

UKRAINE RETURNS REPORT

GENERAL POPULATION SURVEY

ROUND 13
JUNE 2023

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A NOTE ON DEFINITION OF RETURN

For the purposes of this report, the terms "return" and "returnee" are used without prejudice to status and refer to all people currently in their place of habitual residence after a period of displacement (minimum of two weeks since February 2022*), regardless of whether they returned to these locations spontaneously from abroad or from displacement within Ukraine.

This definition excludes those who have come back to Ukraine from abroad but who have not returned to their places of habitual residence in country.

*This cut-off period has been shown as statistically most meaningful in terms of vulnerability following return as compared to the non-displaced population.

KEY FINDINGS

As of 25 May, IOM estimates that **4.8 million individuals in Ukraine have returned to their homes following a period of displacement due to the large-scale invasion**. While feasibility of sustainable reintegration and long-term intentions are subject to change and affected by conflict dynamics, **88 per cent of returnees expressed their intention to remain in their current location (est. 4.2 million individuals)**. Sixty-four percent of all returnees are located in only five oblasts – Kyiv city and Kyivska, Kharkivska, Dnipropetrovska, and Odeska.

A quarter of returnees (26%) experienced displacement for over a year before returning home, and inter-oblast displacement remains prevalent, with 47 per cent of returnees who reported having returned to a different oblast within Ukraine. The average of days in displacement before return was 113 days. Whereas the average number of days since the return was 270 days.

This report brings previously unavailable data on return as a durable solution in Ukraine, assessing the returnees' situation along the **Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Durable Solutions criteria**. Security concerns, limited participation in public affairs, and difficulties in covering basic expenses were found to be significant obstacles to sustainable reintegration and achievement of a durable solution among returnees, potentially triggering further displacement. The data suggests that **decision-making on re-displacement or relocation is largely related to the economic factors, public participation, and access to adequate housing in areas of return**.

Overall, however, **only a very small percentage (5%) of returnees are considering re-displacement**. This figure is the lowest ever recorded since the start of IOM's survey among returnees in April 2022. Among those returnees who consider leaving, returnees show a higher inclination to move abroad compared to IDPs (31% vs. 23%), with Germany and Poland being the most mentioned destinations.

Financial assistance is the most critical need mentioned by returnees (58%). Alarming, in the top 5 return oblasts, **over half of all returnees fully depleted their savings, reduced food and essential expenses, and sought more affordable alternatives**.

The data reveal increasing tensions among groups in communities across Ukraine. Returnees exhibit the highest level of perceived tension concerning government-provided social assistance, with 26 per cent expressing such sentiments. Access to cash assistance is identified as the primary cause of community tensions.

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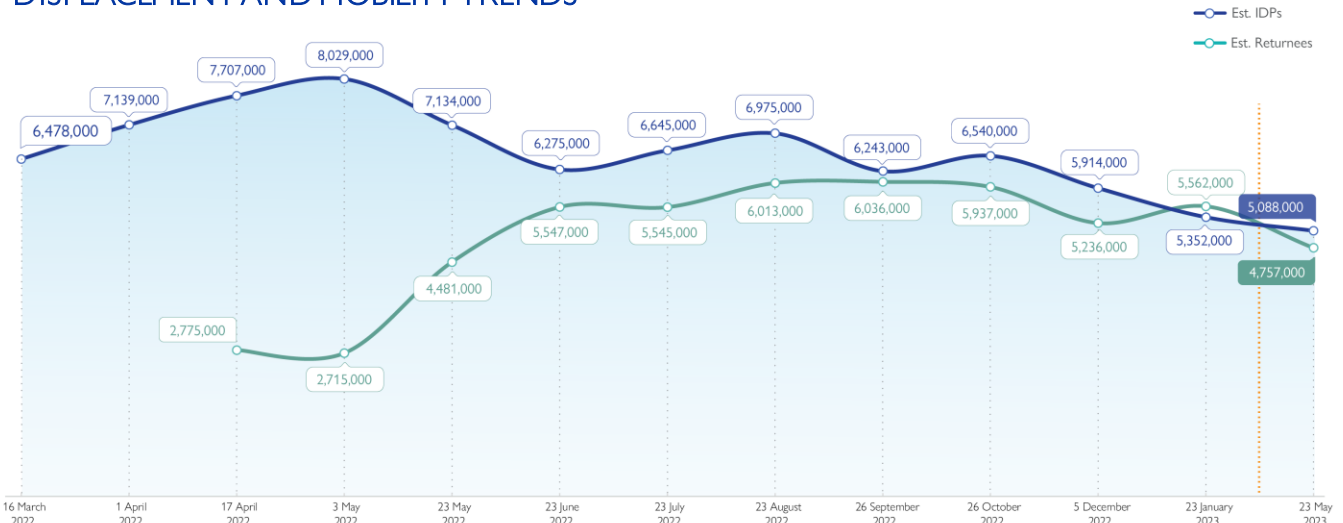
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OVERVIEW

Starting on 24 February 2022, a large-scale invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation (RF) triggered an unprecedented humanitarian crisis across the country. Between 11 May and 14 June 2023, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) conducted the 13th round of a highly representative assessment of the general population in Ukraine to gather information on displacement, mobility flows, intentions, and conditions to inform targeted assistance to the war-affected population carried out in two stages. From Round 13 onwards, the survey methodology has been adapted to produce representative quarterly data at the oblast level. This round also introduces a new set of questions on durable solutions to internal displacement aligned with the criteria proposed by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Framework on Durable Solutions for IDPs. The goal of the General Population Survey is to facilitate evidence-based

decision-making on strategic, technical, and programmatic aspects of the response and recovery efforts in Ukraine, including the Government of Ukraine. The geographical scope of the assessment covers the entire territory of Ukraine, excluding the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and areas of Donetsk, Luhanska, Khersonska and Zaporizka Oblasts under temporary military control of the RF. The General Population Survey was constructed through a random-digit-dial (RDD) approach, and 5,297 unique and anonymous respondents aged 18 and over were interviewed using the computer-assisted telephone interview (CATI) method. The estimates are based on UNFPA population data for Ukraine (last available data as of 14 November 2022), agreed as a common population baseline by the humanitarian community. Those currently outside Ukraine were not interviewed.

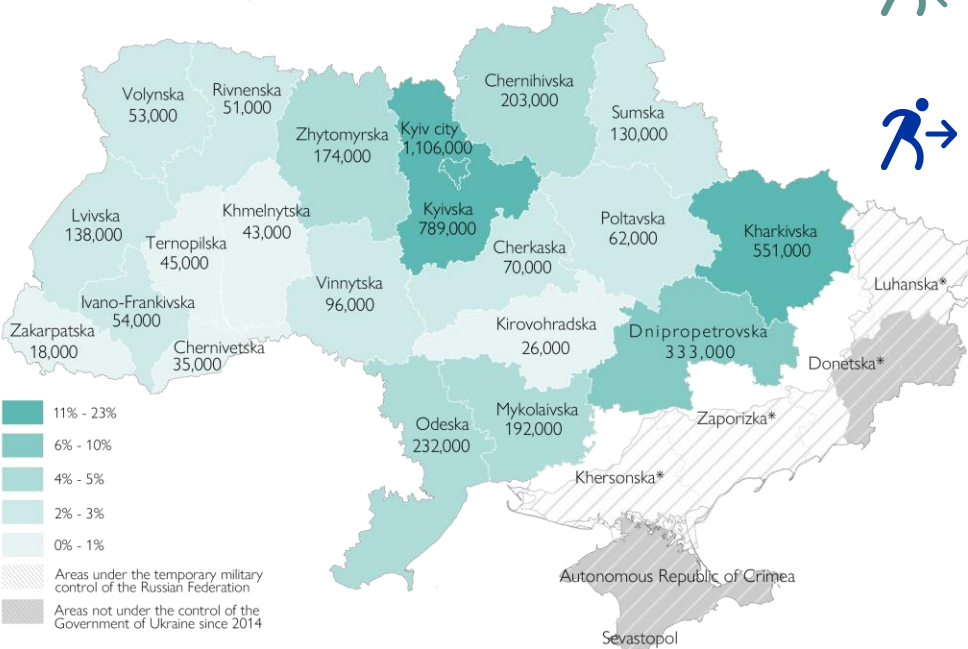
DISPLACEMENT AND MOBILITY TRENDS



N.B. The data collected and presented in Round 13 reflects the UNFPA review of the baseline population, which excludes the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, marked in the above graph with **yellow demarcation lines**. This data is available here <https://data.humdata.org/dataset/cod-ps-ukr>. Also note that estimated figures have been rounded to the nearest 1,000.

ESTIMATED LOCATION OF RETURNEES BY OBLAST

Estimated returnee presence by oblast



4,757,000
EST. TOTAL RETURNEES
(incl. est. 1,064,000 returns from abroad)

5,088,000
EST. INTERNALLY DISPLACED
(incl. est. 353,000 who returned from abroad but remain displaced)

DEMOGRAPHICS

As of 13 June 2023, more than a half of returnees (56%) are female, following from the demographics of the displaced population (57% female). Fifty-six (56%) if returnees are in productive age, aged 18-59. The share of older people among returnees was 20 per cent. There are approximately 463,000 school-aged children in households that contain only returnees (6-17 years old).

Returnee population demographic estimates (only households containing members having experience of return)

Estimated group size	Female	Male	Total
Infants	5,000	3,000	8,000
1-5 years old	78,000	94,000	172,000
6-10 years old	105,000	104,000	209,000
11-17 years old	116,000	138,000	254,000
Adults 18-29	193,000	137,000	330,000
Adults 30-39	309,000	230,000	539,000
Adults 40-49	239,000	199,000	438,000
Adults 50-59	164,000	128,000	292,000
Elderly (60+)	385,000	224,000	609,000
Total	1,594,000	1,257,000	2,851,000*

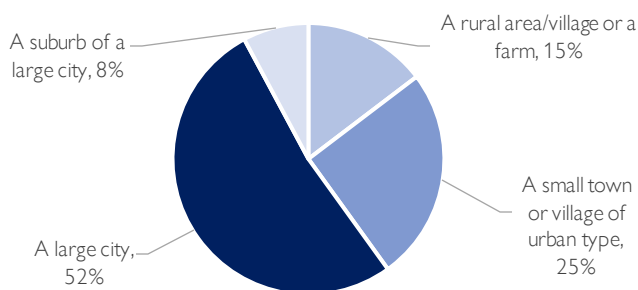
Estimated group size	Female	Male	Total
Infants	0.3%	0.2%	0.2%
1-5 years old	4.9%	7.5%	6.1%
6-10 years old	6.6%	8.3%	7.3%
11-17 years old	7.3%	11.0%	8.9%
Adults 18-29	12.1%	10.9%	11.6%
Adults 30-39	19.4%	18.3%	18.9%
Adults 40-49	15.0%	15.8%	15.3%
Adults 50-59	10.3%	10.2%	10.3%
Elderly (60+)	24.2%	17.8%	21.4%
Total	55.8%	44.2%	100.0%

*N.B.: *The description of the characteristics of returnee household members is based solely on the data for those household members who do not live at their primary residence because of the war (60% of all the returnee households).*

TYPE OF SETTLEMENT

The majority of returnees reside in large cities (52%), or in the suburbs of large cities (8%). Fifteen per cent of returnee families had returned to rural areas (15%) which is two times higher compared to January 2023 (7%) and might be related to seasonal work in the agricultural sector.

Percentage of returnee respondents by type of settlement



HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION

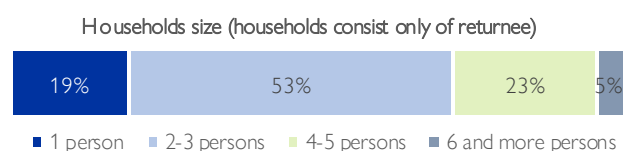
Returnee households commonly report having three members (mean). However, 28 per cent of returnee households have four or more members. Almost half of returnee families have one child (62%) with a further 29 per cent having two children.

Key demographic figures (as of 23 January 2023)

2.86 average returnee household size (returnee-only households) as of 23 June

1.50 average number of children per returnee-only household as of 23 June

Percentage of returnee respondents by number of household members and by number of children (among those with children)

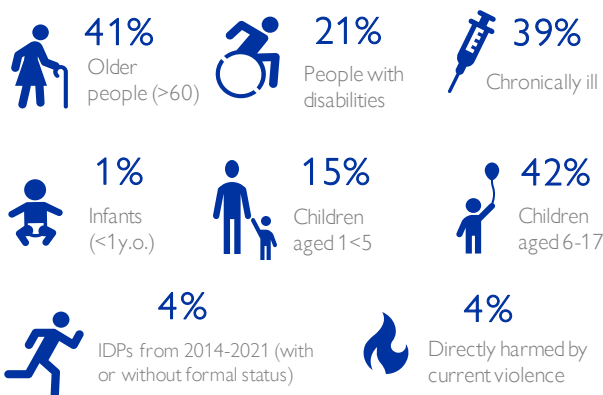


Number of returnee children by household



HOUSEHOLD VULNERABILITIES

*Percentage of returnee households reporting vulnerable household members (only households containing members having experience of return)**

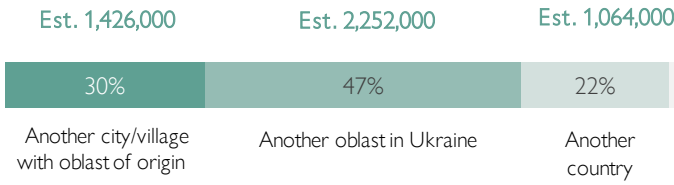


*Note: *The description of the characteristics of returnee household members is based solely on the data for those household members who do not live at their primary residence because of the war (60% of all the returnee households).*

Notably, 41 per cent of returnee families contain at least one elderly person aged 60 or above. A significant proportion of returnee households have at least one member who is chronically ill (39%), or has a disability (21%), and 15% of households have a child under five or an infant.

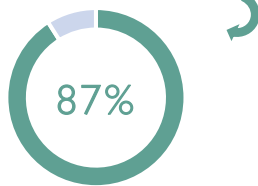
RETURN DYNAMICS

RETURN ROUTES



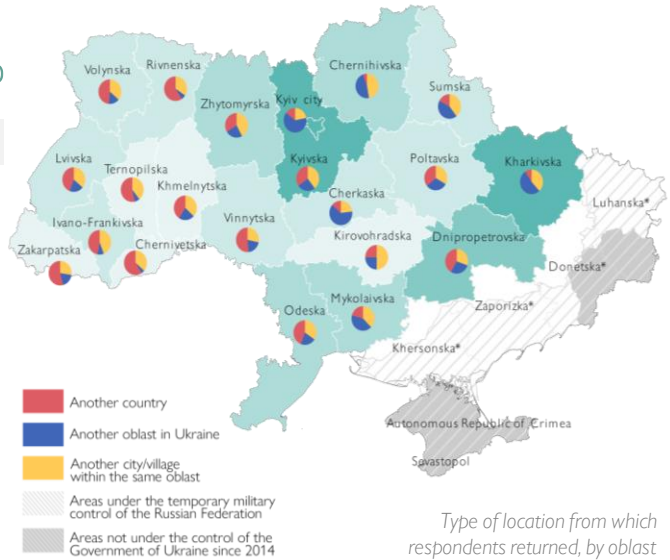
NB: *The subgroup of non-responders accounted for 1% (estimated 15,000).

Among returnees who returned spontaneously from abroad, 87 per cent returned from EU countries.



Nearly half of all returnees (47%) returned from displacement in another oblast within Ukraine, with a further third returning from displacement within their own oblast (31%). Of those who reported returning from another country most returned from Poland (39%), followed by Germany (9%), Italy (7%), Czechia (6%) and Bulgaria (5%).

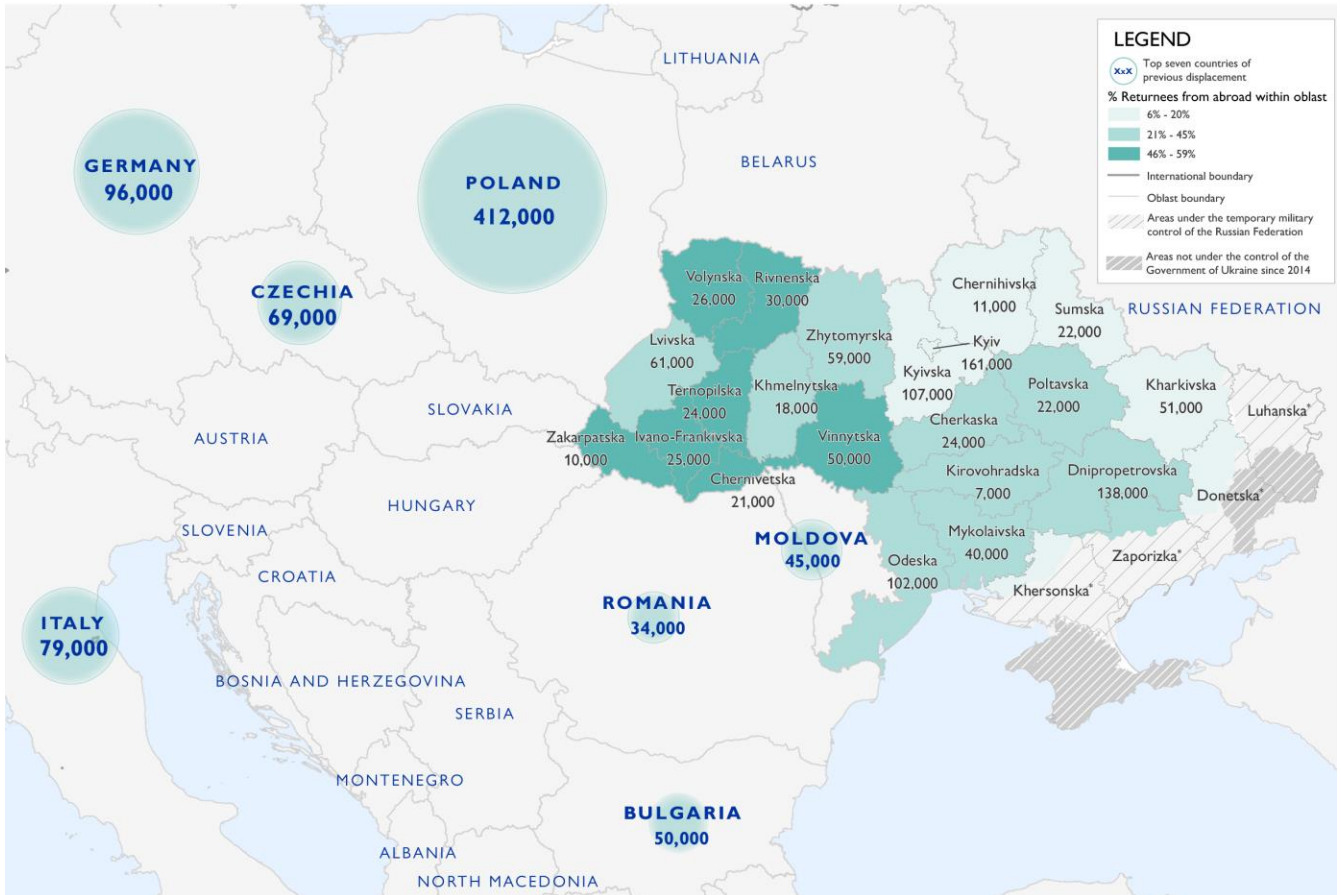
Those who returned from abroad were more prevalent in western oblasts, while returns within the same oblasts were more prevalent in northern and central oblasts, with smaller shares of returnees returning to southern and eastern oblasts.



Type of location from which respondents returned, by oblast

Among those returnees who reported returning spontaneously from abroad to their place of habitual residence, almost all (89%) were female. Additionally, a quarter (25%) of all returnees stated that they had spent at least 14 days abroad because of the full-scale war since February 2022.

Percentage and est. number of returnees from locations abroad, by oblast, with top seven countries from which returns had been reported



RETURN DYNAMICS

Top 5 oblasts of return	Share of returnees in Ukraine*	Est. total returnees
Kyiv City	23%	1,106,000
Kyivska	17%	789,000
Kharkivska	12%	551,000
Dnipropetrovska	7%	333,000
Odeska	5%	232,000
Other oblasts	36%	1,746,000

Top 5 oblasts of last displacement prior to return**	Share of returnees in Ukraine*	Est. returnees
Lvivska	9%	322,000
Kyiv City	8%	287,000
Vinnitska	7%	242,000
Dnipropetrovska	6%	235,000
Kyivska	6%	235,000
Other oblasts	64%	2,359,000

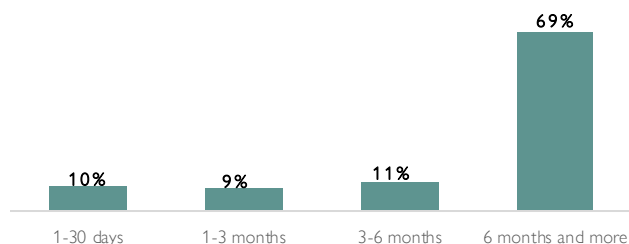
RETURN INTENTIONS

Est. 1.06M IDPs nation-wide are currently considering return to habitual residence

In Round 13 of the General Population Survey, 25 per cent of the displaced population was considering leaving away from their current location (equivalent to 1.27 M). Of these, the vast majority (**84% equal to 1.06 M**) are thinking of returning to their area of origin. Of those considering return, **7 per cent (eq. 79,000 individuals)** were considering return within two weeks of the interview.

TIME SINCE RETURN

270 average days elapsed since return following 454 days of war (as of 23 May 2023)



TIME BEFORE RETURN

113 average number of days in displacement before return (as of 23 May 2023)*

Among all returnees, the average time spent in displacement was just under four months, however, **37 per cent of returnees reported having been displaced for three months or longer.**

When comparing only the top five oblasts of return, the highest average duration of returnees' displacement prior to return was identified in Kharkivska Oblast (177 days), while the shortest displacement was typical in Kyiv city (87 days). Among all oblast of return, the longest average time of displacement was among those who returned to Mykolaivska Oblast (196 days).*

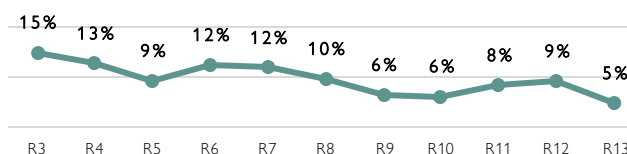
* N.B. Data as of 23 May 2023, General Population Survey Population Snapshot (stage 1)

RE-DISPLACEMENT INTENTIONS

Est. 219,000 Returnees are now considering leaving their current location (5% of all returnees).

Among all returnees, **88% intend to stay in their homes in the future, while 5 per cent were considering leaving their homes again** at the time of the interview. A further 7 per cent, equivalent to est. 333,000 returnees, may consider leaving, depending on the situation.

Total shares of returnees considering relocation (over time)



Returnees in the top 5 return oblasts were more likely to consider relocation again, particularly those in Kyiv city (18%), Kyivska and Kharkivska (10% each), Dnipropetrovska (8%), and Odeska (5%) Oblasts, in which collectively over half (51%) of all returnees considering relocation live. Furthermore, among the returnees who may consider leaving depending on the situation, the highest percentages were observed in Kyiv city (16%), Kharkivska (15%), Kyivska (13%), Donetsk (12%), and Zaporizka (8%) Oblasts. **Out of the 219,000 returnees who were considering leaving, at the time of the survey, around one-third (est. 65,400 individuals) planned to depart within two weeks of the interview.** Most of these individuals were located in Kyiv city (35%), followed by Kharkivska and Kyivska Oblasts (13% each).

Among those returnees considering re-displacement, those in western and central oblasts, particularly in Kyiv city (24%), Vinnitska, and Cherkaska (9%), showed the highest likelihood of expressing an intention to relocate abroad. They were followed by returnees in Kharkivska and Dnipropetrovska (8%), as well as in Donetsk and Zhytomyrska (7%) Oblasts. Relatively smaller shares of returnees considering a move abroad were observed in Volynska, Lvivska, Rivnenska, Chermihivska, and Odeska Oblasts (4% each). **The top mentioned destinations for those planning to move to another country were Germany (25%) and Poland (21%).** It is worth noting that 13 per cent of returnees intending to relocate abroad were still undecided about their destination. Conversely, those returnees in southern and eastern oblasts who were considering re-displacement were most likely to express their intention to relocate to another oblast within Ukraine. **The top five destination oblasts for those considering relocation within the country were Dnipropetrovska (15%), Lvivska (13%), Kyivska (10%), Ivano-Frankivska (6%), Mykolayivska (6%), and Khersonska (6%) Oblasts.**

CROSSING BACK FROM ABROAD

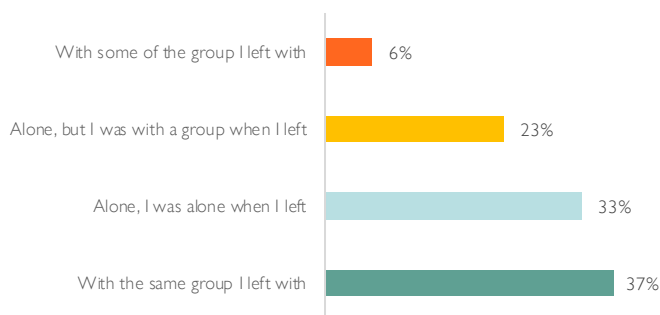
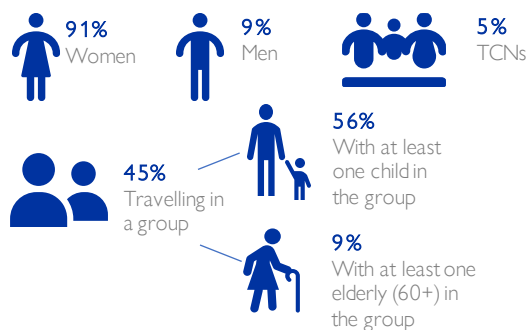
REGIONAL PERSPECTIVE

Since mid-April 2022, IOM DTM has conducted surveys with persons crossing back to Ukraine from neighbouring countries to improve the understanding of their profiles, displacement patterns, intentions, needs and reasons.* **In the first quarter of 2023, 5,561 adults were surveyed in border areas and transit places of Hungary, Poland, Republic of Moldova, Romania, and Slovakia: about 95 per cent of them were Ukrainians, and 5 per cent were Third-Country Nationals (TCNs).** Additionally, 30 surveys were collected with Ukrainian nationals in Latvia while crossing to the Russian Federation with the aim to reach non-governmental-controlled-areas in Ukraine. This section focuses on Ukrainians surveyed in the neighbouring countries (5,294), with results weighted by the number of border crossings into Ukraine from each country in the same period.

*For more information on the work of the DTM in Ukraine's neighboring countries, as well as for further analysis, please visit [Ukraine Crisis Response](#)

DEMOGRAPHICS AND GROUP COMPOSITION

Group composition of migrants crossing back to Ukraine



Most Ukrainian respondents were women (91%). Women were younger than men in all countries with three quarters (75%) being younger than 50, and 47 per cent of men being 60 years old or older. The share of respondents travelling with children (56% of those in group) and with older persons (9% of those in groups) is smaller than what observed in 2022 (75% and 32% respectively). Approximately 61 per cent of respondents primarily resided outside of Ukraine in the country where the survey was conducted. On average, they stayed for a duration of 6 months before crossing back. The other countries where respondents spent the most time on average were Germany (10%), Czechia (5%), and the United Kingdom (3%). The top 5 nationalities among TCNs were: India (63%), Nigeria (9%), United States (4%), Russian Federation (3%), and Georgia (3%). Out of the total, 66 per cent were men and 34 per cent were women.

ORIGINS AND DESTINATIONS

Oblast of origin	Share of respondents	Oblast of destination	Share of respondents
Dnipropetrovska	17%	Dnipropetrovska	17%
Kyiv	12%	Kyiv	13%
Odeska	10%	Odeska	11%
Kharkivska	10%	Kharkivska	9%
Zaporizka	9%	Zaporizka	8%
Zakarpatska	6%	Zakarpatska	8%
Kyivska	6%	Kyivska	5%
Other	27%	Other	24%

The share of respondents for each oblast of origin in Ukraine varied widely among neighbouring countries, however, overall, more than half (57%) of respondents resided in just five oblasts prior to being displaced from Ukraine: **Dnipropetrovska (17%), Kyiv city (12%), Odeska (10%), Kharkivska (10%), Zaporizka (9%).** Nearly all respondents (89%) expressed their intention to return to their oblast of origin upon re-entry to Ukraine, while 11 per cent declared their desire to reach another oblast within Ukraine. Among those planning to reach another oblast, reasons included concerns about security in their place of origin, inability to access it, the presence of IDP's family members, and knowledge of damage or destruction to their homes. Among the intended destinations, oblasts in the western part of the country were mentioned slightly more frequently than the oblasts of origins.

INTENTIONS

Intended length of visit when crossing back



Around half of those surveyed crossing back (48%) went to Ukraine for a short visit, while 40 per cent expressed their intention to stay, and 12 per cent remained uncertain about their plans. Among the respondents, men (55%) were more likely to indicate their intention to stay compared to women (38%). **The main reason to move, whether for short visits or returns, was to reunite with family members.** This reason was cited by 72 per cent of those on short visits and 85 per cent of those planning to return. Additionally, 25 per cent of those on short visits aimed to obtain or renew identity documents (such as biometric passports, diplomas, or driving licenses), while 20 per cent of the same group intended to attend medical appointments in Ukraine.

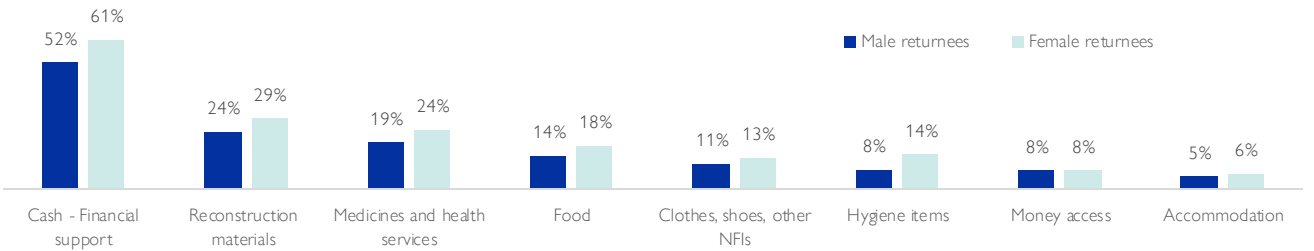
NEEDS

The top four immediate needs reported by returnees while crossing back were financial support (21%), health assistance (17%), medicines (12%), and food (9%). The level of needs reported by returnees while crossing back is lower than that reported by Ukrainians and TCNs interviewed upon entry into the same countries. This discrepancy can be attributed to the perception that assistance is not available outside Ukraine upon first entry into the host country. Among individuals crossing back from Poland, the Republic of Moldova, and Slovakia, the need for financial support was predominantly highlighted. Conversely, those crossing back from Romania emphasized food supply, while transportation emerged as a top priority for respondents crossing back from Hungary. **Additionally, 6 per cent of participants reported experiencing instances of unfair treatment or discrimination while living abroad.**

RETURNEE NEEDS OVER TIME

Households that return from displacement continue to have displacement-related vulnerabilities and needs. Notably, **the most critical need expressed by returnees remains financial assistance (cash support), with more than half (58%) expressing such a need.** Interestingly, there is a higher demand for reconstruction materials among returnees (27%) compared to other population groups (24% for residents and 21% for IDPs), indicating a strong desire to rebuild their lives and achieve a basic standard of living. Additionally, the need for medications and health-care services is ranked closely at 23 per cent. Consistently, female returnees report higher needs across all categories compared to men. It is noteworthy that both female returnees and residents show a stronger inclination towards seeking reconstruction materials compared to their male counterparts. This divergence contrasts with the situation observed among the displaced population, who may display less inclination to permanently settle in their current place of residence.

↓ Returnees' main needs, by sex

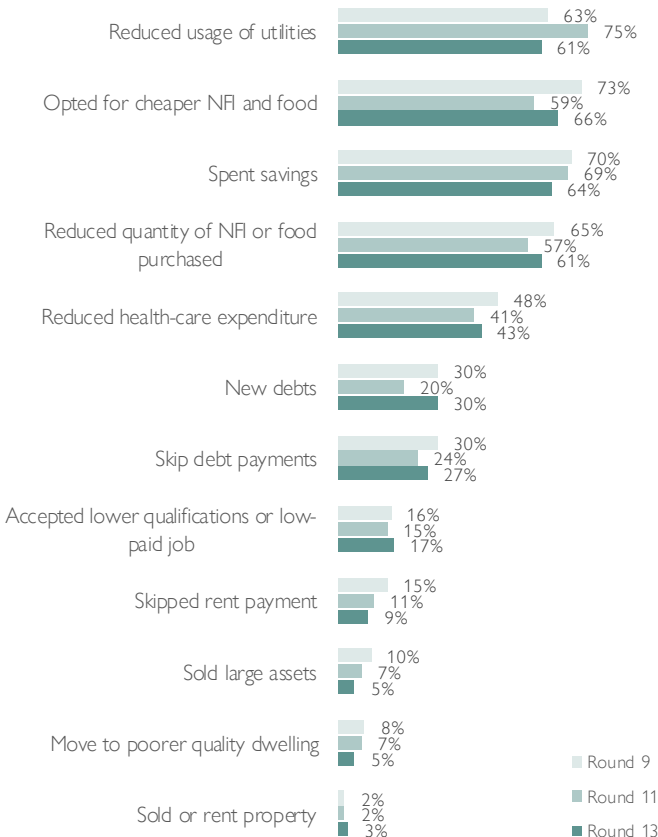


↑ Share of respondents indicating needs, by displacement status

	IDPs	Returnees	Non-displaced
Food	29.3%	16.6%	13.3%
Medicines and health services	36.1%	22.8%	21.6%
Hygiene items	29.0%	12.3%	9.7%
Accommodation	23.8%	6.1%	3.3%
Cash - financial support	80.1%	58.2%	54.0%
Clothes, blankets, and other NFI	29.8%	12.4%	9.5%
Access to money	10.4%	7.7%	5.5%
Repair materials	20.7%	27.3%	24.5%

COPING MECHANISMS

Share of returnees who reported adopting coping mechanism to meet basic needs in the last 30 days



The General Population Survey tracks coping mechanisms used by returnees or their family members in the month prior to data collection to meet basic household needs, as these actions can exacerbate existing vulnerabilities. Reductions in food and NFIs, depletion of savings, and decreased utility usage remain prevalent coping strategies nationwide, with no significant changes observed over time.

Gender analysis reveals that **female returnees face unique challenges in accessing essential services and managing household expenses.** Compared to males, they are more likely to report reduced health-care spending (47% vs. 36%), skipped debt repayments (28% vs. 24%), reduced expenditure on food NFIs (66% vs. 51%), reliance on cheaper items (70% vs. 58%), and decreased utility usage (63% vs. 55%).

Among the top five return oblasts, (see page 5) over half of the returnees in each oblast have depleted their savings, reduced expenses on food and essential supplies, and opted for more affordable alternatives. Additionally, one fourth of returnees in Odeska Oblast have accepted lower-skilled jobs, while one fifth have sold transportation or household items. Dnipropetrovska and Odeska Oblasts also have high proportions of returnees borrowing money or taking out loans (40% and 36% respectively), but in Zakarpatska Oblast, this figure reaches 71 per cent. Moreover, nearly half of the returnees in Dnipropetrovska (48%) and Kharkivska (52%) have reduced healthcare expenses. Similar trends have been observed in Zaporizka (54%), Rivnenska (56%), Sumska (61%), Khersonska (50%), Khmelnytskyi (62%), Cherkaska (55%), and Chernivetska (64%) Oblasts.

CONDITIONS OF RETURN - OVERVIEW

In Round 13 of the General Population Survey, returnees were asked about conditions in their settlement of return.

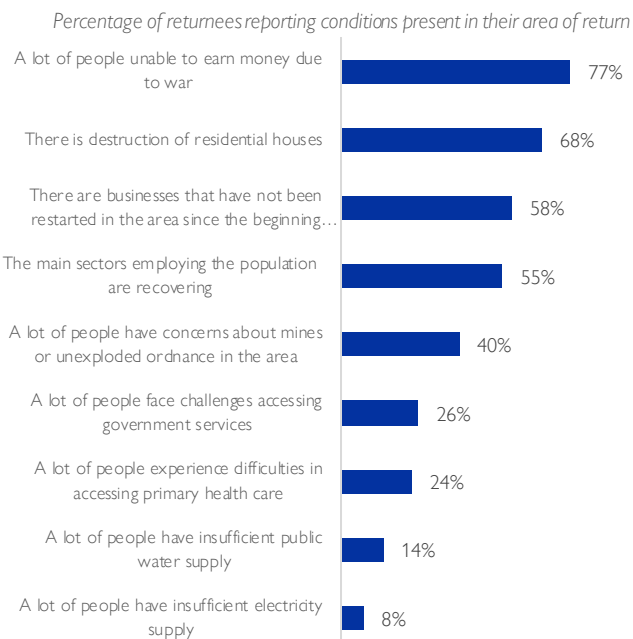
At the national level, 75 per cent of the respondents mentioned that many people in their area were unable to earn money due to the war. Notably, all returnees in Khersonska Oblast reported facing this issue. Overall, returnees in the southern and eastern oblasts of Ukraine reported higher rates compared to the central and western oblasts.

More than half of the returnees nationwide (55%) reported that the main sectors employing people in their area were still not operational. The highest percentage was reported in Chernihivska (75% of returnees) and Zakarpaska (71%) Oblasts. This may reflect the impact of displacement from those oblasts on the functioning of the economy and labour market.

Consistently, more than half of all returnees interviewed (58%) stated that businesses have not yet resumed due to the war with returnees in the southern and eastern oblasts reporting higher rates than in other parts of Ukraine, notably in Khersonska (85%), Kharkivska (69%), Mykolaivska (65%), Zaporizka (62%) Oblasts, with the sole exception of Chernihivska Oblast in the north of the country, where 66 per cent of returnees reported it.

Destruction of residential houses in their settlement was reported by 68 per cent of all returnees surveyed, with the highest rates recorded in Khersonska and Chernihivska (92% of all returnees in these oblasts), Kharkivska (87%), Zaporizka (86%) and Mykolaivska (81%).

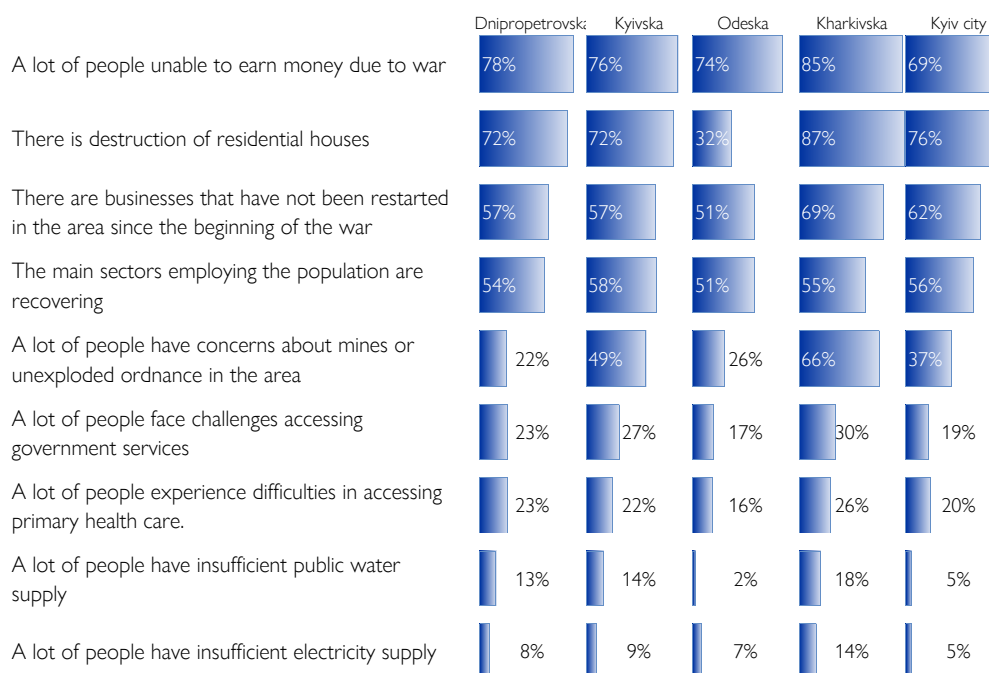
Forty per cent of returnee respondents reported concerns regarding unexploded ordnance and mines in their area. Although this issue was distributed quite widely across the country, the highest share of these concerns was recorded by returnees in oblasts in the East, South, and North, notably in Khersonska (77%), Chernihivska (72%), Kharkivska (66%), Mykolaivska (57%), Sumska (53%), but also in Kyivska (50%).



Around a quarter of the returnees reported difficulties in accessing government services, as well as problems in accessing basic healthcare (26% and 24% respectively). For both indicators, the highest prevalence was observed in the Khersonska, Mykolaivska, and Donetsk Oblasts.

Moreover, 14 per cent of returnees stated that many people had insufficient access to public water supply, with the highest prevalence reported in Mykolaivska (43%) and Khersonska and Donetsk (42% each) Oblasts. In comparison, a smaller proportion of returnees expressed concerns about insufficient access to electricity in their areas (8%). However, this issue was most prevalent in Khersonska Oblast (30%).

Percentage of returnees reporting each condition present in their area of origin by top 5 oblast of return



RETURN AS A DURABLE SOLUTION: THE IASC CRITERIA

Supporting returnees in achieving durable solutions to displacement necessitates a comprehensive analysis of their needs, vulnerabilities, and the challenges they face in their specific context. This section offers an initial overview of these challenges based on the eight criteria established by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) on Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons. IOM has developed a set of questions that provide a preliminary assessment of these criteria in the Ukrainian context. The section focuses on two subgroups: returnees who reported currently considering re-displacement (or relocation) and those intending to stay in their habitual place of residence., who can be considered on a **return as a durable solutions pathway**.



Est. **4.2M**

(88%) returnees are on a durable solutions pathway in Ukraine, actively reintegrating and intending to stay.

NOTE: As a key follow up to the *Data for Solutions Symposium* organized by IOM under the aegis of the United Nations Resident Coordinator's office in Ukraine (RCO), a Roadmap to a Joint Analytical Framework on Durable Solutions to Internal Displacement in Ukraine is under development. Once the joint framework is developed, IOM shall include the collectively agreed-upon indicators in the General Population Survey. See the Symposium report and recommendations [here](#).

The primary concerns for returnees considering re-displacement revolved around **safety and security, basic expenses, and participation in public affairs**. In comparison, issues with living standards (including food, housing, health care, education, and communication networks) and access to documentation were less prevalent. Interestingly, the issue of safety and security was similarly severe among returnees who do not plan to move, suggesting that decision-making on re-displacement or relocation is indeed largely related to the economic factor, public participation, and access to adequate housing in areas of return. These concerns were less pronounced among those who do not intend to relocate, which could explain their decision not to consider relocation. Lastly, family reunification appears to be a significant factor for re-displacement, with over one third of those intending to relocate stating that their families are still separated.

Returnees' self-assessment according to IASC DS framework criteria (national level)



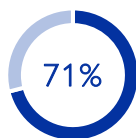
*NB. Includes those respondents who experienced family separation during the war (64% of the entire sample and 51% of those who considering relocation).

Respondents were asked to rate their ability to access services and goods, as well as to participate in their community's life on a scale from 0 (not easy at all to access) to 10 (very easy to access), or the perceived frequency of security incidents on a scale ranging from 0 (never) to 10 (always). Family unity was assessed using two separate questions to identify the share of displaced households experiencing separation from other members due to the war and further assess if they were reunited. For analysis and reporting purposes, responses have been grouped into three categories translating responses to low (points from 10 to 6), medium (point 5), and high (points from 4 to 1) levels according to each need and vulnerability.

RETURN AS A DURABLE SOLUTION: THE IASC CRITERIA

This section offers an in-depth analysis of the collected data pertaining to each criterion outlined in the IASC Framework on Durable Solutions* for all returnee respondents.

SAFETY AND SECURITY



71% of all returnees reported frequently experiencing security incidents related to the ongoing war.

Reflecting the dynamic of the war and attacks on civilian infrastructure in May 2023, respondents who returned to the eastern macro-region and the city of Kyiv reported a higher occurrence of serious security incidents. The highest share of returnees reporting experiencing serious security incidents was identified in Zaporizka (88%) oblast. Among the top 5 oblasts of return (see page 5), Kharkivska (79%), Kyiv city (78%), and Dnipropetrovska (75%) demonstrated the highest shares of such respondents among all the returnee population.

Regardless of the location of return, both female and male returnees reported a similar perception of a high frequency of security incidents (69% for males and 71% for females). Conversely, returnees living in large cities reported experiencing a higher frequency of security incidents (76%) compared with returnees living in villages (61%) and small towns (65%).

ACCESS TO LIVELIHOODS

One-fifth (20%) of the returnees indicated facing obstacles with meeting essential expenses. The share of such respondents was significantly higher among the returnee population indenting to re-displace (38%).

Returnees in the southern and eastern parts of the country more frequently report the inability to cover basic expenses compared to returnees from other macro-regions (26% and 25% of all the returnees residing in the mentioned macro-regions reported the issue). The returnees in rural areas are more likely to express difficulty in meeting basic expenses compared to those residing in small towns (32% respectively).

Among all the returnee respondents, females more frequently reported difficulties with covering basic expenses compared to males (21% and 15% respectively).

FAMILY REUNIFICATION

Of all the returnees, 52 per cent were separated from their families due to the war. At the time of the survey, two-fifths of them had not yet been reunited with family members (39%).

Notably, returnees who considered leaving their place of residence were more likely than those who had not considered leaving to report that they had not been reunited with their family members. In particular, 61 per cent of returnees considering further displacement said that some of their family members were still separated or that they were all still separated. While among those who do not plan to move, 37 per cent reported the same.

Of all the returnees planning to move and located in the southern macro-region, the majority reported being separated from their family members (46%). Family reunification was more often mentioned by returnees in urban areas compared to rural (61% for big cities and small towns or urban-type villages and 52% for villages).

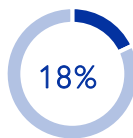
*The analysis and survey reflect seven out of the eight IASC Durable Solutions criteria, as it was deemed that timing was not yet fit for assessing the returnee population access to effective remedies and justice (Criterion #8).

ADEQUATE STANDARD OF LIVING

Overall, 3 per cent of all returnees reported experiencing difficulties in accessing basic services (clean water, sanitation, health care, school, communication networks, etc.). Additionally, 4 per cent of all the returnees said they had problems accessing food for themselves and their families. The highest share among the interviewees was identified in the central macro-region (8%).

Overall, six per cent of all the returnees reported problems associated with accessing adequate accommodation. Notably, the returnees who intend to leave report problems with accessing adequate accommodation twice higher (12%).

When analyzing by macro-regions, the share of respondents in the West who mentioned difficult access to adequate accommodation (14%) was higher compared to other macro-regions.



PARTICIPATION IN PUBLIC AFFAIRS

18% of all returnees reported it was very difficult for them to participate in public affairs and in resolving community issues activities in their location.

The share of those who reported exclusion from public affairs participation was significantly higher among returnees considering relocation (equaling 38%).

Among all returnees, the highest proportion of respondents claiming problems with participating in public affairs was most prominent among those residing in the Southern macro-region (where 25% of returnees reported difficulty). This trend was most evident in Khersonska (35%) and Mykolaivska (31%) Oblasts. For other oblasts, the most striking proportion of the reported exclusion from public affairs was identified in the Donetsk Oblast (where 42% of all the returnees residing in this location reported the issue).

No differences were found between men and women returnees who reported experiencing serious difficulties with involvement in public affairs. However, the differences were significant when analyzing by settlement type: 25 per cent among all the returnees residing in rural areas mentioned issues with involvement in public affairs participation.

DOCUMENTATION

Two per cent of all the returnees indicated the problems associated with documentation access. Notably, the proportion of respondents reporting problems accessing documents was more common among returnees intending to leave (6% reported such an issue, respectively).

A higher share of returnees among all the respondents residing in the Southern macro-region mentioned problems accessing documentation (4% indicated the issue). Furthermore, this issue was mentioned to a higher extent among returnees residing in rural areas (5% of all the returnees interviewed).

Among all returnees, men and women equally noted difficulties in accessing documents (2% reported by both males and females).

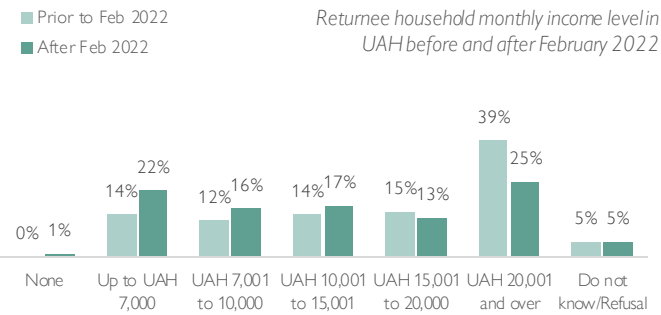
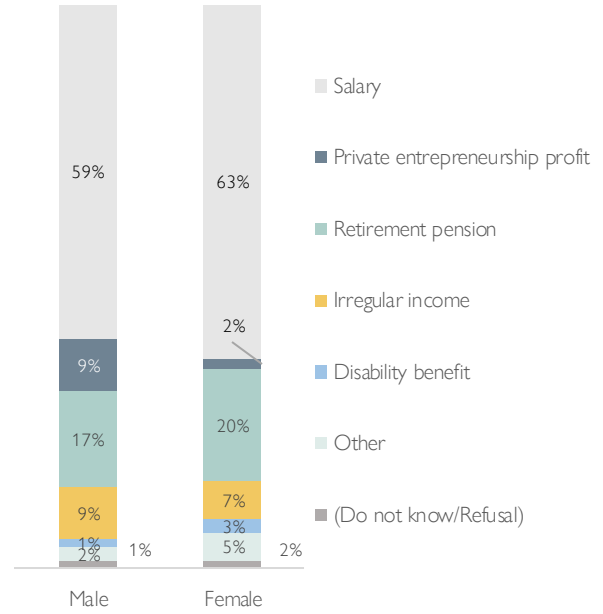
ACCESS TO LIVELIHOODS AND EMPLOYMENT

HOUSEHOLD INCOME SOURCES

More than half of the returnees rely on wages as the main source of income for their households. Only among returnees in rural areas is the reliance on a regular wage as the key source of income slightly lower (46%).

Overall, 4 per cent of returnees indicated that income from entrepreneurship was the primary source of their household income. Notably, income from private entrepreneurship was mentioned much more frequently by male returnees compared to male non-displaced residents or IDPs (9% of returnee men, 4% of non-IDP men, and 1% of IDP men).

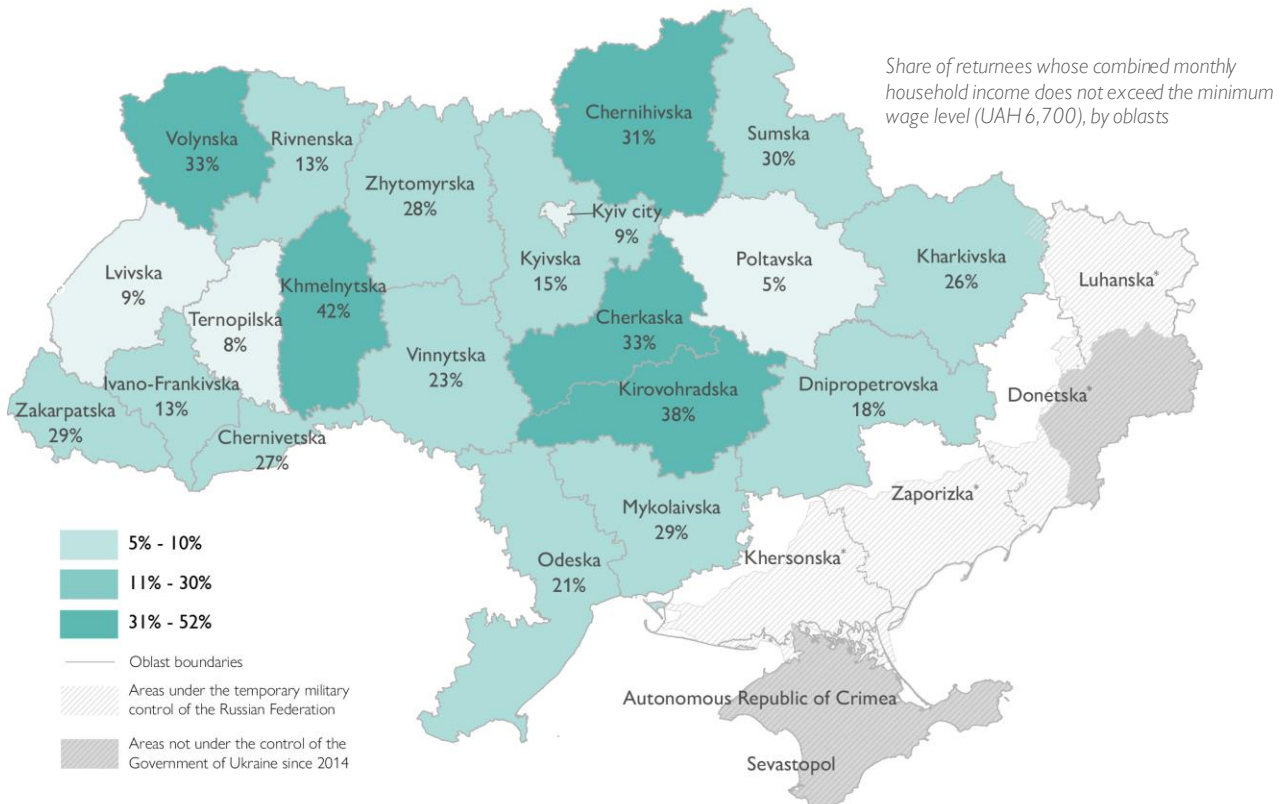
Main sources of household income as reported by returnees by sex *



* The non-IDPs figure does not include the returnee population.

In Round 13, respondents were asked about their household income level, both now and before the war started in February 2022. Notably, returnees with a monthly income between 7,000 and 15,000 UAH reported a small increase between their pre- and post-February 2022 income.

Nationwide, 20 per cent of returnee respondents said that their households' combined monthly income level was no more than UAH 6,700 (equivalent to USD 187) which is the minimum monthly wage as set by the Government of Ukraine.



ACCESS TO LIVELIHOODS AND EMPLOYMENT

EMPLOYMENT

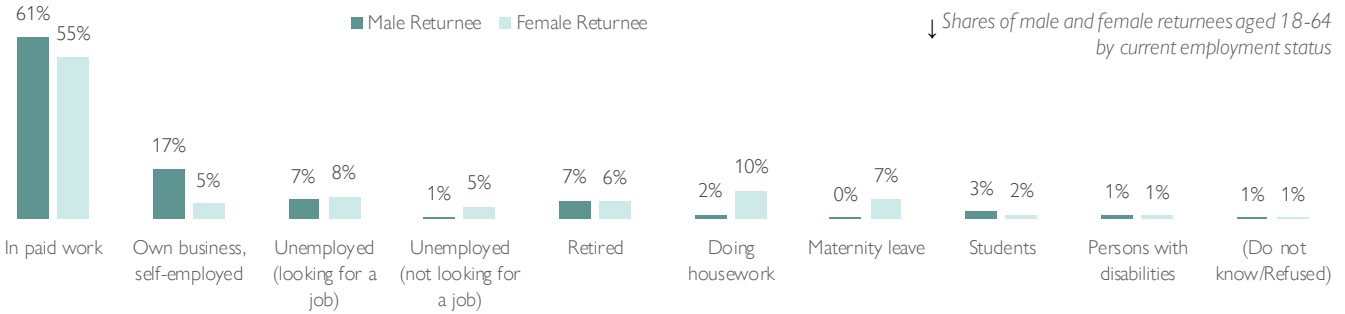
Nationwide, the majority (67%) of returnees in working age of 18-64 said they were working, including nine per cent who were self-employed. In comparison, the non-displaced population has a 61 per cent employment rate (including 7% self-employed). However, prior to 24 February 2022, an even higher share of returnees aged 18-64 (76%) reported having worked for at least 30 days, compared to the non-displaced persons of the same age before the war (64%).

Notably, 74 per cent of those returnees who are unemployed (looking for work or not) and those doing household work declared that they had lost their job because of the war. Among the non-displaced population, the percentage is slightly lower (63%).

Among women and men returnees, an equal proportion (7% for males and 8% for females) were actively looking for a job.

When analyzing by top 5 oblasts of return (see page 5), in Kharkivska Oblast, among returnees aged 18-64, 10 per cent were unemployed but looking for work. Conversely, Dnipropetrovska and Odeska Oblasts exhibited the lowest percentage of individuals who were unemployed but actively seeking job opportunities (5% each).

The returnee population also encounters challenges in accessing the job market. A significant proportion (89%) of unemployed returnees between aged 18-64 indicated that there were no suitable job opportunities in their location that matched their interests, experience, and skills. Additionally, 83 per cent of unemployed returnees reported they struggle with inadequate wages offered for the available job vacancies.



Share of returnee respondents aged 18-64 who are currently employed by current oblast

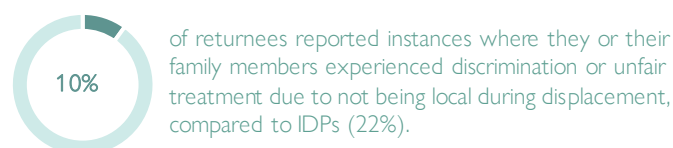


SOCIAL COHESION

The war in Ukraine has led to significant population movements, including people temporarily leaving and returning to their places of origin. This displacement crisis has had widespread effects, placing additional strain on public services, resources, housing, labour markets, and humanitarian aid, possibly worsening tensions among different population groups. This section examines social cohesion elements of the return experience.

As part of the General Population Survey, non-migrant residents were asked about their attitude towards people from other oblasts arriving in their community due to the ongoing war. The majority (89%) expressed a positive outlook, with a smaller percentage feeling neutral (4%) or negative (2%). Negative sentiments were found scattered across the country, with the highest percentages recorded in Ivano-Frankivska (7% of the surveyed residents), followed by Poltavska, Lvivska, Khersonska, and Cherkaska (4% each) Oblasts.

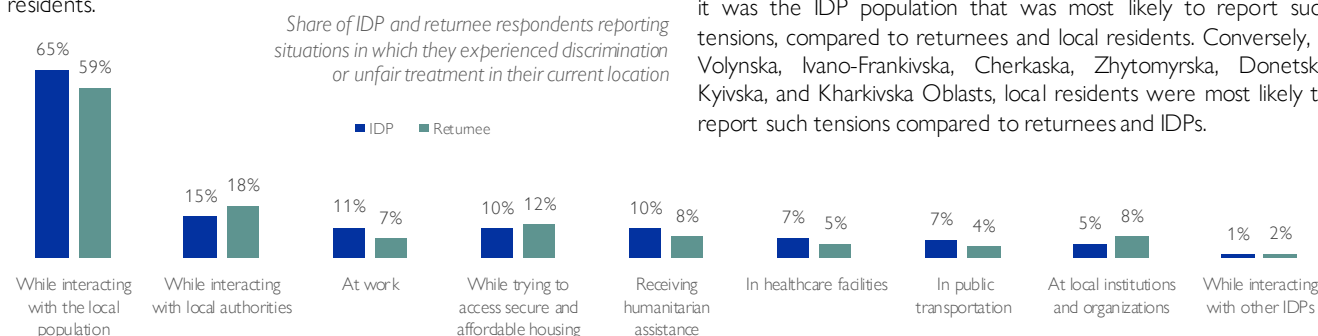
DISCRIMINATION OR UNFAIR TREATMENT DURING DISPLACEMENT



However, regarding the situations in which they experienced discrimination or unfair treatment, the highest percentages were found among both IDPs and returnees during their interactions with local residents.

Discriminatory or unfair treatment was most commonly reported by returnees who were displaced in Khersonska (33% of returnees), Zakarpatska (17%), Dnipropetrovska (16%), and Lvivska (15%) Oblasts, with the latter two also ranking among the top oblasts in terms of displacement.

In the top five oblasts of displacement, in addition to discriminatory treatment when interacting with local residents, returnees also reported different types of discrimination. In Vinnytska, experience of discrimination in accessing safe and affordable housing; in Dnipropetrovska experience of discrimination in their interactions with local institutions and organizations (e.g. kindergartens, schools and other educational institutions); in Kyivska experience of discrimination while receiving humanitarian assistance; and in Odeska Oblast experience of discrimination in the workplace, in health care facilities, and in efforts to provide safe and affordable housing. In Kyiv city, the reported discrimination was primarily related to interactions with local residents.



DISCRIMINATION OR UNFAIR TREATMENT UPON RETURN

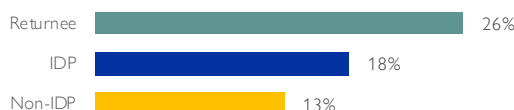


In terms of geographical distribution, the highest shares of returnees reporting discrimination upon return were found in Volynska (16%), Khersonska and Khmelnytska (15%), Rivnenska (13%), Cherkaska (10%), Chernihivska and Dnipropetrovska (9%) Oblasts.

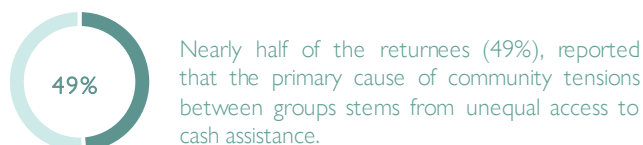
TENSIONS AND MISTRUST AMONG GROUPS

Returnees are the social group with the highest perception of tension between groups, specifically with regard to social assistance received from the government, with 26 per cent reporting such tensions were present in their current location.

Share of respondents who perceived tension between groups relating to social assistance received in their current location by displacement status



While no clear macro-regional pattern emerges, in Khersonska (58%), Ivano-Frankivska (44%), Mykolaivska (38%), Chernihivska (37%), Chernivetska (36%), Zhytomyrska (34%), Zaporizka (34%), Sumska (32%), and Poltavska (30%) Oblasts, at least one-third of the interviewed returnees in those oblasts perceived social tensions. The only oblast where the share of non-IDPs perceiving tension was higher compared to other groups is Zakarpatska Oblast, with one third of residents reporting it (27%).



The oblasts with the highest proportion of returnees experiencing community tension related to financial assistance include in particular Vinnytska, Dnipropetrovska, Zaporizka, Lvivska, Odeska, Poltavska, Rivnenska, Sumska, Ternopilka, Khmelnytska, Chernivetska, Chernihivska, and the city of Kyiv. In these areas, more than half of the surveyed returnees expressed this sentiment.

In Mykolaivska, Khersonska, Kirovogradska, and Zakarpatska Oblasts, it was the IDP population that was most likely to report such tensions, compared to returnees and local residents. Conversely, in Volynska, Ivano-Frankivska, Cherkaska, Zhytomyrska, Donetsk, Kyivska, and Kharkivska Oblasts, local residents were most likely to report such tensions compared to returnees and IDPs.

ESTIMATED POPULATION BY DISPLACEMENT STATUS

Oblast	Estimated max. population present	Estimated max. de facto IDP population present	Estimated max. returnee population present	Estimated max. non-displaced (residents) present
Cherkaska	1,330,000	119,000	70,000	1,171,000
Chernihivska	1,187,000	72,000	203,000	893,000
Chernivetska	849,000	98,000	35,000	737,000
Dnipropetrovska	4,272,000	625,000	333,000	3,365,000
Ivano-Frankivska	1,296,000	148,000	54,000	1,127,000
Kharkivska	2,978,000	689,000	551,000	1,656,000
Khmelnyska	1,250,000	156,000	43,000	1,086,000
Kirovohradska	1,148,000	158,000	26,000	1,000,000
Kyiv	3,853,000	455,000	1,106,000	2,071,000
Kyivska	3,229,000	474,000	789,000	1,823,000
Lvivska	2,640,000	273,000	138,000	2,289,000
Mykolaivska	1,320,000	189,000	192,000	925,000
Odeska	2,581,000	291,000	232,000	2,082,000
Poltavska	1,701,000	256,000	62,000	1,426,000
Rivnenska	1,088,000	51,000	51,000	1,015,000
Sumska	1,125,000	100,000	130,000	897,000
Ternopil'ska	894,000	84,000	45,000	786,000
Vinnytska	1,794,000	164,000	96,000	1,574,000
Volynska	1,109,000	51,000	53,000	1,035,000
Zakarpatska	900,000	113,000	18,000	799,000
Zhytomyrska	1,349,000	127,000	174,000	1,043,000
<i>Donetska*</i>	<i>726,000</i>	<i>78,000</i>	<i>130,000</i>	<i>503,000</i>
<i>Zaporizka*</i>	<i>1,261,000</i>	<i>273,000</i>	<i>136,000</i>	<i>850,000</i>
<i>Luhanska*</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>n/a</i>
<i>Khersonska*</i>	<i>433,000</i>	<i>24,000</i>	<i>66,000</i>	<i>339,000</i>
Residence location unknown (in Ukraine)**	683,000	20,000	24,000	659,000
Total population	40,998,000	5,088,000	4,757,000	31,153,000

* Estimates in Donetska, Zaporizka, Luhanska and Khersonska oblasts (blue text) are likely under-represented due to limited coverage of government-controlled areas only, as well as the limited number of respondents reached through the random digit dial. The estimation for Luhanska is taken into account only within the total population estimation.

** Respondents currently on short term trips outside of places of current residence (away from residence, away from location of displacement)

A BRIEF NOTE ON METHODOLOGY

The data presented in this report was commissioned by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and collected by Multicultural Insights through phone-based follow-up interviews with 1,611 IDPs, 1,671 returnees, and 2,015 residents, identified via the IOM's nationally representative survey of 20,000 respondents (more information can be found here - [Ukraine Population Snapshot Report](#), May 2023). The interviews were carried out from 1 to 14 June 2023 using the random-digit-dial (RDD) approach and computer-assisted telephone interviewing (CATI) method with an overall sample error of 1.35% [CL 95%]. The sample was stratified by population groups and oblasts according to population distribution derived from the first survey stage. The survey included all of Ukraine, excluding the Crimean Peninsula and the areas of Donetska, Luhanska, Khersonska, and Zaporizka Oblasts under the temporary military control of the Russian Federation where phone coverage by Ukrainian operators is not available. All interviews were anonymous, and respondents were asked for consent before starting the interview. A total of 50 interviewers were employed in this work. The team consisted of male and female interviewers and the interviews were conducted in Ukrainian (88%) and Russian languages (12%), with language selection by preference of each respondent.

Limitations: The exact proportion of the excluded populations is unknown, and certain considerations are to be made when interpreting results. Those currently residing outside the territory of Ukraine were not interviewed, following active exclusion. Population estimates assume that minors (those under 18 years old) are accompanied by their adult parents or guardians. The sample frame is limited to adults that use mobile phones. It is unknown if all phone networks were fully functional across the entire territory of Ukraine for the entire period of the survey; therefore, some numbers may have had a higher probability of receiving calls than others. Residents of areas with a high level of civilian infrastructure damage may have a lower representation among the sample – one may assume the needs in the report are skewed towards under-reporting. Among the people surveyed are not those residing in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea (ARC) or the NGCA Donetsk and Luhansk.

For further details on the methodology and sampling design, please refer to the Methodological Note.

Disclaimer: The opinions expressed in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the International Organization for Migration (IOM). The information contained in this report is for general information purposes only. The designations employed and the presentation of material throughout the report do not imply expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of IOM concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area, or of its authorities, or concerning its frontiers or boundaries. Unless noted otherwise, data cited in this report were compiled from Round 13 of the General Population Survey, dated as of 14 June 2023. All numbers are rounded for ease of use. Data collection was facilitated by Multicultural Insights.



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