SNAPSHOT REPORT

BANGLADESHI RETURNEES FROM LIBYA AND GREECE
Returnee Longitudinal Survey

Regional Evidence for Migration Analysis and Policy (REMAP)
International Organization for Migration (IOM)
Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM)

IOM • UN MIGRATION

Disclaimer

This report is part of the outputs under the European Union funded project "Displacement Tracking Matrix Regional Evidence for Migration Analysis and Policy (DTM 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).

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ACRONYMS
AND CONCEPTS

ACRONYMS

AVRR	Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration
BDT	Bangladeshi Taka
BMET	Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training
EU	European Union
IOM	International Organization for Migration
PROTTASHA	Bangladesh: Sustainable Reintegration and Improved Migration Governance
REMAP	Regional Evidence for Migration Analysis and Policy
RLS	Returnee Longitudinal Survey
RRA	Returnee Rapid Assessment
RSS	Reintegration Sustainability Survey
SDM	Survey on Drivers of Migration

CONCEPTS

ASSISTED VOLUNTARY RETURN AND REINTEGRATION (AVRR): Administrative, logistical or financial support, including reintegration assistance, to migrants unable or unwilling to remain in the host country or country of transit and who decide to return to their country of origin (IOM, 2019a).

RETURN MIGRATION: In the context of international migration, the movement of persons returning to their country of origin after having moved away from their place of habitual residence and crossed an international border (IOM, 2019a).

SUSTAINABLE REINTEGRATION: In the context of international return migration, reintegration can be considered sustainable when returnees have reached levels of economic self-sufficiency, social stability within their communities, and psychosocial well-being that allow them to cope with possible (re)migration drivers (IOM, 2019a).

VOLUNTARY RETURN: The assisted or independent return to the country of origin, transit or another country based on the voluntary decision of the returnee (IOM, 2019a).

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION

Many Bangladeshi nationals migrate abroad for work, mainly driven by a lack of job opportunities and/or gainful employment (IOM, 2020). Between 1976 and 2020, approximately 13 million Bangladeshi nationals have left the country to find overseas employment and send remittances back home (BMET, 2020). In 2020, remittances to Bangladesh totalled 21,752.27 million USD (BMET, 2020). The primary countries of destination are located in North Africa and the Middle East, as well as South East Asia (BMET, 2020).

Every year many international migrants return to Bangladesh, however, administrative data on return migrants is not available. Therefore, it is not possible to give a full account of migrant workers who return to Bangladesh each year. Though, last year, due to COVID–19, more than 400,000 migrant workers have returned to Bangladesh between April and December 2020 (IOM, 2021).

Returning to a home country may not be a smooth process as returnees often face several obstacles upon return. In recent years, these challenges have been more widely recognized and awareness has risen that support is needed to address the needs of return migrants and to improve their sustainable reintegration into society (IOM, 2019). According to IOM, "reintegration can be considered sustainable when returnees have reached levels of economic self-sufficiency, social stability within their communities, and psychosocial well-being that allow them to cope with (re)migration drivers. Having achieved sustainable reintegration, returnees are able to make further migration decisions a matter of choice, rather than necessity" (IOM, 2017a, p.3)[1].

In 2020, IOM Bangladesh facilitated the return of 1,446 migrants returning from 22 countries. In the last five years, IOM Bangladesh assisted 4,887 migrants under its Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR)[2] and Voluntary Humanitarian Return (VHR)[3] programmes. The returnees supported by these programmes receive assistance upon arrival and are also provided with reintegration assistance to cope with challenges related to return. The top five return countries in the last five years were Libya, Greece, Germany, Thailand and Italy.

To strengthen the sustainable reintegration of returning migrants, IOM Bangladesh, under the European Union (EU) funded project Prottasha[4], began providing immediate needs assistance after arrival and sustainable and integrated reintegration support to returning migrants mainly from Europe and transit countries. Since its launch in 2017, the project has assisted 1,704 Bangladeshis who have returned to Bangladesh from abroad.

An increasing number of migrants return to their home countries under Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration programmes (IOM, 2016). However, there is little evidence on how migrants who take part in these programmes reintegrate into society, especially on factors that influence sustainable reintegration (IOM, 2020a). Even less research examines reintegration outcomes from a longitudinal perspective. A recent study conducted by IOM to assess the needs and vulnerabilities of migrants who returned to Bangladesh due to COVID-19, highlights a multitude of challenges that migrant workers experience after their return (IOM, 2020b). Therefore, it is important to improve understanding of the reintegration process and the factors that influence reintegration outcomes both in the short and long-term. This could then feed into the design of policies and government programmes that address the immediate needs and challenges of returning migrants, as well as improve reintegration outcomes both in the short- and long-term and eventually increase the positive effects these migrants can have on society.

To improve understanding of return migrants' profiles, the living conditions of returnees and their reintegration process, IOM, under the European Union (EU) funded project "Displacement Tracking Matrix Regional Evidence for Migration Analysis and Policy (DTM REMAP)", developed the Returnee Longitudinal Survey (RLS). This survey collects data on the vulnerabilities and needs of returnees, as well as sustainable return and reintegration outcomes in both the short- and long-term. To this end, data is collected over the course of multiple years at regular intervals. The objective of DTM REMAP, which is implemented by DTM at both the regional and country levels, is to strengthen the evidence-based formulation and implementation of humanitarian and development policy and programming on migration and forced displacement

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[1]For more information, see IOM's paper "Towards an Integrated Approach to Reintegration in the Context of Return" (IOM, 2017)"
[2]For more information on AVRR, see: https://www.iom.int/assisted-voluntary-return-and-reintegration
[3]For more information on VHR, see: https://libya.iom.int/voluntary-humanitarian-return-vhr
[4]For more information on Prottasha, see: https://bangladesh.iom.int/sites/default/files/documents/Prottasha%20Brochure.pdf

in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq and Pakistan through the dissemination of insights gained through DTM's activities.

This report is the result of the first round of data collection that took place between October 2020 and January 2021, targeting Bangladeshi migrants who returned from Greece and Libya in 2019 and 2020 through IOM's Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) and Voluntary Humanitarian Return (VHR) programmes. During the data collection period, 636 respondents were interviewed in-person in 17 districts. The purpose of RLS is to strengthen the information-base on the sustainability of reintegration and gaps and needs within Bangladesh for future programming and policy making.

The report is divided into three main sections. The first section gives an overview of the key findings in this report. The second section starts with a description of the methodology and includes the research method,

sampling information and limitations. The third section presents the analysis of the data that was collected between October 2020 and January 2021. The analysis of the data is further subdivided into eight thematic sections. The first subsection covers the demographics and socio-economic profiles of the return migrants. This is followed by a subsection on the employment situation, occupational sector and income status of the returnees (prior to migration, in Greece or Libya and at the time of the interview). The third subsection explores the reasons for migration. The fourth subsection examines the migration journey, including the reasons for migrating to either Greece or Libya. The following subsection dives deeper into the reasons for return. An additional subsection goes into the challenges that returnees experience after their return to Bangladesh. Finally, the last two subsections examine prior migration experience and re-migration intentions.

KEY FINDINGS

1. Respondents noted an **unemployment rate of 35 per cent at the time of the interview.** This is a significant increase compared to prior to migration (2%).

2. **Forty-seven per cent** of respondents returning reported that they had **no income at the time of the interview.**

3. At the time of the interview, **insufficient income** was the most commonly reported primary **personal and household challenge**, and a **lack of jobs** was the most commonly reported **community challenge.**

4. The most prominent reason **to leave Bangladesh** reported by all respondents was a **low salary.**

5. **Twenty-one per cent** of respondents indicated that they had **planned to migrate to another country but ended up in Libya or Greece** due to circumstances.

6. Respondents who were in **Greece (34%) experienced higher levels of unemployment** than those who were in Libya (22%).

7. **Returnees from Libya reported facing more dangerous situations** (e.g. victim of human trafficking and feeling of insecurity) that led to their return compared to returnees from Greece.

8. Around **one fourth of returnees** from both Libya and Greece have **the intention to re-migrate** in the next six months.

METHODOLOGY

Based on IOM's DTM REMAP methodology and the Reintegration Sustainability Survey (RSS)[5], developed by IOM in 2017, the Returnee Longitudinal Survey (RLS) aims to better understand return migrants' profiles, the living conditions of returnees and their reintegration process over a longer period of time. The purpose of RLS is to strengthen the information-base on the sustainability of reintegration and the gaps and needs within Bangladesh for future programming and policy making.

The RLS focuses on returnees who returned to Bangladesh through AVRR and VHR programmes. After obtaining a list of AVRR and VHR returnees from the operational team in Bangladesh, the sample was constructed based on three criteria:
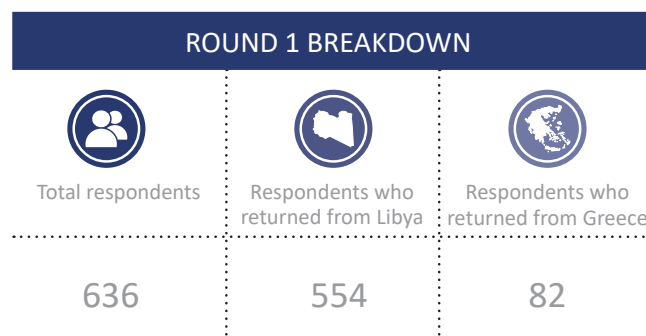1. Country of return, specifically those who returned from Greece and Libya[6],
2. Time of return, specifically those who returned in 2019 and 2020,
3. Reintegration assistance, specifically those who received support from IOM, either in-kind or in cash

Between October 2020 and January 2021, the DTM team in Bangladesh interviewed 636 returnees in-person, located in 17 districts (see map on page 5) for the first round of RLS. The largest share of respondents returned from Libya (554 respondents), and 82 respondents returned from Greece.

The first round of RLS aims to provide a baseline for future rounds of data collection and includes questions on the following thematic areas:
• Socio-demographic situation,
• Employment and income,
• Reasons for migration,
• Migration to Libya and Greece,
• Reasons for returning to Bangladesh,
• Challenges at the time of the interview (personal, household and community),
• Prior migration experience,
• Economic sustainability,
• Social sustainability,
• Psychological sustainability, and
• Re-migration intentions.

This report provides insights on various sections of the RLS survey. Sections on reintegration sustainability (economic, social and psychosocial) are not presented in this report.

ROUND 1 BREAKDOWN		
Total respondents	Respondents who returned from Libya	Respondents who returned from Greece
636	554	82

In order to ensure data quality, the research team regularly monitored the data collection for indications of error. Additionally, there were three control officers who randomly checked the data for accuracy. Both of these approaches limited possible errors in the original data and the data analysis.

The results of this study should be interpreted carefully, as generalization of results and inferences are constrained by the design of this study. First, it should be noted that this study has a small sample size, which means that the sample is not necessarily representative for the target group of this study. Second, the study only focuses on returnees from Greece and Libya, results can therefore not be generalized to returnees from other countries[7]. Moreover, as respondents only returned through IOM's AVRR and VHR programme, results are not necessarily representative for returnees that returned through other programmes or without reintegration assistance. Additionally, because only four females were surveyed, the report does not necessarily represent the needs and vulnerabilities of female returnees. This is due to the type of migration being evaluated, which is primarily dominated by males. Finally, the COVID-19 pandemic posed additional challenges to the data collection. Despite these limitations, the findings of this study can provide useful insights regarding reintegration outcomes.

Note: An asterisk (*) signifies when a statistic is based off a sample size less than 10.

When the label "top 3 answers" or "top 5 answers" appears above a graph it means that only the three or five most common responses are represented in the graph. For this reason, totals may not add up to 100 per cent.

[5]See IOM- Migration Policy Practice special issue on Return and Reintegration, "Measuring sustainable reintegration" N. Nozarian and N. Majidi – Page 30.
[6]The countries of return were selected based on the numbers of migrants that returned to Bangladesh through IOM"s AVRR and VHR programme.
[7]Due to the differing sample sizes in Libya and Greece, any comparisons between the two countries should be interpreted carefully.

Number of respondents per district

- 0-19
- 20-29
- 30-39
- 40-49
- 50-79
- Not assessed

Target districts

1. Brahamanbaria	7. Habiganj	13. Narsingdi
2. Chandpur	8. Kishoreganj	14. Noakhali
3. Cumilla	9. Madaripur	15. Shariatpur
4. Dhaka	10. Manikganj	16. Sylhet
5. Faridpur	11. Munshiganj	17. Tangail
6. Gazipur	12. Narayanganj	

Disclaimer: *The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.*

ANALYSIS

SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHICS

68%
Respondents who are married

47%
Respondents who have children

6
Average Household size[8]

2
Average number of household members living abroad

82%
Respondents with formal education

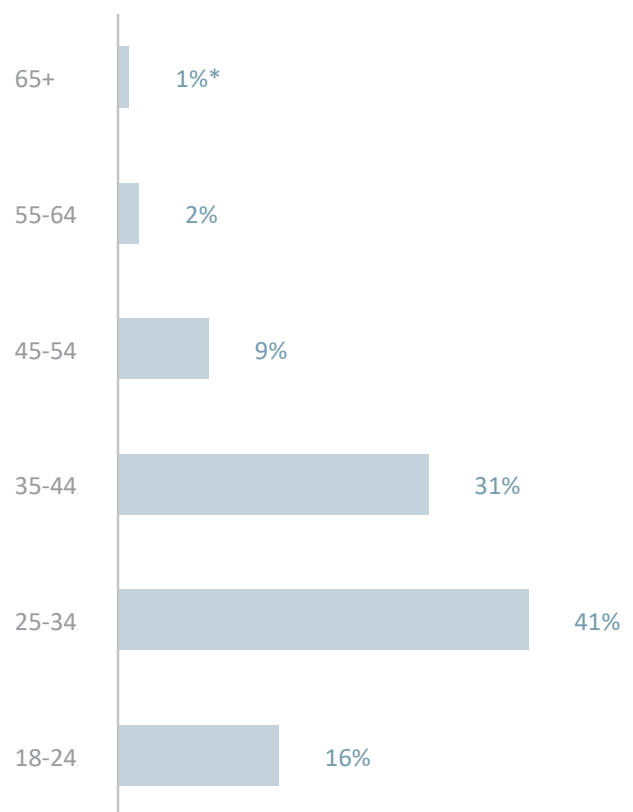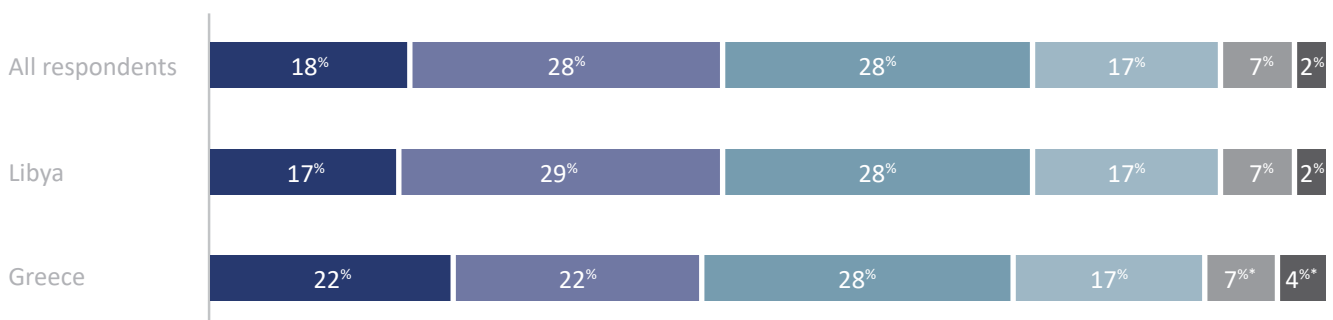Ninety-nine per cent of respondents were male and less than one per cent were female. The low proportion of female respondents is consistent with the percentage of females that returned to Bangladesh through AVRR and VHR programmes in the last five years (2%). The most common age group among respondents (41%) was 25 through 34, and 72 per cent were between the ages of 25 and 44. Sixty-eight per cent of respondents were married, while almost half (47%) had children. The majority of respondents with children (86%) reported having their children with them in their current location. The average household size was six members, and households had on average two household members living abroad.

Eighty-two per cent of respondents had completed some level of formal education. This percentage is lower than in the Returnee Rapid Assessment (RRA), in which 96 per cent of returning migrant respondents had some form of education (IOM, 2020b). Respondents returning from Greece were five per cent more likely to have no education than those returning from Libya. Among respondents who had education, however, there was little variation in the level of education achieved between those coming from Libya and Greece. For both countries, 7 per cent of respondents completed higher secondary school, 17 per cent completed secondary school and 28 per cent completed junior school.

AGE DISTRIBUTION

Age	%
65+	1%*
55-64	2%
45-54	9%
35-44	31%
25-34	41%
18-24	16%

EDUCATIONAL LEVEL

	No Education	Primary School Certificate (1-5)	Junior School Certificate (6-8)	Secondary School Certificate (9-10)	Higher Secondary School Certificate (11-12)	Other
All respondents	18%	28%	28%	17%	7%	2%
Libya	17%	29%	28%	17%	7%	2%
Greece	22%	22%	28%	17%	7%*	4%*

Legend:
- No Education
- Primary School Certificate (1-5)
- Junior School Certificate (6-8)
- Secondary School Certificate (9-10)
- Higher Secondary School Certificate (11-12)
- Other[9]

[8]Average household size includes people who share the same meal and roof on a daily basis.
[9]Other selections include diploma, graduate, postgraduate and religious education.

EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME OF RETURNEES

Respondents were asked to provide insights into their employment situations before, during and after migration. Prior to migration, 84 per cent of respondents were employed (self-employed, earning daily wages or working in the private sector). Only two per cent of respondents reported being unemployed and looking for a job prior to migration. Ten per cent were students.

When observing the employment situations before migration and in the countries from which respondents returned, the results show clear divergences, both temporally and geographically. The percentage of respondents who were unemployed and looking for a job increased from two per cent prior to migration to twenty-three per cent while in Greece or Libya. Additionally, the percentage of respondents who were unemployed but not looking for work increased from one per cent prior to migration to twenty-seven per cent while in Greece or Libya. Differences in employment situations were also apparent between the two countries of return. Among respondents returning from Libya, 33 per cent had been employed in the private sector while in Libya, whereas 13 per cent of respondents returning from Greece had been employed in the private sector while in Greece. Respondents from Greece were more likely to have been employed as daily workers, with 22 per cent having worked for daily wages while in

Greece as opposed to 13 per cent of respondents from Libya doing the same. Finally, a third of all respondents returning from Greece experienced unemployment while looking for work in Greece (34%) in comparison to less than a quarter of respondents returning from Libya experiencing the same (22%). These data may suggest more limited employment prospects in Greece than in Libya, although respondents returning from both countries experienced high levels of unemployment.

Notable differences also emerge when comparing employment prior to migration and during the time of interviewing. Those who report being unemployed and looking for a job increase by 33 per cent from before migration (2%) to after return (35%). The unemployment rate was similar among respondents returning from Libya and Greece, however, at the time of interviewing, those who returned from Libya reported being unemployed and looking for a job five per cent more frequently than those who returned from Greece. Among all respondents, the rate of those who reported being unemployed and not seeking work also increased from before migration (1%) to after return (8%). These findings reflect return migrants' challenges with livelihood opportunities after their return to Bangladesh. In addition, these livelihood opportunities may also be impacted by COVID-19 response measures.

EMPLOYMENT SITUATION

[10]Other selections include those who are employed in the public sector, contractors, housewives, those who are retired, and those who are both working and studying at the same time.

OCCUPATIONAL SECTOR (top 6 answers)

	Agriculture/ forestry	Wholesale/ retail trade	Construction	Transportation	Manufacturing/ other factory work	Tailoring/textiles
Prior to migration	35%	17%	11%	9%	7%	4%

	Agriculture/ forestry	Wholesale/ retail trade	Construction	Transportation	Manufacturing/ other factory work	Tailoring/textile
At the time of the interview	33%	20%	12%	8%	5%	3%
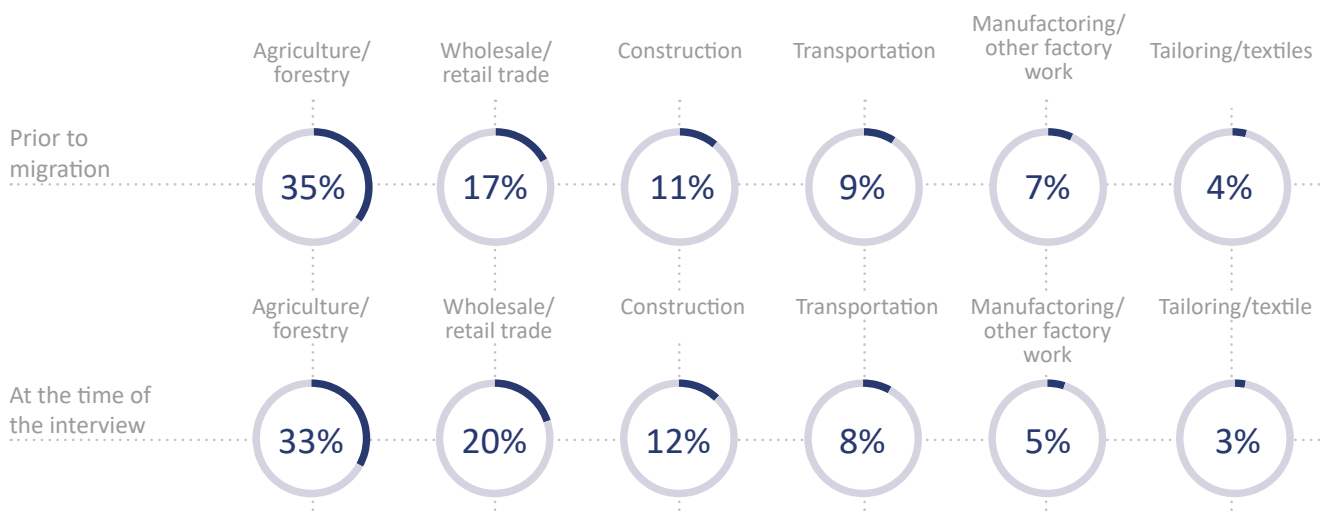
Both prior to migration and at the time of the interview, the most common occupational sector among respondents was agriculture and forestry (35% and 33% respectively).

Forty-seven per cent of respondents from both Libya and Greece reported that they had no income after they returned, highlighting the challenges migrants face upon their return. While the response patterns on personal monthly income were consistent for returnees from Libya and Greece, a greater percentage of respondents reported no income in Greece (62%) than in Libya (56%). Prior to migration, a majority in both Libya (52%) and Greece (56%) reported an income of less than 10,000 BDT (118.14 USD).

AVERAGE PERSONAL MONTHLY INCOME (in BDT)

LIBYA

- Prior to migration
- In the last country of employment
- At the time of the interview

	No Income	<10,000	10,001-20,000	20,001-30,000	>30,000
Prior to migration	15%	52%	28%	4%	1%*
In the last country of employment	56%	16%	19%	7%	2%*
At the time of the interview	48%	37%	14%	1%*	0%*

GREECE

- Prior to migration
- In the last country of employment
- At the time of the interview[11]

	No Income	<10,000	10,001-20,000	20,001-30,000	>30,000
Prior to migration	11%	56%	27%	4%*	2%*
In the last country of employment	62%	5%*	15%	13%	5%*
At the time of the interview	42%	44%	11%*	2%*	0%*

[11] 1% of respondents answered "other" when asked about their average personal monthly income at the time of the interview.
Exchange rate note: 10,000 BDT = 118.14 USD, 20,000 BDT = 236.27 USD, 30,000 BDT = 354.41 USD). Rates are based off of the UN Operational Rate of Exchange as of 1 November 2020 (84.6483 BDT = 1 USD).
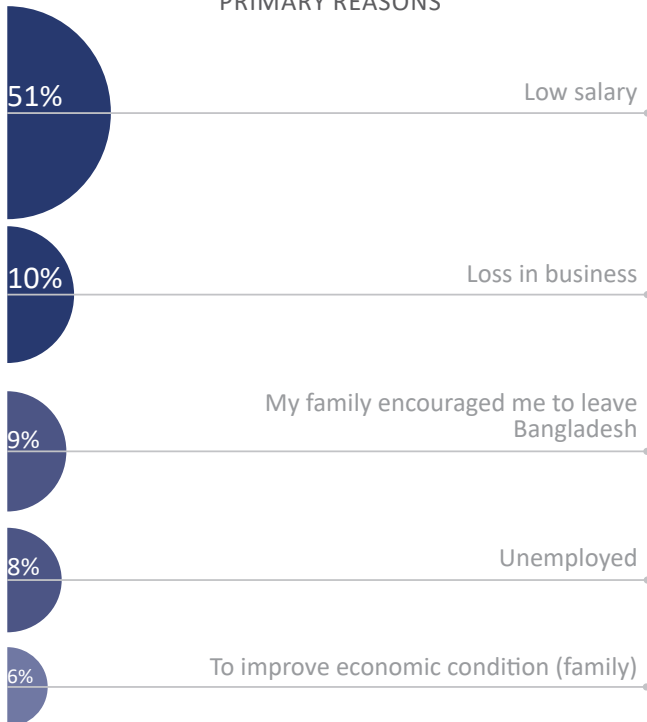
REASONS FOR MIGRATION

In order to better understand the factors behind return migrants' decisions to migrate abroad, respondents were asked to list their primary and secondary reasons for leaving Bangladesh. The most commonly reported primary reason was a low salary in Bangladesh, with returnees from both Libya and Greece reporting this as their top reason (51% for Libya and 51% for Greece) for leaving. The most common secondary reason for leaving Bangladesh was returnees' families encouraging respondents to migrate; 24 per cent of respondents returning from Libya and 34 per cent of respondents returning from Greece cited this reason.

WHY DID YOU LEAVE BANGLADESH? (top 5 answers)

LIBYA

PRIMARY REASONS

- 51% Low salary
- 10% Loss in business
- 9% My family encouraged me to leave Bangladesh
- 8% Unemployed
- 6% To improve economic condition (family)

SECONDARY REASONS

- 32% I only have one reason
- 24% My family encouraged me to leave Bangladesh
- 10% I received the contact of someone who could help me leave Bangladesh
- 8% My friends/family/relatives/neighbours were migrating and encouraged me to join them
- 7% Low salary

GREECE

PRIMARY REASONS

- 51% Low salary
- 11%* Loss in business
- 11%* To improve my family's economic condition
- 7%* Unemployed
- 6%* My family encouraged me to leave Bangladesh

SECONDARY REASONS

- 34% My family encouraged me to leave Bangladesh
- 24% I only have one reason
- 9%* Low salary
- 7%* My friends/family/relatives/neighbours were migrating and encouraged me to join them
- 6%* To improve my personal economic condition

MIGRATION TO LIBYA AND GREECE

WHEN DID YOU LEAVE BANGLADESH?

○ Number of people who left Bangladesh per year

| 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 |
| 2 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 5 | 9 | 11 | 10 | 17 | 96 | 33 | 73 | 24 | 42 | 27 | 109 | 151 | 11 |
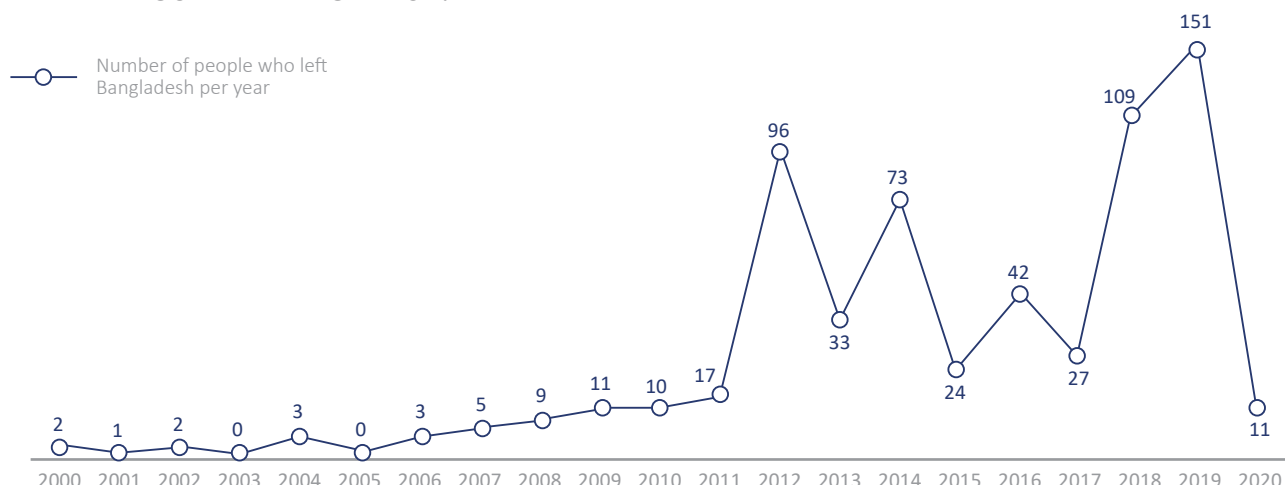
Among respondents, migration from Bangladesh rose steadily from 2000 until 2011, after which there was a sharp rise in 2012, during which 15 per cent of respondents left Bangladesh. Migration fluctuated between 2013 and 2017 until 2018 and 2019 saw surges of respondents leaving Bangladesh again, the two years accounting for 41 per cent of respondents. 2020 saw a drop in migration among respondents, the lowest amount since 2010. This is congruent to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent global mobility restrictions.

At the time of interviewing, 544 respondents had returned from Libya and 82 had returned from Greece. Among the former, the duration of stay in the country of return was varied. Thirty-nine per cent of respondents had stayed in Libya for more than 5 years, but 30 per cent had only stayed for one month to one year. Twenty-three per cent had stayed from one to three years. On the other hand, nearly half of those who had returned from Greece reported having stayed in the country for more than 5 years (49%). Twenty-six per cent had stayed from 3 to 5 years, 13 per cent had stayed from one to three years and only 12 per cent had stayed from one month to one year.

COUNTRY OF RETURN
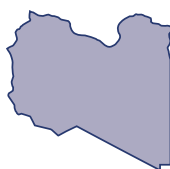
554
Returned from Libya

82
Returned from Greece

Disclaimer: The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on these maps do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Maps are not to scale.
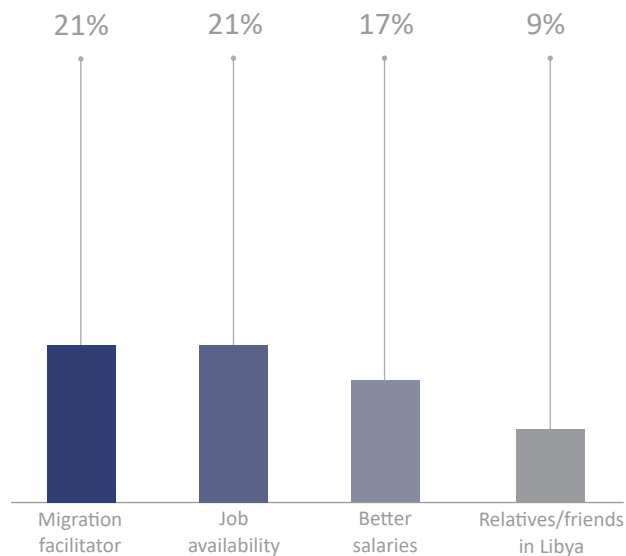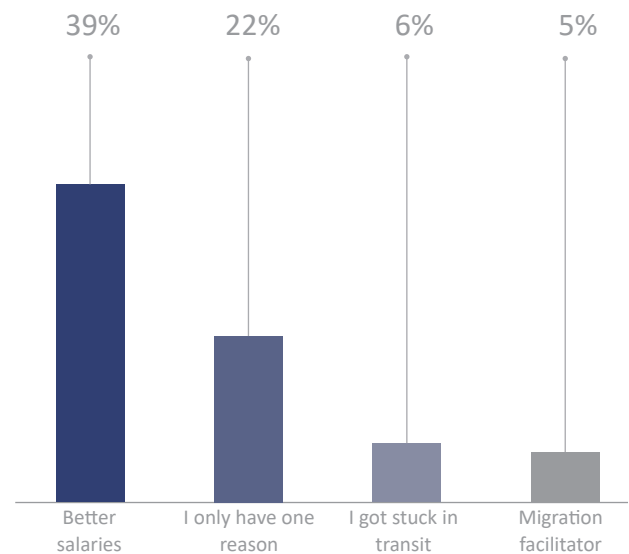
How long were you staying there?

30% 1 month to 1 year

23% 1 to 3 years

8% 3 to 5 years

39% More than 5 years

12% 1 month to 1 year

13% 1 to 3 years

26% 3 to 5 years

49% More than 5 years
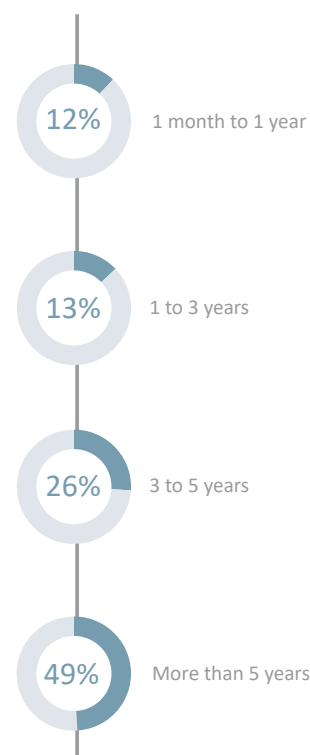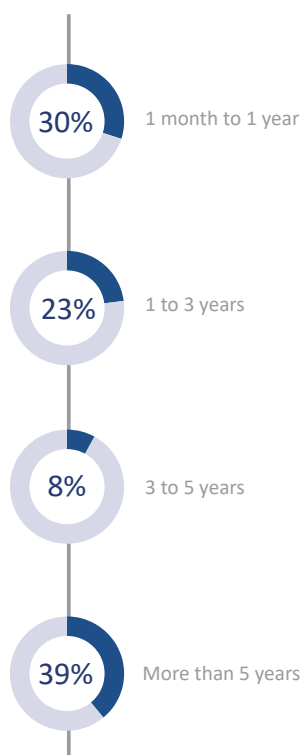
WHY DID YOU MIGRATE TO LIBYA/GREECE? (top 4 answers)

LIBYA

PRIMARY REASONS

Migration facilitator	Job availability	Better salaries	Relatives/friends in Libya
21%	21%	17%	9%

SECONDARY REASONS

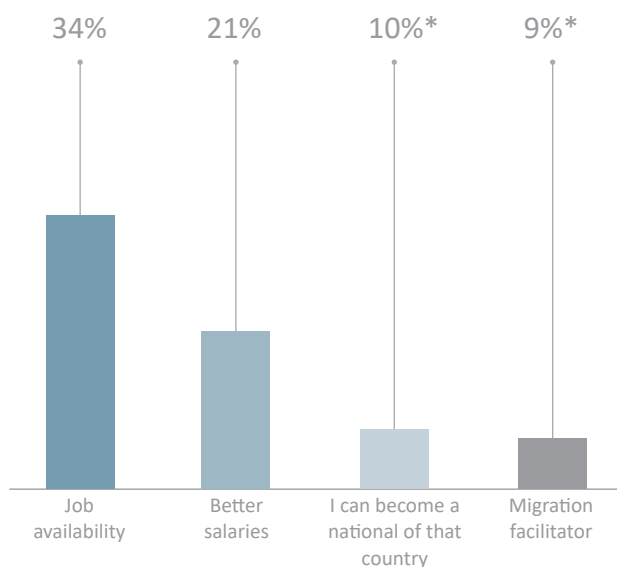| Better salaries	I only have one reason	I got stuck in transit	Migration facilitator
39%	22%	6%	5%

In addition to being asked why they left Bangladesh (see page 9), respondents were asked about the reasons for migrating to either Libya or Greece. For those returning from Libya, twenty-one per cent had chosen their destination based on their migration facilitator telling them that he/she/they could bring the respondent to Libya. Twenty-one per cent also cited the availability 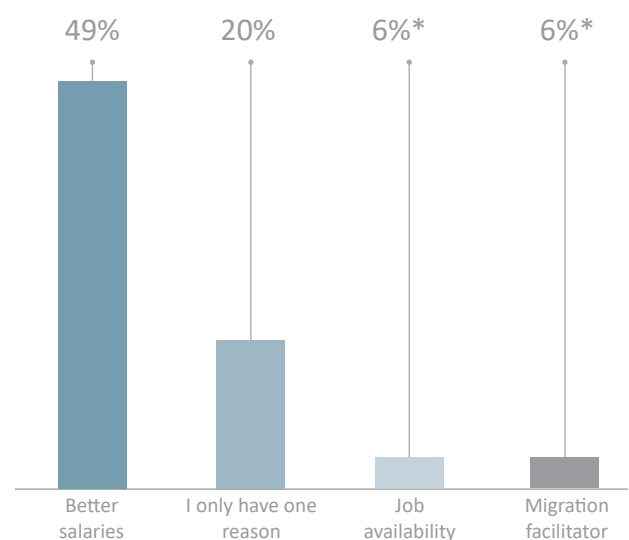of jobs in Libya, while 17 per cent reported better anticipated salaries. Nine per cent indicated that they had planned to migrate to another country but ended up in Libya because of the migration facilitation network. For those returning from Greece, the most commonly reported reasons for going to Greece included the availability of jobs (34%) and better salaries (21%). Nine per cent also reported that the migration facilitator told them that he/she/they

GREECE

PRIMARY REASONS

Job availability	Better salaries	I can become a national of that country	Migration facilitator
34%	21%	10%*	9%*

SECONDARY REASONS

Better salaries	I only have one reason	Job availability	Migration facilitator
49%	20%	6%*	6%*

could bring the respondent to Greece. These reasons largely correspond to the findings in IOM's Survey on Drivers of Migration (SDM), which was conducted in 2018 among potential migrants in Bangladesh. The SDM reported that job availability, better salaries, and ease of migration (including the level of convenience and simplicity of migrating to certain countries, often facilitated by a migration facilitator) were important factors when making the decision of where to migrate. The SDM also emphasized that the presence of a social network in the destination country was an important motivator. This survey identifies a new factor in migration decision-making: getting stuck in transit, highlighting the difference in motivations and realities between potential migrants (SDM) and migrants who have made their journeys.
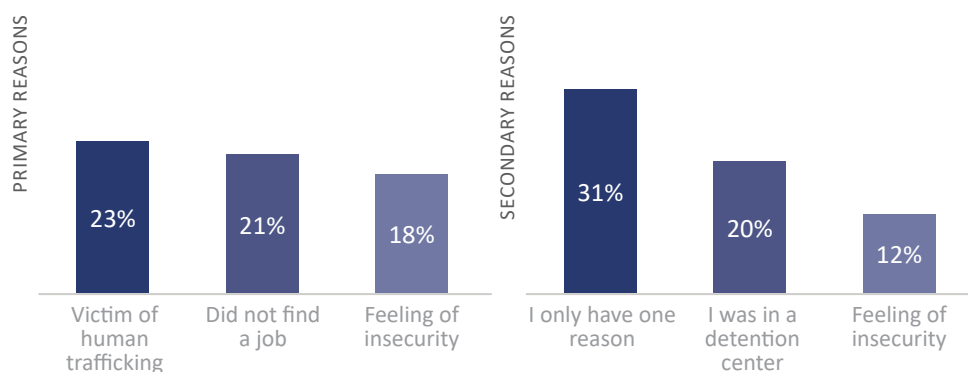
RETURN

The most commonly reported periods for respondent returns were the fourth quarters of 2019 (30%) and 2020 (29%). Reasons for return differed between those returning from Libya and those returning from Greece. While almost half (43%) of respondents returning from Greece reported visa issues as the primary reason for their return, the most common reason reported by those returning from Libya was being a victim of human trafficking (23%). Both reported not finding a job while in Libya (21%) or Greece (27%) as an important primary reason for return, however, 18 per cent from Libya also reported a feeling of insecurity as a primary reason for return, while those from Greece cited a health issue (9%). While difficulties in the host country led to the return of migrants from both Libya and Greece, those that were in Libya appeared to face more dangerous conditions which prompted their return.

Upon return, the majority of respondents returned to the same upazila[12] where they lived before migration (97%). The three per cent of respondents who did not return to the same upazila still returned to the same district that they were living in before migrating, therefore, all 17 districts surveyed in the study saw a 100 per cent return from the respondents.

WHY DID YOU RETURN TO BANGLADESH? (top 3 answers)

LIBYA

PRIMARY REASONS

Victim of human trafficking	Did not find a job	Feeling of insecurity
23%	21%	18%

SECONDARY REASONS

I only have one reason	I was in a detention center	Feeling of insecurity
31%	20%	12%

GREECE

PRIMARY REASONS

Issues with visa/documents	Did not find a job	Health Issue
43%	27%	9%*

SECONDARY REASONS

I only have one reason	Did not find a job	I was in a detention center
30%	22%	11%*
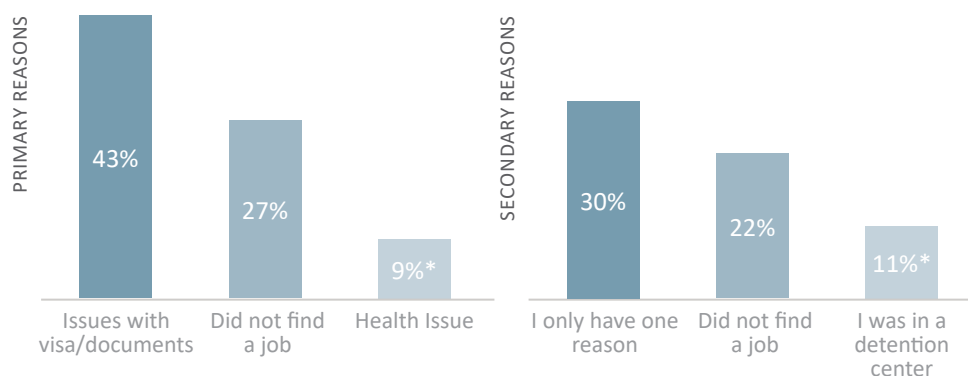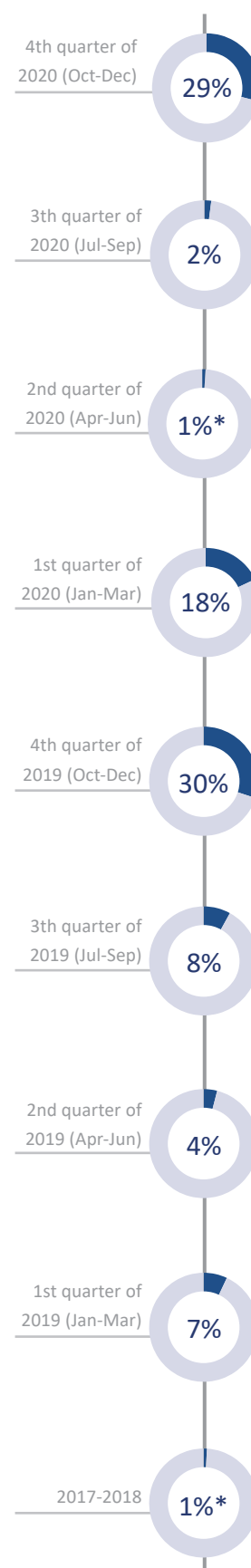
[12]Upazila is the administrative sub-unit below the district level in Bangladesh.

WHEN DID YOU RETURN TO BANGLADESH?

4th quarter of 2020 (Oct-Dec)	29%
3th quarter of 2020 (Jul-Sep)	2%
2nd quarter of 2020 (Apr-Jun)	1%*
1st quarter of 2020 (Jan-Mar)	18%
4th quarter of 2019 (Oct-Dec)	30%
3th quarter of 2019 (Jul-Sep)	8%
2nd quarter of 2019 (Apr-Jun)	4%
1st quarter of 2019 (Jan-Mar)	7%
2017-2018	1%*

CHALLENGES

In order to promote a common understanding of the challenges related to return and reintegration, respondents were asked to identify challenges they faced in the last six months in Bangladesh at the personal, household and community level. Ninety-six per cent of respondents reported facing personal challenges during the six months prior to interviewing. Insufficient income was the most commonly reported primary personal challenge (36%), and financial problems/debt was the most commonly reported secondary personal challenge (40%).

At the household level, 93 per cent of respondents reported facing challenges. As with personal challenges, insufficient income was the most common primary household challenge (46%) and financial problems/debt were the most cited secondary household challenge (25%).

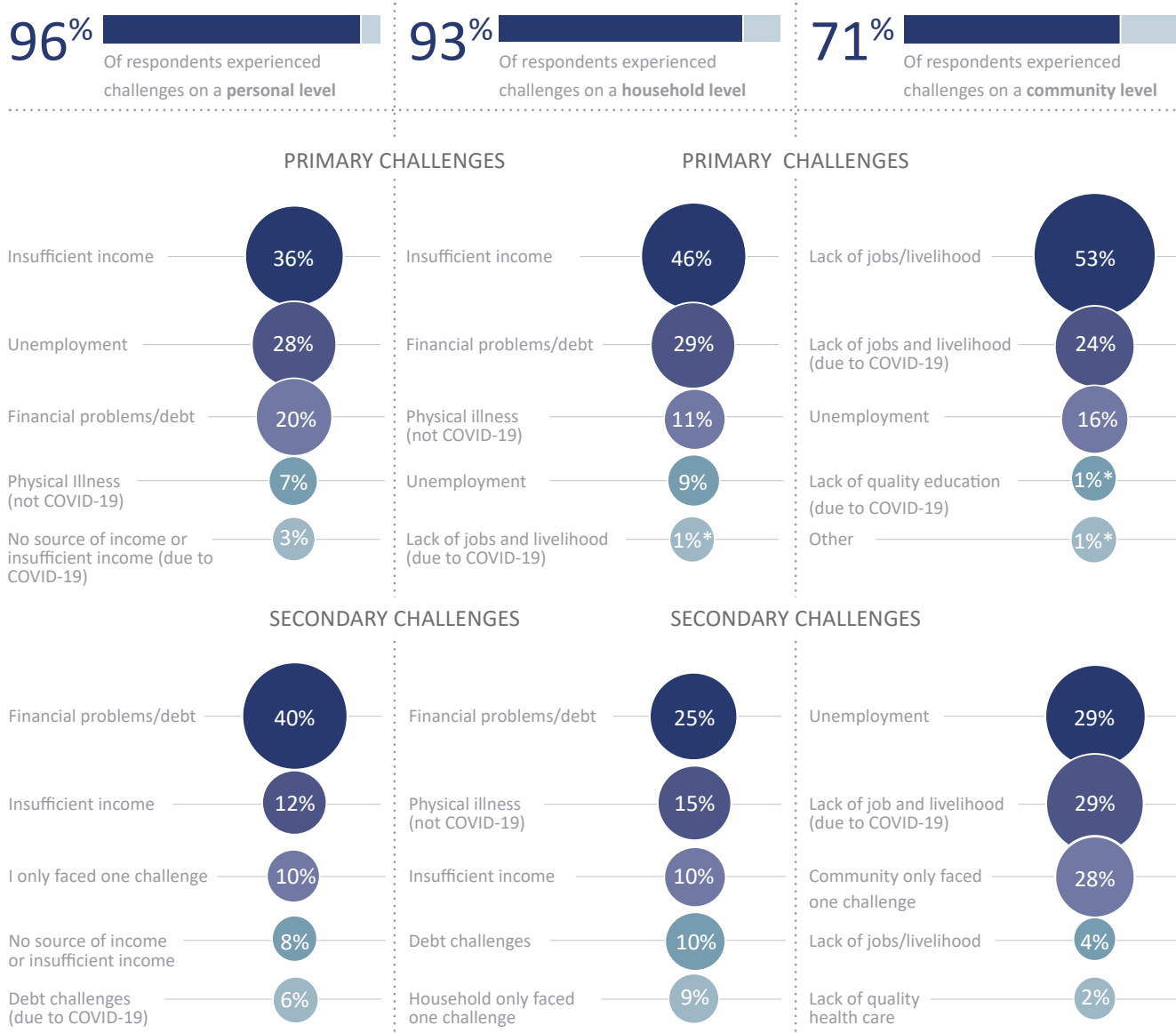Respondents reported facing lower levels of challenges at the community level than at the personal or household level, with 71 per cent reporting community level challenges. The most common challenge among respondents was a lack of jobs in the community (53%). However, unlike the personal and household level challenges, respondents listed unemployment (29%) as the most common secondary community challenge. Various COVID-19-related challenges were also reported at the personal, household and community levels, including a lack of jobs specifically due to COVID-19, a lack of quality education due to COVID-19 and debt challenges due to COVID-19.

The challenges experienced highlight the multi-level nature of return migration as a high percentage of respondents report challenges on the household level and the community level, emphasizing that sustainable return does not only depend on the returning individual.

EXPERIENCED CHALLENGES (top 5 answers)

96% Of respondents experienced challenges on a **personal level**

93% Of respondents experienced challenges on a **household level**

71% Of respondents experienced challenges on a **community level**

PRIMARY CHALLENGES

Insufficient income	36%
Unemployment	28%
Financial problems/debt	20%
Physical Illness (not COVID-19)	7%
No source of income or insufficient income (due to COVID-19)	3%

PRIMARY CHALLENGES

Insufficient income	46%
Financial problems/debt	29%
Physical illness (not COVID-19)	11%
Unemployment	9%
Lack of jobs and livelihood (due to COVID-19)	1%*

Lack of jobs/livelihood	53%
Lack of jobs and livelihood (due to COVID-19)	24%
Unemployment	16%
Lack of quality education (due to COVID-19)	1%*
Other	1%*

SECONDARY CHALLENGES

Financial problems/debt	40%
Insufficient income	12%
I only faced one challenge	10%
No source of income or insufficient income	8%
Debt challenges (due to COVID-19)	6%

SECONDARY CHALLENGES

Financial problems/debt	25%
Physical illness (not COVID-19)	15%
Insufficient income	10%
Debt challenges	10%
Household only faced one challenge	9%

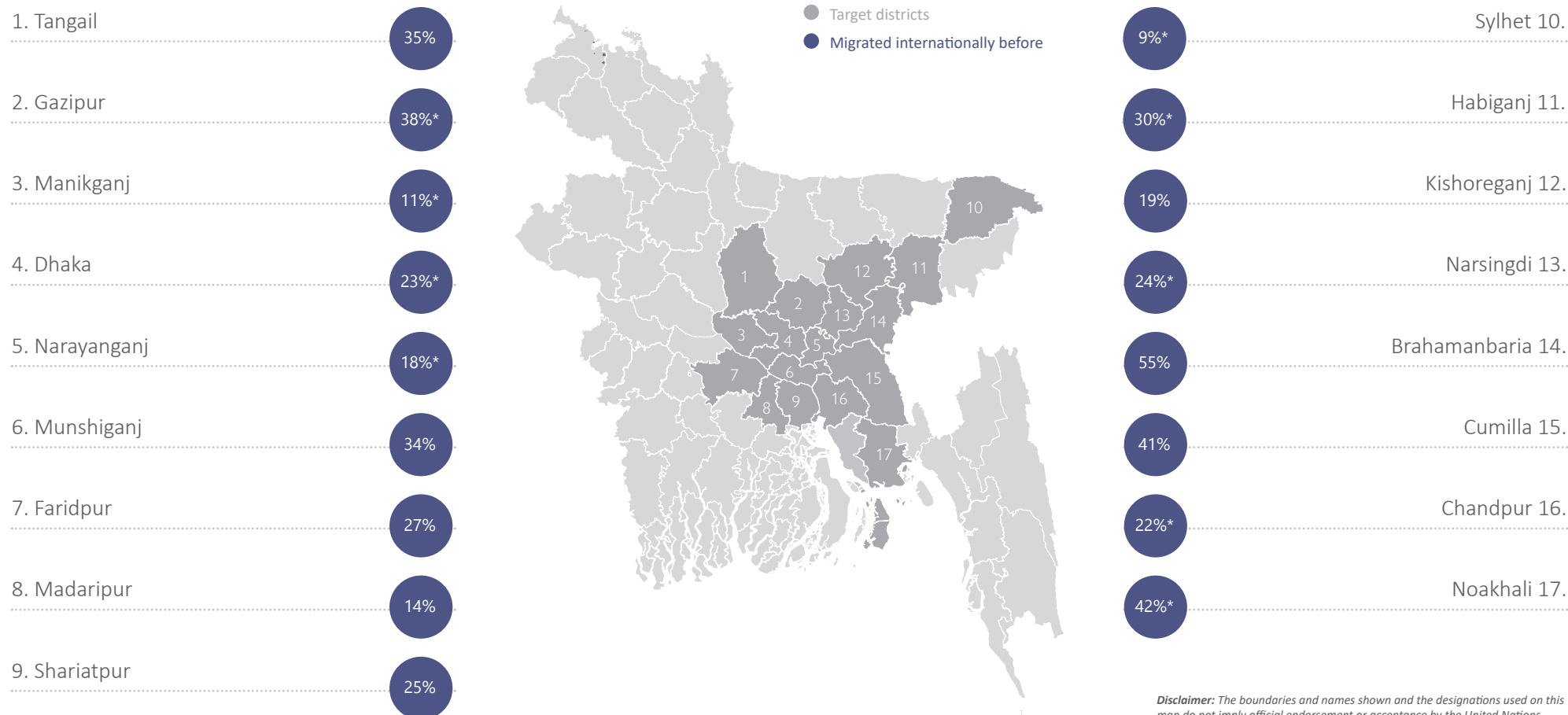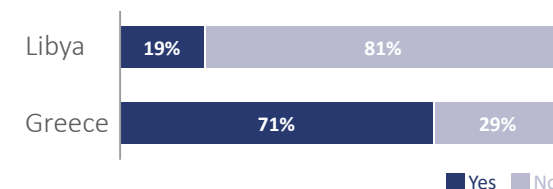|	
Unemployment	29%
Lack of job and livelihood (due to COVID-19)	29%
Community only faced one challenge	28%
Lack of jobs/livelihood	4%
Lack of quality health care	2%

PRIOR MIGRATION EXPERIENCE

Prior migration experience was assessed among respondents to explore how previous experiences, or lack thereof, shape new mobility patterns. Seventy-one per cent of respondents who had returned from Greece reported that they had prior migration experience compared to only 19 per cent of those who had returned from Libya. Therefore, migrating to Libya was the first time a majority of those respondents had crossed an international border and stayed outside Bangladesh for at least six months. Data on prior migration experience was also analyzed on the district level. Brahamanbaria is the only district where a majority of respondents had prior migration experience (55%), followed by Noakhali (42%) and Cumilla (41%). Sylhet had the smallest share of respondents that had prior migration experience (9%).

MIGRATED INTERNATIONALLY BEFORE[13]

Libya	19%	81%
Greece	71%	29%

■ Yes ■ No

● Target districts
● Migrated internationally before

1. Tangail — 35%
2. Gazipur — 38%*
3. Manikganj — 11%*
4. Dhaka — 23%*
5. Narayanganj — 18%*
6. Munshiganj — 34%
7. Faridpur — 27%
8. Madaripur — 14%
9. Shariatpur — 25%

9%* — Sylhet 10.
30%* — Habiganj 11.
19% — Kishoreganj 12.
24%* — Narsingdi 13.
55% — Brahamanbaria 14.
41% — Cumilla 15.
22%* — Chandpur 16.
42%* — Noakhali 17.

Disclaimer: The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

[13]Only if the respondent crossed an international border and stayed outside Bangladesh for at least 6 months. This does not include the respondents' most recent migration experience to the country where they returned from.
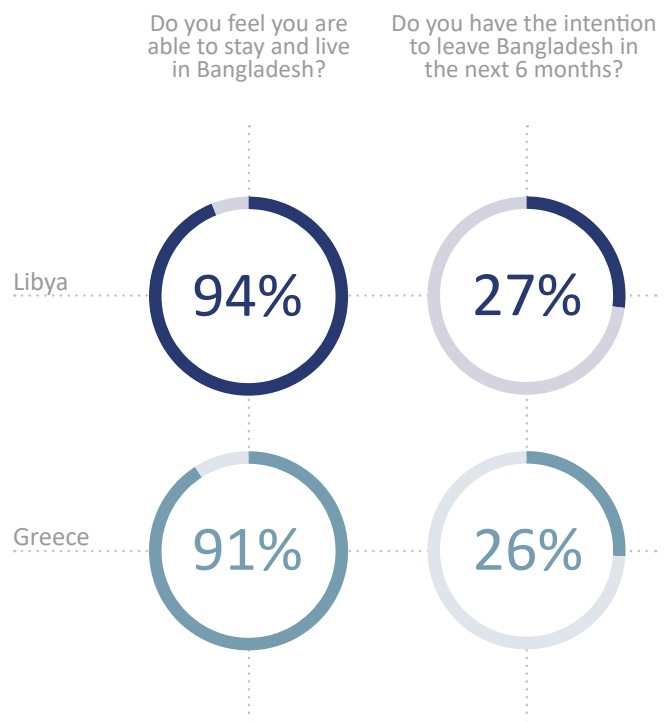
RE-MIGRATION

When asked whether they felt they were able to stay and live in Bangladesh, the majority of respondents reported affirmatively (94% for those who returned from Libya and 91% for those who returned from Greece). However, when asked if they intend to leave Bangladesh in the next six months, more than a fourth of respondents from both Libya and Greece indicated they would like to do so (27% and 26% respectively).

For those intending to re-migrate in the next six months, more than half of respondents want to do so because incomes are higher abroad. Twenty-one per cent also cited the lack of jobs in Bangladesh, while seven per cent reported that they want to re-migrate to clear debt from previous migraton. Four per cent indicated that the poor job environment in Bangladesh is an important reason to re-migrate.
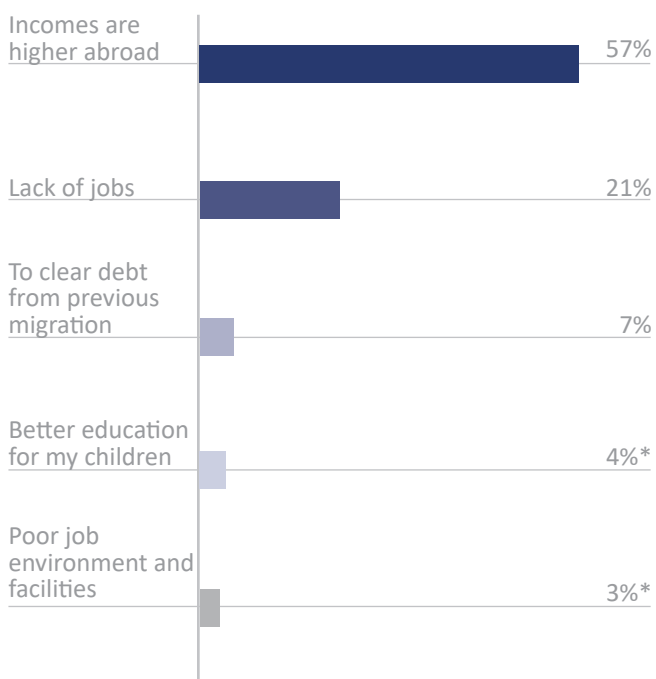
Higher incomes abroad are also an important secondary reason (22%). This was followed by the desire to clear debt from previous migration (20%) and not seeing a future in Bangladesh (15%). Another nine per cent mentioned a lack of jobs in Bangladesh as a reason to re-migrate. Fourteen per cent of respondents indicated that they only had one reason.
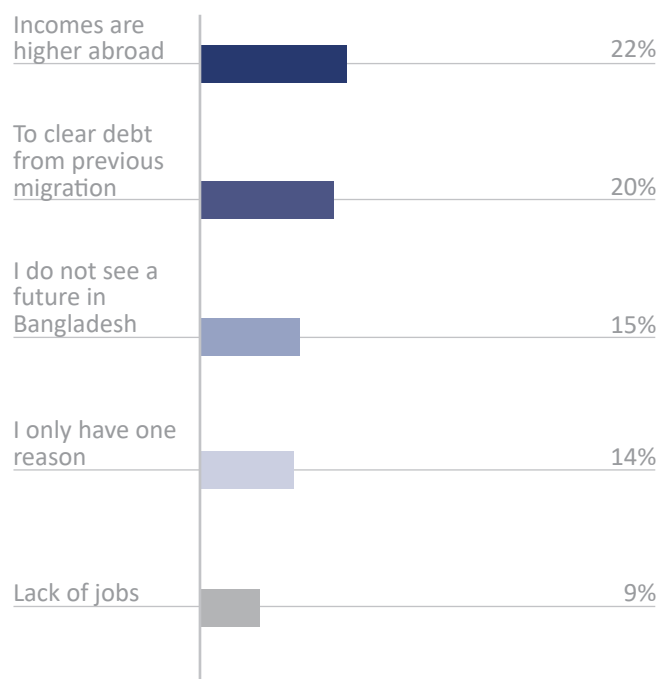
RE-MIGRATION INTENTIONS

Do you feel you are able to stay and live in Bangladesh?

Do you have the intention to leave Bangladesh in the next 6 months?

Libya **94%** **27%**

Greece **91%** **26%**

WHY DO YOU WANT TO RE-MIGRATE? (top 5 reasons)

PRIMARY REASONS

Incomes are higher abroad	57%
Lack of jobs	21%
To clear debt from previous migration	7%
Better education for my children	4%*
Poor job environment and facilities	3%*

SECONDARY REASONS

Incomes are higher abroad	22%
To clear debt from previous migration	20%
I do not see a future in Bangladesh	15%
I only have one reason	14%
Lack of jobs	9%

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