

2022

FLOW MONITORING  
SURVEYS WITH MIGRANTS  
TRANSITING THROUGH  
THE REPUBLIC OF NORTH  
MACEDONIA  
SECOND REPORT

APRIL - MAY 2022



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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>1. Nationality, country of origin and internal migration</b>	<b>5</b>
Nationality and country of habitual residence	5
Internal displacement	5
<b>2. Demographic and socio-economic profiles</b>	<b>6</b>
Demographic structure	6
Language spoken	7
Marital status and children	7
Education level	8
Employment status	9
Occupation and sector of employment	9
<b>3. The journey and reasons for leaving</b>	<b>9</b>
The journey	9
Departure countries	10
Reasons for leaving countries of origin	10
Journey from departure country	12
Entry and length of stay in North Macedonia	16
<b>4. Cost of journey</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>5. Intended destination</b>	<b>17</b>
Countries of intended destination	17
Family members at country of destination	18
<b>6. Current status and main problems</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>7. COVID-19</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>8. Interest and motivations to return</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>9. Main trends from first to second round</b>	<b>23</b>

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report is based on the Flow Monitoring Surveys carried out by IOM in North Macedonia in April and May 2022. A total of 180 interviews were collected in two locations – Temporary Transit Centre (TTC) Vinojug (in Gevgelija) and TTC Tabanovce (in Kumanovo). Survey data provide an insight of the profiles, intentions and needs of migrants transiting through the country. They show following:

- About 93 per cent of the respondents were nationals of seven countries – Syrian Arab Republic, Pakistan, India, Morocco, Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Iraq. The structure of respondents by country of origin or habitual residence is the same as the structure by nationality. Only two respondents were internally displaced persons before leaving their origin country.
- Most respondents were male (96%) and young persons (average age 27.7 years). Out of the top 7 nationalities surveyed, the youngest were respondents from Morocco (average age 22.8 years) and oldest were those from Bangladesh and Iraq (30.6 and 30.7 years of average age, respectively).
- Three quarters (75.5%) of respondents were single at the moment of the interview, and 15.6 per cent of them had children. About 23.9 per cent of the respondents had primary level of education, 65.5 per cent secondary and only 0.6 per cent had tertiary level of education. About 46 per cent of respondents were unemployed at the time of departure from countries of origin, whereas about 15 per cent were employed or self-employed. Hereof, economic reasons (51.1%), followed by war or conflict (35.6%), were the initial first main reasons for leaving their countries of origin.
- For 93 respondents (51.7%) the country of departure is different from the country of origin. About 13 per cent of the respondents travelled alone, while 87 per cent travelled with a group.
- Three quarters of the respondents (75%) left the departure country more than 1 year ago (20.6% of them, more than 3 years ago). Seventy-one respondents (39.4%) left the departure country in the last year (5.6% of them, less than 2 weeks ago). Survey data confirm a relatively long stay of migrants in transit countries, to work and collect money to travel onwards. Walking on foot was the main mode of transport to enter North Macedonia, were most of the respondents (99%) reported they have stayed for less than two weeks at the time of the survey.
- The journey of the respondents was quite costly. Overall amount paid individually since the beginning of the journey, for 73.9 per cent of the respondents, was between 1,000 and 5,000 USD. Most (91.1%) of the respondents reported having paid for the journey with their own savings only.
- Germany remains the country of intended destination for most respondents. Its share as final intended destination is higher at the time of departure (44.4%) than at the time of interview (35%). Similarly, there are changes related to other final destinations. For 53.3 per cent of the respondents, the main reasons for choosing the intended destination are related to appealing socio-economic conditions and for 26.7 per cent are linked to the access to asylum procedures.
- Regarding COVID-19, 178 (98.9%) respondents were aware of the pandemic. Most of them (82.8%) received information from media, followed by family / friends (72.2%), local / national authorities (69.4%), civil society / NGOs (63.3%), medical staff (20.6%) and UN or other international organizations (2.8%).
- Almost all of respondents (178, 98.9%) did not consider the option of returning to their origin country during their journey.

# INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

**DTM Flow Monitoring Surveys in Europe** – The Flow Monitoring Surveys (FMS) are part of IOM’s Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) activities in the Mediterranean and Western Balkan regions, conducted within the framework of IOM’s research on populations on the move by land and by sea to Europe since 2015. Surveys are analysed to provide information on profiles, transit routes and vulnerabilities of respondents.<sup>1</sup>

The FMS gather information on profiles of migrants, including age, sex and gender, areas of origin, levels of education and employment status before migration, key transit points on their route, cost of the journey, reasons for leaving the place of residence, intended destination(s), expectations from the host government/ network of co-nationals there, as well as information on human trafficking, exploitative practices and abuse.

**FMS in the Republic of North Macedonia** – The FMS in North Macedonia are part of the Migration Resource Allocation Committee (MIRAC) funded project “Effective evidence-based responses through strengthened migration data collection and capacities in the South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe and Central Asia Region” and has been developed as a tool to support data collection on mixed migration flows in the country. Its aim is to support effective evidence-based responses through strengthened migration data collection and capacities in the South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe and Central Asia (SEEECA) Region.

This report is based on the FMS carried out by IOM field staff in North Macedonia in April and May 2022. A total of 180 interviews were collected in two locations, TTC Gevgelija and TTC Tabanovce, and they provide insight into the profile of migrants and refugees who transit through the country. This is the second report based on surveys conducted in the same locations since February 2022. The analysis of the first round, based on FMS carried out in February and March 2022, is available at this [link](#). The present analysis focuses on data are related to: nationality, country of origin and internal migration of respondents; migrants’ demographic and socio-economic profile; the journey and reasons for leaving countries of origin (including transit countries); cost of journey; intended destination; current status of the respondents and the problems they faced; human trafficking and other exploitative practices; COVID-19 experience; intentions and motivations to return.

**Methodology** – FMS in the Republic of North Macedonia covered only migrants and refugees who have arrived by land in the country no more than one year prior to the interview. The FMS questionnaire was available in e-format in Kobo<sup>2</sup> (English and French) and in paper form, translated into Arabic, English, French, Farsi, Italian, Spanish and Urdu. The survey was anonymous and voluntary. Respondents were approached in an ad-hoc manner by IOM field staff, with those who give their informed consent to be interviewed, proceeding with the remaining questions. Only migrants 15 and above were approached. In case of respondents aged between 15 and 17 years, the informed consent was signed by the parent/ legal guardian present during the interview. Migrants could decline to respond to individual questions or could interrupt the interview if they wish to do so.

During the second round of surveys conducted between April and May 2022, enumerators focused on the most frequent nationalities present in the two transit temporary centers covered. This was a purposive approach, different from the first round of surveys conducted between February and March 2022 where enumerators proposed the survey to migrants of all nationalities present in the two TTCs.

<sup>1</sup> The term “respondents” refers to migrants, refugees and asylum seekers as the reference population consists of persons from within mixed migration flows. These terms are used interchangeably throughout the report.

<sup>2</sup> Kobo Toolbox is a free toolkit for collecting and managing data in challenging environments and is the most widely-used tool in humanitarian emergencies. Collected surveys are stored on IOM’s Kobo server in Geneva.

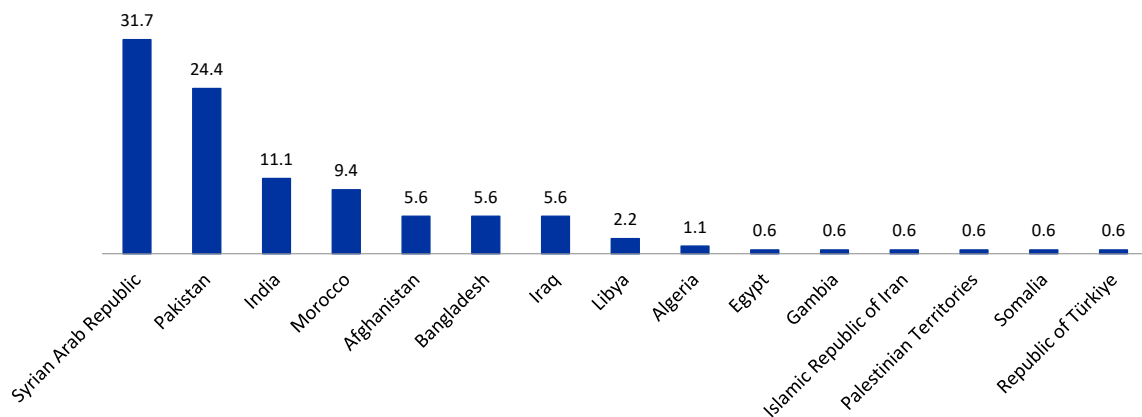
# 1. Nationality, country of origin and internal migration

The total sample for this round of surveys is made of 180 respondents. All of them agreed to participate in the survey and stated that they had not participated in DTM survey in the previous 12 months. Regarding their participation in another survey (apart from national and international border authorities deployed in the country) only one migrant answered YES, 82 that they did not participate in such surveys, and 97 migrants did not answer this question. The migrant who answered YES was interviewed in the Syrian Arab Republic at the border with the Republic of Türkiye.

## Nationality and country of habitual residence

Out of the total 180 respondents, 31.7 per cent reported to be a national of the Syrian Arab Republic, followed by respondents from Pakistan (24.4%), India (11.1%) and Morocco (9.4%), and by an equal number and share (10 persons or 5.6%) of respondents from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Iraq. Their joint share in the total number of respondents is 93.3 per cent, while the remaining 6.7 per cent were respondents from eight other nationalities (Figure 1).

Figure 1. Share of respondents surveyed in North Macedonia by nationality (%)



The structure of respondents by country of origin or habitual residence is the same as the structure by nationality.

Most of the migrants of the seven countries with the largest number of respondents, originates from the same regions: Afghanistan – 7 persons from Kabul; Bangladesh – all 10 respondents from Dhaka; India – 12 persons from Punjab, 4 from Delhi; Iraq – Anbar, Kirkuk and Baghdad (2 persons each); Morocco – 9 migrants from Grand Casablanca; Pakistan – 42 persons from Punjab; Syrian Arab Republic – 24 from Damascus, Aleppo and Ar-Raqqa (9 persons each).

## Internal displacement

Only two of the 180 respondents stated that they were internally displaced before leaving their countries of origin, one from Afghanistan and one from the Syrian Arab Republic. The respondent from Afghanistan was accommodated in a private arrangement, and the respondent from Syrian Arab Republic in an organized camp for internally displaced persons.



## 2. Demographic and socio-economic profiles

### Demographic structure

#### Sex and gender structure

According to sex structure majority, such as 173 of the respondents were male and only 7 female (Figure 2). When asked about their gender self-identification, about 49 per cent (89 respondents) declared as male, 3 as female and 88 respondents (49%) did not answer this question (Figure 3). The discrepancy between sex and gender is the result of the fact that gender was left blank (not completed) in many cases as the question was not mandatory.

Figure 2. Share of respondents, by sex (%)

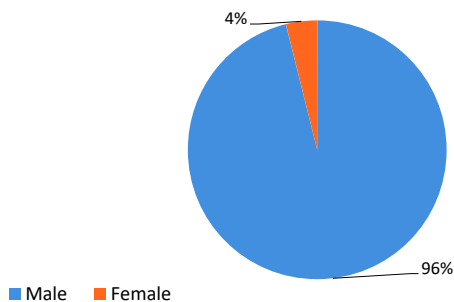
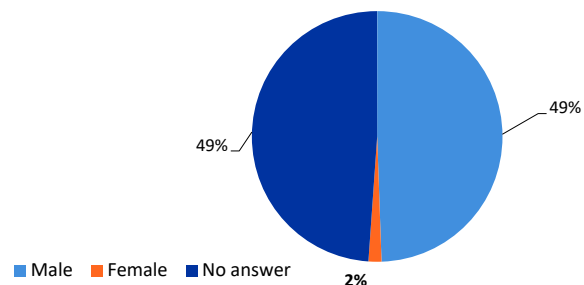


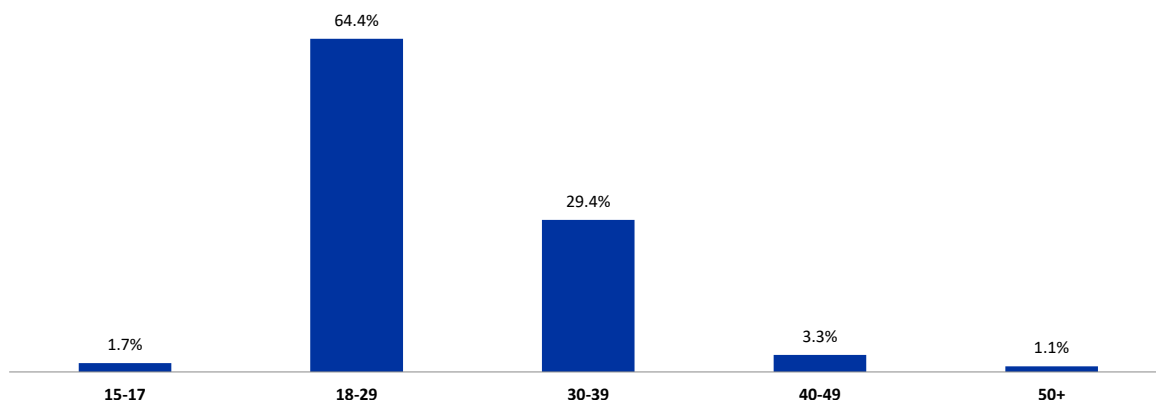
Figure 3. Share of respondents, by gender (self-identification) (%)



#### Age structure

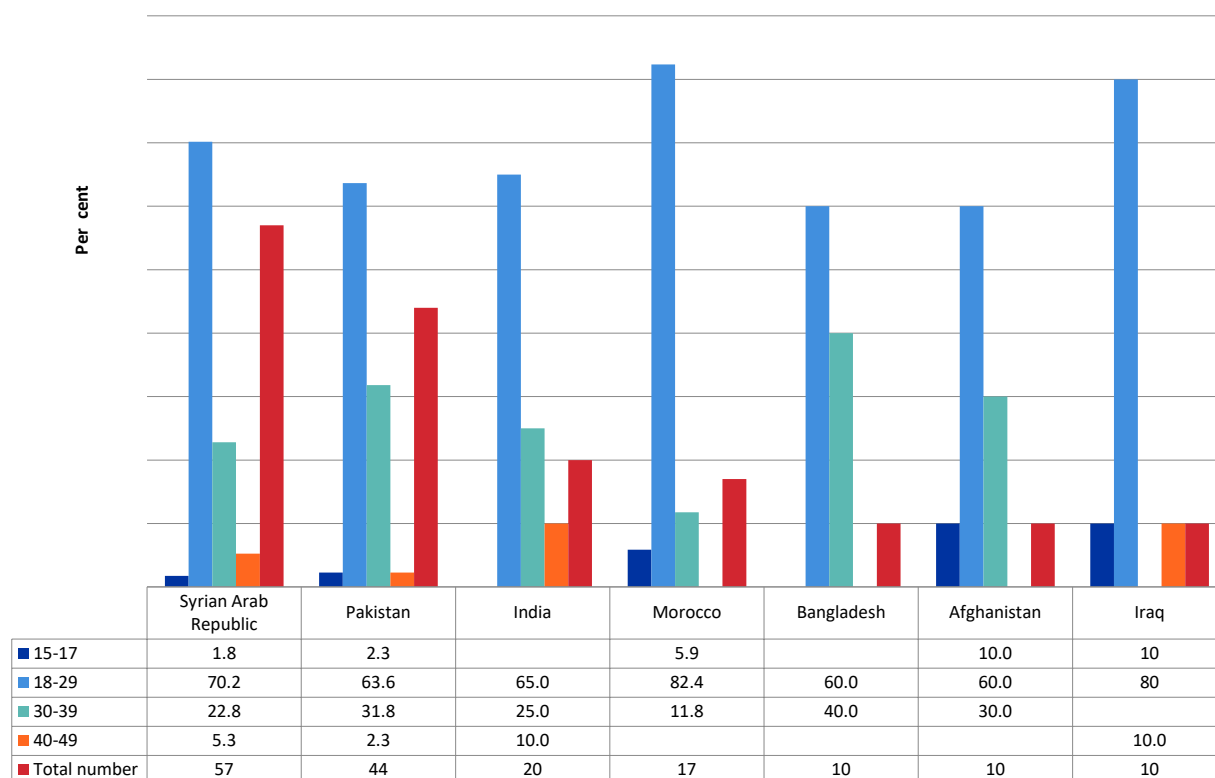
The average age of the 180 respondents was 27.7 years old and more than three-fifths (64.4%) were aged 18-29 years, more than one fourth (29.4%) were younger middle-aged persons (30-39), 3.3 per cent older middle-aged persons (40-49) and very small is the share of aged 50 and over (1.1%). Only 3 respondents (1.7%) were adolescents aged 15-17 years (Figure 4). Female respondents (only 7 in the sample) were older than males, with an average age of 32.1 years old compared to 27.5 years old among males. Out of the total number of 7 females, 2 were aged 21-24 years, four of them 33-38 years and one was 40 years old.

Figure 4. Share of respondents, by age (%)



Most of the surveyed respondents were young persons. Average age of the top 7 nationalities surveyed show that respondents from Morocco were the youngest on average (22.8 years old) with a dominant share of persons aged 18-29 years (Figure 5). They are followed by those from Afghanistan (25.3 years old), Syrian Arab Republic (27.0 years old on average) and Pakistan (27.1 years old). Relatively higher average age had respondents from India (29.8 years), while respondents from Bangladesh and Iraq have the highest average age (30.6 and 30.7 years of average age, respectively).

Figure 5. Share of respondents, by age of the top 7 nationalities surveyed (%)



### Language spoken

Respondents were asked about the first and second language spoken. This was not a mandatory question and was answered by approximately half of the respondents. A total of 85 respondents answered the question about the first language spoken (Table 1). About two thirds (61 migrants) said that they speak Arabic, and relatively large is the number of respondents who speak Punjabi (11) and Urdu (6 respondents). As for the second language spoken, out of the 55 respondents that answered the question, more than half (39 migrants) said that they speak English.

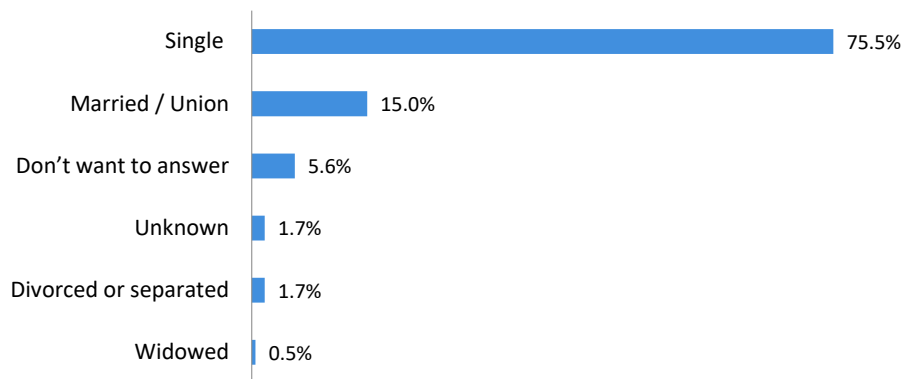
Table 1. Number of respondents by first and second language spoken

First language	Arabic	Dari	Farsi	Pashto	Persian - Farsi	Punjabi	Urdu	Blank			
Number of respondents	61	2	2	2	1	11	6	95			
Second language	Barbar	English	French	Kurdish	Pashto	Punjabi	Turkish	Urdo	Urdu, English	Urdu, Saraiki	Blank
Number of respondents	1	39	5	2	2	1	2	1	1	1	125

### Marital status and children

Most respondents (136, or 75.5% of the total) reported to be single (Figure 6). Only 27 respondents (15%) reported to be married, 3 that were divorced or separated, 1 widowed, 10 did not want to answer and for 3 respondents' marital status was unknown. Females were more likely than the male respondents to be married. Most of the females (85.7%) reported to be married compared to only 12.1 per cent of male respondents. About 78 per cent of male and 14.3 per cent of female respondents reported to be single.

Figure 6. Share of respondents, by marital status (%)

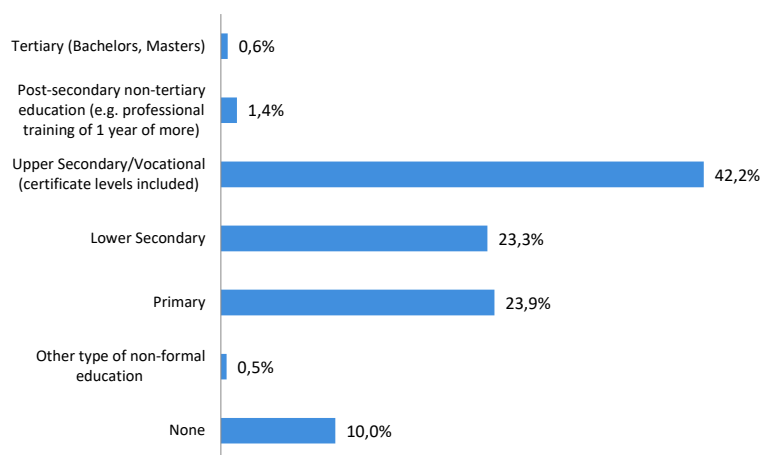


Only 15.6 per cent of the respondents (28 migrants) reported that they had children. Among them, 46.4 per cent (13 migrants) said that their children were in the country of origin or habitual residence, while 50 per cent (14 migrants) reported the children were travelling with them. Of those whose children were in the country of origin, 1 respondent reported that had one child, 4 that have two children, 6 that have three children, 1 respondent has four and 1 respondent have seven children. Of the 17 respondents who reported that they have children with them, 11 respondents have one child each, 2 have two and 4 respondents has three children each. Four of these 27 children are aged 0-4, 19 are aged 5-14 years, and 4 are aged 15 and above. Five respondents reported to have children at the destination country and one respondent reported to have two children in another country.

### Education level

Slightly less than one fourth of the respondents (23.9%) reported having completed only primary education, and 10 per cent reported to have no education (Figure 7). More than one fifth of the respondents (23.3%) had lower-secondary education, while the biggest group of respondents reported to have completed upper-secondary/vocational education (42.2%). Only one (0.6%) of the respondents reported having completed tertiary education.

Figure 7. Share of respondents by highest completed level of education (%)

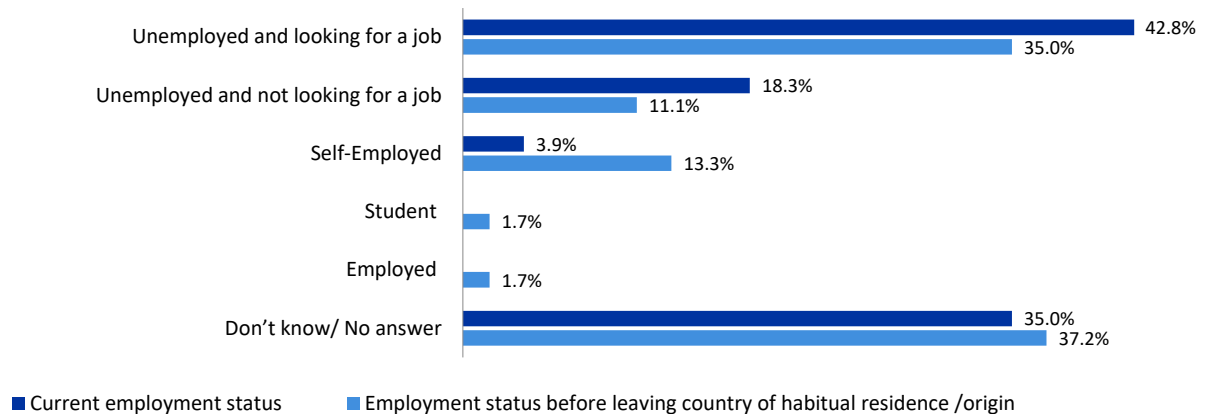


Out of the three adolescents aged 15-17 years, two of them went to school between 1 and 2 years ago and one more than 2 years prior to the interview.

## Employment status

As respondents were met in the temporary transit centres in border areas of the country, at the time of the interview about three fifths of them were unemployed or inactive. More than two-fifths (42.8%) of the sample reported to be unemployed and looking for a job, and 18.3 per cent were inactive (unemployed and not looking for a job) (Figure 8). Only 7 migrants (3.9%) were self-employed. The share of respondents who did not answer this question is relatively high (35.0%).

Figure 8. Share of respondents by current and past employment status before leaving (%)



About 46 per cent of respondents reported that they were unemployed or inactive at the time of departure from the countries of origin or habitual residence (35.0% unemployed and looking for a job and 11.1% unemployed and not looking for a job). At the same time, 1.7 per cent was employed and 13.3 per cent were self-employed, while 1.7 per cent was students. More than one third (37.2%) of respondents did not answer this question.

## Occupation and sector of employment

As for the occupation of the 27 respondents who reported to have been employed at the time of departure, more than half (15 migrants or 55.6%) said they were services and sales workers, followed by skilled manual workers (11.1%), plant and machine operators and respondents with elementary occupations (7.4% each). The other five migrants reported to have been employed in other occupations.

Also, more than two fifth of those employed (44.4%) said they worked in accommodation and food service activities, followed by respondents employed in agriculture and forestry, construction, transporting and storage, wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles with the same share (2 migrants or 7.4% each). The remaining 18.5 per cent reported other sectors of employment.

# 3. The journey and reasons for leaving

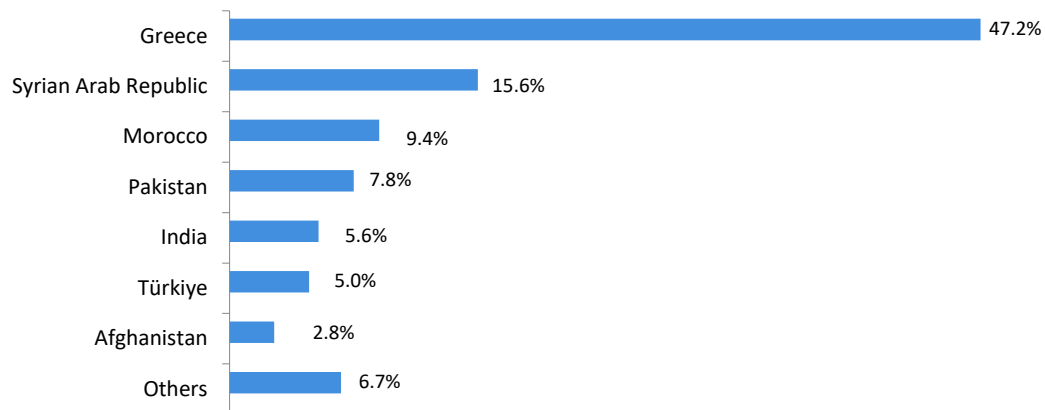
## The journey

Most respondents (87.2%) were travelling with a group, while 12.8 per cent travelled alone. As for those travelling with a group, for 77.8 per cent of respondents the group consisted of non-family members and by 9.4 per cent by family members. Among the 17 respondents travelling with family members, 10 were with the spouse and children, 2 with spouse or partner only, 4 with children only and one with parent. None of the respondents stated that they were separated from family / relatives during the trip.

## Departure countries

For 93 respondents (51.7%) the country of departure is different from the country of origin. Most respondents (168 migrants or 93.3%) reported that arrived in North Macedonia after departing from 7 countries that were either those of origin or those where they spent at least one year before moving again (Figure 9). The other 12 respondents stated that their departure countries were: Libya (4 migrants); Iraq (3 migrants); Algeria (2 migrants); Egypt, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Palestinian Territories (1 migrant each).

Figure 9. Share of respondents by country of departure (%)

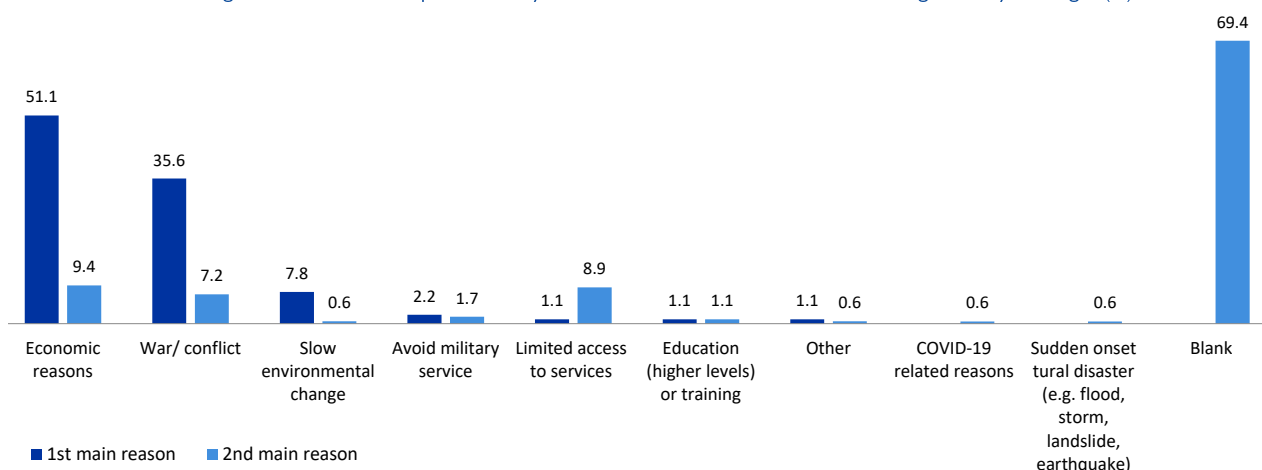


Ninety-three respondents answered the question of how long they stayed in the country of departure (residence for 1 year or more). Out of them, one respondent reported staying in the country of departure for 1 year, 49 respondents 1-2 years, 8 migrants stayed 2 years, while 24 reported staying between 2 and 3 years and 5 respondents stayed 3 years. More than a 3-year stay in the country of departure was reported by 6 respondents (3-4 years 5 and 4-5 years 1 respondent).

## Reasons for leaving countries of origin

More than half (51.1%) of the respondents reported that they have left their countries of origin due to economic reasons (Figure 10) as a first main reason, followed by those who cited war or conflicts (35.6%). Significantly lower share of respondents reported that they have left their countries of origin due to slow environmental change (7.8%) and to avoid military service (2.2%). With the same share (2 respondents or 1.1%) were those that have left their countries of origin due to: limited access to services, education (higher levels) or training, and other reasons.

Figure 10. Share of respondents, by first and second main reason for leaving country of origin (%)



Among migrants who reported limited access to services, 6 respondents specified that these referred to better access to basic services (primary health care and primary education) at place of intended destination, 3 respondents reported better access to basic services, and better access to food and water at place of intended destination, while 2 respondents reported better access to basic services, better access to food and water and better access to specialised medical care at place of intended destination, 3 respondents reported better access to food and water at place of intended destination, only one respondent reported better access to specialised medical care at place of intended destination and 3 respondents pointed out other services, but they did not specify them.

Those who reported economic reasons for deciding to move were asked to specify more, by ranking up to 3 main types of economic motivations. The top economic motivation, reported by 107 respondents, was looking for job or other livelihood opportunity and for one respondent travelling to conduct business (e.g. market, sell/buy good/services, commerce or trade). Some 18 respondents specified also the second most important economic reasons: 7 for commuting regularly (such as daily or weekly) for work or shopping; 6 for conducting an agro-pastoral activity; 4 for travelling to conduct business and one for looking for job. Finally, 15 respondents ranked their third most important economic reasons: 7 of them for conducting an agro-pastoral activity; 6 for travelling to conduct business, 2 for commuting regularly for work or shopping. Only two respondents specified other economic reasons, one stated build economy through working close to family and another better environment.

Respondents could also select a second main reason for leaving the origin country. The largest part of the respondents (125 migrant or 69.4%) did not give any answer on this question (Figure 10), while others declared economic reasons (9.4%), followed by limited access to services (8.9%), war or conflicts (7.2%) and education (higher levels) or training (1.1%). The share is equal of those who declared COVID-19 related reasons, slow environmental change and sudden onset rural disaster (0.6% each).

### **Drivers for migration – a focus on migrants leaving Afghanistan**

Ten respondents from Afghanistan were asked how important 13 listed reasons were for their decision to leave their home country, ranking them from 1 = very unimportant to 5 = very important.

Six of the 10 respondents from Afghanistan marked as very important (rank 5) the following drivers for migration: lack of jobs/livelihood (personal/household level), no economic growth/prosperity (country level), and financial access issues: cash and banks and no hope for the future.

Half (5 respondents) marked off as “important” (rank 4) lack of jobs/livelihood (personal/household level) and conflict and general security situation in my district of origin.

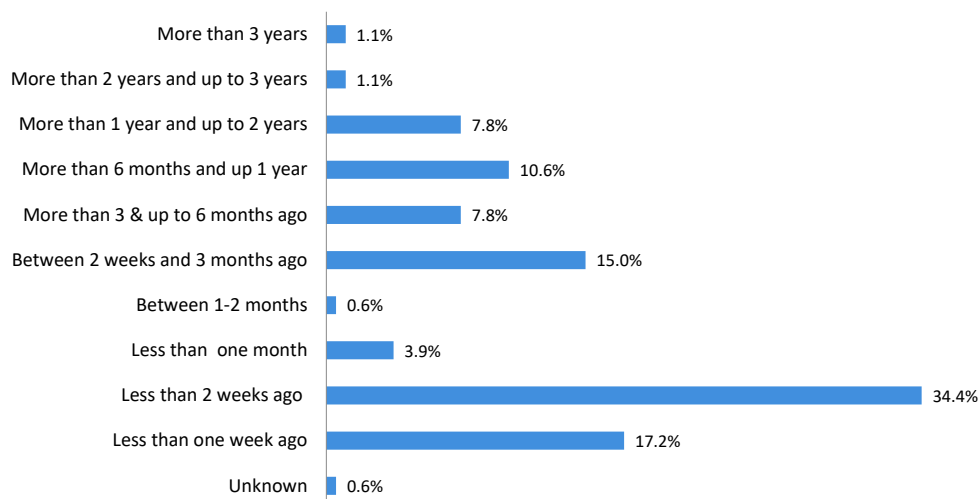
Significant number of respondents ranked as not applicable: floods/landslides/droughts - natural disaster (7 respondents), no education opportunities / poor quality education and food shortages (5 respondents each), discrimination because of ethnicity/religion/gender (personal/household level) (4 respondents), no human rights (country level) and no healthcare / poor quality health care (3 respondents each).

## Journey from departure country

More than half of the respondents reported that they have left the departure country less than one week ago (31 persons or 17.2%) and less than two weeks ago (62 persons or 34.4%) (Figure 11). Additionally, 7 respondents (3.9%) reported that they have left the departure country in less than one month. Relatively high is the share of the respondents who reported that they left between 2 weeks and 3 months ago (15.6%, including those who left the departure country between 1 and 2 months). It means that about 71.1 per cent of the respondents have left the departure country in last 3 months.

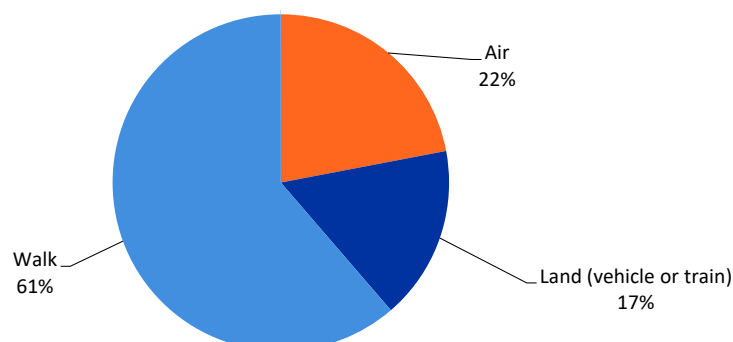
Significant is the share of respondents that left the departure country between 3 months and up to 1 year (7.8% more than 3 months and up to 6 months and 10.6% more than 6 months and up to 1 year). Decreasing is the share of those that have left the departure country more than 1 year ago, that is 14 persons (7.8%) more than 1 year and up to 2 years as well as more than 2 years ago and up to 3 years and more than 3 years (2 persons or 1.1%, each). The time of leaving the country of departure is unknown only for one respondent.

Figure 11. Share of respondents by time since leaving the departure country (%)



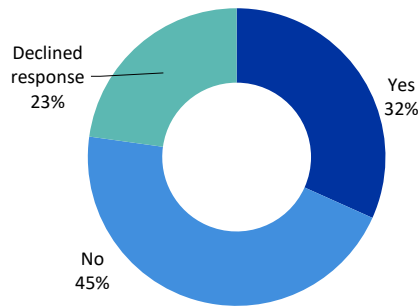
The question about the mode of transport from the country of departure to the first transit country was answered by 150 respondents while 30 respondents did not answer to this question. For three fifths of them (61%) the main mode of transport was walking on foot. Relatively high is the share of respondents (22%) travelling by air, while the share of respondents travelling by land (vehicles or trains, public transport, bicycles, hiding in trucks / containers) is significantly lower (17.0%) (Figure 12). None of the respondents reported that they have travelled by boat (in general, by sea or through other waterways, including jet-ski, dinghies, swimming across a river).

Figure 12. Share of respondents by main mode of transport to the first transit country (%)



More than two-fifths of respondents (82 people or 45%) said they had no help in organizing their journey, while one-third (57 respondents or 32%) had help. A relatively high share of respondents (23.0%) declined to answer this question (Figure 13).

Figure 13. Share of respondents by anyone help in organizing their journey (%)



Out of 57 respondents who reported that somebody has helped them in organizing a journey, 51 migrants (90%) said that it was a private individual or a private recruitment agency and for 6 (10%) of the respondents, it was a friend or family member or community member back home.

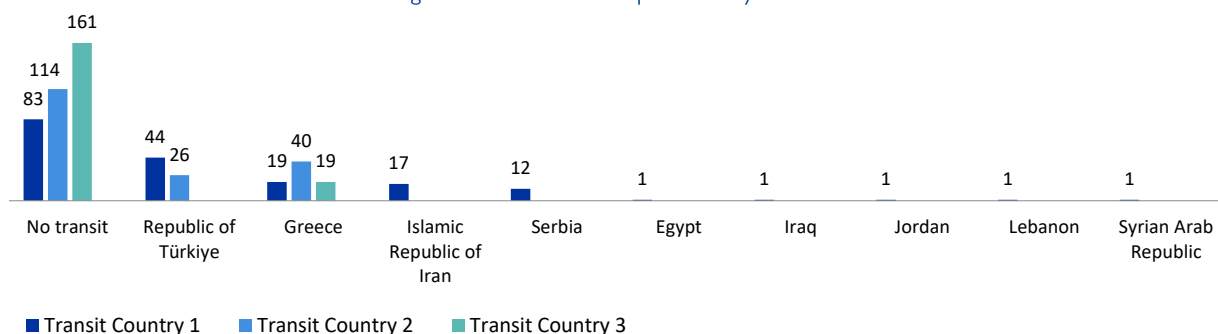
### Transit countries

The survey inquired about transit countries, hence all countries where respondents passed on their journey from the country of departure until the last country before arrival into North Macedonia. Per each of the transit country, the survey asked about the time, the number of days spent there, the main reasons for their staying there for more than one year and the accommodation.

#### a) Countries

For more than half (93 persons or 51.7%) of the respondents, the country of departure is different from the country of origin and they travelled through transit countries. Most of the respondents reported up to three and only one migrant reported seven transit countries before arrival in North Macedonia. The first transit country for 92 respondents was Republic of Türkiye, Greece, the Islamic Republic of Iran or Serbia (Figure 14). Relatively small number of respondents reported that, for them, the first transit countries were Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon or the Syrian Arab Republic (one respondent each).

Figure 14. Number of respondents by transit countries



From the countries of origin or the countries of departure until their arrival in North Macedonia respondents generally followed the routes here described. For five out of ten respondents of Afghan nationality country of departure was Afghanistan. Two of the respondents of Afghan nationality stated only one transit country and in North Macedonia arrived from Islamic Republic of Iran. Three respondents of Afghanistan stated second and third transit country before arriving in North Macedonia. All of them from Islamic Republic of Iran, travelled first to Türkiye and after that in Greece.



A total of 10 respondents of Bangladesh were surveyed and for all of them country of departure, after having spent more than one year, was Greece.

For 10 respondents of Indian nationality, the country of departure was India, while for the 10 respondents it was Greece. Half (50%) of respondents from India stated only one transit country and in North Macedonia they arrived from Serbia.

A total of 10 respondents of Iraq nationality were surveyed. For three of them country of departure was Iraq and for seven respondents it was Greece. Two of the respondents from Iraq, before arrival in North Macedonia, passed through two transit countries (first to Türkiye then to Greece). One respondent stated three transit countries and travelled first to Jordan, after that to Türkiye and then to Greece.

As for the 17 Moroccan respondents, they all reported to have departed from Morocco with no stays longer than one year somewhere else. Three respondents (17.7%) stated only one transit country and in North Macedonia they came from Türkiye, while 14 respondents (82.3%) stated two transit countries (first to Türkiye then to Greece).

Among Pakistanis, 14 respondents departed from Pakistan, while 29 migrants departed from Greece after having spent more than one year there, and another one departed from Türkiye. Three of them stated one transit country only, and they arrived in North Macedonia, as follows: one from Islamic Republic of Iran, one from Türkiye and one from Greece. Eleven respondents reported three transit countries and travelled first to the Islamic Republic of Iran, followed by Türkiye and Greece.

For most of Syrian respondents (28 persons or 49.1%), the country of departure was Syrian Arab Republic, for 7 migrants (12.3%) Türkiye and for 22 respondents (38.6%) it was Greece. Twenty-five Syrian nationals stated two transit countries before arriving in North Macedonia, such as Türkiye and Greece, and only 2 respondents of Syrian national stated three transit countries before arriving in North Macedonia, one travelled first to Iraq, followed by Türkiye and Greece and one respondent travelled first to Lebanon, followed by Türkiye and Greece. The ones who departed from Türkiye, travelled to Greece to reach North Macedonia.

#### *b) Number of days spent in the transit country*

For the number of days spent in the first transit country, answered 66 out of 180 respondents. More than one third (34 persons or 35.4%) of the respondents stated that they stayed in the first country of transit for up to five days, 10 respondents (10.4%) stayed 6-15 days. As for the others, more than half of the respondents have a relatively longer stay in the first transit country such as: between 2 weeks and 3 months (37.5%), more than 3 and up to 6 months (13.5%) and more than 6 months and up 1 year (3.1%).

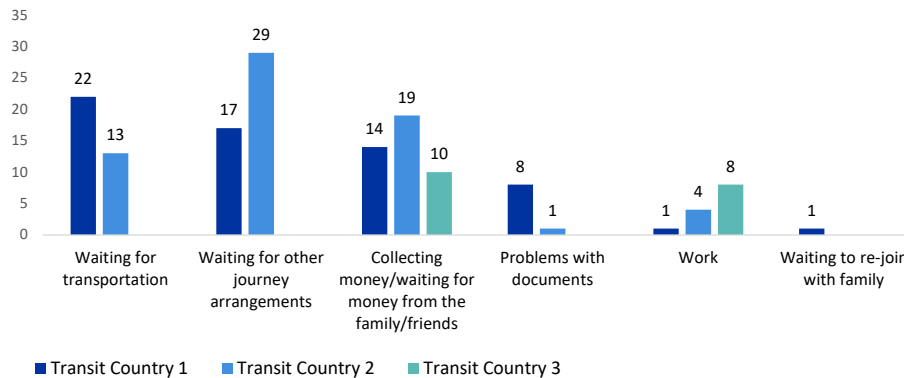
Regarding the number of days spent in the second transit country, 66 respondents answered out of 180. Small is the number of the respondents who stayed in the second transit country (1 respondent or 1.5%) up to 5 days and 2 respondents (3.0%) 6 to 15 days. Most of the respondents reported that they stayed between 2 weeks and 3 months (68.2%), and lower is the share of those that stayed between 3 and 6 months (15.2%) and more than 6 months and up to 1 year (12.1%).

Only 22 respondents reported about number of days spent in the third country of transit. More than half (12 respondents or 54.5%) of them stayed more than 6 months and up to 1 year and 4 respondents (18.2%) more than 1 year and up to 2 years. More than 3 & up to 6 months in the third country of transit stayed 3 respondents (13.6%), while longer stay reported 3 respondents that is, more than 2 years and up to 3 years (2 persons or 9.1%) and more than 3 years (1 person or 4.5%).

### c) Reason for stay in the transit country

About the main reason for remaining in the first transit country for more than five days reported 63 persons. For great part of them it was related to waiting for transportation (22 respondents or 34.9%), followed by those who reported they needed to wait for other journey arrangements (17 persons or 27%) and collecting money/waiting for money from the family/friends (14 persons or 22.2%) (Figure 15). It is also significant the share of those who stayed more than five days due to the problems with documents (8 migrants or 12.7%), while 2 respondent reported work and waiting to re-join with family (1 person or 1.6%, each).

Figure 15. Number of respondents by reason why they stayed in the transit country for more than 5 days



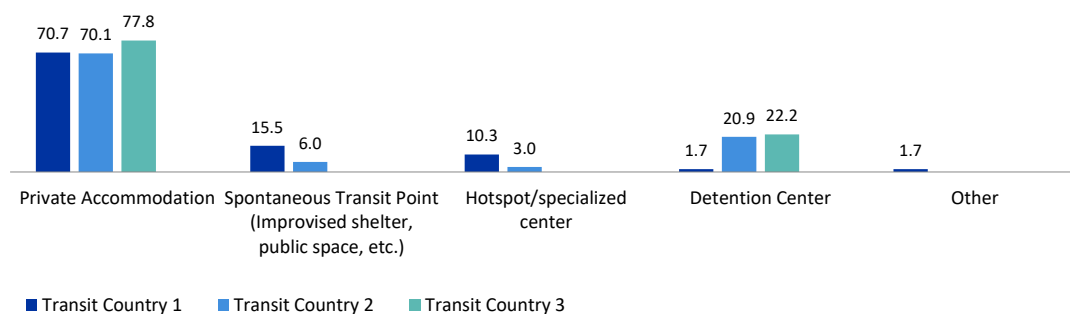
Similar reasons are also reported by 66 respondents who have long stay in the second country of transit. Of those remained for more than five days in second transit country, 29 respondents (43.9%) waited for other journey arrangements, 19 respondents (28.2%) for collecting money or waiting for money from others, 13 respondents (19.7%) waited for transportation. Relatively small is the number and share of those that stayed for work (4 persons or 6.1%) and due to problems with documents (1 respondent or 1.5%).

Out of the 18 respondents who reported about reasons for their stay in the third country of transit, more than half (10 migrants or 55.6%) stayed for collecting money or waiting for money others, while 8 respondents (44.4%) waited for other journey arrangements.

### d) Accommodation in transit country

About accommodation in the transit countries reported 58 respondents (first), 67 (second) and 18 respondents (third transit country). In most cases (70.1% in the first and second transit country, and 77.8% in the third transit country), respondents reported that they stayed in private accommodation (hosted or paying a rent to the owner or some facilitators (Figure 16). Other types of accommodation of the respondents in the first transit country were spontaneous transit points (improvised shelter, public space, etc.), mentioned by 15.5 per cent of the respondents, hot spot or other specialized centres (10.3%) and detention centre (1.7%).

Figure 16. Share of respondents by main accommodation in transit (%)



One fifth of the respondents staying in the second transit country were accommodated in a detention centre (20.9%), and relatively smaller share in spontaneous transit point (6.0%) and in hot spot / specialized centre (3.0%). Accommodation of the respondents staying in third transit country was in a detention centre (22.2%), while 1.7 percent used other types of accommodation.

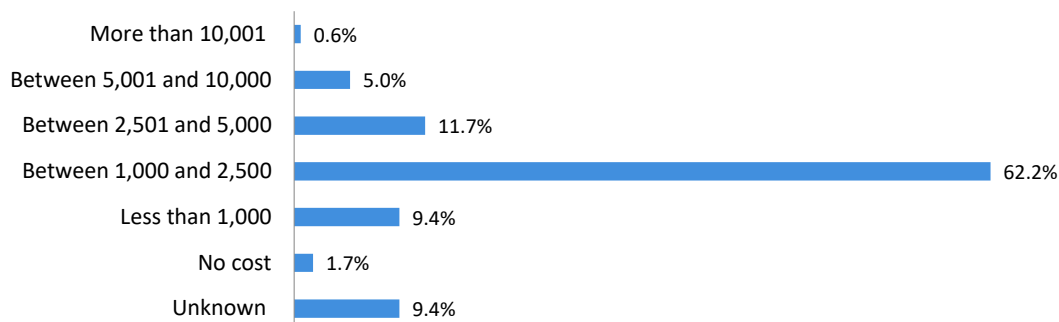
### Entry and length of stay in North Macedonia

Most of the respondents in the survey (178 persons or 99%) reported that they have stayed in North Macedonia less than two weeks at the time of the interview, followed by 2 respondents (1%) who stayed between 2 weeks and 3 months. No one reported to have been returned to his or her country of origin, while two respondents from the Syrian Arab Republic reported that have been readmitted to another country while on the journey.

## 4. Cost of journey

Respondents of the survey were asked to estimate the overall amount paid individually since the beginning of the journey and overall, the reported cost is quite high. The largest number and share of respondents (112 persons or 62.2%) reported that the estimated cost of the journey was between 1,000 and 2,500 USD. For 21 respondents (11.7%), it was between 2,501 and 5,000 USD, while 17 respondents (9.4%) have reported that the estimated cost was less than 1,000 USD (Figure 17). Nine respondents (5.0%) reported estimated cost of the journey between 5,001 and 10,000 USD and one respondent (0.6%) more than 10,001 USD. Only 3 (1.7%) respondents reported no cost, while the rest (17 migrants) could not estimate the cost of the journey.

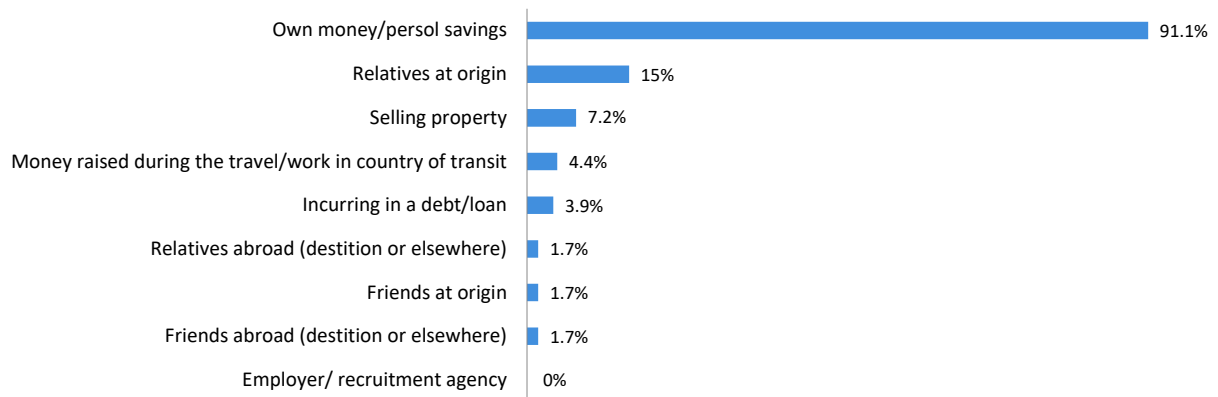
Figure 17. Share of respondents by estimated cost of the journey in USD per person (%)



Respondents were also asked about the cost of the last leg, from the last transit country to the country of the interview: 88 respondents (48.9%) reported no cost to enter North Macedonia from the previous country, 18 respondents (10%) paid between 10 and 100 USD, 23 respondents (12.8%) reported to have paid 120 and 300 USD, 18 respondents (10%) reported to have paid between 400 and 950 USD and 6 respondents (3.3%) paid between 700 and 950 USD. As for the rest, 7 respondents paid 1,000 USD, for 13 the cost was between 1,100 and 1,200 USD, and 7 respondents reported that their cost was between 1,300 and 1,500 USD.

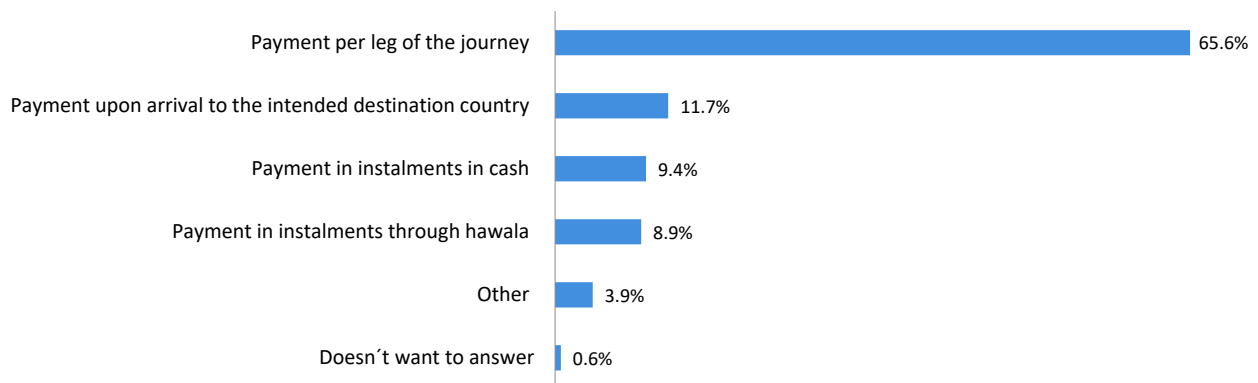
The majority (91.1%) of respondents stated that they paid for the trip with their personal savings, while 15 per cent stated that it was the financial resources of relatives at origin (Figure 18). There is a significantly lower share of positive responses related to other opportunities for providing the necessary money, such as the sale of property (7.2%), money raised during the travel/work in country of transit (4.4%) and incurring in a debt/loan (3.9%). The number and share is equal (3 migrants or 1.7%) of respondents stated that they paid for the trip with financial support of relatives abroad or friends at origin and abroad.

Figure 18. Share of positive responses by how was the money raised (multiple responses possible) (%)



More than half of the respondents (118 persons or 65.6%) reported that it was payment per leg of the journey (Figure 19). Significantly lower is the number and share of respondents who reported payment upon arrival to the intended destination country (21 migrant or 11.7%), payment in instalments in cash (17 migrants or 9.4%) and payment in instalments through hawala (16 migrants or 8.9%). Seven respondents reported other way of payment the journey and only one doesn't want to answer.

Figure 19. Share of respondents by how the journey was paid (%)



Finally, 164 respondents (91.1%) said that upon arrival at the destination they will not have to repay (part of) the expenses of the journey. Only 16 respondents (8.9%) will have to repay (part of) the expenses of the journey.

## 5. Intended destination

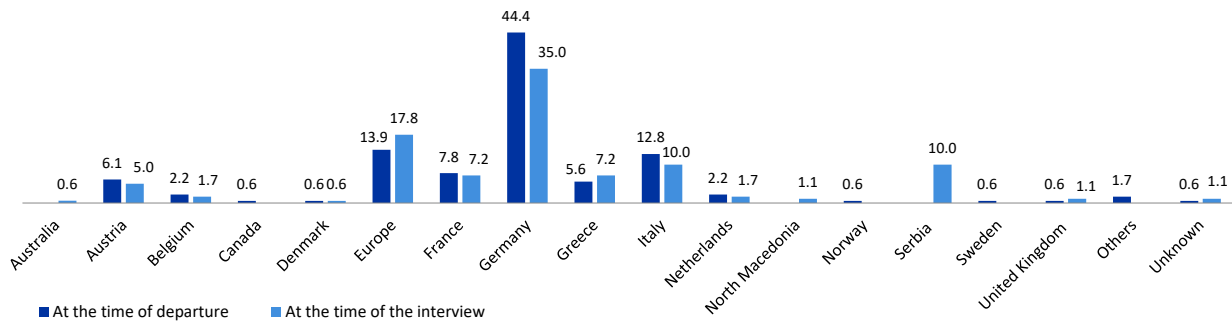
### Countries of intended destination

Migrants' intentions in terms of final destinations are dynamic and change over time. They can change during the journey, as a result of the experiences en route such as the conditions and possibilities in the transit countries, as well as in the country where the survey is carried out. Given that the Western Balkan countries usually are not the final destination of migrants travelling through North Macedonia, this section compares the intended destination at the time of departing from their origin country with the country of intended final destination at the time of the interview. Also, it shows which the next country in the journey is for those that do not intend to stay in North Macedonia.

Germany was the country of intended destination for largest part of the respondents, reported by 44.4 per cent of respondents as intended destination at the time of departure and by 35 per cent of them as final destination at the time of the interview (Figure 20). Similar changes were reported by respondents related to Austria, Belgium, France, Italy and the Netherlands. The share of respondents

that did not change their statement referred to Denmark, while those whose share is lower at the time of departure than as the country of final destination at the time of the interview are: Europe in general, Greece and the United Kingdom. Serbia stands out as the country of final destination at the time of the interview for 10 per cent of respondents, although it was not mentioned as a destination in the minds of the respondents when they departed.

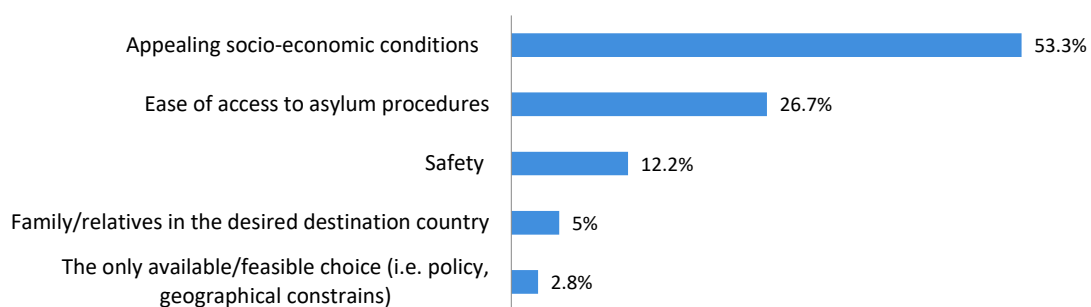
Figure 20. Share of respondents by countries of intended destination at the time of departure and intended final destination country at the time of interview (%)



At the time of the interview, most of the respondents reported that their next destination after North Macedonia was Serbia (143 persons, or 79.4%), followed by Greece (7.8%), France and Germany (4.4% each) and other countries (4.0%).

As for the reasons for choosing a final destination country, more than half of the respondents (96 persons or 53.3%) reported that they were related to appealing socio-economic conditions (education and welfare systems, social security, job opportunities) and more than one fourth (48 persons or 26.7%) that it was linked to the ease of access to asylum procedures (Figure 21). The share is relatively smaller of respondents who, as reasons for choosing the final destination, pointed out to the safety (12.2%), the presence of family members in the desired destination (5.0%) or the fact that it was the only available or feasible choice due to policy or geographical constrains (2.8%).

Figure 21. Share of respondents by reason for choosing final destination country (%)



Most respondents (158 person or 87.8%) reported that have no information about asylum or how to get documents to stay regularly in the country of intended destination, and 20 respondents (11.1%) said that have information about the asylum procedure. The remaining 2 respondents stated that they don't know.

### Family members at country of destination

An equal share of respondents (86 or 48% each) reported that they have non-first line relatives and that have no relatives in the intended destination. Only 4 per cent have first-line relatives (spouse, parent and children) in the country of destination (Figure 22). Moreover, most of the respondents (83.3%) reported

that they had no family members in another European country (Figure 23). About 16 per cent of the respondents said that they had non-first-line relatives in another European country and only 1 (0.6%) had first-line relatives (spouse, parent and children).

Figure 22. Share of respondents by having relatives / family members at country of destination (%)

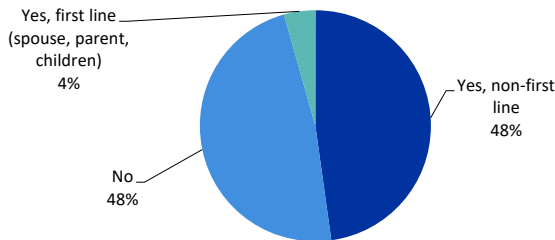
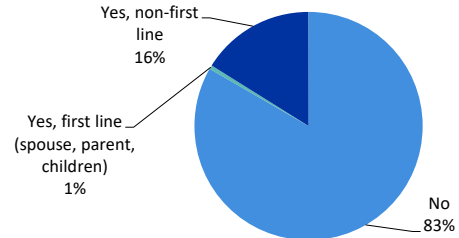
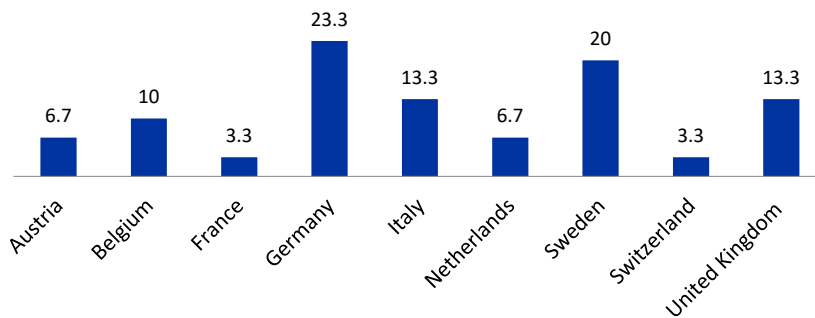


Figure 23. Share of respondents by having relatives / family members at another European country (%)



Out of the 30 respondents that have relatives/family members in another European country, most of them (79.9%) reported that they were in five European countries - Germany, Sweden, Italy, the United Kingdom and Belgium (Figure 24).

Figure 24. Share of respondents that have relatives/family members in another European country (%)



More than half (50.6%) of the respondents reported that they had not tried to join their family members abroad through legal procedures, while the rest either did not know or did not answer to the question. As for the 91 respondents that did not try to join their family members through legal procedures, 85 migrants said that they have no information about family reunification in the country where their relative(s) live, 2 had information and 4 did not know.

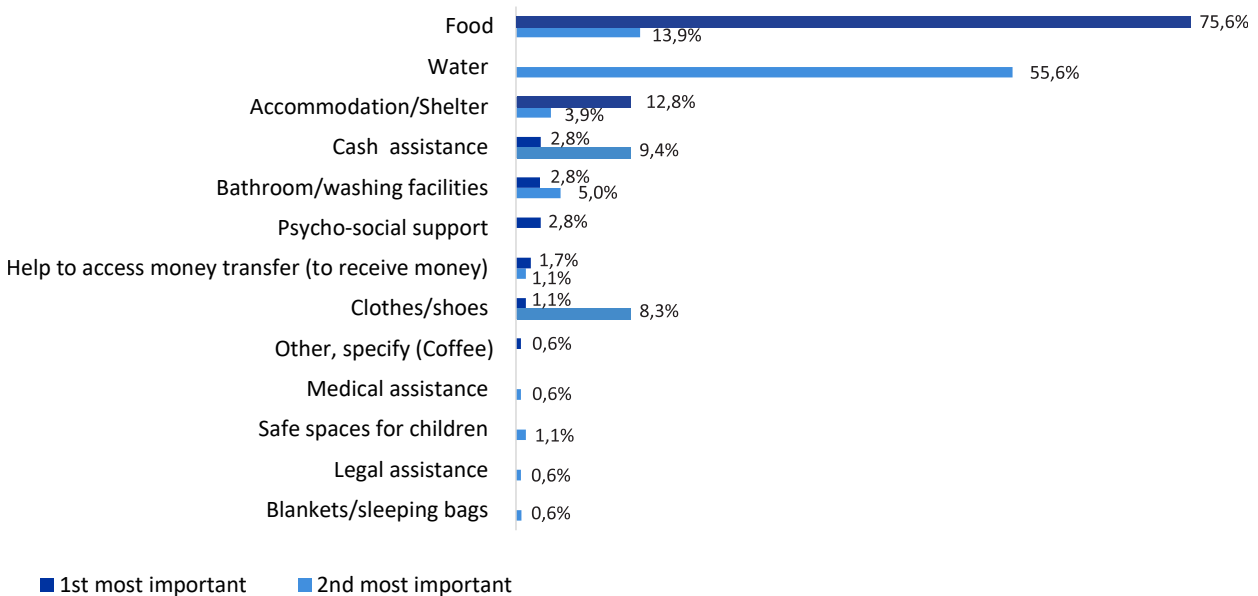
## 6. Current status and main problems

Majority (97.8%) of the respondents reported to be currently irregular in North Macedonia, two respondents were asylum seekers (applications lodged in North Macedonia), one with refugee status (granted in Greece) and one declined to answer.

Respondents were asked to select 2 options, by prioritizing 1st and 2nd most important immediate needs, for services or good that they were unable to access or are not available at the moment. About three fourths (75.6%) of the respondents mentioned food as the first most important immediate need (Figure 25), followed by the need for accommodation/shelter (12.8%). Equal number and share of respondents pointed out the need for cash assistance, bathroom/washing facilities and psycho-social support (5 migrants or 2.8% each). A relatively lower share of respondents mentioned help to access

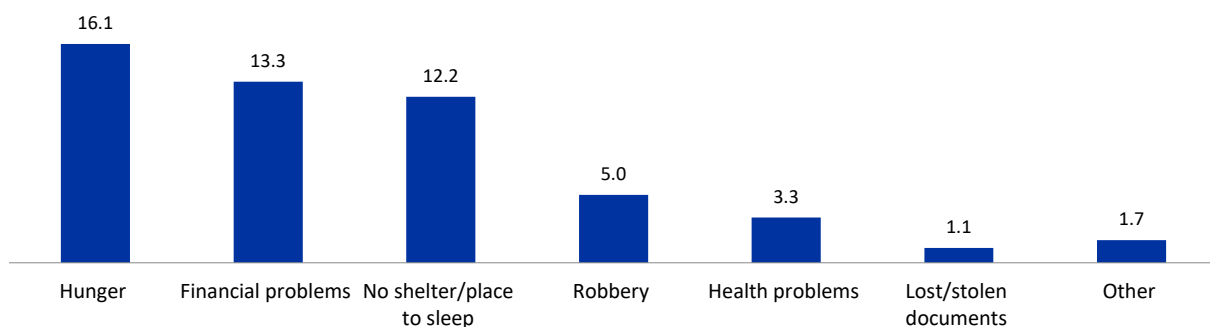
money transfer (1.7%) and clothes/shoes (1.1%). With regards to the second most important immediate need, 55.6 per cent of the respondents prioritized water. It is followed by the need for food (13.9%), cash assistance (9.4%), clothes/shoes (8.3%), bathroom/washing facilities (5.0%) and accommodation/shelter (3.9%). This shows that the prioritized 1st and 2nd most important immediate needs of migrants were related to their existential needs - food and water.

Figure 25. Share of respondents by their 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> most important immediate needs at the time of interview (%)



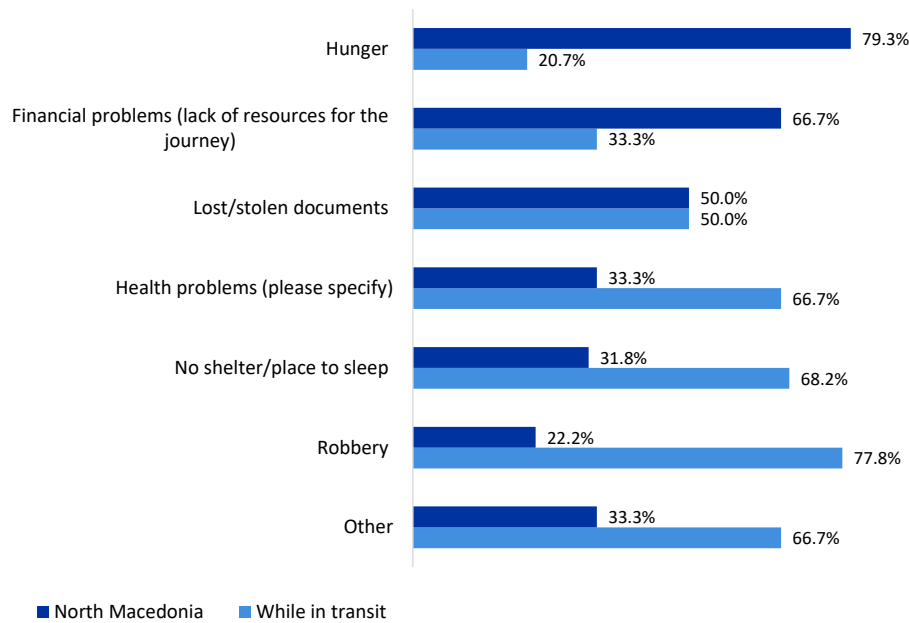
Migrants were also asked about several types of problems they faced during the journey. About 16 per cent of the respondents had experienced hunger (Figure 26). Others reported that they had financial problems (13.3%) and that they had no shelter/place to sleep at some point during the journey (12.2%). Also, 5.0 per cent was robbed, 3.3 per cent reported having had health problems and 1.1 per cent was faced with lost/stolen documents. Overall, most respondents reported to have not experienced any of the mentioned types of problems.

Figure 26. Share of respondents that during the journey so far have faced any problems (%)



All respondents that reported some problems during the journey stated that it happened when they were in transit countries and in North Macedonia (Figure 27). Greater part of those reporting to have experienced robbery, the lack of shelter, health problems or other problems stated that it happened when they were in transit countries. Among those reporting hunger and financial problems respondents stated that these happened not only in transit but also quite frequently in North Macedonia (66.7% and 79.3%, respectively).

Figure 27. Share of respondents that during the journey so far have faced any problems (in transit countries and in North Macedonia) (%)

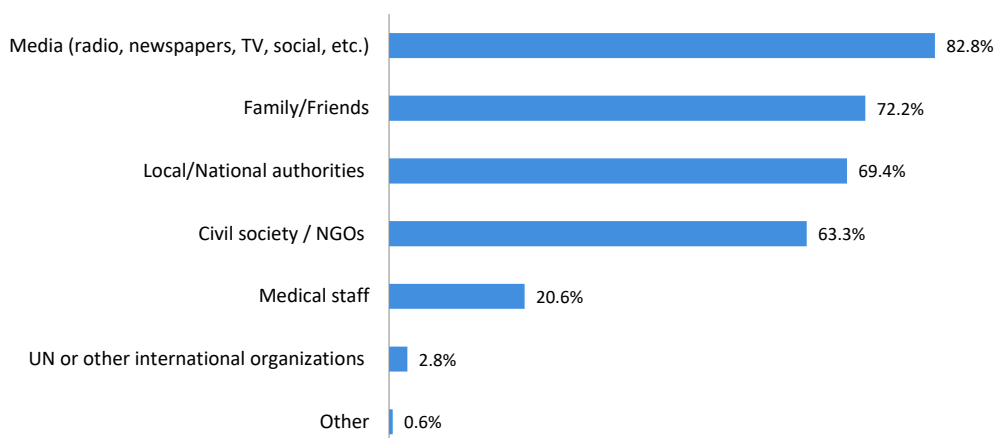


## 7. COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic outbreak in early 2020 undoubtedly affected migration due to lock downs and limited movements within and across countries. Hence, a new module of questions associated to the experience of the respondents with the pandemic was introduced. The survey results show that most of the respondents (178 out of 180 migrants) were aware of the COVID-19 pandemic, while the remaining 2 migrants answer “no”.

Respondents reported different sources of information on COVID-19: media (radio, newspapers, TV, social, etc.) were pointed out by the largest number of the respondents (149 migrants or 82.8%), followed by family and friends (130 migrants or 72.2%), local or national authorities (125 migrants or 69.4%), civil society and NGOs (114 migrants or 63.3%), medical staff (37 or 20.6%) and UN or other international organizations (5 migrants or 2.8%) (Figure 28).

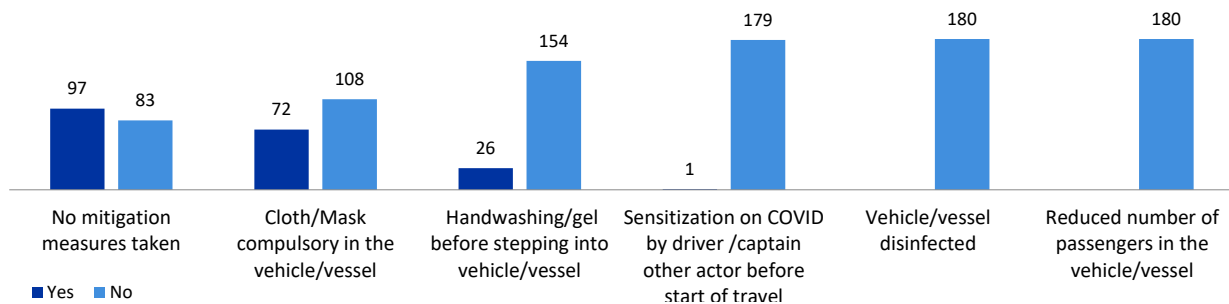
Figure 28. Share of respondents by whom did they receive information on the COVID-19 (multiple responses possible) (%)





Respondents were asked about COVID-19 mitigation measures applied during their current journey, in the vehicles or vessels and other means of transportation they travelled in, with possibility to select multiple answers if needed. The answers to this question correspond to the changed situation and the reduced protection measures for Covid-19 in April and May, compared to previous months. Two fifths (40%) of respondents reported that the use of mask was compulsory (Figure 29). Also, hand washing/gel before stepping into the means of transportation was mentioned by 14.4 per cent of respondents, followed by only one (0.6%) respondent who reported sensitization on COVID-19 by driver or other actor before the start of travel. More than half (53.9%) of respondents reported that no mitigation measures were taken. All respondents stated that no measures were taken to disinfect the vehicle / vessel and reduce the number of passengers in the vehicle / vessel.

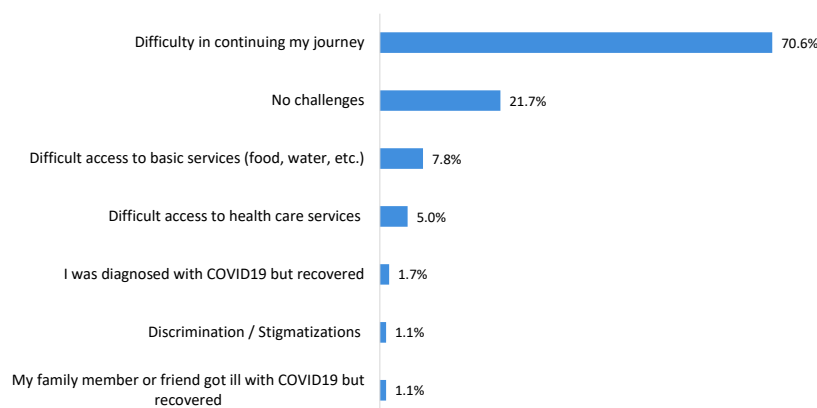
Figure 29. Number of respondents, by COVID-19 mitigation measures applied during their current trip/in the vehicle / vessel you travelled in



Relatively great number and share (82 migrants or 45.6%) of the respondents reported that they have been vaccinated, 97 migrants (53.9%) said they are not vaccinated and for 1 respondent (0.6%) it is unknown. Out of 97 not vaccinated respondents, 9 reported that they would you like to be vaccinated, the 48 migrants answered that they were not willing to, and quite a big number (40 migrants) did not know.

Regarding the challenges encountered during the journey since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, respondents also had the opportunity to choose among multiple options (Figure 30). More than two thirds of the respondents (127 migrants or 70.6%) reported that it was the difficulty in continuing their journey. Small number of the respondents (14 migrants or 7.8%) was faced with difficult access to basic services (food, water, etc.) and difficult access to health care services (9 migrants or 5.0%). Also, small number and share of the respondents was diagnosed with COVID-19 but recovered (3 migrants or 1.7%), while the number of those that faced discrimination or stigmatization was equal with those whose family member or friend got ill with COVID19 but recovered (2 respondents or 1.1%, each).

Figure 30. Share of respondents by encountered challenges since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic during the journey (multiple responses possible) (%)



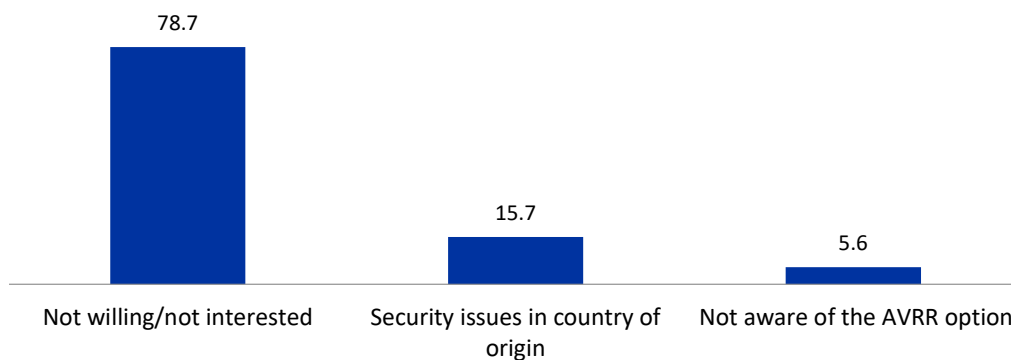
Other challenges mentioned in the survey were not met by the respondents. They refer to: sending or receiving remittances from abroad; restriction of movement inside a facility (e.g. quarantine or isolation) due to COVID-19; deceased family member or friend that got ill with COVID-19; worsened quality of food and spending money on food; difficult access to personal protective equipment (masks, gloves, sanitizers, soaps); difficulty to continue with job or other economic / commercial activities; other difficulties. Therefore, there were no answers to additional questions related to the explanation of these difficulties.

## 8. Interest and motivations to return

The last module of the survey included questions relative to the awareness and interest by respondents in the possibility of being assisted with voluntary return (AVRR). Only two respondents reported they had considered returning during the journey, and in particular when they were in North Macedonia. The main reasons for considering return for one was exhaustion from current living conditions, and for another fear of xenophobia and discrimination.

Among those who were not thinking about returning to their country, most of them (140 respondents or 78.7%) reported that they were unwilling or uninterested, while 28 respondents (15.7%) said they feared for their security at their country of origin (Figure 31). Ten respondents (5.6%) reported that they were not aware of the AVRR option at the moment of the interview. Only two respondents did not answer this question.

Figure 31. Share of respondents by reasons why they did not consider return (%)



Among those not intending to return, most (176 migrants or 98.9%) said they would continue their journey to the intended destination, while two respondents did not answer this question.

## 9. Main trends from first to second round

Two rounds of Flow Monitoring Surveys were carried out by IOM field staff in North Macedonia: the first in February and March and the second in April and May 2022. A total of 209 and 180 interviews respectively were collected. When looking at the two samples, some main findings and similar characteristics of the migrant population transiting North Macedonia can be highlighted:

- Sampled migrants in both rounds shared similar features in terms main nationalities and countries of habitual residence. In both rounds most respondents were nationals of five countries – the Syrian Arab Republic, Pakistan, India, Morocco and Afghanistan. Respondents from India, Bangladesh and Iraq were interviewed more frequently in the second round, due to their more frequent presence in the TTC.

- Overall, most respondents were male (97% in the first round and 96% in the second round) and young persons (with average age of 27.3 in the first survey and 27.7 years in the second one). Out of the top 5 nationalities surveyed, the youngest respondents were from Morocco (with average age of 23.9 and 22.8 years, respectively in the two rounds) and the older ones were those from Pakistan and India (28.9 and 29.1, as well as 27.1 and 29.8 years, respectively). Most of the respondents (88.9% in the first round and 75.5% in the second round) were single at the moment of the interview, and a small share (10.5% and 15.6%, respectively) had children.
- The educational structure is similar of the respondents in the first and in the second survey. The share of those with primary level of education was 19.1 per cent and 23.9 per cent, respectively, as well as with secondary (67% and 65.5%, respectively) and tertiary level of education (1.9 per cent and 0.6 per cent). More than half (first round) and about 46 per cent of respondents (second round) were unemployed and inactive at the time of departure from their countries of origin, whereas relatively small share (26% and 15%, respectively) were employed or self-employed. For more than half of the respondents, the economic reasons (57.4% and 51.1%, respectively), followed by war or conflict (26.3% and 35.6%, respectively), were the initial first main reasons for leaving their countries of origin.
- Most respondents in the first round (84.2%) arrived after spending at least one year or more in one of the following six countries (Greece, Pakistan, India, Afghanistan, Syrian Arab Republic and Morocco). About 93 per cent of the respondent in the second round reported the same departure country, with the addition of Republic of Türkiye. A relatively small share (26.3% first and 13% second round) of the respondents travelled alone, which means that the majority of them travelled with a group (64.1% and 87%, respectively) of mainly non-family members.
- Almost half of the respondents in the first round (47.9%) stated that they had left the departure country more than 1 year ago, while in the second round this was the case for only 10 per cent of respondents. Similar routes are described in both rounds, with relatively long stays in transit countries and the need to work as the main reason for it. Also, most respondents reported to have been accommodated in private solutions in transit countries, and their main mode of transport was walking.
- Most of the respondents (91.4% in the first and 99% in the second round) reported that they had stayed in North Macedonia for less than two weeks.
- Both rounds show that the overall amount paid individually, from the beginning of the journey, was between 1,000 USD and 5,000 USD in most cases (77% in the first and 73.9% in the second round). There is a different share of respondents who reported that they paid for the trip only with their own money (66.5% and 91.1%, respectively).
- Germany remains the country of intended destination for the greatest part of the respondents in both rounds and in both rounds the preference for Germany lowers from the time of the departure (when 40.2% in the first and 44.4% in the second round mentioned Germany) to the time of the interview (when Germany is mentioned by 33.5% and 35%, respectively). For the majority of the respondents (47% and 53.3%, respectively), the main reasons for choosing the final destination country are related to the appealing socio-economic conditions, and for more than one fourth of them (26% and 26.7%, respectively) are linked to the ease of access to asylum procedures.
- According to both rounds, 99 per cent of the respondents were aware of the COVID-19 pandemic. Most of them (85% in the first survey and 82.8% in the second survey), received information from media, followed by local and national authorities (62% and 69.4%, respectively), family / friends (58.4% and 72.2%, respectively), civil society / NGOs (56.5% and 63.3%, respectively), medical staff (28% and 20.6%, respectively) and UN or other international organizations (7.2% and 2.8%, respectively).
- Most respondents in both rounds did not consider the option of returning to their origin country during their journey, but their share is relatively smaller according to the first survey (67%) compared to the second survey (98.9%).



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