



4 locations
covered

26 surveys administered (22 female 4 male)
covering sample of 82 persons

7 KIIs conducted (4 female 3 male)

From 24 February to 06 April, it is estimated that around 40,000 Ukrainians entered the Western Balkans (WB) following the outbreak of the armed conflict in Ukraine. In the same period, an estimated 10,000 Ukrainians entered Montenegro, of which 4,000 left the country. Around 6,000 Ukrainians who fled the armed conflict are currently present in Montenegro. In addition to this, there are around 2,000 Ukrainians who are regular residents of Montenegro. Ukrainian refugees currently represent around 1 per cent of the official Montenegrin population.¹ Most of them are staying in the coastal area of the country, with friends or relatives.

Between 30 March and 06 April, the IOM conducted a rapid displacement and needs assessment in Montenegro in four locations, in Podgorica, Budva, Herceg Novi and Bijelo Polje, to gather more in-depth information on the profiles, intentions and needs of Ukrainians who fled their home country to escape the conflict. The reason for implementing this rapid assessment in Montenegro is that the country has the highest percentage of Ukrainian refugees currently residing in the WB (almost two thirds of the total Ukrainians present). This is mainly due to the cultural linkages with the country, but also to the fact that many Ukrainians have been to the country at other times, having their own house or apartment or having spent the holidays there. On March 13, 2022, the government of Montenegro issued the decision on granting temporary protection to all persons fleeing Ukraine for a period of one year with the possibility of an extension for an additional period. The procedure for obtaining temporary protection lasts up to 30 days from the day the application is submitted. During this period, applicants receive a confirmation of submission according to which the most vulnerable categories, such as pregnant women, the chronically ill, children, persons with urgent health problems, can immediately access health care.²

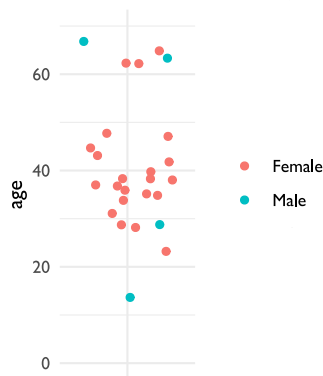
BASELINE PROFILE

Between 30 March and 06 April, in Montenegro, the IOM conducted interviews with seven key informants (KIs) and administered a short survey to 24 Ukrainian refugees, through which information on 82 persons was collected.

Of the total sample, the majority stayed (73%) in offered accommodation premises (apartment/house/hotel rooms) while 27 per cent stayed in a rented apartment/house.³

Sex and age disaggregated data show that most Ukrainian refugees interviewed are females (85%), while males count for 15 per cent. The mean age of respondents was 41, with the youngest person interviewed being 14 years old and the oldest 67 years old. Out of the total, 48 per cent were below 18 years old (64% girls and 36% boys). Among these, 18 per cent were children under 5 years of age.

Figure 1. Sex and age distribution of Ukrainian refugees interviewed



The level of education of the interviewed sample is particularly high, with more than half of Ukrainian refugees declaring they have a bachelor's or master's degree (57%), followed by 23 per cent who finished secondary school, 15 per cent who finished technical and vocational training and 4 per cent who have completed primary education.

The top seven regions (oblast) of refugees' origin were Kharkiv (42%), Kyiv (27%), Khmelnytskyi, (12%), Mykolaiv (8%), Donetsk, Lviv and Odessa (4% each).

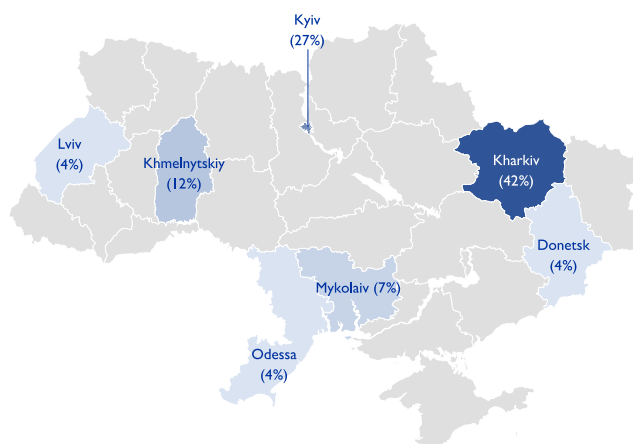


Figure 2. Main regions of origin of Ukrainian refugees residing in Montenegro

1. According to the most recent figure available to the World Bank, the population of Montenegro in 2020 was 621,306 people. <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.POP.TOTL?locations=ME>

2. Since 24 February, 4,420 Ukrainians have applied for touristic stay up to 90 days, while around 1,200 applied for temporary protection.

3. "Offered" means that Ukrainian refugees are (temporarily) given apartments/houses/hotel rooms free of charge by nationals of Montenegro and others, while the term "rented" refers to apartments/houses for which Ukrainian refugees are paying money to rent them.

Profile, intentions and needs

31 March – 06 April

Of those interviewed, 96 per cent were travelling in group while the remaining 4 per cent were travelling alone.

Of those travelling in group, 76 per cent were travelling with children and other family members, 16 per cent did not specify, and 8 per cent were travelling with friends or neighbors. When asked if anyone helped them organize the journey, the majority (58%) declared they were not helped. Of those who reported being helped (42%), all said they were helped by friends or the company they or someone in their family works for.

Of the respondents, five per cent (or 4 respondents) said they had a serious health condition, namely a chronic disease. Interestingly, 93 per cent of Ukrainians interviewed declared not to be interested in applying for asylum, while the remaining 7 per cent does not know.⁴

INTENTIONS



Figure 3. Main routes taken by Ukrainian refugees residing in Montenegro

According to the quantitative data collected, 80 per cent of respondents departed from Ukraine taking a route through Hungary and Serbia or through Romania and Serbia, from where they crossed the border to enter Montenegro.

When asked how long they intend to stay in Montenegro, two thirds of respondents said they will stay in the country until the war ends and then return to Ukraine, followed by less than 20 per cent who said they intend to stay for a year and then return to Ukraine, and the rest plans to stay for up to 6 months and then return to Ukraine or does not know.

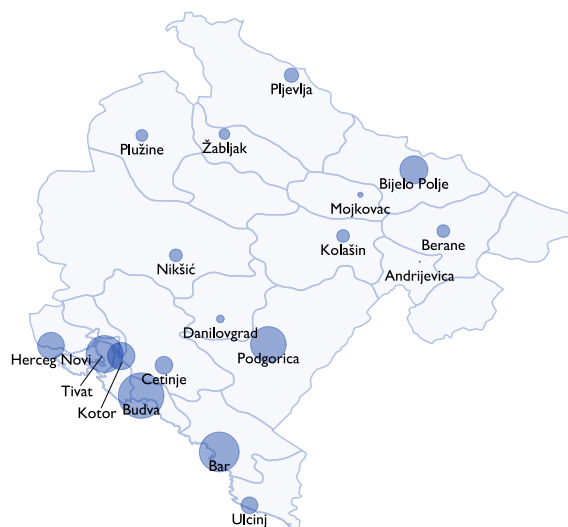


Figure 4. Presence of Ukrainian refugees based on the number of those who registered to stay up to 90 days from 24 February to 06 April 2022.

Source: Border Police of Montenegro

Furthermore, the questionnaire asked Ukrainians if they were interested in finding a job in Montenegro, considering the strong cultural with the country, and having granted temporary protection status by the government of Montenegro.

Almost half of the respondents (48%) said they did not intend to look for a job opportunity while in Montenegro, followed by 41 per cent who said they would be interested, 7 per cent are already working and 4 per cent does not know.

4. According to key informants interviewed, the reason for this choice may lie in the fact that the government of Montenegro has granted Ukrainians temporary protection for a period of one year and this implies that there is no interest in applying for the regular asylum procedure.

NEEDS

The qualitative data collected through the KIs show that about one third of Ukrainian refugees currently residing in Montenegro need immediate assistance, primarily in terms of economic support, accommodation and psychological support, especially for children, while the rest of them still have some form of self-support. According to all informants, however, there would be the first signs that very soon, due to the prolonged emergency situation, and the limited financial possibilities of the refugees, the remaining two thirds could also run into serious problems, especially financial and in terms of accommodation.⁵

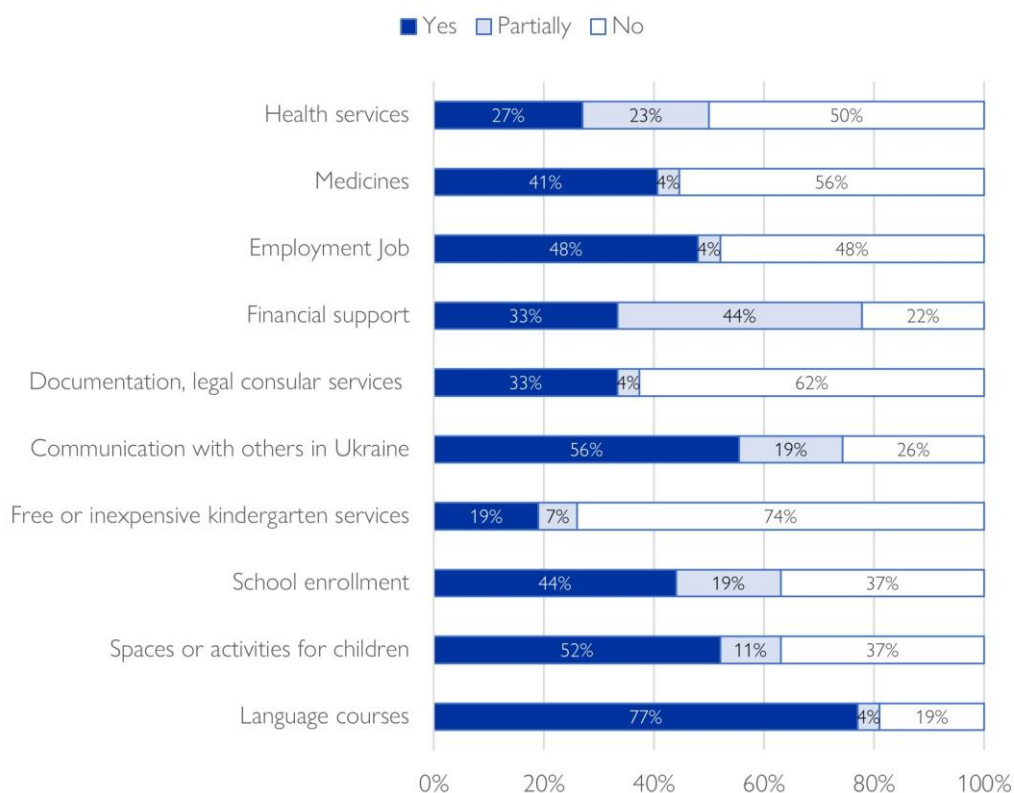
Furthermore, all KIs stated that Ukrainian refugees are aware that in European Union (EU) countries they receive cash assistance as refugees and stressed the need for the same to happen in Montenegro, with particular emphasis on the provision of goods and services relating to the well-being of children (playful and educational spaces, diapers, food, medicines, etc.).

This is particularly true if we consider that almost half of the Ukrainian refugees covered were under the age of 18, demonstrating that the greatest urgency revolves around the most vulnerable categories, for which it is necessary to promptly mobilize in terms of access to school facilities, to online courses, to play areas, but also and foremost to psychological support given the strong stress resulting from the armed conflict.

Based on the triangulation conducted, the same needs also emerged from the quantitative information collected through the survey. From these also emerged the need to have language courses, the need to communicate with relatives in Ukraine, spaces or activities for children or enroll them in school, employment, medicine, financial support, information and assistance in legal documentation.

In addition, 74 per cent of respondents declared they received some form of humanitarian assistance, most of which in terms of clothing, hygiene and non-food items, food, children's toys and transportation.

Figure 5. Things for which Ukrainian refugees need support for themselves and/or their family members



5. Currently, many Ukrainian refugees have access to rented or offered houses and apartments by Montenegrin residents, however with the summer season approaching, this may not be guaranteed.

More than three-quarters of respondents declared they were consulted on their urgent needs by humanitarian organizations and less than half by government institutions. Among the main challenges faced by respondents in terms of accommodation, there is the separation of families (44%), psychological and physical distress (18%), personal safety (15%), lack of information regarding available assistance (11%), difficulties in acquiring documents (7%), harassment (7%), limited access to water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) facilities (4%).

Most Ukrainians surveyed declared they received information about available support and services for displaced persons from Ukraine through non-governmental organizations (NGO), United Nations (UN) agencies, the Red Cross, social media and governmental agencies.

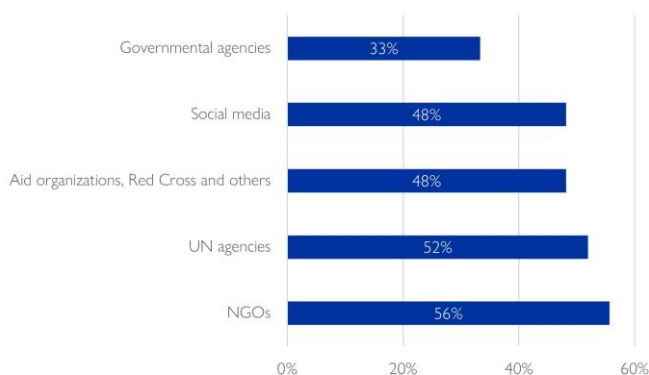


Figure 6. Actors from which Ukrainian refugees declared to have received information about available support and services.

METHODOLOGY

Design of the data collection

The exercise aimed to provide more in-depth information on Ukrainian refugees residing in Montenegro in terms of profile, intentions and needs to provide additional information to first line responders, national authorities and the donor community, as well as to support a better and tailored-specific response to those in need.

Data collection methods

The rapid displacement and needs assessment used a multi-source and multi-method approach to obtain qualitative and quantitative data from a wide range of stakeholders. The IOM enumerators conducted focus group discussions and interviews with KIs with officials from the Embassy of Ukraine in Montenegro, members of the Border Police, administrative officials at the local level and representatives of the municipal board of Red Cross Tivat, Budva and Herceg Novi. In addition, a short survey was administered directly to the refugee population of Ukraine. The questionnaire consisted of three main sections: baseline profile, intentions and needs.

Data collection period

The data collection exercise was conducted from 31 March to 06 April 2022.

Geographical coverage

Geographical coverage is limited to a select number of locations in Montenegro, chosen by IOM for their known high presence of Ukrainian refugees. The information was collected in four locations: Podgorica, the capital, Budva and Herceg Novi on the coastal side of the country and Bijelo Polje in the hinterland near the border with Serbia.

Target population

Ukrainian refugees departing from Ukraine starting from February 24, 2022. In particular, the IOM has targeted those who visit the premises of the Red Cross, the "Volunteers' headquarters", and the collective center in the selected locations.

Enumerators

A total of five IOM enumerators were deployed to conduct the data collection.

Data collection partners

The data collection exercise was conducted with the support of the Red Cross of Montenegro, whose enumerators were trained on the questionnaire and helped IOM gather information from the target population.

Limitations and constraints

The data collection exercise was conducted in a selected number of locations, not covering the entire country.

Ethics and consent

No personal information was collected during the data collection exercise. All respondents were informed of the voluntary nature and anonymity of the information collected. Respondents were verbally asked to give their consent to IOM's use of the information. All interviews were conducted in a safe environment either in the Red Cross premises and in the "Volunteers' headquarters".

6. In five locations in Montenegro (Herceg Novi, Tivat, Bar, Budva and Podgorica), "Volunteers' headquarters" have been established by Ukrainian nationals already residing in Montenegro, with the assistance of the Embassy of Ukraine and with the support of municipal administrations. These offices mainly provide assistance to Ukrainian refugees in filling out applications for temporary protection. In addition, assistance in terms of food and non-food items is distributed to those in need.

SUPPORTED BY :



Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

IMPLEMENTED WITH :



CRVENI KRAST CRNE GORE
 RED CROSS OF MONTENEGRO

1875