

# BANGLADESHI NATIONALS IN LIBYA

JUNE 2024

There are **21,134** migrants from Bangladesh in Libya. Bangladesh is the 7<sup>th</sup> most-represented nationality in Libya — three per cent of migrants are Bangladeshis.

The majority of Bangladeshi migrants surveyed by DTM Libya between January and December 2023 were **male, single** and **aged between 20 and 39**.

Over two thirds of Bangladeshi nationals interviewed in Libya stated having been **unemployed** when they **left their home country**.

**In Libya**, the majority of Bangladeshis were **employed** and working mainly as **construction labourer, cleaner** or **waiter**.

## GET IN TOUCH

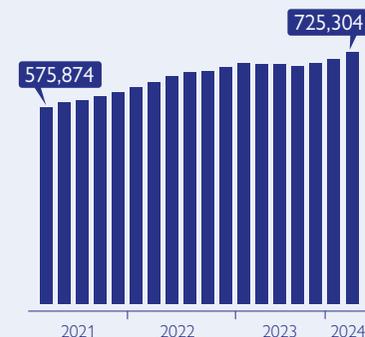
- ✉ DTMLibya@iom.int
- 🌐 <http://dtm.iom.int/libya>
- 🐦

## RECENT MIGRATION DYNAMICS

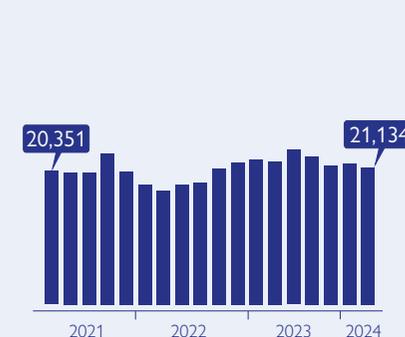
The number of migrants in Libya — including those from Bangladesh — has increased between 2021 and 2024 (Fig 1 and 2). In line with DTM findings, according to the Bangladeshi Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training, globally, the number of Bangladeshis who left their country of origin in search of employment abroad has been on the rise since 2020. The majority of Bangladeshi nationals interviewed by DTM Libya (95%) in 2023 reported having left their home country primarily because of economic reasons — 69 per cent were unemployed and actively seeking employment when they left Bangladesh.

A minority of migrants from Bangladesh (11%) mentioned having used the services of migration facilitators to reach Libya. The majority of Bangladeshis interviewed by DTM Libya in 2023 stated possessing a passport and a work permit.

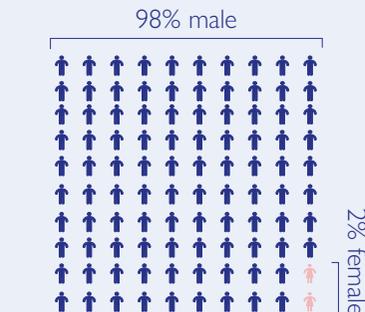
**Fig 1: Number of migrants in Libya**  
(Jan 2021 - May 2024)



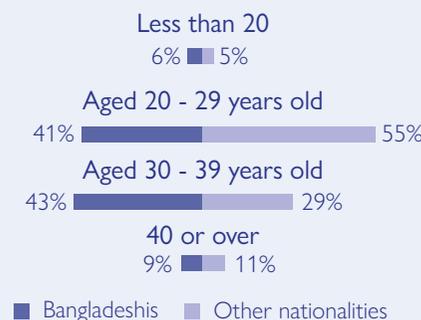
**Fig 2: Number of Bangladeshis in Libya**  
(Jan 2021 - May 2024)



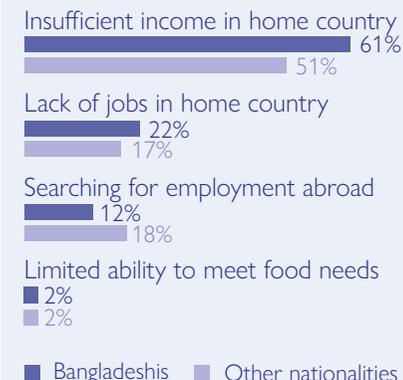
## SEX



## AGE



## TOP 4 REASONS FOR LEAVING BANGLADESH

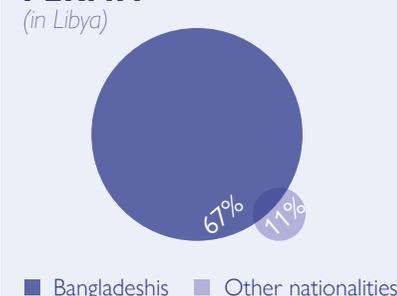


## EMPLOYMENT

**90%**

of Bangladeshis interviewed in Libya were employed, the majority of whom (87%) as permanent or fixed-term employees. In comparison, 78 per cent of migrants surveyed by DTM Libya in 2023 reported being employed.

## HOLDING A WORK PERMIT



# MIGRATION OF BANGLADESHIS TO EUROPE

The Central Mediterranean remains the route most traveled by Bangladeshis to reach Europe: 90 per cent of all Bangladeshis who arrived in Europe in 2023 were registered in Italy, with almost all having departed from Libya (Fig 3). Between 2021 and 2023, the number of Bangladeshis who departed from Libya to reach Italy by sea increased by 67 per cent. The number of Bangladeshis who departed from Türkiye to reach Italy by sea decreased during the same period and remained minimal compared to those who departed from Libya (Fig 3). Overall, in 2023, 13,773 Bangladeshis arrived by sea in Italy, Malta, Greece, Cyprus and Spain — a decrease of 16 per cent compared to 2022 when 16,487 arrived.

Bangladeshi migrants also travel to Europe along the Eastern Mediterranean route via Türkiye, Greece and the Western Balkans route (Map 1). In 2023, an estimated 4,000 Bangladeshis were registered by the Slovenian authorities, coming from either the Western Balkans route or from Romania and heading towards Italy and other countries of Central and Northern Europe.

Map 1: Main routes traveled by migrants to reach Italy

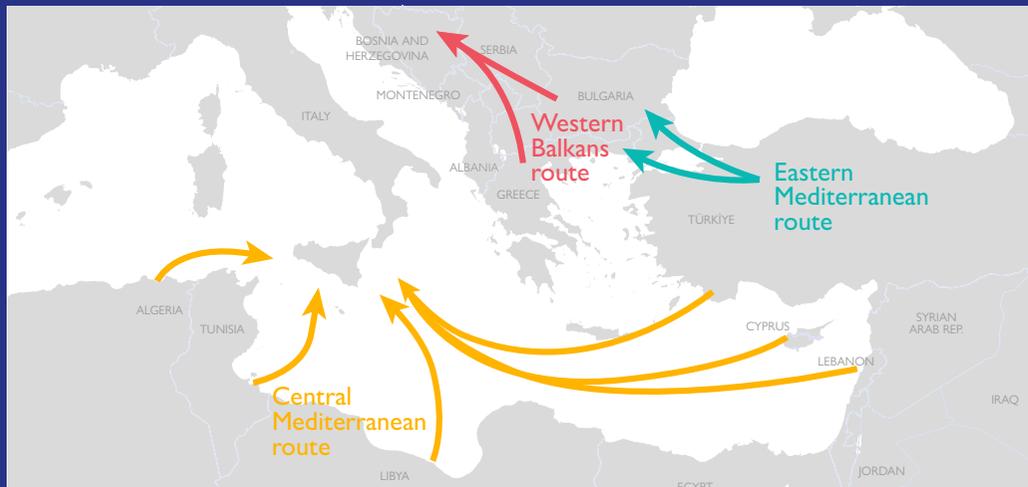
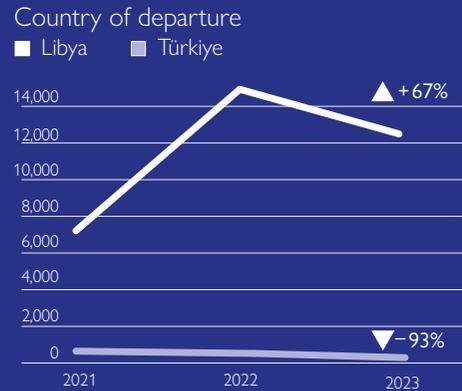
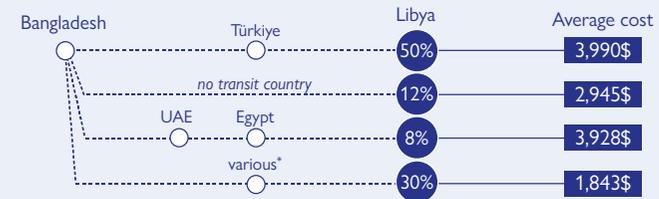


Fig 3: Number of Bangladeshis who reached Italy via the Central Mediterranean sea (2021 - 2023)



# ROUTES TO LIBYA



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

# MODE OF TRANSPORTATION TO LIBYA

The majority of Bangladeshis interviewed by DTM Libya mentioned having flown to Libya while a minority reported having reached Libya by road (from Egypt, Türkiye or Sudan) (3%).

# INTERCEPTIONS

1,668

Bangladeshis who attempted the Central Mediterranean sea crossing were intercepted and returned to Libyan shores in 2023 — a decrease of 63 per cent compared to 2022 when 4,451 were intercepted according to data collected by IOM Libya's search and rescue team.

# MIGRATION INTENTIONS

11%

of Bangladeshis interviewed by DTM Libya mentioned their intention to continue onwards to another country. Half stated they intended to stay in Libya (50%) while fewer reported having no definite intention (28%) or intending to return to Bangladesh (10%). In 2023 and 2024 IOM Libya has so far helped 1,981 Bangladeshis 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 405 interviews conducted with Bangladeshi migrants and 30,576 interviews conducted with migrants of other nationalities (for comparisons) in 2023. 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 from being fully statistically representative of the demographic make-up of the (Bangladeshi) migrant population in Libya.

© IOM 2024. Some rights reserved. This work is made available under the **Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs 3.0 IGO License** (CC BY-NC-ND 3.0 IGO). This publication was issued without formal editing by IOM. Maps are for illustration purposes only. Names and boundaries do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by IOM. The following citation is required when using any data and information included in this information product: "International Organization for Migration (IOM), June 2024. IOM Libya: Bangladeshi nationals in Libya. IOM, Libya."

