



LIBYA'S MIGRANT REPORT

July - August 2020

MOBILITY TRACKING
ROUND 32



DTM



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Photo (cover page):

In response to the deteriorating living conditions and an increase in COVID-19 cases, IOM's Migration Resource and Response Mechanism (MRRM) teams provided core relief items including hygiene kits, mattresses, solar lamps and kitchen sets to migrants in July. The distributions took place in Tripoli (pictured), Al-Zawiya, Zwara, Al Gatroun, Sebha and Bani Waleed.

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Contents

Overview	4
Migrant Vulnerability and Humanitarian Needs.....	9
Migrants in Libya	13
Migration Routes to Libya.....	16
Regional Analysis - Distribution.....	18
Regional Analysis - Nationalities of Migrants.....	19
Region of Origin Analysis.....	20
North and Sub-Saharan Africa.....	21
Middle East and South Asia	23
Maritime Incidents	24
Methodology.....	25

OVERVIEW

This report presents the findings of DTM Round 32 (July and August 2020) data collection, in which 584,509 migrants of over 47 nationalities were identified in Libya. Migrants' presence was recorded in all 100 Libyan municipalities and in 575 (out of 667) communities (muhallas).

The number of migrants in Libya has been decreasing steadily since Round 30 (March-April 2020) and has dropped by an overall seven per cent between Round 30 (625,638 migrants) and Round 32 (584,509 migrants). The sustained decline in the number of migrants coincides with the start of the COVID-19 pandemic and the associated socio-economic impact and mobility restrictions.

In addition to the impact of the protracted crisis and the [sustained poor living conditions in Libya](#), the impact of COVID-19 continues to [exacerbate the vulnerabilities of migrants](#), such as those in irregular situation, working in the informal economy as well as those fleeing their countries because of violence or persecution. The significant unemployment rate, constrained access to livelihoods opportunities for migrant workers, tightened security controls and mobility restrictions are amongst the factors likely contributing to the drop in the number of migrants in Libya.

In parallel, during the reporting period and since March 2020, most Points of Entry (PoE) have remained closed for entry, except for [returning Libyans](#). At the same time, several land border crossing points were periodically opened to allow groups of migrants to leave the country (more details on p.19).

Furthermore, irregular departures were also reported along Libya's southern borders while stricter security measures and the intensification of controls targeting migrants in irregular situations and including interceptions and pushbacks in Eastern and South-Eastern Libya, further contributed to the decreasing number of migrants.

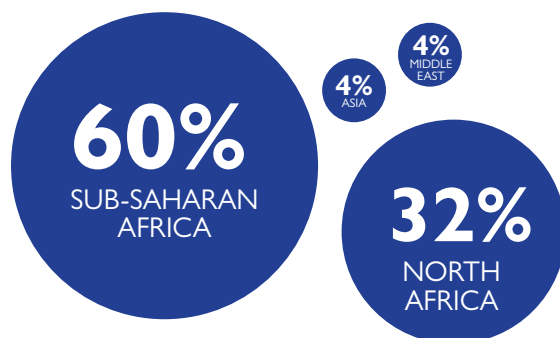
Moreover, in July and August the number of migrants departing from the Libyan shores to cross the Mediterranean Sea to reach Europe has increased in comparison to last year. In July and August, a total of 12,393 migrants arrived in Italy and Malta from Libya and Tunisia.

In August, at least 45 migrants, including five children, perished at sea in the [largest shipwreck](#) off the coast of Libya in 2020. The 37 survivors, mainly from Senegal, Mali, Chad and Ghana, after being rescued by local fishermen were detained upon disembarkation. A total of [398 deaths were recorded in 2020](#) (as of 31 August) on the Central Mediterranean route.

While the number of tracked migrants decreased by three per cent compared to Round 31, the most common nationalities remain consistent with previous rounds and are heavily influenced by geographical proximity and diasporic ties. The majority of migrants (387,616 individuals or 66%) were from neighbouring Niger (20%), Egypt (17%), Chad (16%) and Sudan (14%).

In line with a trend which has been consistent for the past year, the largest migrant populations were identified in the regions of Tripoli (14%), Ejdabia (12%), Misrata (10%), Azzawya (7%), Benghazi (7%) Murzuq (7%) and Sebha (6%).

Fig 1 Regions of origin of migrants



51%

of migrants interviewed through the FMS in July and August 2020 reported that financial concerns was amongst the three main issues they were facing at the time of the survey.

Unemployment & socio-economic impact

The unemployment rate among migrants surveyed in this round was 27 per cent, which is in line with the previous round and substantially higher than in February (17%) prior to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. The impact of the pandemic continues to take a heavy toll on livelihood opportunities for migrants which is also confirmed by surveys amongst key informants. Migrant daily wage workers reported having been negatively impacted by the COVID-19 induced economic slowdown and reduced casual labour opportunities in over 92 per cent of locations assessed by DTM in [July](#) and [August](#).

Unemployment is [one of the main risk factors](#) that can exacerbate existing vulnerabilities and humanitarian needs, such as [food insecurity](#).

Virtually all unemployed migrants (95%) reported suffering from at least one difficulty including hunger, thirst, financial issues, attacks or lack of information, compared to 62 per cent of employed migrants. For instance, six per cent of employed migrants reported suffering from hunger and/or thirst compared to 20 per cent of unemployed migrants.

Growing COVID-19 cases

The number of COVID-19 cases in Libya has been increasing exponentially from 824 cases at the end of June to 14,624 cases identified by the end of August. Significant levels of community transmission have been [reported](#) in some of the main cities and a significant increase in cases has been recorded in the municipalities of Tripoli, Zliten, Misrata, Khoms, Janzour and others.

As of 31 August, a total of 14,624 people had been infected with the virus, a number which is likely an underestimation, [according to WHO](#). Poor living conditions – including frequent fuel shortages and electricity outages - are affecting migrants as well as medical facilities and hampering the pandemic response.

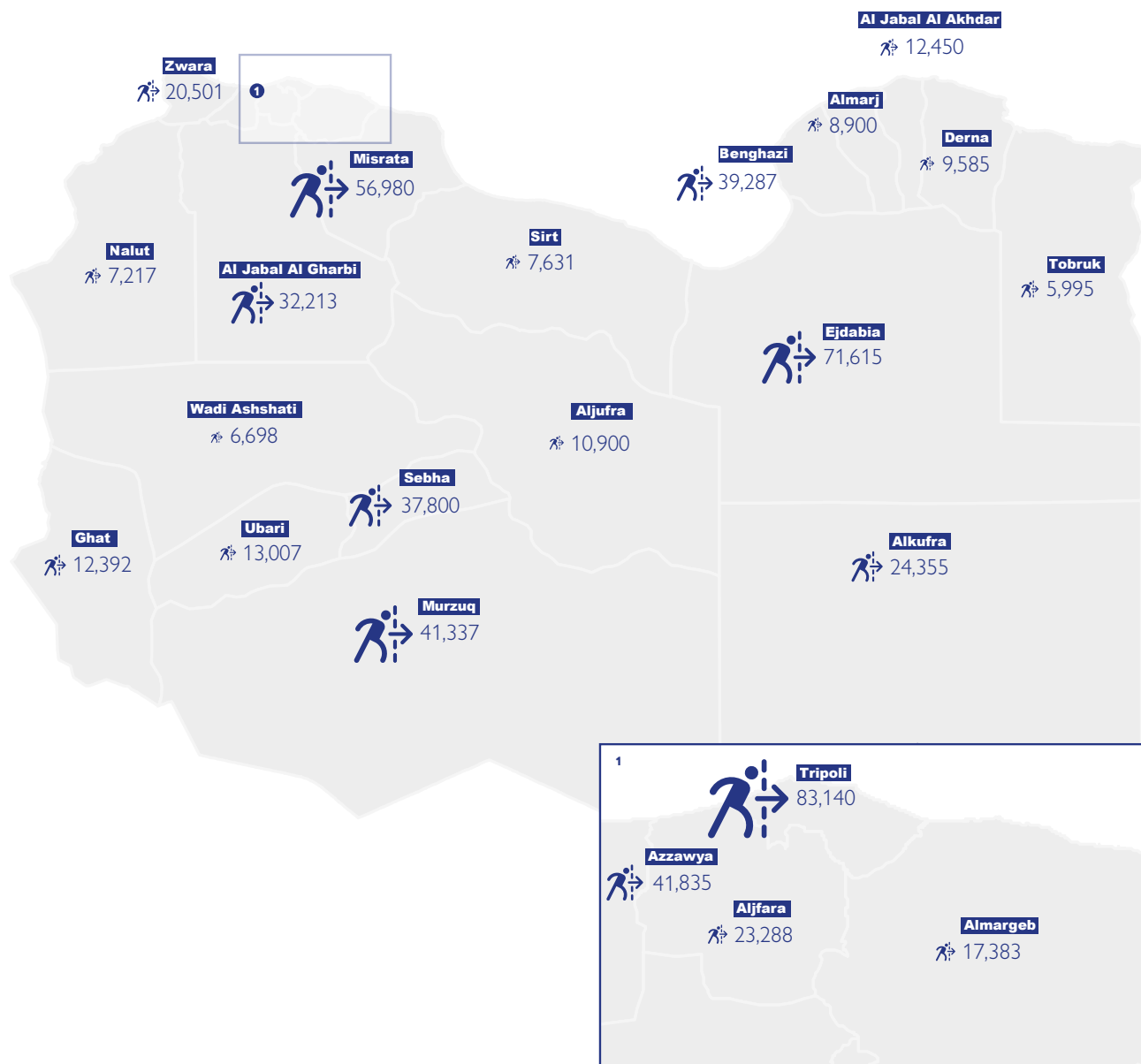
IOM is [collaborating closely](#) with national health authorities and international partners on the COVID-19 response and monitoring at points of entry (PoEs) as well as with the management of COVID-19 migrant patients..

27%

unemployment rate

which represents an 8% increase compared to Round 30 (March - April 2020)

Fig 2 Number of migrants per region (mantika) during DTM Round 32 data collection.



KEY FINDINGS

Round 32 (July - August 2020)



584,509
migrants in Libya

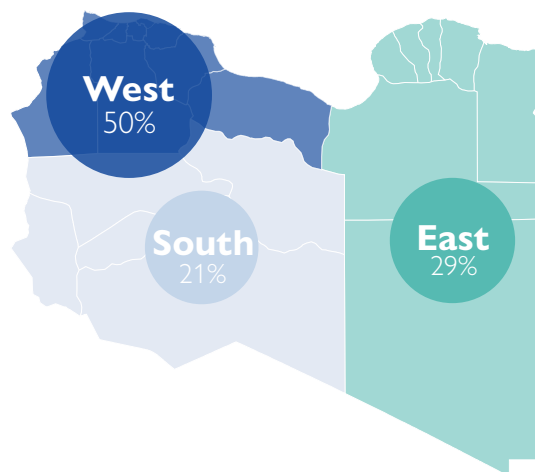


US\$ 1312
migration journey cost
(average per person)

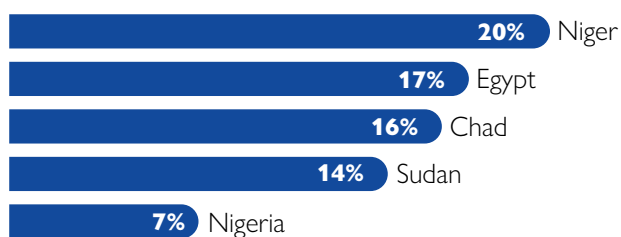


29%
of migrants reported that the
remittances they send home are
the primary source of income
for their household

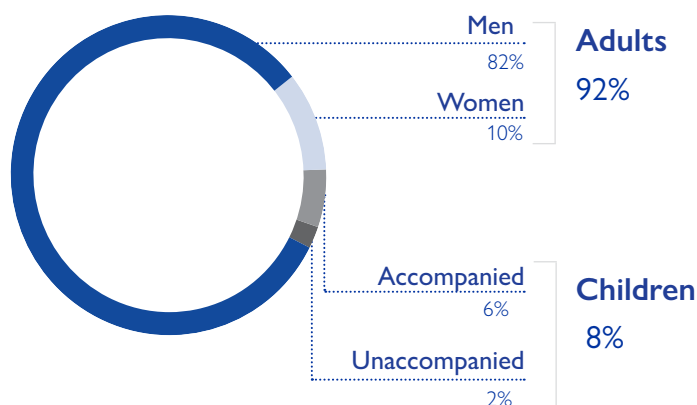
Distribution of migrants per geographical areas



Top 5 nationalities



Demographics



Migrants were present in:

575 communities
(out of 667)

100 municipalities
(out of 100)

1,724 Interviews with
key informants

(Round 32, Mobility Tracking)

100%
coverage



HUMANITARIAN NEEDS

Photo: In response to the deteriorating living conditions and an increase in COVID-19 cases, IOM's Migration Resource and Response Mechanism (MRRM) teams provided core relief items including hygiene kits, mattresses, solar lamps and kitchen sets to migrants in July. The distributions took place in Tripoli (pictured), Al-Zawiya, Zwara, Al Gatroun, Sebha and Bani Waleed.

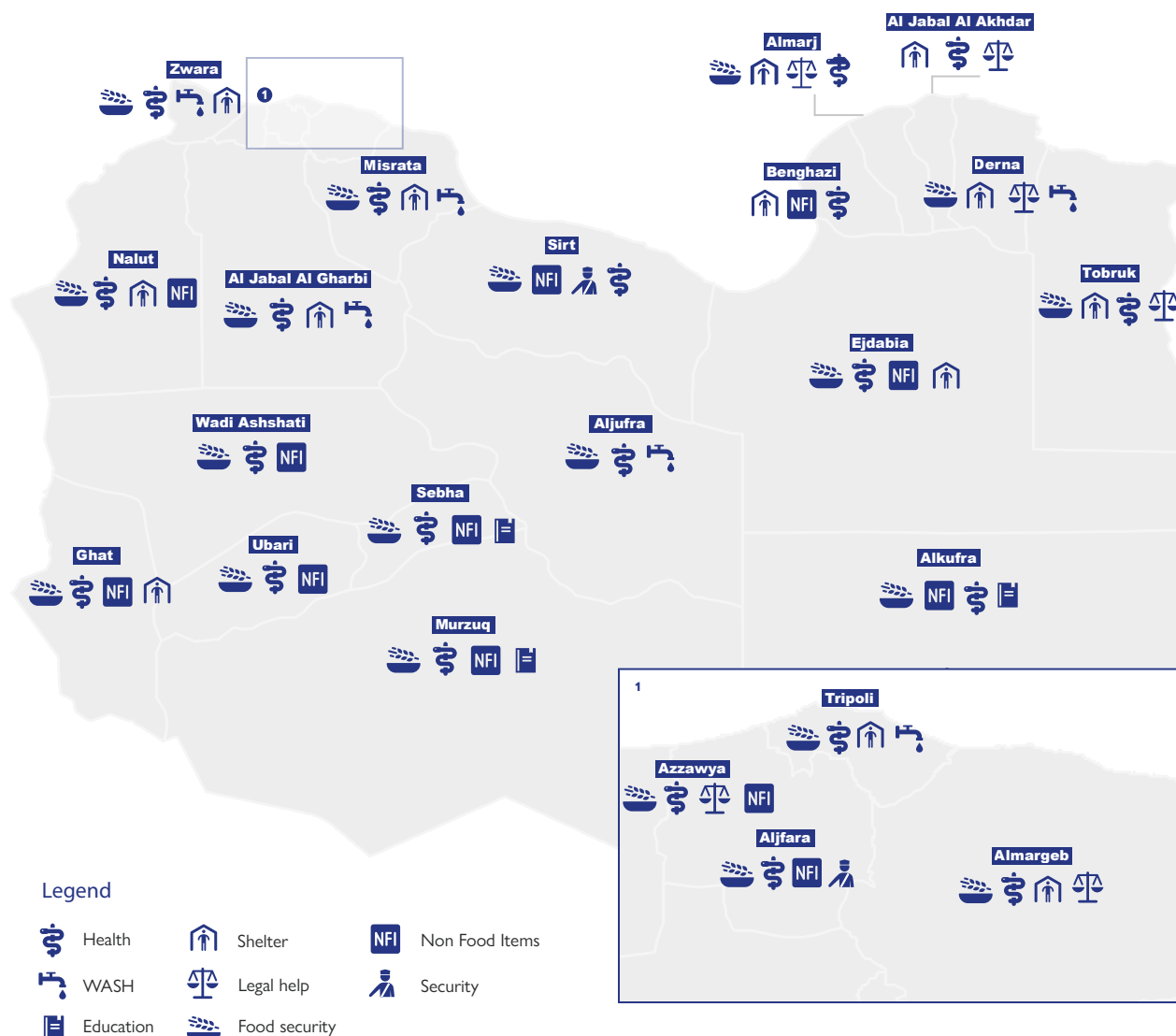
MIGRANT VULNERABILITY AND HUMANITARIAN NEEDS

In line with previous assessments, the primary humanitarian needs of migrants identified through 1,724 interviews conducted with key informants across Libya in July and August 2020 were centered around health services (81%), shelter (42%) and Non-Food Items (NFIs) (38%) and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) (24%). The map below shows the humanitarian priority needs reported per region. Food security remains an issue as recent interviews with migrants highlighted. A third of migrants across Libya were identified as being potentially food insecure in [May 2020](#).

The socio-economic impact of the pandemic coupled with the impacts of the protracted crisis on the security situation and public services provision is impacting

migrants. According to DTM Mobility Tracking data, the main problems migrants face in fulfilling their basic needs, as reported by key informants, are related to the limited purchasing power of migrants affected by the current situation compared to the cost of needed services and items. The inability to afford health care, housing, water as well as sanitation and hygiene items was mentioned as being the primary issue in fulfilling essential needs. This is of concern as casual labour opportunities are dwindling and the unemployment rate is greater than prior to the pandemic. Overall, 51 per cent of migrants interviewed through the FMS reported that financial issues were amongst the three main issues they were facing at the time of the survey.

Fig 3 Humanitarian priority needs of migrants per region (mantika)



Health

In line with previous reports, access to health services appear to remain a major constraint for the majority of migrants in Libya. More than two thirds (69%) of migrants reported only having limited or no access to health services (Fig 5).

For more than three quarters of migrants (77%), cost was the main issue hindering them from being able to access health services. Moreover, the situation is particularly alarming in the South and West, where 74 and 78 per cent of migrants, respectively, reported having limited or no access to health care compared to 60 per cent in the East. This is likely related to higher unemployment rates in the South and the West compared to the East.

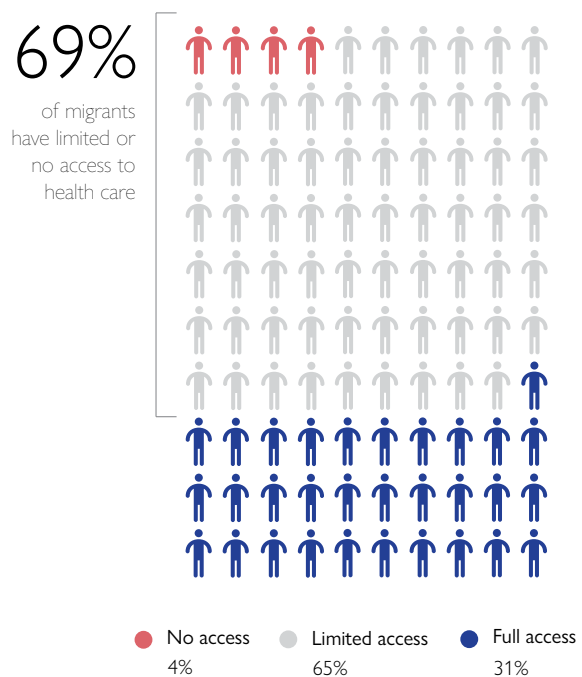
The COVID-19 pandemic represents an additional pressure on an already [overstretched public health system](#), which suffers from extreme shortages of medical supplies and health care workers. An estimated [80 to 90 per cent of Primary Health Care facilities have been negatively affected](#) by COVID-19.

Food Security

The protracted crisis coupled with the negative socio-economic impact of COVID-19 restrictions have significantly impacted the food security situation of migrants across Libya. Despite a continued decrease in prices of food and other basic goods in July, [prices remain eight per cent higher than pre-COVID-19](#). This decrease in prices was mostly driven by a 43 per cent drop in unofficial fuel prices and an increase in official fuel vendors. As a result of regular fuel shortages and electricity cuts, households as well as hospitals and other public infrastructure often rely on generators.

According to the [UN World Food Programme \(WFP\) projections](#), the number of food insecure migrants and refugees in Libya has potentially increased from 109,100 (pre-COVID-19) to 209,000 individuals.

Fig 4 Migrants' reported access to health services (sample size 3,992 interviews)



8%

the price of food and basic goods is 8% higher compared to prior to the start of the COVID-19 pandemic

(Libya Joint Market Monitoring Initiative, July 2020)



209,000

migrants and refugees are estimated to be food insecure

(WFP Libya COVID-19 Response, June 2020)

WASH

A total of 26 per cent of migrants reported never (6%) or rarely (20%) having access to the public water network, while the rest (46%) had access most days or daily (27%). Amongst those who rarely or never have access to the public water network, the majority rely on bottled water (72%) while others relied on protected wells (30%), outdoor public taps (13%) or water trucking (12%) or a combination of these.

A quarter of migrants reported having insufficient drinking water – more than twice the pre-COVID-19 proportion in January-February (11%, Round 29). Moreover, the percentage of unemployed migrants without sufficient drinking water (38%) is nearly twice as for those who are employed (20%).

NFIs

The most needed NFIs amongst migrants who reported being in need in interviews conducted by DTM in July and August were mattresses (51%), blankets (46%) and hygiene products (36%) (Fig 6). A greater proportion of migrants who reported being unemployed were in need of NFIs (98%) than those who were employed (76%) or self-employed (82%).

Fig 5 Migrants' reported needed NFIs



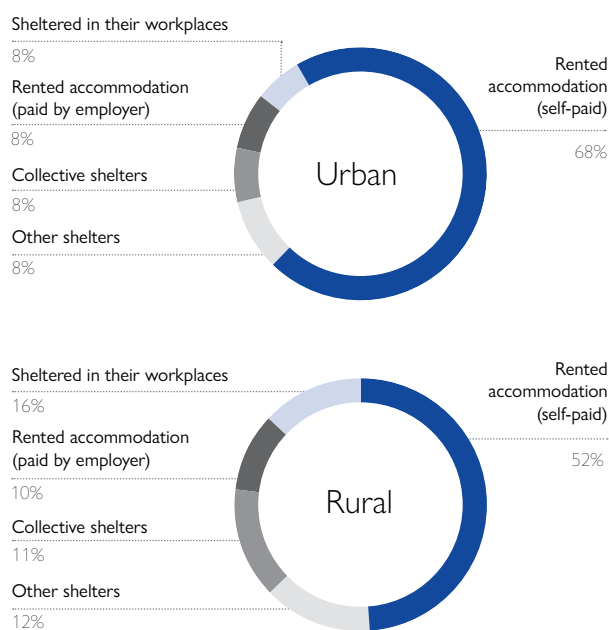
Accommodation

According to DTM Mobility Tracking data, the majority of migrants (73%) live in rented accommodation. Most of them (63%) pay for their own accommodation, while for a minority it is paid by their employer (8%) or paid by others (2%). There is an overall larger proportion of migrants living in rented accommodation in urban settings (77%) compared to rural areas (64%), the majority of which (68% and 52% respectively) pay for it themselves. Slightly more migrants in rural areas live in rented accommodation paid by their employer (10%) compared to urban settings (8%). While an equal proportion of migrants live in rented accommodation paid by others (2%).

A significant number of migrants (10%) are reportedly accommodated in their workplaces. There were twice as many migrants in rural areas (16%) sheltered in their workplaces compared to urban areas (8%).

Share accommodation arrangements with other migrant workers are very common across Libya. Living in overcrowded housing [poses a particular risk](#) to the spread of COVID-19 among migrants.

Fig 6 Migrants' types of accommodation



Remittances

The loss of employment opportunities and reduction in wages as a result of COVID-19 is likely to be driving a decline in remittance outflows. The proportion of migrants sending remittances is nearly 10 per cent lower than before the pandemic and the ensuing mobility restrictions. A total of 26 per cent of migrants reported sending remittances during Round 32, compared to 35 per cent during Round 30 (March-April). In addition, the proportion of migrants who stated they did not send remittances but intended to once they would be able to earn money rose from 21 per cent in March-April to 31 per cent in July-August.



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

About one in nine people worldwide are supported by remittances sent home by migrant workers. A drop in remittance flows could result in increased poverty and reduced households' access to basic services, such as health care, in countries of origin. Nearly a third of migrants (29%) reported that the money they send back home represents the primary source of income for their household. Virtually all migrants' remittances (94%) are sent to close family members (spouse, children, parents and/or siblings).

The July-August DTM survey data shows that amongst migrants who send remittances, the majority (79%) stated it helps cover some of their household's or family's basic needs. For example, migrants reported that their remittances helped cover: their family's food needs (47%), rent and utilities (46%), family's health needs related costs (22%) and their children's education (17%). Studies have shown that international remittances can contribute to reducing child labour in low-income countries.



1 in 9

people worldwide are supported by remittances sent home by migrant workers (UN DESA, 2019)

Social Networks

In line with previous reports, the majority of migrants were encouraged the most to migrate by their friends or family (81%). Friends and family *from home* were mentioned as having encouraged individuals interviewed to migrate the most (70%) compared to their friends and family *abroad* (11%). Very few migrants were most encouraged in their decision to migrate by facilitators (4%), business promoters (2%) or community leaders (>1%).

Social networks, including ties with family, friends and individuals from a shared community of origin, can be understood as a factor, amongst many, that guides one's decision to migrate. Other factors include poor economic situation, aspirations towards prestige and status, social pressure, family responsibility, conflict and human rights abuse.



Very few migrants were most encouraged in their decision to migrate by facilitators (4%), business promoters (2%) or community leaders (>1%).

While the majority of migrants do not base their decision to migrate on the encouragements of facilitators, more than two-thirds of respondents (67%) reported having hired the services of a migration facilitator. Most migrants reported using the services of facilitators for transportation (86%) and crossing difficult areas along their journey to Libya (46%). To a lesser extent, migrants who organised their journey through facilitators reported having received food and water (28%) and accommodation (22%).



79%

of migrants who send remittances reported the money they send home helps cover their family's basic needs



MIGRANTS IN LIBYA

Photo: In response to the deteriorating living conditions and an increase in COVID-19 cases, IOM's Migration Resource and Response Mechanism (MRRM) teams provided core relief items including hygiene kits, mattresses, solar lamps and kitchen sets to migrants. The distributions took place in Tripoli (pictured), Al-Zawiya, Zwara, Al Gatroun, Sebha and Bani Waleed.

ANALYSIS OF MIGRANT PRESENCE AND MOVEMENTS

The analysis of migration presence and movements is based on the mobility trends observed on the ground during the reporting period.

SOUTHERN LIBYA

Algatroun

The number of migrants present in the municipality of Algatroun decreased by 26 per cent in July and August (Round 32) compared to May and June (Round 31), down from 20,947 in Round 31 to 15,425 individuals in Round 32.

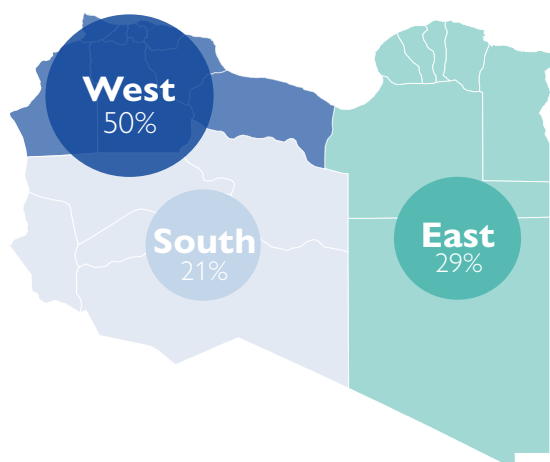
During the reporting period, the partial lockdown imposed to curb the spread of COVID-19 in addition to the intermittent power outages and fuel shortages affected migrants' livelihoods and particularly those working in the mining sector.

Sebha

During Round 32, the number of migrants in Sebha decreased by four per cent in comparison to Round 31 data collection, down from 37,990 to 36,530 migrants.

According to field observations, migrants in Sebha were among the most affected groups of people by the deteriorating security situation and a [localised increase in food and non-food item prices](#). The decrease in daily work opportunities coupled with the spread of COVID-19 prompted more migrants to leave Libya.

Fig 7 Distribution of migrants by geographical area



EASTERN LIBYA

Tobruk

In July and August, there were no new arrivals of migrants to Libya recorded by field observers which is likely due to the land borders being closed as well as the intensification of security controls at unofficial points of entry. In addition, during the month of August, the local authorities imposed a partial lockdown in the region in order to curb the spread of COVID-19. This particularly affected daily wage workers, who are already burdened by the increase of food and non-food items prices. The total number of migrants present in Tobruk has decreased by six per cent compared to May-June, down from 5,541 to 5,235 migrants.

Shahhat

Security patrols targeting migrants in irregular situation (especially those begging) intensified during the months of July and August. According to field observers, many migrants have lost their source of income, in particular those reliant on daily casual labour for fear that being at recruitment points increases their risks of being arrested, detained and potentially deported.

In August, as a result of the partial lockdown imposed by local authorities to curb the spread of COVID-19, the movement of migrants from and to Shahhat is restricted. Despite these measures, the number of migrants increased by 18 per cent compared to Round 31 data collection, from 2,750 to 3,250 individuals (Round 32).

Emsaed

In July, internal movement within the municipality has reportedly resumed and migrants were observed at recruitment points as usual. However, official points of entry were only opened to allow Libyans to enter the country or to let migrants return to their country of origin.

WESTERN LIBYA

Misrata

During the reporting period, the overall security situation in Misrata remained stable.

In July, work opportunities were more commonly available for migrants working in livestock and vegetable markets because of the celebrations of Eid al-Adha, which helped their economic situation.

Sabratha

The number of migrants recorded at recruitment points in the western municipality of Sabratha during the reporting period increased by 14 per cent compared to May and June 2020.

The decrease in daily work opportunities, especially in the field of construction because of the increase in cement prices could explain why more migrants were present at recruitment points and for longer periods of time in search of work.

Fig 8 Distribution of migrants by nationality

Nationality	#Migrants (IND)	% Migrants
Niger	118,094	20%
Egypt	97,247	17%
Chad	91,690	16%
Sudan	80,585	14%
Nigeria	41,614	7%
Ghana	27,220	5%
Mali	26,631	5%
*Bangladesh	19,167	3%
Syria	18,937	3%
Somalia	9,352	2%
Eritrea	6,779	1%
Guinea	5,305	1%
Palestine	4,793	1%
Senegal	4,749	1%
Other	4,158	1%
Tunisia	4,149	1%
BurkinaFaso	4,094	1%
Morocco	4,086	1%
Ethiopia	3,586	1%
Cameroon	2,696	0%
Côte d'Ivoire	2,666	0%
Mauritania	2,095	0%
Pakistan	1,674	0%
Zambia	1,635	0%
Algeria	1,507	0%
Grand Total	584,509	100%

*Note: This includes 1,900 migrants from Bangladesh reportedly recorded in previous round as 'other/unknown nationality'.

MIGRATION ROUTES TO LIBYA

This section of the migrant report presents an analysis of the major migration routes used by migrants from different countries of origin to reach Libya. This analysis is based on individual quantitative migrant interviews conducted at key locations including transit points throughout Libya (through DTM Migrant Surveys) between January and August 2020.

The map below shows the main routes connecting Libya to its neighbouring countries and the other main countries from which migrants interviewed in Libya come from.

Analysis of the data collected on migration routes confirms that neighbouring countries play a key role as transit points along the main migration routes that lead to Libya as well as constituting the bulk of countries from which the majority of migrants in Libya come from.

Fig 9 Major migration routes reported by migrants interviewed via DTM Migrant Survey

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, 48.8 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, Mali, and Nigeria.

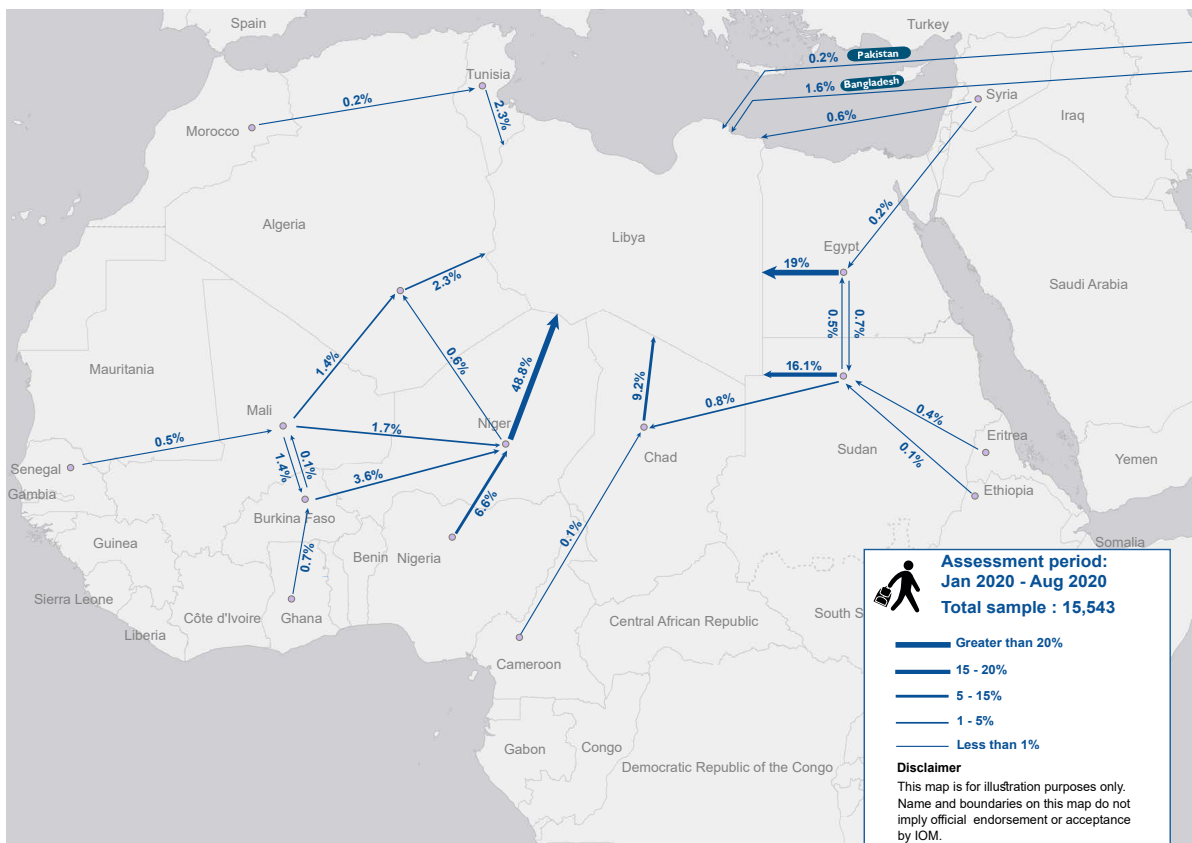




Photo:

As part of IOM Voluntary Humanitarian Return (VHR) programme, a Field Operations Support officer provides pre-departure counselling to a migrant. The VHR programme, a lifeline for stranded migrants, resumed its operations on 20 August following a five-month temporary hold due to the COVID-19 mobility restrictions. In August, 118 Ghanaian migrants were able to return to Accra on an IOM charter flight from Tripoli.

REGIONAL ANALYSIS - DISTRIBUTION

In line with previous reports, half of the migrants (50%) identified in Libya in July and August 2020 were in the West, while nearly a third were in the East (29%) and 21 per cent in the South. Tripoli remains the host of the majority of migrants (14% or 83,140 individuals).

The land border crossing points of Debdeb and Essayen between Algeria and Libya which have been closed since [May](#) remained closed during the [reporting period](#) because of measures to contain the spread of COVID-19.

Similarly, the land border crossing point in Emsaed (Egypt-Libya) and Ras Ejdeer (Tunisia-Libya) remained closed for

entry but were periodically opened for short periods of time to allow migrant groups to leave the country.

The land border crossing point of Altoum between Libya and Niger which was partially opened in May was closed in [June](#) and [July](#) and reopened partially in [August](#).

Overall, throughout the reporting period, the majority of Points of Entry (PoE) into Libya remained fully or partially closed for migrants because of COVID-19 related imposed restrictions by national and local authorities to control the spread of the virus.

Fig 10 Migrants in Libya by region (mantika) (based on Mobility Tracking data)

Mantika (Region)	#Migrants (IND)	% By region
Tripoli	83,140	14%
Ejdabia	71,615	12%
Misrata	56,980	10%
Azzawya	41,835	7%
Benghazi	39,287	7%
Murzuq	41,337	7%
Al Jabal Al Gharbi	32,213	6%
Sebha	37,800	6%
Aljgara	23,288	4%
Alkufra	24,355	4%
Zwara	20,501	4%
Almargeb	17,383	3%
Al Jabal Al Akhdar	12,450	2%
Aljufra	10,900	2%
Almarj	8,900	2%
Derna	9,585	2%
Ghat	12,392	2%
Ubari	13,007	2%
Nalut	7,217	1%
Sirt	7,631	1%
Tobruk	5,995	1%
Wadi Ashshati	6,698	1%
Grand Total	584,509	100%

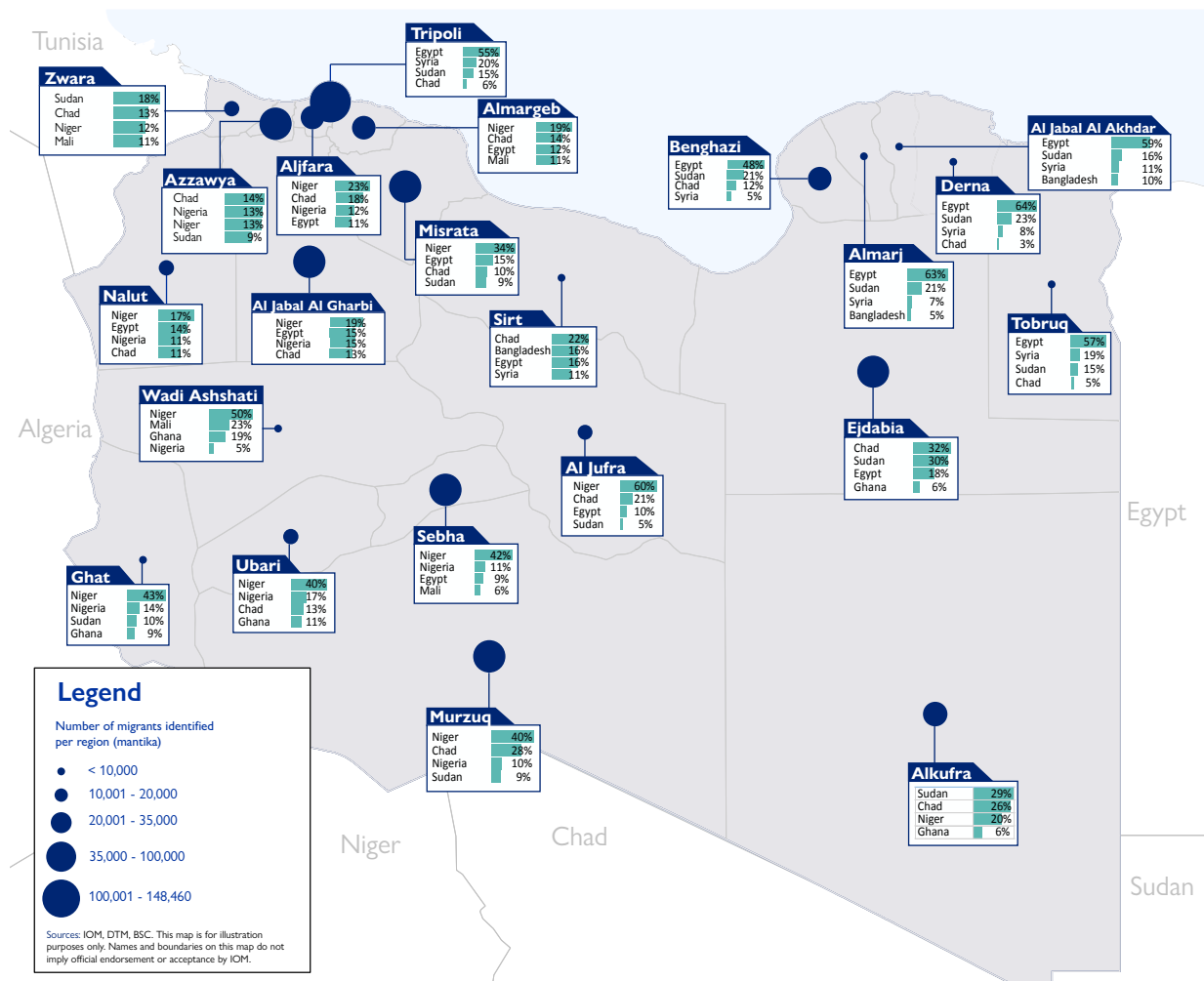
REGIONAL ANALYSIS - NATIONALITIES OF MIGRANTS

The map below shows the top four nationalities of migrants by region as per Mobility Tracking Round 32 data collection (July - August 2020). Despite mobility restrictions, the geographical distribution of migrants by nationality appears to remain shaped by geographical proximity.

For example, Egyptian migrants constitute, and by far, the most important cohort in terms of numbers in all of the

eastern coastal regions of Libya, such as Al Jabal Akhdar, Derna, Almarj, Tobruk and Benghazi. Nigerien migrants constitute the top cohort in most western and south-western regions of Libya, such as Murzuq, Sebha, Ubari, Ghat and Aljufra. Migrants from Chad and Nigeria are the two second and third main nationalities in several of the western and south-western regions. Similarly, in Alkufra, which borders Sudan and Chad, Sudanese and Chadians constitute the two main nationalities recorded in the region.

Fig 11 Map of top 4 migrant nationalities per region (mantika).



REGION OF ORIGIN ANALYSIS

Consistent with previous reports, migrants from countries in North Africa (including Egypt and Sudan) constitute the majority of migrants in Eastern Libya (58%) while migrants from Sub-Saharan African countries (such as Niger and Chad) account for the majority of migrants in Southern and Western Libya (87% and 65% respectively). The complete disaggregation of migrants' region of origins by regions (mantika) of Libya is shown in the table below (Fig 13).

In Alkufra, in the East, the number of Sub-Saharan migrants has decreased by 20 per cent compared to May-June, down from 20,404 (Round 31) to 16,275 individuals (Round 32). The number of migrants (all regions of origin included) in Alkufra has decreased by 13 per cent since Round 31 (May-June).

Fig 12 Migrants' region of origin by regions in Libya

Region (mantika)		Migrants from Asia (including Middle East)		Migrants from Sub-Saharan Africa		Migrants from North Africa	
		#	%	#	%	#	%
Eastern Libya	Al Jabal Al Akhdar	2,705	2%	425	0%	9,320	5%
	Alkufra		0%	16,275	6%	8,080	5%
	Almarj	1,045	1%	365	0%	7,490	4%
	Benghazi	4,372	3%	7,752	3%	27,163	16%
	Derna	765	0%	525	0%	8,295	5%
	Ejdabia	6,983	4%	29,560	10%	35,072	20%
	Tobruk	1,370	1%	386	0%	4,239	2%
Eastern Libya total		17,240	10%	55,288	32%	99,659	58%
Southern Libya	Aljufra	310	0%	8,926	7%	1,664	1%
	Ghat		0%	10,623	9%	1,769	1%
	Murzuq	25	0%	36,679	30%	4,633	4%
	Sebha	800	1%	32,050	26%	4,950	4%
	Ubari		0%	11,437	9%	1,570	1%
	Wadi Ashshati		0	6,698	5%		0%
Southern Libya total		1,135	1%	106,413	87%	14,586	12%
Western Libya	Al Jabal Al Gharbi	802	0%	22,189	8%	9,147	3%
	Aljfara	901	0%	17,443	6%	4,864	2%
	Almargeb	2,087	1%	11,569	4%	3,709	1%
	Azzawya	2,554	1%	28,773	10%	10,118	4%
	Misrata	4,109	1%	36,559	13%	16,312	6%
	Nalut	555	0%	4,741	2%	1,921	1%
	Sirt	2,794	1%	2,499	1%	2,105	1%
	Tripoli	12,755	4%	52,076	18%	17,730	6%
	Zwara	699	0%	12,379	4%	7,423	3%
Western Libya total		27,256	9%	188,228	65%	73,329	25%
Total for Libya		45631	8%	349929	60%	187574	32%

Note: 1,375 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

The majority (60%) of migrants in Libya are from Sub-Saharan Africa (394,944 individuals). In line with previous reports, the majority of migrants in Libya who come from Sub-Saharan Africa are from Niger (34%) and Chad (26%). Similar to May-June data, the number of migrants from Sub-Saharan Africa continues to decline, most particularly those from neighbouring Niger and Chad. This is likely because of the mobility restrictions which were imposed due to COVID-19 and the subsequent economic slowdown which led to reduced employment opportunities.

This trend is also confirmed by [reports from Niger](#), which indicate that in July incoming flows (to Niger) have been greater than outgoing flows (to Libya). There was also an [increase in the number of deportations](#) from Libya to Chad during the month July.

Fig 13 Migrants from countries of origin in Sub-Saharan Africa

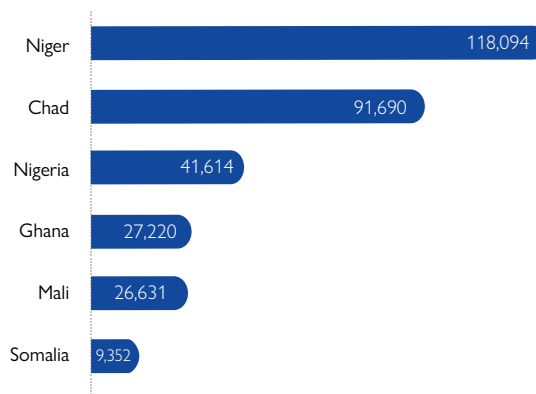


Fig 14 Percentages of migrants by country of origin for the North and Sub-Saharan Africa regions.



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

Consistent with previous reports, the bulk of migrants in Libya who are from North Africa are nationals of Egypt (52%) and Sudan (43%) while migrants from Tunisia, Morocco and Algeria together account for five per cent of the total number of migrants from North Africa. Among the total 584,509 migrants identified by DTM during Round 32 data collection, a total of 32 per cent of (187,574 individuals) were from North Africa.

Fig 15 Migrants from countries of origin in North Africa

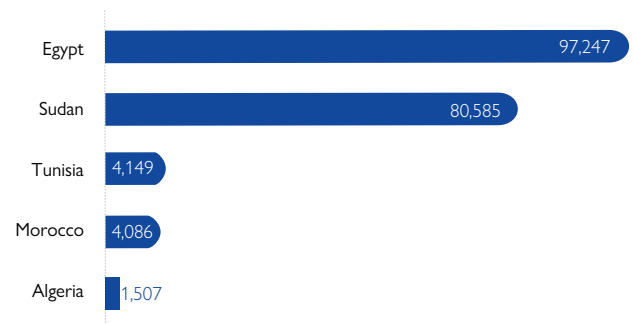


Photo: In July, 174 migrants were returned to Libya by coast guards and disembarked in Tripoli. IOM teams were at the disembarkation point to provide emergency assistance to migrants. In July and August, a total of, respectively, 1,143 migrants and 1,362 migrants were returned to Libya.

Based on the current trend, it is likely that the number of departures will continue amidst a deteriorating humanitarian situation and the COVID-19 pandemic.

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MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA

In line with previous reports, a minority of migrants (8% or 45,631 individuals) identified during Round 32 were from Asia or the Middle East. The majority came from Bangladesh (42%) and Syria (42%) accounting for, respectively, 19,167 and 18,937 migrants (including refugees). Syrians and Bangladeshi migrants each account for 42 per cent of the total number of Asian and Middle eastern migrants in Libya. There were 4,793 migrants who self-identified as Palestinians (11%) and 1,060 from Pakistan (4%).

Fig 16 Migrants from countries of origin in Asia and the Middle East

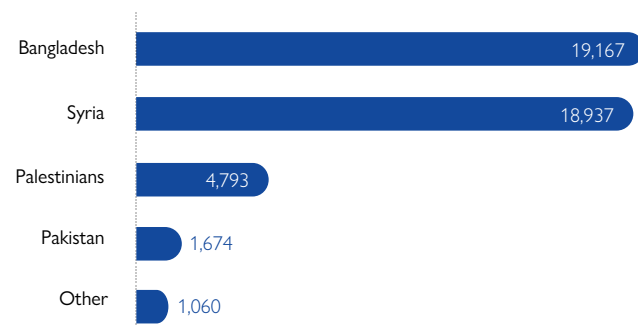
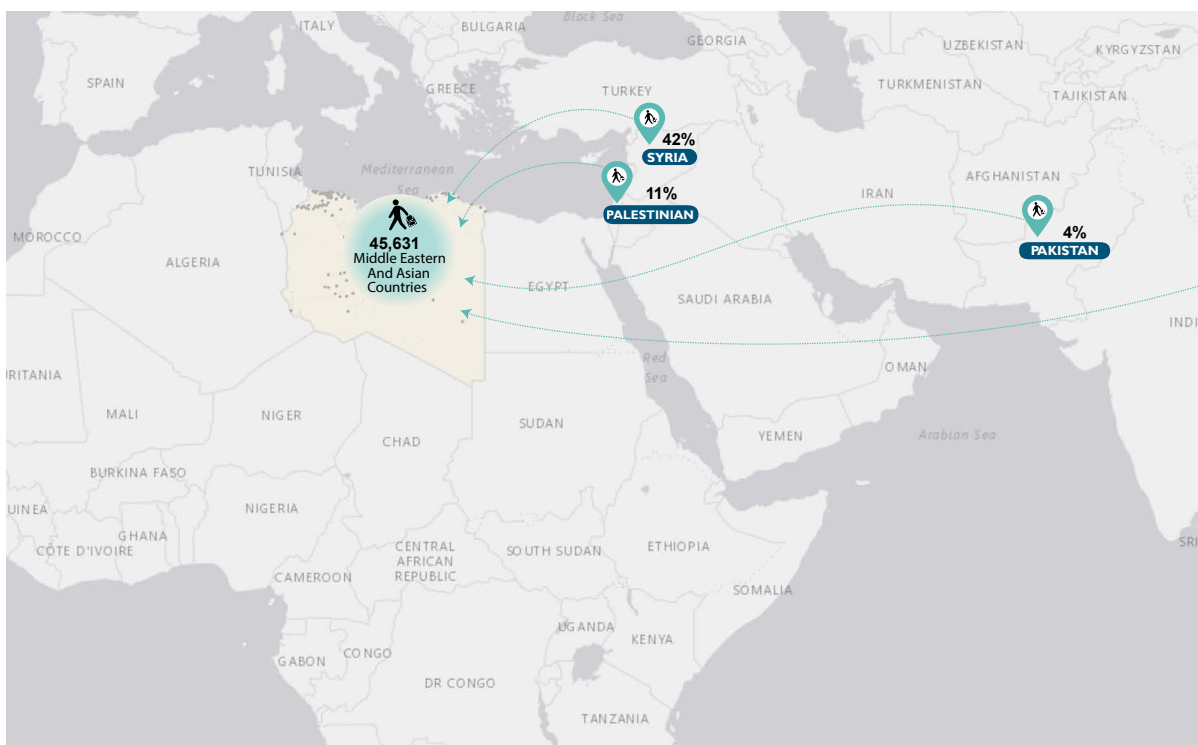


Fig 17 Percentages of migrants by country of origin for the Middle East and South Asia



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

MARITIME INCIDENTS

The number of arrivals from Libya and Tunisia to Italy and Malta via the Mediterranean Sea recorded between January and July 2020 (19,343 individuals) is more than three times higher than that of the same period last year (5,450 individuals) (Fig 19). In the month of July and August alone, the number of arrivals recorded was more than six and four times, respectively, that of the corresponding month last year (Fig 20).

Since the start of this year (and as of 31 August 2020), a total of 7,981 migrants have been intercepted at sea and returned to the Libyan shores by the Libyan Coast Guard (LCG). Among the total number of rescued migrants, there were 430 children as well as 535 women.

The Central Mediterranean remains [the most dangerous](#) and [deadliest](#) maritime crossing for migrants. In August, at least 45 migrants and refugees, including five children, died when their boat sank off Libya's coast attempting to cross to Europe – the [largest recorded shipwreck](#) in this area this year.

Fig 18 Arrivals by sea via Central Mediterranean Route to Italy and number of migrants returned to Libya

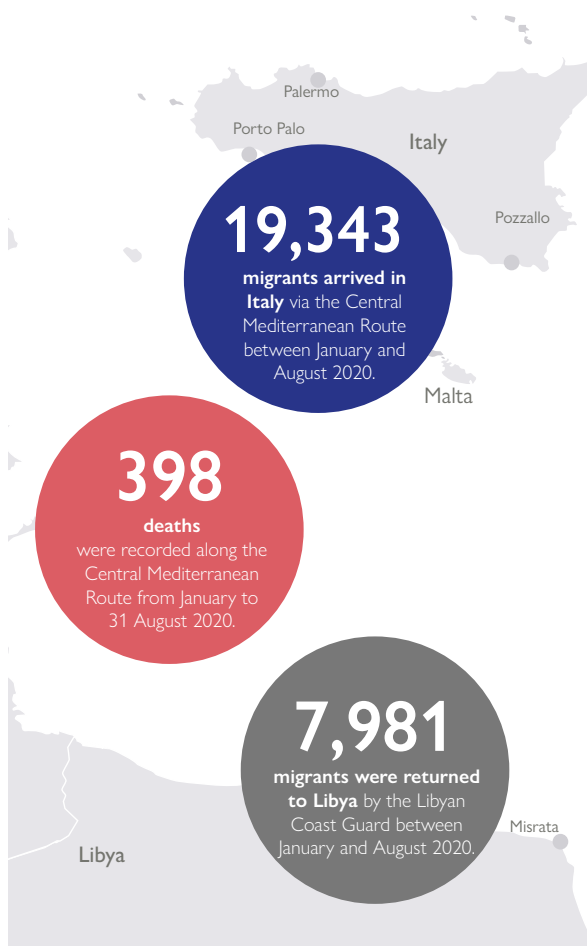
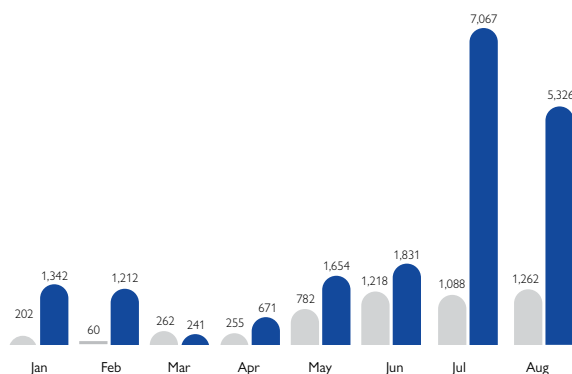


Fig 19 Arrivals by sea via Central Mediterranean Route to Italy (2019 / 2020) (number of individuals)



In parallel, the measures implemented to curb the spread of COVID-19 have resulted in port closures, delays in disembarkation and reduced presence of search and rescue vessels on the increasingly trafficked Central Mediterranean Route.

In August, IOM and UNHCR called for the immediate and safe disembarkation of more than 400 rescued migrants and refugees, including children and a pregnant woman, who were stranded on board three vessels in the Central Mediterranean and awaiting a port of safety.

Allowing commercial vessels to promptly disembark rescued passengers is vital as it might otherwise deter them from attending to distress calls for fear of being stranded at sea for a long period of time. [According to UNSMIL](#), this situation highlights the need for a more humane and predictable disembarkation mechanism in line with international human rights law as well as search and rescue obligations to avoid the deaths and disappearances of people traveling on this route.

METHODOLOGY

DTM's Migration Information Package includes DTM Libya Migrant Report and Migrant Public Dataset to 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.

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.



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



73

Enumerators



1,724

Interviews with key informants

(Round 32, Mobility Tracking)



3

Team leaders



5

Implementing Partners

Funded by the UK, 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 DTM Libya website:

dtm.iom.int/libya

