

May 2016

# Questionnaire findings for Afghans in Greece



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## Context

Since the beginning of January until 31 May 2016, more than 39,000 Afghans made the journey across the Mediterranean to Greece bringing the total of arrivals in the first five months of the year to 156,823. During May there were 1,721 arrivals, of which 270 were Afghans.

## Methodology

During the first three months of 2016, UNHCR conducted a profiling of Syrian and Afghan arrivals to the Greek islands. As of 20 March, the situation on the islands changed and limitations on freedom of movement of new arrivals were implemented. UNHCR suspended the exercise for one month in order to make necessary adjustments.

In May, new interviews were conducted only with Syrians and Afghans who had not been previously interviewed by UNHCR and were living in open centres on the two islands (Lesvos, Chios) where open centres exist.

Interviews were conducted from 11 to 31 May by two teams of Farsi/Dari speakers in Dipethe, Vial and Souda on Chios, Kara Tepe, Iliachtida, Caritas on Lesvos. Interviews were voluntary and interviewees could choose not to answer some questions. The survey was not administered while individuals waited in line (e.g., for registration), or in closed facilities and children and persons with mental disabilities were interviewed in the presence of a caretaker.

The methodology was designed using the individual as unit of analysis. The purpose of the methodology is to provide information on the interviewed population, not on the whole population on the islands, as the sample is not representative.

## Limitations

Enumerators did not access population living in detention centres on these islands (e.g., Moria on Lesvos). Enumerators did not access people on Leros, Samos, Kos or other islands where people living in open centres are very limited in numbers.

Persons in open centres have either been released after the end of the maximum detention period or have been identified as vulnerable. Persons with vulnerabilities and families are likely over-represented in those centres. Individuals residing outside the locations where interviews were conducted (e.g., persons staying overnight in hotels) were likely not reached. Tensions were sometimes high and impacted on the ability of enumerators to reach the planned number of interviews.

Differently from the results analysed in previous UNHCR factsheets, the results below describe some key elements of the profile of the 181 interviewed Afghans only and are not representative of all Afghans on the Greek islands due to the limited sample size and above limitations. However, this analysis provides strong indications on the 'profile' of Afghans residing on the Greek islands during May. Comparing these results to those in previous UNHCR factsheets would be incorrect as the methodology and sample size were different.



## Key findings

More than **71%** of respondents left Afghanistan due to war/conflict.

**43%** of respondents were internally displaced in Afghanistan before starting the journey to Europe.

**77%** of respondents came directly from Afghanistan and were not living in another country before coming to Greece.

**75%** of the respondents directly witnessed or experienced protection incidents during the journey.

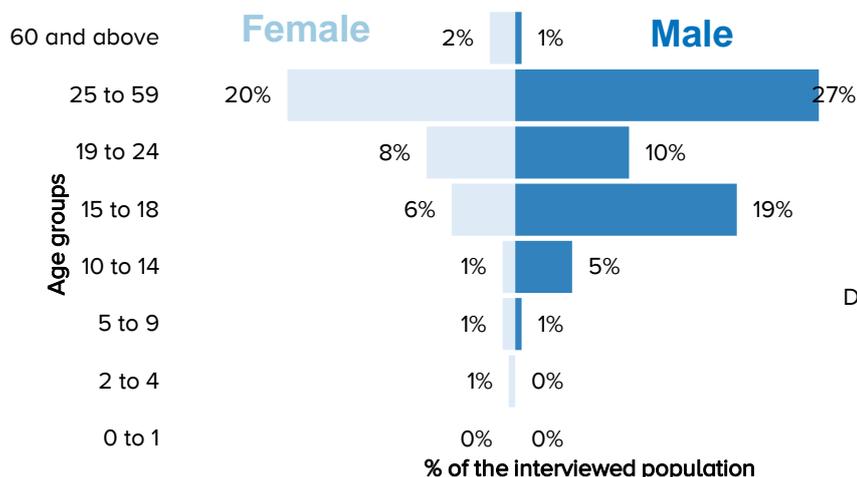
**66%** of respondents are travelling with at least one member of close family (father/mother, spouse, children, siblings).

**64%** of respondents have left close family members behind. Main reasons why family members were left behind, were lack of financial resources (**31%**) and family members did not want to come (**31%**). **9%** of those, plan to eventually bring them to the country of destination.

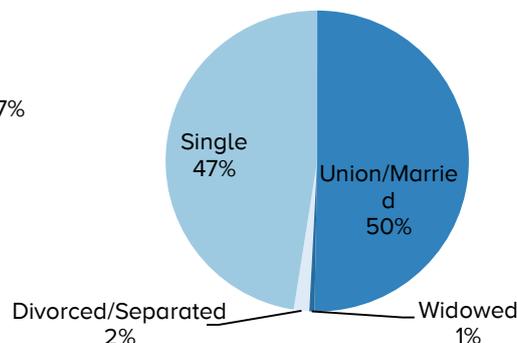
In the current situation, **61%** of the respondents want to go to another European country, while **15%** want to remain and live in Greece, while **23%** have not yet decided. The main reasons to choose the intended destination country were respect for human rights (**34%**) and family member(s) already on that country (**32%**).

## Socio – Demographic Information

Age and Gender breakdown of interviewed Afghans



Marital status



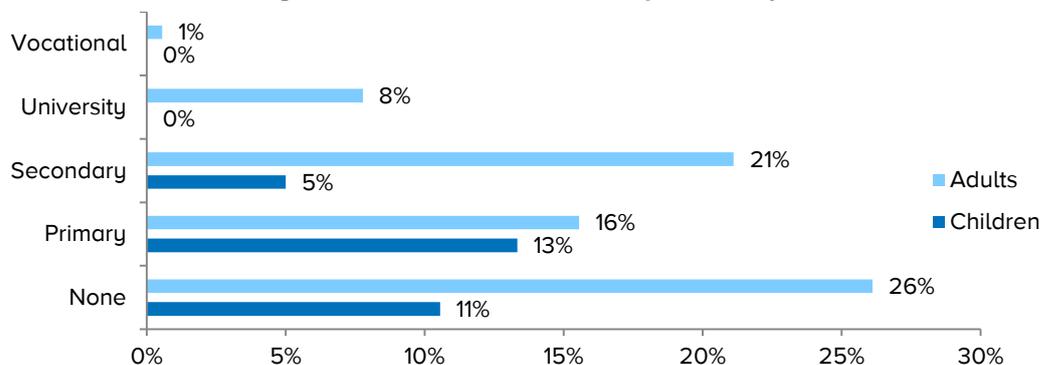
14% of women interviewed are pregnant  
 15% of women interviewed are lactating  
 13% of respondents have a physical disability  
 30% have a severe medical condition (53% of the respondents that indicated a severe medical condition were women).

31% of female respondents and 57% of male respondents indicated themselves as single or widowed.

## Education

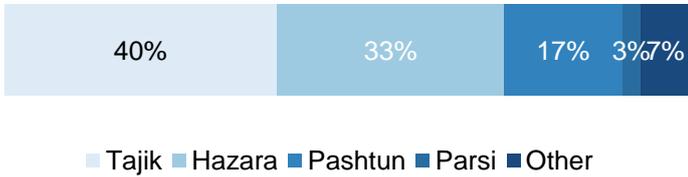
From the respondents that indicated that their education was interrupted due to the journey, all of them were boys.

Highest level of education completed >4 years old

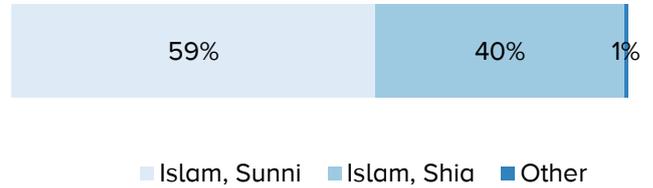


## Religion and Ethnicity

**Ethnicity**



**Religion**



## Professional background



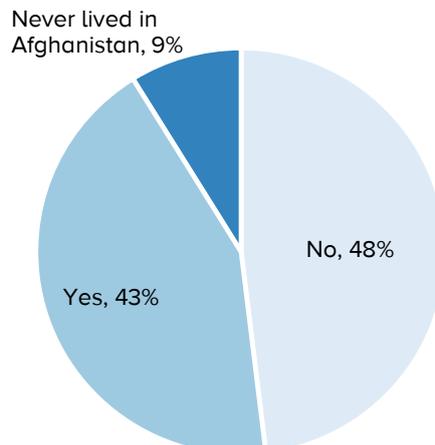
**29%** of adult respondents did not have professional activities back in the country of origin. Out of those **87%** are WOMEN and **13%** MEN.

**61%** of all women indicated no professional/education activities before leaving their place of residence.

Moreover, **21%** indicated Services as their area of professional activity.

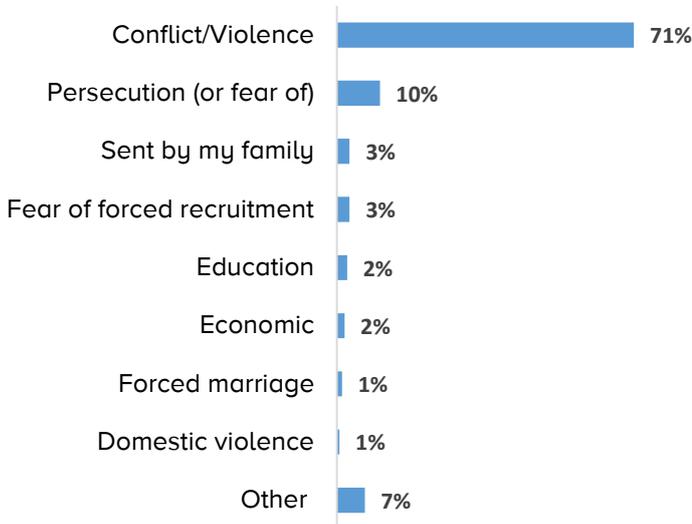
## Internal displacement

**Internally displaced due to violence/conflict in Afghanistan before journey**



## Reasons to leave Afghanistan

Main reasons to leave Afghanistan



## Journey

**70%** of all respondents left Afghanistan in **2016**

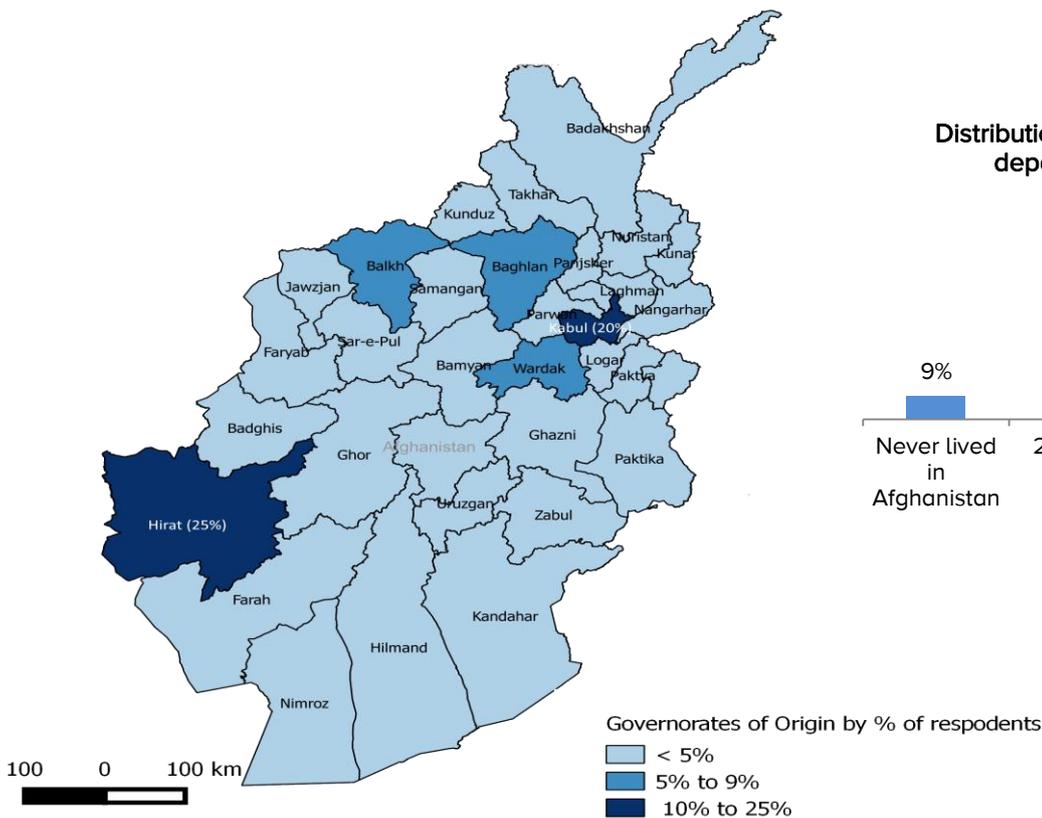
**13%** of all respondents left Afghanistan in **2015**

**73%** of all respondents who left Afghanistan in 2016, started their journey before **20 March 2016**

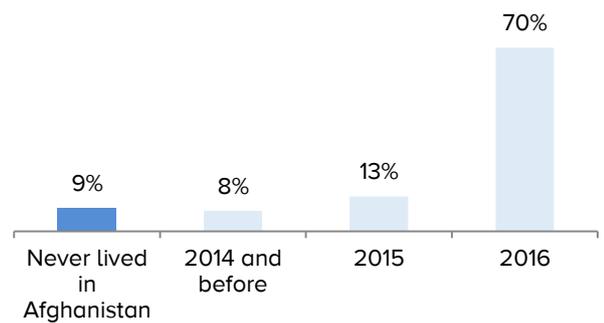


**52 days** Average duration of travel for those moving directly from Afghanistan to Greece.

Governorates of origin in Afghanistan



Distribution of respondents by year of departure from Afghanistan



## ROUTES: Four main routes taken by Afghans to reach to Greece

**34%** - AFGHANISTAN > PAKISTAN > IRAN > TURKEY > GREECE

(Afghans coming directly from Afghanistan).

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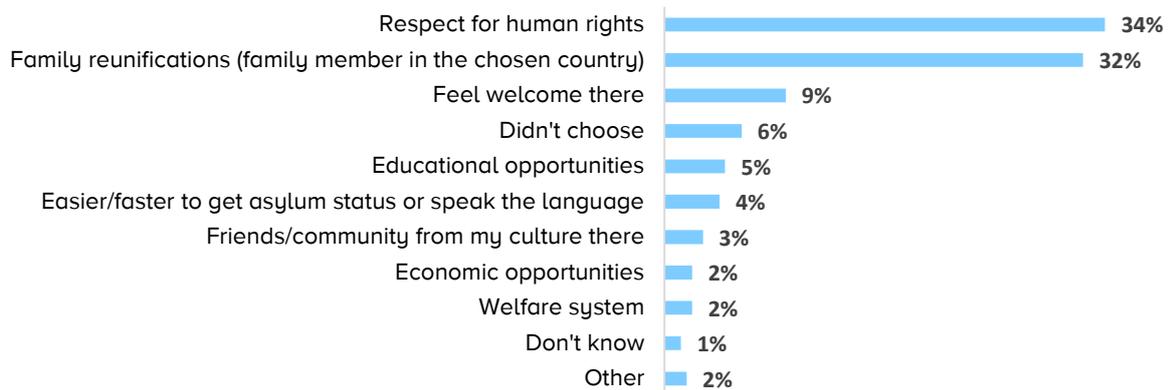
**15%** - IRAN > TURKEY > GREECE (Afghans previously living in Iran).

**< 18%** - OTHER ROUTES.

**39%** of respondents indicated that they had made previous attempt(s) to cross the border



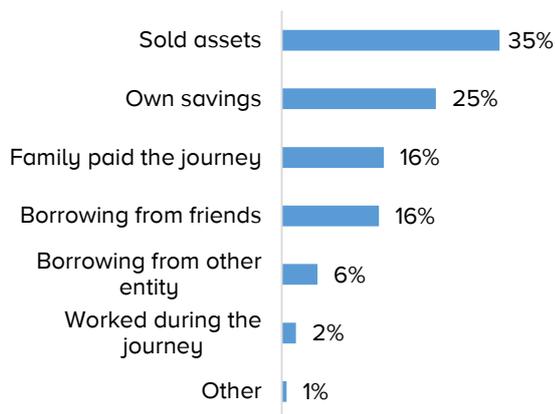
### Reasons for choosing destination countries



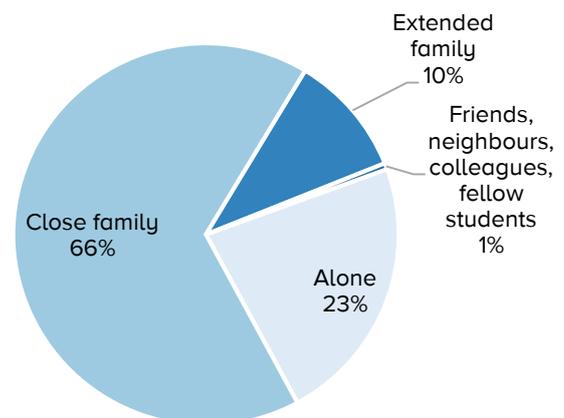
In % of responses. Respondents could provide multiple answers.

The main reasons to choose the intended destination country are **(34%)** respect for human rights and safety in the country of destination and family already on that country and **(32%)**.

### Main ways to finance the journey



### Who are you travelling with\*?



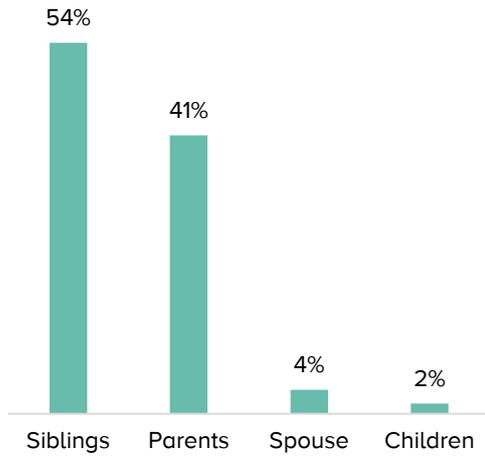
\* in % of responses. Respondents could provide multiple answers.

**51%** of the respondents sold assets or borrowed from friends in order to finance their journey.

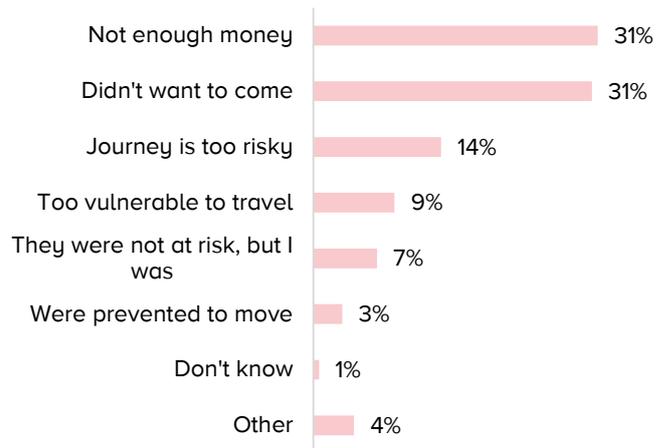
**66%** of all respondents were travelling with at least one close family member.

Of those travelling with family members, **13%** were travelling with two family members, **22%** with three family members, **13%** with four family members, and **52%** were travelling with five or more family members.

Family members left behind\*



Why did household members stay behind?\*



\* in % of responses. Respondents could provide multiple answers.

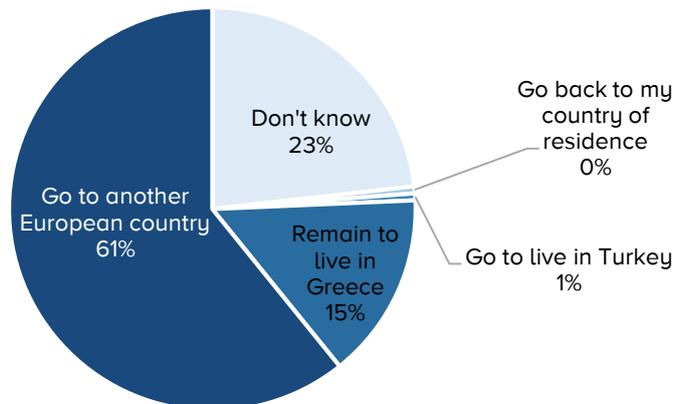
**64%** of respondents have left close family members behind.

**9%** of those, plan to eventually bring them to the country of destination.

Lack of financial resources was the main reason why family members were left behind.

In the current situation, most of the respondents (**61%**) want to go to another European country, while **23%** do not know what they will do in the near future.

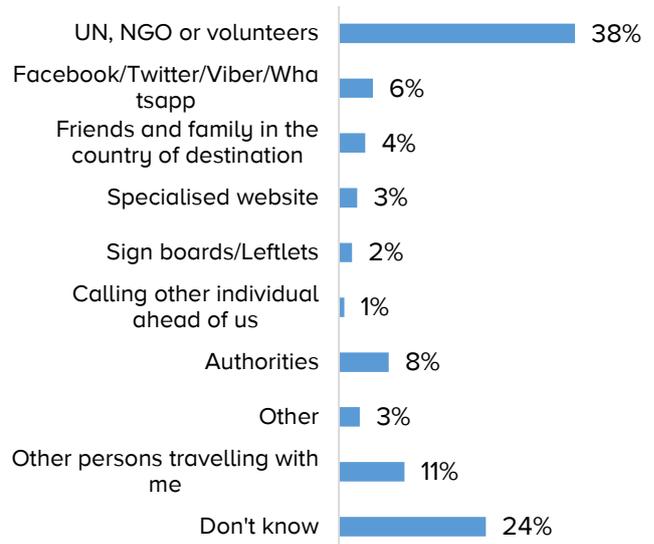
Now in the current situation what you plan to do?



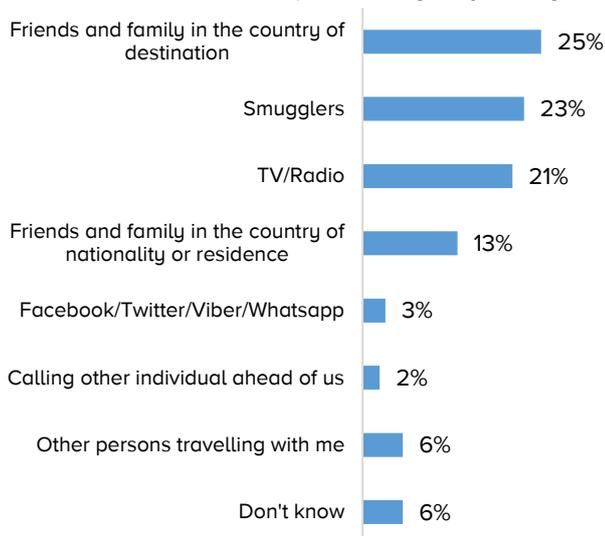
## Access to Information

Main sources of information on options for their future are UN, NGOs and volunteers (38%).

How do you access information on what your options now and for the future are\*?



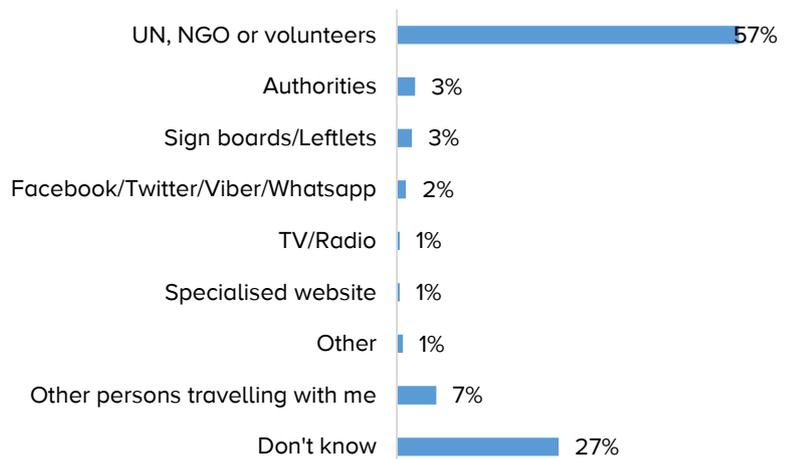
How did you access information about the trip and the life in Europe before your journey\*?



Main sources of information on the journey and life in Europe before they started the journey were friends and family at the destination country (25%), smugglers (23%) and TV/Radio (21%).

Main sources of information on how to access services are UN, UNGOS and volunteers (57%), while many don't know how to best access the information (27%).

How do you access information on how to access services you need here\*?



\* in % of responses. Respondents could provide multiple answers.

Main challenges in currently accessing information are Information not available at their language (35%), identifying where to access information they can trust (33%) and existence of contradicting information from various sources (5%). 19% stated they do not face challenges in accessing information.

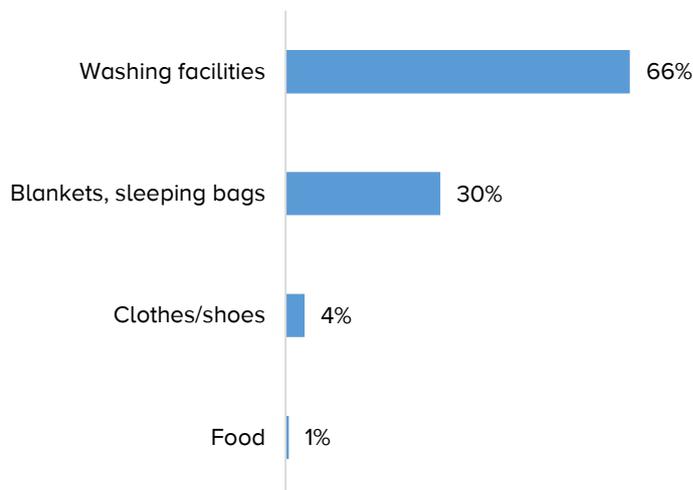
**What are the main challenges to access information right now\*?**



\* in % of responses. Respondents could provide multiple answers.

## Assistance received and gaps

**Access to assistance in any country en route\***



could provide multiple answers.

**Assistance gaps en route identified by respondents:**

**En route:** Food (46%), Clothes, shoes (18%) and Cash assistance (13%).

**The main assistance gap was Food (78% in Turkey, 96% in Iran).**

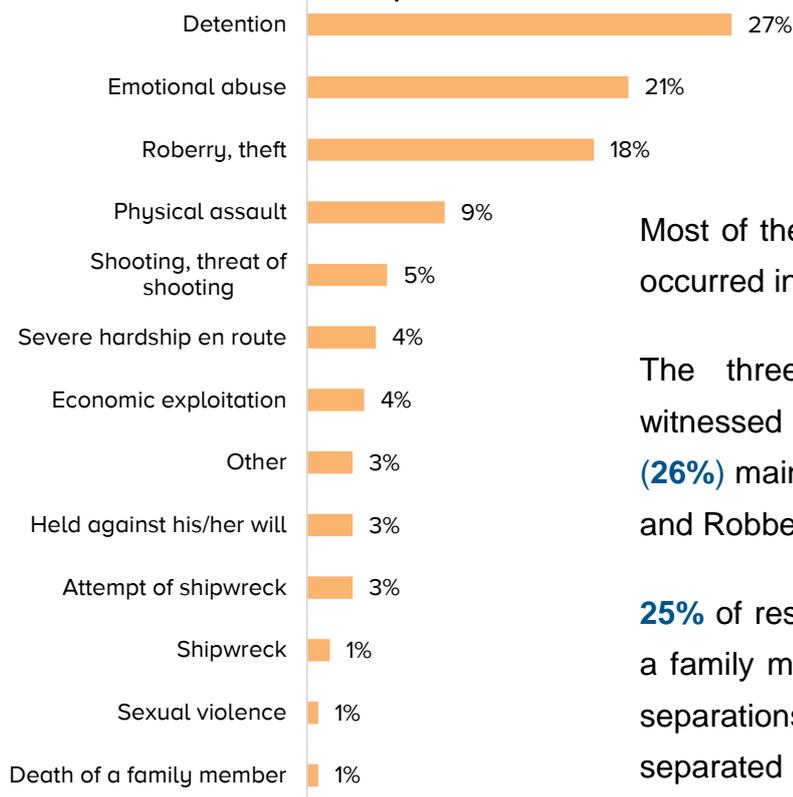
\* in % of responses. Respondents



## Protection

**8%** of respondents were part of a single female-headed household while travelling. Additionally, **9%** of the entire sample identified themselves as Unaccompanied Children.

### Protection incidents witnessed or experienced by respondents



Most of the incidents experienced or witnessed occurred in Turkey (**49%**) and Iran (**36%**).

The three main incidents experienced or witnessed by respondents were detention (**26%**) mainly in Turkey, Emotional abuse (**21%**) and Robbery, theft (**19%**).

**25%** of respondents have been separated from a family member during the journey. Of the 45 separations report, only three had found the separated individuals at the time of the interview.

**Limitations:** Considering the profiling was not conducted on closed centers at the time of the interviews, protection incidents in Greece might not be properly represented on this document and the actual number is more likely higher.

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