

SPAIN PROFILING OF NEW ARRIVALS

> INTRODUCTION

UNHCR and its partners in Spain have been implementing a profiling of new arrivals to regularly collect and analyze data about the profiles of persons arrived in Spain by sea and land. This document presents the main results based on **402 interviews** conducted between **January and June 2023**.

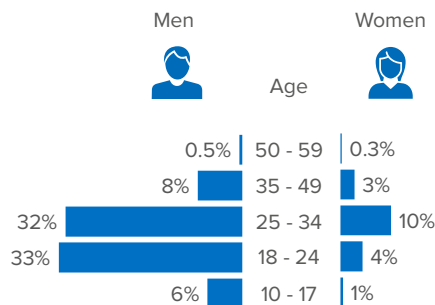
Methodology UNHCR and its partners conducted interviews in reception centres (55%), detention centres (39%) and partners offices (5%), mainly in the area of coverage of UNHCR Field Units in Algeciras, Las Palmas, Malaga, Melilla and bar associations in Almeria, Madrid and Murcia. The exercise targeted persons arrived in Spain by sea or by land in Ceuta and Melilla from January 2022 to June 2023. Respondents were selected taking into consideration the most numerous nationalities of arrival in Spain in the last months, as well as a representative share of age and gender (76% men, 17% women and 7% children). All information collected was strictly anonymous and respondents were informed that their answers would have no impact on their asylum request or assistance received.

402
Persons interviewed

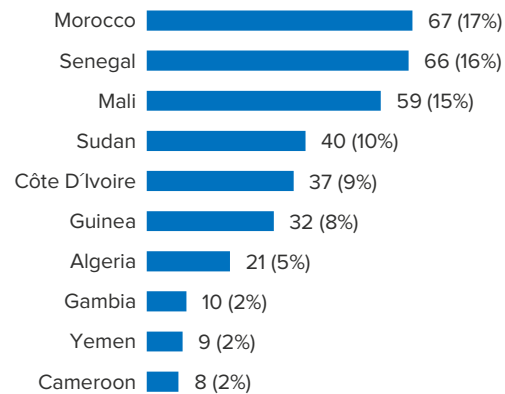
76%
Are adult men

55%
Arrived in Canary Islands

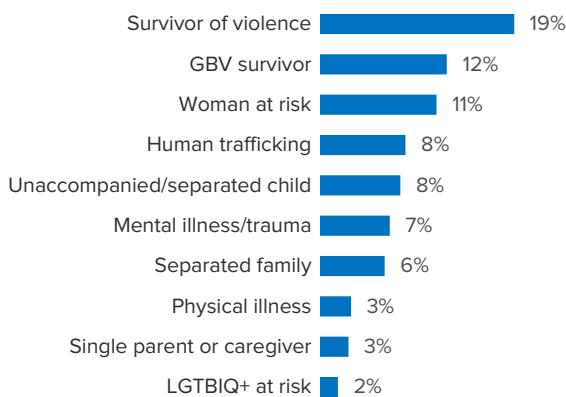
Age and gender breakdown



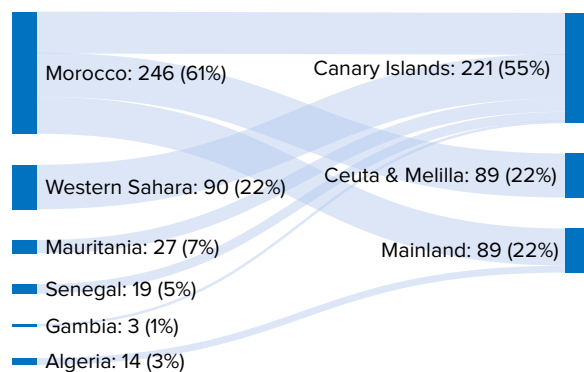
Most common nationalities



Specific needs*



Point of departure and place of arrival



Note: Totals do not sum up to 402 due to 3 missing values

* Multiple responses were possible, so percentages can go over 100% when added

> LEAVING THE COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

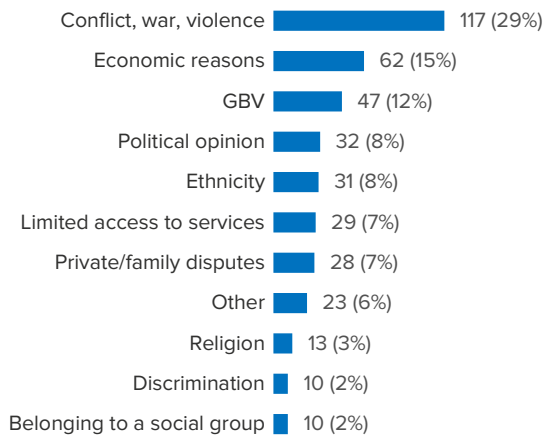
The reasons respondents gave for leaving their countries of origin often involved multiple factors with very different and complex circumstances. Reasons related to international protection needs played a stronger role for some nationalities and profiles, such as Mali, Sudan and Yemen.

economic reasons or limited access to services, the majority were Moroccans (48), followed by Senegalese (17). Fear of persecution for ethnic reason was cited mainly by Sudanese, fear of GBV by Ivorian women and political reasons by Senegalese.

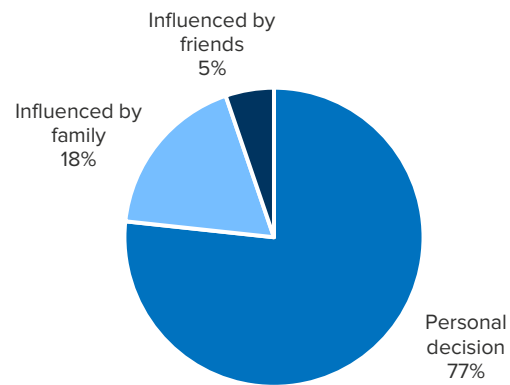
While out of the 117 respondents who cited conflict, war or violence as the main reason for leaving, the vast majority were Malians (51), followed by Sudanese (14), Yemenis (8), Burkinabe (7) or Syrians (5), out of the 91 people who cited

More than three out of four respondents said that no one influenced their decision to leave their country. Among the 89 respondents who stated that family or friends influenced them, 20 were women and 25 were under 19.

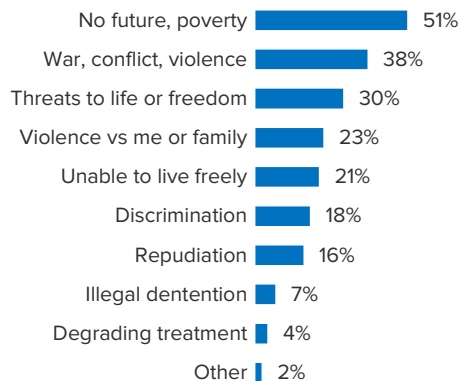
Main reason to leave the country of origin



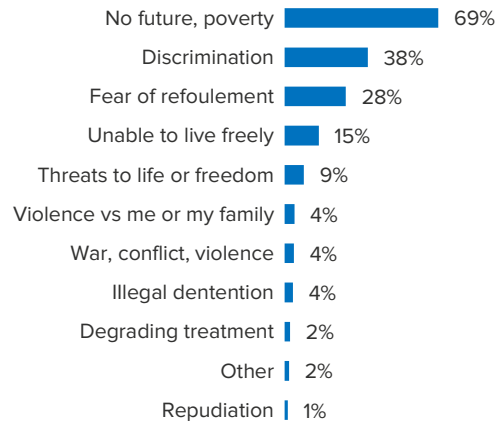
Who influenced the decision to leave



Consequences of return to country of origin*



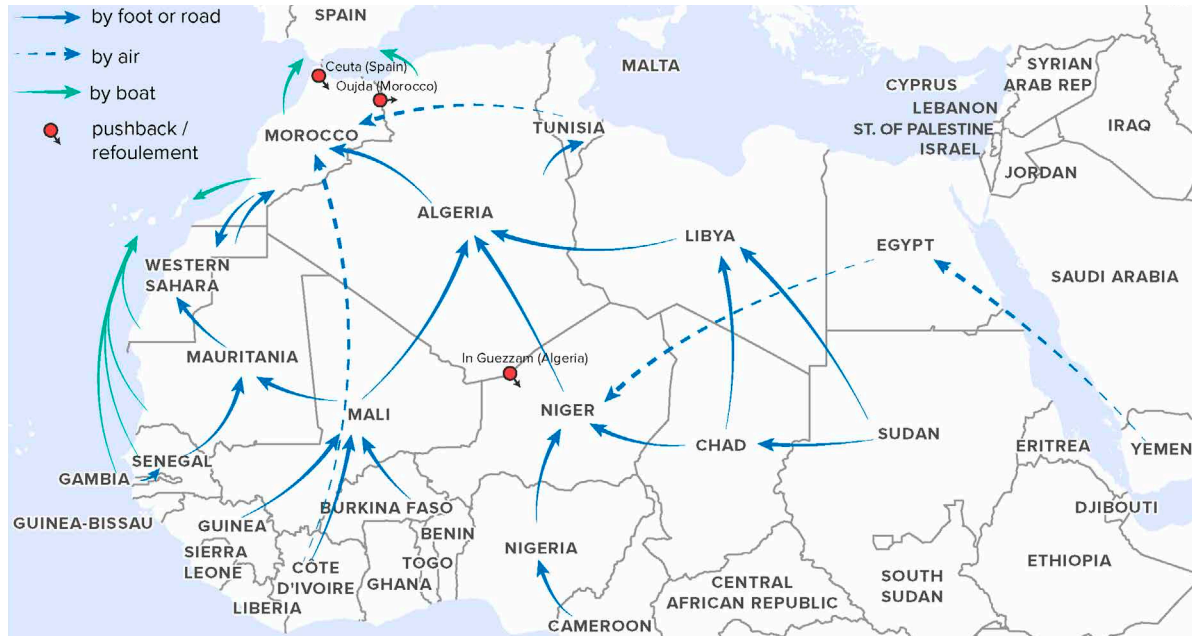
Consequences of return to country of departure*



* Multiple responses were possible, so percentages can go over 100% when added

> JOURNEY

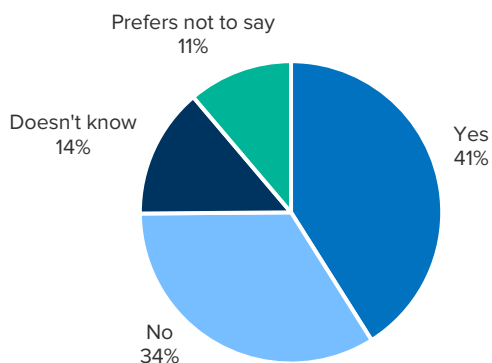
Main routes



A significant share of the respondents passed through North African countries before arriving in Spain, mostly Morocco (83%), followed by Algeria (43%) and Western Sahara (26%). Regarding West African countries, a significant number of respondents passed through Mali (28%), followed by Senegal (21%) and Mauritania (17%). An important share (11%) also passed through Niger.

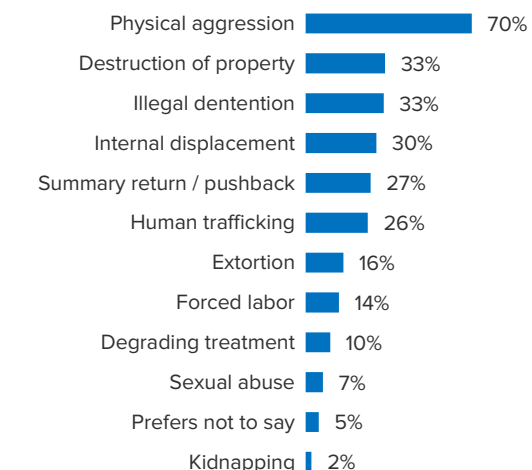
Around 41% suffered at least one kind of violence along the route, with physical aggression being the most recurrent type. Pushbacks affected 11% of respondents, most of them being Sudanese and Chadian men who eventually managed to enter Ceuta through the land border.

Experience of violence along the route



Incidents experienced along the route by refugees and migrants have a profound impact, including physical dangers (such as attempting to cross border fences, navigating rocky coasts, or traveling in inadequate boats) and health-related risks (such as illness, malnutrition, dehydration, often exacerbated by the arduous journey). Also, human rights abuses like killings, physical aggression and sexual assault are prevalent. Many refugees and migrants suffer from severe psychological trauma after witnessing violence, personal harm, or separation from relatives and friends. As a result, upon arrival in Spain, they required urgent medical and psychological care to address the emotional trauma they endured.

Type of violence suffered along the route*



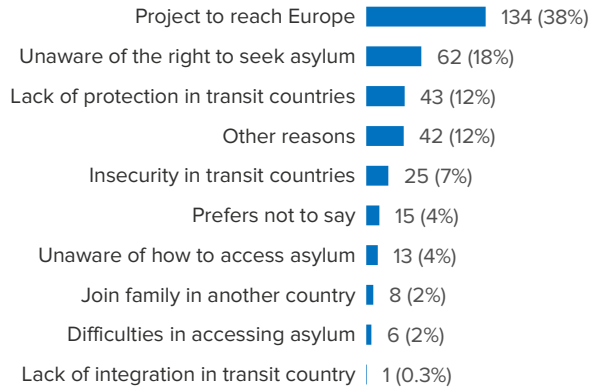
Note: percentages refers to 165 respondents

* Multiple responses were possible, so percentages can go over 100% when added

> ACCESS TO ASYLUM

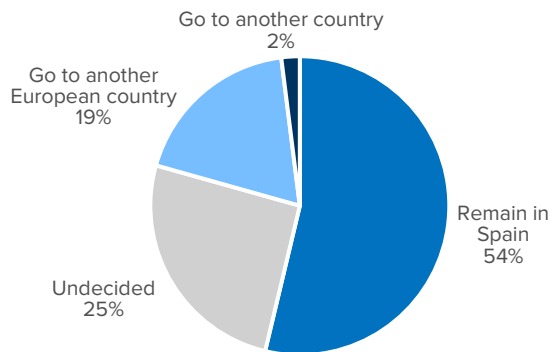
Only 13% of those interviewed sought asylum before arriving in Spain in the transit countries on their route, although 28% had previous information on asylum. While persons arriving in Spain by sea and land are very often reluctant to report in which other country they have sought asylum for fear that it will affect their asylum claim in Europe, the majority mentioned Morocco, Algeria and Libya, followed by Mauritania, Lebanon or Chad. Almost half of those who sought asylum on the route were nationals of Sudan (18), followed by Mali (5), Syria (4), Côte d'Ivoire (4), Yemen (3), Cameroon (3) or Chad (2).

Reason for not applying for asylum on the route



Note: percentages refers to 349 respondents

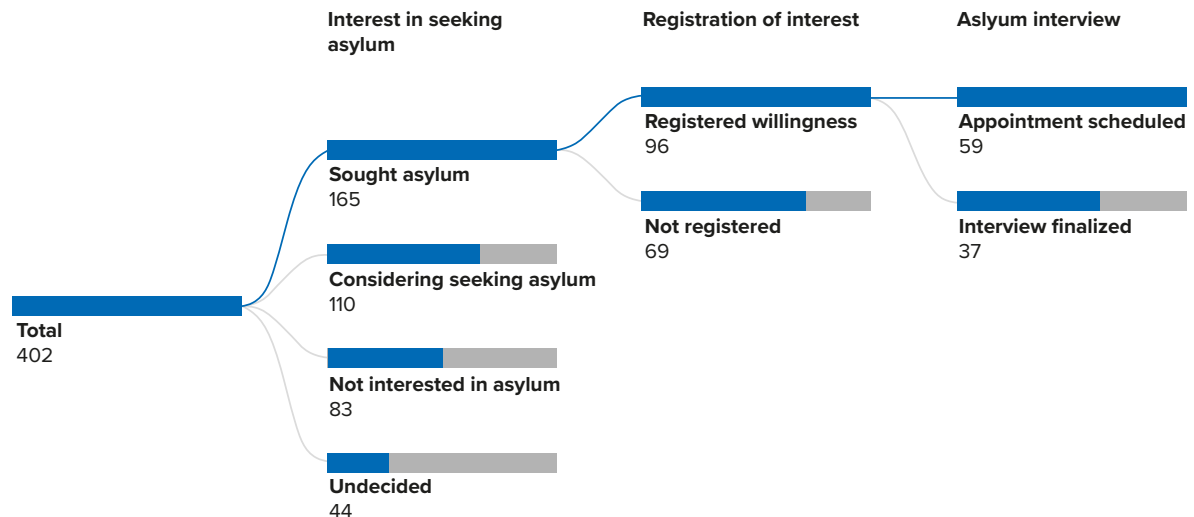
Future plans



For the remaining 87% who did not sought asylum in transit countries, the most cited reasons were plans to reach Europe, lack of information and lack of protection in those countries.

Responses on access to asylum in Spain show two realities specific to Spain as a destination country: on one hand, the protection component of mixed movements on the Western Mediterranean and Northwest African Maritime routes, and on the other hand, the serious obstacles to accessing the asylum procedure in Spain, where the system is collapsed and it can take several months for people to access their asylum interview.

Apply for asylum in Spain



> FOCUS ON: WOMEN AND GIRLS

The breakdown by sex and age shows the specific profile of women and girls arriving in Spain. In general, despite being fewer to arrive by sea and land, a larger proportion of them have specific needs. Most frequent needs referred to GBV survivors, woman at risk or single mothers. The share of women nationals from Côte d'Ivoire arriving in Spain is higher than men as the profiling shows. Fear of GBV as the main reason for leaving their country was clearly the top one among women and girls, and they suffered violence along the route in a higher share compared to men, with a large proportion of physical and sexual assault.

73

Women (71)
and girls (2)
interviewed

63%

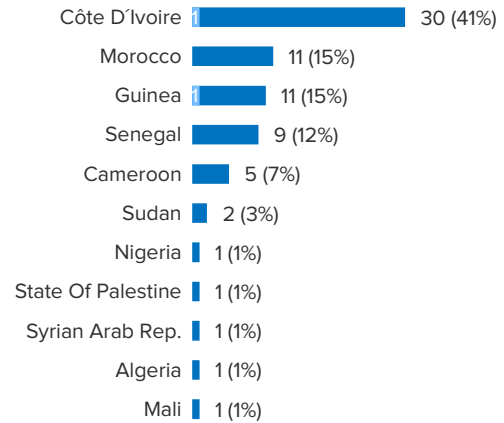
Left due to
gender-based
violence

51%

Suffered
violence along
the route

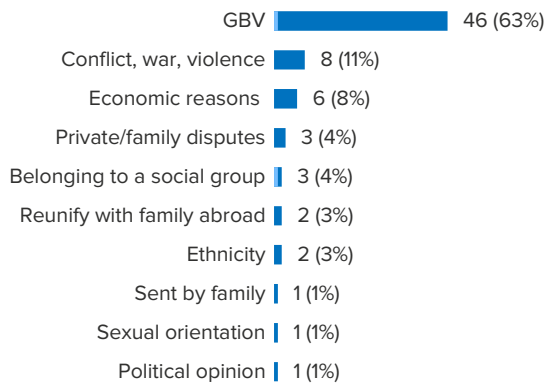
Nationalities

■ Women ■ Girls

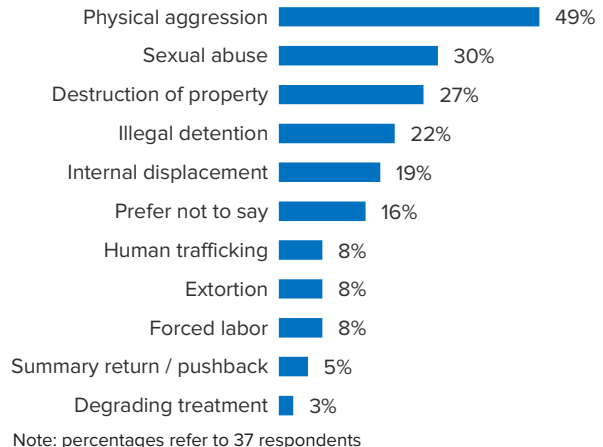


Main reason to leave the country of origin

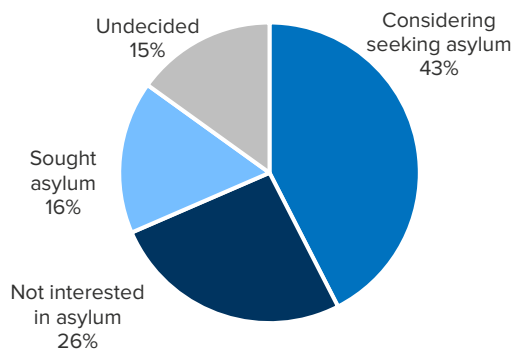
■ Women ■ Girls



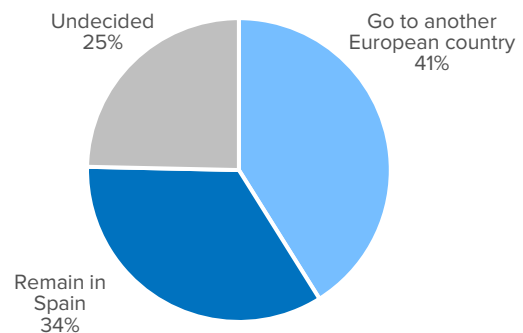
Type of violence suffered along the route*



Access to asylum



Future plans



* Multiple responses were possible, so percentages can go over 100% when added

> FOCUS ON: REASON TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY OF ORIGIN (TOP NATIONALITIES)

The breakdown by nationality of main reasons given by the respondents for leaving the country of origin confirms the higher protection component of some nationalities and reflects the mixed nature of movements by sea and land to Spain.

