

IOM LIBYA

ANNUAL REPORT



2022



IOM
UN MIGRATION

LIBYA
ليبيا

IOM LIBYA VISION

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



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FOREWORD

In 2022, amid a state of relative calm following the ceasefire, the International Organization for Migration in Libya had the chance to settle into a new normal by introducing fresh programmatic approaches that encompassed sustainable and integrated solutions to tackle the economic and social challenges of displaced populations, migrants and local communities in the post-conflict era.

Despite the ever-shifting challenges presented by the specific context of the country and region, IOM Libya collaborated with other humanitarian partners in accordance with national priorities to enhance migration governance and deliver much needed assistance to vulnerable populations. In 2022, IOM Libya supported the voluntary return of more than 11,000 migrants to 21 countries of origin. The Youth Employment One-Stop-Shop (YESS) acted as a community service hub, to improve labour conditions, enhance social cohesion and increase employment and livelihood opportunities in an inclusive manner for youth populations in Libya. Women's Salons were also organised to build resilience and foster a sense of community amongst women from different backgrounds.

Migrants in Libya continue to face challenges and risks, linked to their status in the country and the vulnerable situations many find themselves in, including their exposure to higher risks of violence, exploitation, arbitrary detention, hazardous living conditions, and abuse at the hands of smugglers and traffickers. IOM provided immediate and long-term assistance to victims of trafficking, survivors of gender-based violence, unaccompanied children and other vulnerable groups.

While 2022 was a relatively stable year in terms of national politics, it was also marked by a record number of 24,684 migrants intercepted or rescued at sea and returned to Libya. This figure is a stark reminder that the need to overhaul migration policies in the Central Mediterranean route requires an intercontinental approach and collective commitments. According to the Missing Migrants Project, in 2022 alone 1,1412 migrants have been recorded as missing or dead along the route.

In 2023, 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 an all-encompassing, evidence-driven 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

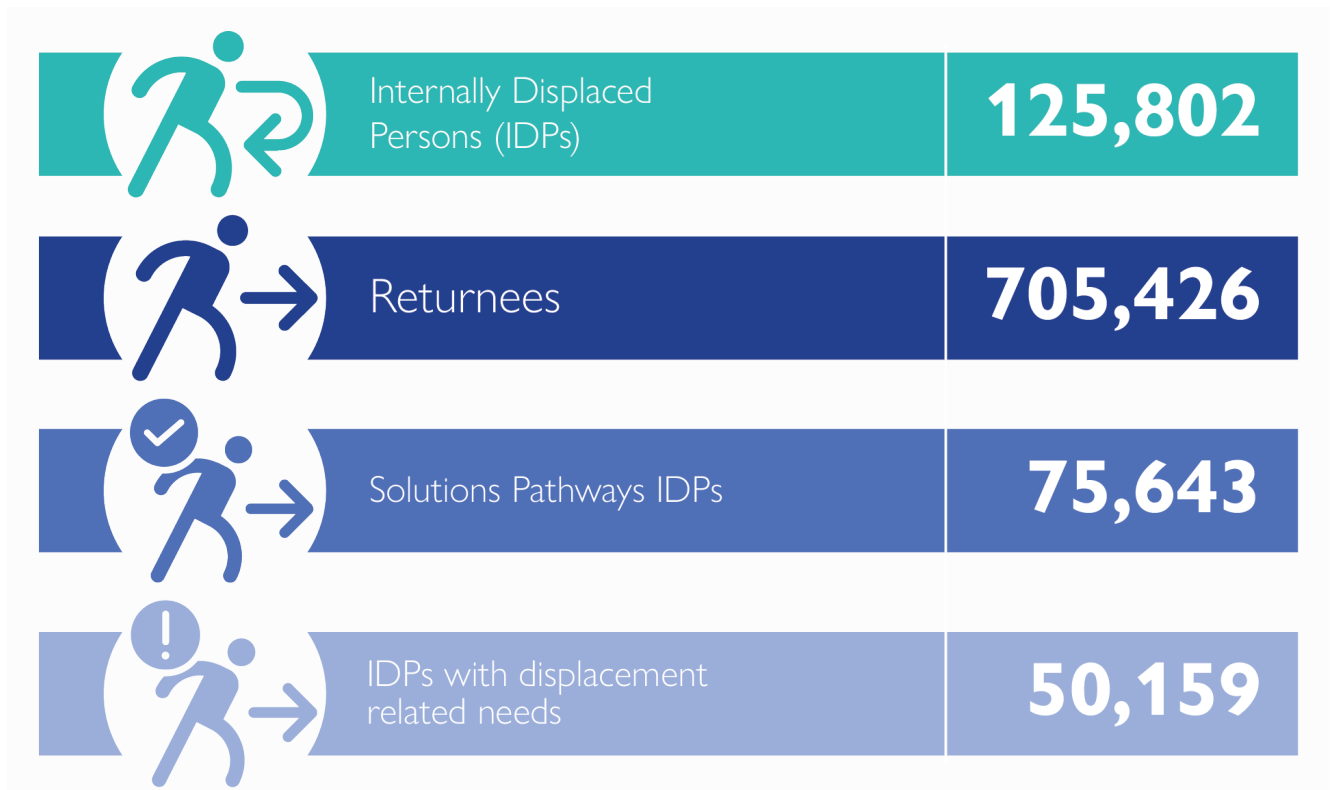
VHR – VOLUNTARY HUMANITARIAN RETURN

WASH – WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

WFP – WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME

IOM LIBYA RESPONSE IN 2022

DTM KEY FIGURES ¹²



COORDINATION AND PARTNERSHIPS

As an already active member of the United Nations Country Team and the Humanitarian Country Team, IOM in Libya has established a UN Network on Migration to ensure coordinated UN system-wide support to the Government of Libya in the implementation of effective migration strategies that promote the well-being and protection of migrants while also contributing to Libya’s stability, development, and economic growth. At the same time, IOM is leading one of the two collective outcomes of the Libya UN Sustainable Development and Cooperation Framework for 2023 – 2025, recently countersigned by the Government. Through the Collective Outcome on Migration Management, the expected result is that “By 2025, 65 per cent migrants and persons of concerns have improved protection, safety, and living conditions”. This Collective Outcome brings together all actors (UN, donors, Government, INGOs) working on migration management to coordinate response, advocacy messages and find solutions to emergency situations. A dedicated working group on humanitarian intervention in detention centres has been already established under the leadership of IOM. IOM is also a member of the Inter-agency Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM), comprised of UN, donors and INGOs, which aims to build upon available capacities and streamline emergency humanitarian assistance provision and can be activated by the HC in an emergency situation.

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

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

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS



114,915 migrants were provided with core relief items across Libya, 36 per cent were women and girls.



158,460 primary health care consultations were given to migrants, IDPs, and host communities members.



More than **110,000** migrants and IDPs across Libya were engaged in COVID-19 and vaccine information sessions.



More than 416,000 cross-border travelers were given COVID-19 medical screenings in collaboration with the NCDC staff at Misrata airport and at the Ras Jdir border.



20,689 doses of COVID-19 vaccines administered to migrants in detention centres and communities across Libya.



28,800 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, 27% of them were women and girls.



49,260 Ready-to-Eat individual food kits and emergency food rations distributed to vulnerable migrants at disembarkation points.



2,082 individuals screened for tuberculosis



MHPSS assistance reached **10,296** beneficiaries, with a total of **392** referrals & **342** participants benefiting from MHPSS trainings.



11,200 migrants assisted to voluntarily return from Libya to 21 countries of origin.



2,410 youth, women, men and children were involved in capacity-building, community engagement and social cohesion activities.



8,945 migrants reached through protection services



715 national health and security officials, health care workers, surveillance staff and health sector partners on COVID-19 related topics, disease surveillance and migrant-sensitive health services.



52 individuals were supported with trainings and toolkits to start or enhance their businesses and enable income generation.



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

IOM LIBYA TEAM



145 National



409 CTG (third party contractors)



49 International



603 Total Staff

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 three offices in Tripoli as well as in Benghazi and Sabha. The mission currently runs 25 projects across Libya, encompassing cities such as Tripoli, Sabratha, Benghazi, Sabha, Tobruk, Zawyia, Zwara, Misrata, Sirt, Albayda and Derna, among other locations.

IOM Libya has 49 international staff and 554 national staff based in Libya and Tunisia, including third-party contracted staff. Working in close cooperation with the Libyan Government, and local partners, IOM has reached thousands of displaced and conflict-affected Libyans and migrants in need with vital humanitarian and development assistance. IOM is committed to continue its efforts to deliver assistance, while building the capacity of the local partners to promote good migration governance in the country.

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.

Policy and programming of IOM Libya falls under three pillars, in line with the IOM Strategic Vision 2019-2023:

Resilience: Communities in Libya (including migrants, IDPs and local communities that have been affected by crises (natural, 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, that leads to the reduction of vulnerabilities of migrants and local communities.



LABOUR MOBILITY AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

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

Throughout 2022, the LMI programming contributed to knowledge generation and system strengthening for improving the local economy and hence enhancing resilience among youth and vulnerable mobile populations. Various studies were carried out to inform on the national perception of migration in Libya¹ as well as to look at practical modalities on regularization and possible integration of migrant workers in the labour force. To enhance local economic recovery and livelihood opportunities, Technical and Vocational Education Training (TVET) reform continued in collaboration with the Ministry of Labour and Rehabilitation. Through this initiative four new TVET training modules were developed and a total of 50 TVET experts were trained with an aim to contribute to reducing skills mismatch and to introduce industry-tailored skills for better employment opportunities. As part of strengthening the labour market system, IOM facilitated the development of Labour Market Information System (LMIS) in collaboration with the Ministry of Labour and Rehabilitation and the General Information Authority to act as a national web-portal informing on skills-matching opportunities in Libya.

In an effort to increase equal opportunities to labour market, Youth Employment One Stop Shop (YESS) centres continued to run and offer services to youth in Tripoli and Benghazi. The YESS centre acts as community service centre for upskilling both migrants and Libyan youth through providing skill enhancement trainings as well as strengthening learning and job-hunting pathways. Its services are tailored to promote youth employment opportunities through skills development and to nurture equal opportunities for decent work.

All these initiatives were also simultaneously tailored to strengthen local actors' capacity to cope and boost income-generating activities for an inclusive and dynamic labour force. In 2022, a total of 347 youths, 44 per cent of them female, were enrolled in various training courses at the YESS centres in Tripoli and Benghazi.

Strengthening labour mobility mechanisms and the promotion of regular labour migration pathways lies at heart of LMI programming. For this, IOM continued to provide capacity-building sessions on labour migration governance, which is a four-day intensive training programme targeting public and municipal officials. Seven training sessions were carried out to cover the capacity-building needs of relevant counterparts. Furthermore, in Istanbul, diplomatic representatives of Niger and Libya attended a technical workshop to discuss the operationalization of the signed Memorandum of Understanding of Bilateral Labour Agreement (BLA) between the two countries. IOM supported both with technical advice as well as facilitated discussions between the states to foster regular labour migration pathways to Libya and to safeguard migrant worker rights in the destination country.

THE YEAR AHEAD

In 2023, the main programmatic priorities for the LMI 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, improved public and private partnerships as well as inclusive access of youth to industry-oriented TVET curricula for improved employment opportunities.

The national perception study is available here:
https://libya.iom.int/sites/default/files/2022/09/2022%20Perceptions%20of%20migrants_V3%5B1%5D_0.pdf



COMMUNITY STABILIZATION

The Community Stabilization (CS) programme supports local communities in Libya to address drivers of instability and vulnerability as well as contributes to the restoration of normal social and economic life.

In Libya, community-level tensions, unemployment and access to livelihoods have become increasingly challenging for youth and women, and 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 pose substantial challenges to communities along migration routes in Libya. Despite these obstacles, 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 2022, IOM supported local authorities and communities to improve access to basic services through the implementation of 24 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, hospital and other public spaces to complement rehabilitation and social cohesion activities. IOM conducts consultation meetings to identify needs and priorities of local communities, to plan for CIPs, and holds handover events with local authorities, community members and leaders which promotes ownership of the projects. Among the most significant interventions, IOM built a public park with a playground located in the Trig Almatar area of Kufra to provide a recreational space for youth, children and women, to meet, socialize and engage in sports and games.

With the aim of improving access to education and safe environment for students and teachers, IOM provided Almastaqbal and Almanara schools in Kufra with an air conditioner for 18 classrooms, as well as canopies to provide shade for students during breaks and to offer space for organising outdoor activities. Additionally, in 20 primary and secondary schools in Ubari and Kufra, IOM set up small school libraries with atlases, dictionaries, a world map, office furniture, and a desktop computer to engage students, spark their interest in reading, and promote critical thinking.

Based on conflict sensitivity assessments conducted for all project locations in 2021, IOM identified a continued need for improving community resilience. In total 1,677 (1029 men and 648 women) from different community groups were involved in consultations, community engagement, social cohesion, and capacity building activities to promote positive relationships and peaceful coexistence. Women and youth were identified particularly as potential agents for positive change, especially in remote locations of Libya. In Kufra, Sabha, and Qatroun, a total of 235 women received capacity-building and attended cultural activities, including yoga and mindfulness for well-being as well as sessions on critical thinking, positive communication and personal development skills.

IOM in collaboration with the Libyan Scouts Association also implemented environmental awareness and community engagement activities in Benghazi, Ajdabiya, Kufra and Sabha to increase awareness of environmental issues, empower youth to make positive changes and give them a sense of responsibility for improvements of their cities.

To support and empower local stakeholders, IOM implemented a cycle of capacity building training targeting members of local civil society organisations (CSOs) in Sabha, Benghazi and Tripoli and to teachers and social workers

in Ubari. In total, 58 participants coming from more than 20 different grassroots organizations were involved in a 10-day professional training covering a range of topics such as the basics of project management, proposal writing, budget management, conflict sensitivity and gender awareness. Participants received tablets and the organisation with the best proposal also won a video projector. In Ubari, IOM provided training for 50 teachers, covering topics like managerial responsibilities, performance improvement, effective communication/reporting, IT and Excel training.

A total of 110 community youth (56 men and 54 women) were involved in vocational and business management training and provided with toolkits to allow immediate access to work under livelihoods interventions. In Sabha, Qatroun, Ajdabia and Benghazi, IOM implemented a four-week training programme on the repair and maintenance of home generators, followed by interpersonal, occupational and business skills that will help them start their own small business and improve their ability to generate income.

THE YEAR AHEAD

In 2023, the Community Stabilization programme will continue providing the foundation to transition from humanitarian response to development interventions in Libya. The programme plans to focus on activities supporting local governance, mediation and peacebuilding, as well as advancing disaster risk management in Libya. These components will put youth, often at particular risk of recruitment into armed groups, and women at the centre of programmatic activities as enablers for positive change. Activities will always aim to be inclusive of mixed ethnic groups including host communities, migrants and IDPs.





STORY:
SUPPORTED TO BUILD RESILIENCE

The Community Stabilization (CS) team organized Women Salon sessions in Kufra, Sebha and Gatroun. Divided in groups of approximately 20 participants, 235 women benefited from sessions on time-financial management, and human development to evolve on a personal and practical level. Each group got a weekly session of five hours. The Women Salon is designed to be an outlet for women and provides a private space to practice yoga and meditation at the end of each session.

Imad, one of the participants in the salon in Sabha, spoke about how the programme helped to challenge stereotypes and bring women from different backgrounds together.

“I thank IOM for taking the initiative of organizing and supporting this salon. I was living in Sirte and I moved to Sabha after my father passed away to live with my sisters and their families. I never socialized with other people here and I was spending my days at home, depressed. When I started coming to the salon and I saw all these women willing to open [up] to each other and discuss personal and emotional experiences, I immediately felt a sense of belonging! I attended the mindfulness sessions, and we discussed personal development, our dreams and fears. I felt inspired to take over my life and focus on me! I thank those who helped make the salon happen because it is a wonderful idea. We women here do not have enough spaces for reflection, dialogue, and entertainment, so the salon is an opportunity to change from the stereotypical life and strive to be more positive. Thank you.”

For Imad and many other women like her, the Salon is a place where women can come together to learn and grow, while being supportive of each other.

IOM provides Youth Employment One-Stop-Shops (YESS) in Tripoli and Benghazi, in collaboration with the Ministry of Labour and Rehabilitation (MoL). YESS are community service centres for upskilling both migrant and Libyan youth. The centres offer tailored training packages and provide a safe and innovative environment where young people can interact with their peers.

Eman El Rasheed, a 35-year-old mother of three, has been on a journey of learning and self-improvement. Originally from Sudan, Eman came to Libya at the age of four and despite having a bachelor’s degree in Forecasting Planning, she struggled to find employment in her area of expertise in Warshafana.

After working in schools for a while, Eman found it increasingly difficult to make ends meet, and her search for a new job proved fruitless. However, with the help of the YESS initiative, she has been able to unlock new opportunities for herself.

“I am happy to join this IOM IT Skills course as I had wanted to take it in the past but could not afford the fees. It’s been very useful to learn basic computer skills. With this training, I feel better equipped to face future challenges at work. My goal now is to look for a job with the degree I gained. The YESS centre has given me more knowledge on the fundamental IT skills.”



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, community support and capacity-building of stakeholders including local authorities, and 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, Qatroun, Sabha, Ghat, Tripoli and Zwara.

In 2022, MRRM reached 114,915 migrants across Libya, 38 per cent of them women and girls. A total of 49,260 migrants received food assistance while 39,683 were provided NFIs, and 36,723 beneficiaries received medical consultations. The volatile security and economic situation coupled with the fallouts of COVID-19 pandemic 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 contained essential ready-to-eat items such as canned beans, tuna and halawa that last 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. IOM designed and implemented awareness-raising campaigns and promoted the IOM hotline available for migrant assistance. The MRRM teams organized campaigns on the risks and realities of irregular migration as well as information sessions on alternative pathways, disease control and prevention (including COVID-19) and available humanitarian services in Libya, reaching 25,800 migrants, 30 per cent of them were women and girls.

MRRM organized 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 to labour migration and an overview of the recent updates on migration governance.

THE YEAR AHEAD

In 2023, IOM is expecting to reach migrants living in urban areas in Bani Waleed, Ghat, Qatroun, Sabha, Tripoli, and Zwara, and continue to provide direct assistance of core-relief items (non-food items and food kits), medical assistance and awareness-raising information. To reach more migrants, IOM is aiming to set up another MRRM centre, and expand support to migrants in Ejdabia in the East through the provision of in-kind assistance, health care services, and other specialized assistance i.e., Protection and Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) during door-to-door outreach. In addition, IOM will further strengthen the capacity building initiatives for government partners and other stakeholders, on Migration Governance, and to implement community-based initiatives and arrange social activities to foster dialogue and engagement of different community groups in the areas of intervention.



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 floods. The major components of assistance include seasonal clothes, bedding, kitchen sets, hygiene kits, solar lamps and other items tailored at individual and family level.

During 2022, the DA programme supported communities in Libya, including migrants and IDPs, with basic and life-saving assistance. The programme supports migrants and IDPs to build resilience by responding to their urgent and immediate needs, such as emergency food ration, and non-food items, allowing migrants to endure critical situations until further assistance is provided. 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. In addition, the programme engages with local municipalities and government ministries to ensure their feedback, concerns and advice are heard and responded to.

In 2022, 35,393 migrants received core relief items across Libya, while 8,400 vulnerable IDPs and IDP returnees were provided with seasonal NFIs including blankets and plastic sheets, 50 per cent of them females.

The DA programme ensured 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 stages, the programme ensured that migrants received basic and much-needed assistance, such as food and water, cooking kits, hygiene kits (especially needed to contain 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.

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 and coordinates with the Libyan Coast Guard to ensure access to support the intercepted or rescued migrants at disembarkation points. DA remains an active member within the Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM), ensuring response to any urgent displacement or crises within 72 hours as needed, complemented by the support of UNICEF, WFP and UNFPA.

THE YEAR AHEAD

IOM will continue to provide DA in the East as more needs increase, particularly among migrants due to the opening of new Detention Centres. DA will also expand in different locations in the South, and IOM 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 socio-economic support to families.



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 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 2022, the Migration Health programme provided 158,460 primary health care consultations (91,978 men, 40,443 women, 15,719 boys and 10,320 girls) to migrants, IDPs and host community members and referred 2,550 migrants (1,147 men, 1,011 women, 246 boys and 146 girls below 18 years) to secondary and tertiary health facilities for further medical investigation, treatment and management.

In close coordination with the Libyan National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), the programme conducted six tuberculosis screening campaigns at detention centres (DCs), the IOM medical office and in local communities. 2,082 individuals (1,527 migrants and 555 Libyans) were screened for tuberculosis and 13 active tuberculosis cases were identified and enrolled in treatment and care.

IOM, in collaboration with the National Tuberculosis Program (NTP) at the NCDC, also built the capacity of 16 NCDC staff from south and east branches on conducting tuberculosis screening campaigns in the community settings and detention centres.

To support the Libyan national health system, maintain

essential health care services across the continuum of care while managing the COVID-19 response, IOM donated advanced medical equipment to 13 hospitals, personal protective equipment and medications to 10 public health facilities as well as supported the NCDC with 20 sets of cold chain equipment, 4500 rapid antigen test kits and 300 ready-to-use therapeutic food. IOM also established medical offices in Triq Almatar and Ain Zara DCs.

Furthermore, to reduce the vulnerability of migrants to disease spread and support national COVID-19 prevention, response and vaccination efforts, IOM enhanced the community engagement activities, engaging over 110,171 migrants and IDPs with COVID-19 and vaccine information sessions. IOM supported the national COVID-19 vaccination campaigns for migrants at detention centres and migrant-dense municipalities across Libya, facilitating administration of 20,689 doses of COVID-19 vaccines and ensured full vaccination of 2,321 migrants.

To support national public health emergency preparedness and response capabilities, IOM provides a series of capacity-building training on disease surveillance and health information systems. The programme strengthened the capacity of 72 health surveillance staff (65 men and 7 women) on disease surveillance and response system (Early Warning Alert and Response Network: EWARN), and 31 statistic and data management staff (18 men and 13 women) from the Health Information Centre (HIC) at the Ministry of Health and representatives from public health facilities on District Health Information System (DHIS-2).

As part of the Voluntary Humanitarian Return (VHR) programme, IOM provided pre-departure medical screening and medical assistance to 18,103 migrants (12,125 men, 3,039 women, 2,895 children and 44 unaccompanied migrant children), including 53 medical escorts. IOM also conducted 866 migration health assessment (MHA) and travel health assistance (THA) consultations for refugees who resettled

to Canada, Norway and Sweden.

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 416 571 cross-border travellers. The Migration Health programme built the capacity of 50 public health officials (49 men and 1 woman) representing the Points of Entry across Libya (Tripoli, Misrata, Khoms, Ras Jdir, Benghazi, Tobrouk, and Imsaad) on preparedness plans and health measures to be taken in the event of potential public health emergency at airports, seaports, and land borders. The training also addressed prevention and control measures for COVID-19 and the monkeypox outbreak which has been declared by WHO as Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC). In addition, IOM in close partnership with the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) conducted three rounds of capacity-building trainings on implementing the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) at Points of Entry in line with the International Health Regulations (IHR 2005).

THE YEAR AHEAD

In 2023, the programme will continue current support in primary health care services, health information management and disease surveillance, tuberculosis response and COVID-19 response with a stronger focus on expanding support in targeted national COVID-19 vaccination campaigns for migrants in DCs and migrant-dense communities. The programme will also strengthen and expand the COVID-19 vaccination coverage on municipalities in south and east Libya. IOM will also conduct regular surveillance and documentation of migrants' morbidity and mortality data including cause of death and disease specific health data and strengthen provision of specialized health care including pediatric and neonatal cares, OBGYN and mental health care services. Finally, in 2023, the mission will develop Essential Minimal Health Care Package at migrant-dense locations and develop and implement minimum standards of basic primary healthcare services in Detention Centres and migrant-dense communities.





STORY:

SUPPORTING VULNERABLE MIGRANTS

Blessing never thought when she left Nigeria in 2016 that she would ever find herself pregnant, standing on the doorstep of the Migrant Resource and Response Mechanism office in managed by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Tripoli, Libya.

When she was only 18, Blessing owned a hair salon back in Nigeria, where she practiced her hobby turned craftsmanship for four years. Due to the challenging socio-economic situation in the country, Blessing was forced to abandon her business and find new ways to provide for her family. In 2016, Blessing received an offer from a close friend to travel to Europe and work abroad. Excited about the opportunity, she accepted, dreaming of a better life for herself and her family. Despite her family's concerns about the dangers of the journey, Blessing was determined to go and turn her life around. From Lagos, she travelled to Agadez in Niger and then further on to Sebha in Libya before arriving to Tripoli.

"We spent more than a month on the road and faced many challenges. We were sitting in the back of the truck in the blazing sun. I was frightened each time I looked over at my friend who had travelled with me from Nigeria and the rest of the girls; I could read exhaustion across their faces," Blessing recalls. We were praying out loud to forget about our worries, which angered the smuggler and he tried to silence us. Those were the worst days of my life."

While in Tripoli, Blessing boarded a boat for her first attempt to cross the sea to Europe, feeling optimistic after hearing success stories from others who had made the journey. However, the boat experienced a malfunction just a few hours into the journey, leaving them stranded at sea. The Libyan search and rescue guards found them and returned them to shore. "I was just happy to be alive," she says. After being returned to shore, all the migrants were provided with support from IOM's direct assistance and mental health and psychosocial support team. Following her unsuccessful attempt to cross to Europe, Blessing was detained in Tripoli for several months before finding work as a housekeeper for a Libyan family. Her primary goal was to work and save up enough money for another attempt to cross the sea.

Blessing got married to a Ghanaian man in 2017, but when her husband lost his job due to the COVID-19 pandemic, they struggled to make ends meet. Despite their difficulties, Blessing was determined to save up enough money for another attempt to cross the sea to Europe, and she convinced her husband to join her.

In 2020, Blessing became pregnant with her first child, but tragically lost the baby at 28 weeks. "I felt hopeless and cried myself to sleep each night. The only person I could rely on was my husband who convinced me to try again for a baby." Later that year, her desire of becoming pregnant again was realized, while her plan to travel to Europe was also taking shape. However, her husband was hesitant to let her travel again, fearing for the safety of their unborn child. Despite his concerns, Blessing was resolute and determined to make the journey. In March 2021, with her husband by her side, she attempted to cross the sea once again, although this time, she was more nervous and anxious. After 48 hours, as she was getting excited about soon reaching Italy's coast, the Libyan coast guards returned them to Tripoli. Once they reached Tripoli, she met with IOM staff who help migrants returned to shore, but she decided to not to tell anyone about her pregnancy. A few weeks later, Blessing lost her second baby.

Fast forward to 2022, Blessing was expecting for a third time, but this time around she discussed her situation with her Nigerian friends who advised her to seek IOM's assistance. This past February, she decided to visit IOM's office in Tripoli and the staff referred her to an IOM gynecologist.

When Blessing first met IOM Dr. Sarah Alnaemi, she was ten to eleven weeks pregnant. "Most migrants come to our office for antenatal follow-up to take the essential drugs we provide and to prep them for delivery. We refer them to the hospital to help them have a safe delivery," says Dr. Alnaemi.

"We accept all cases referred to us by IOM. Most of the time, we admit the patient at the time of delivery, but we conduct all sorts of procedures, depending on individual needs" explains Dr. Ramadan Elgantri, Obstetrics and Gynecology Consultant at a private clinic in Tripoli.

Blessing gave birth to a healthy baby boy in September 2022 and allows herself to feel excited again about the future and about her most important dream coming true: to have a baby. As for crossing the sea again, she has not yet made a decision. Time will tell, she says.



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 following adversities.

Migration and displacement generally require major adaptations, as people cross interpersonal, socio-economic, 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 which heighten vulnerability, 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 the sea. MHPSS activities aim to enhance the resilience of affected populations, promote positive coping mechanisms through the consideration of social and psychological factors in the provision of safety, human rights, dignity and basic needs, as well as to foster a social environment that helps individuals, families and communities realize their potential to respond to crisis. 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 migrants are offered varied set of MHPSS services, such as counselling, psychological first aid, support group sessions, art based psychosocial activities, awareness sessions on COVID-19 impact on mental health, psychoeducation and referral to specialized mental health care. These services helped to address the complex psychosocial situations that migrants experience.

In 2022, the MHPSS programme supported 10,296 individuals (6063 men, 2976 women, 689 boys and 568 girls) with MHPSS services and referred 392 people for specialised support including health and mental health services, voluntary humanitarian return services and direct assistance for

basic needs to Protection, Migration Health, and MRRM programmes for further assistance.

The programme organized MHPSS training sessions for 342 governmental frontline workers, health workers, active workers from civil society organizations and international NGOs on MHPSS key concepts, frameworks, psychological first aid and supportive communication, as well as MHPSS response in pandemic settings. The training helped in understanding the community-based approaches to MHPSS, tools and resources, and enhanced the capacity of relevant Libyan national health workers in primary health care facilities and civil society workers to provide mental health and psychosocial support to migrants and internally displaced persons.

The Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Technical Working Group (MHPSS TWG), concluded due to sectors' deactivation, was a national group co-chaired by IOM and the International Medical Corps, in close collaboration with the Ministry of Health from August 2020 till December 2022. The MHPSS TWG strengthened coordination and collaboration among MHPSS actors to avoid overlap, provide MHPSS technical guidance and strengthen the MHPSS skills and knowledge by sharing MHPSS resources and trainings. The TWG provided technical assistance and ensured that MHPSS is mainstreamed, and the psychosocial needs of affected populations are considered by different actors during humanitarian service provision efforts.

THE YEAR AHEAD

In 2023, IOM proposes to strengthen its MHPSS response to displaced populations, both at the group and individual levels, and continue to ensure affected populations have access to specialized services offered by partners and national institutions. IOM will also support the Libyan Ministry of Health and other relevant ministries with the necessary technical support through MHPSS capacity-building activities that target health workers and Libyan civil society organizations.

IOM will continue to scale up its MHPSS response to reach the most vulnerable through:

- Direct MHPSS intervention: IOM multidisciplinary teams will provide direct and remote MHPSS services to the affected population, expanding activities in West, East and South of Libya.
- Supporting the implementation of MHPSS capacity-building activities: to enhance the knowledge of health workers, frontline workers, and community leaders on MHPSS response, key concepts, frameworks, psychological first aid and supportive communication.
- Mainstreaming MHPSS across humanitarian response: within the transition and recovery phase.
- Supporting the national MHPSS coordination: strengthening the MHPSS response in Libya, providing technical support and guidance, strengthening referral systems, and advocating for MHPSS issues.”





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-government counterparts and with migrant communities and embassies.

The IOM Protection team reached 8,945 migrants (4501 men, 2493 women, 1013 boys and 938 girls) in 2022 in Tripoli, Misrata, Zuwara, Sebha, Zawiya and Benghazi. Case management services were provided to ensure quality care and help individuals to heal and recover, and to reinforce coping strategies and resilience in the long-term, guided by principles of self-determination and promoting human dignity. The services target vulnerable migrants especially survivors of gender-based violence, victims of trafficking, and unaccompanied and separated children.

Community capacities and community support networks were reinforced in response to the ongoing protection risks of exploitation, abuse and human rights violations facing migrants. Engaging with community mobilizers and carrying out “communicating with communities” activities helped to understand risks and reinforce existing protective factors. Information sessions on topics such as education enrolment and access to gender-based violence (GBV) services were delivered based on community engagement and feedback.

IOM’s Protection programme provided training and capacity-building activities for 271 individuals on topics including Practices and Procedures of community-based hosting as part of the Alternative to Detention Programme, Assistance to Vulnerable Migrants, Protection Mainstreaming, Human Rights, Smuggling of Migrants, and Trafficking in Persons. Participants included community mobilizers, Embassy representatives, National Non-Governmental Organizations

(NGOs), and Government officials. Training mainly aimed to enhance their knowledge on the identification of and assistance to vulnerable migrants, prevention measures, and how to establish a comprehensive rights-based response. The training also emphasized the importance of collaboration between relevant actors.

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.

VOLUNTARY HUMANITARIAN RETURN

IOM Libya offers voluntary humanitarian return for migrants who want to return to their home countries, while contributing to improving stability in particularly fragile communities in Libya. The programme works to alleviate the suffering of stranded and detained migrants through the provision of basic lifesaving and life sustaining assistance, awareness raising on the risks of irregular migration and alternative options via referrals.

Throughout 2022, IOM’s VHR programme assisted 11,200 migrants to voluntarily return from Libya to 21 countries of origin. Among the returnees were 2,895 children and 44 unaccompanied migrant children, and 866 migrants who had medical needs. 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, provision of embarkation assistance, as well as arrival assistance in the country of return. Upon return, the returnees have the opportunity to benefit from tailored reintegration assistance including in kind support provided by IOM office in the country of origin.

THE YEAR AHEAD

In 2023, the Protection Programme will continue to promote a rights-based approach to migration management in Libya through training and capacity-building activities for the government. Case management services will be provided throughout the country for the most vulnerable migrants, including survivors of gender-based violence, victims of trafficking, and unaccompanied and separated children. Civil society and government partners will also receive capacity-building training to enhance Protection services. Community-based Protection activities will be expanded in areas with the greatest needs to reinforce community protective factors and promote resilience among displaced and host populations.

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





FEATURE: INCREASING GOVERNMENT CAPACITY FOR MIGRATION GOVERNANCE

In 2022, IOM facilitated a technical meeting in the framework of the cooperation on labour migration between the State of Libya and the Republic of Niger. The meeting aimed to create a platform that allowed representatives from the two countries to exchange ideas on the necessary conditions to move the process forward towards successful implementation of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on labour mobility signed in November 2021.

“This dialogue that IOM is facilitating between Libya and Niger is extremely valuable for legal, safe and orderly migration between the two countries.” Said Federico SODA, Chief of Mission of IOM Libya. “I hope at the end of this dialogue, a clear roadmap with concrete steps to be taken for the implementation of the MoU will be developed. IOM will fully stand by to support.”

“Since the signing of the MoU in November 2021, Niger has put in place a committee to follow up its implementation. We believe that the meeting discusses key conditions to move the process forward and that we will work in the spirit of solidarity and cooperation”, said Malam Moussa Malam, Secretary General, Ministry of Employment, Labour and Social Protection and part of the Nigerien delegation.”





IMMIGRATION AND BORDER GOVERNANCE

The Immigration and Border Governance (IBG) 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 IBG programme is continuously strengthening the capacities of national entities through tailored technical cooperation, capacity-building initiatives, provision of protective and life-saving equipment as well as infrastructure improvements to enhance safety at disembarkation points, as well as targeted water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) interventions in the DCIM administered detention centres to improve minimum living standards for vulnerable migrants who are detained.

IOM also continued to provide infrastructure support across Libya. The border crossing point in Ghat (Ysseyen) is being equipped with a well and a security fence. Additionally, agreements have been made with the Ministry of Defence to rehabilitate two training grounds in Tripoli and Sabratha for improving the capacities of the Ministry's personnel to conduct search and rescue operations. In Benghazi, the Mol Training Centre for law enforcement officers has been supported with the rehabilitation of five classrooms, eight bedrooms and a laboratory dedicated to the analysis of forged documents.

Specialized trainings on the identification of fraudulent travel documents were also provided to 36 border management staff deployed in the South, to increase their capacity to verify ID documents. To strengthen and promote consular support for stranded migrants, the programme successfully assisted several embassies in Libya in collecting and managing migration data by building legal identity and identity management capacity.

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, conducting hygiene promotion and COVID-19 awareness sessions and performing routine fumigation and disinfection activities in detention centres.

IOM is making progress in collaborating 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.

THE YEAR AHEAD

In 2023, IBG will continue to offer guidance and expertise to authorities seeking to improve their migration and border management and operational procedures. Additionally, IBG will provide WASH and light rehabilitation assistance to detention centres to ensure that migrants are treated with dignity and have access to minimum living standards. Furthermore, IBG will strengthen the national capacities of border entities, particularly those operating in the South, through targeted infrastructure and equipment support, as well as specialized trainings. All of these efforts will support Search and Rescue operations in the desert (SARD) to be conducted along the main migration routes from the South up to the Mediterranean coast.



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 IBG and SAR related initiatives targeting migrants disembarked in Libya.

To prevent tragic deaths at sea and in the desert, as well as alleviate the suffering of migrants embarking upon the dangerous voyage across the Mediterranean Sea, IOM's SAR programme provides a tailored mechanism to provide protection-oriented and human rights-based assistance to migrants upon disembarkation and those brought to safety by the authorities as well as through enhancing the capacities of relevant national entities for migration management. Through the programme, IOM delivered life-saving assistance, improving the resilience of the migrant population, while also contributing to the protection-oriented migration governance system, hence supporting the transition towards longer term solutions for migration management in Libya.

Through continuous coordination with the Libyan Coast Guard, General Administration for Coastal Security (GACS) and DCIM, the programme promoted the provision of protection-oriented and dignified support to migrants rescued from the sea, including the delivery of humanitarian assistance to 24,684 migrants who were returned to Libya by the Libyan Coast Guard, GACS and other entities. The programme also contributed to the efforts by national entities and INGOs in ensuring the proper handling and registration of missing/death migrants. During 2022, IOM recorded 529 deaths and 848 missing persons along the Central Mediterranean Route.

The capacity building of national entities is aimed towards improving the life-saving and humanitarian assistance migrants receive while intercepted or rescued at sea and returned to Libya. The assistance provided includes expertise and advice for policy framework development, migration data management, cross-border cooperation with neighbouring countries, and introducing technological innovation and know-how. In 2022, over 350 officials (of which 43 women) from relevant SAR authorities received training on providing protection-oriented and rights-based assistance to migrants disembarked in Libya.

Delivery of humanitarian assistance at disembarkation points and in detention centres remains a key activity in IOM's portfolio, enabling access to protection screening, psychosocial support, provision of food and core relief items and assistance for voluntary humanitarian return to country of origin. Assistance in combating the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic continued in 2022 with regular initiatives for migrants in vulnerable situations, contributing to upholding the minimum WASH standards in detention centres and at disembarkation points.

THE YEAR AHEAD

To further promote the implementation of protection oriented and human rights-based SAR activities, in 2023 IOM will continue to strengthen the capacities of national entities active in SAR operations and in detention centres, while advocating for alternatives to detention. IOM will continue and as needed, expand to offer much needed life-saving assistance to migrants disembarked and held in detention centres.



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 specialised data collections implemented by DTM and the Research Programme also help provide vital evidence to guide programming and policy, such as those capturing primary data related to health indicators in Libya and weekly tracking of the number of migrants in detention centres and vaccinations delivered by the NCDC to migrants as well as displaced populations.

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 the understanding of the migration trends covering thematic areas of migration aspirations and decision making, as well as studies on migration routes and migrant vulnerabilities.

Through regular publication of various reports throughout 2022, 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 present data and analysis on key indicators related to not only mobility aspects of both internal displacement (IDP

and returnee context) and international migration but also highlight protection and socio-economic vulnerabilities and its associated needs that are vital for programming aimed at increasing resilience of internally displaced persons and migrants. Key research studies implemented during 2022 covered topics of significant importance to programme and policy articulation, such as the studies titled COVID-19 and vaccination in Libya: A follow-up assessment of migrants' knowledge, attitudes and practices and Rented Out: An assessment of migrants' access to the rental housing market, Gender and Migration: An analysis of the experiences of migrant women and men in Libya. In addition, DTM has produced several rapid assessments, briefs and conflict sensitivity analyses to help orient IOM Libya programmatic activities and to keep partners and donors abreast.

THE YEAR AHEAD

In 2023, 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 and policy on migration related matters ranging from lifesaving humanitarian response to longer term development programming. An increased focus will also be on filling the data gaps and providing analysis aimed at facilitating Libya's development programming under the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF).

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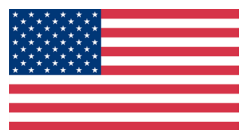


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IOM is committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and society. As an intergovernmental organization, IOM acts with its partners in the international community to: assist in meeting the operational challenges of migration;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

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