. A minority reported having received legal aid.

Since April 2023, and as of April 2024, over half a million of individuals had fled Sudan and crossed to Egypt, according to **DTM Sudan**.

The majority of Sudanese nationals interviewed by DTM Libya reported having spent one month or less in Egypt before coming to Libya.

## ABOUT THIS ASSESSMENT

**Methodology:** The information pertaining to migrants' situation is based on 34 quantitative individual interviews conducted by DTM Libya in April 2024 with Sudanese nationals who arrived after the April 2023 onset of conflict in Sudan. The migrant population figures are based on data collected through key informant interviews with representatives of the municipality of Tobruk and Sudanese community leaders. Additional data was collected at the Emsaed border crossing point.

**Limitations:** This brief provides a snapshot of a highly heterogeneous group of people on the move in a quickly evolving context. The purposive sampling approach used limits the sex and age breakdown as well as the findings on migrant vulnerabilities from being fully statistically representative of the entire Sudanese population in Libya.

**Definition of migrant:** 'Migrant' is an **umbrella term**. For the purpose of this report only people who moved away from their place of usual residence across an international border, temporarily or permanently, and for a variety of reasons are considered as migrants. The present definition was developed by IOM for its own purposes and it is not meant to imply or create any new legal category.