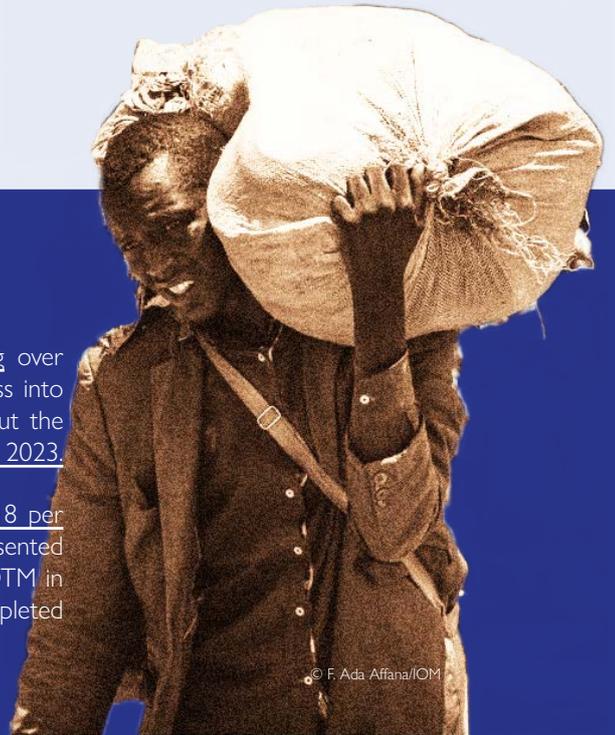


# PROFILE OF SUDANESE MIGRANTS IN LIBYA

MARCH 2024



## BACKGROUND

In April 2023, clashes erupted in multiple cities across Sudan displacing over six million individuals internally and leading over one million more to cross into neighbouring countries (including a minority into Libya). This report about the situation of Sudanese migrants in Libya is an update on a brief published in May 2023.

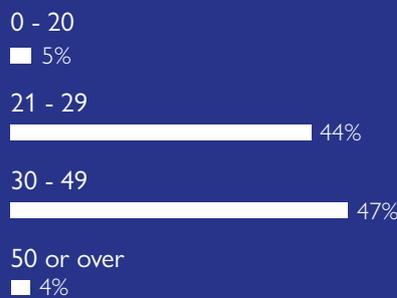
Based on the latest available DTM data, Sudanese in Libya account for 18 per cent of the total migrant population in the country — the third most-represented nationality. The majority of the 4,274 migrants from Sudan surveyed by DTM in Libya in 2023 were single, male, between the ages of 21 and 49 and had completed a middle school-level education or higher.

## POPULATION

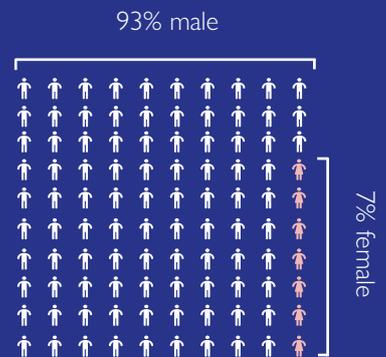
**125,363**

migrants from Sudan in Libya as of December 2023, including 33,481 refugees registered with UNHCR. As of 04 March 2024, DTM Libya has observed the arrival of 6,434 Sudanese in Libya since the onset of conflict in Sudan in April 2023.

## AGE



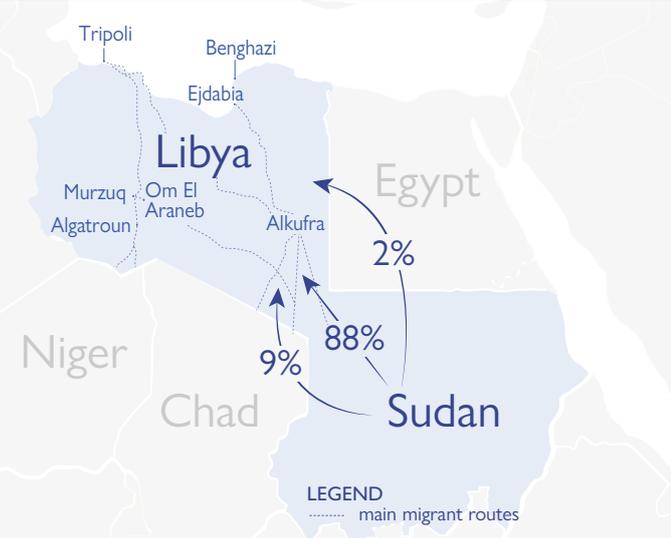
## SEX



## MIGRATION ROUTES

The majority of Sudanese migrants who arrived in Libya in 2023 and who were interviewed by DTM Libya reported having crossed directly from Sudan (88%), while a minority had transited by Chad (9%) or Egypt (2%) from Sudan before crossing into Libya.

The majority of Sudanese migrants who travel to Libya arrive in Alkufra, a largely deserts and sparsely populated area. Alkufra is also a hub for migrants traveling from or transiting through Sudan or Chad on their way to Libya. The routes connecting the southern part of the country to the northern coastal cities of Tripoli, Ejdabia and Benghazi also pass through Alkufra.



# PROFILE OF SUDANESE MIGRANTS IN LIBYA

## Socio-demographic and essential needs

### EMPLOYMENT



One quarter of migrants (25%) from Sudan interviewed by DTM Libya in 2023 were unemployed and actively seeking work - a rate that is higher than that among migrants of all nationalities (21%).

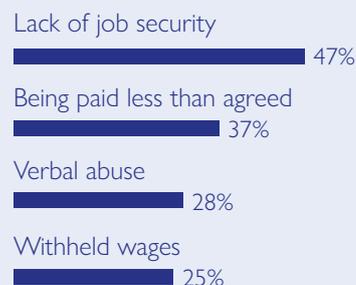
### WORK CONTRACT

39%

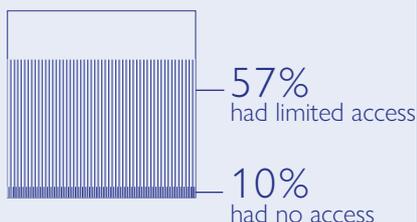
of employed Sudanese migrants were casual or short-term labourers. The majority (60%) were employed as permanent or fixed-term employees and one per cent were trainees.

### TOPS RISKS AT WORK

(multiple-choice question)



### ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE



### BARRIERS TO HEALTHCARE



### FAMILY DYNAMICS

The majority of migrants were single (59%). Among those who were married (38% of total), two in five were with their spouse in Libya (42%). Among those who had school-aged children with them in Libya (14% of overall Sudanese surveyed) six per cent (32 respondents) were single-headed households (female (2%) or male (4%)).

### 3 MAIN DIFFICULTIES FACED

(multiple-choice question)



# PROFILE OF SUDANESE MIGRANTS IN LIBYA

## Remittance trends

### REMITTANCES

26%

of Sudanese migrants in Libya reported having sent remittances since arriving in Libya. A greater proportion of male migrants stated having sent money home (27%) compared to females (3%).



Remittances sent home can help improve migrant family's financial situation by allowing them to afford basic needs, such as food, education, healthcare and housing, but also pay off debt, accumulate savings, fund personal projects or diversify their income sources in their country of origin.

### REMITTANCES AS PRIMARY SOURCE OF INCOME

(by year of survey)

Around two in five Sudanese migrants stated that their remittances are their families' primary source of income - a rate that has increased over threefold between 2020 and 2023 based on a total of 8,522 interviews conducted with Sudanese over this four year period.



### BREAKDOWN OF REMITTANCE USAGE IN SUDAN

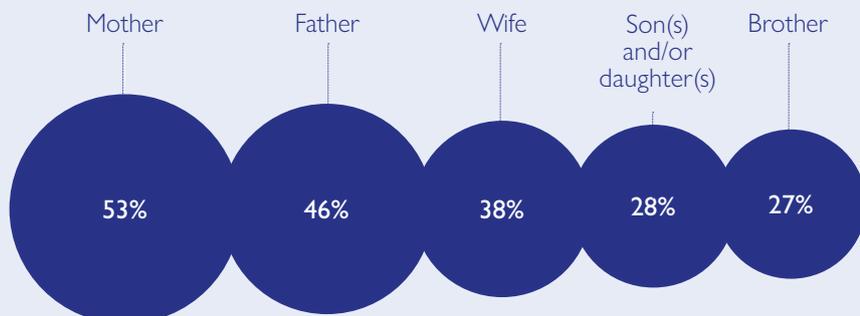
(top 6)

Half of migrants mentioned that their remittances contributed to their family's savings or were helping their household in their country of origin to fulfill their food needs. Around a third (32%) mentioned that the money they send home helps their family afford other expenses such as rent and utility bills.



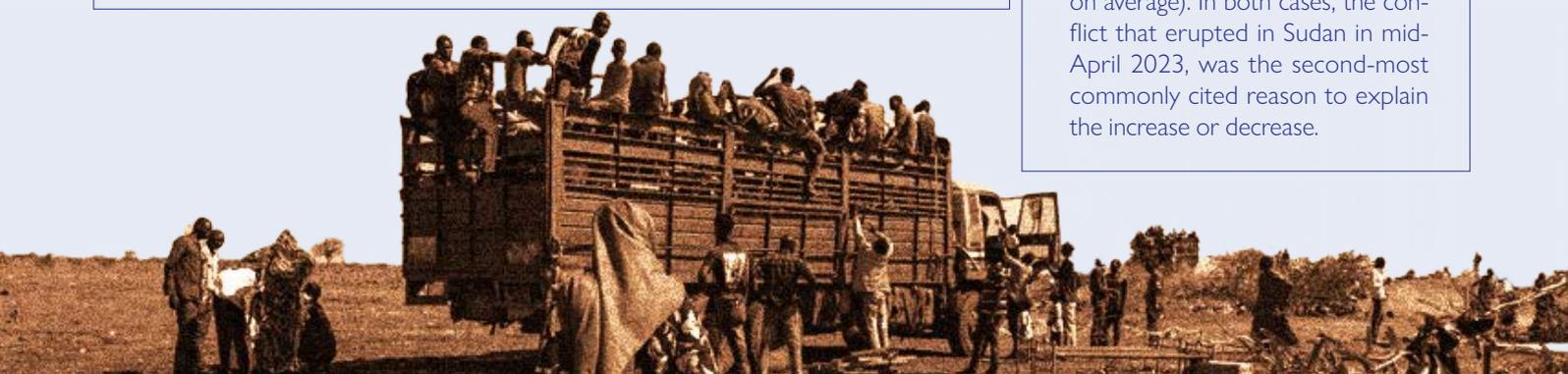
### WHO DIRECTLY BENEFITS FROM REMITTANCES?

(multiple-choice question)



### CONFLICT & FREQUENCY OF SENDING

A greater proportion of Sudanese migrants than average mentioned having changed the frequency with which they send remittances since April 2023. A total of 28 per cent of Sudanese cited having sent remittances less frequently (compared to 26% on average) and 17 per cent more frequently (compared to 11% on average). In both cases, the conflict that erupted in Sudan in mid-April 2023, was the second-most commonly cited reason to explain the increase or decrease.



# PROFILE OF SUDANESE

who arrived in Libya after April 2023

## SEX & AGE



Three quarters of Sudanese who arrived in Libya after April 2023 were of working age (between 20 and 39). A minority were less than 20 (11%) or above 50 (3%). The majority were males (96%) and a minority (4%) females.

## FAMILY DYNAMICS

Among those who had school-aged children with them in Libya (15% of total Sudanese surveyed) 10 per cent were single-headed households (female (9%) or male (1%)).

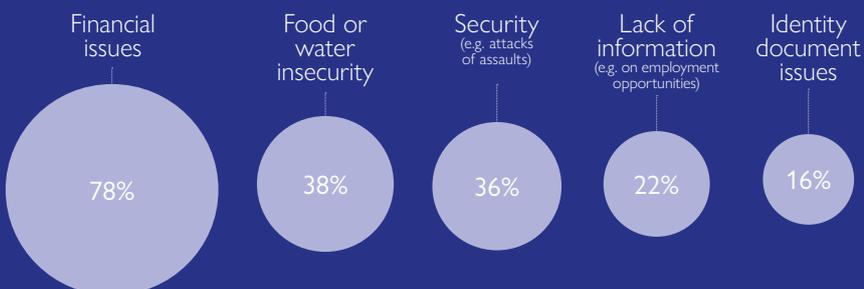
## EMPLOYMENT

57%

More than half (57%) of Sudanese who arrived after the conflict that erupted in mid-April 2023 were unemployed and actively seeking employment — slightly more than the average among migrants who arrived in Libya as recently (after the April 2023 conflict) (46%).

## 3 MAIN DIFFICULTIES FACED

(multiple-choice question)



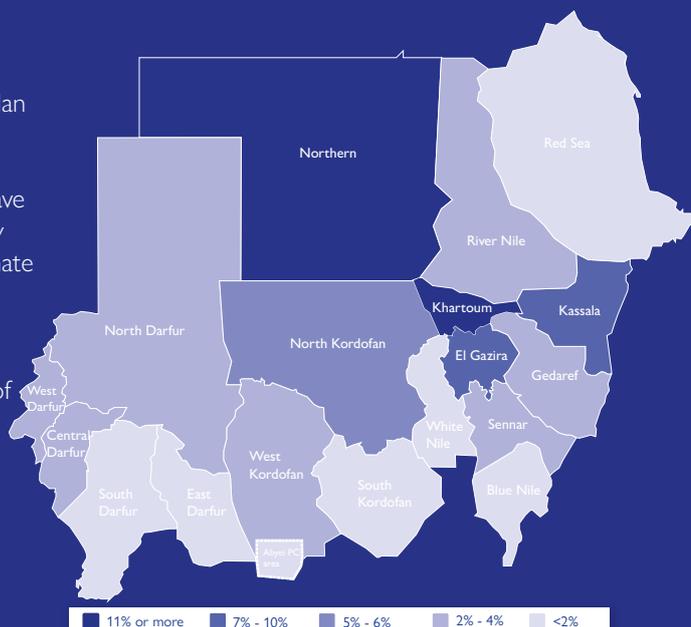
## HOUSING

A greater proportion of Sudanese (7%) who arrived after April 2023 mentioned having been evicted or threatened with eviction than the average among migrants across all nationalities who arrived during the same period in Libya (1%).

## REGION OF ORIGIN IN SUDAN

A third of Sudanese who arrived in Libya after the onset of conflict in April 2023 (33%) were from the state of Khartoum and 17 per cent from the Northern state.

According to the December 2023 IOM regional Sudan response [update](#) the majority of Sudanese who have been displaced by the conflict originate from the state of Khartoum (65%) while a minority come from one of the five states of Darfur (33%).



## HEALTHCARE

The majority of Sudanese who arrived after April 2023 reported that they had limited or no access to healthcare in Libya (75%) — on par with the average among migrants across all nationalities who arrived in Libya during the same period (72%).

## REMITTANCES

The majority of Sudanese who arrived after April 2023 (54%) mentioned their intention to send money to their family once their level of income or savings allows them to do so. A minority (6%) reported that they had sent money home since arriving in Sudan in April 2023 or later.

# ABOUT THIS REPORT

## METHODOLOGY

Findings are based on individual interviews conducted by DTM in 2023 with 4,274 Sudanese migrants (323 Sudanese and 2,399 migrants of other nationalities were interviewed after the April 2023 conflict). The population figures are based on key informant interviews.

## LIMITATIONS

This brief provides a snapshot of a highly heterogeneous group of people on the move in a quickly evolving context. The purposive sampling approach used limits the sex and age breakdown as well as the findings on migrant vulnerabilities from being fully statistically representative of the demographic make-up of the (Sudanese) migrant population in Libya.

## WHO IS A 'MIGRANT'?

Migrant is an umbrella term, not defined under international law, reflecting the common lay understanding of a person who moves away from their place of usual residence, whether within a country or across an international border, temporarily or permanently, and for a variety of reasons. The term includes a number of well-defined legal categories of people, such as migrant workers; persons whose particular types of movements are legally-defined, such as smuggled migrants; as well as those whose status or means of movement are not specifically defined under international law, such as international students.

At the international level, no universally accepted definition for "migrant" exists. The present definition was developed by IOM for its own purposes and it is not meant to imply or create any new legal category.

## ABOUT DTM

Funded by the European Union, the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) in Libya tracks and monitors population movements in order to collate, analyze and share information to support the humanitarian community with the needed demographic baselines to coordinate evidence-based interventions. To consult all DTM reports, datasets, maps and dashboards, please visit:

 [dtm.iom.int/libya](https://dtm.iom.int/libya)

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European Union



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