



ANNUAL REPORT
2023

IOM LIBYA VISION

Migrants, internally displaced persons and all other mobile populations, including those affected by conflict, peacefully coexist with local communities in an environment where human rights, dignity and well-being are respected and promoted by a migration governance system that fosters resilience and development in Libya.



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Foreword

Looking at 2023, the landscape of migration and displacement in Libya remains complex and dynamic. The considerable challenges faced by migrants, internally displaced persons (IDPs), and host communities are influenced by conflict, economic instability, and humanitarian crises. Amidst these adversities, IOM Libya persevered in its mission to assist and protect those most vulnerable.

IOM Libya maintained a steady presence across the country, delivering critical support to those in need. The team of over 650 dedicated staff members operating through 32 active projects, effectively responded to a range of challenges. IOM Libya reached over 51,000 migrants with needed relief items and medical consultations, provided more than 163,000 primary health care consultations, and assisted 9,369 migrants in returning to their home countries. In community stabilization initiatives and capacity building strengthened resilience and promoted social cohesion among displaced populations and local communities.

The Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) continued to be key in providing critical data on displacement and population mobility, ensuring informed and effective interventions.

The Labour Mobility and Social Inclusion (LMI) programme included vocational training and job placement services, particularly through the Youth Employment One Stop Shop (YESS) centers, thus supporting hundreds of Libyan and non-Libyan youths in enhancing their employment prospects and fostering social cohesion.

A pivotal roundtable on Labour Migration Governance was organized in collaboration with the Ministry of Labour, bringing together 50 participants, including diplomatic representations from various countries and relevant Libyan line ministries.



In the Immigration and Border Governance (IBG) programming, Libyan border management and search and rescue operations progressed, thereby enhancing the capacity of national entities with the aim of contributing to safer and more orderly migration.

An unprecedented disaster caused by Storm Daniel prompted a swift response by IOM teams thus demonstrating prompt capacity to adapt and provide timely relief in the face of sudden crises. Efforts in promoting mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) further underscored a holistic approach to humanitarian aid. Protection initiatives ensured that migrants and IDPs received essential services through outreach, community-based solutions, and capacity-building partnerships.

Looking ahead, IOM Libya remains committed to driving solutions to displacement and facilitating pathways for regular migration in collaboration with the Libyan government, UN and international partners. IOM will continue working with the Libyan authorities and partners to provide assistance to migrants, displaced Libyan populations and affected communities while helping to support the transition towards longer-term approaches to migration governance and development in Libya.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nicoletta Giordano".

Nicoletta Giordano

Chief of Mission

ACRONYMS

COO – COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

DC – DETENTION CENTRE

DTM - DISPLACEMENT TRACKING MATRIX

GBV - GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

IDP – INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSON

IMC – INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL CORPS

IRC – INTERNATIONAL RESCUE COMMITTEE

MHPSS - MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

MRRM - MIGRANTS RESOURCE AND RESPONSE MECHANISM

NFI – NON-FOOD ITEMS

NCDC – NATIONAL CENTRE FOR DISEASE CONTROL

OCHA – UNITED NATIONS OFFICE FOR THE COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS

PPE – PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

RRM – RAPID RESPONSE MECHANISM

TWG - TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP

UASC – UNACCOMPANIED AND SEPARATED CHILDREN

UNDP – UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

UNFPA – UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND

UNHCR – UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES

UNICEF – UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S EMERGENCY FUND

VHR – VOLUNTARY HUMANITARIAN RETURN

WASH – WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

WFP – WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME



ABOUT IOM LIBYA

IOM has been operating in Libya since 2006 and continues to maintain a strong presence in the country. The mission is comprised of 635 staff with two offices in Tripoli, one suboffice in Benghazi, one office in Tunis, and field offices in Gatroun, Zwara, Bani Waleed, and Sabha; as well as an active presence in the south, east, and west of Libya.

The mission currently runs 32 active projects across Libya and has 36 international staff and 650 national staff based in Libya and Tunisia, including third-party contracted staff. Working in close cooperation with the Libyan Government, and local partners, IOM Libya has reached thousands of displaced and conflict-affected Libyans and migrants in need with vital humanitarian and development assistance.

DTM KEY FIGURES^{1 2}

Returnees

705,426 Individuals **141,085** Families

616,832
Returnees are on Solutions Pathways

IDPs

125,802 Individuals **25,160** Families

75,643
IDPs are on Solutions Pathways

706,509

Migrants were identified by DTM Libya during round 50 of data collection (October - December 2023). Around eight in ten (78%) were adult males, 11 per cent adult females, and 11 per cent were children (among whom 4% were unaccompanied).

Coordination and Partnerships

As an already active member of the United Nations Country Team and the Humanitarian Country Team, IOM in Libya has established a UN Network on Migration to ensure coordinated UN system-wide support to the Government of Libya in the implementation of effective migration strategies that promote the well-being and protection of migrants while also contributing to Libya's stability, development, and economic growth.

At the same time, IOM, with UNHCR, is leading one of the two collective outcomes of the Libya UN Sustainable Development and Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) for 2023 – 2025, countersigned by the Government. Through the Collective Outcome 2 on Migration Management, the expected result is that “By 2025, 65 per cent of migrants and persons of concern have improved protection, safety, and living conditions”. This Collective Outcome brings together all actors (UN, donors, Government, INGOs) working on migration management to coordinate response, advocacy messages, and find solutions to emergency situations. A dedicated Working Group on humanitarian intervention in Detention Centers has already been established under the leadership of IOM and UNHCR to coordinate interventions as per the principled framework of the UN. IOM also co-chairs, together with UNICEF and WFP, the UNSDCF Pillar 3 on Social and Human Capital Working Group, and co-chairs the Monitoring & Evaluation Working Group with UNICEF.

IOM has been coordinating its Storm Daniel emergency response with UN and NGO partners through the Inter-agency Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM). The RRM aims to coordinate the response on the ground and ensure the provision of life-saving assistance to people affected by disasters or fleeing conflict. Under the RRM, IOM coordinates the site management sector. IOM also co-chairs the Shelter/ NFI working group with UNHCR and co-chairs the logistics working group with WFP. Furthermore, IOM actively participates in multiple thematic working groups dedicated to WASH, Health, Nutrition, Food Security, Protection, and Early Recovery.

1. Solutions Pathways IDP stock figure is identified based on existing data and area-based context analysis showing improvements in security situation (primary driver of internal displacement in Libya) and reduction in displacement related vulnerabilities amongst displaced persons in comparison to non-displaced population.

2. IDPs with displacement related needs are identified via use of area-based context analysis and data on access to assistance and services such as housing.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- 

51,704 migrants were provided with core relief items, food assistance, NFIs and medical consultations across Libya.
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163,477 primary health care consultations were given to migrants, IDPs, and host communities members, including 933 referrals for secondary and tertiary level care.
- 

14,140 migrants reached with awareness-raising campaigns on the risks and realities of irregular migration, information on alternative pathways, disease control and prevention and available humanitarian services in Libya.
- 

MHPSS assistance reached **8,770** beneficiaries, with a total of **155** referrals & **414** participants benefiting from MHPSS trainings.
- 

9,369 migrants were assisted to voluntarily return from Libya to 25 countries of origin. Among the returnees were 1,051 children and 73 UASC, and 1,520 migrants with medical needs.
- 

7,030 migrants reached through protection services including assessments and community-based activities.
- 

462 national health officials, health care workers, surveillance staff and health sector partners on disease surveillance, including event-based disease surveillance, DHIS-2, Infection prevention and control, implement standard operating procedures (SOPs) at Libyan point of entries (POEs) and migrant-sensitive health services.
- 

42 DTM Reports, flash updates, research studies, detention centre profiles, needs assessment and other information products published.
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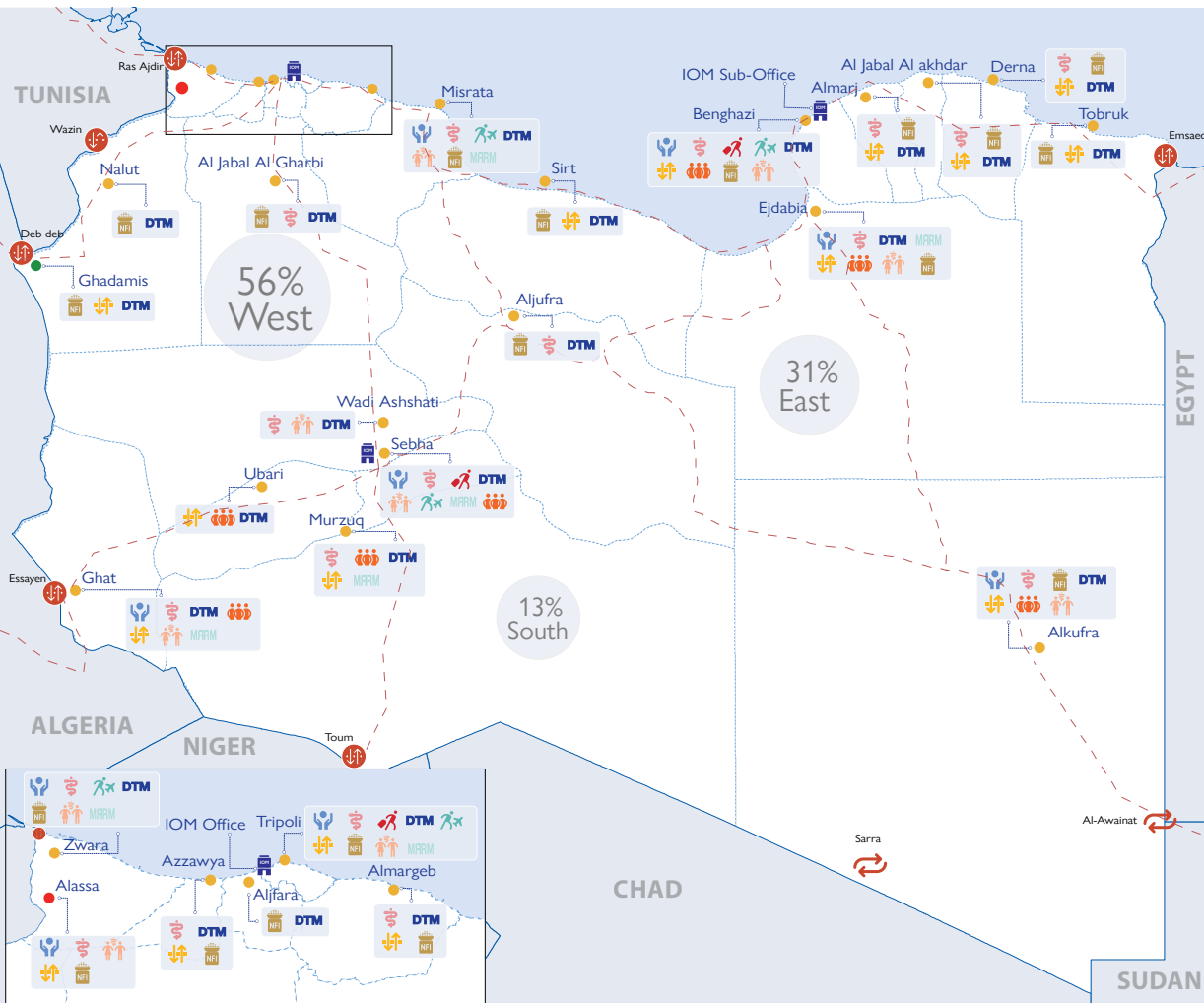
172 individuals were supported with trainings and toolkits to start or enhance their businesses and enable income generation.
- 

11 Community Improvement Projects implemented (access to basic services for IDPs, migrants and host community) in Libya.
- 

642 Libyan youth (including IDPs and other vulnerable groups) were equipped with different employable skills.
- 

771 youth, men, and women from the host and migrant communities (including IDPs) participated in different social mixing events celebrating different traditions, cultures and customs promoting social cohesion.
- 

435 youth were trained in career readiness, equipping them with key skills such as communication, CV and cover letter writing, and job interview techniques to help them find decent jobs and increase their livelihood opportunities.



IOM LIBYA ACTIVITIES 2023

Map Production Date : 6 March 2024
LibyaPublicInfo@iom.int

IOM LIBYA TEAM

- 148 National
- 36 International
- 475 CTG (third party contractors)
- 7 Consultants

686 Total Staff

IOM Libya's Strategic Framework 2021-2024 aims to support the establishment of a comprehensive, evidence-based, and people-centered migration governance system to facilitate the transition towards longer-term solutions for migration management and development in Libya, while continuing to deliver life-saving assistance and improving the resilience of migrant populations and local communities.

The policy and programming of IOM Libya falls under three objectives, in line with the IOM Strategic Plan 2024-2028:

OBJECTIVE 1- SAVING LIVES AND PROTECTING PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

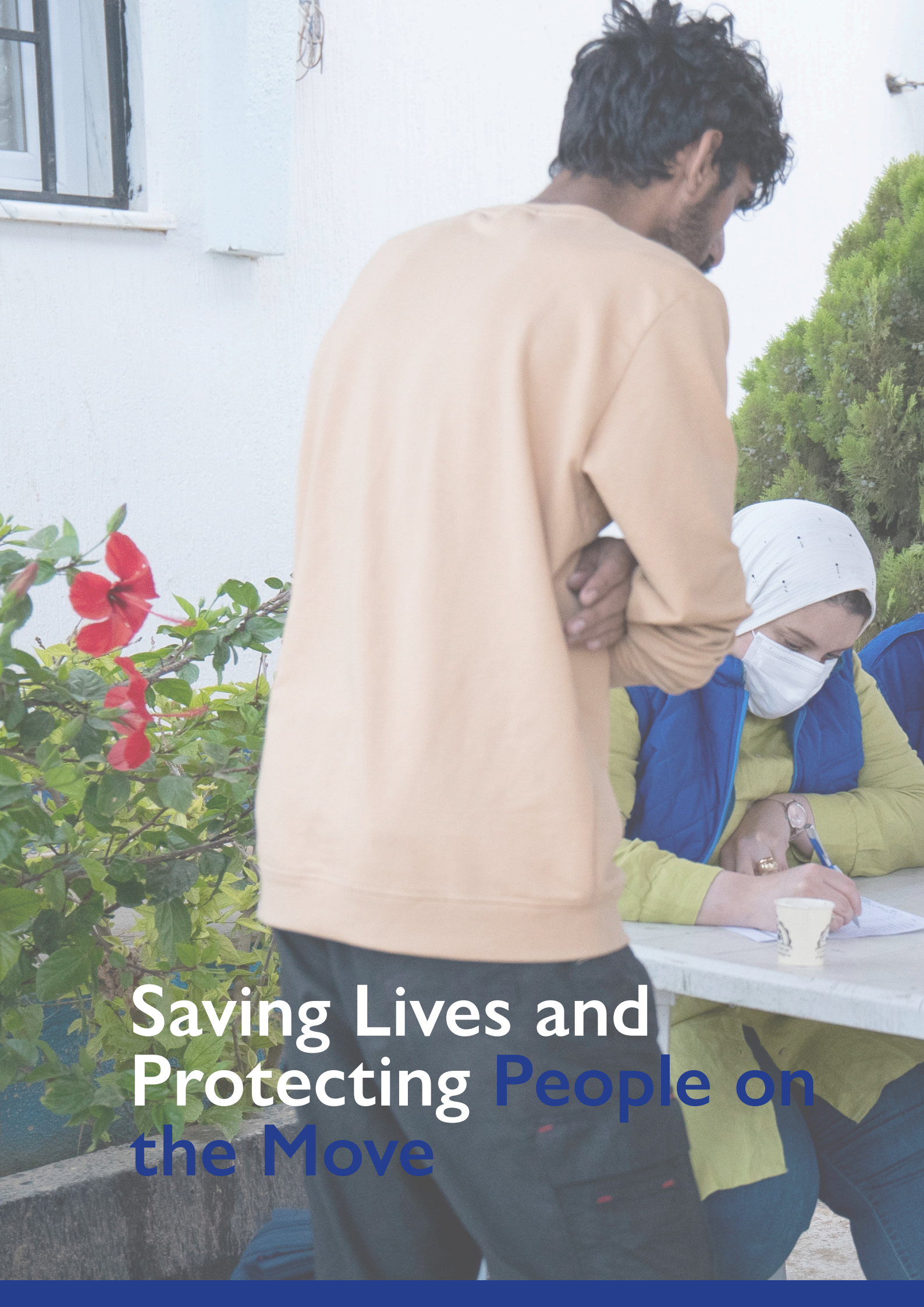
Migrants, IDPs and crisis affected populations have improved protection outcomes and greater access to life-saving humanitarian assistance.

OBJECTIVE 2- DRIVING SOLUTIONS TO DISPLACEMENT

Communities in Libya (including migrants, IDPs, and local communities) are supported in building their resilience to shocks, enabling them to better withstand the effects of hostile environments and respond to crises. Evidence-based and data-driven approaches are employed to anticipate and mitigate risks and enhance preparedness.

OBJECTIVE 3- FACILITATING PATHWAYS FOR REGULAR MIGRATION

Efficient, rights-based, and safe pathways are developed and made available to migrants and IDPs, while safe, orderly, and regular migration is promoted. The Government of Libya is supported in increasing its capacity to manage migration in a structured, coherent, predictable, and humane manner, ultimately reducing the vulnerabilities of migrants and local communities.



Saving Lives and
Protecting **People on
the Move**



THE MIGRANT RESOURCE AND RESPONSE MECHANISM (MRRM)



The Migrant Resource and Response Mechanism (MRRM) serves as the overarching umbrella encompassing a wide array of services and needs-based assistance for vulnerable migrants in urban areas. This encompasses food and non-food aid, healthcare services, awareness campaigns, community support, capacity-building for stakeholders and authorities, as well as referrals to specialized services like Protection, Health MHPSS, and VHR. Assistance is provided through the Migrant Resource Center in Tripoli and IOM's MRRM mobile teams operating in Sebha, Ghat, Murzuq, Tripoli, Ejdabia, Benghazi and Zwara. The Direct Assistance (DA) teams offer life-saving humanitarian aid to migrants rescued at sea, in detention centers, and to internally displaced persons affected by conflict and natural disasters. Key components of assistance include seasonal clothing, bedding, kitchen sets, hygiene kits, solar lamps, and other items tailored to individual and family needs.



In 2023, MRRM reached 51,704 (28,833 male and 22,871 female) migrants across Libya. A total of 14,190 migrants received food assistance while 23,003 were provided NFIs, and 24,851 beneficiaries received medical consultations.

Often deceived by smugglers and traffickers, many migrants are misinformed before leaving their country as they do not have access to reliable sources of information. IOM designed and implemented awareness-raising campaigns on the risks and realities of irregular migration, alternative pathways, disease control and prevention, and available humanitarian services in Libya. These efforts reached 14,140 migrants (8,464 male and 5,676 female).

MRRM conducted Migration Governance training aimed at boosting the capabilities of Libyan national authorities, the Libyan Red Crescent, and local civil society organizations reaching 29 (18 male and 11 female) participants. The training covered topics such as migration and development, international migration law, trafficking, labour migration, and recent updates on migration governance.

In 2023, 30,013 (16,704 male and 13,309 female) migrants received core relief items across Libya, while 454 vulnerable IDPs and IDP returnees were provided with seasonal NFIs including blankets and plastic sheets.

The DA teams coordinated with the Directorate of Combatting Illegal Migration (DCIM) and the Libyan Coast Guard to ensure IOM assistance reaches the most vulnerable. 2,664 migrants and persons of concern intercepted at the Libya-Tunisia border near Alassa and Ras Ijder were provided with NFIs and Hygiene kits.

THE YEAR AHEAD

In 2024, IOM plans to extend its reach to migrants in urban areas such as Bani Waleed, Ghat, Qatroun, Sabha, Benghazi, Ejdabia, Tripoli, and Zwara, providing direct assistance including core-relief items, medical aid, and awareness-raising activities. The team is also planning to expand in Al Kufra to respond to the impact of the ongoing crisis in Sudan vis a vis Libya, where the vast majority of Sudanese are transiting. Additionally, IOM will strengthen capacity-building initiatives for government partners, implement community-based projects, and organize social activities to engage different community groups.

MIGRATION HEALTH



IOM works to reduce mortality and morbidity among migrants, IDPs, and host community members. The Migration Health programme provides primary healthcare services, case referrals, and health education at various locations such as disembarkation points, detention centers, public health facilities, and migrant-dense communities. Additionally, IOM conducts medical screenings prior to departure for refugee resettlement and Fitness to Travel (FTT) assessments for migrants returning home through the VHR programme. Besides offering direct health assistance, IOM supports the improvement of national health systems by rehabilitating public health facilities, enhancing disease surveillance, providing equipment support, and delivering capacity-building trainings to national health authorities and relevant stakeholders.

In 2023, the Migration Health programme provided 163,477 primary health care consultations (109,440 male and 54,037 female) to migrants, IDPs and host community members and referred 933 migrants (404 male and 529 female) to secondary and tertiary health facilities for further medical investigation, treatment and management. Among the beneficiaries, 2,760 migrants received specialised psychiatric care.

To support national public health emergency preparedness and response capabilities, as well as to ensure timely services to migrants in need, in 2023, IOM provided a series of capacity-building trainings on disease surveillance, including event-based disease surveillance, health information systems, infection prevention and control, implementation of SOP for the Libyan POEs, and migrant-sensitive health services.

The programme strengthened the capacity of various health professionals in Libya. It trained 72 health surveillance staff (65 male and 7 female) on disease surveillance and response systems. Additionally, 62 medical officers (48 male and 16 female), including 12 surveillance officers from the rapid response teams and 42 key informants, received training on event-based disease surveillance. Furthermore, 40 statistics and data management staff (34 male and 6 female) from the Health Information Center (HIC) at the Ministry of Health, along with representatives from public health facilities, were trained on the District Health Information System (DHIS-2). The programme also provided training on infection prevention and control (IPC) measures to 46 healthcare workers (19 male and 27 female) and on migrant-sensitive health services to 219 healthcare workers (104 male and 115 female). Finally, 23 frontline health officials from health control offices at designated Libyan points of entry (POEs) were trained on implementing Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) developed jointly by the IOM and the Libyan Ministry of Health.

Operating within the UN Task Force, IOM provided medical consultations to 4,345 migrants and persons of concern intercepted at the Libya-Tunisia border near Alassa and 82 urgent medical referrals.

As part of the Voluntary Humanitarian Return (VHR) programme, IOM provided pre-departure medical screening and medical assistance to 14,323 migrants (10,573 male, 2,123 female, 1,516 children, and 111 unaccompanied and separated children [UASC]) and provided 54 medical escorts. IOM also conducted 257 migration health assessment (MHA) and travel health assistance (THA) consultations for refugees resettling in Canada, Norway, and Sweden.

THE YEAR AHEAD

In 2024, the programme will continue current support in primary health care services, health information management, migrant-sensitive health services and disease surveillance. IOM will also conduct regular surveillance and documentation of migrants' morbidity and mortality data including cause of death and disease specific health data and strengthen provision of specialized health care including paediatric and neonatal cares, OBGYN and specialized mental health care services. The team is planning to expand support to Al Kufra hospital and NCDC TB center to respond to the Sudanese inflows to the area, fleeing the conflict in Sudan. In addition, specific efforts to strengthen health coordination and interventions at Points of Entries (POEs) will be ensured.

MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT (MHPSS)



In Libya, IOM's Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) programme follows a community-based approach. MHPSS interventions aim to foster a social environment that helps individuals, families and communities realize their potential and resources to respond to crisis and be resilient. In Libya, IOM provides capacity building on MHPSS, offers direct mental health and psychosocial services - including referrals for distressed migrants in detention centres and at disembarkation points and support on national MHPSS coordination.



Scan here to watch IOM Libya's
World Mental Health Day video



Migration and displacement pose significant challenges, including psychosocial vulnerabilities, particularly exacerbated in forced migration scenarios due to conflict or disasters. IOM Libya prioritizes Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) aiming to enhance the resilience of affected populations by providing a range of services such as counselling, support groups, and psychoeducation. IOM's community-based approach ensures that migrants receive comprehensive support to address their complex psychosocial needs.

In 2023, the MHPSS programme supported 8,770 individuals (5,657 male and 3,113 female) with services ranging from individual counselling to group activities, ensuring comprehensive support for individuals and communities. Additionally, 155 individuals were referred for specialized support and further assistance, including health and mental health services, voluntary humanitarian return services, and direct assistance. The MHPSS team also provided over 670 follow-up sessions to ensure continuity of care and celebrated multiple international days with communities, reaching over 416 individuals. Moreover, 81 migrants and persons of concern intercepted at the Libya-Tunisia border near Alassa received MHPSS sessions during the reporting period.

The programme organized over 20 MHPSS training sessions for 414 governmental frontline workers, health workers, active workers from civil society organizations and international NGOs on key MHPSS concepts, frameworks, psychological first aid and supportive communication. The trainings helped in understanding community-based approaches to MHPSS, tools and resources, and enhanced the capacity of relevant Libyan national health workers in primary health care facilities and civil society workers to provide mental health and psychosocial support to migrants and internally displaced persons.

THE YEAR AHEAD

In 2024, IOM proposes to strengthen its MHPSS response to displaced populations, both at the group and individual levels, and continue to ensure affected populations have access to specialized services offered by partners and national institutions. IOM will also support the Libyan Ministry of Health and other relevant ministries with the necessary technical support through MHPSS capacity-building activities that target health workers and Libyan civil society organizations.

PROTECTION



IOM Libya provides Protection services to ensure that migrants and IDPs requiring specialized support can access the needed assistance, through outreach and monitoring visits, community-based protection and solutions, but also by focusing on capacity-building and partnerships, working in close cooperation with relevant government and non-government counterparts and with migrant communities and embassies.



Scan here to watch
'Kitchen of Stories'

The IOM Protection team reached 7,030 migrants (4,826 male, 1,762 female and 442 children) in 2023 across Libya. Case management services were provided to ensure individuals received high-quality care, aiding their healing and promoting long-term coping strategies and resilience. Guided by principles of self-determination and the promotion of human dignity, these services targeted migrants in vulnerable situations and those with specific needs, including but not limited to survivors of gender-based violence, victims of trafficking, and unaccompanied and separated children. The support provided included assistance with family reunification and facilitating the return of vulnerable migrants through the VHR programme.

Community capacities and support networks were strengthened to address ongoing protection risks, such as exploitation, abuse, and human rights violations among migrants. Community dialogue and engagement activities reached 2,010 (892 male and 1,118 female) individuals and helped identify and reinforce protective factors. Information sessions on topics like education enrolment and access to protection services were conducted based on community feedback.

Training sessions for 409 individuals were organised on various topics, including community-based hosting as part of IOM's Alternative to Detention Strategy, protection mainstreaming, protection of human rights, counter trafficking in persons and preventing migrants smuggling. Participants, including community members, embassy representatives, members of CSOs & NGOs, and government officials, improved their understanding of how to identify and support migrants in vulnerable situations, implement prevention measures, and establish rights-based responses. Such capacity building events also allowed to foster collaboration among relevant stakeholders.

IOM conducted Protection Screenings for 666 migrants and persons of concern intercepted at Libya-Tunisia border near Alassa. The Protection programme also conducted protection monitoring and offered specialized services to migrants in vulnerable situations at various points along migration routes, including in community settings, at disembarkation points, and in detention centers.

THE YEAR AHEAD

In 2024, the Protection Programme will continue to promote a rights-based approach to migration management in Libya through training and capacity-building activities for the government and civil society organizations. They will also receive capacity-building training to enhance protection services. Case management services will be provided throughout the country for the most vulnerable, including but not limited to survivors of gender-based violence, victims of trafficking, and unaccompanied and separated children. Community-based Protection activities will be expanded in areas with the greatest needs to reinforce community protective factors and promote resilience among migrant, IDPs and host populations.

VOLUNTARY HUMANITARIAN RETURN (VHR)



IOM Libya offers voluntary humanitarian return (VHR) for migrants who want to return to their home countries. Services under the VHR programme are designed to provide tailored support to migrants in Libya and upon return to their countries of origin. The programme provides outreach services, an information hotline, individual and/or group counselling and vulnerability screenings, immediate direct assistance, assistance to obtain travel documents, consular services, pre-departure health checks, best interest assessment, family tracing transportation assistance, cross-referrals with other UN agencies and partners, coordination with countries of origin for reintegration assistance.



Throughout 2023, IOM's VHR programme assisted 9,369 migrants to voluntarily return from Libya to 25 countries of origin. Among the returnees were 1,051 children and 73 UASC, and 1,520 migrants with medical needs. All returnees benefited from medical and pre-departure screenings, exit visa facilitation, personal protective items, provision of embarkation assistance, as well as arrival assistance in the country of return. Upon return, migrants benefited from tailored reintegration assistance in the form of economic social and/or psychosocial support provided by IOM staff and partners in their respective country of origin.

In May 2023, IOM organised a three-day VHR Consular Support workshop in Tunis to strengthen consular services for migrants, that brought together the Libyan Government and Embassies of migrants' countries of origin. This workshop contributed to enhance capacities of concerned embassies and consular offices to conduct identity verification, issue travel documents and referrals for migrants applying for safe and dignified returns through the VHR programme and strengthened consular coordination within and between concerned governments.

THE YEAR AHEAD

VHR will continue to provide outreach services for migrants through field visits and the information hotline, counselling, vulnerability screenings and immediate direct assistance. Assistance will also be provided to migrants to help obtain travel documents and access other consular services. The team will also coordinate with countries of origin to arrange return and ensure returnees receive reintegration assistance in their respective country of origin.





STORY: WHEN DREAMS FALL APART

In 2021, Owehidi – a father of three – set out from Bangladesh to Libya, seeking to secure a better income to help his family. He eventually settled in the city of Derna where he worked as a butcher. He was warmly welcomed into the tightly knit and mutually supportive community of Bangladeshi migrant workers.

He was thrilled with this new beginning, seeing it as a step towards a more prosperous life for his family. “I missed my children a lot. Even though technology has come a long way, and I could always see their pictures or talk to them on video calls, I still missed them,” Owehidi said. “It was hard to see them grow up from so far away.”

On September 10, 2023, Storm Daniel hit northeastern Libya, causing catastrophic flooding and leaving thousands dead.

Derna, with a population of over 100,000, was the hardest hit by the storm, with almost half its population becoming displaced.

Owehidi described the ordeal as a “never-ending nightmare.” He lost three close friends to the flood. He also lost his home and livelihood and was overwhelmed by fear and insecurity. The disaster prompted him to reassess his life and make the decision to return home which he did on 21 December 2023, along with other 138 migrants, many of whom had also been affected by the storm.

The International Organization for Migration’s (IOM) Voluntary Humanitarian Return (VHR) programme is a crucial lifeline for stranded migrants like Owehidi. VHR flights offer a safe and dignified way to return home, facilitating recovery from trauma and helping people rebuild their lives.



Driving Solutions to Displacement



FEATURE: STORM DANIEL RESPONSE






Between 9 and 11 September 2023, Storm Daniel caused severe weather conditions and catastrophic flooding in northeastern Libya, with the city of Derna being the most affected. The storm led to the mass displacement of 44,862 individuals³ and the death of more than 4,345 individuals⁴, as well as significant infrastructure damage.

In the immediate aftermath of the floods, IOM, as part of a UN-wide response effort, harnessed available resources to address the most urgent humanitarian needs, thus contributing to mitigating mortality and morbidity. IOM teams have been on the ground in the flood-affected areas, with 84 national and international staff, providing multi-sector assistance in close partnership with the other UN partners and the Libyan Red Crescent under the Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM). IOM has established a 7500 sqm warehouse in Benghazi for inter-agency use.

As the disaster phase gives way to a post-disaster setting, IOM has been shifting its intervention modality to accommodate changing priorities. While continuing to address the remaining most urgent humanitarian needs, IOM aims to enhance affected communities' resilience, preparedness and support their recovery; and contribute to reconstruction efforts⁵.

In 2023, IOM's Storm Daniel response has reached at least 39,170 affected people, with a wide array of services, including direct assistance, primary health services and psychosocial support.

Overview of IOM's Storm Daniel Response in 2023

 DTM Displacement Tracking Matrix	9 flash updates, 1 needs assessment, 1 dashboard and Study on the Impact of Storm Daniel published.
 Direct Assistance	17,366 affected people reached with critical Food and Non-Food Items.
 Health	Healthcare services provided to 14,687 people in flood-affected areas. Supported the Ministry of Health with Medicines and Supplies for 5,000 people affected by the floods.
 MHPSS	MHPSS services to 2,218 displaced people.
 Protection	Protection screenings for 34 migrants from Bangladesh referred by Voluntary Humanitarian Return team.

3. <https://dtm.iom.int/reports/libya-impact-storm-daniel-displacement-and-needs-update-derna-municipality?close=true>

4. <https://reliefweb.int/report/libya/libya-flood-response-humanitarian-update-28-november-2023-enar>

5. <https://libya.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbdl931/files/documents/2023-11/resilience-recovery-reconstruction-plan.pdf>



Scan here to watch snippets from IOM Libya's Storm Daniel response



DISPLACEMENT TRACKING MATRIX AND RESEARCH



IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) is a system that tracks and monitors displacement and population mobility globally. In Libya it provides vital primary data on the presence and movement of IDPs, returning IDPs and migrants to provide a better understanding of their movements, living conditions, challenges and evolving needs, whether on site or en route.

Through mobility tracking and migrant flow monitoring activities, DTM consistently collects, processes, analyses, and shares information in Libya. This effort aims to provide humanitarian and development actors with a clearer picture of the evolving situation and context. Additionally, specialized data collections, such as those related to health indicators and the number of migrants in detention centers, offer crucial evidence for guiding programming and policy decisions.

IOM Libya's DTM and Research programme, conducts comprehensive assessments and studies on various topics including migrant housing, remittances, migration trends, aspirations, decision-making processes, routes, and vulnerabilities.

Throughout 2023, DTM has bolstered programming in Libya by consistently publishing various reports. These reports provided essential data and evidence to support efforts aimed at enhancing the resilience of affected populations. Bi-monthly reports from DTM offered analysis on key indicators related to internal displacement, returnees, international migration, as well as protection and socio-economic vulnerabilities. Storm Daniel Flash updates produced by DTM monitored the displacement situation on the ground and provided a comprehensive overview of needs and gaps. These insights were crucial for programming aimed at bolstering resilience among internally displaced persons and migrants.

Notable research studies conducted in 2023 addressed critical topics for programme and policy development, including topics for programme and policy development, including [Same but different: An analysis of the experiences of migrant men and women in Libya](#); [Evidence for Health Survey](#); [Rented Out: An assessment of migrants' access to the rental housing market](#); [Nigerien Migrant Workers in Libya : General Overview and Opportunities for the Future](#); [Egyptian Migrant Workers in Libya](#); [Aftershock: An assessment of how climate change is influencing migration and vulnerability in Libya](#); [Under Pressure: An analysis of remittance trends and the barriers preventing migrants from sending money home](#) and [Profile of Sudanese Migrants in Libya](#).

THE YEAR AHEAD

In 2024, IOM Libya's DTM and Research programme will continue providing data, analysis and reports to IOM, and a wider array of humanitarian and development partners. This support will span from urgent humanitarian responses to longer-term development planning, all geared toward informed policymaking on migration. Additionally, there will be heightened efforts to address data deficiencies and offer analysis to advance Libya's development agenda within the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF).

COMMUNITY STABILIZATION



The Community Stabilization (CS) programme of IOM supports local communities in Libya by addressing localized drivers of instability and restoring social cohesion and trust between communities and governments. This is achieved through community-based planning and activities that restore basic services and revitalize social and economic life for Libyan communities . Empowering youth and women as agents of peace and social change is a key pillar of the programme. Interventions include infrastructure projects to improve basic services, initiatives to enhance social cohesion and local peacebuilding, and livelihoods projects to support income-generating activities and job creation for vulnerable groups. The CS programme also focuses on strengthening institutional capacity and community resilience in Disaster Risk Management and addressing the effects of climate change.

In 2023, IOM collaborated with local authorities and communities to enhance access to basic services through 11 Community Improvement Projects (CIPs). These initiatives included repairing or building water and wastewater systems, schools, health facilities, recreational areas, and other public amenities. Consultation meetings were held to determine community needs and priorities for project planning, followed by handover events that involved local leaders and residents, fostering a sense of ownership.

To strengthen community resilience, 4,830 individuals (3,175 male and 1,655 female) from various community factions participated in consultations, engagement initiatives, and capacity-building programmes aimed at fostering harmonious relationships and peaceful cohabitation. Special attention was given to women and youth, recognized as key catalysts for constructive change, particularly in remote areas of Libya. In Kufra, Sabha, Ubari and Qatroun, 280 women actively participated in the Women's Salon initiative that includes sport, social and cultural events such as yoga and mindfulness practices for enhancing well-being, along with workshops focusing on critical thinking, effective communication, and personal development skills.

To empower local stakeholders, IOM conducted capacity-building sessions for civil society organizations (CSOs) in Sabha and Kufra. A total of 66 participants from over 30 CSOs underwent a 10-day training programme covering the basics of project management, proposal writing, budgeting, conflict sensitivity, and gender awareness. Participants were equipped with tablets, and four CSOs were selected as implementing partners. These partners organized livelihoods and social cohesion activities, reaching a total of 1,203 individuals (683 male and 520 female), .

In Sabha, Qatroun, Benghazi, and Kufra, IOM assessed market opportunities and community demands to develop livelihood interventions. A total of 172 young community members (40 males and 132 females) attended vocational training in e-commerce, beauty and make-up, graphic design, and business management. All participants received toolkits and coaching sessions to help them start their businesses or connect with local employers.

Through its Disaster and Risk Management programme, IOM Libya aims to strengthen the resilience of communities affected by, or at risk of, hazards and reinforce the national response capacity to prepare for and mitigate the impact of climate-related disasters. In 2023, IOM finalized a baseline report and conducted consultations to establish a baseline of existing stakeholders, initiatives, legislative arrangements, and frameworks related to disaster risk and climate change in Libya. 60 local stakeholders, including authorities and first responders, were trained on strategic and operational flood response and general disaster risk reduction (DRR) concepts. In the aftermath of Storm Daniel, IOM provided flood kits to the National Safety Authority (NSA) in the East. These kits included boats with engines, throwlines, wading poles, safety boots, personal flotation devices, waterproof phone pouches, and torches to serve the wider community of East Libya.

THE YEAR AHEAD

In 2024, the Community Stabilization programme will continue providing the foundation to transition from humanitarian response to development interventions in Libya, with a focus on the Fezzan region and border cities including Kufra and Ghat. In the east of the country, following the devastating impact of Storm Daniel, the programme will facilitate economic recovery and rebuilding of the social structure in areas impacted by the floods and mass displacement. The CS team will also contribute to preparedness and Disaster Risk Reduction efforts in the country and further reinforce national response capacity to mitigate the impact of climate-related disasters in Libya.

STORY

STITCHING DREAMS: GHAZALA MUFTAH'S JOURNEY FROM SEBHA TO SUCCESS



In the heart of Sebha, Libya, Ghazala Muftah's journey as a seamstress began at a tender age, learning the art of sewing from her mother and other women in her community. Ghazala's skills blossomed when she seized the opportunity to participate in a local sewing training in 1995. This experience equipped her with the fundamentals of measuring, cutting, designing, and sewing techniques, igniting her passion for creating garments.

It also ignited a spark within her to expand beyond the confines of her immediate community. Despite initially viewing sewing as a hobby rather than a means of livelihood, Ghazala's passion and talent soon outgrew the boundaries of her personal circle.

Ghazala, a resilient mother of five, navigated through numerous challenges with unwavering support from her husband. However, in the late 1990s, economic turmoil struck their household when her husband lost his job, leaving Ghazala as the family's sole provider. Determined to weather the storm, she dedicated herself to full-time sewing, utilizing the vintage sewing machine passed down by her grandmother.

"We faced a tough time financially when my husband lost his job for four years," Ghazala recalls. "Libya was going through challenging circumstances. As a mother, providing for my children wasn't easy." She paused for a few seconds, reflecting on those days. "That time still touches me deeply. Still, I'm proud that I was able to help my family through it all."

Undeterred by adversity, Ghazala honed her talents and enrolled in local community training courses

focused on entrepreneurship. These initiatives not only enhanced her business acumen but also introduced her to e-marketing skills—a concept previously unfamiliar to her. Through the Noqosh Fezzan organization, Ghazala connected with the International Organization for Migration's (IOM) Community Stabilization programme, marking a pivotal moment in her entrepreneurial journey.

Ghazala participated in IOM's e-commerce training, a transformative experience that equipped her with the tools to leverage digital platforms for her business. With steadfast determination, she immersed herself in the curriculum, mastering the intricacies of online marketing and social media promotion.

Through generous funds from the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund, IOM's Community Stabilization programme distributed laptops to 30 participants of the e-commerce training. Ghazala utilizes her laptop to efficiently handle and market her business.

"I feel proud while wearing the clothes I make," says Ghazala with a smile. "At events, when people ask who made my outfit, I love telling them I did." She reflects on her growth. "The IOM's e-commerce training was a game-changer. Before, I relied on word-of-mouth for my business. Now, I have a Facebook page. I've learned to manage it effectively, to publish my work, and create ads. It's opened up a whole new world for reaching customers."

In the tapestry of Ghazala Muftah's life, each stitch represents a triumph over adversity, each seam a testament to the indomitable spirit of a woman who dared to dream against all odds.



Scan here to watch
Ghazala's testimonial



Facilitating Pathways for Regular Migration



LABOUR MOBILITY AND SOCIAL INCLUSION



The overall programmatic objective of IOM's Labour Mobility and Social Inclusion (LMI) programme is to contribute to capacity enhancement in labour migration governance by offering policy and technical guidance, supporting the development of strategies, legislation and administrative structures that promote efficient and transparent labour migration flows, and facilitating skill development to harness the full potential of human capital in Libya for economic development.



Scan here to watch
reflections from the Labour
Migration Roundtable

Throughout 2023, the LMI programming contributed to knowledge generation and system strengthening for improving the local economy and hence enhancing resilience among youth and vulnerable mobile populations.

To promote equal access to the labour market, IOM Libya's flagship programme, the Youth Employment One Stop Shop (YESS) centers in Tripoli, Benghazi and Sebha, continued operations in their second year, catering to the youth. The centers served as community hubs for both migrant and Libyan youth, offering skill enhancement training and support for learning and job-seeking endeavours while fostering social cohesion among host communities and individuals from diverse nationalities residing in Libya. Moreover, the initiative aims towards strengthening the capacity of local actors and the private sector to enhance income-generating activities, fostering an inclusive and dynamic labour force.

In 2023, a total of 642 youth (419 male and 223 female) participated in various training programmes at the YESS centers. Out of these YESS graduates, 435 youth (279 male and 156 female) were also trained in career readiness, equipping them with key skills such as communication, CV and cover letter writing, and job interview techniques to help them find decent jobs and increase their livelihood opportunities.

IOM organized several social mixing events allowing the participation of 771 (500 male and 271 female) youth, men and women from the host (including IDPs) and migrant communities to celebrate diverse traditions, cultures and customs.

Technical and Vocational Education Training (TVET) reforms, conducted in partnership with the Ministry of Labour and Rehabilitation, resulted in the development of four new TVET training modules and the training of 50 TVET experts. The objective was to address skills mismatches and introduce industry-specific skills to improve employment prospects. Furthermore, to bolster the labour market system, IOM collaborated with the Ministry of Labour and Rehabilitation and the General Information Authority to enhance the Labour Market Information System (LMIS), a national web portal informing users about skills-matching opportunities in Libya.

Several studies were also undertaken in 2023 to examine practical approaches for the [regularization and potential inclusion of migrant workers into the](#)

[labour force](#), alongside the development of a [TVET strategy in Libya aimed at promoting inclusive learning opportunities for youth, including those who are out of school](#) as well as a mapping of private sector actors and how to foster opportunities for linkages with Libyan and foreign youth.

Strengthening labour mobility mechanisms and the promotion of regular labour migration pathways lies at heart of LMI programming. A total of 228 public and municipal officials (127 male and 101 female) enhanced their capacities on labour migration governance through several sessions of a tailored four-day training programme.

In collaboration with the Ministry of Labour, IOM organized a pivotal roundtable on Labour Migration Governance, bringing together 50 participants, including diplomatic envoys from Benin, Burkina Faso, Bangladesh, Egypt, Ghana, Guinea Conakry, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Sudan, Senegal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Tunisia, and the Ambassadors of Italy and the European Union. Relevant Libyan line ministries were also in attendance. The discussions aimed to foster collaboration, address identity documentation challenges for foreign workers, and ensure the successful implementation of bilateral agreements. Furthermore, international partners emphasized the importance of creating a legal and secure environment for migrant workers.

THE YEAR AHEAD

In 2024, the LMI programme will focus on providing capacity-building efforts to bolster both national and local responses aimed at effective labour migration governance. An emphasis will be laid on investing in regional and international partnerships to advocate for regular pathways and skills mobility, including with the GoL, local governance entities, embassies of migrants' countries-of-origin, and the private sector. Efforts will also be dedicated towards expanding YESS services to ensure equitable access to opportunities for inclusive and dignified work. This will encompass the ongoing enhancement of the TVET sector through capacity-building initiatives targeting TVET professionals, fostering enhanced public and private partnerships, and ensuring inclusive access for youth to industry-specific TVET curricula to enhance employment prospects.

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER GOVERNANCE



The Immigration and Border Governance (IBG) programme collaborates with international partners to address complex border management challenges in Libya. It supports the Libyan Government in improving border management systems and Search & Rescue in the Desert (SARD) operations while ensuring human rights are respected and facilitating human mobility. Within IOM's Border Governance portfolio, the Search & Rescue (SAR/SARD) programme aims to prevent further unnecessary deaths at sea or in the desert by working with Libyan authorities, offering tailored infrastructure and specialized equipment support, as well as humanitarian assistance to migrants upon disembarkation or rescue in the desert.

In 2023, the IBG programme strengthened the capacities of national SAR/SARD and border entities through tailored technical assistance, capacity-building initiatives, the provision of protective and life-saving SAR equipment, as well as the rehabilitation of existing border infrastructure in Alassa and Ghat border sectors along the common frontier with Tunisia and Algeria.

IOM provided rehabilitation and technical support initiatives to increase the physical presence of the Libyan Border Guards under the MoI, bolstering border security and enhancing their operational effectiveness in performing SARD operations. This included upgrading the infrastructure at the Yesseyen/Ghat border crossing point (BCP) by installing solar panels for uninterrupted power supply, constructing a new administrative building, and making other infrastructure improvements to ensure the border crossing point is fully operational for the envisaged reopening of the border with Algeria.

Additional infrastructure improvements have been completed or are still ongoing in Ghat, Qatroun, and Alassa, as well as at the Ministry of Defence training center in Sabratha and the Human Rights Offices in the MoI and MoD in Tripoli.

The search and rescue capacity-building component of the programme is aimed at enhancing the capabilities of national authorities, with a central emphasis on the state's human rights responsibilities, while also advocating for the principles of migrant protection during maritime operations.

Specialized trainings on the identification of fraudulent travel documents were provided to 86 border management officials to increase their capacity to verify ID documents. To strengthen and promote consular support for stranded migrants, the programme successfully assisted several embassies in Libya in collecting and managing migration data by building legal identity and identity management capacity.

Through cooperation with the Libyan Coast Guard, General Administration for Coastal Security (GACS) and DCIM, the SAR programme promoted the provision of protection-oriented and dignified support to migrants rescued from the sea, including the delivery of humanitarian assistance to 24,684 migrants who were returned to Libya by the Libyan Coast Guard, GACS and other entities.

THE YEAR AHEAD

In 2024, IBG will continue to bolster the capabilities of the LBG/MoI in the South and West through infrastructure support at the Ghadames BCP, installation of patrolling stations in the desert sectors of Al-Shaty, Al Gharyan, and Nalut, and rehabilitation of the LBG/MoI Training Centre in Tripoli, accompanied by specialized training in SARD equipment. These efforts will facilitate search and rescue operations along main migration routes from the South to the Mediterranean coast by increasing the physical presence of the LBG/MoI on the ground and improving their response capacities in carrying out SARD operations in the desert districts. To further promote protection-oriented SAR activities and uphold human rights, IOM will build the capacities of national entities engaged in SAR operations through tailored training programmes on human rights and the protection of vulnerable migrants, emergency first aid for first responders, legal identity, and tactical SARD operations.

Feature: Coordination, Strategic Frameworks and Migration Management

UN Network on Migration

With support from the Secretariat of the UN Network on Migration, IOM organized a two-day workshop for the UN Country Team in Libya to deliberate on how to strengthen and integrate migration into the Cooperation Framework and the Common Country Analysis.

IOM along with UN Women and UNFPA co-hosted “Women & Men and Mobility Programming in Libya” event. The event aimed at harnessing coordinated and inclusive migration programming in the country as well as featured a photo and video exhibit of the agencies’ operations.

UNSDCF (Collective Outcome 2 on Migration Management)

To ensure coordinated responses and protection for migrants and people in need of international protection, the UN system established the Collective Outcome 2 (CO2) coordination platform within the UNSDCF 2023-2025, which was countersigned by the Government of Libya at the end of 2022. Through CO2, the UN agencies, the Government, and development partners committed to ensuring that by 2025, 65 percent of migrants and persons in need of international protection have improved protection, safety, and living conditions in their communities. The platform provides a space for discussion, strategy development, and advisory services on addressing issues faced by migrants in Libya.

On March 5, 2024, the CO2 organized a meeting to discuss critical issues related to migration management and humanitarian assistance in Libya, with the international community and relevant line ministries working on migration in attendance. During this high-level meeting, UN agencies and CO2 partners presented the results achieved in 2023 and the work plan for 2024. Key points of discussion included the importance of providing basic services to migrants, protecting irregular migrants, ensuring legal entry and proper registration of migrants in Libya, working with neighbouring countries to encourage regular migration, and fostering collaboration between different government entities in managing labour migration. As a way forward, the participants agreed on the following actions:

- ▶ Continue discussions with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA), the Ministry of Interior (MoI), and the Ministry of Labor (MoL) on the Government’s objective of organizing the foreign labor force in Libya.
- ▶ Initiate coordination between the Supreme Committee on Illegal Migration and the Steering Committee of the UNSDCF.
- ▶ Strengthen legal protection services for migrants in collaboration with the National Transitional Stabilization and Development Board (NTSDB) and protect vulnerable migrants in collaboration with the Ministry of Interior (MoI).
- ▶ Collaborate with the Ministry of Transport (MoT) to provide logistical support for migrant transport and the transportation of deceased individuals.

Under the umbrella of Collective Outcome 2, a UN task force was established in July 2023 for the situation at the western border of Libya to coordinate responses for migrants stranded at the western border of Libya with Tunisia. The task force, under the leadership of IOM, is comprised of IOM, UNICEF, WFP, UNHCR, as well as IRC and LRC as main partners of UNHCR and UNICEF. In 2023, the task force assessed the situation at the border and the conditions of the migrants, informing partners of appropriate responses. It conducted weekly coordination meetings and produced weekly updates, which highlighted gaps and needs for migrants and people in need of international protection, facilitating appropriate responses. The UN task force has been instrumental in coordinating direct assistance at the border, including the provision of specific items, addressing gaps, and conducting protection assessments. Since June 2023, task force members have been meeting at least twice a month to ensure constant coordination.

A working group to coordinate humanitarian interventions in detention centers was also established under the umbrella of Collective Outcome 2. The working group has the mandate to coordinate, plan, implement, and monitor the provision of assistance to mitigate harm and save the lives of detained migrants and people in need of international protection. In 2023, the DC working group continued to assess and monitor the situation at the DCs, providing partners with weekly updates on service gaps and required protection assistance. In December 2023, IOM and UNHCR Libya organized a strategic meeting with their respective regional offices to strengthen collaboration between the two agencies in addressing challenges faced by migrants and people in need of international protection in Libya. The meeting initiated the process of revising the 2019 Principled Framework for Intervention in DCs, with support from an external specialized consultant. The framework acts as a compass for UN agencies and humanitarian partners on when and which interventions should be provided in official DCs to minimize the risk of perpetuating the arbitrary detention of migrants and people in need of international protection. Additionally, both agencies developed a set of advocacy points, including but not limited to ending detention and finding alternatives to detention, especially for women and children.



IOM LIBYA'S ACTIVITIES IN 2023 WERE SUPPORTED BY



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IOM is committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and society. As an intergovernmental organization, IOM acts with its partners in the international community to: assist in meeting the operational challenges of migration; advance understanding of migration issues; encourage social and economic development through migration; and uphold the human dignity and well-being of migrants.

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