

دور مؤسسات التعليم العالي في التعامل مع قضايا الهجرة

(The Role of higher education institutions in dealing with the phenomenon migration: approaches and initiatives)

تأثير طرق الهجرة والتهريب على التحول السكاني في
مدن جنوب ليبيا

The Impact of Migration and Smuggling Routes on Population Transformation in Southern Libyan Cities

إعداد: أ.د. طارق الأسود

Prof. Tarek Elaswed

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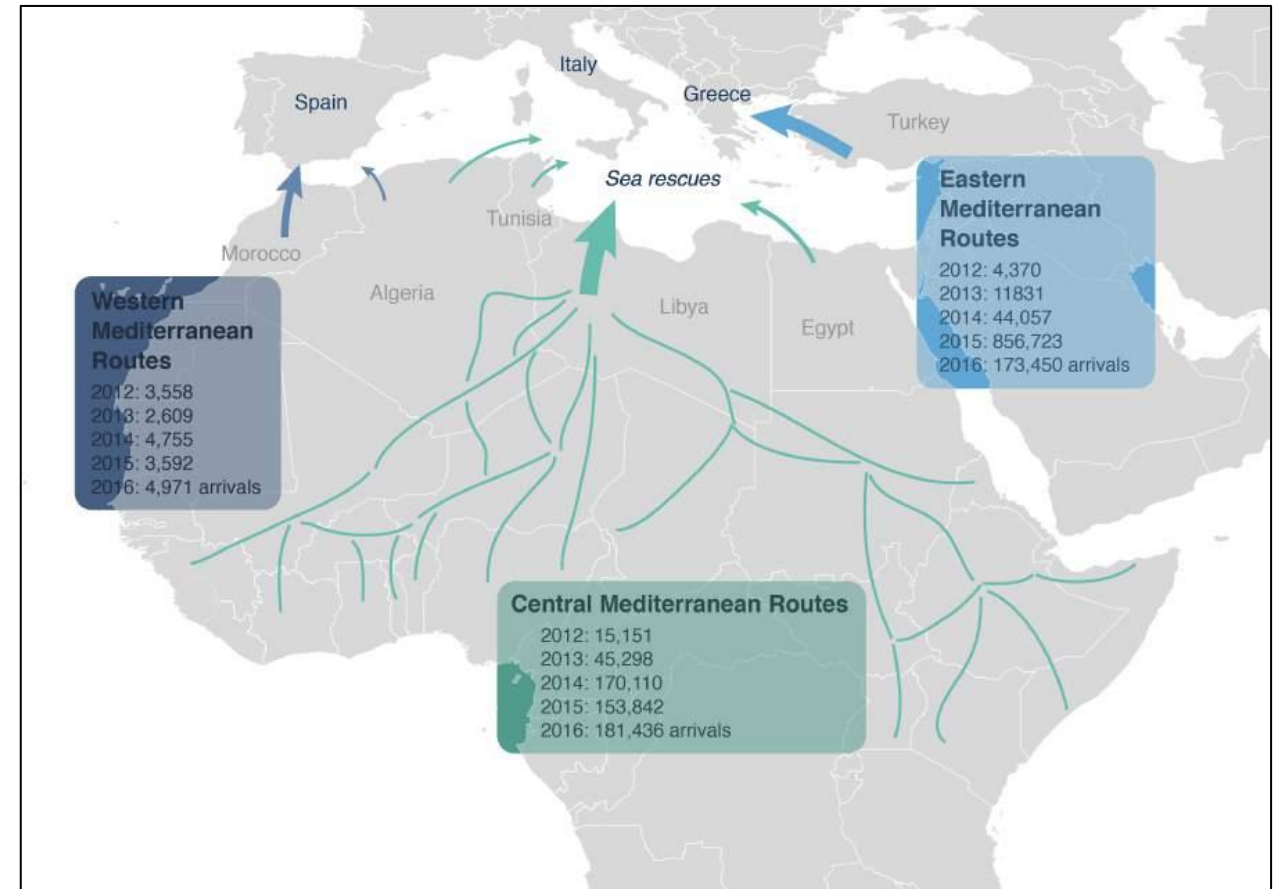
Introduction

- Libya has been the a gate of migration towards Europe historically.
- Migration is one of the most important component of population growth in Libya.
- The African migration towards Europe is significant in the Libyan contemporary.
- Illegal migration has affected the Libyan political, economic, and social structure.
- Migration challenges have to be solved carefully as the situation escalating and political division is deepening.
- Since 1990s, the pan-Africanism policy “free movement or persons” led to massive migration flows from Sub-Saharan countries.
- In 2005, around 2 million migrants lived in Libya (36% of total population).

Migration Routes and Flows to Europe

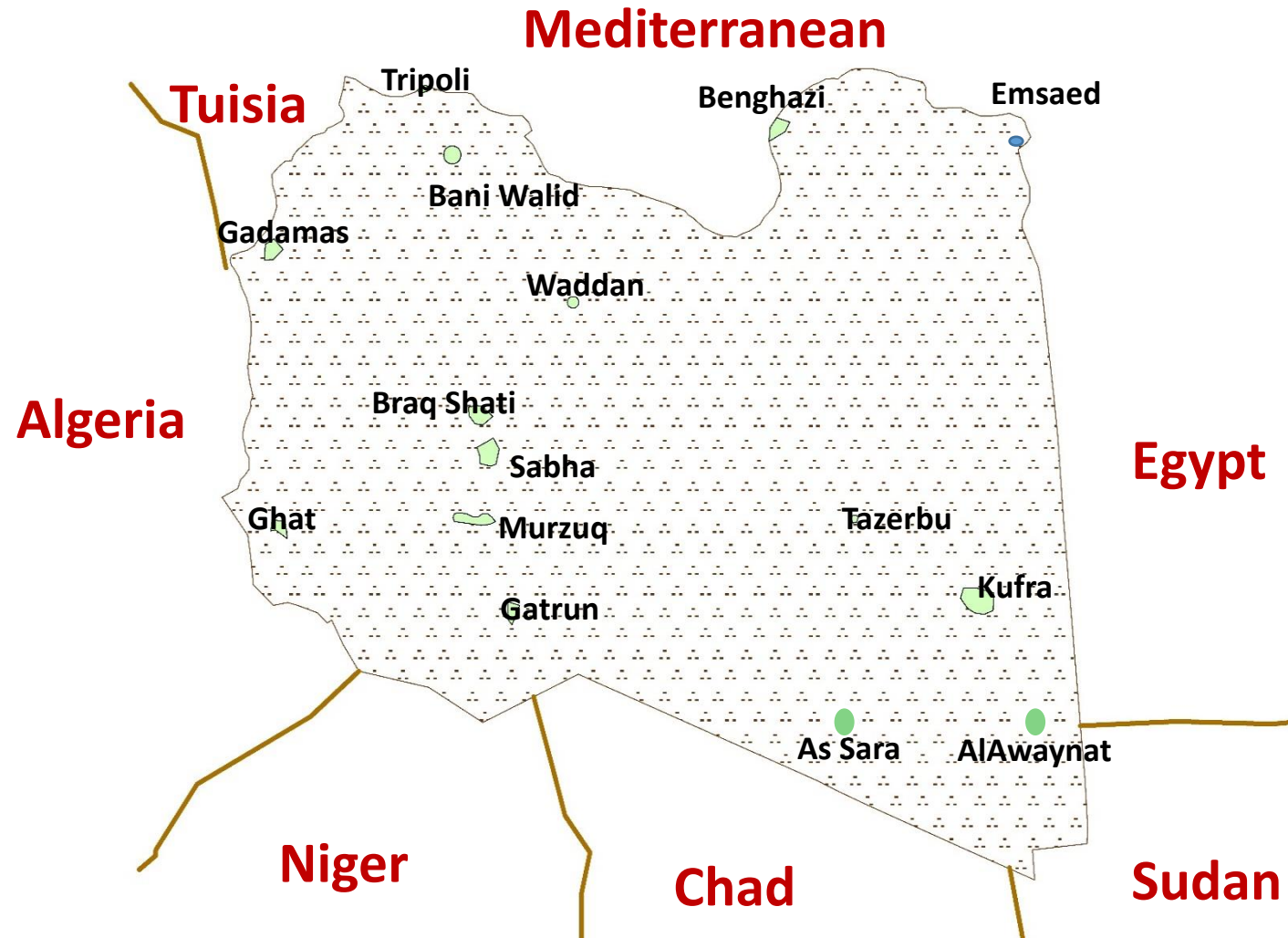
- Three main routes bring refugees and migrants to Europe: the Western Mediterranean Route (usually via Morocco to Spain), the Central Mediterranean Route (usually via Libya to Italy) and the Eastern Mediterranean Route (usually via Turkey to Greece).
- The Central Mediterranean Route is currently the most active and accounts for the largest number of people crossing by sea to Europe.
- Libya is by far the preferred jumping off point for refugees and migrants from Africa hoping to reach Europe; yet it is particularly unsafe.
- In recent years, movements by sea from Libya to Europe have increased and the indications are that it is likely to stay this way. In addition to Libya's strategic location, conflicts and instability in the country have hindered border control and created an environment where
- smuggling networks can flourish.

Main Migration Routes to Europe

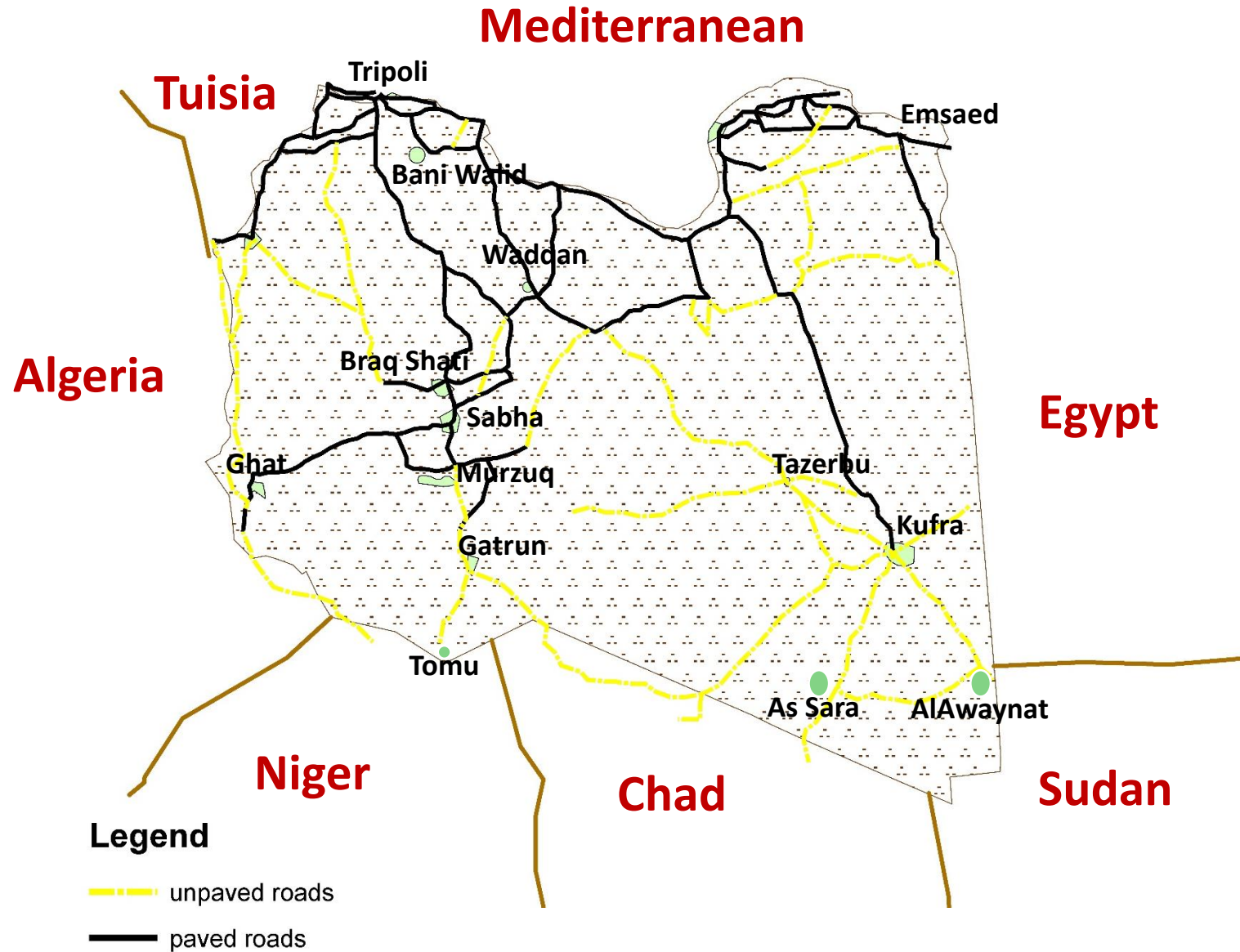


Data source: IOM.

The main cities for the migration routes and smuggling in Libya

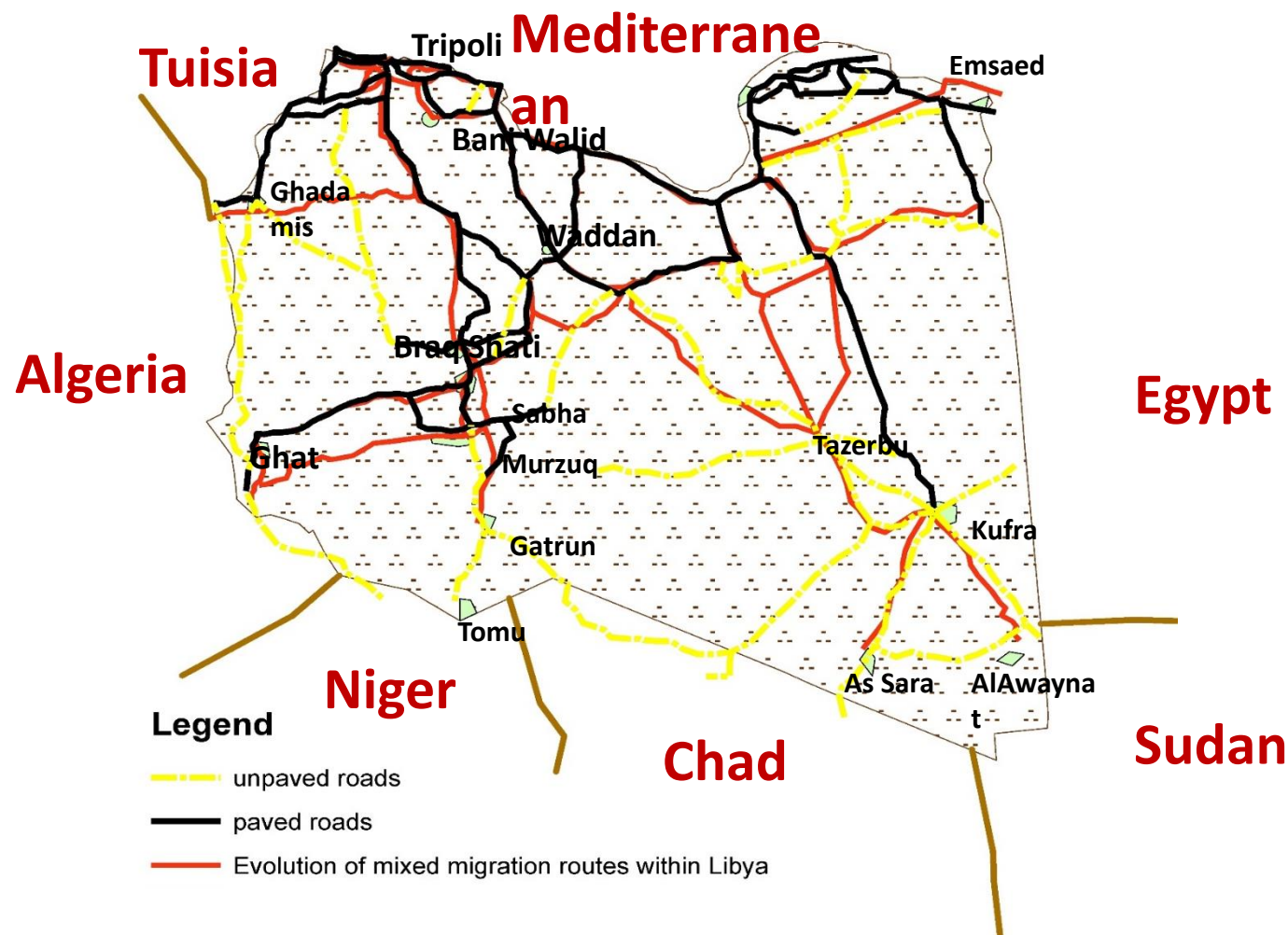


The network of the main road and unpaved roads in Libya



Evolution of mixed migration routes within Libya 2018

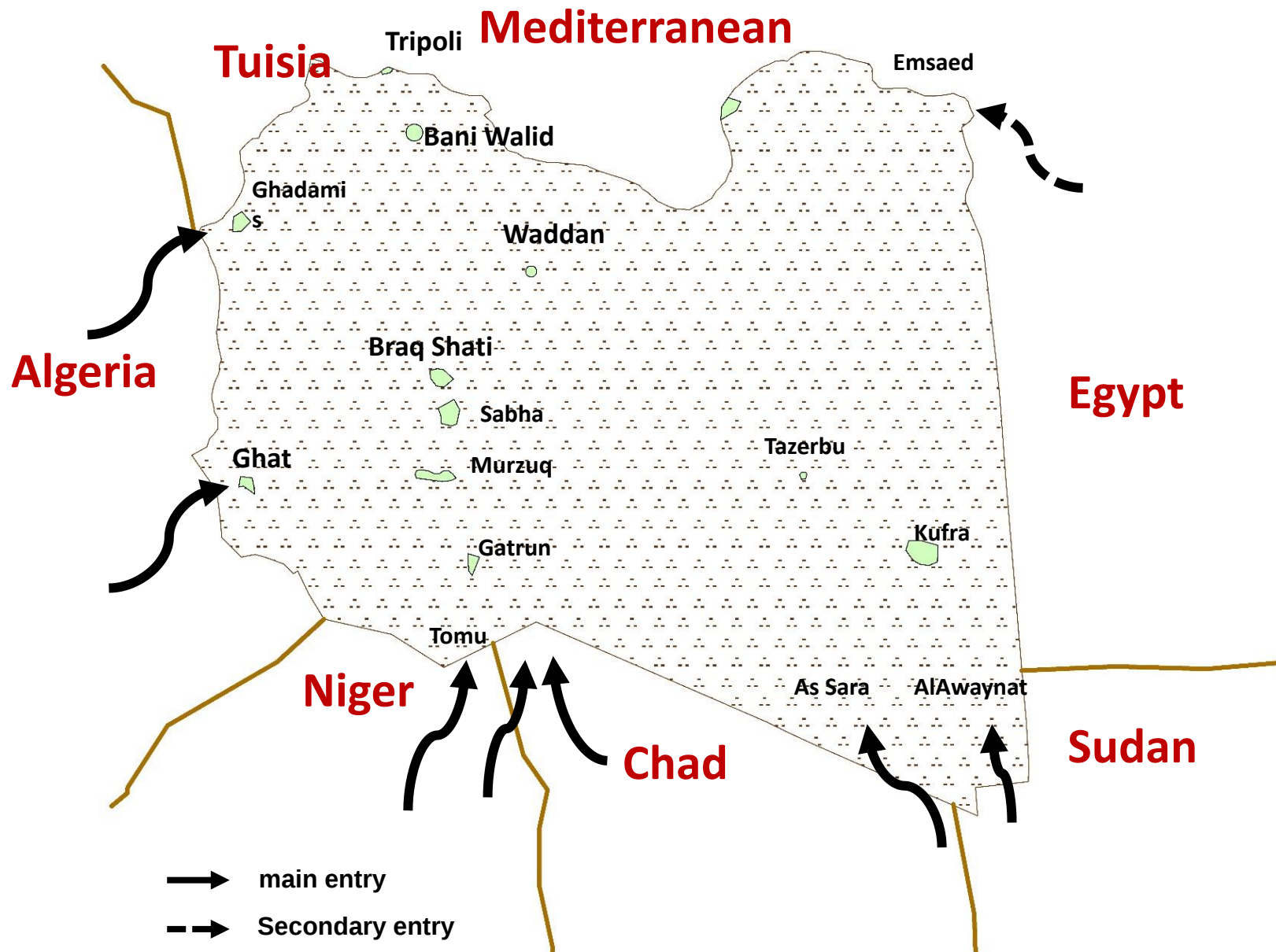
- In 2018 an increase in smuggling hubs along the eastern coast was found, mirroring the increase in anti-smuggling operations in the west.
- Reportedly, anti-smuggling operations in the west had led to an increase in sites, also along the eastern coast, where refugees and migrants were held for long periods of time waiting to cross the sea. At the same time ,
- The stabilization of the region around Sirte after the defeat of armed groups in 2017 had reportedly made the eastern region more accessible and the coastal road through Sirte useable for smugglers.



The main entry points to Libya

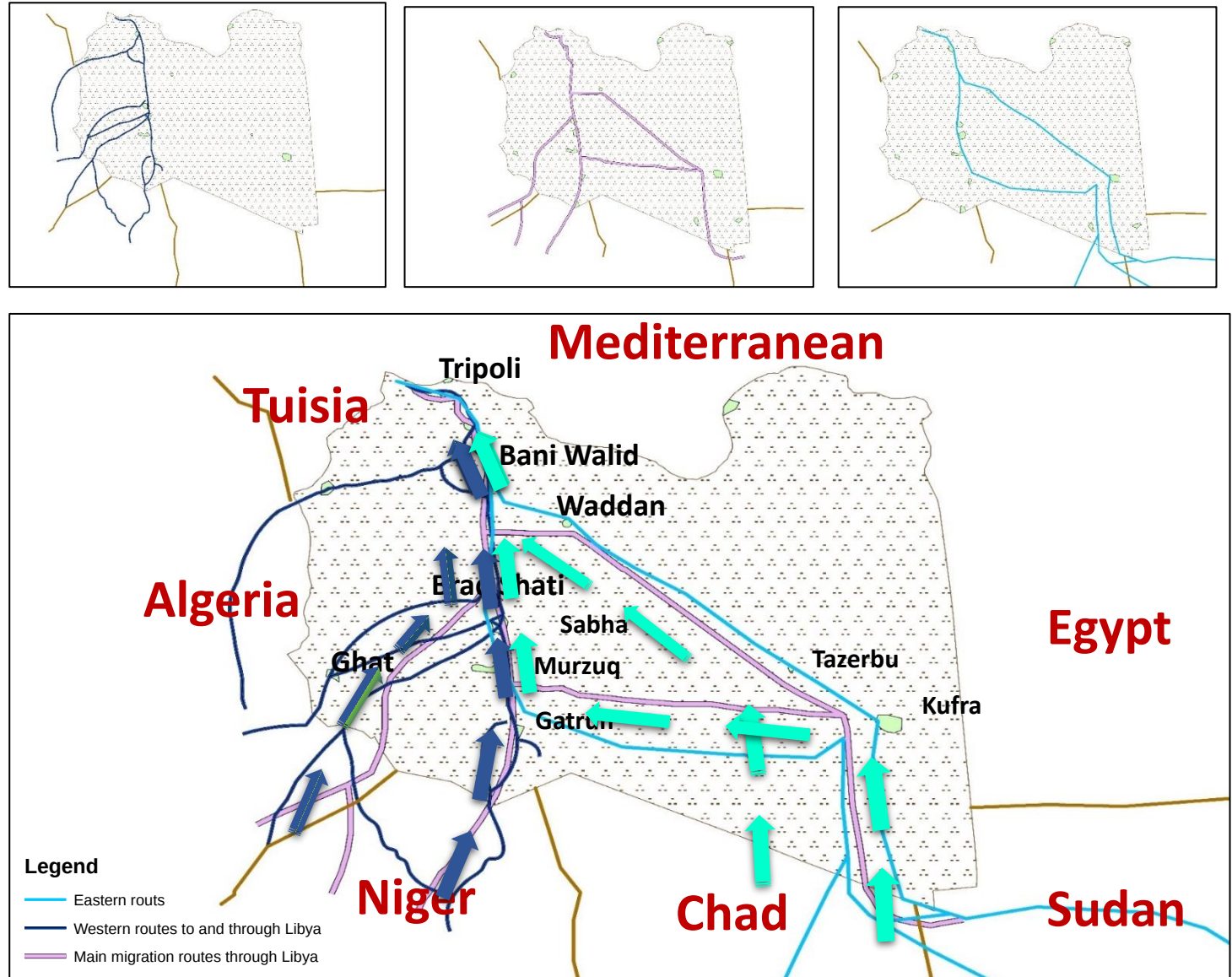
There are three main entry points for refugees and migrants into Libya:

- via Niger or Chad along Libya's southern borders;
- Via Algeria on the north-western or south-western border with Libya and
- Via the eastern route with refugees and migrants reaching the south-eastern region of Alkufra transiting through both Chad and Sudan.
- Secondary routes include entering Libya via Egypt along the coastal town of Emsaed.



migration routes and smuggling within Libya

Corresponding to the main entry points into the country, there are two main routes which refugees and migrants in Libya use to reach the coast, via the east and west of the country respectively. In 2017, refugees and migrants who entered Libya from Algeria or Niger used the western route to reach the coast, while individuals entering from Chad and Sudan used the eastern route until Alkufra and, from there, joined the western route.



WESTERN ENTRIES

- Ghat is the main entry town in the western borders of Algeria.
- Most of the migrants are Tuareg tribes residing in the Ubari area.
- The role of the migrants is minimal due to the policy of the tribes.
- Some migrants continue the journey towards the north.
- The Algerian migration policy has decreased the number of migrants within this area since 2017.
- Libyan Tuareg have kept control over newcomers, so they did not change the structure nor cause internal conflicts



EASTERN ENTRIES

- Kufra is the main city in the southeastern region.
- Al Kufra was considered a crossroads of the caravan trade routes between the north and south in the past, heading from the Libyan cities and oases to the neighboring countries.
- The most entrants come from Egypt, Sudan, Ethiopia, and Eritrea.
- The Ouzou strip has moved to Kufra since 1980 and become a major component of its inhabitants



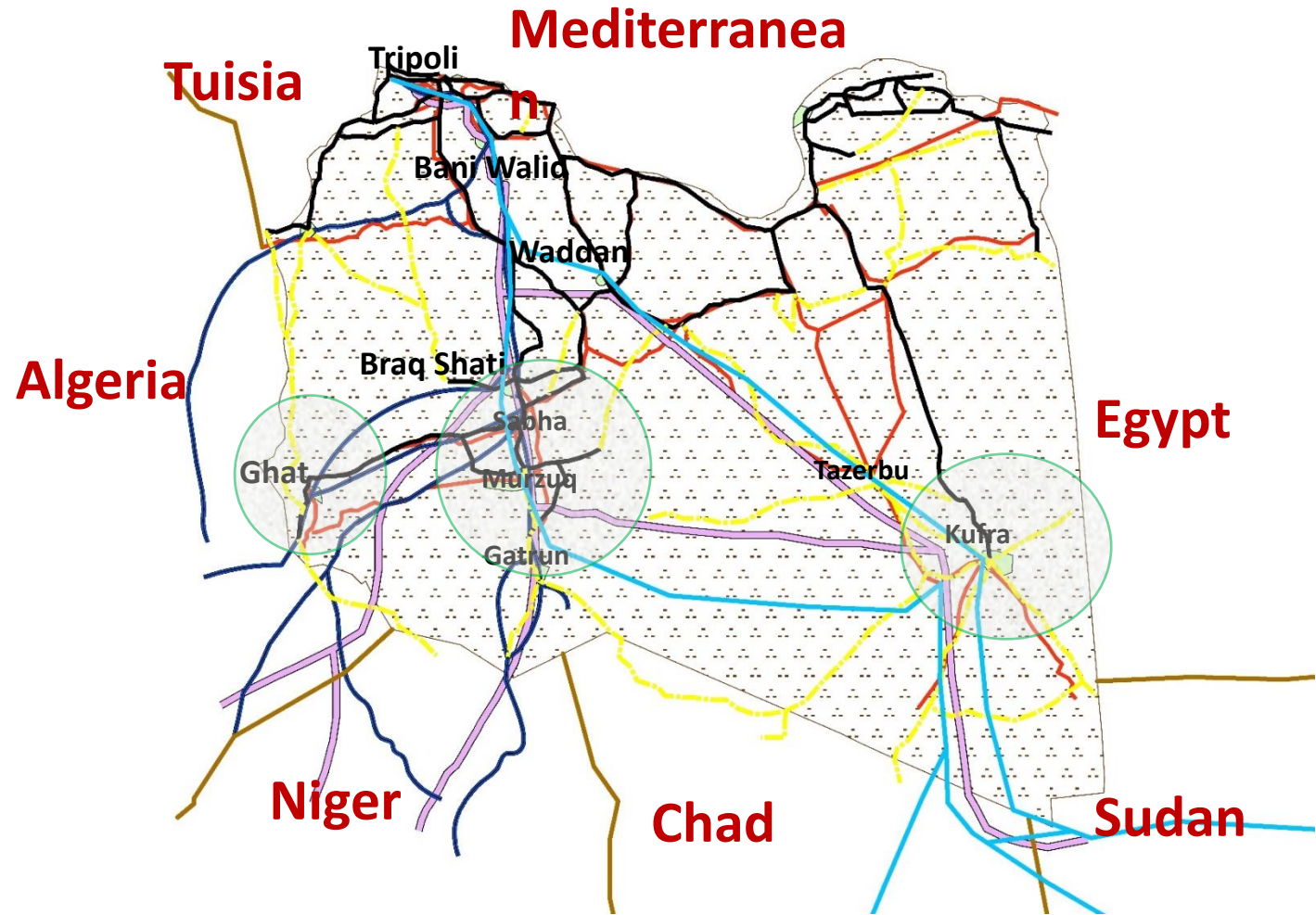
SOUTHERN ENTRIES

- This entry has been the main and significant in the Libyan migration crisis.
- Even though migrants from Niger have decreased, still the main entry from Chad has been exploding
- Migrants from Niger and Sudan enter Chad then take their way to Libya
- The smuggling chain works extensively across countries from small towns and cities to the main camps in Murzuq area (Umm al Aranib, Gatron, Murzuq)



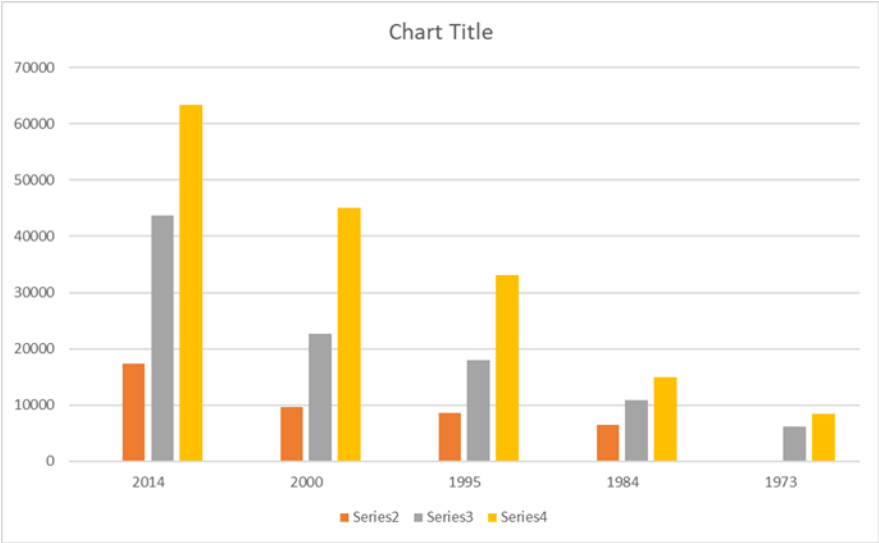
The relationship of routes with the population transformation

The migration routes that pass through the desert cities of Murzuq, Kufra, and Ghat have led to an increase in population and a shift in demographic structure, as many migrants have chosen to settle and reside in these cities.



POPULATION GROWTH

2014	Growth Rate 00-14	2000	Growth Rate 95-00	1995	Growth Rate 84-95	1984	Growth Rate 73-84	1973	CITY
17374	5.6	9700	2.5	8560	5.2	6500	--	--	GHAT
43732	6.6	22600	4.7	18000	6.3	10820	5.3	6150	MURZUQ
63400	3.0	45100	7.5	33050	5.3	14948	1.3	8400	KUFRA



Sources: - Libyan Information Authority: Population Census 1973, 1984, 1995
- Estimations based on population annual growth
- Local Data

CONCLUSION

- Libya has suffered from transitional illegal immigration for decades.
- There has been a noticeable rise in the populations of the cities of Murzuq, Kufra, and Ghat, attributed to an influx of migrants from neighboring countries and other desert cities.
- The Libyan economy has been affected by millions of illegal migrants from all neighboring countries and migrants and refugees from many other countries, which had a peak of more than 2.5 million migrants in the late 1990s.
- The migration routes that pass through the desert cities of Murzuq, Kufra, and Ghat have led to an increase in population and a shift in demographic structure, as many migrants have chosen to settle and reside in these cities.

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- ***Phone interviews*** with refugees from kurzuq, November 2020
- ***Interview*** with migrants from Chad in Libya, November 2020

Thank You!

For Your Attention

