

This 4Mi snapshot explores the motivations and drivers that prompt refugees and migrants to leave their home countries and move to and through Libya. This snapshot assumes a regional focus to shed light on drivers along different mixed migration routes, asking What are the key determinants of mixed migration from East Africa, West Africa and Central Africa to and through Libya.<sup>1</sup>

### Profiles

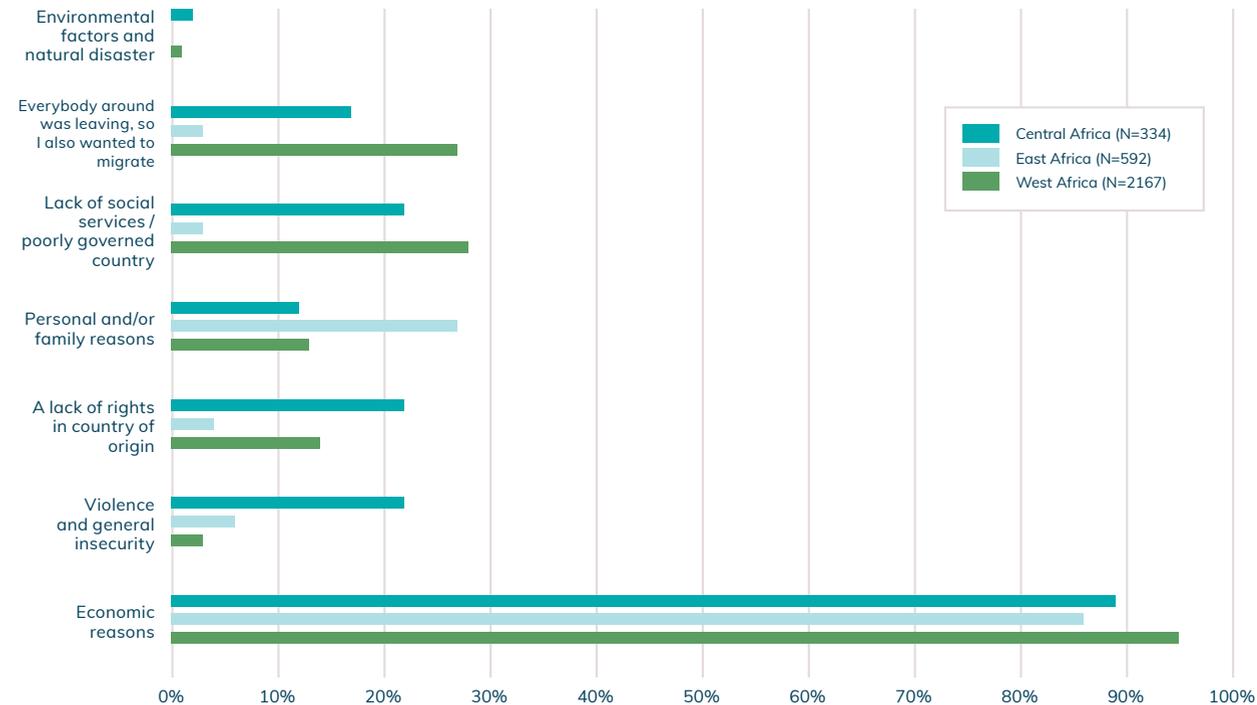
In 2018, 4Mi interviewed 3,095 refugees and migrants, of which 54% were men and 46% women. Some 2,167 respondents were from countries in West Africa, 592 from East Africa, and 334 from Central Africa.

### Economic drivers are most-cited across regions of origin

According to 4Mi data, the distribution of respondents' reasons for moving across borders is relatively consistent across the three regions, as shown in Figure 1. Economic concerns are by far the most-cited driver of mixed migration to and through Libya, reported by 93% of all interviewees. A minority of respondents referred to causes directly linked to forced displacement such as violence and general insecurity (6%) and a lack of rights (13%) in the origin country. The least-cited of the drivers were those related to environmental factors, including natural disasters. Roughly 1% of respondents reported leaving their origin countries because of environmental conditions, which aligns with studies that question a direct relationship between environmental change and international migration.<sup>2</sup>

Just under half (42%) of respondents cited multiple economic and non-economic factors underlying their decision to move. Moreover, the majority of those referring to violence and insecurity also reported economic drivers, highlighting the interconnection between drivers of migration and forced displacement.

**Figure 1: Reasons for leaving by region of origin**



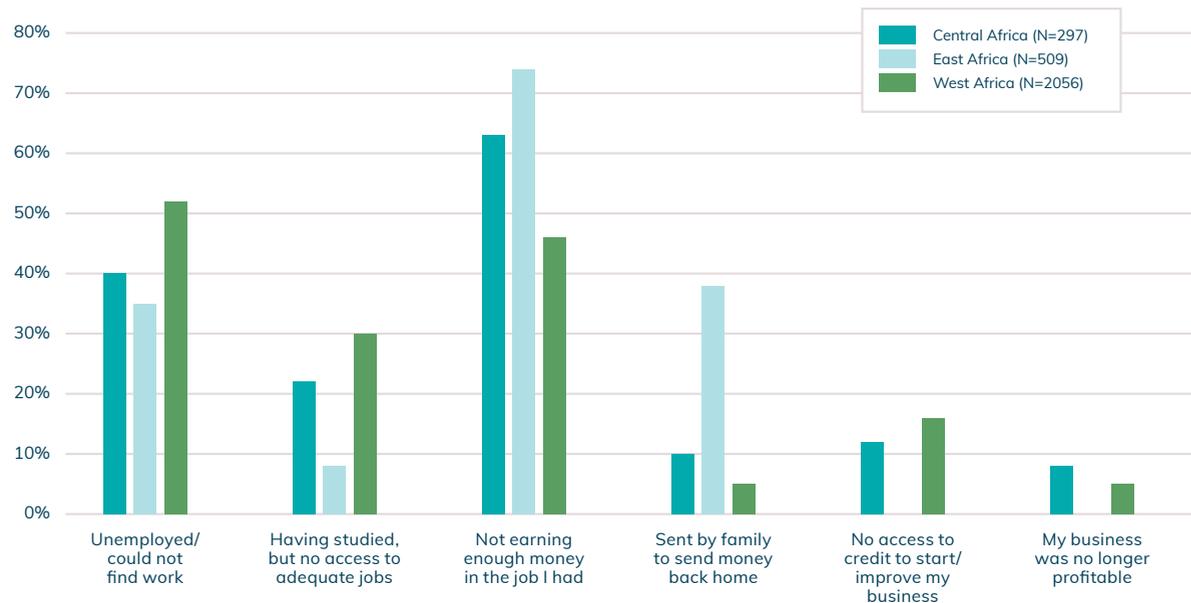
1 This snapshot adopts the [UNDESA classification](#) of regions, with the exception of Sudan, which is included in East Africa. Regions are defined as follows: **East Africa:** Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan, Uganda; **West Africa:** Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo; **Central Africa:** Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Sao Tome and Principe.

2 See for instance: Beine, M., & Parsons, C. (2015). [Climatic factors as determinants of international migration](#). *The Scandinavian Journal of Economics*, 117(2), 723-767.

## Economic drivers

Delving further into economic drivers, Figure 2 shows the various factors expressed by respondents. Most respondents reported more than one economic factor, underscoring that movement across borders should not be attributed or reduced to any single factor. Insufficient income was the most-cited economic driver among East African (74%) and Central African (63%) respondents, while unemployment had the highest incidence among West Africans. Also, East Africans more frequently reported being encouraged to move by their families so that they could send remittances home, than Central and West African respondents.

**Figure 2: Economic reasons**

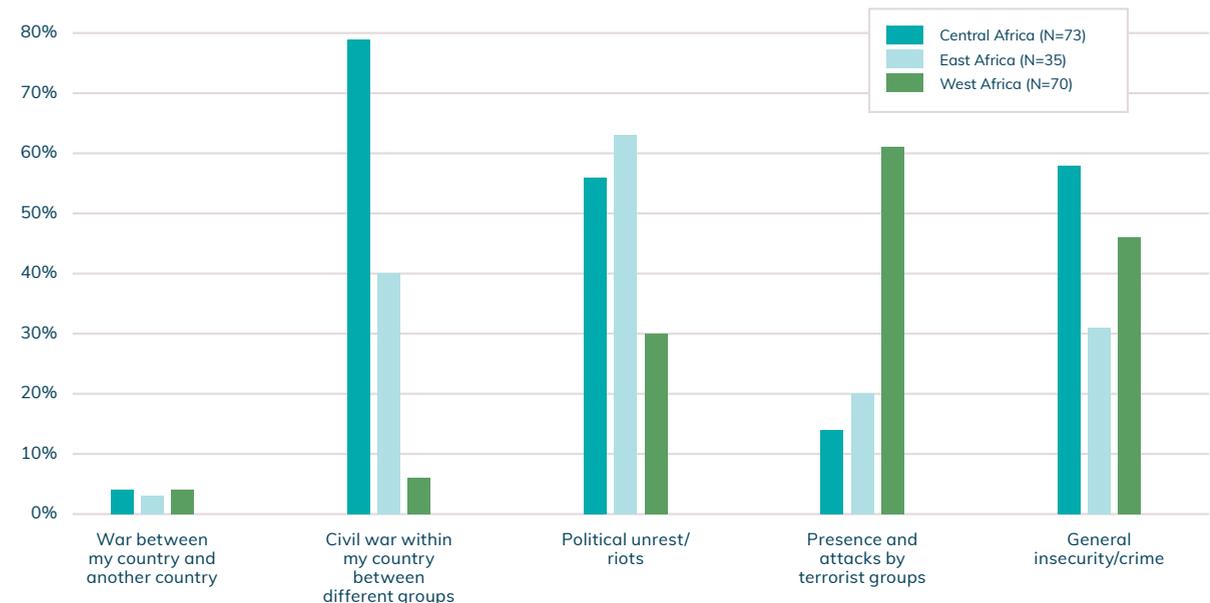


## Violence and conflict drivers

Respondents from Central Africa cited violence and insecurity (22%) and a lack of rights (22%) more frequently than respondents from East Africa (6% and 4%) and West Africa (3% and 15%). This is likely explained by the fact that the origin countries of these respondents, namely Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad and DR Congo, are all afflicted by conflict, insecurity, and/or the active presence of extremist groups.<sup>3</sup>

Figure 3 provides a breakdown of drivers related to violence and insecurity and reveals slight regional variations. Respondents from Central Africa cited civil war, general insecurity, as well as political unrest as main drivers. Respondents from East Africa cited political unrest, while respondents from West Africa cited insecurity from terrorist groups.

**Figure 3: Violence and insecurity**



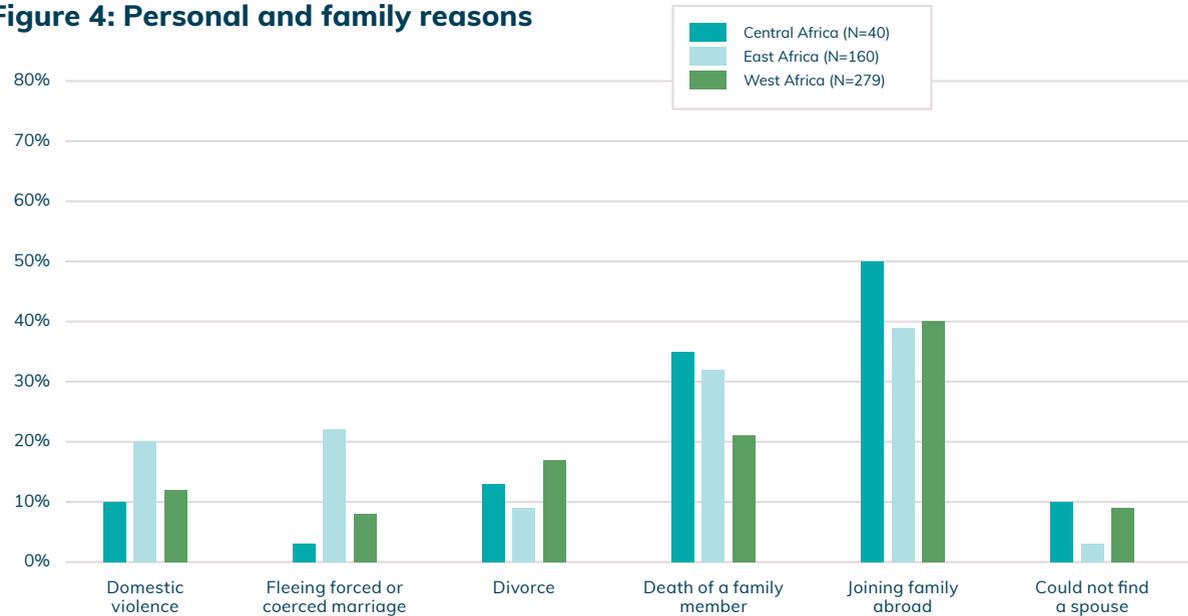
<sup>3</sup> UCDP/PRIO, 2018. [Armed Conflict Dataset](#).

## Socio-cultural drivers

The social drivers of mixed migration include: so-called “emigration norms”, which refer to perceptions that everyone around the respondent was moving, motivating the respondent to also move, and personal or family reasons. Some 3% of East African respondents reported being influenced by an “emigration norm” as compared to 17% of Central Africans and 27% of West Africans. This might suggest that West African respondents came from communities that attach greater value to migration than respondents from other regions.

East Africans more frequently reported personal and family reasons (27%) compared to respondents from West (13%) and Central Africa (12%). Figure 4 reveals that of the 160 East Africans who cited personal/family reasons as a main driver, 20% reported moving because of domestic violence and 22% because they wanted to escape a forced marriage. This compares to 12% and 10% of West and Central Africans, respectively, who moved because of domestic violence and 8% and 3% of West and Central Africans who cited forced marriage.

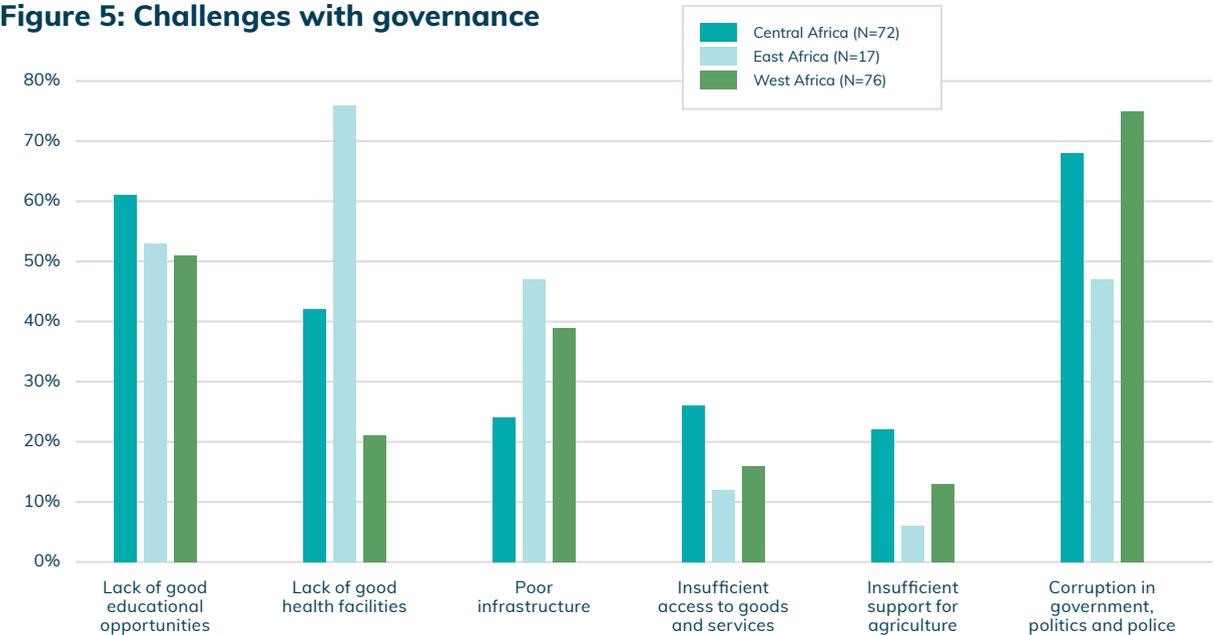
**Figure 4: Personal and family reasons**



## Governance and services

Lack of services and poor governance were reported as drivers by 3% of respondents from East Africa, against 22% of interviewees from Central Africa, and 28% from West Africa. For the 615 West African and the 72 Central African respondents who mentioned poor governance and a lack of services as a main driver of mixed migration (see Figure 5), corruption within government was a main reason (75% and 68%) followed by lack of educational opportunities (51% and 61%).

**Figure 5: Challenges with governance**



The Mixed Migration Monitoring Mechanism Initiative (4Mi) is the Mixed Migration Centre's flagship primary data collection system, an innovative approach that helps fill knowledge gaps, and inform policy and response regarding the nature of mixed migratory movements and the protection risks for refugees and migrants on the move. 4Mi field monitors are currently collecting data through direct interviews with refugees and migrants in West Africa, East Africa and Yemen, North Africa, Asia, and Europe.

Sample sizes are clearly indicated and represent a limited section of those on the move. The findings derived from the surveyed sample should not be used to make any inferences about the total population. See more 4Mi analysis and details on methodology at [www.mixedmigration.org/4mi](http://www.mixedmigration.org/4mi)



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