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What is Flow Monitoring

Libya’s Flow Monitoring statistical and analytical reports build on IOM’s DTM Mobility Tracking Packages towards better articulating Libya’s human mobility profile.

Flow Monitoring captures information on migrants to monitor and understand the trend of movements and population flows in specific locations within a particular time period. DTM Libya’s Flow Monitoring aims to collect and update information on the movement of migrants in Libya, to provide an accurate and timely overview of the migration flows in the country, in particular with regard to:

- Routes used by the migrants who reach and/or transit through Libya
- Identify and monitor the locations where migration flows are most significant
- Provide granulated data on nationalities, sex and age of migrants and specific vulnerabilities
- Develop migration profiles including drivers of migration and migratory trends

The information and analysis provided by IOM Libya complement IOM’s established exercises in the region and in Southern Europe (migration.iom.int/europe & missingmigrants.iom.int). Considering the scale and complexity of the current migration flows in Libya, the purpose of the DTM is to offer a dynamic approach in relation to the developments of the different routes and the evolving situation in the countries of origin, transit and destination.
This report presents the analytical findings from DTM’s Flow Monitoring survey profiles conducted between 14 August and 16 September 2016.

69 individuals from those assessed had already participated in survey previously, 66% of whom had participated in the survey in Libya, and will be excluded from the following analysis.

IOM field enumerators conducted interviews with the remaining 2,466 migrants in 13 different areas: Garaboli (14%), Sabha (14%), Al Jaghbub (14%), Tripoli (13%), Zliten (8%), Bani Waled (7%), Umm Saad (7%), Sabratah (5%), Al Qatrun (5%), Ghat (4%), Zuwara (4%), Dirj (3%), and Tobruk (2%).

The survey was adapted to capture qualitative data pertaining to the current situation of migrants transiting Libya.

The analysis focuses on the demographic profile of migrants, duration and cost of journey, and the migration route. The key indicators dealing with push/pull factors – i.e. reasons for leaving, relatives in destination country – were chosen to capture the travel intentions and conditions of migrants.

MAIN REPORTED NATIONALITIES

The following chart shows the main nationalities reported in this survey. Aside from the top five countries listed, the surveys recorded 28 other African nationalities.

About 21% of Egyptians are from Matruh, the city bordering Libya, 17% from Suhaj, another 13% are from Al Buhayrah. The majority (60% of Egyptians) were surveyed in Al Jaghbub, 12% in Umm Saad. The remaining 28% are distributed in the other flow monitoring areas in Libya.

Nigeriens came generally from Tahoua and Zinder (23% from each city). Another 20% of Nigeriens arrived from Niamey. They were mainly interviewed in Garaboli (41%), 17% in Tripoli another 17% in Sabha.
59% of respondents from Sudan came from Khartoum, 20% from Darfur, 14% from Kordofan, the remaining 21% are from the other cities of the country. 36% of them were interviewed in Umm Saad, 15% in Garaboli, 12% in Al Jaghbub. The remaining 37% are distributed in the different areas of assessment in Libya.

Migrants originating from Chad came generally from Batha (31%) and Lac (26%). The majority (58%) were surveyed in Zliten, and 24% in Garaboli.

23% of Nigerians surveyed were from Edo, 18% from Lagos, 13% from Yobe, the remaining 46% came from the other cities of Nigeria. 25% of them were surveyed in Sabratah, 23% in Sabha, 17% in Garaboli, and 15% in Al Qatrun. The remaining 20% are distributed in the different area of assessment in Libya.

This report focuses on two groups: those from countries directly bordering Libya (62% of all respondents) and nationalities from West Africa (33% of all respondents). The first group includes respondents from Egypt, Niger, Sudan, Chad, Tunisia and Algeria. The second group includes respondents from Nigeria, Mali, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Senegal, Guinea-Bissau, Gambia, Côte d’Ivoire, Guinea, Togo, Mauritania, Sierra Leone, Liberia and Benin.

Egyptians and Nigeriens account for 63% of respondents from countries bordering Libya, while respondents from Nigeria, Mali and Burkina Faso comprise 54% of respondents from West Africa. The detailed breakdown of nationalities is presented in the two graphs below.

* Other nationalities include Guinea-Bissau, Gambia, Côte d’Ivoire, Guinea, Togo, Mauritania, Sierra Leone, Liberia and Benin

**Nationals from Central-West African countries and from Morocco (5% of all respondents) were excluded from the following analysis due to their small sample size.
Demographics

Men comprised 96% of all respondents. 58% of migrants surveyed were in their twenties. Individuals coming from West African countries are generally younger than those coming from countries bordering Libya. The average age of respondents from countries directly bordering Libya being 29 years, while the average age of the respondents from West Africa was 26 years. The average age for men was 28, while the average age for women was 25 years.

The percentage of individuals reporting being single was highest among respondents from West Africa (62%), compared to respondents from countries directly bordering Libya (50%). 49% of the respondents from countries directly bordering Libya reported being married versus 35% from West Africa. The rest of the respondents reported being divorced, widowed or did not provide an answer.

Reasons for Leaving Countries of Origin

The majority of the respondents reported having left their countries of origin because of economic reasons (87% in total and the percentage is higher in West Africa), 7% reported limited access to basic services, 4% reported war or political reasons for leaving, and the remaining 2% of the respondents reported other reasons for leaving.
Countries of Departure Routes: Egypt, Niger, Chad and Sudan

Out of the 2,466 interviews carried out, 22% of respondents reported to have departed from Egypt, 20% from Niger, 9% from Sudan, 9% from Chad, 8% from Nigeria. The remaining 32% departed from other African countries.

The map below shows the routes taken by migrants from Egypt, Niger, Chad and Sudan to reach Libya.
Transit routes

The map below shows the most common routes migrants departing from Egypt and Niger took to reach Libya. 93% of migrants who departed from Niger travelled directly to Libya. The remaining 7% reached Libya through Algeria. 96% of the respondents who departed from Egypt reached Libya directly. The remaining 4% of the respondents travelled to Libya through Sudan.

93% of individuals departing from Sudan reached Libya directly, with the other 7% travelling mainly through Egypt. Those departing from Chad also travelled mainly directly to Libya (93%) the remaining 7% travel through Niger.

Education levels and Employment Status

The majority of the respondents (67%) reported not having obtained any formal levels of education: 43% for West African nationals and 24% for participants from countries bordering Libya.

For primary and secondary levels of education the percentages are very close for both groups of countries as shown in the graph below.

Respondents from countries directly bordering Libya were more likely to report having obtained vocational education; however (16%, as compared to 6% of Western African nationals), particularly in the case of Egypt, where 32% of Egyptian nationals reported having obtained vocational education.
The majority of respondents reported being unemployed at the time of departure. The percentage was slightly higher among West African nationals (80%), compared to 74% of respondents from countries directly bordering Libya.

More than the half of those who had been employed (54%) reported working in agriculture or pastoralism across all countries. There is a marked difference in the distribution of employment professions between the two groups of countries, however. Individuals coming from countries bordering Libya were more heavily weighted towards working in agriculture in their country of departure, whereas the results were more heterogeneous for West African nationals.

**Journey**

The majority of respondents came to Libya over 6 months ago, especially those migrants who departed from countries bordering Libya (83%). Although 56% of West African nationals also spent over 6 months in Libya, a significant portion of them had been in the country for less than 3 months.

The majority of respondents (72%) were travelling with a group: 70% of them reported travelling without relatives, while 30% reported travelling with family members. They mainly travel by land using vehicles (91% of the surveyed individuals).
Cost of Journey

The majority of respondents from countries directly bordering Libya (75%) reported the estimated cost of their journey as being less than 1,000 USD per person. 71% of West African nationals reported the estimated cost of their journey as between 1,000 and 5,000 USD. A further 4% of respondents from West Africa reported paying over 5,000 USD.

Destination Countries

Libya was the main destination country for the majority of migrants surveyed. 63% of all respondents reported Libya as the destination country, while 13% reported Italy as the country of intended destination. The remaining 24% reported other countries.

83% of Egyptians, 87% of Nigeriens, 80% of Sudanese and 33% of Nigerians reported Libya as the destination country.

Libya as Destination

The majority of respondents (76%) chose Libya as their country of destination because of appealing socio-economic conditions, and 4% to join family relatives. The remaining 20% mentioned other reasons.

The majority of those respondents who reported Libya as their destination country reported having no relatives there (69%), while 24% reported having non-nuclear relatives and 4% nuclear family members. The remaining 3% did not provide an answer.
**Methodology**

IOM successfully trained a select group of 26 enumerators on IOM’s Flow Monitoring methodology and approach. Each Flow Monitoring area is monitored by two enumerators collecting information at the main transit points. Data collected in each area is triangulated with key informants, verified by IOM in Libya (Tripoli) and cross-referenced with IOM’s Mobility Tracking data by DTM’s experts in Tunis.

Flow Monitoring aims to track migrants irrespective of the causes, voluntary or involuntary, and the means, regular or irregular. IOM’s methodology to track migrants is two-fold, firstly to regularly identify and map locations and estimates of numbers of migrants currently transiting through a selected location and secondly to regularly identify and profile sample caseloads of migrants transiting through each location.

The Flow Monitoring methodology includes a baseline assessment and a profiling survey. Both tools strive to provide a comprehensive understanding of migrant routes, locations and numbers, as well as information on types of residence, demographics, vulnerabilities, push and pull factors for migration, country of origin, challenges confronted and length of migration.

Flow Monitoring teams are deployed to the flow monitoring point to interview migrants directly and gather both quantitative and qualitative information.

Baseline assessments gather cumulative information on the number of migrants transiting through a specific area. The baseline assessment works to gather continuous information on the migrants’ nationalities, demographic breakdown, countries of origin and countries of intended destination and mode of transport. Baseline assessments are carried out on a continuous basis by DTM enumerators in order to gauge and quantify the flow of migrants at specific points. Flow Monitoring’s baseline assessment provide comprehensive quantitative information used for IOM’s Statistical Reports.

Surveys gather information about migrant profiles, including age, sex, areas of origin, levels of education, key transit points on their route, cost of journey, motives, and intentions. In contrast to the baseline assessments, responses are analysed by nationality rather than being based on where the interviews were conducted. Populations moving through Libya are reported as moving rapidly and staying in areas for a short period of time, and can therefore be considered part of the same “flow”, and the same interview questions are used in all areas.

The questionnaire contains 20 questions translated into Arabic, French and English. Respondents are approached in an ad hoc manner by IOM field staff, with those who give their consent to be interviewed proceeding with the remainder of the questions. This may constitute a selection bias, since those willing to respond tend to be young adult males who are confident enough to be interviewed in a public space, and who speak Arabic. Not all locations where interviews are conducted dispose of translators, and although the interview forms are translated, in practice many interviews are by necessity initiated by field staff striking up a basic conversation in Arabic. The Flow Monitoring survey enables the identification of interesting trends worthy of further investigation, and the findings can be compared with other sources of information for a fuller picture.