Socio-economic profile of Egyptian migrants returning from Libya due to the crisis; sample analysis

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- Executive Summary 3-4
- Purpose, organization and methodology 5-6
- Context: Socio-economic challenges and opportunities in Egypt 7-10
- Demographic and socio-economic migrant profile: household characteristics 11-19
- Outline of patterns and intentions 20-21
- Conclusions and recommendations 22-23
- References 24
- Annex: rapid screening form 25-26
Executive Summary

Egypt faces great challenges in coping with the negative effects of the current economic crisis resulting from important -when not dramatic- political changes embedded in structural socio-economic problems left unaddressed by the previous regime. Unemployment and lack of opportunities in Egypt are a significant push factors leading to migration.

Employment through migration is indeed a significant contributor to poverty reduction as remittances contribute to create growth to the country of origin and directly support families and communities.

The events in Libya -second country receptor of Egyptian labour migrants after Saudi Arabia-have negatively impacted Egypt’s economy. The loss of remittances and the thousands of returnees seeking work opportunities are generating an additional stress and increasing vulnerability on already vulnerable segments of the population, particularly women and young people located in poor rural areas. These returns are also depriving the families and community of origin of cash for an undefined period of time, thus worsening a situation defined as dire by most analysts.

This paper aims at analysing the profile of Egyptian migrants returning from Libya based on quantitative and qualitative data gathered by IOM as well as existing literature, including local, regional and international press. The paper analyzes the needs and vulnerabilities of these migrants as well as their views, intentions and required support.

The limitations of the present paper are made apparent once comparing the extent of the sample survey and focus group against the overall estimated number of return in excess of 200,000 against an estimated overall of 1.2-1.5 million. Nevertheless, despite the reduced sample for study, the final outcome provides a concise yet clear idea of who these migrants are: an image and a profile confirming that of similar studies carried out by IOM and other institutions.

The bulk of Egyptian migrants coming from Libya are represented by a male of 26.6 years of age that comes originally from the Delta region. He has a secondary technical education and works mainly in the construction sector. He is married, has family (wife and children) back in Egypt and his monthly income falls within 500 and 1000 Egyptian pounds bracket. This migrant sends regularly money home (on average less than 500 LE) mostly through informal channels: either friends going back or when he is visiting his family.

He has been affected by the current Egyptian and Libyan situation yet he does not want to leave Egypt in the near future and has high expectations in the changes that the country is going through. He hopes to be able to remain while maintaining the family. In consideration of the role played in supporting his family through remittances also hopes to receive help to establish his own business. He does not seem interested in further training or other learning, even if he is not willing to continue carrying out the type of activity he was use to do while away.

The overall consideration gathered is that of a migrant sufficiently self confident and capable and at the same time with high expectations and little reliance on structure and training.
The data gathered reflects the importance of further analyzing the profile of the returnees, the impact on the receiving communities and the needs for development in support of the migrants and the communities.

A better understanding of the demographic and socio-economic profile and intentions of a larger group as well as a better understanding of the impact on the communities of destination may contribute to ensure higher accuracy and reliability of the data collected. Likewise, further analysis may offer key inputs to the development of more effective migration schemes as well as sustainable integration programmes, thus better assisting the overall individual, community and country development.

Information that may be key not only to assist these Egyptian migrants and receiving communities but also to set up a model of assistance as the situation unfolds in other countries within the region, as such issues as loss of revenues, access to cash and jobs opportunities are likely to repeat themselves elsewhere threatening to further impoverish communities and the in the end the country itself.
1. Purpose, organization and methodology

The brief analysis of the Egyptian migrants returning from Libya that follows is based on a sample survey, focus group and a short contextual review of the present circumstances in the country: profound political change with far-reaching economic and social implications. This includes increased unemployment\(^1\) and a large return of migrants from neighbouring Libya.

Drawing upon quantitative and qualitative data gathered by IOM as well as existing literature, including local, regional and international press, the paper will assess the needs and vulnerabilities, the challenges and opportunities for integration and/or re-emigration as well as their intentions.

The limitations of the present paper are made apparent once comparing the extent of the sample survey and focus group against the overall estimated number of return in excess of 200,000 against an estimated overall of 1.2-1.5 million. However in extrapolation with other studies carried out by IOM on migration intentions in Egypt after the Revolution, the results of this paper can be considered significant for the comprehension of the impact of the return. Furthermore, a better understanding of the demographic and socio-economic profile and intentions may assist in the development of more effective migration schemes, thus better contributing to the overall individual, community and country development.

Components of the methodology
- A household survey distributed randomly to 1,283 Egyptians who were residing in Libya. The survey was in fact carried out during the transportation of migrants from Tunisia and Misurata (Libya) to Egypt.
- The same survey was distributed to 27 Egyptians, who had already returned to Fayoum Governorate.
- A draft report on the outcomes of the conversations with the 27 Egyptians mentioned above in a semi-structured focus group organized by IOM.
- A report on a focus group discussion organized by UNICEF and WFP in Sohag and Assiu Governorates.

Additional data has been obtained from the Egyptian Ministry of Manpower and Emigration, the UNDP’s Egyptian Human Development Report of 2010, the media, and other literature as included in the reference list at the end of the paper.

Method of data collection
IOM developed a survey called “rapid screening form” that was distributed to Egyptian migrants who had fled Libya, during their travel from Tunisia and Misurata (Libya) to Egypt. In total 1,283 people filled this questionnaire and so did 27 returnees already located in the Governorate of Fayoum.

The *Rapid Screening Form* is a simple form that quickly screens the demographic and socio-economic profile, vulnerabilities, needs and intentions of the migrants. Due to the purpose of

\(^1\) - Please refer to IOM study *Migrations aspirations and experiences of Egyptian youth*, IOM 2011
this form and the fact that it was filled by each migrant, the information gathered is essential as it states - first hand - the wishes of and realities for each one of them.

However, not all migrants properly filled the form. The reasons behind can be several; from the lack of understanding of some of the questions, to the stress of the moment in which they filled the forms. Some migrants had been exposed to traumatic events and some were simply in shock and afraid for the future.

Nevertheless, even if the simplicity of the form, the speed and stress of the moment that prevented from filling all survey forms, and the reduced sampling study; it can be said that the final outcome provides a concise yet clear idea of who these migrants are.

Future research should consider extending the request for information to a larger group of migrants. The questionnaire should be simplified in form and enlarged in content while developing other outreach and data gathering tools to fine-tune additional information that may serve, inter-alia, the purpose of assisting these groups and analyzing the impact of their return on the receiving communities, while ensuring higher accuracy and reliability of the data collected.

**Structure of the paper**

This paper is divided in three parts:

i) The first part provides a brief outline on the geopolitical context, and current socio-economic challenges in Egypt. This includes a reference to the Egyptian migration trends and the role of migrants and their remittances.

ii) The second part analyses of the data gathered and provide a brief overview on the profile of these migrants and an outline the patterns and intentions of the group.

iii) Lastly concluding remarks and recommendations are provided based on the research findings.
2. Context: Egypt socio-economic challenges and opportunities

Egypt faces great challenges in coping with the negative effects of the current economic crisis resulting from the revolution embedded in the structural socio-economic problems, left unaddressed by the previous regime.

Many factors have been attributed to the uprising of the Egyptian population in January 2011. Some point out the growing economic disparities, others the Government’s failure to address un- and under-employment, and according to some, a combination of these two and, stemming from them, a widespread feeling of desperation and helplessness that made the people take to the streets. Months after the uprising, with the challenges multiplying and a worsening of the country’s economy becoming increasingly apparent, the expectations have not abated and there are widespread hopes that the political transition will lead to more equitable economic growth.

Egypt’s economy is the second only to Saudi Arabia’s in the Arab world and is relatively diversified. Farming, tourism, industry and money sent home by Egyptians working abroad fuel the economy. However, despite the relatively high levels of economic growth over the past few years, living conditions for the average Egyptian remain poor. In fact, although Egypt is no longer a subsistence economy, some 20% of the population can be ranked as poor and live below the poverty line.

The economy is forecasted to grow less than 2% this year and will likely contract by 1.4 percent in the second half of the current fiscal year. Tourism is down 40% in 2011, and many factories have stopped producing goods due to worker strikes. An estimated 600,000 workers in the tourism, construction and associated service sectors in Egypt have lost their jobs in the first few months of the current year.

Socio economic challenges

The employment (or unemployment) implications of the current crisis are worrisome, particularly when considered in conjunction with the challenges Egypt faced just before the Revolution:

• Egypt’s economic and social indicators, although improved significantly, alongside a Human Development Index (HDI) ranking (increased almost 50 percent), vast sub-national disparities persist, particularly in rural areas like Upper Egypt and the Delta regions.

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4 - Egypt Human Development Report 2010, UNDP.

5 - UN report on Egypt’s economic program. June, 2011

6 - If we think that the tourism sector employs more than 2.5 million Egyptians. Tourism localities are still empty and, unless security is restored on the streets, the tourism industry is unlikely to return to normality in the foreseeable future.

7 - Large regional disparities exist in Egypt with rural Upper Egypt being the most deprived (43.7% of its residents are income poor). According to SYPE, whereas rural youth account for 59% of Egypt’s total youth, they account for 85% of Egypt’s poor youth. Key Development Challenges Facing Egypt, UN-Multitask force 2010.
• About 57% of the total population in Egypt lives in rural areas, where poverty prevails.
• Over 80% of the Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs) are informal enterprises with low value-added, low production quality and poor export performance.  
• The Egyptian labour does not fulfil the market requirements and it is a critical impediment to private sector’s growth and competitiveness, and
• The Egyptian economy still lacks the critical mass of skilled workers needed with the necessary training and enhanced skills.

The Egyptian social fabric is largely characterized by exclusion, little civic participation, frustration and lack of opportunities, where education is often linked to the socio-economic status and family background, and lacks a strong link to labour market requirements and needs. This mismatch has led to a decline in quality of higher education and an ever-growing supply of unemployed graduates.

Youth and women are among the most vulnerable segments of population and highly affected by the current crisis. According to the UNDP’s “Egypt Human Development Report 2010”, it is estimated that 600,000 new entrants seek to join the labour market annually, a figure that Egyptian labour cannot absorb. This represents a serious challenge to the economy as the majority finds their ways to subsist through in the informal sector, with no limited chances to improve their living conditions.

Poverty, especially rural poverty, and the lack of job opportunities has resulted in high levels of migration to the periphery of large towns and particularly to that of greater Cairo, thus perpetuating the problems of informal settlements and slum areas.

Unemployment and lack of opportunities in Egypt are also significant push factors for migration. The events in Libya have compounded Egypt’s economic woes, in view of the loss of remittances and the thousands of returnees who will aggravate the labour market situation, which only adds additional stress and increases vulnerability.

**Migration flows and remittances**

The majority of Egyptians emigrants live in Arab countries (70.8%). Most important destinations are Saudi Arabia, Libya, Jordan, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Oman. According to the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Egyptian Ministry of Manpower and Emigration (MoME), around 4,727,396 Egyptians reside abroad.

Employment through migration is a significant contributor to poverty reduction as remittances contribute to create growth to the country. The Egyptian authorities acknowledge

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8 - The MSEs make up over 99% of private enterprises in Egypt and account for 85% of non-agricultural private sector employment and almost 40% of total employment. Key Development Challenges Facing Egypt, UN-Multitask force 2010.
9 - University-educated youth are experiencing high unemployment rates as a result of the mismatch btw their education and labour market needs. Graduates of technical and vocational education and training (TVET) also suffer from low employment rates, mainly due to poor quality training.
10 - There is a two-way interaction between poverty and its attributes: lack of education and skills, and absence of decent jobs maintains poverty. UN Key Development Challenges Facing Egypt, 2010.
11 - From 1996 to 2006, number of workers in informal sector grew from 5 million to 7.9 million
12 - The Egyptian Experience: Linking emigrant communities for more development inventory of institutional capacities and practices. IOM, 2011
the importance of labour migration as well as the return of migrant resources (human, social and financial) for the development of Egypt.\textsuperscript{13}

The Egyptian migrant community, as reported in broader migration studies, comprises migrants from the highly skilled category to the low skilled ones. According to the World Bank, 4.2\% of Egyptian migrants have a tertiary education. The general profile is of a young male that has completed the secondary technical education and comes from rural area (see results of the survey below confirming this statement).

Remittances have been the most important source of private investment in rural as much as urban Egypt, from lower as well as from higher skilled occupations for the past 30 years. In 2008, they represented 5.3\% of the gross domestic product (GDP) in the country economy.

Studies also indicate that remittances are primarily used for direct household expenses and healthcare. To a lesser extent, funds are spent on construction, acquisition of land or cattle, education or buying durable consumer goods. Only limited shares of remittances are used for productive investment and creation of small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

Libya as a source of employment for Egyptians has grown in importance over the years as many Egyptians in the Gulf were replaced by migrant workers from South and Southeast Asia. It is estimated that there were between 1.2-1.5 million Egyptians working in the country that remitted up to 33 million USD every year.

According to IOM figures, nearly 200,000 migrants have fled back to Egypt to date. Most are semi-skilled adult males, and were likely to have been single and/or primary breadwinners who were supporting dependents in Egypt through remittances, which have now been disrupted. The implications for the Egyptian economy of the current crisis in Libya are significant. Egyptians working in Libya come predominantly from rural areas particularly from Lower Egypt, and the majority of them have completed only basic education.

Thought, as this survey shows, the Egyptian migrants in Libya did not use the banking system as the main channel for sending home money, this does not mean that the flow was not significant as funds did reach families and communities of origin through less institutional means such as friends or the migrants themselves going home for short periods of time.

We can easily conclude that these returns will deprive the families and communities of origin of cash for an undefined period of time, thus worsening an already difficult situation and create an additional demand for jobs in an economy suffering from high burden of unemployment and slow when not inexistent growth. And there is also the conceivable risk that better skilled returning migrants dislodge less capable local people from their jobs.\textsuperscript{14}

Events unfolding elsewhere in the region, particularly in Bahrain, Syria and Yemen, and, potentially in Jordan and Lebanon, could compound to this situation and see yet another returning flow of Egyptian migrants increasing the loss of revenues, access to cash and jobs and further impoverish communities and finally the Country itself.

\textsuperscript{13} - According to statistics produced by the World Bank, Egypt was ranked one of the top 10 remittance-recipient developing countries that year with an estimated amount of USD 9.5 billion.

\textsuperscript{14} - UN response to Economically displaced Egyptians. May 2011
The Arab spring has had so far different consequences. According to official sources the UAE, which is estimated to host 95,000 Egyptian migrant workers, has stopped issuing work visas and residency permits to Egyptian residents. This decision will compel still more Egyptian migrant workers to return home, and further the need to mitigate unemployment and maintain a minimum household income level amongst the most vulnerable returnees.
3. Demographic and socio-economic migrant profile:

household characteristics

For the purpose of this paper, the survey distributed to the migrants will be considered as the sole primary data\textsuperscript{15} for analysis and will summarize the total bulk of migrants that filled up the form. That is to say, the caseload is of 1,310 migrants: 1,283 who filled the questionnaire during their return to Egypt either from Tunisia or Misurata (Libya) and the 27 males who had already returned to the Fayoum Governorate.

Important is to note that not all the survey forms were adequately filled, however the lack of answers do not interfere in the final assumptions as the lack of responses do not vary dramatically the final outputs.

Additional information, including the outcomes of the IOM’s focus group in the Governorate of Fayoum and the outcomes of a focus group set up by UNICEF and WHO in the Governorate of Assuit and Sohag, will be considered as secondary data. They will also help to enrich the general outputs and the migrant profile, thus contributing to generate the patterns and intentions based on this reduced sample.

General socio-demographic indicators

a. Gender, age and household status

In the process of identifying the demographic profile of Egyptian migrants, the data compiled reflects that out of 1,310 migrants analysed, the majority are males (1,260) that fall mainly within the age group between 20 and 30 years of age. The average age is 26.2 and the majority are either single (631) or married (621).

Within the focus group (27 migrants), although no females were found, the average age falls under the same group, with a large majority holding a married status (21).

Within the 1,283 group, the female slot (37) has an average age of 26.6 and the main age group falls between 20 and 30 years of age. Most are married and some are accompanying their husbands.

\textsuperscript{15} - Primary data is the data gathered first hand. Although the consultant did not gather this data, it will nevertheless be considered as primary as the results have not been manipulated but added to a database. On the other hand, the results of the focus groups compiles information that has already been manipulated and analyzed, that's the reason to consider it as secondary data
b. **Origin: place of return or intended destination**

Analyzing the data on the respondents’ places of return, there is only the assumption that the place of return is the place of origin however, the data itself does not provide this information. One clear fact is that the place of intended destination is for the majority located in Low Egypt, in the Delta region (664) which constitutes half of the caseload, followed by the Upper Egypt region (414) with little return to main cities such as Cairo (47), Alexandria (12), Suez (1) or Luxor (1). Border Governorates, Ismailia (5) and North Sinai (2) also seem to receive a very small number of returnees. Only 5 people indicated their place of return as abroad: two in Italy, one in Saudi Arabia, one in Kuwait and one in Qatar. Out of the 1310, 205 did not provide any answer.

Rural or urban destinations are not clarified by the questionnaire however, one can easily assume from the intended destination, breakdown in education and occupation, that there is a high incidence of rural origin.

Main locations for destination are the Governorates of Daqahleya (168), El Fayoum (156), and Menya (153), all of them located in the Delta region.

c. **Education**

As the graph represents, almost half of the caseload (637 or 49%) has finalized a secondary or technical education. 356 or 27% indicated themselves as literate, or rather, capable of reading and writing without further education.

It is also interesting to highlight the fact that 121 migrants or 9% of the total caseload has finished University studies and 12 or 1% have also finalized a Master degree or hold a PHD.
**Socio-economic data**

The second part of the survey focuses on the socio-economic data. This includes the job (occupation and sector) carried out in Libya, the financial commitments, their earnings and responses on the remittances sent back to Egypt during their time in Libya, as well as migration intentions and working expectations for the future. A final part highlights the traumatic experiences that migrants have faced since the crisis arose in Libya until their arrival in Egypt.

d. **Job: occupation and sector**

Respondents answered questions concerning their occupation during their time in Libya, the sector in which they were working and earnings received.

As the graph represents, the Construction sector includes the highest number of participation within the total caseload, or rather said 37% (487) of the total indicated as their area of work.

This is followed by the Agricultural and Fishing sectors with a much reduced participation, 19% or 252 people. Both Industry and Trade sectors are also significant: Industry with 13.5% or 178 and Trade with 13% or 171. An important remark needs to be made to those who indicated they were unemployed. Out of the 10 persons who stated so, 5 were women who identified themselves as housewives.

As for the occupation, 44% (584) of the total caseload identified themselves as a “worker” or implementing an unqualified job. Artisans, Technicians and Farmers follow the “workers” in a lower number. Artisans represent 16% (221) of the total figure, while Farmers stand for 13% (172) and Technicians for 12% (160) of the total.

When analyzing the occupations in detail, it is easily appreciated that the Construction sector is the area in which most migrants have participated to. Among those who identified themselves as workers (584), 334 or 57% located themselves in this sector, while the rest was distributed between Industry (73 or 12%), Trade (60 or 10%) and Agriculture and Fishing (59 or 10%).

See below graph.
Among the Artisans, there is also a clear association of the type of labour mainly with the Construction sector but also with the Industry as the most recurrent ones. Carpenters being the majority of artisans, but also plumbers, specialists in glass, aluminium, marble, welders or blacksmith are among the most relevant professions.

Although the areas of work of those included in the Technician group may vary on sector, there is also a clear correlation between those engineers and architect within the Construction, Industrial and Agricultural and Fishing sectors.

Another important appreciation is to those included in the group of “business” (50) and those as “salesman” (65). The difference between then is that those included as business stated that they owned a business either dedicated to trade (30) or construction (20). While those included as salesman did not specify whether they were working for themselves or for someone else. Either way, both groups are also very much related to the construction sector and together represent 8% of the total caseload.
e. Earnings and wages

From the combination of answers, it can be seen that over half of the respondents or 51% received less than 1000 LE as salary. Of those, 380 earned less than 500 LE and 336 between 500 and 1,000 LE.

15% or 206 declared earning between 1,000 and 2,000 LE; while 17% or 241 indicated their earnings within the 2,000 and 4,000 LE. Only 189 or 13% responded that their wages exceed the 4,000 LE. 58 or 4% did not report their earnings or wages.

f. Financial commitments and remittances

Most of the respondents stated having some financial obligations towards their own families. Only 83 or 6.3% affirmed working only to support themselves.

Interesting is to note that only 13% who reported single confirmed to support only themselves. 93.6% stated that their labour supports not only themselves but also their relatives (some selected more than one group as dependents).

The majority of migrants surveyed either supports their spouse and children (582 or 44.4%) or family members (685 or 52%) without specifying to whom. In addition, 282 (21%) added specific support to their siblings and 14 to their parents. Percentages here are relative are some selected more than one field as response.

Most (77.8% or 1020 migrants) confessed not having any other family member contributing economically to their families but themselves. And only 290 or 22.1% confirmed having some kind of support, mainly from their parents (111) or siblings (53). Only 9 persons stated having economical support from their spouses.

When approached on the issue of the remittances sent to their families and relatives, 86% or 1121 confirmed sending money to their families. Most of them transferred the money through friends and colleagues when travelling back to Egypt (53% or 671), while others did it through Western Union (19% or 241) or through Bank transfers (17% or 215).

Only 8% (or 102) brought the money with themselves when travelling on holidays. And a much reduced group (32 or 3%) admitted using other forms such as postal services to transfer the money.
The amount of money sent largely relates to the earnings. Aware that an important bulk earns less than 1,000 LE, easy is to imagine that most of the remittances sent remain within these brackets. Out of the 1310, 803 or 61% of the migrants sent less than 1,000 LE. Out of which 485 (or 37%) sent less than 500 LE and 318 (or 24%) sent between 500 and 1000 LE.

The transfers cannot be analyzed over a certain period of time, as the survey does not compile information on the length of their stay in Libya nor whether the money sent was transferred on monthly basis, with some regularity or sporadically. However, from the focus group in Fayoum Governorate, we can estimate that the time the returnees spent in Libya rages between 9 months and 15 years. A rough calculation of the financial loss for the individual families and the communities could be made on these basis.

g. Documentation and future migration intentions

When requested the group to provide information on the documentation utilized to enter in Libya, an important number affirmed having entered without any type of visa or work permit. 533 (or 40%) entered with passport but no work or resident visa, 206 (or 17.7%) entered with tourist visa, 7 entered with the Egyptian ID and 42 without any type of documentation.

On the other hand, 483 migrants (or 36.8%) affirmed having entered with a valid work/resident visa, one entered with the spouse invitation and one with a job invitation.

When asking about future plans, 1048 (or 75%) affirmed that they intend to remain in Egypt, 185 (or 13%) stated their willingness to return to Libya, and 175 (or 12%) maintained that they intend to leave Egypt and look for a job elsewhere.

h. Losses and traumas

Due to the crisis situation in Libya, most migrants had to leave immediately the country leaving behind most of their belongings and many of them were exposed to some form of damage.

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16 - The fact that they entered without a visa or work permit only shows the trends among the Egyptian population when crossing the border, as the visa or working permit has not always been a requirement. In other words, it does not necessarily represent the regularity or irregularity of the movement.
harassment when not violence while exiting the country. When asked 362 stated that they had to run away, 280 were attacked and 34 injured, 21 witnessed killings and 412 saw their belongings and money stolen.

Regarding their belongings, 312 had to leave behind their rented house/apartment and 77 the one of their property. 16 stated that they left their own business behind, 192 their cars, 30 their motorcycle, and most of them left other smaller assets such as computers, televisions, etc.

Most of them left their savings in Libya, 367 less than 2,000 LE, 159 between 2,000 and 5,000 LE, 331 left between 5,000 and 10,000 LE and 245 left more than 10,000 LE.

Another important lost has been the official documentation: 37 lost their birth certificates, 241 their passports, 75 their education certificates, 180 their work contracts, 30 their property deeds and 83 stated having lost their Egyptian IDs. Two added having lost their marriage certificates.

i. Plans for the future and support required

As the majority stated their willingness to remain in Egypt, when offered support 835 (or 63.7%) requested support to start up a business and 257 (or 19.6%) asked help to find a job. Only 6 people (or 0.6%) asked for support to migrate elsewhere.

Generally, the most frequently cited choices of future economic activity revolve around self-employment in business and trade. In the focus group, some even stated specific support to buy a track, a taxi or tractor, and there is also who would like to start up a poultry farm with support of other returnees as “most have experience in this field”. Much lower interest seemed to have on training or any particular education follow-up as their main concern is to start receiving some incomes on their own as a matter of urgency.

It is also interesting to note that–despite the difficulties- most migrants were very optimistic about the changes in Egypt; this seems to have contributed to their desire to remain in the country and find a new way of life.

When asked whether or not they would be willing to undertake the same type of activity they used to do in Libya, 903 (or 70%) responded no. Only 23 (or 2%) responded yes, out of which 4 stated they would like to return to Libya. The rest either did not responded (299 or 23%) or stated they didn’t know (31 or 2%), or they would do anything (39 or 3%).

Among those who stated they would not like to do the same job, 50 provided further details as to what type of activity they would try to develop. Even if the details come from a much reduced number, it is interesting to see that most they would try to open their own business (29) and, some stated they would like to go back to their field of expertise, such as teacher, law firm, trading, tourism, or drivers. Three stated they would look for a better job, two that they would like to go back to study and finish the university, and two highlighted the fact that they would like to “serve their country”. 
From the information compiled by IOM with the focus group in the Fayoum Governorate, out of the 37 migrants that returned only few youngsters have already found a job in the informal sector and one professor could manage to engage in the Fayoum University. The majority however, is finding very difficult engaging in any sector although they keep looking through friends, family and newspapers. More senior migrants admitted their fears to find a new job due to their age.

No official support has been received since their arrival, only through family and friends. Also the medical benefits that they were enjoying in Libya have vanished and the fact that many have lost their official documentation (passports and Egyptian ID) does not make it any easier to find any other type of support.

It is also important to note that –according to the IOM report on the focus group outputs- the Ministry of Manpower and Migration is providing assistance on housing to those who have no place to return to in two centres (Etsa and Senores). Indeed the migrants in the focus group stated that 50% of returnees in Fayoum have been located in these centres; a figure that would go around 3,500 if we consider that the group indicated the return of more than 7,000 to this Governorate.

Female profile

The profile of the 37 women survey responds to a woman of average 26.6 years of age (main bulk is between 20 and 30 years old), coming mainly from the Delta region and with a secondary technical education. She is married and earns less that 500 LE.

The female background is mainly of secondary / technical education (37.8% of them), 16% of the women have a university degree and the rest are either literate (9), or have completed elementary education (5) or middle school (3). The majority either works as artisan (7) or as a non-qualified worker (11) and their salary does not exceed the 500 LE.

Most are the breadwinners with no other financial support from their families and even if their earnings are low, they still manage to support their children, spouses, and other relatives. And 5 stated being housewives accompanying their husbands.

They used to send remittances home mainly through friends and other Egyptians travelling (19) but also few who use Western Union (2), bank transfers (2) or bring the savings themselves when travelling on holidays back home (3). The income percentage transfer does not exceed the 500 LE for most (20) as their earnings do not allow it. There are, however, 8 women who managed to send between 1,000 and 2,000 LE.

Most of them (17) entered in Libya with no residence or working visa, 4 had no documentation and 9 entered with tourist visa. Only 6 out of the 37 entered in the country with a valid working/residence visa and 1 with the spouse invitation.

When asked for their migration intentions, 36 wish to remain in Egypt and only one is hoping to return back to Libya.

Similar to the overall profiling, most suffered traumatic experiences when exiting Libya, 9 got stolen, 8 had to run away, 12 suffered from attacks and 3 got injured while 3 witnessed killings. The majority left behind their belongings such as furniture and other tangibles like cars, computers, televisions etc. Many left behind relevant documentation such as birth certificate (2), passports (4), education certificates (3), work contracts (5) or property deed (3) and 6 recalled having left their Egyptian IDs. All of them left behind some savings (16
left some less than 2,000 LE, 4 left between 2,000 and 5,000, 10 left between 5,000 and 10,000 and 5 some more than 10,000).

Of the 37 women, 27 admitted they would like help to start a new business in Egypt, 3 would prefer going back to study and qualifying for some specific job, and 6 would like help to find any type of job.
4. Outline of patterns and intentions

The analysis of this data, while a reduced sample, confirms the image of the returned migrant generally established.

The data reveals broad patterns in the age, gender, and general background:

- The majority are males (1,260) that fall mainly within the age group between 20 and 30 years of age. The average age is 26.2 and the majority are either single (631) or married (621).
- Women represent only 2.8% of the total migrants surveyed, something that seems to be a clear reflection of the Egyptian migration trends, whereby women find more difficult to migrate due to cultural, family and society pressures.
- Although the difficulties for integration are high, due to the fact that destination communities are oftentimes in areas with high unemployment rates, youngsters may find an easy way out through the informal market. There is however, a particular vulnerable segment, those of 40 and older, who might face more difficulties when looking for a job.
- There is only the assumption that the place of return is the place of origin, however the data itself does not provide this information. Destination communities are primarily located in Low Egypt, in the Delta region (664), which constitutes half of the caseload, followed by the Upper Egypt region (414).
- Rural or urban destinations are not clarified by the questionnaire; however one can easily assume due to the intended destination, breakdown in education and occupation, that there is a high incidence of rural origin.
- Almost half of the caseload (637 or 49%) has finalized a secondary or technical education. Followed by 356 or 27% who indicated themselves as literate, or rather, capable of reading and writing without further education.
- 37% (487) of the total dedicated to the Construction sector during their time in Libya. 252 or 19% focussed on the Agricultural and Fishing sector, 13.5% (178) to the Industry and 13% (171) to Trade.
- As for the occupation, 44% (584) of the total caseload identified themselves as a “worker” or implementing an unqualified job. Artisans (16% or 221), Technicians (12% or 160) and Farmers (13% or 172) follow the “workers” in a lower number.
- Over half of the respondents or 51% received less than 1000 LE as salary. Of those, 380 earned less than 500 LE and 336 between 500 and 1000 LE.
- The majority of migrants either supported their spouse and children (582) and/or other family members (685). Most (77.8% or 1020 migrants) confess not having any other family member contributing economically to their families but themselves.
- 86% or 1,121 confirmed sending remittances. Most of them transferred the money through friends and colleagues when travelling back to Egypt (53% or 671). 61% of the migrants sent less than 1000 LE.
- An important number affirmed having entered in Libya without any type of documentation. 533 (or 40%) entered with passport but no work or resident visa, 206 (17.7%) entered with tourist visa, 7 entered with the Egyptian ID and 42 without any type of documentation.
• 1,048 (or 75%) intend to remain in Egypt, 185 (or 13%) stated their willingness to return to Libya, and 175 (or 12%) maintained that they intend to leave Egypt and look for a job elsewhere.

• The most frequently cited choices of future economic activity revolve around self-employment in business and trade. 903 (or 70%) would like to develop a different type of activity than the one implemented in Libya. 835 (or 63.7%) requested support to start up a business and 257 (or 19.6%) asked help to find a job. Only 6 people (or 0.6%) asked for support to migrate elsewhere. Much lower interest seemed to have on training or any particular education follow-up as their main concern is to start receiving some incomes on their own.

• In view of the circumstances of the departure, many migrants had to leave behind many of their belongings, documents and cash. Many of them were also exposed to some kind of violence while exiting the country.

**Receiving communities and future**

Acknowledging that 86% of the respondents admitted sending remittances to their families back in Egypt, it is easy to deduce that an important sort of income has disappeared from the receiving communities - areas already deprived and suffering high rates of unemployment.

The increased needs and vulnerabilities of the families and communities of destination stemming from this return go beyond the purpose of this paper although indications could be inferred. Further studies and broader surveys would help in better define these important aspects.
5. Conclusions and recommendations

Despite the reduced sample for analysis, the data collected provides a valid picture of the qualifications, desires and capabilities of the registered, as well as the opportunities for assistance that could be offered to them under a reintegration programme. It also reflects the importance of further analyzing the profile of the returnees, the impact in the receiving communities and the needs for development in support of the migrants and the communities.

The Rapid Screening Form (RSF) utilized for the survey, while important for the purpose of collecting initial data, provides only an initial indication of who these migrants are. Many gaps need to be addressed. It is possible that the form itself and its purpose may have been difficult to understand for some of the migrants, either due to the difficulties of the moment when it was filled up or simply due to an additional complexity of the questionnaire when translated into Arabic and the circumstances around the survey that did not allow one-to-one assistance to fully understand the questionnaire.

The focus groups discussions are important for the information they provide in a more relaxed environment. They certainly represent a sector of the migrant population providing their views and perceptions; however the information remains limited in number and geographic location.

Future research should consider extending the request for information to a larger group of migrants. The questionnaire for the survey should be simplified in form and enlarged in content while developing other outreach and data gathering tools to fine-tune additional information. These may serve inter-alia the purpose of better tailoring the assistance to these groups and analyze the impact of the return on the receiving community while ensuring higher accuracy and reliability of the data collected.

Extending the focus groups and other similar activities throughout the areas of return, may help to better identify complexities and opportunities for engagement while establishing referrals and support mechanisms to assist both the migrants and their receiving communities. It should be considered introducing information dissemination and awareness campaigns to actively reach migrant households within the different governorates as well as the communities and develop some outreach activities ensuring that those interviewed are well informed about the purpose of the information gathered and there are no other expectations.

Additional information should include:

• As the data analyzed includes only the household profile, there is no information on family accompanying the migrants (if any) during the return. Nor whether children or youngsters’ underage returned with their families and what kind of support they may need.

• A further analysis on the household and dependants in the place of return. This should include the number of dependants’ underage and their most urgent needs.

• Place of destination and origin. The RSF does not provide a clear understanding whether the migrants are returning to their place of origin or a chosen destination. It is understood that most are returning to their place of origin, however a further research may give light on whether it may be interested to think about additional alternatives to further internal migration for integration.

• Adding also a distinction between rural and urban origin may help analyze the type of occupation they may better suit their desires in conjunction with real market possibilities of their area. And this may also include detailed information on whether
the migrants are returning to their own property, living with family or friends, renting a house, etc.

- Further characterization and definition of the income generation activities carried out in Libya (sector, occupation, earnings) and interests on future jobs in Egypt: whether a similar one or potential akin alternatives implying a similar set of skills and capacities. Probably a closed-up questionnaire should be easier to limit the alternatives and focus the areas of work.

- Analysis of the length period in Libya and the frequency with which the remittances were sent. This can also give an understanding of the amount perceived by the receiving communities over a certain period of time, or their loss thereof.

- The impact upon return and the challenges of the receiving communities as well as their perceptions on the impact of the return.

- Analyzing the profile of those who have had less difficulty to integrate upon return and those who are facing more difficulties and the reasoning behind.

- Mapping existing opportunities in the framework of sustainable employment and capacity-building efforts.

The data gathered should contribute to further develop:

- A full migrant profiling, registering and eventual setting up a database of the entire or significant part of the caseload if deemed useful over time;

- Involve the community and survey their needs, particularly of the most vulnerable cases;

- Engaging the business community, the private and public sector;

- Individual counselling on needs and concerns of the migrants with regard to their economic life;

- Matching potential employer’s openings with the appropriate skills;

- Making available reintegration schemes facilitating the accelerated creation of income-generating opportunities such as self-employment, vocational and on-the-job training,

- Enhancing marketable skills through further education, including vocational training in collaboration with other service providers

- Introducing circular and labour migration alternatives for those who intend to migrate.

- Attending to the special needs of vulnerable cases (this should include those of the community members, such as youth and women)

The information so far gathered while still incomplete do however provide the initial bases for an assistance programme that should consider introducing some of the activities in response to the migrants requests and expectations. In order to do so, it is essential to maintain the participation of the receiving communities to ensure the sustainability of any effort and the active participation of the Government authorities both at central and provincial level and dovetailing the overall development plans.
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Annex

RAPID SCREENING FORM

We are collecting information about Egyptians going back to Egypt and Libya to understand how to better plan our activities in the future. We would appreciate your time in answering some questions. This data will be collected anonymously and treated with confidentiality.

1 - INFORMANT DETAILS

1.1 Gender: Male Female Age (in years):

1.2 Previous place of residence: Tripoli Baydah Benghazi Misratah Tubruq Sabha Surt Other (specify) ______

1.3 Next Intended Location: Egypt (specify governorate)Egypt Other country (specify country)________________________

1.4 Household Status: Married Single Divorced Widow(er)

2- FAMILY COMPOSITION

2.1 How many people do you support financially? Self only Wife/husband and children Parents Siblings Other relatives

2.2 Is there anyone else who supports the household financially? Yes (specify)______________ No

3 - ASSETS

3.1 Which of the following assets have you left behind? Rental property Owner occupied Investment property

House/ Land Business/lease Other: ____________

Motorcycle(s) Car(s) Television(s)

Tangible Possessions Computer(s) Other:

Money (cash/bank) 0 - 2,000 EGP or less (365 USD) 2,000 - 5,000 EGP (860 USD) 5,000 - 10,000 EGP (1,700 USD) More than 10,000 EGP

Document(s) birth certificate Passport education certificates property deed Egyptian ID

Other Specify

4 - MIGRATION INTENTIONS

4.1 Which of the following would best describe your future plans? Planning to return to Libya Already a job/business in Egypt Looking for a job/business in Egypt Looking for a job outside Egypt and Libya

5 - CURRENT ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES & SKILLS

5.1 What is the highest level of formal education you have attained? Master degree or PhD (Postgraduate) University degree (Undergraduate) General secondary school Secondary Technical School/Institute Middle School Elementary school Literate (can read and write) Illiterate

5.2 What is your current occupation? ___________________________

Mining, Oil & Gas Construction Agriculture and fishing Administration, Accounting White-collar (Administration)

Education & Training Medical & Healthcare Government (incl. third country) Other (specify) ___________________________

Trade, Other (specify) ___________________________

5.4 Are you planning to find a similar job in Egypt? Yes No - which type of job will you be looking for in Egypt? ___________________________

5.5 What kind of support you will need once you go back to Egypt? Training Help finding a job Help starting a business Other ___________________________

5.6 What was your average monthly income in Libya? (EGP) <500 501 - 1000 1001 - 2000 2001 - 4000 More than 4000

6 - CITIZENSHIP & IMMIGRATION STATUS

25
6.1 Which county/countries do you hold citizenship of? □ Egypt □ Libya □ other (specify)

6.2 What was your current immigration status in Libya?
□ Entered with an ID only
□ Entered with a passport but without a valid residence/work visa
□ Entered with a passport and a valid residence/work visa
□ Entered with a passport but on a tourist/visit visa
□ Had no travel documents □ Other (specify)

7 - REMITTANCES

7.1 Do you send money home □ Yes □ No

7.2 How did you usually send money home?
□ MoneyGram or Western Union □ When you travel back for holiday/visit □ Bank transfer
□ Arrangement through friends going back for a visit □ Other (specify)

7.3 Please indicate how much money you send home each month? In Egyptian pounds
□ <500 □ 501 - 1000 □ 1001 - 2000 □ 2001 - 4000 □ >More than 4000

8 - EXPOSURE TO TRAUMATIC EVENTS

Were you exposed to traumatic events?

Had to flee home □ Yes □ No

Directly exposed to or experienced a firefight, shooting, bombing, or attack by rebels and/or soldiers □ Yes □ No

Violence inflicted upon me by rebels and/or soldiers □ Yes □ No

Family member was kidnapped, abducted or injured □ Yes □ No

Family member was killed, murdered □ Yes □ No

Property and/or valuable assets were confiscated, destroyed, looted by rebel and/or soldiers □ Yes □ No

CONTACT INFORMATION

Thank you for your time. If we develop programmes to support Egyptians who returned from Libya with job placement and training, would you like us to contact you? □ Yes □ No

Telephone

Address

Email