

FACT LIBYA IS A COUNTRY OF DESTINATION FOR MANY SUB-SAHARAN MIGRANTS.

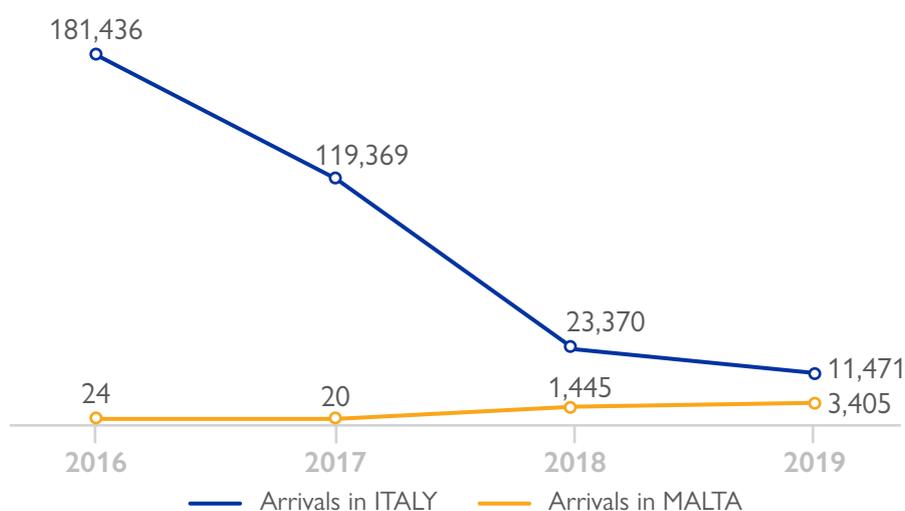
- Of the migrants interviewed in 2019, 81 per cent identified Libya as their intended country of destination at the time of departure from their country of origin and they did not indicate the intention to move to Europe.

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- The total number of migrants in Libya today is estimated at over 650,000; 64 per cent of migrants in Libya are from neighboring countries such as Chad, Egypt, Niger, and Sudan. They are part of very important intra-regional labour migration flows. Libya has always been a major destination country for foreign workers from sub-Saharan Africa and Asia.
- For some, Libya becomes a point of departure for Europe mostly due to the conflict, instability and generally difficult conditions. When they find themselves in a difficult situation, many irregular migrants are more likely to try to move across the Mediterranean Sea than to try to return home on their own. However, since 2015, IOM's Voluntary Humanitarian Return programme has assisted more than 50,000 migrants in Libya to return to their countries of origin. This is an important indicator that with the proper assistance, many will choose to return home rather than continue their journey onward.

FACT ARRIVALS OF IRREGULAR MIGRANTS FROM LIBYA TO EUROPE HAVE DRAMATICALLY DECREASED SINCE 2017.

ARRIVALS TO EUROPE THROUGH THE CENTRAL MEDITERRANEAN ROUTE



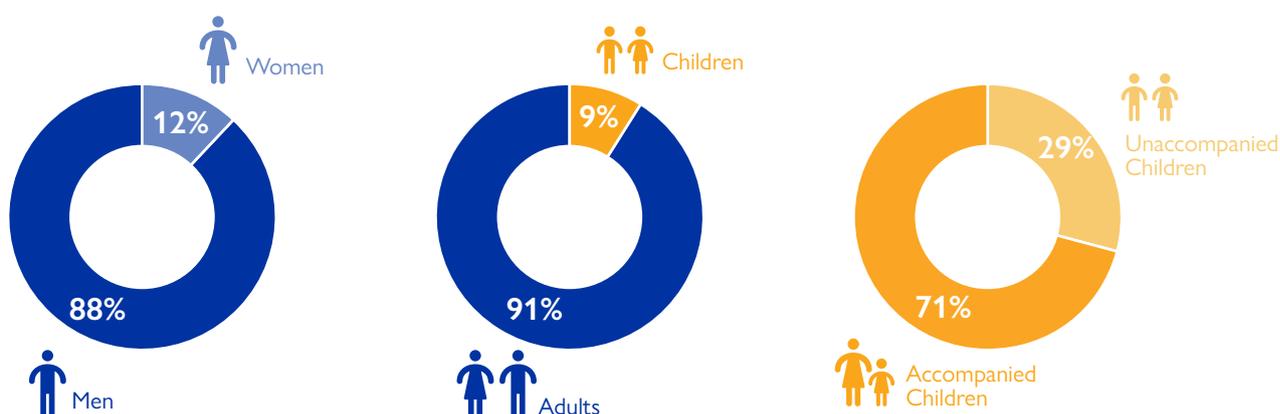
- There has been a substantial reduction in the arrivals of migrants in Europe through the Central Mediterranean Route – from 119,369 in 2017 to 23,370 and 11,471 in 2018 and 2019 respectively.

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FACT

MIGRATION TO LIBYA IS DIVERSE AND IT INCLUDES CHILDREN AND WOMEN.

- While the majority of migrants in Libya are adult men, according to IOM DTM, children account for 9 per cent of the total migrant population. Of these, 29 per cent are unaccompanied and at high risk of exploitation and abuse. According to IOM DTM 12 per cent of migrants in Libya are women.



FACT

MIGRANTS CONTRIBUTE TO THE LIBYAN ECONOMY THROUGH THE GROWING CONSTRUCTION AND TRADE SECTORS, WHICH EMPLOY BETWEEN 60 TO 70 PER CENT FOREIGN WORKERS.

- Migrants in Libya are mainly employed in the economic sectors of agriculture, industry including construction and oil and gas, and services.
- Following the beginning of the instability in Libya in 2011, the number of migrant workers halved drastically decreasing from more than 1.4 million to an estimated 653,000 today. Despite the ongoing conflict and hostility, there are labour shortages in Libya in some areas and sectors.
- Migrant labour continues to form a significant part of Libya's economy.

FACT

MIGRANTS IN LIBYA ALSO HEAVILY CONTRIBUTE TO THEIR HOUSEHOLDS IN THEIR COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN.

- Most migrants in Libya are the main income earners of the recipient household. In most cases, migrants' households in the countries of origin heavily depend on remittances sent by these migrants. On average, migrants in Libya remit USD 160 per month. This can make a significant difference for households, by contributing to basic expenses such as food, rent, utilities, and health care and overall to consumption of goods and services in the countries of origin.

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FACT

MIGRANTS LIVING IN UNSAFE AND UNHEALTHY CONDITIONS ARE MORE VULNERABLE TO DISEASES. DUE TO DISCRIMINATION THEY ALSO HAVE LIMITED ACCESS TO BASIC SERVICES, INCLUDING HEALTH SERVICES.

- According to IOM DTM, 74 per cent of migrants have limited or no access to health services which makes them very vulnerable to infectious diseases. While in principle migrants have access to health services, in practice, accessibility is an issue and very often migrants are underserved due to lack of resources. Misperceptions that migrants are vectors of communicable diseases are widespread even among health workers.
- Overall, IOM estimates that more than 80 per cent of the migrants have access to water and sanitation. However, this is not the case in the south of Libya where 43 per cent of migrants reportedly do not have regular access to water or sanitation. This puts them at **high risk of contracting COVID-19.**⁽¹⁾

⁽¹⁾ [Migrants Needs and Vulnerability Assessment, IOM DTM, Libya](#), December 2019, p. 31 to 39.