SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

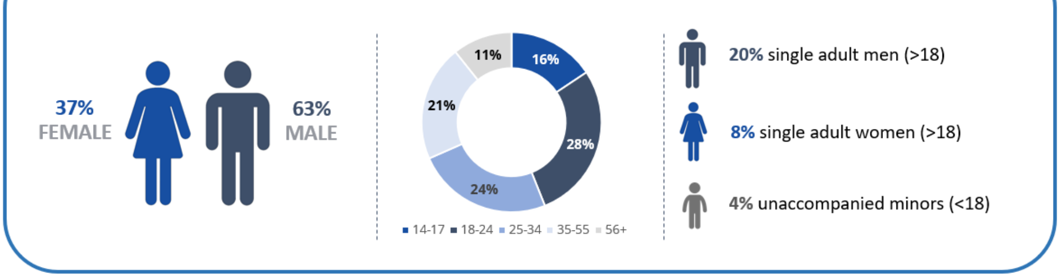
The Migration Pulse

Sahelian migrants and refugees in Libya

BACKGROUND

Migrants from the Sahel make up over **60 percent** of the migrant/refugee population in Libya, which represents the main transit/destination country in North Africa (IOM DTM, November/December 2018). Frequent droughts coupled with political instability, conflict and insecurity in some of the Sahel countries have escalated humanitarian needs and increased the vulnerability of millions of people to food insecurity and climate shocks. With the objective to understand what is driving people to leave their country of origin, what are their needs, food security perceptions, challenges, as well as their future plans, WFP's Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping unit (VAM) has set-up the Migration Pulse initiative. By using **innovative web surveys**[1], the Migration Pulse was able to collect anonymous data from a random sample of 1,432 migrants and refugees in Libya[2] (September-October 2018), including **356 respondents from the greater Sahel region**[3].

PROFILE OF SURVEY RESPONDENTS



DRIVERS OF MIGRATION

Migrants and refugees in Libya were asked the two main reasons why they decided to leave their country of origin. It was found that the decision to migrate was mainly triggered by **economic marginalization** (36%), closely followed by **conflict and insecurity** (34%). Some differences could be observed by country of origin. Economic marginalization was claimed as the main driver of migration by respondents from Chad (49%) and Nigeria (46%). On the contrary, migrants/refugees originating from Niger and Mali reported that their decision to migrate was mainly induced by **climate-related shocks**.

Figure 1: Drivers of migration of Sahelian respondents

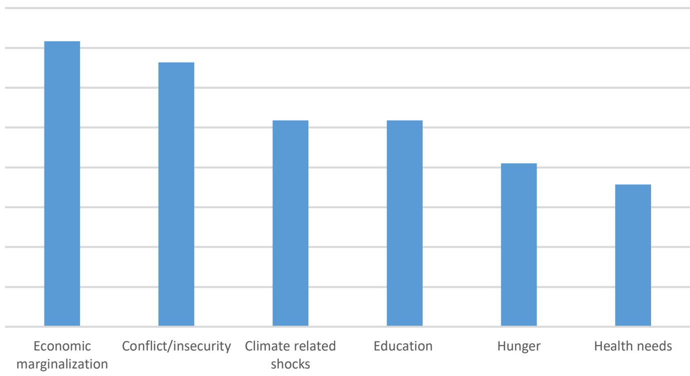
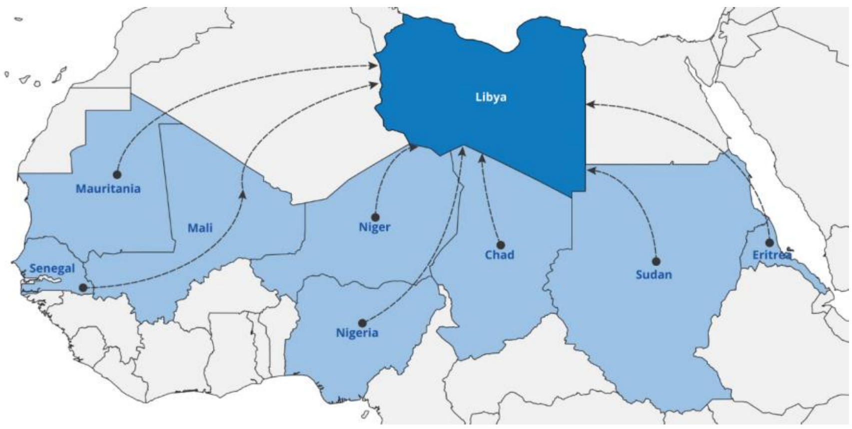


Figure 2: countries of origin covered



[1] 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/

[2] Given the sample size and the nature of the web-based methodology, these findings only cover literate, connected internet users; hence, they are not representative for the migrant/refugee population from the Sahel in Libya.

[3] Migrants/refugees' countries of origin include: Chad, Eritrea, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal and Sudan.

WFP
World Food Programme

March 2019

LIVELIHOODS

A breakdown of how migrants/refugees from the Sahel sustain themselves reveals that 72 percent of them rely on **unstable livelihoods** as their main income source, including casual labour (37%), formal/informal support (26%) and high-risk activities (9%), including begging and sending children under 14 to work. As a result, only one out of five receive a wage on a regular basis. Recent arrivals (2017/18) show a **higher dependency on support** from family and friends (23%) compared with migrants/refugees who arrived earlier (11%).

REMITTANCES

More than half of respondents (56%) reported having **sent money/goods back home** during the previous year. The majority of them (55%) was able to send remittances only once or twice during the same reference period. It was found that only 12 percent of migrants/refugees sends remittances on a regular basis (more than six times per year). **Lack of money** (48%) represents the main factor affecting their ability to send remittances back home, followed by the absence of a transfer mechanism (19%).

CHALLENGES AND NEEDS

Insecurity (24%), lack of employment (21%) and access to education (12%) were reported as the three main challenges in Libya. The Migration Pulse found that respondents originating from the Sahel perceive higher **insecurity** and **inability to meet their food needs** compared to the general migrant/refugee population surveyed. The inability to afford food was particularly felt by respondents with unstable livelihoods (13%). On the contrary, single women reported a higher sense of insecurity (39%) and discrimination (14%) compared to their male counterparts.

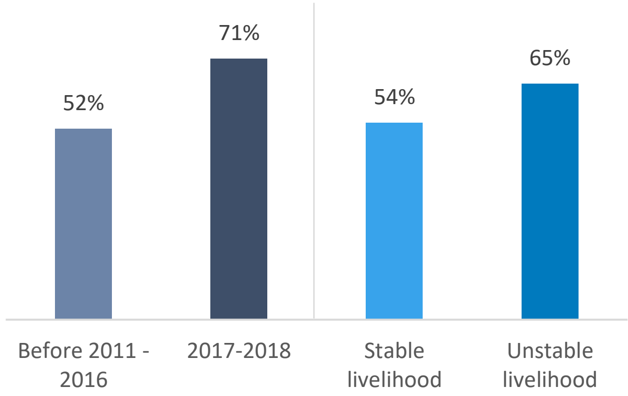
INTENTIONS TO MOVE

The majority of migrants/refugees (44%) from the Sahel expressed the **intention to stay** in Libya. An additional 20 percent plans to **go back home** in the near future. Those who desire to **reach Europe** account for 16 percent of respondents, while the remaining plan to move to other countries. Recent arrivals (2017/18) show a higher tendency to want to continue their journey (42%) compared to migrants who have been established for a longer period (32%). Of those planning to continue their journey, less than half sought information about their place of destination or made concrete payments to cover for their journey, while around 60 percent reported the presence of friends/family members in their destination, thus confirming the importance of networks in their decision-making.

FOOD SECURITY PERCEPTIONS

One of the main objectives of the Migration Pulse was to capture migrants and refugees' perceptions about their ability to meet food needs. Respondents were asked if they had felt **worried about having enough food to eat** in the previous 30 days. This distress was reported by 3 out of 5 migrants/refugees from the Sahel in Libya and was particularly felt by recent arrivals (71%) and individuals with unstable livelihoods (65%), especially by those relying on high-risk activities (70%).

Figure 3: Worried about food by arrival time and type of livelihood



IN THE WORDS OF RESPONDENTS

Through an open-ended question, respondents were asked to describe what it would take to improve their lives.

The main themes reported relate to the lack of cash due to the liquidity crisis, limited job opportunities, security concerns and lack of affordable housing.

> **"I will try to work harder to be a better person so that my family won't lack anything"**

WFP wfp.org vam food security analysis

Contacts in Headquarters:

Claudia AhPoe, Head of Needs Assessments & Analysis, Email: claudia.ahpoe@wfp.org
Katrina Frappier, Assessment Consultant, Email : katrina.frappiet@wfp.org
Espedito Nastro, Food Security Analyst, Email: espedito.nastro@wfp.org