

PAKISTANI NATIONALS IN LIBYA

JUNE 2024

There are **6,012** migrants from Pakistan in Libya. Pakistan is the 10th most-represented nationality in Libya — one per cent of migrants are Pakistani.

The majority of Pakistani migrants surveyed by DTM Libya **between January 2022 and February 2024** were **male, married** and **aged between 20 and 39**.

More than half of Pakistani nationals interviewed in Libya stated having been **unemployed** when they **left their home country**.

In Libya, the majority of Pakistanis were **employed**, working mainly as **electricians**, or **technicians** in the **construction, manufacturing** or **IT sectors**.

GET IN TOUCH

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- 🐦

RECENT MIGRATION DYNAMICS

The number of migrants in Libya — including those from Pakistan — has increased between 2021 and 2024 (Fig 1 and 2). In line with DTM findings, according to the Pakistani Bureau of Emigration and Overseas Employment, globally, the number of Pakistanis who left their country of origin in search of employment abroad has been on the rise since 2020. The majority of Pakistani nationals interviewed by DTM Libya (87%) reported having left their home country primarily because of economic reasons — 61 per cent were unemployed and actively seeking employment when they left Pakistan. The recent increase in the number of Pakistanis in Libya is likely related to a range of factors, including the recent challenges that Pakistan has faced such as economic instability, political uncertainty, high inflation, soaring unemployment and poverty levels in combination with the lingering impact of the devastating 2022 floods.

Fig 1: Number of migrants in Libya
(Jan 2021 - May 2024)

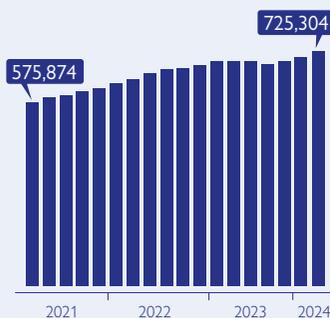
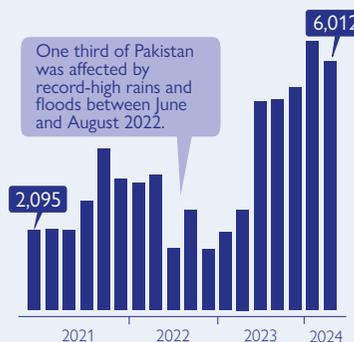
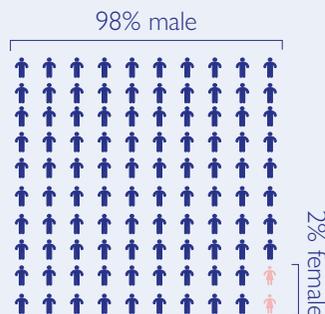


Fig 2: Number of Pakistanis in Libya
(Jan 2021 - May 2024)



SEX



AGE



TOP 4 REASONS FOR LEAVING PAKISTAN

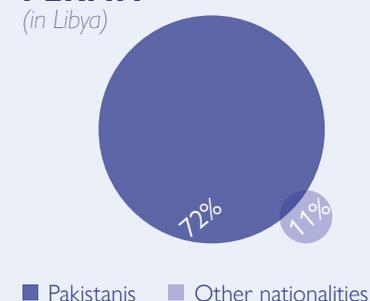


EMPLOYMENT

95%

of Pakistanis interviewed in Libya were employed, the majority of whom (82%) as permanent or fixed-term employees. In comparison, 78 per cent of migrants surveyed by DTM Libya in 2023 reported being employed.

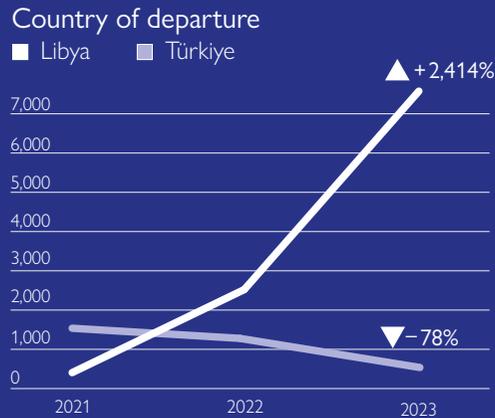
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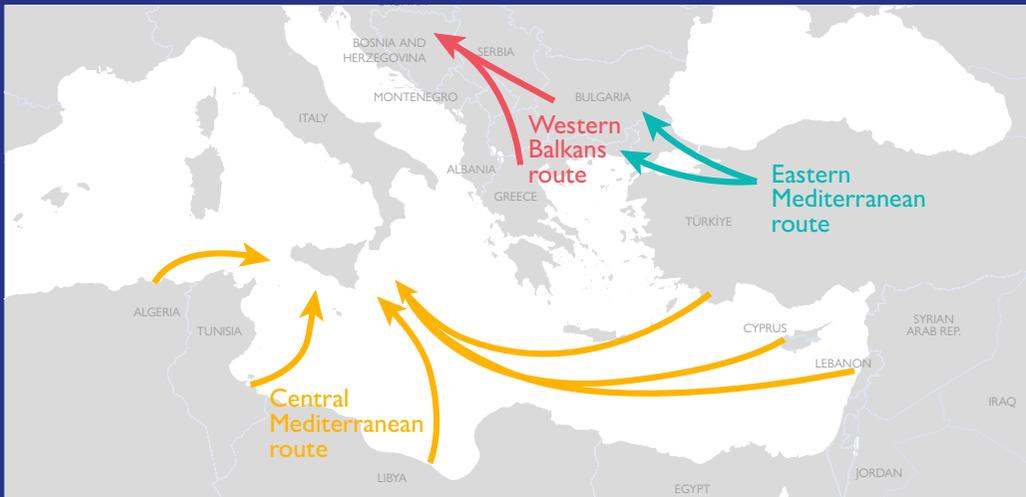
MIGRATION OF PAKISTANIS TO EUROPE

Up until recently, the majority of Pakistanis who migrated to Italy were transiting through the Islamic Republic of Iran and Türkiye before traveling through the Eastern Mediterranean route and the Western Balkans while others traveled the Central Mediterranean route (CMR) from Türkiye directly to Italy (map 1). However, since 2021, fewer Pakistanis have been arriving in Italy by sea from Türkiye while more have been arriving in Italy by sea from Libya (Fig 3). The increase in the number of Pakistanis traveling to Italy from Libya may be related to a range of factors, including the increased difficulty of crossing from the Islamic Republic of Iran to Türkiye with the recent construction of a wall between the two as well as the construction of a wall on Greece's border with Türkiye in 2021 amid continuous reports of pushbacks and mounting migrant deaths. At the same time, pushbacks and collective expulsions continue to be reported on the lengthy overland route through the Balkans from Türkiye to Italy.

Fig 3: Number of Pakistanis who reached Italy via the Central Mediterranean Sea (2021 - 2023)



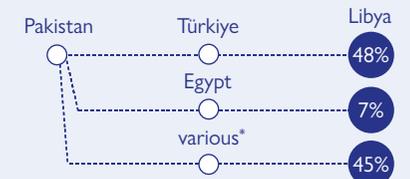
Map 1: Main routes traveled by migrants to reach Italy



MODE OF TRANSPORTATION TO LIBYA

The majority of Pakistanis interviewed by DTM (95%) mentioned having flown to Libya while a minority reported having reached Libya by road (from Egypt or Türkiye) (4%) or by sea (1%).

ROUTES TO LIBYA



*Various routes including one or a combination of the following countries: Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, Türkiye and/or United Arab Emirates.

INTERCEPTIONS

425

Pakistanis who attempted to cross the Mediterranean Sea to Europe from Libya were intercepted and returned to Libyan shores in 2023 — a decrease of 13 per cent compared to 2022 (490 interceptions) according to data collected by IOM Libya's search and rescue team.

DEATHS AT SEA

209

Pakistanis lost their lives (along with at least 349 other migrants) in a shipwreck off the coast of Greece after having departed from Tobruk (Libya) in June 2023, as noted by IOM's Missing Migrant project.

MIGRATION INTENTIONS

7%

of Pakistanis interviewed by DTM Libya mentioned their intention to continue onwards to another country on par with the percentage of the 30,576 migrants surveyed across nationalities in 2023. The majority of Pakistanis stated they intended to stay in Libya (35%) or had no definite intentions (47%). A minority (6%) reported their intention to return to Pakistan. In 2023 and 2024 IOM Libya has so far helped 393 Pakistanis return to their home country through its voluntary humanitarian return programme, which includes economic, social, and psychosocial reintegration support.

METHODOLOGY The information included in this report is based on 95 interviews conducted with Pakistani migrants between January 2022 and February 2024 and comparisons are based on 30,576 interviews conducted in 2023 with migrants of other nationalities. The population figures are based on key informant interviews.

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 migrants' background, current situation and their vulnerabilities from being fully statistically representative of the demographic make-up of the (Pakistani) migrant population in Libya.

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