

Poland

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



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Country Report & Data Analysis

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Cover photo: An enumerator speaks with a refugee family from Ukraine. © IOM 2023

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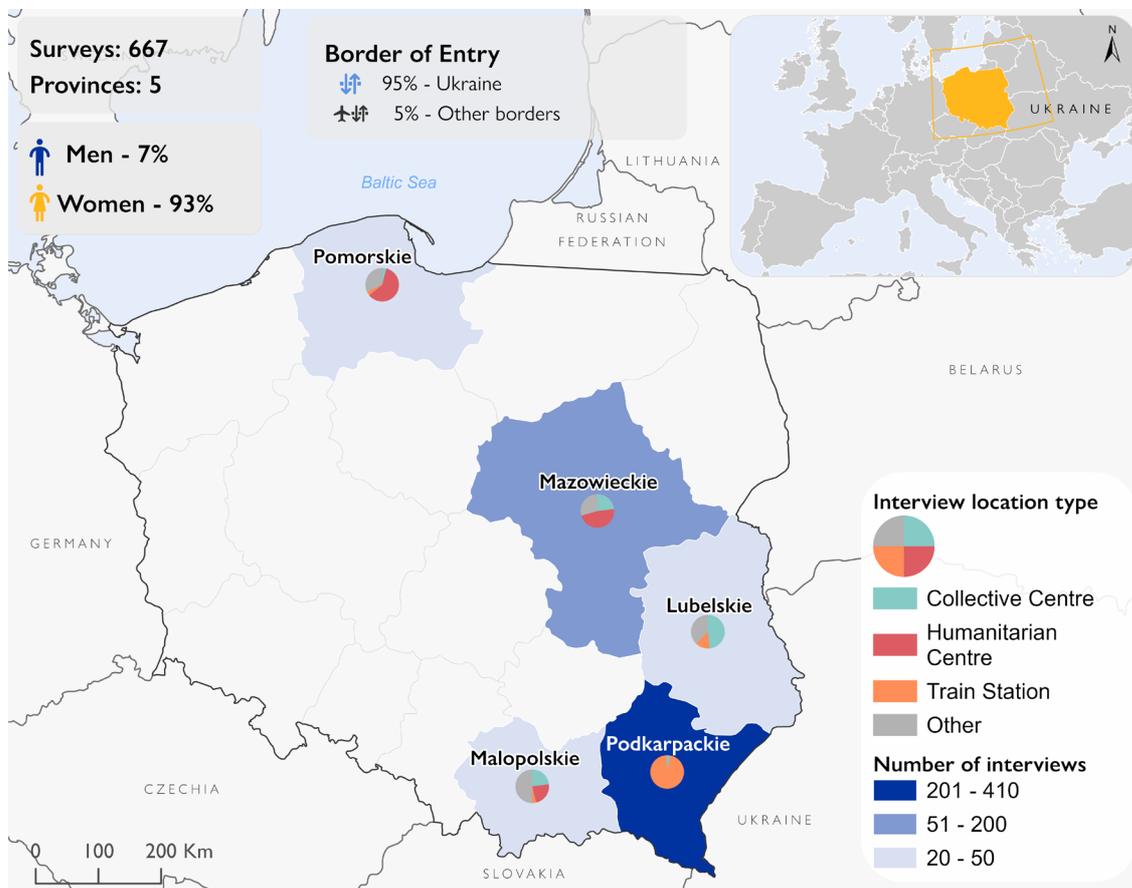
KEY FINDINGS

- **Demographics of respondents:** 94% of respondents were female. Among male respondents, 60% were over the age of 60 years.
- **Length of stay:** 34% of respondents stayed in Poland for less than a month at the time of the survey. 50% of respondents arrived in Poland in the first months after February 2022.
- **Top oblasts of origin of respondents who arrived in Poland within one month of the survey:** Kyiv (15%), Lvivska (13%), Dnipropterovska (11%), Kharkivska (9%).
- **Employment status:** 36% of respondents were employed at the time of survey (28% in Q1)*, 5% were unemployed and not looking for a job (18% in Q1), and 18% were unemployed and looking for a job (17% in Q1).
- **Legal status:** 63% of Ukrainians surveyed had applied for EU temporary protection status or refugee status. The main reasons for not applying were that respondents planned to leave (19%), planned to apply soon (12%), did not know how to apply (2%) or were not eligible (1%).
- **Top four needs reported at the moment of the interview:** cash support (17%), medical needs (12%), job placement (12%) and housing (11%).**
- **Travel mode:** 63% of respondents travelled in a group. 9% of those, travelling in a group, reported having at least one child and elderly person in their household.**

*(Quarter I (January - March 2023))

**More than one answer possible

Map 1: Data collection locations in Poland



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.

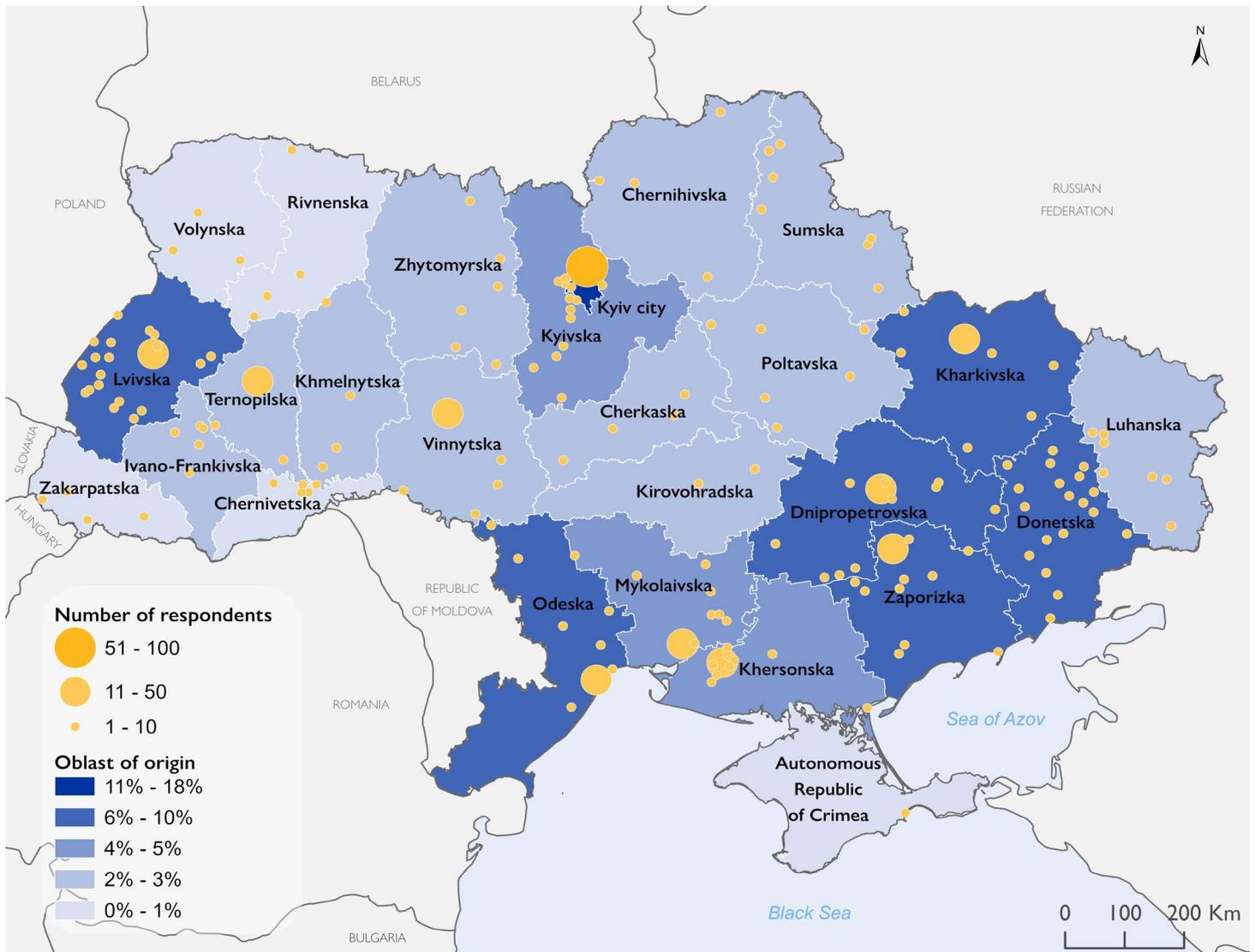
I. Socio-Demographic Profile

Oblast (region) of origin

The majority of respondents originated from western and eastern Ukraine with the highest share of respondents coming from Kyiv (11%), Vinnytska (10%) and Ternopil'ska (9%) oblasts. Kharkiv'ska (8%), Dnipropetrov'ska (7%) and Chernivets'ka (6%) were the next three oblasts of origin with the highest shares of respondents.

The remaining respondents (49%) were living in another 17 oblasts of Ukraine. These included Luhans'ka (4%), Mykolaiv'ska (4%), Donetsk'ska (3%), Kherson'ska (3%), Odes'ka (3%) as well as the remaining oblasts with less than three per cent of respondents.

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



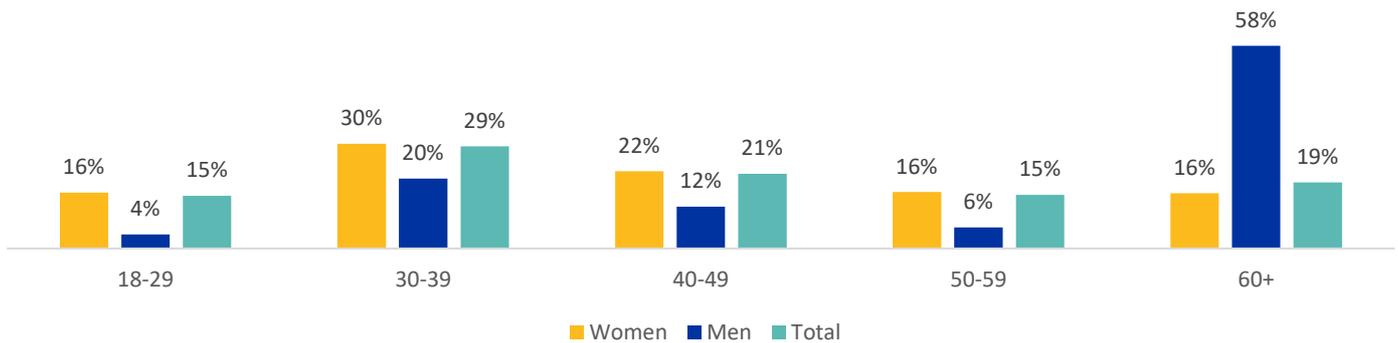
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Gender and age

Out of the 667 refugees from Ukraine who were interviewed, 94 per cent were females and six per cent males. The majority of females respondents were aged between 35 and 59 years. Among males, on the other hand, the group of persons aged 60

years or above have a much higher representation in the sample. This may be explained by the fact that men living in Ukraine who are over the age of 60 are not affected by the exit restrictions due to the current martial law.

Figure 1: Age, by gender and total (%), N=667



Marital status

The majority of respondents (60%) were married. Looking at the distribution among age groups, the majority of married respondents are aged between 35 and 59 years. This is followed by respondents who are divorced (15%) and single (14%). The large majority of the latter are below the age of 36 (10%).

The large majority of surveyed men (N=48) are married (67%) or single (21%). Among surveyed women (N=618), the share of married respondents is 60 per cent, followed by those who are divorced (16%, as compared to only 2% among men).

Figure 2: Marital status (%), N=666

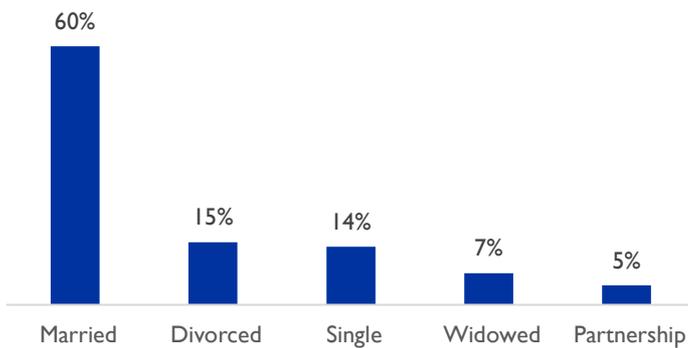
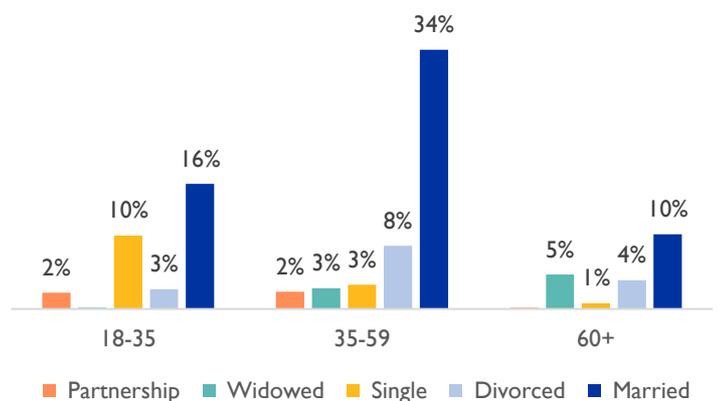


Figure 3: Marital status, by age group (%), N=666

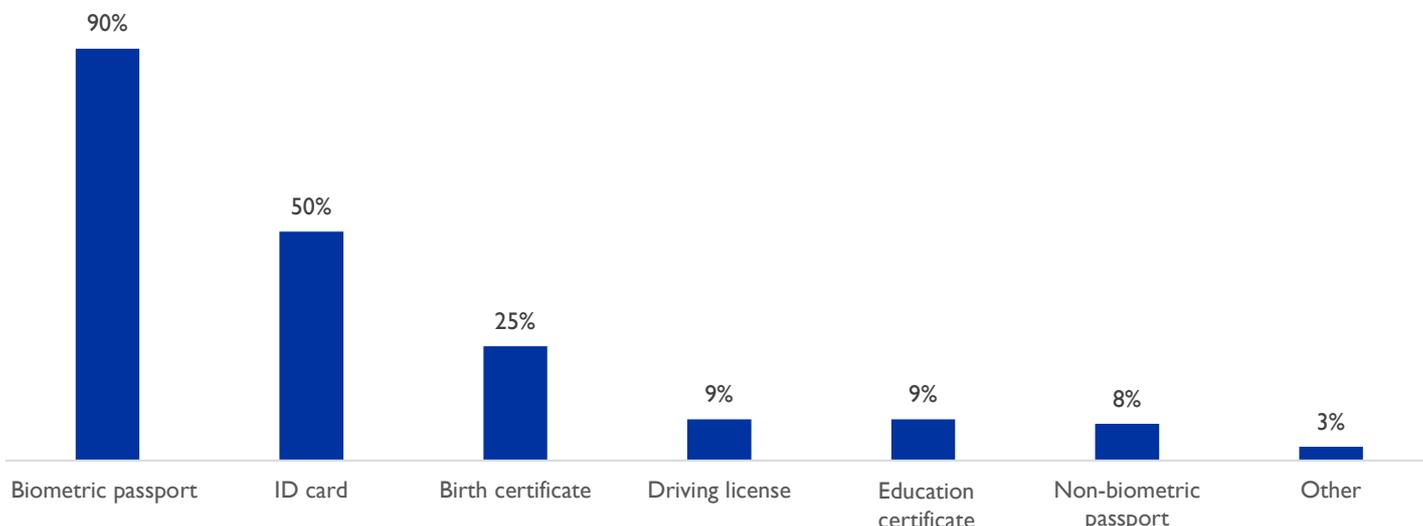


Documents possessed at the time of interview

The majority of the respondents travelled with more than one document. Most respondents were in possession of their biometric passport (90%),

followed by ID cards (50%), birth certificates (25%), driving licences (9%), educational certificates (9%) and non-biometric passports (8%).

Figure 4: Documents in possession of respondents at the time of interview (%), N=667 (more than one answer possible)



Average time spent outside Ukraine since initial displacement

Most respondents were initially displaced in the first half of 2022, when the conflict started. The majority of respondents (50%) had spent between 10 and 16 months in displacement by the time of the survey, and had thus been displaced in the first half of 2022. While the share of respondents who reported having been displaced in the following months, particularly during the second half of 2022, was relatively lower,

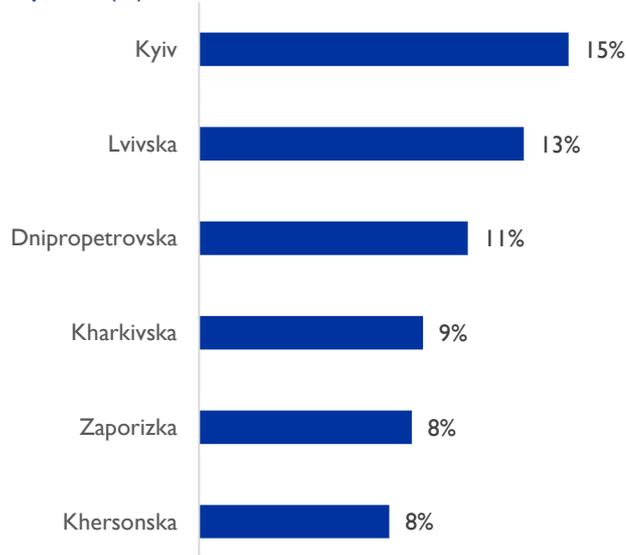
Table 1: Approximate time spent in displacement until date of interview (%), N=667

Approximate time spent until date of interview	% of respondents
<1 month	34%
1-3 months	2%
4-6 months	4%
7-9 months	8%
10-16 months	50%
>17 months	1%

the share of those who had been displaced within the month before the survey took place stands at 34 per cent.

The main oblasts of departure of those respondents who were recently displaced are Kyiv (15%), Lvivska (13%), Dnipropetrovska (11%), Kharkivska (9%), and Zaporizka (8%).

Figure 5: Top 6 oblasts of departure of respondents who arrived less than a month before the survey took place (%), N=225



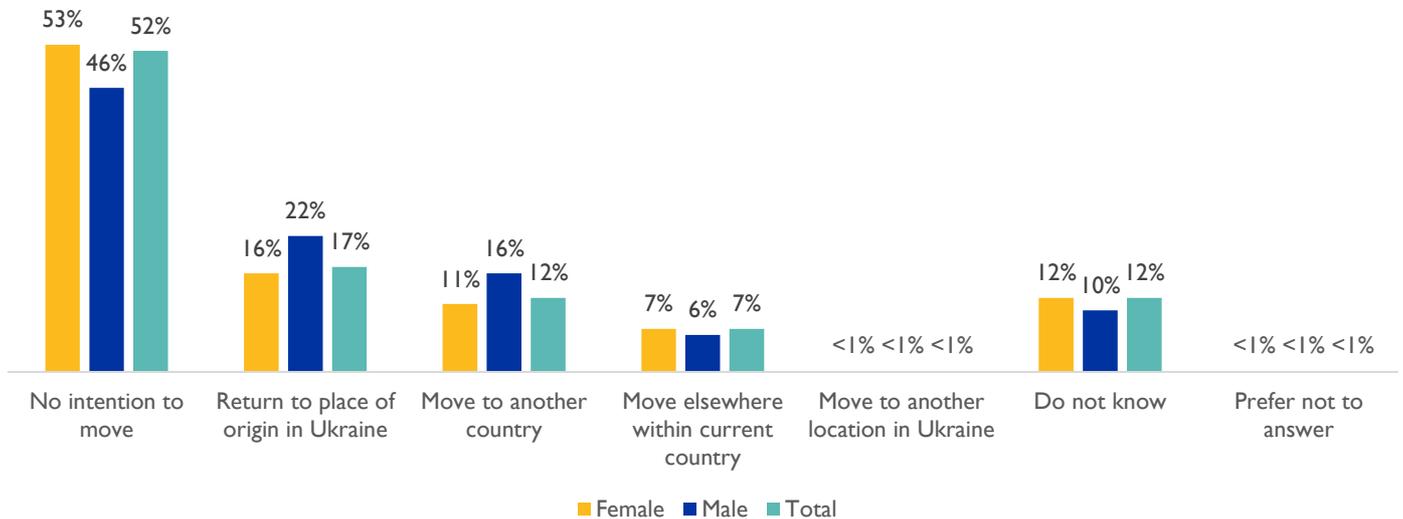
2. Intentions: Stay or Move Elsewhere

Intention to move elsewhere or stay in current location

Overall, 52 per cent of respondents are not planning to move away from their current location in Poland. Seventeen per cent are planning to return to their place of origin in Ukraine, 12 per cent want to move to another country and seven per cent elsewhere in Poland. Twelve per cent of respondents do not know yet where they want to move in the future. Looking

at the distribution of responses within genders, females are more likely to have no intention to move (53% vs 46% of males). On the other hand, the share of males planning to return to their place of origin in Ukraine (22%) as well as those who want to move to another country (16%) is higher than among females (16% and 11% respectively).

Figure 6: Respondents' intention to move from current location, by gender and total (%), N=667

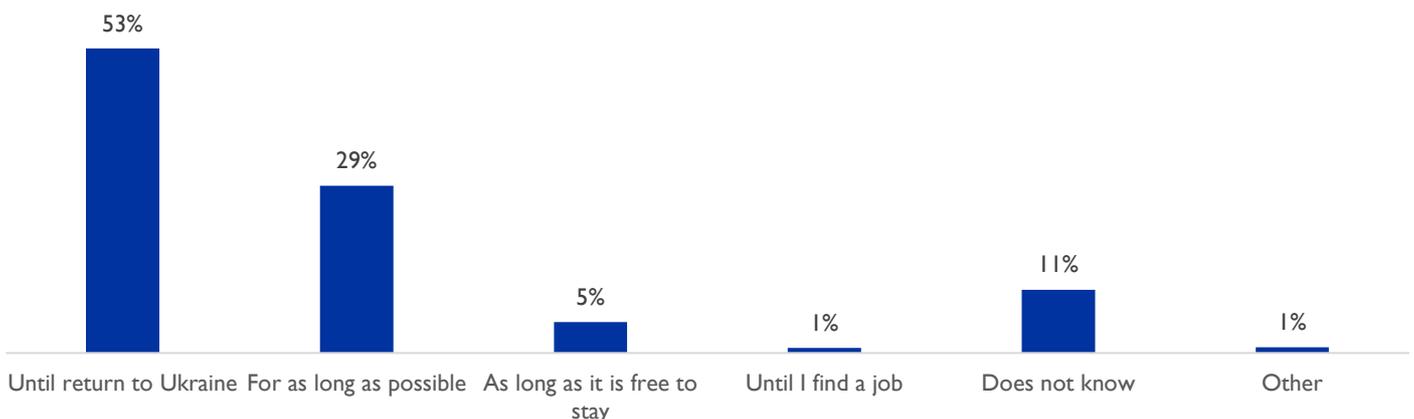


Intention to stay in current accommodation

Most respondents plan to stay in their current accommodation until they return to Ukraine (53%). Twenty-nine per cent of respondents said that they would do so for as long as possible, while another

five per cent want to stay for as long as it is free. Eleven per cent do not yet know for how long they want to stay in the same accommodation.

Figure 7: How long do respondents plan to stay in their current accommodation (%), N=667

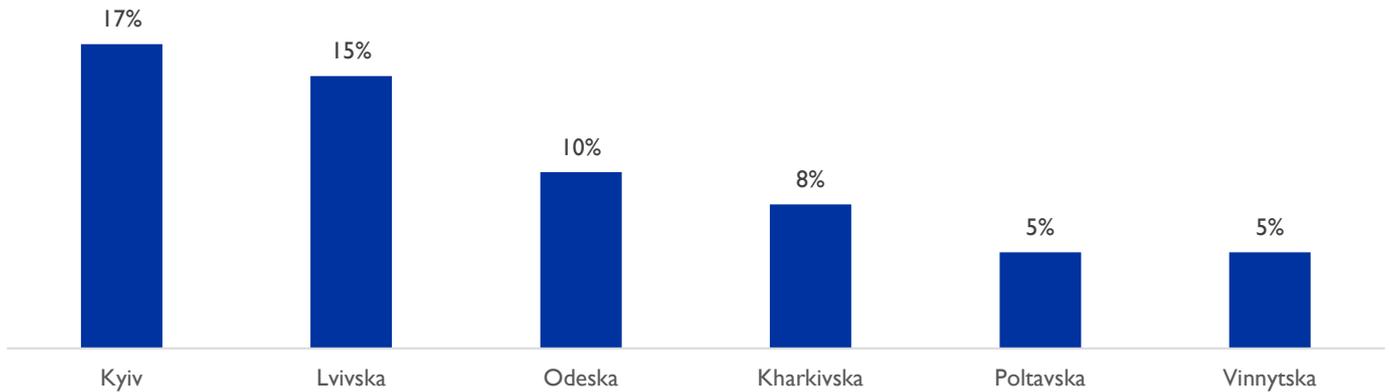


Destination Oblasts and Reasons for Returning

Except for one respondent, all respondents who are planning to return to Ukraine, want to move to their place of origin. The top oblasts of origin mentioned

by respondents are Kyiv (17%), Lvivska (15%), Odeska (10%), Kharkivska (8%), Poltavska (5%), and Vinnytska (5%).

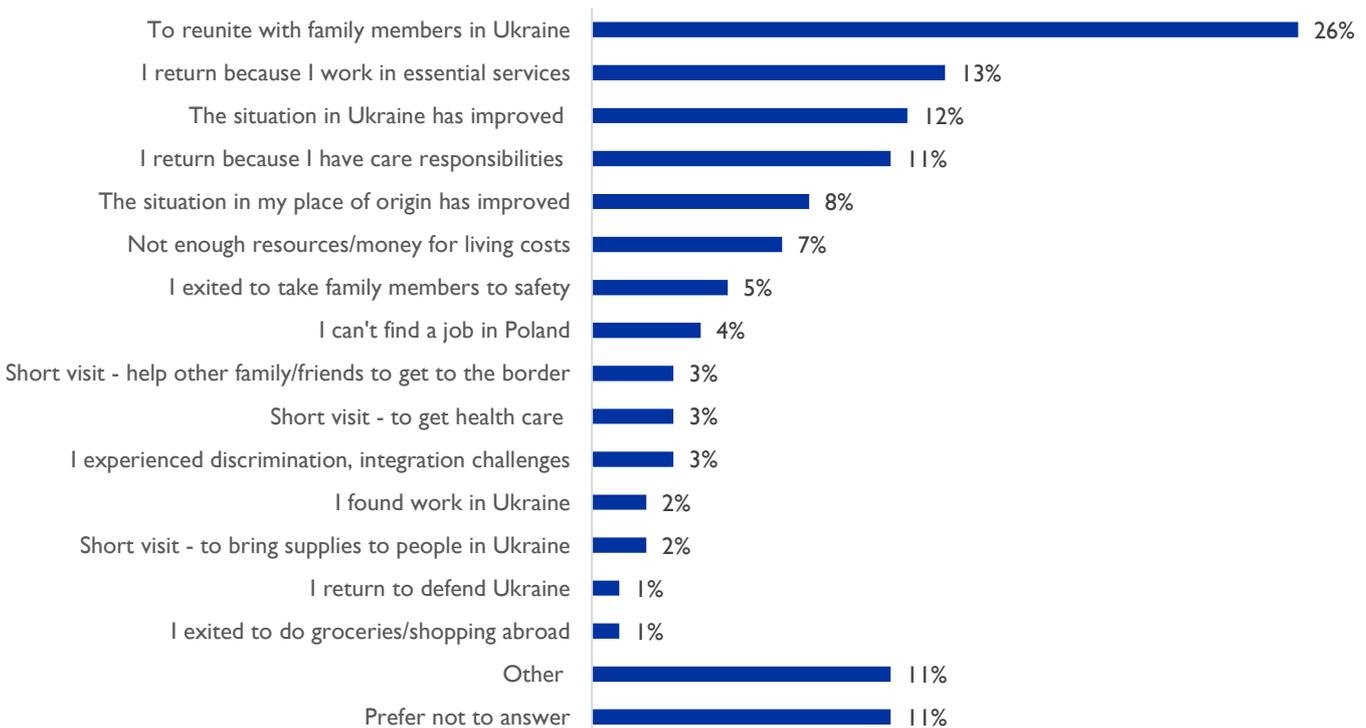
Figure 8: Top 6 destination oblasts of respondents planning to return to Ukraine (%), N=111



Among respondents planning to return to Ukraine, 26 per cent indicate as one of their reasons that they want to reunite with family members who are living in Ukraine. Other relevant reasons for returning are that respondents work in essential services (13%),

that the situation in Ukraine or in the place of origin have improved (12% and 8% respectively), and that respondents need to take care of relatives (11%). Eight per cent of reasons mentioned indicate that respondents want to return only for a short visit.

Figure 9: Reasons for wanting to return to Ukraine (%), N=111 (more than one answer possible)



3. Education and Employment: Profile and Prospects

Language skills

Sixty-five per cent of respondents speak Ukrainian as their main language at home. This is followed by Russian with 34 per cent. One per cent of respondents speak another language, like Polish or

Romani. The top languages that respondents speak in addition to their main language are Russian (44%), English (35%), Ukrainian (34%), Polish (27%) and German (9%).

Figure 10: Main language spoken at home (%), N=667

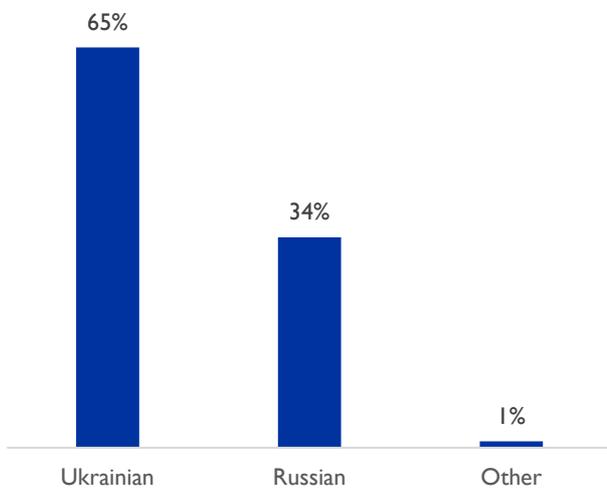
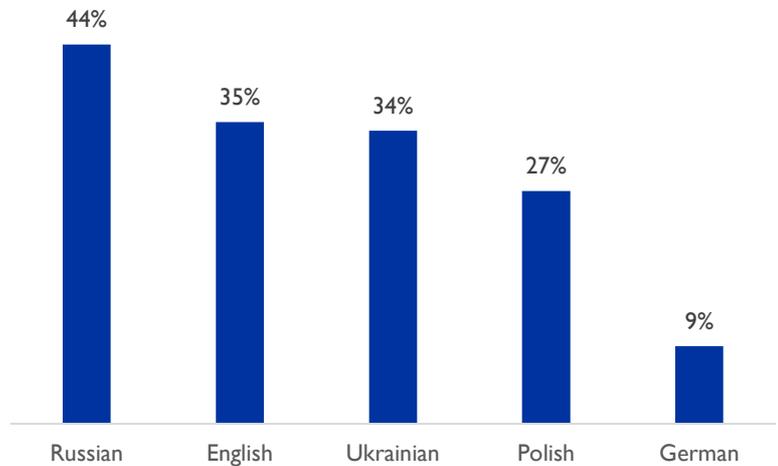


Figure 11: Top 5 other languages respondents speak (%), N=667

(more than one answer possible)

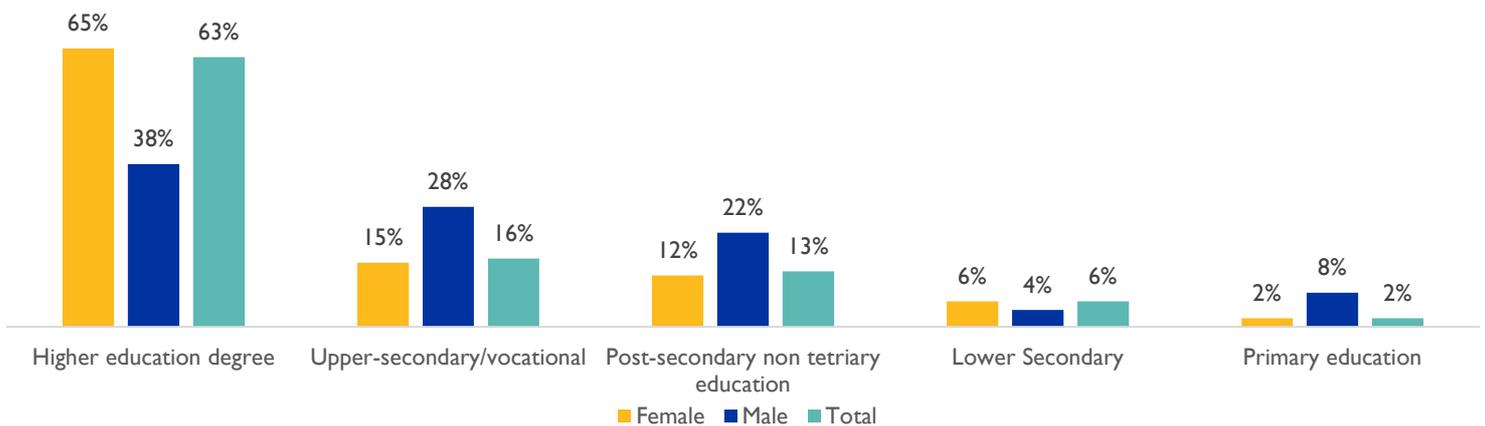


Education

When looking at the highest level of education received disaggregated by gender, it appears that the majority of respondents achieved either a Bachelor or Master's degree (65% female respondents and 38% male). Twenty-eight per cent of male respondents had upper-secondary education, in

contrast to 15 per cent of female respondents with the same degree. Twenty-two per cent of male respondents had post-secondary non tertiary education, compared to 12 per cent of their female counterparts.

Figure 12: Highest educational attainment, by gender (%), N=667

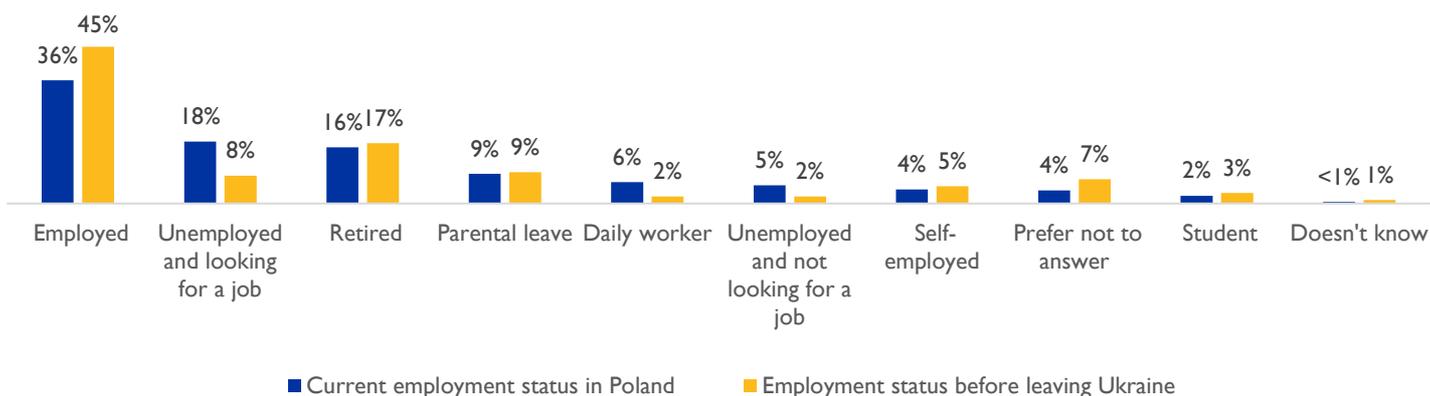


Employment

Thirty-six per cent of respondents are currently employed in Poland. Six per cent are daily workers and four per cent are self-employed. Sixteen per cent of respondents are retired, 18 per cent are unemployed and looking for a job, and another five per cent are unemployed but not looking for a job.

Nine per cent of respondents are on parental leave. The share of those who were employed before leaving Ukraine was nine percentage points higher as compared to the situation at the time of the survey in Poland.

Figure 13: Employment status currently in Poland and previously in Ukraine before leaving (%), N=667



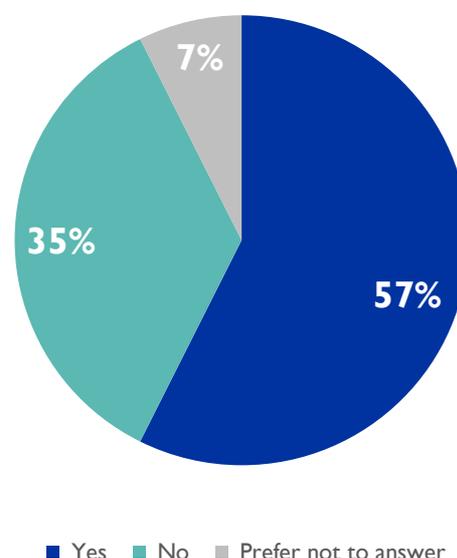
The majority of employed respondents (23%) mentioned employment sectors that were not included in the survey. The main listed employment sectors mentioned by survey respondents were education (12%), human health and social work

(10%), repair of vehicles and motorcycles (10%), and service activities (13%). Fifty-seven per cent of survey respondents agreed that their job matched their experiences and education.

Table 2: Top 6 professions of employed respondents in Poland (%), N=122

Other sectors	23%
Education	12%
Human health and social work	10%
Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	10%
Accommodation and food service activities	7%
Other services activities (includes washing & cleaning, hairdressing and other beauty treatment)	6%

Figure 14: Job matching respondents' experiences and education (%), N=122

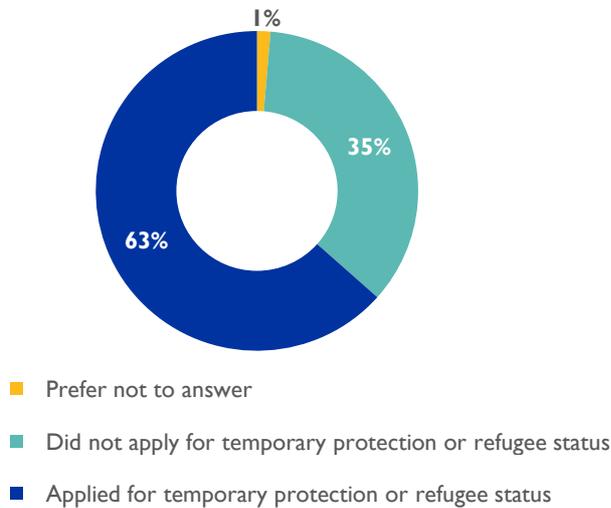


4. Registration and Inclusion Services

Protection Status

Sixty-three per cent of respondents have applied for EU temporary protection or a refugee status. Thirty-five per cent indicate that they have not done so. While there are no discernible differences in

Figure 15: Application for EU temporary protection or refugee status (%), N=667



registration rates across genders, the share of households with children that are registered (66%) is higher than those without children (58%).

Figure 16: Application for EU temporary protection or refugee status, by household status (children) (%), N=667

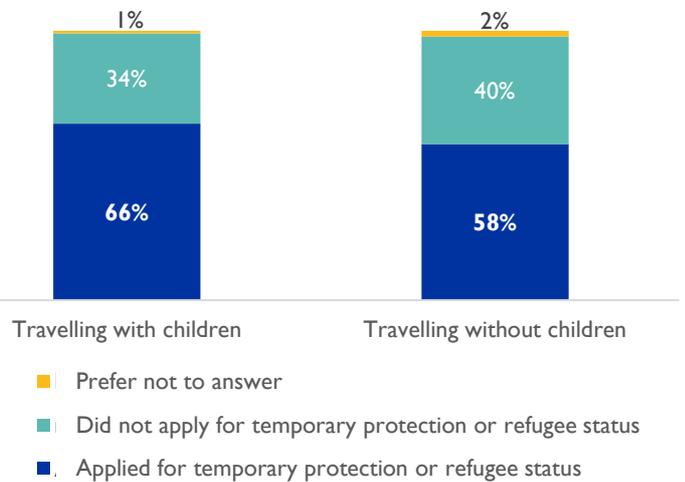
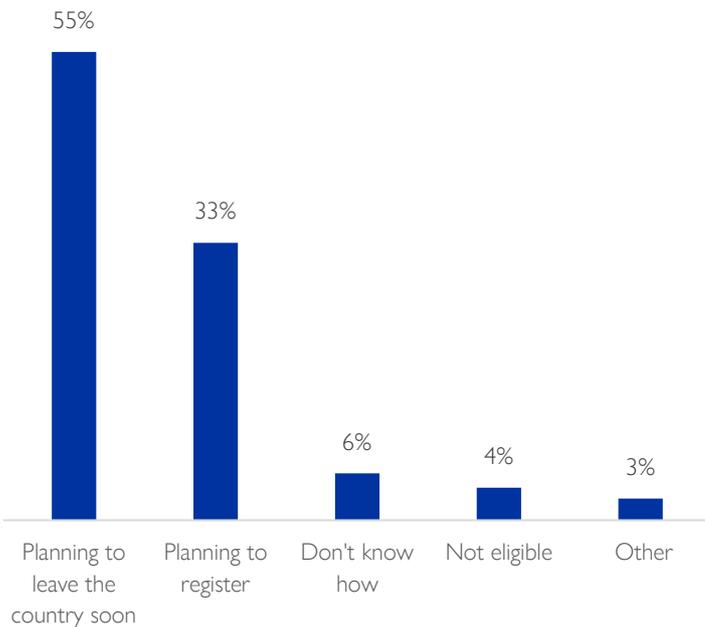


Figure 17: Reasons for not having applied for EU temporary protection or refugee status (%), N=233

*the percentages are rounded up, therefore, might not add up to a 100



Among those who have not applied for EU temporary protection or refugee status, 55 per cent stated that they are planning to leave the country soon. Thirty-three per cent are planning to register. Six per cent of respondents do not know how to register and another four per cent are not eligible.



Consular Support

48% of respondents do not know how to contact a consular representative (N=77)

6% of respondents have reached out for consular support (N=77)

5. Immediate Needs and Assistance Received

Immediate needs upon crossing back

Eighteen per cent of respondents indicated no need for any kind of assistance at the moment of the interview. Among those who indicated having immediate needs, the most prevalent ones were cash support (17%), assistance with medical needs (12%), job placement (12%) and housing (11%). This was followed by information assistance (8%), transportation (7%) and education for children (6%). The remaining eight per cent were distributed between the need for additional trainings (4%), those who did not know what their needs were (2%) or selected other non-specified needs (1%) and those who stated their need in business setup support (1%).

Figure 19: Assistance received (%), N=426

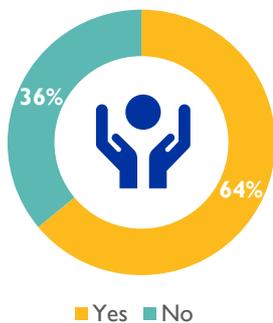


Figure 20: Types of assistance received (%), N=153

(more than one answer possible)

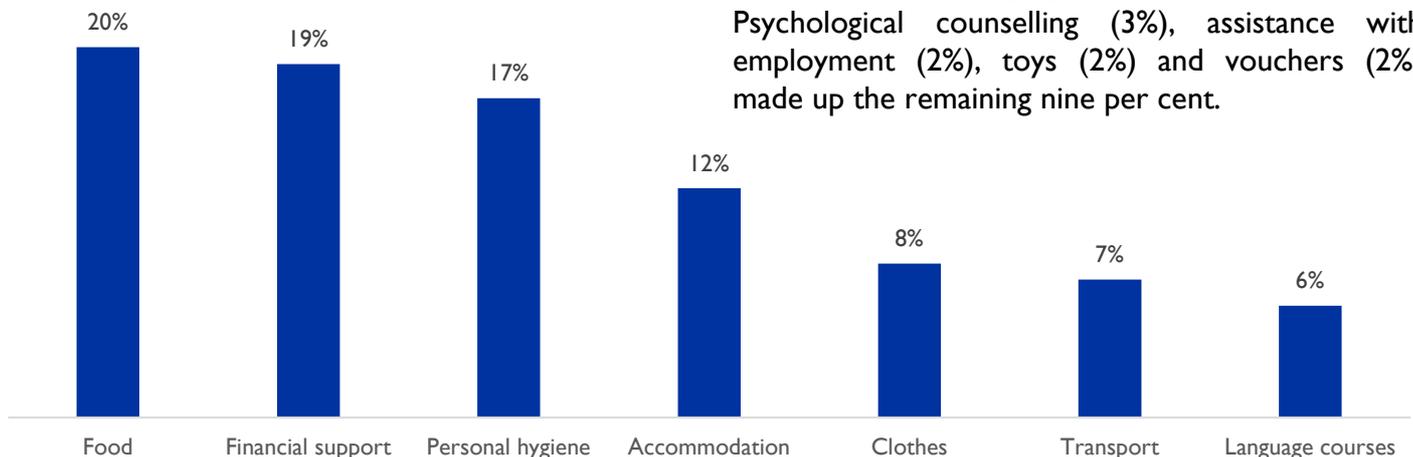
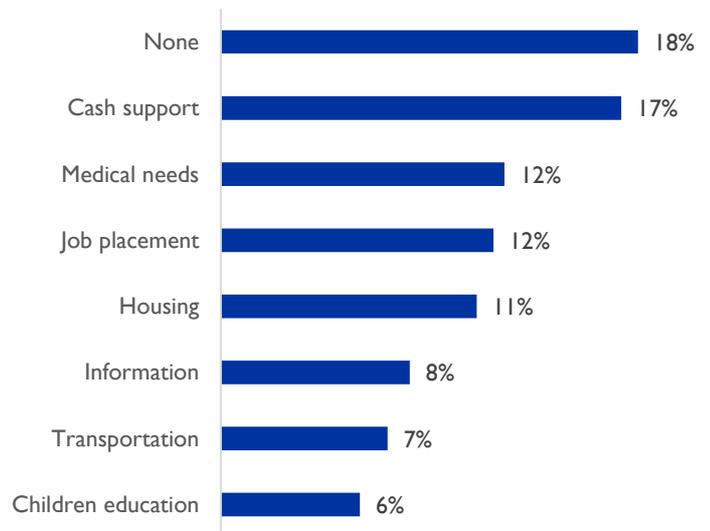


Figure 18: Top needs at the moment of the interview (%), N=667
(more than one answer possible)



Assistance received in Poland

Sixty-four per cent of respondents have declared receiving some kind of assistance in Poland in contrast to 36 per cent who suggested having received none. Respondents, who indicated having received assistance, indicated that the top areas where assistance was provided were food (20%), financial support (19%) and personal hygiene items (17%). These were followed by assistance with accommodation (12%), clothes (8%), transport support (7%) and language courses (6%).

Psychological counselling (3%), assistance with employment (2%), toys (2%) and vouchers (2%) made up the remaining nine per cent.

Information on assistance available

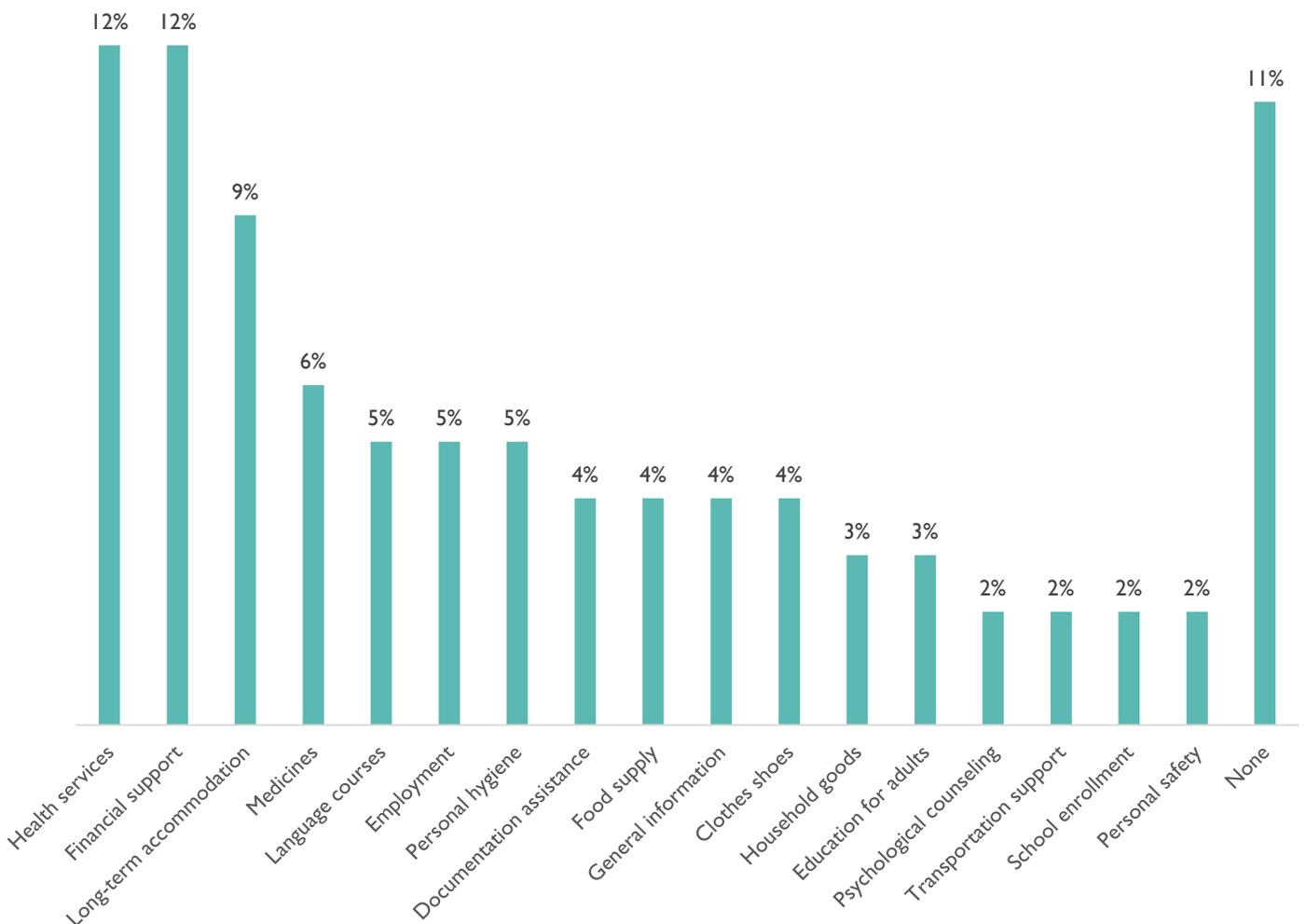
The majority of respondents (84%) reported having knowledge of where to seek assistance, while only 16 per cent indicated not knowing this information. For those not knowing where to seek information on services available, the following areas made up fifty per cent – health services (12%), financial support (12%), long-term accommodation (9%) and medications (6%). These were followed by information on assistance with language courses, employment and personal hygiene with five per cent each.

Another sixteen per cent was equally divided between documentation assistance, food supply, general information and clothes/shoes (4% each).

Fourteen per cent was made up by information on assistance with household goods (3%), education for adults (3%), psychological counselling (2%), transportation support (2%), school enrolment (2%) and personal safety (2%).

The remaining five per cent was shared between assistance with short-term accommodation, communication, legal and business support, along with support in return.

Figure 21: Areas lacking in information on assistance available (%), N=103 (more than one answer possible)



6. Current Group Composition

Travel mode and group composition

Out of the total amount of respondents, 63 per cent travelled in a group, while 37 per cent travelled alone. Out of those who travelled in a group, the most common group composition was family (89%), while the other six per cent was equally divided between relatives and neighbours.

Figure 22: Travel mode, (%), N=667
(more than one answer possible)

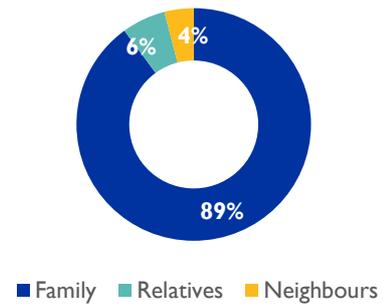
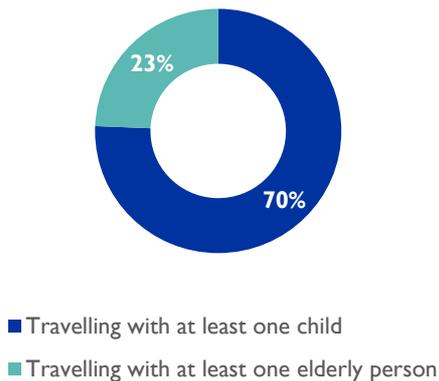


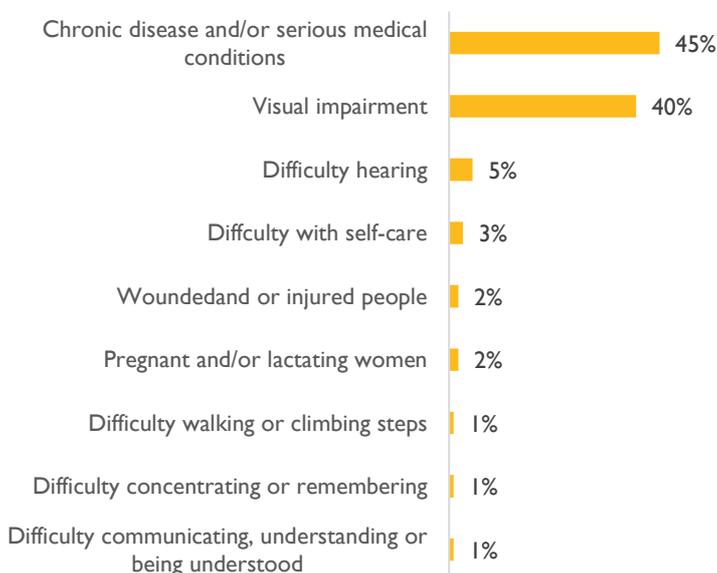
Figure 23: Travel groups age breakdown, N=422
(%)



Age groups

Among respondents who travelled in a group and provided information on their group composition (N=422), 70 per cent had at least one child and 23 per cent had an elderly person in their group. Only nine per cent of these respondents had both at least one child and at least one elderly person in their group at the time of the interview.

Figure 24: Medical conditions in groups, N=208
(%)



Health conditions and disabilities

Thirty-one per cent of the total amount of respondents reported travelling with at least one person with a serious health-specific need. Out of those, 45 per cent were people with a chronic disease or a serious medical condition and 40 per cent were with a serious visual impairment. This was followed by difficulty in hearing (5%), difficulty with self-care (3%), pregnant or lactating women (2%), and wounded or injured people (2%). Another three per cent were equally shared between persons with difficulty walking or climbing steps, concentrating or remembering and those, who had issues communicating, understanding and being understood.

8. Methodology

Background

Since 24 February 2022, refugees from Ukraine and Third Country Nationals (TCNs) have been fleeing to neighbouring countries as a result of the war. As June 2023, more than twelve million refugees from Ukraine were recorded at various border crossings entering Poland and ten million had crossed back since February 2022.

IOM has deployed its Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) tools since mid-April 2022 to collect individual surveys in neighbouring countries with persons crossing into, as well as those residing in Poland, with the aim to improve the understanding of main profiles, displacement patterns, intentions and needs of those moving into or residing in Poland.

This report is based on surveys collected in Poland between 01 April and 30 June 2023 in various *voivodeships*, such as Podkarpackie, Lubelskie, Pomorskie, Malopolskie and Mazowieckie.

Methodological framework

IOM's DTM is a system to track and monitor displacement and population mobility. It is designed to regularly and systematically capture, process and disseminate information to provide a better understanding of the movements and evolving needs of displaced populations, whether on site or en route.

This survey is part of IOM's DTM activities to monitor the profiles, displacement patterns and most immediate needs of the Ukrainian refugees and TCNs crossing back to Ukraine since 24 February 2022.

In Poland, surveys were conducted in Ukrainian, Russian, and English by IOM's DTM trained teams of enumerators on a mobile application.

The interviews are anonymous and carried out one-on-one with respondents, provided they consent to be interviewed after a brief introduction.

Enumerators trained on ethics of data collection, information provision and protection principles, approached people crossing back to Ukraine, to verify their willingness to conduct the survey, which was only addressed to adults (18+).

The survey form was designed by IOM to capture the main displacement patterns for refugees crossing back to Ukraine following the outbreak of the war. It analyses the demographic profiles of respondents and of the group they are travelling with, if any; it asks about intentions relatively to the permanence in Ukraine; and it gathers information regarding a set of main needs at the moment of the interview.

Various settings were identified to conduct surveys, to maximise the number of interviews, and reach out to different profiles of individuals.

While in border crossing/transit points, such as train stations, the flow of people was higher and interviewees were randomly surveyed (having the same likelihood compared to others to be selected), in other settings, such as collective accommodations and humanitarian aid centres, respondents were intentionally identified.

Among the limitations encountered during data collection were the reduced time to carry out surveys at transit points and limited amount of enumerators to cover the desired locations/regions.

To address the aforesaid shortcomings, and cover different viewpoints, a mixed sampling strategy guided the data collection exercise.

Consequently, this analysis does not proportionally represent the whole population and results cannot be deemed representative of a full picture of mobility towards Ukraine from Poland.

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>

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