



International Organization for Migration (IOM)  
The UN Migration Agency

**DTM**

# ANALYSIS: FLOW MONITORING SURVEYS JULY 2017

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION (IOM)



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PHOTO: IOM 2016/AMANDA NERO

6,402 interviews were conducted in Greece, Hungary, Serbia, and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia from January to June 2016 and 2,140 surveyed were conducted in Greece, Hungary, Serbia, and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia from January to June 2017

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### About DTM's Flow Monitoring Surveys

The flow monitoring surveys started are part of the IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) activities in the Mediterranean that have started in October 2015 and are being conducted within the framework of IOM's research on populations on the move through the Mediterranean and Western Balkan Routes to Europe. This report presents the results of a round of surveys carried out by IOM field staff in Greece, Hungary, Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (Eastern Mediterranean route) from January to the end of June 2016 and from January to the end of June 2017.

The round of surveys implemented in 2017 is using an upgraded version of the questionnaire compared to that implemented in 2015-2016. The new questionnaire has been revised following the feedback received from field missions, different IOM departments and relevant partners including from other UN agencies.

The survey gathers information about migrants' profiles, including age, sex, areas of origin, levels of education and employment status before migration, key transit points on their route, cost of the journey, reasons for moving and intentions. The revised questionnaire allows for greater insight into migrants' decision making process in the country of origin and in the country of departure/residence including possibility to better capture secondary migration. It consists of more detailed questions on family and employment status before departure, additional child focused questions (eg. education levels, the last time a child had access to education) and it allows the interviewer to capture more locations where protection incidents occurred. The Eastern Mediterranean survey also includes six questions that are proxy indicators for potential human trafficking or exploitative practices that the respondents or other migrants traveling with them might have experienced on the route. The Central Mediterranean survey is identical with the exception of two additional pilot questions within the Human Trafficking and Other Exploitative Practices Prevalence Indication module, focusing on migrants direct or indirect experience with sexual gender based violence and physical violence during the journey.

Further information about the questionnaire, proxy indicators and survey implementation can be found in the [Methodology section](#).

### Overview

This report provides comparative analysis of migrants' demographic profile, transit routes, and their future travel intentions between two time periods: January - June 2016 and January - June 2017. The analysis presents findings about all migrants surveyed. Analysis of two main nationality groups is included when there are significant differences between them.

The Eastern Mediterranean route has a total sample of 8,542 interviews with migrants conducted in 16 different transit, exit and entry locations and reception/accommodation centres in Serbia, Greece, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and Hungary.

## Eastern Mediterranean route: analysis by time periods

### Sample size and main nationalities surveyed

Between January and June 2016 6,401 valid surveys were conducted in Greece, Hungary, Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. The sample size for the period between January and June 2017 consists of 2,140 valid surveys. The analysis focuses on the comparison of migrant profile and characteristics of the journey between these two time periods.

Main nationalities surveyed in January - June 2016 and January - June 2017 were similar, with Syrians, Afghans, Iraqis, Iranians, Moroccans, and Pakistanis accounting for more than 70% of all respondents surveyed. However, Syrians comprised a larger share of respondents surveyed in 2016 in comparison to 2017 (37% vs 20%, respectively). Moreover, the percentage of Iraqi respondents decreased from 15% in 2016 to 8% in 2017, while share of Pakistani respondents doubled from 5% in 2016 to 11% in 2017. In the period of January - June 2017 there was an increase of other nationals surveyed, in comparison to the same period in 2016. (Algerian, Somalian, Libyan nationals)

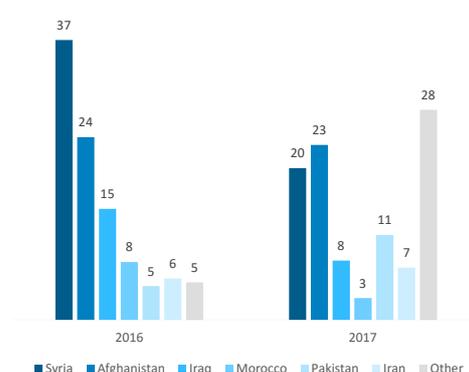
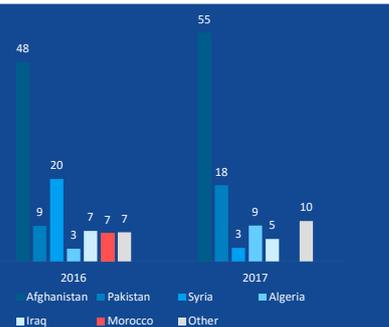


Figure 1: Percentage of respondents by nationality.

### Nationality: Children between 14 and 17 years

The percentage of Afghan children interviewed slightly increased in January - June 2017, as compared to the same period of 2016 (from 48% to 55%, respectively). The percentage of Pakistani children doubled in January - June 2016, as compared to January - June 2017. Out of all children surveyed between January - June 2016, 9% were Pakistani nationals, while 18% of all children surveyed in 2017 were Pakistani nationals.



### Age and Sex

The average age of respondents surveyed in January - June 2016 and January - June 2017 did not differ significantly. The average age of respondents surveyed between January - June 2016 was 28 years, while the average age of migrants surveyed between January - June 2017 was 29 years.

In both periods, adult men comprised the largest share of all respondents surveyed (78%), while women comprised 17% of all respondents surveyed between January and June 2016 and 19% between the same period in 2017. Children comprised 5% of respondents surveyed between January and June 2016 and 4% of respondents surveyed between January and June 2017. Over 90% of all children surveyed in both periods were male. Age distribution for both periods is presented on the graphs below.

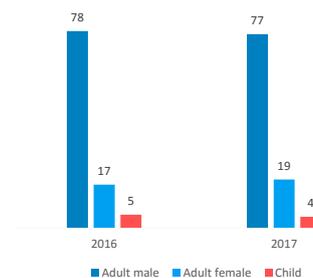


Figure 2: Percentage of respondents by sex.

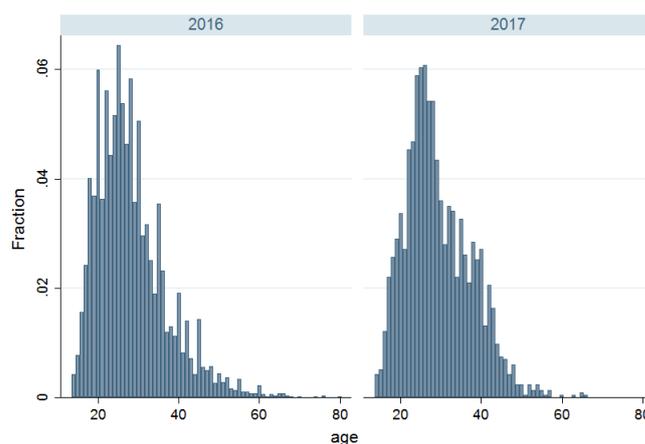


Figure 3: Age distribution.

## Education level

Over half of respondents surveyed in both time periods reported having completed secondary education. The percentage of respondents who reported having completed primary education was higher in the period of January - June 2017 in comparison to the same period of 2016. Moreover, 13% of respondents surveyed between January - June 2017 reported not having obtained any formal level of education, 9% more than in the same period of 2016.

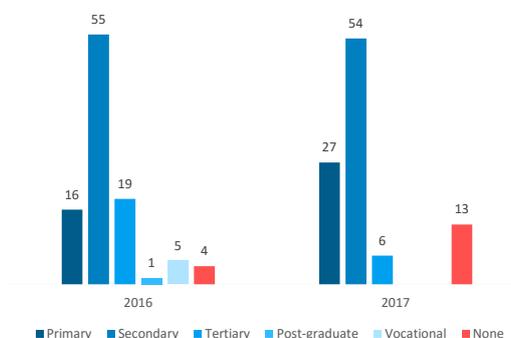


Figure 4: Percentage of respondents by education levels.

## Education level: Children

Children between 14 and 17 years surveyed in the period of January-June 2017 were more likely to report not having obtained any formal levels of education, in comparison to children surveyed between January - June 2016. Moreover, the percentage of children who reported having obtained secondary education decreased from 53% in the period of January - June 2016 to 32% in the period of January - June 2017.



## Education level: Syrian and Afghan nationals

The percentage of Syrian nationals who reported having completed secondary education rose among Syrian migrants surveyed from January to June 2016, in comparison to those surveyed from January to June 2016 (from 54% to 77%, respectively). The share of Syrian nationals who reported having completed tertiary education decreased by 22%, from 26% among those surveyed between January and June 2016 to 5% among those surveyed between January and June 2017.

The share of Afghan nationals who reported to have completed tertiary education was down as well, from 11% among those surveyed between January - June 2016 to 5% among those surveyed between January and June 2017, while the share of Afghan migrants who reported to have completed primary education increased by 15%, from 25% among those surveyed between January - June 2016 to 40% among those surveyed between January and June 2017.

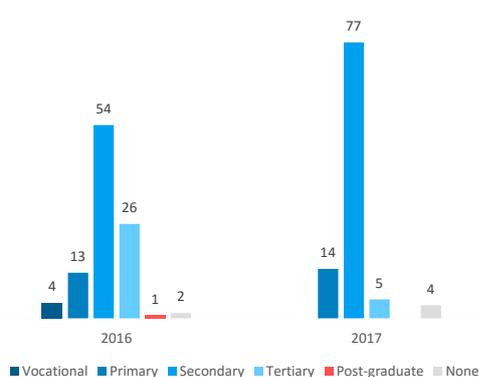


Figure 5: Percentage of Syrian respondents by education levels.

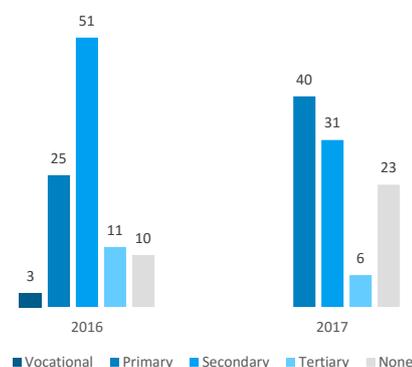


Figure 6: Percentage of Afghan respondents by education levels.

## Travel

In the survey period of January - June 2017 the share of respondents who reported travelling alone increased by 16 percentage points, from 20% in January - June 2016 to 26% in June - January 2017. Over 90% of individuals who reported travelling alone in both survey periods were male. However, in the survey period of January - June 2017 the percentage of females travelling alone increased slightly from 3% in January - June 2016 to 8%.

Moreover, approximately one fourth of all children between 14 and 17 years surveyed were travelling unaccompanied. The share of children travelling alone did not change significantly during two survey periods.

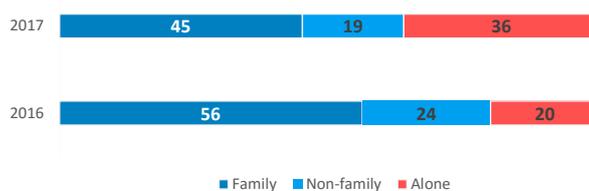


Figure 7: Percentage of respondents who were travelling alone/with family/non-family member(s).

## Cost of journey

In 2017 respondents reported higher estimated cost of the journey, in comparison to the previous year. The percentage of respondents who reported the estimated cost of the journey to be more than USD 5,000 per person increased by 19% from 16% in the January - June 2016 to 35% in the period of January - June 2017. Moreover, the percentage of respondents who reported the estimated cost of the journey to be between USD 1,000 - 5,000 decreased from 78% to 59% in the survey period of January - June 2017.

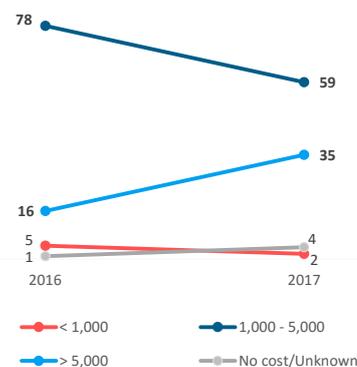


Figure 8: Percentage of respondents by the estimated cost of journey (USD).

## Cost of journey: Syrian and Afghan nationals

Afghan, Syrian, and Pakistani nationals were among those nationalities who were more likely to report the estimated cost of the journey to be more than USD 5,000, as compared to other nationalities.

In the survey period of January - June 2017 the share of Syrian respondents who reported the estimated cost of the journey to be more than USD 5,000 increased by 50% percentage points, from 7% in January - June 2016 to 57% in June - January 2017, while the share of Syrian nationals surveyed between January - June 2017 who reported the estimated cost of the journey to be between USD 1,000 and 5,000 decreased by 48%, from 85% to 38%.

Share of Afghan nationals who reported the estimated cost of the journey more than USD 5,000 increased as well, from 26% to 44%.

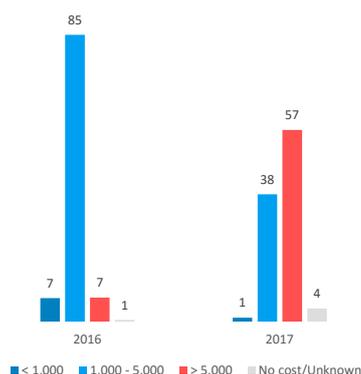


Figure 9: Percentage of Syrian respondents by the estimated cost of journey (USD).

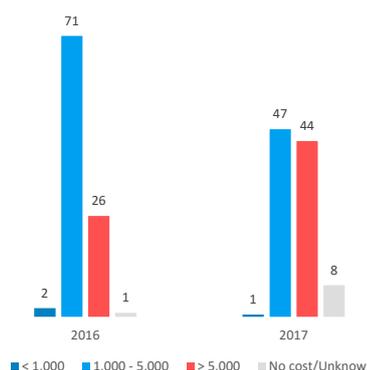


Figure 10: Percentage of Afghan respondents by the estimated cost of journey (USD).

## Secondary migration

There was an increase in the share of respondents who engaged in secondary migration in the survey period of January - June 2017. 14% of the respondents surveyed between January - June 2017 engaged in secondary migration, starting the journey towards Europe after having spent 1 year or more in a country different from that of origin, while 9% of respondents surveyed between January - June 2016 engaged in secondary migration.

Over 60% of individuals who engaged in secondary migration surveyed between January - June 2016 reported to have spent more than 3 years in the departure country. Individuals who engaged in secondary migration surveyed between January - June 2017 reported to have spent less time in the departure countries. Approximately half of the respondents who engaged in secondary migration reported to have spent between one and two years in the departure country, while 27% reported to have spent more than three years, and the rest reported to have spent between two and three years in departure countries.

Moreover, migrants surveyed in two time periods reported different countries of departure. 29% of the respondents who engaged in secondary migration and surveyed between January - June 2016 reported having departed from Iran, followed by Turkey (27%), and Syria (10%). In the survey period of January - June 2017, there was an increase in the number of migrants who reported Turkey, Greece and Iran as countries of departure. 35% of migrants who engaged in secondary migration reported having departed from Turkey, followed by Greece (24%), and Iran (19%)

## Destination countries

While Germany was the most popular country of intended destination in the survey period of January - June 2016, with 65% of the respondents reporting it as the country of intended destination, the percentage of respondents decreased in January - June 2017, with 28% of the respondents reporting Germany as preferable country of intended destination at the time of departure. Individuals, surveyed between January - June were more likely to report France (14%), Sweden (10%), Italy (7%) as countries of intended destination. There has also been an increase in reported other nationalities, among which are Norway, Austria, Denmark.

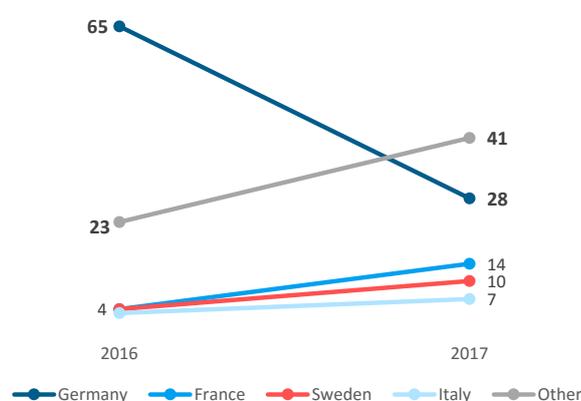


Figure 11: Percentage of respondents by intended countries of destination.

Preferable countries of intended destination varied across main nationalities surveyed, as well as across two survey periods. The change in the reported countries of destination was the most significant among Syrian nationals. The majority of Syrian migrants (81%) surveyed between January - June 2016 reported Germany as intended country of destination. The percentage dropped by 58% among individuals surveyed between January - June 2017, with 23% of Syrian nationals having reported Germany as the country of intended destination. Syrian migrants surveyed in 2017 were more likely to report Sweden (29%), and other European countries as their destination country.

Breakdown of reported countries is shown on the table below.

Destination country	Germany		France		Sweden		Italy		Other	
	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017
Syrian nationals	81%	23%	2%	3%	6%	29%	0%	0%	11%	45%
Afghan nationals	68%	51%	2%	6%	4%	4%	1%	6%	25%	33%
Iraqi nationals	78%	45%	2%	4%	3%	9%	0%	1%	17%	41%
Moroccan nationals	14%	8%	16%	23%	3%	2%	27%	33%	40%	34%

Table 7: Percentage of respondents belonging to the top 4 nationalities surveyed by intended countries of destination and survey period.

Moreover, there was a slight increase in the percentage of respondents who reported not having any relatives in the destination countries. The percentage increased from 42% in 2016 to 47% in 2017.

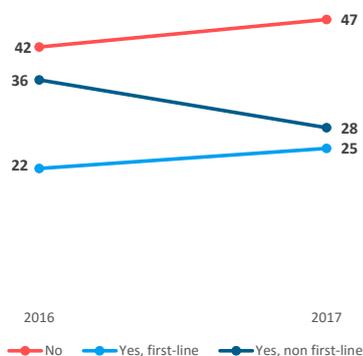


Figure 12: Percentage of respondents have/dont have relatives in the countries of intended destination.

### Transit routes: Afghan nationals surveyed

88% of Afghan nationals surveyed between January and June 2016 departed from Afghanistan, while the percentage dropped to 82% in January - June 2017.

Afghan nationals surveyed mostly travelled through similar routes to reach Western Balkans. The most common route was through Iran and Turkey. Out of all Afghan nationals who departed from Afghanistan surveyed between January - June 2016, half transited in Iran and Turkey, while the percentage increased by 8 percentage points among Afghan nationals surveyed in the same period in 2017. While 15% of Pakistani nationals surveyed in 2016 first transited in Pakistan, and then proceeded to Iran and Turkey, the percentage dropped to 5% in 2017.

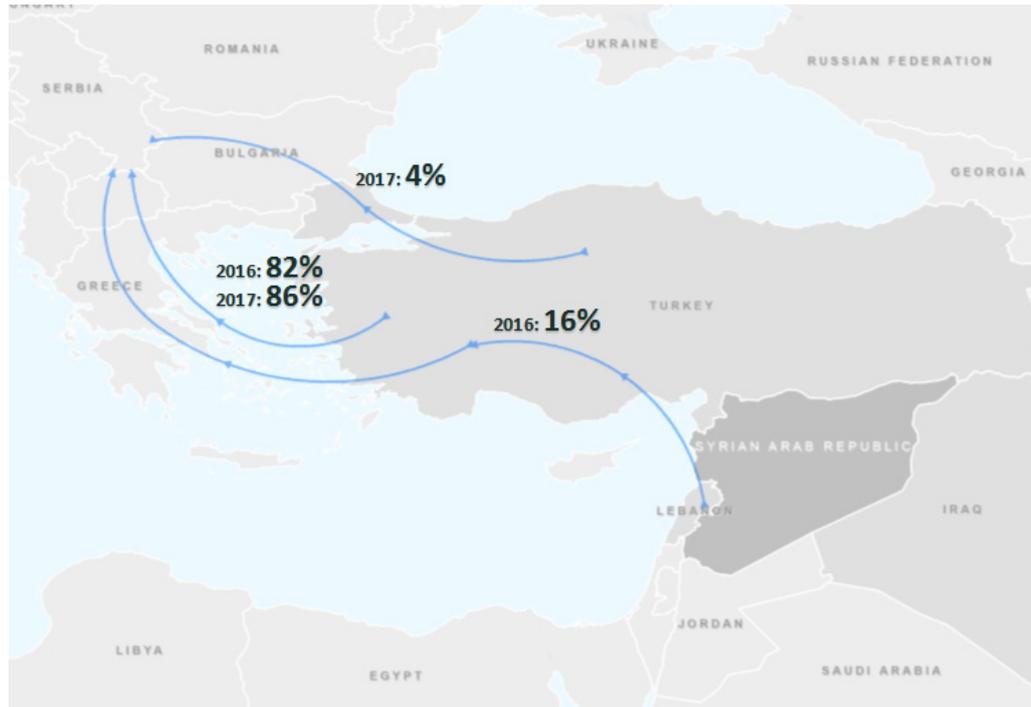


Map 1: Transit routes of Afghan migrants who departed from Afghanistan.

### Transit routes: Syrian nationals surveyed

92% of Syrian nationals surveyed between January and June 2016 departed from Syria, while the percentage dropped to 88% in January - June 2017.

Syrian nationals surveyed mostly travelled through similar routes to reach Western Balkans. The most common route was through Turkey. Out of all Syrian nationals surveyed between January - June 2016, 82% transited in Turkey, while 86% followed this route in the same period in 2017. 16% of Syrians surveyed in 2016 transited in Lebanon, followed by Turkey, while no respondents reported following this route in 2017.



Map 2: Transit routes of Syrian migrants who departed from Syria.

### 3. Methodology

The survey for the Eastern Mediterranean route is conducted by IOM field staff in locations of entry, transit, and exit same as in specialized accommodation and reception centers in Hungary, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia, Slovenia, and Greece. The data collection activities are adjusted following the different developments on the ground. Enumerators are combining between official reception centers/transit/exit/entry points and accessible unofficial sites with reported presence of stranded migrants. A network of data collectors in the Eastern Mediterranean and Western Balkans covers a minimum of 16 different flow monitoring points, such as Athens, Oreokastro, Thessaloniki and Schisto in Greece, Gevgelija in the southern part the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (main entry point from Greece), main reception centers in Hungary such as Nyrbator, Vamosszabadi, Gyor, and transit zones near the border with Serbia – Röske and Tompa, biggest reception centers in Bulgaria – Harmanli and Pastrogor and transit sites in Subotica (near Hungarian border) and Sid in Serbia.

In all cases, 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. The sample is therefore not random and, as with all surveys of this kind, this can lead to selection bias. Those willing to respond to this survey are more likely to be young adult males and this group is therefore overrepresented.

The surveys are fully anonymous and provide strong evidence of the kind of enabling environment within which trafficking and associated forms of exploitation and abuse thrive, as well as a picture of the vulnerability of migrant populations and the risks they face. If, while conducting the survey, interviewers come across people with likely protection needs, those people are referred directly to the relevant protection actor.

The survey is designed for profiling third country nationals (non-European) who are migrating to the countries of Europe through Central and Eastern Mediterranean routes. Only migrants age 14 and above are approached. The DTM's baseline FMS module captures data on the demographic profile of the respondents, the circumstances of their migration journey and migration push factors, their place of origin or their last country of habitual residence, and the existing pull factors in their intended country of destination. The sample structure intends to represent migrants' nationalities, sex and age structures therefore it aims to be representative. Nevertheless, flows are constantly changing and fieldwork conditions depend on the country, location and centre surveyed. Those more willing to respond to this survey are young adult males, which are therefore slightly overrepresented on both samples, in comparison to women.

For this round of FMS, only migrants arrived in the country of the interview from the beginning of 2016 onwards are considered. The survey is translated into Arabic, Dari, English, French, Farsi, Italian, Pashtu and Urdu.

The second FMS module contains questions that indicate human trafficking and exploitation practices. The module is prepared by IOM's Assistance to Vulnerable Migrants (AVM) Unit and it gathers information on events of human trafficking and other exploitative practices, experienced by the respondent directly or by one of his/her family member, or witnessed by the respondent during the journey.

The survey structure has the advantage of facilitating the collection of data that relates to the direct experiences of the primary respondent. This provides more reliable data that are easier to estimate prevalence with. The respondent is also asked a follow up question about whether that same question applies to any of his or her family members travelling with him or her on the journey, in order to capture the experiences of other migrants and refugees on the route.