

ROUND 4 (Feb - Mar 2022)

Round 4 of the RLS demonstrates returnees continue to experience significant economic and food-related challenges. Notably, however, compared to previous rounds of data collection, intentions to re-migrate have become consistently more common among respondents.

The RLS is a tool developed under the European Union (EU) funded project “Displacement Tracking Matrix Regional Evidence for Migration Analysis and Policy (DTM REMAP)” to improve understanding of returnees’ profiles, living conditions and reintegration processes both in the short and long term. To this end, data is collected over the course of several years at regular intervals.

This report provides a snapshot of the fourth round of RLS data collection which took place from 23 February to 16 March 2022 among Afghan migrants who had returned from Türkiye or the EU between January 2018 and July 2021. A total of 627 returnees (541 from Türkiye and 86 from the EU) were interviewed over the phone across 99 districts in 15 provinces.

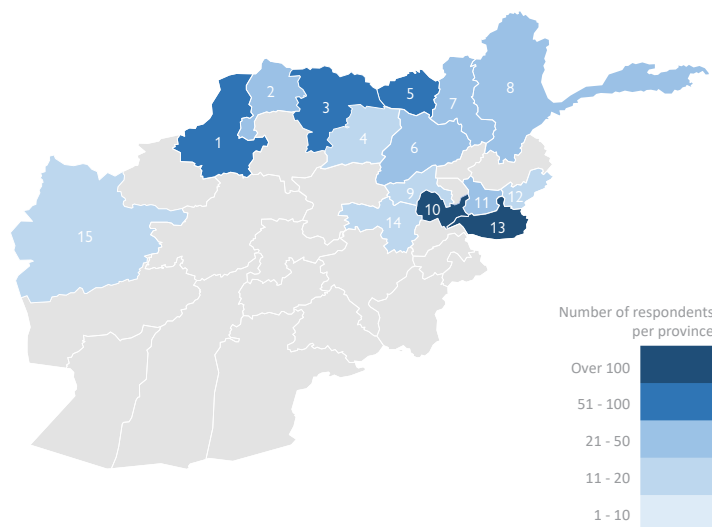
The largest share of respondents (41%) reported working for daily wages, while 36 per cent of respondents said they were unemployed at the time of the interview (Round 4). This demonstrates a shift in employment situations compared to Round 3 (December 2021), during which the largest share of respondents were unemployed (51%), while 29 per cent of respondents were working for daily wages. However, it should be noted that daily wages cannot be considered as a stable source of employment as most returnees are not able to rely on daily wages on a regular basis.

Seventeen per cent of participants reported having children in the household who worked. Among the children who were working, 43 per cent engaged in street vending, 24 per cent worked in agriculture, 14 per cent in shops or restaurants and 12 per cent in any type of work that was offered to them.

KEY FIGURES



TARGET PROVINCES

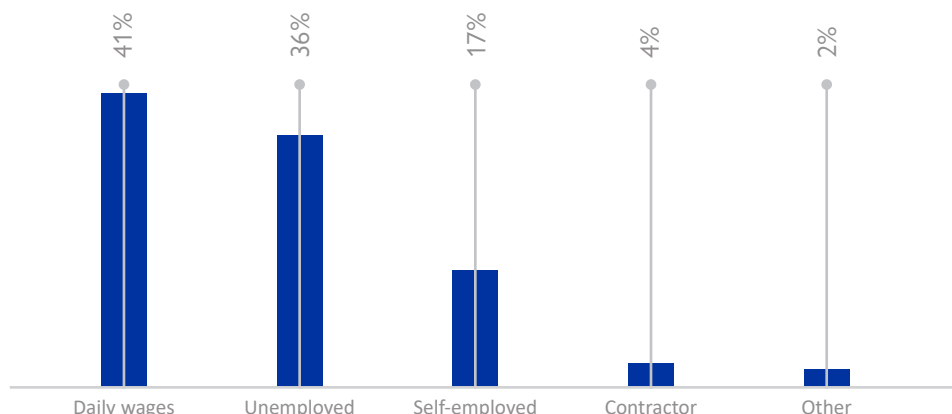


Disclaimer: The boundaries and names shown on these maps do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by IOM or the United Nations.

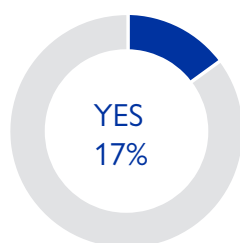
- 1. Faryab
- 2. Jawzjan
- 3. Balkh
- 4. Samangan
- 5. Kunduz
- 6. Baghlan
- 7. Takhar
- 8. Badakhshan
- 9. Parwan
- 10. Kabul
- 11. Laghman
- 12. Kunar
- 13. Nangarhar
- 14. Wardak
- 15. Herat

EMPLOYMENT STATUS

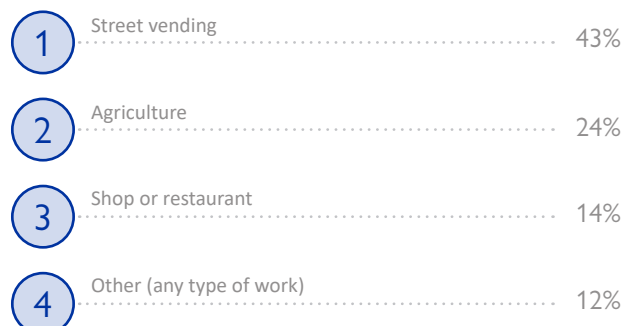
What is your current employment status?



If you have children (<18 years old) in your household, are they working?



If yes, what type of work do they do? (Top 4 answers, select multiple)

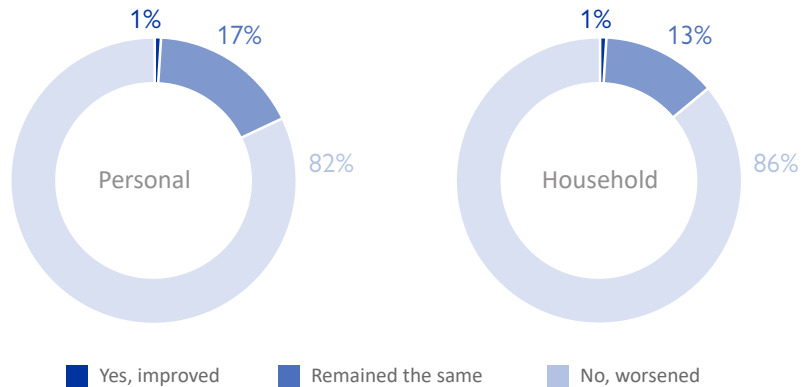


At the time of the interview, 82 per cent of participants said that their personal economic situation had worsened in the last six months. Similarly, 86 per cent of interviewees said that their economic situation had worsened at the household level.

Similarly to previous rounds of data collection, participants in the RLS remain situated in low income brackets. More than a third of respondents earned no income (36%) at the personal level and 16 per cent of respondents also reported no income at the household level. Sixty-three per cent of respondents' monthly household income was situated between USD¹ 1-54. More than half of respondents (55%) also reported their personal income being in this same range.

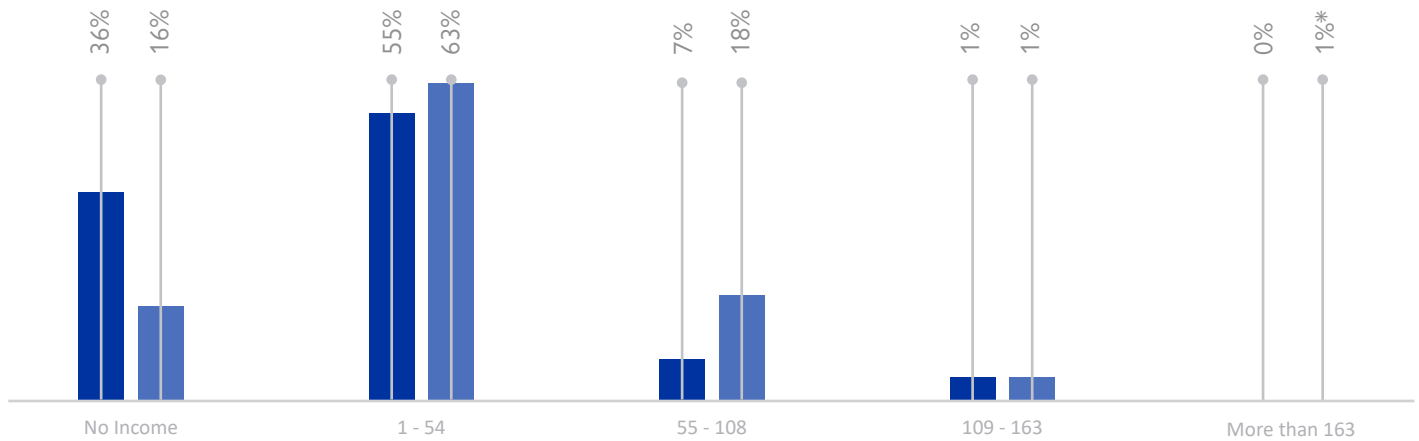
PERSONAL AND HOUSEHOLD ECONOMIC SITUATION

Has your personal/household economic situation improved in the last six months?



PERSONAL AND HOUSEHOLD INCOME

What is your personal/household monthly average income (in USD)¹?

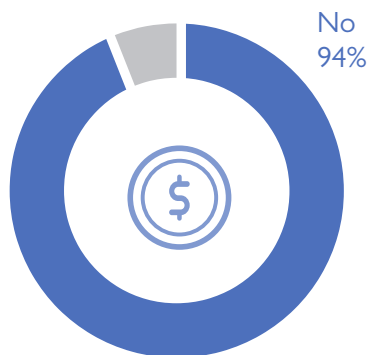


*Percentages do not include the answers "I do not know" and "I do not want to answer"

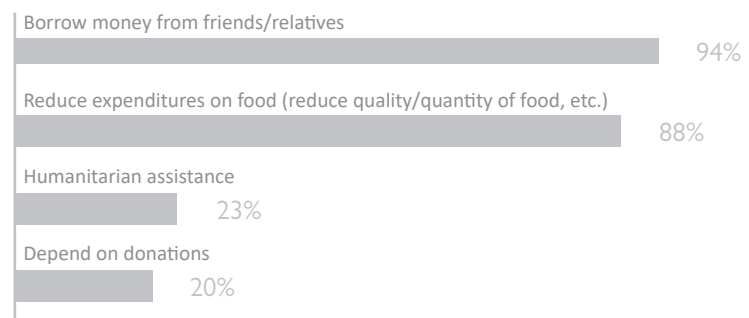
■ Personal ■ Household

HOUSEHOLD INCOME SITUATION

Is the household's monthly income enough to provide for your family's basic needs?



If the household income is not enough, how do you cover for expenditures? (Top 4 answers, select multiple)

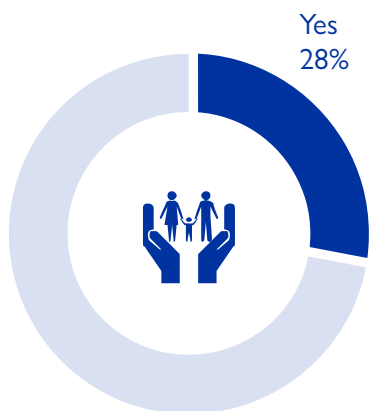


Most respondents (94%) reported that their household income was not enough to cover basic needs. Common coping mechanisms for insufficient income include borrowing money from friends or relatives (94%), reducing food expenditures (88%) and relying on humanitarian assistance (23%). It is worth noting that five respondents withdrew their children from school so that they could work and contribute to the household income. Four of these respondents came from households that were situated in the lowest income bracket (less than USD 54). Moreover, two respondents indicated that they had arranged marriages for their children in order to cope with insufficient income. These respondents were also situated in the lowest income bracket.

¹ Data was originally collected in Afghani. The exchange rate was 92.01 AFN to 1 USD during Round 4 of data collection (15 February 2022) according to the UN Operational Rates of Exchange.

HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

Have you received humanitarian assistance?



If yes, what type of assistance did you receive?
(Top 4 answers, select multiple)

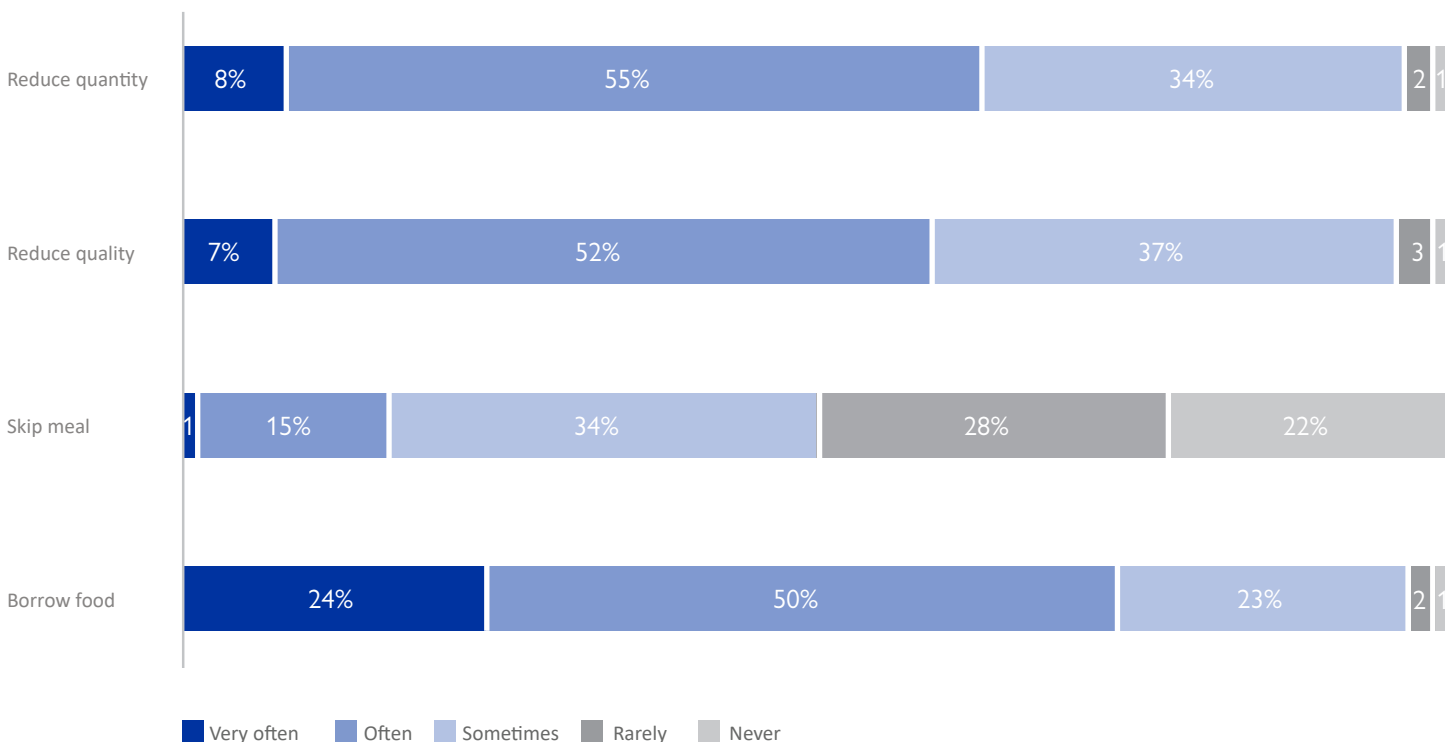


Twenty-eight per cent of participants had received humanitarian assistance, either from an international organization, a non-governmental organization (NGO), the United Nations (UN) or another source. Seventy-two per cent of respondents did not receive humanitarian assistance.

Of those who had received humanitarian assistance, a large majority indicated they had received food assistance (92%). Other common types of humanitarian assistance were non-food items (7%) and financial assistance (cash) (6%).

FOOD INSECURITY

How often did you have to reduce the quantity/quality of your food, skip meals or borrow food?

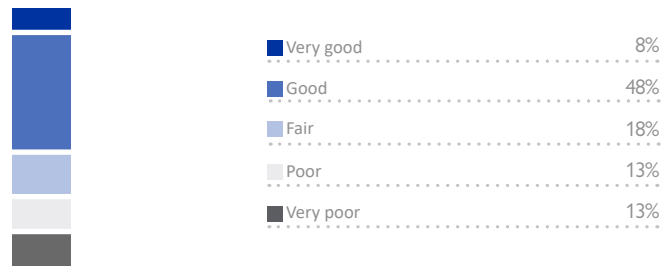


Participants were asked about coping mechanisms in response to food insecurity. Reducing food quantity and quality and borrowing food were the coping mechanisms used most frequently by respondents. Almost one fourth of respondents reported borrowing food very often (24%), while over half of participants often reduced the quantity and quality of food (55% and 52%, respectively). Half of all participants reported skipping meals sometimes, often or very often to cope with food insecurity (50%).

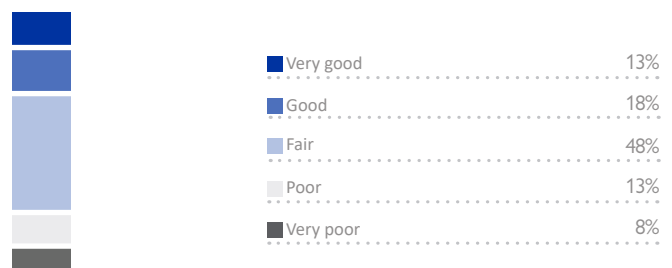
Community safety ratings among participants were generally positive, with 56 per cent of respondents reporting that the safety situation in their community was good or very good at the personal level and 31 per cent reporting the same at the household level. Twenty-six per cent of participants at the personal level and 25 per cent at the household level, however, rated safety levels as poor or very poor.

PERSONAL AND HOUSEHOLD SAFETY

How would you rate the safety level inside your community for **yourself**?



How would you rate the safety level inside your community for your **household**?



Sixty-one per cent of respondents said they felt they were able to continue to stay and live in Afghanistan. Among these participants, people who had returned from Europe were less likely to respond that they could stay in Afghanistan compared to people who had returned from Türkiye (30% compared to 66%).

Participants were also asked if they had the intention to migrate abroad in the next six months. Thirty-three per cent of respondents indicated that they would like to re-migrate in the next six months. Respondents who had returned from Europe were more likely to have intentions to re-migrate compared to respondents who had returned from Türkiye (56% compared to 30%).

RE-MIGRATION INTENTIONS

Do you feel you are able to stay and live in Afghanistan (total of respondents and by country of return)?



Do you have the intention to leave Afghanistan in the next 6 months? (total of respondents and by country of return)?

