SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

MIGRATION PULSE III:
Assessing and monitoring the impact of COVID-19 on food security and livelihoods of migrant groups and Libyans

WFP
World Food Programme

ITALIAN AGENCY FOR DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

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HIGHLIGHTS:

- In November 2020, following the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, WFP launched a new round of web survey to update on the food security and livelihoods situation in Libya in the aftermath of further economic crises and containment measures. The exercise targeted migrants, Libyan displaced population, and nationals.

- All populations in Libya have been faced with prolonged insecurity and economic crises, coupled with COVID-19 which have taken a toll on the livelihoods and levels of income. However, this varied based on socioeconomic factors and available livelihood opportunities. One in two IDPs had witnessed a reduction in income or complete loss. Meanwhile 40 percent of migrants experienced the same change.

- While food security related indicators have shown improvements compared to previous round of web surveys, significant proportions of migrant and displaced Libyan population were found to be food insecure in 2020. One in nearly five migrants and one in nearly six IDPs were found to be moderately or severely food insecure.

- Similar to the overall food security status of migrants, East and West Africans have the highest proportion of food insecurity, as one in five migrants were found to be moderately or severely food insecure. Meanwhile, the least food insecure groups were found to be Middle Eastern and North African migrants, with one in nearly seven migrants being food insecure.

- With a slight improvement in the food security related indicators compared to 2019, there has also been an apparent increase in the proportions of migrant groups who reported sending remittances back home within recent months. This may be also influenced by increased need for support of families in countries of origin in the times of COVID-19 pandemic.

- Money transfer channels have greatly shifted in 2020, mirroring containment measures and border closures across many countries. Results showed that one in nearly four migrants who used to rely on informal transfer channels before the onset of the pandemic, are now depending on formal channels to send money back to families and relatives in their countries of origin.

- Profiles of migrants in Libya continue to play as indicators of their movement intentions, as almost half of East Africans plan to continue their journey to another country, that mirrors their transitory profile. Overall, the percentage of migrant groups who plan to return home had remained stable compared to 2019 web survey results.

- Comparisons of top problems faced by migrants in 2020 and 2019 have demonstrated similar results, with insecurity and violence coming in first at 33 percent. Followed by lack of work/unemployment (23%) and high food prices (22%).

Background and objectives

One decade ago, the Arab Spring spread across the Middle East and North African region reaching Libya which has been one the countries that got impacted the most. The destabilization had taken Libya into prolonged years of conflict which has also taken a toll on its populations. Political instability has led to the deterioration of macroeconomic fundamentals, including currency devaluation, as well as food and fuel price inflations, overtime. The recent eight-month blockade on oil ports, coupled with restrictions to curb the spread of the COVID-19, have further deteriorated the already weak economic situation, with a negative impact on food security.

The country hosts at least 574,000 migrants[1], a majority of which are migrant workers, often relying on casual work found daily. However, the availability of labour opportunities is being affected by the economic downturn, and more with COVID-19 containment measures. The global impacts of the pandemic have also resulted in the largest mobility crisis ever seen. It has changed global mobility patterns, border, and migration management systems, while causing uncertainty and hardship for many. The number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) identified in Libya decreased from 316,415 individuals to 278,177 IDPs by the end of December 2020. Although it was reported by IOM that many of the displaced persons had returned due to improved security situation, the majority depending on daily wages faced loss of livelihoods and employment opportunities due to mobility restrictions and curfew.

As the situation inside Libya continues to be extremely unstable, it is crucial to continue to monitor trends and effects on the needs of migrants. In late 2020, WFP rolled out the third round[2] of web surveys[3] in Libya with the aim of understanding the changes in the food security and livelihood situation of migrants and local population. More specifically the survey objectives were to:

1. Provide an update on the food security situation of migrants and identify the most vulnerable groups, to inform programme.
2. Understand the impacts of COVID-19 on the migrant groups and local populations' livelihoods and ability to meet their food and other essential needs.

Methodology

The web surveys ran inside Libya, from 2 November to 8 December 2020, capturing responses from the main four migrant groups, internally displaced persons (IDPs), and host communities. The migrant groups were categorized based on regions of origin (Middle East, North, East, and West Africa), through aggregating the largest foreign nationalities present in Libya. Meanwhile, IDPs and host communities were distinguished based on their responses to a filter question related to their residency status in the country, that allows respondents to indicate whether they are currently displaced from their home communities, or not.

Given the nature of the web-based methodology, this sample only considers migrants and local populations who are literate internet users, with connectivity to the internet, hence, it is not representative of the general population in Libya. However, internet usage in Libya has grown significantly (46%) since the early 2000s[4], and mobile ownership covers nearly 75 percent of the population. It is important to note that this technology does not necessarily capture migrants who are in detention centres.

In this context, web surveys are a viable tool to collect information rapidly from the population at a lower cost than face-to-face interviews, while also ruling out safety and health concerns. However, the results represent a relatively better-

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[1] https://migration.iom.int/reports/libya-—-migrant-report-33-september-october-2020

[2] WFP. 2019. The Migration Pulse: Piloting innovative web-based surveys in Libya. (Sept-Oct 2018 data). WFP. 2019. The Migration Pulse Libya. (Jan-May 2019 data)

[3] WFP contracted RIWI Corporation to implement web-based surveys using its patented Random Domain Intercept Technology (RDIT™). Detailed information regarding RDIT can be found on the service provider's website: https://riwi.com/

[4] https://dataportal.com/reports/digital-2021-libya

off population group compared to the general public. The web-survey also comes with the limitation of over-representation of some population groups (e.g. male and younger people). To mitigate against this, a weighting system was implemented at the analysis stage based on population strata, disaggregated by sex for both all population groups – migrant groups, IDPs and host communities.

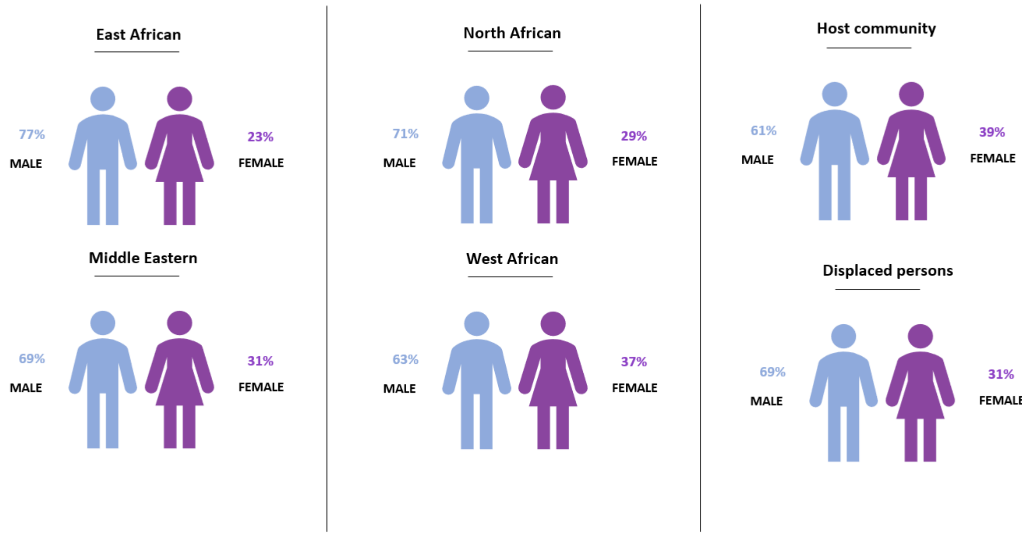
Table 1: sample size by different strata (population group)

Populations and Sub-population groups	Actual number of respondents	Confidence level	Margin of error (Precision)
Migrants	**1,266**	**95%**	**3%**
East African	275	90%	5%
Middle Eastern	256	90%	5%
North African	249	90%	5%
West African	486	90%	4%
Host community	**6,485**	**95%**	**1%**
Internally displaced	**1,724**	**95%**	**2.5%**

Profile of survey respondents

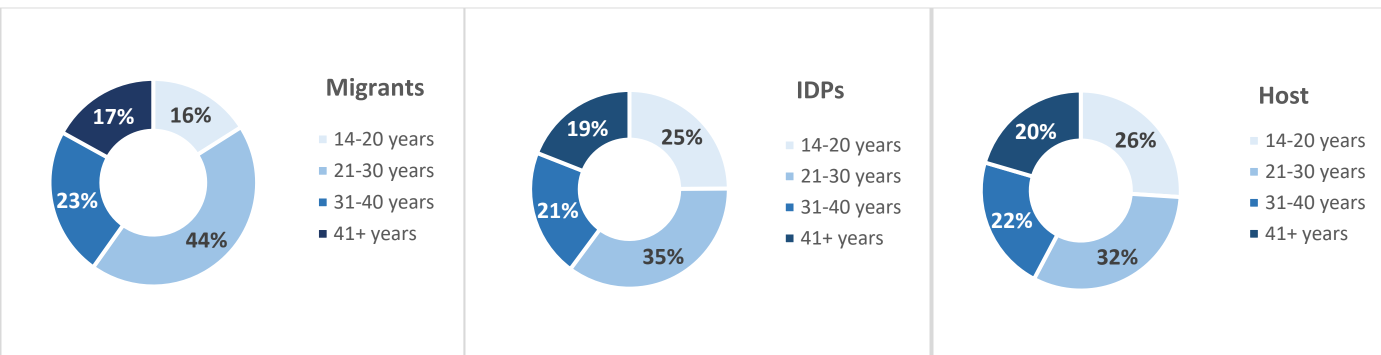
The demographics of populations play a large role in their livelihoods and employment opportunities in Libya. Backgrounds of populations (i.e. socioeconomic status) could vastly help in determining their status in a given country. To help gain a better understanding of the surveyed populations in Libya, various parameters were considered in the data collection such as origins of migrants, age, and education attainment levels of all respondents. Similar to results of the previous rounds of web surveys in Libya, about one third of migrant respondents were found to be women, which compares to 10 percent of the actual women migrant population. Likewise, the gender disaggregation of IDPs and host community respondents showed similar figures, as shown in figure 1. Comparisons of the gender disaggregation in the below figure and the actual Libyan populations, showed that host and IDP women respondents are underrepresented in the web surveys.

Figure 1: Gender of respondents by sub-population groups

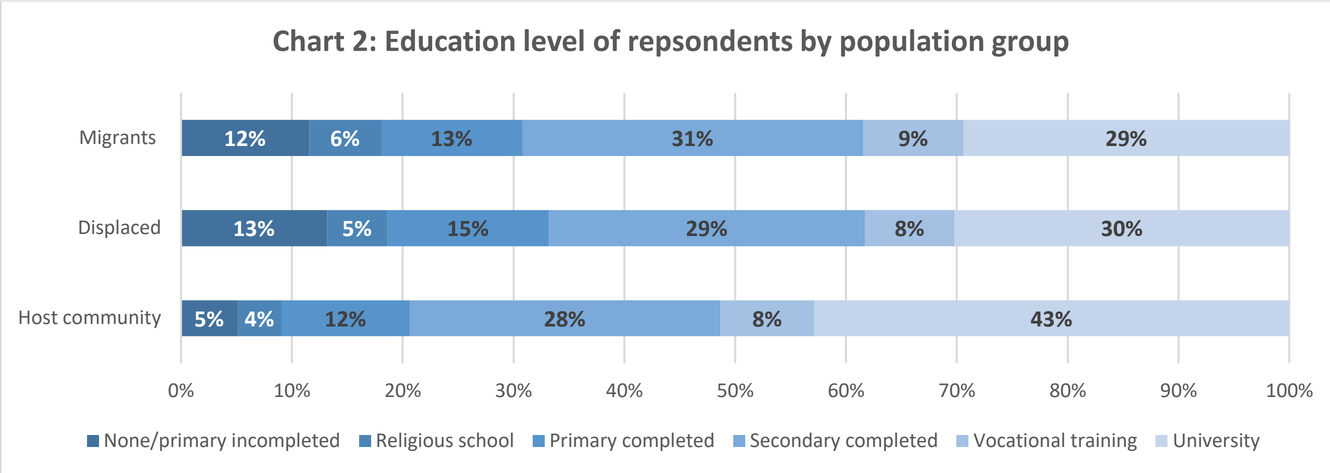


The web survey only allows individuals above the age of 14 to participate. However, about 60 percent of this sampled population groups were found to be under the age of 30. Noticeable is a larger proportion of migrants who fall under 21-30 age group compared to IDPs and host community. The migrant population structure is generally younger compared to others which explains the differences in the responses on the age groups.

Chart 1: Age groups of migrants, IDPs and host community, respectively



In terms of education level, over a quarter of migrants and IDPs reported having completed university compared to 43 percent of host community respondents, illustrating that backgrounds and socio-economic situation of the target populations differ. Furthermore, 12 and 13 percent of migrants and IDPs said they have incomplete or no education, compared to only five percent of host community respondents.

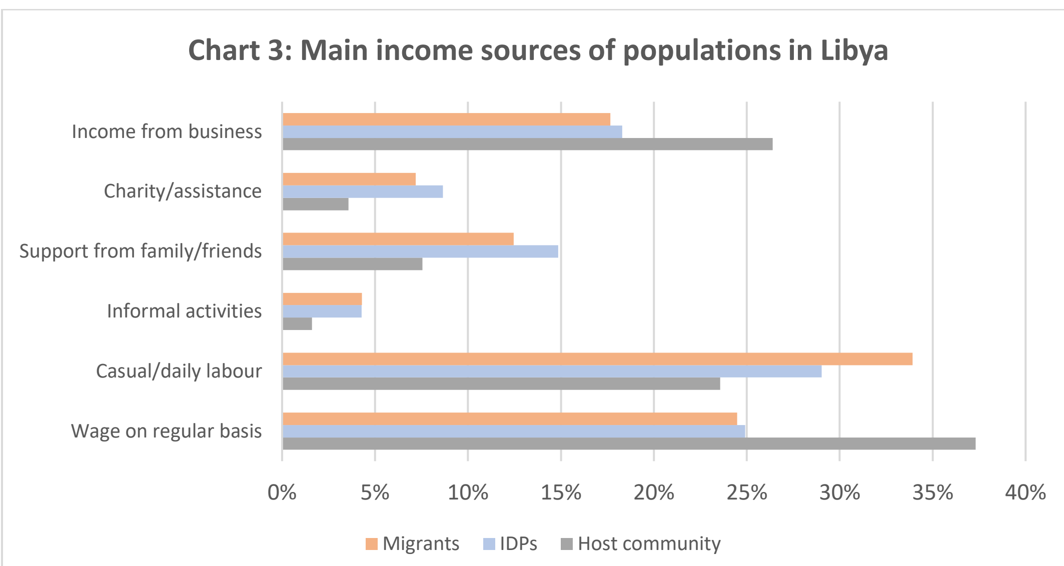


LIVELIHOODS

Since the onset of the pandemic, income-generating opportunities within the informal economic sector have significantly dropped across Libya, which employs most migrants. Similarly, there has been a substantial drop in casual labour opportunities available to migrants in nearly all municipalities compared to pre COVID-19 outbreak. This world-wide obstacle was also coupled in Libya with an eight-month escalation of conflict, depletion in oil revenues amid several blockades on oil ports, and a liquidity crisis where 85 percent of families being unable to withdraw cash from banks.[5] The impact on livelihoods has been severe in various ways, as many families and individuals have witnessed changes such as job loss, reduced income, and dependency on debts. Thus, sharply weakening their purchasing power.

Main individual and household income sources

Nearly two-thirds of host community respondents reported generating income through businesses[6] or wages on a regular basis; relatively more stable income sources than other economic activities that mostly employee IDPs and migrants. One third of migrant earn their income through casual/daily waged labour as shown in chart 3.



Comparisons between 2019 and 2020 web survey rounds have demonstrated a slight decrease in migrants who reported earning income through small personal businesses (from 22% down to 18%). On the other hand, an increase was

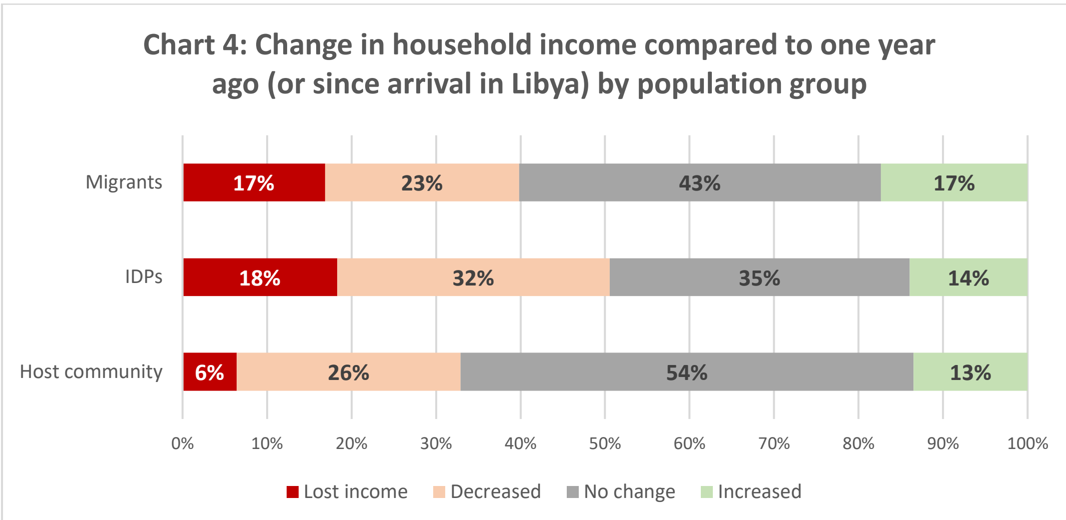
5 https://www.impact-repository.org/document/reach/767465e7/REACH_LBY_Situation-overview_JMMI_November-2020.pdf

6 Examples of small businesses: Air conditioning shop, barbershop, bakery, car mechanic shop, clothes dealer, coffee shop, etc.

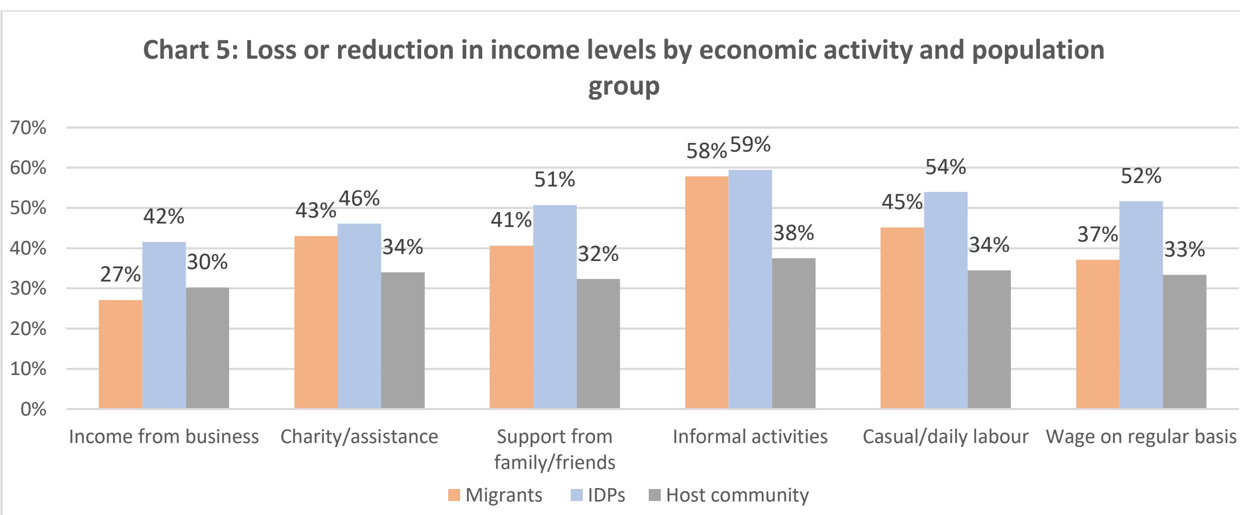
observed in the proportion of those who reported receiving wages on a regular basis (from 13% to 24%). And the latter, migrants relying on support and assistance from charities, have witnessed an increase from 16 percent in 2019 to 19 percent in 2020.

Income changes of individuals and households

When respondents were asked if they had faced any income changes compared to one year ago or since their arrival in Libya, almost half of IDPs stated that their incomes had either ceased or diminished, while 40 percent of migrants experienced the same change. Out of population groups who have reported a complete loss of income, the proportion of IDPs was found to be the highest, followed by that of migrants. Only six percent of host communities have lost their income completely, and a quarter reported a reduction.

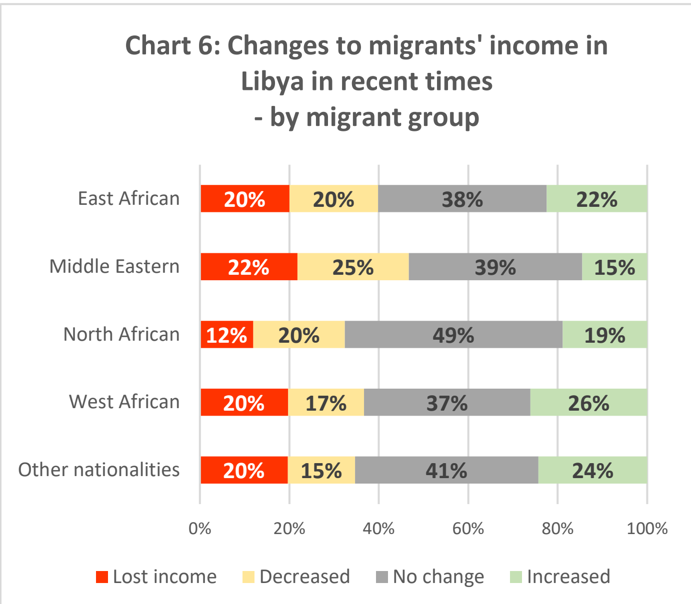


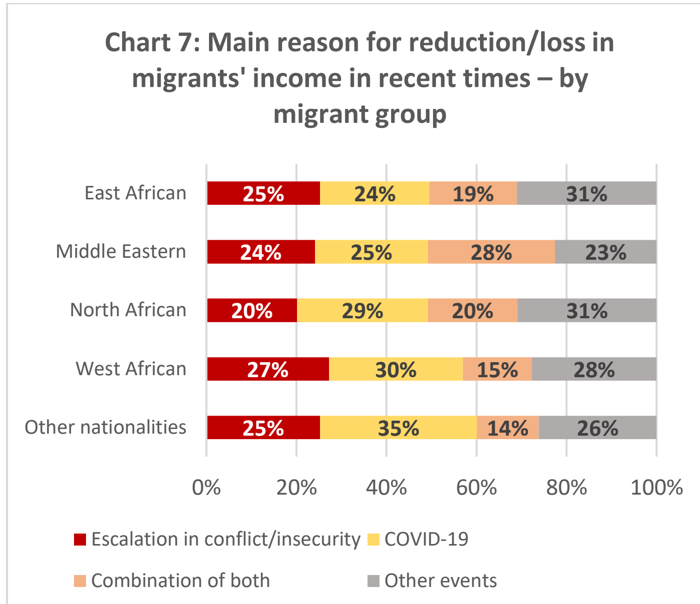
As mentioned earlier, migrants and IDPs tend to be heavily involved in the informal and casual/daily labour, these economic activities have witnessed the most loss and reduction in income levels, specifically for migrants and IDPs. Out of those involved in the informal economic activities, 59 and 58 percent of migrants and IDPs (respectively) have reported income loss/reduction compared to 38 percent of host communities. However, under other economic activities (e.g. income from businesses and wages on a regular basis), respondents from all population groups have reported some increase or stabilization of income levels.



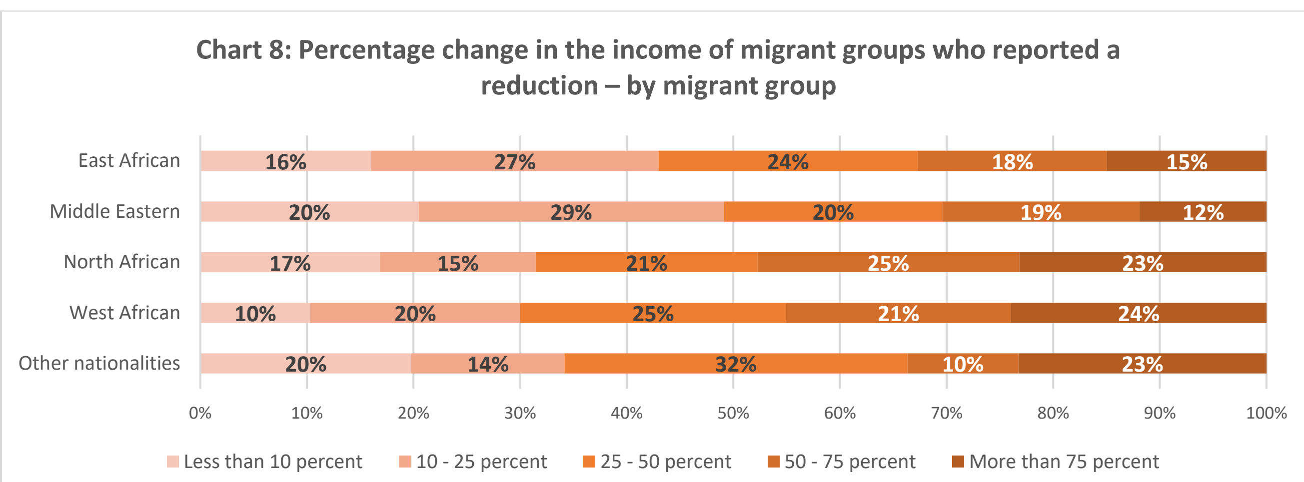
Change in the income levels of migrant groups

Surprisingly, out of migrant respondents who reported a loss/reduction in income levels, those from the Middle East region recorded the highest compared to other migrant groups. More than three-quarters of Middle Eastern migrants related this negative change to either escalation of conflict or COVID-19 containment measures, or a combination of both. Although all migrants are impacted by conflict and COVID-related restrictions, North Africans witnessed the least negative change to their income levels and are the least affected by the conflict and containment measures. Future rounds of remote data collection will probe into the latter cause/reason (other events).



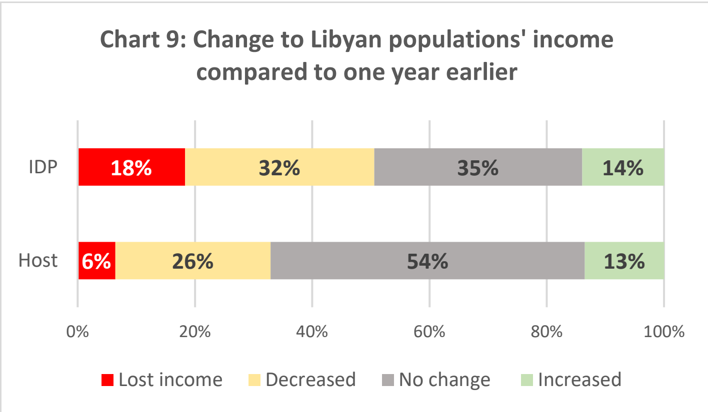


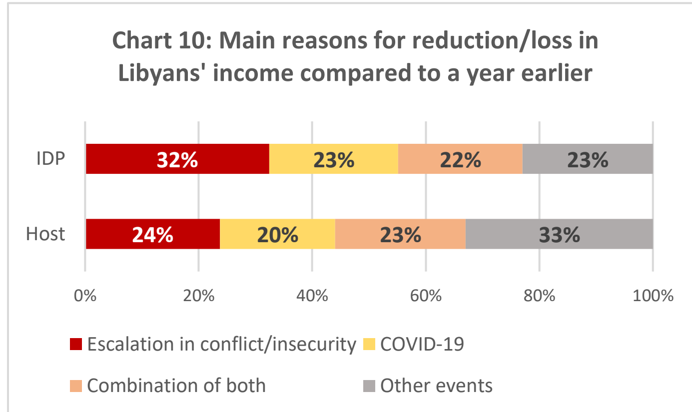
Overall, 32 percent of migrant groups have reported a high loss of income (50% or more). North African and West African reported an estimated loss in their income levels of 50 percent or more. Middle Eastern migrants witnessed the least reduction which is possibly due to the type of economic activity there are involved in (i.e. wage on a regular basis, income from business).



Change in the income levels of Libyans

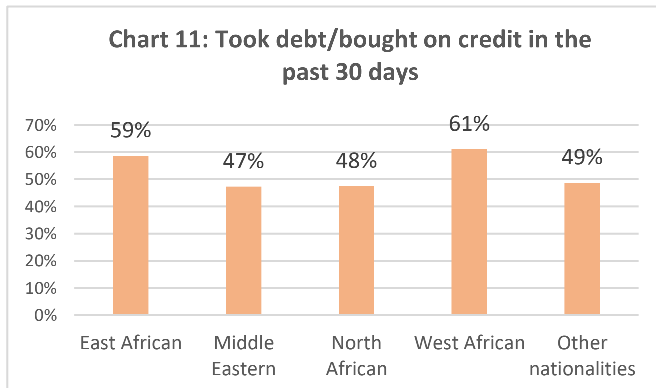
When Libyan host communities and IDPs were asked about their current income status compared to one year earlier, half of the IDP respondents reported either complete loss or reduction in their income. This compares to one quarter of host communities experiencing similar changes. Furthermore, more than half of host communities reported not experiencing any change to their income status, while only a third of IDPs reported their income not being affected within the last year. Reasons that have contributed to negative change in their income status were also identified by respondents. Comparisons of results showed that 32 percent of IDPs reported intensified conflict/insecurity as the main reason effecting their income status, while nearly a quarter of host communities attributed to this same reason.

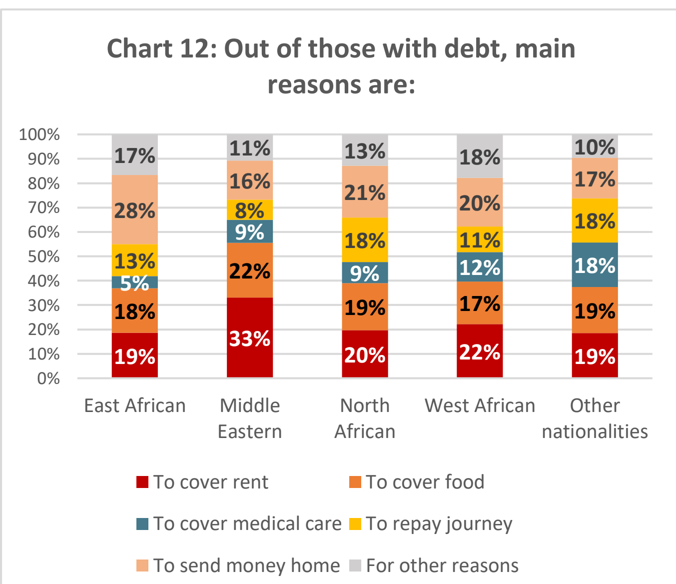




Debt and reliance on credit by migrants

One of the ways used to cope with economic crises and lack of income is having to rely on debt or purchases on credit. Similar proportions of migrants reported relying on credit to cover their food needs. However, higher percentages of West and East African migrants reporting being in debt or having had bought essentials on credit in the last 30 days.



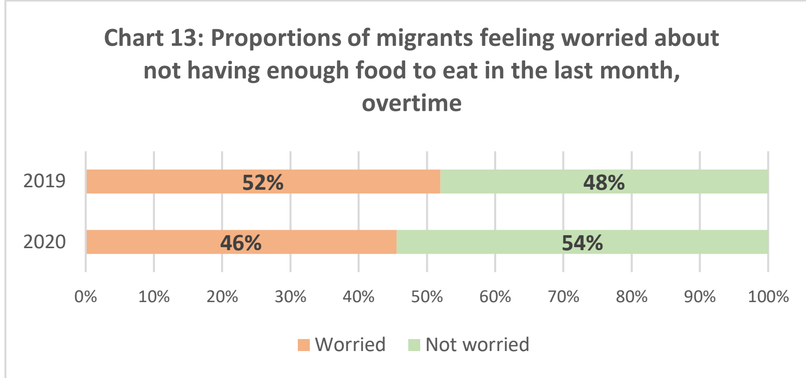


Lower proportion of Middle Eastern migrants reported relying on debt/credit to send money back home or having to repay for migration journey, compared to others. However, a third of Middle Eastern migrants borrowed money or are in debt because they must cover their rent. This reflects their general profile in Libya, as they tend to be more established migrants with more resources and involvement in stable economic activities. However, the high proportion of this group reporting a decline or loss in income should be considered.

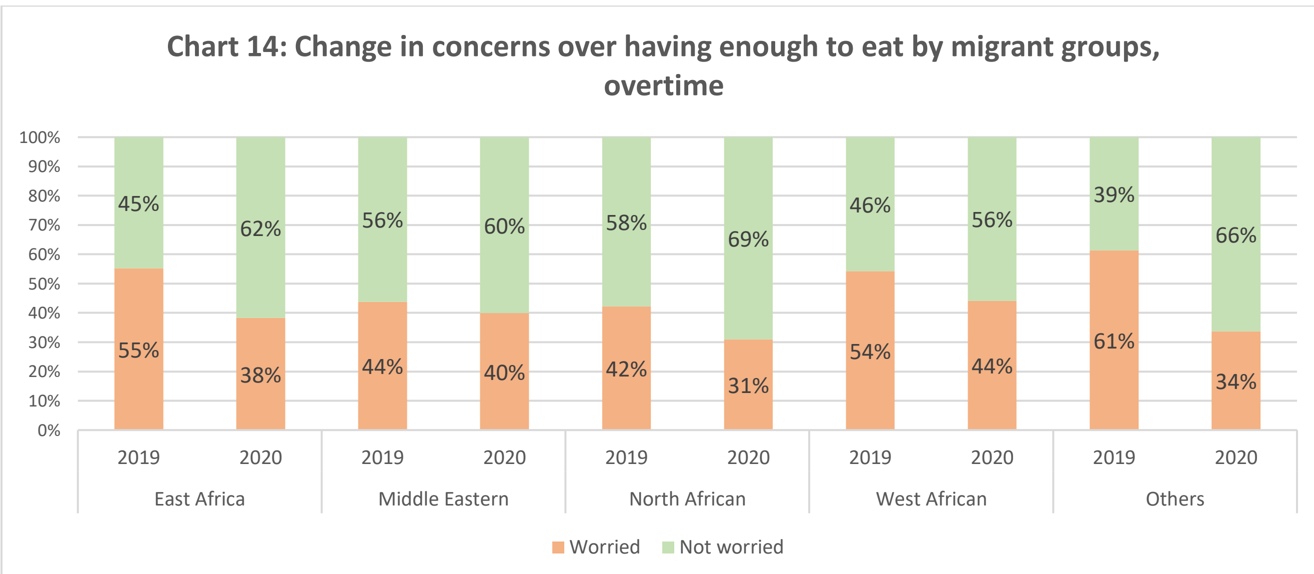
FOOD SECURITY SITUATION

Concerns of migrants over food

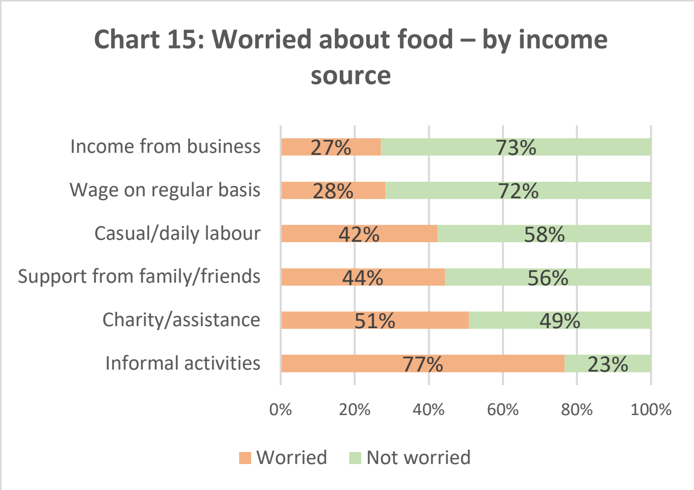
Overall, the proportion of migrant respondents reporting concerns over not having enough food had slightly reduced by six-percentage points compared to results recorded in the previous round of data collection in 2019. Improved change could be due to an intensified conflict in 2019 and an ease of containment measures in late 2020.

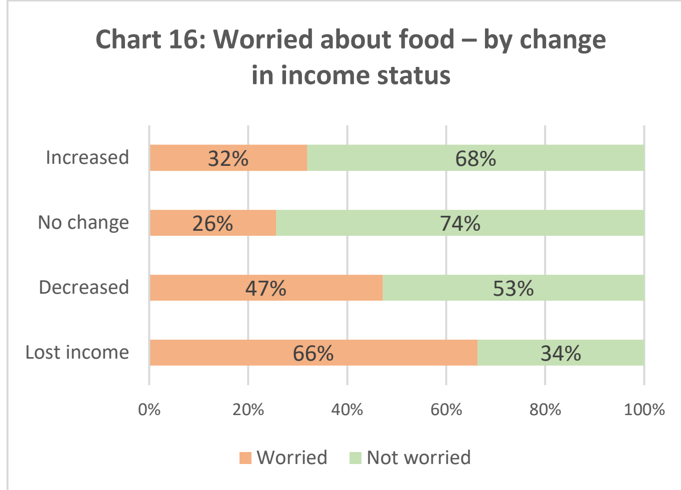


Results showed that West Africans and Middle Eastern migrants are the most worried about not having enough to eat, followed by East Africans. And North Africans are the least worried. Nevertheless, overtime comparisons (2019-2020) have demonstrated clear reductions in the proportions of migrants who are worried about not having enough food.



Given that those who heavily rely on informal activities as their source of income were negatively impacted by containment measures, more than three-quarters of the same respondents have also reported feeling worried about not having enough food to eat. Furthermore, disaggregation of migrants feeling concerned by change in income status, have certainly mirrored the situation of those who have completely lost their income (two-thirds of migrant respondents). Followed by nearly half of those who witnessed a reduced income being worried about not having enough food. Surprisingly, respondents who reported an increase or no change in their income levels have also expressed their concerns over not having enough food. It was very apparent amongst West African migrants as 40 percent of those who reported an increase in income are still worried, in addition to 31 percent who witnessed no change to their income levels. This compares with 71 percent of West African respondents who have lost their source of income and who have also reported feeling worried about not having enough to eat.

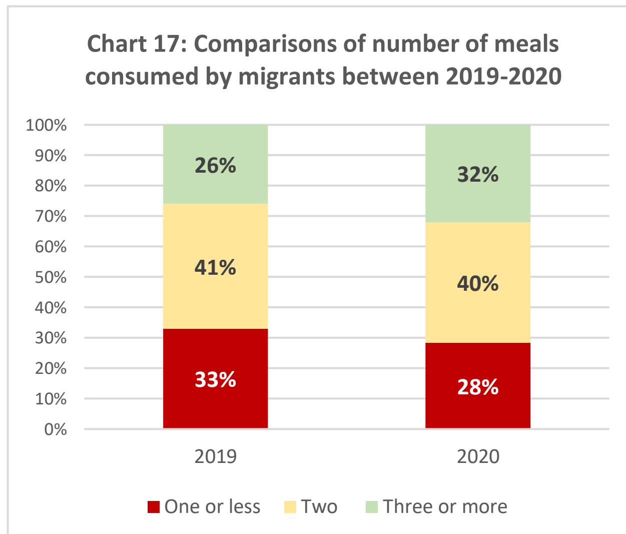




Current food consumption status of migrant groups

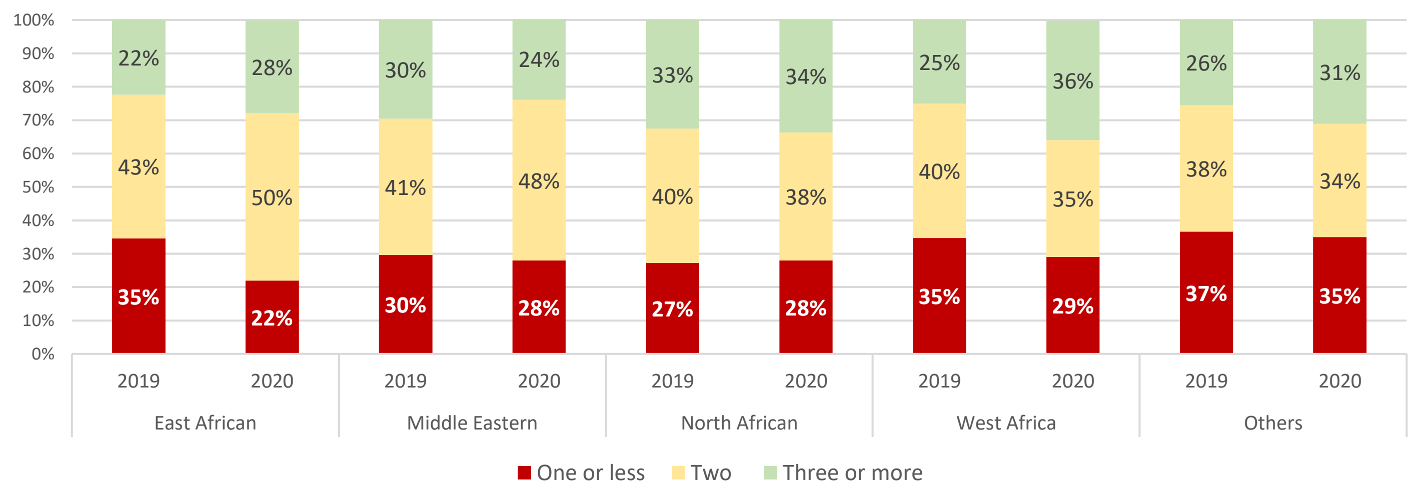
Respondents from different population groups in Libya were asked about the number of meals consumed in the previous day. Results from the migrant population group were then compared to those from the previous round of data collection.[7]

Comparisons among the migrant groups, overtime, showed that a noticeable improvement for the East African migrants, compared to 2019. As the proportion of those who consumed one meal or less had reduced by 13 percentage points, while the proportions that falls under the other categories had equally increased. West Africans had also seen a noticeable improvement as shown in chart 18.



[7] Data collection periods: previous round took place between Jan-May 2019, while second round took place between Nov-Dec 2020 which means that seasonality could have impacted the comparisons between the two rounds. In addition to a major fighting offensive in April 2019, compared to reduced conflict in late 2020.

Chart 18: Comparisons of number of meals cosumed by migrant groups in the previous day, overtime



Current concerns and food consumption status of Libyans

Vast differences in concerns over food and food consumption were observed among displaced and host community populations. Results presented in chart 19 can be translated into two in every three IDPs are feeling worried about not having enough food to eat, compared to one in every four respondents from host communities. Similarly, these groups have consumption levels that mirror their concerns of food.

Chart 19: Have you felt worried about not having enough food to eat in the last month?

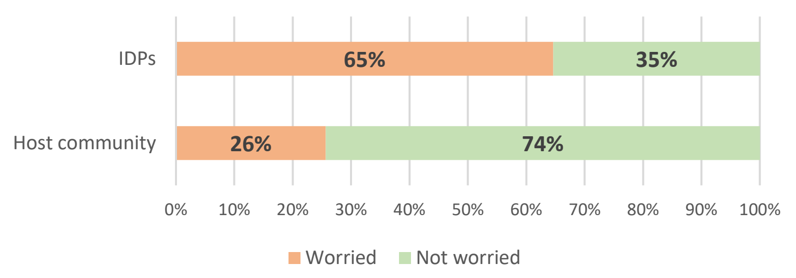
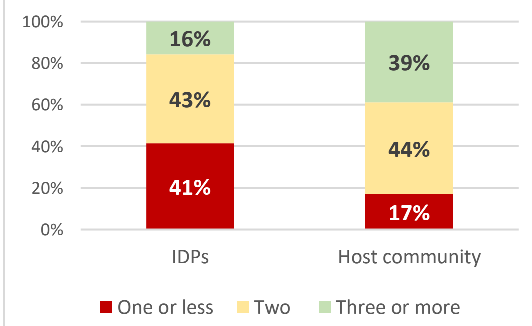


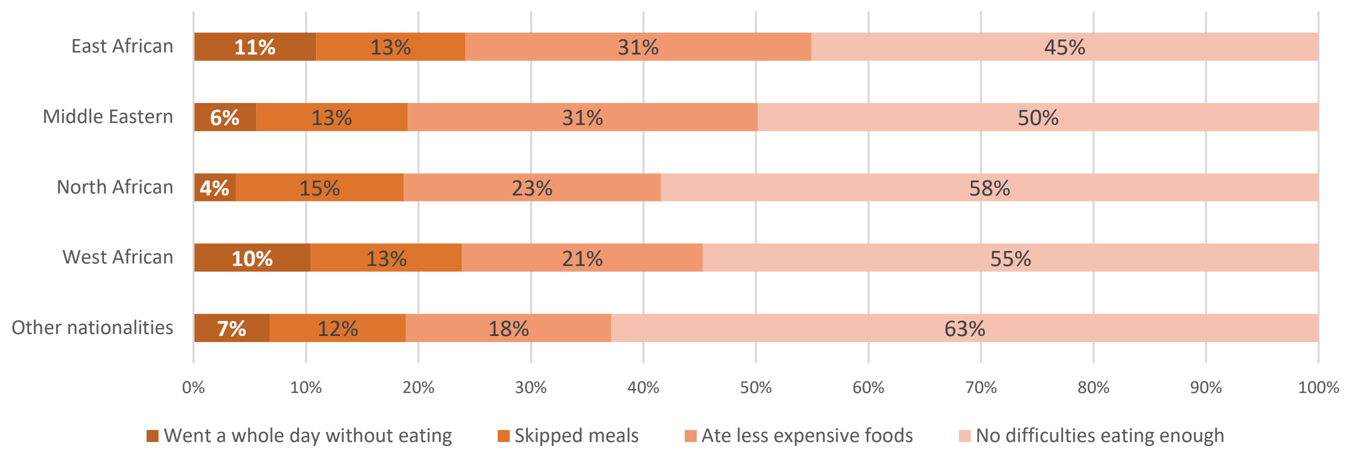
Chart 20: Comparisons of number of meals consumed in the day prior by IDPs and host communities



Food coping in the last month by migrant group

Although there has been a general improvement in the number of meals consumed by migrant groups in the previous day, even among East Africans who tend to be the most vulnerable in Libya, a total of 45 percent of migrants reported adopting food coping strategies due to lack of food or means to buy food. However, when migrants were asked to describe their food situation in the last seven days by selecting the main food-based coping that accurately represents this situation, nearly a quarter of East Africans (24%) reported relying on severe food coping strategies in the last month. Results for West African migrants were very similar.

Chart 21: Comparisons of applied food-based coping by migrant groups



Livelihood coping strategies

Close to half of the interviewed migrants and IDPs reported having relied on livelihood coping strategies in the previous month due to lack of food. This compares to 30 percent of host communities. The differences can be attributed to the fact that host communities tend to have a more stable income as well as resources. Furthermore, the highest proportion of respondents reporting not needing to rely on livelihood coping was among the host community group, 61%.

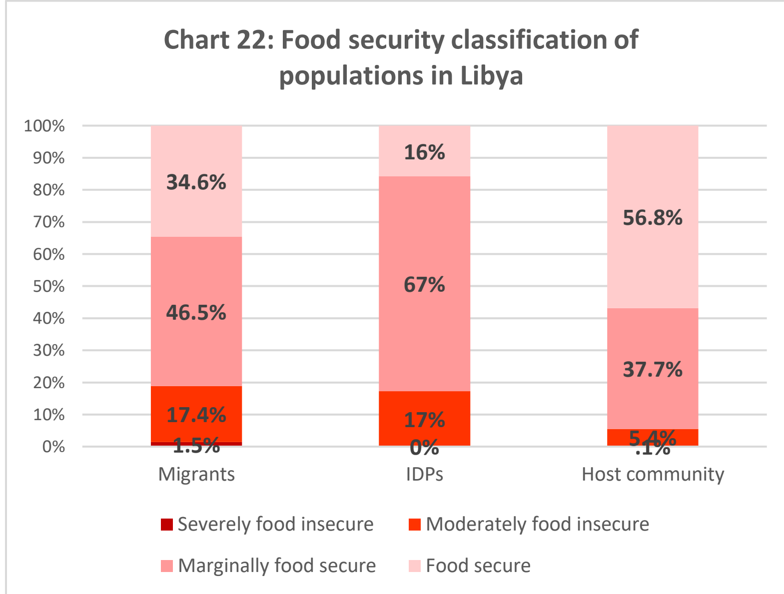
Comparisons of results presented in table 2 show that IDPs are relying more on each livelihood coping strategy compared to the other groups, apart from engaging in illegal and high-risk job activities, and that is where migrants recorded the highest.

Table 2: Comparisons of livelihood coping strategies applied by population groups in Libya

Severity	Livelihood Coping Strategy	Migrants	IDPs	HC
Stress	Spent savings	9%	12%	8%
	Sold domestic assets	6%	10%	4%
	Asked family/friends for help	9%	12%	6%
	Borrowed money/bought on credit	7%	11%	7%
Crisis	Sold productive assets	4%	5%	2%
	Spent less on health and education	7%	10%	5%
	Reduced remittances/support for others	7%	5%	4%
	Worked in exchage of food	12%	12%	7%
Emergency	Begged	5%	6%	2%
	Scarvaged	5%	5%	2%
	Enaged in illegal/high risk jobs or activities	6%	4%	2%
	Set children or elders to work	4%	5%	2%

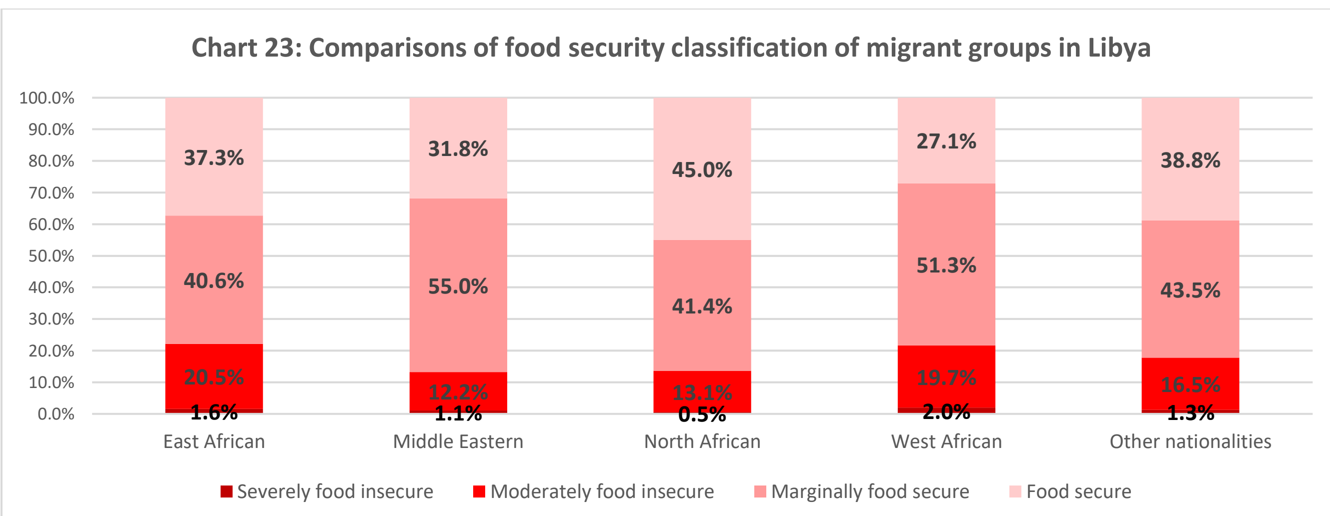
Remote CARI: food security classification of populations in Libya

Previously covered food security indicators were aggregated to form the remote-CARI[8] which is an approach used to report on population's overall food security status using remote surveys. This composite indicator is used to determine the number of food insecure people through assessing two dimensions, the current food consumption status of households and current coping capacity of households to meet future needs (incl. economic capacity and livelihood coping).



Significant proportions of migrant and displaced Libyan population were found to be food insecure, namely 19 percent of migrants and 17 percent of IDPs, which can be converted into one in nearly five migrants, and one in nearly six IDPs, respectively.

The high proportion of IDPs consuming inadequate number of meals, combined with high food-based and livelihood-based coping due to job losses and lower income, may have attributed to 17 percent of food insecure. However, a higher percentage of migrants are food insecure (19%). Additionally, the high proportion of marginally food secure IDPs is a concern. It is worth nothing that rCARI results cannot be compared to previous rounds of web surveys, as not all indicators were available in previous web surveys, to assess the two food security dimensions, and hence calculate the rCARI.



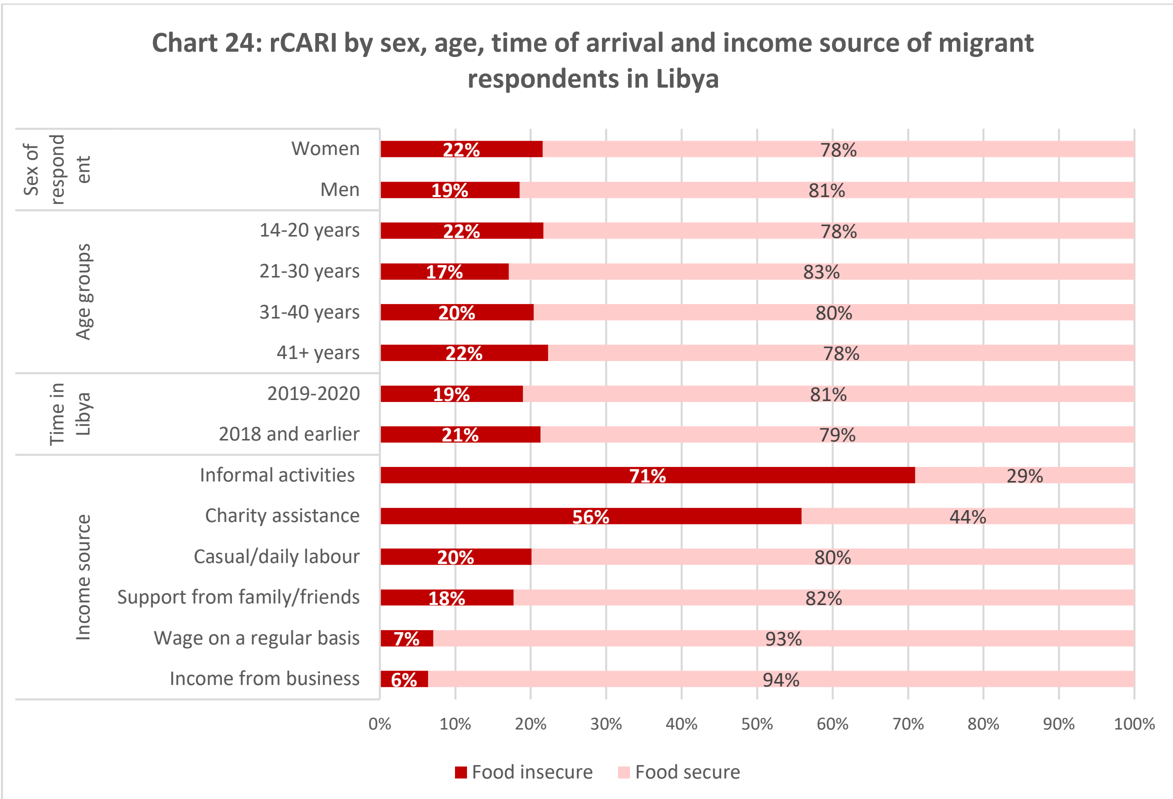
As normally anticipated, comparisons between the food security statuses of migrant groups have shown that East and West Africans have higher proportions of those who are found to be moderately or severely food insecure. This is followed by migrants from various and scattered backgrounds. Although a lower proportion of East Africans reported consuming one meal within the last 24 hours compared to other migrant groups, East Africans recorded the highest food insecurity. This can be attributed to a high percentage relying on severe food-based coping (14%), livelihood coping, as well as feeling concerned about not having enough food. The least food insecure groups were found be among the

[8] Similar to the original CARI, r-CARI assesses two dimensions: 1) The current status of households' food consumption (assessed based on number of meals consumed and concerns over food availability/food coping) 2) The current coping capacity of households to meet future needs (assessed based on economic vulnerability and adoption of livelihood coping strategies)

Middle Eastern and North African migrants. However, the proportions of those who are marginally food secure is significantly higher within the Middle Eastern group.

Who are currently most food insecure among populations?

The food insecure are individuals or households who are unable to meet their dietary needs due to livelihood related impacts of the country's intensified eight-month conflict, devaluation of currency and COVID-19, which have been compromising people's ability to cope and be resilient. Although vulnerability to food insecurity is defined by a large dimension of aspects, key demographic characteristics of respondents provided variations of food security statuses as presented in the chart below. It is important to note that these results can only be considered indicative of their food security status, with this level of disaggregation.

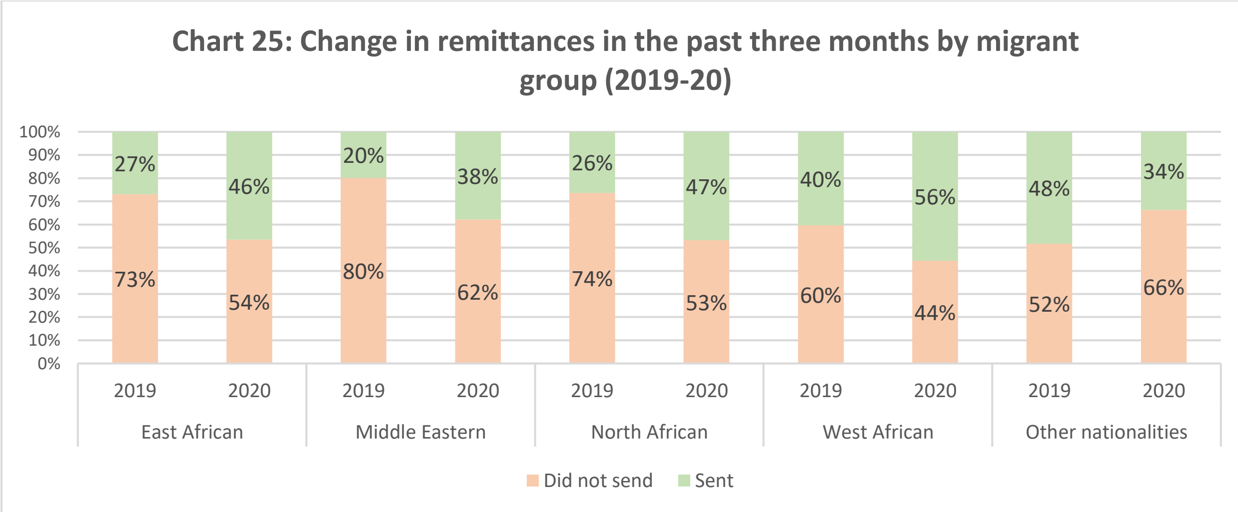


REMITTANCES

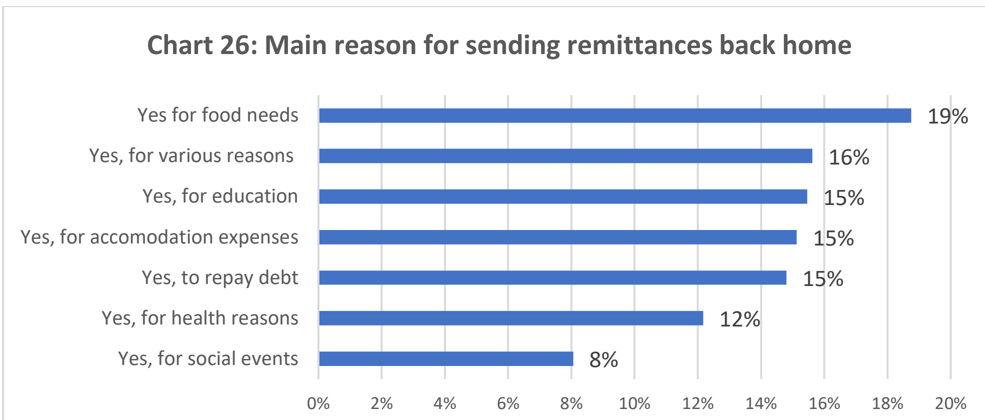
Libya has been an attractive destination for economic and seasonal migrants since the late 1960s, largely for migrant workers from Arab and African countries, mostly to fill the low-skilled labour need gaps in private and public sectors such as agriculture, construction and domestic work. One of the main pull factors for migration to Libya is the need of income to support their families in their home countries. A cope mechanism to deal with income uncertainty and food insecurity risks. Generally, money transfers (i.e. remittances) have been growing rapidly and represent a large source of income for many families in developing countries. Remittances flows tend to also contribute to communities' resilience and development in countries of origin.

Change in remittances (frequency of sending money)

Comparisons between 2019 and 2020 web survey results revealed an apparent increase in the proportions of migrant groups who reported sending remittances back home in the previous three months. This could be due withdrawal limitations set by banks in Libya, following the liquidity crisis that had forced migrants to send same amount of money but through multiple transfers This could also be combined with increased needs of their families back home due to COVID-19 related containment measures and imposed lockdowns .

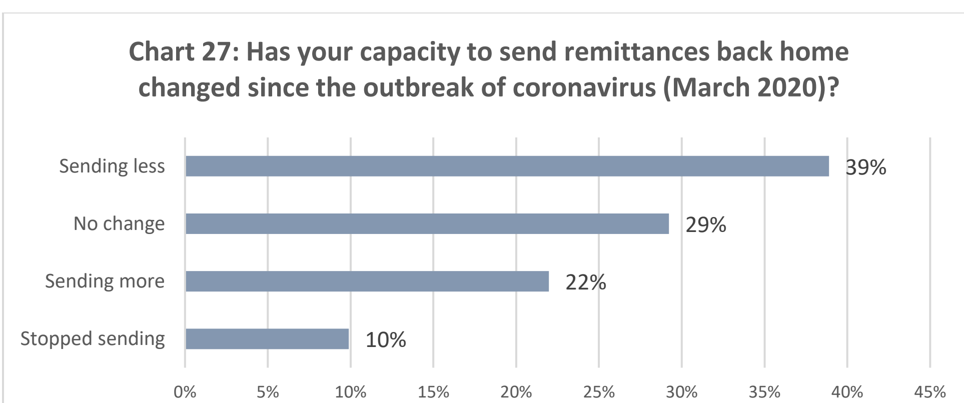


Migrants who reported sending remittances within the last three months, were then asked to list the main reason for sending money back home. Out of the 48 percent of migrants who sent remittances within the last 90 days, they did so for the reasons presented in chart 26. The top needs which they needed to cover for their families back home, are food needs and other essentials such as education and accommodation expenses.



Change in remittances (capacity to send)

When migrants were asked whether their capacity to send remittances has been affected by the pandemic, almost half of respondents reported a reduced capacity or having stopped completely (10%). Meanwhile, the other half reported no change in their capacity to continue sending the usual amount of remittances or have started sending more, compared to prior.



Change in remittances (est. amount sent)

Migrants who have reported a reduction or increase in their capacity to send remittances since the COVID-19 outbreak, were then asked to estimate the change in the amounts sent back home. Of those who reported a negative change in their capacity to send remittances, nearly half reported a reduced amount of more than 50 percent, compared to the usual amounts sent before the pandemic. Nevertheless, an increase in the estimated amounts sent was also observed, as almost a quarter of migrants have reported an increase of more than half of what was send prior.

Chart 28: Estimation of reduced remittances amount by migrant respondents

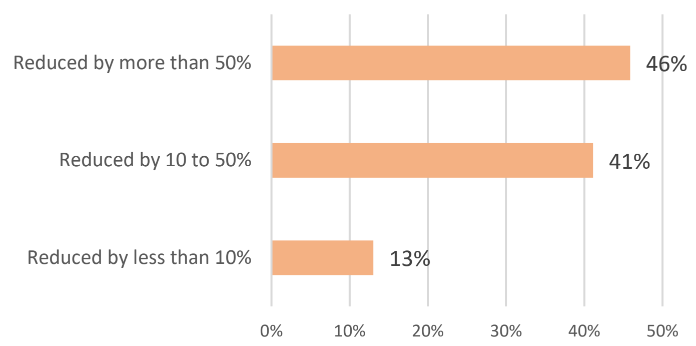
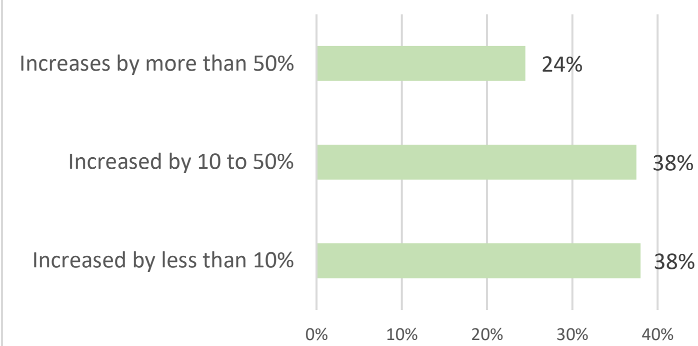


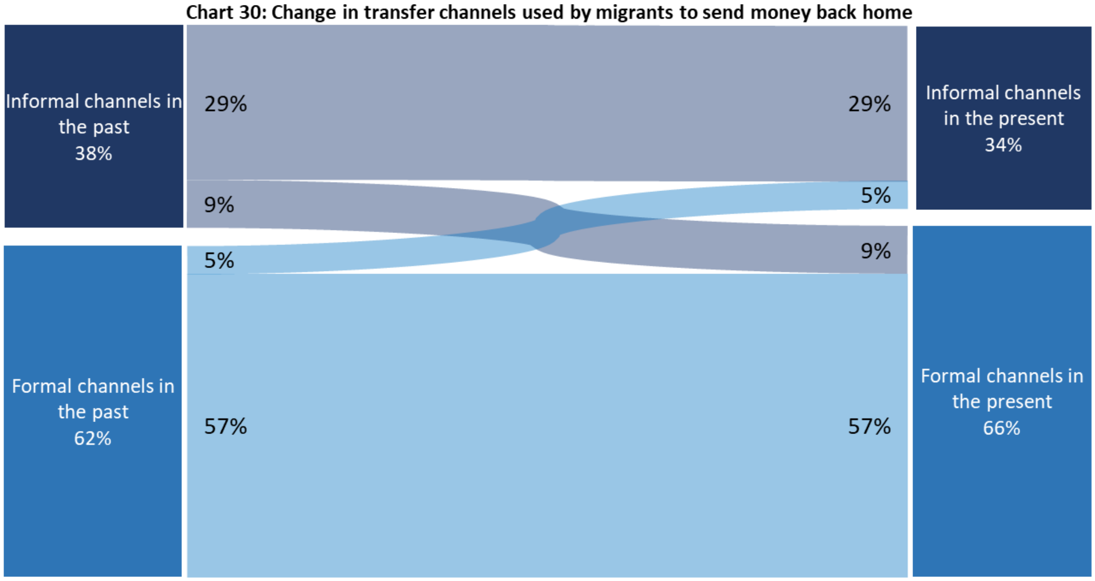
Chart 29: Estimation of increased remittances amount by migrant respondents



Change in remittances transfer channels

When migrants were asked about transfer channels used in the present time to send money back home and channels used before the onset of the pandemic, it became apparent that nearly a quarter of migrants (which represents 9% of total migrants) who used to rely on informal transfer channels (e.g. hand carry themselves or by others) are now depending on the use of formal transfer modes (e.g. banks, Western Union, etc) . This is most likely related to containment measures and border closures.

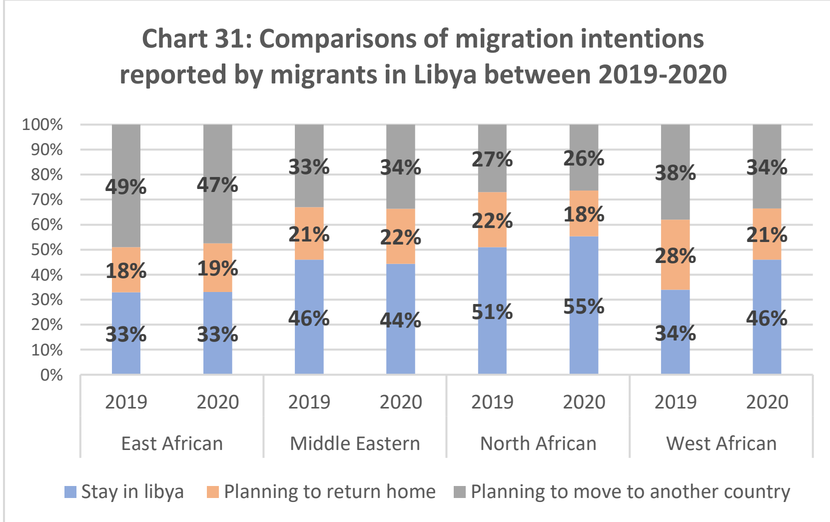
Chart 30: Change in transfer channels used by migrants to send money back home



POPULATION MOVEMENT

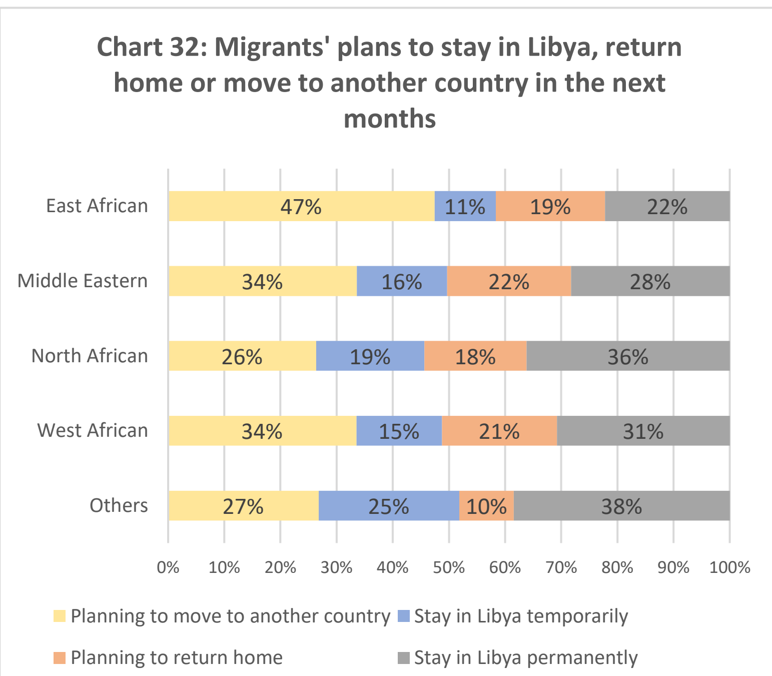
Change in migration intentions

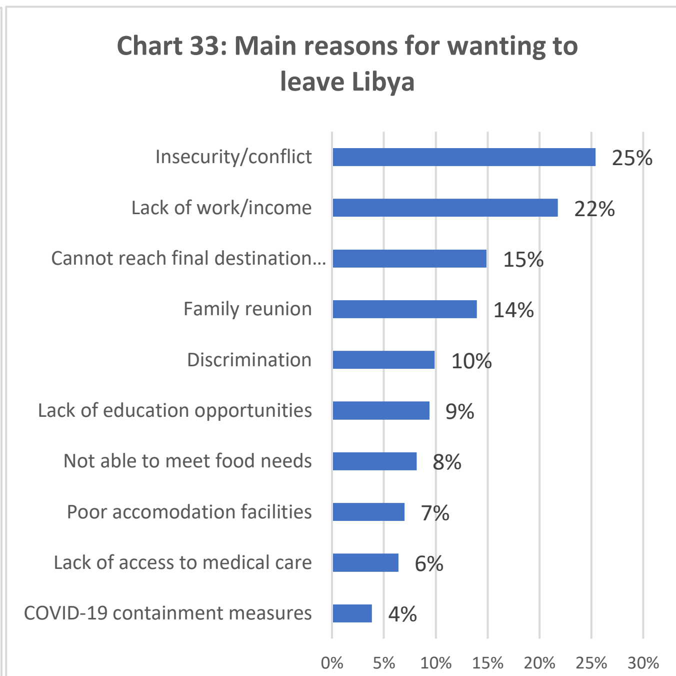
Web survey results mirror the migrant profile of North and West African migrants in Libya from field research/secondary data, as they continue to be interested in remaining in country for work reasons, with a noticeable increase among West Africans wanting to remain in Libya. A large proportion of East Africans plan to continue their journey to another country, which is also explained by their transitory profile in Libya. Overall, the percentage of migrant groups who plan to return home had remained stable compared to 2019 results.



Migration intentions and reasons for wanting to leave

The profile of migrants had not drastically changed since the onset of pandemic, given that almost half of migrant respondents originating from East Africa have plans to move to another country in the upcoming months. They also have the least proportion of those who want to remain in Libya permanently (22%). Main reported reasons for wanting to leave Libya show that insecurity and lack of employment opportunities/income are seen to be among the top concerns.





MAIN PROBLEMS AND NEEDS

When migrants were asked to report on their top two problems in their current location, insecurity and violence came first as one of the main challenges. This was followed by lack of work/unemployment (23%) and high food prices (22%). Comparisons between 2020 and 2019 top problems faced by migrants have demonstrated similar results, with insignificant variation in percentages under the three top main problems shown in chart 34.

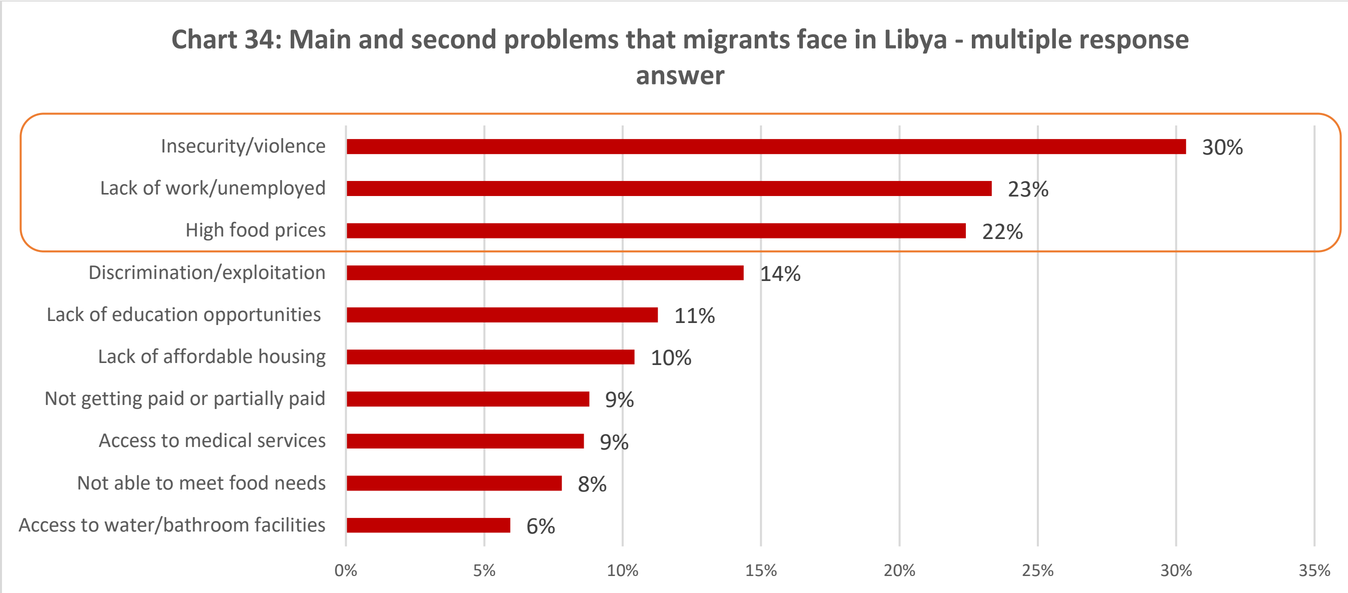


Table 3 also illustrates how concerns vary by region of origin of migrants. It particularly emphasizes on North Africans feeling more secure than other migrant groups. This round of data collection had demonstrated an increase in reporting lack of work/unemployment as a top concern compared to 2019 (from 21 to 32 percent) by East African respondents. The increase may be due to migrants being stranded in Libya and not being able to easily cross-borders in the current situation.

Table 3: Top issues that sub-migrant groups face in Libya - multiple response answer Libya

Top reported issues	East Africans	Middle Eastern	North African	West African	Other nationalities
Insecurity/violence	32%	31%	25%	33%	29%
Lack of work/unemployment	32%	17%	17%	24%	22%
High food prices	18%	25%	24%	21%	29%
Discrimination/exploitation	20%	16%	12%	14%	10%

TYPE OF ASSISTANCE NEEDED

Change in needed assistance

Migrants across Libya reported the need for food (17%) as one of the types of assistance that would improve their situation in the country. This is followed by accommodation (14%) and skill development and education (11%). There were no major differences observed when disaggregating results by region of origin of migrants. However, the overall comparisons between 2019 and 2020 results (chart 35) revealed an increase in proportion of migrants in need of accommodation or shelter.

Further comparisons of assistance needs stressed by migrants and other groups, namely IDPs, have shown that higher proportions of IDPs in need of food and shelter, than reported by migrants (see chart 36).

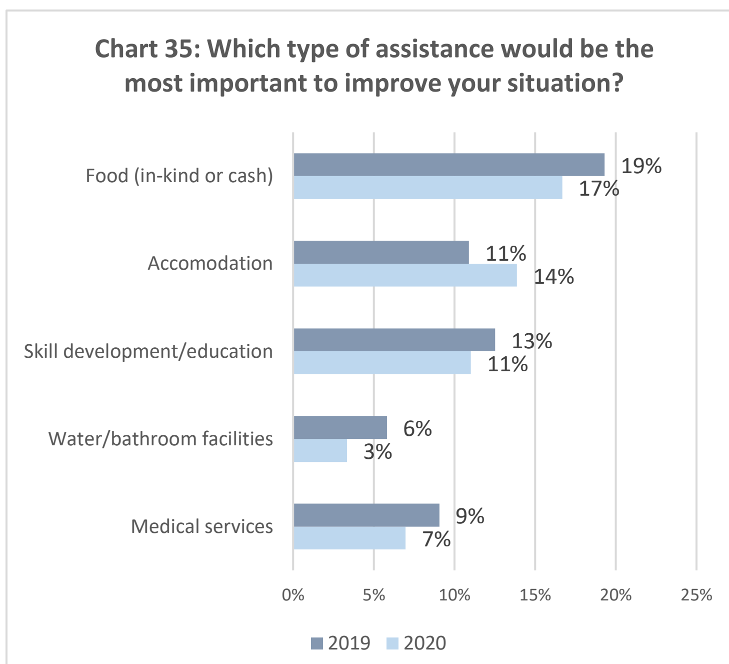
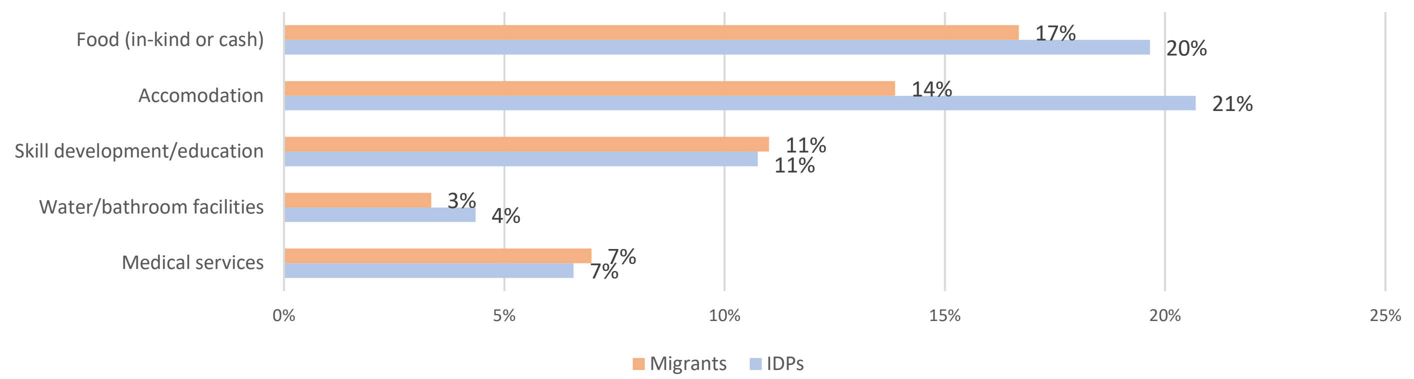


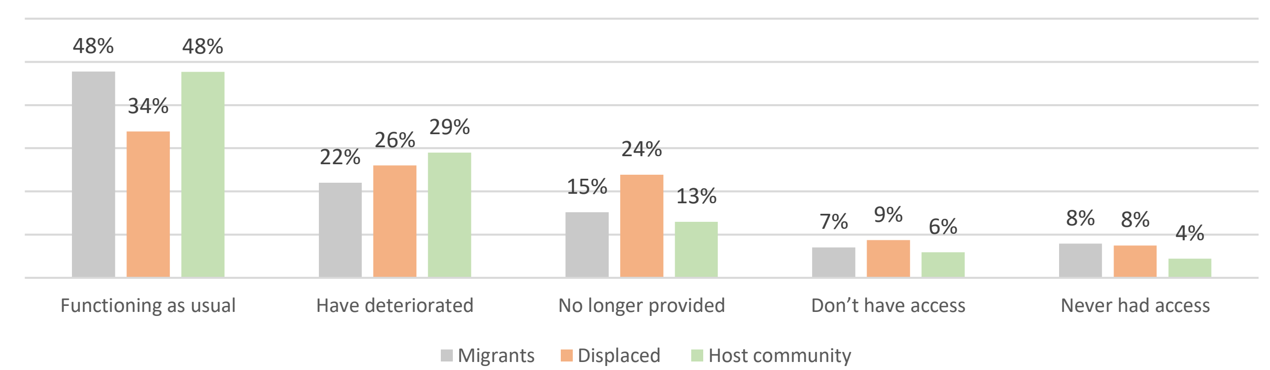
Chart 36: Type of assistance needed to improve the situation of migrants and IDPs in Libya



HEALTH CARE

Web-based results related to perceived change by respondents on access and provision of health care compared to before March 2020 had shown that nearly a quarter of IDPs are not able to receive/access health care services. This compares to 15 and 13 percent of migrants and host communities, respectively. Health centres were forced to close, especially in rural areas, mainly because of security threats and insufficient national and health sector funding. Facilities that remain open face acute shortages of staff, medicines and supplies which was made worse by COVID-19 pandemic. It was reported in the HNO 2020, that not many private and public health facilities are operational due to fighting attacks and damages. Existing weak healthcare became overburdened with the onset of the pandemic, concentrating efforts to fight COVID-19, with limited capacity to provide primary health service support. Furthermore, health services were reportedly constrained due to irregular supply of medicines.

Chart 37: Perceived change in health care access/provision compared to before Coronavirus (March 2020)



CONCLUSION

This report provided an overview of the consequences of COVID-19 and economic deterioration on populations in Libya by comparing population groups migrants, IDPs and host community. The report also compares 2019 round of web surveys with the current round, where possible.

Overall, comparisons of certain food security related indicators between rounds had presented slight improvements. The slight positive change may be due to improved security situation compared to April 2019, when a major military campaign took place in the country. In other words, contextual factors such as the security situation and seasonality may have contributed to the presented results. Hence, continuous monitoring is vital in such a dynamic context.

Although there was a slight improvement in the overall situation, displaced populations were found to be greatly food insecure due to their existing situation, lack of steady income sources from informal and casual/daily labour, along with diminished or ceased income levels. Previous rounds of web surveys mainly focused on migrant populations; thus, continuous monitoring and analysis of the situation of all population groups is required.

Populations that are heavily involved in informal activities to generate income, have been impacted the most due to containment measures related to COVID-19 pandemic. Nevertheless, around half of interviewed migrants continued to send remittances back home, possibly due to deteriorating food security situation of their families in their countries of origin, and recent reduction on the limitations set by banks to withdraw/transfer money. Migrant selection of remittances channels to send money back home have witnessed a major change, as a quarter of respondents indicated shifting over to formal money transfer channels, away from informal.

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