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INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

The Survey on Drivers of Migration (SDM) is part of IOM's EU-funded Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) "Regional Evidence for Migration Analysis and Policy" (REMAP) project. The objective of DTM REMAP is to strengthen the evidence-based formulation and implementation of humanitarian and development policy and programming on migration and forced displacement in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq and Pakistan.

The DTM Afghanistan team selected 6 provinces with high international outward migration in which to conduct data collection. The selection was based on the review of longitudinal multiyear flow monitoring data on outward migration from the Islam Qala-Taybad and Zaranj-Milak border crossings to the Islamic Republic of Iran and beyond. Through the SDM, between November 2020 and March 2021 (Round 2) the DTM team in Afghanistan interviewed 18,929 potential migrants[1] at informal migration hubs in Afghanistan. Among them, 15,810 people stated that they intended to migrate to the Islamic Republic of Iran (83%), 2,404 to Turkey (13%) and 715 people to Europe (4%). Between April 2021 and August 2021 (Round 3), the team interviewed another 18,390 potential migrants. Among them, 15,440 people stated that they intended to migrate to the Islamic Republic of Iran (84%), 2,159 to Turkey (12%) and 791 people to Europe (4%).[2]

While the SDM also collects data on socio-economic profiles, drivers of migration, travel arrangements, problems experienced during the journey and previous migration history, this summary brief focuses on the analysis and comparison between Rounds 2 and 3 of indicators related to debt by country of intended destination. Firstly, it compares total accumulated levels of debt. Secondly, it compares the extent to which respondents reported that debt was a factor in leaving Afghanistan. Thirdly, it compares the most common payment methods used by respondents to fund the planned migration journey, broken down by country of intended destination.

During both rounds, 99 per cent of respondents were male and one per cent were female. Half of respondents in Rounds 2 and 3 were male between the ages of 16 and 24 years old (50% and 54% respectively). On average, 48 per cent of respondents in Round 2 and 45 per cent in Round 3 were married.

SAMPLE BREAKDOWN				
	Grand total	Europe	Islamic Republic of Iran	Turkey
Round 2	18,929	715	15,810	2,404
Round 3	18,390	791	15,440	2,159

[1] The research focused on potential migrants who had taken concrete measures to migrate abroad, including: finding a migration facilitator; making payments for the journey to a migration facilitator; booking travel tickets for (parts) of the migration journey; obtaining a visa to travel to transit countries.

[2] Round 1 of data collection: September 2019 - November 2019, Round 2: November 2020- March 2021, Round 3: April 2021 - August 2021. It is possible to consult the report on Round 1. However, no questions on debt were present at that stage of the survey.

AFGHANISTAN - SURVEY ON DRIVERS OF MIGRATION
SUMMARY BRIEF ON DEBT - ROUNDS 2 AND 3

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TOTAL ACCUMULATED LEVELS OF DEBT IN USD [3]

The amount of debt reported by respondents increased by an average of 18 per cent between Rounds 2 and 3. This growth is particuarly evident for respondents intending to migrate to Turkey, who saw their level of debt almost double from USD 1,402 to USD 2,695 (92% growth) and those who intended to migrate to Europe, whose total accumulated level of debt rose from USD 1,344 to USD 2,332 (74% growth).
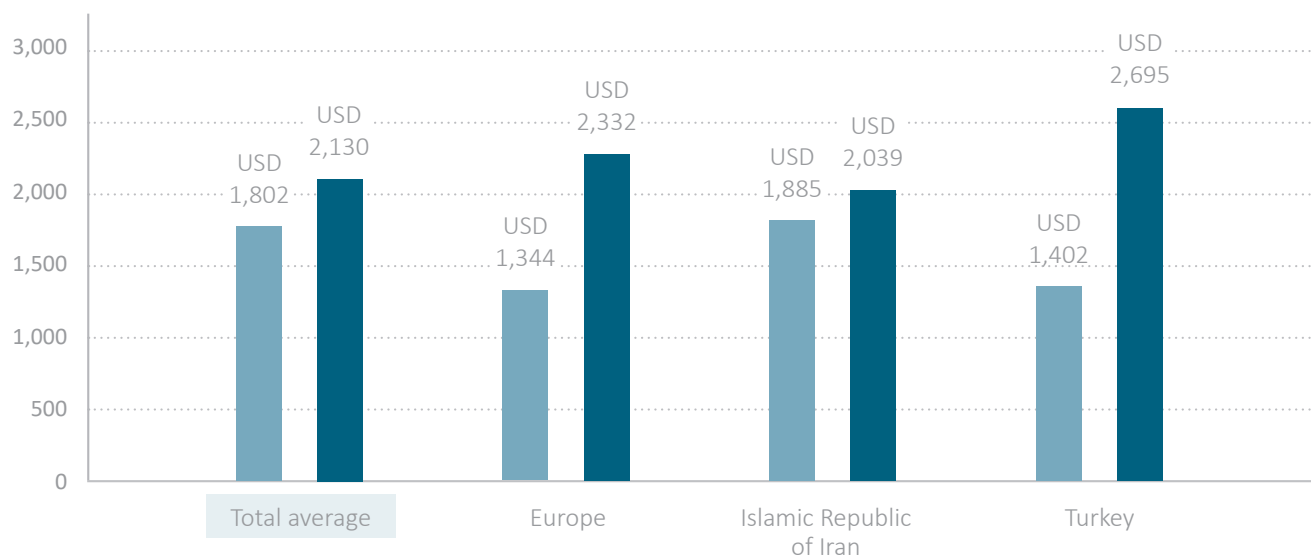

RATING DEBT AS A PUSH FACTOR TO LEAVE AFGHANISTAN

Respondents indicated that debt was an important factor in their decision to leave Afghanistan. In both Rounds 2 and 3, on average, respondents rated debt as being between an "important" and "very important" push factor when deciding to leave the country, on a scale ranging from 0 as not applicable to 5 as very important. Overall, those who intended to migrate to Europe attributed less importance to debt as a factor in their decision to leave. However, between Rounds 2 and 3, this group exhibited the highest increase in the importance of debt, from 2.9 to 3.6 on average, compared to those heading to the Islamic Republic of Iran or Turkey. The importance of debt was highest among respondents who intended to migrate to the Islamic Republic of Iran, at an average level of 4.6 in both Rounds 2 and 3, despite not increasing or decreasing over time. Although during Round 3 their average level of debt was lower compared to respondents intending to migrate elsewhere, their level of debt was proportionally higher compared to their average level of monthly household income.

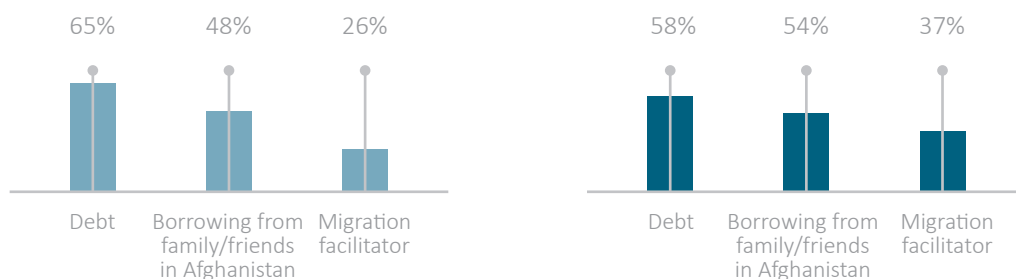0=not applicable, 1=very unimportant 2=unimportant 3=slighty important, 4=important 5=very important
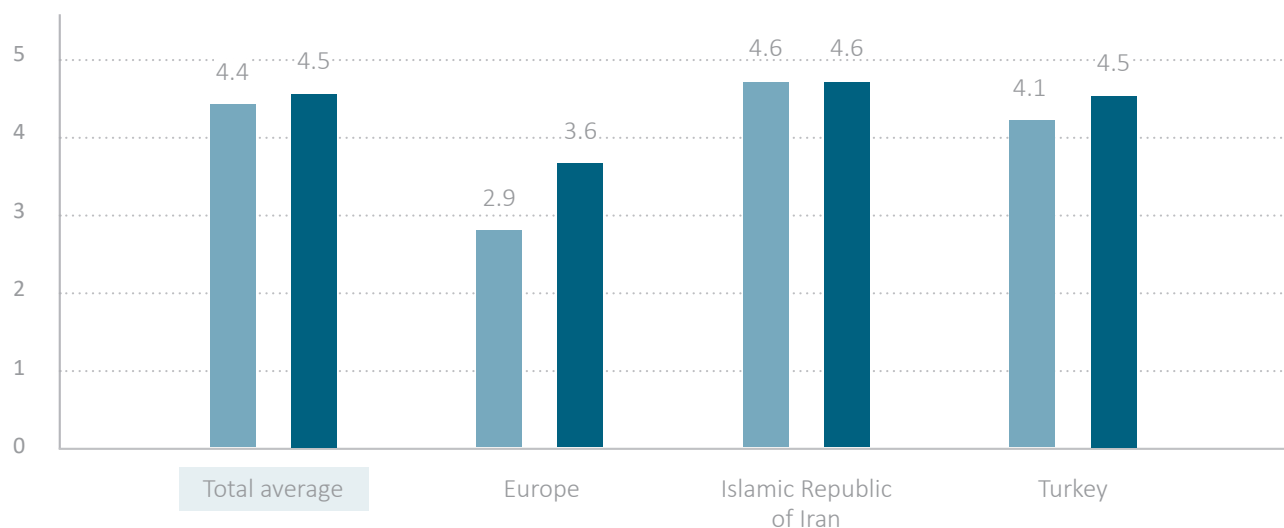
[3] Data was originally collected in Afghan Afghani (AFN). For Round 2, the exchange rate used was 1 AFN = 0.0129539 USD (31 March 2021), whereas for Round 3, the exchange rate used was 1 AFN = 0.0125281 USD (01 August 2021).

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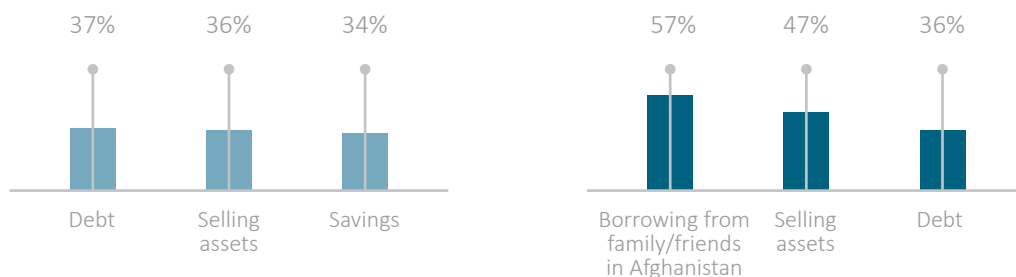## PAYMENT METHODS FOR THE POTENTIAL MIGRATION JOURNEY

The primary payment methods to fund the planned migration were incurring debt (65% in Round 2 and 48% in Round 3), borrowing money from friends and family in Afghanistan (48% in Round 2 and 54% in Round 3) and borrowing from migration facilitators (26% in Round 2 and 37% in Round 3). In general, respondents intended to use more than one method of payment to fund the journey. The breakdown by payment method, round and country of intended destination can be found in the Annex (page 4).
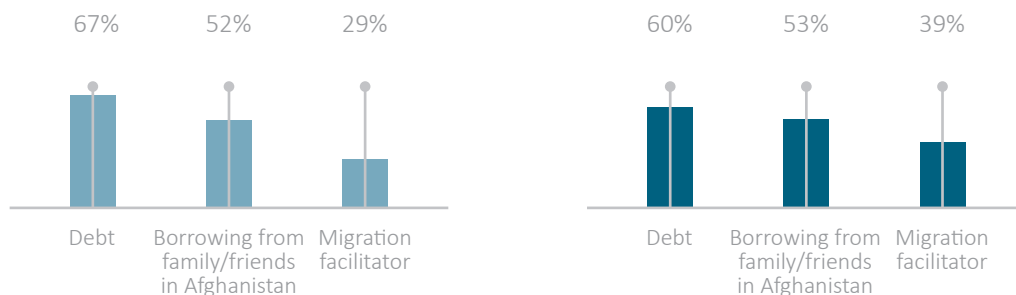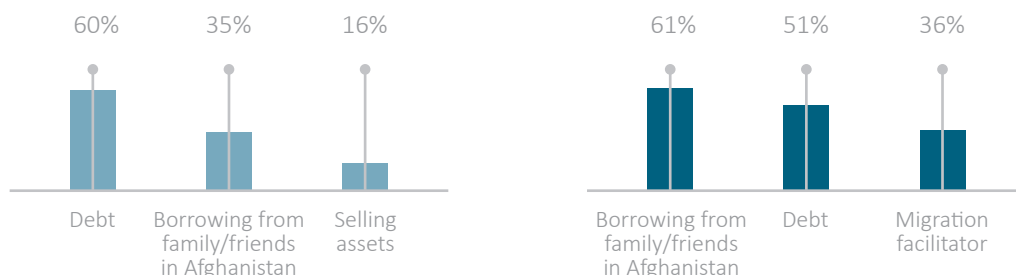
Legend: ■ Round 2 ■ Round 3

TOTAL AVERAGE

	65%	48%	26%		58%	54%	37%
	Debt	Borrowing from family/friends in Afghanistan	Migration facilitator		Debt	Borrowing from family/friends in Afghanistan	Migration facilitator

EUROPE

	37%	36%	34%		57%	47%	36%
	Debt	Selling assets	Savings		Borrowing from family/friends in Afghanistan	Selling assets	Debt

ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

	67%	52%	29%		60%	53%	39%
	Debt	Borrowing from family/friends in Afghanistan	Migration facilitator		Debt	Borrowing from family/friends in Afghanistan	Migration facilitator

TURKEY

	60%	35%	16%		61%	51%	36%
	Debt	Borrowing from family/friends in Afghanistan	Selling assets		Borrowing from family/friends in Afghanistan	Debt	Migration facilitator

3

AFGHANISTAN - SURVEY ON DRIVERS OF MIGRATION
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ANNEX I[4]

	Grand total		Europe		Islamic Republic of Iran		Turkey	
	Round 2	Round 3	Round 2	Round 3	Round 2	Round 3	Round 2	Round 3
Debt	65%	58%	37%	36%	67%	60%	60%	51%
Selling land	4%	3%	17%	16%	2%	2%	10%	5%
Selling house	2%	1%	13%	10%	1%	0%	4%	1%
Selling assets	8%	11%	34%	47%	6%	8%	16%	18%
Savings	11%	9%	34%	28%	9%	8%	13%	12%
Barter	4%	11%	8%	26%	4%	9%	3%	14%
Borrowing from family/friends in Afghanistan	49%	54%	24%	57%	52%	53%	35%	61%
Borrowing from family/friends in Europe	2%	3%	28%	31%	1%	1%	4%	3%
Migration facilitator	26%	37%	3%	14%	29%	39%	13%	36%
Pay off working en route to destination	5%	8%	13%	45%	4%	5%	12%	20%
Deducted from promised job in intended destination	7%	5%	1%	2%	6%	5%	12%	6%

Round 1: Afghanistan — Round 1 Survey on Drivers of Migration Report: https://dtm.iom.int/reports/afghanistan-%E2%80%94-survey-drivers-migration-remap-2019

Round 2: Afghanistan — Round 2 Survey on Drivers of Migration Summary Brief: https://dtm.iom.int/reports/afghanistan-survey-drivers-migration-summary-brief-round-2-november-2020-march-2021

Round 3: Afghanistan — Round 3 Survey on Drivers of Migration Summary Brief: https://dtm.iom.int/reports/afghanistan-survey-drivers-migration-summary-brief-round-3-april-2021-august-2021

[4] Two payment methods were not included in the annex table because the shares remained very low during both reporting periods. During Round 2, the sample includes 18,929 potential migrants: 715 people to Europe, 15,810 people to the Islamic Republic of Iran and 2,404 to Turkey. During Round 3, the sample includes 18,390 potential migrants: 791 people to Europe, 15,440 people to the Islamic Republic of Iran and 2,159 to Turkey.