

# FLOW MONITORING SURVEYS' REPORT NORTH MACEDONIA

04 JULY – 11 SEPTEMBER 2022



**DTM**  
IOM DISPLACEMENT  
TRACKING MATRIX

The opinions expressed in this publication are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the International Organization for Migration (IOM). The designations employed and the presentation of material throughout the publication do not imply 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.

IOM is committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and society. As an intergovernmental organization, IOM acts with its partners in the international community to: assist in meeting the operational challenges of migration; advance understanding of migration issues; encourage social and economic development through migration; and uphold the human dignity and well-being of migrants.

---

This publication was made possible through support provided the Directorate General for Italian Citizens Abroad and Migration Policies of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Donor) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Norway (Donor). The opinions expressed herein are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of donors.

This publication should not be used, published or redistributed for purposes primarily intended for or directed towards commercial advantage or monetary compensation, with the exception of educational purposes, e.g. to be included in textbooks.

Cover photo: Migrant family being accommodated by IOM staff in one of the temporary reception centres in Western Balkans © Causevic Ervin, IOM

---

This report was issued without formal editing by IOM.

International Organization for Migration

IOM North Macedonia

Str. Oslo 6, 1000 Skopje, North Macedonia

+389 2 30 95 477

Website: <https://north-macedonia.iom.int/>

Contact: [iomskopje@iom.int](mailto:iomskopje@iom.int)



International Organization for Migration (IOM), Mar 2022. Flow Monitoring Surveys' Report – North Macedonia (14 July – 11 September 2022). IOM, North Macedonia.

For more information on terms and conditions of DTM information products, please refer to: <https://dtm.iom.int/terms-and-conditions>

Some rights reserved. This work is made available under the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs 3.0 IGO License (CC BY-NC-ND 3.0 IGO).\*

For further specifications please see the Copyright and Terms of Use.

Permissions: Requests for commercial use or further rights and licensing should be submitted to [publications@iom.int](mailto:publications@iom.int).

\* <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/3.0/igo/legalcode>



Norwegian Ministry  
of Foreign Affairs



Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
and International Cooperation of Italy



## Table of contents

Executive summary .....	4
<b>1 Introduction .....</b>	<b>5</b>
1.1 DTM's Flow Monitoring Surveys .....	5
<b>2 Migrants traveling through MKD: baseline profile .....</b>	<b>6</b>
2.1 Sample size and main nationalities .....	6
2.2 Demographic profile .....	6
2.3 Education and employment .....	7
2.3.1 Education .....	7
2.4 Employment status before departure .....	7
2.5 Reasons for leaving the country of origin .....	7
2.6 Mode of travel .....	8
2.7 Cost of journey .....	8
2.8 Problems/Protection Risks during the journey .....	9
2.9 Main Needs .....	9
2.10 Country of intended destination .....	10
<b>3 Vulnerability to violence, exploitation and abuse .....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>4 COVID-19 .....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>5 Return intentions .....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>6 Methodology .....</b>	<b>11</b>
7.1 Sampling .....	12
7.2 The questionnaire .....	12
7.3 Limitations .....	12

## Table of figures

Figure 1 Distribution of interviews per location .....	5
Figure 2 Percentages of interviewed migrants disaggregated by sex .....	6
Figure 3 Percentages of respondents disaggregated by employment status before departure .....	7
Figure 4 Main reason for leaving the country of origin .....	8
Figure 5 Cost of journey from departure country to country of interview .....	8

## Executive summary

This report presents the results of the third round of the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) Flow Monitoring Surveys (FMS) implemented in North Macedonia. The data was collected from 4 July to 11 September 2022, in two temporary transit centres (TTCs). IOM interviewed a total of 197 individual respondents.<sup>1</sup>

FMS are a type of quantitative survey, which provide a snapshot of the profiles, experiences and needs of migrants residing in TTCs in North Macedonia. The survey asks questions on demographics, education and employment backgrounds, the circumstances of the migration journey and migration factors, as well as future intentions.

Most of the respondents (76.7%) were single adult men between the ages of 18 and 29. Nationals of the Syrian Arab Republic and India made up 63 per cent of the population sample. More than one-third (38.1%) of all respondents had completed at least lower secondary education and less than one fifth (16.8%) were employed prior to leaving their countries of origin.

Less than half of the respondents (44.2%) were travelling in a group of people, and most of these groups (72.4%) were made up of non-family members. None of the respondents reported travelling with facilitators.

Germany (32.2%), France (18.1%) and Italy (12.1%) were the most frequently cited countries of intended destination.

The three main reported drivers of migration were war and conflict (41.6%), economic reasons (34%), and slow environmental change (21.3%).

During their journeys, less than one fifth (15.5%) 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. Only one respondent (single male) noted that he had experienced some form of violence on his journey.

Most migrants transit through North Macedonia after long journeys, often having witnessed or experienced significant hardship and traumatic events. The most frequently cited needs during their journeys relate to primary needs such as food which was cited by 34 per cent of all respondents as their primary need and 20.8 per cent who reported medical assistance.<sup>2</sup>

Over two-thirds (70.9%) of migrants interviewed declared they were vaccinated against COVID-19. Out of the 168 respondents who declared they were not vaccinated, 76.9 per cent stated they were not interested and 13.9 per cent would be interested. More than one-half of respondents (55.5%) have spent more than 2,500 USD on their journeys. The journeys were largely financed with savings.

Almost all (99.5%) respondents stated that they do not intend to return to their countries of origin.

<sup>1</sup> 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.

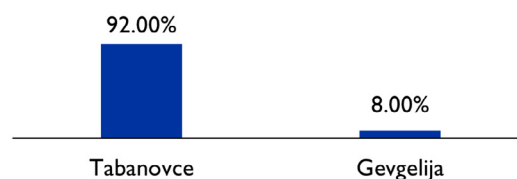
<sup>2</sup> These are the main needs faced during their journeys, when migrants are in transit and not while they are hosted at TTCs where they have recourse to a shelter as well as a range of support services, including food, non-food items as well as mental health and psychosocial support.

# 1 Introduction

Since 2015, the Western Balkan (WB) region has emerged as a major crossroads for migrants and refugees<sup>3</sup> attempting to reach the European Union (EU). Prior to 2017, migrants travelled mainly through North Macedonia and Serbia. However, in 2017, the routes diversified with increasing flows also through Albania, Kosovo\*,<sup>4</sup> Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) route.

To better grasp these changes and to improve assistance to migrants, IOM started conducting DTM FMS in North Macedonia in 2022. FMS were carried out in [February and March 2022](#) as well as in [April and May 2022](#).

Figure 1 Distribution of interviews per location



This report contains findings from the DTM FMS conducted by IOM field staff between 4 July and 11 September 2022. Field staff surveyed a total of 197 individuals in TTC Vinojug (Gevgelija) and TTC Tabanovce (Kumanovo). 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 two sections look at COVID-19 awareness, the impact of the journey and the respondent's views on their return intentions.

## 1.1 DTM's Flow Monitoring Surveys

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

The FMS gather 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 [Flows to Europe](#).

<sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>4</sup> References to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).

## 2 Migrants travelling through North Macedonia: baseline profile

### 2.1 Sample size and main nationalities

The information in this report is based on a sample of 197 respondents. The two main declared nationalities of respondents were Syrians (38.6%) and Indians (24.7%), followed by Moroccans (18.8%), Iraqis (9.1%), and smaller shares of people from Libya, Pakistan, Palestinian Territories, Algeria, Egypt and Sudan. The nationality breakdown in this sample is consistent with the nationalities registered by authorities in North Macedonia in the period covered by the data collection.

Compared to the previous rounds of FMS in North Macedonia, there was a gradual increase in the number of Syrian nationals in the sample from 13.4 per cent in February and March and 31.7 per cent in April and May and 38.6 per cent in July-September 2022. Nationals of Pakistan went from representing almost a quarter (23% in February and March and 24.4% in April and May) to two per cent in July-September 2022. The changes in the sample composition reflect those in the nationalities registered by national authorities at entry into the country in 2022.

### 2.2 Demographic profile of respondents

Men represent the majority (95.4%) of the sample, followed by 4.6 per cent women.<sup>5</sup> The median age of respondents was 25, with the youngest person interviewed being 18 years old and the oldest 50 years old.<sup>6</sup> This is consistent with the previous two rounds of FMS where women made up three per cent of the sample in February-March and four per cent in April and May.

Table 2 Percentages of interviewed migrants disaggregated by sex

Sex	
Male	188 (95.4%)
Female	9 (4.6%)

Source: DTM MKD FMS 2022, n=197.

Similar to the previous rounds of FMS in North Macedonia, most survey respondents were single. Close to three-quarters of the respondents (72.2%) declared they were single, followed by 25.3 per cent who were married, 2.6 per cent divorced, and less than one per cent did not provide an answer. More than three-quarters of the respondents (78.7%) have no children. Of those who reported having children, half declared having at least one child left in the country of origin while 57.1 per cent said they had children travelling with them, of whom 42.9 per cent had children younger than five years of age. Moreover, 2.4 per cent declared they had children elsewhere and 4.8 per cent said they had children at the country of destination.<sup>7</sup>

Under half (four) of the female respondents in this survey said that they were traveling with a group of people.

The most commonly spoken languages were Arabic (63.5%), Punjabi (23.8%), Hindi (1.7%), Urdu (1.1%), English and Tamil (0.6%) each. Almost two-thirds of the respondents (61.4%) reported English as a second language.

Of the total number of respondents, 1.1 per cent (2 persons) declared they had been internally displaced before leaving their country of origin. These respondents came from Syrian Arab Republic.

<sup>5</sup> The questionnaire includes one question on sex and one question on gender self-identification, both including the possibility of declining to specify for the respondent. No respondents declared "other" or "non-binary" when surveyed

<sup>6</sup> Minors require the signed informed consent of the parent or legal guardian prior to being interviewed. Although minors were approached, IOM could not get informed consent. No minors are therefore included in this sample.

<sup>7</sup> Respondents can have more children; therefore, the percentage does not sum up to 100.

## 2.3 Education and employment

### 2.3.1 Education

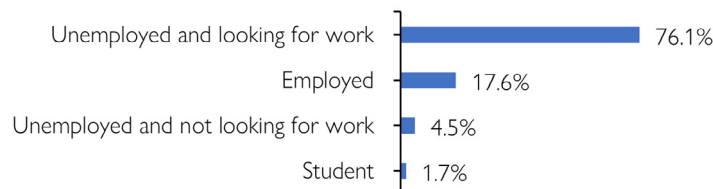
More than one-third of respondents (38.1%) reported having completed lower secondary education, more than half of the respondents (50.3%) have primary education, 8.1 per cent reported having completed upper secondary school, and 3.6 per cent respondents declared having no formal education, compared to 10 per cent in the previous two rounds of FMS.

In the February-March FMS round, 31.2 per cent of the respondents had completed upper secondary school while in April-May, 42.2 per cent had completed upper secondary school.

### 2.4 Employment status before departure

Just over three-quarters (75.7%) of the respondents declared they had been unemployed and looking for a job before leaving their country of origin, 6 per cent who were unemployed and not looking for a job, followed by 13 per cent who were employed, 3.8 per cent who were self-employed, and 1.6 per cent who were students.

Figure 3 Percentages of respondents disaggregated by employment status before departure



Source: DTM MKD FMS 2022, n=197.

Among respondents who declared they had been employed before leaving their country of origin, the most frequently reported jobs were skilled manual labour (35.5%), followed by service and sales workers (16.1%) craft and related trade workers and elementary occupations (12.9% each), plant and machine operators and assemblers and technicians and associate professional (6.5% each), armed forces, clerical support workers and other (3.2% each).<sup>8</sup>

### 2.5 Reasons for leaving the country of origin

Interviewees were also asked about the main reason for leaving their countries of origin, shown in Figure 5.<sup>9</sup> Over two-fifths (41.6%) of respondents reported war and conflict in their country of origin as their primary motive, followed by economic reasons (34%), slow environmental changes and sudden onset natural disasters (21.3%), limited access to services (2%) and access to education (1%).

In February-March round of FMS, 26.3 per cent stated war and conflict as the main reason for leaving the country of origin, while in April-May it was 35.6 per cent. Economic reasons decreased from 57.4 per cent in February-March to 51.1 per cent in April-May and 34 per cent in July-September.

Among women in the sample, 42 per cent reported war and conflict as their main grounds for leaving. This was followed by 32.5 per cent who reported economic reason, by 22.3 per cent who stated slow environmental changes and sudden onset natural disasters as reason, by 2.1 per cent who stated limited access to services and 1.1 per cent stated education and marriage/family reunification respectively.

<sup>8</sup> The list of categories included in the questionnaire were: armed forces; managers (e.g. directors, senior officials); professionals (e.g. doctors, nurses, teachers, accountants); technicians and associate professional (e.g. associate professionals of science, engineering, health, business and administration, legal); clerical support workers (e.g. general secretaries, customer service clerks); service and sales workers (e.g. personal services, sales workers, personal care, security services); skilled manual (agriculture, fishery, craft) (e.g. gardeners, farmers, fishers, gatherers); craft and related trade workers (e.g. metal workers, repairers, woodworkers, electronic installers); plant and machine operators, and assemblers (e.g. truck/ bus drivers, mining/ rubber machine operators); elementary occupations (e.g. cleaners, mining/ construction labourers, street vendors, refuse workers).

<sup>9</sup> The list of categories included in the questionnaire were: sudden onset natural disaster (e.g., flood, storm, landslide, earthquake); slow environmental change (e.g. livestock died due to drought, loss of agriculture due to drought/poor rainfall, sea level rise destroyed homes/assets, reduced fish stocks); war/conflict; personal/ targeted violence; limited access to services (basic education, health care, water, food, accommodation, transportation); economic reasons; education (higher levels) or training; marriage, family reunification or family formation; COVID-19 related reasons.



When looking at the main reported nationalities in North Macedonia, 83 per cent of Indian nationals stated that they had left due to slow environmental change while 95 per cent of Moroccan nationals said it was due to economic reasons. Just over three-fifths (61%) of Iraqi nationals stated they had left for economic reasons, while the remaining 39 per cent said it was due to war and conflict. Most Syrians (88.2%) stated that they left due to war and conflict.

Figure 4 Main reason for leaving the country of origin



Source: DTM MKD FMS 2022, n=197

## 2.6 Mode of travel

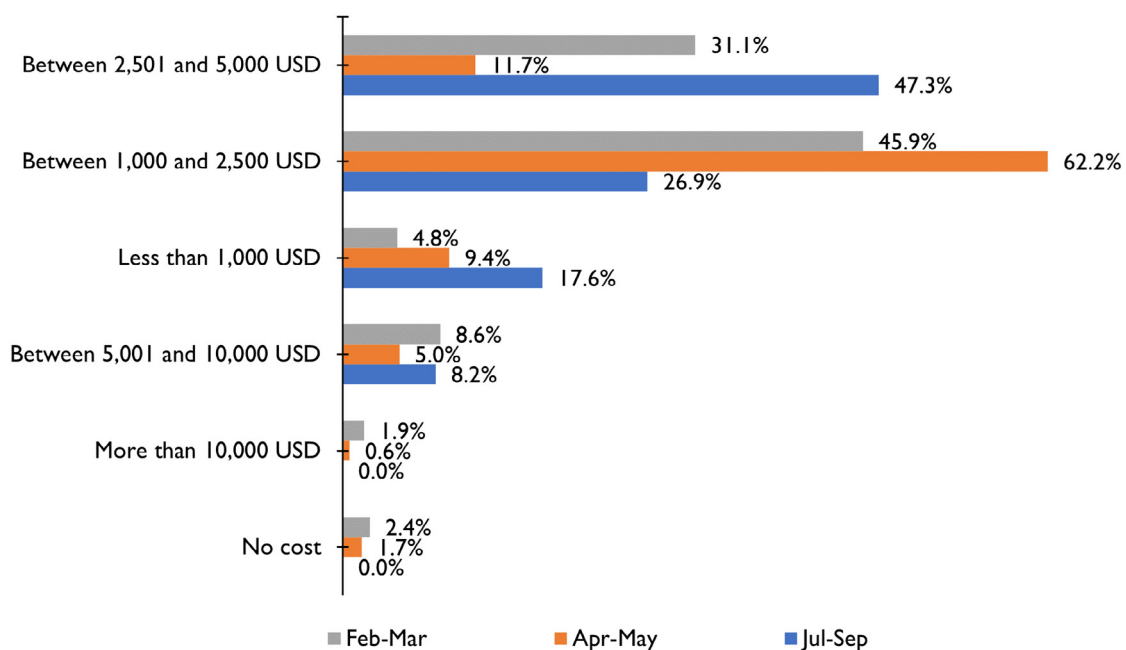
Most respondents stated they were travelling alone (55.8%), while the rest were travelling with a group of persons.<sup>10</sup> The majority of those in groups (72.4%) were travelling with non-family members, while the remaining 27.6 per cent travelled with relatives. None of respondents reported having travelled with facilitators.

None among women were travelling alone, compared with 58.5 per cent of men.

Family groups among respondents mostly consisted of spouses and children (66.7%), followed by children only and extended family (12.5% each), and siblings (8.3%).

## 2.7 Cost of journey

Figure 5 Cost of journey from departure country to country of interview



Source: DTM MKD FMS 2022, n=197

<sup>10</sup> 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).

Almost half of the respondents (47.3%) reported the estimated cost of the journey to be between 2,501 and 5,000 USD per person, while 26.9 per cent reported they have spent between 1,000 and 2,500 USD, 17.6 per cent spent less than 1,000 USD and 8.24 per cent between 5,001 and 10,000.

Among women, 33.3 per cent declared they have paid more than 10,000 USD versus 6.9 per cent of male who they have paid more than 10,000 USD.

More than three-fourths of the respondents (79.2%) reported having paid for the journey with their own money, followed by 19.8 per cent who received support from relatives at origin, 18.3 per cent received support from friends abroad, and 15.7 per cent received support from friends at origin. One per cent or less raised money during travel/work in country of transit, or received support from relatives abroad, or by selling property.<sup>11</sup>

Just over two-thirds of the respondents (66.2%) reported having paid for the journey per leg, followed by 28.7 per cent by instalments in cash, 2.6 per cent having paid the full amount in advance and less than one per cent will have to pay upon arrival.

When asked whether they would have to repay all or part of the travel expenses upon arrival at their intended destination, most of the respondent (59.9%) replied no, 38.1 per cent answered positively while the remaining two per cent declined to reply.

## 2.8 Problems and Protection Risks encountered during the journey

The interviewees were asked about a list of specific incidents and problems they could have faced during the journey. More than three-quarters of the respondents (84.5%) declared they had not experienced any problems during the journey.

One tenth of respondents (10.2%) declared they had suffered theft of documents. Less than seven per cent (6.6%) respondents reported that there was a lack of shelter at some point during the journey and 69.2 per cent reported that this happened in transit countries.<sup>12</sup> Hunger was reported by extremely small portion of respondents (1.5%). One per cent reported having health problems, and less than one per cent reported robbery, financial problems.

Respondents were also asked if they had been readmitted<sup>13</sup> to another country during their journey by the authorities of transit countries. None of respondents reported that they had been readmitted. One male person declared he experienced at least one of the indicators related to violence, abuse and exploitation. This involved working or performing activities without getting the expected payment.<sup>14</sup>

## 2.9 Main needs

Respondents were asked what their main unmet needs were during their journeys and to provide them in order of priority. Most respondents (34%) reported food as their main need, followed by medical assistance (20.1%), cash assistance (15.2%), sanitation and hygiene facilities (10.2%), accommodation/shelter (6.6%), help to access money transfer (6.1%), clothes and shoes (5.1%), and blankets sleeping bags (2%).

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

12 The population surveyed is mobile and the reasons for not having shelter/place where to sleep are disparate, including the unwillingness to stay in a reception facility, and the desire to be as close as possible to the country's borders to reach the final intended destination as soon as possible.

13 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.

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

## 2.10 Country of intended destination

The survey also asked about intended final destination countries. Germany (32.2%), France (18.1%) and Italy (12.8%) were the three most frequently cited countries of intended destination in this round. This is broadly consistent with the previous rounds of FMS, where Germany was also the most frequently cited intended country of destination (40.2% in February-March and 44.4% in April-May).

For Syrians, the top intended destinations were Germany (50%) and Austria (13%).

As to why migrants specifically chose the country of destination, more than half (56.4%) stated that this was due to ease of access to asylum procedures. This is followed by 32 per cent who declared that it was because appealing socio-economic conditions, and 11.2 per cent because they have family members in the countries of intended destination.

More than half of the respondents (59.9%) have family members in the countries of intended destination, of which 18.3 per cent extended family members and 41.6 per cent immediate family.

Syrians mainly choose their destination country because the ease of access to asylum procedures (66%). Also, more than one fifth of Syrians (21%) reported to choose specific destination country because they have family or relatives there.

Three quarters of the respondents who reported Germany as their country of intended destination and vast majority of those who reported France (93%), said that it was due to ease of access to asylum procedures. Similar, almost three quarters of the respondents (72%) who reported Italy as their country of intended destination, said that it was due to ease of access to asylum procedures. More than half of (52.8%) respondents said they had no information on asylum or how to obtain documents to stay legally in the intended country of destination.

Of the total number of respondents who declared that they have family members in the country of destination, all of them declared that they had not previously attempted to reunify with their family members through legal procedures. Of these, 81.8 per cent stated they did not have information on family reunification in the country where their relatives.

## 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 six questions to capture information about whether the respondents had, during their journey:

1. Worked or performed activities without getting the expected payment.
2. Been forced to perform work or activities against their will.
3. Been approached by someone offering marriage.
4. Been kept at a certain location against their will (by persons other than authorities of the country).
5. Experienced some form of physical violence.
6. Witnessed someone been threatened with sexual violence.

These six questions relate to an event, that might indicate exposure to human trafficking, exploitation and abuse practices, physical and sexual violence, experienced by the respondent directly or by one of his/her family member, or witnessed by the respondent during the journey.

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.

## 4 Covid - 19

Over two-thirds (70.9%) of migrants interviewed declared they were vaccinated against COVID-19. Out of the 168 respondents who declared they were not vaccinated, 76.9 per cent stated they were not interested and 13.9 per cent would be interested.

## 5 Return intentions

Almost all (99.5%) of respondents reported they had not considered returning to their country of origin during their journey. Only one male responded considered returning to his country of origin. Among those who had not considered returning, the vast majority of people (95.4%) merely stated that they were not interested in returning while others mentioned security concerns (2.5%) and not knowing about the AVR option (1%).

Of those who replied that they were not planning to return, none does not want to stay in North Macedonia.

Almost two thirds of respondents (65.8%) were aware of IOM Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) program, which aim to help migrants make informed and voluntary decisions about returning to their country of origin. Interestingly, almost three quarters of those who knew about it have learned about it in the location where the interview took place, mostly from IOM staff.

## 6 Methodology

FMS in North Macedonia were conducted as part of DTM activities in the Mediterranean that have started in October 2015 and are being conducted within the framework of IOM's research on populations on the move, through the Mediterranean and Western Balkans Routes to Europe. The data collection involves direct interviews with migrants and collation of statistical data on arrivals and migrant presence in reception and outside from national authorities and IOM staff presence. Regular updates on arrivals are available on DTM Flows to Europe Geoportal.

FMS in North Macedonia were conducted by IOM field staff between 5 July and 11 September 2022 in the Temporary Transit Centre (TTC) Vinojug (Gevgelija) and TTC Tabanovce (Kumanovo). A total number of three enumerators (one female, two male) were trained by IOM.

The survey is designed to profile third country nationals who are moving to Europe by land and by sea through the WB 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. The 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 approached in a simple random sample by IOM field staff working in the TRCs, with those who give their consent to be interviewed proceeding with the remaining questions. 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 North Macedonia at the time of the data collection. Migrants could decline to respond to individual questions or to interrupt the interview if they wish to do so.

## 6.1 Sampling

The sample frame consists of the total number of migrants in TTCs in North Macedonia above the age of 18. IOM North Macedonia used a systematic random sampling procedure, where the members of the total population of study are placed in a sequence and then chosen at regular intervals. The population list is in random order, therefore there is no cyclically or periodically inhereance related to the frame. On the 25 June 2022 the size of the frame was 2,282 migrants. The sample size of 197 respondents is defined according to a confidence level of 95% and 5% margin of error. According to the selected procedure, the size of the sample frame has been divided by sample size. That gave us the number 6 as the index number and after the initial member has been randomly selected, every sixth member was selected sequentially.

The sampling frame was agreed with the regional DTM team to ensure the consistency and solidity of the final sample for research purposes, reflecting the general demographic profile of migrant presence in reception centres of the country in the covered period.

## 6.2 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 future intentions with regards to the country of destination.

The second FMS module contains questions that refer to experience exploitation, violence and abuse that may amount to human trafficking. The module was developed together with IOM's Protection Division's experts and gathers information on events and practices, experienced directly by the respondent or by his/her family member(s), or that are witnessed by the respondent during the journey.

The third FMS module contains questions related to the COVID-19 pandemic, focusing primarily on personal knowledge and awareness of coronavirus disease symptoms among respondents and on travel restrictions related to COVID-19, and if they had already access to vaccination. The set of questions was designed to understand whether migrants are aware of COVID-19 symptoms, mitigation measures, and how potential restrictions may have impacted their migration journey and the economic situation of respondents and of their families in terms of ability to send and/or receive financial remittances.

The fourth module contains questions related to return intentions. As outreach activities on the existence and functioning of AVRR were run by IOM in the country, this module of the FMS – to avoid repetitions – only ask respondents few questions on the intention to return to the country of origin and awareness and knowledge of the AVRR options available.

## 6.3 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 North Macedonia during the covered period.

It should also be noted that a lower percentage of women of the total migrants in North Macedonia were interviewed, for several reasons, including the fact that 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.