

**LIBYA**

# Settlement-based Assessment (SBA)

**August 2022**



This assessment is commissioned by the United States Agency for International Development's (USAID) Bureau of Humanitarian Assistance (BHA) and conducted by REACH. The findings, interpretations, and conclusions expressed in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or BHA.



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## SUMMARY

This settlement-based assessment (SBA) was set in Ajdabiya, a city with an estimated Libyan population of around 140,000 and of those around 12,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs)<sup>1</sup> and additionally, about 36,000 refugees and migrants.<sup>2</sup> Located in Cyrenaica in the East (see [Map 1](#)), Ajdabiya connects the East and the West and is, due to its location, historically known to be the hub for IDPs both from the East and West, when waves of conflict erupt. Furthermore, Ajdabiya is also a central transit hub for northern migration routes from the Egyptian and Sudanese border connecting migration routes to the coastal cities of Tripoli and Benghazi and beyond.<sup>3,4,5</sup>

Despite Ajdabiya's central role as a host for IDPs, refugees, and migrants, international actors still face a number of information gaps. Most notably, they lack information necessary to understand not only the needs of non-displaced persons (NDs), IDPs, refugees, and migrants in Ajdabiya, but also of the capacities and gaps of service providers and the local social cohesion dynamics. For actors seeking to address needs in urban protracted conflict contexts, it is essential to understand local dynamics of formal and informal local stakeholders and population groups in order to provide conflict-sensitive assistance. Lack of information and understanding of particularly informal stakeholders and systems can otherwise prevent effective local initiatives and solutions.<sup>6</sup> Therefore, **REACH designed this assessment in close collaboration with the Nexus Working Group (NWG) members and the municipal council of Ajdabiya to fill the current identified information gaps on key services, livelihoods, social cohesion as well as migration to support future planned interventions and development plans.** The information gaps were identified through rounds of preliminary interviews and secondary desk review.

This assessment covers the baladiya (the third administrative subdivision of Libya) of Ajdabiya covering all of the 7 muhallahs (the fourth administrative subdivision of Libya) in the city, through cluster sampling of the peri-urban Sultan El Janoubi and El Chamali

1 IOM-Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), "Libya IDPs and Returnee Report: Mobility Tracking Round 38," 2021

2 IOM-Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), "Libya Migrants Report: Mobility Tracking Round 37," 2021

3 Mixed Migration Centre (MMC), "What Makes Refugees and Migrants Vulnerable to Detention in Libya?," 2019

4 Mark Micallef, Rupert Horsley, and Alexandre Bish, "The Human Conveyor Belt Broken: Assessing the Collapse of the Human-Smuggling Industry in Libya and the Central Sahel," 2019.

5 Arezo Malakooti, "The Political Economy of Migrant Detention in Libya: Understanding the Players and the Business Models," 2019

6 John Twigg and Irina Mosel, "Informality in Urban Crisis Response," Humanitarian Response in Urban Areas 71 (March 2018).

as well as Zouitina, and the urban muhallahs of downtown Ajdabiya: Ajdabiya Charkia, Aljanoubiya, Chamalia, and Al Gharbiya (see [Map 1](#)). Within these muhallahs were 37 neighbourhoods identified (the fifth unofficial administrative subdivision of Libya). The assessment is a mixed-methods research, where both Libyan, refugee, and migrant population groups were targeted for the quantitative and qualitative data collection process. Primary data collection took place between end of December 2021 till beginning of March 2022. In total, the assessment comprises 385 individual interviews with Libyans (50% male and 50% female), 200 individual interviews with migrants (90% male and 10% female), 44 key informant interviews (KIIs), and 9 focus group discussions (FGDs).

## Key findings

**Social cohesion dynamics in Ajdabiya show different trends from other cities in Libya.** Vertical social cohesion bonds between the municipal council and Libyan respondents in the individual interviews were generally noteworthy as majority reported feeling represented by the municipal council (56%). However, the importance of tribal affiliations in Ajdabiya were reflected as well with 31% of Libyan respondents reported feeling represented by their tribal council. This also meant that the mukhtar who are stipulated in law to be the formal governance stakeholder linking citizens with the municipal council were almost not at all reported as an important local governance stakeholder in the Libyan individual interviews. Only 1% of Libyan respondents reported feeling represented by their mukhtar (see [Table 1](#)). Despite formal local governance being the primary form of authority, stakeholders reported the increased tribes' influence in Ajdabiya as a main challenge to local governance. **International assistance should focus on positive relationship-building and collaboration between tribes to avoid patterns of patronage and mistrust affecting local governance.**

A core part of vertical social cohesion is the trust in the processes such as access to justice. 88% of Libyan respondents in the individual interviews reported having access to the justice system, however, only 42% of respondents reported that they either completely or very much trust their case being treated fairly in the justice system. **Thus, restoring trust in the judicial system and reform of the judicial system to guarantee independence, integrity, and impartiality would further strengthen vertical social cohesion. Such challenges are though not unique for Ajdabiya, but institutional challenges across Libya.**<sup>7</sup>

As the Libyan context develops and stabilises, **durable solutions are needed for rep-**

7 International Commission of Jurists, "Challenges for the Libyan Judiciary: Ensuring Independence, Accountability and Gender Equality," 2016



**resentation of refugees and migrants in local governance dynamics** to ensure improved living standards and integration into the local communities. **Libya continues to attract a large number of refugees and migrants despite the protracted conflict and the harsh conditions they might face in Libya.**<sup>8</sup> A vast majority of existing research focus on the type of migration to Libya including the conditions, challenges, and risks associated with transiting through Libya to reach Europe, while this assessment focuses on the conditions of refugees and migrants in Ajdabiya that have stayed in Libya for more than a year. **99% of the individually interviewed refugees and migrants had stayed in Libya for more than 1 year.** Thus, this assessment intends to contribute to information on the integration of refugees and migrants in Ajdabiya city through examining social cohesion dynamics and livelihood opportunities among this population group at local level. The findings showed that 65% of refugee and migrant respondents did not feel represented by any local governance stakeholder demonstrating a thin vertical social cohesion fabric within this group in Ajdabiya. **A consultative or advisory body, committee, or council that can act as point of contact for different regions of origin and represent refugees and migrants' interest can be effective in enhancing participation and representation if its relationship with the municipal council, tribal councils, and mukhtars are institutionalised.**<sup>9</sup>

**Livelihoods findings suggest that opportunities for men and women in Ajdabiya are significantly different.** Among working Libyan respondents in the individual interviews, men were reportedly more likely to work within public security such as police, military, etc., while women were more likely to work within home-based income generating activities.

Findings suggest that Libyans relying on vulnerable livelihood opportunities appear to be living in Zouitina. Overall, 20% of Libyan respondents reported they rely on government subsidies as their main source of income, while 46% of respondents in Zouitina reported relying on government subsidies. Of those, 90% reported relying on the Basic Assistance Grant. Applicants for this grant must present documentation for registration at the Social Solidarity Fund (SSoF) office on Tripoli Street in downtown Ajdabiya (see [Map 3](#)). **Access to social protection systems in Ajdabiya could be expanded with an online database for the SSoF and Social Security Fund (SSecF)** thereby making the application processes smoother such that IDPs access to physical documentation will not be a cause of exclusion for access to social services. Integration of an online database would also provide the SSoF and SSecF with a solid base for needs analysis

8 REACH Initiative and United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), "Access to Cash and the Impact of the Liquidity Crisis on Refugees and Migrants in Libya," 2018.

9 Council of Europe, "Migrant Representation & Participation Bodies in the Intercultural City: Key Considerations & Principles," accessed April 21, 2022.

and provide better targeted services for vulnerable population groups. However, according to KIs with social workers at the SSoF, they were lacking adequate training and computer literacy skills to be able to push forward the implementation of such development plans. **Thus, social workers need technological capacity development to implement digital transformation and enhanced implementation of social protection systems in Ajdabiya.**

**94% of refugee and migrant respondents reported that their main source of income is working.** The top three most reported job sectors for refugees and migrants were vocational such as carpenter, electrician, plumber, or other vocational professions (34%), construction (31%), and service industry such as janitor, waiter etc. (13%). This aligns with previous research, which has highlighted the reliance of the Libyan economy on refugee and migrant workers to balance out labour deficiencies in key economic sectors.<sup>10</sup> Findings suggested that refugees and migrants are working in daily labour jobs, where type of job, workload, and wage are highly unpredictable, as reported by the 72% of individuals interviewed. Daily labour jobs are often secured through verbal agreements and occur in environments categorised as dangerous and containing physical risks. This well describes other research on refugees and migrants' unstable forms of livelihood activities and limited to nonexistent access to protection.<sup>11</sup> Coupled with the non-existent legal framework safeguarding refugees and migrants' rights in Libya,<sup>12</sup> refugees and migrants are inherently outside of any national or local legal mechanisms as well as union's support network. Thus, it is needed to reiterate the importance of decent work for refugee and migrant workers to ensure the improvement of the working conditions in Ajdabiya, and assistance should target improving these conditions to further support the integration of refugees and migrants in decent employment that continue to make important contributions to Ajdabiya's local economy.

Findings on key service accessibility and operationality suggest that the distribution of education and health facilities as well as access to the public sewage and electricity network in Ajdabiya follow the urban expansion of the city. Thus, the majority of services are concentrated in downtown Ajdabiya with few, or none located in Zouitina and Sultan El Janoubi and El Chamali. Especially, **the expansion of number of schools to decrease the pupil-teacher ratio, providing teaching materials, and further de-**

10 REACH Initiative and United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), "Access to Cash and the Impact of the Liquidity Crisis on Refugees and Migrants in Libya," 2018

11 The New Humanitarian, "In Libya, Hard Economic Times Force Migrant Workers to Look Elsewhere," February 19, 2019.

12 United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) and Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), "Desperate and Dangerous: Report on the Human Rights Situation of Migrants and Refugees in Libya," 2018.

**veloping the capacities of teacher through trainings should be main education priorities.**

Furthermore, the main healthcare challenges reported include poor-quality healthcare, lack of medicines at the health facilities, lack of trust in health workers, not being able to afford health services, and long waiting times at health facilities are not unique to Ajdabiya. These health challenges have been reported as main challenges in other research pieces as well and consistently over the last years, which further highlight the systemic healthcare problems that Libya continue to face.<sup>13,14,15,16</sup> However, **actors interested in addressing these health challenges at a local level for medium-term assistance should look into the neighbourhood differences reported between downtown Ajdabiya, Zouitina, and Sultan El Janoubi and El Chamalia (see 3.4.3 Health section).**

13 Annemarie Ter Veen, "Service Availability and Readiness Assessment (SARA) of the Public Health Facilities in Libya," 2017.

14 REACH Initiative, "Abu Salim Area-Based Assessment (ABA), 2021."

15 REACH Initiative, "Ubari Area-Based Assessment (ABA), 2021."

16 REACH Initiative, "Sebha Area-Based Assessment (ABA), 2020."

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## List of Acronyms

<b>BHA</b>	Bureau of Humanitarian Assistance
<b>DTM</b>	Displacement Tracking Matrix
<b>FDG</b>	Focus Group Discussion
<b>IDP</b>	Internally Displaced Person
<b>ICRC</b>	International Committee of the Red Cross and Red Crescent
<b>INGO</b>	International Non-Governmental Organizations
<b>IOM</b>	International Organization for Migration
<b>KII</b>	Key Informant Interview
<b>ND</b>	Non-displaced Person
<b>NWG</b>	Nexus Working Group
<b>MENA</b>	Middle east and North Africa
<b>MFGD</b>	Mapping Focus Group Discussion
<b>MoSA</b>	Ministry of Social Affairs
<b>OHCHR</b>	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
<b>SBA</b>	Settlement-based Assessment
<b>SSoIF</b>	Social Solidarity Fund
<b>SSecF</b>	Social Security Fund
<b>ToR</b>	Terms of Reference
<b>UNHCR</b>	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
<b>UNICEF</b>	United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund
<b>UNSMAIL</b>	United Nations Support Mission in Libya
<b>USAID</b>	United States Agency for International Development
<b>WHO</b>	World Health Organization

## Geographical Classifications

<b>Region:</b>	The highest administrative subdivision of Libya below the national level. There are three regions in Libya: The West (“Tripolitania”), the East (“Cyrenaica”) and the South (“Fezzan”).
<b>Mantika:</b>	The second administrative subdivision of Libya, or the equivalent of a district or province. Libya currently has 22 mantikas, which are regionally divided as follows, according to the United Nations Common Operational Dataset. <sup>17</sup>
<b>Baladiya:</b>	The third administrative subdivision of Libya, or the equivalent of a municipality. Libya currently has 100 baladiyas. <sup>18</sup>

<sup>17</sup> OCHA, “Libya Common Operational Dataset,” 2017

<sup>18</sup> Ibid

**Muhallah:** The fourth administrative subdivision of Libya. Libya currently has 667 muhallahs.<sup>19</sup>

**Neighbourhood** The second administrative subdivision of Libya, or the equivalent of a district or province. Libya currently has 22 mantikas, which are regionally divided as follows, according to the United Nations Common Operational Dataset.<sup>20</sup>

<sup>19</sup> Ibid

<sup>20</sup> Finding from area-based assessments in Azzawya, Sebha, Ubari, Abu Salim, and Ajdabiya

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

This settlement-based assessment (SBA) was set in Ajdabiya, a city with an estimated Libyan population of around 140,000 and thereof around 12,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs)<sup>21</sup> – and additionally, about 36,000 refugees and migrants.<sup>22</sup> Located in Cyrenaica in the East, Ajdabiya connects the East and the West and is historically known to be the hub for IDPs both from the East and West due to its location, when conflict erupt. Furthermore, Ajdabiya is also a central transit hub for northern migration routes from the Egyptian and Sudanese border connecting refugee and migrant routes to the coastal cities of Tripoli and Benghazi.<sup>23,24,25</sup>

Despite Ajdabiya's central role as a host for both IDPs and refugees and migrants, international actors face a number of information gaps in order to have a comprehensive understanding not only of the needs of non-displaced persons (NDs), IDPs, and refugees and migrants in Ajdabiya, but also of the capacities and gaps of service providers as well as the social cohesion dynamics at play. For actors seeking to address needs in urban protracted conflict contexts, it is essential to understand local dynamics of formal and informal local stakeholders and population groups in order to provide conflict-sensitive assistance. The lack of information and understanding particularly of informal stakeholders and systems can otherwise prevent effective local initiatives and solutions. Therefore, REACH designed this assessment in close collaboration with the Nexus Working Group (NWG) members and the municipal council of Ajdabiya to fill the current information gaps on key services, livelihoods, as well as social cohesion to support future planned interventions and development plans.

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For actors seeking to address needs in urban protracted conflict contexts, it is essential

21 IOM-Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), "Libya IDPs and Returnee Report: Mobility Tracking Round 38" 2021

22 IOM-Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), "Libya Migrants Report: Mobility Tracking Round 37" 2021

23 Mixed Migration Centre (MMC), "What Makes Refugees and Migrants Vulnerable to Detention in Libya?" 2019

24 Micallef, Horsley, and Bish, "The Human Conveyor Belt Broken: Assessing the Collapse of the Human-Smuggling Industry in Libya and the Central Sahel." 2019

25 Malakooti, "The Political Economy of Migrant Detention in Libya: Understanding the Players and the Business Models." 2019

to understand local dynamics of formal and informal local stakeholders and population groups in order to provide conflict-sensitive assistance. The lack of information and understanding particularly of informal stakeholders and systems can otherwise prevent effective local initiatives and solutions.<sup>26</sup> **Therefore, REACH designed this assessment in close collaboration with the Nexus Working Group (NWG) members and the municipal council of Ajdabiya to fill the current information gaps on key services, livelihoods, as well as social cohesion to support future planned interventions and development plans.**

This report provides a detailed overview and justification of the research methodology chosen for both the Libyan and refugee and migrant population, and then outlines the key assessment findings starting with specific population groups concentrations within the city, followed by an in-depth account of the social cohesion dynamics including vertical and horizontal social cohesion in Ajdabiya (see [3.2 Social Cohesion](#)), then further diving into livelihood opportunities for respectively the Libyan population (see [3.3.1 Livelihoods for Libyan women and men](#)) and the refugee and migrant population (see [3.3.2 Livelihoods for refugee and migrant women and men](#)), and hereafter diving into key service infrastructure outlining 1) social protection systems (see [3.4.1 Social protection systems](#)), 2) education (see [3.4.2 Education](#)), 3) health (see [3.4.3 Health](#)), 4) sewage (see [3.4.4 Sewage](#)), and 5) electricity (see [3.4.5 Electricity](#)) before ending with key service infrastructure's linkages to urban growth.

## 2. METHODOLOGY

### 2.1 Objectives

To support the expanding scope of the NWG's work, REACH conducted an SBA of Ajdabiya. The NWG began piloting its activities in Sebha in 2019 as a part of the United Nations Libya Nexus Strategy, supported by the REACH Sebha area-based assessment. REACH built on the selection criteria set for Sebha in 2019 together with NWG members in a collaborative and consultative process to produce a short-list of cities for the following SBA. The criteria for choosing the location of this assessment were:

- An area with complex inter-dependent needs
- Presence of different population groups: IDPs and/or returnees, refugees, and migrants
- Presence of service provision issues
- Presence of significant information gaps related to service provision

26 Twigg and Mosel, "Informality in Urban Crisis Response." 2018

- Presence of significant information gaps related to social cohesion
- Presence of a considerable number of intervening international organizations with humanitarian, development, and peacebuilding activities
- Tensions between groups that either has resulted in or could result in violent conflict if not managed or resolved
- Location where local authorities and institutions are willing to collaborate with REACH

Ajdabiya was then chosen as location, based on secondary data desk review, on information provided by NWG members, on key informant interviews (KIIs) with the Area Coordination Group Coordinators and on interviews with REACH field managers. This initial scoping phase for the location was complimented with a second scoping phase for information gaps, which consisted of a secondary data desk review, 10 KIIs, and information sharing with NWG members working in Ajdabiya to improve their understanding of the current situation to then inform ongoing and planned interventions.

This SBA focused on collecting information on three thematic areas: 1) essential service operationality and accessibility, 2) livelihoods, and 3) social cohesion. The SBA built on a mixed methods approach, combining qualitative and quantitative methods, to facilitate the integrative analysis of the thematic areas. This allowed for a settlement-based approach to understand how access to essential service infrastructure and governance structures are interlinked. Through understanding a city as a system, a settlement-based approach offers a pathway for supporting local initiatives and for international organizations to achieve their goals.<sup>27</sup>

Primary data collection took place between end of December 2021 till beginning of March 2022. In total, the assessment comprises 385 individual interviews with Libyans (50% male and 50% female), 200 individual interviews with refugees and migrants (90% male and 10% female), 44 KIIs, and 9 focus group discussions (FGDs). The individual interviews with Libyans were sampled through probability cluster sampling, the refugee and migrants' individual interview through non-probability sampling, while the qualitative KIIs and FGDs were sampled through non-probability snowballing. The findings of the Libyan individual interviews are therefore representative, while the findings from the refugee and migrant individual interviews as well as the qualitative component are indicative only.

<sup>27</sup> Elizabeth Parker and Victoria Maynard, "Humanitarian Response to Urban Crises: A Review of Area-Based Approaches," International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) Working Paper, 2015

For more information on the full research design, please refer to the Terms of Reference (ToR) on the REACH resource centre. The research questions guiding the SBA were as follows:

1. Where is the city, muhallah, and neighbourhood boundaries and what population groups and service infrastructure exist within each?
  - a. What are the official administrative muhallah boundaries, neighbourhood boundaries, and community areas?
  - b. What is the demographic profile of the population within each area?
2. What are the operationality and accessibility of key service infrastructure, specifically education, health, electricity, and social protection mechanisms?
  - o What are the primary challenges that restrict access to services?
  - o What are the primary stakeholders involved in managing these services?
  - o What are the service development priorities?
3. What are the livelihoods opportunities, specifically for Libyans, refugees, and migrants?
  - o What type of jobs are available in Ajdabiya?
  - o What are the primary obstacles Libyans, refugees, and migrants while actively seeking work?
4. What are the main horizontal and vertical social cohesion<sup>28</sup> dynamics and challenges in Ajdabiya?
  - a. Who are the main local governance stakeholders in Ajdabiya and what are their relationship, and who have access to these?
  - b. What are the communal relations between population groups in Ajdabiya?
  - c. What formal and informal law enforcement and justice mechanisms exist in Ajdabiya, and who have access to these?

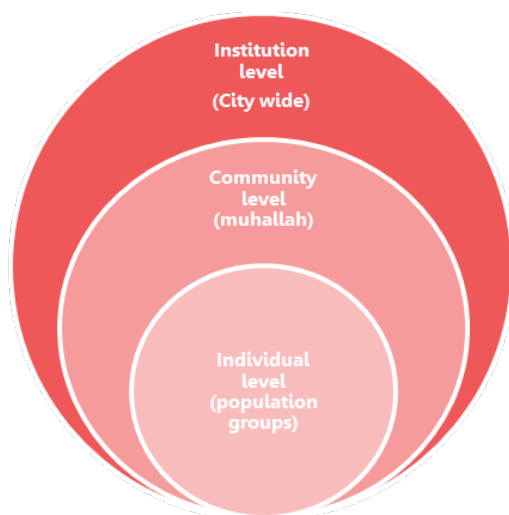
## 2.2 Population of interest

One of the key objectives to understanding 'the city as a system' is to integrate perspectives of both the population as well as local governance stakeholders and service providers. This way, the SBA examined both the supply (service providers) and demand side (citizens) of the city's context. As such, the relevant units of measurement applied during the SBA were the institutional level (city wide), the community (muhallah) level, and the individual (population group) level. The SBA therefore assessed Ajdabiya baladiya on an institutional level/city wide (admin 3), each three clusters of muhallahs (admin 4) in Ajdabiya baladiya at a community level (see section [2.3 Geographical](#)

<sup>28</sup> Xavier Fonseca, Stephan Lukosch, and Frances Brazier, "Social Cohesion Revisited: A New Definition and How to Characterize It," Innovation: The European Journal of Social Science Research 32, no. 2 (2019): 231–53.

scope), and at an individual level focusing both on Libyans and refugees and migrants (population groups).

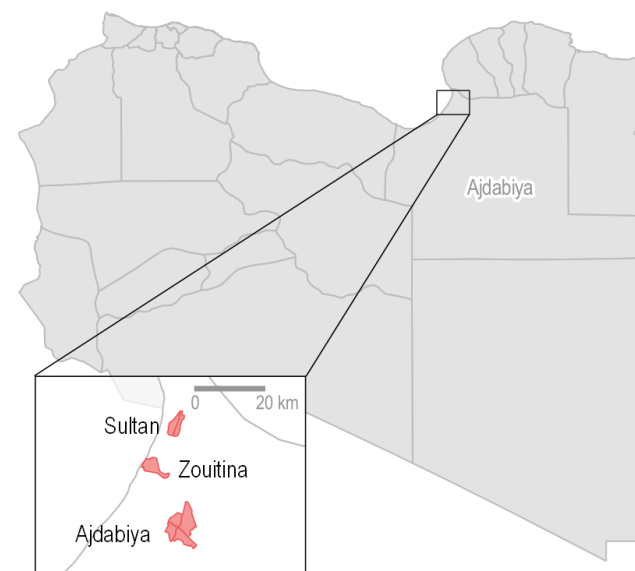
**Figure 1. Overview of units of measurement**



## 2.3 Geographical scope

Ajdabiya is both the name of the mantika and the baladiya located in East of Libya. This assessment focuses on Ajdabiya baladiya and assess the all 7 muhallahs within the municipality to understand potential differences of service delivery, livelihood opportunities, and social cohesion in the peri-urban areas of Sultan El Janoubi and El Chamali, Zouitina as well as the urban muhallahs of downtown Ajdabiya: Ajdabiya Charkia, Aljanoubiya, Chamalia, and Al Gharbiya (See [Map 1](#)).

**Map 1: Map of assessed areas**



## 2.4 Sampling strategy

The SBA deployed one individual survey with Libyans and one individual survey with refugees and migrants. **The structured individual interviews with Libyans** were sampled using a probability quota sampling at data collection unit level (clusters Sultan El Janoubi and El Chamali, downtown Ajdabiya, and Zouitina) as well as per displacement status. The target quotas were set based on a 95% confidence level and a 10% margin of error for each displaced (IDPs and returnees) and NDs as well as for each of the three data collection units, that cluster similar muhallahs based on geographic proximity to the city centre.

First, the quota was set for the data collection units, hereafter the remaining sample were proportionally distributed per displacement status across the data collection units with a minimum target quota for displacement status. However, a lower quota of displaced constituted the actual sampling frame than the targeted 95% confidence level and 10% margin of error. This is due to the large difference in displaced and NDs in Ajdabiya and ensuring a proportional sample of population groups across the data collection units. 385 individual interviews were conducted, and findings are to be considered as indicative for both unit level and city level for displacement status.

If this approach were followed without adaptations the sample would not reflect the real population distribution in Ajdabiya, thus it was adapted to the distribution of the displacement groups across the data collection units. Since half of the population in Ajdabiya municipality is estimated to be female, half of the sample is female.<sup>29</sup>

**The structured individual interviews with refugees and migrants** were sampled through a minimum non-probability quota sampling in the four muhallahs that most refugees and migrants are reported to be residing in Ajdabiya according to the International Organization for Migration's Displacement Tracking Matrix (IOM-DTM) data and classified into four main groups of interest according to their region of origin – West and central Africa, East Africa, Middle East and North Africa (MENA), and Southern Asia. A minimum quota of 20 individuals from East Africa was set to ensure representation in the findings. Oversampling of particularly East African refugees and migrants were done since this region of origin group are considered a hard-to-reach population group; thus, it would be reasonable to expect this group to be underrepresented in the population figures otherwise available.<sup>30,31</sup>

The remaining sample was proportionally distributed according to regions of origin. Since there is only a national estimate of female refugees and migrants present in Libya according to IOM-DTM data,<sup>32</sup> this indicative estimate of 10% was used to set a minimum quota of female refugee and migrant respondents per region of origin.

## 2.5 Data collection methods

### 2.5.1 Quantitative primary data collection

**Direct observations** were used to map multiple different key infrastructures in Ajdabiya. Among others key education and health infrastructure, including type (public/private), the facility names, and the operational status; administrative buildings; as well as commercial areas. Furthermore, it was used to map out community spaces that are available for youth and civil society to meet for events and/or sports. In total, 187 direct observations were conducted by enumerators between end of December till beginning of January.

**Individual interviews with Libyans** were done through random geographical distribution

of points generated by REACH Libya's GIS officer based on the sampling strategy. Coordinates were shared with enumerators with the use of Google maps and updated daily according to submitted data. Individuals were identified with gender and displacement status within a radius of two hundred meters. Surveys conducted more than two hundred meters from the shared GPS point were re-distributed to the target of a point less than two hundred meters away if the survey fitted another profile. The assessment team rejected the surveys that was not possible to reallocate towards other profiles in the sampling target.

**Individual interviews with refugees and migrants** were conducted through phone due to the hard-to-reach aspect of refugee and migrant populations. Phone numbers were purposively obtained through local Libyan data collection partners following the sampling strategy per region of origin, proportional distribution of countries of origin within each region of origin, as well as gender.

### 2.5.2 Qualitative primary data collection

The qualitative primary data collection consisted of the initial **mapping focus group discussion (MFGD) with the Ajdabiya municipal council** to identify administrative boundaries, including city boundary, muhallah boundaries, and neighbourhood boundaries as well as concentrations of IDPs and refugees and migrants. It also mapped out the sewage and electricity infrastructure. REACH Libya field manager from Benghazi conducted the MFGD in December 2021 using a semi-structured interview tool with drawing directly on A0-sized printed satellite imageries of Ajdabiya.

**Governance KIs with municipal council members, mukhtars, and tribal leaders** were selected together with ACTED liaison partner and based on recommendations from the initial MFGD with the municipal council. Semi-structured KIs with governance stakeholders focused on governance mechanisms including engagement between stakeholders and citizens, social protection mechanisms, development priorities, as well as informal and formal decision-making and protection mechanisms available to different population groups. In total, twenty-three local governance stakeholders were interviewed between end of December 2021 till end of January 2022. Furthermore, **a FGD with female community leaders from civil society organizations** was conducted in early January 2022 to capture these dynamics from a gender perspective.

**Livelihoods KIs were conducted with leaders of vocational training centres and Ajdabiya Labour Office** to inform on the labour market dynamics for both Libyan men and women. A total of four semi-structured interviews were conducted in the end of January 2022 with two training centres focusing on women's empowerment on the

29 IOM-Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), "Libya IDPs and Returnee Report: Mobility Tracking Round 37," 2021.

30 REACH Initiative, "Libya- 2021 Multi-Sector Needs Assessment (Refugee and Migrant Population)," 2021.

31 Danish Refugee Council, "Weighing the Risks. Protection Risks and Human Rights Violations Faced by Migrants in and from East Africa," October 2017.

32 IOM-Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), "Libya IDPs and Returnee Report: Mobility Tracking Round 37," 2021

Ajdabiya labour market and one working on vocational training for men in addition to the Ajdabiya Labour Office.

**Livelihood KIs were conducted with female refugee and migrant community leaders** from Chadian, Syrian, Palestinian, Nigerian, Pakistani refugee and migrant communities in Ajdabiya as well as a Red Crescent (ICRC) officer. **Livelihoods KIs were conducted with male community leaders** from the Egyptian, Senegalese, Syrian, Pakistani, Chadian, and South Sudanese refugee and migrant communities in Ajdabiya as well as an ICRC officer. All KIs took place between January and February 2022. A total of 13 semi-structured interviews with half female and male KIs were conducted informing on refugees and migrants' access to employment, main barriers and enabling environment, and working conditions in Ajdabiya.

Following the direct observation of service infrastructure, **eight FGD participants were conducted within three service categories: health, education, and social protection services.** Service FGDs informed on the current services available, challenges, and development priorities for each respective service category in Ajdabiya. All service FGDs took place between end of January till beginning of February 2022.

Protection KIs were conducted with staff from a national healthcare civil society organisation (CSO), an international non-governmental organization (INGO) working on migration, and an ICRC officer to understand migrant's access to social protection, services, and livelihoods. The three-protection refugee and migrant KIs were conducted in end of December 2021.

## 2.6 Challenges and Limitations

This SBA was subject to some limitations and challenges that should be taken into consideration when using the findings presented in this report. First, the methodological choice to define population groups according to displacement profiles did not result in findings highlighting clear differences between the groups in Ajdabiya. This decision potentially obscures localised needs that are not determined by displacement status. To mitigate this, and to ensure a clear understanding of other factors that may be determining vulnerability, qualitative data collection focused primarily on cross displacement status service access and tribal affiliation dynamics in Ajdabiya.

Second, access to refugees and migrants and particularly refugee and migrant women were proven to be difficult. Thus, leaving it only possible to obtain the 10% minimum quota of female refugee and migrant respondents per region of origin. To ensure representation of female migrant's access to social protection and types of livelihood

opportunities, the qualitative data collection phase focused separately on refugee and migrant women and men to incorporate the difference in experience per gender.

Third, access to women on topics regarding tribe and inter-tribal dynamics in Ajdabiya were almost proven impossible. It was not possible to obtain access to female tribal leaders as KIs. Instead, a FGD was conducted with five female CSO leaders to try and capture different beliefs and attitudes on women's role within the tribes in Ajdabiya.

## 3. FINDINGS

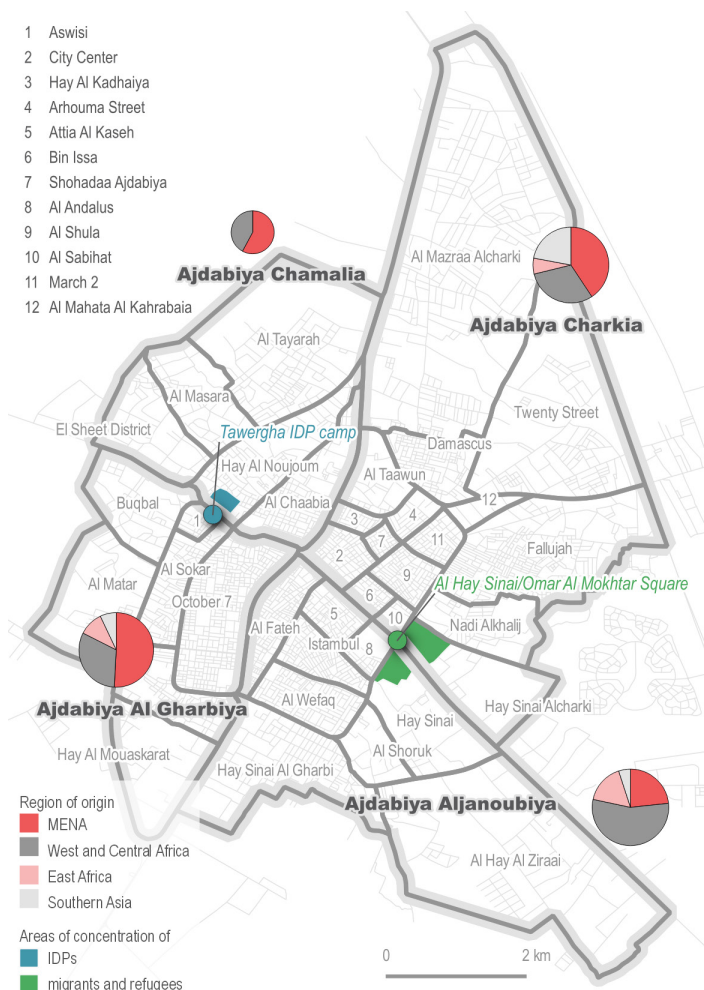
### 3.1 Population groups

#### 3.1.1 Refugees and migrants

There are approximately 36,000 refugees and migrants in Ajdabiya baladiya.<sup>33</sup> Respondents in the refugee and migrant individual surveys were all located in downtown Ajdabiya. Refugee and migrant social protection KIs reported that refugees and migrants mostly live in Fallujah and Hai Sinai neighbourhoods (see [Map 2](#)). Reasons for refugees and migrants settling in these neighbourhoods were reportedly due to low-cost rental accommodations and proximity to workplace. Refugee and migrant respondents in the individual interviews had almost all been in Libya and Ajdabiya for more than a year (99%).

<sup>33</sup> IOM-Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), "Libya Migrants Report: Mobility Tracking Round 37." 2021



**Map 2: Overview of population groups location in downtown Ajdabiya**

### 3.1.2 Tawergha Internally Displaced Persons

More than 40,000 residents of the town of Tawergha, located south of Misrata, were forcibly displaced from their homes in 2011.<sup>34</sup> Many still live in schools or other public buildings or in rented accommodation across Libya including in Ajdabiya. In Ajdabi-

<sup>34</sup> Human Rights Watch, "Interactive Map of Mass and Deliberate Destruction in Tawergha, Libya," January 24, 2019.

ya, the Tawergha IDP camp is located at the neighbourhood borders of Aswisi and hay Al Noujoum in downtown Ajdabiya (see [Map 2](#)). The camp in Ajdabiya consists of containers and incomplete homes that has been built with simple construction and waste materials such as roof made of waste aluminium parts.<sup>35,36</sup> Due to the size of the community and their historic underrepresentation in research on Libya and displaced population groups, a KII was conducted with the camp's community representative to understand their access to services, livelihoods, and social cohesion.

## 3.2 Social Cohesion

Social cohesion has historically been understood in a multitude of ways.<sup>37</sup> Generally social cohesion can be understood as the trust in government and the trust within a society, as well as the readiness and willingness among local governance institutions and citizens to collectively collaborate towards a set of common goals such as local economic development and equal access to justice mechanisms.<sup>38,39</sup> Social cohesion can further be understood along two main dimensions: vertical and horizontal social cohesion. Vertical social cohesion addresses the readiness and willingness of local governance stakeholders and the population to cooperate with each other.<sup>40</sup> Horizontal social cohesion addresses the readiness of population groups to cooperate within their own community (intra-communal social cohesion) and with other communities (inter-communal social cohesion).<sup>41</sup> This assessment focused on both dimensions of social cohesion, which this sub-section will outline the main findings on.

### 3.2.1 Vertical social cohesion

#### Formal governance stakeholders

Both formal and informal local governance stakeholders have a core role in local governance in Ajdabiya. The formal local governance stakeholders have their mandate

<sup>35</sup> Mapping Focus Group Discussion with Ajdabiya municipal council

<sup>36</sup> Al Hadath News Channel, (Originally: "نحنو رأيك في منح المليشيات عوده تاور غاء أجدابيا") (Al Hadath News Channel, 2017),

<sup>37</sup> Fonseca, Lukosch, and Brazier, "Social Cohesion Revisited: A New Definition and How to Characterize It." Innovation: The European Journal of Social Science Research 32, no. 2 (2019): 231–53.

<sup>38</sup> United Nations Development Program (UNDP), "Strengthening Social Cohesion: Conceptual Framing and Programming Implications," 2020

<sup>39</sup> The definition is not considered an official or formal UNDP definition of the term social cohesion, but rather a guiding explanation

<sup>40</sup> Ibid

<sup>41</sup> The definition of social cohesion that will be used in this assessment follow the unofficial UNDP definition as it is the most recent practical guidance on how to assess the term in a triple-nexus setting

in law no. 59 of 2012 on the Local Administration System stipulating their legal jurisdiction and formal responsibility for governance of the municipality. These formal governance stakeholders consist of the municipal council including the mayor and the muhallah councils/mukhtars<sup>42</sup>. As stipulated by law, the municipal council consist of 6 council members with one female seat.<sup>43</sup> In Ajdabiya, each of the muhallahs in downtown Ajdabiya (Ajdabiya Charkia, Aljanoubiya, Chamalia, and Al Gharbiya) have their own mukhtar as well as a mukhtar representative for the muhallahs as a cluster, since 92% of Ajdabiya municipality's population reside in the four muhallahs in downtown Ajdabiya.<sup>44,45</sup> While the peri-urban muhallah Zouitina as well as the two muhallahs Sultan El Janoubi and El Chamali each have one mukhtar for local governance representation.<sup>46</sup> Mukhtars are a part of the municipal administration as consultative stakeholders but do not hold any executive authority within the Libyan legal framework.<sup>47</sup>

**Table 1: Overview of local governance stakeholders' mandates and responsibilities**

Type of local governance stakeholder	Legislation	Admin level	Specific characteristics Ajdabiya
Mayor	Law No. 12 of 2012 on the Local Administration System	Municipal/city level with executive authority and key responsibilities for service provision	One mayor
Municipal council		Municipal/city level with executive authority and key responsibilities for service provision	Six council members, thereof, one female seat as per law
Muhallah council/Mukhtar		Muhallah level without executive authority linking citizens with the municipal council	Seven Mukhtars

42 Libyan Security Sector Legislation, "Law No. 59 of 2012" (2012).

43 Libyan Security Sector Legislation.

44 Local governance KIIs in Ajdabiya with municipal council members and mukhtars

45 IOM-Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), "Libya IDPs and Returnee Report: Mobility Tracking Round 38." 2021

46 Local governance KIIs in Ajdabiya with municipal council members and mukhtars

47 United Nations Development Program (UNDP), "Rapid Diagnostic on the Situation of Local Governance and Local Development in Libya," 2015.

Tribal leaders		Tribal council or family representation informally representing citizens through coordination mechanisms with formal governance stakeholders	Seven tribal leaders: Magharba, Zway/Zwayya, Al Fawakhir, Al Araibat, Al Gabail, Awlad El-Sheikh, and Al-Majabra and one Tawergha community leader
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### Trust in formal local governance stakeholders

One of the core elements in the vertical dimension of social cohesion is trust in leaders, institutions, and processes such as access to justice and the delivery of public services.<sup>48</sup> To understand these dynamics in Ajdabiya, KIIs with mukhtars and municipal council members were conducted as well as individual interviews with Libyans, refugees, and migrants.

Mukhtars are often in Libya the first point of reference for residents with complaints about service provision, in which they then address in their communication with the municipal council.<sup>49,50,51</sup> All seven mukhtars and the Tawergha community leader mentioned one or more ways they communicate with their constituency such as dialogue forums (1/8), participation in advocacy or public events and gatherings (5/8), social media (5/8), traditional modes of information sharing such as radio, tv, and billboards (3/8), direct phone calls (2/8), and through tribal councils (1/8). Phone calls were particularly mentioned as the main way the constituency would reach out to their representative (7/8), municipal council member more frequently reported constituencies reaching out to them through social media (3/6) and in person meetings at their office (3/6). The Tawergha IDP community representative reported that his constituency reached him through weekly or monthly meetings hosted in the camp. In-person meetings were also the most reported way of communication with local governance stakeholders by Libyan respondents in the citizen survey (50%), followed by phone calls (20%), and Facebook (10%).

48 United Nations Development Program (UNDP), "Strengthening Social Cohesion: Conceptual Framing and Programming Implications." 2020

49 REACH Initiative, "Sebha Area-Based Assessment (ABA)." 2021

50 REACH Initiative, "Ubari Area-Based Assessment (ABA)." 2021

51 REACH Initiative, "Abu Salim Area-Based Assessment (ABA)." 2021

Despite these channels of communication and availability of Mukhtars, Libyan respondents of the individual interviews reported they felt represented by their municipal council (56%), their tribal council (31%), or not feeling represented by any local governance stakeholder (8%) (see [Table 2](#)). This however differs slightly per cluster with a larger proportion of respondents in downtown Ajdabiya that reported feeling represented by the municipal council (61%) than their tribal council (23%) and the largest proportion of respondents in Zouitina who reported feeling represented by their tribal council (45%) compared to other clusters. The three most mentioned local governance stakeholders representing respondents did not differ significantly between female and male respondents. However, women were more likely to report the municipal council (62% of female respondents) compared to 49% of male respondents, while male respondents were more likely to report feeling represented by the tribal council (36%), than female respondents (26%).

Displaced respondents were the most likely to report that they do not feel represented by any local governance stakeholder (19% of displaced respondents) compared to 5% of non-displaced respondents. Limited levels of representation of displaced persons were also reflected in the KIIs with Mukhtars and municipal council members, where 9/15 KIIs reported CSOs, the ICRC (10/15), and the Social Affairs office (10/15) as IDP interest stakeholders in the municipality. Coordination with CSOs and ICRC was mentioned by most local governance stakeholders. However, the majority also admitted that the lack of any guidelines, action, or response plans at municipal level for influx of IDPs and the communication with displaced persons' interest stakeholder merely happen on an ad-hoc basis. As such, the findings reflect that the municipal council and Mukhtars consider that representing the interests of IDPs fall solely under the responsibility of CSOs, ICRC, and the social affairs office. Thus, ensuring the integration of displaced populations into the local governance apparatus will be an important way to ensure durable solutions, where IDPs and returnees can rebuild their lives in safe and dignified ways in harmony with the host community.

The prominent role of tribal council leaders in Ajdabiya and tribal leaders also representing some Mukhtars (Ajdabiya Aljanoubiya, Ajdabiya Chamalia, and Zouitina) might explain why tribal leaders are more frequently reported by Libyan respondents as the entity they feel the most represented by instead of Mukhtars (see section [Informal governance stakeholders on the role of tribal councils in Ajdabiya](#)).

**Table 2: % of Libyan respondent's types of governance actors they feel most represented by, per location**

	Sultan El Janoubi and El Chamali	Downtown Ajdabiya	Zouitina	Total
<b>The municipal council (a representative)</b>	57%	61%	44%	56%
<b>My Tribal Elder Council or notable elder</b>	34%	23%	45%	31%
<b>I do not feel represented by any governance actors</b>	4%	11%	3%	8%
<b>A Civil Society Organization</b>	2%	3%	3%	3%
<b>My muhallah council/ mukhtar</b>	0%	1%	4%	1%
<b>Other</b>	3%	2%	1%	2%

### Refugee and migrant perspectives

However, a completely different picture emerges on vertical social cohesion if looking at refugee and migrant respondents. **65% of refugee and migrant respondents do not feel represented by any governance actor.** This differed significantly between regions of origin, where 90% of East African refugee and migrants, 80% of West and Central African, 65% of Southern Asian, and 43% of MENA refugee and migrant respondents reported not feeling represented by any governance stakeholder. The importance of Arabic language proficiency seems to be reflected in the level of trust in formal governance stakeholders. Since a higher percentage of non-Arabic speaking refugees and migrants reported they do not feel represented by any governance stakeholder compared to Arabic speaking refugees and migrants from MENA. Conversely, 49% of MENA respondents reported that they felt represented by the municipal council. Moreover, citizens of Arab countries have the right to enter Libyan territory with the use of personal ID cards,<sup>52</sup> thus, being more likely to engage in regular migration.

Local governance actors can potentially play a key role in inclusive governance for the refugee and migrant population in Ajdabiya municipality and foster stronger possibil-

52 International Centre for Migration Policy Development, "The Legal Guide for Foreigners in Libya," 2020.

ities of citizenship, rights acquisitions, and socio-economic incorporation.<sup>53</sup> Especially, considering that most refugees and migrants stay in Libya for more than one year, and 44% of refugees and migrants intend to stay in their current baladiya.<sup>54</sup> The need for integration of refugees and migrants into the urban local governance system ought to be a priority in the long-term ensuring a more progressive approach to long-term migration. Finding ways for local positive migration governance is necessary as Libyan law continue to criminalise irregular entry into Libya in law No. 6 of 1987 on Regulating Entry, Residence, and Exit of Foreign Nationals.<sup>55</sup> An economic focused example of positive local integration has been documented in for example Bani Walid in the West of Libya through a push for local refugee and migrant registration schemes for workers within agricultural and industrial sector.<sup>56</sup>

Another way forward for local integration in Ajdabiya could also be consultative or advisory refugee and migrant body, committee, or council that can function as point of contact for different regions of origin and represent refugees and migrants' interest. Such council(s) can be effective in enhancing participation and representation if its relationship with the municipal council, tribal councils, and Mukhtars are institutionalised.<sup>57</sup> According to KILs with municipal council members and Mukhtars, Libyan CSOs have a limited space for advocacy of e.g., refugee and migrant rights and their role were more considered to be non-political (3/15), providing economic support for low-income Libyan families (3/15), and facilitating trainings (2/15). Further research is needed to design programming in support of local migration governance in Ajdabiya to understand local governance stakeholders' willingness to facilitate such change and buy-in of the benefits of such initiatives. Local pilot projects on migration such as in Bani Walid can pose as practical examples in other municipalities. Similarly, Ajdabiya's local governance stakeholders' efforts at municipal level can become another case of positive local migration management and integration without bypassing the Ministry of Interior who has the formal mandate for migration governance.

### Trust in security services

In addition to the sense of representation at local governance level and the access to

53 Stephen P. Rusczyk, "Local Governance of Immigrant Incorporation: How City-Based Organizational Fields Shape the Cases of Undocumented Youth in New York City and Paris," *Comparative Migration Studies* 6, no. 1 (December 1, 2018): 1–19.

54 REACH Initiative, "Libya MSNA 2021 Results Tables (Refugee and Migrant Population)," 2021.

55 International Centre for Migration Policy Development, "The Legal Guide for Foreigners in Libya."

56 Floor El Kamouni-Janssen, Nancy Ezzeddine, and Jalel Harchaoui, "From Abuse to Cohabitation: A Way Forward for Positive Migration Governance in Libya," 2019.

57 Council of Europe, "Migrant Representation & Participation Bodies in the Intercultural City: Key Considerations & Principles."

and use of communication channels with local governance stakeholders, a core part of understanding trust in local governance leaders is also citizens' trust in formal established or informal local security institutions to provide for citizens' safety. **69% of respondents in the Libyan individual survey reported that they would trust the police to solve a complaint related to their safety**, while 15% reported they would trust their tribal council, 5% reported a representative at the municipal council, and 5% reported the Libyan National Army (LNA). The LNA controls Ajdabiya, thus the main security and police in the city are aligned with LNA and LNA affiliated groups in Ajdabiya.<sup>58</sup> This ranking of trusted safety stakeholders did not differ per gender, displacement status, or location. When asked separately about who the community would go to in the event of respectively small crimes such as theft and robbery or serious crimes such as murder and kidnapping respondents reported the same stakeholders, however, more respondents were likely to report the police (85–86% of respondents respectively for small and serious crimes). Trust in security services in Ajdabiya may also be related to 98% of Libyan respondents and 97% of refugees and migrants in the citizen survey reported feeling safe in their muhallah and all tribal community leaders reported complete freedom of movement in Ajdabiya (8/8).

### Trust in the judicial system

Last, a core part of vertical social cohesion is the trust in the processes such as access to justice. 88% of respondents in the Libyan individual interviews reported that they have access to the justice system in Ajdabiya, 7% reported they do not know if they have access, 5% reported not having access, and 1% preferred not to answer the question. Despite 88% of respondents in the survey reporting access to the justice system, only 42% of respondents reported that they either completely or very much trust their case being treated fairly in the justice system, while 58% of respondents reported that they either moderately, slightly, or not at all have trust their case to be treated fairly (see [Table 3](#)). **Thus, restoring trust in the judicial system and reform of the judicial system to guarantee independence, integrity, and impartiality would further strengthen vertical social cohesion. Such challenges are though not unique for Ajdabiya, but institutional challenges across Libya.**<sup>59</sup>

58 Peaceful Change Initiative, "Conflict Sensitive Assistance in Libya Forum: Ajdabiya Peace and Conflict Analysis," 2021.

59 International Commission of Jurists, "Challenges for the Libyan Judiciary: Ensuring Independence, Accountability and Gender Equality."



**Table 3: % of Libyan respondents trusting that their case would be treated fairly by the justice system, per location**

	Sultan El Janoubi and El Chamali	Downtown Ajdabiya	Zouitina	Total
<b>Completely</b>	7%	16%	22%	15%
<b>Very much</b>	8%	35%	27%	26%
<b>Moderately</b>	38%	25%	42%	32%
<b>Slightly</b>	44%	19%	9%	23%
<b>Not at all</b>	2%	5%	0%	3%

### Refugee and migrant perspectives

Refugee and migrant respondents' access and trust in the judicial system in Ajdabiya however seem to show that 75% of respondents reporting to perceive they have access to the judicial system, 24% not knowing if they have access, and 1% reported that they do not have access. The majority of respondents reporting to have access to the judicial system are MENA refugee and migrants (40%), however, also other region of origin groups voiced that they perceive to have access to the judicial system in Ajdabiya. This however contradicts findings from other studies of refugee and migrant's access to the judicial system in Libya, where particularly West and central African as well as East African refugee and migrants continue to face arbitrary detention and no access to the judicial system.<sup>60</sup>

While more in line with other studies, the refugee and migrant individual interviews seemed to reflect little trust in fair treatment within the judicial system. Only 16% of respondents in the refugee and migrant individual survey reported either completely or very much trusting that their case would be treated fairly in the judicial system and 84% reported either moderately (51%), slightly (32%), or not at all (2%). This may be linked to the rising levels of arbitrary detention that has recently been seen in other parts of Libya.<sup>61,62</sup> The majority of KIs on refugee and migrant social protection mentioned that

refugees and migrants use of the judicial system will fully depend on whether they entered Libya with or without documentation. If they entered Libya without documentation, they would not use the formal authorities, but rather be afraid to file a complaint or declare they have been subject to a security incident due to the risk of arbitrary detention.

### Informal governance stakeholders

Informal governance stakeholders in Ajdabiya consist of tribal councils. The tribes Magharba and Zway/Zwayya make up the majority of the citizens and each have a council for local representation,<sup>63</sup> while minority tribes such as the Al Fawakhir, Al Arai-bat, Al Gabail, Awlad El-Sheikh, and Al-Majabra are also represented in the city and either have their own tribal council or family representation.<sup>64</sup> No correlation between geographical areas such as neighbourhoods and tribal affiliation were identified in the MFGD, thus tribal affiliation does not align with geographical boundaries in Ajdabiya, but were instead found to be generally mixed across the city. Due to the large community of Tawergha IDPs in Ajdabiya, the Tawergha community leader were also interviewed to understand Tawergha IDPs integration and representation.

Tribal councils or notable elders play a key role in local governance in Ajdabiya. All interviewed tribal community leaders reportedly consider their main role as peace and reconciliation actors. Secondary literature on Ajdabiya suggests that the tribal councils' peace and reconciliation role is communal in nature and focus on solving disputes and issues locally, while the security bodies such as the police leads on investigative work on criminal activity including smuggling and terrorism.<sup>65</sup> This was similarly also reported as their main role by the majority of formal local governance stakeholders (13/15). Additionally, Al Fawakhir, Zway/Zwayya, and Al-Majabra tribal leader also reported that citizens of their tribe would also go to them for basic service complaints that they would then take up with the municipal council. Al Gabail tribal leader also mentioned that their main topic of communication with the municipal council is the provision of services. All tribal leaders reported having communication with the municipal council. In addition to tribal councils and notable elders CSOs were also mentioned by half of formal governance stakeholders to contribute to peace and reconciliation in Ajdabiya (7/15). The space for active civic engagement is however limited in Ajdabiya due to the elevated levels of scrutiny and risks associated with these activities. This was particularly seen in 2021 with the forced disappearance of the head of the Libyan ICRC Ajdabiya

60 Mixed Migration Centre (MMC), "Going to Town: A Mapping of City-to-City and Urban Initiatives Focusing on the Protection of People on the Move along the Central and Western Mediterranean Routes," 2022.

61 Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Monitor, "Complex Persecution Complemented System of Oppression and Exploitation of Migrants and Asylum Seekers in Libya," 2021.

62 Medecins sans Frontieres, "Libya: Over 600 Migrants Arrested after Speaking out for Their Rights," 2022.

63 Peaceful Change Initiative, "Conflict Sensitive Assistance in Libya Forum: Ajdabiya Peace and Conflict Analysis."

64 KIs with tribal and community leaders

65 Peaceful Change Initiative, "Conflict Sensitive Assistance in Libya Forum: Ajdabiya Peace and Conflict Analysis."



branch.<sup>66</sup>

Tribal councils only consist of men and according to the FGD with female CSO leaders, customs prevent women from being elected for tribal councils in Ajdabiya. The extent to which women would be able to go without a man directly to a tribal council however depended on the tribe. Despite this, the FGD participants reported that women take part in peace and reconciliation efforts in Ajdabiya.

In the tribes where women have direct access to the tribal council this would be through family reconciliation and peace efforts within the tribe. In tribes without direct access to the council, women were reportedly engaging in these efforts through CSOs, awareness raising campaigns, and dialogue sessions.

Majority of the formal local governance stakeholders reported an increasing authority and influence of tribes in Ajdabiya as a main challenge to local governance (8/15). Notably, two out of three mukhtars that also hold tribal council positions mentioned this. One formal governance KI explained how the influence of the tribe ensures networks of nepotism, which then in turn can result in escalated tensions in the future:

*“The tribe is one of the main challenges related to governance, because there are positions that are transferred between people from the same tribe without change, because it is a large tribe and its number is large, and it is the one that has the largest share of access to power. The tribal society is a challenge because if your tribe is small, it will be difficult for you to reach a position [of power], so the tribe is considered a challenge and an important factor for governance.”*

Formal local governance KI, Ajdabiya

This has also been highlighted in other research on Ajdabiya, where Zway/Zwayya and Magharba tribes as majority tribes reportedly split positions of power between them to ensure stability and mitigate any inter-tribal conflicts.<sup>67</sup> Hence, ensuring pathways for meaningful inclusion of minority tribes in decision-making processes should contribute to improving inter-tribal relations through trust- and relationship-building activities.

These challenges on local governance were not reported to spill into other sectors such as access to services (7/8) nor equal access to employment opportunities (7/8). The majority of tribal leaders (6/8) mention that there are functioning inter-tribal collaborations on trade and commerce in Ajdabiya, however, these collaborations are based

on personal relationships and are small-scale trade. For example, the Al-Majabara tribal leader mentioned that the economic ties are not large scale inter-tribal relationships coordinated across cities. The Zway/Zwayya tribal leader also expressed that the tribe does play a role in terms of having a responsibility for access to employment and economic support for tribal members. In conclusion, tribal affiliation does not hinder anyone from accessing employment opportunities, but within tribes such as Zway/Zwayya there is a bond or affiliation around the economic responsibility of its members.

### 3.2.2 Horizontal social cohesion

Horizontal social cohesion describes the readiness of population groups and communities to cooperate with each other (intra-communal)<sup>68</sup> and with other communities (inter-communal). In Ajdabiya that calls for an understanding of intra- and inter-tribal social cohesion; including understanding horizontal social cohesions from a perspective of displaced and NDs, refugee, migrant, and Libyan population, as well as men and women.

In Libya, the tribe is generally the social organisation based on lineage or common ancestry.<sup>69</sup> Tribes in Libya constitute a societal institution and are generally considered to have an important role in political alliances,<sup>70</sup> which was also found to be the case in Ajdabiya (see section [Informal governance stakeholders](#)). However, when it comes to sense of community and horizontal social cohesion, the role of the tribe in Ajdabiya might be more nuanced even if tribes particularly at political level are a determining factor. The individual survey with Libyans revealed that **religion and geographical proximity also are also important aspects of community forming in Ajdabiya.**

The most frequently reported group that Libyan respondents considered a part of their social network was people that have the same religion as them (57%). While people from the same tribe as oneself and living in the same neighbourhood were the second most reported group (42%) and the third most reported were people from the same tribe as oneself and living in other neighbourhoods (36%). However, the fourth most reported group considered a part of respondent's social network were people from another tribe but living in the same neighbourhood (see [Table 4](#)).<sup>71</sup> It was not possible to detect any particular pattern between neighbourhoods and respondent answers to this indicator, instead **different groups of community forming**

68 United Nations Development Program (UNDP), “Strengthening Social Cohesion: Conceptual Framing and Programming Implications.” 2020

69 Mohamed Ben Lamma, “The Tribal Structure in Libya: Factor for Fragmentation or Cohesion?,” Fondation Pour La Recherche Stratégique, vol. Lamma, Moh, 2017

70 Al-Hamzeh Al-Shadeedi and Nancy Ezzeddine, “Libyan Tribes in the Shadows of War and Peace,” 2019,

71 On average respondents reported two groups, that they identify with as part of their community.

66 Amnesty International, “Libya: Activist Missing after Seizure by Armed Men: Mansour Atti,” October 26, 2021.

67 Peaceful Change Initiative, “Conflict Sensitive Assistance in Libya Forum: Ajdabiya Peace and Conflict Analysis.” 2021

were reported across downtown Ajdabiya, Zouitina, and Sultan El Janoubi and El Chamalia.

**Table 4: % of Libyan respondent's types of groups that they consider a part of their social network**

People that have the same religion as you	57%
People from the same tribe as you in your neighbourhood	42%
People from the same tribe as you, but living in other neighbourhoods	36%
People from another tribe than you and living in your neighbourhood	30%
People that go to the same place of worships as you	25%
People from the same tribe as you, but living in other cities than Ajdabiya	25%
People from another tribe living in another neighbourhood	14%
Non-Libyans living in your neighbourhood	2%
Non-Libyans living in another neighbourhood	1%

**Table 4** also highlight how **Libyan respondents do not consider non-Libyans as a part of their social network**. This is a particularly worrying finding as Ajdabiya historically and currently hosts one of the largest refugee and migrant communities in Libya,<sup>72</sup> and lack of inter-communal social cohesion between Libyans and refugees and migrants do not provide optimal opportunities for increased inclusion of refugees and migrants into Ajdabiya's labour market, local governance representation, nor improved access to services. One refugee and migrant social protection KI mentioned that this differs for Egyptian and Sudanese refugees and migrants due to their cultural and language similarities to Libyans leading to more frequent inter-marriages with Libyan families.

This might also contribute to explain why refugees and migrants in the citizen survey reported that they never attended a public social event in Ajdabiya such as cultural events, sports events, or workshops (91%). This was driven by 100% of Southern Asian refugees and migrants never attending a public social event, 90% of East Africans, and 98% of West and Central Africans. While the highest reported attendance in public social events was by MENA respondents, where seven respondents reported they attended a public social event one or twice per year, two reported twice or four times per

<sup>72</sup> Ajdabiya host an estimated 15% of the overall migrant population in Libya (IOM-DTM, "Libya - Migrants Basee line Assessment Round 40," January 2022.)

year and one reported five times per year or more. The refugee and migrant respondents that never attended a public social event were most likely to report that they do not know about any public events (81%). One refugee and migrant social protection KI mentioned that refugees and migrants with documentation can participate in weddings of Libyan friends, and another mentioned that Sudanese and Egyptian refugees and migrants would participate in social events with Libyans. Coffee shops were reported as social gathering point for male Egyptian and Sudanese refugees and migrants to come together as well through celebrations during Ramadan.

**Table 5** highlights how the reasons for non-attendance in public social events slightly differ between different regions of origin in Ajdabiya. Lack of knowledge of public events can potentially be due to lack of inter-communal social cohesion between Libyans and refugees and migrants, where invitations to public social events would not reach the refugee and migrant community. Furthermore, **59% of refugee and migrant respondents reported they do not know if it would be advantageous to organize social activities and community building initiatives to improve community relations in their neighbourhood, while 35% remained optimistic and reported it would.**

**Table 5: % of refugee and migrant respondents, who reported never attending a public social event, reasons for non-attendance, per region of origin (n=182)**

	East Africa	MENA	South Asia	West and Central Africa	Total
<b>I do not know about any public events</b>	67%	86%	90%	77%	81%
<b>I do not feel safe during public events</b>	17%	6%	5%	10%	9%
<b>I cannot attend public events as a migrant</b>	11%	3%	0%	6%	5%
<b>I cannot attend public events (alone)</b>	6%	5%	5%	5%	5%
<b>I cannot attend public events (alone) because of my gender</b>	0%	0%	0%	1%	1%

It seems to be in contrast, only 21% of Libyan respondents reported that they never attended a public social event. The population groups most likely to never have attended were respondents residing in Sultan El Janoubi and El Chamali (36%), women (31%), and displaced (24%).

Particularly for women, the reported reasons for never had attended a public social event were not being able to go alone due to gender (40%), community affiliation or population group (38%), not knowing about any public events (21%), or not feeling safe (2%) – see [Table 6](#) for comparison with reasons for men not attending. Respondents in the FGD with female community leaders also **identified that women in Ajdabiya are limited from participating in cultural events due to customs and traditions being more conservative than elsewhere in Libya**. Furthermore, 85% of female Libyan respondents reported that it would be advantageous to organize social activities and community building initiatives to improve community relations.

A multitude of studies has previously highlighted strong negative gender effects and differences in female cultural participation.<sup>73,74,75</sup> Thus, combined with the interest of more activities reported by women in the individual survey, policies to empower women's participation in and sharing of cultural activities in Ajdabiya are recommended. This should however be done with women's safety and security in mind as the FGD with female community leaders also highlighted **women in Ajdabiya can be exposed to social violence either within or outside the tribe due to social and tribal norms**.

**Table 6: Number of Libyan respondents, who reported never attending a public social event, reasons for non-attendance, by gender (n=82)<sup>76</sup>**

	I cannot attend public events (alone) because of my gender	I cannot attend public events because of my community affiliation/population group	I do not feel safe during public events	I do not know about any public events	Other	Total
Female	23	22	1	12		58
Male		13		6	5	24

73 Elisabeth Dencker Løwe Jacobsen, "What Are the Barriers to Women's Economic Empowerment in Libya and Which Changes Are Likely to Ease the Constraints on Women's Labor Market Opportunities: A Mixed-Methods Study of the Libyan Labor Market," Copenhagen Business School (2020).

74 Sacit Hadi Akdede and Victoria Ateca-Amestoy, "Women's Cultural Attendance in Istanbul: Why So Low?," Journal of International Women's Studies 22, no. 1 (2021).

75 UN Women, "The Economic and Social Impact of Conflict on Libyan Women," 2020.

76 Other responses included 3 male respondents that reported they did not attend public social events due to their work situation, and 1 male respondent who reported no interest in public social events

## 3.3 Livelihoods

The following section is divided in two: one covering the livelihood opportunities for Libyan women and men and another covering the livelihood opportunities for refugee and migrant women and men in Ajdabiya, due to the overarching differences between the types of work, sectors, and under what conditions the population groups work.<sup>77</sup>

### 3.3.1 Livelihoods for Libyan women and men

To provide effective livelihoods programming, a clearer picture of the labour market in Ajdabiya was needed, ranging from the sources of income, the sectors, the type of job, as well as the challenges that Libyans actively looking for work are facing. 64% of Libyan respondents reported that they are working, 20% reported that their main source of income is government subsidies either from the Social Solidarity Fund (SSoLF) or the Social Security Fund (SSecF), and the third most reported income source was a member of one's household working (see [Table 7](#)). Conversely, respondents in Zouitina were much more likely to report relying on government subsidies than anywhere else in Ajdabiya (46%).

**Table 7: % of Libyan respondents' income source, per location**

	I am working	Government subsidies	Domestic work (in my own house i.e., non-income generating activity)		No income source	I rely on the income/pension of my father	Savings	Other
Sultan El Janoubi and El Chamali	75%	13%	6%	1%	3%	0%	1%	0%

77 REACH Initiative, "2021 Multi-Sector Needs Assessment (MSNA) Qualitative Findings Presentation: Food Security, Cash & Markets, Livelihoods," 2022.

<b>Down town Ajda biya</b>	67%	11%	8%	3%	4%	4%	1%	1%
<b>Zouitina</b>	48%	46%	0%	0%	1%	0%	5%	0%
<b>Total</b>	64%	20	6%	2%	3%	2%	2%	1%

Among the Libyan respondents reportedly working (n=243), the main types of work were: teacher, lawyer, engineer, or doctor (32%), a public security official (16%), or engaging in home-based income-generating activities (8%)(n=243). **Table 8** highlight the types of reported professions by Libyan respondents. Among these three main categories of work, majority of men reported working within public security (88%), while women were more likely to be engaging in home-based income generating activities. Furthermore, no difference between clusters were observed.

More than half of the respondents also reported working in the public sector. 63% of respondents working reported the main source of income to be from working in the public sector, while 26% reported they work in the private sector for someone else, and 8% reported working in the private sector with own business (n=243). The prevalence of home-based income generating activities were explained by livelihood KIs who reported that women often prefer pastry, snacks, and sewing related work as it does not require a large start-up capital and are always in demand. Another KI supplemented that these types of income generating activities are paid directly with cash, which are practical during the protracted liquidity crisis.<sup>78</sup>

**Table 8: % of Libyan respondents' profession, per sector (n=243)**

<b>Teacher, lawyer, engineer, doctor</b>	<b>32%</b>
<b>Public security official (police, military, etc.)</b>	16%
<b>Home-based income-generating activity (sewing, shoe repair, small agricultural activity (garden, beekeeping, etc.)</b>	8%
<b>Taxi or truck driver</b>	7%
<b>Small business owner</b>	7%
<b>Public sector employee (Administration)</b>	7%
<b>Vocational (carpenter, electrician, plumber, or other professional)</b>	6%

<sup>78</sup> REACH Initiative, "Libya's Currency Crisis: Analysis on Devaluation and Liquidity Shortages," 2021.

<b>Other</b>	6%
<b>Oil sector</b>	4%
<b>Agriculture</b>	2%
<b>Financial services</b>	2%
<b>Pastoralism</b>	2%
<b>Service industry (janitor, waiter, etc.)</b>	1%
<b>Telecommunication</b>	1%

Majority of jobs were found to be located in downtown Ajdabiya with 45% of Libyan respondents reportedly working in the muhallahs in downtown Ajdabiya. 25% reported working in Sultan El Janoubi and El Chamali, 21% reported working in Zouitina, and 8% reported working in another municipality than Ajdabiya.

Among Libyan respondents that are not working, only 35% reported that they are looking for work (n=103). Of those, mostly female respondents reported that they are not looking for work (70%). Among the Libyan respondents actively looking for work (n=36), the three most reported obstacles to find work were underqualified for available jobs (31%), increased competition for jobs, not enough jobs for everyone (28%), and available jobs are too far away (25%). Well implemented and less successful types of capacity building projects and initiatives to support employment in Ajdabiya were mentioned by livelihood KIs. Half of livelihood KIs mentioned the Seria Project that was a charitable training project that provides training to women from low-income families on how to start a project and be self-reliant, this however resulted in women from a good financial background participation due to ineffective selection process. Successful programming examples were also mentioned including examples such as Peaceful Change Initiative and Norwegian Refugee Council's programming as well as the Libyan Community Partnership organization. Particularly training for small business owners was mentioned as needed in order for private sector growth in Ajdabiya including need for financial support and start-up capital as well as moral support, human resources, and media coverage. Especially, moral support from families for female entrepreneurs were highlighted.

### 3.3.2 Livelihoods for refugee and migrant women and men

The Libyan economy has historically relied on refugee and migrant workers to balance

out labour deficiencies in key economic sectors<sup>79,80</sup> and continue to be an important destination for refugee and migrant labour despite the protracted conflict. The main reasons for migration to Libya are the lack of income or job opportunities in refugees and migrants' home country and job or economic opportunities in Libya.<sup>81</sup> Furthermore, it is also the main reasons that refugees and migrants would consider staying in Libya.<sup>82</sup> Last, it is also two of the three main reasons for refugees and migrants in Ajdabiya leaving Libya among access to better services elsewhere. Therefore, understanding how refugees and migrants access employment in Ajdabiya, what the main barriers are to accessing employment, and under which working conditions are important to understand migration dynamics and livelihood strategies in Ajdabiya and consequently design effective livelihoods programming.

### Access to employment

Majority of refugee and migrant respondents in Ajdabiya are reportedly working. 94% of refugee and migrant respondents reported that they are working, while 3% reported that some members of their household are working and supporting them. Thereof, the top three most reported job sector were vocational such as carpenter, electrician, plumber, or other vocational professional (34%), construction (31%), and service industry such as janitor, waiter etc. (13%). The sector of work though significantly differs among regions of origin (see [Table 9](#)). These jobs are majority located in downtown Ajdabiya with 89% of working refugees and migrants reporting it their place of employment, while 5% of refugee and migrant livelihoods are located in Sultan El Janoubi and El Chamali, and 5% in Zoutina.<sup>83</sup>

**Table 9: % of working refugee and migrant respondents, by sector, per region of origin (n=187)**

	East Africa	MENA	South Asia	West and Central Africa	Total
<b>Vocational (carpenter, electrician, plumber, or other professional)</b>	16%	38%	47%	31%	34%
<b>Construction</b>	53%	15%	16%	44%	31%
<b>Service industry (janitor, waiter, etc.)</b>	16%	14%	5%	13%	13%
<b>Small business owner</b>	0%	18%	5%	0%	7%
<b>Agriculture, pastoralism, fishing, food industry</b>	5%	10%	0%	3%	5%
<b>Domestic work (for someone else, i.e., not in my own house)</b>	0%	1%	5%	6%	4%
<b>Home-based income-generating activity (sewing, shoe repair, small agricultural activity (garden, beekeeping, etc.)</b>	11%	0%	16%	0%	3%
<b>Teacher, lawyer, engineer, doctor</b>	0%	4%	0%	1%	2%
<b>Other (please specify)</b>	0%	0%	5%	0%	1%
<b>Public security official (police, military, etc.)</b>	0%	0%	0%	1%	1%

Furthermore, these jobs were also most frequently reported to be daily labour with highly unpredictable work and day-to-day knowledge of income source (72%). 24% of refugee and migrant respondents though also reported that their job is permanent, where they go to work regularly and have a predictable monthly salary, and 4% reported that the job was temporary with short-term employment and less predictable source of income. The unpredictable sectors of work are mainly construction and vocational professions. Five out of seven KIs on male refugee and migrant livelihoods

79 REACH Initiative and United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), "Access to Cash and the Impact of the Liquidity Crisis on Refugees and Migrants in Libya." 2018

80 Emanuela Paoletti, "The Journal of North African Studies Migration and Foreign Policy: The Case of Libya," The Journal of North African Studies 16, no. 2 (2011).

81 REACH Initiative, "Libya MSNA 2021 Results Tables (Refugee and Migrant Population)."

82 Ibid

83 1% preferred not to answer the location of their place of employment



reported that particularly less reliable types of work are found through waiting on the public square Al Hay Sinai/Omar Al Mokhtar Square. However, the main reported way for both male and female refugees and migrants to find work are through their social network of refugee and migrant friends, acquaintances, and roommates (12/13 KIs on male and female refugee and migrant livelihoods). The second most reported way for both male and female refugees and migrants are through social media, where refugees and migrants post information about their skills and phone number for any potential employer to reach out (10/13).

### Main barriers and enabling environment

Refugees and migrants' access to employment in Ajdabiya relies on their social networks and skills qualifications. Refugee and migrant livelihood KIs reported top three enabling factors for refugees and migrants to find employment were a Libyan social network (5/13), refugee and migrant social network that particularly have been residing in Ajdabiya for a long time (5/13), and the importance of previous similar work experience (5/13). Skills qualifications within a particular work field does seem to hold true with 86% of working refugee and migrant respondents were also working in the same type of sector prior to coming to Libya. One refugee and migrant livelihood KI reported that unskilled refugees and migrants will only be able to access apprenticeships through personal relationships. Among the refugees and migrants that did not report working, 12/22 are not in employment, while 10/22 are looking for employment. Of those refugees and migrants that were looking for employment were mostly female and reported that they are underqualified for the jobs, the available jobs are too far away, or they lack social network to gain access to job opportunities. **Thus, inter-communal social cohesion could potentially also contribute to further livelihood opportunities for refugees and migrants in Ajdabiya as it is one of the main enabling factors for finding employment.**

Refugee and migrant livelihood KIs also reported that the main challenges refugees and migrants face to access livelihood opportunities are lack of or limited knowledge of Arabic (11/13), lack of skills and work experience (6/13) – though mostly mentioned to be the case for female refugees and migrants (4/6 KIs on female refugee and migrant livelihoods), as well as lack of general knowledge about the labour market in Ajdabiya and how to gain access to opportunities (4/13). KIs on female refugee and migrant livelihoods also mentioned additional challenges faced by refugee and migrant women in accessing livelihood opportunities. Four out of six KIs reported that women cannot move outside in the evening and at night, while three out of six mentioned that women cannot move freely outside of Ajdabiya city, and two out of six KIs reported that women cannot move without a male companion. It was also highlighted that these

challenges are not specific to refugee and migrant women, but apply to all women residing in Ajdabiya and is caused due to social norms. Thus, capacity building activities with refugee and migrant communities especially language courses could aid refugees and migrants in accessing work opportunities, and specifically training courses for female refugees and migrants on topics such as basic administrative skills for computer usage in offices, knitting, sewing, decoration, and culinary arts were mentioned as recommendations by KIs (5/6 KIs on female refugee and migrant livelihoods). These capacity development activities should however take into consideration the limitations to freedom of movement faced by women generally in Ajdabiya for location of training.

### Working conditions

Working conditions for refugees and migrants in Libya are based on the situation and legal status of their arrival to Libya. Refugees and migrants can either arrive with an invitation from the Libyan State to obtain a work visa (e.g., highly skilled labour coming for work in the healthcare sector), or through irregular migration routes. According to refugee and migrant livelihood KIs, only refugees and migrants with high labour skills will be the only ones employed with a written working contract (5/13). On the contrary, the male refugee and migrant working in vocational occupations and female refugee and migrant worker in traditional female dominated services will be working per verbal agreement according to all the KIs. Refugees and migrants that have arrived in Libya through regular migration have the right to a written contract with his employer according to Article 67 of Law No. 12 of 2010 on the Promulgation of the Labour Relations Act.<sup>84</sup> The vast majority of refugee and migrant respondents in the individual survey reported that they are paid cash in hand for their work (93%), which can indicate that the majority of respondents were refugees and migrants with verbal work agreements. Despite oral contracts being the norm, all refugee and migrant livelihood KIs reported that delays in payment or no payment rarely or never happens.

Refugees and migrants work environment is categorised as dangerous and containing physical risks. Dangerous work environments and physical risks follow the gendered pattern of the labour market for female and male refugees and migrants in Libya. Female refugees and migrants are more likely to engage in domestic work for someone else or earn an income from a home-based income-generating activity (sewing, shoe repair, small agricultural activity (garden, beekeeping, etc.) than male refugees and migrants.<sup>85</sup> While male refugees and migrants are more likely to engage in construction, vocational professions, and the service industry. As a result, female refugees and migrants are at risks of sexual harassment at the workplace in private homes as a babysit-

<sup>84</sup> International Centre for Migration Policy Development, "The Legal Guide for Foreigners in Libya." 2020

<sup>85</sup> Migrant individual interviews and KIs on female migrants' livelihoods

ter or cleaner (5/6 KIs on female refugee and migrant livelihoods). Majority reported this manifest in the form of verbal harassment (4/6 KIs on female refugee and migrant livelihoods). Five out of six KIs on female refugee and migrant livelihoods also reported that female refugees and migrants were particularly exposed to contracting COVID-19 the past two years through their caretaking roles. Last, three out of six KIs on female refugee and migrant livelihoods also expressed concerns of the impact of dangerous chemicals in cleaning jobs, that female refugees and migrants are exposed due to lack of protective equipment.

Serious concerns of refugee and migrant health and safety at work were reported by all refugee and migrant livelihood KIs. Three out of seven KIs on male refugee and migrant livelihoods reported concerns of the exposure to dust and dirt particles that male refugees and migrants working in construction face as employers do not provide protective equipment. Serious physical health risks such as injuries, fractures, falling, and exposure to chemicals were also reported by six out of seven KIs on male refugee and migrant livelihoods expressing a concern for the working conditions of male refugees and migrants within the construction and vocational professions. One Egyptian KI on male refugee and migrant livelihoods provided examples on the types of physical risks that male refugees and migrants are exposed to:

*“Most of migrants’ work is difficult and dangerous, for example, construction work. It may require climbing to higher places using simple methods with lack of security. There are those who work in professions such as blacksmithing and carpentry that require dealing with dangerous machines, and there are those who work in unhealthy places where they are exposed to dust and dirt, and because of these risks, there are those who lost their life and one of their organs and caused them to suffer from chronic diseases”*

Egyptian KI on male refugee and migrant livelihoods, Ajdabiya

One Senegalese KI on male refugee and migrant livelihoods highlighted other types of physical risks and the impact on the mental health of refugees and migrants:

*“I know a migrant who fell into the sewers because of the nature of his work [working without protective gear or securing] and died, and there are those who worked in blacksmithing and carpentry and lost their hands. There are those who work in the factories for bricks and cement, and they are exposed to chronic respiratory diseases. This affects the nature of work in general and creates a barrier of fear among the rest.”*

Senegalese KI on male refugee and migrant livelihoods, Ajdabiya

Refugees and migrants engage in jobs with dangerous work environments due to economic motivations. According to refugee and migrant livelihood KIs the main reason refugees and migrants work in Ajdabiya and are willing to take jobs with dangerous work environments is to be able to afford travels to Europe (9/13). The Egyptian and South Sudanese KI mentioned that refugees and migrants from their country of origin also settle in Ajdabiya and have houses, families, and children in school and are in contrast working to sustain themselves in Ajdabiya rather than financing travels to Europe. The Pakistani KI on refugee and migrant livelihoods also reported that Pakistani refugees and migrants no longer are seeking to travel to Europe due to the high risks associated with the travels.

### 3.4 Key Service Infrastructure

#### 3.4.1 Social protection systems

A core part of the transition of Libya from a humanitarian context to a development context is creating the linkages from humanitarian efforts to national Libyan social protection programmes. United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund (UNICEF) and United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in partnership with REACH Initiative Libya have mapped out the main social protection programmes in Libya.<sup>86</sup> This SBA built and expanded on this research to understand the types of social programmes available for citizens in Ajdabiya and how international actors can support current social protection frameworks in Ajdabiya or provide support for the ones that the national social protection system struggle to include.

When asked about their main income source in the Libyan individual survey, 20% of Libyan respondents reported that their main source of income is government subsidies. Of those, 90% were relying on the Basic Assistance Grant, 14% relying on the Wife and Children Grant, 6% smaller other grants, 4% on retirement pension, and 1% on the Zakat Monthly Assistance (n=77). Women were more likely to report reliance on government subsidies than men with 65% of respondents reported relying on government subsidies were women. Among the respondents, who reported they rely on the Basic Assistance Grant as their main source of income, 39% were above 55 years old, and therefore eligible for the grant due to their age. While 61% of respondents were younger than 55 years and thus relying on the grant due to either being incapacitated and unable to work, widows, married women with disabilities, or unmarried mothers.

Individuals not relying on the Basic Assistance Grant above 60 years for women and

<sup>86</sup> REACH Initiative, “Social Protection Systems for Children in Libya,” 2021.

65 years for men will be able to have their pension paid out through the SSecF. This saving is automatic if the individual has been working in the public sector, while if the individual has been working in the private sector, it is the responsibility of the employer to pay into the SSecF such that the employee has a saved pension for old age. 4% of respondents in the Libyan individual survey reported relying on this retirement pension.

**Table 10: Current active social protection programmes in Ajdabiya<sup>87</sup>**

Programme name	Benefit and Legislation	Implementing agency	Target population
Basic Assistance	Cash benefit established through Social Security Law no.13 of 1980, edited in the Basic Assistance Law no.16 of 1985 <sup>88</sup>	SSoLF	Libyan women above 60 years and men above 65, incapacitated people unable to work, widows, orphans, married women with disabilities, unmarried mothers, children with no legal guardian or breadwinner <sup>89</sup>
Wife and Children Grant	Cash benefit for all Libyan children (under 18), established through Cabinet Decree no.9 in 1957 as the Family Allowance and reinstated in 2013 through Law no.27.	Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA)	

Zakat Monthly Assistance	Monthly cash assistance and in-kind benefits collected through Zakat and established by the Cabinet Decision no.49 of 2012	Under the administrative authority of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Endowments <sup>90</sup>	
People with Disabilities Grant	Lifetime monthly financial grant, established through Decision no.41 on the Issuance of an Implementation Framework for Designated Benefits for persons with disabilities in 1990 <sup>91</sup>	SSoLF	People with intellectual disabilities and people with chronic illnesses

Both the SSecF and the SSoLF has their offices in downtown Ajdabiya on Tripoli Street (see [Map 3](#)). Any registration for social protection programmes must happen in person at the offices in Ajdabiya with documentation for eligibility. Documentations need for social protection programmes were reported to include national identification, birth certificate, personal photograph, and the death certificate of the husband for widowed women. Types of documentation that can be particularly difficult for displaced population groups to be able to present, since documentation might have been lost during displacement. According to the social protection FGDs with social workers in the MoSA, SSoLF, SSecF, and care centres in Ajdabiya, MoSA is working on establishing a digital database for information management. This could particularly overcome some of the challenges for vulnerable displaced individuals that might have lost documentation. However, the social worker KIs all reported a lack of training and computer literacy of staff as the main challenge for implementation of such development plans. This might provide a key opportunity for capacity development of local social protection offices.

<sup>87</sup> According to Social Protection FGDs with social workers in the Ministry of Social Affairs, Social Solidarity Fund, Social Security Fund, and care centres in Ajdabiya

<sup>88</sup> REACH Initiative, "Social Protection Systems for Children in Libya."

<sup>89</sup> Ibid.

<sup>90</sup> Ibid.

<sup>91</sup> Ibid.

**Map 3: Overview of public offices and roads in downtown Ajdabiya**

Refugees and migrants appear to be largely excluded from the legal social protection and policy frameworks available nationwide and in effect in Ajdabiya. Social protection FGDs with MoSA, SSolF, SSeF, and care centres in Ajdabiya reported that MoSA reports on the number of refugees and migrants in the baladiya to INGOs who then provide assistance to refugees and migrants. Particularly, the ICRC were reported to provide assistance to refugees and migrants in Ajdabiya.

However, the social protection FGDs reported that MoSA is working on developing programmes for families with a Libyan mother and a non-Libyan father and on promoting awareness and understanding among this population group about their rights.

### 3.4.2 Education

58% of the respondents in the Libyan individual survey reported having school-aged children in their household. The majority of children were reportedly going to school in the same area that they live e.g., children living in downtown Ajdabiya would be attending schools here, and the same for Zoutina and Sultan El Janoubi and El Chamali following the population density with 92% of Ajdabiya's population residing in downtown Ajdabiya (see [Map 4](#), [Map 14](#), and [Map 15](#)).<sup>92</sup>

Among the Libyan respondents with school-aged children assessed in the individual survey (n=224), 23 respondents reported that their school-aged children were not attending formal school for the current school year at the time of data collection (January – March 2022). Majority thereof resides in Zoutina (19/23), a few in downtown Ajdabiya (3/23), and Sultan El Janoubi and El Chamali (1/23). The two main reported reasons for children not attending formal school were: being unable to pay for tuition/costs (9/23), schools not in good condition (7/23), and schools lacking a suitable curriculum (5/23). Of those, 14/23 reported their school-aged children instead attend non-formal education facilities. Public education is free in Libya, but there are other expenses associated with public education such as transportation costs. All education FGDs highlighted that transportation costs can be high for some families living in the outskirts of the city and needing transportation for their children to the central neighbourhoods of downtown Ajdabiya, where the education facilities are located. All of education FGDs also reported that the MoSA's social workers provide assistance to children from low-income families. Majority also reported that teachers try and collect donations for families in need.

23/200 refugee and migrants reported having school-aged children in their household. Similarly, all children were reportedly going to school in the same area as they live – downtown Ajdabiya. The children do however travel to other neighbourhoods

92 IOM-Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), "Libya IDPs and Returnee Report: Mobility Tracking Round 38." 2021



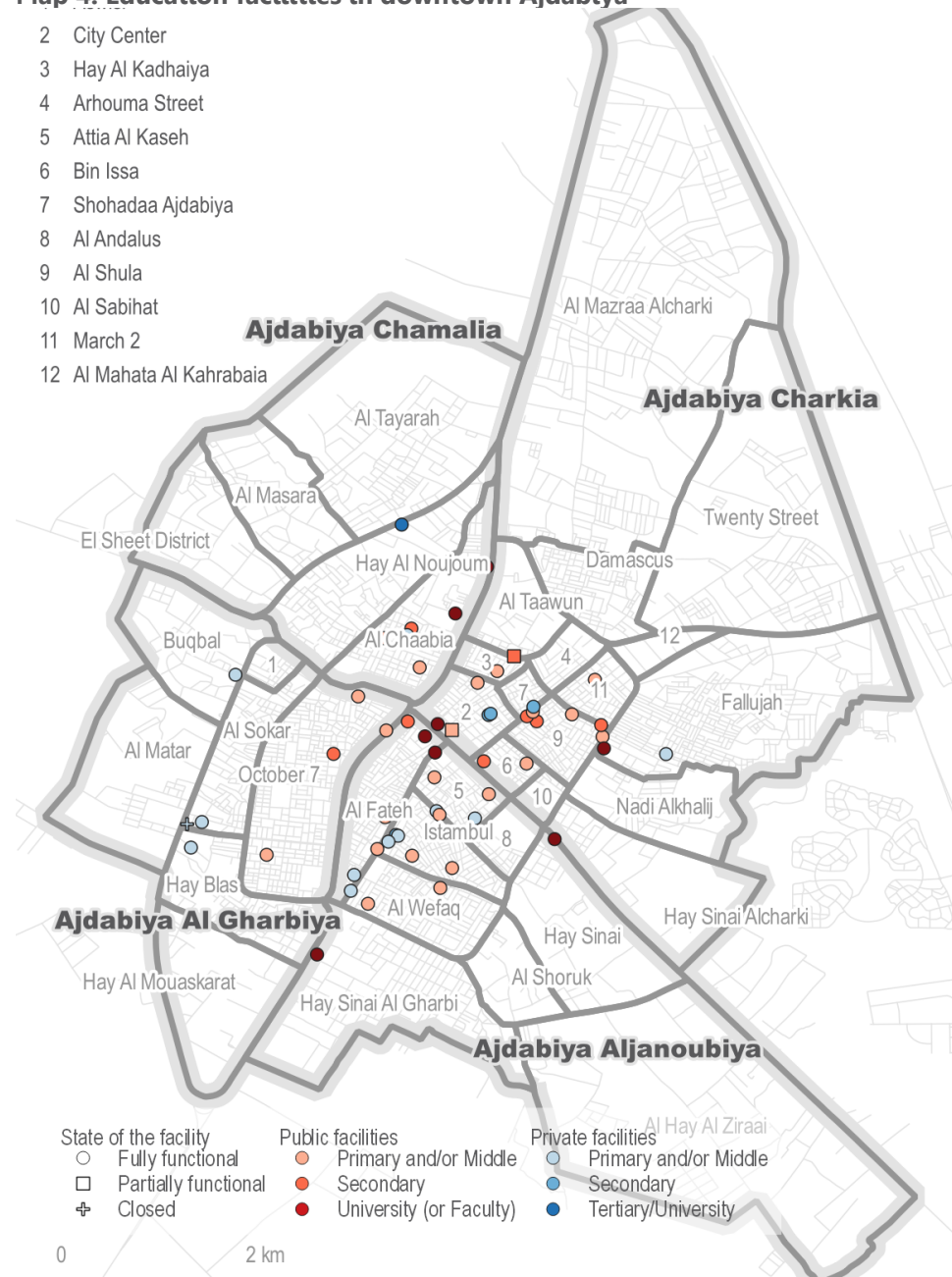
in downtown Ajdabiya from the areas where most refugees and migrants live (Fallujah and Hay Sinai) as schools are not present in these neighbourhoods. Of those, 6/23 respondents in the refugee and migrant individual survey reported that the children in their household do not attend school. According to education FGDs, only refugee and migrant children with official papers can access the public schools in Ajdabiya and must pay a tuition fee for public education.

**Table 11: % of respondents' reasons for children not attending formal education, by type of respondent**

	Libyan	Refugee and migrant <sup>93</sup>
Cannot afford to pay for tuition/costs	9	0
No space in school/no reply/unable to register	3	1
Schools not in good condition (problems with latrines, electricity, furniture)	7	1
Schools lack a suitable curriculum	5	0
Schools lack trained teachers	3	0
Child is disinterested	1	0
Children need to stay at home and assist with household chores	1	0
Family needs the child to participate in remunerative activities	0	0
Recently or continuous displacement	0	0
Do not consider education important	0	0
Security situation/Insecurity	0	1
Child is disabled, unhealthy, or traumatized	0	0
Missed too much to make up	0	0
School is too far or no transportation	0	0
Schools lacked gender-appropriate staff	0	0
Other	2	0
Prefer not to answer	3	3

93 Findings for the refugee and migrant individual survey are only indicative

**Map 4: Education facilities in downtown Ajdabiya**





Parents of children enrolled in school in Ajdabiya and educational personnel in the education FGDs did not agree on all the challenges in the educational system in Ajdabiya. Participants in the education FGDs mostly reported overcrowding of classrooms and the lack of schools' capacity and space to accommodate students, e.g., a class sometime accommodate 45 students. A pupil-teacher ratio above the average for even low-income countries.<sup>94</sup> 11% of respondents in the Libyan individual survey that reported children in their household also reported concerns of overcrowding in schools in Ajdabiya. However, the main two reported challenges were lack of teaching and/or teaching material (40%) and poor-quality teachers (37%). Other challenges reported in all the education FGDs included sanitation problems with sewage floodings in schools, a problem reported not to be specific to school but a general problem in Ajdabiya. All participants in the education FGDs also reported that girls in general face harassment on their way to school. Among the different challenges mentioned in the education FGDs, the participants highlighted that expansion of number of schools to decrease the pupil-teacher ratio, providing teaching materials, and further developing the capacities of teachers through trainings should be the main education priorities.

### 3.4.3 Health

Health facilities in Ajdabiya are mostly clustered in specific neighbourhoods of downtown Ajdabiya. Only a health clinic and pharmacy is located in Sultan El Janoubi and El Chamali and a health centre, polyclinic, and village hospital in Zouitina (see [Map 5](#), [Map 16](#), and [Map 17](#)). Ajdabiya's Central Hospital Al-Maqrif reportedly not only provide services for Ajdabiya citizens but also neighbouring cities in Ajdabiya mantika such as Brega as well as patients coming from neighbouring mantikas Sirt and Alkufra. Majority of health FGDs reported this causing overcrowding of the hospital and posing a challenge for health care professionals providing care for patients, which affect the quality of care and increases the economic burden of Ajdabiya's main hospital.

**Map 5: Health facilities in downtown Ajdabiya**



94 United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), "A World Ready to Learn: Prioritizing Quality Early Childhood Education," 2019.

Respondents in the Libyan individual survey, however, overall were satisfied with the public healthcare access in the city, with 74% of respondents considering they have sufficient access to healthcare, and 98% reportedly able to access a doctor through public healthcare in their muhallah. Reported distances to nearest public healthcare facility were also overall less than an hour with reportedly less than 30 minutes by car (51%), less than 15 minutes (31%), and less than 1 hour (18%).

However, 57% of respondents in the Libyan individual survey did report facing problems when accessing healthcare services. Reports of facing issues when accessing healthcare services varied per cluster with Sultan El Janoubi and El Chamali (67%), downtown Ajdabiya (68%), and Zouitina (28%). The overall main five challenges faced when accessing healthcare service were; poor quality healthcare (34%), lack of medicines at the health facilities (29%), lack of trust in health workers (24%), unable to afford health services (18%), and long waiting times at health facilities (15%). However, the extent to which these were reported varies per cluster (see [Table 12](#)).

**Table 12: % of Libyan respondents' specific challenges, when accessing health-care services, by type of problem, by location**

	Sultan El Janoubi and El Chamali	Downtown Ajdabiya	Zouitina
No problems	33%	32%	72%
Lack of trust in health workers	51%	16%	12%
Poor quality health care	51%	33%	20%
Lack of medicines at the health facilities	40%	35%	7%
No healthcare facilities available in my area	16%	15%	1%
Cannot afford to pay for health services	5%	29%	7%
Long waiting times at health facilities	5%	23%	7%
Health facilities too far	7%	9%	4%
Transport too expensive	2%	3%	1%
Discrimination at health facilities	1%	5%	1%

Overcrowding	1%	3%	2%
Security concerns around travel to the health facility	0%	5%	1%
Accessibility issues for people with disabilities	1%	3%	0%
Restrictions based on gender (I cannot move without a male person accompanying me/authorising me, I am afraid of harassment in public spaces, etc.)	0%	1%	0%
Security concerns at the health facility	0%	0%	0%
Facilities closed due to COVID-19	0%	0%	0%
Lack of documentation	0%	0%	0%
Social stigma around mental health services or other services	0%	0%	0%
Other (please specify)	1%	1%	0%
Prefer not to answer	0%	0%	0%

Especially, lack of medicines at the health facilities was echoed in the healthcare FGDs. All health care professionals in the FGDs reported that lack of medication is a general problem in the healthcare sector. Patients are reportedly responsible for providing medication from pharmacies if they have a scheduled operation at the hospital. Citizens are forced to buy costly medicines at pharmacies as the medicine at the healthcare facilities are not available. These challenges of unavailable medicine at public healthcare facilities and reports of expensive medication being sold at private pharmacies are however not new, but date back to 2014.<sup>95</sup>

Furthermore, all health FGD participants highlighted the lack of medical and para-medical staff as a challenge to provide high-quality and timely services in Ajdabiya. Reported overcrowding and lack of medical personnel in public health facilities in the

<sup>95</sup> REACH, "Market Systems in Libya: Assessment of the Wheat Flour, Insulin, Tomato and Soap Supply Chains," November 2017.

health FGDs could explain the reported challenges by Libyan respondents in the individual survey on the quality of healthcare provided. Furthermore, specializations such as haematology, oncology, and endocrinology were reported by all health FGDs to be non-existent in Ajdabiya and that patients will need to seek healthcare in Benghazi, Misrata, or outside of Libya in Egypt, Tunisia, or Jordan. An expensive endeavour, that most Libyans will not be able to afford. Accessing private healthcare facilities in Ajdabiya for treatment were reported costing between 300 and 500 Libyan dinars (LYD) depending on the type of consultations with some specializations amounting to 800 LYD for consultations and medicines. Costs associated with fully accessing public healthcare e.g., medicines or specializations are reflected by the 18% of respondents in the individual survey who reported facing issues paying for healthcare.

65% of respondents in the refugee and migrant individual survey reported they face problems, when accessing healthcare services. The most commonly top five reported challenges were lack of medicines at the health facility (41%), poor quality healthcare (37%), overcrowding (19%), long waiting times at health facilities (16%), and lack of trust in healthcare workers (13%). These challenges are also not specific to Ajdabiya as these health challenges has been reported as main challenges in other research as well as consistently over the last years further highlighting the systemic healthcare problems that Libya continue to face.<sup>96,97,98,99</sup>

Considering complaint mechanisms, majority of respondents in both the Libyan and refugee and migrant individual survey reported that they would seek help or make a complaint directly at the healthcare facility – it appears to be respectively 52% of refugee and migrant respondents and 50% of Libyan respondents. However, a larger proportion of refugee and migrant respondents also reported that there is nowhere to go with complaints (41%), while this was reported by only 24% of Libyan respondents (See [Table 13](#)).

96 REACH, “Market Systems in Libya: Assessment of the Wheat Flour, Insulin, Tomato and Soap Supply Chains,” November 2017.

97 REACH Initiative, “Abu Salim Area-Based Assessment (ABA), 2021.”

98 REACH Initiative, “Ubari Area-Based Assessment (ABA), 2021.”

99 REACH Initiative, “Sebha Area-Based Assessment (ABA), 2020.”

**Table 13: % of respondents’ complaint mechanism per stakeholders, by type of respondent**

	Libyan	Refugee and migrant <sup>100</sup>
<b>The healthcare facility</b>	50%	52%
<b>There is nowhere I can go with complaints</b>	24%	41%
<b>The municipal council (a representative)</b>	22%	5%
<b>My Tribal Elder Council</b>	3%	2%
<b>My muhallah council/mukhtar</b>	1%	2%
<b>Other</b>	1%	0%

Health FGDs reported that to find a solution for challenges in the health sector in Ajdabiya, a joint solution for development planning needs to be drafted with the Ministry of Health, the municipal council as well as the tribal councils. Non-governmental partners were also mentioned as potential partners for either awareness raising of different diseases or capacity development of healthcare personnel. ICRC and World Health Organization (WHO) were reported due to previous successful awareness raising campaigns on COVID-19 and training of medical personnel.

### 3.4.4 Sewage

Sewage systems in Libya are generally dysfunctional resulting in accumulation of wastewater in the streets, which constitute a serious health risk for citizens.<sup>101</sup> Only 45% of households are connected to the public sewage network in Libya.<sup>102</sup> Accumulation of wastewater in the street is also a challenge to essential sewage provision in Ajdabiya. Recurrent sewage flood due to poor infrastructure were identified to be a problem particularly in downtown Ajdabiya in the neighbourhoods of the city centre, Hay Al Kadhaiya, and Shohadaa Ajdabiya in the MFGD. However, 55% of respondents in the Libyan individual survey reported problems with sewage in their neighbourhood, such

100 Findings for the refugee and migrant individual survey are only indicative

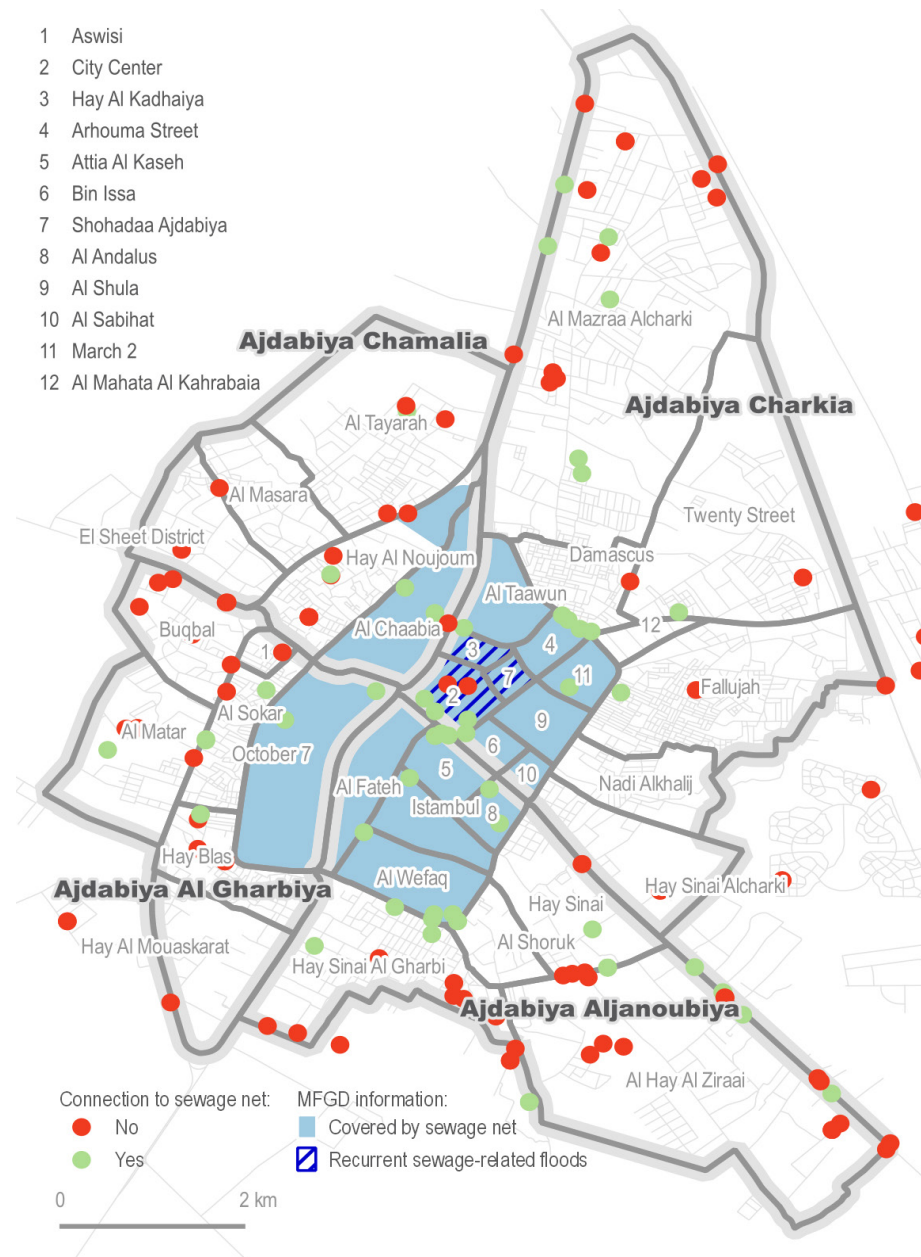
101 IMPACT Initiatives, United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund (UNICEF), and WASH Cluster, “Overview - Wash Severity Classification Light,” 2022.

102 United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund (UNICEF), “Over 4 Million People, Including 1.5 Million Children Are about to Face Imminent Water Shortage in Libya,” 2021.

as floods, bad smells, or water contamination, indicating that sewage problems are not only a problem in downtown Ajdabiya.

Only 41% of respondents in the Libyan individual survey reported being connected to the public sewage network. This however widely differed depending on the muhallahs of respondents. 64% of respondents residing in Zoutina reported being connected to the public sewage network, against the 32% of respondents in downtown Ajdabiya, and the 37% of respondents in Sultan El Janoubi and El Chamali. However, in the MFGD with municipal council members, the formal coverage of the sewage network is only in some of the neighbourhoods in downtown Ajdabiya (see [Map 6](#)). Comparing the information from the MFGD and the Libyan individual surveys highlight how half of Libyan respondents have access to the public sewage system through informally connecting their households to the main public sewage pipes that leads in and out of the city (see [Map 6](#)).

**Map 6: Sewage network coverage and sewage challenges in downtown Ajdabiya**





Limited access formally to the public sewage network has resulted in households relying on the support of a private black well for wastewater. 75% of respondents in the Libyan individual survey reported that they have a private black well for sewage disposal. Thereof, majority of respondents reported that their black well would be emptied 2 to 4 times a year (41%), while 33% reported more than every 3 months, 12% reported once per year, and 4% reported less than once per year (n=285).

In case of problems with the sewage, Libyan respondents in the individual survey would generally reach out the General Waste and Water Company (GWWC) local office, which is in Attia Al Kaseh neighbourhood in downtown Ajdabiya and in Hay Alchorta neighbourhood in Zoutina. 57% reported they would file a complaint with GWWC local office. However, 25% of respondents also reported that complaints are not taken into consideration at the GWWC. This also widely differs per muhallah. 52% of respondents in Sultan El Janoubi and El Chamali reported they do not have anywhere to go with a complaint, while 22% of respondents in downtown Ajdabiya, and 5% of respondents in Zoutina. This is due to citizens that are not connected to the formal sewage network or informally have connected to the sewage network would not be able to file a complaint at GWWC for infrastructural assistance. Lastly, 12% of respondents reported they would go to a municipal council representative.

### 3.4.5 Electricity

98% of Libyan respondents in the individual survey reported that they are connected to the public electricity network. This is despite the municipal council only mapping some neighbourhoods in downtown Ajdabiya, Zoutina, and Sultan El Janoubi and El Chamali in the MFGD as connected to the public electricity network (see [Map 7](#), [Map 18](#), and [Map 19](#)). Hence, highlighting the number of citizens that has informally connected their household to the public electricity network. This is a common local service dilemma in Libya, where citizens informally connect themselves to the public network, when their household are not a part of the official local development plans of the General Electricity Company of Libya (GECOL).<sup>103,104,105</sup> Hence, payment for electricity fall solely on citizens formally connected to the electricity network.

103 REACH Initiative, "Abu Salim Area-Based Assessment (ABA), 2021."

104 REACH Initiative, "Sebha Area-Based Assessment (ABA), 2020."

105 REACH Initiative, "Ubari Area-Based Assessment (ABA), 2021."

**Map 7: Electricity network in downtown Ajdabiya**

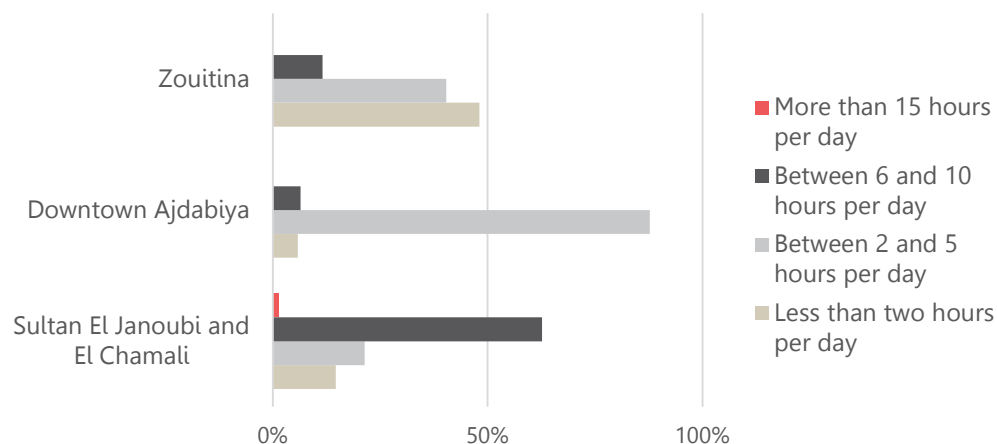
- 1 Aswisi
- 2 City Center
- 3 Hay Al Kadhaiya
- 4 Arhouma Street
- 5 Attia Al Kaseh
- 6 Bin Issa
- 7 Shohadaa Ajdabiya
- 8 Al Andalus
- 9 Al Shula
- 10 Al Sabihat
- 11 March 2
- 12 Al Mahata Al Kahrabaia





Electricity outages are a common problem in Libya in general and the situation is also reflected in Ajdabiya, where 73% of respondents in the Libyan individual survey reportedly experienced electricity cuts during peak periods such as during the summer, where electricity is more expensive, and demand is high for cooling purposes. Of those, 61% reported experiencing between two and five hours of electricity cuts during summer, 22% between six and ten hours per day, while 16% reported it occurring less than two hours per day (n=282). However, the length of electricity cuts varies across the municipality with longest periods of electricity outages being reported in Sultan El Janoubi and El Chamali (see [Figure 2](#)). KIs with GECOL engineers in other municipalities have previously highlighted that reconstruction of electricity infrastructure such as substations, electrical transformers, and power transmission stations are needed to address the electricity crisis Libya face.<sup>106</sup> The impact of power outages ranges from business functionality, impacting service operationality and functionality as well as through citizen's abilities to work, gain access to water, preserve food stock, and safe movement at night. These impacts clearly indicate an avenue for infrastructural investment and development programming.

**Figure 2: % of Libyan respondents' average daily hours of electricity cuts during summer, by location (n=282)**



A core part of addressing the above-mentioned electricity outages, development priorities and planning must advance on the matter. In Libya, the Ministry of Electricity and Renewable Energy is responsible for the development priorities as well as the plans nationally, while GECOL is responsible for electricity generation, distribution, opera-

<sup>106</sup> REACH Initiative, "Abu Salim Area-Based Assessment (ABA), 2021."

tion, maintenance, planning, and development.<sup>107</sup> GECOL's role in local administration of electricity matters were also reflected in the individual survey. 80% of respondents in the individual Libyan survey reported that they would file a complaint with the GECOL local office if they had an issue with the electricity, while 12% reported there is nowhere to go with complaints, and 5% reported a municipal council representative. Lack of allocation of funding to implement development plans has been highlighted by KIs with GECOL in other municipalities,<sup>108</sup> thus highlighting the need for other short- to medium-term solutions to be found till political stability allow for investments into electricity infrastructure. Libyan researchers have suggested that the development of solar modular power supply via household size renewable generators can in an economic cost-efficient way off-set the impact of power-outages in Libya, while also providing a renewable longer-term option for the country's electricity crisis, as these modules can be connected to the public electricity network.<sup>109</sup>

### 3.5 Urban growth

Findings suggest that key service operationality and accessibility are closely linked to urban growth. Concentration of education and health facilities as well as the formal connection of households to the public sewage and electricity network were found to be aligned with the infrastructures that existed prior to 2003 (see [Map 8](#)). Discrepancies between service coverage and population expansion of a city has previously been proven to reflect the lack of capacities locally for development planning and implementation of infrastructural projects in other cities in Libya as well.<sup>110,111</sup>

<sup>107</sup> World Bank and Price Waterhouse Coopers, "Rapid Assessment of the Electricity Sector Performance," 2017.

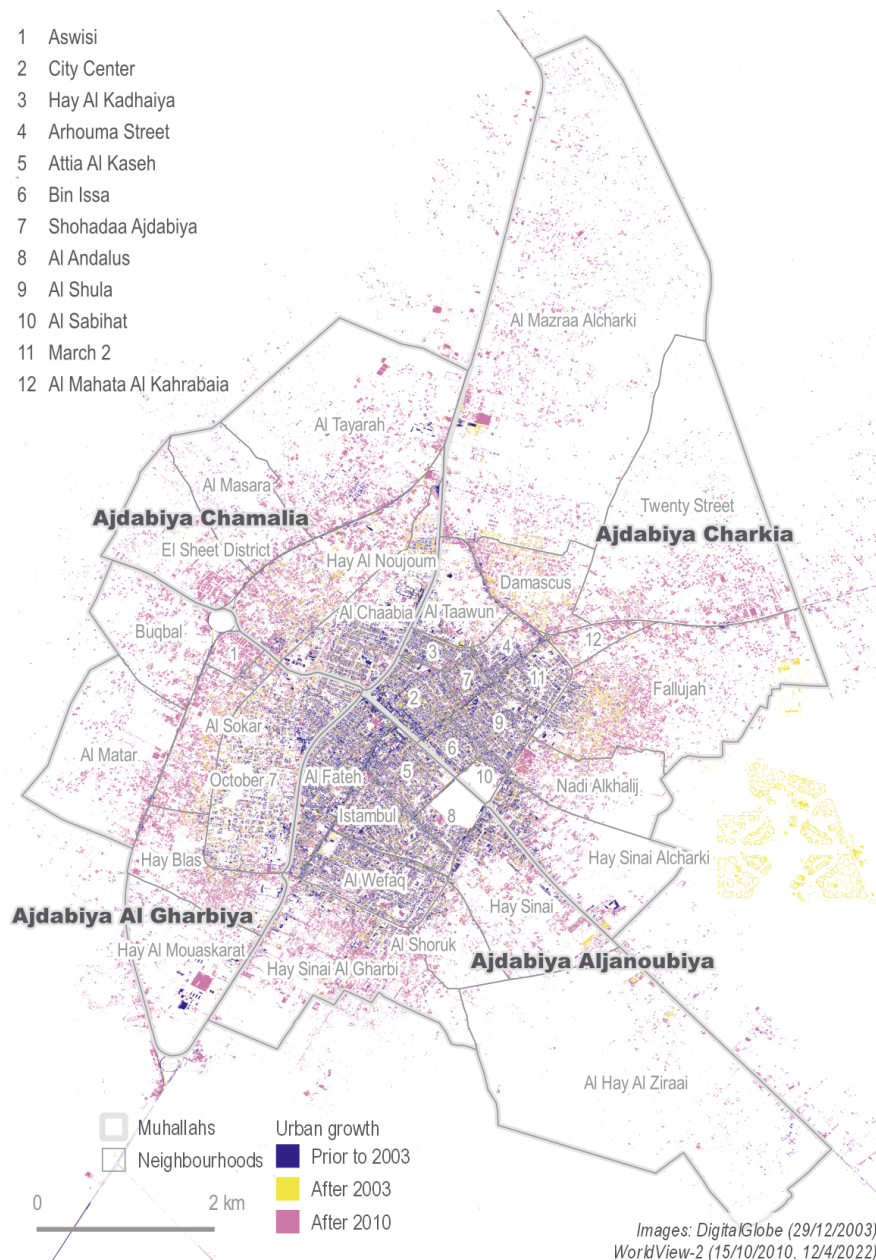
<sup>108</sup> REACH Initiative, "Abu Salim Area-Based Assessment (ABA), 2021."

<sup>109</sup> Mohamed Almakhtar, A. M. Elbreki, and Mohamed Shaaban, "Revitalizing Operational Reliability of the Electrical Energy System in Libya: Feasibility Analysis of Solar Generation in Local Communities," *Journal of Cleaner Production* 279 (January 10, 2021).

<sup>110</sup> REACH Initiative, "Ubari Area-Based Assessment (ABA), 2021."

<sup>111</sup> REACH Initiative, "Abu Salim Area-Based Assessment (ABA), 2021."

Map 8: Urban growth of infrastructure in downtown Ajdabiya



## 4. CONCLUSION

This SBA was developed to understand social cohesion and local governance mechanisms in Ajdabiya, livelihood opportunities for Libyans, refugees, and migrants as well as essential service availability and operationality of social protection systems, education, health, sewage, and electricity. The assessment provides granular information for humanitarian-development-peace 'triple nexus' actors to efficiently identify entry points for supporting medium-, to long-term solutions to inter-tribal relationships and trust, service delivery challenges, as well as livelihood challenges.

**Social cohesion dynamics in Ajdabiya are distinct from other cities in Libya.** Vertical social cohesion bonds between the municipal council and Libyan respondents in the individual interviews were noteworthy with majority reported feeling represented by the municipal council (56%). However, the importance of tribal affiliations in Ajdabiya were reflected as well with 31% of Libyan respondents in the individual interviews reported feeling represented by their tribal council. This also meant that the Mukhtar, which are stipulated in law to be the formal governance stakeholder linking citizens with the municipal council were almost not at all reported as an important local governance stakeholder. Only 1% of Libyan respondents reported feeling represented by their Mukhtar (see [Table 2](#)). Coupled with a majority of formal local governance stakeholders reported the increased authority and influence of the tribe in Ajdabiya as a main challenge to local governance, **international assistance should focus on positive relationship-building and collaboration between tribes to avoid patterns of patronage and mistrust affecting local governance.**

A core part of vertical social cohesion is the trust in the processes such as access to justice. 88% of Libyan respondents in the individual interviews reported they have access to the justice system, however, only 42% of respondents reported that they either completely or very much trust their case being treated fairly in the justice system. **Thus, restoring trust in the judicial system and reform of the judicial system to guarantee independence, integrity, and impartiality would further strengthen vertical social cohesion. Such challenges are though not unique for Ajdabiya, but institutional challenges across Libya.**<sup>112</sup>

As the Libyan context develops and stabilises, sustainable solutions are needed for representation of refugees and migrants in local governance dynamics to ensure improved living standards and integration into the local communities. Libya continues to attract

<sup>112</sup> International Commission of Jurists, "Challenges for the Libyan Judiciary: Ensuring Independence, Accountability and Gender Equality," 2016

a large number of refugees and migrants despite the protracted conflict and the harsh conditions for refugees and migrants in Libya.<sup>113</sup> Vast majority of existing research focus on the type of migration to Libya including the conditions, challenges, and risks associated with transiting through Libya to reach Europe, while this assessment focus on the conditions of refugees and migrants in Ajdabiya that have stayed in Libya for more than a year. 99% of the refugees and migrants in the individual interview had stayed in Libya for more than 1 year. Thus, this assessment intends to contribute to information on the integration of refugees and migrants in Ajdabiya city through examining social cohesion dynamics and livelihood opportunities of refugees and migrants. 65% of refugee and migrant respondents did not feel represented by any local governance stakeholder showing a thin vertical social cohesion fabric of refugees and migrants in Ajdabiya. A consultative or advisory refugee and migrant body, committee, or council that can act as point of contact for different regions of origin and represent refugees and migrants' interest can be effective in enhancing participation and representation if its relationship with the municipal council, tribal councils, and Mukhtars are institutionalised.<sup>114</sup>

**Livelihood findings suggested that opportunities for men and women in Ajdabiya are significantly different.** 75% of Libyans in the individual interview reported working, however, men were more likely to report working within public security such as police, military, etc., while women were more likely to report working in home-based income generating activities. Further research into the skills gaps of men and women and cultural barriers in the labour market in Libya are needed in order for assistance to effectively support the wider integration of both female and male Libyans into the labour market.

Findings suggested that Libyans relying on vulnerable livelihood opportunities appear to be living in Zouitina. Overall, 20% of Libyans in the individual interviews reported they rely on government subsidies as their main source of income, while 46% of respondents in Zouitina reported this. Of those, 90% reported relying on the Basic Assistance Grant. Applicants for this grant have to present documentation for registration at the SSolF office on Tripoli Street in downtown Ajdabiya (see [Map 3](#)). Access to social protection systems in Ajdabiya could be expanded with an online database for the SSolF and SSecF such that application processes would be smoother and that displaced access to physical documentation will not be a cause of exclusion for access to social services. Integration of an online database would also provide the SSolF and

SSecF with a solid base for needs analysis and provide better targeted services for vulnerable population groups. However, the social workers at the SSolF were reportedly lacking training and computer literacy skills to be able to push forward implementation of such development plans. Thus, social workers are in need of technological capacity development to implement digital transformation and enhanced implementation of social protection systems in Ajdabiya.

Findings on refugee and migrant livelihoods highlighted that most refugees and migrants are working in Ajdabiya. Refugees and migrants work within vocational professions such as carpentry, electricity, plumbing, construction, and the service industry. This aligns with previous research which has highlighted the reliance of the Libyan economy on refugee and migrant workers to balance out labour deficiencies in key economic sectors<sup>115</sup>. Similarly, the working conditions of these jobs were found to be categorised as dangerous and containing physical risks, while at the same time providing little predictability or knowledge of income source. This well describes other research on refugees and migrants' unstable forms of livelihood activities and limited to no access to protection<sup>116</sup>. Coupled with the non-existent legal framework safeguarding refugees and migrants' rights in Libya<sup>117</sup>, refugees and migrants are inherently outside of any national or local governance mechanisms as well as union's support network. Thus, greater attention needs to be paid to refugee and migrant workers working conditions in Ajdabiya, and assistance should target improving these conditions to further support integration of refugees and migrants in decent employment that continue to make important contributions to Ajdabiya's local economy.

Findings on key service accessibility and operationality suggested that the distribution of education and health facilities as well as access to the public sewage and electricity network in Ajdabiya follow the urban expansion of the city. Thus, majority of services are concentrated in downtown Ajdabiya with few, or none located in Zouitina and Sultan El Janoubi and El Chamali. Especially, **the expansion of number of schools to decrease the pupil-teacher ratio, providing teaching materials, and further developing the capacities of teacher through trainings should be main education priorities.**

Furthermore, the healthcare challenges reported such poor quality healthcare, lack

113 REACH Initiative and United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), "Access to Cash and the Impact of the Liquidity Crisis on Refugees and Migrants in Libya." 2018

114 Council of Europe, "Migrant Representation & Participation Bodies in the Intercultural City: Key Considerations & Principles."

115 REACH Initiative and United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), "Access to Cash and the Impact of the Liquidity Crisis on Refugees and Migrants in Libya." 2018

116 The New Humanitarian, "In Libya, Hard Economic Times Force Migrant Workers to Look Elsewhere." 2019

117 United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) and Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), "Desperate and Dangerous: Report on the Human Rights Situation of Migrants and Refugees in Libya." 2018

of medicines at the health facilities, lack of trust in health workers, unable to afford health services, and long waiting times at health facilities are not unique to Ajdabiya. These health challenges have been reported as main challenges in other research as well as consistently over the last years, which further highlight the systemic healthcare problems that Libya continue to face<sup>118119120121</sup>. However, **actors interested in addressing these health challenges at a local level for medium-term assistance should look into the neighbourhood differences reported between downtown Ajdabiya, Zouitina, and Sultan El Janoubi and El Chamalia.**

Sewage systems in Libya are generally dysfunctional resulting in accumulation of wastewater in the streets, which constitute a serious health risk for citizens<sup>122</sup>. The situation in Ajdabiya resemble the national situation to a large extent with 45% of Libyans nationally being connected to the sewage network and 41% of respondents in the Libyan individual survey reported being connected to the public sewage network. This however widely differed depending on the muhallahs of respondents. 64% of respondents in the Libyan individual survey residing in Zouitina reported being connected to the public sewage network, while 32% of respondents in downtown Ajdabiya, and 37% of respondents in Sultan El Janoubi and El Chamali. **Sewage infrastructural development projects could thus provide targeted assistance with repairs and expansions of the sewage system to Zouitina to provide assistance to most needed households.**

Last, electricity outages are a common problem in Libya. Electricity cuts were also identified as a problem in Ajdabiya, where 73% of respondents in the Libyan individual survey reported they experience electricity cuts during peak periods such as during the summer. However, the length of electricity cuts varies across the municipality with longest periods of electricity outages being reported in Sultan El Janoubi and El Chamali (see [Figure 2](#)). Thus, **providing an opportunity for targeted assistance through e.g., alternative renewable electricity generators to households in most affected muhallahs.**

**In conclusion**, the SBA findings illustrate the need for improved service infrastructure in Ajdabiya across education, health, sewage, and electricity. It also highlights the need for more progressive integration of the refugee and migrant population into lo-

cal governance dynamics and more decent work opportunities considering the Libyan economy's need for refugees and migrants in key economic sectors and the long-term refugees and migrants in Ajdabiya. The assessment furthermore shed light on how strengthening of vertical and horizontal social cohesion in Ajdabiya are needed to ensure inter-tribal trust, improvement of the trust in the legal systems, and confidence in local formal governance representation. This can be done by facilitating processes that identify shared priorities for local development and support collaborative solutions to key challenges.

118 Ter Veen, "Service Availability and Readiness Assessment (SARA) of the Public Health Facilities in Libya." 2018

119 REACH Initiative, "Abu Salim Area-Based Assessment (ABA), 2021."

120 REACH Initiative, "Ubari Area-Based Assessment (ABA), 2021."

121 REACH Initiative, "Sebha Area-Based Assessment (ABA), 2020."

122 IMPACT Initiatives, United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), and WASH Cluster, "Overview - Wash Severity Classification Light." 2022

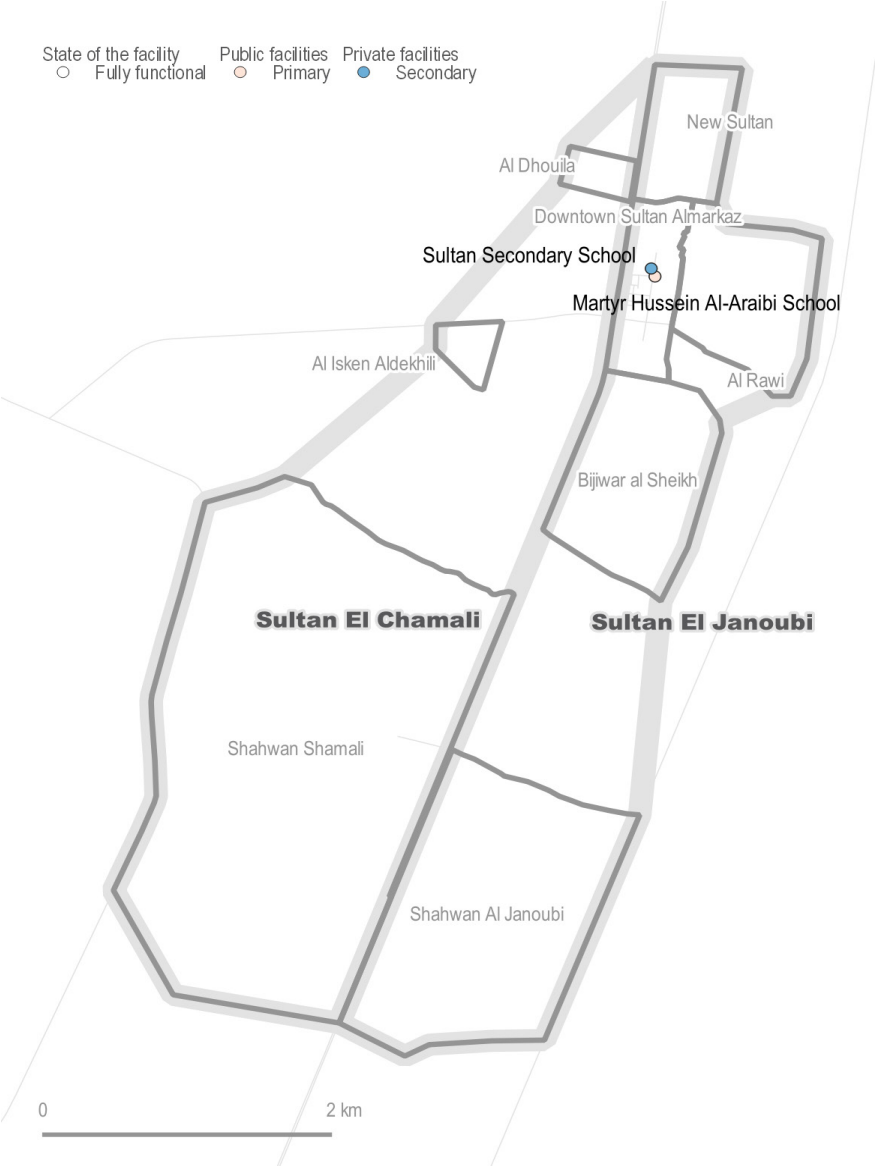
# 5. ANNEXES

## Annex 1: Maps

Map 9: Overview of public offices and roads in Zouitina

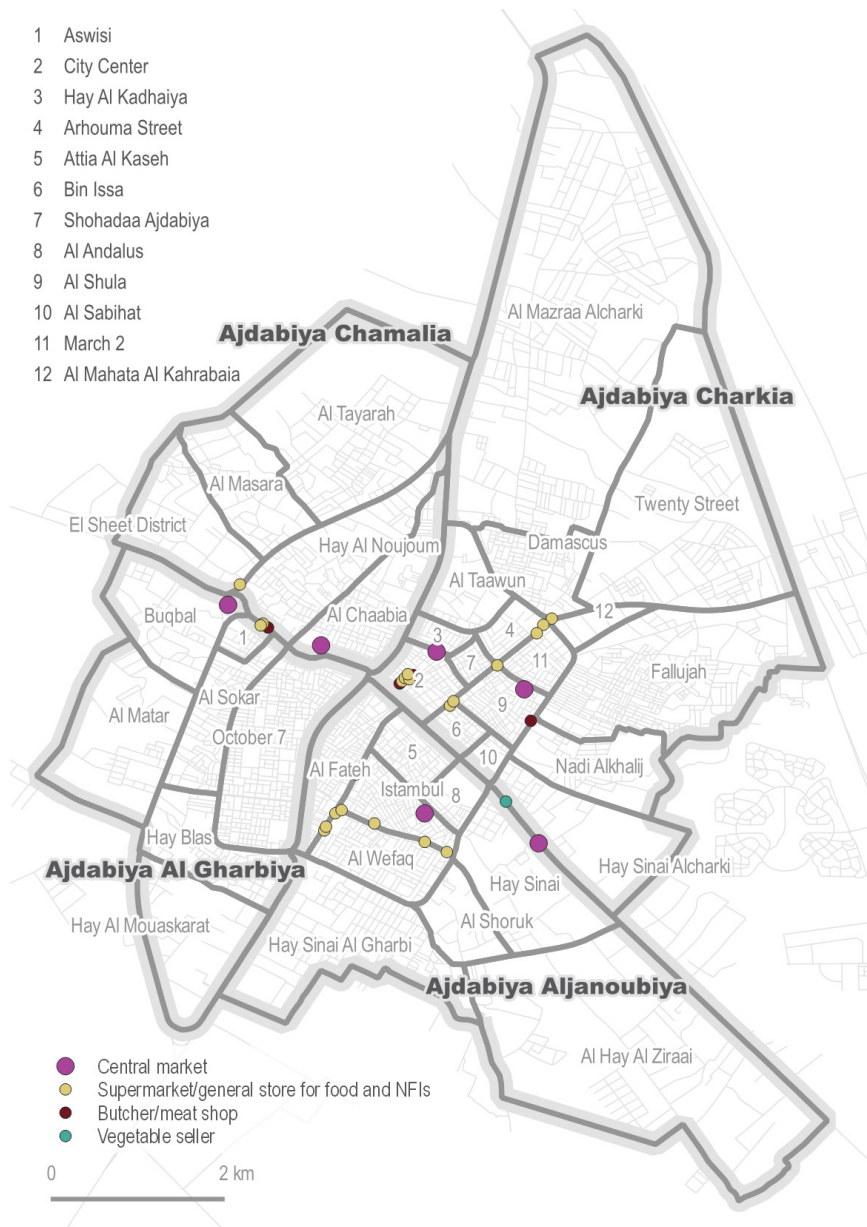


Map 10: Overview of public offices and roads in Sultan El Janoubi and El Chamali

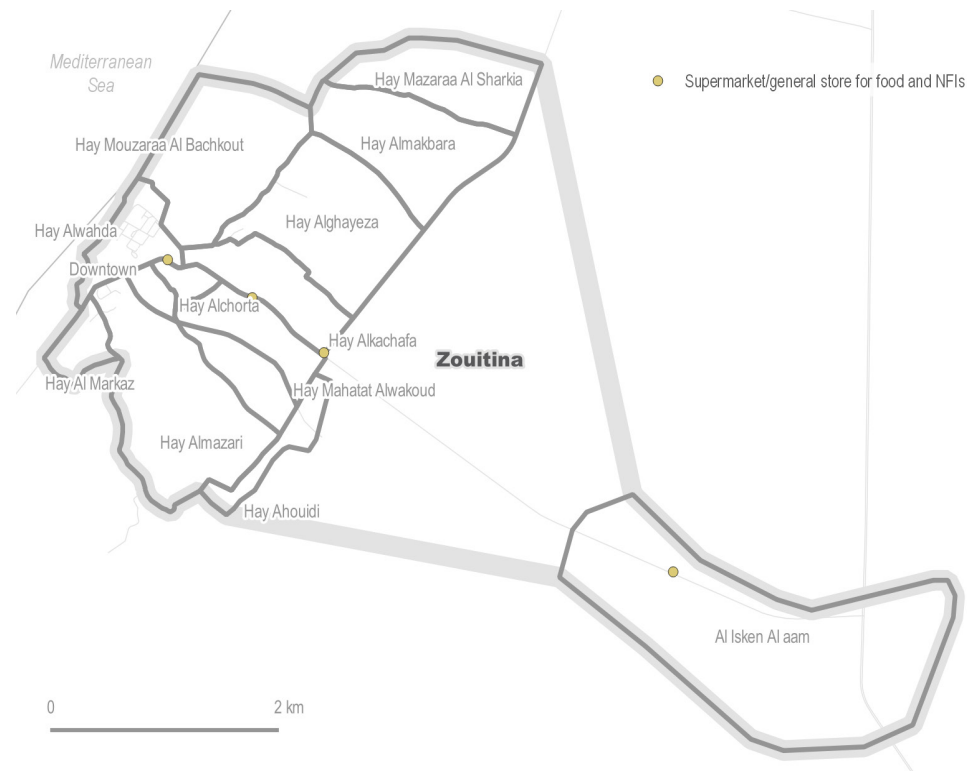




Map 11: Commercial areas in downtown Ajdabiya



Map 12: Commercial areas in Zouitina



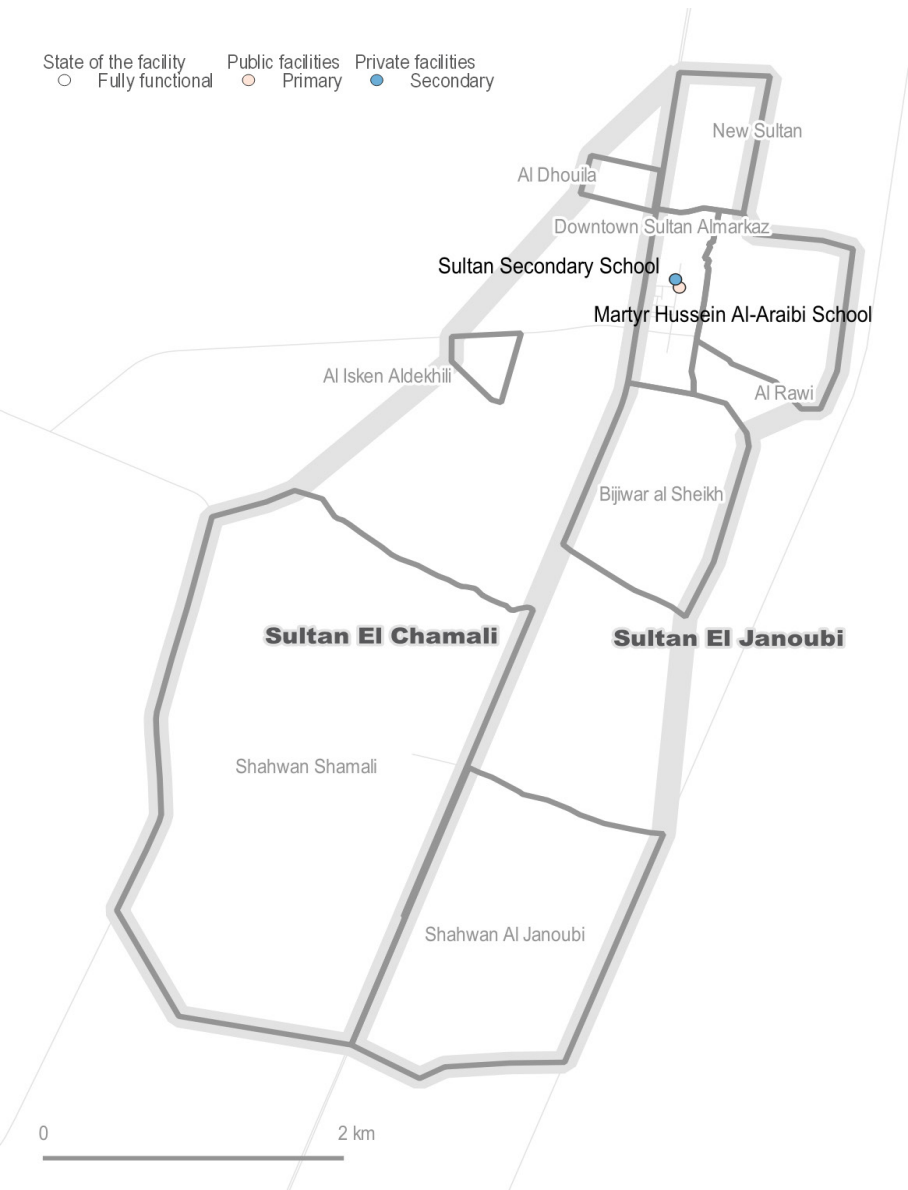
Map 13: Commercial areas in Sultan El Janoubi and El Chamali



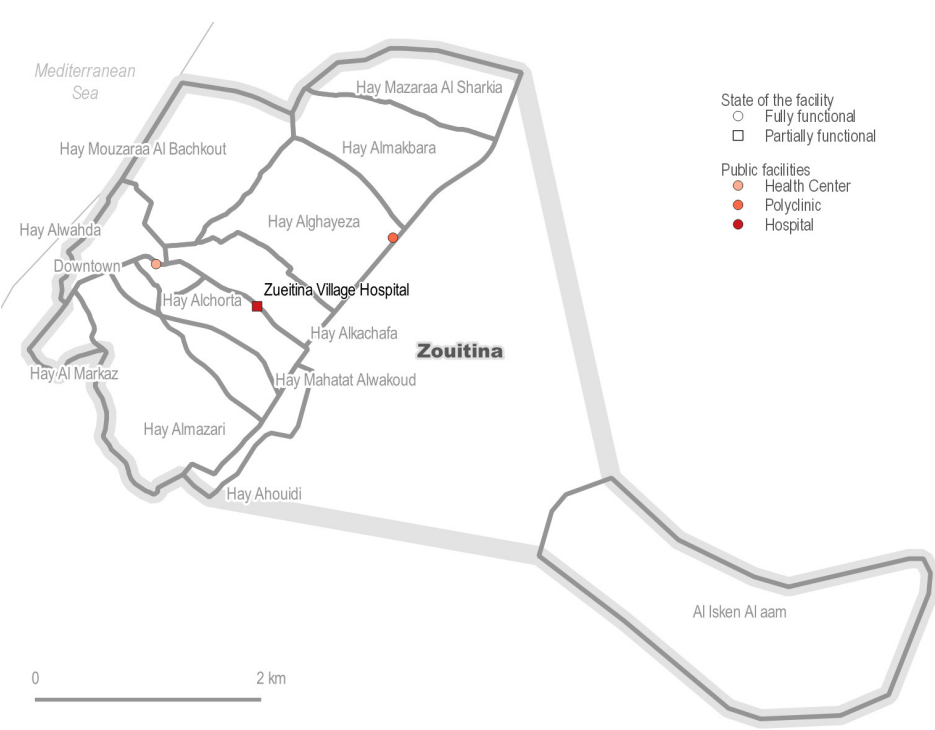
Map 14: Education facilities in Zouitina



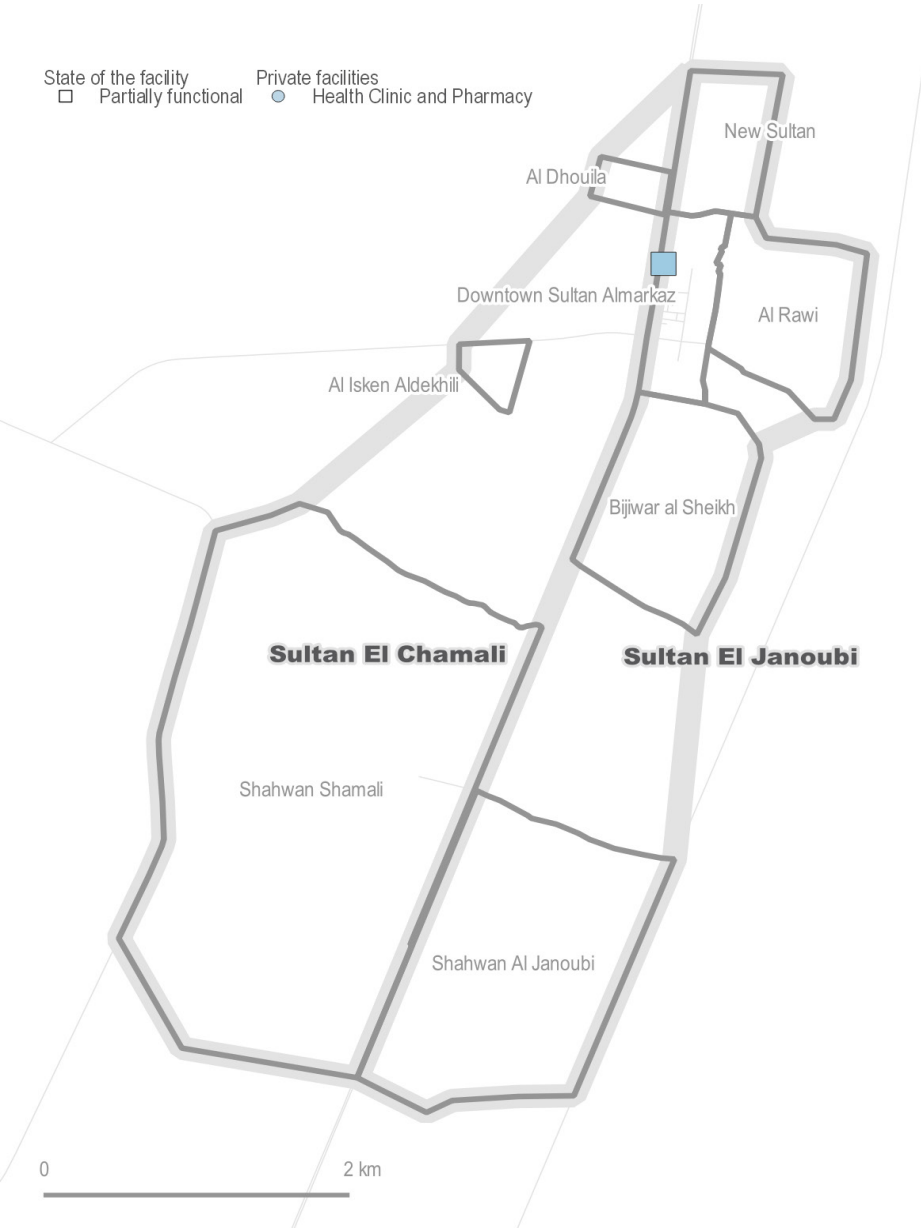
Map 15: Education facilities in Sultan El Janoubi and El Chamali



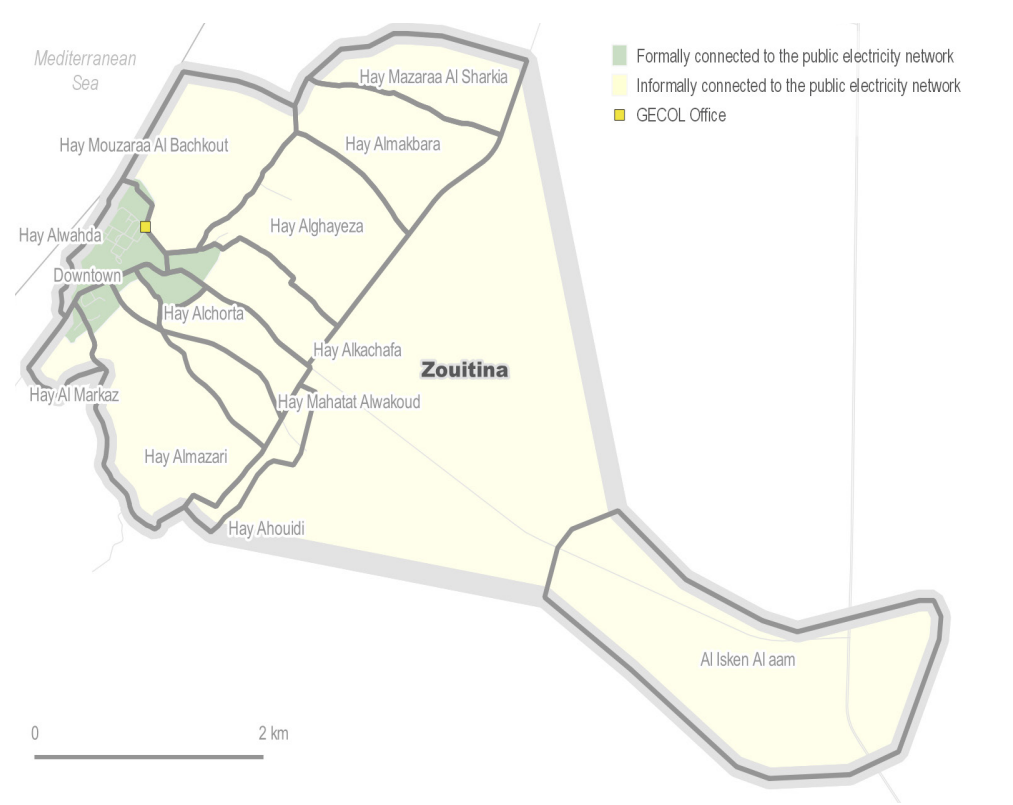
Map 16: Health facilities in Zouitina



Map 17: Health facilities in in Sultan El Janoubi and El Chamali



Map 18: Electricity network in Zouitina



**Map 19: Electricity network in Sultan El Janoubi and El Chamali**



**Annex 2: Overview of tools used for data collection**

**Table 14: Overview of tools used for primary data collection**

Label	Method	Objective	Structure	# of surveys/ interviews/ discussions	Population of interest	Sam- pling
City-level Mapping FGD	Mapping FGD	Delineate city, muhallah, and neighbour- hood boundaries  Identify key service infra structure in the city	Semi-struc- tured	1	Ajdabiya citi- zens	Purpo- sive
Direct ob- servations	Direct ob- servations of service infra structure	Identify key service infra structure in the city	Structured	187	Infrastructures	Purposi- ve
Service FGD: Health	City_level FGD	Assess health services, iden- tify challenges regarding provision and access, docu- ment priorities and develop- ment plans	Semi-struc- tured	3	Health experts and service providers  Ajdabiya citizens and refugees and migrants	Purposi- ve and snow balling



Service FGD: Education	City-level FGD	Assess education services, identify challenges regarding provision and access, document priorities and development plans	Semi-structured	3	Education administrators service providers  Ajdabiya citizens and refugees and migrants	Purposive & snowballing	Livelihoods KIIs	City-level MKII with experts	Assess the livelihoods opportunities available for refugees and migrants in Ajdabiya and their locations	Semi-structured	13	Refugee and migrant Livelihood Experts Refugees and migrants	Purposive & snowballing
Service FGD: Social protection systems	City-level FGD	Assess protection and social services, identify challenges regarding provision and access, document priorities and development plans	Semi-structured	2	Social workers in the MoSA, SSolF, SSecF  Ajdabiya citizens	Purposive & snowballing	Local governance KIIs	City-level KII with experts	Identify inter-linkage between formal and traditional governance mechanisms on a city and neighbourhood level, development priorities according to governance stakeholders, and security and justice mechanisms	Semi-structured	23	Municipal council members (7), mukhtars (8), and tribal/community leaders (8) Ajdabiya citizens and refugees and migrants	Purposive & snowballing. Quota: 1 per muhalah
Service KIIs: Social protection, services, and livelihoods	City-level KIIs	Assess protection and social services, identify challenges regarding provision and access	Semi-structured	3	Protection Experts Refugees and migrants	Purposive & snowballing	Local governance FGD	City-level FGD with female CSO leaders	Identify inter-linkage between formal and traditional governance mechanisms on a city and neighbourhood level from a gender perspective	Semi-structured	1	Female community leaders Ajdabiya citizens	Purposive & snowballing.
Livelihoods KIIs	City-level MKII with experts	Assess the types of livelihoods opportunities available for Ajdabiya citizens and their locations	Semi-structure	4	Incubation centres, business associations, and the labour office Ajdabiya citizens	Purposive & snowballing							

Libyan, individual interviews	City-level Individual Interview	Assess perceptions of access to and operationality of services, livelihoods, and prevalence of use and trust in identified decision-making and protection mechanisms, assess trust in key institutions	Structured tool	385	Ajdabiya citizens	Randomized quota sampling per data collection unit with a 95% confidence level and 10% margin of error
Refugees and migrants, individual interviews	City-level Individual Interview	Assess perceptions of access to and operationality of services, livelihoods, and prevalence of use and trust in identified decision-making and protection mechanisms, assess trust in key institutions	Structured tool	200	Refugees and migrants	Quota: A 20 individuals' minimum quota for East African Minimum non-probability quota sampling

### Annex 3: Overview of sample sizes

**Table 15: Overview of individual interview population numbers and sample size, Libyans**

	Displaced (Returnees and IDPs)			NDs			Total		
	Population	Sample		Population	Sample		Population	Sample	
<b>Data Collection Unit 1: Peri-urban</b> Sultan El Chamali Sultan El Janoubi	1.150	13	25%	3.804	82	25%	4.954	95	25%
<b>Data Collection Unit 2:</b> Urban Ajdabiya Charkia, Al-janoubiya, Chamalia, and Al Gharbiya	10.806	19	36%	118.951	175	52%	129.757	194	50%
<b>Data Collection Unit 3:</b> Peri-urban Zouitina	650	21	40%	5.022	75	23%	5.672	92	25%

**Table 16: Overview of individual interviews population numbers and sample size, refugees and migrants**

Ajdabiya	West and Central Africa			East Africa			MENA			Southern Asia		
	Popu- tion	Sam- ple		Popu- lation	Sample		Popu- lation	Sample		Popula- tion	Sam- ple	
	12.530	80	40%	997	20	10%	19.651	80	40%	2.720	20	10%

#### Annex 4: Classification of countries by regions of origin

The classification of the countries of origin of refugee and migrant respondents by different regions of origin apply the UN Statistics Division standard composition of geographical regions, with a few noteworthy deviations: i) Western Africa and Middle Africa are considered jointly as "West and Central Africa"; ii) Northern Africa and specific countries from Western Asia are classified as "MENA"; iii) All countries that fall outside of the categories of "West and Central Africa", "East Africa", and "MENA" are classified as "Southern Asia". The rationale for these deviations is based on characters specific to the refugee and migrant population in Libya, identified through literature review, including the relevance of the Arabic language and ethnicity as a factor conducive to integration and easier access to services; the similarity of needs and profiles between Western and Central Africa individuals; as well as the relatively small numbers of individuals from any other regions identified by the UN Statistical Division. [Table 17](#) outline the classification of countries of origin by regions of origin used for the purpose of the SBA Ajdabiya sampling.

**Table 17: Classification of countries by regions of origin**

West and Central Africa	East Africa	MENA	Southern Asia
Burkina Faso	Eritrea	Algeria	Bangladesh
Cameroon	Ethiopia	Egypt	Pakistan
Chad	Kenya	Iraq	
Gambia	Somalia	Morocco	
Ghana	South Sudan	Palestine	

Guinea	Zambia	Syria	
Côte d'Ivoire		Tunisia	
Mali		Yemen	
Mauritania			
Niger			
Nigeria			
Senegal			
Sudan			
Togo			

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