

Survey Snapshot

TUNISIA | February 2017

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.
- Though these findings cannot be considered statistically representative of the migration population, they do provide key insights into the migration process.

KEY FINDINGS

This snapshot forms part of a wider, ongoing data gathering project with respondents who have recently transited through North Africa on their way to Tunisia. To date, data has been gathered from 230 respondents in Tunisia with respondents coming from countries such as Burkina Faso, Brazzaville, Cameroon, Congo, Congo Kinshasa, Côte d'Ivoire, Eritrea, Gambia, Guinea, Iraq, Liberia, Libya, Mali, Morocco, Nigeria, Senegal, Somalia, Sudan, and Syria.

Findings in this snapshot are based on surveys conducted in February 2017 with 35 Senegalese male respondents in Tunisia. 22 respondents (63%) were aged between 18-31 years old and 13 (37%) were aged between 32-60 years old. 51% of the respondents were married with at least one child, and 48% were single.

INTENTIONS

- All respondents reported that their initial intentions were to reach Europe from Libya. It was only after at least two failed attempts to cross and lack of money that they decided to cross into Tunisia from Libya and seek assistance to return to their country of origin.
- All respondents explained that economic reasons were the main driver of their intention to make the journey.

JOURNEY

- All respondents transitioned through Agadez during their journey and stated that the number of women present after this segment decreased drastically when compared to previous journey segments. The average length of their journey from Senegal to Libya was 4 weeks and the average cost paid in Senegal for the journey including the boat intended to take them from Libya to Italy was approximately 1000 USD. All 35 respondents used services provided by smugglers or 'coksseurs', as referred to by respondents, during their journey.

- 85% of the respondents said that they have taken the journey with other friends and that the biggest group was composed of 6 Senegalese males. Only 14% made their journey alone..
- In regards to time in Libya, 51% of respondents spent 4 - 6 months, 43% spent less than 3 months and only 5% spent more than 6 months before crossing to Tunisia. When asked about their stay, 45% reported being held in detention, 36% indicated making short stops to arrange for the remainder of their journey, and 18% reported staying for work or waiting for money to be sent by their families so they would be able to attempt their cross to Europe.

RISKS AND ABUSES

- All respondents indicated experiencing and/or witnessing various abuses. 27 respondents (77%) reported witnessing migrant deaths. Instances of physical abuse were reported by all respondents to have been perpetrated by gangs (47%), militias (24%), local citizens (15%), police (11%), and smugglers (1%). All 35 respondents witnessed and/or experienced detention. In Libya, 55% of detentions were carried out by police, 29% by gangs (many incidents were reported to be perpetrated by the *Asma Boys*), and 15% by militias. In Tunisia, all respondents reported being detained upon arrival by the National Guard for a period of 15 days. 30 migrants (86%) were or witnessed others being forced into labor; 51% enforced by gangs, 27% by militias, 19% by police, and 2% by local citizens. Document destruction for all 35 respondents was reportedly perpetrated by militias (47%), gangs (37%), police (5%) and local citizens (10%). 32 (91%) of respondents reported being robbed and/or witnessing a robbery. Robberies were committed by militias (37%), gangs (35%), smugglers (12%), local citizens (8%), and police (8%).

QUOTES FROM RESPONDENTS

"If I know before leaving my country that this would happen to me, I wouldn't have left ever! Of course if a friend or a family member asks me my opinion, I will do my best to dissuade him."
– Male respondent from Senegal in Mednine in February, 2017

"It's not worth it, of course it's not worth it! I almost lost my life, I happy to be still alive."
– Male respondent from Senegal in February, 2017

"We lose a lot of money and we don't even reach our goal! Now how can I go back home! My mother cries all the time, how can I come back!

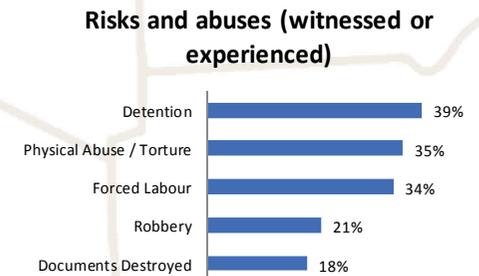
My mother sold all she had for me to go to Italy, she sold everything. How can I go back home after losing all this money for nothing. It feels sometime even harder than what I have gone through these past months"

– Male respondent from Senegal in Mednine in February, 2017

"If anyone tells me he wants to go to Europe through Libya, I will tell him everything that happened to me, everything about my experience, about the risks and the dangers that he will be facing. I will tell him "you will lose your money and probably your life". We should speak out about all this, otherwise, a lot of people will die just because they didn't know, and because we didn't tell them."

– Male respondent from Senegal in Mednine in February, 2017

STATISTICAL BREAKDOWN OF CUMULATIVE SURVEYS



PHOTOS FROM THE FIELD



A migrant from Senegal in Hamdi accommodation center in Mednine



3 Senegalese migrants in Hamdi Center in Mednine that have taken the journey together