



Project funded by
the European Union



IOM LIBYA MIGRANT REPORT

March - April 2021

ROUND 36



DTM

Photo (cover page):

In April, IOM Libya's protection team conducted more than 140 vulnerability assessments, including children protection and victim of trafficking assessments among migrants in different locations, including Sebha (pictured).

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OVERVIEW

DTM Libya identified a total of 591,415 migrants from over 43 nationalities in the 100 Libyan municipalities in March and April 2021 during Round 36 of data collection.

During the reporting period, the number of migrants in Libya continued to increase slightly compared to Round 35 of data collection while remaining lower than pre-pandemic levels. This rise is likely the result of a combination of factors, including the gradual [ease of mobility restrictions](#) since the beginning of the COVID-19 vaccination programme in Libya in mid-April 2021 as well as the improvement in the security situation since the ceasefire agreement and the [formation](#) of the government of national unity in March 2021.

However, the slow pace of [recovery](#) from years of conflict and political instability, and more recently the impact of the pandemic on the local economy continue to affect migrants in Libya as well.

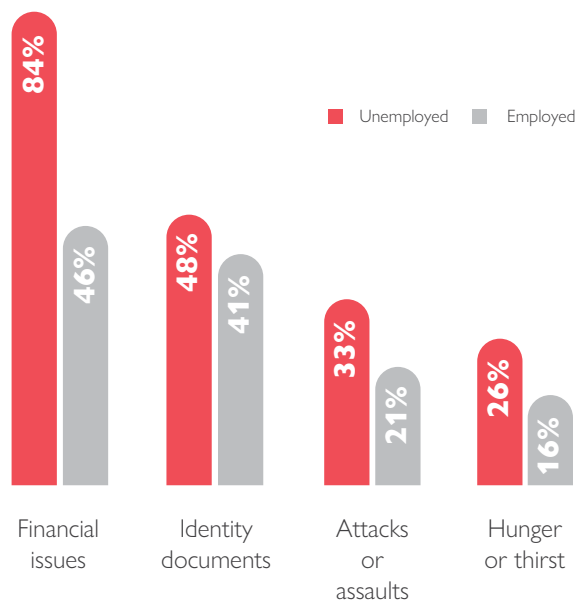
In March and April, the migrant unemployment rate remained the same as that recorded in January and February 2021 (22%) but stayed higher than pre-pandemic levels (17% in [February 2020](#)). The latest [DTM COVID-19 Impact in Libya Dashboard](#) highlighted that the majority of key informants interviewed (65%) in April-May 2021 identified migrants as the most adversely affected population group in Libya by the COVID-19 pandemic because of loss of livelihoods and increased health risks, despite mobility restrictions having been eased significantly.

22%

unemployment rate, which is 5% higher than the pre-pandemic rate (17%) but 5% lower than in Jul-Aug 2020 (27%).

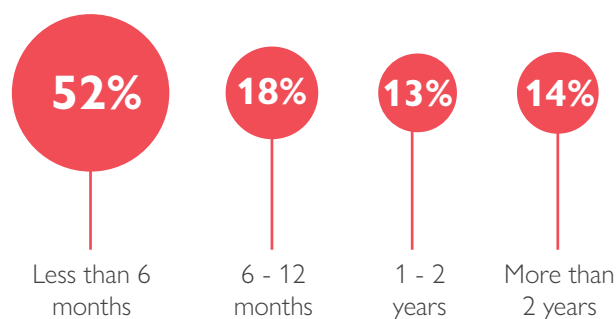
Moreover, Round 36 data shows that financial issues remain the most frequently cited challenge faced by migrants, followed by the lack of identity documents, insufficient information and protection risks. Unemployed migrants systematically fared worse across all indicators. For example, a greater proportion of unemployed migrants reported facing heightened financial issues, hunger, a lack of access to safe drinking water or insecurity (Fig 1) as well as difficulties accessing health and education services compared to those who were employed (see Humanitarian Needs section).

Fig 1 Main difficulties faced by migrants by employment status



Individual interviews with migrants highlight that the unemployment rate is higher among migrants who have recently arrived (less than 6 months ago; 52%) compared to those who have been in Libya for longer (1 to 2 years; 13% or longer than 2 years; 14% (Fig 2)). Past studies have found that migrants who have arrived more recently in Libya are generally less settled and may struggle to secure decent employment, which can amplify their [vulnerability](#) to multiple risks, including the lack of access to [adequate housing](#) and [food insecurity](#). Migrants who are more established in Libya also [tend](#) to be able to rely on friends or a local network for assistance.

Fig 2 Unemployment rate by length of stay in Libya



The majority of migrants who were employed reported working in the sectors of construction (34%), domestic and care work (8%), agriculture and fisheries (7%), retail and sales (6%) or in factories, manufacturing and mechanics (7%). Others (38%) were employed in various positions, including as tailors, street vendors or bakers.

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic and its socio-economic impact, a recent joint [report](#) by DTM Libya, DTM Chad and DTM Niger found that migration to Libya had an overall net positive impact on the employment status of both nationals of Niger and Chad in Libya. Fewer Nigeriens and Chadians were unemployed in Libya than in their country of origin, despite the unemployment rate rising after the start of the pandemic.

Migration drivers among respondents surveyed by DTM in March and April 2021 remain primarily economic, regardless of whether they arrived recently (less than 6 months ago) or longer ago. Overall, 90 per cent of migrants reported that the primary reason that led them to leave their country of origin was economic and included reasons such as lack of income or job opportunities in their home country or search for job opportunities abroad. Migration drivers are often multiple and complex and can also be [influenced](#) by social relationships. Nearly three quarters of migrants (74%) reported that someone from their close social networks, either friends or family at home or abroad had encouraged them most in their decision to migrate.

Departures at sea

The number of migrants who attempted to cross the Mediterranean Sea from the shores of Libya and Tunisia increased significantly during the reporting period. This rise in departures as well as rescues at sea could be partly linked to favourable conditions, such as the recent ease of mobility restrictions, relatively calm seas, and increased activity of migration facilitators.

The deadliest shipwreck of 2021, so far, [occurred](#) in April when at least 130 migrants lost their lives after their boat capsized. Between January and April 2021, more than 500 people died at sea on the Central Mediterranean route, more than three times the number of deaths officially recorded in [2020](#) (146 deaths)

90%
of migrants stated that the **primary reason** that led them **to migrate to Libya were economic** in nature.

Geographical patterns and trends

Despite a slight increase in the number of migrants in Libya, migration patterns remain heavily shaped by geographical proximity and diasporic ties. More than two thirds of migrants were from neighbouring countries: Niger (21%), Egypt (18%), Sudan (16%) and Chad (14%).

The majority of migrants in Libya were from Sub-Saharan Africa (56%) or North Africa (35%) while a minority were from the Middle East (5%) or Asia (4%) (Fig 3).

In line with previous reports, the largest migrant populations identified by DTM during Round 36 of data collection were located in the regions of Tripoli (15%), Ejdabia (11%), Misrata (10%), Benghazi (7%), Azzawya (7%) and Murzuq (6%).

Fig 3 Regions of origin of migrants

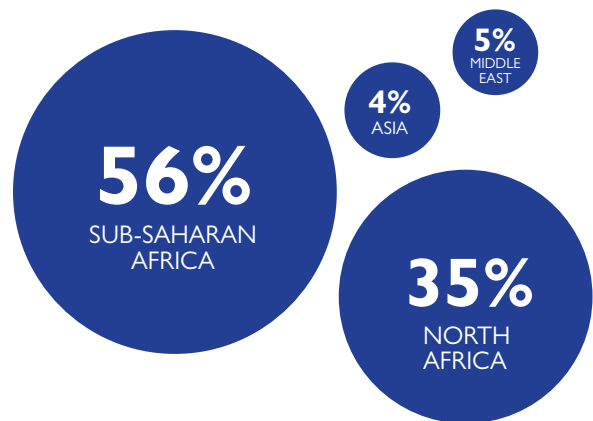
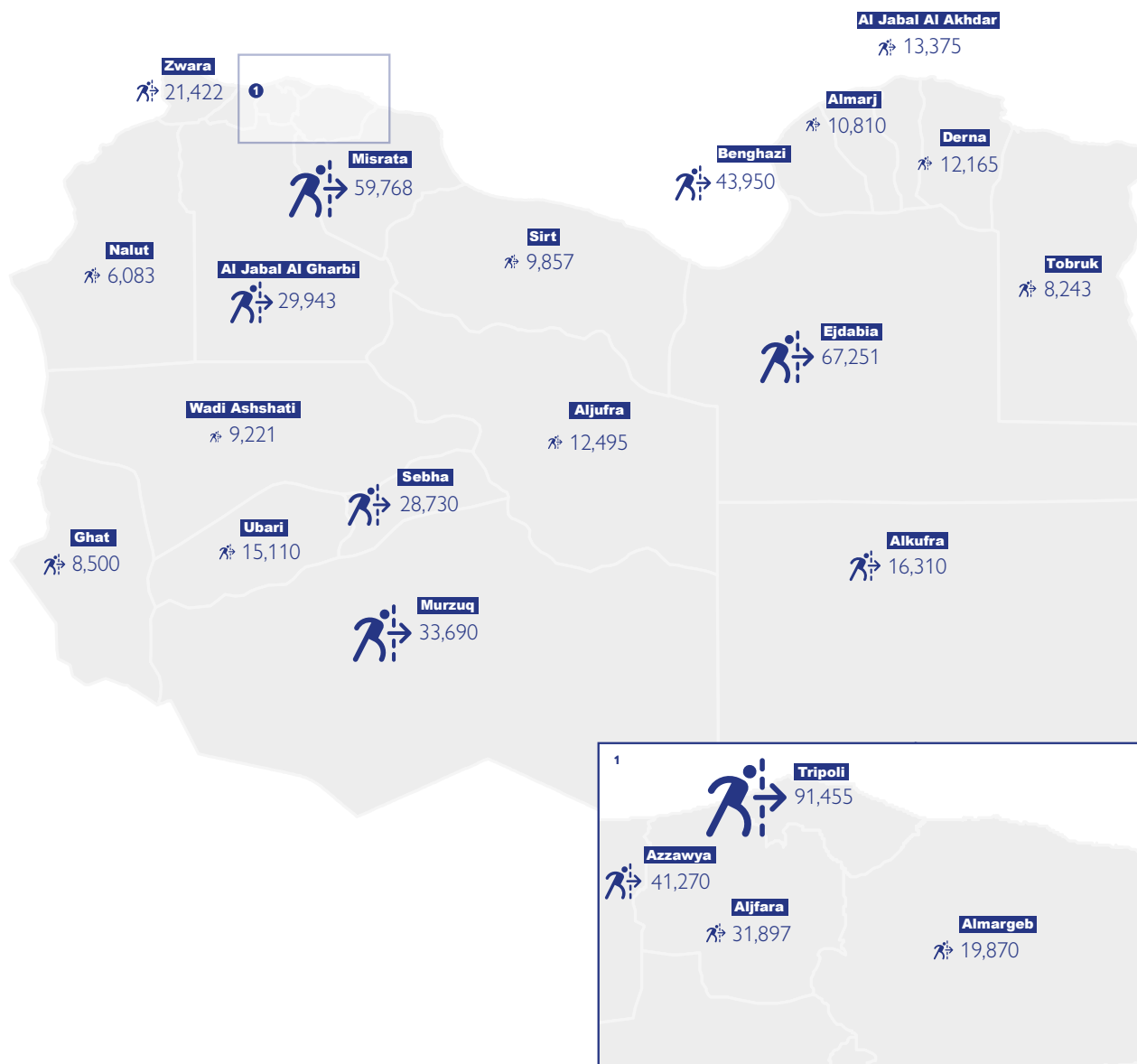


Fig 4 Number of migrants per region (mantika) during DTM Round 36 data collection.



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KEY FINDINGS

Round 36 (March - April 2021)

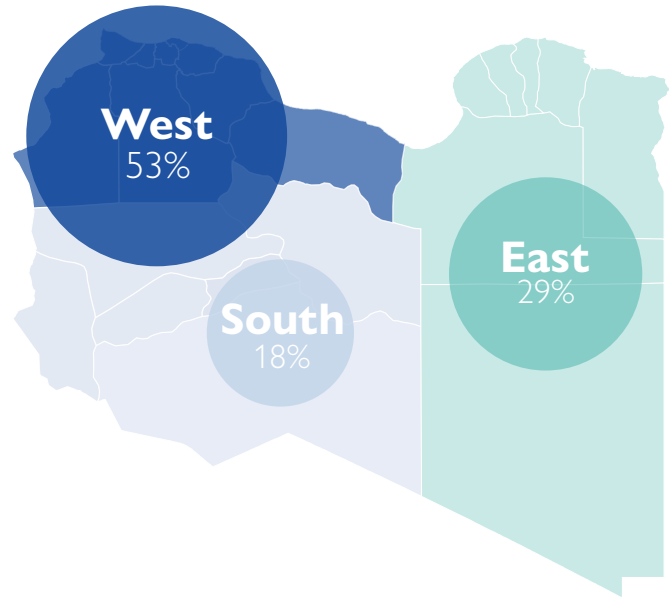


591,415
migrants in Libya

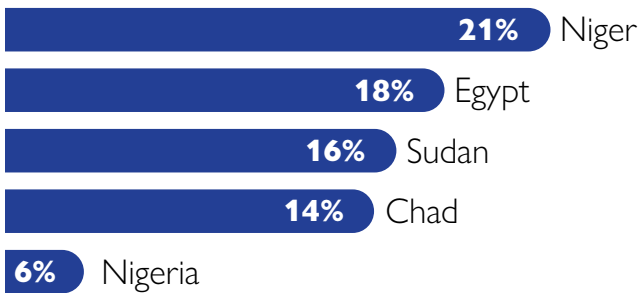
US\$ 849
migration journey cost
(average per person)

37%
of migrants reported that the remittances they send home are the primary source of income for their household

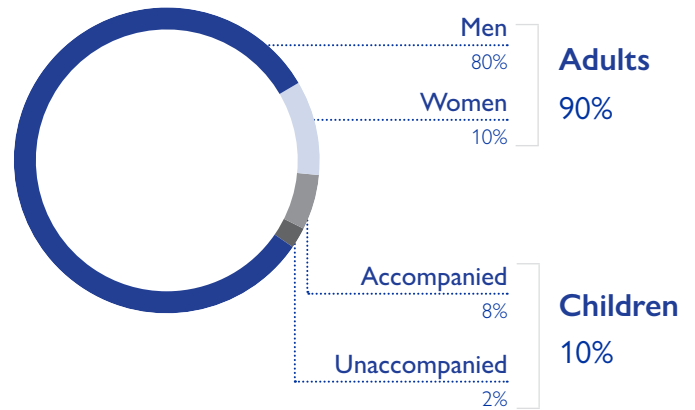
Distribution of migrants per geographical areas



Top 5 nationalities



Demographics



Migrants were present in:

580 communities (muhallas)
(out of 667)

1,983 Interviews with key informants

100 municipalities (baladiyas)
(out of 100)

4,828 Interviews with migrants
(Flow Monitoring Surveys)



A woman wearing a black hijab and a blue IOM vest is speaking during a session. She is holding a white marker in her right hand and gesturing with her left hand. The IOM logo is visible on her vest.

HUMANITARIAN NEEDS

In March, to mark International Women's Day, IOM conducted an awareness-raising session with 12 migrant women in Tripoli to celebrate women in leadership in their communities. .

MIGRANT VULNERABILITY AND HUMANITARIAN NEEDS

Interviews with 1,983 key informants across Libya in March and April 2021 highlighted that the primary needs of migrants were centred around health services (88%), NFIs (57%), accommodation (30%), and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) (22%). In addition, food security remains an issue for some migrants and especially for those who are unemployed or have limited or no access to social safety nets.

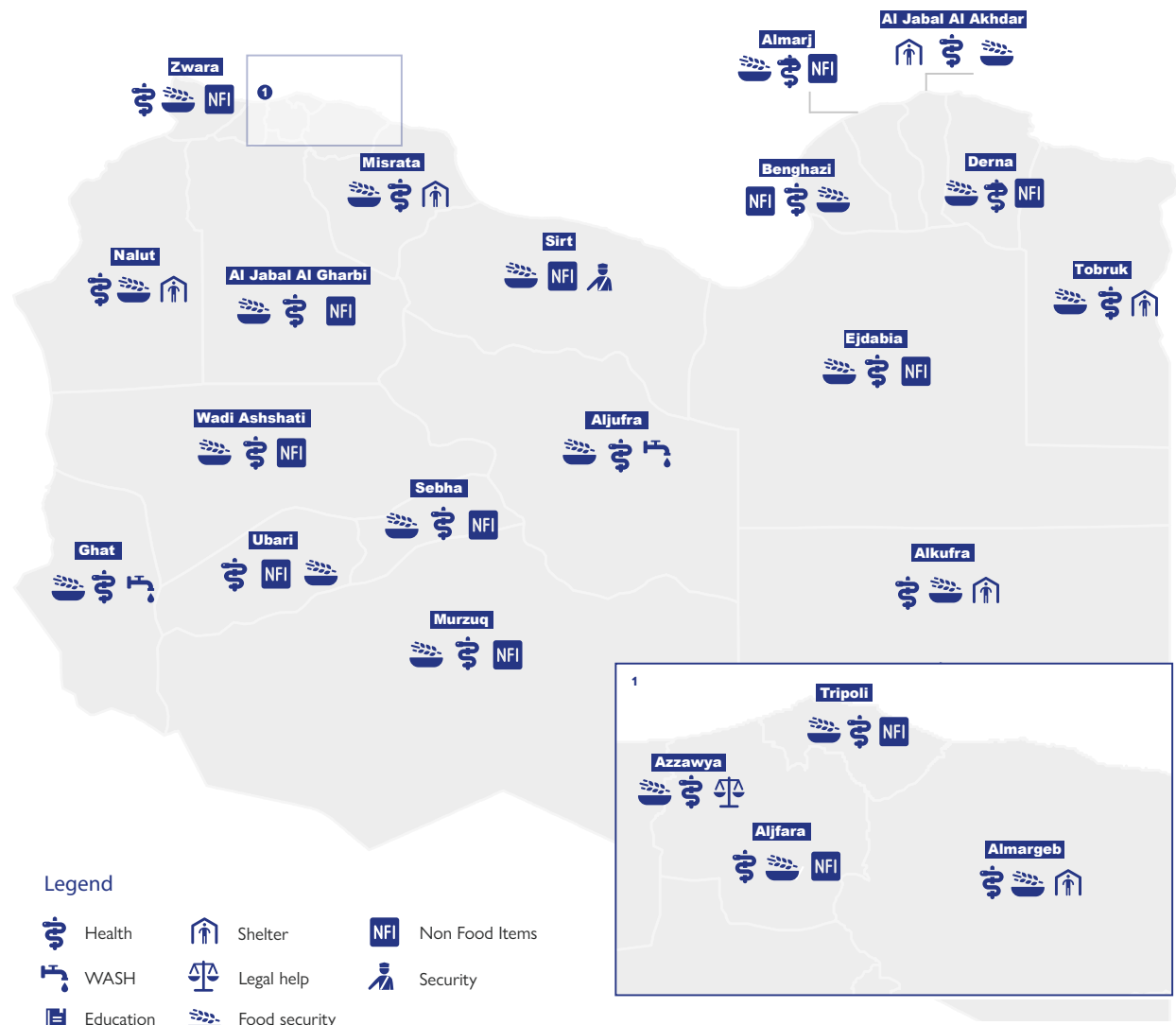
Cost and affordability of services was the main issue migrants faced in accessing food, accommodation, health services, WASH and NFIs. Evidence gathered for a recent [IOM assessment](#) of the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 found that the prices of basic food items have been volatile since the beginning of the pandemic, which can potentially translate into heightened vulnerabilities

within the poorest households. More than three in four migrants interviewed for a joint IOM and Voluntas [report](#) stated that the prices of food items had increased since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. Migrants reported that the main barriers they faced in accessing food included the affordability of food items and their reduced income.

According to the latest Joint Market Monitoring Report the prices of essential food and non-food items [remain](#) 12 per cent higher than pre-pandemic levels in March 2020.

Moreover, the lack of, or limited access to services for migrants was highlighted by key informants as the main barrier migrants faced in accessing education, protection and legal assistance.

Fig 5 Humanitarian priority needs of migrants per region (mantika)



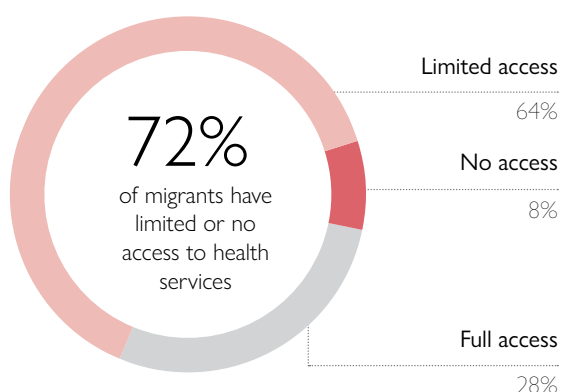
This map is for illustration purposes only. Names and boundaries on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by IOM.

Health

In line with previous reports, nearly three quarters (72%) of migrants reported having limited or no access to health care. A greater proportion of migrants reported having no access to health care in the South (10%) and in the West (7%) than in the East (5%).

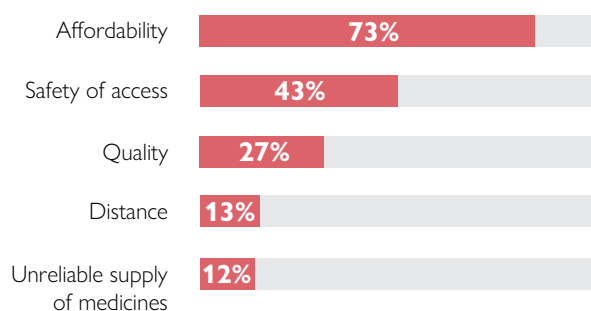
Among those who had no access to health services, the majority (73%) reported that affordability was the main barrier while safety of access (43%) was the second most important. The analysis of access to health care by employment status reveals that a greater proportion of unemployed migrants have limited or no access (84%) compared to migrants who are employed (68%).

Fig 6 Migrants' reported access to health services (sample size 4,828 interviews)



These findings are in line with a recent [DTM snapshot](#), which highlighted that the main challenge migrants faced in accessing health facilities was related to cost (54%) and are supported by the findings of an IOM and Voluntas [report](#), which found that nearly half of migrants (49%) had noticed a change in the prices of medicines due to COVID-19.

Fig 7 Main issues hindering migrants' access to health services (sample size 359 interviews)



The latest [DTM snapshot](#) also found that concerns over contracting COVID-19 (43%), lack of required documents (38%) and lack of trust (15%) were additional concerns raised by migrants. A recent IOM and Voluntas [report](#) found that migrants reported being treated differently as foreigners, a situation which has been exacerbated by the pandemic as migrants may be perceived by some as being more likely to be carrier of the virus and to spread it.

In April, a total of six per cent of migrants (or 30 out of 498 individuals) [surveyed](#) by IOM and the National Disease Centre reported having disease syndromes, such as acute respiratory infections and diarrheal disease, the majority of whom were in Algatroun (27%) and Alkufra (23%).

Remittances

A total of 28 per cent of migrants interviewed by DTM in March and April 2021 reported having sent remittances home and an additional 32 per cent of migrants reported that while they had not sent money home they intended to do so in the future.

Migrants reported having sent a monthly average of 105 US\$ home, which is lower than both the 2019 and 2020 average of 146 US\$ and 123 US\$, respectively.

A recent DTM [study](#) on remittances identified that the factors preventing migrants from sending remittances included a lack of (stable) employment or inadequate earnings (given that migrants generally aim to accumulate savings before sending remittances) and a lack of reliable money transfer services.

A recent IOM [report](#) conducted by Voluntas on the socio-economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic found that more than half of migrants interviewed (51%) reported that their wages had decreased since the beginning of the public health crisis as a result of daily work, on which many rely, being impacted.



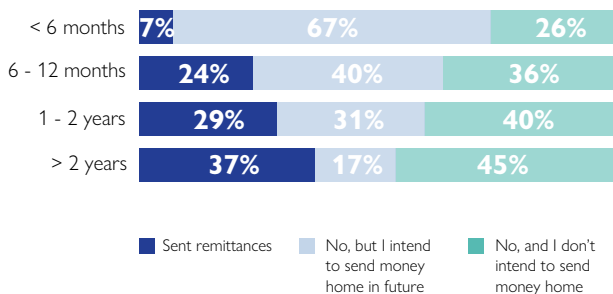
Remittances are [understood](#) as the money or goods that non-nationals send back to their families and friends in their countries of origin.

As a result, the [report](#) highlighted that in some instances migrants had stopped providing remittances to support their families and had themselves become dependent on remittances.

The proportion of migrants who reported sending remittances was significantly greater among those who were employed (32%) compared to those who were unemployed (13%). However, half of unemployed migrants reported their intention to send money home in the future compared to employed migrants (27%).

Similarly, a greater proportion of migrants who have been in Libya for a longer period reported sending remittances than those who have arrived in Libya more recently (Fig 8). For example, 7 per cent of migrants who reported having been in Libya for less than six months had sent remittances compared to 37 per cent of those who had been in Libya for more than two years.

Fig 8 Percentage of migrants who have sent remittances since they have arrived in Libya



Among migrants who reported sending remittances, the majority stated that the money they send home help cover some of their household's or family's basic needs abroad. In 37 per cent of cases remittances are their primary source of income of migrants' families.

For example, migrants reported that their remittances helped cover their family's food (62%), health (27%) and education needs (19%), as well as rent and utilities (31%). Two in five migrants also reported that the remittances they send home help contribute to building their household's savings, which illustrates that remittances also serve as a risk mitigation and income diversification strategy for migrants' households in their countries of origin.

WASH

Nearly one in five migrants (17%) reported having insufficient clean drinking water, with a significantly greater proportion facing this issue in the South (24%) than in the West (16%) or the East (9%). Among those who had irregular or never had access to the public water network the majority of migrants reported having to resort to bottled water (70%), water trucking (33%), protected well water (25%) or a public outdoor tap (11%). A total of five per cent of those who reported having limited or no access to the public water network also reported that it was the only available source of drinking water to them.

In line with the general trend, a greater proportion of migrants who were unemployed (26%) reported having insufficient drinking water than migrants who were employed (14%).

NFIs

More than four in five migrants (86%) reported being in need of NFIs, among which blankets (62%), mattresses (55%), clothing (43%) and hygiene products (24%) were the most needed items.

A greater proportion of migrants who were unemployed (99%) reported being in need of NFIs than those who were employed (82%). Similarly, a greater proportion of migrants who have been in Libya for less than six months reported being in need of NFIs (94%) compared to those who have been in Libya for between six months to a year (89%) or longer (84%).

Fig 9 Migrants' reported NFI needs

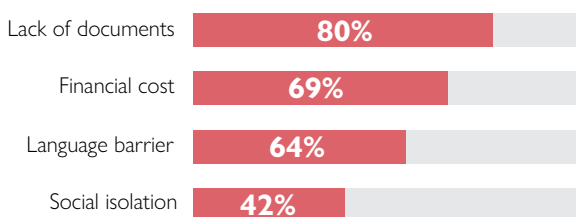


Education

In line with previous reports, a minority of migrants (6%) interviewed by DTM in March and April reported having family members aged between 5 and 18 years old in Libya. Half of those reported that their school-aged children were unable to access education mainly because of a lack of required documents (80%) and because of the costs (69%) (Fig 10). Language barrier (64%) and social isolation (42%) were also among the issues that prevented migrants children aged 5-18 years old to access education in Libya.

More than half of migrants (57%) interviewed for a joint IOM and Voluntas [report](#) stated having been affected by school closures because of the pandemic.

Fig 10 Barriers migrants face in accessing education



1 in 2

migrants in Libya who lives with family members aged 5-18 reported that they were unable to access education



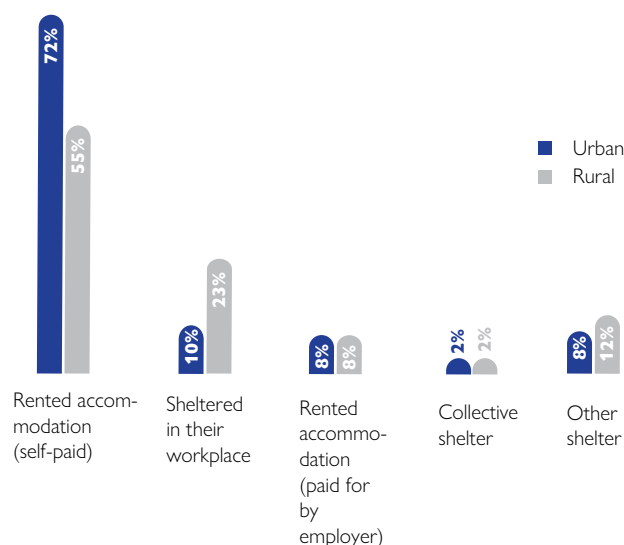
6%

of migrants in Libya reported being with family members aged 5-18

Accommodation

In line with a trend which has been consistent over the previous year, key informant interviews revealed that the majority of migrants lived in rented accommodation (76%). More migrants in rural areas lived in their workplaces (23%) than in urban areas (10%) but a similar proportion (2%) lived in collective shelters in both rural and urban settings. A greater proportion of migrants living in collective shelters as well as in workplace settings have been [found](#) to be living in overcrowded conditions in accommodation of which the structural quality was substandard than migrants who lived in rented accommodation. A total of 128,000 migrants and refugees were [identified](#) as being in need of NFI or shelter assistance in 2021.

Fig 11 Migrants' accommodation arrangements by type of setting



A photograph showing a female DTM enumerator on the right, wearing a blue vest with the IOM logo, a white headscarf, and a black face mask. She is holding a tablet and gesturing with her right hand while talking to a migrant on the left. The migrant is wearing a blue hooded jacket and is seen in profile. They are standing in front of a grey stone wall with several small holes. A yellow bucket is on the ground between them.

MIGRATION FLOWS

A DTM enumerator conducts an interview with a migrant in Tripoli for a UK FCDO funded in-depth thematic study on migration to Libya. Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic all interviews and surveys conducted in person are carried out in line with WHO and local health authorities' guidelines on infection prevention.
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MIGRATION FLOWS

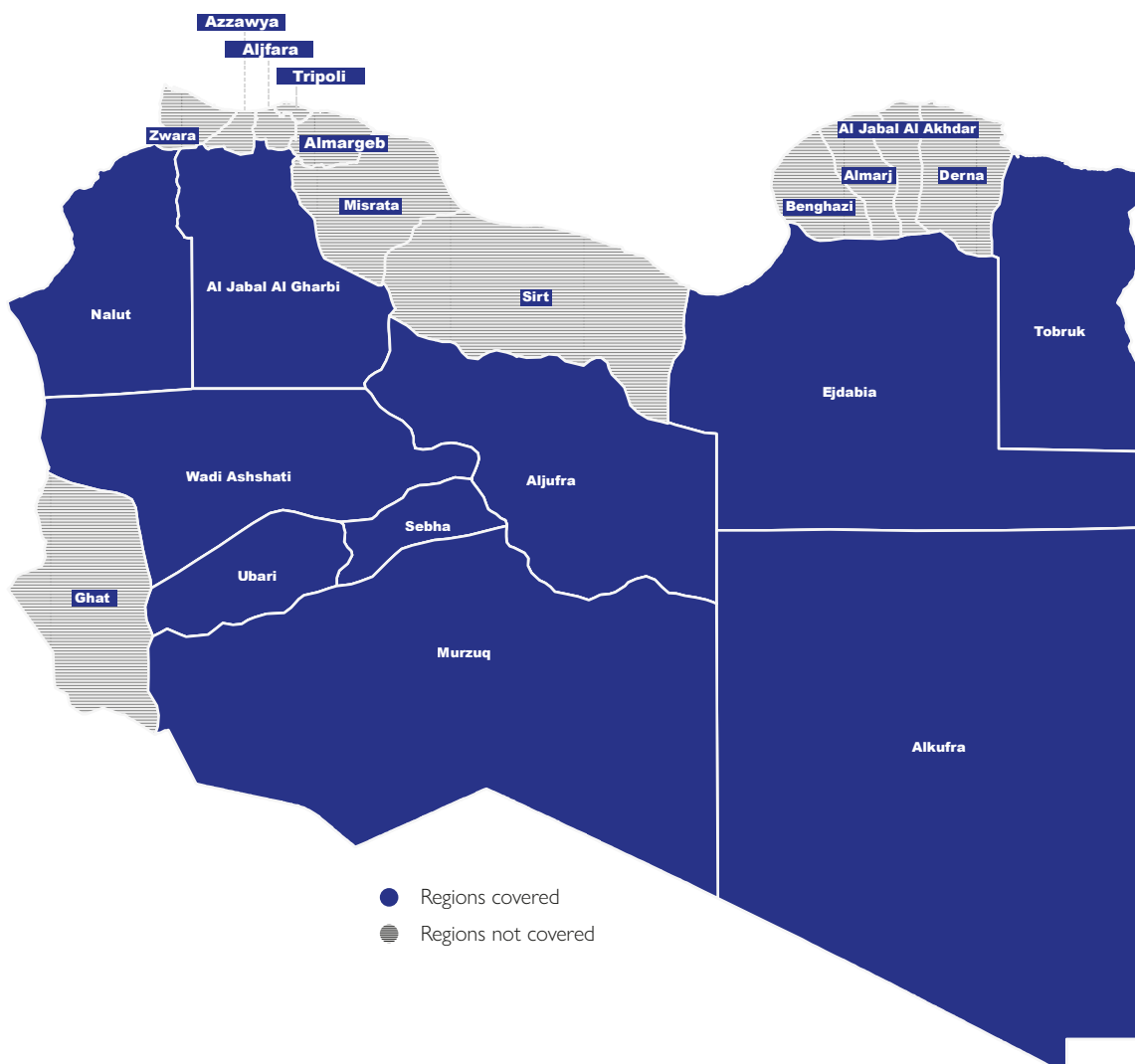
During the reporting period (March - April 2021) DTM Libya's 42 Flow Monitoring Points (FMPs) monitored migration movements in 15 municipalities and in 10 regions (mantika) of Libya. Flow Monitoring Points (FMPs) are set up at key transit locations along major migration routes within Libya where migrants are observed arriving and departing.

At these flow monitoring points, DTM field staff regularly conduct surveys with migrants concerning their intentions, profiles, humanitarian needs and vulnerabilities. The following section presents an overview of both quantitative and qualitative information collected during the reporting period.

Flow monitoring points in numbers

-  **10** regions covered
-  **513** assessments
-  **15** municipalities
-  **42** flow monitoring points (FMPs) active

Fig 12 Regions (mantika) covered by the network of FMPs monitoring migration flows in Libya



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

ANALYSIS OF MIGRATION FLOWS & PRESENCE

The analysis of migration flows is based on the mobility trends observed on the ground during the reporting period, in addition to primary data collected through the Flow Monitoring Points (FMPs).

EASTERN LIBYA

Albayda

The number of migrants observed in the municipality of Albayda during Round 36 of data collection decreased by 10 per cent in comparison to Round 35, down from 10,400 to 9,380 migrants.

In March and April, security authorities implemented precautionary measures in collaboration with the Municipal Health services of Albayda at points of entry to tackle the spread of COVID-19. As a result of these measures, it is likely that fewer migrants were observed entering or leaving the municipality.

Furthermore, a decrease in available daily work opportunities coupled with a hike in food prices presented a challenge for migrants residing in Albayda during the month of Ramadan.

Alkufra

During the reporting period, the number of migrants present in the municipality of Alkufra remained stable. In March, migrants working in sectors highly depending on electricity in Alkufra (as well as in the town of Rubyana, west of the municipality of Alkufra), were affected by the prolonged power cuts.

During the reporting period, frequent dust storms in the desert and unusually high temperature impeded the movement of migrants from and to other cities as well as neighbouring countries and added to the general fear of getting lost in the desert, engine failure, and threat of thirst and hunger.

SOUTHERN LIBYA

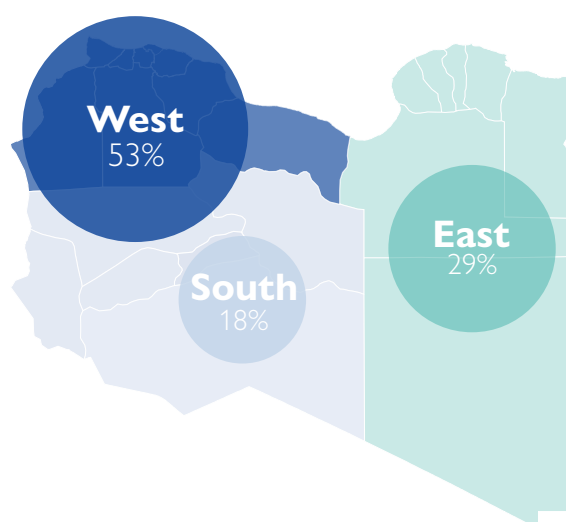
Algatroun

During the reporting period, the number of migrants present in the municipality of Alkatroun remained

stable. The security situation in Alkatroun during the month of March severely affected both the Libyan population and migrants, and limited movements within the municipality. Several incidents of robbery and shooting targeting migrants were reported.

In April, the security situation improved and the presence of migrants at recruitment points resumed.

Fig 12 Distribution of migrants by geographical area



MIGRATION ROUTES TO LIBYA

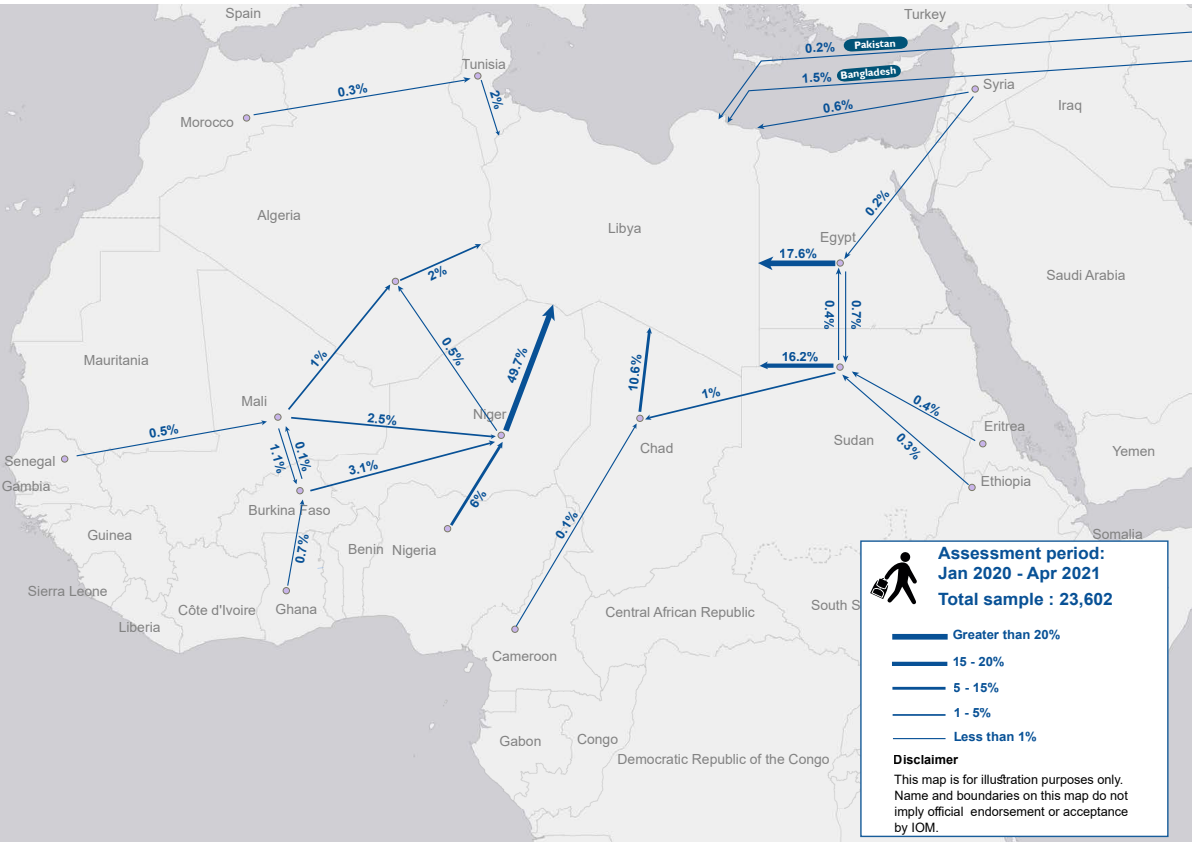
Libya shares more than 4,300 km of land borders with six countries. This section maps the major migration routes used by migrants from different countries of origin to reach Libya. This analysis is based on 23,602 individual quantitative migrant interviews conducted at key locations including transit points throughout Libya (through DTM Flow Monitoring Surveys (FMS)) between January 2020 and April 2021.

Despite the pandemic, the data collected on migration routes confirms that neighbouring countries, and particularly Niger, Chad, Sudan and Egypt, continue to play a key role as transit countries along the main migration routes. Nationals of countries bordering Libya also constitute the bulk of migrants in the country.

Fig 13 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 in the map below represent the percentage of migrants reporting to have travelled along the respective route. For example, more than 49 per cent 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.



MIGRATION ROUTES: ANALYSIS AND TRENDS

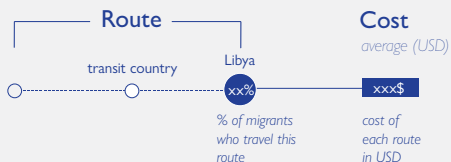
This section of the report outlines the different routes taken by migrants (i.e. through which countries they transit before reaching Libya) and the percentage of migrants who use these routes by country of origin.

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.

How to read this infographic

Country of departure

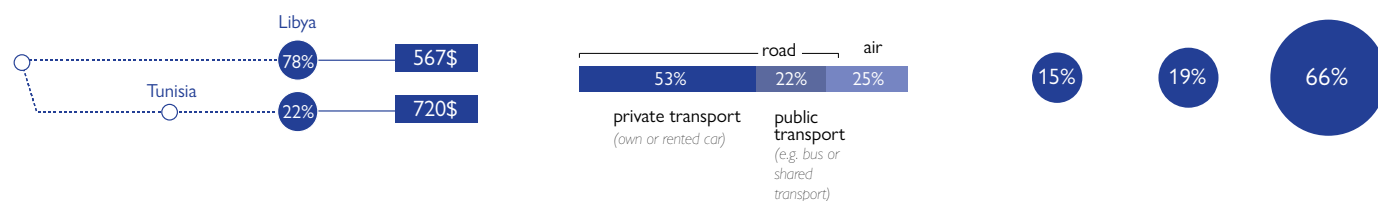
number of migrants from this country in Libya



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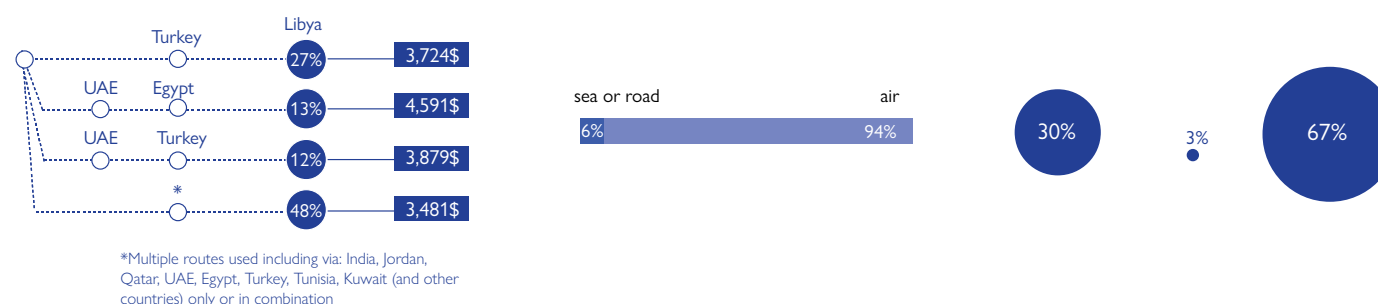
Algeria

1,779 migrants



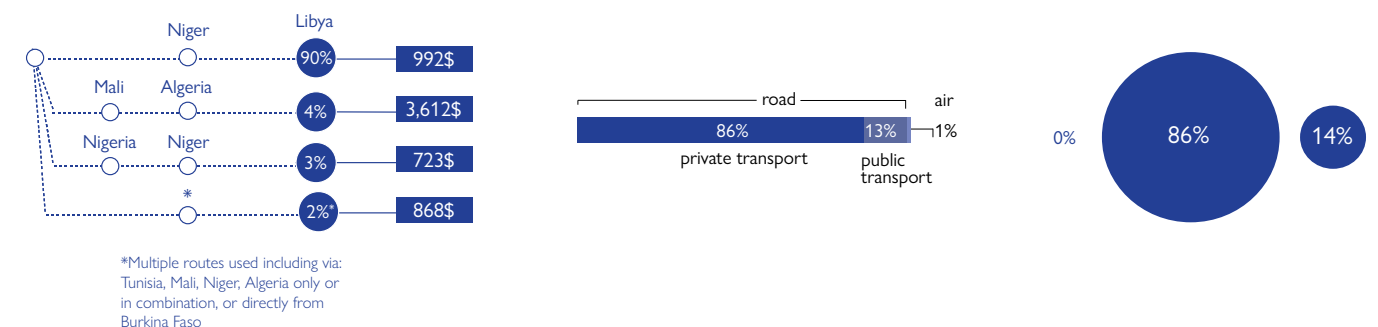
Bangladesh

20,123 migrants



Burkina Faso

3,172 migrants

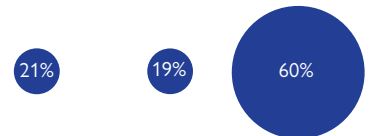
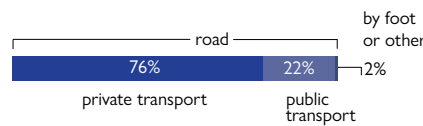
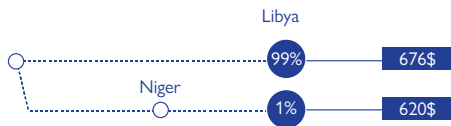


ROUTES	COST average (USD)	MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION	PRESENCE IN LIBYA BY GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS
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Chad

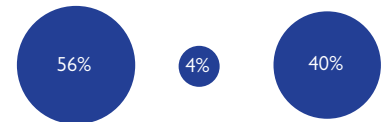
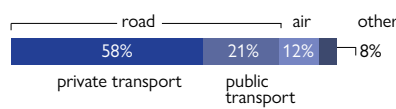
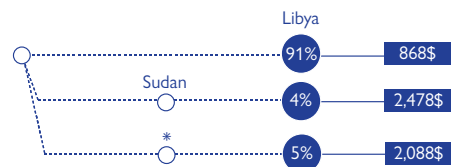
83,245 migrants

East South West



Egypt

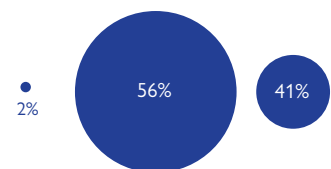
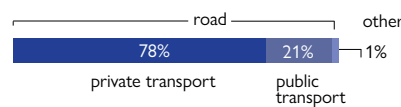
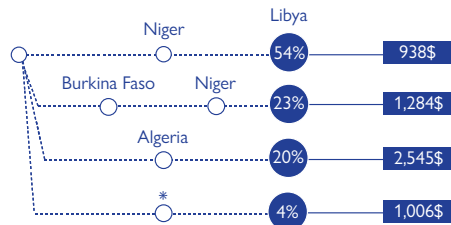
106,540 migrants



*Multiple routes used that included one or a combination of the following countries: United Arab Emirates, Syria, Turkey, South Sudan, Jordan, Chad, Niger and Burkina Faso

Mali

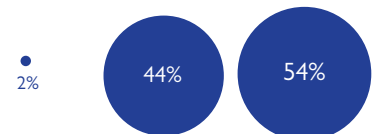
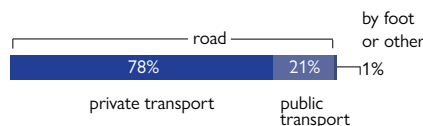
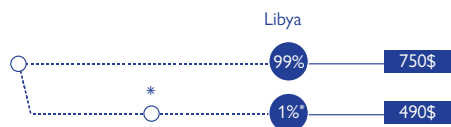
24,159 migrants



*Multiple routes used including via one or a combination of the following countries: Niger, Algeria, Burkina Faso, Chad and Sudan.

Niger

124,260 migrants



*Multiple routes used with transit via either Algeria, Chad, Egypt or Nigeria

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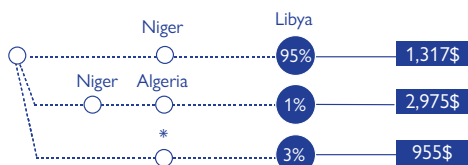
Nigeria

37,271 migrants

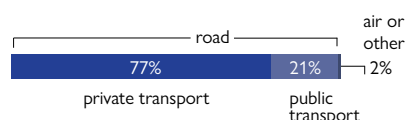
East

South

West

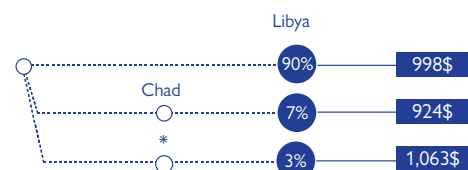


*Multiple routes used that included one or a combination of the following countries: Niger, Chad, Sudan, Burkina Faso, Tunisia, Turkey, Cameroon, Algeria and Sudan

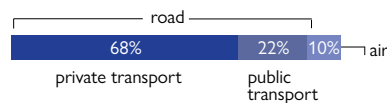


Sudan

92,757 migrants

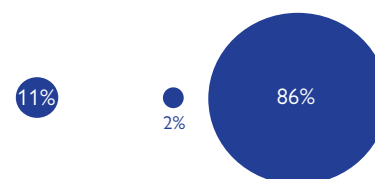
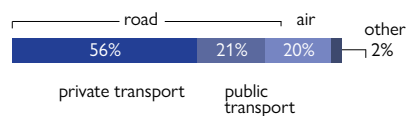


*Multiple routes used that included one or more of the following countries: Chad, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Niger, Tunisia, South Sudan, Kenya and Central African Republic



Tunisia

3,879 migrants





REGIONAL ANALYSIS

In March, to ensure migrants in detention have access to specialized health care, IOM medical teams organized health checks with a gynaecologist and midwife with migrant women in detention centres in Tripoli and Benghazi.

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REGIONAL ANALYSIS - DISTRIBUTION

In line with previous reports, most migrants identified by DTM Libya in March and April 2021 were located in the West (53%), while nearly a third were in the East (29%) and less than a fifth (18%) in the South.

Half of migrants (51%) were located in the coastal regions of Tripoli (15%), Ejdabia (11%), Misrata (10%), Benghazi (7%) and Azzawya (7%).

In comparison, over 90 per cent of the Libyan population is [estimated](#) to be concentrated in the major urban centers along the Mediterranean, such as Tripoli, Misrata and Benghazi.

.....

51%

of migrants are located in the coastal regions of Tripoli, Ejdabia, Misrata, Benghazi and Azzawya

.....

Fig 14 Migrants in Libya by region (mantika) (based on Mobility Tracking data)

Region (mantika)	# Migrants (IND)	% By region
Tripoli	91,455	15%
Ejdabia	67,251	11%
Misrata	59,768	10%
Benghazi	43,950	7%
Azzawya	41,270	7%
Murzuq	33,690	6%
Aljfara	31,897	5%
Al Jabal Al Gharbi	29,943	5%
Sebha	28,730	5%
Zwara	21,422	4%
Almargeb	19,870	3%
Alkufra	16,310	3%
Ubari	15,110	3%
Al Jabal Al Akhdar	13,375	2%
Aljufra	12,495	2%
Derna	12,165	2%
Almarj	10,810	2%
Sirt	9,857	2%
Wadi Ashshati	9,221	2%
Ghat	8,500	1%
Tobruk	8,243	1%
Nalut	6,083	1%
Grand Total	591,415	100%

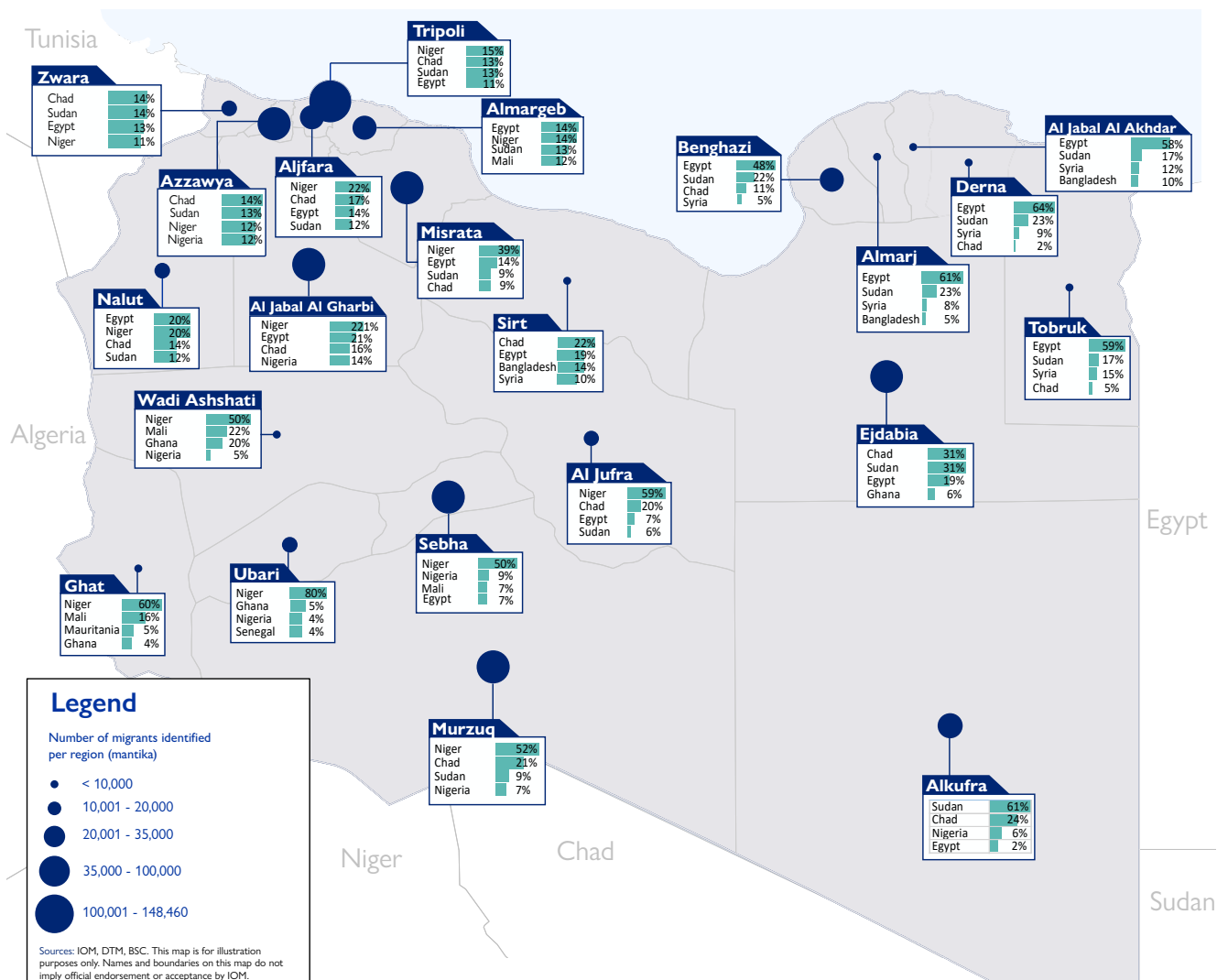
REGIONAL ANALYSIS - NATIONALITIES OF MIGRANTS

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the regional distribution of migrants within Libya remains heavily shaped by geographical proximity as well as socio-economic, ethnic and historical linkages (Fig 15). This distribution is likely indicative of the more stable as well as [circular migration](#) patterns between Libya and its neighbouring countries.

A recent DTM [study](#) highlighted that seasonal mobility patterns are significantly influenced by geographical proximity and social connections. Over half (52%) of seasonal migrant workers in Southern Libya were from Niger while nearly four in five (79%) in the East were from Egypt, for example.

The map below shows the top four nationalities of migrants by region as per Mobility Tracking Round 36 data collection (March - April 2021). The majority of migrants in the Southern and Western regions of Murzuq, Sebha, Aljufra, Ubari, Al Jabal Al Gharbi, Wadi Ashshati and Ghat are systematically from neighbouring Niger. Chadians and Sudanese constitute the bulk of migrants in the region of Alkufra, which borders Chad and Sudan to the north. Migrants from Chad are also the second most important cohort of migrants in most Southern and Western regions such as Murzuq and Al Jufra. Similarly, Egyptians constitute the bulk of migrants in the eastern coastal regions of Libya, such as Al Jabal Akhdar, Derna, Almarj, Tobruk and Benghazi. However, Tunisians and Algerians do not constitute the majority of migrants in bordering regions and only constitute 1% and 0,3%, respectively, of migrants in Libya.

Fig 15 Map of the top 4 migrant nationalities per region (mantika)



REGION OF ORIGIN ANALYSIS

In line with previous reports, migrants from countries in North Africa (including Egypt and Sudan) represent nearly two thirds of migrants in Eastern Libya (64%) while migrants from Sub-Saharan African countries (such as Niger and Chad) account for the majority of migrants in Southern and Western Libya (88% and 62% respectively). The complete disaggregation of migrants' region of origins by regional location (mantika) in Libya is shown in the table below (Fig 16).

This analysis highlights the [interlinkages and kinship networks](#) that characterize migration to Libya and that developed over time through the human mobility, trade as well as cultural and social exchanges between and within populations from Libya's bordering countries. There are multiple factors involved in the decision to migrate, including social networks. For example, the majority of migrants (54%) [reported](#) having friends in Libya prior to migrating. A quarter (24%) of migrants reported having family while a third had acquaintances in Libya before migrating.

Fig 16 Disaggregation of migrants by region of origin and by regional location in Libya

Region (Mantika)		Migrants from Asia (Including Middle East)		Migrants from Sub-Saharan Africa		Migrants from North Africa	
		#	%	#	%	#	%
East	Al Jabal Al Akhdar	2,964	16%	385	1%	10,026	9%
	Alkufra		0%	5,911	14%	10,399	9%
	Almarj	1,170	6%	395	1%	9,245	8%
	Benghazi	5,312	28%	8,129	19%	30,509	28%
	Derna	1,085	6%	540	1%	10,540	10%
	Ejdabia	6,827	36%	27,039	63%	33,385	30%
	Tobruk	1,380	7%	629	1%	6,234	6%
Eastern Libya total	18,738	11%	43,028	25%	110,338	64%	
South	Aljufra	660	30%	10,077	11%	1,758	17%
	Ghat	3	0%	7,846	8%	651	6%
	Murzuq	25	1%	30,225	32%	3,440	33%
	Sebha	1,390	63%	23,690	25%	3,650	35%
	Ubari	110	5%	14,781	16%	219	2%
	Wadi Ashshati	18	1%	8,489	9%	714	7%
Southern Libya total	2,206	2%	95,108	88%	10,432	10%	
West	Al Jabal Al Gharbi	687	2%	18,593	10%	10,628	12%
	Aljgara	1,041	4%	21,579	11%	9,197	10%
	Almargeb	1,870	6%	12,445	6%	5,555	6%
	Azzawya	2,910	10%	27,160	14%	11,200	13%
	Misrata	4,525	15%	39,176	20%	16,067	18%
	Nalut	277	1%	3,781	2%	2,025	2%
	Sirt	3,188	11%	3,462	2%	2,905	3%
	Tripoli	13,520	46%	54,406	28%	23,529	26%
	Zwara	1,215	4%	11,859	6%	8,348	9%
Western Libya total	29,233	9%	192,461	62%	89,454	29%	
TOTAL FOR LIBYA	50,177	8%	330,597	56%	210,224	36%	

Note: 417 migrants from other minority nationalities (including those whose nationalities could not be established) are not counted in the table above.

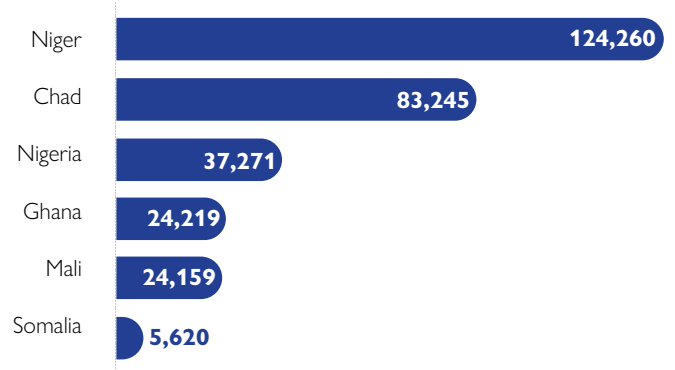
NORTH AND SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

During the reporting period the number of Sub-Saharan and North African migrants in Libya rose slightly compared to Round 35. In addition to the security situation having improved and mobility restrictions having been lifted, seasonal migration patterns may partly explain this increase. A recent DTM [study](#) on seasonal migration highlighted that seasonal workers, the bulk of whom are from neighbouring countries such as Niger, Chad, Egypt and Sudan, tend to arrive in Libya in March and April in search of temporary employment. Nationals of Niger and Chad constitute the majority of seasonal workers on date palm plantations, particularly in Aljufra, Al Qatrun and Sebha, for example.

In line with previous reports and despite the pandemic and its socio-economic impact, the bulk of migrants in Libya continue to be nationals of Sub-Saharan African countries (56% or 330,597 individuals). Migrants from Niger (38%) and Chad (25%) constitute the two main nationalities among them.

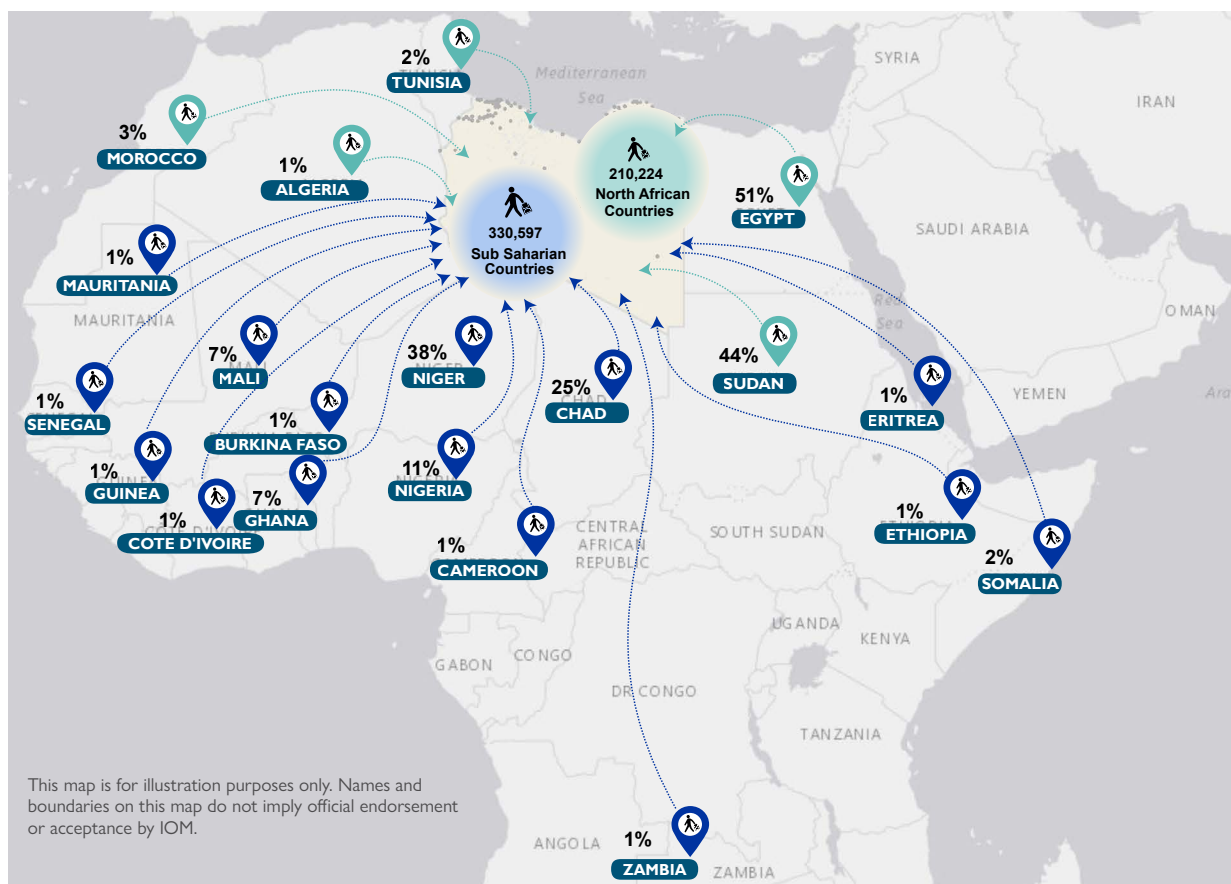
The number of West and Central African migrants in Libya increased slightly in April 2021 compared to

Fig 17 Migrants from countries of origin in Sub-Saharan Africa



February 2021, which is in line with DTM Niger [March](#) and [April](#) data captured at flow monitoring points that [indicated](#) that outgoing flows (to Libya) were greater than incoming flows (to Niger). In April, nearly half of migrants were leaving Niger (48%) while a third were entering Niger (31%) (the rest (21%) were moving internally). The bulk of West and Central African migrants transit through Niger to reach Libya.

Fig 18 Percentages of migrants by country of origin for the North and Sub-Saharan Africa regions.

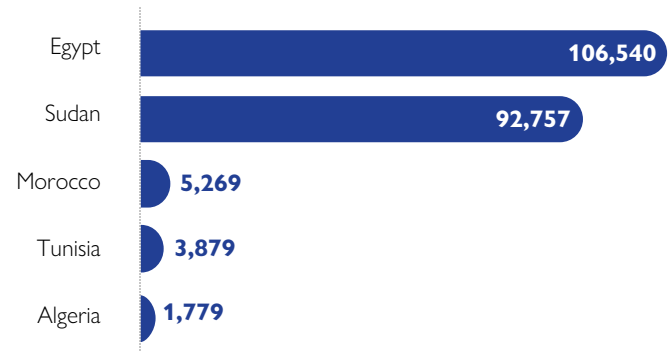


In line with previous reports, the majority of North African migrants in Libya are nationals of Egypt (51%) and Sudan (44%) while migrants from Tunisia, Morocco and Algeria together account for 5 per cent of the total number of migrants from North Africa. More than a third of migrants in Libya are from North Africa (36% or 210,224 individuals), a proportion which is in line with the previous [round of data collection](#) (January - February 2021).

Fig 19 Proportion of migrants by nationality

Nationality	Number of Migrants (IND)	% Migrants
Niger	124,260	21%
Egypt	106,540	18%
Sudan	92,757	16%
Chad	83,245	14%
Nigeria	37,271	6%
Ghana	24,219	4%
Mali	24,159	4%
Syria	21,224	4%
Bangladesh	20,123	3%
Palestine	5,681	1%
Somalia	5,620	1%
Morocco	5,269	1%
Eritrea	4,909	1%
Guinea	4,862	1%
Senegal	4,721	1%
Other	4,181	1%
Tunisia	3,879	1%
Mauritania	3,223	1%
BurkinaFaso	3,172	1%
Côte d'Ivoire	3,172	1%
Pakistan	2,133	0.4%
Ethiopia	2,093	0.4%
Algeria	1,779	0.3%
Zambia	1,570	0.3%
Gambia	1,353	0.2%
Grand Total	591,415	100%

Fig 20 Migrants from countries of origin in North Africa



MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA

Consistent with previous reports, a minority of migrants (9% or 50,177 individuals) identified during Round 36 were from Asia (4%) or the Middle East (5%). Among them, the majority came from Syria (21,224 individuals) and Bangladesh (20,123 individuals) accounting for 42 and 40 per cent of migrants (including refugees), respectively. Syrians and Bangladeshi migrants accounted for 4 and 3 per cent of the overall migrant stock population in Libya. In addition, there were 5,681 migrants who self-identified as Palestinians (11%), 2,095 from Pakistan (4%) as well as 1,016 individuals from other countries within the region (2%).

Fig 21 Migrants from countries of origin in Asia and the Middle East

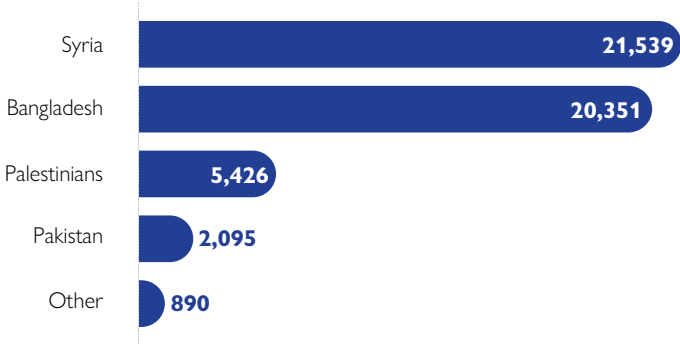
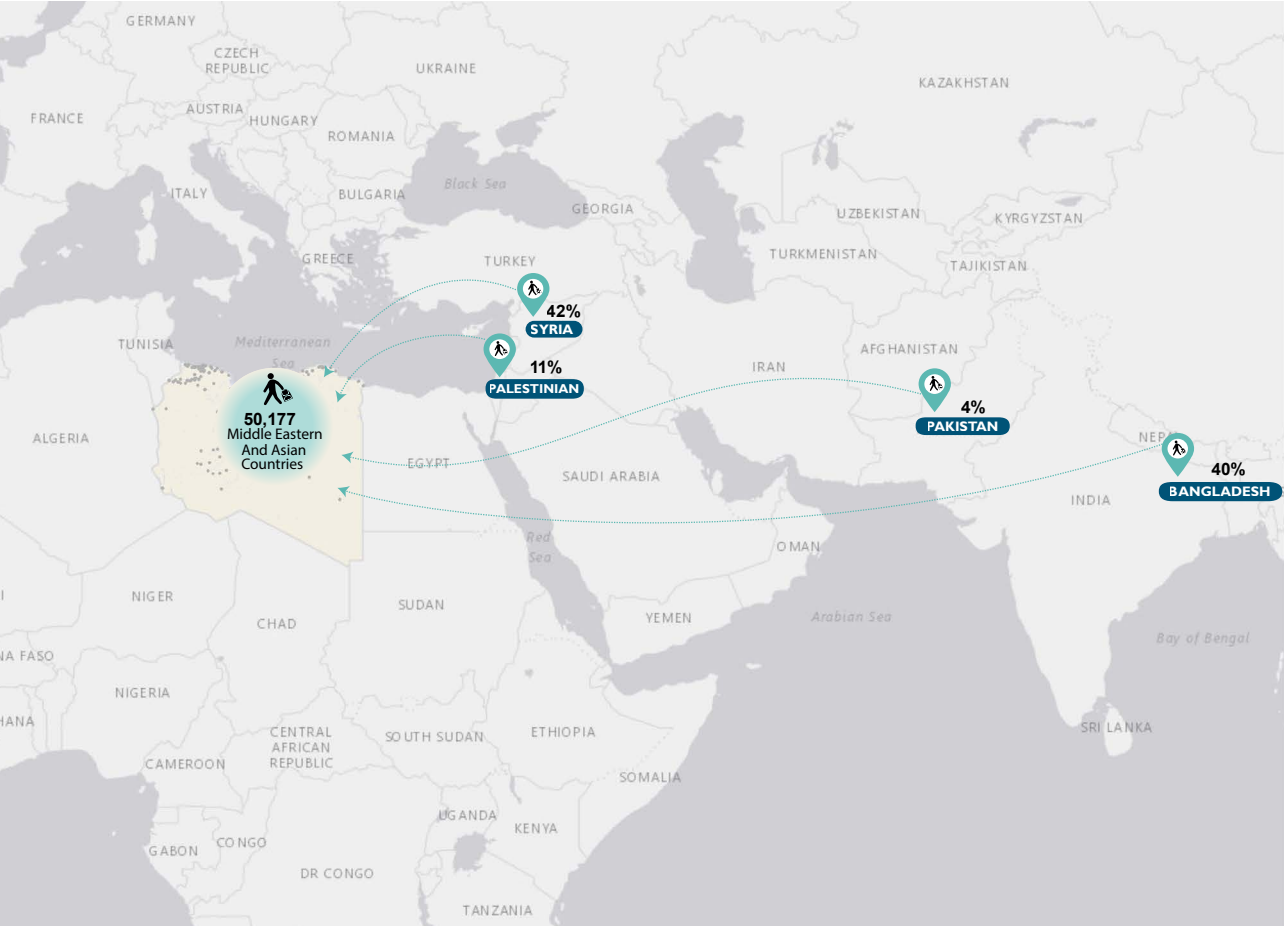


Fig 22 Percentages of migrants by country of origin for the Middle East and South Asia



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



In April, IOM Libya's Migrant Resource and Response Mechanism (MRRM) team distributed core relief items, such as food, hygiene and clothing kits as well as solar lamps, mattresses and kitchen sets to migrants in Azzawiya (pictured), among other locations.

MARITIME INCIDENTS

Arrivals to Italy and Malta

Nearly 4,000 migrants arrived in Italy and Malta from Libya in March and April 2021, more than three and five times the number recorded for the same period in 2020 (1,124 migrants) and 2019 (769 migrants), respectively. Between January and April 2021, a total of 9,078 migrants arrived in Italy or Malta via the Central Mediterranean Route, of which 5,471 had departed from Libya.

According to UNICEF, as of April 2021, among migrants who had arrived in European ports via the Central Mediterranean route a fifth were children.

Rescue at sea

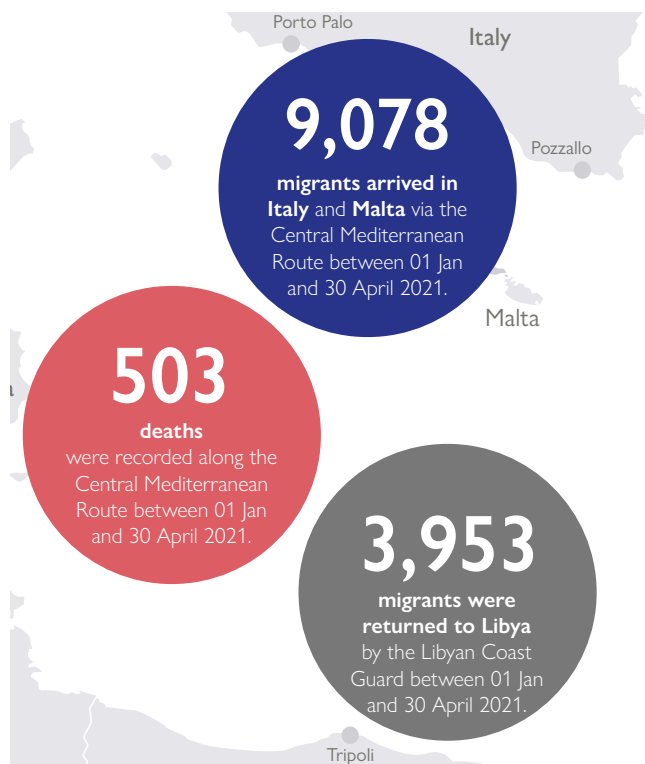
In March and April 2021, a total of 2,864 migrants were rescued at sea and disembarked in Libya.

In the space of one week only (28 March - 3 April) a total of 1,663 migrants were rescued at sea and returned to Libya.

While this increase in the number of migrants departing from the shores of Libya and Tunisia can be partly explained by a seasonal trend (the highest number of migrants attempting to cross the Mediterranean generally being in the spring and summer months), it can also be partly linked to other factors, such as the recent ease of mobility restrictions and increased activity of migration facilitators.

Among rescued migrants between January and April 2021, there were 5,932 men, 521 women and 321 children (no age or gender data was available for 46 individuals).

Fig 24 Arrivals by sea, returns and deaths on the Central Mediterranean Route to Italy and Malta in 2021

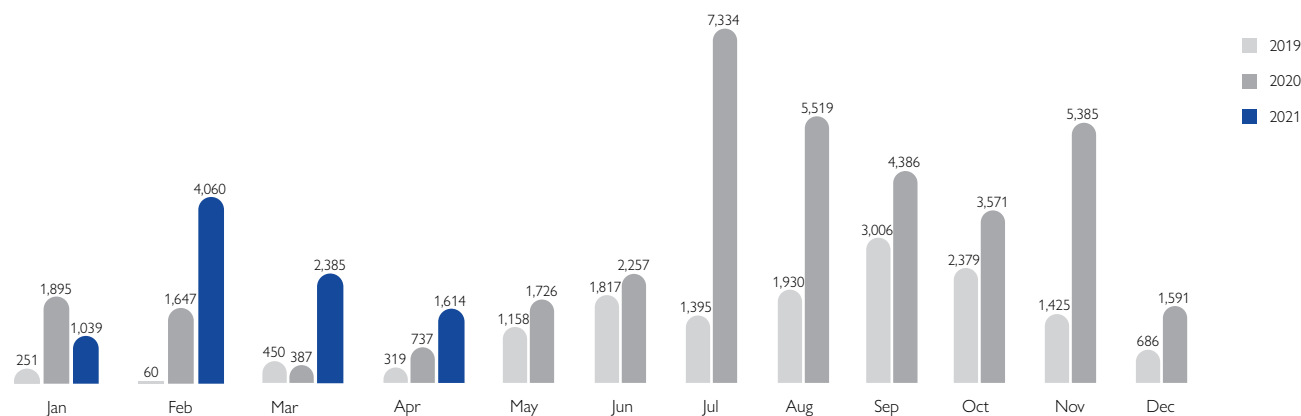


Fatalities at sea

A total of 503 migrants drowned or are presumed to have drowned in the Mediterranean Sea while attempting to cross from the shores of Libya or Tunisia during the first four months of 2021.

In April alone, 266 deaths were recorded, nearly half of which occurred following the deadliest shipwreck incident of 2021, so far, during which at least 130 migrants allegedly drowned after their boat capsized due to rough sea conditions.

Fig 23 Arrivals by sea via Central Mediterranean Route to Italy and Malta (2019 / 2020 / 2021) (number of individuals)



For more information, visit : <https://migration.iom.int/europe>

METHODOLOGY

DTM's Migration Information Package includes DTM Libya Migrant Report and Migrant Public Dataset, and is part of the IOM Libya's Flow Monitoring operations that ensure regular delivery of data and information on migration to, through and from Libya.

This DTM Libya Migrant Report utilizes data collected via different regular DTM data collection activities.

The migrant population figures (stock figures), and their analysis is based on the data collected via DTM Mobility Tracking (including Multi-Sectoral 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 regional (admin 2: mantika), and municipality (admin 3: baladiya) levels.

Statistics of migration flows are based on the data collected via DTM Flow Monitoring Points (FMP) that cover nine regions (mantika) via a network of 42 active flow monitoring points in 10 regions of Libya.

Analysis of migrant routes along with other aspects of migration, including migrant vulnerabilities and humanitarian needs is based on the micro-level data collected through quantitative interviews with migrants via Flow Monitoring Surveys (FMS).

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 his or her 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 a number 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 his or her 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 in numbers



76

Enumerators



4,828

migrants interviewed

(Round 36, Flow Monitoring Survey)

100%
coverage



3

Team leaders



5

Implementing Partners



42

Flow Monitoring Points (FMPs)

are active in 10 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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