

COMPREHENSIVE PROFILE OF AFGHAN RETURNEES 2016



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co-funded by the European Union



co-funded by the British Government

BACKGROUND

METHODOLOGY

The methodological framework of the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) Comprehensive Migration Flow Survey (CMFS) is based on the collection of primary data, which provides information on migration flows towards Europe from Afghanistan whilst focusing on eight thematic areas: (1) migrant profiles, (2) migration routes and trajectories (3) resourcing the journey, (4) the role of intermediaries, (5) vulnerability factors in origin, transit and destination countries, (6) migration drivers and decision making, (7) role of the diaspora, and (8) migrants' perceptions towards Europe. The data DTM collected under the CMFS in 2016 among Afghan migrants included six target populations: Afghan potential migrants in Afghanistan, Afghan potential migrants in Pakistan, Afghan migrants in transit, Afghan migrants in final destinations, Afghan households who stay-behind (households with a migrant journeying to or currently in Europe) and Afghan returnees. Due to the nature of the target population groups, respondents for these surveys were sampled using basic random sampling in combination with snowball sampling in main target locations. The sample sizes of Afghan respondents were as follows: a) Potential migrants in Afghanistan: 958 respondents, b) Potential migrants in Pakistan: 294 respondents, c) Afghan migrants in transit countries: 1,890 respondents d) Afghan migrants in final destination countries: 623 respondents e) Stay-behind in Afghanistan: 982 respondents, f) Returnees in Afghanistan: 264 respondents. To best identify the target population and develop a more robust interviewee-interviewer relationship, the data collectors who conducted the surveys spoke the same language of the respondents.

CMFS BACKGROUND

This report was produced with the financial assistance of the European Union (EU) and the Department for International Development (DFID) of the British Government. Data was collected through DTM's Comprehensive Migration Flows Surveys (CMFS) methodology that aims to enable a better understanding of migration flows from Afghanistan towards Europe, a collaborative effort by the DTM support team and relevant IOM field missions funded by the British Government. 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 British 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.

STATISTICAL NOTE

Multiple answers: When this label is found next to a graph or a question it means that a single respondent was allowed to provide more than 1 answer. For this reason, totals do not add up to 100%.

CONCEPTS AND DEFINITIONS

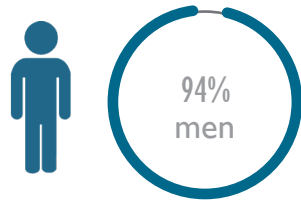
Proof of Registration Cards (PoR): Identification cards issued by the Pakistani National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) on behalf of the Government of Pakistan. PoR card holders are legally recognized as registered refugees by the Government of Pakistan and UNHCR.

Migration facilitator: refers to anyone that is involved in the facilitation of migration services (irregular and regular) via air, land or sea routes in exchange for money. Those services can reach from consultative services for visa application and acquiring (fraudulent) documents, to transportation arrangement, to the facilitation of border crossings. The term used does not intend to neglect the differences in services and often used terms for those persons providing the migration services.

DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

RESPONDENTS BY GENDER

264 Afghans returnees interviewed



264 Afghan returnees were interviewed in Afghanistan. Men composed 94 per cent of the sample population. Seventy-one per cent of the respondents were aged between 18 and 34 years. Most respondents were married (58%) and had children (53%). Eighty-four per cent of the total returnees lived in Afghanistan before migration. Most respondents returned from Sweden (22%), Germany (20%) and France (13%).

MARITAL STATUS

58% married

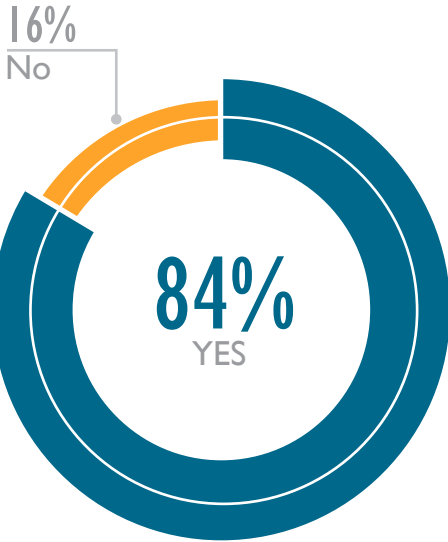


HAVE CHILDREN?

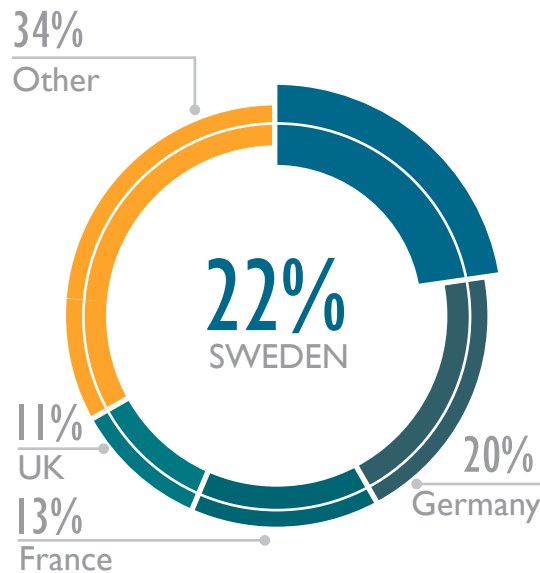
53% yes



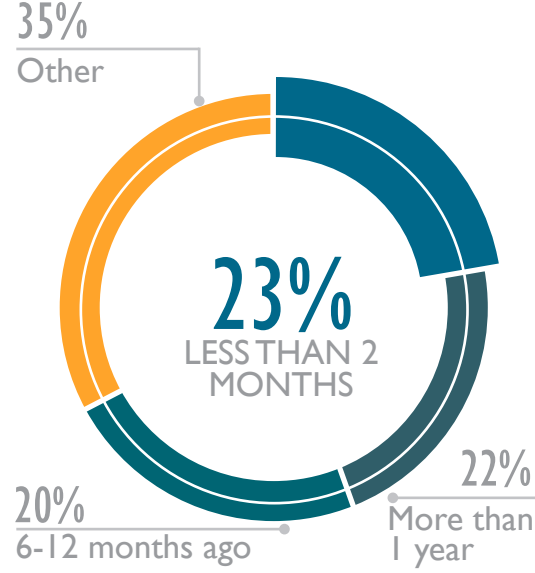
LIVING IN AFGHANISTAN BEFORE MIGRATION



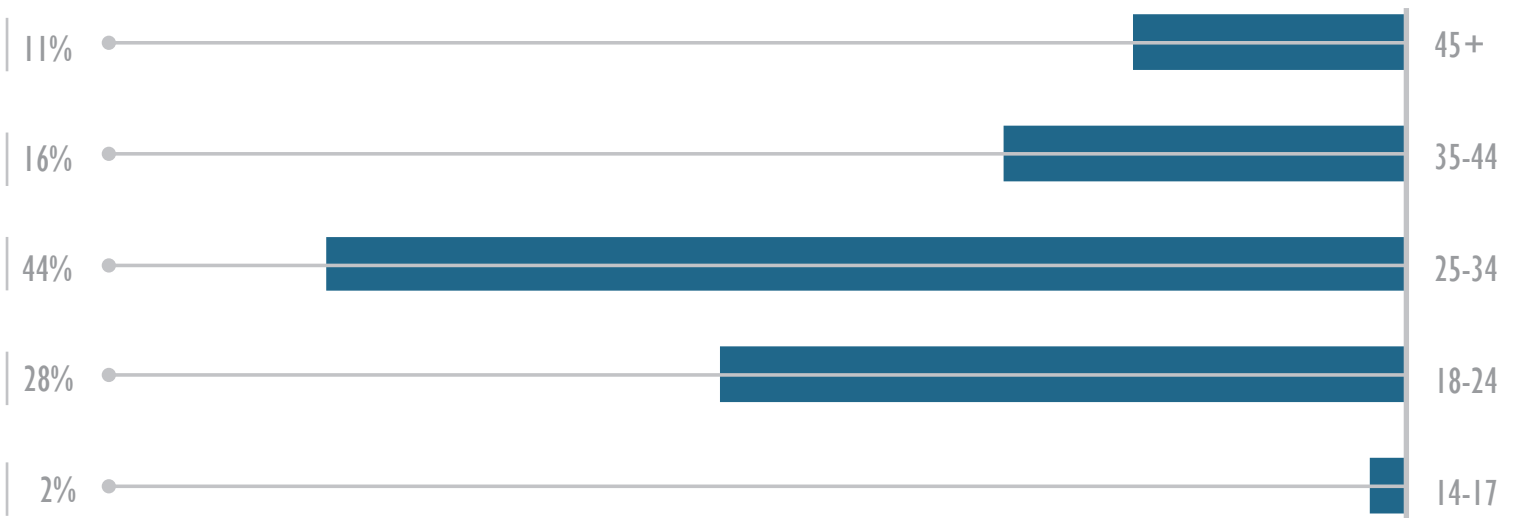
COUNTRY OF RETURN



TIME OF RETURN BEFORE THE INTERVIEW



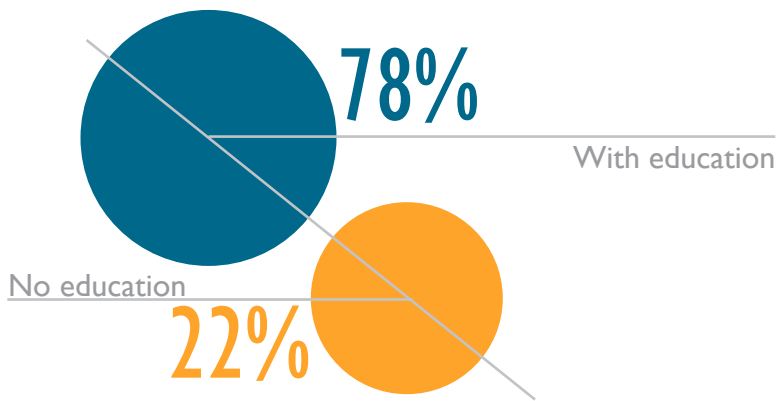
AGE DISTRIBUTION



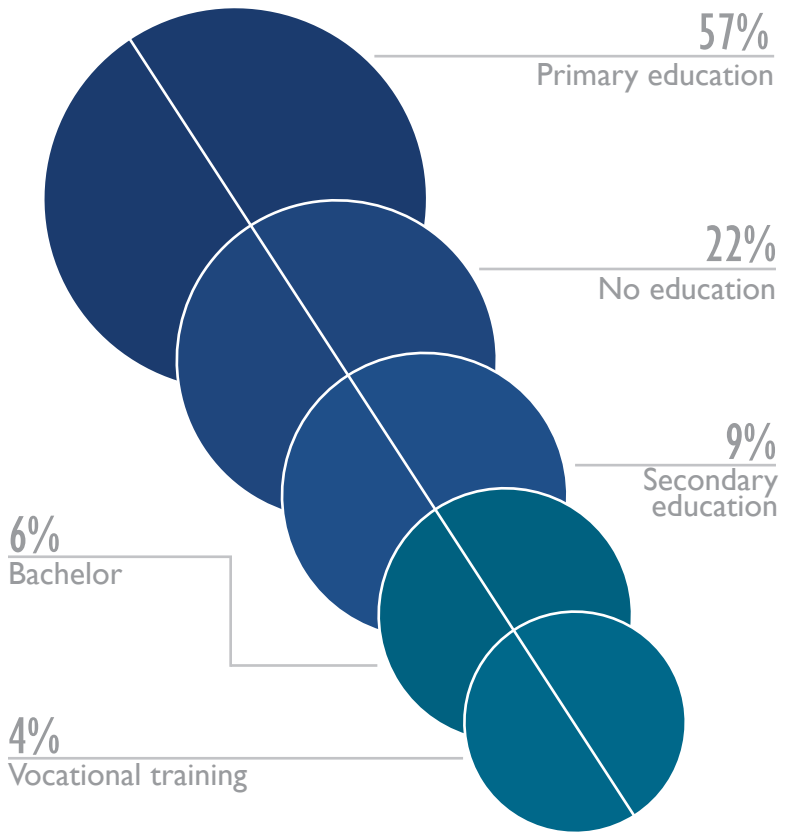
EDUCATION

Seventy-eight per cent of the Afghan returnees had some sort of education while 22 per cent had no education. Fifty-seven per cent of the respondents had primary education, 9 per cent secondary education and 6 per cent a bachelor's degree.

Most returnees had some level of education



RETURNEES BY EDUCATION LEVEL



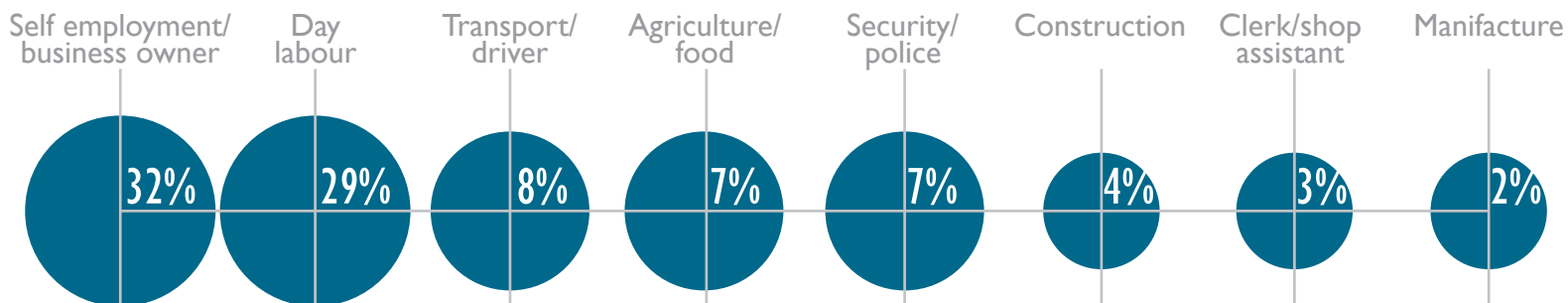
EMPLOYMENT

Almost 8 out of 10 returnees (79%) were employed prior to migration. Most of them were self employed or business owners (32%). Twenty-nine per cent were daily labourers, 8 per cent worked in the transportation industry and 7 per cent worked in the food sector.

EMPLOYMENT STATUS BEFORE MIGRATION



TYPE OF EMPLOYMENT BEFORE MIGRATION



SOCIAL NETWORKS IN EUROPE

DO YOU HAVE FAMILY AND FRIENDS IN EUROPE?



IF YES, WHO ARE THEY? multiple answers



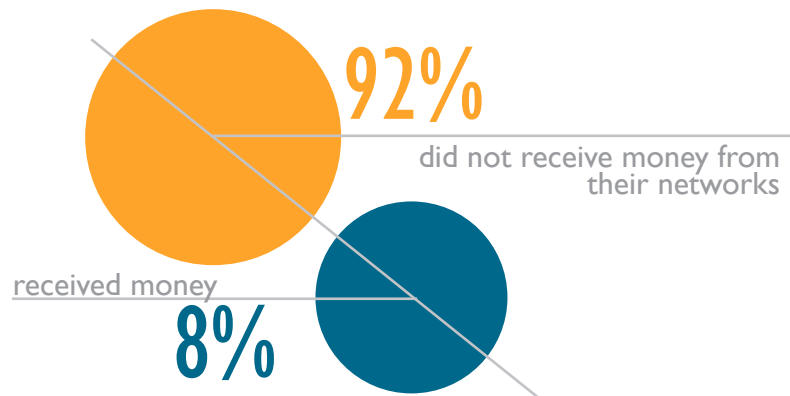
Most family and friends lived in 3 countries:



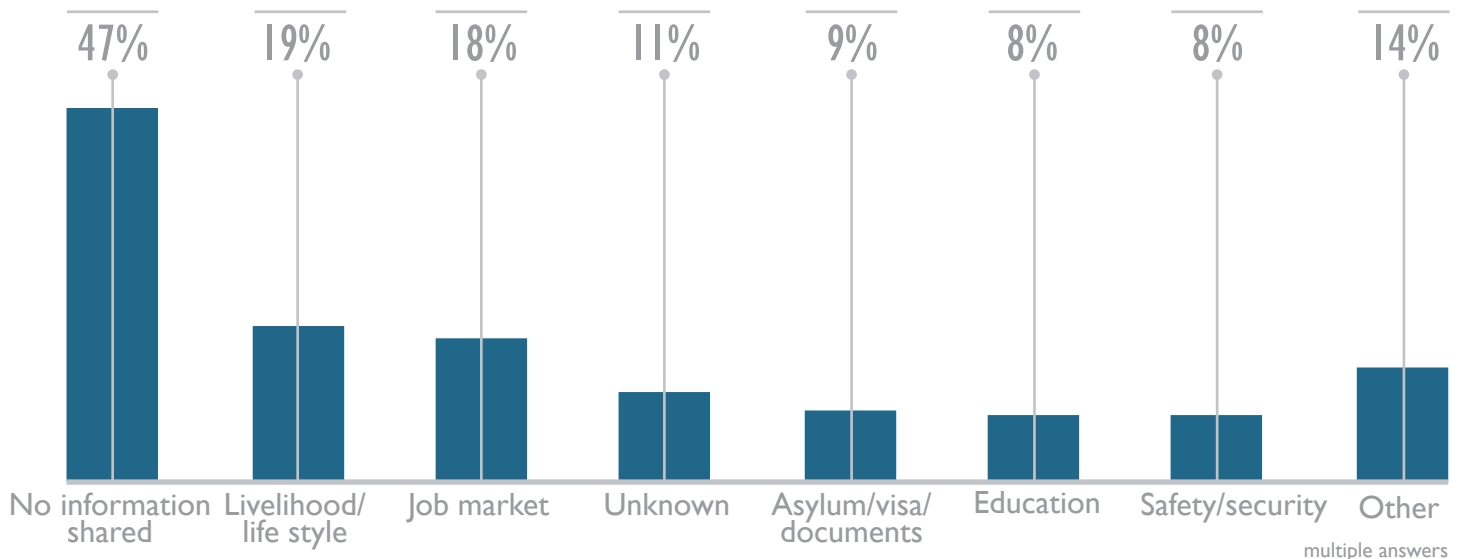
multiple answers

Fifty-one per cent of the Afghan returnees reported having family or friends in Europe before their departure. When those with a network in Europe were asked to specify whom they knew, they mostly mentioned family and relatives (98%). Seventy-three per cent of the networks lived in three countries: Germany (45%), UK (16%) and Sweden (12%). Only 8 per cent of the returnees received financial support from their network in Europe to pay for their migration journey. The social networks in Europe mainly shared information on lifestyle in Europe (19%) and the job market (18%).

Most returnees received no financial support from their networks

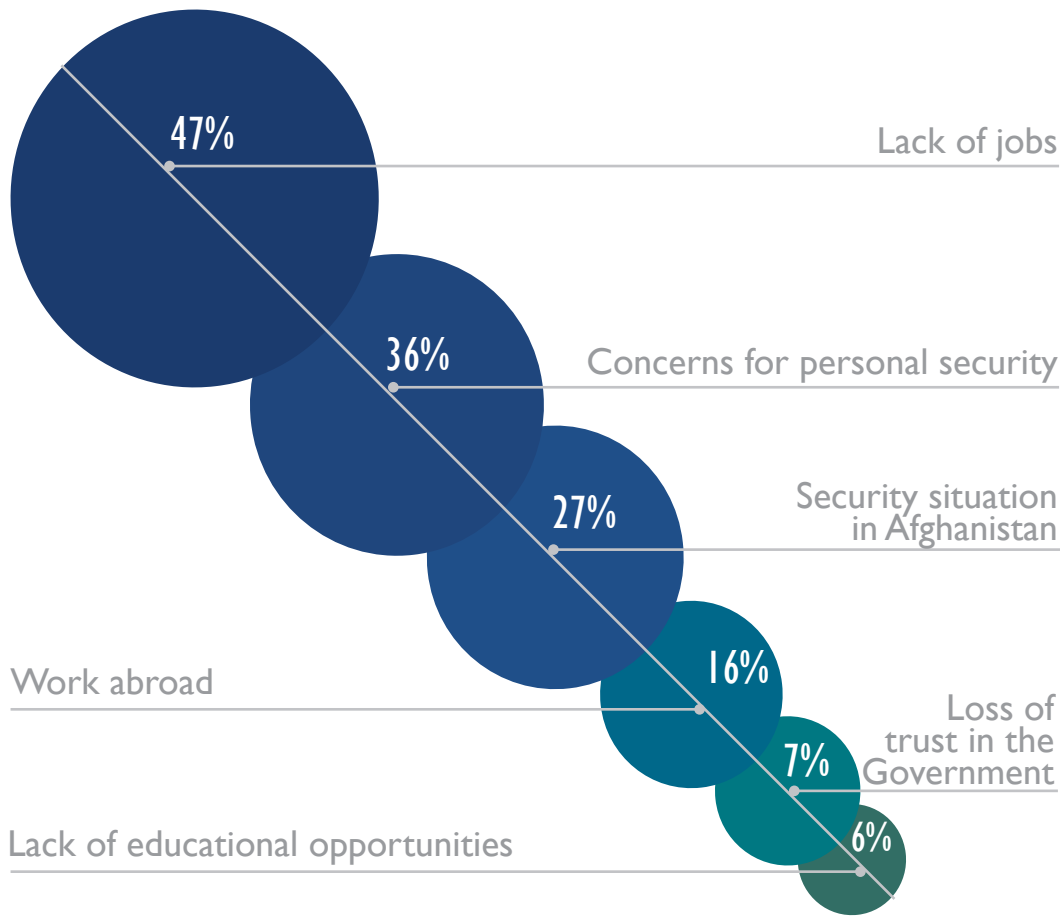


INFORMATION RECEIVED BY SOCIAL NETWORKS IN EU

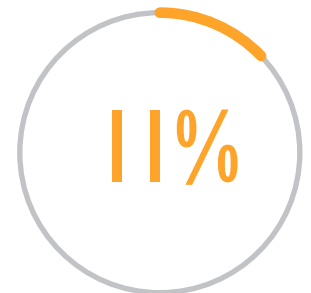


REASONS AND DRIVERS OF MIGRATION

MAIN REASONS FOR MIGRATION multiple answers

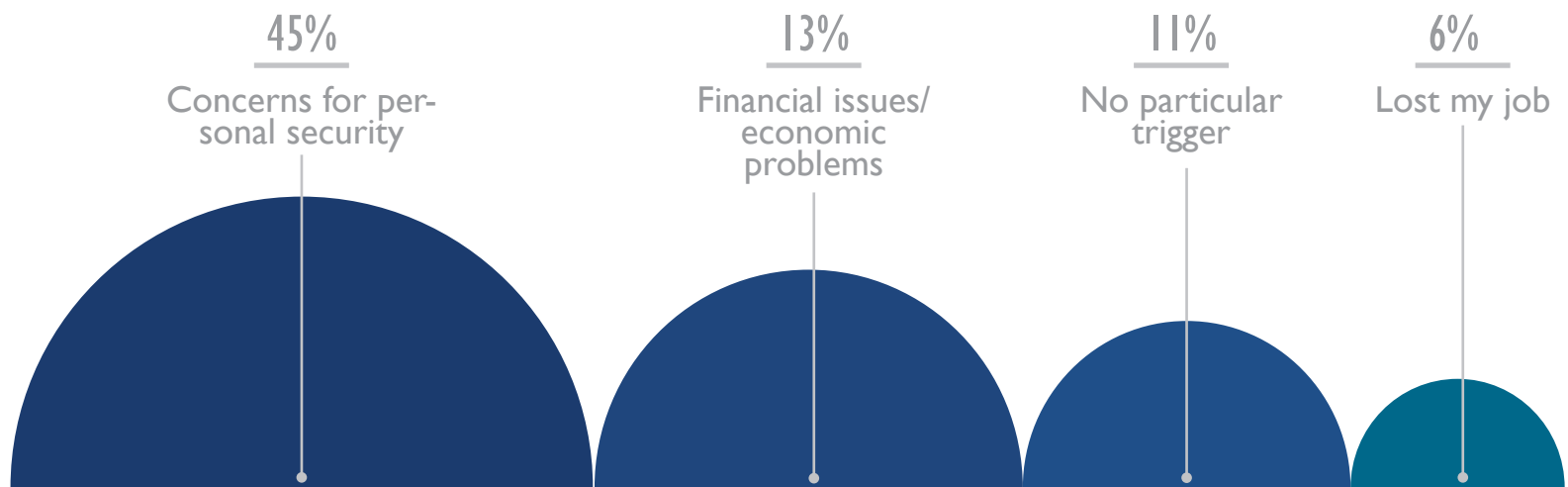


Of the returnees did not make the initial decision to migrate themselves



Of the returnees have been internally displaced at least once in their lifetime

MAIN TRIGGERS FOR MIGRATION multiple answers



REASONS AND DRIVERS OF MIGRATION

74%

Of the returnees already knew where they wanted to migrate before their migration

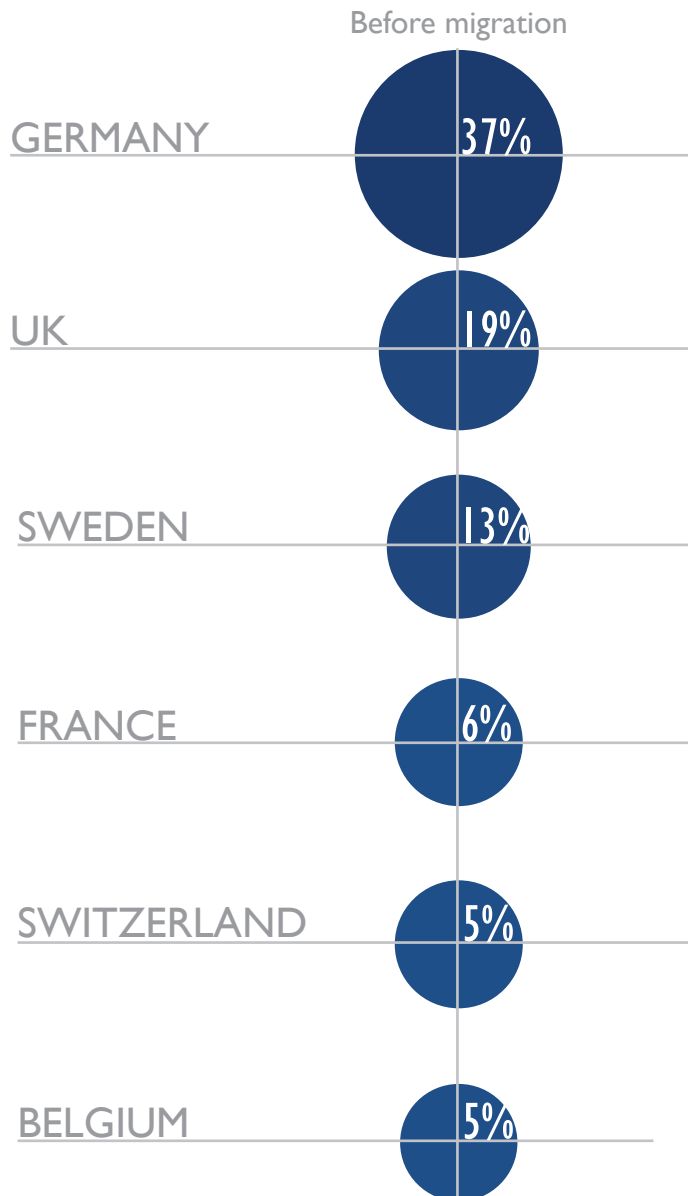


22%

Of the returnees changed their intended destination while en route

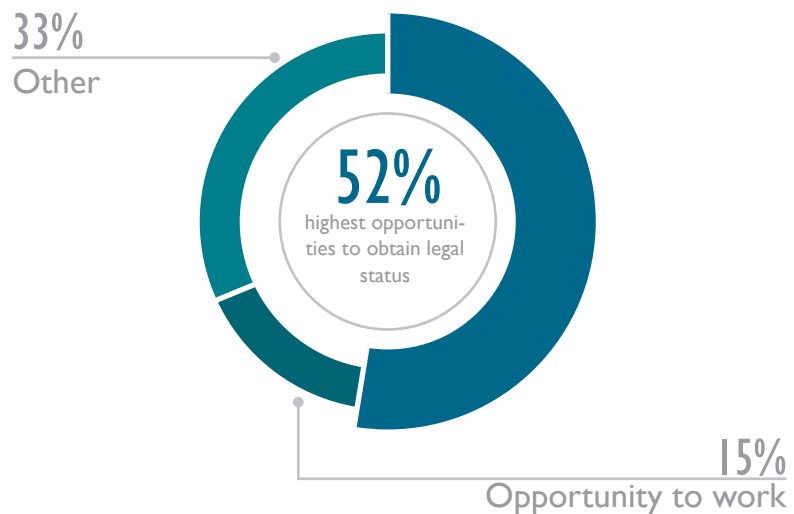


INTEDED DESTINATION BEFORE MIGRATION



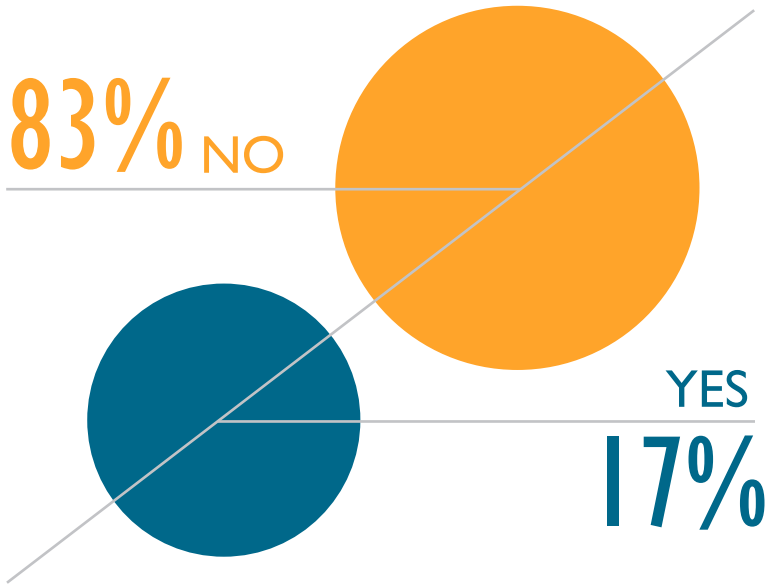
Seventy-four per cent of the returnees knew where they wanted to migrate before their departure. Yet, 22 per cent of them changed their intended destination while en route. The main destination countries both prior to migration and en route were Germany, the UK and Sweden. Return migrants reported that the main reasons for choosing a certain destination country were the higher opportunity to obtain legal status/to stay permanently (52%) and the opportunity to work (15%).

MAIN REASONS FOR GOING TO A SPECIFIC DESTINATION COUNTRY

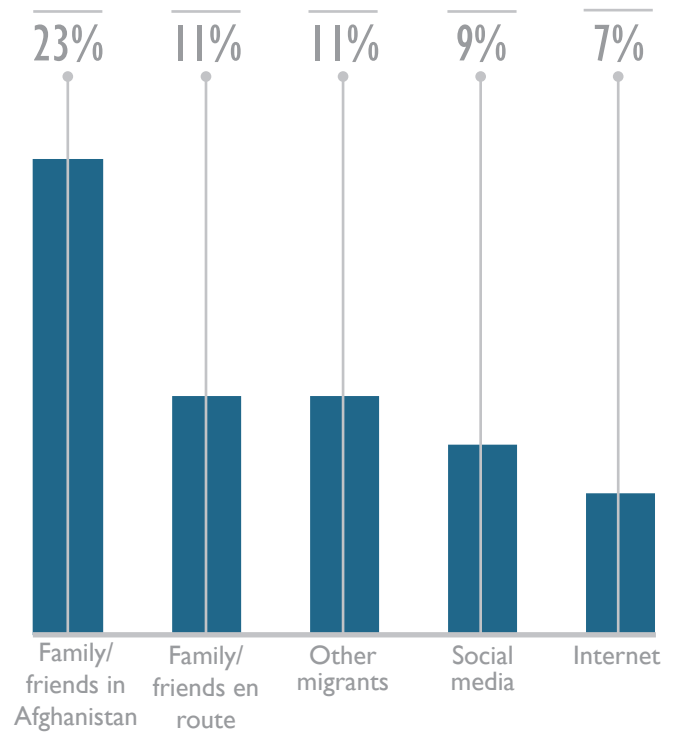


INFORMATION ON MIGRATION

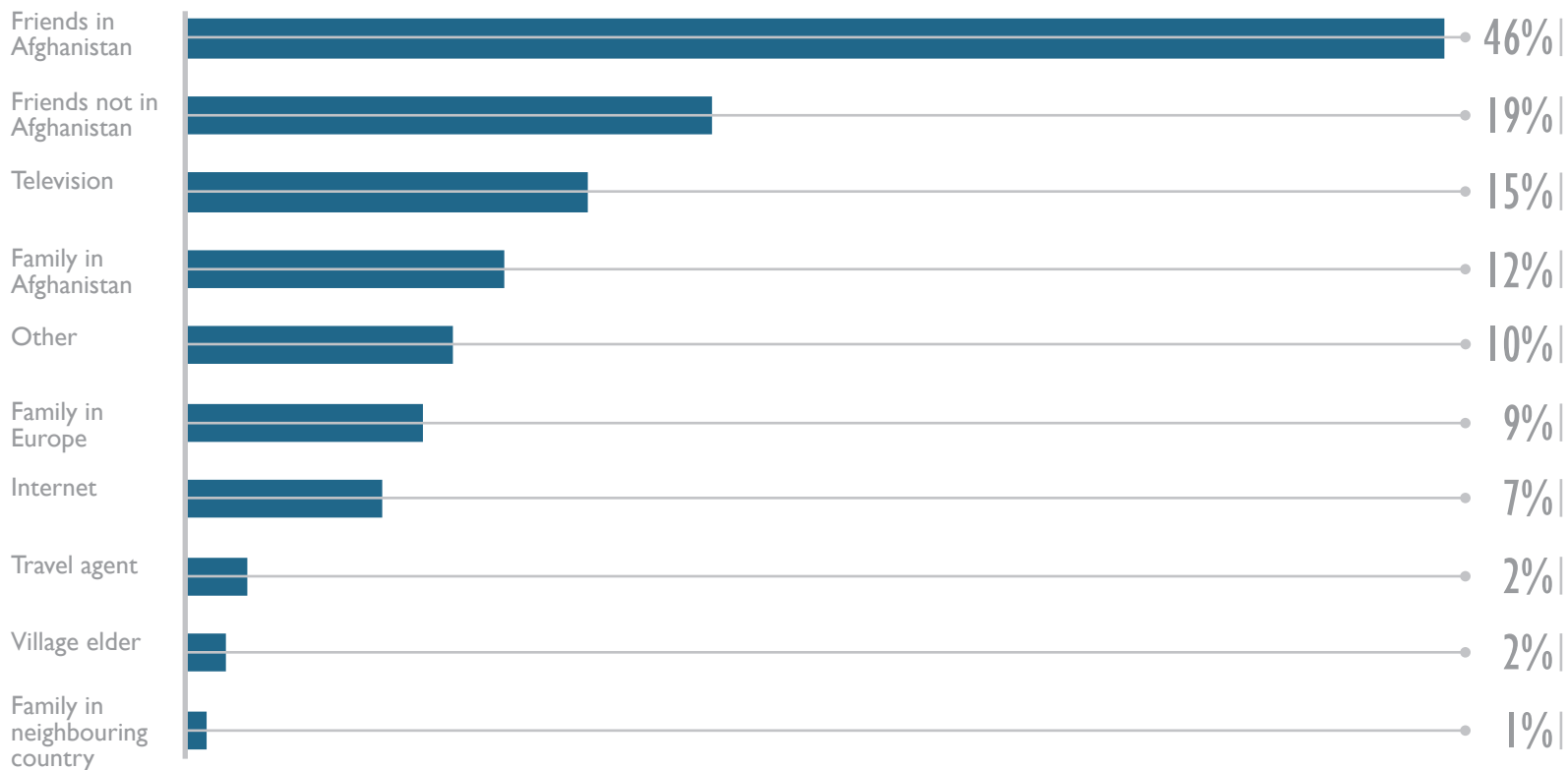
DO YOU KNOW WHAT AN ASYLUM PROCEDURE IS?



IF YES, WHO EXPLAINED THE ASYLUM PROCEDURE TO YOU?



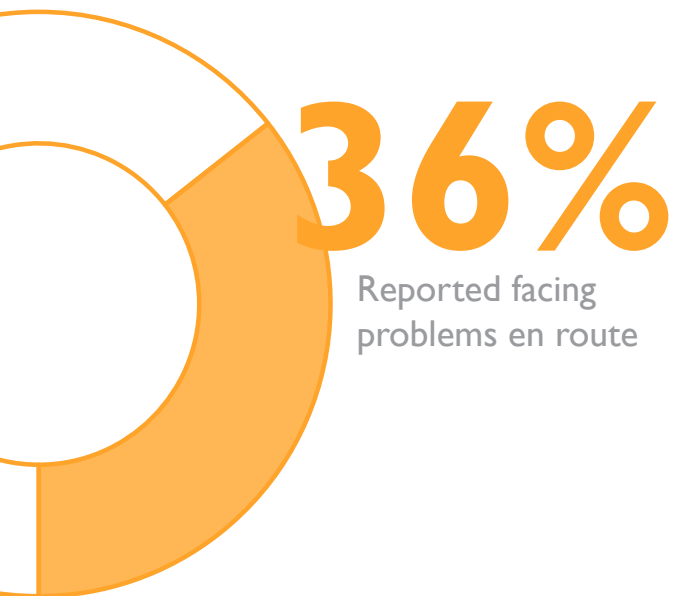
MAIN INFORMATION SOURCES ABOUT MIGRATION TO EUROPE



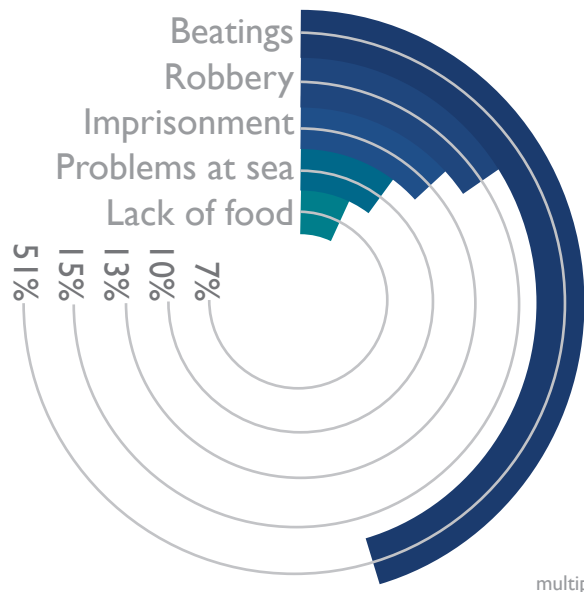
multiple answers

PROBLEMS EN ROUTE

More than 1 in 3 respondents faced problems en route

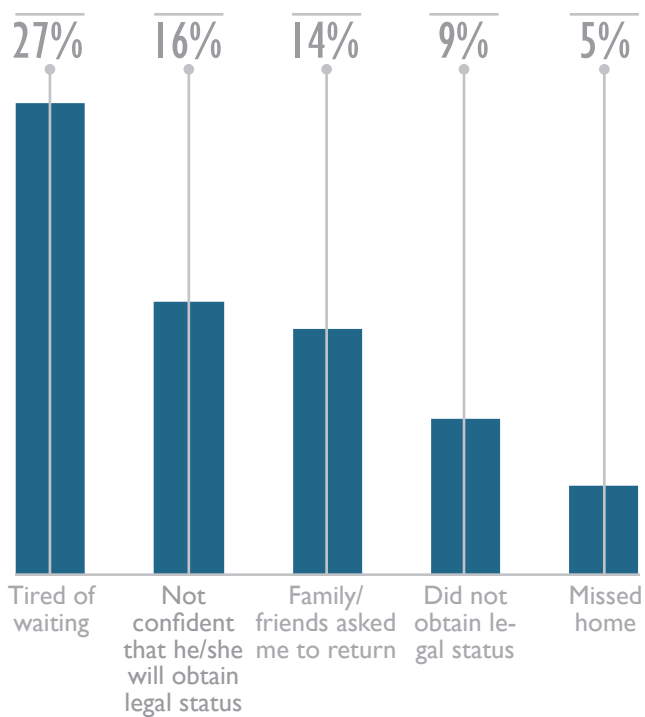


The two most common problems were beatings and robbery



RETURN MIGRATION

MAIN REASONS FOR RETURN TO AFGHANISTAN



WOULD YOU MIGRATE TO EUROPE AGAIN?



WOULD YOU ADVISE OTHERS TO MIGRATE TO EUROPE?



RETURN MIGRATION

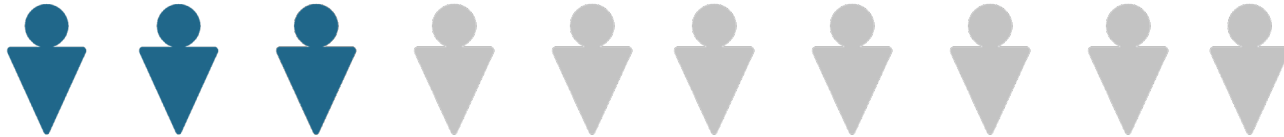
One in two returnees received some form of return support. Regarding type of support needed upon return, returnees mostly cited cash support (3/10 people) and business startup support (2.8 out of 10 people). Only 6 respondents out of the total 264 returnees interviewed reported that they did not need any form of support to return.

53% Of the returnees received some form of support to return

TYPE OF RETURN SUPPORT REQUESTED

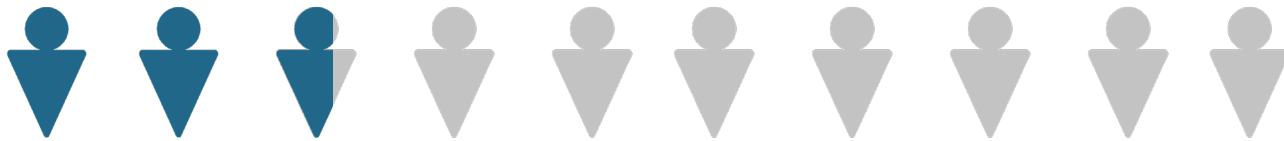
CASH SUPPORT

Reported by



3/10 people

BUSINESS STARTUP



2.8/10 people

HOUSING SUPPORT



1.5/10 people

JOB MEDIATION



1/10 people

LEGEND



Requested the given type of return support



Did not request the given type of return support

multiple answers

Note: this qualitative question was coded by using thematic analysis and allowing for multiple answers. Each reported need was divided by the total number of respondents and multiplied by ten to illustrate the number of respondents in 10 people who requested a given type of support.

WOULD YOU ADVISE OTHERS TO MIGRATE TO EUROPE?

"The life over there is very hard and I will advise my people to stay here in their homeland..."

MIGRATION

"They are only going to suffer in Europe.. there is no work and no facilities..."

"They could lose their life along the way..."

ASYLUM

AFGHANISTAN

"It is a waste of time, you spent a lot of money but don't gain any result and it is also way is too dangerous..."

"I would advise others to migrate in a legal way... but not take an illegal route..."

"We need to work for our country..."

"I went there (Europe).. I spent 8 years but I didn't get any result.. migration was wasting time and money ..."

RETURN FROM EUROPE

"You can work here too, you will face a lot of problems there..."

"Europe is a good place for the young generation to make a future there..."

"They will suffer a lot on the route and won't be accepted..."

OPPORTUNITIES

"Illegal migration is very difficult, some people will not survive on the way to Europe..."

"I faced so many problems there, I don't want to go there anymore..."

"The facilities they can find there are not here..."

"The life over there is so advanced and if they go there, they will have a bright future..."

DISSAPOINTMENT

"I still want to send my children to go there for a better future and better education..."

"Europe is not made for us, the culture is different and their life is like that of a machine..."

"They can have a better life there..."



DTM

IOM DISPLACEMENT
TRACKING MATRIX