



6 locations covered

196 people interviewed
(158 female 39 male)
6 Key Informants Interviews
conducted (3 female 3 male)

From 24 February to 26 October 2022, over 77,000 Ukrainians entered the Western Balkans following the outbreak of the armed conflict in Ukraine. Montenegro is host to the most displaced Ukrainians in the Western Balkans with estimated around 6,500 of Ukrainian nationals in the country.¹ To respond to their needs, IOM launched a rapid displacement and needs assessment in March 2022. IOM carried out a second assessment in May 2022. This report presents the findings of the third round, carried out between 03 and 26 October. IOM conducted interviews with six Key Informants (see Methodology section on page 4) and administered a short survey to 196 Ukrainian Nationals in Montenegro.

INTRODUCTION

On 13 March 2022, the Government of Montenegro introduced a Temporary Protection (TP) to all persons fleeing Ukraine for a renewable one-year period. The procedure foresees granting a temporary protection status up to 30 days after the date of application submission. Upon the confirmation of submission, the most vulnerable groups (such as pregnant, chronically ill, persons in need of urgent medical intervention, and children) get an immediate access to health care services.

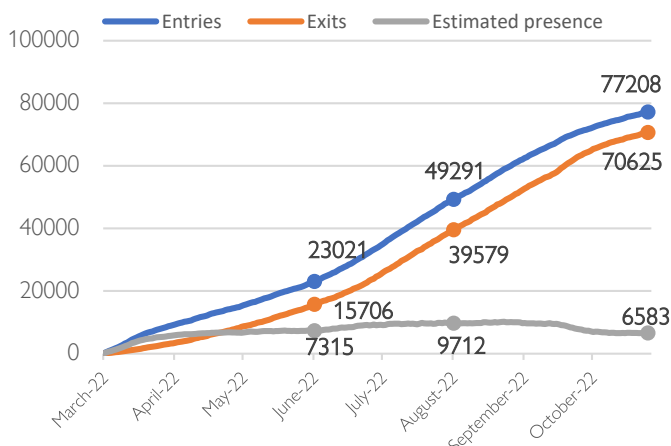


Figure 1. Entries, exits and estimated presence trends of Ukrainian refugees in Montenegro from 24 February to 26 October

BASELINE PROFILE

Sex and age disaggregated data confirmed that most Ukrainian refugees interviewed were females (81%), at an average age of 42. The youngest person interviewed was 18 years old, and the oldest 78 years old. Out of the total, the largest group was at the age 30 to 39 (39%). Ukrainians mostly traveled in a group (75%), and usually the groups consisted of household members. Three quarters of these groups are groupings of up to three people. The largest consisted of eight people. More than half traveled with children (54%), infants were more than one quarter of the total number of children. Almost 10 per cent stated they were traveling with person/persons in serious health conditions and specific needs. These were people suffering

from chronic diseases mostly.

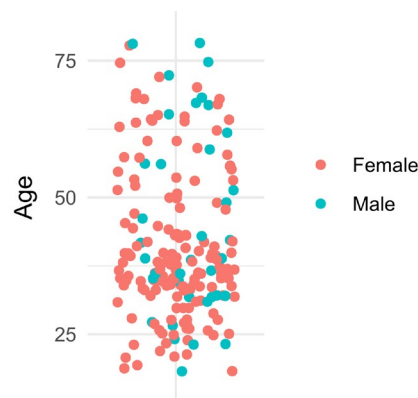


Figure 2. Sex and age distribution of Ukrainian refugees interviewed

With regard to the respondents' most recent employment status in Ukraine – sixty seven per cent had been either employed or self-employed, mostly in the Information & Technology (IT), services, trade, educational and academic, financial, and health sectors. Interestingly, more than a quarter of respondents were either employed or self-employed at the moment of the interview, working in the IT or educational sector.

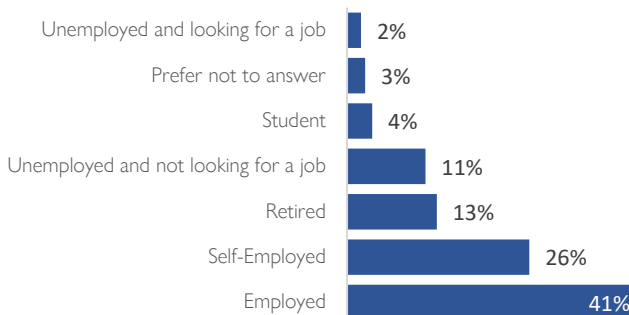


Figure 3. Most recent employment status in Ukraine of interviewed respondents

¹ IOM regularly collects information on the number of entries and exits of Ukrainian refugees in six Western Balkan countries. This information in Serbia is shared by the Border Police; in Kosovo (References to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 (1999)) by the Border Police, and the Directorate for Migrants and Foreigners; in Bosnia and Herzegovina by the Ministry of Security, and the Border Police; in Albania and North Macedonia by the Ministries of Interior in respected countries; in Montenegro by the Border Police.

Profile, intentions and needs

03 – 26 October 2022

As per the previous assessment (carried out between 19 and 31 May 2022) the level of education of the interviewed was particularly high, with more than forty per cent of Ukrainian refugees declaring they have a master's or doctoral degree.

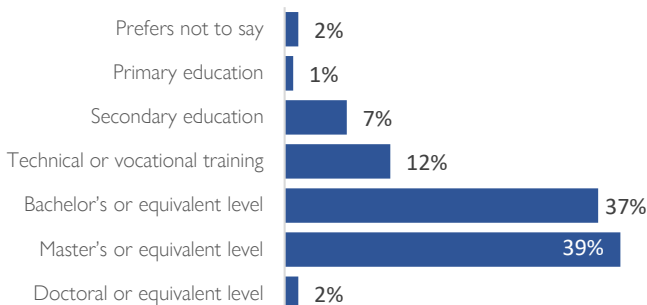


Figure 4. Highest level of completed education of interviewed respondents

With regard to the legal status of the respondents, more than ninety per cent applied for temporary protection and one fifth of those still did not get in at the time of the interview. Only a small fraction (3.6%) applied for asylum. Half of those who applied for asylum, received a positive determination. Among the stated reasons for not seeking temporary protection, the vast majority declared "they were planning to register in the future".

The estimated time to process temporary protection requests, at the time of this assessment, was 30 days. As of 06 October 2022, 6,662 people applied for temporary protection and 5,775 requests were processed.

INTENTIONS

When asked if they intend to stay, move elsewhere in Montenegro or in Europe or return to Ukraine, three quarters said they planned to return to Ukraine. The illustration below shows the reasons for going back to Ukraine.

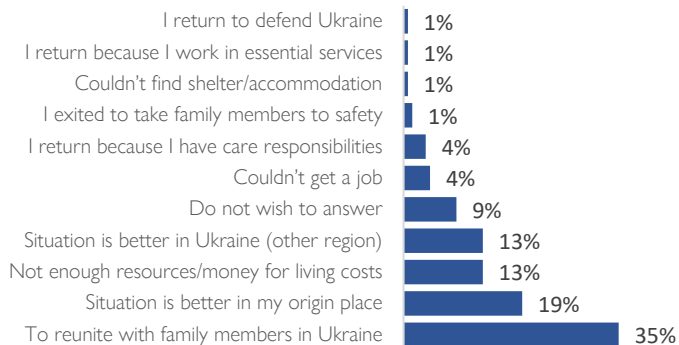


Figure 5 Reasons for going back to Ukraine

One fifth (20.5%) stated they did not intend to move from Montenegro, while seven per cent planned to go to other country in Europe, or outside Europe.

The top 7 regions (oblast) of origin were Kyiv city and region (23%), Kharkiv (16%), Odessa (12%), Dnipropetrovsk (8%), Donetsk (9%), Kherson (8%) and Zaporizhzhia (7%). Five female respondents were nationals of the Russian Federation, traveling with their household members and coming from Zaporizhzhia, Kharkiv, Kherson, Dnipropetrovsk, and Kyiv city. They held residence permits in Ukraine.

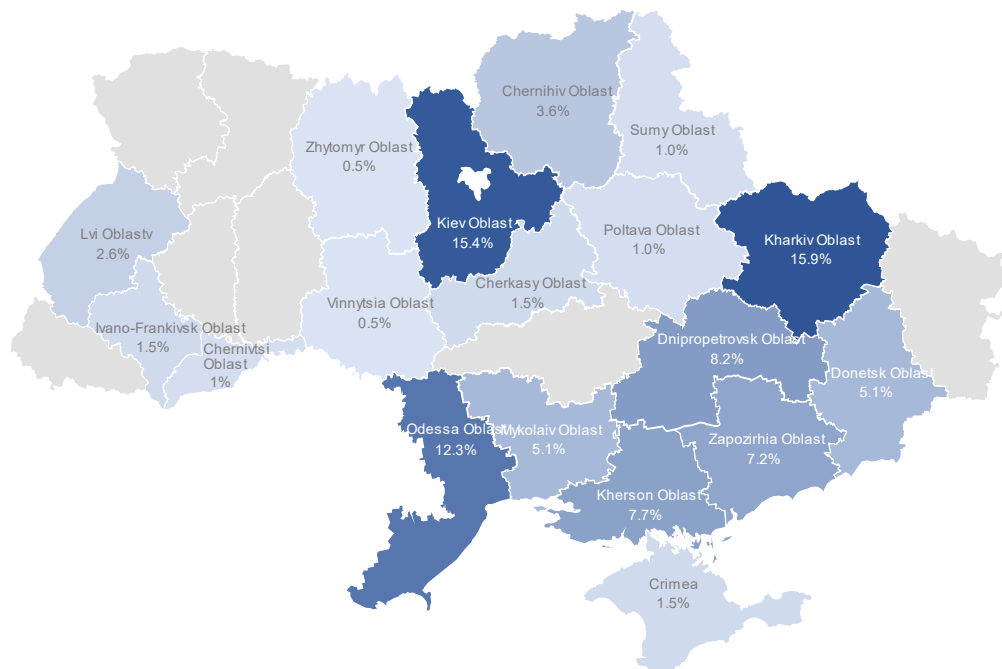


Figure 6. Main regions of origin of Ukrainian refugees residing in Montenegro (Crimea refers to Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, Ukraine, temporarily occupied by the Russian Federation)

Profile, intentions and needs

03 – 26 October 2022

Considering the intentions to look for and find a job in Montenegro, some changes were recorded compared to previous assessment (from 19 to 31 May 2022). When asked if they were planning to search for work/job while in Montenegro, forty per cent responded positively (compared to 32% in the previous assessment), showing interest in the services sector, education, tourism, trade, agriculture, fisheries, forestry, and IT. The most significant change was observed in the percentages of respondents who have been working already, with sixteen per cent who have been working at the time of the interview, compared to two per cent who had worked at the time of previous round conducted in March/April 2022.

ACCOMODATION

The majority (61%) continue to stay in apartments/houses for rent, twenty-five per cent stay with friends or family. Only six per cent are accommodated in apartments/houses offered by local residents, compared to almost three quarters of the sample/respondents interviewed during the previous assessment in April 2022.. Based on a reduced sample of those who agreed to disclose the price of their accommodation, an average rent price was 490 euros (the highest prices in Budva and Tivat, and the lowest in Bar). One third said their monthly rent increased since their arrival in Montenegro. When asked about the main challenges, 25 per cent stated emotional psychological discomfort and stress, 15 per cent insufficient heating and 12 per cent - difficulties to access for persons with disabilities. However, almost 60 per cent stated they did not face any problems.

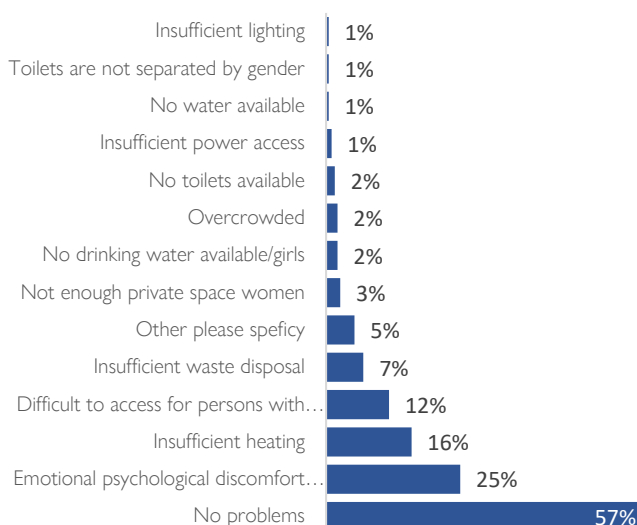


Figure 7. Main challenges Ukrainian refugees face regarding their accommodation

Montenegro, and one in Bar to provide accommodation for Ukrainians in need, with a total of 230 beds available (140 in Niksic and 90 in Bar).² The Government selected hotels based on specific requirements (distance from schools, access to services, etc.). The inhabitants were provided with basic amenities such as food, NFIs, internet. The funds were provided to the initiative leading institution – the Ministry of Interior by the Ministry of Work and Social Welfare.

NEEDS

Language courses remain one of the most important needs of Ukrainians residing in Montenegro, together with employment and health services.

More than half of the respondents stated that they had received some kind of humanitarian assistance while residing in Montenegro. When asked what kind of services they had received, the majority stated food products, clothes and shoes, personal hygiene, and sanitary supplies.

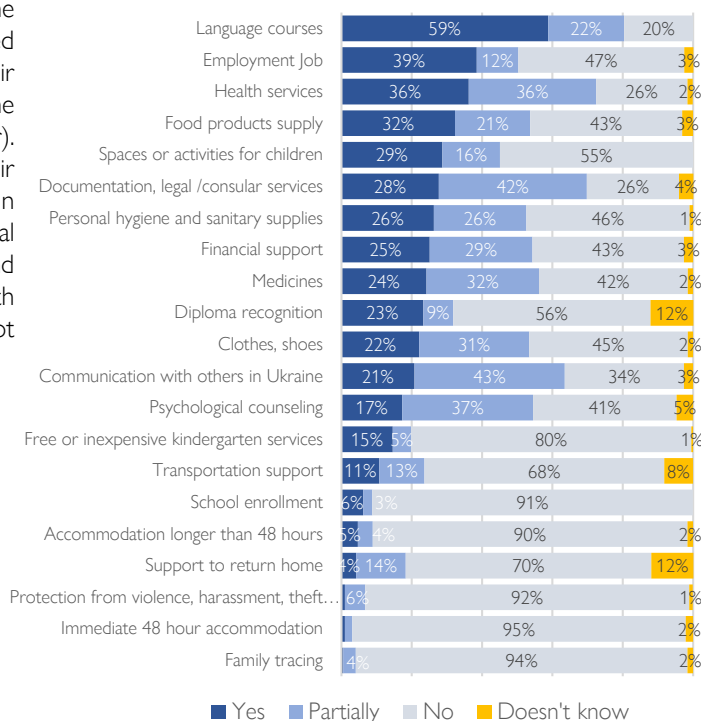


Figure 8. Most frequently cited needs by Ukrainian refugees

Compared to the previous assessment, the results suggest that more people were consulted about their urgent needs by aid organizations, provided by both humanitarian organizations and government institutions. This time three quarter of interviewed stated they were consulted by humanitarian organizations (compared to 40% the previous time) and fourteen per cent by government institutions (compared to 9% the previous time).

² Source: KI with the representative form the Ministry od Interior .

SCHOOLING

Attending primary school is mandatory in Montenegro for every child no matter of the legal status. According to the data available from the Ministry of Education, at the time of this assessment, there were 440 Ukrainian children enrolled in any of the levels of education (preschool, primary and secondary), out of which 165 were registered as displaced persons. However, 275 were not registered as displaced, meaning that they could be Ukrainians who were residing in Montenegro before the war.

To facilitate the enrolment of Ukrainian children into the education system, the Ministry of Education issued an official decree to all the schools stating that all children must be accepted and enrolled into classes, regardless of certification of prior educational attainment.

In terms of good practices, in Budva the municipality gave the Ukrainian Crisis Center² available premises to set up schools for children. In Bar, the municipality committed to paying for the rent of the facility where the local Ukrainian Crisis Center could set up classes.

Three quarters of interviewed Ukrainians who have children stated their children were attending school. Four per cent were attending private schools while the rest were going to public schools. Regarding the modality in which the school was attended, one quarter stated in presence, 3 per cent stated home schooling while the rest stated online education from Ukraine. When respondents were asked what kind of support they need in terms of the education system, eighty-seven per cent answered language courses, nineteen per cent stated that they needed funds to cover expenses for textbooks and transport.



Figure 9. IOM delivering training for Ukrainian enumerators

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. IOM enumerators conducted focus group discussions and interviews with KIs: officials from the Embassy of Ukraine in Montenegro, officials from the Ministry of Education, officials from the Ministry of Interior, and representatives of Ukrainian Crisis Center. 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. This survey was conducted by Ukrainians who were trained as enumerators for the purpose of this exercise.

Data collection period

The data collection exercise was conducted from 03 to 26 October 2022.

Geographical coverage

Geographical coverage is limited to a selected number of locations in Montenegro, chosen by IOM for their known high presence of Ukrainian refugees. The information was collected in six locations: Kotore, Tivat, Bar, Budva, Cetinje and Herceg Novi.

Target population

Ukrainian refugees departing from Ukraine starting from February 24, 2022.

Enumerators

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

Limitations and constraints

The data collection exercise was conducted in a select number of locations, not covering the whole country. Language barriers are a major constraint as there is only one official Ukrainian language interpreter in the whole 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 "Ukrainian Crisis Center".

² In five locations in Montenegro (Herceg Novi, Tivat, Bar, Budva and Podgorica), "Ukrainian Crisis Center" 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, and in terms of food and non-food items is distributed to those in need.

SUPPORTED BY :



Ministry of Foreign Affairs
 and International Cooperation of Italy