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 Italy in the last year.
- Even though these findings cannot be considered statistically representative of the migration population, they do provide key insights on the migration process.

Key Findings

*These findings are based on 37 interviews conducted between 3 and 30 March in reception and transit centres in Rome, Italy.

Pre-Departure Plans

- 25% of respondents left their home countries without having any destination prearranged. For those with an intended destination, the main countries were: Libya (41%); Italy (23%); Germany (18%); Northern European countries (10% - UK and Denmark); others (10%).
- Two third of respondents did not seek any information before leaving their home countries. For those who did, the main sources were talking with friends or with smugglers (80%), with fewer seeking information through social media (20%).
- 80% of respondents could not imagine that their journey would be as it was. If aware beforehand of what it would be like, more than 50% of respondents would choose not to leave. Those who still would have left would do it taking a different route, specifically avoiding passage through Libya.

Abuses and Deaths

- Two thirds of female respondents affirmed that they suffered, or witnessed other women suffering, sexual abuses along their journey. 93% of all respondents witnessed or experienced physical abuses such as beatings and torture. More than 50% of respondents indicated that they had been trafficked/sold or witnessed someone being trafficked/sold. 50% of respondents also indicated that they experienced or witnessed others in detention. The majority of all abuses mainly took place in Libya.

Onward Movement

- Two thirds of respondents witnessed the death of at least one of their travel companions. Respondents reported that most deaths took place in the Sahara Desert, followed by Libya and the Mediterranean Sea.

Demographic Breakdown of Interviewees

Photos from the Field

Quotes from Respondents

"The journey is not easy. Mainly, but not only because of the sea crossing. I did not have any idea it was like this. Do not take the risk! If you don’t want to stay in your country, do not take that route anyway! Go somewhere else, but never in Libya." – Interview on 23/3/16

"I was an orphan and trusted Patiente, a friend of my friends. She told me I could live a better life abroad, and convinced me to move out from Nigeria. But once in Libya, she forced me to prostitution. She kept me in a room of her house until I was too worn out to work. In that moment, when I was too worn out to work, she kicked me away from her house. She did not want to see me again." – Interview on 18/3/16