CZECHIA

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

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Country Report & Data Analysis

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Cover photo: IOM' DTM enumerator speaking with refugees from Ukraine in Prague, Czechia. © IOM 2023

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KEY FINDINGS

- **Top oblasts of origin:** the top three regions of origin were Kharkivska (14%), Donetska (9%) and Dnipropetrovska (8%).

- **Intentions to move:** back to a place of origin in Ukraine (52%), no intention to move (37%), to another country (1.7%) - mainly to Poland, Germany, and Canada.

- **Top three needs upon return:** cash support (22%), job placement (19%) and housing (16%).

- **Employment status:** employed (33%), unemployed and looking for a job (28%),

- daily worker (14%), self-employed (3%), student, student (2%), unemployed and not looking for a job (7%), maternity/paternity leave (2%), retired (10%).

- **Top three areas of assistance received:** financial support (94%), accommodation (62%) and food supplies (16%).

- **Top three inclusion challenges:** financial issues (32%), language (17%) and documentation issues (16%).

* more than one answer possible

Map 1: Czechia, surveys deployed & locations
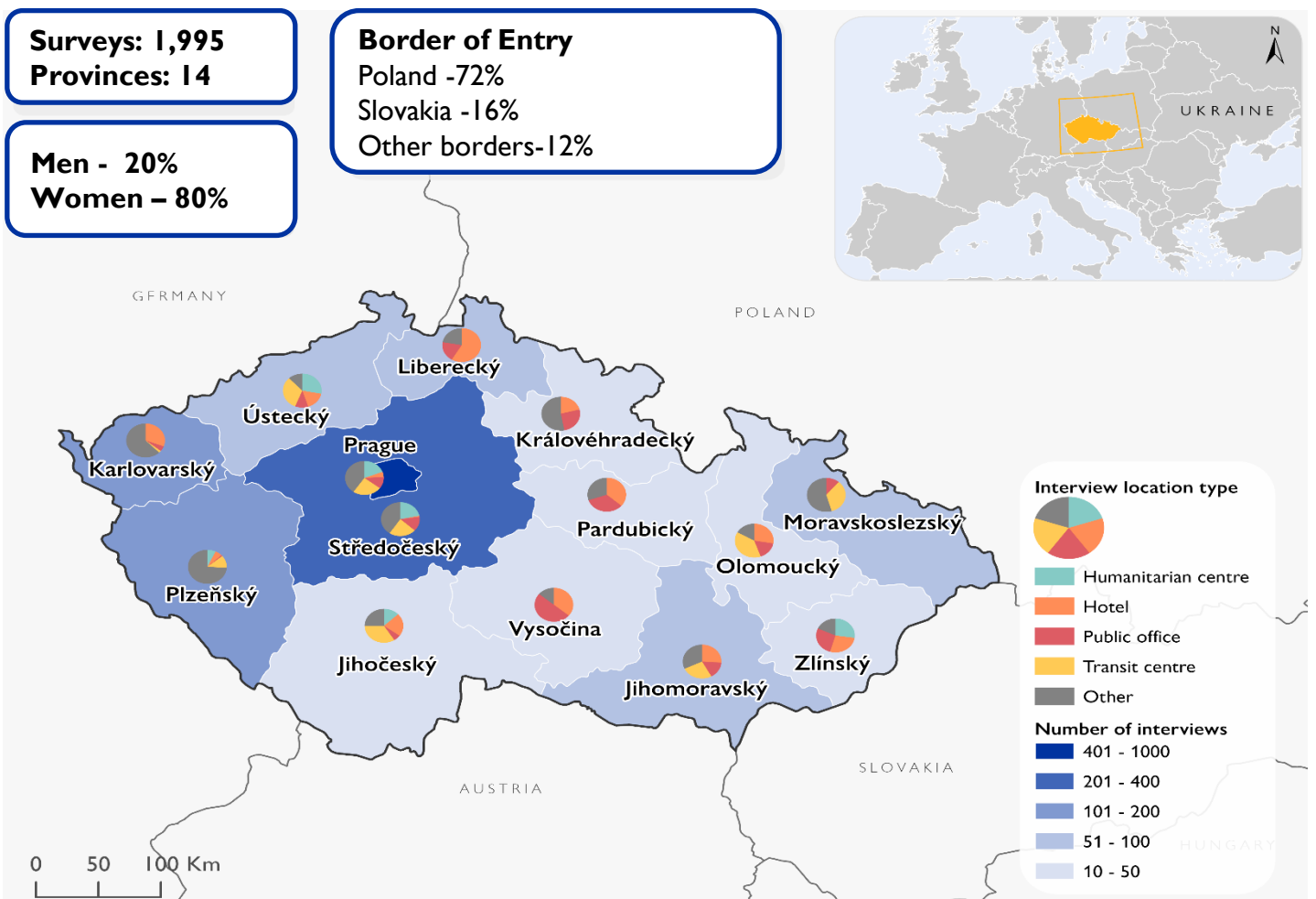
Surveys: 1,995
Provinces: 14

Border of Entry
Poland -72%
Slovakia -16%
Other borders-12%

Men - 20%
Women – 80%

Interview location type
- Humanitarian centre
- Hotel
- Public office
- Transit centre
- Other

Number of interviews
- 401 - 1000
- 201 - 400
- 101 - 200
- 51 - 100
- 10 - 50

This map is for illustration purposes only. The boundaries and names shown, and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by IOM.

I. Socio-Demographic Profile

Oblast (region) of origin

Respondents came from almost all regions of Ukraine, but a majority came from the eastern and southern parts of the country. Fifty-nine per cent of respondents were from seven regions of origin or habitual residence before leaving Ukraine.

These were Kharkivska (14%), Donetska (9%), Dnipropetrovska (8%), Zaporizka (7%), Kyiv city (7%),

Zakarpatska (7%), and Khersonska (6%).

The remaining respondents (41%) were living in other 19 regions throughout Ukraine. These included Mykolaivska (5%), Ivano-Frankivska (4%), Kyivska (4%), Odeska (4%), Lvivska (3%), Sumska (3%) as well as Luhanska, Vinnytska, Poltavska, Volynska, and Chernihivska (2% each).

Map 2: Oblast of origin before leaving Ukraine (%)
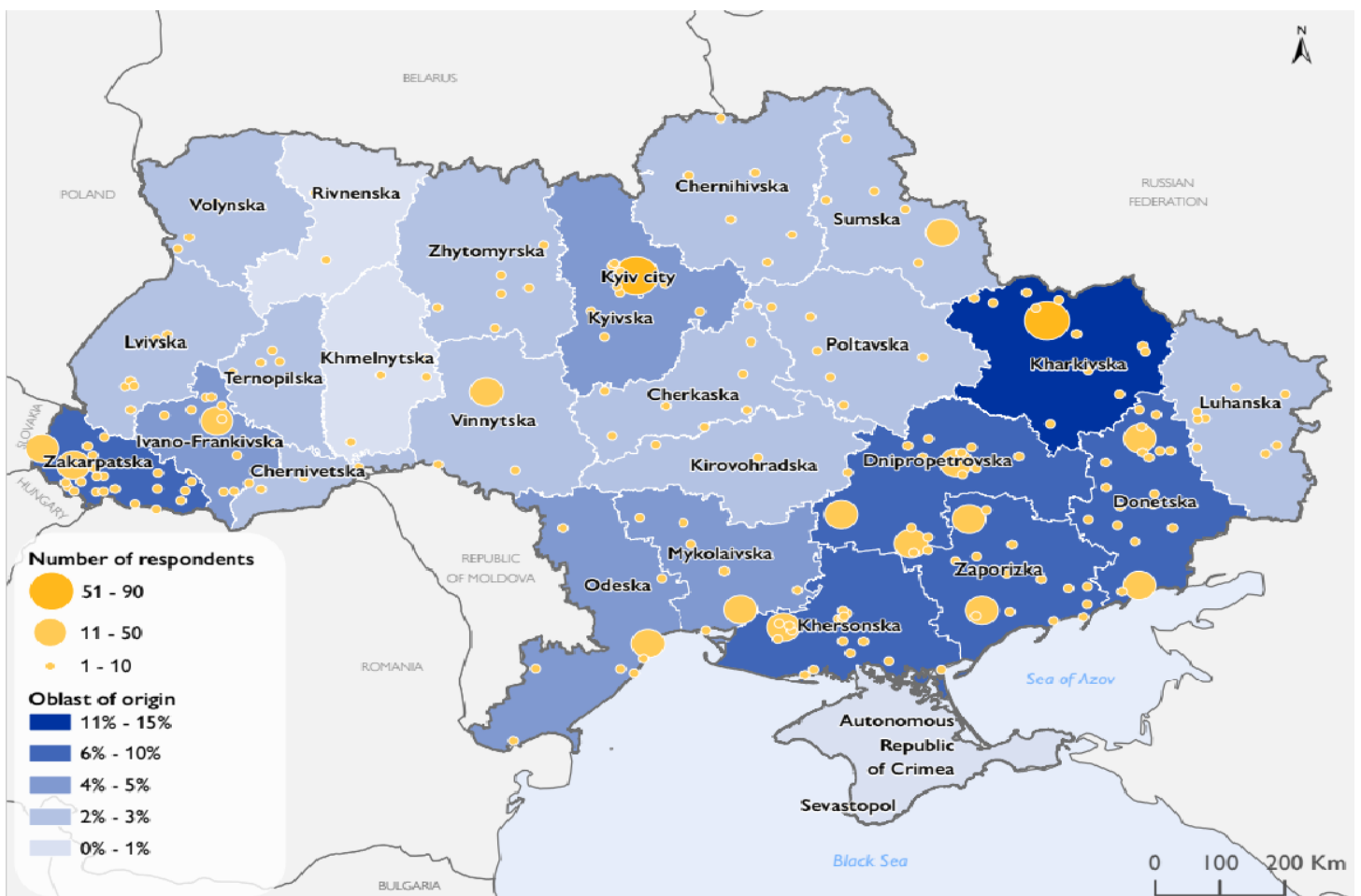
This map is for illustration purposes only. The boundaries and names shown, and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by IOM.

Gender and age

Out of the 1,995 refugees from Ukraine interviewed in Czechia, 80 per cent were adult women, and 20 per cent were men. The average age for the total sample was 42 years. When looking at the data disaggregated by gender, in average, men were slightly older than their female counterparts (44 years of average age for men, versus 42 years of average age for women).

Most respondents were between 30 and 39 years of age (29%) and between 40 and 49 years of age (24%).

The difference in age group by gender was insignificant. Men were more likely to be of 60 years or above than women (23% of men compared to 14% of women).

Figure 1: Age, by gender and total, N= 1, 995 (%)
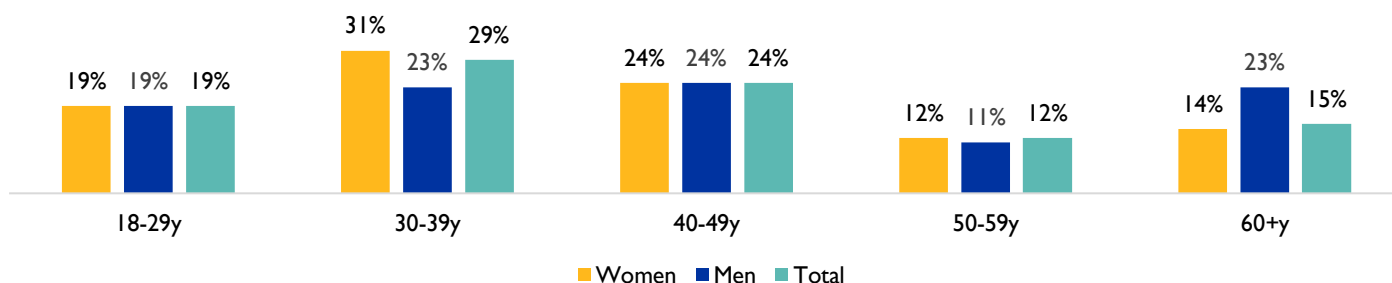
Marital status

Out of the total sample, 57 per cent of the respondents were married, 17 per cent were single, 12 per cent were widowed, and nine per cent were divorced or separated. The remaining five per cent were in a partnership.

The share of single and divorced individuals was higher among men (18% for men compared to 16% for women and 10% for men compared to 5% to women respectively), while the share of widowed respondents was higher among women than among men in the sample (14% for women compared to 4% for men).

Figure 2: Marital status, by gender and total (%)
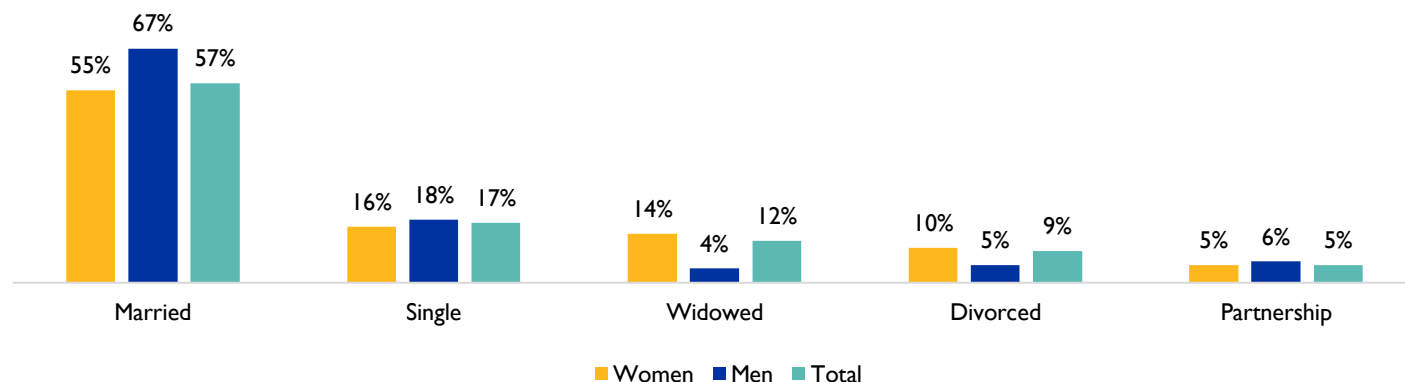
Documents possessed at the moment of interview

Most of the respondents (92%) travelled with their ID card. Also, many travelled with their biometric passports (79%) and their birth certificates (51%). Another 34 per cent travelled with their education certificate, 25 per cent with their driver license, and seven per cent travelled with a non-biometric passport. The remaining respondents travelled with other identification documents (2%).

Figure 3: Documents in possession of respondents at the time of interview (%)
(more than one answer possible)
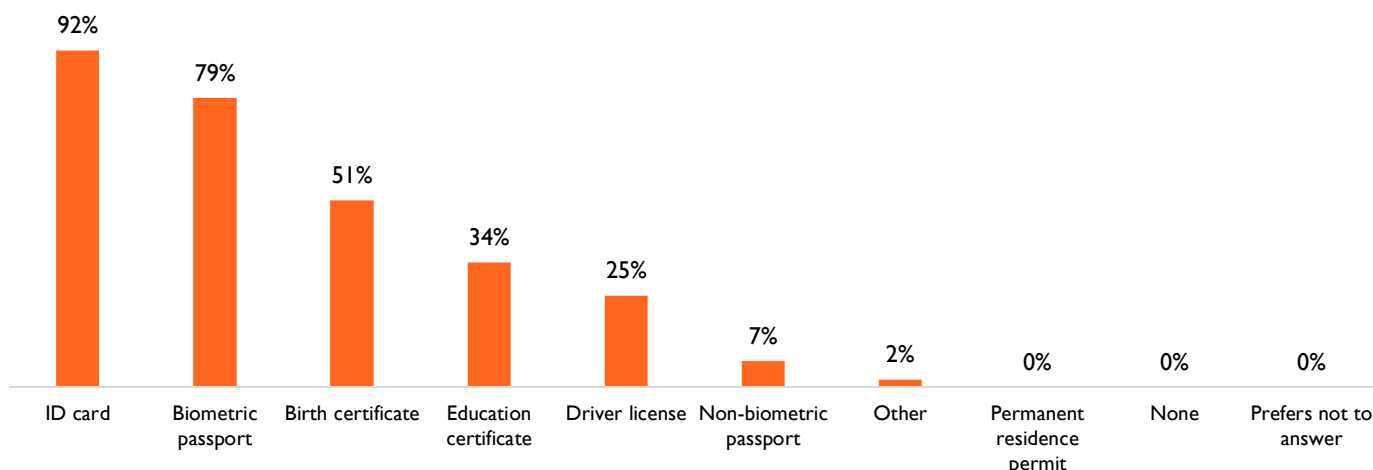
Average time spent outside Ukraine since initial displacement

The approximate duration of displacement can be assessed by looking at the difference between respondents' initial date of displacement from Ukraine, and the approximate date of interview. Most respondents were initially displaced in the first half of 2022. For example, 58 per cent of respondents were initially displaced in the period February-May 2022, reflecting the high inflow of refugees coming to

Czechia from Ukraine in the first months of the war. The couple of months between June and December 2022, displacement fluctuated between three to six per cent. This means that the approximate time spent in Czechia at the time of assessment, for more than a half of the respondents, was around one year (from 10 to 13 months).

Table 1: Approximate time spent in displacement until the date of interview (%)

Date since initial displacement	Approximate time spent until date of interview	% Of respondents
Before 2022	2-7 years	1.4%
Jan-22	14 Months	1%
Feb-22	13 Months	10%
Mar-22	12 Months	30%
Apr-22	11 Months	11%
May-22	10 Months	7%
Jun-22	9 Months	5%
Jul-22	8 Months	4%
Aug-22	7 Months	5%
Sep-22	6 Months	6%
Oct-22	5 Months	5%
Nov-22	4 Months	3%
Dec-22	3 Months	4%

2. Intentions

Intention to move elsewhere or stay in current location

Thirty-seven per cent of respondents had no intention to move at the time of interview. Fifty-two per cent were aiming to move back to their place of origin in Ukraine while another two per cent somewhere else in Ukraine. Two per cent intended to move within Czechia, and less than two per cent to another country. The remaining respondents did not know (5%).When looking at the data disaggregated by gender, male respondents were slightly more likely than their female counterparts to stay in their current location (39% versus 36%). Out of those who plan to move to the place of origin in Ukraine, slightly dominated female (53% versus 47%).

Otherwise, the percentages remained relatively similar. For example, three per cent of male respondents and two per cent of women intend to move to another country. Similarly, four per cent of men and two per cent of women interviews aim to move within current country.

Figure 4: Respondents' intention to move from current location, by gender and total (%)
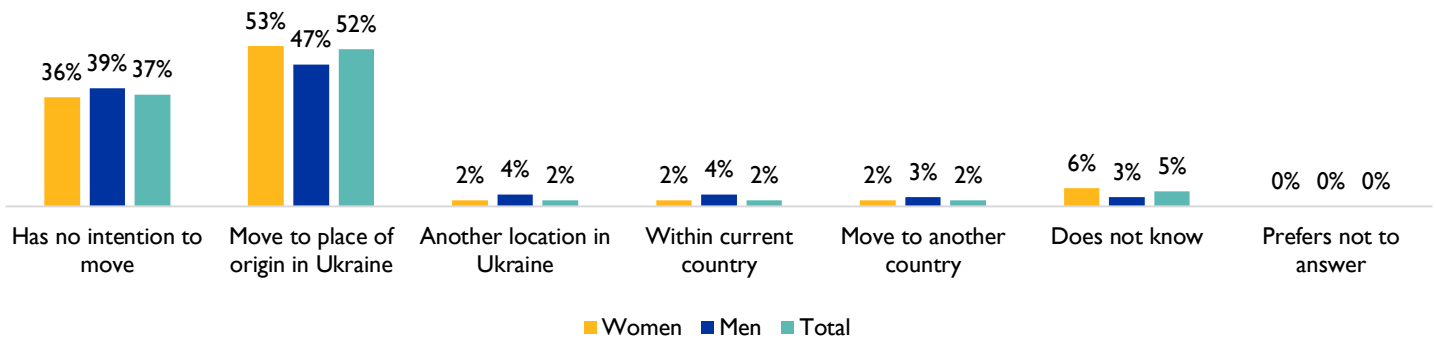
Intended length of stay in current location

Out of those intending to move within Czechia, Ukraine, or elsewhere (N=1101), one per cent intended to stay less than one week in their current location before moving. Another two per cent intended to stay less than one month, five per cent between one to three months, and five per cent between three to six months.

Only four per cent intended to stay between six months to one year, and one per cent over one year. The majority of the respondents (48%) plan to move to Ukraine when it is safe to do and five per cent did not know for how long they were planning to stay in their current location before moving. The remaining twenty-nine per cent preferred not to answer.

Figure 5: Intended length of stay in current location before moving elsewhere (%)
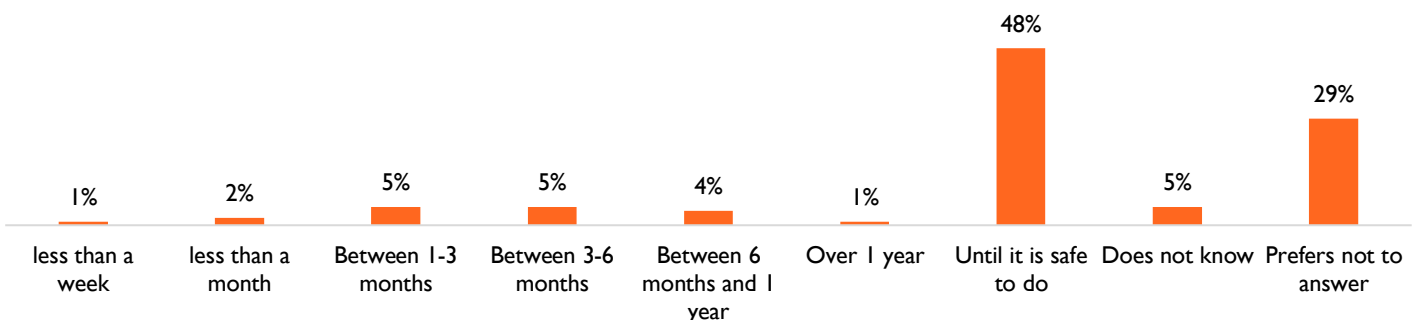
Intended oblast of destination in Ukraine and reasons to go back

Out of those respondents who wished to return to Ukraine (N=869), 96 per cent planned to go back to the same oblast of origin, while the other four per cent planned to reach to a different oblast. To be more specific, eight per cent of those going back to a different oblast were planning to go to Kyiv city, while another five per cent was aiming to return to Zaporizka. Six per cent in total were planning to go to another oblast like Kharkivska, Lvivska, Odeska, Khersonska and Donetska. The remaining 81 per cent preferred not to answer.

Figure 6: Reasons for returning to Ukraine, by gender and total (N=869) (%) (more than one answer possible)
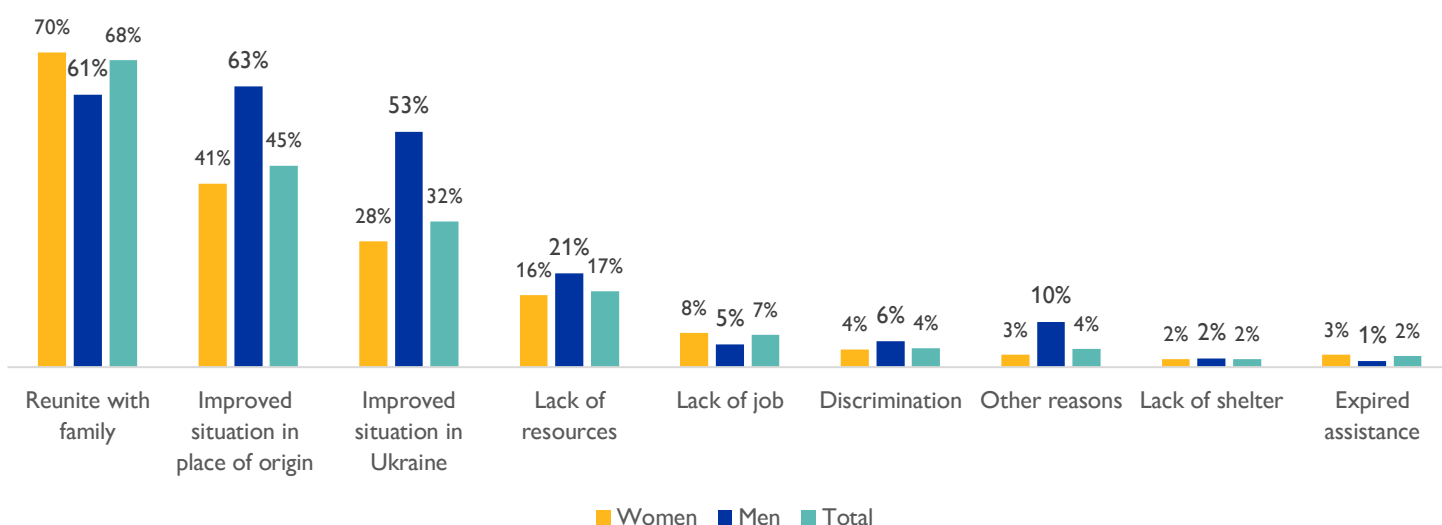
Out of those intending to go back to Ukraine, either to the same oblast of origin (836 people), or to an alternative oblast (33 people), 68 per cent wished to reunite with their family, 45 per cent indicated that they selected Ukraine as their intended destination because of improved situation in place of origin. Another 32 per cent aimed to go to Ukraine because of improved situation in Ukraine, and another 17 per cent due to lack of resources in their current location.

When looking at the data disaggregated by gender, male respondents were more likely than female respondents to want to go back to Ukraine because of improved situation in place of their origin (63% versus 41%), and due to the improved situation in Ukraine in general (53% versus 28%).

Immediate needs upon return

Out of those intending to go back, we have answers on immediate needs upon return, from 129 respondents. From among the top needs indicated most often by them (one respondent could indicated more than one need) were: cash support mentioned by 37 per cent of respondents, job placement (32%), housing (26%), and medical needs (18%).

Other needs indicated were children education (12%), information (12%), transportation (5%), and business setup support (5%). Forty-one per cent of respondents indicated having no needs upon return, while another weight per cent indicated not knowing (21%).

Intended country of destination

Out of those intending to go to another country as their final destination (52 individuals), 27 per cent were planning to go to Poland, 17 per cent to Germany, ten per cent to Canada, eight per cent to Turkey, and six per cent to Spain. The remaining 32 per cent specified Israel, Italy, France, Norway, Netherlands, Republic of Moldova, the United States of America and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland as other destinations.

Figure 7: Intended country of destination (%) N=52

- Poland
- Germany
- Canada
- Turkey
- Spain
- Other countries
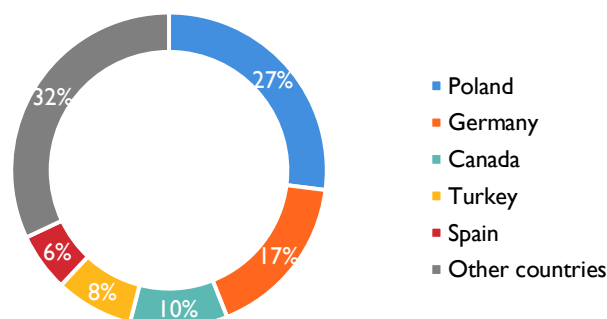
Reasons for selecting elsewhere in Czechia or other countries as destination

Out of those intending to move elsewhere in Czechia (N=239), or to another country (N=52), 17 per cent selected their destination based on job opportunities, 16 per cent because of relatives, and 13 per cent based on friends.

Another 13 per cent selected their destination due to expired assistance in current location, while seven per cent due to job offers and another six per cent due to accommodation there.

Male respondents selected job opportunities (18%), relatives (22%), friends (18%), and expired assistance (11%) as main reasons for selecting their intended location of destination. For female respondents job opportunities (17%), relatives (13%), friends (11%), job offers (7%), accommodation there (7%), and having lived there before (5%) were also among their top reasons for selecting elsewhere in Czechia or another country as intended locations of destination.

Table 3: Reasons for choosing elsewhere in Czechia or another country as intended destination, by gender and total (%) (N=291)
(more than one answer possible)

Listed reasons	Women (%)	Men (%)	Total (%)
Job opportunity	17%	18%	17%
Relatives	13%	22%	16%
Friends	11%	18%	13%
Expired assistance	13%	11%	13%
Job offer	7%	8%	7%
Accommodation there	7%	3%	6%
Lived there	5%	2%	4%
Protection system	2%	5%	3%
Close to home	3%	3%	3%
School for children	1%	3%	2%
Other people there	1%	2%	1%
Authorities	1%	2%	1%
No reason	5%	5%	5%
Other	14%	0%	10%
Prefers not to answer	0%	0%	0%

3. Education and Employment: Profile and Prospects

Main spoken language

According to our findings fifty-five per cent of respondents speak Ukrainian as their main language at home. The second most common language spoken at home is Russian with forty-five per cent of responses.

Figure 8: Main spoken language (%)
(more than one answer possible)

Language	%
Ukrainian	55%
Russian	45%

Other spoken language(s)

Forty-nine per cent of respondents spoke Russian as their second language. This was followed by Ukrainian (46%). It can therefore be said that most respondents (90%) speak both Ukrainian and Russian. Another share of respondents speaks English (29%), Czech (22%), Polish (3%), German (2%) and French (1%).

Other languages reported by respondents were Italian, Turkish, Spanish, Georgian and Slovak (less than 0,5% each).

Figure 9: Other spoken languages (%)
(more than one answer possible)

Language	%
Russian	49%
Ukrainian	46%
English	29%
Czech	22%
Polish	3%
German	2%
French	1%
Other languages	1%
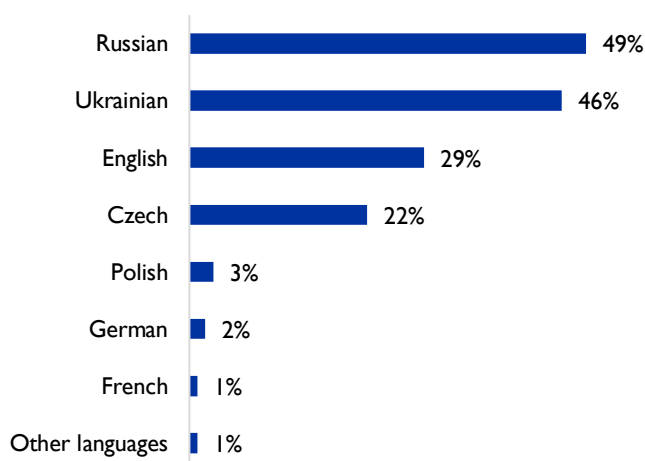
Education level

At the time of the interview 14 per cent of respondents had achieved a lower secondary level of education, 29 per cent an upper secondary degree, eight per cent a post-secondary degree, 48 per cent a tertiary level, and one per cent a post graduate education level.

Female respondents were more likely than their male counterparts to have reached tertiary education as their highest education level (49% versus 42%), while male respondents were slightly more likely than female respondents to have reached a lower secondary education level as their highest education level (19% versus 13%).

Figure 10: Education level, by gender and total (%)

	Women	Men	Total
Primary	0%	0%	0%
Lower secondary	13%	19%	14%
Upper secondary	29%	27%	29%
Post secondary	8%	9%	8%
Tetriary	49%	41%	48%
Post graduate	1%	4%	1%
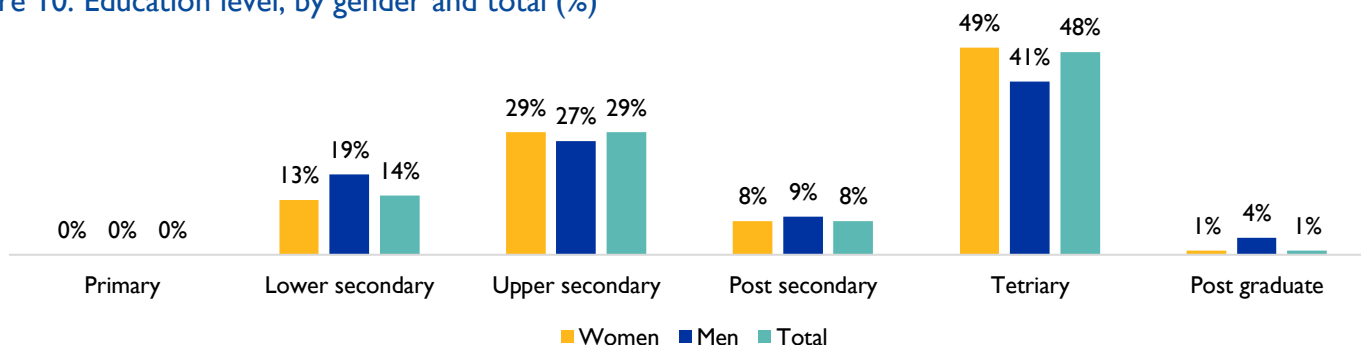
Employment status before leaving Ukraine versus current status

Fifty-five per cent of respondents were employed before leaving Ukraine. Female respondents were more likely to be employed than their male counterparts (55% versus 50%). Two per cent were daily workers and six per cent self employed. Only eight per cent of the sample were unemployed and looking for a job before leaving Ukraine. Another five per cent were unemployed but not looking for a job. Fourteen per cent of respondents were retired; the share of female respondents in this category was 13 per cent vis-a-vis 20 per cent male respondents. The remaining respondents (10%), were either students (7%), or were on maternity/paternity leave (3%).

In Czechia, 33 per cent of respondents were employed at the time of the interview, 14 per cent were daily workers and three per cent self employed. This means that 50 per cent were employed at the time of assessment. Male respondents were significantly more likely to be employed (29% for female respondents and 49% for male respondents). Twenty-eight per cent were unemployed and looking for a job. Women were more likely to be in this category (30%) than men (20%). The share of retired persons slightly decreased from the situation before displacement, with 10 per cent of respondents declaring themselves as retired at the time of the interview (14% among men, 9% among women).

Figure 11 : Employment status in Czechia and in Ukraine, total, N=1.995 (%)
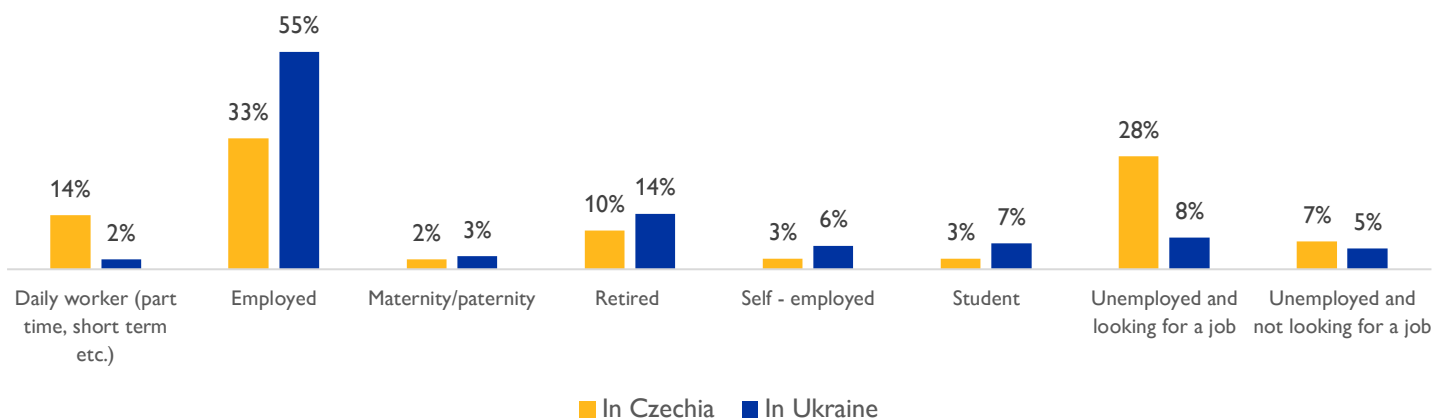
Among those currently in employment (employed, self-employed or daily workers), those who were asked this question (N=397), 20 per cent of them were employed in manufacturing at the time of assessment. This was followed by accommodation and food services (15%), transporting and storage (13%), wholesale and retail trade or repair vehicles (9%) and construction (8%). The remaining sample were employed in other areas such as services, education, health and social work, finance and insurance, art, entertainment and recreation, administrative support.

Out of the persons employed before leaving Ukraine (N=525), 21 per cent were working in such sphere as wholesale and retail trade or repair vehicles, 11 per cent in education, ten per cent in human health and social work, eight per cent in manufacturing, and five per cent in accommodation and food services. The remaining 45 per cent were working in other areas like services, agriculture, information and communication, finance and insurance, entertainment, and recreation, among other areas of employment in Ukraine.

4. Registration and Inclusion Services

Current status

Ninety-five per cent of those who answered this question (N=653) declared to have received or to have applied for protection in Czechia. Female and male respondents were nearly as likely to have a Temporary Protection status (97% versus 88%). Four per cent of respondents had working visas. Less than one per cent of respondents were in Czechia as students.

Table 4: Migration status, by gender and total (%) (N=653)

Status	Women (%)	Men (%)	Total (%)
Registered for Temporary Protection	97%	88%	95%
Work visa	2%	11%	4%
Student visa	0.6%	0%	0.5%
Other	0%	0.8%	0.2%

Access to finances

Ninety-four per cent of those who were asked this question and responded to it (N=653) had been able to withdraw money using foreign credit/debit card since leaving Ukraine, while four per cent had not and another two per cent preferred not to answer.

Figure 13: Ability to withdraw money with a foreign debit/credit card (%) (N=653)
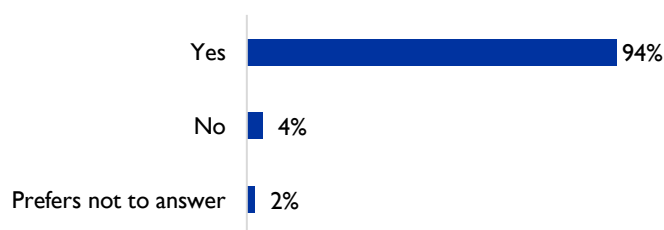
Figure 12: Has opened a personal bank account in Czechia (%) (N=1788)
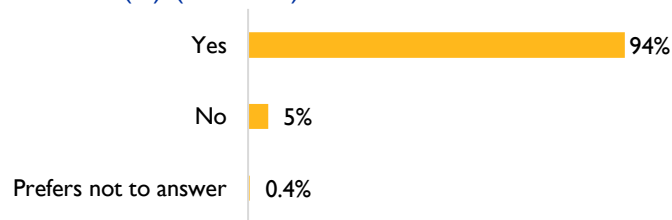
Ninety-four per cent of those who were asked this question and responded to it (N=1788) had a personal bank account in Czechia at the time of the interview. Five per cent did not. The remaining preferred not to answer (less than 1%).

Figure 14: Reason for not opening a personal bank account in Czechia (%)
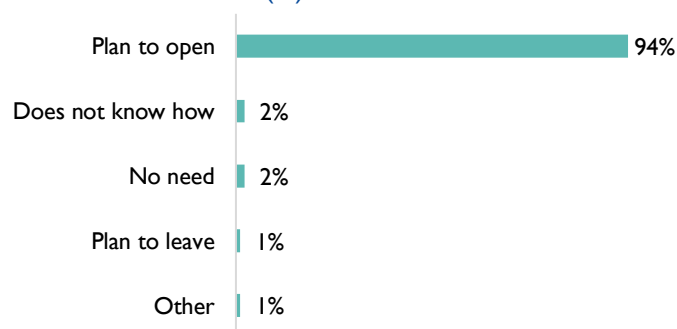
Out of those who indicated that they had not opened a personal bank account in Czechia, 94 per cent said that they plan to do so.

Another two per cent did not know how to, two per cent had no need, one per cent were planning to leave. The remaining one per cent had other non-defined reasons.

Figure 15: Has enrolled children in an education facility (%) N=607

Category	%
Yes (without clarification)	51%
Yes (local)	23%
Yes (online Ukraine)	10%
Yes (online and local)	3%
No	13%

Out of the respondents who had children, 607 specified if they were enrolled or not in schools. Of these, 51 per cent indicated that they had been able to enroll their children to school (without clarification what kind). Another 23 per cent were able to enroll their children in local schools, ten per cent had been able to enroll their children in online education in Ukraine, while three per cent had children enrolled and attending both online and local schools. The remaining 13 per cent had not been able to enroll their children in any education facility at the time of interview.

Figure 16: Reasons why they have not been able to enroll children in education facility (%) N=81

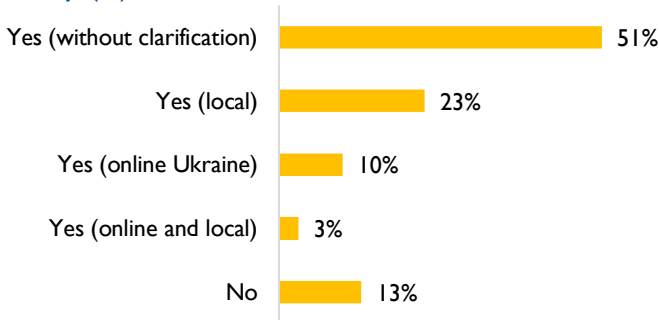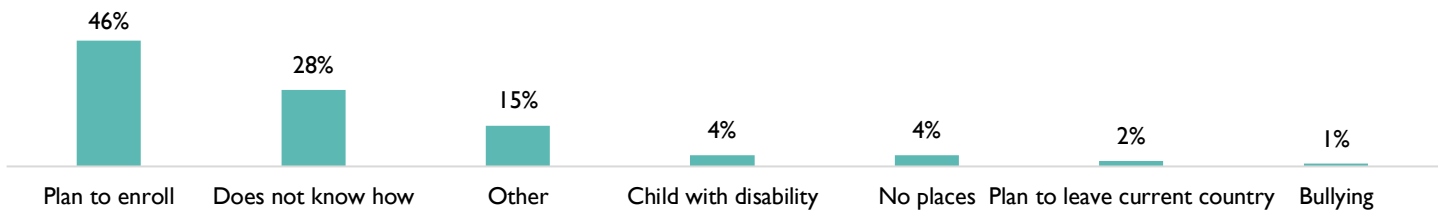| Reason	%
Plan to enroll	46%
Does not know how	28%
Other	15%
Child with disability	4%
No places	4%
Plan to leave current country	2%
Bullying	1%

Out of those that indicated in the previous question that they had been unable to enroll their children in an education facility (N=81), forty-six per cent suggested that they were planning to enroll them.

Consular services

Fifty-two per cent of those who responded, indicated that they knew how to contact a consular representative. Forty-eight per cent did not. Out of those who responded to the previous question (N=653), 92 per cent indicated that they had not reached out for consular support at the time of assessment while another eight per cent had. Less the one per cent preferred not to answer.

Another twenty-eight per cent said that they did not know how to do that , four per cent were yet to find a place to enroll their children at the time of assessment. Four per cent of the respondents indicated that their children had a disability, two per cent said that they planned to leave Czechia soon and another one per cent named bullying as a reason. The remaining 15 per cent had other non-specified reasons.

Figure 17: Knows how to contact a consular representative?

Category	%
Yes	52%
No	48%
Prefers not to answer	0.2%
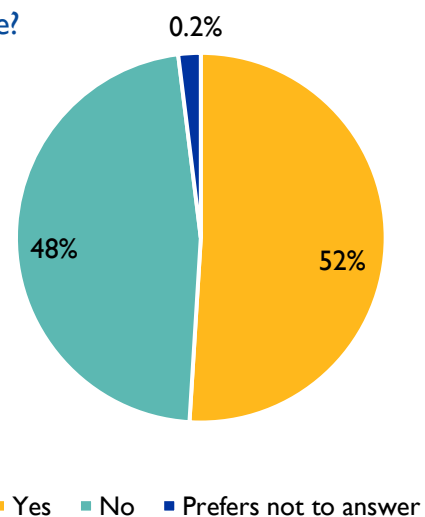
Figure 18: Has reached out for consular support in Czechia (%) N=653

| Category	%
Yes	8%
No	92%
Prefers not to answer	0.2%
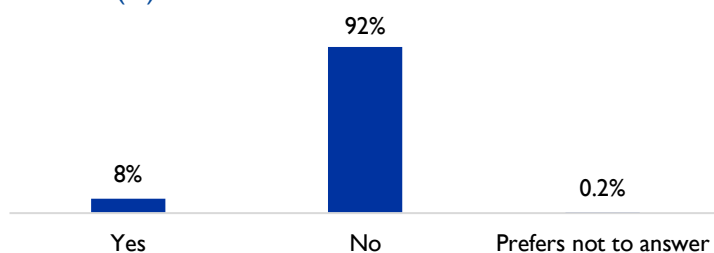
5. Immediate Needs and Assistance Received

Immediate needs

The most immediate need at the moment of the interview was health services for 60 per cent of respondents, followed by support with employment (46%), language courses (41%), medicines (40%), financial support (38%) and long-term accommodation 37%). A noticeable share of respondents also reported to be in need of documentation assistance (24%), general information (18%), education for adults (16%) and for legal assistance (10%).

Figure 19 : Needs at the moment (%)
(more than one answer possible)

Health services	60%
Employment	46%
Language courses	41%
Medicines	40%
Financial support	38%
Long-term accommodation	37%
Documentation assistance	24%
General information	18%
Education for adults	16%
Legal assistance	10%
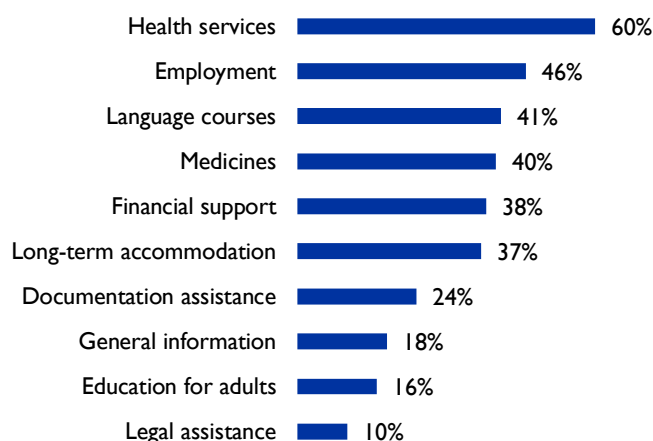
Assistance received in Czechia

Ninety-four per cent of respondents indicated receiving financial support during their journey and while in Czechia. Another sixty-two per cent indicated receiving short term and long-term accommodation. Other relevant areas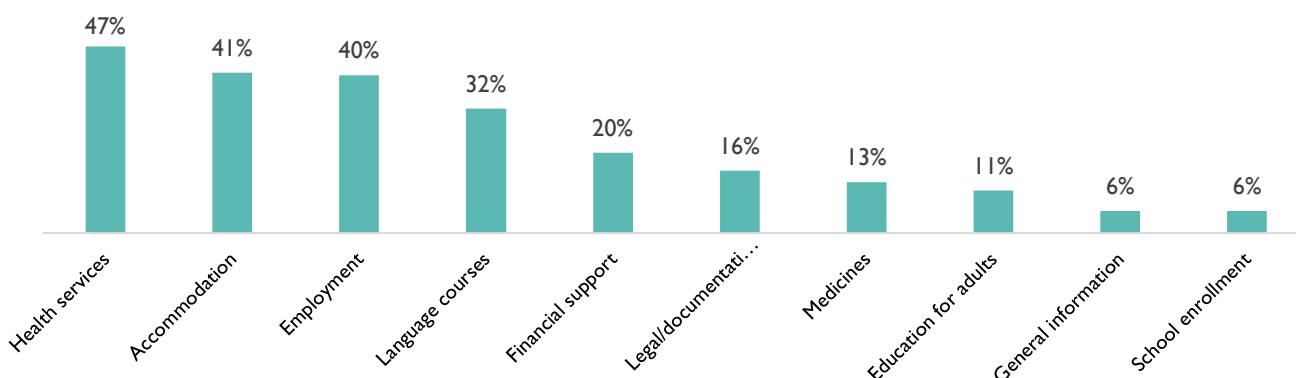 where respondents received assistance was food supply (16%), personal hygiene (10%), transport (8%) and clothing (7%). To a lesser extent respondents received assistance in the form of language courses, toys (4% each), employment (3%), and other types of assistance (2% in total).

Areas where more information about assistance is needed

Out of those who indicated that they did not know where to find assistance (N=177), 47 per cent indicated that they needed more information on health services. Another 41 per cent indicated accommodation support as another area where more information is needed and 40 per cent employment. Other relevant areas where more information was needed were language courses (32%), financial support (20%), legal/documentation assistance (16%), medicines (13%) and other areas.

Figure 20: Areas where more information for assistance is needed (%) N=177
(more than one answer possible)

Category	%
Health services	47%
Accommodation	41%
Employment	40%
Language courses	32%
Financial support	20%
Legal/documentati...	16%
Medicines	13%
Education for adults	11%
General information	6%
School enrollment	6%

# 6. Challenges in the Country of Displacement

Experiences of discrimination *

Seven per cent of respondents indicated having experienced discrimination in their country of displacement. In contrast, eighty-seven per cent indicated having no such experiences. The remaining respondents either did not know (4%), or preferred not to answer (2%).

When looking at the data disaggregated by gender, female respondents were significantly more likely to have experienced discrimination than their male counterparts (8% versus 2%).

It is important to notice, that the survey includes only a few overall questions about discrimination, and therefore (but also due to other reasons) it's probable that the data on discrimination might be underreported.

Figure 21: Reported experiences of discrimination (%)

- No
- Yes
- Does not know
- Prefers not to answer
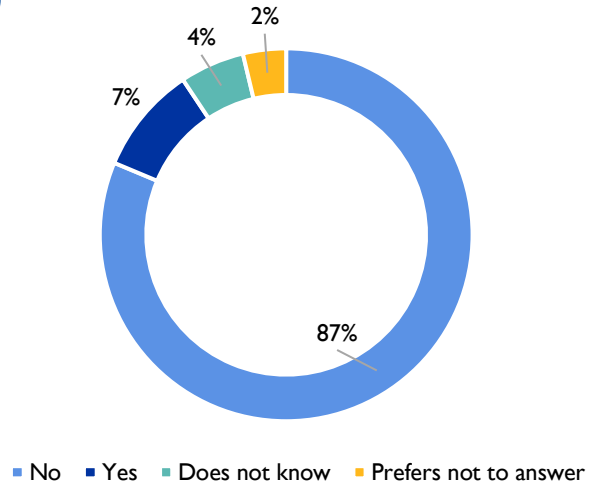
Inclusion challenges

Thirty-two per cent of respondents indicated financial issues as a top inclusion challenge. This was followed by language (17%), documentation issues (16%) and lack of job (12%). Other challenges marked by respondents that hindered their inclusion in Czechia was discrimination (11%), lack of information (9%), housing (9%), lack of information on employment (4%), access to schooling (4%), services (3%), recognition of disability (1%), racism. Around four per cent of respondents did not know.

Figure 22: Top 12 inclusion challenges (%)
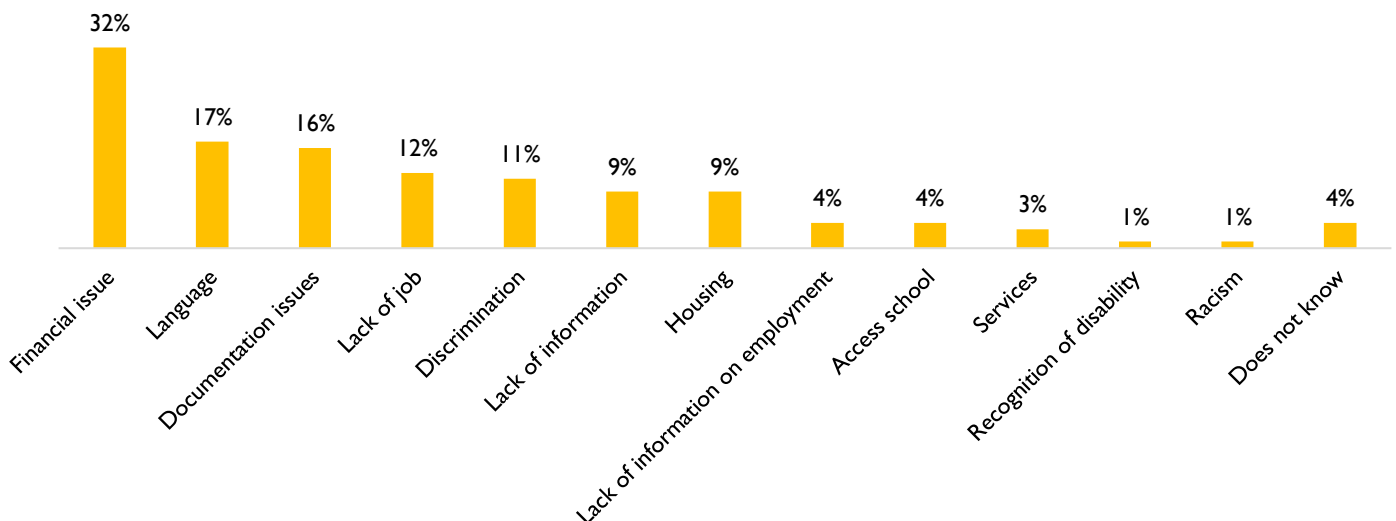
7. Current Group Composition

Travel mode

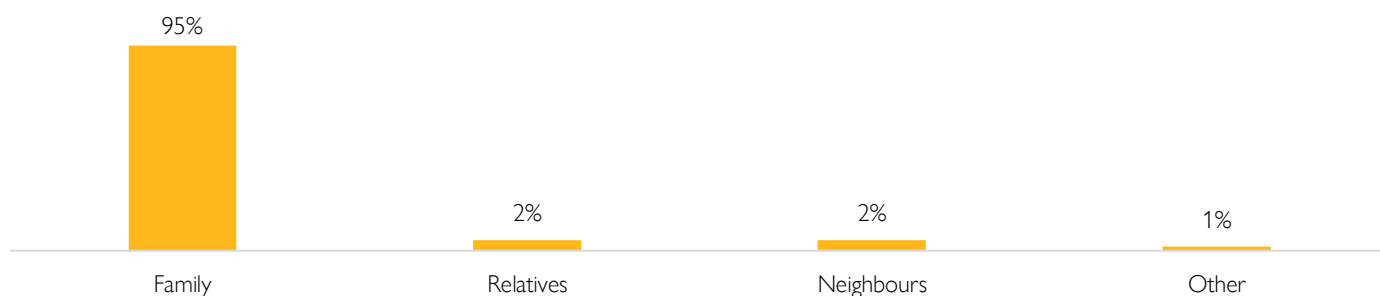Eighty per cent of respondents were travelling in a group. The other t w e n t y per cent were travelling by themselves. Female respondents were s l i g h t l y m o r e likely to be travelling alone in comparison to their male counterparts (20% versus 18%).

Out of those travelling in a group (N=1609), 95 per cent were travelling with family, 2 per cent with relatives, two per cent with neighbours, and one per cent with other people.
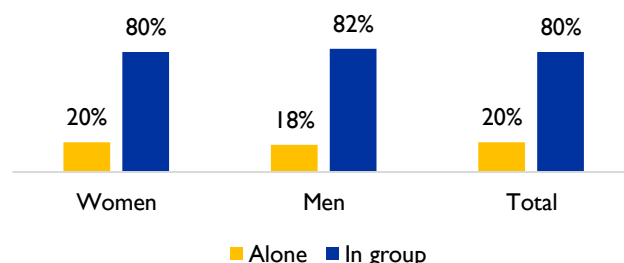
Figure 23:Travel mode by gender and total (%)

Moreover, 26 per cent were travelling with, at least one elderly person; out of which, 65 per cent with at least one elderly woman, and 35 per cent with at least one elderly man. Forty-nine per cent were travelling with at least one child.

Figure 24:Travelling groups (%) N=1609
(more than one answer possible)

Travelling with persons with health conditions and disabilities

Out of those travelling in a group with a person with serious/health specific needs, 89 per cent were travelling with at least one person with a chronic disease or a serious medical condition. Sixty-six per cent were travelling with a person with visual impairment. This was followed by those travelling with a person with difficulty walking/ climbing steps (23%), difficulty self caring (3%), pregnant/breast feeding women (3%), difficulty hearing even with a hearing aid (2%), difficulty concentrating/remembering (2%), and with difficulty communication, understanding, being understood (1%).

Figure 25: Respondents travelling with at least one person with a serious health conditions (%) N=699 (more than one answer possible)
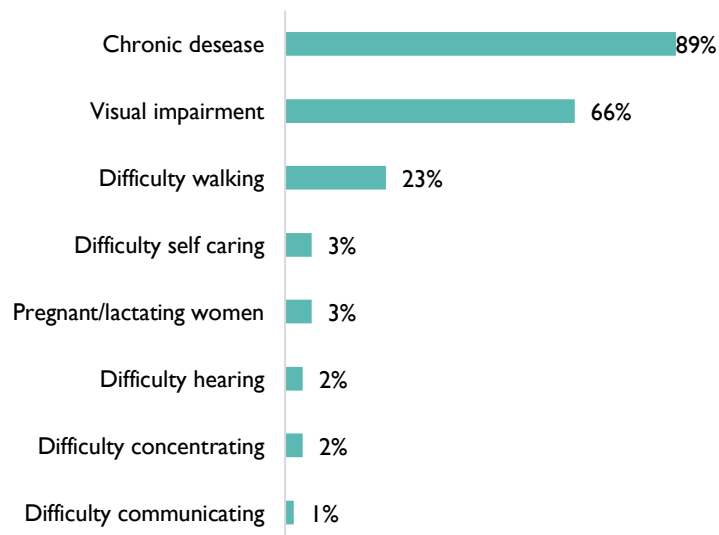
8. Methodology

This report is based on a survey of displacement patterns, needs and intentions conducted by IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) in the 11 countries included in the Regional Response Plan for Ukraine in 2023: 6 countries neighbouring Ukraine – Belarus, Hungary, Poland, Republic of Moldova, Romania and Slovakia – and other 5 countries particularly impacted by the arrivals of refugees from Ukraine since the start of the war in February 2022 – Bulgaria, Czechia, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

The analysis presented in this report is based on data collected between January and March 2023 through a network of more than 150 enumerators, with various timelines and specific survey tools - depending on the country context. Nevertheless, the sampling approach, main definitions and features of the survey tool make country-level datasets comparable.

Face-to-face surveys were conducted by trained enumerators with adult refugees from Ukraine and other TCNs (18 years of age and above). Prior to the start of the survey, all enumerators were trained 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 mechanisms in place.

Respondents were approached in a simple random sample by enumerators at selected entry, exit, transit points and accommodation centers. In border crossing point areas, both persons entering/exiting by car, by bus, by foot and by train were interviewed.

The survey was anonymous and voluntary. Surveys were administered only if consent from the respondent was given. The respondent could stop the survey at any time.

The questionnaire was available in Ukrainian, Russian, English and Czech language. The preferred language was determined by the interviewee. All responses were checked for any systematic issues by enumerator and this process did not identify any problems. Only fully completed surveys were taken in account for this report.

Country-level implementation and limitations

The sampling framework was not based on verified figures of refugees from Ukraine and TCNs entering through the various BCPs or staying in the various regions (counties, districts, rayons) across each of the country where surveys were conducted. This is due to the limited availability of comparable baseline information across countries. The geographic spread of enumerators deployed and locations targeted captures most of the key arrival, transit and destination points. Whilst results cannot be deemed representative, the internal consistency within the data within each country and at the regional level suggests that the findings of the current sampling framework have practical value. Whilst every attempt was made to capture all types of arrivals at the BCPs, the operational reality of fieldwork was confronted with different levels of accessibility of BCPs and other transit and stay locations and the different availability of possible target individuals to comfortably spend 10-20 minutes responding to the questionnaire depending on a mix of personal conditions. For example, it is easier to interview persons travelling by bus and other types of group transportation that those in private vehicles who tend to be fast in transiting through BCPs and travel onwards. Other factors more related to the conditions at a specific location and period – organizational changes in the entry and transit areas from national authorities, weather conditions, also play a role. In Czechia, DTM was activated in June 2022 for the first time. Between 01 January and 31 March, 2,003 valid surveys (8 of them with TCNs) were collected by a team of 5 enumerators (4 females, 1 male) deployed in 14 provinces of Czechia. The interviews have been conducted in Russian and Ukrainian language.

DTM

Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) is a system to track and monitor displacement and population mobility. The survey form was designed to capture the main displacement patterns – origin country and region – for refugees of any nationality fleeing from Ukraine because of the war. It captures the demographic profiles of respondents and of the group they are travelling with, if any; it asks about intentions relative to the intended final destination and prospects of permanence in the country of the survey/first reception; it gathers information regarding a set of main needs that the respondents expressed as more pressing at the moment of the interview.

Since the onset of the war in Ukraine, several IOM's DTM tools were deployed in countries neighbouring Ukraine and in other countries particularly impacted by the new arrivals of migrants and refugees from Ukraine.

For more information, please consult: https://dtm.iom.int/responses/ukraine-response

DTM is part of IOM's Global Data Institute.