

DISPLACEMENT TRACKING MATRIX

REGIONAL SNAPSHOT – MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA
 Quarterly Report April 1 – June 30, 2021 – Iraq, Libya, Sudan, and Yemen
 PUBLICATION: JULY 2021



OVERVIEW

REGIONAL DISPLACEMENT TRENDS

Total Number of IDPs

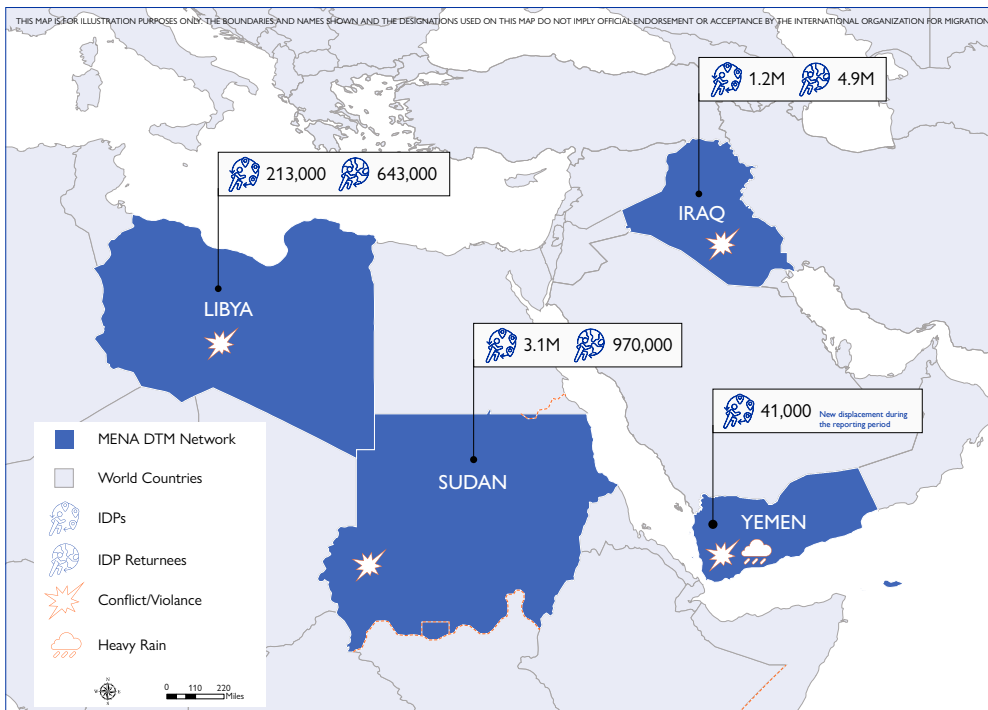
14.7M

Share of IDPs in MENA over Total IDPs in the world

27%

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 and transition interventions by providing timely data and analysis to relevant actors including governments, United Nations (UN) partner agencies, donors and other stakeholders. DTM operates in contexts of conflict, natural disasters and complex emergency settings that cause short-term or protracted displacement and in mixed migration contexts.

In the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, the 2021 Report of the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre - Global Internal Displacement Database (IDMC-GRID) recorded 14.7 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) and 2.9 million newly displaced in 2020. This figure constitutes 27 per cent of the global IDP population, making MENA the region with the highest concentration of IDPs worldwide. In MENA, DTM is active in five countries and operates through the humanitarian coordination structure of these countries. This Quarterly Report provides an update on the displacement situation in the four countries of the region - Iraq, Libya, Sudan and Yemen,¹ as well as mixed migration flows to and from the region.

During the second quarter of 2021, DTM data show a downward trend of IDP numbers in Iraq, Libya and Yemen. In Sudan, violent inter-communal clashes continued to erupt, resulting in tens of thousands of displacements across the Darfur region.

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

- **In Iraq**, IDP returns remained slow during this quarter. In the March–April period, only around 15,000 people returned, which is about one third of the number that returned during November–December 2020 (50,000) and the lowest bi-monthly record since 2015. The continuous slowdown was partially due to the camp closures that took place between September and December 2020, as well as movement restrictions to contain the spread of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).

- **In Libya**, since the peace process began in late 2020, the political situation remained stable. Therefore, the number of IDPs, like in the previous quarter, continued to decrease as no mass displacement movements were recorded during this quarter, whereas the number of IDP returning to their places of origin increased, mainly in Tripoli and Aljbara regions.

- **In Sudan**, the conflict observed since the beginning of 2021 continued to intensify. Several inter-communal clashes have displaced hundreds of thousands of people in the state of Darfur, which poses a grave threat to a peaceful political transition. During this quarter, at least 25,000 additional people were displaced by conflict.

- **In Yemen**, ongoing hostilities between warring parties continue to cause displacement, mostly in three governorates - Ta'iz, Ma'rib and Ad Dali', albeit the number of new displacements during this quarter has reduced by about 50 per cent.

No significant displacement-inducing natural disasters or events were recorded in the reporting period – such as those that periodically affect some MENA countries during this time of the year due to seasonal rainfalls and other water-related events. However, heavy rainfall in Yemen during the first week of May has negatively affected the displaced population.

1- Lebanon started developing DTM analysis and products after the 4 August 2020 explosion that destroyed Beirut's port and many of its immediate neighborhoods. 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



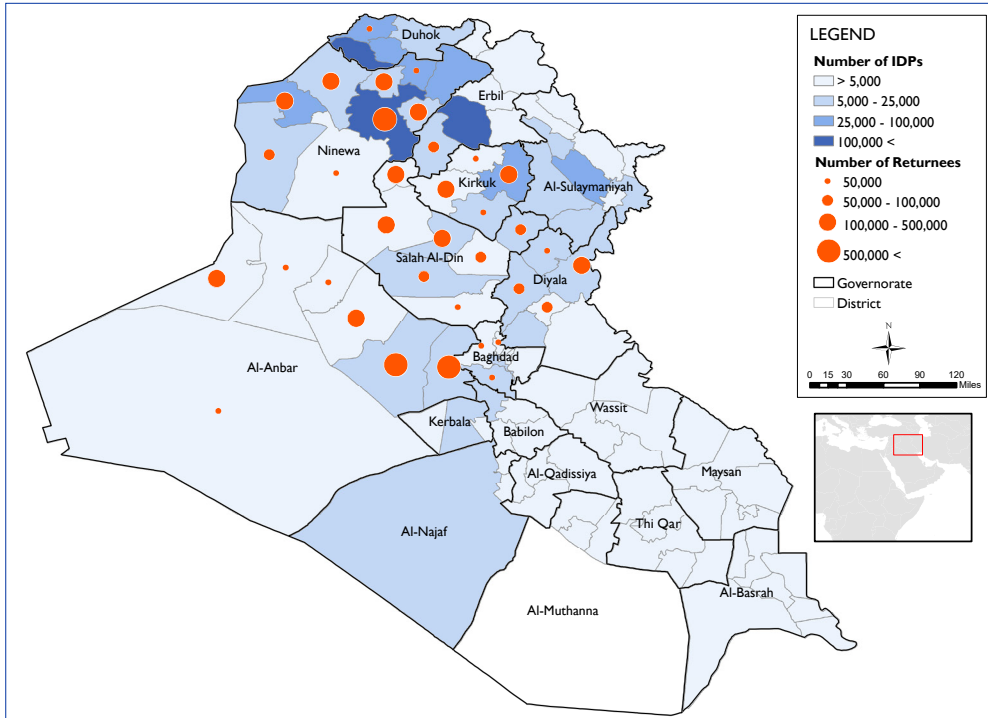
1,191,000

IDPs



4,885,000

IDP Returnees



DTM Operations



Mobility Tracking



Flow Monitoring



Surveys and Research



Emergency Event Tracking

Click [here](#) to reach DTM Iraq webpage

By 31 July 2021,² DTM identified approximately 4,885,000 returning IDPs, including slightly over 33,000 new ones recorded over the last five months (from March to July 2021), dispersed across eight governorates. The return rate remains low, one of the lowest since 2015 (15,000 during the two months from March to April and 18,000 returnees during the three months from May to July). Camp closures, which took place between September and December 2020, triggered a sudden increase in IDP returns; following camp closure, the implementation of movement restrictions to contain the spread of COVID-19 partially explains the decrease in the number of returning IDPs during March–July 2021. In addition, 1,191,000 IDPs were identified as of July 2021 - that is, an overall decrease of about 14,000 IDPs from those recorded at the end of February 2021 - dispersed across all 18 governorates in Iraq. However, two governorates, Anbar and Erbil, showed a slight increase of about 1,000 and 200 IDPs respectively during the five-month period. Out of the total IDPs, 15 per cent are in camp settings.

The governorates with the highest number of IDPs are Ninewa (258,000), Dahuk (255,000) and Erbil (232,000), whereas the most common governorates of return include Ninewa (1,920,000 returning IDPs, including 16,000 new arrivals in March-July 2021), Anbar (1,512,000 returning IDPs, including 6,300 new arrivals) and Salah al-Din (716,000 returning IDPs, including 5,700 new arrivals).

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHT – As a part of the publication series *Urban Displacement in Iraq* (which focus on the *Kurdistan Region of Iraq* and *Federal Iraq* and were published in February and March respectively), *Urban Displacement*

in Iraq: Overview was released in June 2021. The overview presents a comparative analysis of the characteristics of IDPs in protracted urban displacement and IDPs conditions across 10 cities (Baghdad and Abu Ghraib, Baquba, Dahuk, Erbil, Kirkuk, Mosul, Sulaymaniyah, Tikrit, Tuz Khurmatu, and Zakho). The report also analyses the drivers of urban displacement, including factors in the area of displacement, barriers to return in the primary areas of origin and other socio-demographic factors that affect the realization of the IDPs' preferred durable solution.

IDPs perceive that cities provide them with greater safety and security: over 80 per cent of households mentioned security as the most positive aspect of remaining in the area of displacement - compared to conditions in their area of origin. Families displaced in urban settings display characteristics that can increase vulnerability: around one in five such household is headed by a female (with 27% of displaced households headed by females in Baghdad-Abu Ghraib) or has at least one member with a functional difficulty – most reported in Dahuk and Erbil, by 25 per cent of households. In addition, displaced households in all surveyed cities show high dependency ratios, and the lowest proportion of households able to meet basic needs. This finding highlights a key challenge of protracted urban displacement, whereby the income sources of primary caregivers in displaced households are insufficient to meet the needs of dependents. The report also shows that overall primary needs among displaced persons include health care, livelihood generating activities and food.

2- For Iraq, the data in this quarterly report covers from March-July 2021.

LIBYA



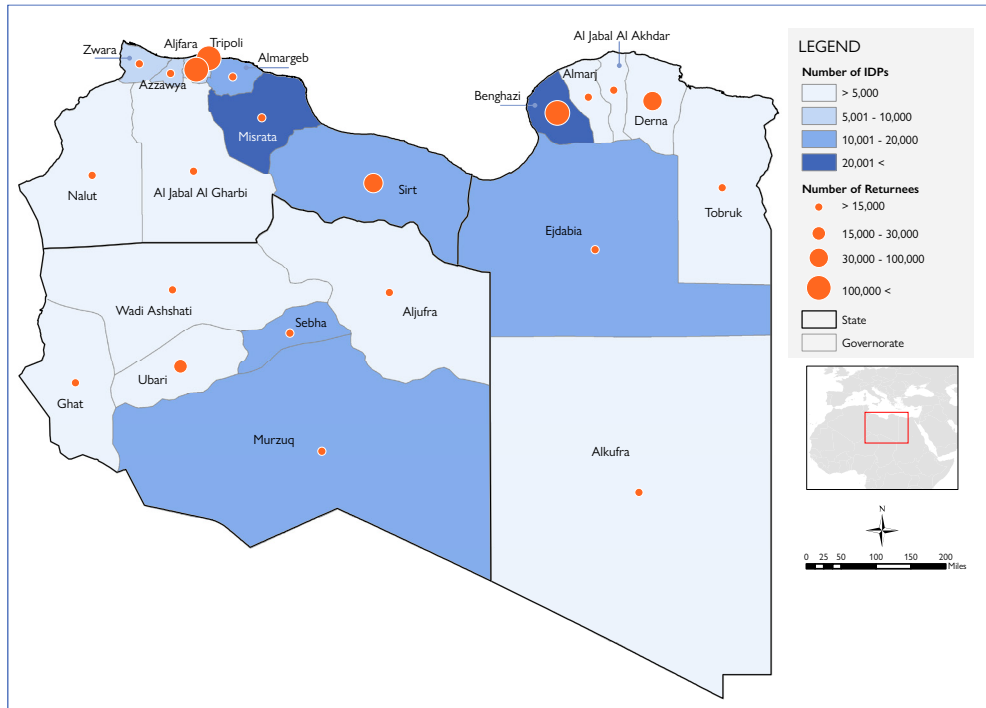
212,593

IDPs



643,123

IDP Returnees



DTM Operations



Mobility Tracking



Flow Monitoring



Surveys and Research



Emergency Event Tracking

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As the security situation remained stable, by end of June 2021 no new displacements were reported and the trend of previously displaced families returning to their places of origin continued. The number of IDPs decreased from nearly 224,000 to 212,593 by June 2021, representing an overall 5 per cent reduction since April and 50 per cent decrease compared to June 2020 – when IDP numbers were at their highest since 2016. On the other hand, approximately 643,123 IDPs were reported to have returned to their places of origin by June 2021. The observed decline in the number of IDPs and increase in returns is largely driven by the spontaneous return of IDPs who had displaced due to western Libya armed conflict that started in April 2019 and affected areas in Tripoli and Aljara regions (mantika). Nonetheless, a significant proportion of IDP population in Libya is still living in protracted displacement due to damaged houses and infrastructure in their places of origin.

The regions with the highest number of IDPs are Benghazi (37,815), Tripoli (37,393) and Misrata (fewer than 33,895). IDPs in these regions are at risk of protracted displacement and therefore programming for durable solutions is required. Regions with the highest number of IDP returnees include Benghazi (189,000), Tripoli (151,000) and Aljara (105,000).

The humanitarian priority needs reported for IDPs were related to food assistance, accommodation and access to health-care services, while for returning IDPs the top priority humanitarian needs were food, non-food-items and access to health-care services. The main challenge affected populations face in meeting these needs was related to financial vulnerabilities brought on by the erosion of coping mechanisms over the course of the

Libyan crisis. Access to health services was reportedly constrained by the irregular supply of medicines, and several health facilities were also reported as not fully operational.

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHT 1 – [COVID-19 Impact in Libya \(April-May 2021\)](#) reports the COVID-19 vaccination programme in Libya started on 17 April, and restrictions on mobility to curb the spread of the virus have been significantly relaxed. However, the report also indicates that the socioeconomic impact of the pandemic is deep, especially on the most vulnerable segments of the population including migrants, daily workers, IDPs and older people. The challenges for IDPs in the pandemic context are the increase of prices, concerns of contracting the virus at health facilities, lack of trust in the information provided and lack of required documents.

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHT 2 – [Mapping Labour Skills of Migrants in Misrata: Challenges and Strategies for Integration into the Libyan Market](#) attempts to answer questions as to the way migrants navigate the economic, political and social currents in both origin and destination countries and to the way migrants' preexisting skills and goals affect these currents. Misrata is given as an example, with migrant labour integrated and migration beneficial for both migrants and the host population. Drawing from the quantitative survey findings that generalize to nearly 56,000 migrants from 17 nationalities living in the Misrata, the study found that migrants chose Misrata as it offers relatively more job opportunities and a safer environment. Common challenges migrants face in Misrata, the study showed, are low salaries and irregular salary payment, higher cost of living, petty theft and armed robbery.

SUDAN



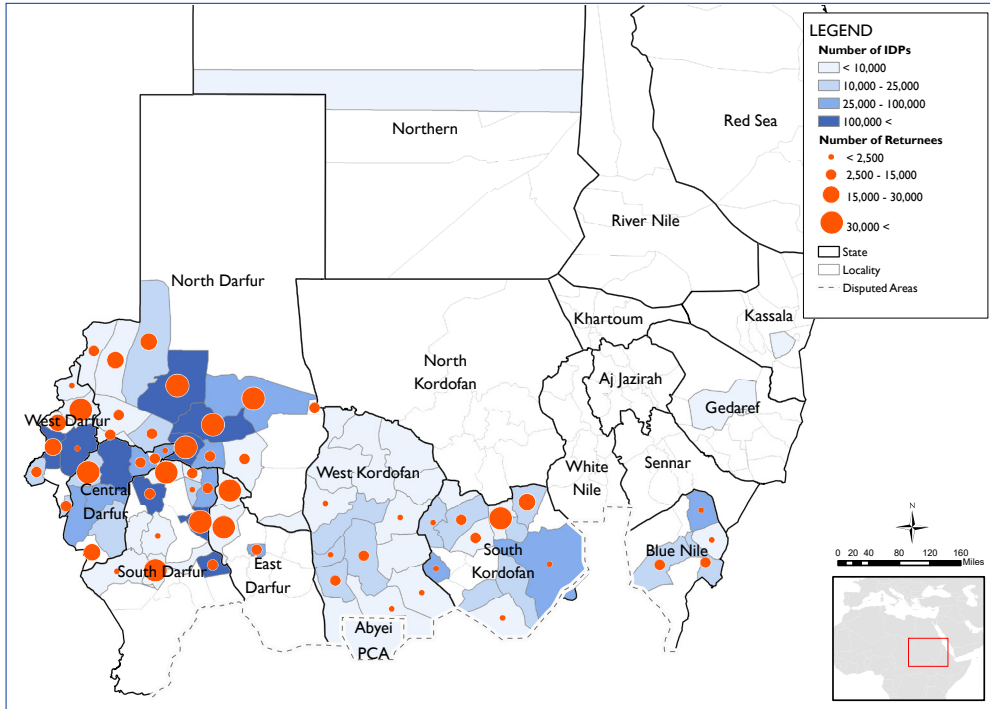
3,037,000

IDPs



970,000

IDP Returnees



DTM Operations



Mobility Tracking



Emergency Event Tracking



Registration



Surveys and Research

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Following with the first Country-wide Mobility Tracking (MT) data published in July 2020, the second round data collection was conducted in 338 locations of 10 states in Sudan in the first three months of 2021. The MT round two identified the presence of 3,037,000 IDPs, 970,000 returning IDPs from internal displacement, 142,000 seasonal returnees and 93,000 returnees from abroad.

and close to 600 have vulnerabilities such as female-headed households, lactating women or malnourished children.

DTM in Sudan also implements Emergency Event Tracking (EET) to provide regular updates on the displacement situation caused by specific events, such as the inter-communal conflict in Darfur. During the second quarter of 2021, DTM through its EET methodology estimates that at least 25,000 people were displaced due to inter-communal violent conflicts in North, South and Central Darfur.

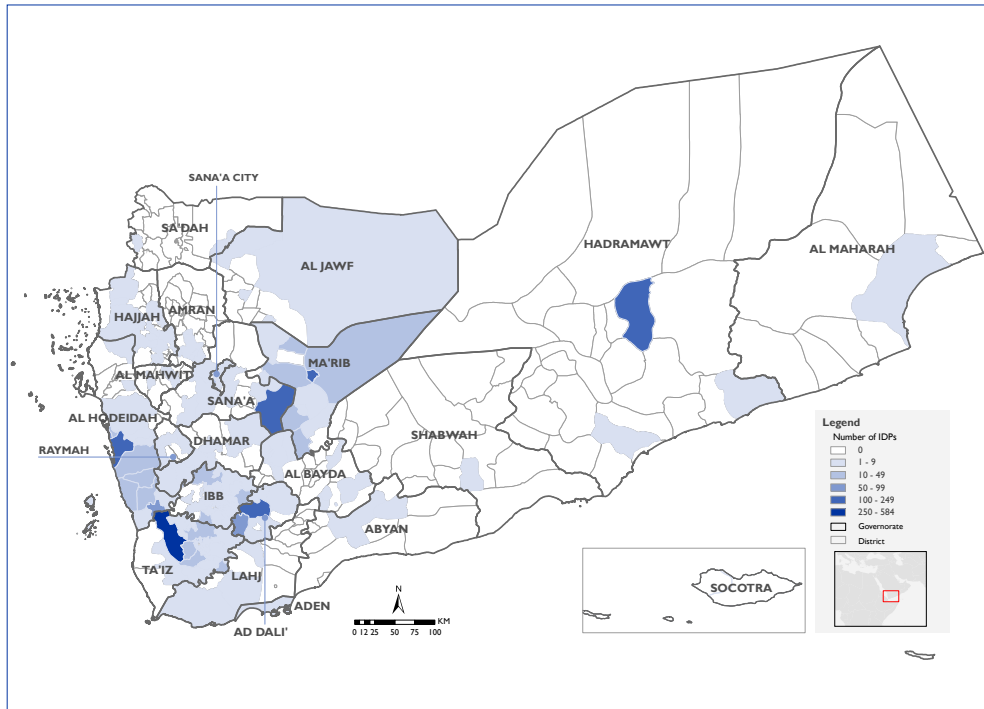
In Central Darfur, two violent clashes erupted between factions of the Sudan Liberation Army (SLA/WA) in Shamal Jabal Marrah in Fanga Suk due to tensions over land accessibility on 12 May, and Fur and Arab tribes on 12 June 2021, displacing about 14,000 individuals. In South Darfur, three separate violent clashes (between an armed militia and the Fur tribe in As Salam locality in April 2021; Falata and Taesha tribes in Um Dafoug; and between an SLA/WA faction and the Bani Hussein tribe in the goldmining area of Dangia village, Kas in June 2021) forced the displacement of about 1,000 individuals (625, 185, and 150 respectively). In North Darfur, violence that erupted within the Bani Hassen tribe in As Serief town between 31 March and 3 April forced 3,400 individuals to flee to the neighbouring Kebkabiya seeking temporary shelter with host communities. Out of the displaced, more than 60 per cent are female

YEMEN



41,000 (New displacement during the reporting period)

IDPs



DTM Operations



Rapid Displacement Tracking



Flow Monitoring



Surveys and Research

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IOM 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.

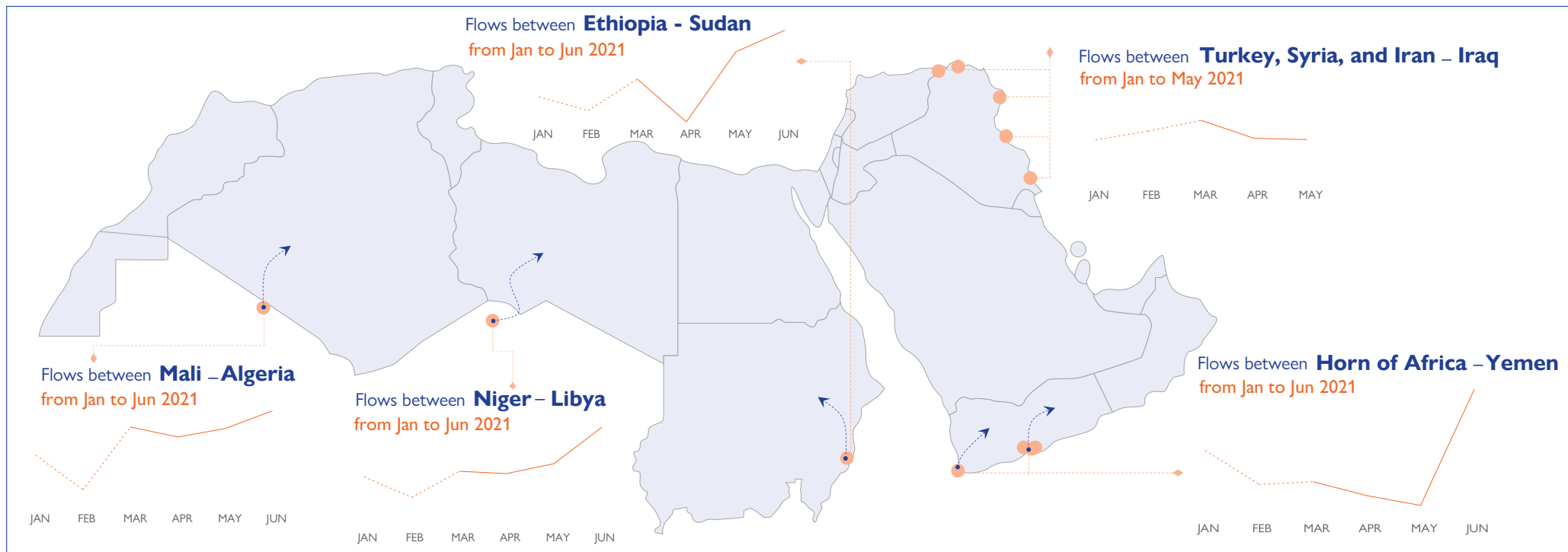
round of its COVID-19 vaccination campaign in Aden, covering 13 governorates, which aims to reach approximately 300,000 people across the country.

IOM Yemen's DTM teams, operating across 13 governorates, 118 districts and over 1,249 locations in Yemen where they have access, estimate that about 2,316 households were newly displaced during this quarter, which is about a 50 per cent decrease from last quarter (4,474). The total displaced population from January to June 2021 is estimated at 41,000 individuals, which is a significant decrease compared to the 100,000 IDPs recorded during the same period in 2020. Of all the people tracked during the latest RDT of this quarter, approximately 46 per cent reported that they lacked access to adequate shelter, followed by food (32%), financial support (15%), household items (6%) and access to income (1%).

During this quarter, conflict continued to be the main driver of displacement across main hotspots in Ta'iz, Ma'rib and Ad Dali', with 73 per cent of the total displaced population in these three governorates. In addition to the ongoing violent conflict, the heavy rain in the first week of May directly affected about 7,000 households, most of which were IDPs who are already living in inadequate shelters. The largest effects of floods were experienced in Aden, Hadramawt, Hajjah, Lahj, Abyan, Dhamar, Ma'rib and Al Bayda governorates.

Since April 2020, through the RDT methodology, DTM Yemen has also been collecting data on COVID-19 induced displacement. The latest report for June 2021 documents that more than 1,500 households cited COVID-19 as their primary reason for displacement. On 20 April 2021, Yemen launched the first

CROSS BORDER MOBILITY



This section describes international migration and movements in and outside MENA, analysing flows: from the Horn of Africa (Somalia and Djibouti) to the Arabian Peninsula or Yemen; from Iraq towards neighbouring countries (Syria, Iran and Turkey); within the Sahel region (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 the MENA countries, through several routes including East, West and Central Mediterranean.³

Map 6 shows the latest available data on mobility at border areas and between the MENA region

and other regions. In general, COVID-19 has affected regional mobility through various travel disruptions and restrictions and exacerbated the challenges facing mobile populations. Overall and beginning in March 2020, a declining trend was observed when mobility restrictions started to be implemented.

Movement restrictions to contain the spread of COVID-19 show a significant impact on migrants' mobility from the Horn of Africa to Yemen. In the second quarter of 2021, migrants' arrivals into Yemen remained low compared to pre-pandemic arrivals, although some restrictions and border security checks have eased since January. Roughly 5,000 migrants

arrived in Yemen during this quarter, compared to more than 3,700 in the same period in 2020, 47,000 in 2019 and 32,000 migrants in 2018. On 11 June 2021, a boat carrying mostly Ethiopian migrants that left Djibouti for Yemen across the Red Sea capsized, causing the death of 200-300 migrants. As of June 2021, at least 32,000 migrants were stranded across Yemen, unable to reach their destination in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia due to border closures, and were without any shelter, water, food or health care. As for movements between sub-Saharan Africa and North Africa, a sharp increase of outgoing flows was observed at monitored Points of Entry between Mali and Algeria (40%), while a

slightly moderate increasing trend is observed at the border points between Niger and Algeria (6%) and Niger and Libya (6%). An increasing trend (42%) is also recorded on the border between Ethiopia and Sudan between the first and the second semester of 2021.

Flows at five monitored border points (3 Iran, 1 Turkey, 1 Syria) in Iraq show a decreasing trend of outgoing flows in the months of April and May 2021 compared to the previous two months.

3- 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.

As to migrants' presence in Libya, DTM reported that as of June 2021, there were approximately 598,000 migrants from 40 countries, with most from sub-Saharan Africa (56%) and two thirds from four countries - Niger (21%), Egypt (18%), Sudan (16%) and Chad (14%). Eighty-eight per cent of the migrants reported that economic reasons were the primary motive behind their migration to Libya.

The number of recorded migrants who attempted to cross the Mediterranean Sea from the shores of Libya and Tunisia increased significantly during the first half of this year, reaching more than 75,000, an increase of more than 58 per cent compared to the same period in 2020 when fewer people tried to migrate on maritime routes due to restrictions put in place to contain the spread of COVID-19. Of those who attempted to cross the Mediterranean Sea, at least 1,146 lost their life – a 130 per cent increase compared to the same period in 2020. The highest number of lives lost was recorded on the Central (741) and Western (149) Mediterranean routes, while six died on the Eastern Mediterranean route from Turkey to Greece. Flows to Spain increased dramatically (290%) in the months of April and May 2021. Arrivals by land, particularly in May 2021, had seen a steep increase compared to the months of February and March 2021; flows to Greece increased sharply (by 115 per cent) in the same period reported for Spain; flows to Italy increased by approximately 67 per cent between the first and the second trimester of 2021; flows to Malta increased sharply as well in the reporting period.⁴

While data show that there were insufficient search and rescue operations in the Mediterranean Sea to end the continuing loss of lives, maritime operations conducted

by North African countries have increased, allowing the interception of more than 30,000 people during the first half of 2021, compared to 23,000 during the same period of 2020. The number of people who were returned to Libya reached over 15,000, almost three times as many as in the same period of 2020. In addition, more than 250 people died during their journey to the Canary Islands in the first half of 2021; however, it is believed that there are many more undocumented deaths.⁵

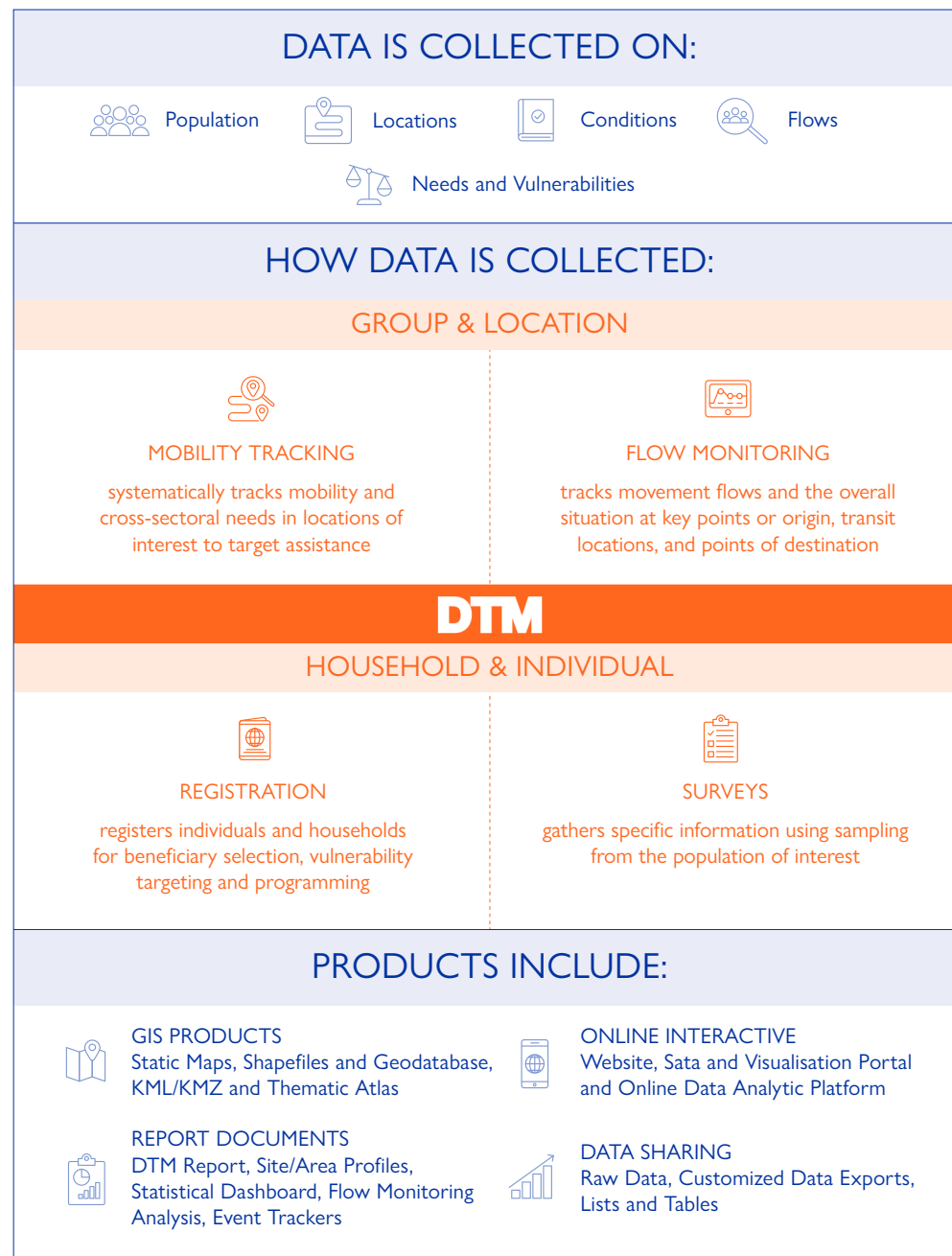
DTM METHODOLOGIES



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.

For more regional DTM activity and publications, please visit Geopovrtal click [here](#)

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



4- Data for Arrivals in Spain and Greece by land in June 2021 are not considered here since not yet available. Therefore, our analysis is focused on the bimesters February/March and April/May for these two countries.

5- Please check the report at [Mediterranean-deaths-Jan-Jun_2021.pdf \(iom.int\)](#)