

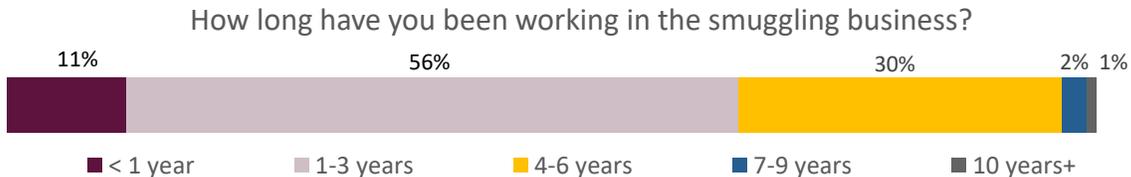
Smuggler survey

MMC's 4Mi data collection project collects in-depth quantitative information about migration. As part of this project, 4Mi has a specialized survey for migrants and also collects information directly from smugglers to find out more about their profiles, their business, and the experiences of people on the move.

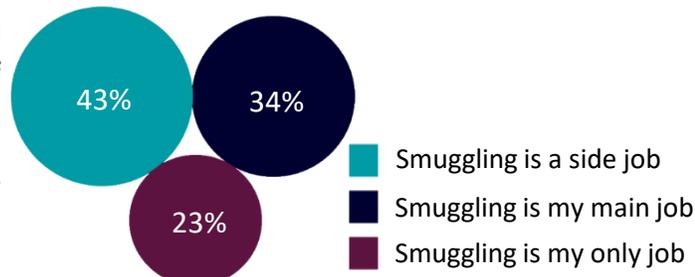
The data presented in this Snapshot was collected between June 2017 and September 2018 from smugglers interviewed in Egypt, Kenya, Somaliland and South Africa.



Data shows that the majority of smugglers interviewed are new to the smuggling business. Of the 219 smugglers interviewed, **56% indicated that they had been working as a smuggler for 1-3 years**. A further 11% had been engaged for less than a year.



Only 23% of smugglers indicated smuggling was their sole source of income. For those with other jobs, 62% identified themselves as business owners, 11% as service industry workers, and 8% as civil servants, among other professions.



Networks, roles and profits

94%

of smugglers operate as a part of a wider human smuggling network. Roles within the network vary, ranging from providing accommodation, transporting migrants across borders, or liaising with authorities for their safe passage. **58% of smugglers began working in migrant smuggling as a recruiter** – responsible for connecting migrants to smugglers.

41% of smugglers indicated that there are other types of smuggling networks operating in the same locations. These networks are involved in a range of activities, including smuggling in charcoal, drugs, money, consumer goods and weapons, among others.

53% of smugglers indicated that the primary reason they started smuggling was because they **make more money in migrant smuggling than they did before.**

\$ 2,900

Average profits per smuggler per month

“ I see smuggling as an opportunity both for me and the migrant. It gives me another source of income and it works for the migrant also. ”

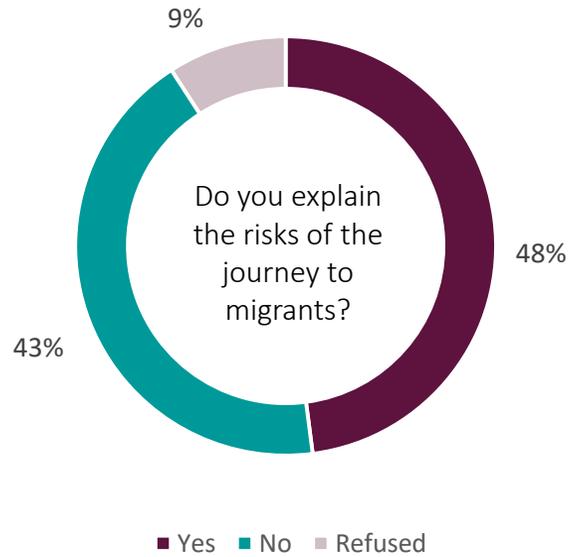
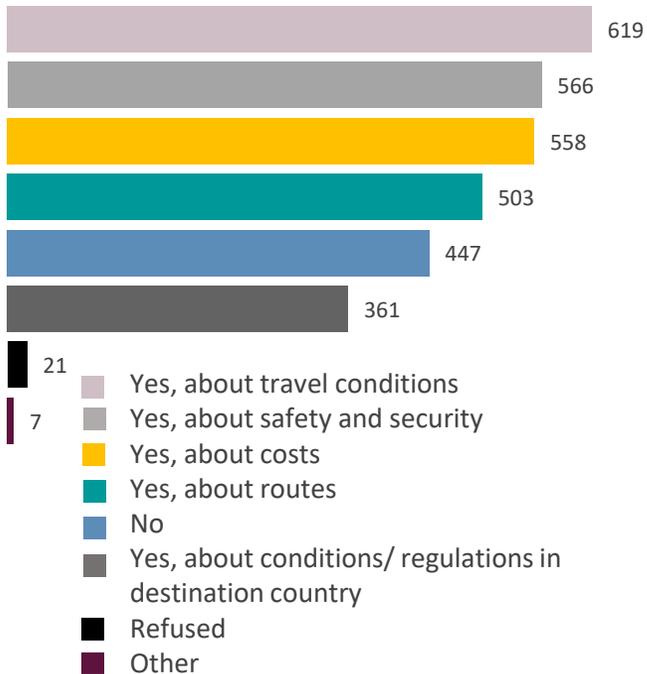
38 year old male smuggler interviewed in Kenya
September 2017

Risks for refugees and migrants

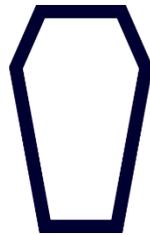
Refugees and migrants consistently report that they have either encountered or witnessed some form of protection violation on their journeys. In the 4Mi Smuggler Survey, **48% of smugglers indicated that they do not explain the risks of the journey to migrants**, whereas a comparative 43% said that they do.

However, the 4Mi Migrant Survey shows that migrants felt intentionally misled by their smugglers. Some of the most cited responses included being misled about the conditions of the journey, and safety and security.

Do you feel intentionally misled by your smuggler(s)?



Deaths



2,907

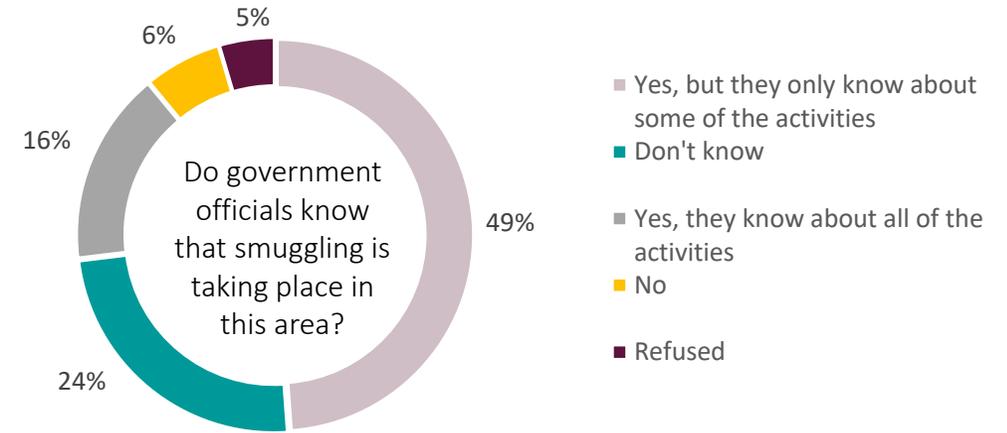
deaths witnessed by smugglers

40% of smugglers reported that they have witnessed a migrant death. The most common causes of death include vehicle accidents, sickness and lack of access to medicine, and harsh weather/lack of adequate shelter.

“When they [smugglers] fail to pass you safely they should return the money of all the costs you incurred as agreed but they never do that.”

32 year old Somali male migrant interviewed in South Africa
November 2017

Corruption and collusion



65% of smugglers indicated that government officials are aware of some or all of the smuggling activities taking place in their area. Only 6% indicated that government officials were unaware of smuggling activities in their area.

63% of smugglers indicated that government officials either turn a blind eye to smuggling, or were actively involved, for example, by providing information about border controls, or accepting migrants without documents or with fake documents.

51% of smugglers indicated that they have direct contact with government officials to facilitate migrant smuggling. Where smugglers provide payment for government officials' cooperation, this is often in the form of money.