



International Organization for Migration (IOM)
The UN Migration Agency

DTM

ANALYSIS: FLOW MONITORING SURVEYS CHILD - SPECIFIC MODULE APRIL 2018

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409 interviews with children were conducted in Bulgaria, Greece, Croatia, Hungary, Italy and Slovenia between June 2017 and March 2018

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About DTM's Flow Monitoring Surveys

This report contains findings of IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) Flow Monitoring Surveys (FMS) conducted with children and youth between seven and nineteen years between June 2017 and March 2018 by IOM field staff in Bulgaria, Greece, Croatia, Hungary, Italy, and Slovenia. The survey gathers information about migrant children profiles, including age, sex, areas of origin, levels of education, key transit points on their route, cost of the journey, reasons for moving and intentions. For the purpose of a better understanding of children's characteristics and experience during transit and at the reception countries an additional module was added that focused on children perception of dangers along the journey, state of health, and perceptions of quality of accommodation at the reception centres. Further information about the questionnaire, sample structure, proxy indicators and survey implementation can be found in the [Methodology section](#).

About the project

IOM launched a regional child protection project entitled "Protecting children in the context of the refugee and migrant crisis in Europe", funded by DG Justice's Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme, in October 2016. The 18-month project aimed to prevent violence against children and promote respect for the rights of refugee and migrant children along the migration routes in seven EU Member States: Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Hungary, Italy and Slovenia. The questionnaire used for this report was developed within this project and as a deliverable of the project in cooperation with IOM DTM team.

Before the project started, IOM had observed an increase in the numbers of trafficked and exploited people as well as in the numbers of children who choose to remain outside of any form of protection due to their wish to reach their intended destination in all countries in the region. In addition, IOM had assessed that the lack of reliable, systematized data on children, shared among EU member states was a clear obstacle to providing effective protection of this vulnerable group. These data would be instrumental in order to support relocation, family reunification, and missing children cases. Thus, one of the aims of the project was to collect information and monitor the situation of refugee and migrant children. The other main goals were to forge a consistent and coherent protection response that complements and reinforces existing activities to protect children (at point of entry, in hotspots, in transit and in reception centres), to develop or strengthen protection responses in countries where interventions are not currently funded, and to build the capacity of first responders, child protection professionals and others who work for and with migrant and refugee children.

Overview

This report focuses on migrant children's demographic and socio-economic characteristics, experience during the journey, perceptions of danger, health problems, perceptions pertaining to the conditions at the reception centres, reception staff's capacity, service and information provision at the reception centres. The sample consists of the total number of 409 interviews. The number of surveys varied significantly by country. Moreover, the survey consisted of two parts: one part asked questions regarding demographic and socio-economic characteristics of children and the second part addressed questions pertaining directly to children's vulnerabilities during the journey (perception of dangers and health problems), education during the journey, perceptions of the quality of accommodation, reception staff's capacity, service and information provision at the reception centres. While the sample also included youth and adolescents aged 18 and 19, the children-specific module was conducted with children below 18 years.

Thirty four surveys were conducted in Bulgaria, 27 in Hungary, 9 in Slovenia. In Greece, 75 surveys were conducted with a valid children module, however, only 13 surveys had full information regarding socio-economic profile. In Croatia, 127 surveys were conducted. However, 7 of them were with adolescents of 18 years. These 7 surveys are excluded from the children-specific module analysis. In Italy 128 surveys were conducted, out of which 17 were surveys with youth aged 18 and 19.

The report is structured as follows. First, the demographic profile, socio-economic characteristics and information relevant to children's experience in the countries where surveys were conducted (perceptions of the quality of accommodation, information provision) are presented for each country. Second section focuses on children's experience during the journey.

COUNTRY BACKGROUND

Bulgaria

Bulgaria is located in the South-Eastern corner of Europe, being one of the gates into Europe along the Balkan migration route and the East Mediterranean Migration Route. Up until 2013, the country was not a preferred entry and/or transit destination when Bulgaria faced a significant increase in the number of migrants requesting asylum. Since then Bulgaria faces a dynamic migration situation, varying in numbers through the years.

Croatia

Migrant children in Croatia are accommodated in different facilities, depending on whether they are accompanied with parents and family or unaccompanied. If with families, they will be placed in a Reception Centre for Asylum Seekers (RCAS) in Zagreb and Kutina. If they are unaccompanied, they will be placed in a Home for education of children and youth. On average, Croatia has 50-80 accompanied children, and 10-20 unaccompanied on a monthly basis. Even though this is a small number, Croatia is facing difficulties in terms of reception/accommodation facilities, proper guardianship structures, education and language and health provision.

Greece

Child-specific data collection in Greece has been a daunting exercise due to adverse quantitative and qualitative considerations: the sheer number of officially registered UAMs in Greece, exceeding 3,300 at present and residing in different types of structures ranging from first reception facilities and detention centres to ad hoc urban points and designated UAM shelters; the inaccuracies inherent in the age assessment procedures which are not uniform across different entry points and the mainland; the absence of an efficient guardianship system leading to consent restrictions in reference to UAMs. Child-specific data collection activity in Greece has targeted UAMs/ UASC who represent the most vulnerable target group of children on the basis of the official referral registry. To this end, the National Centre for Social Solidarity, the main referral agent in Greece, has played a significant role in monitoring the situation of children on the move from quantitative and qualitative perspectives.

Hungary

Since 2015 a series of amendments to asylum legislation has caused many changes in the arrival procedures and overall treatment of asylum seekers and beneficiaries of international protection in Hungary. In 2015, fences were built at the two Southern borders with Serbia and Croatia while a system of transit zones was also implemented in the same year. The transit zones in Röszke and Tompa remain the only places where migrants can enter the country to submit asylum claims. Since March 2017, unaccompanied children between the age of 14 and 17 have fallen out of the scope of the Child Protection Act which means that a case guardian, but not a child protection guardian, is appointed to them and they have to stay in the transit zones, instead of staying in a specific children's home, until a decision is made on their asylum application. Upon receiving a positive decision, they are transferred to the children's home where they live together with unaccompanied children below the age of 14.

Italy

From 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2017, total of 119 369 migrants are reported to have arrived to Italy by sea, among which 15 779 were unaccompanied children (UASC). In the same year, in response to the increased number of UASC travelling across the Mediterranean, Italy became the first European country to legislate a comprehensive framework aimed at protecting this specific vulnerable group ('Zampa law'). It recognizes the special vulnerabilities of unaccompanied children and guarantees them the same rights and protection afforded to Italian and other European children.

The Italian Reception System is organized in first and second reception facilities. Identification procedures should be concluded within ten days. UASC should be transferred to a second reception facility within the Protection System Asylum Seekers and Refugees (SPRAR), managed by local Municipalities and funded by the Ministry of the Interior where they begin their integration path.

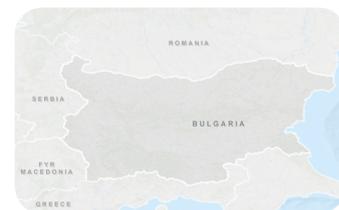
Slovenia

Out of 632 unaccompanied children who have sought asylum in Slovenia during the period 2016-2017, 99% were boys and 90% were aged over 14. Almost 70% of all asylum seeking unaccompanied children came from Afghanistan, followed by Algeria, Pakistan, Libya and Syria. In 2016 there were 172 asylum seeking accompanied children. In 2016 and 2017, 16 and 4 unaccompanied children were granted international protection in Slovenia respectively. Until 30 April 2018 there were 36 new asylum claims filed by unaccompanied children in Slovenia. During the surveys, unaccompanied children were accommodated in two youth dormitories in Postojna and Nova Gorica as part of a governmental pilot project. Children with families were mostly staying in the asylum centre in Logatec. All asylum seeking and refugee children are entitled to a full scope of health assistance and schooling.

1.1 CHILDREN SURVEYED IN BULGARIA

Key findings

- Majority of children were boys (32 out of total number of 34 children); average age was 16 years; 47% of children were unaccompanied.
- The largest share of children (62%) reported having completed primary education; the majority (80%) did not attend education during the journey, while 47% reported they attended either formal or informal education in Bulgaria.
- The largest share of children (41%) reported Germany as the country of intended destination at the time of the interview.
- Sixty-three per cent rated their health as “excellent”; only four children reported they had a health problem during the journey.
- All children with the exception of one reported they did not receive information regarding what will happen to them upon arrival in Bulgaria.
- Approximately half of children agreed with the statement “General conditions of my accommodation are good enough”, while the rest disagreed.



Demographic characteristics

Between June 2017 and March 2018 34 interviews with children were conducted in Bulgaria. Thirty-two respondents were boys (which equals to 94% of all respondents), while two respondents were girls. The average age was 16 years. Eighty - eight per cent of all respondents were between 15 and 17 years, while the rest were 10 and 14 years old.

Education

The largest share of children (62%) reported having completed primary education, followed by those who reported having completed lower-secondary education (32%). One respondent reported having completed upper-secondary education and another respondent reported not having completed any formal education. Fifty-six per cent of all respondents surveyed in Bulgaria reported the last time they went to school was more than two years before the survey was conducted, while 33% reported they went to school less than two years prior to the survey, and 11% reported they never went to school or did not provide any information regarding this question. On average, children spent seven years in school. The majority (80%) of respondents reported they did not attend any education during their journey, while the rest attended either formal or informal education. However, upon arrival in Bulgaria, a larger share of children reported they attended either formal or informal education there (47%). Moreover, all respondents who were attending education during the journey reported they attended education upon arrival in Bulgaria, while the majority of respondents (67%) who did not attend education during the journey reported they did not attend education after arrival in Bulgaria. Over 80% of those who did not attend education in Bulgaria reported intention to continue journey onwards as a reasons for doing so.

Travel

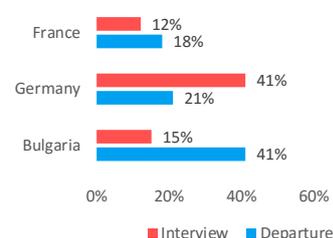
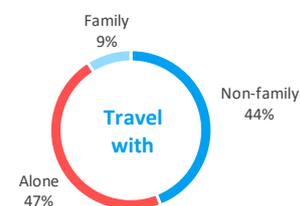
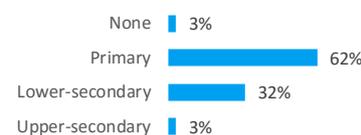
Forty-seven per cent of children surveyed were unaccompanied, while 44% were travelling with a group of non-family members and the rest travelled with families. Half of boys were travelling alone, while two female respondents surveyed were travelling with families.

Cost of journey

The majority of youth and adolescents surveyed (74%) reported the estimated cost of the journey to be between 1,000 and 2,500 USD, 18% reported the estimated cost to be between 2,500 and 5,000 USD, while the rest reported the estimated cost to be less than 1,000 USD or unknown.

Countries of intended destination

In the survey, respondents were asked about the intended country of destination at the time of departure and at the time of the interview. There was a significant change in reported countries of intended destination among all the nationalities surveyed. Forty-one per cent of respondents reported Bulgaria as the intended destination country at the time of departure, followed by Germany (21%), and France (18%). The rest reported Norway and Belgium as the intended destination. However, the percentage of respondents who reported Bulgaria as the country of intended destination at the time of the interview decreased by 26 percentage points to 15%, while the percentage of respondents who reported Germany as the intended destination at the time of the interview doubled. The majority of those children who reported Germany as the country of intended destination reported they chose it because they had relatives there.

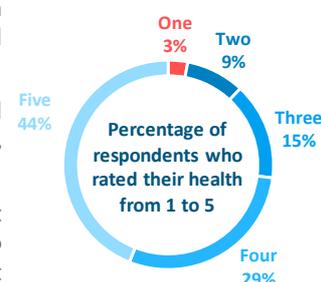


Health

In the survey, children were asked to rate their health on the scale from one to five, with one being poor health and five being excellent health. Over a half (63%) of children rated their health as being excellent (five) or good (four).

None of the respondents reported they had health screening during the journey, while 80% reported they had health screening in Bulgaria. The majority of those children who received health screening (70%), however, reported they had not received any information regarding what would happen during the screening process.

Only four children reported they had health problems during the journey, while the rest reported they did not have any health problems. Twelve respondents reported they experienced health problems upon arrival to Bulgaria. All children who reported they had a health problem in Bulgaria also noted they received treatment at the accommodation.



Accommodation

Thirty-two out of 34 respondents surveyed were accommodated in Bulgaria. The majority (90%) of children in Bulgaria were accommodated in organized transit or reception points, while the rest were accommodated in asylum centres. The majority of respondents (80%) were accommodated with three or four people.

In the survey, respondents were asked about their opinion of provided accommodation. Approximately half of children (53%) agreed with the statement „General conditions in my accommodation are good enough”, while the rest disagreed. The majority of respondents disagreed with the statement “My accommodation is clean and comfortable” (25 individuals), while four respondents agreed with the statement, two completely disagreed and one completely agreed. Seventy - five per cent of respondents agreed with the statement “I feel safe at my current accommodation”, while five respondents completely agreed, two disagreed, and one completely disagreed.

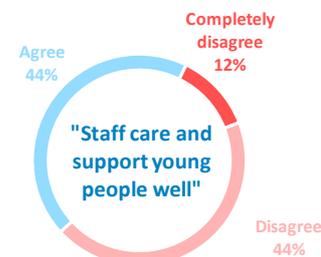


Staff at the accommodation

Forty-four per cent of the respondents agreed with the statement “Staff care and support young people well. They know and understand our needs”, while the rest either disagreed or completely disagreed. Half of children surveyed agreed with the statement “Staff treats me fairly and with respect”, while the rest disagreed or completely disagreed.

The majority of respondents (90%) reported they could communicate with staff members only with interpreter present (who was not always available). The majority (90%) of children did not have any language difficulties communicating with other young people at the accommodation.

All respondents reported they did not like the food offered at the accommodation or reported they could eat it, but that it was not their preferable meal. Moreover, half of youth surveyed reported the food was not religiously appropriate.



Free time and activities offered at accommodation

Sixty per cent of children reported they attended language training in order to be able to speak the language in the current country, while the rest did not attend language training either because they did not want to do so or because of other reasons. Interestingly, none of the respondents who attended language training reported they wanted to stay in Bulgaria.

Youth were also asked to describe their free time. The responses varied with the largest share (39%) reporting they were not able to attend programs offered, followed by 26% reporting they were bored sometimes, 20% reporting they could find a program that interested them everyday, another 20% reporting they were always bored, and 15% reporting they were interested in programs that were offered few times a week, but would like to have more*.

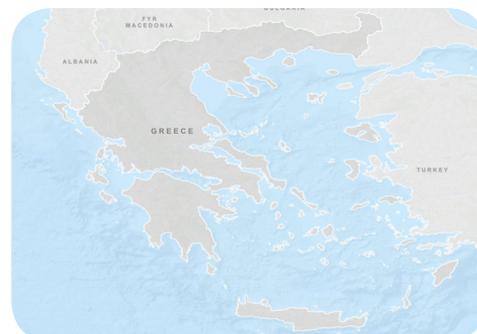
All respondents with the exception of two reported they were allowed to go outside of the facility to do free time programs and that they have friends with whom they liked to spend their free time.

Sixty-five per cent of respondents reported they were regularly in touch with friends at home, while the rest were not because they either did not have contact or technical possibility to get in touch. Only one out of 16 unaccompanied children reported they already met assigned guardian.

1.2 CHILDREN SURVEYED IN GREECE

Key findings

- 75 interviews were conducted for the children module, out of which 13 had the full information regarding children profile.
- All 13 children were boys, with average age 16 years; all children with the exception of one were travelling with a group of non-family members.
- One third of all children surveyed rated their health as being excellent or good.
- Half of children reported they have not received information regarding what will happen to them upon arrival.
- Forty-two per cent of children agreed with a statement „General conditions in my accommodation are good enough”, while 25% strongly agreed, and the rest either disagreed or strongly disagreed.



Demographic characteristics

Between July and December the total number of 75 interviews with children were conducted in Greece. However, only 13 surveys had full information regarding socio-economic profile. Consequently, the following section on demographics, education, cost and journey and countries of intended destination include sample of 13 individuals while sections on children perceptions of danger, health and accommodation details include full sample of 75 individuals. All thirteen respondents were boys. The average age was 16 years.

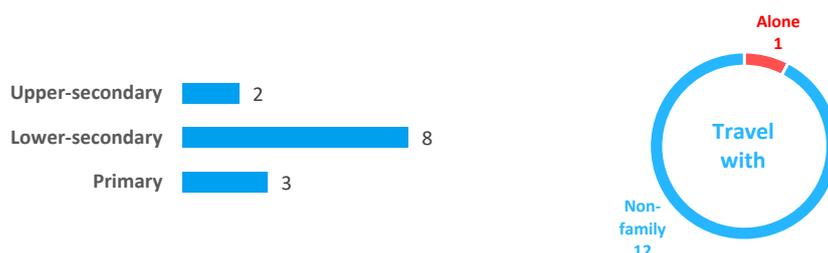
Education

Eight respondents reported having completed lower-secondary education, three reported having completed primary education, and two upper-secondary education. Seven respondents reported the last time they went to school was more than two years before the survey was conducted, while six reported they went to school between one and two years prior to the survey. On average, respondents spent nine years in school.

Travel and Cost of Journey

Twelve respondents were travelling with a group of non-family members, while one respondents was travelling alone.

Half of respondents reported they did not know the estimated cost of the journey, while three respondents reported the estimated cost to be between 2,500 and 5,000 USD, while one reported the estimated cost to be more than 5,000 USD, and the rest less than 2,500 USD.



Countries of intended destination

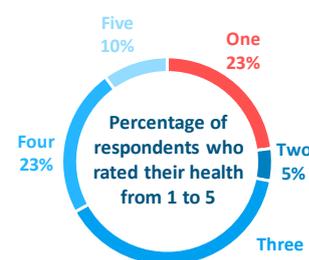
In the survey, respondents were asked about the intended country of destination at the time of departure and at the time of the interview. Three respondents reported Germany as the intended destination at the time of departure, two children reported Sweden, four did not have any specific destination in mind, and the rest reported other European countries.

No one reported Greece as preferred destination at the time of departure, while four children reported Greece as the country of intended destination at the time of the interview, followed by three respondents who reported Germany, two Sweden, and the rest other countries in Europe.

Health

In the survey, children were asked to rate their health on the scale from one to five, with one being poor health and five being excellent health. One third of all children surveyed rated their health as being excellent (five) or good (five). Twelve per cent of the respondents reported they had health screening during the journey, while half reported they had health screening in Greece. Thirty - seven percent of children who received health screening reported they had not received any information regarding what would happen during the screening process.

Approximately half of children reported they had a health problem during the journey, while the rest reported they did not have any health problems during the journey. Half of respondents also reported they experienced a health problem upon arrival to Greece. Thirty-seven percent of children who reported they had a health problem in Greece did not receive treatment at the accommodation, while the rest received the treatment.



Information provision

Half of children reported they have not received information regarding what will happen to them upon arrival (such as asylum procedures or legal rules to be followed). Those who received this information reported they received it a few days after the arrival to Greece, either from a case officer (36%), social worker (22%), police (17%) or others (25%). Most received the information orally (72%), while the rest received information presented on a leaflet.

Thirty-seven per cent of children received information regarding their rights and responsibilities upon arrival to Greece. Forty - three per cent of children who received this information received it few days after their arrival, while the rest received it the same day they arrived to Greece or immediately upon arrival. Those who received this information reported they received it either from a case officer (41%), social worker (27%), police (7%) or others (25%). Sixty-four per cent found the information helpful, while the rest did not.

Accommodation

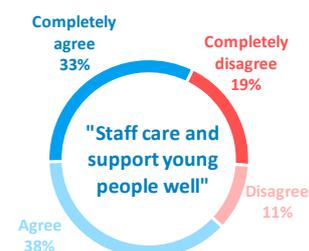
The majority (85%) of children were accommodated in Greece.

In the survey, respondents were asked about their opinion of provided accommodation. Forty-two per cent of children agreed with the statement „General conditions in my accommodation are good enough“, while 25% strongly agreed, and the rest either disagreed or strongly disagreed. One third of children disagreed or strongly disagreed with the statement “My accommodation is clean and comfortable”, while two thirds agreed or strongly agreed with the statement. Forty - five per cent of respondents strongly agreed with the statement “I feel safe at my current accommodation”, while 38% agreed, 8% disagreed, and 9% completely disagreed.



Staff at the accommodation

Thirty-eight per cent of the respondents agreed with the statement “Staff care and support young people well. They know and understand our needs“, while 33% agreed completely, 11% disagreed and 19% completely disagreed. Forty-five per cent of respondents agreed with the statement “Staff treats me fairly and with respect”, 31% completely agreed, 24% disagreed or completely disagreed.



The majority (75%) of children reported they could communicate with staff members only with interpreter present who is not always available at the accommodation, while the rest did not have any difficulties with communicating with staff. The majority (90%) did not have any language difficulties communicating with other young people at the accommodation.

The largest share of respondents (45%) reported the food was not to their liking, but they could eat it, while 20% reported food to be delicious and the amount sufficient, while another half reported food to be delicious but not enough, and the rest reported they did not like the food at the accommodation. Moreover, 70% of children surveyed reported the food was religious appropriate.

Free time and activities offered at accommodation

Sixty- one per cent of children reported they attended language training in order to be able to speak the language in the current country, while the rest did not do so. Only 4% of those who attended language training in Greece reported they wanted to stay in the country. Children were also asked to describe their free time. The responses varied with the largest share (25%) reporting despite programs being offered they were not interested in them, while 17% reporting they could find a program that interested them everyday, 16% reported to be bored sometimes.

The majority of respondents (83%) reported they were allowed to go outside of the facility to do free time programs and 68% reported that they have friends or other young people with whom they liked to spend their free time. Seventy - two per cent of respondents reported they were regularly or sometimes in touch with friends at home, while the rest were not because they either did not have contact or technical possibility to get in touch. Approximately half of unaccompanied children reported they already met assigned guardian and most of them reported they were able to communicate in the same language.

1.3 CHILDREN SURVEYED IN CROATIA

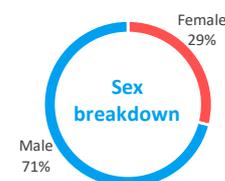
Key findings

- The majority (71%) of children were boys; the average age was 14 years.
- The largest share of children (57%) reported having completed primary education; the majority (73%) of respondents reported they did not attend any education during their journey.
- Twenty-nine per cent of children were unaccompanied.
- The majority of all children surveyed (60%) rated their health as being excellent or good.



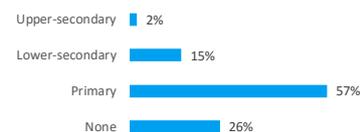
Demographic characteristics

Between June 2017 and March 2018 127 interviews with children were conducted in Croatia. However, 7 of them were with adolescents of 18 years. These 7 surveys are excluded from the children-specific module analysis. Sample consists of 54 Afghan nationals, 31 Syrian nationals, 19 Iraqi nationals, 7 Pakistani, 6 Algerian and 7 nationals of other nationalities. Seventy - one per cent of children were boys. The average age was 14 years. Forty - one per cent of all respondents were between 10 and 14 years, 46% were between 15 and 17 years, and 6% were 18 or 19 years.



Education

The largest share of children (57%) reported having completed primary education, while 26% reported not having completed any formal education, 15% reported having completed lower-secondary education, and the remaining two per cent reported having completed upper-secondary education.



Sixty per cent of all respondents surveyed in Croatia reported the last time they went to school was more than one year before the survey was conducted, 32% reported they went to school less than one year prior to the survey and 14% reported they never went to school. On average, respondents spent five years in school. The majority (73%) of respondents reported they did not attend any education during their journey, while the rest attended either formal or informal education. **However, upon arrival to Croatia, the number of respondents who attended education increased. Thirty-nine per cent of children reported they attended either formal or informal education after arrival to Croatia.**

The majority of respondents (69%) who did not attend education during the journey reported they did not attend education after arrival in Croatia. Children reported variety of reasons why they did not attend education in Croatia. The largest share (38%) reported the intention to continue journey onwards as a reasons for not attending education, 25% cited language difficulties, 21% named problems with documents, and the rest reported there were no schools. All children accommodated at spontaneous “Children homes” reported they did not attend education, while approximately half of children accommodated at asylum centres and half of children at organized transit centres reported they attended either formal or informal education.

Travel

Twenty-nine per cent of children were unaccompanied, while 69% were travelling with families, and the remaining 2% were travelling with a group of non-family members. Boys were more likely to travel alone, in comparison to girls (40% vs 3%).

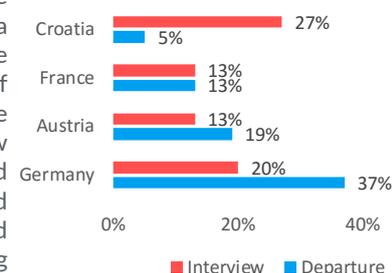
Cost of journey

Forty - six per cent of children reported the estimated cost of the journey to be more than 5,000 USD, 25% reported the estimated cost to be between 2,500 and 5,000 USD, 10% reported the estimated cost to be between 1,000 and 2,500 USD, 9% reported the estimated cost to be less than 1,000 USD. The rest did not know the estimated cost of the journey.

Countries of intended destination

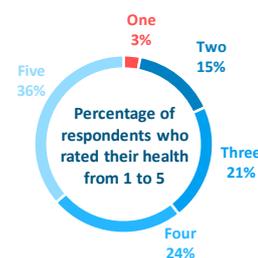
In the survey, respondents were asked about the intended country of destination at the time of departure and at the time of the interview. There was a significant change in reported countries of intended destination among all the nationalities surveyed.

Thirty - seven per cent of respondents reported Germany as the intended destination country at the time of departure, followed by Austria (19%), France (13%), and Italy (7%). Only five per cent reported Croatia as the intended destination at the time of departure. The rest reported other European countries as the intended destination. However, the percentage of respondents who reported Croatia as the country of intended destination at the time of the interview increased by 25 percentage points to 27%, while the percentage of respondents who reported Germany as the intended destination at the time of the interview decreased by 17 percentage points to 20%. Thirteen per cent reported Austria, another 13% reported France, and 5% reported Italy as the intended destination at the time of the interview. The rest reported other European countries. Half of children who reported choosing Croatia as destination reported choosing it because it was the only choice, while others cited other reasons (mostly safety and appealing socio-economic conditions). Approximately 90% of those who chose Croatia as destination reported they did not have relatives in the country.



Health

In the survey, children were asked to rate their health on the scale from one to five, with one being poor health and five being excellent health. The majority of all children surveyed (60%) rated their health as being excellent (five) or good (four) and 18% reported their health being in a very bad state (one or two on the scale). Children were more likely to have health screening in Croatia than during the journey. Twenty per cent of the respondents reported they had health screening during the journey, while 88% reported they had health screening in Croatia. However, only one fourth of children who received health screening in Croatia reported they had received information regarding what would happen during the screening process.



Fifteen percent of children reported they had a health problem during the journey, while the rest reported they did not have any health problems during the journey and 17% of children reported they experienced a health problem upon arrival to Croatia. The majority of children (70%) who reported they had a health problem in Croatia reported they received treatment.

Information provision

Sixty per cent of children reported they have received information regarding what will happen to them upon arrival (such as asylum procedures or legal rules to be followed) and half of children reported they received information regarding their rights and responsibilities. Those who received information regarding legal procedures reported they received it a few days after the arrival to Croatia (66%), the day they arrived (16%) or immediately upon arrival (19%). Children received the information from different sources, including case officers (36%), social workers (30%), and police (19%). Those who received information regarding their rights reported they received it a few days after the arrival to Croatia (71%), the day they arrived (20%) or immediately upon arrival (8%) mostly from case officers (41%), social workers (27%), police (6%) or others.

The majority (70%) of unaccompanied children reported they did not receive information on how to get in touch with their families.

Accommodation

The majority (77%) of children were accommodated in Croatia. Half were accommodated in asylum centres, 25% were accommodated in organized transit or reception points (25%), and the rest were accommodated in "children's homes".

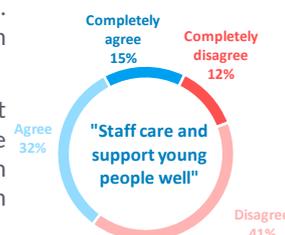
In the survey, respondents were asked about their opinion of provided accommodation. Thirty - one per cent of children agreed with the statement „General conditions in my accommodation are good enough“, while 15% strongly agreed, 42% disagreed, and 12% completely disagreed. Twenty - four per cent of children agreed with the statement "My accommodation is clean and comfortable", 19% strongly agreed, 41% disagreed, and 16% strongly disagreed. Twenty - two per cent of respondents strongly agreed with the statement "I feel safe at my current accommodation", while 24% agreed, 44% disagreed, and 10% completely disagreed. Most children (60%) who disagreed were accommodated at asylum centres, while 30% were accommodated at organized transit points and the rest were accommodated in spontaneous transit centres and "Children homes". Approximately 90% of those children who disagreed with the statement "I feel safe at my current accommodation" were travelling with a group.



Staff at the accommodation

Thirty-two per cent of the respondents agreed with the statement "Staff care and support young people well. They know and understand our needs", while 15% completely agreed, 41% disagreed and 12% completely disagreed. Twenty- one per cent of respondents completely agreed with the statement "Staff treats me fairly and with respect", 24% agreed, 44% disagreed and 11% completely disagreed.

Half of children reported they could communicate with staff members only with interpreter present who is not always available at the accommodation, while another half reported they could not communicate with staff because there was no interpreter present. Those children who reported there was no interpreter were accommodated in asylum centres (43%), children's homes (32%), organized or spontaneous points (25%). Thirty per cent of children who reported there was no interpreter at the accommodation were unaccompanied.



The majority (70%) did not have any language difficulties communicating with other young people at the accommodation.

The largest share of respondents (38%) reported that they did not like the food offered at the accommodation, 21% reported the food was not to their liking, but they could eat it, 34% reported food to be delicious and the amount sufficient, while the rest reported food to be delicious but not enough. Moreover, almost all children reported the food was religiously appropriate.

Free time and activities offered at accommodation

Sixty- six per cent of children reported they attended language training in order to be able to speak the language in Croatia, while the rest did not do so. Twenty - six per cent of those who attended language training in Croatia reported they wanted to stay in the country. The majority of those who did not attend language training reported there was no such option available, 16% reported they did not want to learn the language and the rest reported other reasons.

The majority of respondents (82%) reported they were allowed to go outside of the facility to do free time programs and 72% reported that they have friends or other young people with whom they liked to spend their free time. The majority of children (97%) reported they were regularly or sometimes in touch with friends at home. Seventy-two per cent of children who were travelling alone reported they already met assigned guardian.

1.4. CHILDREN SURVEYED IN HUNGARY

Key findings

- Average age of children was 16 years; the largest share (48%) reported having completed primary education, while 19% reported not having completed lower-secondary education, and the 33% remaining reported not having completed any formal education.
- Half of the children reported they did not attend any education during their journey, while the rest attended either formal or informal education.
- Only five children reported they have received information regarding what will happen to them upon arrival.
- The majority of all children surveyed (74%) rated their health as being excellent or good.



Demographic characteristics

Between August 2017 and March 2018 27 interviews with children were conducted in Hungary. Only children travelling with a group were surveyed (25 of them were travelling with families and two with a group of non-family members). Sample consists of 15 Afghan nationals, 5 Iranian nationals, 6 Iraqi nationals, and one Somali. 56% of children were girls. The average age was 15 years. Fifty - nine per cent of all respondents were between 15 and 17 years and the rest were between 10 and 14 years.

Education

The largest share of accompanied children (48%) reported having completed primary education, while 19% reported not having completed lower-secondary education, and the 33% remaining reported not having completed any formal education. Forty - four of all respondents reported the last time they went to school was between one and two years before the survey was conducted, 29% reported they went to school more than two years prior to the survey, and the rest reported they went to school less than one year prior to the survey or never. On average, respondents spent five years in school. Half of accompanied children reported they did not attend any education during their journey, while the rest attended either formal or informal education. Half of accompanied children also reported they attended either formal or informal education after arrival to Hungary.

Cost of journey

Half of the accompanied children reported the estimated cost of the journey to be between 2,500 and 5,000 USD, 30% did not know the estimated cost, and the rest reported the estimated cost to be less than 2,500 USD.

Countries of intended destination

In the survey, respondents were asked about the intended country of destination at the time of departure and at the time of the interview. There was a significant change in reported countries of intended destination among all the nationalities surveyed. Sixty - three per cent of respondents reported Germany as the intended destination country at the time of departure, 22% reported Europe in general, and the rest reported other European countries. None of the accompanied children reported Hungary as the intended destination at the time of departure. However, 93% reported Hungary as final destination at the time of the interview and the rest reported Germany.

Health

In the survey, accompanied children were asked to rate their health on the scale from one to five, with one being poor health and five being excellent health. The majority of all children surveyed (74%) rated their health as being excellent (five) or good (four) and 11% reported their health being in a very bad or in a bad state (one or two on the scale). Thirty per cent of accompanied children reported they had health screening during the journey and 33% reported they had health screening in Hungary. However, only one fourth of accompanied children who received health screening reported they had received information regarding what would happen during the screening process.

Fifteen per cent of accompanied children reported they had a health problem during the journey, while the rest reported they did not have any health problems during the journey and 11% of children reported they experienced a health problem upon arrival to Hungary.

Information provision

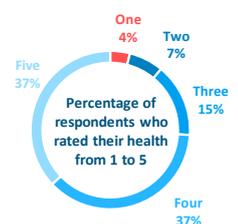
Only five accompanied children reported they have received information regarding what will happen to them upon arrival (such as asylum procedures or legal rules to be followed) and three accompanied children reported they received information regarding their rights and responsibilities.

Free time and activities offered at accommodation

Half of the respondents reported they attended language training in order to be able to speak the language in Hungary, while the rest did not do so because there was no possibility offered.

All respondents with the exception of two reported they were not allowed to go outside of the facility to do free time programs. Half reported that they have friends or other young people with whom they liked to spend their free time.

The majority of accompanied children (70%) reported they were not in touch with friends at home. The reasons for not getting in touch were that they had no contact (53%), that there was no technical possibility (37%), or no information was given about it.



1.5. CHILDREN SURVEYED IN ITALY

- The majority of children were boys (94%); average age was 17 years.
- Approximately half (54%) of children reported having completed secondary education; the majority (78%) of respondents reported they did not attend any education during their journey.
- The majority of children (81%) were unaccompanied.
- The majority (70%) of children rated their health as being excellent or good.
- Fifty - seven per cent of children completely agreed with the statement „General conditions in my accommodation are good enough”, while 26% agreed, and the rest either disagreed or strongly disagreed.



Demographic characteristics

Between June and December 2017 128 interviews with youth and adolescents were conducted in Italy. Ninety - four per cent of children were boys. The average age was 17 years. The majority (87%) of children were between 15 and 17 years, while the rest were 18 and 19 years old.

Education

Approximately half (54%) of children reported having completed secondary education, while 25% reported having completed primary education, 20% reported not having completed any formal education. The largest share of children (66%) reported the last time they went to school was more than two years before the survey was conducted, while 36% reported they went to school less than two years prior to the survey and the rest reported they never went to school or did not provide any information regarding this question. On average, respondents spent seven years in school. The majority (78%) of respondents reported they did not attend any education during their journey, while the rest attended either formal or informal education. However, upon arrival to Italy, a larger share of youth and adolescents reported they attended either formal or informal education there (66%).

Travel

The majority of children (81%) were unaccompanied, while 13% were travelling with a group of non-family members and the rest travelled with families.

Cost of journey

Half of children reported they do not know the estimated cost of the journey, while 16% reported the estimated cost to be between 1,000 USD and 2,500 USD, 13% less than 1,000 USD, 9% between 2,500 and 5,000 USD, and the rest reported the estimated cost to be more than 5,000 USD.

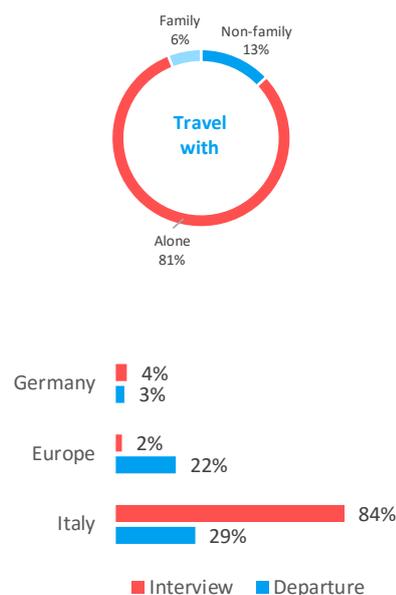
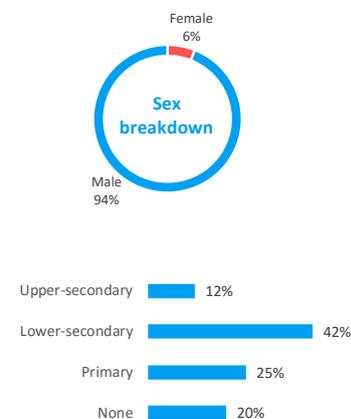
Countries of intended destination

In the survey, respondents were asked about the intended country of destination at the time of departure and at the time of the interview. There was a significant change in reported countries of intended destination among all the nationalities surveyed.

Twenty-nine per cent of respondents reported Italy as the intended destination country at the time of departure, 22% reported Europe in general and the rest reported other European countries. The percentage of respondents who reported Italy as the country of intended destination at the time of the interview increased by 54 percentage points to 84%. The rest reported other European countries.

The largest share of children who reported Italy as the country of final destination reported choosing because of appealing socio-economic conditions (38%), followed by those who said it was the only choice (25%), and because of safety (21%). The rest reported other reasons.

The majority (96%) of children who reported Italy as the country of final destination reported they did not have relatives there.

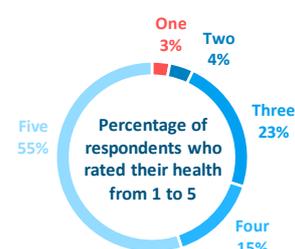


Health

In the survey, children were asked to rate their health on the scale from one to five, with one being poor health and five being excellent health. The majority (70%) of children rated their health as being excellent (five) or good (five).

Children were more likely to have health screening in Italy than during the journey. Twelve per cent of children reported they had health screening during the journey, while 84% reported they had health screening in Italy. The majority of those youth who received health screening (67%) reported they had received information regarding what would happen to them during the screening process.

Approximately half (53%) reported they had a health problem during the journey, while the rest reported they did not have any health problem. Half of children also reported they experienced a health problem upon arrival to Italy. Fifty - eight per cent of children who reported they had a health problem in Italy also noted they received treatment at the accommodation.



Information provision

The majority of children (76%) reported they have received information regarding what will happen to them upon arrival (such as asylum procedures or legal rules to be followed). Those who received this information reported they received it immediately upon arrival to Italy (87%) or the same day they arrived (13%), either from a social worker (45%), police (23%) or others (32%). The majority (82%) found the information helpful.

Seventy per cent of children received information regarding their rights and responsibilities upon arrival to Italy. Seventy - nine per cent of children who received this information received it immediately upon arrival to Italy, 14% received it the day they arrived, and 8% few days prior to the survey. Those who received this information reported they received it either from a social worker (46%), police (25%) or others (29%). Sixty-four per cent found the information helpful, while the rest did not.

The majority (85%) of unaccompanied children reported they received information on how to get in touch with their families.

Accommodation

All children were accommodated in Italy. Fifty seven per cent of children were accommodated in organized transit or reception points, 38% were accommodated in "children's homes", and the rest in asylum centres.

In the survey, respondents were asked about the opinion of provided accommodation. Fifty - seven per cent of children completely agreed with the statement „General conditions in my accommodation are good enough“, while 26% agreed, and the rest either disagreed or strongly disagreed. Twenty - seven per cent of children disagreed or strongly disagreed with the statement "My accommodation is clean and comfortable", while 31% agreed and 15% strongly agreed with the statement. **Seventy - three per cent of respondents strongly agreed with the statement "I feel safe at my current accommodation", while 20% agreed, 5% disagreed, and 2% completely disagreed.**

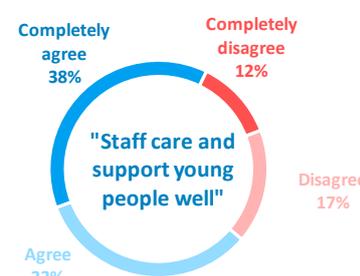


Staff at the accommodation

Thirty - eight per cent of the respondents completely agreed with the statement "Staff care and support young people well. They know and understand our needs", 33% agreed, 17% disagreed, 12% completely disagreed. Sixty per cent of children agreed with the statement "Staff treats me fairly and with respect", 24% agreed, and the rest disagreed or completely disagreed.

Forty per cent of children reported they had no difficulties with communication with staff members, while the rest reported they could communicate with staff members only with interpreter present (who was not always available). Approximately 55% of children did not have any language difficulties with communicating with other young people at the accommodation.

Forty - six per cent of children reported they could eat food offered at the accommodation but it was not their preferable meal, 18% reported food was delicious and sufficient, 17% reported food was delicious but not enough, and 19% reported they did not like the food offered at the accommodation. The majority (92%) of children reported food was religious appropriate.



Free time and activities offered at accommodation

Seventy - eight per cent of children reported they attended language training in order to be able to speak the language in Italy, while the rest did not do so.

The majority of respondents (94%) reported they were allowed to go outside of the facility to do free time programs and 83% reported that they have friends or other young people with whom they liked to spend their free time. The majority of children (73%) reported they were regularly or sometimes in touch with friends at home. **Only 14% of unaccompanied children reported they already met assigned guardian.**

1.5 CHILDREN SURVEYED IN SLOVENIA

- Six boys and three girls were interviewed in Slovenia; the average age was 15 years.
- Eight children reported they have not completed any formal level of education and one child reported he completed primary education.
- Four children rated their health as being excellent (five), another four “good” (four), and one reported his health as three on a five-point scale.
- Four children completely agreed with the statement “My accommodation is clean and comfortable”, two disagreed, and three completely disagreed.
- Eight children completely agreed with the statement “I feel safe at my current accommodation” and one agreed.



Demographic characteristics

In July 2017 9 interviews with children were conducted in Slovenia.

The sample included six boys and three girls. Average age was 14 years. Eight children reported they have not completed any formal level of education and one child reported he completed primary education.

Travel, Cost of Journey and Countries of intended destination

Eight respondents were travelling with families and one was unaccompanied. Five children did not know the estimated cost of the journey, three children reported the estimated cost to be between 2,500 and 5,000 USD, and one child reported the estimated amount to be less than 1,000 USD. Seven children reported Slovenia the intended country of destination at the time of the interview.

Health

In the survey, children were asked to rate their health on the scale from one to five, with one being poor health and five being excellent health. Four children rated their health as being excellent (five), another four “good” (four), and one reported rated his health as three on a five-point scale. No children had health screening during the journey, while three reported they had health screening in Slovenia.

Information provision and Accommodation

Three children reported they have received information regarding what will happen to them upon arrival (such as asylum procedures or legal rules to be followed) and five children reported they received information regarding their rights and responsibilities.

All children were accommodated in Slovenia in asylum centres or school dormitories. In the survey, respondents were asked about their opinion of provided accommodation. Four children completely agreed with the statement “My accommodation is clean and comfortable”, two disagreed, and three completely disagreed. Eight children completely agreed with the statement “I feel safe at my current accommodation” and one agreed. Four children completely agreed with the statement “Staff care and support young people well. They know and understand our needs”, three children agreed, and one disagreed. Moreover, five children reported they did not have any difficulties in communicating with staff, while the rest reported they could communicate with staff only when interpreter was present but he was not at the accommodation at all times. Five children reported that they did not like the food offered at the accommodation, while two reported the food was not to their liking, but they could eat it and another two reported the food to be delicious and the amount sufficient.

Free time and activities offered at accommodation

All children with the exception of one reported they attended language training in order to be able to speak the language in Slovenia.

Seven children reported they were allowed to go outside of the facility to do free time programs, while two were not able to do so. All children with the exception of one reported that they have friends or other young people with whom they liked to spend their free time. Six children reported they were sometimes in touch with friends at home and three children reported they were not in touch with friends at home. Three children reported they already met assigned guardian.

2. COMPARISON BY NATIONALITY GROUPS

Overview

This section focuses on children's experience during the journey. The analysis for this section is grouped by three nationality groups. Differences in responses between age groups, girls and boys are also presented. Three nationality groups include: Middle East and Gulf states (Iran, Iraq, Palestine, and Syria), South Asia (Afghanistan and Pakistan), and West Africa (mostly children from the Gambia, Nigeria, Guinea, Senegal, Mali and Ghana). The sample includes 85 children from Middle East, 106 from South Asia, and 120 from West Africa.

Age and Sex

The largest share of boys was among children from West Africa (94%), while the largest share of girls (41%) was among children from Middle East and Gulf States.

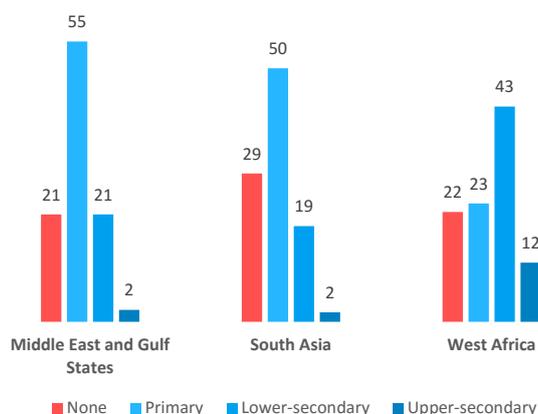
The average of children from West Africa was slightly higher (17) in comparison to children from South Asia (15) and from Middle East and Gulf states (14).

Education: At the time of departure

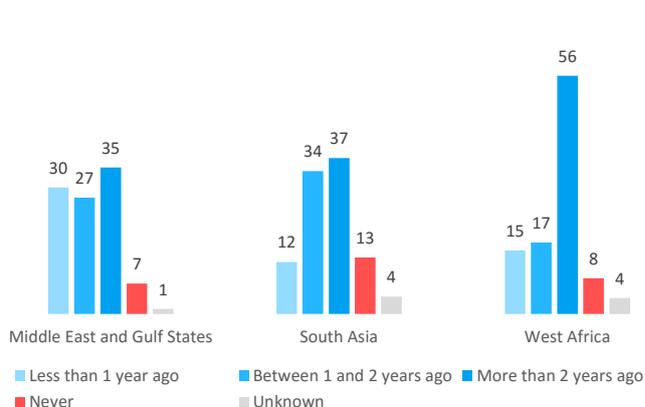
The largest share of children (40%) reported having completed primary education. Children from West Africa were more likely than children of other nationalities to have completed upper-secondary education. The largest share of children who reported not having completed any formal level of education was among children from South Asia.

Respondents were also asked about the last time they went to school. Approximately half (56%) of children from West Africa reported last time they went to school was more than two years ago, while the largest share of respondents from South Asia (37%) and Middle East and Gulf States (35%) reported last time they went to school was between one and two years ago. On average, children from West Africa spent 6.7 years on education, while children from Middle East and Gulf states spent on average 5.5 years and children from South Asia spent 5.1 years.

Graph 1: Percentage of respondents by education level and by region.



Graph 2: Percentage of respondents by the time spend studying and by region.



Education: during the journey

The majority of respondents reported they were not studying during the journey. Respondents from Middle East and Gulf states were more likely than other nationalities to report having studied during the journey. Thirty-three per cent of children from Middle East and Gulf states reported they attended formal education during the journey and 12% reported they attended informal education. However, upon arrival to the countries where surveys were conducted, a larger share of respondents across all three nationality groups reported attending education. Out of those children who did not attend education, the largest share (35%) reported plans to go onwards as the main reason for not studying.

Comparison between children who attended or did not attend education during the journey

Girls were more likely to attend education during the journey in comparison to boys: 46% of girls reported to attend education during the journey, while 22% of boys reported to do so.

Children less than 14 years were more likely to attend education than children between 15 and 17 years (37% vs 23%, respectively).

Children who were travelling alone were less likely to attend education in comparison to children who were travelling with family: 17% of unaccompanied reported having attended education during the journey in comparison to 39% of those who were travelling with families.

Children who engaged in secondary migration - having spent one or more years in a country other than that of origin - were more likely to attend education in comparison to children who did not engage in secondary migration (27% vs 24%, respectively).

Children who left their countries of departure or habitual residence due to economic reasons were more likely to study during the journey: 51% of those children who reported economic reasons for leaving attended education versus 13% of children who left due to other reasons. There was no statistically significant association between other reasons for leaving (including when children reported education as the reasons for leaving) and whether or not they attended education during the journey.

Journey

Children from West Africa were more likely to travel alone in comparison to other nationality groups. Eighty-two per cent of children from West Africa were unaccompanied versus 42% of children from South Asia and 4% of children from Middle East and Gulf states. Children from Middle East and Africa were more likely to travel with families.

Girls were more likely to travel with families in comparison to boys (90% vs 27%).

Moreover, half of children from West Africa reported they were separated during the journey in comparison to 4% of children from Middle East and Gulf states and 2% of children from South Asia.

Graph 3: Percentage of respondents who travel alone/with families/non family member(s) by region.



Secondary Migration

Approximately 20% of all children surveyed engaged in secondary migration, having spent at least one year in a country other than their country of origin before making their way to the countries where surveys were conducted. Twenty-seven per cent of children from Middle East and Gulf states engaged in secondary migration, 25% of children from South Asia, and 13% of children from West Africa.

Reasons for leaving countries of origin

Children cited different reasons for having left their countries of origin or habitual residence. The majority of children from Middle East and Gulf states (71%) reported limited basic services as reasons for leaving, followed by those who reported education (52%), health (48%), and limited humanitarian services (48%). The largest share of children from South Asia reported education (48%), followed by health (44%), limited humanitarian services (44%), and economic reasons (44%). **Children from West Africa were more likely than respondents of other nationality groups to report indiscriminate violence or persecution as reasons for leaving (38%).**

It is interesting to note that reasons cited by children surveyed in countries comprising **Eastern Mediterranean route were quite different from those reported by adults on the same routes.** Adult respondents on the Eastern Mediterranean route mostly report war or conflict as the main reasons for leaving their countries of origin or habitual residence and percentage of respondents who report limited humanitarian services, education or health does not exceed 20% in each category*. However, reasons cited by **children travelling along the Central Mediterranean route (Italy) resembled those reported by adult respondents,** majority of whom report indiscriminate violence and economic reasons for leaving. However, children were more likely to report limited basic services for leaving.

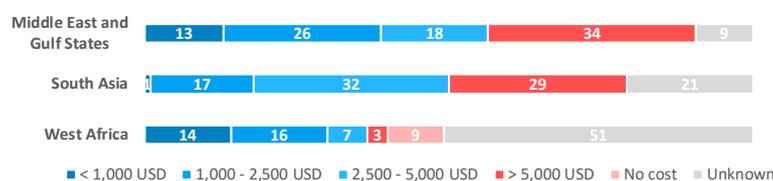
Table 1: Percentage of respondents by reasons for leaving countries of origin and by region.

Nationality/Reasons for leaving	War/Conflict	Violence	Economic	Limited basic services	Limited humanitarian services	Education	Health	Family	Other
Middle East & Gulf States	5%	5%	14%	71%	48%	52%	48%	0%	10%
South Asia	4%	4%	44%	41%	44%	48%	44%	4%	4%
West Africa	0%	38%	25%	38%	13%	0%	0%	0%	25%

Cost of journey

Respondents from Middle East and Gulf states were more likely than other nationality groups to report the estimated cost of journey to be more than 5,000 USD. Thirty - four per cent of children from Middle East and Gulf states reported the estimated cost to be more than 5,000 USD, versus 29% of children from South Asia and 3% from West Africa. Half of children from West Africa did not know the estimated cost of the journey, while 16% reported the estimated cost to be between 1,000 and 2,5000 USD and 14% reported the estimated cost to be less than 1,000 USD. Nine per cent of respondents reported not having paid at all. While not knowing the estimated total cost of the journey is associated with the difficulty of retrieving and summing up all costs during a long journey (bribes, ransoms, multiple transport and smuggling services, living expenses etc.), having travelled without paying can indicate that the migrant has incurred a debt which he/she is expected to repay upon arrival in Europe.

Graph 4: Percentage of respondents by the estimated cost of journey and by region.

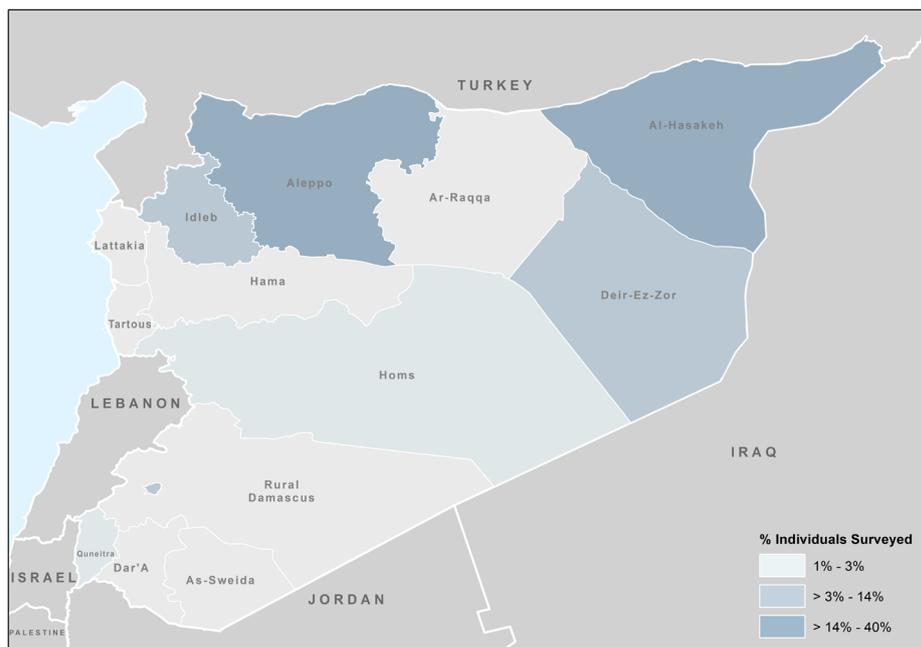


Administrative units of origin and transit countries: Overview

This section focuses on the regions of origin and transit routes of children belonging to the top nationalities surveys. The main nationalities include Afghan nationals (31%), Syrian nationals (16%), and Gambian nationals (14%). While children from Afghanistan comprised the largest share of the sample included in this analysis, respondents did not provide clear information regarding the transit routes,

Governorates of origin: Syria

The largest share of children departed from Al-Hasakeh governorate (37%), followed by those who departed from Aleppo (26%), and Damascus (13%). The rest departed from other governorates within Syria.



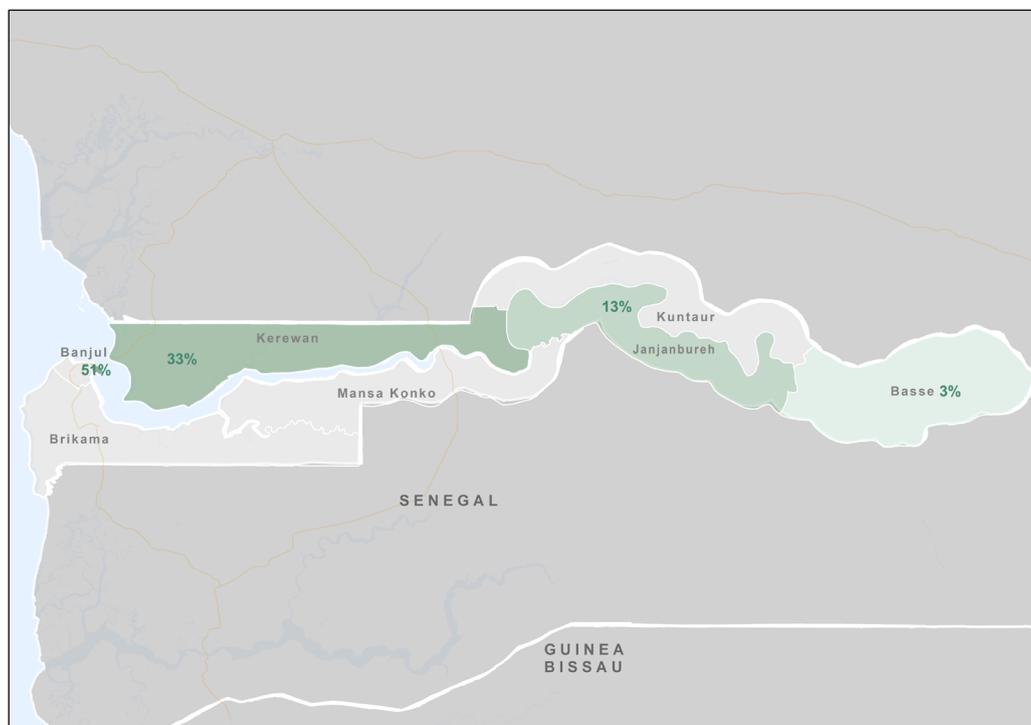
Transit countries: children from Syria

The majority of children travelled through the same route to reach Europe. Seventy-six per cent travelled through Turkey, while the rest did not provide clear information regarding the journey.



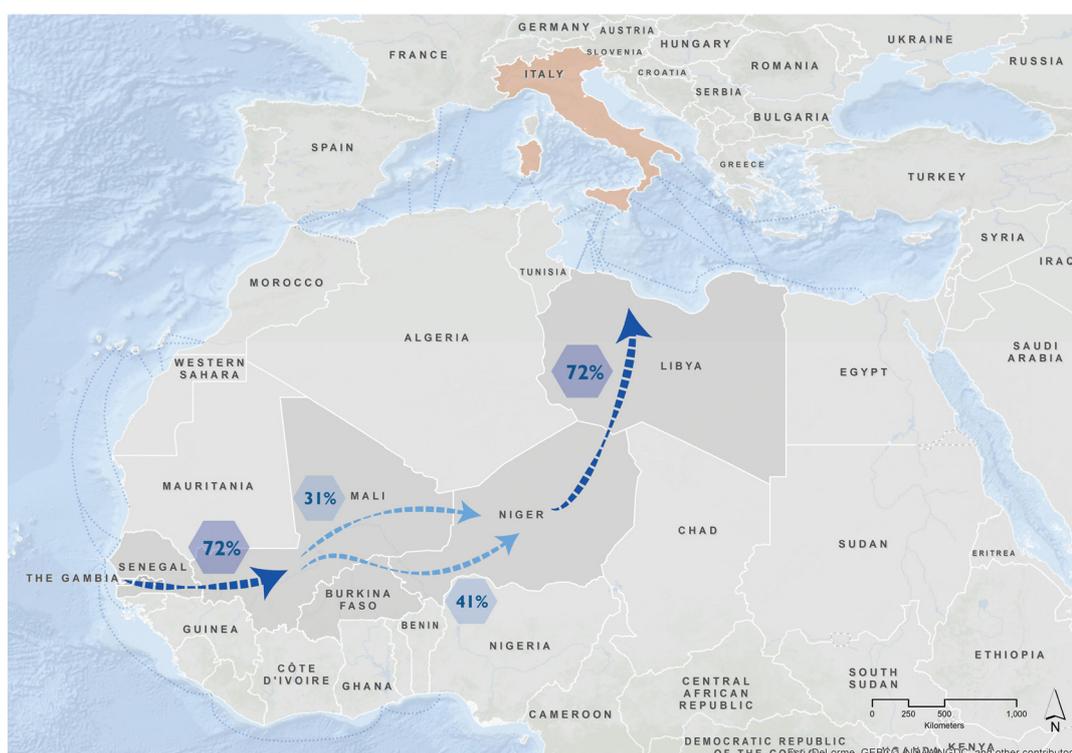
Regions of origin: children from the Gambia

Approximately half of children of Gambian nationality departed from Banjul region, followed by those who departed from Kerewan region (33%), Janjanbureh (13%), and Basse (3%).



Transit countries: children from the Gambia

The majority of children travelled from the Gambia to Mali (72%). After Mali, 31% of children went to Niger to reach Libya and 4% transitted in Burkina Faso and Niger before reaching Libya. All children who proved information regarding the journey (72%) reached Italy from Libya.

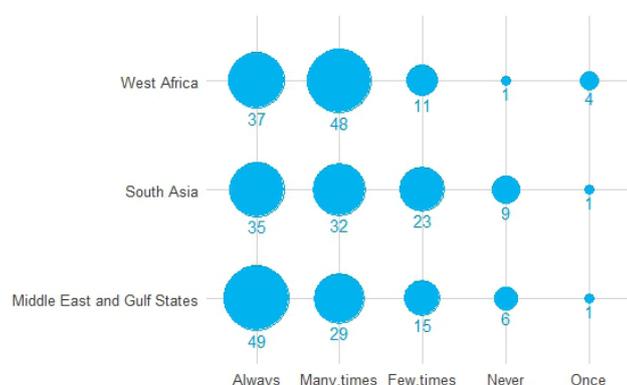


Perception of danger during the journey

Most children reported to have been either always afraid or reported to have been afraid many times during the journey. Children from Middle East and Gulf states were slightly more likely to report having been always afraid during the journey.

Children from Middle East and Gulf States reported having been afraid mostly while travelling in a boat (61%), followed by those who reported having been afraid while walking (39%), travelling a car (31%) and waiting to continue a journey at a certain location (28%). Children from South Asia were mostly afraid while walking (46%), followed by those who were afraid while travelling in a boat (36%), car (24%) and while waiting for continuing journey (25%). Children from West Africa were more likely to report having been afraid during detention. The rest of children from West Africa reported they were afraid while travelling in a boat (55%), while waiting for continuing the journey (39%), during travel in a car (29%).

Graph 5: Percentage of respondents by the reported frequency of being afraid during the journey and by region.



Health problems

Children from West Africa were more likely to report having experienced health problems during the journey than children belonging to other nationality groups. Fifty-three per cent of children from West Africa reported having experienced health problem during the journey versus 31% of children from South Asia, and 21% of children from Middle East.

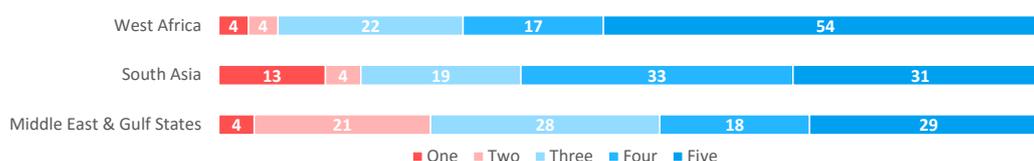
Children from West Africa were also more likely to report having experienced health problem upon arrival to the countries where surveys were conducted in comparison to children belonging to other nationality groups. Fifty-five per cent of children reported having experienced health problem after arrival to countries where surveys were conducted versus 36% of children from South Asia, and 22% of children from Middle East and Gulf states.

In the survey, children were asked to rate their health on a scale from one to five, where one was poor health and five was excellent. Children from West Africa, despite reporting having experienced health problems more often than children from other nationalities, were more likely to rate their health as excellent (55%). Children from South Asia were more likely to rate their health being in a very poor state (13%).

Health

Children were asked to rate their health on a scale from one to five, where one was poor health and five was excellent. Children from West Africa were more likely than other nationality groups to rate their health as excellent (54%) and children from South Asia were more likely to rate their health being in a very poor state (13%).

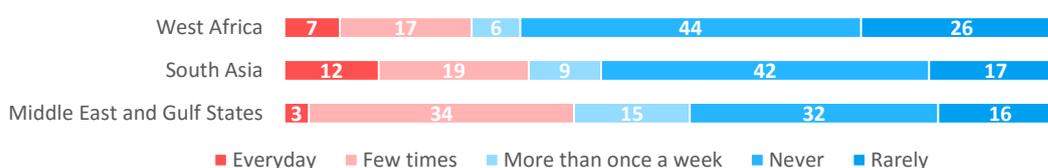
Graph 6: Percentage of respondents who rated their health from 1 to 5, by region.



Health problems: Headaches

Children from Middle East and Gulf states were more likely to report having experienced headaches before the survey was conducted, while children from West Africa were more likely to report they did not have headaches.

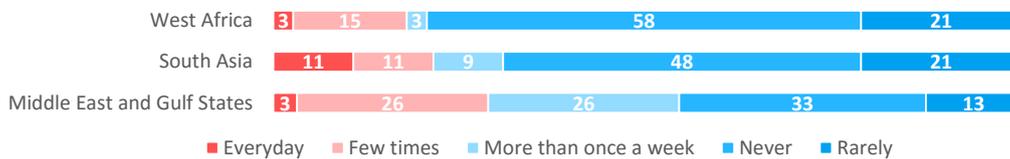
Graph 7: Percentage of respondents who reported experiencing headache, by region.



Health problems: No appetite

Children from West Africa were more likely to report not having experienced problems with appetite six months prior to the survey while children from Middle East and Gulf states were more likely to report not having appetite few times in the six months prior to the survey.

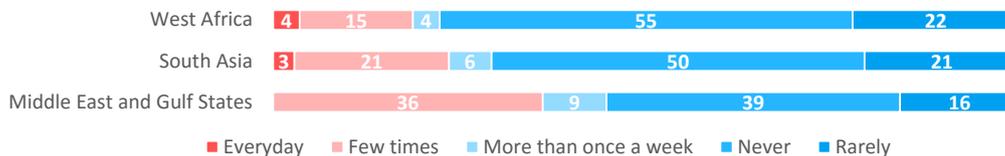
Graph 8: Percentage of respondents who reported experiencing problems with appetite, by region.



Health problems: Stomachaches

Children from Middle East and Gulf states were more likely to report having experienced stomachache few times six months prior to the survey. Children from West Africa were more likely to report not having experienced stomachache six months prior to the survey.

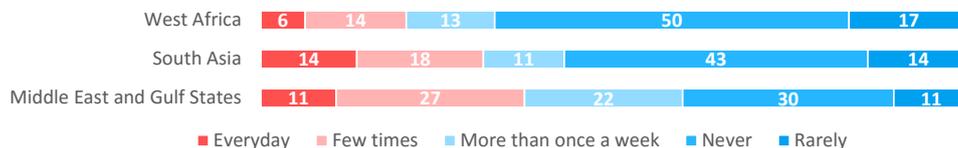
Graph 9: Percentage of respondents who reported experiencing stomachache, by region.



Health problems: Sleep difficulties

Children from West Africa were more likely to report not having experienced sleep difficulties six months prior to the survey. Children from South Asia and Middle East and Gulf states were more likely than children from West Africa to report having experienced sleep difficulties every day.

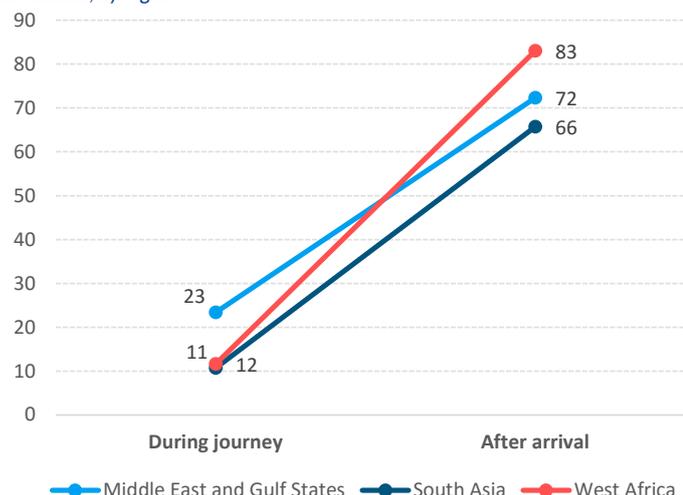
Graph 10: Percentage of respondents who reported experiencing sleep difficulties, by region.



Health screening

Children were much more likely to have their health screened upon arrival to the countries where surveys were conducted than during the journey.

Graph 11: Percentage of respondents who reported having health screening during the journey and upon arrival in the countries where surveys were conducted, by region.



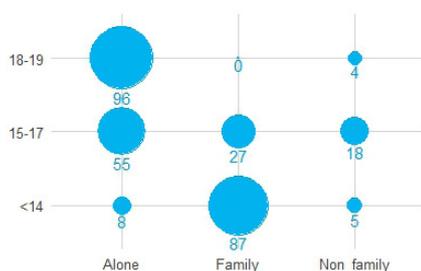
3. COMPARISON BETWEEN AGE GROUPS

Girls comprised a larger share of children below 14 years, in comparison to older children. Half of children below 14 years were girls, while over 90% of children above 14 years were boys.

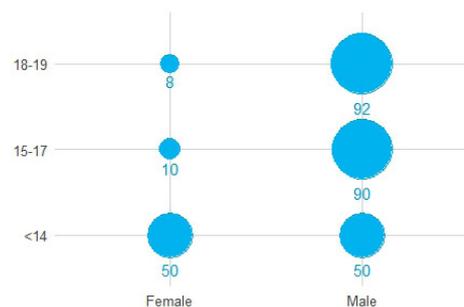
Younger children were more likely to travel with families. Eighty - seven per cent of children below 14 years were travelling with families, while 27% of children between 15 and 17 years were travelling with families.

Younger children were more likely to report having attended education during the journey in comparison to older children. Thirty - nine per cent of children below 14 years reported they attended either formal or informal education during the journey versus 24% of children between 15 and 17 years.

Graph 12: Percentage of respondents who travelled alone/with families/non-family member(s), by age.

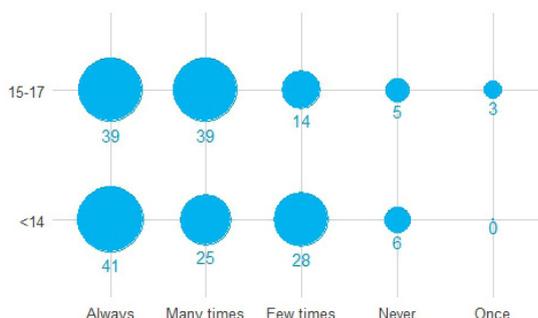


Graph 13: Percentage of respondents by sex and age.



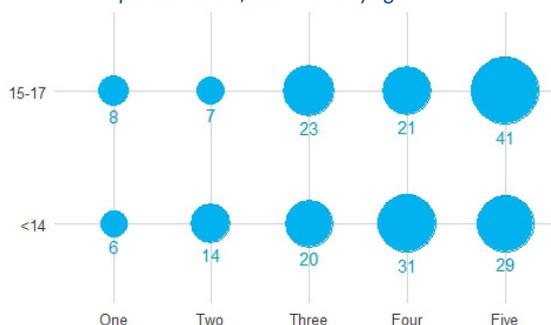
While share of children who reported always having been afraid was almost the same between age groups, children between 15 and 17 years were more likely to reported having been afraid many times during the journey. Forty - one per cent of children below 14 years reported they were always afraid during the journey and 39% of children between 15 and 17 years. Thirty-nine per cent of children between 15 and 17 years reported to be afraid many time versus 25% of children below 14 years.

Graph 14: Percentage of respondents by the reported frequency of being afraid during the journey, by age.



Older children were more likely than younger children to rate their health to be in an excellent or good state. Forty - one per cent of children between 15 and 17 years rated their health as “excellent” versus 29% of children below 14 years.

Graph 15: Percentage of respondents by the reported state of health and by age



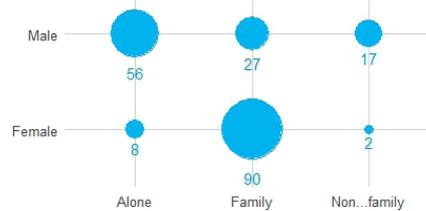
Echoing the subjective rating of state of health, younger children were less likely to report having experienced health problem during the journey. Fourteen per cent of children below 14 years reported having experienced health problem during the journey versus 42% of children between 15 and 17 years. Children below 14 years were also less likely to report having experienced health problem after arrival to countries where surveys were conducted in comparison to children between 15 and 17 years. Forty-three per cent of children between 15 and 17 years reported having experienced health problem during the time spent in the countries where surveys were conducted versus 21% of children

4. COMPARISON BETWEEN GIRLS AND BOYS

Girls were more likely than boys to travel with families. Ninety per cent of girls were travelling with families in comparison to 27% of boys.

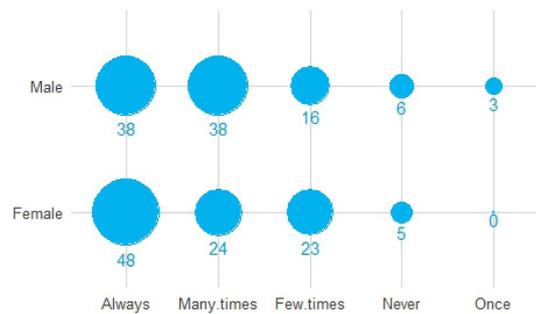
Girls were more likely to report having studied during journey in comparison to boys. Forty - five per cent of girls reported having attended either formal or informal education during the journey in comparison to 27% of boys

Graph 16: Percentage of respondents who travelled alone/with families/non-family member(s), by sex.



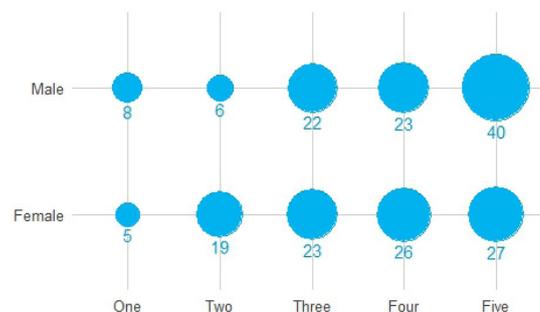
Girls were more likely to report having been always afraid in comparison to boys. Forty-eight per cent of girls reported they have been always afraid during the journey versus 38% of boys. However, boys were more likely to report having been afraid many times during the journey. Thirty - eight per cent of boys reported they were afraid many times in comparison to 24% of girls.

Graph 17: Percentage of respondents by the reported frequency of being afraid during the journey, by sex.



Boys were more likely to report their health being in excellent state in comparison to girls. Forty per cent of boys reported their health to be in excellent state versus 27% of girls.

Graph 18: Percentage of respondents by the reported state of health and by sex.



Girls were less likely to report having experienced health problem during the journey in comparison to boys. Thirty-eight per cent of boys reported having experienced health problem versus 19% of girls.

5. METHODOLOGY

Data collection was administered in six different countries covering those of the first entry and transit for migrants who arrived to Europe through the Eastern and Central Mediterranean routes.

Interviews were conducted by trained DTM data collectors and protection professionals in more than 35 reception centres where children were residing with their family members as well as in shelters for unaccompanied and separated children. Accommodation centres assessed were located in different areas of the respective countries, giving the overview of locations near the main entry, exit or transit points.

Bulgarian data collectors approached migrants accommodated in the reception centre in Harmanli (in the vicinity of the borders with Greece and Turkey) and also those residing in Sofia (Voenna Rampa), which figures as one of the main transit points for migrants aiming to continue their journey towards Western Europe.

In Greece, the network of field data collectors and protection specialist conversed with children residing in the different types of shelters for unaccompanied and separated children in the North (Thesaloniki) and on the island of Lesvos.

Further on, Croatian team interviewed children in official reception centres for asylum-seekers and in homes for the education of children and youth located in Zagreb, Kutina, Karlovac and Ivanec.

In Hungary, the team interviewed children in Röszke and Tompa, the main entry points and transit zones on the border with Serbia, and in Vamosszabadi Reception Centre.

In Italy, data collection team covered emergency reception centres for unaccompanied and separated children and communities for children managed by local authorities in Sicily and Calabria.

In Slovenia, data collectors visited the Asylum Centre in Logatec (where families with children were accommodated) and youth dormitories for unaccompanied children in Postojna and Nova Gorica.