



MIGRANT WORKER VULNERABILITY

BASELINE ASSESSMENT REPORT

POST – EXPLOSION

BEIRUT, LEBANON

SEPTEMBER 2020



INTRODUCTION

This analysis presents a follow-up to data analysed on migrant vulnerability conducted prior to the explosion on 4th August 2020. It explores the impact the explosion had on the needs and conditions of migrant workers in Beirut.

Between May and July 2020, IOM conducted a Migrant Worker Needs & Vulnerability Baseline Assessment to understand the impact of COVID-19 on the socio-economic and physical needs of migrant workers in Lebanon. The analysis was conducted and confined to 297 migrant workers reportedly residing in Beirut and formed a recent baseline on the basic needs and vulnerabilities, with results from the baseline data available in the [Migrant Worker Vulnerability Baseline](#) report. After the Beirut port explosion, IOM rapidly followed-up with the same 297 Migrant Workers interviewed in the baseline assessment through telephone interviews.

The rapid follow-up assessment utilised the Global DTM Network. Due to the different languages spoken by the migrant workers, the Global DTM enumerator network was mobilised, with telephone interviews being conducted by DTM enumerators in Bangladesh, Ethiopia and Lebanon. The follow-up assessment contacted 297 migrant workers and successfully interviewed 99 migrant workers that were assessed by IOM in Beirut between May and July 2020, and who are still residing in Beirut as of September 2020. For further details on how the assessment was implemented refer to Page 8.

KEY FINDINGS

Return Intention

- After the explosion, return intentions remain high, 74 per cent of the 99 surveyed migrant workers reported that they are planning to return to their country of usual residence within the next three months.
- Of 297 migrant workers followed up from the pre-explosion baseline assessment, 87 reported that they have returned to their country of origin. This figure may be higher as potentially those that DTM could not reach may have also returned. The 87 migrant workers identified to have returned are independent to the 99 respondents interviewed.

Safe Shelter

- Since the explosion, the analysis indicated that the need for shelter is now more prevalent among migrant workers. Twenty-one per cent of migrant workers reported lack of shelter as the main problem they are facing due to the explosion. Prior to the explosion, only 1 per cent of the surveyed migrant workers reported that safe shelter was amongst one of their top 3 needs.

Access to Healthcare

- Twenty-one out of 99 (21%) surveyed migrant workers reported that their families or friends were injured/harmed by the explosion. Of the 20 migrant workers, 8 reported not being able to access emergency services following the explosion.

Financial Challenge

- Ninety-one per cent of surveyed migrant workers reported that they are having financial issues after the explosion whereas prior to the explosion, 44 per cent reported that they need rent assistance, and 42 per cent reported that they need work/livelihood support.

Unemployment

- According to the migrant workers surveyed in this assessment, the proportion of unemployed migrants increased by 22 per cent since the explosion (from 29% to 51%). Around half (51%) surveyed are currently unemployed. Of these 34 per cent are looking for work, and 17 per cent are not. Forty-nine per cent of migrant workers are currently employed (though 17% are officially classified as self-employed.)
- The employment status of migrant workers varied between males and females. The analysis suggests females were more likely to lose employment after the blast. Most male migrants (71%) reported that they are currently unemployed and 44 per cent of female migrants reported themselves as unemployed. However, the unemployment rate was proportionally lower before the explosion among female migrants (18%) as more than half of the males were already unemployed before the explosion (62%).

MIGRANT PROFILES

SEX



FEMALE
76%



MALE
24%

EMPLOYMENT STATUS



34%
Unemployed
female migrants



17%
Unemployed
male migrants

LEGAL DOCUMENTS

41%
of all surveyed migrants
did not have their
passports with them

32%
of all surveyed migrants
did not have legal
documents

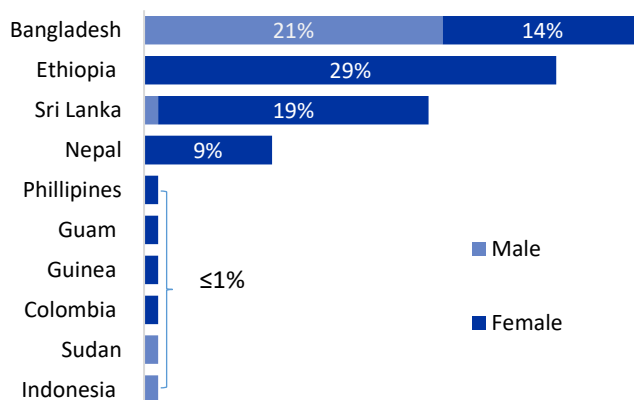
64%
of all surveyed migrants
arrived in Lebanon over
one year ago

51%
Total unemployment

59%
of all surveyed
migrants **do not have**
any family members
with them in Beirut

Average Age:
37

Fig 1: Country of Birth



RETURN INTENTION

- As Figure 2 shows, after the explosion, 74 per cent of the 99 surveyed migrant workers are planning to return to their country of usual residence within the next three months. Fifty-one per cent (48 out of 94 migrant workers) reported return assistance to their country of origin as their top current need.
- Of 297 migrant workers followed up from the pre-explosion baseline assessment, 87 reported that they have returned to their country of origin. This figure may be higher as potentially those that DTM could not reach may have also returned. The 87 migrant workers identified to have returned are exclusive to the 99 respondents interviewed.

Fig 2: Percentage of migrant workers planning to return to their country of usual residence within the next 3 months

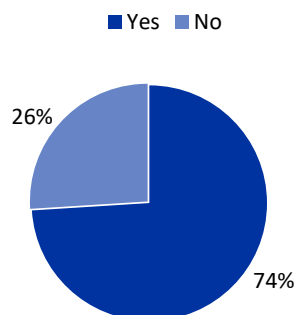
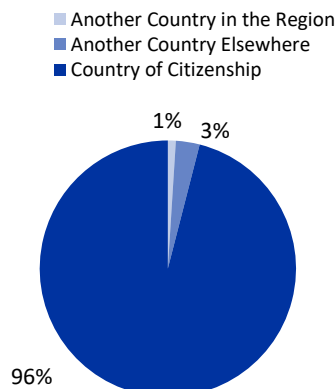


Fig 3: Where migrant workers are intending to return to



PRIORITY NEEDS AND ASSISTANCE

- As Figure 4 shows, 35 per cent of assessed migrants reported facing hunger and/or thirst. Meanwhile, 21 per cent of migrant workers reported that they do not have shelter. Both these findings highlight that the basic needs of migrant workers in Beirut are acute.
- Cash assistance is reported as the main need in 18 per cent of migrant workers, and food assistance in 16 per cent (Figure 5).

Fig 4: Main problems faced by migrant worker households following explosion

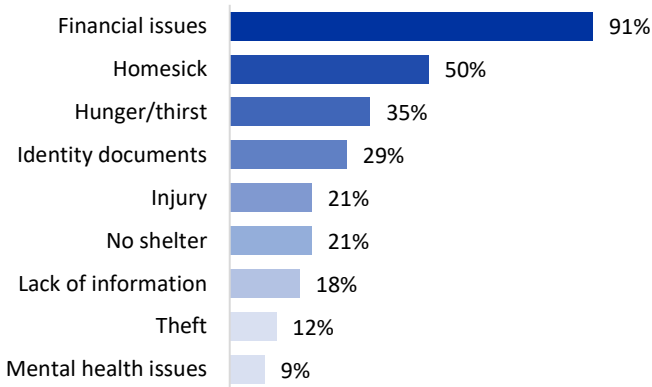
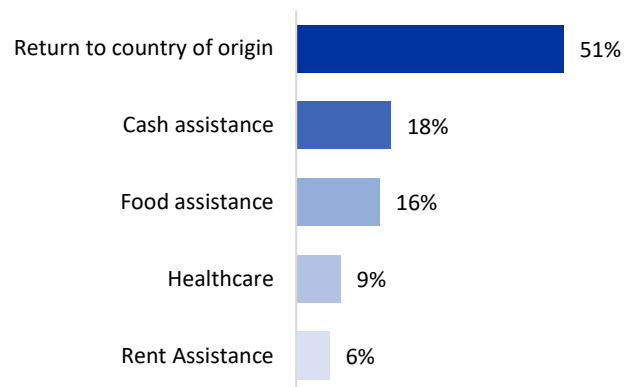


Fig 5: Assistance needs of migrant workers



*Please note that multiple answers were possible for this question (fig 4).

SHELTER

- Since the explosion, 38 per cent of surveyed migrant workers did not stay in the same place each night, indicating a high proportion of internal mobility and vulnerability within Beirut.
- As Figure 6 shows, while 25 per cent of the surveyed migrant workers have had their house/shelter damaged due to the explosion, 95 per cent of them reported damaged windows and doors.
- Of migrant workers whose house/shelter was damaged in the explosion, 44 per cent do not have access to water and electricity. Furthermore, 8 per cent of migrant workers reported that their house/shelter was completely destroyed. These two datapoints indicate shelter and food/water as key areas for assistance (Figure 7).

Fig 6: Percentage of migrant workers whose house/shelter was damaged as a result of the explosion

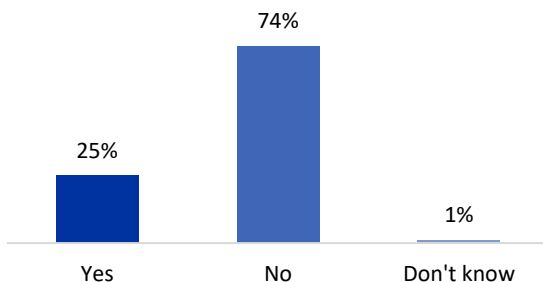
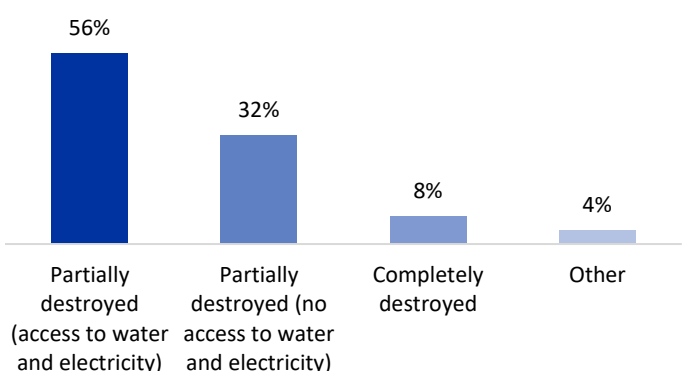


Fig 7: Extent of house/shelter damaged as a result of the explosion as percentage of migrant workers



HEALTH

- As shown in Figure 8, 21 out of 99 (21%) surveyed migrant workers reported that their families or friends were injured/harmed by the explosion. Of the 21 migrant workers, eight reported not being able to access emergency services following the explosion, seven of whom are female.
- It was found that 13 (18%) of the surveyed migrant workers reported that they sought healthcare (of existing and new conditions) since the explosion. Of the surveyed migrant workers, 34 per cent reported to have family members suffering from psychological consequences (fear, shock, anxiety) from the explosion and have not been able to attend to daily life (Figure 9).

Fig 8: Percentage of migrant workers who have friends or family who were injured/harmed in the explosion

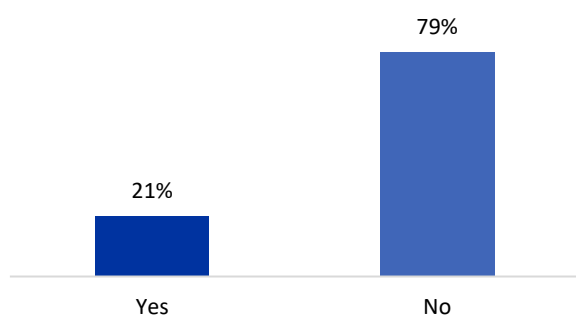
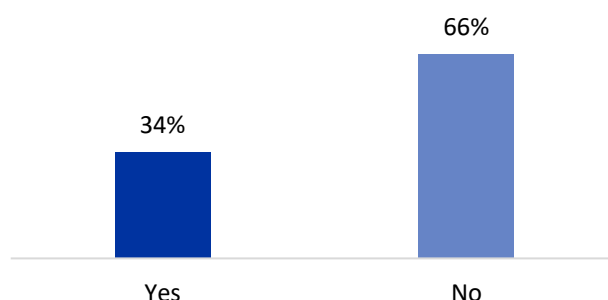


Fig 9: Percentage of migrant workers who has family members that suffer from psychological consequences of the explosion and are not able to attend to daily life



SOCIO-ECONOMIC

- As Figure 10 suggests, the proportion of unemployed migrants increased by 22 per cent since the explosion.
- The employment status of migrant workers varied between males and females. The analysis suggests females were more likely to lose employment after the blast. While the majority of male migrants (71%) reported that they are currently unemployed, 44 per cent of female migrants reported themselves as unemployed. However, the unemployment rate was proportionally lower before the explosion among female migrants (18%) as more than half of the males were already unemployed before the explosion (62%).
- While there were reportedly no male self-employed migrant males, 23 and 20 per cent of female migrants were reportedly self-employed before and after the explosion, respectively.
- Migrant workers from Bangladesh have the highest unemployment rate (65%), followed by migrant workers from Sri Lanka (24%). For longer-term programming considerations, migrant workers reported that improving communication skills (45%) and language skills (21%) would be the most effective in helping them find work.

Fig 10: Percentage of unemployed migrant workers before and after explosion

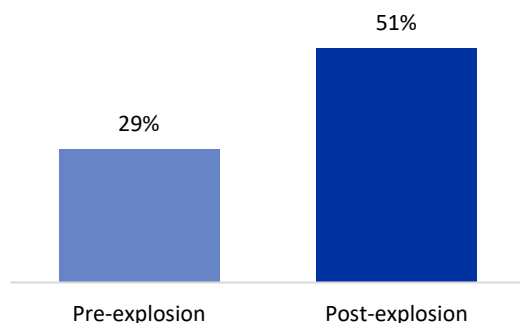
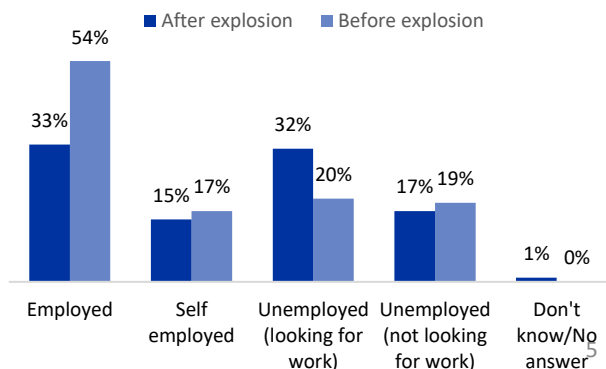


Fig 11: Employment status before and after explosion as percentage



PROTECTION

- Of the 33 migrants that reported being employed, more than half (58%) responded that they were not in possession of their employment contracts. Of this, 19 employed migrants who do not have a copy of their employment contracts, 5 individuals reported that their passport or personal identify documents are held by their employers.
- As Figure 12 shows, the sex disaggregation for females and males that were not in possession of their employment contracts was reportedly similar (58% and 57% respectively).

Fig 12: Employed migrant workers with copy of their employment contract

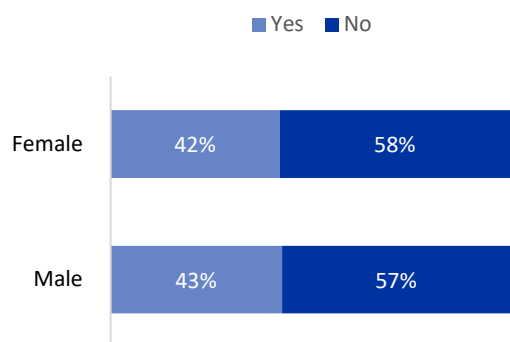
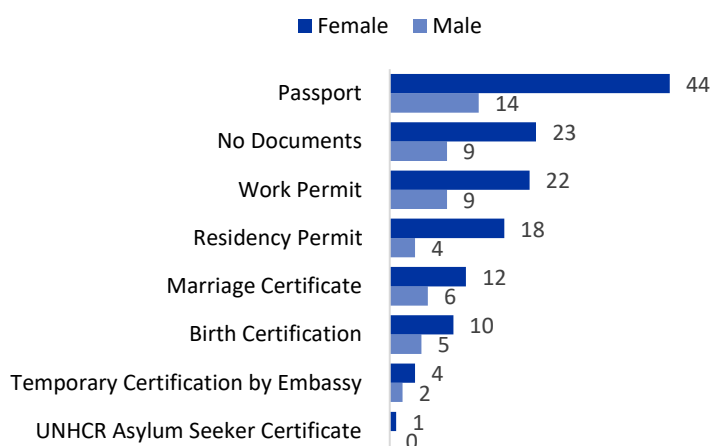


Fig 13: Legal Documents



COMMUNITY DYNAMICS

- In the assessment prior to the explosion, 15 per cent of the surveyed migrants reported recently facing a threat of eviction. Among those, 10 per cent cited conflict with host community / landlord as the reason.
- As shown in Figure 14, in general, 26 per cent of the surveyed migrant workers feel that the community has become more tense following the explosion, of whom 80 per cent are female.
- Of the surveyed migrant workers, 33 per cent said they do not feel safe leaving the house after the explosion (Figure 15). More than half (65%) are female .
- Additionally, 45 per cent of the surveyed migrant workers reported that they do not feel safe staying at home since the explosion, of which 62 per cent are female.

Fig 14: Percentage of migrant workers feeling that the community has become more tense following the explosion

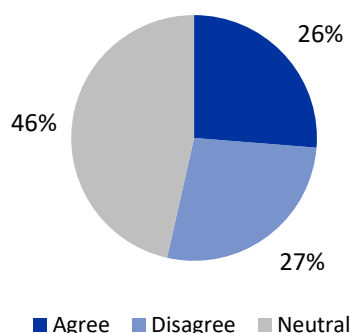
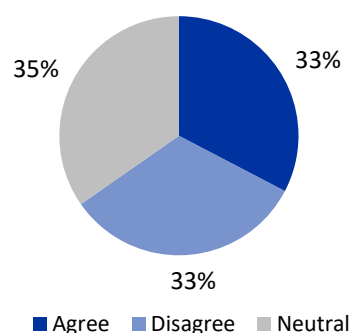


Fig 15: Percentage of migrant workers fearing for their safety when leaving the house following the explosion



METHODOLOGY

This report, *Migrant Worker Vulnerability Baseline Assessment Report (Post-Explosion)* presents a follow-up to baseline data analysed on migrant vulnerability that was conducted prior to the explosion on 4th August 2020.

Between May and July of 2020, IOM Lebanon initiated a Migrant Worker Vulnerability Assessment (MWVA) to understand the impact of the 2019 economic crisis and the 2020 health pandemic, on the protection, social, economic, financial and health situation of migrants living in Lebanon. The interviews for the assessment were conducted at Embassies or via telephone calls. The participants for the baseline MWVA were identified through close collaboration with Embassies and Consulates and therefore, the analysis presents the perspectives of those registered with the Embassies and willing to partake in interviews.

The MWVA report was released after the explosion on the 4th August, however data collection happened prior to the explosion. While a total of 734 migrant workers across the country were assessed between May and July, 297 migrant workers were identified in the Beirut area, defining the geographical scope of this analysis. The report can be found here: [Migrant Worker Vulnerability Baseline Assessment Report \(May-July 2020\)](#).

Following up on the findings from the [Migrant Worker Vulnerability Baseline Assessment Report \(May-July 2020\)](#), this report, *Migrant Worker Vulnerability Baseline Assessment Report (Post-Explosion)* seeks to better understand how vulnerability and needs of migrant workers in Beirut may have changed because of the direct and indirect impacts of the port explosion on 4th August 2020.

For this, IOM followed up with the same 297 migrant worker population group by conducting telephone interviews by utilising the Global DTM Network. Due to the varying languages spoken by the migrant workers, the Global DTM enumerator network was mobilised, with telephone interviews being conducted by DTM enumerators in Bangladesh, Ethiopia and Lebanon. Interviews, where possible, were conducted in the native languages of the migrant workers, and all data was entered into a central database, and analysed by the DTM team.

Due to the impact of the explosion, a significant proportion of the original sample were uncontactable, thus further reducing the sample size of the follow-up assessment. Therefore this is not a representative but an indicative sample, and comparisons between the pre-explosion and post-explosion are only indicative of potential change.

All 297 migrant workers included in the baseline report were contacted as part of the post-explosion baseline follow-up. Of the 297, 70 were unable to be contacted; 87 reported they had returned home, and thus excluded from the rest of the interview as they no longer resided in Beirut. Of the 140 telephone interviews that were conducted, 27 did not give consent to be interviewed, so the interview was not conducted. Additionally, 14 respondents were not the same person who participated in the baseline assessment and thus were excluded from this follow-up assessment. Therefore, this follow-up assessment covers 99 migrant workers that were assessed by IOM in Beirut between May and July 2020, and who are still residing in Beirut as of September 2020.

All data from the post-explosion follow-up assessment were analysed in relation to the pre-explosion baseline, where possible. The forms of the two assessments are different and therefore direct comparison was a challenge.

IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) programme in Lebanon is generously supported by the Government of the Kingdom of Denmark.

