



International Organization for Migration (IOM)
The UN Migration Agency



REPUBLIC OF TURKEY
MINISTRY OF INTERIOR
DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF
MIGRATION MANAGEMENT

ANALYSIS: FLOW MONITORING SURVEYS IN TURKEY JULY 2018 - AUGUST 2018

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PRM

Office of Population,
Refugees, and Migration
United States Department of State



3,043 interviews were conducted in Turkey from July 2018 to August 2018

CONTENTS

Key Findings

Demographic profile and socio-economic status

Provinces and governorates of origin

Reason for leaving and journey experiences

Stay in Turkey

Return Intentions

Countries of intended destination

About DTM's Flow Monitoring Surveys

This report contains findings of IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) Flow Monitoring Surveys (FMS) conducted between 20 July 2018 and 22 August 2018 by IOM field staff in provinces of Ağrı, Aksaray, Aydın, Çanakkale, Isparta, Kahramanmaraş, Kırklareli, Sakarya, Trabzon and Yalova.

The survey gathers information on migrants' profiles, including age, gender, area of origin, education level, employment status in their country of departure, key transit points en route, cost of journey, reasons for journey and intentions. The questionnaire allows for insight into migrants' decision making process in the country of origin and in the country of departure/residence². Following feedback received from field missions, different IOM departments and relevant partners such as the Turkish Directorate for Migration Management (DGMM), the questionnaire form has been revised and updated to more comprehensively capture information about migrants' decision making process in the country of departure (origin or habitual residence), employment status prior to departure and means used to finance the journey. In addition, the questionnaire specifically tailored to the environment in Turkey in Turkey is supplemented with questions addressing the internal migration trajectories in Turkey and migrants in regard to the registration procedure with the authorities. Further information about the questionnaire, sample structure, questionnaire form, proxy indicators and survey implementation can be found in the [Methodology section](#).

Overview

Turkey has been experiencing migration influx from the neighbouring especially from across the region. Political turmoil, poor socioeconomic conditions and prolonged crises displaced a large number of people and forced many others to seek a future elsewhere. Due to its geographic location, Turkey became the passageway to Europe, as well as a destination country. According to the DGMM, there are currently more than 3.9 million³ foreign nationals present in Turkish territory. Most



Map 1: Provinces where fourth round of DTM's FMS was conducted¹

come from the Syrian Arab Republic and are granted temporary protection⁴. Other main nationalities include individuals from Iraq, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Afghanistan.

This report is thus focused on presenting data relating to the nationals of these four countries present in Turkey: respondents from the Syrian Arab Republic, Afghanistan, Iraq, and the Islamic Republic of Iran. The survey was structured to capture more qualitative data pertaining to the current situation and complex migration pattern of migrants residing in Turkey in the context of the flow of migration into Europe. For this report, IOM's team of enumerators approached a total of 3,162 migrants across the 10 provinces, listed above. The non-response rate was quite low, with 119 respondents refusing to participate in the survey. Moreover, the sample excluded nine individuals who, when approached by enumerators, said that they had participated in the survey before. The sample also included 343 individuals originating in 34 countries and territories other than the main four, highlighted above. These included Pakistanis, Somalis, Bangladeshis, Palestinians and Sudanese. These interviews were excluded from the analysis in this report as the percentages of the 34 nationalities in this category were below a statistically significant level. The sample, therefore, consists of 2,691 valid interviews. Nationals of the Syrian Arab Republic account for 30% of the sample analysed in this report, Afghans 29%, Iraqis 21% and Iranians 20%.

The report is structured as follows: the first section compares demographic profiles and socio-economic characteristics among the four main nationalities; the second part provides information on provinces or governorates or territory of origin; the third section focuses on reasons for leaving countries of origin or habitual residence and journey. The fourth section provides analysis of the migrants' stay in Turkey. The following section presents analysis on return intentions; finally, intentions regarding the intended destination countries are explained.

* Photo: Kiko Popov Bogorodica, Gevgelija, Macedonia, August 21 2015 Refugees and migrants are moving towards the railway station in Gevgelija

¹ Disclaimer: This and all subsequent maps in this report are for illustration purposes only. The depiction and use of boundaries, geographic names, and related data shown on maps and included in this report are not warranted to be free of error nor do they imply judgment on the legal status of any territory, or any endorsement or acceptance of such boundaries by IOM.

² Usual residence before departure, can be the country of origin-nationality or country where person stayed 1 year or more.

³ [Turkey Migrant's Presence Monitoring Situation Report, August 2018, IOM](#)

⁴ [Temporary Protection Regulation](#)

Key Findings

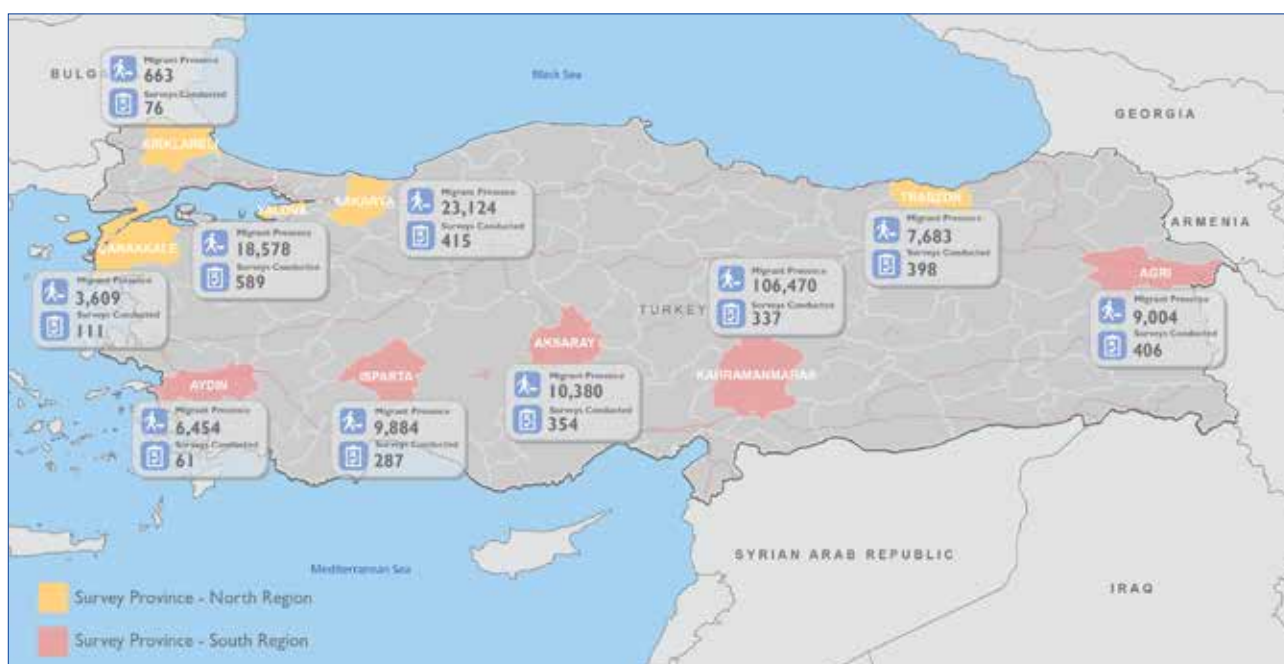
More than half of the respondents from Afghanistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Syrian Arab Republic were **adult males**, while 53% of respondents from Iraq were **adult females**. Over half of all respondents reported they were **married**. Iraqi and Syrian nationals had the largest share of migrants **who reported to have been travelling with family members** (90% and 87%, respectively). The highest percentage of those reporting to be traveling with family members was recorded among Iraqi and Syrian nationals, with only 60% of respondents from Afghanistan and Islamic Republic of Iran reporting the same.

The majority of respondents from the Syrian Arab Republic (96%) reported **Turkey** as their **intended destination at the time of departure from their country of departure or habitual residence**, followed by respondents from Iraq (85%) and Afghanistan (75%). The lowest share was among nationals of the Islamic Republic of Iran (22%). Additionally, the share of respondents who reported Turkey as the **intended destination country at the time of the interview** decreased among respondents of all nationalities. The most significant decrease was among Iraqi nationals; notably, the percentage of Iraqi respondents who reported Turkey as the intended destination at the time of the interview dropped to 67%). A substantial decrease was also recorded among nationals of the Islamic Republic of Iran, with only 4% of respondents reporting Turkey as the intended destination at the time of the interview. Share of respondents from the Syrian Arab Republic who reported Turkey as their preferred destination country at the time of the interview decreased by six percentage points (from 96% to 90%).

Those reporting to have engaged in secondary movement within Turkey were primarily in Aydın, Ağrı and Kahramanmaraş. Specifically, approximately 50% of migrants surveyed in Aydın, 26% of in Ağrı and 20% in Kahramanmaraş reported to have moved to these provinces from another province. Main provinces which migrants **aspired to move further to if they had an opportunity to do so** were İstanbul (47%), Ankara (14%), and İzmir (10%).

The majority of respondents reported to have **registered by the Turkish authorities**. The largest share of registered respondents were from the Syrian Arab Republic (94%), the Islamic Republic of Iran (93%) and Iraq (88%). The lowest registration rate was among respondents from Afghanistan with 69% of all Afghan nationals reporting being registered in Turkey.

The majority of respondents reported that they **had not considered returning** to their countries of origin at any point during the journey. Specifically, only eight per cent of respondents from Iraq reported they considered returning during the journey, followed by four per cent of respondents from Afghanistan and three per cent of respondents from the Islamic Republic of Iran. In comparison to other nationality groups, respondents from the Syrian Arab Republic (31%) **had the highest percentage** of those reporting those reporting to have considered returning to their country of origin/habitual residence.



Map 2: Provinces by two regions (North and South) where Flow Monitoring Surveys were conducted.

1. DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS

Key findings

- Most respondents were relatively young, with the median age varying between 26 and 36 years.
- The greatest percentage of adult male respondents was among Afghan nationals (60%), Iranian nationals (53%) and the Syrian nationals (52%). Meanwhile, the greatest percentage of adult female respondents were Iraqi nationals (53%). The percentage of children (between 14 and 17 years) did not exceed six per cent among all nationalities surveyed.⁵
- Nationals of Iraq (52%) and the Islamic Republic of Iran (48%) had the largest share of respondents who reported having completed lower secondary education, while the highest share of respondents who reported not having completed any formal education were from Afghanistan (37%) and the Syrian Arab Republic (14%).
- Over half of all respondents reported that they were married. The highest share of single respondents were from Afghanistan (39%) and the Islamic Republic of Iran (35%). Female respondents were more likely to be married than male respondents.

Age and Sex

The median age of the four main nationalities varied between 26 and 36 years. The median age of respondents of Afghanistan was 26 years, respondents from the Islamic Republic of Iran was 34 years, respondents from Iraq was 36 years and respondents from the Syrian Arab Republic was 31 years.

Over half of the respondents from Afghanistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Syrian Arab Republic were adult males. The highest share of adult females were among nationals of Iraq (53%).

All children who took part in the survey were between 14 and 18 years old. The percentage of children surveyed varied between two and six per cent among respondents from Afghanistan, Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic. The share of children was less than one per cent (0.0021%) among respondents from the Islamic Republic of Iran. Fifty-five per cent of Afghan children were travelling unaccompanied, while 95% of Syrian and all Iraqi children surveyed were travelling with a group.

Moreover, in comparison with other nationality groups, the largest share of girls was among children from the Syrian Arab Republic (50%), followed by children from Iraq (33%). The smallest share of girls was among Afghan nationals surveyed (16%).

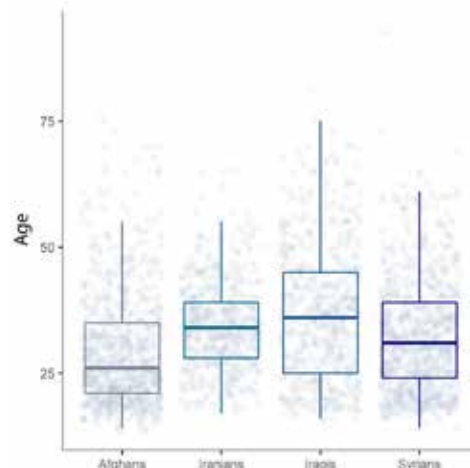


Figure 1: Median age of respondents by nationality

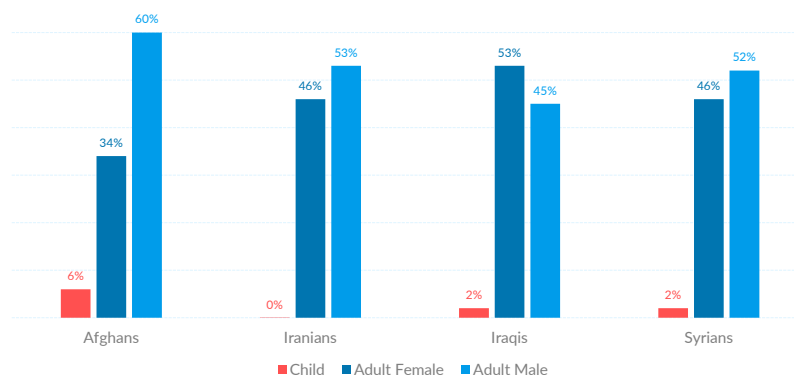


Figure 2: Percentage of children, adult females and adult males by nationality

⁵ Interviews with minors are conducting only with presence of their guardians.

Young adults between 18 and 20 years old constituted a significant share of Afghan respondents (17%) in comparison to respondents of other nationalities, among which the share did not exceed 12%. The share of respondents that were 50 years or older was higher among Iraqi national surveyed (17%), in comparison to other nationalities. A detailed age breakdown by nationality is presented on the graph below.

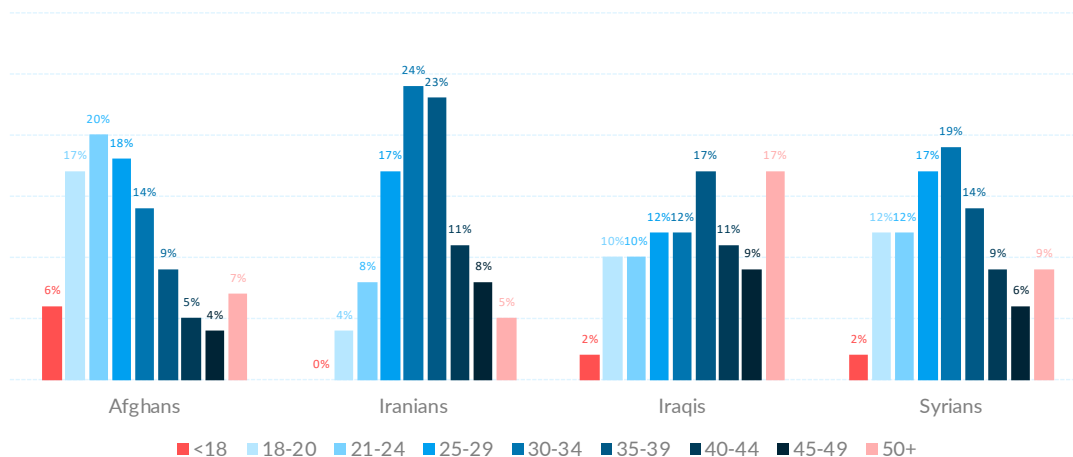


Figure 3: Percentage of respondents by age and nationality

Marital Status

Over half of all respondents reported that they were married. The largest share of married respondents was from the Syrian Arab Republic (73%), followed by respondents from Iraq (70%).

The highest share of single respondents was among respondents from Afghanistan (39%) and the Islamic Republic of Iran (35%). The percentage of widowed or divorced individuals was highest among respondents from the Islamic Republic of Iran (15%).

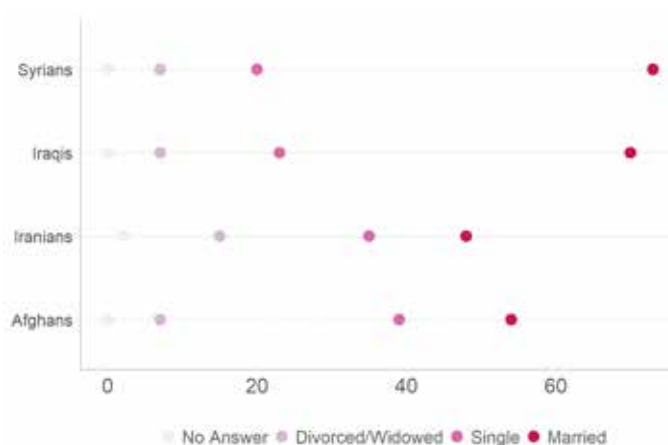


Figure 4: Percentage of respondents by marital status and nationality

Moreover, respondents from the Islamic Republic of Iran had the largest share of single female respondents (22%), while Syrian nationals had the lowest share (10%).

Generally, women were more likely to be married in comparison to men.

Female respondents were also more likely to be widowed or divorced across all four nationalities.

Nationality	Sex	No answer	Divorced/Widowed	Single	Married
Afghans	Female	0%	18%	13%	69%
	Male	0%	1%	53%	46%
Iranians	Female	3%	25%	22%	50%
	Male	1%	6%	47%	46%
Iraqis	Female	0%	12%	17%	71%
	Male	0%	2%	29%	69%
Syrians	Female	0%	15%	10%	75%
	Male	0%	1%	27%	72%

Table 1: Percentage of respondents by marital status, sex, and nationality

Furthermore, over half of all respondents reported that they have children. The highest share of respondents with children were nationals from the Syrian Arab Republic and Iraq.

Majority of respondents with children reported travelling with them (over 80%). The highest share of respondents who reported that they left their children in their countries of origin was found among Iraqi nationals (28%), while the lowest was among nationals from the Syrian Arab Republic (14%). Moreover, 20% of Iraqis reported they have children living in the country of their intended destination. These responses included multiple choice-options in the survey.

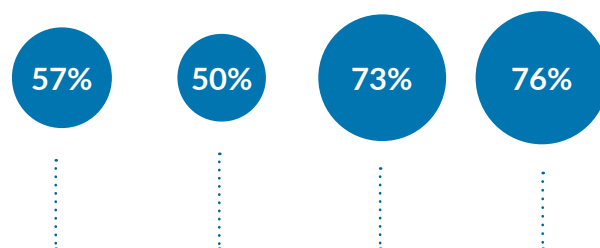


Figure 5: Percentage of respondents with children by nationality

Education level: Adult Respondents

There were variations in terms of education levels among the four nationalities surveyed. Nationals from Iraq and Islamic Republic of Iran had the largest share of adult respondents who reported having completed lower-secondary education. The highest percentage of respondents who reported not having completed any formal level of education was among Afghan nationals (37%). Respondents from Islamic Republic of Iran were more likely than respondents of other three nationalities to report having completed upper - secondary education, as well as tertiary education.

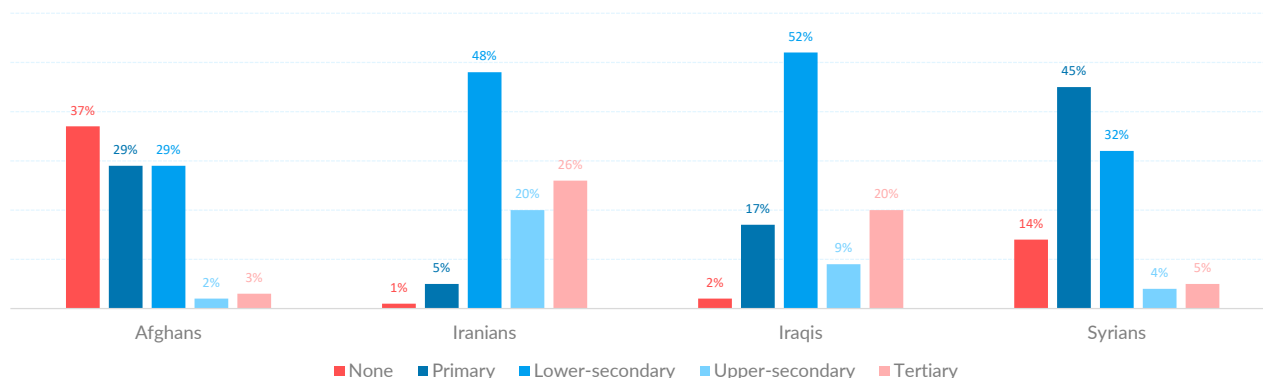


Figure 6: Percentage of adult respondents by education level and nationality

Comparative Analysis of Respondents by Education Level⁶

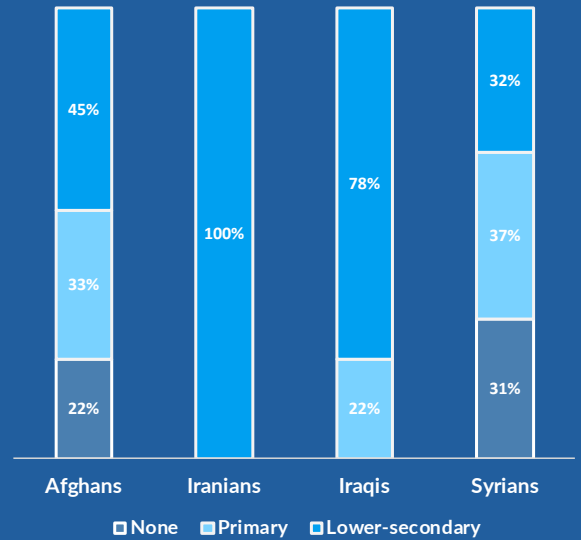
- **Male respondents from the Syrian Arab Republic were more likely to report having completed higher level of education in comparison to female respondents.** (13% vs 4%). Male Iraqi respondents were also more likely to report higher levels of education in comparison to female respondents (33% vs 27%).
- **Respondents who reported to have completed higher levels of education were more likely to report to have been employed or self-employed at the time of departure in comparison to respondents who reported to have completed lower levels of education.** The highest difference was among respondents from Iraq, of which 66% of those who completed higher levels of education reported they had been employed at the time of departure, in comparison to 43% of respondents who reported having completed lower levels of education.

⁶ Respondents who reported having completed lower levels (none, primary and lower-secondary) and higher levels of education (upper-secondary and tertiary) are compared.

Education Level: children between 14 and 17 years

All children from the Islamic Republic of Iran who were interviewed reported having completed lower-secondary education, while 78% of children from Iraq reported having completed lower-secondary education, 45% of children from Afghanistan, and 32% of children from the Syrian Arab Republic. The remaining percentage of children surveyed reported having completed primary education or reported not having completed any formal level of education.

In addition, all children from the Islamic Republic of Iran reported last time they went to school was less than a year prior to the survey. Half of the children from Iraq reported last time they went to school was less than a year prior to the survey, while the rest reported that the last time they went to school was more than a year ago. Twenty-nine per cent of children from Afghanistan reported last time they went to school was less than a year ago, while 20% reported last time they went to school was between one and two years, another 20% - more than two years, and the rest reported they had never gone to school. Thirty-one per cent of children from the Syrian Arab Republic reported they have never gone to school, 30% reported they attended school more than two years ago, 20% - between one and two years, and the rest reported they went to school less than a year ago.



Employment Status Before Departure

The largest share of respondents who reported that they had been unemployed at the time of departure from their country of origin or habitual residence was among respondents from the Syrian Arab Republic (42%), followed by respondents from Iraq (39%). Respondents from the Islamic Republic of Iran were more likely than other respondents to report having been employed or self-employed at the time of departure.

Female respondents were much more likely to have been unemployed at the time of departure than male respondents. The highest share of unemployed women were among Syrian respondents (79%). The lowest share (50%) of women who reported being unemployed at the time of departure was among Iranian respondents.

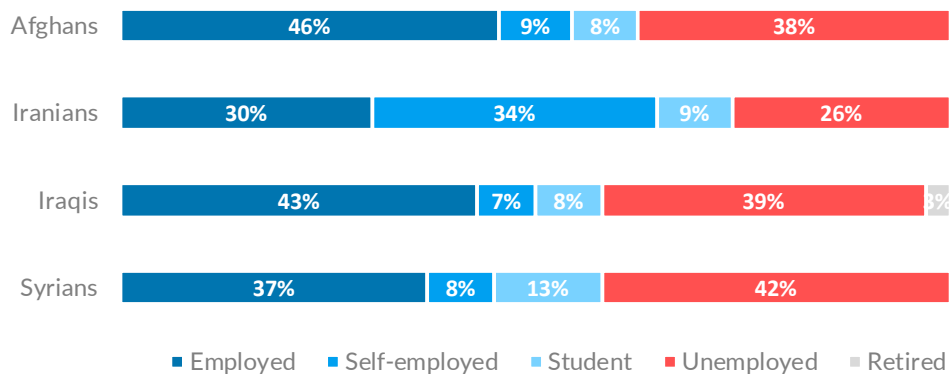


Figure 7: Percentage of respondents by employment status and nationality

At the time of departure, respondents reported having varied occupations. For example, Afghan nationals were more likely to report elementary occupations (31%) and skilled manual labour (45%), while nationals of the Islamic Republic of Iran had the largest share of respondents who had been managers or professionals (31%) at the time of departure. Respondents from Iraq mostly reported doing skilled manual work (19%) or held elementary occupations (23%). The largest share of respondents from the Syrian Arab Republic reported doing skilled manual work (30%) at the time of departure, followed by craft and trade (18%), and elementary occupations (17%).



Figure 8: Occupations of Syrian respondents at the time of departure



Figure 9: Occupations of Iraqi respondents at the time of departure



Figure 10: Occupations of Iranian respondents at the time of departure



Figure 11: Occupations of Afghan respondents at the time of departure

Responses also varied across the four nationalities in terms of sectors of employment at the time of leaving their country of origin or habitual residence. Afghan respondents were more likely to report having been employed in the agricultural sector at the time of departure (32%) in comparison to respondents of other nationalities. The largest share of respondents from the Islamic Republic of Iran (24%) reported having been employed in the service sector. Respondents from Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic were more likely to report employment in the construction sector (20% and 23%, respectively) in comparison to other nationalities surveyed.



Figure 12: Employment sector of Syrian respondents at the time of departure



Figure 13: Employment sector of Iraqi respondents at the time of departure



Figure 14: Employment sector of Iranian respondents at the time of departure



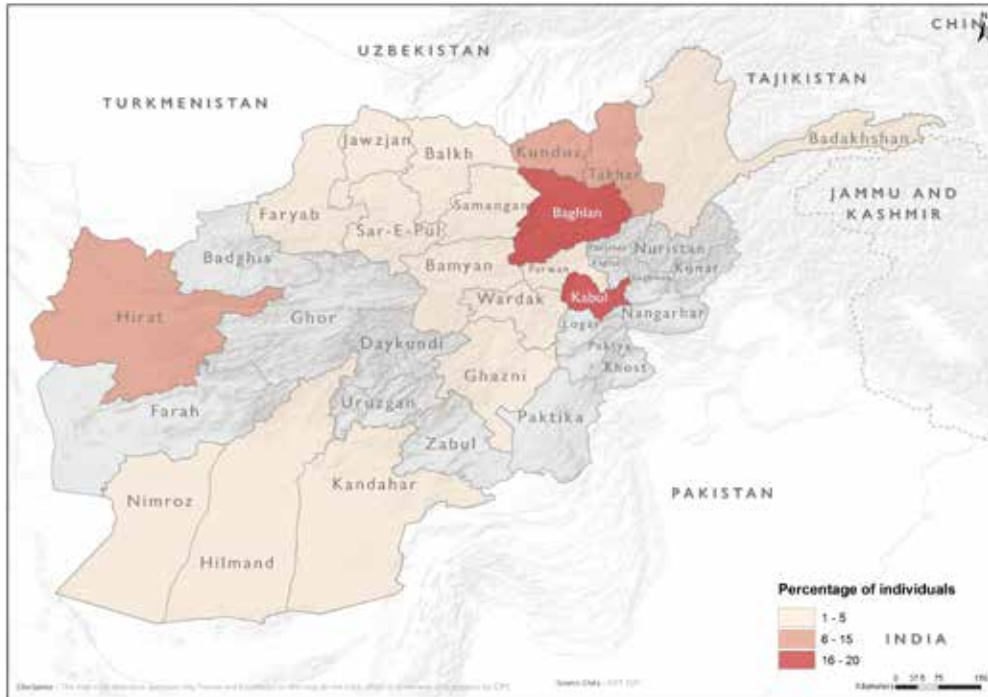
Figure 15: Employment sector of Afghan respondents at the time of departure

⁷ The graphics demonstrating the occupations and sectors of employment are prepared with the word cloud data visualization method. The font sizes are in direct proportion to the percentages: the biggest font size represents the highest percentage while the smallest size represents the lowest percentage. The colour differences are only to facilitate distinguishing different words, they do not represent any numerical value.

2. PROVINCES AND GOVERNORATES OF ORIGIN

Provinces of Origin: Respondents from Afghanistan

Twenty per cent of Afghan respondents who departed from Afghanistan left from Kabul province, followed by those who left from Baghlan (16%). The rest reported other provinces within Afghanistan.



Map 3: Density map for governorates of origin of respondents from Afghanistan

Provinces of Origin: Respondents From the Islamic Republic of Iran

Half of respondents from the Islamic Republic of Iran left from Tehran. The rest departed from other provinces within the Islamic Republic of Iran such as Fars, Esfahan and West Azarbaijan.



Map 4: Density map for governorates of origin of respondents from the Islamic Republic of Iran

Governorates of Origin: Respondents From Iraq

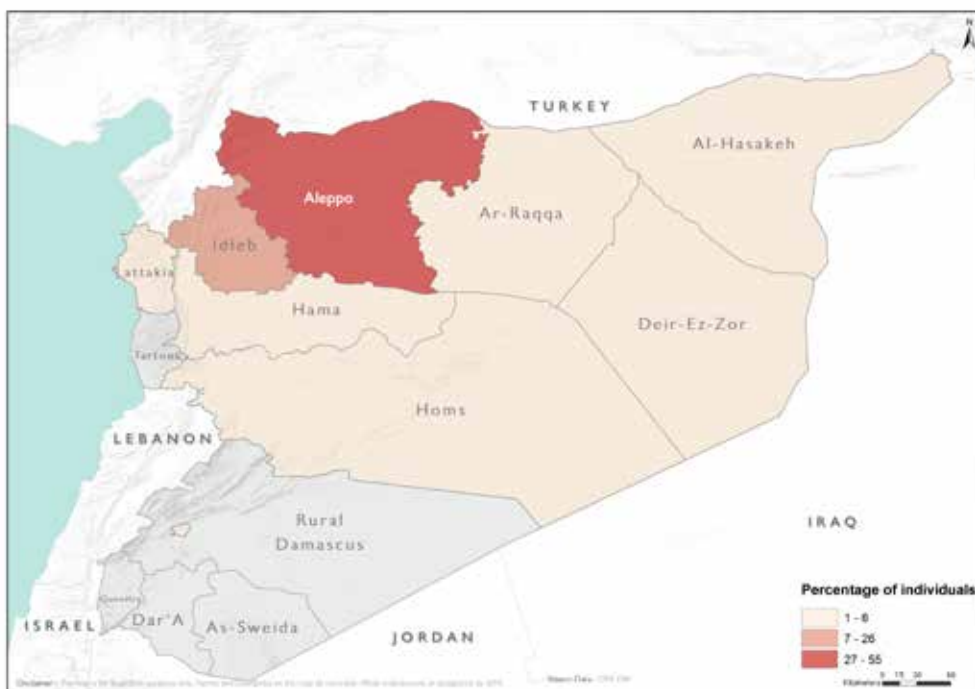
The largest share of respondents departed from Ninewa governorate (32%), followed by those who departed from Baghdad (25%), Kirkuk (14%), Erbil (10%). The remaining respondents departed from other governorates within Iraq.



Map 5: Density map for governorates of origin of Iraqi nationals

Governorates of Origin: Respondents From the Syrian Arab Republic

Approximately half of respondents from the Syrian Arab Republic departed from Aleppo, followed by those respondents who departed from Idlib (26%). The rest departed from other governorates in the Syrian Arab Republic.



Map 6: Density map for governorates of origin of respondents from the Syrian Arab Republic

3. REASONS FOR LEAVING AND EXPERIENCE DURING THE JOURNEY

Key findings

- The main reason for leaving countries of origin or habitual residence cited by respondents from the Syrian Arab Republic, Iraq and Afghanistan was war or conflict, while respondents from the Islamic Republic of Iran mostly reported interpersonal violence as their main reason for leaving.
- The majority (over 85%) of respondents from Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic and over half of respondents from Afghanistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran travelled with with family members.
- Over 85% of respondents from the Syrian Arab Republic and Afghanistan reached Turkey through unofficial border crossings.
- Over 85% of Syrian and Afghan respondents reached Turkey through unofficial border crossings.

Reasons for Leaving Countries of Origin

The majority of respondents from the Syrian Arab Republic (82%), Iraq (70%) and Afghanistan (58%) reported war or conflict as the main reason for leaving their countries of origin or habitual residence. The majority of respondents from the Islamic Republic of Iran (81%) reported to have left because of interpersonal violence or fear of persecution. Respondents from Afghanistan had the highest share of individuals who reported to leave because of economic reasons (17%) in comparison to other nationalities.

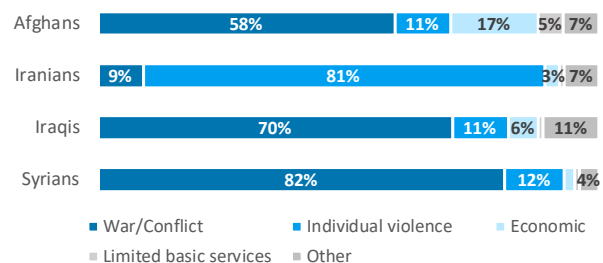


Figure 16: Percentage of respondents by reasons for leaving countries of origin or habitual residence and by nationality

Travel Alone or With a Group

Respondents from Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic had the largest share of respondents who were travelling with family members (90% and 87%, respectively). Sixty per cent of respondents from the Islamic Republic of Iran and Afghanistan were travelling with family members. Afghan nationals were more likely than respondents of other nationalities to travel with non-family members (15%), while respondents from the Islamic Republic of Iran were more likely to travel alone (33%).

Across all nationalities female respondents were more likely than male respondents to travel with family members. Respondents travelling with a group were also more likely to be slightly older than those travelling alone.

Fifty-five per cent of Afghan children and 5% of children from the Syrian Arab Republic were travelling unaccompanied, while all Iranian and Iraqi children surveyed were travelling with a group.

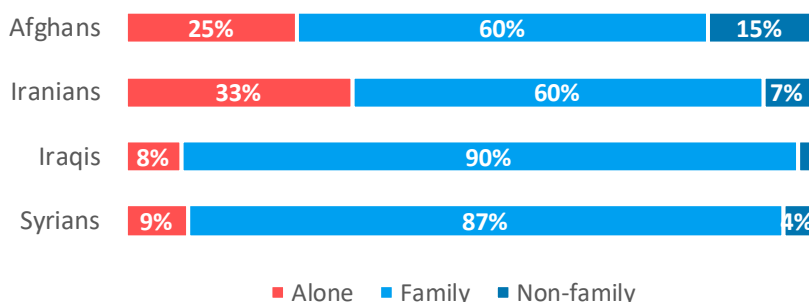


Figure 17: Percentage of respondents who travel alone/with family/non-family members by nationality.

⁸ In this report, "secondary migration" refers to cases in which a respondent departed from a country where he/she spent at least one year and which is different from his/her country of nationality.

Separated From Group During the Journey

Additionally, respondents who were travelling with family or a group of non-family members were asked whether they had been separated from family members during the journey.

Eleven per cent of respondents from the Syrian Arab Republic reported having been separated from their families, followed by five per cent of Afghan nationals, four per cent of respondents from the Islamic Republic of Iran and one per cent of respondents from Iraq.

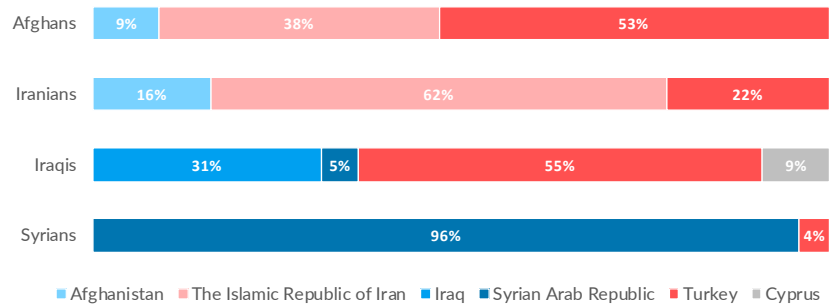


Figure 18: Percentage of respondents separated from family members by country and nationality

The majority of respondents from the Syrian Arab Republic and from the Islamic Republic of Iran who were separated from family members along the journey reported the respective countries of origin as the place where they separated (96% and 62%, respectively).

Thirty-one per cent of Iraqi nationals reported to have been separated from family members in Iraq, while 55% were separated in Turkey. Nine per cent of the respondents from Afghanistan reported having been separated from family members in Afghanistan, while 53% reported they were separated in Turkey.

Transit Routes

The majority (over 98%) of respondents from the Syrian Arab Republic, Iraq and the Islamic Republic of Iran reached Turkey without going through transit countries.

Afghan nationals mostly travelled through the Islamic Republic of Iran (74%), while a smaller share also travelled through Pakistan (15%). The rest did not report clear transit routes. Most of those who were travelling through the Islamic Republic of Iran transited through Tehran. One of the most commonly cited reasons for staying in the Islamic Republic of Iran was to save money for the onward journey, temporary route closure and waiting for transportation.



Map 7: Routes taken by respondents to reach Turkey.

Cost of Journey

Over a half of respondents from the Syrian Arab Republic and the Islamic Republic of Iran reported the estimated cost of the journey to be less than 1,000 USD per person, while 47% of respondents of Afghan nationality reported the estimated cost to be between 1,000 and 2,500 USD. When compared to other nationalities, a greater share of respondents from the Islamic Republic of Iran reported the estimated cost of the journey to be less than 1,000 USD. Iraqi nationals also had the highest share of respondents who reported the estimated cost to be more than 2,500 USD.

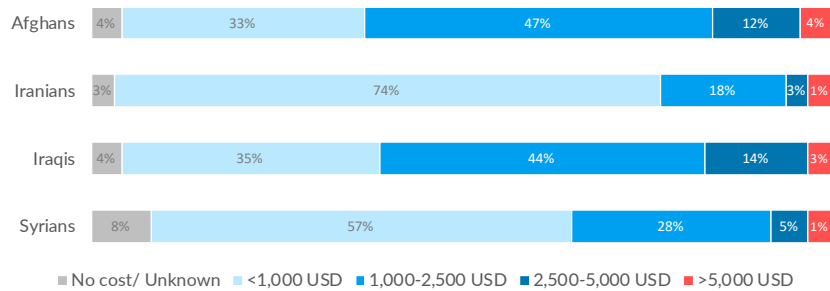


Figure 19: Percentage of respondents by cost of journey and nationality

Furthermore, the majority of respondents reported having paid for the journey with their own money. Respondents from the Islamic Republic of Iran had the highest share of respondents who reported having paid for their journey with their own money (77%) compared to other nationalities. Nationals of Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic were more likely than other nationalities to report having paid for the journey by selling property (24%) and Afghan nationals were more likely to report having paid for the journey by incurring debt.

Border Crossing to Turkey

The vast majority of respondents from Afghanistan (98%) and the Syrian Arab Republic (88%) reported they entered Turkey through unofficial border crossings, while 24% of respondents from Iraq and 19% of respondents from the Islamic Republic of Iran entered Turkey through unofficial border crossings. Ninety-eight per cent of respondents from Afghanistan, 89% of respondents from the Syrian Arab Republic, and 26% of respondents from Iraq travelling with a group entered Turkey through unofficial border crossings. Moreover, among the Iranian and Iraqi nationals, those respondents who reported Turkey as their preferred country of destination had a higher share of individuals who had crossed the Turkish border through official crossings. The detailed distribution is presented on the left and below.

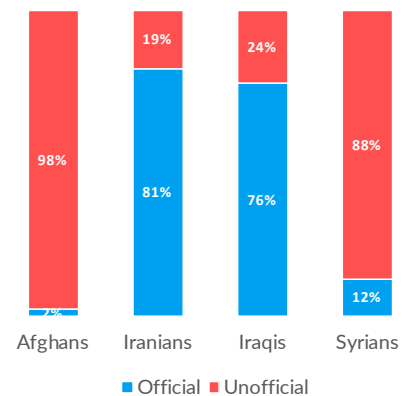


Figure 20: Percentage of respondents who crossed Turkey border through official or unofficial crossings

The majority of respondents from Afghanistan and the Syrian Arab Republic (94% and 74% respectively) were accompanied by border crossing facilitators, followed by 19% of respondents from the Islamic Republic of Iran and 7% of respondents from Iraq. Ninety-nine per cent of Afghan respondents, over 90% of respondents from the Syrian Arab Republic and the Islamic Republic of Iran, and 39% of respondents from Iraq reported the border crossing facilitators requested some kind of payment or service in return.

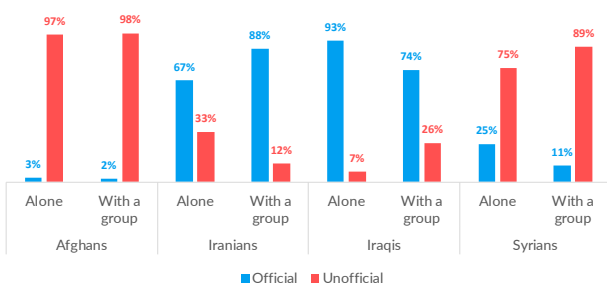


Figure 21: Percentage of respondents who crossed Turkey border through official or unofficial crossings and who travel alone or with a group by nationality

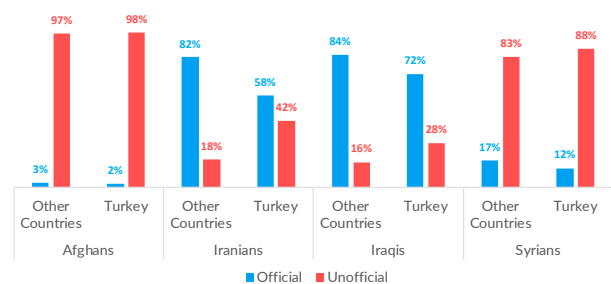


Figure 22: Percentage of respondents who crossed Turkey border through official or unofficial crossings and who reported Turkey or other countries as preferred destination by nationality

4. STAY IN TURKEY

Length of Stay in Turkey

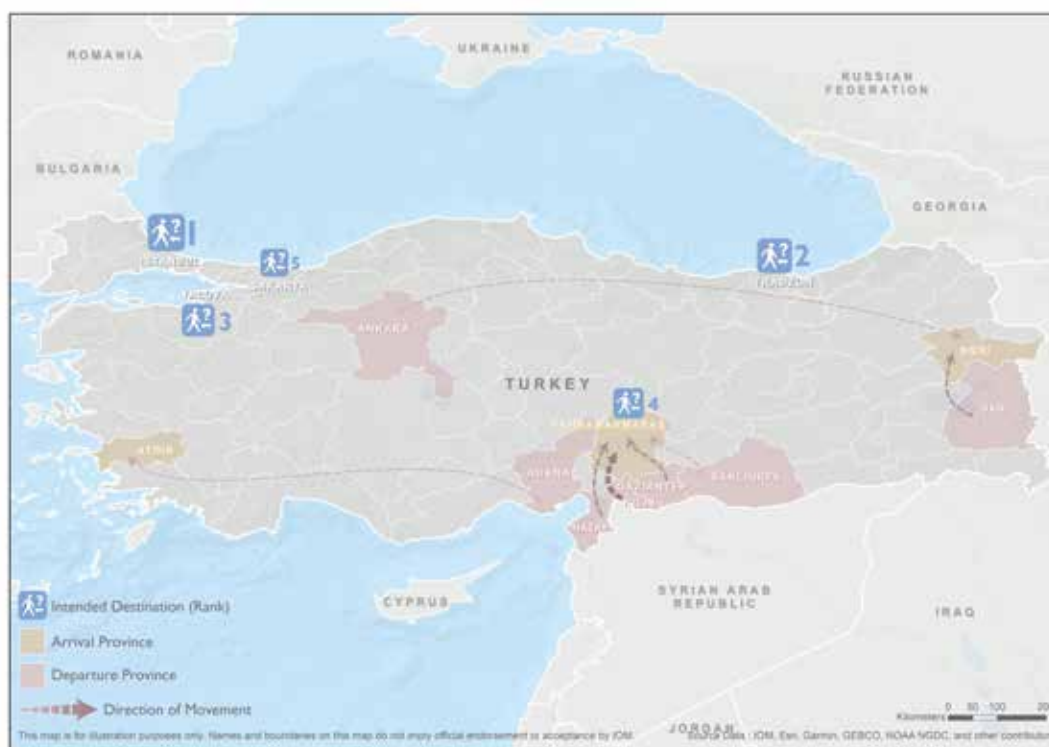
Most respondents (85%) reported they have been in Turkey for more than six months, while the rest reported they have been in the country for less than six months. Respondents from the Syrian Arab Republic had the largest share of individuals who reported they have stayed in Turkey for more than six months. Respondents from Afghanistan had a slightly larger share of respondents who reported they have been in Turkey between two weeks and three months.

Internal Movements in Turkey⁹

According to the Law on Foreigners and International Protection and the Regulation on Temporary Protection, foreigners under international protection are, upon registration, referred to specific provinces in Turkey, in which they must then reside. Similarly, foreigners under temporary protection are obliged to reside in the province where they are registered but are not assigned an alternative province following their registration. While a periodical presence reporting obligation (fingerprint/signature) is enforced on international protection holders in Turkey, temporary protection holders are exempted from this obligation. Some among them, however, engage in secondary movements inside Turkey despite their obligation to reside in their province of registration (temporary protection holders) or referred provinces (international protection holders).¹⁰

The main provinces in which respondents indicated having moved from elsewhere were Aydın, Ağrı and Kahramanmaraş with approximately half of migrants surveyed in Aydın, 26% of migrants surveyed in Ağrı, and 20% of migrants surveyed in Kahramanmaraş reporting to have moved to these provinces from another province. In other provinces, less than 15% had engaged in secondary movements. In Aydın province, the majority (40%) of respondents who indicated having moved from another province reported having come from Adana. In Ağrı, the majority of respondents reported having come from Van (40%) and Ankara (20%). Main provinces from where migrants moved are shown in the map below.¹¹

In addition, migrants were asked which province they would like to move to, if such an opportunity arose. It should be noted that this question does not imply an actual decision to move, but rather a hypothetical intention to do so given the chance. The main provinces where migrants aspired to move to were Istanbul (47%), Ankara (14%) and İzmir (10%).



Map 8: Internal movements in Turkey and countries of intended destination

⁹ Percentages presented in this section are not weighted because the analysis is done for the whole sample and not by nationality

¹⁰ For further information please visit http://www.goc.gov.tr/icerik/law-on-foreigners-and-international-protection-lfip_913_975

¹¹ The percentages are calculated out of the total number of respondents who reported they were registered with Turkish authorities.

Registration

According to Turkish immigration laws, all foreign nationals who seek international protection on Turkish territory must register at provincial branches of the DGMM.

The majority of respondents surveyed reported they were registered by the Turkish authorities. The largest share of respondents who reported they were registered was among respondents from the Syrian Arab Republic and the Islamic Republic of Iran (over 90%), followed by respondents from Iraq (88%).

Eleven per cent of Afghan respondents and eight per cent of Iraqi respondents reported they were not registered, but had an appointment date to register from the Turkish authorities. The largest share of unregistered individuals was among Afghan nationals surveyed (20%).

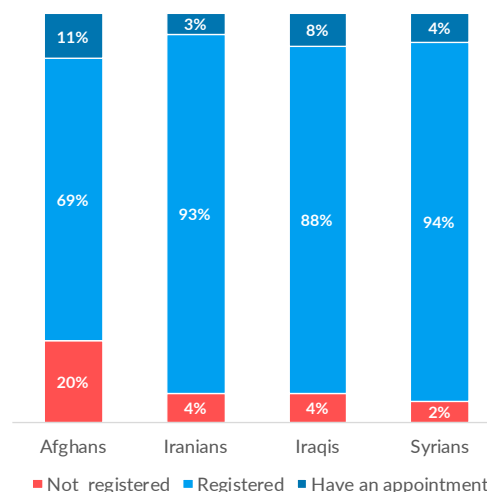


Figure 23: Percentage of respondents who registered with authorities by nationality

5. RETURN INTENTIONS

Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration

This module was added to the Flow Monitoring Surveys to capture migrants' awareness of the possibilities and options related to the IOM programme for Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR). It aims to collect information about the perceived needs upon the return to the country of origin for better tailored reintegration programmes. Syrian respondents were exempted from this question in line both with the non-refoulement principle as a result of the ongoing conflict, as well as IOM's current suspension of voluntary returns to Syrian Arab Republic.

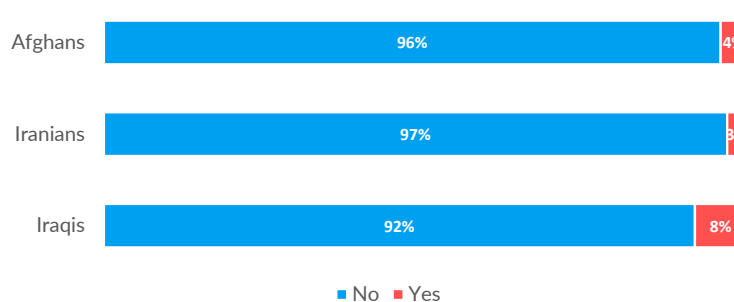


Figure 24: Percentage of respondents who considered/ not considered to return by nationality

The majority of respondents reported that they had not considered returning at any point during the journey. Eight per cent of respondents from Iraq reported they considered returning during the journey, followed by four per cent of respondents from Afghan and three per cent of respondents from the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Out of those who did not want to return, the majority of Iranian, Afghan and Iraqi nationals (82%, 71% and 57%, respectively) reported security issues as the main reasons for not returning. Others cited the desire to join family members in the countries of intended destination, a lack of interest in returning and not being aware of the AVRR option as reason for not considering to return.

Over 85% of Afghan, Iranian and Iraqi respondents who considered returning expressed the wish to return to the same location within the respective countries of origin. Seven per cent of Iranian respondents who considered returning reported they wanted to return to a different location within The Islamic Republic of Iran.

All respondents from the Islamic Republic of Iran, 97% of respondents from Iraq, and 87% of respondents from Afghanistan who considered returning had considered it during their stay in Turkey. Thirteen per cent of respondents from Afghanistan had considered returning at the start of their journey in Afghanistan or during their transit in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Eighty-seven per cent of respondents from Afghanistan who considered returning, reported they considered returning because they were tired of their current living conditions. Respondents from the Islamic Republic of Iran were more likely than respondents of other nationalities to report better living conditions in the country of origin and 33% of Iraqi nationals reported the lack of job opportunities as the reasons for considering returning home.

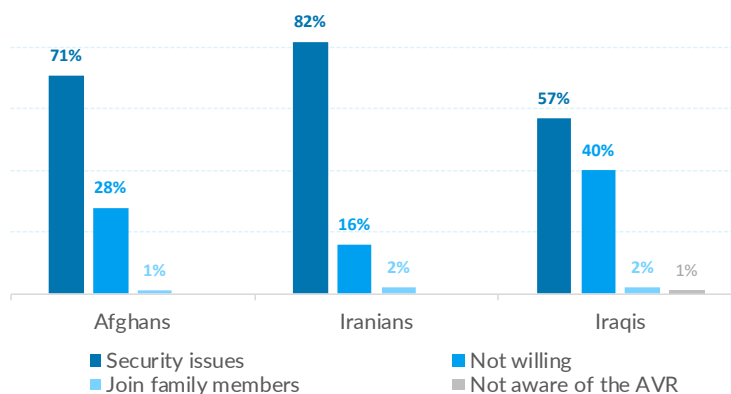


Figure 25: Percentage of respondents by reasons for not returning and by nationality in country destination

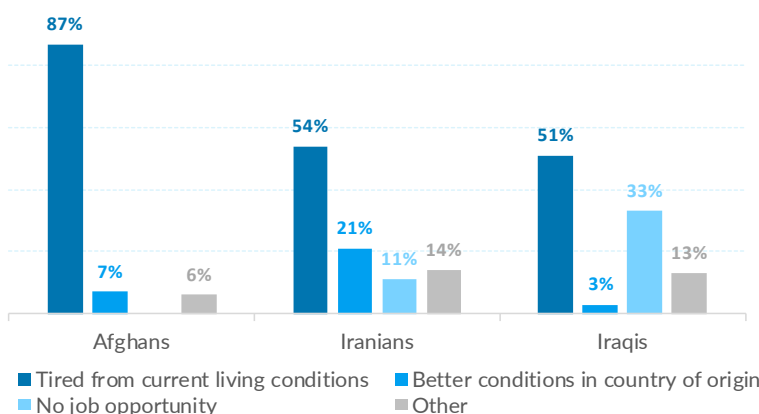


Figure 26: Percentage of respondents by reasons for considering returning and by nationality

Thirty-one per cent of respondents from the Islamic Republic of Iran, five per cent of respondents from Iraq and 14% of respondents from Afghanistan reported to have been informed on their rights and legal options during the journey, while the majority of respondents had received no information. When respondents were asked if they had heard about the opportunity to return voluntarily to their home country through the AVRR program, over 95% reported they had never heard of such an option.

Movement Intentions: Nationals of the Syrian Arab Republic

In comparison to other nationality groups, respondents from the Syrian Arab Republic (31%) had the highest percentage of all respondents reporting that they had considered returning to their country of origin/habitual residence. Out of those who did not want to return, the majority (69%) reported security issues as the main reasons for not returning. Others cited a lack of interest in returning (19%), the desire to join family members in the countries of intended destination (11%) or success in obtaining protection or other form of regular permit as the main reason for not considering to return.

The vast majority of respondents from the Syrian Arab Republic (99%) who reported they considered returning said they considered to do so during their stay in Turkey. Ninety-nine per cent of those who considered returning indicated they wanted to return to the same location within the Syria Arab Republic, while the rest reported they wanted to return to another location in the Syrian Arab Republic. Majority of respondents from the Syrian Arab Republic who reported they considered returning (76%), considered returning because they were tired of their current living conditions, while 13% reported better living conditions in the country of origin and four per cent reported no job opportunity.

5. COUNTRIES OF INTENDED DESTINATION

Key findings

- The majority of respondents from Afghanistan (75%), Iraq (85%) and the Syrian Arab Republic (96%) reported Turkey as their intended destination at the time of departure. Only 22% of the Islamic Republic of Iran nationals, reported Turkey as their intended destination.
- The share of respondents who reported Turkey as the destination country at the time of the interview decreased among respondents of all nationalities. The most significant decrease was among respondents from Afghanistan.

Overview

This section focuses on respondents' travel intentions, reasons for choosing certain destination countries, and presence of relatives in the countries of intended destination. When discussing migrants' choices of destination countries, it must be noted that for many respondents' choices could be limited, and sometimes do not exist at all. The ability to make decisions regarding journeys and final destinations are constrained by various factors such as available resources, travel routes, finances and national government's policies.

Furthermore, decisions regarding destination choices are dynamic and change over time. In order to capture possible changes in the choices of final destination, the survey was designed to capture migrants' intended countries of destination at the time of departure and at the time of the interview.

Countries of intended destination at the time of departure and at the time of the interview

When asked about the intended country of destination at the time of departure from countries of origin or habitual residence, the majority of respondents from Afghanistan (75%), Iraq (85%) and the Syrian Arab Republic (96%) reported Turkey as their intended destination. Only 22% of the Islamic Republic of Iran nationals, reported Turkey as their intended destination.

Europe, the United States of America and Canada were the most desired destination at the time of departure among respondents from the Islamic Republic of Iran. Fifteen per cent of the Islamic Republic of Iran nationals reported European countries, 19% reported the United States of America, and 16% reported Canada as their intended destination. The rest of the respondents reported other countries or indicated that they did not have any specific destination in mind.

In the survey, respondents were also asked about the intended country of destination at the time of the interview. There was change in reported countries of intended destination among all the nationalities surveyed.

The share of respondents who reported Turkey as the destination country at the time of the interview decreased among respondents of all nationalities. The most significant decrease was among respondents from Afghanistan. Seventy-five per cent of respondents from Afghanistan reported Turkey as the destination country at the time of departure, while the percentage dropped to 50% at the time of the interview.

Among Iraqi nationals, the share of respondents who reported Turkey at the country of intended destination dropped by 18 percentage points, from 85% to 67%. There was a slight decrease in the percentage of respondents from the Syrian Arab Republic who reported Turkey as the intended destination at the time of the interview, from 96% to 90%.

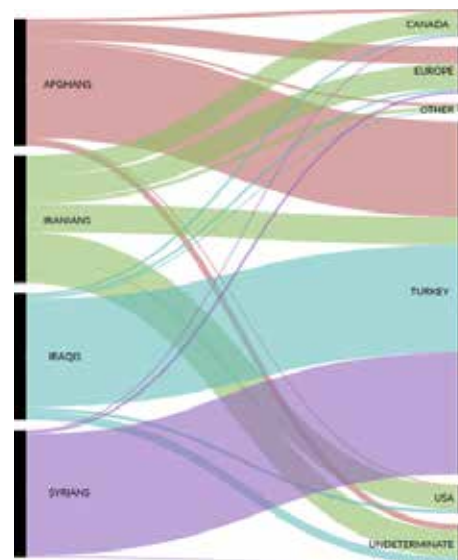


Figure 27: Percentage of respondents by intended country of destination at the time of departure and by nationality

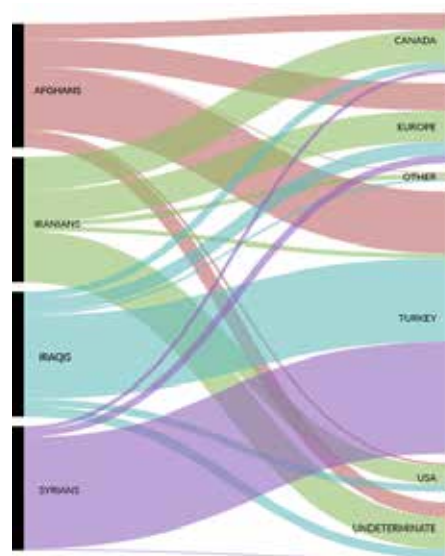


Figure 28: Percentage of respondents by intended country of destination at the time of the interview and by nationality

Countries of Intended Destination: Respondents From Afghanistan

Seventy-five per cent of Afghan respondents reported Turkey as their destination country at the time of departure, while 50% reported Turkey as their destination country at the time of the interview. Europe (mostly Germany) was a desirable destination (with 22% of respondents reporting Europe as their intended destination at the time of the interview and 14% at the time of the departure), followed by Canada. The share of respondents who reported Canada as the intended final destination increased from three per cent at the time of departure to 13% at the time of the interview. The share of Afghan nationals who reported they did not have a specific destination in mind increased slightly at the time of the interview.

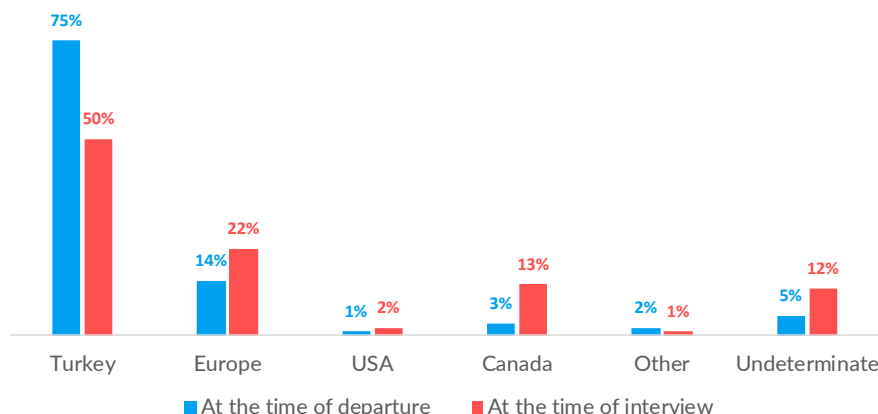


Figure 29: Percentage of Afghan respondents by intended country of destination at the time of the interview and at the time of departure

Forty-eight per cent of Afghan respondents who reported choosing Turkey as the final destination at the time of departure reported choosing it because of appealing socio-economic conditions, while 80% gave that same answer as a reason for choosing Turkey at the time of the interview, 32% increase. Those respondents who reported Turkey as their intended destination at the time of the interview were less likely to cite ease of access to asylum procedures as the reasons for choosing Turkey as the country of intended destination.

Moreover, those respondents who reported choosing Germany as the intended destination at the time of the interview mostly reported appealing socio-economic conditions¹² (43%) and the desire to re-unite with family members in Germany (49%) as the main reason for their choice. The rest reported safety and ease of access to asylum procedures. Those Afghan respondents who indicated Canada as the country of intended destination at the time of the interview reported appealing socio-economic conditions (83%) as the main reason for their choice, while the rest reported having family members there, ease of access to asylum procedures and other reasons.

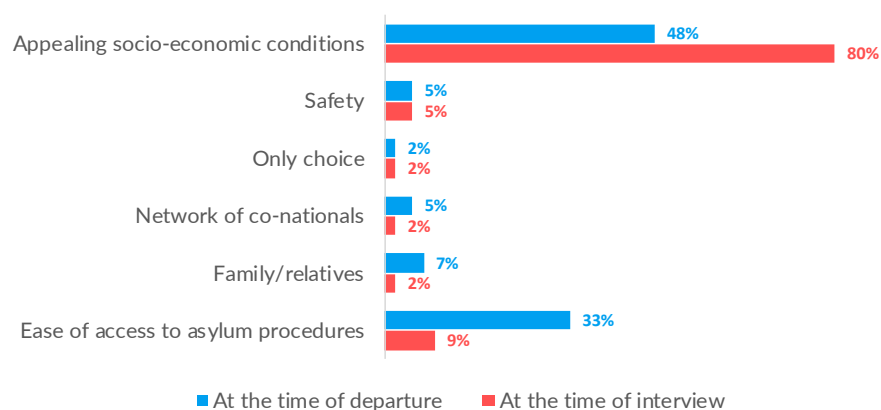


Figure 30: Percentage of Afghan respondents by respondents for choosing Turkey as intended country of destination at the time of the interview and at the time of departure

¹² It is important to note that the reported distributions for the reasons are based on the perceptions of migrants on what constitutes socio-economic conditions.

Countries of Intended Destination: Respondents From the Islamic Republic of Iran

Respondents from the Islamic Republic of Iran were the least likely to report Turkey as their preferred destination in comparison to other three nationalities surveyed. Only 22% of Iranian respondents reported Turkey as their intended destination at the time of departure, while 21% of Iranian respondents reported they did not have any specific destination in mind. Twenty-five per cent of the respondents from the Islamic Republic of Iran reported various countries in Europe, 26% reported Canada and 15% reported the United States as their intended countries of destination at the time of the interview.

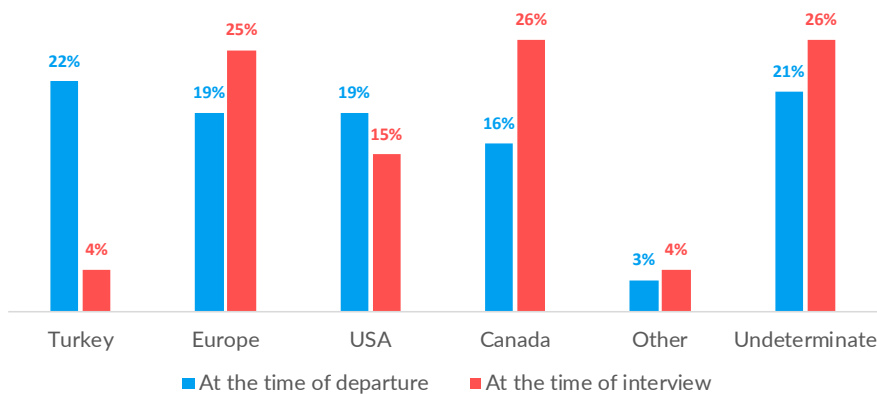


Figure 31: Percentage of respondents from the Islamic Republic of Iran by intended country of destination at the time of the interview and at the time of departure

When asked about their reasons for choosing Turkey at the time of departure, 60% of respondents reported ease of access to asylum procedures. However, only 15% of respondents reported this reason for choosing Turkey at the time of the interview. Indeed, 59% of respondents report appealing socio-economic conditions as the reason for choosing Turkey at the time of interview.

The majority (59%) of Iranian respondents who reported Canada as intended country of destination at the time of the interview reported appealing socio-economic conditions as the reasons for choosing it as the final destination, followed by 16% who reported safety (15%) and ease of access to asylum procedures.

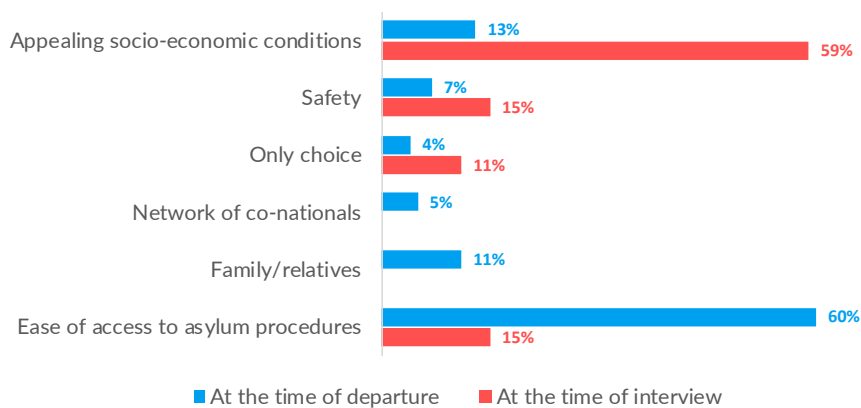


Figure 32: Percentage of Iranian respondents by respondents for choosing Turkey as intended country of destination at the time of the interview and at the time of departure

Countries of Intended Destination: Respondents From Iraq

Over 85% of Iraqi nationals surveyed reported Turkey as intended country of destination at the time of departure. However, that share dropped by 18 percentage points at the time of the interview to 67%. When asked about countries of intended destination at the time of the interview, Iraqi respondents were more likely to report European countries, United States of America, Canada, and other countries as their final destination.

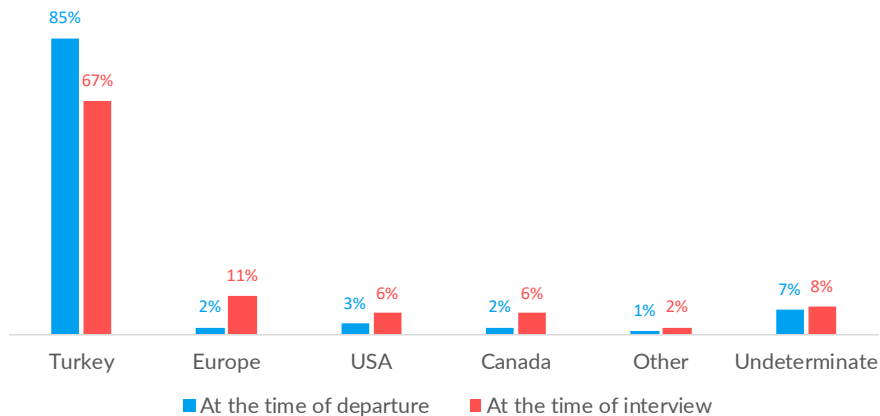


Figure 33: Percentage of Iraqi respondents by intended country of destination at the time of the interview and at the time of departure

The reasons for choosing Turkey as their intended destination country changed between the time of departure and the time of the interview for Iraqi respondents. Those respondents who reported Turkey as a destination country at the time of the interview were more likely to report appealing socio-economic conditions (49% vs 30%) as the main reason for choosing Turkey as their destination.

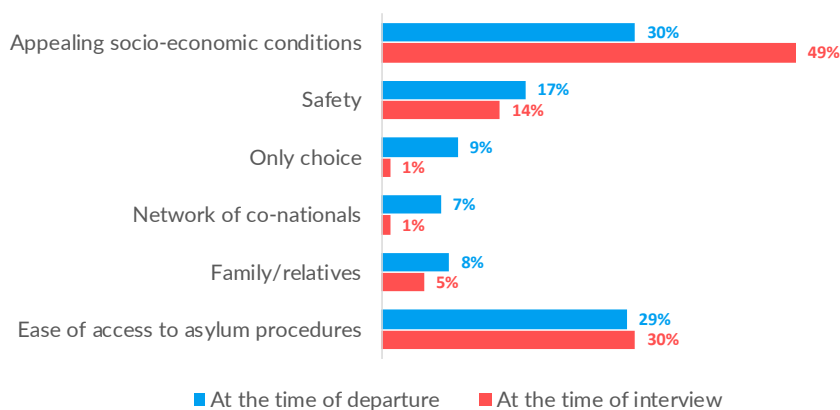


Figure 34: Percentage of Iraqi respondents by respondents for choosing Turkey as intended country of destination at the time of the interview and at the time of departure

Countries of Intended Destination: Respondents From the Syrian Arab Republic

Respondents from the Syrian Arab Republic had the highest share of migrants who reported Turkey as their intended country of destination at the time of departure (96%). Two per cent of nationals of the Syrian Arab Republic reported European countries (mostly Germany) as their intended destination, and the rest reported Canada or indicated that they did not have any specific destination in mind.

Share of the Syrian Arab Republic nationals who reported Turkey as preferred destination country at the time of the interview decreased by six percentage points, from 96% to 90%, while the share of Syrian respondents who reported Europe (mostly Germany) increased.

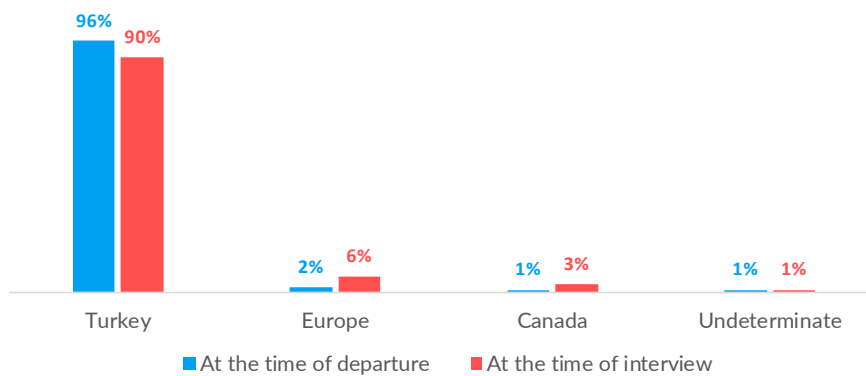


Figure 35: Percentage of respondents from the Syrian Arab republic by intended country of destination at the time of the interview and at the time of departure

With regards to the reasons for choosing Turkey, there were differences between reasons at the time of departure and at the time of the interview. The largest share (31%) reported ease of access to asylum procedures followed by those who said it was the only choice available (29%), safety reasons (17%), those who reported appealing socio-economic conditions (15%), and those who reported family/ relatives (seven per cent) as reasons for choosing Turkey as the final destination at the time of departure. Share of respondents who reported Turkey as preferred destination country at the time of the interview decreased from 96% to 90%.

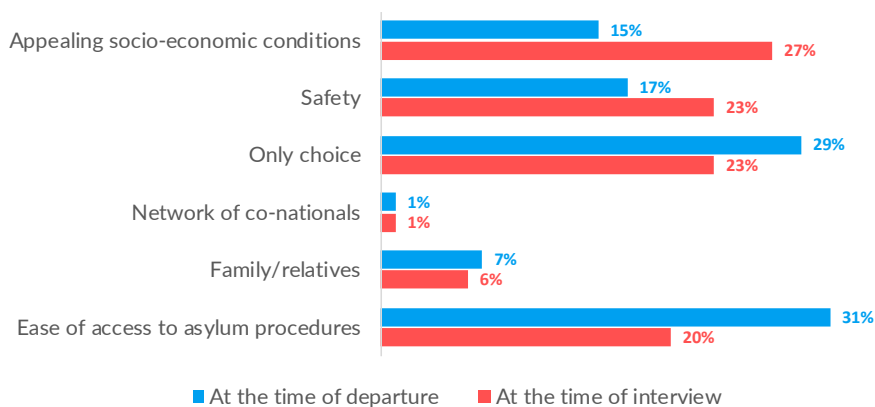


Figure 36: Percentage of respondents from the Syrian Arab Republic who chose Turkey as their intended country of destination at the time of the interview and at the time of departure, by reasons for choosing it

Relatives in Destination Countries: Turkey

Respondents from the Islamic Republic of Iran had a higher share of respondents who reported not having relatives in Turkey than respondents of other nationalities. Eighty-six per cent of Iranian respondents who chose Turkey as their destination country at the time of the interview reported having no relatives there, in comparison to 49% of respondents from the Syrian Arab Republic, 45% of respondents from Afghanistan, and 40% of respondents from Iraq.

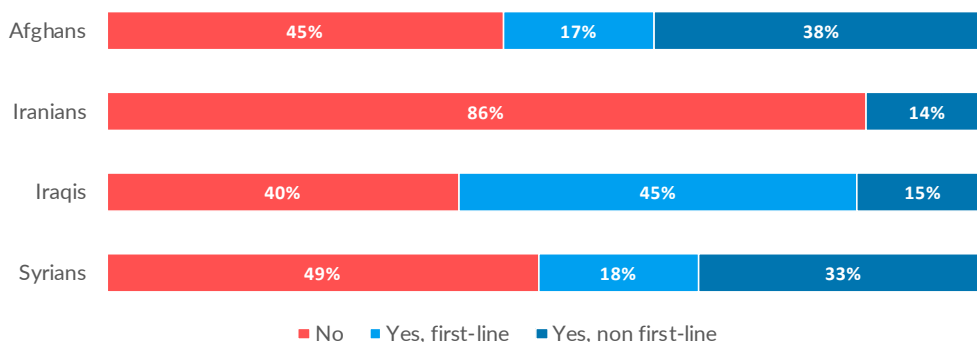


Figure 37: Percentage of respondents who have or do not have relatives in Turkey

Relatives in Destination Countries: Canada

Iranian respondents who reported Canada as destination country were more likely to report not having any relatives there as compared to respondents of other nationalities. Eighty-one per cent of Afghan nationals reported not having any relatives in Canada, followed by 74% of respondents from the Syrian Arab Republic, 65% of respondents from the Islamic Republic of Iran, and 51% of respondents from Iraq.

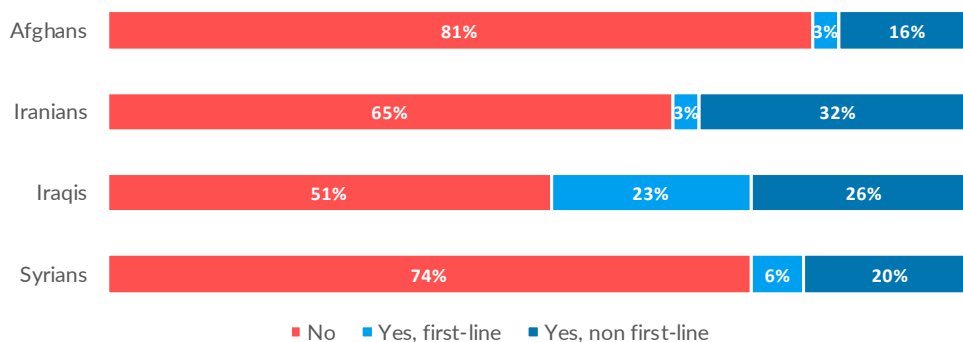


Figure 38: Percentage of respondents who have or do not have relatives in Canada

Methodology

The findings included in this paper are results of the fourth round of DTM Flow Monitoring Surveys (FMS) implemented in 10 provinces in Turkey (Ağrı, Aksaray, Aydın, Çanakkale, Isparta, Kahramanmaraş, Kırklareli, Sakarya, Trabzon and Yalova) with newly arrivals from 2016 and later. This survey was conducted by 33 IOM field staff in various locations in provinces of a part of the overall Migrants' Presence Monitoring Programme which includes different DTM data collection tools to provide regular updates on the migration flows to and from Turkey.¹³

The selected locations were based in areas with a high observed migrant presence such as including in open air locations and neighbourhoods where migrant populations reside, social centers, regional PDMM and NGO offices.

At all locations, data collectors approached respondents in an ad hoc manner to explain the purpose of the survey and to obtain the explicit consent to be interviewed. Aside from that, potential respondents were found by using the snowball method by reaching a potential migrant through the established local network of partners, stakeholders and based on recommendation of the surveyed migrants. Upon receiving consent, IOM data collectors proceeded with the remainder of the questions for those who gave their consent to be interviewed. Taking into consideration the nature of some of the surveyed points (public spaces), migrants were interviewed in a separate/ private area to ensure privacy.

The survey sample for the fourth round of data collection activities was drawn from the total number of individuals per each nationality in two regions (North and South) with 95% confidence level and five per cent margin of error. After identifying the sample size at the regional level, the total sample size per region for each nationality was distributed among the provinces in Turkey to ensure heterogeneity. The sampling frame was drawn from the data collected through the baseline assessment at provincial level according to which it has been decided to focus on the four main nationalities present in selected provinces (nationals of the Syrian Arab Republic, Afghanistan, Iraq and the Islamic republic of Iran) as well as nationals from other countries.

¹³ <http://migration.iom.int/europe?type=arrivals>