

# IRAQ

## MIGRATION DRIVERS AND REASONS FOR MIGRATION TO EUROPE



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co-funded by the European Union



co-funded by the Dutch Government

## MIGRATION DRIVERS AND REASONS FOR MIGRATION TO EUROPE

## BACKGROUND

## CMFS BACKGROUND

This report was produced with the financial assistance of the European Union (EU) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands. Data was collected through DTM's Comprehensive Migration Flows Surveys (CMFS) methodology that aims to enable a better understanding of migration flows from Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Iraq, Nigeria, Pakistan and Somalia towards Europe, a collaborative effort by the DTM support team and relevant IOM field missions funded by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This report is part of the outputs under the EU-funded project "Regional Evidence for Migration Analysis and Policy (REMAP)". The objective of DTM REMAP is to strengthen the evidence-based formulation and implementation of humanitarian and development policy and programming on migration and forced displacement in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Iran, Iraq and Pakistan through the use of the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM). The findings, interpretations and conclusions expressed in this report can in no way be taken to reflect the official opinion of IOM, its Member States, the European Union, the Dutch Government or other donors. The designations employed and the presentation of material throughout the work do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of IOM concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area, or of its authorities, or concerning its frontiers or boundaries.

## METHODOLOGY

The methodological framework of the DTM's CMFS is based on the collection of primary data, which provides information on migration flows towards Europe from Iraq whilst focusing on six thematic areas: (1) migrant profiles, (2) migration drivers and decision-making, (3) migrant vulnerabilities, (4) the role of intermediaries, (5) migrant perceptions towards Europe and (6) migration choices and options. The data DTM collected under the CMFS in 2017 among Iraqi nationals was based on three data-collection tools, each surveying a different target group; data was collected among i) Iraqi migrants en route to Europe (Bulgaria and Greece), ii) Iraqi migrants in their final European destination country (the Netherlands), and iii) Iraqi migrants who returned to Iraq from Europe. Due to the nature of the target groups, respondents for these surveys were sampled using basic random sampling in combination with snowball sampling in main target locations (e.g. migrant reception centers). The sample sizes of Iraqi respondents were as follows: a) Bulgaria: 976 Iraqi respondents, b) Greece: 254 Iraqi respondents, c) the Netherlands: 195 Iraqi respondents and d) Returnees in Iraq from Europe: 675 Iraqi respondents. To best identify the target population and develop a more robust interviewee-interviewer relationship, the data collectors that conducted the surveys were also Iraqi nationals.



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# MIGRATION DRIVERS AND REASONS FOR MIGRATION TO EUROPE

## GENERAL OVERVIEW

**2,100** PEOPLE INTERVIEWED



AVERAGE HH SIZE  
**6.1** persons

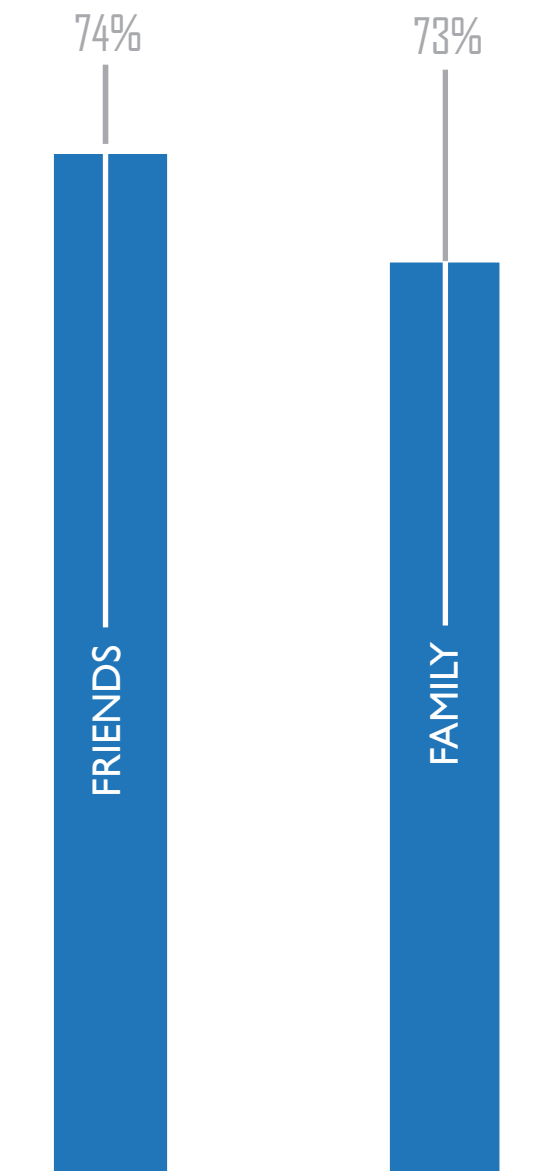


MARITAL STATUS  
married/civil union **54%**

AVERAGE AGE  
**31** years



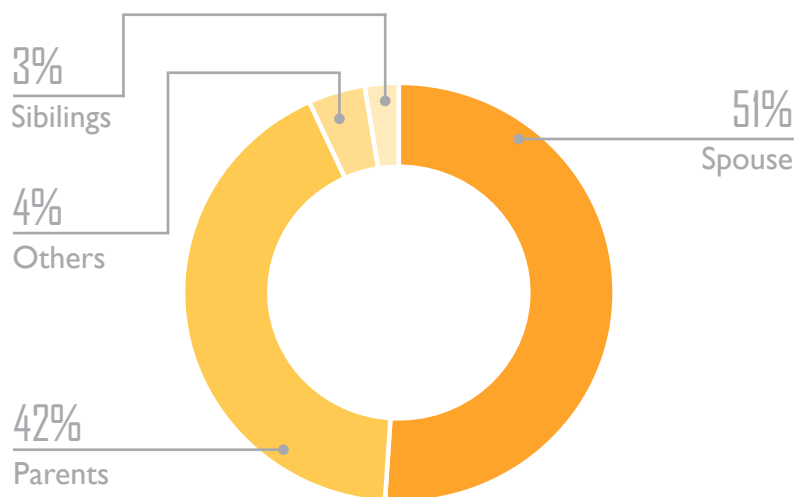
SOCIAL NETWORKS IN EUROPE  
(prior to migration)



WHILE 70% OF RESPONDENTS INDEPENDENTLY MADE THE DECISION TO MIGRATE...



Of those that did not independently make the decision to migrate, the decision was made by:



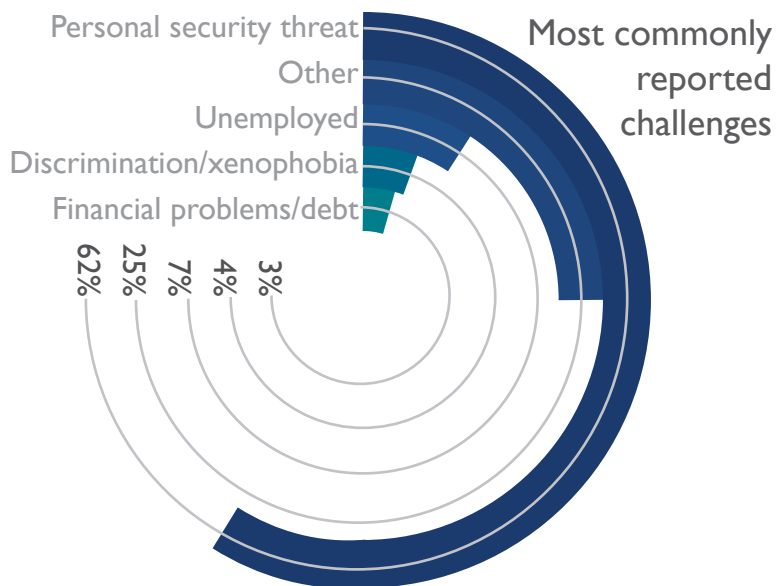
# MIGRATION DRIVERS AND REASONS FOR MIGRATION TO EUROPE

## CHALLENGES FACED PRIOR TO MIGRATION

### PERSONAL LEVEL CHALLENGES

73%

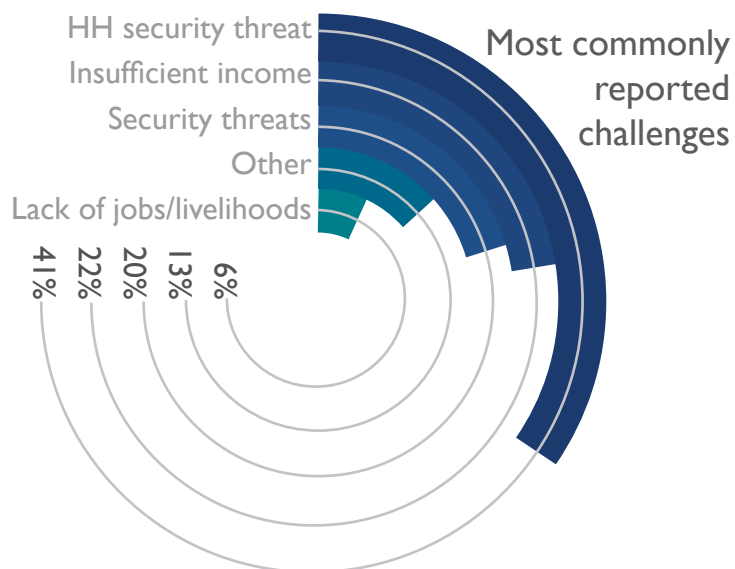
Reported facing challenges at the personal level



### HOUSEHOLD LEVEL CHALLENGES

72%

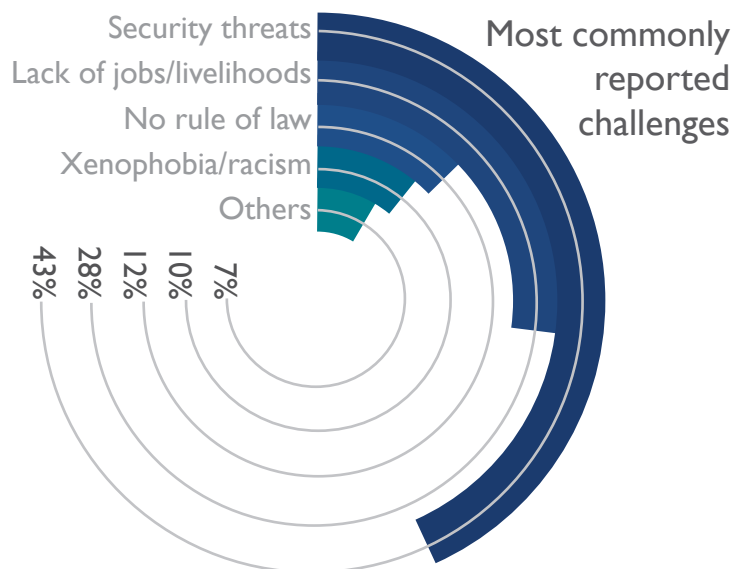
Reported facing challenges at the household level



### COMMUNITY LEVEL CHALLENGES

78%

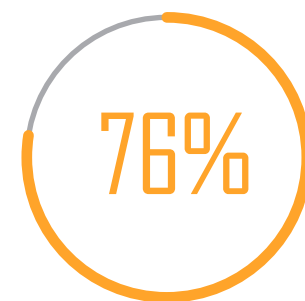
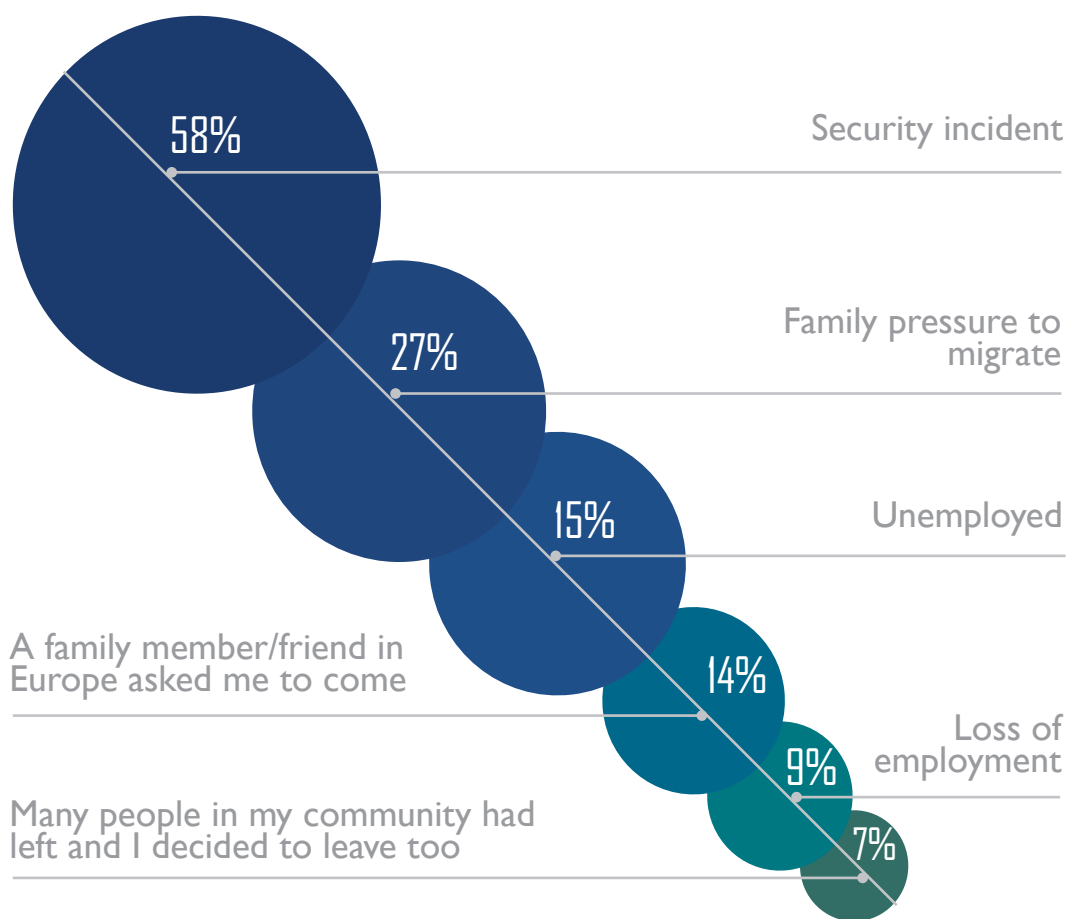
Reported facing challenges at the community level



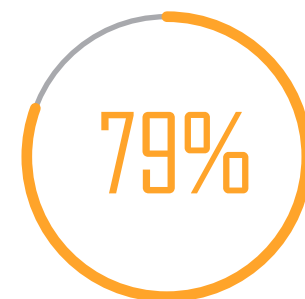
# MIGRATION DRIVERS AND REASONS FOR MIGRATION TO EUROPE

## MIGRATION INTENTIONS

### MAIN TRIGGER FOR MIGRATION



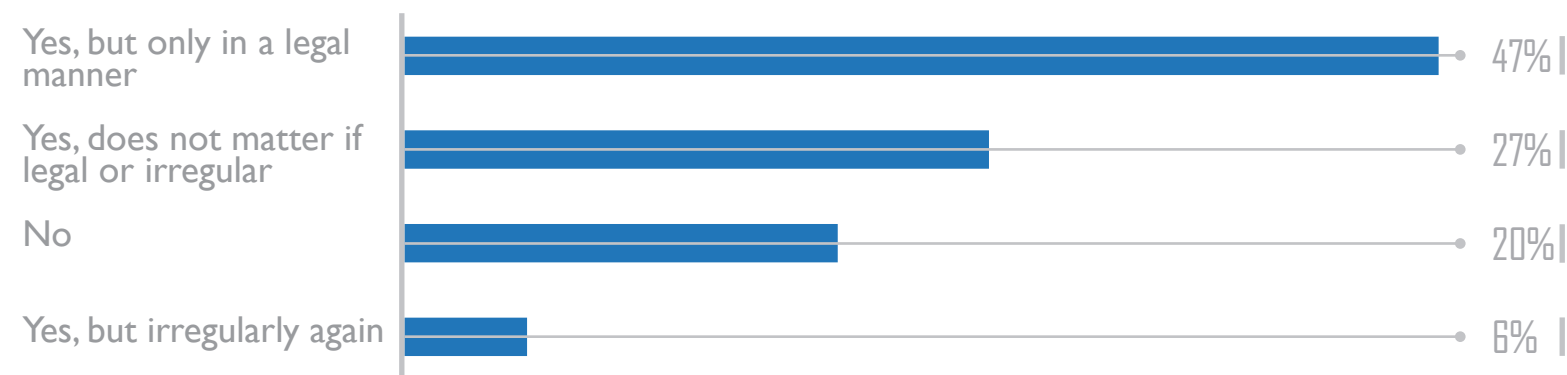
Of the migrants would have not stayed in Iraq even if offered a job there



Of the migrants would have not stayed in Iraq even if offered study opportunities

### MOST RETURNEES WOULD MIGRATE AGAIN TO EUROPE, ONLY IN A LEGAL MANNER

Would you migrate again to Europe? (asked to returnees only)



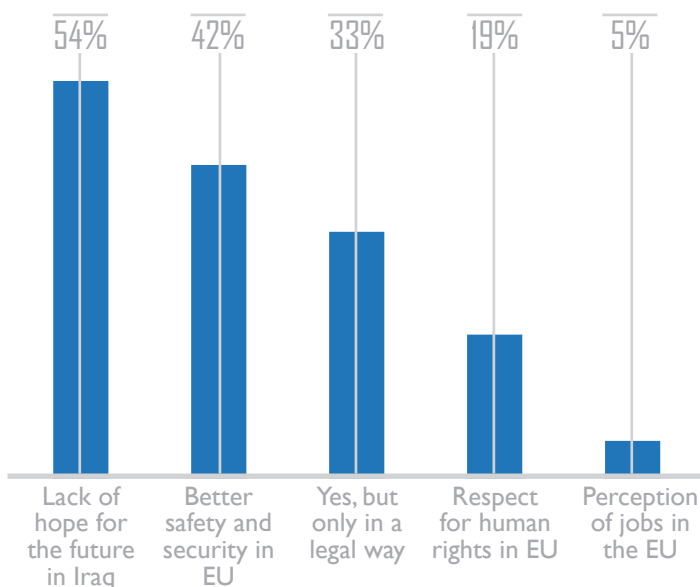
# MIGRATION DRIVERS AND REASONS FOR MIGRATION TO EUROPE

## MIGRATION INTENTIONS

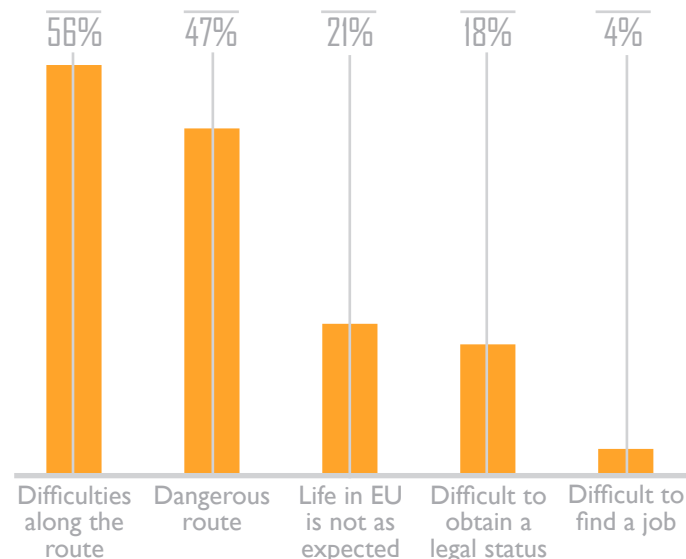
**57%** of the migrants would advise others to migrate to Europe

**37%** of the migrants would not advise others to migrate to Europe

Main reasons to advise others to migrate

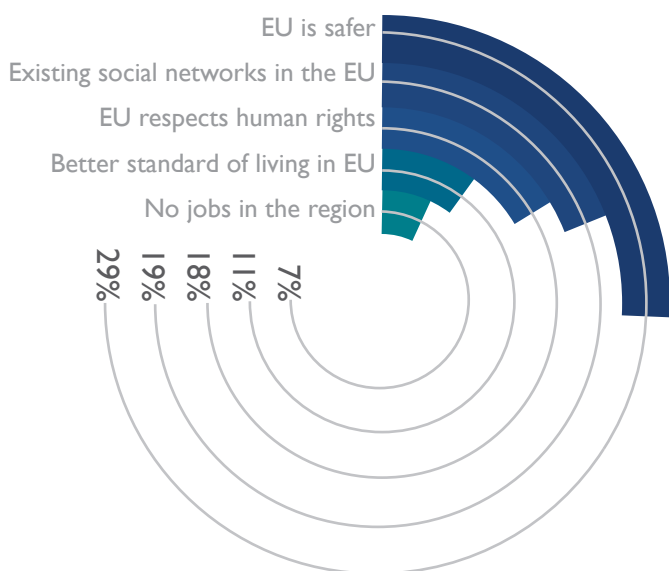


Main reasons to not advise others to migrate

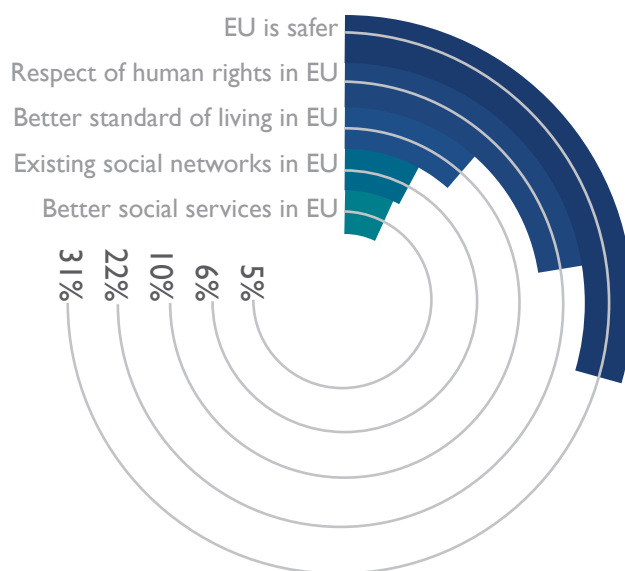


### WHY DO MIGRANTS CHOOSE INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION OVER REGIONAL MIGRATION?

Primary reasons



Secondary reasons



# MIGRATION DRIVERS AND REASONS FOR MIGRATION TO EUROPE

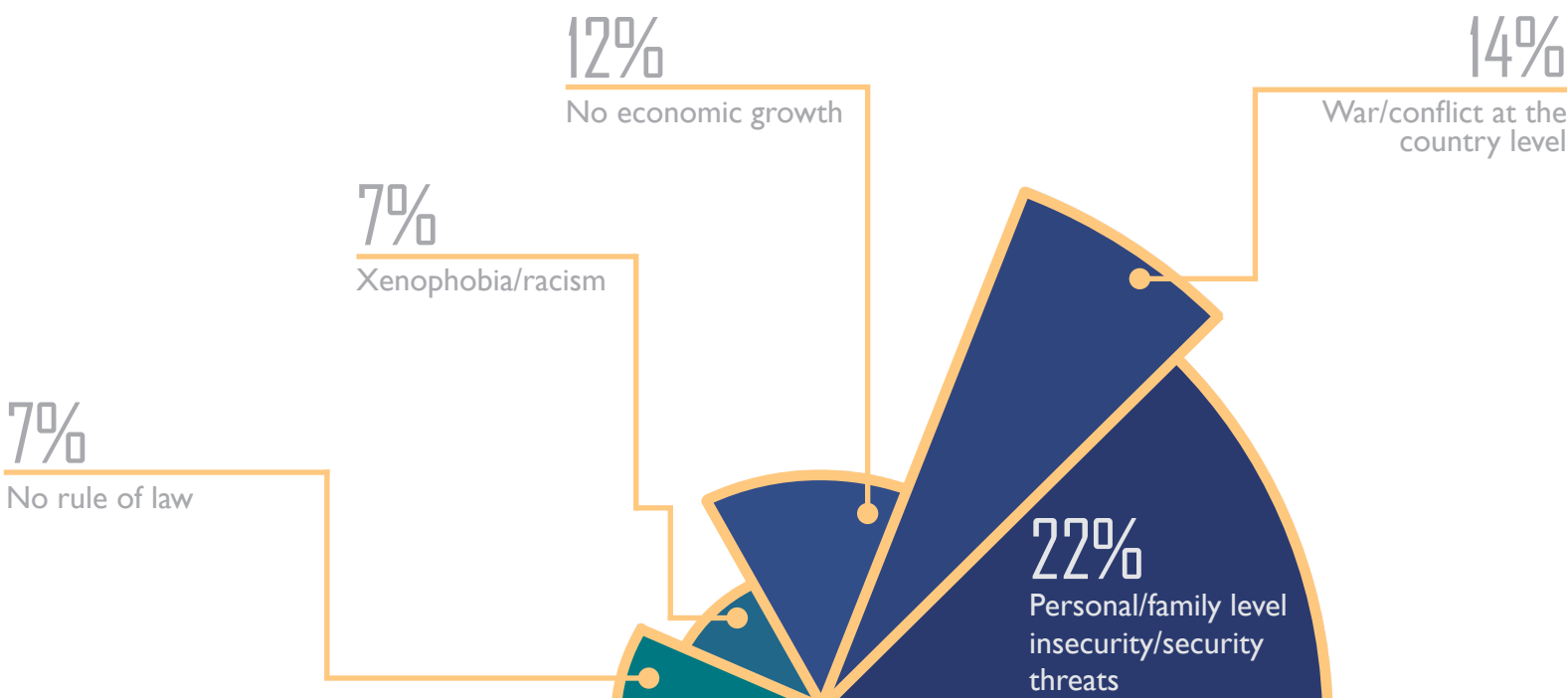
## REASONS FOR MIGRATION

### MOST COMMON REASONS FOR MIGRATION

#### Primary reasons for migration



#### Secondary reasons for migration



Note: the above graphics represent only the top primary and secondary reasons for migration, and do not display all possible given reasons. Because of this, the percentages for each above graphic do not add to 100%.



**DTM**

IOM DISPLACEMENT  
TRACKING MATRIX