

ASSESSMENT REPORT

ASSESSMENT OF THE SUDANESE WHO ARRIVED IN ALALKUFRA FOLLOWING THE APRIL 2023 CRISIS

13-20 February 2024

IOM LIBYA



ABSTRACT

To shed light on the numbers and vulnerabilities of the Sudanese community, IOM Libya assessed their situation in the east, focusing on the city of AlAlkufra.

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BACKGROUND ON THE CONFLICT

Heavy clashes between the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) and the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF), which erupted on 15 April 2023 in multiple cities across Sudan, resulted in the displacement of more than six million people, with more than 1.8 million people having crossed to Sudan's neighbouring countries to flee the conflict.¹

Official statistics and figures on the arrivals of Sudanese to Libya post-April 2023 are not available, but IOM Libya's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) enumerators have observed the arrivals of 6,293 Sudanese and Third Country Nationals (4,609 in Al Alkufra, 500 in Om El Araneb, and 1,184 in Algatroun), all related to the ongoing Sudan crisis. This includes 5,222 Sudanese refugees: 2,696 arriving indirectly from Chad (1,012 in Al Alkufra, 500 in Om El Araneb, and 1,184 in Algatroun) 2,526 arriving from Sudan directly (via Northern State and North Darfur) 600 Libyans returned from Sudan and 471 TCNs.

To date, UNHCR has registered 12,700 Sudanese individuals in Tripoli who claim to have arrived in Libya after April 15, 2023. Additionally, there are 1,751 Sudanese individuals awaiting registration with UNHCR Libya in Tripoli.

According to IOM Libya's DTM team, as of December 2023, there were an estimated 125,327 Sudanese migrant population in Libya, nearly half of whom resided in the eastern part of the country (48%) including 8,240 individuals in the municipality of Alkufra before the onset of the conflict. Based on DTM data, slightly less than half of Sudanese migrants in Libya prior to the April 2023 conflict were in western Libya (47%) regions, while a smaller percentage (6%) were in southern Libya.²

BACKGROUND ON ALKUFRA

Alkufra is an oasis town in south-eastern Libya, around 800 km south of Benghazi, 300 km west of Libya's border with Egypt, 400 km northwest of Sudan and 400 km north of the Chadian border. In Libya, it borders the regions (Mantikas) of Murzuq to the west, Aljufra in the northwest and Ejdabia to the north. Alkufra is the largest city in the region (Mantika) of the same name, which is the largest Mantika in Libya. Despite its isolation from other cities inside Libya, Alkufra is a strategic border town with historic importance for trade relations with Sudan and Chad.

Despite its semi-arid climate, there is abundant groundwater aquifers and large agricultural projects in the surrounding areas of Alkufra (e.g. mangos, olive, and palm trees). There are also many oil fields in Alkufra, making it an attractive location for those looking for job opportunities, including Sudanese migrants.

BACKGROUND ON THE ASSESSMENT

IOM Libya conducted an assessment in Alkufra to shed light on the numbers and vulnerabilities of the Sudanese community who arrived after the beginning of the April-2023 conflict.

¹ <https://dtm.iom.int/reports/dtm-sudan-weekly-displacement-snapshot-21?close=true>

² The migrant population figures and analysis provided by DTM Libya are based on data collected through the DTM mobility tracking exercise, conducted mainly through key informant interviews targeting local municipalities. This exercise identifies the overall population figures in Libya, including migrants, and helps pinpoint priority humanitarian needs. DTM enumerators collect the arrival figures through daily monitoring of migration flows (arrivals and departures) in specific municipalities near the border areas.



METHODOLOGY

From 13 to 20 February, IOM's team conducted a series of key informants' interviews (KII) with different stakeholders either working in or responding to the Sudanese crisis in Alkufra. During these interviews, information about the numbers of Sudanese population arriving after the beginning of the April 2023 conflict as well as their needs were collected.

- Alkufra Municipal Council
- Sudanese Community in Alkufra
- Libyan Red Crescent, Alkufra Branch
- Libyan Relief Agency, Alkufra
- Anti-Illegal Immigration Agency (DCIM), Alkufra
- General Hospital, Alkufra

LIMITATIONS

Due to the vastness of the territory of Alkufra, the access to assess the situation is difficult. The Municipal Council also attributes difficulties to the vastness of Alkufra's area and the dynamic nature of the movements, with both daily influxes and departures from Alkufra to other areas of Libya. According to the deputy mayor, this gap in information poses significant challenges to effective resource allocation and support provision to this vulnerable group.

In the light of these limitations, and detailed assessment is recommended.

NUMBER OF SUDANESE IN ALKUFRA

According to the deputy mayor of Alkufra (the interview took place on 20 February 2024) and based on the estimated numbers provided by the Libyan National Army, which distributed nonfood assistance to around 2,500 Sudanese families in Alkufra, 17,000 Sudanese are hosted in the area, some of whom were already in Libya before the onset of the April 2023 conflict. However, it is unclear what percentage or how many of these 17,000 individuals were already in Libya before April 2023 and the deputy mayor was not able to shed light on these numbers.

According to Sudanese community members (the interview took place on 16 February 2024), approximately 1,300 post-conflict Sudanese families (6,000 individuals) are spread between the city's outskirts and centre. The data disaggregation per gender and age is not available. According to all interviewed informants, the majority of people come directly from Sudan, while only a small number arrived via Chad. The interviewed stakeholders reported no arrivals from Egypt.

Since the numbers reported based on the recent assistance distribution include both pre- and post-April 2023 arrivals, the number reported by the Sudanese community appears to be more realistic and accurate. At the same time this number is aligned with the numbers observed through DTM flow monitoring.

INTENTIONS

According to informants interviewed during this assessment, most Sudanese individuals plan to leave Alkufra. They are interested in moving north or west due to various reasons. For example, some prefer moving north to places such as Misrata because of lower housing costs and availability of daily services there, better work opportunities. Many Sudanese individuals also reported their willingness to move to Tripoli to register along with UNHCR. This once again confirms that Alkufra has been and remains a main transit hub from which Sudanese move onwards.

Over the past months, local charitable organizations and NGOs have assisted Sudanese communities who arrived post-conflict in Alkufra through the distribution of clothes, food (local charities provided meals to individuals in the centre and on Souq Al-Arab Street) and blankets. On 12 February 2024, the Libyan army, in cooperation with the [سبيل السلام](#) (The way to Peace) Association and the Anti-Illegal Immigration Agency, dispatched 50 trucks with food and NFIs. The number of beneficiaries reached is still unknown.

The Sudanese individuals who arrived post-conflict to Eastern Libya are in vulnerable conditions and require urgent assistance, as listed below:

 <p>Health</p>	<p>The General Hospital in Alkufra, based on the information received during the interview that took place on 16 February 2024, receives an average of 350- 400 patients per day: approximately 60 percent of daily patients are migrants, and 35 to 40 percent of them are Sudanese. Currently, out of the 60-70 patients admitted to the hospital, 16 are Sudanese. According to the director of the General Hospital, the main reason why Sudanese seek medical treatment is fever, cold, malnutrition, respiratory infections and injuries. According to the director, the most pressing needs of the hospital are medical supplies (medication, IV fluids, surgical equipment), laboratory equipment and rehabilitation, as well as additional space with 20 rooms and six bathrooms for patients. Other interviewed stakeholders highlighted the need for more beds, medical staff, equipment, ambulances, medication for chronic patients and children's vaccines.</p>
 <p>Water and Sanitation</p>	<p>According to stakeholders, since no assistance has been provided regarding water and sanitation so far, needs are high. However, they did mention that the most pressing need would be the provision of the vacuum tanker to address the issue of stagnant water.</p>
 <p>Education</p>	<p>Sudanese community schools do not exist in Alkufra. Students are enrolled in existing public and private schools in the city. Some private schools offer discounts for Sudanese children to enroll. While the majority of them are enrolled, there are still cases of Sudanese children who are not going to school either due to the lack of any kind of identification documents or due to the difficult financial situation of their families. The Sudanese community mentioned that there are several teachers among the Sudanese arrived in Libya post-conflict. Since Sudanese community has received promises in past that premises will be allocated by the local authorities to establish the Sudanese school, they informed that they are ready to support salaries for these teachers to ensure that children continue their studies in the schools and can follow the Sudanese curriculum.</p>
 <p>Shelter</p>	<p>The Sudanese community reported that rental prices have increased (threefold) since the begging of the year. Many post conflict arrivals are currently living on farms on the outskirts of the city. Proper shelter/housing assistance is needed but the Municipal Council refrained from mentioning anything that included settling the displaced persons as local authorities wanted them to avoid becoming a burden for the city.</p>
 <p>Food</p>	<p>Even though, as mentioned above, the Sudanese community was provided with some food assistance and the LNA also distributed some, many Sudanese interviewed this assessment reported to be in need of food baskets.</p>
 <p>Non-food items</p>	<p>Similarly, despite being reported that NFIs have been distributed to 2,500 families since 10 February, and that distribution is ongoing, the need for non-food items was raised, specifically for blankets and clothes for men, women, and children.</p>

PROFILE OF SUDANESE MIGRANTS

who arrived in Libya after April 2023

FEBRUARY
2024



DTM DISPLACEMENT TRACKING MATRIX

POPULATION FIGURES

125,327

migrants from Sudan in Libya as of December 2023, including 31,103 refugees registered with UNHCR (34% of whom claim to have arrived after April 2023). DTM Libya has observed the arrival of 6,394 Sudanese migrants, including refugees, into Libya since the April 2023 crisis.

SEX & AGE



Three quarters of Sudanese migrants who arrived in Libya after April 2023 were of working age (between 20 and 39). A minority were less than 20 (11%) or above 50 (3%). The majority were males (96%) and a minority (4%) females.

ROUTE TO LIBYA

85%

of Sudanese interviewed had arrived directly from Sudan. A minority had traveled to Chad (12%) or Egypt (2%) from Sudan before crossing into Libya. The majority entered via unofficial border crossings (83%).

MARITAL STATUS

The majority of migrants were single (64%). Around half of those who were married (35% of total) were with their spouse in Libya.

FAMILY DYNAMICS

Among those who had school-aged children with them in Libya (15% of overall Sudanese surveyed) 10 per cent were single-headed households (female (9%) or male (1%)).

EMPLOYMENT

More than half (57%) were unemployed and actively seeking employment - slightly more than the average among migrants who arrived in Libya after April 2023 conflict (46%).

3 MAIN DIFFICULTIES FACED BY SUDANESE MIGRANTS

(multiple-choice question)



HEALTHCARE

The majority of Sudanese reported they had limited or no access to healthcare in Libya (75%) on par with the average among migrants who arrived in Libya during the same period (72%).

EDUCATION

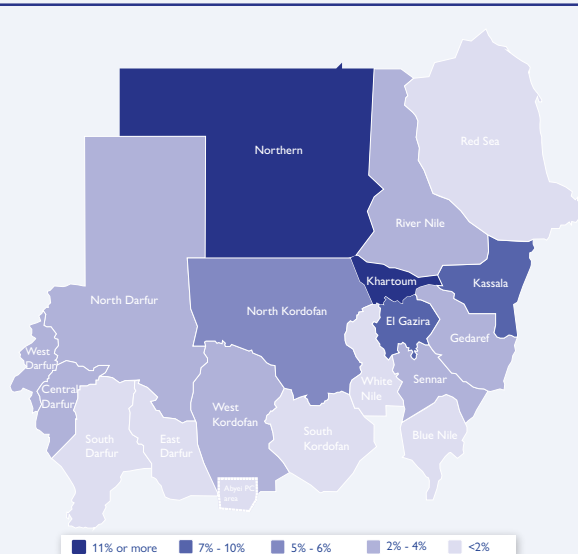
A greater proportion of Sudanese (54%) who are in Libya with school-aged children reported that their children had access to education compared to average (42%).

REGION OF ORIGIN IN SUDAN

33%

were from the state of Khartoum and 17 per cent from the Northern state (Fig 1). According to the December 2023 IOM regional Sudan response update the majority of Sudanese who have been displaced by the conflict originated from the state of Khartoum (65%) while a minority came from one of the five states of Darfur (33%).

Fig 1: Region of origin of Sudanese migrants who arrived in Libya after April 2023



HOUSING

A greater proportion of Sudanese (7%) who arrived after April 2023 mentioned having been evicted or threatened with eviction than the average among migrants across all nationalities who arrived during the same period of time in Libya (1%).

ABOUT THIS REPORT

The data cited is based on individual interviews conducted by DTM with 2,399 migrants who arrived in Libya after the April 2023 conflict (323 of whom Sudanese). The population figures are based on key informant interviews. **Limitations:** This brief provides a snapshot of a highly heterogeneous group of people on the move in a quickly evolving context. The purposive sampling approach used limits the sex and age breakdown as well as the findings on migrant vulnerabilities from being fully statistically representative of the demographic make-up of the (Sudanese) migrant population in Libya. © IOM 2023. Some rights reserved. This work is made available under the [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs 3.0 IGO License](#) (CC BY-NC-ND 3.0 IGO). This publication was issued without formal editing by IOM. The following citation is required when using any data and information included in this information product: "International Organization for Migration (IOM), February 2024. IOM Libya - Profiles of Sudanese Migrants in Libya. IOM, Libya."

IOM LIBYA



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