About DTM’s Flow Monitoring Surveys

This report contains the findings of IOM’s Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) from surveys conducted between 09 October 2015 and 11 July 2016. This research started in October 2015, and is being conducted within the framework of IOM’s research on populations on the move through the Mediterranean and Western Balkan Routes to Europe. This round of surveys has been carried out by IOM field staff in Greece, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Croatia, Slovenia, Serbia, Hungary, and Libya.

The survey gathers information about migrants’ profiles, including age, sex, areas of origin, levels of education, key transit points on their route, cost of journey, motives, and intentions.

Flow Monitoring Data Analysis Overview

Between 9 October 2015 and 11 July 2016 IOM field staff in Greece, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Croatia, Serbia, Slovenia, Hungary and Libya conducted interviews with 10,608 migrants and refugees. The aforementioned survey was adapted to capture more qualitative data pertaining to the current situation of migrants and refugees stranded in the Western Balkan route.

This week’s report focuses on providing an analysis on the differences between adult (more than 18 years old) male and female respondents. Additionally, second section presents analysis on governorates of origin and transit routes of Syrian nationals.
GENERAL TRENDS

Demographics

Out of the 10,608 individuals surveyed, 82% of the respondents were men. The average age of female was 29 years, while the average age of male respondents was 28 years. The median age for females was 27 years, while for men — 26.

Education

Female respondents obtained a higher level of education than male respondents. 31% of female respondents reported having obtained tertiary education, compared to 25% of male respondents. However, 51% of men reported having obtained secondary level of education versus 44% of women.

Travelling along the route

Women seem to travel more in groups, as compared to men. 95% of all female respondents were travelling with a group, versus 75% of all male respondents.

Moreover, out the total number of women travelling with a group, 93% were travelling with family members, while out of the total number of men travelling with a group, 60% reported travelling with family members.

40% of women who reported travelling with family members were travelling with spouses, 16% - with children, 14% - with spouses and children, 11% - with parents. The remaining 19% were travelling with other relatives.
Cost of journey

Majority of male and female respondents reported estimated cost of their journey from 1,000 to 5,000 USD (78% and 79%, respectively).

Women comprise a larger proportion of individuals (13%) paying more than 5,000 USD per person on the journey, compared to men (9%).

Relatives at the Destination Countries

Larger proportion of male respondents reported not having relatives at the countries of indented destination, compared to female respondents. 48% of men reported not having relatives at the destination countries versus 39% of women. 29% of women reported having first-line relatives at the destination countries, as compared to 18% of men.

COUNTRIES, GOVERNORATES OF DEPARTURE AND TRANSIT ROUTES: SYRIANS

This section provides analysis on governorates of departure and transit routes of Syrian nationals. Respondents of Syrian nationality are analyzed since they comprise the most numerous group of respondents. 42% of all respondents were Syrians. Women comprise 26% of all Syrian respondents. The percentage of women among Syrian nationals represents the largest proportion of female respondents as compared to other nationalities. Since no statistically significant differences were found between male and female respondents, the results are reported for all Syrian respondents.

The majority of Syrian nationals (91%) reported leaving directly from Syria. Among those 91% Syrians, 30% reported departing from the governorate of Aleppo, 24% from Damascus, 7% from Homs, 5% from Idlib and the remainder from other governorates within Syria. The remaining 9% reported departing from other countries, notably Turkey, Lebanon, and Jordan.
The map below shows the popular routes Syrian respondents took to reach Europe and proceed onto their intended country of destination. The majority of migrants and refugees travelled through the same or similar countries. This variable is affected by the locations where interviews took place. There was no difference in the percentage of male and female migrants and refugees who travelled through the same routes. The difference lies in the duration of the journey.

64% of Syrian respondents travelled through Turkey and Greece, followed by the Western Balkans. The majority of respondents reported travelling from Turkey to Greece by boat, and walking from their arrival point to location they got surveyed. The average number of days for this route was 29.7 days, with a median of 14 days for male respondents. The average number of days for this route was 26.3, with a median of 14 days for female respondents.

Another highly used route, according to 16% of respondents, is through Lebanon, Turkey, Greece, and the Western Balkans. The average number of days for this route was 28.1 days, with a median of 15 days for male respondents. The average number of days for this route was 25 days, with a median of 15 days for female respondents. The remaining 20% did not accurately report their journeys across the transit countries they went through, therefore, the route they used remains unclear.

Moreover, the majority of Syrian respondents (82%) reported Germany as intended country of destination.
METHODOLOGY

This survey is conducted amongst migrants and refugees as they transit from Greece through the Western Balkan Route to Slovenia, in locations of entry, transit, and exit where IOM already has a presence and assists with other activities, such as registration, referrals, or orientation. The questionnaire contains 16 multiple choice questions translated into Arabic, Dari, Pashtu, Urdu, French and Farsi. Respondents are approached in an ad hoc manner by IOM field staff, with those who give their consent to be interviewed proceeding with the remainder of the questions. This may constitute a selection bias, since those willing to respond tend to be young adult males who are confident enough to be interviewed in a public space, and who speak some English. Not all locations where interviews are conducted dispose of translators, and although the interview forms are translated, in practice many interviews are by necessity initiated by field staff striking up a basic conversation in English. Therefore, the sample obtained with this technique is not statistically representative of the migrant population because the individuals in the sample are not selected using a systematic random sampling technique with a pre-existing framework.

This, however, has allowed DTM to accumulate a vast number of interviews in a short space of time. Although this sample cannot be considered statistically representative on its own, the dataset can be further analysed within the group (i.e., Syrian adult female or Afghan young male population etc.) once a sufficient number of interviews per group of interest become available. The survey also enables the identification of interesting trends worthy of further investigation, and the findings can be compared with other sources of information for a fuller picture. For a comprehensive overview of these mixed migration flows, this analysis should be read in conjunction with DTM’s bi-weekly flows compilation, which provides an overview of migration flow trends and developments in countries of first arrival and other countries along the migratory route in Europe. The data on registered arrivals is collated by IOM through consultations with ministries of interior, coast guards, police forces, and other relevant national authorities.