

ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE

FOR REFUGEES IN THE REGIONAL
UKRAINE RESPONSE

Belarus | Bulgaria | Czechia | Estonia | Hungary
Latvia | Lithuania | Poland | Romania | Slovakia
Republic of Moldova



2023 SNAPSHOT



GLOBAL DATA INSTITUTE
DISPLACEMENT
TRACKING MATRIX

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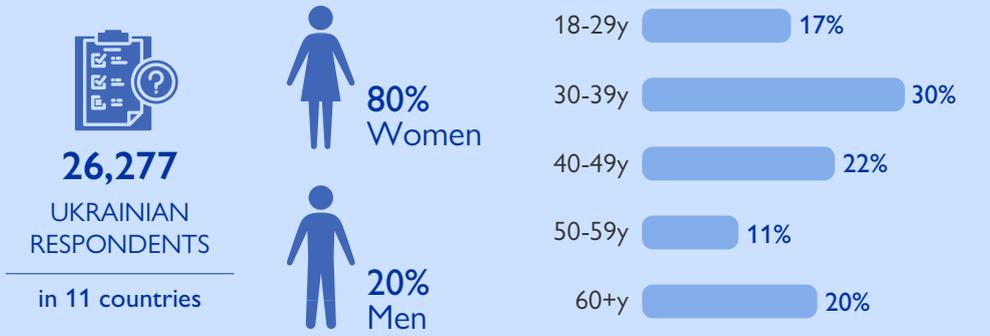
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2023 KEY FINDINGS

Gender and Age



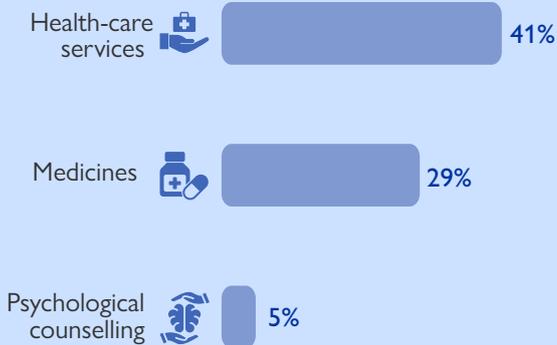
Chronic condition

34%

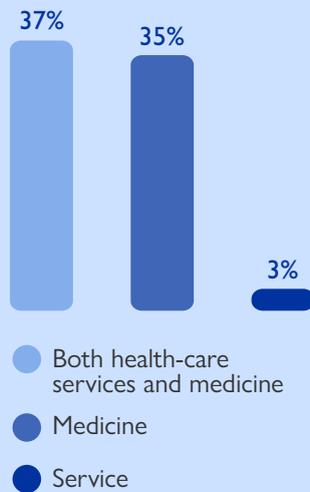
Persons with disability

16%

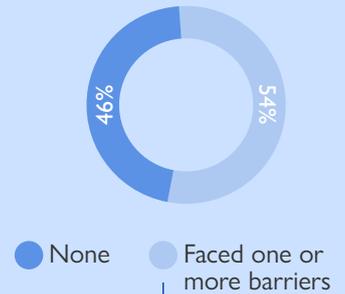
Needs*



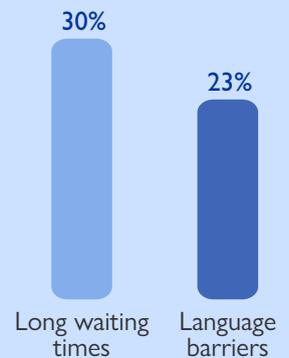
Households purchased



Accessing health care



Top barriers



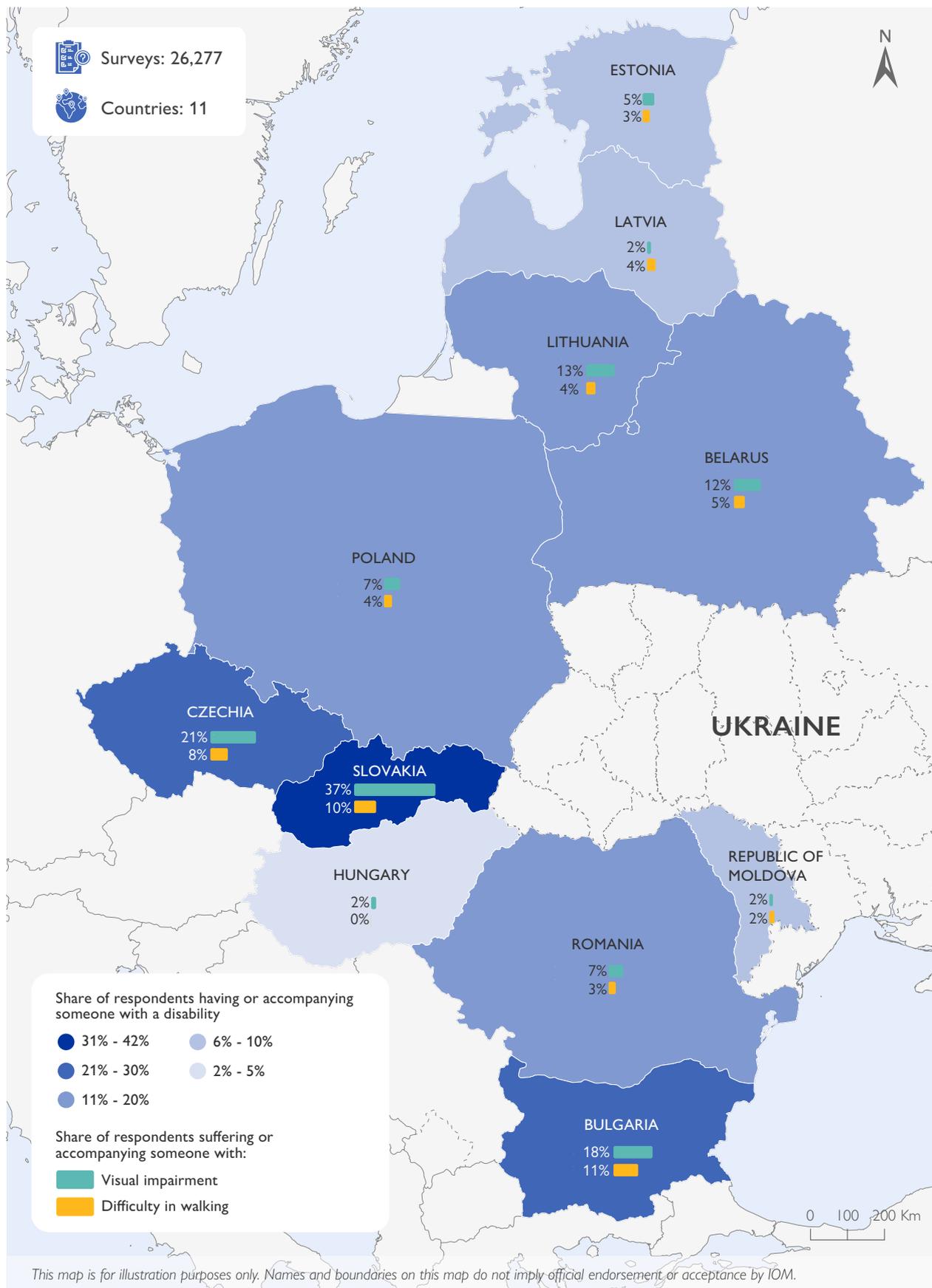
Respondents need more information on:



The analysis presented in this Snapshot is based solely on selected health-related questions from the “Needs, Intentions and Integration Challenges” survey deployed by IOM’s DTM in the Ukraine Response region countries throughout the entire 2023. Respondents were able to select multiple answers for questions on top needs, information needs, and recent purchases. Therefore, respondents may have selected other needs (such as financial service, food, language courses, among others) in addition to health care. Furthermore, results may not add up to 100 per cent because multiple answers were possible.

MAP

PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS WHO WERE LIVING WITH AT LEAST ONE PERSON (INCLUDING THEMSELVES) WITH A DISABILITY, BY COUNTRY, 2023



OVERVIEW

From January to December 2023, IOM’s Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) collected data on the **Needs, Intentions, and Integration Challenges** of refugees from Ukraine and Third-Country Nationals (TCNs) in 11 countries in the Ukraine Response: Belarus, Bulgaria, Czechia, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Republic of Moldova, Romania, and Slovakia. Over the course of 2023, a sample of a total of 28,712 respondents were surveyed on displacement patterns and experiences, including access and barriers to health care.

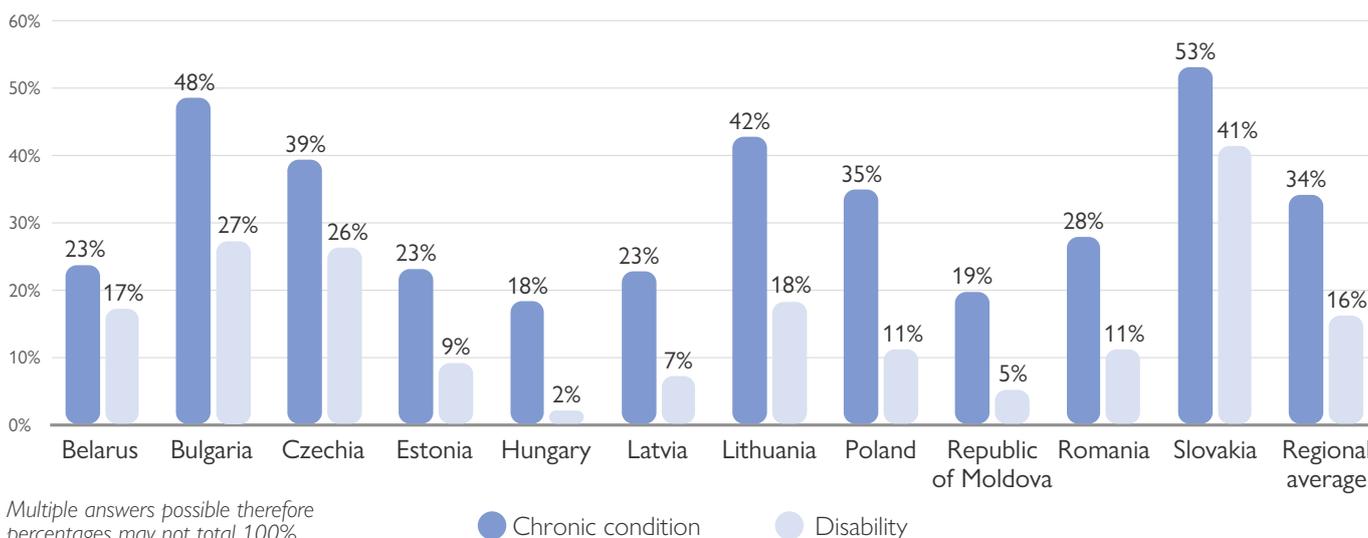
This brief focuses on the 26,277 Ukrainian respondents who answered questions on health conditions and specific needs. It highlights trends related to their access to health care services and identifies obstacles and challenges they encountered while

in the country of displacement. The report also analyses respondents’ needs identified in the field of mental health and psychosocial support.

Among the survey participants, the large majority were women (80%), with men making up only one-fifth of the sample (20%). The largest proportion of women fell within the 30-39 age group (31%) and the 40-49 age group (23%). This was followed by the 60+ category (19%), 18-29 years old (16%) and 50-59 years old (12%). Most men were either over 60 years-old (26%) or belonged to the 30-39 age group (24%). Twenty per cent of men were aged 40 – 49 years (20%) and 18 – 29 years (20%) each. The smallest proportion of men were aged 50 – 59 years old (10%).

CONDITIONS AND DISABILITIES

Figure 1. Share of respondents who were staying with at least one person (including themselves) having a chronic condition or a disability, by country, in 2023 (n=26,277)



Among respondents (n=26,277), one-third (34%) stayed with at least one person (including themselves) with a chronic condition. In Slovakia, more than half (53%) of respondents lived with at least one person with a chronic condition, which is the highest proportion among the countries where this survey took place. Respondents in Hungary reported the lowest proportion (almost one out of five, or 18%) of the presence of a chronic condition in their group.

Sixteen per cent of respondents had or accompanied someone with at least one disability in 2023.¹ More than two out of five (41%) respondents in Slovakia reported being in this situation. In contrast, only 2 per cent of respondents in Hungary reported the same.

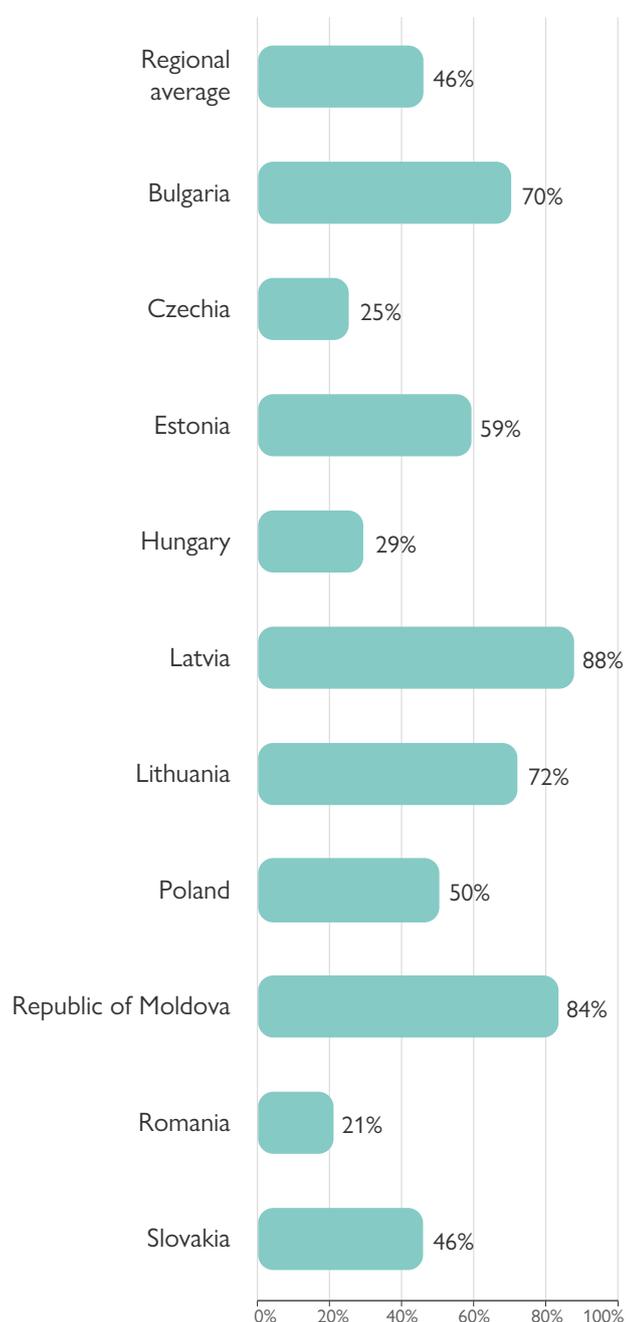
The two most common disabilities included visual impairment (12%) and difficulty walking (6%). Over one-third of respondents in Slovakia (37%) reported that they were with someone with visual impairment compared to Czechia with 21 per cent. Other disabilities cited were hearing impairment (1%), difficulty in concentrating (1%), difficulty with self-care (1%), and difficulty in communicating (<1%). There was also a small proportion of respondents with vulnerabilities such as being pregnant or lactating (1%) and wounded respondents (1%). The largest share of respondents or group members with disabilities in most countries in the region had visual impairment, except for Latvia (4%) and the Republic of Moldova (2%) where difficulty in walking was more prominent.

1. Disability information provided is self-reported and may vary significantly due to the subjective nature and wide range of experiences associated with disabilities. The overall theoretical framework regarding disability in the survey was based on modules from the Washington Group on Disability Statistics, <https://www.washingtongroup-disability.com/question-sets/>, accessed 6 June 2024.

OBSTACLES TO ACCESSING CARE

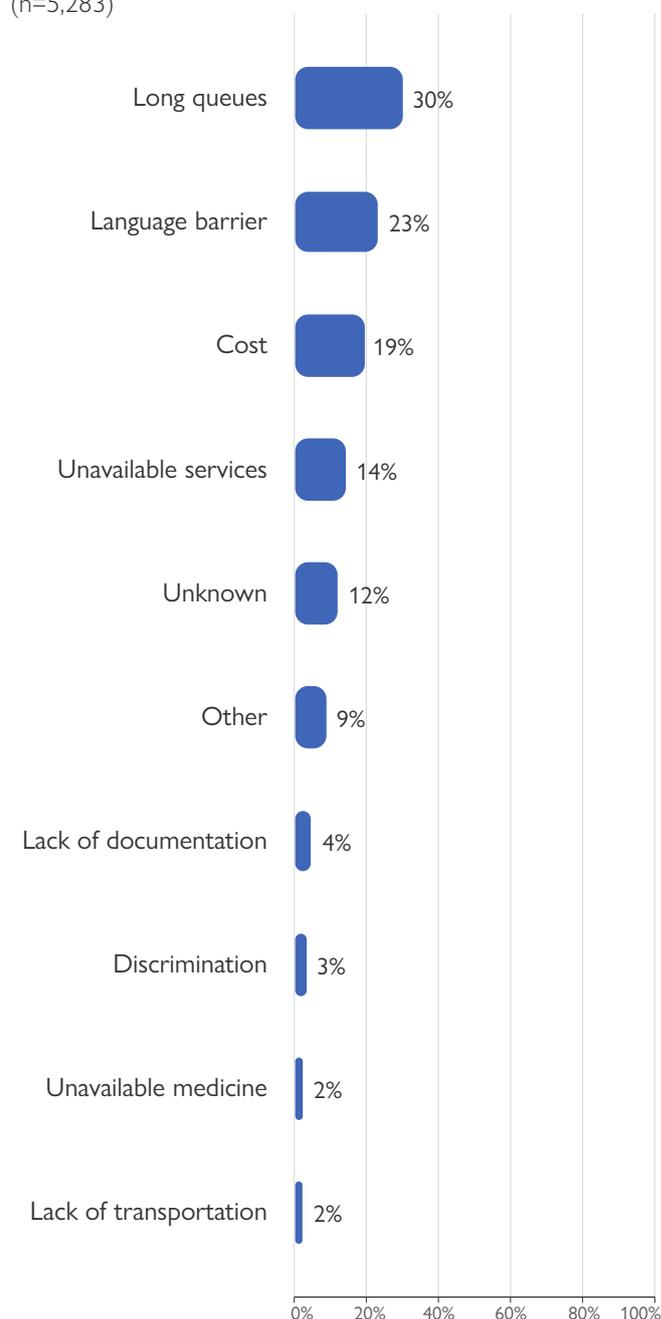
Respondents were asked about the primary challenges they encountered when seeking health care. On average in the 11 countries where this survey took place, 46 per cent encountered no barriers when seeking health care. However, considerable differences were present across countries. Notably, over four out of five people in Latvia (88%) and the Republic of Moldova (84%) did not face any obstacles. In contrast, less than one third of the surveyed individuals did not have issues accessing health care in Romania (21%), Czechia (25%), and Hungary (29%).

Figure 2. Share of respondents without obstacles to accessing health care, by country (n=9,849)



Across all 11 countries, 54 per cent of the people interviewed faced one or more challenges to accessing health care. In Czechia, the plurality of respondents (46%) cited long queues as the main obstacle and in Hungary, the language barrier (36%) was mentioned most frequently.

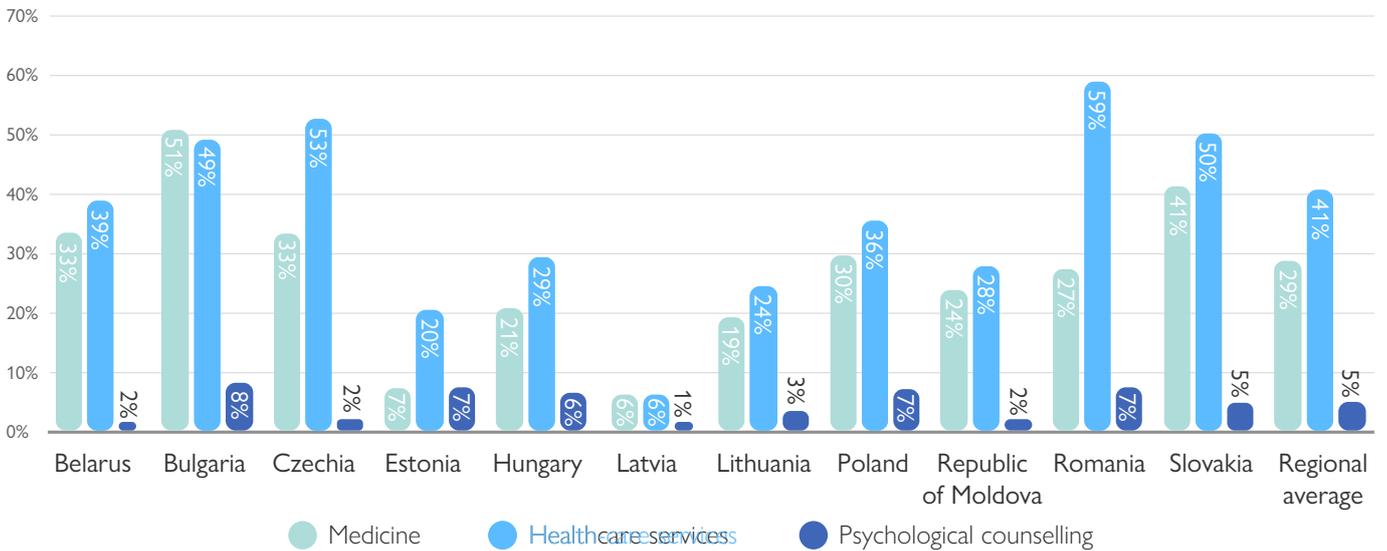
Figure 3. Barriers to health care provision among respondents who indicated facing challenges, all countries (n=5,283)



Multiple answers possible

NEEDS AND INFORMATION

Figure 4. Health needs in displacement, by country, in 2023 (n=26,277)

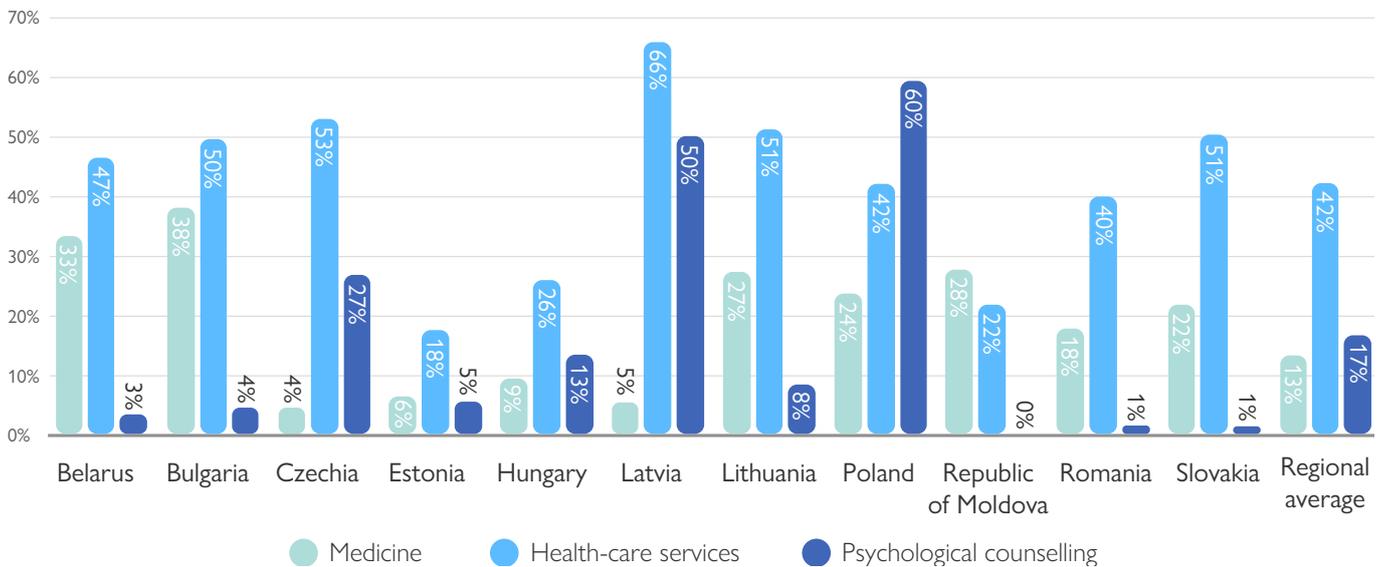


Multiple answers possible therefore percentages may exceed 100%.

Health-care services and medicine ranked among the most pressing health care needs in displacement. On average across all countries where this survey took place, two out of five (41%) needed health-care services, while slightly under one-third (29%) required medication.

Bulgaria was the only country in which respondents were in need of medication (51%) albeit slightly, more than health-care services (49%). A small portion of respondents (5%) required psychological counselling across all countries. Counseling was cited most by respondents in Bulgaria (8%).

Figure 5. Health care information needs among respondents, by Country, in 2023 (n=5,732)

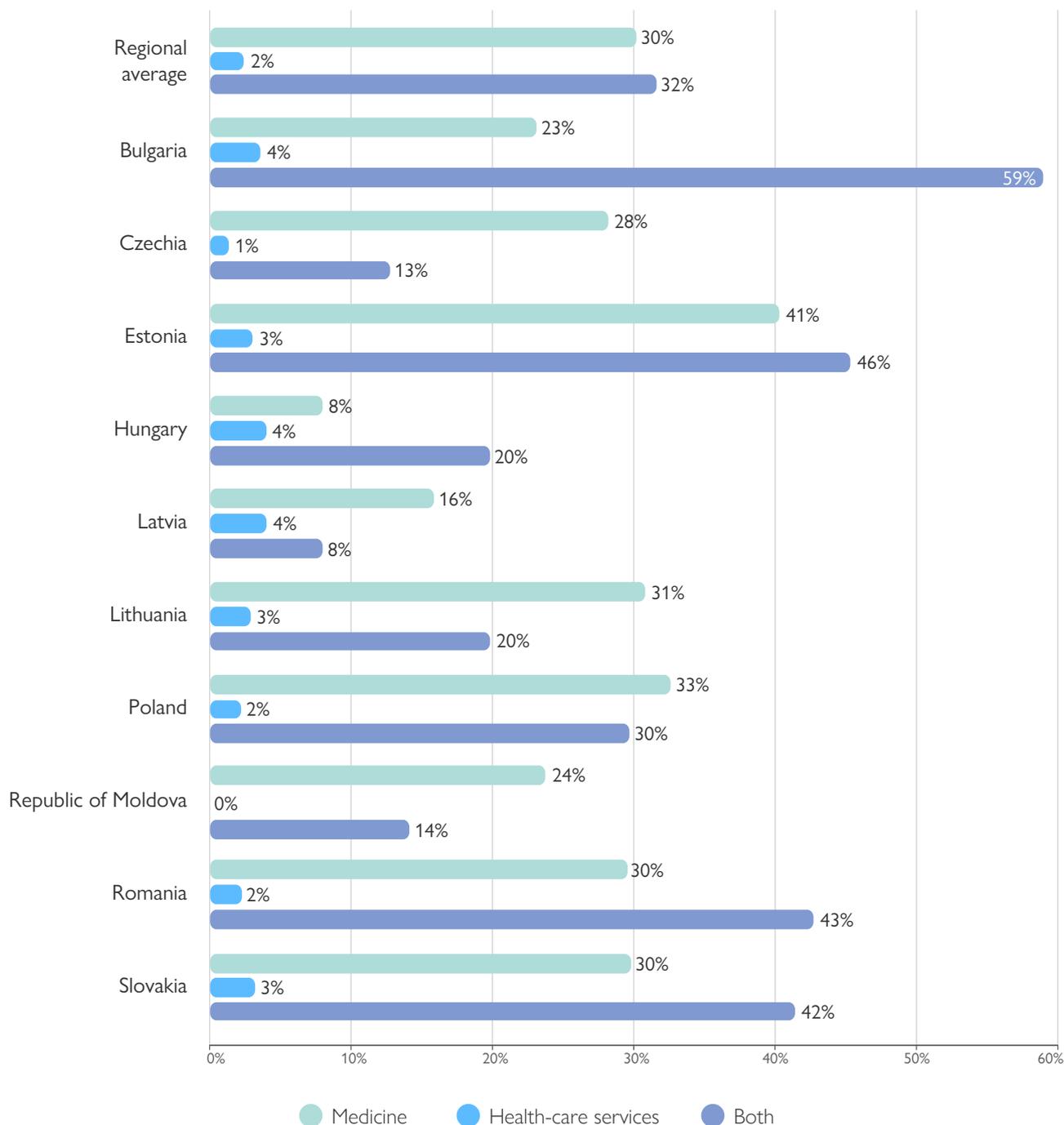


Among those who needed access to information on support for health-related needs (n= 5,589), information on health-care services was dominant (42%). Respondents also required better access to information on psychological counselling (17%) compared to medication (13%).

In most countries in the region, a large share of respondents need information on health-care services. Contrastingly, respondents in Poland (60%) required information on psychological counselling more than both health-care services (42%) and medication (24%). In the Republic of Moldova, more respondents wanted information on medication (28%).

PURCHASES

Figure 6. Share of respondents who purchased health-care services and/or medicine, by country, in 2023 (n=7,284)



Overall, in the region in 2023, 30 per cent of respondents in displacement purchased medicine, 2 per cent have purchased only health-care services, and 32 per cent of respondents covered the cost of both. Around one-fourth (24%) have not incurred any health-related expenses. This trend is consistent among

Bulgaria, Estonia, Hungary, Romania, and Slovakia. However, in Czechia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Republic of Moldova, more respondents paid for medication only compared to those who paid for only health-care services or both.

METHODOLOGY

IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (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.

Since April 2022, IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix has been regularly surveying people who are residing in the eleven countries included in the Regional Refugee Response Plan for Ukraine. The aim of the survey is to improve the understanding of their profiles, displacement patterns, intentions and needs. The survey is deployed in 6 countries neighbouring Ukraine – Belarus, Hungary, Poland, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, and Slovakia, and other 5 countries in Europe, particularly impacted by the arrivals of refugees from Ukraine, including Bulgaria, Czechia, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

Face-to-face surveys were conducted by trained enumerators, with adult refugees from Ukraine (18+ years old). Surveys were collected at selected locations (information centres, humanitarian aid distribution points, accommodation centres, transit points and IOM premises).

The survey is anonymous and voluntary, administered after obtaining consent from the respondent. Respondents can stop the survey at any time. The questionnaire is available in English, Ukrainian and Russian, and the preferred language is determined by the interviewee. Only fully completed surveys are taken into account for analysis. Prior to the start of the survey, all enumerators were trained by IOM on DTM standards, the use of Kobo application, IOM approach to migrants' protection and assistance, the ethics of data collection and the provision of information and referral mechanism in place.



ABOUT THE SURVEY

Aim

To improve the understanding of the profiles of Ukrainian refugees residing or transiting through 11 countries: Belarus, Bulgaria, Czechia, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Republic of Moldova, Romania, and Slovakia, including their displacement patterns, intentions and needs.

Target Population

The analysis focuses on the access to health-care services and the need for mental health and psychosocial support among Refugees from Ukraine and Third Country Nationals.

Location and execution

Face-to-face surveys were conducted by trained enumerators stationed at selected entry, exit, transit points, and accommodation centres. In border crossing point areas, people both entering and exiting by car, by bus, by foot and by train were interviewed. Surveys are conducted in English, Ukrainian and Russian with the help of a mobile application.

Regional data collection and analysis:

The survey is deployed in 6 neighboring countries and 5 other countries impacted by the arrival of refugees from Ukraine

LIMITATIONS

The sampling framework was not based on verified figures of refugees from Ukraine entering through all land border points or staying in the various regions where the surveys are conducted, due to the lack of baseline information. The geographic spread of enumerators deployed captures a wide range of locations. Whilst the overall results cannot be deemed as representative, the internal consistency of data collection in each country and at the regional level suggests that the current sampling framework produces findings of practical value.

Despite efforts to include all location types, fieldwork faced varying accessibility levels at Border Control Points (BCPs) and other transit/stay locations. The willingness of potential respondents to spend 10-20 minutes on the questionnaire was influenced by personal circumstances. Factors like changes in entry/transit areas by national authorities or weather conditions, specific to location and time, also impacted the process.

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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 of 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 destinations and prospects in the country of displacement; 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 refugees from Ukraine.

For more information, please consult:

<https://dtm.iom.int/responses/ukraine-response>