SoTiN

Stamping out Trafficking in Nigeria

SURVIVOR PROFILING FINAL REPORT

SOTIN QUANTITATIVE PROFILING RESEARCH

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Background & Objectives

Stamping out Trafficking in Nigeria (SoTiN) is a Department for International Development (DFID) funded programme to combat unsafe migration and human trafficking in Edo State and Nigeria. During a review conducted as part of the programme inception phase, significant gaps were identified within the evidence base on unsafe migration and human trafficking in Edo. While one quantitative survey of the attitudes of Edo residents towards human trafficking was identified, it was of moderate quality and there was a lack of reliable quantitative data, and of evidence on the experiences of male survivors. As part of efforts to address this, a brand-new quantitative profiling research project was commissioned by the programme, and this report details the outcome of the research.

The Team

The members of the team that carried out the survey were chosen from the same group who carried out the initial profiling commissioned by Edo State. This had several advantages including:

- Experience of communication and existing familiarity with survivors
- Team was made up of indigenes of Edo State, i.e. from the communities which the survivors hail from themselves which in practice helped put respondents at ease
- There are at least three major languages spoken in Edo (with several dialects), only team members who could speak these dialects (Etsako, Bini, Yoruba, Ibo, Ibibio, Esan, Ora, Ihievbe, Urhobo, Usen, Egbeta, Utese) were chosen

The team was formally trained and tested on etiquette, sensitivity, accuracy in transcribing, etc. before being sent out. In partnership with the State government, local community centres and natural community gathering spaces were used as meeting points where interviews took place, all interviews were conducted face to face. The exercise was subject to monitoring and evaluation from the SoTiN programme.

The Survivors

The Edo State Taskforce Against Human Trafficking returnee database is the most complete source of biodata on returnees that originate from or reside in Edo state and was the key source of respondents for the profiling survey. The Edo State Taskforce Against Human Trafficking has been working with the International Organisation for Migration to collect information about the returnees (or survivors, the term is used interchangeably) on their return to Nigeria. Just under 15% of the survivors contacted opted out of the survey giving different reasons with relocation out of Edo State being the most common.

The survey used a random sample of 943 returnees (428 females and 515 males) extracted from the database. Disproportionate sampling techniques were initially used with the sample weighted back to the original profile of the database to before analysis and reporting.

The team reported a high turnout within the first few days with survivors willingly giving information and often referring others who were not initially contacted, or whose phone numbers had changed from what was in the database. Despite efforts to communicate otherwise, there were still reports of some returnees who thought the effort was being sponsored by the State government and expected significant financial compensation. The team read a pre-prepared statement in every instance of this and even though there were isolated cases of frustration, the exercise was carried out peacefully and within the expected time frame of two weeks.

The team viewed a general sense of optimism among the respondents – hope that positive change is on its way, although this was accompanied by a growing scepticism and even suspicion of exploitation in some cases as returnees see the increased international attention their plight receives.

Highlights from the Research

The stated objectives of the research were to create a profile of survivors of Edo based returnees in terms of demographic characteristics, motivations to migrate (including the role of family and the local community). This is done with a view to identifying different segments within the target group and to guide resource allocation and targeting of interventions. From a demographic point of view – Edo South represents the richest source of returnees, followed by Edo Central and Edo North coming in a distant third.

When considering motivation, common push factors like lack of employment opportunities, poverty, economic imbalances, gender and ethnic discrimination - the Edo State data needs to be looked at more closely before taking a position. Even though poverty remains a major push factor (over half of the respondents live below the 2015 World Bank defined international poverty line of $1.90 per day), employment among the respondents was high for both genders (98% for males, 95% for females). Also, even though most survivors self-sponsored their migration - most stated employment opportunities in Europe (Italy and Germany being most popular) as a major motivating factor – indicating that there is a larger issue of underemployment. It is common to hear that families are sometimes the cause of unsafe migration in Edo, placing pressure on potential migrants (especially the females) to go and earn more to help with family expenses. The results from the research support this albeit with notable exceptions in Edo North.

Another apparent fact was the pivotal role that education plays in unsafe migration. The fact that only 10% of the females have any post-secondary school education might imply

that providing access to tertiary education may be more effective (with females) than any other intervention. Additionally, the group that showed the highest intent to migrate again (38%) were not educated beyond Primary School (this group also expressed strong dissatisfaction with support received from government).

Summary

The data successfully highlights at risk communities,(i.e. communities with large numbers of males in their 30's and females within the 20-24 age group - all earning less than 10,000 per month and no education beyond primary school). It provides insights into questions like 'Is the amount of investment going into skills acquisition going to enable indigenes get the right type of jobs?'... 'Should more effort go into changing the norms of families and communities?'... While there remains plenty of work to effectively target specific individuals most at risk of losing indigenes to unsafe migration, we believe this report represents a significant first step in the process.

SECTION 1

1.1 Top Line Report Methodology

The Edo State Taskforce Against Human Trafficking (ETAHT) returnee database is the most complete source of biodata on returnees that originate from or reside in Edo state. Over the past few years, ETAHT has been working with the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) to collect basic information about the returnees on their return to Nigeria, and this data is then used to populate the database. Currently the database contains records of 4,293 returnees. The ratio of male to female survivors in the database is 69.7% to 30.3%.

A sample of 943 returnees was extracted from the database for this research project. The sample consisted of 428 females and 515 males (a male to female ratio of 55% to 45%). The disproportionate sampling technique was used in order to have a large enough sample of females for separate analysis, but the sample was weighted back (using Rim Weighting) to the original profile of the database to gain proportionately accurate profile data. The primary stratification feature – Local Government Area (LGA) of residence – informed how the sample was distributed.

One limitation of the returnee database is that it contains records only for survivors that have been returned. It does not contain data for those who are still in transit or those who migrated "successfully". The database is owned by the Edo State Government survey. Participants who did not give consent to their data being used were not included in the report.

Edo State – Ethnographical Background

Edo State is separated into 3 Senatorial Districts (South, Central and North) and further subdivided into 18 Local Government Areas (LGAs):

- Edo South LGAs: *Oredo, Egor, Ikpoba Okha, Orhionmwon, Ovia South West, Ovia North East, Uhunmwonde*
- Edo Central LGAs: *Esan Central, Esan South East, Esan North East, Esan West, Igueben*
- Edo North LGAs: *Akoko Edo, Estako Central, Etsako East, Etsako West, Owan East, Owan West*

Indigenous tribal lines in the state broadly follow the same demarcations. The *Bini* ethnic group is the largest ethnic group by population in Edo state and are indigenous to Edo South, the *Esan* ethnic group being the majority in Edo Central with Edo North being mainly occupied by the *Etsako* and *Igarra* ethnic groups.

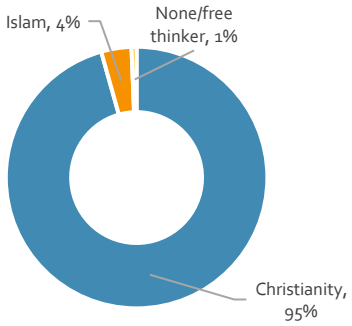
Gender & Age Distribution

This report presents the insights gained from analysing the weighted responses of 285 females (30%) and 656 (70%) male returnees. The age ranges used were: under 20 (Female: 59%, Male:41%), 20-24(Female: 46%, Male: 54%), 25-29 (Female: 26%, Male:75%), 30 and above (Female:13%, Male:87%).

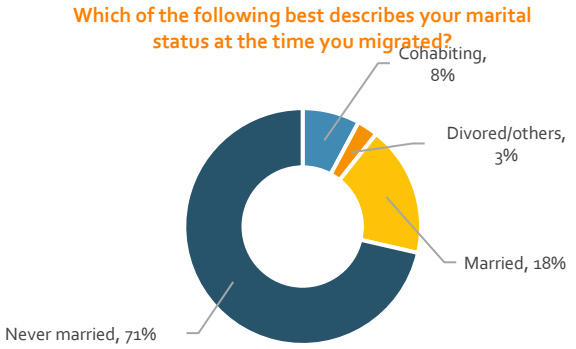
The largest group by age is the 25-29 years' age group comprising 34% of the sample, with the 30 and above years' age group next with 29% and 20 -24 years' age group in third place with 28%.

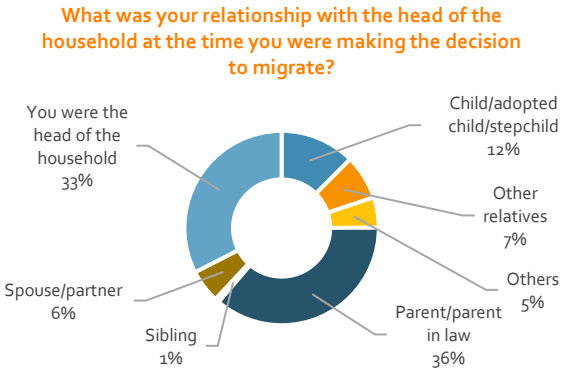
Social Backgrounds

The key social characteristics obtained by the survey centre around family, ethnicity and religion. In line with the thinking that survivors are mainly dependents, 66% claimed to have no children at the time they migrated and only 18% stated they were married. It's also worth noting that 1 in 4 survivors claimed to be living with non-parents - where the non-parent is the head of the household.



The thinking that migration is driven by the search for a better life/more income abroad is supported by the fact that most migrants come from relatively poor households with only 4% claiming to live in a home where the head of household earned over ₦100,000 /month (£215.49) – the highest income bracket in the sample. The high number of survivors (95%) claiming Christianity as their religion, might be a strong indication that Edo State indigenes are predominantly Christians.





Employment

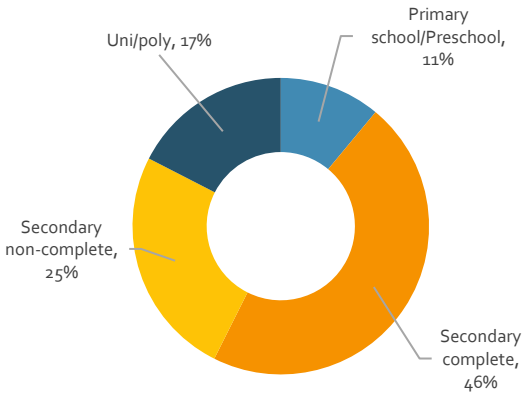
There was a high employment rate among all survivors at the time of migration - 98% among men and 95% among women negating previous thinking about joblessness (especially among women) being a major contributor to unsafe migration. However, while the employment rate is high, the belief that the low income earned by survivors is considered a major motivation for migration, is supported by the fact that over half of the

survivors (54%) earned ₦20,000 and below (£43.10 and below) as an average monthly income.

Among females, the common notion that hairdressers and beautician parlours are recruitment grounds for traffickers is supported by the fact that hairdressers or beauticians was the most common occupation among women overall at 37% at the time of migrating. The most common among men was Artisan manufacturing at 23%.

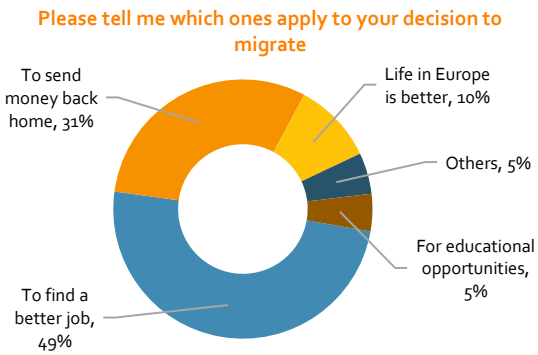
Education

The belief that those who possess tertiary education are less likely to undertake unsafe migration is supported by the fact that majority of the survivors (83%) did not go beyond the secondary school. The percentage of survivors with tertiary education varies by gender with twice the number of males (21%) migrating when compared to the females (10%), this might suggest that most male survivors understand the dangers of irregular migration, but are driven by the societal myth that the male child should be 'a provider'.



One would expect the majority of the survivors with tertiary education to earn a higher average monthly income. However, for the survivors earning over ₦ 30, 000 (over £63.20) – (the highest income bracket), 44% of the survivors completed their secondary education, suggesting that the highest level of education may not be the true determinant of the average monthly income. Only a small proportion of the survivors (6%) completed tertiary education and had more than two children at the time of migrating. This number increases by three times when compared to survivors with the same level of education, with no children at 21% and one child at 18%.

Why Edo People Migrate



The search for increased income dominates reasons to migrate with 49% of responses stating better job opportunities as their reason; 31% to send money back to family in Nigeria; and 10% in hope of a better life in Europe making a combined total of 90%. This did not vary greatly for female or male survivors. Around half of the survivors (49%) – for each income bracket – claimed that the most important reason to migrate is finding a better job, and this highlights the fact that while most of the survivors were gainfully employed at the time of migrating, there might have been a feeling that the average monthly income was not enough to take care of their daily needs (*and wants*). One might expect the majority of married survivors to be concerned with their families and state that the most important reason for migrating would be to send money back home, but this is not the case, as just 29% specified this reason. Interestingly, over half (53%) of the divorced/other survivors claimed that the reason to migrate was to send money back home.

The impact of approval from families and communities in relation to a returnees' decision to migrate varies significantly by gender and geographic location. While all the survivors across Edo are split roughly down the middle when comparing family attitudes towards migrating, female survivors stated more negative responses when asked about family approval.

Popular Migrant Destinations

Europe was the number one destination for survivors with 98% mentioning it as their intended destination when they set out. The assumption that some of the 'successful' migrants from Edo State have settled in Italy and Germany, suggests why the majority of the survivors claimed that these countries where the top two intended destinations, with 46% and 34% specifying Italy and Germany respectively.

While considering the risk involved in journeying to Europe through the Mediterranean, the process is usually assumed by Edo people to be cheaper and *easier* – in terms of visa application and approval – than flying to the destination, which explains why over half (59%) of the survivors claimed that their intended destination was some of the countries surrounding the Mediterranean (e.g. Italy, France and Spain). This might also explain why 98% of the survivors claimed that their intended destination is Europe, as it is easier to move from one country to another within Europe, because of the Schengen agreement.

The notion that human traffickers lure the female survivors to Italy where they are sexually exploited, is highlighted by the fact that more than half of the female survivors (57%) claimed that Italy was their intended destination, although this number reduces slightly for the male survivors at 42%. Germany closed the gap and slightly topped Italy by 1% as the intended destination for survivors earning above ₦20,000 (£21.55), which might suggest that with more earning power, the choice of destination goes beyond the countries surrounding the Mediterranean. Germany again gained more popularity than Italy for survivors with tertiary education, with 42% preferring Germany to Italy's 37%.

1.2 Implications of Research Findings on SoTiN

Key Locations

Based on our observations, SoTiN interventions should focus on residents of Edo South and selected parts of Edo Central. The Central district tends to follow the trends of the Southern district. The Esan people heavily dominate population figures in Edo Central and are commonly believed to be direct descendants of the Southern Bini tribe. Significantly, they still pay tribute to the Oba of Benin - the Oba is the cultural head and the tradition political head of the Edos. Attention should also go to the North but with more targeted interventions as there are large areas where unsafe migration doesn't seem to be common.

Given the high employment rate among survivors, interventions should focus on more than just employment as is often the case now. More research should be commissioned into other more attitudinal push factors. It also appears that there is much to gain in understanding the reasons why many residents of Edo North and parts of Edo South have far lower rates of unsafe migration even though they are neighbours within the same state.

Key Drivers

- **Cultural/family acceptance** – the data highlights the fact that areas that produce relatively large numbers of migrants also harbour an ethos of acceptance and even pressure from family to unsafe migration. This is especially true in the Edo South and Central Senatorial districts
- **Economic pressure** – the ubiquity of survivors that refer to economic/financial pressures makes it the stand-out leader when evaluating drivers
- **Education** - the lack of tertiary education in females is a key driver with 90% of female survivors stating they had no education beyond secondary school – regardless of age

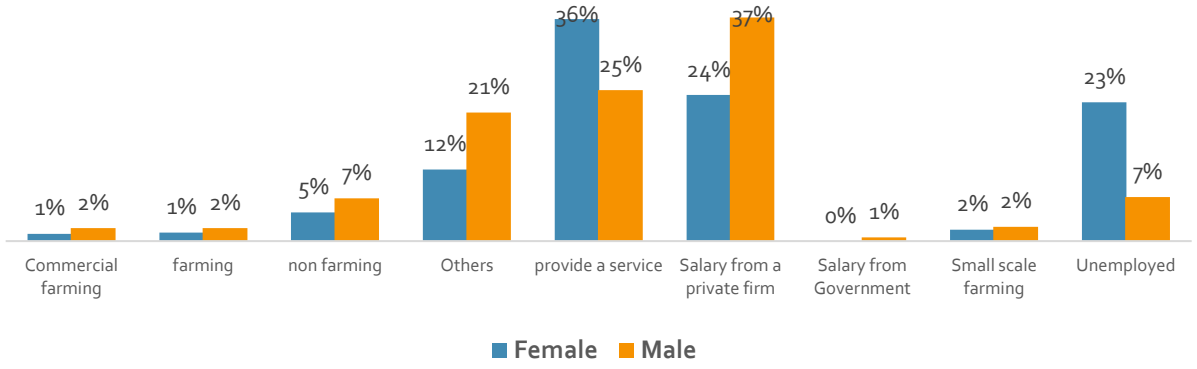
SECTION 2

This section of the report breaks down the questions in the quantitative survey. Each question is analysed considering a number of indicators including gender, age, income, education, marital status, location and number of children. Basic profiling questions (e.g. *how many languages do you speak?*) are not covered. For results on *all* questions in the survey – please see the appendix. Note that for convenience, the values below have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

2.1 Jobs, Income and Education

There was a high employment rate among all survivors at the time of migration, however, it is worth noting that the rate among men (98%) was higher than among women at 95% which may indicate an increased capacity to raise money to travel independently among men.

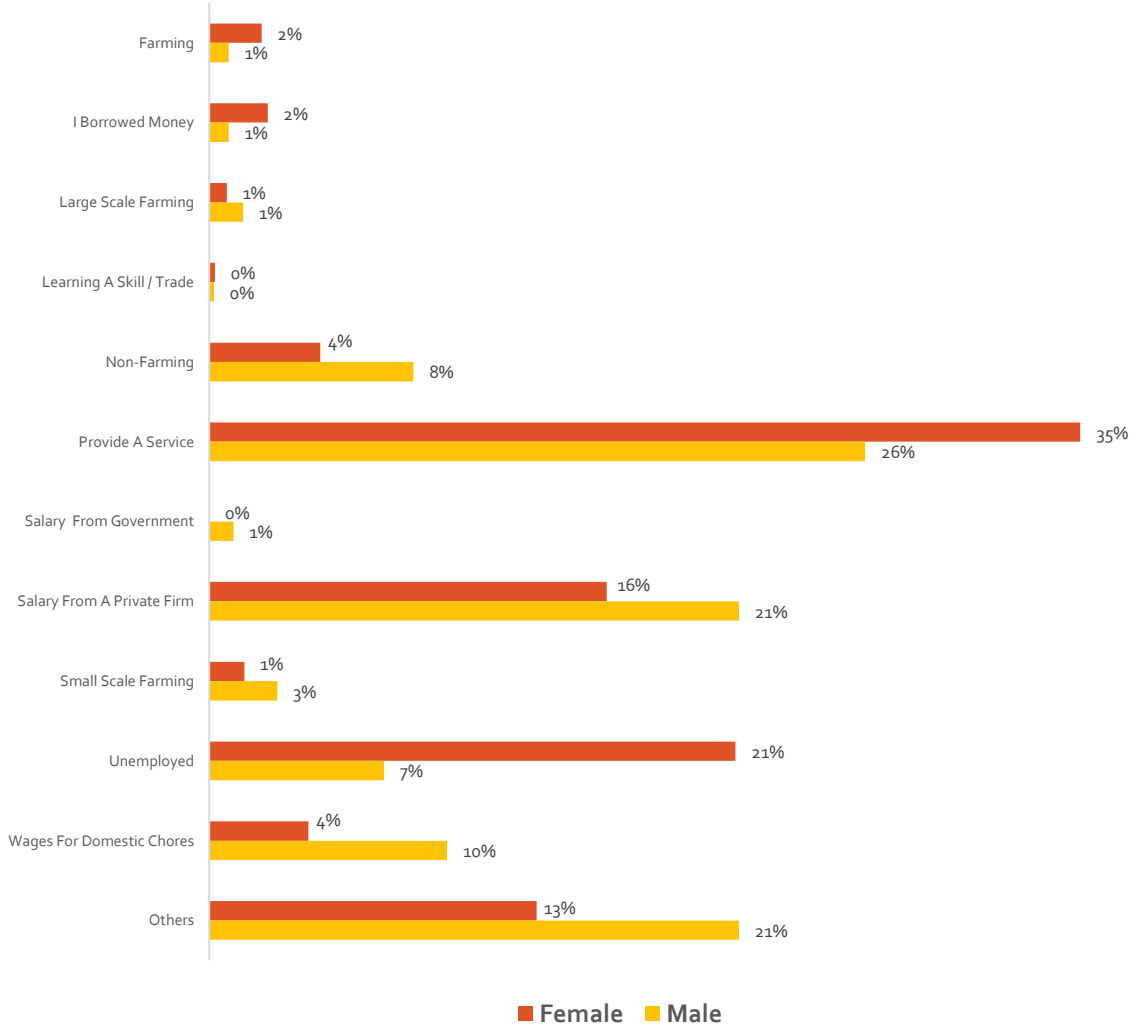
Q3. Please tell me, at the time you were making the decision to migrate, from where / from whom did you usually get money to buy things you needed?



Survivors' sources of income (by Gender distribution)
N = 943 (Female:428, Male:515)

Farming is widely considered to be the most common occupation in Edo state, however, 8% of the respondents were farming for income at the time of travel. This may indicate non-rural dwelling as most common, especially as the largest source of income was private sector employment with almost a third of survivors stating this as their primary source. A related point to consider is that 31% of survivors who earned over ₦ 30, 000 (over £63.20 – the highest income bracket), as an average monthly income worked with a private firm at the time of migrating. The statistics also showed that 47% of the survivors who reside in Edo Central worked with a private firm. The generally high employment rate among survivors might suggest that they used this income to help fund migration.

Q4. Which of these sources of money you told me about did you rely on most, at the time you were making the decision to migrate, to cover your expenses?



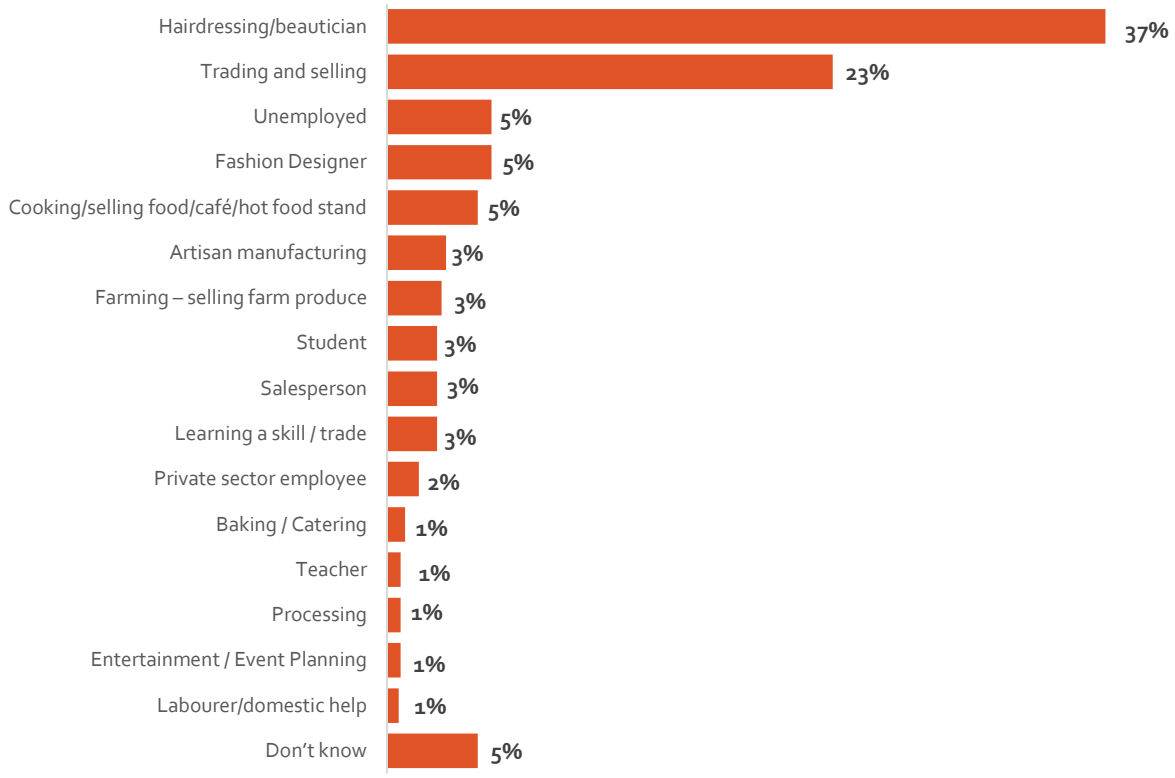
Survivors' most reliable source of income (by Gender distribution)
N = 943 (Female:428, Male:515)

Surprisingly again, farming played no significant role as less than 10% of the survivors claimed this as their major source of money before travelling. "Providing a service" tops this category with 29% of the survivors stating this to be their major source of money at their time of migrating. This supports the notion that service centers like hairdressing salons, fashion designing shops etc. are breeding grounds for recruitment. Gender wise, females lead the service providing income category with a 9% difference when compared to their male counterparts. Also interesting is that 77% of survivors who had University / Polytechnic degrees were not in the service providing income category therefore suggesting that

migrants without tertiary education are more likely to obtain their income as service providers than those who possess one.

With 33% of survivors in the 30+ age group (the highest age bracket) and 39% of survivors who had two children and above stating "Providing a service" as their major source of money at their time of migrating, we can suggest that migrants who are older and have more dependents are likely to earn their income from service providing activities.

Q5. At the time you were making the decision to migrate which of these describes your work best?

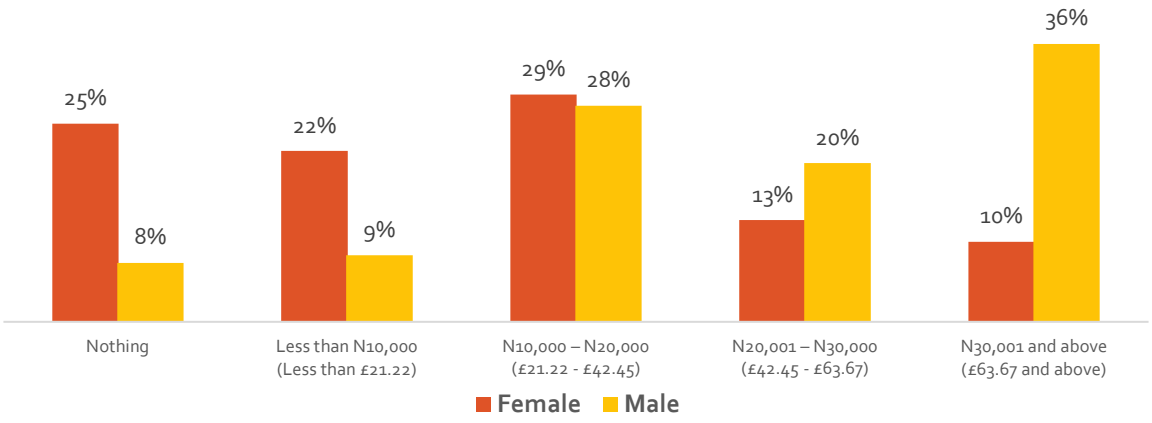


Job description of female survivors
N = 428 (Female only)

The perception that unemployment is the major factor for migration is negated by the fact that only 3% of the survivors claimed to be unemployed at the time of migrating. Trading and selling appeared to be the most common type of work for the survivors across all the different levels of educational qualification, with Primary/Preschool at 24%, Secondary (non-complete) at 18%, Secondary (complete)at 21% and tertiary education at 19%, aligning with the fact that it requires little or no educational background to start a trading business.

The most common occupation for women was hairdressing/beautician at 37%, while among men was Artisan manufacturing at 23%. The most common occupation varies significantly by geographic location, as 42% of the survivors in Edo North claimed that they were into artisan manufacturing at the time of migrating, while this number reduces for Edo Central (13%) and Edo South (15%).

Q6a. At the time you were thinking of migrating, which of these best describes your average monthly income?



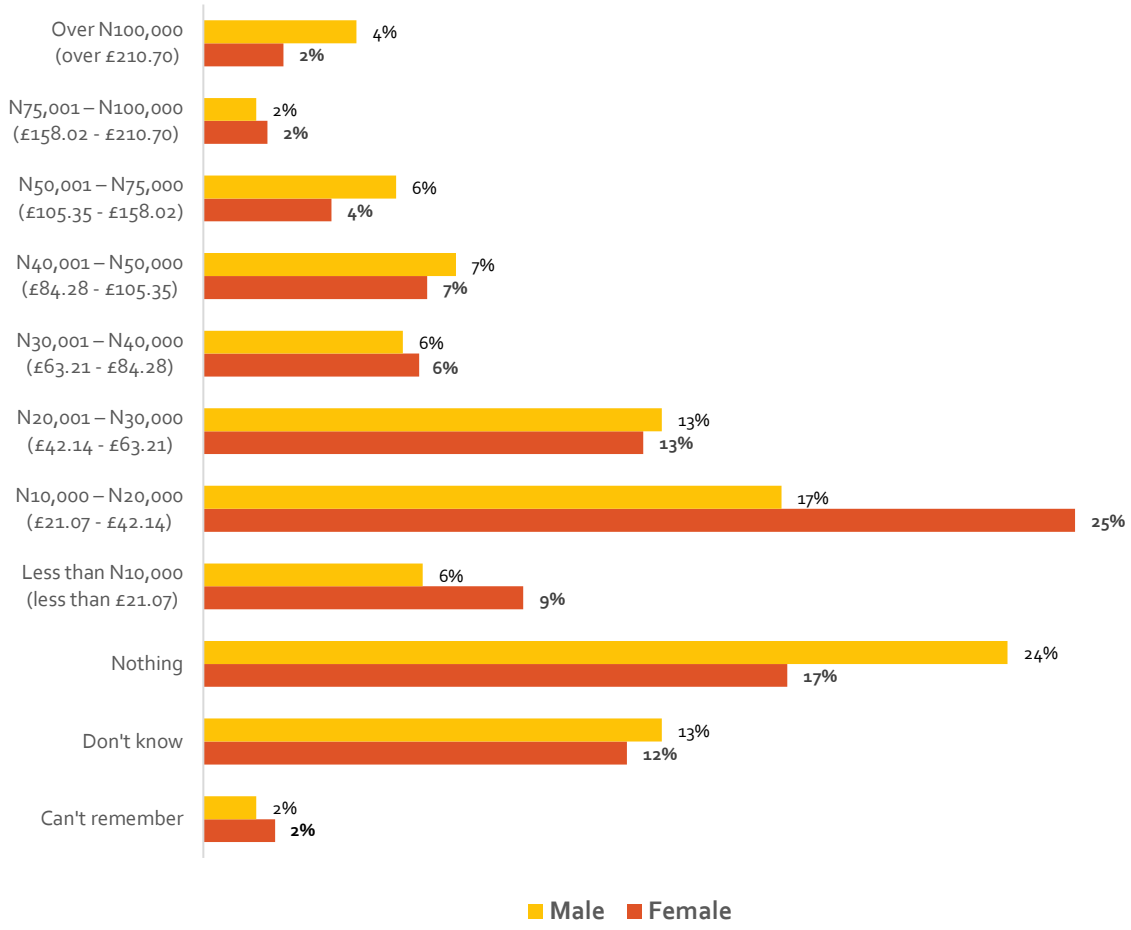
Average monthly income of survivors (by Gender distribution)
N = 943 (Female:428, Male:515)

Only 13% of respondents claim to have had no income at all at the time of migrating. Of those who did have a source of income, there are slight differences in earning power between the genders with over half (51%) of the females earning up to ₦20,000 (£46) a month in contrast to males who had 56% earning that amount or over. As might be expected, older and possibly more experienced survivors had more earning power with 41% of the 30+ age group in the highest earning bracket (£63/month or more) and a similar amount (39%) of the youngest age group earning nothing at all. There was some alignment between earning power and education with 35% of university/polytechnic certificate holders in the highest income bracket (the largest percentage of any educational qualification group). The alignment also exists with married survivors (42% in the highest earning group) and those with two or more children (45% in the highest earning group) – suggesting a correlation between stable families and earning power.

A quarter of the female survivors claimed to have no source of income at the time of migrating. Younger survivors for both genders were more affected by this – specifically 39% of the survivors under the age of 20 said they earned nothing as an average monthly income.

A higher number of survivors in Edo Central (40%) earned a monthly income of ₦ 30,001 or more (£63.20 or more – which is the highest monthly income bracket), when compared to their counterparts in Edo North and Edo South, where the number reduces to almost half (26% - in each senatorial district).

Q6b. At the time of migrating, what is the average monthly income of others in your household?



Average monthly income of others in survivors household (by Gender)
N = 943 (Female:428, Male:515)

The overall poverty rate of the survivors and their families is considered a strong motivation for migration, based on the fact that almost 1 in 4 (22%) survivors claimed that others in their households earned nothing as an average monthly income, at the time of migrating. More so, 30% of the survivors earning nothing as average monthly income, claimed others in their household earned nothing too.

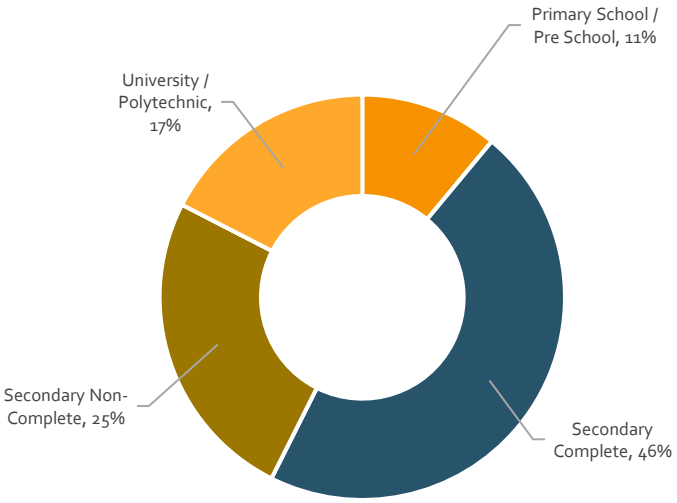
25% of the survivors in Edo North claimed that the average monthly income of others in their household was between ₦10,000 – ₦20,000 (£21.55 – £43.10), while the same

proportion of survivors in Edo South claimed that others in their household had no source of income at the time of migrating.

The need to send money back home to their families can be arguably considered a reason for migration because 30% of the survivors with one child and 25% of the survivors with at least two children claimed that the others in their households earned nothing as an average monthly income.

Q7. What was your highest level of education when you migrated?

While the majority of survivors did not have a tertiary qualification (82%), almost half (46%) did finish secondary school – meaning a high rate of literacy can be expected among survivors. The figures reveal more when taking gender into consideration – only 10% of females had education beyond secondary school, and this number doubles for men at 21%. Interestingly, these numbers do not deviate greatly by region, even in the North where early marriage/childbirth might be expected to impact education negatively.



Distribution of survivor's Highest Level of Education (by Gender)
N = 943 (Female:428, Male:515)

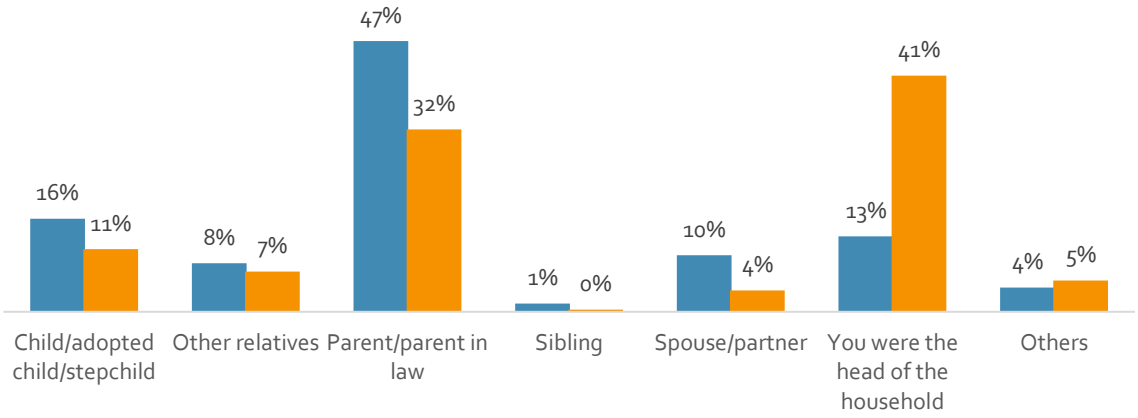
As might be expected, the education of younger survivors appears to be more impacted than older migrants with only 20% of the above 30 year olds (the largest age bracket) claiming not to have finished their secondary school education while this more than doubled (42%) for survivors under the age of 20.

2.2 Personal Profile

The household of survivors greatly impacts their decision to migrate. The drivers/enablers of this decision lie in the circumstances that surround the survivors – these circumstances help to frame their decision to migrate or not.

This section seeks to capture personalised details of each survivor at the time of actualising their decision to migrate.

Q8. What was your relationship with the head of the household at the time you were making the decision to migrate?



Distribution of survivor's relationship with head of household (by Gender)
N = 943 (Female:428, Male:515)

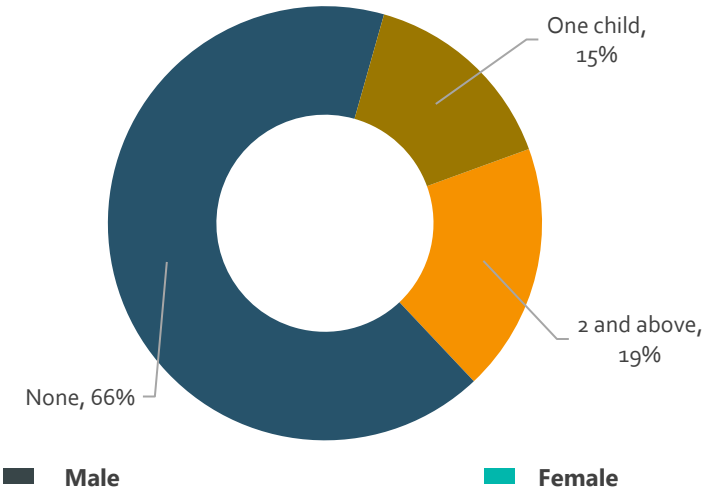
As might be expected, 60% of survivors with 2 children or more were heads of households. The perception that early marriage is a common practice in Edo North, was somewhat watered down by the fact that 53% of survivors from Edo North still lived with their parents/ parents in law at the time of migrating.

It is expected that older survivors would have significantly more dependents than younger survivors, and this belief is supported by the fact that 53% of survivors over 30 years (the oldest age bracket) were heads of their households, as opposed to 5% of younger survivors (under 20). Unsurprisingly, 45% of survivors who earned less than ₦10,000 (£21.55) and 43% who earned nothing mentioned they were living with their parents/parents in law. However their low income might have been a motivation to migrate – with the aim of supporting their guardians.

Q9. At the time you migrated did you have any biological children of your own?

Two thirds (66%) of survivors mentioned they had no children at the time they migrated. An exception to this is 58% of married survivors who had 2 or more children. Of those who had no children, there is little difference between the genders with 68% of females and 66% of males claiming they had no children at the time of migration.

It is commonly believed that exposure and education delay early child bearing – this is supported by the fact that 78% of survivors with tertiary education had no children at the time they were migrating.

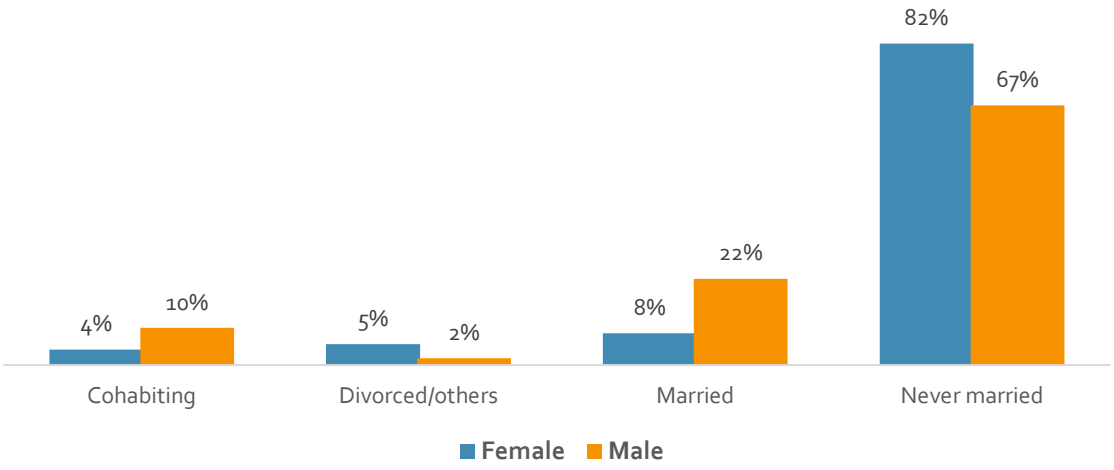


Distribution of Survivors who had children of their own (by Gender)
N = 943 (Female:428, Male:515)

As expected, the majority (93%) of survivors under 20 years (youngest age bracket) had no children as opposed to 42% of older survivors (30 plus) who had 2 or more children which suggests that older survivors had more responsibilities than the younger ones.

A high percentage (74%) of survivors residing in Edo North claimed to have no children, when compared to other senatorial districts i.e Edo central and Edo south, where the percentage of survivors with no children reduces slightly (67% and 66% respectively).

Q10. Which of the following best describes your Marital status at the time you Migrated?

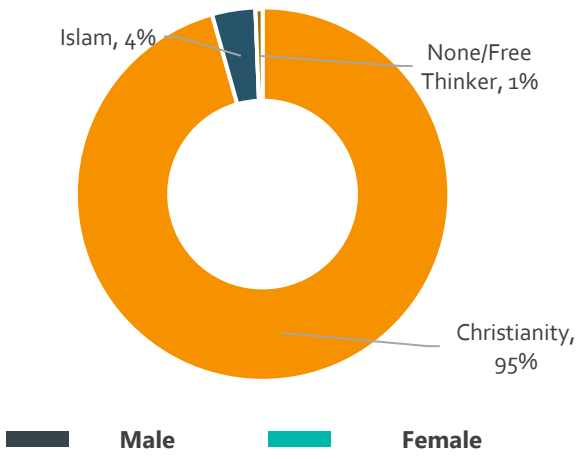


Distribution of survivor's Marital status (by Gender)
N = 943 (Female:428, Male:515)

As expected, most of the survivors were in the youth age bracket – when they would likely be seeking decent jobs and economic prosperity - this shows why over 71% were unmarried at the time of migrating. 75% of the respondents who had a university/polytechnic degree were never married which means they had greater freedom to pursue migration opportunities legally. For the survivors who were married, a good percentage (56%) of them claimed to have two children or more at the time of migration.

Q13. What is your religion?

There is a suggestion that all religious places of worship (including churches, mosques, etc.) play a part in the process of unsafe migration. Given this assumption, the heavy bias towards Christianity bears investigating (only 5% consider themselves non-Christian) . It would also be interestng to know if religion practiced has any impact on whether the survivor was made to take and oath of secrecy and/or if they consider that oath to be binding.

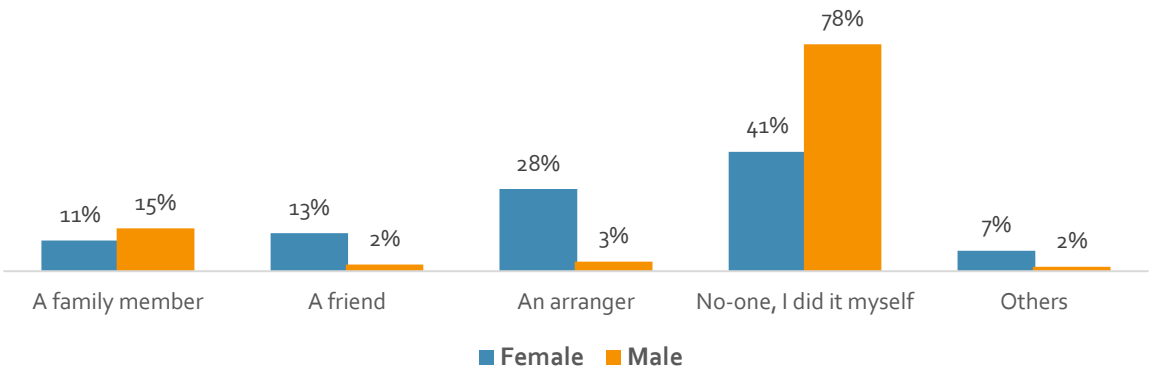


Distribution of Survivors by Religion (by Gender)
N = 943 (Female:428, Male:515)

2.3 Survivors' Decision and Sponsors

The question in this section gives insights to the factors / reasons that drive people to migrate to Europe.

Q14. Who sponsored you to go abroad?

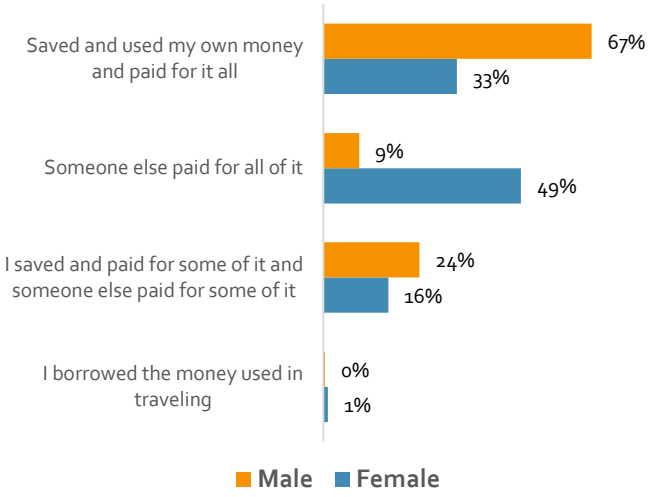


Distribution of Survivors by who sponsored them to go abroad (by Gender)
N = 943 (Female:428, Male:515)

84% of survivors who earned over ₦30,000 (£63, the highest income bracket) claimed to have sponsored themselves, with stories about having access to a better life and opportunities abroad perhaps playing a role in influencing their decision to invest their money in migration. However, 25% of survivors under the age of 20 claimed an arranger sponsored their trip abroad. Also 25% of survivors residing in the Northern region of the state claimed a family member sponsored their trip to go abroad.

Q15. Did you save and use your own money to go or did someone else pay for your journey?

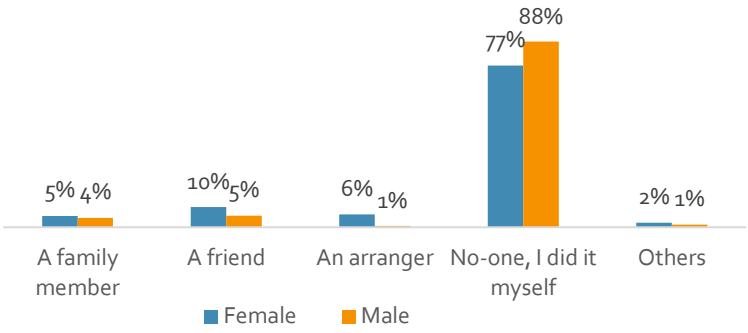
As might be expected, 65% of survivors with no income relied on someone to pay for their journey. 71% of survivors who claimed they earned over ₦30,000 (over £63) paid for their journey themselves. The notion that secondary school leavers are still dependants may explain why only 25% of survivors who had completed their secondary school education claimed they saved and paid for some of it while someone else paid some of it as well.



Distribution of Survivors by Did you save and use your own money to go or did someone else pay for your journey? (by Gender)
N = 943 (Female:428, Male:515)

Q16. Who made the decision for you to travel abroad?

Over three-quarters of both genders (85%) individually made the decision to go abroad without external influence. 88% of the men made the decision to travel abroad themselves, although the women came close (77%).

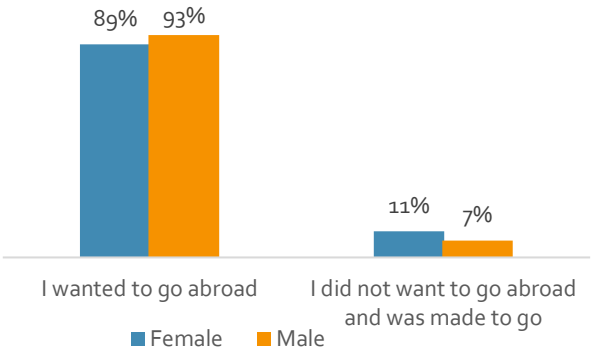


Distribution of Survivors by who made the decision for you to travel abroad? (by Gender)
N = 943 (Female:428, Male:515)

As expected, older survivors (implicitly more stable) were more confident making the decision themselves, with exactly 89% of the age 30+ survivors (oldest age group) claiming to have made a conscious decision to travel abroad, higher than the 77% of the under 20 survivors who decided to go. With direct correlation to age, 92% of the highest income earning survivors (₦30,000 / £63) and above were more comfortable deciding for themselves to travel abroad.

Q17. Did you want to go abroad or were you made to go abroad even if you did not want to go?

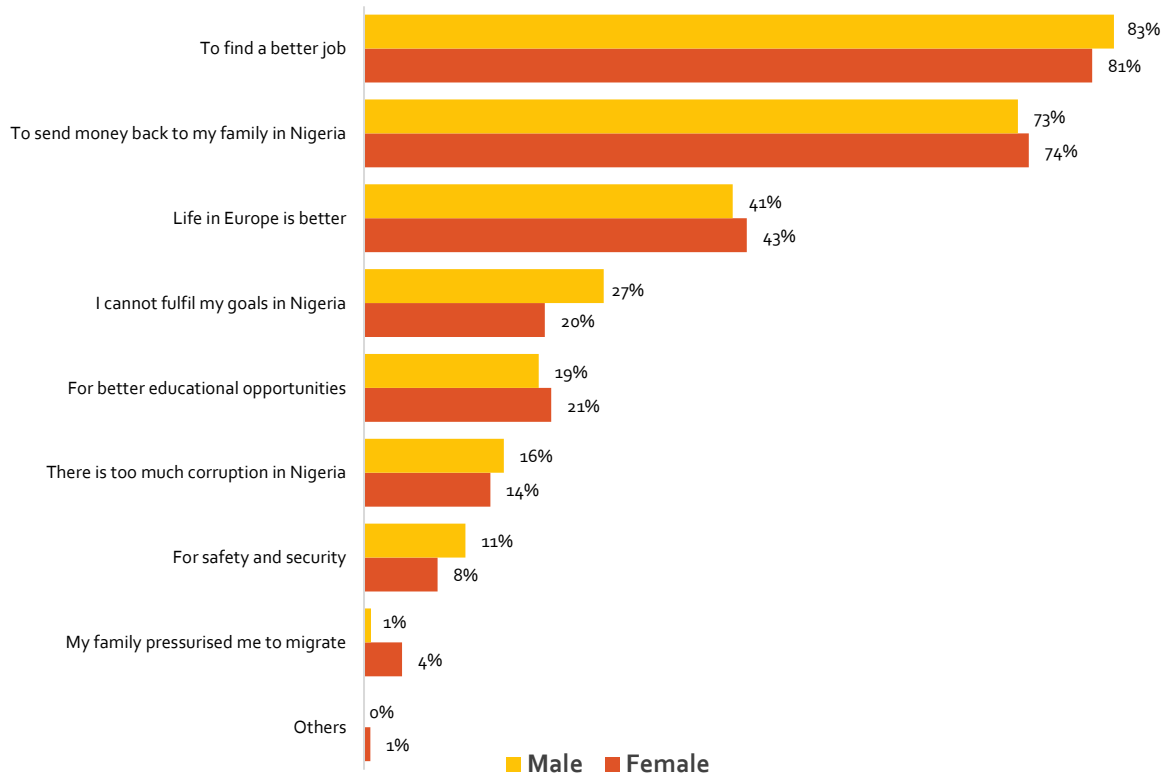
Most survivors (92%) wanted to go abroad. With the ability to pay for their journey, survivors with income earnings of ₦30,000 (£63) and higher showed slightly more desire to go abroad as expected. With regards to income groups, those with no income showed the least desire to go abroad, even though it was still a majority at 88%. This aligns with the expectation that better income makes people who are disposed to attempting unsafe migration better able to do so as it makes it easier to pay for individual expenses.



Distribution of Survivors by Did want to go abroad or were you made to go abroad even if you did not want to go?
(by Gender)
N = 943 (Female:428, Male:515)

Of all the senatorial districts, residents of Edo North showed the least personal desire to go abroad (31%). This may be attributable to the conservative beliefs of people from the Northern region. This percentage of people who did not want to go abroad is five times the proportion in Edo South (6%) and twice that in Edo Central (10%)

Q18. Please tell me which ones apply to your decision to migrate?



Distribution of Survivors by Please tell me which ones apply to your decision to migrate?
(by Gender)
N = 943 (Female:428, Male:515)

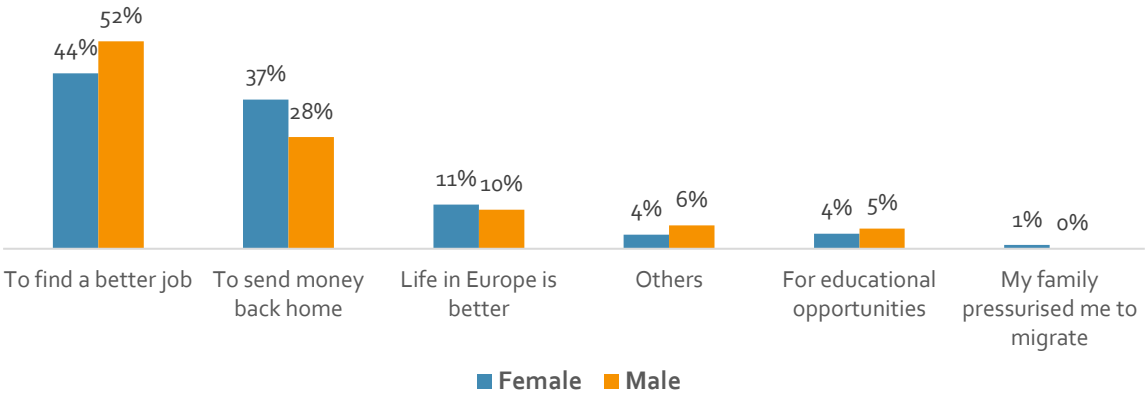
The most common reasons for migration across both genders were finding a better job (83%) and sending money back home (73%).

The perception that University / Polytechnic graduates within the ages of 25 years and above are looking to start their professional careers is validated by the fact that 85% of the survivors within the specified age range claimed that finding a better job was one of their reasons for migrating. In contrast, family reasons reduced with the under 20 age group (i.e. better job – 68% and sending money back – 68%)

As expected, survivors that earned nothing as an average monthly income were likely to consider living in Europe as a more enabling environment for financial gain, which is evident in the fact that almost half (46%) of the survivors who earned nothing at the time of migration claimed that a better life in Europe was their reason for migration.

4% of survivors under the age of 20 (lowest age bracket) said they were pressurised by their families to migrate, as opposed to survivors over 30 years (highest age bracket) who made no mention of family pressure as a factor in their decision which suggests that the younger survivors were more easily coerced than the older ones.

Q19. And which was the most important factor that affected your decision to travel?



Distribution of factors that affected survivor's decision to travel abroad (by Gender)
N = 943 (Female:428, Male:515)

Both genders prioritised finding better jobs as their major driving factor for migrating, with over half of the male gender (52%) contributing to this notion, while the number slightly reduces to 44% for females. Contrary to an assumption that older survivors would prioritise sending money back to family, it was the under 20 survivors (lowest age bracket) that prioritised sending money back to their families, while the survivors aged 30+ (highest age bracket) claimed that finding a better job was the most important factor that affected their decision to travel.

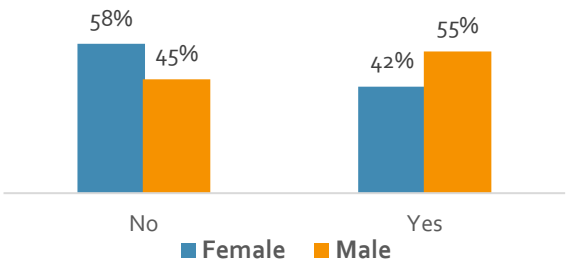
2.4 Family / Peer Influence

It has long been suspected that the influence of family and peers is a major driving force in irregular migration. An atmosphere of acceptance of risk for the 'benefit' of being able to send money back to family and friends is thought to contribute to the number of people willing to accept the hazards of unsafe migration. The questions in this section are aimed at measuring the extent of this influence on survivors.

Q20. Which of the following applied to your decision to migrate?

Q20(a). My family was aware of my decision to migrate:

At the time of making the decision to migrate, 51% of the survivors claimed that their families were aware. Among female survivors, 58% claimed that their families were not aware.This might be attributed to the fact that their families would be concerned about their safety with regards to unsafe migration and disapprove.



Factors that applied to survivor's decision to migrate (by Gender distribution)
N = 943 (Female:428, Male:515)

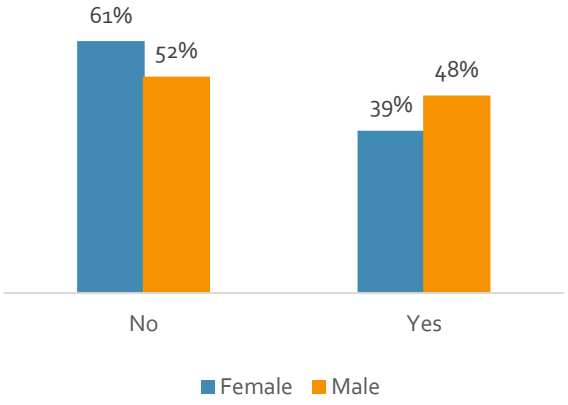
As expected, over half (55%) of the survivors under the age of 20 (youngest age bracket) claimed that their families were not aware of the decision to migrate which suggests that the family would not approve of their younger ones migrating due to the uncertainty of the journey. The belief that life overseas is better, explains the reason why over half (53%) of the survivors who had no source of income at the time of migrating said that their families were aware of the decision, which might suggest that the families of the no income earners are more likely to approve of the decision.

Furthermore, based on the assumption that education is the pride and priority of a parent in Edo state, the statistics reveals that 56% of survivors who had incomplete secondary school education did not inform their families of the said decision, while 58% of survivors with university degree informed their parents.

The notion that married survivors are likely to inform their family members about their whereabout, is justified by the fact that a very high number of married survivors (70%) and those with two or more children (55%) claimed that families were aware of their decision to migrate. 52% of survivors in Edo South who stated that their families were aware of the decision to migrate might indicate a high acceptance rate of migration in this region.

Q20(b) My friends approved of my decision to migrate:

At the time of migrating, over half (55%) of survivors said that their friends did not approve of their decision to migrate. The number increases for women (61%) who claimed that their friends did not approve of the decision to migrate.

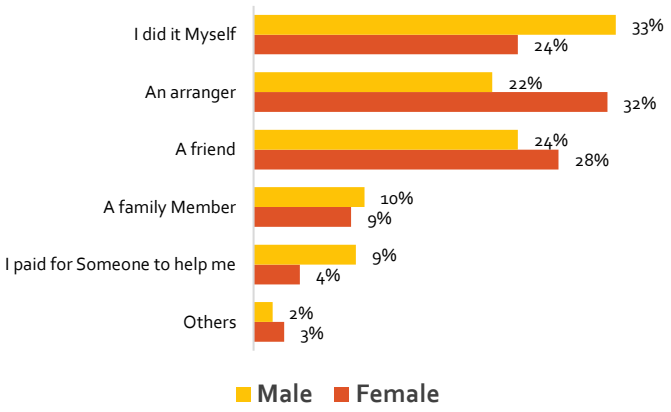


Factors that applied to survivor's decision to migrate (by Gender distribution)
N = 943 (Female:428, Male:515)

Three in five (62%) survivors with no source of income at the time of migrating stated that their friends did not approve of their decision to migrate. It was also observed that of the survivors who had one child, 72% claimed that their friends did not approve of the decision. This might be to avoid being seen as abandoning their child. Almost half of the survivors (46%) of the 30+ age group (highest age bracket) claimed that their friends approved of their decision to migrate which supposes that the more mature age groups are more likely to inform their friends. It might be expected that friends of survivors in Edo North would disapprove of their decision to migrate. However, Edo North had the highest approval rating with 49%.

Q21. Who helped you organise your travel?

Only one third of respondents claimed they organised the trip themselves as opposed to others who either paid someone else or had friend or family member organize the trip. Furthermore, the data shows that 33% of the male survivors organised their travel independently, while almost the same percentage of female survivors (32%) depended on an 'arranger' to organise their travel. As might be expected 39% of older survivors (possibly with more life experience) claimed they organised their trips by themselves. The statistics also revealed that the greatest percentage of survivors with children organised the trip themselves aligning with the fact life experience has a role to play with the capabilities of organising the travel.



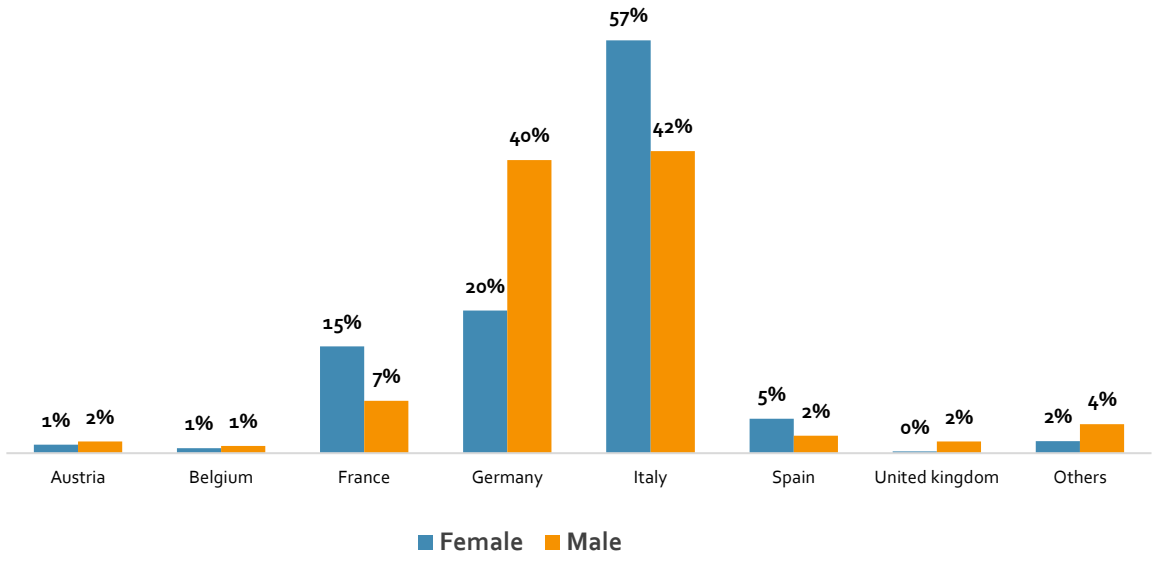
Survivors' travel organizer (by Gender distribution)
N = 943 (Female:428, Male:515)

A related point to consider is that 37% of survivors who earned over ₦ 30,000 (£63.20 – the highest income bracket) as a monthly income at the time of migrating, claimed that they organised their travel, which might explain the means used in organizing the trip. The statistics also show education as an important factor in one's ability to organise a trip, as a good number of the survivors who did not have a tertiary education claimed that someone else (Friend, family member or arranger) organised their travel.

2.5 Returnee Destinations

The question below analyses responses to the question of the intended final destination of survivors.

Q22 Where was your intended destination?



Distribution of survivors intended destination (by Gender)
N = 943 (Female:428, Male:515)

Unsafe migration in Edo State (and indeed in some neighbouring states) has traditionally been targeted at European countries. The research lends credence to this theory as almost all survivors (98%) had Europe in mind as a destination when they set out.

Edo indigenes have generally viewed Italy as the sex trafficking hub of Europe. It is therefore not surprising that of all the intended destinations in Europe, Italy topped the list at 46% taken collectively. Italy was especially popular among female survivors, survivors younger than 24 years old (56%), survivors earning below ₦ 10,000 (£22) monthly (55%), survivors who did not complete secondary education (52%) and survivors who reside in Edo South district (46%) and Edo Central (54%). Interestingly, more than 50% of survivors based in the North preferred Germany.

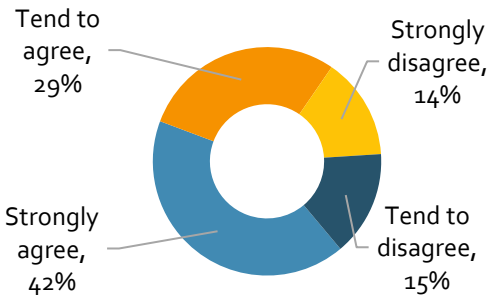
2.6 Social Norms

This section gives insight into the social norms that drive and enable migration, taken from different perspectives. Community approval and family approval and pressure for undertaking unsafe migration are measured and discussed as a push factor.

Q23. How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following things said about migration? Options:

Q23a. *Most people in my community approve of those who migrate to Europe to find work*

The majority of survivors (71%) across the state felt there was community approval for migration to Europe for work. Curiously, among survivors based in Edo North, 80% of respondents said it was generally acceptable in their communities for people to migrate to find work, the highest of any senatorial district. This goes against the notion that communities considered more conservative will not be so approving of work-related migration.

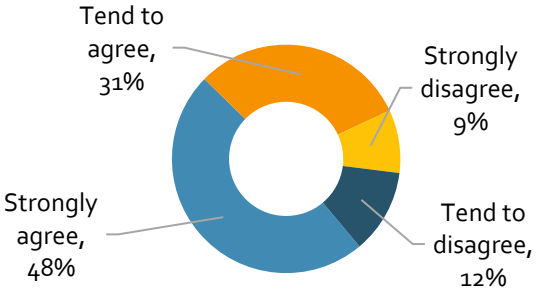


Most people in my community approve of those who migrate to Europe to find work
N = 943 (Female:428, Male:515)

Community approval traditionally influences behaviour in Edo state; hence, the overwhelming community assent to work-related migration discovered in this research may be playing a role as a driver of unsafe migration.

Q23b. *Many people in my community migrate to Europe to find work*

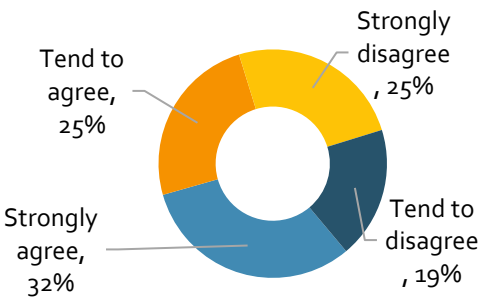
The team expected to see differing attitudes towards migration as one moves from Edo North to Central and then to South as tribes indigenous to those areas bear significant differences - however the data does not back this assumption up. There was no significant difference in how unsafe migration was viewed across regions. Across the state, more than 80% of survivors thought migration to Europe to find work was common in their communities, and nearly 50% strongly agreed that this was the case.



Many people in my community migrate to Europe to find work
N = 943 (Female:428, Male:515)

Q23c. *Families in my community expect their young people to migrate to Europe for work*

Family pressure to migrate is considered a significant push factor for unsafe migration. It was thought that this would especially be the case among families that had low-income levels. This research showed otherwise, though, as 37% of respondents at the highest income level (over ₦ 30,000) strongly agreed they faced family pressure to migrate. This makes sense from an economic perspective – because it costs money to travel – but seems to propound a new hypothesis, namely that family approval or pressure to migrate does not necessarily emanate from being in a disadvantaged economic position.



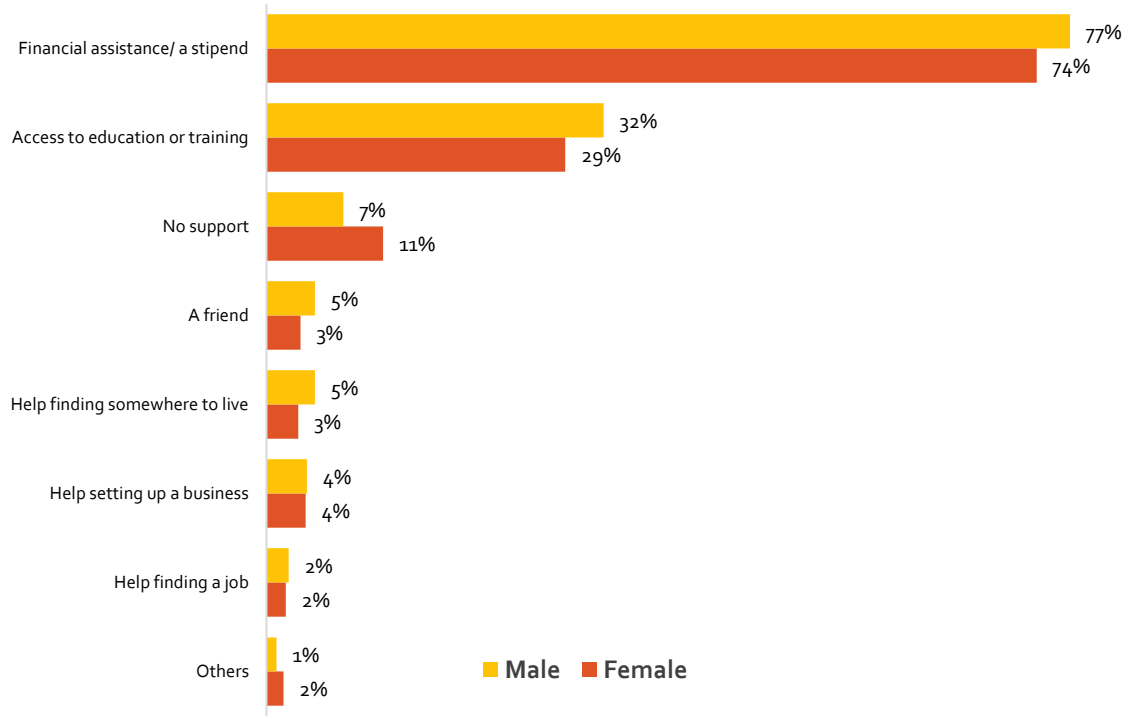
Families in my community expect their young people to migrate to Europe for work
N = 943 (Female:428, Male:515)

Well over half of survivors felt families in their community expected young people to migrate to Europe for work. This belief was less common among survivors that were divorced, however, as only 39% of them feel this way. By contrast, 65% of respondents who were cohabiting when they migrated feel this way – and specifically 51% of them strongly agree that migration is common in their communities – suggesting that personal situation may be influencing people's views on migration.

2.7 Government/Institutional Support Provided

This section investigates the support the survivors received from Edo State government and related institutions when they returned and whether the support was considered satisfactory by them. It also explores the present attitude of survivors to undertaking unsafe migration and whether they are currently trying to migrate.

Q24. What support did you receive on returning to Nigeria?



Distribution of supports received by survivors

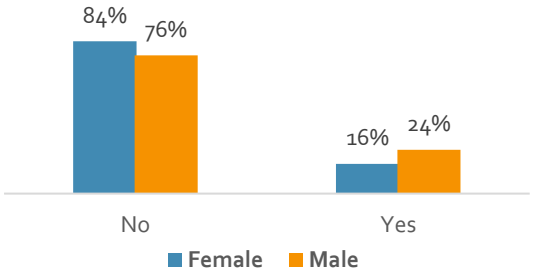
N = 943 (Female:428. Male:515)

While the general perception is that government support and funding for survivors is usually grossly insufficient, the research showed that, when it came to supporting survivors, this situation was sharply different, as only 9% of the survivors said they did not receive any form of support.

The majority of the respondents (76%) mentioned they received support in the form of financial assistance/a stipend when they returned. Survivors resident in Edo North especially reported receiving this form of support (88%), compared to just 64% for those residents in Edo Central. The second largest group of respondents overall (31%) mentioned Access to education or training as the form of support received on their return to Nigeria.

Q25. Do you have any plans on migrating again?

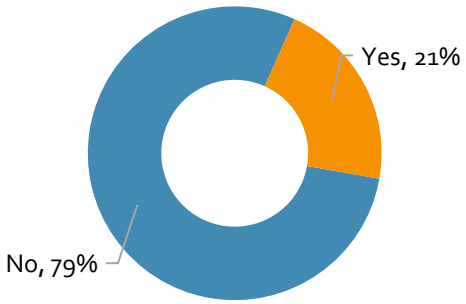
Overall, 22% of returnees claimed they plan to migrate again. Survivors resident in Edo North and Edo South expressed slightly more desire to migrate again than survivors in Edo Central, as 26% and 24% of them respectively said they have plans to attempt migration again.



Distribution of survivors that have any plans on migrating again?
N = 943 (Female:428, Male:515)

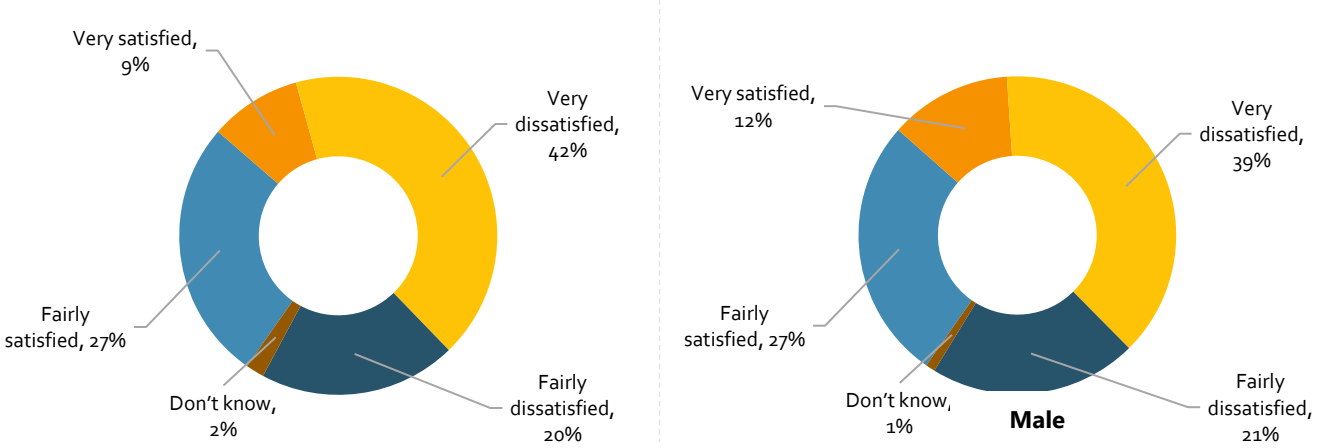
Q26. Are you currently trying to migrate?

Among the survivors that intend to migrate again, 21% are currently trying to do so. It is noteworthy that respondents who are residents of Edo North have the highest percentage of people currently trying to migrate again – 40%. This may be attributable to the fact that, with their communities being generally more conservative, these returnees may be experiencing more stigma in their communities or difficulty in re-integrating back into the society. Also, with Germany being the most popular destination for survivors resident in Edo North, the country's perceived migrant friendly policies may be a factor that makes them willing to migrate again.



Distribution of survivors who are currently trying to migrate?
N = 194 (Female:70, Male:124)

Q27. And how satisfied or dissatisfied were you with the quality of support you received?



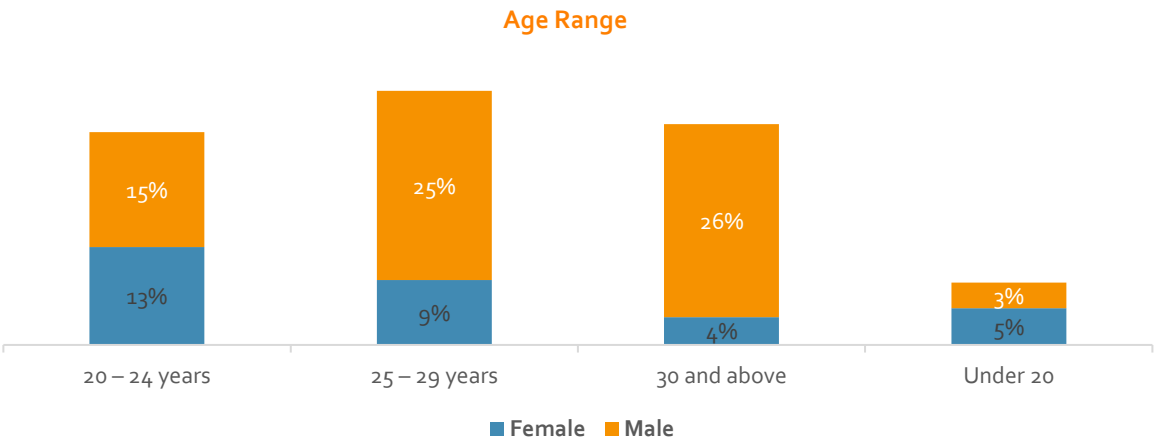
Distribution of how satisfied or dissatisfied were you with the quality of support you received for survivors' resident in Edo North (by Gender)

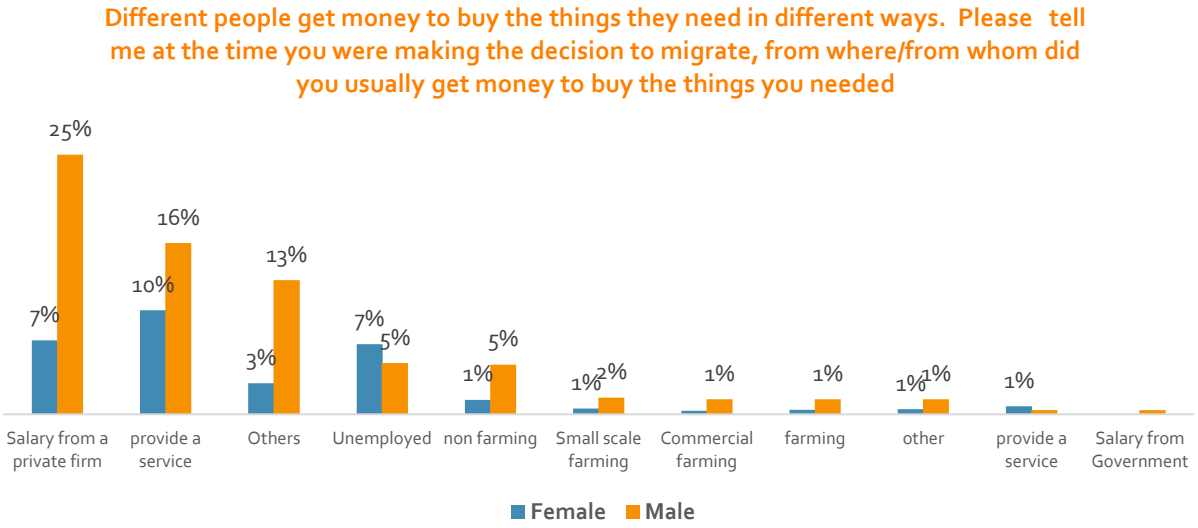
N = 64 (Female:15, Male:49)

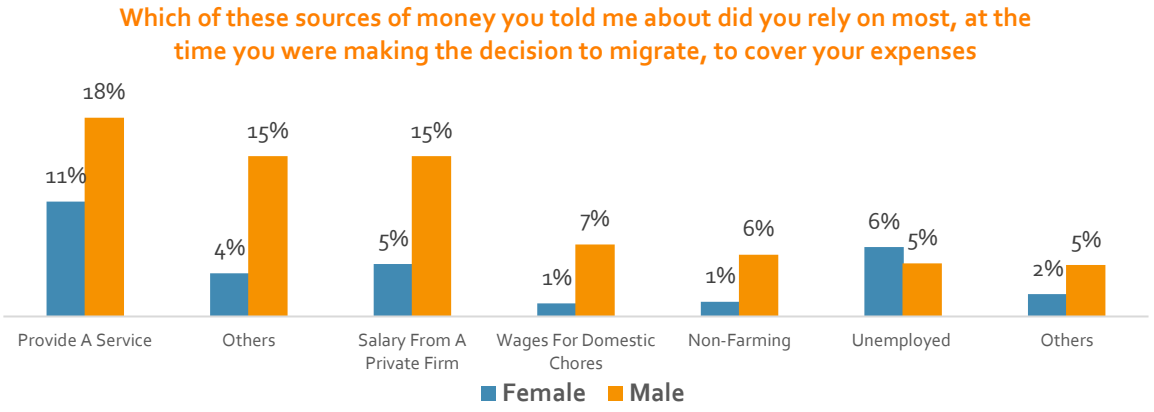
Most survivors (61%) were dissatisfied with the support they received regardless of income, marital status or education level. This statistic aligns with the general discontent of the Edo populace towards government support programmes, which is usually attributed to unsustainability and mismanagement. The exception to this were the survivors that reside in Edo North who reported a 63% satisfaction rate.

An interesting finding was that over half (51%) of survivors residing in Edo Central were very dissatisfied with the support they received. One theory that might explain this is the fact that Edo Central is mostly rural, meaning that the survivors who live there would not have as many opportunities to run profitable business ventures as their counterparts who live in the South. They would therefore, tend to expect more substantial assistance out of support programmes.

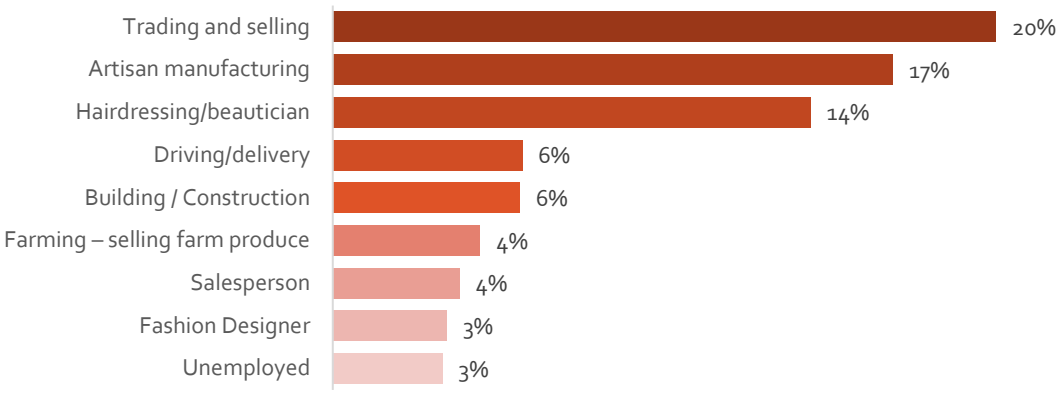
APPENDIX: MALE AND FEMALE



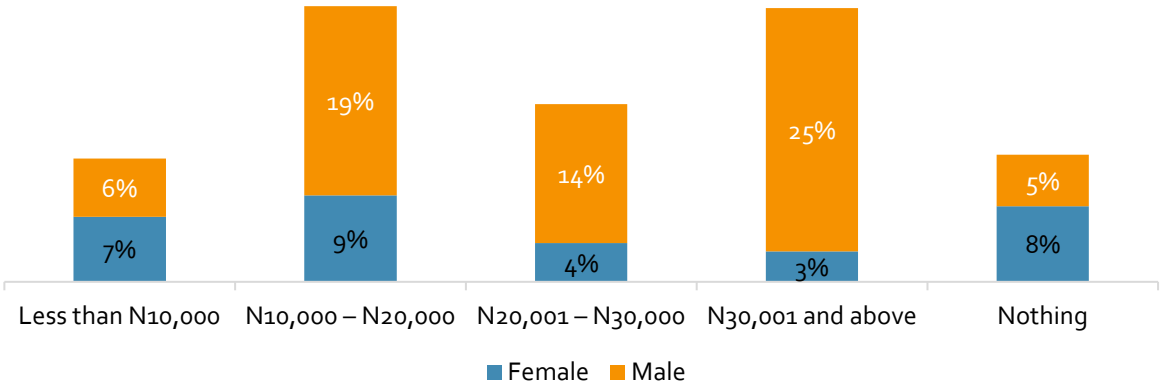




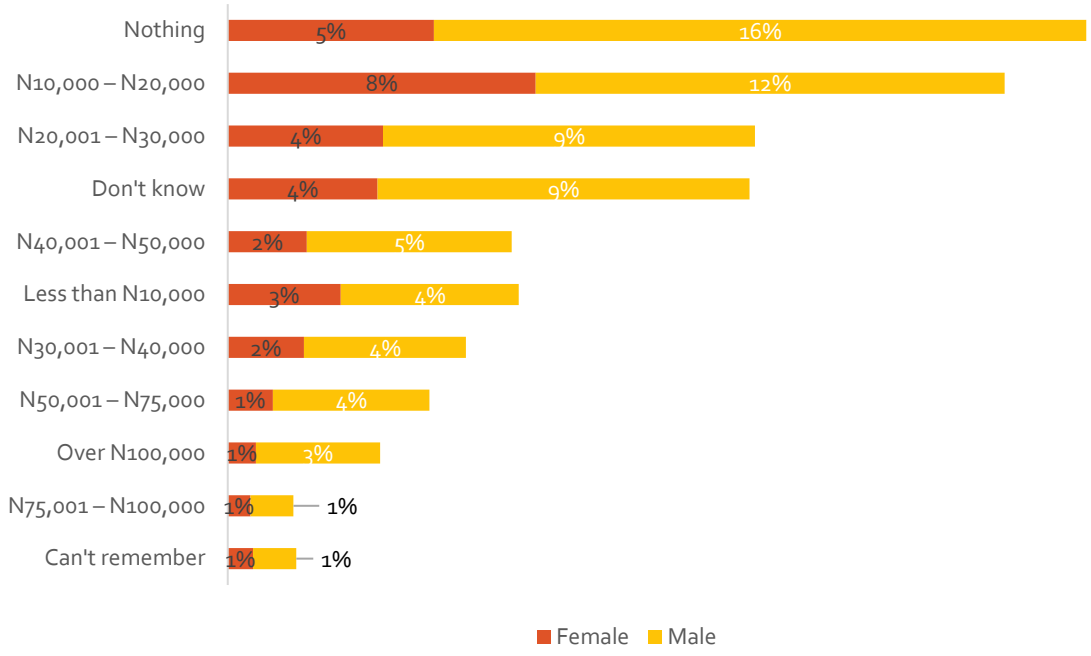
At the time you were making the decision to migrate which of these describes your work best (top 9)



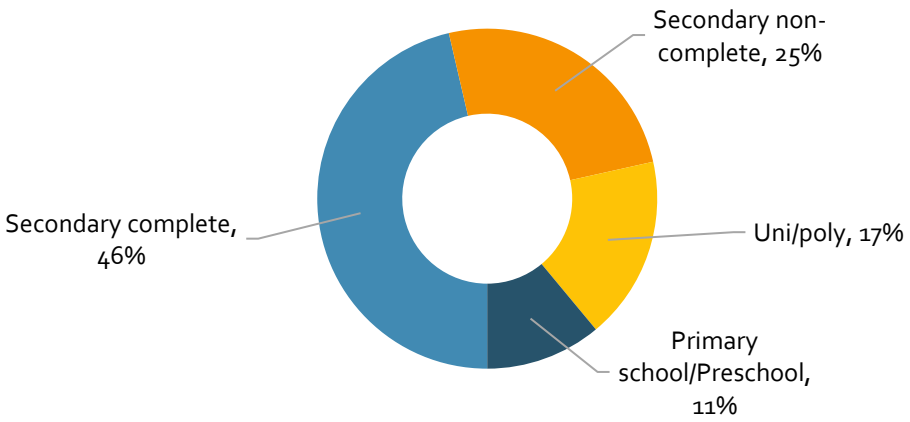
Average monthly income



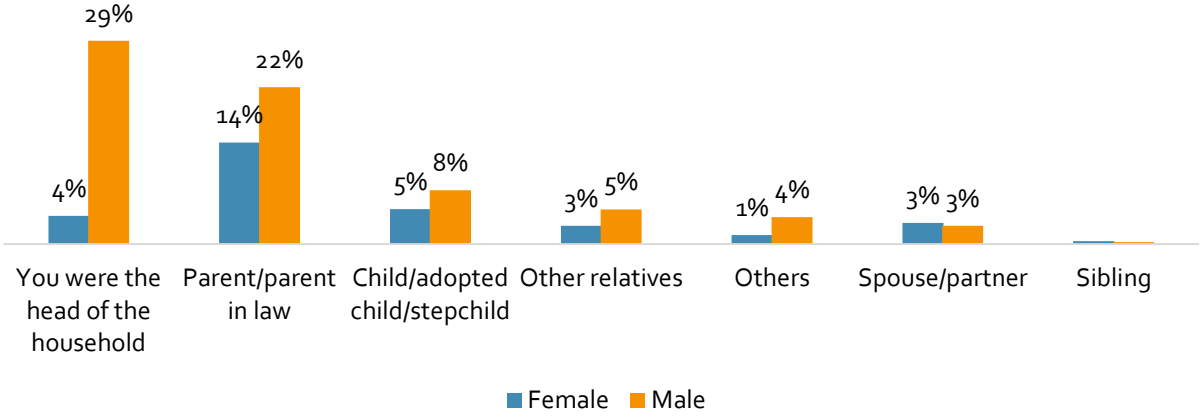
Again, at the time you were thinking of migrating, which of these best describes the average monthly income of others in your household such as family, partner or other household members



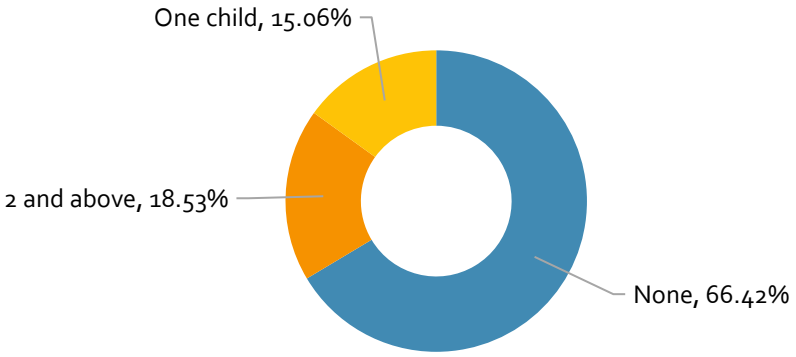
What was your highest level of education when you migrated new?



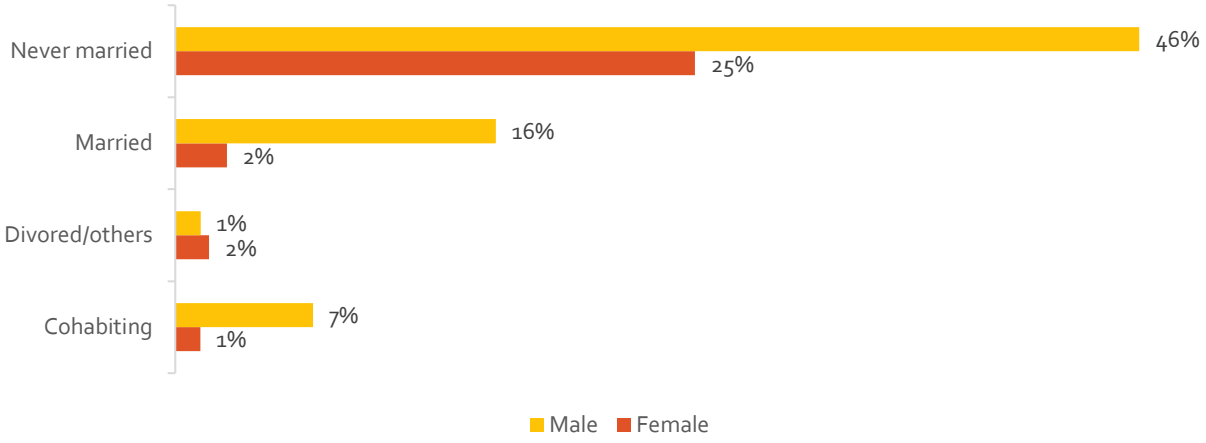
What was your relationship with the head of the household at the time you were making the decision to migrate?

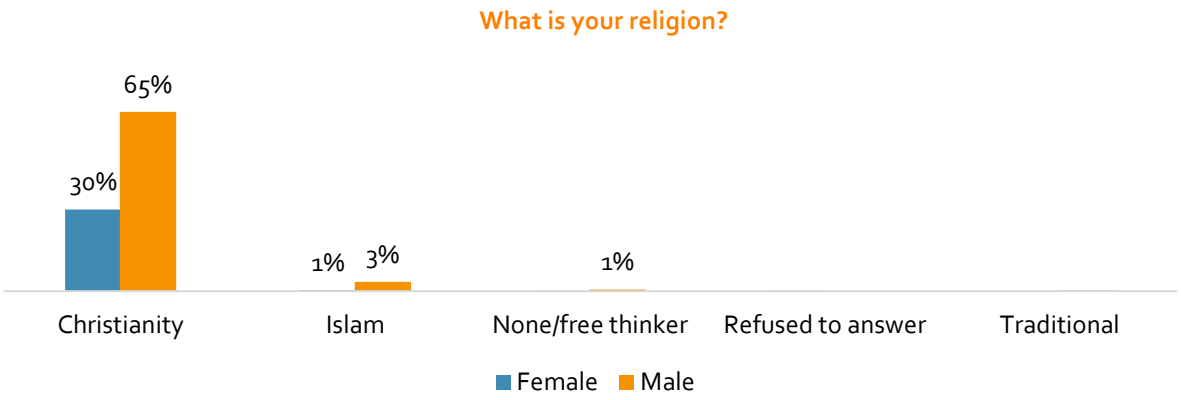


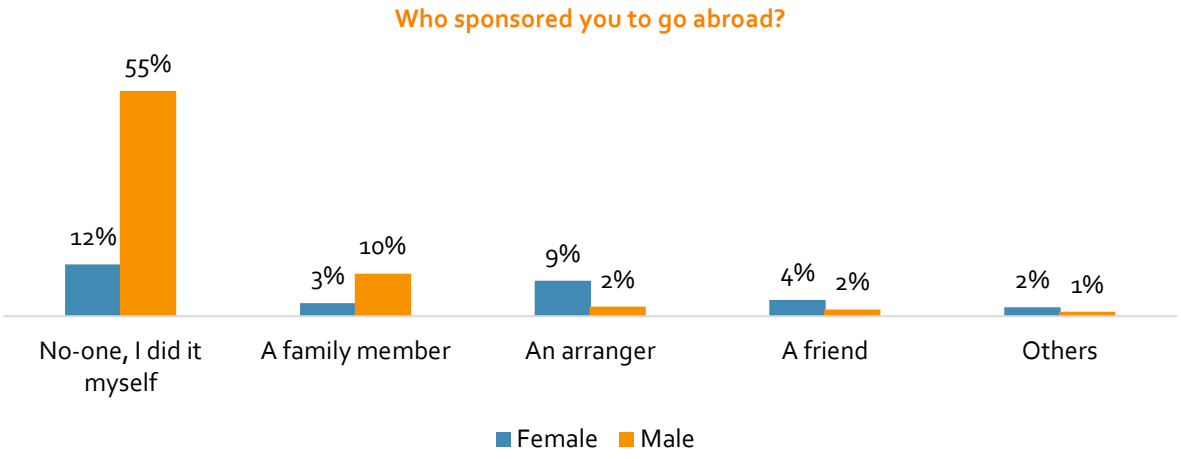
At the time you migrated did you have any biological children of your own?

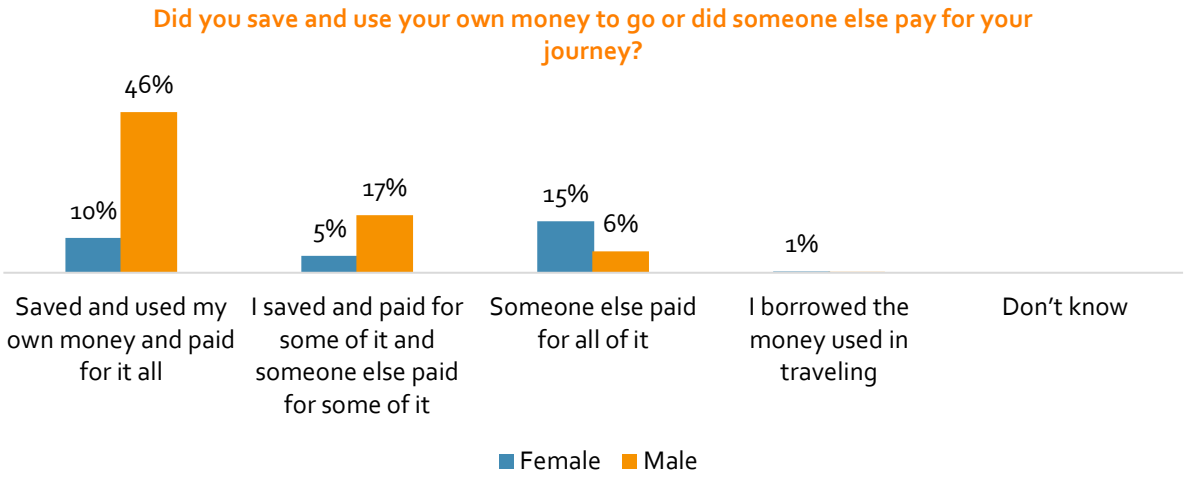


Which of the following best describes your marital status at the time you migrated

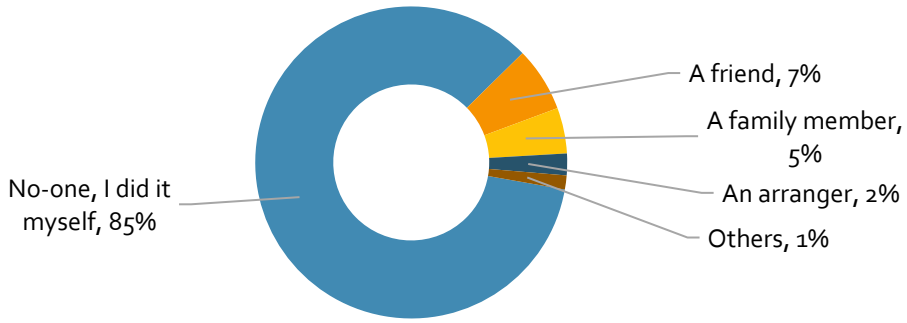



What is your religion?
65%
30%
1%
3%
1%
Christianity
Islam
None/free thinker
Refused to answer
Traditional
Female
Male

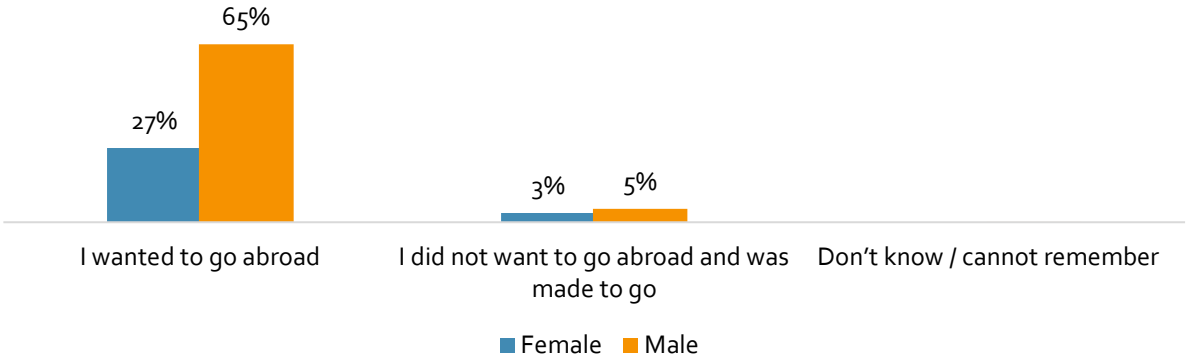

Who sponsored you to go abroad?
55%
12%
10%
3%
9%
2%
4%
2%
2%
1%
No-one, I did it myself
A family member
An arranger
A friend
Others
Female
Male


Did you save and use your own money to go or did someone else pay for your journey?
46%
10%
17%
5%
15%
6%
1%
Saved and used my own money and paid for it all
I saved and paid for some of it and someone else paid for some of it
Someone else paid for all of it
I borrowed the money used in traveling
Don't know
Female
Male

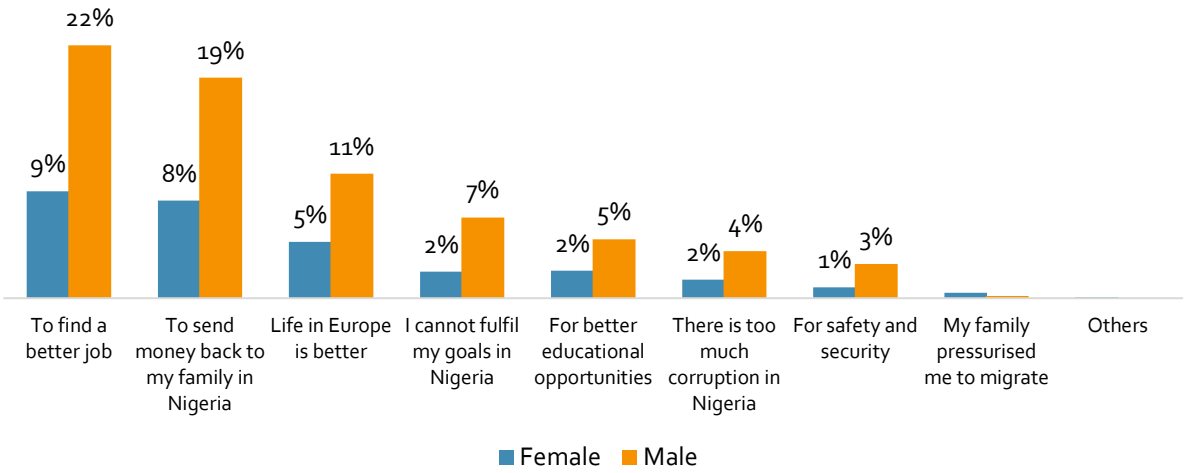
Who made the decision for you to travel abroad

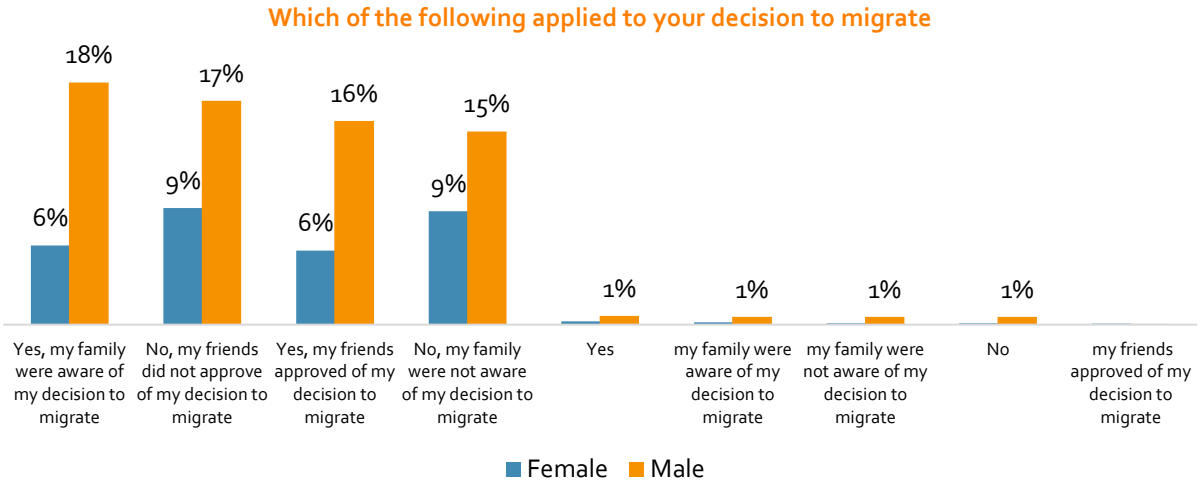


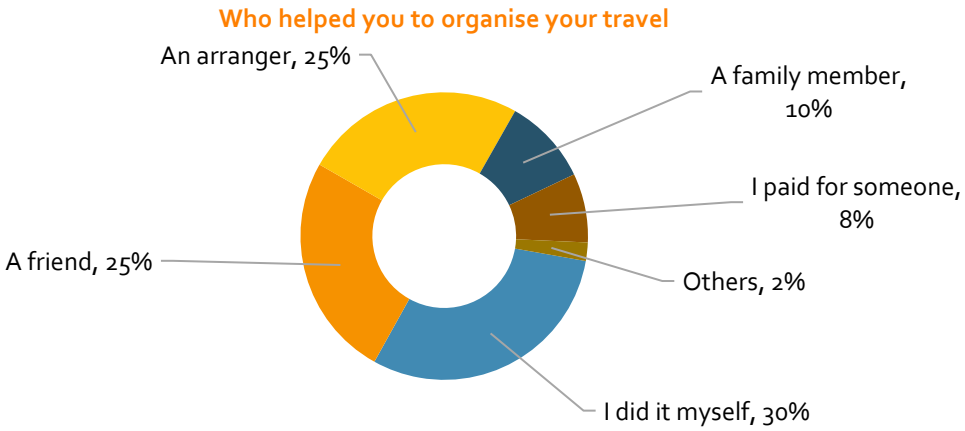
Did you want to go abroad or were you made to go abroad even though you did not want to go?

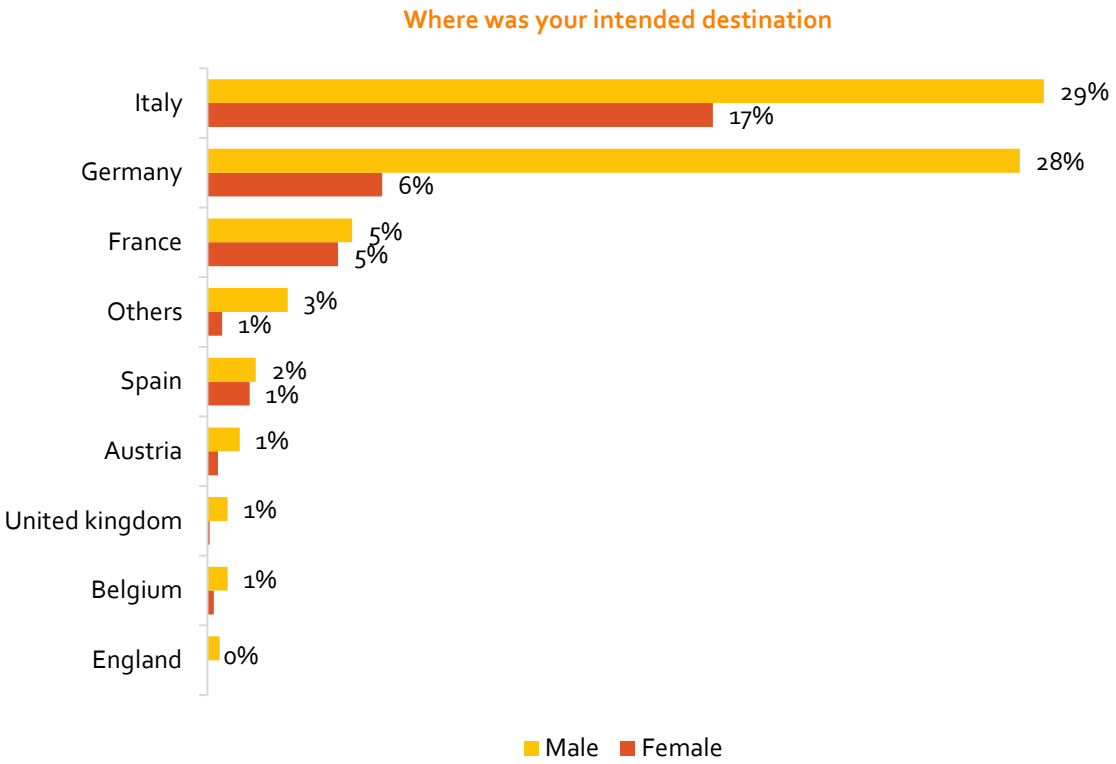


Please tell me which ones apply to your decision to migrate

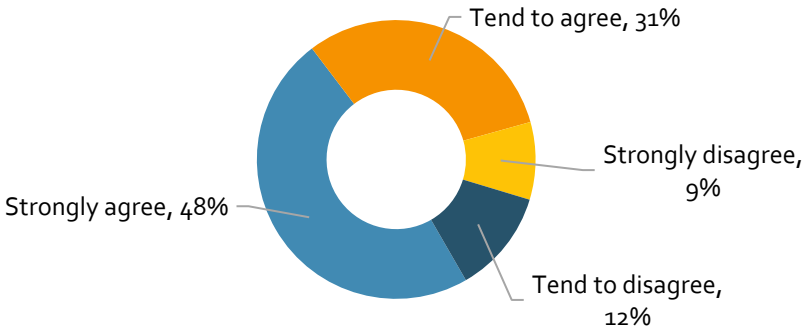



Which of the following applied to your decision to migrate
18%
17%
16%
15%
6%
9%
6%
9%
1%
1%
1%
1%
Yes, my family were aware of my decision to migrate
No, my friends did not approve of my decision to migrate
Yes, my friends approved of my decision to migrate
No, my family were not aware of my decision to migrate
Yes
my family were aware of my decision to migrate
my family were not aware of my decision to migrate
No
my friends approved of my decision to migrate
Female
Male

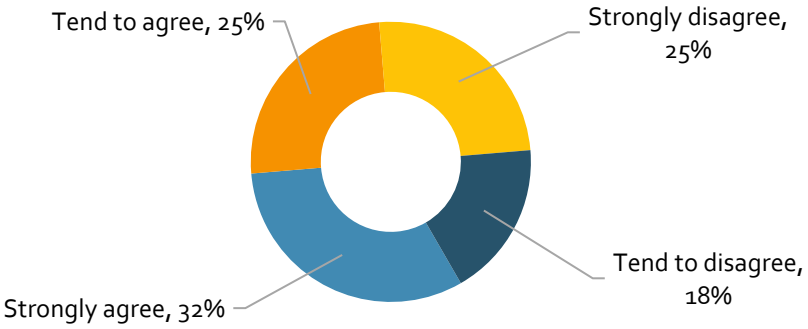

Who helped you to organise your travel
An arranger, 25%
A family member, 10%
I paid for someone, 8%
A friend, 25%
Others, 2%
I did it myself, 30%


Where was your intended destination
Italy
29%
17%
Germany
28%
6%
France
5%
5%
Others
3%
1%
Spain
2%
1%
Austria
1%
United kingdom
1%
Belgium
1%
England
0%
Male
Female

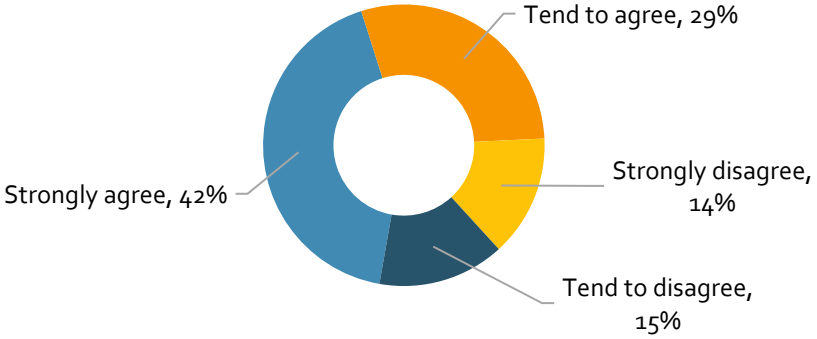
Many people in my community migrate to Europe to find work



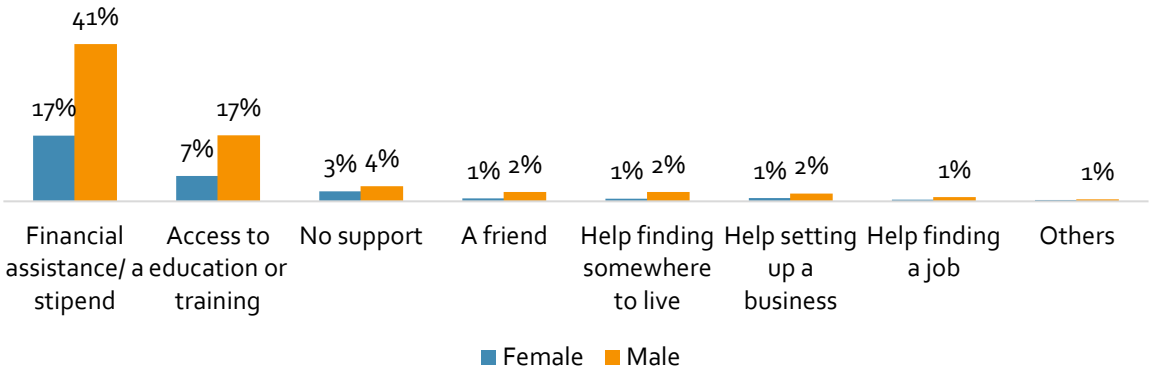
Families in my community expect their young people to migrate to Europe for work



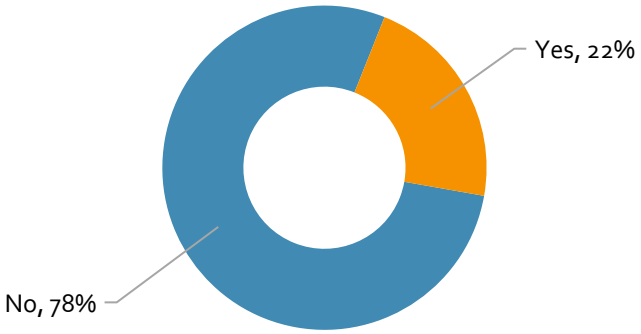
Most people in my community approve of those who



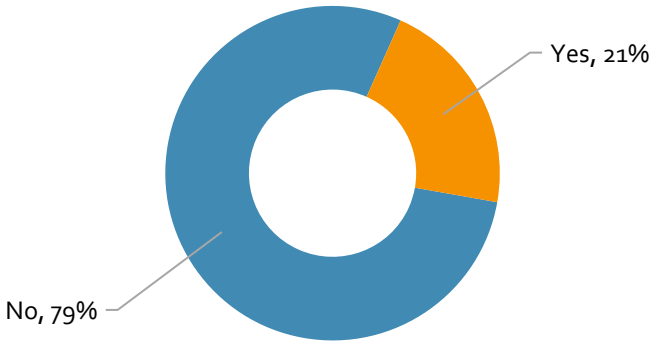
What support did you receive on returning to Nigeria



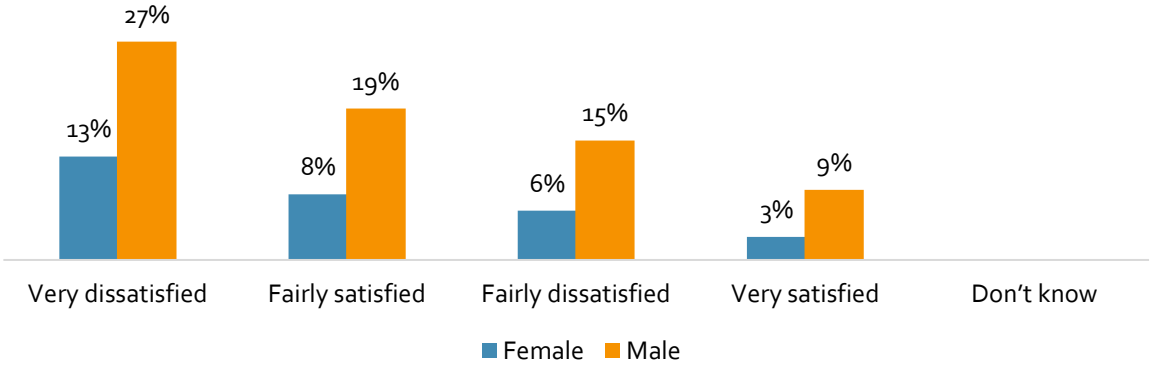
Do you have any plans on migrating again



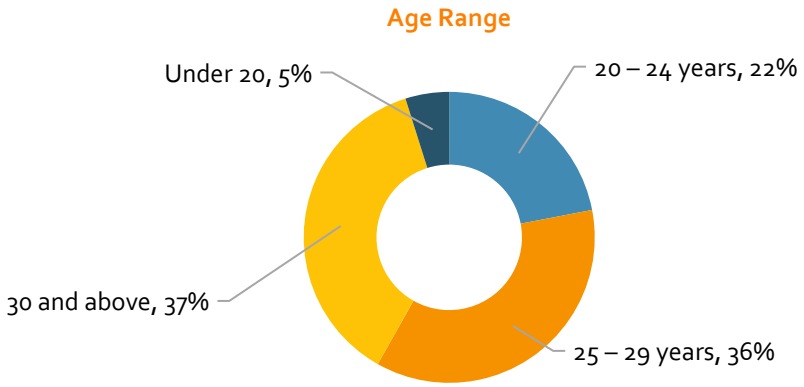
Are you currently trying to migrate



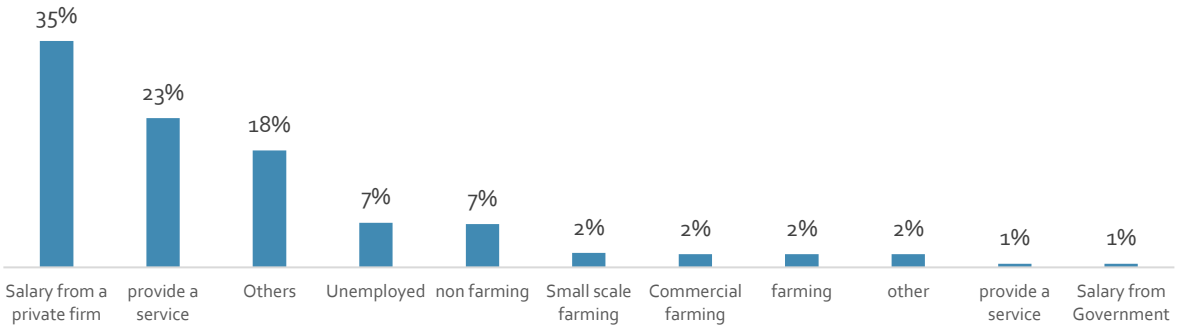
And how satisfied or dissatisfied were you with the quality of support you received



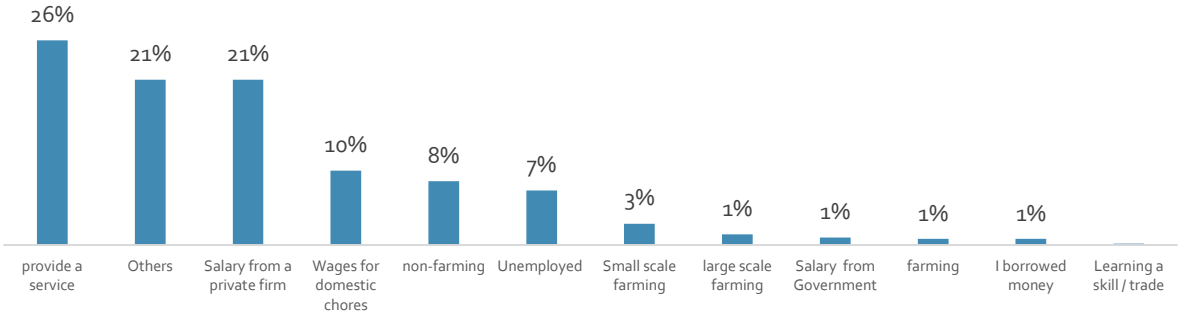
APPENDIX: MALE



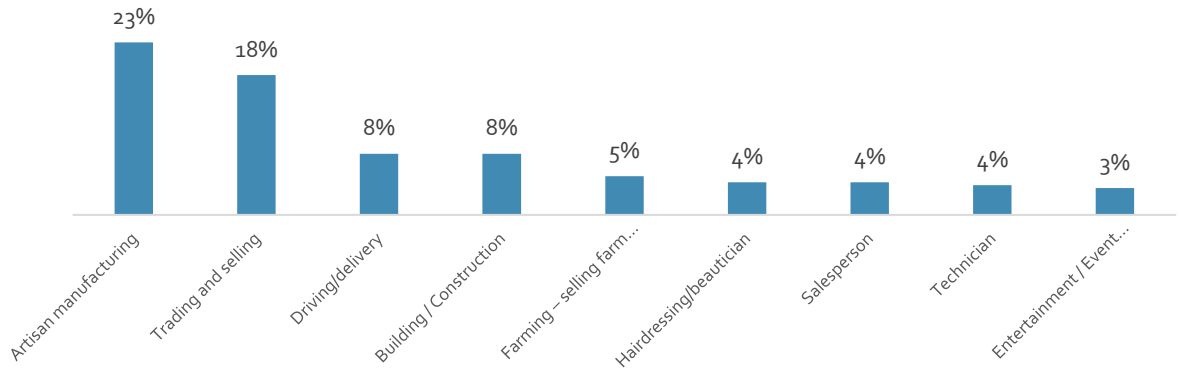
Different people get money to buy the things they need in different ways. Please tell me at the time you were making the decision to migrate, from where/from whom did you usually get money to buy the things you needed



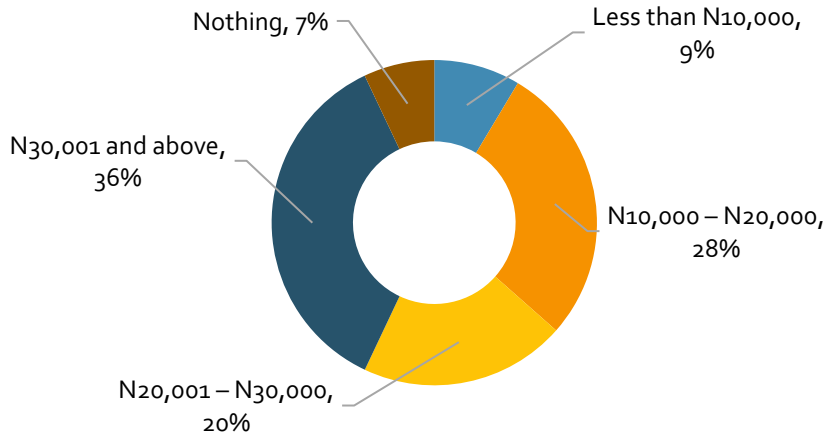
Which of these sources of money you told me about did you rely on most, at the time you were making the decision to migrate, to cover your expenses



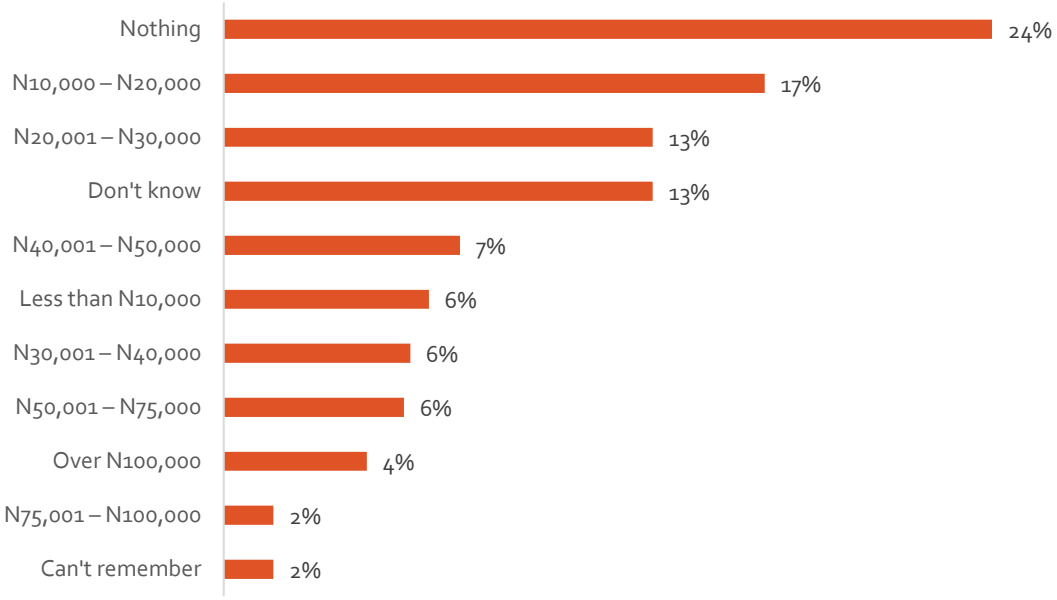
At the time you were making the decision to migrate which of these describes your work best (top 9)



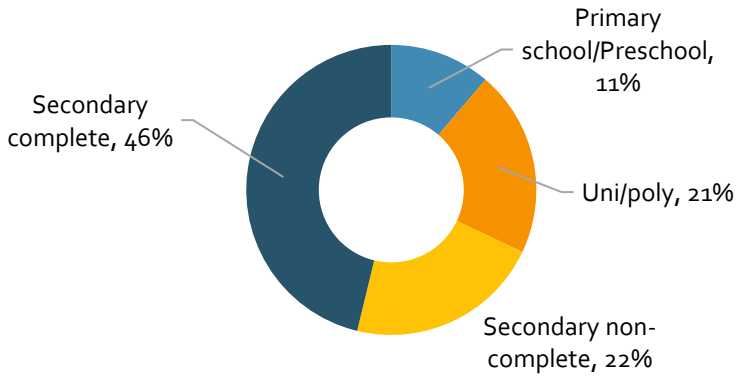
Average monthly income



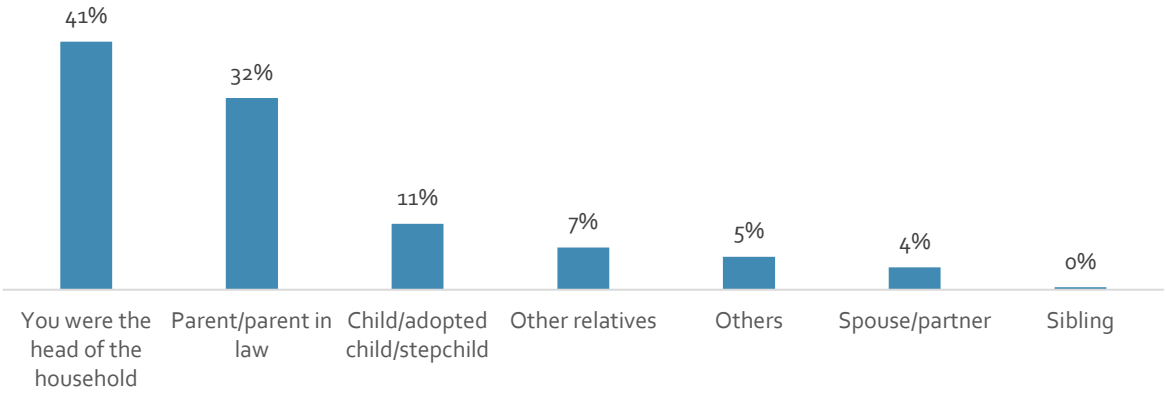
Again, at the time you were thinking of migrating, which of these best describes the average monthly income of others in your household such as family, partner or other household members



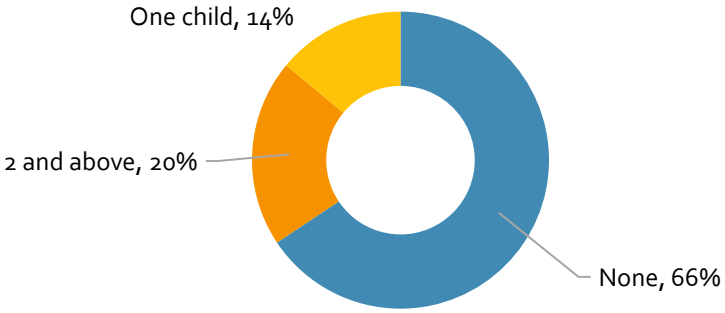
What was your highest level of education when you migrated



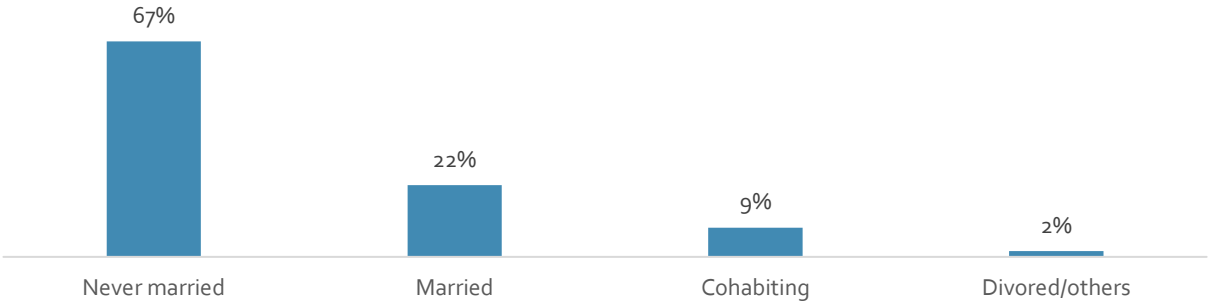
What was your relationship with the head of the household at the time you were making the decision to migrate?



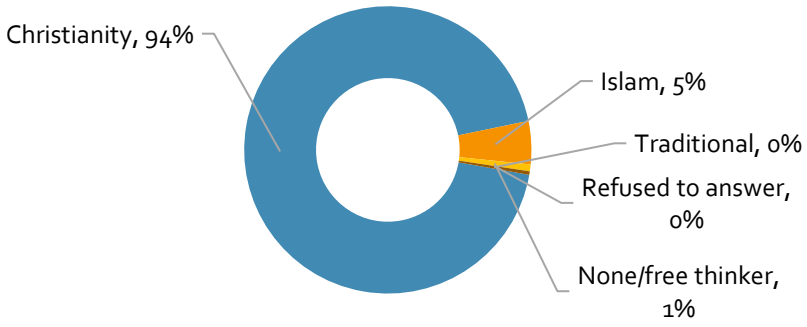
At the time you migrated did you have any biological children of your own?



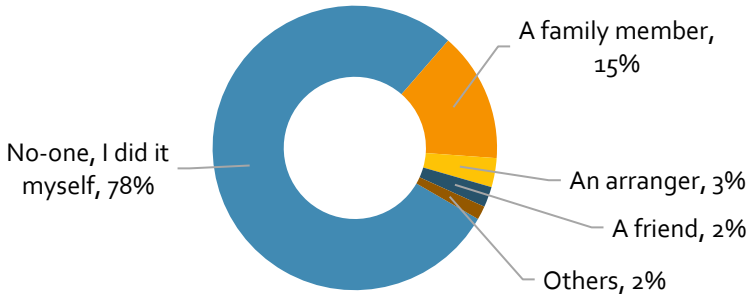
Which of the following best describes your marital status at the time you migrated



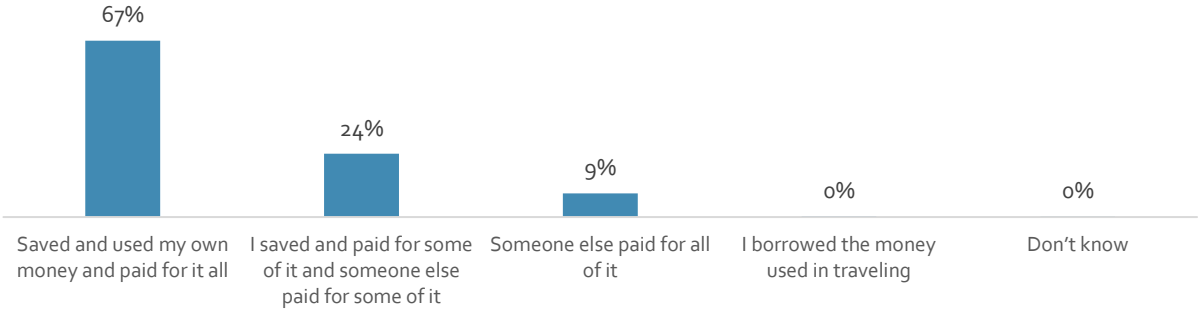
What is your religion?



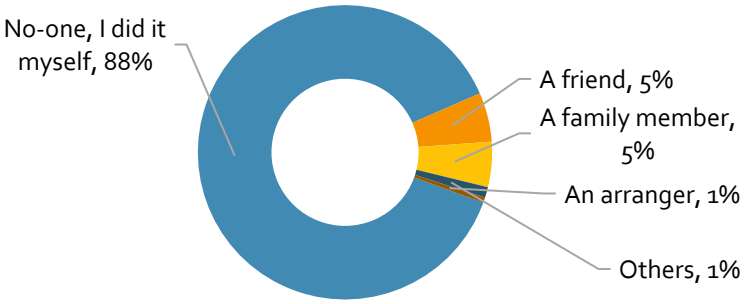
Who sponsored you to go abroad?



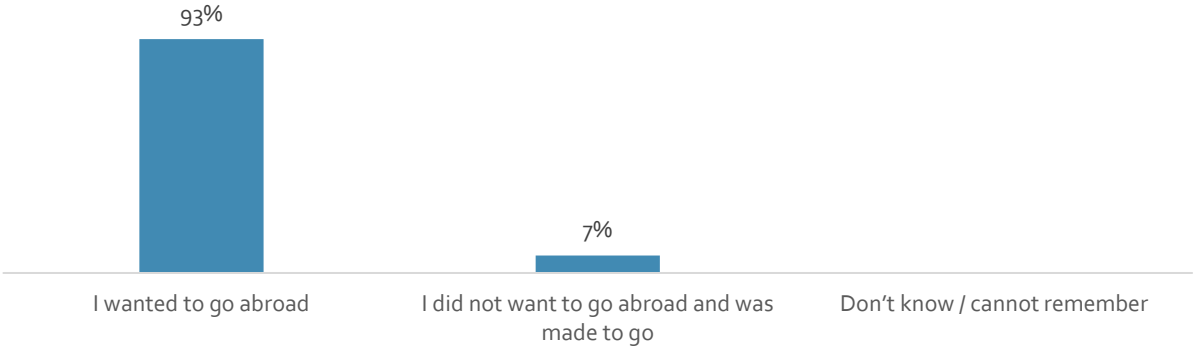
Did you save and use your own money to go or did someone else pay for your journey?



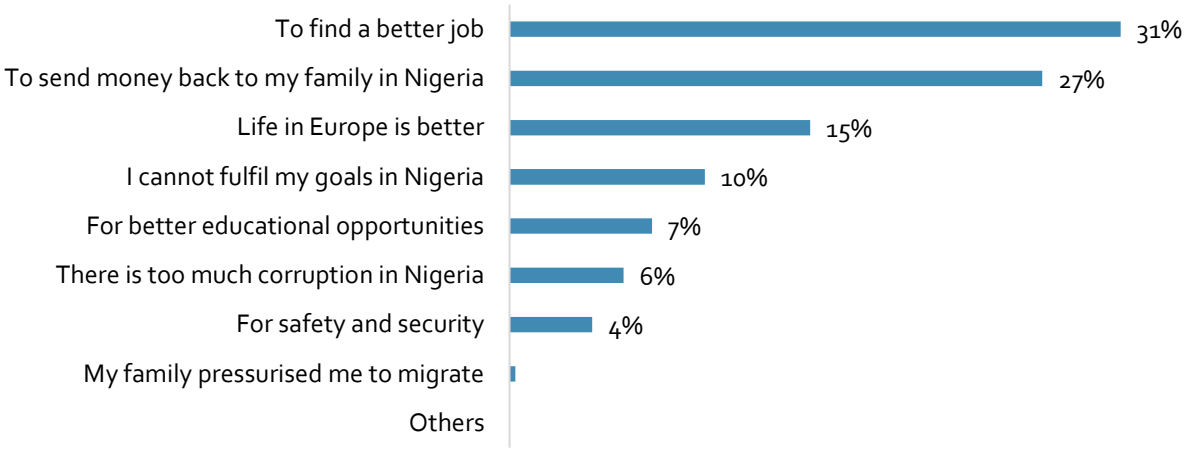
Who made the decision for you to travel abroad



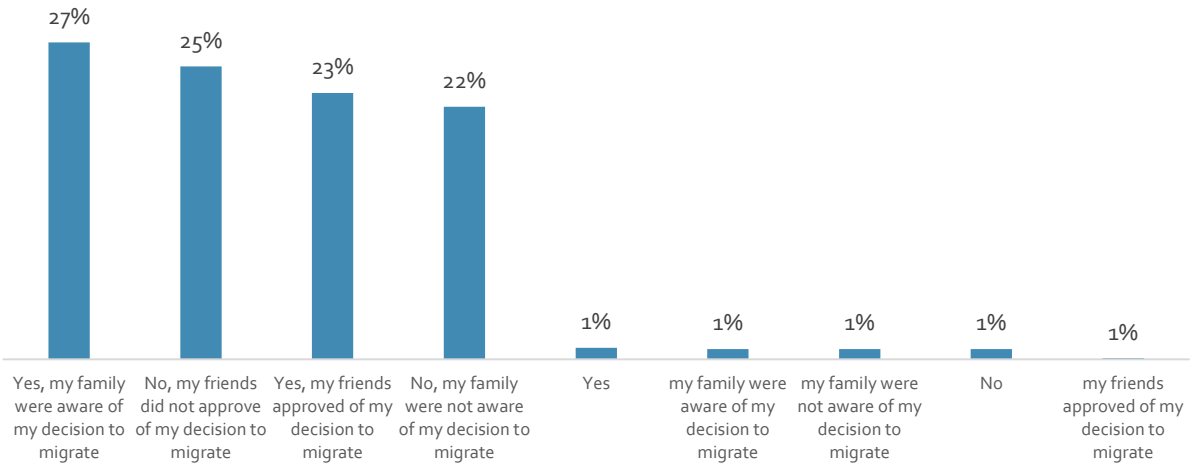
Did you want to go abroad or were you made to go abroad even though you did not want to go



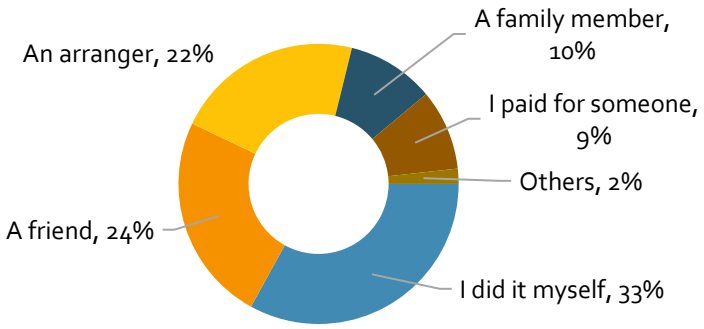
Please tell me which ones apply to your decision to migrate



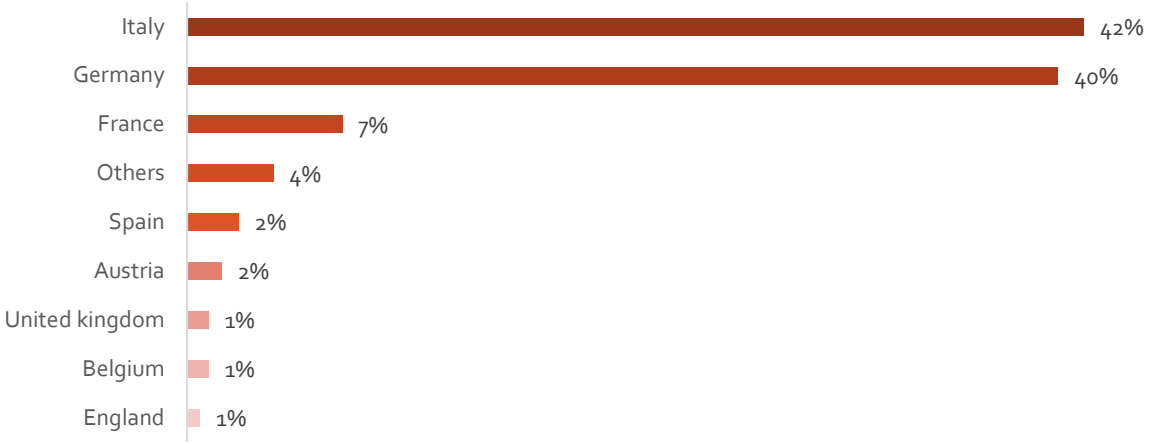
Which of the following applied to your decision to migrate



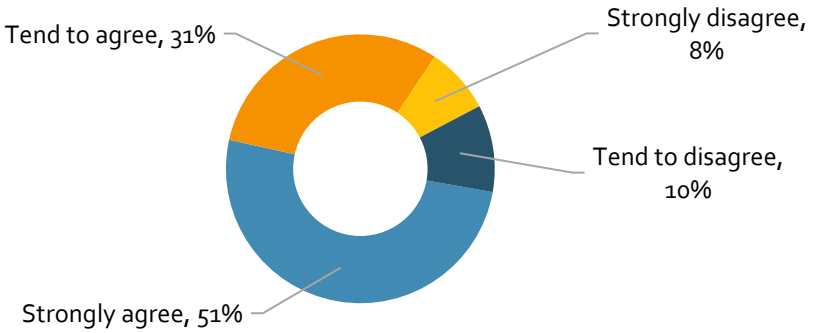
Who helped you to organise your travel



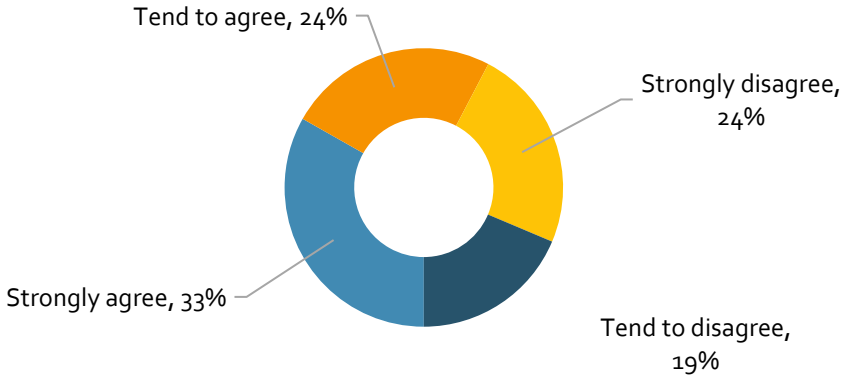
Where was your intended destination



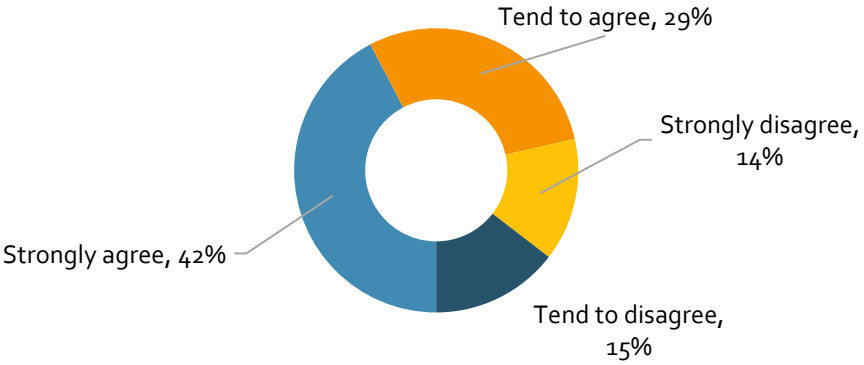
Many people in my community migrate to Europe to find work



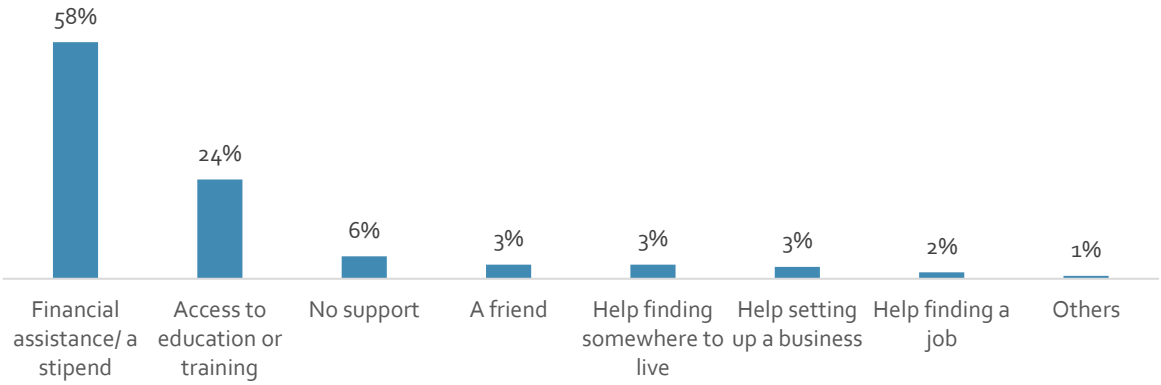
Families in my community expect their young people to migrate to Europe for work



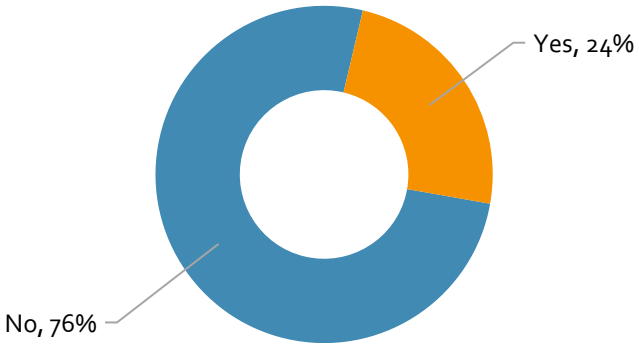
Most people in my community approve of those who migrate to Europe to find work



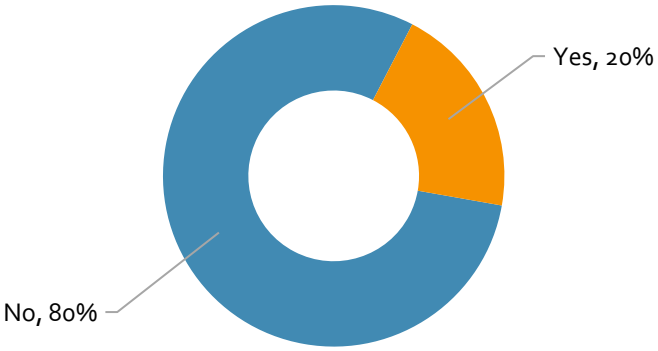
What support did you receive on returning to Nigeria



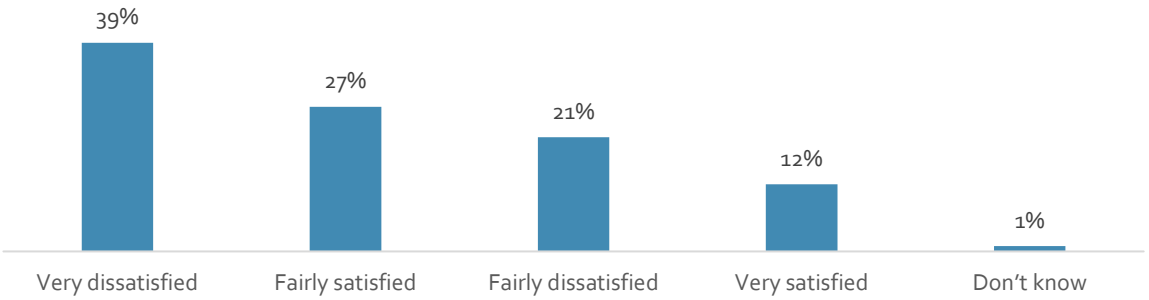
Do you have any plans on migrating again



Are you currently trying to migrate

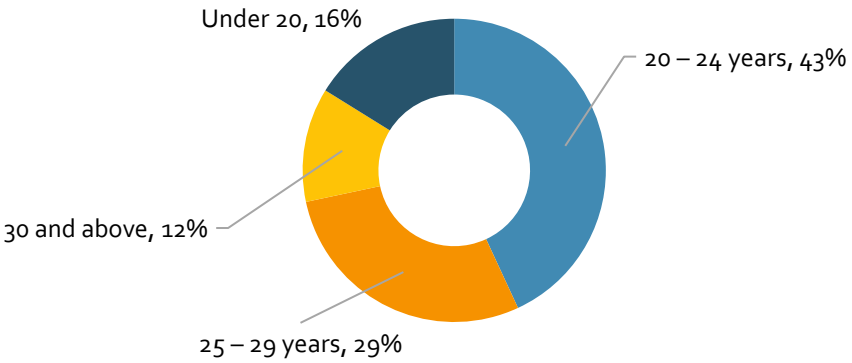


And how satisfied or dissatisfied were you with the quality of support you received

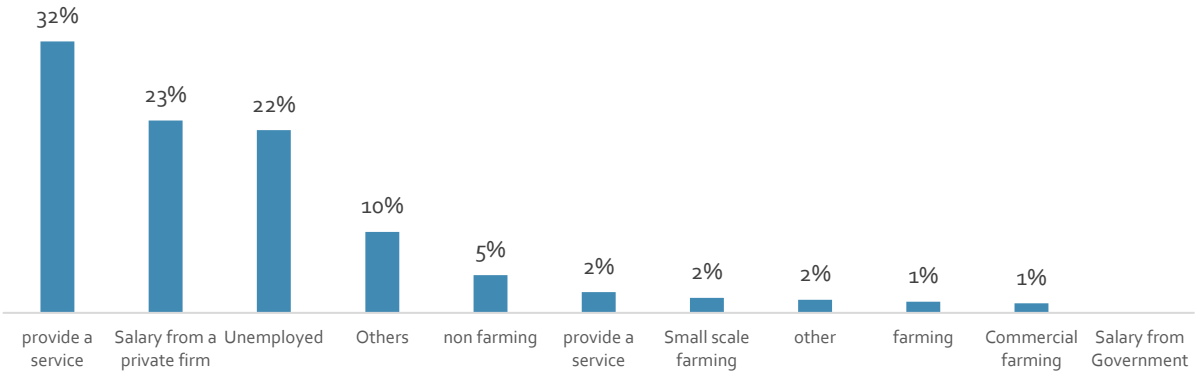


APPENDIX: FEMALE

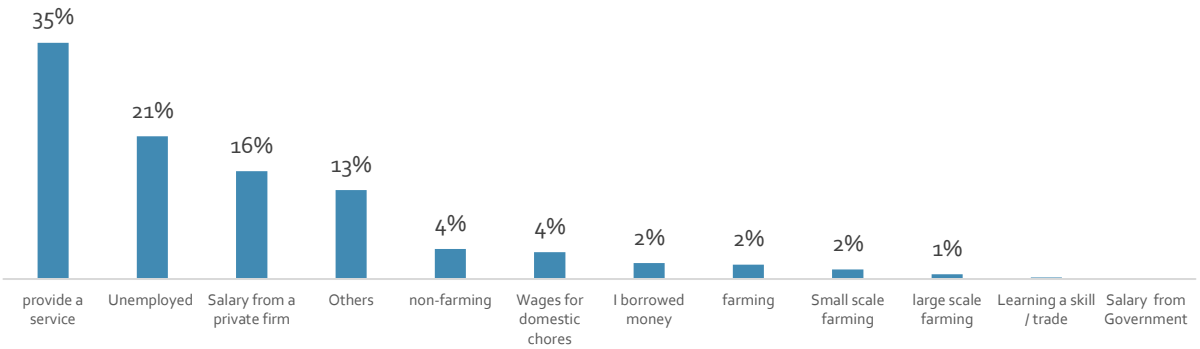
Age Range



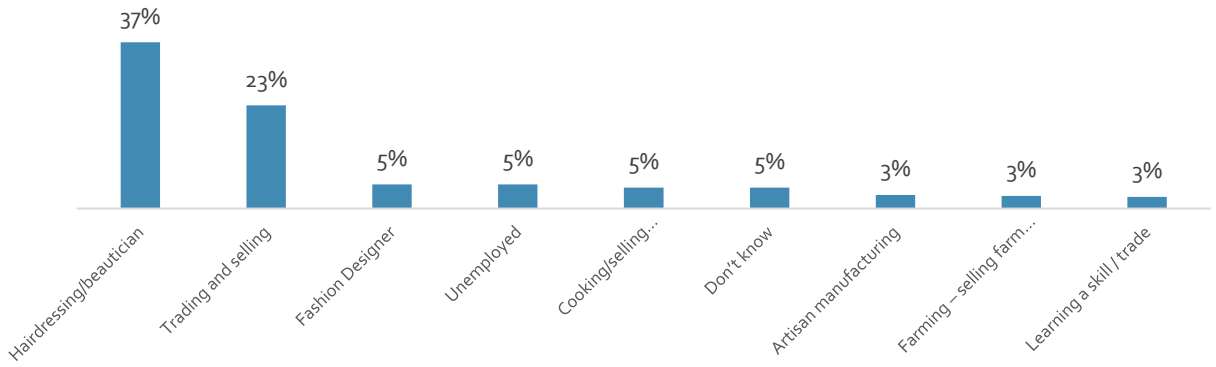
Different people get money to buy the things they need in different ways. Please tell me at the time you were making the decision to migrate, from where/from whom did you usually get money to buy the things you needed



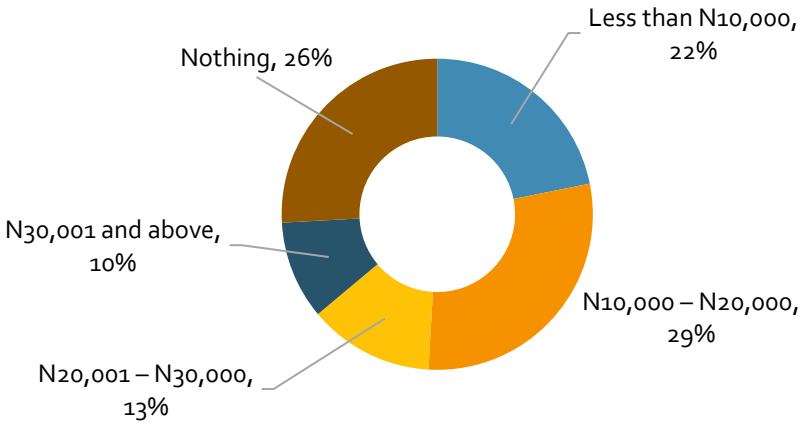
Which of these sources of money you told me about did you rely on most, at the time you were making the decision to migrate, to cover your expenses



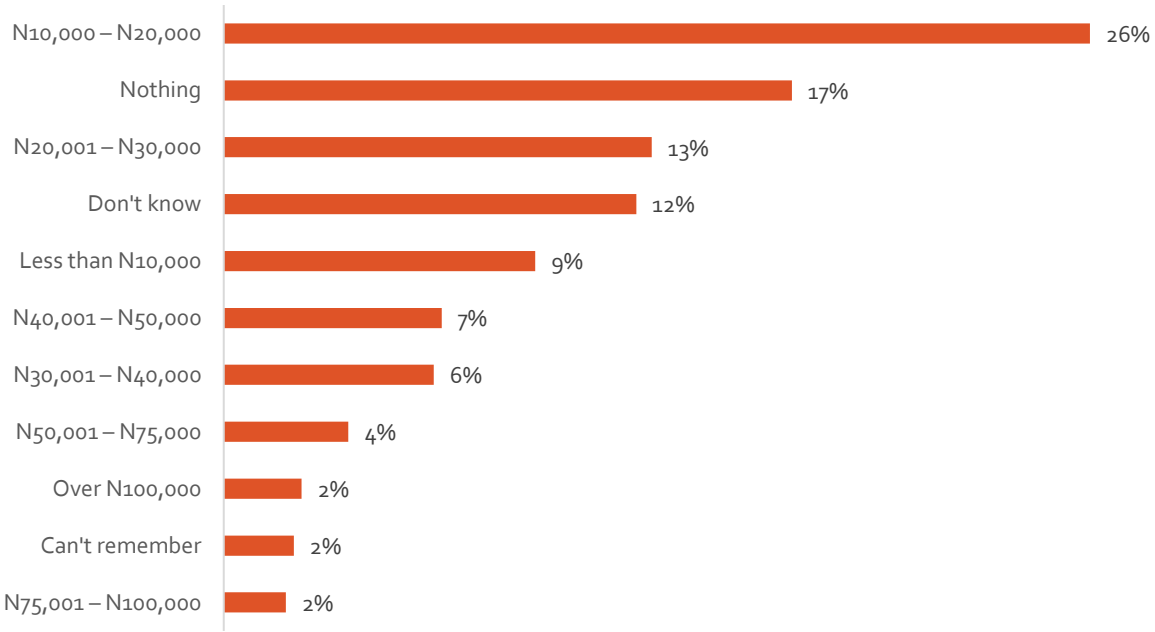
At the time you were making the decision to migrate which of these describes your work best (top 9)



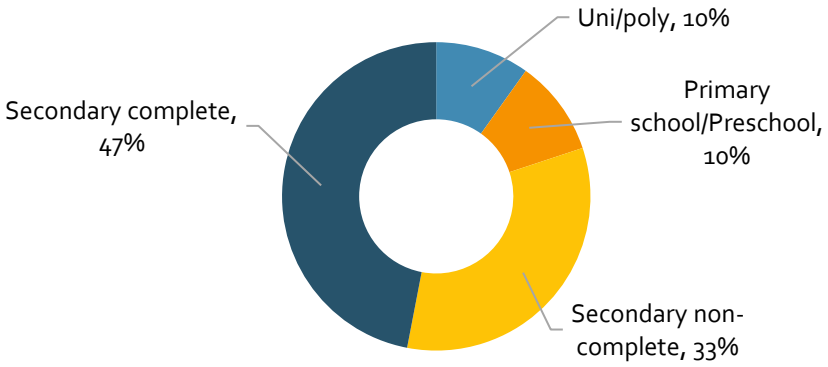
Average monthly income



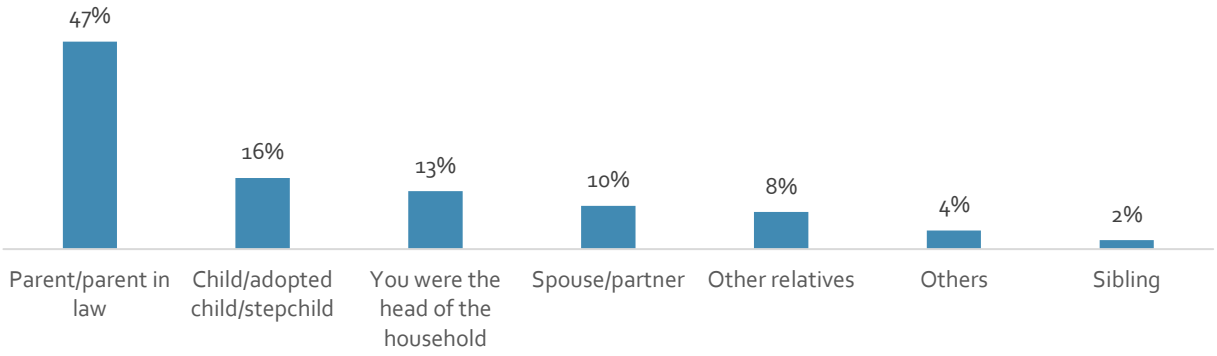
Again, at the time you were thinking of migrating, which of these best describes the average monthly income of others in your household such as family, partner or other household members



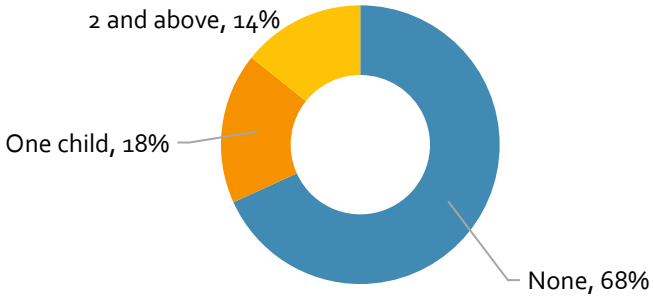
What was your highest level of education when you migrated



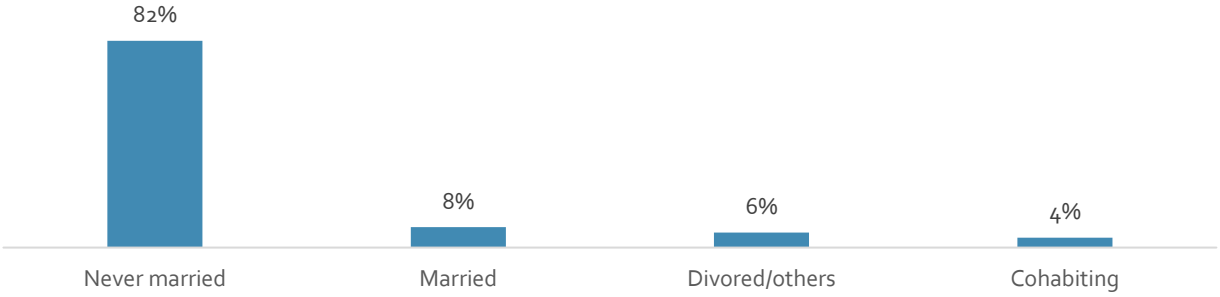
What was your relationship with the head of the household at the time you were making the decision to migrate?



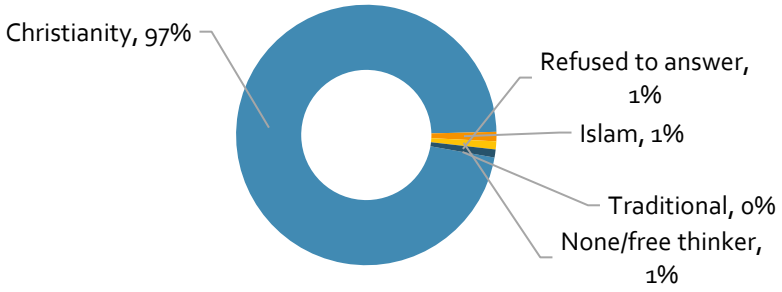
At the time you migrated did you have any biological children of your own?



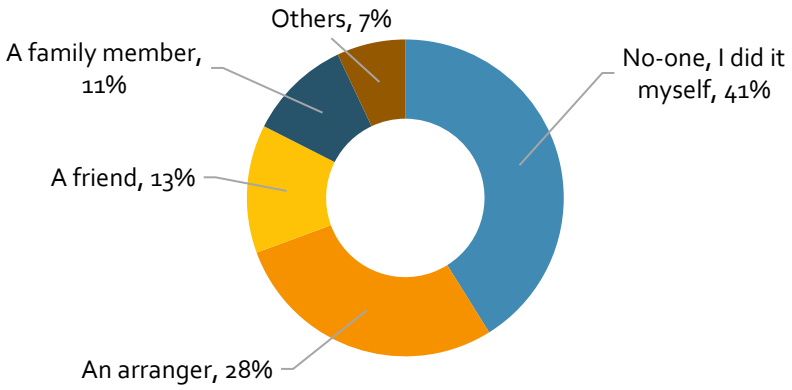
Which of the following best describes your marital status at the time you migrated



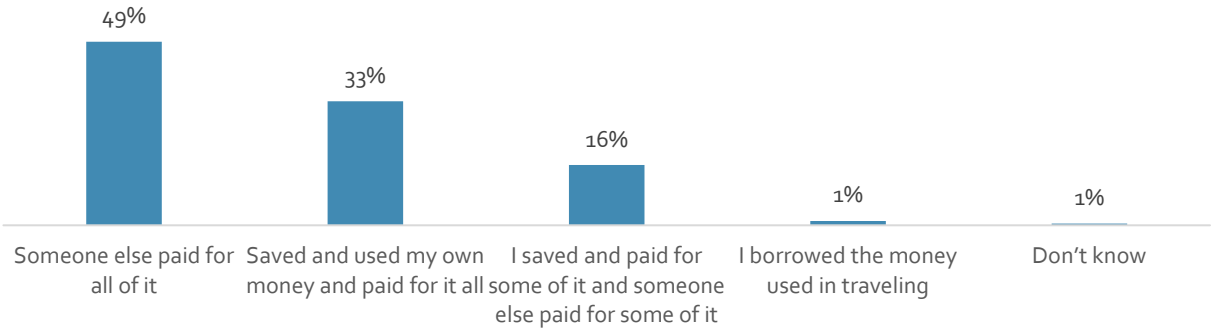
What is your religion?



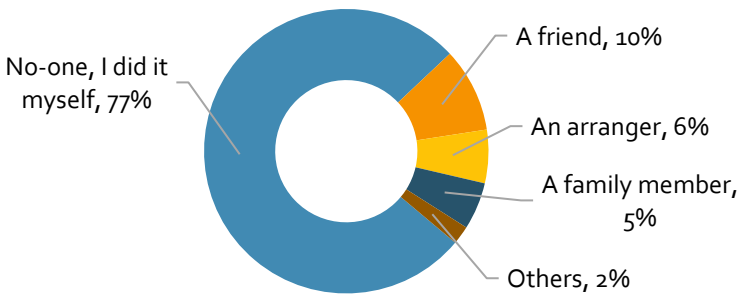
Who sponsored you to go abroad?



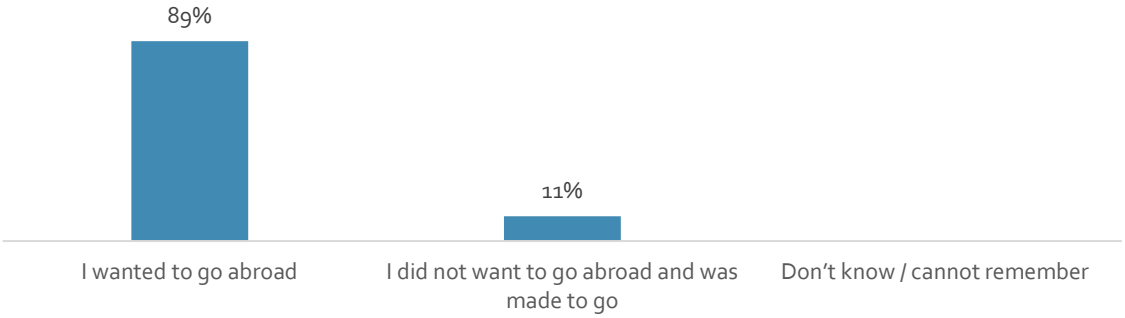
Did you save and use your own money to go or did someone else pay for your journey?



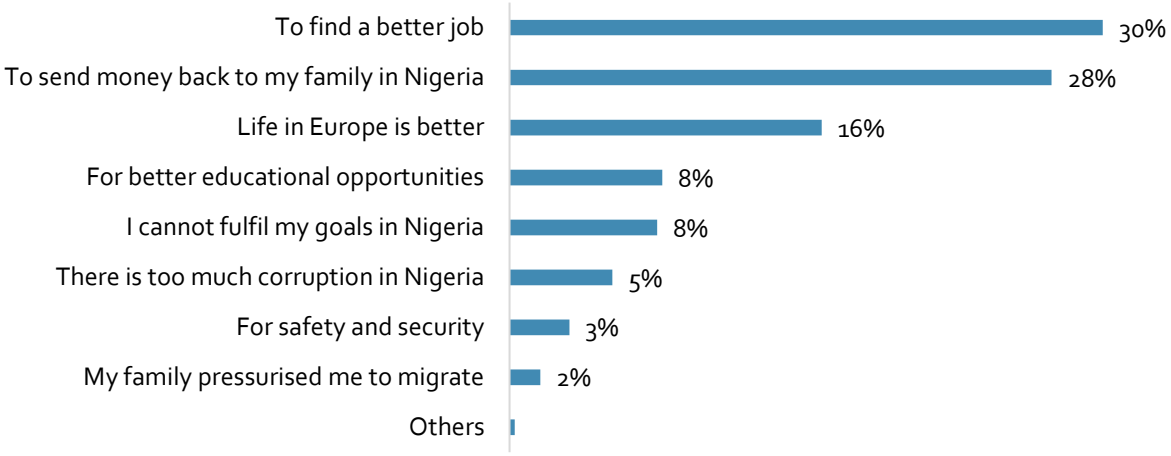
Who made the decision for you to travel abroad



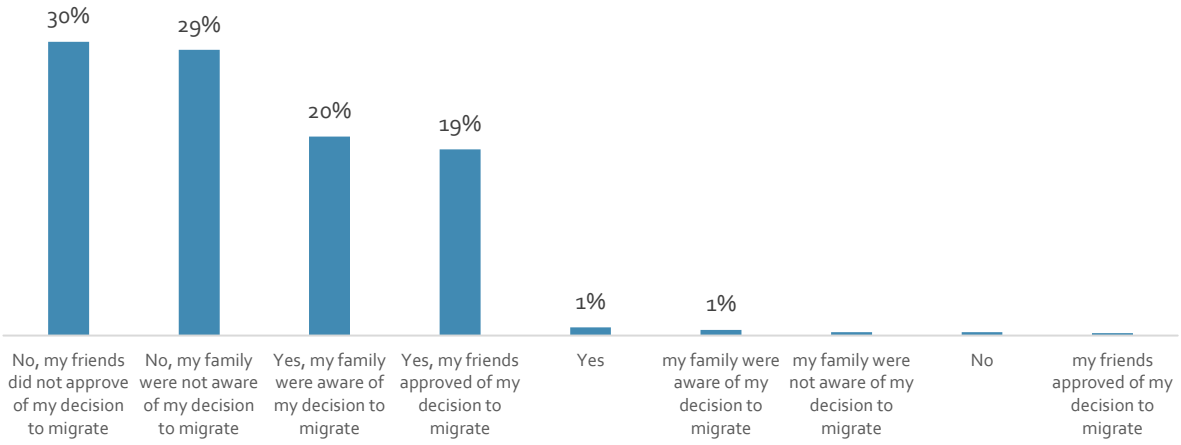
Did you want to go abroad or were you made to go abroad even though you did not want to go



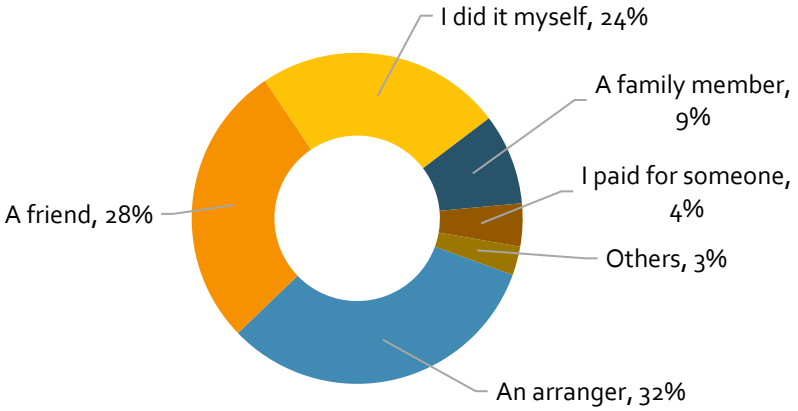
Please tell me which ones apply to your decision to migrate



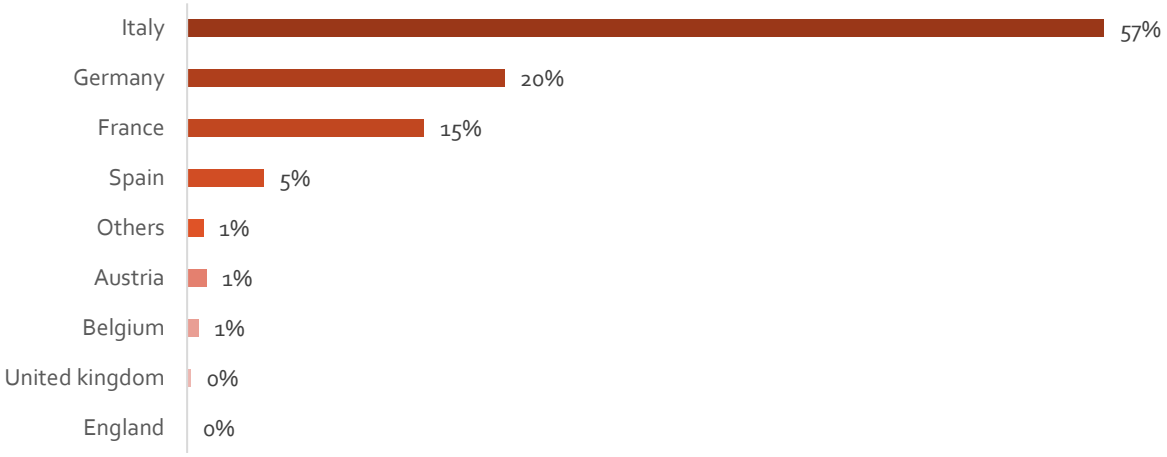
Which of the following applied to your decision to migrate



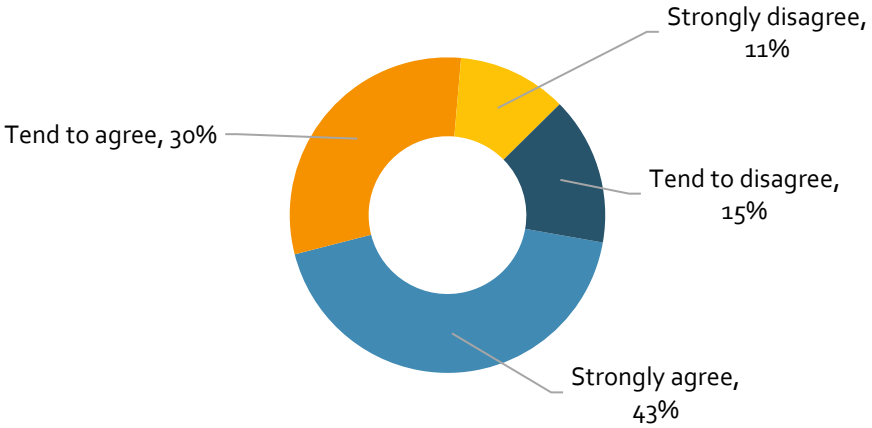
Who helped you to organise your travel



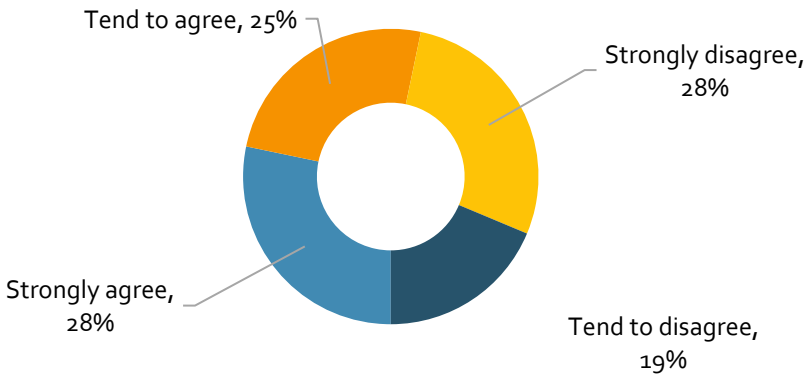
Where was your intended destination



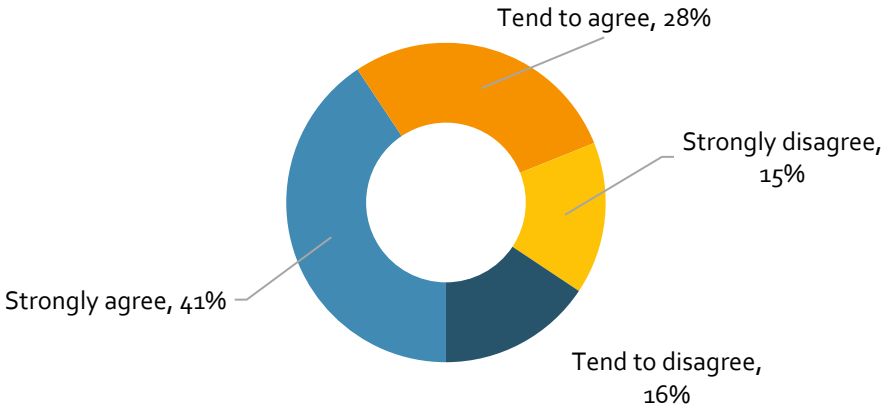
Many people in my community migrate to Europe to find work



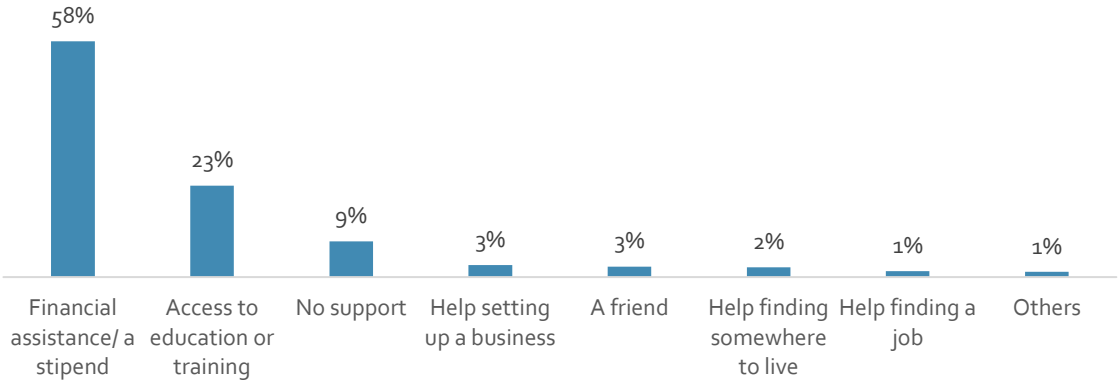
Families in my community expect their young people to migrate to Europe for work



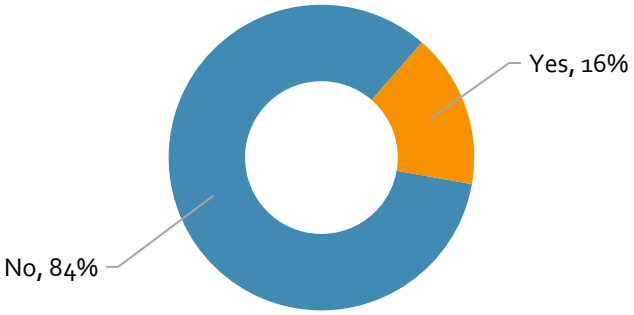
Most people in my community approve of those who migrate to Europe to find work



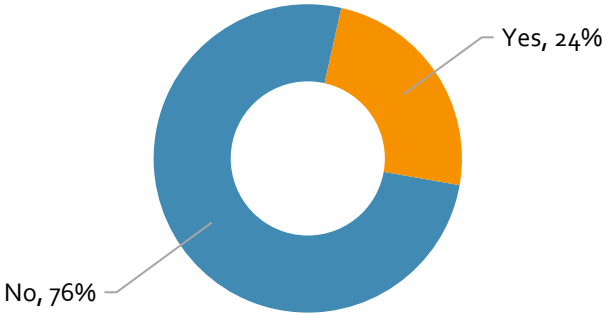
What support did you receive on returning to Nigeria



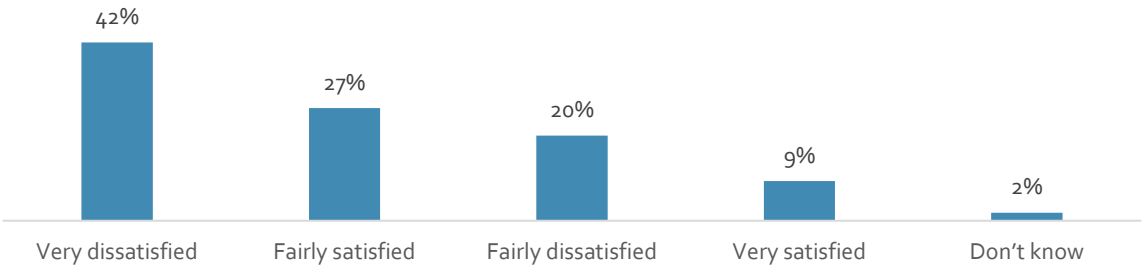
Do you have any plans on migrating again



Are you currently trying to migrate



And how satisfied or dissatisfied were you with the quality of support you received



THANK YOU