

MIGRANT AGRICULTURAL WORKERS

IN LIBYA

JUNE 2024

PROFILE

The majority of migrants employed in the agricultural sector interviewed by DTM Libya in 2023 were from West and Central Africa and male. Around half were aged between 30 - 49.

According to [FAO](#), the majority of farming activities in Libya rely on the labour of migrant workers. Most agricultural businesses surveyed for a 2021 IOM labour market assessment reported hiring migrant workers.

KEY STATS

6%

of migrants surveyed by DTM in 2023 were employed in the Libyan agricultural sector as either waged labourers (48%), farmers (33%), animal producers and pastoralists (18%) or as fishers (1%).

39%

of migrants who were working in the agricultural sector in their home country reported having suffered agricultural production losses due to environmental factors (e.g. drought, floods).

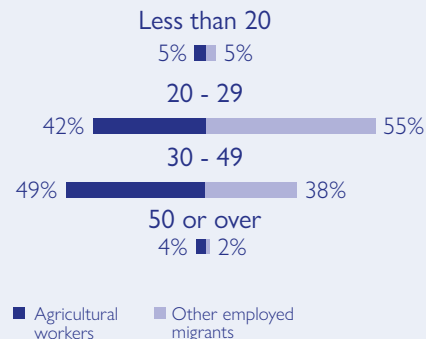
GET IN TOUCH

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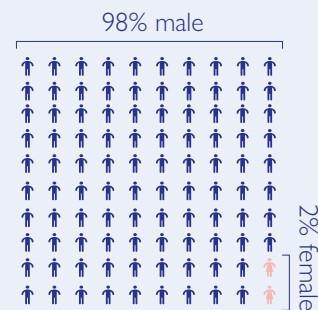
🌐 <http://dtm.iom.int/libya>



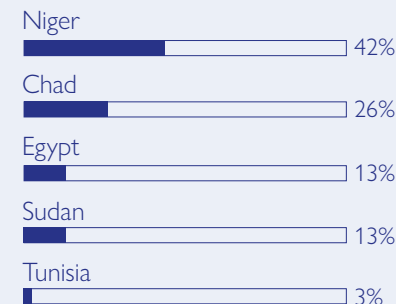
AGE



SEX

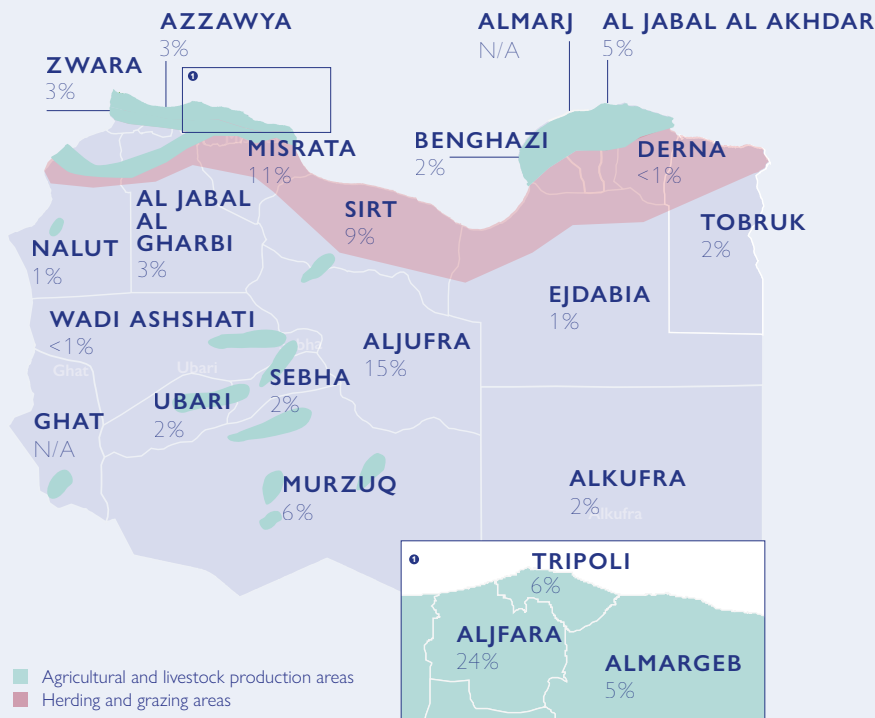


COUNTRY OF ORIGIN



LOCATION OF MIGRANT AGRICULTURAL WORKERS

(percentage by region of survey)



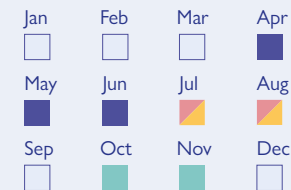
Map: Adapted from Zurqani, Hamdi & Mikhailova, Elena & Post, Christopher & Schlahtman, Mark & Elhaweji, Azzeddin (2019), available [here](#). This map is for illustration purposes only. Names and boundaries on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by IOM.

SEASONALITY

13%

of agricultural migrant workers reported traveling regularly (e.g. on a seasonal basis) between Libya and their country of origin compared to nine per cent on average among other migrants. Agricultural migrant workers come to Libya from April to June for the harvest of wheat and/or barley, in July and August for the fruit harvest and sheep shearing season as well as in October and November for picking olives.

Main harvest and shearing seasons in Libya



■ Wheat and barley ■ Shearing
■ Fruit (e.g. grapes) ■ Olives

TYPE OF CONTRACT

84%

of agricultural migrant workers only had a verbal work agreement and 14 per cent had neither a verbal nor a written contract. A minority (1%) had a written and signed employment contract.

CONTRACT DURATION

43%

of agricultural migrant workers were contracted on a short-term or casual basis (e.g. very short term or on an occasional and intermittent basis), compared to 49 per cent of migrants employed in other sectors.

TOP RISKS AT WORK

(multiple-choice question)

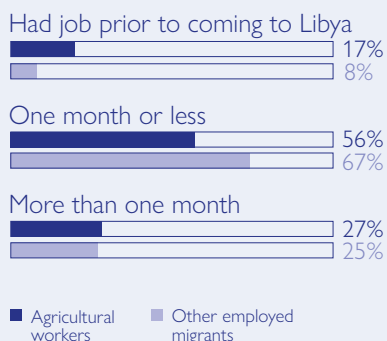


REMITTANCES

58%

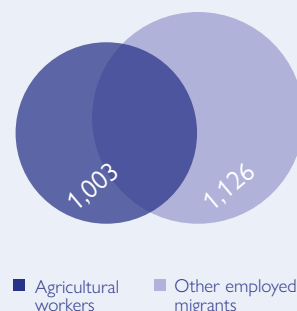
of agricultural migrant workers who are sending money home (41% of total) stated that their remittances are covering their family's food needs — a smaller share than the average across other migrants (66%).

TIME REQUIRED TO SECURE WORK



EARNINGS

(Libyan dinars, in last 30 days)



OCCUPATIONAL HAZARDS

Globally, agricultural work is associated with a high rate of occupational diseases and injuries due to working conditions that can often lead to safety and health hazards (e.g. pressure to work faster and/or longer hours, pesticide poisoning).

WORK PERMIT

9%

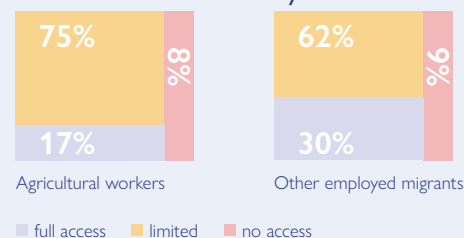
of agricultural migrant workers held a work permit compared to 12 per cent of migrants employed in other work sectors.

TOP DIFFICULTIES FACED IN LIBYA

(multiple-choice question)



Access to healthcare in Libya



ABOUT THIS PROFILE

METHODOLOGY The information included in this report is based on 30,616 interviews with migrants (1,885 of which with agricultural migrant workers) conducted between 1 January and 31 December 2023. The population figures are based on key informant interviews.

LIMITATIONS This brief provides a snapshot of a highly heterogenous group of people on the move in a quickly evolving context. While the purposive sampling approach used limits the findings from being fully statistically representative of the demographic make-up of the migrant population in Libya, it represents a large-scale assessment of migrants working in agriculture in Libya.

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