CMFS BACKGROUND
This report was produced with the financial assistance of the European Union (EU) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands. Data was collected through DTM’s Comprehensive Migration Flows Surveys (CMFS) methodology that aims to enable a better understanding of migration flows from Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Iraq, Nigeria, Pakistan and Somalia towards Europe, a collaborative effort by the DTM support team and relevant IOM field missions funded by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This report is part of the outputs under the EU-funded project “Regional Evidence for Migration Analysis and Policy (REMAP)”. The objective of DTM REMAP is to strengthen the evidence-based formulation and implementation of humanitarian and development policy and programming on migration and forced displacement in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Iran, Iraq and Pakistan through the use of the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM). The findings, interpretations and conclusions expressed in this report can in no way be taken to reflect the official opinion of IOM, its Member States, the European Union, the Dutch Government or other donors. The designations employed and the presentation of material throughout the work do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of IOM concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area, or of its authorities, or concerning its frontiers or boundaries.

METHODOLOGY
The methodological framework of the DTM’s CMFS is based on the collection of primary data, which provides information on migration flows towards Europe from Iraq whilst focusing on six thematic areas: (1) migrant profiles, (2) migration drivers and decision-making, (3) migrant vulnerabilities, (4) the role of intermediaries, (5) migrant perceptions towards Europe and (6) migration choices and options. The data DTM collected under the CMFS in 2017 among Iraqi nationals was based on three data-collection tools, each surveying a different target group; data was collected among i) Iraqi migrants en route to Europe (Bulgaria and Greece), ii) Iraqi migrants in their final European destination country (the Netherlands), and iii) Iraqi migrants who returned to Iraq from Europe. Due to the nature of the target groups, respondents for these surveys were sampled using basic random sampling in combination with snowball sampling in main target locations (e.g. migrant reception centers). The sample sizes of Iraqi respondents were as follows: a) Bulgaria: 976 Iraqi respondents, b) Greece: 254 Iraqi respondents, c) the Netherlands: 195 Iraqi respondents and d) Returnees in Iraq from Europe: 675 Iraqi respondents. To best identify the target population and develop a more robust interviewee-interviewer relationship, the data collectors that conducted the surveys were also Iraqi nationals.
GENERAL OVERVIEW

2,100 PEOPLE INTERVIEWED

AVERAGE HH SIZE
6.1 persons

MARRITAL STATUS
54% married/civil union

AVERAGE AGE
31 years

SOCIAL NETWORKS IN EUROPE
(prior to migration)

74% FRIENDS
73% FAMILY

WHILE 70% OF RESPONDENTS INDEPENDENTLY MADE THE DECISION TO MIGRATE...

30% of the respondents did not make the decision to migrate themselves

Of those that did not independently make the decision to migrate, the decision was made by:

- Spouse: 51%
- Parents: 42%
- Others: 4%
- Siblings: 3%
CHALLENGES FACED PRIOR TO MIGRATION

PERSONAL LEVEL CHALLENGES
73%
Reported facing challenges at the personal level

HOUSEHOLD LEVEL CHALLENGES
72%
Reported facing challenges at the household level

COMMUNITY LEVEL CHALLENGES
78%
Reported facing challenges at the community level
MAIN TRIGGER FOR MIGRATION

- 58% Security incident
- 27% Family pressure to migrate
- 15% Unemployed
- 14% Loss of employment
- 9% A family member/friend in Europe asked me to come
- 7% Many people in my community had left and I decided to leave too

MOST RETURNEES WOULD MIGRATE AGAIN TO EUROPE, ONLY IN A LEGAL MANNER

Would you migrate again to Europe? (asked to returnees only)

- Yes, but only in a legal manner: 47%
- Yes, does not matter if legal or irregular: 27%
- No: 20%
- Yes, but irregularly again: 6%
57% of the migrants would advise others to migrate to Europe

Main reasons to advise others to migrate

- Lack of hope for the future in Iraq: 54%
- Better safety and security in EU: 42%
- Yes, but only in a legal way: 33%
- Respect for human rights in EU: 19%
- Perception of jobs in the EU: 5%

37% of the migrants would not advise others to migrate to Europe

Main reasons to not advise others to migrate

- Difficulties along the route: 56%
- Dangerous route: 47%
- Life in EU is not as expected: 21%
- Difficult to obtain a legal status: 18%
- Difficult to find a job: 4%

WHY DO MIGRANTS CHOOSE INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION OVER REGIONAL MIGRATION?

Primary reasons

- EU is safer: 29%
- Existing social networks in the EU: 19%
- EU respects human rights: 18%
- Better standard of living in EU: 11%
- No jobs in the region: 7%

Secondary reasons

- EU is safer: 31%
- Respect of human rights in EU: 22%
- Better standard of living in EU: 10%
- Existing social networks in EU: 6%
- Better social services in EU: 5%
Primary reasons for migration

- War/conflict at country level: 34%
- Personal/family level insecurity/security threats: 30%
- Lack of jobs/livelihoods: 15%
- No economic growth/prosperity: 5%

Secondary reasons for migration

- War/conflict at the country level: 14%
- Personal/family level insecurity/security threats: 22%
- No economic growth: 12%
- Xenophobia/racism: 7%
- No rule of law: 7%

Note: the above graphics represent only the top primary and secondary reasons for migration, and do not display all possible given reasons. Because of this, the percentages for each above graphic do not add to 100%.