



International Organization for Migration (IOM)

The UN Migration Agency

**DTM**

# ANALYSIS: FLOW MONITORING SURVEYS

## BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

SEPTEMBER 2018

INTERNATIONAL  
ORGANIZATION FOR  
MIGRATION (IOM)

Photo: Migrants walking from Velika Kladuša to the border with Croatia.  
IOM Bosnia and Herzegovina/2018



177

interviews were conducted in  
Bosnia and Herzegovina  
between March and May 2018

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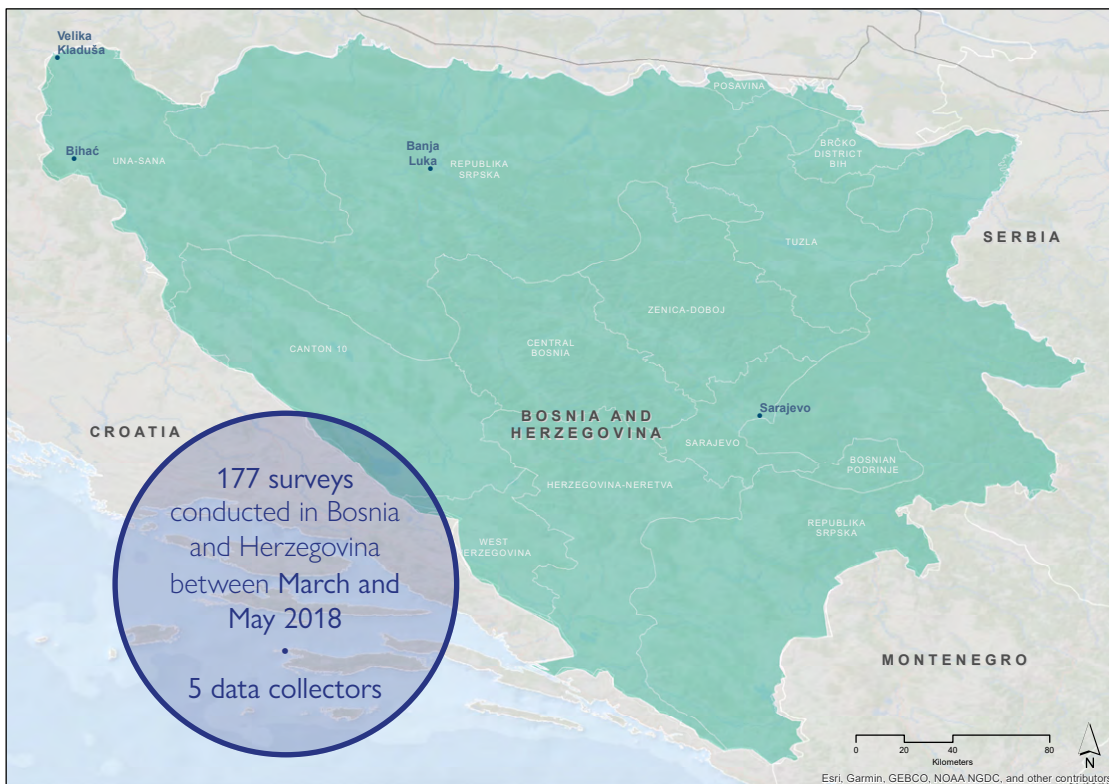
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Map 1: Flow Monitoring Points (FMPs) in Bosnia and Herzegovina, where the Flow Monitoring Surveys (FMS) were conducted.



Disclaimer: Base Map Source: ESRI. This map is for illustration purposes only. Boundaries and names used and designations shown do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by IOM



Photo: IOM Providing assistance to migrants staying in open space in Trnova, Velika Kladuša. IOM Bosnia and Herzegovina/2018

## INTRODUCTION

The number of irregular migrants arriving in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) saw a significant increase in 2018 with respect to previous years. In April 2018, authorities in BiH registered 1,419 new irregular migrants amounting to a total of 2,733 since the beginning of the year. The overall number of registered migrants in 2018 is more than ten times higher than the 270 registered in the same period in 2017.<sup>1</sup>

Since the closure of Greek and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia border in March 2016 and following stricter border controls between Serbia, Hungary and Croatia a new route from Greece via Albania, Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina to Croatia and western Europe has emerged. Many migrants cross the BiH border in an irregular manner and majority arrive from Montenegro and Serbia.<sup>2</sup>

This report contains findings of IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) Flow Monitoring Surveys (FMS) conducted by IOM field staff between March and May 2018 in Sarajevo, Banja Luka, Bihać, and Velika Kladuša. The total number of 177 surveys were conducted. The non-response rate was low, with only two respondents refusing to participate in the survey. The sample used in the analysis consists of 175 valid surveys.

The report is structured as follows. First, the demographic profile and socio-economic characteristics are presented, followed by a section that focuses on assistance provided during the journey and in BiH. The last section presents analysis between respondents who travel alone and with a group.

## ABOUT DTM'S FLOW MONITORING SURVEYS

The flow monitoring surveys are part of the IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) activities in the Mediterranean that started in October 2015 and were conducted within the framework of IOM's research on populations on the move through the Mediterranean and Western Balkan Routes to Europe. Surveys have been regularly analyzed providing information on migrants' profiles, vulnerabilities and transit routes. All analyses together with the latest information on arrivals to Europe can be accessed via DTM's specialized portal on migration [Flows to Europe](#).

The survey gathers information about migrants' profiles, including age, sex, 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. The revised questionnaire allows for greater insight into migrants' decision making process in the country of origin and in the country of departure/residence including possibility to better capture secondary migration. It consists of more detailed questions on family and employment status before departure, additional child focused questions (eg. education levels, the last time a child had access to education) and it allows the interviewer to capture more locations where protection incidents occurred.

Further information about the questionnaire, sampling and survey implementation can be found in the [Methodology section](#).

1 Mixed Migration Flows in the Mediterranean, Compilation of Available Data and Information. April 2018. IOM

2 Refugee and Migrant Situation in BiH, Multi-Cluster Initial Rapid Assessment report. May 2018. United Nations.

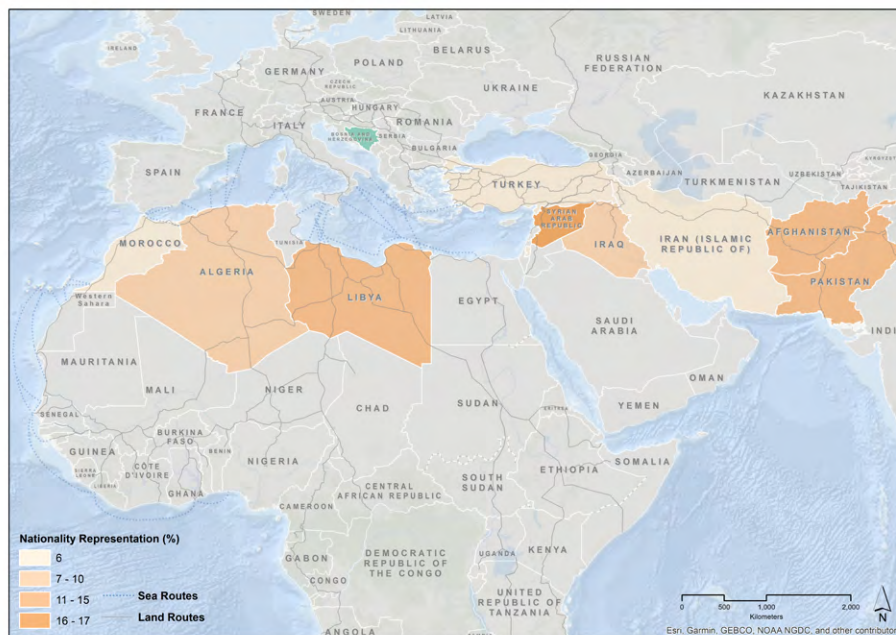
## ANALYSIS OF SURVEYS COLLECTED IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

### SAMPLE SIZE AND MAIN NATIONALITIES SURVEYED IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

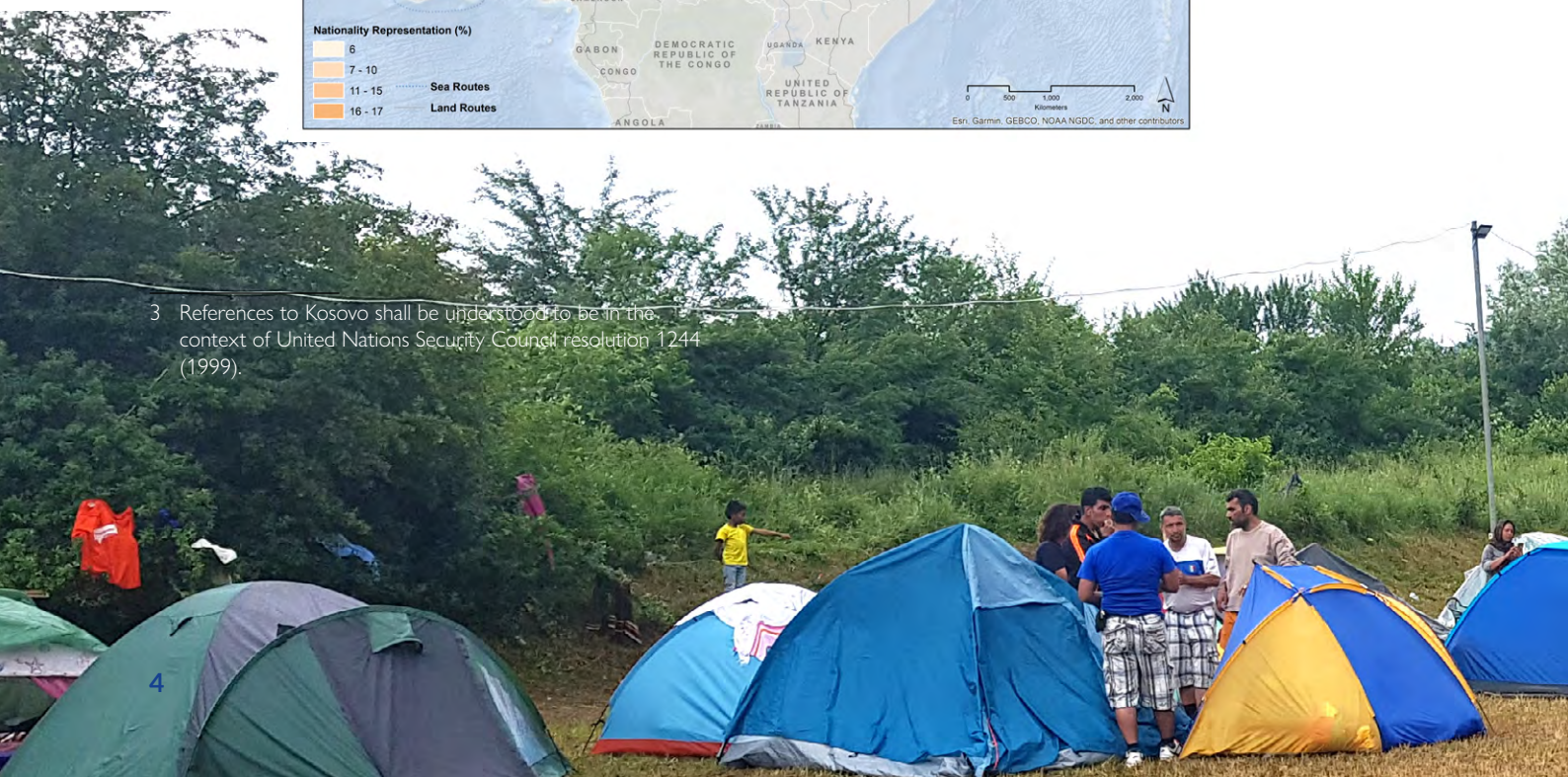
An estimated 29 per cent of the overall registered irregular migrants in BiH between January and April 2018 were of Syrian origin. Libyan nationals represent the second largest nationality group comprising 13 per cent of the arrivals followed by those from Pakistan (12%), Afghanistan (8%), Palestinian Territories (7%), Iraq (5%), Islamic Republic of Iran (4%), Algeria (4%), Kosovo<sup>3</sup>, and respondents of other nationalities.

The sample was constructed to mimic the distribution of arrivals by nationality. Out of the total number of 175 surveys, 17% of respondents were of Syrian origin, followed by respondents from Afghanistan (13%), Libya (11%), Pakistan (11%), Iraq (9%), Algeria (9%), Islamic Republic of Iran (6%), and respondents from seven other countries.

Map 2: Percentage of respondents surveyed in BiH, by nationality.



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



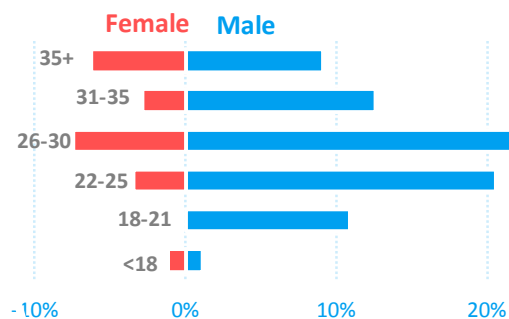
## DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

The majority of respondents were relatively young. The average age of respondents was 28 years. Females were slightly older than males. Average age of female respondents was 31, while average age of male respondents was 28. Adult males comprised the majority of respondents surveyed (78%), while adult females comprised 20%. Four per cent of respondents were children between 14 and 17 years.

Among the top 5 nationalities surveyed, respondents from Libya were the youngest, with average age being 24 years, while respondents from Syrian Arab Republic and Afghanistan had the highest average age (32 years and 31 years, respectively).

The population pyramid shown on Figure 1 allows an indepth look at the sex and age structure of the respondents. Share of females was the highest among respondents between 26 and 30 years (7% of all respondents) and among respondents 35 years old and above.

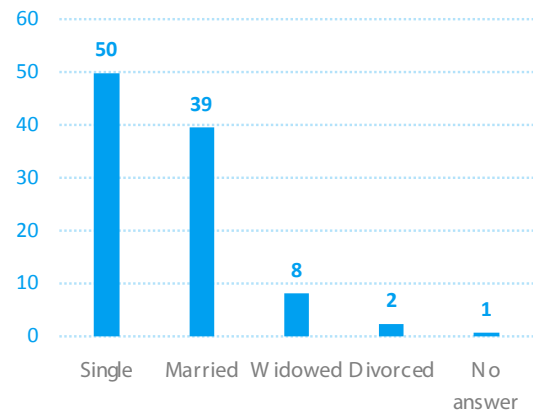
Figure 1: Percentage of respondents with children.



## MARITAL STATUS

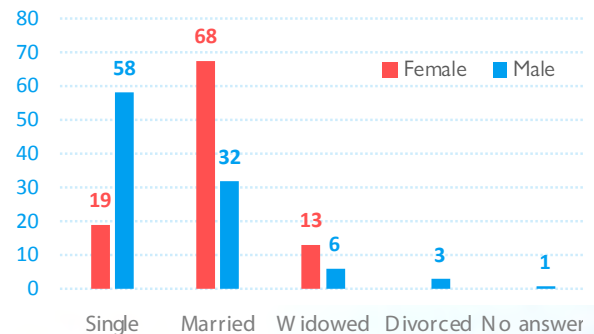
Half of respondents reported to be single and 39% reported to be married. Eight percent of respondents were widowed and the rest were divorced or did not answer this question.

Figure 2: Percentage of respondents by marital status.



Female respondents were more likely than male respondents to be married. Sixty-eight percent of female respondents reported to be married, in comparison to 32% of male respondents.

Figure 3: Percentage of respondents by marital status and sex.



## RESPONDENTS WITH CHILDREN

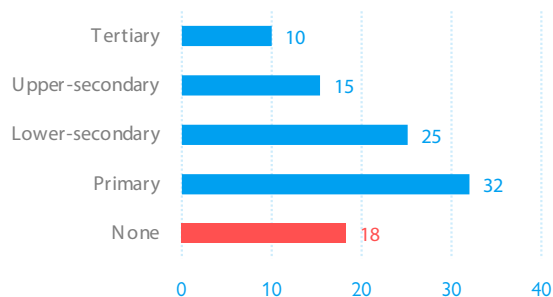
Thirty-eight per cent of respondents reported they had children. Out of the total number of 67 respondents, who reported they had children, approximately half (48%) reported their children were

travelling with them, while 17% reported their children were at the countries of origin or habitual residence, and 9% reported their children were at the countries of intended destination.<sup>4</sup>

## EDUCATION LEVEL

Approximately one in three individuals (32%) reported having completed only primary education, followed by those respondents whose highest completed level of education was lower-secondary education (25%) and those whose highest completed level of education was upper-secondary (15%). Eighteen per cent of respondents reported not having completed any formal level of education and 10% reported having completed tertiary education.

Figure 4: Percentage of respondents by education level.



## EMPLOYMENT STATUS BEFORE DEPARTURE

Fifty-three per cent of respondents reported they were unemployed at the time of departure from countries of origin or habitual residence and 41% reported they were employed. The rest reported they were either self-employed or studying at the time of departure from countries of origin or habitual residence.

Those respondents who reported not having completed any formal level of education were more likely than respondents who completed formal education to report having been unemployed at the time of departure from countries of origin or habitual residence.

Figure 5: Percentage of respondents by employment status at the time of departure from countries of origin or habitual residence.

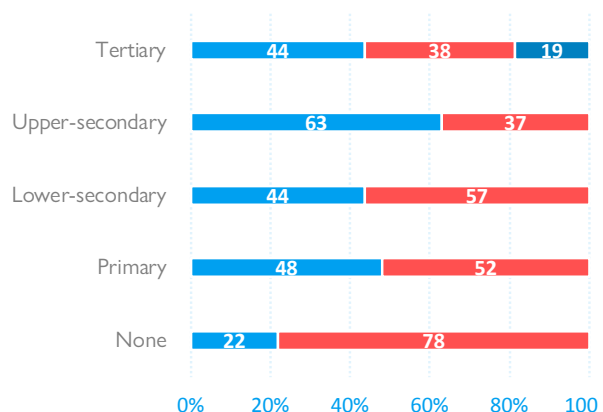
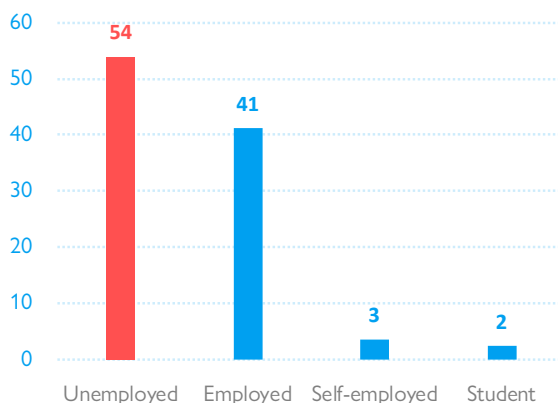


Figure 5: Percentage of respondents by employment status at the time of departure from countries of origin or habitual residence.



The employment status did not seem to have a significant association with economic reasons for leaving countries of origin or habitual residence, with approximately the same share of unemployed respondents at the time of departure (38%) and employed respondents at the time of departure (36%) reporting economic reasons for leaving countries of origin or habitual residence.

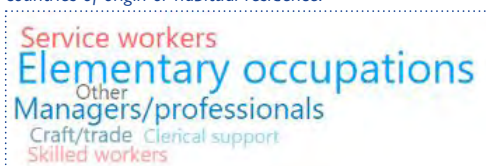
However, those respondents who reported to have been unemployed at the time of departure were more likely than respondents who reported to have been employed to indicate socio-economic reasons for choosing countries of intended destination (53% versus 33%).

<sup>4</sup> The survey form allowed for more than one answer to this question. Therefore, the sum does not add up to 100%.

## OCCUPATION AND SECTOR OF EMPLOYMENT

Out of those respondents who reported to have been employed at the time of departure, 41% reported they were employed in elementary occupations, followed by those who reported they worked as managers, professionals or technicians (19%), and those who were service workers (18%). The rest reported they were skilled workers (6%), craft and trade workers (6%) or listed other occupations.

Figure 6: Reported occupations at the time of departure from countries of origin or habitual residence.



The largest share of respondents who reported to have been employed at the time of departure, reported to have been employed in the agriculture sector (19%), followed by respondents employed in retail trade (13%), food services (10%), construction (9%), education (9%), transporting and storage (9%), manufacturing/waste management (8%), and other sectors.

Figure 7: Reported employment sectors at the time of departure from countries of origin or habitual residence.



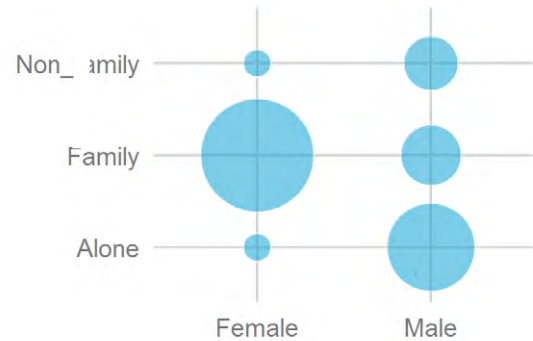
## JOURNEY

Forty-four per cent of respondents were travelling alone, while 39% were travelling with families and 17% were travelling with a group of non-family member(s).

Female respondents were more likely than male respondents to travel with families. Eighty-nine percent of female respondents were travelling with families, in comparison to 25% of male respondents. This pattern is consistent with survey findings of migrants travelling along the Eastern Mediterranean route, where female respondents were found to systematically more likely to travel with families<sup>5</sup>.

5 Analysis: Flow Monitoring Surveys: Top 5 nationalities surveyed on the Eastern and Central Mediterranean routes, February 2018. IOM:

Figure 8: Percentage of respondents who travel alone/with family member(s), and non-family member(s), by sex.



## ENTRY AND LENGTH OF STAY IN BIH

The largest share of respondents (62%) reported they have stayed in BiH between two weeks and three months, 30% reported they have stayed in BiH less than two weeks, and the rest reported they have stayed in the country for more than three months. The majority of respondents (89%) entered BiH through unofficial border crossings.

Fifteen per cent of respondents reported they were returned from Croatia.

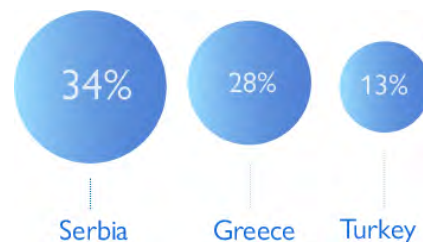
## SECONDARY MIGRATION

Twenty per cent of respondents engaged in secondary migration, having spent at least one year in a country other than their country of origin before making their way to BiH.

Out of 32 individuals who engaged in secondary migration, the largest share stayed in Serbia (34%), followed by those who stayed in Greece (28%) and Turkey (13%). The rest stayed in other countries.

All respondents who stayed in Serbia reported staying there between one and two years and all respondents who stayed in Greece and Turkey reported staying there between one and three years. The majority (80%) of respondents who engaged in secondary migration cited economic reasons for leaving.

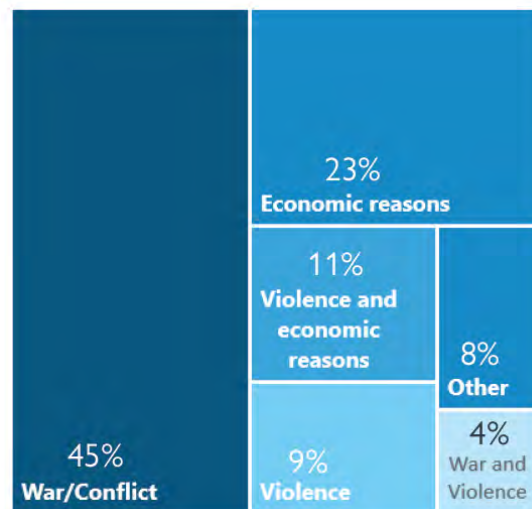
Figure 9: Percentage of respondents who engaged in secondary migration, by country from which they were returned.



## REASONS FOR LEAVING COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN

The majority of respondents (45%) reported having left their countries of origin or habitual residence due to war or conflict there, followed those who cited economic reasons (23%). Eleven per cent of respondents reported indiscriminate violence and economic reasons and 9% reported violence only, 4% cited war and indiscriminate violence as reasons for leaving their countries of origin. The rest named other reasons.

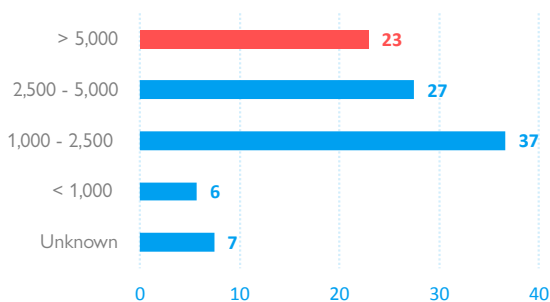
Figure 10: Percentage of respondents by reasons for leaving countries of origin.



## COST OF JOURNEY

The largest share of respondents (37%) reported the estimated cost of the journey to be between 1,000 and 2,500 USD per person, 27% reported the estimated cost of the journey to be between 2,500 and 5,000 USD, 6% - less than 1,000 USD, and 23% - more than 5,000 USD. The rest did not know the exact amount paid.

Figure 11: Percentage of respondents by the estimated cost of the journey (USD, per person).

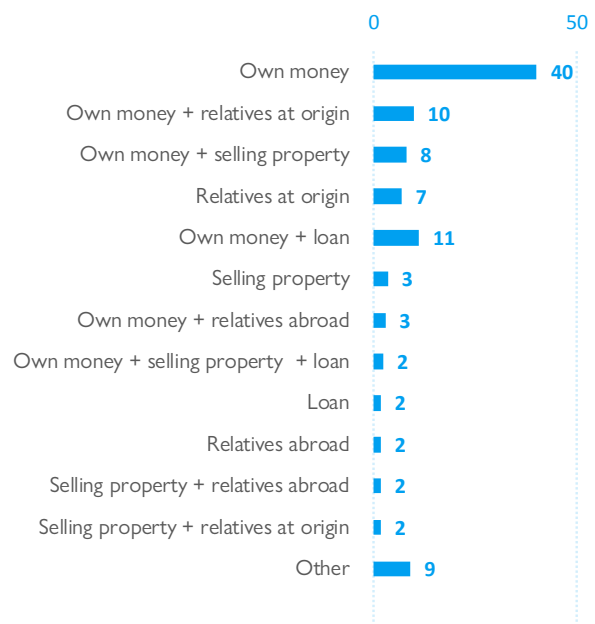


The largest share of respondents (40%) reported having paid for the journey with their own money only. Thirty-four per cent reported they paid for the journey with a combination of their own money and additional resources: 10% - with their own money and financial help from relatives in the countries of origin or habitual residence, 8% - with their own money and with money

from selling property, 11% - with their own money and a loan, 3% - with their own money and relatives abroad, 2% - with their own money, loan and by selling property. The rest reported other combinations of assembling financial resources for the journey. The full breakdown is shown on the graph 12 below.

## GOVERNORATES OF ORIGIN AND TRANSIT

Figure 12: Percentage of respondents by methods of paying for the journey.



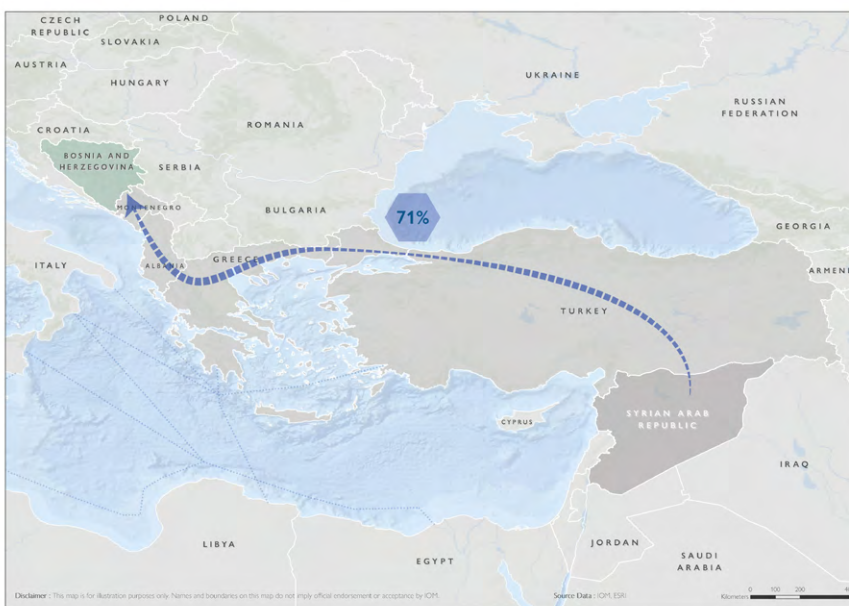
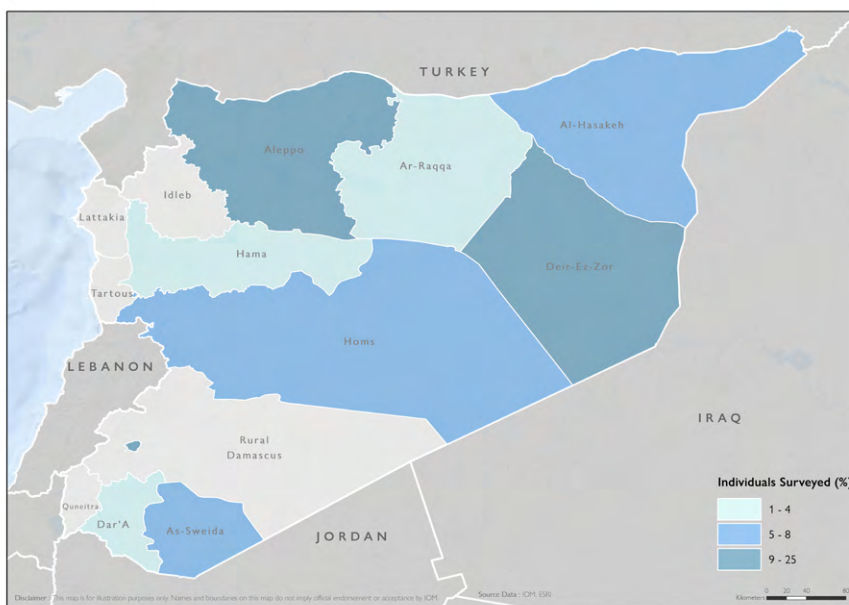


### COUNTRIES : SYRIAN NATIONALS

The total number of 29 respondents from Syrian Arab Republic were surveyed. Out of these 29 Syrian nationals, 83% (which equals to 24 individuals) started their journey departing from Syria. The analysis presented below includes these 24 individuals.

Twenty-five per cent of Syrian nationals departed from Aleppo governorate, followed by 21% who departed from Damascus, and 17% who departed from Deir-Ez-Zor. The rest departed from other governorates within Syrian Arab Republic.

The majority of respondents travelled through the same route to reach BiH. Seventy-one per cent of respondents travelled from Syria through Turkey, followed by Albania, Greece, and Montenegro. The rest did not report clear information regarding transit countries. Half of respondents spent between one and three months on the whole journey, while another half spent between three months and a year. The majority of respondents reported waiting for transport or other journey arrangements to continue the journey onwards as the main reasons for staying in Turkey.

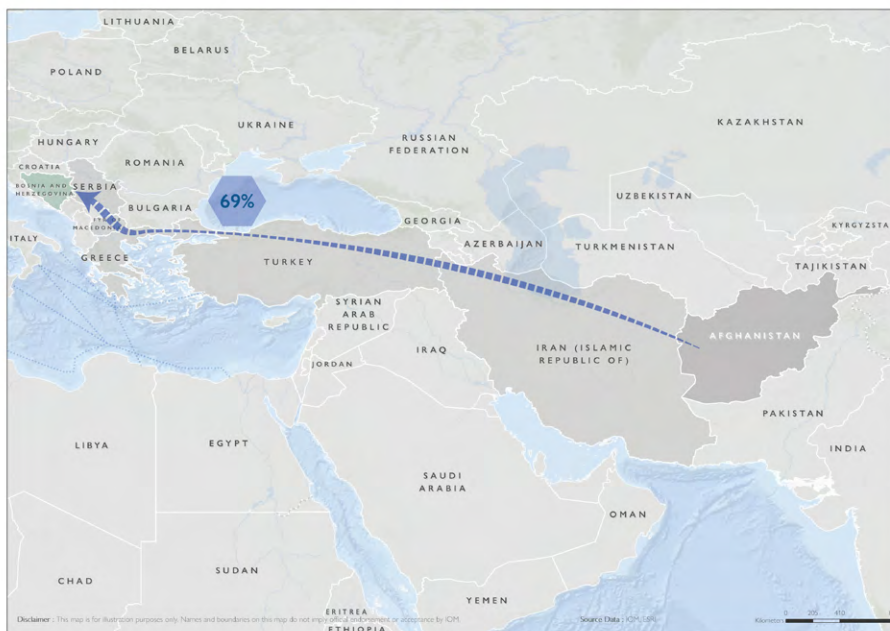
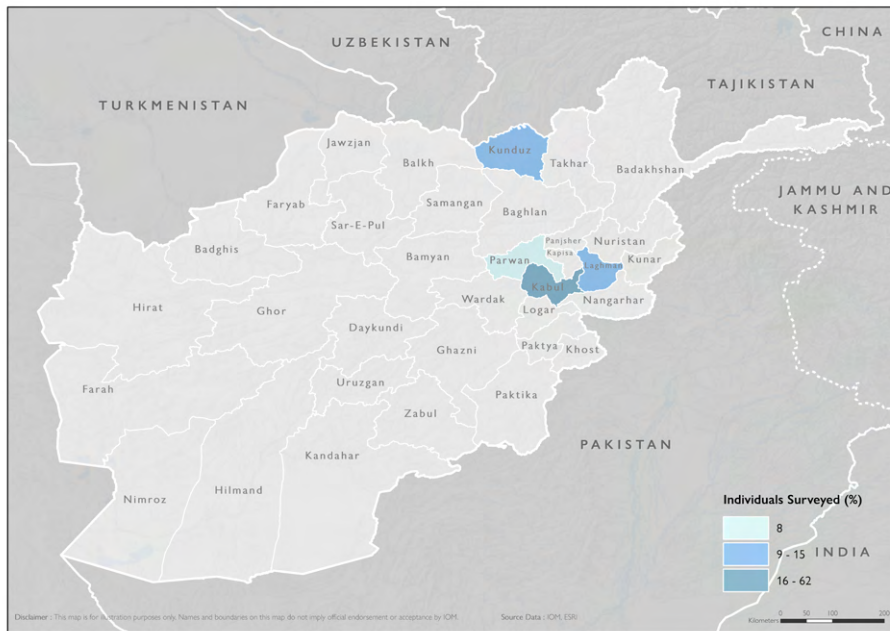


PROVINCES OF ORIGIN AND TRANSIT COUNTRIES : AFGHAN NATIONALS

The total number of 22 respondents from Afghanistan were surveyed. Out of these 20 Afghan nationals, 59% (which equals to 13 individuals) started their journey departing from Libya. The analysis presented below includes these 13 individuals.

The majority of respondents travelled through the same route to reach BiH. Sixty-nine per cent (which equals to nine individuals) travelled through Iran, followed by Turkey, Greece, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and Serbia.

Eight Afghan nationals departed from Kabul, while the rest departed from Laghman, Kunduz or Parwan.

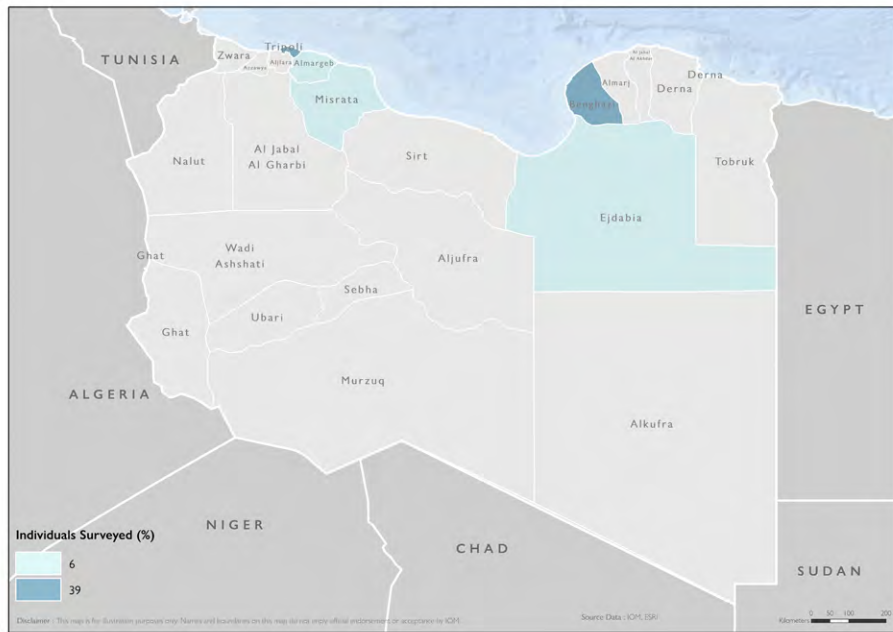


**REGIONS OF ORIGIN AND TRANSIT  
COUNTRIES: LIBYAN NATIONALS**

The total number of 22 respondents from Libya were surveyed. Out of these 22 Libyan nationals, 90% (which equals to 18 individuals) started their journey departing from Libya. The analysis presented below includes these individuals.

Thirty-nine per cent of Libyan nationals (or seven individuals) departed from Benghazi, while another 39% departed from Tripoli, the rest departed who departed from Misrata or Ejdabia regions.

The majority of respondents travelled through the same route to reach BiH. Forty-five per cent (or 8 individuals) travelled first to Turkey, followed by Greece, Albania, and Montenegro. Twenty per cent (or four individuals) travelled from Libya to Greece, followed by Albania and Montenegro.



## COUNTRIES OF INTENDED DESTINATION

When discussing migrants' choices of destination countries, it must be noted that for many choices could be limited, and sometimes do not exist at all. The ability to make decisions regarding journey and final destinations are constrained by various factors such as available resources and travel routes, finances, and national government's policies.

Furthermore, decisions regarding destination choices are dynamic and change over time. In order to capture possible changes in the choices of final destination, the survey was designed to capture migrants' intended countries of destination at the time of departure and at the time of the interview.

A report on BiH migrant situation<sup>6</sup> notes that migrants in BiH often change their "status". On one hand, there are migrants who initially express intention to seek asylum. However, after facing challenges of the asylum system, these migrants change their mind and attempt to reach EU countries. On the other hand, other migrants, initially determined to continue the journey to reach EU countries but impeded by continued push-backs at the border, decided to apply for asylum in BiH.

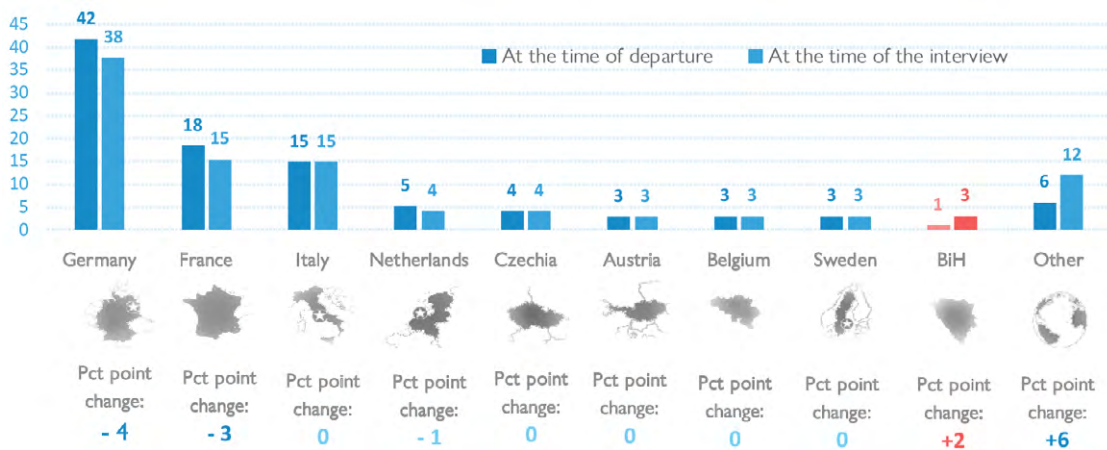
Previous reports<sup>7</sup> point out several challenges migrants face during the asylum procedure, including the limited information available, requirement for asylum seekers to have a registered address, and lack of interpreters.

Do migrants in BiH indeed change their preferences after spending some time in the country or do their preferences stay the same?

The analysis demonstrates that, while there are certain changes in the reported countries of intended destination, they are quite small. Germany was the most popular reported country of intended destination. However, the share of respondents who reported Germany as the destination country at the time of the interview slightly decreased (from 42% to 38%). France was second most popular country of intended destination. Eighteen per cent of respondents reported France as the country of intended destination at the time of departure. The share of respondents who reported France as the preferred country of intended destination at the time of the interview decreased slightly by three percentage points. Only one per cent of respondents reported BiH as the intended country of destination at the time of departure, while three per cent reported intention to stay in BiH at the time of the interview.

Six per cent of respondents reported Europe as a whole as their intended destination at the time of departure. While the same percent of respondents reported Europe in general as the intended destination at the time of the interview, the number of countries reported as the intended destination increased. Notably, while no respondents reported Turkey as intended destination at the time of departure, five per cent reported Turkey as the intended destination at the time of the interview.

Figure 13: Percentage of respondents by countries of intended destination at the time of departure and at the time of the interview.



6 Refugee and Migrant Situation in BiH, Multi-Cluster Initial Rapid Assessment report. May 2018. United Nations.

7 UN Country team Operational Update, Refugee and Migrant Situation, BiH, May 2018.

## REASONS FOR CHOOSING TOP THREE COUNTRIES OF INTENDED DESTINATION

Respondents reported different reasons for choosing main countries of intended destination. While the largest share of respondents who chose Germany and Italy reported appealing socio-economic conditions as the main reasons for choosing these countries as their intended destination, the largest share of respondents who chose France reported they chose it because they had family or relatives there.

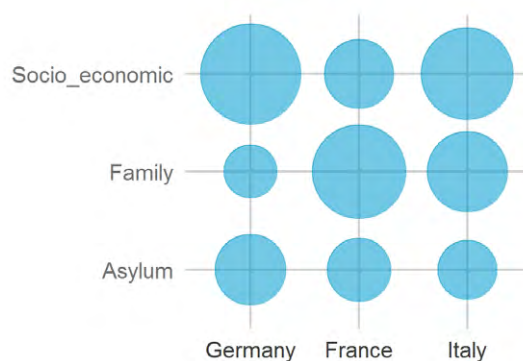
Approximately half of respondents (55%) who reported to choose Germany as their country of intended destination at the time of interview, reported they chose it because of appealing socio-economic conditions, 27% reported they chose it because of ease of access to asylum, 15% - because they had relatives there, and the rest reported safety reasons or existence of network of co-nationals.

Forty-six per cent of respondents who reported to choose Italy as their country of intended destination also reported socio-economic conditions as their reasons for choosing it, followed by those who reported having family or relative in Italy as the main reason for

choosing it as their preferable destination (35%) and those who reported choosing it because of appealing socio-economic conditions.

Approximately half of respondents (48%) who chose France as their intended destination, reported they did so because they had family or relatives there, 26% reported they chose France because of socio-economic conditions, 22% - because of ease of access to asylum, and the rest cited other reasons.

Figure 14: Percentage of respondents by reasons for choosing countries of intended destination.



## EXPECTATIONS AT THE COUNTRIES OF DESTINATION

The survey also asked about the expectations migrants had once reaching the countries of intended destination in terms of government support and support from co-nationals.

It is important to note that the survey form allowed for more than one answer to this question. Therefore, the sum of percentages does not add up to 100.

### Expectation from the government

Among those respondents who chose Germany as the country of intended destination, the largest share (58%) reported they expected to receive asylum/refugee status from the government, followed by those who reported they expected to receive residence permits (38%), housing (33%), financial support (29%), medical assistance (8%), and education (8%). The majority of respondents reported multiple expectations from the government.

The most common expectation from the government among respondents who chose France as their

preferable destination, was housing (67%), followed by residence permits (30%), financial support (22%), family reunification (19%), and medical assistance (7%).

Those respondents who chose Italy as the destination country reported they expected asylum/refugee status (65%), financial support (38%), housing (35%), and residence permits.

### Expectation in terms of receiving support from co-nationals

The majority of respondents (86%) who named Germany as their intended destination reported they relied on the support from co-nationals their to find a job, while approximately 50% reported they expected that their co-nationals could provide support with housing.

Approximately half of respondents who reported France as their intended destination reported they relied on the support from co-nationals their to find a job, while 20% reported they expected their co-nationals could help

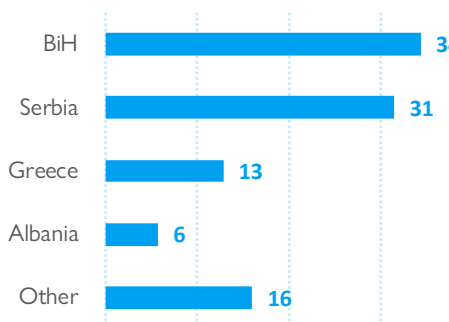
them with both, finding a job and helping with housing, 8% reported they relied on co-nationals to help them with housing only, 7% reported they relied on their co-nationals in terms of medical help, and the rest reported other reasons.

## ASSISTANCE PROVISION

Forty per cent of respondents (70 individuals) reported they received assistance either during their journey or in BiH.

Out of these 70 migrants, 34% received assistance in BiH, while the rest received assistance in the countries before reaching BiH. Approximately one in three respondents reported they received support in Serbia, 13% - in Greece, 6% - in Albania, and the rest reported receiving assistance in both, Albania and Greece, Montenegro or Turkey.

Figure 15: Percentage of respondents by country where they received assistance.

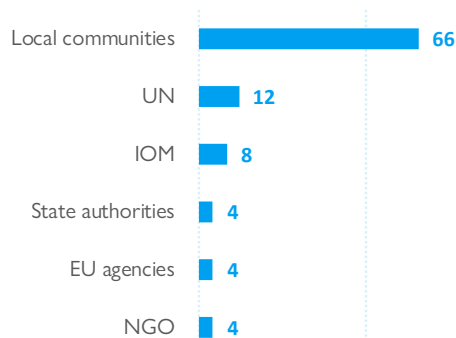


For migrants staying in BiH, among various types of assistance, NFI and accommodation are found to be the most frequently provided. This echoes previous findings that point out that the majority of migrants express the need for NFI items<sup>8</sup>.

Among those respondents, who received assistance in BiH, 29% reported they received assistance with accommodation and Non-Food Items (NFI), another 29% - with NFI only, 25% - with accommodation only, while the rest reported they received other assistance (medical assistance or legal counselling).

Forty-two per cent of respondents who reported Italy as their country of intended destination reported they relied on the support from co-nationals to find a job, while 35% reported they hoped co-nationals would help them with both, finding a job and housing, 8% reported they relied on co-nationals to help them with housing only, while the rest cited other reasons.

Figure 65: Percentage of respondents by assistance provider.



The majority of respondents (66%) who received assistance in BiH, reported they received assistance from local community, while 12% reported they received assistance from UN, 8% - from IOM, and the rest reported they received assistance from NGO or EU Agencies and state authorities.

According to the UN report on Migrant situation in BiH<sup>9</sup>, access to accommodation is quite limited in BiH. The report notes that there are no reception and transit centres and the border entry and exit points and that government authorities lack the capacity to provide migrants with appropriate accommodation. While migrants who request asylum have the right to be accommodated in the Asylum Centre, operated by the Government, since the beginning of 2018 the Centre has been close to full capacity. Consequently, most asylum seekers rely on alternatives solutions for accommodation, such as international organizations, volunteers, and private individuals.

The findings from the analysis of Flow Monitoring Surveys corroborate this assessment. Indeed, half of respondents who reported they have been provided with accommodation, reported that they received this assistance from UN Agencies or NGOs, while 44% reported they received help with accommodation from local community. Only one individual reported

8 Refugee and Migrant Situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Multi-Cluster Initial Rapid Assessment Report, May 2018.

9 Refugee and Migrant Situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Multi-Cluster Initial Rapid Assessment Report, May 2018.

Government authorities provided support with accommodation.

Moreover, according to the previous assessments<sup>10</sup>, migrants face limited access to health care, with primary health not being provided to all migrants and limited access to secondary or tertiary health care. Moreover, migrants not always aware of their rights in terms of health care provision, intensifying the problem.

The findings from this analysis support this assessment. Among 24 respondents who reported they had received some form of assistance during their stay in BiH only one person reported he/she received medical assistance. However, it should be noted that the survey did not ask about the current or past health problem migrant had. Therefore, the reported lack of assistance could be due to the fact that respondents did not have a need for medical assistance during their stay in BiH.

#### PROFILE OF THOSE RESPONDENTS WHO RECEIVED ASSISTANCE IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

As was mentioned in the section above, the total number of 24 individuals reported they received assistance during their stay in BiH, which equals to 34% of respondents who reported they have received assistance in course of their journey and 14% of all respondents surveyed.

##### Respondents who received assistance in BiH:

- Were mostly male (75%)
- Were mostly travelling with a group (46% reported they were travelling with family member(s), while 21% reported they were travelling with non-family member(s), and 33% reported they were travelling alone).
- Had stayed in BiH between two weeks or three months (83%).
- Approximately half was single, with another half being married.

The majority (66%) of respondents who reported they received assistance on their journey before reaching BiH reported they received assistance from the UN, while 7% reported they received assistance from NGOs, 6% - from both, the UN and NGOs, and the rest reported either EU Agencies, local community or Government authorities.

The largest share of respondents who reported they received support during their journey reported they received assistance with accommodation and NFI, 28% - with NFI, accommodation and medical assistance, 20% - with NFI only, and the rest listed other types of assistance.

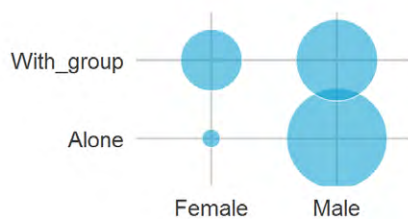


Photo: Migrants in Trnovo, Velika Kladusa, IOM Bosnia and Herzegovina/2018

<sup>10</sup> United Nations (UN) Country Team Operational Update on Refugee and Migrant Situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, May 2018.

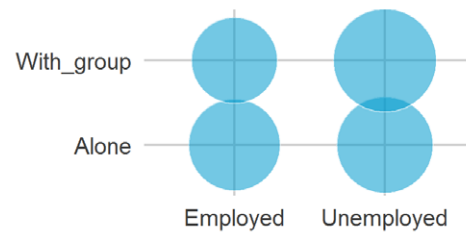
## COMPARISON BETWEEN RESPONDENTS TRAVELLING WITH A GROUP AND ALONE

Those respondents who were travelling alone were more likely than those travelling with a group to be male. Ninety seven per cent of respondents who were travelling alone were male, in comparison to 64% of respondents who were travelling with a group.



- Migrants travelling with a group were slightly older than migrants travelling alone. Median age for respondents who were travelling with a group was 29, while median age for respondents travelling alone was 26.
- Respondents travelling with a group were slightly more likely than respondents travelling alone to engage in secondary migration (22% versus 13%, respectively).

- Individuals travelling with a group were more likely to have been unemployed at the time of departure, in comparison to individuals travelling with alone (56% versus 49%).



- Respondents travelling with a group were more likely than respondents travelling alone to reported having received assistance during the journey or during the stay in BiH (44% versus 36%).

## METHODOLOGY

Surveys in Bosnia and Herzegovina 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 from national authorities and IOM country offices. Regular updates on arrivals are available on DTM Flows to Europe Geoportal.

The survey in Bosnia and Herzegovina were conducted by IOM field staff between March and May 2018 in Sarajevo, Banja Luka, Bihać, and Velika Kladuša.

In all cases, respondents are approached in an ad hoc manner by IOM field staff, with those who give their consent to be interviewed proceeding with the remaining 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 better picture of the vulnerability of migrant populations and the risks they face. If interviewers come across respondents who are likely to have unmet protection needs, they referred those people to the relevant protection actor.

The survey is designed to profile third country (non-European) nationals who are migrating to the countries of Europe through the Central and Eastern Mediterranean routes. Only migrants aged 14 and above are approached. DTM's baseline FMS module captures data on the demographic profile of the respondents, the circumstances of their migration journey and migration push factors, their place of origin or their last country of habitual residence, and the existing pull factors in their intended country of destination. The sample structure intends to represent migrants' nationalities, sex and age structures, aiming to be representative. Nevertheless, flows are constantly changing and fieldwork conditions depend on the country, location and centre surveyed.