In certain sites, refugee and migrants complain about the high availability of drugs. They told ITL that some hard drugs such as opium are easily accessible, sometimes even at a lower price inside the camp than outside (a couple of euros for a single dose). The detrimental consequences of drugs consumption are a top concern for respondents, and they don’t know how to deal with it.

In the Loop explores the concerns and perceptions of people affected by the EU refugee crisis. Internews documents online and offline feedback gathered from refugees and migrants on a daily basis. By providing analysis of this feedback, the review aims to strengthen accountability and close the feedback loop by giving voice to Persons of Concern.

HARD DRUGS AVAILABILITY IN SITES: “EVERYBODY IS ADDICTED HERE”

Many refugee and migrants reported to ITL their acute state of desperation. They explained that their stranded situation, combined with a complete lack of information on future perspectives, has become unbearable. It is triggering heavy psychological disorders. Some of them reported some tragic suicide events.

- Afghan male, 18-25, Malakasa

We can find many kinds of drugs here. You know those drugs you cannot find in the whole country but you can find them here, at a cheaper price. Most of the young guys who have nothing to do, they sleep during the day and at night they use drugs.

- Afghan female, 26-35, Malakasa

This place has ruined our lives. My husband was a good man, he’s an addict now. All this pressure has ruined him. He uses a lot of opium and is always out of it.

- Afghan female, 26-35, Malakasa

Everybody is addicted to some sort of drug here. At first there were a lot of healthy, strong, young men. Now they are all trouble making, depressed, criminal addicts.

- Afghan female, 26-35, Malakasa

We have talents, but there is no NGO to support us. All the possibilities are given to women and children; the single guys are nothing in Europe. It is the same in Afghanistan, there is no support for the young generation.

- Afghan male, 18-25, Malakasa

PSYCHOSOCIAL HEALTH: “WE ARE ALL DYING SLOWLY HERE”

We are all dying slowly here, both literally and metaphorically. We don’t know when we’re leaving.

- Moroccan male, 26-35, Moria

We don’t remember how long I’ve been here. I don’t even remember when we arrived or how. I’m losing my memory. But I’m not the only one, most people in the camp are losing their mind too.

- Afghan female, 36-49, Malakasa

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- Afghan female, 36-49, Malakasa

SINGLE MEN IN SITES: “NO ONE SUPPORT US”

Young single men in sites reported to ITL suffering a different treatment than the rest of the residents. They say they feel overlooked and excluded in the camp, with no opportunities or support given to them by NGOs or camp management. Some reported that the lack of activities available to young men is driving up drugs consumption.

- Afghan male, 18-25, Malakasa

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- Afghan male, 18-25, Malakasa

The single guys they have nothing to do here, they really feel so bad and tired and their mind is being destroyed.

- Afghan male, 18-25, Malakasa

All the single guys have some psychological problems. There are no activities for us, no sport and no education programs. And that’s why most of them are using drugs, because they feel hopeless.

- Afghan male, 18-25, Malakasa

We’ve reached the suicide point. Death is far better than what we are going through right now.

- Moroccan male, 26-35, Moria

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This issue of In The Loop is based on 158 interactions recorded by Internews Refugee Liaison Officers and Social Media Editors. Interactions are documented in line with a set of common standards, and themes are developed inductively using content analysis techniques. A combination of general and unique themes is presented in order to represent dominant concerns and highlight minority voices.