

Weekly Situation Overview: European Migration Crisis, Western Balkans

25-31 January 2016



Humanitarian Aid
and Civil Protection

REACH Informing
more effective
humanitarian action

SUMMARY

This document summarises key findings from data collected between 25-31 January 2016, drawing on primary data from group interviews with migrants* and analysis of mainstream and social media.

During the fourth week of January, REACH assessment teams conducted interviews in Presevo, Belgrade and Dimitrovgrad, Serbia. The teams interviewed 51 groups (421 individuals) representing 18 groups from Afghanistan (173 individuals), 15 groups from Syria (87 individuals), 12 groups from Iraq (98 individuals), 3 groups from Pakistan (24 individuals) and 8 groups from other countries representing 39 individuals. Three groups were comprised of Iraqis, Syrians and Afghans travelling together.

Push and pull factors

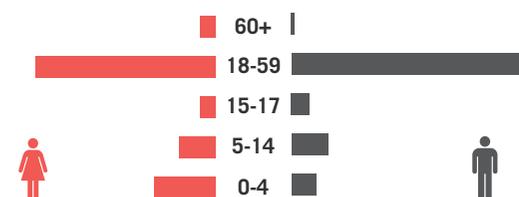
Push and pull factors have changed slightly since previous weeks. Active armed conflict remains a primary push factor, but lack of basic services and income have increased in importance over recent weeks as reasons for leaving. Primary pull factors remain security and safety, job opportunities, and family reunification.

Top three push factors

- 1 Active armed conflict
- 2 Lack of basic services / income
- 3 High cost of living

Group composition & demographics

21% Syrians
23% Iraqis
41% Afghans
15% Others



Of the number of adults travelling, **men travelling alone (39%) represented a higher proportion of groups, compared to 29% travelling as families.** This change is most likely attributed to larger proportion of interviews conducted with groups from 'other' countries, which are primarily made up of men.

Socio-economic profile

Almost half, **47%, reported stable employment in their former residence**, although income levels were reported to vary. Some (37%) reported relying on daily labour, while others (8%) were farm owners and depended on agriculture and odd jobs for support. A further (6%) engaged in business and trade, while 2% received support from family and friends.

Top three pull factors

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

MIGRATION ROUTE

All interviewed arrivals reported transit through Turkey on their way to Europe. The majority (92%) spent less than three months in Turkey, while 6% had spent between 3 and 12 months. A small percentage, 2%, reported having spent between 1 and 2 years in Turkey.

Area of origin

Of the groups arriving from Syria, 36% reported travelling from Al Hasakeh Governorate, 18% from Aleppo and 15% from Dara. Smaller numbers came from Damascus, Hama, Homs, Idlib, Deir-ez-Zor and Tartous. Groups from Afghanistan had travelled from the eastern and south eastern provinces, while those from Iraq reported coming from Erbil, Baghdad and Dahuk governorates, as well as Diyala, Kerbala, Missan and Ninewa.

A small percentage (2%) reported living in a camp or camp like setting in their country of origin, an increase from previous weeks. These groups reported travelling from Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan.

Reported top three challenges during travel

- 1 High cost of travel
- 2 Sea crossing
- 3 Theft or robbery

Planned destination

The majority of groups (69%) continued to report Germany as their country of destination, followed by Sweden (14%), and Holland (6%).

Reported top three challenges to accessing information

- 1 Lack of wifi
- 2 Lack of phone
- 3 Contradictory information

Why travel now?

An increasing proportion reported leaving now rather than before, because of the recent deterioration of the situation in their place of origin; others cited Europe as being more welcoming to refugees now than before.

Travelling by Sea

Social media discussions this week again found sea travel to be a topic of conversation. Well aware of the perils of the journey, migrants have increasingly begun asking and sharing information about how to contact coast guards, which life jackets are the best, which Greek islands are the closest to reach, as well as the cost of the journey by boat. Weather and sea conditions were also discussed.

As reported in September, social media continues to be used as a life line for migrants crossing the sea. Volunteers are using Whatsapp, creating group chats before migrants set sail, to help navigate the boats safely to shore and report incidents. Facebook is also being used to report migrants' location at sea and to reach out for help contacting local coast guards when their boat is in trouble.

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

Belgrade - Key Findings

25 - 31 January 2016

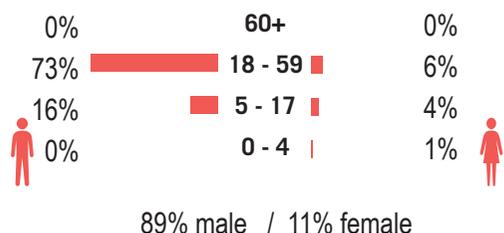
REACH, with the support of ECHO, is conducting regular assessments in order to inform on the EU migration crisis in the Western Balkans.

This location factsheet presents the main findings and primary areas of concern based on data collected between 25 and 31 January 2016 from Belgrade, Serbia.

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



Demographics of persons interviewed

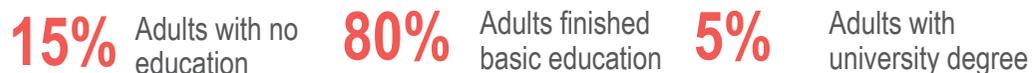


Education

Children who attended school in prior place of residence:



Reported level of education among adults:



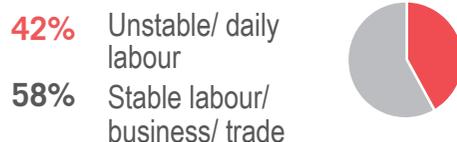
Group composition



Average group size: 4
Individuals travelling alone: 30%

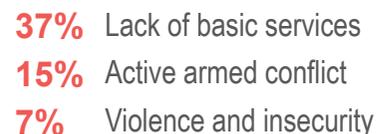
Employment

Adults previously employed in prior place of residence:



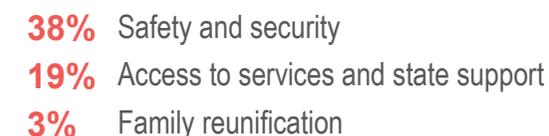
Push factors

Top three cited reasons for leaving area of origin:

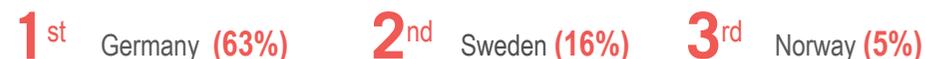


Pull factors

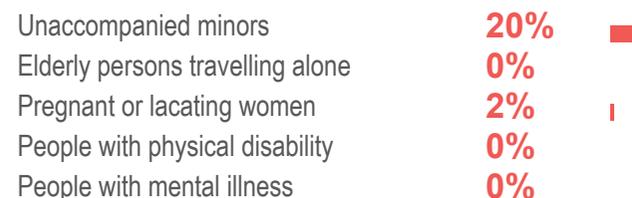
Top three cited reasons for coming to Europe:



Intended destination country

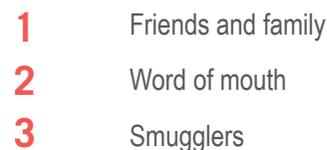


Vulnerabilities

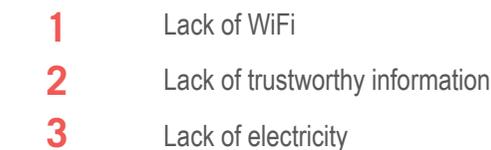


Information needs

Primary source of information:



Top reported challenges to information access:



Dimitrovgrad - Key Findings

25 - 31 January 2016

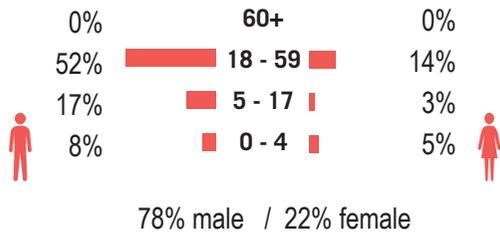
REACH, with the support of ECHO, is conducting regular assessments in order to inform on the EU migration crisis in the Western Balkans.

This location factsheet presents the main findings and primary areas of concern based on data collected between 25 and 31 January 2016 from Dimitrovgrad, Serbia.

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



Demographics of persons interviewed



Education

Children who attended school in prior place of residence:

62% Yes
38% No



Reported level of education among adults:

20% Adults with no education
78% Adults finished basic education
2% Adults with university degree

Group composition

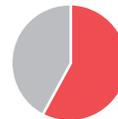
10% from Syria
55% from Afghanistan
29% from Iraq
6% others

Average group size: 19
Individuals travelling alone: 33%

Employment

Adults previously employed in prior place of residence:

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



Push factors

Top three cited reasons for leaving area of origin:

41% Violence and insecurity
24% Active armed conflict
18% Lack of income or jobs

Pull factors

Top three cited reasons for coming to Europe:

47% Safety and security
37% Access to services & state support
16% Job opportunities

Intended destination country

1st Germany (77%)
2nd Belgium (8%)
3rd Sweden (0%)

Vulnerabilities

Unaccompanied minors 14%
Elderly persons travelling alone 0%
Pregnant or lactating women 4%
People with physical disability 7%
People with mental illness 0%

Information needs

Primary source of information:

1 Friends and family
2 Word of mouth
3 Smugglers

Top reported challenges to information access:

1 Lack of credit
2 Lack of WiFi
3 Contradictory information

Presevo - Key Findings

25 - 31 January 2016

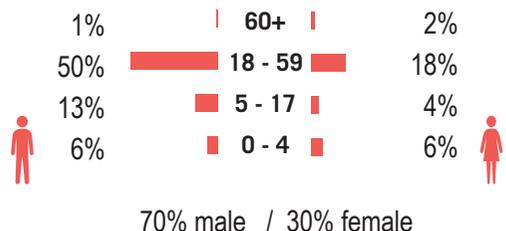
REACH, with the support of ECHO, is conducting regular assessments in order to inform on the EU migration crisis in the Western Balkans.

This location factsheet presents the main findings and primary areas of concern based on data collected between 25 and 31 January 2016 from Presevo, Serbia.

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



Demographics of persons interviewed

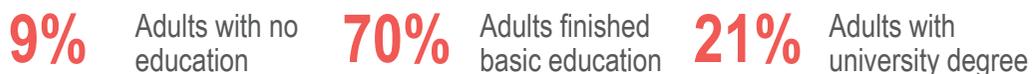


Education

Children who attended school in prior place of residence:



Reported level of education among adults:



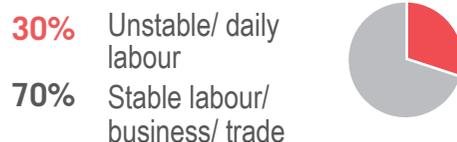
Group composition

- 53% from Syria
- 24% from Afghanistan
- 13% from Iraq
- 10% others

Average group size: 5
Individuals travelling alone: 33%

Employment

Adults previously employed in prior place of residence:



Push factors

Top three cited reasons for leaving area of origin:

- 26% Active armed conflict
- 23% Lack of income or jobs
- 20% Violence and insecurity

Pull factors

Top three cited reasons for coming to Europe:

- 40% Safety and security
- 22% Job opportunities
- 20% Family reunification

Intended destination country

- 1st Germany (54%)
- 2nd Sweden (17%)
- 3rd Holland (12%)

Vulnerabilities

- Unaccompanied minors: 0%
- Elderly persons travelling alone: 0%
- Pregnant or lactating women: 10%
- People with physical disability: 1%
- People with mental illness: 0%

Information needs

Primary source of information:

- 1 Civil society
- 2 Friends and family
- 3 Word of mouth

Top reported challenges to information access:

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