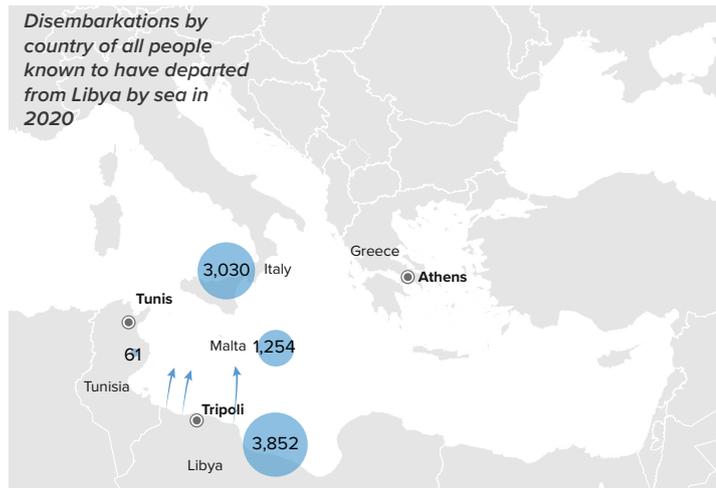


## ARRIVALS TO EUROPE FROM LIBYA - May 2020

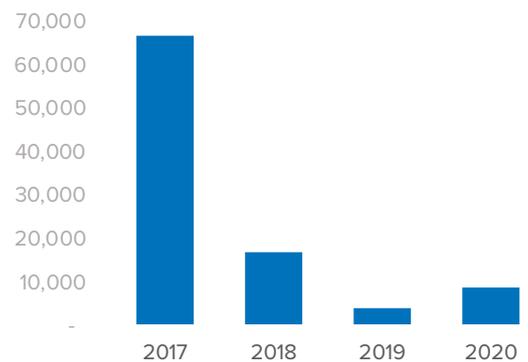
### Overview

Since the start of 2020, some 8,600 refugees and migrants have departed from Libya by sea, according to UNHCR records of disembarkations.<sup>1</sup> As of 31 May, 8,200 had been disembarked, with the vast majority in Libya (47%), followed by Italy (37%), Malta (15%) and Tunisia (1%). Arrivals from Libya to Italy and Malta comprised 68% of arrivals to Europe via the Central Mediterranean route between January and May this year, with the remainder of those using this route arriving from Tunisia, Algeria, Greece, or Albania. The number of people who departed from Libya was higher than in the same period last year, although it is worth recalling that departures increased from May to November 2019, including because of the effects of the ongoing conflict in Libya. Overall, the number of departures from Libya has significantly decreased since early 2017. So far this year, 109 people are known to have died at sea after departing from Libya.<sup>2</sup> UNHCR continues to call for greater search and rescue capacity in the central Mediterranean and advises against returns to Libya, which is not a safe place of disembarkation and in some cases may lead to a breach of the non-refoulement principle. Although search and rescue operations and interceptions at sea are distinct, non-refoulement obligations are engaged equally in both circumstances.

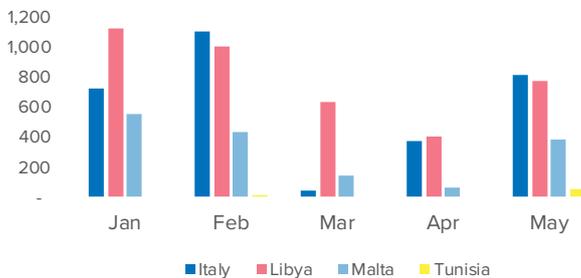


Includes Serbia and Kosovo (S/RES/1244 [1999]). The boundaries and names shown, and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

### Departures from Libya by sea since 2017 (January to May 2020)

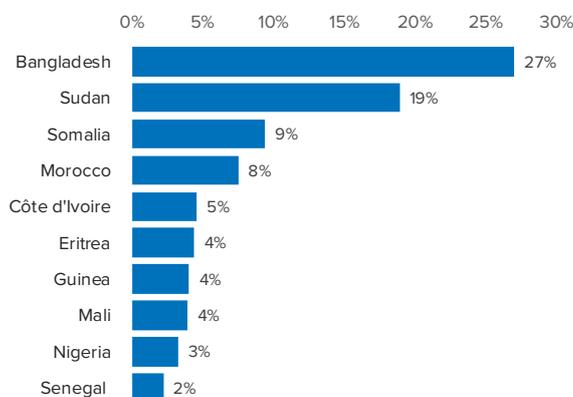


### Country of Disembarkation (January to May 2020)



Libya was the primary country of disembarkation in January, March, and April. Upon disembarkation in Libya, many are transferred to one of the 11 official detention centres. Others are taken to facilities or unofficial detention centres to which the humanitarian community does not have access. In May, in addition to February, Italy was the primary country of disembarkation, partially as a result of the fact that some 180 people rescued in April were disembarked following quarantine measures.

### Primary Nationalities Arriving in Europe After Departure from Libya\*



The primary nationalities arriving in Europe so far this year from Libya have been Bangladeshis (27%), Sudanese (19%), Somalis (9%), Maroccans (8%), Ivorians (5%), and Eritreans (4%). While Bangladeshis were the primary nationality arriving in Italy, Sudanese nationals were the largest group disembarking in Malta, as well as Libya. Overall, Sudanese nationals were the primary nationality departing from Libya, when considering those disembarking in Europe together with those disembarking in Libya. This is generally consistent with the trend observed since 2019. Some 26% of arrivals from Libya to Europe this year were children, most unaccompanied, primarily from Bangladesh, Somalia, and Sudan, while a further 5% were women.

As of the end of May, an estimated 28% of the people who had crossed the sea from Libya are likely to be in need of international protection.<sup>3</sup> In addition, many others using this route are likely to have specific needs on account of their experiences during the journey, including in Libya, due to having been victims of trafficking, sexual and gender-based violence, or being unaccompanied children that may require temporary protection and assistance.

**Data Source:** Data based on information provided by the relevant UNHCR offices as well as reports by State authorities.

<sup>1</sup> This includes a further 384 people rescued in May after departing from Libya but who had not yet been disembarked in Malta by 31 May, including due to quarantine measures.

<sup>2</sup> Figures included as dead and missing are compiled from a variety of sources, of which the quality and reliability can vary. Every effort has been made to ensure that all statistical information is verified and figures on dead and missing at sea represent conservative estimates of a number that could possibly be higher than reported. The numbers of dead and missing in the UNHCR data relate to the incidents for which UNHCR has received a sufficient level of detail.

<sup>3</sup> This is based on Eurostat data for the EU Member States along with Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland on the international protection rates for 2019 for the primary nationalities arriving from Libya to Italy and Malta between January and May 2020 according to the proportion of those nationalities amongst arrivals. International protection rates refer to those granted refugee status and subsidiary protection.