

## POLAND

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



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Country Report & Data Analysis

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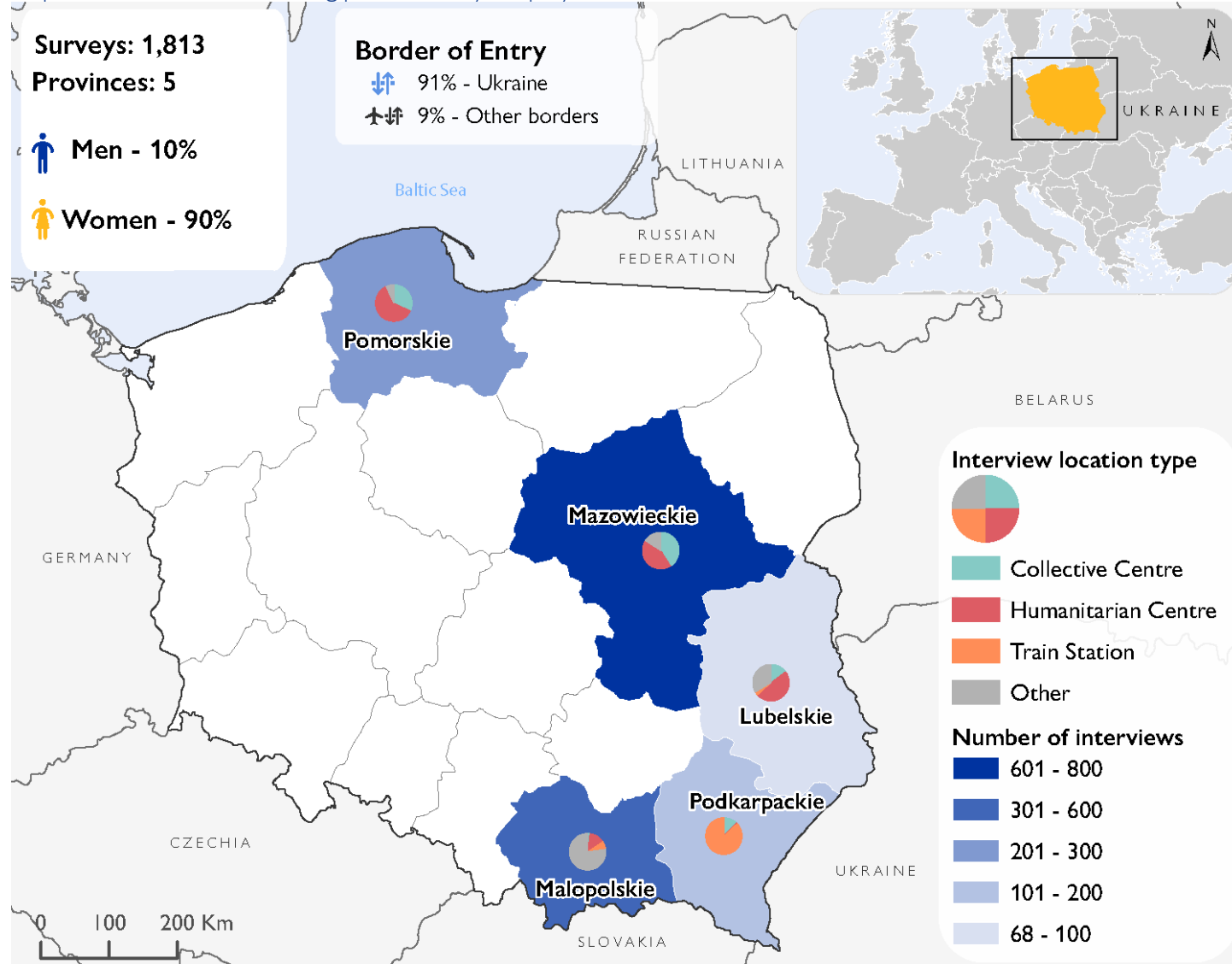
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## KEY FINDINGS

- Top oblasts of origin: Kyiv City (11%), Vinnytska (10%), Ternopil'ska (9%), Kharkiv'ska (8%), Dnipropetrov'ska (7%), Chernivets'ka (6%).
  - Intentions to move: return to Ukraine (56%), no intention to move (39%), to another country (3%), where top three countries were Germany, Canada and Norway.
  - Employment status: employed (28%), unemployed and not looking for a job (18%), unemployed and looking for a job (17%), retired (20%).
  - Top needs:\* financial support (52%), health services (31%), medicines (29%), long-term accommodation (27%).
  - Top areas of assistance among aid recipients:\* food (92%), financial support (77%), personal hygiene (73%), clothes (65%), accommodation (63%).
  - Top inclusion challenges:\* financial issues (43%), language (40%), employment (22%), housing (21%), school access (15%).
- \* more than one answer possible

Map 1: Poland, border crossing points, surveys deployed & locations



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.

## 1. Socio-Demographic Profile

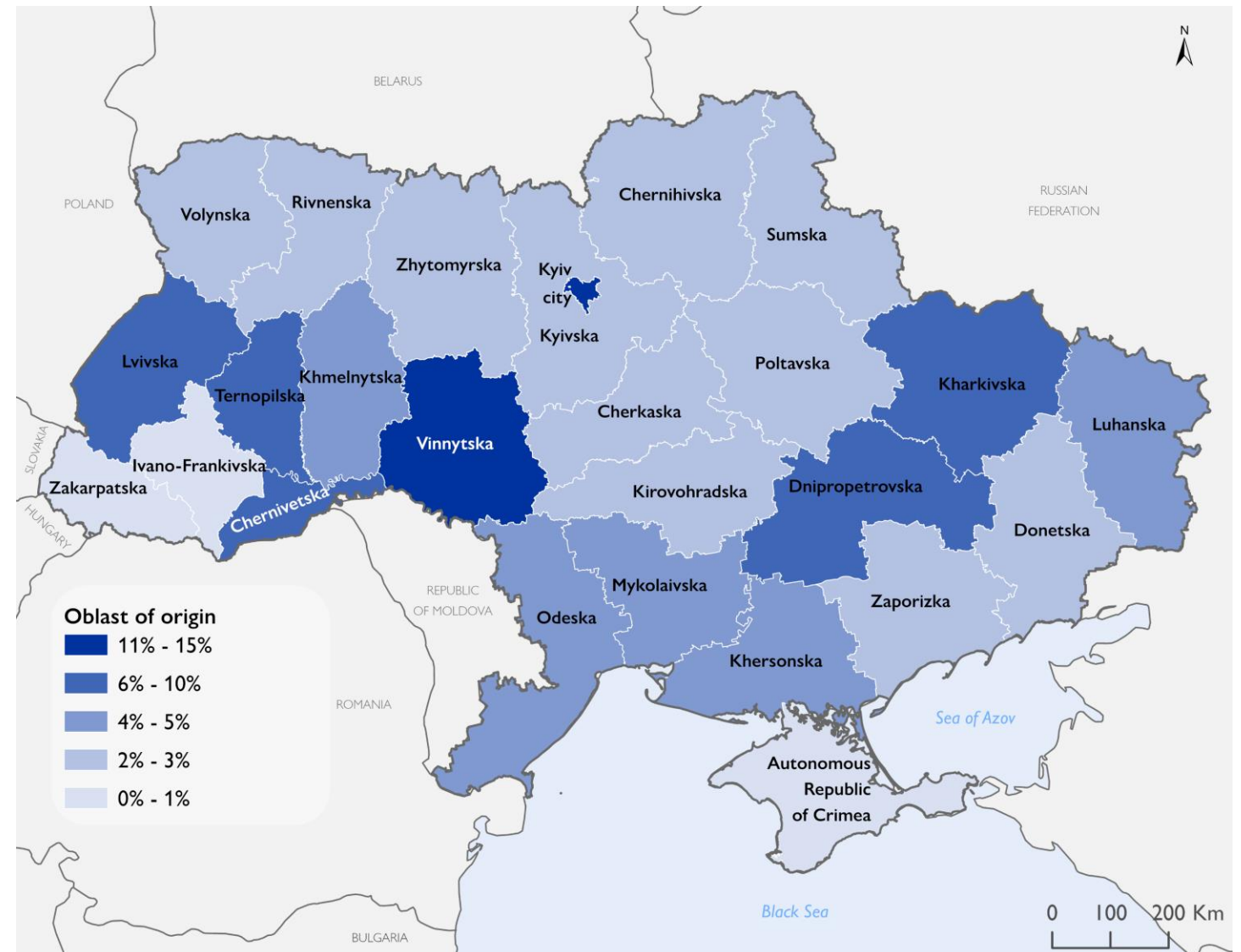
### Oblast (region) of origin

The majority came from the western and eastern parts of the country, with the highest share of respondents coming from Kyiv (11%), followed by Vinnytska (10%) and Ternopil'ska (9%) oblasts. Kharkiv'ska (8%), Dnipropetrov'ska (7%) and Chernivets'ka (6%) were the next three oblasts of origin with a higher percentage of respondents.

other 17 oblasts of Ukraine. These included Luhanska (4%), Mykolaiv'ska (4%), Donetsk'ska (3%), Kherson'ska (3%), Odeska (3%) as well as the remaining oblasts with less than 3 per cent of respondents.

The remaining respondents (49%) were living in the

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



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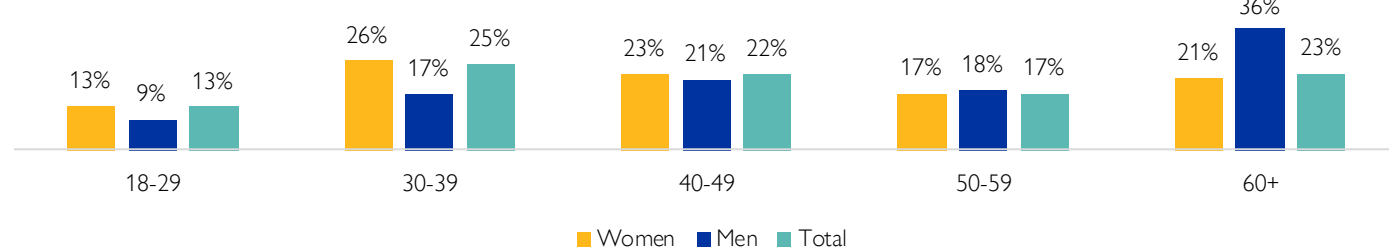
### Gender and age

Out of the 1,814 refugees from Ukraine interviewed in Poland during the reporting period, ten per cent were men, and 90 per cent were women. The average age for the total sample was 46 years.

When looking at the data disaggregated by gender, on average, male respondents were slightly older than female respondents (50 years of average age for males, versus 46 years of average age for females).

Most respondents were between 30 and 39 years old (25%), followed by those aged between 40 and 49 years (22%). Likewise, the biggest age group among women were those between 30 and 39 years (24%). Among men, the biggest age group was of those aged 60 years and above (36%), which is higher compared to the elderly female population (21%).

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

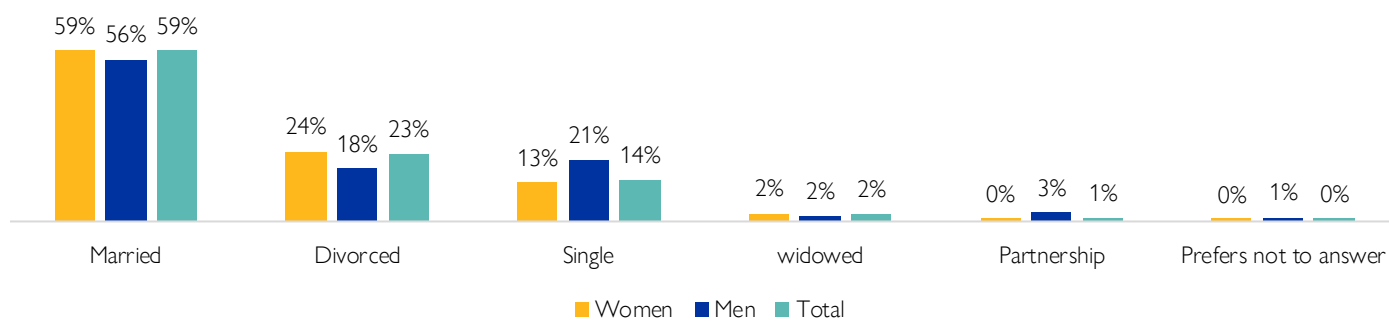


### Marital status

More than half of the respondents (59%) were married. This was followed by 23 per cent of respondents who were divorced, 14 per cent who were single, and two per cent who were widowed.

The share of married persons was slightly higher among women than among men (59% versus 56%), while women were more likely to be divorced than men in the sample (24% versus 18%). Men were more likely to be single than women (21% versus 13%).

Figure 2: Marital status, by gender and total (%)

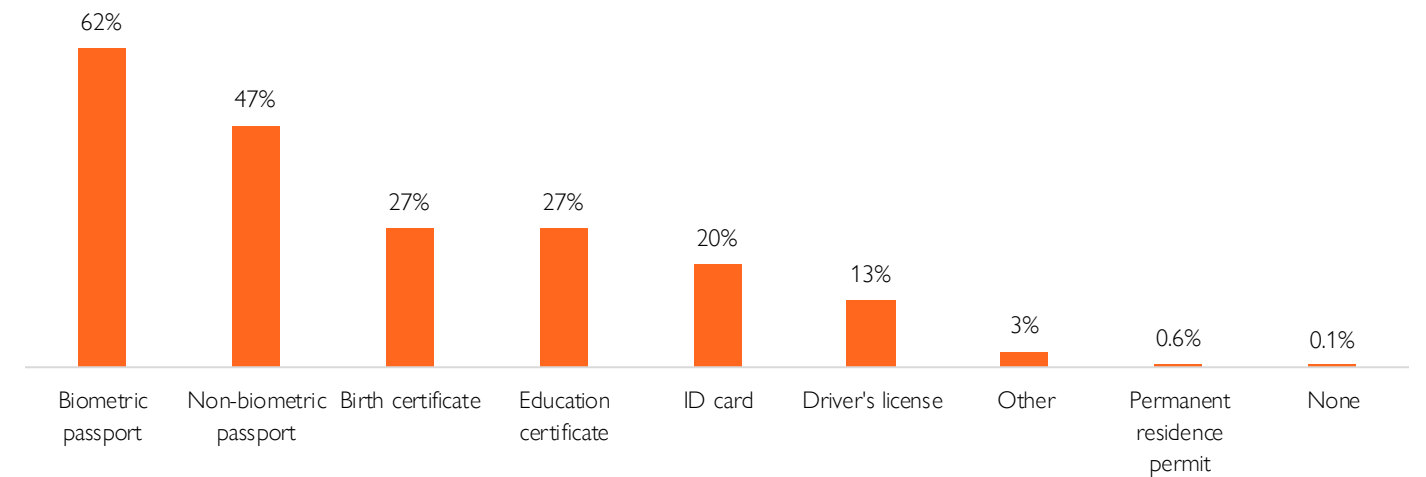


### Documents possessed at the time of interview

The majority of the respondents travelled with more than one document. That being said, most respondents travelled with their biometric passports (62%) and their non-biometric passports (47%). Another 27 per cent travelled with their birth certificate and education certificate respectively, 20 per cent travelled with their

ID card and 13% with their driver's license. Three per cent of respondents indicated that they travelled with other documents, 0.6 per cent with a permanent residence permit and 0.1 per cent did not have any kind of documentation with them at the time of the interview.

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 looking at the difference between respondents' initial date of displacement from Ukraine, and the date of interview. Most respondents were initially displaced in the first half of 2022, when the war started. For example, 41 per cent of respondents were initially displaced in the period of February-May 2022,

reflecting the high inflow of refugees from Ukraine to Poland in the first months of the war. A comparatively low share of respondents reported that their initial displacement took place during the winter period of December 2022-February 2023 (6%), whereas this share started increasing again for March 2023.

Table 1: Approximate time spent in displacement until date of interview (%), N=354

Date since initial displacement	Approximate time spent until date of interview	% Of respondents
Before 2022	>2 years	1%
Feb-May 22	10-13 months	41%
Jun-Aug 22	7-9 months	13%
Sep-Nov 22	4-6 months	12%
Dec-22 to Feb-23	1-3 months	6%
Mar-23	<1 month	26%

## 2. Intentions

### Intention to move elsewhere or stay in current location

Fifty-six per cent of respondents planned to return to Ukraine at the time of the interview. Thirty-nine per cent had no intention to move, while three per cent planned to move to another country, and two per cent did not know about their future movement intentions. One per cent of respondents intended to move somewhere else within Poland.

When looking at the data disaggregated by gender, female respondents were slightly more likely than their male counterparts to intend to return to Ukraine (58% versus 34%). A larger percentage of male respondents were aiming to move to another country (11% compared to female respondents (2%). Otherwise, the percentages remained relatively similar or the same.

Figure 4: Respondents' intention to move from current location, by gender and total (%)

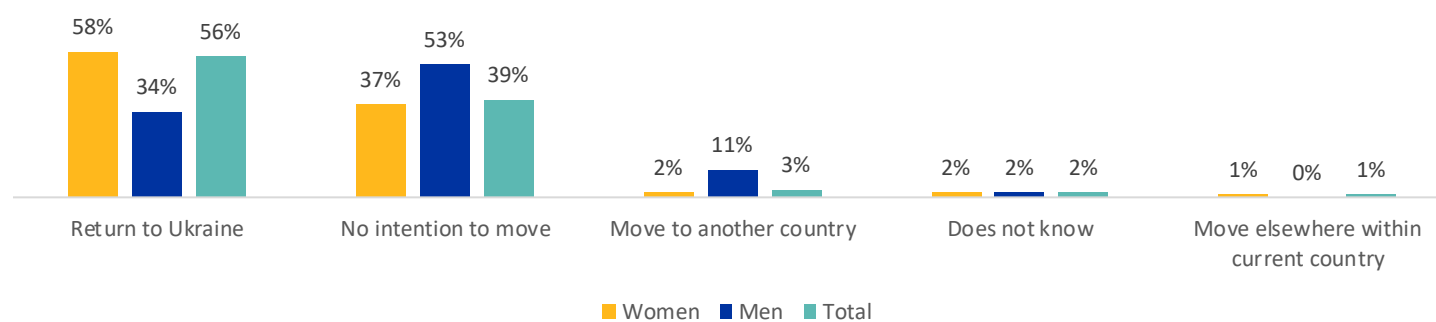
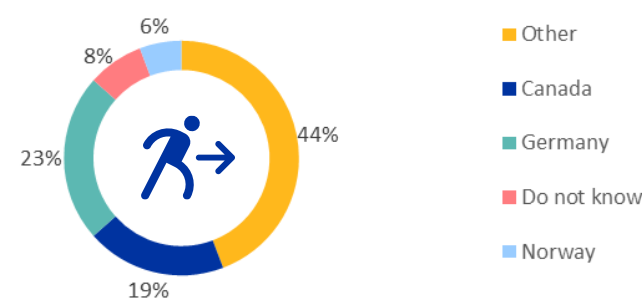


Figure 5: Intended country of destination (%) N=52

### Intended country of destination

Out of those intending to go to another country as their final destination (52 individuals), 23 per cent were planning to go to Germany, 19 per cent to Canada, and six per cent to Norway.

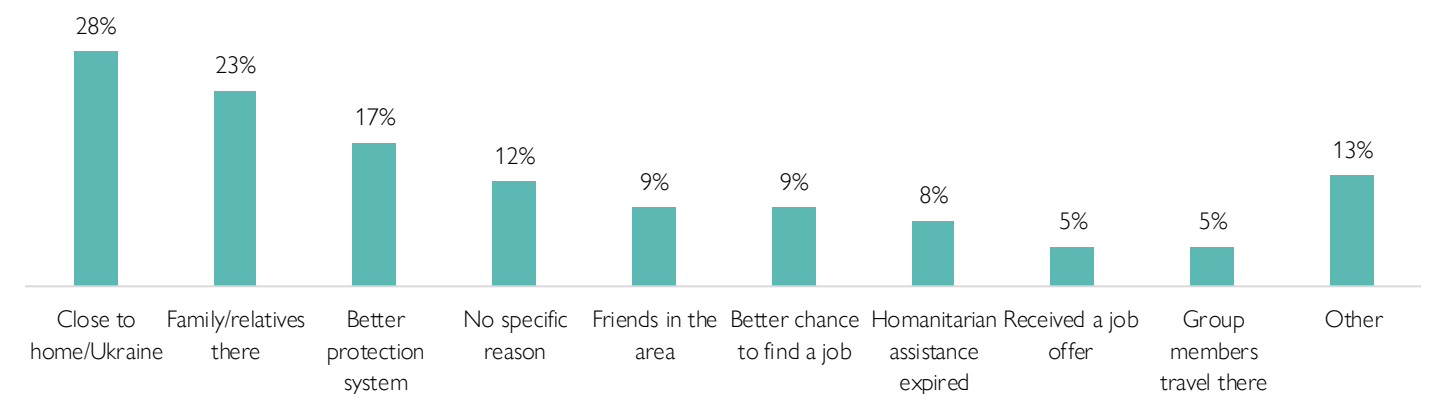


### Reasons for selecting elsewhere in Poland or other countries as destination

Out of those intending to move elsewhere in Poland (N=13), or to another country (N=52), 28 per cent selected their destination based on geographic proximity, 23 per cent due to family or relatives living in the area, 17 per cent based their choice on better protection systems and 12 per cent chose either one of the options for no specific reason.

26 per cent of respondents intended to move to another location in Poland or another country because they had friends in the area/country (9%), better chances to find a job (9%), or reported that humanitarian assistance expired/ was about to expire in their current location (8%).

Figure 6: Reasons for choosing elsewhere in Poland or another country as intended destination, by gender and total (%) (N=27) (more than one answer possible)

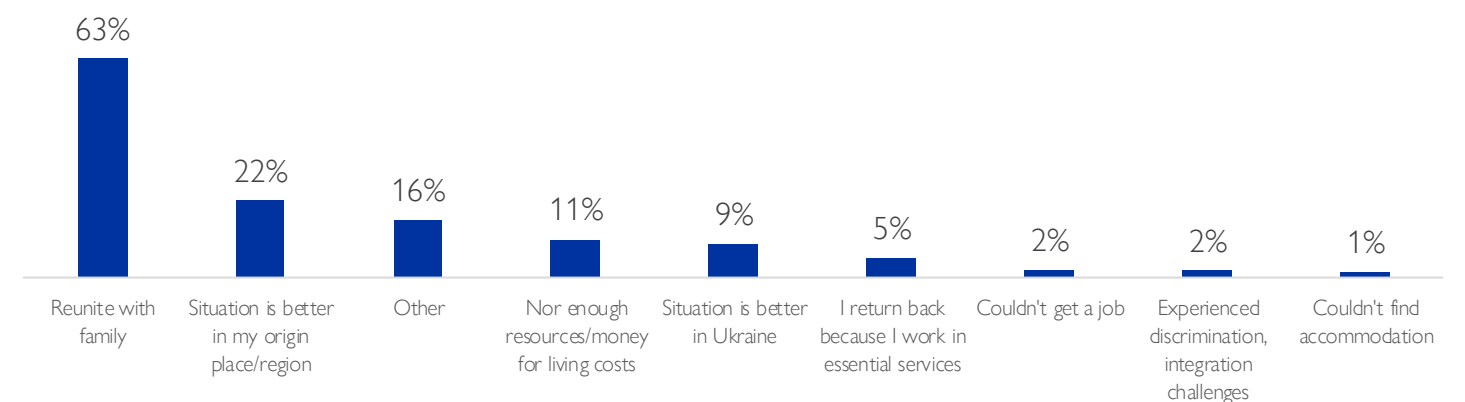


### Reasons for returning to Ukraine

Of those intending to return to Ukraine, 63 per cent stated their desire to reunite with their families, while 22 per cent indicated the reason to be an improved situation in their place of origin. Eleven per cent stated that they did not have enough resources for living in their current country (11%) and nine per cent that the situation had improved in Ukraine (9%).

Among other reasons for returning to Ukraine were the following: work in essential sectors (5%), inability to find a job (2%), experiences with discrimination and integration challenges (2%) as well as the inability to find accommodation in the host country, which made up one per cent of respondents.

Figure 7: Reasons for returning to Ukraine (%), N=1,010 (more than one answer possible)

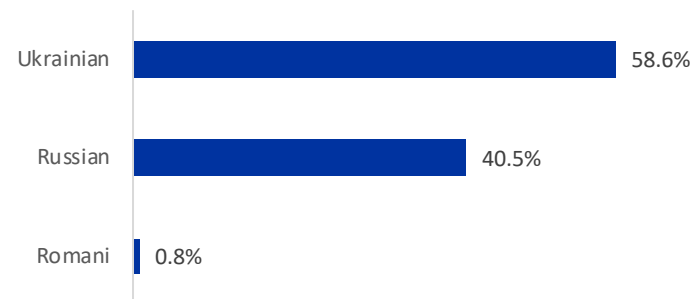


### 3. Education and Employment: Profile and Prospects

#### Main spoken language

The survey found that a majority of respondents (59%) speak Ukrainian as their main language at home. The second most common language used in this round of surveying was Russian (41%); Romani was distant third, with only one per cent of respondents indicating it as their main spoken language.

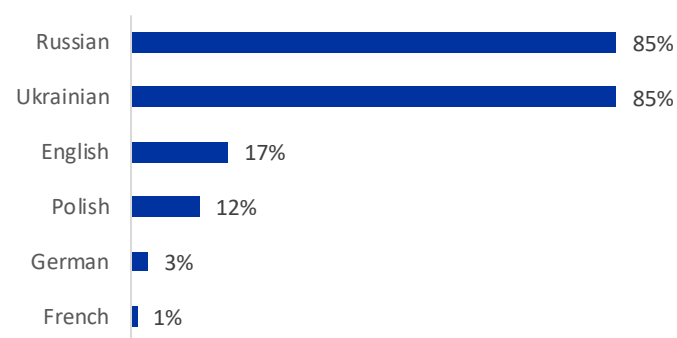
Figure 8: Main spoken language (%) (N=355)



#### Other spoken language(s)

A large part of the respondents speak Russian (85%) and Ukrainian (85%) as a second language. This was followed by English (17%) and Polish (12%). German (3%), and French (1%) were less commonly spoken languages.

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

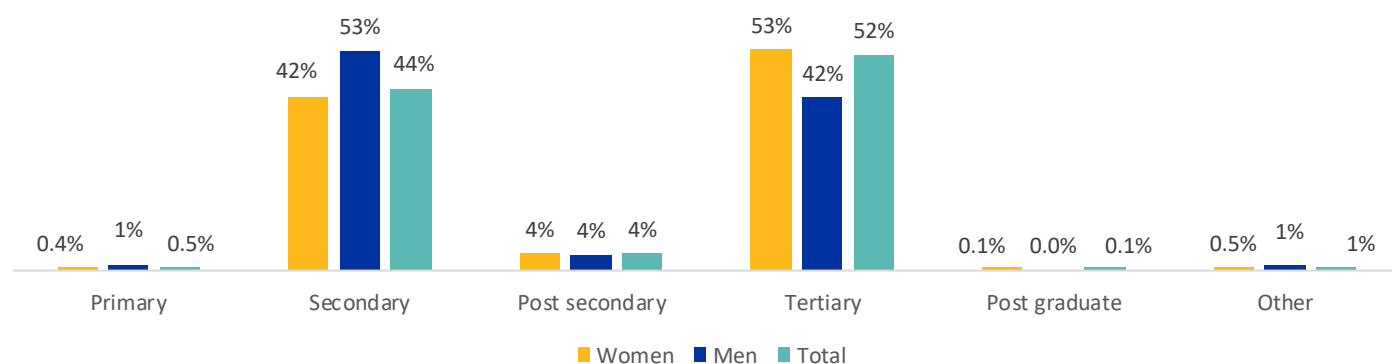


#### Education level

At the time of the interview, 44 per cent of respondents had a secondary degree, four per cent a post-secondary degree, 52 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 (53% versus 42%), while male respondents were slightly more likely than female respondents to have completed secondary education (53% versus 42%).

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



#### Current employment status

Twenty-eight per cent of respondents have already found employment in Poland. Retired individuals take up 20 per cent of the respondents. Eighteen per cent of the sample have indicated that they were unemployed and not looking for a job, while seventeen per cent on the contrary have stated they were unemployed but looking for a job.

those, who were in recruitment process.

Six per cent of respondents continued working remotely with an employer from Ukraine. The remaining nine per cent were distributed between daily workers (3%), persons on maternity/paternity leave (2%), students (3%), self-employed individuals (1%) and

The data indicates that Polish language skills are an important factor that affects the employment status of respondents. Of those who speak Polish, 43 per cent were employed, as compared to only 25 per cent of those respondents who reported that they don't know any Polish. Likewise, the reported unemployment rate among respondents who don't know any Polish is higher than among those who do have Polish skills.

Figure 11: Current employment status (%), N=1745

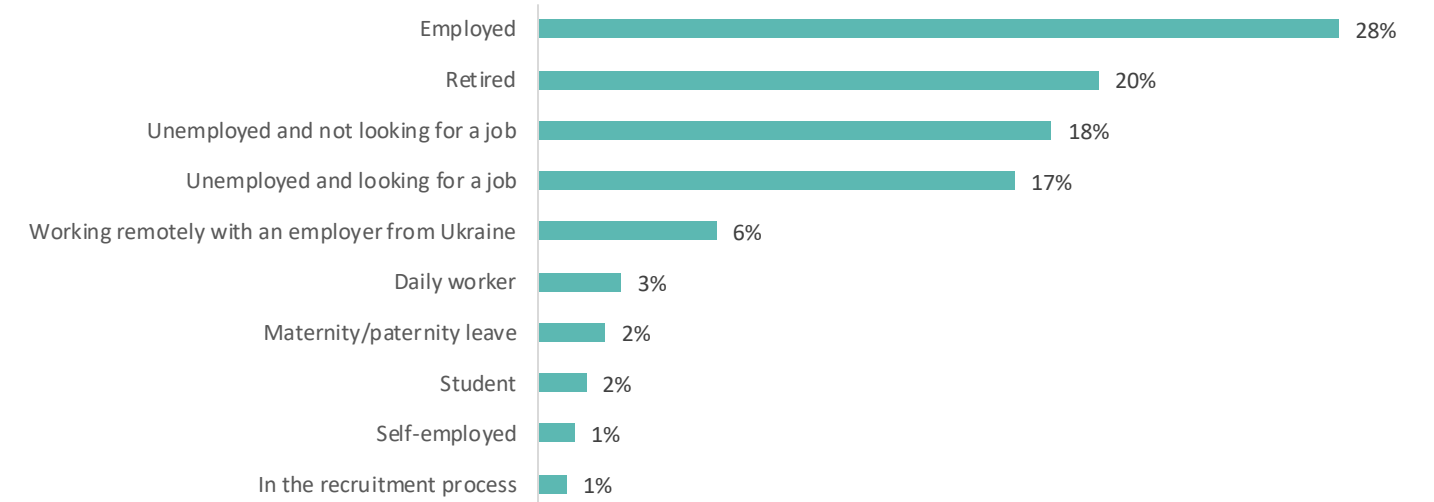
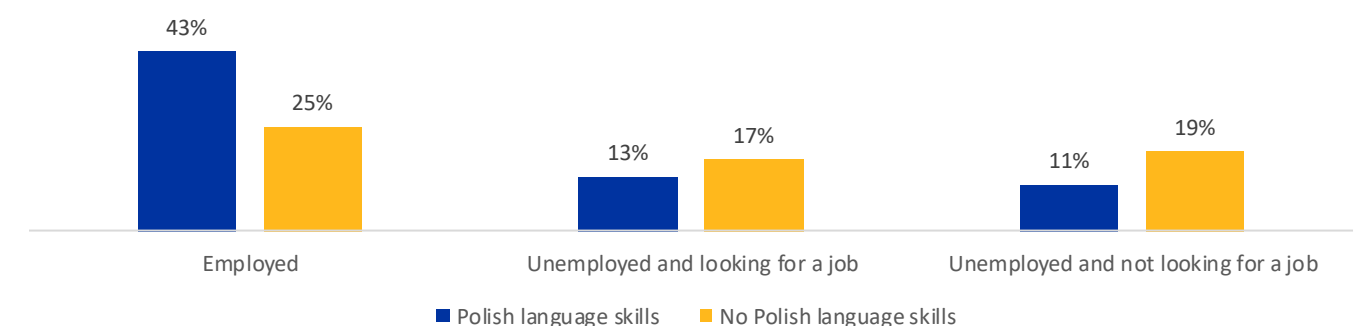


Figure 12: Polish language skills and employment status (%), N=1745



## 4. Registration and Inclusion Services

### Current status

Eighty-five per cent of respondents (N=80) declared to have received or to have applied for protection in Poland, receiving or being in the process to receive Temporary Protection at the time of interview. Female respondents were more likely to have a Temporary protection status (92% versus 67%).

Only one male respondent out of the six surveyed was in Poland on a work permit, and no female respondents were in Poland with work permits.

Table 2: Migration status, by gender and total (%)

Status	Women (%)	Men (%)	Total (%)
Registered for Temporary Protection	92%	67%	90%
Other	4%	17%	5%
Do not know	4%	0%	4%
Work permit	0%	17%	1%

### Access to finances

Eighty-seven per cent of respondents had been able to withdraw money using foreign credit/debit card since leaving Ukraine, while eight per cent had not. The remaining five per cent either had not needed to or had not attempted.

Eighty-nine per cent of respondents had a personal bank account in Poland at the time of the interview. Ten per cent did not. Less than one per cent preferred not to answer.

Figure 13: Ability to withdraw money with a foreign debit/credit card (%) N=1,536

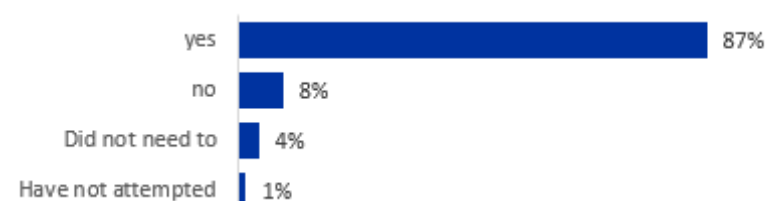


Figure 14: Has opened a personal bank account in Poland (%) N=1,539



Figure 15: Reason for not opening a personal bank account in Poland (%) N=160

Out of those who indicated that they had not opened a personal bank account in Poland, 50 per cent said that they plan to do so.

Another 28 per cent did not know how to, seven per cent had no need to open one and two per cent were not eligible. The remaining one per cent had other non-defined reasons.

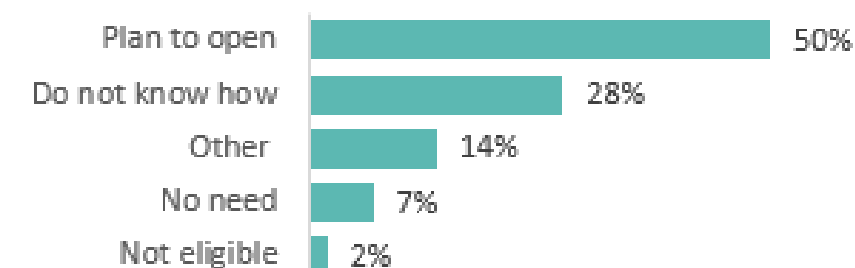
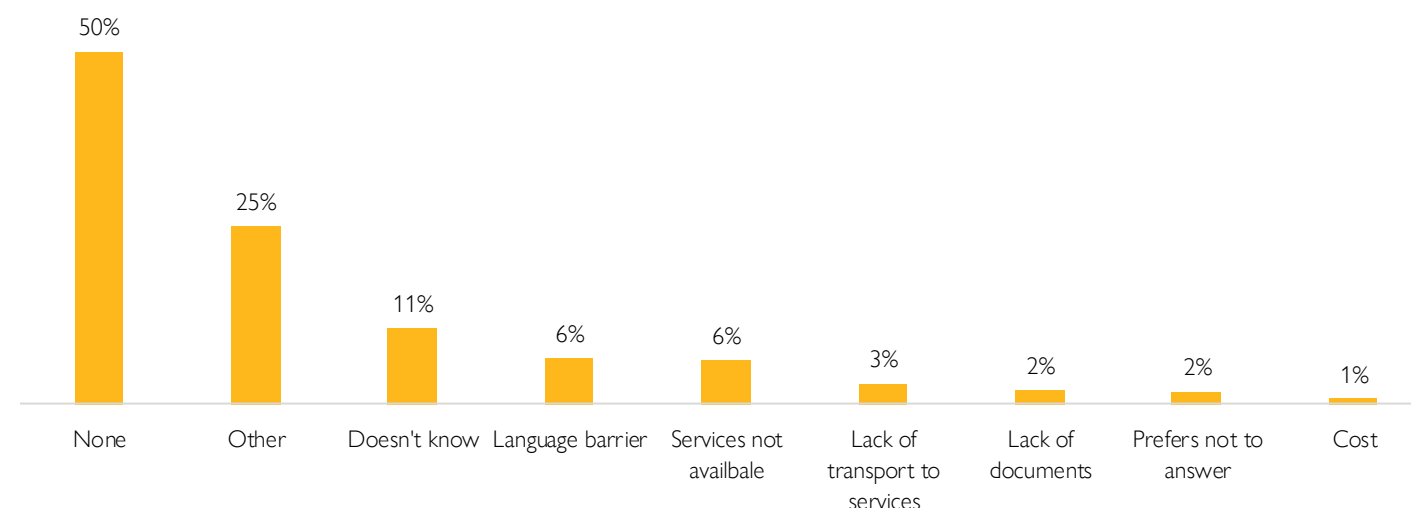


Figure 16: Obstacles accessing healthcare (%) N=1461

Fifty per cent of respondents indicated that they haven't faced any obstacles accessing healthcare, while 25 per cent have chosen other as their response and 11 per cent indicated that they didn't know what their obstacles were.

Both language barrier and lack of needed services were chosen by six per cent of respondents each, followed by lack of transport to services (3%), lack of necessary documents (2%) and high cost (1%).



## 5. Immediate Needs and Assistance Received

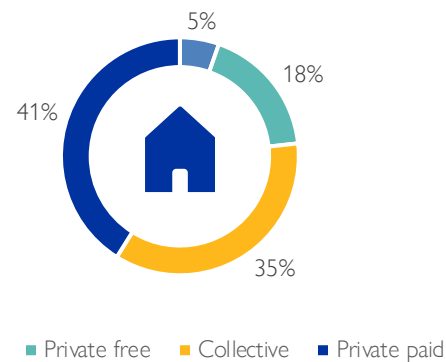


Figure 17: Types of accommodation respondents resided in (%)

### Types of accommodation

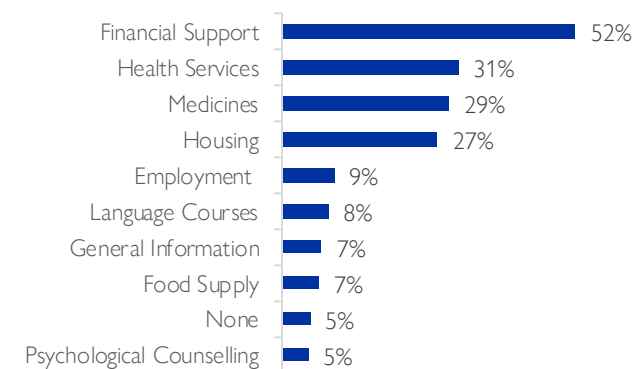
Forty-one per cent of respondents were residing in private accommodation, while 35 per cent have stated that they were staying in collective sites. Number of respondents residing in private accommodation added up to 18 per cent while other types of accommodation option was chosen by five per cent.

### Immediate needs

The most immediate need at the moment of the interview was **financial support** for 52 per cent of respondents, followed by **health services** (31%), **medicines** (29%), and **long-term accommodation** (27% each).

A noticeable share of respondents also reported to be in need of employment (9%), language courses (8%) general information (7%) and food supply (7%).

Figure 18: Needs at the time of interview (%) (more than one answer possible)

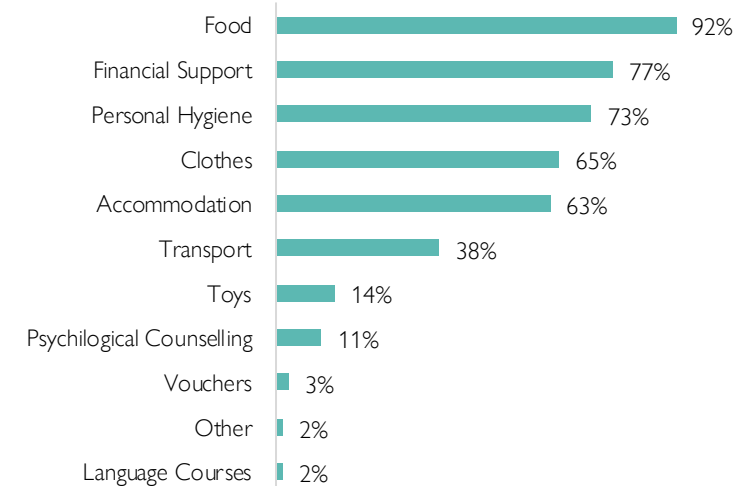


### Assistance received in Poland

Ninety-five per cent of respondents indicated receiving some type of assistance in their journey and in Poland. Out of this number 92 percent received food, 77 received financial support and 74 received personal hygiene products.

Other relevant areas where respondents received assistance while in Poland and throughout their journey were clothes (65%), short term and long-term accommodation (63%), transport (38%), toys (14%), and psychological counselling (11%). To a lesser extent respondents received assistance in the form of vouchers (3%), language courses (2%), and other (2%) and assistance related to employment (less than 1%)

Figure 19: Assistance received (%) (more than one answer possible)

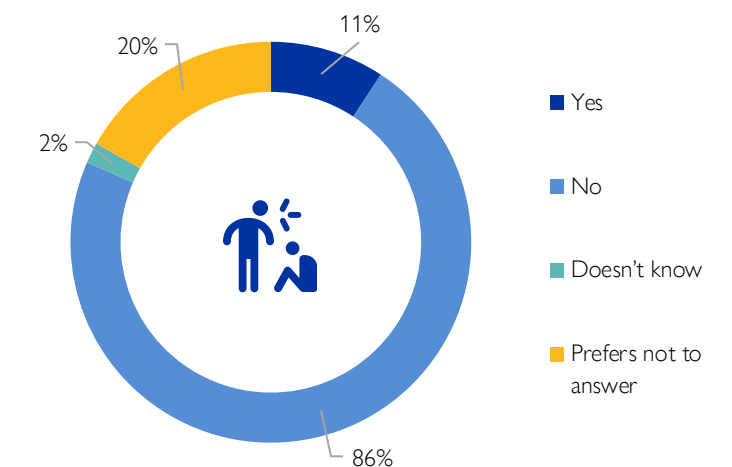


## 6. Challenges in the Country of Displacement

### Experiences of discrimination

Eleven per cent of respondents indicated having experienced discrimination in their country of displacement. In contrast, 86 per cent indicated having no such experiences. The remaining three per cent either did not know (2%) or preferred not to answer (1%). When looking at the data disaggregated by gender, 10 per cent who have experienced discrimination identify as female, while 1 per cent as male.

Figure 20: Reported experiences of discrimination (%)

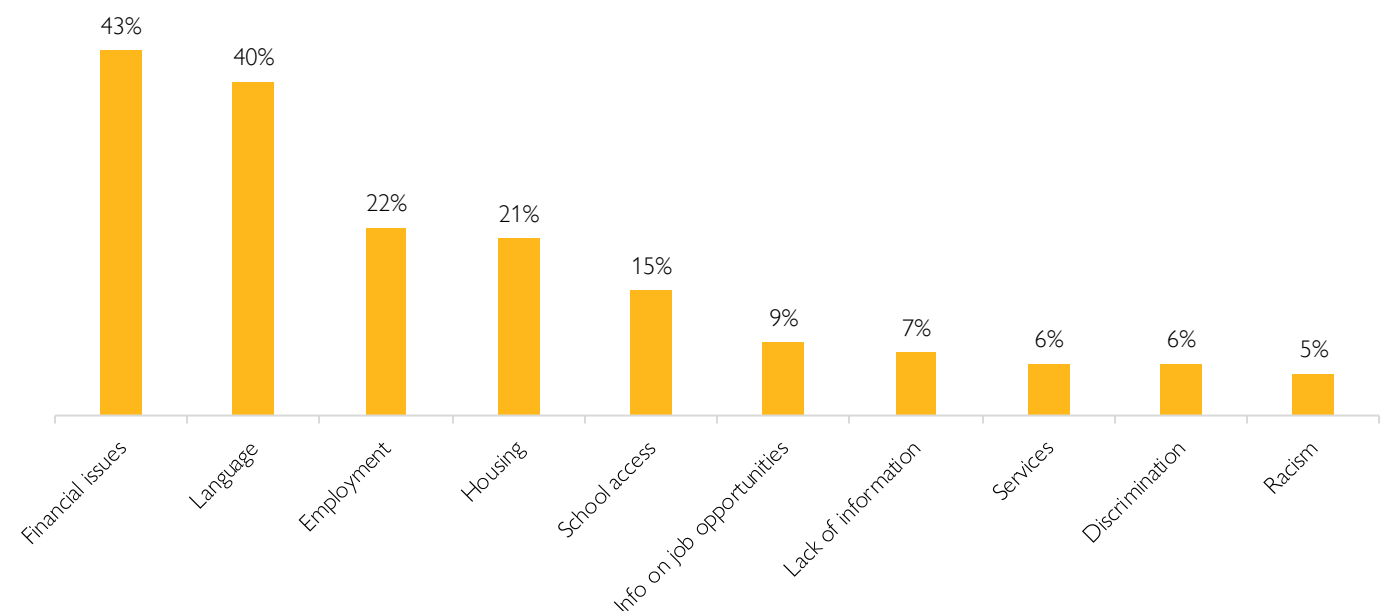


### Inclusion challenges

Forty-three per cent of respondents indicated financial issues as the top inclusion challenge, along with language issues (40%). This was followed by lack of employment (22%), housing (21%) and lack of access to schools (15%). Other challenges marked by respondents that hindered their stay in Poland

were: lack of information on employment opportunities (9%), overall lack of information (7%) and services (6%). Six per cent of respondents have experienced discrimination while five per cent have mentioned their experience with racism.

Figure 21: Top 10 inclusion challenges (%) N=81





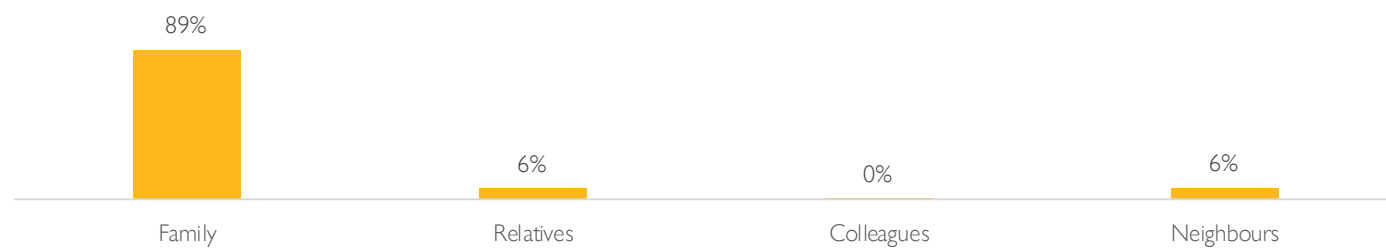
## 7. Current Group Composition

### Travel mode

Seventy-one per cent of respondents were travelling in a group. The other 29 per cent were travelling by themselves. Female respondents were much more likely to be travelling in a group (65%) rather than alone (25%).

Out of those travelling in a group (N=1296), 89 per cent were travelling with family, six per cent with relatives and six per cent with neighbours. Moreover, 23 per cent were travelling with

Figure 21: Travelling groups (%) N=1296  
(more than one answer possible)

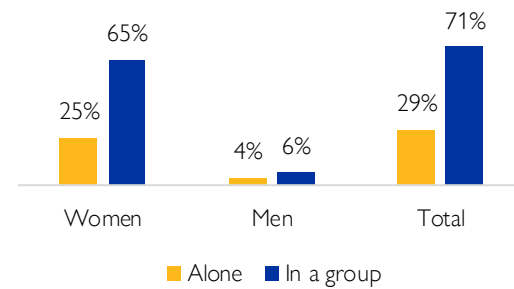


### Travelling with persons with health conditions and disabilities

Out of those travelling in a group, 35 per cent were travelling with at least one person with a chronic disease or a serious medical condition.

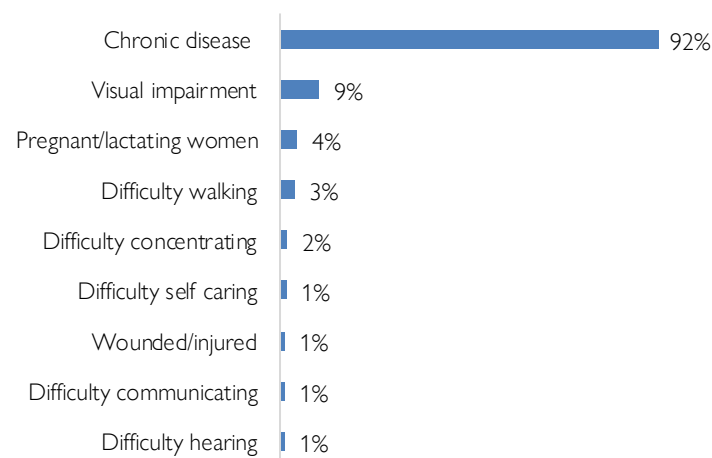
Ninety-two per cent were travelling with a person with chronic disease. This was followed by those travelling with a person with visual impairment (9%), pregnant/lactating women (4%), difficulty walking (3%) and difficulty concentrating/remembering (2%). The last four per cent were equally distributed between those with difficulty with self-caring, communicating, hearing as well as wounded or injured individuals.

Figure 20: Travel mode by gender and total (%)



at least one elderly person. Of the elderly persons in a group 60 per cent were elderly women, and 40 per cent were elderly men. Fifty-three per cent were travelling with at least one child.

Figure 22: Respondents travelling with at least one person with a serious health conditions (%) N=994  
(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 – Poland, Czechia, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

The analysis presented in this report is based on data collected between January and March 2023 using mobile device data collection tools. The sampling approach, main definitions and features of the survey tool make country-level datasets comparable.

Face-to-face surveys were conducted in Poland by 12 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 the Kobo application, IOM's 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 centres. In border crossing point areas persons entering by car, by bus 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 and English language. The preferred language was determined by the interviewee. Only fully completed surveys were taken into account for this report.

### Country-level implementation and limitations

Since March of 2022 DTM has been carrying out a Needs and Intentions (Entry) Survey with a purpose of identifying the intentions, challenges, and key demographics of Ukrainians crossing into Poland from Ukraine. This survey is conducted in the Podkarpackie, Lubelskie, Pomorskie, Malopolskie and Mazowieckie voivodeships. The survey respondents include both adult individuals and households or travel groups of both Ukrainian citizens and TCNs (third-country-nationals).

As of 24 April, there are a total of 996,000 active PESEL registrations ([Otwarte Dane](#)). This is the closest estimation to the number of refugees in Poland. As our sample size is approximately 1,814 persons, our data cannot be considered representative, and is only indicative of the needs and situations of refugees inside the country. The survey respondents are chosen at random from locations that receive high volumes of individuals entering Poland either via public or private transport. The data and analysis should be interpreted only as an illustration of the current situation for individuals who are fleeing Ukraine and entering Poland.

Since the beginning of this data exercise following limitations have been identified: difficulty in reaching participants outside of collective sites (those who are staying in private accommodation, and who do not receive humanitarian assistance); very small numbers of TCN respondents in collective sites; and challenges in accessing certain types of collective sites..

## 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.