

AFGHANISTAN: SURVEY ON DRIVERS OF MIGRATION

ROUND 2 (NOVEMBER 2020 - MARCH 2021)

REGIONAL EVIDENCE FOR MIGRATION POLICY AND ANALYSIS (REMAP)
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION (IOM)
DISPLACEMENT TRACKING MATRIX (DTM)



© IOM 2021



Funded by
the European Union



DTM
IOM DISPLACEMENT
TRACKING MATRIX

The International Organization for Migration (IOM)

Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific

18th Floor, Rajanakarn Building
3 South Sathorn Road, Bangkok, Thailand
Email: ROBangkok@iom.int

Country Office Afghanistan

Street No. 4, House No. 27
Ansari Square, Shahr-e-Naw
Kabul, Afghanistan
E-mail: iomkabul@iom.int
Website: <http://afghanistan.iom.int>

© 2022 International Organization for Migration (IOM)

For further information:

DTM REMAP Support Team
Email: dtmremap@iom.int

DTM Afghanistan
Email: DTMAfghanistan@iom.int

Disclaimer

This report is part of the outputs under the European Union funded project “Regional Evidence for Migration Analysis and Policy (REMAP)”. 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 the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, People's Republic of Bangladesh, Islamic Republic of Iran, Republic of Iraq and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan through the use of the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM). The findings, interpretations and conclusions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the views of IOM, its Member States, the European Union or other donors. The designations employed and the presentation of material throughout the work do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of IOM concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area, or of its authorities, or concerning its frontiers or boundaries.

References to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).

This publication was produced with the financial support of the European Union. Its contents are the sole responsibility of IOM and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union.

Definitions

Migrant: An Afghan national who crossed an international frontier and lived abroad for more than 3 consecutive months.¹

Migration facilitator: This term refers to anyone that is involved in the facilitation of migration services (irregular and regular) via air, land or sea routes in exchange for money. Those services can range from consultative services for visa applications and acquiring (fraudulent) documents, to transportation arrangements, to the facilitation of border crossings. This term does not intend to neglect the differences in services; it is frequently used for persons providing migration services.

Refugee: A person who, owing to a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country; or who, not having a nationality and being outside the country of his former habitual residence as a result of such events, is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to return to it.²

Trafficking in persons: The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs.³

Origin (country of): In the migration context, a country of nationality or of former habitual residence of a person or group of persons who have migrated abroad, irrespective of whether they migrate regularly or irregularly.⁴

Destination (country of): In the migration context, a country that is the destination for a person or a group of persons, irrespective of whether they migrate regularly or irregularly.⁵

Travel document: A document issued by a government or by an international organization which is accepted as a proof of identity for the purpose of crossing international borders.⁶

¹Note: this is the statistical definition used in this study to differentiate a migrant from other travelers, but it is not the official definition endorsed by IOM. For the official definition of migrant please [click here](#).

² Glossary on Migration, https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/iml_34_glossary.pdf

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Ibid.

I. INTRODUCTION	_____	PAGE	1
II. SUMMARY OF KEY FINDINGS	_____	PAGE	2
I. METHODOLOGY	_____	PAGE	4
1.1 METHOD AND SAMPLING			
1.2 LIMITATIONS			
1.3 DATA ANALYSIS RATIONALE			
2. DATA ANALYSIS: COMPARISONS	_____	PAGE	5
2.1 DEMOGRAPHICS, SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROFILES,			
2.2 DRIVERS OF MIGRATION			
3. DATA ANALYSIS: EUROPE	_____	PAGE	13
3.1 DEMOGRAPHIC AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROFILES.....		PAGE	13
3.2 REASONS AND DRIVERS FOR MIGRATION		PAGE	15
3.3 TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS.....		PAGE	17
3.4 PROBLEMS AND VULNERABILITIES RELATED TO JOURNEY.....		PAGE	20
3.5 MOBILITY HISTORY.....		PAGE	22
4. DATA ANALYSIS: ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN	_____	PAGE	25
4.1 DEMOGRAPHIC AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROFILES.....		PAGE	25
4.2 REASONS AND DRIVERS FOR MIGRATION		PAGE	27
4.3 TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS.....		PAGE	29
4.4 PROBLEMS AND VULNERABILITIES RELATED TO JOURNEY.....		PAGE	32
4.5 MOBILITY HISTORY.....		PAGE	34

5. DATA ANALYSIS: PAKISTAN _____ PAGE **37**

5.1 DEMOGRAPHIC AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROFILES..... PAGE **37**

5.2 REASONS AND DRIVERS FOR MIGRATION PAGE **39**

5.3 TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS..... PAGE **41**

5.4 PROBLEMS AND VULNERABILITIES RELATED TO JOURNEY..... PAGE **44**

5.5 MOBILITY HISTORY..... PAGE **46**

6. DATA ANALYSIS: TÜRKIYE _____ PAGE **49**

6.1 DEMOGRAPHIC AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROFILES..... PAGE **49**

6.2 REASONS AND DRIVERS FOR MIGRATION PAGE **51**

6.3 TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS..... PAGE **53**

6.4 PROBLEMS AND VULNERABILITIES RELATED TO JOURNEY..... PAGE **56**

6.5 MOBILITY HISTORY..... PAGE **58**

7. REFERENCES _____ PAGE **60**

I. INTRODUCTION

Human mobility to and from Afghanistan is characterized by a continuum of displacement, cross-border mobility and return. During the reporting period, economic conditions in the country continued to be impacted by a range of factors, including decades of conflict and general insecurity. This report will demonstrate how Afghan mobility is the result of a range of factors related to economic conditions and prolonged conflict within the country. Most importantly, these factors are mutually reinforcing, exacerbating one another and emphasizing the multifaceted nature of migration out of Afghanistan.

This report will analyze data collected through IOM's Survey on Drivers of Migration (SDM). The SDM is part of the European Union-funded Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) project "Regional Evidence for Migration Analysis and Policy" (REMAP). 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.

A first round of data collection took place between September 2019 and November 2019. Findings from Round 1 were published in May 2020 (IOM, 2020).

A second round of data collection took place between November 2020 and March 2021. The data from this second round will be analyzed and presented in this report. A structured questionnaire was used and respondents were interviewed in person. In Round 2 (November 2020-March 2021), the DTM team in Afghanistan interviewed 19,605 potential migrants at informal migration hubs in Afghanistan. The objective of this study is to unpack the migration routes used by Afghan nationals, as well as to cover a range of other migration variables such as drivers of migration, vulnerabilities, travel arrangements and mobility history.

This report comprises a summary of key findings and a methodology section followed by five chapters. The first chapter focuses on comparisons regarding demographics, socio-economic indicators and drivers of migration between potential migrants intending to go to Europe, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Pakistan and Türkiye. The following four chapters look at each destination category individually, analyzing respondents' demographics, socio-economic profiles, drivers of migration, travel arrangements, problems experienced while planning the journey and mobility history. A summary brief of this report for Round 2 of the SDM was published in May 2022 (IOM, 2022).



II. SUMMARY OF KEY FINDINGS

I.I EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Between November 2020 and March 2021 (Round 2), the decisions to leave Afghanistan and to choose a destination country revolved primarily around the intersection of economic conditions and conflict within the country. Years of insecurity continued to reinforce an overall lack of economic growth and vice versa. Those leaving Afghanistan, therefore, were motivated by the multiple intersections of these factors as opposed to an identifiable single reason.

Additionally, the SDM Round 2 survey questions focused on travel arrangements, expected risks during the migration journey and the mobility history of respondents. The findings reveal that differences in the planning and expectations of the journey depended on respondents' intended destination, whether they planned for closer, more circular migration to the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan, or further, longer-term migration to Europe and Türkiye.

I.II DEMOGRAPHIC AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROFILES

The age demographic of respondents skewed towards younger potential migrants, with 50 per cent of the total sample population being between the ages of 16 and 24. The ages of those who reported the intention to migrate to Europe and Türkiye were on average slightly younger than those intending to migrate to the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan. Ninety-nine per cent of respondents were male and one per cent were female.

Overall, 41 per cent of respondents had completed some form of education. However, the rates of education varied heavily when disaggregated by intended destination. Those who reported the intention to migrate to Europe and Türkiye saw much higher rates of education (79% and 61%, respectively).

Thirty-six per cent of all respondents were unemployed at the time of the interview, while 35 per cent were earning daily wages and 24 per cent were self-employed. Respondents who reported the intention to go to Europe and Türkiye faced slightly higher rates of unemployment than those intending to migrate to the Islamic Republic of Iran or Pakistan, who were most commonly working for daily wages.

On average, respondents had a total debt of USD 1,779.

Respondents with the highest average amount of debt were those who reported the intention to migrate to the Islamic Republic of Iran (USD 1,885).

I.III DRIVERS AND REASONS OF MIGRATION

Respondents were asked to rate, on a scale from zero to five, the importance of several factors in their decision to leave Afghanistan. The factors that received the highest ratings, and were therefore of the highest significance, were: lack of jobs (4.9), conflict (4.4), debt (4.4), financial problems (4.2) and a lack of country-level economic growth (4.2). This demonstrates how migration from Afghanistan is mainly fueled by various economic conditions and security concerns, and that these factors are inextricably linked to one another through cause and effect.

Respondents were also asked to rate the importance of several factors in regards to choosing a specific destination country. Respondents looked forward to finding a job or livelihood opportunities and doing actual work or earning an actual living across all intended destinations, earning ratings of 4.7 and 4.2, respectively, on average among all respondents. Those who reported the intention to migrate to Europe and Türkiye were also motivated by the possibility of obtaining nationality in the destination country or asylum or refugee status. This illustrates the divergence between longer-term, more permanent destinations and destinations more commonly associated with circular migration.

I.IV TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

Most respondents were planning to leave Afghanistan within the month of being interviewed (89%) and the rest were planning to leave in one to three months (9%).

When asked how long they planned to be abroad, clear differences emerged between respondents who reported the intention to go to Europe and Türkiye and those who reported the desire to go to the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan. Sixty per cent of respondents who stated they wanted to go to Europe intended to stay there permanently, while 41 per cent of those who stated they wanted to go to Türkiye intended to stay for more than three years. Fifty per cent of respondents who stated that they wanted to migrate to the Islamic Republic of Iran intended to

stay there for one to three years, while 44 per cent of respondents who reported the desire to go to Pakistan intended to stay between three months and three years.

Those who reported the intention to migrate to the Islamic Republic of Iran and Türkiye were more likely to be using a migration facilitator (88% and 75%) than those intending to go to Europe and Pakistan (50% and 64%) at the time of the interview. However, this data may be due to respondents being in different stages of preparation. Among those who were not using a migration facilitator at the time of data collection, the majority of respondents who reported the intention to go to Europe, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Türkiye reported they plan to use one for their journey (92%, 72% and 91%, respectively) compared to only 19 per cent of those going to Pakistan.

The decision to migrate was primarily an individual one, as 93 per cent of respondents reported that they had made the decision themselves. However, among female respondents, this proportion was found to be much lower, at 66 per cent. While the majority of migration decisions were made individually, most respondents were receiving assistance on their journey from friends and family.

Estimated costs of the journey varied according to distance to the intended destination, with Europe being the highest at USD 6,024. Expected costs to the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan were both under USD 300. At the time of the interview, most respondents had not paid large shares of their migration costs; the average percentage paid was 8 per cent.

Incurring debt was a popular method for paying for migration among all respondents (65%), as was borrowing from friends and family in Afghanistan (48%). Respondents who reported the intention to go to Europe were more likely to also borrow funds from friends and family in Europe (28%). In general, respondents used multiple combinations of payment methods to fund their migration journeys. The higher percentages of borrowing, debt, and work en route for different destinations could be alarming as the mentioned indicators can increase vulnerabilities and expose Afghan nationals to forced labour, exploitation, abuse and human trafficking throughout the journey and at the intended destinations.

I.V PROBLEMS RELATED TO THE JOURNEY

SDM Round 2 asked interviewees about the problems they had experienced so far and the ones they expected to face during different stages of their migration

journeys. The primary problems encountered during the planning of the journey were a lack of funds (85%) and incurring debt (84%).

Respondents anticipated a wide range of potential problems to be encountered en route to their destinations, most commonly reporting concerns about deportation (88%), detention (78%) and hunger and thirst (80%). Large shares of respondents also reported robbery, car crashes, death, financial extortion and a lack of shelter.

When asked about expected risks upon arrival to their destination, respondents most commonly reported fears of deportation (84%), detention (53%), a lack of jobs (46%) and racism and xenophobia (41%). Those who stated the intention to migrate to Europe and Türkiye also reported concerns about rejection of asylum and not being able to obtain nationality in the destination country. Across all stages of the migration journey, lower shares of respondents who were planning to go to Pakistan reported having concerns about the journey compared to respondents intending to migrate elsewhere.

I.VI MOBILITY HISTORY

In order to further understand the extent to which previous migration experiences play a role in shaping new mobility patterns, SDM Round 2 also asked about previous migration abroad and previous internal displacement. Sixty-four per cent of migrants had attempted to migrate out of Afghanistan before, and 56 per cent had successfully completed the journey and returned to Afghanistan. Those who reported the intention to migrate to the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan had most commonly migrated to those respective countries before, corroborating that those countries experience considerable re-migration from Afghanistan. Most respondents who reported the intention to migrate to Europe and Türkiye had experience migrating to the Islamic Republic of Iran before (98% and 82%, respectively).

Thirty-two per cent of respondents had been internally displaced before. The average duration of displacement was 3.6 years. Conflict and natural disasters are the predominant reasons for Afghan nationals to leave their homes as internally displaced persons and seek protection elsewhere within the country. However, lack of access to resources and livelihood opportunities limits their chances of resettlement in the host communities and increases the likelihood of incurring debt, which is eventually followed by the decision to move abroad as a coping mechanism.

1. METHODOLOGY

1.1 METHOD AND SAMPLING

A quantitative approach was adopted to analyze the drivers of Afghan migration to Europe, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Pakistan and Turkey. This approach was selected to analyze specific thematic areas previously identified by the field team: socio-economic profiles, drivers and reasons for migration, travel arrangements, problems and vulnerabilities related to the journey and mobility history. This method allowed for a systematic, standardized comparison of factors that contribute to different migration choices and aspirations. The survey 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 for travel to transit countries.

The DTM Afghanistan team selected six provinces with high international outward migration in which to conduct data collection. The selection was based on the review of longitudinal, multi-year flow monitoring data on outward migration from the Islam Qala-Taybad and Zaranj-Milak border crossings to the Islamic Republic of Iran and beyond. Sampling targets were established for each district in order to arrive at comparable sampling figures. The six provinces in which data collection physically occurred were:

- Balkh
- Faryab
- Herat
- Kabul
- Kunduz
- Nimroz

DTM's data collection teams received a two-day training in six of the selected provinces targeted for data collection. Three out of fourteen enumerators were female. Data was collected in person by enumerators using a structured questionnaire. A non-probabilistic sample of 19,605 respondents was collected between November 2020 and March 2021 by the DTM field teams. Enumerators used convenience sampling and snowball techniques to reach the target population. These techniques were used because potential migrants are considered hidden groups, and no sampling frame exists from which to draw random samples. To reduce potential biases, the field team

conducted regular group discussions and debriefings with the enumerator teams.

1.2 LIMITATIONS

This study presents limitations frequently encountered when researching hidden populations, especially related to the sampling method. Due to the nature of this study, the collected sample is non-probabilistic, meaning that the sample population is not necessarily representative of all potential Afghan migrants choosing to migrate from Afghanistan to Europe, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Pakistan and Türkiye. Moreover, due to the location of the survey, in the north-west of the country, a relatively low number of respondents intending to migrate to Pakistan is included.

The results of this study should be interpreted carefully, as generalization of results and inferences are constrained by the survey design. To reduce the incidence of possible biases related to migration decision-making, the DTM team designed strict criteria to identify potential migrants who are taking tangible steps towards migration, as explained in the sampling method above.

Finally, due to the low number of female respondents as a result of access limitations and social conditions in the country, the following data is not necessarily representative of potential female Afghan migrants.

1.3 DATA ANALYSIS RATIONALE

Throughout the report, respondents were grouped by either province of origin, district of origin or intended destination. The analysis was based on the top four destinations for Afghan potential migrants: Europe, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Pakistan and Türkiye. The analysis was structured around intended destinations to uncover differences in migration profiles, patterns and resources corresponding to different potential destinations.

1.4 LEGENDS

When the label "Multiple answers possible" appears above a graph it means that a single respondent was allowed to provide more than one answer. For this reason, totals do not add up to 100%. When an asterisk (*) appears next to a percentage, it means that it refers to less than 10 respondents.

2. DATA ANALYSIS: COMPARISONS

2.1 DEMOGRAPHICS, SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROFILES AND DRIVERS OF MIGRATION

In total, 19,605 potential Afghan migrants were interviewed between November 2020 and March 2021. Among them, 15,810 people intended to migrate to the Islamic Republic of Iran (81%), 2,404 to Türkiye (12%), 715 people to Europe (4%) and 676 to Pakistan (3%). The top five reported provinces of origin were Faryab (21%), Herat (16%), Kunduz (14%), Balkh (11%) and Badghis (4%).

The following table presents various socio-demographic indicators per final intended destination country. On average, 48 per cent of all respondents were married. While 57 per cent of respondents who reported the intention to go to Pakistan and 50 per cent to the Islamic Republic of Iran were married, this percentage was lower among migrants who intended to migrate to Europe and Türkiye (35% and 35%, respectively). Similarly, fewer respondents who reported the intention to migrate to Europe and Türkiye had children (31% and 30%, respectively), compared to those who were planning to go to Pakistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran (51% and 44% respectively). Other socio-demographic indicators were relatively homogenous. On average, respondents had 2 relatives living abroad and had 3.4 children. Most respondents did not have their children with them in the current location (86%).

SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC INDICATORS

	 Respondents	 Married	 Have children	 Children not with respondents	 Average number of children	 Average number of relatives abroad
TOT	19,605	48%	42%	86%	3.4	2.0
EUR	715	35%	31%	82%	2.7	1.7
IRN	15,810	50%	44%	87%	3.4	2.1
PAK	676	57%	51%	78%	3.8	2.1
TÜR	2,404	35%	30%	85%	3.3	1.4



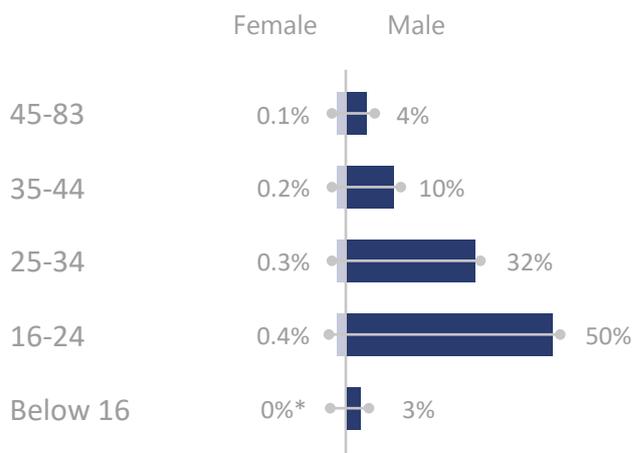
Ninety-nine per cent of respondents were male and one per cent were female. Half of respondents were males between the ages of 16 and 24 years old (50%).

Among the one per cent of female respondents, 36 per cent were between the ages of 16 and 24 years old and 30 per cent between the ages of 25 and 34 years old. Female migrants were most represented among potential migrants going to Europe and Türkiye, where they constituted five per cent and two per cent respectively of the total number of respondents who intended to go to those countries.

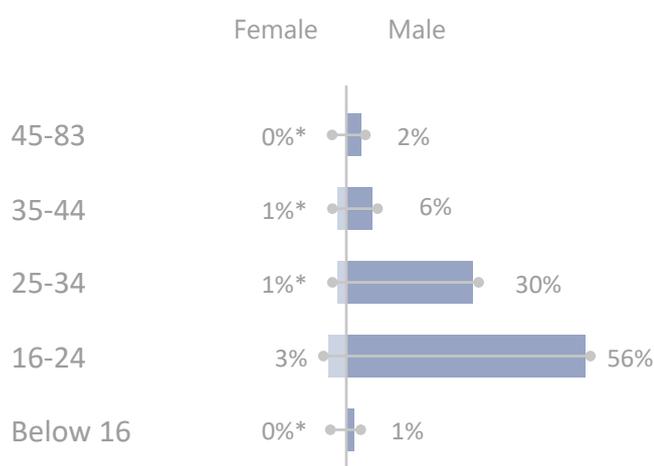
Those intending to migrate to Europe and Türkiye represented a younger demographic than those going to Pakistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran. This is also reflected in the lower marriage and child-having rates of the former.

POPULATION PYRAMIDS

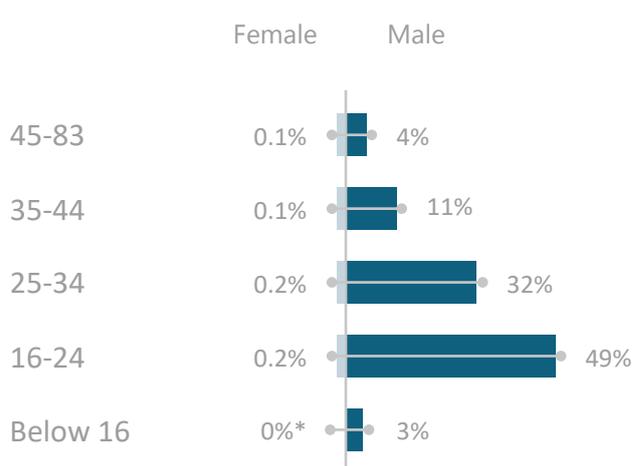
GRAND TOTAL⁷



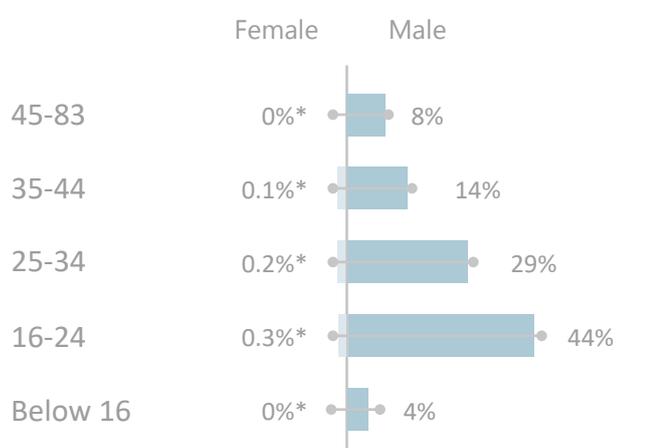
EUROPE⁸



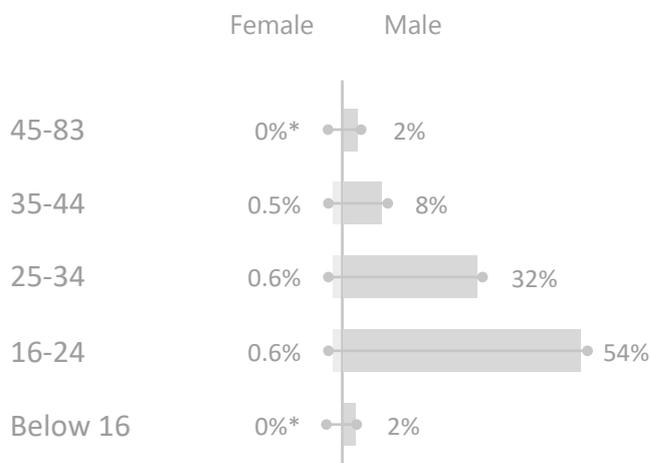
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN⁹



PAKISTAN¹⁰



TÜRKIYE¹¹



⁷ The total number of female respondents is 191. They account for 1% of the total number of respondents.

⁸ The total number of female respondents going to EUR is 34. They account for 5% of the total number of respondents going to the EU.

⁹ The total number of female respondents going to IRN is 104. They account for 1% (0.6%) of the total number of respondents going to IRN.

¹⁰ The total number of female respondents going to PAK is 4. They account for 1% (0.6%) of the total number of respondents going to PAK.

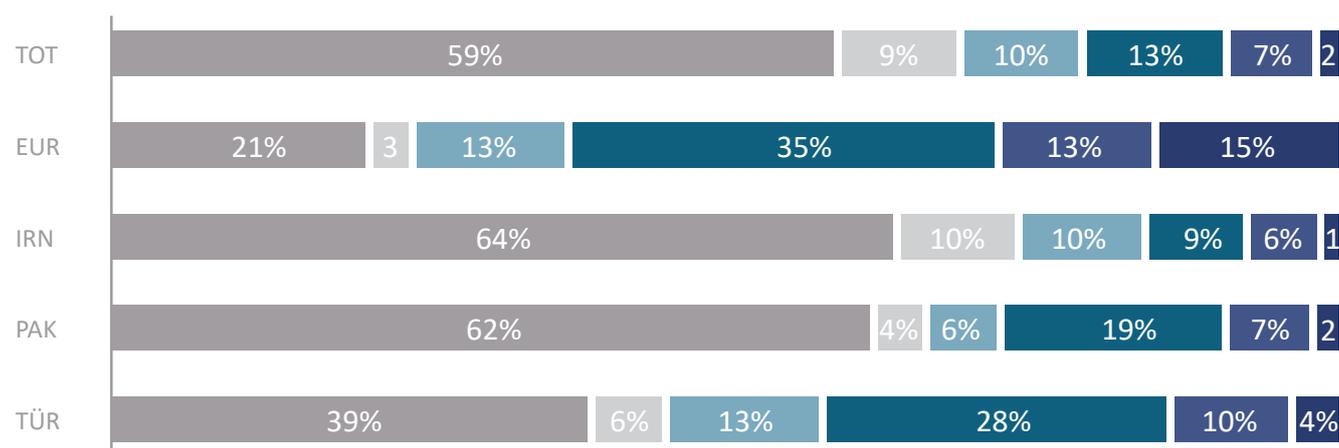
¹¹ The total number of female respondents going to TÜR is 49. They account for 2% (1.7%) of the total number of respondents going to TÜR.

Fifty-nine per cent of all respondents did not have any education. The shares of respondents with high school-level, secondary and primary education as their highest educational levels were similar, between 9 and 13 per cent. Seven per cent of migrants had completed education with a diploma, a vocational training or a religious education training and two per cent with a bachelor's or a master's degree.

The education level of the respondents varied significantly between different intended destinations. Sixty-four per cent and 62 per cent respectively of respondents who reported the intention to migrate to the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan had not completed any education. This percentage was lower amongst respondents who reported the intention to migrate to Europe (21%) and Türkiye (39%). Respondents intending to migrate to Europe had the highest level of education, with 15 per cent who had completed education with a bachelor's or a master's degree and 35 per cent with a high school-level education. Those intending to go Türkiye represent the group with the second highest level of education, with four per cent who reported having a bachelor or master's degree and 28 per cent having high school as their highest educational level.

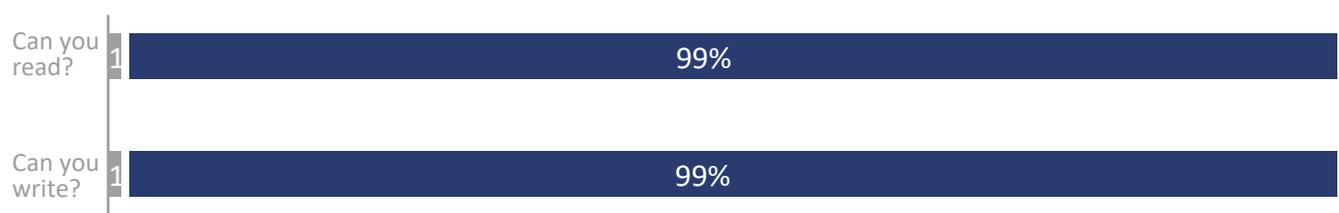
Moreover, literacy rates of potential migrants were very low among those without an education: 99 per cent could not read or write.

EDUCATION LEVEL BY DESTINATION



Legend:
 No education
 Primary education
 Secondary education
 High school
 Diploma, vocational or religious
 Bachelor's or master's

ILLITERACY LEVELS AMONG RESPONDENTS WITH NO EDUCATION

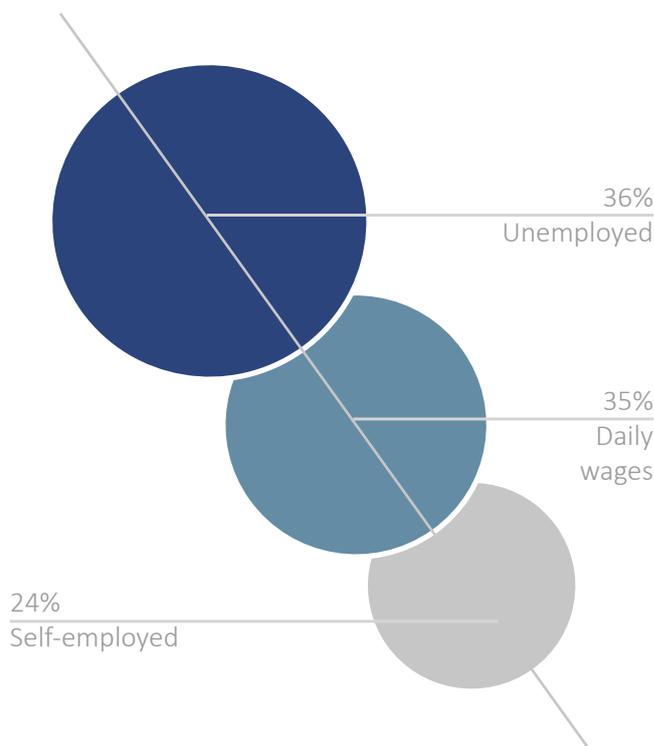


Legend:
 Yes
 No

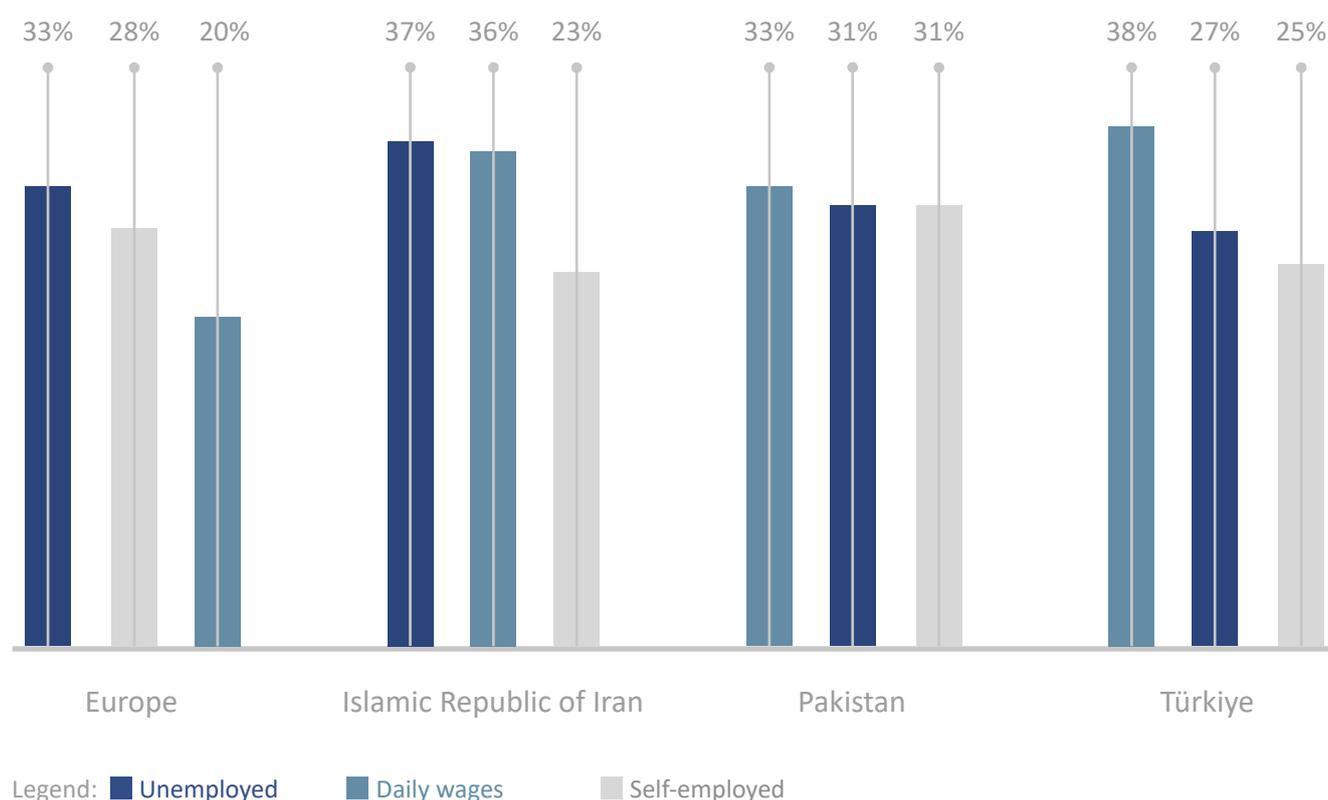
In the six months prior to the interview, most Afghan potential migrants were either unemployed (36%), working for daily wages (35%) or self-employed (24%). Respondents intending to migrate to Europe and the Islamic Republic of Iran were most commonly unemployed (33% and 37%, respectively). Meanwhile, respondents intending to migrate to Pakistan and Türkiye were most commonly earning daily wages (33% and 38%, respectively).

In order to explore the intersections between demographic variables and their impact on migration intentions, employment statuses were analyzed against educational levels. Results show that unemployment was high even among the potential migrants who had a comparatively higher level of education. Thirty-nine per cent of Afghan nationals who had completed high school as their highest level of education stated that they were unemployed during six months prior to the interview.

EMPLOYMENT STATUSES DURING THE LAST SIX MONTHS, OVERALL (top 3 answers)



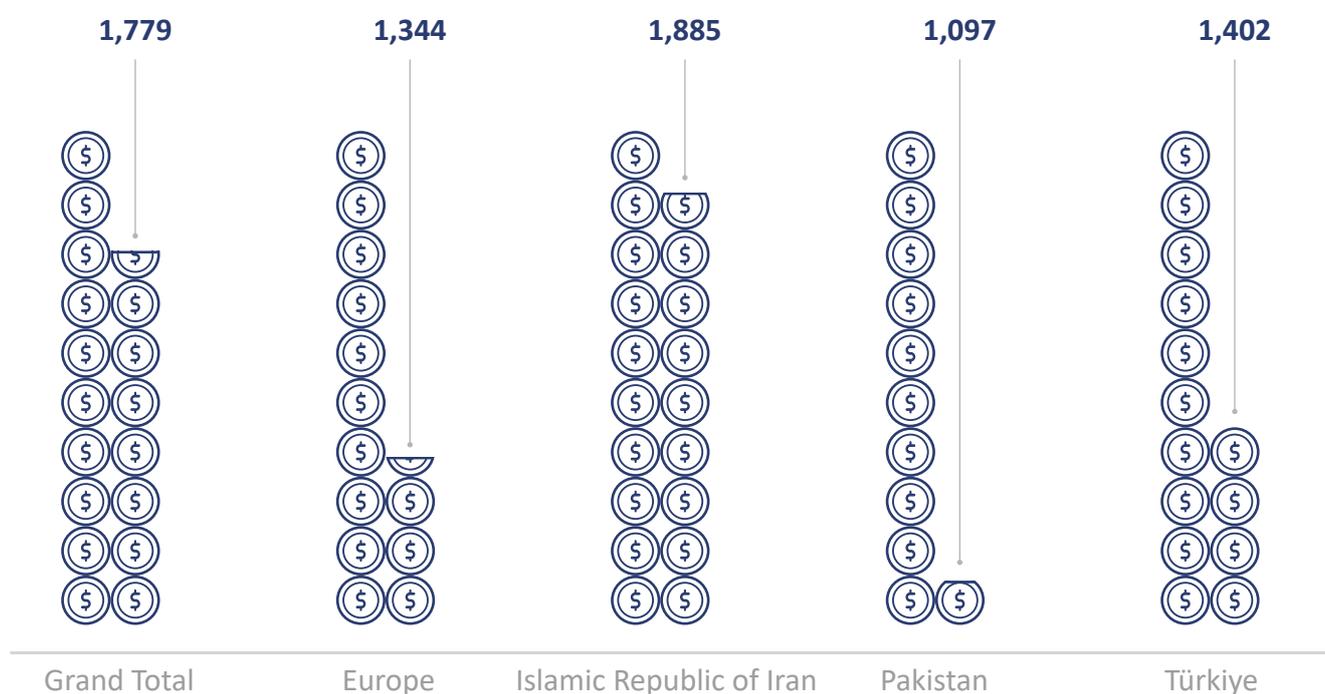
EMPLOYMENT STATUSES DURING THE LAST SIX MONTHS, BY DESTINATION (top 3 answers)



The following bar charts (where each stacked circle represents USD 100) display the average total accumulated debt of respondents by destination.¹² On average, potential migrants had a total accumulated debt of USD 1,779. The migrant group with the highest average debt were those who reported the intention to migrate to the Islamic Republic of Iran (USD 1,885), followed by Türkiye (USD 1,402) and Europe (USD 1,344). Respondents who reported the intention to migrate to Pakistan had the the lowest average total debt, with USD 1,097.

As confirmed on the following page by the high rating debt received as a driver of migration (4.4) and by Round 12 of the Community-Based Need Assessments (CBNA) carried out by IOM DTM Afghanistan at the settlement level, indebtedness is a major factor for migrant-decision making, both for cross-border migration and internal displacement (IOM, 2021).

AVERAGE TOTAL ACCUMULATED DEBT BY DESTINATION



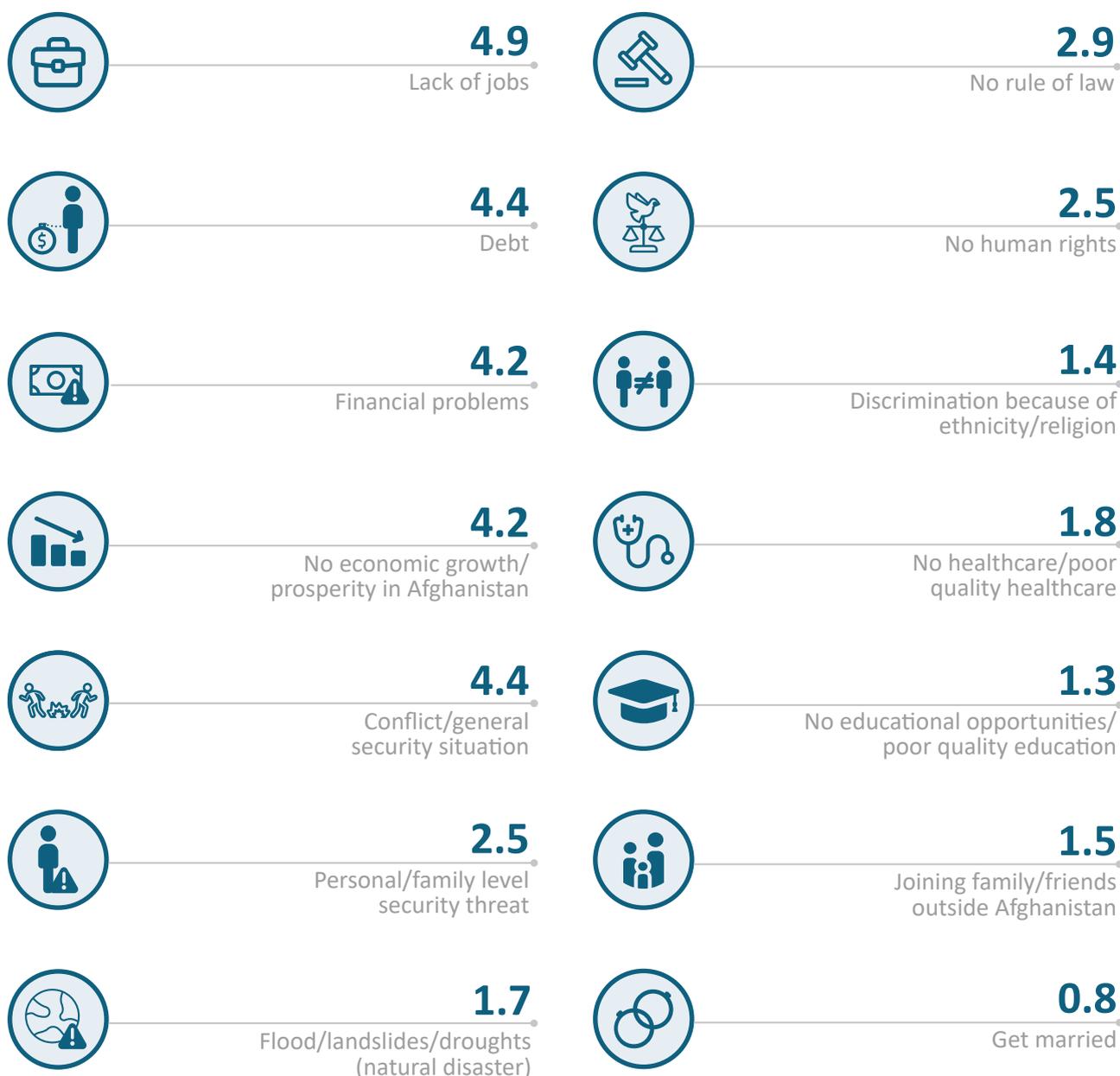
1 = 100 USD

¹² Data was originally collected in national currency (Afghani - AFN). The exchange rate was 1 AFN = 0.0129539 USD on the last day of data collection (31 March 2021)



IMPORTANCE OF FACTORS IN DECISION TO LEAVE AFGHANISTAN

0 = not applicable, 1 = very unimportant 2 = unimportant 3 = slightly important, 4 = important 5 = very important



Respondents were asked to rate the importance of the above factors as they related to their decision to leave Afghanistan on a scale from zero to five. The factors that received the highest ratings, and were therefore of the highest significance, were lack of jobs (4.9), debt (4.4) and conflict (4.4). Other economic factors such as financial problems and the lack of country-level economic growth also rated high at 4.2. This analysis demonstrates that while economic factors are a significant driver of Afghan migration, the presence of armed conflict and lack of security in the country are also major factors to leave Afghanistan. These economic conditions are consequences of prolonged conflict in the region, with decades of fighting resulting in not only insecurity, but also limited opportunities for stable livelihoods and limited access to services such as healthcare and education. As such, the decision to leave Afghanistan is multifactorial and intersectional, and cannot be reduced to a single variable.

IMPORTANCE OF FACTORS IN DECISION TO CHOOSE A DESTINATION COUNTRY

0 = not applicable, 1 = very unimportant, 2 = unimportant, 3=slightly important, 4 = important 5 = very important

												
	Look for work/ livelihood opportunities	Take up a promised job in final destination country	Do actual work/earn an actual living	Do business	Obtain citizenship in final destination	Obtain asylum/ refugee status	Join opposition group or government forces	Obtain education (oneself)	Obtain education for children	Be with relatives in destination	Join relatives that plan to go final destination	Get married
TOT	4.7	2.4	4.2	0.8	0.9	1.2	0.3	0.6	0.6	1.7	0.9	0.6
EUR	4.2	1.9	3.1	1.0	3.5	2.9	0.3	2.0	1.1	2.0	1.4	0.8
IRN	4.7	2.4	4.3	0.7	0.5	1.0	0.3	0.5	0.5	1.6	0.9	0.5
PAK	4.1	2.9	3.7	1.4	0.9	1.4	0.4	0.6	0.7	1.5	0.9	0.6
TÜR	4.6	2.7	4.1	1.0	2.1	2.3	0.2	0.9	0.6	2.0	1.2	1.1

Respondents were also asked to rate the importance of the above factors in regards to their decision to choose a specific destination country. The corresponding visualization has been disaggregated by country in order to more easily visualize the differences in the incentives offered by each destination country as indicated by potential Afghan migrants.

For those going to Europe, the most important pull factors were: to look for work or find a better livelihood (4.2), followed by obtaining the nationality of the destination country (3.5) and to do actual work or earn an actual living (3.1). Obtain asylum or

refugee status (2.9) was also an important factor for respondents intending to go to Europe.

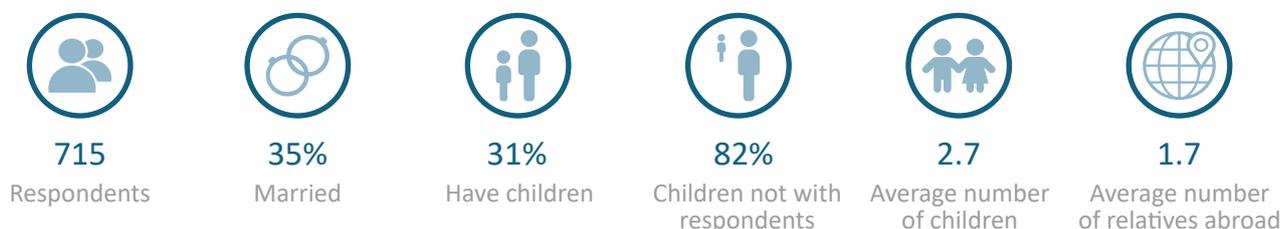
Alternatively, those going to the Islamic Republic of Iran, Pakistan and Türkiye were mostly motivated by the opportunity to look for work or livelihood opportunities, to do actual work or earn an actual living, or the promise of a job in the destination country. Obtaining nationality or asylum or refugee status was slightly more important for respondents going to Türkiye than they were for those going to the Islamic Republic of Iran or Pakistan.



EUROPE

3. EUROPE

3.1 DEMOGRAPHIC AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROFILES

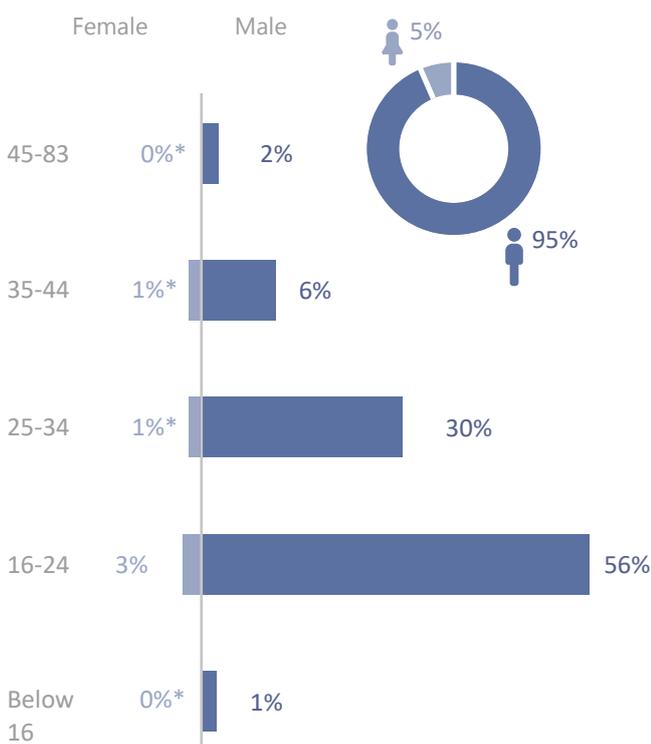


Respondents intending to go to Europe consisted of 715 potential migrants, 35 per cent of whom were married. Thirty-one per cent of respondents had children, and most did not have their children with them in the current location (82%). On average, respondents had 1.7 relatives living abroad and had 2.7 children.

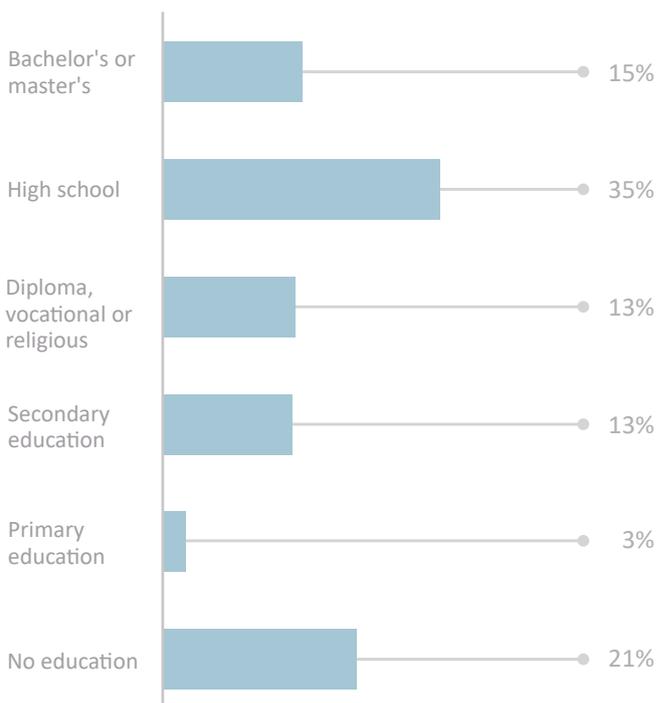
Ninety-five per cent of the sample population were male and five per cent were female. Most potential migrants were male and between the ages of 16 and 24 years old (57%). Among the five per cent of female respondents, 65 per cent were also in the same age group. Fifty-three per cent of women were married and 38 per cent of them had children.

Fifteen per cent of potential migrants going to Europe had completed education with a bachelor's or a master's degree and 35 per cent did not reach a level higher than high school. Twenty-one per cent of respondents did not have any education. Literacy levels were very low among those with no education: 98 per cent could not read and 99 per cent could not write.

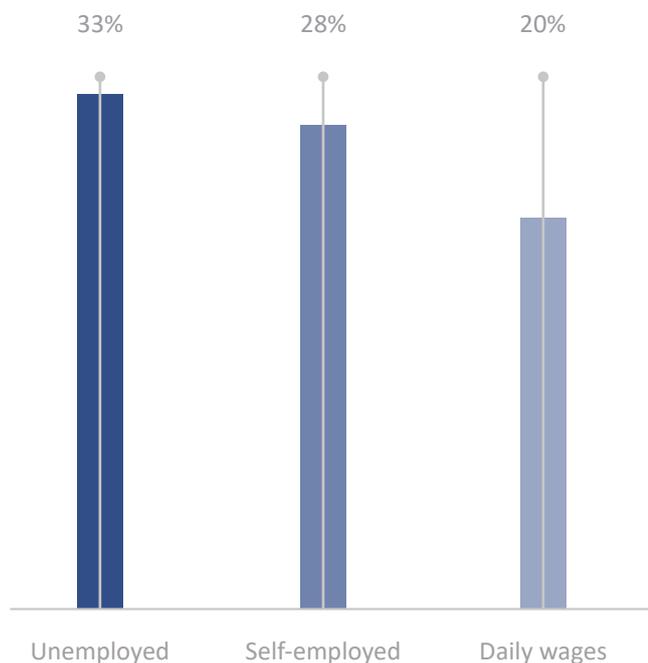
AGE AND GENDER



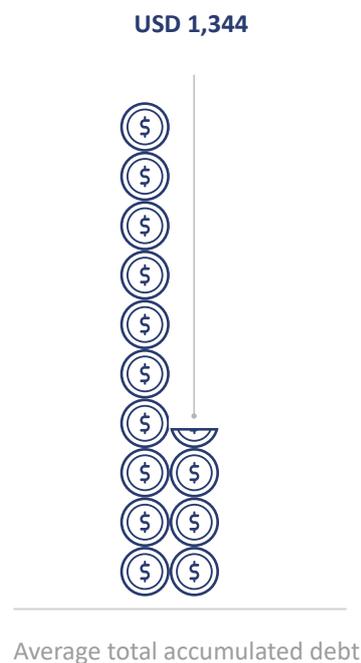
EDUCATION



EMPLOYMENT STATUSES DURING THE LAST SIX MONTHS (top 3 answers)



AVERAGE TOTAL ACCUMULATED DEBT¹³



In the six months prior to the interview, 33 per cent of potential migrants who reported the intention to migrate to Europe were unemployed, 28 per cent were self-employed and 20 per cent were earning daily wages. In order to explore the intersections between demographic variables and their impact on migration intentions, employment statuses were analyzed against educational levels. Results show that almost one in two (48%) potential migrants who intended to migrate to Europe and had completed high school as their highest level of education stated that they were unemployed during six months prior to the interview.

On average, respondents who reported the intention to migrate to Europe had a total accumulated debt of USD 1,344. Their debt was lower compared to respondents who reported the intention to go to the Islamic Republic of Iran (USD 1,885). This is reflected in different degrees of importance that both groups gave to debt as a driver of migration: respondents who reported the intention to migrate to Europe gave debt a rating on average of 2.9 (slightly important, p. 20) and those who reported the intention to migrate to the Islamic Republic of Iran gave debt a rating of 4.6 (very important, p. 33).

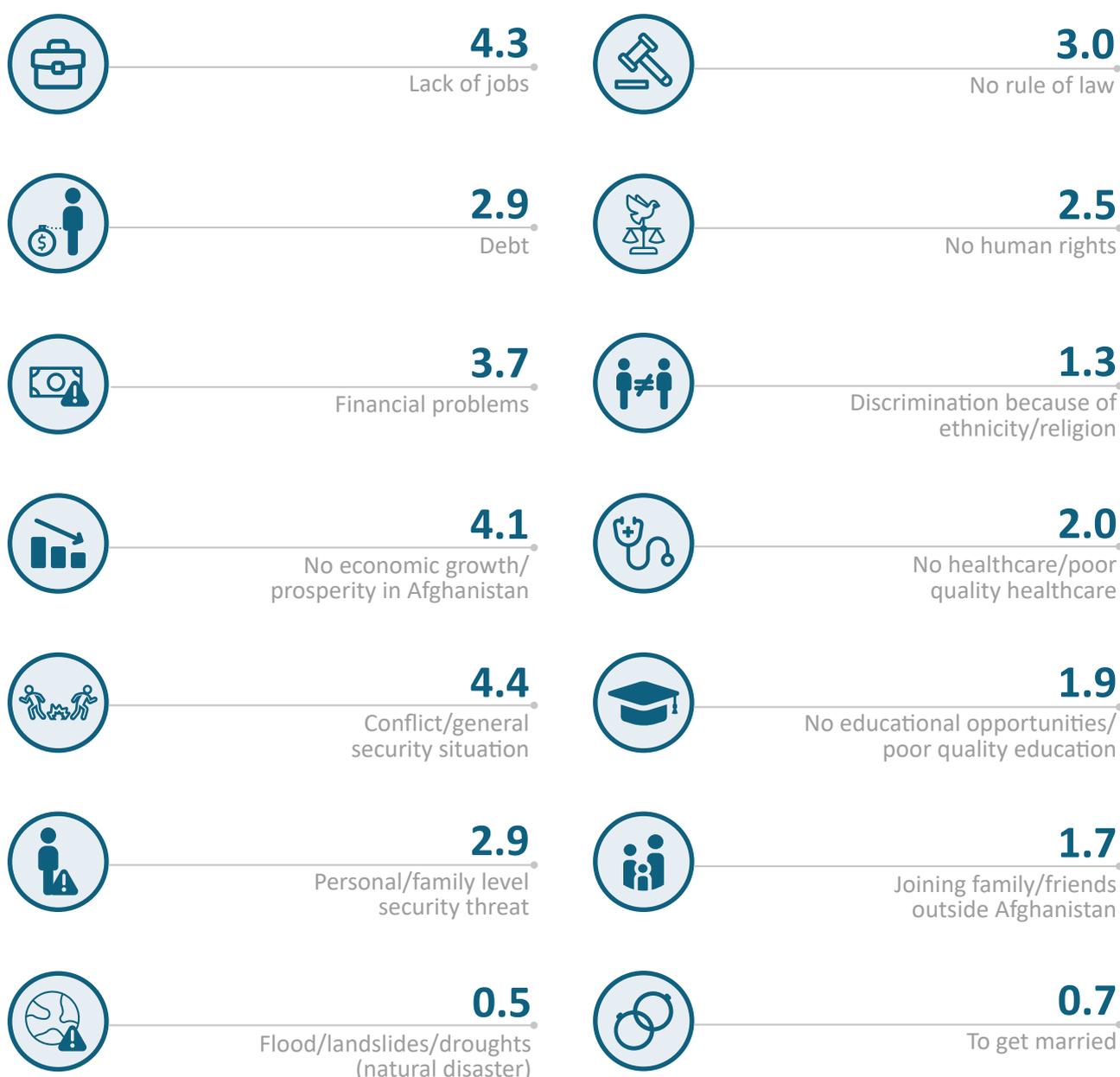
¹³ Data was originally collected in national currency (Afghani - AFN). The exchange rate was 1 AFN = 0.0129539 USD on the last day of data collection (31 March 2021)



3.2 REASONS AND DRIVERS FOR MIGRATION

IMPORTANCE OF FACTORS IN DECISION TO LEAVE AFGHANISTAN

0 = not applicable, 1 = very unimportant, 2 = unimportant, 3 = slightly important, 4 = important 5 = very important



For respondents going to Europe, the reasons for potentially leaving Afghanistan were primarily conflict (4.4), lack of jobs (4.3) and a lack of economic growth in Afghanistan (4.1). Financial problems (3.7) were also important, as was the lack of rule of law (3.0). Personal/family level security threats (2.9) and debt (2.9) were equally significant, although the importance of debt among respondents going to Europe was lower compared to respondents going to the Islamic Republic of Iran and Türkiye. While this country-level analysis reinforces the conclusion that migration from Afghanistan is mainly fueled by various economic conditions and security concerns, it also highlights how the two factors are inextricably linked to one another through cause and effect.

IMPORTANCE OF FACTORS IN DECISION TO CHOOSE A DESTINATION COUNTRY

0 = not applicable, 1 = very unimportant, 2 = unimportant, 3 = slightly important, 4 = important, 5 = very important



According to respondents, when asked to rate the importance of the above factors in their decision to choose Europe as a destination, Europe's main appeal lied in the opportunity to look for work or find better livelihood opportunities there (4.2). The possibility of obtaining the nationality of a country there (3.5), doing actual work or earning an actual living (3.1) and obtaining asylum or refugee status (2.9) are also important pull factors.

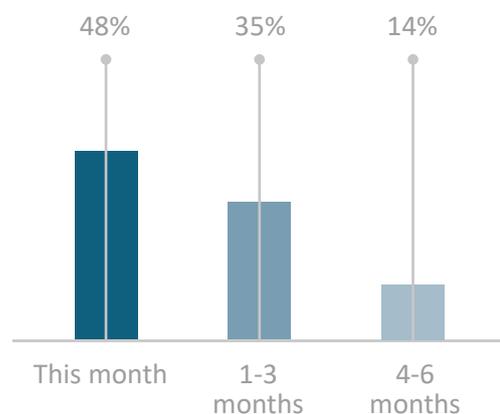
3.3 TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

Nearly half of all respondents intending to go to Europe planned to leave the same month that they were interviewed (48%). Thirty-five per cent planned to leave in the subsequent one to three months and 14 per cent planned to leave in the following four to six months. Two per cent reported that they did not know when they wanted to leave. The urgency to leave may be indicative of the severity of the conditions in Afghanistan that were driving people to migrate.

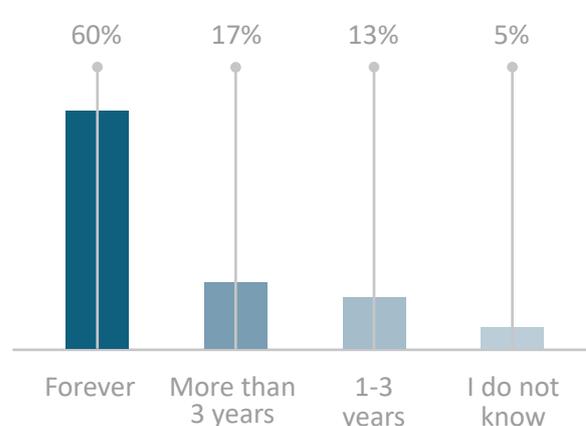
The largest share of respondents going to Europe planned to be away forever (60%), followed by those who planned to be away for more than three years (17%) while the smallest share planned to be away for one to three years (13%). Compared to respondents going elsewhere, respondents going to Europe reported at a much higher rate that they wanted to leave Afghanistan permanently or for the long term.

Half of the respondents going to Europe were using a migration facilitator¹⁴ to leave Afghanistan (50%), with the majority having found the migration facilitator through family/friends located in Afghanistan (71%) or outside of Afghanistan (17%). Ninety-two per cent of respondents who were not using a migration facilitator planned on using one in the course of their migration.

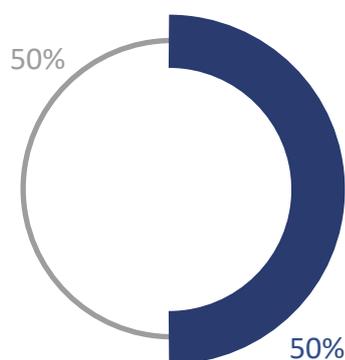
PLANNED DEPARTURE FROM AFGHANISTAN (top 3 answers)



PLANNED DURATION OF STAY ABROAD (top 4 answers)

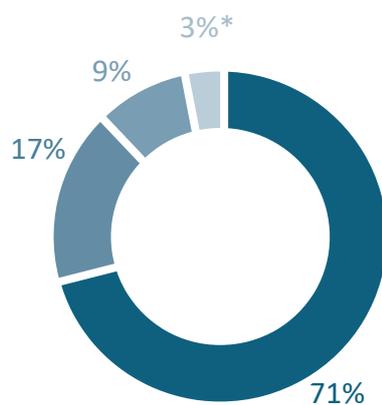


USE OF MIGRATION FACILITATOR TO SUPPORT DEPARTURE



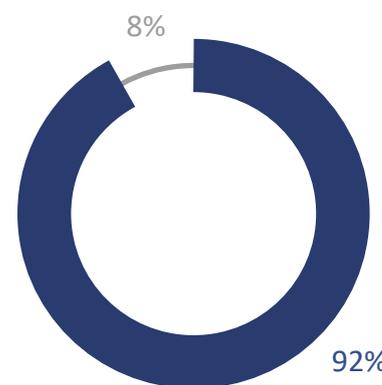
■ Yes
 ■ No

IF YES - HOW WAS MIGRATION FACILITATOR FOUND



■ Through family/friends in Afghanistan
 ■ Through family/friends outside of Afghanistan
 ■ Was approached
 ■ Other

IF NO - PLAN ON USING A MIGRATION FACILITATOR TO SUPPORT DEPARTURE



■ Yes
 ■ No

¹⁴ Migration facilitator refers to anyone that is involved in the facilitation of migration services (irregular and regular) via air, land or sea routes in exchange for money. Those services can range from consultative services for visa applications and acquiring (fraudulent) documents, to transportation arrangements, to the facilitation of border crossings. This term does not intend to neglect the differences in services; it is frequently used for persons providing migration services.

MIGRATION DECISION-MAKING



• **91%**
 of respondents
 going to Europe
 made the
 decision to
 migrate
 themselves

Ninety-one per cent of respondents intending to go to Europe made the decision to migrate by themselves. Among them, 59 per cent had discussed their migration with their parents, 15 per cent with friends, 10 per cent with a brother and six per cent with an uncle.

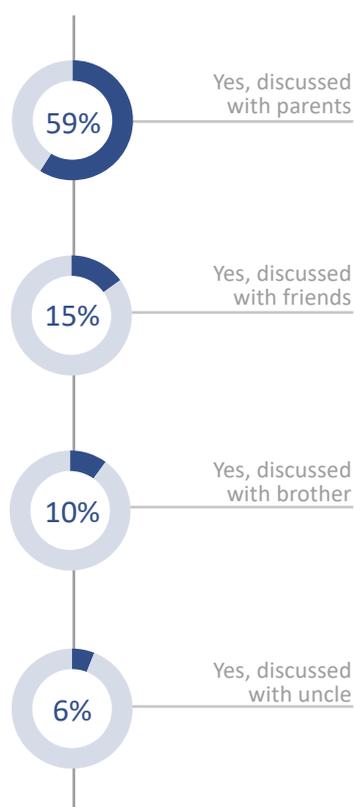
Among the nine per cent of respondents going to Europe who did not make the decision to migrate by themselves, 40 per cent had had their father decide for them to migrate, 25 per cent their brother, 19 per cent both parents and 16 per cent another person, including other family members and spouses.

For females respondents going to Europe, however, the decision to migrate was less likely to be a decision of their own as compared to the grand total. Nearly a third (32%) of female potential migrant respondents going to Europe reported that they did not make the decision to migrate themselves. Additionally, most females were planning to travel with their family (members over 18 years old) (68%) or with their parents (50%).

When asked about support with the migration journey, 68 per cent of respondents reported that their family assisted them while 58 per cent reported receiving support from their friends. This suggests that, while the decision to migrate is often an independent one overall, migration itself is collaborative, making frequent use of personal support networks. Ten per cent of respondents reported receiving assistance from their migration facilitator and four per cent from a community leader.

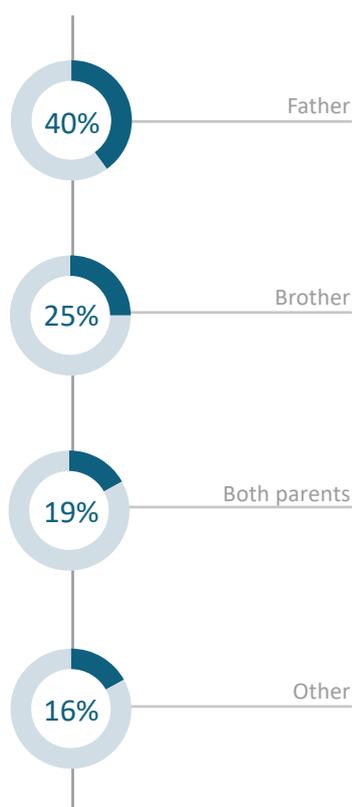
OWN DECISION - DISCUSSION
 OF MIGRATION DECISION WITH
 OTHERS

(top 4 answers, multiple answers possible)



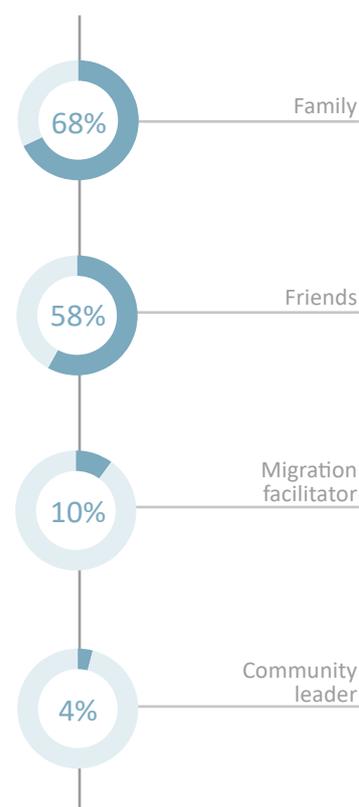
NOT OWN DECISION - WHO
 MADE DECISION

(top 4 answers, multiple answers possible)



SUPPORTERS IN PREPARATION
 OF MIGRATION JOURNEY

(top 4 answers, multiple answers possible)



ESTIMATED COST OF JOURNEY¹⁵



USD 6,024

Average predicted cost of entire journey

FINANCING THE MIGRATION JOURNEY



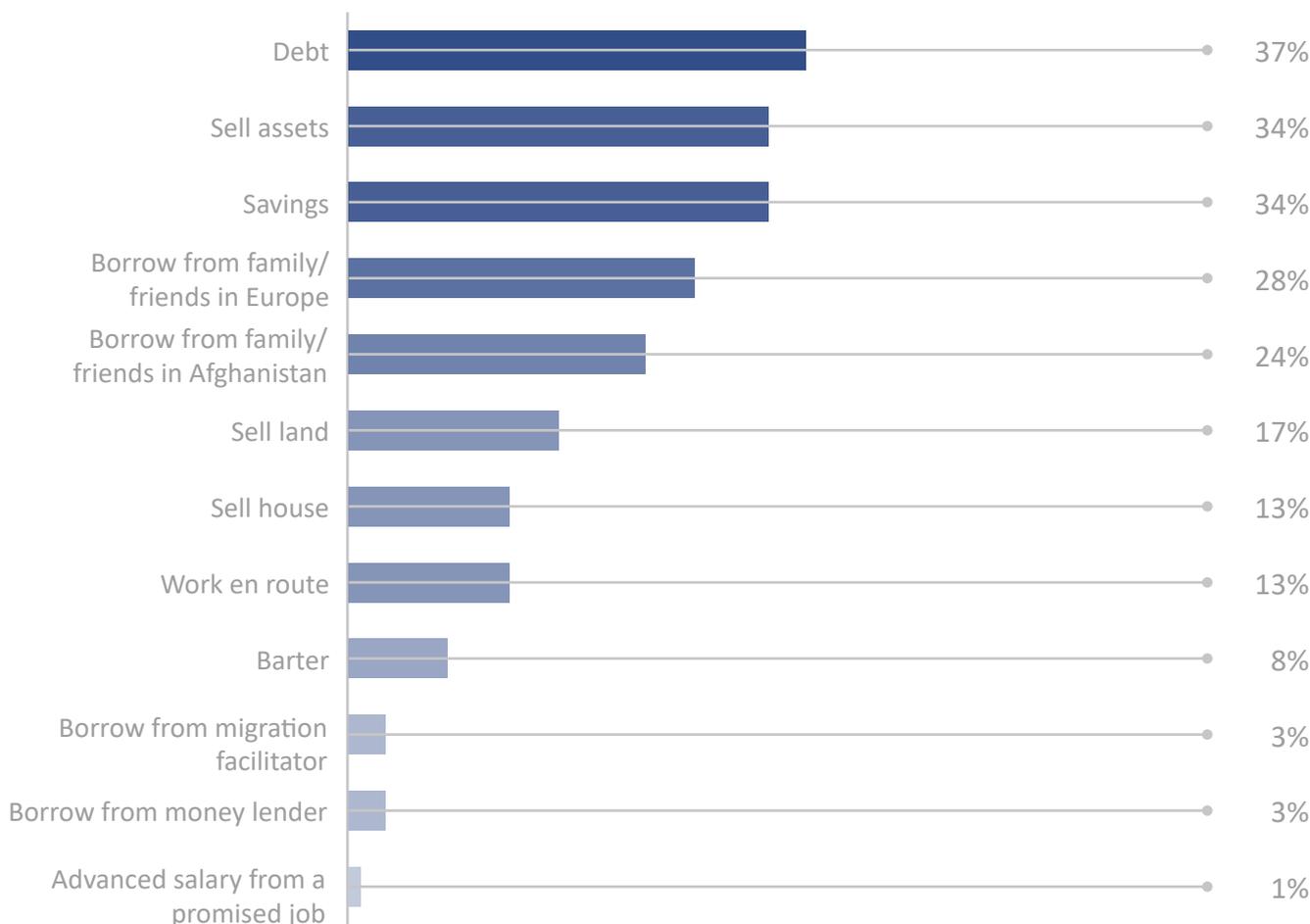
44%

Average percentage of journey cost financed by debt and borrowing

The average predicted cost for the journey to Europe was USD 6,024. As can be expected based upon the distance and logistical necessities, the price for the journey to Europe is much higher than the price to migrate to the Islamic Republic of Iran, Pakistan or Türkiye. On average, respondents had already paid three per cent of the journey cost at the time of the interview.

Sixty-four per cent of respondents reported having sold assets, land or their house in order to pay for the upcoming journey. Fifty-two per cent had borrowed from friends and family in either Europe or Afghanistan. Notably, respondents going to Europe reported the highest rates of borrowing money from family/friends in the destination as compared to respondents going elsewhere. Thirty-seven per cent of respondents answered they had taken on debt and another 34 per cent reported using their savings in order to fund their migration.

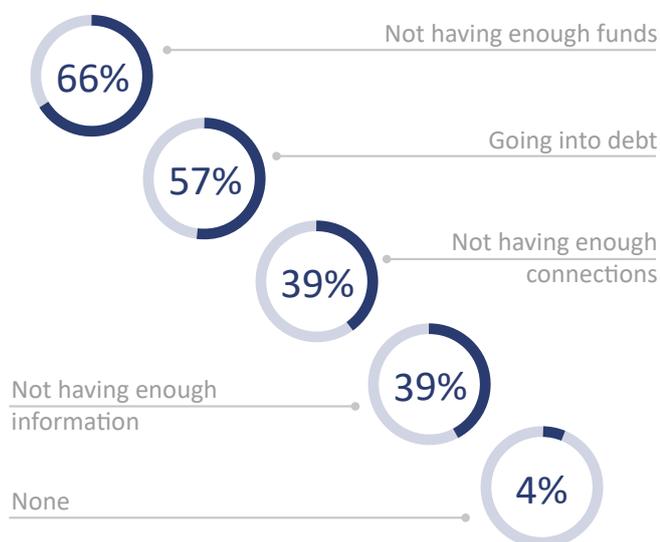
FINANCING THE MIGRATION JOURNEY (multiple answers possible)



¹⁵ Data was originally collected in national currency (Afghani - AFN). The exchange rate was 1 AFN = 0.0129539 USD on the last day of data collection (31 March 2021)

3.4 PROBLEMS AND VULNERABILITIES RELATED TO THE JOURNEY

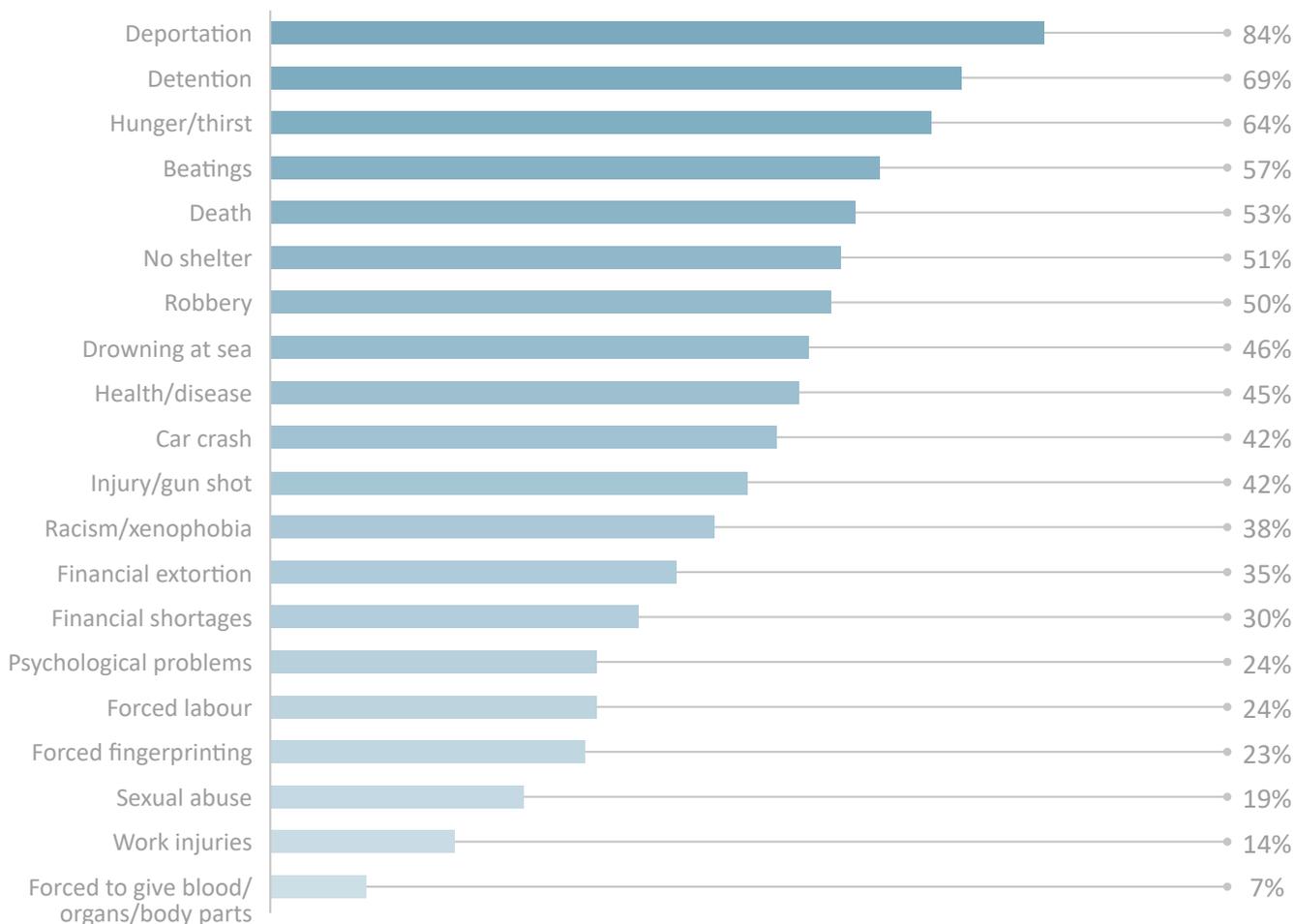
MAIN OBSTACLES ENCOUNTERED WHEN PLANNING THE JOURNEY (multiple answers possible)



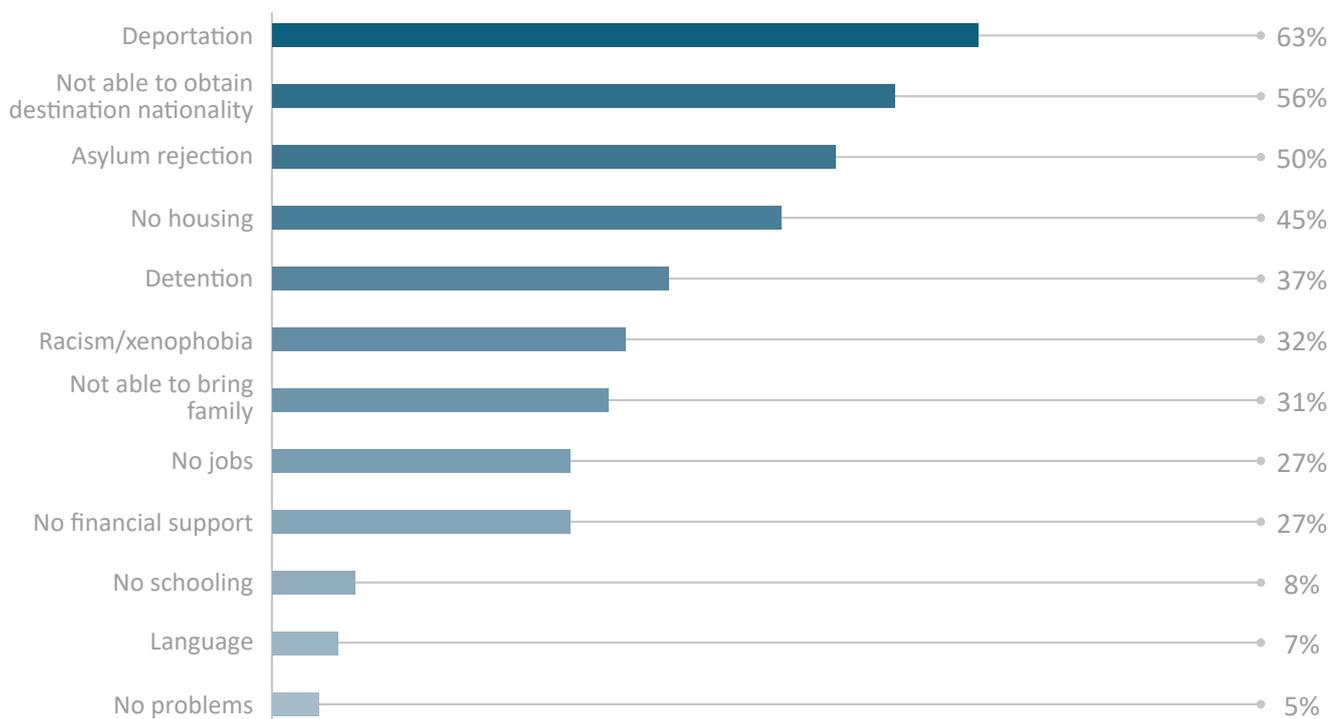
Respondents were asked about the problems they had experienced so far and the ones they expected to face during different stages of their migration journeys. Two thirds of respondents (66%) reported a lack of funds for their journey as the primary anticipated obstacle during the planning of their journey. Fifty-seven per cent expected to go into debt.

Respondents anticipated a wide range of potential problems to be encountered en route to Europe. The most commonly cited was deportation (84%). Other expected obstacles included detention (69%), hunger and thirst (64%) and physical beatings (57%). Drowning at sea is of higher concern to respondents going to Europe (46%) compared to respondents going elsewhere. The majority of respondents were expecting extreme conditions including death en route and were still planning to migrate. This highlights the severity of the security risks and the overall living conditions in Afghanistan.

MAIN OBSTACLES EXPECTED TO ENCOUNTER EN ROUTE (top 20 answers, multiple answers possible)



MAIN OBSTACLES EXPECTED TO ENCOUNTER AT THE DESTINATION (multiple answers possible)



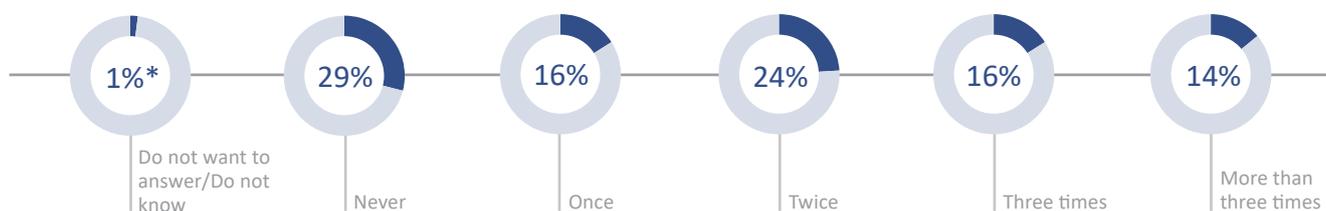
As with potential problems en route, large shares of respondents expected obstacles upon their arrival to their destination in Europe. Sixty-three per cent cited concerns of deportation from their destination. Fifty-six per cent expected obstacles regarding the obtainment of nationality in the destination country and 50 per cent expected obstacles regarding the acceptance of their asylum applications.

These concerns correspond with other variables related to the drivers of migration for potential Europe-bound migrants; many rated the ability to obtain nationality or asylum or refugee status as an important motivator for choosing their destination. In addition, respondents going to Europe reported more frequently that they wanted to stay abroad long-term compared to respondents going elsewhere, which is reflected in the concerns about deportation, documentation and not being able to bring family to join them in their destination.



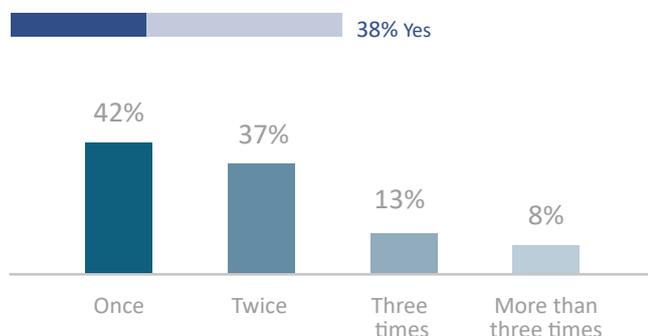
3.5 MOBILITY HISTORY

PREVIOUS MIGRATION ATTEMPTS

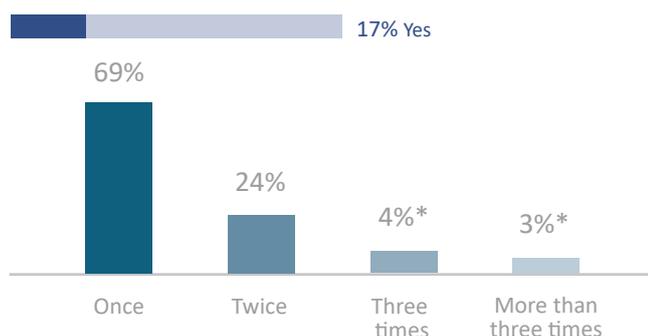


PREVIOUS MIGRATION EXPERIENCE

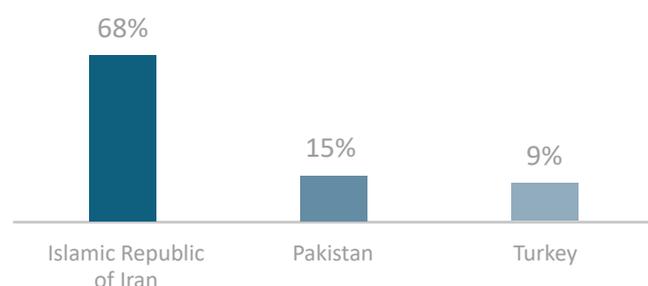
Previous migration experience abroad: 6 months or longer



Previous migration experience abroad: less than 6 months



Previous migration experience: destinations



This study included questions about mobility history, both within Afghanistan and abroad, in order to further understand the extent to which previous migration experiences play a role in shaping new mobility patterns. Among respondents going to Europe, 70 per cent had attempted to migrate abroad before. Sixteen per cent had attempted once, 24 per cent had attempted twice, 16 per cent had attempted three times and 14 per cent had attempted more than three times.

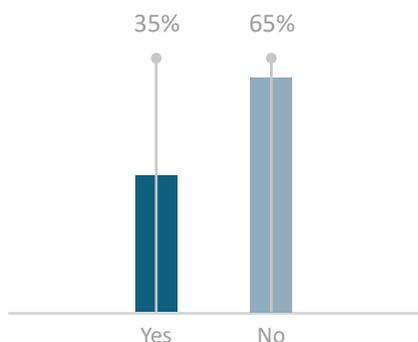
However, among those who had attempted to migrate before, not all had migrated successfully nor had the same migration experience. In order to examine the variations in past experiences, respondents were asked about previous migration timelines, frequencies and destinations. Thirty-eight per cent of respondents reported that they had migrated abroad for six months or more, most of whom had done so once (42%) or twice (37%).

Fewer respondents reported having migrated abroad for less than six months (17%), the majority of whom had only done so once (69%). Respondents were also asked about the success rate of migration attempts to go abroad for six months or more. Twelve per cent of respondents reported that they had intended to migrate for longer than six months, but had returned before the six months had passed.

Finally, if a respondent had migrated abroad for any amount of time, they were asked where they had migrated. Among those intending to go to Europe who had previous migration experience, most had migrated to the Islamic Republic of Iran (68%) before, while 15 per cent had migrated to Pakistan and 9 per cent to Turkey. Four per cent reported that they had migrated to somewhere else in Asia before.

Previous experiences regarding internal displacement were also examined in order to observe mobility patterns. Thirty-five per cent of respondents going to Europe had been displaced within Afghanistan previously. Respondents reported displacement lasted six years on average. Among those who had experienced displacement before, 56 per cent had been displaced once, 36 per cent twice, five per cent three times and three per cent more than three times.

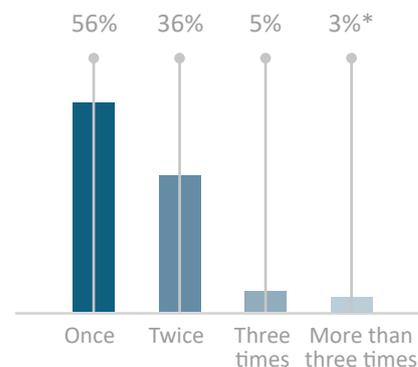
INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT EXPERIENCE



AVERAGE DURATION OF DISPLACEMENT

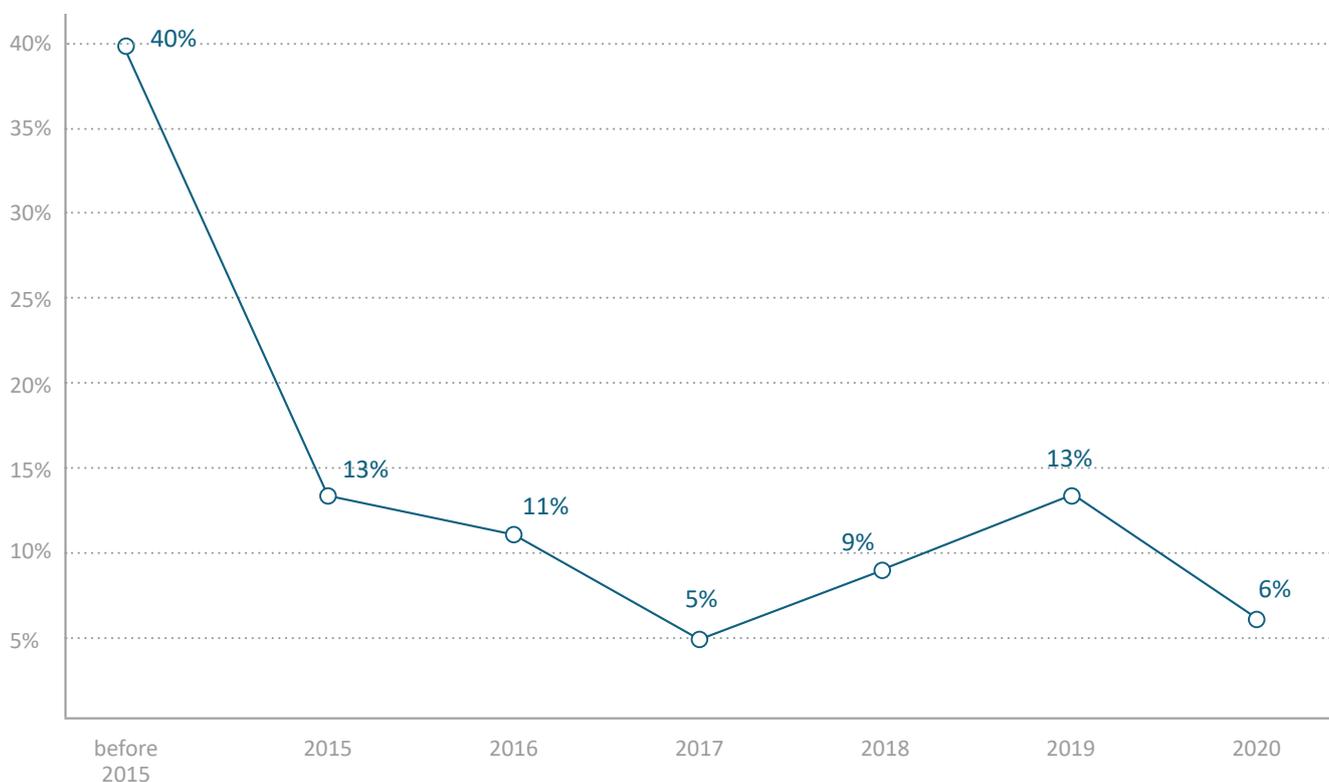


NUMBER OF TIMES OF INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT



The largest share of respondents was last displaced before 2015 (40%). Among the respondents who had displaced in 2015 or later, the plurality displaced within Afghanistan in either 2015 or 2019 (13% each). The least common years respondents reported to have last been displaced were 2020 (6%) and 2017 (5%).

RESPONDENTS MOST RECENT PERIOD OF DISPLACEMENT¹⁶



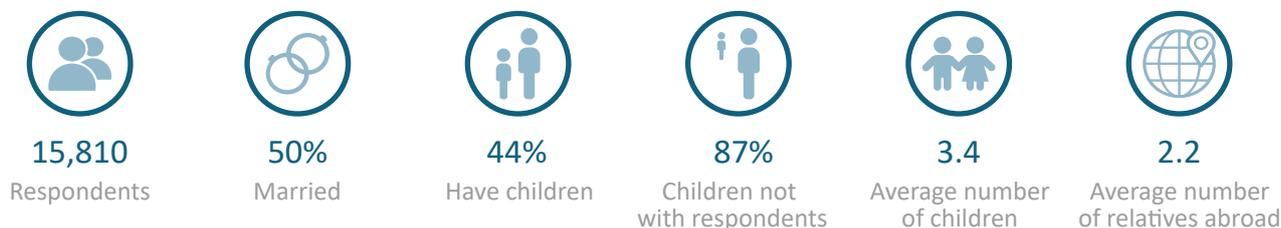
¹⁶ Three per cent of respondents who reported the intention to migrate to Europe claimed that they did not know when they last had been displaced.



THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

4. THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

4.1 DEMOGRAPHIC AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROFILES

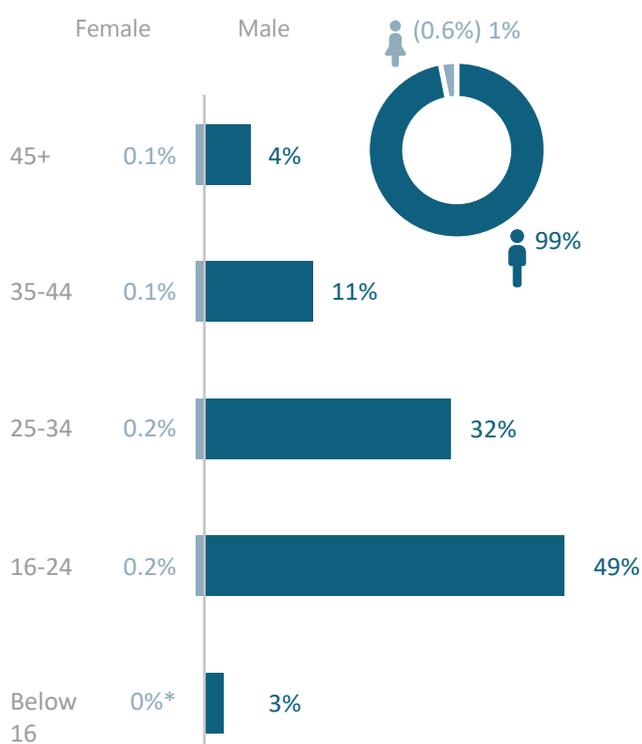


Respondents intending to go to the Islamic Republic of Iran consisted of 15,810 potential migrants, 50 per cent of whom were married. Forty-four per cent of respondents had children, but most did not have their children with them in the current location (87%). On average, respondents had 2.2 relatives living abroad and had 3.4 children.

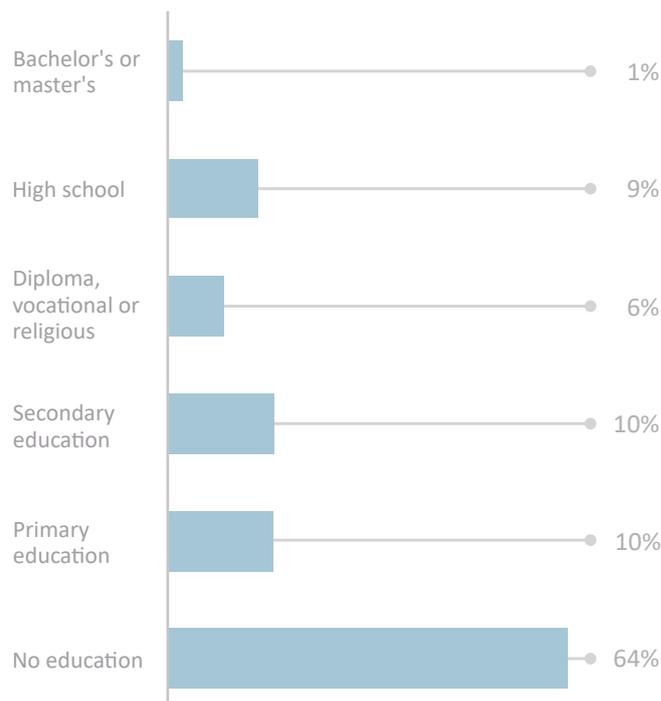
Ninety-nine per cent of the sample population were male and one per cent were female. Half of potential migrants were male and between the ages of 16 and 24 years old (50%). Among the one per cent of female respondents, 28 per cent were also in the same age group and 32 per cent were between the ages of 25 and 34 years old. Seventy-three per cent of women were married and 74 per cent of them had children.

Thirty-six per cent of respondents potentially migrating to the Islamic Republic of Iran reported to have completed some form of education, which is the lowest rate of education compared to respondents going elsewhere. Shares of respondents whose highest educational levels were primary education, secondary education or high school were relatively equal (10%, 10% and 9%, respectively). Literacy levels were very low among those with no education: 99 per cent of respondents could not read or write.

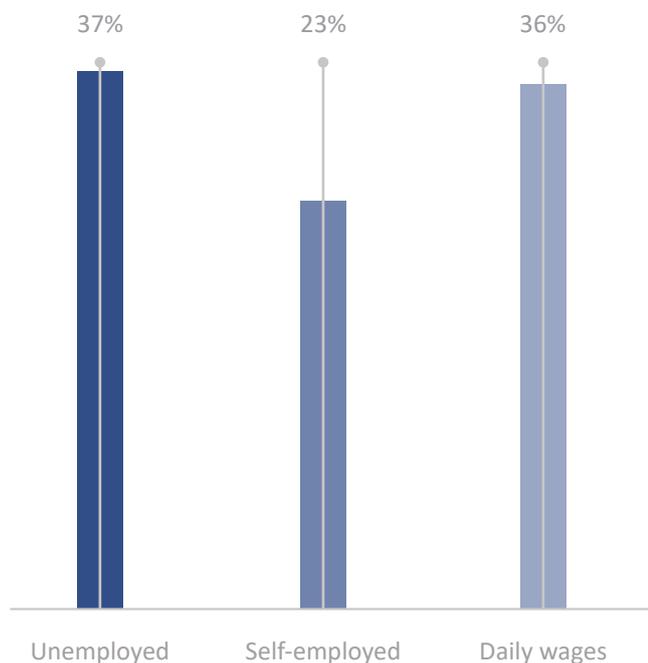
AGE AND GENDER



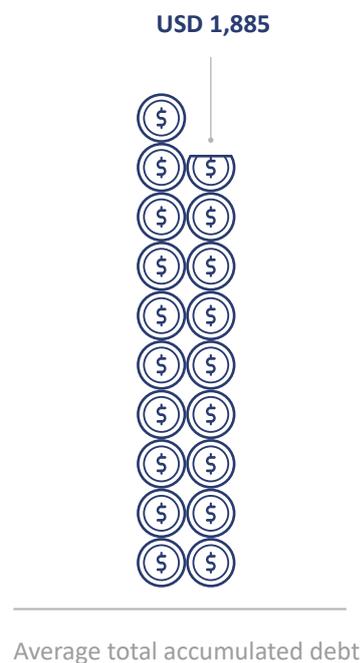
EDUCATION



EMPLOYMENT STATUSES DURING THE LAST SIX MONTHS (top 3 answers)



AVERAGE TOTAL ACCUMULATED DEBT¹⁷



In the six months prior to the interview, 37 per cent of potential migrants who reported the intention to migrate to the Islamic Republic of Iran were unemployed, 23 per cent were self-employed and 36 per cent were earning daily wages. In order to explore the intersections between demographic variables and their impact on migration intentions, employment statuses were analyzed against educational levels. Results show that two in five (40%) potential migrants who intended to migrate to the Islamic Republic of Iran and had completed high school as their highest level of education stated that they were unemployed during six months prior to the interview.

On average, respondents who reported the intention to migrate to the Islamic Republic of Iran had a total accumulated debt of USD 1,885. Their debt was higher compared to respondents who reported the intention to migrate elsewhere. This is also reflected in the higher importance given to debt as a driver of migration by respondents who reported the intention to migrate to the Islamic Republic of Iran (very important - 4.6, pp. 33) compared to the ratings given by respondents who reported the intention to migrate to Europe (slightly important - 2.9, pp. 20), Pakistan (important - 3.9, pp. 46) and Türkiye (important - 4.1, pp. 55).

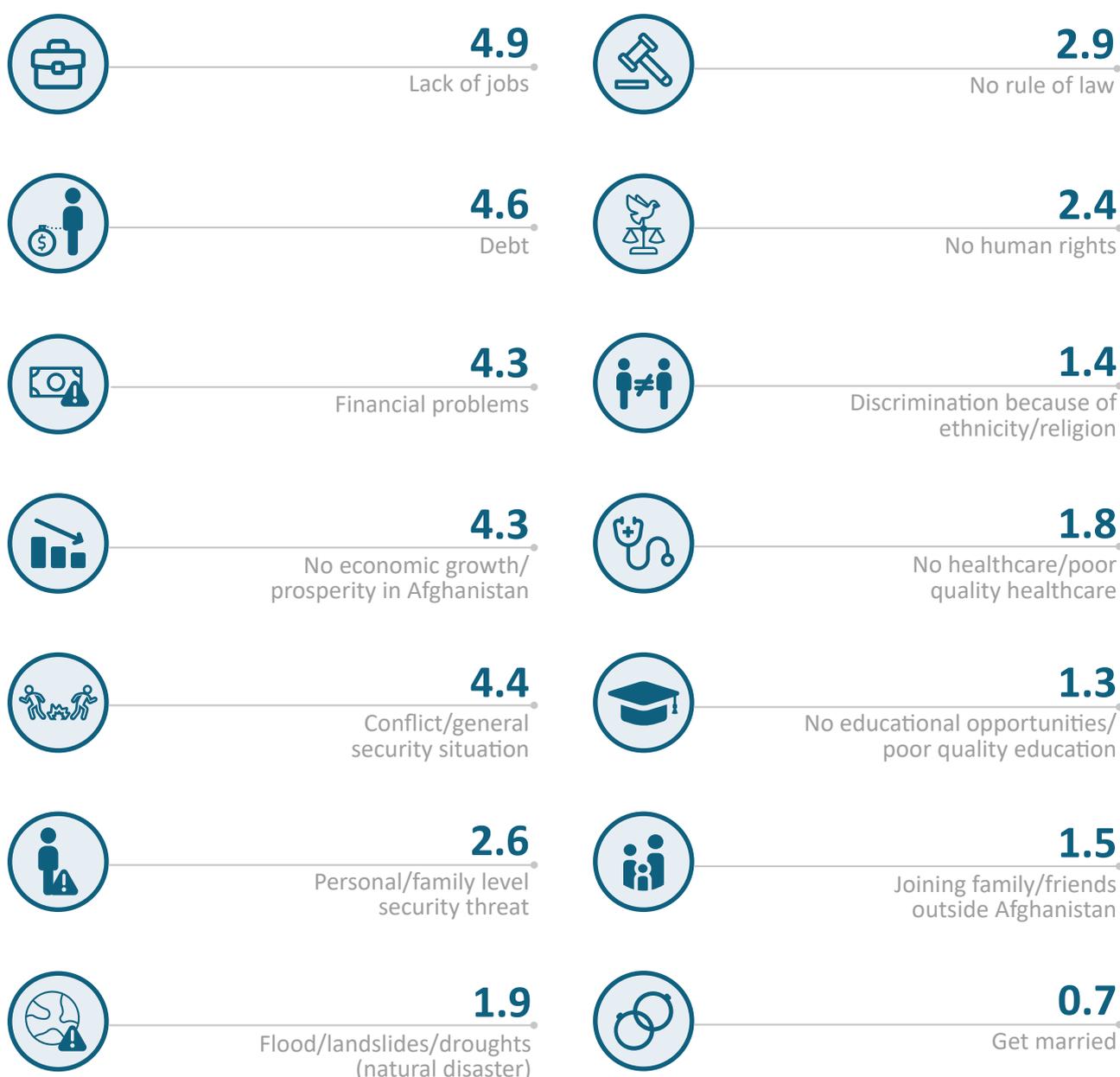
¹⁷ Data was originally collected in national currency (Afghani - AFN). The exchange rate was 1 AFN = 0.0129539 USD on the last day of data collection (31 March 2021)



4.2 REASONS AND DRIVERS FOR MIGRATION

IMPORTANCE OF FACTORS IN DECISION TO LEAVE AFGHANISTAN

0 = not applicable, 1= very unimportant, 2 = unimportant, 3 = slightly important, 4 = important, 5 = very important



For respondents going to the Islamic Republic of Iran, the reasons to leave Afghanistan were primarily lack of jobs (4.9), debt (4.6) and conflict or general security situation (4.4). The lack of jobs and existence of debt are severely important motivators for respondents headed to the Islamic Republic of Iran, who rated these factors higher than respondents heading to Europe, Pakistan and Türkiye did. Financial problems (4.3) and the lack of economic growth in Afghanistan (4.3) were also significant. This analysis shows that a range of economic factors and security issues are, once again, among the primary reasons to leave Afghanistan. Context shows that these concerns are linked to one another through cause and effect.

IMPORTANCE OF FACTORS IN DECISION TO CHOOSE A DESTINATION COUNTRY

0 = not applicable, 1 = very unimportant, 2 = unimportant, 3 = slightly important, 4 = important, 5 = very important



According to respondents, when asked to rate the importance of the above factor in regards to choosing the Islamic Republic of Iran as a destination, the country's main appeal lies in the opportunity to look for work or find better livelihood opportunities there (4.7) and doing actual work or earning an actual living (4.3). The ability to do work and earn a living was of higher importance to respondents intending to go to the Islamic Republic of Iran, compared to respondents going elsewhere.

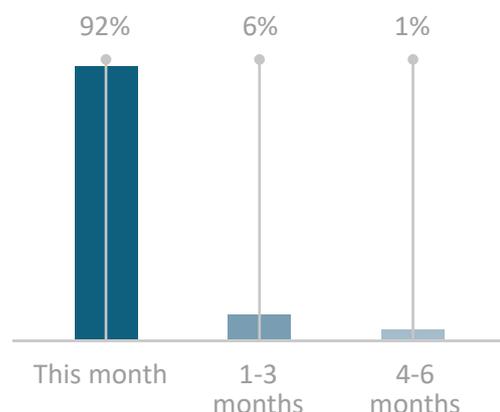
4.3 TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

Most respondents intending to go to the Islamic Republic of Iran planned to leave the same month that they were interviewed (92%). The urgency to leave may be indicative of the severity of the conditions in Afghanistan that were driving people to migrate.

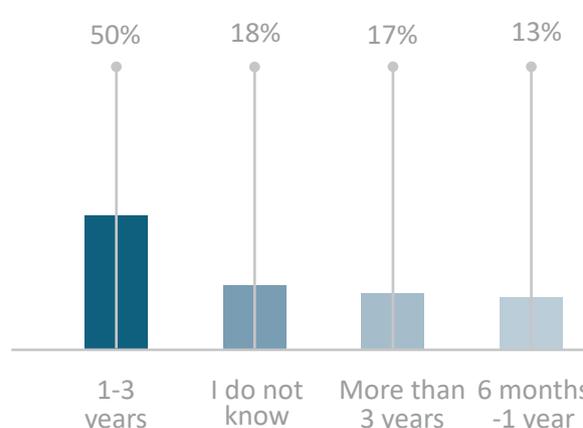
Half of respondents going to the Islamic Republic of Iran planned to be away for one to three years (50%), followed by those who did not know (18%) and those who planned to be away for more than three years (17%). Compared to respondents going elsewhere, respondents going to the Islamic Republic of Iran were more likely to plan to be abroad for a few years, as opposed to staying abroad long-term.

Most respondents going to the Islamic Republic of Iran were using a migration facilitator¹⁸ to leave Afghanistan (88%), with the majority having found the migration facilitator through family/friends located in Afghanistan (76%) or by being approached by the migration facilitator themselves (12%). Seventy-two per cent of respondents who were not using a migration facilitator planned on using one during the course of their migration.

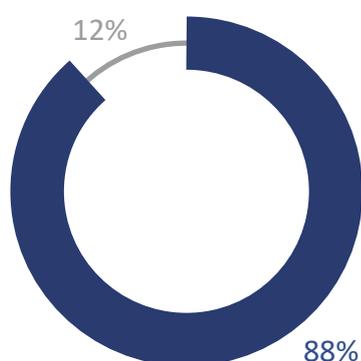
PLANNED DEPARTURE FROM AFGHANISTAN (top 3 answers)



PLANNED DURATION OF STAY ABROAD (top 4 answers)

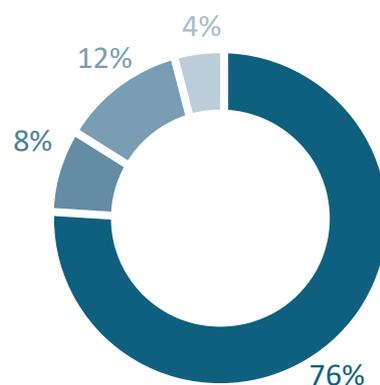


USE OF MIGRATION FACILITATOR TO SUPPORT DEPARTURE



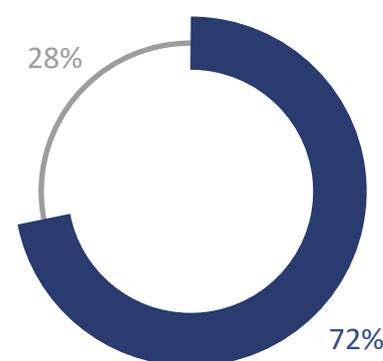
■ Yes
 ■ No

IF YES - HOW WAS MIGRATION FACILITATOR FOUND



■ Through family/friends in Afghanistan
 ■ Through family/friends outside of Afghanistan
 ■ Was approached
 ■ Other

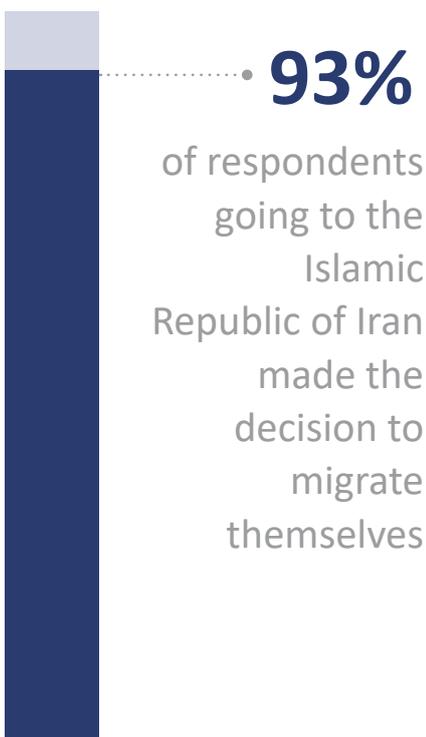
IF NO - PLAN ON USING A MIGRATION FACILITATOR TO SUPPORT DEPARTURE



■ Yes
 ■ No

¹⁸ Migration facilitator refers to anyone that is involved in the facilitation of migration services (irregular and regular) via air, land or sea routes in exchange for money. Those services can range from consultative services for visa applications and acquiring (fraudulent) documents, to transportation arrangements, to the facilitation of border crossings. This term does not intend to neglect the differences in services; it is frequently used for persons providing migration services.

MIGRATION DECISION-MAKING



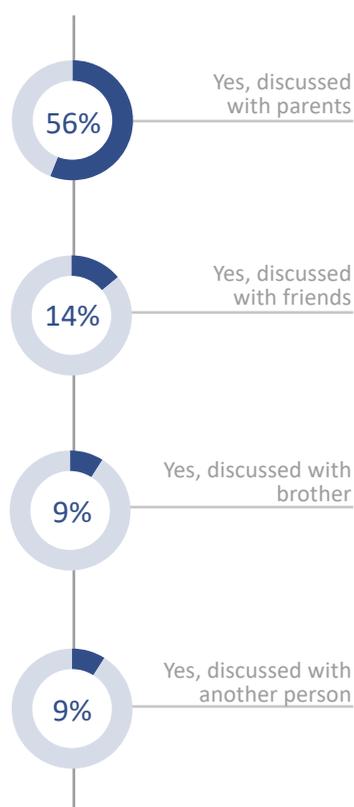
Ninety-three per cent of respondents intending to go to the Islamic Republic of Iran made the decision to migrate by themselves. Among them, 56 per cent had discussed their migration with their parents, 14 per cent with friends, 9 per cent with a brother and 9 per cent with another person, including other family members and spouses.

Among the seven per cent of respondents going to the Islamic Republic of Iran who did not make the decision to migrate by themselves, 55 per cent had their father decide for them to migrate, 23 per cent had both parents, 17 per cent had their brother and 2 per cent had another person.

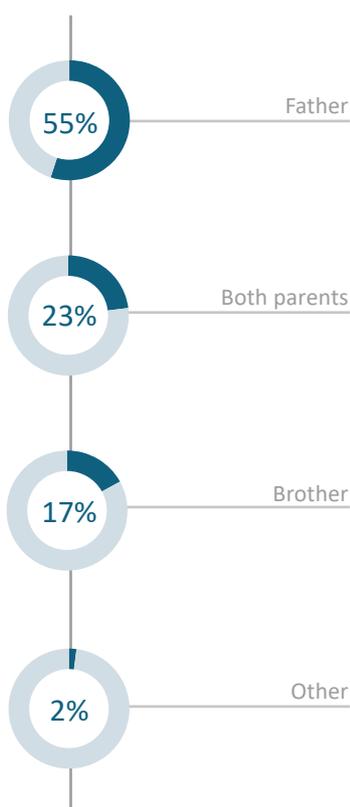
For females respondents going to the Islamic Republic of Iran, however, the decision to migrate was less likely to be a decision of their own as compared to the grand total. Twenty-five per cent of female respondents going to Islamic Republic of Iran reported that they did not make the decision to migrate themselves. Among them, 55 per cent reported that their father had made the decision for them.

When asked about support with the migration journey, 69 per cent of respondents reported that their family assisted them while 61 per cent reported receiving support from their friends. While the decision to migrate may be an independent one among the majority demographic of respondents, migration itself makes frequent use of personal support networks.

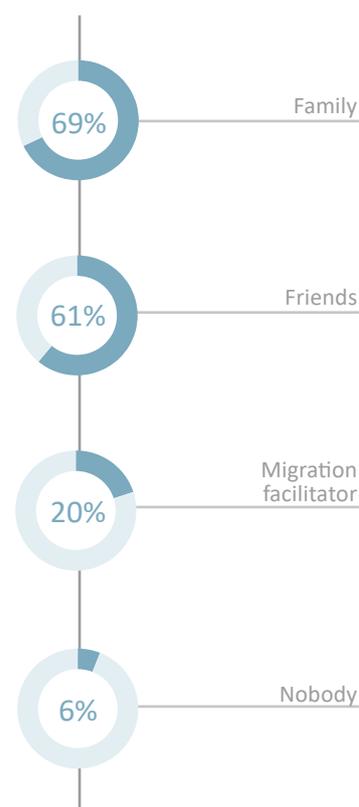
OWN DECISION - DISCUSSION OF MIGRATION DECISION WITH OTHERS
 (top 4 answers, multiple answers possible)



NOT OWN DECISION - WHO MADE DECISION
 (top 4 answers, multiple answers possible)



SUPPORTERS IN PREPARATION OF MIGRATION JOURNEY
 (top 4 answers, multiple answers possible)



ESTIMATED COST OF JOURNEY¹⁹



USD 283

Average predicted cost of entire journey

FINANCING THE MIGRATION JOURNEY



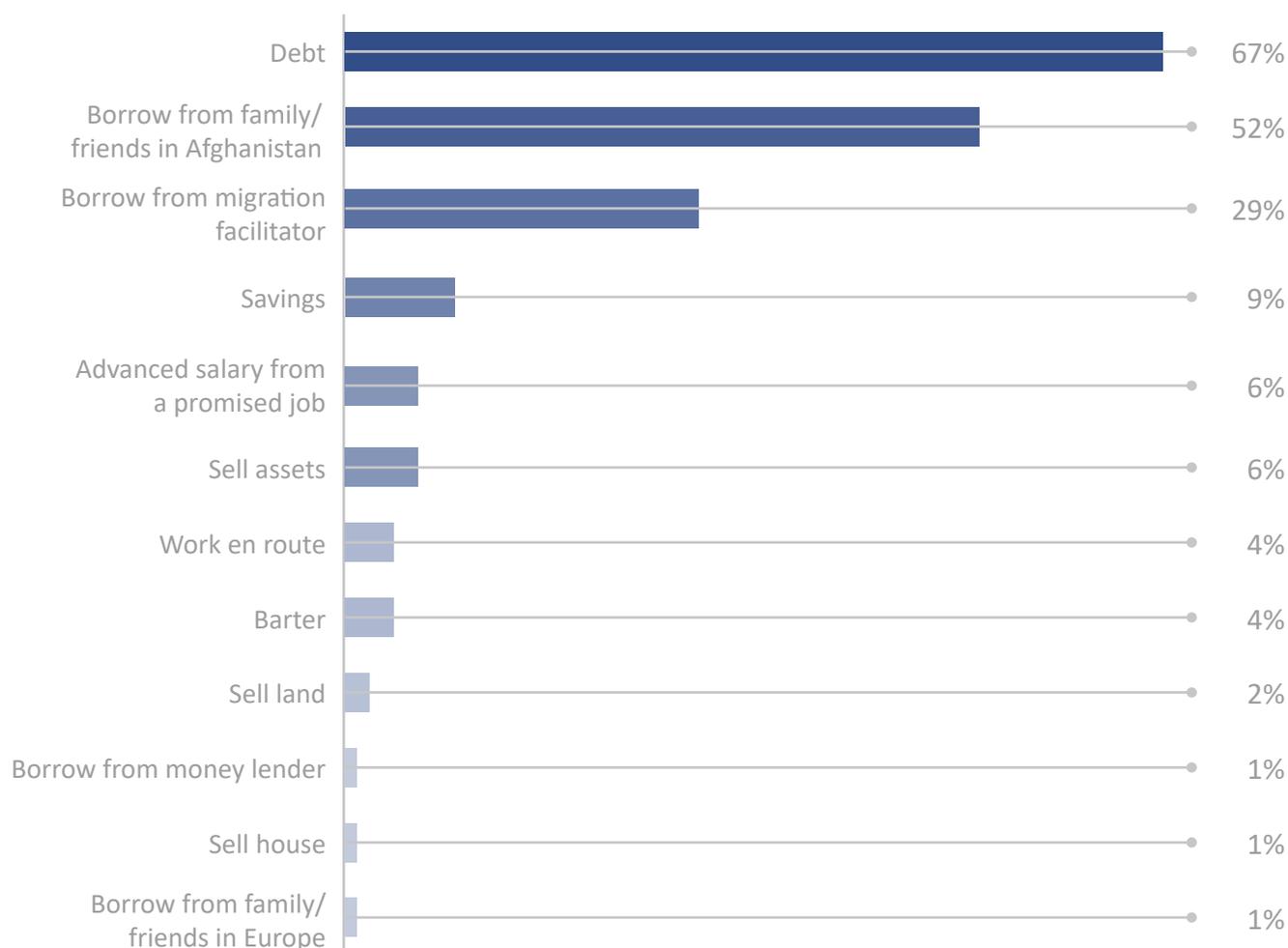
82%

Average percentage of journey cost financed by debt and borrowing

The average predicted cost for the journey to the Islamic Republic of Iran was USD 283. As can be expected based upon the proximity of the two countries, the price for the journey from Afghanistan to the Islamic Republic of Iran is lower than the price to migrate to the Europe and Türkiye. On average, respondents had already paid 13 per cent of the journey cost at the time of the interview.

Sixty-seven per cent of respondents answered that they had taken on debt to pay for the upcoming journey. Fifty-two per cent had borrowed from friends and family in Afghanistan. Twenty-nine per cent of respondents answered they had borrowed from a migration facilitator and another 9 per cent reported using their savings in order to fund their migration. The below percentages show that most respondents used a combination of methods to pay for their journey.

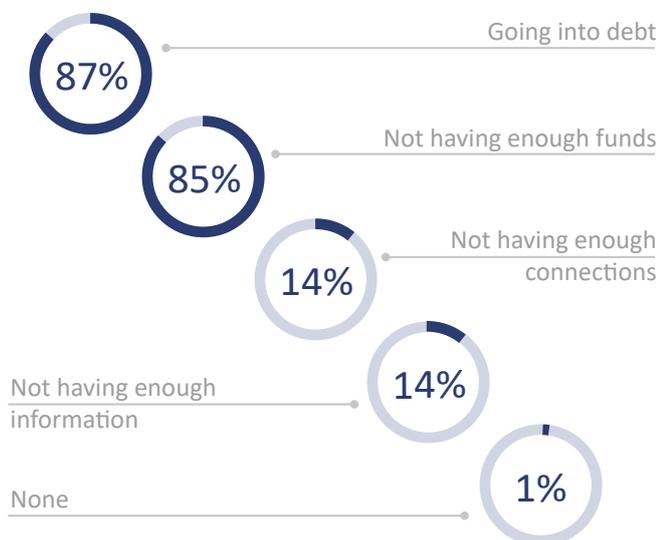
FINANCING THE MIGRATION JOURNEY (multiple answers possible)



¹⁹ Data was originally collected in national currency (Afghani - AFN). The exchange rate was 1 AFN = 0.0129539 USD on the last day of data collection (31 March 2021)

4.4 PROBLEMS AND VULNERABILITIES RELATED TO THE JOURNEY

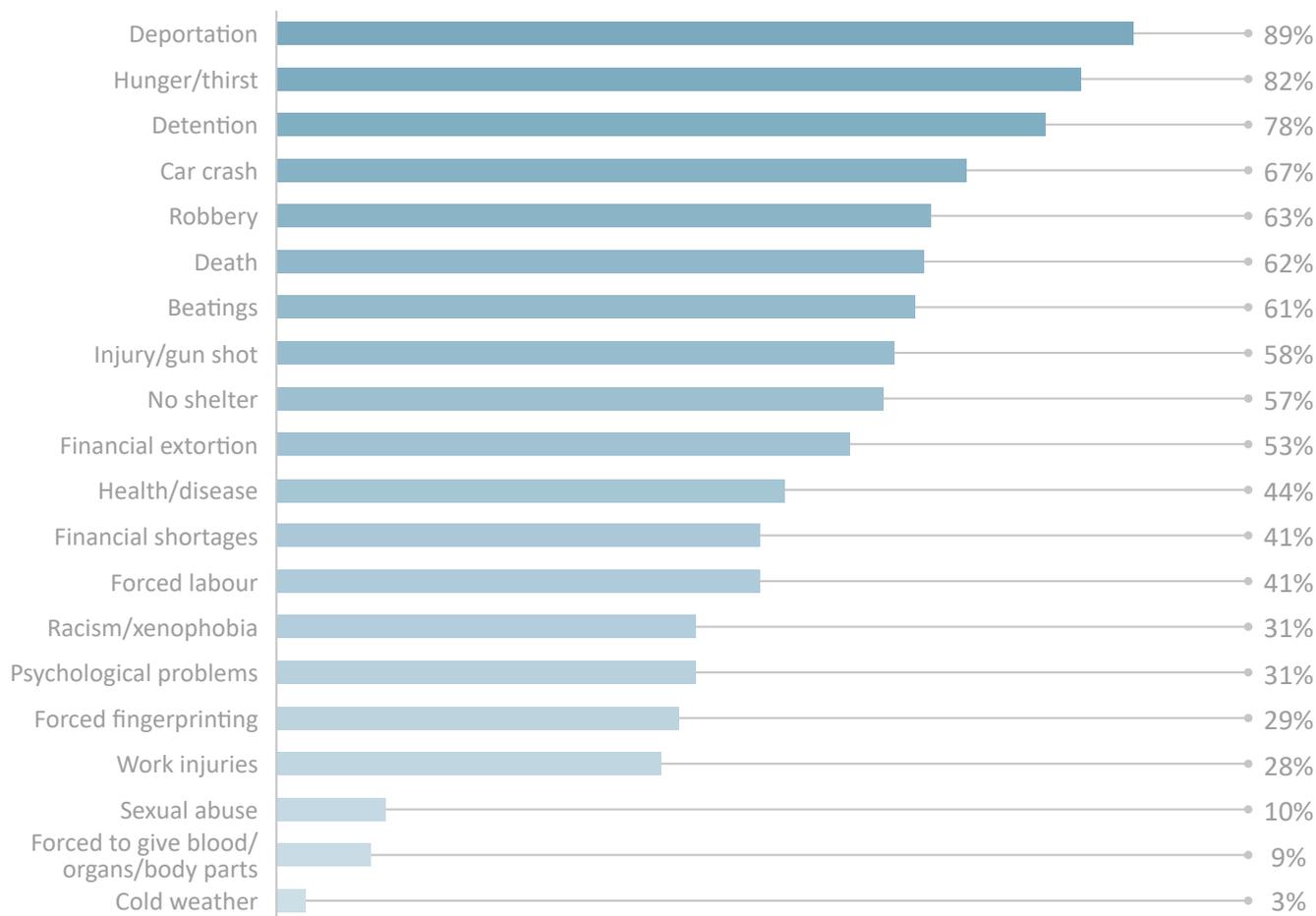
MAIN OBSTACLES ENCOUNTERED WHEN PLANNING THE JOURNEY (multiple answers possible)



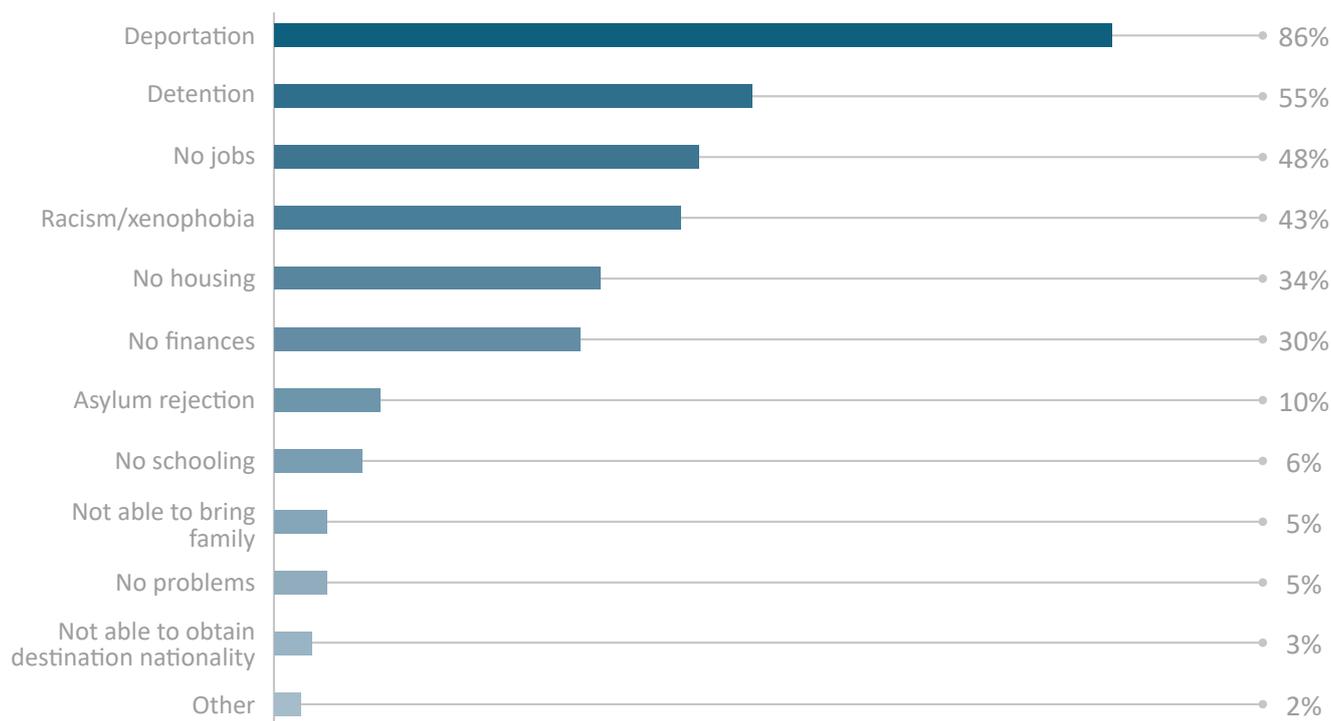
Respondents were asked about the problems they had experienced so far and the ones they expected to face during different stages of their migration journeys. Most respondents were concerned about falling into debt (87%) and a lack of funds (85%) as primary anticipated obstacles during the planning of their journey.

Respondents reported expecting a wide range of potential problems to be encountered en route to the Islamic Republic of Iran. While the most commonly cited risk was deportation (89%), most potential answers had high response rates, suggesting that potential migrants have some awareness of the variety of risks of migration. Other expected obstacles included hunger/thirst (82%), detention (78%) and car crashes (67%).

MAIN OBSTACLES EXPECTED TO ENCOUNTER EN ROUTE (top 20 answers, multiple answers possible)



MAIN OBSTACLES EXPECTED TO ENCOUNTER AT THE DESTINATION (multiple answers possible)



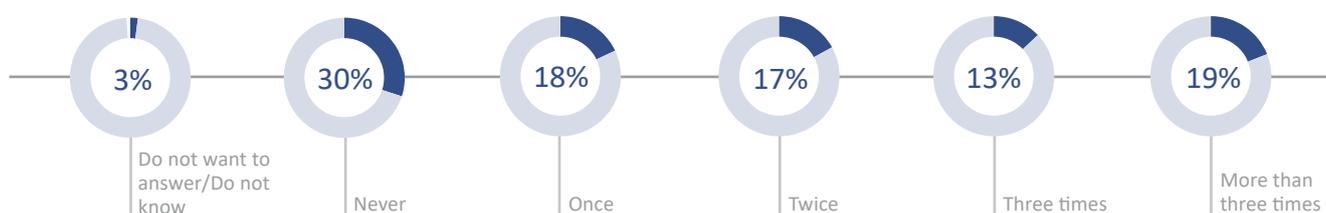
As with potential problems en route, large shares of respondents expected obstacles upon their arrival to their destination in the Islamic Republic of Iran. Most respondents going to the Islamic Republic of Iran cited concerns of deportation (86%). Fifty-five per cent expected to be detained, 48 per cent to have difficulties finding a job and 43 per cent expected to be subjected to racism or xenophobia.

The concern of not finding a job corresponds with other variables related to the drivers of migration for those choosing to migrate to the Islamic Republic of Iran; many rated the ability to look for work/better livelihood opportunities and to do actual work as important motivators for choosing their destination. Other anticipated obstacles at the destination include a lack of housing (34%), a lack of finances (30%) and the rejection of an asylum application (10%).



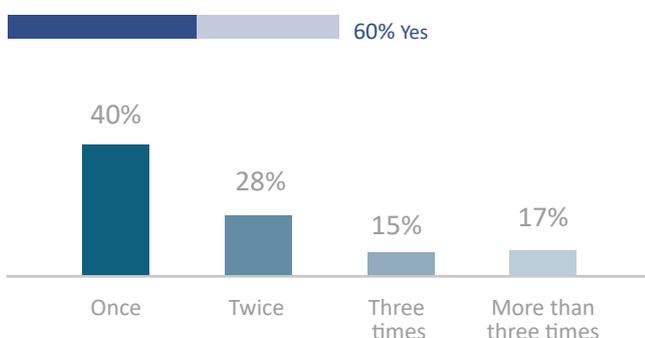
4.5 MOBILITY HISTORY

PREVIOUS MIGRATION ATTEMPTS

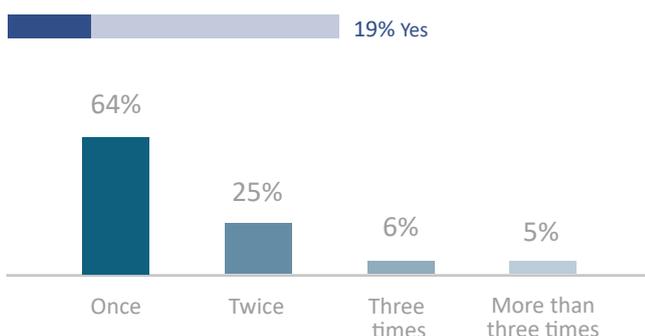


PREVIOUS MIGRATION EXPERIENCE

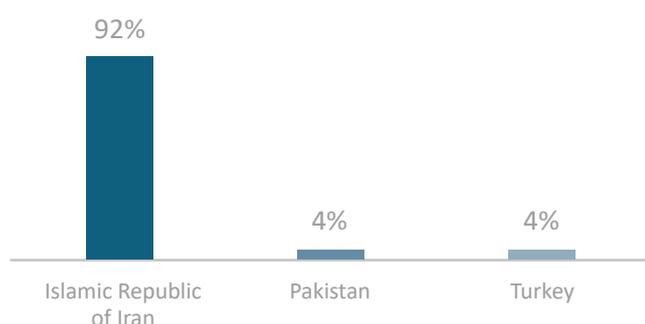
Previous migration experience abroad: 6 months or longer



Previous migration experience abroad: less than 6 months



Previous migration experience: destinations



This study included questions about mobility history, both within Afghanistan and abroad, in order to further understand the extent to which previous migration experiences play a role in shaping new mobility patterns. Among respondents going to the Islamic Republic of Iran, 67 per cent had attempted to migrate abroad before. Eighteen per cent had attempted once, 17 per cent had attempted twice, 13 per cent had attempted three times and 19 per cent had attempted more than three times.

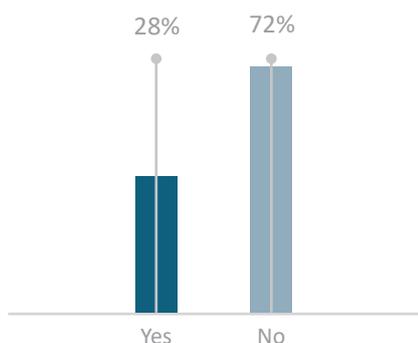
However, among those who had attempted migration before, not all had migrated successfully nor had the same migration experience. In order to examine the variations in past experiences, respondents were asked about previous migration timelines, frequencies and destinations. Sixty per cent of respondents reported that they had migrated abroad for six months or more, most of whom had done so once (40%) or twice (29%).

Fewer respondents reported having migrated abroad for less than six months (19%), the majority of whom had only done so once (64%). Respondents were also asked about the success rate of migration attempts to go abroad for six months or more. Thirty-three per cent of respondents reported that they had intended to migrate for longer than six months, but had returned before the six months had passed.

Finally, if a respondent had migrated abroad for any amount of time, they were asked where they had migrated. Almost all respondents with migration experience intending to go to the Islamic Republic of Iran had already migrated there (92%) before, demonstrating that re-migration to the Islamic Republic of Iran is common, further reflecting the circular nature of migration between Afghanistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Previous experiences regarding internal displacement were also examined in order to observe mobility patterns. Twenty-nine per cent of respondents going to Islamic Republic of Iran had been displaced within Afghanistan previously. Respondents reported displacement lasted 3.6 years on average. Among those who had experienced displacement before, 60 per cent had been displaced once, 22 per cent twice, 10 per cent three times and nine per cent more than three times.

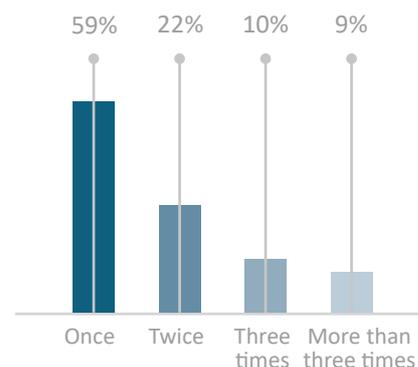
INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT EXPERIENCE



AVERAGE DURATION OF DISPLACEMENT

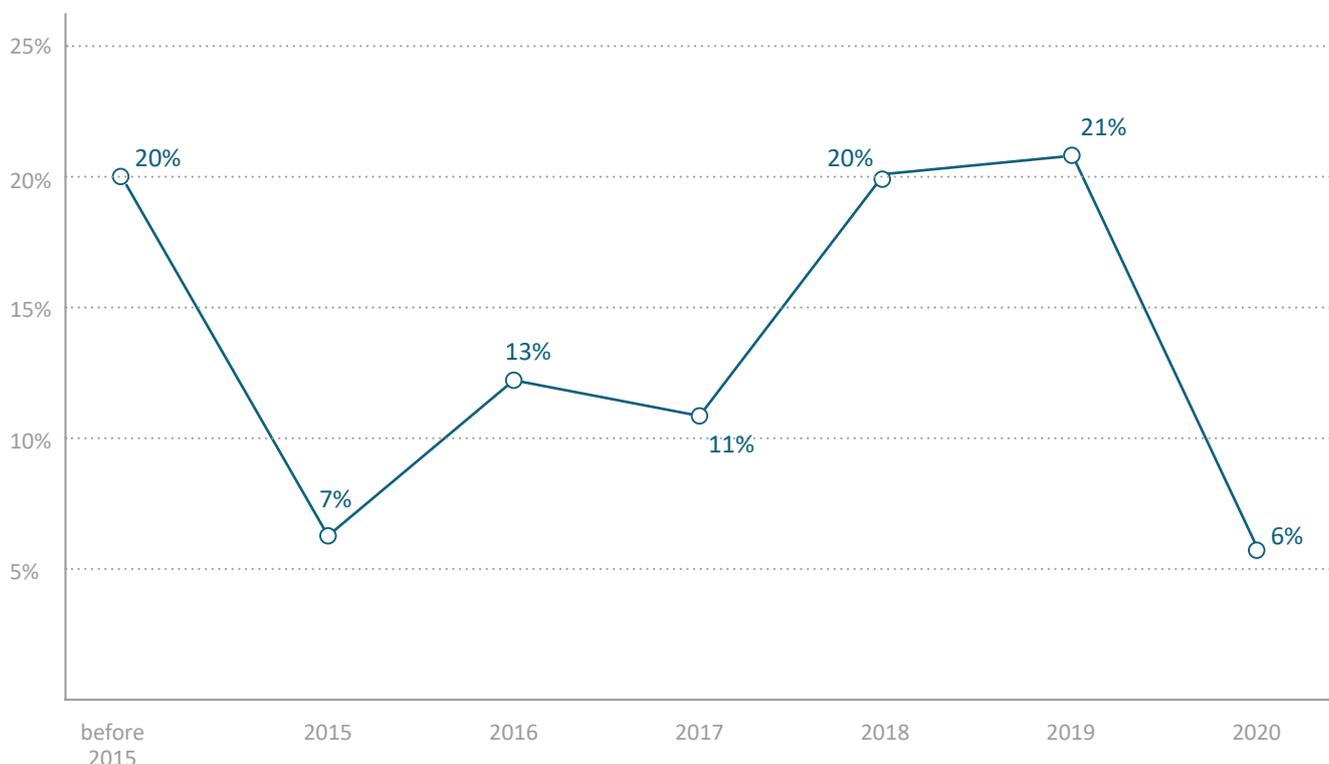


NUMBER OF TIMES OF INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT



The largest shares of respondents were last displaced within Afghanistan in 2019 (21%), in 2018 (20%) and before 2015 (20%). Smaller shares of respondents were last displaced in 2016 (13%), 2015 (7%) and 2020 (6%).

RESPONDENTS MOST RECENT PERIOD OF DISPLACEMENT²⁰



²⁰ Two per cent of respondents who reported the intention to migrate to the Islamic Republic of Iran claimed that they did not know when they last had been displaced.

اور امتیازات به د خپلو زده کړو د دواړو په لټه کې کارېږي
2. هر زده کوونکي باید پيژندل پانډه (هویت کارت)
له ځان سره ولري د پيژندل پانډه د ورکيدو په ترڅ کې
تر تر ژره بايد مسؤل کس خبر ورکړل شي ترڅو د
د کارې د موندونکي له خوا د ناوړه گټه اخستل له
منفي پايلو څخه مخنيوي وشي 3. هر زده کوونکي
نارينه او شخړه د پيژندل پانډه کې د يونيفورم په انګلېسټو
باندې مکتف وي او د يونيفورم نه بغير نشي کولای چې بده
تسوالګی کې کېدون وکړي 4. هر زده کوونکي نارينه وي
او که ښځينه بيا د يو بل د زناوې وړی او له ژبنی او
مذهبي تعصبونو څخه په جدي توګه پرې وکړي 5. د
کې ټولنک مسوول او ماشومانو د لامل په ګډه منع وي
ټلويزيون او د مسيقي او اوريدل په کلاسه

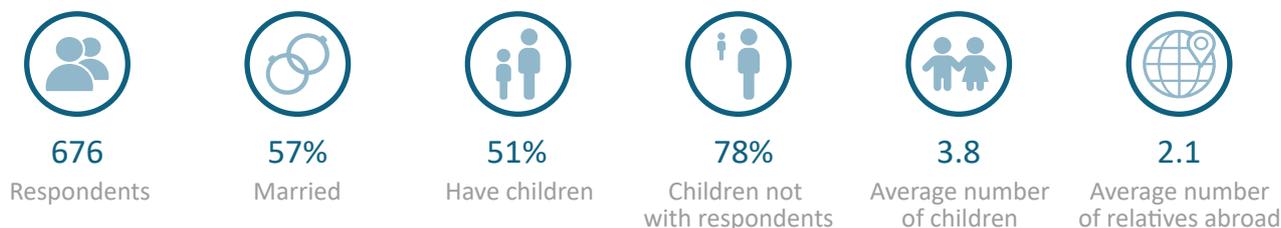


PAKISTAN



5. PAKISTAN

5.1 DEMOGRAPHIC AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROFILES

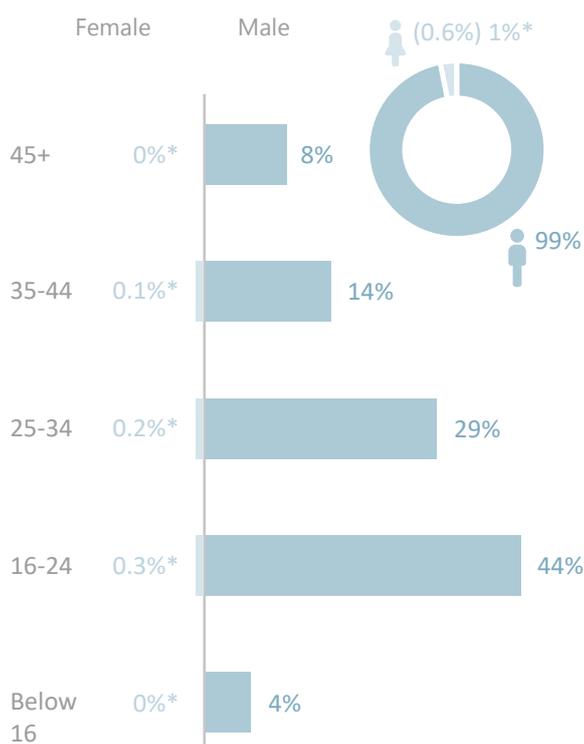


Respondents intending to go to Pakistan consisted of 676 potential migrants, 57 per cent of whom were married. While 51 per cent of respondents had children, most did not have their children with them in the current location (78%). On average, respondents had 2.1 relatives living abroad and had 3.8 children.

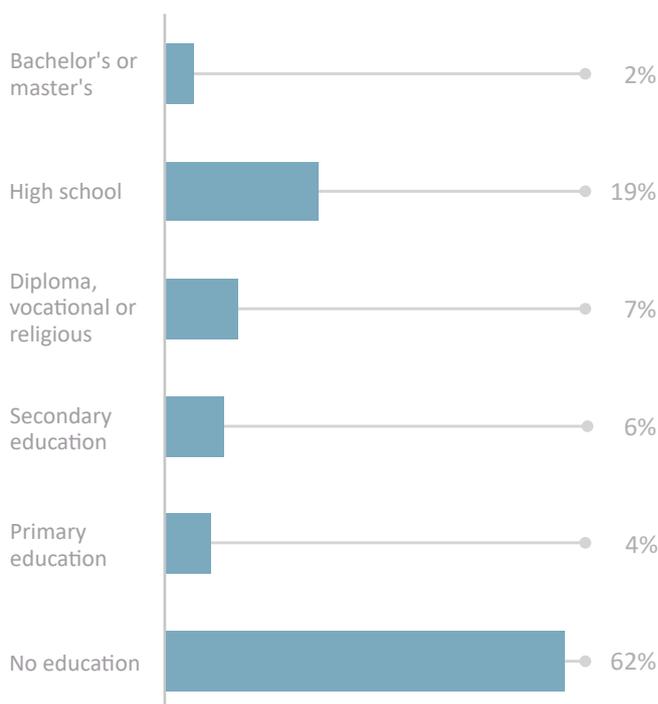
Ninety-nine per cent of the sample population were male and one per cent were female. The plurality of potential migrants were males between the ages of 16 and 24 years old (44%). Among the one per cent of female respondents, 50 per cent* were also in that age group.

Sixty-two per cent of respondents going to Pakistan did not have any education, the second lowest rate of education after respondents going to the Islamic Republic of Iran. The highest educational level of nineteen per cent of respondents was a high school education. Six per cent of respondents had secondary education and four per cent had primary education as their highest educational level. Seven per cent had earned a diploma or completed vocation training or religious education as their highest educational level. Two per cent had a bachelor's or master's degree. Literacy levels were very low among those with no education: 98 per cent of respondents could not read and 99 per cent could not write

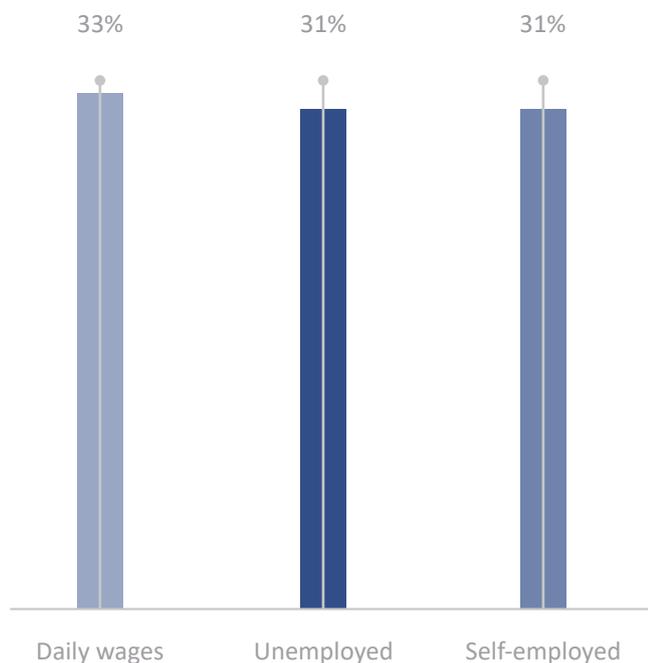
AGE AND GENDER



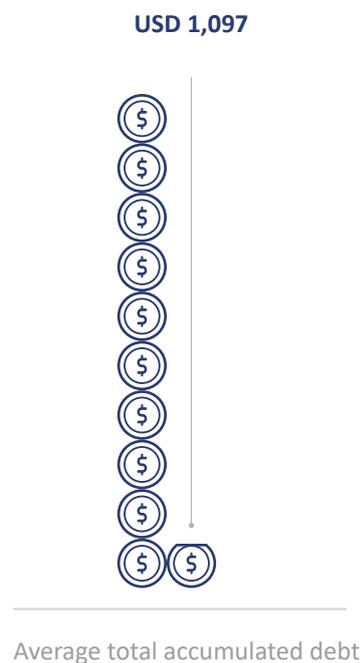
EDUCATION



EMPLOYMENT STATUSES DURING THE LAST SIX MONTHS (top 3 answers)



AVERAGE TOTAL ACCUMULATED DEBT²¹



In the six months prior to the interview, 33 per cent of potential migrants who reported the intention to migrate to Pakistan were earning daily wages, 31 per cent of them were unemployed and 31 per cent of them were self-employed. In order to explore the intersections between demographic variables and their impact on migration intentions, employment statuses were analyzed against educational levels. Results show that 24 per cent of potential migrants who intended to migrate to Pakistan and had completed high school as their highest level of education stated that they were unemployed during six months prior to the interview.

On average, respondents who reported the intention to migrate to Pakistan had a total debt of USD 1,097. Their average total debt was lower compared to that of respondents who reported the intention to migrate elsewhere. Nonetheless, as seen on the following page, respondents intending to migrate to Pakistan still considered debt as an important push factor in their decision to leave Afghanistan. As confirmed by Round 12 of the Community-Based Need Assessments (CBNA) carried out by IOM DTM at the settlement level, indebtedness is a major factor for migrant-decision making, both for cross-border migration and internal displacement (IOM, 2021).

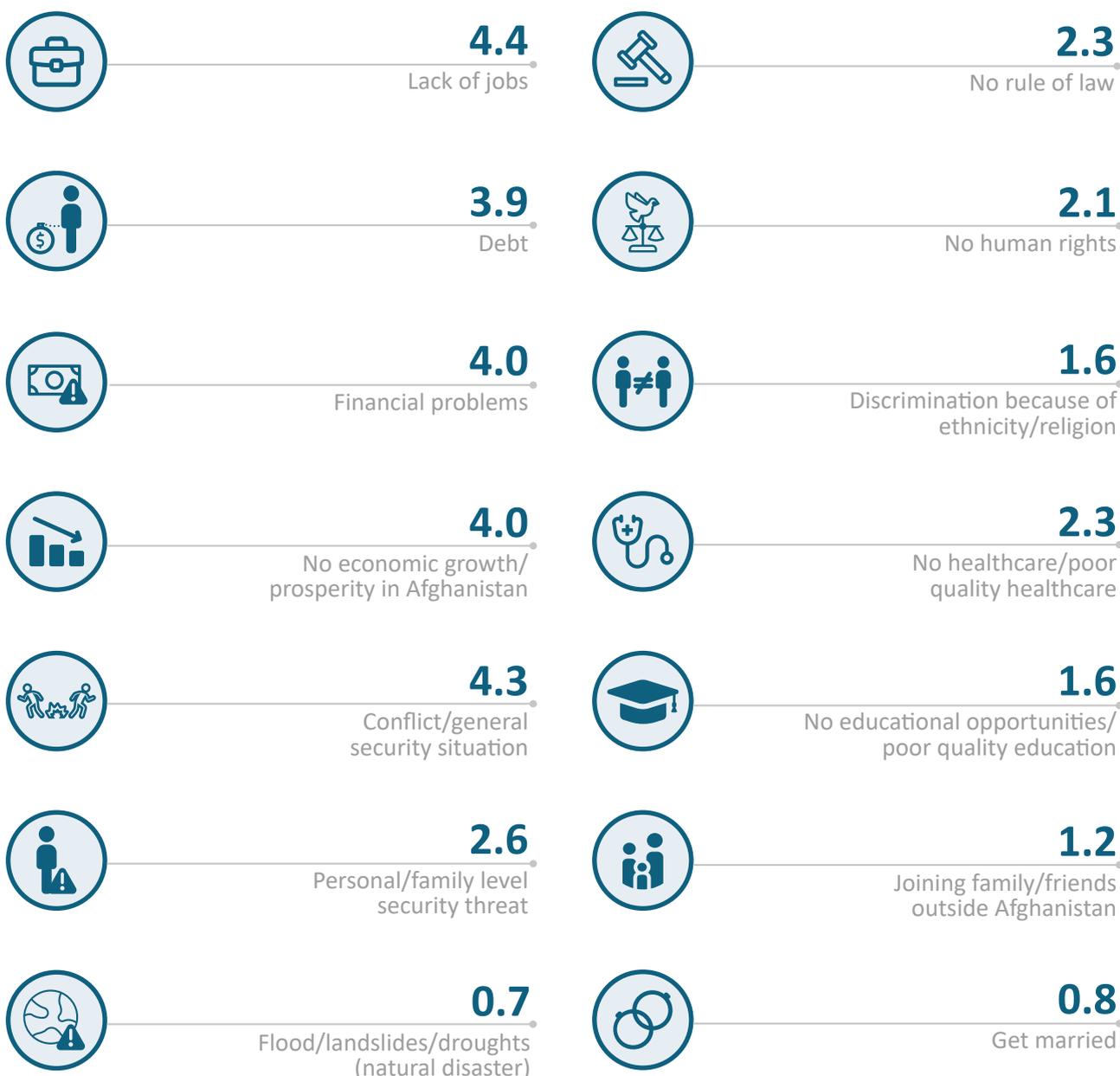
²¹ Data was originally collected in national currency (Afghani - AFN). The exchange rate was 1 AFN = 0.0129539 USD on the last day of data collection (31 March 2021)



5.2 REASONS AND DRIVERS FOR MIGRATION

IMPORTANCE OF FACTORS IN DECISION TO LEAVE AFGHANISTAN

0 = not applicable, 1 = very unimportant, 2 = unimportant, 3 = slightly important, 4 = important, 5 = very important



For respondents going to Pakistan, the reasons to leave Afghanistan were primarily lack of jobs (4.4), conflict/general security situation (4.3), financial problems (4.0), a lack of economic growth in Afghanistan (4.0) and debt (3.9). As is the case for respondents going to other destinations, the top motivators for respondents intending to migrate to Pakistan include a variety of economic factors and the general security situation, conditions in Afghanistan that are constantly reinforced by one another and ultimately affected by the constant presence of armed conflict. Drivers of migration from Afghanistan are therefore consistently multifaceted.

IMPORTANCE OF FACTORS IN DECISION TO CHOOSE A DESTINATION COUNTRY

0 = not applicable, 1 = very unimportant, 2 = unimportant 3 = slightly important, 4= important, 5 = very important



According to respondents, when asked to rate the importance of the above factors in regards to choosing Pakistan as a destination, the country's main appeal lies in the opportunity to look for work or find better livelihood opportunities there (4.1) and to do actual work/earn an actual living (3.7). The promise of a job in Pakistan (2.9) was also important.

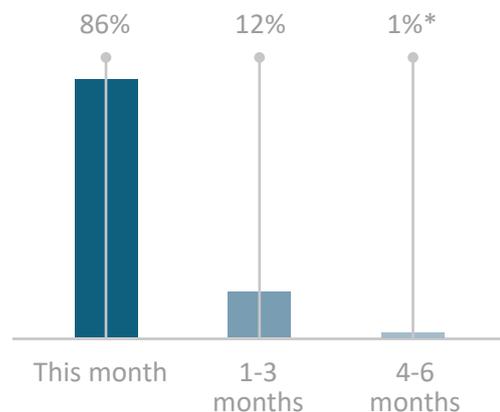
5.3 TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

The majority of respondents intending to go to Pakistan planned to leave the same month that they were interviewed (86%). Twelve per cent planned to leave in the next one to three months and one per cent planned to leave in the next four to six months. The urgency to leave may be indicative of the severity of the conditions in Afghanistan that are driving people to migrate.

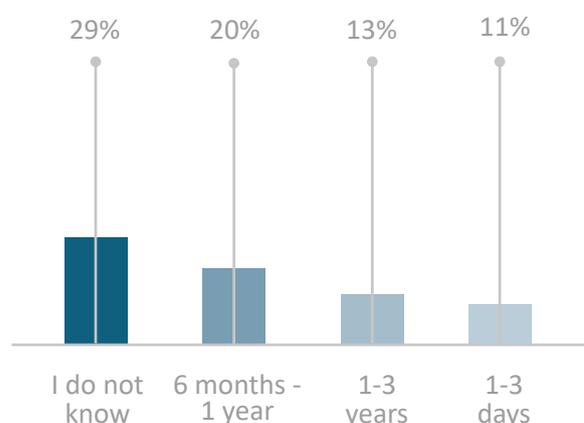
The largest share of respondents going to Pakistan did not know how long they were planning to stay (29%), followed by those who planned to be away for six months to a year (20%) and those who planned to be away for one to three years (13%). Compared to respondents going elsewhere, respondents going to Pakistan reported wanting to leave Afghanistan on a shorter-term basis.

Sixty-four per cent of the respondents going to Pakistan were using a migration facilitator²² to leave Afghanistan, with most having found the migration facilitator through family/friends located in Afghanistan (88%). Nineteen per cent of respondents who were not using a migration facilitator planned on using one in the course of their migration, which is a much smaller proportion compared to those going elsewhere.

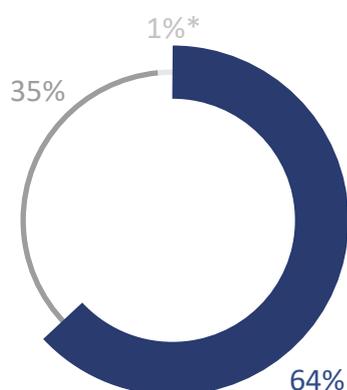
PLANNED DEPARTURE FROM AFGHANISTAN (top 3 answers)



PLANNED DURATION OF STAY ABROAD (top 4 answers)

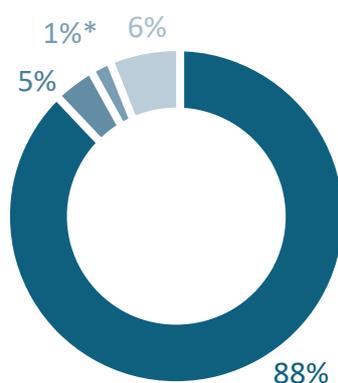


USE OF MIGRATION FACILITATOR TO SUPPORT DEPARTURE



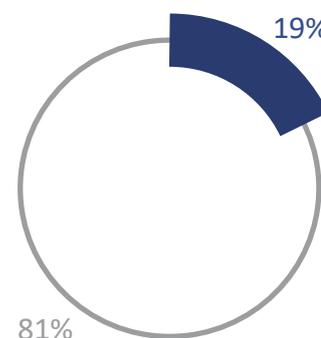
- Yes
- No
- I do not want to answer

IF YES - HOW WAS MIGRATION FACILITATOR FOUND



- Through family/friends in Afghanistan
- Through family/friends outside of Afghanistan
- Was approached
- Other

IF NO - PLAN ON USING A MIGRATION FACILITATOR TO SUPPORT DEPARTURE



- Yes
- No

²² Migration facilitator refers to anyone that is involved in the facilitation of migration services (irregular and regular) via air, land or sea routes in exchange for money. Those services can range from consultative services for visa applications and acquiring (fraudulent) documents, to transportation arrangements, to the facilitation of border crossings. This term does not intend to neglect the differences in services; it is frequently used for persons providing migration services.

MIGRATION DECISION-MAKING



• **92%**
 of respondents
 going to
 Pakistan made
 the decision to
 migrate
 themselves

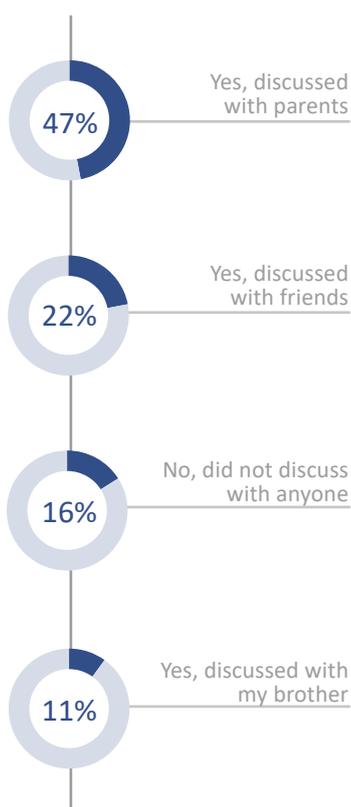
Ninety-two per cent of respondents intending to go to Pakistan made the decision to migrate by themselves. Among them, 47 per cent had discussed their migration with their parents, 22 per cent with friends and 11 per cent with their brother. Sixteen per cent reported not having discussed their potential migration with anyone.

Among the eight per cent of respondents going to Pakistan who did not make the decision to migrate by themselves, 69 per cent had their father decide for them to migrate, 18 per cent had both parents, eight per cent had another person and four per cent had their brother make the decision.

When asked about support with the migration journey, 77 per cent of respondents reported that their family assisted them, while 35 per cent reported receiving support from their friends. This suggests that, while the majority of respondents, regardless of destination, have made the decision to migrate themselves, the migration process itself is more collaborative, often involving friends and family. Five per cent of respondents going to Pakistan also identified their migration facilitator as someone who assisted them in planning their journey. Eight per cent reported that nobody assisted them at all.

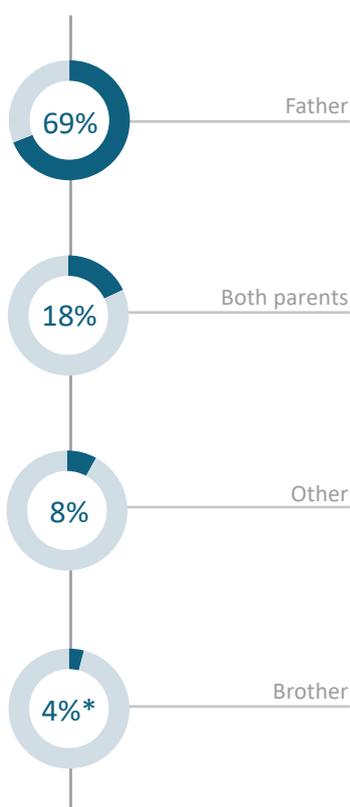
OWN DECISION - DISCUSSION
 OF MIGRATION DECISION WITH
 OTHERS

(top 4 answers, multiple answers possible)



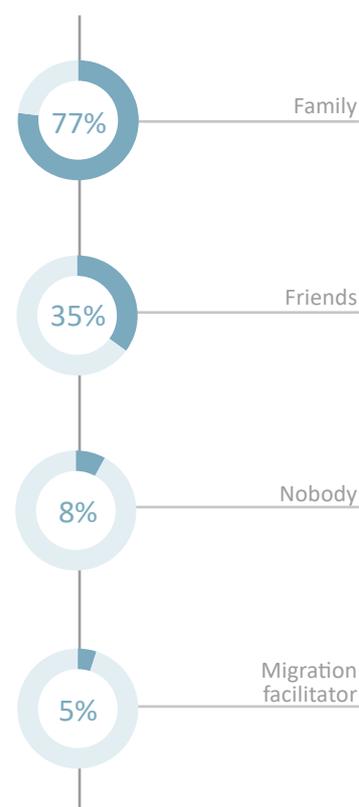
NOT OWN DECISION - WHO
 MADE DECISION

(top 4 answers, multiple answers possible)



SUPPORTERS IN PREPARATION
 OF MIGRATION JOURNEY

(top 4 answers, multiple answers possible)



ESTIMATED COST OF JOURNEY²³



USD 225

Average predicted cost of entire journey

FINANCING THE MIGRATION JOURNEY



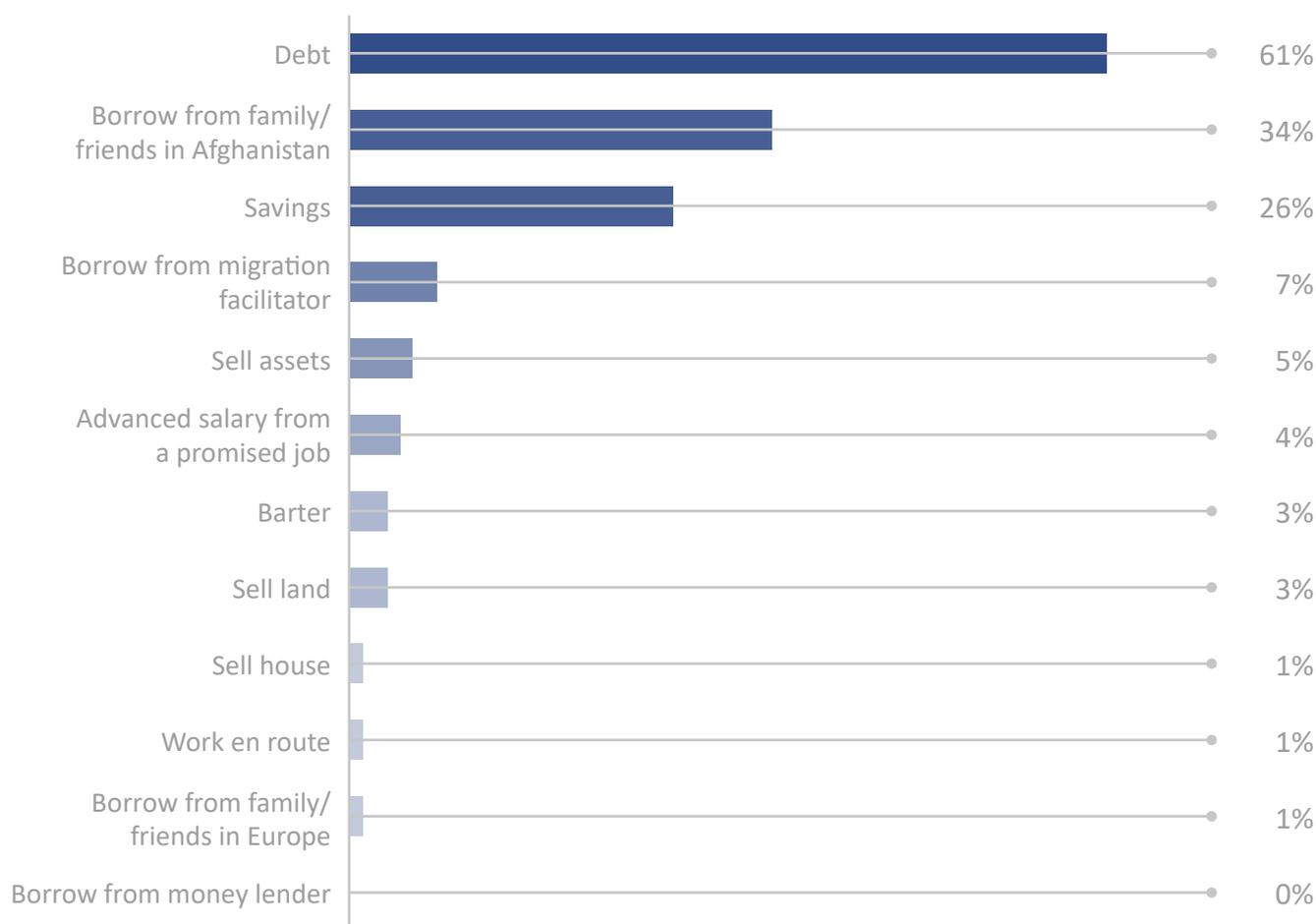
70%

Average percentage of journey cost financed by debt and borrowing

The average predicted cost for the journey to Pakistan was USD 225. As can be expected based upon the geographical proximity of the two countries, predicted migration costs from Afghanistan to Pakistan are much lower than those going to Europe or Turkey. On average, respondents had already paid ten per cent of the journey cost at the time of the interview.

Sixty-one per cent of respondents reported having gone into debt in order to pay for the upcoming journey. Thirty-four per cent had borrowed from friends and family in Afghanistan. Twenty-six per cent of respondents answered they had used their savings and seven per cent reported borrowing money from a migration facilitator in order to fund their migration. The below percentages show that most respondents used a combination of methods to pay for their journey.

FINANCING THE MIGRATION JOURNEY (multiple answers possible)

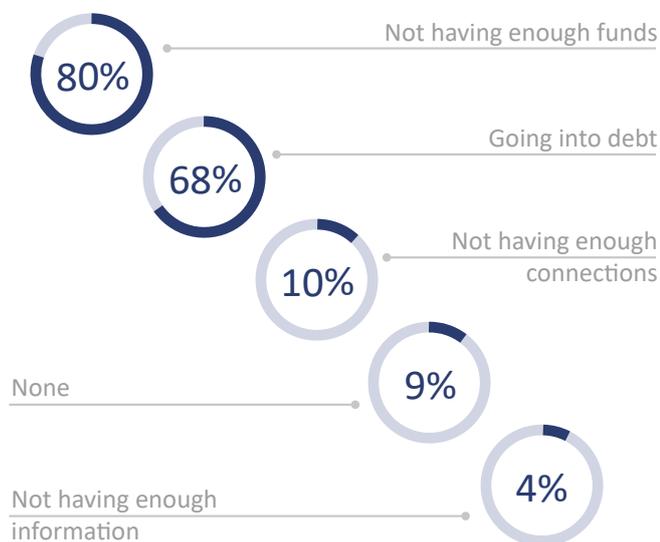


²³Data was originally collected in national currency (Afghani - AFN). The exchange rates was 1 AFN = 0.0129539 USD on the last day of data collection (31 March 2021)

5.4 PROBLEMS AND VULNERABILITIES RELATED TO THE JOURNEY

MAIN OBSTACLES ENCOUNTERED WHEN PLANNING THE JOURNEY

(multiple answers possible)

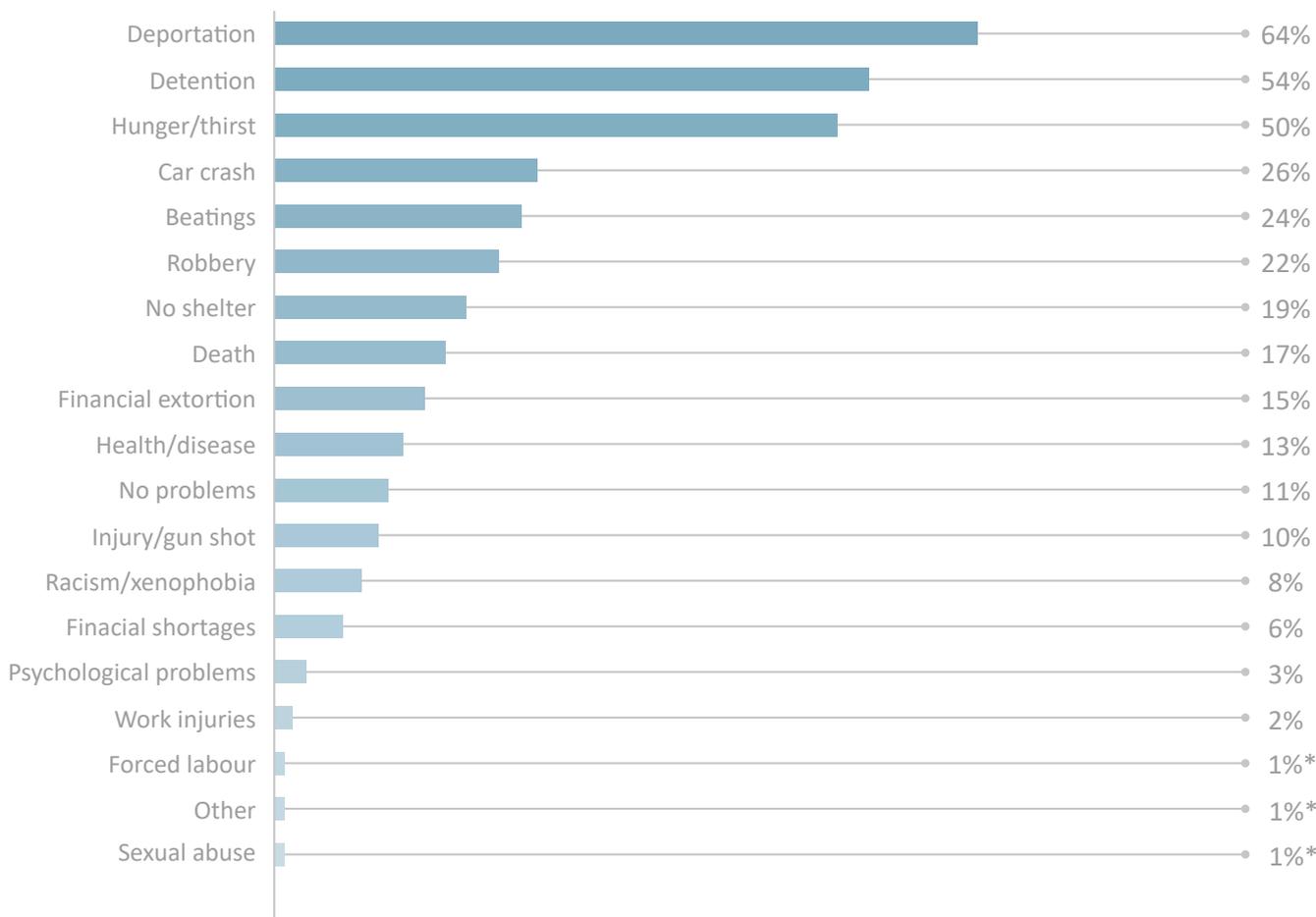


Respondents were asked about the problems they had experienced so far and the ones they expected to face during different stages of their migration journeys. Eighty per cent of respondents reported a lack of funds for their journey as the primary anticipated obstacle during their planning of the journey. Sixty-eight per cent expected to go into debt. Nine per cent did not expect to encounter any problems during planning at all, making respondents going to Pakistan the least concerned about problems during planning as compared to respondents going elsewhere.

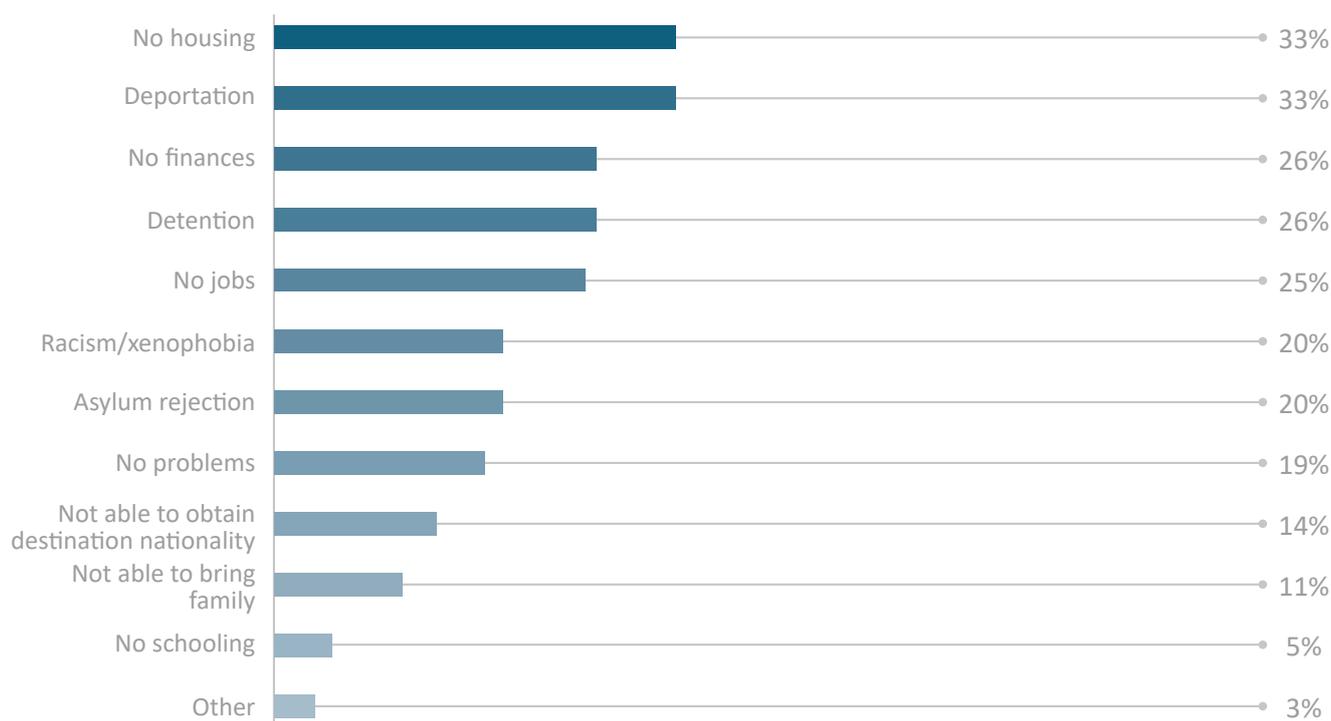
Respondents going to Pakistan were also the most likely to anticipate a smooth journey to their destination, with 11 per cent reporting that they did not expect to face any problems en route. Among the wide variety of potential problems, the most commonly reported were deportation (64%), detention (54%) and hunger/thirst (50%). It should be noted, however, that respondents going to Pakistan identified potential problems en route in lower shares compared to respondents going elsewhere.

MAIN OBSTACLES EXPECTED TO ENCOUNTER EN ROUTE

(multiple answers possible)



MAIN OBSTACLES EXPECTED TO ENCOUNTER AT THE DESTINATION (multiple answers possible)



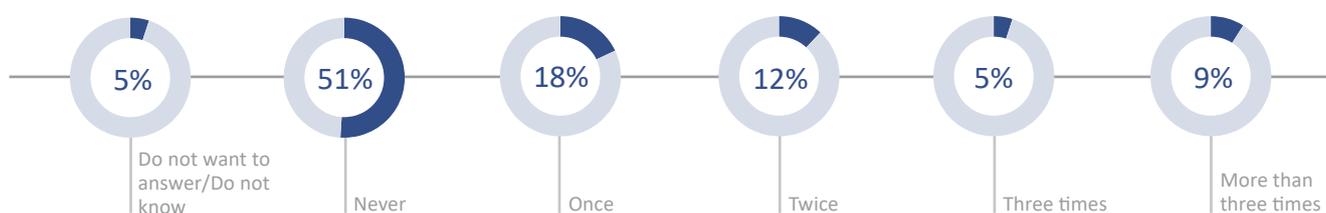
As with anticipated obstacles en route to their destination, respondents going to Pakistan did not identify expected obstacles at their destination in particularly large shares, especially when compared with respondents going to Europe, the Islamic Republic of Iran or Türkiye. Nineteen per cent of respondents going to Pakistan did not expect any problems at all in the destination.

Nevertheless, 33 per cent cited a potential lack of housing in Pakistan and another 33 per cent cited the risk of deportation. Twenty-six per cent reported concerns about a lack of financing and 26 per cent reported the risk of detention. Twenty-five per cent were concerned about not having any jobs in Pakistan. Twenty per cent expected racism or xenophobia at the destination and 20 per cent were worried about the rejection of an asylum application.



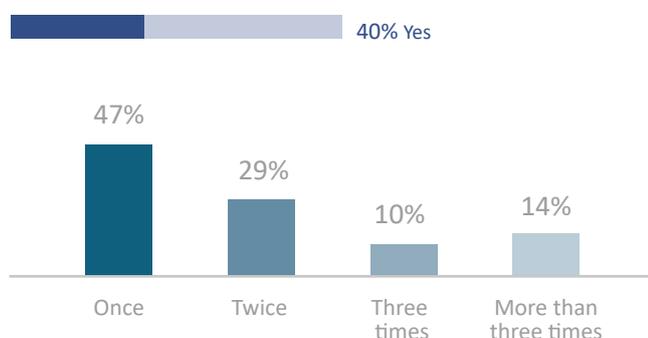
5.5 MOBILITY HISTORY

PREVIOUS MIGRATION ATTEMPTS

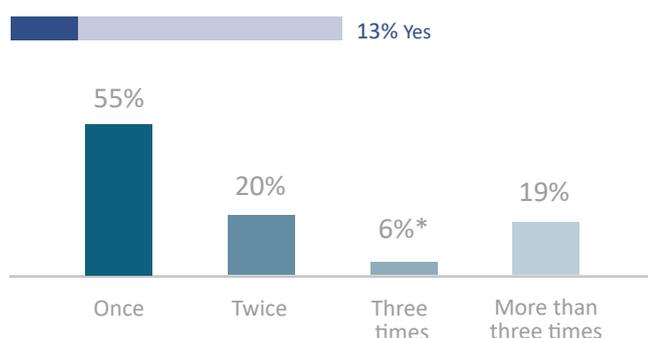


PREVIOUS MIGRATION EXPERIENCE

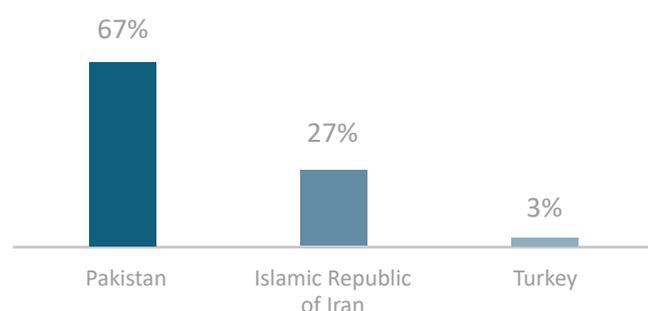
Previous migration experience abroad: 6 months or longer



Previous migration experience abroad: less than 6 months



Previous migration experience: destinations



This study included questions about mobility history, both within Afghanistan and abroad, in order to further understand the extent to which previous migration experiences play a role in shaping new mobility patterns. Among respondents going to Pakistan, 44 per cent had attempted to migrate abroad before. Eighteen per cent had attempted once, 12 per cent had attempted twice, five per cent had attempted three times and nine per cent had attempted more than three times.

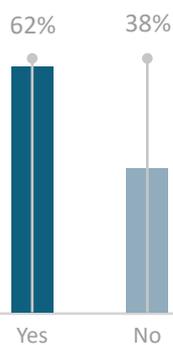
However, among those who had attempted to migrate before, not all had migrated successfully nor had the same migration experience. In order to examine the variations in past experiences, respondents were asked about previous migration timelines, frequencies and destinations. Forty per cent of respondents reported that they had migrated abroad for six months or more, most of whom had done so once (47%) or twice (30%).

Fewer respondents reported having migrated abroad for less than six months (13%), the majority of whom had only done so once (55%). Respondents were also asked about the success rate of migration attempts to go abroad for six months or more. Seventeen per cent of respondents reported that they had intended to migrate for longer than six months, but had returned before the six months had passed.

Finally, if a respondent had migrated abroad for any amount of time, they were asked where they had migrated. Most respondents with migration experience intending to go to Pakistan had migrated to Pakistan (67%) before, while 27 per cent had migrated to the Islamic Republic of Iran and 3 per cent to Türkiye. Previous experience with migrating abroad is common among respondents going to Pakistan, which reflects the circular nature of migration between Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Previous experiences regarding internal displacement were also examined in order to observe mobility patterns. Sixty-two per cent of respondents going to Pakistan had been displaced within Afghanistan previously. Respondents reported displacement lasted 2.4 years on average. Among those who had experienced displacement before, 43 per cent had been displaced once, 32 per cent twice, 15 per cent three times and 10 per cent more than three times.

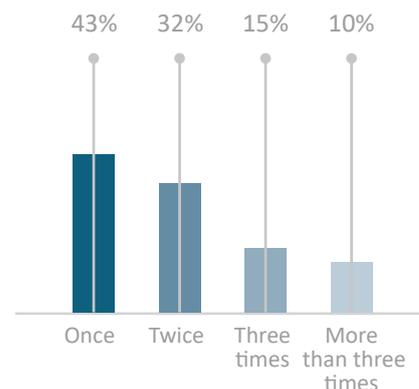
INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT EXPERIENCE



AVERAGE DURATION OF DISPLACEMENT

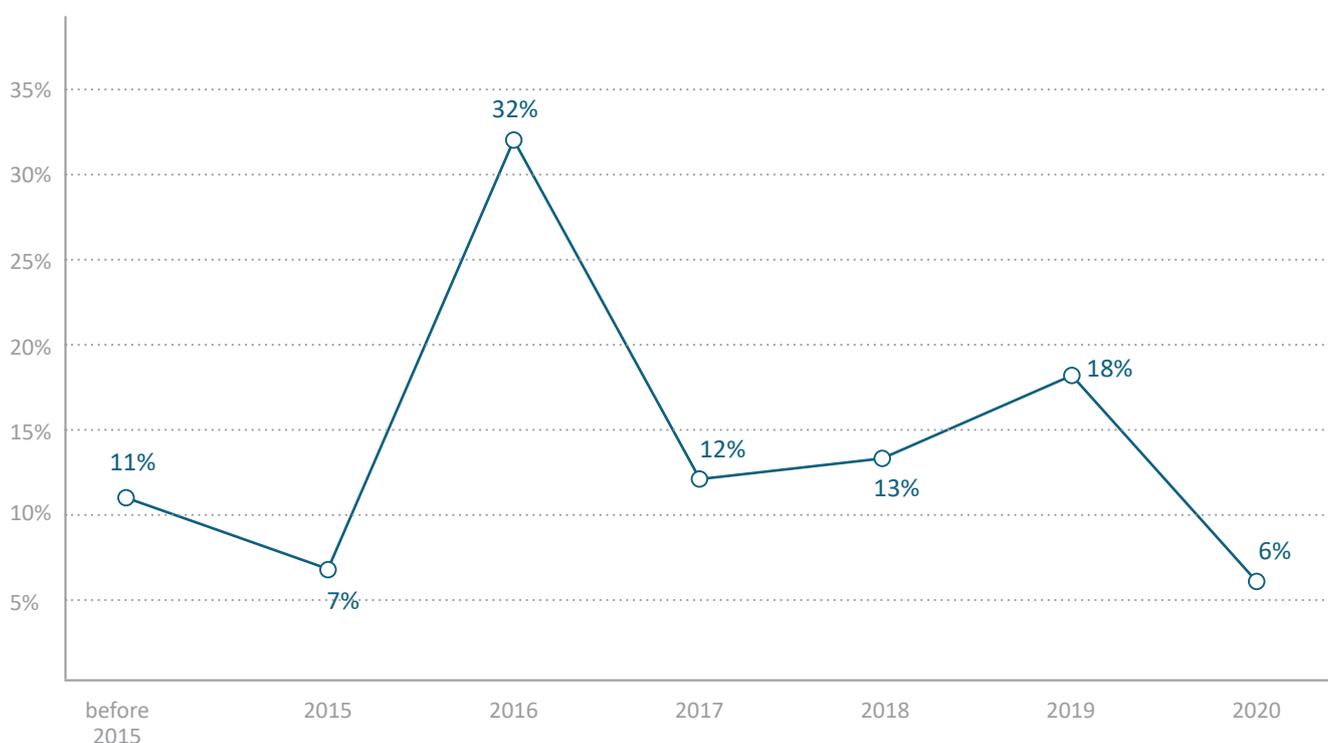


NUMBER OF TIMES OF INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT



Almost one-third of respondents reported to have last been displaced within Afghanistan in 2016 (32%), followed by 2019 with almost one in five (18%). Smaller shares had last displaced prior to 2015 (11%), in 2015 (7%), 2017 (12%), 2018 (13%) and 2020 (6%).

RESPONDENTS MOST RECENT PERIOD OF DISPLACEMENT²⁴

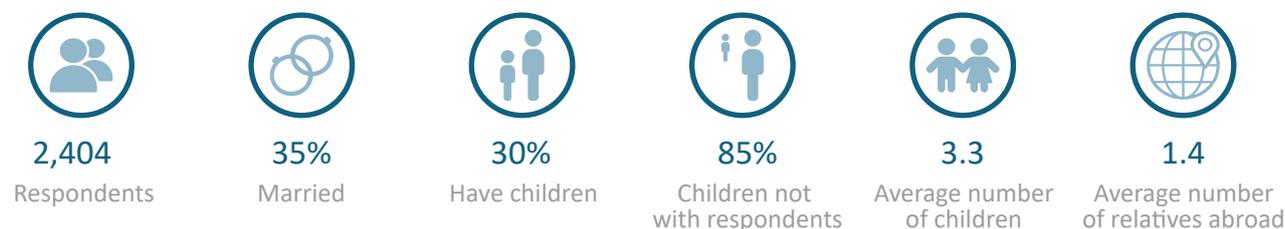


²⁴ One per cent of respondents who reported the intention to migrate to Pakistan claimed that they did not know when they last had been displaced.

TÜRKİYE

6. TÜRKİYE

6.1 DEMOGRAPHIC AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROFILES

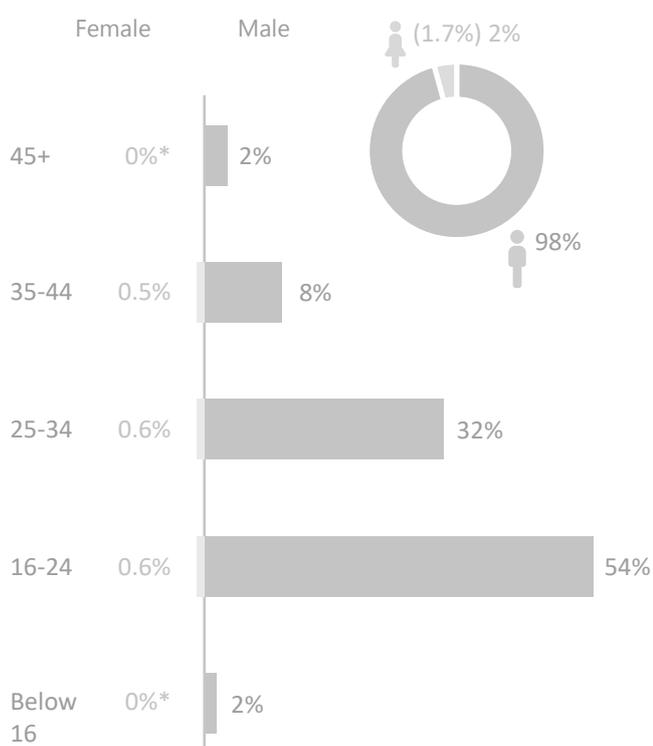


Respondents intending to go to Türkiye consisted of 2,404 potential migrants, 35 per cent of whom were married. While 30 per cent of respondents had children, most did not have their children with them in the current location (85%). On average, respondents had 1.4 relatives living abroad and had 3.3 children.

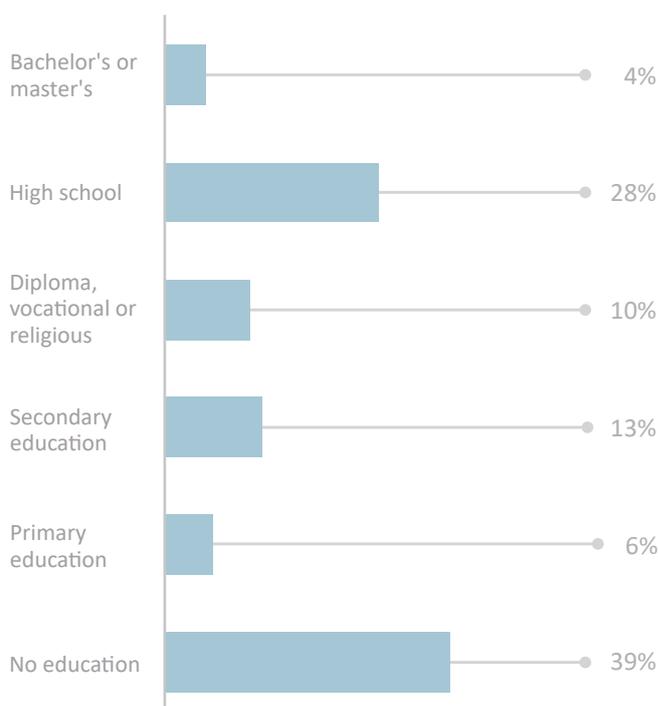
Ninety-eight per cent of the sample population were male and two per cent were female. Just over half of potential migrants were males between the ages of 16 and 24 years old (54%). Among the two per cent of female respondents, 31 per cent were also in the same age group and another 31 per cent were between the ages of 25 and 34 years old. Sixty-five per cent of women were married and 67 per cent of them had children.

Four per cent of potential migrants going to Türkiye had completed education with a bachelor's or a master's degree and 28 per cent did not reach a level higher than high school. Thirty-nine per cent of respondents did not have any education. Literacy levels were very low among those with no education: 98 per cent could not read and 99 per cent could not write.

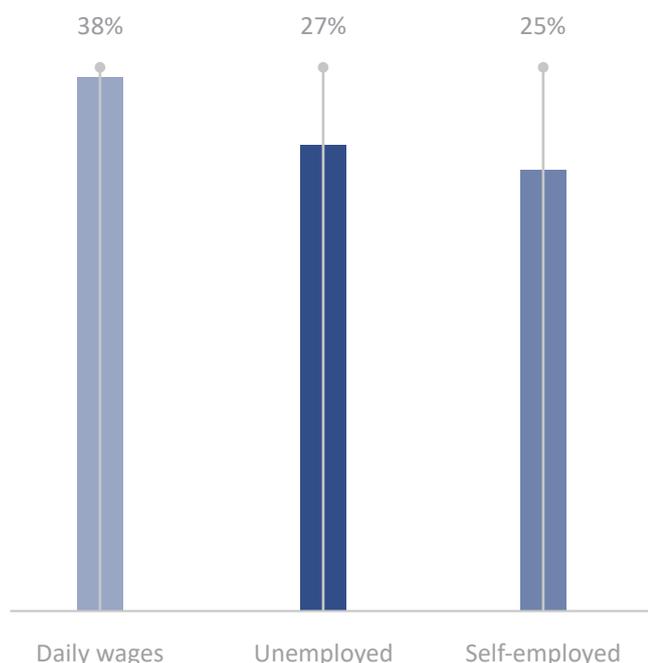
AGE AND GENDER



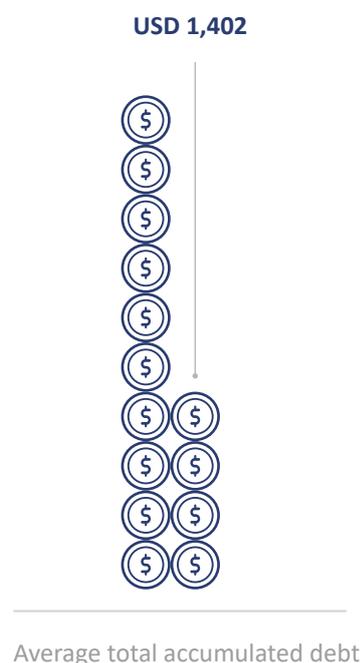
EDUCATION



EMPLOYMENT STATUSES DURING THE LAST SIX MONTHS (top 3 answers)



AVERAGE TOTAL ACCUMULATED DEBT²⁵



In the six months prior to the interview, 38 per cent of potential migrants who reported the intention to migrate to Türkiye were earning daily wages, 27 per cent were unemployed and 25 per cent were self-employed. In order to explore the intersections between demographic variables and their impact on migration intentions, employment statuses were analyzed against educational levels. Results show that 34 per cent of potential migrants who intended to migrate to Türkiye and had completed high school as their highest level of education stated that they were unemployed during six months prior to the interview.

On average, respondents who reported the intention to migrate to Türkiye had a total debt of USD 1,402. The relationship between their level of debt and their decision to migrate is reflected on the following page, where respondents confirmed their debt as an important factor that pushed them to leave Afghanistan.

²⁵ Data was originally collected in national currency (Afghani - AFN). The exchange rate was 1 AFN = 0.0129539 USD on the last day of data collection (31 March 2021)



6.2 REASONS AND DRIVERS FOR MIGRATION

IMPORTANCE OF FACTORS IN DECISION TO LEAVE AFGHANISTAN

0 = not applicable, 1 = very unimportant, 2 = unimportant, 3 = slightly important, 4 = important, 5 = very important



For respondents going to Türkiye, the reasons for potentially wanting to leave Afghanistan were primarily lack of jobs (4.8), conflict or general security situation (4.4) financial problems (4.2) and a lack of economic growth in Afghanistan (4.2). Debt (4.1) was also important, as was the lack of rule of law (3.1). Respondents also identified a lack of human rights (2.7) as a notable reason for migration. As is the case among respondents going to Europe, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan, drivers of Afghan migration among respondents going to Türkiye appear to revolve around a range of economic factors, with conflict also consistently being rated as one of the most significant reasons to leave Afghanistan. Migration from Afghanistan cannot be attributed, therefore, to a single factor, but rather as a result of intersectional conditions within the country.

IMPORTANCE OF FACTORS IN DECISION TO CHOOSE A DESTINATION COUNTRY

0 = not applicable, 1= very unimportant, 2 = unimportant, 3 = slightly important, 4= important, 5 = very important



According to respondents, when asked to rate the importance of the above factors in regards to choosing Türkiye as a destination, the country's main appeal lies in the opportunity to look for work or find better livelihood opportunities there (4.6) and the ability to do actual work or earn an actual living (4.1). The promise of a job in Türkiye (2.7) was also relatively important. Among respondents going to Türkiye, the opportunity to obtain nationality (2.1) or asylum or refugee status (2.3) was slightly higher compared to respondents going to the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan.

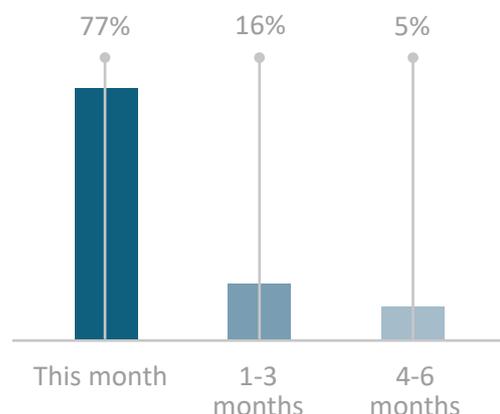
6.3 TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

Seventy-seven per cent of all respondents intending to go to Türkiye planned to leave the same month that they were interviewed. Sixteen per cent planned to leave in the next one to three months and five per cent planned to leave in the next four to six months. The urgency to leave may be indicative of the severity of the conditions in Afghanistan which were driving people to migrate.

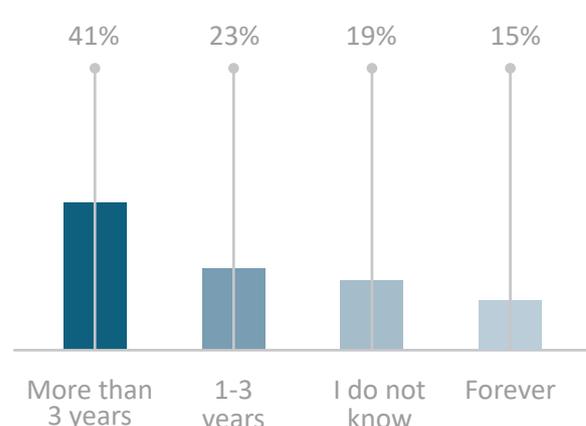
The largest share of respondents going to Türkiye planned to be away for more than three years (41%), followed by those who planned to be away for one to three years (23%) and those who did not know how long they planned to be abroad (19%).

Three quarters of the respondents going to Türkiye were using a migration facilitator²⁶ to leave Afghanistan (75%), with the majority having found the migration facilitator through family/friends located in Afghanistan (71%) or outside of Afghanistan (20%). Ninety-one per cent of respondents who were not using a migration facilitator planned on using one in the course of their migration.

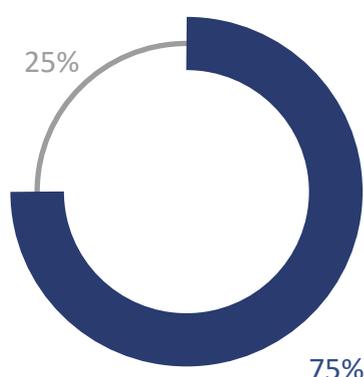
PLANNED DEPARTURE FROM AFGHANISTAN (top 3 answers)



PLANNED DURATION OF STAY ABROAD (top 4 answers)

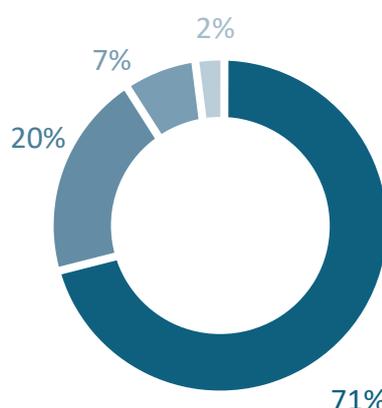


USE OF MIGRATION FACILITATOR TO SUPPORT DEPARTURE



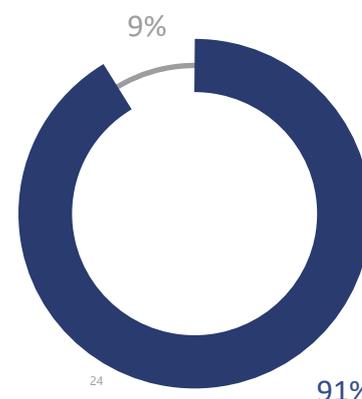
- Yes
- No

IF YES - HOW WAS MIGRATION FACILITATOR FOUND



- Through family/friends in Afghanistan
- Through family/friends outside of Afghanistan
- Was approached
- Other

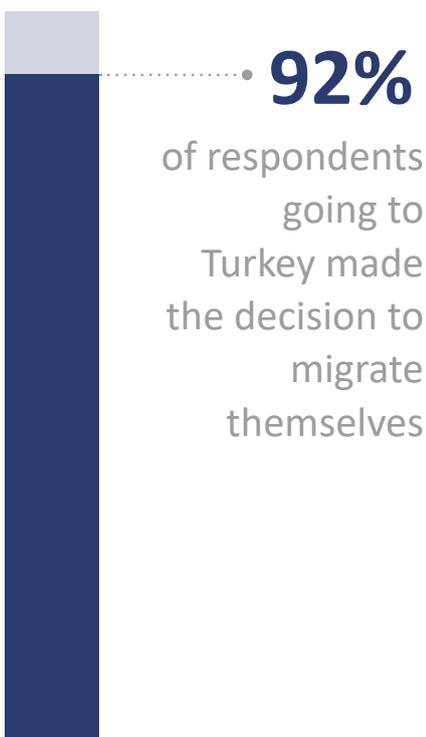
IF NO - PLAN ON USING A MIGRATION FACILITATOR TO SUPPORT DEPARTURE



- Yes
- No

²⁶ Migration facilitator refers to anyone that is involved in the facilitation of migration services (irregular and regular) via air, land or sea routes in exchange for money. Those services can range from consultative services for visa applications and acquiring (fraudulent) documents, to transportation arrangements, to the facilitation of border crossings. This term does not intend to neglect the differences in services; it is frequently used for persons providing migration services.

MIGRATION DECISION-MAKING



Ninety-two per cent of respondents intending to go to Türkiye made the decision to migrate by themselves. Among them, 60 per cent had discussed their migration with their parents, 18 per cent with friends, 9 per cent with a brother and six per cent did not discuss it with anyone.

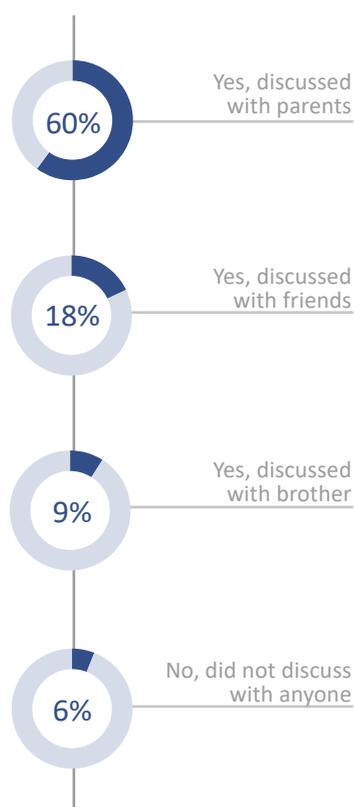
Among the eight per cent of respondents going to Türkiye who did not make the decision to migrate by themselves, 33 per cent had their father decide for them to migrate, 30 per cent had both parents, 23 per cent had their brother and 13 per cent had another person decide.

For females respondents going to Türkiye, however, the decision to migrate was less likely to be a decision of their own as compared to the average among all respondents. Over half of female potential migrant respondents going to Türkiye reported that they did not make the decision to migrate themselves (53%).

When asked about support with the migration journey, 79 per cent of respondents reported that their family assisted them, while 62 per cent reported receiving support from their friends. This suggests that, while the decision to migrate is overwhelmingly an independent one for the majority of respondents, migration itself makes frequent use of personal support networks. Fourteen per cent of respondents reported receiving assistance from their migration facilitator. Two per cent of respondents reported receiving no assistance when planning their journey.

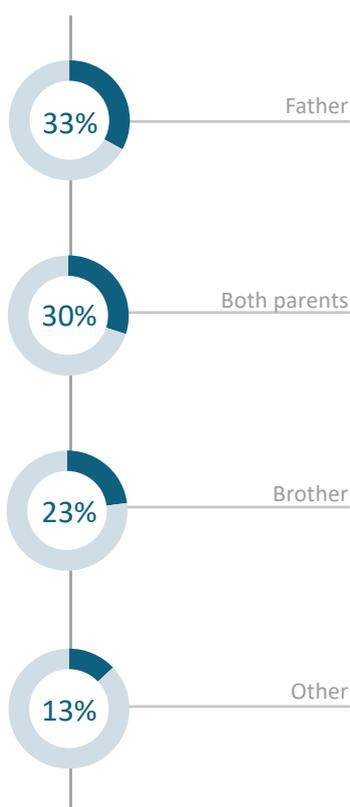
OWN DECISION - DISCUSSION
 OF MIGRATION DECISION WITH
 OTHERS

(top 4 answers, multiple answers possible)



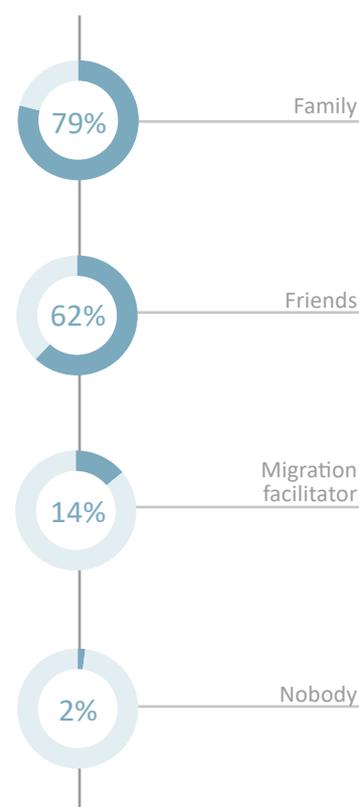
NOT OWN DECISION - WHO
 MADE DECISION

(top 4 answers, multiple answers possible)



SUPPORTERS IN PREPARATION
 OF MIGRATION JOURNEY

(top 4 answers, multiple answers possible)



ESTIMATED COST OF JOURNEY²⁷



USD 1,166

Average predicted cost of entire journey

FINANCING THE MIGRATION JOURNEY



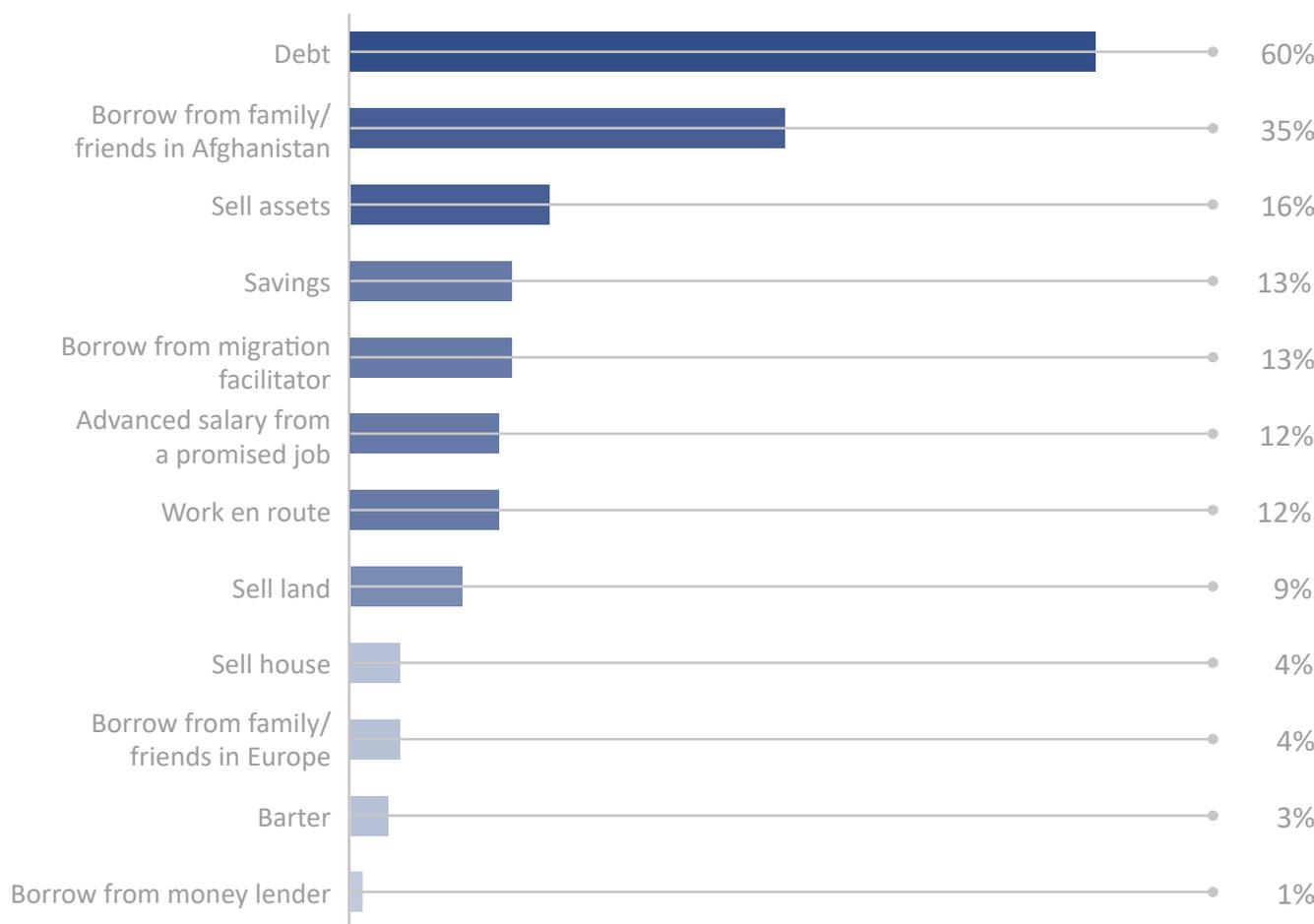
62%

Average percentage of journey cost financed by debt and borrowing

The average predicted cost for the journey to Türkiye was USD 1,166. As can be expected based upon the distance, the price for the journey to Türkiye is higher than the price to migrate to the Islamic Republic of Iran or Pakistan, but much lower than the price to migrate to Europe. On average, respondents had already paid 7 per cent of the journey cost at the time of the interview.

Sixty per cent of respondents reported having gone into debt in order to pay for the upcoming journey. Thirty-five per cent had borrowed from friends and family in Afghanistan. Sixteen per cent of respondents answered they had sold assets and 13 per cent reported using their savings in order to fund their migration. Other payment methods include borrowing from the migration facilitator (13%), deductions from the job at the destination (12%) and working along the route (12%).

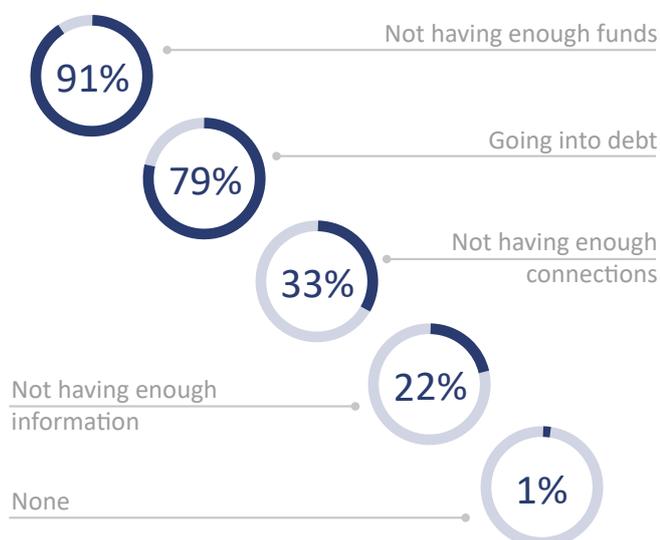
FINANCING THE MIGRATION JOURNEY (multiple answers possible)



²⁷Data was originally collected in national currency (Afghani - AFN). The exchange rate was 1 AFN = 0.0129539 USD on the last day of data collection (31 March 2021)

6.4 PROBLEMS AND VULNERABILITIES RELATED TO THE JOURNEY

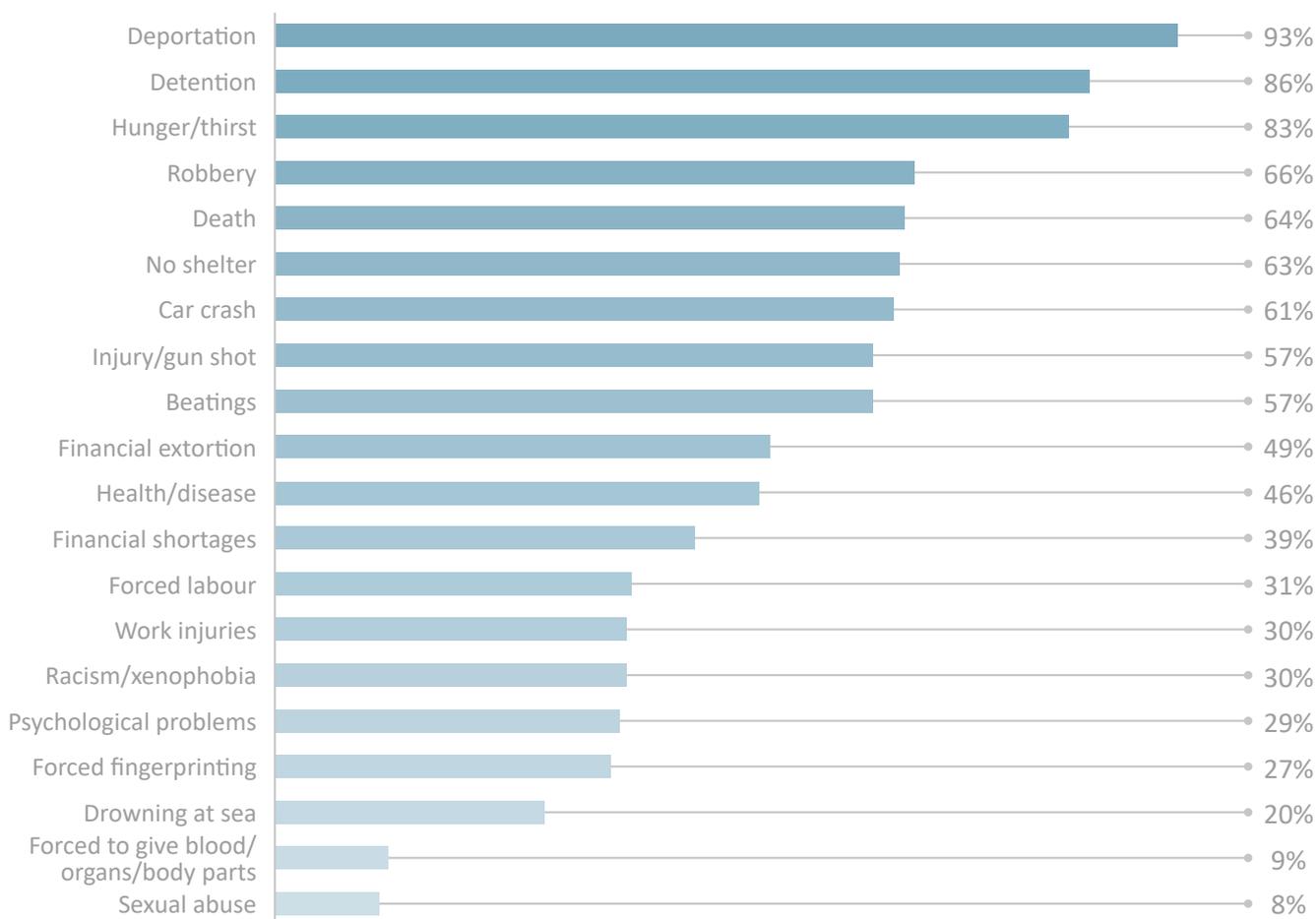
MAIN OBSTACLES ENCOUNTERED WHEN PLANNING THE JOURNEY (multiple answers possible)



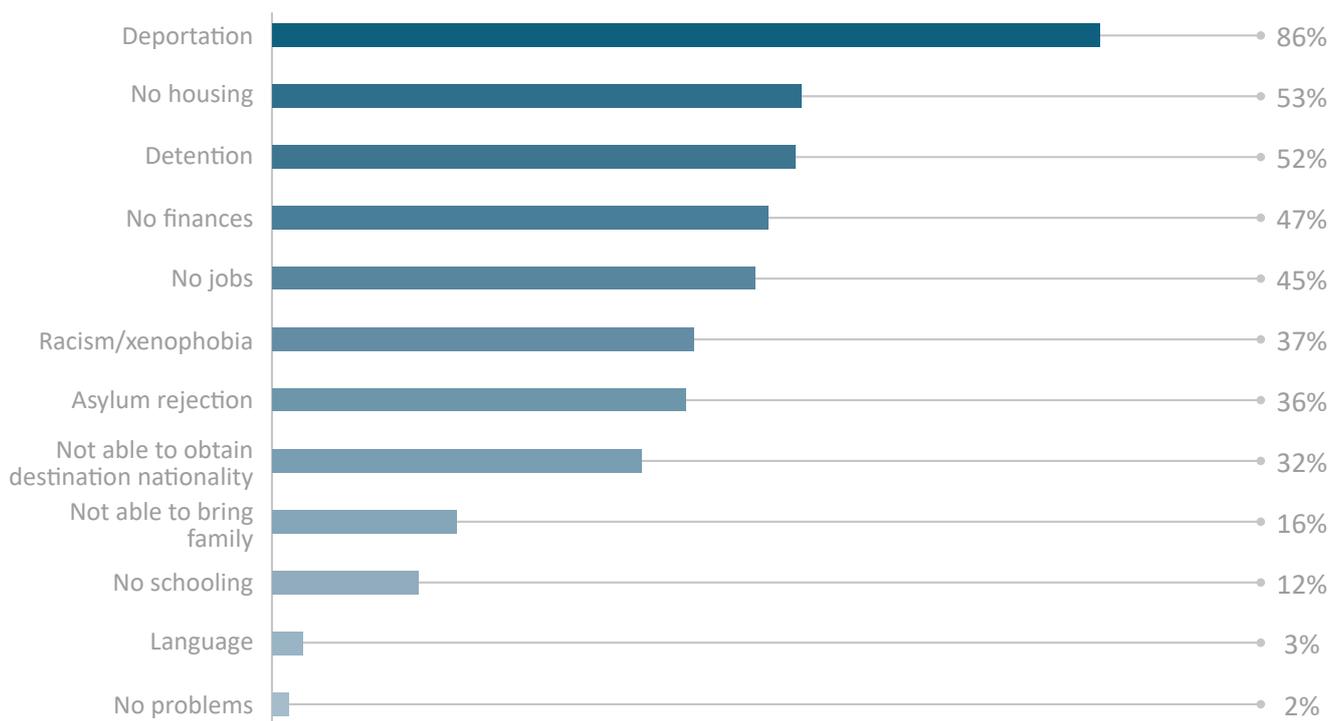
Respondents were asked about the problems they had experienced so far and the ones they expected to face during different stages of their migration journeys. Ninety-one per cent of respondents reported a lack of funds for their journey as the primary anticipated obstacle during the planning of their journey. Seventy-nine per cent expected to go into debt. These two obstacles are consistently the top concerns among all respondents in the study.

Respondents anticipated a wide range of potential problems to be encountered en route to Türkiye. While the most commonly cited was deportation (93%) most potential answers had high response rates, suggesting that potential migrants have some awareness of not only the monetary, but the physical and mental costs of migration. Other expected obstacles included detention (86%), hunger or thirst (83%) and robbery (66%).

MAIN OBSTACLES EXPECTED TO ENCOUNTER EN ROUTE (multiple answers possible)



MAIN OBSTACLES EXPECTED TO ENCOUNTER AT THE DESTINATION (multiple answers possible)



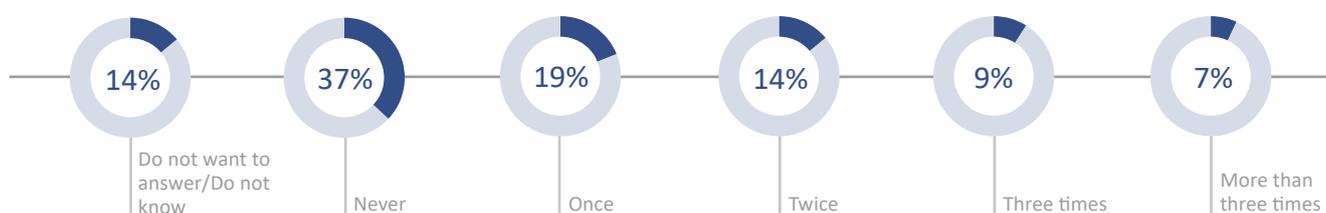
As with potential problems en route to Europe and the Islamic Republic of Iran, large shares of respondents expected obstacles upon their arrival to their destination in Türkiye. Eighty-six per cent cited concerns of deportation from their destination. Fifty-three per cent expected obstacles regarding a lack of housing and 52 per cent expected obstacles regarding detention.

Rejection of asylum applications (36%) and the inability to obtain Turkish nationality (32%) were also relatively common concerns among respondents headed to Turkey. This corresponds with the slightly higher pull factors of obtaining Turkish nationality or asylum/refugee status as discussed regarding reasons for choosing Turkey as a destination.



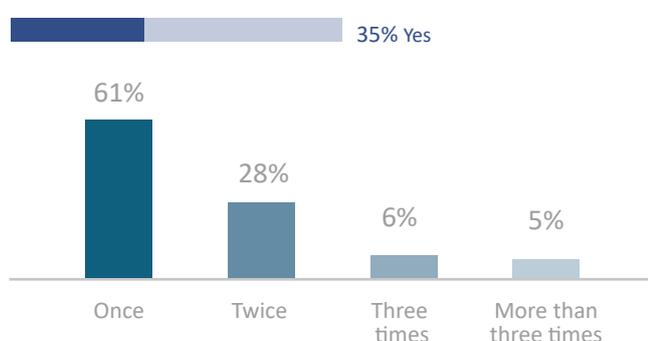
6.5 MOBILITY HISTORY

PREVIOUS MIGRATION ATTEMPTS

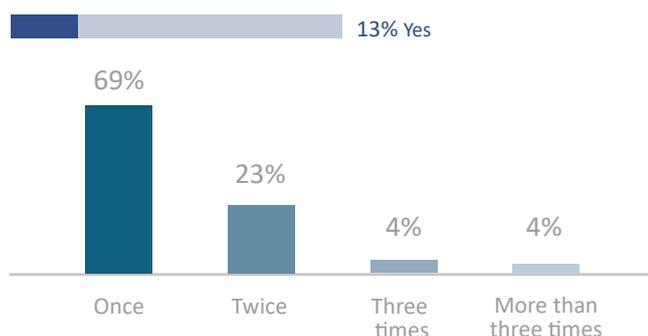


PREVIOUS MIGRATION EXPERIENCE

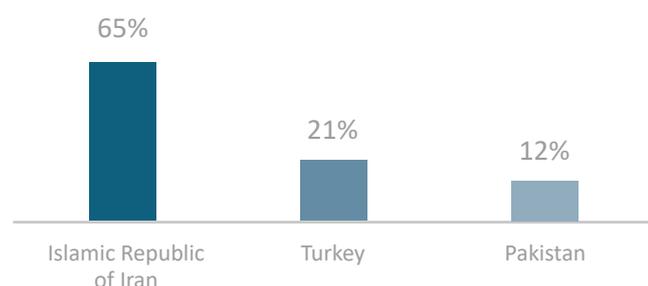
Previous migration experience abroad: 6 months or longer



Previous migration experience abroad: less than 6 months



Previous migration experience: destinations



This study included questions about mobility history, both within Afghanistan and abroad, in order to further understand the extent to which previous migration experiences play a role in shaping new mobility patterns. Among respondents going to Türkiye, 49 per cent had attempted to migrate abroad before. Nineteen per cent had attempted once, 14 per cent had attempted twice, 9 per cent had attempted three times and 7 per cent had attempted more than three times.

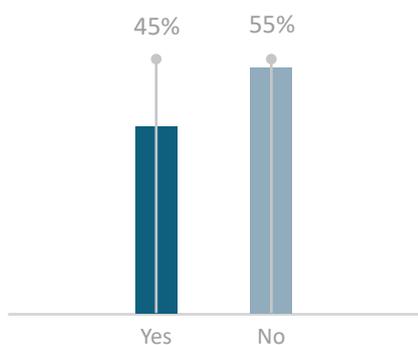
However, among those who had attempted migration before, not all had migrated successfully nor had the same migration experience. In order to examine the variations in past experiences, respondents were asked about previous migration timelines, frequencies and destinations. Thirty-five per cent of respondents reported that they had migrated abroad for six months or more, most of whom had done so once (61%) or twice (28%).

Fewer respondents reported having migrated abroad for less than six months (13%), the majority of whom had only done so once (69%). Respondents were also asked about the success rate of migration attempts to go abroad for six months or more. Sixteen per cent of respondents reported that they had intended to migrate for longer than six months, but had returned before the six months had passed.

Finally, if a respondent had migrated abroad for any amount of time, they were asked where they had migrated. Most respondents with migration experience intending to go to Türkiye had migrated to the Islamic Republic of Iran (65%) before, while 21 per cent had migrated to Türkiye and 12 per cent to Pakistan. While previous experience in migration among respondents going to Türkiye is common, the data shows that most previous experience is to the Islamic Republic of Iran instead of Türkiye, unlike among respondents going to the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan who were often re-migrating to the same destination.

Previous experiences regarding internal displacement were also examined in order to observe mobility patterns. Forty-five per cent of respondents going to Türkiye had been displaced within Afghanistan previously. Respondents reported displacement lasted 3.2 years on average. Among those who had experienced displacement before, 47 per cent had been displaced once, 31 per cent twice, 12 per cent three times and ten per cent more than three times.

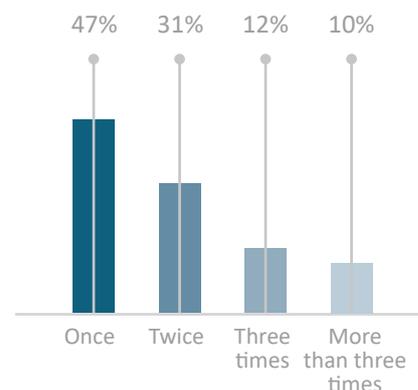
INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT EXPERIENCE



AVERAGE DURATION OF DISPLACEMENT

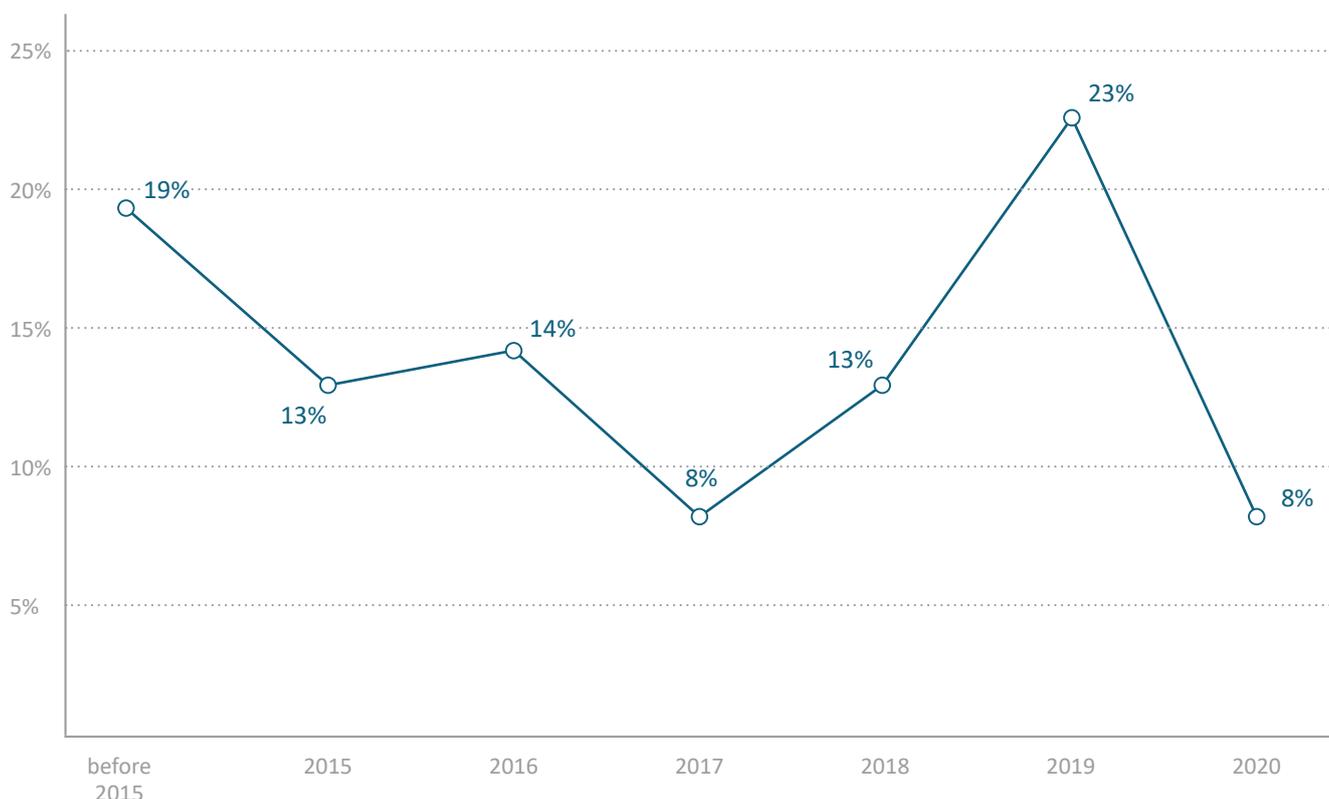


NUMBER OF TIMES OF INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT



The largest share of respondents was last displaced in 2019 (23%), but displacement was relatively high among respondents going to Türkiye in previous years as well. Prior to 2015, 19 per cent of respondents had experienced their last incident of displacement. Smaller shares last displaced in 2015 (13%), 2016 (14%), 2017 (8%), 2018 (13%) and 2020 (8%).

RESPONDENTS MOST RECENT PERIOD OF DISPLACEMENT²⁸



²⁸ Two per cent of respondents who reported the intention to migrate to Türkiye claimed that they did not know when they last had been displaced.

7. REFERENCES

International Organization for Migration (2020). [*Afghanistan — Survey on Drivers of Migration \(REMAP 2019\)*](#).

International Organization for Migration (2021). [*Afghanistan — Community-Based Needs Assessment: Summary Results \(January—March 2021\)*](#).

International Organization for Migration (2022). [*Afghanistan - Survey on Drivers of Migration - Summary Brief Round 2 \(November 2020 - March 2021\)*](#)



DTM

IOM DISPLACEMENT
TRACKING MATRIX