



# FLOW MONITORING SURVEYS' REPORT KOSOVO\*

14 JUNE – 10 JULY 2022

 **DTM**  
IOM DISPLACEMENT  
TRACKING MATRIX

\* References to Kosovo shall be understood in the context of United Nations Resolution 1244 (1999).

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Cover photo: IOM staff providing assistance and support to migrants who are transitin through the Western Balkans  
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## Executive summary

This report presents the results of the first round of the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) Flow Monitoring Surveys (FMS) implemented in Kosovo\*.<sup>1</sup> The data was collected from 4 June to 10 July 2022. IOM interviewed a total of 65 individual respondents.<sup>2</sup>

FMS are a type of qualitative survey, which provide a snapshot of the profiles, experiences and needs of migrants residing in TRCs in Kosovo\*. The survey asks questions on demographics, education and employment backgrounds, the circumstances of the migration journey and migration factors, as well as future intentions.

More than three quarters (76.9%) of the respondents were single adult men between the ages of 18 and 29. Moroccans made up 58.5 per cent of the population sample. Syrians were the second largest nationality, constituting 21.5 per cent of the sample. Almost one-half (44.6%) of all respondents had completed at least primary education and almost two-thirds (62.5%) were employed prior to leaving their countries of origin.

Most respondents (72.3%) were travelling in a group of people, and the majority of these groups (80.9%) were composed of non-family members. Only one respondent reported travelling with facilitators. Less than one fifth of the respondents (18.5%) had been living in a country other than their own country of origin for at least a year prior to arriving in Kosovo\*.

Italy (34.4%), Germany (20.3%) and France (15.6%) were the most frequently cited countries of intended destination. Moroccan nationals were more likely to cite Italy as their country of intended destination (42% of all Morocco respondents noted Italy), while Syrians were more likely to state Germany as their intended country of destination (29%).

The three main reported drivers of migration were economic reasons (66.2%), war and conflict (26.2%), and limited access to services (4.6%).

During their journeys, all respondents reported at least one problem, ranging from robbery, theft of documents, health-related issues, mental health problems as well as a lack of food and shelter. More than one-third (41.3%) of the respondents noted that they had experienced some form of violence on their journeys.

Most migrants transit through Kosovo\* after long journeys, often having witnessed or experienced significant hardship and traumatic events. The most frequently cited needs during their journeys relate to primary needs such as shelter and accommodation, which was indicated by 33.9 per cent of all respondents as their primary need, and cash assistance, reported by 23.1 per cent of the sample.<sup>3</sup>

The majority (90.6%) of respondents reported being vaccinated against COVID-19.

Almost one-half of respondents (47.6%) spent more than 2,500 USD on their journeys. The journeys were largely financed with savings or through selling of property in the countries of origin.

Almost two third of the migrants interviewed (58.5%) said that they do not intend to return to their countries of origin.

Since 2015, the Western Balkan (WB) region has emerged as a major crossroads for migrants and

1 References to Kosovo shall be understood in the context of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 (1999).

2 The term "respondents" refers to migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers as the reference population is made of persons traveling along mixed migration routes. These terms are used interchangeably throughout the report.

3 These are the main needs faced during their journeys, when migrants are in transit and not while they are hosted at TRCs where they have recourse to a shelter as well as a range of support services, including food, non-food items as well as mental health and psychosocial support.

# 1 Introduction

refugees<sup>4</sup> attempting to reach the European Union (EU). Prior to 2017, migrants travelled mainly through North Macedonia and Serbia. However, in 2017, the routes diversified with increasing flows also through Albania, Kosovo\*, Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) route.

In 2022, there were 957 migrants registered on the territory of Kosovo\*.<sup>5</sup> A new temporary reception centre for migrants (TRC) was opened in Vranidol in the Pristina Municipality in June 2022. This report contains findings from the DTM FMS conducted by IOM field staff between 4 June and 10 July 2022 in Vranidol and Magure. Field staff surveyed a total of 65 migrants (two respondents declared that they already participated in an earlier round of the same survey).

Vermica village, on the border with Albania, Elez Han, and Kacanik municipalities, on the border with North Macedonia, are the main entry points into Kosovo\*. There are two main routes out of Kosovo\* that go through the northwest and northeast of the country, primarily through the Jarinje and Merdare crossing points towards Serbia.

The first section presents the baseline profile of the population interviewed, followed by a section on the migrants' travel experience up to the location where the interview took place. The report then highlights respondents' experiences of violence, exploitation and abuse during the journey. The last two sections look at COVID-19 awareness, the impact of the journey and the respondent's views on their return intentions.

## 1.1 DTM's Flow Monitoring Surveys

FMS are part of the IOM's DTM activities in the Mediterranean and WB region. These started in October 2015 and are conducted within the framework of the IOM's research on populations on the move through the Mediterranean, WB and Western African Atlantic routes to Europe. This analysis provides information on profiles, transit routes and vulnerabilities of respondents.

FMS gather information about migrants' profiles, including age, sex, gender, countries and areas of origin, levels of education and employment status before migration, key transit points on their route, cost of the journey, reasons for moving and intentions. It also has a module on migrants' vulnerability to and potential past experience of abuse, exploitation and violence.

More information on the questionnaire, sampling and survey implementation can be found in the methodology section.

All analyses, together with the latest information on arrivals to Europe, can be accessed via DTM's portal on [Mixed Migration Flows to Europe](#).

<sup>4</sup> Mixed migration movements are those in which different categories of people are travelling together, generally in an irregular manner, using the same routes and means of transport, but for different reasons. People travelling as part of mixed movements have varying needs and profiles and may include asylum seekers, refugees, trafficked persons, unaccompanied/separated children, and migrants in an irregular situation.

<sup>5</sup> Data extracted from [Europe Arrivals | Displacement Tracking Matrix \(iom.int\)](#)

## 2 Migrants travelling through Kosovo\*: baseline profile

### 2.1 Sample size and main nationalities

The information in this report is based on a sample of 65 respondents.<sup>6</sup> The two main declared nationalities of respondents were Morocco (58.5%) and the Syrian Arab Republic (21.5%), followed by Pakistan (6.2%), Algeria (4.6%), Egypt (3.1%), Jordan (3.1%), Iraq and the Palestinian Territories (1.5% each).

#### Demographic profile

All survey respondents were men. The median age of respondents was 24, with the youngest person interviewed being 18 years old and the oldest 53 years old.<sup>7</sup> The majority of the respondents (84.6%) declared they were single, followed by 10.8 per cent who were married, and 4.6 per cent divorced. Almost three-quarters of the respondents (72%) have no children. Of those who reported having children, 71.1 per cent declared at least one child left in the country of origin. Only one respondent said he had children traveling with him. None of the respondents reported having children in the destination country.<sup>8</sup>

The most common spoken language by the respondents was Arabic (93.8%) followed by Urdu (6.2%) . Thirty-eight per cent of the respondents reported English as a second language.

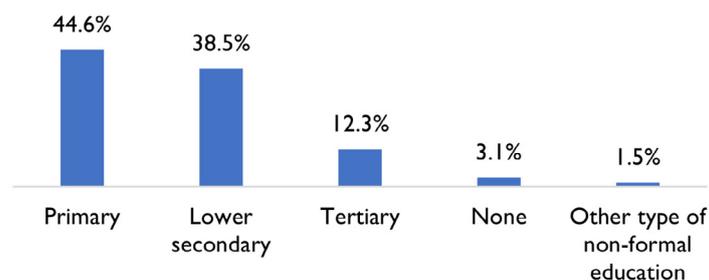
Of the total number of respondents, 15.4 per cent declared they had been internally displaced before leaving their country of origin. These respondents came from the Syrian Arab Republic (90%) and Morocco (10%).

### 2.2 Education and employment

#### 2.2.1 Education

Over two-fifths of the respondents (44.6%) reported having completed primary education, 38.5 per cent have lower secondary education, 12.3 per cent reported having completed tertiary education (including bachelor's and master's degree), 3.1 per cent of respondents reported having completed no education and 1.5 per cent declared having completed other types of non-formal education.

Figure 1 Highest level of educational attainment



Source: DTM Kosovo\* FMS 2022, n=65.

The most frequently reported fields of study were arts and humanities (37.5%), social science, journalism and information (37.5%), business (12.5%), and natural science, mathematics and statistics (12.5%).<sup>9</sup>

<sup>6</sup> Two other migrants met by enumerators stated that they had already participated in the FMS before, and were therefore not asked the remainder of the questions following those concerning respondents' demographic profiles.

<sup>7</sup> Minors require the signed informed consent of the parent or legal guardian prior to being interviewed. Although minors were approached, informed consent was not granted. No minors are therefore included in this sample.

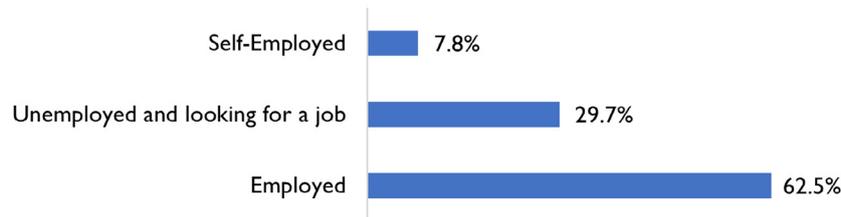
<sup>8</sup> Respondents can have more children; therefore, the percentage does not sum up to 100.

<sup>9</sup> The categories included in the questionnaire were; Arts and humanities; Social sciences, journalism and information; Business; Natural sciences, mathematics and statistics; Agriculture, forestry, fisheries and veterinary; Education; Engineering, manufacturing and construction; Generic programmes and qualifications; Health and welfare; ICT; and Services.

### 2.3 Employment status before departure

Almost two-thirds (62.5%) of respondents declared they had been employed before leaving their country of origin, followed by 29.7 per cent who were unemployed and looking for a job, and 7.8 per cent who were self-employed.

Figure 2 Employment status before departure



Source: DTM Kosovo\* FMS 2022, n=65.

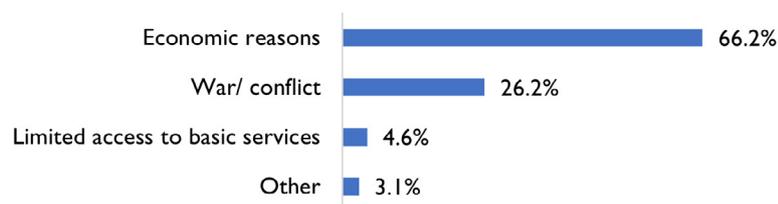
Among respondents who declared they had been employed before leaving their country of origin, the most frequently reported jobs were service and sales workers (24.4%), other occupations (24.4%), followed by craft and related trade workers (15.6%), elementary occupations (13.3%), skilled manual labour (8.9%), clerical support workers (4.4%), plant and machine operators (4.4%), and professionals (4.4%).<sup>10</sup>

### 2.4 Reasons for leaving the country of origin

Interviewees were also asked to mention the two main reasons for leaving their countries of origin.<sup>11</sup> Figure 5 shows the four main reasons in comparison. Two-thirds (66.2%) of respondents reported economic reasons as their primary motive, followed by war and conflict in their country of origin (26.2%), limited access to services (4.6%) and two respondents reported other reasons for leaving their countries of origin.

When looking at the two main reported nationalities in Kosovo\*, Moroccans declared economic reason as the number one reason for leaving (89% of the total), while for nationals of the Syrian Arab Republic, war was the main reason to leave their country of origin (100%).

Figure 3 Main reason for leaving the country of origin



Source: DTM Kosovo\* FMS 2022, n=65

10 The list of categories included in the questionnaire were: Armed forces; managers (e.g. directors, senior officials); professionals (e.g. doctors, nurses, teachers, accountants); technicians and associate professional (e.g. associate professionals of science, engineering, health, business and administration, legal); clerical support workers (e.g. general secretaries, customer service clerks); service and sales workers (e.g. personal services, sales workers, personal care, security services); skilled manual (agriculture, fishery, craft) (e.g. gardeners, farmers, fishers, gatherers); craft and related trade workers (e.g. metal workers, repairers, woodworkers, electronic installers); plant and machine operators, and assemblers (e.g. truck/ bus drivers, mining/ rubber machine operators); elementary occupations (e.g. cleaners, mining/ construction labourers, street vendors, refuse workers).

11 The list of categories included in the questionnaire were: sudden onset natural disaster (e.g., flood, storm, landslide, earthquake); slow environmental change (e.g. livestock died due to drought, loss of agriculture due to drought/poor rainfall, sea level rise destroyed homes/assets, reduced fish stocks); war/conflict; personal/ targeted violence; limited access to services (basic education, health care, water, food, accommodation, transportation); economic reasons; education (higher levels) or training; marriage, family reunification or family formation; COVID-19 related reasons.

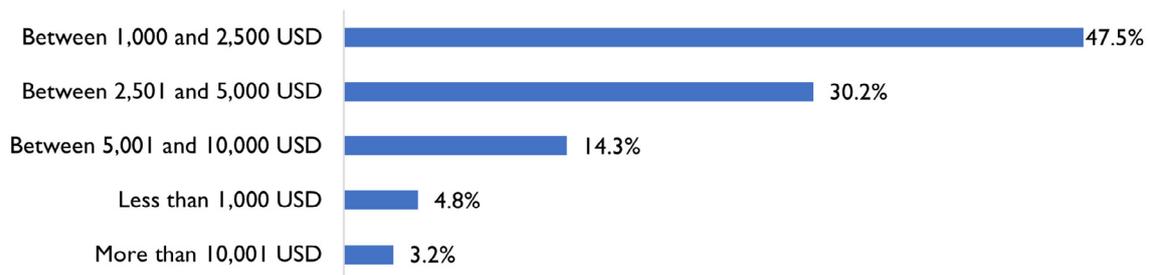
## 2.5 Mode of travel

Most respondents stated they were travelling with a group of persons (72.3%), while the rest were travelling alone.<sup>12</sup> The majority of those in groups were travelling with non-family members (80.9%), while 17 per cent travelled with relatives. A minority of respondents reported having travelled with facilitators (2.1%).

Family groups among respondents mostly consist of extended family members (50%), of spouses and children (25%), followed by siblings only and only with children (25% each).

## 2.6 Cost of journey

Figure 4 Cost of journey from departure to country of interview.



Source: DTM Kosovo\* FMS 2022, n=65.

Almost half of the respondents (47.5%) reported the estimated cost of the journey to be between 1,000 and 2,500 USD per person, while almost one-third (30.1%) reported they have spent between 2,501 and 5,000 USD, 14.3 per cent between 5,001 and 10,000, 4.8 per cent spent less than 1,000 USD and 3.2 per cent more than 10,000 USD.

Almost three-fourths of the respondents (70.8%) reported having paid for the journey with their own money only, followed by 15.4 per cent who received financial help from relatives in their country of origin, 13.9 per cent who raised money by working during the journey, 10.8 per cent who reported financial help by friends in the country of origin, 7.7 who raised money by selling property, and one respondent declared receiving support from friends abroad. One respondent reported raising money by incurring debt.<sup>13</sup>

Almost a third of the respondents (31.7%) reported having paid the full amount in advance, followed by 26.7 per cent paying by leg and 5 per cent by instalments in cash. Thirty-five per cent of the respondents reported having paid for the journey through other or unknown systems. One respondent will have to pay upon arrival.

When asked whether they would have to repay all or part of the travel expenses upon arrival at their intended destination, most of the respondent (56.9%) replied no, 38.5 per cent answered positively while the remaining 4.6 per cent declined to reply.

<sup>12</sup> The question "Who are you travelling with (with whom did the respondent start the journey)?" presented two options namely a. Alone, b. With a group. If b (with a group), a follow-up question followed "The group was made of, a. Non-family/non-relatives, b. Family/Relatives, c. Facilitators (agents/employer/smugglers).

<sup>13</sup> The total does not add up to 100 as the respondents could provide multiple answers.

## 2.7 Entry and length of stay in Kosovo\*

When asked how long the respondents had been staying in Kosovo\*, 95.4 per cent stated they had been staying in the country less than 2 weeks, followed by one respondent that had been staying between 2 weeks and 3 months, one respondent that had been staying between 3 and 6 months and one respondent that had been staying more than 1 year.

## 2.8 Problems and Protection Risks encountered during the journey

The interviewees were asked about a list of specific incidents and problems they could have faced during the journey. Every respondent declared to have at least one problem during the journey.

More than one-half (53.4%) of respondents declared they had been robbed, out of all occurred in transit countries.

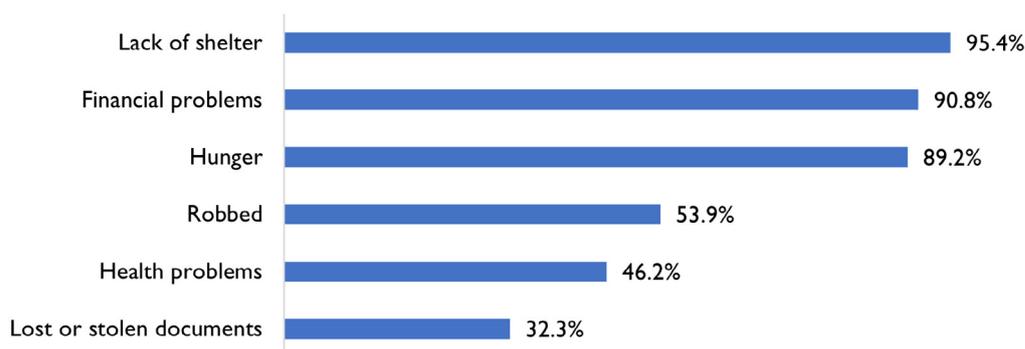
Almost one-third (32.3%) of respondents declared they had suffered theft of documents, of whom 95.2 per cent reported that this happened in transit countries while 4.8 per cent reported this had occurred in Kosovo\*.

Almost all (95.4%) of respondents reported that there was a lack of shelter at some point during the journey and 95.2 per cent reported that this happened in transit countries, while 4.8 per cent reported this had occurred in Kosovo\*.<sup>14</sup>

Almost half (46.2%) of the respondents reported having had health problems during the journey, mainly injuries related to the journey, asthma, food poisoning, cold, mental health problem but also COVID-19. Of those who reported to have suffered from health problems, 80 per cent occurred in transit locations.

The majority of respondents (90.8%) also reported having had financial problems to cover basic needs/onward journey, out of whom three-fourths (74.6%) declared this happened while in transit. The majority (86.2%) of migrants surveyed said they suffered from hunger, all except one declared this happened while in transit.

Figure 5 Main problems reported during journey



Source: DTM Kosovo\* FMS 2022, n=65.

Respondents were also asked if they had been readmitted<sup>15</sup> to another country during their journey by the authorities of transit countries. Twelve per cent of respondents reported that they had been readmitted at least once, all between two and five times. One of the respondents to have reported having been readmitted, affirmed it had happened while attempting to enter Greece, and one reported it to have happened in the Netherlands.

<sup>14</sup> The population surveyed is mobile and the reasons for not having shelter/place where to sleep are disparate, including the unwillingness to stay in a reception facility, and the desire to be as close as possible to the country's borders to reach the final intended destination as soon as possible.

<sup>15</sup> The survey asks migrants questions about whether they have been readmitted from one country to another. Migrants may or may not know the difference between formal readmission procedures and push backs and may use or understand those terms interchangeably. Findings on readmission should therefore not be understood to definitively mean pushbacks.

## 2.9 Main needs

Respondents were asked what their main unmet needs were at the time of the interview and to provide them in order of priority. Most respondents (33.9%) reported accommodation/shelter as their main need, followed by cash assistance (23.1%), food (18.5%), medical assistance (7.7%), clothes and shoes (10.8%) and one respondent declared sanitation and hygiene facilities.<sup>16</sup>

## 2.10 Country of intended destination

The survey also asked about intended final destinations. Italy (24.4%), Germany (20.3%), and France (15.6%) were the three most frequently cited countries of intended destination. For Moroccans, the top three intended destinations are Italy (42%), Germany (21%), and France (18%).

As to why migrants specifically chose the country of destination, over two-fifths (44.6%) stated that this was due to appealing socio-economic conditions, including the education and welfare system, social security and job opportunities. This is followed by 21.5 per cent who declared that it was because of ease of access to asylum procedures, 13.9 per cent who declared that it was because they had relatives in the country of destination, 12.3 per cent for “other” reasons, 3.1 per cent for the existence of an established network of co-nationals, 3.1 per cent said safety and 1.5 per cent declared that it was the only available/feasible choice due to political or geographical constraints.

Over half (54.5%) of the respondents who reported Germany, France or Italy as their countries of intended destination said that it was due to appealing socioeconomic conditions.

More than a third of the respondents (36.9%) have family members in the countries of the intended destination, of which 91.7 per cent extended family members and 8.3 per cent, or 2 respondents, have immediate family.

Less than one-fifth (7.8%) of respondents said they had information on asylum or how to obtain documents to stay legally in the intended country of destination.

Of the total number of respondents who declared that they have family members in the country of destination, 85 per cent declared that they had not previously attempted to reunify with their family members through legal procedures. Of these, 96 per cent stated they did not have information on family reunification in the country where their relatives were.

## 3 Vulnerability to violence, exploitation and abuse

The questionnaire also included a module which gathers data on migrants' vulnerability and the forms of abuse, violence and exploitation they may have experienced or witnessed during the journey. More specifically, the survey includes six questions to capture information about whether the respondents had, during their journey:

1. Worked or performed activities without getting the expected payment.
2. Been forced to perform work or activities against their will.
3. Been approached by someone offering marriage.
4. Been kept at a certain location against their will (by persons other than authorities of the country).
5. Experienced some form of physical violence.
6. Witnessed someone been threatened with sexual violence.

These six questions relate to an event that might indicate exposure to human trafficking, exploitation and abuse practices, physical and sexual violence, experienced by the respondent directly or by one of his/her family member, or witnessed by the respondent during the journey.

<sup>16</sup> The total does not add up to 100 as respondents were able to provide more than one answer.

The experiences described in these questions do not aim to identify cases of human trafficking as defined by international and national legal instruments. If interviewers came across respondents who requested further support, they referred these cases to the relevant protection actor.

More than two-fifths (41.3%) of respondents declared they experienced at least one of the indicators related to violence, abuse and exploitation. This involved working or performing activities without getting the expected payment, being forced to perform work or activities against their will and experiencing some form of physical violence. Only one person responded positively to three out of six indicators, while none reported experiences of sexual violence.<sup>17</sup>

With regard to the geographical areas where the reported experiences of violence and abuse took place Greece, Serbia, Bulgaria and Türkiye were the most frequently cited.

### 3.1 Labour exploitation

Of the total sample, 6.6 per cent (a total 4 respondents) reported they had worked or performed other activities during their journey without receiving the expected payment. Of those who reported having worked or performed other activities without getting the expected payment during their journey, one person mention it happened working in the cleaning sector, one person in clothing, one person in construction and one person in a plastic factory.

### 3.2 Forced labour

Only one case of forced labour has been reported.

### 3.3 Offers of an arranged marriage

No offer of an arranged marriage were reported (all respondents to have taken the survey were men).

### 3.4 Being kept at a certain location against their will

Two respondents declared being kept at a certain location against their will (one of Moroccan and one of Pakistani nationality).

### 3.5 Experienced some form of physical violence

When asked if they had experienced some form of physical violence during their journeys, 40 per cent declared that they had.

The most frequently cited country was Greece (50%), followed by Serbia (19.2%), Bulgaria (15.4%) and Türkiye (11.5%).

### 3.6 Observed threats with sexual violence

None of the respondents declared to have witnessed or experienced threats of sexual violence.

## 4 Covid - 19

Most of the migrants interviewed (90.6%) declared they were vaccinated against COVID-19. Most of the respondents reported not to have encountered any challenge along their journey due to COVID-19 (98,4%). Among those who encountered problems, one respondent affirmed to have had difficulties in accessing health care services due to COVID-19, while another respondent reported to have had a family member or friend who got ill with COVID-19 and died, and had difficulties in access to Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

<sup>17</sup> For more information on indicators relating to violence, abuse and exploitation, please see Chapter 5.

## 5 Return intentions

The majority (73.1%) of the respondents reported they had not considered returning to their country of origin during their journey. The vast majority (92.1%) of the respondents who did not consider returning indicated they were not interested in returning to their countries of origin.

Just under one-third (32.7) of the respondents were aware of IOM's Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) program, which aims to help migrants make informed and voluntary decisions about returning to their country of origin.

## 6 Methodology

FMS in Kosovo\* were conducted as part of DTM activities in the Mediterranean that have started in October 2015 and are being conducted within the framework of IOM's research on populations on the move, through the Mediterranean and WB Routes to Europe. The data collection involves direct interviews with migrants and collation of statistical data on arrivals and migrant presence in reception and outside from national authorities and IOM staff presence. Regular updates on arrivals are available on [DTM Flows to Europe Geportal](#).

FMS in Kosovo\* were conducted by IOM field staff between 14 June and 10 July 2022 in the TRCs where IOM operates in Kosovo\*.

The survey is designed to profile third country (non-European) nationals who are moving to Europe by land and by sea through the WB route. Only migrants aged 18 and above are approached and the questionnaire is proposed only to migrants and refugees who have arrived in the country of the survey no more than one year prior to the interview. The IOM requires the written consent of the parents or legal guardians of potential survey respondents under the age of 18.

The FMS questionnaire was available in e-format in Kobo (English and French) and in paper forms translated into Arabic, English, Farsi, French, Pashto and Urdu. Respondents were approached in a simple random sample by IOM field staff working in the TRCs, with those who give their consent to be interviewed proceeding with the remaining questions. The interviews were anonymous and conducted one-on-one with respondents, in safe and isolated spaces, also considering the COVID-19 regulations in force in Kosovo\* at the time of the data collection. Migrants could decline to respond to individual questions or to interrupt the interview if they wished to do so.

### 6.1 Sampling

The sample frame consists of the total number of migrants in TRCs in Kosovo\* above the age of 18. IOM Kosovo\* used a systematic random sampling procedure, where the members of the total population of study are placed in a sequence and then chosen at regular intervals. The population list is in random order, therefore there is no cyclically or periodically inheritance related to the frame.

In Kosovo\*, the sampling procedure combines convenient samples with certain complexity in terms of the variety of locations where the survey was conducted. It was impossible to impose any parameters or selection criteria because migrants were legally limited to staying in one place for more than 72 hours. Similar to the case of Montenegro and North Macedonia, a survey was conducted sequentially. At a certain moment, temporary reception center, or simply the location where migrants are grouped for a certain time, researchers conducted the survey, where the sample size was absolutely equal to the sample frame, but, only in that specific moment. Therefore, the overall sample frame was unknown.

## 6.2 The questionnaire

DTM's FMS baseline module captures data on the demographic profile of the respondents, their education and employment background, the circumstances of their migration journey and migration factors, their place of origin or their last country of habitual residence, and their future intentions with regards to the country of destination.

The second FMS module contains questions that refer to experience exploitation, violence and abuse that may amount to human trafficking. The module was developed together with IOM's Protection Division's experts and gathers information on events and practices, experienced directly by the respondent or by his/her family member(s), or that are witnessed by the respondent during the journey.

The third FMS module contains questions related to the COVID-19 pandemic, focusing primarily on personal knowledge and awareness of coronavirus disease symptoms among respondents and on travel restrictions related to COVID-19, and if they had already access to vaccination. The set of questions was designed to understand whether migrants are aware of COVID-19 symptoms, mitigation measures, and how potential restrictions may have impacted their migration journey and the economic situation of respondents and of their families in terms of ability to send and/or receive financial remittances.

The fourth module contains questions related to return intentions. As outreach activities on the existence and functioning of AVRRO were run by IOM in the country, this module of the FMS – to avoid repetitions – only ask respondents few questions on the intention to return to the country of origin and awareness and knowledge of the AVRRO options available.

## 6.3 Limitations

The data presented in this document are representative of the individuals surveyed in the covered locations and during the indicated timeframe. The data should not be generalized and should not represent a full picture of regional migration, but rather of mixed migratory flows in the specific locations monitored in Kosovo\* during the covered period.

It should also be noted that a lower percentage of women of the total migrants in Kosovo\* were interviewed, for several reasons, including the fact that there are fewer female enumerators, women tend to be less willing to talk, and that they are more difficult to approach when travelling with male family members.