

FLOW MONITORING SURVEYS WITH MIGRANTS ARRIVING TO GREECE IN 2023

06 SEPTEMBER – 31 DECEMBER 2023

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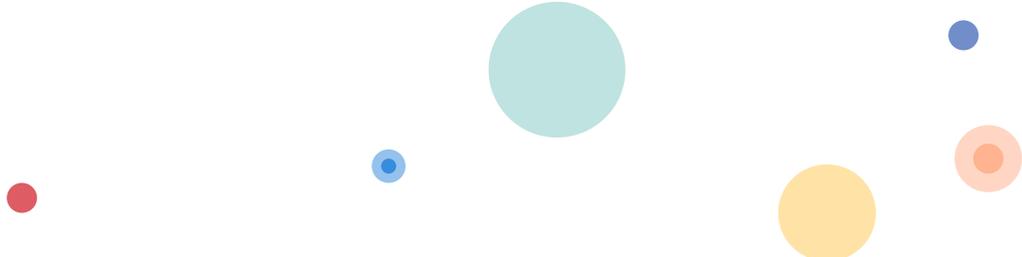
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	4
<hr/>	
1 INTRODUCTION	5
<hr/>	
2 MIGRANTS TRAVELLING THROUGH GREECE: BASELINE PROFILE	8
2.1 SAMPLE SIZE AND MAIN NATIONALITIES	8
2.2 DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF RESPONDENTS	8
2.3 EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT	9
2.4 REASONS FOR LEAVING THE COUNTRY OF ORIGIN	10
2.5 REASONS FOR LEAVING THE COUNTRY OF DEPARTURE	11
2.6 MODE OF TRAVEL	11
2.7 ROUTES TRAVELLED	12
2.8 COST OF JOURNEY	12
2.9 PROBLEMS DURING THE JOURNEY	13
2.10 INTENDED DESTINATION	14
<hr/>	
3 VULNERABILITY TO VIOLENCE, EXPLOITATION AND ABUSE	16
<hr/>	
4 RETURN INTENTIONS	18
<hr/>	
5 METHODOLOGY	18
5.1 SAMPLING	18
5.2 THE QUESTIONNAIRE	19
5.3 LIMITATIONS	19



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report presents the results of the first round of the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) Flow Monitoring Surveys (FMS) implemented in Greece since 2018.¹ FMS provides a snapshot of the profiles, experiences and needs of migrants arriving by sea and by land and residing in reception centres of different kinds in Greece. The data was collected from 06 September to 31 December 2023 in 38 different Flow Monitoring Survey Points (FMPs), distributed in ten different regions of Greece. IOM interviewed a total of 916 individual respondents.²

- More than one fifth (26%) of the respondents were single males between the ages of 18 and 29 years.
- The top three nationalities were Afghans and Iraqi (both 16%), followed by the Syrians (14%).
- Overall, 29 per cent of respondents had at least lower secondary education, and 46 per cent were unemployed either looking (35%) or not (11%) for a job prior to leaving their countries of origin.
- Most (68%) respondents were travelling in a group, and mostly travelling with relatives (56%), while 22 per cent reported travelling with a facilitator and other 22 per cent with no relatives.
- Less than one tenth (9%) of the migrants surveyed had been living in a country other than their own country of origin for at least a year, prior to arriving in Greece. The three main countries where people had lived for more than a year were Türkiye (77%), Egypt (8%) and the Islamic Republic of Iran (8%).
- Greece (29%), Europe (28%), Germany (21%) and France (4%) were the most frequently cited countries of intended destination. Afghan nationals were more likely to cite Germany as their country of intended destination (46% of them intended to reach Germany). Similarly, nationals from the Syrian Arab Republic were more likely to state Germany and Europe as their intended countries of destination with 38 per cent and 34 per cent respectively. Most nationals from Iraq stated that Greece (28%), Europe (26%), and Germany (25%) were their main countries of intended destination.
- The three main reported drivers of migration from the country of origin were limited war and conflicts (65%), personal and targeted violence (30%) and economic reasons (13%).³
- During their journeys, 49 per cent of the respondents reported at least one problem, ranging from robbery, theft of documents, health-related issues as well as a lack of food and shelter.
- Fifteen per cent of all respondents reported having been returned from one country to another least once during their journeys, with 39 per cent of them having been returned more than once before reaching Greece.
- More than half (56%) have spent more than 2,500 USD on their journeys. These were largely financed with own savings, thanks to relatives in the countries of origin or selling their own properties.

¹ FMS were deployed in Greece between 2015 and 2018. See for example the report comparing evidence on CMR and EMR in 2017 [here](#).

² The term "respondents" refers to migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers as the reference population is made of mixed migration flows. These terms are used interchangeably throughout the report.

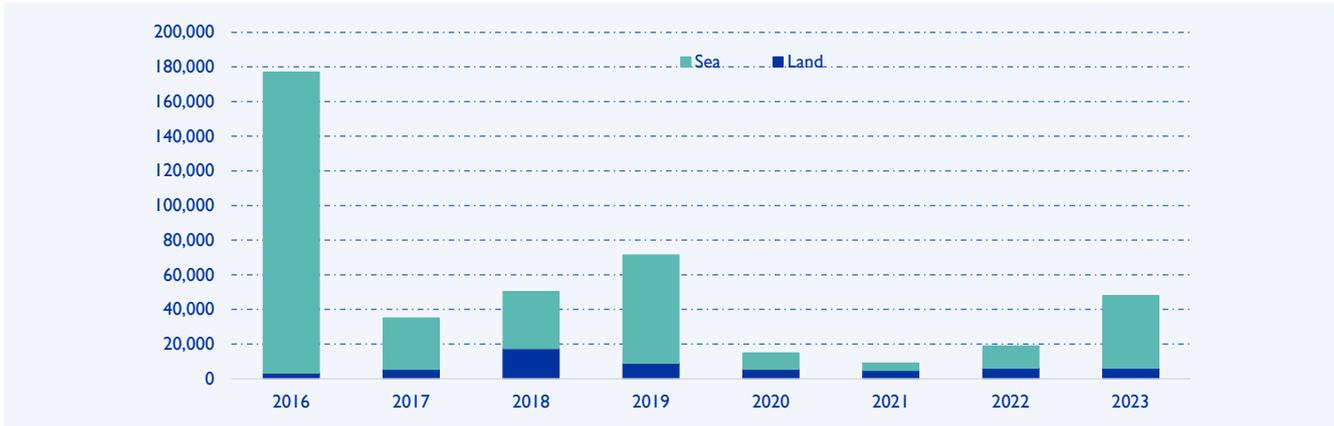
³ Multiple responses possible.

1 INTRODUCTION

Since 2015, Greece has emerged as one of the main points of entrance in Europe for migrants attempting to reach the European Union (EU) and is, along with Bulgaria and

Cyprus, one of the three countries of entry for asylum-seekers, refugees and migrants travelling through the Eastern Mediterranean Route (EMR).

Figure 1. Migrants registered by authorities in Greece, 2016 - 2023 (absolute numbers)



Source: [DTM Mixed Migration Flows to Europe](#)

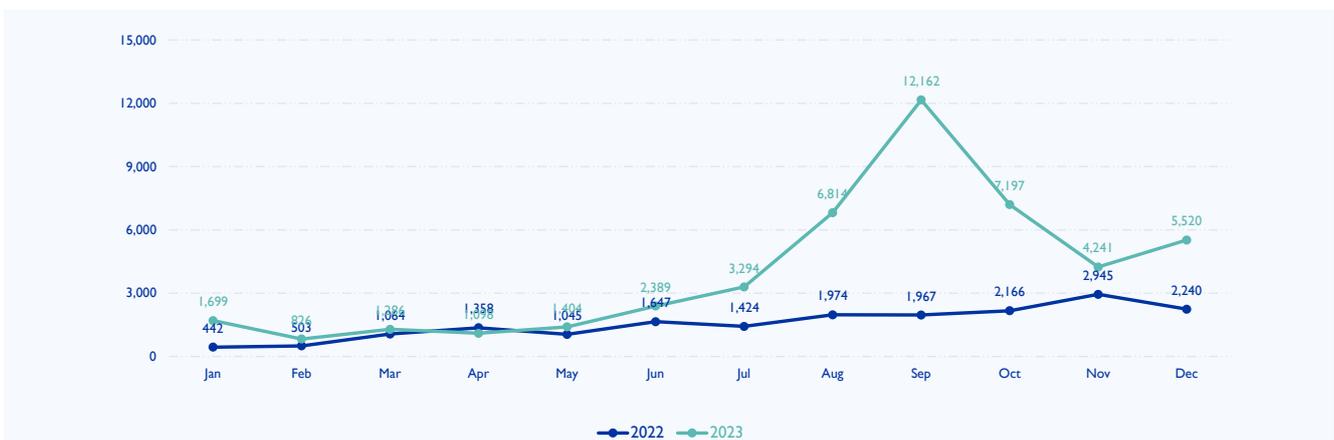
In 2016, 176,906 migrants were registered by Greek national authorities - 98 per cent by sea. The number of arrivals decreased in 2017, to regain an increasing although lower trend in 2018 and 2019. The years more impacted by COVID-19-related mobility marked a record low, with less than 10 thousand arrivals in 2021. Since then, arrivals to Greece started increasing again, to reach 47,930 registrations (87% by sea) in 2023, which is an increase of 155 per cent compared to the previous year.

This report contains findings from the DTM FMS in Greece to better grasp changes in the profiles arriving through irregular means in the country, and improve assistance. Surveys were conducted by IOM field staff between 06

September and 31 December 2023. Field staff surveyed a total of 916 individuals in 38 different Flow Monitoring Survey Points (FMPs), distributed in ten different regions of Greece.

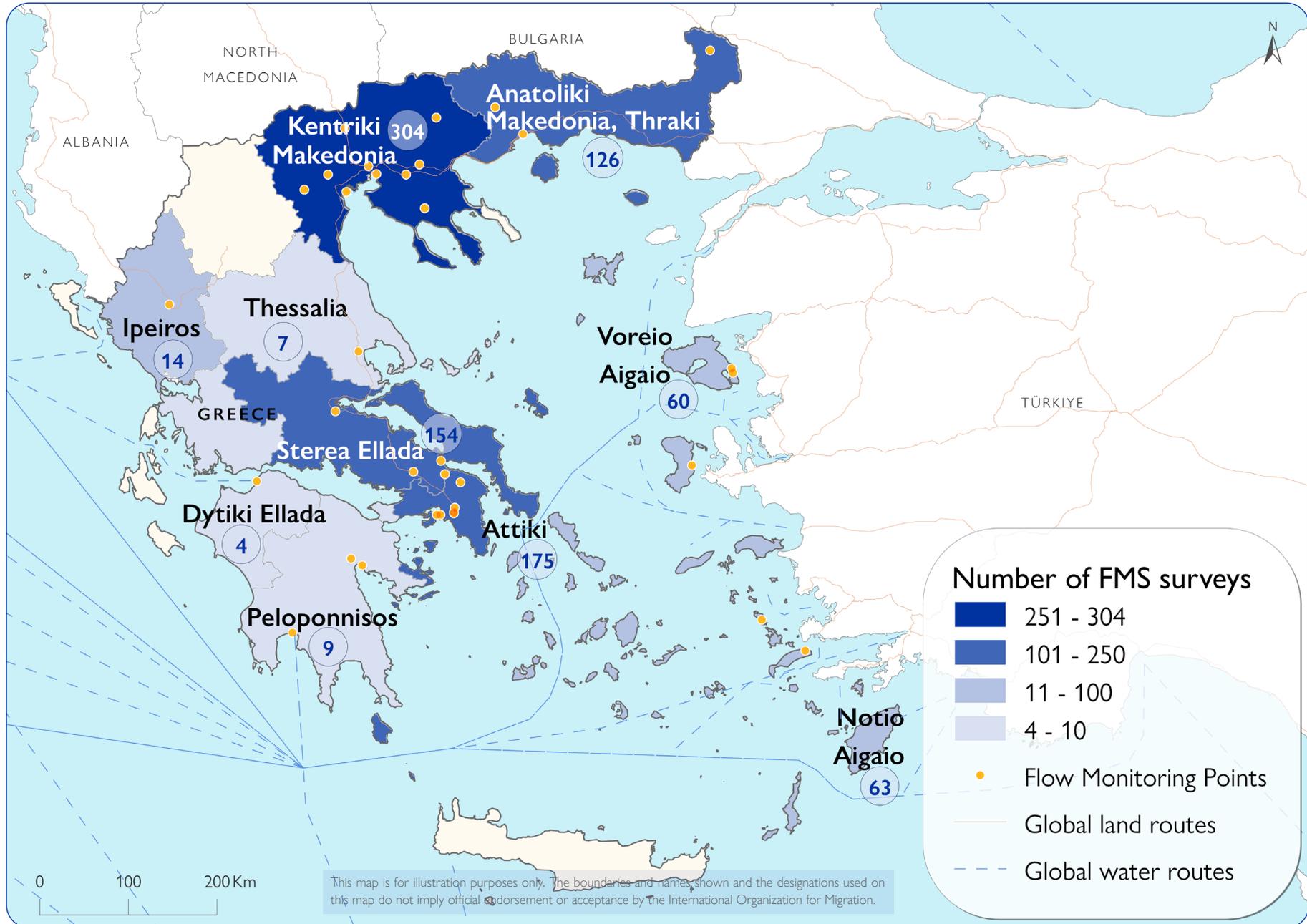
The Section 2 of this report presents the baseline profile of the population interviewed, their main reasons for moving, the characteristics of their journey and their intentions. Section 3 discusses migrants' experiences of violence, abuse and exploitation during the journey up to Greece. Section 4 looks at the respondent's views on their return intentions. The report ends with a section on Methodology.

Figure 2. Number of migrants recorded per month by authorities in Greece, 2022 vs 2023 (absolute numbers)



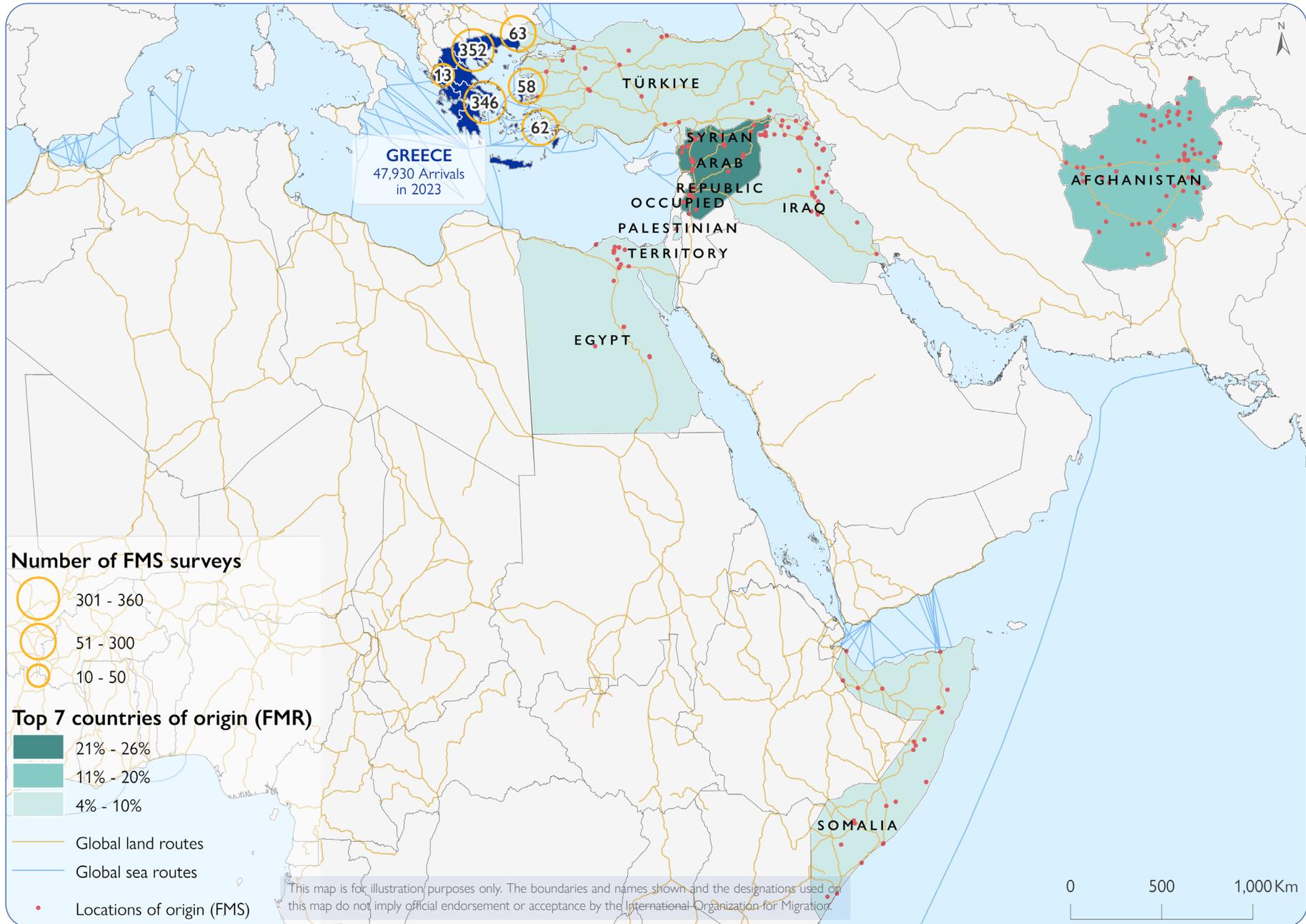
Source: [DTM Mixed Migration Flows to Europe](#)

Map 1: Number of interviewed migrants per region and FMPs



Source: DTM GRC FMS 2023 (n=916)

Map 2: Flow monitoring and survey data, with a focus on top 7 countries of origin/nationalities arrived in Greece in 2023



Source: DTM GRC FMS 2023 (n=916)

2 MIGRANTS TRAVELLING THROUGH GREECE: BASELINE PROFILE

2.1 SAMPLE SIZE AND MAIN NATIONALITIES

The information in this report is based on a sample of 916 respondents. The top five declared nationalities of respondents represent more than three fifth (61%) of the whole sample and are Afghanistan and Iraq (both 16%), followed by the Syrian Arab Republic (14%), Occupied Palestinian Territory (10%) and Sudan (6%). Respondents from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (5%), Egypt (5%), Türkiye (5%), Somalia (5%), the Islamic Republic of Iran (4%), Sierra Leone (3%), Pakistan (2%), Eritrea (1%),

Cameroon (1%) and the Republic of Congo (1%) exceed one per cent of incidence in the sample.

The main nationalities of respondents correspond to a great extent those of first arrivals registered by national authorities in Greece in 2023: Syrian Arab Republic (25%), Afghanistan (18%), Occupied Palestinian Territory (9%), Iraq (8%) and Somalia (5%).

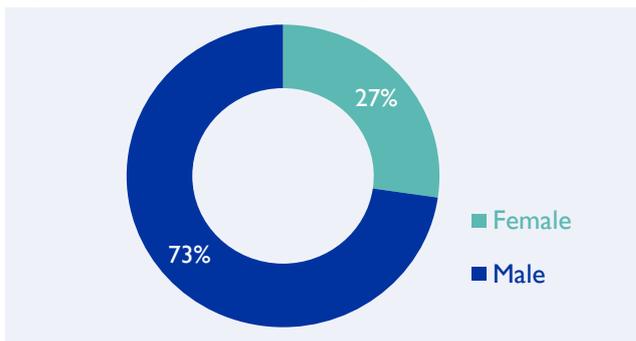
2.2 DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF RESPONDENTS

Male migrants represented the majority (73%) of the sample, followed by 27 per cent female respondents. The median age was 29.3 years, with the youngest migrant interviewed being 14 years old and the oldest 78 years old:⁴ 74 per cent of the sample were respondents of 18-39 years old. Children made up 12 per cent of the respondents: 93 per cent were boys, while the remaining 7 per cent were girls. They were mainly coming from Egypt (30%), Afghanistan (21%), Syrian Arab Republic (14%), Pakistan (9%) and Somalia (8%). Respondents of more than 40 years constituted 14 per cent of the whole sample.

More than half of the respondents (53%) declared they were single, followed by 39 per cent who were married, five per cent widowed, the remainder 3 per cent were either divorced, in some other form of partnership or didn't want to answer.

More than half (56%) of the respondents did not have children. Of the 44 per cent who had children at the time of the interview, 71 per cent reported to be travelling with children and 25 per cent declared having at least one child left in the country of origin. Nineteen per cent reported that they had children in the country of destination and other 19 per cent reported that they have at least one child in another country.

Figure 3: Share of interviewed migrants by sex (%)



Source: DTM GRC FMS 2023 (n=916)

The most spoken languages among respondents were Arabic (44%), Dari and Kurmanji Kurdish (both 11%), Turkish and Kurdish (both 5%), Farsi and French (both 4%), English and Lingala (both 3%), Pashto (2%), Punjabi, Congolese Swahili, Somali, Georgian, Bengali, Tigrinya, Urdu, Kurdish Sorani, Syriac Aramaic, Creole, Pular, Syrian sign language, Chaldean neo-Aramaic, Crimean Tatar, Kituba, Pidgin, Ukrainian and Uzbek with less than one per cent each.

Of the total respondents, five per cent stated that they were internally displaced inside their countries of origin before crossing an international border and starting the journey. Those who were internally displaced were mainly I coming from Iraq (33%), the Syrian Arab Republic (23%), and Occupied Palestinian Territory (12%).

⁴ Adolescents between 14 and 17 years old were addressed by enumerators in Greece only after having obtained written consent from the parent or legal guardian.

2.3 EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT

Education

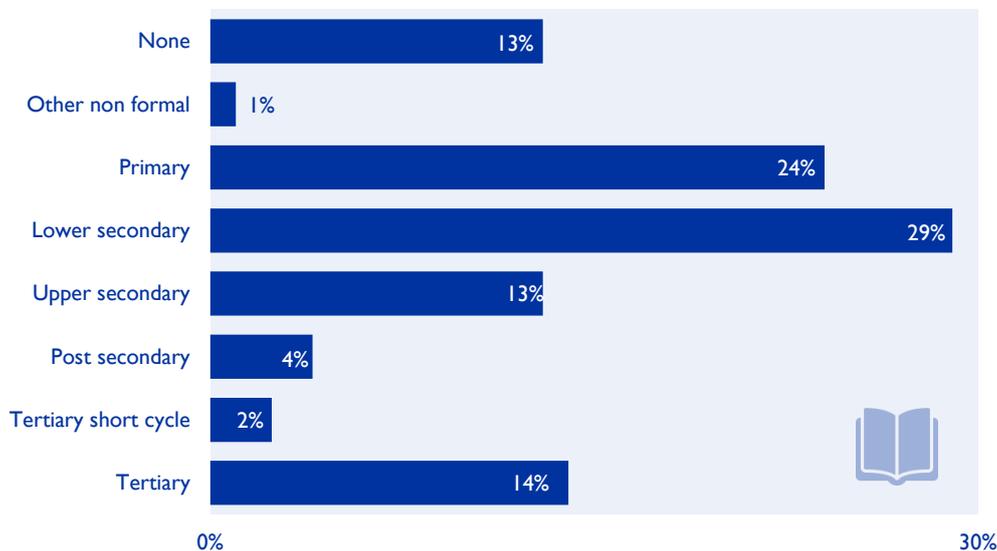
Information on the educational attainment of different nationalities can help facilitate the planning of integration programmes in host countries. Respondents were therefore asked about the highest level of formal education they had completed.

More than two thirds of the whole sample declared to have achieved either the lower secondary (29%), or the primary (24%) and the tertiary (14%) education as the three main levels completed by respondents. Only 13 per

cent of the sample reported to not have not acquired any formal education.

To this, it should be added 13 per cent of respondents who have attended the upper secondary school, four per cent who have completed the post-secondary school, two per cent who have achieved the tertiary level (short cycle), and one per cent who have attended the other non-formal school.

Figure 4: Highest level of educational attainment, total (%)



Source: DTM GRC FMS 2023 (n=916)

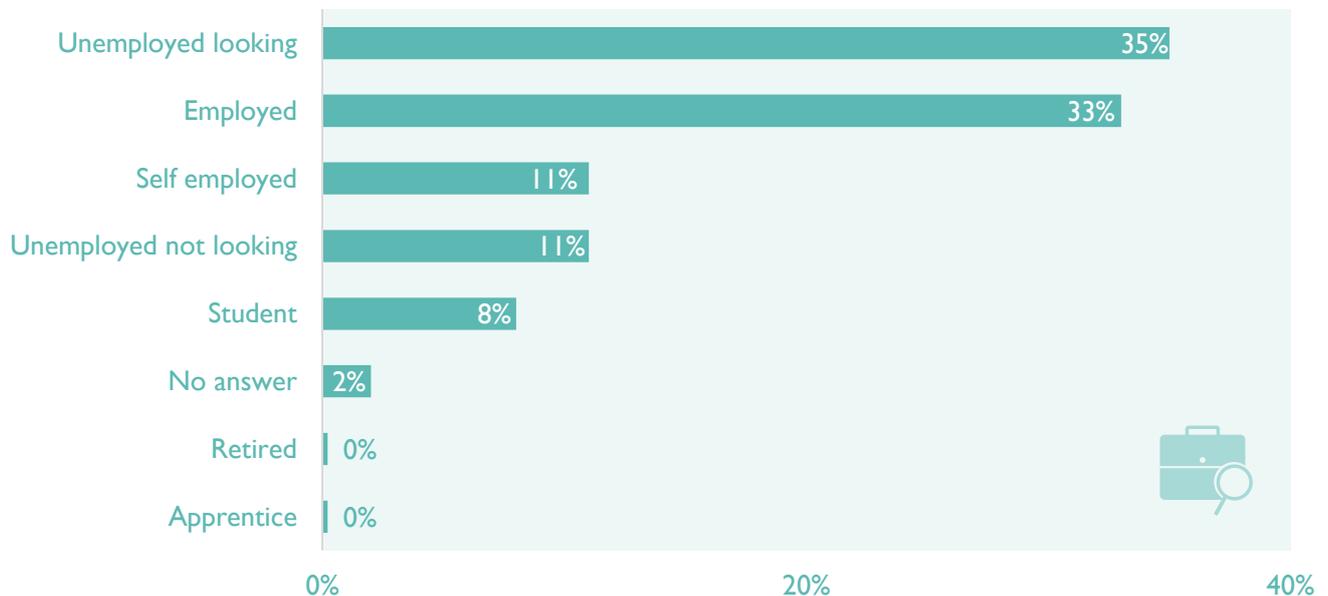
Employment status before departure

The survey asks questions about the employment status in the country of origin, before leaving. While 46 per cent were unemployed either looking (35%) or not looking (11%) for a job, 44 per cent of the respondents declared that they had been either employed or self-employed prior to leaving their countries of origin.

Among those who had been employed or self-employed prior to leaving their country or origin, the most frequently held jobs were service and sales workers (21%), followed by skilled manual labour (18%), craft and trade workers (16%), elementary occupations and professionals (both 9%), technicians (7%), armed forces (6%), plant machine operators (5%), clerical support (4%) and managers and professionals (3%).

The most frequently cited sectors of employment were agriculture and forestry (12%), wholesale retail and repair motor vehicles (10%), construction (10%), other service activities (10%), manufacturing sector (9%), defence (7%) and transport and logistics (6%). Fewer respondent reported having worked education in administrative support and social work (both 5%), IT sector, accommodation and education sectors (all three 4%), energy (3%), scientific sector and other (both 2%), domestic work (1%), arts (1%), finance (1%), real estate and water supply (both 1%).

Figure 5: Employment status before departure (%)



Source: DTM GRC FMS 2023 (n=916)

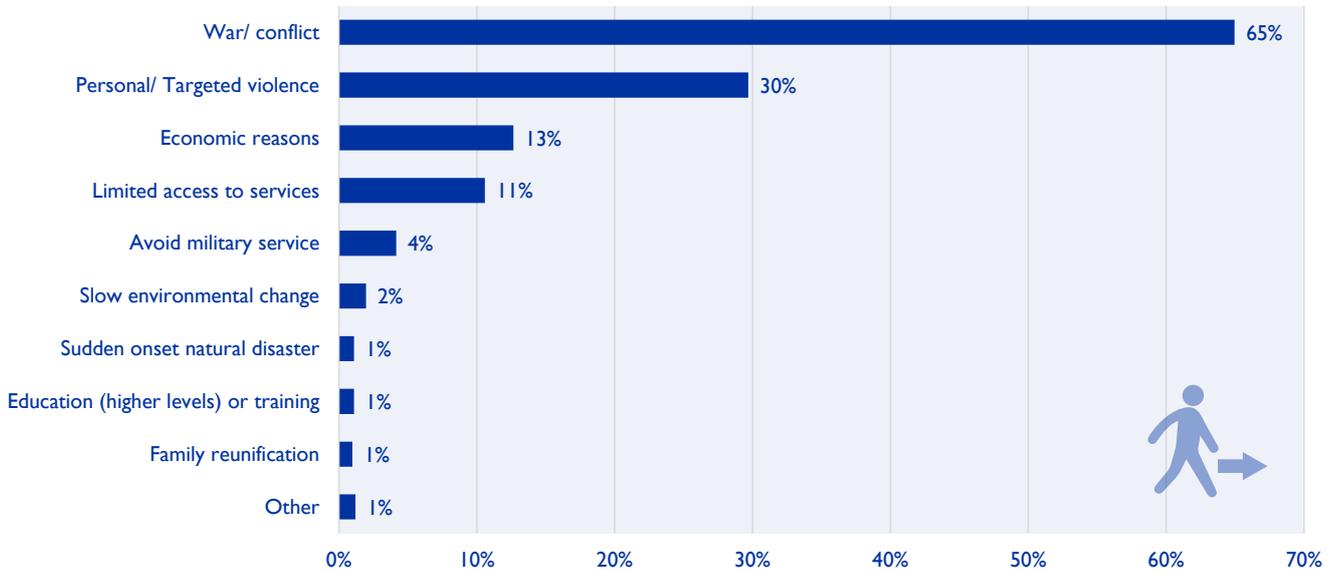
2.4 REASONS FOR LEAVING THE COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

Interviewees were asked to mention the two main reasons for leaving their countries of origin. Almost two thirds (65%) cited war and conflict, followed by 30 per cent who quoted personal or targeted violence and 13 per cent of respondents said they left due to economic reasons. Eleven per cent of respondent reported the limited access to services, followed by the possibility to avoid military service (4%), due to the consequences of environmental change (2%), to the sudden onset of natural disaster (1%), the possibility to receive higher education (1%) or to be reunited with their own family (1%). Nine respondents reported other reasons mainly related to personal circumstances or persecution due to religious beliefs as in the case of Yazidi respondents.⁵ These results highlight the nuances around reasons for migrating of different groups of migrants in the EMR route.

Drivers of migration varied between the different nationalities. Considering the main nationalities by number of respondents, war and conflict was the main reasons for leaving their country of origin especially among Syrians (100%), Palestinians (93%), Sudanese (92%), Afghans (83%), and Iraqi (64%). Personal and targeted violence is a relevant reason for leaving among nationals of Türkiye, (100%), the Islamic Republic of Iran (75%), Iraq (60%), Somal and less so among Afghans (13%) and Syrians (2%) respondents. When asked further information, many of Iraqi and Turkish nationals reported to have fled due to fears and direct threats to their personal safety and security linked to their belonging to specific minority groups (e.g. Yazidi and Kurds). Economic reason for leaving the country of origin is mentioned by a high share of respondents among nationals of Egypt (85% of them mentioned it) and Pakistan (67%).

⁵ Participants can choose multiple options. The total therefore does not add up to 100 per cent.

Figure 6: Main reasons for leaving the country of origin (multiple choices possible, %)



Source: DTM GRC FMS 2023 (n=916)

2.5 REASONS FOR LEAVING THE COUNTRY OF DEPARTURE

Few respondents (9%) had been living in a country other than that of origin or habitual residence for at least a year prior to moving again. In most cases, the countries where people had lived for more than a year were Türkiye (77%), followed by Egypt and the Islamic Republic of Iran (both 8%).

When asked why they decided to leave Türkiye after having lived there for a year or more, 29 per cent of respondents said it was due to economic reasons and another 29 per

cent said it was due to limited access to resources. This was also induced by the growing inflation of the country, rising prices for rents and overall economic deterioration – induced by COVID-19 pandemic restrictive measure first, and then by the earthquakes that struck southern and central Türkiye and northern and western Syrian Arab Republic in February 2023.⁶ Among those who lived in Islamic Republic of Iran and Egypt, respectively 63 per cent and 50 per cent said they moved again due to limited access to services.⁷

2.6 MODE OF TRAVEL

Most (68%) of the respondents travelled with a group while the other 32 per cent travelled alone. More than half (58%) of those who travelled in a group were with

family members – mainly spouse and children, while the remaining part travelled with non-family persons and with facilitators (22% each).

⁶ IOM Türkiye (2024). Türkiye and Northwest Syria Earthquake Response and Recovery. [2023 Achievements Report, IOM: Ankara.](#)

⁷ Respondents could choose multiple options. The total therefore does not add up to 100.

2.7 ROUTES TRAVELLED

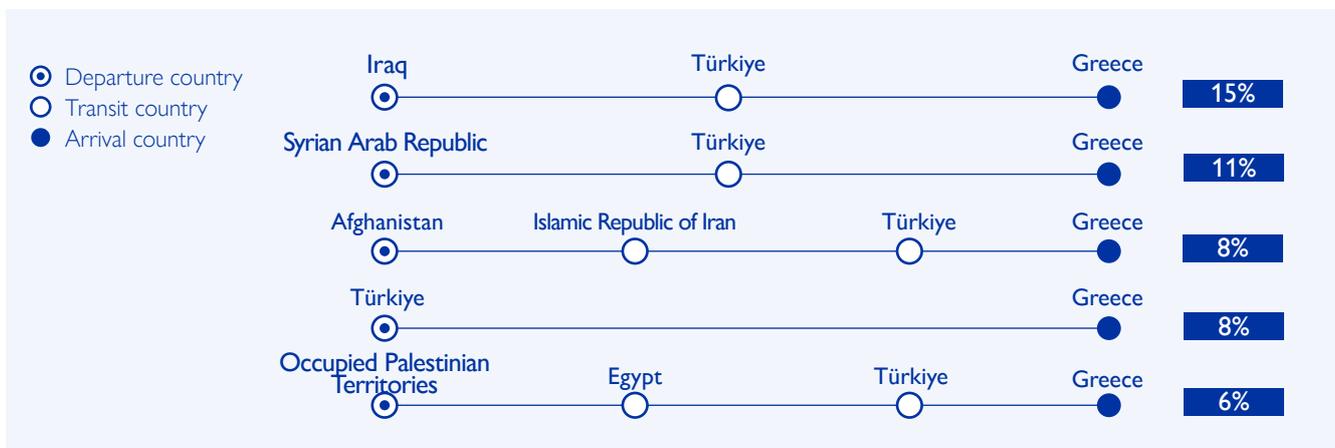
Almost two thirds (65%) of respondents arrived in Greece by sea, while the remaining 35 per cent by land through the Evros region, a north-east region of Greece which is part of East Macedonia and Thrace.

While more than two thirds (68%) respondents transited through only one country, 21 per cent passed through two countries and 3 per cent through three countries and only 8 per cent arrived directly to Greece after departing

from Türkiye. For those with at least one transit country, Türkiye seems to be the latest transit country for the majority (68%), followed by the Islamic Republic of Iran (11%) and Egypt (8%).

The routes taken by respondents show a great variability mainly related to the nationality and personal conditions. Figure 7 shows the five main routes taken by respondents from their reported country of departure until Greece.

Figure 7: Top 5 used routes among respondents, from the country of departure to Greece (%)



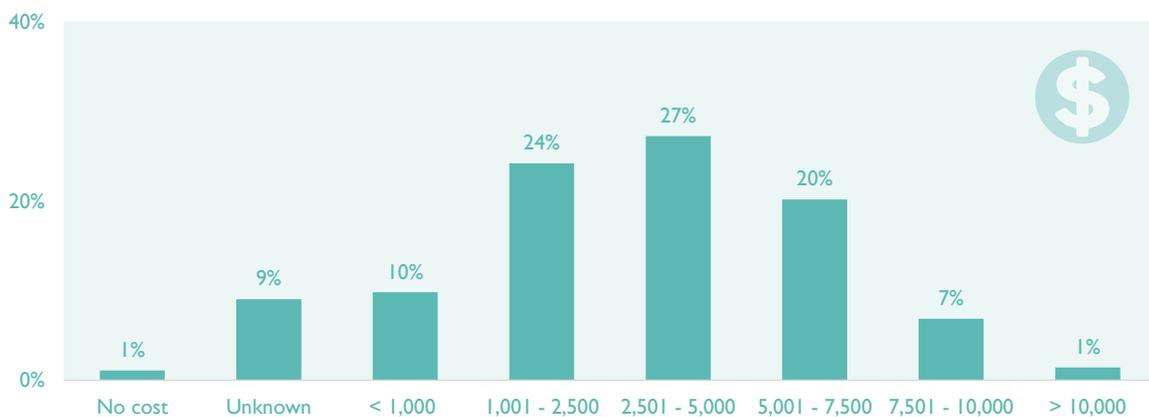
Source: DTM GRC FMS 2023 (n=916)

2.8 COST OF JOURNEY

Figure 8 provides a complete breakdown of the cost of the journeys from the country of origin or habitual residence until in Greece. More than half (56%) of respondents have

spent more than 2,500 United States Dollars (USD) on their journeys.

Figure 8: Cost of the journey from the country of departure to Greece in USD (%)



Source: DTM GRC FMS 2023 (n=916)

When asked how they financed their journeys, respondents could choose multiple answers.⁸ More than two thirds (70%) said they used their own money. This was followed by 26 per cent who received the money from relatives in the country of origin, 21 per cent had to sell property, 11 per cent who reported working in a transit country, 6 per cent who received the money from relatives abroad, 4 per cent who borrowed money, and 2 per cent who received the money from friends abroad. Four respondents reported to have financed their journey through the future employer or recruitment agencies.

Forty-one per cent of respondents said that they paid the cost of each leg separately. This was followed by 21 per cent who paid full amount upfront at origin, 12 per cent who paid in cash instalments, 9 per cent who will pay upon

arrival in the intended destination, 9 per cent who paid in instalments through the hawala⁹ system, and other 9 per cent did not know how to have paid for the journey. Most of those who did not pay were adolescents who reported to have the journey paid by parents or relatives. Only one respondent reported other methods.

The greatest majority (89%) of the respondents reported that they had not to repay part of the expenses of the journey upon arrival at the destination. Only 6 per cent reported to have to repay the journey and 5 per cent did not know. These last two groups might be potentially more prone to exploitation and to harmful coping strategies with mental health implications in order to repay their debt once arrived at destination.

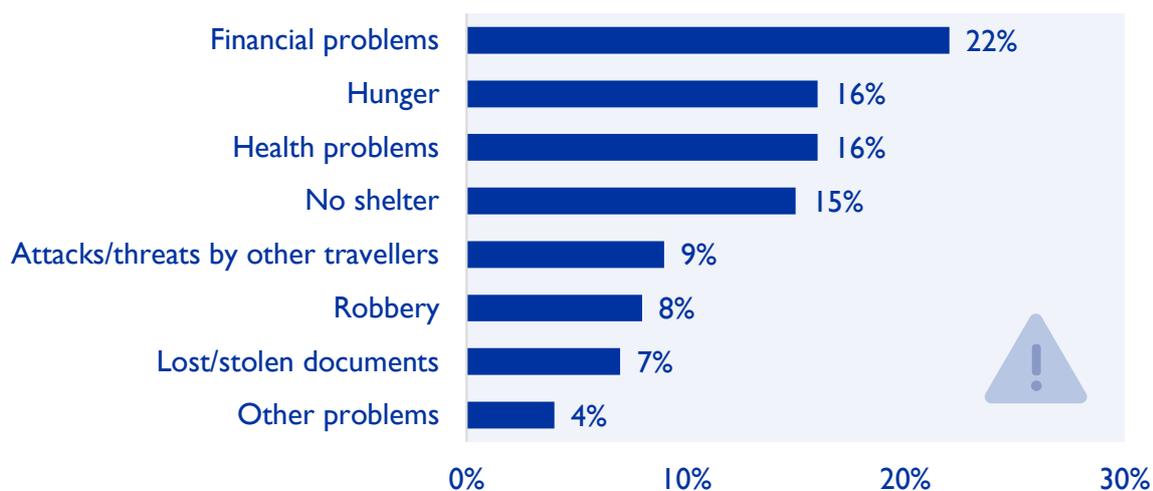
2.9 PROBLEMS DURING THE JOURNEY

Almost half of respondents (49%) reported to have faced at least one problem during the journey to Greece, among those listed in the survey – financial issues, hunger, robbery, lack of shelter, health issues, issues with documents, attacks by others. Financial problems (22%) continue to be a prevalent issue among migrants travelling through the EMR route, mainly reported while in Greece. Sixteen per cent of respondents reported to have suffer from hunger, mainly experimented by respondents while travelling through transit countries such as Libya

and Türkiye. Health problems have the same incidence (16%), reported to be experienced in several countries, including Greece.¹⁰

Fifteen per cent of respondents reported to have suffered from lack of shelter, mainly experienced in Egypt, Libya, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Türkiye. Less than one tenth (9%) of respondents reported to have been attacked or threatened by other travellers during their journey.

Figure 9: Percentage of respondents who reported some problems either in transit or in Greece (multiple choices possible, %)



Source: DTM GRC FMS 2023 (n=916)

⁸ Respondents could choose multiple options. The total therefore does not add up to 100.

⁹ 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.

¹⁰ Respondents could choose multiple options. The total therefore does not add up to 100.

Eight per cent of respondents reported that they had been robbed: most episodes of robbery occurred in a country of transit – in particular 62 per cent in Türkiye – and 28 per cent in Greece. Seven per cent of respondents reported to have stolen or lost their documents during their journey.

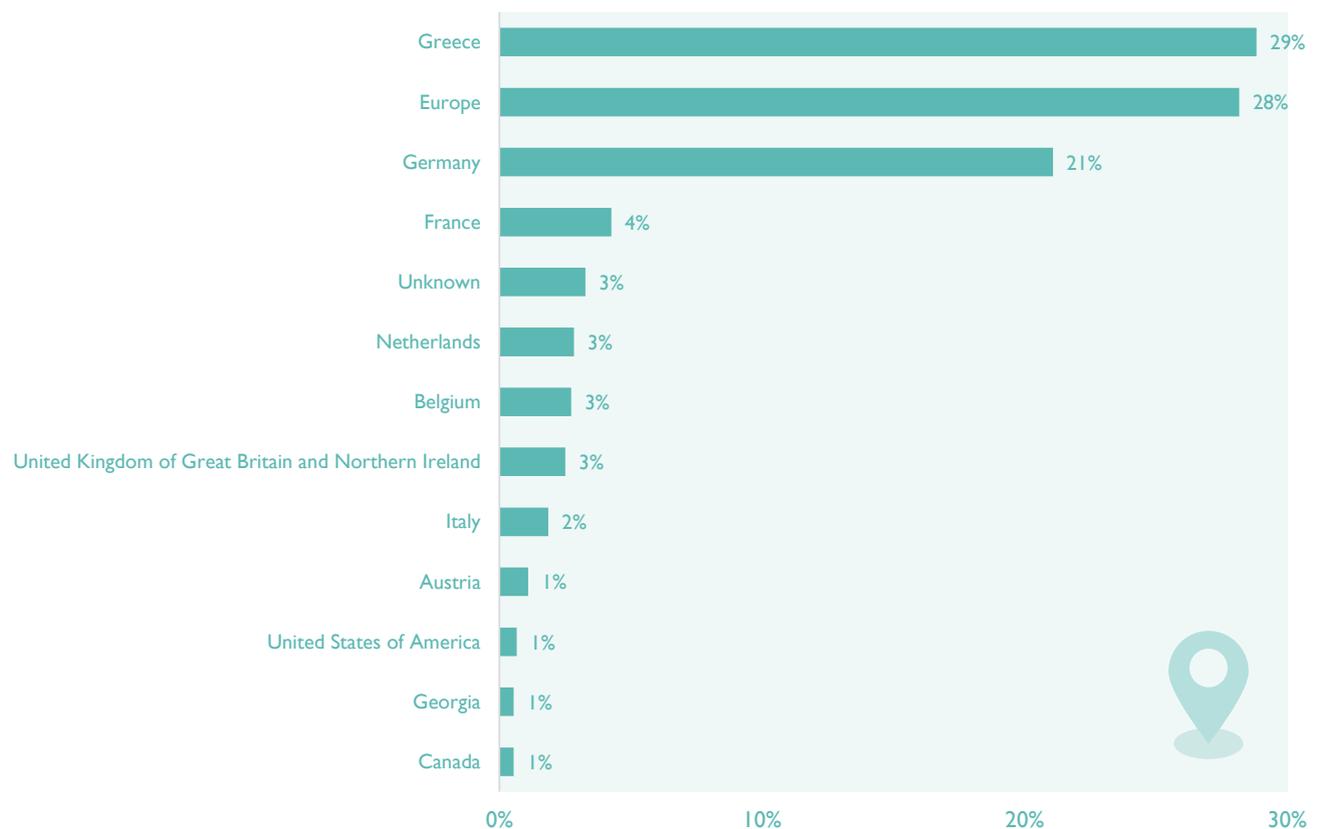
Thirty-five respondents (4% of the total) also reported to have faced other problems, adding some qualitative evidence on episodes of exploitation, violence and torture experienced in transit countries such as Libya and Türkiye, aspects which are then further addressed in a dedicated section of the questionnaire (see [Section 3](#)).

Respondents were also asked if they had been readmitted¹¹ to another country during their journey by the authorities of transit countries. Fifteen per cent of respondents reported having been returned from one country to another. Of these, 61 per cent reported having been returned once, 22 per cent also reported having been returned twice, 15 per cent said they had been returned between three and five times, while 2 per cent stated that they had been returned six times or more.

2.10 INTENDED DESTINATION

Greece, Europe in general, Germany and France were the most frequently cited countries of intended destination.

Figure 10: Most frequently cited countries of intended destination (%)



Source: DTM GRC FMS 2023 (n=916)

¹¹ 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.

Survey respondents were asked why they chose their countries of intended destination. The most frequently reported answers were safety (65%), relatives in the intended destination country (16%), appealing socio-economic conditions (13%), the only available or feasible choice due to policy and geographical constraints (3%), asylum procedures (2%), well-established network of co-nationals (2%). Three respondents reported other reasons as mainly more prosperous and peaceful living conditions in the intended countries of destination, and one respondent reported language.

Out of those intending to stay in Greece, 70 per cent reported safety, while 13 per cent said it was due to appealing socio-economic conditions, and 7 per cent said it was because the only available or feasible choice due to policy and geographical constraints. Of those who reported Europe as their intended destination, 91 per cent reported safety as their main reason, while 6 per cent mentioned appealing socio-economic conditions and 2 per cent reported the presence of family or relatives. The most frequently cited reasons for choosing the Germany as intended destination were because of friends and family already there (37%), safety (36%), appealing socio-economic conditions (24%) and well-established network of co-nationals (3%).

The intended countries of destination slightly differ for the three main nationalities surveyed. Respondents from Afghanistan reported Germany (46%), Greece (24%), Europe (16%), France (5%), and Belgium (3%) as main countries of destination. For nationals of Iraq, the most frequently cited destinations were Greece (28%), Europe (26%), and Germany (25%). Nationals of Syrian Arab Republic cited Germany (38%), Europe (34%) and Greece (9%).

More than two thirds of survey respondents (69%) stated that they did not have family in the country of intended destination, 24 per cent noted that they had extended family members in the country of destination while 7 per cent stated that they had immediate family members (spouses, children or parents). Moreover, 21 per cent of respondents stated that they had family in another European country. Fourteen per cent of respondents said they had immediate family members (spouses, children or parents) in another European country, while 27 per cent said they had extended family members. More than half (52%) of all respondents had relatives either in their country of destination or in some another EU country.

3 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 eight questions that aim to capture information about whether the respondent had, during their journey:

1. Worked or performed other activities without getting the expected payment
2. Was forced to perform work or other activities against your will
3. Was approached by someone offering a marriage (for you or close family member – child or sibling)
4. Was kept at a certain location against your will (by persons other than the authorities of the country)
5. Had experienced any form of physical violence
6. Was forced to travel/move
7. Was lied to, tricked, manipulated, indebted, given false promises, or otherwise deceived in order to get to travel/move
8. Had access to travel documents during the journey

These questions relate to an event, that might indicate exposure to human trafficking, exploitation and abuse practices, physical and sexual violence, experienced by the respondent, 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.



UNPAID LABOUR

About 7 per cent of respondents reported they worked or performed other activities during their journey without receiving the expected payment. Seventy-five per cent of these episodes happened in Türkiye, while 11 per cent took place in Greece as in Libya, and the remaining 2 per cent occurred in the Islamic Republic of Iran.



FORCED LABOUR

About two per cent of respondents reported having been forced to work or conduct activities against their will. Half of these experiences reportedly happened in Libya, 36 per cent in Türkiye.



OFFERS OF AN ARRANGED MARRIAGE

About one per cent of respondents reported they have been approached by someone offering marriage. Four respondents mentioned that this happened in Greece, while also three respondents reported to happen respectively in Pakistan, the Syrian Arab Republic and Sudan.



KEPT AT A CERTAIN LOCATION AGAINST WILL

Two per cent of respondents noted that they had been kept at a location against their will. This happened mainly in Libya (89%) but also in Türkiye (11%).



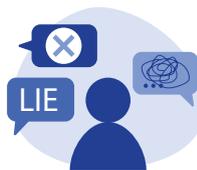
PHYSICAL VIOLENCE

Twelve per cent of respondents reported having experienced some form of physical violence during their journey. More than half of the episodes where physical violence was suffered were Türkiye (54%), followed by Greece (20%), Libya (15%), the Islamic Republic of Iran (4%), the Republic of Congo (3%), Iraq (2%), Egypt, Eritrea and Pakistan (all last three at 1%).



FORCED TO TRAVEL

Five per cent of respondents reported that they been forced to travel or to move. Half of the episodes happened in Türkiye, followed by Syrian Arab Republic (10%), Greece (8%), and the Occupied Palestinian Territory (6%).



DECEIVED INTO TRAVEL

Seven per cent of respondents noted that they been lied, tricked, manipulated, indebted, given false promises, or otherwise deceived in order to get to travel or to move. This was reported to have happened in half of the cases in Türkiye, followed by Libya (11%), Greece (6%), Georgia, Pakistan and Syrian Arab Republic (all three at 5%), Bangladesh (3%), Occupied Palestinian Territory (3%), Afghanistan, Bulgaria, Egypt, Gambia, Iran, Sudan and Ukraine (each of them at 2%).



CONTROL OF TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

The greatest majority (84%) noted that they had documents during the journey, six per cent reported that they never had documents during journey, while 3 per cent reported having lost their documents during their journey, other 3 per cent reported that someone else took their documents. Two per cent reported having had their documents stolen, while other 2 per cent preferred not to answer this question.

4 RETURN INTENTIONS

Most (96%) respondents had not considered returning to their country of origin during the journey: the majority because they feared for their security in their origin country (78%), they were not willing (16%) or had obligations to fulfil with their community at origin (4%), or they intended to re-join their families in the destination countries (2%) or they were not aware of the possibility to access return procedures (1%).

Among those who considered returning (1% of the sample, 5 respondents), most reported being too tired or exhausted to continue, while one cited better conditions in the countries of origin. When asked at what point of their journey they had considered returning to their countries of origin, 2 reported it happened in Greece and other 2 in Libya, while one reported to have consider this possibility in Sweden.

5 METHODOLOGY

Flow Monitoring Surveys (FMS) in Greece were conducted as part of DTM activities in the Mediterranean that the IOM launched in October 2015 and are presently 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 Migration Flow to Europe | Europe](#).

FMS in Greece were conducted by IOM field staff between 06 September and 31 December 2023.

A total number of six enumerators (5 females, 1 male) were trained by IOM. Field staff surveyed 916 migrants in 38 different FMPs based in ten different region such as Anatoliki Makedonia, Thraki (3), Attiki (7), Dytiki Ellada (1), Ipeiros (1), Kentriki Makedonia (11), Notio Aigaio (2), Peloponnisos (3), Sterea Ellada (6), Thessalia (1), and Voreio Aigaio (3).

The survey is designed to profile third country (non-EU) nationals who are travelling to Europe through the Mediterranean and Western Balkan routes. Only migrants aged 14 and above are approached. IOM requires the informed consent of the legal guardians of any participants under the age of 18.

The FMS questionnaire was available in e-format in Kobo Toolbox in English, French and Arabic, and in paper forms translated into Arabic, English, Farsi, French, Pashto and Urdu. Respondents were approached by IOM field staff upon access in reception facilities of different types run by authorities and non-governmental actors. The interviews were anonymous and conducted one-on-one with respondents, in safe and isolated spaces. Interview participants could decline to respond to any individual questions or to stop the interview at any moment if they wished.

5.1 SAMPLING

The sampling frame was agreed with IOM's Regional Office in Vienna to ensure the consistency and solidity of the final sample for research purposes, reflecting the general demographic profile of migrants arriving in Greece by sea and by land in the covered period. In Greece, IOM applied a non-random, convenience sampling procedure

due to the availability to reception centres in Greece, which may have introduced some sample bias. IOM used a convenience sample, which means that the figures should not be interpreted to be representative of the broader population of migrants in Greece.

5.2 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 intended countries of destination.

The second FMS module contains questions that refer to experiences of exploitation, violence and abuse that may amount to human trafficking, lived by the respondents during the journey. The module was developed together with IOM's Migrant Protection Unit 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. These questions relate to an event, that might indicate exposure to human trafficking, exploitation and abuse practices, physical and sexual violence, experienced by the respondent. The experiences described in these questions do not aim to identify cases of human trafficking as defined by international and national legal instruments.

The third module contains questions related to return intentions, that connects with outreach activities on the existence and functioning of Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) program in several countries where the survey is deployed.

5.3 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 flows, but rather of trends in the specific locations monitored in Greece during the period covered.

