

OVERVIEW

REGIONAL DISPLACEMENT TRENDS^{1,2}

Total number of IDPs

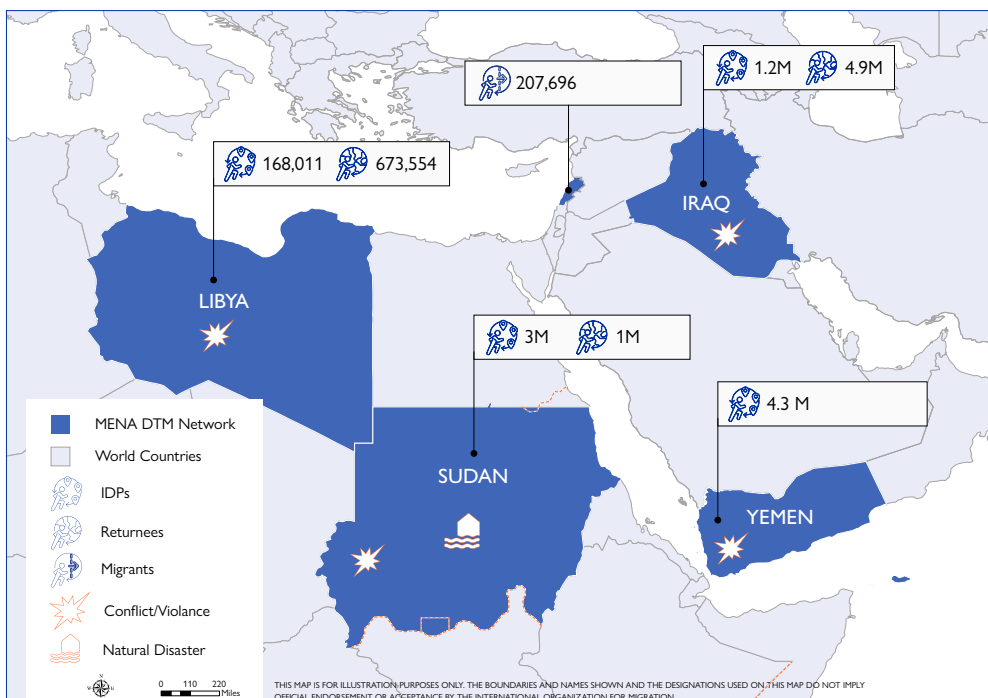
15.7M

Share of IDPs in MENA over total IDPs in the world

26%

Share of IDPs in MENA over total population in the region

4%



The Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) provides primary data and information on internal displacement and population movements – in-country and at regional and global levels. DTM’s work worldwide informs humanitarian, recovery, transition and development interventions by providing timely data and analysis to relevant actors including governments, United Nations partner agencies, donors and other stakeholders. DTM operates in contexts where conflict, natural disasters and complex emergency settings can cause short-term or protracted displacement, as well as in mixed migration contexts.

In the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, there were 15.7 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) in 2021.³ This figure constitutes 26 per cent of the global number of IDPs, making the MENA the region with the second highest concentration of IDPs following the sub-Saharan Africa region. Most displacement in the MENA region (81%) has been triggered by armed conflict, in particular in Iraq, Libya, Syria and Yemen.

DTM is active in five countries in the region (Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, Sudan and Yemen) and operates through the Humanitarian Country Teams (HCT) and inter-sectoral coordination structure of these countries. This Quarterly Report, covering the first three months of 2022, provides an update on the displacement situation in the five countries of the region – Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, Sudan and Yemen – as well as mixed migration flows to and from the region.

During the first quarter of 2022, without major hostilities and natural disasters in Iraq and Libya, the DTM data show a downward trend of IDP

numbers. However, existing and newly erupted inter-communal conflicts in Sudan resulted in tens of thousands of displacements. Additionally, while new displacement in Yemen appears to have decreased compared to the last quarter, the conflict continues to displace at least 1,000 individuals per month.

Below is a summary of displacement and return trends for each country:

- In **Iraq**, while around 7,500 additional IDP returns were recorded during this quarter, 1.18 million people remain displaced.
- In **Lebanon**,⁴ the economic and political crisis gripping the country has heightened the precarity of migrant households, who have struggled to access basic services and adopted negative coping mechanisms.
- In **Libya**, amid political uncertainty with the presidential election of December 2021 postponed until further notice, the number of IDPs continued to decrease (168,011 as of January 2022), whereas the number of IDPs returning to their places of origin increased (673,554 as of January 2022).
- In **Sudan**, the conflict observed since the beginning of 2021 continued to intensify. Inter-communal instability, as well as fires, have displaced at least 16,000 people in Darfur and Kordofan regions during this quarter.
- In **Yemen**, although the number of new displacements decreased compared to the last quarter, nearly 30,000 individuals were displaced between January and March 2022. Roughly 4.3 million individuals are believed to be displaced in the country.

Note: due to the different timeframes of data collection in each country office in the region, the reporting period varies from country to country. Please refer to the country-specific section for details.

1. Total IDP caseload figures are pulled from the *Global Report on Internal Displacement 2022*, but adding in Sudan, following IOM’s regional categories. MENA population figure is current as of 2020, and comes from various government and UN sources compiled by the [World Bank Group](#).

2. Lebanon figures presented in the map refer to the number of migrants identified by IOM’s Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) through its [Migrant Presence Monitoring](#) activities.

3. Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (2022). *Global Report on Internal Displacement 2022*. Unlike the GRID report, this regional DTM report includes Sudan in this figure and for its MENA regional analysis, following IOM’s regional categories.

4. Lebanon started developing DTM analysis and products after the 4 August 2020 explosion that destroyed Beirut’s port and many of its immediate neighbourhoods. Multi-Sector Needs Assessment (MSNA) analysis and reports published by IOM identify the situation and needs of migrants displaced due to this event to inform immediate and mid-term responses since August 2020.

IRAQ



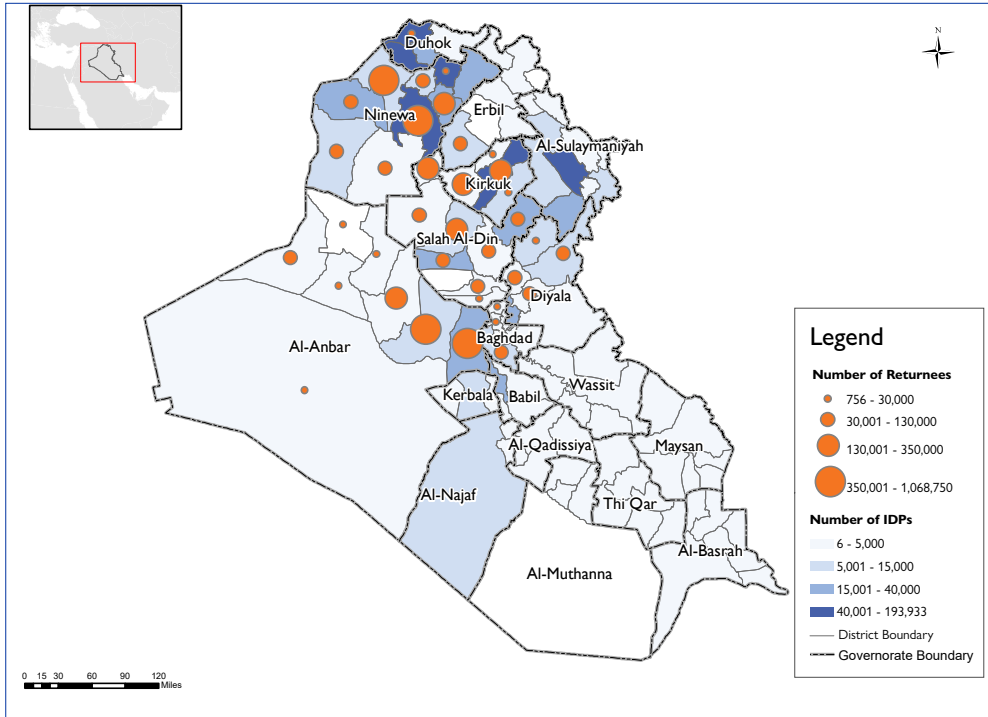
1,184,818

IDPs



4,959,714

IDP Returnees



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DTM Operations



Mobility Tracking



Flow Monitoring



Surveys and Research



Emergency Event Tracking



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As of 31 March 2022, 1,184,818 IDPs have been identified across all 18 governorates in Iraq – a decrease of about 2,000 IDPs (-0.15%) since the end of December 2021. Ninewa remains the governorate of origin for the greatest share of IDPs during the reporting period (56% or 663,138), as well as the governorate hosting the largest number of IDPs (21% or 252,451). Within Ninewa, Mosul, Al-Shikhan and Sinjar are the top three districts hosting IDPs. The same share of IDPs are living in camps compared to the previous quarter (15%).

In addition, around 7,500 additional returns (+0.2%) were recorded during January–March 2022, which brought the total number of returnees to 4,959,714. The number of new returns during this data collection period is the lowest on record since April 2015, which may be explained by ongoing barriers to return. The governorates with the highest numbers of returnees as of March 2022 include Ninewa (1,929,636 individuals), Anbar (1,543,152), Salah al-Din (740,880), Kirkuk (352,002) and Diyala (239,382).

The Return Index measures the severity of conditions in areas of return using 16 indicators grouped into two scales: 1) livelihoods and basic services and 2) social cohesion and safety perceptions. A regression model calculates the likelihood of return based on each indicator and is used to determine the overall severity of conditions in each area using an ordinal scale (low, medium and high severity) and numeric scale (0–100, with 0 denoting no essential conditions for return having been met).

As of March 2022, 12 per cent of the returnee population is hosted in areas with severe conditions. The highest number of returnees living in severe conditions are in Ninewa and Salah al-Din governorates and the highest proportion of returnees in severe conditions are in Salah al-Din and Diyala.

Research Highlights 1: Obstacles to Returnee Reintegration in Iraq: Safety, Security and Social Relations (January 2022) – Drawing on a range of secondary data collected in return locations as part of the regular data collection activities of IOM Iraq's DTM, namely the Return Index and the Integrated Location Assessment, this report highlights several threats to sustainable reintegration of returnees in the following three categories: risk of violence, physical protection and freedom of movement, in line with the first criteria in the Expert Group on Refugee Statistics (EGRIS) framework for reintegration. Five years since the defeat of the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), the humanitarian response is transitioning towards peacebuilding and development programming with a focus on achieving long-term durable solutions for IDP returnees. In this context, the report recommends further research be conducted on other barriers including access to livelihoods and economic security, adequate standard of living, property restitution and compensation and documentation.

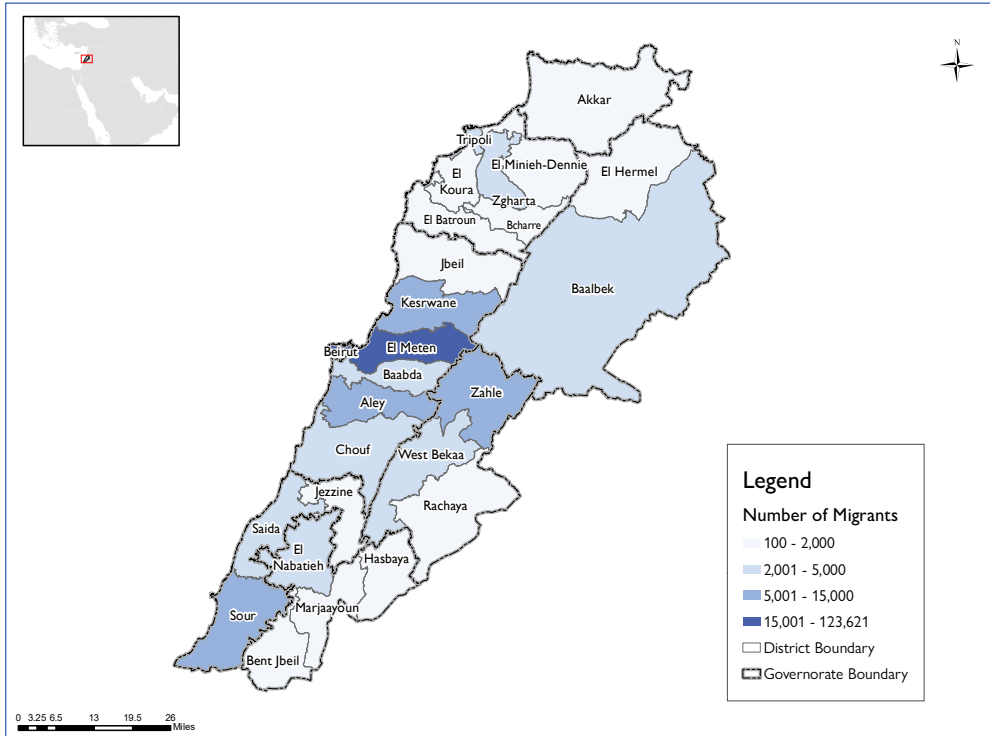
Research Highlights 2: Access to Durable Solutions Among IDPs in Iraq: Six Years in Displacement (January 2022) – This panel study evaluates the extent to which IDP households have attained durable solutions to their displacement. Through surveys and interviews with non-camp IDPs, the study finds that the COVID-19 pandemic primarily impacted two dimensions of durable solutions, standards of living and access to justice, with compensation for housing damage becoming increasingly important in light of the economic consequences of the pandemic. On the other hand, the pandemic does not appear to have increased discrimination when accessing basic services, which fell to its lowest levels during Round 6. Beyond coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) impacts, the report highlights the importance of informal economy for IDP livelihood opportunities and the correlation between length of displacement and difficulty of return.

LEBANON



207,696

Migrants⁵



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DTM Operations



Mobility Tracking



Surveys and Research

To better understand the needs and vulnerabilities of the migrant population in Lebanon, the Lebanon Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) conducted a Multi-Sector Needs Assessment (MSNA),⁶ surveying 713 households between October and December 2021. For the MSNA sample, the HCT interviewed Lebanese nationals, Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon (PRL) and migrants across 24 out of 26 districts in the country. The assessment collected data on eight sectors, namely health-care access; livelihoods; education; food security and nutrition; food assistance; water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH); shelter and protection, to gauge the availability of basic services for the various population groups and inform humanitarian response.

With respect to migrant demographics, roughly three in five migrants surveyed are either Ethiopian (29%) or Bangladeshi (29%). The third most represented nationality is Egyptian (18%), followed by Sudanese (12%). Three quarters of migrants fall between the ages of 21 and 40. Additionally, a relatively even gender split can be observed across the migrant population (49% female, 51% male).

Sectoral analysis reveals significant economic vulnerability, owing to unemployment and limited access to aid. Nearly one in four (23%) members of migrant households were unemployed and looking for work in the month prior to the survey. Only a small proportion of the migrant population (5%) reported receiving

governmental or non-government assistance in the three months prior to survey. The share among Lebanese households was 6 percentage points higher and among PRL households, 30 percentage points higher. As a result of these economic challenges, migrant households adopted various coping mechanisms. These mechanisms included reducing the amount of money spent on food, as reported by at least one member of 60 per cent of migrant households, and using savings to purchase food, as indicated by more than one third of such households. Additionally, 26 per cent of households have debt, more than half of which took it on to pay for basic household items. Beyond coping mechanisms, economic vulnerability may contribute to the higher levels of precarious housing observed among migrants compared to Lebanese nationals and PRL. Furthermore, the heightened precarity and marginalization of migrants have introduced barriers to accessing basic services such as health-care and education. Nearly one person per household was unable to access health care services when needed, with the costs of treatment and consultations constituting the most common barriers. Finally, regarding education, more than two in five migrant children (43%) did not receive a formal education in the 2020–2021 school year.

5. DTM Lebanon (2022). *Lebanon - Multi-Sector Needs of Migrants in Lebanon (May 2022)*.

6. DTM Lebanon (2021). *Lebanon - Baseline Assessment Round 1*.



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LIBYA



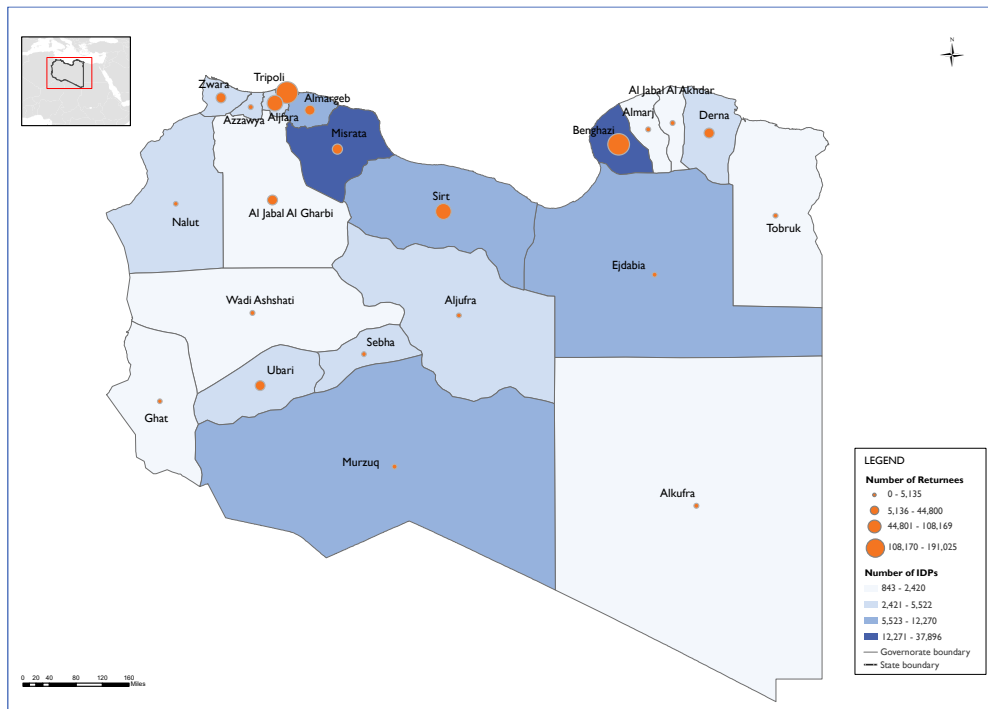
168,011

IDPs



661,892

IDP Returnees



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DTM Operations



Mobility Tracking



Flow Monitoring



Surveys and Research



Emergency Event Tracking



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Since the cessation of hostilities in October 2020, followed by the formation of the Government of National Unity provisional government, large-scale hostilities have ceased. However, with the scheduled presidential and parliamentary elections on 24 December 2021 postponed indefinitely, the country is, as of mid-March, facing a political crisis with two fractured political parties competing over executive legitimacy. The Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs warns that this political impasse could spark instability and lead to parallel administrations.⁷

The upward trend in the number of returnees continued during this quarter, like in previous periods throughout 2021. DTM data show that as of January 2022, about 168,000 individuals remained displaced. This represents a 47 per cent decrease since the October 2020 ceasefire entered into force. On the other hand, approximately 674,000 IDPs were reported to have returned to their places of origin by January 2022, which represents a roughly 2 per cent increase from the previous data recorded in November 2021. Regions with the highest number of IDPs are Benghazi (37,896), Misrata (31,930) and Tripoli (24,218). Regions with the highest number of IDP returnees include Benghazi (191,025), Tripoli (152,096) and Aljufra (108,169).

The observed decline in the number of IDPs and increase in returns is largely driven by the improved security situation and the spontaneous return of IDPs who were displaced due to the armed conflict in western Libya that started in April 2019 and affected areas in Tripoli and Aljufra regions (mantika). Around 90 per cent of the returnees live in their previous homes. Nonetheless, a significant proportion of the IDP population in Libya face protracted displacement

due to conflict-induced damage in their places of origin. The humanitarian needs of IDPs, as per the data collected through Multi-Sectoral Location Assessment covering all regions of Libya, were shelter (32%), food (26%) and health services (23%). The identified priority needs for returnees are almost identical to those of IDPs, save for accommodation, with food (25%), health services (21%), non-food items (18%) and water, sanitation and hygiene (12%) featuring among the top four needs.

Research Highlight 1: Libya Detention Centre Profiles – As part of its Site Assessment and Mobility Tracking activities, DTM Libya conducts a monthly Detention Centre Profiling to provide sex and age-disaggregated data on individuals in detention and sector-specific information. These profiles are generated through surveys of detention centre staff, as well as non-governmental organization (NGO) workers. The March 2022 round of profiling highlighted issues related to access to health-care services, drinking water, latrines, food and legal aid. A total of 1,474 migrants were identified across 13 detention centres. Approximately 38 per cent of such centres did not offer health services to detained migrants, a decrease from 46 per cent in February. Additionally, nearly two in five centres (38%) did not provide regular access to drinking water. When asked about the proportion of functioning latrines, 46 per cent of informants stated that all latrines worked, while 38 per cent reported 'some' and 7 per cent reported 'few' functional latrines. Furthermore, regarding the frequency of food provision in centres, a plurality of centres (38%) provide food twice a day, compared to 15 per cent that supply food once a day. Finally, less than half of centres (46%) ensure migrants' access to legal services, although this share has increased from 31 per cent in February.

7. At the UN Security Council Meeting on Libya, 16 March 2022, available [here](#).

SUDAN



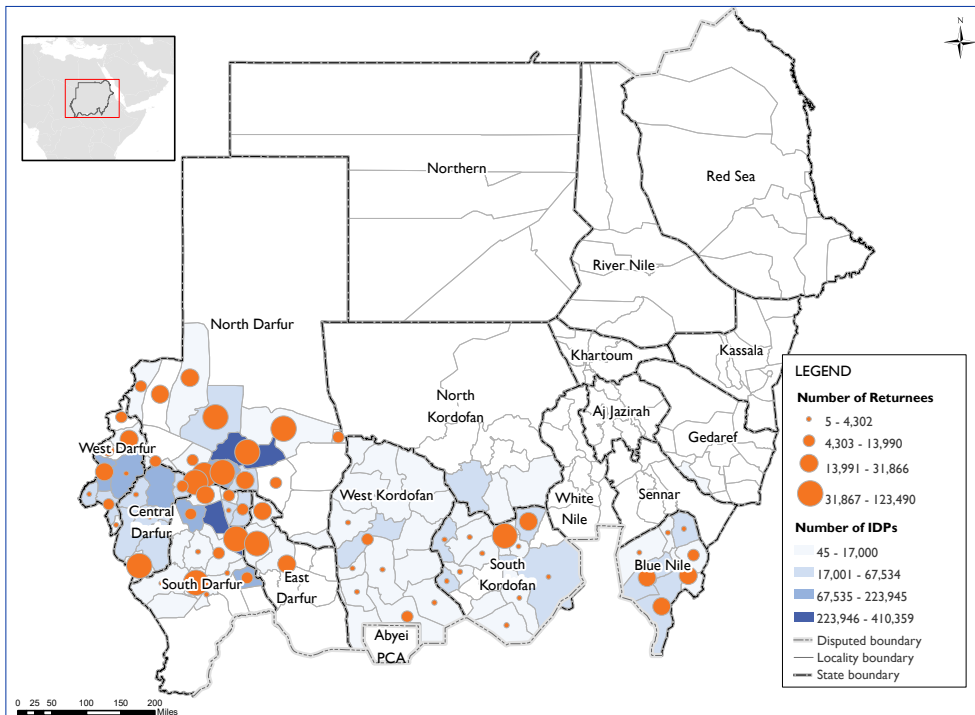
3,086,553

IDPs



942,299

IDP Returnees



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DTM Operations



Mobility Tracking



Emergency Event Tracking



Registration



Surveys and Research

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DTM in Sudan implements Emergency Event Tracking (EET) to provide regular updates on displacement caused by specific events such as the intercommunal conflict in Darfur and natural disasters. During the first quarter of 2022, 65 security incidents and non-state armed groups attacks were recorded,⁸ and DTM through its EET methodology estimates that more than 16,543 individuals were newly displaced in Darfur and Kordofan regions. In 2021, a total of 269 security incidents and non-state armed groups attacks led to the displacement of more than 440,000 people.

In As Serief locality, North Darfur, intercommunal clashes stemming from accusations of property theft and a fire displaced 1,372 individuals on 22–23 March. In Kutum locality, North Darfur, intercommunal instability displaced more than 2,000 people on 20 March 2022. In South Darfur, an outbreak of fire displaced 530 individuals from the Gereida IDP camp. In North Kordofan state, two fires in Bara and Um dam Haj Ahmed displaced more than 1,000 individuals on 6 and 7 March 2022. In addition to the above displacements, hundreds of thousands of people displaced by the previous conflicts remained displaced including as a result of protracted conflict in Ag Geneina in West Darfur (103,927) as of 17 February 2022.

DTM Sudan piloted the Red Sea State Situation Assessment across 33 locations to provide an initial overview of the number of conflict-induced IDPs in the area, their characteristics and their needs. The Red Sea State has experienced growing levels of inter-communal instability since April 2019. As of December 2021, a total of 20,040 displaced individuals have been identified living in the Red Sea State.

Women and girls compose 56 per cent of the population and the age group most represented are those 18–59 years old. The priority needs of this group are: 1) water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), 2) health (medical needs) and 3) education. A slight plurality (38%) of respondents live in informal settlements or open areas, followed by those living with members of the host community (34%) and those in rented accommodation (21%). With respect to return intentions, over half (54%) intend to stay in their current area, while 42 per cent seek to return to their areas of origin once the security situation has improved.

Research Highlight 1: Navigating a Pandemic Amid Political and Economic Instability: An Assessment of the Socioeconomic Impact of COVID-19 on Migrants in Eastern Sudan (April 2022) – As a part of IOM’s efforts to draw attention to the adverse consequences of the pandemic for migrants in the region, the study focuses on international migrants living in Kassala and Gedaref states in Sudan. Respondents highlighted difficulties accessing health care and basic goods and services including education, as well as the disruptive effects of the pandemic on the continuation of jobs and economic activities. The assessment also sheds light on the specific vulnerabilities of different migrant categories. For example, due to their temporary status and limited financial assets, migrants in transit have more difficulties affording health care and are less likely to have received any form of humanitarian assistance. The report provides a set of recommendations based on six pillars adapted from the UN Sustainable Development Group’s framework for evaluating the immediate socioeconomic impact of the health emergency.⁹

8. OCHA, *Sudan: Intercommunal Conflicts and Armed Attacks (January – March 2022)*.

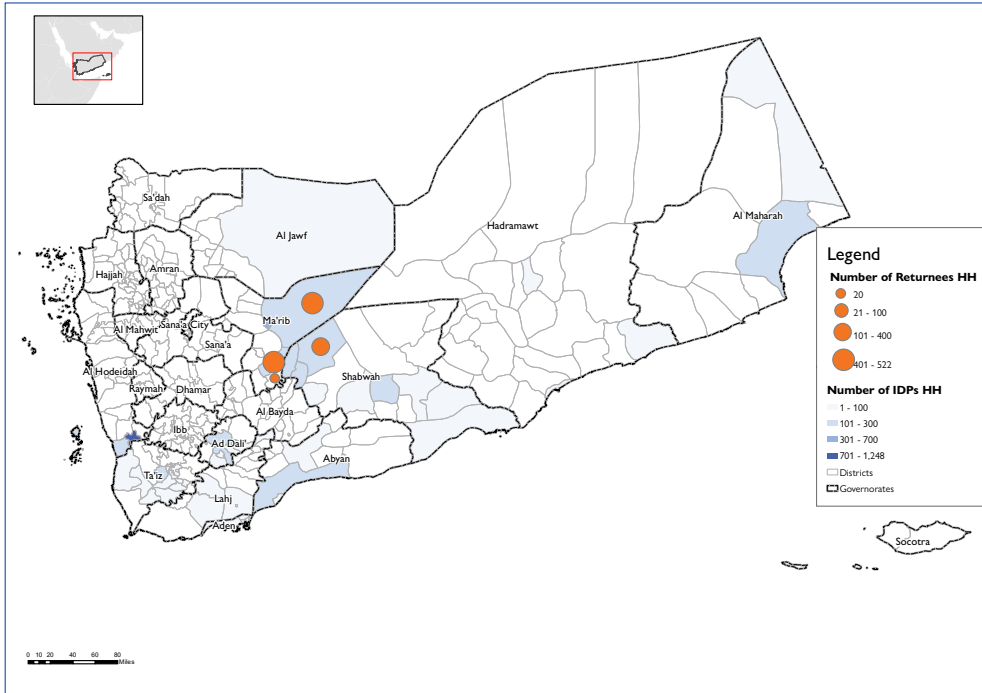
9. These six pillars are: health, protection and access to basic services, economic response and recovery, macroeconomic response and multilateral collaboration, social cohesion and community resilience, and mobility.

YEMEN



4,300,000

IDPs



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DTM Operations



Rapid Displacement Tracking



Flow Monitoring



Surveys and Research



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An estimated 4.3 million Yemenis are believed to be internally displaced as of April 2022.¹⁰ This figure includes 491,000 individuals displaced over the course of 2021. Many of these IDPs face multiple and protracted periods of displacement lasting years. Extended time spent living in displacement has undermined the ability of individuals to weather new shocks and hardships. Displacement in Yemen is largely driven by conflict, although weather-related hazards such as floods also trigger new and secondary displacement.

IOM in Yemen last implemented a country-wide Mobility Tracking exercise at the end of 2018. Since then, DTM only collects country-wide weekly figures on new displacement through its Rapid Displacement Tracking (RDT) tool. IOM Yemen's DTM teams, operating across 13 governorates, 94 districts and over 911 locations in Yemen¹¹ where they have access, estimate that about 4,950 households (HHs) (29,700 individuals) were displaced at least once between January and March 2022. Safety and security concerns related to the conflict were the main driver

of displacement (99% or 14,245 HHs). The number of new displacements per week has decreased over the course of the quarter from 2,453 displaced in January to 1,127 in March 2022. The number of new civilian casualties has similarly declined, spiking to 234 fatalities in January 2022, before dropping to 57 in March 2022. A total of 13,844 civilian casualties have been recorded since January 2019.¹²

The top five districts of relocation for displaced individuals were: Hays (1,248 HHs), Marib City (668 HHs), Ataq (266 HHs), Osaylan (240 HHs) and Marib (217 HHs). Some of the main needs of IDPs are shelter and housing (43%), food (23%), financial support (12%), household items (12%) and water, sanitation, and hygiene (10%).

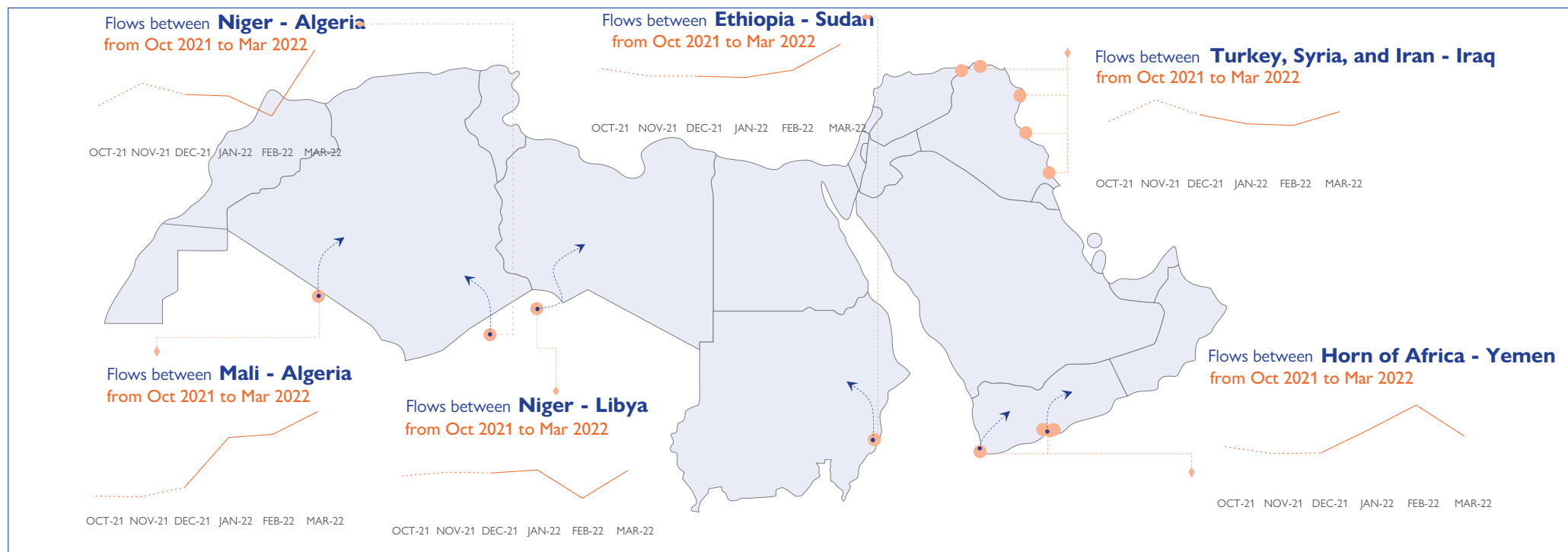
Since April 2020, through the RDT methodology, DTM Yemen has also been collecting data on COVID-19 induced displacement. As of March 2022, more than 1,550 HHs cited COVID-19 as their primary reason for displacement since April 2020, when the pandemic broke out in Yemen.

10. OCHA (2022). *Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan 2022 (April 2022)*.

11. DTM's data is not representative of all displacements occurring in Yemen and should therefore be understood as indicative of the areas in which IOM has access only.

12. *Civilian impact Monitoring Project*.

CROSS-BORDER MOBILITY



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This section describes cross-border movements in and outside the MENA region, analysing flows: from the Horn of Africa (Somalia and Djibouti) to the Arabian Peninsula or Yemen; from Iraq towards neighbouring countries (the Syrian Arab Republic, Islamic Republic of Iran and Turkey); between sub-Saharan and North African countries (between Mali and Algeria, Niger and Algeria and Niger and Libya) and from Ethiopia to Sudan. This section also describes the cross-Mediterranean migration flows towards Europe from North Africa, through several routes including the East, West and Central Mediterranean routes.¹³

The map above shows the latest available data on mobility at border areas and between the MENA region and other regions. With respect to arrivals to Yemen from the Horn of Africa, an estimated 19,652 migrants (mainly Ethiopian and Somali nationals) arrived in Yemen during this quarter, an increase of 69 per cent compared to the previous quarter. Migrants departed entirely from Djibouti and Somalia during these months. The number of Ethiopian arrivals increased in January and February 2022 compared to previous months but declined in March due to security and weather-related factors.

Due to the difficulties migrants face upon arrival in Yemen and their inability to move onwards towards Saudi Arabia, as well as to the ongoing conflict and harsh living conditions in Yemen, many migrants opt to return to their country of origin in the Horn of Africa. Yet Ethiopian migrants are reluctant to return to Ethiopia given the ongoing conflict in the country. In the first quarter of 2022, around 2,000 migrants returned to Djibouti and Somalia,¹⁴ bringing the total number of returns to 22,150 since May 2020.

Approximately 40,000 migrants are stranded within Yemen's borders as of March 2022,

including 7,000 migrants in Ma'rib alone; they require urgent humanitarian assistance and are at risk of serious protection risks along endemic smuggling and trafficking routes.

The number of Yemeni returnees from Saudi Arabia in Q1 2022 (18,052) has remained relatively constant compared to the previous quarter (17,796). A fluctuating trend in returnee figures can be observed during the quarter. In January, the number of returnees remained relatively unchanged compared to previous months, before dropping in February and rising in March.

13. The 'Western Mediterranean route' includes the sea journey from Morocco and the western coast of Algeria to the Spanish mainland and the Balearic Islands, as well as the crossing into Ceuta and Melilla, two autonomous Spanish enclaves in North Africa. The 'Central Mediterranean route' is considered to be the migration route from the north coast of Africa to Italy and Malta, while the 'Eastern Mediterranean route' is used to describe the sea crossing from Turkey to Greece and Cyprus. Although the Central, Eastern and Western Mediterranean routes are the most frequented migration passages across the Mediterranean Sea, not all people take these routes as they are defined, and there is evidence that these routes overlap.

14. As Flow Monitoring Registry activities in Somalia were stopped in March 2022, the number of returns from Yemen may be higher than recorded. Additionally, it should be noted that these figures are based on reported intentions of migrants, rather than recorded flows or key informant data.

As to migrants' presence in Libya, there were approximately 635,000 migrants (86% adults – 75% men and 11% women – and 14% children, of which 6% were unaccompanied) from 43 countries as of January 2022, with most migrants from neighboring countries (Niger (25%), Egypt (18%), Sudan (18%) and Chad (13%)). A full nine in 10 migrants interviewed reported that economic reasons were the primary motive behind their migration to Libya. The most important needs of migrants are health-care services, non-food items, accommodation and water, sanitation and hygiene. During the second phase of the vaccination campaign between 27 March and 2 April 2022, 10,385 migrants were vaccinated.

quarter, as seen in the sharp decrease of flows towards Italy (-68%), Spain (-38%) and Greece (-48%) — despite the significant increase in land arrivals in both countries.

DTM METHODOLOGIES





Between sub-Saharan Africa and North Africa, an increasing trend in outgoing flows was observed at monitored Points of Entry between Niger and Algeria (10%), while outgoing flows slightly decreased between Niger and Libya (-8%). There was a sharp increase in flows at the border points between Mali and Algeria compared to last quarter (271%). Furthermore, an upward trend was recorded at border points between Ethiopia and Sudan (21%) between the last quarter of 2021 and the first of 2022.

Flows at five border monitoring points in Iraq (three with the Islamic Republic of Iran, one with Turkey, one with the Syrian Arab Republic) show a decreasing trend of 21 per cent in outgoing flows in October – December 2021 and January – March 2022.

The number of migrants who reached Europe crossing the Mediterranean Sea along the Western, Central and Eastern Mediterranean corridors and along the Western African Atlantic Route decreased during the first quarter of 2022 compared to the previous

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 For any comments or questions, please contact IOM's Middle East and North Africa Regional Data Hub: ROCAIRODATAHUB@iom.int

