



International Organization for Migration (IOM)
The UN Migration Agency

ETHIOPIAN, NIGERIAN AND SOMALI MIGRANTS IN THE NETHERLANDS

A SNAPSHOT REPORT ON ETHIOPIAN, NIGERIAN AND SOMALI
MIGRANTS IN THE NETHERLANDS

DISPLACEMENT TRACKING MATRIX (DTM)



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Ethiopian, Nigerian and Somali migrants in The Netherlands:

A snapshot report on Ethiopian, Nigerian and Somali migrants in the Netherlands

This snapshot report is part of the outputs of the last phase of IOM's project implementation on data collection 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. The findings, interpretations and conclusions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the views of IOM or its Member States. 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.

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BACKGROUND

The project “Enabling a better understanding of migrations flows (and its root-causes) from Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Iraq, Nigeria, Pakistan and Somalia towards Europe” was designed by IOM DTM and is funded by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MinBuZa). The IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), is a set of tools and methodologies to enable systematic and regular primary data collection, analysis and dissemination on human mobility and forced migration (both internal and cross-borders) and has been deployed in over 70 countries since 2004, positioning IOM as a key contributor to humanitarian response in natural disasters, conflicts, and complex emergencies alike.

The research study draws its analysis from four different target populations – potential migrants that have not yet left their country of residence, migrants en route to Europe, migrants in destination countries as well as migrants upon return to their country of origin. Although the entire study aims to understand the migration patterns of six nationalities, this snapshot only focuses on Somali, Nigerian and Ethiopian migrants that have made it to Europe, more precisely to the Netherlands. In order to increase the understanding of migration flows (and its root-causes) from Iraq towards Europe the “Comprehensive Migration Flows Survey (CMFS)” was chosen as the most suitable DTM component. For the implementation of the CMFS regarding Somali, Nigerian and Ethiopian nationals, different field locations for data collection activities were chosen: Somalia, Nigeria and Ethiopia as the countries of origin/departure; Sudan, Niger, Libya and Greece as transit countries, as well as the Netherlands as destination country. The data collection in each of the field location aims to shed light on six thematic areas which have been designed under this project:

THEMATIC AREAS

TA 1	TA 2	TA 3	TA 4	TA 5	TA 6
Migrant profiles (Socio-demographic)	Migration drivers and decision making	Vulnerability factors in origin, transit and destination countries	Role of intermediaries	Migrants’ perceptions towards Europe	Migration Choices and Options

In this context it is important to acknowledge that the findings outlined in the next part of this snapshot report are not representative for the whole Somali, Nigerian and Ethiopian migrant population that has recently migrated to Europe. This snapshot report aims to provide general findings of data collection amongst the migrant groups in the Netherlands between July and October 2017. Since the sample sizes are rather small (Somalis n=55; Nigerians=41, Ethiopians=72) results should not be overinterpreted.

ETHIOPIAN, NIGERIAN, SOMALI MIGRANTS

ETHIOPIAN, NIGERIAN, SOMALI PROFILES

For data collection in the Netherlands, 168 interviews with migrants from Somalia, Nigeria and Ethiopia were conducted. The sample size consisted of 55 Somali, 41 Nigerian and 72 Ethiopian migrants. The gender distribution for all three nationalities was relatively even distributed. In the case of Somali and Ethiopian nationals, 53 per cent were male and 47 per cent were female. The Nigerian sample consisted of 66 per cent male and 34 per cent female migrants. For all three nationalities 75 per cent or more were between the age of 18 and 37 years old.

The largest share of all three nationalities had left their country of origin in either 2014 or before – 50 per cent of the Ethiopian respondents left in 2014 or before, 52 per cent of the Nigerian respondents and even 58 per cent of the Somali respondents indicated that timeframe for leaving Somalia. With regards to the arrival date in the Netherlands, a large share came to the Netherlands in 2015 (26%) or before 2015 (21%). During 2016, around 20 per cent of the respondents had arrived in the Netherlands and almost 30 percent came throughout the year of 2017.

In the case of Somalis, most of the respondents had migrated from Banadir (58%) – the remaining 42 came from several different regions within Somalia. For the Nigerian case, the largest share were from Edo (41.5%), followed by Lagos (17%) and Kano (7%). The Ethiopian respondents predominately came from Addis Ababa (31%), Oromia (25%) as well as Amhara (22%).

Figure 1: Time of Arrival in the Netherlands

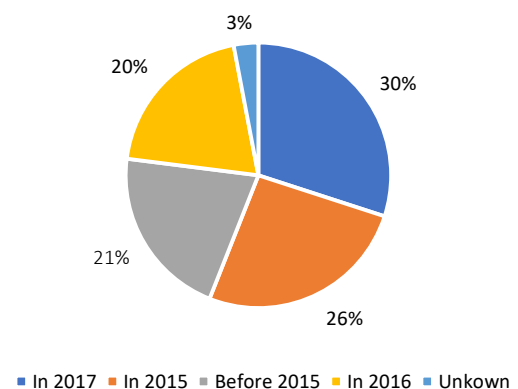
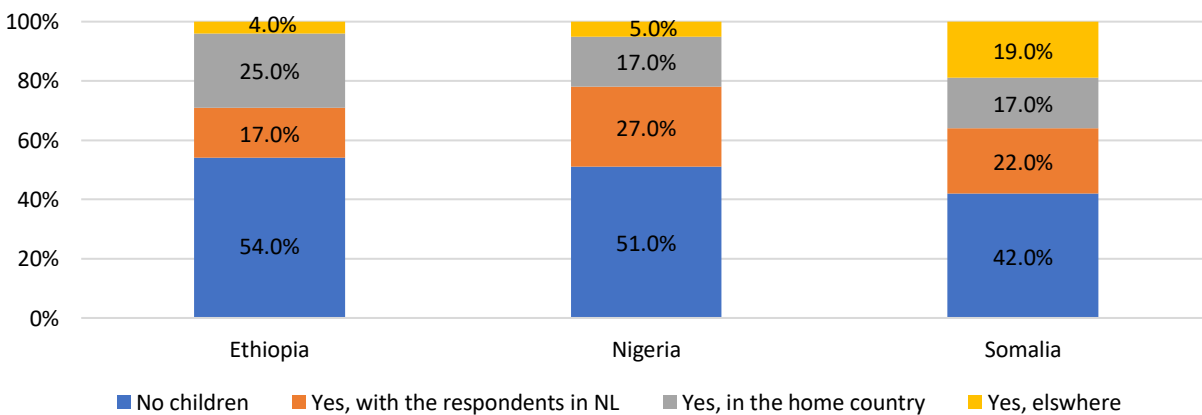


Table 1 – Provinces of Origin

Somalia		Nigeria		Ethiopia	
<i>Province</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Province</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Province</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Bandir	58%	Edo	41.5%	Addis Ababa	31%
Shabelle Hoose	9.0%	Lagos	17%	Oromia	25%
Juba Hoose	5.5%	Kano	7.5%	Amhara	22%
Juba Dhexe	5.5%	Abia	5.0%	Tigray	18%
Hiraan	5.5%	Benue	5.0%	SNNPR	3%
Bay	5.0%	Enugu	5.0%	Somali	1%
Other	11.5%	Other	19%		

In terms of household composition, the data shows that the marital status varies between the three different nationalities. While 76 per cent of Nigerians reported to be single, for Ethiopians and Somalis, the proportion was lower (46%) and (33%) respectively. Relatedly, the proportion of married respondents is much higher in the case of Somalis respondents (51%) and lower for Ethiopian respondents (29%) and lowest for the Nigerian respondents (17%). Overall, around 50 percent of the whole sample indicated to have no children. The respondents that have children were asked about the location of their children and the data shows that in most of the cases for all three nationalities the children were either with the parents in the Netherlands or stayed behind in the country of origin.

Figure 2 - Location of children by nationality



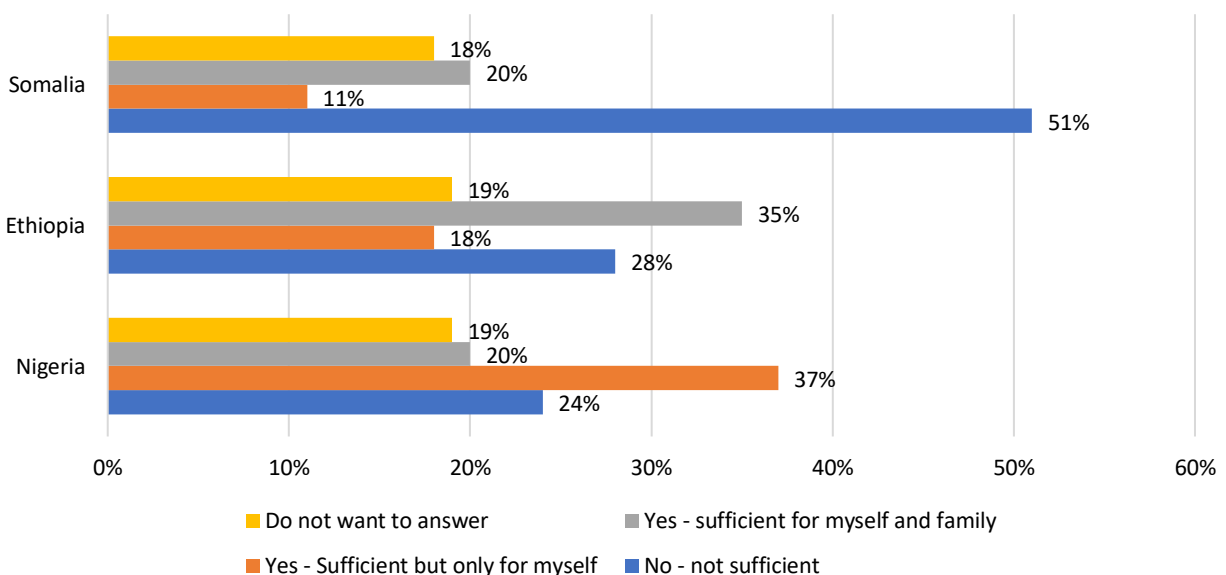
Unlike household sizes in the place of origin, respondents were asked about household sizes in the Netherlands, for this the data showed that for Ethiopians and Nigerians, the household size was on average between one and two household members. For Somali migrants, the average household size was three members.

MIGRATION DRIVERS AND DECISION-MAKING PROCESS

Drivers

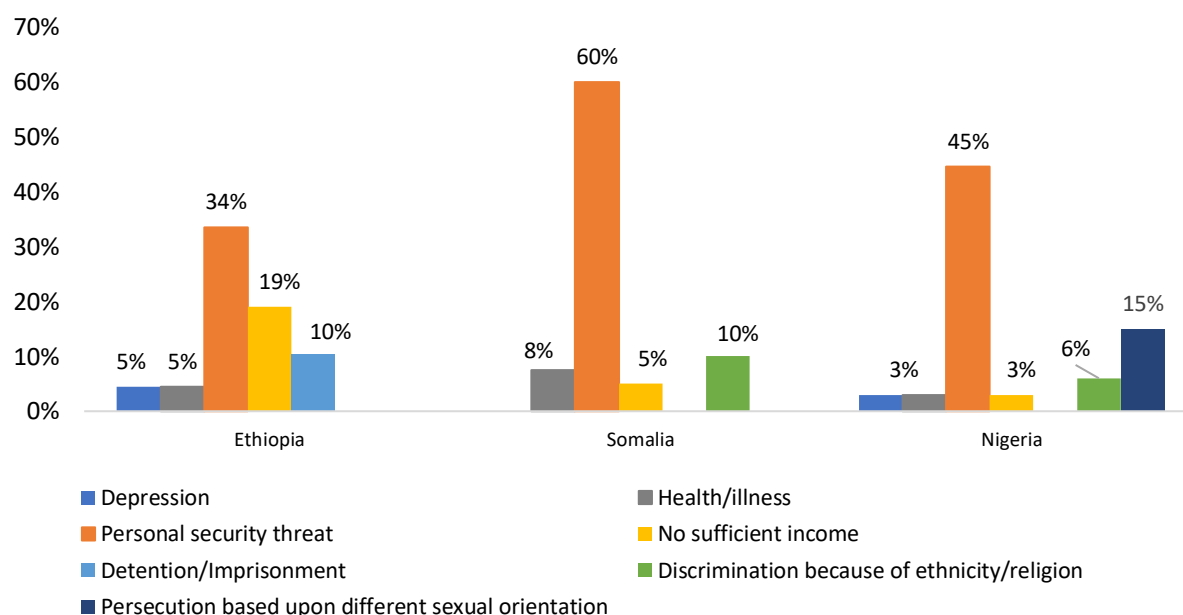
Although the drivers of migration from the sub-Saharan Africa region are relatively well researched and covered in recent literature, most research considers t drivers from a macro perspective. Addressing this gap in the literature, DTM intends to shed light on the reasons for migration from a micro and meso level perspective. It also analyzes the different factors that influence Somali, Ethiopian and Nigerian nationals in their decision-making process prior to migration. Before turning to the drivers of migration, some socio-economic characteristics are analyzed to understand migrants' conditions prior to their departure. The data reveals that 17 per cent of the sample were unemployed before their departure. Furthermore, 16 percent were students. The remaining 67 per cent were either living off daily wages (20%), self-employed (16%) or privately/publicly employed (31%). The unemployment rate was reported highest amongst the Nigerian migrants with 24 per cent in comparison to 22 per cent of Somali respondents and 8 per cent of Ethiopian respondents. The proportion of students was highest amongst Somali respondents at 20 per cent. In addition to the employment status migrants were also asked whether their income levels were sufficient to meet monthly expenses prior to departure. As figure 3 shows, the largest group that reported their income to be insufficient were Somali nationals (51%), followed by Ethiopian nationals (28%) and Nigerian nationals (24%).

Figure 3 - Sufficient monthly income before migration



To better understand the drivers of migration on a micro and meso level, the respondents were asked to list their top two personal, household as well as community challenges during the six months prior to their departure. Overall, 73 per cent of the sample indicated that they faced challenges on a personal level six months before they left. Looking at the nationality breakdown, 67 per cent of the Ethiopian migrants had faced personal challenges, 73 per cent of the Somali migrants and 83 per cent of the Nigerian respondents reported challenges on a personal level. As Figure 4 shows, for all three nationalities personal security threats posed the greatest challenge. In the case of Ethiopia, financial and political challenges associated with insufficient incomes and detention/imprisonment for one's political views were commonly cited. In the case of Somalis, several respondents identified the challenge of being persecuted based on their sexual orientation and for Nigerian migrants', discriminatory acts against their ethnicity/religion were cited.

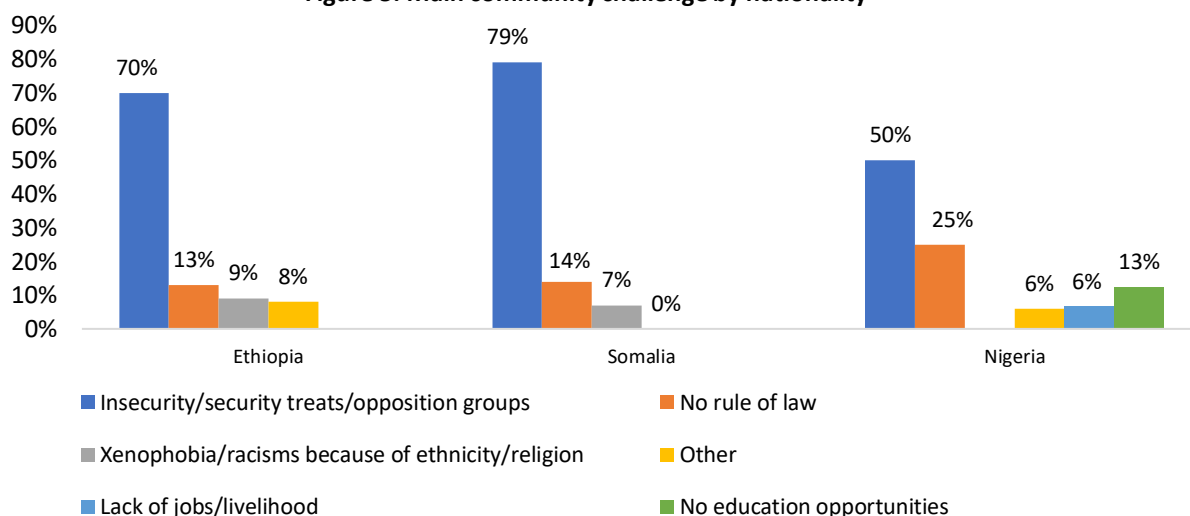
Figure 4: Main personal challenge by nationality



From a household perspective, only 30 per cent of Ethiopian and Nigerian migrants faced challenges. For Somalis, 64 per cent reported a main household challenge. For all three nationalities, the main household challenge included security threats against a household member and/or insecurity in the community region (48 percent in total).

Regarding the main challenge faced on a community level, followed by insecurity, the absence of rule of law is also commonly cited challenge (figure 5).

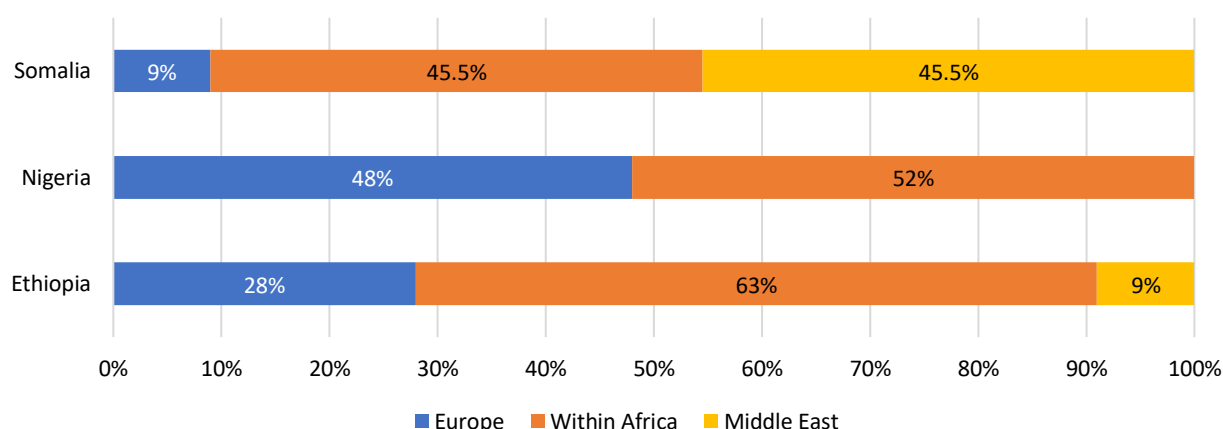
Figure 5: Main community challenge by nationality



In addition to the main challenges faced on a personal, household and community level six month prior to the departure, respondents were further asked to identify their main reason for leaving. The main reason for leaving included insecurity at a personal, family or community level for all three nationalities. While for all three nationalities the first main reason is related to security incidents, the second and third main reasons vary accordingly. For Ethiopia, the main reasons are insecurity (25%), the lack of jobs and livelihood (10%), no hope for the future (9%) as well as no economic growth/prosperity (9%). In the case of Nigeria 30 percent mentioned insecurity, followed by 8 percent that identified the absence of human rights as main reason, 7.5 percent claimed there is no rule of law and 6.5 percent mentioned discrimination because of their sexual orientation. Somali migrants in the Netherland predominantly identified insecurity on different levels (42%) as well as the presence of war and conflict in the country (30%) as main reasons. Furthermore, racism against certain ethnicities and religions appear to be the third most common reason for Somali migrants (6%). Next to the challenges and the main reason, respondents were asked about the event that triggered their final decision to leave for Europe. In line with the challenges and reasons for migration, 50 percent of the sample listed security incidents among their main triggers. For 14.5 percent, the family's pressure to migrate was a trigger as well as 11 percent reported they left as soon as they had the necessary financial resources acquired. Another 9 percent related their trigger to the fact that many people within the community had left so they decided to join them and around 9 percent were directly approached by a facilitator.

To understand migration patterns, respondents were also asked about previous migration movements either within the country of origin or across an international border. The data shows that 34 per cent of Nigerians had the highest proportion of being internally displaced previously. Internationally, with the total proportion of all three groups comprised of 49 per cent indicated to have international migration experience. As illustrated in Figure 6, the migration patterns differ per nationality, nevertheless the data shows that the largest proportion of all nationalities have previously migrated within Africa.

Figure 6 - Previous migration destination by nationality



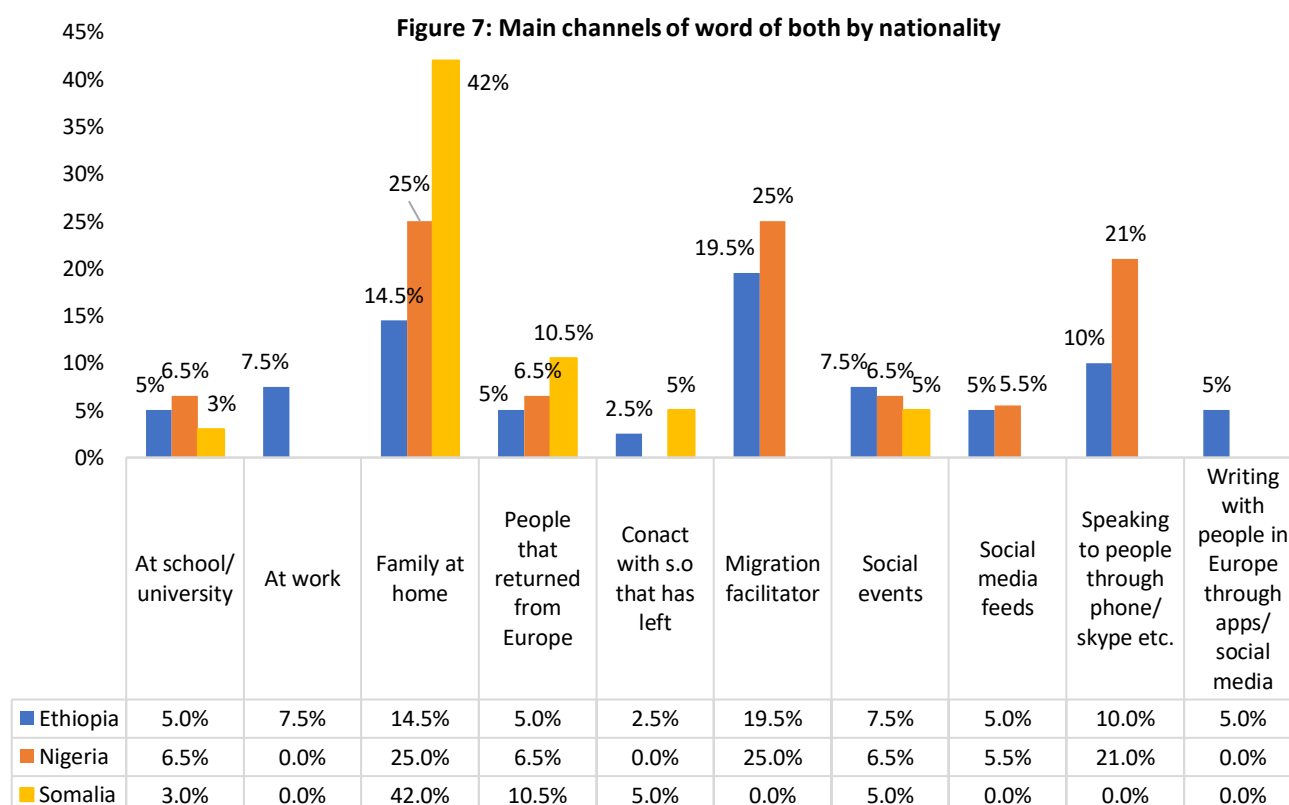
Decision-making

This research study also aims to understand the decision-making process of migrants prior to their departure. Diasporas and networks abroad can have an influence on migrants' decision-making. In terms of existing social networks abroad, 50 per cent of the Somali respondents and 28 per cent of Ethiopian respondents reported to have family living in Europe. However, only 3 percent (1 respondent) of the Nigerian respondents indicated to have family living in Europe prior to their departure. Similarly, 25 percent of the Somali respondents, 22 percent of Ethiopians and 10 per cent of Nigerian respondents had friends in Europe.

Respondents were also asked if they made their migration decision independently or if someone else decided for them. The data suggests a relatively equal proportion across all three nationalities. Overall, 82 per cent of all respondents reported to have made the decision independently. Of the small share that did not make the decision themselves, mainly the parents, the spouse or the uncle/aunt made the decision. The 82 per cent that made the decision independently, were asked if they discussed their migration decision with anyone, and if so, whether they supported the migrant's decision. In this case too, the proportion for all three target nationalities looks similar— 46 per cent of Ethiopian and Nigerian respondents and 55 per cent of the Somali respondents reported that they had discussed their migration

with someone else. Roughly half of the sample discussed with family/friends in the respective home countries and 30 per cent discussed with family in Europe and few respondents with friends in Europe. The rate for support to migrate to Europe was close to a 100 percent for all three nationalities.

To further understand the decision-making process, respondents were also asked “what were the sources of information on which you based your decision to migrate to Europe?” For all three nationalities, the largest proportion received their information from channels of word of mouth. In terms of word of mouth, the highest proportion reported was Somalis (60%), followed by Ethiopians (49%) and finally Nigerians (30%). Furthermore, Ethiopian migrants mentioned television and Facebook as secondary sources. Analyzing the different channels of word of mouth, Figure 7 shows the main channels per nationality. The data suggests that the family at home has a large influence on all three nationalities. Furthermore, for Ethiopian and Nigerian nationals the migration facilitator¹ as well as speaking with people in Europe through apps such as Skype/WhatsApp appear to be important channels. For Somali nationals, previous migrants that have returned to Somalia appear to have an impact on the decision-making process.

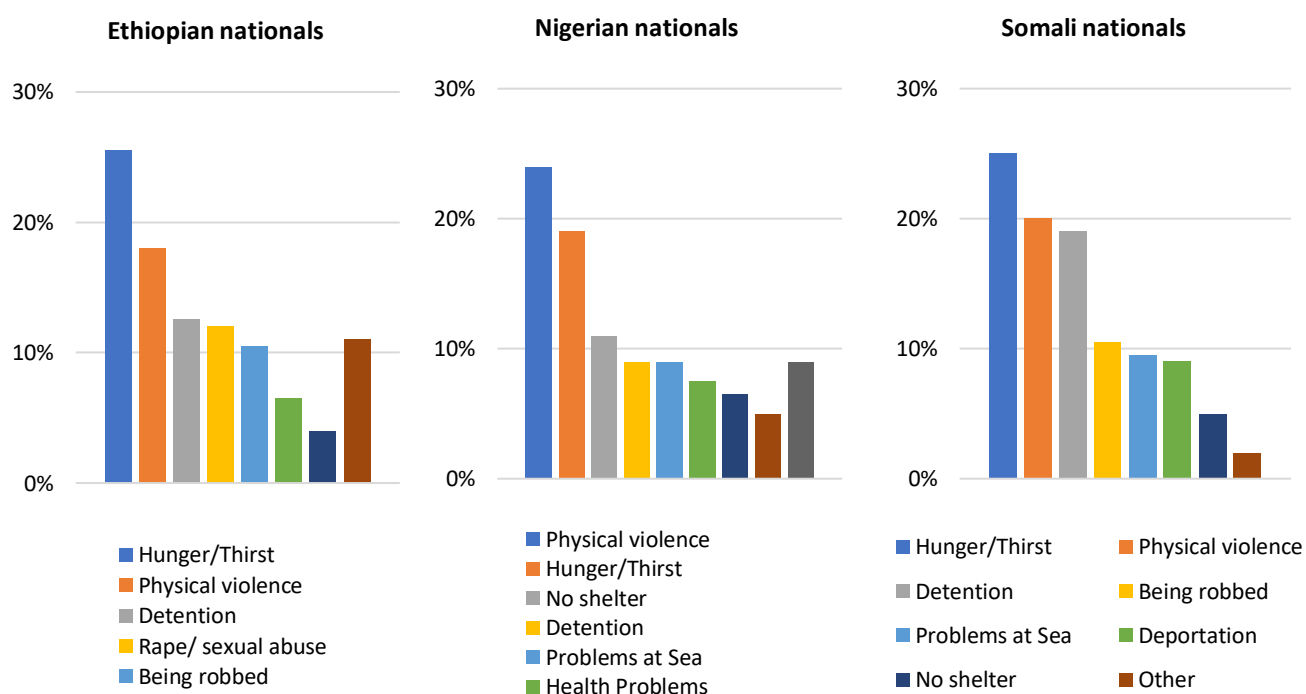


¹ Migration facilitator: Within this study the term ‘migration facilitator’ refers to anyone that is involved in the facilitation of migration services (irregular and regular) via air, land or sea routes in exchange for money. Those services can reach from consultative services for visa application and 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

VULNERABILITIES EN ROUTE TO EUROPE

Migrants from the Sub-Saharan Africa region using land and sea routes are known to face harsh conditions en route, however hard-evidence and quantitative data is often missing. Bearing this in mind, this survey included a question on the challenges and problems faced along the route including specific locations and actors,. The data shows that about half of the sample indicated problems. 56 percent of the Ethiopian sample reported to have faced problems, 51 per cent of the Nigerian respondents and 40 per cent of the Somali respondents. As illustrated in Figure 8, most common problems are hunger/thirst, physical violence, detention and being robbed.

Figure 8 – Reported problems en route to Europe



Reportedly, 40 per cent of all problems occurred in Libya, followed by Sudan (22%) and Greece (7%). The remaining 31 per cent are scattered among places like Egypt, Ethiopia and Turkey.

The travel mode of migrants, whether migrants travel alone or accompanied by family, other travelers or the facilitator is often used as an indicator for potential vulnerabilities, the. It is not unusual for migrants to travel with multiple people for different parts of their journey. The data shows that for the largest part of the sample, migrants travelled either the whole journey or at least part by themselves. The largest

share is amongst the Somali sample as 69 per cent indicated to have travelled at least part of the journey by themselves. For Ethiopians and Nigerians roughly 27 per cent of both samples indicated to travel either the whole journey or part with a group. The share of migrants travelling with family (spouse and children) is rather small, ranging between 8 and 16 per cent, depending on the nationality.

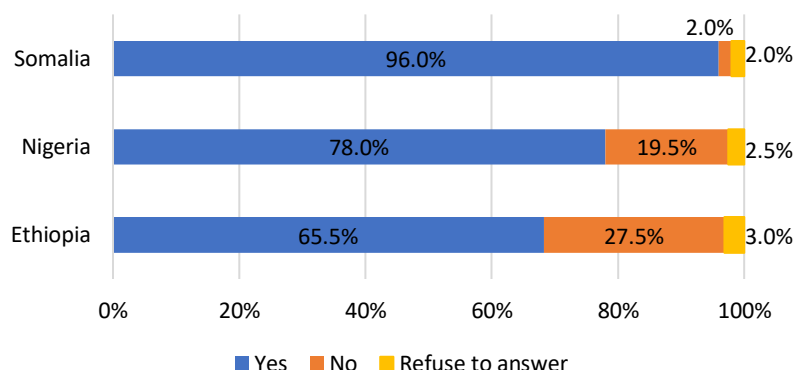
ROLE OF INTERMEDIARIES

Most of the sample made use of at least one migration facilitator to reach Europe. As Figure 9 shows, in the case of the Somali sample 96 per cent used a facilitator. On average Ethiopian migrants made use of two to three migration facilitators during their journey and in the case of Nigerian and Somalis, the number lies between one and two migration facilitators on average per journey.

The first contact with the migration facilitators was initiated by family (22%) or friends (28%) in the home country, while 15 per cent gained contact through fellow travelers and 13 per cent reported to have been approached by a migration facilitator directly. Around half of the sample (55%) provided information about the cost of the journey, 35 percent reported that they do not know the full amount and 10 percent refused to answer this question. The Ethiopian and Somali migrants paid on average USD 6,500 to reach the Netherlands. For the Somali respondents, the average cost is higher, USD 9,000. The cost is higher than for migrants from Somalia and Ethiopia because there is one outlier in the dataset who paid USD 50,000 – removing the outlier, the average cost for the Nigerian sample lies at USD 5,600.

For all three nationalities, the largest proportion of respondents reported to have paid for the journey upfront, prior to their journey. For Ethiopians, the second largest share (35%) paid through the hawala system and/or made use of the third-party payment system (17%). In the case of the Nigerian respondents, 28 per cent paid upfront, another 28 per cent paid after arriving in Europe and 16 per cent paid in cash installments along the way. Somali migrants paid upfront (33%), used the third-party system

Figure 9 - Using a facilitator to reach Europe by nationality



(21%), or paid after arriving in Europe (12%). Roughly 16 per cent also indicated that they do not know how the payment was arranged.

Sources of financing the journey varied, roughly 31 per cent financed at least part of their journey by borrowing money from family at home or in Europe, 24 per cent used savings, 24 per cent sold either land, assets or their house and 12 per cent reported to have worked along the route. Additionally, some migrants (roughly 10 percent) also indicated that family in different locations (in Europe, USA, Sudan, Ethiopia or at home) funded the journey for them.

With regards to other preparations, roughly 42 per cent of the whole sample reported that they did not make further preparations, 14 percent obtained an original passport, 8 percent got an official Schengen visa for less than 100 Euros and 7 per cent received an official Schengen visa. Reportedly 9 per cent of the sample also admitted that they gathered false documentation prior to the departure. On average, for 48 per cent of respondents, the preparation took less than a month, and for 35 per cent, it took between one and six months and the remaining needed more than six months to prepare for the journey.

PERCEPTIONS TOWARDS EUROPE

During data-collection in the Netherlands, DTM also gathered information on intended final destination countries, why migrants from Somalia, Nigeria and Ethiopia aimed to settle in that particular country as well as their priorities and expectations upon arrival. The data shows that 44 per cent of all three nationalities did not have a specific country a mind when they left their country of origin, but wanted to reach Europe generally. However, 26 per cent chose to migrate to the Netherlands from the beginning. Other intended destinations were the UK (14%), Norway (3%) France, Germany, Sweden and Italy each at 2 percent. For the main countries of destination, there is no significant difference between the three target nationalities. The 60 per cent that reported to have an intended destination country (and did not just want to reach Europe) were asked why they wanted to go to that specific country. In those cases where the Netherlands was not the first choice, respondents were asked why they ended up going there.

The Netherlands and the UK are predominantly chosen because migrants have friends/family there. In several cases, a country was also chosen because the migration facilitator told the migrants that he has access to the country as well as the ease of access to asylum and the availability of jobs. For those migrants that originally did not plan to go to the Netherlands, 40 per cent reported reaching Netherlands circumstantially. In 13 per cent of the cases other migrants had told the respondents about

the Netherlands and for 10 per cent, the facilitator had changed plans, or it was geographically not possible to go the previously selected country (also 9.5%). Roughly 8 percent also reported that their priority was to transit in Netherlands and then move on to another country in Europe. However, 88 per cent of the respondents reported wanting to stay in the Netherlands and 8 per cent either did not know or refused to answer the question.

To understand migrants' perceptions even further, respondents were asked about their source of information that influenced their perceptions of Europe on.

²Figure 11 and 12 shows that the most common source on which migrants formed their perception of Europe was word of mouth (40.5%). Main sources of word of mouth included family at home (25%), friends/family in Europe who they contacted through apps such as skype, viber or WhatsApp (19%).

Figure 10: Intended Destinations

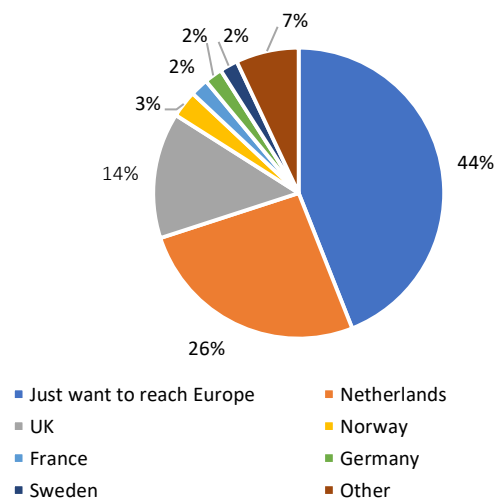
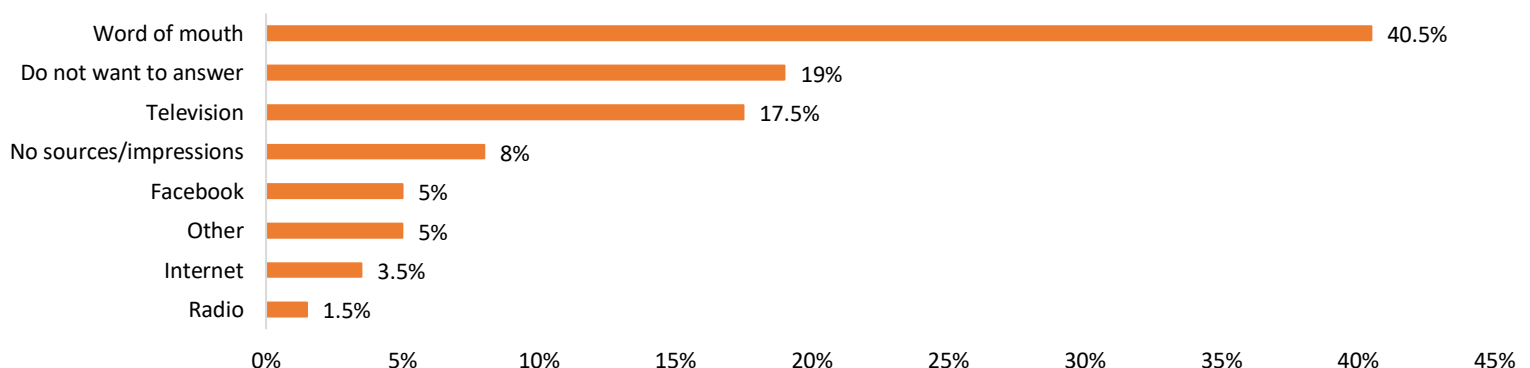


Figure 11: Key sources of information for "impression/perception of life in Europe"

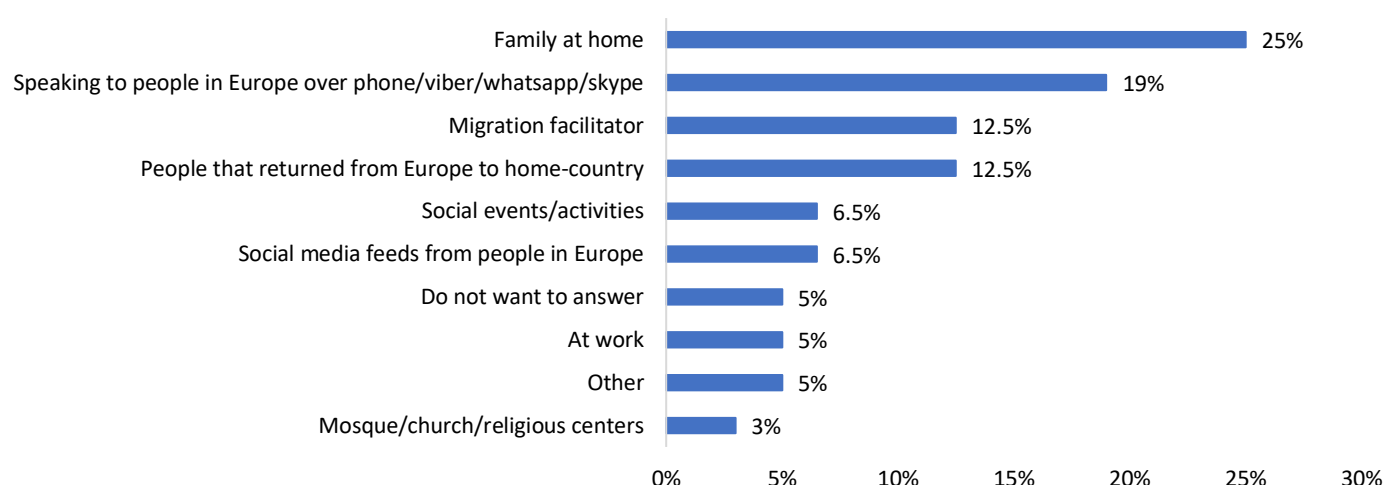


² Figure 11 only presents the key answers provided in the survey

Additionally, migration facilitators as well as family and friends that had previously migrated and recently returned (both 12 percent) also played a role in shaping migrants' perceptions.

In terms of information collected prior to departure, 46 per cent of respondents did not collect information. The data shows that for all three groups, the most important information was costs of the journey and potential routes. In the case of Ethiopians, respondents also reported seeking information about the asylum procedure and Nigerians sought information about visa procedures while Somali nationals gathered further information on health care and education opportunities.

Figure 12: Specifying 'word of mouth'

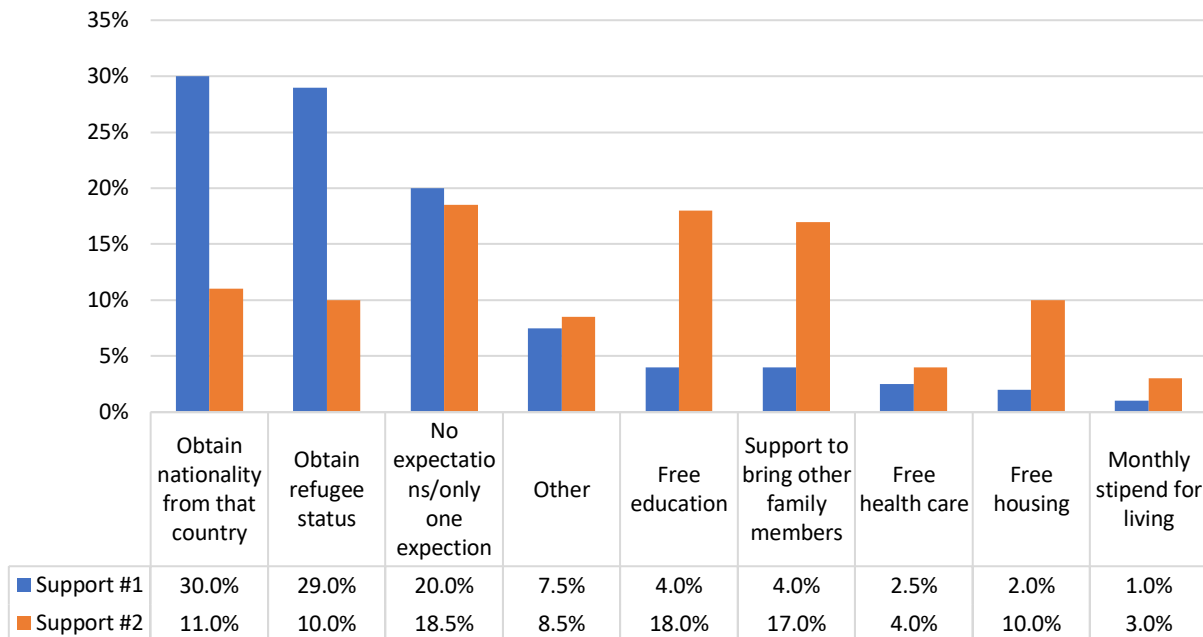


The next section focuses on migrants' expectations once they arrive in the preferred destination countries, gathering information about their priorities upon arrival, their expected support from the government as well as the likelihood of facing problems in the host community.

When asked about their two main priorities, the largest proportion of all three samples reported asylum – in the case of Ethiopia, (47%), Somalia (36%) and Nigeria (32%). For Ethiopian and Nigerian respondents, second and third priority included employment and education. In the case of the Somalis, reunification with family and friends (22%) and obtaining the Dutch nationality (18%) were reported.

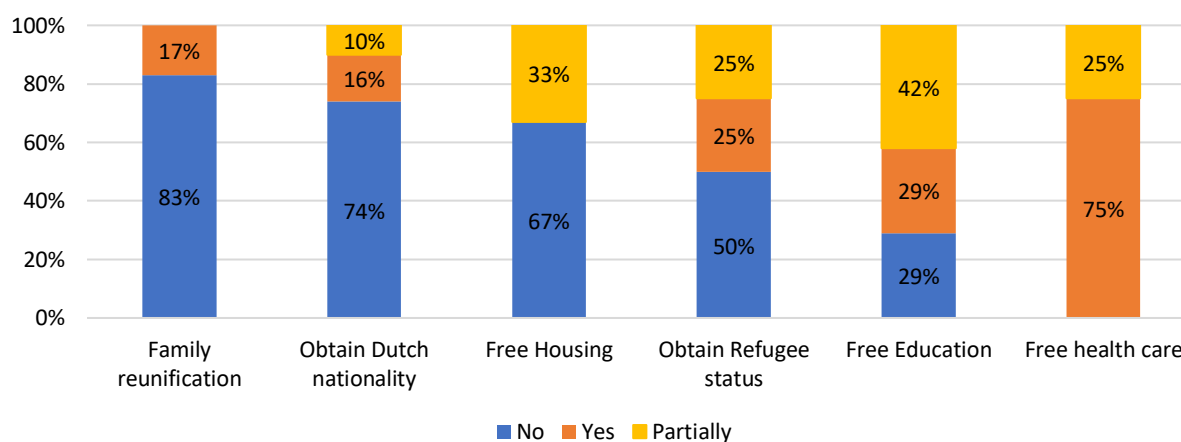
As illustrated in Figure 13, primary support expected for most of respondents includes obtaining Dutch nationality (30%) or a refugee status (29%). In terms of secondary support expected, free education (18%) and help in bringing remaining family to the Netherlands as well (17%) were reported.

Figure 13 - Expected support upon arrival in destination country



The discrepancy between expectations and support received appear to be largest with regard to family reunification, obtaining the Dutch nationality, receiving refugee status and free housing (see figure 14).

Figure 14 - Support received

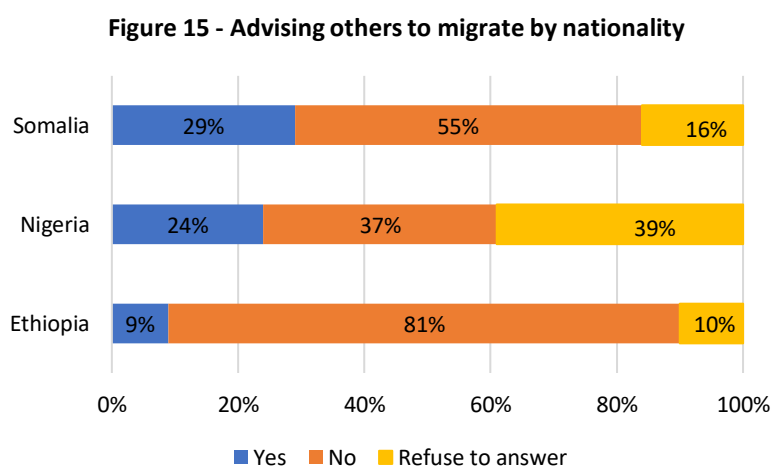


Roughly 30 per cent of each sample expected not to face any problems once they arrive in Europe. However, 42 per cent of Ethiopians expected challenges like rejection of asylum claim and 11 per cent of the Somali feared deportation.

Since the asylum procedure plays an important role in migrants' priorities and expectations, the respondents were also asked what an asylum procedure is and to explain its process. Of the Somali sample one only person (1.5%) knew what an asylum procedure is. Amongst all three nationalities, Ethiopians

were most aware about the asylum procedure (60%) than Nigerians (17%) and Somalis (1.5%). Since Ethiopian nationals mainly answered this question, the results are rather representative for this population. The qualitative question on understanding asylum procedures in Europe reveals that for many migrants applying for asylum means asking for a living/work permit. Several respondents report that to claim asylum there needs to be a well-established reason, in the case of Ethiopians nationals, its mainly referred to as needing proof of political problems back home. In some cases, asylum claims are however, also connected to the police, such as surrendering to the police or explaining oneself before the police.

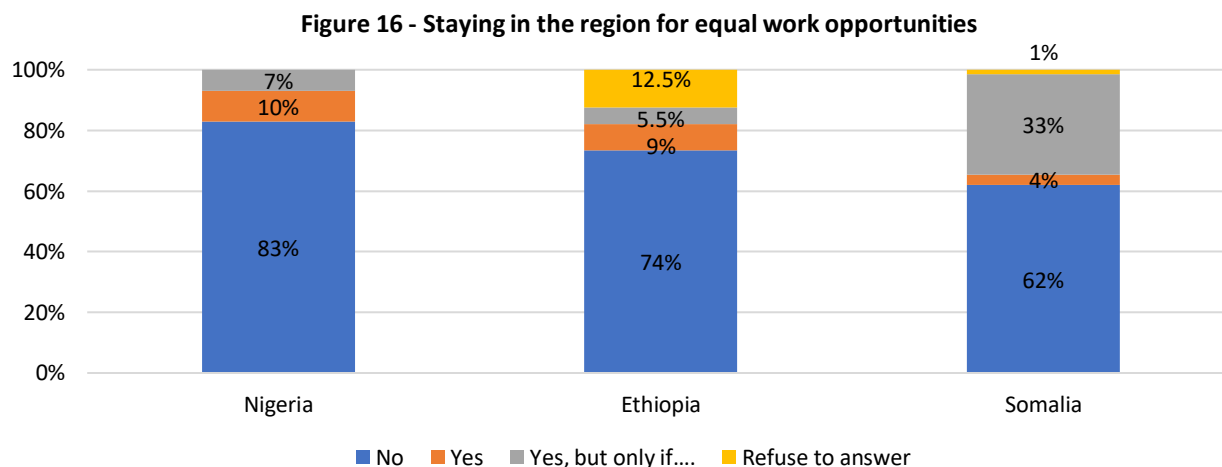
Respondents were also if they would advise others to migrate to Europe, of the Ethiopian migrants, 81 per cent reported that they would not advise other to migrate, 10 per cent refused to answer and the remaining 9 per cent reported that they would advise others. The 81 per cent of Ethiopians that would not advise migration highlighted that it is very difficult to obtain a legal status in Europe (43%), there is a gap between expectations and reality of life in Europe and difficulties along the route (both 40%). 17 per cent also refer to the complex rules and regulations they must comply with in Europe. Also, in the case of the Nigerian and Somali sample only 24 and 29 per cent would advise others to migrate, as figure 15 shows some respondents refuse to answer this question.



For the proportion of Somali and Nigerian migrants that would advise others to migrate the main reasons are based on the argument that Europe is safer and human rights are respected. Furthermore, 56 per cent of Nigerians and Ethiopian migrants do not see a future in their countries as is also the case for 30 per cent of the Somali respondents.

MIGRATION OPTIONS AND CHOICES

While thematic area five provides a good overview of reasons for choosing Europe and perceptions towards life in Europe expected forms of support, this section explores why migrants chose migration to Europe instead of regional migration. For Ethiopian, Nigerian and Somali migrants, in this study, the main arguments are associated with safety and better living standards. For the Ethiopians, safety in Europe (25%), better human rights (20%), general quality of life (9%), access to higher quality of education (7.5%) and perceived access to jobs/ education being easier (8%) and the presence of family (6%) are the important factors. In the Nigerian sample, 37 per cent cited safety in Europe 21 per cent cited respect for human rights. In the case of Somali migrants, safety in Europe is a top reason for 43 per cent, followed by quality of life in Europe (18.5%) as well as having family in Europe (13.5%) and respect for human rights (11%). Migrants were also asked if they would have considered staying if they would have chances to equal work and study opportunities in the region – illustrated in Figure 16. In the case of Somalis, 33 per cent reported that they would consider staying if they would be safe from Al-Shabaab in Somalia. For Ethiopians, the conditions for staying were connected to higher salaries in the region.



In terms of knowledge of regular and irregular channels, migrants were also asked how they planned to obtain their permission to stay. The majority, 65 per cent reported that they claimed asylum, 18 per cent already had a visa/refugee status, 8 per cent reported not thinking about this before migration and 3 per cent said they do not plan to obtain any permission. When the migrants were asked about being aware of options to migrate to Europe legally, a difference between the different nationalities is visible. While 38 per cent of Ethiopians and 17 per cent of Nigerians knew about legal channels to come to Europe

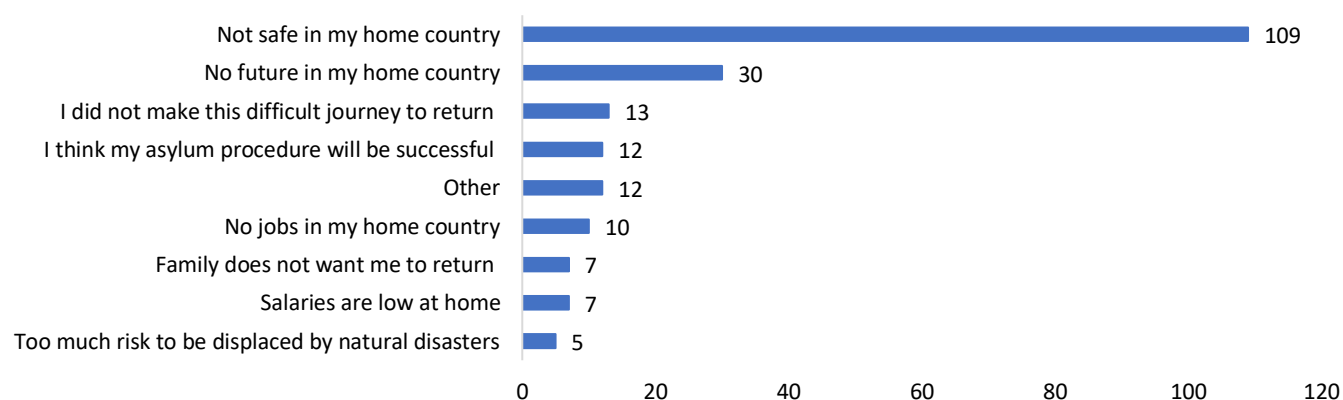
(before their migration), none of the Somali sample claimed to know of any legal ways. Of the Nigerian and Ethiopian migrants that knew about legal channels (before their migration), the largest share named the Schengen visa (47%), followed by a student visa (20%), a tourist visa (13%) and the possibility to claim asylum, 6 per cent cited the business visa and 4 per cent knew about the possibility to come to Europe legally though family reunification.

OUTLOOK

Finally, migrants in the Netherlands were asked if they would consider returning to their country of origin. The share that would consider returning home is relatively small for all three target nationalities. In the case of Nigerians and Somalis, only one person showed interest in returning home. In the Ethiopian sample, three people (4%) would like to return while 20 per cent did not know if they wanted to return yet or not. For 84 per cent of that do not want to return, the main reason (77%) to stay is that their country is not safe enough to return while 22 per cent also do not see a future for themselves or their children in their home country.

To better understand return intentions, the respondents that do not want to return were asked what would need to change for them to go back (multiple answers possible). Roughly 21 per cent reported that they will not return regardless of the changes – 29 per cent claimed they would consider returning when the conflict/violence ends, 28 per cent would return if the security situation improves, 26 per cent would return if the rule of law will change, 25 per cent would return if the human rights situation improves, 10 per cent would return if the government changes and 9 per cent would return if incomes increase.

Figure 17: Why returning to the country of origin is no option (total number answers)



CONCLUSION

SUMMARY

The data collection in the Netherlands on Somali, Nigerian and Ethiopian nationals captured a total of 168 migrants that have arrived between 2015 and 2017. The subsamples consist of 55 Somali nationals, 41 Nigerian nationals and 72 Ethiopian nationals. The analysis showed that sex ratio is equally distributed amongst 44 per cent female respondents and 56 per cent males. The largest proportion of the sample had arrived in the Netherlands in 2017 and in 2015. More than 66 per cent of the sample were unmarried and between the age of 18 and 37 years old. Within all three subsamples places of origin were quite mixed, with the largest shares coming from Bandir (58%) in Somalia, 42 per cent from Edo, Nigeria and 31 per cent from Addis Ababa, in Ethiopia.

The overall unemployment rate of the sample lies at 17 per cent, Nigeria having the highest and Ethiopia the lowest levels. In terms of drivers of migration, the data revealed that insecurity on all three levels – personal, household as well as on the community level as main challenges. On the micro/personal level, Somali and Nigerians also commonly reported problems associated with discrimination based on their ethnicities/religion and sexual orientation. On the meso/community level, all three nationalities also cited challenges associated with the absence of rule of law. The clear majority of the respondents made the decision to migrate by themselves, however, they often discussed with family/friends back home or with family in Europe.

Migrants coming from the Sub-Saharan Africa region face challenges when travelling by land, as a large portion of the journey leads through the desert and over the sea. Approximately half of the sample reported problems en route, the main ones being hunger/thirst as well violence or detention. A majority of the sample used a facilitator, in the case of Somalia almost a hundred percent. On average, two facilitators were used and the first contact was commonly initiated by family or friends back home. Paying up front seemed to be the most popular payment method for all nationalities, followed by the hawala system for Ethiopians, the third-party system for Somalis and paying after the arrival in Europe for Nigerian nationals. Journeys were commonly financed by borrowing money, savings or selling land, assets and property.

Almost half of the sample did not know initially to which country in Europe they planned to go. Only around 25 per cent of the sample had initially planned to come to the Netherlands, either because friends and family lived there or the facilitator claimed to have better access. Almost half of the respondents that initially had not planned to come to the Netherlands said that they ended up there circumstantially, however all most all respondents wanted to stay in the Netherlands. With regards to sources of information for both the decision-making process and for shaping perceptions of Europe, the data showed the importance of word of mouth channels. The majority gathered information from either family at home or through family/friends in Europe, through apps such as WhatsApp, Viber or through the facilitator. For all three nationalities, main priorities upon arrival as well as expected support included obtaining a refugee status and/or the Dutch nationality. When looking at the fulfillment rate of the expected support, often a clear gap is found, especially for family reunification and obtaining the Dutch nationality. Although more than three quarter of the total sample do not consider returning home and want to stay in Europe, not even 25 per cent of the respondents would advise others to migrate. This advice is based on the difficulties in obtaining a legal status as well as mismatched expectations and reality of life in Europe.

IMMEDIATE NEEDS AND VULNERABILITIES

This study on Somali, Nigerian and Ethiopian migrants in the Netherlands finds that there are some immediate needs and challenges for migrants prior to their departure, en route as well as when in the destination country.

There is a need for better information on potential risks and vulnerabilities migrants could face along the route, since current information on potential risks of migration do not seem to reflect the actual challenges that African migrants face along the route and the information they reported to have acquired before migration. This included information on access to basic needs such as food, shelter, referral mechanisms and legal assistance along the route but also in the destination country.

The access to information could be improved in different aspects. Migrants need to be better informed along the route (in home and transit countries), about potential destination countries in Europe, and what services and rights they will have access to within these different EU countries. As the analysis furthermore showed there is often a big gap between expectations and reality upon arrival in the , especially regarding legal procedures such as family reunification, asylum claims as well as obtaining a nationality from a European country. Migrants could be made further aware of what they can expect when arriving in Europe

as well as increased access to information about the often complex process to receive asylum in European countries.

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