

Family demography of refugees and migrants in Libya

2,496 refugees and migrants were interviewed by 4Mi in Libya between 16 May 2017 and 4 July 2018. Respondents are from **20 nationalities** from East, Central Africa¹ and West Africa², with the largest number of respondents being from West Africa (73%).³

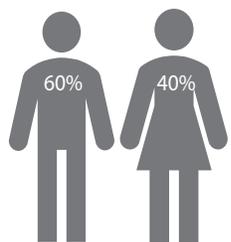


Figure1: Gender of respondents

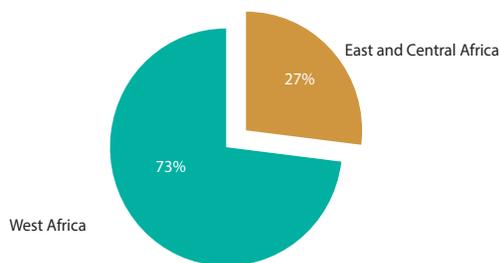


Figure2: Interviewees by nationality

Marital Status and family reunification

59% of the 2,496 refugees and migrants interviewed are single, of which 61% men and 39% women. 37% are married, of which 63% men and 37% women, while a minority of 4% are divorced or widowed.

Out of the total, 43% report having or being accompanied by children.

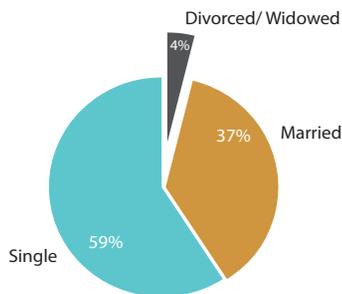


Figure3: Marital status

Of these, 78% are married, 22% are single parents: either not married, divorced/separated or widowed.

Over half of the 1,077 respondents with children, report having one child, 41% have between 2 to 4 children while only 3% report having 5 children or more.

In addition, of the 619 men and 458 women respondents with children, a greater percentage of women (37%) compared to men (33%) express the desire to bring additional family members to the country of destination.

On the other hand, a greater percentage of men (30%), compared to women (20%) is in favour of bringing additional family members to the country of destination only if conditions allow it. In total a third of men and women respondents do not wish to bring family members at their destination country⁴.

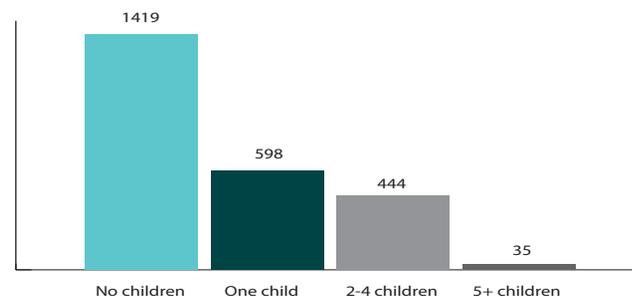


Figure4: Number of respondents reporting having children

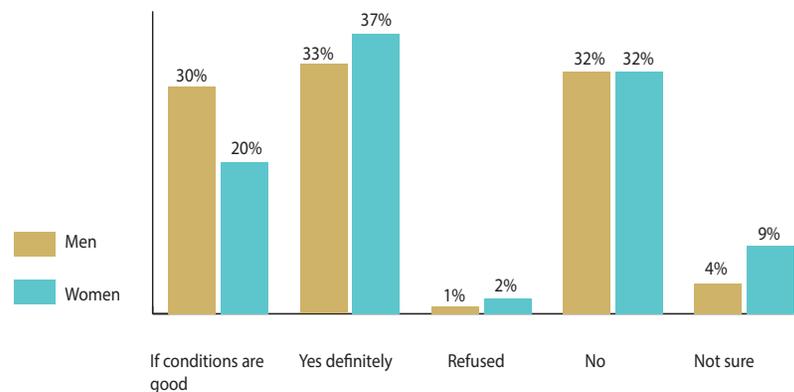


Figure5: Do you intend to eventually bring additional family members to your country of destination?

1 Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Somalia, Sudan
 2 Benin, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Togo
 3 A broad diversity of nationalities and ethnicities are present and/or transiting through Libya at any given time. 4Mi puts particular attention to most vulnerable groups. This intended 'bias' allows 4Mi to capture specific vulnerabilities faced by targeted marginalised groups recently arrived in Libya.

4 4Mi data shows that 50% of respondents mentioned Libya as their country of destination

Unaccompanied children

31% of interviewees report encountering children travelling along migratory routes.

The majority of the children were seen travelling in groups together with adults. However, in 22% of cases children were seen travelling alone or in groups of unaccompanied minors. In addition, 146 cases of detention of children have been reported to 4Mi out of 296 detention cases.

Of the 1068 respondents that confirm seeing children on the move, 73% report that children represent less than 25% of the total number of people travelling. One out of four persons report a percentage of 25 to 50%, while only a minority (1%) report encountering a proportion of children above 50%.

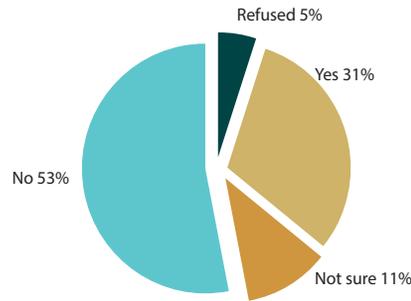


Figure6: During your journey, have you seen any migrant children under 18 traveling?

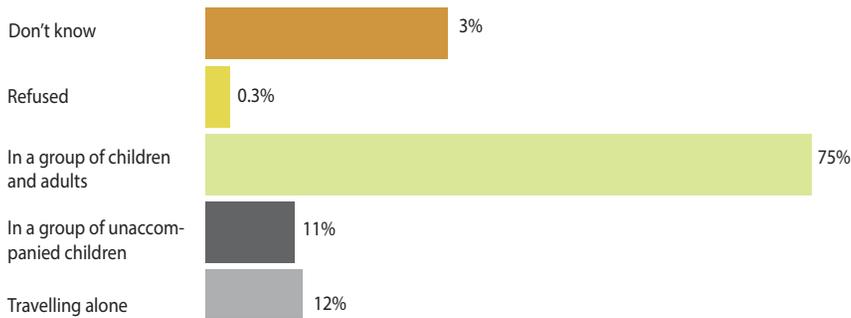


Figure7: Were the children traveling together or alone?

Protection risks

Refugees and migrants face high levels of violence, extortion and exploitation along the journey. Of the 2,496 respondents, 76% experience one or more protection incidents along the way, reporting a total of 2,400 cases, including sexual and physical abuse, arbitrary arrest and detention, robberies and kidnappings or witnessing the death of fellow refugees and migrants.

Gender vulnerability to protection risks

Sexual abuse is more prevalent among women and was reported by 17% of women interviewed representing 28% of all protection cases cited by women.

In comparison, only 8% of men report sexual abuse cases, representing only 1% of the protection cases encountered by men interviewed in Libya.

However, these figures may be higher as sexual abuse is often underreported. Some victims of sexual abuse may have chosen to either refuse to answer or deny experiencing the incident.

On the other hand, men are more exposed to multiple cases of physical abuse compared to women. Although almost the same percentage of men (22%) compared to women (21%) report encountering physical abuse during their journey, 40% of men report compared to 22% of women report multiple cases of physical abuse. In addition, the percentage of men reporting three or more physical abuse cases is four times higher than for women.

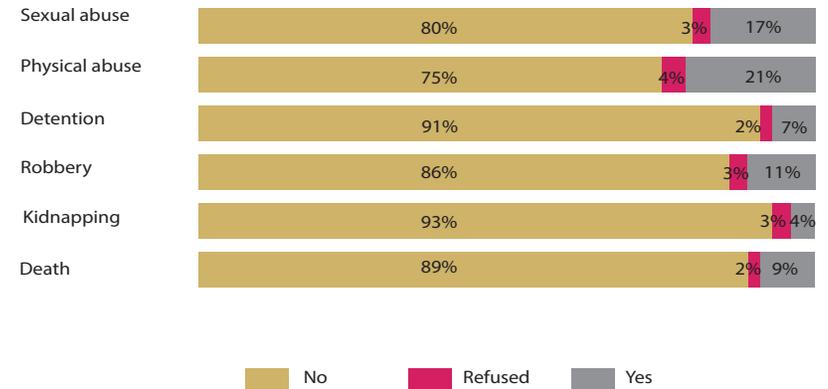


Figure8: Did you witness or experience a protection incident? Women respondents

In general, women are more likely to refuse to answer questions concerning protection violations compared to men. Women are twice as likely to refuse to report on sexual abuse, 2 times more likely to refuse to report on physical abuse and 2 times more likely to refuse to report on kidnapping incidents. However, this data does not capture those respondents who experienced a protection incident but chose to deny it during the interview.

Vulnerability to violence and abuse during the journey does not seem to be linked to marital status as single or married men and women are equally at risk of encountering protection incidents.

Comparing data from women interviewees shows that women from East and Central Africa encountered a greater number of robbery and detention incidents compared to women from Western Africa. Of the 264 women from East and Central Africa interviewed, 21% reported a robbery incident and 13% a detention incident. Of the 90 robbery and detention cases reported by women from Eastern and Central Africa, 92% occurred in Libya and the remaining in Niger, Sudan and Chad.

In comparison, of the 740 Western African Women, 8% reported robberies while 5% a detention incident. Of the 93 robbery and detention cases reported by women from Western Africa, 81% occurred in Libya, 13% in Niger and the remaining 6% in Chad, Algeria and Nigeria.

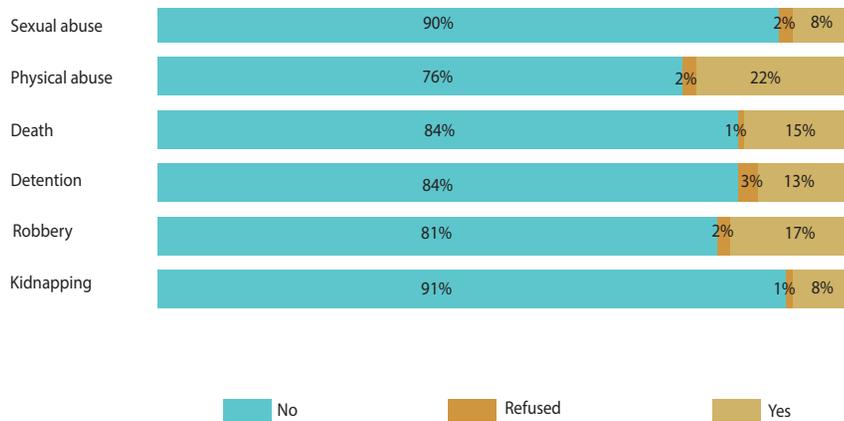


Figure9: Did you witness or experience a protection incident? Men respondents

Push and pull factors

The decision to migrate seems to be part of a broader collective effort: a family affair, suggesting that migration is a household strategy rather than an individual strategy. Family members including parents, siblings, relatives and even spouses all play an important role both in encouraging and assisting individuals to migrate. Encouragement from family members (including parents, siblings, relatives) acts as a main influencing factor on the decision to migrate, among other reasons, for 27% of men and 40% of female interviewed. Adding to this, respondents report social pressure from friends as reason, mentioned by 35% of men and 38% of women.

Almost a fourth of interviewees mention family and friends as the main source of encouragement and of support to start the migration journey. Similarly, a fourth of interviewees who took the decision to migrate alone, still mention family and friends as the main source of material support in helping to start the migration journey. Moreover, 28% of interviewees who were encouraged by family or friends to migrate were helped by smugglers to facilitate the arrangements of the journey and 23% of respondents were encouraged and helped by smugglers to start their migration journey.

While for women the greatest source of encouragement comes from family members, friends and smugglers, men are more likely to take the decision alone.

Different reasons motivate the decision to migrate. 66% of respondents reported a multiplicity of reasons for undertaking the migration journey. Economic insecurities are chief triggering factor for both men and women, cited by 89% of respondents (2230 times) along other factors. Family and personal reasons are also strong drivers for 13% of interviewees and importantly, the perception that "everyone else had left" was also cited by 14% of respondents.

Although job insecurity, unemployment and financial worries are the prime drivers for migration for men, women mention lack of rights in their country of origin, lack of services and poor governance and family reasons as main push factor to migrate.

Who helped you to start your migration journey?

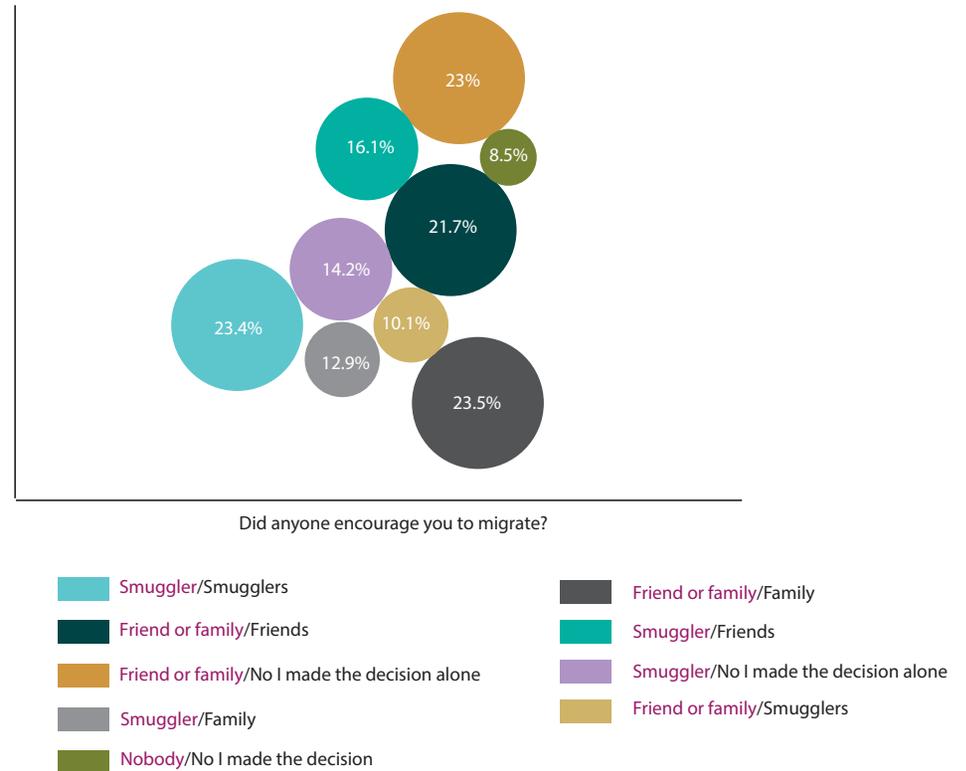


Figure10: Cross-analysis of support and encouragement actors to the interviewees' migration journey