DTM DISPLACEMENT TRACKING MATRIX

Project funded by the European Union


IOM LIBYA

# MIGRANT REPORT ROUND 51

JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2024

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**Cover photo:** In April 2024, IOM Libya in collaboration with the Embassy of Sudan provided humanitarian assistance to families who have arrived in Libya since the onset of conflict in Sudan in April 2023. © *Ruba AHMED / IOM 2024*

# CONTENTS

# KEY FINDINGS

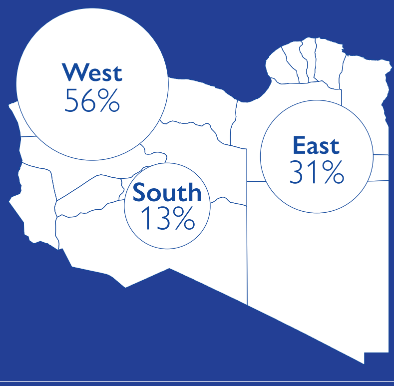
ROUND 51 (JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2024)

**DTM** DISPLACEMENT TRACKING MATRIX

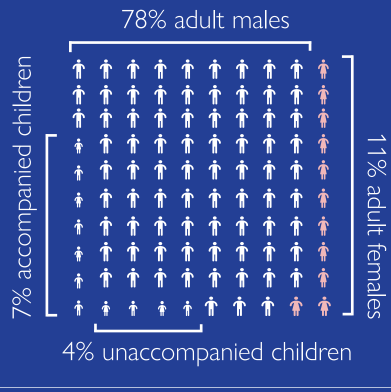
## 719,064

migrants were identified by DTM Libya during round 51 of data collection (January - February 2024). Around eight in ten (78%) were adult males, 11 per cent adult females, and 11 per cent were children (among whom 4% were unaccompanied).

## LOCATION

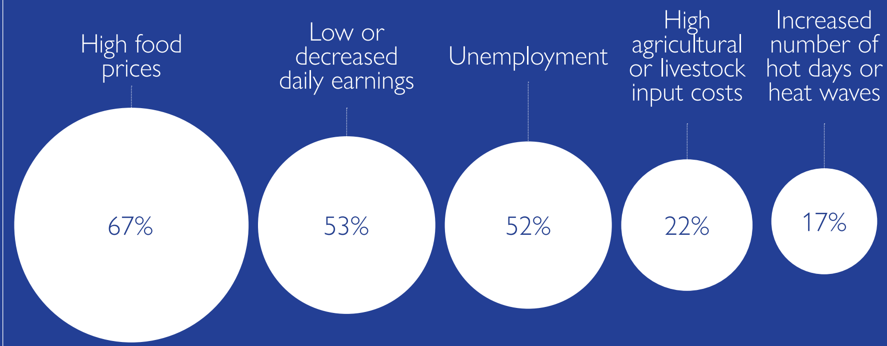



## SEX & AGE

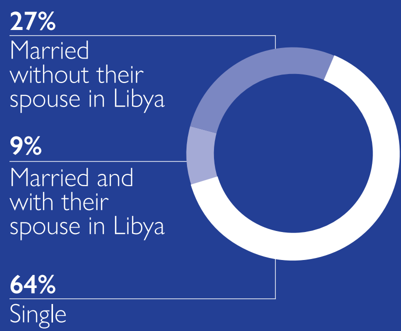



## TOP 5 SHOCKS EXPERIENCED IN THE 12 MONTHS PRIOR TO MIGRATING TO LIBYA

*(multiple-choice question)*




## MARITAL STATUS

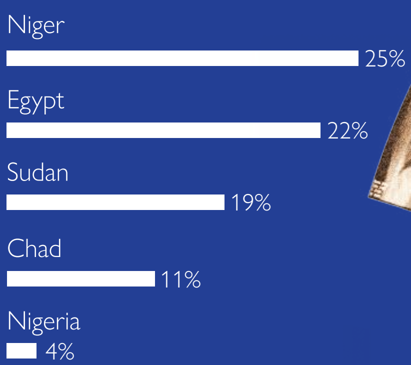



## OCCUPATION

## 50%

of migrants interviewed by DTM Libya in January and February 2024 were employed in the construction sector (a quater of whom were working without a contract and three quarters with a verbal contract only). Around eight in ten construction businesses operating in Libya surveyed in 2021 reported employing migrant workers.

## TOP 5 NATIONALITIES

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IOM UN MIGRATION

# TRENDS & KEY STATS

## NUMBER OF MIGRANTS IN LIBYA

The number of migrants in Libya has been increasing since September 2023 and stands at its highest since DTM started operating in Libya.

## EMPLOYMENT

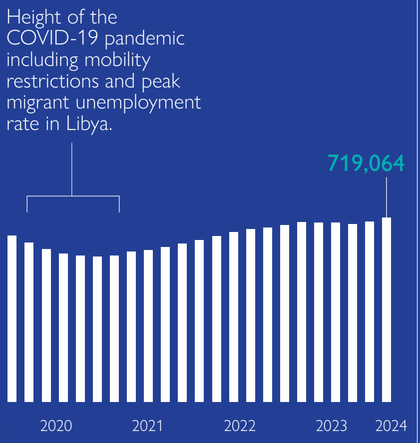
The unemployment rate among migrants in Libya has been stable since the last quarter of 2023 at 16 per cent, boosted by a resilient economy forecasted to continue growing in 2024.

Half of employed migrants reported being contracted on a short-term or casual basis (e.g. very short term or on an occasional and intermittent basis).

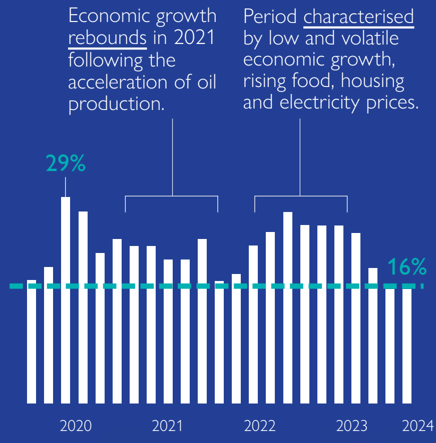
## REMITTANCES

For the past two years, around half of migrants have been consistently reporting that their remittances have been their household's primary source of revenue. This trend hints at the increased needs of migrants' family in the receiving countries likely related to the recent surge in food prices and inflation.

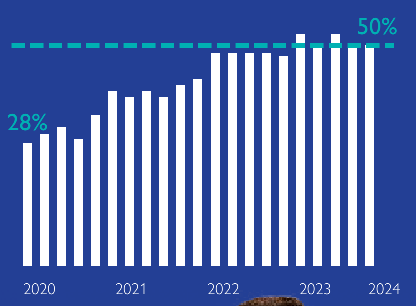
*Number of migrants in Libya*
*2020 - 2024*




*Migrant unemployment rate in Libya*
*2020 - 2024*




***Percentage of migrants for whom the money they send home is their household's primary source of revenue***
*2020 - 2024*

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# OVERVIEW

IOM Libya's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) programme identified a total of 719,064 migrants from 44 nationalities in the 100 Libyan municipalities during round 51 of data collection (January - February 2024).

The number of migrants in Libya continued to increase compared to the previous round of data collection from 706,369 migrants, round 50 to 719,064, round 51 — the highest number of migrants since DTM Libya started collecting data. The number of migrants in Libya remains lower than prior to the onset of conflict in 2011 when it was estimated to be around 2.5 million.

Some factors that may explain the increase in the number of migrants includes a rise in the number of Sudanese nationals, particularly in Alkufra and other locations in eastern Libya because of the ongoing conflict in their country of origin. In parallel, DTM Libya also observed an increase in the number of nationals, particularly from Egypt and Sudan, in some municipalities in the east and southwest as a result of greater livelihood opportunities, including in the construction and agricultural sectors.

Previously, after having been increasing between the beginning of 2021 and February 2023, the number of migrants in Libya had been decreasing slightly due to a combination of factors including a wave of arrests and collective expulsions that began in May 2023, an increased security presence at Libya's borders as well as the momentary partial closure of Niger borders in July following the coup d'état. In 2020, the number of migrants had declined as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and its socioeconomic impact.

### Labour market

In line with the previous two rounds of data collection the migrant unemployment rate (16%) remains on par with pre-COVID-19 pandemic levels (17%). In comparison, nearly half of migrants (48%) reported having been unemployed upon leaving their country of origin.

Despite general improvement in the overall migrant unemployment rate, according to DTM information there is a lack of job opportunities in some municipalities including in Misrata, Tajoura and Gharb Azzawya in western Libya, and in Aljufra and Albawanees in the south. A greater proportion of females (Fig 1), younger migrants (particularly those under 20) (Fig 2), and those from sub-Saharan African (Fig 3) compared to others were unemployed.

DTM Libya data confirms that those who are unemployed are more likely to face difficulties including food insecurity, lack of access to clean drinking water, financial issues, lack of information (e.g. related to employment opportunities) and identity document issues (Fig 4).

*Figure 1: Percentage of migrants unemployed and actively seeking work by sex*

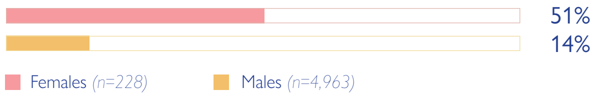



*Figure 2: Percentage of migrants unemployed and actively seeking work by region of origin*

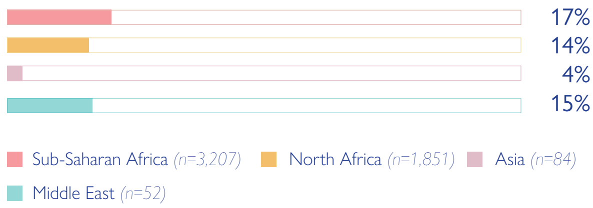



*Figure 3: Percentage of migrants unemployed and actively seeking work by age group*

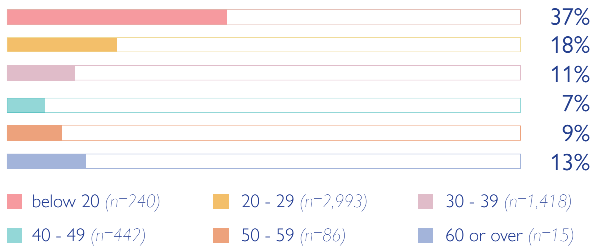
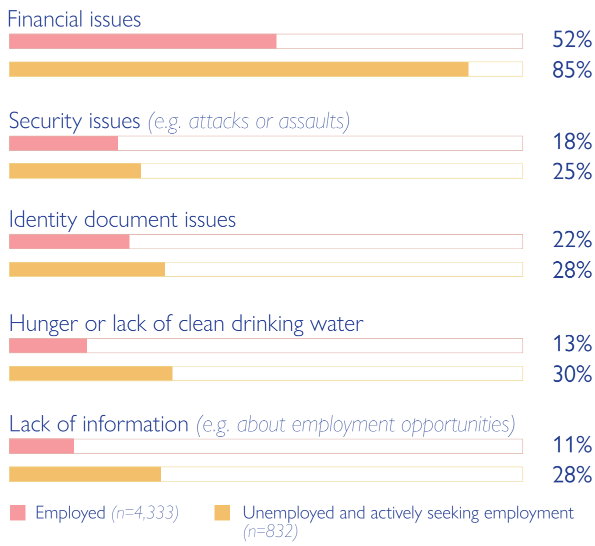



*Figure 4: Top 3 difficulties faced by migrants by employment status in Libya (multiple-choice question)*



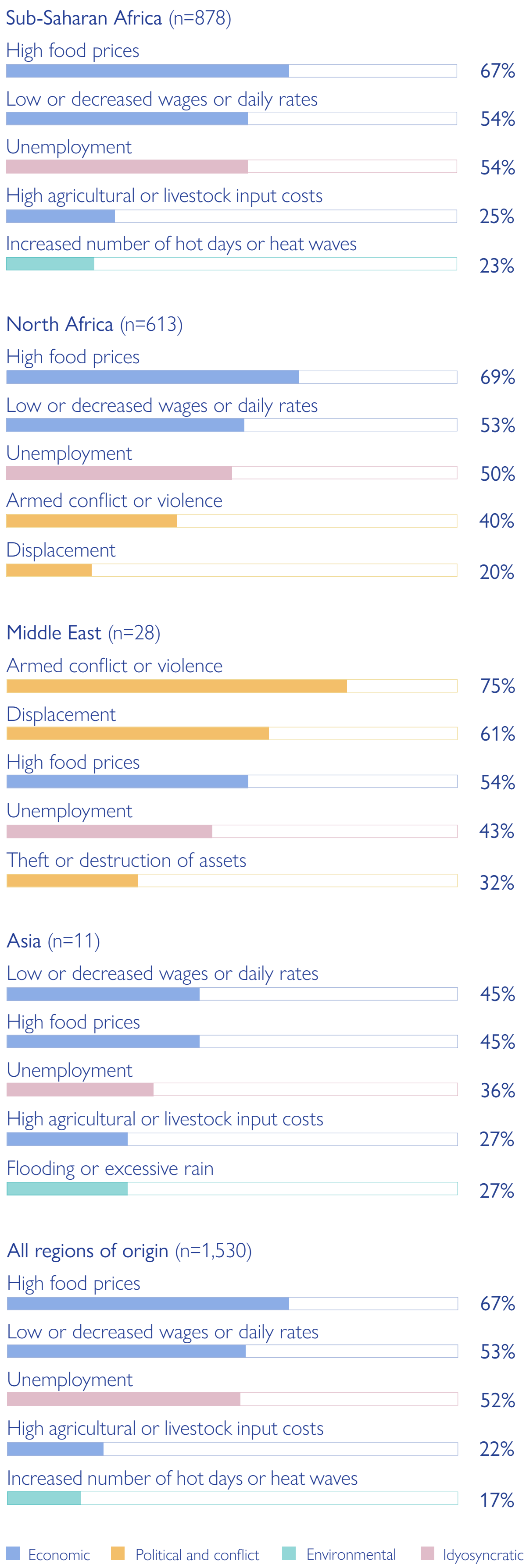
## Migration drivers and climate change

The majority of migrants (86%) cited economic reasons as the main reason for having left their country of origin. This held true regardless of sex, age group or region of origin (except in the case of those from the Middle East for whom security issues in the country of origin was the main reason). Among the economic factors cited were insufficient income (49%) and lack of job opportunities in the country of origin (19%) as well as the search for employment options (16%), and, to a lesser extent, economic or business opportunities (2%). Correspondingly, among migrants who reported having experienced a shock in the year prior to migrating (29% of respondents), the most common shocks were economic (high food prices and low or decreased agricultural production), idiosyncratic[1] (e.g. unemployment) and political (e.g. armed conflict, violence and displacement) - all of which can be directly or indirectly related to climate change (Fig 5).

Although overall one per cent of migrants identified slow onset environmental degradation (e.g. droughts, changing rainfall patterns) or sudden disasters (e.g. floods, earthquakes) as a primary migration driver, a recent DTM Libya study found that climate-related events were indirect migration drivers, often through their impact on local economies and workers, particularly those reliant on agriculture. Climatic shocks tend to reduce local economic opportunities, particularly in countries that are highly dependent on natural resources and have a low capacity to cope with the adverse impact of climate change. For example, climate-related events (e.g. heat waves, excessive rain) were among the top five most commonly experienced shocks by migrants from sub-Saharan Africa and Asia. In addition, migrants from sub-Saharan African and Asia also reported that high agricultural or livestock input costs, unemployment and low or decreased wages were among the top five shocks they had experienced in the year prior to migrating to Libya (Fig 5).

Climate change has also been found to act as a risk multiplier, exacerbating pre-existing vulnerabilities. The majority of migrants who had experienced at least one shock in their country of origin prior to migrating to Libya (29% of respondents) mentioned that this shock had had a severe (68%) or catastrophic (14%) impact on their household's food consumption and income.

*Figure 5: Top five shocks experienced by migrants in the 12 months prior to their migration to Libya by region of origin*




1 Idiosyncratic shocks refer to shocks that principally affect only individual households.

### Geographical patterns and trends

In line with previous reports, and highlighting the influence of geographical proximity and diasporic ties, nearly eight in ten migrants in Libya (78%) were nationals from neighbouring countries: Niger (25%), Egypt (22%), Sudan (19%) and Chad (11%) and, to a lesser extent, Tunisia (1%) (Fig 6).

The majority of migrants identified by DTM Libya during round 51 (January - February 2024) were from sub-Saharan Africa (49%) or North Africa (42%) while a minority were from the Middle East (5%) or Asia (4%) (Fig 7).

The largest migrant populations identified by DTM during round 51 of data collection were located in the coastal regions of Tripoli (16%), Benghazi (11%), Misrata (11%), Ejdabia (7%), Almargeb (7%) and Azzawya (6%) (Fig 8).

The Libyan coastal area is home to the majority of urban settlements and crop land, while the rest of the country (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 | 183,334 | 25% |
| Egypt | 160,281 | 22% |
| Sudan | 136,455 | 19% |
| Chad | 80,461 | 11% |
| Nigeria | 30,964 | 4% |
| Syrian Arab Republic | 26,176 | 4% |
| Bangladesh | 21,481 | 3% |
| Mali | 14,081 | 2% |
| Ghana | 13,280 | 2% |
| Pakistan | 7,067 | 1% |
| Palestine | 6,616 | 1% |
| Other | 5,931 | 1% |
| Tunisia | 5,639 | 1% |
| Burkina Faso | 4,138 | 1% |
| South Sudan | 3,695 | 1% |
| Senegal | 3,209 | 0.4% |
| Eritrea | 2,990 | 0.4% |
| Mauritania | 2,444 | 0.3% |
| Côte d'Ivoire | 2,232 | 0.3% |
| Morocco | 1,957 | 0.3% |
| Somalia | 1,764 | 0.2% |
| Unknown | 1,480 | 0.2% |
| Guinea | 1,312 | 0.2% |
| Cameroon | 1,041 | 0.1% |
| Algeria | 1,036 | 0.1% |
| **Total for Libya** | **719,064** | **100%** |

*Figure 7: Regions of origin of migrants*

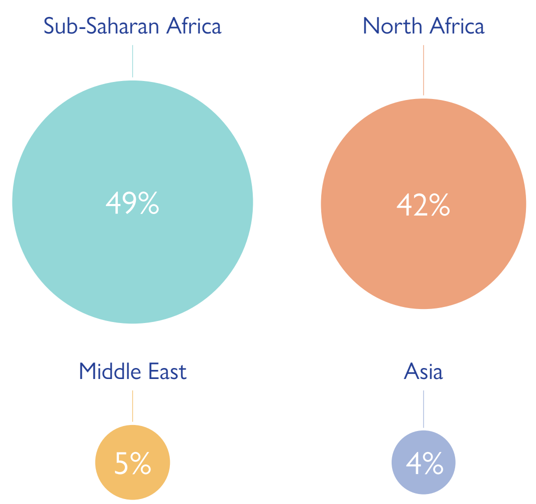
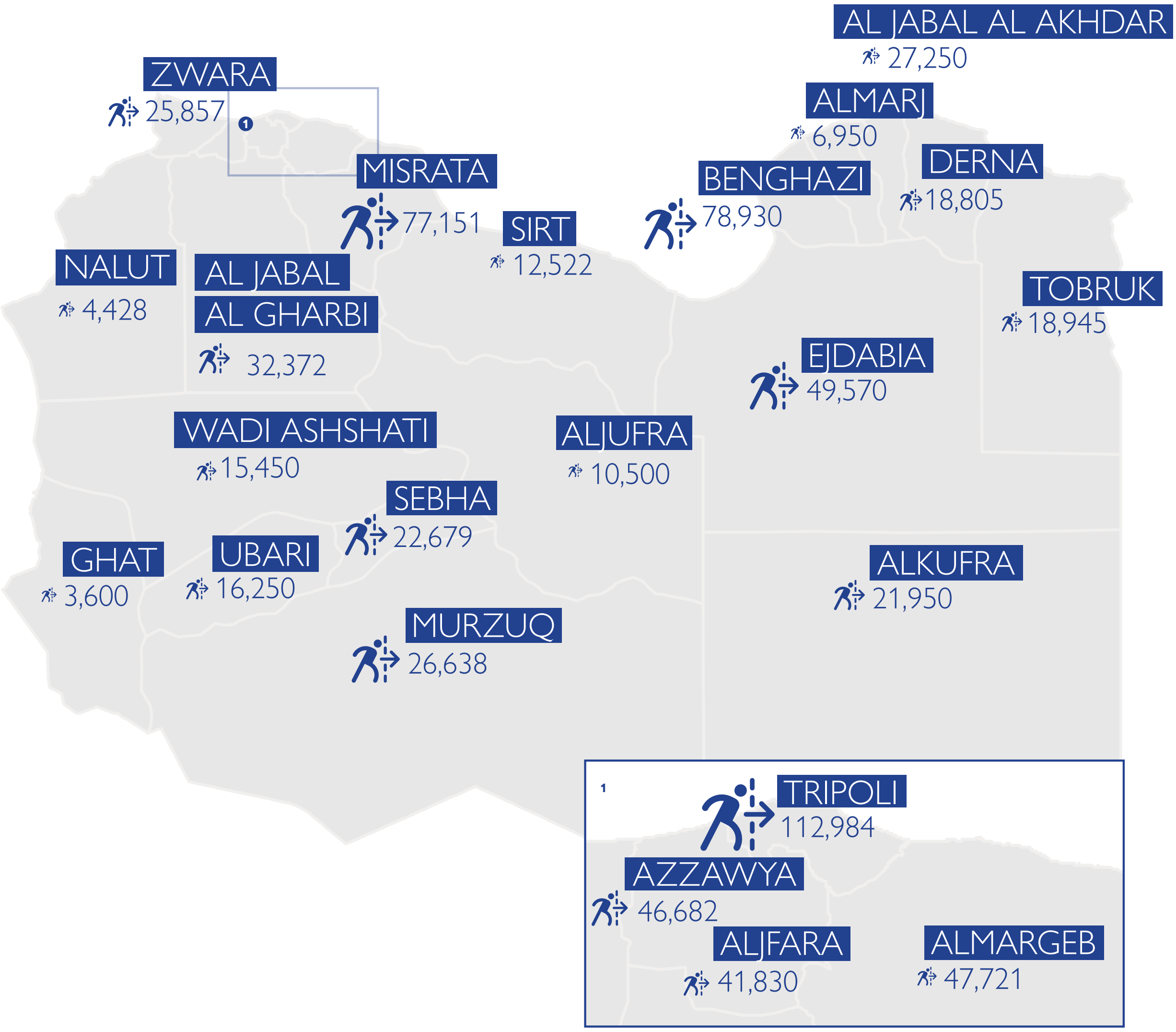


*Figure 8: Number of migrants per region (mantika) during DTM round 51 of data collection*

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# HUMANITARIAN NEEDS

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# MIGRANT VULNERABILITIES AND HUMANITARIAN NEEDS

DTM Libya conducted 5,201 individual interviews with migrants and 2,005 key informants interviews in January and February 2024 to shed light on the main needs and vulnerabilities of migrants in Libya.

According to key informants, the high costs of food, clean drinking water, accommodation, essential non-food items and healthcare continue to be the main obstacle migrants face in fulfilling their basic needs. In line with these findings individual interviews with migrants show that financial issues is the top difficulty affecting more than half of migrants surveyed (57%). In addition, according to the February 2024 WFP Libya's market monitoring report, individuals spend 12 per cent more on average to cover their monthly food needs, compared to prior to the onset of conflict in Ukraine. Moreover, the depreciation of the Libyan dinar against the United States dollar is further compounding the purchasing power of households in Libya. A total of 16 per cent of migrants reported that hunger or lack of clean drinking water was one of the three main difficulties they faced at the time of survey. This issue affected a greater proportion of female migrants (32%) compared to males (15%).

### Access to water, sanitation and hygiene

The lack of access to the public water network and the absence of waste management disposal in the community were identified by key informants as barriers to adequate access to water, sanitation and hygiene. A total of 38 per cent of migrants interviewed in January and February 2024 mentioned having daily access to the public water network. One in five (20%) had rarely or never access to the network. Access was more limited among female migrants (30%), those over the age of 50 (42%) and those who are unemployed (22%) (Fig 9).

Around one in six migrants (15%) interviewed by DTM Libya in January and February 2024 mentioned having insufficient access to clean drinking water. In line with previous reports, female migrants (44%), those who are unemployed (24%), and those aged 30 or below (16%) reported lacking clean drinking water to a greater extent than males (13%), those who were employed (13%) and those aged 30 or above (12%) (Fig 10).

Overall, more than half of migrants (55%) reported having to use a communal toilet shared with more than six other individuals. A higher percentage of migrants aged less than 30 (61%) than those 30 or above (50%) cited having to use a communal toilet shared with more than six individuals.

*Figure 9: Percentage of migrants who reported having irregular access ('never' or 'rarely') to the public water network by sex, age and employment status*

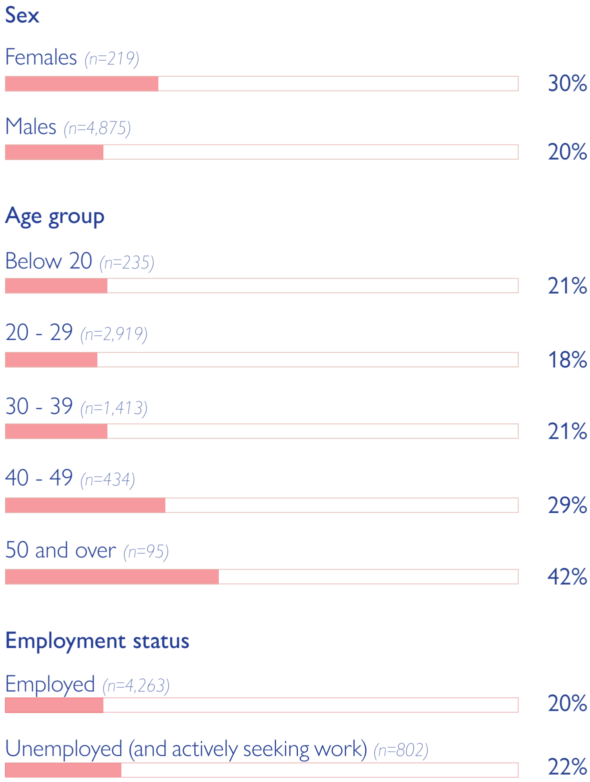



*Figure 10: Percentage of migrants who reported lacking access to sufficient clean drinking water*

## Access to healthcare

Over seven in ten migrants (72%) in Libya mentioned having limited or no access to healthcare. In line with previous reports, a greater percentage of migrants in southern (74%) and western (78%) Libya continue to report that they lack full access to healthcare compared to those in the eastern part of the country (28%) (Fig 11).

The main barrier to obtaining health services in Libya remains the unaffordability of care, regardless of region of origin (Fig 12). Other obstacles migrants reported facing in accessing healthcare in Libya included the lack of safe access (24%), the irregular supply of medicines (24%), the distance to reach services (24%) and the inadequate quality of care (20%).

More than four times as many females (35%) reported that they had no access to healthcare compared to male migrants (8%). For the majority of both males (85%) and females (77%), however, the main issue was the cost of services.

## Accommodation

According to key informants, more than four in five migrants (83%) lived in rented accommodation either paid for by themselves (71%), their employer (7%) or others (5%) (Fig 13). Migrants interviewed paid on average USD 30 per month for rent but the monthly average ranged from USD 1 to USD 1,300.

Among those who mentioned living in rented accommodation a minority (3%) reported having a legal contract. Overall, a total of three per cent of migrants interviewed by DTM Libya in January and February 2024 reported having been evicted (1%) or threatened with eviction in the past three months (2%). The main reason cited for having been evicted or threatened with eviction was the inability to pay rent (58%). The percentage migrants who stated having been evicted or threatened with eviction was higher among females (5% and 7%, respectively) than among male migrants (1 and 2%, respectively), which is likely to be at least partially related to the higher unemployment rate among female migrants (51%) compared to males (14%).

A DTM Libya study highlighted that the socioeconomic situation, earning capacity and employment status were among the main factors influencing migrants' access to the rental market and their ability to secure housing. Moreover, the study also found that female migrants are increasingly likely to face challenges related to their housing situation compared to males, particularly for those who are single or without their spouse in Libya.

*Figure 11: Level of access to healthcare services of migrants by geographical location in Libya*

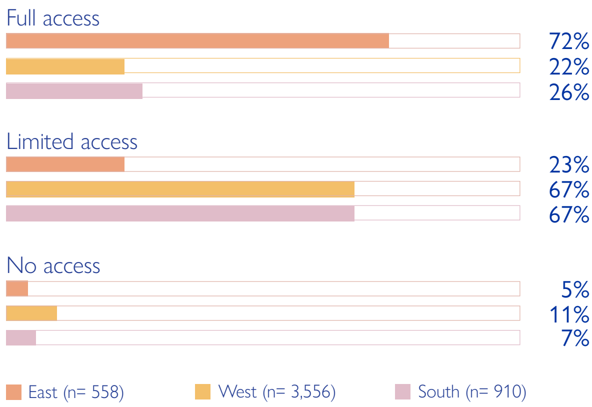



*Figure 12: Main barriers reported by migrants who have limited or no access to healthcare in Libya (multiple-choice question)*

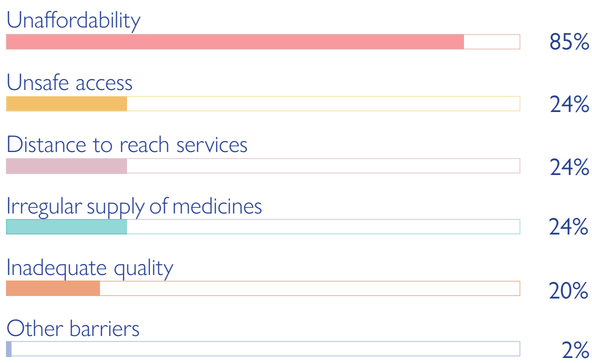
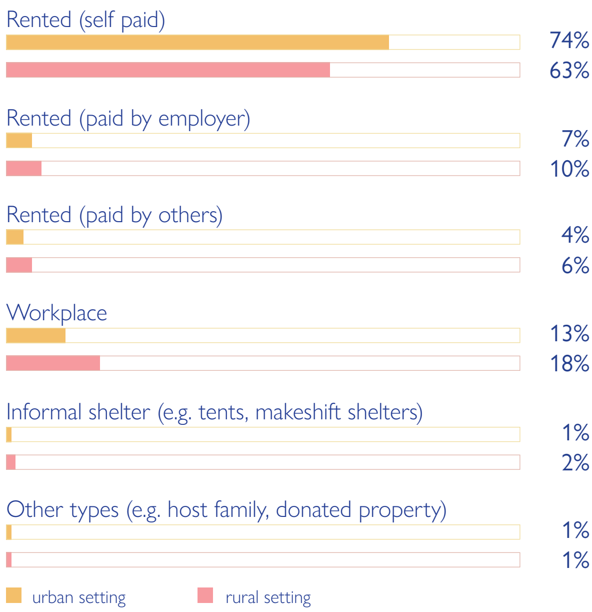



*Figure 13: Type of accommodation occupied by migrants surveyed based on key informants*



## Access to education

Consistent with previous reports, only a minority of migrants (7%) interviewed by DTM in January and February 2024 reported having family members aged between 5 and 18 in Libya. More migrants from the Middle East (57%) than those from North Africa (7%), sub-Saharan Africa (6%) or Asia (1%) reported having children in Libya (Fig 14).

Among those who had children, the majority (61%) mentioned that they were unable to access education in Libya mainly because of the cost (87%) and a lack of documents (84%). In addition to being a barrier to accessing education, socioeconomic disparities have also been linked to lower educational performance and attainment, potentially affecting longer-term life outcomes.

Other barriers to accessing education included problems related to social isolation and participation in the local community (68%) and the language barrier (53%). Social isolation and the language barrier were more commonly cited by migrants from sub-Saharan Africa compared to those from North Africa, for whom a lack of documents and financial constraints were the main obstacles (Fig 15).

The majority of migrants from the Middle East (82%) and North Africa (55%) stated that their children in Libya had access to education services compared to a minority of those from sub-Saharan Africa (20%) (Fig 16).

Overall, a greater percentage of migrants interviewed in the east (73%) mentioned that their children had access to school compared to fewer of those surveyed in southern (34%) or western Libya (36%) (Fig 17).

*Figure 14: Percentage of migrants who reported having school-aged children with them in Libya by region of origin*

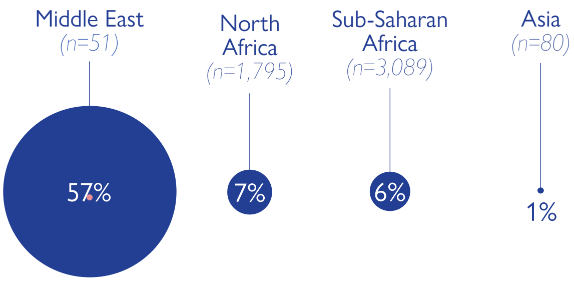
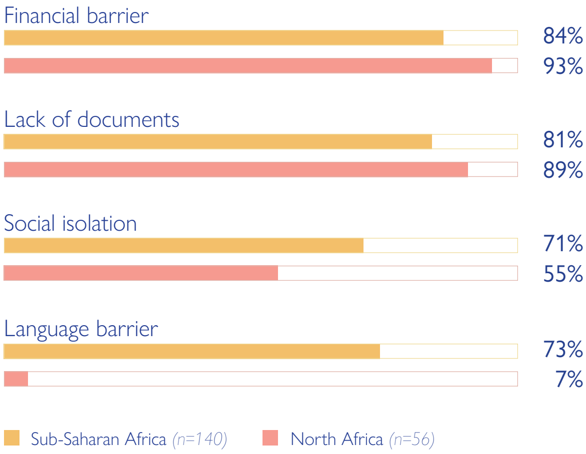



*Figure 15: Main issues hindering migrants' ability to send their children to school by region of origin (multiple-choice question)*




N.b. Sample size for migrants from the Middle East was too small for analysis.

*Figure 16: Percentage of migrants who are able to send their children to school by region of origin*

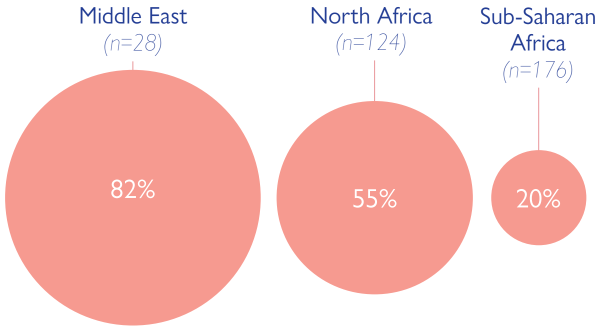



*Figure 17: Percentage of migrants who are able to send their children to school by region in Libya where they were interviewed*

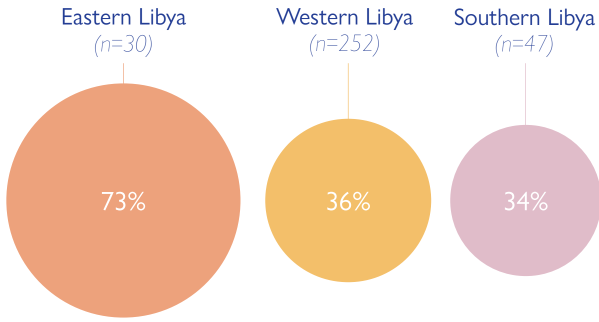
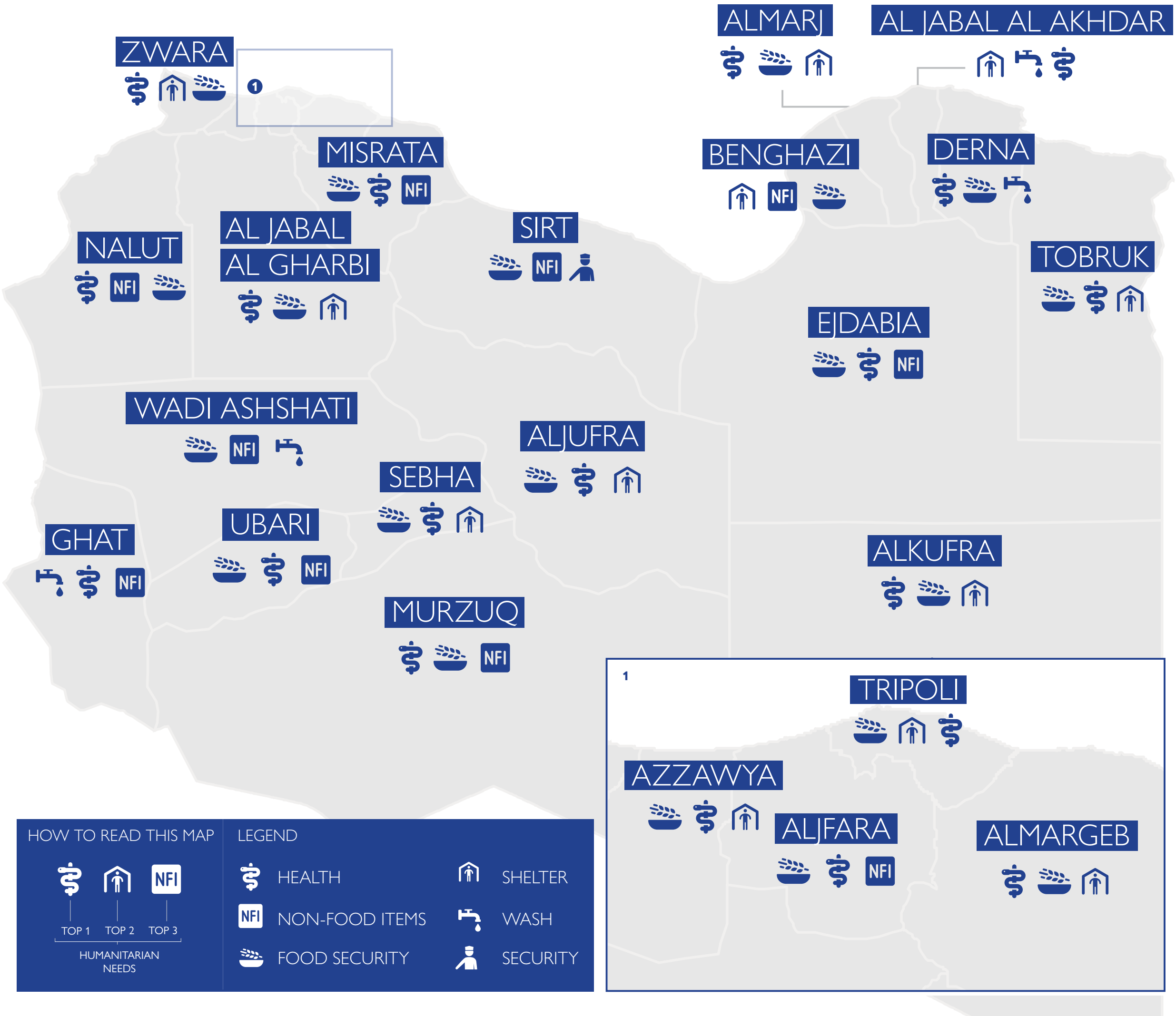


*Figure 18: Humanitarian priority needs of migrants per region (mantika)*

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# MIGRATION FLOWS

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# MIGRATION ROUTES TO LIBYA

This section maps the major migration routes that migrants from different countries of origin used to reach Libya. This analysis is based on 5,201 individual quantitative migrant interviews conducted in January and February 2024 at key locations including transit points throughout Libya.

The largest shares of migrants who were interviewed by DTM Libya in January and February 2024 had transited through (or came from) Niger (46%), Egypt (19%), Sudan (13%) and Chad (14%) before arriving in Libya. A minority had transited through or came from Tunisia (5%), Algeria (1%) or a combination of other countries (2%).

Two thirds of migrants (66%) who were interviewed by DTM Libya during the reporting period mentioned having been in Libya for at least one year while a third reported having arrived more recently.

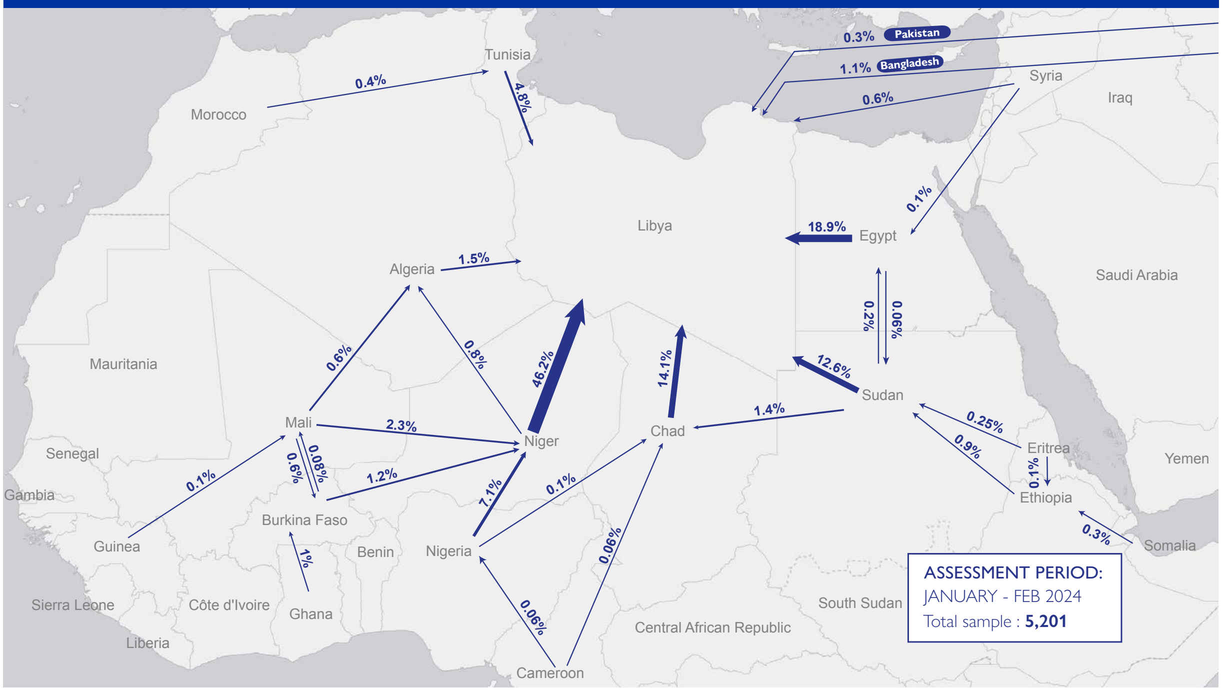
Migrants paid on average 781 USD for their journey to Libya, although the cost reported by migrants varied significantly based on the route and means of transportation taken. The majority of migrants stated having funded their journey through their own resources (85%) (e.g. debt, savings, earnings while traveling or in Libya). A minority had also paid for their journey through relatives or friends' financial assistance (27%) or through the sale of their property (12%).

Nearly seven in ten migrants (69%) used the services of migration facilitators, which also represented the largest expense incurred in the majority of cases (72%) after transportation (other than migration facilitators, e.g. air ticket) (13%), accommodation (4%) or food (2%). Migrants used the services of migration facilitators mainly for support with transportation (94%) or to help them cross difficult areas along the route (53%), and to a lesser extent for the provision of information (20%), food and water (18%), security (15%) housing (13%) and documents (4%).

*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 on the map below represent the percentage of migrants who reported having travelled along each 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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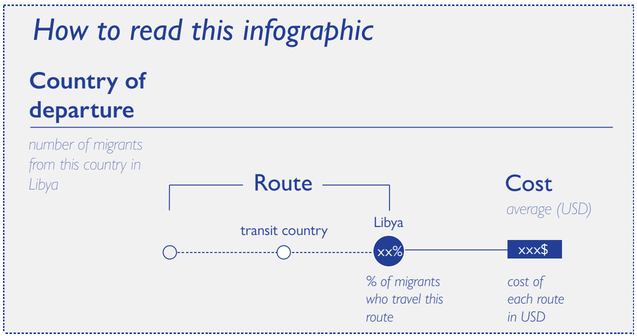
# MIGRATION ROUTES: ANALYSIS AND TRENDS

This section outlines the different routes taken by migrants (i.e. through which countries they transited 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 2024.

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).

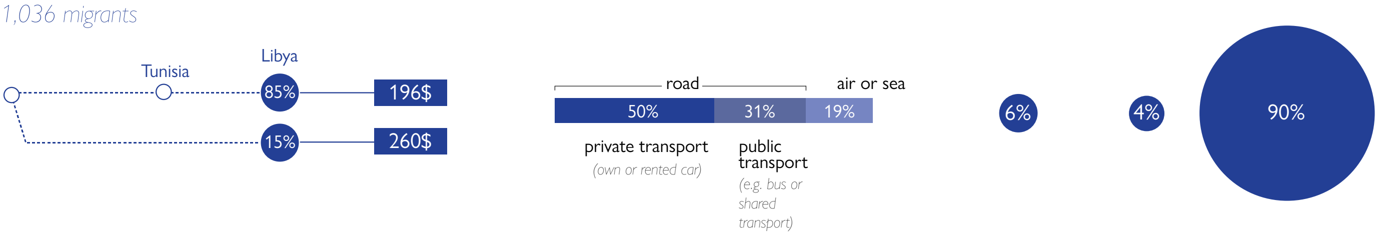



| ROUTES | COST average (USD) | MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION | PRESENCE IN LIBYA BY GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS |
|---|---|---|---|

East South West

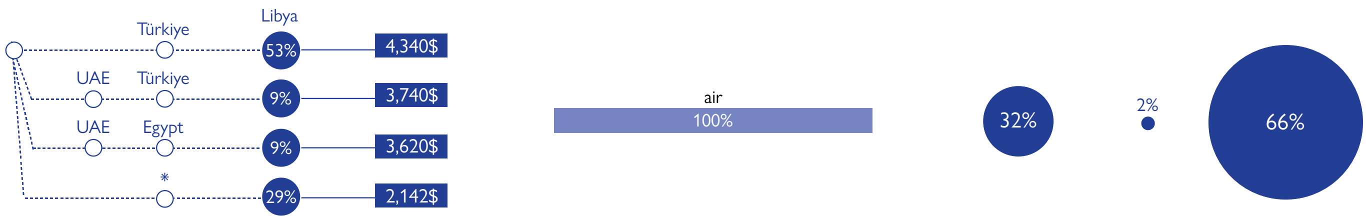
## Algeria

*1,036 migrants*




## Bangladesh

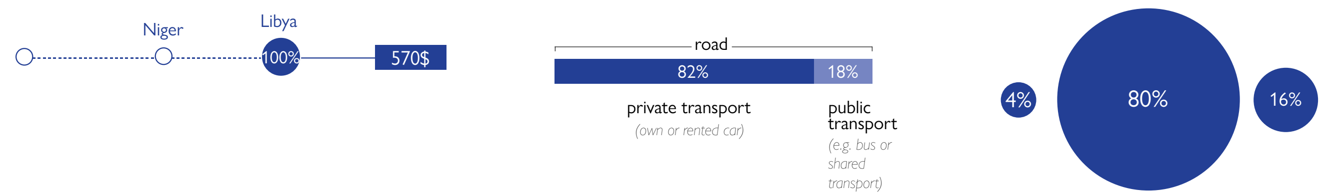
*21,481 migrants*




*Multiple routes used that included one or a combination of the following countries: Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, Oman, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia and/or United Arab Emirates.

## Burkina Faso

*4,138 migrants*

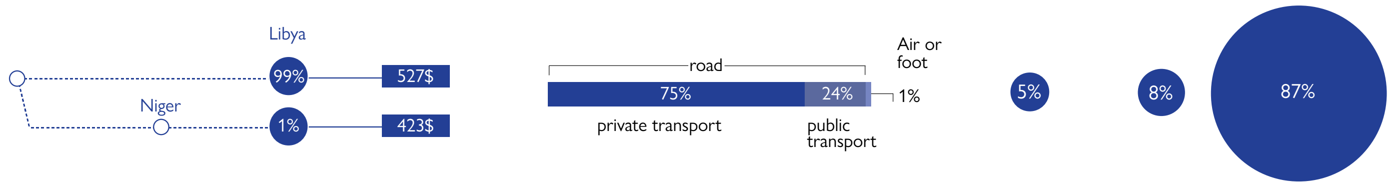


| ROUTES | COST average (USD) | MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION | PRESENCE IN LIBYA BY GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS |
|---|---|---|---|

East South West

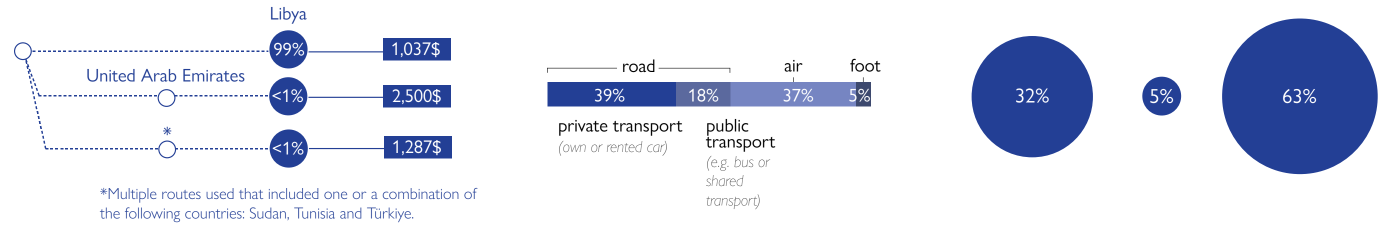
## Chad

*80,461 migrants*




## Egypt

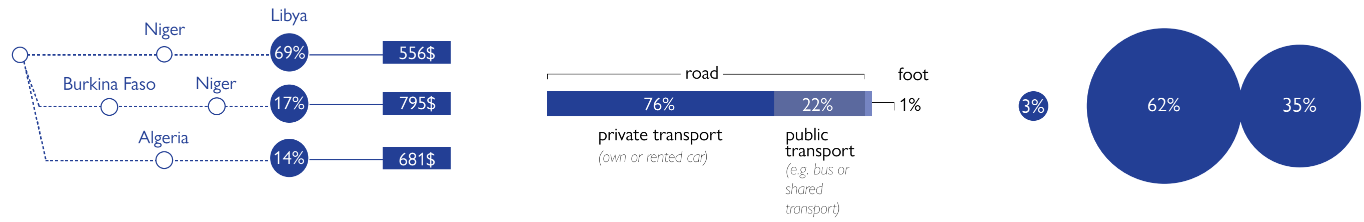
*160,281 migrants*




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

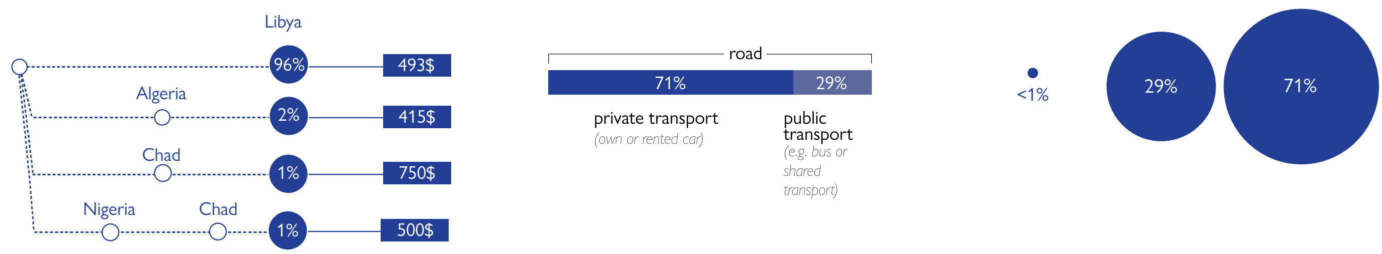
## Mali

*14,081 migrants*




## Niger

*183,334 migrants*



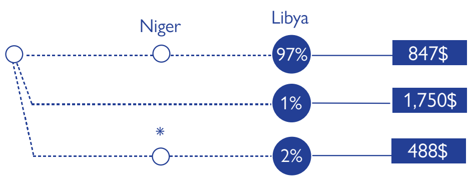

*Multiple routes used including via one or a combination of the following countries: Chad, Egypt, Mali, Nigeria, Sudan and/or Tunisia.

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

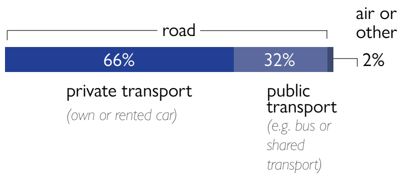
East South West

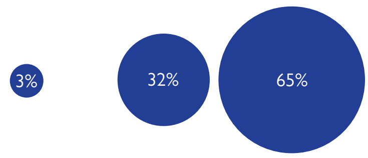
## Nigeria

*30,964 migrants*



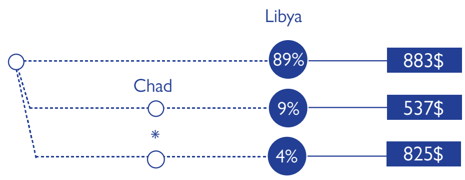

*Multiple routes used that included one or a combination of the following countries: Chad, Niger and/or Türkiye.



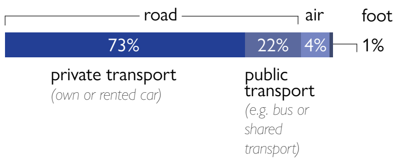



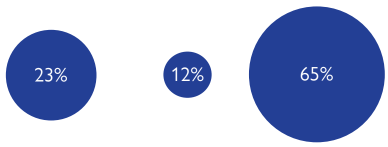

## Sudan

*136,455 migrants*



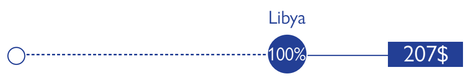

*Multiple routes used that included one or more of the following countries: Chad, Egypt, Niger and/or Jordan.

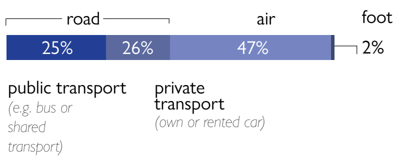


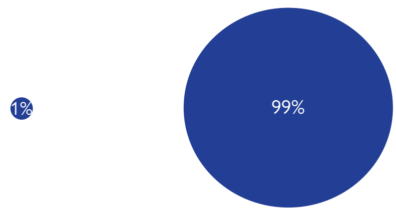




## Tunisia

*5,639 migrants*



# REGIONAL ANALYSIS

# REGIONAL ANALYSIS - DISTRIBUTION

In line with the previous round of data collection, key informant interviews conducted by DTM Libya in January and February 2024 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 20).

Consistent with previous reports, the majority of migrants (59%) were located in the coastal regions of Tripoli (16%), Benghazi (11%), Misrata (11%), Ejdabia (7%), Almargeb (7%) and Azzawya (6%) (Fig 21).

Based on key informants interviewed in January and February 2024 three quarters of migrants (74%) lived in urban settings while around a quarter (26%) resided in rural areas. Similarly, it is estimated that the majority of the Libyan population (81%) lives in urban areas, mainly concentrated in the major urban centres along the Mediterranean, such as Tripoli, Misrata and Benghazi.

*Figure 20: Distribution of migrants by geographical area*

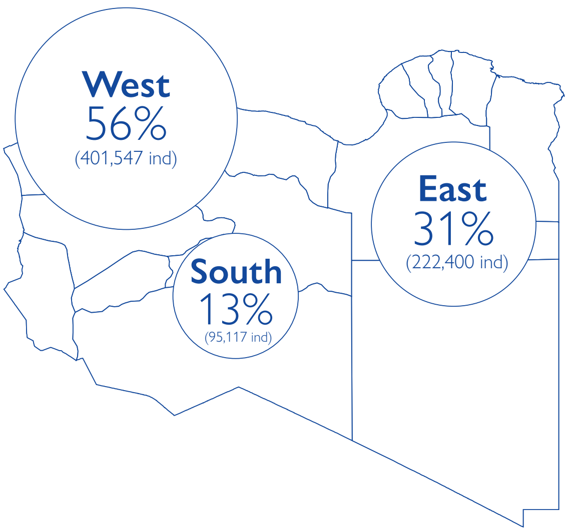



*Figure 21: Migrants in Libya by region (mantika) (based on mobility tracking data)*

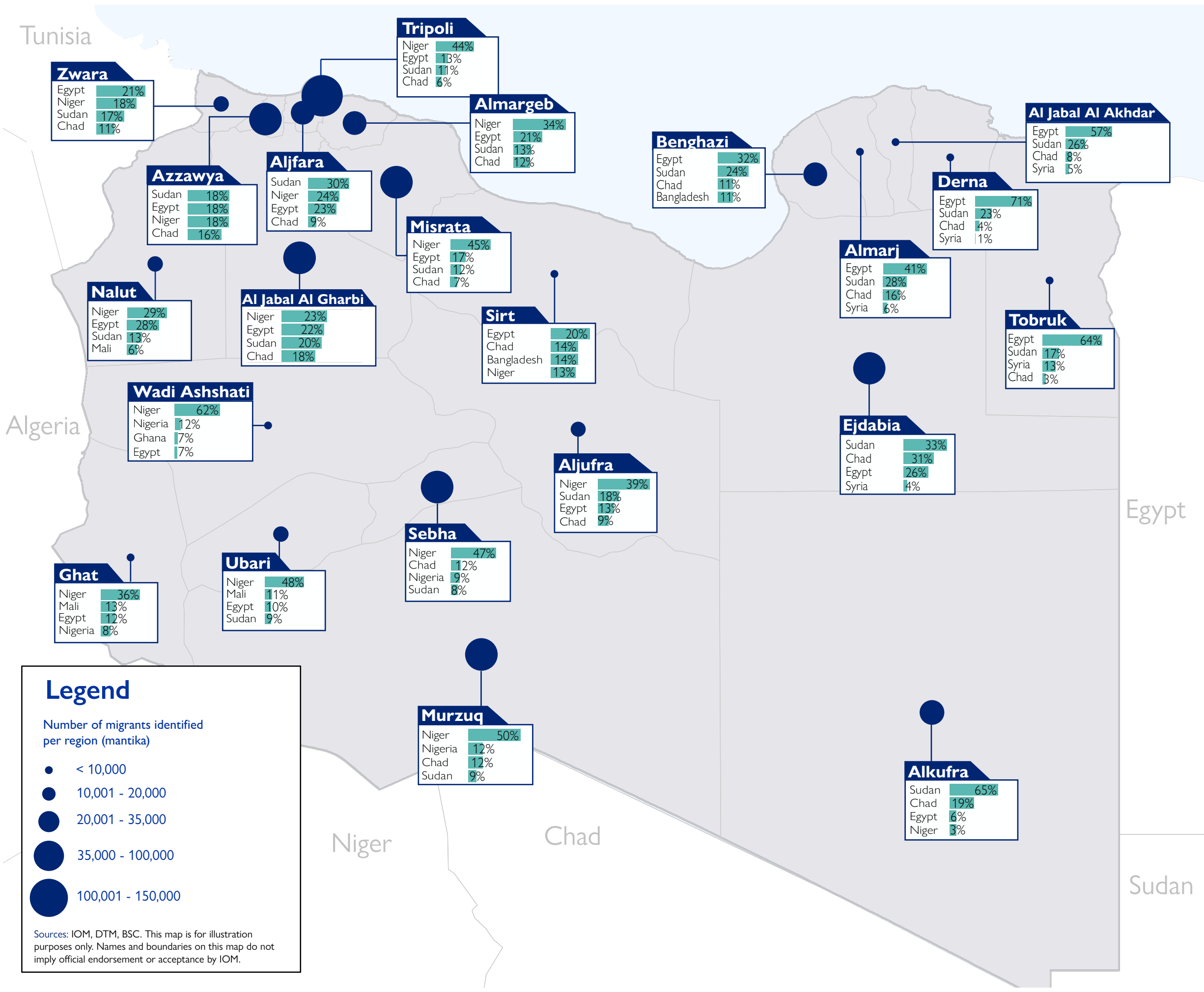
| Mantika (region) | Number of migrants | % by region |
|---|---|---|
| Tripoli | 112,984 | 16% |
| Benghazi | 78,930 | 11% |
| Misrata | 77,151 | 11% |
| Ejdabia | 49,570 | 7% |
| Almargeb | 47,721 | 7% |
| Azzawya | 46,682 | 6% |
| Aljfara | 41,830 | 6% |
| Al Jabal Al Gharbi | 32,372 | 5% |
| Al Jabal Al Akhdar | 27,250 | 4% |
| Murzuq | 26,638 | 4% |
| Zwara | 25,857 | 4% |
| Sebha | 22,679 | 3% |
| Alkufra | 21,950 | 3% |
| Tobruk | 18,945 | 3% |
| Derna | 18,805 | 3% |
| Ubari | 16,250 | 2% |
| Wadi Ashshati | 15,450 | 2% |
| Sirt | 12,522 | 2% |
| Aljufra | 10,500 | 2% |
| Almarj | 6,950 | 1% |
| Nalut | 4,428 | 1% |
| Ghat | 3,600 | 1% |
| **Total for Libya** | **719,064** | **100%** |

# REGIONAL ANALYSIS: NATIONALITIES OF MIGRANTS

The map below (Fig 22) shows the top four nationalities of migrants by region based on data collected by DTM Libya in January and February 2024.

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 are among the most-represented nationalities in the southern and western regions of Murzuq and Sebha. Sudanese and Chadian nationals represent 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 constitute the largest shares 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)*




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

# REGION OF ORIGIN ANALYSIS

Based on key informant interviews conducted in January and February 2024 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 (67%) while migrants from sub-Saharan African countries (such as Niger and Chad) represent the bulk of migrants in southern and western Libya (84% 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 & Middle East | | Migrants from sub-Saharan Africa | | Migrants from North Africa | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| EAST | Al Jabal Al Akhdar | 2,022 | 7% | 2,511 | 6% | 22,717 | 15% |
| | Alkufra | 329 | 1% | 5,991 | 14% | 15,630 | 10% |
| | Almarj | 598 | 2% | 1,493 | 4% | 4,859 | 3% |
| | Benghazi | 19,991 | 65% | 14,668 | 35% | 44,271 | 30% |
| | Derna | 182 | 1% | 839 | 2% | 17,784 | 12% |
| | Ejdabia | 4,701 | 15% | 15,592 | 37% | 29,277 | 20% |
| | Tobruk | 3,037 | 10% | 665 | 2% | 15,243 | 10% |
| **Eastern Libya total** | | **30,860** | **14%** | **41,759** | **19%** | **149,781** | **67%** |
| SOUTH | Aljufra | - | - | 7,260 | 9% | 3,240 | 23% |
| | Ghat | - | - | 2,761 | 3% | 839 | 6% |
| | Murzuq | 314 | 24% | 23,243 | 29% | 3,081 | 22% |
| | Sebha | 664 | 51% | 19,743 | 25% | 2,272 | 16% |
| | Ubari | 181 | 14% | 12,896 | 16% | 3,167 | 22% |
| | Wadi Ashshati | 145 | 11% | 13,728 | 17% | 1,577 | 11% |
| **Southern Libya total** | | **1,304** | **1%** | **79,631** | **84%** | **14,176** | **15%** |
| WEST | Al Jabal al Gharbi | 1,048 | 3% | 16,783 | 7% | 14,526 | 10% |
| | Aljfara | 732 | 2% | 18,711 | 8% | 22,330 | 16% |
| | Almargeb | 2,174 | 7% | 28,924 | 13% | 16,623 | 12% |
| | Azzawya | 1,418 | 5% | 26,577 | 12% | 18,687 | 13% |
| | Misrata | 6,621 | 22% | 45,794 | 20% | 24,736 | 17% |
| | Nalut | 158 | 1% | 2,065 | 1% | 2,186 | 2% |
| | Sirt | 4,252 | 14% | 3,991 | 2% | 4,218 | 3% |
| | Tripoli | 13,181 | 44% | 71,258 | 31% | 27,223 | 19% |
| | Zwara | 610 | 2% | 14,365 | 6% | 10,882 | 8% |
| **Western Libya total** | | **30,194** | **8%** | **228,468** | **57%** | **141,411** | **35%** |
| **Total for Libya** | | **62,358** | **9%** | **349,858** | **49%** | **305,368** | **42%** |

Note: 1,480 migrants from other minority nationalities (including those whose nationalities could not be established) are not included in the table above.

# SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

Overall, around one in two migrants (49%) identified by DTM in Libya in January and February 2024 were from 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 24 and 25). The number of migrants from sub-Saharan Africa (349,858 individuals) has remained relatively stable compared to the previous round of data collection (350,394 individuals, round 50) and stands slightly above the number of sub-Saharan African migrants identified by DTM Libya during the corresponding reporting period in 2023 (343,538 individuals, round 46, January - February 2023)

In January 2024, DTM Niger observed an increase in incoming flows of migrants traveling from Niger to Libya mainly in search of (better) economic opportunities. This slight increase in incoming flows may also be linked to the general improvement in Niger of road security. DTM Niger noted that since the repeal of law 2015-3614, which previously criminalised migrant smuggling in Niger, migrants are traveling by organised convoys through new routes. The 2015 law coupled with an increase in controls in western Libya had previously led to a decrease in the number of migrants reaching Libya via Niger and an increase in the number of migrants reaching Libya via Chad. Moreover, the weather conditions in the winter months are generally more conducive to migrants being able to travel through the desert.

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

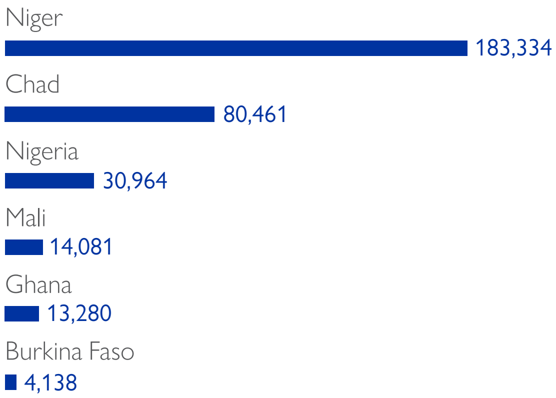
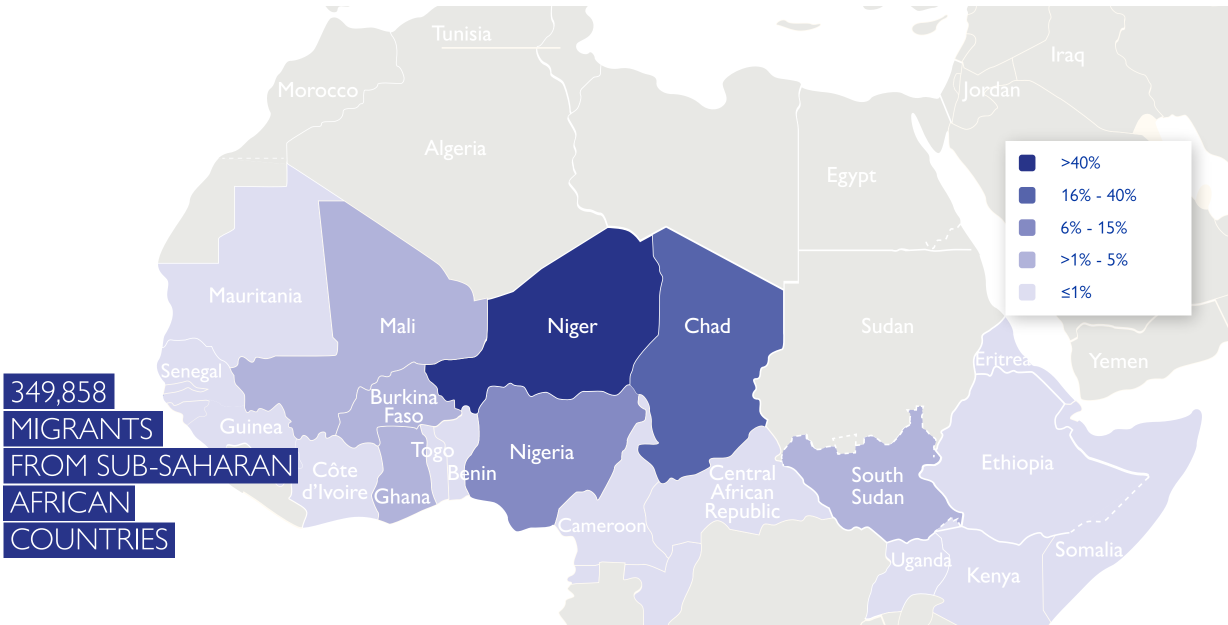



*Figure 24: Percentages of migrants by country of origin for the sub-Saharan Africa region*

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# NORTH AFRICA

The number of North African migrants in Libya has increased compared to the previous round of data collection (305,368 individuals in February 2024 compared to 292,657 in December 2023). During the reporting period, and in the context of the ongoing conflict in Sudan, DTM observed an increase number of Sudanese and third-country nationals arriving directly from Sudan in Alkufra, an oasis town in south-eastern Libya, as well as indirectly through Egypt, and to a lesser extent through Chad.

In line with previous reports, migrants from neighbouring Egypt and Sudan continue to be the two most represented nationalities among those from North Africa (52% and 45% respectively). Together, migrants from Tunisia, Morocco and Algeria accounted for three per cent of the total number of migrants from North Africa. Overall, around two in five migrants in Libya were from North Africa (42%).

*Figure 27: Migrants from countries of origin in North Africa*

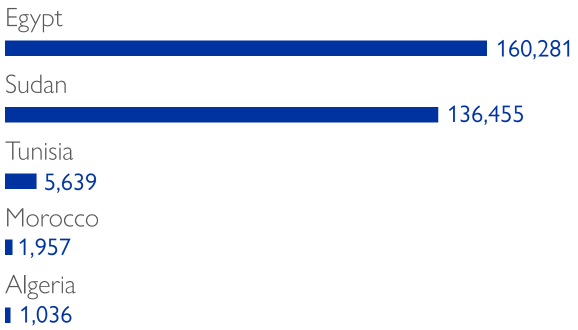
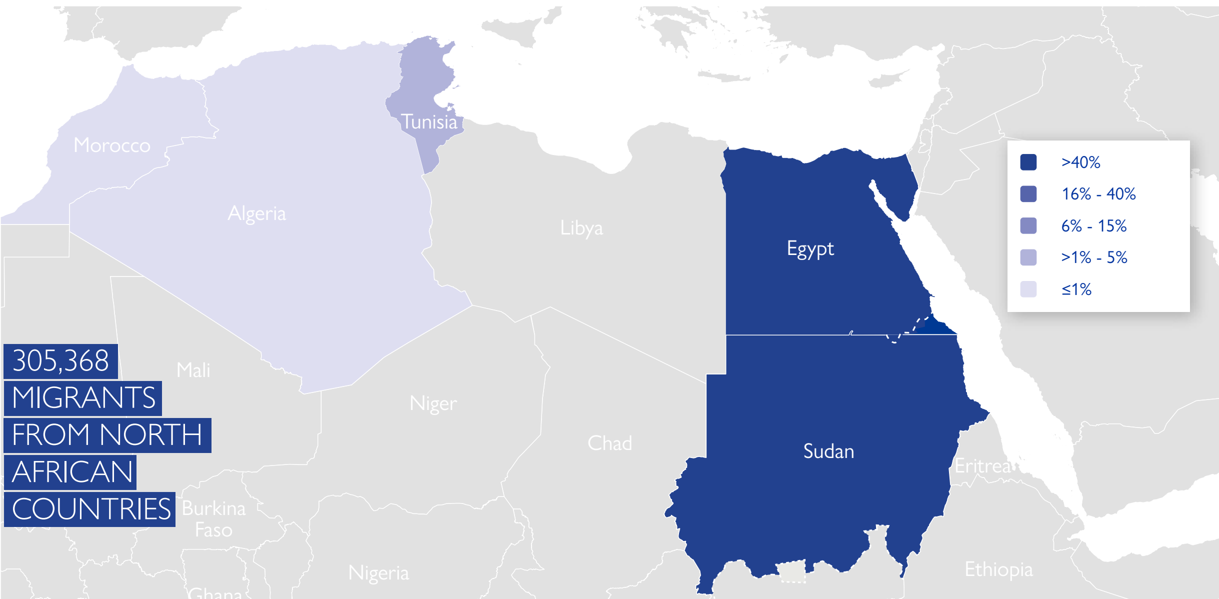



*Figure 26: Percentages of migrants by country of origin for the North African region*




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

Nearly one in ten migrants identified during round 51 of data collection were from the Middle East (5% or 33,332 individuals) or Asia (4% or 29,026 individuals).

In line with previous reports, the majority of migrants from Asia and the Middle East were from the Syrian Arab Republic (26,176 individuals) and Bangladesh (21,481 individuals) accounting for 42 and 34 per cent of migrants (including refugees), respectively (Fig 28). Individuals from the Syrian Arab Republic and Bangladesh accounted for respectively four and three per cent of the overall migrant population in Libya — the sixth and seventh most-represented nationalities.

In addition, there were 6,616 migrants who self-identified as Palestinians (11% of all migrants from the Middle East and Asia in Libya) and 7,067 migrants from Pakistan (11%). There were 1,018 individuals from various other nationalities who altogether accounted for two per cent of the migrant population from the Middle East and Asia.

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

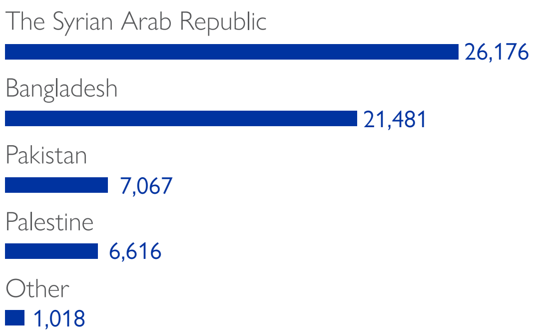
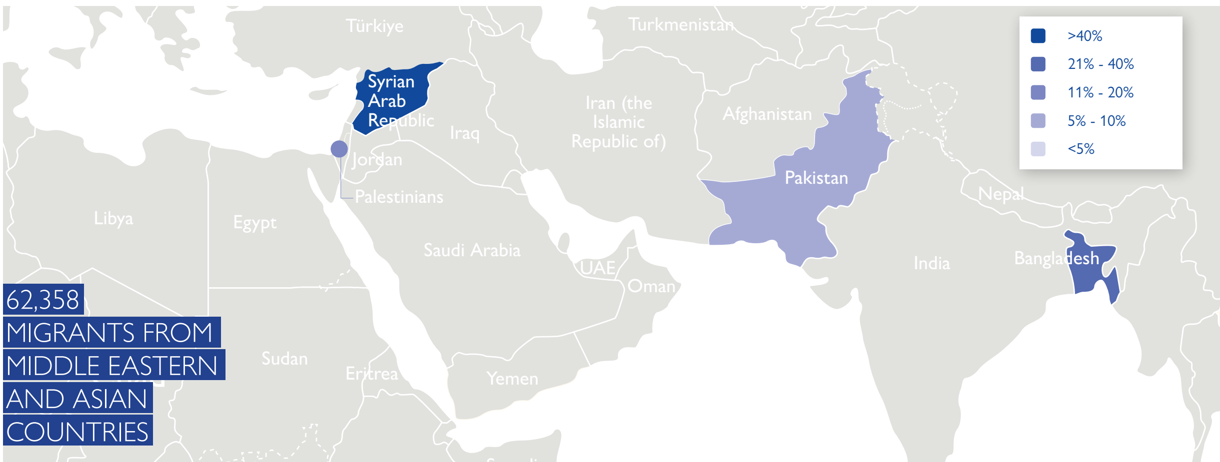



*Figure 28: Percentages of migrants by country of origin for the Middle East and South Asia*




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

# CENTRAL MEDITERRANEAN ROUTE

## Arrivals to Italy and Malta

During the months of January and February 2024, a total of 4,626 migrants arrived in Italy and Malta from Libya and Tunisia via the Central Mediterranean Sea. In comparison, in 2023, 14,429 migrants had arrived in Italy and Malta from Libya and Tunisia during the corresponding period in 2024 — a 68 per cent decrease compared to 2023 (Fig 30).

The majority of migrants who arrived in Italy on the Central Mediterranean Sea had departed from Libya (72%) while a minority had departed from Tunisia (28%) (Fig 31). According to DTM Europe, in 2023, the majority of migrants who arrived in Italy reported having departed from Tunisia (62%) while fewer had departed from Libya (33%), Türkiye (5%) or Algeria, Lebanon or Cyprus (<1%). Tunisia overtook Libya as the main country of departure for migrants traveling on the Central Mediterranean route and arriving in Italy in the third quarter of 2023.

Fewer migrants arrived in Italy and Malta via the Central Mediterranean Sea during the reporting period (January - February 2024) than during the corresponding period in all previous years since DTM Europe has been collecting data (2016) except in 2020 (3,542 individuals) and in 2019 (311 individuals) when record-low arrivals were observed.

*Figure 31: Arrivals by sea via the Central Mediterranean route in January and February 2024*

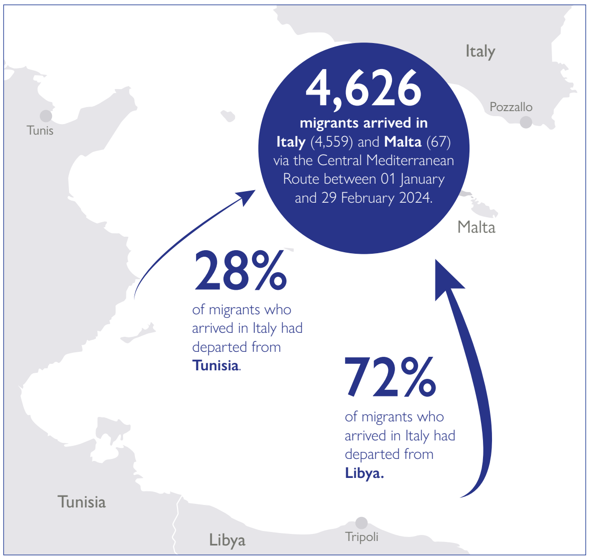
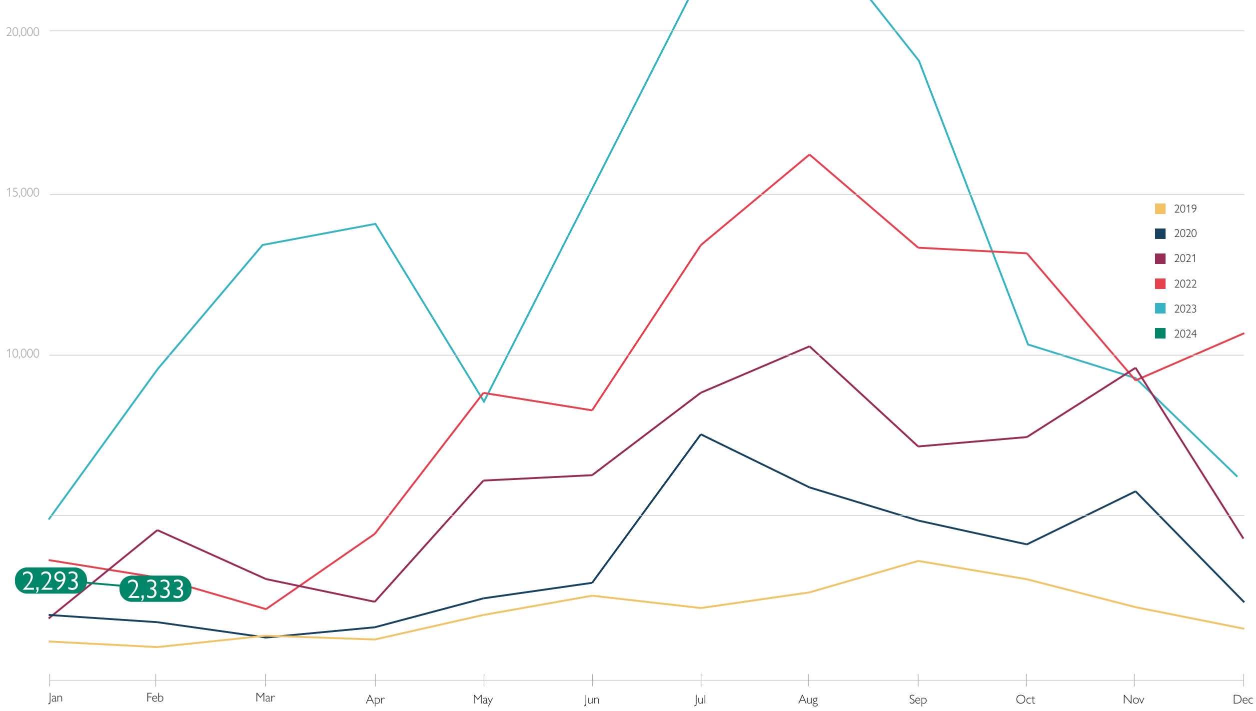



*Figure 30: Arrivals by sea via the Central Mediterranean route to Italy and Malta (2019 - 2024) (number of individuals)*



## Interceptions and returns to Libyan shores

Between 1 January and 2 March 2024, a total of 1,394 migrants who had attempted the Central Mediterranean Sea crossing had been intercepted and returned to Libyan shores which is fewer than in 2023 (3,046 individuals) and in 2022 (2,933 individuals) over the corresponding period.

In the week of 4-10 February 2024 alone a total of 442 migrants were intercepted at sea and returned to Libya.

## Fatalities at sea

In January and February 2024, a total of 213 deaths and disappearances were recorded on the Central Mediterranean route, which is 41 per cent fewer than in 2023 (301), 20 per cent fewer than in 2022 (254), 94 per cent fewer than in 2021 (413) and 80 per cent fewer than in 2020 (383) during the corresponding period (Fig 32).

In 2023, the number of fatalities and disappearances at sea on the Central Mediterranean route was 60 per cent higher than in 2021 and 76 per cent higher than in 2022, which, according to Missing Migrant Project, is likely related to the increased number of departures (and shipwrecks) off the coast of Tunisia. In previous years, most deaths in the Central Mediterranean were documented off the coast of Libya.

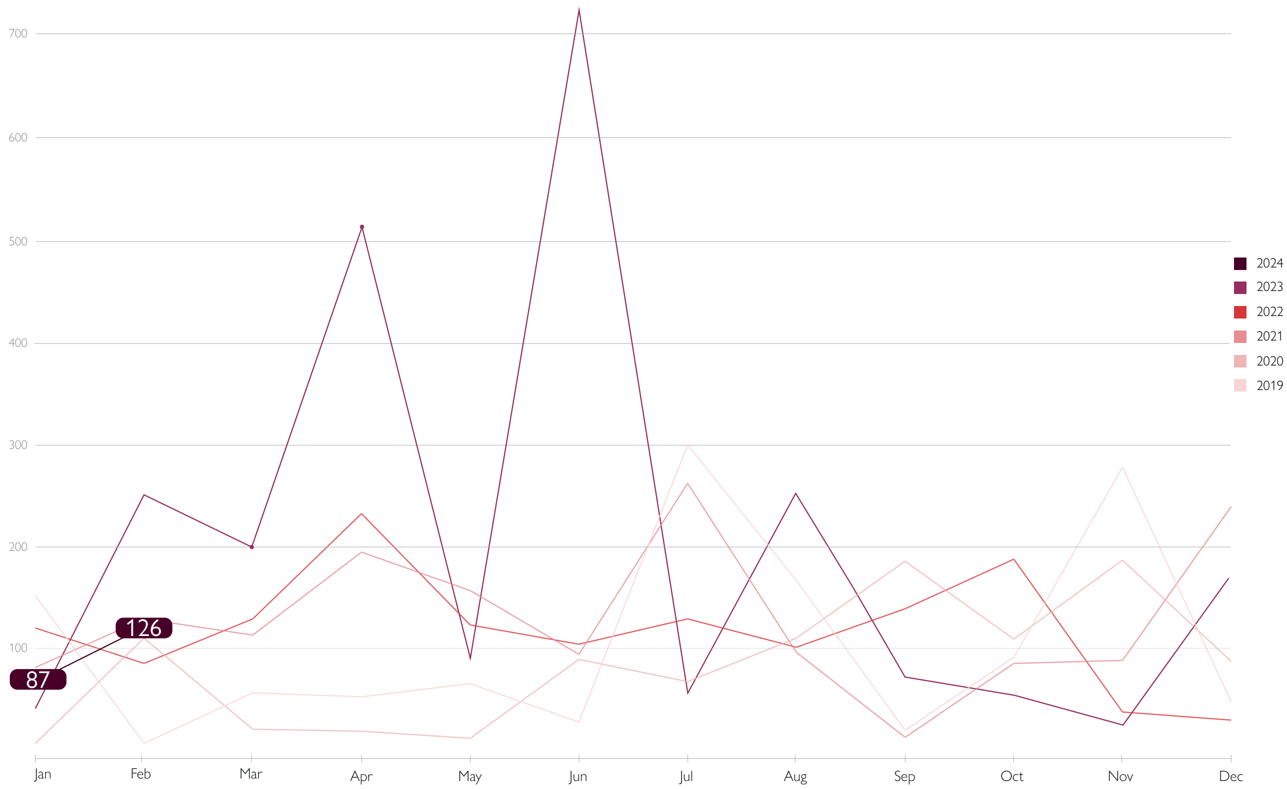
**1,394**
migrants were **intercepted and returned to Libya** between 1 January and 2 March 2024.

**4,626**
migrants **arrived by sea to Italy and Malta** between 1 January and 29 February 2024.

**87**
**deaths and disappearances** were recorded in January 2024 compared to 49 in January 2023.

**126**
**deaths and disappearances** were recorded in February 2024 compared to 228 in February 2023.

*Figure 32: Number of deaths and missing individuals on the Central Mediterranean route by year (2019 - 2024)*



# 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 51 flow monitoring points (FMPs) in seven regions of Libya (Alkufra, Ghat, Murzuq, Nalut, Sebha, Tobruk and Zwara).

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 heterogeneous 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 | **5,201** migrants interviewed (round 51, flow monitoring survey) | **2,005** key informant interviews |
| **3** team leaders | **51** flow monitoring points (FMPs) are active in 7 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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UN MIGRATION