

ABOUT

- MHUB is undertaking field surveys with migrants, refugees and asylum seekers along key migratory routes to build up a body of data over time and to map country and regional level mixed migration trends.
- This snapshot presents early survey findings of the profiles, intentions and experiences of those moving in mixed migration flows who have recently arrived in Tunisia in the last year.
- Though these findings cannot be considered statistically representative of the migration population, they do provide key insights into the migration process.

KEY FINDINGS

These findings are based on 26 surveys conducted in January 2017 with irregular migrants in Tunisia. The respondents mainly came from the Gambia (38% - 10), Guinea – Conakry (35% - 9), and Comoros (19% - 5) with the remaining from Mali (4% - 1) and Cote d'Ivoire (4% - 1). All Comorian respondents (5) were female and the remaining (21) respondents were male.

INTENTIONS

- 80% of respondents' (Gambia, Guinea, Mali, and Cote d'Ivoire) had intended to reach Europe when beginning their journey. All respondents from Comoros (19%) had Tunisia as their initial destination when they left their homes.
- The Comorian respondents reported that they changed their intent once in Tunisia, resulting in 3 of the 5 Comorian respondents attempting and failing to cross to Europe via the Mediterranean Sea from Tunisia.

JOURNEY

- All respondents from Gambia and Guinea transited through Libya. Of these, 74% started their journey alone and 26% began their journey with a friend(s). The average length of journey from Gambia and Guinea to reach Libya was 4 weeks. The average cost paid from the country of origin including the attempted boat crossing to Italy from Libya was 1500 USD. The Comorian respondents arrived to Tunisia by plane and 3 of 5 have attempted to cross the sea. The amount paid per person, for the attempted sea crossing from Tunisia was 1,350 USD.
- 88% of Guinean respondents spent 4 - 6 months in Libya, the remaining 12% was there for up to 3 months. 72% of Gambian respondents spent 4- 6 months in Libya, 18% spent around 11 months and only 9% spent 3 months before crossing to Tunisia.
- 85% of respondents that transited through Libya (80% - 21) reported short stops in various places to organize the next leg of their journey, often waiting for the smuggler to organize the next leg of their journey. 45% reported stays due to detention, and another 45% reported stays because they were working to gather more money to be able to pay for the boat to cross the Mediterranean Sea. 50% of respondents experiences all three.
- All respondents that travelled by land on their journey went through Agadez (80% - 21, those from Gambia, Guinea, Mali, and Cote d'Ivoire) to get to Libya. They reported that after Agadez, the number of women

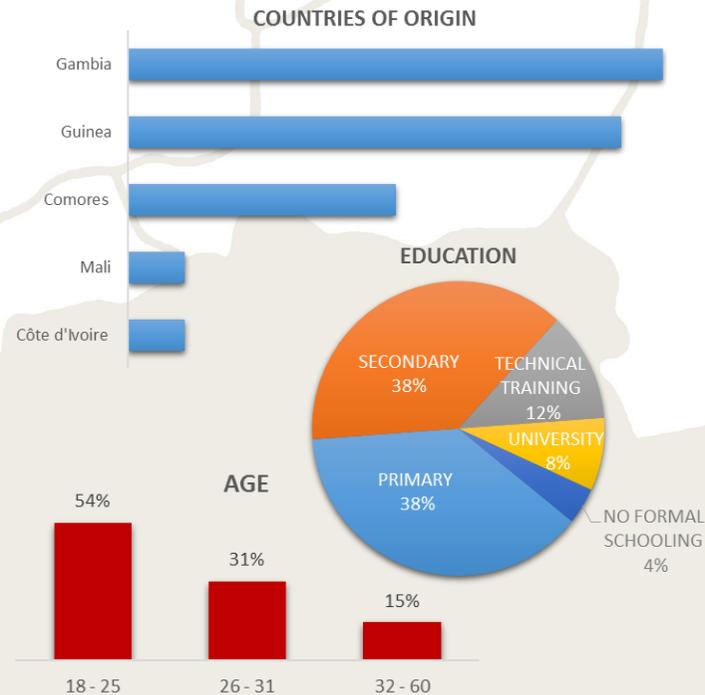
present in the groups that they were traveling in decreased drastically when compared to previous journey segments.

RISKS AND ABUSES

80% of respondents did not realize that what they actually experienced/witnessed during their journey could happen. Most respondents reported feeling very unsafe crossing the Sahara desert and also once in Libya.

- The majority of the respondents reported experiencing or witnessing various abuses. Instances of physical abuse (73%), were reported to have been perpetrated by gangs (66%), militias (38%), local citizen along their journey (28%), and 14% by soldiers. The respondents that witnessed or experienced detention (77%) reported that the police (57%), militia (17%) and gangs (25%) as the responsible parties. Forced labour (58%) was reportedly perpetrated by gangs (57%), militias (26%) and police (15%). Document destruction (85%) was reportedly perpetrated by gangs (55%), militias (25%) local citizens along their journey. Instances of robbery (81%) were reportedly perpetrated by smugglers (32%), gangs (28%), and local citizens along their journey (24%), and militias (16%). Instances of racism and discrimination (85%) were reportedly perpetrated by local citizens along their journey (59%), local gangs (27%) and militias (13%).

DEMOGRAPHIC BREAKDOWN OF ALL INTERVIEWEES



QUOTES FROM RESPONDENTS

"I came here because I was pregnant and I wanted to give birth to my child here [Tunisia]. Once here, I was informed of a smuggling network to Europe. I got into this, I lost my money and didn't reach anywhere. I gave birth to my child and now I want to go back home. I must admit that I did a stupid thing." – Female respondent from Comoros in Tunis 1.17

"I lost all money and took too many risks. I didn't know about all these dangers when I left my country. Would have I known, I would have stayed." – Male respondent from the Gambia in Zarzis 2.17

"The agents and smugglers are all robbers. They take your money when they perfectly know that you have very little chances to reach Italy, especially when you go from Libya." – Male respondent from Guinea – Conakry in Zarzis 2.17

"I had already paid the money for the boat to Italy. I was in Sfax [Tunisia] and we were supposed to take the boat at night. The Tunisian smuggler showed me the picture of the boat, it had nothing to do with what he told me it was. I got scared, he probably felt it. He went out of the place where we were, ten minutes later the police arrived and arrested us." – Female respondent from Comoros in Tunis 2.17

PHOTO FROM THE FIELD



Female migrant from Comoros in a shelter for single mothers in Tunis



Male migrant from Gambia at the Hamdi Center in Zarzis, Tunisia