SNAPSHOT REPORT: PAKISTANI RETURNEES FROM GREECE, GERMANY AND BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Returnee Longitudinal Survey

Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM)
Regional Evidence for Migration Analysis and Policy (REMAP)
International Organization for Migration (IOM)

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IOM
UN MIGRATION

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ACRONYMS
AND CONCEPTS

ACRONYMS

AVRR	Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration
BEOE	Bureau of Emigration and Overseas Employment
CMFS	Comprehensive Migration Flow Survey
DTM	Displacement Tracking Matrix
EU	European Union
FMS	Flow Monitoring Survey
IOM	International Organization for Migration
PKR	Pakistani Rupees
REMAP	Regional Evidence for Migration Analysis and Policy
RLS	Returnee Longitudinal Survey
RSS	Reintegration Sustainability Survey
SBP	State Bank of Pakistan
SDM	Survey on Drivers of Migration

CONCEPTS

ASSISTED VOLUNTARY RETURN AND REINTEGRATION (AVRR): Administrative, logistical or financial support, including reintegration assistance, to migrants unable or unwilling to remain in the host country or country of transit and who decide to return to their country of origin (IOM, 2019b).

RETURN MIGRATION: In the context of international migration, the movement of persons returning to their country of origin after having moved away from their place of habitual residence and crossed an international border (IOM, 2019b).

SUSTAINABLE REINTEGRATION: In the context of international return migration, reintegration can be considered sustainable when returnees have reached levels of economic self-sufficiency, social stability within their communities, and psychosocial well-being that allow them to cope with possible (re)migration drivers (IOM, 2019b).
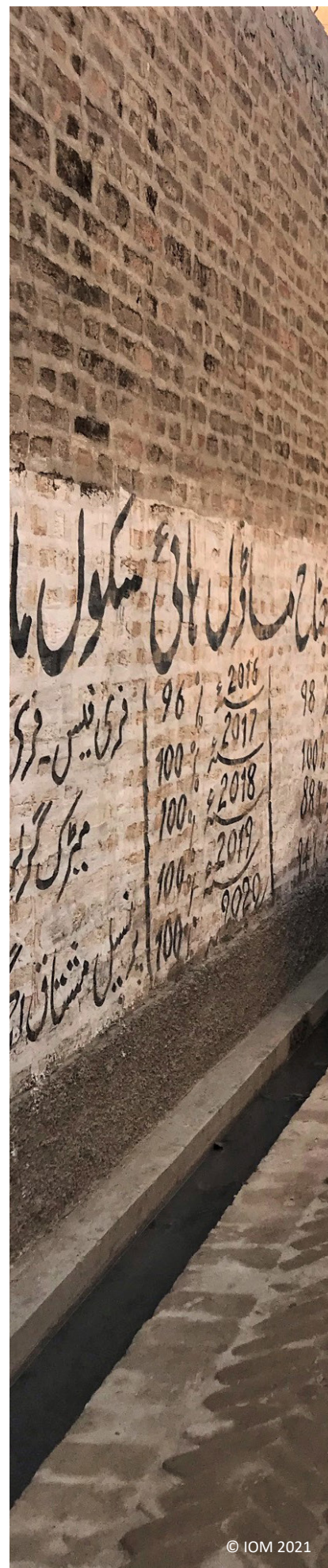
VOLUNTARY RETURN: The assisted or independent return to the country of origin, transit or another country based on the voluntary decision of the returnee (IOM, 2019b).

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INTRODUCTION

According to World Population Review, 5.9 million Pakistani nationals were living abroad in 2021, making Pakistan one of the top 10 emigration countries in the world (WPR, 2021). In 2019, the Bureau of Emigration and Overseas Employment (BEOE) registered more than 600,000 emigrants (BEOE, 2020). This number dropped to 224,705 emigrants in 2020 (BEOE, 2020), most likely due to mobility restrictions related to COVID-19. Over the last few years, the flow of foreign remittances has maintained a steady upward trend; remittances totalled 22.124 billion USD in 2019 and increased to 25.963 billion USD in 2020 (SBP, 2021). This increase may be related to the success of Roshan Digital Account, which provides simplified online digital account opening for overseas Pakistani nationals, as well as the digitisation of remittances in the country (IOM, 2021c). Most Pakistani nationals migrate abroad for work; however, migration for education purposes is also an important facet of Pakistani emigration. The primary countries of destination are neighbouring countries and Gulf countries (BEOE, 2020).

Every year many overseas Pakistani nationals return to Pakistan. Returning to a home country is not always a smooth process as many returnees report difficulties upon return. In recent years, these challenges have been more widely recognized and awareness has risen that support is needed to address the needs of return migrants and to improve their sustainable reintegration into society (IOM, 2019a). According to IOM:

> Reintegration can be considered sustainable when returnees have reached levels of economic self-sufficiency, social stability within their communities, and psychosocial well-being that allow them to cope with (re) migration drivers. Having achieved sustainable reintegration, returnees are able to make further migration decisions a matter of choice, rather than necessity. (IOM, 2017a, p.3)[1]

Since 2015, IOM Pakistan has assisted 4,618 migrants under its Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR)[2] programme. In 2020, IOM Pakistan supported the return of 1,402 migrants returning from 30 countries. The returnees supported by this programme receive assistance upon arrival to cope with the challenges related to return. The top five countries of return between 2015 and 2020 were Greece, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Switzerland, Thailand and Libya.

An increasing number of migrants return to their home countries under Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration programmes (IOM, 2016). However, little evidence exists on how migrants who take part in these programmes reintegrate into society, especially on factors that influence sustainable reintegration (IOM, 2020). Even less research examines reintegration outcomes from a longitudinal perspective. Therefore, it is important to improve understanding of the reintegration process and the factors that influence reintegration outcomes both in the short- and long-term. This could then feed into the design of policies and government programmes that address the immediate needs and challenges of returning migrants as well as improve reintegration outcomes and eventually increase the positive effects these migrants can have on society.

To improve understanding of return migrants' profiles, the living conditions of returnees and their reintegration process, IOM, under the European Union (EU) funded project "Displacement Tracking Matrix Regional Evidence for Migration Analysis and Policy (DTM REMAP)", developed the Returnee Longitudinal Survey (RLS). This survey collects data on the profile, vulnerabilities and needs of returnees, as well as sustainable return and reintegration outcomes in both the short- and long-term. To this end, data is collected over the course of multiple years at regular intervals. The objective of DTM REMAP, which is implemented by DTM at both the regional and the country levels, is to strengthen the evidence-based formulation and implementation of humanitarian and development policy and programming on migration and forced displacement in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq and Pakistan through the dissemination of insights gained through DTM's activities.

This report is the result of the first round of data collection that took place between December 2020 and April 2021 with Pakistani migrants who returned from Greece, Germany and Bosnia and Herzegovina in the last quarter of 2019 and in 2020 through IOM's Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) programme.

During the data collection period, 417 in-person

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[1]For more information, see IOM's paper "Towards an Integrated Approach to Reintegration in the Context of Return" (IOM, 2017)"
[2]For more information on AVRR, see: https://www.iom.int/assisted-voluntary-return-and-reintegration

interviews were conducted across 34 districts. The purpose of the RLS is to strengthen the information-base on the sustainability of reintegration and to better identify gaps and address needs within Pakistan by informing programming and policy making.

The report is divided into three main sections. The first section gives an overview of the key findings in the report. The second section starts with a description of the methodology and includes the research method, sampling information and limitations. The third section presents the analysis of the data that was collected between December 2020 and April 2021. The analysis of the data is further subdivided into eight thematic sections. The first covers the demographics and socio-economic profiles of the return migrants. This is followed by a subsection on the employment situation, occupational sector and income status of the returnees (prior to migration; in Greece, Germany and Bosnia and Herzegovina and at the time of the interview). The third subsection explores the reasons for migration. The fourth subsection examines the migration journey, including the reasons for migrating to Greece, Germany or Bosnia and Herzegovina. The following subsection dives deeper into the reasons for return, and then an additional subsection goes into the challenges that returnees experience after their return to Pakistan. Finally, the last two subsections examine prior migration experience and re-migration intentions.

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KEY FINDINGS

1. Forty-three per cent of repondents fall within the 25-34 year age range, and the majority (92%) report that they are from the Punjab province, the most populous province in Pakistan, specifically from four districts. The average household size of respondents is seven, and the most reported eduction level is middle school (6-8 class) (33%).

2. Before migration, 82 per cent of respondents were employed (self-employed, earning daily wages or working in the private sector). The most common employment status was self-employment in business or in farming; this category was reported by 46 per cent of all participants. In addition, 29 per cent of respondents were working in the agriculture sector. Predominantly, the common monthly income bracket prior to migration was 65 – 130 USD (40%).

3. The majority of respondents left Pakistan in 2015 (19%), 2016 (18%) and 2018 (15%). Among respondents: unemployment (26%), dissatisfaction over income (25%) and lack of hope in a future in Pakistan (21%) were the most cited reasons for migration. The primary factors reported for migration were: better salaries in the destination country (30%) and available jobs (14%). Popular secondary pull factors were again better salaries (23%) and getting the passport of the destination country (18%).

4. In Europe, prior to their return to Pakistan, the majority of respondents were working for daily wages (37%), unemployed (30%) or employed in the private sector (16%). The top reasons for return to Pakistan were issues with legal documents (34%), inability to find a job (21%) and family pressure to return to Pakistan (18%).

5. At the time of the interview, insufficient income was the most commonly reported primary personal and household level challenge, while a lack of jobs was the most commonly reported primary community level challenge.

6. At the time of the interview, the largest group of respondents report being self-employed or in business (57%) while 21 per cent were unemployed and looking for jobs. The current economic status of respondents is distributed across a number of monthly income brackets: 38 per cent report a monthly income of 65 – 130 USD, 19 per cent report 131 – 195 USD while 24 per cent reported no income.

7. Twenty percent of respondents still intend to re-migrate and leave Pakistan within the next six months. The reasons cited for deciding to leave Pakistan are the perception that income levels are higher in the countries of intended destination (44%) and a lack of security (15%).

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METHODOLOGY

Based on IOM's DTM global methodology and the Reintegration Sustainability Survey (RSS)[3], developed by IOM in 2017, the Returnee Longitudinal Survey (RLS) aims to better understand return migrants' profiles, the living conditions of returnees and their reintegration process[1] over a longer period of time. The purpose of the RLS is to strengthen the information-base on the sustainability of reintegration to better identify gaps and address needs within Pakistan by informing programming and policy making.

The RLS focuses on returnees who returned to Pakistan through IOM AVRR programmes. After obtaining a list of AVRR returnees from the operational team in Pakistan, the sample was constructed based on three criteria:
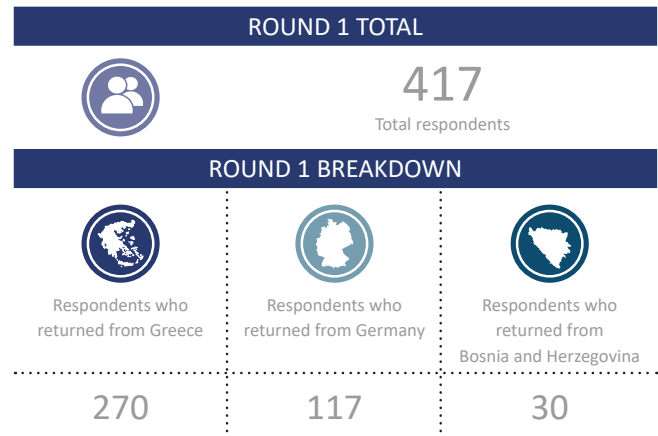
1. Country of return, specifically those who returned from Greece, Germany and Bosnia and Herzegovina[4].
2. Time of return, specifically those who returned in 2019 and 2020.
3. Reintegration assistance, specifically those who received support from IOM, either in-kind or in cash.

Between December 2020 and April 2021, DTM Pakistan interviewed 417 returnees in-person, located in 34 districts (see map on page 5) for the first round of RLS. The largest share of respondents returned from Greece (270 or 65%), then Germany (117 or 28%) and lastly Bosnia and Herzegovina (30 or 7%).

The first round of RLS aims to provide a baseline for future rounds of data collection and includes questions on the following thematic areas:

- Socio-demographic situation,
- Employment and income,
- Reasons for migration,
- Migration to Greece, Germany and Bosnia and Herzegovina,
- Reasons for returning to Pakistan,
- Challenges at the time of the interview (personal, household and community),
- Prior migration experience,
- Economic sustainability,
- Social sustainability,
- Psychosocial sustainability and
- Re-migration intentions.

This report provides insights into various sections of the RLS survey. Sections on reintegration sustainability (economic, social and psychosocial) are not presented

ROUND 1 TOTAL
417
Total respondents

ROUND 1 BREAKDOWN		
Respondents who returned from Greece	Respondents who returned from Germany	Respondents who returned from Bosnia and Herzegovina
270	117	30

in this report.

To reduce potential biases, the research team regularly monitored data collection for indications of error. Additionally, there were three control officers who regularly checked the data for accuracy. Both of these approaches limited possible errors in the original data and subsequent data analysis.

The results of this study should be interpreted carefully, as generalization of results and inferences are constrained by the design of the study. First, it should be noted that this study has a small sample size, which means that the sample is not necessarily representative of the study's target group. Second, the study only focuses on returnees from Greece, Germany and Bosnia and Herzegovina, results can therefore not be generalized to returnees from other countries[5]. Moreover, as respondents only returned through IOM's AVRR programme, results are not necessarily representative for returnees that returned through other return and reintegration programmes or without reintegration assistance. Additionally, because only two women were surveyed, the report does not necessarily represent the needs and vulnerabilities of female returnees. Finally, the COVID-19 pandemic posed additional challenges to data collection. Despite these limitations, the findings of this study can provide useful insights regarding reintegration outcomes.

Note:
-an asterisk (*) signifies when a statistic is based off a sample size less than 10.
-when the label "top 3 answers", "top 4 answers" or "top 5 answers" appears above a graph it means that only the three, four or five most common responses are represented in the graph. For this reason, totals may not add up to 100 per cent.

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[3]See IOM- Migration Policy Practice special issue on Return and Reintegration, "Measuring sustainable reintegration" N. Nozarian and N. Majidi – Page 30.
[4]The countries of return were selected based on the numbers of migrants that returned to Pakistan through IOM's AVRR programme.
[5]Due to the differing sample sizes in Greece, Germany and Bosnia and Herzegovina any comparisons between the three countries should be interpreted carefully.

TARGET DISTRICTS AND NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS PER DISTRICT

LEGEND

International border
Disputed border
Line of control
Province border
District border

Jammu & Kashmir

ISLAMABAD

KHYBER PAKTHUNKHWA

PUNJAB

BALOCHISTAN

SINDH

Disclaimer:
Dotted line represents approximately the line of control in Jammu and Kashmir agreed upon by India and Pakistan. The final status of Jammu and Kashmir has not yet been agreed upon by the parties. The designations employed and the presentation of material on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of IOM or United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

Number of respondents per district

- 0-19
- 20-39
- 40-59
- 60-79
- 80-99
- Not assessed

Target districts

1. Abbottabad	13. Hangu	25. Narowal
2. Attock	14. Haripur	26. Nowshera
3. Bajaur	15. Islamabad	27. Peshawar
4. Bhakkar	16. Jhelum	28. Poonch
5. Bhimber	17. Khushab	29. Rawalpindi
6. Chakwal	18. Kotli	30. Sargodha
7. Charsadda	19. Lahore	31. Sheikhupura
8. Chiniot	20. Layyah	32. Sialkot
9. Faislabad	21. Mandi Bahauddin	33. Swabi
10. Gujranwala	22. Mardan	34. Toba Tek Singh
11. Gujrat	23. Mirpur	
12. Hafizabad	24. Nankana Sahib	

ANALYSIS

SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHICS

65%
Respondents who are married

49%
Respondents who have children

7
Average Household size[6]

<2
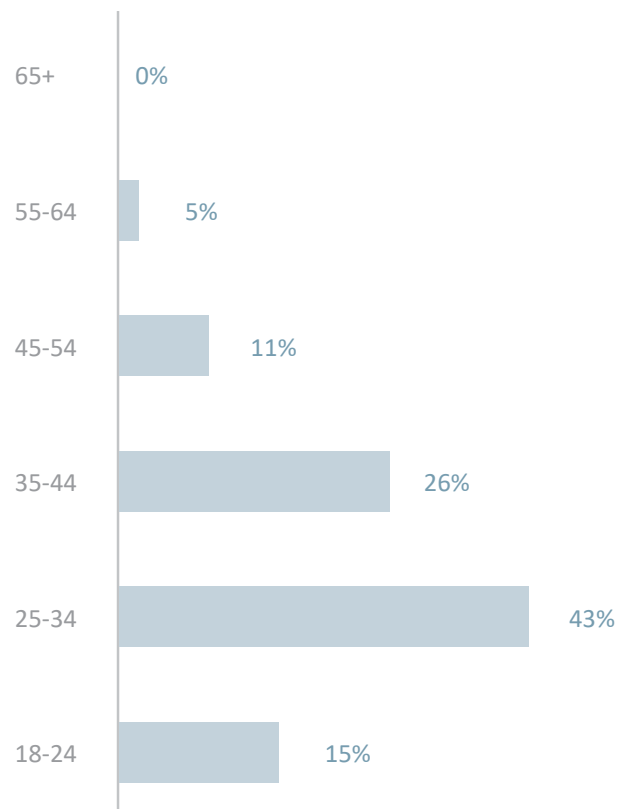Average number of household members living abroad

87%
Respondents with formal education

The sample population was almost entirely male (415 of 417 respondents), and 69 per cent of respondents were between 25 and 44 years of age. Sixty-five per cent of respondents were married, and 49 per cent reported having children. The average household size was seven members, and households, on average, reported less than two members living abroad.
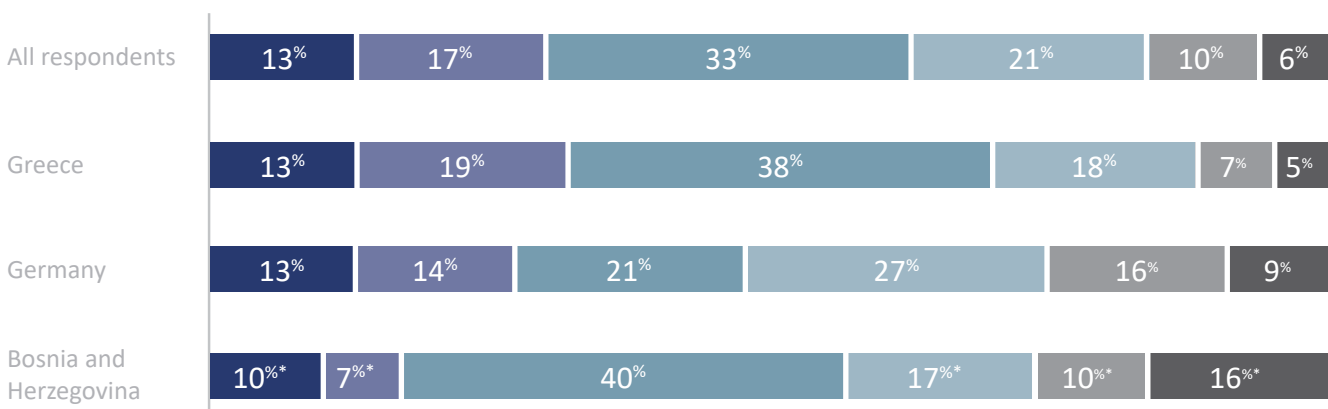
Ninety-two per cent of respondents were from the Punjab province, 71 per cent of whom were from four major districts: Gunjranwala (21%), Gujrat (21%), Sialkot (19%) and Mandi Bahauddin (10%). Outside of Punjab, six per cent of respondents lived in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, one per cent in Pakistan Administered Kashmir (P.A.K) and less than one per cent in Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT).

The majority of respondents reported that they had completed some form of education (87%). When asked about their highest education level prior to migration, the top three levels of education were: Middle School (33%), Secondary School (21%) and Primary School (17%). Thirteen percent of respondents did not have education prior to migration. Among those who did not have education, 81 per cent (or 11% of total respondents) were unable to read and write.

AGE DISTRIBUTION

Age	Percentage
65+	0%
55-64	5%
45-54	11%
35-44	26%
25-34	43%
18-24	15%

EDUCATIONAL LEVEL

	No Education	Primary School Certificate (1-5)	Middle School Certificate (6-8)	Secondary School Certificate (9-10)	Higher Secondary School Certificate (11-12)	Other[7]
All respondents	13%	17%	33%	21%	10%	6%
Greece	13%	19%	38%	18%	7%	5%
Germany	13%	14%	21%	27%	16%	9%
Bosnia and Herzegovina	10%*	7%*	40%	17%*	10%*	16%*

Legend:
■ No Education
■ Primary School Certificate (1-5)
■ Middle School Certificate (6-8)
■ Secondary School Certificate (9-10)
■ Higher Secondary School Certificate (11-12)
■ Other[7]

[6]Average household size includes people who share the same meal and roof on a daily basis.
[7]Other includes diploma, graduate and postgraduate.

EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME OF RETURNEES

Respondents were asked to provide insights into their employment situations before, during and after migration. Prior to migration, 82 per cent of respondents reported being employed (self-employed, earning daily wages or working in the private sector). During migration, this percentage declined to 63 per cent among all respondents. At the time of the interview, 21 per cent of respondents were reportedly unemployed and looking for work.

Employment status before migration and during migration differed; the percentage of respondents who were unemployed and looking for a job increased from seven per cent prior to migration to 29 per cent in Greece, 23 per cent in Germany and 60 per cent in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Moreover, 14 per cent of respondents were unemployed and not looking for

work in Germany while this percentage was six per cent in Bosnia and Herzegovina. In Greece, only two per cent of respondents were unemployed and not looking for work.
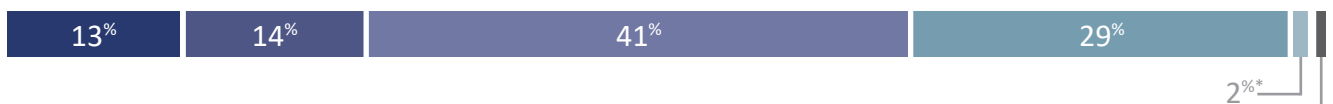
Differences in employment sectors were also apparent between the three countries of return. Among respondents returning from Germany, 24 per cent had been employed in the private sector while in Greece 14 per cent had been and in Bosnia and Herzegovina seven per cent had been. Respondents from Greece were also more likely to have been employed as daily workers (41%) than those in Germany (33%) and Bosnia and Herzegovina (17%). Those returning from Bosnia and Herzegovina experienced the highest levels of unemployment while looking for work (60%), followed by Greece (29%) and Germany (23%).

EMPLOYMENT SITUATION (top 6 answers)

Prior to migration

| 46% | 21% | 16% | 7% | 7% | 3% |

In Greece

| 13% | 14% | 41% | 29% | 2%* | 1%* |

In Germany

| 1%* | 24% | 33% | 23% | 14% | 1%* | 4% |

In Bosnia and Herzegovina

| 7%* | 7%* | 17%* | 60% | 6%* | 3%* |

At the time of the interview

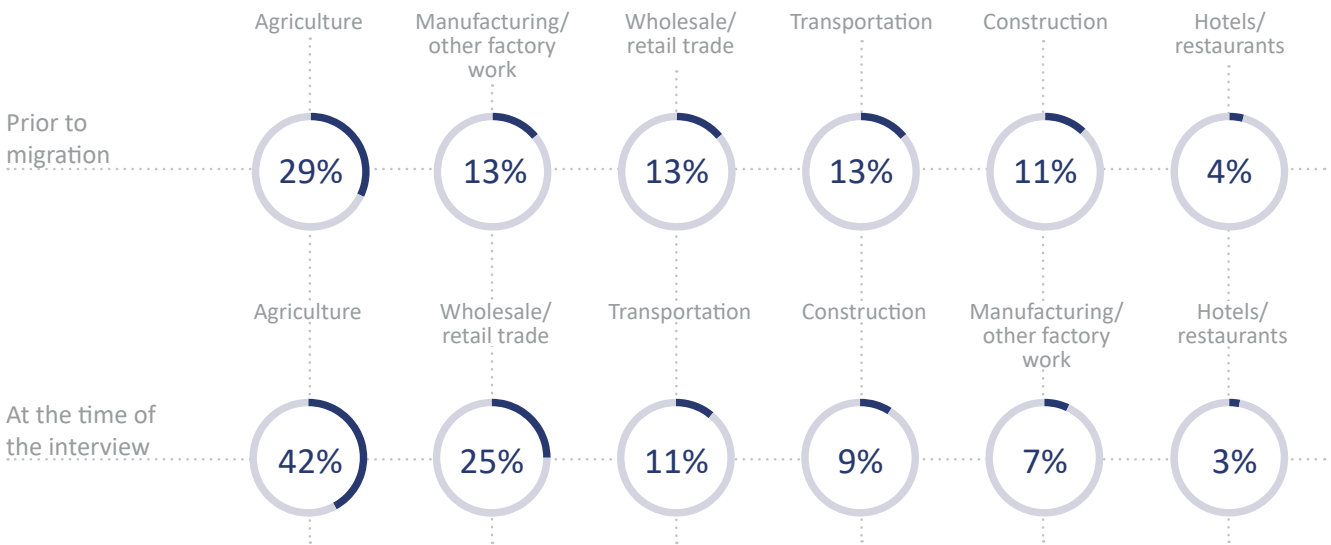| 57% | 8% | 8% | 21% | 3% | 3% |

Legend: ■ Self-employed/business   ■ Employed (private)   ■ Daily wages
■ Unemployed, looking for work   ■ Unemployed, not looking for work   ■ Student   ■ Other[8]

[8]Other selections include those employed in the public sector (government and semi-government), contractors, religious scholars, armed forces, housewives, retirees, and those who are both working and studying at the same time.

OCCUPATIONAL SECTOR (top 6 answers)

	Agriculture	Manufacturing/ other factory work	Wholesale/ retail trade	Transportation	Construction	Hotels/ restaurants
Prior to migration	29%	13%	13%	13%	11%	4%

	Agriculture	Wholesale/ retail trade	Transportation	Construction	Manufacturing/ other factory work	Hotels/ restaurants
At the time of the interview	42%	25%	11%	9%	7%	3%

At the time of the interview, 42 per cent of respondents were employed in agriculture. This is a 13 per cent increase in the number of individuals working in agriculture compared to the number prior to migration.

The share of respondents with no income was higher at the time of the interview than prior to migration (24% and 16% respectively), highlighting the challenges many return migrants face upon their return. Though having no income was the most reported income bracket during migration (36%), the highest incomes reported overall were reported while returnees were abroad.

PERSONAL MONTHLY INCOME (in USD)[9]

	PRIOR TO MIGRATION	IN THE LAST COUNTRY OF EMPLOYMENT	AT THE TIME OF THE INTERVIEW
No income	16%	36%	24%
Less than 65 USD	12%	1%*	6%
65 - 130 USD	40%	5%	38%
131 - 195 USD	19%	7%	19%
196 - 260 USD	7%	10%	8%
261 - 325 USD	3%	13%	3%
326 - 485 USD	1%*	11%	1%*
486 - 650 USD	2%*	10%	1%*
651 - 970 USD	0%	5%	0%
More than 970 USD	0%	2%	0%

[9]Data was originally collected in Pakistani Rupee. Exchange rates are 154.316 PKR to 1 USD according to the UN Operational Rates of Exchange on 1 June 2021.

PERSONAL MONTHLY INCOME BY COUNTRY OF RETURN (in USD)[10]

Though the overall highest incomes were reported while abroad, personal monthly income did differ by country of return. The largest share of returnees reporting a monthly income of greater than 485 USD while abroad was those who returned from Germany (27%) followed by Greece (14%) and Bosnia and Herzegovina (3%). A larger share of returnees from Greece (13%) though reported a personal monthly income while abroad in the second highest income bracket 326 USD to 485 USD than in Germany (9%) or Bosnia and Herzegovina (0%). Of the migrants who returned from Bosnia and Herzegonia, the highest proportion of those who reported they were without income reported they were without income while abroad (67%).

GREECE

- Prior to migration
- In the last country of employment
- At the time of the interview

GERMANY

- Prior to migration
- In the last country of employment
- At the time of the interview

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

- Prior to migration
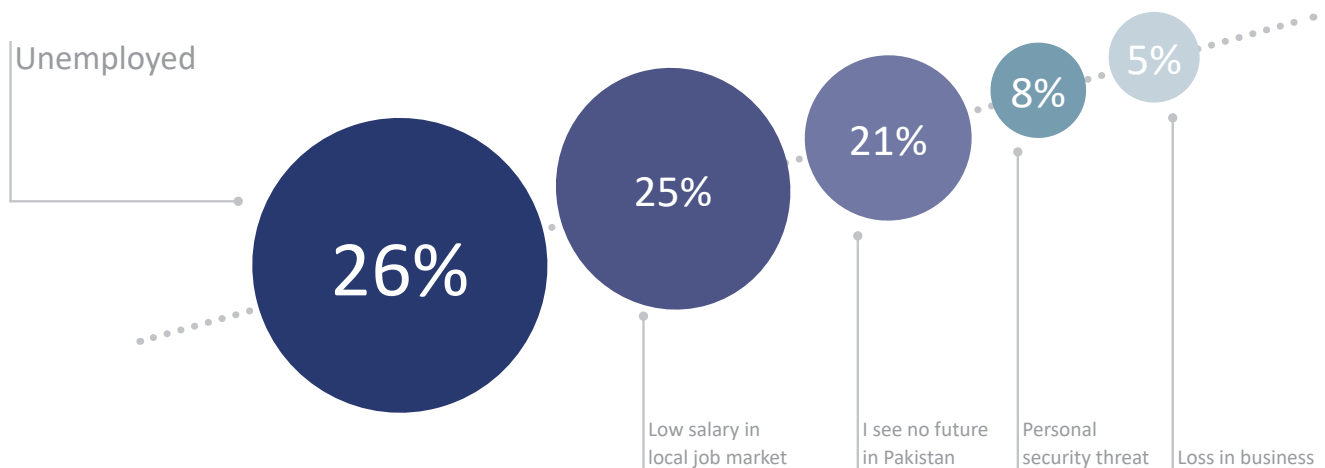- In the last country of employment
- At the time of the interview
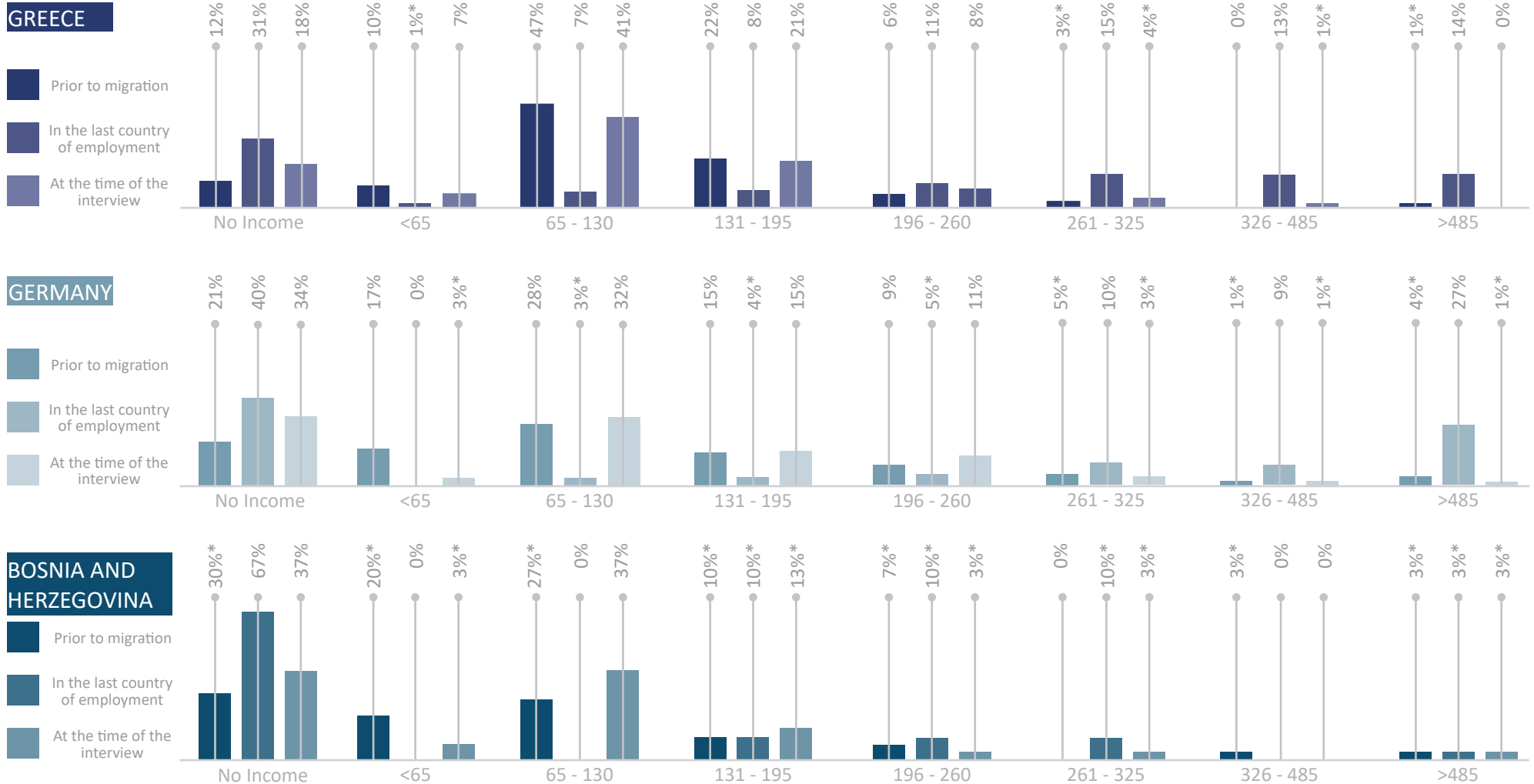
[10]Data was originally collected in Pakistani Rupee. Exchange rates are 154.316 PKR to 1 USD according to the UN Operational Rates of Exchange on 1 June 2021.

REASONS FOR MIGRATION

Unemployment was the most common reason reported by respondents for leaving Pakistan with over a quarter of all respondents listing it as their primary reason for migration (26%). Unemployment as a significant motivator for migration is reinforced by past IOM DTM studies, including the Survey on Drivers of Migration (SDM) and the Comprehensive Migration Flow Survey (CMFS) (IOM, 2021; IOM, 2020a; IOM, 2019). Nevertheless, the results in this study highlight important nuances about the effect of the perception of a lack of opportunities in Pakistan on those that decide to migrate. Ten per cent of migrants cited encouragement from friends and family, both at home and abroad, as their primary reason for migration, and fourteen per cent cited it as their secondary reason. These findings also reflect those found in the Flow Monitoring Surveys from 2018 and 2019, which identify friends, family and social networks as an important driver of migration and a significant factor for migrants when choosing a country of destination (IOM, 2021a; IOM, 2021b).
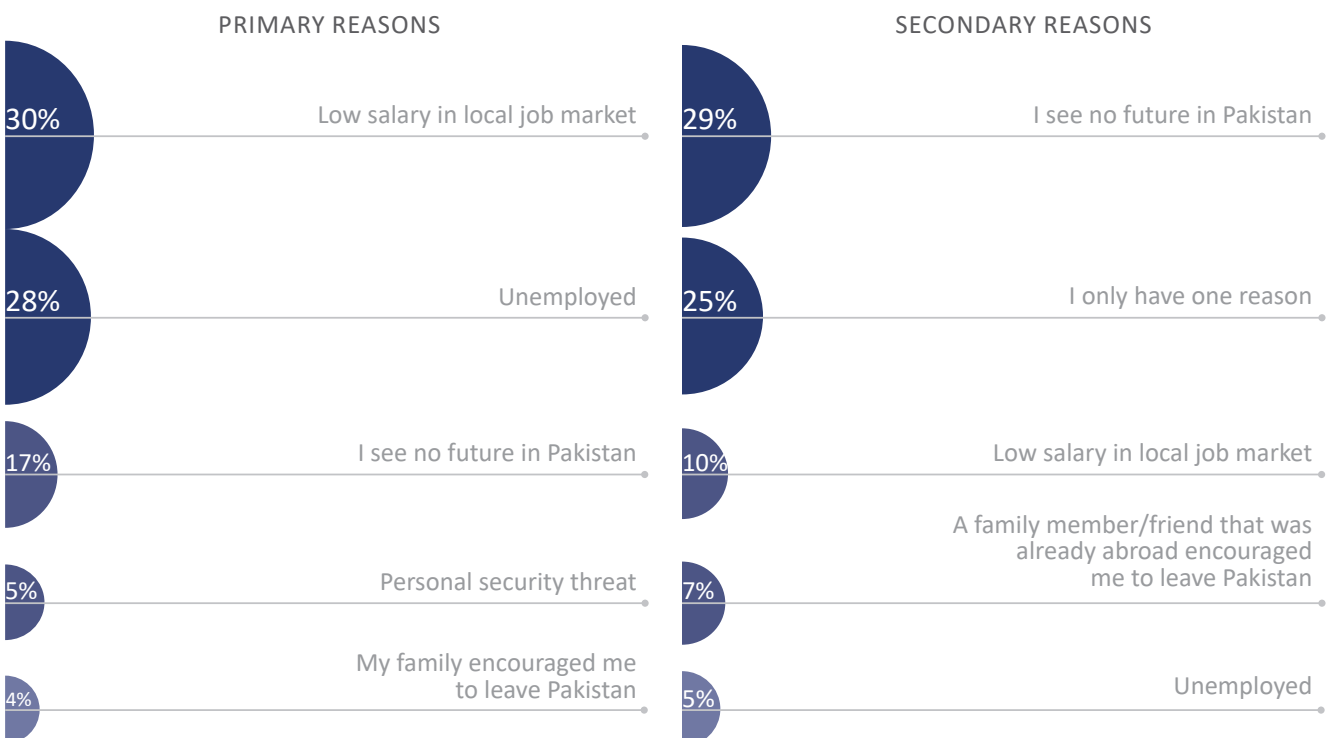
WHY DID YOU LEAVE PAKISTAN? (primary reasons, top 5 answers)

Unemployed

26%

25% — Low salary in local job market

21% — I see no future in Pakistan

8% — Personal security threat

5% — Loss in business

There was some variation in the reasons cited for migration when disaggregated by countries of return. Low salaries was the most common primary reason cited by respondents returning from Greece (30%), closely followed by unemployment (28%). Not seeing a future in Pakistan was an important secondary reason to leave Pakistan (29% in Greece, 23% in Germany, 20% in Bosnia-Herzegovina) across all countries of return.

WHY DID YOU LEAVE PAKISTAN BY COUNTRY OF RETURN? (top 5 answers)

GREECE

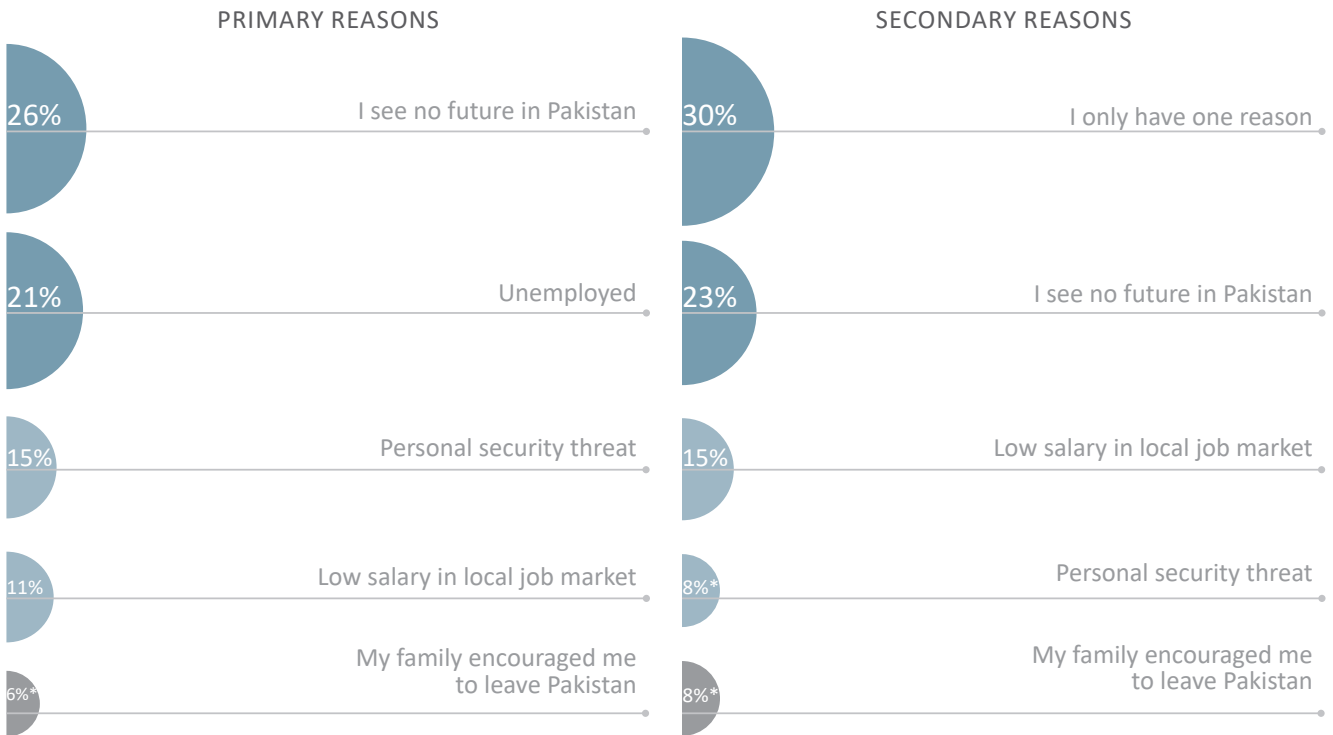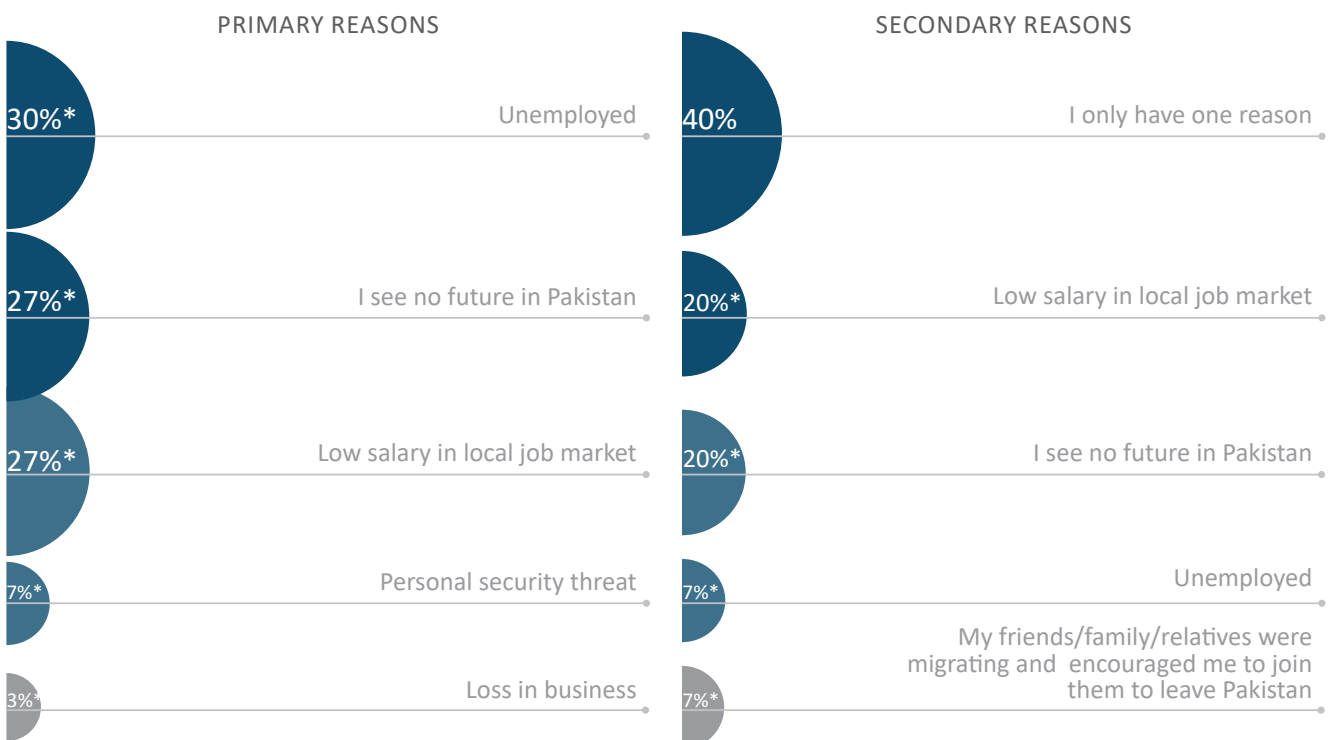| PRIMARY REASONS	SECONDARY REASONS
30% — Low salary in local job market	29% — I see no future in Pakistan
28% — Unemployed	25% — I only have one reason
17% — I see no future in Pakistan	10% — Low salary in local job market
5% — Personal security threat	7% — A family member/friend that was already abroad encouraged me to leave Pakistan
4% — My family encouraged me to leave Pakistan	5% — Unemployed

Among those returning from Germany, the perception of "no future in Pakistan" was most commonly reported as a primary reason (26%) and second most reported as a secondary reason (23%), followed by unemployment (21%). Thirty per cent only provided one reason.

GERMANY

PRIMARY REASONS

26% I see no future in Pakistan

21% Unemployed

15% Personal security threat

11% Low salary in local job market

6%* My family encouraged me to leave Pakistan

SECONDARY REASONS

30% I only have one reason

23% I see no future in Pakistan

15% Low salary in local job market

8%* Personal security threat

8%* My family encouraged me to leave Pakistan

Those returning from Bosnia and Herzegovina listed unemployment as the top primary reason for leaving Pakistan (30%), in addition to having no future in the country (27%) and low salaries (27%). Forty per cent of respondents returning from Bosnia and Herzegovina only provided one reason for leaving Pakistan.
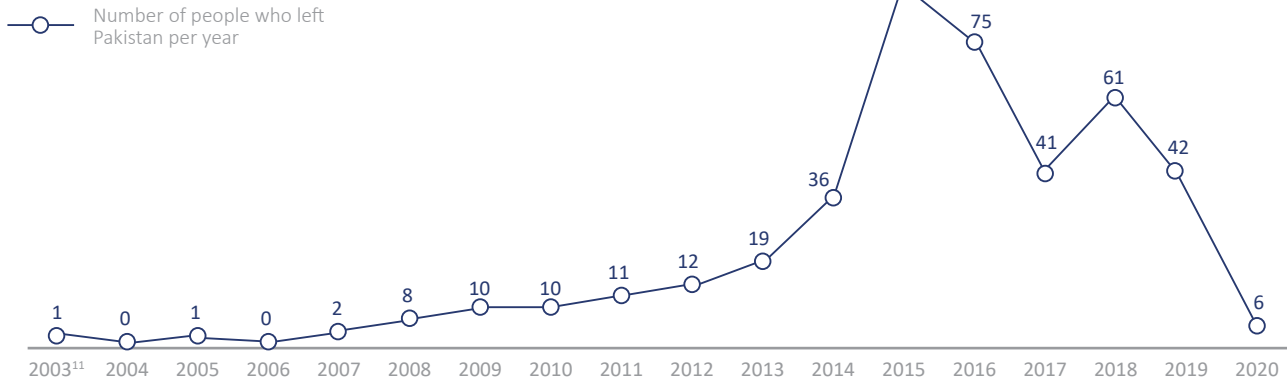
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

PRIMARY REASONS

30%* Unemployed

27%* I see no future in Pakistan

27%* Low salary in local job market

7%* Personal security threat

3%* Loss in business

SECONDARY REASONS

40% I only have one reason

20%* Low salary in local job market

20%* I see no future in Pakistan

7%* Unemployed

7%* My friends/family/relatives were migrating and encouraged me to join them to leave Pakistan

DURING MIGRATION

WHEN DID YOU LEAVE PAKISTAN?

Number of people who left Pakistan per year

Year	2003[11]	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Value	1	0	1	0	2	8	10	10	11	12	19	36	81	75	41	61	42	6

Among respondents, migration rose steadily from 2007 until its peak in 2015, during which 19 per cent of all respondents migrated abroad. This was followed by a decrease until 2018, which saw a bump in migration (15%), after which there was another decline. Thereafter, in 2020, there was the largest drop in migration since 2007, likely due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent global mobility restrictions.

Respondents most commonly intended to permanently settle in their countries of return (63%) when asked about their original migration timelines. Instead, 33 per cent returned to Pakistan after three to five years in the country of return, 31 per cent after 1 to 3 years and 26 per cent after more than five years. Those returning from Germany were more likely to have stayed in the country of return longer, with 41 per cent having stayed in Germany for over five years and 43 per cent for three to five years. On the other hand, those returning from Bosnia and Herzegovina were more likely to have spent the least amount of time in the country of return, with 53 per cent having stayed for one to three years and 40 per cent for one month to a year. These variations in timelines may be related to the migration intentions of respondents returning from different countries.
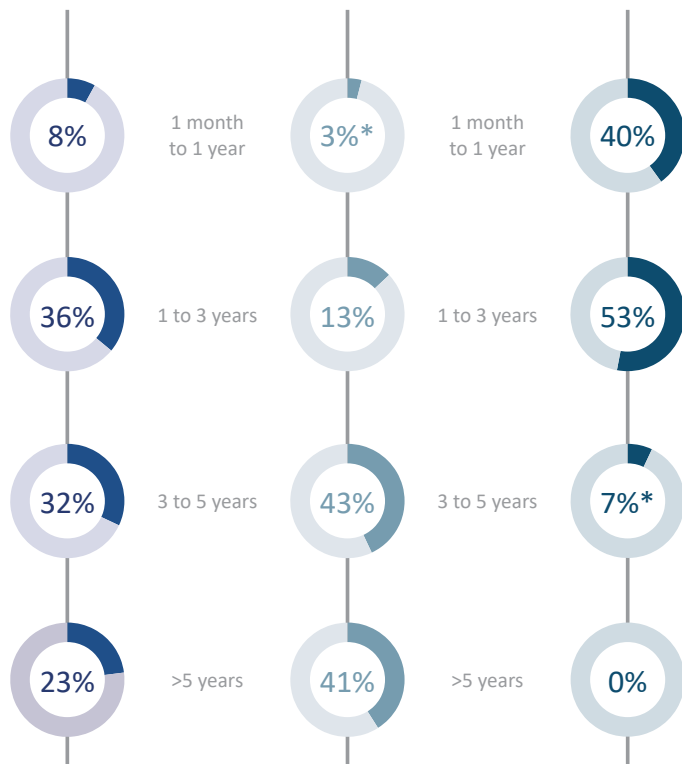
COUNTRY OF RETURN

270 Returned from Greece

117 Returned from Germany

30 Returned from Bosnia and Herzegovina

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

How long were you staying there?[12]

	Greece	Germany		Bosnia and Herzegovina
1 month to 1 year	8%	3%*	1 month to 1 year	40%
1 to 3 years	36%	13%	1 to 3 years	53%
3 to 5 years	32%	43%	3 to 5 years	7%*
>5 years	23%	41%	>5 years	0%

[11]Only three people left Pakistan before 2003.
[12]One per cent of respondents in Greece did not respond about their stay in the country of return.

Thirty per cent of respondents cited better salaries as the most important reason to migrate to the country they returned from. This was followed by job availability (14%) and the possibility of becoming a national of the country (13%). Twelve per cent of respondents indicated that they chose to migrate to Greece, Germany or Bosnia and Herzegovina because relative(s) and/or friend(s) were already there.

WHY DID YOU MIGRATE TO THE COUNTRY YOU RETURNED FROM? (primary reasons, top 4 answers)

30%
Better salaries

14%
Job availability

13%
I can become a national
of that country

12%
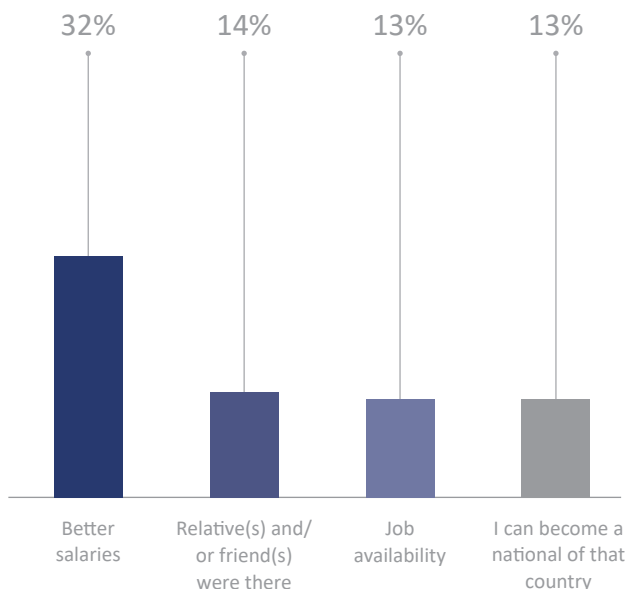Relative(s) and/or
friend(s) were there
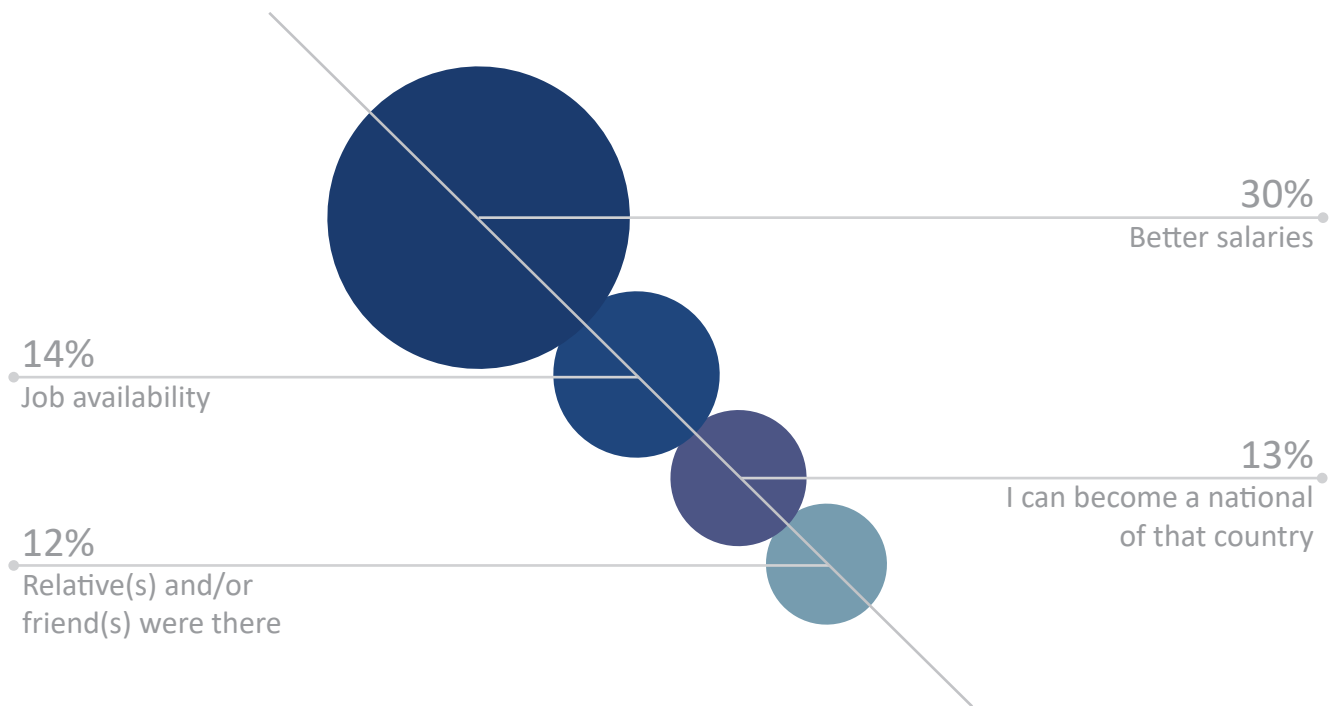
Among those returning from Greece, better salaries was indicated as the most significant primary reason to migrate to Greece (32%). The decision to migrate to Greece was also influenced by relative(s) and or friend(s) that were already there (14%).
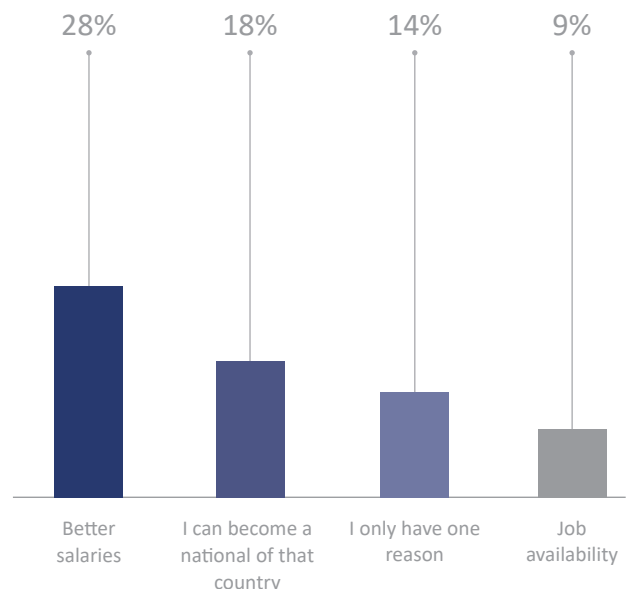
WHY DID YOU MIGRATE TO GREECE/GERMANY/BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA? (top 4 answers)

GREECE

PRIMARY REASONS

32%	14%	13%	13%
Better salaries	Relative(s) and/ or friend(s) were there	Job availability	I can become a national of that country

SECONDARY REASONS

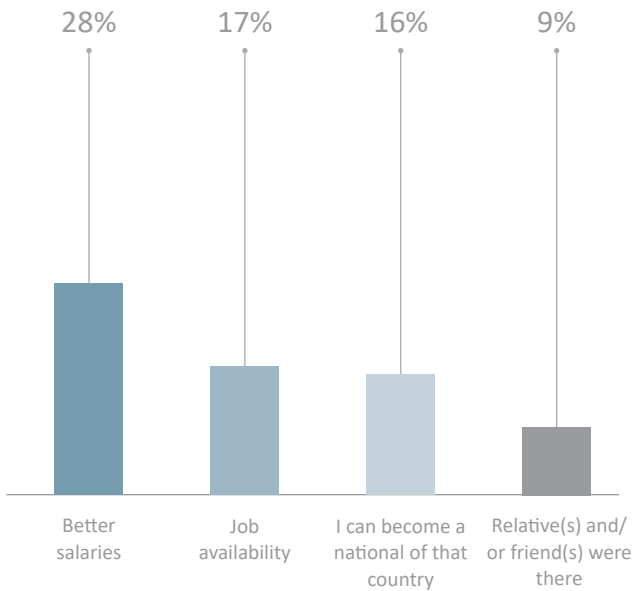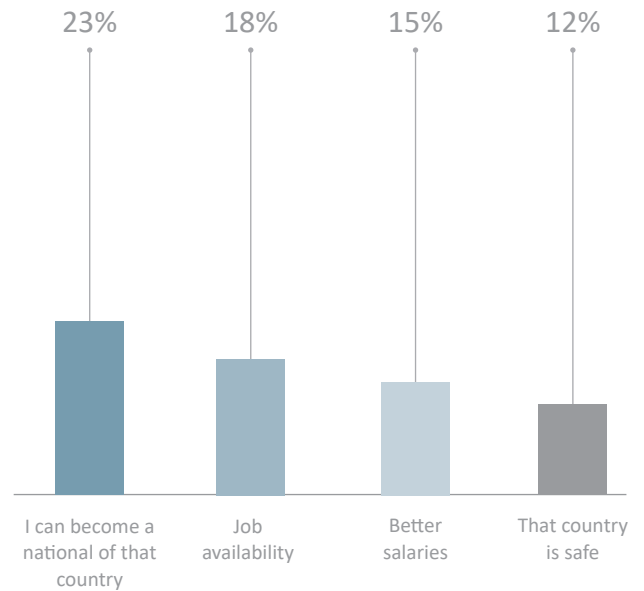| 28%	18%	14%	9%
Better salaries	I can become a national of that country	I only have one reason	Job availability

Among respondents from Germany, better salaries was also cited as an important reason to migrate to Germany (28%) together with job availability (17%). Sixteen per cent of respondents indicated that they chose to migrate to Germany because of the possibility of becoming a national.
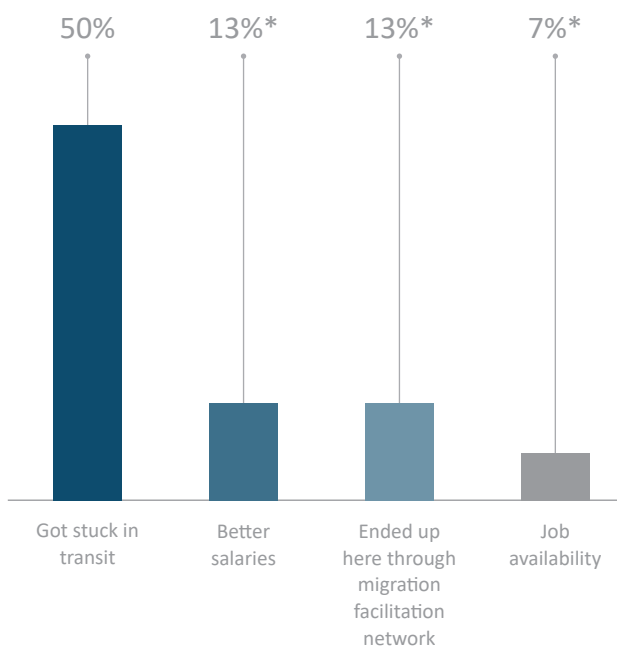
GERMANY

PRIMARY REASONS

28%	17%	16%	9%
Better salaries	Job availability	I can become a national of that country	Relative(s) and/or friend(s) were there

SECONDARY REASONS

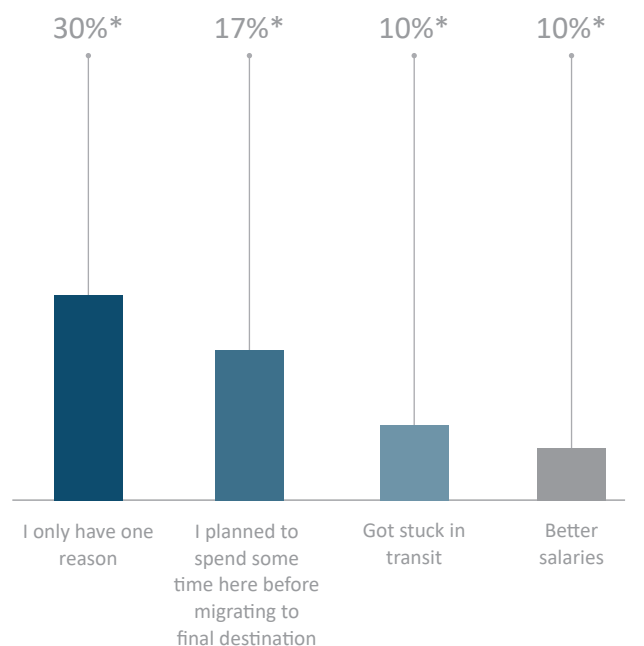| 23%	18%	15%	12%
I can become a national of that country	Job availability	Better salaries	That country is safe

Finally, half of all respondents returning from Bosnia and Herzegovina said that they had intended to go to a different country but got stuck as their primary reason for being in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Thirteen per cent ended up in Bosnia and Herzegovina because of the migration facilitation network.

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

PRIMARY REASONS

50%	13%*	13%*	7%*
Got stuck in transit	Better salaries	Ended up here through migration facilitation network	Job availability

SECONDARY REASONS

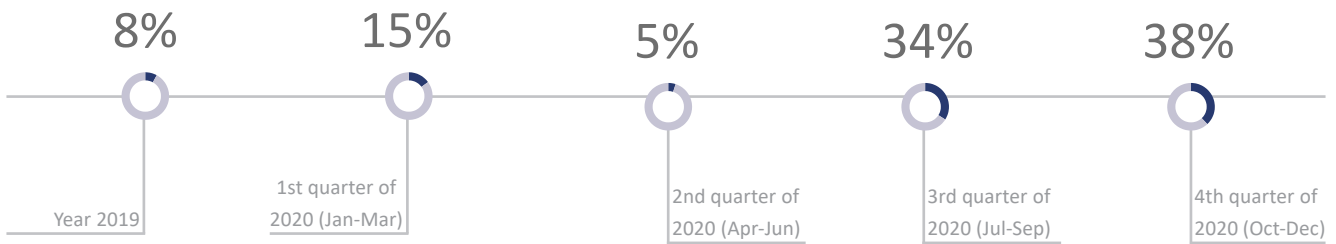| 30%*	17%*	10%*	10%*
I only have one reason	I planned to spend some time here before migrating to final destination	Got stuck in transit	Better salaries

RETURN

Within the scope of the study's target sample, which was returnees who had returned to Pakistan at the end of 2019 or in 2020, most respondents had returned during the last half of 2020 (72%). Only five per cent returned during the second quarter of 2020 (April-June), most likely reflecting global mobility restrictions due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic.
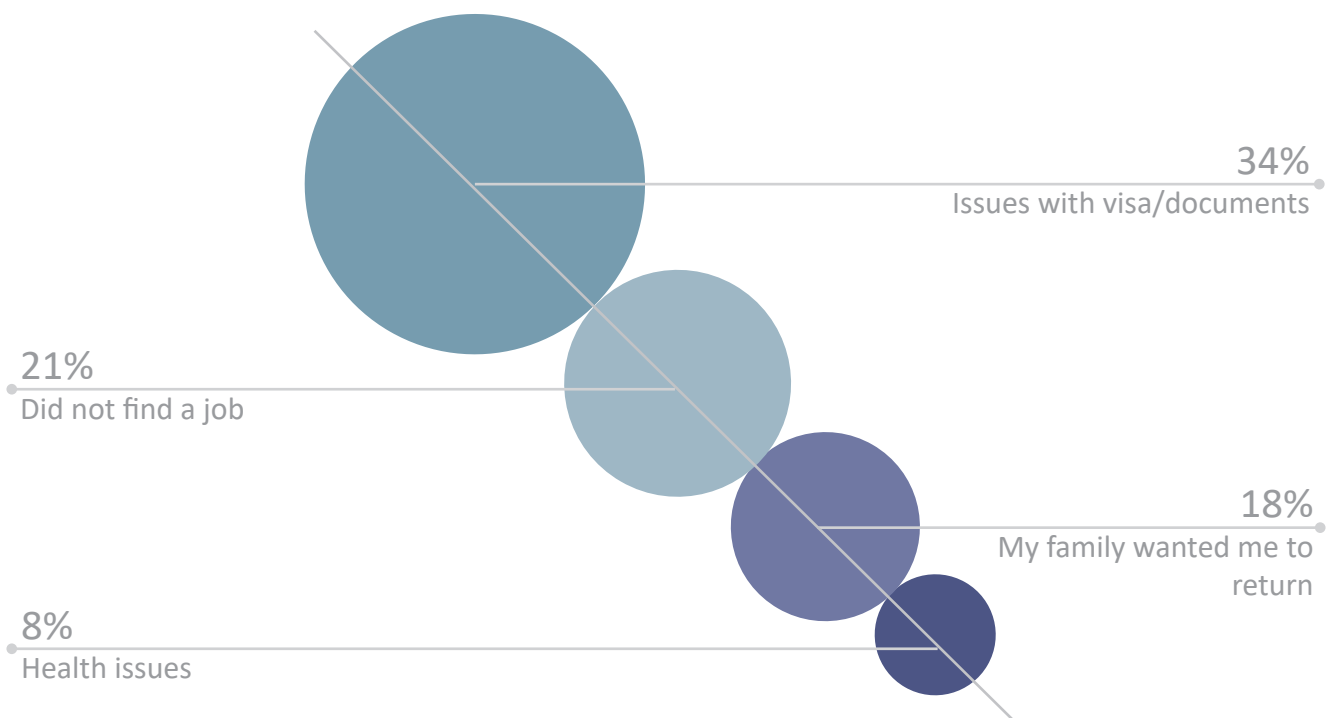
WHEN DID YOU RETURN TO PAKISTAN?

8%	15%	5%	34%	38%
Year 2019	1st quarter of 2020 (Jan-Mar)	2nd quarter of 2020 (Apr-Jun)	3rd quarter of 2020 (Jul-Sep)	4th quarter of 2020 (Oct-Dec)

Ninety-seven per cent of total respondents returned to the same district and *tehsil* (sub-district) where they lived prior to migration. Among the three per cent who returned to a different location, nearly all re-located to the Punjab province.

Respondents were also asked why they returned to Pakistan. Issues with visas and documents was a significant primary reason for return among respondents (34%). Not finding a job in the country of return and family members wanted respondents to return were also common primary reasons (21% and 18% among all respondents, respectively). Another eight per cent cited health issues as a reason to return to Pakistan.

WHY DID YOU RETURN TO PAKISTAN? (primary reasons, top 4 answers)

34%
Issues with visa/documents

21%
Did not find a job

18%
My family wanted me to return

8%
Health issues

WHY DID YOU RETURN TO PAKISTAN BY COUNTRY OF RETURN? (top 3 answers)

Issues with visas and documents was an important reason cited for return to Pakistan for respondents returning from Greece. It was listed as the most important primary reason (32%) and as the second most important secondary reason (22%). Not finding a job was also a common reason for return.

GREECE

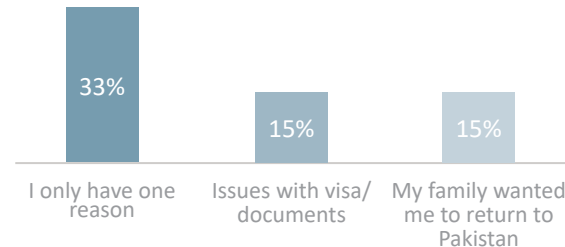PRIMARY REASON
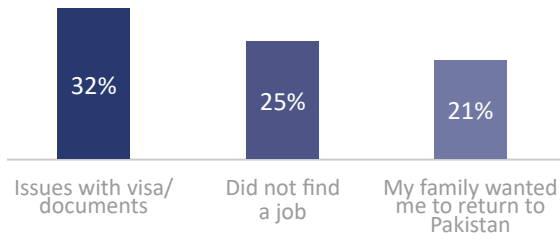
SECONDARY REASON

Respondents who returned from Germany cited issues with visas and documents as their primary reason to return to Pakistan (42%). This reason was also provided as the most important secondary reason (15%). The family encouraging the respondent to return to Pakistan and family reasons also played a role in the decision to return.

GERMANY

PRIMARY REASON
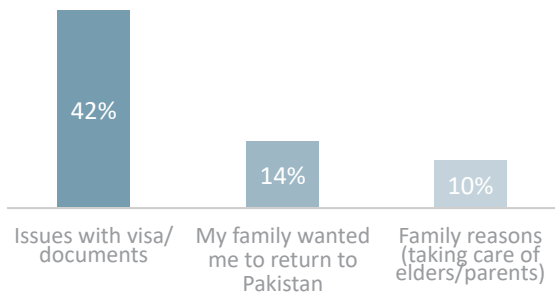
SECONDARY REASON

Not finding a job was the most important reason reported by respondents for returning to Pakistan from Bosnia and Herzegovina (30%). Issues with visa and documents was another significant reason to return to Pakistan (20% as primary reason and 20% as secondary reason). In addition, 13 per cent cited health issues as a reason for return.

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA
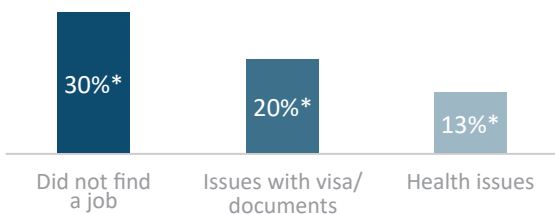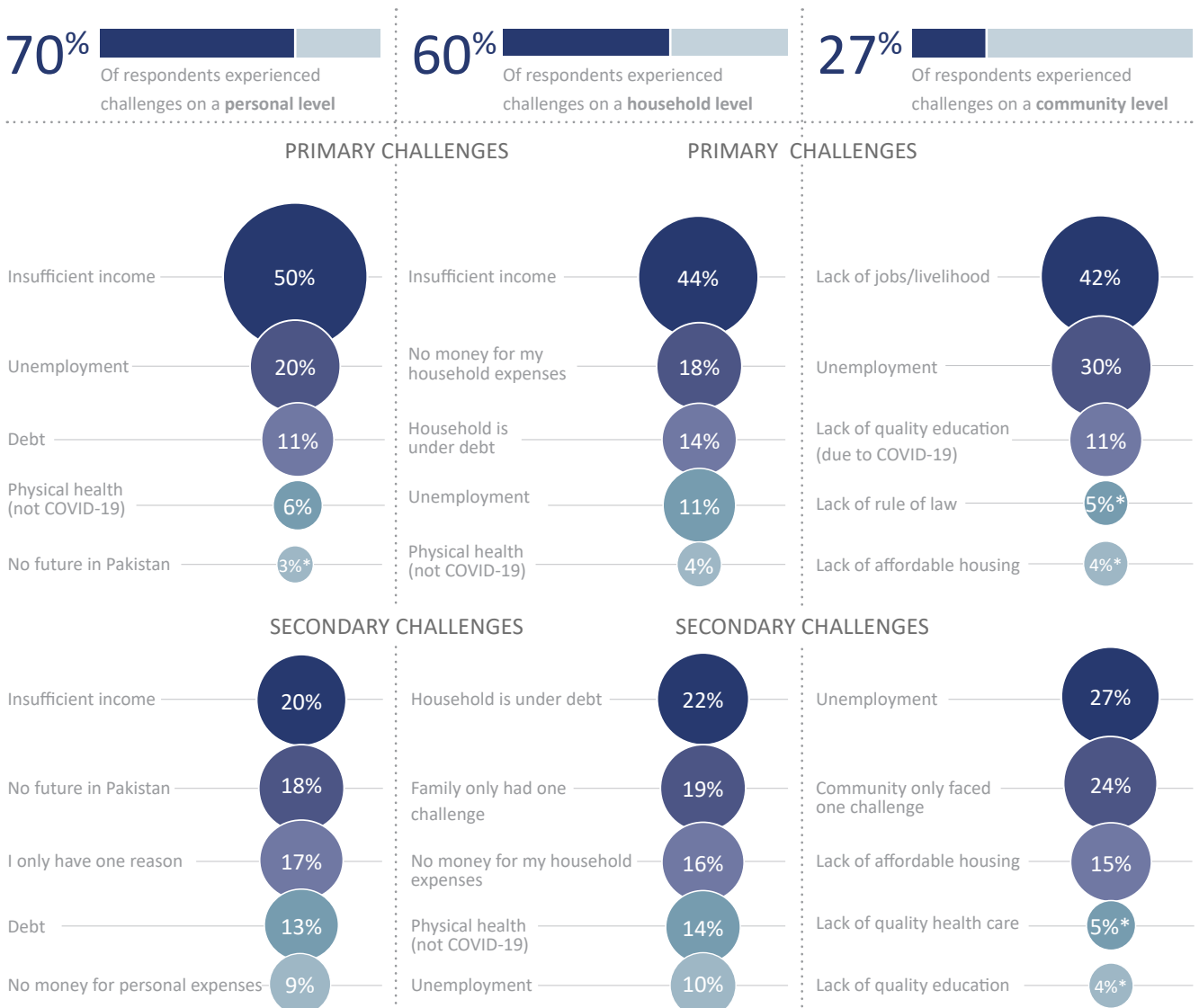
PRIMARY REASON

SECONDARY REASON

CHALLENGES

Seventy per cent of respondents reported facing challenges at the personal level during the last six months in Pakistan. The largest primary personal challenges include insufficient income (50%), unemployment (20%) and debts (11%). The perception of having no future in Pakistan is an important secondary personal challenge (18%), once again highlighting a perceived lack of opportunities in the country.

Economic challenges were once again at the forefront on the household level, on which 60 per cent of respondents reported experiencing challenges in the last six months. Insufficient income and no money for household expenses were respondents' primary concerns (44% and 18% respectively) followed by household debt and unemployment (14% and 11%, respectively). Household debt and a lack of funds for household expenses were also the most common secondary challenges (22% and 16%), with 14 per cent of respondents who experienced household level challenges also citing physical health/illness among family members (not related to COVID-19).

Challenges at the community level were focused mainly around the job market. Twenty-seven per cent of respondents reported facing community challenges. Forty-two percent of those listed a lack of jobs/livelihoods as their primary challenge, and 30 per cent listed unemployment. Unemployment was also the top secondary challenge, cited by 27 per cent of respondents who experienced community level challenges. This was followed by a lack of affordable housing in the community (15%). In addition to the challenges of the community due to COVID-19, 11 per cent of respondents indicated that their community faced a lack of quality education, and two per cent per cent of respondents indicated a lack of healthcare related to COVID-19 as the primary challenge of the community.

EXPERIENCED CHALLENGES (top 5 answers)

70% Of respondents experienced challenges on a **personal level**

60% Of respondents experienced challenges on a **household level**

27% Of respondents experienced challenges on a **community level**

PRIMARY CHALLENGES

Personal		Household		Community	
Insufficient income	50%	Insufficient income	44%	Lack of jobs/livelihood	42%
Unemployment	20%	No money for my household expenses	18%	Unemployment	30%
Debt	11%	Household is under debt	14%	Lack of quality education (due to COVID-19)	11%
Physical health (not COVID-19)	6%	Unemployment	11%	Lack of rule of law	5%*
No future in Pakistan	3%*	Physical health (not COVID-19)	4%	Lack of affordable housing	4%*

SECONDARY CHALLENGES

Personal		Household		Community	
Insufficient income	20%	Household is under debt	22%	Unemployment	27%
No future in Pakistan	18%	Family only had one challenge	19%	Community only faced one challenge	24%
I only have one reason	17%	No money for my household expenses	16%	Lack of affordable housing	15%
Debt	13%	Physical health (not COVID-19)	14%	Lack of quality health care	5%*
No money for personal expenses	9%	Unemployment	10%	Lack of quality education	4%*

PRIOR MIGRATION EXPERIENCE

In order to examine how previous migration experience shapes new patterns of mobility, respondents were asked about their prior migration experiences. Aside from their most recent migration abroad, 14 per cent of respondents had migrated internationally before for a period longer than six months. Previous migration experience was most common among respondents who had returned from Bosnia and Herzegovina (23%*), followed by those who returned from Germany (17%) and those who returned from Greece (11%).

The highest share of respondents with prior migration experience was between 30 and 39 years of age (41%). This was followed by respondents between 20 and 29 (28%) and 40 and 49 (19%). Respondents above 50 represented the smallest share (12%*). More than half of those with prior migration experience had a middle school or secondary school certificate (52%). Another 16 per cent* had a higher secondary certificate, while 14 per cent* had no education. Of those with prior migration experience, 29 per cent wanted to re-migrate in the next six months. This is higher than the overall share of respondents that want to re-migrate (20%).

Ninety per cent of those who had migrated abroad prior to their most recent migration were from the province of Punjab. Forty-five per cent were from the district of Gujrat in Punjab. This finding is most likely related to the large portion of the sample being from Punjab, however, previous studies characterize Pakistani emigration rates as being highest in Punjab as compared to other provinces (Rehman, 2015).

HAVE YOU MIGRATED INTERNATIONALLY BEFORE?[13]

14%
of respondents had prior migration experience

BREAKDOWN BY COUNTRY OF RETURN

Greece	Germany	Bosnia and Herzegovina
11%	17%	23%*

Of those with prior migration experience...

41 per cent were aged between 30 and 39

52 per cent had middle school or secondary school certificate

29 per cent wanted to re-migrate in the next six months

90 per cent came from Punjab province

[13]Only if the respondent crossed an international border and stayed outside Pakistan for at least 6 months. This does not include the respondents' most recent migration experience to the country where they returned from.
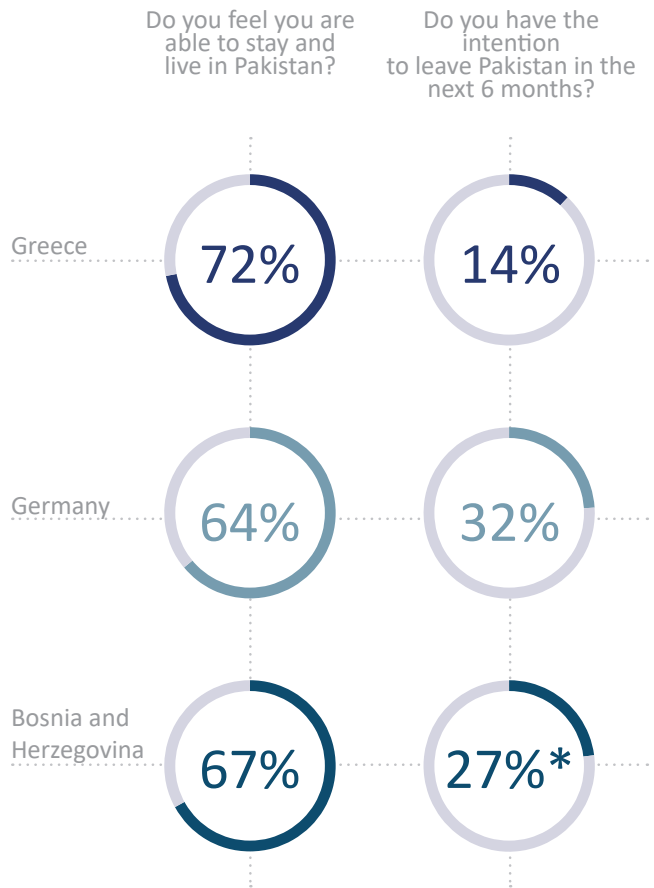
RE-MIGRATION

When asked if they feel that they are able to stay and live in Pakistan, 70 per cent of respondents responded affirmatively. Among the 21 per cent who responded that they cannot stay and live in Pakistan, 64 per cent (13% of total respondents) intend to migrate from Pakistan in the next six months. The rates for wanting to re-migrate within six months are highest among respondents who returned from Germany and Bosnia and Herzegovina (32% and 27%, respectively).

Among those who intend to re-migrate, 44 per cent reported that they were motivated by a higher potential income outside of Pakistan. Other important primary reasons for re-migration were security reasons (15%) and a lack of job opportunities in Pakistan (13%). The perception of having no future in Pakistan was the most common secondary reason to re-migrate (29%).
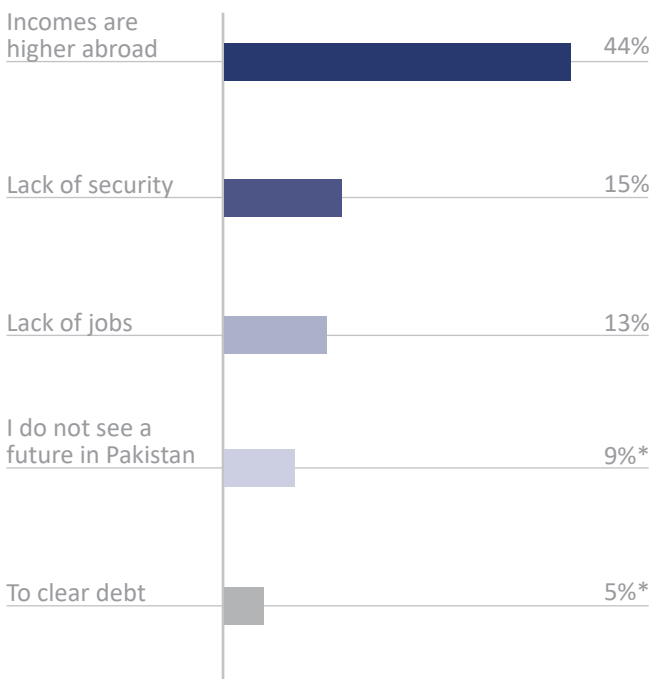
These findings are consistent with both the CMFS and the Flow Monitoring Survey (FMS), which both cite the prospect of improved socio-economic conditions in the form of better income and more job opportunities as both a primary reason for migration and a primary decision-making factor in choosing a destination country (IOM, 2019; IOM, 2018).
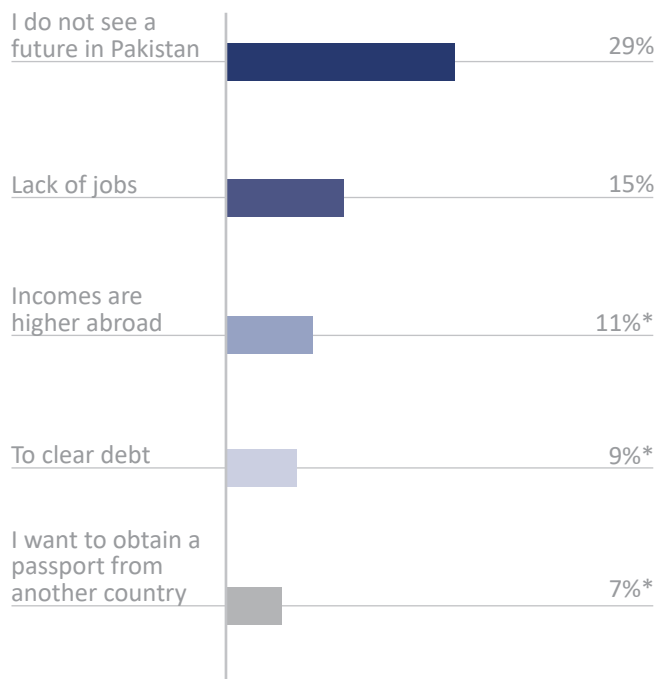
RE-MIGRATION INTENTIONS

Do you feel you are able to stay and live in Pakistan?

Do you have the intention to leave Pakistan in the next 6 months?

Greece — 72% — 14%

Germany — 64% — 32%

Bosnia and Herzegovina — 67% — 27%*

WHY DO YOU WANT TO RE-MIGRATE? (top 5 reasons)

PRIMARY REASONS

Reason	Percent
Incomes are higher abroad	44%
Lack of security	15%
Lack of jobs	13%
I do not see a future in Pakistan	9%*
To clear debt	5%*

SECONDARY REASONS

Reason	Percent
I do not see a future in Pakistan	29%
Lack of jobs	15%
Incomes are higher abroad	11%*
To clear debt	9%*
I want to obtain a passport from another country	7%*

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