

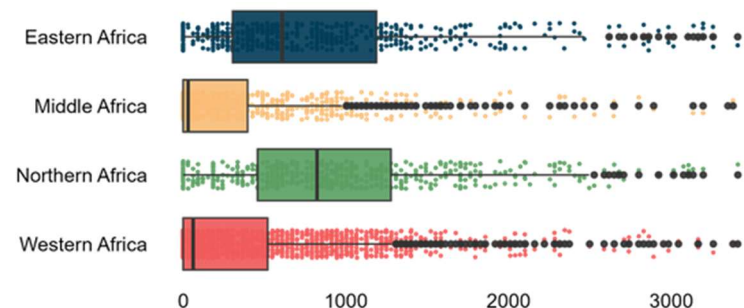
EXPERIENCES AND NEEDS OF REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS IN TUNISIA: IN-DEPTH 4MI ANALYSIS

PROFILES

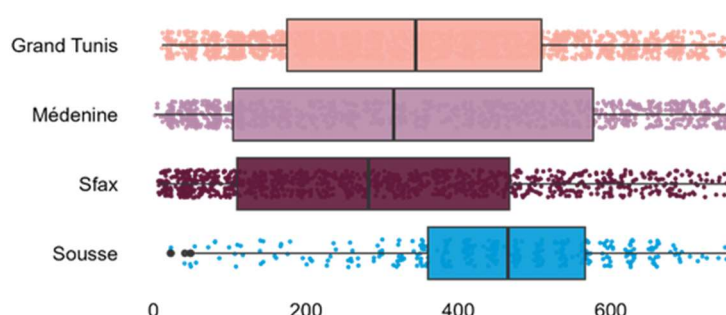
Nationalities	By country: 48 countries of nationality, mainly Sudan (11%), Côte d'Ivoire (11%), Cameroon (9%), and Guinea (8%). By regional grouping: Western Africa (53%), Middle Africa (22%), Eastern Africa (12%), and Northern Africa (12%).
Legal Status	Irregular migrant (40%), asylum seeker/refugee (37%), regular migrant (20%), other (3%). [1]
Gender Distribution	More Middle African and Western African nationalities represented among women. More Eastern African and Northern African nationalities among men.
Education Level	Secondary/high school has the highest proportion (35%), followed by primary school (18%) and university (17%).
Children	36% are traveling/living with children in their care and the median number of children = 1. Higher proportions among respondents: from Eastern Africa (73%), located in Sousse (82%), or regular migrants (82%).
Income Before Departure	Most respondents (62%) had an income before leaving. 79% of irregular migrants, 61% refugees/asylum seekers and 31% of regular migrants had an income.

JOURNEY AND RESONS TO STOP IN TUNISIA

Average length of journey: 6 months



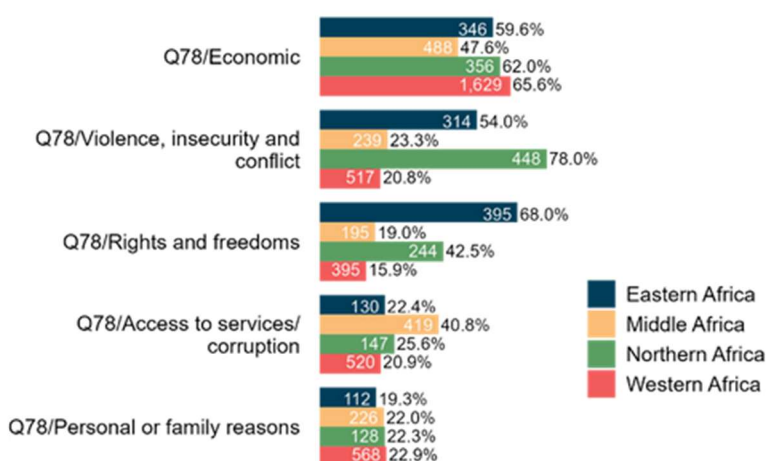
Median duration in city of stay: 345 days



Top reason for stopping in Tunisia before the city of interview: applying for asylum (39%) and earning money for the next stretch of the journey (35%).

DRIVERS AND INTENTIONS

Most frequently cited reasons for starting the journey: economic reasons (61% of all respondents), violence, insecurity, and conflict (33%), rights and freedoms (27%), and access to services or corruption (26%). 53% respondents are influenced to migrate mainly by friends/family abroad (67%), as well as social media (30%), and friends/family at home (30%). Top reasons for selecting preferred destination among those who have not yet finished their journeys (89% of respondents): economic opportunities (73%), better living conditions (63%), and respect for human rights (50%). Education, welfare, safety and medical care are also important reasons.



PROTECTION RISKS

FOR CHILDREN UNDER 18 (ALONG THE JOURNEY):

89% consider that children are highly or very highly exposed to dangers. Top perceived risks: kidnapping (43%), physical violence (39%), and trafficking and exploitation (38%). Risks of trafficking and detention are cited at 3x more by respondents from Northern and Eastern Africa than those from Western and Middle Africa.

FOR ADULTS (IN TUNISIA SPECIFICALLY):

The most frequently perceived risks being non-physical violence (52% of mentions), robbery (47%), physical violence (47%), and detention (40%). Differences by city: overall, Sfax is considered riskier than Tunis, especially for detention, bribery/extortion, and injury/ill-health from harsh conditions.

ASSISTANCE

During their journey, 54% did not receive assistance.

Most common types of assistance received: food (64%), water (62%), shelter (56%), and cash (38%).

Assistance received from: fellow migrants (61%), family and friends (39%), local populations and volunteers (38%), NGOs (30%), and the UN (22%).

ASSISTANCE NEEDED AND NOT RECEIVED EN ROUTE (TUNISIA):



At the time of the interview, 90% of all respondents stated that they still needed assistance. The highest proportions were amongst respondents from Northern Africa (97%), or who were interviewed in Médenine (98%), or who were irregular migrants (97%). Legal assistance was one of the most frequently cited need. This could include: administrative legal assistance for regularization, legal representation in regularization/deportation/other legal proceedings, family reunification, representation/advocacy for cases of discrimination, arbitrary detention, etc.

ACCESS TO INFORMATION

• 77% looked for information before their journey and 70% during their journey.

• Before the journey, 89% of regular migrants looked for information, compared to 74% of asylum seekers/refugees and 73% of irregular migrants.

• During the journey, more respondents relied on other migrants (56% compared to 26% prior to departure) and smugglers (43% compared to 27% prior to departure), and less respondents relied on friends and family in the country of departure (25% compared to 39% prior to departure). The online community was cited in equal proportions before and during the journey (before: 36%; after: 37%).

• During the journey, the main sources of information following friends and family in another country is other migrants (56%) and smugglers (43%).

• Notable differences: In Sousse, prior to departure, travel agents were cited by 85% of respondents, and smugglers were cited by only 3% of respondents. In contrast, in Médenine, smugglers were cited by 52% of respondents to get information prior to departure, and by 69% to get information during the journey.

• Means used to obtain information during their journey: in-person (79%), followed by social media or messaging apps (68%), and phone calls (61%).

INTENTIONS AND ASPIRATIONS: Top reasons for selecting destination are economic opportunities (73.2%), better living conditions (63.6%), and respect for human rights (50.%).

CONCLUSION

For most respondents in Tunisia, formal institutions and organizations are not the main providers of assistance en route to people on the move.

Legal status is correlated to needs for assistance as well as vulnerability to protection risks. Irregular migrants actually have a slightly higher need for assistance (both have very high needs).

In Tunisia, there are high rates of needs in all locations, highest in Médenine and lowest in Tunis.

Most respondents were earning an income before beginning their journey, particularly those from Western Africa (70%).

Most migrants in Tunisia consider themselves to be in transit, and so are trying to balance migration objectives with meeting their (and their children's) needs.

Youth and caregivers of children under 18 cite both needs for basic relief (primary medical care, food) as well as education and training.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Support more systematized and sustainable support efforts through community leaders, CBOs or other informal refugee/migrant-led networks.
- Provide holistic or multi-dimensional assistance, wherever possible, to meet complex layers of needs, especially in light of the ongoing economic crisis affecting also host communities, including inflation and housing crisis.
- Tailor the type of assistance by city/location to reflect differences in needs (e.g., food assistance not useful in Sousse but much needed in Médenine), while remaining responsive to the individual.
- As legal status is a determinant of need - with those with irregular status citing greatest need - as well as type of assistance needed, consider targeted outreach to irregular migrants.
- To the extent possible, keep individuals' migration objectives in mind - most are not choosing to stay in Tunisia, even if seeking asylum here, but nevertheless experience immobility. Most are looking to work both to continue their journey and to meet their current and future needs, particularly caregivers of children