



151

Migrants interviewed



45%

of respondents reported the use of facilitation



76%

Travelled throughout the country by walking



49%

Travelled by bus



64%

Travelled by taxi

(Multiple answers possible)

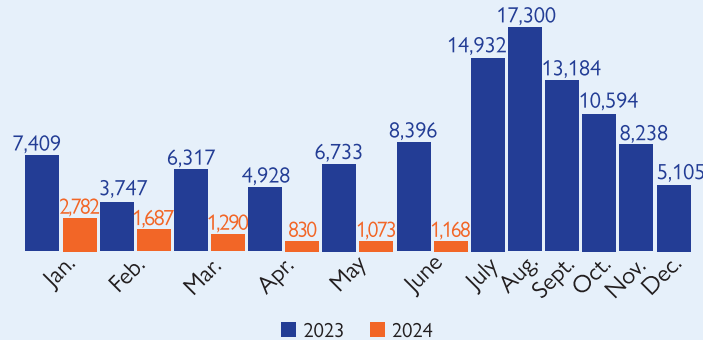


1,168

SCRM recorded in June 2024

This report provides insights into the profiles, experiences and journeys of migrants transiting through the Republic of Serbia. Data was collected from 1 to 30 June 2024 together with the Commissariat for Refugees and Migration of the Republic of Serbia (SCRM). The sample consists of 151 interviewed migrants in Asylum Centres (AC) Sjenica, (AC) Tutin, (AC) Krnjaca, and Reception Centres (RC) Bujanovac, (RC) Presevo, and (RC) Pirot.

In May 2024, the SCRM reported a total of 1,073 recorded migrants. In June 2024, the total number of migrants recorded by SCRM was 1,168.



KEY FINDINGS

- In June 2024, the number of SCRM-recorded migrants increased by 9 per cent, compared to May 2024.
- For the first time in 2024, Republic of Serbia was reported by 7 per cent of the respondents as their intended destination, out of which more than half were nationals of Türkiye.
- In this sample, nationals of Nepal and Türkiye reached the top 5 nationalities as shown in figure 1. Nationals of Nepal made up 10 per cent of the respondents, while nationals of Türkiye made up 5 per cent.
- In this sample, after Türkiye (75%), the United Arab Emirates (11%) were stated as the second most frequent country of departure (transit country respondent spent over 12 months in), instead of Greece which was consistently the second main country of destination since January 2024.
- Fifteen per cent of the respondents reported entering Serbia by plane. Forty per cent of those were nationals of Nepal, all of which arrived from the United Arab Emirates.

PROFILES



Syrian Arab Republic



Afghanistan



Morocco



Nepal



Türkiye

Figure 1: Top five countries of origin (n=151)

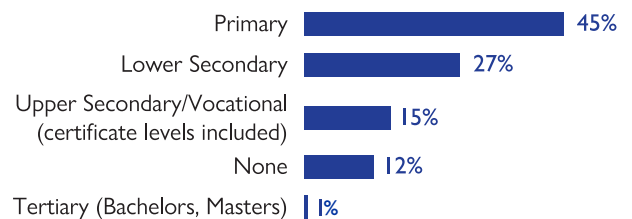


Figure 2: Highest level of educational attainment (n=151)



68%
Single



29%
Married



93% Male
7% Female

Figure 3: Marital status (n=151)
(Divorced and/or widowed made up 3%)

Figure 4: Percentages of interviewed migrants disaggregated by sex (n=151)

JOURNEYS

Bulgaria and North Macedonia remain the main entry points into Serbia. In this sample, 58 per cent of respondents entered from Bulgaria and 22 per cent from North Macedonia. Fifteen per cent reported entering via plane. The majority of airport entries were nationals of Nepal and India.

Forty-five per cent of respondents reported that they used facilitation to cross borders during their journey. Fifty-one per cent of respondents who entered from Bulgaria revealed they were facilitated, while thirty-nine per cent reported having used such services to enter from North Macedonia. The majority (75%) of interviewees reported travelling with a group. Out of all who travelled in a group, 28% per cent did so with families. More than half (56%) travelled with children. Respondents who confirmed border crossing facilitation and stated its price, paid on average 900 EUR. The reported cost of facilitation from Bulgaria (1,500 EUR) was more than double than from North Macedonia (700 EUR). The price difference could be perhaps linked to the increased border patrols at the Bulgarian border, making it difficult to cross.

Nine per cent of respondents reported that they had attempted and failed to cross a border at least once. Out of those, three per cent reported this to have happened under facilitation. Of those respondents who stated that they had attempted and failed to cross a border, 69 per cent were returned by the authorities, while 30 per cent reported route closure. Migrants report route closure when an usual route becomes difficult to pass. Due to the Bulgarian route becoming difficult to pass, the recent increase in migrants reporting route closures might be coinciding.

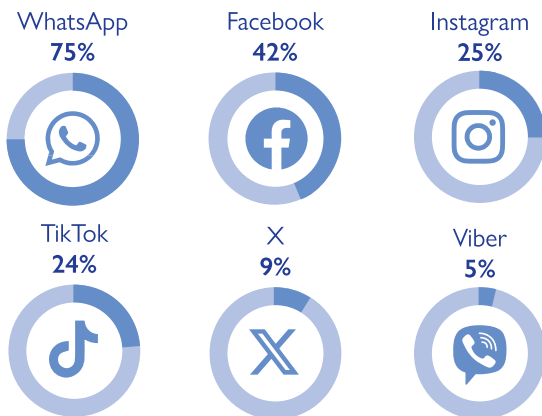


Figure 5: Most frequently cited platforms migrants use to plan their journeys (n=151)
(Multiple answers possible)

REASONS FOR LEAVING

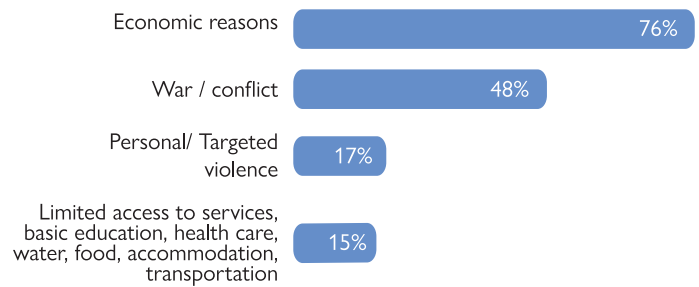


Figure 6: Main reasons for leaving the country of origin
(Multiple answers possible)

INTENDED DESTINATION COUNTRIES

Of those surveyed, 53 per cent reported residing in a transit country for longer than a year. Türkiye remained the most frequently cited country (75%), followed by the United Arab Emirates (11%) and Greece (4%). Seventy-eight per cent stated they had left due to the deteriorating economic conditions while 30 per cent stated the fear of deportation as their main reason. Personal targeted violence was the third most common reason reported, at 23 per cent.

Figure 7 below provides a percentage breakdown of the top five intended countries of destination:

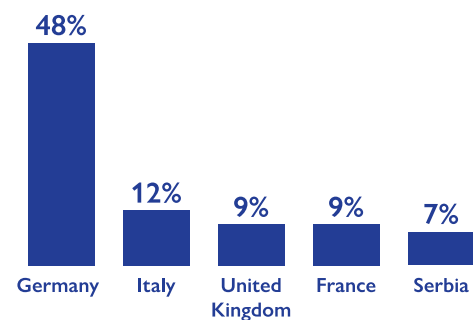


Figure 7: Top five countries of destination reported by migrants (n=151)

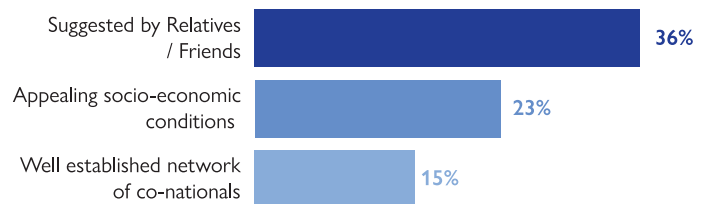


Figure 8: Main reasons for choosing stated destination country (n=151)

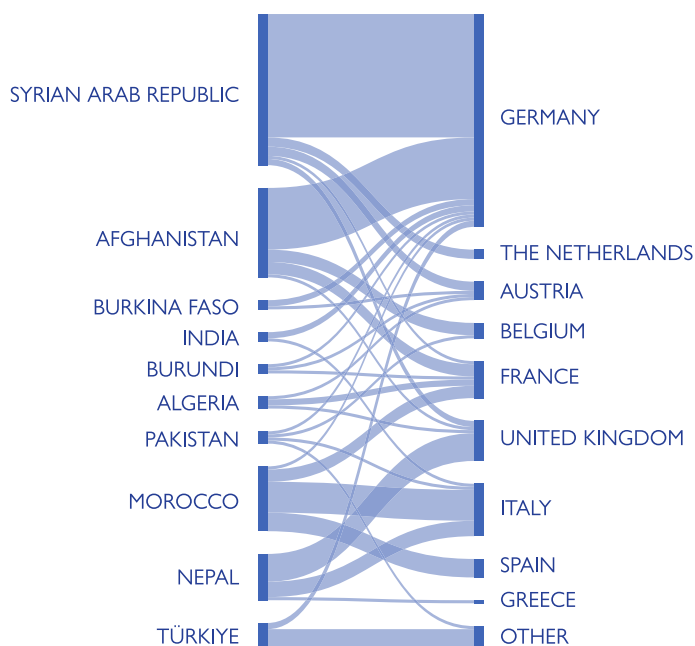


Figure 8: Intended country of destination by nationality (top 10) (n=150)



IOM and SCRM staff in AC Krnjaca. © IOM Serbia 2023

METHODOLOGY

This report uses a multi-source and multi-method approach with the aim of providing insights into the profiles, experiences, needs, movement patterns and intentions of migrants transiting through Serbia.

Survey interviews with migrants

The questionnaire is administered via Kobo Toolbox and collects information on the age, sex and nationalities of respondents, information about their journeys to Serbia, recorded numbers information and movement modalities within the country. The survey is anonymized, voluntary and respondents do not receive compensation for participation. Respondents can choose not to answer any question and can withdraw their consent at any moment.

Some information which serves as context or explanation for particular concepts or trends are repetitive in each report, as it is important for new readers to be able to understand the information.

Data was collected from 1 to 30 June 2024 in RCs/ACs (AC Sjenica, AC Tutin, AC Krnjaca, AC Obrenovac, RC Bujanovac, RC Presevo, RC Pirot).

Key informant interviews

Key informants can help provide information on the modus operandi of migrant mobility. The purpose of the key informant interviews is to contextualize the quantitative data gathered through the survey.

Special focus - group interviews

Group interviews are carried out with migrants inside the centres and are conducted by IOM, together with SCRM, who are trained in leading qualitative focus group discussions with vulnerable populations. SCRM is always present in the centres. The information is not representative and does not intend to draw general conclusions about migration nor all migrants in Serbia.

LIMITATIONS

The data collection is conducted in the context of the following limitations:

1. The data is based on a convenience sample of migrants in the survey locations during the time frame indicated and can therefore not be generalized to the broader population of migrants in Serbia, or anywhere else.
2. The data collection is limited to the RCs/ACs; therefore, no data collection occurs outside of the setting of a centre. Entry points, bus stations, and railroads are known locations of migrant movements, however, in Serbia IOM and SCRM did not collect data at such locations.