

FLOW MONITORING SURVEYS' REPORT
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

04 JULY – 11 SEPTEMBER 2022



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TRACKING MATRIX

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Executive summary

This report presents the results of the fourth round of the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) Flow Monitoring Surveys (FMS) implemented in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH). The data was collected from 4 July to 11 September 2022, in four Temporary reception centres (TRCs). IOM interviewed a total of 303 individual respondents.¹

FMS are a type of qualitative survey, which provide a snapshot of the profiles, experiences and needs of migrants residing in TRCs in BiH. The survey asks questions on demographics, education and employment backgrounds, the circumstances of the migration journey and migration factors, as well as future intentions.

Over half (51.5%) of the respondents were single adult men between the ages of 18 and 29. Nationals of Pakistan and Afghanistan made up 46.5 per cent of the population sample. Almost one-third (32.3%) of all respondents had completed at least lower secondary education and over half (55.1%) were employed prior to leaving their countries of origin.

Most respondents (74.6%) were travelling in a group of people, and most of these groups (62.8%) were made up of non-family members. Only 1.7 per cent of the total respondents reported travelling with facilitators.

A significant part of the respondents (40.6%) had been living in a country other than their own country of origin for at least a year, prior to arriving in BiH. Of these, 38.2 per cent had been living in Türkiye, while one third (33.3%) had been living in Greece.

Germany (26.1%), Italy (26.1%) and France (14.5%) were the most frequently cited countries of intended destination. Pakistani nationals were more likely to cite Italy as their country of intended destination (51% of all Pakistani respondents noted Italy), while Afghans were more likely to state Germany as their intended country of destination (48.8%).

The three main reported drivers of migration were economic reasons (44.9%), war and conflict (21.8%), and limited access to services (17.5%).

During their journeys, almost half (47.2%) of the respondents reported at least one problem, ranging from robbery, theft of documents, health-related issues, mental health problems as well as a lack of food and shelter. Proportionately more men reported being robbed than women. Close to one-fifth (16.8%) of the respondents noted that they had experienced some form of violence on their journeys.

Most migrants transit through BiH after long journeys, often having witnessed or experienced significant hardship and traumatic events. Nevertheless, the most frequently cited needs during their journeys relate to primary needs such as shelter and accommodation which was cited by 45.9 per cent of all respondents as their primary need and 23.4 per cent who reported cash assistance.²

Additionally, 28.4 per cent of all respondents reported having been pushed back at least once during their journeys with 20.1 per cent of all respondents having been pushed back more than once before reaching BiH.

Just over two-fifths (43.6%) of the respondents reported being vaccinated against COVID-19, and 71 per cent of those who were not vaccinated were not interested in getting vaccinated.

¹ The term “respondents” refers to migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers as the reference population is made of persons traveling along mixed migration routes. These terms are used interchangeably throughout the report.

² These are the main needs faced during their journeys, when migrants are in transit and not while they are hosted at TRCs where they have recourse to a shelter as well as a range of support services, including food, non-food items as well as mental health and psychosocial support.

Over two-thirds of respondents (72.3%) have spent more than 2,500 USD on their journeys. The journeys were largely financed with savings or through selling of property in the countries of origin.

The vast majority of migrants (96%) do not intend to return to their countries of origin. Of those who considered returning, most reported being too exhausted from the current living conditions to continue the journey.

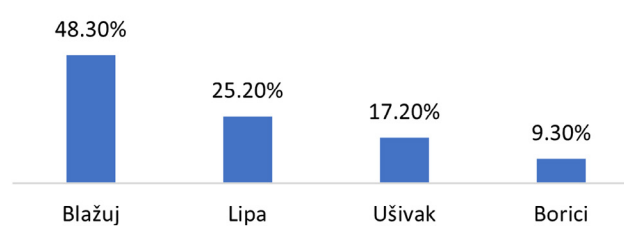
1 Introduction

Since 2015, the WB region has emerged as a major crossroads for migrants and refugees³ attempting to reach the European Union. Prior to 2017, migrants travelled mainly through North Macedonia and Serbia. However, in 2017, the routes diversified with increasing flows also through Albania, Kosovo*,⁴ Montenegro and BiH route.

To better grasp these changes and to improve assistance to migrants, the IOM started conducting the [DTM FMS in BiH](#). The first FMS round was carried out in 2018, when BiH authorities registered a total of 24,067 migrants entering the country, 30 times higher than the number recorded in 2017. The FMS were then repeated in 2019, when a total of 29,196 migrants were registered by the BiH Ministry of Security (MoS). Following travel restrictions and tighter border control measures related to COVID-19, the number of migrants entering BiH through its land borders dropped to 16,150 in 2020 and to 15,740 in 2021. From November to December 2021, the IOM implemented a third round of FMS to understand the evolution of the profiles, experiences and intentions of migrants traveling through the region, as well vulnerabilities and protection needs. This data laid the foundations for a comprehensive analysis that provided the IOM, states and humanitarian actors with in-depth and up-to-date information.

2022 marked an increase in the mixed migration flows, the highest ever for the WB region as a whole, with 21,455 migrant arrivals recorded by BiH authorities in the first 10 months of the year. This is consistent with broader trends in the WB region. In light of this increase, the IOM launched the first round of FMS at WB level, of which BiH was a part.

Figure 1 Number of interviewed migrants per TRC



This report contains findings from the DTM FMS conducted by IOM field staff between 04 July and 11 September 2022. Field staff surveyed a total of 303 individuals in the TRCs located in Sarajevo Canton, including TRCs Blažuj and Ušivak, and the Una-Sana Canton, including TRCs Lipa and Borići.

The first section presents the baseline profile of the population interviewed, followed by a section on the migrants' travel experience up to the location where the interview took place. The next section focuses on the demographic profile and migrant trajectories of Afghan nationals in BiH, in light of the events of August 2021. The report then highlights respondents' experiences of violence, exploitation and abuse during the journey. The last two sections look at COVID-19 awareness, the impact of the journey and the respondent's views on their return intentions.

³ Mixed migration movements are those in which different categories of people are travelling together, generally in an irregular manner, using the same routes and means of transport, but for different reasons. People travelling as part of mixed movements have varying needs and profiles and may include asylum seekers, refugees, trafficked persons, unaccompanied/separated children, and migrants in an irregular situation.

⁴ References to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).

1.1 DTM's Flow Monitoring Surveys

The FMS are part of the IOM's DTM activities in the Mediterranean and WB region. These started in October 2015 are conducted within the framework of the IOM's research on populations on the move through the Mediterranean, Western Balkan and Western African Atlantic routes to Europe. The analysis provides information on profiles, transit routes and vulnerabilities of respondents.

The FMS gather information about migrants' profiles, including age, sex, gender, countries and 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. It also has a module on migrants' vulnerability to and potential past experience of abuse, exploitation and violence.

The questionnaire used in BiH in this round is the same as the questionnaire used in 2021. More information on the questionnaire, sampling and survey implementation can be found in the [methodology section](#).

All analyses, together with the latest information on arrivals to Europe, can be accessed via DTM's portal on mixed migration [Flows to Europe](#).

2 Migrants travelling through BiH: baseline profile

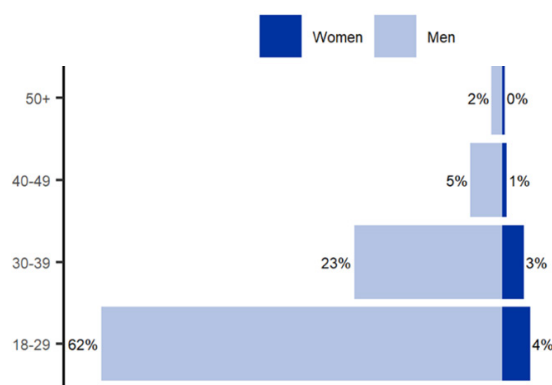
2.1 Sample size and main nationalities

The information in this report is based on a sample of 303 respondents.⁵ The two main declared nationalities of respondents were Afghanistan (28%) and Pakistan (18.1%), followed by Bangladesh (15.2%), Burundi (12.5%), Cuba (6.9%), Islamic Republic of Iran (5.9%), India (4.6%), Ghana (1.3%), Iraq (1%), and smaller shares of people from Cameroon, Comoros, Eritrea, Togo, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Republic of Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ecuador, Gambia, Guinea, Yemen, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria and Sierra Leone. Compared to the previous FMS conducted, there has been a sudden increase in migrants from Burundi and Cuba in the sample, as well as a diversification of nationalities who decide to take the Balkan route, particularly from African countries. The nationality breakdown in this sample is consistent with the nationalities registered by authorities in BiH.

2.2 Demographic profile

Men represent the vast majority (84%) of the sample, followed by 16 per cent women.⁶ The median age of respondents was 27, with the youngest person interviewed being 18 years old and the oldest 53 years old.⁷

Figure 2 Percentages of interviewed migrants disaggregated by sex and age



⁵ Two other migrants met by enumerators stated that they had already participated in the FMS before, and hence were not asked the remainder of the questions after the initial ones.

⁶ The questionnaire includes one question on sex and one question on gender self-identification, both including the possibility of declining to specify for the respondent. No respondents declared "other" or "non-binary" when surveyed.

⁷ Minors require the signed informed consent of the parent or legal guardian prior to being interviewed. Although minors were approached, IOM could not get informed consent. No minors are therefore included in this sample.

Exactly two-thirds of the respondents (66%) declared they were single, followed by 31.3 per cent who were married, two per cent divorced, and less than one per cent did not want to answer. Almost three-quarters of the respondents (72%) have no children. Of those who reported having children, 57.6 per cent declared at least one child left in the country of origin, 38.8 per cent said they had children travelling with them, of whom 24.7 per cent had children younger than five years of age. Moreover, 8.2 per cent declared they had children elsewhere and 3.5 per cent said they had children at destination.⁸

Almost all (95.8%) of the female respondents in this survey said that they were traveling with a group of people.

The most commonly spoken languages were Farsi (22.3%), Bangla (15.3%), Urdu (15.3%), followed by French (11.3%), Pashto (9.7%), Dari (3%), Hindi and Kirundi (2% each), English (1.7%), Arabic, Kurdish, Malayalam (1.3%), Punjabi (1%) and other 26 different languages representing less than one percent each. Thirty-nine per cent of the respondents reported English as a second language.

Of the total number of respondents, 1.7 per cent declared they had been internally displaced before leaving their country of origin. These respondents came from Afghanistan, Burundi and Cameroon.

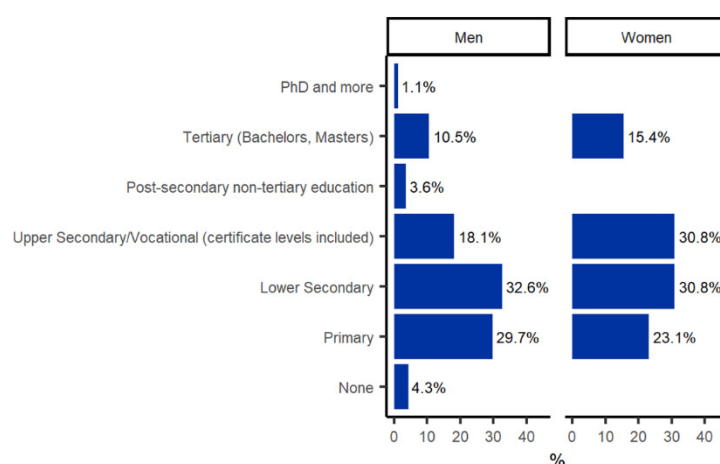
3.3 Education and employment

3.3.1 Education

Almost one-third of respondents (32.3%) reported having completed lower secondary education, 29 per cent have primary education, 19.1 per cent reported having completed upper secondary school, 10.1 per cent reported having completed tertiary education (including Bachelor's and Master's degree), four per cent reported having completed other informal education, 3.3 per cent reported having completed post-secondary education, one per cent reported having completed a PhD, and one person declared having completed short-cycle tertiary education..

Overall, women tend to have a higher level of education than men. Over two-fifths (46.2%) of the female migrants surveyed have either an upper secondary, post-secondary or tertiary education, compared with 33.4 per cent of the male respondents.

Figure 3 Percentages of men and women disaggregated by education level



Source: DTM BiH FMS 2022, n=303.

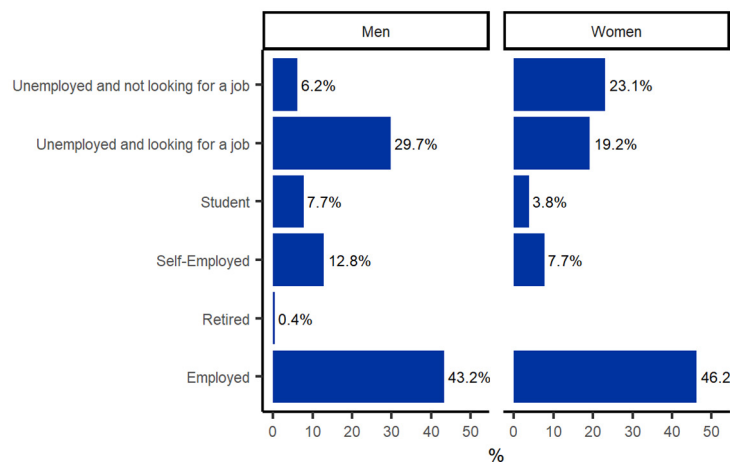
⁸ Respondents can have more children; therefore, the percentage does not sum up to 100.

Among respondents with at least upper secondary education (34.6% of the total sample), the most frequently reported fields of study were generic programmes and qualifications (17%), business, administration and law (13.8%), education and information and communication technologies (10.6% each), social sciences and journalism (9.6% each), arts and humanities, engineering, manufacturing and construction and natural sciences, mathematics and statistics (7.4% each), agriculture, forestry, fisheries and veterinary (6.4%), service (5.3%) and health and welfare (4.2%).

2.4 Employment status before departure

Over two-fifths (43.5%) of respondents declared they had been employed before leaving their country of origin, followed by 28.8 per cent who were unemployed and looking for a job, 12.4 per cent who were self-employed, 7.7 per cent who were unemployed and not looking for a job, 7.4 per cent who were students, 1 per cent were retired, and less than 1 per cent did not provide an answer to the question.

Figure 4 Percentages of men and women disaggregated by employment status before departure



Source: DTM BiH FMS 2022, n=303.

Among respondents who declared they had been employed before leaving their country of origin, the most frequently reported jobs were service and sales workers and skilled manual labour (13.8% each), followed by craft and related trade workers (11%), plant and machine operators and assemblers, and professionals (10% each), technicians and associate professional (9%), elementary occupations (8%), armed forces (6%), clerical support workers (5%), managers (2%).⁹ The one respondent who answered “other” reported to have been a cricket player.

2.5 Reasons for leaving the country of origin

Interviewees were also asked to mention the two main reasons for leaving their countries of origin.¹⁰ Figure 5 shows the two main reasons in comparison. Over two-fifths (44%) of respondents reported economic reasons as their primary motive, followed by war and conflict in their country of origin, 37 per cent of respondents reported war and conflict (21.8%) in their country of origin, limited access to services (17.5%), other reasons (4.6%), including political reasons, legal issues as well as family problems, personal/targeted violence (3%), family reasons including family reunification (2.6%), access to education (2.3%), COVID-19 (1.3%), slow environmental changes and sudden onset natural disasters (less than 1% each).

⁹ The list of categories included in the questionnaire were: Armed forces; managers (e.g. directors, senior officials); professionals (e.g. doctors, nurses, teachers, accountants); technicians and associate professional (e.g. associate professionals of science, engineering, health, business and administration, legal); clerical support workers (e.g. general secretaries, customer service clerks); service and sales workers (e.g. personal services, sales workers, personal care, security services); skilled manual (agriculture, fishery, craft) (e.g. gardeners, farmers, fishers, gatherers); craft and related trade workers (e.g. metal workers, repairers, woodworkers, electronic installers); plant and machine operators, and assemblers (e.g. truck/ bus drivers, mining/ rubber machine operators); elementary occupations (e.g. cleaners, mining/ construction labourers, street vendors, refuse workers).

¹⁰ The list of categories included in the questionnaire were: sudden onset natural disaster (e.g., flood, storm, landslide, earthquake); slow environmental change (e.g. livestock died due to drought, loss of agriculture due to drought/poor rainfall, sea level rise destroyed homes/assets, reduced fish stocks); war/conflict; personal/ targeted violence; limited access to services (basic education, health care, water, food, accommodation, transportation); economic reasons; education (higher levels) or training; marriage, family reunification or family formation; COVID-19 related reasons.

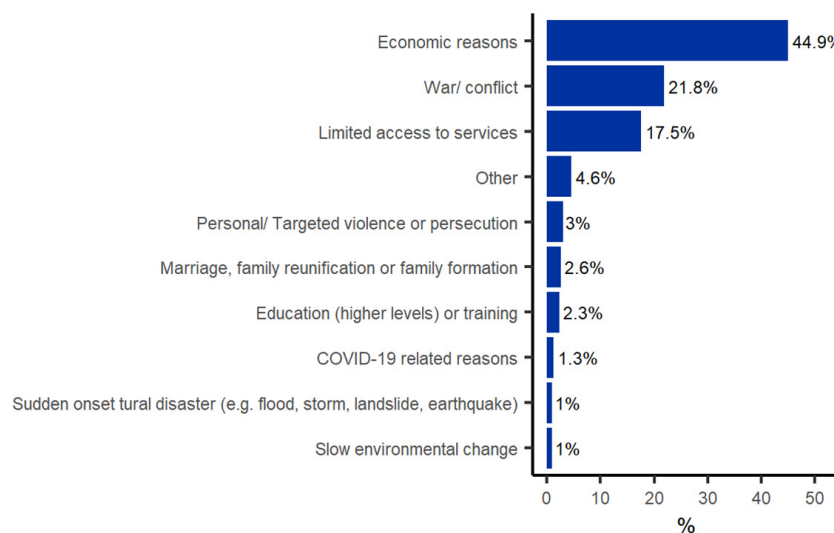
When asked about drivers of migration, 44.7 per cent of respondents reported that it was for economic reasons while 21.9 per cent mentioned war and conflict. Close to one-fifth (17.6%) of the respondents cited limited access to services such as basic education, health care, water, food or accommodation. Proportionately fewer respondents cited war and conflict in this round, compared to the previous round when 37 per cent cited this as their primary migration driver. This could be related to global and regional events that have exacerbated socio-economic situations in the relating to the global pandemic.

Among women in the sample, 43.8 per cent reported economic reasons as their main grounds for leaving. This was followed by 33.3 per cent who stated lack of access to services, by 14.9 per cent who stated war and conflict as the main reason, and 4.2 per cent stated education and marriage/family reunification respectively.

When looking at the five main reported nationalities in BiH, Afghan nationals cite war and conflict as the number one reason for leaving (54% of the total), while for nationals of Pakistan (58%), Bangladesh (61%), Burundi (35 %) and Cuba (62%) the main migration driver is economic. This is also confirmed by the second reason mentioned by the respondents, which are the economic reasons for Afghans (34%), Bangladeshi (28%) and Pakistani (27%), while nationals from Burundi and Cuba report limited access to services as their secondary reason, with respectively 32 and 33 per cent. Interestingly, out of the 10 per cent of respondents who reported leaving their country of origin due to personal/targeted violence, 30 per cent of respondents were from African countries (Cameroon, Togo, the Gambia, Ghana, Burkina Faso, Republic of the Congo), followed by 25 per cent from Pakistan, and 12 per cent from Afghanistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran equally.

Among those who reported personal violence, three male migrants declared to have been in slavery in their country of origin and therefore decided to flee, and one migrant reported to belong to the LGBTQI+ community and had to leave for fear of persecution.

Figure 5 Percentage of respondents by their first reason for leaving the country of origin



Source: DTM BiH FMS 2022, n=303.

2.6 Reasons for leaving the country of departure

Just over two-fifths of the sample (40.6%) of the survey respondents had been living in a country other than that of their origin or habitual residence for more than a year. To understand why they had decided to leave at this specific moment, after having been resident in another country, almost one third departed from Türkiye and Greece, for at least a year, respondents were asked what the two main reasons were for moving towards Western Europe. Figure 6 shows the two main reasons in comparison. Economic reasons were mentioned by 43.1 per cent of those moving after more than one year in country different from that of origin, followed by 19.5 per cent who reported limited access to services.

More than one quarter of the sample (26.4%) reported that someone helped them organise the journey. Of these, 61.2 per cent said they had been helped by family/friends/community of origin to organise the journey, 13.8 per cent by private individuals/employment agencies/future employers at their destination, 12.5 per cent from family/friends/community at destination, 12.5 per cent declared “other”, including friends and acquaintances, not specifying whether at origin or destination, while only one migrant mentioned the word “smuggler”.

2.7 Mode of travel

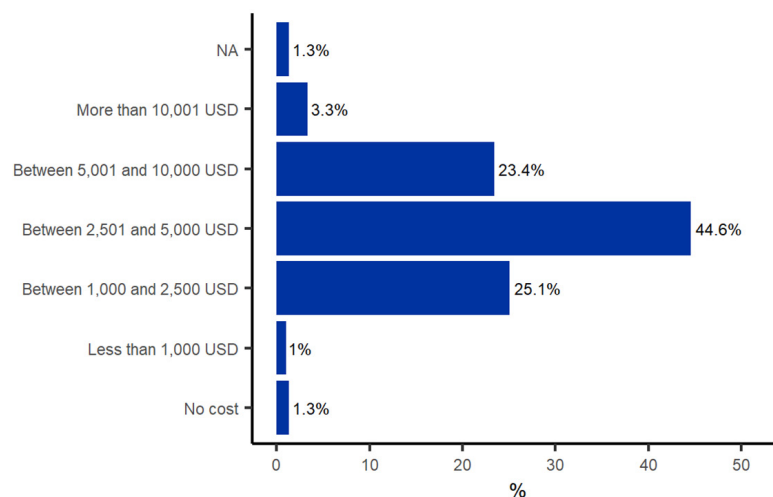
Most respondents stated they were travelling with a group of persons (74.6%), while the rest were travelling alone.¹¹ The majority of those in groups were travelling with non-family members (62.8%), while 35 percent travelled with relatives. A minority of respondents reported having travelled with facilitators (2.2%, or 7 respondents): four were adult males, including three from Pakistan and one from Bangladesh. Five out of seven declared they experienced at least one of the indicators related to violence, abuse and exploitation. This involved working or performing activities without getting the expected payment, being forced to perform work or activities against their will and experiencing some form of physical violence. Only one person responded positively to three out of six indicators, while none of the seven reported experiences of sexual violence.¹²

Ten per cent of women were travelling alone, compared with 46 per cent of men.

Family groups among respondents mostly consist of spouses and children (39.3%), followed by spouses only (26.6%), non-first line relatives (19%), siblings only (8.9%), only with parent (3.8%), only with children (2.5%).

2.8 Cost of journey

Figure 6 Percentage of respondents stating cost of journey so far from departure country to country of interview



Source: DTM BiH FMS 2022, n=303.

11 The question “Who are you travelling with (with whom did the respondent start the journey)?” presented two options namely a. Alone, b. With a group. If b (with a group), a follow-up question followed “The group was made of, a. Non-family/non-relatives, b. Family/Relatives, c. Facilitators (agents/employer/smugglers).”

12 For more information on indicators relating to violence, abuse and exploitation, please see Chapter 5.

Almost half of the respondents (44.6%) reported the estimated cost of the journey to be between 2,501 and 5,000 USD per person, while 25 per cent reported they have spent between 1,000 and 2,500 USD, 23.4 per cent between 5,001 and 10,000, 3.3 per cent more than 10,000 USD, 1.3 per cent at no cost, 1.3 per cent did not know the exact amount paid and less than 1 per cent spent less than 1,000 USD.

Although a smaller share of migrants paid between USD 5,001 and USD 10,000 this round, which was the price range that was mentioned the most, the average cost of the journey increased from the previous FMS round conducted in 2021. This time, in fact, more than two thirds of the respondents (70.5%) paid within 5,000 USD range, compared to 26 per cent in the previous round. This can also denote more active and engaged smuggler networks offering better deals to migrants.

Among women, 31 per cent declared they have paid more than 10,000 USD versus 17 per cent of male who they have paid more than 10,000 USD.

Almost three-fourths of the respondents (72.3%) reported having paid for the journey with their own money only, followed by 14.5 per cent who sold their private property, 12.5 who raised money by working during the journey, 12.2 per cent who reported financial help from relatives in the country of origin or habitual residence, 11.5 per cent who reported financial help by friends in the country of origin, 11.2 per cent who relied on loan/debt, 7.8 per cent who received support from relatives abroad, 5.6 per cent received support from friends abroad, and 1.3 per cent through recruitment agency.¹³

Almost a third of the respondents (35.3%) reported having paid for the journey per leg, followed by 24 per cent by instalments in cash, for 13.9 per cent either it is not known, or the payment was made through other systems, 12.2 per cent did not want to provide an answer, 9.2 per cent having paid the full amount in advance, 3.3 per cent will have to pay upon arrival, and 2 per cent having paid for the journey by *hawala*¹⁴ instalments.

When asked whether they will have to repay all or part of the travel expenses upon arrival at their intended destination, most of the respondent (74.9%) replied no, 13.2 per cent answered positively while the remaining 11.9 per cent declined to reply.

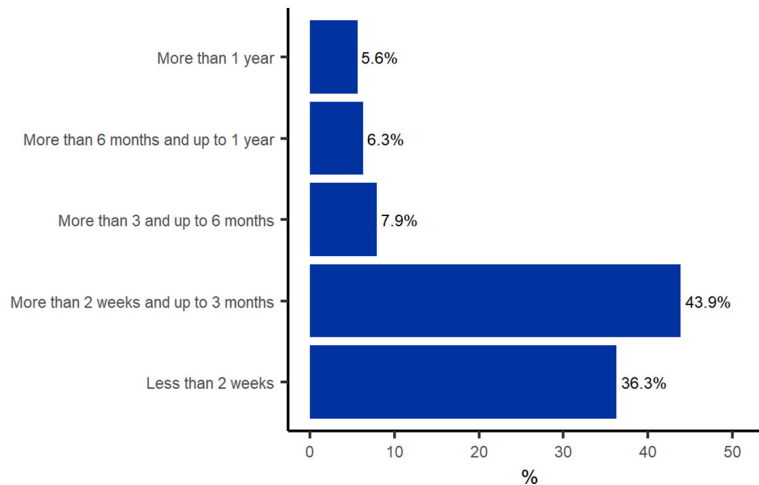
2.9 Entry and length of stay in BiH

When asked how long the respondents had been staying in BiH, 80.2 per cent stated they had been staying in the country since less than 3 months, followed by 7.9 per cent between 3 and 6 months, 6.3 per cent between 6 months and 1 year and 5.6 per cent more than 1 year. This result is particularly relevant when compared with the previous FMS round conducted in BiH in 2021, when the percentage of migrants who claimed to have stayed in the country for less than three months was significantly lower (27%). This shows that the current migrant population is particularly mobile, confirming the high turnover rate recorded in TRCs in the first nine months of 2022.

¹³ The total does not add up to 100 as the respondents could provide multiple answers.

¹⁴ Hawala is an informal money transfer system in which money is passed on through a network of brokers (who are known as hawaladars) without the actual/physical movement of cash. It is the transmission of money in ways other than the regular banking routes and hence sometimes called underground banking.

Figure 7 Percentage of interviewed migrants stating the length of stay in the present country



Source: DTM BiH FMS 2022, n=303.

2.10 Problems/Protection Risks during the journey

The interviewees were asked about a list of specific incidents and problems they could have faced during the journey. Fifty-five per cent of the respondents declared they had not experienced any problems during the journey.

One fifth of respondents declared they had been robbed, out of which 81.4 per cent occurred in transit countries and 18.6 per cent in BiH. Less than one-tenth (7.9%) of women declared they had been robbed compared with 21.2 per cent of men. The transit countries most cited where the reported experiences took place were Greece (37%), Serbia (24.7%), Croatia (19.6%), Albania and Türkiye (6.5% each).

One-tenth of respondents declared they had suffered theft of documents, of whom 96.7 per cent reported that this happened in transit countries while 3.2 per cent reported this had occurred in BiH. The most cited countries where this has happened were Türkiye (32.1%), Croatia and Greece (25%) and Serbia (7.1%).

Twenty-eight per cent of respondents reported that there was a lack of shelter at some point during the journey and 73.5 per cent reported that this happened in transit countries, while 26.5 per cent reported this had occurred in BiH. The most cited countries where migrants did not have shelter or a place to sleep were Croatia (33.3%), Albania and Greece (16.7%), North Macedonia (10%), Serbia (18%) and Türkiye (6.7%).¹⁵

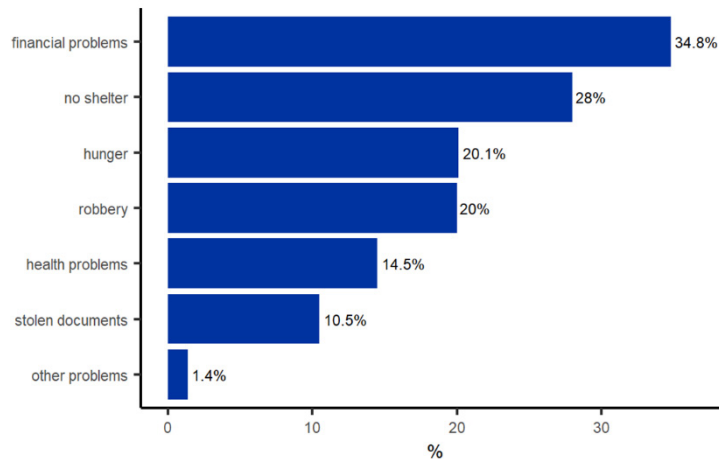
Fourteen per cent of migrants reported having had health problems during the journey, mainly injuries related to the journey, asthma, food poisoning, cold, mental health problem but also COVID-19. Of those who reported to have suffered from health problems, 73.8 per cent occurred in transit locations.

One third of respondents also reported having had financial problems to cover basic needs/onward journey, out of whom three fourths (75.5%) declared this happened in BiH.

One fifth of migrants surveyed said they suffered from hunger, 77 per cent of whom mentioned that it happened in transit countries, while 23 per cent declared it happened in BiH. The most cited countries where migrants said they suffered from hunger were Croatia (39.1%), Albania (19.6%), Greece (13%) and Türkiye (8.7%). One per cent of the respondents mentioned facing other problems during their journey, including having been kidnapped or having had problems with the authorities of transit countries

¹⁵ The population surveyed is mobile and the reasons for not having shelter/place where to sleep are disparate, including the unwillingness to stay in a reception facility, and the desire to be as close as possible to the country's borders to reach the final intended destination as soon as possible.

Figure 8 Main problems reported during journey



Source: DTM BiH FMS 2022, n=303.

Respondents were also asked if they had been readmitted¹⁶ to another country during their journey by the authorities of transit countries. Twenty-eight per cent of respondents reported that they had been readmitted at least once. Eleven per cent declared this happened between two and five times during the journey, followed by eight per cent who declared it only happened once, six per cent who reported it happened between six and ten times, three per cent who declared it happened more than 11 times. Most of those who reported being readmitted reported the readmitted when attempting to enter Greece or Hungary.

2.11 Main needs

Respondents were asked what their main unmet needs were at the time of the interview and to provide them in order of priority. Most respondents (45.9%) reported accommodation/shelter as their main need, followed by cash assistance (23.4%), food (12.9%), medical assistance (8.2%), clothes and shoes (3.6%), “other”, including job opportunities and facilitations when crossing borders (2.3%), legal assistance (1.3%), followed by significantly lower percentages for other needs (help to access money transfer, psycho-social support, water, sanitation and hygiene facilities).

2.12 Country of intended destination

The survey also asked about intended final destinations. Italy (26.4%), Germany (26.1%), and France (13.6%) were the three most frequently cited countries of intended destination. The final intended destination countries differ for the two main nationalities (Afghans and Pakistanis). For Afghans, the top three intended destinations are Germany (48.8%), Italy (14%) and France (10.5%). For Pakistanis, the main intended destinations are Italy (51%) and Germany (23.6%).

As to why migrants specifically chose the country of destination, most (37%) stated that this was due to appealing socio-economic conditions, including the education and welfare system, social security and job opportunities. This is followed by 23.1 per cent who declared that it was because they had relatives in the country of destination, 19.2 per cent for security reasons, 9.6 per cent for ease of access to asylum procedures, 7.3 per cent for the existence of an established network of co-nationals, 4.6 per cent for “other” reasons and 1.3 per cent because it was the only available/feasible choice due to political or geographical constraints.

More than half of the respondents (66.7%) have family members in the countries of intended destination, of which 59.4 per cent extended family members and 7.3 per cent immediate family.

¹⁶ The survey asks migrants questions about whether they have been readmitted from one country to another. Migrants may or may not know the difference between formal readmission procedures and push backs and may use or understand those terms interchangeably. Findings on readmission should therefore not be understood to definitively mean pushbacks.

Most of the relatives and immediate family members in Europe are in Germany (24.6%), Italy (20%) and France (17.3%). Over three-fourths (76.5%) of Afghan said they had relatives in the country of intended destination, followed by 67.3 per cent of Pakistani nationals, 63 per cent of Bangladeshi nationals and 42 per cent of Cuban nationals.

Over two-fifths (42.1%) of the respondents who reported Germany, France or Italy as their countries of intended destination said that it was due to appealing socioeconomic conditions. Just over one-fifth of respondents said that it was due to family connections in those countries, while 8.4 per cent said that it was due to ease of access to asylum procedures.

Two-thirds of respondents said they had no information on asylum or how to obtain documents to stay legally in the intended country of destination, followed by 17.1 per cent who had them and 16.5 per cent who did not know exactly.

Of the total number of respondents who declared that they have family members in the country of destination, 81 per cent declared that they had not previously attempted to reunify with their family members through legal procedures. Of these, 85 per cent stated they did not have information on family reunification in the country where their relatives

3 Afghanistan

This section presents the profile and main characteristics of Afghan nationals interviewed, with the aim of having a more detailed analysis of changes in profiles, after the Taliban takeover of Kabul in August 2021.

3.1 Demographic profile

A total of 86 respondents from Afghanistan were interviewed, representing 28.4 per cent of the total sample. Almost all of the (98%) were male and 2 per cent were female. The median age of Afghans was 26 while the youngest respondent was 17 and the oldest 51 years of age. Most (72.1%) were single. Just over one-fifth (23.3 per cent) reported having children. Of those respondents who had children, more than three thirds were travelling with their children while the remainder had children in their country of origin.

Seventy-eight per cent of Afghans in the sample were travelling in a group, the majority of whom (62.7%) were travelling with non-family members, while 32.9 per cent were travelling with relatives. The remainder (4.4%) reported travelling with facilitators.

The provinces of origin of the Afghan respondents were Kabul (41.4%), Herat (6.9%), Kandahar and Kunduz each with 5.2 per cent followed by Baghlan, Kapisa, Nangarhar, Parwan and Kur each with 3.5 per cent and finally Alborz, Badakkshan, Bamyan, Ghazni, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Nimroz, Paktika, Sar-e-Pul, Sindh, Takhar and Wardak with 1.7 per cent.

Most of the migrants interviewed from Afghanistan (58.1%) declared Farsi as their first language, followed by 25.6 per cent who declared Pashto and 10.5 per cent who declared Dari.

3.2 Education

The educational profile of the Afghan nationals is generally mixed, but the vast majority of respondents have completed some cycle of formal education. Just under one-third (30.2%) of respondents from Afghanistan had completed primary education, while 26.7 per cent had completed lower secondary school and 20.9 per cent had attained an upper secondary school education. Seven per cent of respondents had completed a post-secondary/non-tertiary education while 11.7 per cent had completed tertiary education. Only 3.5 per cent had not had any formal education.

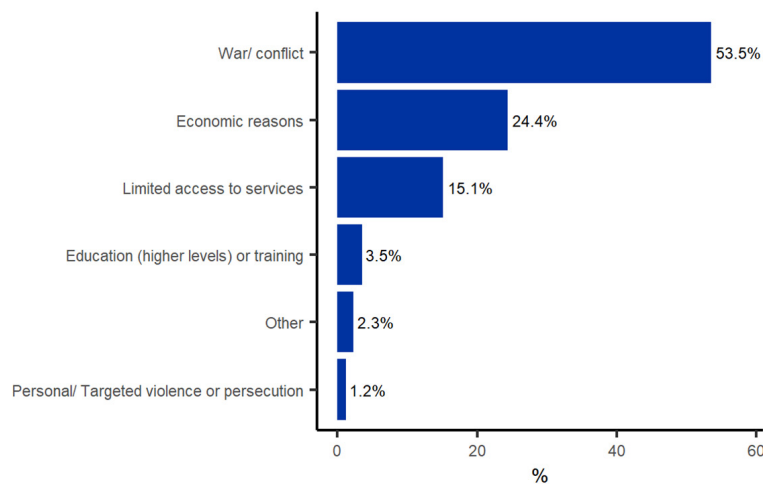
3.3 Employment

Almost half (45.3%) of the Afghans surveyed were employed prior to leaving Afghanistan. A further 16.3 per cent were students at the time while 36 per cent were unemployed.¹⁷

3.4 Reasons for leaving the country of origin and the country of departure

Over half (53.5%) of the Afghans surveyed stated that they left Afghanistan due to war and conflict while 24.4 per cent stated economic reasons for leaving and 14 per cent stated limited access to basic services.

Figure 9 Percentage of respondents from Afghanistan stating reason for leaving the country of origin



Source: DTM BiH FMS 2022, n=86.

4 Vulnerability to violence, exploitation and abuse

The questionnaire also included a module which gathers data on migrants' vulnerability and the forms of abuse, violence and exploitation they may have experienced or witnessed during the journey. More specifically, the survey includes six questions to capture information about whether the respondents had, during their journey:

1. Worked or performed activities without getting the expected payment.
2. Been forced to perform work or activities against their will.
3. Been approached by someone offering marriage.
4. Been kept at a certain location against their will (by persons other than authorities of the country).
5. Experienced some form of physical violence.
6. Witnessed someone been threatened with sexual violence.

These six questions relate to an event, that might indicate exposure to human trafficking, exploitation and abuse practices, physical and sexual violence, experienced by the respondent directly or by one of his/her family member, or witnessed by the respondent during the journey.

The experiences described in these questions do not aim to identify cases of human trafficking as defined by international and national legal instruments. If interviewers came across respondents who requested further support, they referred these cases to the relevant protection actor.

¹⁷ This information was unavailable for the remaining 2.4 per cent of the population.

Overall, 20.5 per cent of all respondents answered “yes” to at least one of the six indicators of human trafficking, exploitation and abuse based on their own experience. Only one respondent answered “yes” to five out of six indicators, while no respondent answered “yes” to all six indicators.

Just over one-fifth (21.7%) of male respondents answered “yes” to at least one of six direct indicators of human trafficking, exploitation and abuse, compared with 7.7 per cent of female respondents.

With regard to the geographical areas where the reported experiences of violence and abuse took place, BiH, Türkiye, Greece and Croatia were the most frequently cited.

Male respondents were more likely to have experienced physical violence than women, with 24 per cent of men reported having experienced some any of physical violence while none of the female respondents reported having experienced any form of physical violence.

4.1 Labour exploitation

Of the total sample, 4.3 per cent reported they had worked or performed other activities during their journey without receiving the expected payment. Of those who reported having worked or performed other activities without getting the expected payment during their journey.

In 53.8 per cent of the cases, the reported experience of not obtaining the expected pay took place in Türkiye, followed by Greece (28%), Serbia (15.4%) and unknown location for 1 respondent only.

Of the 13 respondents who declared that they had worked without obtaining the expected payment, the two main employment sectors reported were manufacturing and construction industries.

4.2 Forced labour

Four respondents (1.3%) reported having been forced to work or conduct activities against their will. Of the four respondents who declared they were forced to work or perform other activities against their will, two said this happened in Türkiye, followed by one respondent in BiH, and one in Italy. The two main employment sectors reported by the respondents were manufacturing and construction industries.

4.3 Offers of an arranged marriage

Two respondents (less than 1%) reported they had been approached by someone offering a marriage, both respondents were men who reported that this had happened in Türkiye and in BiH. No respondents reported that any family members were approached by someone who offered marriage during the journey.

4.4 Being kept at a certain location against their will

Four respondents (1.3%), all of them male, reported they had been held in a location against their will during their journey. This had reportedly happened in Türkiye, Greece and Croatia.

4.5 Experienced some form of physical violence

When asked if they had experienced some form of physical violence during their journeys, 16.8 per cent declared that they had. In general, men were more frequently reported exposure to violence with 19.6 per cent of respondents declaring that they had experienced some form of physical violence compared to 2.1 per cent of the women.

The most frequently cited country was Croatia (64.7%), followed by Greece (17.6%), Albania (5.9%) Türkiye (5.9%), and Ethiopia, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Serbia (1.6%). Of those who reported having experienced some kind of violence during their journey, 62.7 per cent stated this happened at the border between BiH and Croatia., while 54.9 per cent reported experiencing violence at the hands of the police.

4.6 Observed threats with sexual violence

Two respondents (less than 1%) declared to have witnessed threats with sexual violence, including one male and one female. The two countries mentioned where the sexual violence took place were Croatia and Cuba.

5 Covid-19

Over two-fifths (43.6%) of migrants interviewed declared they were vaccinated against COVID-19. Out of the 168 respondents who declared they were not vaccinated, 13.1 per cent stated they were not interested and 15.5 per cent would be interested. Eleven per cent did not want to provide an answer.

Most of respondents did not encounter any challenge along their journey due to COVID-19. Among those who encountered problems, 10.6 per cent were diagnosed with COVID-19 but recovered, 4.9 per cent had a family member or friend who got ill with COVID-19 but recovered, 4.9 per cent experienced restriction of movement inside a facility (for instance quarantine or isolation) due to COVID-19, 2 per cent who had difficulties in accessing health care services due to COVID-19 and 2 per cent who had problems in continuing my journey. Smaller percentage have been recorded (less than 1%), for those who had a family member or friend who got ill with COVID-19 and died, had difficulties in accessing basic service (food, water, etc.), difficulties in finding a job.

6 Return intentions

The vast majority (94.3%) of respondents reported they had not considered returning to their country of origin during their journey. Almost three fourths (71.4%) of the respondents who considered returning indicated they were too exhausted from their current living conditions to continue the journey. A smaller number (14.3%) mentioned legal or physical barrier preventing from continuing the journey, including detention, while 7.1 per cent mentioned fear of xenophobia and discrimination and a lack of job opportunities.

Among those who had not considered returning, the most people (75.6%) merely stated that they were not interested in returning while others mentioned an overriding desire to join family in the destination country (11.6%) and security concerns (11.2%).

Of those who replied that they were not planning to return, the majority (88.4%) plan to continue the journey to their intended country of destination, followed by 8.6 per cent who plan to travel to another country from BiH and 3 per cent intend to stay in BiH.

Almost 52 per cent of respondents were aware of IOM Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) program, which aim to help migrants make informed and voluntary decisions about returning to their country of origin. Interestingly, more than four fifth of those who knew about it have learned about it in the location where the interview took place, mostly from IOM staff.

7 Methodology

FMS in BiH were conducted as part of 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 Balkans Routes to Europe. The data collection involves direct interviews with migrants and collation of statistical data on arrivals and migrant presence in reception and outside from national authorities and IOM staff presence. Regular updates on arrivals are available on [DTM Flows to Europe Geoportal](#).

FMS in BiH were conducted by IOM field staff between 5 July and 11 September 2022 in the TRCs where IOM operates in BiH, which are all located in the Sarajevo and Una-Sana Cantons. A total number of nine enumerators (two female, seven male) with language skills in English, Arabic, Dari, Farsi, Turkish and Pashto were trained by IOM.

The survey is designed to profile third country (non-European) nationals who are moving to Europe by land and by sea through the WB route. Only migrants aged 14 and above are approached and the questionnaire is proposed only to migrants and refugees who have arrived in the country of the survey no more than one year prior to the interview. The IOM requires the written consent of the parents or legal guardians of potential survey respondents under the age of 18.

The FMS questionnaire was available in e-format in Kobo (English and French) and in paper forms translated into Arabic, English, Farsi, French, Pashto and Urdu. Respondents were approached in a simple random sample by IOM field staff working in the TRCs, with those who give their consent to be interviewed proceeding with the remaining questions. The interviews were anonymous and conducted one-on-one with respondents, in safe and isolated spaces, also considering the COVID-19 regulations in force in BiH at the time of the data collection. Migrants could decline to respond to individual questions or to interrupt the interview if they wish to do so.

7.1 Sampling

The sample frame consists of the total number of migrants in TRCs in BiH above the age of 14. IOM BiH used a systematic random sampling procedure, where the members of the total population of study are placed in a sequence and then chosen at regular intervals. The population list is in random order, therefore there is no cyclically or periodically inheritance related to the frame. On the 25 June 2022 the size of the frame was 2,282 migrants. The sample size of 350 respondents is defined according to a confidence level of 95% and 5% margin of error. According to the selected procedure, the size of the sample frame has been divided by sample size. That gave us 6 as the index number and after the initial member has been randomly selected, every sixth member was selected sequentially.

The sampling frame was agreed with the regional DTM team to ensure the consistency and solidity of the final sample for research purposes, reflecting the general demographic profile of migrant presence in reception centres of the country in the covered period.

The top five nationality groups in this sample are also the top five nationalities registered by the Ministry of Security (MoS) of BiH as well as in TRCs in 2022. These countries of origin are Afghanistan, Pakistan, Bangladesh, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Iraq. While the age and sex distribution of the interviewees also broadly reflected the overall migrant population in 2022.

7.2 The questionnaire

DTM's FMS baseline module captures data on the demographic profile of the respondents, their education and employment background, the circumstances of their migration journey and migration factors, their place of origin or their last country of habitual residence, and their future intentions with regards to the country of destination.

The second FMS module contains questions that refer to experience exploitation, violence and abuse that may amount to human trafficking. The module was developed together with IOM's Protection Division's experts and gathers information on events and practices, experienced directly by the respondent or by his/her family member(s), or that are witnessed by the respondent during the journey.

The third FMS module contains questions related to the COVID-19 pandemic, focusing primarily on personal knowledge and awareness of coronavirus disease symptoms among respondents and on travel restrictions related to COVID-19, and if they had already access to vaccination. The set of questions was designed to understand whether migrants are aware of COVID-19 symptoms, mitigation measures, and how potential restrictions may have impacted their migration journey and the economic situation of respondents and of their families in terms of ability to send and/or receive financial remittances.

The fourth module contains questions related to return intentions. As outreach activities on the existence and functioning of AVRR were run by IOM in the country, this module of the FMS – to avoid repetitions – only ask respondents few questions on the intention to return to the country of origin and awareness and knowledge of the AVRR options available.

7.3 Limitations

The data presented in this document are representative of the individuals surveyed in the covered locations and during the indicated timeframe. The data should not be generalized and should not represent a full picture of regional migration, but rather of mixed migratory flows in the specific locations monitored in BiH during the covered period.

It should also be noted that a lower percentage of women of the total migrants in BiH were interviewed, for several reasons, including the fact that there are fewer female enumerators, women tend to be less willing to talk, and that they are more difficult to approach when travelling with male family members.