

# Home for Good?

**Obstacles and Opportunities  
for Refugees and Asylum  
Seekers in Greece**

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# Content

<b>1. Executive summary</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7. Exploitation and violence</b>	<b>22</b>
		Section key findings	22
<b>2. Introduction</b>	<b>2</b>	Overview of exploitation and violence	22
		Talking about situations of exploitation and violence	23
<b>3. Research design</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>8. Economic integration</b>	<b>24</b>
Terminology	4	Section key findings	24
Sample frame	4	Refugees and asylum seekers working in Greece	24
Survey development and data collection training	5	Not working in Greece	25
Descriptive statistics, correlation and causation	5	Working and gender	25
Correlation is not causation	5	Working and legal status	25
		Working and accommodation type	26
<b>4. Demographic background of the sample</b>	<b>6</b>	Working and time since arrival in Greece	27
Section key findings	6	Working and national group	27
Nationality	6	Wages and exploitation	27
Household structure	6	Discrimination	29
Religion	7	Coping mechanisms	30
Education	8	<b>9. Multi-dimensional integration</b>	<b>33</b>
Education and gender	9	Section key findings	33
Accommodation	10	The IPL index and its advantages	33
		IPL Integration Index	33
<b>5. Psychological distress</b>	<b>12</b>	Overall findings from the IPL Integration Index	34
Section key findings	12	Integration across different nationality groups	34
Psychological distress overview	12	IPL Integration Index and time since arrival in Greece	38
Psychological distress and legal status	13	IPL Index and gender	38
Psychological distress and nationality	13	IPL Integration Index and legal status	39
Psychological distress and gender	14	Onward movement intentions and integration	39
Psychological distress and accommodation type	15	Psychological distress and integration	40
Psychological distress and family type	16	Household size and integration	40
		Accommodation and integration	41
<b>6. Onward movement intentions</b>	<b>17</b>	Working contracts and integration	42
Section key findings	17	Education, language and integration	43
Onward movement intentions and nationality	17	<b>10. Ukrainian refugees in Greece</b>	<b>44</b>
Onward movement intentions and gender	18	Differences between Ukrainians and other refugees and asylum seekers in Greece	44
Onward movement intentions and household type	19	Similarities between Ukrainians and other refugees and asylum seekers in Greece	44
Onward movement intentions and legal status	19	<b>11. Conclusion</b>	<b>45</b>
Refugees' onward movement intentions and access to services	20		
Asylum seekers' onward movement intentions and access to services	20	<b>12. Appendix</b>	<b>46</b>
Onward movement intention and accommodation in Greece	21	Table 1: Summary statistics	46

# 1. Executive summary

During 2015 and the beginning of 2016 Greece witnessed an influx of almost 1 million forcibly displaced people. The vast majority subsequently navigated their way towards Northern and Western European countries. A turning point emerged as borders along the Balkan route began to close, while in March 2016 the EU and Turkey reached a landmark agreement, effectively restricting onward movement, and confining displaced people to Greek territory. From a transit country Greece became a hosting country. Since then, arrivals continued but at a much smaller pace.

This study examines a number of the challenges and opportunities encountered by refugees and asylum seekers in Greece with regard to integration. Our research draws upon survey data collected from 3,755 adult participants between April and July 2022 who constitute a sample representative of a larger UNHCR dataset containing refugees and asylum seekers believed to be in Greece as of November 2021. Individuals in this report are not new arrivals: the vast majority (96%) have been in Greece for more than two years. The top five countries of origin are Afghanistan, Syria, Iraq, Iran, and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Women represent 38% of our sample. 58% of our respondents are asylum seekers and 42% obtained refugee status or subsidiary protection (from now on, both are referred to as 'refugees').

We find that refugees spent on average two years before obtaining such legal recognition. One out of five refugees in our sample continued to reside in a camp even after receiving their status. A pivotal aspect of the refugee and asylum seeker experience in Greece revolves around access to sustainable livelihoods. Two-thirds of refugees and asylum seekers in our sample are unemployed, with a pronounced gender disparity, as a higher proportion of women report being without work. Being a refugee or asylum seeker does not significantly affect the employment rate, whether formal or informal. Nonetheless, for those who do secure employment, their wages fall significantly below the Greek national minimum wage, accompanied by extended working hours, rendering this population particularly vulnerable to exploitation.

A third of the respondents resorted to negative coping mechanisms due to financial constraints, including skipping meals or limiting food intake, for three out of four participants.

A key observation from our research pertains to the extent of psychological distress of the refugee and asylum seeker population, with a staggering 85% reporting moderate to severe levels of psychological distress. Residing in self-accommodated flats appears to be correlated with lower levels of psychological distress. Equally concerning are the reported high levels of exploitation and violence, as 47% of respondents reported at least one instance of either exploitation or violence since they arrived in Greece, such as being coerced into signing documents they did not understand or being detained. More than half (56%) of those who experienced exploitation or violence never confide in people they know about their ordeals, indicating an area in which humanitarian and development initiatives could be channeled.

By using a multi-dimensional measure of integration encompassing various aspects of their lived experiences, we gauge the current state of refugee and asylum seeker integration in Greece. The economic dimension and attachment to Greece emerge as the two areas where individuals scored the highest, whereas the linguistic dimension saw the lowest levels. As expected, integration seems to correlate with the duration of stay in Greece but not with legal status. Refugees exhibit only marginally higher levels of integration compared to asylum seekers across the five dimensions of integration – attachment, navigational, economic, social and linguistic dimension - assessed in this study. Gender disparities in integration are evident, primarily driven by differences in economic integration.

This report also explores the onward movement intentions of refugees and asylum seekers in Greece. Approximately 48% of our sample expressed a desire to remain in Greece.

These findings underscore the pressing need for targeted interventions aimed at improving the livelihoods, mental well-being, and integration prospects of refugees and asylum seekers in Greece, while also addressing issues of exploitation and violence and considering the unique gender-based challenges faced by this population.

## 2. Introduction

Greece remains one of the main gateways to Europe for refugees and asylum-seekers. In this report we present the results of a micro-level profiling exercise to better understand the situation of forcibly displaced people who remain in Greece, namely those who have received refugee status or subsidiary protection (hereafter refugees) and those who were still engaged in the asylum procedure. The result is a detailed profile of 3,755 refugees and asylum seekers in Greece and the opportunities and obstacles they faced.

The goal of the micro-level profiling of refugees and asylum seekers in Greece is to provide an evidence base of information and analysis of the diverse and complex experiences of this population. UNHCR, the Government of Greece (GoG), NGOs and other stakeholders already have information on this population based on experiences with providing services and surveying them. However, the absence of systematically collected data that aims to represent the population in Greece presents a challenge to policymakers and other actors working to design interventions and policies that can address the needs of this population. In particular, policymakers might be concerned that people who are less likely to come forward to get support will be underrepresented in their knowledge base of the situation of displaced people in Greece.

To address this issue, the information presented in this report is drawn from an as representative as possible sample of refugees and asylum seekers in Greece. The population sample is drawn from a dataset of individuals who were eligible for cash assistance from UNHCR<sup>1</sup> and who arrived in the country between 2017 and 2021.

The project focused on data collection regarding information that is high value to policymakers and stakeholders. First, the survey includes a multi-dimensional evaluation of individuals' integration in Greece, including economic integration, attachment to Greece, social integration, navigational integration, and linguistic integration. Additional information about refugees' and asylum seekers' experience in the labor market allows for a clear snapshot of the challenges that this population faces in getting and keeping access to economic opportunity. The study highlights the very low levels of employment of this population and very low wages for those that are employed, suggesting room for policy interventions in this area.

Second, the study looks at the psychological distress of refugees and asylum seekers. Given the experiences of those forcibly displaced by conflict and persecution, both in their country of origin prior to flight, during their travel to Greece and once in Greece, policymakers and stakeholders would be right to be concerned that this population would be vulnerable to psychological distress challenges. The survey documents very high levels of psychological distress, suggesting an important future policy intervention.

Finally, policymakers and stakeholders in Greece face an important challenge when designing interventions given the evidence that some portion of this mobile population will not settle in Greece permanently. As a result, the survey also asks about onward movement intentions in an effort to gain an understanding of whether people intend to stay in Greece or move on (including moving to another location in Europe or elsewhere or returning to their country of origin). A key finding is that about 50% of the refugees and asylum seekers in Greece eligible to participate in the survey and contactable by phone actually did not intend to move out from Greece. This suggests that long-term policies and programming that take the integration needs of this population into account are critical for international and national partners.

A micro-level profile of refugees and asylum seekers with a large sample size has some limitations. In particular, the amount of data collected for each person is constrained so as not to burden participants. The data is only representative of those who pick up the phone when contacted and who agreed to participate. At the same time, an advantage of using a shorter data collection tool (a micro-level survey) permitted the research to include as large a sample size as possible. As a result, within the sample of 3,755 people, it is possible to explore how different subgroups, including those with different legal statuses in Greece (refugees and asylum seekers), those of different national background, men and women, and those who have spent more or less time in Greece face similar or different challenges or have different intentions for the future. Taking these differences into account provides a foundation for building the best future programming to meet the needs in Greece and provides a template for conducting future panel surveys of this type in other humanitarian contexts.

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<sup>1</sup> Cash assistance was delivered through the 'UNHCR Greece Cash Alliance', from April 2017. In October 2021, the cash assistance program was handed over to the Greek government. All (100%) of asylum-seekers entering Greece were eligible for cash assistance.

The rest of this report proceeds as follows. The next section discusses the methodology used to identify and survey the sample population included in the research. Section 4 presents the demographic profile of the sample, including gender and nationality breakdown, religious identity, levels of education and household structure. Section 5 provides data on psychological distress. Section 6 discusses the onward movement intentions of refugees and asylum seekers in Greece. Section 7 explores situations of exploitation and violence that this population faced since they arrived in Greece. Section 8 discusses in detail the variation in experiences of the Greek labor market for asylum seekers and refugees. Section 9 presents the results on integration. Section 10 provides a brief comparative analysis with Ukrainian refugees in Greece. The final section presents conclusions.

### 3. Research design

The research presented in this report is based on a micro-level survey conducted with refugees and asylum seekers in Greece. This section presents the research design of the project.

#### Terminology

Throughout the report, we refer to refugees as those who have arrived in Greece, applied for asylum and then received either refugee status or subsidiary protection. The main difference between refugee status and subsidiary protection is that those granted refugee status have the right to a three-year residency permit and the right to family reunification, whereas those granted subsidiary protection receive a one-year (renewable for two more years) residency permit that does not come with the right to family reunification.

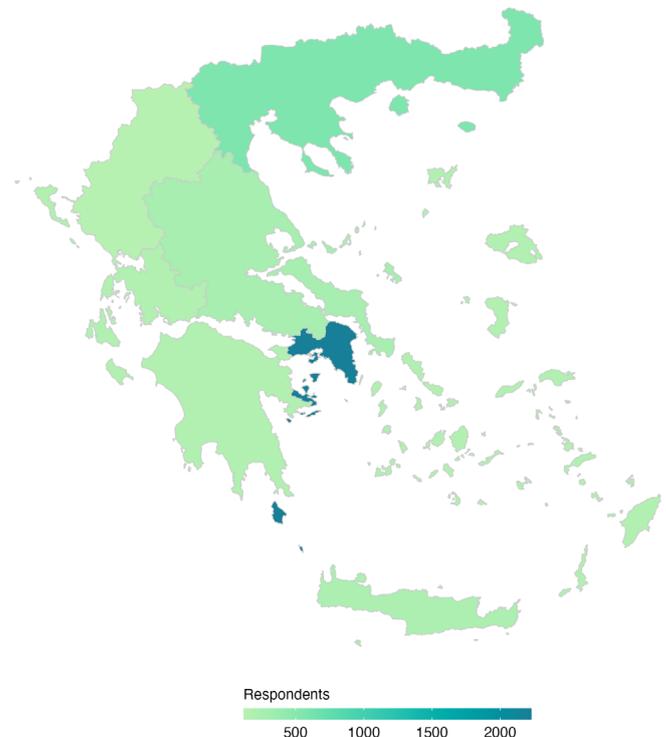
Similarly, the sample of asylum seekers includes those who report that they had applied for asylum and no decision had been made in the first instance, those who had been rejected in the first instance and who were either making an appeal or had not decided whether they will appeal or not, and those who reported that they are not appealing or cannot appeal. This latter group is a very small portion of the sample (only 7% of respondents). We include all members of this population in the survey to avoid excluding specific populations who may be of interest to humanitarian actors and because while some members of the population reported that they are not in process, we cannot exclude the possibility that they may have additional recourse to appeal processes that they were not aware of at the time of the survey.

In the data presented below, we focus on presenting information about a variety of different social groups. This includes information about the largest three nationalities within the refugee subgroup, namely Afghans, Syrians and Iranians, as well as information about individuals from Sub-Saharan Africa (at a country level, there are too few individuals to analyze separately, making a nationality-level analysis less useful). Throughout the report, we refer to Afghans, Syrians and Iranians as the largest refugee nationalities or national groups, and we include all respondents with these nationalities regardless of their legal status. For certain variables, we also explore the top 10 nationalities by size included in the participant sample regardless of their legal status.

#### Sample frame

We used the UNHCR Greece's proGres database to generate the sample frame used for this project. The original proGres dataset included 98,014 individuals in November 2021. From this set of observations, the research team drew a representative sampling frame of 32,738 people that could be called by the survey firm hired for the research. This sampling frame comprised 58% asylum seekers and 42% refugees (representing the actual rates of legal status within the proGres sample). The sample is thus representative of the UNHCR proGres database as of November 2021 and as representative as possible of the universe of asylum-seekers and refugees believed to be in Greece at this time.

Figure 1: Map of respondent locations in Greek regions



Initially, the data collection protocol included reaching out to every eligible participant 10 times in order to maximize the chances of including people in Greece and eligible for participation in the sample. In practice, respondents either answered within three phone calls or were not reachable (either because the phone was disconnected, the number was invalid, the intended participant was not in Greece, or because the person was not known at that number).

In total, the survey firm completed surveys with 3,755 respondents. To participate, individuals needed to provide informed consent, they needed to report currently residing in Greece and they needed to confirm that they were 18 years or older at the time of the interview.

### Survey development and data collection training

The survey was jointly developed by researchers of the Immigration Policy Lab at ETH Zurich, University College London (UCL) and UNHCR with input from two steering committees that provided oversight and input into the research process: Government Partners Steering Committee and Implementing Partners Steering Committee. The development process balanced the use of questions developed and validated with displaced populations globally, and questions specific to the Greek context. To ensure all questions were valid and generated useful information, the research team piloted the survey tool with approximately 100 respondents and updated the questionnaire and research design with feedback from this exercise.

Prior to both pilot and main survey data collection, the research team worked with the survey firm to train the data collection enumerators. The training included skills typically used in the enumeration of micro-level households as well as protection-sensitive data collection skills and techniques. This second component of the training was important because it supported enumerators to ask challenging questions of survey participants in a way that centered safety, consent, non-judgement and building a relationship with the survey participant.

### Descriptive statistics, correlation and causation

The rest of the report presents descriptive statistics from this sample of 3,755 respondents unless otherwise noted. In some cases, for example, the data for a specific subgroup of participants (e.g. refugees alone) is provided and this is noted where this is the case. In most cases participants in the survey responded to all the survey questions<sup>2</sup>.

In the following sections of the report, we present patterns in the data which show the experiences of different groups of refugees and asylum seekers in Greece. It is important to note that although these patterns may show a relationship between two factors, such as economic integration and psychological distress (for example), *this is not evidence of a causal relationship*. Rather, this is an association or a correlation that needs to be interrogated further prior to making a causal claim.

#### Correlation is not causation

In statistics, the definition of correlation is the degree to which two variables are related to one another. A relationship is the degree to which a change in one variable is or is not associated with the change in the other variable. *Critically, correlation does not equal causation*. Causation is defined as a relationship between variables where a change in one variable causes a change in another (for example, participation in the labor force causes better psychological distress outcomes). Throughout this report, we present relationships between variables captured in the research that should be understood as *correlations* and *not causal relationships*.

<sup>2</sup> In some cases, participants report that they do not know or prefer not to answer a specific question. In those cases, we use a standard statistical practice to impute the average response for a given participant based on their membership in a specific subgroup in the analysis (unless otherwise noted in the text). This practice is useful when looking at the relationship between two or more variables in a dataset and mitigates data loss.

## 4. Demographic background of the sample

In this section we describe the demographic characteristics of the refugees and asylum seekers included in the research. Unless otherwise stated, the statistics provided below are based on the full sample of 3,755 respondents.

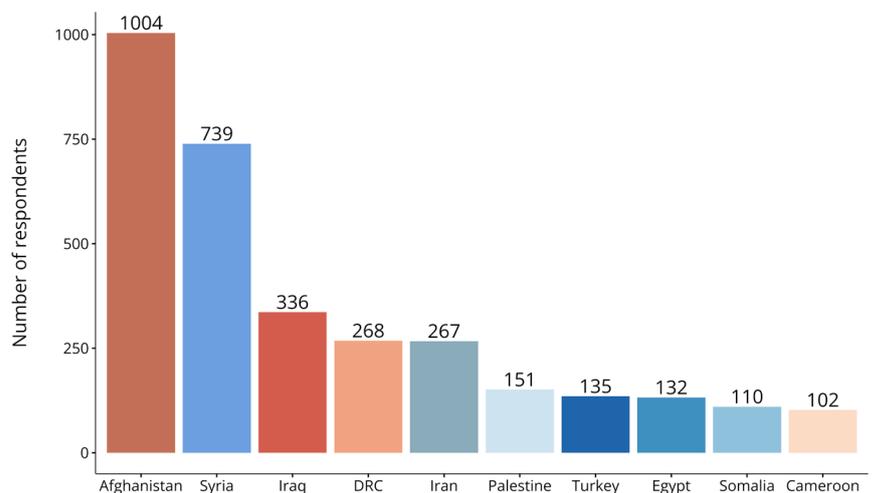
### Section key findings

Almost all participants in the study had been in Greece for more than two years when they were interviewed for this study. We see that for those who obtained refugee status or subsidiary protection, it took them an average of at least two years after arrival. We also found that one out of five refugees still lived in a camp.

### Nationality

The refugee and asylum seeker population in Greece is incredibly diverse. Figure 2 shows the ten largest national groups included in the research. These nationalities account for 2,421 out of 3,755 of the respondents. This is slightly different from the three largest groups in the refugee population (the top three refugee nationalities within the sample: Afghanistan, Iran and Syria). Overall, the largest national groups in the sample were from Afghanistan, Syria, Iraq, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Iran.

Figure 2: Ten largest national groups, full sample

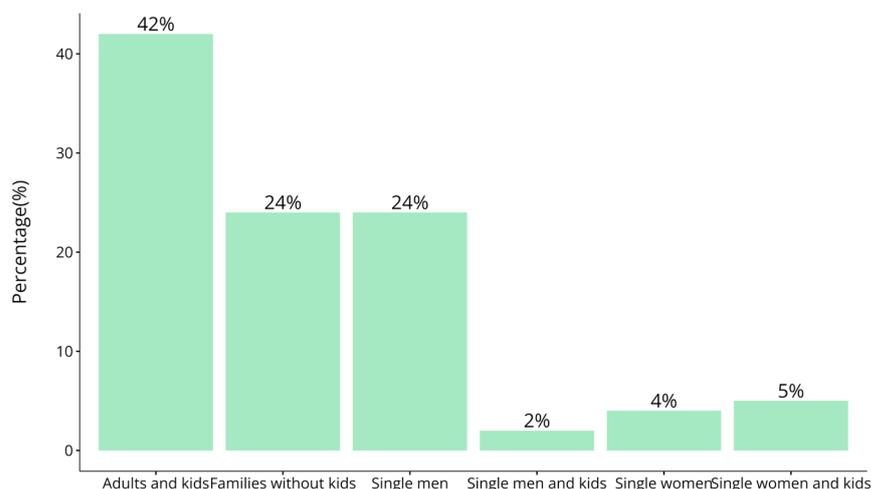


### Household structure

In our sample, the largest household subgroup included both adults and children (42%). 28% of households are single adults, including 24% single men, compared with only 4% single women. The remaining households included adults living together (24%) and single men and single women living with children without other adults (2% and 5%, respectively) (see figure 3).

39% of the sample was between the ages of 18 and 29, and 38% of the sample was between the ages of 30 and 39. There are no significant differences in participant age by gender or legal status.

Figure 3: Household structure, full sample

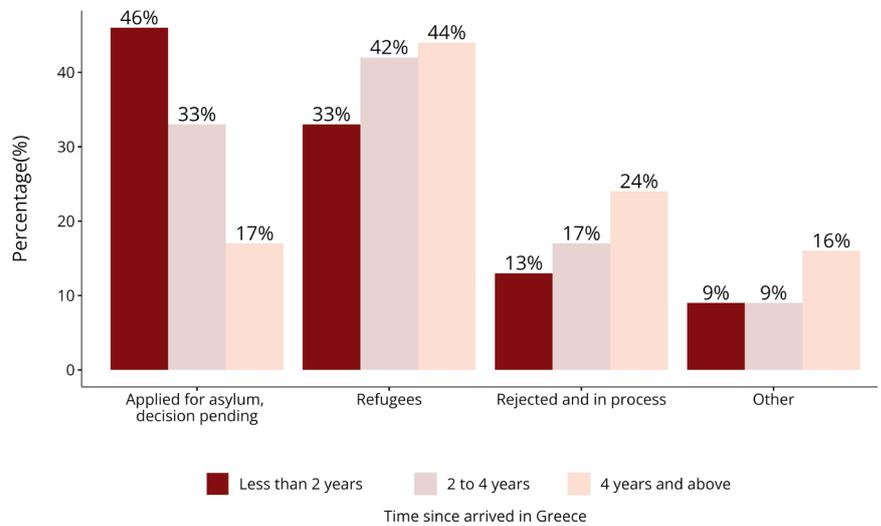


### Time since arrival in Greece

The population in this sample are not new arrivals: a majority (67%) had been in Greece for two to four years and 29% for more than four years. A smaller number reported that they had arrived in the past two years (4%). These people might have submitted their asylum application after the Joint Ministerial Decision (JMD) of June 2021, which identified Turkey as a “safe third country” for asylum seekers from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Somalia, and Syria.

All participants in the sample had submitted an asylum application. As expected, a participant’s probability of still being in the asylum process declines over time (see the first three bars for “Applied for asylum, decision pending” in figure 4). For refugees included in the sample, they reported an average of at least two years from the date of arrival recorded in proGres to the date when they reported obtaining refugee status or subsidiary protection. More than one in three refugees reported that it took them three or more years to obtain refugee status (see appendix Table 1).<sup>3</sup>

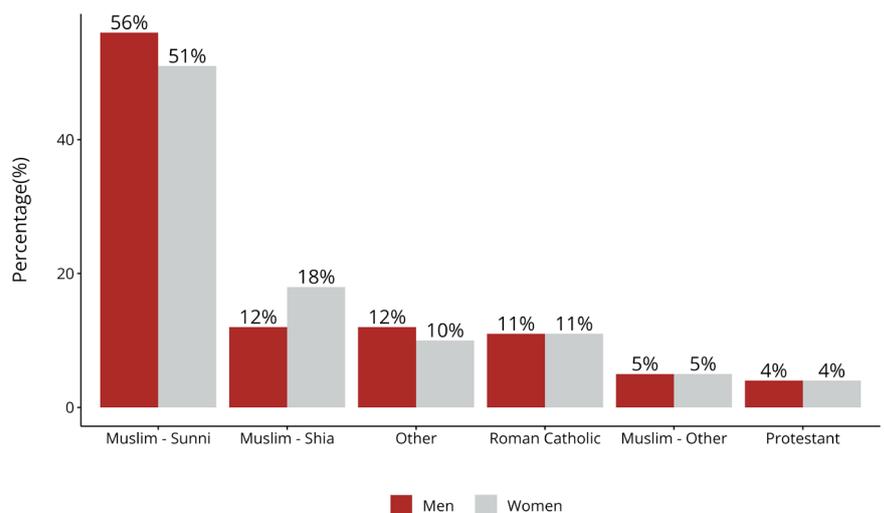
Figure 4: Legal status and time since arrival in Greece, full sample



### Religion

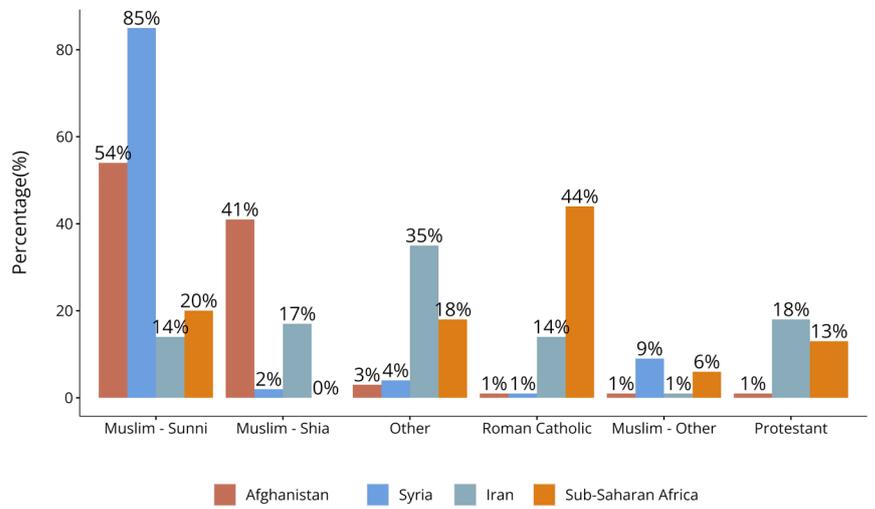
Most participants in the research identified as Sunni Muslims (see figure 5). As outlined in the Research Design, part of the study focused on the top three nationalities among refugees in the sample or, alternatively, the top 10 nationality groups, regardless of their legal status. Additionally, the study placed a strong emphasis on Sub-Saharan African countries, as they are of significant interest to policymakers. The largest nationality groups with Sunni Muslim participants were Afghans and Syrians. More than half of sub-Saharan African participants self-identified as Christians (either Catholic or Protestant). Women and men participants reported similar religious group membership with the exception of Shia Muslims (see figure 6).

Figure 5: Religion and gender, full sample



<sup>3</sup> A smaller number of participants reported that they had not yet appealed their decision.

Figure 6: Religion and top three refugee nationalities within the sample and Sub-Saharan Africans



### Education

There are educational disparities in the participant group. 43% of participants have at least a secondary level education, while 57% are educated at the intermediate level or lower. Almost one in four participants reported that they have either never studied or have not completed primary education. For women, this is closer to 30%. 43% of Iranians have finished university, while 34% of Afghans have not had access to formal education.

Figure 7: Educational attainment, full sample

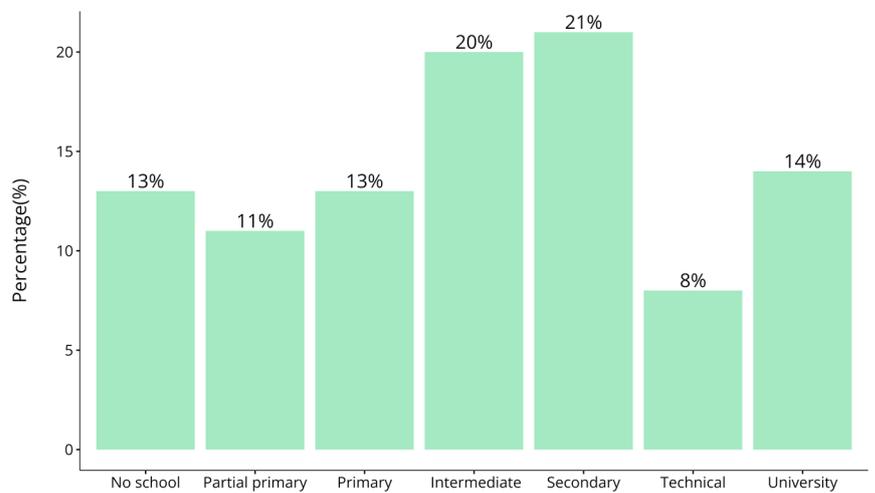
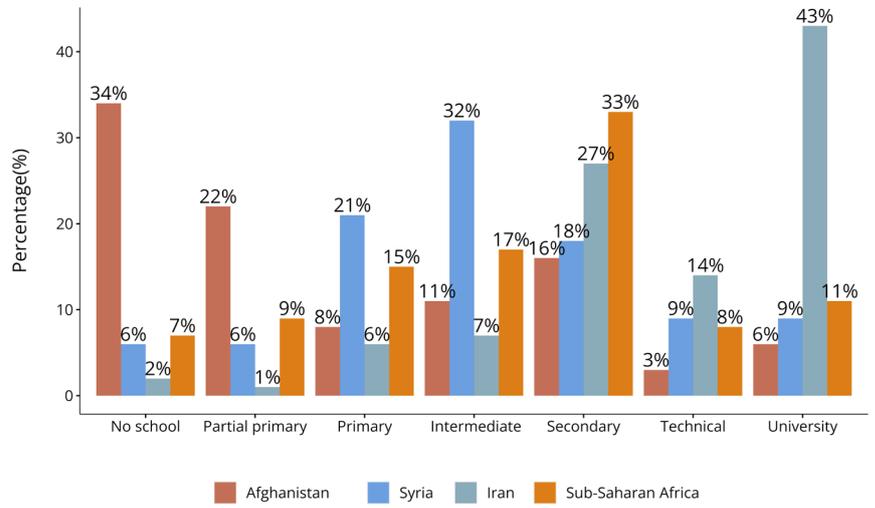
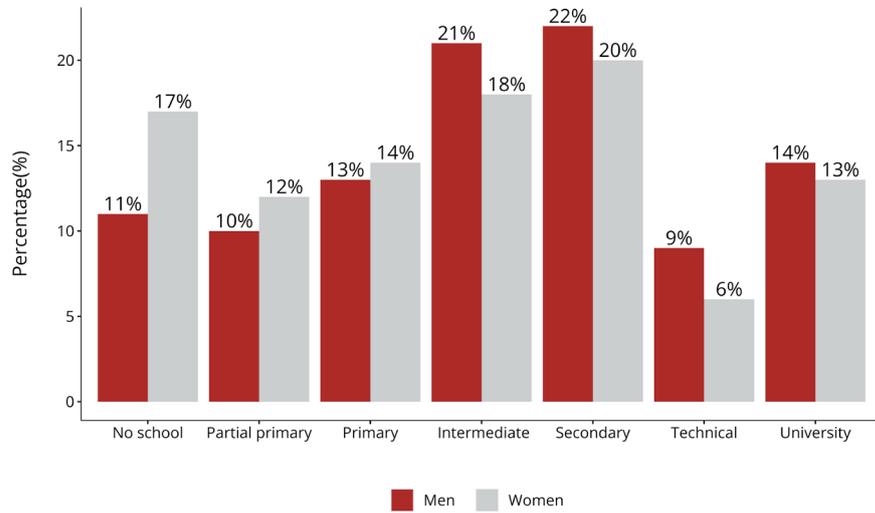


Figure 8: Education and top three refugee nationalities within the sample and Sub-Saharan Africans



Education and gender

Figure 9: Education and gender, full sample



### Accommodation

Note: 'ESTIA/HELIOS' include programs that provide housing outside of camps: asylum seekers were eligible for the ESTIA accommodation program<sup>4</sup> which they needed to exit in principle one month after status recognition, whereas refugees are eligible for rental subsidies under the HELIOS program. 'Self-accommodated' refers to a flat rented independently by the participant. Sites refer to mainland Controlled Facilities for Temporary Accommodation of Asylum-seekers and Closed Controlled Access Centers in the islands which are state-managed. 'Other' refers to refugees living in housing situations outside these categories.

Figure 11 describes the share of asylum seekers and refugees in each accommodation type. Among people who were self-accommodated, about half were refugees, and half were asylum seekers. In contrast, there were more asylum seekers in the accommodation programs ESTIA/HELIOS, where 67% were asylum seekers and 33% were refugees.

Figure 10: Time since arrived in Greece and accommodation, full sample

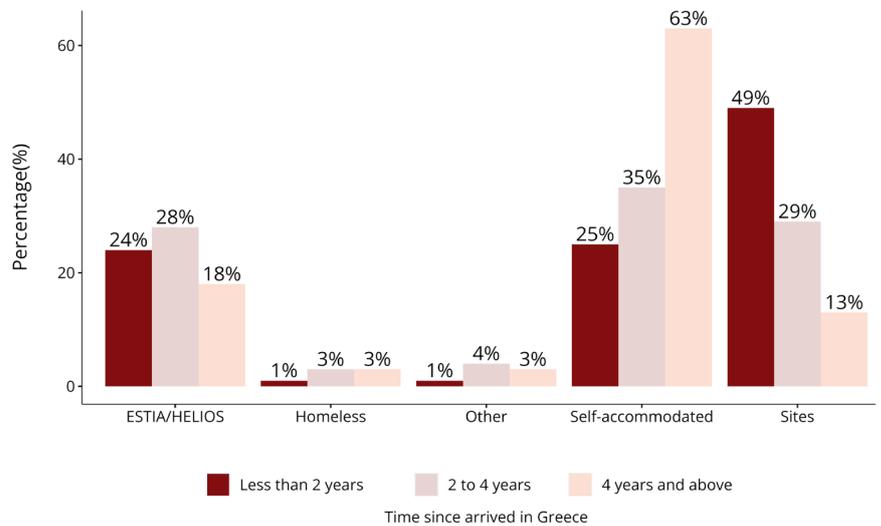
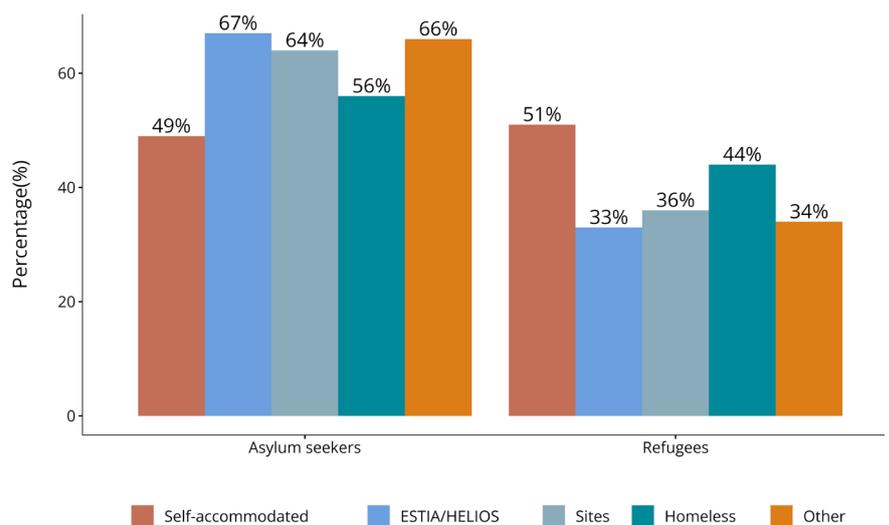


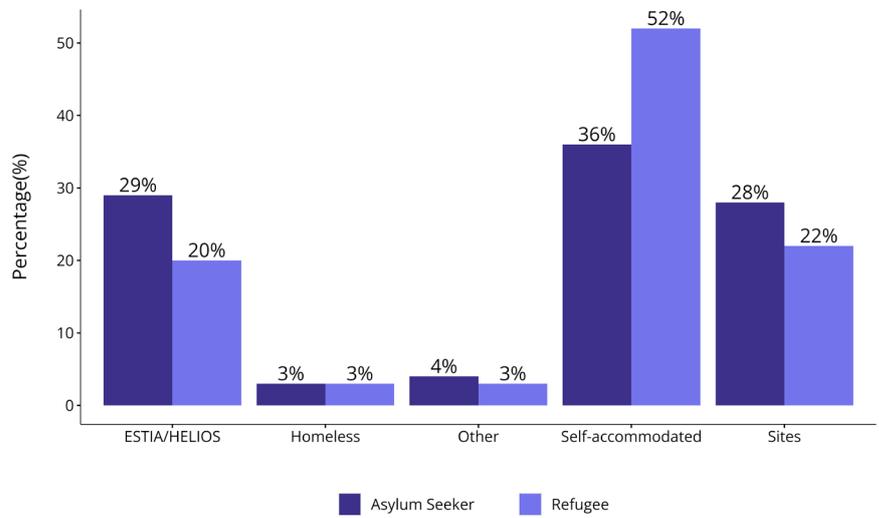
Figure 11: Legal status and accommodation, full sample



<sup>4</sup> As of 31 December 2022, ESTIA program was concluded and asylum seekers eligible for accommodation were transferred to sites.

When looking at accommodation type by legal status (see figure 12), more than half of the refugees (52%) reported living in a self-accommodated flat in comparison to a third (36%) of the asylum seekers. One out of five (22%) of the refugees lived in a site, although they should be living outside of camps 30 days after they obtain their refugee status and find their own accommodation according to Greek law. About a third of the asylum seekers (29%) lived in a shelter or accommodation program such as ESTIA. About one in five refugees (20%) were hosted through the HELIOS program. More recently arrived study participants reported that they were self-accommodated compared to other accommodation types.

Figure 12: Legal status and accommodation, full sample



There are no differences in legal status for those who reported that they were homeless. Given the extreme vulnerability of individuals who stated that they are homeless, we also explore which nationalities had the highest number of homeless people. We find that more people from Uganda, Sudan and Sierra Leone reported being homeless. Of the largest refugee groups within the sample, 5% of Afghans also reported that they were homeless.

## 5. Psychological distress

### Section key findings

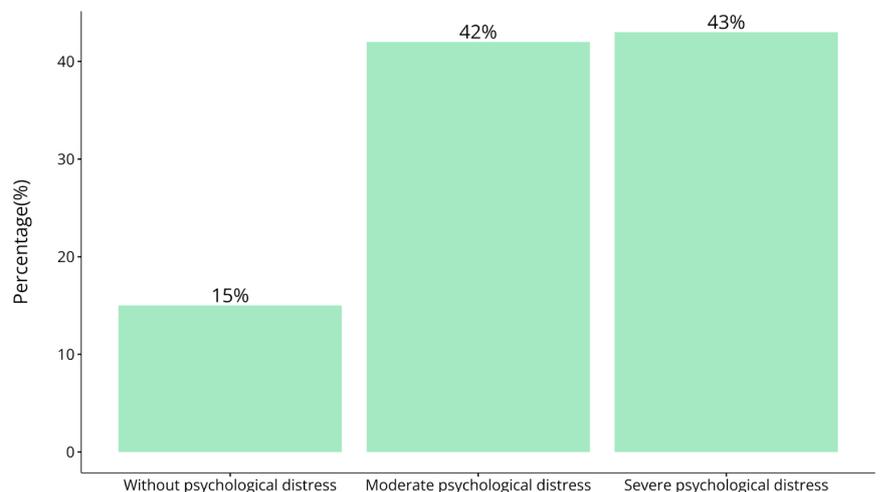
We find very high levels of psychological distress in the population of refugees and asylum seekers included in the sample, as detailed below. Overall, this suggests that policy interventions that aim to support this population improving their psychological distress also by addressing its root causes, to the extent these are linked to their living conditions and integration prospects, are much needed. In particular, there is a strong association between living in a self-accommodated flat and lower levels of reported psychological distress. While this relationship is not causal (and indeed, different profiles of individuals live in different types of accommodation), it nevertheless informs a deeper understanding of the factors associated with psychological distress challenges within the displaced population in Greece.

To measure psychological distress, we used the Kessler-6 (K6)<sup>5</sup>, a state-of-the-art scale developed to screen for serious psychological distress. The K6 is used globally<sup>6</sup>, including among vulnerable and displaced populations such as our sample, e.g. with Iraqi, Afghan and Iranian refugees in Australia<sup>7</sup>. Respondents were asked six questions about the past month: how often they felt nervous, hopeless, restless, that everything was an effort, so depressed that nothing could cheer them up and worthless. These questions about concrete experiences enable more frank and less socially stigmatized reporting about psychological distress.

### Psychological distress overview

First, we explore the general levels of psychological distress for people in our sample using the K6 scale. We find that most people (85%) in our sample suffered from moderate (42%) to severe (43%) psychological distress (see figure 13). A relatively small percentage of the population (15%) did not exhibit indications of psychological distress.

Figure 13: K6 scale, full sample



5 Kessler RC, Barker PR, Colpe LJ, et al. Screening for Serious Mental Illness in the General Population. *Arch Gen Psychiatry*. 2003;60(2):184–189. doi:10.1001/archpsyc.60.2.184

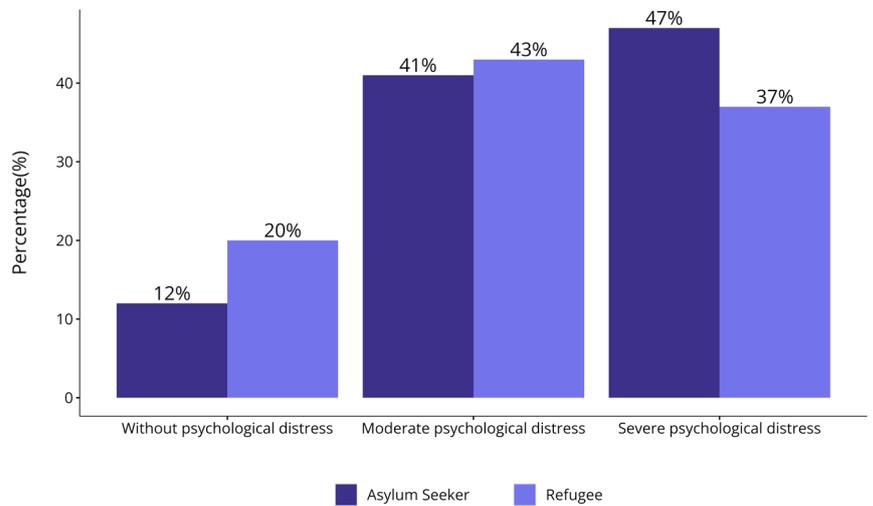
6 In the USA with American Indian communities for example, see: Mitchell CM, Beals J. The utility of the Kessler Screening Scale for Psychological Distress (K6) in two American Indian communities. *Psychol Assess*. 2011 Sep;23(3):752–61. doi: 10.1037/a0023288. PMID: 21534694; PMCID: PMC3150622.

7 “Dang, Hai-Anh H.; Trinh, Trong-Anh; Verme, Paolo. 2022. Do Refugees with Better Mental Health Better Integrate? : Evidence from the Building a New Life in Australia Longitudinal Survey. Policy Research Working Papers;10083. World Bank, Washington, DC. © World Bank. <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/37544> License: CC BY 3.0 IGO.”

### Psychological distress and legal status

Next, we explore whether levels of psychological distress vary depending on the legal status of the participant. We find that almost half (47%) of asylum seekers reported that they suffer from severe psychological distress compared with a third of refugees (37%) (see figure 14). This suggests some relationship between legal status and the highest levels of psychological distress. It is worth noting that psychological distress remains very high overall for both groups, with 88% of asylum seekers suffering from moderate to severe psychological distress and 80% of the refugees suffering from moderate to severe psychological distress.

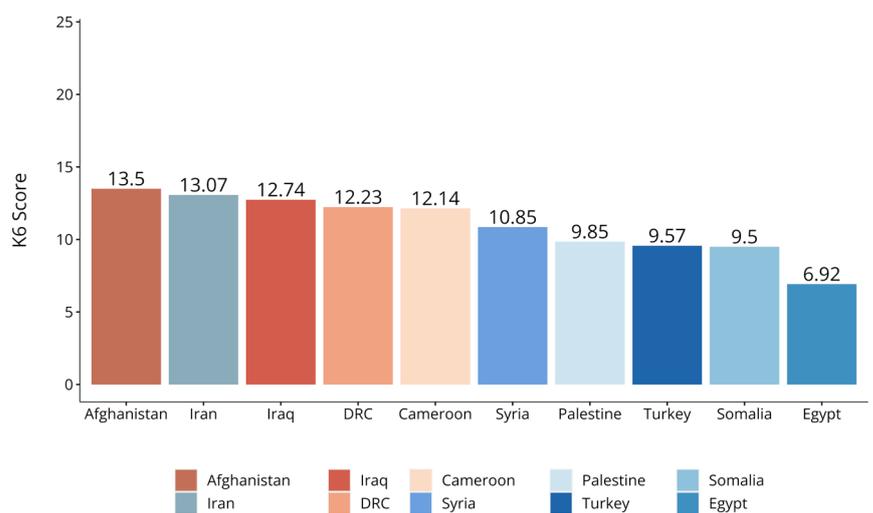
Figure 14: K6 scale and legal status, full sample



### Psychological distress and nationality

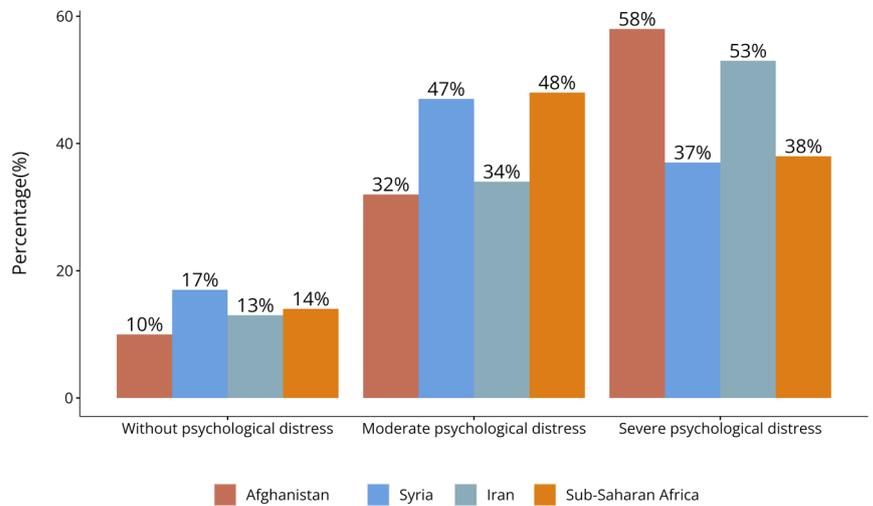
We also explore whether participants from different nationalities reported different levels of psychological distress. We look at the outcomes for the top 10 nationality groups in the sample (regardless of legal status). On average, the data show that Afghans and Iranians suffered from the most severe psychological distress (K6 score above 13). Iraqis, Congolese (DRC), Cameroonians, Syrians, Palestinians, Turks, Somalis, and Egyptians suffered, on average, moderate levels of psychological distress (K6 score between 5 and 12).

Fig 15: Average K6 scale score and ten largest nationality groups, full sample



We find that among the larger refugee status nationalities, more than half of the Afghans (58%) and Iranians (53%) suffered from severe psychological distress, and about half of the Syrians and Sub-Saharan Africans suffered from moderate psychological distress.

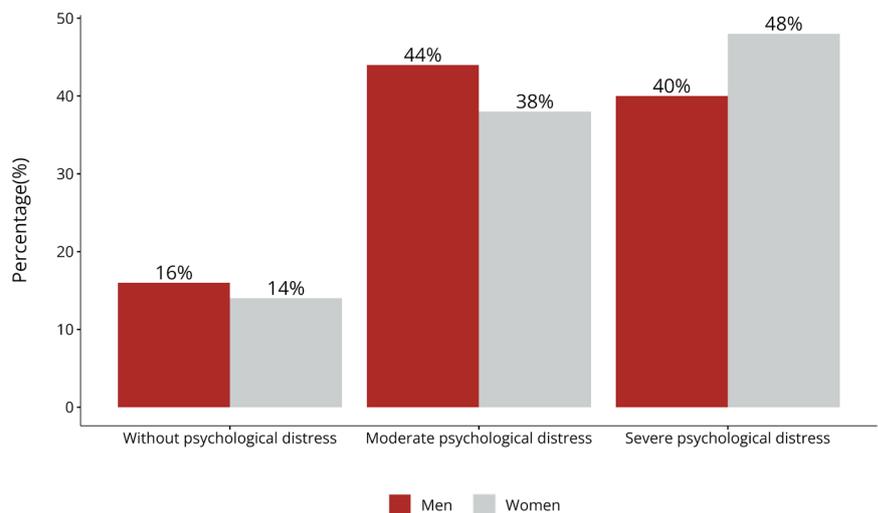
Figure 16: K6 scale for the top three refugee nationalities within the sample and Sub-Saharan Africans



### Psychological distress and gender

We also explore whether psychological distress varies by gender. We find that women reported suffering more severe psychological distress than men. About half of the women (48%) in the sample had severe psychological distress in contrast to 40% of the men (see figure 17). Overall, most people in both groups suffered from moderate to severe psychological distress (86% of the women vs. 84% of the men).

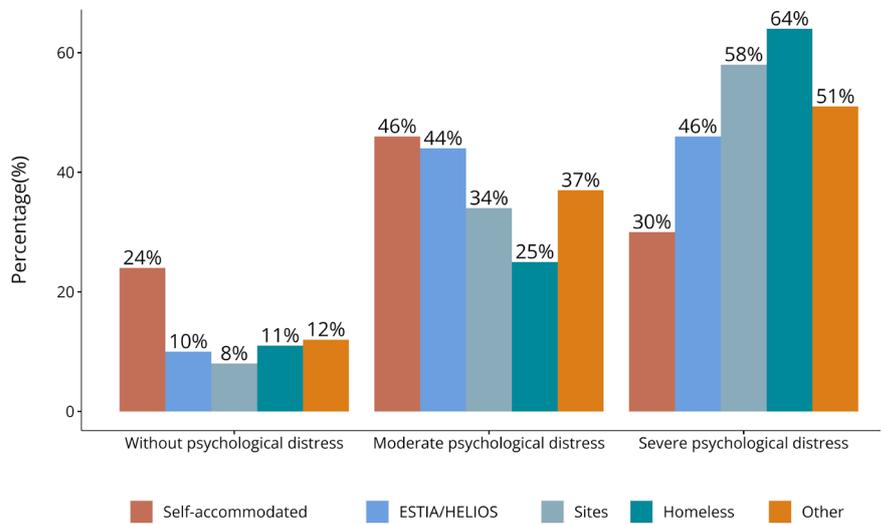
Figure 17: K6 scale and gender, full sample



### Psychological distress and accommodation type

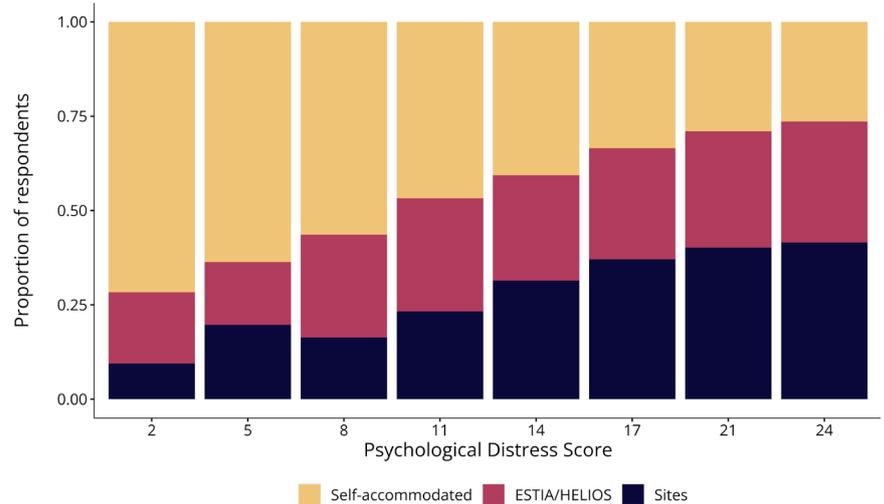
We observe major differences in psychological distress depending on the type of accommodation where people reside: 24% of self-accommodated people did not suffer from psychological distress, compared with much smaller proportions in other accommodation types. Among those who were self-accommodated, 30% suffered from severe psychological distress compared to 46% of those in ESTIA or HELIOS and 58% who lived in sites. Overall, we interpret this to mean that there is an association in our data between the level of psychological distress that participants reported and their accommodation type, with higher levels of psychological distress reported by those living in sites compared with much lower levels of psychological distress reported by those who were self-accommodated.

Figure 18: K6 scale and accommodation type, full sample



The association in figure 18 is further reflected in exploring how respondents in each type of accommodation score on the K6 scale. Figure 19 shows the K6 scale score on the horizontal axis, and for each score, the proportion of study participants in five accommodation types: self-accommodated, ESTIA/HELIOS, sites, homeless and other (when participants answered “other”, it refers to accommodation types not listed; this applies to a limited number of participants).<sup>8</sup> At higher scores of the K6 scale, where psychological distress is worse, the proportion of participants in sites increases while the proportion of those who are self-accommodated is lower.

Figure 19: Proportion of people living in each accommodation type for all K6 psychological distress scores



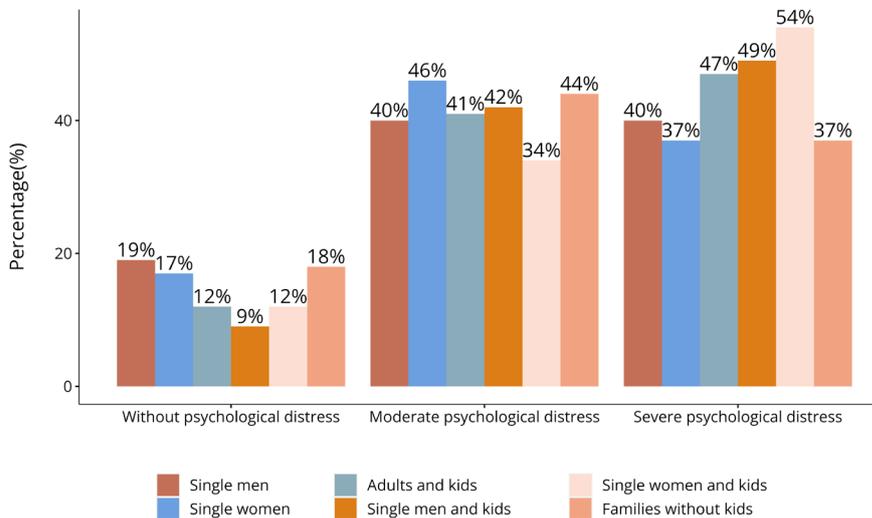
Each question in the K6 items is coded between 0 and 4. We add these items to generate scores between 0 and 24. Based on these scores, the K6 divides respondents into three groups: those without psychological distress (with a score between 0-5), those with moderate psychological distress (with a score between 6-12) or those with severe psychological distress (with a score between 13-24). This allows us to look at psychological distress either by group or by score.

<sup>8</sup> The majority of participants report that they were self-accommodated, supported by ESTIA/HELIOS or lived in a site. A much smaller group reports that they were homeless or had another accommodation type, so these findings should be treated with caution.

### Psychological distress and family type

Among different household types, single mothers are the ones with the highest levels of psychological distress. Overall, having children in the household is associated with higher levels of psychological distress. Although this relationship is not causal, support for refugee and asylum seeker families could be a policy area to explore moving forward.

Figure 20: K6 scale and household structure, full sample



## 6. Onward movement intentions

In this section, we discuss the findings on onward movement intentions.

### Section key findings

A key finding of this research is that about half of our sample (48%) indicated they wanted to stay in Greece<sup>9</sup>. Those who reported higher levels of integration on the IPL Integration Index less frequently reported that they would like to leave Greece in the next 12 months.

To measure onward movement intentions, we ask refugees and asylum seekers about their intentions for the next 12 months to stay in Greece or move outside of the country. They could rate their likelihood of staying in Greece or moving onward from 0 (certain they would stay) to 10 (certain they would leave). For those who reported an onward moving intention greater than 0, they answered a follow-up question about the destination that they would choose and whether they had taken any steps to prepare for onward movement. We code those who chose 0 as having no onward movement intention in the graphs below.

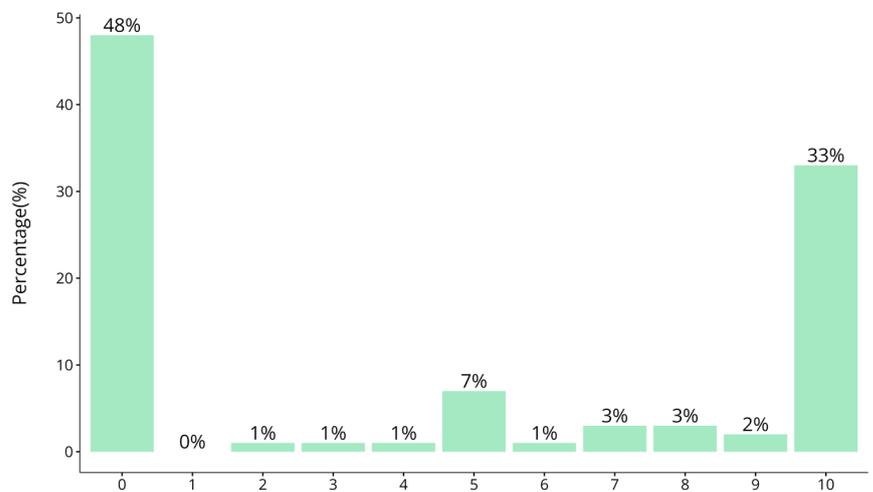
### Onward movement intentions and nationality

Figure 21 shows that 48% of participants had no intention to move onward, 33% were certain they would move onward and 19% indicated a range of uncertainty (we categorize these participants as intending to move onward). We explore whether individuals of different national backgrounds reported different onward movement intentions. We find that certain groups, including Egyptians (78%), Iranians (56%), and Turks (53%), more often reported that they intended to stay in Greece compared with Afghans (43%) and Syrians (37%) (see figure 22).

For those participants who stated that they wanted to move outside of Greece, the main destination of interest was Germany (44%) compared to France, the UK, Canada, and the Netherlands (between 4 and 6% each) (see appendix Table 1). Out of those who wanted to move, about a third of Afghans (32%) and Syrians (37%) would like to go to Germany.

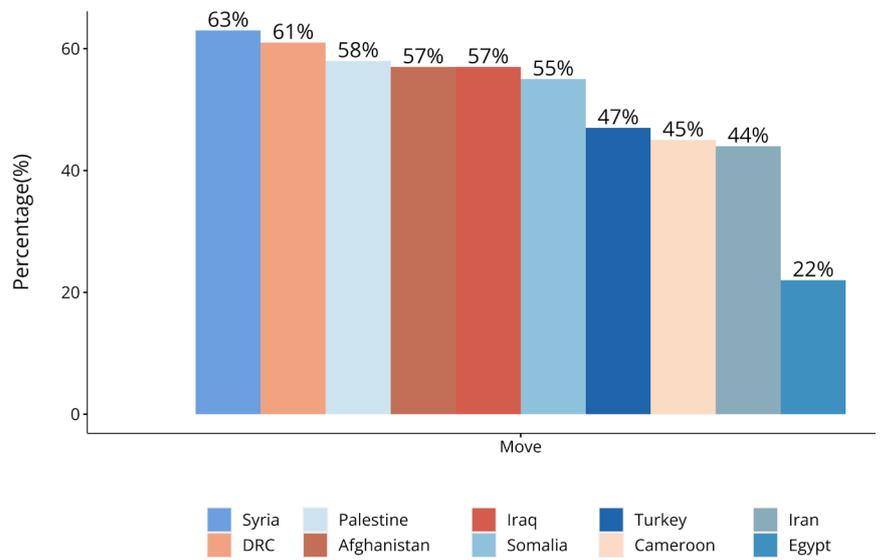
We also asked these respondents whether they had taken any steps to prepare for this journey in the past three months. Only 7% of those who intended to move had taken steps to prepare to move outside of Greece. It is also worth noting that 12% did not know or preferred not to answer this question, which is sensitive in nature.

Figure 21: Onward movement intentions, full sample



<sup>9</sup> The original question reads as follows: 'On a scale of 0 to 10 (where 0 is you want to stay in Greece for sure and 10 is you want to go elsewhere very much), how much would you like to move to another country than Greece in the next 12 months?'

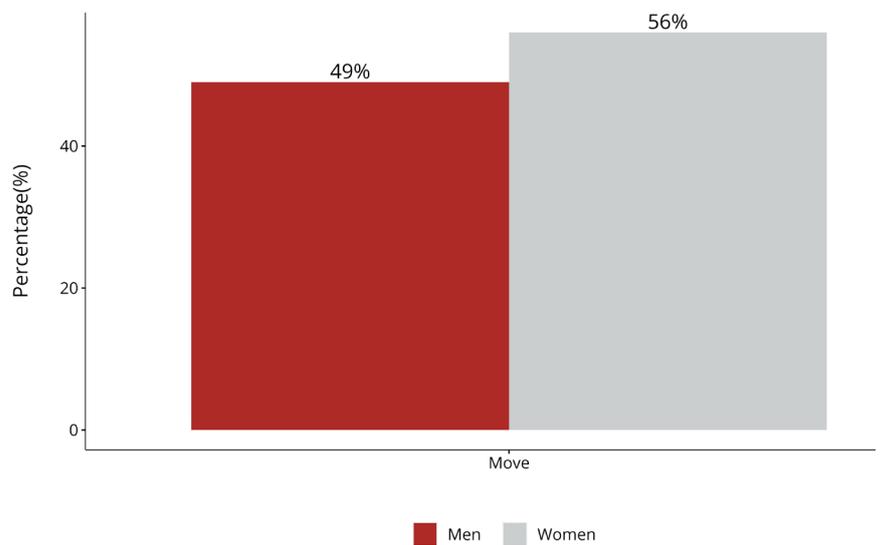
Figure 22: Onward movement intention for the ten largest national groups in the sample



### Onward movement intentions and gender

We also explore whether men and women state different preferences about moving outside Greece. While more women report some onward movement intentions, the differences between men and women are small (see figure 23).

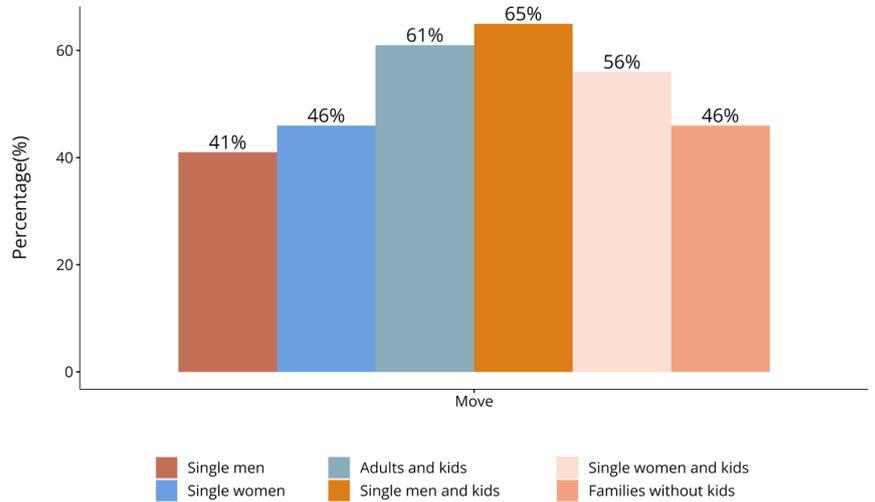
Figure 23: Onward movement intention and gender, full sample



### Onward movement intentions and household type

We also explore whether the household type that a person belongs to is associated with their movement intentions. Figure 24 shows the proportion of participants who reported that they had any intention to move for different types of households. The plot shows that the largest proportions of participants with movement intentions are in households with children (see figure 24).

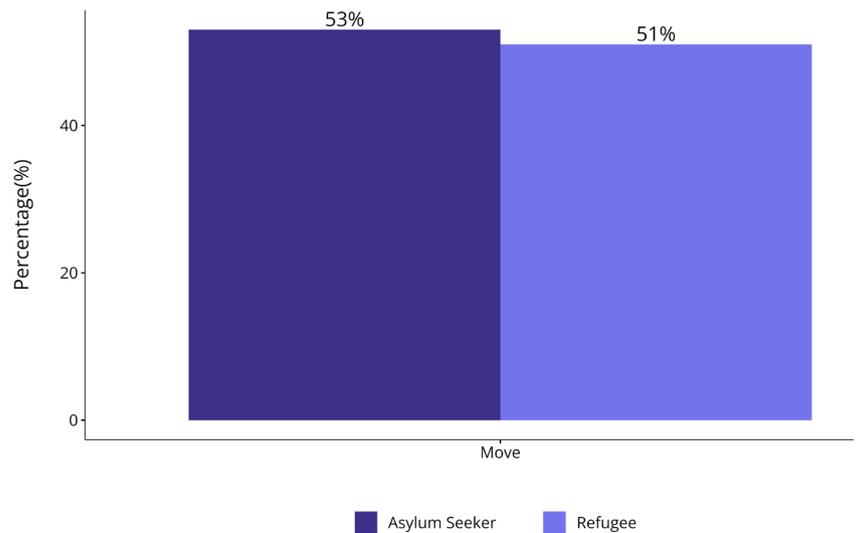
Figure 24: Onward movement intention and household type, full sample



### Onward movement intentions and legal status

We also check whether refugees and asylum seekers report the same onward movement intentions. We find that slightly fewer refugees (51%) intended to move outside of Greece in the next 12 months compared with asylum seekers<sup>10</sup> (53%) (see figure 25).

Figure 25: Onward movement intentions and legal status, full sample

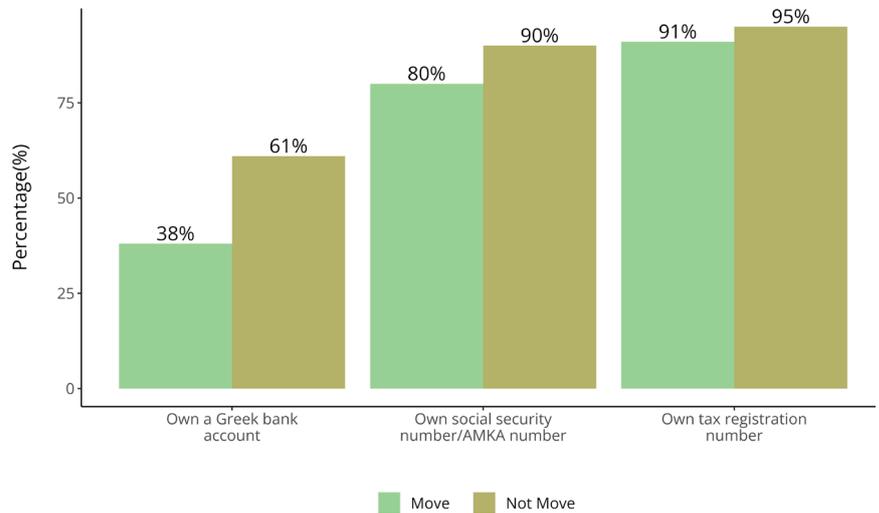


<sup>10</sup> Asylum seekers are not allowed to travel to another country, whereas refugees are allowed to do so once they receive their travel documents. They cannot stay in a European country for more than 90 days within a six-month period. (<https://help.unhcr.org/greece/rights-and-duties/rights-and-duties-of-refugees/>)

### Refugees' onward movement intentions and access to services

What is the relationship between access to services and onward movement intentions? We find that refugees with a social security number, a tax ID number and, more importantly, those who have opened a bank account are more likely to want to stay in Greece than those who do not have access to these services. For example, 61% of refugees who did not intend to move from Greece already had a Greek bank account, compared with 38% of refugees who intended to move on. As discussed previously, this is not necessarily a causal relationship; we only find a correlation between reporting access to the service and onward movement intentions.

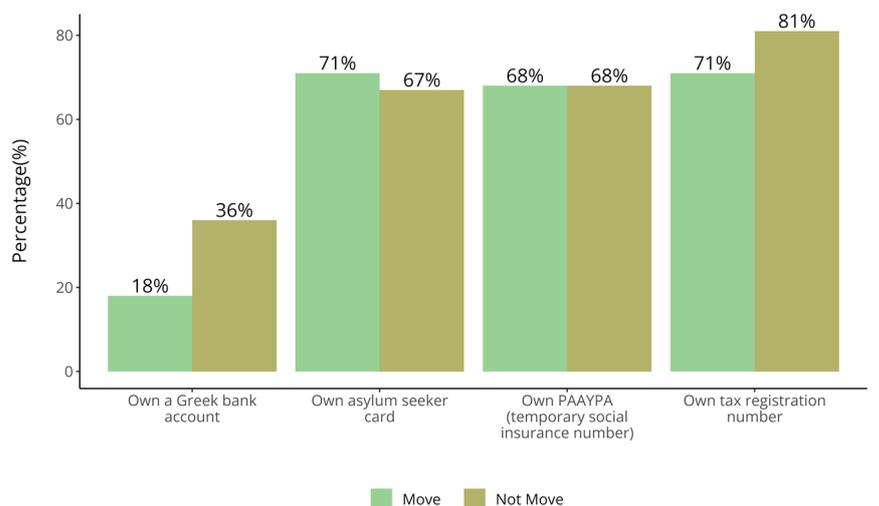
Figure 26: Refugees' onward movement intentions and access to services



### Asylum seekers' onward movement intentions and access to services

We observe the same trend for asylum seekers. Asylum seekers who report having access to services (such as a tax registration number, a social security number and a Greek bank account) more frequently do not intend to leave Greece. For example, 36% of asylum seekers who did not intend to move from Greece already had a Greek bank account, compared with 18% of asylum seekers who intended to move on. Similarly, 81% of asylum seekers who did not intend to move had a tax registration number, whereas only 71% of asylum seekers who intended to move on reported that they had one.

Figure 27: Asylum seekers' onward movement intentions and access to services



### Onward movement intention and accommodation in Greece

We explore whether people in different types of accommodation in Greece have different onward movement intentions. We find that the majority (65%) of the people who reported that they did not want to move lived in a self-accommodated flat. The largest group of those who did want to move onward lived in sites or in HELIOS (70%) for refugees, and in sites (69%) or in ESTIA (61%) for asylum seekers.

Figure 28: Asylum seekers' onward movement and accommodation in Greece

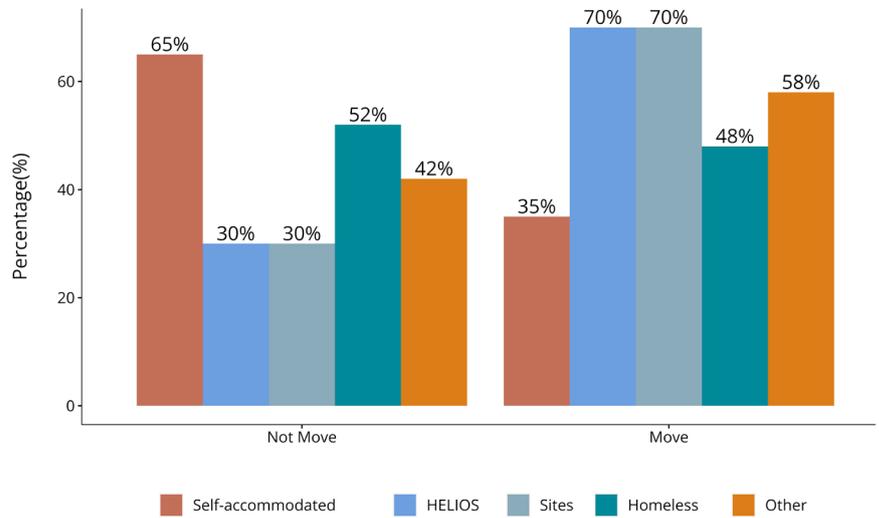
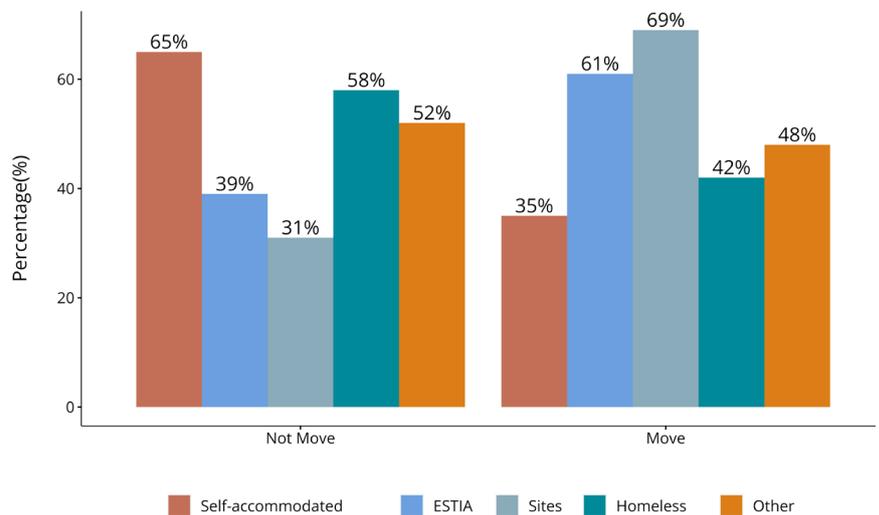


Figure 29: Asylum seekers' onward movement and accommodation in Greece



## 7. Exploitation and violence

### Section key findings

We find high levels of exploitation and violence since arriving in Greece. Over a quarter of respondents reported that they were made to sign a document without understanding and 22% reported having been detained against their will. Of those who experienced a situation of exploitation and violence since arriving in Greece, more than half (56%) never talk about it with people they know, and 44% did not know where to seek help, suggesting areas for humanitarian and development programming.

The survey covered experiences with situations of exploitation and violence since participants arrived in Greece. Questions included whether they experienced serious violence (such as assault or sexual assault), whether they were detained against their will, or forced to work by someone. We expect these self-reported measures about assault and sexual assault to be a lower bound as such topics are very sensitive and stigmatizing. As described in the Research Design, we worked with enumerators to understand and field these questions in a protection-sensitive way to minimize the impact on the research participants and to achieve the highest quality data possible.

### Overview of exploitation and violence

Since arriving in Greece, we find that over a quarter of respondents reported that they were made to sign a document without understanding it, 22% were detained against their will, 10% were assaulted, or sexually assaulted and 6% were forced to work by someone.<sup>11</sup>

The most common situations of exploitation and violence since arriving in Greece that participants reported are that they had been made to sign documents without fully understanding them and that they had been detained against their will<sup>12</sup>. We also see that 10% of the women and 9% of the men reported having been assaulted or sexually assaulted since they arrived in Greece. We do not observe differences in the frequency that refugees and asylum seekers reported situations of exploitation and violence.

Figure 30: Exploitation and violence since arrival in Greece, full sample

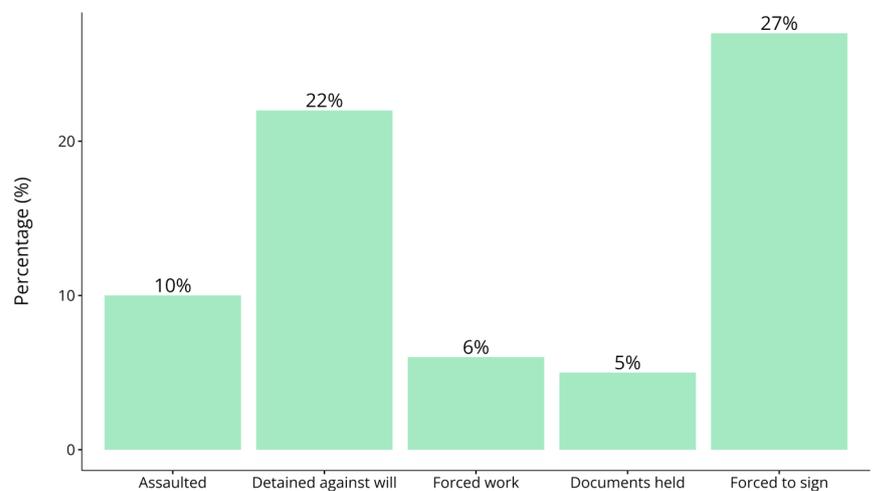
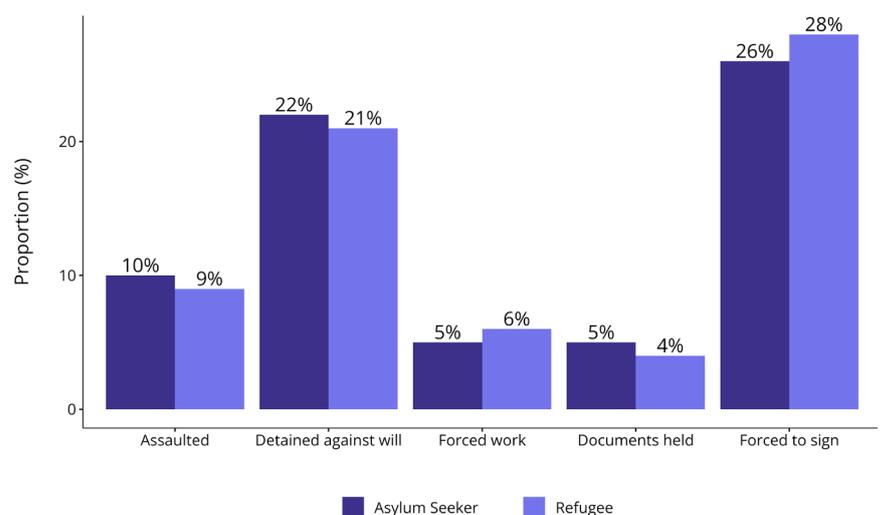


Figure 31: Exploitation and violence since arrival in Greece by refugee status, full sample



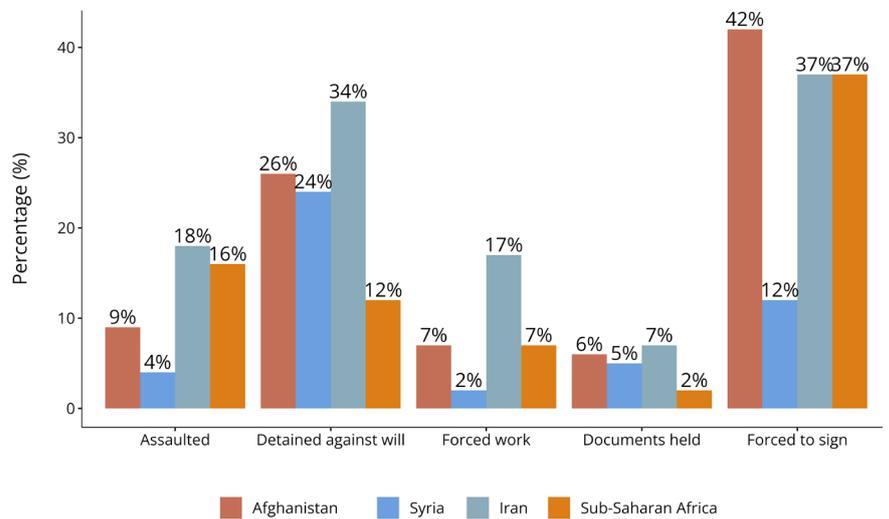
<sup>11</sup> In asking about exploitation and violence enumerators were trained to ask about situations outside the normal procedures that asylum seekers have when they arrive in Greece, such as administrative detention/restriction of movement.

<sup>12</sup> Made to sign a document' refers to signing documents that people did not or could not understand. The original question is 'Since you arrived in Greece, were you ever made to sign a document without fully understanding what it means for instance, a work contract or a contract for your housing or any official document?' 'Detained' does not refer to administrative detention/restriction of liberty or restriction of movement during the time when sites were closed because of COVID-19 or other reasons. The original question is: 'Since you arrived in Greece were you detained against your will?'

### Exploitation and violence and nationality

Among the largest refugee nationalities in the sample, Iranians reported the highest levels of assault, forced work and detention since they arrived in Greece (see figure 32). Participants from Afghanistan most frequently reported that they had been forced to sign a document without understanding it (see figure 32). When we look at the top ten nationalities (irrespective of legal status), we find that Iranians and Sierra Leoneans (both with 17%), followed by people from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (10%) most frequently reported exploitation. Participants from these nationalities reported very high rates of exploitation. One in three Iranians, Sierra Leoneans and Moroccans reported having been detained against their will. More than one out of five Moroccans, Congolese (DRC) and Cameroonians reported having been assaulted or sexually assaulted. About 10% of Moroccans, Egyptians and Iraqis had documents (for example, passport or driver’s license) taken in the past three months (this does not include when documents are held by the Asylum Service as provided for in the law).

Figure 32: Exploitation and violence since arrival in Greece top three refugee nationalities within the sample and Sub-Saharan Africans



### Talking about situations of exploitation and violence

Given the high levels of exploitation and violence, the survey also explores whether participants talk about these situations and whether they know where to seek help. More than half (56%) never talked about situations of exploitation (as described above) with people they know. These behaviors do not change by gender or legal status. Among Afghans, Iranians, Syrians and Iraqis, Syrians are the ones who talk the most about these situations. About 63% of Afghans, Iranians and Iraqis never talk about situations of exploitation and violence, compared with 54% of Syrians. 12% of Syrians talk about situations of exploitation and violence almost every day, compared with only 1 to 2% of Afghans and Iranians. Overall, we find that a large proportion (44%) of people either did not know or would not know where to get help in situations of exploitation and violence.

## 8. Economic integration

In this section, we explore in detail what the research shows about economic status of refugees and asylum seekers in Greece. We look at what participants reported about their current employment situation, how this varies by gender, legal status, accommodation type, length of time in Greece and nationality. We also dive into questions about experiences of discrimination and negative coping mechanisms<sup>13</sup>.

### Section key findings

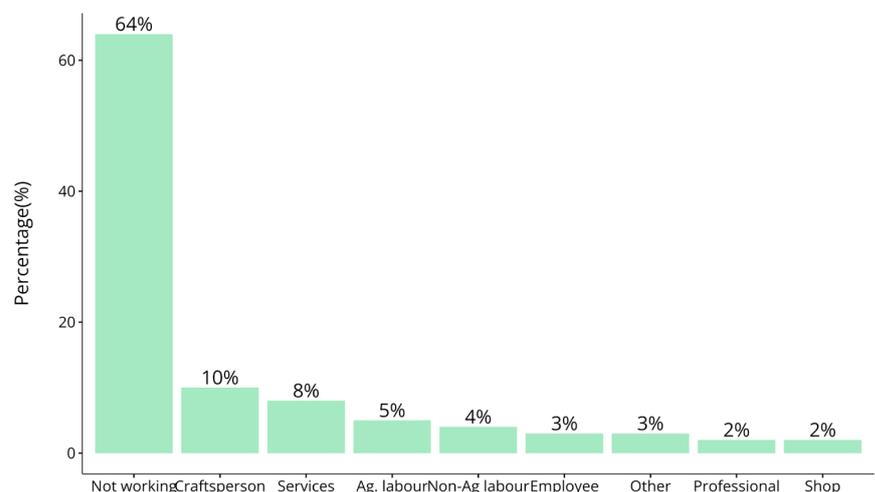
Two-thirds of refugees and asylum seekers were not working in the four weeks prior to the data collection for the research and a lot more women than men reported that they did not work in the same period. We do not observe that being a refugee or an asylum seeker is associated with differences in the rate of reported employment. The research finds that for those who work either with or without contracts, wages are much less than the Greek national minimum wage, and the number of hours worked per week is higher than a standard contract, leaving this population vulnerable to exploitation. A very substantial number of research participants reported negative coping mechanisms; approximately three out of four research participants reported that they had skipped meals or limited their food intake in the past four weeks because of financial constraints.

### Refugees and asylum seekers working in Greece

Two-thirds of refugees and asylum seekers were not working in the four weeks prior to the data collection. Out of those who reported working either with or without contracts, most worked as a craftsperson, in service or in agriculture. Data collection took place between May and July 2022, which is the high season for both tourism and agriculture. These figures should thus be considered as a *higher* bound and might have been lower had we conducted data collection in the low season.

Of those who reported that they had not worked in the past four weeks, half of them stated that they were looking for work (see figure 34), 24% that they were not looking for a job, 11% that they were doing unpaid work and 9% that they were sick or disabled. The high proportion of respondents who reported that they had not worked in the past four weeks raises questions about how refugees and asylum seekers cope, and we explore the use of coping mechanisms later on in this section.

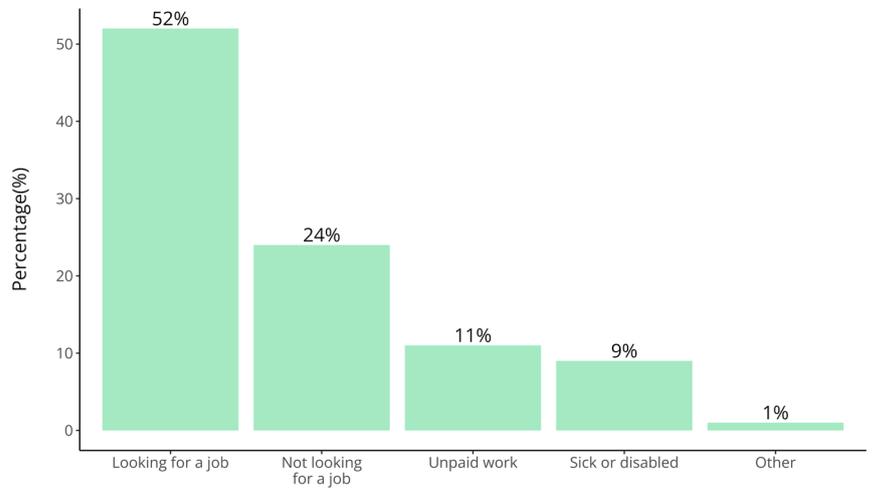
Figure 33: Working in the past four weeks in Greece, full sample



<sup>13</sup> We included three coping mechanisms that were potentially used by the household in the past four weeks "to meet basic needs": 1) "You or an adult member of the household having to eat less food"; 2) "Children in the household have to work" (for households with children); 3) "A woman or girl in the household have to get married".

### Not working in Greece

Figure 34: Disaggregation for those not working in the past four weeks

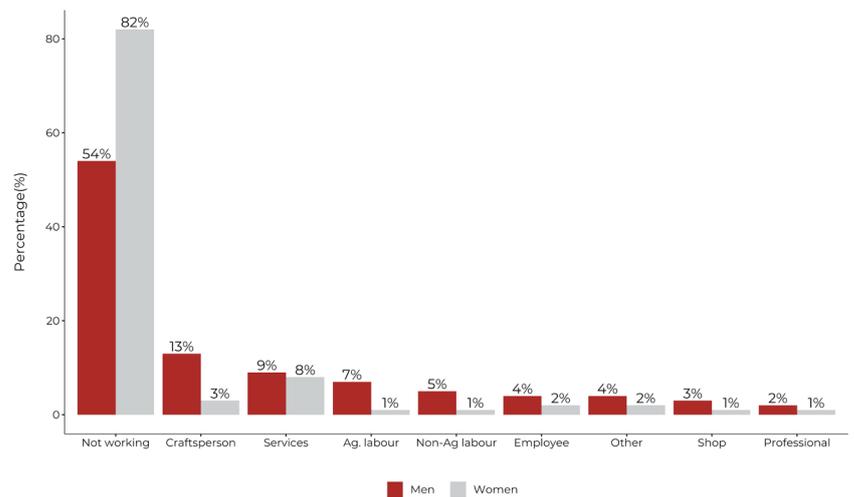


### Working and gender

The research finds sizable variation in participants who reported working and gender. Most women (82%) and half of the men had not worked in the past four weeks prior to the interview (see figure 35). The sizable gap between women’s and men’s work in the previous four weeks is not surprising, but it nevertheless signals an important gap that could be addressed via policies which seek to improve women’s economic integration.

In our sample, most men (80%) were in the labor force (i.e., either working or looking for a job), whereas only half of the women (51%) were in the labor force. The other half of women (49%) were not looking for a job and were instead engaged in other activities, including unpaid care work. The sample’s labor force participation rate is 70%, regardless of legal status.

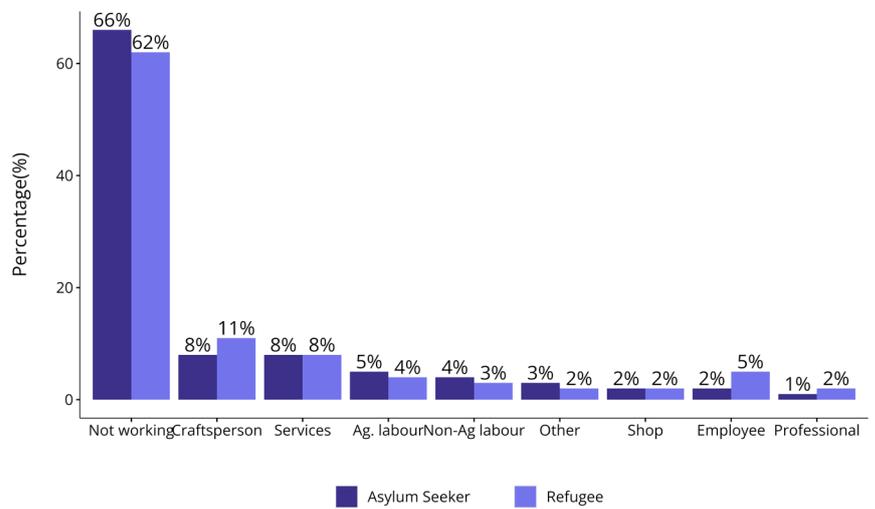
Figure 35: Working in the past four weeks in Greece and gender, full sample



### Working and legal status

We do not observe that differences in legal status (between refugees and asylum seekers) are associated with large differences in the rate of reported employment (see figure 36). As mentioned above, only about a third of asylum seekers and refugees reported working in the past four weeks. There are no major differences in the types of work reported by refugees and asylum seekers: the types of work reported most frequently by refugees include craftsperson (e.g. carpentry, tiling, tailoring, weaving), services, and salaried employees.

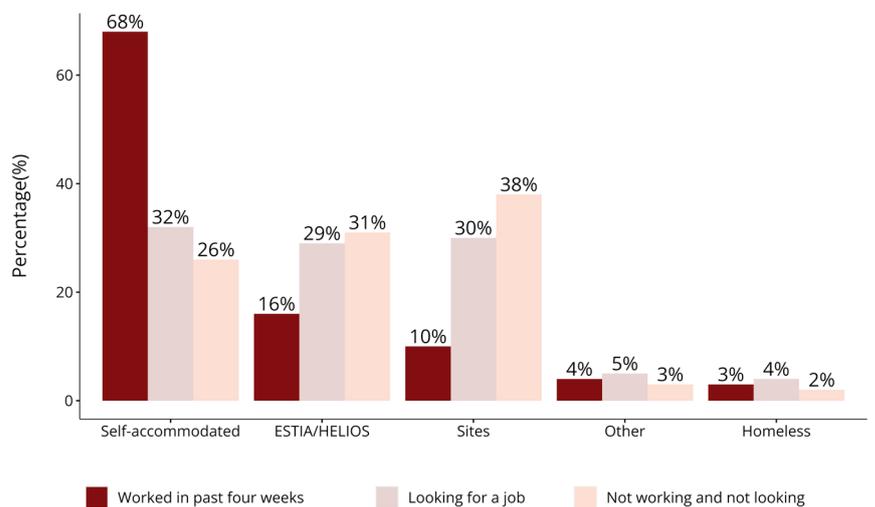
Figure 36: Working and legal status, full sample



### Working and accommodation type

In addition to gender and legal status, another factor that is associated with variation in employment is refugee and asylum seeker accommodation. The data show that most of those who reported working in the past four weeks lived in a flat that they rented or where they were hosted by someone; 68% of people who reported working in the past four weeks were self-accommodated. Few people who reported working stated that they accessed their accommodation via the HELIOS program or the ESTIA scheme. Only 16% and 10% of those who worked in the past four weeks reported that they lived in an accommodation program or site, respectively (see figure 37). As discussed previously, this is not a causal relationship, but there is an association between living in independent accommodation and reporting active participation in the labor market.<sup>14</sup>

Figure 37: Working in the past four weeks and accommodation type, full sample

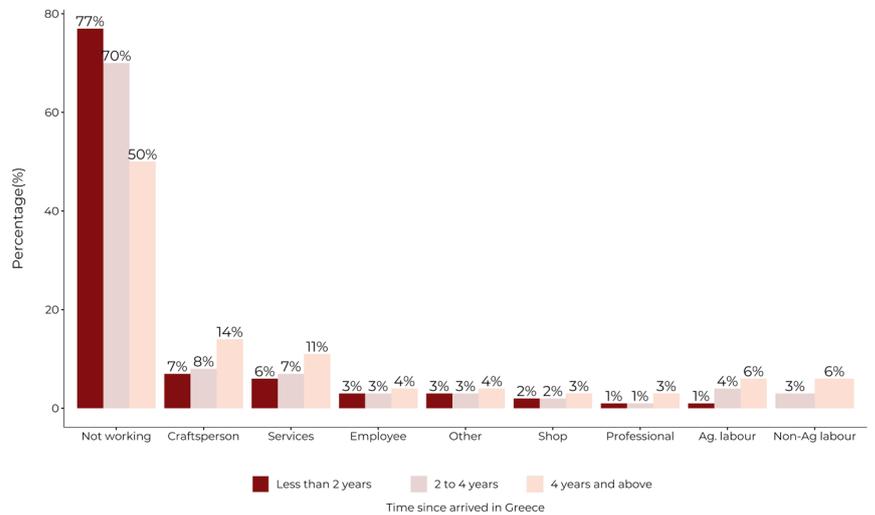


<sup>14</sup> It is also worth noting that eligibility for accommodation for asylum-seekers is also dependent on need and that working might reduce eligibility; at the same time the very low wages reported by participants in the survey suggest that even those who are working are not receiving minimum wages and might still be eligible for accommodation.

### Working and time since arrival in Greece

Perhaps unsurprisingly, people who have spent more time in Greece more frequently reported being in paid employment. Among those who arrived less than two years ago in Greece (from June 2020), only 23% were working (see figure 38). This proportion increases with time to 30% of those who arrived 2 to 4 years ago in Greece reporting working in the past four weeks and 50% of those who have been in Greece for 4 years or more reporting that they were working.

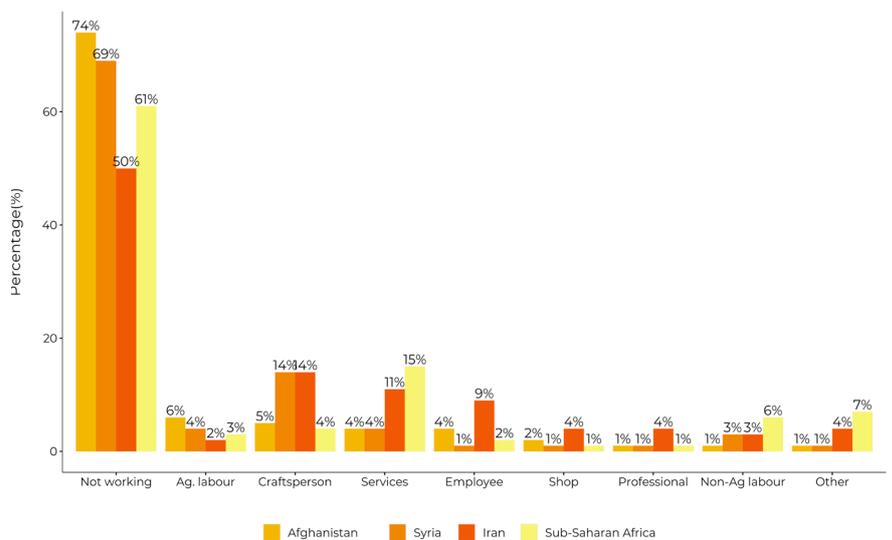
Figure 38: Working in the past four weeks and time since arrival in Greece, full sample



### Working and national group

Nationality is also associated with variation in working in the past four weeks. Only about a quarter (26%) of the Afghans stated that they had been working in the four weeks prior to the interview, followed by 31% of the Syrians and 38% of the Sub-Saharan Africans (see figure 39). Iranians reported working at higher rates, with half of them saying they had worked in the past four weeks.

Figure 39: Employment for top three refugee nationalities within the sample and Sub-Saharan Africans



### Wages and exploitation

An additional challenge facing refugees and asylum seekers in Greece is not only finding work, but also finding work with safe and dignified conditions. Of those who did report working, only 41% of men and 45% of women had formal contracts (see figure 40). More refugees than asylum seekers reported that they had an employment contract (see figure 40). Out of all those interviewed (regardless of whether they report working or not), only 15% had a job with a formal contract. To some extent this is unsurprising given the high levels of informal work in the Greek labor market<sup>15,16,17</sup>.

For those who worked in the four weeks prior to the interview, women, refugees and Iranians were more likely to have a contract than men, asylum seekers and other nationalities respectively.

Among the third (36%) of our sample who reported working, 41% worked 40 to 59 hours a week (see appendix Table 1). This is somewhat in line with working hours reported by Greek nationals where about half of the employed (49.5%) declared that they worked for 40-47 hours a week, and about a fifth (19.3%) declared that they worked for 48 or more hours a week<sup>18</sup>. However, it is important to note that amongst the participants in the research who work, one out of five (22%) reported working 60 hours or more.

Men, refugees and Iranians had slightly higher wages than women, asylum seekers and other nationalities, respectively. On average, participants in the research reported that they earned 150 euros per week, *regardless of the number of hours* they put in. The average monthly wage of about 600 Euros for our sample is lower than the 713 euros Greek minimum monthly wage.

Figure 40: Working with formal contracts among those who worked

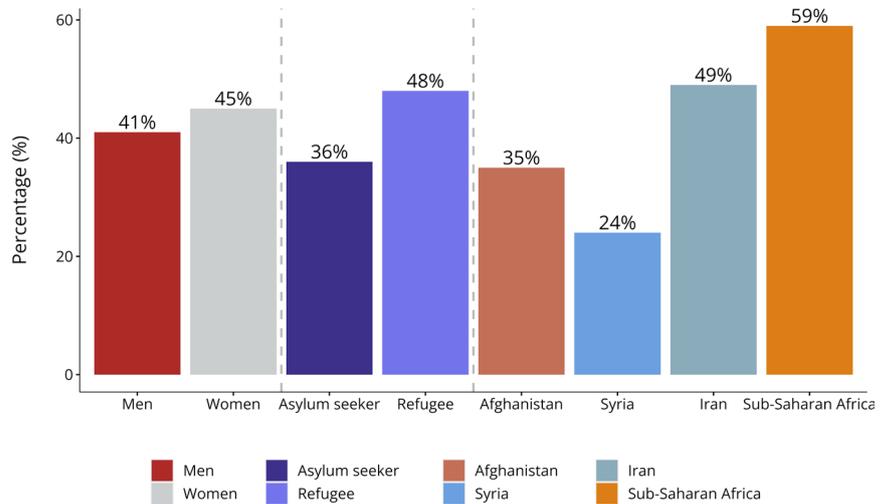
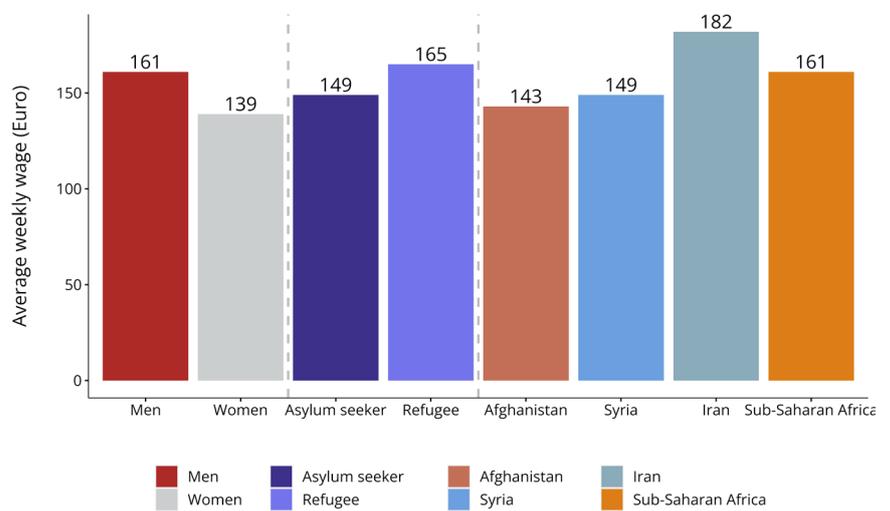


Figure 41: Average weekly wages for those who worked



<sup>15</sup> Diagnostic report on undeclared work in Greece / International Labor Office, Employment Department, Informal Economy Unit. - Geneva: ILO, 2016

<sup>16</sup> European Platform Undeclared Work, Factsheet Greece, 2017

<sup>17</sup> The world factbook, CIA, Greece, 2022

<sup>18</sup> Labor market information: Greece, European Commission, Q4 2021

**Discrimination**

In addition to asking questions about refugees and asylum seekers’ economic integration and their experience in the labor market, we also asked participants whether they experienced discrimination and, if they were experiencing economic hardship, whether they had to use negative coping mechanisms.

Both men and women reported discrimination. When analyzing the data of the top refugee nationalities in the sample and participants from Sub-Saharan Africa, participants from Syria and Afghanistan reported instances of discrimination less frequently in comparison to Iranians or respondents from Sub-Saharan Africa.

Figure 42: Discrimination in the past four weeks and gender, full sample

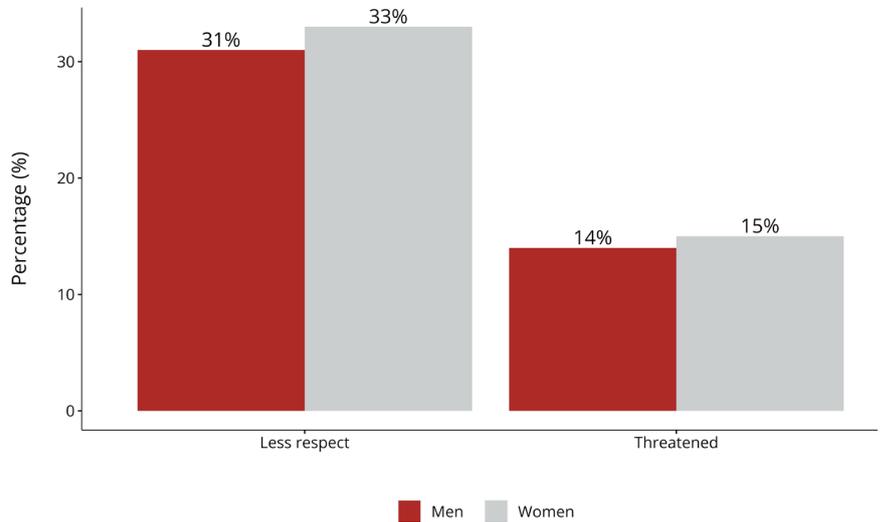
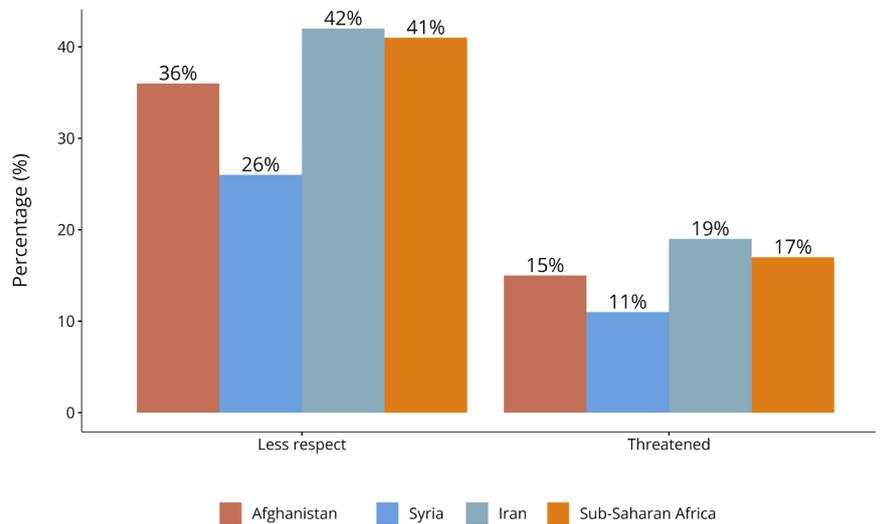


Figure 43: Discrimination in the past four weeks and top three refugee nationalities within the sample and Sub-Saharan Africans



### Coping mechanisms

In addition to asking about discrimination, the research also included information about coping mechanisms, with a focus on three behaviors: skipping meals (in the past four weeks), a child having to enter the labor force (for households with children), a female household member (not necessarily the respondent, but at least one female household member) having to get married. Participants could select as many coping mechanisms as applicable to them. Overall, 64% of men and 73% of women reported at least one coping mechanism in the last four weeks.

Figure 44: Coping mechanisms, full sample

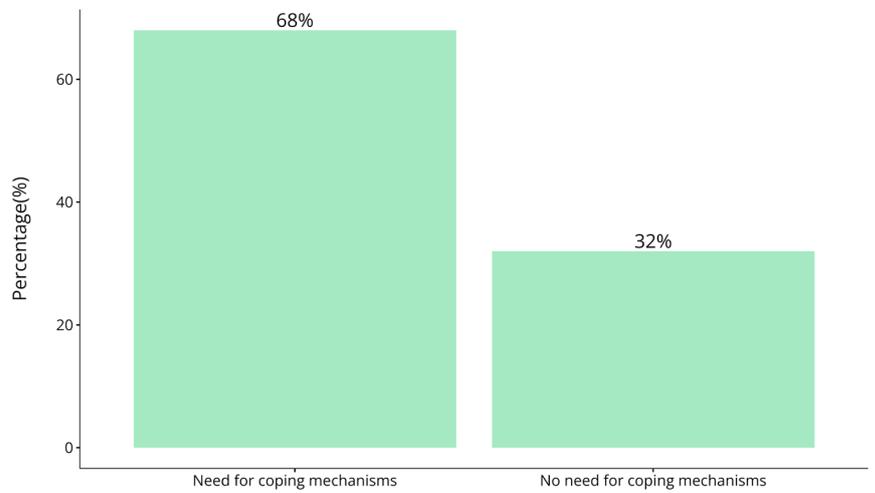
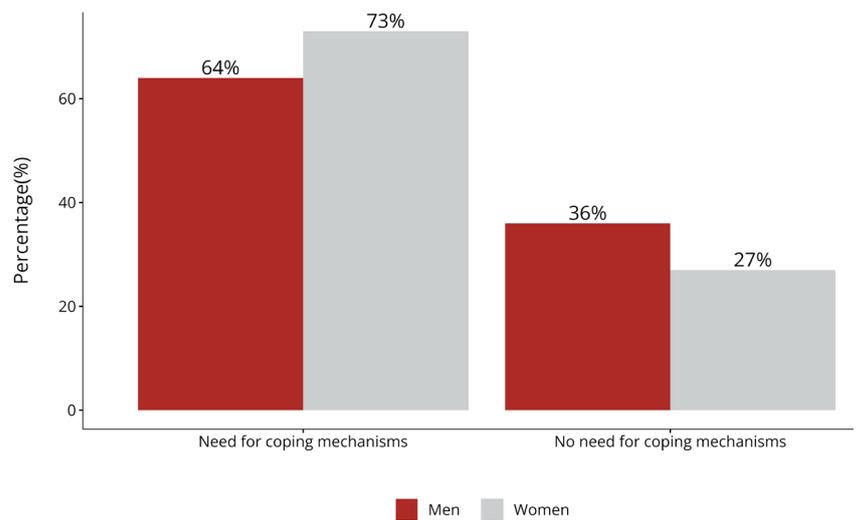
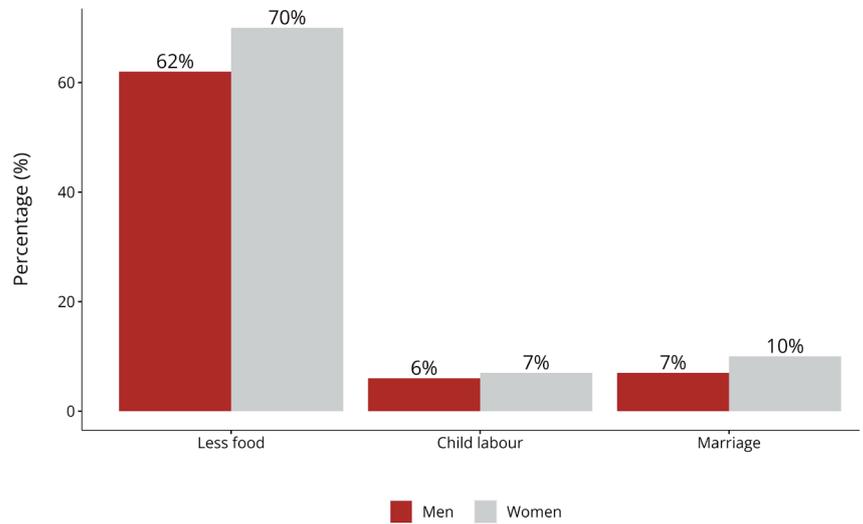


Figure 45: Coping mechanisms and gender, full sample



We find high rates of food insecurity, with participants reporting that they had to skip meals in the past four weeks (see figure 46). Women more frequently reported coping mechanisms compared to men. 70% of women reported skipping meals (compared with 62% of men). 7% of women reported that a child in their household had to work in the past four weeks, compared with 6% of men.

Figure 46: Coping mechanism type and gender, full sample (including households with children and female household members)



When we look at the top three refugee nationalities in the sample and sub-Saharan Africans, we find that Afghan participants more frequently reported negative coping mechanisms compared with other national groups (see figure 47). We do not find that the length of time spent in Greece is clearly associated with fewer coping mechanisms (see figure 49).

Figure 47: Coping mechanisms for the top three refugee nationalities within the sample and Sub-Saharan Africans

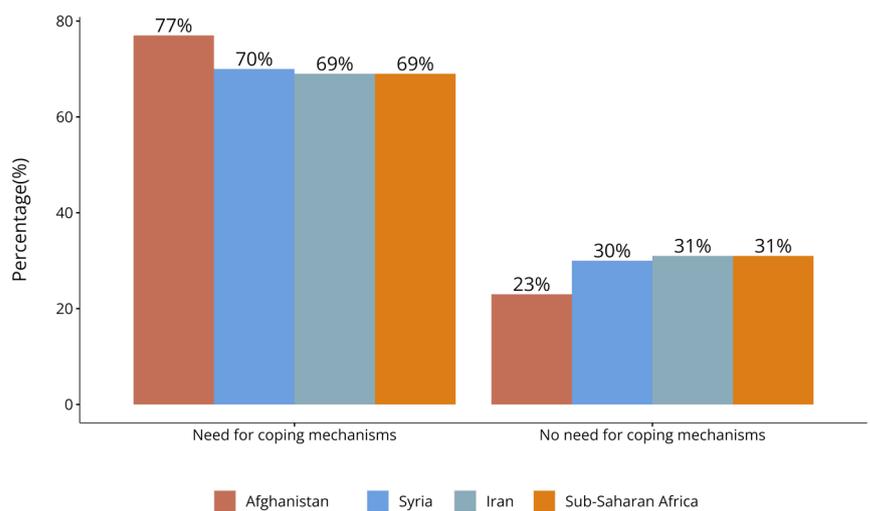


Figure 48: Coping mechanism type for the top three refugee nationalities within the sample and Sub-Saharan Africans (including households with children and female household members)

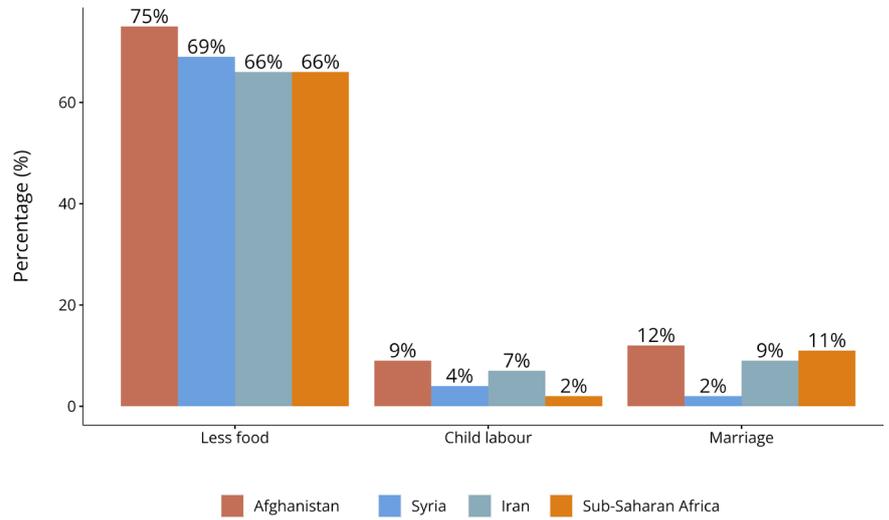
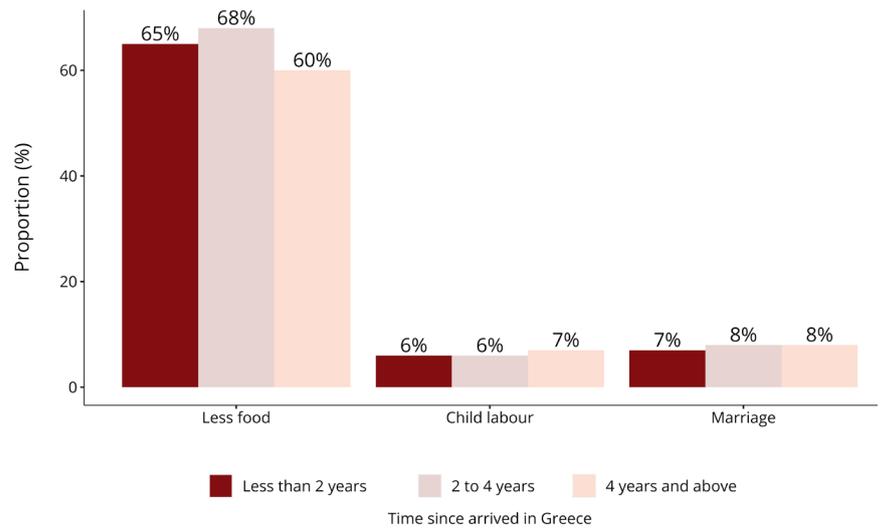


Figure 49: Coping mechanism type and time since arrival in Greece, full sample (including households with children and female household members)



## 9. Multi-dimensional integration

In this section, we study in more details the integration of refugees and asylum seekers in Greece. We explore what participants reported about their ability to engage in activities that allow them to build a successful, fulfilling life in Greece.

### Section key findings

Using the multi-faceted IPL measure of integration, the research finds that the two dimensions of integration where people had the highest scores are attachment to Greece and the economic dimension. Participants reported the lowest levels of integration on the linguistic dimension. We also show that integration increases with time and that respondents from Egypt, Turkey and Iran have the highest integration scores. The research finds that integration does not change much with legal status. Overall, refugees have only slightly higher levels of integration on all five dimensions captured in this research and women are slightly less integrated than men, with gender differences driven by differences in economic integration.

The data also suggest that there is an association between psychological distress and the degree to which refugees and asylum seekers are integrated in Greece. Higher levels of integration are associated with lower levels of psychological distress. We also explore whether the type of accommodation where study participants lived is associated with their level of integration: We find that respondents in sites reported much lower levels of integration compared with those who were self-accommodated.

### The IPL Integration Index and its advantages

In this section, we want to look at the levels of integration of our population and how they vary across different groups. We first focus on multiple dimensions of integration, including attachment to Greece and navigational, social and linguistic integration.

We use the Immigration Policy Lab (IPL) Integration Index (Harder et al., 2018), which has been widely adopted in the study of migration and forced displacement, including in countries such as Switzerland, Austria and Brazil. The index is a pragmatic, survey-based measure of immigrant (forced and non-forced) integration. It defines integration as the degree to which immigrants and the forcibly displaced have the knowledge and capacity to build a successful, fulfilling life in the host society. Under this definition, the index puts emphasis on knowledge and capacity. Knowledge covers aspects such as fluency in the national language and being able to navigate the labor market, political system, and social institutions of the host country. In addition, capacity focuses on people's economic, social, and mental resources that they can invest in their futures. This definition does not focus on assimilation, which requires people to let go of part of their home country's culture and embrace some of the cultural behaviors prevalent in the host country. The end result is a concise yet comprehensive scale covering five components of integration: attachment, economic, social, linguistic, and navigational<sup>19</sup>.

The attachment dimension includes questions about how often respondents feel like outsiders in Greece and how connected to the country they are. The economic dimension asks about their labor market status. The social dimension asks how often they share a meal or have a conversation with Greek people.

#### IPL Integration Index

The following questions are used to construct the IPL index, a multi-dimensional measure of integration used in this study.

##### Attachment dimension:

- Between 1 and 5 how connected do you feel with Greece?
- How often do you feel like an outsider in Greece?

##### Navigational dimension:

- In Greece, how difficult or easy would it be for you to see a doctor?
- In Greece, how difficult or easy would it be for you to search for a job outside your community?

##### Economic dimension:

- Have you been working in Greece in the past four weeks?
- Which of these descriptions best applies to what you have been doing for the last four weeks?<sup>20</sup>

##### Social dimension:

- In the past 12 months how often did you eat your meals with Greek people who are not part of your family?
- Please think about Greek people in your contacts. With how many of them did you have a conversation in the past four weeks?

##### Linguistic dimension:

- How well can you read a simple news article in Greek?
- How well can you speak about familiar topics and express personal opinions in Greek?

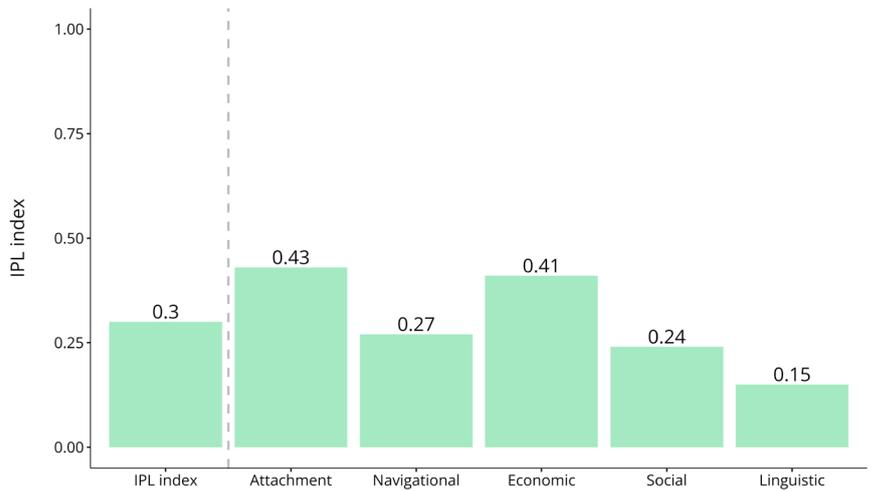
<sup>19</sup> Other versions of the index include a political integration dimension, which we did not use in this study because the pilot study showed that it was less applicable in this context.

<sup>20</sup> This question is asked to participants who had not worked in order to identify whether they are in the labor market (seeking work) or whether they were engaged in other activities (e.g. including providing care to dependents). The eight options for those who had not worked include: Looking for a job, Unemployed and not actively looking for a job, Permanently sick or disabled, Doing unpaid housework looking after children or other persons, Retired, In community service, Cannot work legally, Other.

**Overall findings from the IPL  
Integration Index**

Overall, respondents have the highest scores on two dimensions of integration: attachment to Greece and the economic dimension, which is discussed further in the next section. The dimensions with the lowest scores are the social (interactions with the host community) and linguistic dimensions.

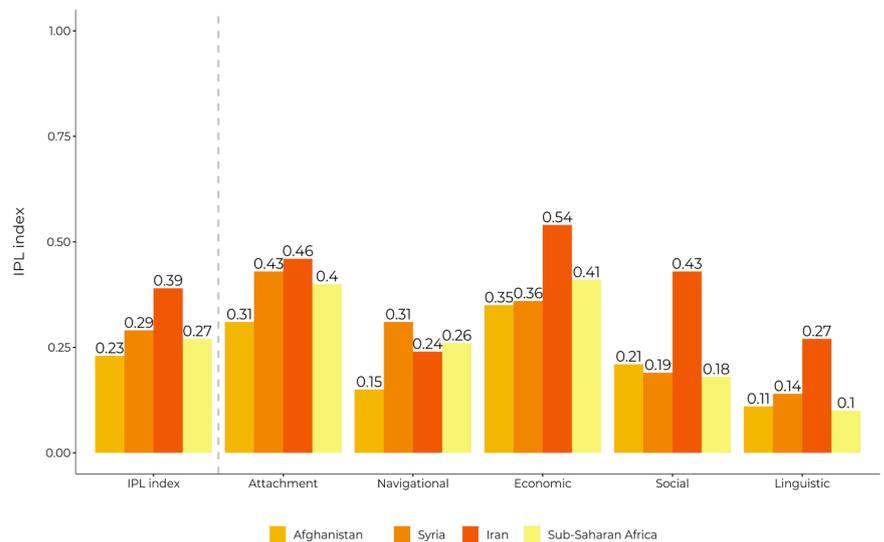
Figure 50: Average IPL Integration Index scores, full sample



**Integration across different nationality groups**

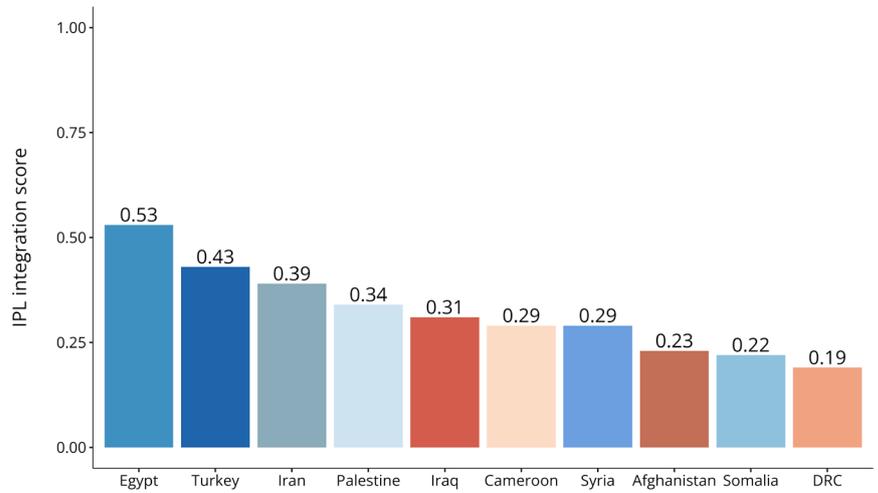
Looking at the different components of the integration index for national groups with the largest refugee populations as well as Sub-Saharan Africans, Iranians have the highest score of integration (0.39). They are followed by Syrians (0.29), Sub-Saharan Africans (0.27) and Afghans (0.23). Iranians score the highest on the attachment, economic, social and linguistic dimensions whereas Syrians do better on the navigational dimension. The linguistic dimension is the highest for Iranians and the lowest for Sub-Saharan Africans, Afghans and Syrians.

Figure 51: Average IPL Integration Index for top three refugee nationalities within the sample



We also explore the integration index for the ten largest nationality groups included in the study. When we explore how measures of integration vary by national subgroups, we find that respondents from Egypt, Turkey and Iran have the highest integration scores, followed by Palestine, Iraq, Cameroon, Syria, Afghanistan, Somalia and DRC.

Figure 52: Average IPL Integration Index for the ten largest nationality groups



We also explore how different national groups score on the different sub-components of the IPL Integration Index. Figure 53 shows the economic integration score for the ten largest nationality groups in the study.

Figure 53: IPL index economic integration score for the ten largest nationality groups

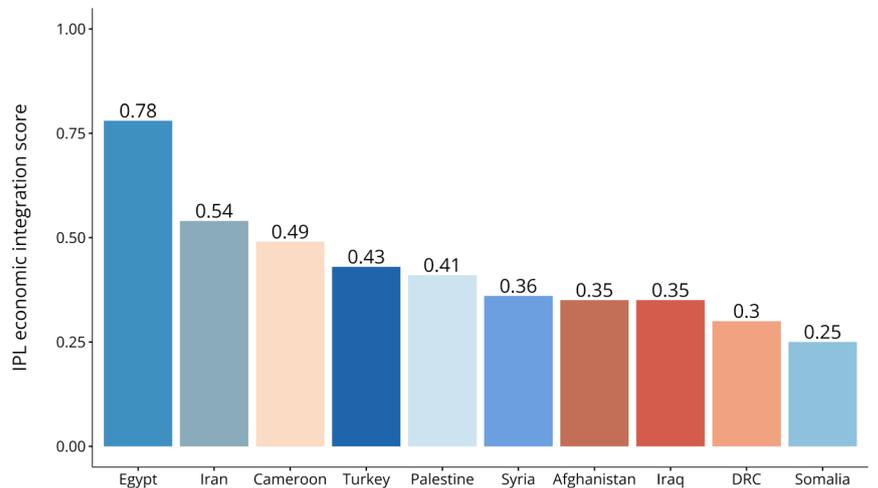


Figure 54: IPL index linguistic integration score for the ten largest nationality groups

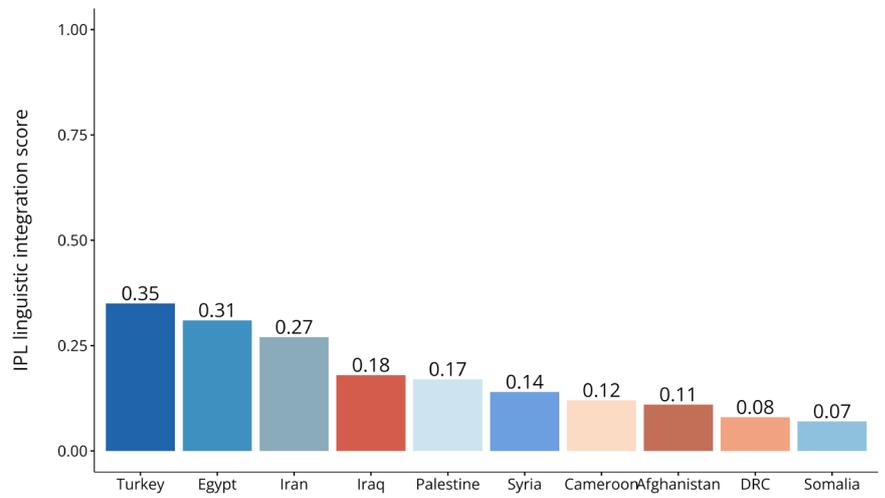


Figure 55: IPL index navigational integration score for the ten largest nationality groups

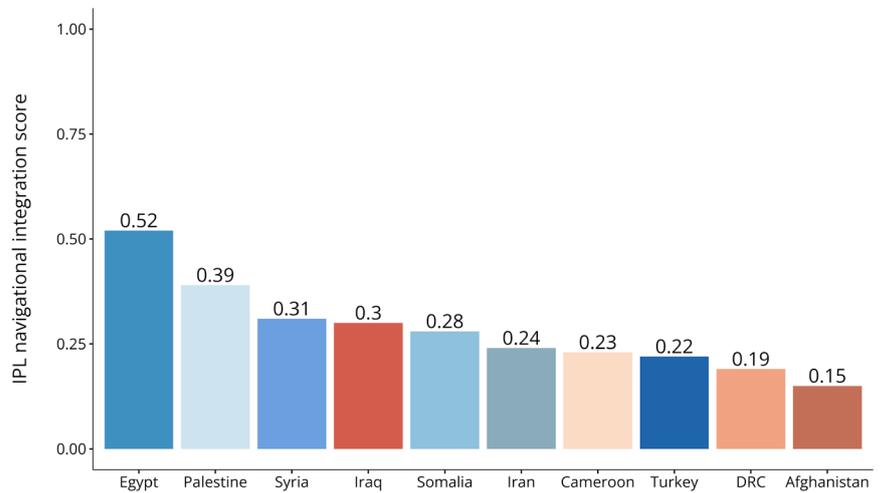


Figure 56: IPL index attachment integration score for the ten largest nationality groups

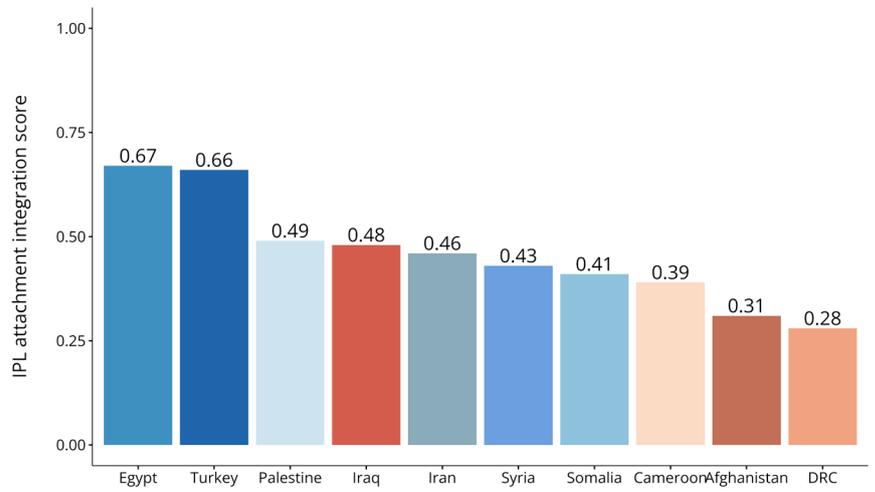
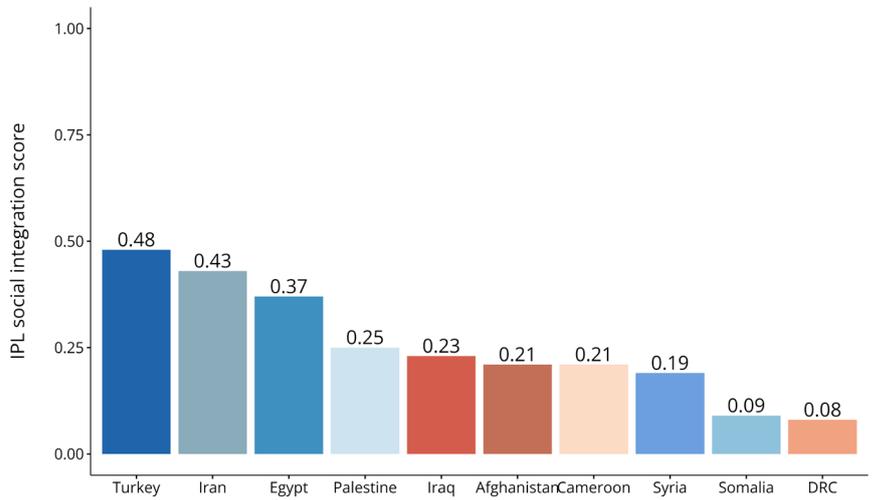


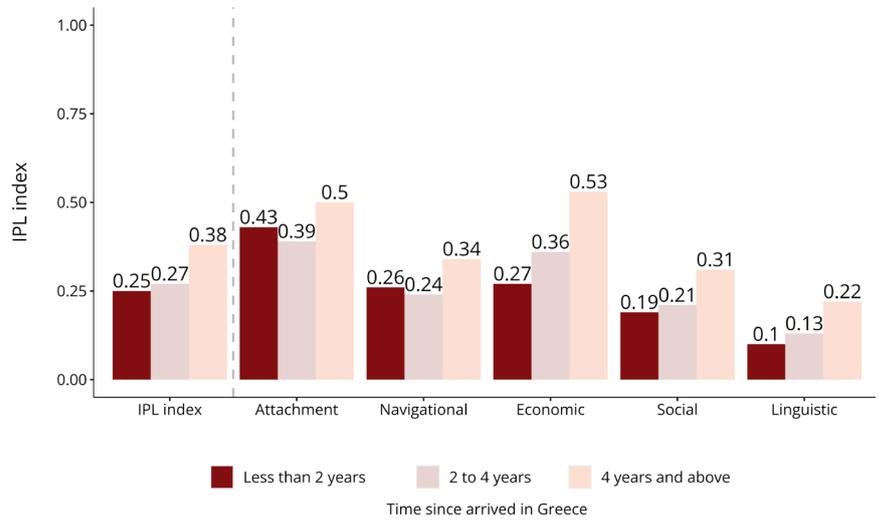
Figure 57: IPL index social integration score for the ten largest nationality groups



### IPL Integration Index and time since arrival in Greece

The study also finds that the multi-dimensional measure of integration (shown in figure 58, the first bar on the left) improves with time spent in Greece. The longer study participants have been in Greece, the more integrated they are. Overall, the dimension with the lowest score is linguistic integration and that with the highest score is attachment to Greece.

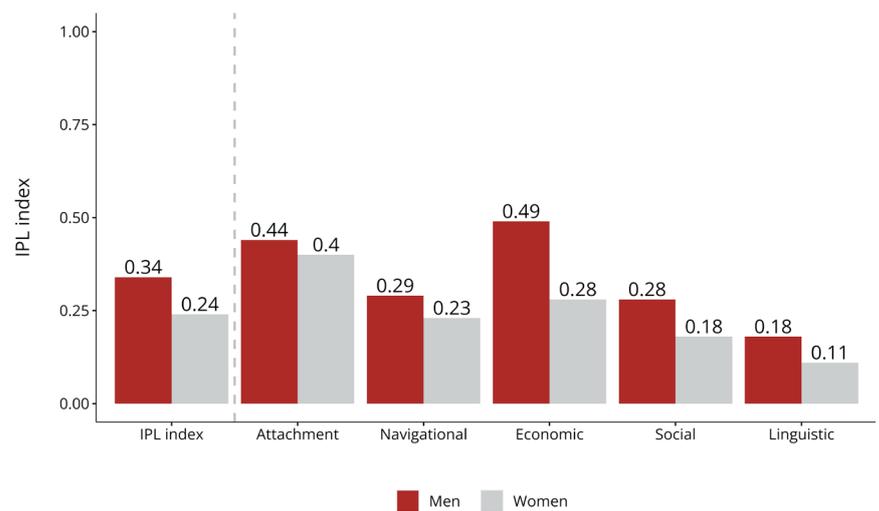
Figure 58: IPL Integration Index and time since arrived in Greece, full sample



### IPL Index and gender

Men reported slightly higher levels of integration than women (0.34 vs. 0.24 integration score respectively) across all dimensions, especially within the economic dimension. As we explored in the previous section, most women (82%) did not work, whereas half the men did, which drives the difference between both groups on the economic dimension.

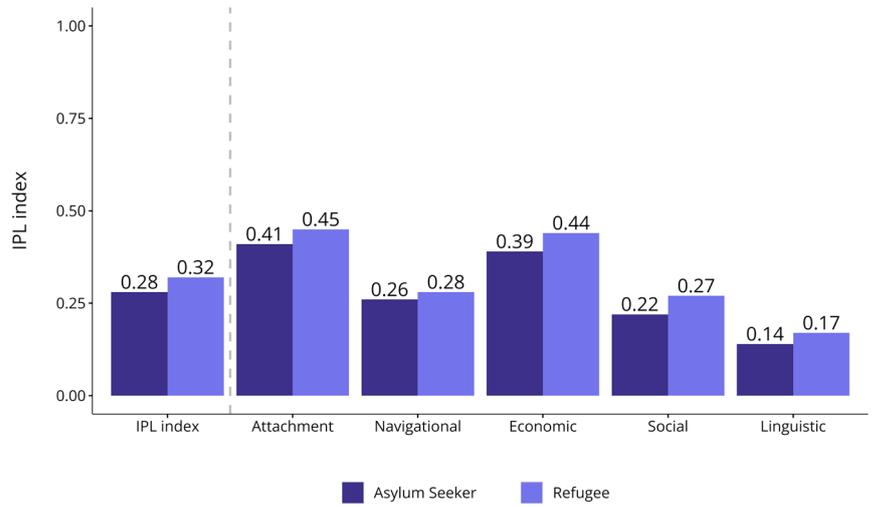
Figure 59: IPL Integration Index and gender, full sample



### IPL Integration Index and legal status

An important finding is the absence of a large difference in integration scores for participants with different legal statuses. While refugees have slightly higher levels of integration on all five dimensions than asylum seekers, these differences are fairly small. Thus, these findings run counter to the expectation that the transition in legal status from asylum seeker to refugee is associated with a large boost in integration outcomes.

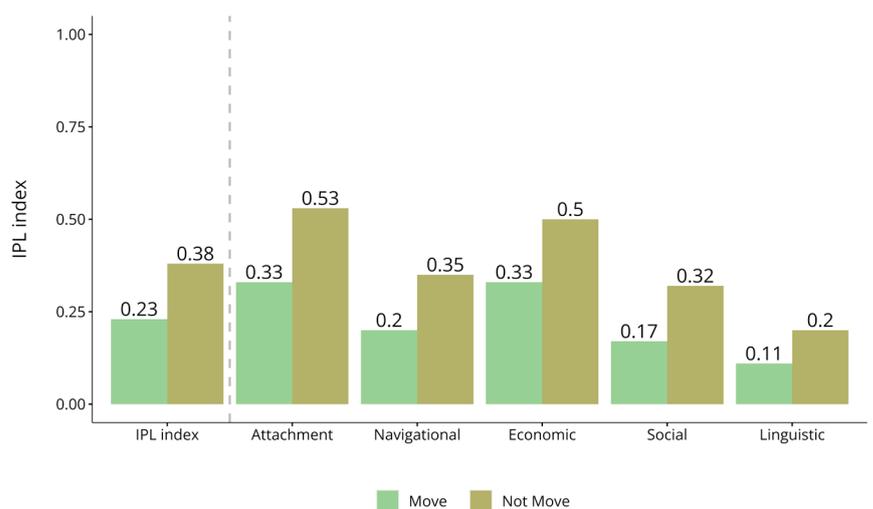
Figure 60: IPL Integration Index and legal status, full sample



### Onward movement intentions and integration

We also explore the association between the level of integration that participants reported and their onward movement intentions. As expected, we find that people with higher integration scores across each of the five dimensions are more likely to say they want to stay in Greece (see figure 61). This is especially true for those with higher scores on the attachment and economic dimensions (0.53 and 0.5 vs. 0.33).

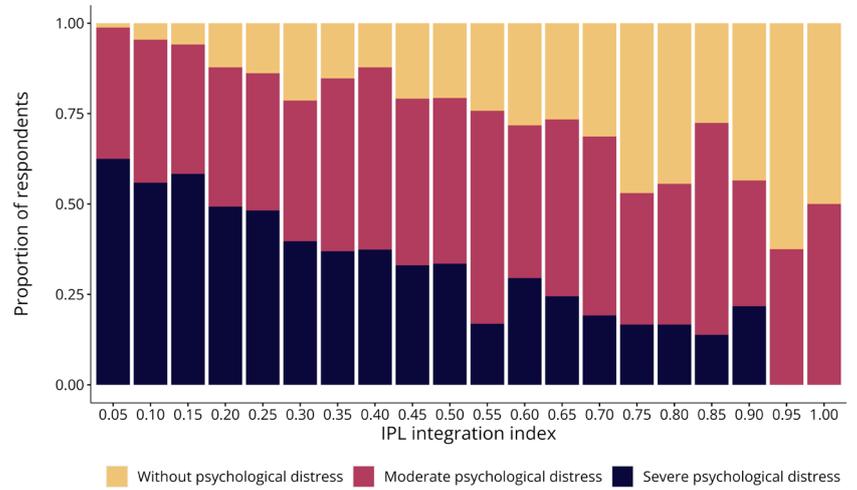
Figure 61: Onward movement intentions and IPL Integration Index, full sample



### Psychological distress and integration

We also explored the relationship between psychological distress and integration, respectively measured by the K6 scale and the IPL Integration Index. We find a relatively strong association between psychological distress and lower scores on the IPL Integration Index. Figure 62 shows that when we look at the levels of severe psychological distress for all levels of integration as measured by the IPL index, we see that as integration increases (for higher levels of the IPL index), levels of psychological distress decrease.

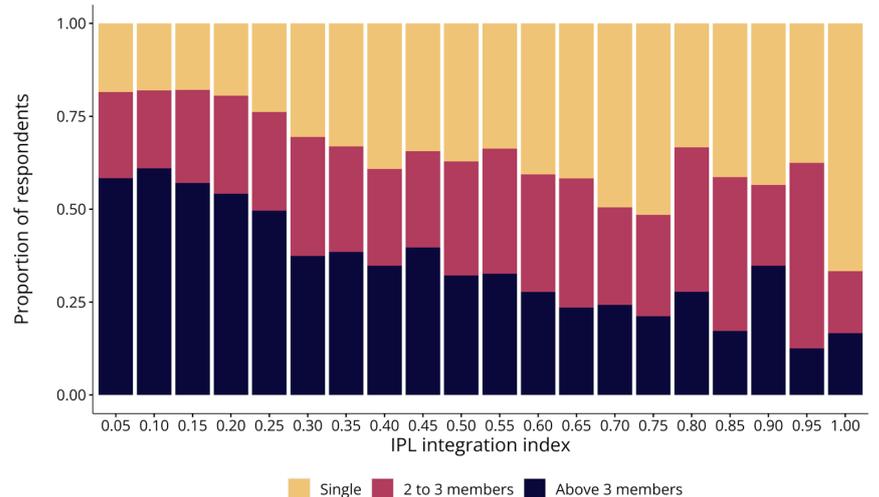
Figure 62: K6 scale and IPL Integration Index, full sample



### Household size and integration

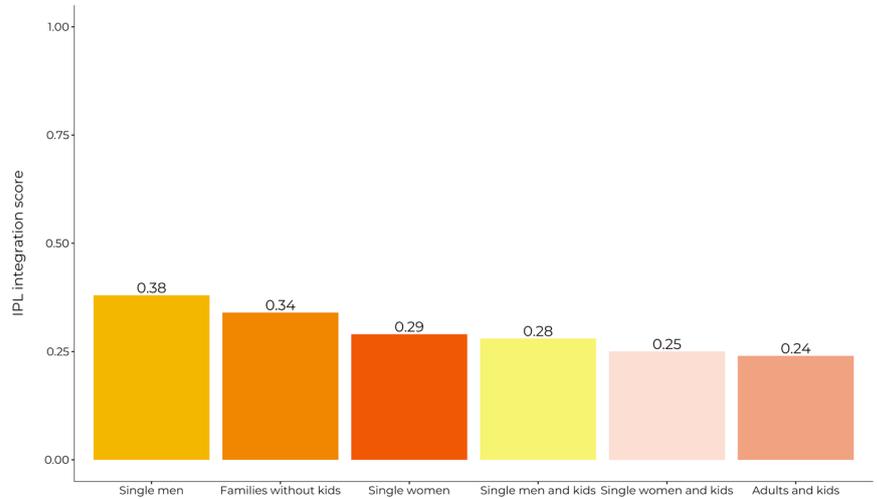
We also explore whether larger or smaller households report higher levels of integration across the multi-dimensional IPL Integration Index. We find some evidence that smaller households report higher levels of integration compared with larger households (figure 63). This is in line with the general finding that household size and structure shape the experiences of refugees and asylum seekers in Greece.

Figure 63: Household size and IPL Integration Index, full sample



The relationship between household size and integration may be driven by households with children. As figure 64 shows, households with children report lower levels of integration compared with households comprising adults only (either single men and women or households with more than one adult).

Figure 64: Household type and IPL Integration Index, full sample



### Accommodation and integration

The importance of accommodation in shaping the experiences of refugees and asylum seekers also shows up in the analysis of the relationship between the IPL index and where refugees and asylum seekers live. Refugees and asylum seekers living in sites reported much lower levels of integration than those who are self-accommodated. For example, figure 65 shows that for refugees with IPL index scores over 0.5, very few lived in sites. The same is true for asylum seekers:

Figure 65: Accommodation of refugees and IPL Integration Index

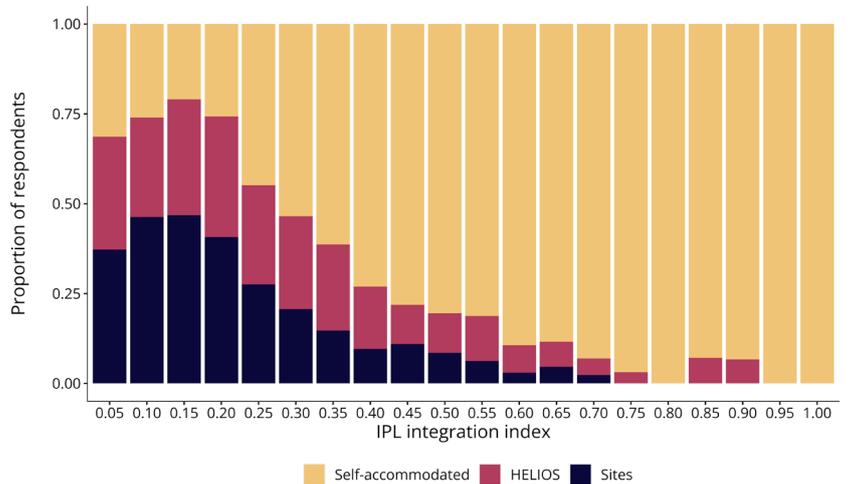
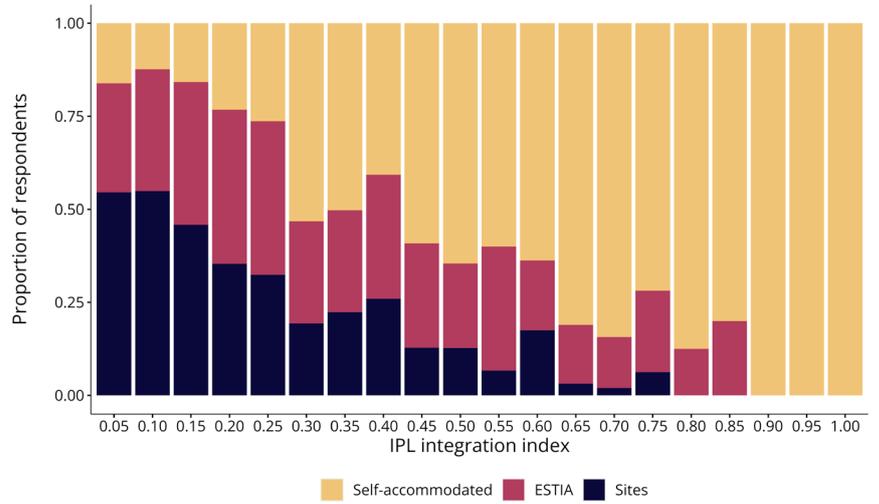


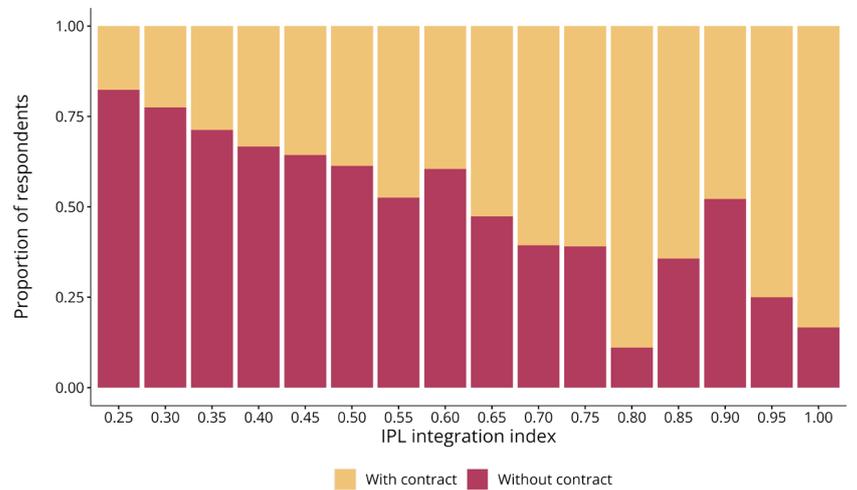
Figure 66: Accommodation of asylum seekers and IPL Integration Index



### Working contracts and integration

Is there an association between working contracts and an individual's score on the IPL Integration Index? For people who reported working in the past 4 weeks prior to the interview, we explore whether a person's integration score is associated with whether they reported having a contract for their work. Perhaps unsurprisingly, as figure 67 shows, we find that at higher scores on the IPL index, a larger proportion of participants reported that they have a working contract.

Figure 67: Working contract and IPL Integration Index, participants who worked in the in past four weeks



### Education, language and integration

We also explore whether there is an association between the level of educational attainment and integration. As is demonstrated in figure 68, there is a not straightforward relationship between higher levels of education and reporting better integration as a refugee or asylum seeker in Greece.

However, when we separate the questions in the IPL index related to speaking and reading ability in Greek, we see that answers to these linguistic questions are correlated with the rest of the index (including the components on economic, social, attachment and navigational integration). In figure 69, we can see that as scores on the linguistic dimension of the IPL index increase (from None to Very High), the scores on the other four dimensions of the IPL index increase. This suggests that Greek language skills may be very important to higher levels of integration in Greece.

Figure 68: Educational attainment and IPL Integration Index, full sample

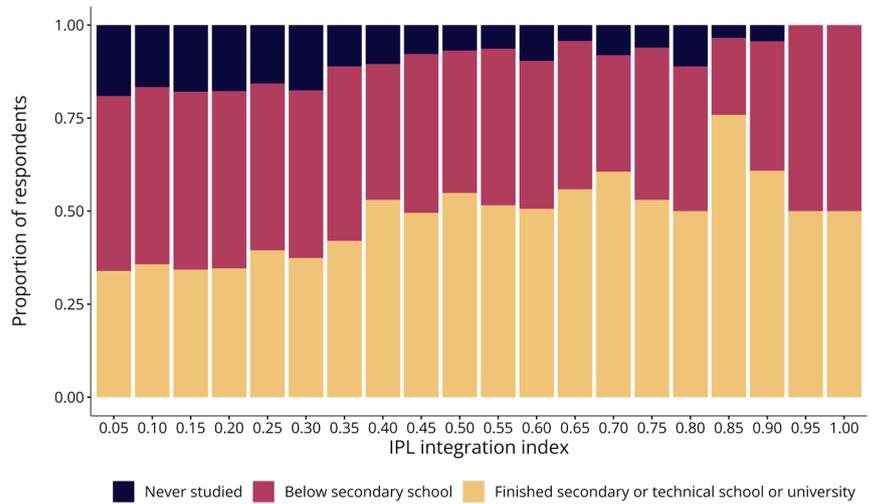
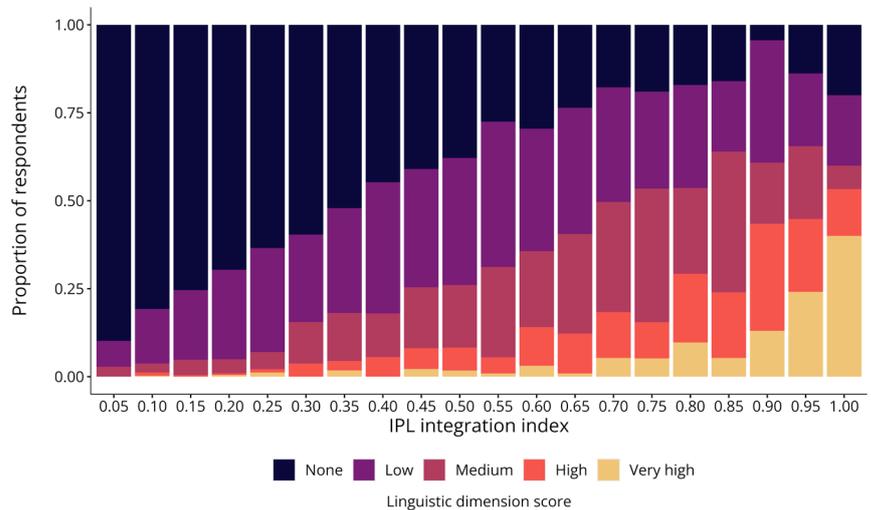


Figure 69: Linguistic integration and other IPL index integration dimensions, full sample



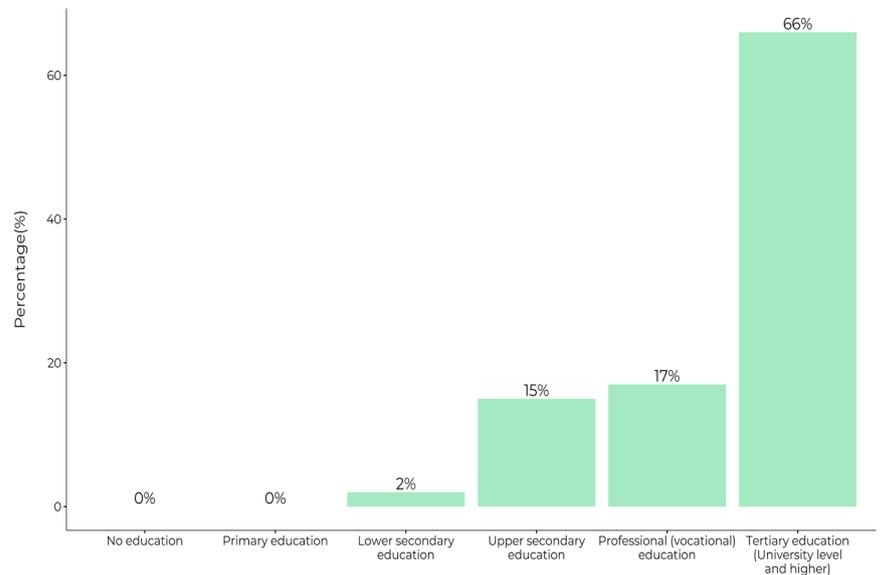
## 10. Ukrainian refugees in Greece

In this section, we provide a brief overview of the information on Ukrainian refugees who had arrived in Greece as a result of the Russian invasion of Ukraine. UNHCR collected the data through interviews using a Multi-Sector Monitoring Tool (MSMT) for Refugees from Ukraine at points of entry and registration for Ukrainians in Greece.

### Differences between Ukrainians and other refugees and asylum seekers in Greece

Overall, we find that the population of Ukrainian refugees is much different than the rest of the participants in the research. 84% of the Ukrainians interviewed are women compared with 38% of other refugees and asylum seekers interviewed. Ukrainians reported much higher levels of education, including 83% who reported either additional professional or university education (see figure 70).

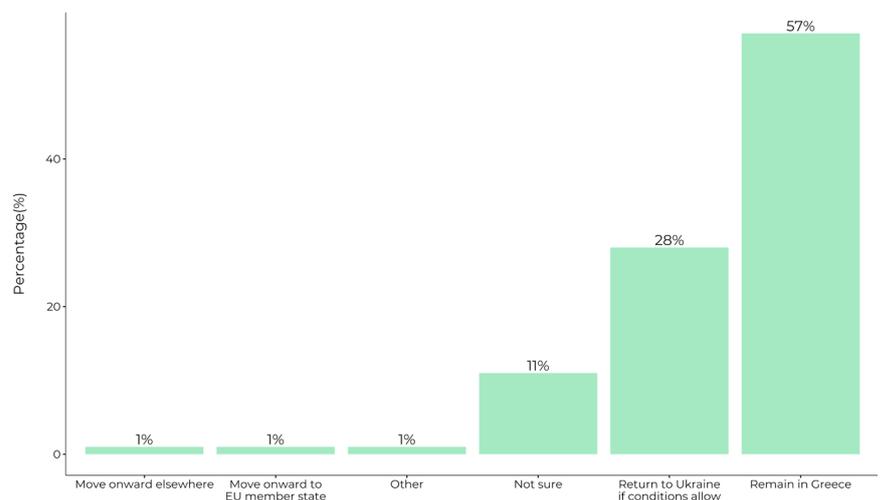
Figure 70: Ukrainian refugees in Greece and education



### Similarities between Ukrainians and other refugees and asylum seekers in Greece

There are few similarities between the Ukrainian population surveyed by UNHCR as part of the MSMT and refugees and asylum seekers in Greece. However, when asked about their intention to stay in Greece, more than half of the Ukrainians included in the research reported that they intended to remain in Greece. This suggests that members of this population have longer-term intentions to stay than previously understood.

Figure 71: Ukrainian refugees in Greece and onward movement intentions



# 11. Conclusion

This report provides a micro-level profile of the refugee and asylum seeker population residing in Greece in June 2022. It examines the challenges and opportunities facing this population, including their experience of integration (attachment to Greece and social, navigational, linguistic and economic dimensions of integration), psychological distress, exploitation and violence, and onward movement intentions. For these outcomes, the report explores the different experiences of men and women, refugees and asylum seekers, and for both those individuals who are from the largest refugee nationalities, as well as for other groups in the sample. The research studies the relationship between an individual's time in Greece and their current accommodation and situation in Greece.

Overall, the research finds a varied picture of the situation of refugees and asylum seekers in Greece. On the one hand, some refugees and asylum seekers have managed to find flats, are in employment, and report relatively high levels of integration across our multidimensional measures. Integration increases with time spent in Greece. There is a small but sizable minority who do not report psychological distress. There is evidence that refugees and asylum seekers themselves perceive the opportunities that Greece can offer them - about half of the people interviewed as part of this research state that they do not intend to move onward from Greece. This suggests that long-term programming that builds on this success can improve outcomes for both Greeks and refugees and asylum seekers living side by side.

While refugees score slightly higher on our integration measures than asylum seekers, the integration levels are low for both groups. Independent of legal status, the majority of respondents covered in this research face substantial obstacles to integration, including very low employment rates and challenges to linguistic and social integration, suggesting that programming that supports access to jobs<sup>21</sup>, language learning and mutually beneficial positive cooperative activities with Greeks could be useful.

In addition to challenges integrating into Greece, the population included in this research has a very high level of psychological distress and has survived many instances of exploitation and violence. Many within the population remain vulnerable to exploitation in Greece because of insecure, low-paid working conditions. The average weekly wage of around 150 Euros, regardless of the number of hours worked in the past week, suggests this is a pressing issue. Women, in particular, are poorly integrated into the Greek labor market. Many women are either not looking for work or cannot find it if they want it. This leads to lower levels of integration for women and lower weekly wages, suggesting high risks for exploitation.

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<sup>21</sup> Hussam, Reshmaan, Erin M. Kelley, Gregory Lane, and Fatima Zahra. 2022. "The Psychosocial Value of Employment: Evidence from a Refugee Camp." *American Economic Review*, 112 (11): 3694-3724.

# 12. Appendix

Table 1: Summary statistics

	Gender		Legal Status		Total
	Men	Women	Asylum Seeker	Refugee	
<b>N</b>	2,328 (62.0%)	1,427 (38.0%)	2,169 (57.8%)	1,586 (42.2%)	3,755 (100.0%)
<b>Legal Status</b>					
Asylum Seeker	1,344 (57.7%)	825 (57.8%)	2,169 (57.8%)	0 (0.0%)	2,169 (57.8%)
Refugee	984 (42.3%)	602 (42.2%)	0 (0.0%)	1,586 (42.2%)	1,586 (42.2%)
<b>Gender</b>					
Man	2,328 (62.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1,344 (62.0%)	984 (62.0%)	2,328 (62.0%)
Woman	0 (0.0%)	1,427 (38.0%)	825 (38.0%)	602 (38.0%)	1,427 (38.0%)
<b>Age groups</b>					
18-29	923 (39.6%)	542 (38.0%)	855 (39.4%)	610 (38.5%)	1,465 (39.0%)
30-39	872 (37.5%)	551 (38.6%)	827 (38.1%)	596 (37.6%)	1,423 (37.9%)
40-49	376 (16.2%)	252 (17.7%)	362 (16.7%)	266 (16.8%)	628 (16.7%)
50-59	131 (5.6%)	62 (4.3%)	99 (4.6%)	94 (5.9%)	193 (5.1%)
60+	26 (1.1%)	20 (1.4%)	26 (1.2%)	20 (1.3%)	46 (1.2%)
<b>Interview language</b>					
Arabic	903 (38.8%)	539 (37.8%)	906 (41.8%)	536 (33.8%)	1,442 (38.4%)
Dari	759 (32.6%)	484 (33.9%)	556 (25.6%)	687 (43.3%)	1,243 (33.1%)
Urdu	54 (2.3%)	16 (1.1%)	22 (1.0%)	48 (3.0%)	70 (1.9%)
Kurmanji	26 (1.1%)	39 (2.7%)	41 (1.9%)	24 (1.5%)	65 (1.7%)
English	242 (10.4%)	118 (8.3%)	250 (11.5%)	110 (6.9%)	360 (9.6%)
French	139 (6.0%)	92 (6.4%)	163 (7.5%)	68 (4.3%)	231 (6.2%)
Sorani	24 (1.0%)	34 (2.4%)	49 (2.3%)	9 (0.6%)	58 (1.5%)
Lingala	90 (3.9%)	55 (3.9%)	123 (5.7%)	22 (1.4%)	145 (3.9%)
Greek	4 (0.2%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (0.0%)	3 (0.2%)	4 (0.1%)
Turkish	76 (3.3%)	43 (3.0%)	50 (2.3%)	69 (4.4%)	119 (3.2%)
Other	11 (0.5%)	7 (0.5%)	8 (0.4%)	10 (0.6%)	18 (0.5%)
<b>Nationality (top 10)</b>					
Afghanistan	601 (25.8%)	403 (28.2%)	438 (20.2%)	566 (35.7%)	1,004 (26.7%)
Cameroon	66 (2.8%)	36 (2.5%)	65 (3.0%)	37 (2.3%)	102 (2.7%)
Egypt	107 (4.6%)	25 (1.8%)	106 (4.9%)	26 (1.6%)	132 (3.5%)
Iran	178 (7.6%)	89 (6.2%)	135 (6.2%)	132 (8.3%)	267 (7.1%)
Iraq	181 (7.8%)	155 (10.9%)	239 (11.0%)	97 (6.1%)	336 (8.9%)
Somalia	51 (2.2%)	59 (4.1%)	82 (3.8%)	28 (1.8%)	110 (2.9%)
Syria	436 (18.7%)	303 (21.2%)	433 (20.0%)	306 (19.3%)	739 (19.7%)
Turkey	85 (3.7%)	50 (3.5%)	58 (2.7%)	77 (4.9%)	135 (3.6%)
DRC	153 (6.6%)	115 (8.1%)	213 (9.8%)	55 (3.5%)	268 (7.1%)
Palestine	124 (5.3%)	27 (1.9%)	73 (3.4%)	78 (4.9%)	151 (4.0%)
Other	346 (14.9%)	165 (11.6%)	327 (15.1%)	184 (11.6%)	511 (13.6%)

	Gender		Legal Status		Total
	Men	Women	Asylum Seeker	Refugee	
<b>Household size</b>	3.02 (2.22)	3.95 (1.90)	3.34 (2.18)	3.43 (2.11)	3.37 (2.15)
<b>Household type</b>					
Single men	895 (38.4%)	0 (0.0%)	545 (25.1%)	350 (22.1%)	895 (23.8%)
Single women	0 (0.0%)	142 (10.0%)	87 (4.0%)	55 (3.5%)	142 (3.8%)
Adults and kids	744 (32.0%)	847 (59.4%)	855 (39.4%)	736 (46.4%)	1,591 (42.4%)
Single men and kids	57 (2.4%)	0 (0.0%)	32 (1.5%)	25 (1.6%)	57 (1.5%)
Single women and kids	0 (0.0%)	169 (11.8%)	85 (3.9%)	84 (5.3%)	169 (4.5%)
Adults only	632 (27.1%)	269 (18.9%)	565 (26.0%)	336 (21.2%)	901 (24.0%)
<b>Religion</b>					
Muslim - Sunni	1,299 (55.8%)	733 (51.4%)	1,154 (53.2%)	878 (55.4%)	2,032 (54.1%)
Muslim - Shia	268 (11.5%)	260 (18.2%)	229 (10.6%)	299 (18.9%)	528 (14.1%)
Roman Catholic	265 (11.4%)	153 (10.7%)	283 (13.0%)	135 (8.5%)	418 (11.1%)
Muslim - Other	128 (5.5%)	73 (5.1%)	137 (6.3%)	64 (4.0%)	201 (5.4%)
Protestant	97 (4.2%)	64 (4.5%)	103 (4.7%)	58 (3.7%)	161 (4.3%)
Other	271 (11.6%)	144 (10.1%)	263 (12.1%)	152 (9.6%)	415 (11.1%)
<b>Educational attainment</b>					
Never studied	256 (11.0%)	237 (16.6%)	245 (11.3%)	248 (15.6%)	493 (13.1%)
Incomplete primary school	230 (9.9%)	178 (12.5%)	216 (10.0%)	192 (12.1%)	408 (10.9%)
Finished primary school	294 (12.6%)	203 (14.2%)	307 (14.2%)	190 (12.0%)	497 (13.2%)
Finished intermediate school	490 (21.0%)	259 (18.1%)	473 (21.8%)	276 (17.4%)	749 (19.9%)
Finished secondary school	512 (22.0%)	282 (19.8%)	482 (22.2%)	312 (19.7%)	794 (21.1%)
Finished technical school	211 (9.1%)	80 (5.6%)	195 (9.0%)	96 (6.1%)	291 (7.7%)
Finished university	335 (14.4%)	188 (13.2%)	251 (11.6%)	272 (17.2%)	523 (13.9%)
<b>Accommodation type</b>					
Flat	1,146 (49.2%)	470 (32.9%)	786 (36.2%)	830 (52.3%)	1,616 (43.0%)
ESTIA/HELIOS	462 (19.8%)	477 (33.4%)	623 (28.7%)	316 (19.9%)	939 (25.0%)
Sites	564 (24.2%)	383 (26.8%)	604 (27.8%)	343 (21.6%)	947 (25.2%)
Homeless	81 (3.5%)	29 (2.0%)	62 (2.9%)	48 (3.0%)	110 (2.9%)
Other	75 (3.2%)	68 (4.8%)	94 (4.3%)	49 (3.1%)	143 (3.8%)
<b>Has contract for current accommodation (yes==1)</b>	0.39 (0.49)	0.42 (0.49)	0.34 (0.47)	0.49 (0.50)	0.40 (0.49)
<b>Employment situation</b>					
Worked in the past four weeks	1,083 (46.5%)	263 (18.4%)	740 (34.1%)	606 (38.2%)	1,346 (35.8%)
Looking for a job	788 (33.8%)	471 (33.0%)	734 (33.8%)	525 (33.1%)	1,259 (33.5%)
Not working and not looking for a job	457 (19.6%)	693 (48.6%)	695 (32.0%)	455 (28.7%)	1,150 (30.6%)

	Gender		Legal Status		Total
	Men	Women	Asylum Seeker	Refugee	
<b>Hours worked in the past 4 weeks (for those employed only)</b>					
5 or less	23 (2.1%)	6 (2.3%)	19 (2.6%)	10 (1.7%)	29 (2.2%)
6 to 19	104 (9.6%)	39 (14.9%)	96 (13.0%)	47 (7.8%)	143 (10.7%)
20 to 39	263 (24.4%)	56 (21.4%)	171 (23.2%)	148 (24.5%)	319 (23.8%)
40 to 59	437 (40.5%)	113 (43.1%)	282 (38.3%)	268 (44.4%)	550 (41.0%)
60 or more	251 (23.3%)	48 (18.3%)	168 (22.8%)	131 (21.7%)	299 (22.3%)
<b>Type of job (for those employed only)</b>					
Professional or technical occupation such as engineer, lawyer, teacher, doctor, etc	52 (4.8%)	8 (3.1%)	24 (3.3%)	36 (6.0%)	60 (4.5%)
Agricultural worker	136 (12.6%)	17 (6.5%)	92 (12.5%)	61 (10.1%)	153 (11.4%)
Craftsperson specialized (e.g. carpentry, tiling, tailoring, weaving)	313 (29.0%)	45 (17.2%)	179 (24.3%)	179 (29.6%)	358 (26.7%)
Non-agricultural manual labor (e.g., no specialization)	121 (11.2%)	11 (4.2%)	90 (12.2%)	42 (7.0%)	132 (9.9%)
Personal services (cleaning, cooking, hair care, childcare)	198 (18.4%)	112 (42.7%)	183 (24.9%)	127 (21.0%)	310 (23.1%)
In a shop/grocery store	62 (5.8%)	17 (6.5%)	43 (5.8%)	36 (6.0%)	79 (5.9%)
Employee in a company	95 (8.8%)	24 (9.2%)	45 (6.1%)	74 (12.3%)	119 (8.9%)
Other	84 (7.8%)	26 (9.9%)	72 (9.8%)	38 (6.3%)	110 (8.2%)
Don't know	1 (0.1%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (0.2%)	1 (0.1%)
Refused to answer	16 (1.5%)	2 (0.8%)	8 (1.1%)	10 (1.7%)	18 (1.3%)
<b>Contract for job (employed only; yes==1)</b>	0.41 (0.49)	0.45 (0.50)	0.36 (0.48)	0.48 (0.50)	0.42 (0.49)
<b>Weekly earnings (in Euros; employed only)</b>	160.58 (131.59)	138.69 (80.23)	149.36 (83.36)	164.76 (159.00)	156.30 (123.52)
<b>Access to humanitarian assistance (yes==1)</b>	0.20 (0.40)	0.29 (0.45)	0.33 (0.47)	0.10 (0.30)	0.23 (0.42)
<b>Have been treated with less respect (yes==1)</b>	0.31 (0.46)	0.33 (0.47)	0.34 (0.48)	0.29 (0.45)	0.32 (0.47)
<b>Have been threatened or harassed (yes==1)</b>	0.14 (0.34)	0.15 (0.36)	0.15 (0.36)	0.12 (0.33)	0.14 (0.35)
	0.06 (0.24)	0.05 (0.22)	0.05 (0.23)	0.06 (0.24)	0.06 (0.23)

	Gender		Legal Status		Total
	Men	Women	Asylum Seeker	Refugee	
<b>Forced to work (in Greece) (yes==1)</b>					
<b>Detained against their will (in Greece) (yes==1)</b>	0.25 (0.43)	0.16 (0.37)	0.22 (0.41)	0.21 (0.41)	0.22 (0.41)
<b>Assaulted/sexually (in Greece) (yes==1)</b>	0.09 (0.29)	0.10 (0.30)	0.10 (0.30)	0.09 (0.28)	0.10 (0.29)
<b>Forced to sign document without understanding it (in Greece) (yes==1)</b>	0.29 (0.46)	0.24 (0.43)	0.26 (0.44)	0.28 (0.45)	0.27 (0.44)
<b>Someone confiscated their ID doc (in Greece) (yes==1)</b>	0.05 (0.22)	0.05 (0.21)	0.05 (0.23)	0.04 (0.20)	0.05 (0.22)
<b>Employer withholding salary is exploitation (yes==1)</b>	1.13 (0.67)	1.18 (0.76)	1.12 (0.68)	1.20 (0.73)	1.15 (0.70)
<b>Employer expropriating ID doc. is exploitation (yes==1)</b>	1.14 (0.67)	1.19 (0.78)	1.13 (0.69)	1.21 (0.75)	1.16 (0.72)
<b>Employer disagreeing to give you a raise is exploitation (yes==1)</b>	1.13 (0.96)	1.18 (1.03)	1.06 (0.96)	1.28 (1.01)	1.15 (0.99)
<b>Ate less food to cope with needs (yes==1)</b>	0.62 (0.48)	0.70 (0.46)	0.67 (0.47)	0.62 (0.48)	0.65 (0.48)
<b>Children had to work (yes==1)</b>	0.06 (0.23)	0.07 (0.25)	0.06 (0.24)	0.07 (0.25)	0.06 (0.25)
<b>Woman or child in the family had to marry (yes==1)</b>	0.07 (0.25)	0.10 (0.29)	0.08 (0.27)	0.08 (0.27)	0.08 (0.27)
<b>Has Tax ID/AFM number/Fiscal registration number (yes==1)</b>	0.84 (0.36)	0.81 (0.39)	0.75 (0.43)	0.93 (0.25)	0.83 (0.37)
<b>Has Social security number (yes==1)</b>	0.72 (0.45)	0.68 (0.47)	0.59 (0.49)	0.85 (0.36)	0.71 (0.46)
<b>Has Greek bank account (yes==1)</b>	0.41 (0.49)	0.29 (0.45)	0.26 (0.44)	0.49 (0.50)	0.36 (0.48)
<b>How long after arrival to receive BIP status</b>					
First year	56 (5.7%)	35 (5.8%)	0 (0%)	91 (5.7%)	91 (5.7%)
1 to 2 years	164 (16.7%)	86 (14.3%)	0 (0%)	250 (15.8%)	250 (15.8%)
2 to 3 years	435 (44.2%)	287 (47.7%)	0 (0%)	722 (45.5%)	722 (45.5%)
3 years and above	329 (33.4%)	194 (32.2%)	0 (0%)	523 (33.0%)	523 (33.0%)

	Gender		Legal Status		Total
	Men	Women	Asylum Seeker	Refugee	
<b>IPL Integration Index</b>	0.34 (0.22)	0.24 (0.18)	0.28 (0.21)	0.32 (0.22)	0.30 (0.21)
<b>Attachment</b>	0.44 (0.29)	0.40 (0.28)	0.41 (0.28)	0.45 (0.29)	0.43 (0.28)
<b>Linguistic integration</b>	0.18 (0.23)	0.11 (0.20)	0.14 (0.22)	0.17 (0.23)	0.15 (0.22)
<b>Economic integration</b>	0.49 (0.49)	0.28 (0.39)	0.39 (0.46)	0.44 (0.47)	0.41 (0.47)
<b>Social integration</b>	0.28 (0.30)	0.18 (0.24)	0.22 (0.28)	0.27 (0.29)	0.24 (0.29)
<b>Navigational integration</b>	0.29 (0.28)	0.23 (0.25)	0.26 (0.26)	0.28 (0.28)	0.27 (0.27)
<b>Want to move outside of Greece (yes==1)</b>	0.49 (0.50)	0.56 (0.50)	0.53 (0.50)	0.51 (0.50)	0.52 (0.50)
<b>To which country?</b>					
Germany	507 (44.1%)	379 (47.6%)	475 (41.5%)	411 (51.2%)	886 (45.5%)
France	73 (6.4%)	44 (5.5%)	75 (6.6%)	42 (5.2%)	117 (6.0%)
UK	54 (4.7%)	36 (4.5%)	52 (4.5%)	38 (4.7%)	90 (4.6%)
Canada	48 (4.2%)	30 (3.8%)	44 (3.8%)	34 (4.2%)	78 (4.0%)
Netherlands	57 (5.0%)	21 (2.6%)	46 (4.0%)	32 (4.0%)	78 (4.0%)
Other	127 (11.1%)	76 (9.5%)	133 (11.6%)	70 (8.7%)	203 (10.4%)
Don't know	283 (24.6%)	211 (26.5%)	319 (27.9%)	175 (21.8%)	494 (25.4%)
<b>Psychological distress</b>					
Without psychological distress	383 (16.5%)	195 (13.7%)	259 (11.9%)	319 (20.1%)	578 (15.4%)
Moderate psychological distress	1,021 (43.9%)	546 (38.3%)	883 (40.7%)	684 (43.2%)	1,567 (41.7%)
Severe psychological distress	923 (39.7%)	686 (48.1%)	1,027 (47.3%)	582 (36.7%)	1,609 (42.9%)

Notes: This table presents descriptive statistics of a comprehensive list of variables that were part of the questionnaire. Standard errors in parentheses for continuous variables. Percentages in parentheses for categorical variables.

**Contact**

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