

FLOW MONITORING SURVEYS: BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

2019



Image: Relocation of migrants from the unofficial camp Vučjak to Canton Sarajevo (TRC Ušivak and TRC Blažuj) in mid-December.

354

interviews carried out in
Bosnia and Herzegovina
in November and December 2019



Image: Relocation of migrants from the unofficial camp Vučjak to Canton Sarajevo (TRC Ušivak and TRC Blažuj) in mid-December.

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DTM FLOW MONITORING SURVEYS IN EUROPE

The flow monitoring surveys (FMS) are part of the IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) activities in the Mediterranean that started in October 2015 and are conducted within the framework of IOM's research on populations on the move through the Mediterranean and Western Balkan Routes to Europe. The collected surveys are regularly analysed and provide information on profiles of migrant and refugees, transit routes and vulnerabilities. All analyses together with the latest information on arrivals to Europe can be accessed via DTM's [Flow Monitoring Europe Geportal](#).

The survey gathers information on profiles of migrants and refugees, including age, sex, areas of origin, levels of education, as well as employment status before migration, key transit points on their route, the cost of the journey, vulnerabilities, reasons for moving and intentions.

The revised questionnaire form, used for the surveys in 2019, includes additional questions concerning the expectations of migrants and refugees of the host government/network of co-nationals in the intended destination country, assistance provided (type and by whom was it provided) and challenges experienced during the journey, as well as child/specific indicators. Information about the questionnaire, sampling and survey implementation can be found in the [Methodology](#) section.

FOCUS OF THE REPORT

Between November and December 2019, DTM field team conducted 354 valid surveys in two different locations in Bosnia and Herzegovina, capturing journey experiences of newly arrived migrants and refugees.

This report focuses on the analysis of the profiles, experiences and vulnerabilities of respondents surveyed in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Due to the limited number of interviews, all surveyed are analyzed together.

1. NATIONALITY AND DEMOGRAPHICS

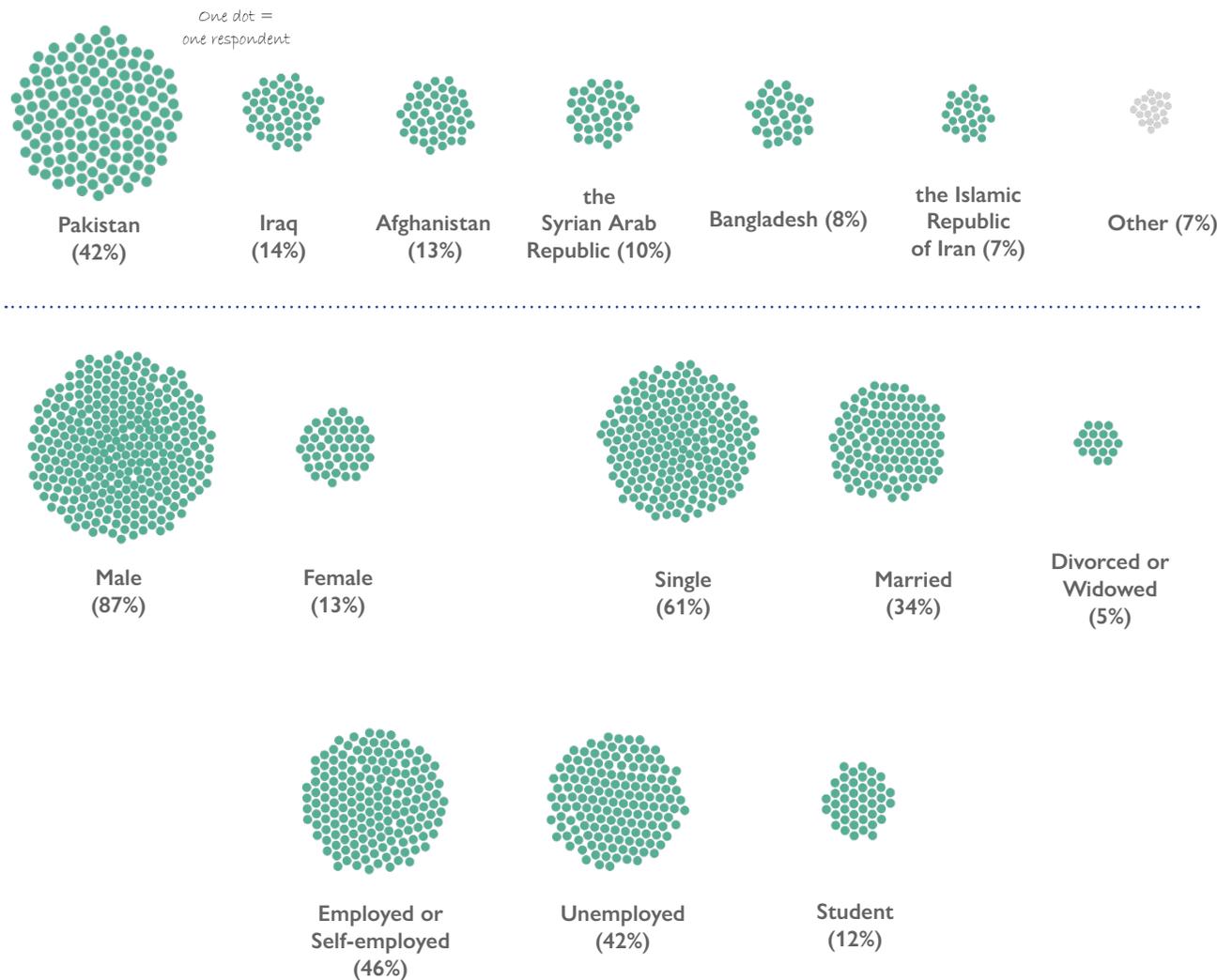
The largest share of respondents were Pakistani nationals (42%), followed by Iraqi (14%), Afghan (13%) and the Syrian Arab Republic nationals (10%). The rest of the respondents were from either Bangladesh, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Egypt or Nepal.

The majority of respondents were male (87%). Respondents were relatively young, with the median age being 26 years. Male respondents were slightly younger than female respondents, with male respondents' median age being 26 years and female respondents' median age being 28.5 years.

Approximately half of respondents reported to have completed either primary or lower-secondary education at the time of departure from countries of origin or habitual residence, while one in every four respondents reported to have completed upper-secondary education and one in every ten respondents reported to have completed tertiary education. Additionally, six per cent of all respondents reported to not having completed any formal level of education.

More than a half of all respondents (61%) reported they were single, while 34 per cent reported they were married and the rest reported they were either divorced or widowed.

The largest share of respondents (46%) reported that they have been employed or self-employed at the time of departure from countries of origin or habitual residence, while 42 per cent reported that they have been unemployed and 12 per cent reported that they have been studying at the time of departure.



2. JOURNEY AND STAY IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

TRAVEL

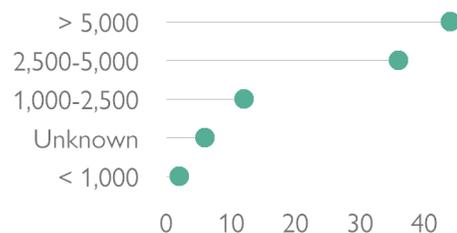
Forty-three per cent of all respondents reported to have travelled alone, 31 per cent reported to have travelled with a group of non-family members and 26 per cent reported to have travelled with their families.

COST OF JOURNEY

The largest share of respondents surveyed (44%) reported the estimated cost of their journey to be more than 5,000 USD, while 36 per cent reported the estimated cost to be between 2,500 and 5,000 USD, 12 per cent - between 1,000 and 2,500 USD, 2 per cent - less than 1,000 USD and the rest did not know the exact amount that they had paid.

Approximately half of all respondents (43%) reported that they had raised the money for the journey themselves, while 28 per cent reported that their relatives in the countries of origin or habitual residence had paid for their journey, 19 per cent reported that they had sold their property in order to finance their journey, 16 per cent reported that had gone into debt to pay for the journey and 8 per cent reported that their relatives abroad had paid for their journey. It should be noted that the questions had multiple answers, therefore percentages do not add up to 100%.

Percentage of respondents by the reported cost of journey (USD, per person).



STAY IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

The largest share of respondents (36%) reported that they have been staying in Bosnia and Herzegovina between three and six months prior to the survey, 31 per cent reported they have been staying in the country between two weeks and three months prior to the survey, another 31 per cent reported they have been staying for more than six months and the rest reported they have been staying for less than two weeks.

Percentage of respondents by the duration of stay in Bosnia and Herzegovina.



RETURN INTENTIONS

The majority of respondents (84%) reported they had not considered returning during their journey, while the rest reported they had.

Out of those respondents who had not considered returning, most reported they were not willing to return (58%), followed by those who cited security issues (31%). The rest reported other reasons. Out of those respondents who reported they had considered returning, the majority (82%) reported the considered doing so because they were tired to continue their journey onwards.

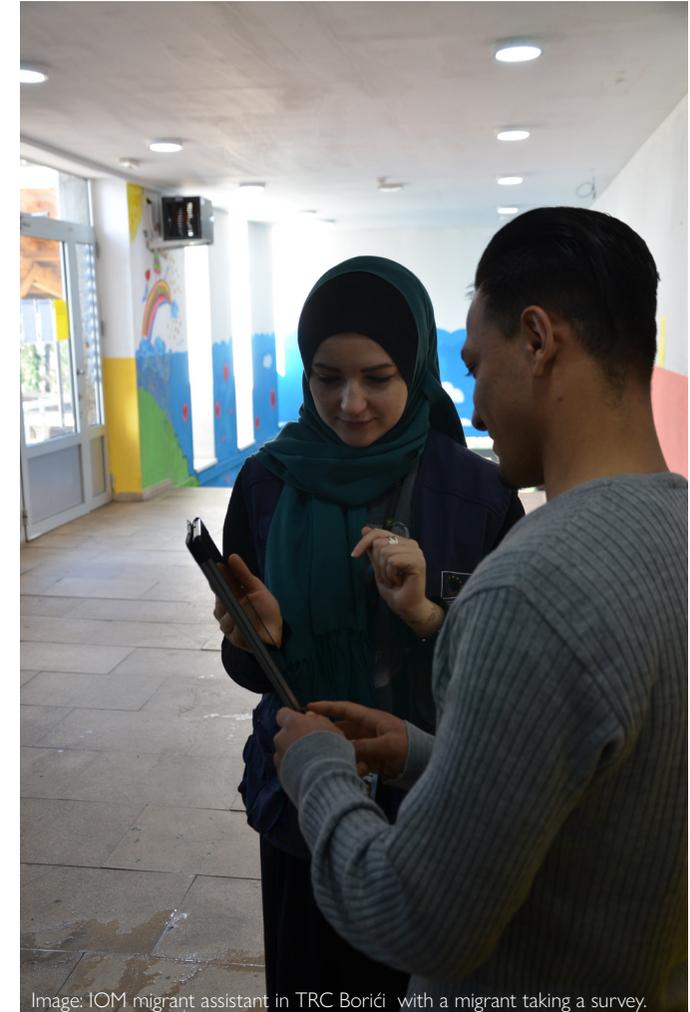


Image: IOM migrant assistant in TRC Borići with a migrant taking a survey.

3. TRANSIT ROUTES

TRANSIT ROUTES: PAKISTANI NATIONALS

The largest share of respondents (35%) reported that they had departed from Greece*, after which they transited through the North Macedonia, followed by Serbia.

A slightly smaller share (21%) reported they had departed from the Islamic Republic of Iran, transiting through Turkey, Greece, the North Macedonia and Serbia before reaching Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Fifteen per cent reported that they had departed from Turkey, transiting in Greece, the North Macedonia and Serbia. The rest of Pakistani nationals did not report the complete journey.

TRANSIT ROUTES: AFGHAN NATIONALS

Approximately 90 per cent of respondents from Afghanistan reported they had departed from Afghanistan and transited through the Islamic Republic of Iran, while the rest transited through Pakistan before reaching the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The most commonly reported route onwards was through Turkey, followed by Greece, the North Macedonia and Serbia (30%), while a smaller share (approximately 5%) reported to have transited through Turkey, followed by Bulgaria and Serbia.

Main transit routes identified in the Western Balkans region in 2019



* Most respondents spent more than a year in Greece.

4. COUNTRIES OF INTENDED DESTINATION

Italy, France and Germany were the most frequently mentioned countries of intended destination at the time of departure from countries of origin or habitual residence.

Twenty-five per cent of all respondents reported Italy as the country of their intended destination, 20 per cent reported France and 14 per cent reported Germany. The rest reported other European countries.

The survey also asked about intended destinations at the time of the interview. There were no major changes between the countries of intended destination that respondents reported they had in mind at the time of departure in comparison to the ones that they named at the time of the interview.

When asked what was their country of intended destination at the time of the interview, 27 per cent reported Italy, 18 per cent reported France and 14 per cent reported Germany, while the rest reported other European countries. Only one per cent of respondents reported Bosnia and Herzegovina as their intended destination.

Approximately half of the respondents (54%) did not have family members in the countries of intended destination, while 25% had non first-line relatives and the rest had first-line relatives.

REASONS FOR CHOOSING COUNTRIES OF INTENDED DESTINATION

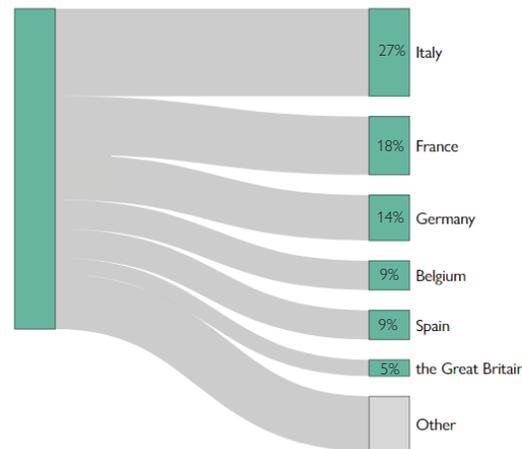
Those respondents who reported Italy as the country of their intended destination were more likely than respondents who reported Germany or France as their intended destinations to report ease of access to asylum procedures as their reason for choosing Italy as a destination country.

Having family and/or relatives was cited as the main reason by the majority of respondents who reported France as their intended destination (41%), followed by those respondents (37%) who reported appealing socio-economic conditions. Half of those respondents who reported Germany as their intended destination reported they chose it because of appealing socio-economic conditions.

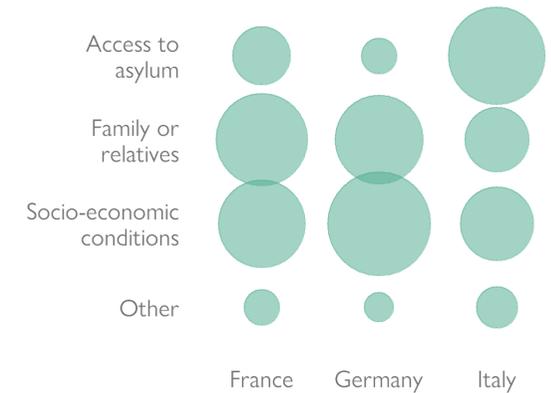
EXPECTATIONS IN THE COUNTRIES OF INTENDED DESTINATION

The largest share of respondents (32%) reported they expected to legalize their status in the countries of their intended destinations, followed by those who reported they expected to find a job (27%) and those who reported they expected to apply for the asylum status. The rest reported other reasons. There were no significant differences observed in terms of expectations between main destination countries.

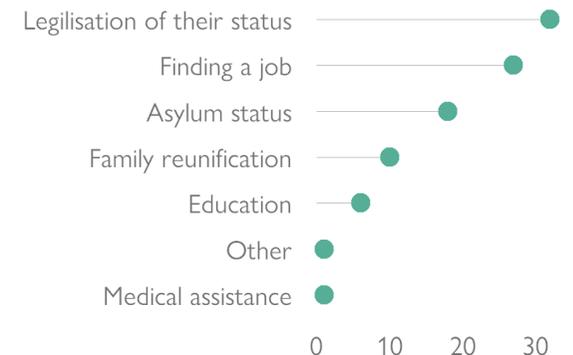
Countries of intended destination at the time of the interview.



Percentage of respondents by reasons for choosing countries of intended destination (at the time of the interview).



Percentage of respondents by the reported expectations in the countries of intended destination.



5. VULNERABILITIES

The survey also includes a module that aims to gather data on human trafficking and other exploitative practices that the respondent or other migrants and refugees travelling with them might have experienced on the route.

More specifically, the survey included four questions to capture information about whether or not the respondent has, during their journey:

1. Worked or performed activities without getting the agreed upon payment.
2. Been forced to perform work or activities against their will.
3. Been forced or coerced into a marriage against their will.
4. Been kept at a certain location against their will in a manner restricting their freedom (by persons other than authorities of the country).

These four questions relate to an event, that may have been experienced by the respondent first-hand.

The experiences described in these questions do not aim to identify cases of human trafficking as defined by international and national legal instruments. If interviewers came across respondents who requested further support, they referred these cases to the relevant protection actor.

If the migrants didn't express the wish to receive further assistance at the time of the survey, they were provided with information on specialized service providers so they could seek assistance themselves at a later stage.

MAIN FINDINGS

25% or 89 respondents answered “yes” to at least one of the four direct indicators of human trafficking, exploitation and abuse based on their own direct experience.

- Having worked without getting the expected payment

14% or 51 respondents reported they had worked or provided services for someone during their journey without receiving the expected payment.

- Being forced to work

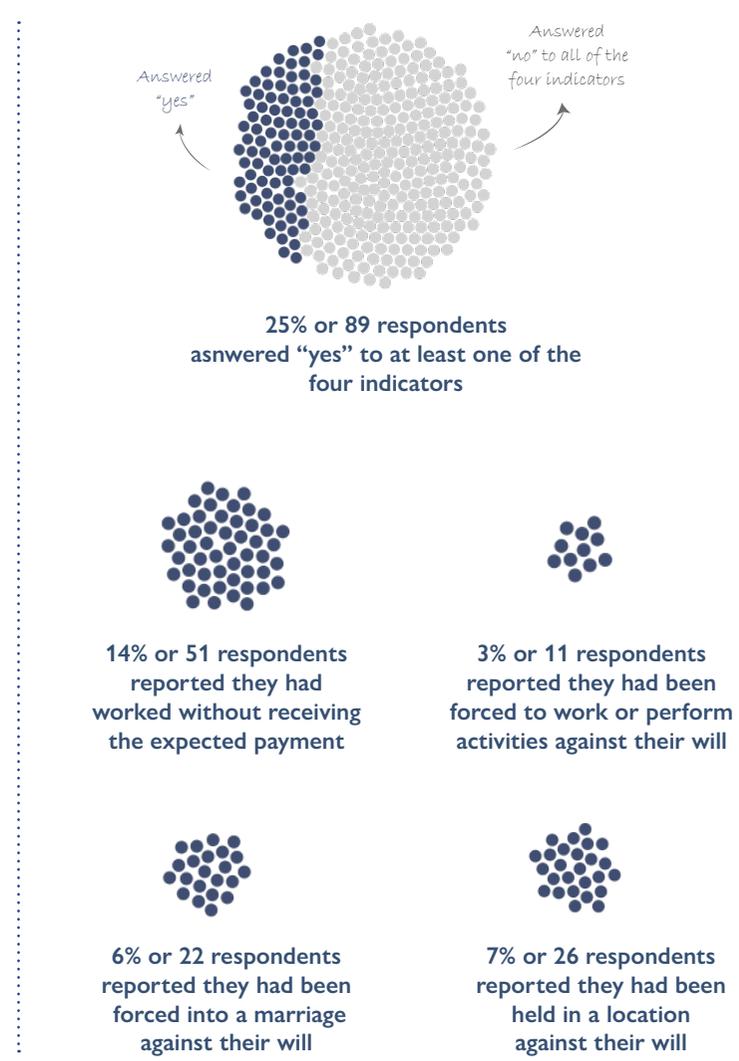
3% or 11 respondents reported they had been forced to work or perform activities against their will.

- Offers of an arranged marriage

6% or 22 respondents reported they had been forced into a marriage against their will.

- Being held against one`s will

7% or 26 respondents reported they had been held in a location against their will during their journey by armed individuals or groups other than the relevant government authorities.



6 METHODOLOGY

The DTM's Flow Monitoring Surveys

The Flow Monitoring Survey (FMS) gathers information on migrants' profiles, including age, sex, areas of origin, levels of education, as well as employment status before migration, key transit points on their route, cost of the journey, reasons for leaving the place of residence and intended destination(s). In 2019, the survey was conducted with an upgraded version of the questionnaire from 2018. In response to the feedback received from different IOM missions, departments and relevant partners, there was an even greater emphasis placed on enhancing the protection aspect, especially in relation to children on the move and human trafficking, exploitation and abuse indicators.

FMS includes a module with questions on a set of specific human trafficking, exploitation and abuse indicators prepared by IOM's Migrant Protection and Assistance (MPA) team.

Sampling and data collection

The survey is designed to profile third-country nationals (non-European) who are migrating towards Europe through the different Mediterranean routes.

Only migrants age 14 and above are approached by data collectors. Only migrants that arrived in the country of the interview within one year prior to the date of interview were considered. The survey was translated into Arabic, Dari, English, French, Farsi, Italian, Spanish, Pashtu and Urdu.

The surveys are fully anonymous and voluntary. Respondents are approached in an ad hoc manner by IOM field staff, and then those who give their consent to be interviewed are asked the remaining questions.

The sample is therefore not random and, as with all surveys of this kind, this can lead to selection bias. Those more willing to respond to this survey are often young adult males, which are therefore slightly overrepresented in comparison to women.

The sample intends to represent the nationalities, sex and age structures of migrants arriving in Europe through the Central, Western and Eastern Mediterranean route.

The fieldwork conditions changed throughout the survey period, to account for changes in incoming flows to each country covered by DTM operations and to give a good representation of both arrival and transit points in the country.

DISPLACEMENT TRACKING MATRIX (DTM) IN EUROPE

IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) is a suite of tools and methodologies designed to track and analyse human mobility in different displacement contexts in a continuous manner. To gather and disseminate information about the migrant populations moving through the Mediterranean, up the Western Balkans to the Western and North European countries, in September 2015, DTM established Flow Monitoring System. The Flow Monitoring System includes a monthly flows compilation report, which provides an overview of migration flows in countries of first arrival and other countries along the route in Europe, and an analysis of trends across the region. The data on registered arrivals is collated by IOM through consultations with ministries of interior, coast guards, police forces and other relevant national authorities. Flow Monitoring Surveys (FMS) are specific part of the methodological framework that allows for better insight into the profile of people on the move, potential risks of human trafficking, exploitation and abuse. All DTM Europe information products and regular weekly updates on arrivals and migrants presence in the region can be found on [Flow Monitoring – Europe Geoportal](#).