COMPREHENSIVE PROFILE OF AFGHAN
POTENTIAL MIGRANTS IN AFGHANISTAN 2016

co-funded by the European Union

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

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**STATISTICAL NOTE**

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

**CONCEPTS AND DEFINITIONS**

**Migration facilitator:** refers to anyone that is involved in the facilitation of migration services (irregular and regular) via air, land or sea routes in exchange for money. Those services can reach from consultative services for visa application and acquiring (fraudulent) documents, to transportation arrangement, to the facilitation of border crossings. The term used does not intend to neglect the differences in services and often used terms for those persons providing the migration services.
958 Afghan potential migrants to Europe and Turkey were interviewed in Afghanistan. Men composed 93 per cent of the sample population. Sixty-five per cent of the respondents were aged between 18 and 24 years. Most respondents were single (65%) and did not have children (74%). One in 3 respondents have previously lived abroad for at least six months. Fifty-four per cent of those with previous migration experience lived in Iran and 40 per cent in Pakistan. Most of them reported being undocumented (58%) at the time of their migration.
EDUCATION

Seventy-seven per cent of the Afghan potential migrants had some sort of education while 22 per cent had no education. Forty-five per cent of the respondents had secondary education, 15 per cent primary education and 15 per cent a bachelor’s degree.

Most respondents had some level of education

EMPLOYMENT

Almost 6 in 10 Afghan potential migrants (58%) were employed prior to migration. Most of them were self employed or business owners (30%). Twenty per cent were daily labourers, 19 per cent worked as clerks/shop assistants and 10 per cent worked in the food sector.

TYPE OF EMPLOYMENT BEFORE MIGRATION
SOCIAL NETWORKS IN EUROPE

Do you have family and friends in Europe?

48% Yes

If yes, who are they?

100% Family/relatives

The majority of people in respondents' social networks resided in 3 countries:

- Germany 55%
- Sweden 10%
- Austria 7%

One in two Afghans had a social network of family and relatives in Europe before their departure. Seventy-two per cent of whom lived in three countries: Germany (55%), Sweden (10%) and Austria (7%). Thirteen per cent of the respondents received financial support from their network in Europe to pay for their migration journey. Family and friends in Europe and Turkey mostly shared information on the job market (47%) and the security situation in Europe (26%).

Most respondents received no financial support from their networks

- 81% did not receive money from their networks
- 13% received money

Note: 6% of the answers are ‘I do not want to answer’

Information received by social networks in EU

- 47% Job market
- 26% Safety/security
- 22% Livelihood/lifestyle
- 17% Education
- 15% No information shared
- 4% Asylum/visa/documents
- 3% Route/transport
- 2% Risks related to migration

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REASONS AND DRIVERS OF MIGRATION

MAIN REASONS FOR MIGRATING TO EUROPE

- 89% Lack of Jobs
- 58% Security situation in Afghanistan
- 32% Work abroad
- 30% Lack of educational opportunities
- 23% Lack of trust in the Government
- 15% Study abroad

Of the respondents already knew where they wanted to migrate: 89%

Of the respondents have been internally displaced at least once in their lifetime: 17%

MAIN TRIGGERS FOR MIGRATION

- 53% Lack of livelihoods/job opportunities
- 33% Concerns for personal safety
- 27% No particular event triggered me for migration
- 3% Lack of education

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COMPREHENSIVE MIGRATION FLOW SURVEY (CMFS)
Thirteen per cent of the respondents did not make the decision to migrate themselves. Those who did not decide upon their migration reported that, in 38 per cent of the cases, this decision was made by their father. The main intended destination countries for Afghan respondents were Germany (58%), Sweden (9%), and France (6%). Respondents reported that the main reason for choosing a certain destination country was to find a job (41%).
REASONS AND DRIVERS OF MIGRATION

CONCRETE PLANS MADE BEFORE DEPARTURE

- 40% Found a migration facilitator
- 33% Discussed the costs
- 23% No plans made (yet)
- 5% Paid the migration facilitator
- 3% Obtained visa for travel
- 4% Initiated visa procedure
- 4% Aid workers/NGO staff
- 4% Social media

DO YOU KNOW WHAT AN ASYLUM PROCEDURE IS?

- 74% No
- 24% Yes

IF YES, WHO EXPLAINED THE ASYLUM PROCEDURE TO YOU?

- 58% Family/friends in Afghanistan
- 21% Case workers in destination
- 6% Aid workers/NGO staff
- 4% Other migrants
- 4% Social media

Note: 2% of the answers are 'I do not want to answer'
### REASONS AND DRIVERS OF MIGRATION

**DO YOU HAVE A VISA TO TRAVEL TO EUROPE?**

- **83%** No
- **11%** Yes, for Europe or transit country
- **6%** I do not want to answer/ other

**WITH WHOM DO YOU INTEND TO TRAVEL?**

- **40%** Migration facilitator
- **21%** Friends
- **17%** Alone
- **11%** Multiple answers
- **6%** I do not want to answer/ other

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION ABOUT MIGRATION TO EUROPE

- **64%** Friends in Afghanistan
- **42%** Friends out of Afghanistan
- **12%** Family in Afghanistan
- **12%** Internet
- **11%** Television
- **4%** Family in Europe
- **2%** Village elder
- **2%** Migration facilitator

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COMPREHENSIVE PROFILE OF AFGHAN POTENTIAL MIGRANTS IN AFGHANISTAN
REASONS AND DRIVERS OF MIGRATION

Fifty-seven per cent of the potential migrants would advise family and friends to migrate to Europe. Respondents would consider staying in Afghanistan if a number of factors changed. Increased safety was cited as the main factor for considering staying in Afghanistan by 5.8 people out of 10. Other important factors were the availability of jobs (3/10 people) and better education (0.6/10 people).

WHAT NEEDS TO CHANGE IN AFGHANISTAN TO DECIDE NOT TO MIGRATE?

- Improvement of the security situation: 5.8/10 people
- Access to jobs: 3/10 people
- Increased quality of education: 0.6/10 people

Note: this qualitative question was coded by using thematic analysis and allowing for multiple answers. Each indicator was divided by the total number of respondents and multiplied by ten to illustrate the number of respondents in 10 people who would (not) migrate if the given indicator will change.
Of the respondents have already found a migration facilitator.

**WHAT WILL THE MIGRATION FACILITATOR ARRANGE FOR YOU?**

- 46% Transportation/ travel to transit/ destination country
- 43% Food and/or water
- 15% Vehicle
- 9% Documents to travel or stay in destination country
- 7% Shelter

**HOW DID YOU FIND YOUR MIGRATION FACILITATOR?**

- 73% Friends
- 18% Family
- 9% Other/ I don’t want to answer

**HOW WILL YOU PAY FOR THE JOURNEY?**

- 49% Borrow money
- 37% Other/ I don’t want to answer
- 13% Sell land
- 7% Other/ I don’t want to answer
Sixty-two per cent of the respondents expected to face problems while en route to Europe. The most common expected problems were robbery (23%) and risk of life (21%). Secondary expected issues were problems at sea (25%) and robbery (18%).

**PRIMARY EXPECTED CHALLENGES**

- **A** 23% Robbery
- **B** 21% Risk of life
- **C** 16% Problems at sea
- **D** 7% Physical violence

**SECONDARY EXPECTED CHALLENGES**

- **A** 25% Problems at sea
- **B** 18% Robbery
- **C** 11% Risk of life
- **D** 7% Deportation