2021 MSNA BULLETIN

Libyan Population
November 2021

MULTI-SECTOR NEEDS ASSESSMENT (MSNA) OVERVIEW

Since 2011, Libya has experienced several waves of fighting, and the complex socio-political landscape has given way to an increasingly protracted conflict. The latter part of 2020 and most of 2021 have been characterized by continuous peace-building and unification efforts, built on the peace agreement reached in October 2020.[1] The agreement set in motion a peace process that is set to culminate in elections in December 2021.[2] Despite the persistent efforts, the security landscape in Libya remains fragmented, with the continued proliferation of armed non-state groups as well as localized clashes.[3,4] The protracted nature of the conflict has additionally resulted in significant losses in national income, productivity, and consumption.[5] In the areas that have been most affected by conflict, returns of displaced households are hindered by continuing security issues, lack of social cohesion, and infrastructure issues. As of June 2021, 42,506 families were found to be displaced, and 128,519 families were found to have returned to their area of origin.[6] Crucial humanitarian information gaps for displaced and non-displaced populations remain in Libya, as the political, economic and social landscapes are constantly evolving. REACH, on behalf of the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT), the Inter-Sector Coordination Group (ISCG) and the Assessment Working Group (AWG) conducted an MSNA to inform humanitarian actors' understanding of the needs that exist in the country.

Methodology. Quantitative data was collected through a household-level survey conducted remotely by phone to assess the three sub-groups of interest: 1) internally displaced persons (IDPs), 2) returnees, and 3) non-displaced Libyans. Data collection took place between 14 June and 2 August 2021, with 8,871 households surveyed across 45 baladiyas. Sampling was primarily purposive with quotas for each population group in each baladiya, rendering findings that are indicative, rather than representative, of each population groups' experiences and situation in each baladiya. Purposive convenience sampling through partner networks was supplemented with a sampling frame based on Random Digit Dialing (RDD), in an effort to minimize the bias associated with purposive sampling. 1,010 surveys were completed using this methodology within the data collection timeframe. Please see the Methodology Annex for more details.

ASSESSMENT SCOPE AND GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE

This bulletin contains the key inter-sectoral findings from the quantitative data. Sectoral findings will additionally be presented in factsheets that will be published around December 2021. More in-depth analysis of quantitative and qualitative data will be shared in the report that will be published in early 2022. All publications related to this project can be found here.

1. "Keeping a Libya Settlement on Track," International Crisis Group, 29/1/2021.
2. "Elections represent an opportunity for stability and unity in Libya," United Nations News, 10/9/2021.
3. Wilson, N. and Abouaoun, D., "On the road to peace, Libya makes progress but has pitfalls," United States Institute of Peace, 14/7/2021.
4. Alumami, Ahmed, "Worst Tripoli Fighting in a year shows limits of Libya peace push," Reuters, 3/9/2021.
5. United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UNESCWA), "The economic cost of the Libyan conflict," 13/9/2021.
6. IOM-DTM Libya, "IDP and returnee Report Round 37".

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MULTI-SECTOR NEEDS INDEX (MSNI): CRISIS-LEVEL SEVERITY

Percentage of households per severity phase:

In need

4 (Extreme)	17%
3 (Severe)	34%
2 (Stress)	12%
1 (None/minimal)	37%

The MSNI is a composite indicator, designed to measure the overall severity of humanitarian needs of a household. It is based on the highest sectoral severity identified for each household and expressed through a scale of 1 to 4. Sectoral severity is determined through the calculation of sector-specific composite indicators. The full methodology behind the calculation of the MSNI and individual sectoral composites, in accordance with the REACH MSNA Analytical Framework Guidance, can be found in the Methodology Annex.

HOUSEHOLDS IN NEED BY GEOGRAPHICAL AREA

Percentage of households with an MSNI severity of 3 or higher, per baladiya:

Legend:
- ○ <20 %
- 20 - 39 %
- 40 - 59 %
- 60 - 79 %
- ● >80 %
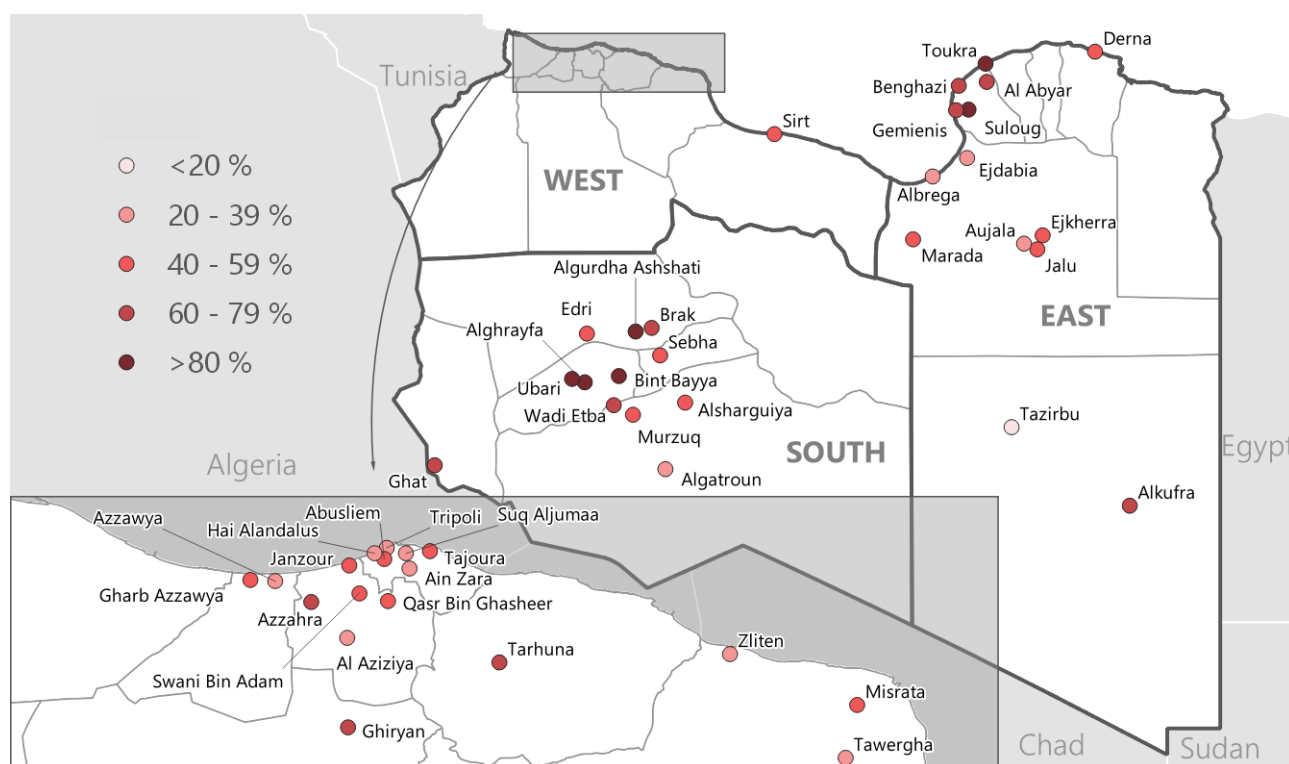
MSNI SEVERITY PHASE BY POPULATION GROUP AND REGION

Percentage of households per severity phase, by group and region:

	4	3	2	1
IDP	26%	25%	9%	40%
Non-displaced	15%	35%	12%	39%
Returnee	27%	36%	12%	25%
East	20%	41%	11%	28%
South	23%	44%	20%	14%
West	14%	30%	11%	45%

Returnees were the group found to have the highest proportion of households with multi-sectoral needs (MSNI score 3+), with 63% of assessed households found to be in need. Returnees were also the group found to have the highest percentage of households with extreme needs (MSNI score 4) (27%), followed by IDPs (26%).

The South was the region found to have the highest proportion of households with multi-sectoral needs (MSNI score 3+), with 67% of assessed households found to be in need. In particular, 23% of households in the South were found to have an extreme needs (MSNI score 4).

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UNPACKING THE MSNI: AREAS AND GROUPS WITH THE HIGHEST NEEDS

- The highest proportion of assessed households in need (MSNI of 3+) were found in the South (67%), followed by the East (61%) and the West (44%). **The five baladiyas found to have the highest proportion of households in need were: Ubari (93% of households), Alghrayfa (91%), Suloug (87%), Algurdha Ashshati (82%), and Bint Bayya (81%).** Notably, four of these baladiyas are located in the South (Ubari, Alghrayfa, Alghurdha Ashshati, and Bint Bayya). Ubari, Alghrayfa, and Bint Bayya are all located in Ubari mantika. Suloug is located in Benghazi mantika in the East.

- The highest proportion of households with extreme needs (MSNI of 4) were found in the Southern region (23% of households). **The five baladiyas with the highest proportion of households with extreme needs were Tarhuna (58% of assessed households), Suloug (52%), Gemienis (45%), Toukra (39%), and Alkufra (37%).**[7] Surprisingly, none of these baladiyas are located in the South. All listed baladiyas are in the East, with the exception of Tarhuna which is in the West. These

baladiyas appear to be outliers in the regions primarily due to especially high needs within one single sector. For Tarhuna, for example, 47% of assessed households were found to have extreme Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) needs. **In the East, the outlying findings are primarily based on extreme food security needs.**[8] At the regional level, extreme needs were most commonly found in the South due to relatively high percentages of households with extreme needs across all baladiyas, as opposed to in some locations only.

- Returnees were the population group with the highest proportion of households in need (63% of assessed households) and with the highest proportion of households with extreme needs (27%).

- **Overall, 91% of assessed returnee households in the South were found to be in need.** This was particularly high in Ubari baladiya, where 96% of returnee households were found to be in need. **In the East, 82% of IDP households were found to be in need**, compared to 72% of returnee households.

UNDERSTANDING KEY DRIVERS AND VULNERABILITIES

- **The sector found to have the highest proportion of households with needs was protection, with 23% of assessed households found to have protection needs**.[9] Protection needs were primarily driven by documentation issues, as 17% of households reported that not all members were in possession of a valid ID. Moreover, 24% of households reported safety concerns, with 14% reporting concerns for armed conflict.

- **The second most commonly found need was health (20% of households)**, followed by food security (13%), shelter and non-food items (SNFI) (12%), education (8%) and WASH (7%). While WASH was the sector with the lowest proportion of households with needs, it was the sector with the highest proportion of households with extreme needs (6%).

- Overall, **63% of assessed households reported to have used or exhausted coping strategies classified as crisis or emergency strategies in the 30 days prior

to data collection in order to meet basic needs.**[10] The most commonly reported coping strategy was taking an additional job (44%).

- Moreover, **37% of assessed households reported to have used or exhausted coping strategies and were found to have at least one sectoral need**, indicating that they were unable to meet their basic needs despite the use of coping mechanisms.

- Economic vulnerabilities were commonly found, with **17% of households reporting that no members were working.** An additional 17% reported relying on income from temporary jobs or daily labour. Overall, 53% of households reported having been unable to afford basic needs in the 30 days prior to the survey.

- The table below indicates that **sectoral needs do not commonly co-occur.** The most common profiles are all single needs. For example, 7% of IDP households only have a food security need, and no other sectoral needs.

Most common needs profiles, overall and by population group:

Population group	Education	Food Security	Health	WASH	Protection	SNFI
Overall (10%)[11]					▬	
IDP (7%)		▬				
Non-displaced (11%)					▬	
Returnee (9%)					▬	

7. Suloug, Gemienis, and Toukra are located in Benghazi in the East. Alkufra is in Alkufra mantika in the East. Tarhuna is in Almargeb in the West.

8. 30% of households in Gemienes, 33% of households in Suloug, 25% of households in Toukra, and 10% of households in Alkufra were found to have extreme food security needs. Extreme needs in Alkufra were additionally driven by extreme WASH needs (11%).

9. Sectoral needs are calculated using the Living Standard Gaps (LSGs), which are composite indicators designed to measure the sector-specific severity and magnitude of needs for each humanitarian sector included in the MSNA. LSGs are the analytical building blocks for producing the overall MSNI.

10. The information on coping strategies is taken from the Livelihoods Coping Strategies Index (LCSI). Strategies classified as crisis or emergency are: selling productive assets; reducing expenses on health; taking an additional job; engaging in illegal labour, child labour, and selling house or land.

11. The figures noted in brackets in this table reflect the percentage of households with the most prevalent needs profile. The needs profile is the total number of needs per household. In this case, 10% of households overall have only a protection need and no additional sectoral needs.

ACCOUNTABILITY TO AFFECTED POPULATIONS (AAP)

- Among the 14% of households that reported having received aid in the 6 months prior to data collection, the majority (72%) reported having received in-kind assistance (such as food, water, medicines, shelter), while 17% reported having received cash assistance.

- **Overall, 44% of households reported having faced barriers to accessing humanitarian assistance in the 6 months prior to data collection.** The most commonly reported barrier was aid being unavailabe or households being unaware of aid in their baladiya, as reported by 27% of households. This barrier was especially commonly reported by returnee households (34%), and by households in Tazirbu (64%), Qasr Bin Ghasheer (60%), and Alsharguiya (59%). There does not appear to be a strong regional pattern, as these baladiyas are in the East, West, and South respectively.[12] Notably, 73% of IDP households in Tarhuna[13] reported that the mode, time or location of distribution made it difficult for them to access assistance.

76% of households in need (i.e. households with an MSNI severity score of 3 or higher) reported that they **did not receive humanitarian assistance in the 6 months preceding the assessment.**
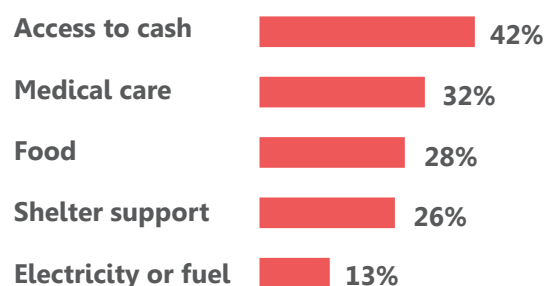
Satisfaction with aid received:

79%
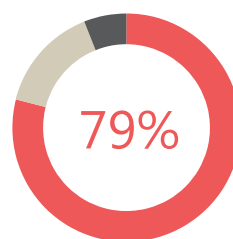
Among the 14% of households who reported having received aid in the 6 months prior to data collection, **79% reported being satisfied**, while 15% reported not to be satisfied with the aid received.[14]

Dissatisfaction with received aid was especially high in Swani Bin Adam (84% of households that had reportedly received aid) and Tarhuna (78% of households that had reportedly received aid). Swani Bin Adam is in Aljfara and Tarhuna is in Almargeb, both located in the West.
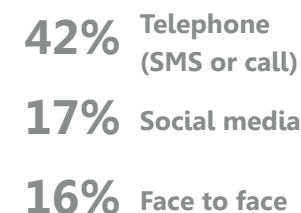
% of households by self-reported priority need:

Access to cash	42%
Medical care	32%
Food	28%
Shelter support	26%
Electricity or fuel	13%

Communication and dissemination:

Preferred channels for giving feedback:[15]

15% **Face to face with aid worker in office**

15% **Phone call**

12% **Face to face with aid worker at home**

Preferred channels for receiving information about assistance:[16]

42% Telephone (SMS or call)

17% Social media

16% Face to face

% of households that reported being dissatisfied with the behaviour of aid workers in their baladiya:

Legend:
- ○ <20 %
- ● 20 - 39 %
- ● 40 - 59 %
- ● 60 - 79 %
- ● >80 %
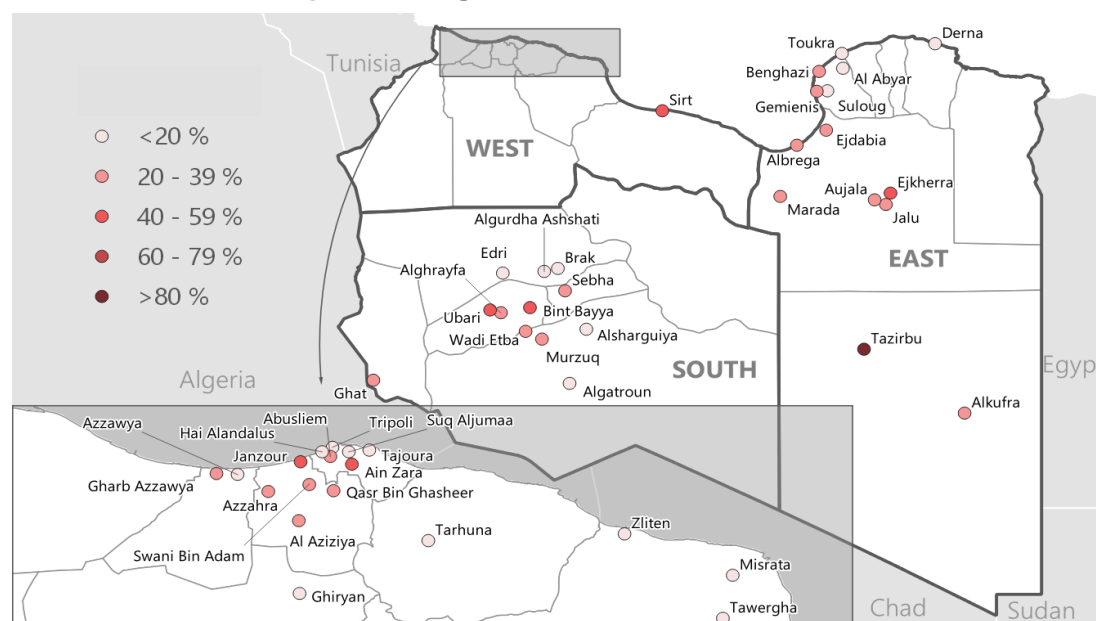
12. Tazirbu is in Alkufra in the East, Qasr Bin Ghasheer is in Aljfara in the West, and Alsharguiya is in Murzuq in the South.
13. Tarhuna is in Almargeb in the West.
14. 6% of households that received aid answered 'prefer not to answer' or 'don't know' to the satisfaction question.
15. 38% of households reported not wanting to give feedback.
16. 23% of households reported not wanting to receive information, or not having a preference for any specific modality.

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منظمة حقول حرة

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