The methodological framework of the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) Comprehensive Migration Flow Survey (CMFS) is based on the collection of primary data, which provides information on migration flows towards Europe from Afghanistan whilst focusing on eight thematic areas: (1) migrant profiles, (2) migration routes and trajectories (3) resourcing the journey, (4) the role of intermediaries, (5) vulnerability factors in origin, transit and destination countries, (6) migration drivers and decision making, (7) role of the diaspora, and (8) migrants’ perceptions towards Europe. The data DTM collected under the CMFS in 2016 among Afghan migrants included six target populations: Afghan potential migrants in Afghanistan, Afghan potential migrants in Pakistan, Afghan migrants in transit, Afghan migrants in final destinations, Afghan households who stay-behind (households with a migrant journeying to or currently in Europe) and Afghan returnees. Due to the nature of the target population groups, respondents for these surveys were sampled using basic random sampling in combination with snowball sampling in main target locations. The sample sizes of Afghan respondents were as follows: a) Potential migrants in Afghanistan: 958 respondents, b) Potential migrants in Pakistan: 294 respondents, c) Afghan migrants in transit countries: 1,890 respondents d) Afghan migrants in final destination countries: 623 respondents e) Stay-behind in Afghanistan: 982 respondents, f) Returnees in Afghanistan: 264 respondents. To best identify the target population and develop a more robust interviewer-interviewer relationship, the data collectors who conducted the surveys spoke the same language of the respondents.

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**STATISTICAL NOTE**

Multiple answers: When this label is found next to a graph or a question it means that a single respondent was allowed to provide more than 1 answer. For this reason, totals do not add up to 100%.

**CONCEPTS AND DEFINITIONS**

**Proof of Registration Cards (PoR):** Identification cards issued by the Pakistani National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) on behalf of the Government of Pakistan. POR card holders are legally recognized as registered refugees by the Government of Pakistan and UNHCR.

**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 reach from consultative services for visa application and acquiring (fraudulent) documents, to transportation arrangement, to the facilitation of border crossings. The term used does not intend to neglect the differences in services and often used terms for those persons providing the migration services.
264 Afghan returnees were interviewed in Afghanistan. Men composed 94 per cent of the sample population. Seventy-one per cent of the respondents were aged between 18 and 34 years. Most respondents were married (58%) and had children (53%). Eighty-four per cent of the total returnees lived in Afghanistan before migration. Most respondents returned from Sweden (22%), Germany (20%) and France (13%).
EDUCATION

Seventy-eight per cent of the Afghan returnees had some sort of education while 22 per cent had no education. Fifty-seven per cent of the respondents had primary education, 9 per cent secondary education and 6 per cent a bachelor’s degree.

Most returnees had some level of education

- With education: 78%
- No education: 22%

RETURNES BY EDUCATION LEVEL

- Primary education: 57%
- No education: 22%
- Secondary education: 9%
- Vocational training: 4%
- Bachelor: 6%

EMPLOYMENT

Almost 8 out of 10 returnees (79%) were employed prior to migration. Most of them were self employed or business owners (32%). Twenty-nine per cent were daily labourers, 8 per cent worked in the transportation industry and 7 per cent worked in the food sector.

EMPLOYMENT STATUS BEFORE MIGRATION

- Unemployed: 21%

TYPE OF EMPLOYMENT BEFORE MIGRATION

- Self employment/business owner: 32%
- Day labour: 29%
- Transport/driver: 8%
- Agriculture/food: 7%
- Security/police: 7%
- Construction: 4%
- Clerk/shop assistant: 3%
- Manufacture: 2%
Fifty-one per cent of the Afghan returnees reported having family or friends in Europe before their departure. When those with a network in Europe were asked to specify whom they knew, they most-ly mentioned family and relatives (98%). Seventy-three per cent of the networks lived in three countries: Germany (45%), UK (16%) and Sweden (12%). Only 8 per cent of the returnees received financial support from their network in Europe to pay for their migration journey. The social networks in Europe mainly shared information on lifestyle in Europe (19%) and the job market (18%).
COMPREHENSIVE PROFILE OF AFGHAN RETURNEES

REASONS AND DRIVERS OF MIGRATION

MAIN REASONS FOR MIGRATION  multiple answers

- Lack of jobs: 47%
- Concerns for personal security: 36%
- Security situation in Afghanistan: 27%
- Work abroad: 16%
- Loss of trust in the Government: 7%
- Lack of educational opportunities: 6%

Of the returnees did not make the initial decision to migrate themselves: 14%

Of the returnees have been internally displaced at least once in their lifetime: 11%

MAIN TRIGGERS FOR MIGRATION  multiple answers

- Concerns for personal security: 45%
- Financial issues/economic problems: 13%
- No particular trigger: 11%
- Lost my job: 6%

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COMPREHENSIVE MIGRATION FLOW SURVEY (CMFS)
Seventy-four per cent of the returnees knew where they wanted to migrate before their departure. Yet, 22 per cent of them changed their intended destination while en route. The main destination countries both prior to migration and en route were Germany, the UK and Sweden. Return migrants reported that the main reasons for choosing a certain destination country were the higher opportunity to obtain legal status/to stay permanently (52%) and the opportunity to work (15%).
# Information on Migration

**Do you know what an asylum procedure is?**

- **83%** No
- **17%** Yes

**If yes, who explained the asylum procedure to you?**

- 23% Family/friends in Afghanistan
- 11% Family/friends en route
- 11% Other migrants
- 9% Social media
- 7% Internet

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## Main Information Sources about Migration to Europe

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Information Source</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friends in Afghanistan</td>
<td>46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friends not in Afghanistan</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Television</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family in Afghanistan</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family in Europe</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internet</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel agent</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Village elder</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family in neighbouring country</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Multiple answers are possible.*
COMPREHENSIVE PROFILE OF AFGHAN RETURNEES

PROBLEMS EN ROUTE

More than 1 in 3 respondents faced problems en route

The two most common problems were beatings and robbery

36%

Reported facing problems en route

RETURN MIGRATION

MAIN REASONS FOR RETURN TO AFGHANISTAN

- Tired of waiting: 27%
- Not confident that he/she will obtain legal status: 16%
- Family/friends asked me to return: 14%
- Did not obtain legal status: 9%
- Missed home: 5%

WOULD YOU MIGRATE TO EUROPE AGAIN?

73% NO

WOULD YOU ADVISE OTHERS TO MIGRATE TO EUROPE?

88% NO

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COMPREHENSIVE MIGRATION FLOW SURVEY (CMFS)
One in two returnees received some form of return support. Regarding type of support needed upon return, returnees mostly cited cash support (3/10 people) and business startup support (2.8 out of 10 people). Only 6 respondents out of the total 264 returnees interviewed reported that they did not need any form of support to return.

**COMPREHENSIVE PROFILE OF AFGHAN RETURNEES**

**RETURN MIGRATION**

53% Of the returnees received some form of support to return.

**TYPE OF RETURN SUPPORT REQUESTED**

- **CASH SUPPORT**: 3/10 people
- **BUSINESS STARTUP**: 2.8/10 people
- **HOUSING SUPPORT**: 1.5/10 people
- **JOB MEDIATION**: 1/10 people

Note: this qualitative question was coded by using thematic analysis and allowing for multiple answers. Each reported need was divided by the total number of respondents and multiplied by ten to illustrate the number of respondents in 10 people who requested a given type of support.
WOULD YOU ADVISE OTHERS TO MIGRATE TO EUROPE?

AFGHANISTAN

"The life over there is very hard and I will advise my people to stay here in their homeland..."

"They are only going to suffer in Europe... there is no work and no facilities..."

"They could lose their life along the way..."

"It is a waste of time, you spent a lot of money but don't gain any result and it is also way is too dangerous..."

"I would advise others to migrate in a legal way... but not take an illegal route..."

"I went there (Europe)... I spent 8 years but I didn't get any result... migration was wasting time and money..."

RETURN FROM EUROPE

"We need to work for our country..."

"Europe is a good place for the young generation to make a future there..."

"They will suffer a lot on the route and won't be accepted..."

"Illegal migration is very difficult, some people will not survive on the way to Europe..."

"They can have a better life there..."

"They will suffer a lot on the route and won't be accepted..."

"The facilities they can find there are not here..."

"I still want to send my children to go there for a better future and better education..."

"The facilities they can find there are not here..."

"I faced so many problems there, I don't want to go there anymore..."

"Europe is not made for us, the culture is different and their life is like that of a machine..."