

## SUMMARY

This document summarises key findings from data collected between 1-7 February 2016, drawing on primary data from group interviews with migrants/refugees\* and analysis of mainstream and social media.

During the first week of February, REACH assessment teams conducted interviews in Presevo, Belgrade and Dimitriovgrad, Serbia. Teams interviewed a total of 82 groups, representing 530 individuals. 42 groups were from Syria (275 individuals), 18 from Afghanistan (141 individuals), 16 from Iraq (77 individuals), and 6 from other countries (37 individuals).

### Push and pull factors

Push and pull factors have shifted slightly from previous weeks. Active armed conflict and violence and insecurity remain the primary reasons people are fleeing, but access to jobs appears increasingly an important priority.

#### Top three push factors

- ➔  1 Active armed conflict
- 2 Violence and insecurity
- 3 Lack of basic services

#### Top three pull factors

- 1 Safety and security
- 2 Job opportunities
- 3 Family reunification



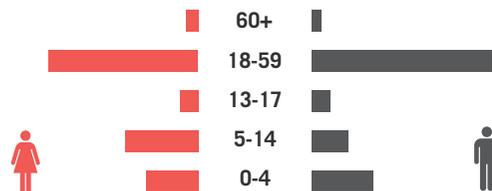
### Group composition

- 52% Syrians
- 14% Iraqis
- 27% Afghans
- 7% Others



The majority (65%) of groups travelling were families. One fifth (21%) were men travelling without family, an increase compared to previous weeks. This is mainly due to the increased number of assessed groups from 'other' countries such as Algeria and Morocco, which consisted primarily of adult males travelling without family.

### Demographics



### Socio-economic profile

59% of groups reported relying on stable employment and/or business and trade in their former place of residence. Some (25%) relied on daily labour while others (10%) engaged in farming. A small number relied on support from family and friends.

### MIGRATION ROUTE

All interviewed arrivals reported transiting through Turkey on their way to Europe. The majority (86%) spent less than three months in Turkey, while 12% reported spending between 3 and 12 months. A small number of groups reported staying in Turkey for 1 to 2 years before travelling further.

#### Reported top three challenges during travel

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

### Area of origin

Almost half (42%) of Syrians travelling were either from Aleppo or Idlib, with smaller concentrations from Damascus, Deir ez Zor, Homs and other governorates. Those travelling from Afghanistan were from locations across the country, while migrants from Iraq reported coming from areas in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, Baghdad and areas bordering Iran. For the first time, a group from Al Anbar province was reported.

### Preferred destination

The majority of groups (84%) reported Germany as their preferred destination country. Sweden (11%), Italy (5%) and France (5%) were also favoured by groups. A significantly smaller number of groups also reported intending to travel to Holland, Austria and Belgium.

### Reported top three challenges to accessing information

-  1 Lack of wifi
- 2 Lack of phone
- 3 Lack of electricity

### Why travel now?

The primary reported reason for deciding to travel to Europe now has changed since previous weeks. Migrants most commonly reported "Europe's welcome to refugees" (29%) as their reason, replacing "a recent deterioration of security in their place of origin" (28%) for the first time.

### Being 'stuck'

Throughout the week, migrants have taken to social media to discuss delays on their journey, reporting waiting times of between 2 and 7 days at crossing points across the Western Balkans. Major bottle necks were reported along the borders between Greece/FYRoM, and between Serbia/Croatia.

Migrants of all nationalities reported delays following border closures while authorities processed large numbers of people waiting. However, the longest delays were reported by those lacking documentation, or from countries other than Syria, Iraq or Afghanistan, who are refused entry in line with policies in each transit country. These groups have also struggled to access humanitarian assistance while in transit, which is often provided on the basis of registration documents.

\*Throughout this document, the term "migrants" refers to both migrants and asylum seekers who have not yet undergone refugee status determination.

# Belgrade - Key Findings

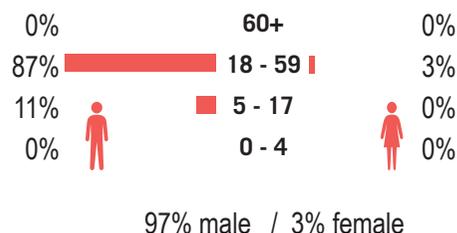
1-7 February 2016

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 - 7 February 2016 from 7 group interviews in Belgrade, Serbia.

Further information is available from [www.reach-initiative.org](http://www.reach-initiative.org) and [www.reachresourcecentre.info](http://www.reachresourcecentre.info)



## Demographics of persons interviewed

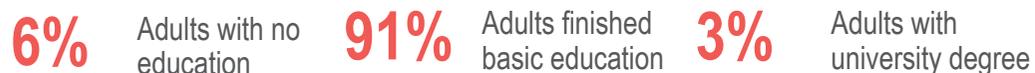


## Education

Children who attended school in prior place of residence:



Reported level of education among adults:



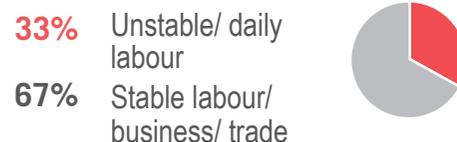
## Group composition

Average group size: **5**  
Individuals travelling alone: **20%**  
Of all persons interviewed:



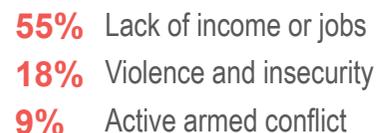
## Employment

Adults previously employed in prior place of residence:



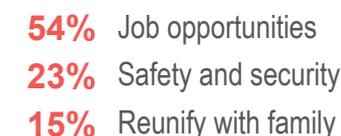
## Push factors

Top three cited reasons for leaving area of origin:



## Pull factors

Top three cited reasons for coming to Europe:



## Intended destination country

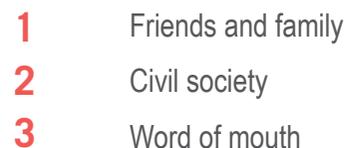


## Vulnerabilities

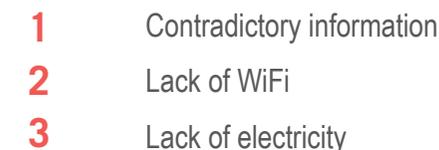


## Information needs

Primary source of information:



Top reported challenges to information access:



# Dimitrovgrad - Key Findings

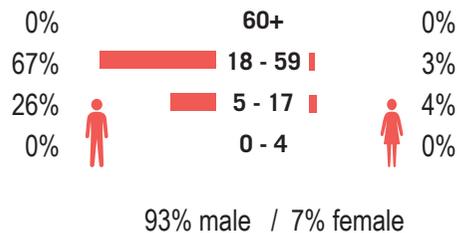
1-7 February 2016

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 - 7 February 2016 from 8 group interviews in Dimitrovgrad, Serbia.

Further information is available from [www.reach-initiative.org](http://www.reach-initiative.org) and [www.reachresourcecentre.info](http://www.reachresourcecentre.info)



## Demographics of persons interviewed



## Education

Children who attended school in prior place of residence:

67% Yes  
33% No



Reported level of education among adults:

24% Adults with no education  
76% Adults finished basic education  
0% Adults with university degree

## Group composition

Average group size: 9  
Individuals travelling alone: 41%  
Of all persons interviewed:

17% from Syria  
83% from Afghanistan  
0% from Iraq  
0% others

## Employment

Adults previously employed in prior place of residence:

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



## Push factors

Top three cited reasons for leaving area of origin:

55% Violence and insecurity  
27% Active armed conflict  
9% Lack basic services

## Pull factors

Top three cited reasons for coming to Europe:

64% Safety and security  
27% Access to services and state support  
9% Job opportunities

## Intended destination country

1<sup>st</sup> Germany (88%)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Other (12%)  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sweden (0%)

## Vulnerabilities

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

## Information needs

Primary source of information:

1 Smugglers  
2 Friends and family  
3 Word of mouth

Top reported challenges to information access:

1 Lack of credit  
2 Lack of phone  
3 Lack of WiFi

# Presevo - Key Findings

1-7 February 2016

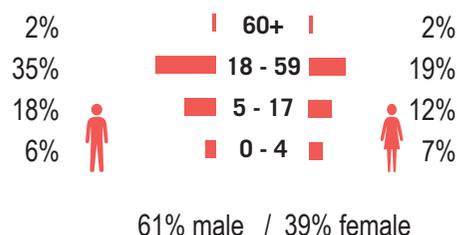
REACH, with the support of ECHO, is conducting regular assessments in order to inform on the EU migration crisis in the Western Balkans.

This location factsheet presents the main findings and primary areas of concern based on data collected between 1 - 7 February 2016 from 67 group interviews in Presevo, Serbia.

Further information is available from [www.reach-initiative.org](http://www.reach-initiative.org) and [www.reachresourcecentre.info](http://www.reachresourcecentre.info)



## Demographics of persons interviewed



## Education

Children who attended school in prior place of residence:

97% Yes  
3% No



Reported level of education among adults:

14% Adults with no education  
75% Adults finished basic education  
11% Adults with university degree

## Group composition

Average group size: 6  
Individuals travelling alone: 50%  
Of all persons interviewed:

62% from Syria  
18% from Afghanistan  
18% from Iraq  
2% others

## Employment

Adults previously employed in prior place of residence:

26% Unstable/ daily labour  
74% Stable labour/ business/ trade



## Push factors

Top three cited reasons for leaving area of origin:

35% Active armed conflict  
27% Lack of basic services  
21% Violence and insecurity

## Pull factors

Top three cited reasons for coming to Europe:

50% Safety and security  
25% Job opportunities  
14% Access to services and state support

## Intended destination country

1<sup>st</sup> Germany (80%)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sweden (13%)  
3<sup>rd</sup> Holland (3%)

## Vulnerabilities

Unaccompanied minors: 1%  
Elderly persons travelling alone: 0%  
Pregnant or lactating women: 14%  
People with physical disability: 2%  
People with mental illness: 0%

## Information needs

Primary source of information:

1 Smugglers  
2 Word of mouth  
3 Friends and family

Top reported challenges to information access:

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