

# UKRAINE RETURNS REPORT

23 JANUARY 2023



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## INTRODUCTION

Since 24 February 2022, a large-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine triggered an unprecedented humanitarian crisis across the country, characterised by, among other elements, the displacement of a significant proportion of the Ukrainian population.

As early as April 2022, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) began observing significant movements of displaced people back to their habitual place of residence (hereafter, "returns"). Conditions of return vary widely, as returnees arrive back to areas not directly affected by the war, but which have experienced a significant influx of internally displaced people (IDPs), as well as to conflict-affected areas and areas recently retaken by the Government of Ukraine which have sustained severe damage. Due to the volatility of the current situation, it is impossible to determine what proportion of the returns observed at present are permanent or temporary. Existing data shows, however, that the returnee population in Ukraine is characterized by a unique set of needs and vulnerabilities which set it apart from those who had never been displaced as well as from IDPs.

In the context of [the UN Secretary General's Action Agenda on Internal Displacement](#), and to support partners in providing targeted, evidence-based assistance to those returning to their areas of habitual residence following a period of forced displacement, IOM presents the Ukraine Returns Report. This publication analyses IOM's latest data on the situation and needs of the returnee population and on the conditions of return, collected through the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) assessments conducted in the country.

This report draws on data collected through the twelfth round of IOM's General Population Survey, conducted between 16 and 23 January 2023. The scope of the assessment covers the adult population across all six macro-regions (West, East, North, Center, South, and the city of Kyiv), with the exception of the Crimean peninsula and the areas outside the control of the Government of Ukraine. The general population survey was conducted using a random-digit-dial (RDD) approach, and 2,000 unique and anonymous respondents aged 18 and over were interviewed using the computer-assisted telephone interview (CATI) method. Readers may also refer to [the Internal Displacement Report \(Round 12\)](#) for detailed analysis of data from this survey as related to the situation and needs of IDPs.

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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 significant 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.

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Unless noted otherwise, data cited in this report were compiled from Round 12 of the General Population Survey, dated as of 23 January, 2023.

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Photo: Residential buildings in the town of Irpin near Kyiv, badly damaged during the hostilities in February-March 2022.

OVERVIEW



5,352,000

EST. INTERNALLY DISPLACED  
-562,000 since 5 December



5,562,000

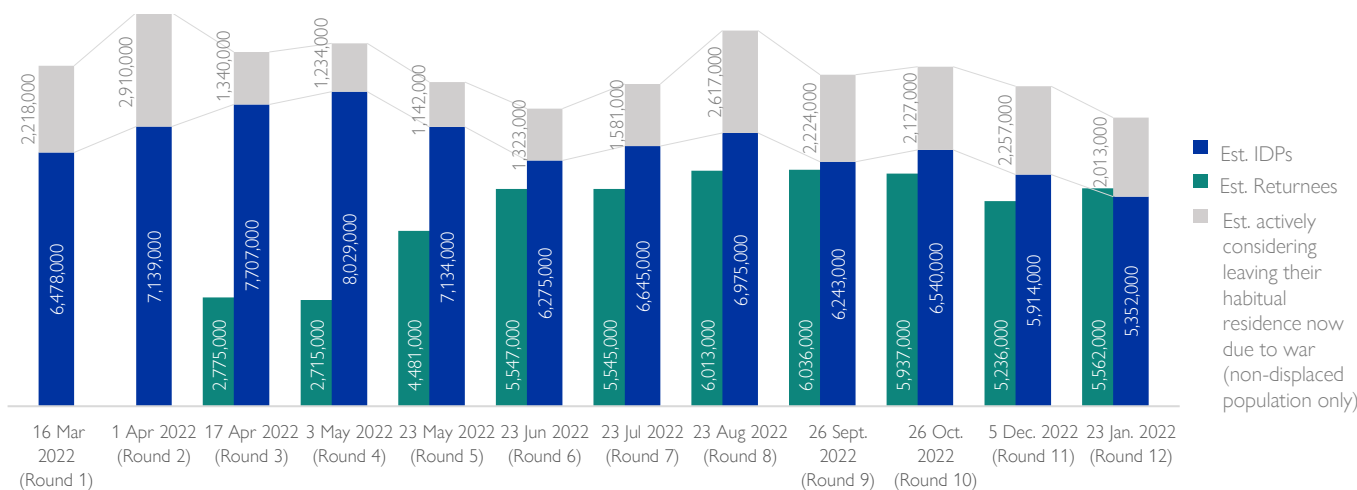
EST. TOTAL RETURNEES  
+326,000 since 5 December  
(incl. 20% returns from abroad)

The full spectrum of results of Round 12 of IOM's General Population Survey is presented in two complementary products, the [Ukraine Internal Displacement Report](#) and the [Ukraine Returns Report](#). Additional analysis is available upon request to [DTMUkraine@iom.int](mailto:DTMUkraine@iom.int).

ESTIMATED LOCATION OF RETURNEES BY MACRO-REGION\*



DISPLACEMENT AND MOBILITY TRENDS



The [IOM glossary](#) defines **return** as "the act or process of going back or being taken back to the point of departure". Return can take place within a country's territorial borders, or between a country of destination or transit and a country of origin. National regulatory and legal frameworks in Ukraine do not offer an explicit definition of a returnee – a person who was forced or obliged to leave their habitual place of residence due to war and later returned. Practically, return can only be inferred through the cancellation or expiration of a previously secured status confirming displacement: a registration as an IDP on the basis of the Law of Ukraine "On Ensuring the Rights and Freedoms of Internally Displaced People" (June 1, 2014).

Alternatively, in cases of cross-border displacement, the expiration or cancellation of an international protection status in another country, e.g., Temporary Protection as granted by countries of the European Union to citizens of Ukraine who left the country starting from February 24, 2022. Cancellation or expiration of the

above, however, does not guarantee that a return has taken place. It is also well understood that not all displaced people register their displacement status. In the absence of a clear legal definition of a "returnee" in Ukrainian legislation, for the purpose of the assessment, IOM has identified returnees as those who are currently in their place of habitual residence, who indicate they have returned following a minimum of 2 weeks in displacement due to the war (since February 2022).

In Round 12 of the survey, of all respondents currently in their place of habitual residence, 16 per cent fall within the returnee definition, equivalent to an estimated 5,562,000 returnees as of 23 January 2023. It is impossible to determine whether returns are permanent or temporary, though among returnees, 80 per cent indicate they are planning to remain in their homes (equivalent to 4.4 million), and 85 per cent have been in their homes for a period longer than one month.

\*A macro-region is a territorial unit comprised of multiple oblasts (regions), as defined by the Law of Ukraine "On the Principles of State Regional Policy" (Article 1, item 2).

## DEMOGRAPHICS

As of January 23, 2023, and in line with demographics of the displaced population, the majority of returnees are female. Almost a quarter are infants and children under 18. Compared to December figures (Round 11 of the General Population Survey), IOM notes a slight increase in the proportion of older returnees.

In January 2023, the proportion of returnees between the ages of 18 and 59 was 56 per cent, the same percentage as for the displaced population (57%). The share of elderly individuals among returnees (22%) is slightly higher than among IDPs (16%).

Round 12 data indicate that there are around one million school-aged children in returnee households (5-17 years old), a number similar to results from Round 11 of the survey.

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

| Percentage of Returnees | Total         | Male         | Female       |
|-------------------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|
| Infants (U1)*           | 0.4%          | 0.2%         | 0.3%         |
| Children U5 (excl. U1)* | 5.6%          | 2.6%         | 3.0%         |
| Children 5-17           | 16.9%         | 7.8%         | 9.1%         |
| Adults 18-59            | 55.6%         | 22.7%        | 32.8%        |
| Elderly (60+)           | 21.6%         | 8.8%         | 12.7%        |
| <b>Total</b>            | <b>100.0%</b> | <b>42.1%</b> | <b>57.9%</b> |

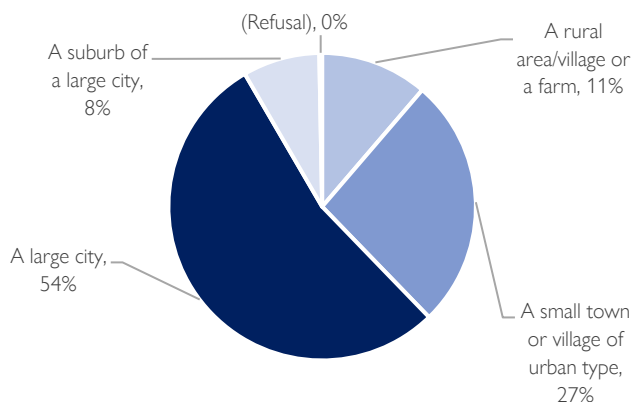
| Estimated group size    | Total            | Male             | Female           |
|-------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Infants (U1)*           | 25,000           | 11,000           | 14,000           |
| Children U5 (excl. U1)* | 309,000          | 143,000          | 166,000          |
| Children 5-17           | 939,000          | 435,000          | 504,000          |
| Adults 18-59            | 3,090,000        | 1,264,000        | 1,826,000        |
| Elderly (60+)           | 1,199,000        | 491,000          | 708,000          |
| <b>Total</b>            | <b>5,562,000</b> | <b>2,344,000</b> | <b>3,218,000</b> |

\*The gender shares for children under 5 years old are estimated by applying the 2020 male to female birth ratio as reported by the State Statistics Service of Ukraine. All other data is based on the General Population survey.

## TYPE OF SETTLEMENT

The majority of returnees reside in large cities (56%), or in the suburbs of large cities (10%). Comparatively few returnee families had returned to rural areas (7%).

*Percentage of returnee respondents by type of settlement*



## HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION

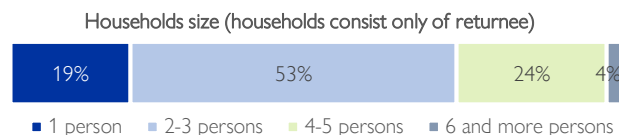
Returnee households commonly report three members (mean). However, 28 per cent of returnee households have four or more members. Almost half, of returnee families have one child (49%) with a further 37 per cent having two children.

*Key demographic figures (as of 23 January 2023)*

**2.73** average returnee household size (returnee-only households) as of January 23

**1.56** average number of children per returnee-only household as of January 23

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

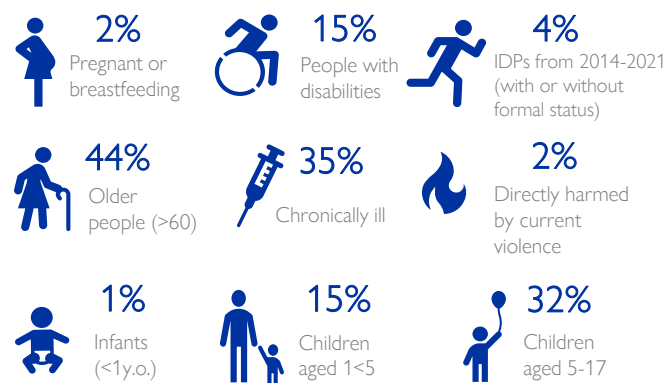


*Number of returnee children by household*



## HOUSEHOLD VULNERABILITIES

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



Notably, 44 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 (35%), or has a disability (15%), and 14% of households have a child under five or an infant.

Ten per cent of returnee respondents do not live in the house or apartment they resided in before the war. Of these, 47 per cent cite that it is not safe or comfortable for living.



## RETURN DYNAMICS

Returns by macro-region

| Macro-region of return | Share of returnees | Est. returnees |
|------------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| KYIV                   | 25%                | 1,400,000      |
| EAST                   | 22%                | 1,238,000      |
| SOUTH                  | 10%                | 556,000        |
| WEST                   | 9%                 | 520,000        |
| NORTH                  | 27%                | 1,489,000      |
| CENTER                 | 6%                 | 359,000        |
| TOTAL                  | 100%               | 5,562,000      |

Top five oblasts by share of returnees

| Oblast                | Share of returnees* | Est. returnees |
|-----------------------|---------------------|----------------|
| Kyiv City             | 25%                 | 1,400,000      |
| Kyiv Region           | 15%                 | 825,000        |
| Kharkiv Region        | 12%                 | 646,000        |
| Dnipropetrovsk Region | 7%                  | 377,000        |
| Odesa Region          | 5%                  | 269,000        |
| Other regions         | 37%                 | -              |

\*Disclaimer: Origin and distribution of returnees by oblast (region) is indicative – the sample is representative at the macro-region level.

Est. **278,000** IDPs considering return in the two weeks following the survey (5% of respondents).

In Round 12 of the General Population Survey, **5 per cent of current IDPs reported that they were considering return to their area of origin within two weeks of the interview.** This is half the proportion of IDP respondents who intended to return in Round 11 (Nov-Dec 2022).



At the macro-regional level, this equates to around 73,000 IDPs currently displaced in the East of Ukraine (6%, down from 12% in Round 11). Around 36,000 IDPs in central Ukraine (10%) and 35,000 in western Ukraine (6%) also reported that they were considering returning in the two weeks after the interview. IDPs in the South (31%) and Kyiv (14%) were most likely to be waiting to observe the situation before deciding on return in the next two weeks.

**Caveat:** The population estimates by macro-regions are indicative due to the limited subsample size of IDPs who expressed the intention to return in the current round.

Est. **501,000** returnees are considering leaving their current location (9% of respondents).

Among all returnees, **nine per cent were considering leaving their current location,** broadly stable with the eight per cent of returnee respondents who reported the same in Round 11. A further 10 per cent, equivalent to 556,000 returnees may consider leaving, depending on situation.



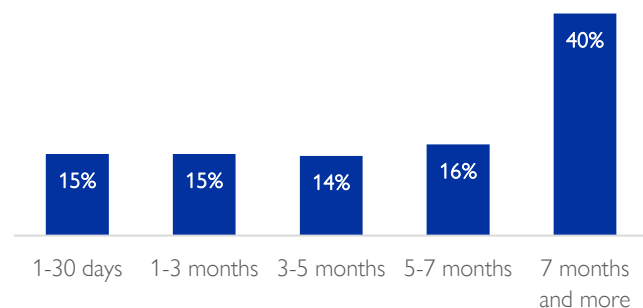
**Returnees in the east of Ukraine were the most likely to be considering re-displacement (20%, up from 11% in Round 11)** followed by the West (14%, eq. 71,000). Ten per cent of returnees in the South (eq. 54,000) and four per cent of returnees in Kyiv (eq. 54,000) were considering leaving. Returnees in the East (20%) and Kyiv (12%) were most likely to report that their mobility was contingent on the situation.

**Caveat:** The population estimates by macro-regions are indicative due to the limited subsample size of returnees who expressed the intention to leave.

## TIME SINCE RETURN

**168** average days elapsed since return following 331 days of war (as of 23 January 2023)

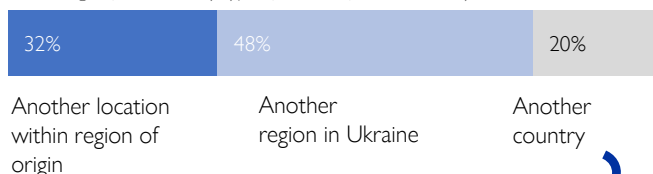
In Round 12 of the General Population Survey, 85 per cent of returnees reported having returned more than 30 days ago. Around one in three returnees returned to their place of habitual residence seven months ago and over.



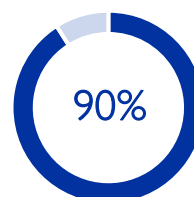
## RETURN ROUTES

While nearly half of all returnees have returned from another oblast in Ukraine, 20 per cent returned from abroad, with the vast majority returning spontaneously from an EU country. Around 14 per cent of returnees live in a location retaken by the Government of Ukraine (the ).

Percentage of returnees by type of location from which they returned



Among returnees who returned spontaneously from abroad, 90 per cent returned from EU countries.

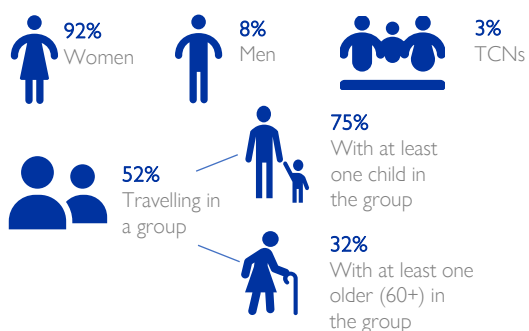


## RETURNS FROM ABROAD

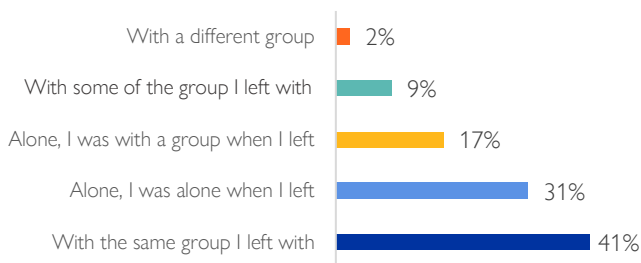
Since mid-April 2022, IOM DTM has conducted more than 24,000 surveys with persons crossing back to Ukraine from Hungary, Poland, Republic of Moldova, Romania, and Slovakia, to improve the understanding of main profiles, displacement patterns, intentions, needs and reasons to cross back into Ukraine.\* The surveys were collected in border areas and transit places with adult refugees from Ukraine and third country nationals (TCNs) about to cross the border with Ukraine: 8,743 in Romania, 6,807 in Poland, 7,131 in the Republic of Moldova, 1,037 in Hungary, and 675 in Slovakia. Results are weighted for the number of border crossings to Ukraine from each country over the data collection period, where the same individual could have crossed multiple times.

\*For more information on DTM work in countries neighbouring Ukraine please check <https://dtm.iom.int/responses/ukraine-response>

## DEMOGRAPHICS AND GROUP COMPOSITION



Group composition when crossing back



Almost all (97%) respondents were Ukrainians, while three per cent were TCNs. Among TCNs, main countries of origin were Republic of Moldova (28%), Azerbaijan (12%), India (9%), Nigeria (7%), Türkiye (5%), Russian Federation (5%), Uzbekistan (4%), Armenia (3%), and Israel (3%). Most respondents were women (92%). The share of women is higher when looking distinctively at refugees from Ukraine (87%) and much lower among respondents of other nationalities (37%). Women were also younger than men in all countries: more than half (52%), were younger than 40, while almost the same share (51%) of men were 50 or older.

Half of the respondents reported to have spent most of their time outside Ukraine in the country where they were surveyed. The other countries were respondents stayed the most on average where interviewed elsewhere), Bulgaria (4%), Austria (3%), Spain (2%) and Italy (2%).

## ORIGINS AND DESTINATIONS

| Oblast of origin | Share of respondents | Oblast of destination | Share of respondents |
|------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Dnipropetrovska  | 15%                  | Dnipropetrovska       | 15%                  |
| Odeska           | 12%                  | Odeska                | 13%                  |
| Kyiv city        | 11%                  | Kyiv city             | 11%                  |
| Kyivska oblast   | 10%                  | Kyivska oblast        | 10%                  |
| Zaporizka        | 7%                   | Lvivska               | 10%                  |
| Kharkivska       | 7%                   | Zakarpatska           | 9%                   |
| Zakarpatska      | 6%                   | Zaporizka             | 7%                   |
| Other            | 32%                  | Other                 | 26%                  |
| TOTAL            | 100%                 | TOTAL                 | 100%                 |

The top regions of origin among Ukrainians surveyed were Dnipropetrovska (15%), Odeska (12%), the city of Kyiv (11%) and the Kyivska region (10%). About 86 per cent intended to return to their oblast of origin, while 13 per cent were going to another one and 1 per cent did not know. Among those reaching another oblast, many reported the unsafety of the location of origin, the impossibility to reach it, the fact that family members were displaced internally and that they were aware their homes were damaged or destroyed. Among the intended destinations, regions in the western part of the country were mentioned slightly more frequently than the regions of origins.

## INTENTIONS



Almost equal proportions of respondents were aiming at returning to Ukraine (41%) and at making a short visit into the country (40%), while about one fifth were not sure about their plans. Among the reasons for planning to stay in Ukraine were the wish to re-unite with family members (59%); the improved situation in the origin location (23%); the lack of financial resources and the lack of employment to stay abroad (11% and 8% respectively); care responsibilities with persons left behind in Ukraine. The wish to meet family members is also the main reason for doing short visits (65%), alongside the desire to collect personal belongings (35%), the need to issue or renew identity documents (11%), to help family members or friends in Ukraine or to help them reaching the border (11% each).

## NEEDS

The top six immediate needs reported by respondents while crossing the border with Ukraine were food (14%), water (13%), financial support (13%), health (7%), and transportation support (7%). The level of needs reported by returnees is lower than that reported by Ukrainians and TCNs interviewed when entering the same countries. This may be due to the perception that assistance is not available outside Ukraine when first entering the country of displacement.

At the same time, five per cent of the respondents reported experiences of unfair treatment or discrimination while abroad: in most cases, the accounts involved harassment and discrimination due to the citizenship and/or the language spoken in public places, or the lengthy and unclear procedures to access public services (welfare, health or education facilities). Some reported to have faced discrimination due to their belonging in the Roma ethnic group.

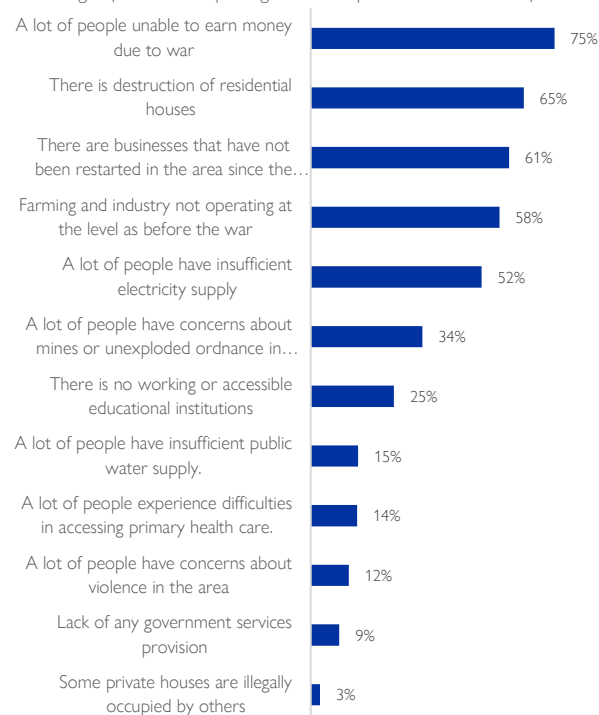
## CONDITIONS OF RETURN – OVERVIEW

Round 12 of the General Population survey asked returnee respondents about conditions in their area. Overall, 75 per cent of the returnee respondents reported that many people in their area were unable to earn money as a result of the war. This was most commonly reported by returnees in the South (94%) and the East (83%) and was notably less prevalent in locations of return in Kyiv (64%) and central Ukraine (60%). Related, the lack of businesses resuming normal activities in areas of return was cited by 61 per cent of returnee respondents. Returnees in the South (77%) and East (68%) were most likely to report this issue.

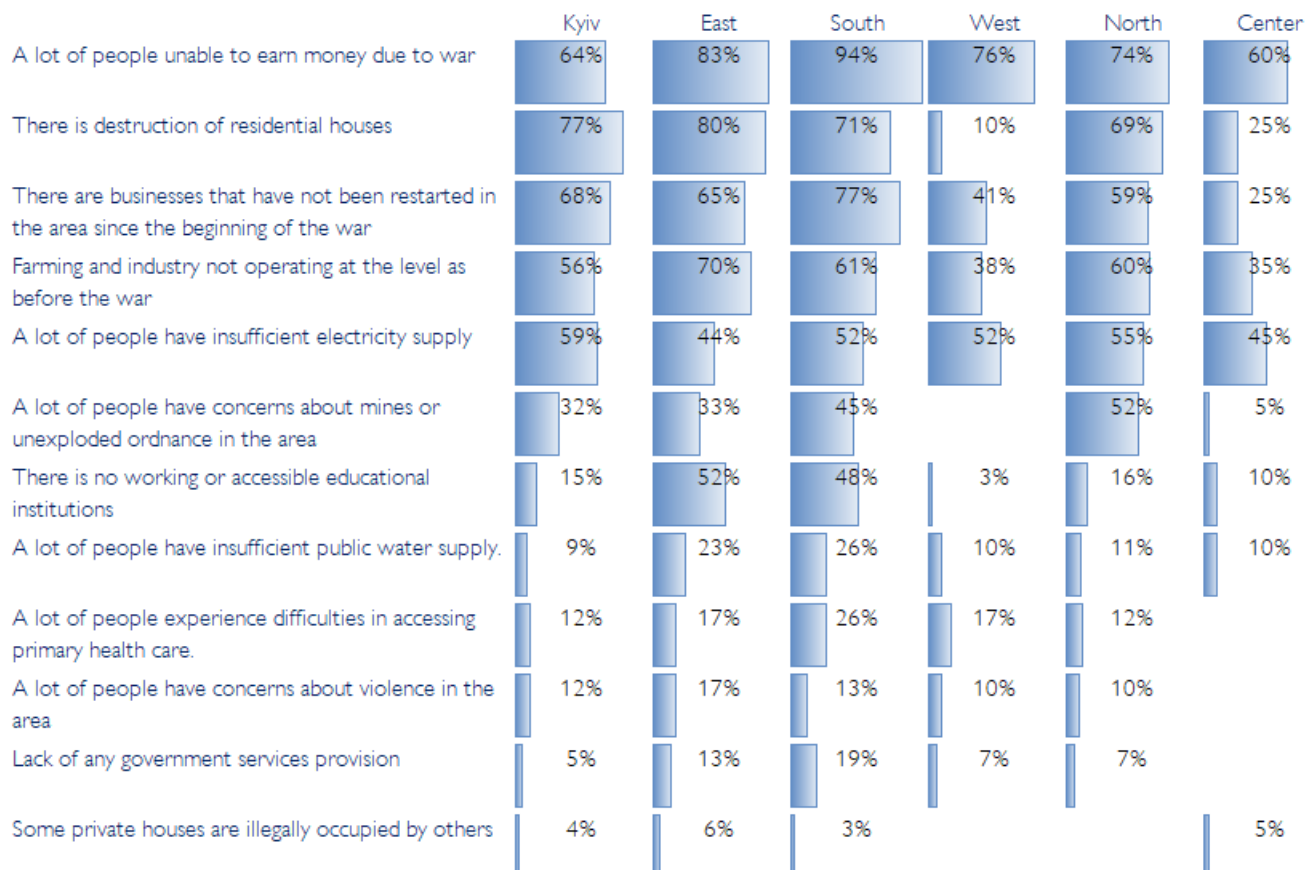
The impact of the conflict on agricultural and industrial livelihoods is also notable in the conditions of return data. Overall, 58 per cent of returnees reported that farming and industry are not operating as they used to before the full-scale invasion. This was most prevalent in the East (70%) and notably high in the north of Ukraine (59%) and Kyiv (56%).

The destruction of residential house was reported by 65 per cent of returnees, with areas of return in the East (80%), Kyiv (77%) and the North (69%) most likely to be affected. Comparatively fewer returnees considered that many people had insufficient access to electricity in their area (52%), but this was most prevalent in Kyiv (59%). Concerns regarding unexploded ordnance and mines was reported by a third of respondents (34%) and was notably highest in the North (52%).

Percentage of returnees reporting conditions present in their area of return



Percentage of returnees reporting each condition present in their area of origin by macro-region



## CONDITIONS OF RETURN ASSESSMENT

Following extensive consultations with partners from the Assessments and Analysis Working Group (AAWG) the Inter-Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG), and individual clusters, IOM has developed the **Conditions of Return Assessment (CoRA)**.

The return of IDPs is often seen as a significant and critical step toward durable solutions in the aftermath of conflict. However, families that return face significant challenges as a result of their displacement and the impact of the conflict on their communities. At present, there is no systematic process for recording returnee presence or assessing conditions in the areas where returns are taking place.

To support targeted interventions aimed at preventing secondary displacement and alleviating vulnerability that stems from poor physical and social conditions, the CoRA will provide granular information on where returns are occurring, where those who have returned are most vulnerable, and why.

The 'Conditions of Return Assessment' (CoRA) is a multi-sectoral location assessment, conducted with key informants at the settlement level to provide granular data on:

### 1) Population

- the total pre-war population
- the estimated total number of IDPs displaced **from** a location
- the total number of hosted IDPs **in** the location
- the estimated rate of return (as a % of the displaced population)

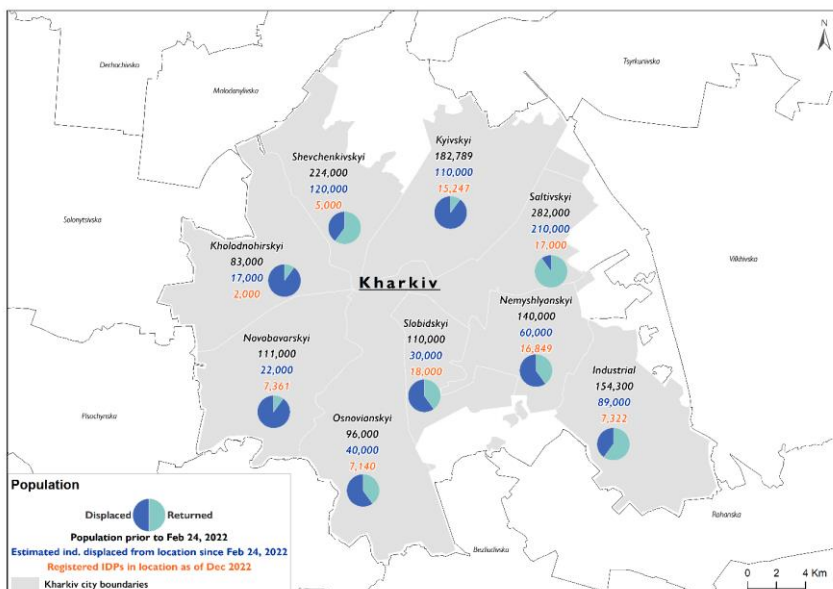
### 2) Context

- such as whether the location was previously occupied, damage to key infrastructure, the conditions of roads etc.

### 3) Conditions

- a multi-sectoral array of indicators based on the International Recommendations on IDP Statistics (IRIS) indicator framework and the IASC Framework on Durable Solutions.

Population estimates and the rate of return for the city-raions of Kharkiv city (pilot CoRA data collection, December 2022)



The overarching aim of the assessment is twofold:

- 1) to provide a **systematic evidence base on where returns have occurred**, and are yet to occur across the country; and
- 2) to provide analysis of **how the rate of return in a location may relate to the conditions that are present or absent**, to support an empirical understanding of sustainable return and reintegration dynamics in Ukraine.

Data for the Conditions of Return Assessment will be collected continuously and reported bimonthly. Round 1 will cover the period January to February 2023. Guided by General Population Survey data on the primary oblasts of return, data will be collected for key settlements within select hromadas in: **Kyivska, Kharkivska, Dnipropetrovska, Odeska, and Lvivska** oblasts.

## PRESENTING RESULTS

Data from the CoRA will be presented at the settlement level, with indicators grouped by theme and scored according to their severity (i.e. high severity indicates where critical conditions for sustainable return are entirely absent).

This data will also be aggregated at the hromada level to highlight geographic areas where the severity of certain conditions makes return unlikely or unsustainable – and hence inform partners' community selection and other targeting processes.

An example of location data on rate of return and severity (by theme, collected in Round 1 (Jan-Feb 2023))

| Hromada, Settlement (city-raion) | Rate of Return | Livelihoods | Utilities and Services | Residential Destruction | Safety and Security | Social Cohesion |
|----------------------------------|----------------|-------------|------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| Kharkivska, Saltivskiy           | 61-80%         | Medium      | Low                    | High                    | Medium              | Medium          |
| Kharkivska, Nemshylyanskiy       | 21-40%         | Medium      | Low                    | Low                     | Medium              | Low             |
| Iziumska, Brhadyrivka            | 0%             | High        | Low                    | Low                     | Medium              | Medium          |

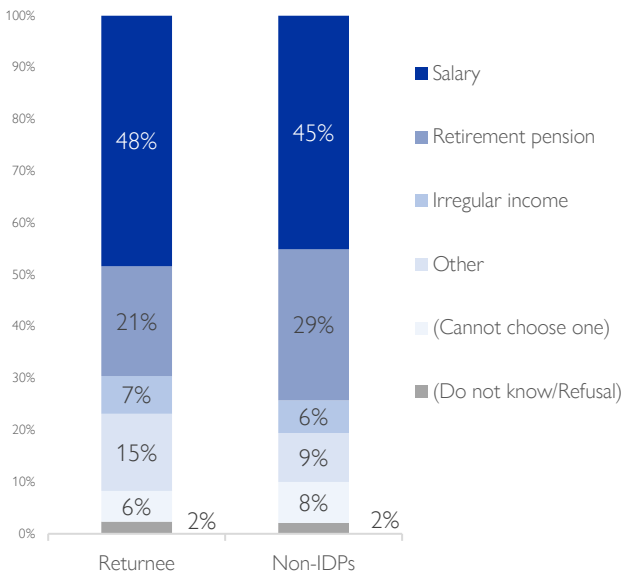


## SECTOR SPOTLIGHT: HOUSEHOLD INCOME

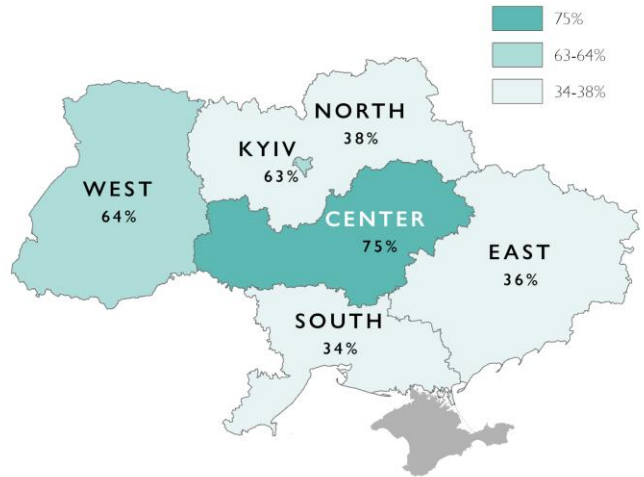
### HOUSEHOLD INCOME SOURCES

As of January 2023, almost half of those who returned to their places of permanent residence relied on regular salary as their primary household income source. Compared to the general population, a smaller percentage of returnees relied on seniority pensions as the primary source of household income.

Main source of household income by group

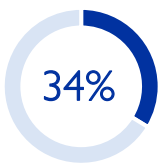


Regular salary as the main source of household income (returnee)



Ability to rely on a regular salary as the primary source of household income was less common among returnees in the northern, eastern and southern macro-regions of the country as shown on the map.

### HOUSEHOLD SOURCES AND LIVING SUBSISTANCE



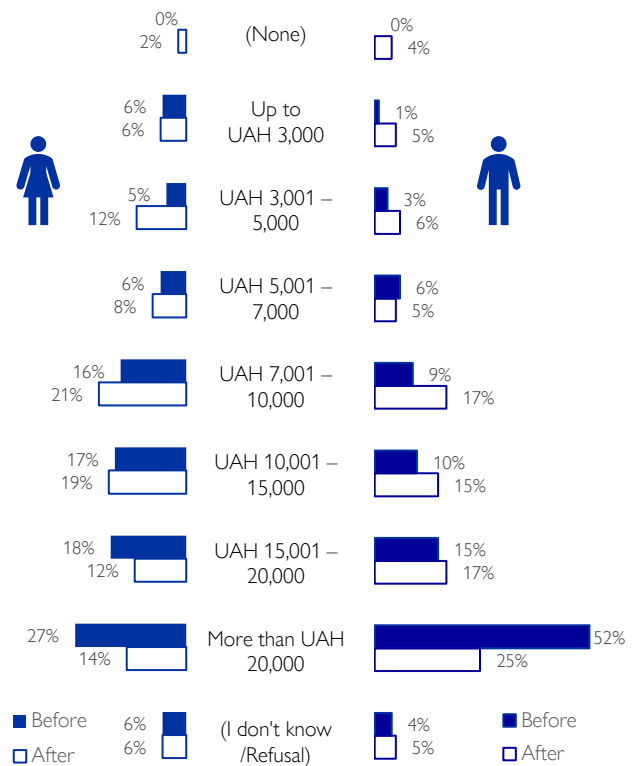
Among returnees, 34 per cent reported having income per one household member per month equal to or below UAH 2,600 (≈ the subsistence minimum per one person per month as of January 2023)

In Round 12 of the General Population survey, respondents were asked about their household income level, both at present and before the war started in February 2022.

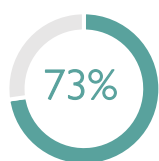
Around 23 per cent of returnee respondents said the combined monthly income level of their households was no more than UAH 7,000, equivalent to USD 135. Among the displaced and non-displaced population, 23 per cent and 39 per cent confirmed having a household income not higher than UAH 7,000.

In total, 34 per cent of the returnee respondents reported having an income per household member less than or totaled to UAH 2,600 (UAH 2,589 subsistence minimum level established by the Government of Ukraine as of January 2023). The data showed that returnees in the South macro-region in particular were more likely to report that their income per one household member did not exceed the subsistence minimum (54% of returnees in the South self-reported such income level). It was also typical for returnees having children in their households - 42 per cent reported their income per one household member was less than or totaled approximately UAH 2,600.

Household income level of returnees in UAH before and after February 2022, by sex group



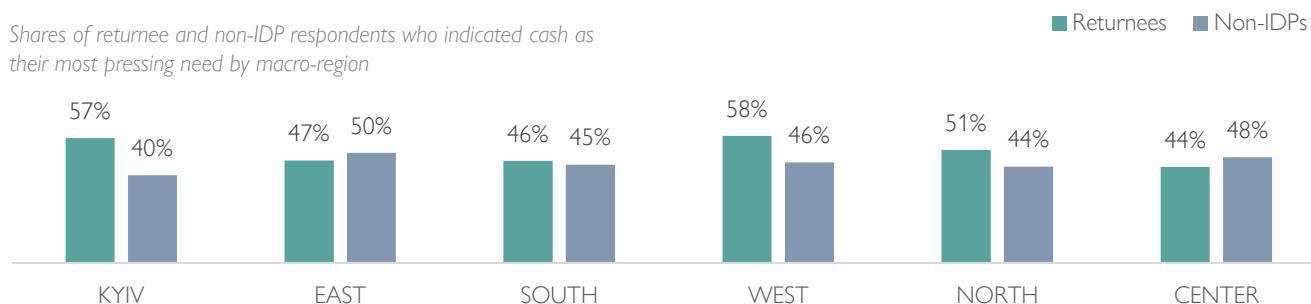
## SECTOR SPOTLIGHT: CASH AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT



Among returnees to the areas where the Government of Ukraine regained control, 73 per cent reported a need for financial assistance.

Financial support was reported as a primary need by 51 per cent of returnees. Returnees in Kyiv, West and North macro-regions were significantly more likely to identify a need for financial support compared to the non-displaced population.

Shares of returnee and non-IDP respondents who indicated cash as their most pressing need by macro-region

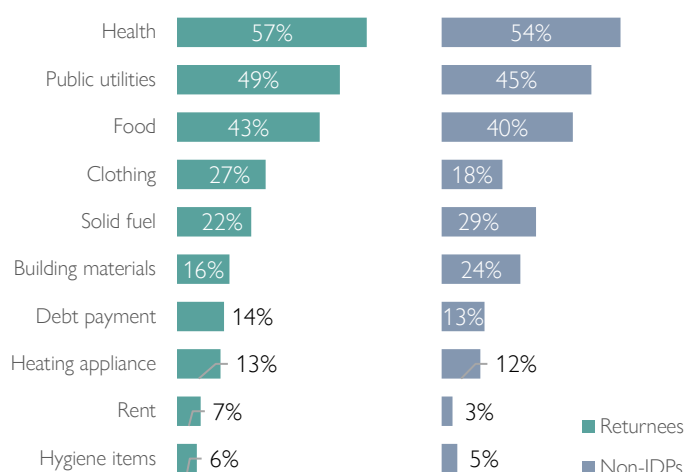


## ENVISAGED SPENDING OF CASH ASSISTANCE

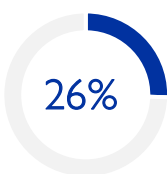
In Round 12, the Gen. Pop. survey assessed the intended use for cash assistance, if received. Survey questions related to cash were framed sensitively, not to incite undue expectations among respondents. The questions regarding the envisaged use for cash assistance were asked to those survey respondents who earlier in the questionnaire indicated cash or financial resources as one of their household needs.

Returnees and the non-displaced population both identified health supplies and medicine as the most pressing need they would address with cash assistance, followed by food and utility bills. Notably, returnee households were more likely to indicate that they would purchase clothing. The non-displaced population were more likely to indicate they would spend financial assistance on solid fuel than returnees (29% compared with 22%) and building materials (24% and 16% respectively).

Percentage of returnee and non-IDP respondents by category of envisaged expenditure



## SECTOR SPOTLIGHT: EDUCATION



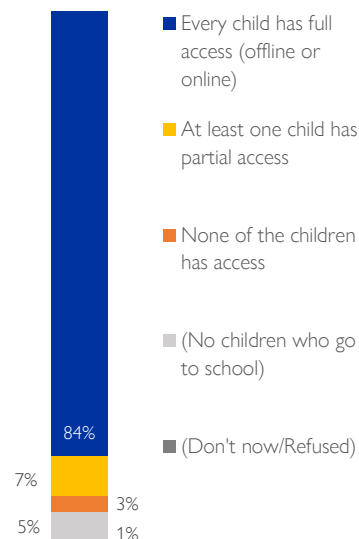
Among all returnees, 26 per cent stated that there was no operational or accessible educational institutions in their location.

For families with children who return or intend to return to their places of habitual residence, the question of stable and safe access to educational institutions is acute. The insufficient accessibility of educational institutions was especially critical in the macro-regions East and South, where almost half of all the returnee respondents reported no operational or accessible educational institutions in their location (52% and 48%). Concerning the accessibility of educational institutions by types of settlements, more than one-third (34%) of the returnees living in small towns or villages of the urban type stated there were no working or accessible education institutions.

In terms of access to education, 84 per cent of returnee households with minors said their children nevertheless had full access to school education this year, and ten per cent had limited access. The reported reasons for limited access to schooling, included the lack of internet connection, blackouts, security issues (attacks/air alarms) and non-functioning of in person schooling due to the war.

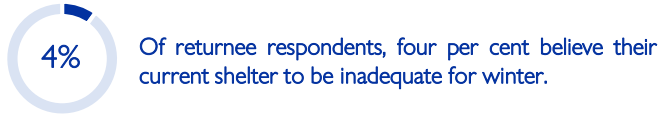
Among returnee households, three per cent indicated that none of their children have had access to education this school year

Returnees' self-assessment of the availability of schooling for their children in the current school year →



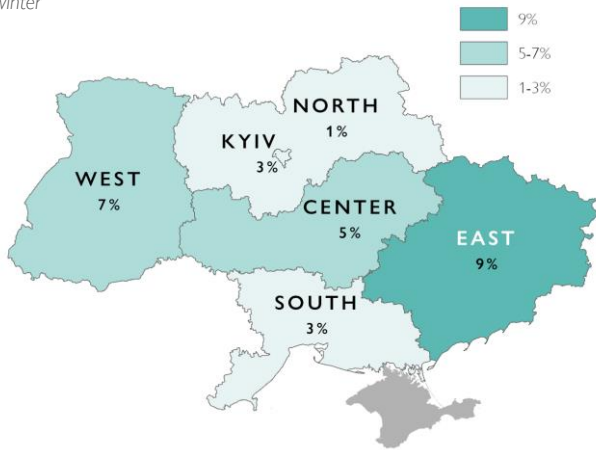
SECTOR SPOTLIGHT: WINTERISATION

SHELTER AND UTILITIES



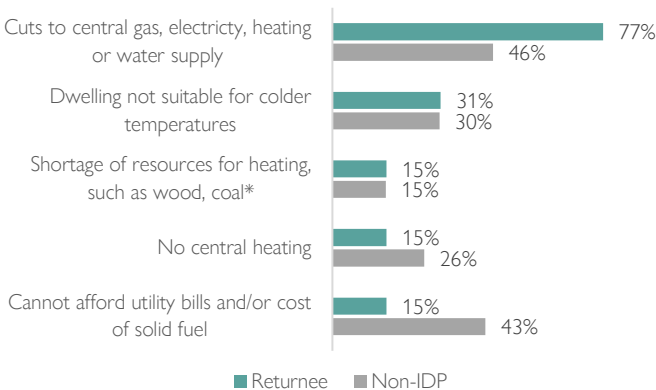
Overall, the majority of returnee respondents believed their current dwelling was adequate for winter (95%). However, higher shared of returnees in the East (9%) and West (7%) described their current shelter as inadequate. The low proportion of returnees residing in shelters deemed inadequate for winter may demonstrate that the adequacy of shelter is a key determinant in the decision to return. Comparatively, five per cent of the non-displaced population believe their shelter inadequate.

Share of returnee respondents who consider the current dwelling inadequate for winter

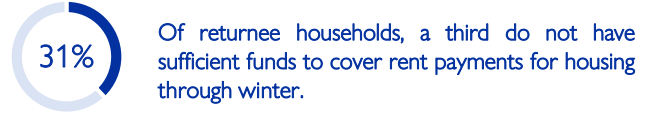


For those returnees who reported that their current dwelling is not adequate, 77 per cent cited as a reason the disruption to utilities such as electricity and gas. A further 31 per cent identified that their current dwelling was inadequate for winter due to lacking insulation or disrepair. Around 15 per cent of returnees in inadequate housing cited the costs of utility bill and/or solid fuel in the winter months which can place a strain on household budgets which are already constrained as a result of displacement and the economic impact of the war.

Share of returnee and non-displaced respondents who consider the current dwelling inadequate for winter by their concerns

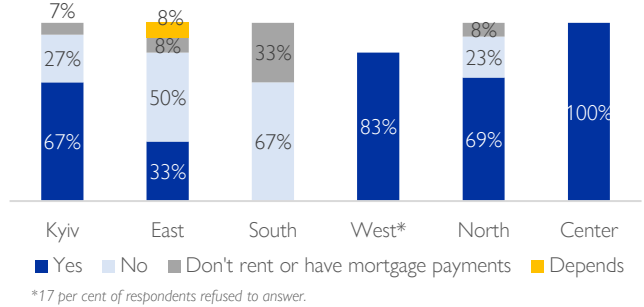


\*For more information, the latest DTM Solid Fuel Assessment outlines current heating systems and the estimated cost of solid fuel items per oblast based on field data collection, via [Reliefweb](#).



As of 23 January 2023, 82 per cent of returnees reside in an owned home while a further 12 per cent rent accommodation. As a proportion, returnees in the South and East of Ukraine were most likely to report having inadequate funds for shelter through winter.

Share of returnee respondents with sufficient funds for rent and mortgage payments through winter



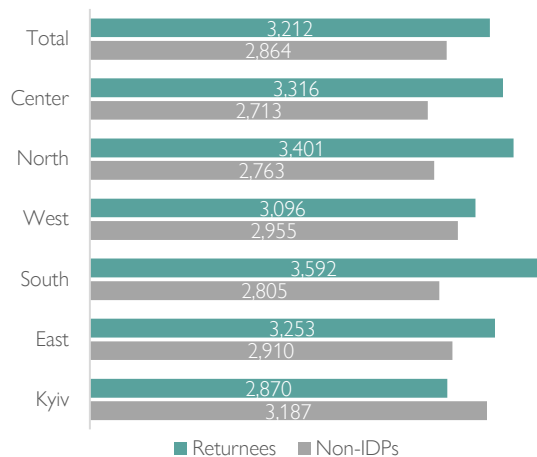
On average, returnee households pay UAH 348 more on household utility bills than non-displaced households each month.

This discrepancy is most pronounced in the north of Ukraine, where returnee households pay UAH 638 more on utilities and other heating costs per month. One in four returnees from the North reported the need for improved insulation (25%).

The south of Ukraine registers particularly notable differences between returnee utility bills and the average cost of utilities paid by non-displaced population. Returnees in the south pay on average UAH 786 more per month than non-displaced households, and UAH 1,075 more than the hosted IDP population.

Overall, returnees in the South have the highest monthly utility expenditure (UAH 3,592 per month). The financial strain this places on returned households is evident in the fact that 35 per cent of returnees there reported the need for more warm clothes.

Average household utility expenditure in January 2023



## COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF SITUATION AND NEEDS

Those who are displaced from - or have returned to - their habitual residence face critical needs. The profile and situation of the sub-groups differ slightly, thus, requiring tailored support. The overview below highlights group differences within IOM's Round 12 sample of the general population.

### THE MOST PRESSING NEED

Cash (financial assistance) and solid fuel continue to be among the most pressing needs identified among returnee respondents, who were asked to select their **one most pressing need**. With decreasing temperatures, the solid fuel remains the most pressing need for 8 per cent of returnees.



#### Cash – Financial Support

46% Non-IDPs    47% IDPs    51% Returnees



#### Solid fuel – coal, wood, etc.

8% Non-IDPs    6% IDPs    8% Returnees



#### Information or communication

4% Non-IDPs    4% IDPs    6% Returnees



#### Medicine and health services

7% Non-IDPs    5% IDPs    6% Returnees

*Read: "Among IDPs, 5 per cent identify medicine and health services as their most pressing need"*

### NEEDS: GENDER DIMENSION

While the need for financial assistance was ubiquitous, male returnees were the least likely of all population groups to report this need (55%, up from 44% in Round 11). Female returnees were also more likely to report the need for clothes, medicines and health services.

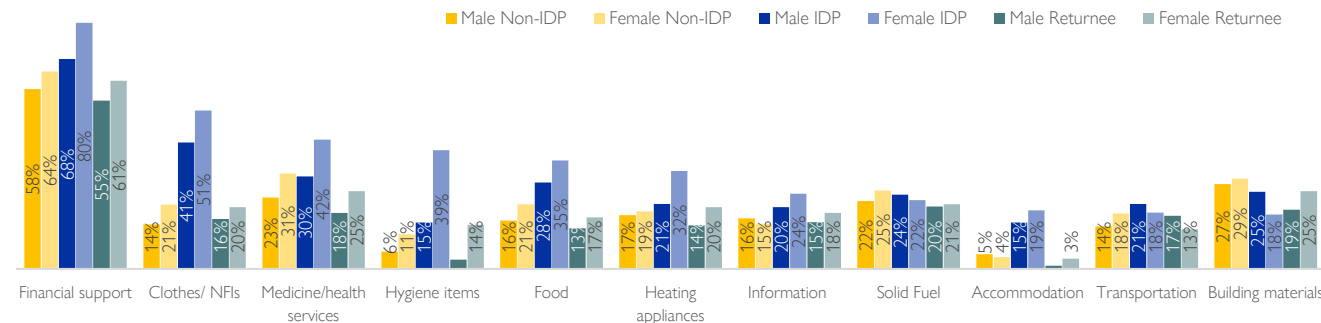
### COMPARATIVE NEEDS ASSESSMENT

All respondents were asked to indicate whether they were in need of support in each of the categories listed below. Needs vary by displacement status, in line with situation. For example, IDPs are in a higher need of heating appliances compared to non-displaced and returnee population nation-wide.

Note: % indicate those who answered "Yes" and "Partially yes" in each of the category of needs

*Read: "75% of IDPs are in need of financial assistance"*

|  | Non-IDPs | IDPs | Returnees |
|--|----------|------|-----------|
| Cash - Financial support                 | 62%      | 75%  | 59%       |
| Clothes, shoes and other NFI's           | 18%      | 47%  | 19%       |
| Medicine and health services             | 28%      | 37%  | 23%       |
| Food                                     | 19%      | 32%  | 15%       |
| Hygiene items                            | 9%       | 29%  | 11%       |
| Heating appliances                       | 18%      | 27%  | 18%       |
| Solid fuel for heating                   | 24%      | 23%  | 21%       |
| Information or communication with others | 15%      | 23%  | 17%       |
| Building materials                       | 28%      | 21%  | 23%       |
| Transportation                           | 16%      | 19%  | 14%       |
| Accommodation                            | 4%       | 17%  | 3%        |
| Access to money                          | 19%      | 16%  | 18%       |





## 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 a rapid phone-based survey. The twelfth round of data collection among a set of unique 2,000 adults (18 years and above) was completed between 16 and 23 January 2023. This probabilistic sample, representative of over 30 million Ukrainian adults (18 years or older), was stratified to achieve representativeness at the level of 6 macro-regions of Ukraine. The sample frame was constructed by developing a list of 100,000 ten-digit phone numbers created by combining the three-digit prefix used by mobile phone operators with a randomly generated seven-digit phone number. The generated sample frame was proportional to the national market share of the six phone networks covered in the study. Using the random-digit-dial (RDD) approach, phone numbers were randomly generated, producing a new number every milli-second interval. Interviews were anonymous, and respondents were asked for consent prior to starting an interview. Interviewers used a structured questionnaire and the computer-assisted telephone interview (CATI) technique to directly enter the results into a data entry program.

Using this methodology, for Round 12, interview teams were able to successfully complete the surveys with 2,002 unique eligible and consenting adult respondents. While the response rate using the RDD approach in Ukraine has typically yielded a response rate of ca 7-8%, in Round 12 of this survey, a response rate of 12.0% was achieved. A total of 27 interviewers were employed for this work. The team was composed of 6 male and 21 female interviewers. Interviews were conducted in Ukrainian (83%) and Russian languages (17%), with language selection following respondents' preference.

**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.

**Caveat:** The survey collected information on the people's characteristics, their current locations and/or locations after the displacement (geographical information), intentions to move and planned destinations, needs, and issues faced by the people during the crisis. The analysis relies on two approaches when assessing the population profiles, their issues, and needs. The analysis of geographical profiles utilizes the data, excluding the missing values identified at the macro-region level (n=2,000). The needs assessment and all other analysis is done using the available sample (considering the question refusal rate).

| Sample allocation and number of interviews per macro-region |                                  |                 | Sample error         |            |                      |
|---|----------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------|------------|----------------------|
| Macro-region  | Total interviews (f/m/no answer) | Interview share | Macro-region         |            | 95% confidence Level |
| KYIV  | 177 (110/65/0)                   | 9%              | KYIV                 | +/-        | 7%                   |
| EAST  | 500 (281/2019/0)                 | 25%             | EAST                 | +/-        | 4%                   |
| SOUTH   | 214 (122/92/0)                   | 11%             | SOUTH                | +/-        | 4%                   |
| WEST  | 457 (193/264/0)                  | 23%             | WEST                 | +/-        | 4%                   |
| NORTH   | 380 (151/228/1)                  | 19%             | NORTH                | +/-        | 3%                   |
| CENTER  | 274 (159/115/0)                  | 14%             | CENTER               | +/-        | 4%                   |
| Undisclosed location  | 0 (0/0/0)                        | 0%              | <b>Total Ukraine</b> | <b>+/-</b> | <b>2%</b>            |
| <b>Total Ukraine</b>  | <b>2,000 (1164/835/1)</b>        | <b>100%</b>     |                      |            |                      |

**Definitions:** The [IOM Glossary on Migration](#) defines **Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)** as persons or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee, or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized State border. Operationally, for this exercise, interviewers define and understand IDPs as persons who left their habitual place of residence due to the current war.

IOM defines a **returnee** as a person who had undergone a migratory movement and arrived back to their original place of habitual residence. For purposes of the present analysis, IOM identified as returnees those respondents who indicated having left the place of their habitual residence since the 24<sup>th</sup> of February due to the current war for a period of a minimum of 2 weeks (14 days), but who have indicated that they had since returned.

The 1951 Refugee Convention defines a **refugee** as: *Someone who is unable or unwilling to return to their country of origin owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group, or political opinion.*

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. The opinions expressed in the report are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the IOM.



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