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FLOW MONITORING SURVEYS WITH MIGRANTS TRAVELLING THROUGH BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

14 JUNE – 18 AUGUST 2023

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report presents the results of the fifth round of the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) Flow Monitoring Surveys (FMS) implemented in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH). The data was collected from 14 June to 18 August 2023, in four temporary reception centres (TRCs). IOM interviewed a total of 313 individual respondents.^{1,2}

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

- Over half (54%) of the respondents were single adult men between the ages of 18 and 29. Women made up 13 per cent of the sample. The median age of the respondents was 27 years old.
- The main nationalities interviewed were Afghanistan (47%), Morocco (16%), the Islamic Republic of Iran (9%), Pakistan (8%) and Cuba (4%).
- Fifty-nine per cent of all respondents had completed at least lower secondary education and forty-seven per cent were employed prior to leaving their countries of origin.
- Most respondents (89%) were travelling in a group of people, and most of these groups (63%) were made up of non-family members. Two per cent of the total respondents reported travelling with facilitators.
- Thirty-five per cent of respondents had been living in a country other than their own country of origin for at least a year, prior to moving again and arriving in BiH.
- Germany (41%), Italy (27%) and France (14%) were the most frequently cited countries of intended destination. Sixty-seven per cent of all respondents from Pakistan noted Italy, while nationals of Afghanistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran were more likely to state Germany as their intended country of destination (57% and 70%, respectively). Thirty-nine per cent of all nationals of Morocco intended to reach France.
- The three most stated reasons respondents gave for leaving their country of origin were economic reasons (49%), war and conflict (39%), and personal and targeted violence (15%).³
- During their journeys, 33 per cent of the respondents reported at least one problem, ranging from robbery, theft of documents, health-related issues, mental health problems as well as a lack of food and shelter. Proportionately more men reported being robbed than women.
- Fourteen per cent of the respondents noted that they had experienced some form of physical violence on their journeys.
- The most frequently cited needs were clothes and shoes, which was stated by 30 per cent of respondents, and financial assistance, which was reported by 20 per cent of all respondents.⁴
- Eighteen per cent of respondents reported having been returned from one country to another at least once during their journeys, with ten per cent having been returned more than once before reaching BiH.
- Over three-fourths of respondents (78%) had spent more than 2,500 USD on their journeys. The journeys were largely financed with personal savings or with the help of relatives in the countries of origin.
- Most respondents (94%) said that they did not intend to return to their countries of origin. Of those who considered returning, most reported being too tired to continue their journeys.

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

² Two other migrants met by enumerators stated that they had already participated in the FMS before, and hence were not asked the remainder of the questions after the initial ones.

³ Respondents can choose more than one option. The total therefore does not add up to 100 per cent

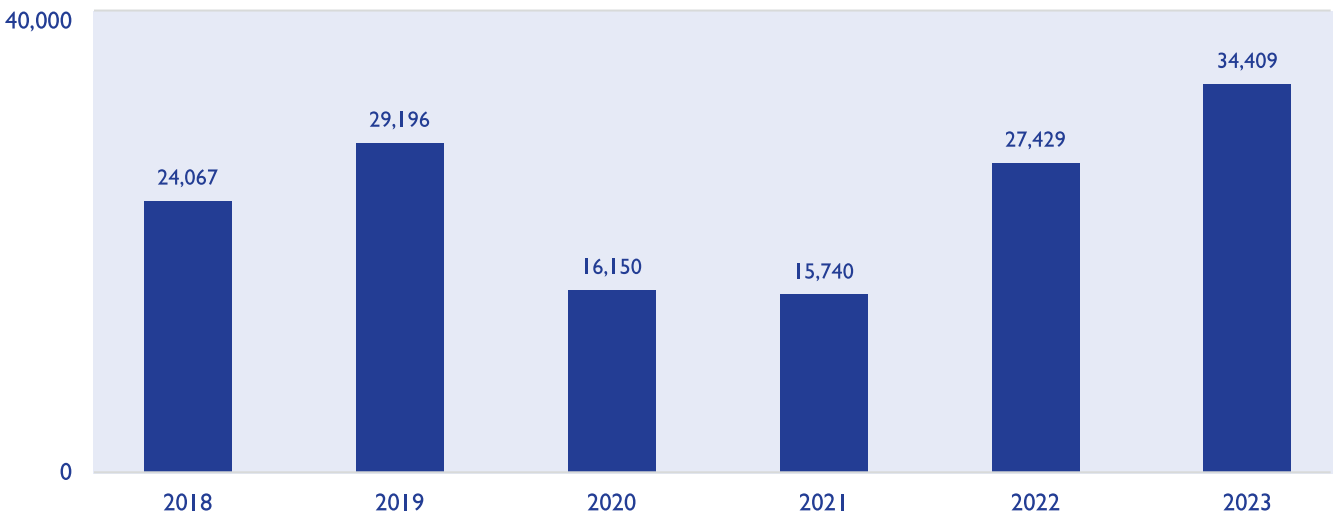
⁴ These are the main needs faced during their journeys, when migrants are in transit and not while they are hosted at TRCs where they have recourse to a shelter as well as a range of support services, including food, non-food items as well as mental health and psychosocial support..

1 INTRODUCTION

Since 2015, the Western Balkans region has emerged as a major crossroads for migrants and refugees⁵ attempting to reach the European Union (EU). 2022 marked a return to pre-pandemic levels of mixed migration flows in Bosnia

and Herzegovina with 27,429 registrations on arrival. This trend has continued into 2023, with 34,409 registrations on arrival in 2023, surpassing the previous peak in 2019.

Figure 1. Number of migrants registered on arrival in BiH 2018 to 2023.



Source: Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina

To better grasp these changes and to improve assistance to migrants, IOM started conducting the DTM FMS in BiH. The first FMS round was carried out in 2018, and was then repeated in a second round in 2019. Following travel restrictions and tighter border control measures related to COVID-19, the number of migrants entering BiH through its land borders dropped to 16,150 in 2020 and to 15,740 in 2021. From November to December 2021, the IOM implemented a third round of FMS to understand the evolution of the profiles, experiences and intentions of migrants travelling through the region, as well as vulnerabilities and protection needs. The fourth round of FMS was carried out in the summer and fall of 2022 with the return to pre-pandemic levels of migrant arrivals. This data laid the foundations for an analysis that provided IOM, states and humanitarian actors with in-depth and up-to-date information on the mixed migratory flows in BiH.

This report contains findings of the DTM FMS conducted by IOM field staff between 14 June and 18 August 2023. Field staff surveyed a total of 313 individuals in the TRCs located in the Sarajevo Canton (TRCs Blažuj and Ušivak), and the Una-Sana Canton (TRCs Lipa and Borići).

The first section presents the baseline profile of the population interviewed, followed by a section on the migrants' travel experience up to the location where the interview took place. The report then highlights respondents' experiences of violence, exploitation and abuse during the journey. The last sections look at the respondent's views on their return intentions.

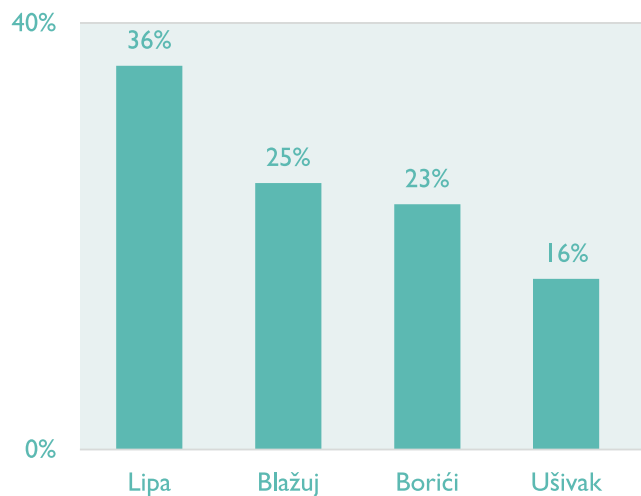


Figure 2. Percentage of interviewed migrants per TRC

⁵ Mixed migration movements are those in which different categories of people are travelling together, generally in an irregular manner, using the same routes and means of transport, but for different reasons. People travelling as part of mixed movements have varying needs and profiles and may include asylum seekers, refugees, trafficked persons, unaccompanied/separated children, and migrants in an irregular situation.

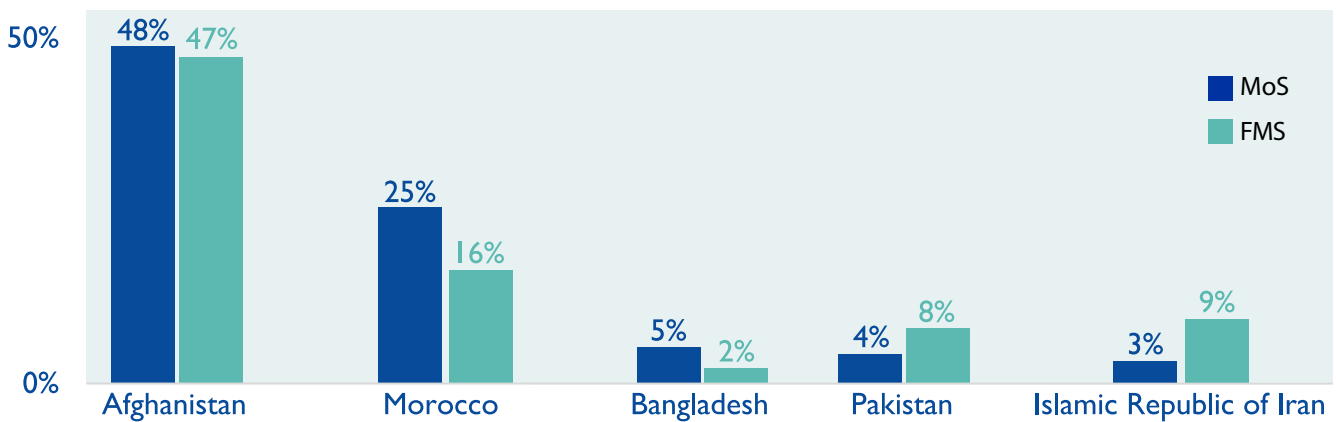
2 MIGRANTS TRAVELLING THROUGH BIH: BASELINE PROFILE

2.1 SAMPLE SIZE AND MAIN NATIONALITIES

The two main declared nationalities of respondents were Afghanistan (47%) and Morocco (16%), followed by the Islamic Republic of Iran (9%), Pakistan (8%), Cuba (4%), the Democratic Republic of Congo (3%), India (3%), Bangladesh and Nepal (2% each), Iraq (1%), Sierra Leone (1%), and smaller shares of people from Libya, Mongolia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic,

Tunisia, Algeria, Burundi, Ecuador, Gambia, Somalia and South Sudan. The nationality breakdown in this sample is consistent with the nationalities registered by authorities in BiH in 2023. See Figure 3 below for a comparison of nationalities interviewed and nationalities registered by authorities in BiH.

Figure 3. Nationalities registered by authorities in 2023 compared to nationalities interviewed



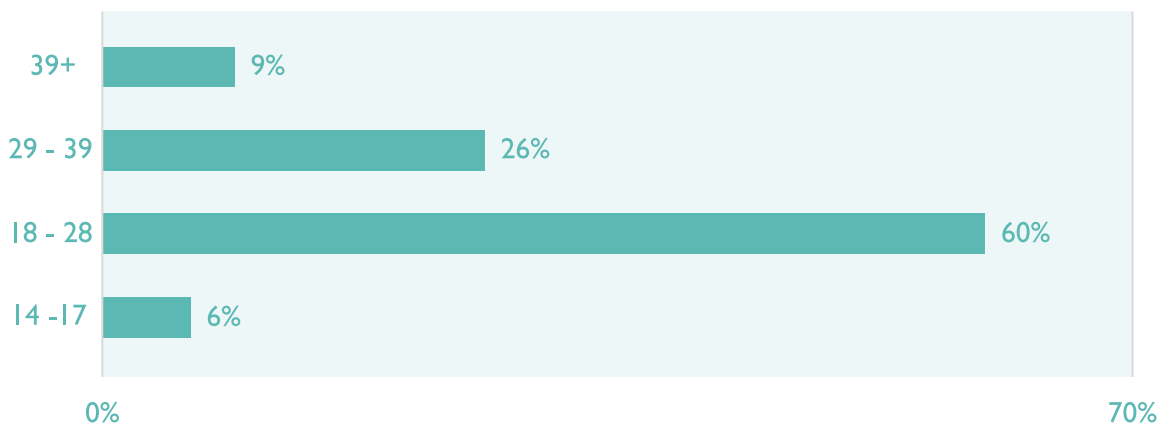
Source: Ministry of Security of BiH. IOM DTM FMS (n=313)

2.2 DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

Men represent the majority (87%) of the sample, followed by 13 per cent women. The median age of respondents

was 27, with the youngest person interviewed being 14 years old and the oldest 63 years old.⁶

Figure 4. Age distribution of survey respondents



Source: IOM DTM FMS (n=313)

⁶ Adolescents between 14 and 17 years require the signed informed consent of the parent or legal guardian prior to being interviewed.

Sixty-three per cent declared they were single, followed by thirty-four per cent who were married, three per cent who were in a partnership, and less than one per cent who were divorced or did not answer.

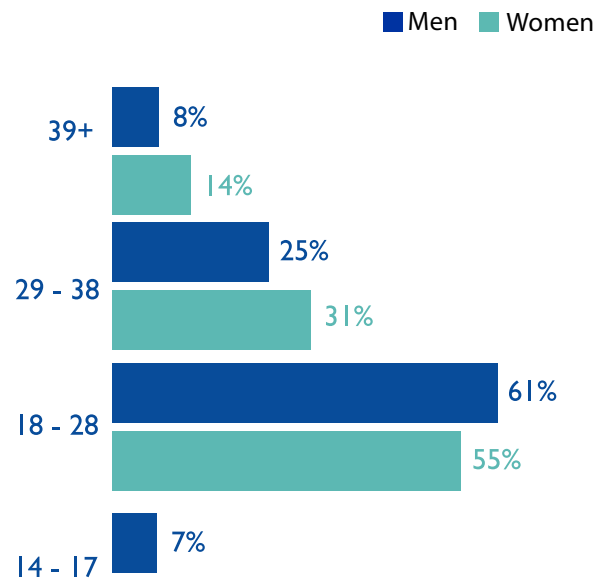
More than three-quarters of the respondents (78%) had no children. Of the 22 per cent who reported having children, 51 per cent declared having at least one child in the country of origin, and 51 per cent also said they had children travelling with them, of whom 39 per cent had children younger than five years of age travelling with them. Six per cent declared they had children elsewhere and six per cent also said they had children in the intended country of destination.⁷

The most commonly spoken languages were Farsi (29%), Pashto (23%), Arabic (20%), Urdu (5%), followed by Spanish (4%), Dari (3%), Punjabi (3%), Lingala (3%), English (2%), Bengali (2%), Nepali (2%), Kurdish (1%), and Hindi, Karaim, Kirundi, Mongolian, Riffian, Tamil, Turkmen and Uzbek each making up less than one per cent.

2.3 EDUCATION

Almost one-third of respondents (32%) reported having completed primary education, 29 per cent had completed lower secondary education, 16 per cent reported having completed tertiary education 12 per cent reported having completed upper secondary school, four per cent reported having completed post-secondary education, two per cent declared having completed short-cycle tertiary education,

Figure 5. Age distribution of survey respondents, disaggregated by sex



Source: IOM DTM FMS (n=313)

and one person reported having completed post graduate studies. Eleven per cent of respondents declared that they had not completed formal education. Forty-one per cent of the female respondents had either an upper secondary, post-secondary or tertiary education.

Figure 6. Highest level of educational achievement disaggregated by sex



Source: Ministry of Security of BiH. IOM DTM FMS (n=313)

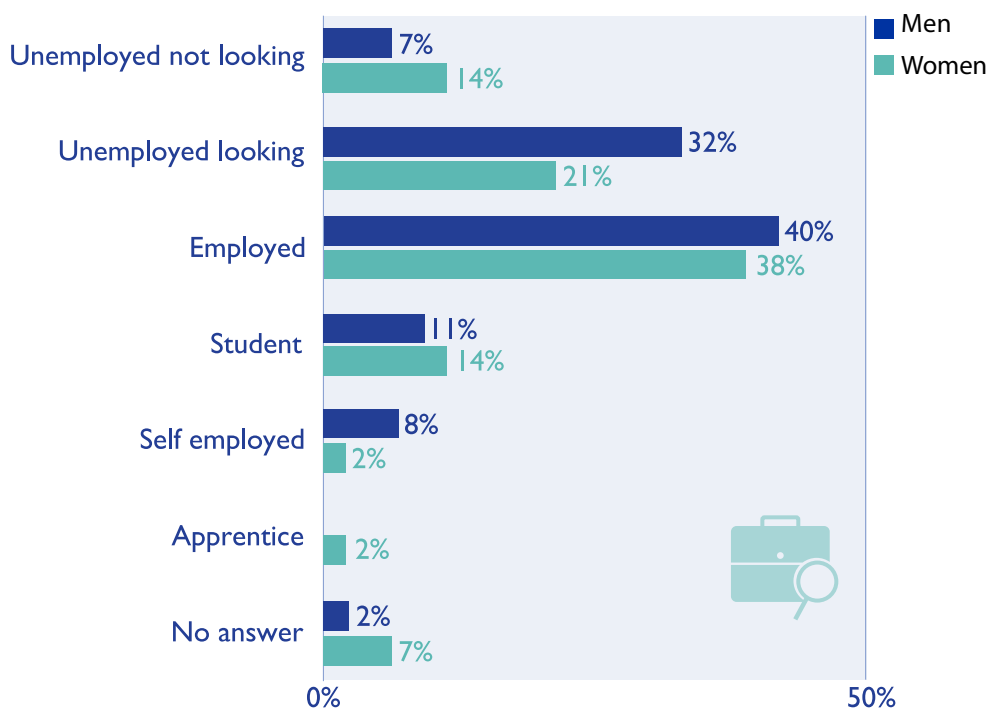
⁷ Respondents can have more than one child; therefore, the percentage does not add up to 100.

2.4 EMPLOYMENT STATUS BEFORE DEPARTURE

Overall, 40 per cent of respondents declared they had been employed before leaving their country of origin, followed by 31 per cent who were unemployed and looking for a job, 11 per cent who were students, 8 per cent who were unemployed and not looking for a job, 7 per cent who

were self-employed, while one respondent declared they were in an apprenticeship. Three per cent did not provide an answer to the question. Figure 7 below provides a breakdown of employment status, disaggregated by the sex of the respondent.

Figure 7. Employment status before departure disaggregated by sex



Source: DTM BiH FMS 2023 (n=313)

Among respondents who declared they had been employed before leaving their country of origin, the most frequently reported occupations were service and sales workers (29% each), followed by craft and related trade workers (14%), professionals (12%), skilled manual workers (10%),

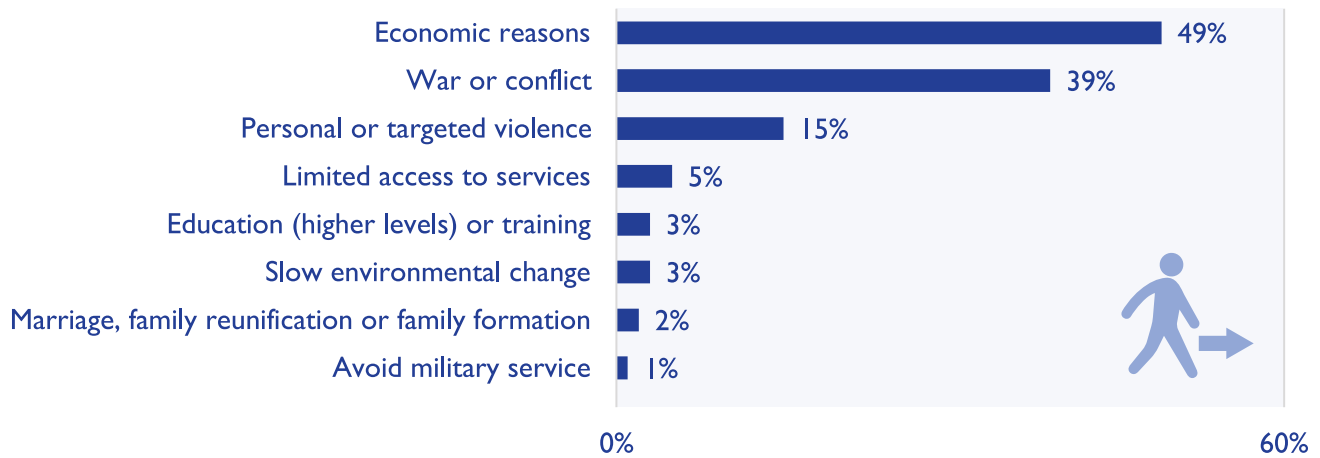
technicians (10%), clerical support workers (8%), plant machine operators (7%), armed forces (5%), elementary occupations (3%), and managers (1%). One respondent answered "other".

2.5 REASONS FOR LEAVING THE COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

Figure 8 shows the two main reasons for leaving the country of origin. Among women in the sample, 48 per cent reported economic reasons as their main grounds for leaving. This was followed by 39 per cent who stated war and conflict as the main reason, 21 per cent who stated personal or targeted violence, and five per cent who stated marriage or family reunification.

When looking at the five main reported nationalities, 66 per cent of Afghan nationals cited war and conflict as the number one reason for leaving, while 88 per cent of respondents from Morocco (88%) mentioned economic reasons, as did 44 per cent of respondents from the Islamic Republic of Iran and 92 per cent of respondents from Pakistan.

Figure 8. Main reasons for leaving the country of origin (multiple answers possible, the total therefore does not add up to 100 per cent)



Source: DTM BiH FMS 2023 (n=313)

Of the total number of respondents, two per cent declared they had been internally displaced before leaving their

country of origin. These respondents came from Afghanistan, Burundi, Nepal, Iraq and South Sudan.

2.6 REASONS FOR LEAVING THE COUNTRY OF DEPARTURE

Thirty-five per cent of the survey respondents had been living in a country other than that of their origin or habitual residence for more than a year, compared to forty-one per cent in 2022. Almost a third of the respondents had been living in Türkiye or Greece for at least a year. To understand why they had decided to leave at this specific moment, respondents were asked what the two main reasons were for moving towards Western Europe after having been a resident in another country. Forty-nine per cent of respondents mentioned economic reasons, and thirty-nine per cent reported war and conflict. Fourteen per cent of respondents reported

that someone had helped them organise their journey. This is a decrease compared to 2022, when more than one quarter of the sample (26%) reported that someone helped them organise their journey. Fifty-nine per cent of respondents reported that a recruitment agency helped them, which is an increase compared to the fourteen per cent from 2022. Thirty per cent said they had been helped by family, friends, or community members from the country of origin and five per cent reported they were supported by family, friends or community members in the country of destination to organise the journey.

2.7 MODE OF TRAVEL

Most respondents (89%) were travelling in a group, while the rest were travelling alone. In 2022, 75 per cent of respondents reported travelling in a group.⁸ Most of those in groups were travelling with non-family members (63%), while 35 percent travelled with relatives. Two per cent of respondents reported having travelled with facilitators: all were adult men, including two from Afghanistan, two from Pakistan, one from Iraq and one from Burundi. One of them experienced at least one of the indicators related to violence, abuse and exploitation. This involved working or performing activities without getting the expected payment, being forced to perform work or activities

against their will and experiencing some form of physical violence.⁹

Two per cent of the female respondents were travelling alone, compared to 12 per cent of the male respondents.

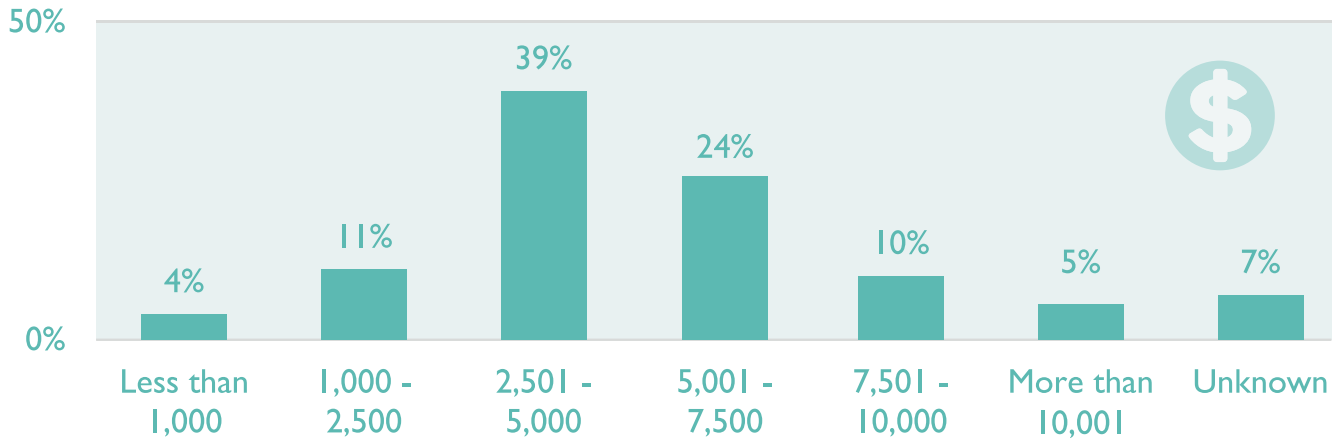
Family groups consisted of people travelling with spouses and children (39%), followed by those travelling only with spouses (27%), non-first line relatives (19%), only with their siblings (9%), only with their parents (4%), and only with their children (3%).

⁸ The question "Who are you travelling with (with whom did the respondent start the journey)?" presented two options namely a. Alone, b.) With a group. If b (with a group), a follow-up question followed "The group was made of, a) non-family/non-relatives, b) Family/Relatives, c) Facilitators (agents/employer/smugglers).

⁹ For more information on indicators relating to violence, abuse and exploitation, please see Chapter 5.

2.8 COST OF JOURNEY

Figure 9. Cost of journey from departure country to country of interview



Source: DTM BiH FMS 2023 (n=313)

Most (85%) of the respondents reported an estimated cost of the journey to be higher than 2,500 USD. In 2023, respondents reported higher costs of journeys compared to 2022.

Among women, 10 per cent declared they paid more than 10,000 USD versus five per cent of men.

Sixty-seven per cent of respondents reported having paid for the journey with their own money, which is consistent with 2022. A quarter of respondents reported receiving financial help from relatives in the country of origin, which is an increase in comparison to 2022 when 12 per cent reported financial help by friends in the country of origin. Seventeen per cent mentioned that they raised the money by working during the journey, followed by eleven per cent who sold their private property, six per cent who

reported financial help by friends in the country of origin, five per cent who received support from relatives abroad, four per cent who relied on loans or debt, and two per cent received support from friends abroad.¹⁰

In 2022, 35 per cent of respondents reported having paid for the journey per leg, which almost doubled in 2023 to 66 per cent. Eleven per cent paid by instalments in cash, three per cent paid the full amount in advance and three per cent paid for the journey using the hawala system.¹¹ One respondent said they would have to pay for the journey upon arrival in the destination country. Nine per cent of respondents stated that they would have to repay all or part of the travel expenses upon arrival at their intended destination.

2.9 MODE OF TRAVEL

Interviewees were asked about a list of specific incidents and problems they could have faced during the journey. Thirty-three per cent of respondents declared they had experienced at least one problem along the journey. Ten per cent of respondents reported that they had been robbed, most of which (90%) occurred in transit countries, including in Greece, Albania, Türkiye, Bulgaria, Serbia and North Macedonia.

Three per cent of respondents declared they had suffered theft of document, compared to 10 per cent in 2022. Eighty-nine per cent reported that this happened in transit countries while 11 per cent reported this had occurred in BiH. The most cited countries were Greece (50%), Bulgaria and Türkiye (25% each).

¹⁰ The total does not add up to 100 as the respondents could provide multiple answers.

¹¹ 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.

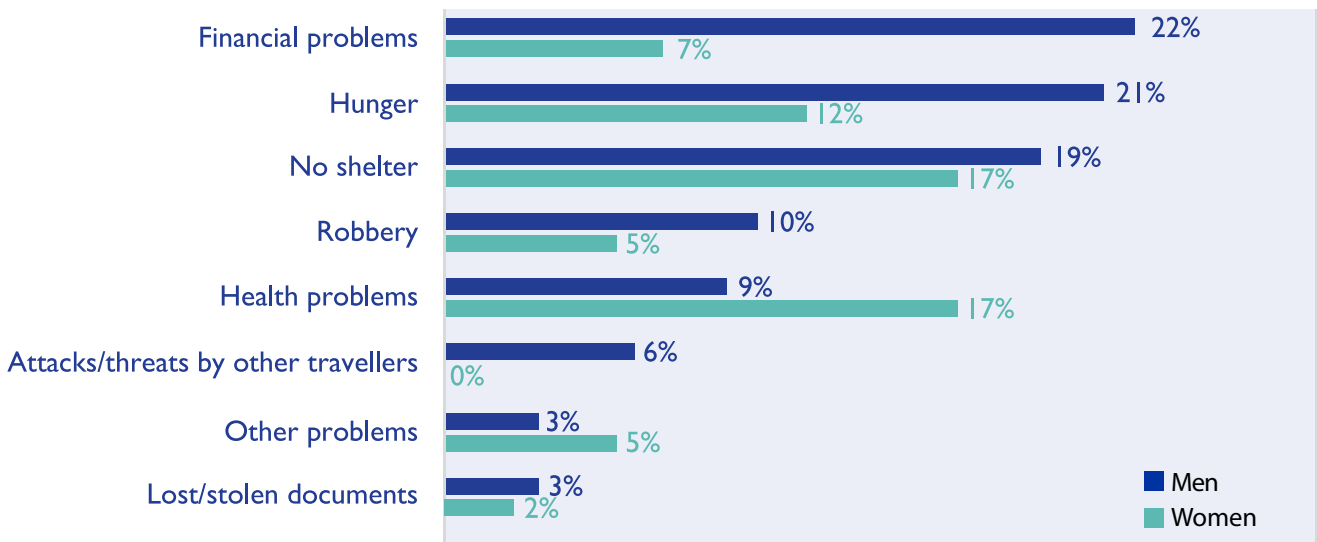
Nineteen per cent of respondents reported that there was a lack of shelter at some point during the journey of whom 59 per cent reported that this happened in transit countries. Forty-one per cent reported this had occurred in BiH. In 2022, 27 per cent of respondents stated that they had lacked shelter in BiH.

Ten per cent of respondents reported having had health problems during the journey, 87 per cent of whom mentioned that it happened in transit countries, while 13 per cent declared it happened in BiH. The most cited countries where respondents stating they suffered from health problems were Bulgaria (28%), Greece

(24%), Serbia (20%), Albania (16%), Montenegro, North Macedonia and Tunisia (4% each).

Twenty per cent of respondents said they faced financial problems, 27 per cent of whom mentioned that it happened in transit countries, while 73 per cent declared it happened in BiH. The most cited transit countries where respondents said they faced financial problems were Türkiye (35%), Greece and Serbia (18% each), Bulgaria and Montenegro (12% each), and Albania (6%).

Figure 10. Problems reported during journey disaggregated by gender



Source: DTM BiH FMS 2023 (n=313)

Twenty per cent of respondents stated they suffered from hunger, 62 per cent of whom mentioned that it happened in transit countries, while 38 per cent declared it happened in BiH, which is an increase compared to the 23 per cent in 2022. The most cited countries where migrants stated they suffered from hunger were Serbia (26%), Albania (24%), Greece (18%), Bulgaria (16%), Montenegro, Croatia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, North Macedonia and Türkiye (3% each).

Five per cent of respondents stated they faced attacks or threats by other travellers, most of which happened in transit countries, including Greece (62%), Serbia (23%), the Islamic Republic of Iran, Türkiye (8% each) and 13 per cent of which occurred in BiH.

Respondents were also asked if they had been readmitted¹² to another country during their journey by the authorities of transit countries. Eighteen per cent of respondents reported that they had been readmitted at least once, compared to 28 per cent in 2022. Forty-five per cent declared this happened only once and forty-four per cent said they were readmitted between one and six times during their journey. Most of those who reported being readmitted reported they had been readmitted when attempting to enter Croatia (48%), Bulgaria (18%), Albania (14%), Greece (11%), Türkiye (5%), North Macedonia and Serbia (2% each).

¹² 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.

2.10 MAIN NEEDS

Respondents were asked what their two most important needs were outside of reception centres.¹³ Most respondents (29%) reported clothes and shoes as their main need, followed by financial assistance (20%), food (16%), general information (9%), long-term accommodation (8%), help to access money transfer

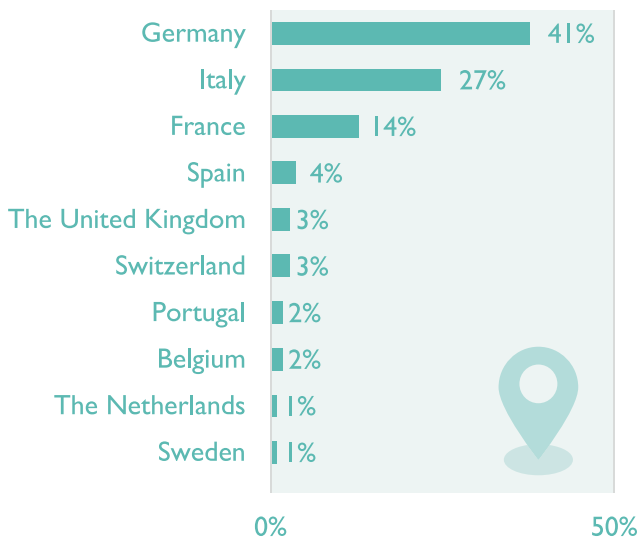
(6%), health services and language courses (6% each), documentation and registration (5%), education (3%), employment (2%), legal counselling and services (2%), psychological counselling, medicines and other (1% each).

2.11 COUNTRY OF INTENDED DESTINATION

The survey also asked about intended final destinations. Germany, Italy, and France were the three most frequently cited countries of intended destination.

Thirty-six per cent of respondents said they had family members either in the country of intended destination or some other European country. Thirty-two per cent of respondents had family members in the countries of intended destination, which is a decrease compared to 2022 when 67 per cent of the respondents said they had family members in the intended destination country. Most (86%) of those who had family in the country of intended destination had extended (non-first line) family members, while the remaining 14 per cent had immediate family members.

Figure 11. Top 10 intended countries of destination¹⁴



Source: DTM BiH FMS 2023 (n=313)

Of the respondents who declared that they had family members in the country of destination, 86 per cent declared that they had not previously attempted to reunify with their family members through legal procedures. This was mostly because they did not have information on family reunification in the country where their relatives reside.

As to why migrants specifically chose the country of destination, 65 per cent stated that this was due to appealing socioeconomic conditions, including the education and welfare system, social security and job opportunities. In 2022, 37 per cent of respondents mentioned this as the main reason for choosing their intended destination country. Sixteen per cent of respondents said it was because of the existence of an established network of co-nationals, thirteen per cent said that it was because they had relatives in the country of destination, three per cent because of ease of access to asylum procedures, three per cent for safety reason and one per cent for other reasons. One respondent declared that it because it was the only available or feasible choice due to political or geographical constraints.

Eighty-four per cent of respondents who reported Germany as their country of intended destination said that it was due to appealing socioeconomic conditions and almost two-thirds of those who reported Italy as destination said that it was due to appealing socioeconomic conditions. Fifty-five per cent of respondents who chose France said it was due to the existence of an established network of co-nationals. Over three-quarters (77%) of respondents said they had no information on asylum or how to obtain documents to stay legally in the intended country of destination.

¹⁴The remaining respondents stated that wanted to travel to Austria, Canada, Iceland, Ireland, Luxembourg, and Norway (less than one per cent each).

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 the following eight questions that aim to capture information about whether the respondent may have experienced any potential problems relating to violence, exploitation or abuse:

1. Have you worked or performed other activities without receiving the expected payment?
2. Have you been forced to perform work or other activities against your will?
3. Have you been approached by someone offering a marriage (to you or a close family member – child or sibling)?
4. Have you been kept at a certain location against your will (by persons other than the authorities of the country)?
5. Have you experienced any form of physical violence?
6. Did someone force you to travel or to move?
7. Do you think you were lied to, tricked, manipulated, indebted, given false promises, or otherwise deceived into moving or travelling?
8. Did you have travel documents with you or have access to them 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. If interviewers came across respondents who requested further support, they referred these cases to the relevant protection actor.

Overall, 18 per cent of all respondents answered "yes" to at least one of these eight indicators.

Twenty-one per cent of male respondents answered "yes" to at least one of these indicators while seven per cent of female respondents stated that they had experienced at least one of these indicators.

Bulgaria, Türkiye, and Croatia were the most frequently cited countries where the reported experiences took place.



LABOUR EXPLOITATION

Four per cent (thirteen respondents) reported they had worked or performed other activities during their journey without receiving the expected payment. These incidents took place in Türkiye and Greece. The main employment sectors reported were the services sector (car wash, fast food, waiter) and textile sector.



FORCED LABOUR

Two per cent (seven respondents) reported having been forced to work or conduct activities against their will. These incidents reportedly happened in Türkiye in the services sector as well as in manufacturing.



OFFERS OF AN ARRANGED MARRIAGE

One per cent of respondents (three respondents) reported they had been approached by someone offering a marriage, all three respondents were men who reported that this had happened in Türkiye.



BEING KEPT AT A CERTAIN LOCATION AGAINST THEIR WILL

One per cent of respondents (three respondents), all of them male, reported they had been held in a location against their will during their journey by persons other than official authorities. This had reportedly happened in Türkiye, Greece and Croatia.



EXPERIENCED SOME FORM OF PHYSICAL VIOLENCE

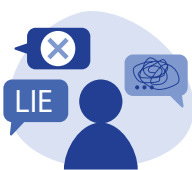
When asked if they had experienced some form of physical violence during their journeys, 14 per cent declared that they had. Sixteen per cent of male respondents had experienced physical violence, while five per cent of female respondents reported having experienced some form of physical violence.

The most frequently cited countries were Bulgaria (36%), Croatia (29%), Greece (16%), Türkiye (7%), Albania and Serbia (4% each), the Islamic Republic of Iran and North Macedonia (2% each). Thirty-eight per cent of respondents experienced violence at a border.



FORCED TO TRAVEL OR MOVE

Two per cent of respondents reported that they been forced to travel or to move. This allegedly happened in Serbia, Afghanistan, Croatia and Türkiye.



LIED, TRICKED, MANIPULATED, INDEBTED, GIVEN FALSE PROMISES, OR OTHERWISE DECEIVED IN ORDER TO TRAVEL OR MOVE

Two per cent of respondents stated that they been lied to, 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 Serbia, Greece and Türkiye.



TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

Less than half (44%) of respondents reported never having documents during their journey. Sixteen per cent stated that they had documents during their journey, six per cent reported having lost documents during their journey, five per cent reported having their documents stolen, and two per cent reported having someone else's documents. Twenty-six per cent did not answer this question.

4 RETURN INTENTIONS

Most (94%) of respondents reported they had not considered returning to their country of origin during their journey. All of the respondents who considered returning indicated they were too tired to continue.

Among those who had not considered returning, 83 per cent stated that they were not willing to return while eight per cent mentioned security issues, seven per cent said they were not aware of that option and two per cent expressed an overriding desire to join family in the destination country.

Of those who replied that they were not planning to return, 98 per cent said they planned to continue the journey to their intended country of destination, followed by one per cent who planned to travel to another country from BiH and one per cent who said they intended to stay in BiH.

5 METHODOLOGY

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

FMS gathers information about migrants' profiles, including age, sex, gender, countries and areas of origin, levels of education and employment status before migration, key transit points on their route, cost of the journey, reasons for moving and intentions. It also has a module on migrants' vulnerability to and potential past experience of abuse, exploitation and violence.

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

IOM field staff carried out FMS in BiH between 14 June and 18 August 2023 in the Sarajevo and Una-Sana Cantons. IOM trained five enumerators (two female, three male) with language skills in English, Dari, Farsi and Pashto to carry out FMS.

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

The FMS questionnaire was available in e-format in Kobo (English and French) and in paper forms translated into Arabic, English, Farsi, French, Pashto and Urdu. Respondents were selected through a simple random sampling method by IOM field staff working in the TRCs. Those who consented to be interviewed were provided the questionnaire. The interviews were anonymous and conducted one-on-one with respondents, in safe and isolated spaces, also considering the COVID-19 regulations in force in BiH at the time of the data collection. Migrants could decline to respond to individual questions or to withdraw from the interview if they wished to do so.

5.1 SAMPLING

IOM applied a non-random, convenience sampling procedure due to the availability to reception centres in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which may have introduced some sample bias. The sample attempted to mirror the total population of migrants who have irregularly

entered Bosnia and Herzegovina, as registered by the Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina. However, the figures should not be interpreted to be representative of the broader population of migrants in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

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 events of exploitation, violence and abuse that may amount to human trafficking. The module was prepared together with IOM's Migrant Protection and Assistance

Division and gathers information on events and practices, experienced directly by the respondent or by their family member(s), or that are witnessed by the respondent during the journey.

The third module contains questions related to return intentions. As outreach activities on the existence and functioning of assisted voluntary return and reintegration were run by IOM in the country, this module of the FMS asks respondents questions on the intention to return to their country of origin.

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, but rather of mixed migratory flows in the specific locations monitored in BiH during the covered period.

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



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