BULGARIA

Surveys with Refugees from Ukraine: Needs, Intentions, and Integration Challenges

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Country Report & Data Analysis

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Cover photo: IOM' DTM enumerator speaking with refugees from Ukraine in a Sofia, Bulgaria. © IOM 2023

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

KEY FINDINGS

- Top oblasts of origin Odeska (15%), Zaporizka (14%), Dnipropetrovska (14%), Donetska (12%), Kharkivska (11%), Mykolaivska (10%).

- Intentions to move: no intention to move (84%), move back to place of origin in Ukraine (4%), to another country (0.4%).

- Employment status: employed (12%), unemployed and looking for a job (14%), unemployed and not looking for a job (16%), retired (31%).

- Top needs upon return:* cash support (82%), medical needs (49%), information (47%), housing (42%).

- Top areas of assistance received:* financial support (89%), vouchers (80%), food supplies (70%).

- Top inclusion challenges:* language (10%), financial issues (10%), employment (4%), housing (3%), services (3%).

* more than one answer possible

Map 1: Bulgaria, border crossing points, surveys deployed & locations
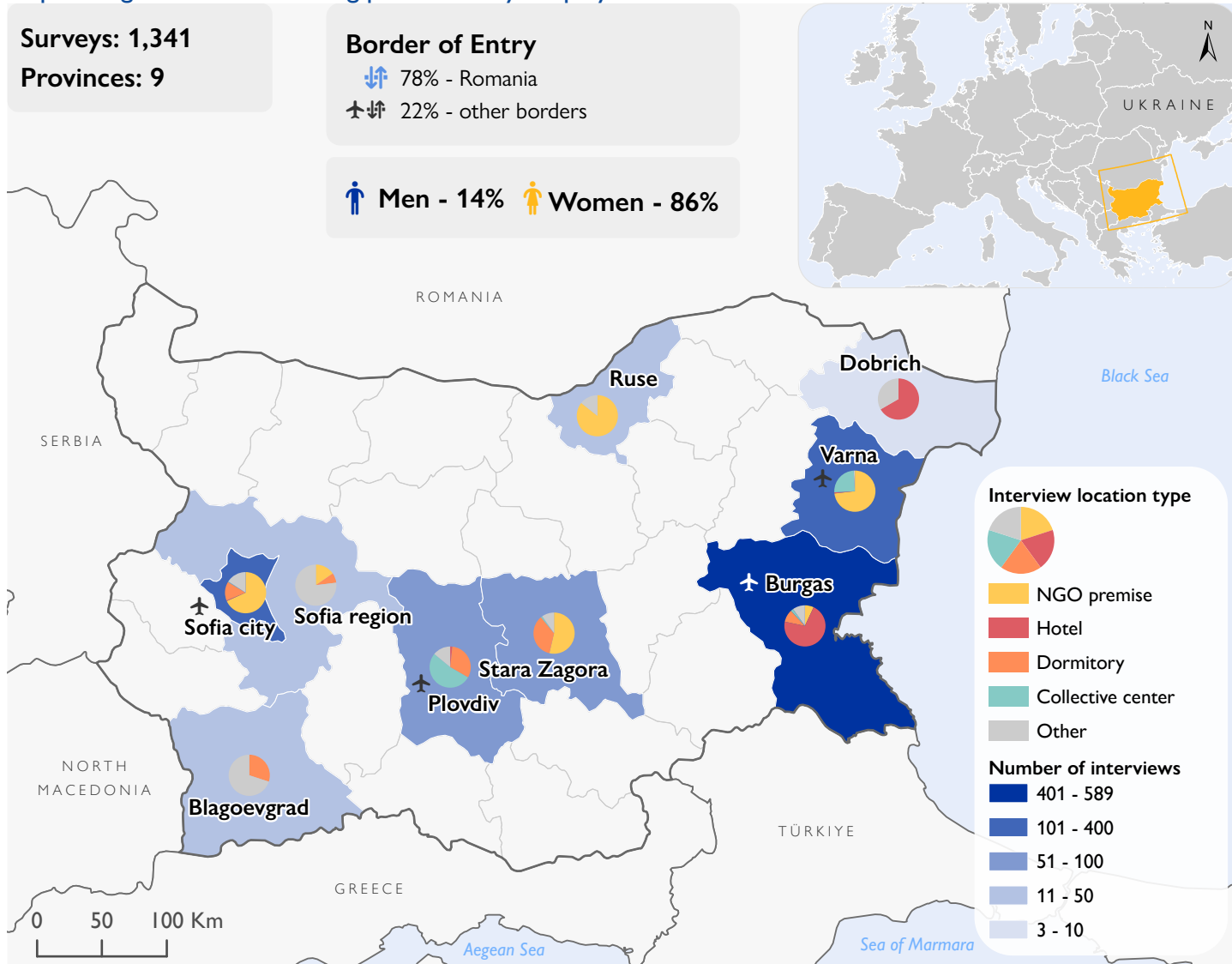
Surveys: 1,341
Provinces: 9

Border of Entry
78% - Romania
22% - other borders

Men - 14%   Women - 86%

Interview location type
- NGO premise
- Hotel
- Dormitory
- Collective center
- Other

Number of interviews
- 401 - 589
- 101 - 400
- 51 - 100
- 11 - 50
- 3 - 10

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 IOM

1. Socio-Demographic Profile

Oblast (region) of origin

Respondents came from almost all regions of Ukraine, but a majority came from the eastern and southern parts of the country. Seventy-six per cent of respondents were in only six regions of origin or habitual residence before leaving Ukraine.

These were Odeska (15%), Zaporizka (14%), Dnipropetrovska (14%), Donetska (12%), Kharkivska (11%), and Mykolaivska (10%). The remaining respondents (24%) were living in other 20 regions throughout Ukraine. These included Kyiv city (8%), Khersonska (5%), Kyivska (4%), and Luhanska (2%), as well as Vinnytska, Poltavska, Sumska, Rivnenska, and Chernihivska (1% each).

Map 2: Oblast of origin before leaving Ukraine (%)
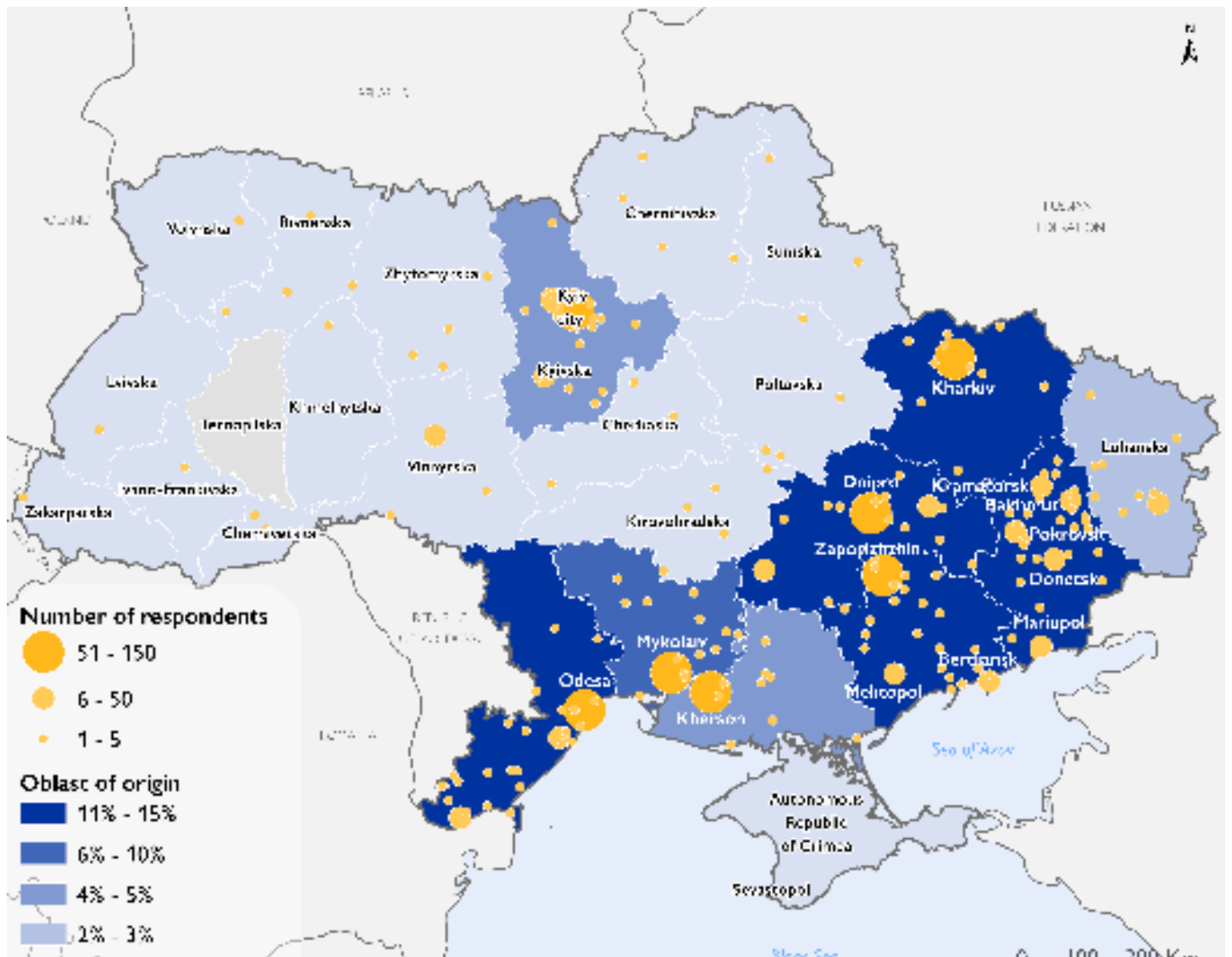
This map is for illustration purposes only. The boundaries and names shown, and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by IOM

Gender and age

Out of the 1,341 refugees from Ukraine interviewed in Bulgaria, 14 per cent were men, and 86 per cent were women. The average age for the total sample was 50 years.

When looking at the data disaggregated by gender, in average, men were slightly older than their female counterparts (57 years of average age for men, versus 49 years of average age for women).

Most respondents were over 59 years of age (35%) and between 30 and 39 years of age (26%). The biggest age group for women was of those 60 years old and above (31%), followed by those aged between 30-39 (28%). Among men, the biggest age group was of those 60 years and above (57%), followed by those between 50 and 59 years of age (14%).

Figure 1: Age, by gender and total (%)
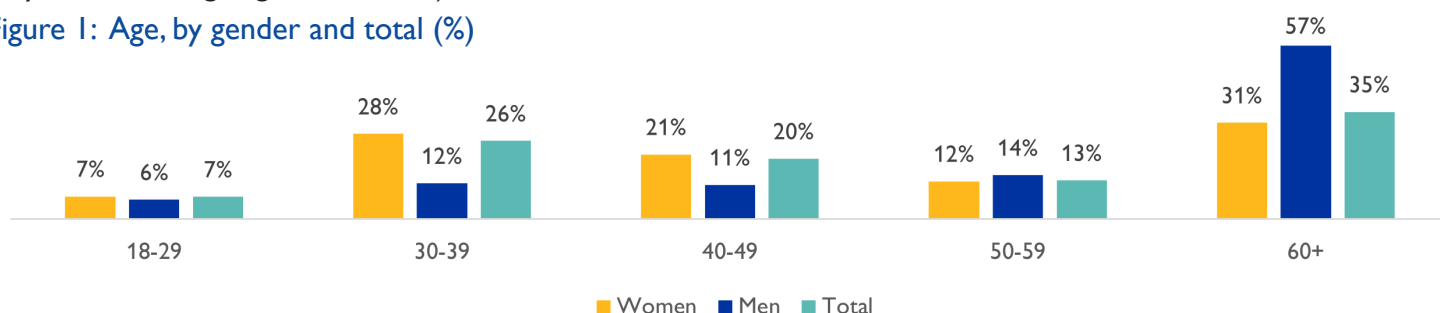
Marital status

Out of the total sample, more than half of the respondents (53%) were married. This was followed by 16 per cent of respondents who were divorced, 14 per cent who were widowed, 14 per cent who were single, and two per cent who were in a partnership.

The share of married persons was higher among men than among women (61% versus 52%), while women were more likely to be widowed than men in the sample (14% versus 11%). Women were nearly twice as likely than men to be divorced (17% versus 8%).

Figure 2: Marital status, by gender and total (%)
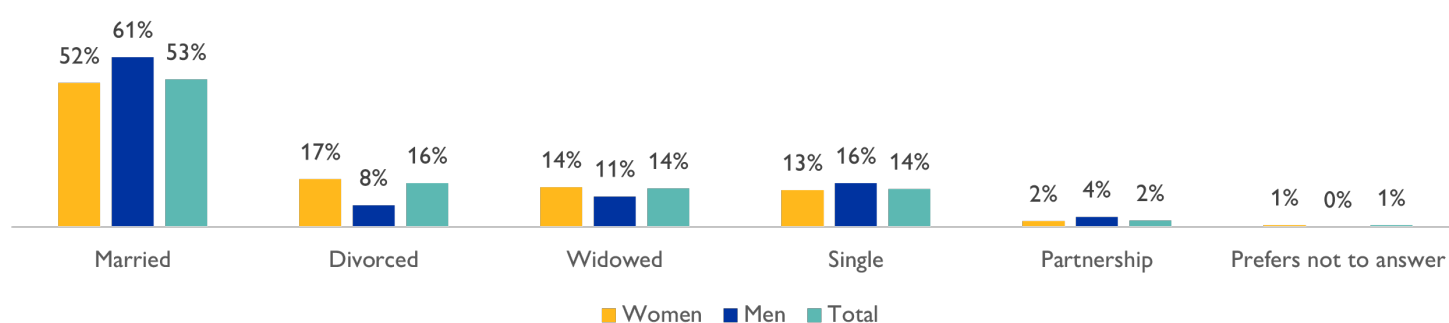
Documents possessed at the time of interview

Most of the respondents (82%) travelled with their ID card. Also, many travelled with their biometric passports (74%) and their birth certificates (48%).

Another 38 per cent travelled with their education certificate, 30 per cent with their driver license, and

24 per cent travelled with a non-biometric passport The remaining six per cent travelled with a permanent residence permit (0.4%), other types of documents (4%), no document (0.1%), or preferred not to answer (1%).

Figure 3: Documents in possession of respondents at the time of interview (%)
(more than one answer possible)
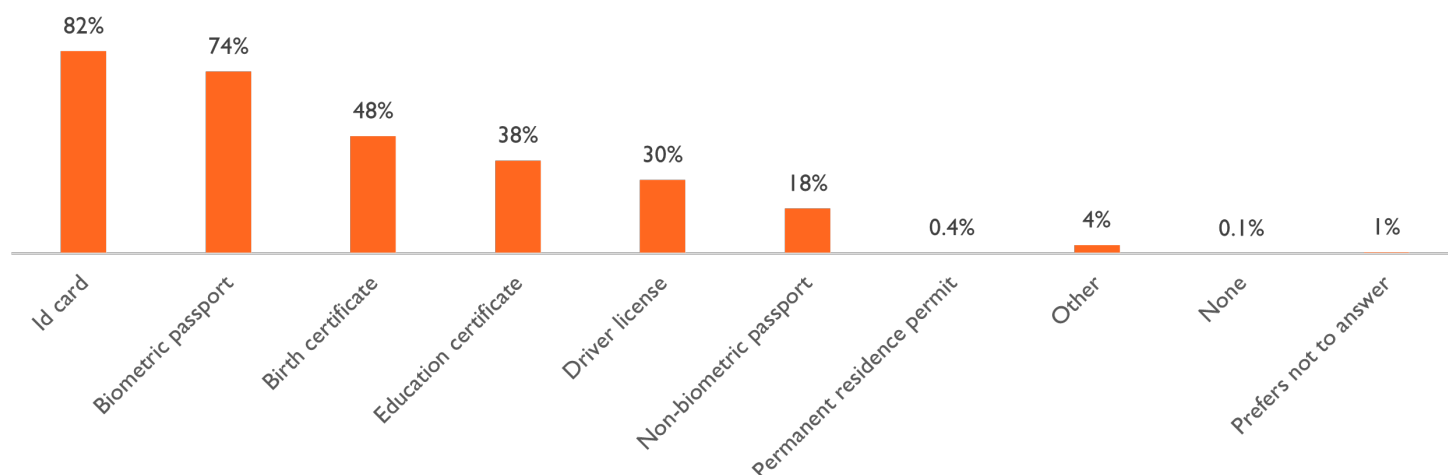
Average time spent outside Ukraine since initial displacement

The approximate duration of displacement can be assessed looking at the difference between respondents' initial date of displacement from Ukraine, and the date of interview. Most respondents were initially displaced in the first half of 2022, when the war started. For example, 34 per cent of respondents were initially displaced in March of 2022.

This means that by the time the interview was conducted (March 2023), they had spent about one year in displacement. Another 27 per cent of respondents were displaced in April 2022, giving them 11 months since their initial date of displacement and the date of assessment. Another seven per cent of respondents were initially displaced in May 2022, giving them an average of 10 months in displacement. The couple of months between June and December 2022, displacement fluctuated between one to three per cent. This means that 13 per cent of respondents had spent between 3-9 months in displacement at the time of assessment.

The only exception was October 2022 which had a 10 per cent response rate which aligns with Russian Federation's announcement of a partial mobilisation by the end of September 2022. This sample had spent an average of five months in displacement at the time of interview.

Table 1: Approximate time spent in displacement until date of interview (%)

Date since initial displacement	Approximate time spent until date of interview	% Of respondents
Before 2022	2-7 years	0.5%
Jan-22	14 Months	1%
Feb-22	13 Months	8%
Mar-22	12 Months	34%
Apr-22	11 Months	27%
May-22	10 Months	7%
Jun-22	9 Months	2%
Jul-22	8 Months	3%
Aug-22	7 Months	2%
Sep-22	6 Months	3%
Oct-22	5 Months	10%
Nov-22	4 Months	2%
Dec-22	3 Months	1%

2. Intentions

Intention to move elsewhere or stay in current location

Eighty-four per cent of respondents had no intention to move at the time of interview. Four per cent were aiming to move back to their place of origin in Ukraine while another one per cent somewhere else in Ukraine.

Two per cent intended to move within Bulgaria, and less than one per cent to another country. The remaining respondents did not know (9%), or preferred not to answer (0.4%).

When looking at the data disaggregated by gender, female respondents were slightly more likely than their male counterparts to stay in their current location (85% versus 79%). Moreover, only few women were aiming to move to another country (0.4%).

Otherwise, the percentages remained relatively similar or the same. For example, female and male respondents were as likely to aim to move back to their place of origin in Ukraine (4% each).

Figure 4: Respondents' intention to move from current location, by gender and total (%)

	Has no intention to move	Move to place of origin in Ukraine	Within current country	Another location in Ukraine	Move to another country	Does not know	Prefers not to answer
Women	85%	4%	2%	0.4%	0.4%	8%	0.3%
Men	79%	4%	1%	2%	0%	13%	1%
Total	84%	4%	2%	1%	0.4%	9%	0.4%

Women ▪ Men ▪ Total
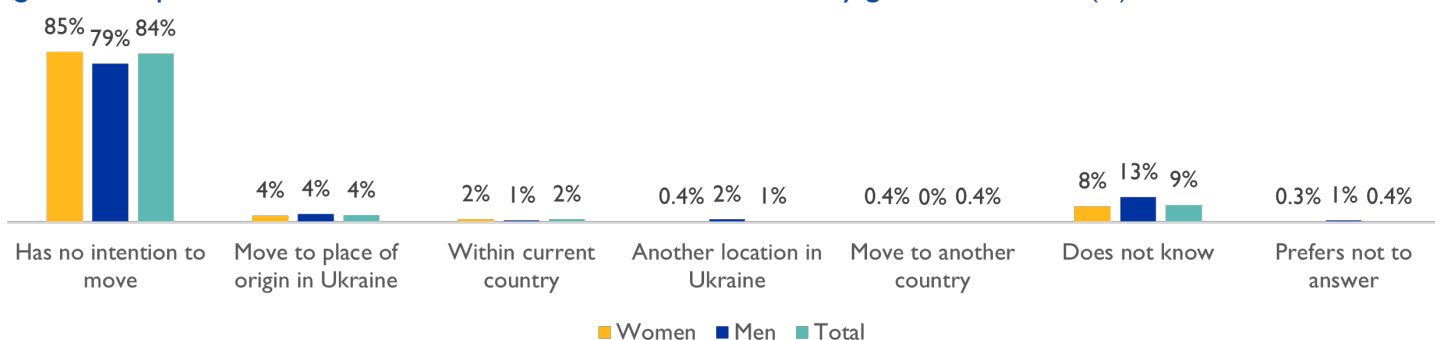
Intended length of stay in current location

Out of those intending to move within Bulgaria, Ukraine, or elsewhere (N=84), four per cent intended to stay less than one week in their current location before moving. Another 14 per cent intended to stay less than one month, 17 per cent between one to three months, and 10 per cent between three to six months. Only

two per cent intended to stay between six months to one year, and one per cent over one year. Half of the respondents (50%) did not know for how long they were planning to stay in their current location before moving. The remaining two per cent preferred not to answer.

Figure 5: Intended length of stay in current location before moving elsewhere (%)

less than a week	less than a month	Between 1-3 months	Between 3-6 months	Between 6 months and 1 year	Over 1 year	Does not know	Prefers not to answer
4%	14%	17%	10%	2%	1%	50%	2%
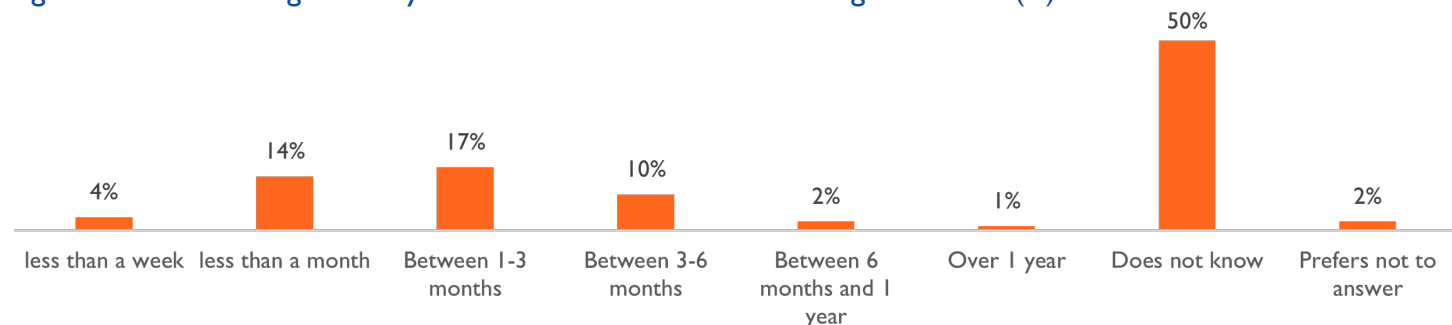
Intended oblast of destination in Ukraine and reasons to go back

Out of those set on returning to Ukraine (N=57), 86 per cent planned to go back to the same oblast of origin, while the other 14 per cent planned to reach to a different oblast.

To be more specific, 25 per cent of those going back to a different oblast were planning to go to Kyiv city, while another 13 per cent was aiming to return to Mykolaivska. The remaining 62 per cent preferred not to answer.

Table 2: Reasons for choosing Ukraine as intended destination, by gender and total (N=57) (%)
(more than one answer possible)

Listed Reasons	Women (%)	Men (%)	Total (%)
Reunite with family	50%	45%	49%
Bring family to safety	39%	64%	44%
Lack of resources	30%	45%	33%
Help family	9%	0%	7%
Improved situation in place of origin	7%	0%	5%
Discrimination	2%	9%	4%
Improved situation in Ukraine	2%	0%	2%
Lack of job	0%	9%	2%
Expired assistance	2%	0%	2%
Access essential service	0%	9%	2%
Health care	2%	0%	2%
Belongings	2%	0%	2%
Check property	2%	0%	2%
Other	4%	0%	4%
Prefers not to answer	7%	0%	5%

Out of those intending to go back to Ukraine, either to the same oblast of origin (N= 49), or to an alternative oblast (N=8), 49 per cent indicated that they selected Ukraine as their intend\ed destination in order to reunite with their family. Another 44 per cent aimed to go to Ukraine in order to bring their family to safety, and another 33 per cent due to lack of resources in their current location.

When looking at the data disaggregated by gender, men were almost twice as likely to want to go to Ukraine in order to bring their family to safety in comparison to their female counterparts (64% versus 39%).

Moreover, female respondents were slightly more likely than male respondents to want to go back to Ukraine to reunite with family (50% versus 45%).

Only women indicated helping family and an improved situation in their place of origin as key reasons to return to Ukraine (9% and 7% respectively). In contrast only male respondents intended to go back to Ukraine due to lack of employment opportunities in current location (9%).

Immediate needs upon return

Out of those intending to go back (N=57), 82 per cent indicated that their top need upon crossing back would be cash support. This was followed by medical needs (49%), information (47%), transportation (42%), and housing (42%). Other needs indicated were job placement (32%), business setup support (14%), children education (11%), and trainings (9%). Sixteen per cent of respondents indicated having no needs upon return, while another weight per cent indicated not knowing (4%), or having other non-specified needs (4%)

Intended country of destination

Out of those intending to go to another country as final destination (5 individuals), 20 per cent were planning to go to Canada, 20 per cent to Italy, and 20 per cent to the United States of America.
The remaining 40 per cent did not know at the time of interview. Out of those interviewed, only women were planning to go to another country as a final destination (100%).

Figure 6: Intended country of destination (%) N=5

- Canada
- Italy
- United States of America
- Unkown
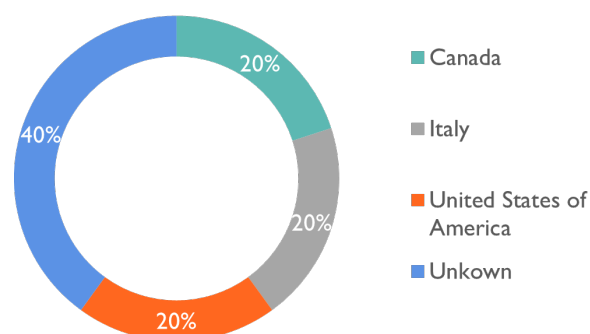
Reasons for selecting elsewhere in Bulgaria or other countries as destination

Out of those intending to move elsewhere in Bulgaria (N=22), or to another country (N=5), 30 per cent selected their destination based on friends, 22 per cent due to job opportunities, 11 per cent due to proximity to their home, and another 11 per cent due to protection system.

Male respondents selected friends (50%), job opportunities (50%), protection system (50%), and authorities (50%) as main reasons for selecting their intended location of destination.

On the other hand, female respondents selected Friends (28%), job/employment opportunities (20%), and proximity to their home (12%) as their top three reasons for selecting elsewhere in Bulgaria or another country as intended locations of destination.

Table 3: Reasons for choosing elsewhere in Bulgaria or another country as intended destination, by gender and total (%) (N=27)
(more than one answer possible)

Listed reasons	Women (%)	Men (%)	Total (%)
Friends	28%	50%	30%
Job opportunity	20%	50%	22%
Close to home	12%	0%	11%
Protection system	8%	50%	11%
Expired assistance	4%	0%	4%
Accommodation there	4%	0%	4%
Job offer	4%	0%	4%
Authorities	0%	50%	4%
Other people there	4%	0%	4%
School for children	4%	0%	4%
No reason	12%	0%	11%
Other	12%	0%	11%
Prefers not to answer	8%	0%	7%

3. Education and Employment: Profile and Prospects

Main spoken language

Sixty-four per cent of respondents spoke Russian as their main language spoken at home. This was followed by Ukrainian with 34 per cent of responses, and Bulgarian with two per cent. Less than one per cent spoke English as their main language.

The remaining respondents had an alternate main language (less than 1%), or preferred not to answer (less than 1%).

Other spoken language(s)

Sixty-three per cent of respondents spoke Ukrainian as an additional language. This was followed by Russian (34%), English (32%), Bulgarian (14%), German (4%), and French (2%).

Other relevant languages reported by respondents were Polish, Romanian, and Spanish (1% each).

Figure 7: Main spoken language (%)
(more than one answer possible)

Language	%
Russian	64%
Ukrainian	34%
Bulgarian	2%
English	0.1%
Other	0.1%
Prefers not to answer	0.1%
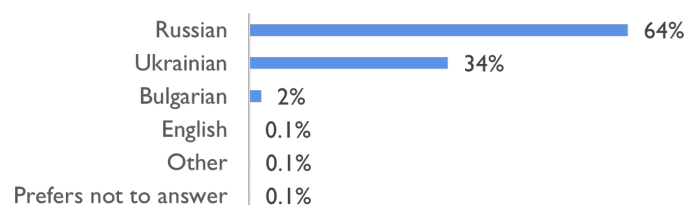
Figure 8: Other spoken languages (%)
(more than one answer possible)

Language	%
Ukrainian	63%
Russian	34%
English	32%
Bulgarian	14%
German	4%
French	2%
Polish	1%
Romanian	1%
Spanish	1%

Education level

At the time of the interview 15 per cent of respondents had achieved a lower secondary level of education, 19 per cent an upper secondary degree, seven per cent a post-secondary degree, 58 per cent a tertiary level, and one per cent a post graduate education level.

Female respondents were more likely than their male counterparts to have reached tertiary education as their highest education level (59% versus 52%), while male respondents were slightly more likely than female respondents to have reached a lower secondary education level as their highest education level (18% versus 14%).

Figure 9: Education level, by gender and total (%)

Education level	Women	Men	Total
Primary	0.1%	0%	0.1%
Lower secondary	14%	18%	15%
Upper secondary	19%	22%	19%
Post secondary	7%	6%	7%
Tertiary	59%	52%	58%
Post graduate	1%	2%	1%

Employment status before leaving Ukraine versus current status

Figure 9: Employment status before leaving Ukraine and current employment status (%)
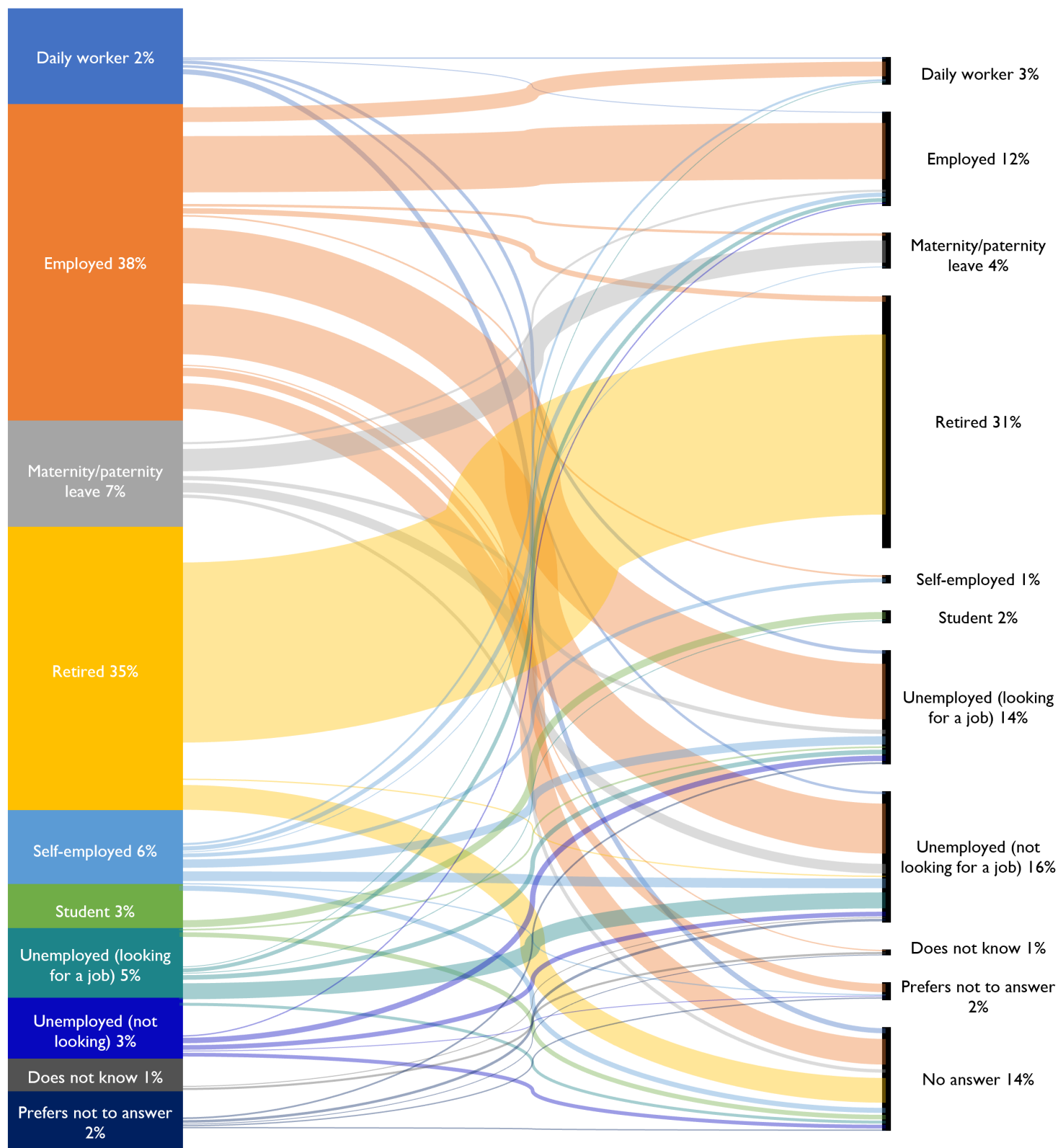
Thirty-eight per cent of respondents were employed before leaving Ukraine. Female respondents were more likely to be employed than their male counterparts (40% versus 28%). Thirty-six per cent of respondents were retired, the share of female respondents in this category was 32 per cent vis-a-vis 57 per cent male respondents.

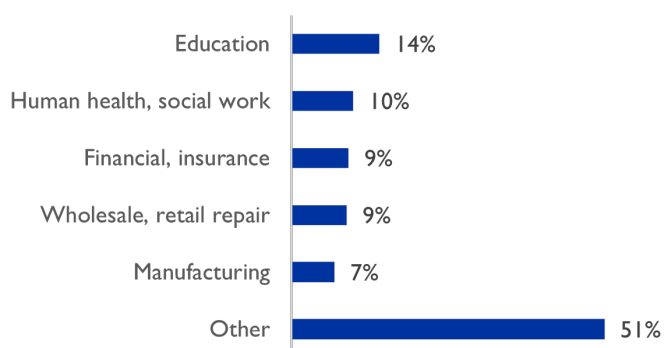Only three per cent of the sample were unemployed and looking for a job before leaving Ukraine. Another three per cent were unemployed but not looking for a job. The remaining respondents (20%), were either daily workers (2%), students (3%), self-employed (6%), or were in maternity/paternity leave (7%). Only women encompassed the latter category (8%).

By contrast, only 12 per cent of respondents were employed at the time of the interview. Male and female

respondents were almost as likely to be employed (10% for female respondents and 12% for male respondents). Fourteen per cent were unemployed and looking for a job. Women were almost twice as likely to be in this category (15%) than men (7%).

The sahre of retired persons slightly decreased from the situation before displacement, with 31 per cent of respondents declaring themselves as retired at the time of the interview (48% among men, 28% among women).

The rate of those being unemployed and not looking for a job is significantly higher than prior to displacement (16%). Women were more than twice as likely than men to be in this category at the time of the interview (18% versus 7%).

Figure 10: Top 5 occupations before leaving Ukraine (%) N=602

Out of the persons employed before leaving Ukraine (N=602), 14 per cent were working in education, 10 per cent in human health and social work, nine per cent in finance and insurance, nine per cent in wholesale and retail repair, and seven per cent in manufacturing.

The remaining 51 per cent were working in other areas like services, information and communication, administrative support, art, entertainment, and recreation, accommodation, food service among other areas of employment in Ukraine.

Among those currently in employment (employed, self-employed or daily workers), 16 per cent of them were employed in services at the time of assessment. This was followed by education (14%), accommodation and food services (11%), human health and social work (10%), and information communication (8%).

The remaining sample were employed in other areas such as financial, insurance, manufacturing construction, art, entertainment, and recreation, administrative support, among other areas of employment.

Figure 11: Top 5 current occupations (%) N=215
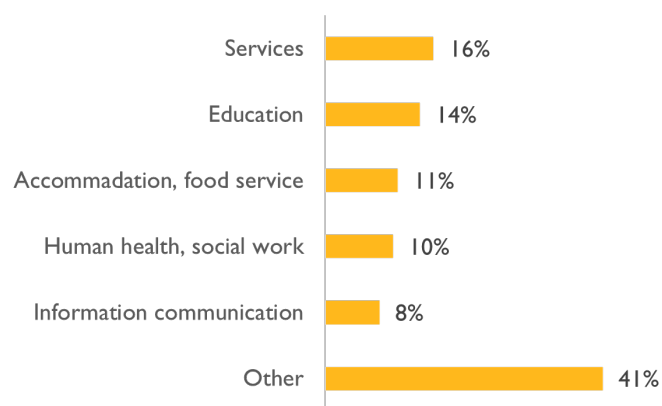
4. Registration and Inclusion Services

Current status

Ninenty-nine per cent of respondents declared to have received or to have applied for protection in Bulgaria, receiving or being in the process to receive Temporary Protection at the time of interview. Male and female respondents were nearly as likely to have a Temporary protection status (98% versus 99%).

Less than one per cent of respondents were in Bulgaria as students.

Table 4: Migration status, by gender and total (%)

Status	Women (%)	Men (%)	Total (%)
Registered for Temporary Protection	99.5%	98%	99%
Student	0.1%	0%	0.1%
Other	0%	1%	0.1%
Prefers not to answer	0.4%	1%	0.8%

Access to finances

Seventeen per cent of respondents had been able to withdraw money using foreign credit/debit card since leaving Ukraine, while three per cent had not. The remaining 80 per cent did not provide an answer.

Figure 12: Ability to withdraw money with a foreign debit/credit card (%)
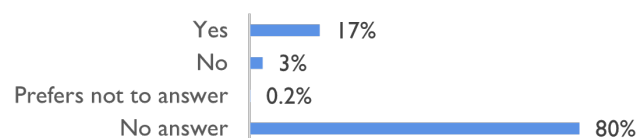
Figure 13: Has opened a personal bank account in Bulgaria (%)
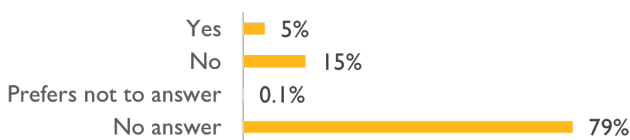
Five per cent of respondents had a personal bank account in Bulgaria at the time of the interview. Fifteen per cent did not. The other 80 per cent preferred not to answer (less than 1%), or did not provide an answer (79%).

Figure 14: Reason for not opening a personal bank account in Bulgaria (%) N=202
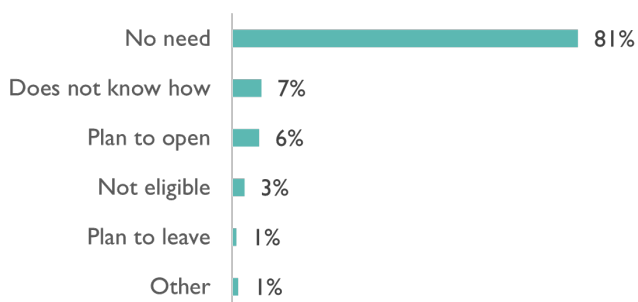
Out of those who indicated that they had not opened a personal bank account in Bulgaria, 81 per cent said that they had no need to do so.

Another seven per cent did not know how to, six per cent where planning to open one, three per cent were not eligible and one per cent were planning to leave. The remaining one per cent had other non-defined reasons.

Figure 15: Has enrolled children in an education facility (%) N=160

Yes (Online Ukraine)	51%
Yes (local)	19%
Yes (online and local)	5%
No	24%
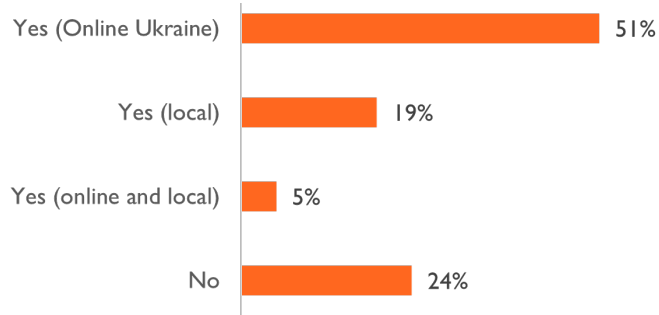
Out of the respondents who had children, 160 specified if they were enrolled or not in schools or kindergarten. Of these, 51 per cent indicated that they had been able to enrol their children in online education in Ukraine.

Another 19 per cent were able to enrol their children in local schools, while five per cent had children enrolled and attending both online and local schools.

The remaining 24 per cent had not been able to enrol their children in any education facility at the time of interview.

Figure 16: Reasons why they have not been able to enrol children in education facility (%) N=39

Plan to enroll	No places	Other	No answer
8%	3%	8%	82%

Out of those that indicated in the previous question that they had been unable to enrol their children in an education facility (N=39), eight per cent suggested that they were planning to enrol them.

Another three per cent said that they were yet to find a place to enrol their children at the time of assessment. The remaining 90 per cent had other non-specified reasons (8%), or did not provide an answer (82%).

Consular services

Sixteen per cent of respondents indicated that they knew how to contact a consular representative. Five per cent did not. The remaining 80 per cent did not provide an answer to this question. Out of those who responded to the previous question (N=275), 80 per cent indicated that they had not reached out for consular support at the time of assessment while another 20 per cent had. Less the one per cent preferred not to answer.

Figure 17: Knows how to contact a consular representative?
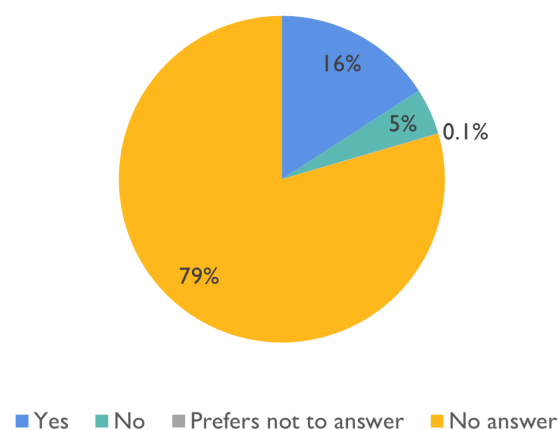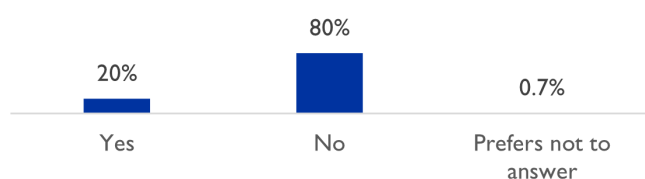
Yes	16%
No	5%
Prefers not to answer	0.1%
No answer	79%

Figure 18: Has reached out for consular support in Bulgaria (%) N=275

Yes	No	Prefers not to answer
20%	80%	0.7%

5. Immediate Needs and Assistance Received

Immediate needs at the moment

The most immediate need at the moment of the interview was financial support for 85 per cent of respondents, followed by support with personal hygiene items (63%), food supply (58%), health services and medicines (55% each).

A noticeable share of respondents also reported to be in need of support for other household goods (47%), for clothes and shoes (46%) and for language courses (30%).

Figure 19: Needs at the moment (%)
(more than one answer possible)

Category	%
Financial support	85%
Personal hygiene	63%
Food supply	58%
Health services	55%
Medicines	55%
Household goods	47%
Clothes/shoes	46%
Language courses	30%
Long-term accommodation	15%
Employment	14%

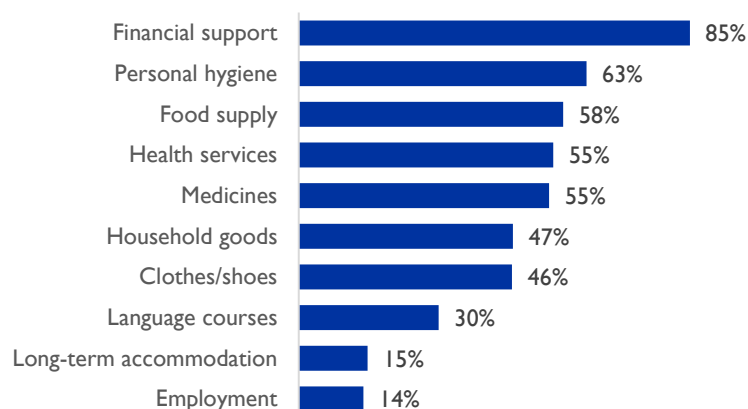### Assistance received in Bulgaria

Eighty-nine per cent of respondents indicated receiving financial support in their journey and in Bulgaria. Another eighty per cent indicated receiving vouchers as assistance in Bulgaria and in their journey, while 70 per cent indicated having received food.

Other relevant areas where respondents received assistance while in Bulgaria and throughout their journey was personal hygiene (66%), short term and long-term accommodation (59%), clothes (35%), transport (13%), and psychological council (10%). To a lesser extent respondents received assistance in the form of toys (5%), language courses (5%), and employment (less than 1%).

Areas in which information is needed to get more assistance

Out of those who indicated that they did not know where to find assistance (10% out of the total sample), 75 per cent indicated that they needed more information on how to get financial support in order to better navigate displacement. Another 60 per cent indicated health services as another area where more information is needed to find support. Other relevant areas where more information was needed were personal hygiene (47%), food supply (45%), medicines (44%), clothes/shoes (40%), household goods (36%), return support (35%), language courses (25%), and general information (23%).

Figure 20: Areas where more information for assistance is needed (%) N=136
(more than one answer possible)

| Category	%
Financial support	75%
Health services	60%
Personal hygiene	47%
Food supply	45%
Medicines	44%
Clothes/shoes	40%
Household goods	36%
Return support	35%
Language courses	25%
General info.	23%
Employment	17%
Accommodation	12%
School enrollment	11%
Legal assistance	7%
Transportation	6%

6. Challenges in the Country of Displacement

Experiences of discrimination

Eleven per cent of respondents indicated having experienced discrimination in their country of displacement. In contrast, 86 per cent indicated having no such experiences. The remaining four per cent either did not know (2%), or preferred not to answer (2%).

When looking at the data disaggregated by gender, male respondents were slightly more likely to have experienced discrimination than their female counterparts (10% versus 13%).

Figure 21: Reported experiences of discrimination (%)

- No
- Yes
- Does not know
- Prefers not to answer
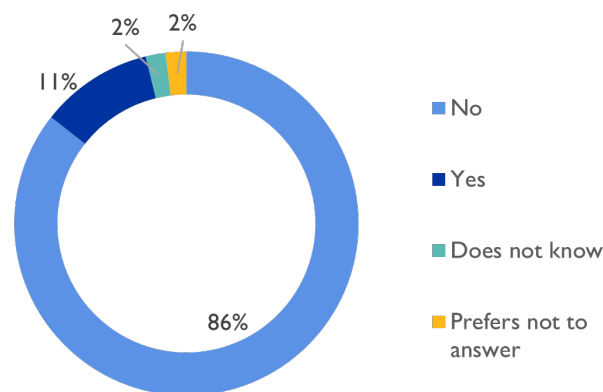
Inclusion challenges

Twenty per cent of respondents indicated language and financial issues as top inclusion challenges (10% each). This was followed by lack of employment (4%), housing (3%), and services (3%). Other challenges marked by respondents that hindered their inclusion in Bulgaria was: difficulty in getting recognition of professional skills, diplomas, and university experience (2%), access to schooling (1%), documentation issues (1%), recognition of disability (1%), discrimination (1%), and lack of information on employment (1%). Around two per cent of respondents experienced racism and hunger as a challenge to inclusion (less than 1% each).

Figure 22: Top 12 inclusion challenges (%)
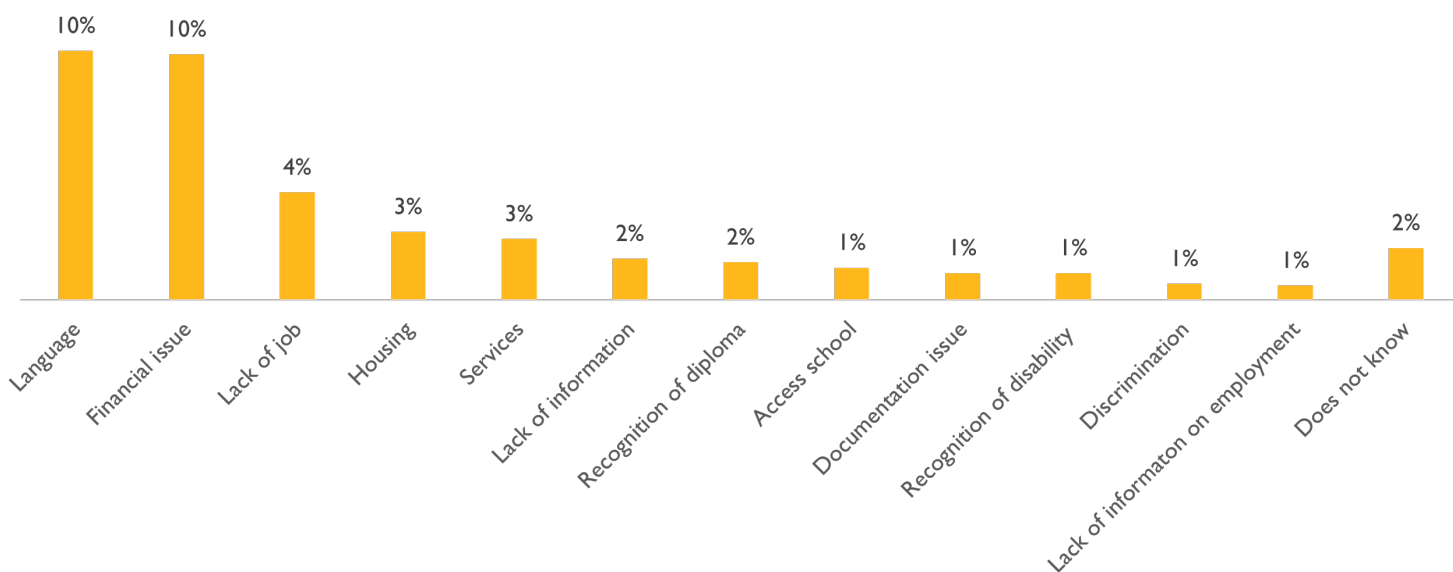
7. Current Group Composition

Travel mode

Seventy-four per cent of respondents were travelling in a group. The other 26 per cent were travelling by themselves. Female respondents were less likely to be travelling alone in comparison to their male counterparts (25% versus 32%).

Figure 23: Travel mode by gender and total (%)

Out of those travelling in a group (N=994), 94 per cent were travelling with family, six per cent with relatives, three per cent with neighbours, and one per cent with colleagues. Moreover, 60 per cent were travelling with
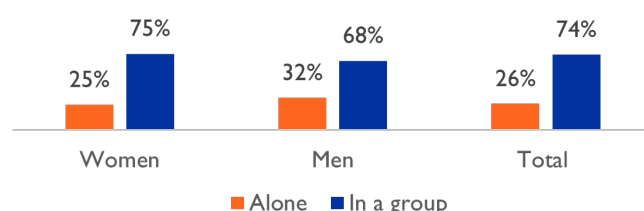
at least one elderly person; out of which, nine per cent with at least one elderly woman, and 21 per cent with at least one elderly man. Forty-nine per cent were travelling with at least one child.

Figure 24: Travelling groups (%) N=994
(more than one answer possible)
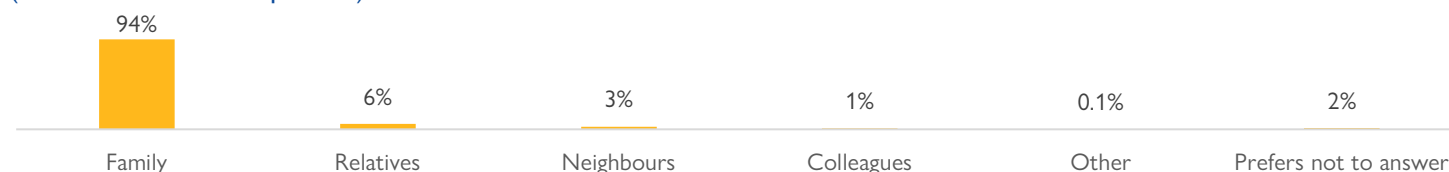
Travelling with persons with health conditions and disabilities

Out of those travelling in a group, 87 per cent were travelling with at least one person with a chronic disease or a serious medical condition.

Forty-six per cent were travelling with a person with visual impairment. This was followed by those travelling with a person with difficulty walking/ climbing steps (21%), wounded or injured persons (19%), difficulty hearing even with a hearing aid (7%), difficulty concentrating/remembering (6%), difficulty self caring (4%), with difficulty communication, understanding, and being understood (2%), and pregnant/lactating women (1%).

Figure 25: Respondents travelling with at least one person with a serious health conditions (%) N=994
(more than one answer possble)
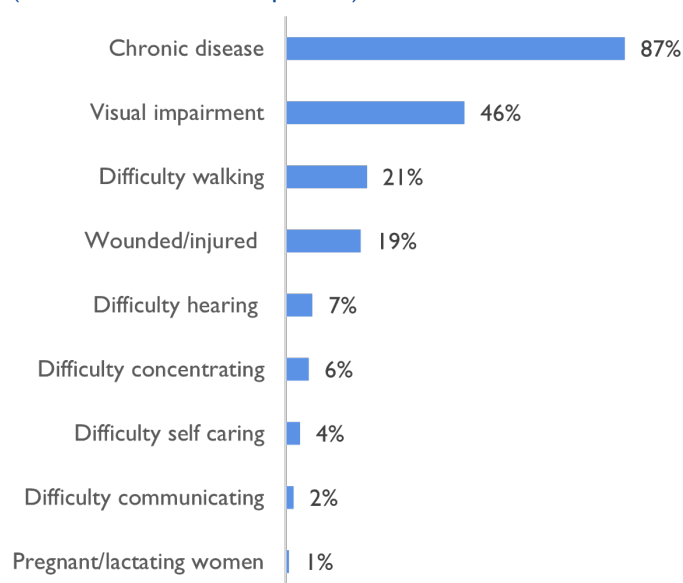
8. Methodology

This report is based on a survey of displacement patterns, needs and intentions conducted by IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) in the 11 countries included in the Regional Response Plan for Ukraine in 2023: 6 countries neighbouring Ukraine – Belarus, Hungary, Poland, Republic of Moldova, Romania and Slovakia – and other 5 countries particularly impacted by the arrivals of refugees from Ukraine since the start of the war in February 2022 – Bulgaria, Czechia, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

The analysis presented in this report is based on data collected between January and March 2023 through a network of more than 150 enumerators, with various timelines and specific survey tools -depending on the country context. Nevertheless, the sampling approach, main definitions and features of the survey tool make country-level datasets comparable.

Face-to-face surveys were conducted by trained enumerators with adult refugees from Ukraine and other TCNs (18 years of age and above). Prior to the start of the survey, all enumerators were trained by IOM on DTM standards, the use of Kobo application, IOM approach to migrants' protection and assistance, the ethics of data collection and the provision of information and referral mechanisms in place.

Respondents were approached in a simple random sample by enumerators at selected entry, exit, transit points and accommodation centres. In border crossing point areas, both persons entering/exiting by car, by bus, by foot and by train were interviewed. The survey was anonymous and voluntary. Surveys were administered only if consent from the respondent was given. The respondent could stop the survey at any time.

The questionnaire was available in Ukrainian, Russian, English and Romanian language. The preferred language was determined by the interviewee. All responses were checked for any systematic issues by enumerator and this process did not identify any problems. Only fully completed surveys were taken in account for this report.

Country-level implementation and limitations

The sampling framework was not based on verified figures of refugees from Ukraine and TCNs entering through the various BCPs or staying in the various regions (counties, districts, rayons) across each of the country where surveys were conducted. This is due to the limited availability of comparable baseline information across countries. The geographic spread of enumerators deployed and locations targeted captures most of the key arrival, transit and destination points. Whilst results cannot be deemed representative, the internal consistency within the data within each country and at the regional level suggests that the findings of the current sampling framework have practical value.

Whilst every attempt was made to capture all types of arrivals at the BCPs, the operational reality of fieldwork was confronted with different levels of accessibility of BCPs and other transit and stay locations and the different availability of possible target individuals to comfortably spend 10-20 minutes responding to the questionnaire depending on a mix of personal conditions. For example, it is easier to interview persons travelling by bus and other types of group transportation that those in private vehicles who tend to be fast in transiting through BCPs and travel onwards. Other factors more related to the conditions at a specific location and period – organizational changes in the entry and transit areas from national authorities, weather conditions, also play a role.

In Bulgaria, DTM was activated in March 2023 for the first time. Between 01 and 31 March, 1,341 valid surveys were collected by a team of 7 enumerators (all females) deployed in 6 different provinces: 44 per cent in Burgas, 25 per cent in Varna, 15 per cent in Grad Sofiya, and the remaining in Stara Zagora (6%), Plovdiv (4%), Ruse (3%), Blagoevgrad (1%), Sofia (1%), Dobrich (less than 1%). The interviews have been conducted in Russian and Ukrainian mainly, but also in Bulgarian.

DTM

Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) is a system to track and monitor displacement and population mobility. The survey form was designed to capture the main displacement patterns – origin country and region – for refugees of any nationality fleeing from Ukraine because of the war. It captures the demographic profiles of respondents and of the group they are travelling with, if any; it asks about intentions relative to the intended final destination and prospects of permanence in the country of the survey/first reception; it gathers information regarding a set of main needs that the respondents expressed as more pressing at the moment of the interview.

Since the onset of the war in Ukraine, several IOM's DTM tools were deployed in countries neighbouring Ukraine and in other countries particularly impacted by the new arrivals of migrants and refugees from Ukraine.

For more information, please consult: https://dtm.iom.int/responses/ukraine-response

DTM is part of IOM's Global Data Institute.