



MIGRANT ACTION
ADVOCACY | JUSTICE | EMPOWERMENT

MIGRANT ACTION END OF YEAR REPORT 2024

Re-Imagining Migration
Justice and Migrant
Solidarity



Overview

“In a world grappling with uncertainty, understanding migration dynamics is essential for informed decision-making and effective policy responses’ (IOM Director General, IOM World migration report 2024). ‘Migration, an intrinsic part of human history, is often overshadowed by sensationalized narratives. However, the reality is far more nuanced than what captures headlines. Most migration is regular, safe, and regionally focused, directly linked to opportunities and livelihoods. Yet, misinformation and politicization have clouded public discourse, necessitating a clear and accurate portrayal of migration dynamics. (IOM World Migration Report, 2024)

In 2024, an estimated population of 281 million international migrants globally and a record 117 million displaced individuals due to conflict, violence and disasters in 2024. (IOM World migration report 2024). In the UK, The ONS data suggest that net migration peaked at 906,000 in the year ending June 2023 and decreased just under 20% to 728,000 in the year ending June 2024. Overall, about 3.2 million people came to the UK in 2024 of which 2,130,000 were visitors. This represents a percentage of 1.2% of global migration moving to the UK.



UK Migration context-2024: Continuing Hostile environment for Migrant Justice

The UK migration context in 2024/24 has been largely characterised and shaped by key developments including but not limited to,

- Illegal Migration Act 2023
- Impact of the protracted wars and violent conflicts in Ukraine, Palestine, middle East, Asia and Africa
- Change in government and new migration policies
- The resurgence of the far-right and extreme right-wing political forces
- Continuity of the hostile environment policies
- Change in immigration rules (students, skilled visas etc)

Compounding this challenging internal migration environment is an equally challenging external environment characterised by but not limited to; environmental disasters, rise in populist right wing anti-migration political outfits across Europe and the US, poverty and protracted conflicts in Ukraine, Africa, Asia, Middle East, Palestine etc.

Our Response

Through casework, research, community engagement and strategic partnerships, Migrant Action witness routinely, the exacerbation of political, economic, social migration dynamics playing out in the actual lives of the people reaching out to Migrant Action for support. Also, our curiosity to understand these dynamics and shape responsive interventions have aligned not just with the alleviation of precarity of migrants but more importantly, our interventions continue to be aligned with our commitment to resist and transform the structures that perpetuate migration, racial and wider social injustice.

Essentially, in 2024, Migrant Action's response to the increasingly challenging internal and external migration context, has been articulated through;

- Protection of rights and access to justice for migrants
- Mitigating migrant precarity through direct humanitarian assistance
- Strengthening connections and capacity for transformation and systemic justice
- Community Organising: Building resilience for community resistance and systemic justice
- Practicing Wellbeing- nourishing bodies and souls to prevent burn-out

This report is structured in three parts.

1. **Operational/service delivery resilience:** It offers an insight into Migrant Action's analysis and response in 2024 of this increasingly volatile migration landscape. The report envisions and re-imagines the future of migration justice futures and the role of Migrant Action working in allyship with other migration justice movements, against the backdrop of uncertainty and state sanctioned migration hostility.
2. **Governance, financial and strategic Resilience:** The report captures the state of the organisation's governance and strategic direction
3. **IMPACT and Looking Ahead: Prefiguring Migrant Justice**



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Operational/service delivery resilience

Protection of rights and access to justice for migrants and mitigating migrant precarity

At Migrant Action, we continue to witness the real impact of the hostile environment policy extending beyond its original focus of irregular migration. The policy does not only pose an existential threat to rights and justice for migrants, it also perpetuates fear, hate, scapegoating, racism, islamophobia, poverty, destitution, hardship, homelessness, legal 'deserts', poor health and labour exploitation.

Through our casework, we are witnessing disturbing trends of domestic violence, labour exploitation, systemic racism, wage theft, de-skilling, modern day slavery, family breakdown and adult social care referrals, international student's advocacy support, risks of insecure immigration due to Brexit, digitalisation of residency permits, etc. In essence, we are noticing a disturbing trend of structural violence against migrants with far reaching consequences not least on their health and wellbeing. In the last 2 years, we have noticed a significant increase in the demand for our advice and advocacy clinics as well as multi-agency drop-ins largely due to the combination of increase awareness of our services and the changing nature of needs which are becoming more varied, intersectional complex and entrenched.



In 2024, Migrant Action has been responsive and agile to these demands through developing smart strategic partnerships with local agencies and co-creating support provision in areas of high needs. Whilst sustaining existing provision in Leeds, Rotherham, Barnsley, Goldthorpe, Migrant Action launched a new migration partnership multi-agency drop-in in Doncaster therefore boosting capacity for migration support in the locality. This is the second multi-agency drop-in set up by Migrant Action in collaboration with local partners.

Access to Specialist Support: Migrant Action's expertise and direct provision is limited. As such, we have developed specialist partnerships with legal, welfare, healthcare, workfare, housing and other specialist services to support migrants in need of specialist support.

Overall, in 2024, through our service delivery model rooted in our values and vision for migration justice, we have ensured protection of rights and equity of access to justice for migrants whilst mitigating migrant precarity through direct humanitarian assistance.



Strengthening connections and capacity for transformation and systemic justice

The organisation's commitment to systemic justice foregrounded by casework and community organising remains integral to our migration justice strategy. In 2024, Migrant Action's commitment in furtherance of transformational change and systemic justice has been instrumentalised through;

Research- Building on previous research on Home Office charging regimes, in 2024, Migrant Action co-authored new research on 'Wage Theft and the contours of accumulation. Migrant Action is also collaborating with University of Leeds on new research on the impact of AI technologies on migrant workers. Rooted in casework, our research centres lived experience of systemic injustice and offers more nuanced analysis that underpin the authenticity, co-production and effectiveness of campaigning and policy influencing activities at local and national levels. The research outcomes would also inform new service development and improvement.

Campaigning Migrant Action continues to collaborate with other organisations to jointly campaign against the extortionate visa fees, No Recourse to Public Funds, Stop the Scan, Ending deportation etc strengthened by the evidence of our casework. Migrant Action has also opened a new strategic engagement with unionising organisations defending rights and access to justice for migrant workers. This will be developed further in 2025

Local Influencing: In 2024, Migrant Action co-created the new Migration Partnership in Doncaster following the success of the Migration Partnership in Barnsley. Through the migration partnerships, we are transforming service delivery models and systems moving away from silos to multi-agency- One-Stop- holistic and integrated service provision. Through the collective voice of the migration partnerships, we have more power to influence and shape local decisions impacting on migrants.



Community Organising: Building resilience for community resistance and systemic justice

Migrant Action recognises the importance for migrant communities to build resilience for actualising community and systemic justice. Migrant community networks, knowledge systems and capacity for articulating and driving community and systemic justice remains fragile and fragmented. Also, we recognise that achieving transformational change and systemic justice requires resilient communities working in solidarity and equipped with lasting resources transformative approaches and leadership.

Community engagement and developing capacity for organising has been a priority for Migrant Action in 2024 exemplified by our four satellite community projects,

- **The Healing Justice Together Project (Resisting Far-Right hate campaign through collective healing and cultivating love, kindness and hope)**
- **The Salaam Project (Women Empowerment project)**
- **Community Leadership Initiative - Leadership development programme**
- **Public Education and Awareness project**

Through these projects, Migrant Action is building solidarity, resilience and leadership for effective and sustainable community organising for community and systemic justice. These projects offer 'pathways' for building capacity by communities and grassroots movements towards reclaiming power to inspire migration justice and transformative change. Our community engagement practice has enhanced our legitimacy as a community convenor and community centred research organisation. Building on the successes of 2024, Migrant Action will be setting up a dedicated and well-resourced community organising work stream as from 2025.



Radical Joy and Wellbeing- nourishing bodies and souls to prevent burn-out

Hostile migration policies aligning with racial capitalism create and sustain conditions for distinctive forms of structural violence that incarcerates joy, wellbeing and liberation. In 2024, Migrant Action prioritised resistance to structural violence in all its forms including but not limited to systemic racism, burn out, extraction and other forms of exploitation. As a counterculture and practice to capitalist extraction, racial capitalism and state-led hostility, Migrant Action is developing a radical joy and wellbeing framework that will shape and embed transformative practice for nourishing our collective bodies, minds and souls and prevent burn-out whilst sustaining our solidarity for migration, racial and social justice. We continue to intentionally centre and resource joy, rest, selfcare and wellbeing in all our work with staff, clients and partners as part of our practice. This will continue in 2025.



Governance, financial and strategic resilience

Governance:

In April 2024, Migrant Action became a registered charity following a very challenging process. It was a collective success and on huge gratitude to the trustees, the advisory committee (critical allies) and the staff team and volunteers for working in solidarity. Migrant Action has a strong and dedicated board of trustees supported by our advisory members (critical allies) in ensuring the organisation is 'fit and well'.

The board continues to see the operational health of the organisation ensuring right set of policies, HR, financial systems, employee and client support systems are in place. The Chair of the board and CEO have regular structured meetings to discuss emerging operational, governance and strategic issues ensuring the smooth running of the organisation. Some areas of governance require attention by the board, and these will be prioritised for 2025 including, risk management, trustee recruitment, appointment of deputy chair, reporting schedules for charity commission, finalising the organisation's governance framework including anti-racism and anti-oppressive frameworks.

Financial Resilience:

Migrant Action is on a very strong and stable financial state. In 2024 we have maintained existing funding relationships, renewed grants and secured new relationships and grants. This has allowed to sustain staff roles for at least the next 3 years, will be developing new work streams and recruiting for new roles in 2025. We have also established new funding relationships that may materialise in new grants in 2025. See financial statement enclosed.



Governance, financial and strategic resilience

Operational resilience:

2024 has witnessed strengthening of our service delivery as set out in part one of this report. Our workforce is strong, motivated and skilled, however we need to invest better in workforce and volunteer development and wellbeing. Migrant Action is looking forward to becoming an OISC registered organisation hence allowing us to provide regulated immigration advice. In addition, the organisation will have a dedicated community organiser in 2025 whilst boosting its advice and casework team. We are also working hard to launch a new collaborative migration research and Economic Justice program in 2025.

Our partners (PEINSULAR, ANC Admin and Digital Guides) who provide casework management systems, HR, employee Support and financial management (payroll and book keeping) respectively continue to boost our operational resilience.

Strategic resilience:

Migrant Action's anti-racist, decolonial, lived experience led, collaborative and holistic approach to actualising rights and justice is central to our strategic resilience. Our integrated approach to migration justice combining Service delivery, Structural change and Community resilience is unique within grassroots movements and continues to define our strategic force.

The organisation's ability to identify emerging trends, gaps, new opportunities and build partnerships, radical collaborations and network with other migration and racial justice organisations including international organisations, funders, community groups and academic institutions continues to strengthen our strategic resilience. Also, Migrant Action's agility in responding to the changing migration justice landscape (reflecting and forecasting risks and opportunities) underpins our strategic resilience.



IMPACT & Looking Ahead: Prefiguring Migration Justice

2024 has been a significant milestone for Migrant Action. The impact of our work is framed and captured, though not exhaustively by the following processes;

- Becoming a registered charity,
- Significant increase in demand for Migrant Action services and organisational capacity,
- Consolidation of our workforce and service delivery partners,
- Consolidation of core grants and securing new long-term grants,
- Developing new service collaborations,
- Transforming migrant support models,
- Strengthening lived experience leadership and career development pathways for migrants through volunteering, internships and shadowing
- Supporting infrastructural support of small grassroots organisations,
- Co-creating and influencing migrant justice campaigns, co-designing innovating approaches for migrant engagement by local authorities,
- Resourcing access to immigration advice for the most vulnerable migrants at the hard edges of the immigration hostility (No recourse to public funds, destitution, victims of domestic violence, labour and modern day slavery etc)
- Inspiring new research interests and partnerships, removing more vulnerable migrants from the throes of precarity (destitution, exploitation, insecure immigration and other forms precarious existence including criminalisation)
- Co-creating safe, brave and inclusive civic and community spaces for courageous conversations that transform trauma, hate and injustice into oases of love, kindness, solidarity and hope.
- building strategic and community resilience partnerships
- Strengthening community pathways for community justice and migrant empowerment through satellite migrant-community led projects aimed at shifting power and resources to communities to resist and transform systemic injustice e.g community/movement lawyering
- Building collaborative partnerships for resisting extraction and embedding radical wellbeing
- Proactively responding to emergencies (systemic and personal) thereby mitigating suffering and migration vulnerability.



IMPACT & Looking Ahead: Prefiguring Migration Justice

Whilst these processes and outcomes are important, the primary impact of our work is best captured by the people we support, the communities we serve and the structures we seek to transform.

The following statements offer a snapshot of our impact.

“

‘From the moment I met you, you have been an incredibly caring person, always going out of your way to support those in need. Your compassion and kindness is remarkable and you have an extraordinary level of patience ensuring everyone feels heard and understood, regardless of their circumstances, even when faced with complex issues. You take time to listen, explain everything thoroughly, ensuring that get the details and the person feels empowered. Your dedication to helping others is truly inspiring and unique’ (Helen)

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“

‘I wanted to take a moment to express my sincerest gratitude for the invaluable support you provided in advocating for my application for assistance with sponsorship from the Yorkshire Humber. I got replied and filled in the form.

Your willingness to lend your influence and help push my case forward means more to me than I can adequately express y details. Your leadership extends beyond professional excellence, reflecting a genuine care for individuals and their aspirations.

Many thanks to your intervention, reflecting a genuine care for individuals and their aspirations. Many thanks to your intervention, and time you dedicated to making this possible, and I am committed to making the most of this opportunity.’ (Helen)

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‘The experience of volunteering with Migrant Action has been both immensely rewarding and enlightening. The organisation's dedication to providing practical, meaningful support to migrants, ensuring that they feel valued, respected, and empowered, was immediately obvious to me. I had the privilege of collaborating closely with the wonderful staff there individuals and families who were confronted with difficult circumstances. Migrant Action offered. comprehensive training and a welcoming environment that facilitated my transition into my volunteering position with confidence. . The staff's professionalism and dedication were genuinely inspiring; they consistently exceeded expectations in their efforts to advocate for the rights of migrants and offer customised support. The emphasis on community engagement and collaboration was one of the most noteworthy features’ (Peace Joy- Volunteer)

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“

‘On behalf of the Eritrean community in Leeds, I would like to express our deepest gratitude for your leadership and dedication during our recent collaboration. Your guidance and expertise have been invaluable to us, and your efforts have played a crucial role in helping us strengthen our community. The training sessions you facilitated not only helped to build leadership capacity within our group but also fostered a sense of unity and shared vision. Your ability to simplify complex topics and engage everyone in meaningful discussions has been truly remarkable. We appreciate your skill in empowering our members with the knowledge and tools needed to lead effectively. Your professionalism and commitment have left a lasting impact, and we are confident that the skills and strategies you’ve shared with us will contribute to the long-term success of our community. We look forward to continuing our work together and building a sustainable future for the Eritrean community in Leeds. Once again, thank you for your exceptional leadership and support’
(Eritrean Community)

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IMPACT & Looking Ahead: Prefiguring Migration Justice

Looking ahead into 2025 and beyond, building on these achievements, the organisation is realistically envisioning the creation of new services including Research, Community organising, Immigration advice, Economic justice, Women & Young migrants' empowerment.

Looking ahead, Migrant Action's role as a community convenor for grassroots movements shaping and influencing migration justice discourse and driving transformative change.



Conclusion

2024 has been a defining year - a bridge between the uncertainty of the past, the assurance of the present and firm hope of the future. We have such hope based on our collective work and care to ensure migration justice and a liberative future for migrants especially those living precariously impacted by increasing state hostility and corporate violence

Our conviction about our purpose, mission and vision is unwavering. We are grateful, privileged and joyfully challenged by this journey, and we are knowing you and others are with us in solidarity.

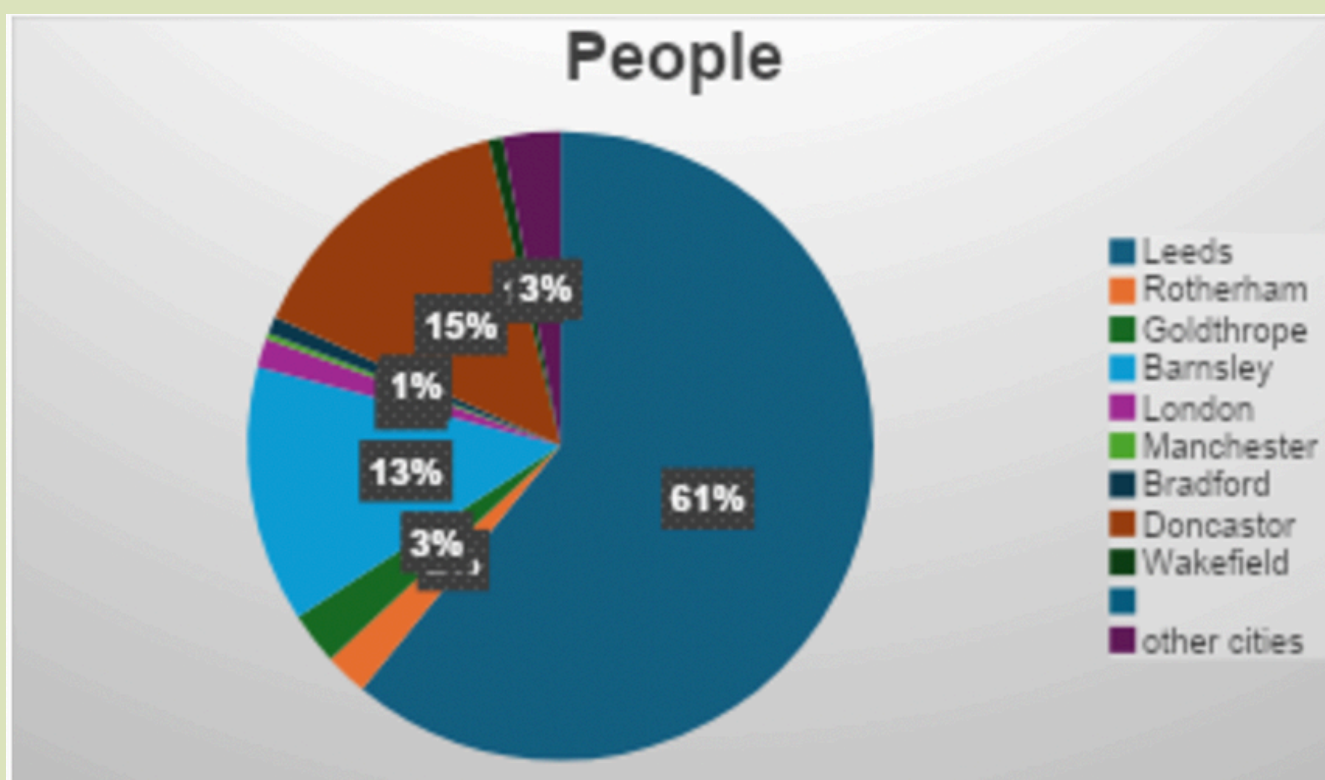
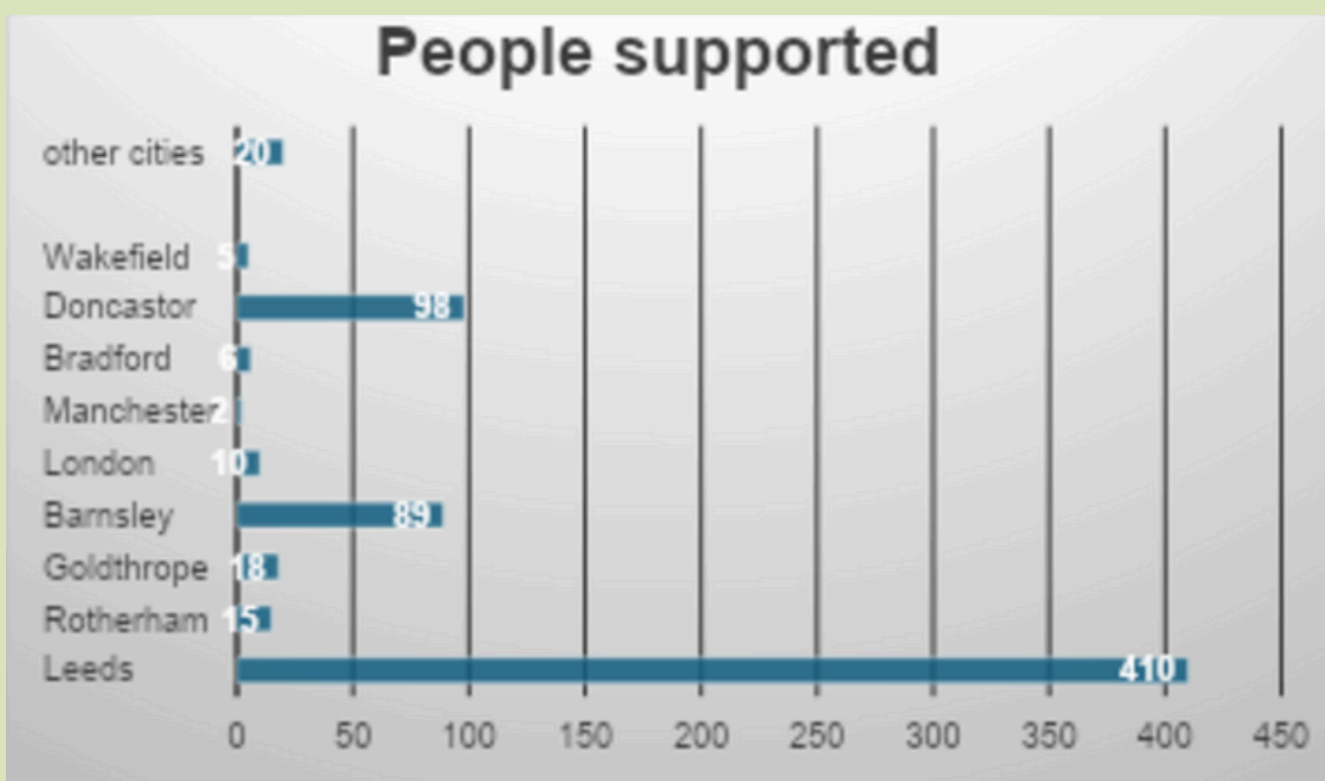
Thank you for being on this journey with us and for your support. We hope you all stay much longer.

Fidelis Chebe (CEO) on behalf of the team



APPENDIX 1- SERVICE PROVISION REVIEW 2024

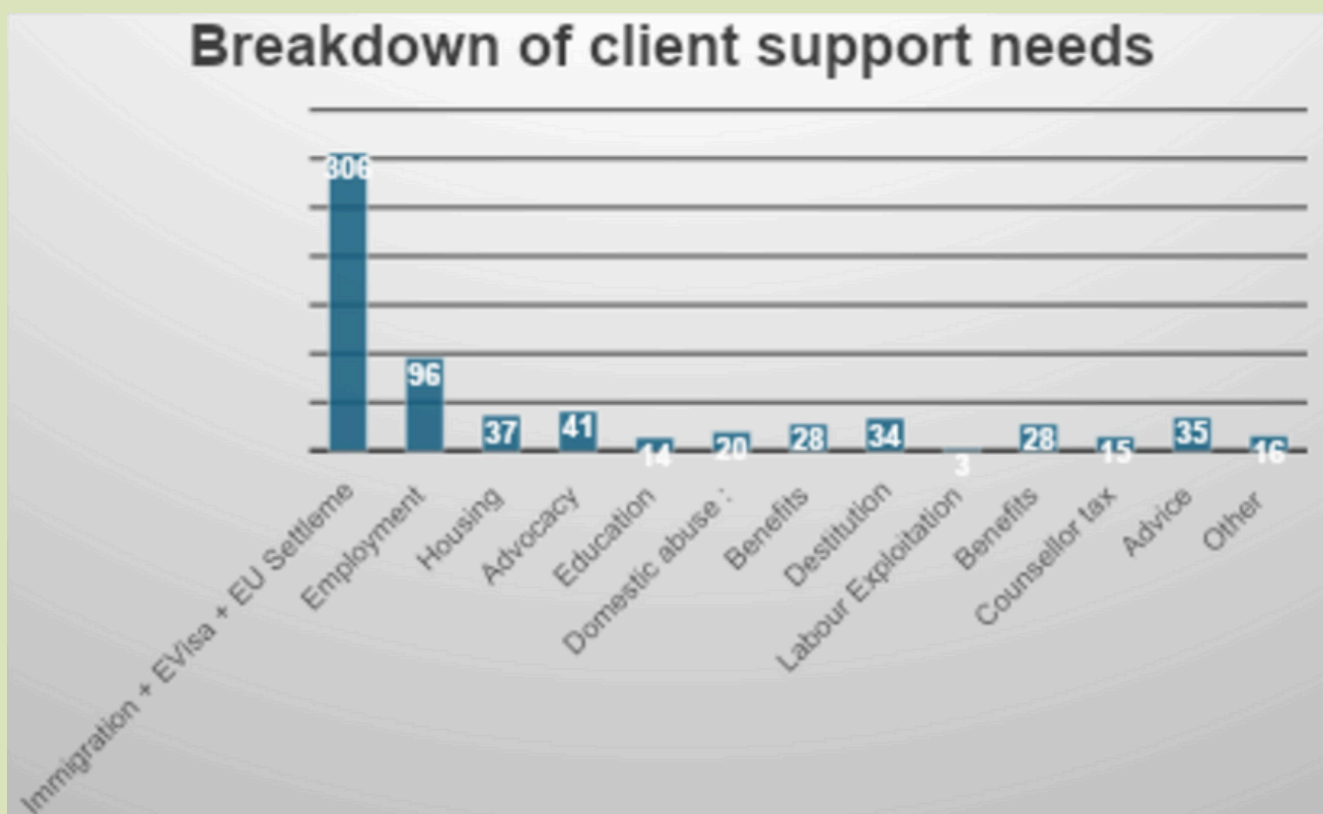
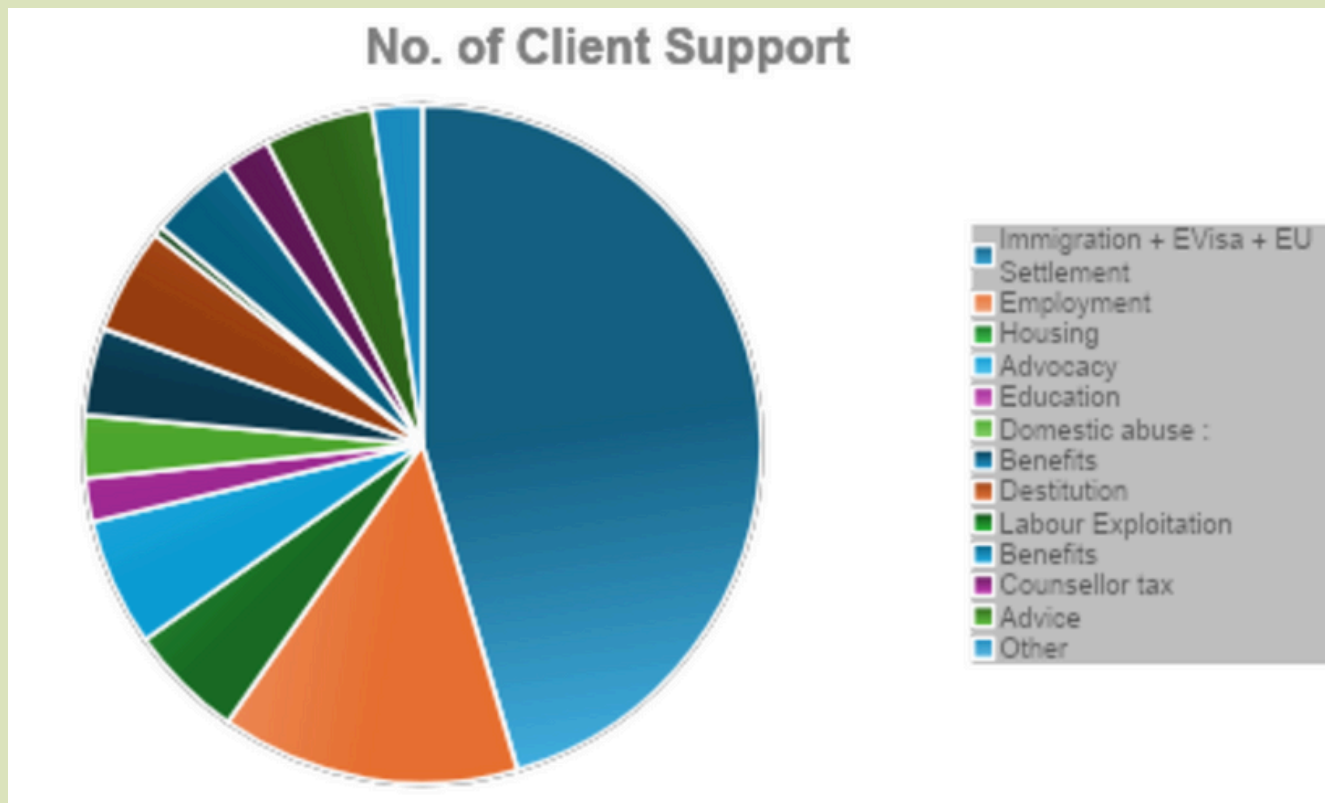
Breakdown of Migrant Action service delivery points





APPENDIX 1- SERVICE PROVISION REVIEW 2024

Breakdown of Migrant Support Needs





APPENDIX 1- SERVICE PROVISION REVIEW 2024

Breakdown of Migrant Support Needs

