

This infographic offers insights into the profiles of refugees and migrants moving to Tunisia, their aspirations upon departure, and migration routes, with a focus on access to information and dangers. The analysis also takes a closer look at what drives Nigerians' and Ethiopians' migration, as well as their experiences along their journeys.

METHODOLOGY

SAMPLE:

531 migrants and refugees who passed through Tunisia

SAMPLING CRITERIA AND TARGETS:

≥40% Nigerians and ≥30% Ethiopians, minimum stay of 3 months in Tunisia

DATA COLLECTION PERIOD:

July and October 2024

METHOD:

Phone interviews

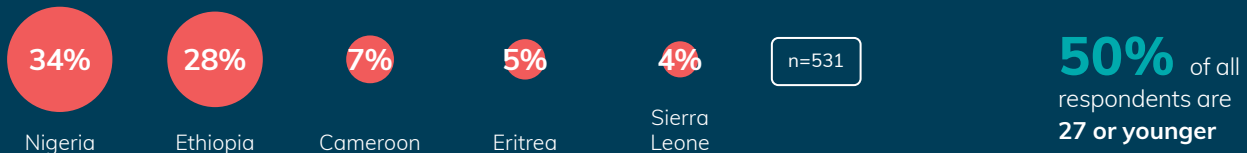
Key findings

- The majority (76%) of respondents cite economic reasons for leaving, but conflict or insecurity (62%) are also commonly reported, as well as social influences from family or friends in their country of departure (46%) or abroad (45%).
- Half of respondents (51%) did not explore other options besides migration before leaving. For others, migration came after attempting other options, such as finding another job (34%) or moving to another location within their country of origin (26%).
- Most journeys to Tunisia take a year or more (70%), transit through Algeria (54%) or Libya (54%), include stops along the route (99%), and involve high levels of abuses and violations (93%). Yet, most respondents (77%) followed through on the plan they had when departing.
- Almost all respondents faced information gaps (99%), especially about destination conditions (63%) and journey safety (61%). Only 16% had access to information on how to enter and stay in Tunisia legally before departing.
- Ethiopian respondents (n=151) reported conflict and insecurity as a reason for migrating more often (76%) than other nationalities, and the majority (70%) sought asylum upon arrival in Tunisia. Many experienced detention (74%) or kidnapping (64%) along the way, highlighting the risks of traveling through Sudan and Libya.
- According to the survey data, Nigerians (n=182) rely on a single smuggler for their entire journey more often (26%) than other nationalities.

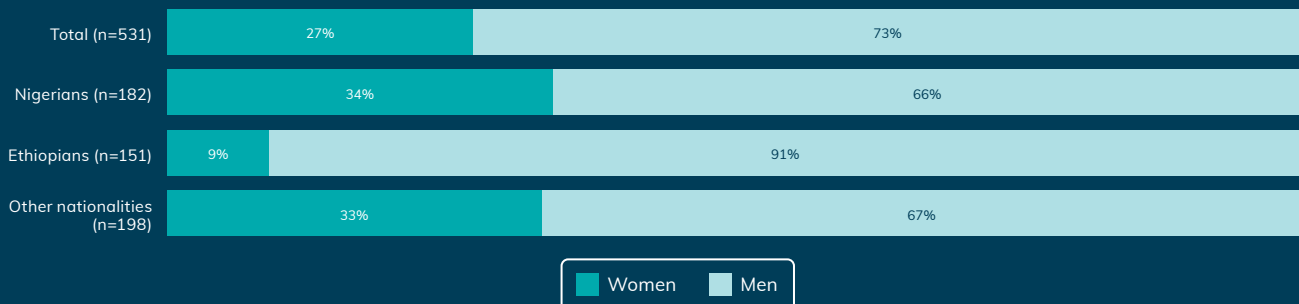
Respondents' profiles

Respondents came from 25 different countries, with **Nigerians and Ethiopians accounting for over half of the sample** due to their purposive selection in the sampling strategy.

Top 5 countries of origin among all respondents¹



Gender



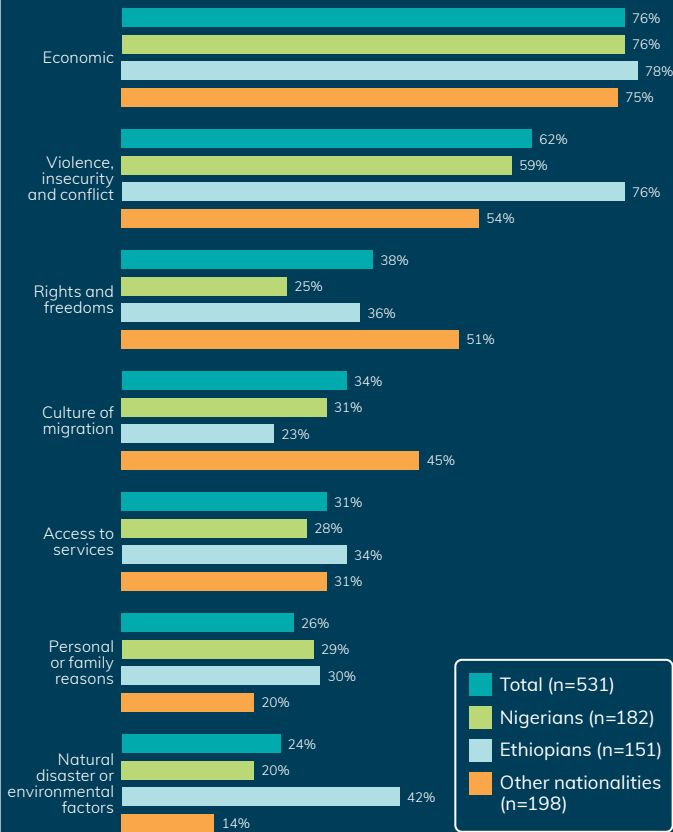
¹ Other countries of origin included Côte d'Ivoire (4%), Guinea (3%), Burkina Faso (2%), Sudan (2%), Mali (2%), Chad (2%), Benin (1%), Niger (1%), CAR (1%), Gambia (1%), DRC (1%), Gabon (1%), Congo (1%), Senegal (1%), Ghana (<1%), Mauritania (<1%), Morocco (<1%), Somalia (<1%), Algeria (<1%), South Sudan (<1%).

Drivers of primary movement

Migration is shaped by a mix of drivers and social influences: economic motives are central, while violence, insecurity and conflict are also commonly reported, especially among Ethiopians

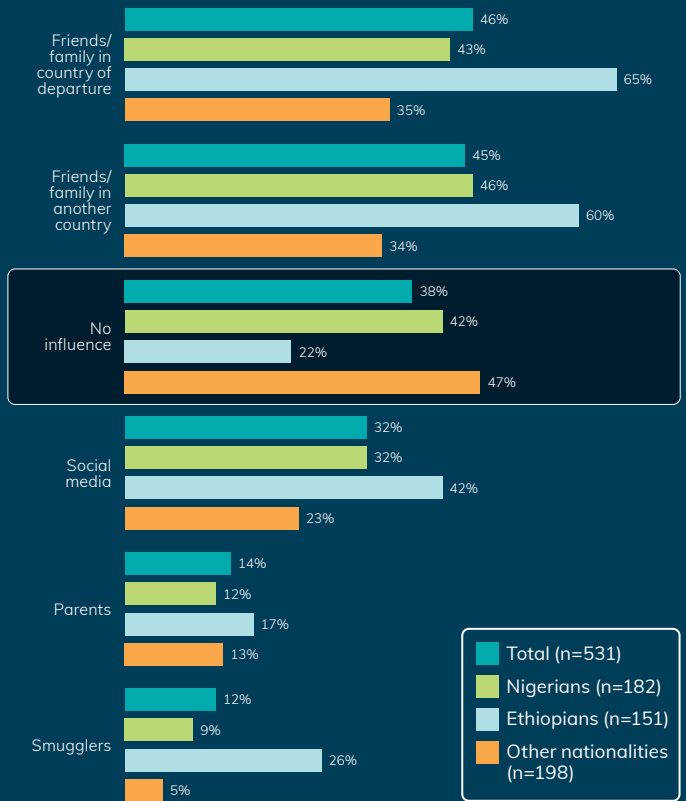
78% of all respondents cited **multiple** reasons for leaving their country of origin.

For what reasons did you leave your country of departure?



62% of all respondents reported that **someone** influenced their decision to leave their country of origin, especially among Ethiopians (78%).

Did anyone influence your decision to move?
Top 5 answers²

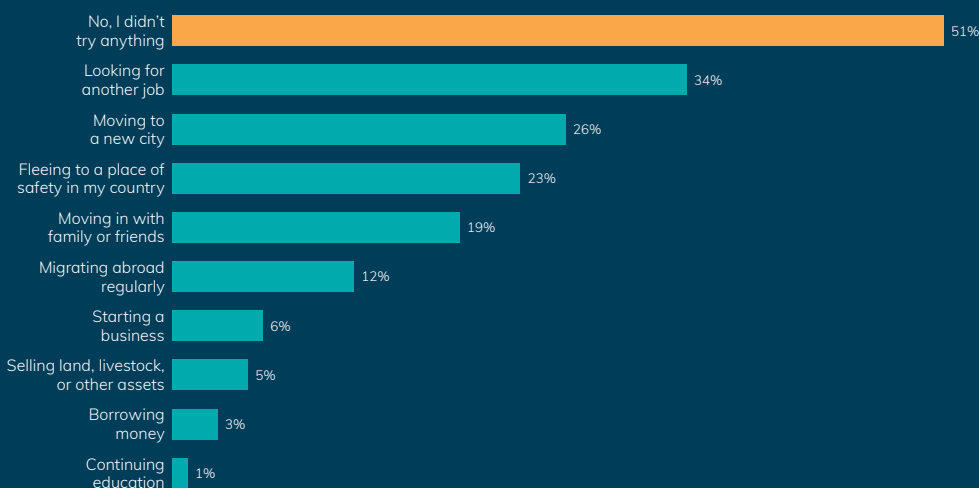


52% of Ethiopians came from the **Tigray** (32%) or **Amhara** (20%) regions, where **protracted conflicts**³ have caused **large-scale displacements**.

70% of Ethiopians reported **applying for asylum** in Tunisia, and **17% hold refugee status**. This contrasts sharply with all other nationalities combined (n=380), where only 26% reported having applied for asylum and 5% as having refugee status.

Alternatives to migration

Did you do anything to address the reasons you gave for leaving?



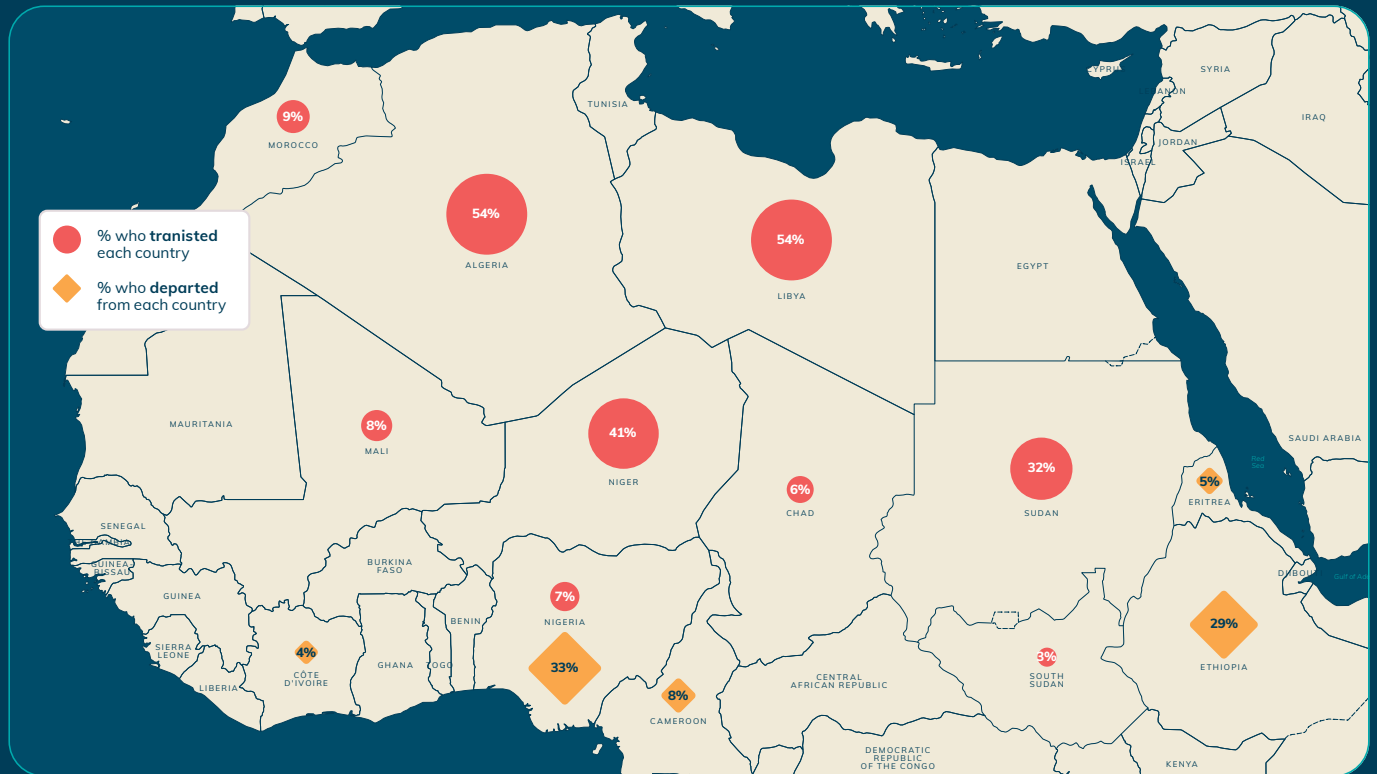
Half of respondents did not explore other options besides migration before departure, with migration potentially being seen as their only viable option

² Other influences included spouse (9%), returnees (9%), mainstream media (5%), and children (4%).

³ International Crisis Group (2026), [Ethiopia, Eritrea and Tigray: a powder keg in the Horn of Africa](#) International Crisis Group (2023), [Ethiopia's ominous new war in Amhara](#).

Migration routes

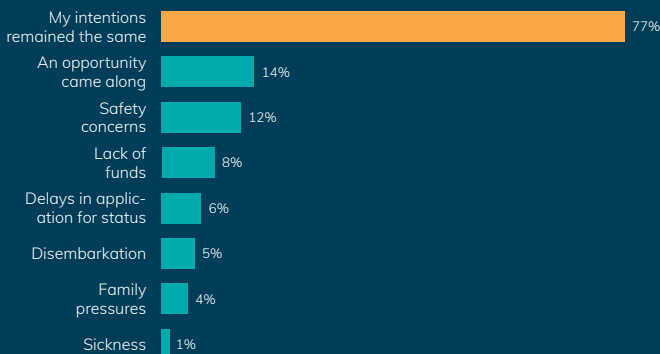
Top 5 departure and 10 transit countries to Tunisia (n=535)



Most refugees and migrants started their journey with a clear plan and remained committed to it...

77% of all respondents **did not change their plans** during their journey (**84% among Nigerians**), sticking to their chosen route and intended destination

Have you changed your plans during the journey? If so, why?



Faced with restrictions and limited alternatives, many turn to smugglers



93% of all respondents **used smuggler services** to travel to and through Tunisia

Ethiopians more commonly reported hiring **multiple smugglers during their journey (85%)** compared to **Nigerians (45%)**, leading them to negotiate with several actors to complete their journey

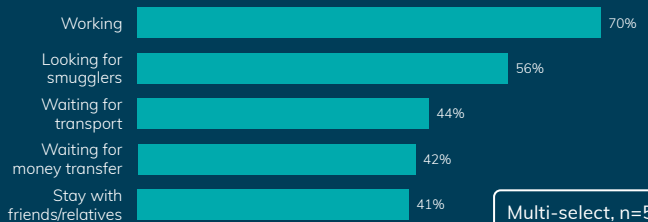
Nigerians commonly reported **relying on one smuggler for their full journey (26%)** more often than Ethiopians (4%), suggesting a less fragmented facilitation structure along their route

...even if journeys to Tunisia take time, with many being delayed and having to stop along their way

70% of all respondents **had left their country of departure one year or longer** before their stay in Tunisia. This was the case for **95% of Ethiopians**.

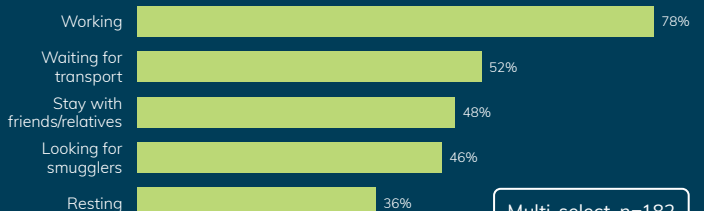
99% **stopped** at one or more locations en route

Why did you stop? Top 5 reasons, by nationality
Among all respondents



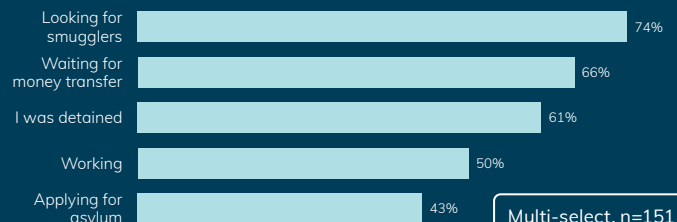
Multi-select, n=531

Among Nigerians



Multi-select, n=182

Among Ethiopians



Multi-select, n=151

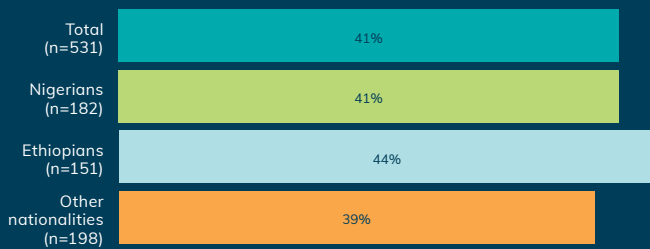
Access to information

Uncertainty shapes journeys and limits safe mobility decisions

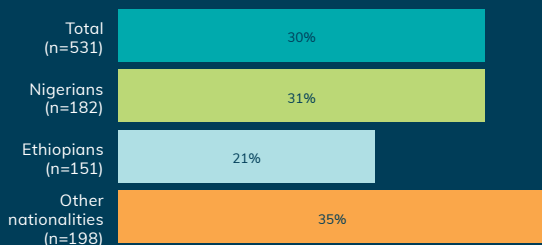
99% of all respondents **faced gaps in information** at least once during their journey

Percentage of respondents who reported **not receiving any information** on routes, destinations, costs, risks, etc

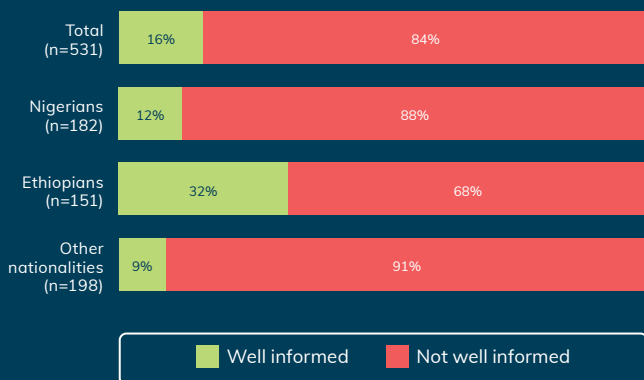
Before departure



During the journey

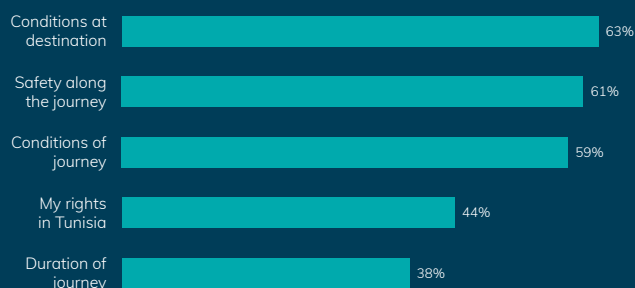


How informed were you about the rules and regulations about entering and living in Tunisia before you started your journey?



What information would have been most useful that you did not receive?

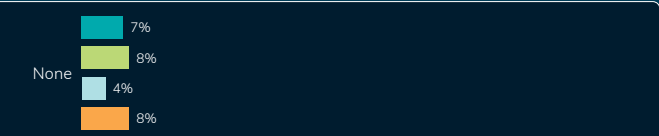
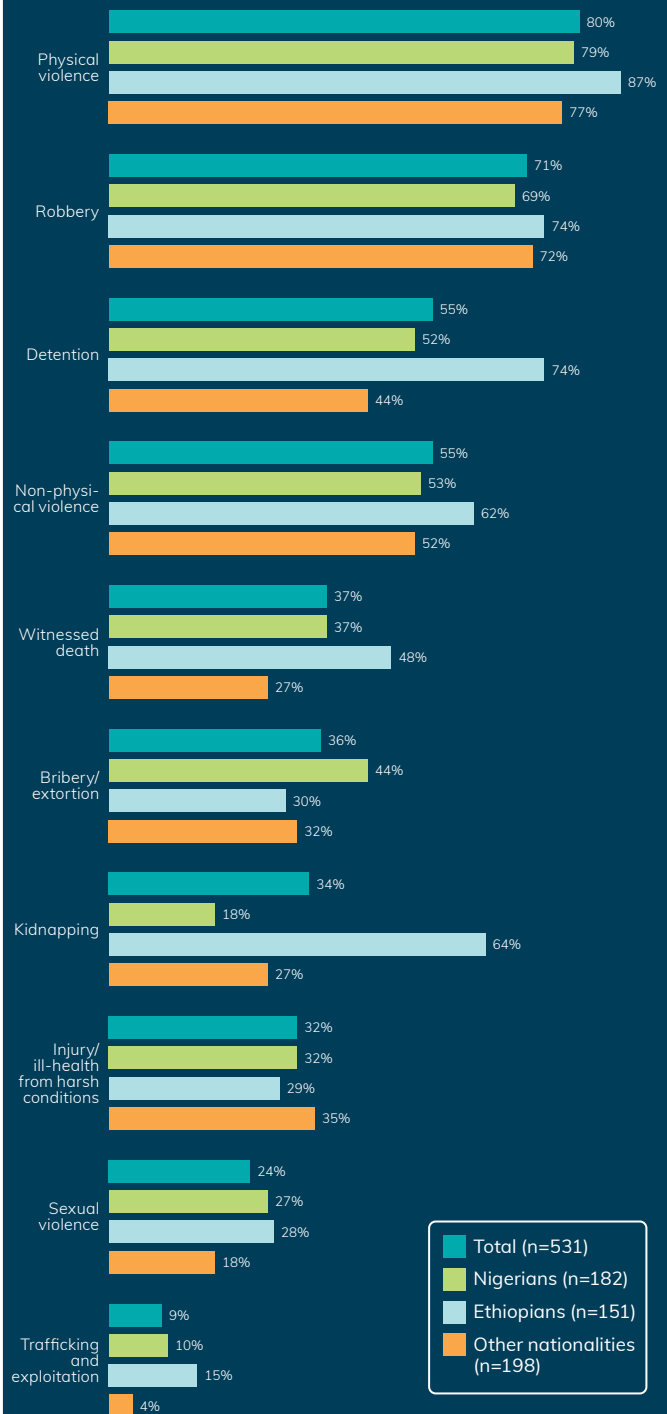
Top 5 answers⁴



Dangers along migration routes to and within Tunisia

Almost all respondents (93%) reported experiencing abuses and violations during their journey

Have you personally experienced any of these types of incidents on your journey?



Ethiopians most often perceived risks in **Libya (83%)** and **Sudan (61%)**

Nigerians most often perceived risks in **Algeria (54%)** and **Tunisia (40%)**

⁴ Other information gaps include cost of journey (35%), where and how to access services (29%), legal processes regarding migration and asylum (16%), routes (12%), and how to find a smuggler (4%). Only 1% reported accessing all the information they needed.



4Mi data collection

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 migration and the protection risks for refugees and migrants on the move. 4Mi field enumerators are currently collecting data through direct interviews with refugees and migrants in Asia and the Pacific, Eastern and Southern Africa, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, North Africa, and West Africa.

Note that the sampling approach means that the findings derived from the surveyed sample provide rich insights, but the figures cannot be used to make inferences about the total population. See more 4Mi analysis and details on methodology at: mixedmigration.org/what-is-4mi-migration-data

