# LITHUANIA

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



© IOM 2023

April - June 2023
Country Report & Data Analysis

_____

This report was issued without formal editing by IOM.

Cover photo: IOM' DTM enumerator speaking from refugees from Ukraine in Vilnius, Lithuania. © IOM 2023

Citation: International Organization for Migration (IOM), August 2023. DTM Lithuania "Surveys with Refugees from Ukraine: Needs, Intentions, and Integration Challenges. April-June 2023" IOM, Vilnius. For more information on terms and conditions of DTM reports and information products, please refer to: https://dtm.iom.int/terms-and-conditions

Release date:  28 August 2023

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## KEY FINDINGS

- **Top oblasts of origin:** Kharkivska (14%), Donetska (12%), Dnipropetrovska (11%), Khersonska (9%), Zaporizka (8%).
- **Intentions to move:** no intentions to move (95%), move within current country (1%), to another country (1%), where top 3 were Poland, Latvia and the United Kingdom.
- **Employment status:** employed (33%), retired (24%), unemployed and looking for a job (14%), unemployed and not looking for a job (12%), maternity/paternity leave (12%).

- **Top needs:*** financial support (27%), health services (22%), medicines (18%), employment (14%), food products (12%).
- **Top areas of assistance received:*** food products (90%), personal hygiene and sanitary supplies (85%), financial support (83%), transportation (58%), clothes and shoes (53%).
- **Top inclusion challenges*:** financial issues (23%), language barrier (14%), employment (12%), housing (11%), social services (8%).

*\* more than one answer possible*

### Map 1: Lithuania, surveys deployed, countries of stay & oblasts of destination in Ukraine
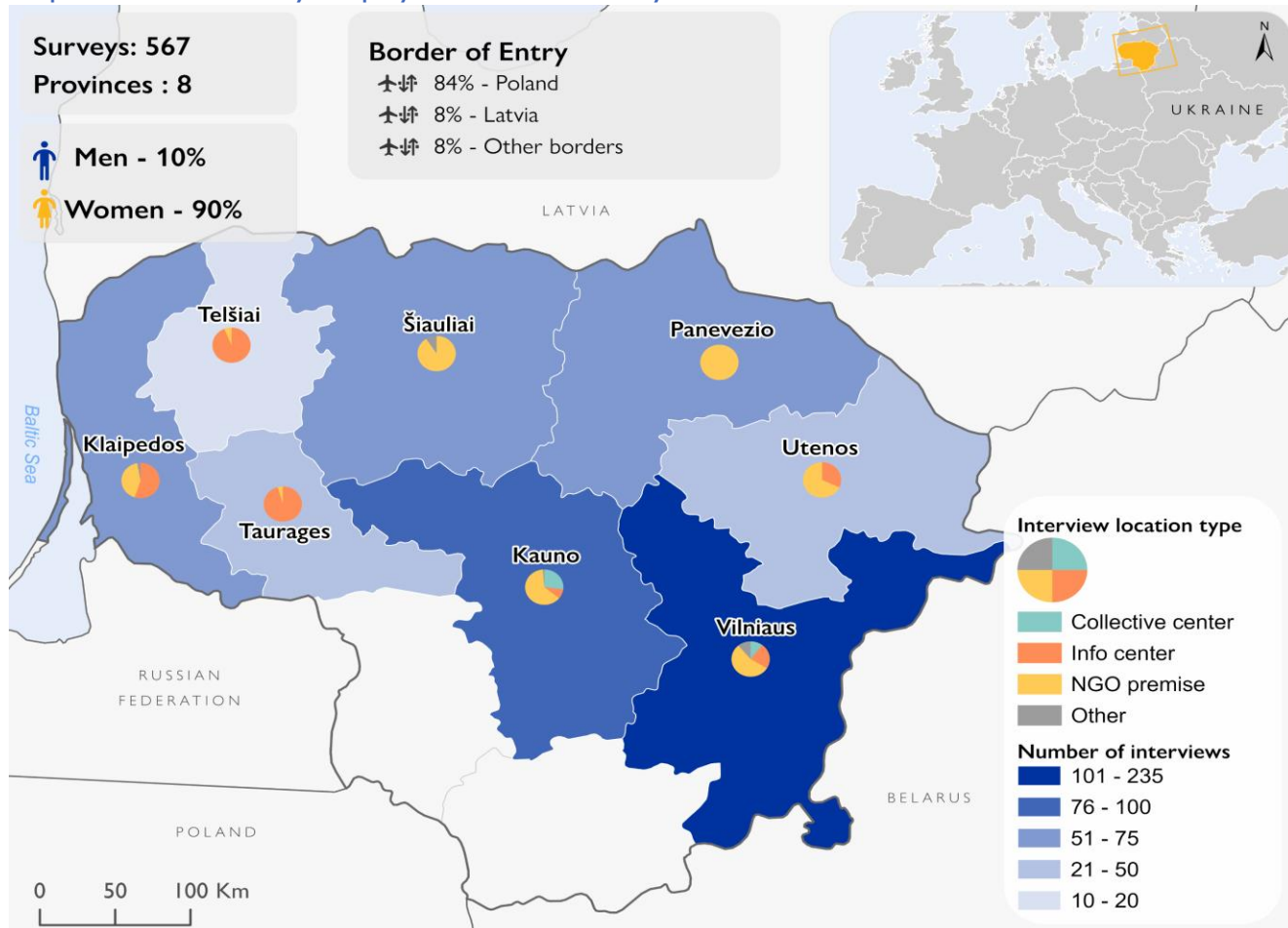


Surveys: 567
Provinces : 8

Men - 10%
Women - 90%

**Border of Entry**
84% - Poland
8% - Latvia
8% - Other borders

Interview location type
- Collective center
- Info center
- NGO premise
- Other

Number of interviews
- 101 - 235
- 76 - 100
- 51 - 75
- 21 - 50
- 10 - 20

*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

Most respondents came from the eastern and southern parts of Ukraine, with the highest share of respondents coming from Kharkivska (14%), Donetska (12%), Dnipropetrovska (11%), Khersonska (9%), and Zaporizka (8%).

The remaining half of the respondents (46%) resided in other 19 regions throughout Ukraine. These included the city of Kyiv (7%), Mykolaivska (6%), Kyivska (5%), Odeska and Sumska (4% each), Luhanska, Rivnenska, and Vinnytska (3% each), Chernihivska, Lvivska, Poltavska, Zhytomyrska (2% each).

Also, Cherkaska, and Khmelnytska (1% each), Chernivetska, Ivano-Frankivska, Khmelnytska, Kirovohradska, and Ternopilska (less than 1% each).

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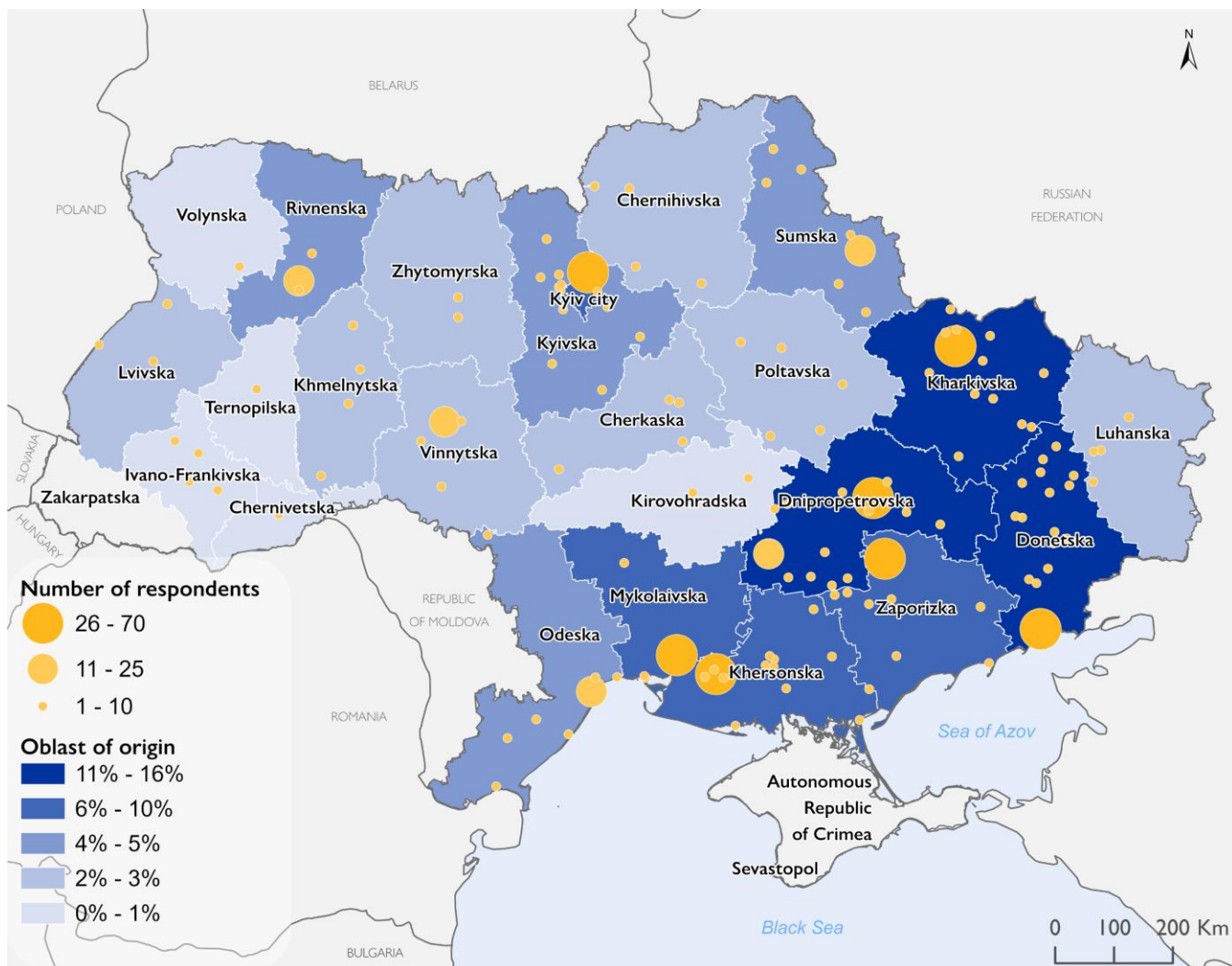


*This map is for illustration purposes only. The boundaries and names shown, and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by IOM.*

## Gender and age

Ninety per cent of the respondents were women, while men represented ten per cent of the sample. Over one-third of interviewees were between 30 and 39 years old (34%), followed by those 60 years and above (27%), and between 40 and 49 years (19%). When looking at data disaggregated by gender, the average age for men (51) in the sample was slightly higher than the women's (45). The largest age group for women was of those aged between 30 and 39 years (35%), followed by those aged 60 years and above (25%). Among men, the largest groups were those aged 60 years and above (41%), followed by those aged between 30 and 39 (24%).

Figure 1: Age by gender and total (%), (N=567)
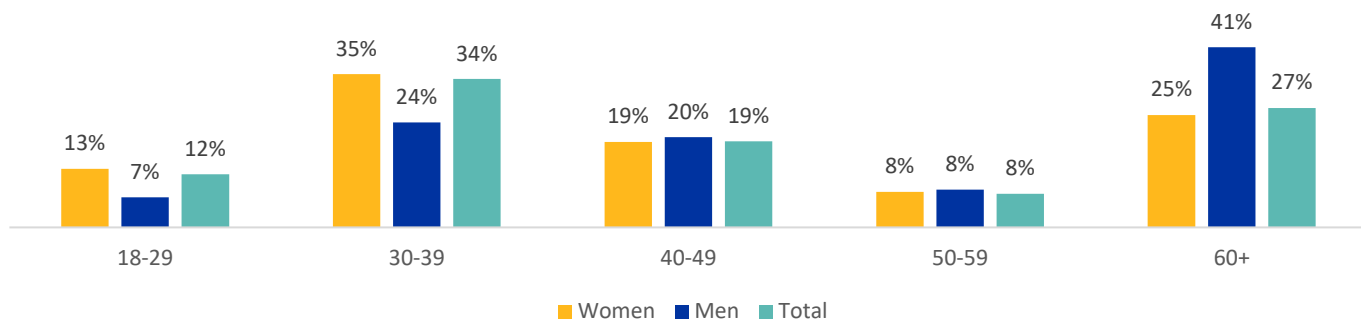


## Marital status

More than half (60%) of the respondents were married, while another 18 per cent were single. Others were widowed or divorced (11% and 9% respectively). The remaining two per cent of respondents were in a partnership. The share of married persons was higher among men than among women (78% versus 58%), while women were more likely to be widowed than men in the sample (12% versus 3%). A higher percentage of men were engaged in partnerships compared to women (10% versus 1%).

Figure 2: Marital status (%), (N=567)
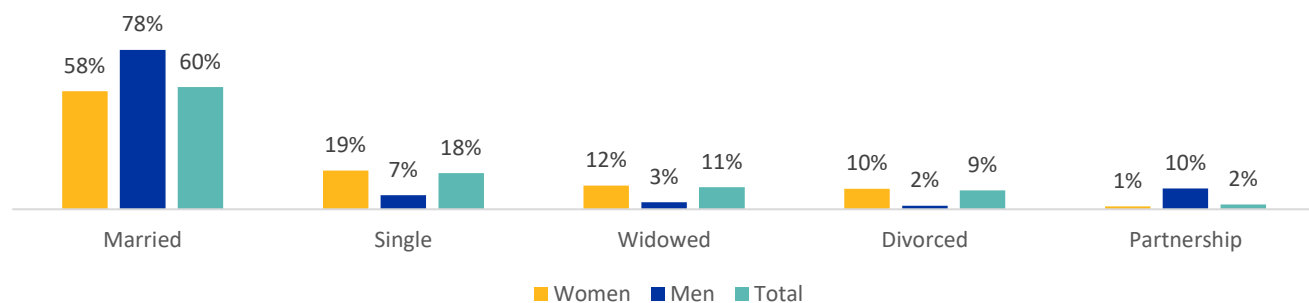


## Documents possessed at the time of interview

The majority of respondents travelled with more than one document. Nearly half of the respondents (47%) travelled with biometric passports, while 43 per cent held a permanent residence permit, and 44 per cent possessed either an ID card or a birth certificate (22% each). Other commonly carried documents included a driver's license (16%), a non-biometric passport, and an education certificate (11% each).

Figure 3: Documents in possession of respondents at the time of interview (%), (N=567) (more than one answer possible)
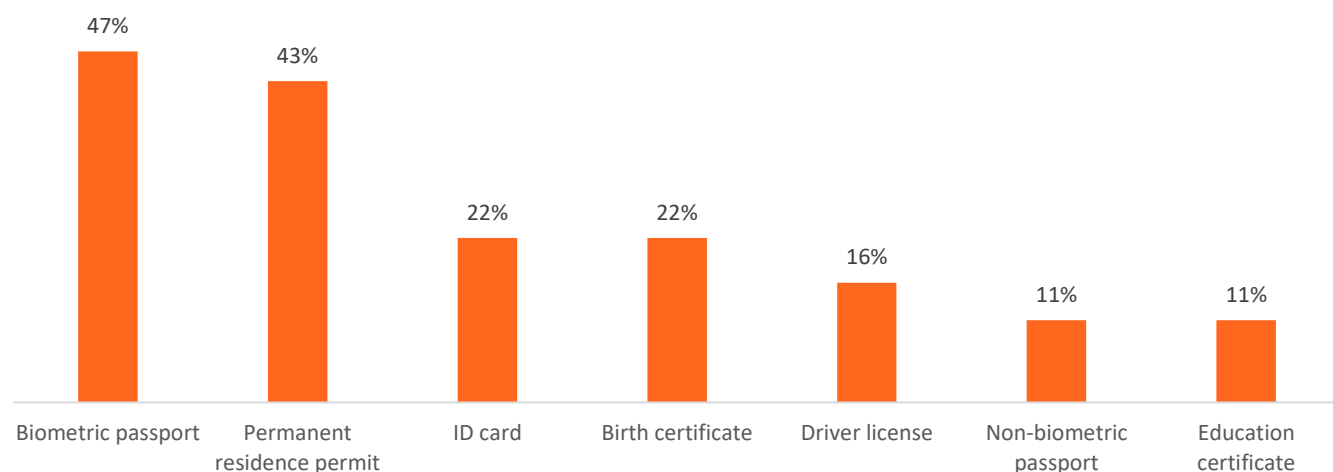


## Average time since initial displacement

The approximate duration of displacement can be assessed by looking at the difference between respondents' initial date of displacement from Ukraine, and the date of interview.

Most respondents were initially displaced in the first half of 2022, when the war started. For example, 42 per cent of respondents were initially displaced in March of 2022. This means that by the time the interview was conducted (May-June 2023), they had spent more than a year in displacement. Another 14 per cent of respondents were displaced in April 2022, giving them around 13 months since their initial date of displacement at the date of assessment.

Between May and December 2022, the rate of displacement fluctuated between one to five per cent. This means that 22 per cent of respondents had spent 5-12 months in displacement at the time of assessment.

Lastly, 15 per cent of respondents who were initially displaced in 2023 spent from less than one month to five months in displacement.

Table 1: Approximate time in displacement until the date of interview (%), (N=567)

| Date of initial displacement | Approximate time in displacement until date of interview | (%) Of Respondents |
|---|---|---|
| Before 2022 | 2 years or more | 1% |
| Jan-Mar 2022 | 14-16 months | 49% |
| Apr-Jun 2022 | 11-13 months | 21% |
| Jul-Sept 2022 | 8-10 months | 9% |
| Oct-Dec 2022 | 5-7 months | 5% |
| Jan-Mar 2023 | 2-4 months | 8% |
| April 2023 | 1-2 months | 2% |
| May 2023 | Around a month or less | 4% |
| June 2023 | Less than a month | 1% |

## 2. Intentions

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

Ninety-six per cent of the interviewed respondents stated their intention to remain in Lithuania, either in their current location (95%), or in a different location within Lithuania (1%). One per cent had plans to move to another country, while the remaining three per cent of respondents were uncertain about their plans.

When looking at the data disaggregated by gender, women were slightly more likely to stay in their current location than men (95% versus 93%). Additionally, two per cent of men indicated an intention to relocate to a foreign country, whereas none of the women reported similar plans.

Figure 4: Respondents' intention to move from current location, by gender and total (%), (N=567)
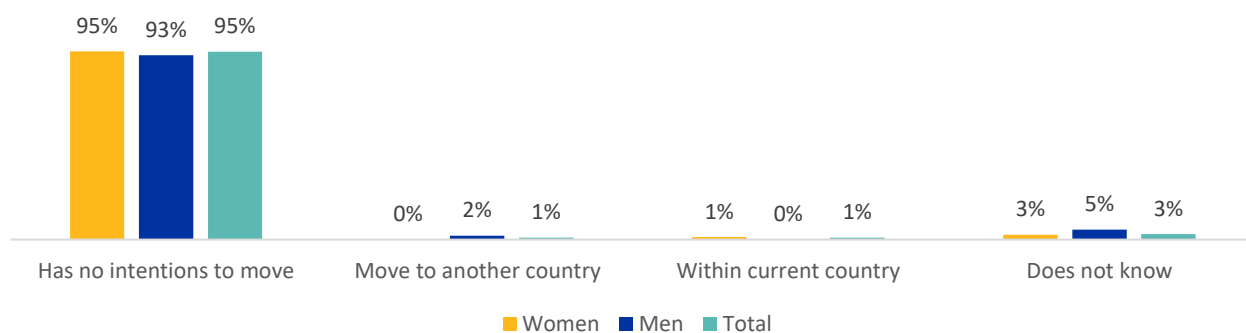


Sixty per cent of the respondents plan to return to Ukraine when it is safe to do so, while 21 per cent intend to come back regardless of the situation in the country. Additionally, 13 per cent remain unsure about their plans, while seven per cent do not have any intentions of returning.

### Intended length of stay in current location

Among those who planned to relocate within Lithuania, Ukraine, or another location (N=10), three respondents intended to stay in their current location for one to three months before moving. Other two respondents for less than a month, and one respondent - for six months to one year. The remaining four respondents were unsure about their intended duration.

Table 2: Intended length of stay in current location before moving elsewhere, by gender and total (N=10)

| Length of stay | Women | Men | Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| Between 1-3 months | 3 | 0 | 3 |
| Less than a month | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| Between 3 months and one year | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Does not know | 4 | 0 | 4 |

## 3. Education and Employment: profile and prospects

### Main spoken language

The survey found that a majority of respondents (65%) speak Ukrainian as their main language at home, while the second most common language used in this round of surveying was Russian (35%).

Figure 5: Main spoken language (%), (N=567) (more than one answer possible)

Ukrainian — 65%
Russian — 35%
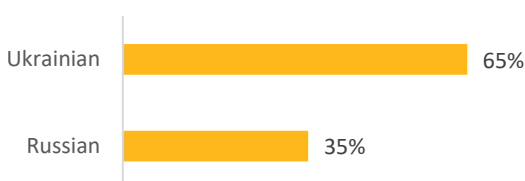
### Other spoken language(s)

A large part of respondents speaks Russian (64%), English (38%) and Ukrainian (35%) as a second language. This was followed by Lithuanian (27%), German, and Polish (4% each), French, Turkish and Spanish (1% each).

Figure 6: Other spoken language(s) (%), (N=567) (more than one answer possible)

Russian — 64%
English — 38%
Ukrainian — 35%
Lithuanian — 27%
German — 4%
Polish — 4%
French — 1%
Turkish — 1%
Spanish — 1%
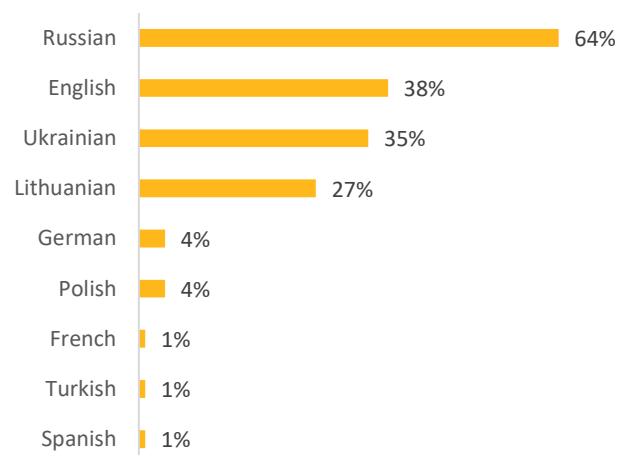
### Education level

More than half of refugees from Ukraine (52%) had completed a tertiary education. Twenty-six per cent had an upper secondary/vocational or lower secondary (11% and 15% respectively) level of education. Twenty-one per cent indicated to have a post-secondary non-tertiary level of education. Female respondents were more likely than their male counterparts to have reached tertiary education as their highest education level (53% versus 40%), while male respondents were more likely than female respondents to have reached an upper secondary/vocational as their highest education level (19% versus 11%).

Figure 7: Education level, by gender and total (%), (N=567)

| | Women | Men | Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| Tertiary | 53% | 40% | 52% |
| Upper secondary | 11% | 19% | 11% |
| Lower secondary | 15% | 22% | 16% |
| Post secondary | 21% | 19% | 21% |
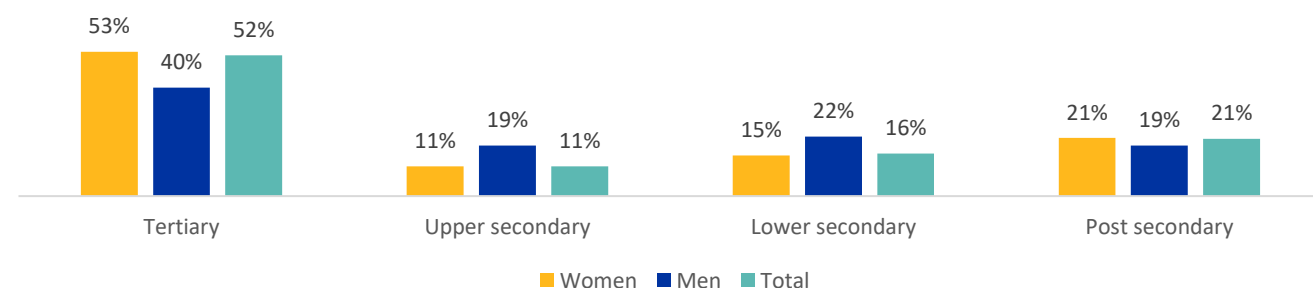
## Employment status before leaving Ukraine versus current status

Nearly half of all respondents (46%) were employed before leaving Ukraine, 24 per cent were retired, 13 per cent were on maternity or paternity leave. Additionally, six per cent were unemployed and not looking for a job, four per cent were self-employed, two per cent were unemployed and looking for a job, another two per cent were pursuing studies, one per cent were daily workers. However, these numbers were noticeably different when asked about their current employment in Lithuania. Fourteen per cent were unemployed and looking for a job, while the share of employed and self-employed decreased to 33 per cent and two per cent respectively. The share of those declaring to be unemployed and looking for a job increased from two per cent before the journey to 14 per cent while in Lithuania.

Figure 8: Employment status before leaving Ukraine and current employment status (%)
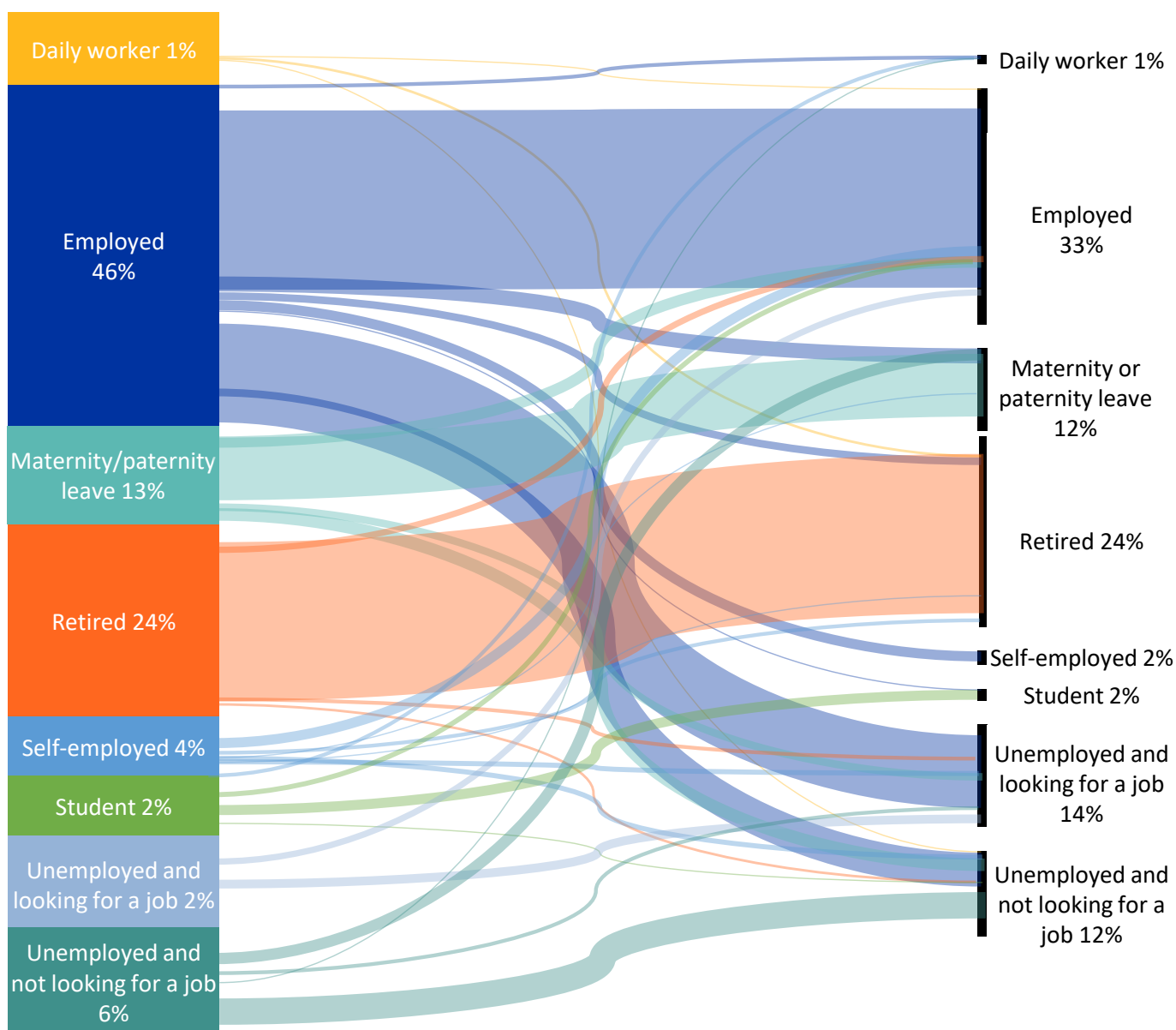
## Sectors of employment before leaving Ukraine and now

Among 34 respondents who provided answers about their current employment sector, agriculture, wholesale and retail, and mining and quarrying were the most common fields. This was followed by manufacturing, human health and social work also.

Less common sectors included accommodation and food services, transport and storage, and public administration and defense, were reported to a lesser extent.

Table 3: Top 10 sectors of employment before leaving Ukraine and currently (%)

| Sector of employment | Before leaving Ukraine (%) N=291 | Currently (%) N=204 |
|---|---|---|
| Financial insurance | 19% | 5% |
| Education | 14% | 12% |
| Accommodation & Food services | 8% | 13% |
| Human health & Social work | 8% | 9% |
| Other services / Activities | 8% | 16% |
| Manufacturing | 7% | 18% |
| Arts, Entertainment & Recreation | 4% | 2% |
| Domestic work | 4% | 6% |
| Transporting & Storage | 4% | 4% |
| Administrative support | 3% | 1% |

## Desired occupation

When asked about their desired occupation in Lithuania, respondents provided a variety of preferences. Among them, 35 per cent indicated that they were already employed in their desired occupation. Additionally, five per cent expressed interest in working as professionals, while others demonstrated interest in roles such as clerical support work, elementary occupations, plant machine operators, and services and sales workers (1% each). Forty-three indicated that they are not willing to work, and the remaining 13 per cent either chose not to answer or expressed a desire to work in other professions (1% and 12% respectively).

Figure 9: Top desired occupations (%), (N=543)
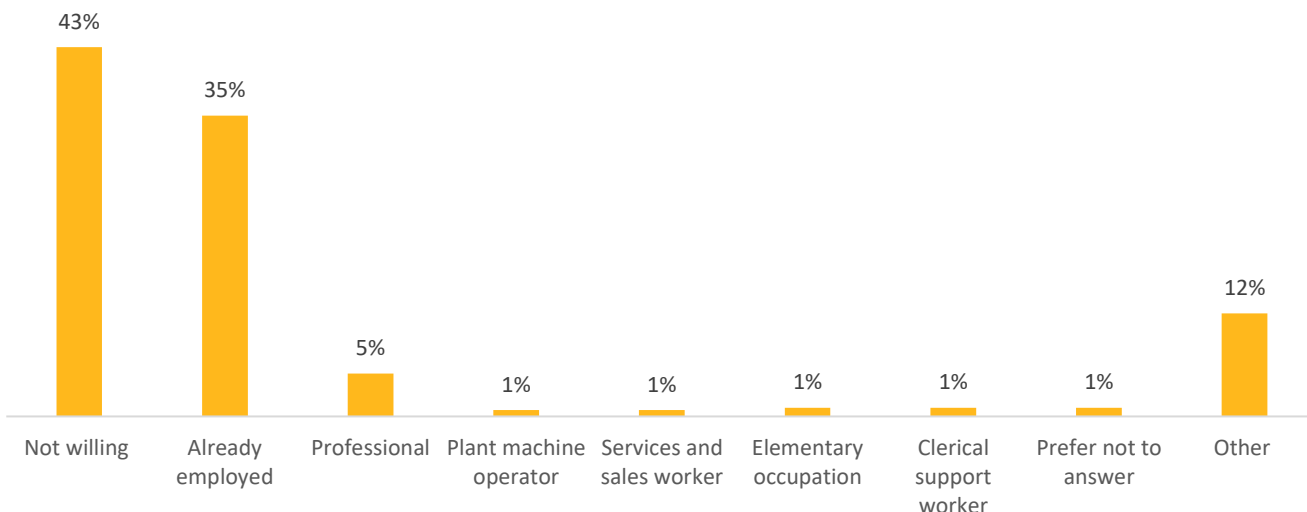
## 4. Registration and inclusion services

### Protection applications

Out of the 567 respondents, 99 per cent applied for asylum or temporary protection, while one per cent declared not having registered for protection in Lithuania. Among those who answered "No" (N=7), two respondents planned to register soon, while an additional two respondents stated that they did not know how to apply for asylum or temporary protection. One respondent was planning to leave Lithuania soon, and the remaining two respondents had other reasons.

### Access to finances

Respondents who have been in Lithuania for more than 3 months (or answered they had settled in the country) were asked a series of follow-up questions regarding their inclusion. To evaluate the access to finances, we asked them whether they were able to withdraw money using their foreign debit or credit card in Lithuania.

Out of 243 respondents who provided answers, 83 per cent had no issues accessing their finances using foreign cards, while 17 per cent of respondents were not able to withdraw cash from ATMs or make payments using their own debit/credit card.

Ninety-seven per cent of respondents had a personal bank account in Lithuania at the time of the interview, while three per cent did not. Among those who indicated that they had not opened a personal bank account in Lithuania (N=7), four respondents had no need to do so, two respondents were planning to open one, and the remaining respondent had other reasons for not opening a bank account.

Figure 10: Ability (%) to withdraw cash or make payments using debit/credit cards (%), (N=243)



17%

83%

■ Yes ■ No
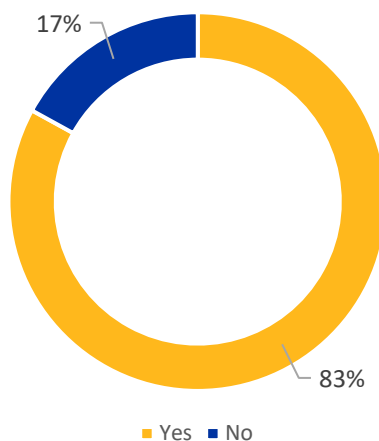
### Current accommodation

A majority of respondents were renting an apartment or house in the open market (56%). Other frequently cited types of accommodation in Lithuania were apartments they were not liable for paying rent for (12%), self-paid hotels/hostels, collective centers, and staying with family or friends without paying (9% each). Also, self-paid hotels/hostels (2%), an apartment/house rented from friends or family (1%). Lastly, respondents were staying in their own apartment/house or preferred not to answer (1% each). Among the respondents, 47 per cent reported finding accommodation on their own, while 23 per cent received assistance in finding accommodation from family or friends, 22 per cent received help from NGOs, and five per cent obtained help from the government or municipality. The remaining three per cent reported finding accommodation through other sources, such as their workplaces or universities.

Figure 11: Current type of accommodation of respondents (%), (N=567)

| Accommodation type | % |
|---|---|
| An apartment/house rented on the open market | 56% |
| An apartment/house of a resident that I don't need to pay for | 12% |
| An apartment/house from friends or family without paying | 9% |
| Collective center | 9% |
| Hotel/hostel without paying | 9% |
| Self-paid hotel/hostel | 2% |
| I own my apartment/house | 1% |
| An apartment/house rented from friends or family | 1% |
| Prefer not to answer | 1% |
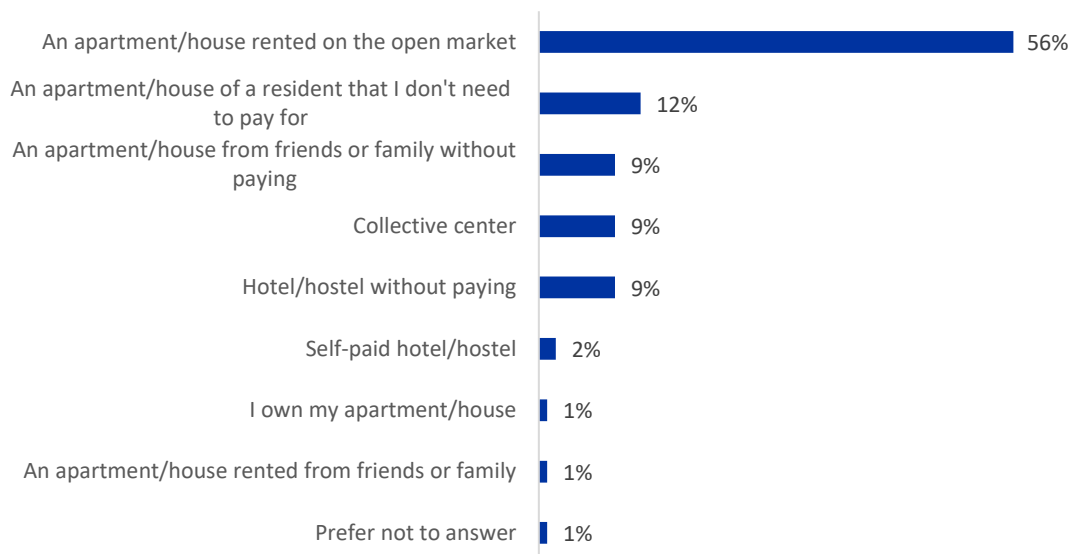
## Access to education

Among the respondents who had children, 125 specified whether their children were enrolled in schools and kindergartens. Seventy-two per cent indicated that they were able to enroll their children in local schools, 16 per cent mentioned enrolling their children in online education in Ukraine, and eleven per cent enrolled their children in both local and online schools. The remaining one per cent had not yet been able to enroll their children in any educational facility at the time of the interview, however, they were planning to do so.

Figure 12: Has enrolled children in an education facility (%), (N=125)

| | % |
|---|---|
| Yes, local | 72% |
| Yes, online in Ukraine | 16% |
| Yes, online and local | 11% |
| No | 1% |
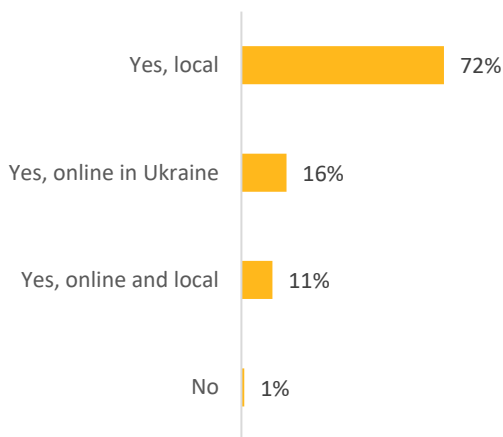
## Consular services

Eighty-three per cent of respondents indicated that they knew how to contact a consular representative, while 17 per cent did not. Out of those who responded to the previous question (N=243), 94 per cent indicated that they had not reached out for consular support at the time of the assessment, while another six per cent had.

Figure 13: Knows how to contact consular representative (%), (N=243)

| | % |
|---|---|
| Yes | 94% |
| No | 6% |
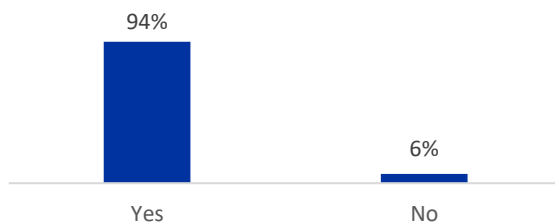
## 5. Immediate Needs and Assistance Received

### Immediate needs*

The three main needs expressed by respondents were financial support (27%), health services (22%), and medicines (18%). These were followed by the need for employment (14%), food products (12%), personal hygiene and sanitary supplies (11%), language courses (10%), as well as long-term accommodation, household goods, clothes, and shoes (7% each).

*(more than one answer possible)*

### Assistance received in Lithuania*

Ninety-seven percent of refugees in the sample reported receiving support or humanitarian assistance, while three percent did not receive any support before the interview. Among those who received support, the primary types of assistance reported included food products (90%), personal hygiene and sanitary supplies (85%), financial support (83%), transportation (58%), clothes and shoes (53%), accommodation (32%). Also, vouchers (31%), language courses (17%), toys (11%), employment (4%), and psychological counselling (3%).

*(more than one answer possible)*

### Areas in which information is needed to get more assistance

Among those who indicated that they did not know where to find assistance (9% of the total sample, N=51), over half of the respondents expressed a need for more information on health services (57%), financial support (45%), and medicines (39%). Additionally, others required information regarding food products (31%), personal hygiene and sanitary supplies (25%), as well as language courses (24%). Other relevant areas where information was sought included household goods (22%), clothes and shoes, and employment (20% each), school enrollment for children (16%), long-term accommodation, documentation assistance, and legal services (14% each). Moreover, some respondents were in search of general information and information on education for adults (12% each).

Figure 14: Top 15 areas where more information for assistance is needed (%), (N=51)
(more than one answer possible)
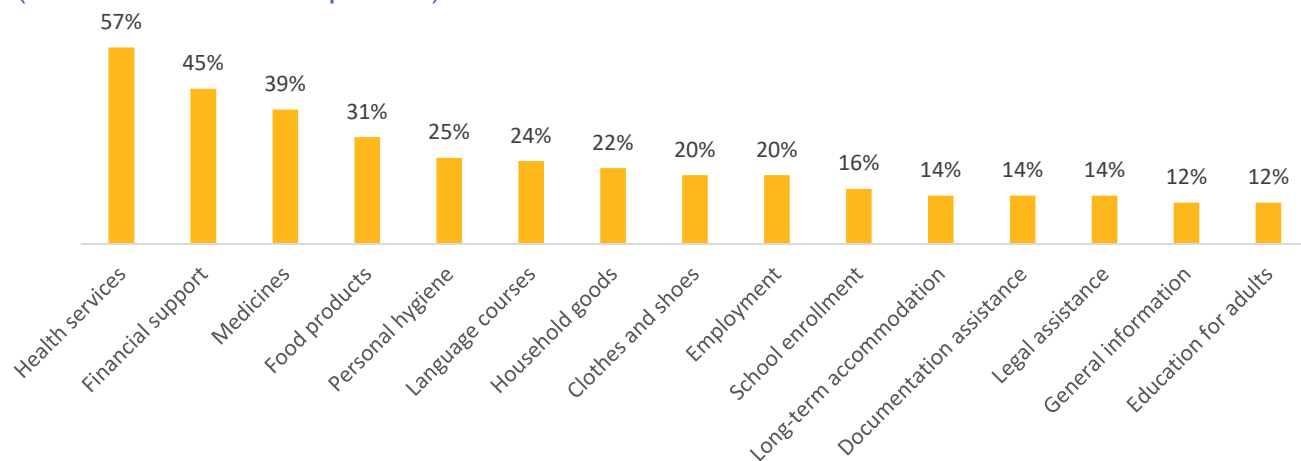
## 6. Challenges in the country of displacement

### Experiences of discrimination

Seventeen per cent of respondents indicated having experienced discrimination (e.g. in receiving job offers, seeking health services) in their country of displacement. In contrast, 82 per cent indicated having no such experience. The remaining one per cent preferred not to answer.

When looking at the data disaggregated by gender, female respondents were more likely to have experienced discrimination than their male counterparts (18% versus 8%).

Figure 15: Reported experiences of discrimination (%), (N=243)



1%
17%
82%

■ Yes   ■ No   ■ Prefer not to answer
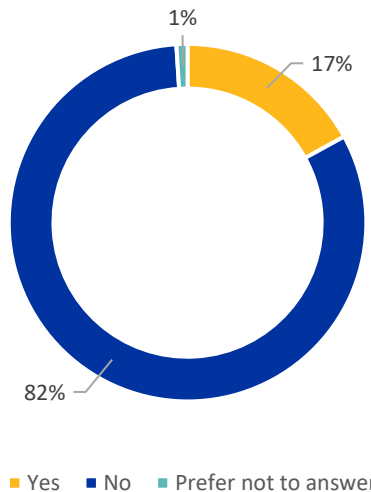
### Inclusion challenges

When asked about the challenges they had encountered in Lithuania, respondents indicated facing financial issues (23%), language barrier (14%), difficulty finding a suitable job (12%), and challenges in securing housing (11%) as the most prevalent difficulties. Other notable challenges included accessing social services (8%), dealing with documentation issues (5%), facing discrimination, and encountering a lack of information (2% each). A smaller percentage of respondents mentioned challenges related to lack of information and access to schools for children (1% each).

Figure 16: Top 10 inclusion challenges (%), (N=243) (more than one answer possible)



| Financial issues | Language barrier | Suitable job | Housing | Access to social services | Documentation issues | Discrimination | Lack information on employment | Lack gen. information | Access to school |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 23% | 14% | 12% | 11% | 8% | 5% | 2% | 2% | 1% | 1% |
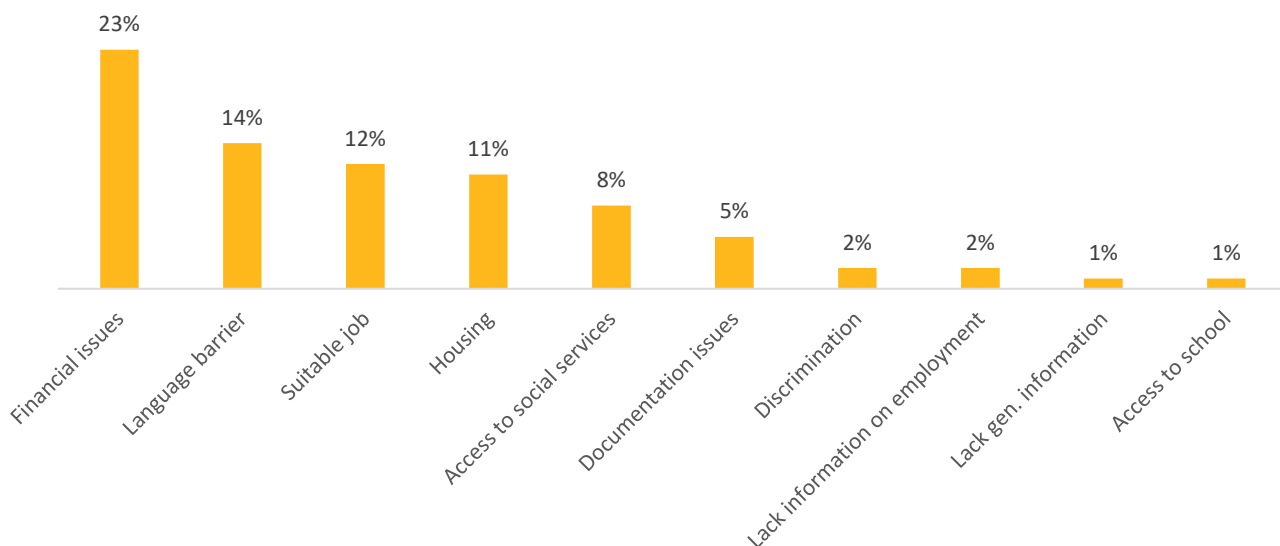
## 7. Current Group Composition

### Travel mode

Eighty-one per cent of the sample declared to be travelling in a group, in comparison with the other 19 per cent who were travelling alone. Female respondents were slightly less likely to be travelling alone in comparison to their male counterparts (19% versus 20%). Out of the 81 (N=459) per cent travelling in a group, 98 per cent were travelling with immediate family/ household members, four per cent with other relatives and two per cent with friends and neighbours. Overall, the average group size including, the respondent, was about three persons.

Table 4: Travel mode by gender and total

| Travelling in a group/alone | Women | Men | Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| Alone | 96 | 12 | 108 |
| With immediate family/household members | 403 | 47 | 450 |
| Relatives | 18 | 2 | 20 |
| Friends and neighbours | 8 | 0 | 8 |
| Colleagues | 1 | 0 | 1 |

### Travelling with persons with health conditions and disabilities

A considerable share of respondents (49%) indicated that their group/household included persons with serious health conditions or specific needs, while 50 per cent did not report being in a group with at least one person with a serious health condition, and one per cent did not know.

Out of those signalling to be with a person with a serious health condition (N=279), 87 per cent reported having in their group (including themselves) at least one person with a chronic disease or having other serious medical condition. Additionally, 12 cent were travelling with a person with visual impairment.

This was followed by those travelling with a person with difficulty walking or climbing steps (7%), difficulty concentrating or remembering (4%), difficulty hearing, difficulty communicating or understanding, pregnant or lactating women (1% each).

Figure 17: Respondents travelling with at least one person with a serious health condition (%), (N=279) (more than one answer possible)



| | |
|---|---|
| Chronic disease | 87% |
| Visual impairment | 12% |
| Difficulty walking/climbing steps | 7% |
| Difficulty concentrating/remembering | 4% |
| Difficulty hearing | 1% |
| Difficulty communicating | 1% |
| Pregnant/lactating women | 1% |
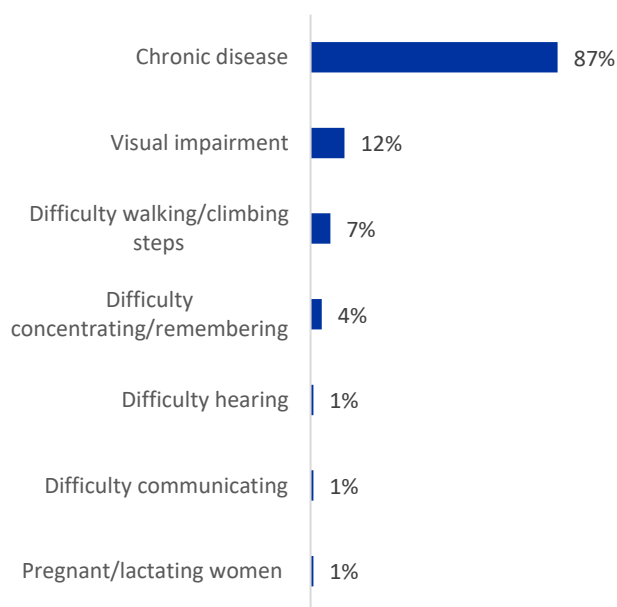
# 8. Methodology

### Background

This report is based on a survey of displacement patterns, needs and intentions conducted by IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) in the 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 April and June 2023.

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 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 centres. 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. All responses were checked for systematic issues by enumerator, and this process did not identify problems. Only fully completed surveys were considered for this report.

### Country-level implementation and limitations

In Lithuania, DTM was activated in September 2022. The data for this report was collected between 22 May and 29 June 2023. Overall, 567 valid surveys were collected by a team of 3 enumerators (2 female and 1 male) covering 8 different provinces.

Forty-one per cent of surveys were collected in Vilnius, 14 per cent in Kaunas, 13 per cent in Klaipėda, 12 per cent in Panevėžys, ten one per cent in Šiauliai, four per cent in Tauragė, another four per cent in Utena, three per cent in Šiauliai region. Enumerators were approaching respondents in collective centers, open spaces, dormitories, humanitarian aid distribution centers. The interviews have been conducted in Russian and Ukrainian languages.

The survey respondents were chosen at random from locations within four transit and reception locations that receive high volumes of individuals entering Lithuania either via public or private transport. Whilst every attempt was made to capture all types of arrivals, the operational reality of fieldwork was confronted with various levels of accessibility of 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.

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.

## 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.