

Refugees and migrants' access to food, shelter & NFIs, WASH and assistance in Libya

Mixed migration routes and dynamics in Libya

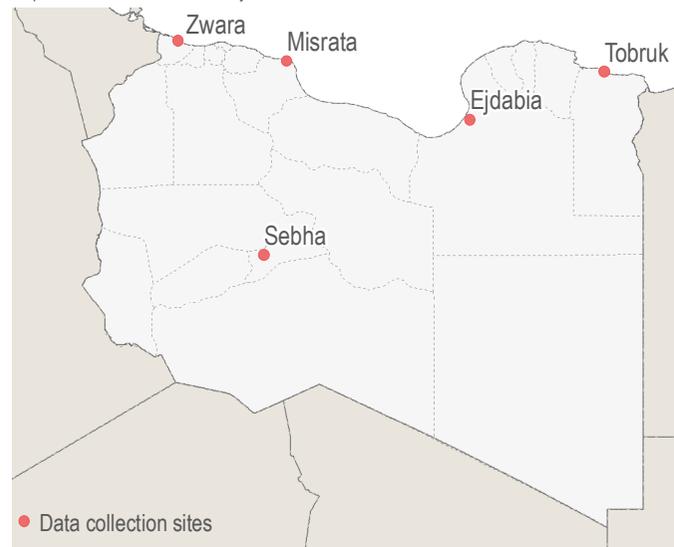
November 2018

CONTEXT

As of October 2018, the United Nations (UN) estimates that 798,000 individuals are in need of humanitarian assistance in Libya. Of them, 412,000 are refugees and migrants,¹ including individuals who are in Libya primarily to work and individuals who aim to transit to Europe from Libyan shores. The majority of them live outside detention centres, where data collection for this study took place.²

Since the beginning of 2018, the body of literature on the situation of refugees and migrants in Libya has been growing. Studies conducted in the course of 2018 have focused on the protection risks refugees and migrants face in Libya, their mobility within the country, access to cash, and the impact of the European Union (EU) migration measures and the liquidity crisis on the everyday lives of refugees and migrants in Libya.³

Map 1: Data collection sites in Libya



However, only very limited information has previously been available on refugees and migrants' needs in other key humanitarian sectors, including on refugees' and migrants' access to food, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), shelter and non-food items (NFIs),⁴ as well as their access to assistance in Libya.

IMPACT, in partnership with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), conducted an assessment on refugees and migrants' access to food, shelter and NFIs, WASH and assistance to inform humanitarian response planning in these sectors in support of the Inter-Sector Coordination Group's Humanitarian Needs Overview 2019. Data collection took place between 14 and 23 September 2018 in the east, west, and south of Libya, more specifically, in Tobruk, Sebha, Misrata, Ejdabia and Zwara. Data was collected through 151 semi-structured individual interviews with refugees and migrants, sampled on the basis of their region of origin and time of arrival in Libya. In parallel, REACH conducted in 2018 a multi-sector needs assessment (MSNA) to shed light on Libyans' needs and vulnerabilities in the country. The indicators used for the MSNA and this present assessment were drafted to allow for comparison when appropriate. Results are based on qualitative data, all findings should be treated as indicative only.

Key findings

Food: one in three refugees and migrants interviewed had either a borderline or a poor food consumption score (FCS). Respondents' FCS tended to differ by region of origin and respondents' location in Libya with West African nationals and respondents in Sebha displaying the lowest FCS.

WASH: one third of refugees and migrants interviewed reported not having had access to sufficient drinking water in the previous month; most were situated in the south or the east of the country.

Shelter & NFIs: respondents stayed in different types of shelter, with the majority of them relying on oral rental agreements. One in five respondents reported having been evicted or being at risk of eviction, illustrating the vulnerable shelter situation for many refugees and migrants in the country. West African respondents were most likely to live in damaged shelters and were also more likely to live in overcrowded shelters.

Assistance: the vast majority of refugees and migrants interviewed reported not having received humanitarian assistance in the six previous months in Libya.

Access to information: refugees and migrants reported a disconnect between the information sources they accessed and those they trusted most. While social media was the most used information source, as readily available, no respondent reported this to be their preferred information source, with respondents preferring personal contacts, both in Libya and abroad.

REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS' ACCESS TO FOOD

Number of meals eaten per day

The majority of respondents reportedly ate two to three meals on a typical day (124/151). Twelve individuals reportedly only ate one meal per day, with 11 respondents eating more than three meals on a typical day.⁵

Figure 1: Number of meals per day



All respondents who reportedly only ate one meal per day were living in Sebha and Zwara (six each). The other individuals who reportedly only ate one meal per day were two East African respondents and one person from the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region.

Sources of food

The most reported food sources were (1) the market, where respondents bought produce with cash (149/151), (2) respondents' employers, who gave them food in exchange for work (82/151) and (3) relatives and friends (52/151). Food sources used were similar among respondents from different regions of origin and in different parts of Libya.

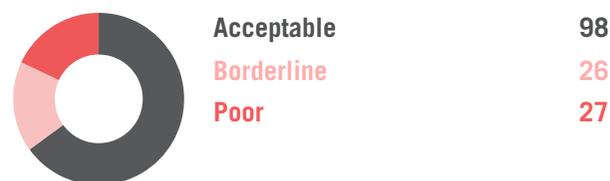
Figure 2: Self-reported primary food sources⁶



Food consumption score

The majority of refugees and migrants interviewed had an acceptable food consumption score (FCS; 98/151).⁷ However, 53 individuals had an either borderline or poor FCS, found for 26 and 27 respondents respectively.

Figure 3: Refugees and migrants' food consumption score



In comparison, REACH found in its Multi-Sector Needs Assessment (MSNA)⁸ on Libyans in 18 mantikas, Libya's districts (admin level 2), REACH found that 83% of the Libyan population overall had an acceptable FCS.⁹ This was followed by 10% who had a borderline FCS and 7% who had a poor FCS.¹⁰

Among refugees and migrants interviewed, poor or borderline FCS were particularly found in the south and the west of the country. In Sebha, 13 and 9 out of 30 respondents were found to have a borderline and poor FCS, respectively. Among refugees and migrants in Zwara, 17 out of 30 respondents were found to have a poor FCS and 7 individuals had a borderline FCS.

Respondents from West African countries tended to have the lowest FCS among refugees and migrants interviewed. More specifically, 34 out of 71 respondents of West African origin had either a poor or borderline FCS, compared to only 7 out of 43 Middle Eastern respondents. Among the 34 East African respondents, 10 individuals had a poor or borderline FCS. West Africans are generally deemed to be among the most vulnerable refugee and migrant groups in the country, as they face widespread discrimination, have usually lower education levels and work in some of the most physically demanding types of work, mostly in construction and agriculture.¹¹

Figure 4: FCS by respondents' location

	Ejdabia	Misrata	Sebha	Tobruk	Zwara
Acceptable	25	29	8	30	6
Borderline	4	2	13	0	7
Poor	1	0	9	0	17

'Over the past week, I had one or two meals per day. I ate bread, pasta, rice and vegetables.'

Ethiopian man, 27, Ejdabia

Refugees and migrants' access to food, WASH, shelter & NFIs and assistance in Libya

Libya | November 2018

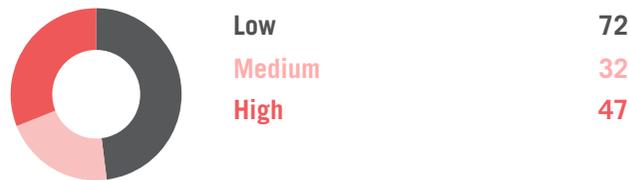
Individuals who had been in Libya for one year or more tended to have a lower FCS, compared to respondents who had been in the country for less than one year. Among respondents who had been in the country for one year or more, just about more than half had an acceptable FCS (55/100), compared to 43 out of 51 respondents who had been in the country less than one year. Previous assessments have showed that due to the deteriorating economic situation in the country, respondents aimed to spend as little money as possible on food, to save as much money as possible to support the family back home or for other reasons tied to the personal situation of the individual interviewed.¹² These saving strategies could explain why respondents who have stayed in Libya for more than a year displayed lower FCS than individuals who arrived less than a year ago.

Food coping strategy index

The aim of the food coping strategy index (FCSI) is to calculate the severity of food coping strategies employed by respondents. First, REACH assigned a severity weight to each coping strategy, using the methodology developed by the World Food Programme (WFP) and then multiplied it by the number of days the strategy was used by the individual in the last seven days. The FCSI score obtained is then low (between 0 to 3), medium (between 4-9) or high (between 10-56). In the last week and out of the coping strategies used, 45 refugees and migrants interviewed reported relying on less preferred or less expensive food, 42 reduced the number of meals eaten per day, 38 borrowed food or relied on help from friends or relatives, 31 reduced the size of portions or meals and finally, 7 reduced the quantity consumed by adults so children could eat.

Among refugees and migrants interviewed, the relative majority of respondents had a low FCSI score (72/151). However, almost one third of respondents had a high FCSI score (47/151), followed by 32 individuals who had a medium FCSI score.

Figure 5: Refugees and migrants' FCSI score



More severe coping strategies were reported in Zwara, where 22 out of 30 respondents had a high FCSI and in Ejdabia, where 15 out of 30 individuals had a high FCSI. Respondents in Misrata and Tobruk tended to use less severe food coping strategies, with the majority of respondents in both locations having a low FCSI (29/31 and 22/30 respectively).

Respondents from West Africa tended to employ more severe food coping strategies, compared to individuals from other regions of origin. While 24 out of 71 West African respondents had a high FCSI score, with a further 19 who had a medium FCSI score, the majority of respondents from the MENA region had a low FCSI score (28/43). Among the 34 East African respondents, 16 had a low FCSI score, compared to 12 who had a high FCSI.

'Sometimes I do not have enough money because I send most of it to my family.'

Nigerien man, 19, Misata

Figure 6: FCSI score by respondents' region of origin

	MENA	East Africa	West Africa
High	21%	35%	34%
Medium	14%	18%	27%
Low	65%	47%	39%

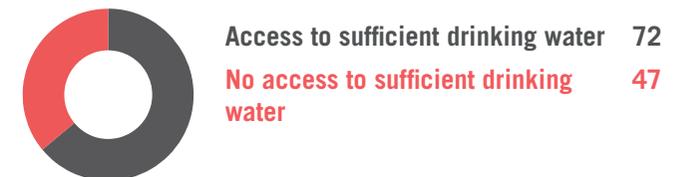
Respondents who had been in the country for one year or longer were also found to use more severe food coping strategies, as found for one in three respondents (37/100), compared to one in five respondents, who had been in Libya for less than one year (10/51). This illustrates how individuals who have been staying in the country for longer may become more vulnerable over time, as they deplete their resources the longer they stay.

WASH

Access to drinking water

One third of refugees and migrants interviewed reported not having had sufficient access to drinking water in the previous month (54/151). This was particularly perceived by individuals in Sebha (30/54) and in Tobruk (14/54) and, to a lesser extent, in Zwara (9/54). The majority of respondents

Figure 7: Respondents' self-reported access to sufficient drinking water in previous month



who reported not having had sufficient drinking water were from West Africa (33/54).

In previous articles, it was reported that access to drinking water in Libya had become more difficult in several areas of the country. Reasons cited included the shortage of rainfall, a lack of regulation in drilling and the destruction of infrastructures,¹³ which may explain refugees and migrants' difficulty in accessing sufficient drinking water.

The majority of respondents (138/151) qualified the drinking water as 'good'. Six individuals reported that their drinking water tasted bad and three reported their drinking water smelt bad. No variations were found in the reported quality of drinking water between locations and respondents' regions of origin.

Sources of drinking water

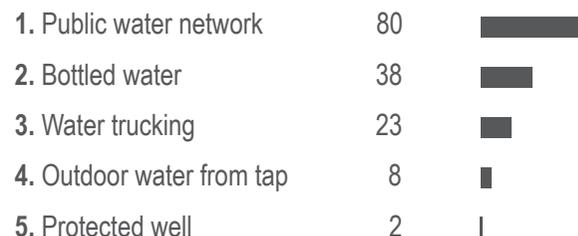
More than half of respondents (80/151) reported using water from the public network as their main source of drinking water. Thirty-eight respondents used bottled water, 23 used water trucking, 8 used outdoor tap water accessible to the public and 2 used water from a protected well.

While most refugees and migrants interviewed in Ejdabia and Sebha primarily used water from the public network (respectively 29/30 and 22/30), none reported relying on it as their main source of drinking water in Zwara. Respondents in Zwara mostly used bottled water (19/30) and water trucking (7/30). Buying bottled drinking water was more frequently reported by respondents from the MENA region (13/43) and East Africa (11/34), compared to individuals from West Africa (12/71).

The reported level of access to water from the public network was mixed. While the relative majority of respondents reported never having access to the public water network

(47/151), 42 individuals reported having access to it most days, followed by 38 individuals who reportedly always had access to it. Furthermore, 24 respondents reported that they only rarely had access to the public water network. Such variation was also found in previous studies on the public water network in Libya.¹⁴

Figure 8: Main source of drinking water used in previous month



Access to water for hygiene and cooking purposes

The majority of respondents used their drinking water source also as their general water source for cooking and washing (97/151). For those who reported using a different water source for cooking or washing, the most reported sources were (1) a protected well (23/54) and (2) the public water network (19/151). Eleven individuals relied on water trucking with one respondent reportedly using a public outdoor tap to access water.

Sanitation facilities used

The most frequently reported types of toilets refugees and migrants had access to close to or within their shelter were flush toilets (75/151), followed by pour and dry toilets (74/151). Three refugees and migrants reported not having access to a toilet in or close to their shelter.¹⁵

Solid waste management practices

In the 30 days before data collection, 67 respondents reportedly put their trash in a public place designated for waste disposal while the municipality (or other authority) collected the trash of 32 respondents, on a weekly basis in most cases (25/32). However, negative waste management practices were also reported as 57 refugees and migrants interviewed left their waste on the road and 11 also buried or burned it, with most cases reported in Zwara (10/11).

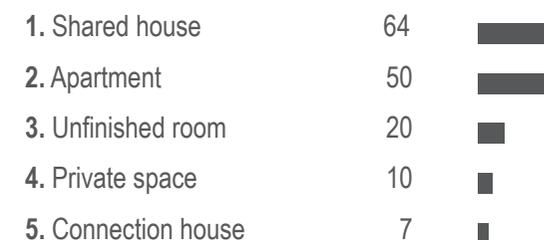
None of the respondents from the MENA region interviewed reportedly burned their waste in the month prior to data collection.

SHELTER & NFIs

Shelter types

The majority of refugees and migrants interviewed (114/151) lived in a shared house or an apartment and 20 respondents lived in an unfinished room. Only 10 out of 151 respondents lived in a private space and 7 individuals lived in connection houses, which are warehouses managed by smugglers for refugees and migrants on the move to Europe.¹⁶ Similar proportions of refugees and migrants living in these shelter types were also found in a study conducted by REACH in December 2017.¹⁷

Figure 9: Respondents' shelter types



Refugees and migrants' access to food, WASH, shelter & NFIs and assistance in Libya

Libya | November 2018

The majority of respondents shared their room with one to three other people (103/151). However, 36 individuals shared their room with 4 to 6 people, followed by 7 individuals who reportedly shared with 7 to 10 people and 2 with 11 to 20 people. At the same time, more than half of respondents (83/151) perceived living in a room that was between 1 to 10m², out of whom 25 individuals perceived living in a room that was less than 5m².

Figure 10: Number of individuals respondents shared sleeping room with

1. Between 1 and 3	103	
2. Between 4 and 6	36	
3. Between 7 and 10	7	
4. Between 11 and 20	2	

The high number of individuals per room meant that interviewed refugees and migrants not only lacked privacy but were also more exposed to security or eviction risks. In a study conducted by REACH in December 2017, respondents had flagged the risk of theft at home as a consequence of overcrowding.¹⁸ In addition, 13 refugees and migrants interviewed reported living in particularly poor or 'unhealthy' shelters, staying in an accommodation without water, kitchen, toilet or window.

Housing arrangement

More than two thirds of refugees and migrants interviewed rented an accommodation without having a written contract, relying on an oral agreement with their landlord (83/151). Thirty-three respondents lived in an accommodation provided by their employer, followed by 27 individuals who reportedly had a written rental agreement with their landlord.

Six out of 151 refugees and migrants interviewed were hosted for free by friends or family. Similar proportions of living arrangements reported by refugee and migrant respondents were also found by another study conducted by REACH in December 2017.¹⁹

Figure 11: Respondents' housing arrangements

1. Rental (verbal agreement)	83	
2. Housing provided by employer	33	
3. Rental (written contract)	27	
4. Hosted for free	6	
5. Ownership	1	
6. Housing provided by public authority	1	

The type of housing arrangement differed by respondents' regions of origin. While the majority of West Africans interviewed reportedly had a verbal rental agreement only (46/71), individuals from the MENA region were most likely to have a written rental agreement (13/43), illustrating their more settled situation in the country.²⁰

In comparison, according to the REACH MSNA, the vast majority of non-displaced Libyan nationals own a shelter (84%),²¹ compared to only 9% who rely on an oral rental agreement and 5% who reportedly have a written rental agreement.

'I live in a big house of 8 rooms, 1 bathroom and 1 kitchen, we are 30 persons living here. We cook outside in the summer and inside in the winter. The roof is worn out and needs maintenance. Water enters when it rains.'

Ghanaian man, 28, Zwara

Risk of eviction

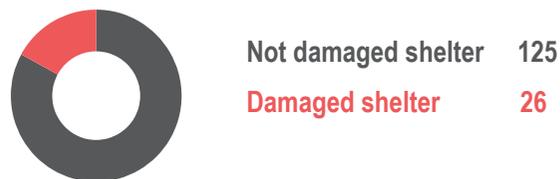
One in five respondents reported having been recently evicted or threatened to be evicted (30/151), a much higher proportion than among the Libyan population assessed in the MSNA 2018, where only 3% reported being threatened with eviction and 7% having been evicted. The locations in which these cases were reported were mainly Zwara (12/30) and Sebha (10/30). The top three reasons reported by refugees and migrants for (risk of) eviction were (1) because the owner increased the rent/asked for more money, (2) because respondents could not afford the rent anymore, due to reduced personal funds and (3) because the owner wanted them to leave.

Housing represents one of the main expenses for refugees and migrants. Findings from a recent study on refugees and migrants' access and interaction with cash in Libya in June 2018 found that interviewed refugees and migrants spent almost one third of their income on housing and food (32%)²² and findings in a study by REACH in December 2017 highlighted that housing prices had substantially increased compared to the previous year.²³ The absence of written rental agreements and respondents' reliance on their employer for housing make refugees and migrants more vulnerable to exploitation at the hands of landlords and employers.

Damaged shelters

The majority of respondents (125/151) did not report living in a damaged shelter. However, 26 individuals out of 151 had one or more rooms in their shelter that was reportedly damaged and, out of these individuals, 20 lived in an unfinished room. In addition, 12 respondents reportedly lived in shelters with one or more rooms open to the elements (e.g. broken or missing windows, holes in walls etc.). Refugees and migrants who reported living in damaged shelters or shelters open to the elements were predominantly from West Africa (27/38).

Figure 12: Respondents living in damaged shelters



Most of them lived in **Sebha (20/38)**, **Ejdabia (7/38)**, and **Zwara (6/38)**. The high number of interviewed refugees and migrants living in damaged shelters raises protection concerns. This trend is all the more worrying considering that refugees and migrants' already face heightened risk of armed robbery due to their irregular situation in the country, as confirmed in other studies.²⁴

Figure 13: Respondents living in a damaged shelter by region of origin



No significant difference in shelter characteristics was found between respondents who had been in Libya for one year or more and those who had been in the country for less than one year. This suggests that as refugees and migrants spend more time in Libya, their housing conditions do not necessarily deteriorate (as opposed to conditions in other sectors such as access to food), nor improve.

Neighbourhood description

When asked to describe their neighbourhood, one out of three (47/151) refugees and migrants interviewed mentioned that their neighbourhood was unsafe due to armed robbery and/or militia clashes. Furthermore, 12 respondents out of 47 mentioned they did not go out at night due to security concerns. REACH reported similar findings in December 2017,²⁵ with respondents reported feeling particularly vulnerable to robbery and kidnapping. Furthermore, some neighbourhoods were perceived to be safer than others. Specifically, the city centre of Zwara was deemed relatively safe while the industrial areas of Tobruk, Zwara and Ejdabia were deemed particularly unsafe.

'The neighbourhood is safe during the day, but at night it is not safe. Foreigners are always threatened and robbed. Sometimes, thieves break into the house and take our money or phones. The house is a large store divided into rooms that are almost separated from each other. My room is approximately 10m² big and 6 to 10 people sleep in the same room. We have one bathroom.'

Senegalese man, 35, Sebha

Access to electricity

All refugees and migrants interviewed reportedly used the government grid as their most common source of electricity, with only 43 respondents out of 151 having a generator as a second source of electricity. The low number of respondents who reported having a backup power supply in case of power outage suggests that respondents have limited access to electricity, considering the frequent disruptions to the electrical grid observed in the west and south of the country.²⁶

When asked about the amount of time spent without electricity in the last 7 days, the average was 7.38 hours per day, with discrepancies between the assessed mantikas. Sebha was found to be the most affected by power outages. Refugees and migrants interviewed in Sebha reported not having electricity between 12 to 14 hours per day in the week prior to the assessment. Refugees and migrants in Zwara reported not having electricity for an average of 5 to 11 hours per day. The least affected regions were Misrata (mainly 3 to 8 hours/day), Tobruk (mainly 3 to 8 hours/day) and Ejdabia (mainly 0 to 5 hours/day). Finally, 27 refugees and migrants interviewed reported not having access to electricity for 15 hours or more per day, compared to only 1% of Libyans reporting this in the MSNA.

Access to fuel

Cooking fuel

The majority of respondents reported having regular access to cooking fuel (90/151), followed by 49 individuals who reported only having irregular access to cooking fuel. Eleven individuals reported not needing cooking fuel, as they ate food at their employer's.

Vehicle fuel

Almost two thirds of respondents (98/151) reported not using or needing vehicle fuel, as they did not have a vehicle. Among those who reportedly used vehicle fuel, 37 reported having regular access, with 11 reporting having irregular access. Two respondents reported not having any access to vehicle fuel. Respondents who used vehicle fuel were predominantly from the MENA region.

Generator fuel

Among respondents who reported using fuel for generators,

31 reported having regular access to fuel, compared to 9 who reportedly had irregular access.

Heating system

While the majority of respondents reported relying on an electric heating system (104/151), 27 respondents reportedly heated their shelter using wood or fire; this was particularly reported in Zwara (17/27). Only three individuals reported heating with gas or fuel.

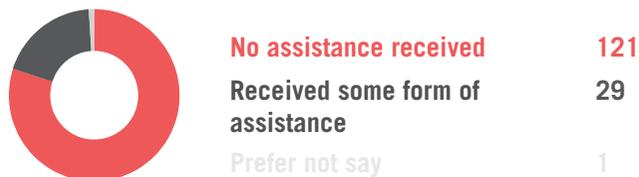
One in five refugees and migrants interviewed said that they did not have any heating system in their shelter (31/151). In comparison, among Libyans interviewed in the MSNA, a comparatively low 6% of respondents reported not having a heating system in their shelter.²⁷

ASSISTANCE

Assistance received

The majority of refugees and migrants interviewed reported not receiving any type of assistance from governmental, humanitarian or civil society actors in the six months prior to data collection (121/151). Among the 29 respondents who had received some assistance, the majority had received in-kind assistance, such as food, reported by 25 individuals. Four individuals had received both cash and in-kind assistance.

Figure 14: Assistance received by respondents in previous six months



The majority of respondents who had received assistance were of West African origin and located in the south or in the west of Libya. Eighteen of the 29 respondents who had received assistance were from West Africa; 16 of the 30 respondents interviewed in Sebha had received assistance, followed by respondents in Zwara, where 6 out of 30 had received assistance. In Sebha, Zwara and Misrata all assistance respondents had received was in kind (respectively 18, 5 and 4 individuals).

Respondents who had been living in Libya for one year or longer were more likely to have received assistance, compared to more recently arrived migrants (25/100, compared to 4/51). This may be because more recently arrived individuals may be more likely to transit through Libya and live in more hidden accommodation sites, therefore more difficult to access and reach out to.

Sources of assistance

The majority of assistance received was reportedly provided by either international or local non-governmental organisations (NGOs) (13/29 and 13/29 respectively). Eight individuals reported having received private donations with only two and one respondent respectively reporting having received assistance from a religious entity or a government authority.

Among the 29 respondents who received assistance in the six months before data collection, the majority said they faced no barriers in accessing it (23/29). Among those who reportedly faced barriers, four individuals reported that they did not have the documentation rendering them eligible to apply, while one individual reported not being aware of the assistance available until it was too late for them to apply.

Preferred assistance

When asked what kind of assistance respondents would find most useful in the future, the relative majority reportedly preferred receiving cash, through transfers, vouchers or cash-in-hand (50/151). This was followed by 41 respondents who would like to receive both cash and in-kind assistance and 33 who preferred in-kind assistance, such as food or NFI distributions. Twenty-three respondents reported not wanting to receive any sort of assistance. This was particularly frequently reported in Tobruk (12/23) and by respondents from the MENA region (13/23), illustrating their relatively less vulnerable situation in Libya.

Figure 15: Sources of assistance received²⁸

1. International NGO	13	■
2. Local NGO	13	■
3. Private donation	8	■
4. Religious entity	2	
5. Government authority	1	

Access to information on humanitarian assistance

When asked about the primary source of information respondents used to access information on possible humanitarian assistance, most reported sources were (1) social media (82/151), (2) family members or friends (52/151) and (3) TV (48/151). Thirty-three individuals reported relying on information provided directly by humanitarian organisations, or, in 29 cases, by charities.

Refugees and migrants' access to food, WASH, shelter & NFIs and assistance in Libya

Libya | November 2018

Refugees and migrants' low reliance on official actors, such as the government, humanitarian organisations and charities, for help or as sources of information was also found in a study REACH conducted in June 2018 on refugees and migrants' access to cash.²⁹ In that study, respondents were asked who they went to for help if they were not paid by their employers. Most reported sources of support reported were Libyan friends (77/120) and the migrant community (48/120). Only 10 individuals reported going to the police for help, illustrating the importance of interpersonal relations for refugees and migrants in Libya.

Figure 16: Information sources used VS preferred (multiple replies were possible)

Information sources used		Information sources preferred
Social media (82)	1.	Family or friends in Libya (111)
Family or friends in Libya (52)	2.	Place of worship (53)
TV (48)	3.	UN (50)
Int'l/ local NGO (33)	4.	Family or friends outside Libya (45)
Charity (29)	5.	Int'l NGO (30)
Radio (24)	6.	Local NGO (29)

In contrast, when asked which sources of information on humanitarian assistance respondents preferred, the majority reported family and/ or friends in Libya (111/151), followed by places of worship (53/151) or the United Nations (UN) (50/151) as their preferred sources. Respondents also reported family and/or friends outside Libya as a preferred source of information on humanitarian assistance in the country (45/151), followed, reported by less individuals, by INGOs and local NGOs (reported by 30 and 29 respondents respectively). Preferred information sources were described as the ones individuals most trusted, compared to those which were more accessible, such as social media, the most reported actual source of information. Government authorities and community leaders were both among the least used and least preferred sources of information.

Types of information preferred

Refugees and migrants interviewed were also asked about the type of information they would find most useful to receive. **The most reported types of information were (1) how to access financial support (90/151); (2) information on the security situation in the country (71/151); and (3) how to access government-subsidised goods (55/120).**³⁰ Other types of information respondents reported finding useful were how to access non-financial aid; and how to find work.

One in five respondents reported wanting to receive more information on legal onward travel from Libya, notably resettlement (28/151).³¹ This was particularly frequently reported by asylum seekers from East Africa, who knew they could be eligible to the scheme, reported by one in three respondents of East African origin (10/34). A comparatively low number of individuals reported wanting information on assisted voluntary return programmes for migrants in Libya (8/151).³²

This was also found in a study REACH conducted in April 2018,³³ where respondents reported to be overall well informed about assisted voluntary return schemes available in the country.

Figure 17: What information respondents would like to receive (multiple replies were possible)

1. How to receive financial support	90
2. Security situation	71
3. How to access government subsidies	55
4. How to get aid	45
5. How to find work	40
6. How to access resettlement	28
7. How to address education	9
8. How to access personal documentation	9
9. How to access healthcare	8
10. How to access voluntary return	8

A relatively small proportion of respondents reported wanting information on how to access education or healthcare, reported by respectively nine and eight respondents. This was reportedly tied to respondents' plans in Libya in relation to education, as most refugees and migrants interviewed did not aim to access education in Libya, nor had children, or, in the case of healthcare, because the majority of them had not been in need of healthcare and hence had not required information on how to access it.

Refugees and migrants' access to food, WASH, shelter & NFIs and assistance in Libya

Libya | November 2018

CONCLUSION

The aim of the present assessment was to provide a first overview of refugees and migrants' access to food, WASH, shelter and NFIs and assistance as of October 2018. Overall, the assessment found that refugees and migrants' access to food, WASH, shelter and NFIs in Libya is impacted by many factors, resulting in different vulnerability profiles and needs, depending on, among others, respondents' regions of origin, time of arrival and location in Libya. West African respondents emerged as a particular vulnerable group, and refugees and migrants interviewed in Sebha, Ejdabia and Zwara displayed heightened needs compared to respondents interviewed in other locations. Furthermore, access to humanitarian assistance remains limited. Respondents reportedly mostly relied on social media as their primary source of information to access humanitarian assistance. Yet, respondents predominantly reported that they wished to receive information on humanitarian assistance through more trusted sources, such as personal contacts and official sources. This illustrates the importance for humanitarian actors to use such information channels in order to reach refugees and migrants in need.

METHODOLOGY

Between 14 and 23 September, IMPACT assessed refugees and migrants' humanitarian needs in Tobruk, Sebha, Misrata, Ejdabia and Zwara. The assessed mantikas were sampled on the basis of hosting large proportions of refugees and migrants in Libya on the basis of IOM DTM figures, as well as representing the three regional centres of the country, ie. the west, east and south of Libya. Due to ongoing violence in parts of the country, locations were also selected based on their accessibility.

In each location, 30 in-depth semi-structured individual interviews were conducted with refugees and migrants, with the exception of Misrata, where 31 interviews were conducted. In each location, respondents were sampled purposively, on the basis of their length of stay in Libya (one year or more and less than one year) and their region of origin (West Africa, East Africa, MENA, Asia). The interviews mostly consisted of closed-ended questions adapted from the REACH Libya 2018 Multi Sector Needs Overview, with some modifications to cater to the particular situation of refugees and migrants in Libya.

Map 2: respondents' regions of origin

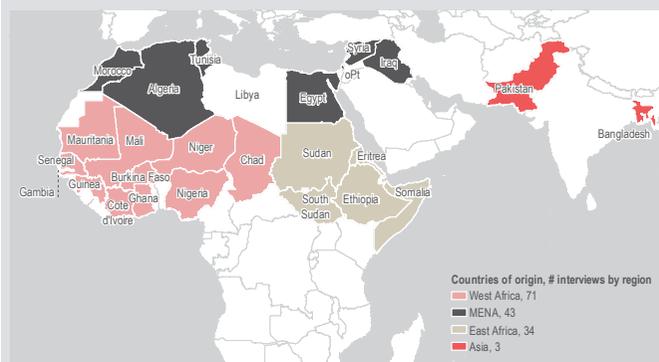


Table 1: Respondents' regions of origin by location

	West Africa	East Africa	MENA	Asia	Total
Ejdabia	14	9	7	0	30
Misrata	12	5	14	0	31
Sebha	23	3	4	0	30
Tobruk	12	10	8	0	30
Zwara	10	7	10	3	30

Data collection was carried out by field teams; all received tailored training on qualitative data collection and interview skills, as well as on ethical considerations around data collection with vulnerable groups. All information was triangulated with existing secondary data. As this assessment employed purposive sampling tools, the information in this situation overview should be considered indicative only and cannot be generalized for the entire population of refugees and migrants in Libya. Specifically, nationalities who are more likely to transit through Libya in organized smuggling networks and cannot be found in urban areas, such as Eritrean, Ethiopian and Somali nationals, are likely to be underrepresented in the present study. The present study only interviewed individuals in urban areas, hence no information on the situation of refugees and migrants in detention centres in particular was collected.

Refugees and migrants' access to food, WASH, shelter & NFIs and assistance in Libya

Libya | November 2018

Endnotes

- 1 For the purposes of this assessment the expression 'refugees and migrants' refers to all people in Libya, who are not Libyan nationals. This includes migrants, asylum seekers, refugees and other populations (such as victims of trafficking or unaccompanied and separated children), unless a distinction is otherwise made. Source: OCHA, Humanitarian Needs Overview: Libya 2019, forthcoming.
- 2 In April 2018, the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) estimated that between 700,000 to one million migrants and refugees were present in Libya. As of 21 December 2018, UNHCR reported 4,819 persons of concern in DCIM-operated detention centres. Source: DW, [Libya coastguard rescued 10 000 migrants in 2018](#), September 2018 and Refugees International, [Death Would Have Been Better. Europe continues to fail refugees and migrants in Libya](#), April 2018.
- 3 For information on refugees and migrants' access to cash and the impact of the liquidity crisis on refugees and migrants in Libya, please consult: REACH/UNHCR, [Access to cash and the impact of the liquidity crisis on refugees and migrants in Libya](#), June 2018. For information on refugees and migrants' protection risks, please consult the reports mentioned above, OHCHR and UNSMIL, [Desperate and Dangerous: Report on the human rights situation of migrants and refugees in Libya](#), 20 December 2018; UNHCR, [Desperate Journeys: Refugees and migrants arriving in Europe and at Europe's borders](#), January-August 2018, September 2018, 4MI/MMC, [Fraught with Risk - Research Paper: Protection concerns of people on the move across West Africa and Libya](#), May 2018; and MSF, [Evacuation of refugees and migrants out of Libya is urgently needed](#), September 2018.
- 4 NB: while no publicly available secondary data was found on refugees and migrants' access to food, WASH and NFIs in Libya, REACH, in partnership with the START Network, conducted in December 2017 an assessment on refugees and migrants' access to resources, healthcare and coping mechanisms, which included some shelter-specific findings. REACH/UNHCR, [Refugees and migrants' access to resources, healthcare and coping mechanisms](#), December 2017.
- 5 Four individuals did not respond to the question.
- 6 Respondents could select all responses that applied, hence the total of responses exceeds the total number of respondents (n=151).
- 7 Read: '98 out of 151 respondents obtained an acceptable Food Consumption Score (FCS)'. The FCS is a proxy indicator of food security developed by the World Food Programme. To know more about the FCS and how to compute it, please read: WFP, [Guidance Note - Calculation of household food security outcome indicators - WFP Vulnerability Analysis & Mapping Unit](#), December 2012.
- 8 REACH, [Libya: Multi-Sector Needs Assessment 2018](#), February 2019.
- 9 A total of 5,352 household (HH) surveys were completed (post-data cleaning) across 20 Libyan mantikas chosen to cover major population centres and areas of displacement. The sampling produced statistically generalisable results for all assessed displacement categories, as well as for 18 assessed mantikas and the city of Derna, with a confidence level of 95% and a margin of error of 10% (unless stated otherwise). Data for the mantika of Sirte is indicative only and should not be interpreted with statistical significance.
- 10 NB: As outlined, all findings presented on refugees and migrants are based on a qualitative methodology, based on purposive sampling. Hence, any comparison with findings on the Libyan population originating from the REACH MSNA should be only treated as indicative and cannot be generalised to represent overall trends between refugees and migrants and Libyans in the country.
- 11 REACH/UNHCR, [Access to cash and the impact of the liquidity crisis on refugees and migrants in Libya](#), June 2018 and REACH/UNHCR, [Refugees and migrants' access to resources, healthcare and housing in Libya: Key challenges and coping mechanisms](#), December 2017.
- 12 See REACH/UNHCR, [Access to cash and the impact of the liquidity crisis on refugees and migrants in Libya](#), June 2018 for further info.
- 13 Aidan Lewis, [Libya: Residents in Tripoli drill through pavements in desperate bid to find water](#), October 2017 and Bashir Brika, [Water Resources and Desalination in Libya: A review](#), August 2018.
- 14 REACH, [Libya: Multi-Sector Needs Assessment 2018](#), February 2019.
- 15 Please note that this was a multiple choice question, hence the total can surpass the total number of respondents (n=151).
- 16 REACH/UNHCR, [Refugees and Migrants' Access to Resources, Housing and Healthcare in](#)

[Libya](#), December 2017.

- 17 Ibid
- 18 Ibid
- 19 Ibid
- 20 Emigration from different countries in the region such as Egypt or Tunisia to Libya dates back from the 1960s. As such, thousands of migrants from the MENA region have come to work and settled in Libya several decades ago. Source: IOM, [Migration in Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia. Overview of the Complex Migratory Flows in the Region](#) or Robert Shuman Centre for Advanced Studies, [CARIM - Migration Profile: Libya](#), June 2011.
- 21 The trend is different for displaced Libyans as REACH found in the 2018 MSNA that only 25% of IDPs own their accommodation. (source: REACH, Multi-Sector Needs Assessment 2018, forthcoming.)
- 22 REACH/UNHCR, [Access to Cash and the Impact of the Liquidity Crisis on Refugees and Migrants in Libya](#), June 2018.
- 23 REACH/UNHCR, [Refugees and Migrants' Access to Resources, Housing and Healthcare in Libya](#), December 2017.
- 24 REACH/UNHCR, [Access to Cash and the Impact of the Liquidity Crisis on Refugees and Migrants in Libya](#), June 2018.
- 25 REACH, [Refugees and Migrants' Access to Resources, Housing and Healthcare in Libya](#), December 2017.
- 26 REACH, [Tripoli: Joint Rapid Situation Overview](#), September 2018.
- 27 REACH, [Libya: Multi-Sector Needs Assessment 2018](#), February 2019.
- 28 Respondents could select all responses that applied, hence the total of responses exceeds the total number of individuals who received assistance (n=29).
- 29 REACH/UNHCR, [Access to cash and the impact of the liquidity crisis on refugees and migrants in Libya](#), June 2018.
- 30 Multiple replies were possible. Even though officially refugees and migrants are not eligible for government-run subsidised goods, respondents reported that they would find information on these schemes useful, to understand better whether they are eligible or not and, in case, on how to access them. For further information on how the provision of subsidised goods in Libya works, please consult REACH/Libya [Cash and Markets Working Group, Market systems in Libya](#), October 2017.
- 31 UNHCR defines resettlement as "The transfer of refugees from the country in which they have sought refuge to another State that has agreed to admit them. The refugees will usually be granted asylum or some other form of long-term resident rights and, in many cases, will have the opportunity to become naturalized citizens. For this reason, resettlement is a durable solution as well as a tool for the protection of refugees. It is also a practical example of international burden- and responsibility-sharing." Source: UNHCR, [Master Glossary of Terms](#), June 2006, Rev.1.
- 32 The IOM defines AVRR as "Assisted voluntary return and, where applicable, reintegration involves administrative, logistical and financial support to rejected asylum-seekers, victims of trafficking in persons, stranded migrants, and other migrants unable or unwilling to remain in the host country who volunteer to return to their countries of origin." Source: [Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration, Annual Report of Activities 2011](#), August 2012
- 33 REACH/UNHCR, [Mixed migration routes and dynamics in Libya: the impact of EU migration measures on mixed migration in Libya](#), April 2018.

ABOUT IMPACT

IMPACT Initiatives is a Geneva based think-and-do-tank, created in 2010. IMPACT is a member of the ACTED Group.

IMPACT's teams implement assessment, monitoring & evaluation and organisational capacity-building programmes in direct partnership with aid actors or through its inter-agency initiatives, REACH and Agora. Headquartered in Geneva, IMPACT has an established field presence in over 22 countries. IMPACT's team is composed of over 300 staff, including 150 full-time international experts, as well as a roster of consultants, who are currently implementing over 50 programmes across Africa, Middle East and North Africa, Central and South-East Asia, and Eastern Europe.