



IOM
UN MIGRATION

LIBYA
ليبيا

2021 ANNUAL REPORT

IOM LIBYA VISION

Migrants, internally displaced persons and all other mobile populations in Libya, including conflict-affected groups, 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.



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Foreword.....	4
Acronyms.....	5
IOM Libya Response 2021.....	6
About IOM Libya.....	8
Support to Build Resilience.....	9
Direct Assistance.....	11
Community Stabilization.....	12
Migrant Resource and Response Mechanism.....	14
Safe Pathways for Migrants.....	15
Voluntary Humanitarian Return.....	17
Migration Health.....	18
Mental Health and Psychosocial Support.....	20
Protection.....	22
Increasing Government Capacity to Manage Migration.....	23
Immigration and Border Management.....	25
Search and Rescue and Technical Cooperation.....	26
Labour Mobility and Human Development.....	27
Displacement Tracking Matrix and Research.....	28
Donors.....	30



FOREWORD

Throughout 2021 in Libya, as the ceasefire was holding and a state of relative calm prevailed, the International Organization for Migration had a chance to exercise new programmatic approaches in a new post-conflict era, inclusive of sustainable and integrated solutions, to address the economic and social challenges of displaced populations, migrants and local communities.

Though the challenges related to COVID-19 was fluctuating nationwide, IOM Libya, in line with the Libyan national priorities and in partnership with other humanitarian partners, contributed to the recovery of health care facilities and expanded its migration management tools, as well as labour migration assets such as the Youth Employment One-Stop-Shop (YESS), which aims at increasing employability prospects of migrant and Libyan youth currently unemployed and creating livelihood opportunities for them.

While 2021 was an aspiring year for Libyan politics, it was also marked by a record number of 32,425 migrants intercepted or rescued at sea and returned to Libya. This event is a stark reminder that the need to overhaul migration policies in the central Mediterranean route requires an intercontinental approach and collective commitments.

In 2022, IOM will continue working with the Libyan authorities and partners to provide assistance to migrants and displaced Libyan populations in need of assistance, while helping to establish a comprehensive, evidence-based and people-centred migration governance system, to support the transition towards longer-term solutions for migration management and development in Libya.

Federico Soda
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 NATION POPULATION FUND

UNHCR – UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES

UNICEF – UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S EMERGENCY FUND

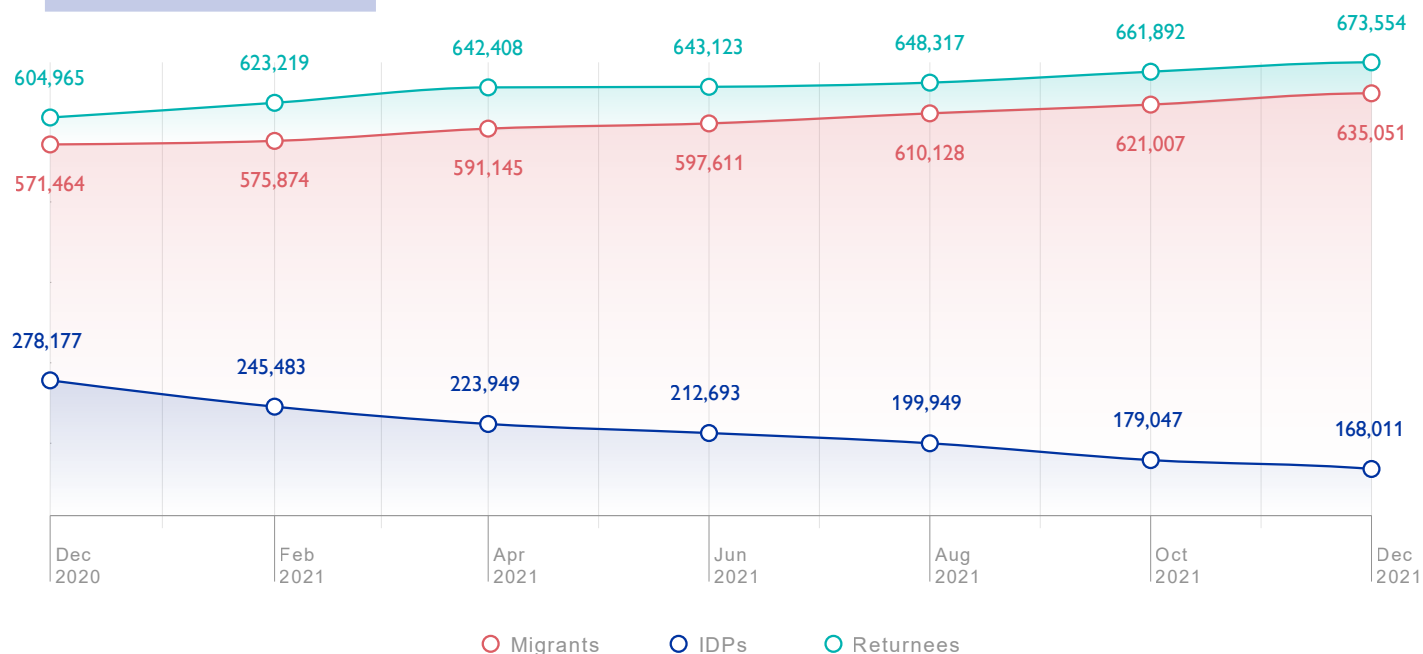
VHR – VOLUNTARY HUMANITARIAN RETURN

WASH – WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

WFP – WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME

IOM LIBYA RESPONSE IN 2021

DTM KEY FIGURES



COORDINATED SUPPORT PROVIDED BY IOM



Migrants and Refugees Platform (co-led by IOM, UNHCR & IRC)



MHPSS Technical Working Group (chaired by IOM & IMC)



Migration Health Sub-Working Group (chaired by IOM in collaboration with MOH)



Points of Entry (PoE pillar of the COVID-19 strategic response)

IOM LIBYA TEAM



146 National



53 International



436 CTG (third-party contractors)



635 Total Staff

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS



107,155 migrants provided with core relief items across Libya, 36 per cent were women and girls



105,905 primary health care consultations given to migrants, IDPs and host community members



More than **100,000** migrants and IDPs across Libya engaged in COVID-19 and vaccine information sessions



More than **927,000** cross-border travellers given COVID-19 medical screenings in collaboration with NCDC staff at Misrata airport and at the Ras Jdir border



7,815 doses of COVID-19 vaccines administered to migrants in 12 DCs and five migrant-dense municipalities



20,941 migrants reached with awareness-raising campaigns on the risks and realities of irregular migration, information on alternative pathways, disease control and prevention (including COVID-19) and available humanitarian services in Libya



14,157 ready-to-eat food kits distributed to vulnerable migrants in collaboration with WFP



8,342 individuals screened for tuberculosis



6,078 individuals supported with MHPSS services



4,332 migrants assisted to voluntarily return from Libya to 21 countries of origin



932 youth and women involved in capacity-building, community engagement and social cohesion activities



9,579 migrants reached through protection services



594 national health and security officials, health care workers, surveillance staff and health sector partners trained on migration-sensitive health service provision



93 individuals supported with trainings and toolkits to start or enhance their businesses and enable income generation



30 community improvement projects established in Libya

ABOUT IOM LIBYA

IOM has been operating in Libya since 2006 and continues to maintain a strong presence in the country, with staff working from two offices in Tripoli, one sub-office in Benghazi and field offices in Gatrour, Zwara, Bani Waleed and Sabha with projects implemented in the south, east and west of Libya. IOM implements a wide range of programmes to address urgent humanitarian needs of affected populations, as well as programmes to strengthen resilience and enhance the capacity of the country to address root causes of instability.

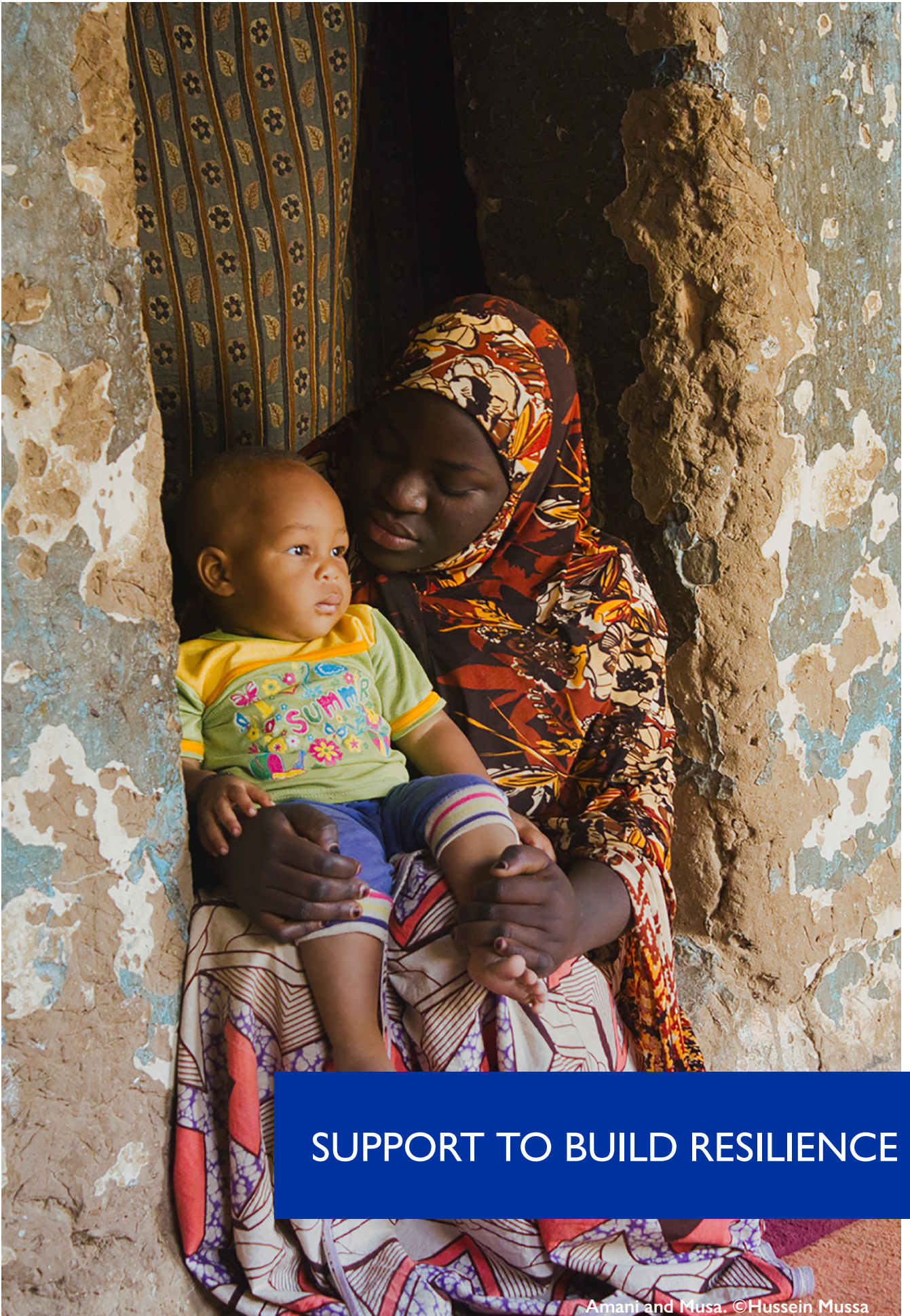
IOM Libya has 53 international staff and 582 national staff based in Tunisia and Libya, including third-party contracted staff. Working in close cooperation with the Libyan Government, IOM has reached thousands of displaced and conflict-affected Libyans and migrants in need through vital humanitarian and development assistance. IOM is committed to continue its efforts to ensure a strong presence in Libya and deliver assistance, working with local partners, building their capacity and together overcoming operational and access challenges.

IOM Libya's Strategic Framework 2021-2024 aims to support the establishment of a comprehensive, evidence-based and people-centred migration governance system to support 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 population and local communities. IOM Libya policy and programming falls under three pillars, in line with the global IOM Strategic Vision 2019-2023:

Resilience: Communities in Libya, including migrants, IDPs and local communities that have been affected by natural disasters and conflict, are supported to build their resilience to shocks so that they are better able to withstand the effects of hostile environments and respond to the effects of crisis and have improved protection outcomes and greater access to life-saving assistance.

Mobility: Efficient, rights-based and safe pathways are developed and available to migrants and IDPs, and safe orderly and regular migration is enhanced.

Governance: The Government of Libya has an increased capacity to manage migration in a structured, coherent, predictable and humane manner, which leads to the reduction of vulnerabilities of migrants and local communities.



SUPPORT TO BUILD RESILIENCE

Amani and Musa. ©Hussein Mussa

Amani's life changed drastically when her parents called for her to join them in Libya when she was only ten years old. Travelling across three countries with her four younger sisters, Amani was forced to leave her childhood behind her to make the perilous journey to a border town in southwest Libya.

"When I was 5 years old my parents left for Libya, leaving my sisters and me with our grandmother in Arlit, Niger. When I turned 10 years old, my father arranged for our journey from Niger to Algeria and then onwards to Libya. As a child, I wanted to spend my time like all the other children, but instead, I was responsible for my siblings' safety. Now that I'm older, I understand that it took my father five years to plan the journey, collect enough money and accept the possibility that we might end up in the hands of human traffickers. He was stuck in an agonizing dilemma-either leave us living in poor conditions in Arlit or make us take the dangerous desert trip across three countries. It was the latter.

My four sisters and I were on the road for seven days. We had to stay in one position for many hours during the journey while the car crossed the bumpy dunes to avoid checkpoints and the border patrol. From the Algerian border, a Libyan taxi took us to the border town of Albarkat, where my father was waiting at a local restaurant.

I will never have the right words to describe the feeling when I saw my father after five years. I can still see his smile, hear his soft voice and feel the warm hug he gave me and my sisters. That was probably the best moment of my entire life.

A few months after I arrived in Ghat and started enjoying my life as a 10-year-old child, my father married me off to a farmer in Tunin. We were married for nine years. My husband would leave the house in the early morning and come back after dark. When I was six months pregnant, my husband divorced me. He was in debt to the farm owner and the owner pressured my family to pay off my husband's debt. My mother paid the money, and I was finally free.

I delivered my baby without my ex-husband, who only showed up two weeks later. Since then, he hasn't been a part of the family and shows up once or twice every four or five months. It is thanks to my mother's care that I am able to take good care of my son. We give baby Musa all the love and care he needs. My mother also gave birth to a baby girl at the same time. Now we support each other and provide the ultimate love to our children. We give them the family they need and deserve."

Amani is now 20 years old and has been providing for her son without her husband's help. She was approached by IOM staff in Ghat who provided her with essential items, such as diapers and baby ointment for Musa, a kitchen set, which contains pots, pans and utensils for cooking, and hygiene kits, which contain soap, toothpaste, laundry powder and other sanitary items for her family and the baby. These core relief items help vulnerable families, like Amani's, who often go without basic goods to pay for rent or food to eat.





DIRECT ASSISTANCE

The Direct Assistance (DA) programme focuses on the provision of life-saving humanitarian assistance to migrants rescued at sea, in detention centres and in urban settings, as well as internally displaced persons affected largely by conflict, but also natural disasters. The major components of assistance include seasonal clothes, bedding, kitchen sets, hygiene kits, solar lamps and other items tailored for individuals and families.

During 2021, the DA programme continued to support communities in Libya, including migrants and IDPs, with basic and life-saving assistance. The programme supports migrants and IDPs to build resilience by providing core relief items to address their urgent and immediate needs, allowing migrants to endure critical situations until further assistance is provided.

In 2021, IOM delivered core relief items to 72,237 people, which included 21,778 migrants intercepted or rescued at sea, who received food and water to support their recovery from the perilous journey, 19,694 IDPs (approximately 3,900 households) who were unable to return to their homes even after the cessation of armed conflict and 30,765 migrants across Libya.

With the spread of COVID-19, the programme continued to play a role in containing the virus by providing personal protective items and hygiene kits to migrants and IDPs across Libya, including at disembarkation points and in detention centres. In 2021, 24,616 migrants and 19,694 IDPs received hygiene kits, which contain hand soap, washing liquid, antibacterial cleaning products and disinfection gel.

The DA programme continued to ensure its presence and core assistance to migrants along migratory routes, in transit cities, at disembarkation points, after interception or rescue at sea and in detention centres across Libya. At all these locations, the programme ensures that migrants receive basic and much-needed assistance, such as food and water,

medical assistance (in collaboration with the Migration Health programme), cooking kits, hygiene kits (especially needed during the COVID-19 pandemic), blankets and mattresses to reduce their vulnerability as much as possible. This assistance aims to reduce the chances of exploitation of migrants and to maintain their health and well-being.

As an active player within the interagency cluster approach, with leading contribution to the Shelter/NFI and the Food Security sectors, the DA programme continues to support local authorities to respond to the needs of their communities regardless of the type of crisis—for example, displacement due to flooding or conflict. In addition, the programme engages with local municipalities and government ministries to ensure their feedback, concerns and advice are heard and addressed.

The programme coordinates with the Directorate of Combatting Illegal Migration (DCIM) to ensure IOM assistance reaches the most vulnerable in the detention centres under DCIM management. Staff also coordinate with the Libyan Coast Guard to ensure access to support the intercepted or rescued migrants at disembarkation points. DA remains an active member of the Rapid Response Mechanism, which brings together IOM, UNFPA, UNICEF and WFP in partnership with the Libyan Humanitarian and Relief Agency (LibAid) to provide assistance within 72 hours after a disaster.

The year ahead

DA operations in the east continue to increase as more needs, particularly among protracted IDPs, are being reported. DA is looking into expanding its reach in different locations in the south with stock and pre-positioning of supplies in Sabha. DA will continue with its active role in the RRM not only in cases of new emergencies, but also in relevant joint interventions for IDP returnees and socioeconomic support to families impacted by COVID-19.



©Sadous Eljahmi/IOM Libya 2021

COMMUNITY STABILIZATION

The Community Stabilization (CS) programme ‘Together We Rebuild’ supports local communities in Libya to address drivers of instability and vulnerability, and contributes to the restoration of normal social and economic life.

In Libya, the socioeconomic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has increased and exacerbated community-level conflicts, unemployment and access to livelihoods. The pull factors of the illegal economy have proven conducive to increasing irregular migration activities and the presence of armed groups. Under the pressure of this instability, pre-existing tensions between people divided by tribe, race and ethnicity have become increasingly challenging. Despite these challenges, the programme continued to focus on the most vulnerable by supporting local authorities to restore services and community infrastructure, strengthening social cohesion and community engagement, and promoting livelihood opportunities for vulnerable community members.

In 2021, IOM supported local authorities and communities to improve access to basic services through the implementation of 30 community improvement projects (CIPs), such as the rehabilitation or construction of water supply and wastewater systems, schools and dormitories, recreational centres, health clinics and playgrounds, theatres and guest houses, as well as the delivery of equipment in schools, hospitals and other public spaces to complement rehabilitation and social cohesion activities. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the CS programme continued to safely conduct consultation meetings, planning and handover events with communities. Most notably, IOM finished the rehabilitation of the municipal theatre in Sabha, the drilling of 13 water wells in Sabha and the restoration of three community centres in Qatroun.

The CS programme supported 932 youth and women (514 men and 418 women) in capacity-building, community engagement and social cohesion activities, including social and cultural activities such as poetry competitions, scriptwriting and acting, open dialogue sessions and life skills classes. These activities promote trust-building and social cohesion between different groups and encourage peacebuilding and community engagement.

In 2021, the programme supported 93 people (44 men and 49 women) across four areas with vocational, entrepreneurial, business and marketing skills trainings, and provided toolkits to start or enhance their businesses and enable income generation. The “Caravan of Artistic Carving” initiative, which trained participants in artisanal handicrafts, such as leatherwork, wood decoration and calligraphy, was complemented through networking events connecting local entrepreneurs and small enterprises with the participants, as well as providing the necessary tools to increase their employability.

With the aim to promote good governance and increase local government’s capacities to provide services to crisis-affected populations, the CS programme and Labour and Human Development programme (LHD) supported the Ministry of Labour’s Technical and Vocational Education Training (TVET) centre in Zawiya with the provision of laptops, air conditioning units and technical equipment to be used for vocational training programmes. Thanks to the new equipment, new training modules were developed in key economic sectors, such as agriculture, automotive and construction, agrobusiness and electric car maintenance.

To enhance dialogue between youth and local government representatives, the CS programme supported the “Youth Forum” initiative, which aimed to develop a cadre of youth to engage local government stakeholders and supported the organization of a youth committee as a mechanism through which youth voices can be expressed. In 2021, 40 youth (13 women and 27 men) attended several training sessions on election processes and political debates, forms of governance, citizenship, advocacy, delivering political speeches and leadership skills.

The year ahead

In 2022, the Community Stabilization programme will continue providing the foundation to transition from humanitarian response to development interventions in Libya. Based on feasibility consultations carried out in 2021, activities will also expand to additional locations, such as Ubari and Ejdabia. In addition, the programme plans to focus on activities supporting local governance, mediation and peacebuilding. These components will put young people, who are often at risk of recruitment into armed groups, at the centre of programmatic activities as enablers for positive change.



Rehabilitation of the People's Municipal Theatre in Sabha ©Al-Juheimi Abdelmonem/IOM LIBYA



MIGRANT RESOURCE AND RESPONSE MECHANISM

The Migrant Resource and Response Mechanism (MRRM) brings together a wide range of services and needs-based assistance for vulnerable migrants living in urban settings, including food and non-food assistance, health-related services, awareness-raising activities, capacity-building of stakeholders including local authorities, as well as referral services to specialized assistance, such as Protection, MHPSS and VHR. Assistance is delivered through the MRRM base in Tripoli and IOM's MRRM mobile teams that operate in Bani Waleed, Benghazi, Qatroun, Sabha, Ghat, Tripoli and Zwara.

In 2021, MRRM reached 107,155 migrants across Libya of which 36 per cent of them were women and girls. A total of 47,805 migrants received non-food items, such as hygiene kits, clothing kits, blankets, solar lamps, mattresses, and kitchen sets, while 40,410 migrants received food assistance, and 25,277 migrants received medical consultations during field outreach visits. As the volatile security and economic situation, coupled with the evolving COVID-19 pandemic, has deeply impacted migrants, MRRM expanded services to provide ready-to-eat food kits to support vulnerable migrants in collaboration with the World Food Programme. Food kits contain essential ready-to-eat items, such as canned beans, tuna, and halawa that lasts over a month.

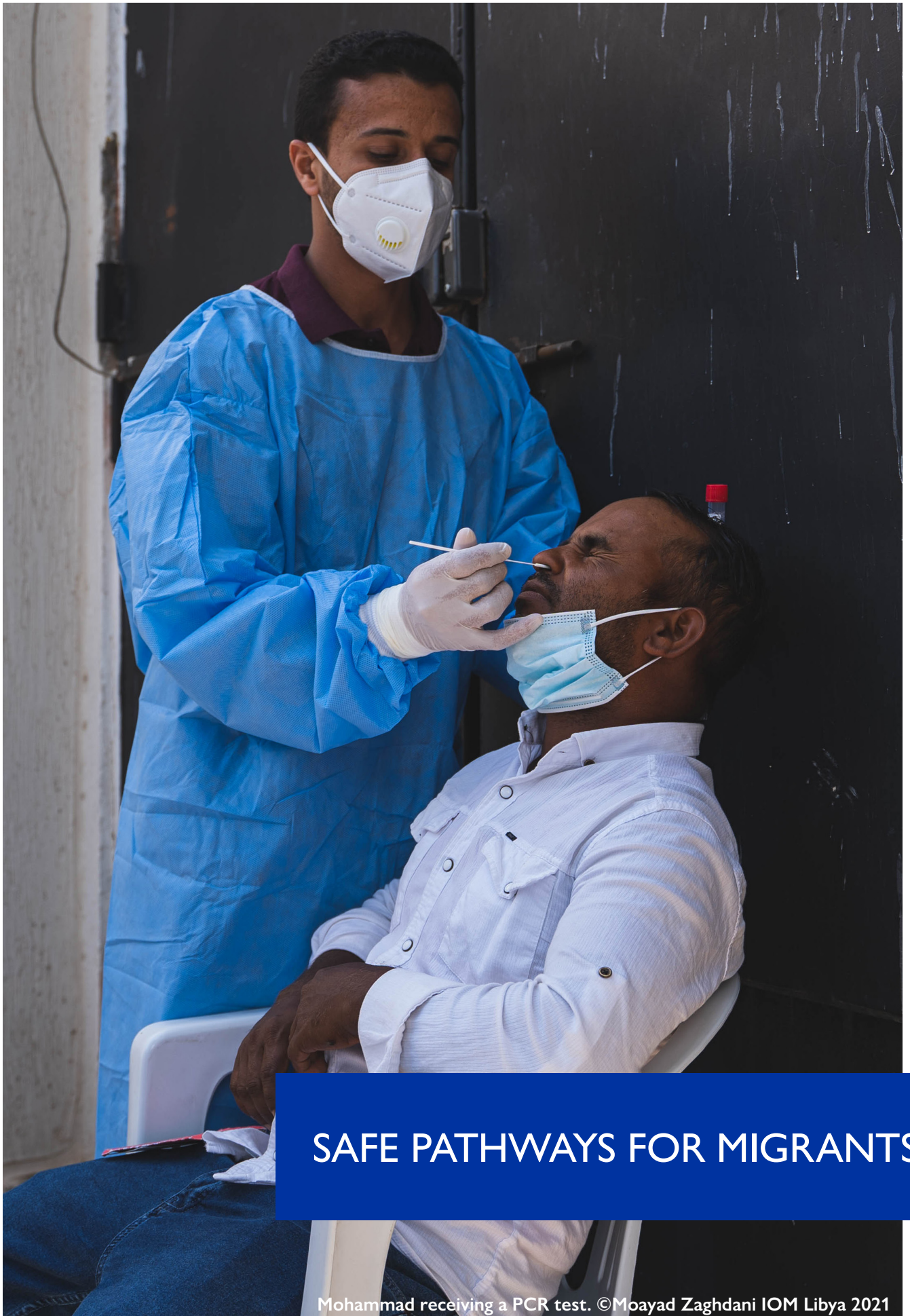
Often deceived by smugglers and traffickers, many migrants are misinformed before leaving their country as they do not have access to reliable sources of information. This leaves many migrants extremely vulnerable to different types of abuse during their migratory journey. The MRRM programme designed and implemented awareness-raising campaigns about the risks of irregular migration, information on alternative pathways, disease control and prevention (including COVID-19), available humanitarian services in

Libya, and promoted the IOM hotline available for migrant assistance. The MRRM teams implemented 2,233 awareness-raising sessions to mainstream the campaign key messages, reaching out to 20,941 migrants.

MRRM organized a migration governance training to enhance the capacity of relevant Libyan national authorities and other stakeholders, such as the Libyan Red Crescent and local civil society organizations, to prepare for and address the needs of migrants. The training focused on various topics, including migration and development, international migration law, trafficking and smuggling of migrants, labour migration and an overview of the recent updates on migration governance.

The year ahead

In 2022, the MRRM team is expecting to reach more than 100,500 migrants living in urban areas in Bani Waleed, Benghazi, Ghat, Qatroun, Sabha, Tripoli and Zwara, and will continue to provide direct assistance of core relief items (non-food and food kits), medical assistance and awareness-raising information. In addition, MRRM in collaboration with LHD are planning to organize a new migration governance training for the local authorities and other stakeholders in Ghat. Furthermore, to reach more migrants in the east, MRRM is aiming to expand support to migrants through the provision of non-food items and food items during door-to-door outreach.



SAFE PATHWAYS FOR MIGRANTS

Mohammad receiving a PCR test. ©Moayad Zaghdani IOM Libya 2021

Mohammad was only 10 years old when his father died, leaving him to grow up taking care of his five sisters and sick mother.

As a young man, Mohammad worked in a grocery store and travelled from his village in the Noakhali region in the southeast of Bangladesh to the capital Dhaka every month before returning to his village. Life was a struggle supporting his mother, his wife and two daughters. In search of better work options, he set off for Libya in 2012.

“When the situation in Libya was stable, I was working and gaining money and everything was good,” he said. “But then when the conflict started, I was afraid to die.”

When COVID-19 lockdowns imposed in 2020 left Mohammad without work and no future in Libya, a friend told him about IOM’s Voluntary Humanitarian Return (VHR) programme as a way out.

“Finding a job after the crisis in Libya and during COVID-19 was the most challenging situation for me,” Mohammad said. “A friend of mine, who returned to Bangladesh with IOM, told me I could register to travel back home through the programme.”

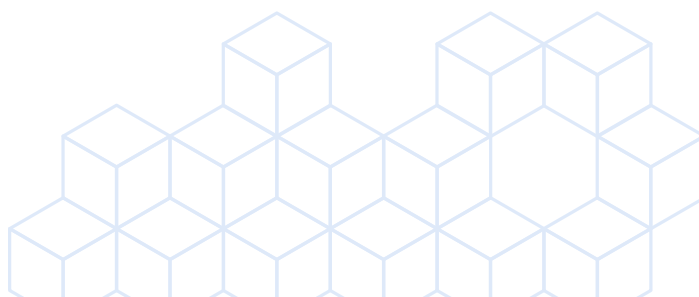
On the eve of his return, he was excited. “I have been waiting for this flight since April. I have not seen my wife and children for nine years,” he said at Tripoli’s Mitiga airport where he joined 124 other Bangladeshi migrants on a VHR flight to Dhaka.

The flight was the second within a week to return migrants to their country of origin since all humanitarian flights from Libya were suspended by the Ministry of Interior in August 2021. The first departed from Misrata airport carrying 127 people safely to Banjul, The Gambia, on 22 October.

“Since 2015 until the end of 2021, more than 53,000 migrants have returned from Libya in a safe, legal and dignified manner through IOM’s VHR programme,” said IOM Libya Chief of Mission, Federico Soda. “For many, it is a critical lifeline and a chance to start again.”

Before departure, migrants receive health checks, pre-departure transportation assistance, counselling services and protection screening. They also receive personal protective equipment and are tested for COVID-19 before boarding. At their destination, IOM supports migrants with reintegration assistance to help them set up a brighter future.

Mohammad hopes to benefit from this assistance and open a small grocery store like the one he left behind years earlier when he travelled to Libya.





©Moayad Zaghdani /IOM Libya 2021

VOLUNTARY HUMANITARIAN RETURN

IOM Libya applies a rights-based approach to addressing the needs of migrants, including those impacted by conflict or natural disaster-related displacement. In line with this approach, IOM facilitates access to safe, dignified, and durable solutions to displacement. When protection services can no longer be provided in host countries, IOM supports migrants to voluntarily return to their countries of origin.

The Voluntary Humanitarian Return (VHR) programme works to alleviate the suffering of stranded and detained migrants through the provision of basic life-saving and life sustaining assistance, awareness-raising on the risks of irregular migration and alternative options via referrals. Services under the VHR programme are designed to provide tailored support to migrants in Libya and upon return to their countries of origin.

Throughout 2021, IOM's VHR programme assisted 4,332 migrants (3,031 men, 655 women, 310 boys and 336 girls) to voluntarily return from Libya to 21 countries of origin. Among the returnees were 464 migrants who had medical needs and 44 unaccompanied and separated children. While 85 per cent of the migrants supported to return to their country of origin were from urban locations in Libya (3,702 migrants), 15 per cent (596 adults and 34 children) were located in detention centres in Libya.

All returnees benefitted from medical and vulnerability screenings, pre-departure COVID-19 PCR tests, exit visa facilitation, personal protective items, such as masks, gloves and hand sanitizer, embarkation assistance, as well as arrival assistance in the country of return. Upon return, the returnees will have the opportunity to benefit from tailored reintegration assistance, including in-kind support provided by IOM office in the country of origin.

Through this multifaceted intervention, IOM Libya offers voluntary humanitarian return and reintegration for migrants who want to return to their home countries, alleviating the suffering of stranded and detained migrants. The provision of humane, dignified and expedited return and reintegration assistance provides a lifeline for those stranded in Libya.

The year was dominated by significant challenges as a result of the suspension of all humanitarian flights from Libya by the Ministry of Interior in August 2021 and the COVID-19 outbreak and consequent movement restrictions implemented to curb the spread of the virus. Libyan authorities imposed a series of preventive measures, including physical distancing rules, curfews, and mobility restrictions and airport and border closures.

The year ahead

The programme will continue to provide outreach services for migrants through the information hotline, individual counselling, vulnerability screening and immediate direct assistance. The programme will also continue to assist migrants to obtain travel documents, access consular services, pre-departure health checks, transportation assistance, cross referrals with other UN agencies and international organizations, including UNHCR, and coordination with countries of origin for specific assistance to returnees and victims of trafficking.



MIGRATION HEALTH

IOM aims to reduce mortality and morbidity among migrants, IDPs and host community members. IOM's Migration Health programme supports vulnerable populations through the provision of primary health care services, case referral and health promotion at disembarkation points, detention centres, public health facilities and migrant-dense community settings.

IOM also conducts pre-departure medical screening for refugee resettlement and fitness to travel (FTT) screenings for migrants returning to their countries of origin through the VHR programme. Besides the direct health assistance, IOM supports the enhancement of the national health system through the rehabilitation of public health facilities, equipment support and provision of various capacity-building training to national health authorities and relevant stakeholders.

In 2021, the Migration Health programme provided 105,905 primary healthcare consultations (67,336 men, 20,263 women, 12,433 boys and 5,873 girls) to migrants, IDPs and host community members and referred 2,340 migrants (1,171 men, 828 women, 221 boys and 120 girls) to secondary and tertiary health facilities for life-saving interventions and specialized care.

In close coordination with the Libyan National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), the programme conducted 23 tuberculosis screening campaigns at detention centres, at the IOM medical office and in local communities. In 2021, IOM screened 8,342 individuals (7,423 men and 919 women) and reported 159 active tuberculosis cases to NCDC for tuberculosis treatment and care while providing nutritional support.

To support the Libyan national health system maintain essential health care services across the continuum of care while managing the COVID-19 response, IOM continued to donate necessary medical equipment and supplies to national

health entities, public health facilities and points of entry. The programme also established fully equipped prefabricated isolation spaces at four detention centres (Mabani, Ain Zara, Ganfouda and Kufra) and two points of entry (Mitiga and Misrata airports).

Furthermore, to support national COVID-19 prevention, response and vaccination efforts and to limit the vulnerability of migrants to disease spread, IOM enhanced the community engagement activities, reaching over 100,000 migrants and IDPs through information sessions on COVID-19 and vaccines. In 2021, IOM also supported the targeted national COVID-19 vaccination campaigns for migrants in 12 DCs and five migrant-dense municipalities (Kufra, Hay Alandalus, Janzour, Suq Aljumaa and Tajoura) in which IOM facilitated administration of 7,815 doses of COVID-19 vaccines to migrants.

As part of the VHR programme, IOM provided pre-departure medical screenings and medical assistance to 7,067 migrants (4,979 men, 1,136 women, 848 children and 104 unaccompanied migrant children) and supported 440 medical cases, including 26 medical escorts.

IOM also conducted 501 migration health assessments and travel health assistance consultations for migrants who resettled to asylum countries.

To support national public health emergency preparedness and response capabilities, IOM provided a series of capacity-building trainings on disease surveillance and health information systems. In 2021, the programme trained 19 surveillance staff of health sector partners on community event-based surveillance (Early Warning Alert and Response Network – EWARN) and 38 national statistic and data management officers on the District Health Information Software (DHIS-2).

Furthermore, as a lead agency for the points of entry pillar in the national COVID-19 preparedness and response plan, IOM supported NCDC staff at Misrata airport and Ras Jdir border crossing point by providing medical check-ups to over 927,000 cross-border travellers. The Migration Health programme also conducted a workshop for over 40 Libyan and Tunisian public health focal points to enhance cross-border collaboration between the countries and strengthen infectious disease prevention and control capacities at points of entry. IOM also supported the national health entities to develop an emergency preparedness plan and standard operating procedure for points of entry.

In 2021, IOM, in close collaboration with the Ministry of Health, chaired three meetings of the Migration Health Sub-Working Group and two technical working group workshops with over 50 national officials and representatives from UN agencies and international partners working on migration health. In the meetings, participants discussed the preparation of COVID-19 vaccination for migrants, as well as the expansion of health surveillance mechanism in detention centres.

As part of IOM's continuous advocacy for migrant-sensitive health services, the Migration Health programme continued to provide various capacity-building trainings on general health vulnerabilities related to migration and detention with an aim to assist national health authorities to include migrant-friendly health provisions into the national health strategy and policy to ensure Universal Health Coverage.

In 2021, IOM trained 594 national health and security officials, health care workers, surveillance staff and health sector partners on migration-sensitive health service, while providing training on COVID-19 preparedness and response, such as infection prevention and control, intensive care unit management, disease surveillance and vaccine supervision among others.

The year ahead

In 2022, the programme will continue to support primary health care services, health information management and disease surveillance, tuberculosis response and expand support in targeted national COVID-19 vaccination campaigns for migrants in DCs and communities.

The programme will also focus on strengthening and expanding surveillance and rapid response to communicable diseases by establishing IOM emergency medical teams in DCs, PoE, disembarkation points and migrant-dense communities. Migration Health will continue to assess health service availability and needs along migratory routes in Libya, implementing emergency preparedness plans and standard operation procedures at points of entry, and developing minimum standards of basic primary health care services at DCs and in migrant-dense communities.



Routine immunization of migrant children ©Islam Azzabi/IOM LIBYA



MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

In Libya, IOM's Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) programme follows a community-based approach. The approach aims to understand the community needs during and following emergencies and promote resilience and psychosocial well-being of individuals, groups and communities.

MHPSS activities aim to enhance the resilience of affected populations and promote positive coping mechanisms. Taking into account social and psychological factors when addressing basic needs and protection, the MHPSS programme centres human rights and the dignity of migrants in its activities to foster a social environment that enables individuals, families and communities to realize their potential. MHPSS services are a key priority for IOM as many migrants do not have access to services and experience abnormal stressors through their migration journey. IOM adopts a community-based MHPSS approach where teams offered a varied set of MHPSS services, such as counselling, psychological first aid, support group sessions, art-based psychosocial activities, awareness sessions on COVID-19 MHPSS impacts, psychoeducation and referral to specialized mental health care. These services helped to address the complex psychosocial situations that migrants experience.

In 2021, the MHPSS programme supported 6,078 individuals (3,654 men, 1,502 women, 652 boys and 270 girls) with MHPSS services and referred 300 people (202 men and 98 women) to Protection, Migration Health, VHR and MRRM programmes. Due to COVID-19, remote MHPSS services were provided through the MHPSS helpline, with 153 migrants from different cities and towns in Libya calling for assistance. The helpline ensures vulnerable migrants have access to MHPSS services, especially with movement restrictions. MHPSS group activities were also conducted in smaller groups due to COVID-19, and all public health measures were put in place during MHPSS trainings.

During the year, the programme organized nine MHPSS training sessions for 165 governmental frontline employees, health workers, representatives from civil society organizations and international NGOs. The training helped to enhance the capacity of relevant Libyan national health staff in primary health care facilities and active civil society workers to provide an understanding of mental health and psychosocial support key MHPSS concepts, frameworks, community-based approach and tools and resources, psychological first aid and supportive communication skills.

Migration and displacement generally require major adaptations, as people cross interpersonal, socioeconomic, cultural and geographic boundaries. Migration can create specific psychosocial vulnerabilities that, if combined with other risk factors, can affect the mental health of migrants. This is magnified in specific types of migration, such as forced migration and displacement due to conflict and disasters. MHPSS activities support migrants in distress in urban locations, as well as at disembarkation points after interception or rescue at sea by providing psychological first aid and referral to services.

The Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Technical Working Group (MHPSS TWG) is co-chaired by IOM and the International Medical Corps, in close collaboration with the Ministry of Health. In 2021, the MHPSS TWG held 12 monthly coordination meetings, created quarterly newsletters to share information on MHPSS services and activities provided in Libya, supplied technical support to partners, mapped out services provided by international NGOs and civil society organizations and coordinated ongoing guidance and trainings. An annual plan for 2021 was also developed in close coordination with the Ministry of Health. Furthermore, an MHPSS workshop on referral mechanisms was organized by the MHPSS TWG.

The year ahead

In 2022, IOM proposes strengthening its MHPSS response to displaced populations, both at group and individual levels and to continue ensuring affected populations can access to specialized services as offered by partners and national institutions. IOM will continue providing direct MHPSS services and scale up the MHPSS response to reach vulnerable migrants in remote locations. IOM will support the Libyan Ministry of Health and other relevant ministries with the needed technical support and through MHPSS capacity-building activities targeting frontline responders and Libyan civil society organizations. IOM will maintain its leading role in chairing the MHPSS technical working group in Libya, aiming to support national MHPSS coordination mechanisms.



Training session on MHPSS for frontline responders ©Sadous Eljahmi/IOM LIBYA



PROTECTION

IOM Libya provides protection services to ensure that migrants requiring specialized support are able to 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-governmental counterparts and with migrant communities and embassies of migrants' countries of origin.

The IOM Protection team reached 9,579 migrants (6,389 men and 3,190 women) in 2021 in Tripoli, Misrata, Zuwara, Sebha, Zawiya and Benghazi. With the goal of providing quality services and dignified care, case managers assist individuals with healing and recovery, and reinforce coping strategies to encourage long-term resilience and self-determination.

The Protection team also worked to reinforce community capacities and community support networks in response to the ongoing protection risks facing migrants. Engaging with community mobilizers and carrying out 'communicating with communities' activities helped individuals understand risks and reinforce existing protective factors. Information sessions on topics such as school enrolment and access to gender-based violence (GBV) services were delivered based on community engagement and feedback.

The outbreak of COVID-19 severely impacted the most vulnerable people in society. Against the backdrop of severe economic hardship, unemployment, food insecurity, movement restrictions, international border closures, many migrants including women and children were isolated and stranded, with reduced ability of service providers and communities to identify and assist protection cases. IOM continued to provide protection services to thousands of vulnerable migrants and adapted service provision modalities to reach vulnerable groups, including victims of trafficking and unaccompanied children. Outreach activities were also expanded.

IOM's Protection programme provided training and capacity-building activities to various government ministries, including the Ministry of Social Affairs and the Ministry of Interior, on topics including Counter Trafficking and Rights-Based Approach.

The Protection programme carried out protection monitoring and provided specialized services to the most vulnerable migrants along the migration route, in community settings, at disembarkation points and in detention centres. This included supporting family reunification and helping vulnerable migrants to return home through the VHR programme.

The year ahead

In 2022, the Protection programme will continue to support and promote a rights-based approach to migration management through training and capacity-building activities to support the Libyan government. Case management services will continue to be provided throughout Libya to the most vulnerable migrants identified, including GBV survivors, victims of trafficking, and unaccompanied and separated children. Capacity-building and training to civil society and government partners will be provided with the aim to enhance Protection services. Community-based protection activities with displaced and host populations will be expanded in areas with the highest needs identified to reinforce community protective factors and promote resilience.



INCREASING GOVERNMENT CAPACITY TO MANAGE MIGRATION

Libya and Niger signing a memorandum of understanding ©IOM Libya 2021

In a step towards regularizing labour migration, on 30 November 2021, Libya and Niger signed a memorandum of understanding that seeks to protect migrant workers through effective work visa issuance before employment and to better respond to Libya's labour market needs.

"Bilateral collaboration plays a key role in promoting the labour rights of Nigerien migrants in Libya, to improve their working conditions and thereby to facilitate remittances to their communities of origin and to contribute to the development of their home country through remittances," said Barbara Rijks, IOM Niger Chief of Mission, "It will also contribute to combat migrant smuggling and trafficking in persons and promote safe and regular migration pathways."

Federico Soda, IOM Libya Chief of Mission, said it was essential to strengthen coordination and cooperation mechanisms on migration management and labour mobility across the countries' borders. "There are more than 600,000 international migrants in Libya, with Nigerien nationals the most prominent group at 20 per cent," he said. "They play a pivotal role in supplying a critical workforce in the Libyan economy and contribute to the development of their home country through remittances."

According to the DTM Libya report, [Mobility in The Chad-Libya-Niger Triangle \(August 2019 - September 2020\)](#) on the nature of migration dynamics between Libya, Chad and Niger, crossing the Sahara Desert is one of the world's most perilous migration journeys. The migration routes are remote, and vehicle breakdowns and the threats from bandits are frequent. Migrants often travel spontaneously, following in the footsteps of centuries of migration before them, often with no documents or legal status.

In response to these risks, IOM works closely with the Libyan and Nigerien governments to strengthen their capacities in various areas, including labour migration, migration data and migrant protection. The Organization has also acted as a facilitator to enhance policy and active dialogue and international cooperation mechanisms on labour mobility to support legal frameworks to protect migrant worker rights.

IOM also supported a roundtable meeting between Libya's Labour Minister and Ministry of Labour officials from Chad, Ghana, Guinea Conakry, Mali, Nigeria and Senegal. Building on the experience from Niger, the aim is to foster dialogue and pave the way towards establishing a framework of international cooperation in the area of labour mobility between Libya and key countries of origin.





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IMMIGRATION AND BORDER MANAGEMENT

The Immigration and Border Management (IBM) programme continues to assist in addressing complex border management challenges in Libya and acts with its partners in the international community to assist in meeting the growing operational challenges of migration management.

The IBM programme supports national entities through tailored technical cooperation and capacity-building initiatives and trainings. IOM also provided protective and life-saving equipment, assisted with safety infrastructure improvements at disembarkation points, and implemented water sanitation and hygiene (WASH) interventions in DCIM-administered detention centres to improve the minimum living standards for migrants in detention.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the programme strengthened the capacity of the national authorities to implement preventive measures by delivering personal protective equipment and performing routine fumigation and disinfection activities in detention centres. To strengthen the national response, IOM implemented 25 sessions of hygiene promotion and COVID-19 awareness campaigns in 15 detention centres managed by DCIM and three shelters reaching 2,427 migrants (1,787 men and 834 women) and 194 DCIM staff.

IOM has made progress in its collaboration with relevant governmental authorities to install the Migration Information and Data Analysis System (MIDAS) at target border crossing points, with the goal of improving relevant authorities' identity management procedures. MIDAS will enable Libyan border authorities to monitor effectively who enters and exits its territory, while also providing information and data that can be used to analyse trends and develop policy. The Libyan government fully and solely owns any data collected by MIDAS.

In 2021, IBM facilitated several capacity-development initiatives, including training sessions and workshops, targeting 630 officials from different Libyan national entities and consular representatives of foreign governments present in Libya. The initiatives covered a wide range of topics to enhance migration governance and response to crises, such as humanitarian border management, migration data management, protection principles, countering migrant smuggling, and maritime search and rescue.

IBM contributed to enhancing cooperation mechanisms and capacities of government officials to address challenges related to border management in crisis and emergency situations through an interactive regional workshop on an integrated approach to rights-based border management in crisis situations in Libya and in its neighbouring countries. The co-hosts of the event, the Government of National Unity of Libya and the African Union, together with presentations by other international organizations like the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and Frontex, ensured a multidimensional approach to humanitarian border management.

The year ahead

In 2022, IBM will continue to offer guidance and expertise to governments aspiring to improve their migration and border management and operational procedures, and provide WASH and light rehabilitation assistance to detention centres to ensure that migrants are treated with dignity and have access to minimum living standards.



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SEARCH AND RESCUE AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION

The Search and Rescue and Technical Cooperation (SAR) programme plays a central role in addressing the increasing challenges related to migration management in Libya through strategically collaborating with relevant national entities and partners and delivering assistance on IBM and SAR related initiatives targeting migrants disembarked in Libya.

The capacity-building of national entities is aimed at improving the life-saving and humanitarian assistance migrants receive while intercepted or rescued at sea and returned to Libya. Through the Search and Rescue programme, IOM delivered life-saving assistance to migrants disembarked, those rescued in the desert and inside official detention centres.

Delivery of humanitarian assistance at disembarkation points remains a key activity in IOM's portfolio, which includes protection screening, psychosocial support, provision of food and core relief items and assistance to migrants for voluntary humanitarian return to their country of origin. To strengthen the response to the COVID-19 pandemic and other contagious diseases, IOM implements preventive measures through delivering personal protective equipment, conducting hygiene promotion campaigns and organizing COVID-19 awareness sessions, and regular fumigations and disinfection activities in facilities that accommodate migrants.

SAR also facilitates and provides technical support to Libyan authorities to help address urgent humanitarian needs and foster cross-sectoral partnerships. The programme assists national migration authorities to implement protection-oriented interventions for improving the basic living conditions of migrants through the provision of drinking water, improved sanitation and better hygiene standards in facilities where migrants are hosted, including disembarkation points, SAR ships and detention centres.

Through continuous coordination with the Libyan Coast Guard, General Administration for Coastal Security (GACS) and DCIM, the programme constantly promoted the provision of protection-oriented and dignified support to migrants rescued from the sea, and delivered humanitarian assistance to 32,425 migrants who were returned to Libya by the Libyan Coast Guard, GACS and other entities. The number of migrants returned to Libya in 2021 and assisted by IOM is 2.7 times higher than the 11,891 returns for 2020.

The year ahead

To further promote the implementation of protection oriented and human rights-based SAR activities, in 2022 IOM will continue to support the drafting and adoption of standard operating procedures by national authorities. This will be associated with inter-agency coordination initiatives, extensive support for the capacity-building of national authorities, including training to State officials based on the 2021 Training Catalogue developed in consultation with relevant Libyan entities.



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LABOUR MOBILITY AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

The overall programmatic objective of IOM's Labour Mobility and Human Development (LHD) 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.

Throughout 2021, the LHD programming contributed to knowledge generation and system strengthening to improve local economy and hence resilience among youth and vulnerable mobile populations. [Labour Market Analyses](#) were carried out to inform on current Libyan macroeconomic dynamics and skills gaps through a migrant-sensitive lens. In an effort to enhance local economic recovery and livelihood opportunities, Technical and Vocational Education Training (TVET) reform was initiated in collaboration with the Ministry of Labour and Rehabilitation. Through this initiative new TVET training modules were developed with an aim to contribute to reducing skills mismatch and to introduce industry-tailored skills for better employment opportunities.

Lastly in an effort to increase equal opportunities to labour market, Youth Employment One Stop Shop (YESS) centres were established in Tripoli and Benghazi. The YESS centre acts as community service centre for upskilling both migrants and Libyan youth. Its services are tailored to promote youth employment opportunities through skills development and nurturing equal opportunities for decent work. All these initiatives were tailored to meet COVID-19 protocols, and when needed, the number of participants were reduced in order to manage the appropriate distancing, while working to strengthen local actors' capacity to cope and boost income generating activities for an inclusive and dynamic labour force.

Strengthening labour mobility mechanisms and the promotion of regular labour migration pathways lies at heart of LHD programming. Although COVID-19 slowed down the process of regional interaction, the programme managed to facilitate two significant regional roundtables on labour mobility and

regional collaboration. Both in Tripoli and in Niamey, Niger, diplomatic representatives of Sahel and West Africa region attended the meetings along with the donor community and IOM thematic experts. The Niger regional roundtable coincided with the signatory ceremony of Memorandum of Understanding of Bilateral Labour Agreement (BLA) between Libya and Niger, which IOM supported both with technical advice as well as facilitating discussions between both states to foster regular labour migration pathways to Libya and to safeguard migrant worker rights in destination country.

To support national and local capacity in labour migration governance, the LHD programme developed a Training of Trainers (ToT) Manual on Labour Migration Governance. The manual was tailored to the migration context in Libya, with referencing to Libyan migration policy and legal frameworks, protection of migrant workers, migration and development and an advanced module to guide on national policy development for an effective labour migration governance. Throughout 2021, the training package was tested and rolled out through five training sessions. A total of 57 public officials and civil society members involved in migration management from across Libya were trained. Due to COVID-19, the intended number was reduced as the nature of the training required in-person attendance to allow group activities and interactive sessions as part of learning modality.

The year ahead

In 2022, the main programmatic priorities for the LHD programme will continue to be the provision of capacity-building initiatives to enhance national and local response for effective labour migration governance, investment in regional and international collaboration to promote regular pathways and skills mobility partnerships, as well as expanding on YESS services to create equal access for inclusive and decent work. This will include the continuation of the TVET sector enhancement through the provision of capacity-building to TVET professionals, as well as industry-oriented curricula development.



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 and evolving needs, whether on site or en route.

Through mobility tracking and migrant flow monitoring activities, DTM regularly and systematically captures, processes, analyses and disseminates information in Libya to provide humanitarian and development actors with a better understanding of the evolving situation and context. While specialized data collections implemented by DTM and the Research programme, such as those capturing primary data related to health indicators via community-based health surveillance serving migrant communities at key locations in Libya, assessments tracking the impact of COVID-19, and weekly tracking of vaccinations delivered to migrants by National Centre for Disease Control help contribute to Libya's COVID-19 pandemic response as well.

IOM Libya's DTM and Research programming also conducts in-depth assessments and research studies covering topics ranging from migrant housing in Libya to remittances, as well as studies aimed at furthering understanding of the migration trends covering thematic areas of migration aspirations and decision-making, migration routes and migrant vulnerabilities.

Through regular publication of various reports throughout 2021, DTM has supported programming in Libya aimed at increasing the resilience of affected populations via the sharing of vital data and evidence. DTM's regular bi-monthly reports on [IDPs and Returnees](#) as well as the report on [Migrants](#) presents data and analysis on key indicators related to not

only mobility aspects of both internal displacement (IDP and returnee context) and international migration, but it also highlights vulnerabilities and humanitarian needs that are vital for programming to increase resilience of internally displaced persons and migrants. Key research studies published during 2021 covered topics of significant importance to building resilience, such as [Circular Migration to Libya, Remittances Amidst Conflict and Pandemic](#) and intra-regional mobility covering the [Chad-Libya-Niger Triangle](#), amongst others.

Throughout 2021, IOM's migration data governance focused programming implemented via DTM and the Research programme developed the capacity of Libyan counterparts, including the Government of Libya's line ministries (e.g. Ministry of Internal Displacement and Human Rights and Ministry of Agriculture) and civil society organizations, through workshops aimed at delivering vital information, computer science technology support, and data collection training.

Furthermore, IOM and the Ministry of Internal Displacement and Human Rights (then named as Ministry of IDP Affairs) also published a joint report on [Internal Displacement](#) in Libya resulting from the 2019-2020 western Libya armed conflict via a joint review of data on displacement collected by both IOM's DTM programming and the ministry's registration systems.

The year ahead

In 2022, IOM Libya's DTM and Research programme will continue providing data, analysis and reporting for IOM, as well as for broader humanitarian and development partners to support evidence-based programming, ranging from life-saving humanitarian response to longer-term recovery, transition, and development programming. An increased focus will be on filling the data gaps and providing analysis aimed at facilitating Libya's programming to transition from humanitarian to development context as per the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF). Apart from the ongoing activities focused on socioeconomic conditions of migrants in Libya and labour migration, DTM programming in Libya is also in the initial stages of implementing systematic indices, including a Return Index, as well as a Fragility Index.

Furthermore, relevant partners within the Government of Libya will be supported through capacity-building related to information and data management while maintaining DTM in the interim as a one-stop shop for data on displacement and migration in Libya.



DTM staff member interviewing a migrant ©Moayad Zaghdani/IOM LIBYA

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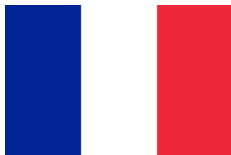
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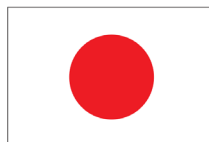
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