



DTM

LIBYA'S MIGRANT REPORT

November - December 2020

ROUND 34



Project funded by
the European Union

Photo (cover page):

In December, IOM's Protection team conducted well-being and welfare checks in Alkufra. © Moayad Zaghdani / IOM 2020

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OVERVIEW

In November and December 2020, 571,464 migrants from over 41 nationalities were identified in all 100 Libyan municipalities during Round 34 of DTM data collection.

During the reporting period, the number of migrants in Libya remained fairly stable (571,464 compared to 574,146 in Sep-Oct 2020) after substantial decreases in previous rounds following the start of the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020. Overall, IOM estimates that more than 80,000 migrants left Libya since the start of the pandemic, mainly to neighbouring countries.

The unemployment rate (23%), which remains slightly above [pre-pandemic levels](#) (17%) but lower than in [June](#) (29%), and the ease of some of the mobility restrictions are among the factors that may be contributing to only a marginal decrease of the migrant population stocks in Libya compared to previous rounds.

While still a threat, the [rate of transmission](#) of COVID-19 appears to be slowing and both Tripoli and Benghazi were classified as [low intensity](#) community transmission, according to WHO. However, [WHO reports](#) that testing had also decreased in the last two weeks of December.

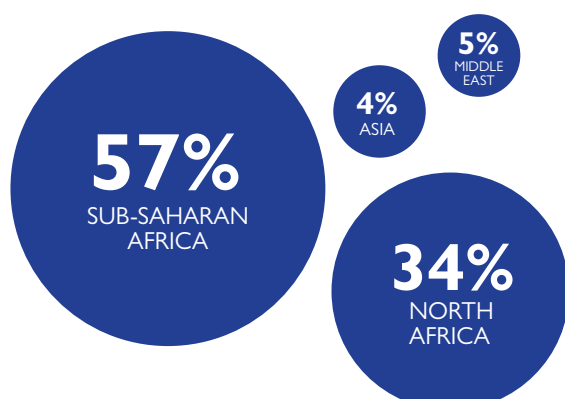
The pandemic and hostile security and economic environments remain a challenge for migrants. In November and December, the number of migrants arriving from Libya (and Tunisia) and recorded in Italy and Malta increased compared to the same period in 2019 (from 14,876 individuals in 2019 to 36,435 individuals in 2020, less than half of those embarked from Libya). Among the factors likely contributing to migrants attempting to cross the Mediterranean is the negative [socio-economic impact](#) of COVID-19 in countries of origin as well as in Libya.

The majority of migrants interviewed by DTM (91%) reported that the main reason that motivated their decision to migrate was related to economic factors and the search for a (better) livelihood. Nearly three quarters of migrants reported that either insufficient income (47%) or lack of job opportunities (26%) in their country of origin was the core reason that drove them to migrate to Libya. In comparison, 17 per cent of respondents reported that they migrated to Libya mainly in search of livelihood opportunities abroad.

Despite the pandemic, migration patterns in Libya continue to be influenced heavily by geographical proximity and [historical ties](#) that extend beyond the boundaries of present-day Libya. Two thirds of migrants are from neighbouring countries: Niger (20%), Egypt (18%), Chad (15%) and Sudan (15%). A recent [DTM study](#) on migrants' social networks highlighted that the majority of migrants reported having friends in Libya prior to migrating (54%) while a quarter had family (24%) and a third acquaintances (33%). However, a greater proportion of migrants from neighbouring countries reported having friends in Libya prior to departure than migrants from the Middle East, East and Horn of Africa and Southern Asia.

In line with a trend that has been consistent throughout the last year, the largest migrant populations were identified in the regions of Tripoli (16%), Ejdabia (12%), Misrata (10%), Azzawya (7%), Benghazi (7%) Murzuq (6%) and Sebha (6%).

Fig 1 Regions of origin of migrants



73%

of migrants interviewed in November and December 2020 reported that either insufficient income or lack of job opportunities in their country of origin was the main reason that drove them to migrate to Libya

Unemployment & COVID-19

Unemployment and the lack of access to livelihoods remains one of the main factors of increased [vulnerability](#) in Libya, particularly for daily wage workers as well as those who have suffered a loss of income or have limited access to social safety nets.

According to the [2021 Humanitarian Needs Overview](#) more than half of migrants (56%) are unable to fully meet their basic needs, which has consequences on their physical and mental well-being as well as their ability to cope with future shocks.

Key informant interviews highlighted that the main factor limiting migrants' access to education, food, health services, NFIs, WASH and shelter was affordability. A total of 57 per cent of migrants reported that financial issues were among the three main issues they faced at the time of survey. For example, more unemployed migrants interviewed by DTM in November and December 2020 reported lacking sufficient drinking water (28%) than those who are employed (12%).

In line with previous reports, the unemployment rate was significantly higher in the South (36%) – where many migrant workers rely on casual labour in the agricultural sector -- than in the East (25%) or West (9%). The protracted conflict and the COVID-19 pandemic both had a [negative impact](#) on the agricultural sector and pushed many farming households -- many of whom hire agricultural labourers -- to abandon their activities. A [WFP study](#) found that in the South of Libya, prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, agriculture represented one of the main employment sectors migrants could rely on as daily wage workers.

“

The unemployment rate among migrants in Southern Libya was significantly greater (36%) than in the East (25%) or West (9%).

While the security situation stabilized and the [de facto truce](#) continues to hold, migrants' living conditions in Libya have been increasingly challenging during the pandemic. Besides its economic impact and increased prices of food and other essential goods, protection incidents along migration routes in the desert, on the sea and other locations continue to be reported.

According to [UNSMIL](#), in November a 15-year old Eritrean adolescent, who was waiting to be resettled to a third country, was [killed](#), while two others were injured when armed men stormed their shelter and opened fire.

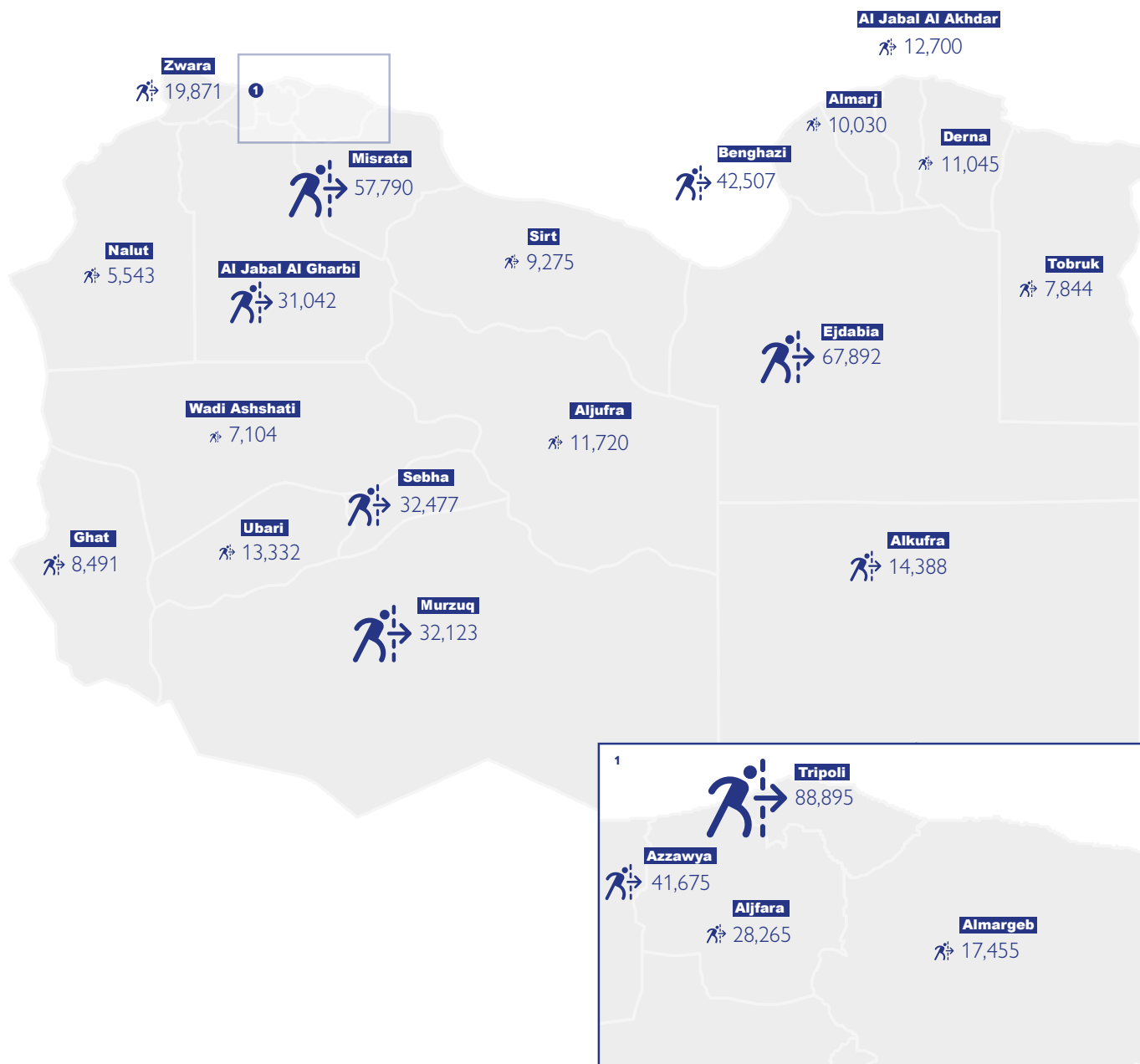
A total of 19 per cent of migrants interviewed by DTM reported that security threats, such as attacks or assaults, were among the top three issues they faced. More migrants interviewed in Western Libya (21%) and Southern Libya (18%) reported facing this issue than migrants in the East (9%). A recent DTM [study](#) on migrants' social networks highlighted that more than a third of migrants (37%) reported feeling unsafe in Libya.

23%

unemployment rate

which is 6% higher than the pre-pandemic rate (17%) (Round 29, Jan - Feb 2020) but 4% lower than Round 32 (27%) (July - Aug 2020).

Fig 2 Number of migrants per region (mantika) during DTM Round 34 data collection.



KEY FINDINGS

Round 34 (November - December 2020)

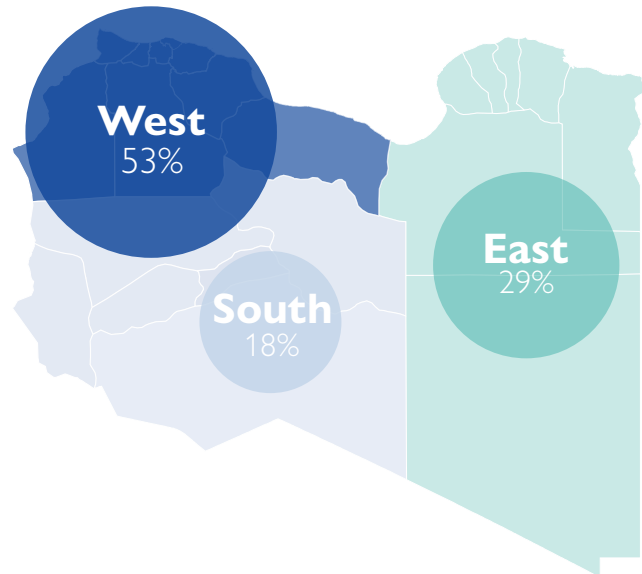


571,464
migrants in Libya

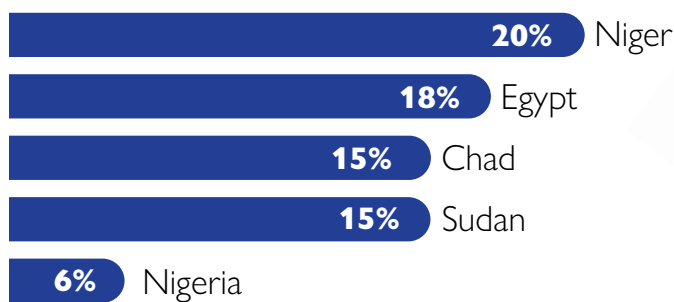
US\$ 925
migration journey cost
(average per person)

28%
of migrants reported that the remittances they send home are the primary source of income for their household

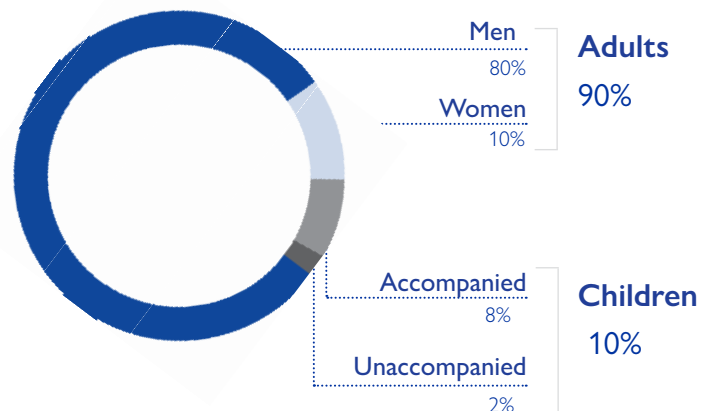
Distribution of migrants per geographical areas



Top 5 nationalities



Demographics



Migrants were present in:

578 communities
(out of 667)

2,124 Interviews with key informants

100 municipalities
(out of 100)

1,411 Interviews with migrants
(Flow Monitoring Surveys)





HUMANITARIAN NEEDS

In November, in Hay Alandalus, IOM through the Migrant Resource and Response Mechanism (MRRM) and in coordination with the Mental Health and Psychosocial Support team held an awareness-raising session to address the impact of COVID-19 on the migrant community, promote precautionary health measures and share psycho-social recommendations to cope with stress during the pandemic.

MIGRANT VULNERABILITY AND HUMANITARIAN NEEDS

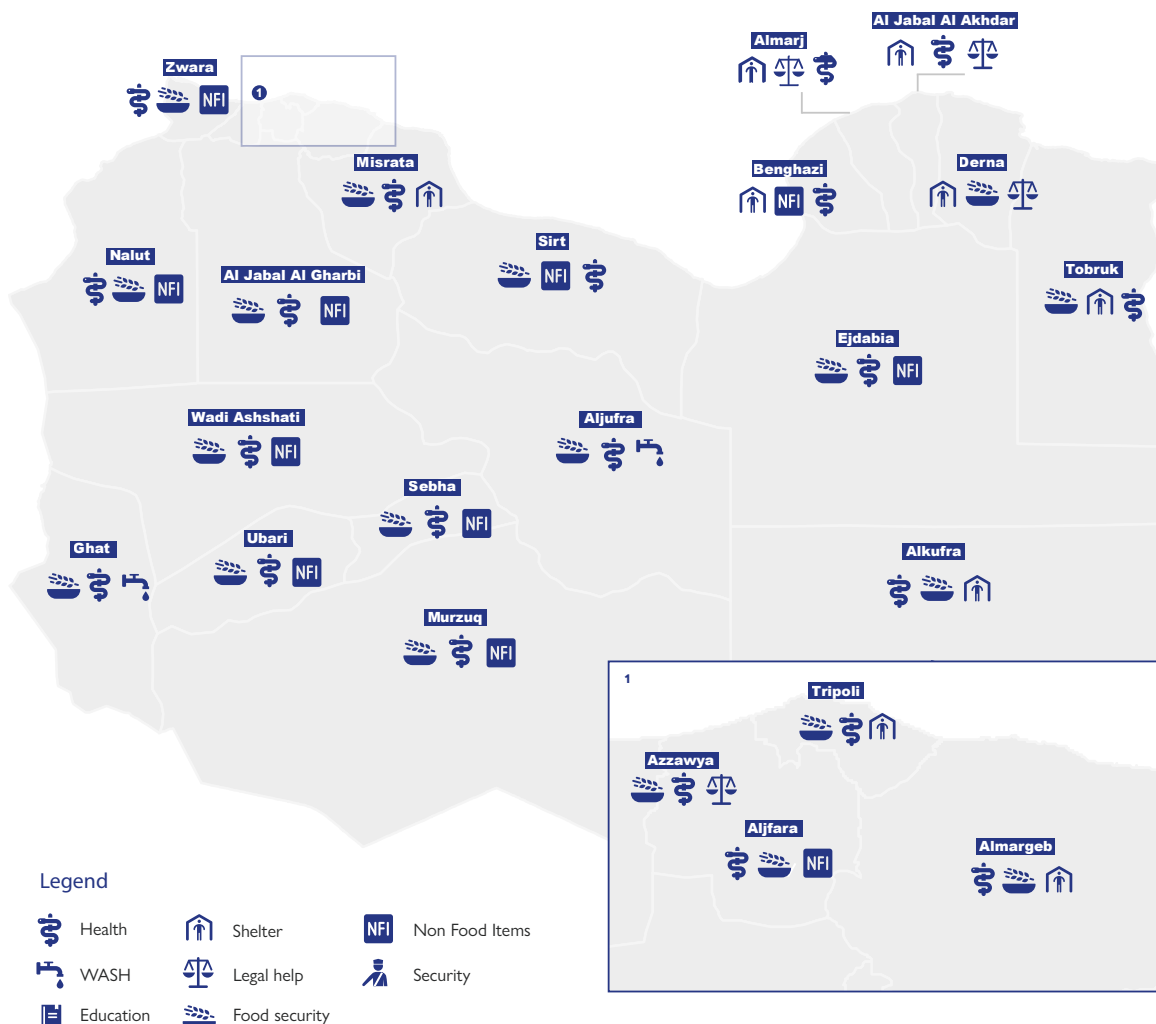
Interviews with 2,124 key informants across Libya in November and December 2020 highlighted that the primary needs of migrants were centred around health services (86%), NFIs (46%), accommodation (36%), and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) (19%). Food insecurity also remains a concern. As a result of increased prices, restricted freedom of movement and limited income-generating opportunities, the Food Security Sector [estimates](#) that the number of people facing food insecurity in Libya in 2020 has more than doubled compared to pre-pandemic levels.

The November Joint Market Monitoring Initiative Report [highlights](#) that on average the prices of essential goods, such as food and hygiene items, have increased compared to October and remain 16 per cent more expensive than pre-COVID-19 levels in March 2020.

While cost and affordability are the main factors limiting migrants' ability to fulfil their basic needs, interviews with key informants also revealed that migrants' inability or limited ability to access education and legal assistance as well as the lack of civil or legal documents, limited availability of adequate housing and the lack of sanitation facilities were also issues migrants faced in fulfilling their basic needs.

Among migrants who reported having family members who were school-aged children (4% of overall sample), the majority (53%) reported that they were unable to access education. Among them, all (100%) cited that the lack of documents was a barrier to accessing education. Financial cost was the second most reported obstacle to accessing education by nearly three quarters of migrants (73%) while language barriers were mentioned by 65 per cent of respondents, respectively. The map below shows the priority needs reported per region.

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



Health

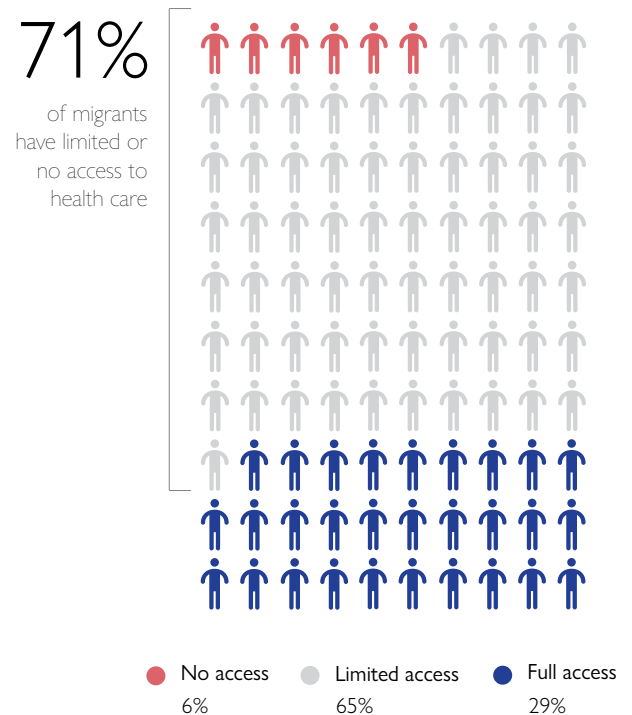
The majority of migrants surveyed (71%) continued to face limited or no access to health care, in line with previous reports (Fig 4). The situation was worst in the Western (74%) and Southern regions (70%) compared to the Eastern part of the country (64%). A total of 87 per cent of migrants reported having issues accessing health services, including adequate and timely diagnostics, testing and treatment, because of issues related to their affordability -- a rate which has increased over the last two rounds of data collection of [September-October](#) (84%) and [July-August](#) (77%).

The health care system in Libya continues to be severely [impaired](#) by limited services, shortages of staff and many facilities not being fully operational. According to the [health sector](#), as a result of insecurity and insufficient funding, half of the health facilities were reportedly [closed](#) in 2020, particularly in rural areas. Amongst those that remained open, capacity to maintain services is low due to lack of supplies, including protective equipment, frequent power cuts and outbreaks of COVID-19 amongst staff and patients. For example, [15 to 20 per cent](#) of all communities' health facilities across Libya are equipped with services for non-communicable diseases and reproductive health. A total of 38 per cent of migrants interviewed by DTM reported that the inadequate quality of care available was one of the main issues they faced.

Safe access (37%) was also an issue commonly cited by migrants interviewed by DTM as being a barrier to obtaining health care. In November, several incidents on health care facilities, including one of [violence against a health worker](#) were reported. In Sabratha, a COVID-19 isolation centre was [attacked](#). In Murzuq a primary health care facility was [attacked](#) and though there were no casualties it caused significant damage.

Migrants may also face additional challenges when seeking needed treatments and other social support services because of their irregular status.

Fig 4 Migrants' reported access to health services (sample size 1,411 interviews)



87%

of migrants who reported having no or limited access to health care reported that **affordability** was amongst the main issues they faced, a proportion that has grown over the last two rounds of data collection

Accommodation

According to interviews with key informants and in line with previous reports, the majority of migrants live in rented accommodation (77%) (Fig 5). A greater proportion of migrants reported living in collective shelters (8%) and or in their workplaces (17%) in rural than in urban areas (4% and 10%, respectively).

WASH

A total of 16 per cent of migrants interviewed by DTM reported having insufficient drinking water, a proportion which was higher in the South (18%) than in the West (14%) or East (13%).

The majority of migrants had access to the public water network on most days (61%) or every day (23%). However, the public water network has been frequently disrupted by [electricity](#) and water cuts. In [November](#), two water wells of the Great Man-Made River were attacked bringing the total of wells that have been destroyed by attacks over the last two years to more than 150, which threatens water security in north-western Libya, including Tripoli.

A minority of migrants who had infrequent (12%) or no access (4%) to public water networks had to resort to using bottled water (61%) or water trucking (43%) to meet their needs, which not only involve higher costs but are generally not considered [improved drinking water sources](#).

NFIs

The majority of migrants (89%) interviewed by DTM reported being in need of NFIs and among them a greater proportion of unemployed migrants (99%) than employed (86%) or self-employed migrants (86%). The main items that were reportedly needed were blankets (69%), mattresses (59%), clothing (51%) and cooking or heating fuel (22%) (Fig 6).

Despite a [decline](#) in the price of fuel by nearly half (48%) in the South following the [resumption](#) of operations at several oil refineries, many migrants reported being in need of cooking or heating fuel in the South (25%), East (22%) and West (16%). The prices of fuel in the South, in November, [remained](#) 24 per cent more expensive than before the oil blockade in January 2020.

Fig 5 Migrants' types of accommodation

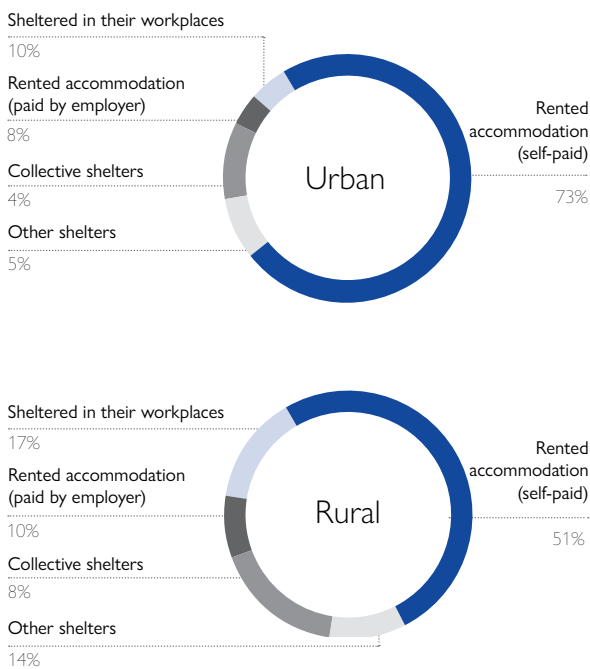
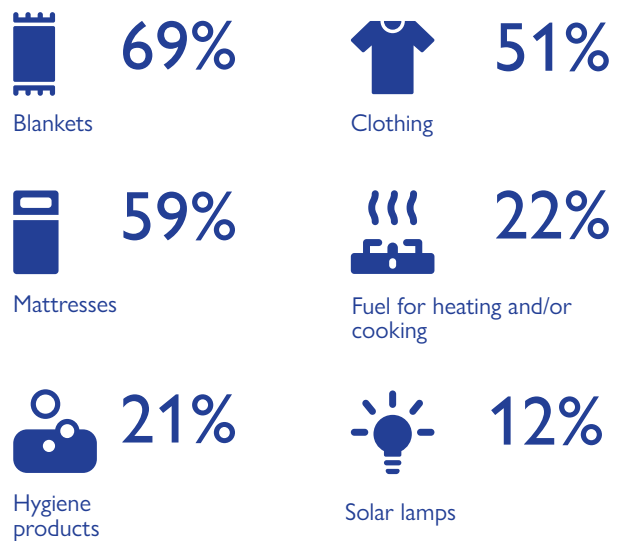


Fig 6 Migrants' reported NFI needs



Information & social networks

A total of 40 per cent of migrants reported that a lack of information was among the three main issues they were facing at the time of surveys, the third most commonly cited difficulty after financial issues (57%) and identity document issues (59%).

These findings are in line with a recent [DTM study of migrants' social networks](#), which highlighted that truthful information about cross-border migration and the risks it may involve is a common challenge among migrants but that those from Libya's neighbouring countries tended to be better informed. For example, a greater proportion of migrants from bordering countries, such as Egypt (47%), Sudan (47%), Chad (45%) and Niger (38%) reported that their migration experiences to Libya matched their expectations than migrants from other countries, such as Mali (32%) and Nigeria (32%).

87%

of migrants reported that they were most encouraged to migrate by friends or family in their country of origin or abroad

Actors in the decision to migrate

Interviews conducted by DTM in November and December 2020, highlighted that the majority of migrants (87%) stated that they were most encouraged in their decision to migrate by family or friends. These findings are in line with the [DTM study of migrants' social networks](#).

Moreover, the [study](#) found that the majority of migrants (46%) cited appealing socio-economic conditions (job opportunity, social security, education, etc.) as the main reason for choosing their final destination. Among those who reported their intention to migrate to a third country as soon as possible, this proportion was higher (77%). Among them, the majority of migrants reported having been informed of appealing living standards and working opportunities in their country of intended destination by friends (59%). A minority cited migration facilitators (26%) or family (5%) as their source of information.

Migration facilitators

Although the majority of migrants interviewed by DTM in November - December 2020 (64%) reported having used the services of migration facilitators, only one per cent mentioned that they were the ones to have encouraged them most to migrate.

The majority of migrants reported having hired the services of migration facilitators for logistics purposes, mainly transportation (86%), support in crossing difficult areas along the route (43%), accommodation (42%) and food and water (36%).

A greater proportion of migrants from West and Central Africa (70%) reported having used the services of migration facilitators than migrants from any other region.

“

The majority of migrants reported having hired the services of migration facilitators for logistics purposes, mainly transportation

In December, as part of IOM Voluntary Humanitarian Return (VHR) programme, migrants from Bangladesh were assisted to voluntarily return to their country of origin on an IOM charter flight with support from the European Union Trust Fund. All migrants were provided with medical and vulnerability screening and supported with exit visa and embarkation assistance, including masks, gloves and hand sanitizer. Once in Bangladesh, the returnees will have the opportunity to benefit from in-kind reintegration assistance.
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MIGRATION FLOWS



MIGRATION FLOWS

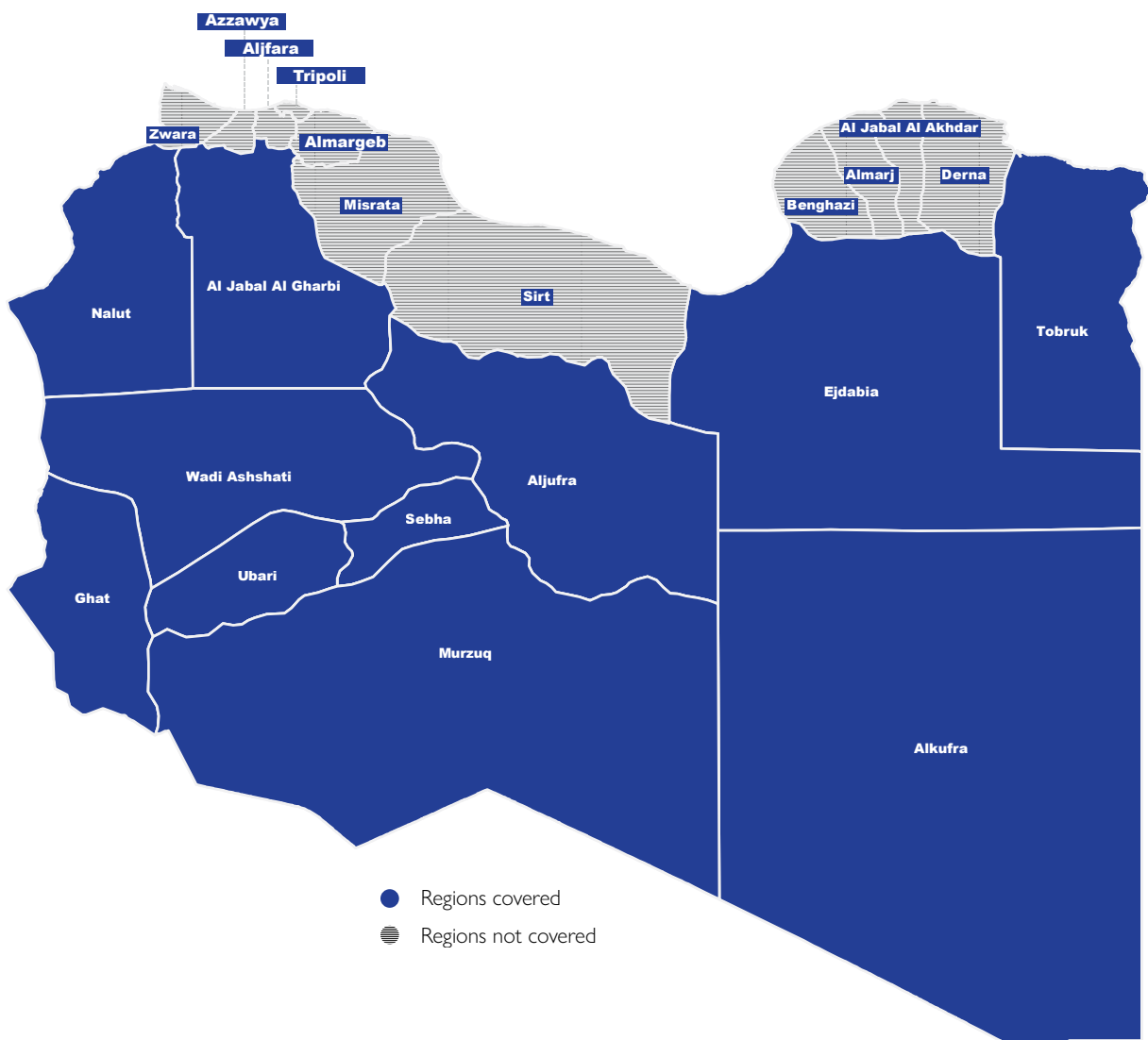
During the reporting period (November - December 2020) DTM Libya's 43 Flow Monitoring Points (FMPs) monitored migration movements in 16 municipalities and in 11 regions (mantika) of Libya. Flow Monitoring Points (FMPs) are set up at key transit locations along major migration routes within Libya where 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

-  **11** regions covered
-  **518** assessments
-  **16** municipalities
-  **43** flow monitoring points (FMPs) active

Fig 7 Regions (mantika) covered by the network of FMPs monitoring migration flows in Libya



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).

SOUTHERN LIBYA

Ubari

During the months of November and December, the same number of migrants were identified in the municipality of Ubari as in Round 33 (September-October) (9,920 migrants).

According to field observers, the primary challenge faced by migrants in Ubari was the lack of livelihoods opportunities. In line with previous reports, the unemployment rate among migrants was significantly higher in the South of Libya (36%) than in the West (9%) or East (25%). The presence of migrants at recruitment points, particularly those relying on casual labour opportunities was recorded despite the limited availability of income-generating opportunities. Migrants were reportedly in need of heaters as well as access to water and sanitation.

The COVID-19 pandemic has increased pressure on the limited capacity of the health care system in Ubari. The municipality lacks isolation units and many patients are referred to medical centres that require long-distance travel.

However, the movement restrictions were lifted and residents in Ubari were able to move freely within and outside the municipality.

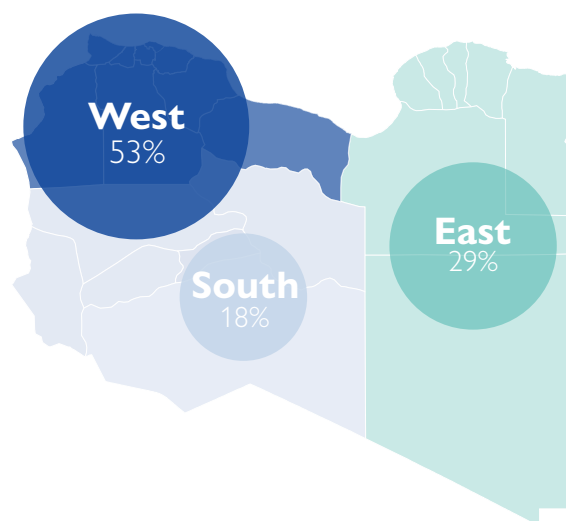
Sebha

A similar number of migrants were identified in the municipality of Sebha during Round 34 as during Round 33 data collection (31,150 migrants).

Some migrants in Sebha reported having been victims of armed robberies and other incidents that threatened their safety. The security situation in the area continues to be volatile. A number of recent DTM studies confirmed that the security situation for migrants in Sebha is among the most unsafe across Libya¹. The economic situation also remains difficult as the number of income-generating opportunities remain limited for migrants. According to field observers many migrants' food security levels has been impacted negatively.

During the reporting period, an upsurge of migrants were observed transiting to the western regions of Libya.

Fig 8 Distribution of migrants by geographical area



¹ See [Closely Knit: An Assessment of Migrants' Social Networks in Libya](#), [Living and Working in the Midst of Conflict](#), [A Long Way from Home: Migrants' Housing Conditions in Libya](#).

EASTERN LIBYA

Benghazi

Consistent with previous reports, Benghazi is the municipality that hosts the second largest population of migrants in the eastern region of Libya. During Round 34 data collection (November – December), the number of migrants present in the municipality of Benghazi remained largely stable, increasing slightly (by one per cent) from 33,417 to 33,747 individuals.

According to field observers, the security situation remained stable throughout the reporting period. However, economic uncertainty persisted, mainly caused by the fluctuating exchange rate of the US dollar against the Libyan Dinar. The Central Bank of Libya introduced in [December](#) a new unified exchange rate in an effort to bring the official rate closer to the black-market rate. At the same time, in [November](#), the prices of essential food and non-food items in the municipality of Benghazi were reportedly more than 33 per cent higher than in March 2019 and six per cent higher than in October 2020. Intermittent power cuts were also reported by field observers during Round 34.

Tobruk

During the months of November and December, the number of migrants present in the municipality of Tobruk increased by 11 per cent in comparison to Round 33, from 5,640 to 6,254 migrants.

The overall situation in Tobruk was stable during the reporting period mainly because in the municipality there is one of the lowest rate of COVID-19 transmission and number of cases in the eastern region of Libya. As a result, migrants were reportedly able to return to their daily activities. According to [WHO](#), in December, the municipalities that reported the largest numbers of confirmed cases were Tripoli, Misrata and Jabal al Gharbi.

WESTERN LIBYA

Misrata

In line with previous reports, the municipality of Misrata remains a primary hub for migrants as both a destination and a transit point. The number of migrants in the municipality remained stable in Round 34.

According to field observers, power cuts were more frequent during the month of December and the fluctuation of exchange rate throughout the reporting period raised concerns among migrants.

Azzintan

The number of migrants identified in the municipality of Azzintan decreased slightly by two per cent during Round 34 in comparison to Round 33 (from 17,500 to 17,300 migrants).

According to field observers, migrants were affected by the frequent power cuts in the area during the reporting period. Also, migrants struggled to meet their basic needs due to the upsurge of food and non-food item prices as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The average [prices](#) of food and other essential goods in Azzintan increased by almost one quarter over the past year and a half.

In addition, the presence of migrants at recruitment points was reportedly limited because of the cold weather. Some migrants reported that they are in urgent need of blankets and winter clothes.

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 Flow Monitoring Surveys) (FMS) between January and December 2020.

Between January and December 2020, DTM interviewed more than 14,765 migrants via Flow Monitoring Surveys (FMS) out of which 14,697 migrants shared details of the migration routes they used to reach Libya.

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

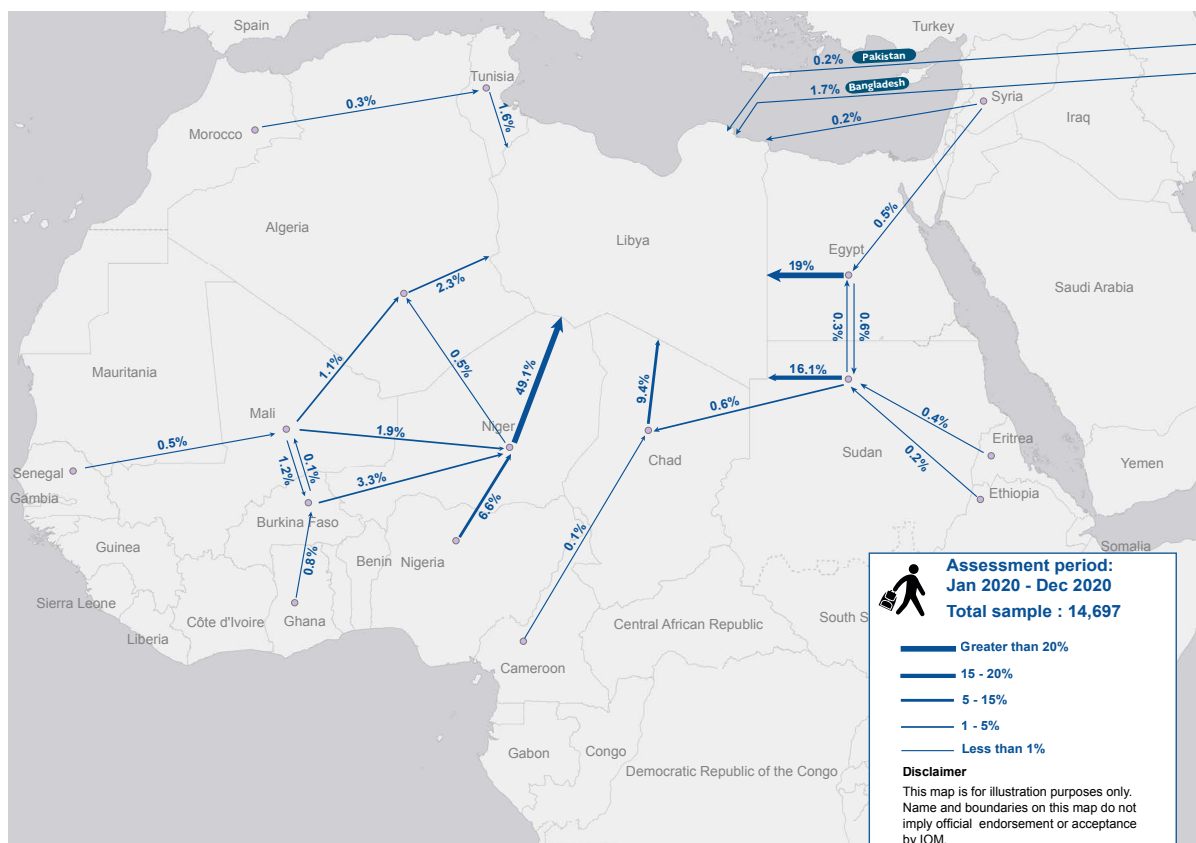
Routine patrols and strengthened security checks along the Libya border with Algeria have been [observed](#) with the establishment of a new patrol unit in Assah.

There have also been continuous [reports](#) of expulsions along the southern border of Libya with Chad and Sudan.

Fig 9 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

Route
transit country → Libya

Cost
average (USD)
xxx\$

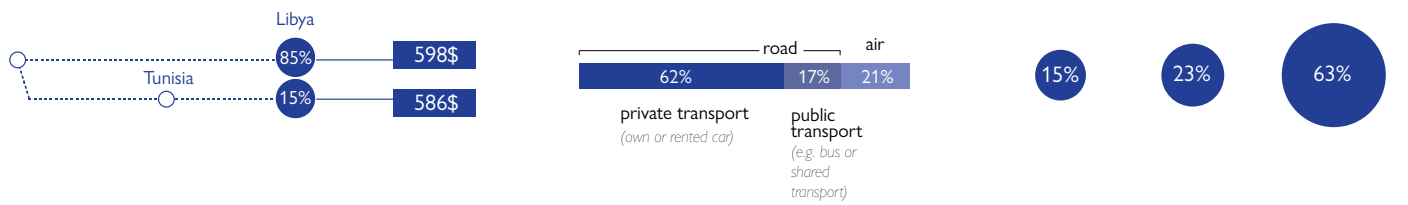
xx%
% of migrants who travel this route

cost of each route in USD

| ROUTES | COST average (USD) | MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION | PRESENCE IN LIBYA BY GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS | | |
|--------|--------------------|-------------------------|---|-------|------|
| | | | East | South | West |

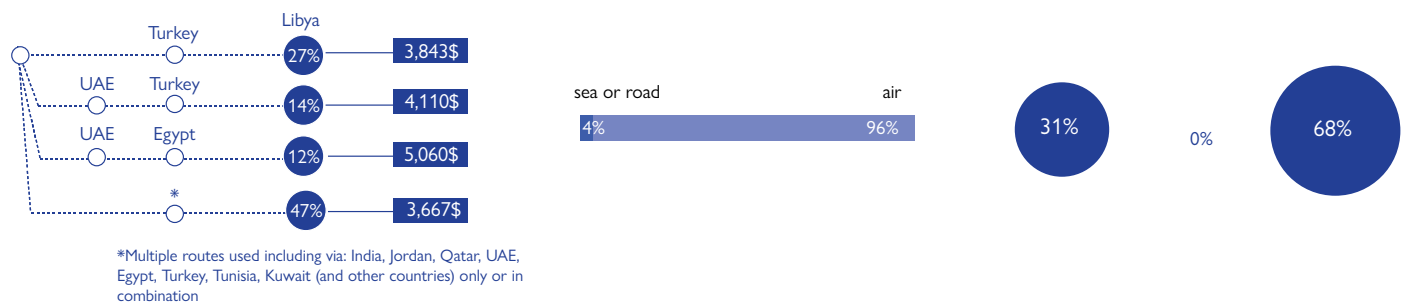
Algeria

1,453 migrants



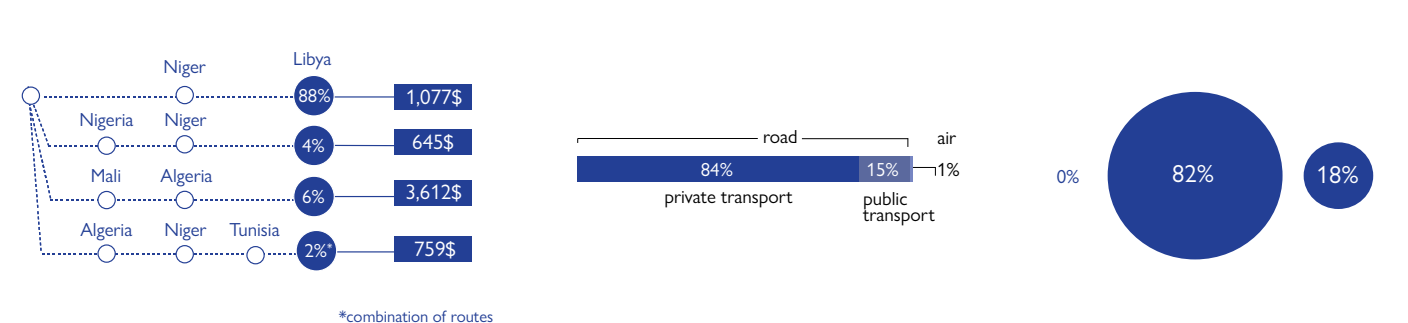
Bangladesh

20,873 migrants



Burkina Faso

3,090 migrants

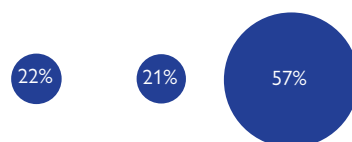
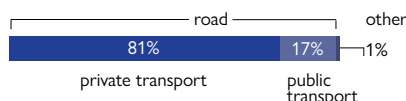
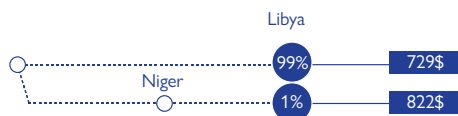


| ROUTES | COST <i>average (USD)</i> | MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION | PRESENCE IN LIBYA BY GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS | | |
|--------|------------------------------|-------------------------|---|--|--|
|--------|------------------------------|-------------------------|---|--|--|

Chad

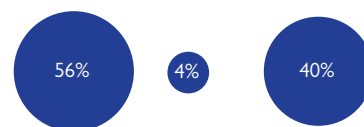
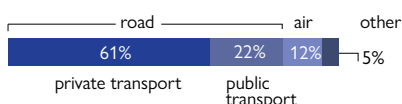
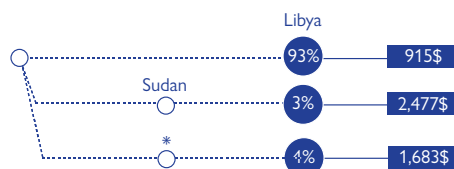
East South West

85,101 migrants



Egypt

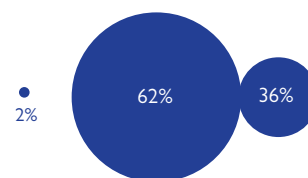
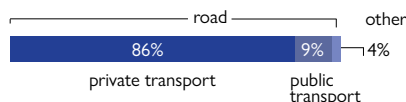
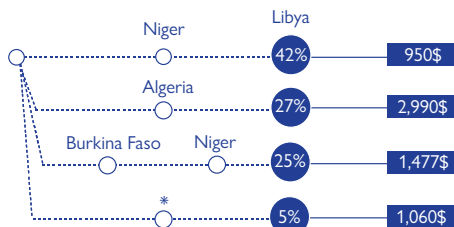
101,173 migrants



*Multiple routes used including via: UAE, Egypt, Turkey, Tunisia, Kuwait, South Sudan, Chad (and other countries) only or in combination

Mali

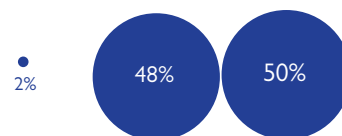
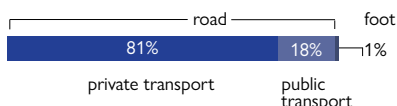
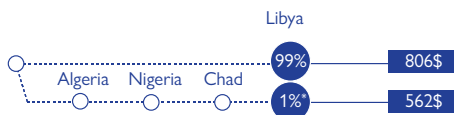
25,056 migrants



*Multiple routes used including via: Niger, Algeria, Burkina Faso, Chad and Sudan only or in combination

Niger

113,925 migrants



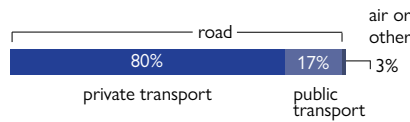
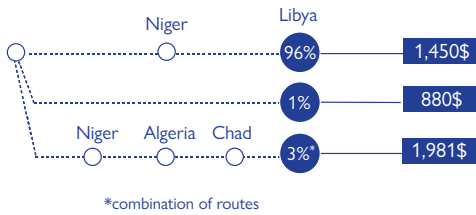
*Multiple routes used including via: Algeria, Nigeria and/or Chad (only or in combination)

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

Nigeria

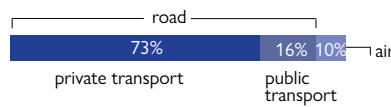
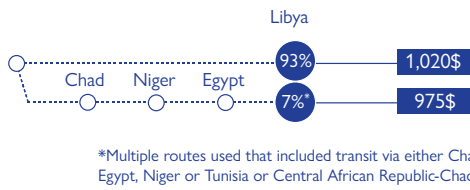
East South West

37,701 migrants



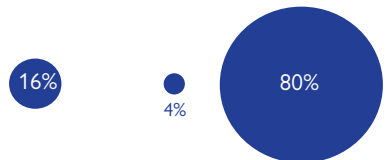
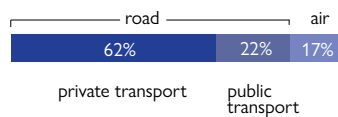
Sudan

85,087 migrants



Tunisia

3,855 migrants





REGIONAL ANALYSIS

In November and December, IOM conducted outreach and health awareness campaigns on COVID-19 symptoms and precautionary measures for migrants in Sebha, Ubari, Benghazi and Tripoli (pictured), among other locations. © Majdi EL NAKUA / IOM 2020

REGIONAL ANALYSIS - DISTRIBUTION

In line with previous reports, most migrants (53%) interviewed in November and December 2020 were located in the West (53%), while nearly a third were in the East (29%) and less than a fifth (18%) in the South.

More than half of migrants (52%) were identified in the coastal regions of Tripoli (16%), Ejdabia (12%), Misrata (10%), Benghazi (7%) and Azzawya (7%).

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

Fig 12 Migrants in Libya by region (mantika) (based on Mobility Tracking data)

| Mantika (Region) | #Migrants (IND) | % By region |
|------------------------|-----------------|-------------|
| Tripoli | 88,895 | 16% |
| Ejdabia | 67,892 | 12% |
| Misrata | 57,790 | 10% |
| Benghazi | 42,507 | 7% |
| Azzawya | 41,675 | 7% |
| Sebha | 32,477 | 6% |
| Murzuq | 32,123 | 6% |
| Al Jabal Al Gharbi | 31,042 | 5% |
| Aljfara | 28,265 | 5% |
| Zwara | 19,871 | 3% |
| Almargeb | 17,455 | 3% |
| Alkufra | 14,388 | 3% |
| Ubari | 13,332 | 2% |
| Al Jabal Al Akhdar | 12,700 | 2% |
| Aljufra | 11,720 | 2% |
| Derna | 11,045 | 2% |
| Almarj | 10,030 | 2% |
| Sirt | 9,275 | 2% |
| Ghat | 8,491 | 1% |
| Tobruk | 7,844 | 1% |
| Wadi Ashshati | 7,104 | 1% |
| Nalut | 5,543 | 1% |
| Total for Libya | 571,464 | 100% |

REGIONAL ANALYSIS - NATIONALITIES OF MIGRANTS

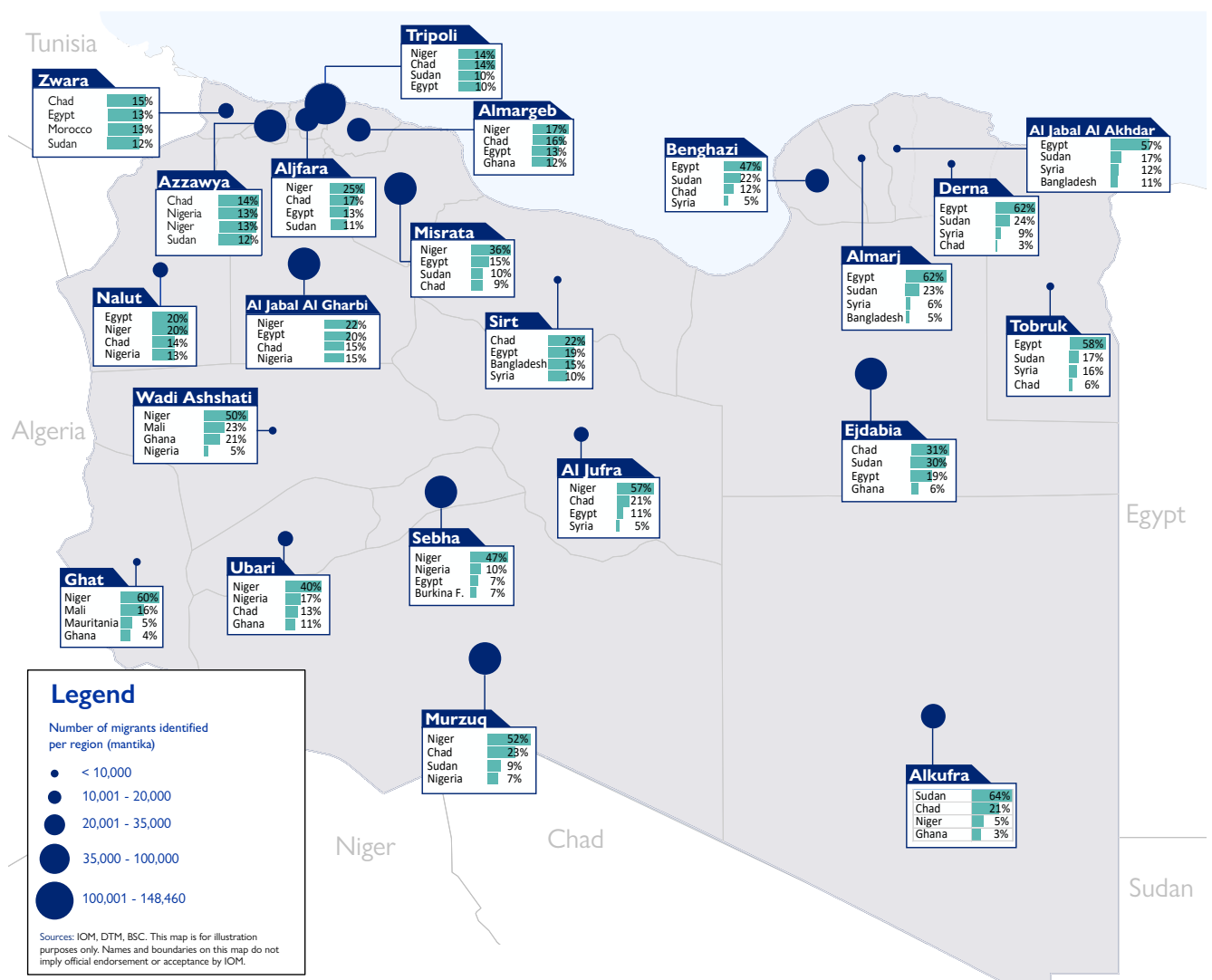
The map below shows the top four nationalities of migrants by region as per Mobility Tracking Round 34 data collection (November - December 2020). The geographical distribution of migrants by nationality remains heavily influenced by geographical proximity, despite the COVID-19 pandemic and associated mobility restrictions.

For example, the majority of migrants in the Southern and Western regions of Murzuq, Sebha, Al Jufra, Ubari, Nalut, Al Jabal Al Gharbi and Ghat are 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.

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 one per cent or less of migrants in Libya (1% and 0,2%, respectively).

Fig 13 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 (88% and 63% respectively). The complete disaggregation of migrants' region of origins by regions (mantika) of Libya is shown in the table below (Fig 14).

This analysis highlights the interlinkages and kinship networks that characterize and shape migration to Libya. A recent [DTM study on migrants' social networks](#) found that migrants rely on their social networks for an array of services, including insider knowledge on the experience of migrating to Libya, assistance finding housing and employment as well as risk sharing, through financial support, among other things.

Fig 14 Migrants' region of origin by regions in Libya

| Region (Mantika) | Migrants from Asia + Middle East) | | Migrants from Sub-Saharan Africa | | Migrants from North Africa | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------|----------------------------------|------------|----------------------------|------------|-----|
| | # | % | # | % | # | % | |
| East | Al Jabal Al Akhdar | 2,905 | 16% | 390 | 1% | 9,405 | 9% |
| | Alkufra | | 0% | 4,812 | 11% | 9,576 | 9% |
| | Almarj | 1,105 | 6% | 375 | 1% | 8,550 | 8% |
| | Benghazi | 4,960 | 27% | 8,204 | 19% | 29,293 | 28% |
| | Derna | 945 | 5% | 530 | 1% | 9,530 | 9% |
| | Ejdabia | 6,966 | 38% | 27,316 | 65% | 33,610 | 32% |
| | Tobruk | 1,380 | 8% | 619 | 1% | 5,845 | 6% |
| Eastern Libya total | 18,261 | 11% | 42,246 | 25% | 105,809 | 64% | |
| South | Aljufra | 600 | 34% | 9,316 | 10% | 1,804 | 16% |
| | Ghat | 3 | 0% | 7,837 | 9% | 651 | 6% |
| | Murzuq | 25 | 1% | 28,830 | 31% | 3,265 | 29% |
| | Sebha | 1,120 | 64% | 27,297 | 30% | 4,060 | 36% |
| | Ubari | | 0% | 11,762 | 13% | 1,570 | 14% |
| | Wadi Ashshati | | 0% | 7,104 | 8% | | 0% |
| Southern Libya total | 1,748 | 2% | 92,146 | 88% | 11,350 | 11% | |
| West | Al Jabal Al Gharbi | 481 | 2% | 19,726 | 10% | 10,800 | 14% |
| | Aljgara | 871 | 3% | 19,944 | 11% | 7,370 | 9% |
| | Almargeb | 1,888 | 6% | 12,567 | 7% | 2,980 | 4% |
| | Azzawya | 2,634 | 9% | 28,394 | 15% | 10,647 | 13% |
| | Misrata | 4,095 | 14% | 37,516 | 20% | 16,179 | 20% |
| | Nalut | 257 | 1% | 3,324 | 2% | 1,962 | 2% |
| | Sirt | 3,116 | 10% | 3,128 | 2% | 2,729 | 3% |
| | Tripoli | 15,635 | 52% | 53,690 | 28% | 19,410 | 24% |
| Zwara | 879 | 3% | 11,217 | 6% | 7,775 | 10% | |
| Western Libya total | 29,856 | 10% | 189,506 | 63% | 79,852 | 27% | |
| Total for Libya | 49,865 | 9% | 323,898 | 57% | 197,011 | 35% | |

Note: 690 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

In line with a consistent trend, migrants in Libya come primarily from Sub-Saharan Africa (57% or 323,898 individuals), with migrants from Niger (35%) and Chad (26%) being the top two nationalities.

The overall number of Sub-Saharan African migrants continued to decline during the reporting period compared to pre-pandemic levels. The number of Chadians, for example, decreased significantly over the reporting period, which is likely as a result of the mobility restrictions and economic downturn as well as an [increase](#) in the number of deportations from Libya. DTM Chad reports that during the last quarter of 2020, more than 300 individuals were deported from North-eastern Libya to Ounianga Kébir in Chad.

Fig 15 Migrants from countries of origin in Sub-Saharan Africa

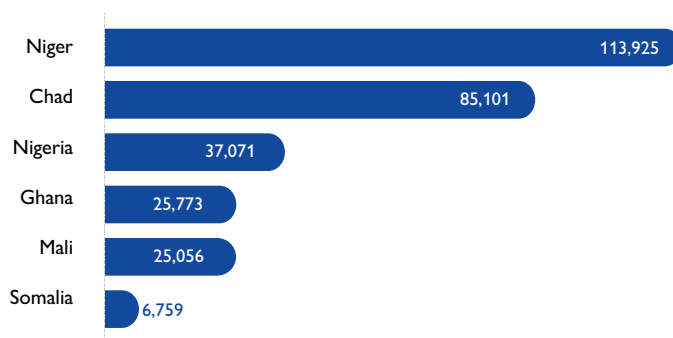


Fig 16 Percentages of migrants by country of origin for the North and Sub-Saharan Africa regions.



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

In line with previous reports, the majority of North African migrants in Libya are nationals of Egypt (51%) 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. More than a third of migrants in Libya are from North Africa (34% or 197,011 individuals).

While the overall number of Sub-Saharan African migrants has continued to decline since the start of the pandemic, the number of Northern African migrants has continued to rise. The number of migrants from North Africa grew by three per cent (or 5,700 individuals) compared to September-October 2020 (Round 32, 191,311 individuals) following a two per cent rise in the previous round of data collection (compared to July-August 2020). In line with the previous round of data collection the number of Egyptian and Sudanese migrants has increased by three and one per cent (1,064 and 3,956 individuals) respectively, compared to Round 33.

Fig 17 Migrants from countries of origin in North Africa

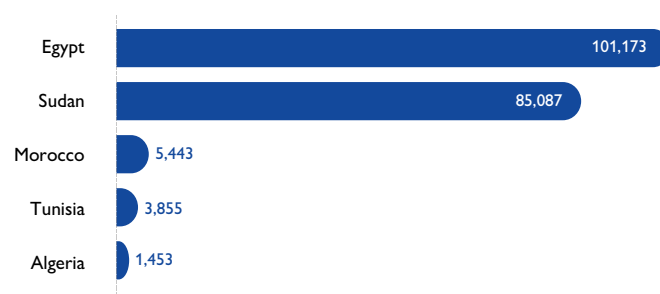


Fig 18 Proportion of migrants by nationality

| Nationality | Number of Migrants (ind) | % Migrants |
|--------------------|--------------------------|-------------|
| Niger | 114,149 | 20% |
| Egypt | 100,109 | 17% |
| Chad | 88,624 | 15% |
| Sudan | 81,131 | 14% |
| Nigeria | 38,215 | 7% |
| Ghana | 25,205 | 4% |
| Mali | 23,886 | 4% |
| Syria | 19,860 | 3% |
| Bangladesh | 19,434 | 3% |
| Somalia | 8,160 | 1% |
| Eritrea | 6,623 | 1% |
| Palestine | 5,346 | 1% |
| Morocco | 5,286 | 1% |
| Guinea | 4,968 | 1% |
| Senegal | 4,126 | 1% |
| Tunisia | 3,513 | 1% |
| Burkina Faso | 3,478 | 1% |
| Ethiopia | 3,394 | 1% |
| Côte d'Ivoire | 2,773 | 0.5% |
| Gambia | 2,575 | 0.4% |
| Mauritania | 2,482 | 0.4% |
| Cameroon | 2,069 | 0.4% |
| Pakistan | 1,966 | 0.3% |
| Algeria | 1,292 | 0.2% |
| Zambia | 1,675 | 0.3% |
| Others | 3,807 | 0.7% |
| Grand Total | 574,146 | 100% |

MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA

In line with previous reports, a minority of migrants (9% or 49,865 individuals) identified during Round 34 were from Asia or the Middle East. Among migrants from Asia and the Middle East, the majority came from Syria (20,891 individuals) and Bangladesh (20,873 individuals) accounting for both 42 per cent of migrants (including refugees). Syrians and Bangladeshi migrants account for both four per cent of the total number of migrants in Libya. In addition, there were 5,293 migrants who self-identified as Palestinians (11%) and 1,948 from Pakistan (4%).

Fig 19 Migrants from countries of origin in Asia and the Middle East

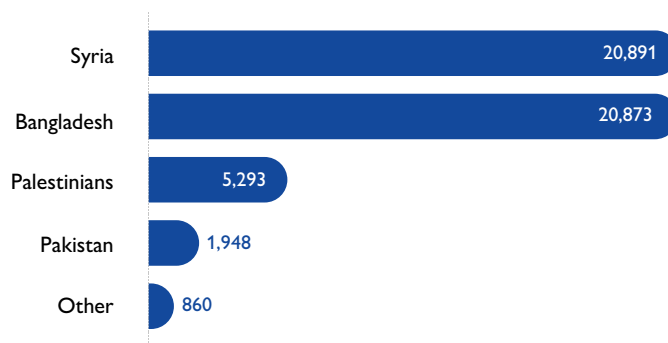


Fig 20 Percentages of migrants by country of origin for the Middle East and South Asia



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

A member of IOM's medical team performs a health check on a migrant in Alkufra as part of well-being and welfare checks conducted in December.
© Moayad Zaghdani / IOM 2020



MARITIME INCIDENTS

Arrivals to Italy and Malta

More than twice as many migrants have been recorded arriving in Italy and Malta after having crossed the Mediterranean Sea from Libya or Tunisia in 2020 (36,435 individuals, less than half of those reportedly embarked from Libya) compared to 2019 (14,876 individuals) (Fig 22). Notably, this is still only one third of arrivals in [2017](#) (119,310 individuals).

Rescue at sea

Overall, in 2020, a total of 11,981 migrants were rescued at sea and disembarked in Libya, and [frequently transferred to detention centres](#) (Fig 21).

Among the total number of rescued migrants, there were 10,369 men, 811 women as well as 711 children. The majority of individuals [disembarked](#) in 2020 were from Sudan (26%), Mali (13%), Bangladesh (12%), Nigeria (5%) or Guinea (4%) and various other nationalities.

Fatalities at sea

At least 984 migrants have [drowned or presumed drowned](#), in the Mediterranean in 2020, among those deaths, more than a third occurred in the months of November and December (326 individuals).

November was the [deadliest month](#) of 2020 for migrants attempting to cross the Mediterranean shores from Libya and Tunisia – the world’s [most dangerous sea-crossing](#). On [12 November](#) alone three deadly shipwrecks were recorded in one day in which at least 70 lost their lives.

Fig 21 Arrivals by sea, returns and deaths on the Central Mediterranean Route to Italy and Malta in 2020

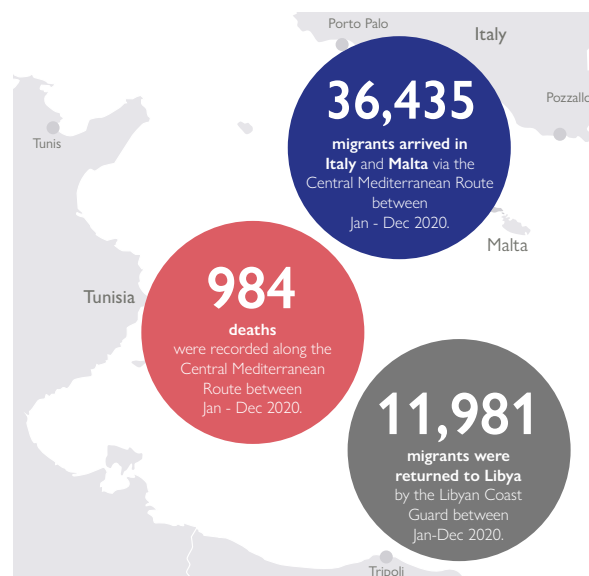
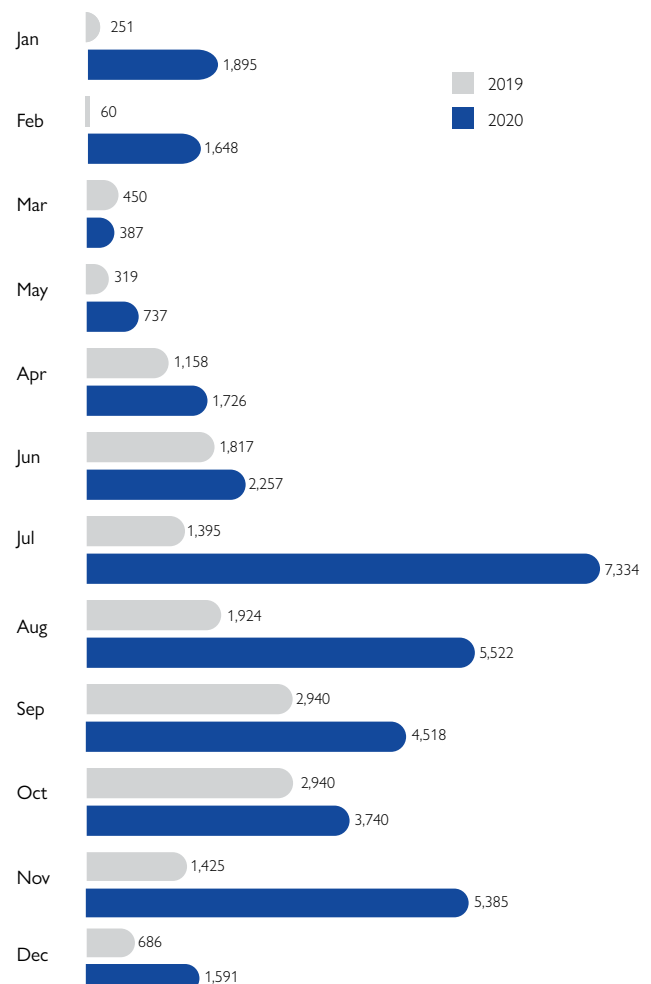


Fig 22 Arrivals by sea via Central Mediterranean Route to Italy and Malta (2019 / 2020) (number of individuals)



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 43 active flow monitoring points in 11 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



1,411

migrants interviewed

(Round 34, Flow Monitoring Survey)



3

Team leaders



5

Implementing Partners



43

Flow Monitoring Points (FMPs)

are active in 11 regions (mantikas) of Libya

100%
coverage

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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