

ROUND 6 (Jun - Jul 2022)

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 sixth round of RLS data collection which took place from 18 June to 16 July 2022 among Afghan migrants who had returned from Türkiye or the EU between January 2018 and July 2021. A total of 587 returnees (509 from Türkiye and 78 from the EU) were interviewed over the phone across 98 districts in 17 provinces.

The key finding of the RLS Round 6 is that returnees continue to experience significant economic and food-related challenges. Moreover, a large majority of respondents indicated that they were not satisfied with their economic situation due to several reasons such as high rates of inflation, debt and unemployment.

The employment status of returnees did not change significantly compared to Round 5 (May 2022). The largest share of respondents (45%) reported that they were unemployed while 40 per cent said they worked for daily wages. It should be noted that daily wages cannot be considered as a stable source of employment as most returnees are not able to work for daily wages on a regular basis. Respondents who reported working for daily wages worked, on average, 14 days a month.

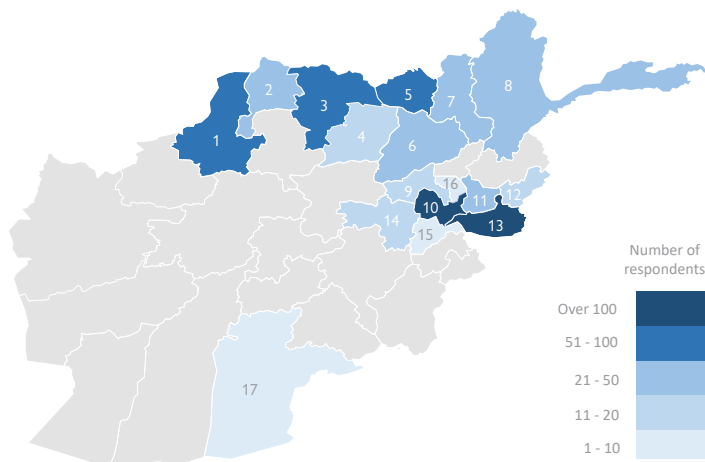
Twenty-two per cent of participants reported having children in the household who worked. Among the children who were working, 29 per cent worked in agriculture, 26 per cent engaged in street vending, 14 per cent worked in shops or restaurants and 18 per cent participated in any type of work that was offered to them.

KEY FIGURES



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

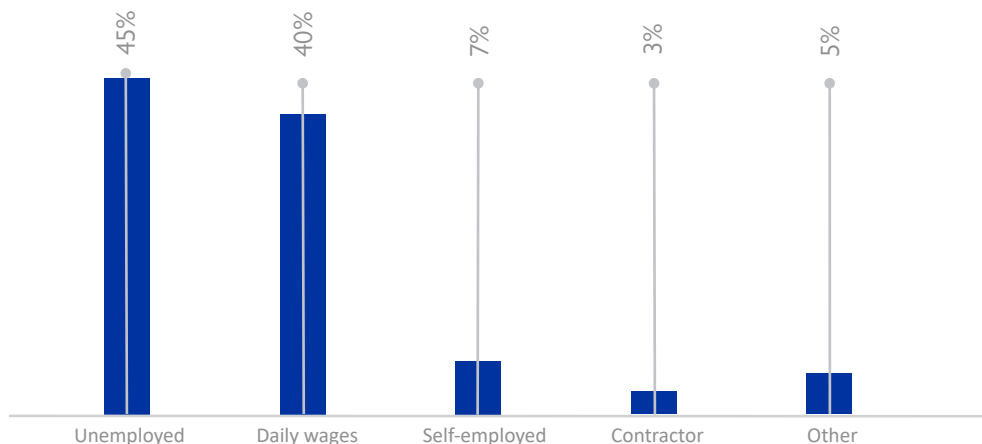
TARGET PROVINCES



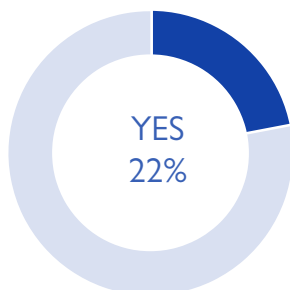
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|-------------|---------------|---------------|
| 1. Faryab | 7. Takhar | 13. Nangarhar |
| 2. Jawzjan | 8. Badakhshan | 14. Wardak |
| 3. Balkh | 9. Parwan | 15. Logar |
| 4. Samangan | 10. Kabul | 16. Kapisa |
| 5. Kunduz | 11. Laghman | 17. Kandahar |
| 6. Baghlan | 12. Kunar | |

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)

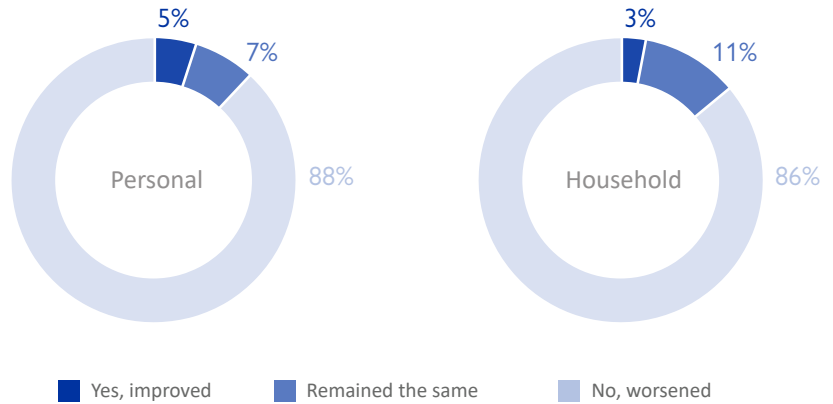


At the time of the interview, 88 per cent of participants said that their personal economic situation had worsened in the last six months, while in Round 5, 77 per cent of participants reported that their economic situation had worsened. Eighty-six per cent of interviewees said that their economic situation had worsened at the household level.

Participants in the RLS remained situated in low-income brackets. Almost half of respondents (47%) earned no income at the personal level while 17 per cent of respondents also reported no income at the household level. Forty-five per cent of respondents' monthly household income was between USD 1-56¹. Thirty-nine per cent of respondents also reported their personal income being in this same range.

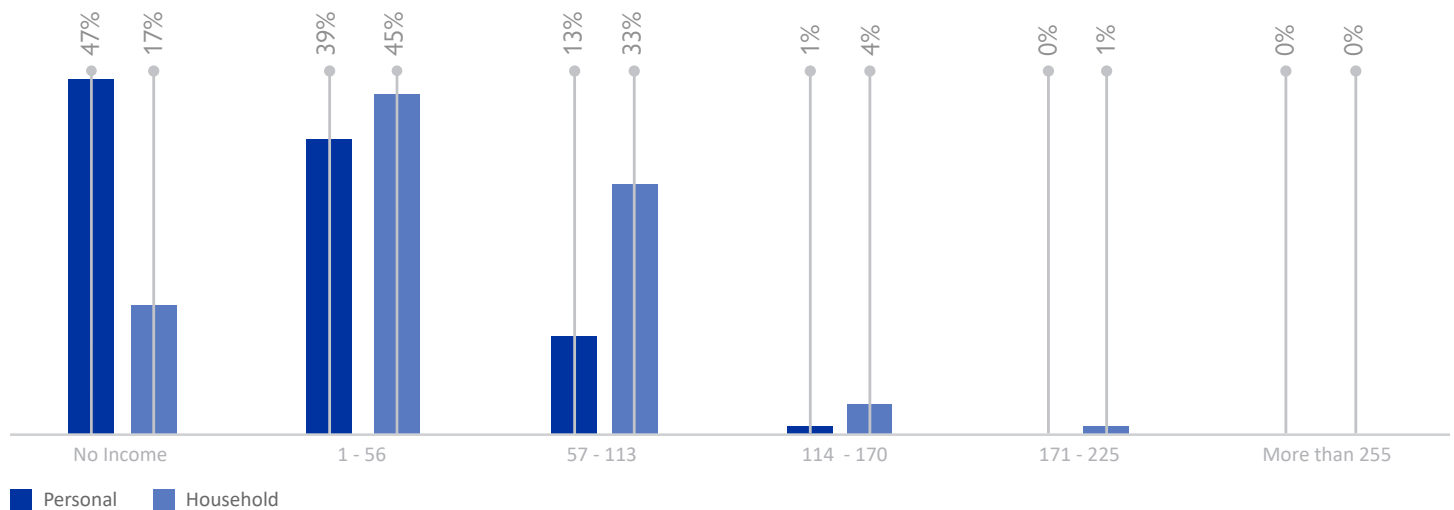
PERSONAL AND HOUSEHOLD ECONOMIC SITUATION

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



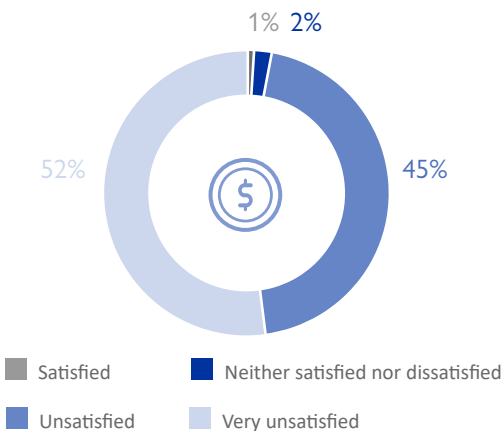
PERSONAL AND HOUSEHOLD INCOME

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

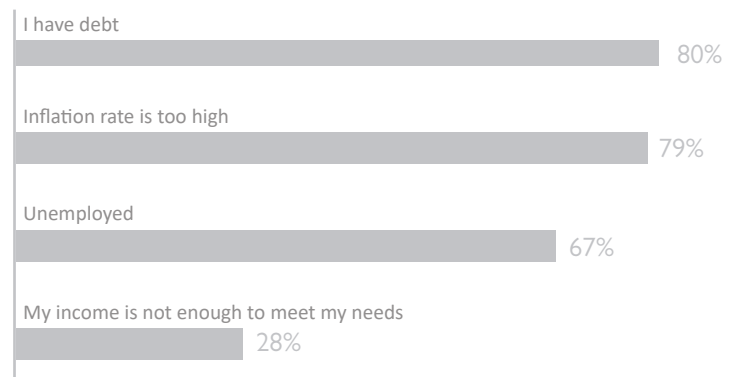


ECONOMIC SATISFACTION

How satisfied are you with your economic situation?



If you are (very) unsatisfied with your current economic situation, please explain. (Top 4 answers, select multiple)

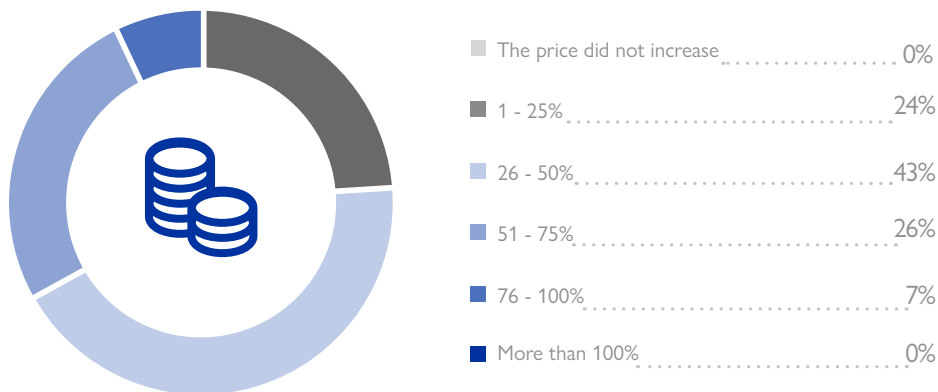


Most respondents (97%) reported to be either unsatisfied or very unsatisfied with their current economic situation. Only one percent of respondents reported to be satisfied. When asked why they were not satisfied with their economic situation, a large number of respondents indicated personal debt (80%), inflation (79%) and unemployment (67%) as reasons for dissatisfaction.

¹Data was originally collected in Afghani. The exchange rate was 88.722 AFN to 1 USD during Round 6 of data collection (15 June 2022) according to the UN Operational Rates of Exchange. For more information, please contact: DTMAfghanistan@iom.int

FOOD PRICE

How much did the price of your food consumption increase between December 2021 and June 2022?

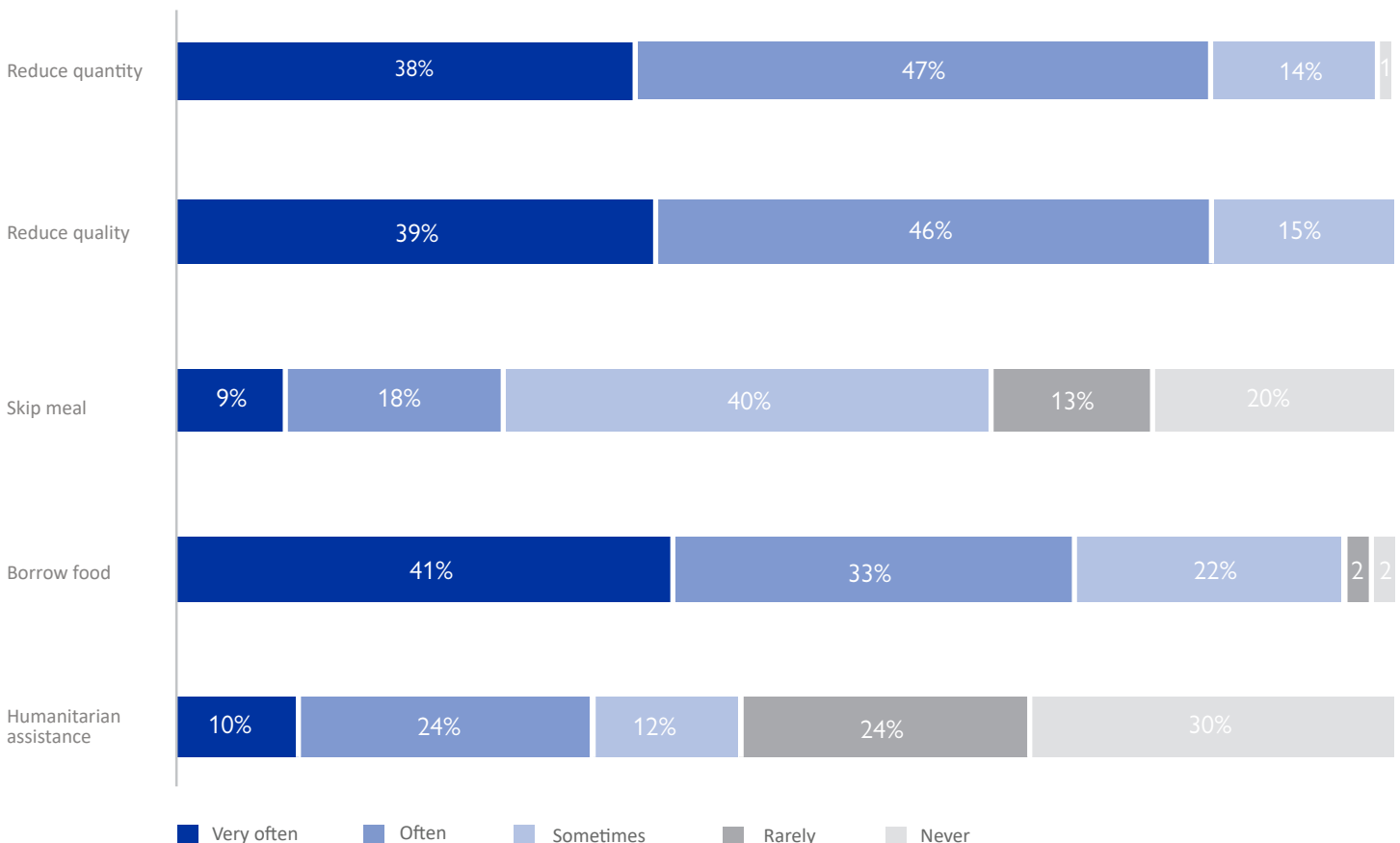


All respondents reported an increase in the price of their food consumption during the last six months (December 2021 – June 2022). One third of respondents (33%) indicated an increase of more than 50 per cent. Forty-three per cent reported an increase between 26 and 50 per cent. Twenty-four per cent reported an increase between 1 and 25 per cent.

These responses reflect inflation statistics in Afghanistan. The political events of August 2021 have resulted in several economic changes, one of which is an increase in inflation. In August 2021, inflation of basic household goods was 20 per cent and in June 2022 it was 52 per cent².

FOOD INSECURITY

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



Due to these different economic impacts, households in Afghanistan frequently rely on different mechanisms to cope with food insecurity and scarcity. Reducing food quantity and quality and borrowing food were the coping mechanisms used most frequently by the respondents. Around half of respondents reported borrowing food very often (41%), while over three fourths reduced the quantity and quality of food often or very often (85% and 85%, respectively). The reduction of quantity and quality of food became significantly more common in this round compared to previous rounds. Around two-thirds of all participants reported skipping meals sometimes, often, or very often to cope with food insecurity (67%). Finally, almost half of respondents (46%) reported to have relied on humanitarian assistance sometimes, often or very often in the last six months.

²World Bank (2022). *Afghanistan Economic Monitor (19 July 2022)*. Available at <https://thedocs.worldbank.org/en/doc/ba0c782d2cb3a62f1f41356e978eb2cf-0310062022/original/Afghanistan-Economic-Monitor-19-July-2022.pdf>

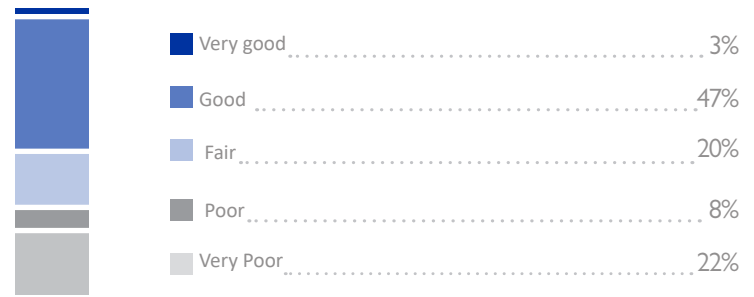
Fifty per cent of respondents reported that the safety situation in their community was good or very good at the personal level as well as at the household level. Thirty per cent of participants at the personal and household level, however, rated safety levels as very poor or poor.

Fifty-nine per cent of interviewees said they felt they were able to continue to stay and live in Afghanistan. Thirty-seven per cent of respondents indicated that they would like to re-migrate abroad in the next six months.

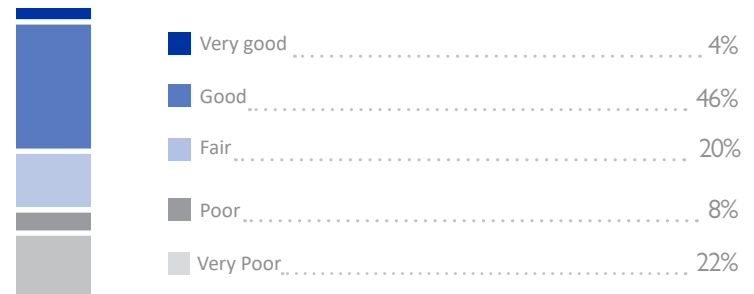
Respondents who indicated they wanted to re-migrate were asked to identify a primary and secondary reason for their intention to re-migrate. For the primary reason, 73 per cent reported lack of jobs, 16 per cent lack of security and three per cent the inability to see a future for themselves in Afghanistan. For the secondary reason, 30 per cent cited the need to clear their debt, 27 per cent lack of security and 16 per cent their inability to see a future in Afghanistan.

PERSONAL AND HOUSEHOLD SAFETY

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

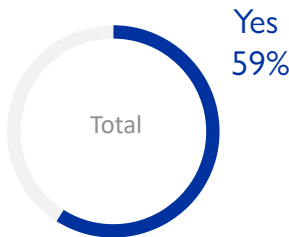


How would you rate the safety level inside your community for your household?

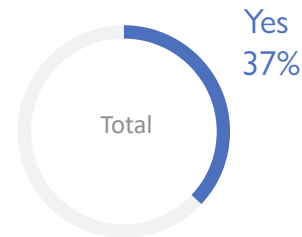


RE-MIGRATION INTENTIONS

Do you feel you are able to stay and live in Afghanistan?

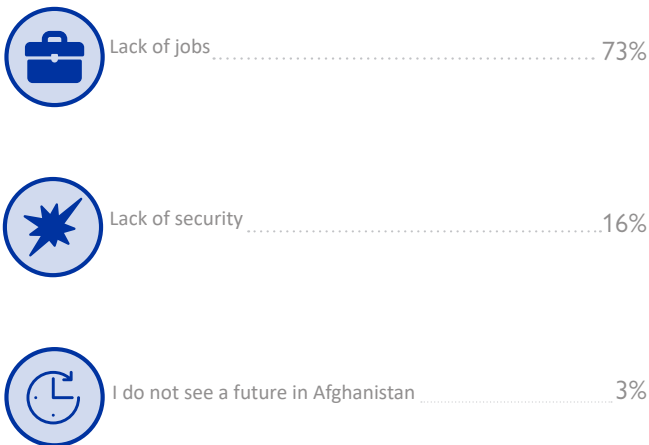


Do you have the intention to migrate from Afghanistan in the next six months?



If you have the intention to re-migrate in the next six months, why do you want to re-migrate? (Top 3 reasons)

PRIMARY REASON



SECONDARY REASON

