

ROUND 7 (Aug - Sep 2022)

The RLS is a tool developed under the European Union (EU) funded project “Displacement Tracking Matrix Regional Evidence for Migration Analysis and Policy (DTM REMAP)” to improve understanding of returnees’ profiles, living conditions and reintegration processes both in the short and long term. To this end, data is collected over the course of several years at regular intervals.

This report provides a snapshot of the seventh round of RLS data collection, which took place from 20 August to 3 September 2022 among Afghan migrants who had returned from Türkiye or the EU between January 2018 and July 2021. A total of 575 returnees (499 from Türkiye and 76 from the EU) were interviewed over the phone across 94 districts in 16 provinces.

The key finding of the RLS Round 7 is that returnees continue to experience significant economic and food-related challenges. Most of respondents (97%) indicated that their household monthly income was not enough to provide for their family basic needs and all respondents reduced the quantity and quality of their food intake sometimes, often or very often because of its cost.

The largest share of respondents reported that they were unemployed (42%) or working for daily wages (42%). It should be noted that daily wages cannot be considered as a stable source of employment as most returnees are not able to work for daily wages on a regular basis. Respondents who reported working for daily wages worked, on average, 14 days per month.

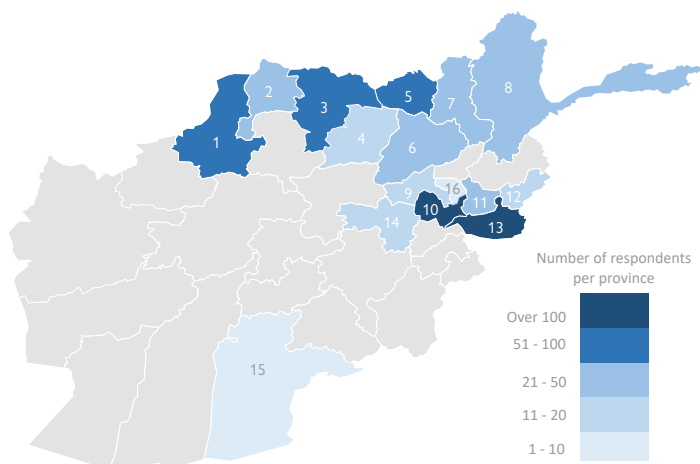
Seventeen per cent of participants reported having children in the household who worked. Among the children who were working, 38 per cent worked in agriculture, 27 per cent engaged in street vending, 13 per cent worked in shops or restaurants and 10 per cent participated in any type of work that was offered to them.

KEY FIGURES



Disclaimer: The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on these maps do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by IOM or the United Nations.

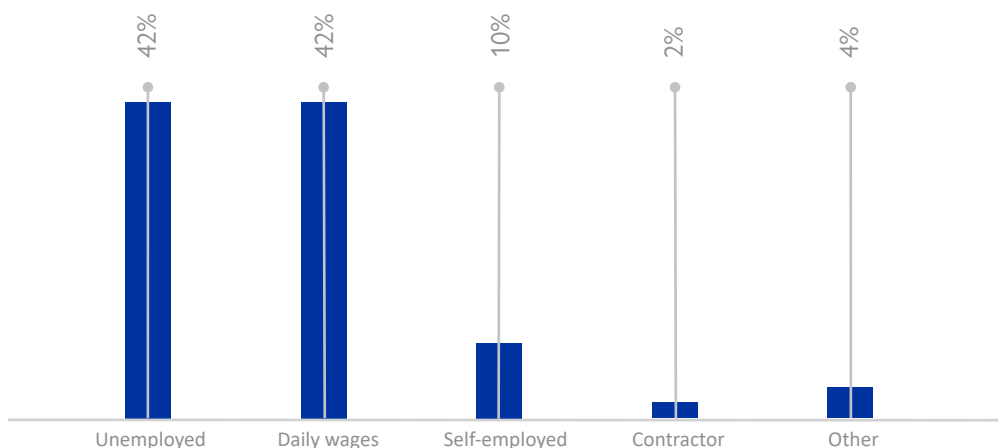
TARGET PROVINCES



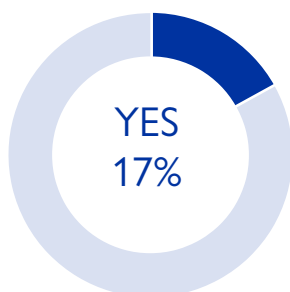
- 1. Faryab
- 2. Jawzjan
- 3. Balkh
- 4. Samangan
- 5. Kunduz
- 6. Baghlan
- 7. Takhar
- 8. Badakhshan
- 9. Parwan
- 10. Kabul
- 11. Laghman
- 12. Kunar
- 13. Nangarhar
- 14. Wardak
- 15. Kandahar
- 16. Kapisa

EMPLOYMENT STATUS

What is your current employment status?



If you have children (<18 years old) in your household, are they working?



If yes, what type of work do they do? (Top 4 answers, select multiple)

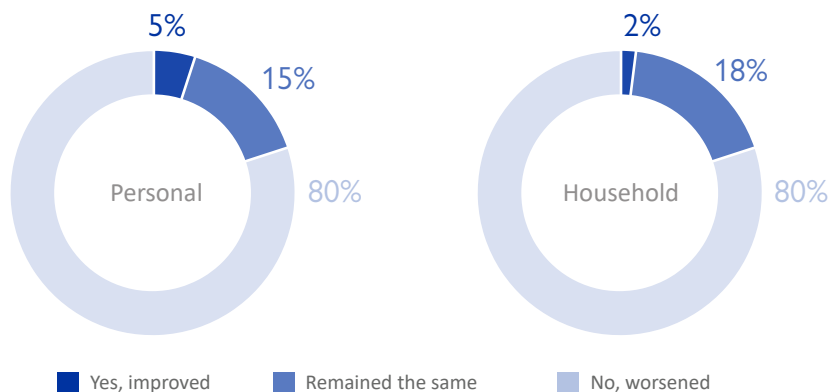


At the time of the interview, 80 per cent of participants said that their personal and household economic situation had worsened since the last interview (Round 6: June - July 2022).

Similarly, to previous rounds, participants to the RLS remained situated in low-income brackets. Thirty-nine per cent of respondents earned no income at the personal level. Fifty-five per cent of respondents' monthly household income was situated between USD 1-55¹. Forty-nine per cent also reported their personal income being in this range.

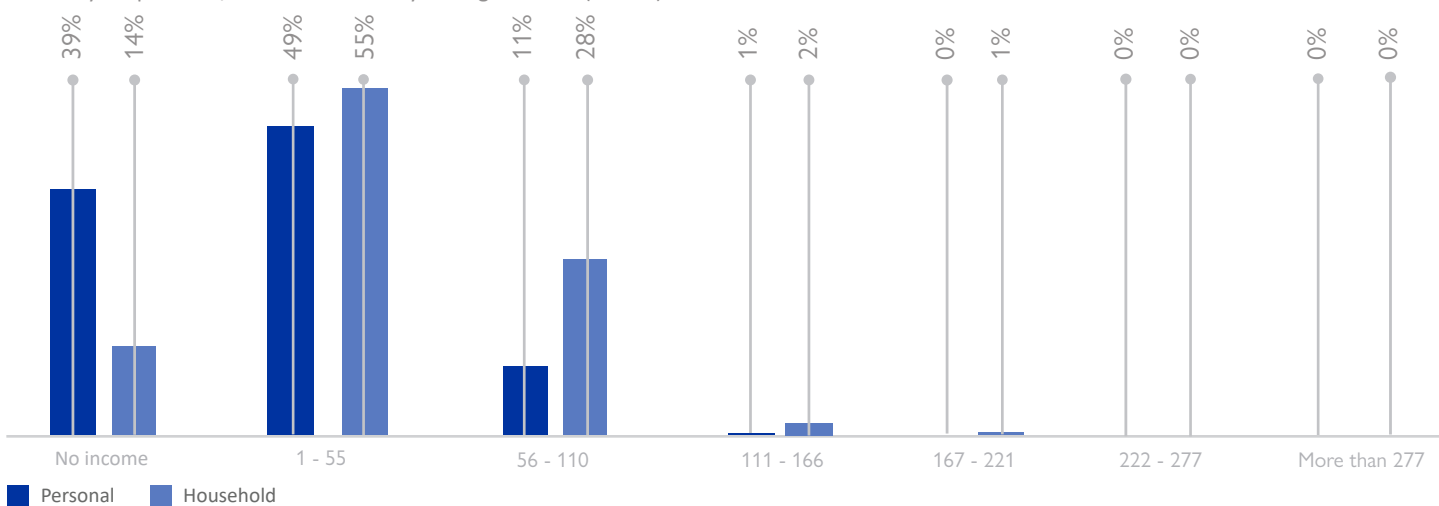
PERSONAL AND HOUSEHOLD ECONOMIC SITUATION

Has your personal/household economic situation improved since the last interview?



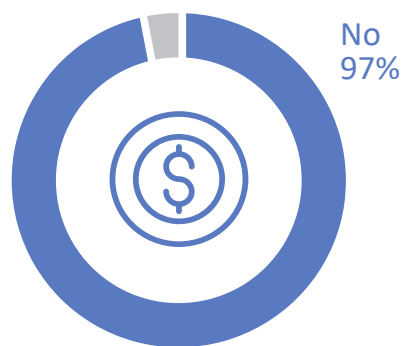
PERSONAL AND HOUSEHOLD INCOME

What is your personal/household monthly average income (in USD)¹?



HOUSEHOLD INCOME SITUATION

Is the household's monthly income enough to provide for your family's basic needs?



If the household income is not enough, how do you cover for expenditures? (Top 5 answers, select multiple)



Most respondents (97%) reported that their household income was not enough to cover their basic needs. Common coping mechanisms for insufficient income include borrowing money from friends or relatives (96%), reducing food expenditures (92%), reducing expenditures on health and non-food items (43%), relying on humanitarian assistance (25%) and depending on support from family and friends (8%). It is worth noting that six per cent of respondents reported that they had sold their productive assets and eight respondents had sold their property to cover their basic needs. One respondent had withdrawn his child from school to work and contribute to the household income.

¹ Data was originally collected in Afghani. The exchange rate was 90.13 AFN to 1 USD during round 7 of data collection (15th August 2022) according to the UN Operational Rates of Exchange.

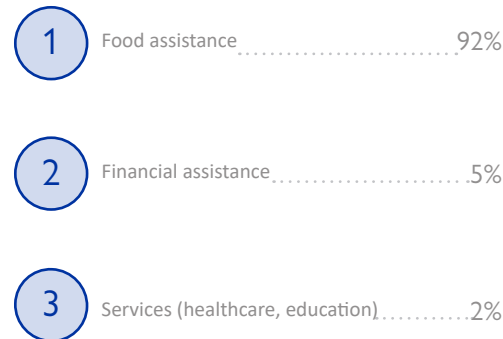
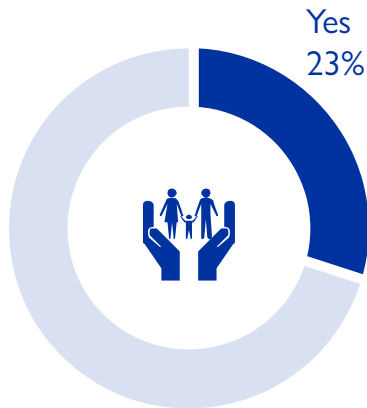
HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

Have you received any humanitarian assistance since the last interview?

If yes, what type of assistance did you receive? (Top 3 answers, select multiple)

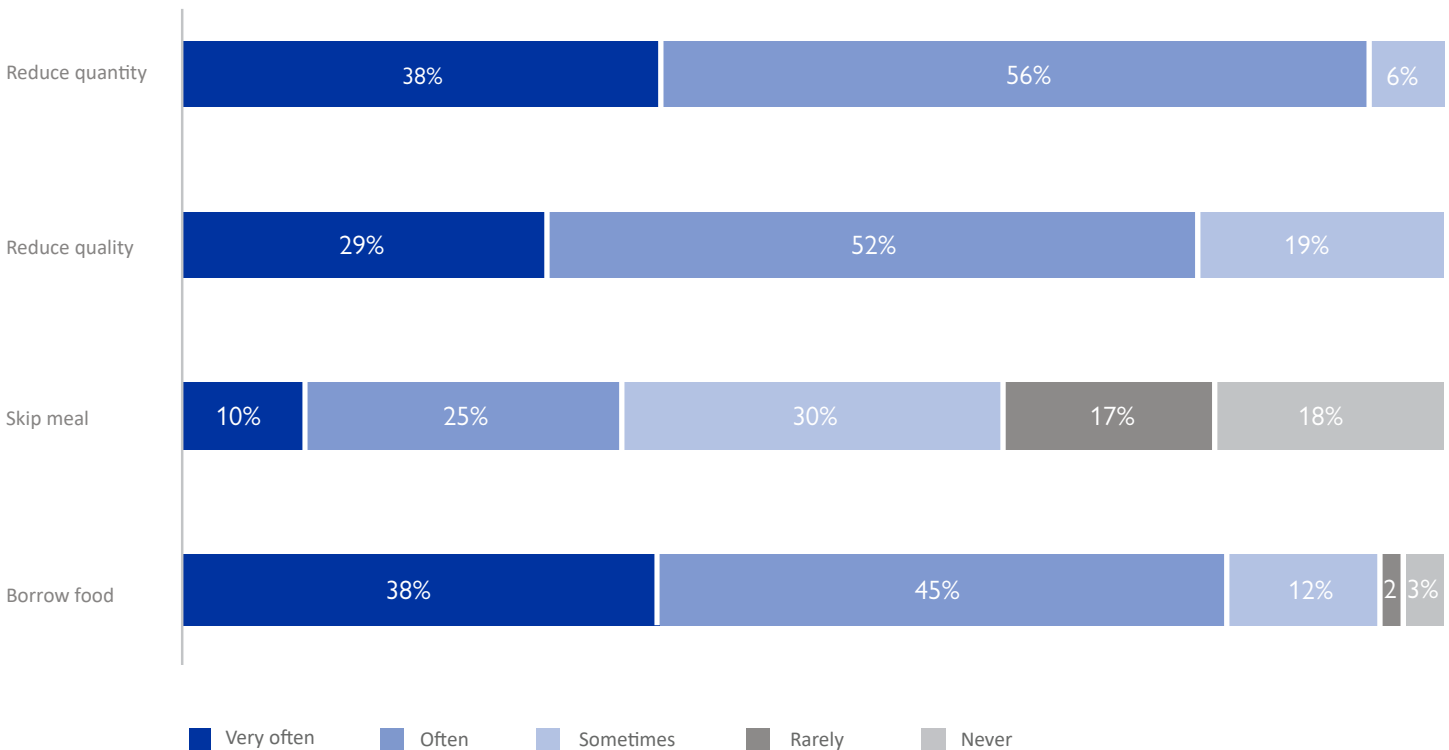
Participants were asked if they had received any humanitarian assistance. Twenty-three per cent had received humanitarian assistance since the last interview (Round 6) either from an international organization, the United Nations (UN) or another source. Seventy-seven per cent of respondents had not received any humanitarian assistance.

Of those who had received humanitarian assistance, a large majority indicated they had received food assistance (92%), financial assistance (cash) (5%) and services (2%).



FOOD INSECURITY

Since the last interview, how often did you have to reduce the quantity/quality of your food, skip meals or borrow food because of the cost of food?



Participants were asked about coping mechanisms in response to food insecurity. Reducing food quantity and quality and borrowing food were the coping mechanisms used most frequently by the respondents. Thirty-eight per cent of the respondents reported borrowing food very often and 56 per cent often. Furthermore, a large majority of participants reduced the quantity and quality of their food often or very often (94% and 81%, respectively). More than one-third of all participants reported skipping meals often or very often to cope with food insecurity (35%).

Community safety ratings among participants were generally positive, with 58 per cent of respondents reporting that the safety situation in their community was good or very good at the personal level and 58 per cent reporting the same at the household level. Twenty-seven per cent of participants at the personal and household level, however, rated safety levels as poor or very poor in their communities.

Sixty per cent of interviewees said they felt they were able to continue to stay and live in Afghanistan. Among these participants, people who had returned from the EU (22%) were less likely to respond that they could stay in Afghanistan compared to people who had returned from Türkiye (66%).

Participants were also asked if they had the intention to migrate abroad in the next six months. Thirty-six per cent of respondents indicated that they would like to re-migrate in the next six months. Respondents who had returned from the EU (71%) were more likely to have intentions to re-migrate compared to respondents who had returned from Türkiye (31%).

PERSONAL AND HOUSEHOLD SAFETY

How would you rate the safety level inside your community for **yourself**?



How would you rate the safety level inside your community for your **household**?



RE-MIGRATION INTENTIONS

Do you feel you are able to stay and live in Afghanistan (Total respondents and by country of return)?



Do you have any intention to migrate again during the next six months (Total respondents and by country of return)?

