

7,452 INTERVIEWS WERE CONDUCTED BETWEEN SEPTEMBER AND NOVEMBER 2016 BY IOM IN BULGARIA, GREECE, HUNGARY, SERBIA AND THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA, AND BETWEEN OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER 2016 IN ITALY

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Visit IOM's interactive map to view data on flows: migration.iom.int/

ABOUT DTM'S FLOW MONITORING SURVEYS

This research began in October 2015 and is being conducted in the framework of IOM's research on populations on the move through the Mediterranean and Western Balkan routes to Europe. This round of surveys contains the findings of IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) and it has been carried out by IOM field staff in Bulgaria, Greece, Hungary, Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and Italy.

The survey gathers information about migrants' profile, including age, sex, areas of origin, levels of education, key transit points on their route, cost of journey, motives, and intentions. The survey also includes six questions that are proxy indicators for potential human trafficking or exploitative practices that the migrants and refugees interviewed might have experienced.

OVERVIEW

This report focuses on providing an analysis on the responses provided by migrants and refugees travelling along the Central Mediterranean Route and the Eastern Mediterranean Route between September and November 2016. The first section provide analysis on interviewees' responses to human trafficking and other exploitative prevalence indicators on the two routes. The second section explains the context of the two migration routes. The last section includes the Methodology.

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SECTION I. COUNTER-TRAFFICKING SURVEY ON THE CENTRAL MEDITERRANEAN ROUTE AND THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN ROUTE

THE HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND OTHER EXPLOITATIVE PRACTICES PREVALENCE INDICATION SURVEY

This section presents findings from the Human Trafficking and Other Exploitative Practices Prevalence Indication Survey in the Central Mediterranean and the Eastern Mediterranean Routes.

The DTM's Flow Monitoring Survey includes questions that indicate the prevalence on human trafficking and other exploitative practices. As regards to the Central Mediterranean route, those questions were included in June 2016. In the Eastern Mediterranean route, the Flow Monitoring Survey on human trafficking and other exploitative practices prevalence indicators started earlier, in December 2015.

The findings on this report are based on a sample of 3,002 migrants and refugees who were interviewed in October and November in almost 40 different locations in Sicily, Calabria and Apulia (Italy) for the Central Mediterranean route, and on a sample 4,450 migrants and refugees interviewed between September and November 2016 along the Eastern Mediterranean route.

The survey includes six questions which are proxy indicators for potential human trafficking or exploitative practices that the migrants and refugees interviewed might have experienced. Five survey indicator-questions refer to the experiences of individual and family travelling with the respondents, and a sixth question refers to a situation witnessed by the respondent (that could also include individual experience, or the experience of a family member).

The findings provide strong evidence of predatory behavior in the environments through which extremely vulnerable populations are having to make their journey. A significant proportion of respondents reported direct experiences of abuse, exploitation or practices which may amount to human trafficking. Since surveys are fully anonymous, the operations are not designed to definitively identify victims of trafficking per se, rather, they provide strong evidence of the kind of enabling environment within which human trafficking thrives and a picture of the vulnerability of migrant populations and the risks they face. However, in locations where there are existing Counter-Trafficking support structures the data collection operations do act as point of reference. It is not known how many vulnerable people have been unsuccessful in attempting to transit through these dangerous environments.

CENTRAL MEDITERRANEAN ROUTE

This section presents the results of the DTM Flow Monitoring Survey conducted in October and November 2016 in Southern Italy (Apulia, Calabria and Sicily). The final sample is composed of 3,002 valid responses of migrants coming from 38 different countries of origin. This excludes 3.5% of all migrants approached, who did not give their consent to be interviewed.

Main findings

- **76%** of individuals answered “yes” to **at least one** of the trafficking and other exploitative practices indicators in relation to their own experience.
- An additional **4%** of respondents reported that a family member travelling with him/her experienced a situation described by one of the trafficking and other exploitative practices indicators.
- **47%** of respondents answered positively to **at least 2 out of 5 indicators** of trafficking and other exploitative practices.
- **Migrants who re-emigrated** after more than 1 year spent in a country different from their origin country responded positively more often to one or more trafficking and other exploitative practices indicators than the migrants who departed from their country of origin (**82%** versus 73%). These findings show that migrants who make secondary movements after longer periods in transit countries/expatriation are more vulnerable.
- North African migrants interviewed (nationals of Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Egypt and Sudan) responded “yes” less frequently to one or more trafficking and other exploitative practices indicators, than any other migrants. Migrants from West Africa (Gambia, Guinea, Senegal, Ivory Coast, Nigeria) and those from Eritrea show higher shares of positive responses than individuals from Western and South Asia.¹

Events captured by the trafficking and other exploitative practices indicators included in the questionnaire are reported to take place mostly in Libya (94% of all cases). Algeria, Egypt, Mali, Bangladesh, Morocco, Cameroon, Eritrea, Benin, Burkina Faso and some other African countries were also reported by respondents in a minority of cases.

Direct experiences

- **Individuals who were held against their will:**

59% of respondents reported having been held in a location against their will during their journey, by armed individuals or groups other than the relevant governmental authorities. Most reported events fall into the category of kidnapping for obtaining a ransom or of detention by armed individuals and physical restrictions of movement to a closed space, such as a house or a garage. In some cases, migrants reported to have paid smugglers to be hidden from public spaces, and then they were locked up for months, with scarce food and water. The shares of positive responses are similar between men and women (59.5 and 53% respectively). Libya is the country reported in almost all cases (98%), followed by Niger, Algeria, Sudan, Egypt, Eritrea, Nigeria, Senegal, Chad.

¹ Sub-regional aggregations are based on UN definition of continents and regions. In the presented analysis North Africa includes: Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco, Sudan, Tunisia; Western Africa includes: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cote d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo; Middle Africa includes: Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon; Eastern Africa includes: Comoros, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Somalia, South Sudan; Southern Asia includes: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Pakistan; Western Asia includes: Iraq, Israel, State of Palestine, Syria, Yemen.

- **Individuals who had worked without being paid the agreed amount²:**

41% of all interviewees reported having worked or having provided services for someone during their journey without receiving the expected remuneration in return. Migrants often referred to threat by an armed individual (employer/broker), or that their unpaid work was related to the possibility of being freed from a condition of detention by unofficial armed groups. Indeed, 67 per cent of those reporting not having being paid, also reported having being held against will. In 88 per cent of cases, reported unpaid work situations happened in Libya and to a much lesser extent in Algeria, Sudan, Niger, Egypt and Senegal.
- **Individuals who were forced to work:**

43% of respondents stated they had been forced to work or perform activities against their will. Nearly all of these events were reported to have happened in Libya, with others also in Algeria, Sudan, Mali, Niger, Nigeria and Egypt.
- **Individuals approached with a work offer³:**

7% of the migrants reported having being approached during the journey by someone offering employment. Three quarters of the events have been reported in Libya, but also in Algeria, Sudan, Nigeria, Mali, Cameroon, Egypt, Chad.
- **Individuals offered an arranged marriage:**

0.3% of all respondents reported having been approached with offers of an arranged marriage (for the respondent or for a close family member). This is the only indicator where women responded positively more frequently than men (1.3 versus 0.2%).

Other observed experiences by migrants along the route

- **Offer of cash in exchange for blood, organs or body parts:**

2% of all respondents reported to know of instances where people on the journey have been approached by someone offering cash in exchange for giving blood, 2% stated there were instances of cash offered in exchange for organs, and 0.5% for body parts. Overall, 3% of all respondents reported to know or to have experienced one of the instances described. Some reported that blood was taken against their will and whilst being detained. Other respondents mentioned that trafficking in organs was known to be an option to pay one leg of the journey. These are reported to have happened mostly in Libya and Egypt (60 and 24% respectively), with fewer cases also mentioned as happening Sudan and Algeria.

Profile of migrants who answered “yes” to at least one of the trafficking and other exploitative practices questions, based on their direct individual experience

- **Nationality⁴:** highest share of positive responses are found among migrants from Sierra Leone, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Senegal, Gambia, Cameroon and Guinea (more than 90%), followed by migrants from Bangladesh and Mali (between 85 and 90%), Nigeria, Somalia and Morocco (between 70 and 80%), Sudan, Eritrea and Ethiopia (more than 60%).
- **Age:** 54% of all positive responses come from migrants between the ages of 18 and 25, with the mean age of those responding positively being 22 and the median age 21. Among migrants with no positive responses on exploitative practices, the mean age is 23.5 and the median age is 21. On average, children (aged 14-17) and adults show similar shares of positive responses (78% versus 76%).

²This refers to the migrants who were either not paid at all for the work done, or they were paid only a part of the amount agreed.

³This is a proxy indicator for potentially exploitative practices, as shows how frequently people are trying to procure labour or services from extremely vulnerable individuals in transit.

⁴Only national groups with 30 or more respondents were considered.

- **Sex:** on average, the share of positive responses to at least one indicator of the trafficking and other exploitative practices is higher for men (79%) than for women (61%). The difference between men and women is particularly striking in the case of work without pay (45% versus 10%) and in the case of forced work (46% versus 19%), while it is smaller in the cases where respondents were held captive (reported by 59% of men and 53% of women). A noticeable exception is that of offers to arrange a marriage, which is reported by 1.3% of interviewed women and by 0.2 % of men.
- **Travel mode:** the highest share of positive responses is found among those travelling alone (78%) and those travelling with non-family members (74%); migrants travelling with at least one family member reported a positive response in 65% of cases. Migrant women are more likely than men to travel with a family member (29% versus 7%).
- **Secondary migration movements:** 82% of migrants who have spent more than a year in a country different from the country of origin before leaving again towards Europe (secondary migration) responded positively to trafficking and other exploitative practices indicators. The share of positive responses is 73% among those who departed from their origin country. The vast majority of Moroccan and Syrians interviewed in Italy (79 and 74%) have re-emigrated towards Europe after more than a year in a country different from Morocco or Syria, respectively. High proportions of re-emigrated respondents are found also among Bangladeshis (50%), Ghanaians, Eritreans, Pakistanis and Senegalese (all above 40%). Libya is reported as departure country by almost one fourth of the total sample (24%).
- **Length of the journey:** longer journeys are associated with a higher share of positive responses to at least one of the trafficking and other exploitative practices indicators. Migrants who left their departure countries between 6 months and 1 year prior being interviewed responded positively in 85% of the cases, while those who travelled for less than 1 month in total responded positively in 28% of the cases.

EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN ROUTE

This section presents results of the DTM Flow Monitoring Survey conducted between December September and November 2016 in Bulgaria, Greece, Hungary, Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. The sample is composed of 4,450 valid responses of migrants of 38 different nationalities. The final sample excludes 2% of all migrants approached for the survey, who did not consent to the interview, or who have previously participated.

Main findings

- **16%** of individuals answered “yes” to one of the trafficking and other exploitative practices indicators, based on their own direct experience.
- **1%** of respondents had a **member of their family** travelling with them who had experienced situations captured by one of the trafficking and other exploitative practices indicators.
- **4%** of respondents responded positively to **at least 2** of the trafficking and other exploitative practices indicators.
- **Migrants who re-emigrated** after more than 1 year spent in a country different from their origin country responded more positively to one or more trafficking and other exploitative practices indicators than the others (31% versus 15%).

The experiences captured by the questions relative to the five trafficking and other exploitative practices indicators are reported to have taken place in Turkey in half of the cases, in Bulgaria (27%), Iran (13%) and in fewer cases in Greece, Pakistan, Afghanistan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

Direct experience of respondents

- **Individuals who were held against their will:**
12% of respondents reported having been held at a certain location against their will during their journey, by parties other than any relevant governmental authorities. The rate of positive responses of men is higher (14%) than that of women (4%) for this indicator. The interviewees specified that instances when they were kept against their will include captivity and restrictions to physical movement, but also kidnapping. Respondents made reference to smuggling services as playing a role in this process. Events were reported to have taken place mostly in Bulgaria, Turkey, Iran, Pakistan.
- **Individuals who were not paid the agreed amount for their work:**
5% of all interviewees reported having worked or performed other activities during their journey without receiving the payment they thought they would get. The share of positive responses is almost equal between men and women (4.9 vs 4.7%). In 78 per cent of cases, reported unpaid work situations happened in Turkey, followed by Greece, Iran and Turkmenistan.
- **Individuals who were forced to work:**
3% of respondents stated they had been forced to work or perform activities against their will. The share of positive responses is slightly higher for women than for men (4 versus 3%). Turkey, and to a lesser extent Iran and Bulgaria, are the reported countries for this kind of events.
- **Individuals approached with a work offer:**
2% of the migrants reported having being approached during the journey by someone offering employment. Turkey and Greece were the main countries in which migrants and refugees mentioned having received employment’s offers.

- **Individuals offered an arranged marriage:**

Less than 1% of all respondents reported having been approached with offers of an arranged marriage (for the respondent or for a close family member). Women were more likely to respond positively than men (1.5 versus 0.7%).

Other observed experiences of migrants and refugees on the route

- **Offer of cash in exchange for blood, organs or a body parts:**

A low 0.2% of respondents reported to know of instances where people on the journey have been approached by someone offering cash in exchange for blood, organs, or body parts. All instances were reported in Bulgaria, Greece and Serbia.

Profile of migrants who answered “yes” to at least one of the trafficking and other exploitative practices questions, based on their direct individual experience

- **Nationality⁴:** highest share of positive responses are found among migrants from Afghanistan (35%) and Somalia (18%), followed by migrants from Pakistan and Algeria (positive responses between 5 and 10%).
- **Age:** more than half of all positive responses (55%) come from migrants between the ages of 18 and 25, with the mean age of those responding positively being 25.5 and the median age 24. Among migrants with no positive responses on exploitative practices, the mean age is 29 and the median age is 28. Positive responses are higher for children (30%) than for adults (16%).
- **Sex:** on average, the share of positive responses to at least one indicator of the trafficking and other exploitative practices is higher for men (19%) than for women (8%).
- **Travel mode:** the highest share of positive responses is found among those travelling alone (50%), which is substantially higher than the share of those travelling with non-family members (13%) than those travelling with at least one family member (8%). Migrant women travel with family members in more than 90% of the cases.
- **Secondary migration movements:** 31% of migrants who have spent more than a year in a country different from that of origin before leaving again towards Europe (secondary migration) have higher rates of positive responses to trafficking and other exploitative practices indicators than the rest of migrants who started the journey from their country of origin (15%). 13% of all interviewed Afghans has spent more than 1 year in a country different from Afghanistan before re-emigrating towards Europe.
- **Length of the journey:** longer periods spent in transit are associated with a higher shares of positive responses to at least one of the trafficking and other exploitative practices indicators. Migrants who left their departure countries between 3 and 6 months prior being interviewed responded positively in 39% of the cases, while those who travelled for less than 1 month in total responded positively in 9% of cases.

SECTION II.

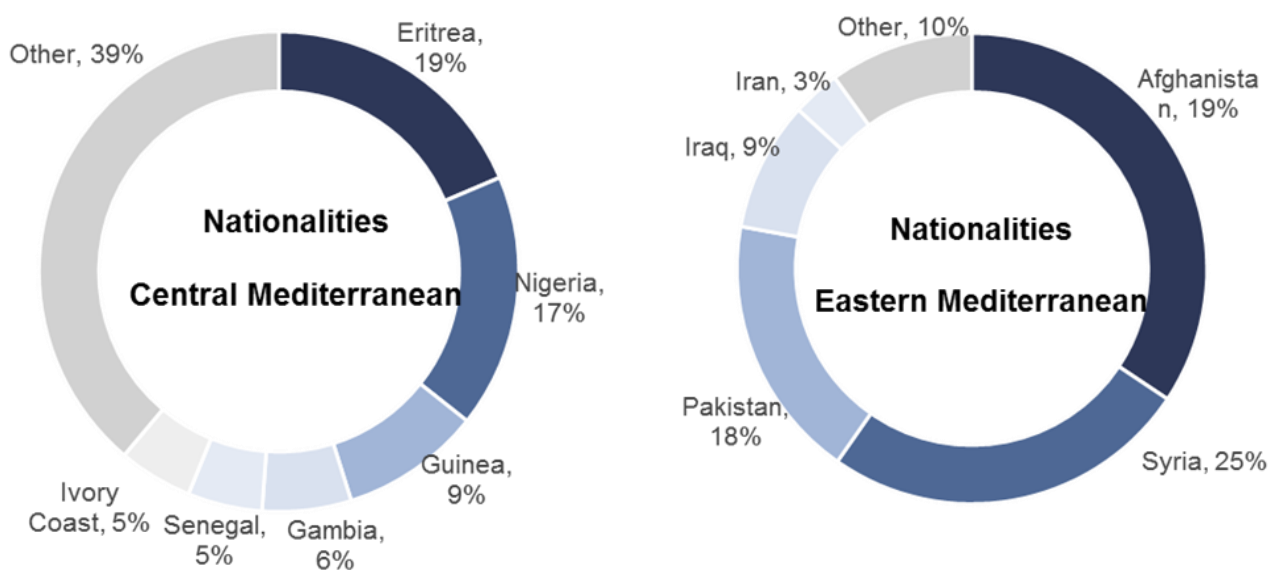
THE CONTEXT OF CENTRAL AND EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN ROUTES

Migrants surveyed along the Central Mediterranean route reported much higher rates of positive responses to at least one of the trafficking or other exploitative practices prevalence indicators, than migrants interviewed along the Eastern Mediterranean route (73% vs 16% for individual experiences).

Different characteristics of the journey to Europe and of migrants' and refugees' profile interviewed on the Eastern Mediterranean and the Central Mediterranean routes can help in explaining the observed difference in rates of positive answers to the trafficking and other exploitation indicators.

Profile of migrants and refugees interviewed

The main national groups that use the Central Mediterranean route and the Eastern Mediterranean route are different. While the total number of nationalities surveyed along the two routes is the same (38), intercepted arrivals to Italy are more diversified with many nationalities being represented in substantial numbers. Indeed, top nationalities of respondents for the reporting period in Italy were Eritreans, Nigerians, Guineans, Gambians, Senegalese, Ivories, Bangladeshis and Malians (71% of the total). Migrants interviewed along the Eastern Mediterranean route came primarily from Afghanistan, Syria and Pakistan (78% of the total).



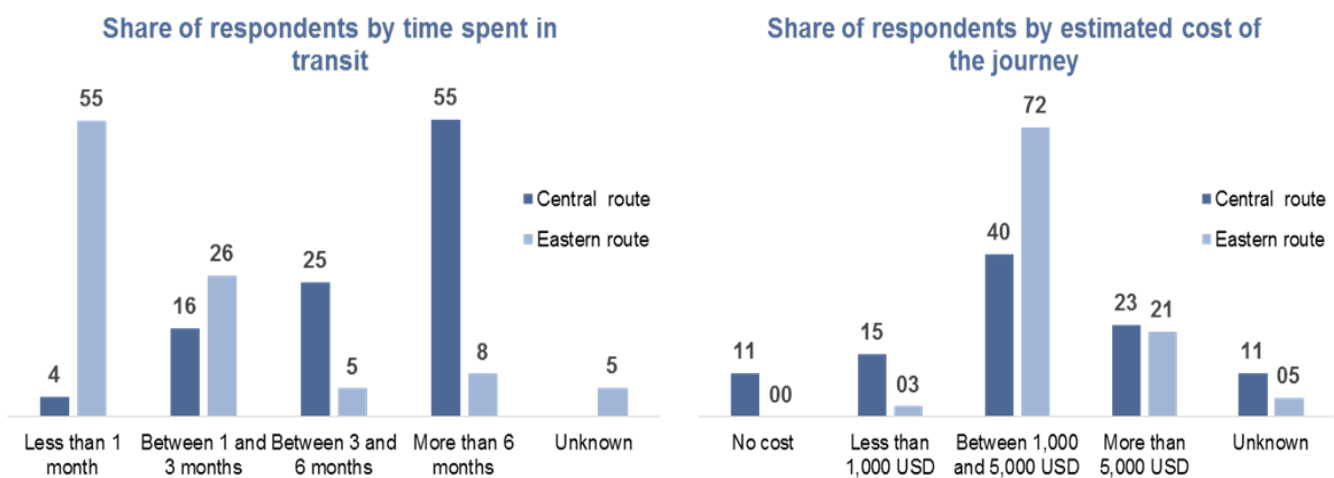
On the Central Mediterranean route, the majority of respondents declared that they left because of war or political reasons (78%) and economic reasons (15%), with a few residual responses on limited basic services and natural disasters. On the Eastern Mediterranean route, 70% of respondents said to have left because of war and conflict, 25% mentioned economic reasons, and 5% reported other reasons.

Respondents on the Central Mediterranean route are younger on average than respondents in Eastern Mediterranean route (22.5 vs 28 years). In addition, the large majority of respondents interviewed on the Central Mediterranean route was single (80%), and the rest married (19%), widowed or divorced (1%). On the Eastern Mediterranean route 51% of the respondents were single, 47% were married, and 2% were widowed or divorced.

The migration route and the characteristics of the journey

Migrants interviewed along the Eastern Mediterranean route were usually travelling with at least one family member (45%) or with a group of non-family member (40%), while only 15% declared to be travelling alone. On the other side, migrants interviewed on the Central Mediterranean route declared to be travelling alone in 77% of the cases and only 10% of them said they were travelling with one family member.

Migrants and refugees interviewed on the Central Mediterranean route (Italy) usually report a longer journey to Europe that involves different means of transportation and longer transit in more than one country. For example, 25% of respondents in Italy had spent between 6 months and 1 year in transit, and 30% of them spent more than 1 year travelling from their departure to Italy. Instead, more than a half of all respondents along the Eastern Mediterranean route (55%) spent less than one month in transit since they left their country of habitual residence.



Migrants and refugees interviewed reported different estimated costs of their total journey from their previous habitual residence. 70% of respondents on the Eastern Mediterranean route and 40% of migrants on the Central Mediterranean route declared to have paid between 1,000 e 5,000 USD per person. Along the Central Mediterranean route, 11% of interviewees declared not to have paid for the journey, while an additional 11% was not able to estimate the total. The complete breakdown of the reported cost of journey by respondents travelling along two routes is presented on the graph above.

Context in the transit country prior to crossing into Europe

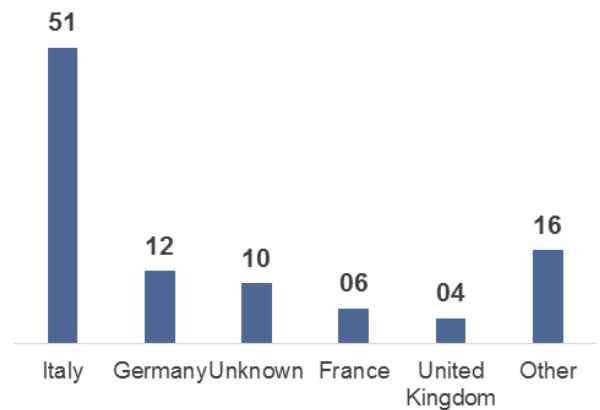
Migrants interviewed on the Central Mediterranean route typically arrived from Libya as the last transit country, followed by Turkey and Egypt. 94% of the events that could indicate trafficking and other exploitative practices indicators are reported to have happened in Libya. On the Eastern Mediterranean route, interviewees arrived from Turkey, where half of the events in the case of positive responses to the indicators are reported to have happened.

Destination countries

There is a significant difference between migrants interviewed along the two routes in terms of preferred or intended destination.

Around half of the migrants (51%) interviewed on the Central Mediterranean route reported Italy as their intended destination. Other destinations were Germany (12%), France (6%), United Kingdom and Switzerland (4%). 10% didn't have any specific destination in mind. The remaining reported other 18 European and North American countries of destination. Intentions regarding destination vary depending on the nationality of origin: Eritreans listed Germany and Norway in 29 and 13 per cent of the cases, while 77% of Nigerians, 61% of Guineans and 80% of Gambians declared Italy as destination.

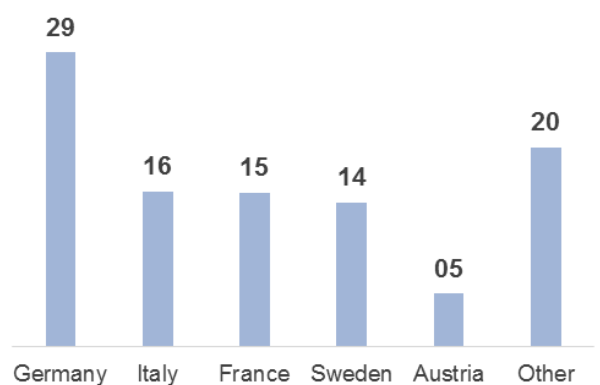
Intended destination - Central route



Moreover, 96% of all those who reported Italy as their intended destination said they didn't have any relatives living already in the country.

29% of the migrants interviewed on the Eastern Mediterranean route reported Germany as their intended destination, followed by Italy (15%), France (15%) and Switzerland (14%). Other 22 European countries have been also reported in fewer cases. Afghan respondents named Germany in 35% of the cases, followed by France (31%) and Austria (14%). 46% of Syrians reported Sweden as their intended destination, followed by Germany (23%) and Norway (13%). 68% of Pakistanis reported Italy as their intended destination.

Intended destination - Eastern route



30% of all respondents on the Eastern Mediterranean route reported to have first-line relatives in the intended country of destination, and an additional 26% to have non-first-line relatives there.

SECTION III. METHODOLOGY

This round of the survey was conducted by IOM field staff in locations of entry, transit, and exit in Bulgaria, Greece, Hungary, Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. The survey in Italy was conducted in 36 entry and transit points in Sicily, Apulia and Calabria, including the 3 of the 4 hotspots operating in the country (Trapani, Pozzallo and Taranto). The hotspots are first reception facilities with high capacity for the purpose of identification and registration of migrants soon upon arrival. Respondents are approached in an ad hoc manner by IOM field staff, with those who give their consent to be interviewed proceeding with the remainder of the questions. The sample is therefore not random and, as with all surveys of this kind, this can lead to selection bias. Those willing to respond to this survey are more likely to be young adult males and this group is therefore overrepresented.

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

The original survey is designed to capture data which includes: the socioeconomic background of respondents; the routes that they have taken; their region of origin within their last country of habitual residence; their reasons for leaving their last country of habitual residence; what their intended country of destination is; and, who they are travelling with. Five additional questions have been added to the standard questionnaire, to generate indicators of the prevalence of human trafficking and other exploitative practices for the sample. The *Human Trafficking and Other Exploitative Practices Prevalence Indication Survey* therefore includes 21 questions translated into Arabic, Dari, English, French, Farsi, Kurdish, Italian, Pashtu, Somali, Tigrinya and Urdu. The details of the indicators of human trafficking and other exploitative practices indicators are below.

The human trafficking module was developed to capture information about whether or not the respondent has, during their journey:

- Worked or performed activities without getting the payment they expected
- Been forced to perform work or activities against their will
- Been approached by someone offering employment
- Been approached by someone offering to arrange a marriage (for the respondent or anyone in his or her family)
- Been kept at a certain location against their will
- Been aware of instances where migrants/refugees en route had been approached by people offering cash in exchange for blood, organs, or other body parts.

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

The survey therefore captures some data beyond the experience of the primary respondent. Given that most respondents are men, the question in relation to arranged marriage is phrased to capture “for you or for a family member” as one, to avoid underreporting this important indicator. Due to how underreported blood or organ trafficking are, for this question respondents are asked whether they have heard of such offers being made to anyone travelling with their group.

Women are relatively underrepresented in the Central Mediterranean sample, while children are underrepresented in the Eastern Mediterranean route, as the survey targeted only those aged between 14 and 17 years of age while along Eastern Mediterranean children tend to be younger. Women are less likely to give their consent to be interviewed, but also to provide a positive response to one of the indicators. This can be partially explained by the fact that women are less likely to be traveling alone and are more likely to be traveling with a spouse, children, or spouse and children.