

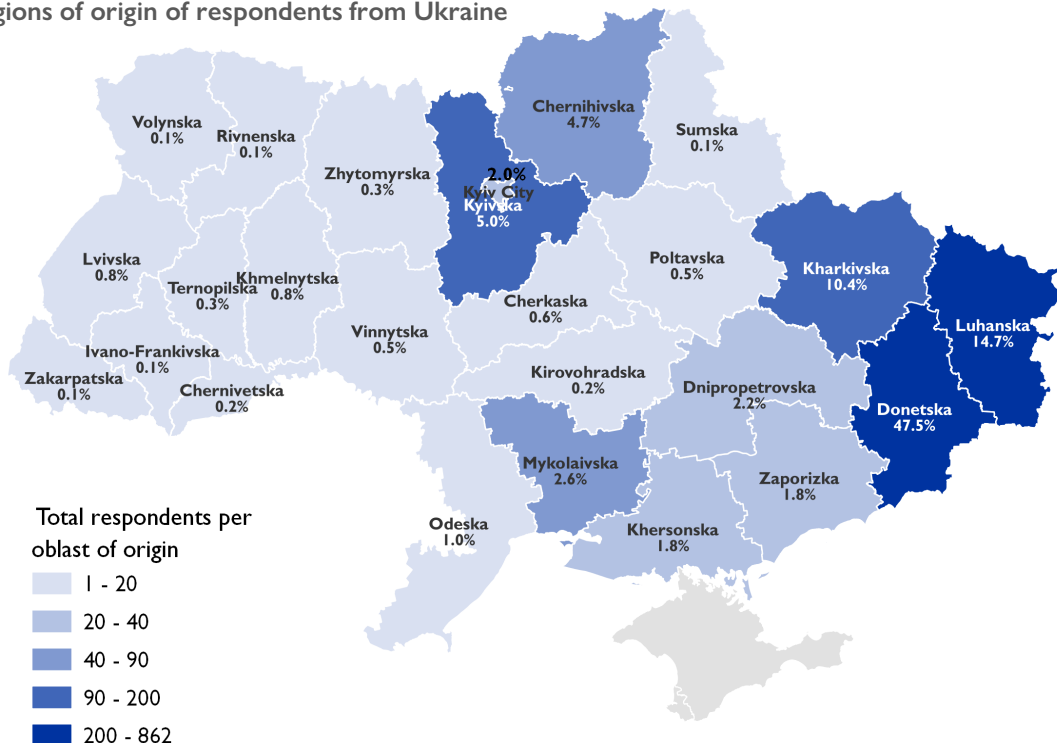
Since February 2022, an increasing number of refugees from Ukrainian and Third-Country Nationals (TCNs) entered Belarus. As of 26th of August 2022, the Belarusian State Border Committee has reported 48,580 arrivals from Ukraine since 24 Feb 2022. The largest numbers entered from Poland (26,926) and from Ukraine (15,871), followed by those entered from Lithuania (4,910) and Latvia (873). At the same time, the Belarusian authorities report that 52,406 Ukrainian passport holders left Belarus between 24 February and 22 August 2022.

COMPOSITION OF THE SAMPLE

Out of the total 1,915 respondents, 95 per cent were Ukrainian nationals, 0.2 per cent TCNs who fled from Ukraine and 4.8 per cent were other TCNs present in Belarus, mainly from Cuba, Guinea, Afghanistan and the Syrian Arab Republic.¹ This first part of the report focuses on the 1,821 surveys conducted with Ukrainian refugees, while the second part focuses on TCNs coming from Ukraine and already residing in Belarus.

This report is based on 1,915 interviews conducted by IOM Belarus in collaboration with the Belarusian Red Cross between 04 June and 05 August 2022 in Minsk (capital) (136 interviews conducted), Minsk (region) (227 interviews), and in the regions of Vitsyebsk (128 interviews), Mahilyow (120 interviews), Hrodna (154 interviews), Brest (695 interviews), and Homel (455 interviews). This is the final report of the first round of DTM in Belarus in 2022.

Fig.1 Regions of origin of respondents from Ukraine



This map is for illustration purposes only. The boundaries and names shown, and the designations used on this map, do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the International Organization for Migration.

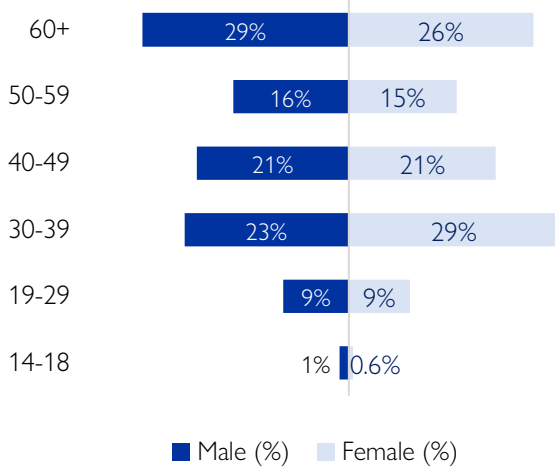
¹ Some respondents were in Belarus before 24 February 2022. See more on methodology at p.6

UKRAINIAN NATIONALS

The top 5 regions of origin in Ukraine were those of Donetska (47%), Luhanska (15%), Kharkivska (10%), Kyiv city and Kyivska (7%) and Chernihivska (4.7%).

Out of 1,821 refugees from Ukraine, 75 per cent were female, and 25 per cent were male. The average age was 48 years old, with the older respondent being 96 years old.

Fig.2 Gender and age disaggregation. Ukrainian respondents (%)



Forty-seven per cent of the respondents entered Belarus directly from Ukraine, 33 per cent from Poland, 19 per cent from the Russian Federation, and less than 1 per cent from Latvia and Lithuania.

Routes to Belarus were different depending on the place of living in Ukraine. For instance, 75 per cent of the Ukrainian respondents who entered Belarus from the Russian Federation were originating from Donetska and Luhanska regions.

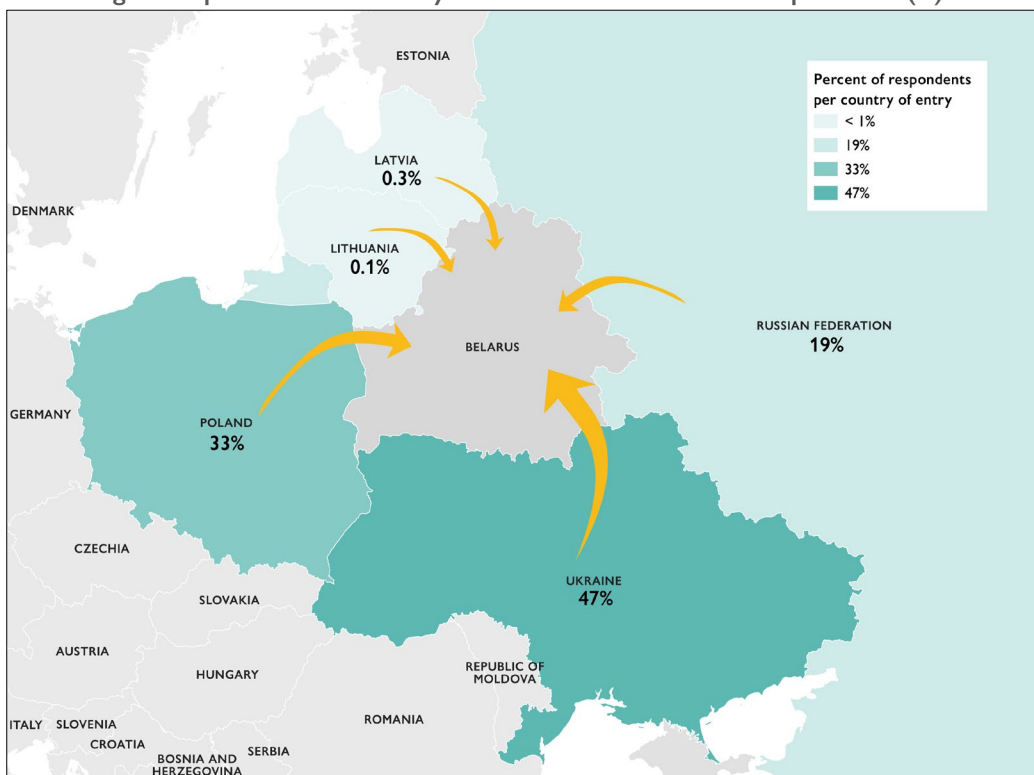
Fifty-four per cent of the refugees from Ukraine were staying at their relatives, while 19 per cent stay in rented accommodation at the time of the interview.

Sixty-six per cent travelled in a group, while 34 were travelling alone. About 21 per cent reported that they or someone in their group had a serious health condition whilst 8 per cent of the respondents said they or someone in their group had a disability.

Thirty-nine per cent of the Ukrainian respondents indicated that they were travelling with at least 1 child. Fifty-eight per cent of these children were in the group age of 5-13 years old.



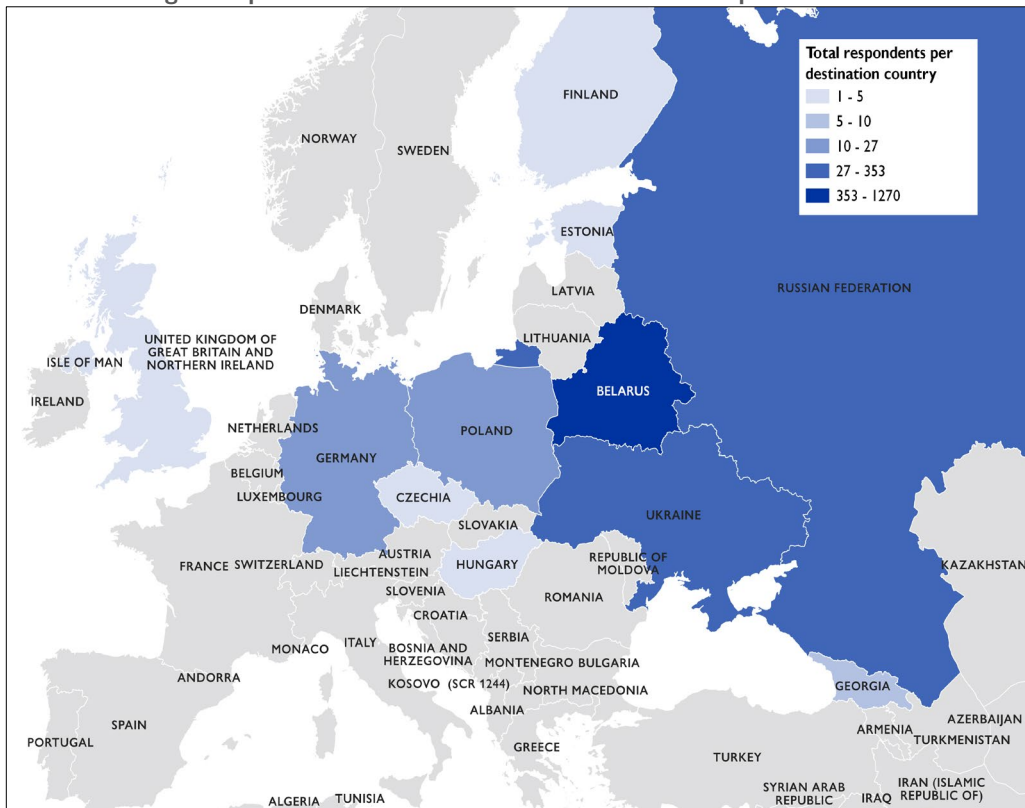
Fig. 3 Map on border of entry into Belarus of Ukrainian respondents (%)



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INTENTIONS OF UKRAINIAN NATIONALS

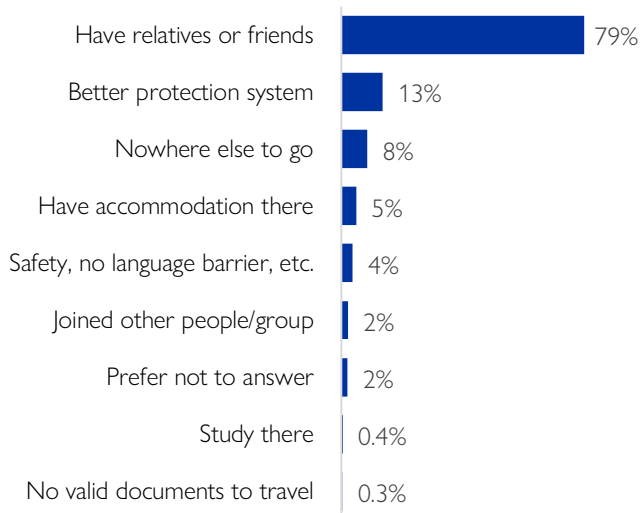
Fig. 4 Map of intended destination of Ukrainian respondents



Seventy per cent of the respondents from Ukraine declared the intention to remain in Belarus. The most common reasons for intending to stay in Belarus were relatives and friends here and a better protection system, whereas 8 per cent declared they had nowhere else to go.

The most common reason for moving onwards was that they have relatives or friends there (72%). 10 per cent indicated better protection system as the reason for choosing the destination country, and 5 per cent based their choice on the reason that other people from the group travel there.

Fig. 5 Reasons of Ukrainian nationals to stay in Belarus



Main intentions of Ukrainian respondents

31%
Intend to return to Ukraine when it is safe

38%
Do not intend to return to Ukraine

31%
Unsure or preferred not to answer

Approximately, 31 per cent declared the intention to return to Ukraine when it would be possible and safe. However, 38 per cent responded they do not plan to return to Ukraine., while 31 per cent remain unsure or preferred not to answer.

Forty-eight per cent of the refugees from Ukraine left Ukraine between March and April 2022. The most common length of stay in Belarus is 61-90 days, which indicates that the majority of respondents (Ukrainian nationals) arrived in Belarus in April-May 2022.

Twenty-five per cent of the respondents from Ukraine declared the intention to move onwards. Five per cent of the Ukrainian nationals did not know or preferred not to answer on their intentions.

Top five destination countries for those who intend to move to another country were: Russian Federation (19%), Ukraine (2.7%), Poland (1.5%), Germany (0.6%), Georgia (0.4%).

EDUCATION PROFILE

The largest part of the interviewed Ukrainians obtained upper secondary (professional) education (46%), whilst 30 per cent received tertiary education, and 9 per cent received post-secondary non-tertiary education.

The most common spheres of education were services (17%), engineering, manufacturing and construction (13%), education (10%).

Tab.1 Education level of Ukrainian nationals

Primary education	1%
Lower Secondary education	14%
Upper Secondary / Vocational education	46%
Post-secondary non-tertiary education	9%
Tertiary education	30%
PhD and more	0.1%
Other type of non-formal education	0.2%
None	0.4%

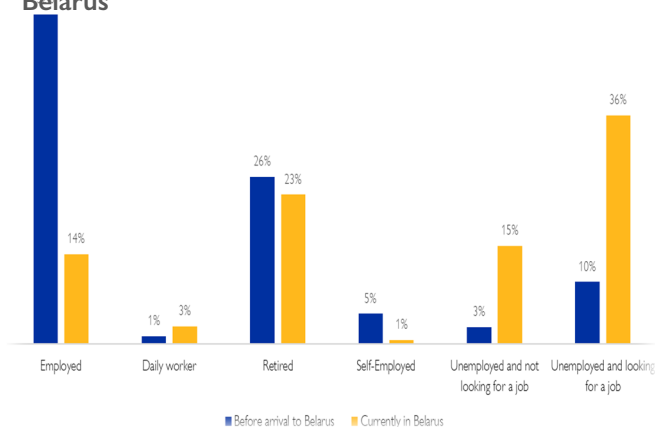
Fifty-one per cent of the interviewed Ukrainian nationals speak at least two languages, with English, Belarusian, German and Polish being the most common foreign languages spoken by the Ukrainian respondents.

EMPLOYMENT PROFILE

In terms of employment profile, only 3 per cent were unemployed and not looking for a job before leaving Ukraine, whilst over a half (52%) were having high-qualified, crafts or technical occupations, such as lawyers, doctors, engineers and plant and metal workers. Twenty-six respondents were on maternity/paternity leaves when leaving Ukraine.

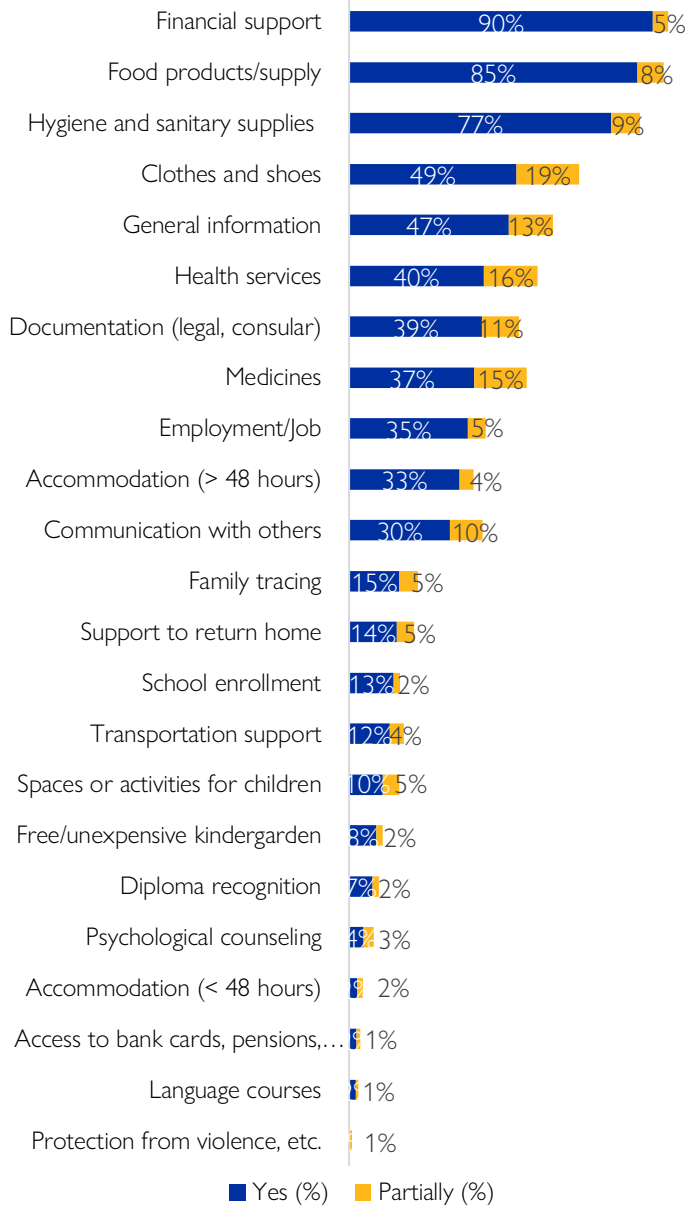
By the time of the interview, 255 (14%) Ukrainians were already employed in Belarus while 15 per cent indicated they did not want to work in Belarus. When asked about their desired occupation in Belarus, the most popular areas of work were: professionals (lawyer, doctors, nurses, teachers, accountants); services and sales workers (cooks, hairdressers, protective services) and craft and related trades worker (metal workers, repairers, woodworkers, electronic installers). Thirteen per cent of the respondents expressed readiness to accept any job available in Belarus.

Fig. 6 Employment status of Ukrainian nationals before arrival and current employment status in Belarus



MAIN NEEDS

Fig. 7 Reported needs of Ukrainian nationals



At the moment of the interview the main reported needs of refugees from Ukraine were financial support (90%), food products (85%), personal hygiene and sanitary supplies (77%), clothes and shoes (49%), general information on their stay (47%) and access to health care (40%). Thirty-seven per cent of the surveyed Ukrainians reported the need of medicines supply, whilst 35 per cent were in search of employment. Among other needs the need to have access to own bank cards, pensions (for older people) and education opportunities (for school graduates) were also mentioned. Thirty-two per cent of those travelling with children expressed the need of school enrolment for their children, and 25% of them indicated the need in spaces or activities for children.

By the time of the data collection, 90 per cent of the Ukrainians have already received humanitarian assistance in Belarus – food supplies, personal hygiene and sanitary products, clothes and shoes (mainly, from the Belarus Red Cross and IOM).

TCNs FROM UKRAINE AND OTHER MIGRANTS

Four of the respondents were third country nationals that fled Ukraine after 24 February 2022. Among them there were two men and two women. Average age of them was 51 years old. Three were citizens of the Russian Federation, and one of Tajikistan. As for their former place of residence in Ukraine, all of them lived in rural settlements (three – in Kyivska region, one – in Dnipropetrovska). Three came to Belarus in March 2022, and one in June 2022. All of them answered that they entered Belarus directly from Ukraine.

Ninety of the respondents were other TCNs already residing in Belarus as international migrants, prior to February 2022. Twenty-nine per cent of them were female, and 71 per cent male. Most of them were at the age 19-39 years old (84% of female respondents, 32% of male respondents respectively). Sixty-three per cent of other migrants entered Belarus from the Russian Federation and 30 per cent entered by flight.



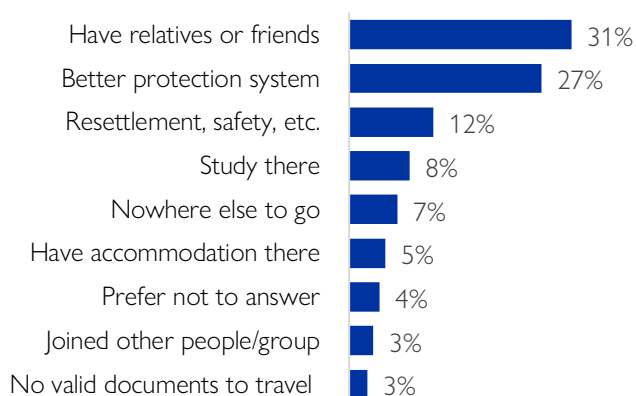
Fifty-two per cent of all TCNs in the sample travelled in a group. Fourteen per cent reported that they or someone in their group had a serious health condition. Twenty-one per cent of the respondents said they travelled with children.

INTENTIONS

Forty-six per cent of the TCNs declared the intention to remain in Belarus. Out of 51 per cent of the TCNs intending to move onwards, respondents indicated Germany (15%), Spain (14%), France (5%), Poland (3%) and Cuba (2%) as their intended destination countries.

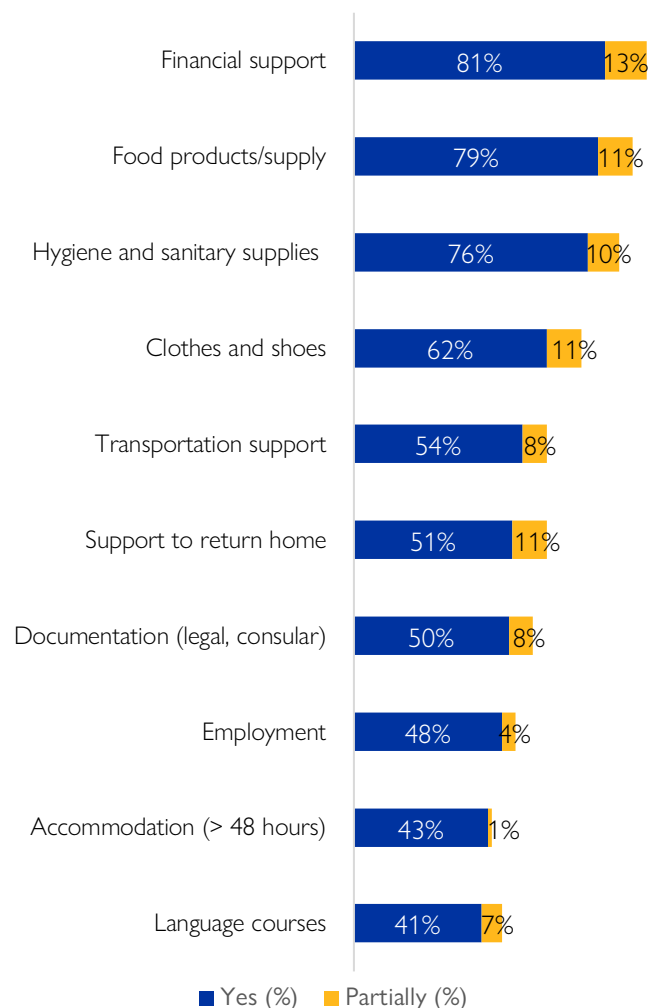
The most common length of stay in Belarus of the TCNs from Ukraine is of 100 days, and the most common length of residence for other migrants in Belarus is longer (3 to 6 months).

Fig. 8 Reasons of TCNs for choosing the destination country



MAIN NEEDS

Fig. 9 Top 10 reported needs of TCNs



The main reported needs of all TCNs in the sample at the moment of the interview were financial support (81%), food products (79%), personal hygiene and sanitary supplies (76%), clothes and shoes (62%), transportation support (54%) and support to return home (51%). Fifty per cent of the surveyed TCNs from Ukraine and other migrants reported the need of support with documentation, legal and consular services, whilst 48 per cent were in search of employment. Need in long-term accommodation was relevant for 43 per cent of TCNs and other migrants, while 41 per cent indicated the need in language courses.

By the time of the data collection, 94 per cent of the TCNs from Ukraine and other migrants have already received humanitarian assistance in Belarus – mainly, food supplies and meals.

Twenty-two per cent of the interviewed TCNs from Ukraine and other migrants replied that they had reached out for consular support. Out of them, 62 per cent declared to have received support from their respective consulates.

ESTIMATED PRESENCE IN BELARUS

Based on the answers provided by the respondents to the questions about the approximate number of migrants and refugees from Ukraine and from other countries, accommodated in their community, this survey established the presence of an estimated number of 7,211 refugees from Ukraine in Belarus, and an additional number of 1,121 TCNs as well.

Table 2 shows the estimated numbers and presence within Belarus based on where the interview was conducted.

The largest number of Ukrainian nationals is reported in the town of Homel and within the region (in proximity to the Ukrainian border): 5,131, whereas Vitsyebsk oblast would be the area with highest concentration of TCNs.

Tab. 2 Estimated number of Ukrainian nationals and TCNs present (based on the answers of the

Ukrainian nationals		Ukrainian nationals who left Belarus (since February 2022)	
Homel oblast	5,131	Homel oblast	670
Brest oblast	957	Brest oblast	404
Minsk (oblast)	364	Vitsyebsk oblast	118
Vitsyebsk oblast	261	Minsk (oblast)	63
Minsk (city)	253	Mahilyow oblast	56
Hrodna oblast	145	Minsk (city)	22
Mahilyow oblast	100	Hrodna oblast	3
Total	7,211	Total	1,336

TCNs present		TCNs left	
Vitsyebsk oblast	425	Homel oblast	107
Minsk (oblast)	316	Vitsyebsk oblast	54
Homel oblast	222	Brest oblast	43
Brest oblast	113	Minsk (city)	23
Minsk (city)	35	Minsk (oblast)	23
Hrodna oblast	3	Hrodna oblast	7
Mahilyow oblast	7	Mahilyow oblast	0
Total	1,121	Total	257

METHODOLOGY

The 1915 interviews that this report covers were collected by a team of 48 enumerators deployed in all six regions of Belarus: Minsk region (and Minsk city), Vitsyebsk, Mahilyow, Hrodna, Brest, and Homel in coordination with the Belarus Red Cross and the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Belarus. The survey covered Ukrainian nationals and TCNs, which included both persons that fled Ukraine after 24 February 2022 and other migrants already present in Belarus. The interviews have been conducted in Russian mainly, but also in English (specifically with TCNs respondents), and in certain cases in Arabic. Prior to the start of the survey, all enumerators were trained by IOM on DTM, Kobo application, IOM approach to migrants' protection, ethics of data collection and provision of information. The questionnaire was available in Russian and English, and the preferred language of questioning was determined by the interviewee.

Over a third of all interviews (36%) were conducted in Brest oblast, and 24% of them in Homel oblast, intersection point located in proximity to the state borders with both Ukraine and the Russian Federation. Another point of higher concentration of Ukrainians and other TCNs where interviews were collected was Minsk oblast.

LIMITATIONS

Border crossing points (BCPs) on Ukraine-Belarus border suspended their operations. Therefore, it was not possible to target respondents immediately after their entry in Belarus from the borders and the sampling framework was not based on verified figures of refugees from Ukraine and other TCNs entering through the various BCPs.

Not all enumerators spoke the language of the individual they were interviewing. In these cases, translation support was provided by IOM (when approaching Arabic and Spanish speakers). All responses were checked for any systematic issues by enumerators and this process did not identify major problems. The fact that the largest part of the interviewed respondents reside within privately owned accommodations (with relatives/friends) is the major limitation in reaching out to respondents. However, in order to reach the target audience of the survey, enumerators relied on Belarus Red Cross humanitarian aid delivery networks, IOM programming serves and aid delivery networks, as well as coordination with the Departments of citizenship and migration under Departments of internal Affairs of the Regional Executive Committees.

Tab. 3 Type of location where interviews were conducted

Location type	Number
BRC offices, IOM office, medical and social institutions, etc.	1,587
Host family accommodation	106
Rented house/apartment	61
Hotel	46
Temporary detention facilities	31
Collective centre	27
Bus station	23
Rent-free house/apartment	15
Border crossing point	12
Train station	7

The types of locations chosen for interviews included mainly Belarus Red Cross offices and IOM office in the capital city Minsk, and in all six regions (oblasts) of the country. Other targeted locations were various types of accommodations provided to Ukrainians and other TCNs (see above), but also within a number of transit points: bus stations, train stations, and temporary detention facilities.