

Weekly Situation Overview: European Migration Crisis, Western Balkans

1- 24 January 2016



REACH Informing more effective humanitarian action

SUMMARY


This document summarizes key findings from data collected between 1-24 January 2016, drawing on primary data from group interviews with migrants* and analysis of mainstream and social media.

During the first three weeks of January, REACH assessment teams conducted interviews in Belgrade, Presevo, Sid and Adasevci, Serbia. The team interviewed 127 groups (821 individuals) representing 16 groups from Afghanistan (98 individuals), 72 groups from Syria (455 individuals), 24 groups from Iraq (188 individuals) and 16 groups (80 individuals) representing other nationalities from north Africa, Iran and Pakistan.

Push and pull factors

Reported push factors mirrored pull factors, with the majority seeking safety from armed conflict and access to basic services and employment.

Top three push factors

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- 1 Active armed conflict
 - 2 Lack of basic services
 - 3 Lack of income

Top three pull factors

- 1 Safety and security
- 2 Access to state services
- 3 Job opportunities



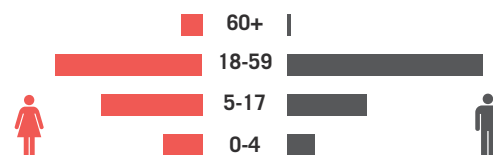
Group composition & demographics

57% Syrians
19% Iraqis
12% Afghans
12% Others



For the first three weeks of January, the reported number of men travelling alone (21%) was relatively low in comparison to the number of families (54%) travelling. Around 3% of groups interviewed were unaccompanied minors, reportedly travelling with friends of family or adults they had met along the journey.

Demographic composition of interviewed groups



Vulnerabilities

Vulnerabilities reported by migrants included: pregnant and/or lactating women (4%) as well as individuals suffering from illness.

44% of individuals reported suffering from an illness which they had contracted while in transit. Fever, acute respiratory infection and injuries sustained on the journey were the most commonly reported health concerns.

Socio-economic profile

Income levels were reported to vary amongst migrant groups. **57% reported stable employment in their former residence.** Around one third (30%) reported relying on daily labour, while others (7%) engaged in business and trade.

MIGRATION ROUTE

All interviewed arrivals reported transit through Turkey on their way to Europe. The majority (95%) spent less than three months in Turkey, while 5% reported having spent between 3 and 12 months.


Area of origin

Of Syrians travelling, 36% were from Aleppo with smaller concentrations from Idlib (14%), Damascus (11%) and Homs (8%). Those travelling from Afghanistan reported originating from many locations across the country, while migrants from Iraq mainly report coming from Dahuk and Diyala. An increasing number of migrants travelling from north Africa were reported during the second half of the month, with individuals coming from Morocco, Algeria, Somalia and Sudan.

Reported top three challenges during travel

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- 1 Sea Crossing
 - 2 High cost of travel
 - 3 Border push backs

Reported top three channels of information

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- 1 Friends & family in final destination
 - 2 Civil society in transit country
 - 3 Word of mouth/ fellow travellers

Preferred destination

The majority of groups (69%) reported Germany as their planned country of destination and has been consistently reported throughout January. Some variation was seen between other reported destination countries including Sweden (17%), Austria (17%) and Holland (5%).

Why travel now?

The recent deterioration of the situation in their place of residence was reported by migrants as the primary motivation for travelling to Europe now (54%). The decrease in cost and ease of travel were considered secondary motivations for travelling now.

Antidotal evidence and social media discussions indicate that increased border controls along the Western Balkans route has encouraged many groups to use smugglers to cross borders into Europe. Some north African nationalities reporting resorting to the use of smugglers after being refused entry at borders.

*The term "migrants" is used to refer to both economic migrants and asylum seekers who have not yet received refugee status determination.

Adesevci - Key Findings

1 - 24 January 2016

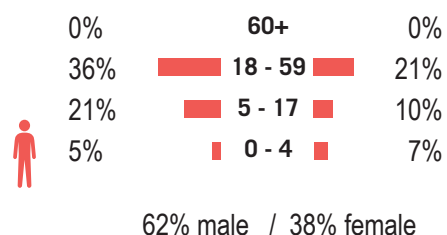
REACH, with the support of ECHO, is conducting regular assessments in order to inform on the EU migration crisis in the Western Balkans.

This location factsheet presents the main findings and primary areas of concern based on data collected between 1 and 24 January 2016 from Adesevci, Serbia.

Further information is available from www.reach-initiative.org and www.reachresourcecentre.info



Demographics of persons interviewed



Group composition

Average group size: **5**
Individuals travelling alone: **4%**

79% from Syria
21% from Afghanistan
0% from Iraq
0% others

Education

Children who attended school in prior place of residence:

92% Yes
8% No



Employment

Adults previously employed in prior place of residence:

50% Unstable/ daily labour
50% Stable labour/ business/ trade



Reported level of education among adults:

0% Adults with no education
96% Adults finished basic education
4% Adults with university degree

Push factors

Top three cited reasons for leaving area of origin:

43% Active armed conflict
29% Lack basic services
21% High cost of living

Pull factors

Top three cited reasons for coming to Europe:

54% Safety and security
31% Access to services & support
15% Job opportunities

Intended destination country

1st Germany (**100%**) **2nd** None (**0%**) **3rd** None (**0%**)

Vulnerabilities

Unaccompanied minors **28%**
Elderly persons travelling alone **0%**
Pregnant or lactating women **4%**
People with physical disability **8%**
People with mental illness **8%**

Information needs

Primary source of information:

1 Friends and family
2 Civil society
3 Smugglers

Top reported challenges to information access:

1 Lack of WiFi
2 Lack of sim card
3 Lack of phone

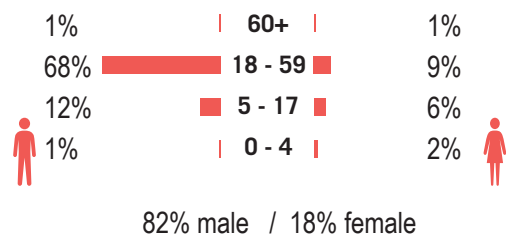
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Demographics of persons interviewed



Group composition

Average group size: **5**
 Individuals travelling alone: **69%**

15% from Syria
18% from Afghanistan
16% from Iraq
51% others

Education

Children who attended school in prior place of residence:

90% Yes
10% No



Employment

Adults previously employed in prior place of residence:

42% Unstable/ daily labour
58% Stable labour/ business/ trade



Reported level of education among adults:

16% Adults with no education
78% Adults finished basic education
6% Adults with university degree

Push factors

Top three cited reasons for leaving area of origin:

31% Active armed conflict
20% Lack basic services
16% High cost of living

Pull factors

Top three cited reasons for coming to Europe:

39% Safety and security
29% Access to services & support
21% Job opportunities

Intended destination country

1st Germany (**44%**) **2nd** Others (**22%**) **3rd** Sweden (**9%**)

Vulnerabilities

Unaccompanied minors **18%**
 Elderly persons travelling alone **0%**
 Pregnant or lactating women **2%**
 People with physical disability **2%**
 People with mental illness **0%**

Information needs

Primary source of information:

1 Friends and family
2 Word of mouth
3 Civil society

Top reported challenges to information access:

1 Lack of WiFi
2 Lack of trusted information
3 Contradictory information

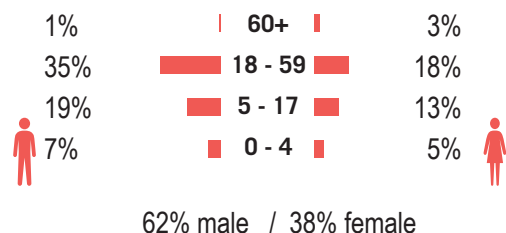
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Demographics of persons interviewed



Group composition

Average group size: **7**
 Individuals travelling alone: **23%**

66% from Syria
9% from Afghanistan
26% from Iraq
0% others

Education

Children who attended school in prior place of residence:

99% Yes
1% No



Employment

Adults previously employed in prior place of residence:

25% Unstable/ daily labour
75% Stable labour/ business/ trade



Reported level of education among adults:

13% Adults with no education
72% Adults finished basic education
15% Adults with university degree

Push factors

Top three cited reasons for leaving area of origin:

54% Active armed conflict
25% Lack basic services
9% High cost of living

Pull factors

Top three cited reasons for coming to Europe:

45% Safety and security
23% Access to services & support
17% Job opportunities

Intended destination country

1st Germany (**68%**) **2nd** Sweden (**20%**) **3rd** UK (**4%**)

Vulnerabilities

Unaccompanied minors **4%**
 Elderly persons travelling alone **0%**
 Pregnant or lactating women **7%**
 People with physical disability **3%**
 People with mental illness **1%**

Information needs

Primary source of information:

1 Friends and family
2 Civil society
3 Word of mouth

Top reported challenges to information access:

1 Lack of WiFi
2 Lack of electricity
3 Lack of phone

Sid - Key Findings

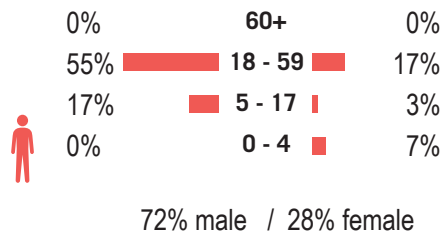
1 - 24 January 2016

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Demographics of persons interviewed



Group composition

Average group size: **6**
Individuals travelling alone: **48%**

34% from Syria
28% from Afghanistan
38% from Iraq
0% others

Education

Children who attended school in prior place of residence:

100% Yes
0% No



Employment

Adults previously employed in prior place of residence:

50% Unstable/ daily labour
50% Stable labour/ business/ trade



Reported level of education among adults:

5% Adults with no education
76% Adults finished basic education
19% Adults with university degree

Push factors

Top three cited reasons for leaving area of origin:

50% Active armed conflict
38% Lack basic services
12% High cost of living

Pull factors

Top three cited reasons for coming to Europe:

71% Safety and security
14% Access to services & support
0% Job opportunities

Intended destination country

1st Germany (**83%**) **2nd** Sweden (**17%**) **3rd** Holland (**0%**)

Vulnerabilities

Unaccompanied minors **0%**
Elderly persons travelling alone **0%**
Pregnant or lactating women **10%**
People with physical disability **0%**
People with mental illness **0%**

Information needs

Primary source of information:

1 Friends and family
2 Civil society
3 Smugglers

Top reported challenges to information access:

1 Lack of trusted information
2 Contradictory information
3 Lack of phone credit