

ADMiGOV

Advancing Alternative Migration Governance

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Innovative Solutions to Create Sustainable Perspectives for Displaced Populations



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- Üstübici, A.; Kirişçioğlu, E.; Elçi, E. (2021) Migration and Development: Measuring migration aspirations and the impact of refugee assistance in Turkey, ADMIGOV Deliverable 6.1, Istanbul: Koç University.
- For more information visit www.admigov.eu
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- Aims
 - decision-making in forced displacement contexts to *move on, stay, return*
- Focus
 - Two major displaced communities: Syrians and Afghans
 - Subject to different protection regimes (Üstübici, 2019)
- Methodological Challenges
 - Languages
 - Hard to reach populations
 - Sampling
 - How to measure aspirations

- Selective integration measures
 - Work permits
 - Higher education
 - Exceptional citizenship acquisition (for Syrians)
- Limited mobility
- Socio-economic hardship
- Measures to fight poverty
- Further impoverishment under COVID-19 (see Elçi, Kirişçioğlu, Üstübici, 2021)



- Online survey in Nov-Dec 2020
 - Facebook and Instagram ads
 - Qualtrics for data protection and anonymity
 - 551 Syrian and 415 Afghan refugees
- On-site fieldwork in March 2020
- Online fieldwork in July and August & December and January
- 12 face-to-face and 33 online qualitative interviews with Afghan and Syrian refugees living in Turkey



A neighborhood inhabited by Syrian families in Adana, Southern Turkey.
Photo by Ayşen Üstübcü

Aspirations in ideal situations

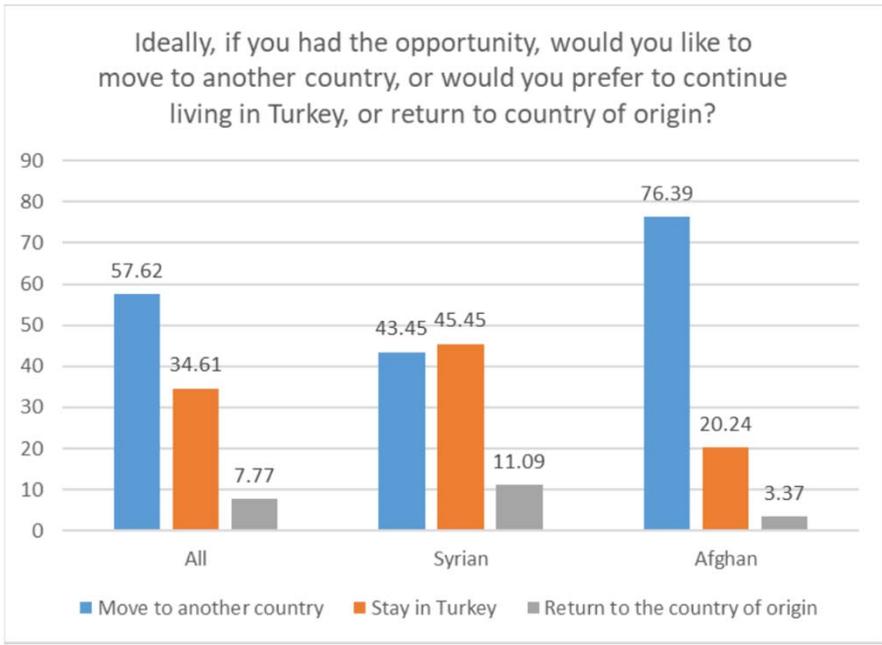
«ideally, if you had the opportunity...»

Plans and intentions

«have you considered moving in the last year»

Experiments

Narratives

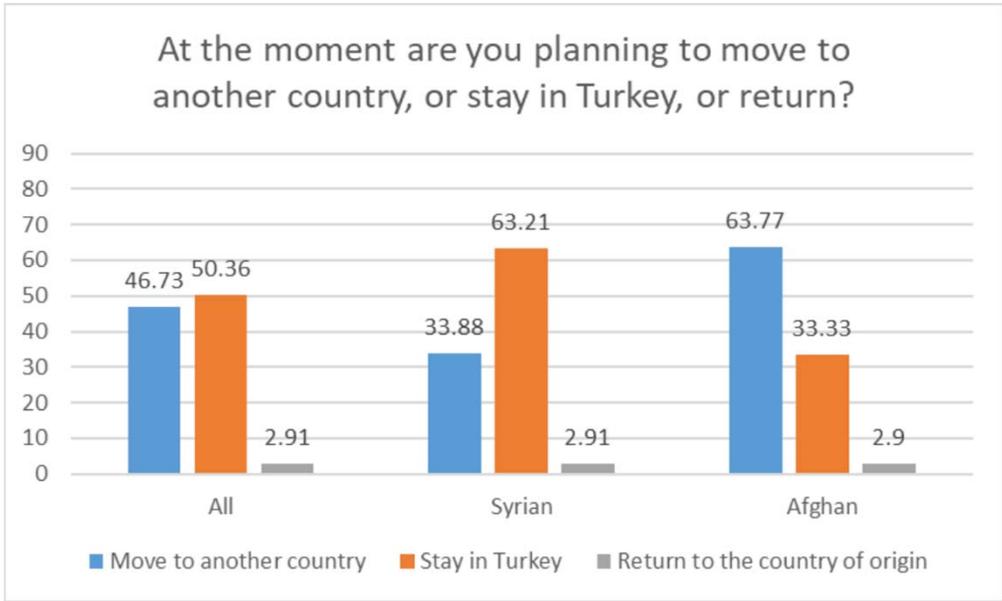


Overall, 43% of Syrians and 76% of Afghans aspire to move on to another country were conditions ideal.

At the time of the survey, 33% of Syrians and 67% of Afghans were planning to move on.

Under ideal circumstances, only 11% of Syrians would aspire to return. Only 3% planning to return.

Only 6% of the Syrian and 13% of Afghan respondents already attempted to leave Turkey without legal documents.

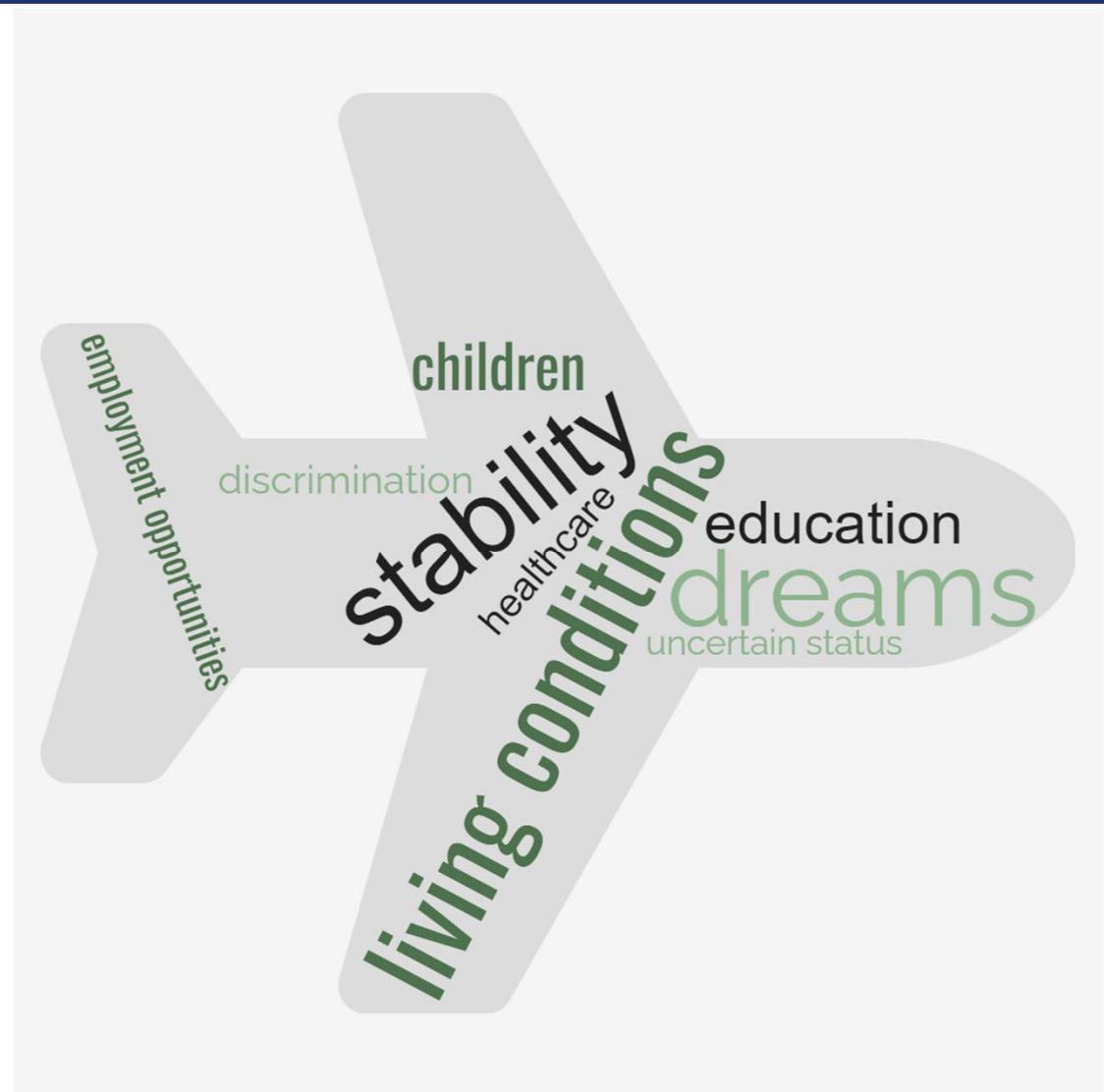


- Respondents have been in Turkey for around five years (6,3 years for Syrians, 3,5 years for Afghans)
- Afghan refugees in Turkey are poorer and more vulnerable than Syrians.
- Around 80% have transnational networks, half of these networks are in Germany, followed by Sweden, Canada, and US. But Afghans have more diverse transnational networks than Syrians.

Reasons to move on

Factors encouraging / discouraging onward migration

- Socio-economic status
- Networks abroad
- Type of feedback
- Risks on the route
- Cost of smuggling



Reasons to return

- Is there a place to return?
- Homeland as nostalgia



Very few people are actually planning to return (as low as 3% of survey participants were planning to return, nobody we interviewed was explicitly planning to return).

Reasons to stay

- Sense of safety
- Being used to living in Turkey
- Not to start from zero
- Self-realization
- But also being stuck



Aspiration to stay are equally important!

- *Do aid schemes, particularly the ESSN, have a significant impact on shaping aspirations?*
- No causal relationship between aspirations to stay and reception of ESSN.
- Not being dependent on aid, in itself create a sense of achievement.
- Language and vocational training are important incentives for staying put as most trainees want to stay in Turkey.

- Future migration plans in forced migration contexts are highly constrained.
- Aspirations are dynamic, complex, hence difficult to measure.
- Analyses should be careful not to jump into policy implications.
- Aspirations to stay put in the current place are equally important as the aspirations to move on or return.

We need to think of ways to make refugees more resourceful so they are able to better emplace oneself after first, secondary displacement or return.

Implications for Ukrainian displacement

- Temporary protection may fall short if permanent stay and protracted displacement become prominent.
- Initial hospitality based on identity may lead to backlash based on economic competition and to hostility.

Thank you for your attention!



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