

LATVIA

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



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April - June 2023
Country Report & Data Analysis

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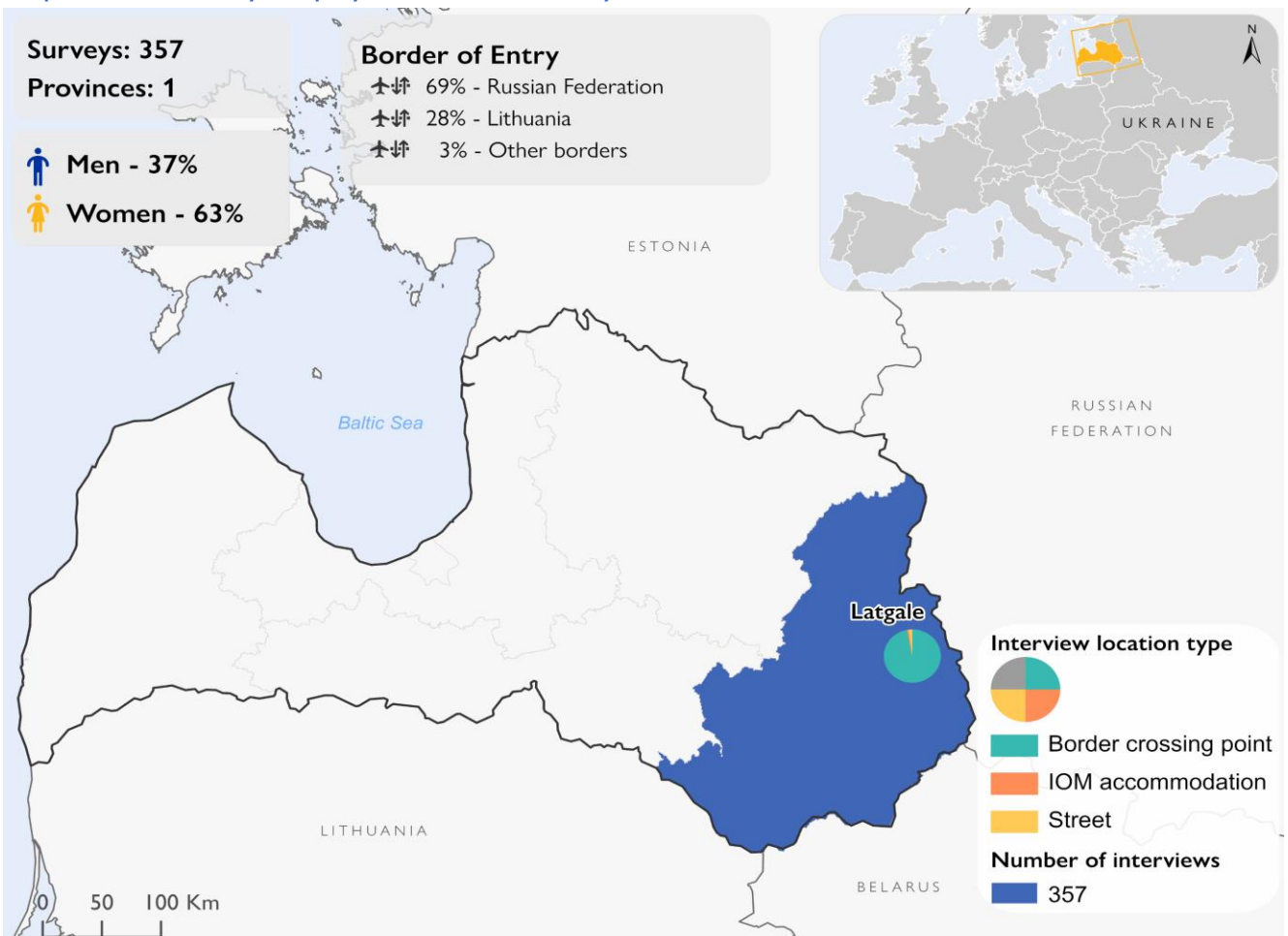
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KEY FINDINGS

- **Top oblasts of origin:** Donetsk (25%), Khersonska (21%), Zaporizka (17%) and Luhanska (13%).
- **Intentions to move:** Latvia is a transit country for many refugees from Ukraine. The majority planned to move to another country (58%), where Top 3 were Poland, Russian Federation and Germany. Others wanted to move to a different location in Ukraine (29%) or move to their place of origin in Ukraine (8%).
- **Employment status:** unemployed and looking for a job (40%), employed (20%), retired (25%), unemployed and not looking for a job (4%), daily worker (3%).
- **Top needs:*** housing (36%), cash support (36%), employment (34%), medical needs (23%), information (18%).
- **Top areas of assistance received:*** food products (74%), financial support (40%), housing (35%), personal hygiene and sanitary supplies (16%).

* more than one answer possible

Map 1: Latvia, surveys deployed, countries of stay & oblasts of destination in Ukraine



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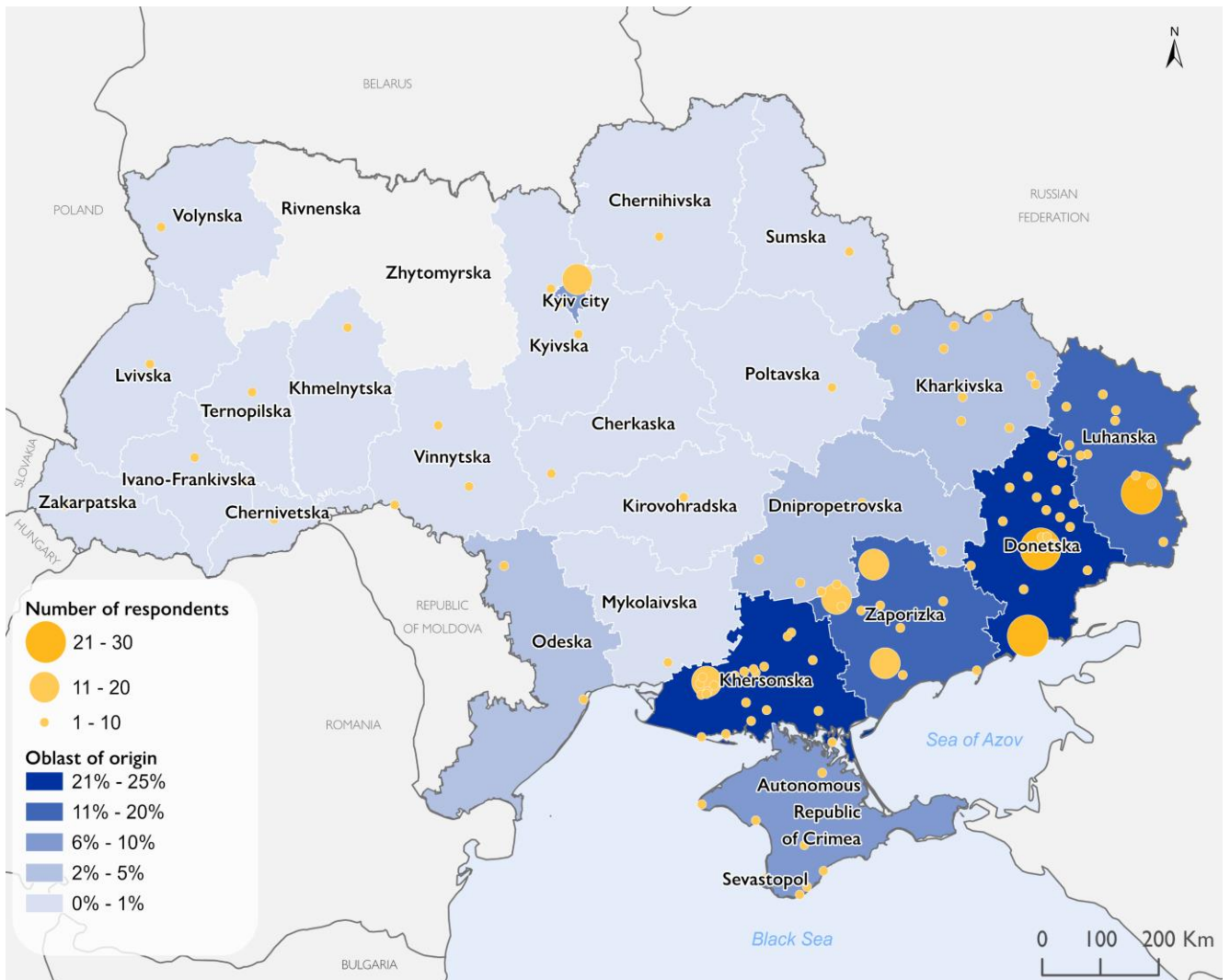
I. Socio-Demographic profile

Oblast (region) of origin

Most respondents came from the eastern part of Ukraine, with three quarters of the sample coming from the oblasts of Donetsk (25%), Khersonska (21%), Zaporizka (17%) and Luhanska (13%). The remaining respondents (24%) resided in other 22 regions throughout Ukraine. These included the Autonomous Republic of Crimea (5%), Kharkivska, the city of

Kyiv (5% each), Dnipropetrovska, Odeska (2% each), Ivano-Frankivska, Lvivska, Cherkaska, Kyivska, Khmelnytska, Chernihivska, Kirovohradska, Chernivetska, Mykolaivska, Poltavska, Rivnenska, Sevastopol, Sumska, Ternopilska, Vinnytska, Volynska, Zakarpatska (less than 1% each).

Map 2: Oblast of origin before leaving Ukraine (%)



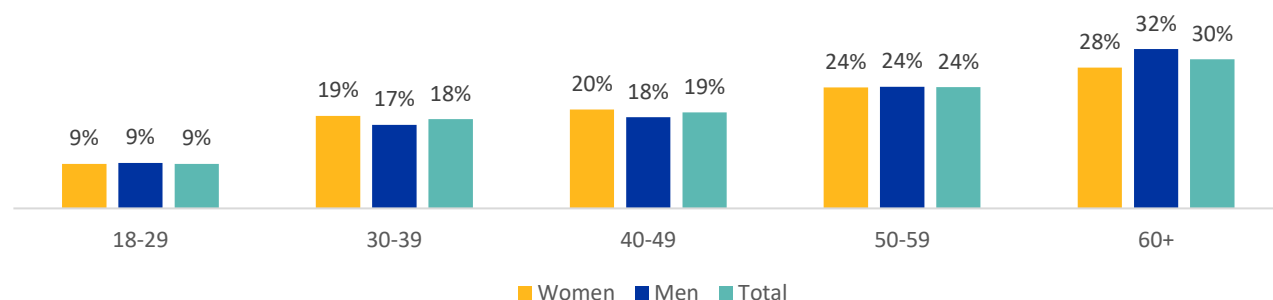
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Gender and age

Sixty-three per cent of the respondents were women, while men constituted 37 per cent of the sample. Nearly one third of interviewees were 60 years or older (30%), followed by those aged between 50 and 59 (24%), and between 40 and 49 (19%). When looking at data disaggregated by gender, the average age for men (51) in the

sample was slightly higher than the women's (50). The largest age group among women was 60 years and above (28%), followed by those aged between 50 and 59 (24%). Among men, the largest age groups were 60 years and above (32%) and between 50 and 59 (24%).

Figure 1: Age by gender and total (N=357) (%)

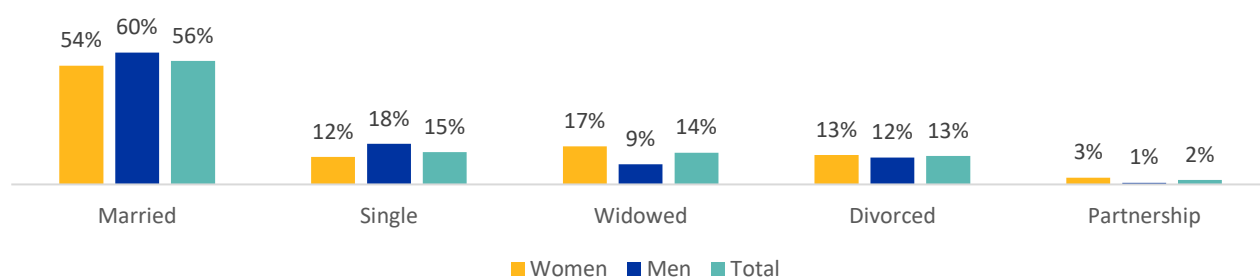


Marital status

More than half (56%) of the respondents were married, while another 15 per cent were single. Fourteen per cent were widowed and 13 per cent reported being divorced. The remaining two per cent of respondents were in a partnership. The share of single persons was higher men than

among women (18% versus 12%). On the other hand, women were more likely to be divorced than men (13% versus 12%). Additionally, women were almost twice as likely to be widowed compared to men (17% versus 9%).

Figure 2: Marital status (N=357) (%)

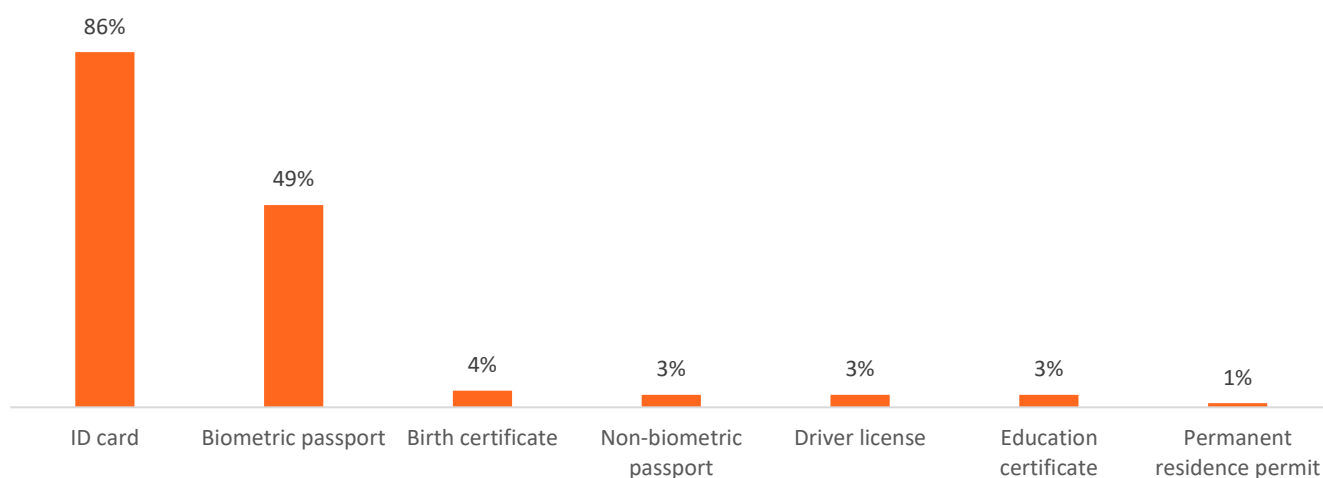


Documents possessed at the time of interview

The majority of respondents travelled with more than one document. The largest proportion of respondents (86%) travelled with their ID card, while less than half (49%) were in possession of their biometric passport. To a lesser extent, some

respondents had their birth certificate (4%), while others carried a non-biometric passport, driver's license, or an education certificate (3% each). The remaining one per cent declared having a permanent residence permit.

Figure 3: Documents in possession of respondents at the time of interview (N=357) (%)
(more than one answer possible)



Average time 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. The majority of respondents (85%) were initially displaced during April, May, and June of 2023, more than a year after the war started.

Additionally, four per cent were displaced during January to March of the same year. It is worth noting that interviews were conducted not only in cities but also at border crossing points, which

might have influenced these findings. Nine per cent of respondents were initially displaced in 2022. Among them, six per cent were displaced between January and June 2022, giving them from 11 to 16 months from their initial date of displacement and the date of assessment.

For those displaced between July and December 2022, the displacement rate was less than one per cent, resulting in respondents spending 5 to 12 months in displacement at the time of assessment.

Table I: Approximate time in displacement until the date of interview (N=357) (%)

Date of initial displacement	Approximate time in displacement until date of interview	(%) Of Respondents
Before 2022	2 years or more	1%
Jan-Mar 2022	14-16 months	3%
Apr-Jun 2022	11-13 months	3%
Jul-Sept 2022	8-10 months	2%
Oct-Dec 2022	5-7 months	1%
Jan-Mar 2023	2-4 months	4%
April 2023	1-2 months	25%
May 2023	Around a month or less	34%
June 2023	Less than a month	26%

2. Intentions

Intention to move elsewhere or stay in current location

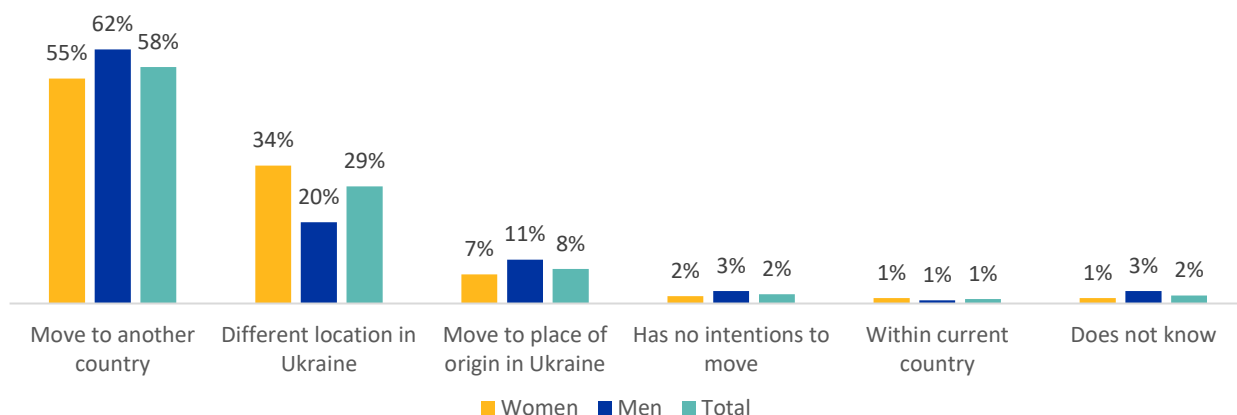
Most respondents do not intend to remain in Latvia, which is mainly seen as a transit country towards another destination or towards going back to Ukraine.

Fifty-eight per cent of the respondents expressed their intention to move to another country. More than one third (37%) wished to return either to a different location in Ukraine (29%) or to their place of origin in Ukraine (8%). Two per cent stated that they have no intentions

to move, while one per cent wanted to move to a different location in Latvia. The remaining two per cent were uncertain about their plans.

When looking at the data disaggregated by gender, men were more likely to move to another country than women (62% versus 55%). In addition, women showed a higher probability of relocating to a different location within Ukraine compared to men (34% versus 20%).

Figure 4: Respondents' intention to move from current location, by gender and total (N=357) (%)

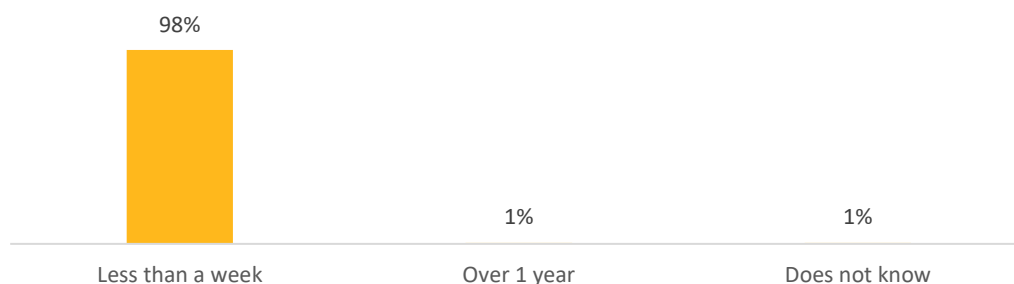


Intention to move elsewhere or stay in current location

Out of those intending to move within Latvia, 98 per cent were either planning to stay in their current location for over one year or did not intend to stay in their current location for less than a week before moving. The remaining two

per cent were either planning to stay in their current location for over one year or did not know for how long they were planning to stay before moving (1% each).

Figure 5: Intended length of stay in current location before moving elsewhere (N=342) (%)



Intended oblast of destination in Ukraine and reasons to go back

Out of those set on returning to Ukraine (N=132), 23 per cent planned to go back to the same oblast of origin, while the remaining 77 per cent wanted to reach a different region in Ukraine.

Specifically, 30 per cent of respondents aimed to return to the city of Kyiv, followed by Donetsk and Luhanska (10% each), Lvivska (9%), Zaporizka (8%), and Dnipropetrovska (7%). Others planned to return to the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, and Odeska (4% each), Khmelnytska, and Poltavska (3% each), Chernivetska, and Ivano-Frankivska (2% each). Cherkaska, Kharkivska, Khersonska, Kirovo, Vinnytska, and Zakarpatska were chosen by one per cent of respondents each.

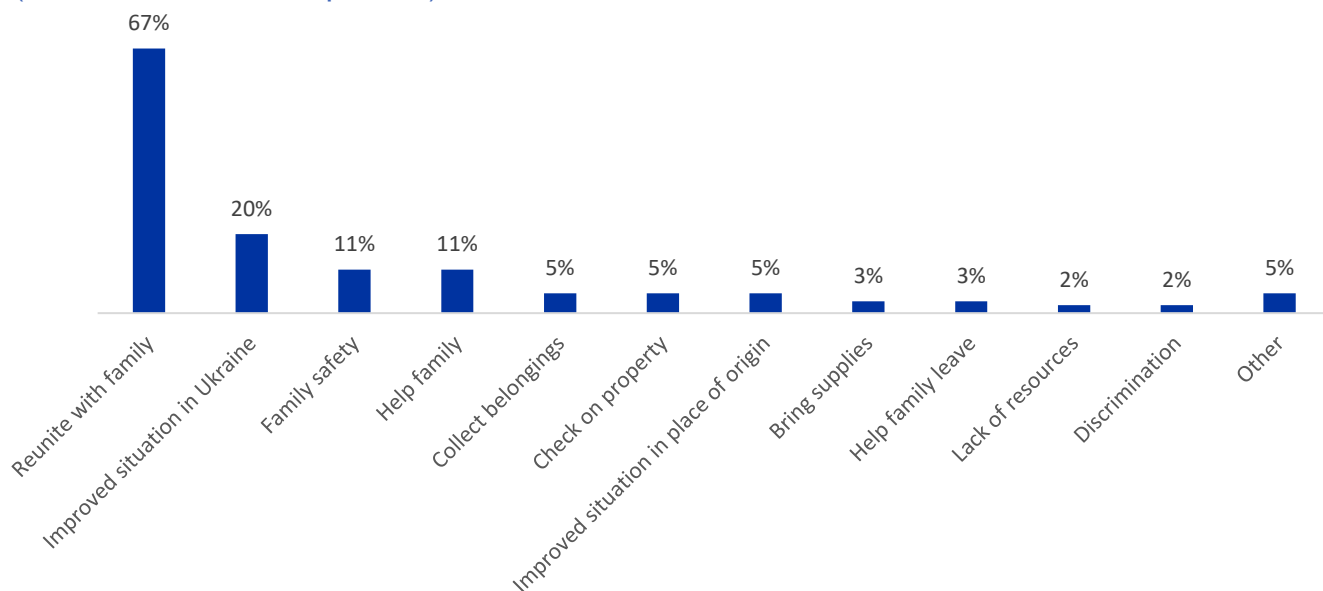
Out of those intending to go back to Ukraine, either to the same oblast of origin (N=30), or to an alternative oblast (N=102), 67 per cent

indicated that they wished to reunite with their family. An additional 20 per cent of respondents planned to return due to an improved situation in Ukraine.

Meanwhile, 47 per cent of respondents had intentions to return to Ukraine for various other reasons including ensuring family safety and assisting family (11% each), retrieving personal belongings, checking on property, or due to an improved situation in their place of origin (5% each). Additionally, some expressed a desire to return in order to provide supplies or help family members in leaving the country (3% each). Respondents were also dealing with a lack of resources and facing discrimination (2% each).

The remaining five per cent of respondents indicated other reasons, such as returning to meet friends, for studies, or to support family members during surgeries.

Figure 6: Reasons for choosing Ukraine as intended destination, total (N=132) (%)
(more than one answer possible)



Intended country of destination

Among individuals who intended to go to another country as their final destination (N=206), 38 per cent were planning to go to Poland, while 22 per cent were going to the Russian Federation. This was followed by Germany (13%), Lithuania and

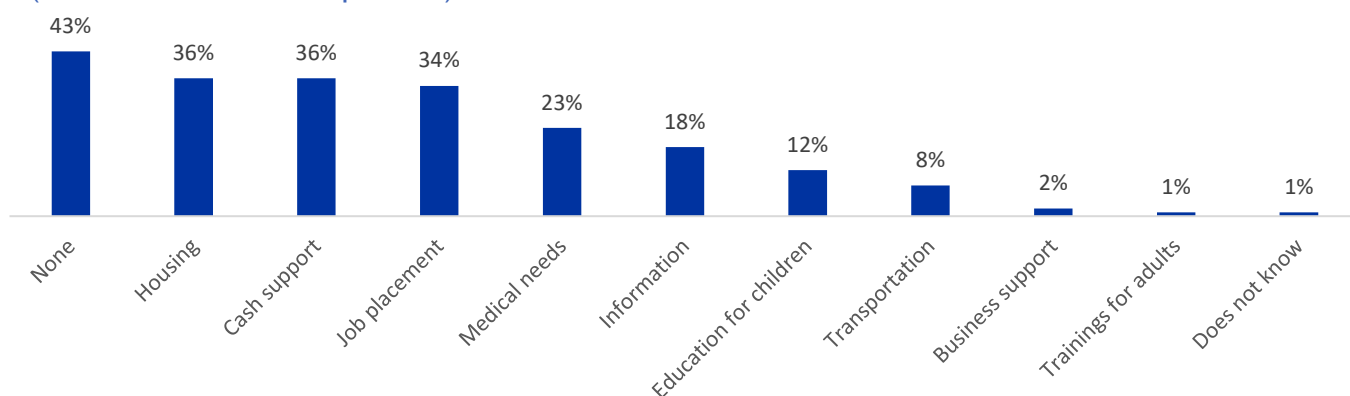
Czechia (4% each). The remaining countries included Norway (3%), Canada, Finland, Italy, Netherlands (2% each), Estonia, France, and Switzerland (1% each).

Immediate needs upon return

Out of those respondents who intended to return to Ukraine or relocate to another country (N=338), 72 per cent of respondents indicated that their top needs upon returning or relocating would be housing and cash support (36% each). This was followed by job placement (34%), medical needs (23%), and information (18%). Twelve per cent of the respondents required

education for adults, while eight per cent needed assistance with transportation. Two per cent sought business support, and one per cent expressed the need for training for adults. One per cent of interviewees indicated uncertainty about their needs, while 43 per cent reported having no specific needs upon their return.

Figure 7: Main needs upon return (N=338) (%)
(more than one answer possible)

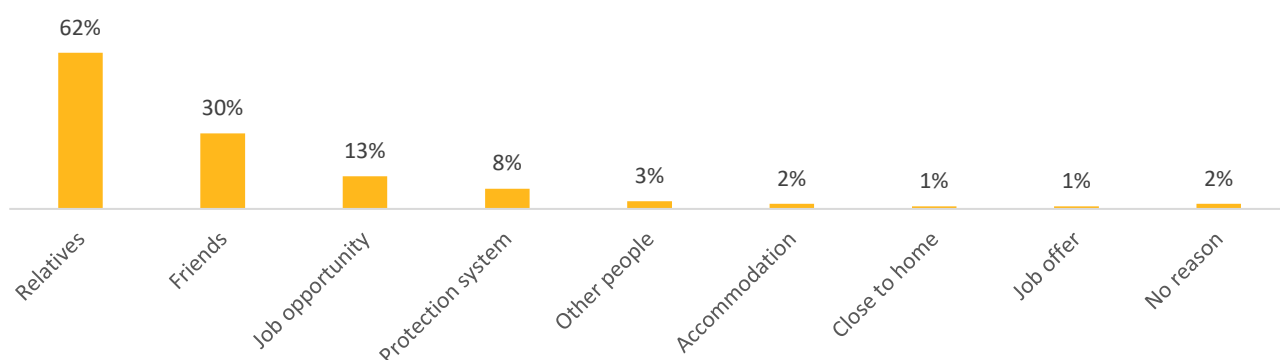


Reasons for selecting elsewhere in Latvia or other countries of destination

Among those who intended to relocate either within Latvia (N=4) or to another country (N=206), 65 per cent considered having relatives there as a significant factor in their decision. Additionally, 30 per cent mentioned having friends in the area, while 13 per cent intended to relocate due to job opportunities. Eight per cent of respondents cited the protection system as a

factor in their decision, while an additional three per cent were influenced by other people in the area. Other respondents mentioned the availability of accommodation (2%), being close to home, or receiving a job offer as their reasons for relocation (1% each). The remaining three per cent of respondents stated their intention to relocate without providing a specific reason.

Figure 8: Reasons for choosing elsewhere in Latvia or another country as intended destination (N=210) (%) (more than one answer possible)



3. Education and Employment: profile and prospects

Main spoken language

Fifty-seven per cent of the respondents use Russian as their main language spoken at home, while Ukrainian language was chosen as the primary language by 43 per cent of respondents.

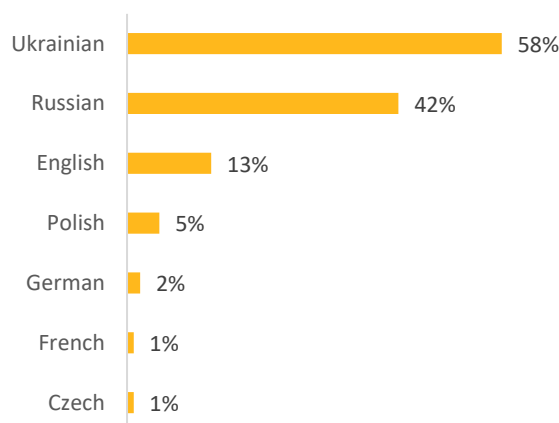
Figure 9: Main spoken language (N=357) (%) (more than one answer possible)



Other spoken language(s)

A large part of respondents speaks Ukrainian (58%) and Russian (42%) as a second language. This was followed by English (13%), Polish (5%), German (2%), French and Czech (1% each).

Figure 10: Other spoken language(s) (N=353) (%) (more than one answer possible)



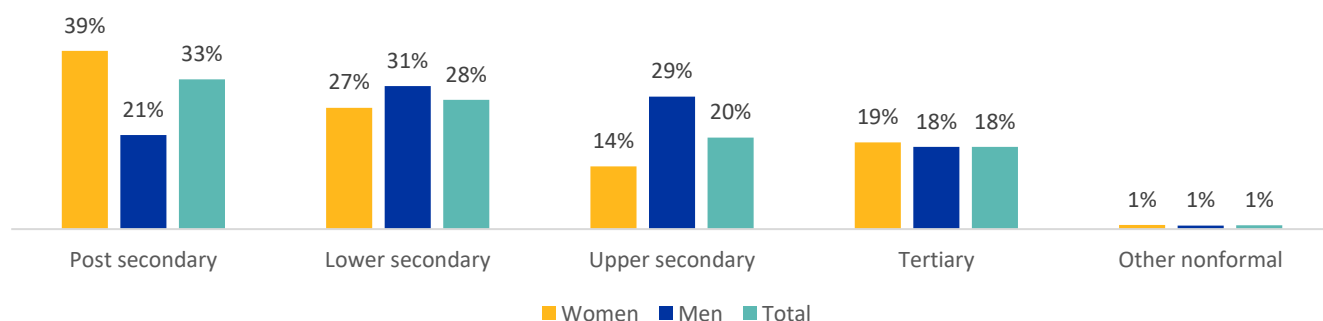
Education level

One-third (33%) of refugees from Ukraine had completed a post-secondary non-tertiary education, while 28 per cent had lower secondary education, and 20 per cent had upper secondary/vocational level of education.

Additionally, 18 per cent had tertiary education, and one per cent had other non-formal education. Female respondents were significantly more likely

than their male counterparts to have reached post-secondary education as their highest education level (39% versus 21%). On the other hand, male respondents were slightly more likely than female respondents to have achieved an upper secondary/vocational education as their highest level of education (29% versus 14%).

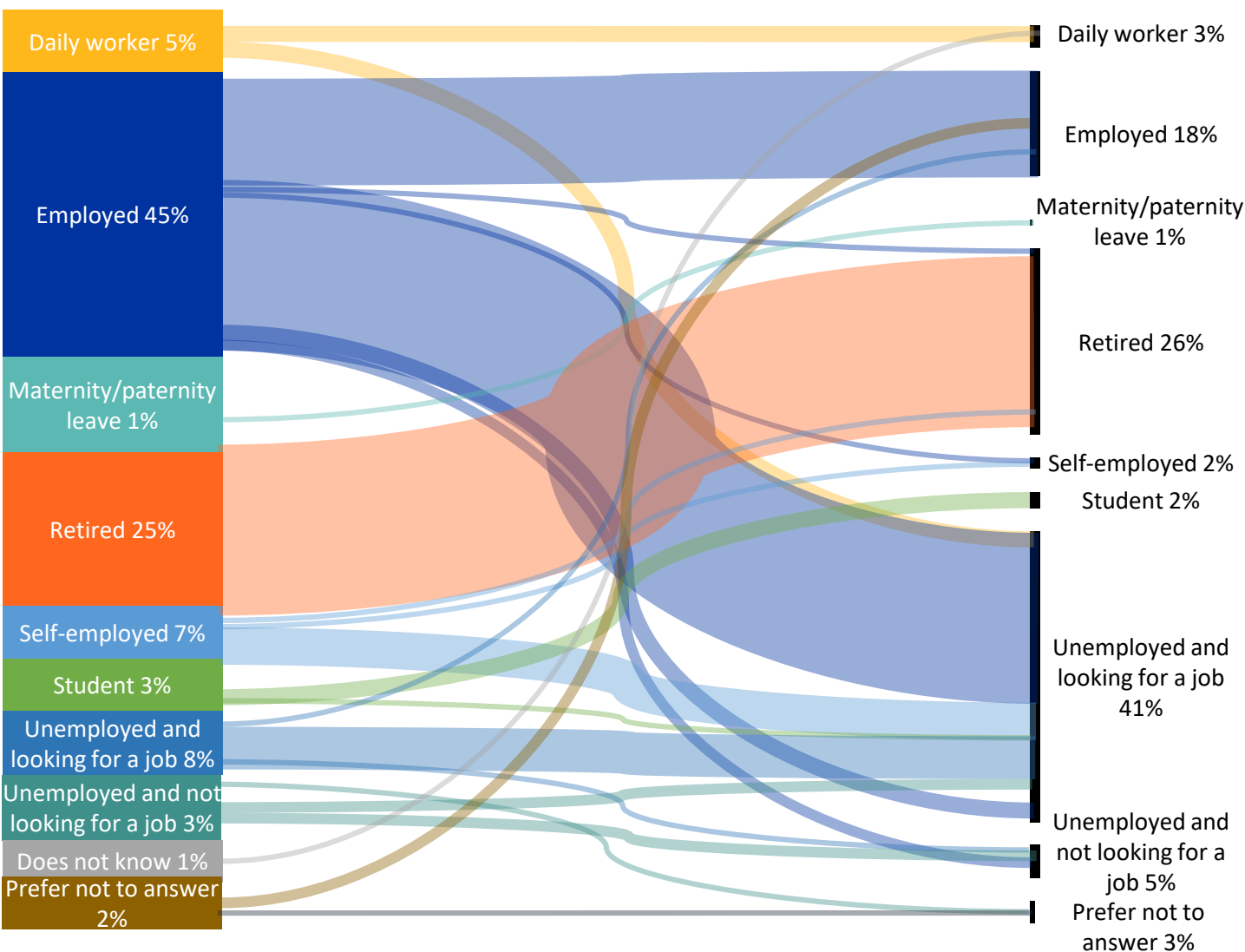
Figure 11: Education level, by gender and total (N=357) (%)



Employment status before leaving Ukraine versus current status

Almost a half of all respondents (48%) were employed before leaving Ukraine, 22 per cent were retired, and 14 per cent were unemployed and looking for a job. Additionally, six per cent were self-employed, three per cent were daily workers, two per cent were pursuing their studies, and another one per cent were unemployed and not looking for a job. However, these numbers were noticeably different when asked about their current employment in Latvia. Forty per cent declared being unemployed and looking for a job, while the share of employed and self-employed decreased to 20 per cent and one per cent respectively. The share of those declaring to be unemployed and looking for a job increased from 14 per cent before the journey to 40 per cent while in Latvia.

Figure 12: Employment status before leaving Ukraine and current employment status (N=133) (%)



The data presented in this graph is exclusively based on responses from June (N=133). Until that point, questions about current employment status were directed only to those intending to stay. Starting from June, this question was made applicable to all respondents.

Current sector of employment

Among 34 respondents who provided answers about their current employment sector, agriculture, wholesale and retail, and mining and quarrying were the most common fields. This was followed by manufacturing, human health

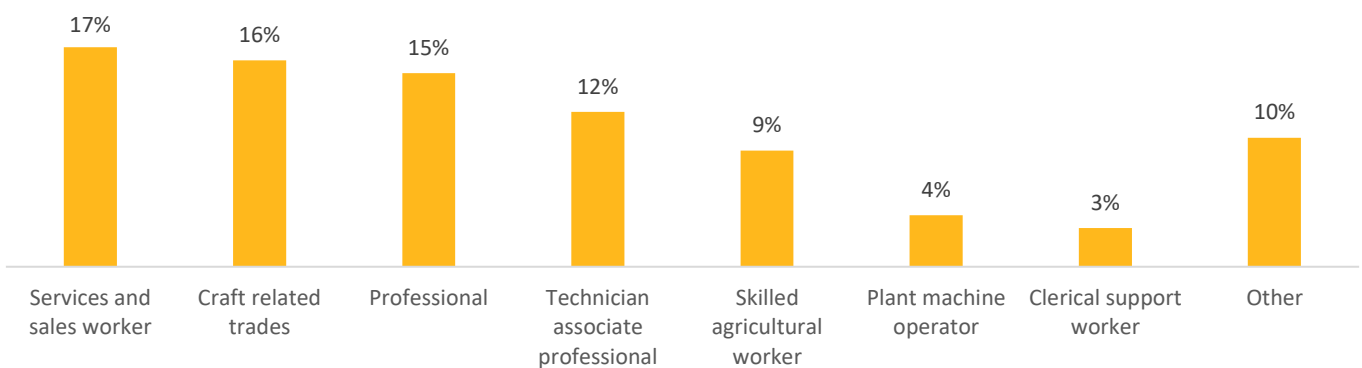
and social work also. Less common sectors included accommodation and food services, transport and storage, and public administration and defense, were reported to a lesser extent.

Desired occupations

When asked about their desired occupations in Latvia, respondents provided a variety of preferences. Among them, 17 per cent aimed to work in services and sales roles, while 16 per cent showed an interest in craft-related trade work, and 15 per cent expressed their interest in working as professionals. Additionally, 12 per cent desired technician and associate professional work, nine per cent desired skilled agricultural,

forestry, and fishery work. Moreover, six per cent aspired to elementary occupations, and another six per cent were interested in managerial roles. Four per cent desired to work as plant machine operators, and three per cent expressed an interest in clerical support roles. The remaining ten per cent desired to work in other non-specified professions.

Figure 13: Top 7 desired occupations (N=202) (%)



4. Registration and inclusion services

Protection applications

Out of the 357 respondents, 92 per cent declared not having registered for asylum or temporary protection, while eight per cent applied for asylum or temporary protection with national authorities of Latvia. The percentage of women who have not applied for temporary protection status is higher than that of men (93% versus 91%). Among those who answered “No” (N=330), 58 per cent were

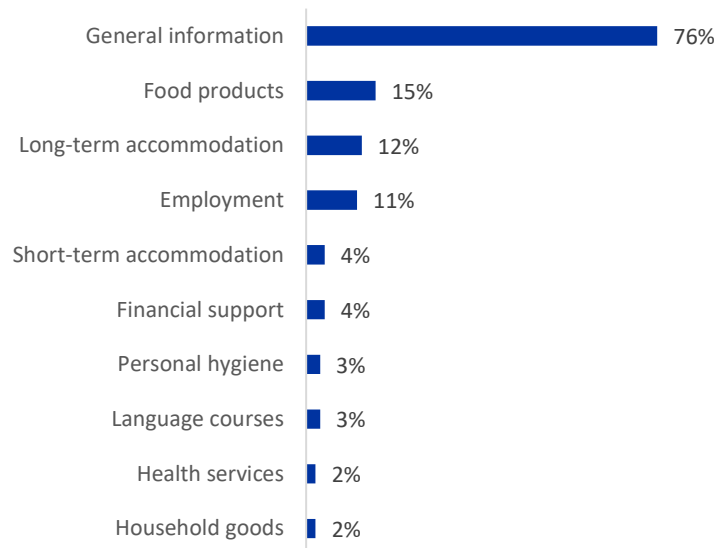
planning to leave Latvia soon, 32 per cent were planning to register, while seven per cent claimed to be ineligible for temporary protection status. Less than one per cent of respondents stated they did not know how to apply for asylum or temporary protection, and the remaining two per cent had other reasons.

5. Immediate Needs and Assistance Received

Immediate needs

The Top 3 needs expressed by the respondents were general information (76%), food products (15%), and long-term accommodation (12%). This was followed by the need for support with employment (11%), short-term accommodation, and financial support (4% each), as well as personal hygiene and sanitary supplies, language courses (3% each). Additionally, some respondents expressed a need for support with health services and household goods (2% each).

Figure 14: Needs upon crossing back (N=357) (%) (more than one answer possible)

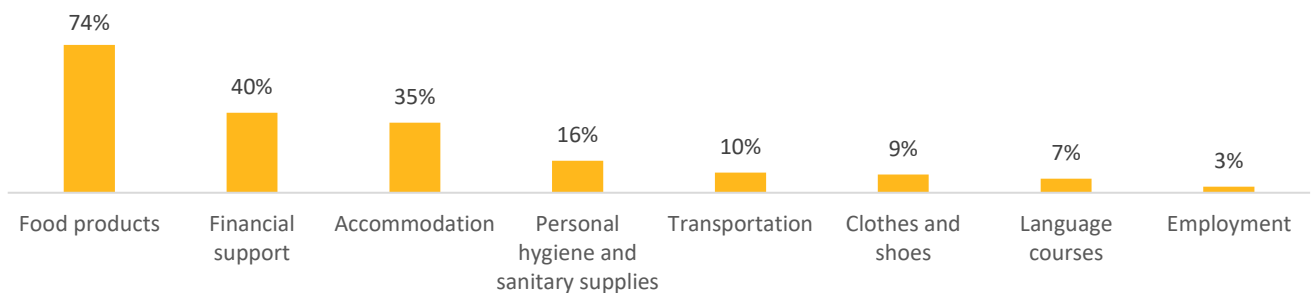


Assistance received in Latvia

Eighty-one per cent of refugees in the sample reported receiving support or humanitarian assistance, while 19 per cent did not receive any support before the interview. Among those who received support, the main types of assistance reported were help with food (74%),

followed by financial support (40%), housing (35%), personal hygiene and sanitary supplies (16%). Other mentioned forms of humanitarian assistance were transportation (10%), clothes and shoes (9%), language courses (7%), and employment (3%).

Figure 15: Received assistance (N=357) (%) (more than one answer possible)



Areas in which information is needed to get more assistance

Out of those who indicated that they did not know where to find assistance (N=7), the most common areas for which information was needed

included food products, medicines, health services, long-term accommodation, clothes and shoes, financial support, and general information.

7. Current Group Composition

Travel mode

Sixty-four per cent of the sample declared to be travelling alone, in comparison with the other 36 per cent who were travelling in a group. Female respondents were less likely to be travelling alone in comparison to their male counterparts (62% versus 69%). Out of the 36 per cent travelling in a group, 94 per cent were travelling with immediate family/household members, three per cent with other relatives and another three per cent with friends and neighbors. Two per cent were travelling with colleagues. Overall, the average group size including the respondent was about two persons.

Table 2: Travel mode by gender and total

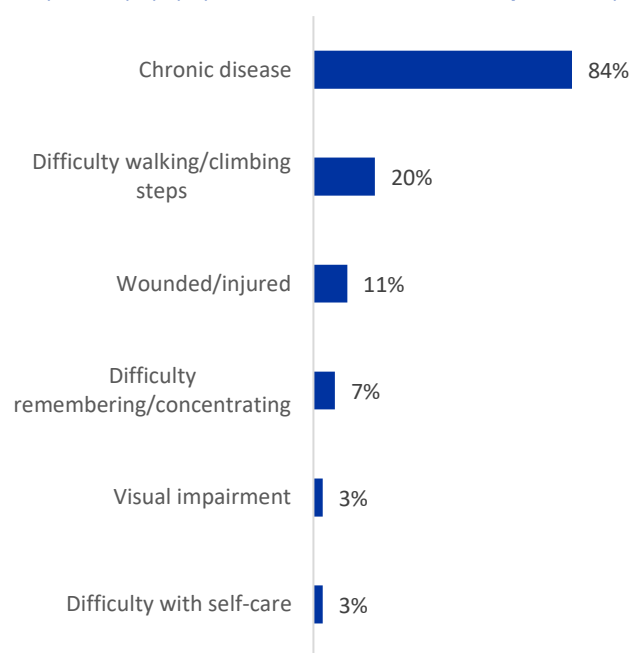
Travelling in a group/alone	Women	Men	Total
Alone	140	90	230
With immediate family/household members	80	39	119
Relatives	2	2	4
Friends and neighbours	3	1	4
Colleagues	2	0	2

Travelling with persons with health conditions and disabilities

A considerable share of respondents (21%) indicated that their group/household included persons with serious health conditions or specific needs, while 78 per cent did not report being in a group with at least one person with a serious health condition, and one per cent preferred not to answer.

Out of those signalling to be with a person with a serious health condition (N=76), 84 per cent reported having in their group (including themselves) at least one person with a chronic disease or having other serious medical condition. Additionally, twenty per cent were travelling with a person having difficulty walking/climbing steps. This was followed by wounded/injured persons (11%), difficulty communicating/understanding (7%), and those with visual impairment or having difficulty with self-care (3% each).

Figure 16: Respondents travelling with at least one person with a serious health condition (N=76) (%) (more than one answer possible)



8. Methodology

Background

This report is based on a survey of displacement patterns, needs and intentions conducted by IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) in the 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 April and June 2023.

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 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. All responses were checked for systematic issues by enumerator, and this

process did not identify problems. Only fully completed surveys were considered for this report.

Country-level implementation and limitations

In Latvia, DTM was activated in July 2022. The data for this report was collected between 2 April and 28 June 2023. Overall, 357 valid surveys were collected by a team of 2 enumerators (1 female and 1 male) covering 5 different provinces. Sixty-nine per cent of surveys were collected in Karsavas, 28 per cent in Zilupes, three per cent in Ludzas, one per cent in Kraslavas, and less than one per cent in Rezenknes region. Enumerators were approaching respondents in collective centers, open spaces, dormitories, humanitarian aid distribution centers. The interviews have been conducted in Russian and Ukrainian languages.

The survey respondents were chosen at random from locations within four primary transit and reception locations that receive high volumes of individuals entering Latvia either via public or private transport. Whilst every attempt was made to capture all types of arrivals, the operational reality of fieldwork was confronted with various levels of accessibility of 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. 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.

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.

