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

July - September 2023

Country Report & Data Analysis

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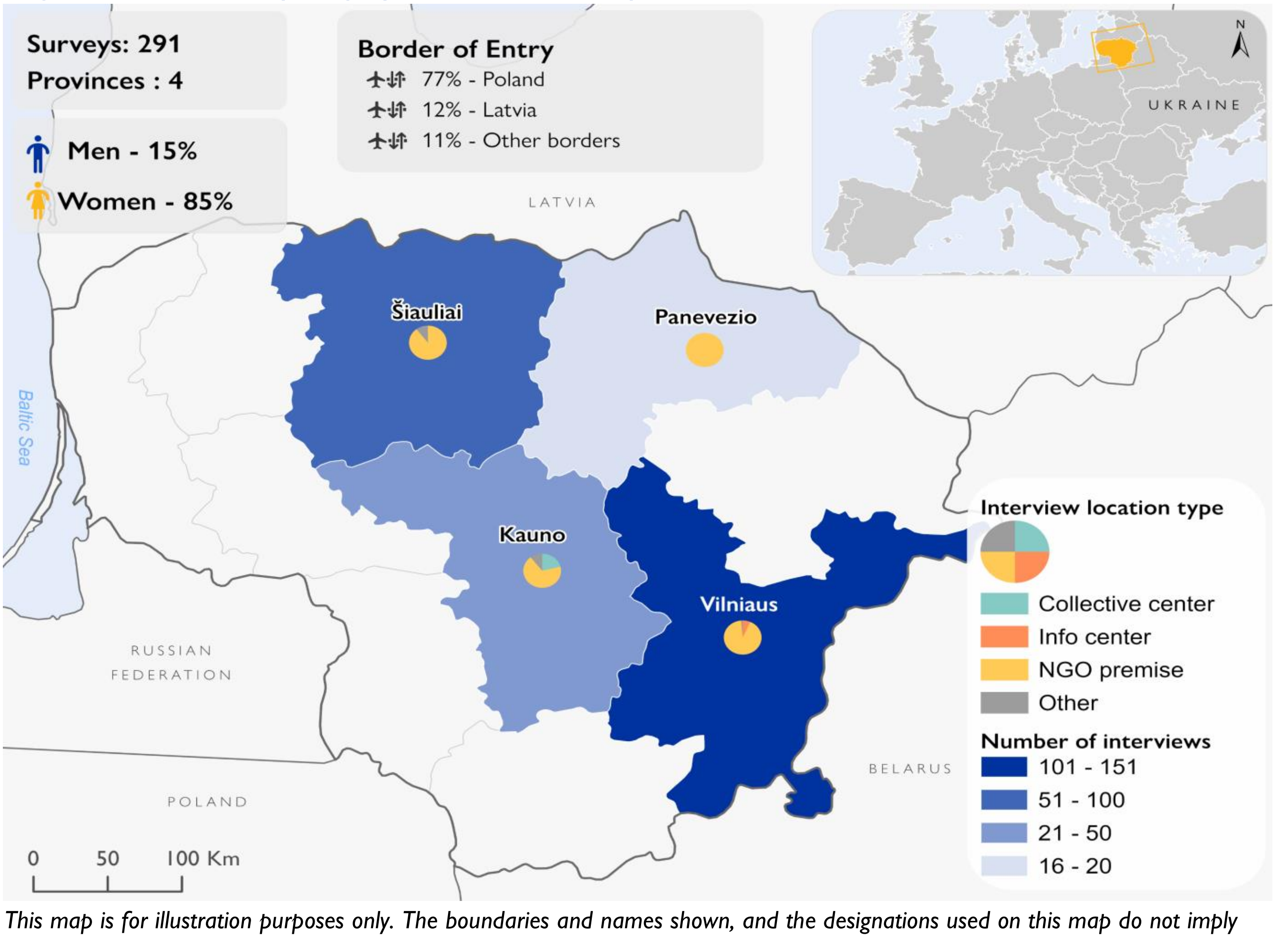
KEY FINDINGS

- Top oblasts of origin: Kharkivska (17%), Donetska (12%), Zaporizka (10%), Khersonska (9%), Dnipropetrovska (7%).
- Intentions to move: no intention to move (86%), intention to move within current country (3%), intention to move to another country (1%), Top 3 cited countries were Canada, Poland and the United Kingdom.
- Employment status: employed (37%), unemployed and looking for a job (24%), retired (14%), parental leave (8%), student (8%).

Top needs:* financial support (39%), health services (31%), personal hygiene and sanitary supplies (26%), medicine (26%), language courses (23%).
Top inclusion challenges:* housing (24%), language barrier (21%), financial issues (21%), social and administrative services (18%), documentation (15%).
Top areas of assistance received:* food products (91%), personal hygiene and sanitary supplies (72%), transportation (67%), clothes & shoes (58%).

** multiple answers possible*

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



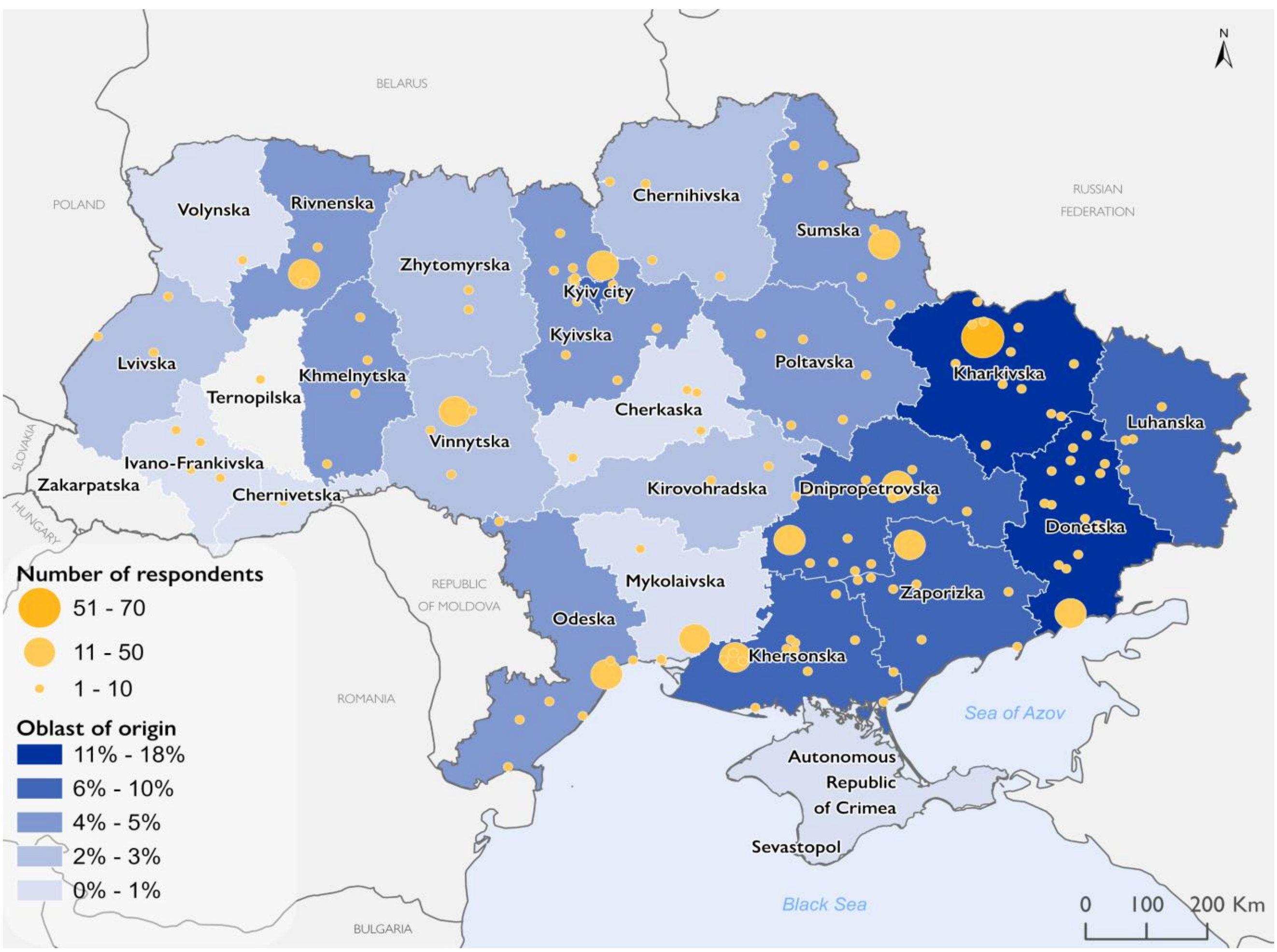
This map is for illustration purposes only. The boundaries and names shown, and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by IOM.

I. Socio-Demographic profile

Oblast (region) of origin

Respondents interviewed for this survey originated from several different regions across Ukraine, with a particular concentration in the eastern and southern parts of the country. The majority of respondents (55%) came from only five regions of origin or habitual residence before leaving Ukraine, namely Kharkivska (17%), Donetska (12%), Zaporizka (10%), Khersonska (9%), and Dnipropetrovska (7%). Other highly-represented regions of origin include: Luhanska (7%), Kyiv city (6%), Rivnenska (4%), and Sumska (4%). The remaining respondents (24%) resided in 13 other regions throughout Ukraine. These included Khmelnytska, Kyivska, Odeska, Poltavska (3% each), Chernihivska, Kirovohradska, Vinnytska (2% each), as well as Cherkaska, Ivano-Frankivska, Lvivska, Mykolaivska, Volynska, Zhytomyrska (1% each).

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



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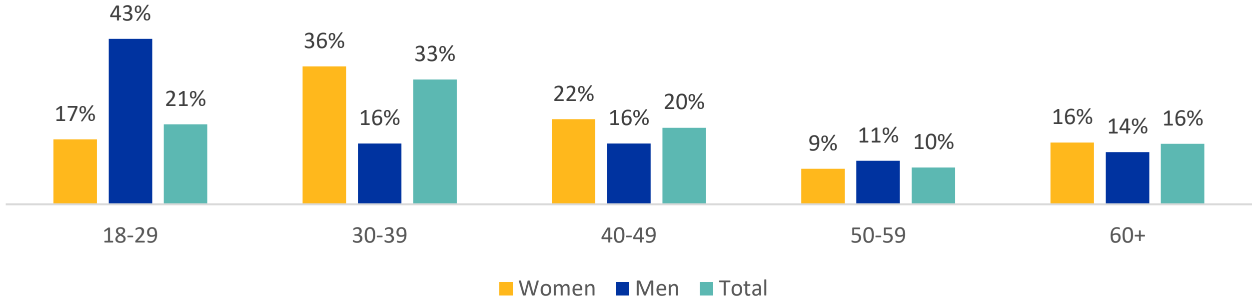
Gender and age

Eighty-five per cent of the respondents were women, while men constituted 15 per cent of the sample. Over one-third of respondents were between 30 and 39 years old (33%), followed by those between 18 and 29 years old (21%), and between 40 and 49 years (20%). The average age of women in the sample (42 years old) was higher than the average age of men (36 years old). Among women, the largest age group represented was 30-39 year olds (36%), followed 40-49 year olds (22%). Among men, the most represented age groups were 18-29 year olds (43%), followed by 30- 39 year olds (16%), and 40-49 year olds (16%).

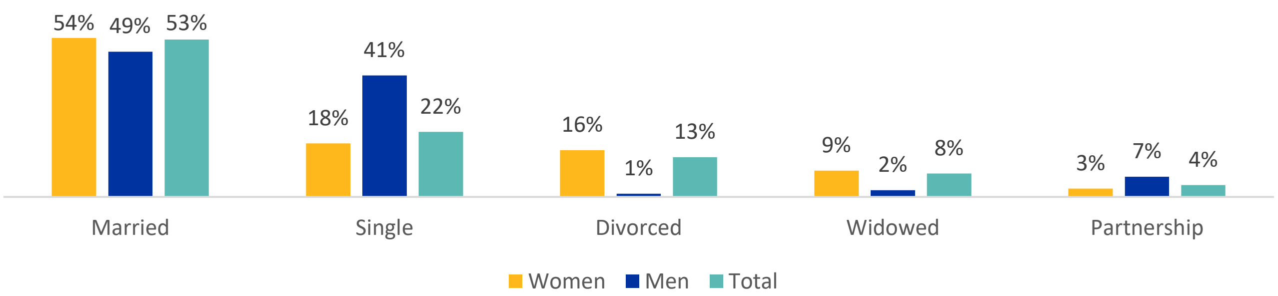
Figure 1: Age by gender and total (%), (N=292)



Marital status

More than half of the respondents were married (53%), while another 22 per cent were single. Others were divorced or widowed (13% and 8%, respectively). The remaining four per cent of respondents were in a partnership. The share of married persons was slightly higher among women than men (54% versus 49%), while women were more likely to be widowed than men in the sample (9% versus 2%). Conversely, a higher percentage of men reported being in partnerships compared to women (7% versus 3%).

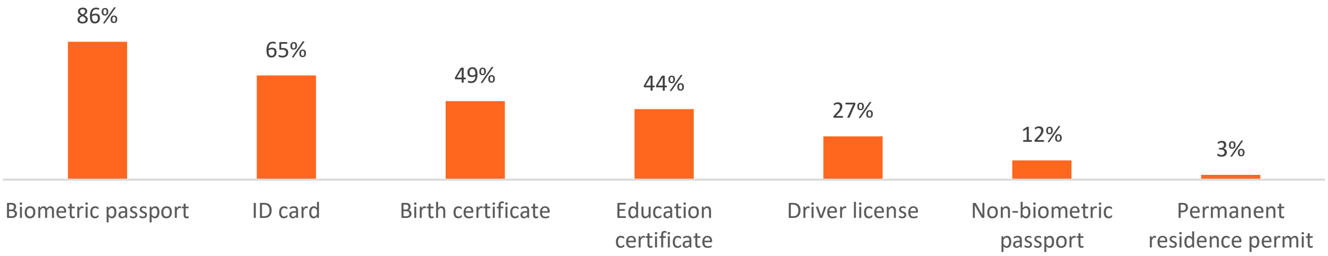
Figure 2: Marital status (%), (N=292)



Documents possessed at the time of interview

The majority of respondents travelled with multiple documents. Eighty-six per cent of respondents travelled with their biometric passport, 65 per cent had an ID card, and 49 per cent possessed a birth certificate. Other commonly carried documents included education certificates (44%), driver's licenses (27%), non-biometric passports (12%), and permanent residence permits (3%).

Figure 3: Documents in respondents' possession at the time of interview (%), (N=292) (multiple answers possible)



Children in care

Fifty-five per cent of respondents stated they either have their own children or that they take care of other children under the age of 18. Of these respondents (161 respondents), 95 per cent reported that these children were currently residing with them in Lithuania, while the remaining five per cent reported that the children were still in Ukraine.

Average time since initial displacement

To calculate the approximate duration of displacement, *Table 1* lists the amount of time passed from the respondent's initial date of displacement from Ukraine to the date of interview. The time spent outside of Ukraine reported by the respondents corresponds to the timeline of the conflict.

A half of the respondents (50%) reported being displaced from Ukraine since the first three months following the outbreak of the conflict. Three per cent of the respondents have been displaced since before 2022. Between May and December 2022, the rate of displacement fluctuated between one and five per cent, indicating that26 per cent of respondents had been displaced between 9-16 months.

Twenty-one per cent of respondents who were initially displaced in 2023 have spent less than 8 months displaced. From January to September, the fluctuation ranged between one and three per cent, except for August when six per cent of respondents were initially displaced.

Table 1: Approximate time spent in displacement (%)

Date of initial displacement	Length of displacement	(%) of respondents
Before 2022	2 years or more	3%
Jan-Mar 2022	18-20 months	38%
Apr-Jun 2022	15-17 months	21%
Jul-Sept 2022	12-14 months	12%
Oct-Dec 2022	9-11 months	5%
Jan-Mar 2023	6-8 months	5%
Apr-Jun 2023	3-5 months	7%
Jul-Sept 2023	<1-2 months	9%

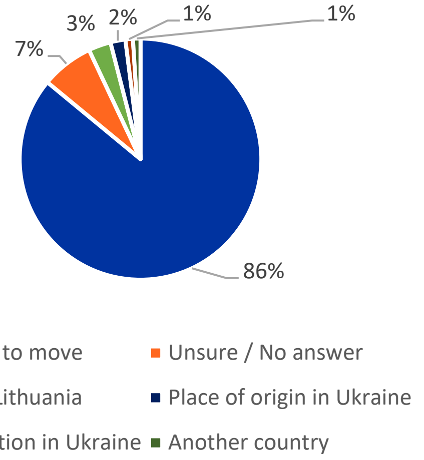
2. Intentions

Intention to move elsewhere or stay in current location

Eighty-nine per cent of respondents intended to remain in Lithuania, either in their current location (86%) or in a different location within the country (3%). Two per cent of respondents intended to return to their place of origin in Ukraine, while one per cent intended to return to a different location within Ukraine. Another one per cent sought to migrate to another country. The remaining seven per cent were uncertain about their plans.

Women were more likely to stay in their current location than men (88% versus 77%), and women were less likely to relocate to a foreign country than men (1% versus 5%).

Figure 4: Respondents' intentions to move (%), (N=292)

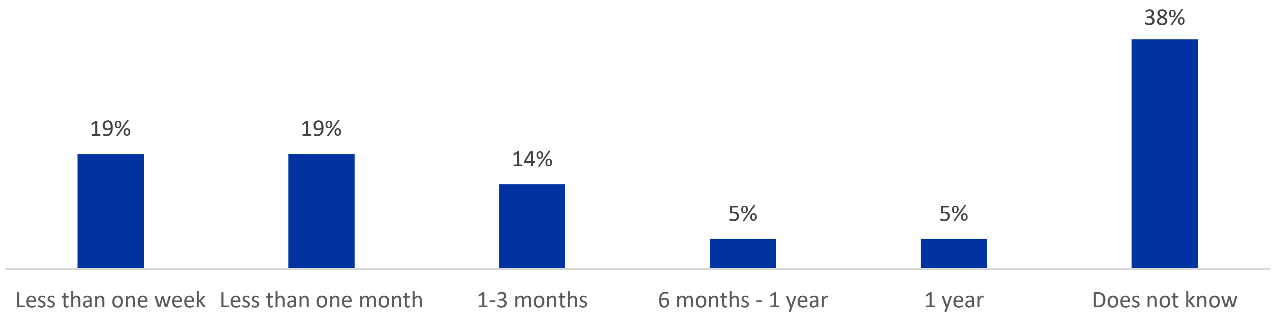


Fifty-one per cent of the respondents plan to return to Ukraine when it is safe to do so, while 22 per cent intend to return regardless of the situation in the country. Additionally, 19 per cent remain unsure about their plans, while seven per cent do not intend to return at all. The remaining one per cent indicated that they prefer not to answer.

Intended length of stay

Respondents who intended to relocate within Lithuania, return to their place of origin in Ukraine, or choose another country (N=21) were asked about their expected duration of stay in their current location. Nineteen per cent intended to stay for less than one week, and an additional 19 per cent planned to stay for less than one month, indicating that their current location primarily served as a transit point. Fourteen per cent of respondents intended to stay between one and three months, while five per cent intended to stay for six months to one year. Another five per cent anticipated a stay of more than one year. Notably, 38 per cent remained uncertain about the duration of their stay.

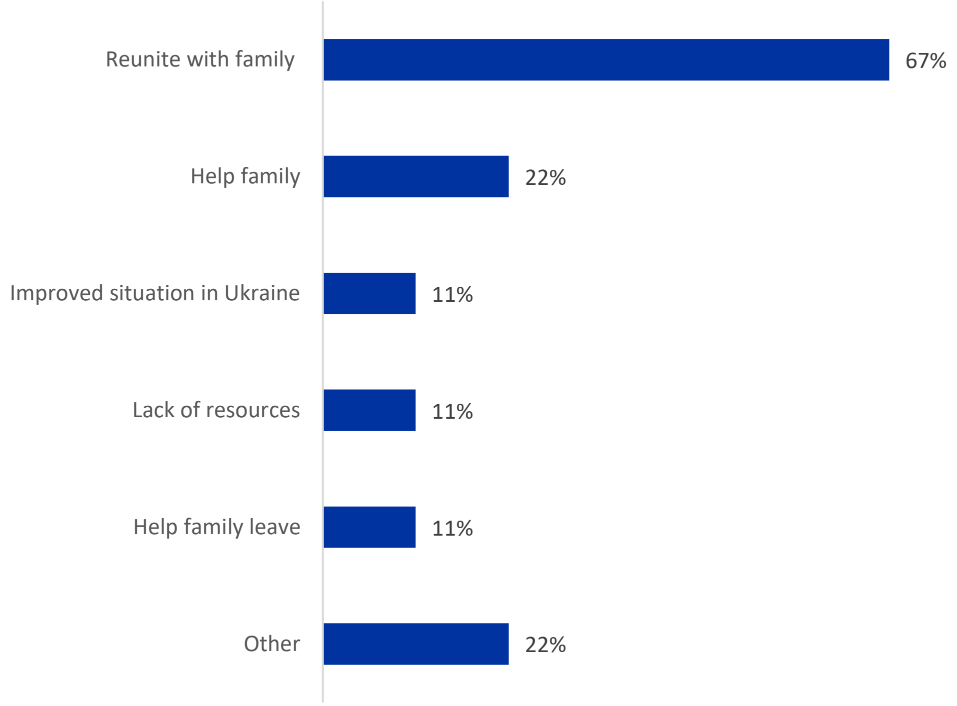
Figure 5: Intended length of stay in current location (%), (N=21) (multiple answers possible)



Intended oblast of destination in Ukraine and reasons to go back

Of the respondents who intended to return to Ukraine (N=9), six respondents planned to go back to their oblast of origin, while three aimed to relocate to a different oblast, specifically Lvivska. Out of those intending to return to Ukraine, 67 per cent cited reuniting with family members as the purpose of their return, while 22 per cent indicated that they intend to return to specifically provide assistance to their family. Meanwhile, 33 per cent of respondents cited other reasons, including the improved situation in Ukraine, addressing resource difficulties, or helping family leave the country (11% each). The remaining 22 per cent of respondents indicated other reasons, such as the need to look after relatives who stayed in Ukraine or because they had only intended to come to Lithuania temporarily.

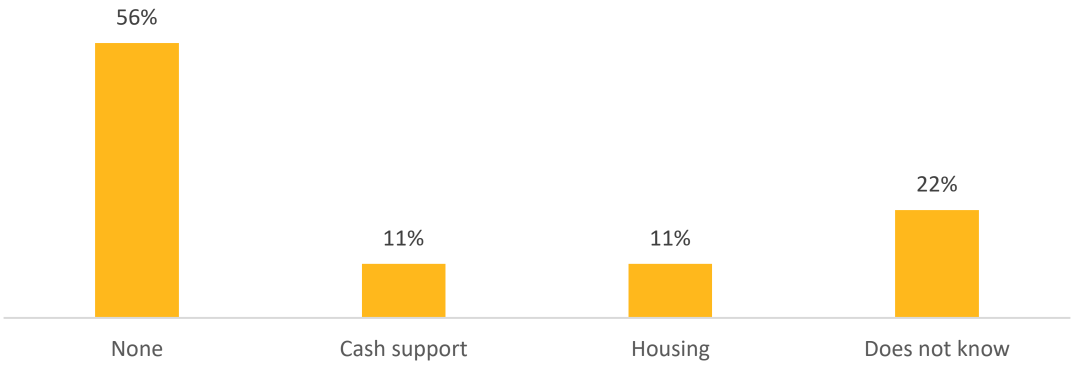
Figure 6: Reasons for choosing Ukraine as intended destination, total (%), (N=9) (multiple answers possible)



Immediate needs upon return

Among the respondents who intended to return to Ukraine (N=9), eleven per cent indicated they would need financial support upon their return. Another 11 per cent reported needing assistance with housing. Fifty-six per cent of respondents intending to return to Ukraine said they do not need any immediate support, while 22 per cent were unsure what type of support they would need.

Figure 7: Main needs upon return (%), (N=9) (multiple answers possible)



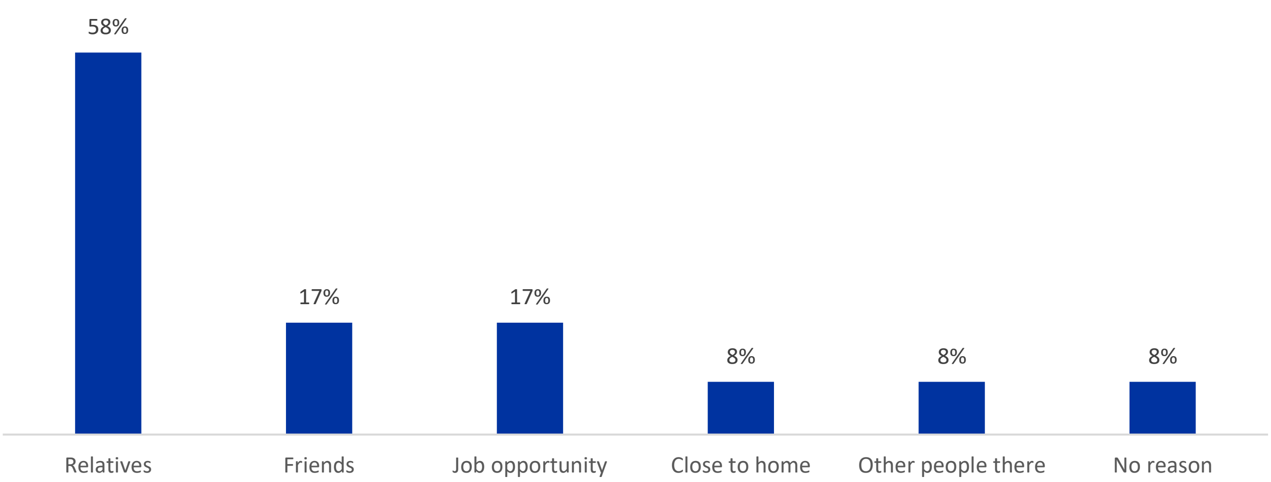
Intended country of destination

Among those who intended to move to another country (N=4), respondents' intended country of destination country was spilt evenly between Canada, Norway, Poland, and the United Kingdom (25% of respondents each).

Reasons for selecting elsewhere in Lithuania or other countries of destination

The survey asked respondents who planned to relocate, either within Lithuania (N=8) or to another country (N=4) to indicate the reasons for their selecting their intended destination. Seven respondents cited the presence of relatives in the destination country as a significant factor in their decision. A few respondents mentioned job opportunities (2 respondents) or having friends in the area (2 respondents) as influential factors. One respondent expressed a desire to be close to home, while another noted the presence of other acquaintances in the chosen area.

Figure 8: Reasons for choosing elsewhere in Lithuania or another country as intended destination (%), (N=12) (multiple answers possible)

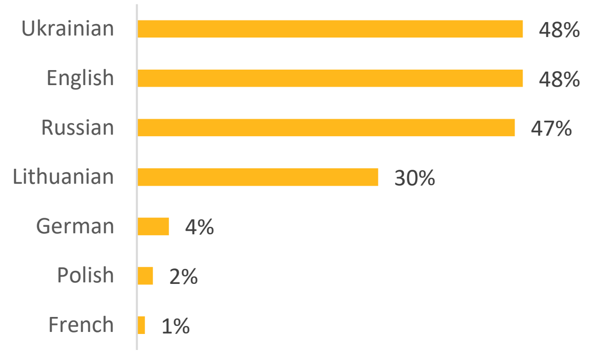


3. Education and Employment: profile and prospects

Main language

Over half of respondents (53%) speak Ukrainian as their main language at home, while Russian was the second most common language among respondents (47%).
When asked about other languages spoken, 48 per cent of all respondents mentioned Ukrainian and another 48 per cent mentioned English. In addition, 47 per cent of respondents spoke Russian and 30 per cent spoke Lithuanian language. Other mentioned languages included German (4% of respondents), Polish (2%), and French (1%).

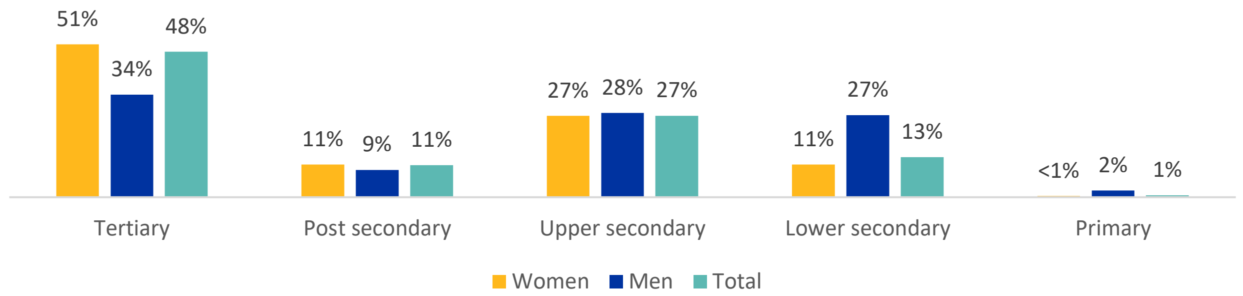
Figure 9: Other spoken languages (%), (N=281) (multiple answers possible)



Education level

Nearly half of respondents (48%) had completed a tertiary education. Forty per cent had an upper secondary/vocational or lower secondary level of education (27% and 13% respectively). Additionally, 11 per cent mentioned having post-secondary education, while the remaining one per cent had completed primary education. Among respondents, women were more likely than men to have reached tertiary education as their highest education level (51% versus 34%), while men were nearly as likely as women to have reached the upper secondary/vocational level as their highest level of education (28% versus 27%).

Figure 10: Education level, by gender and total (%), (N=292)

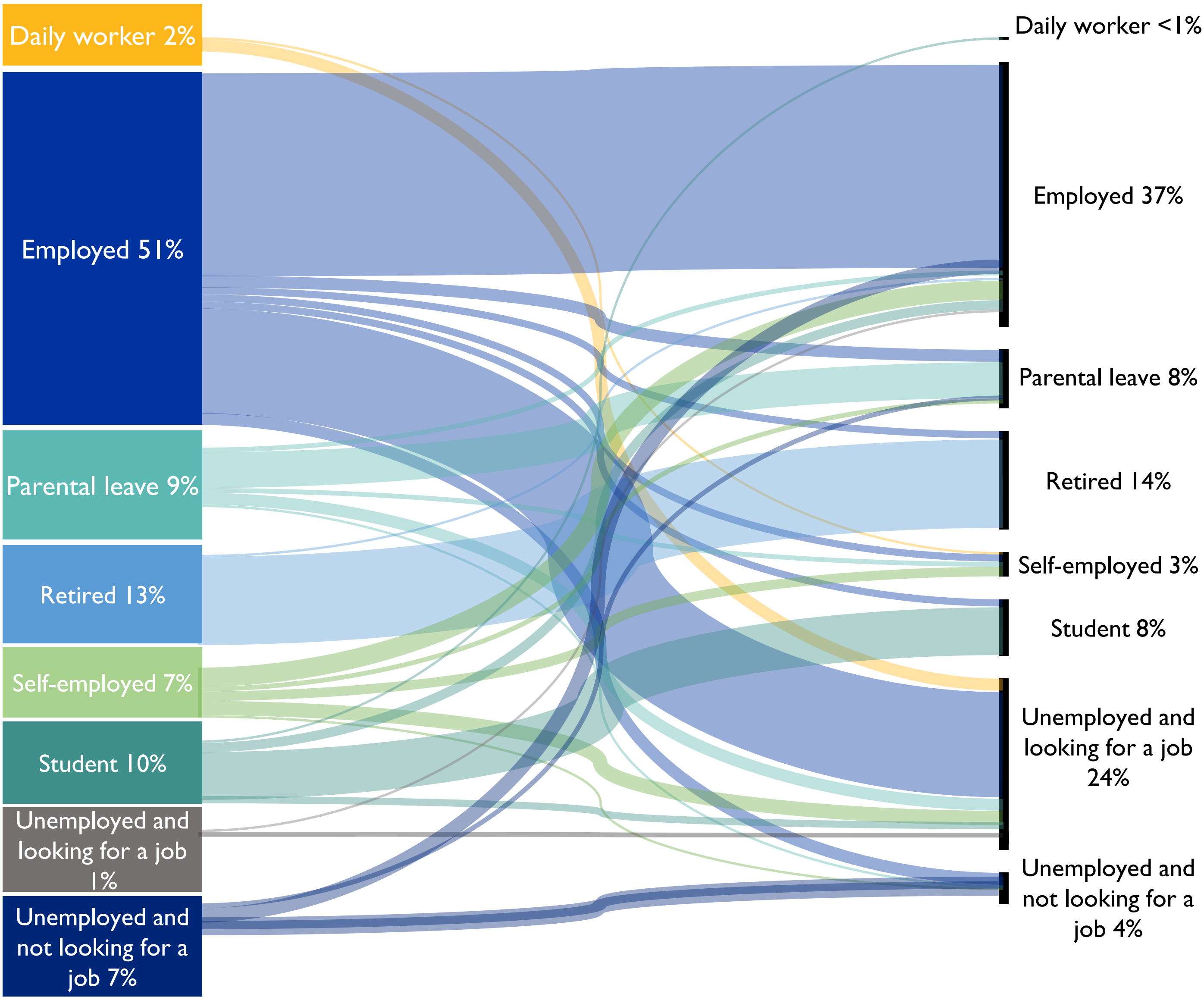


Among those who indicated having completed an upper-secondary level of education (N=168), engineering was the most cited type of training completed both by women and men (16%). Other fields included social sciences (15% of respondents), business (14%) and health or welfare (12%). Female respondents (N=150) were more likely to study social sciences (15%), business (15%), health and welfare (13%), and engineering (13%). Men were more likely to have studied engineering (44%), agriculture and forestry (22%), and social sciences (17%) as the types of training they had completed.

Employment status before leaving Ukraine versus current status

Before leaving Ukraine, over half of all respondents (51%) were employed, while thirteen per cent were retired and ten per cent were pursuing their studies. Additionally, nine per cent were on parental leave, seven per cent were self-employed, another seven per cent were unemployed but not looking for a job, two per cent were daily workers and one per cent were unemployed and looking for a job. The employment rates of respondents were drastically different in Lithuania. Only 37 per cent of respondents reported being employed and three per cent reported being self-employed, while 24 per cent were unemployed and looking for a job. The share of those declaring to be unemployed and looking for a job decreased from seven per cent before the journey to four per cent while in Lithuania.

Figure 11: Employment status before leaving Ukraine and current employment status in Lithuania (%)



Reasons for not seeking a job

Five per cent of the respondents reported being unemployed, but not actively seeking employment. This number has decreased compared to the period before the respondents left Ukraine, dropping from seven per cent to four per cent. Respondents who decided to remain unemployed in Lithuania (N=14) cited care responsibilities towards other family members that prevented them from seeking employment (9 respondents) and medical conditions (9 respondents). One respondent said they planned to leave the country, while another mentioned that language barriers made it hard for them to find a job.

Employment sector before leaving Ukraine versus employment sector in Lithuania

Of the 51 per cent respondents who reported being employed in Ukraine, the top fields were accommodation and food services, education, human health and social work. Of the 37 per cent of respondents who reported currently being employed in Lithuania, the top fields were manufacturing, accommodation and food services, education.

Desired occupations

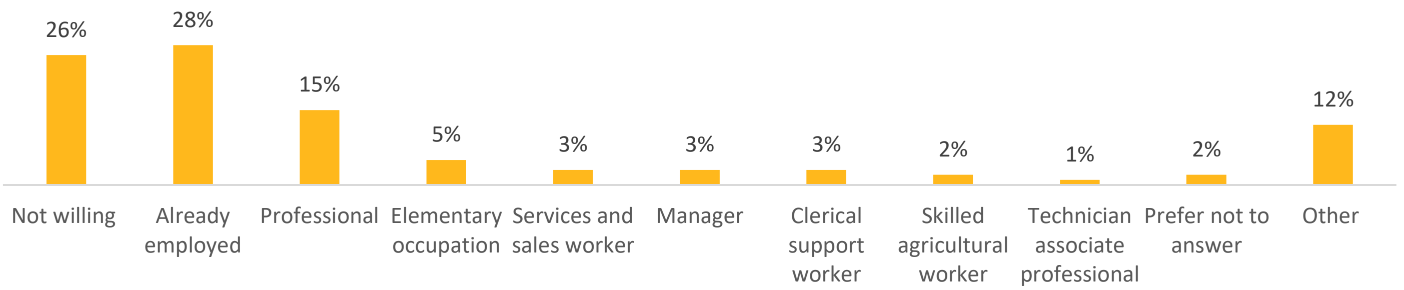
When asked about their desired occupation in Lithuania, respondents indicated a variety of preferences, including professional roles (15% of respondents), elementary occupations (5%), service and sales (3%), management (3%), and clerical support roles (3%).

A few respondents wanted to work as skilled agricultural workers (2%) and technician associate professionals (1%). Twelve per cent of respondents desired to work in other professions, and 26 per cent of respondents indicated that they were not actively seeking employment. The remaining respondents (2%) preferred not to answer to question.

Table 2: Top 15 sectors of employment in Ukraine versus in Lithuania (%)

Sector of employment	Before leaving Ukraine (%) N=176	Currently (%) N=119
Accommodation & Food services	10%	13%
Education	10%	11%
Human health & Social work	10%	9%
Manufacturing	9%	15%
Wholesale, retail, and repair	8%	4%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	7%	4%
Financial insurance	6%	1%
Administrative support	5%	1%
Transporting & Storage	5%	9%
Construction	3%	3%
Information & Communication	3%	2%
Professional & Scientific sector	2%	1%

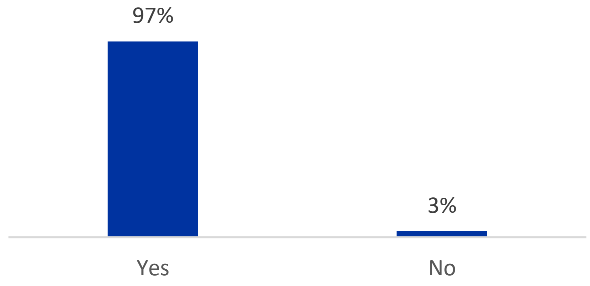
Figure 12: Desired occupation (%), (N=260)



4. Registration and inclusion services

Ninety-seven per cent had already registered for Temporary Protection Status or applied to another form of protected status with the national authorities in Lithuania. Among those who did not apply or register (3%), five respondents indicated plans to leave Lithuania soon, while two respondents were denied the status, and one still had plans to register. One respondent cited other reasons for not registering.

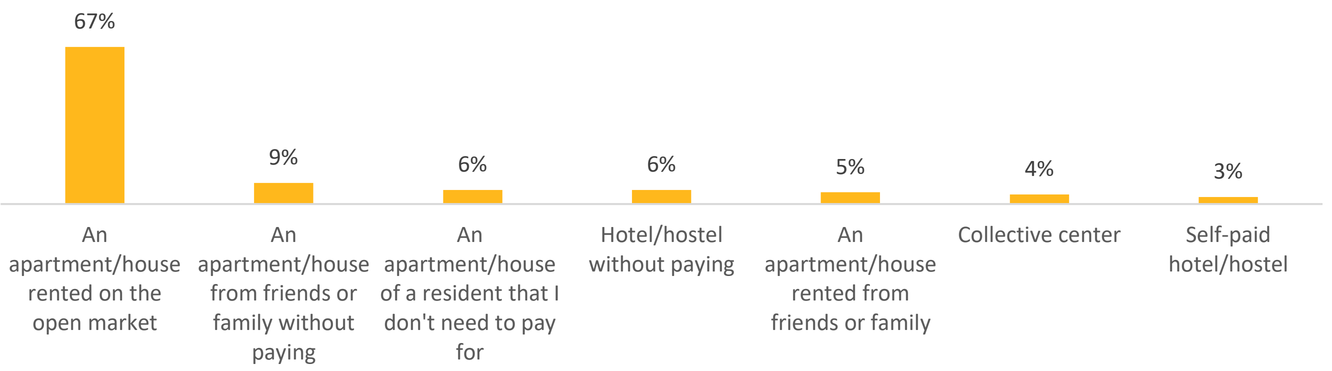
Figure 13: Applied / registered for international protection (%) (N=292)



Accommodation

In terms of accommodation in Lithuania 75 per cent of respondents reported paying for the their accommodation themselves. Among these respondents, 67 per cent were residing in apartments rented on the open market, while others were renting from family or friends (5%) or staying in hotels and hostels (3%). Other respondents reported that they did not currently pay for their accommodation. Nine per cent of all respondents stayed with friends, while another six per cent resided in apartments of local residents without paying rent. An additional six per cent were living in hotels or hostels without paying, and the remaining four per cent were staying in collective centers.

Figure 14: Accommodation of respondents (%), (N=292)



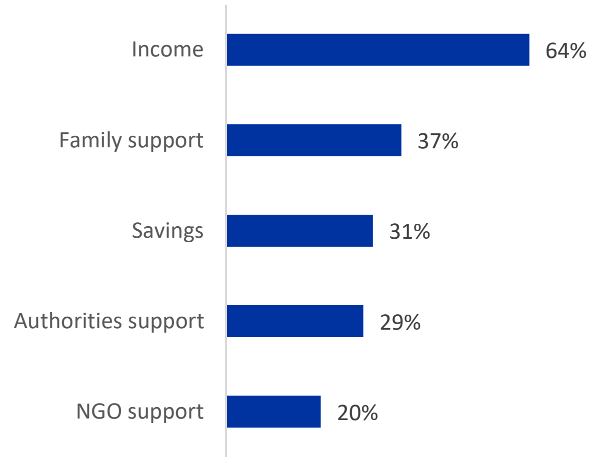
Fifty-four per cent of respondents expressed a desire to remain in their current accommodation for as long as possible. Another 32 per cent indicated that they wished to continue living in their current accommodation until their return to Ukraine, while one per cent specified that they intend to stay in their current accommodation for as long as they did not have to pay rent. Nine per cent of respondents were not sure how long they would stay in their current accommodation, while the remaining four per cent cited other factors, including waiting an opportunity for a better apartment, having their own place, or fulfilling the terms of their contract.

Ability to cover expenses

Sixty-nine per cent of respondents reported that their average income was sufficient to cover their monthly expenses in Lithuania. Twenty-eight per cent reported they did not have sufficient income to cover their expenses, while three per cent preferred not to answer.

Among respondents who answered the question about the various means they use to pay for their daily expenses (N=107), the majority mentioned income from work (64%). Thirty-seven per cent received support from their family and relatives, 31 per cent relied on their own savings, and 29 per cent mentioned support from authorities or the government. Twenty per cent of respondents received support from NGOs and humanitarian organizations.

Figure 15: Sources of financial support (%), (N=107) (multiple answers possible)



Access to finances

The survey asked a specific set of questions to all respondents who had been in Lithuania for longer than 3 months (N-95). The questions focused on their inclusion and registration services, including access to finance, education, and consular services. In regards to finances, 85 per cent of respondents reported having no issues accessing their finances using foreign debit or credit cards. Eleven per cent were not able to withdraw cash from ATM or make payments using their own debit or credit card. Four per cent preferred not to answer. Ninety-eight per cent of respondents reported having a personal bank account in Lithuania, while only two per cent did not. Of the two respondents who indicated that they had not opened a personal bank account in Lithuania (N=2), one mentioned not needing one, while the other intended to open one soon.

Access to education

Fifty-five per cent of all respondents had children. Of these, 59 respondents specified whether their children were attending local schools and kindergartens. Among those, 83 per cent had their children enrolled and attending local schools. Two per cent had their children engaged in both local and online education from Ukraine, while five per cent had not been able to secure placement for their children in any educational facility. Among the respondents who indicated that they did not have children enrolled in school (N=3), they either did not know the reason or had other unspecified explanations.

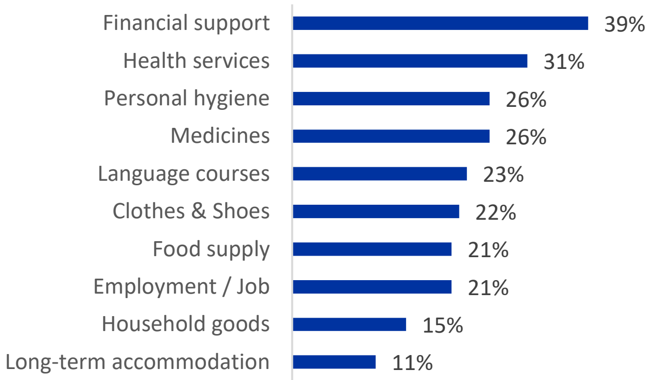
Consular services

Among the respondents who have been settled in Lithuania for over three months (N=107), 77 per cent stated that they know how to contact their consular representatives. However, only 34 per cent had already reached out to them, while 23 per cent of respondents did not know how to contact their consular representatives.

5. Immediate Needs and Assistance Received

The survey asked respondents to indicate their top priority needs. The most cited needs included financial support (39% of respondents), health services (31%), personal hygiene and sanitary supplies (26%), and medicine (26%). Respondents also indicated a need for language courses (23%), clothing and shoes (22%), food supplies (21%), employment support (21%), household goods (15%) and long-term accommodation (11%). Additionally, 21 per cent of respondents stated that they did not require any immediate support.

Figure 16: Top 10 priority needs (%), (N=292) (multiple answers possible)

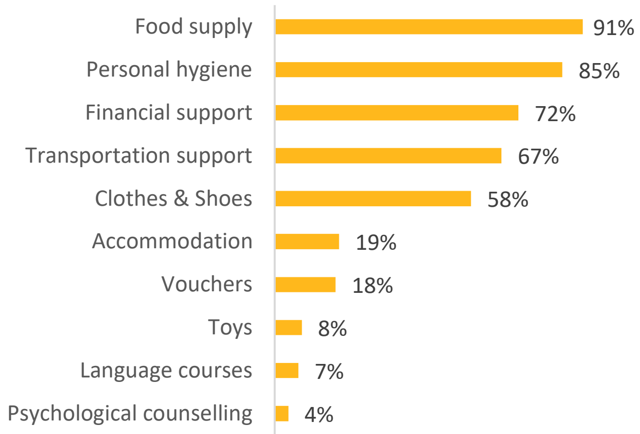


Assistance received in Lithuania

Ninety-two per cent of respondents had received some kind of humanitarian assistance since their initial displacement from Ukraine.

Of these respondents (N=269), 91 per cent had received food supplies, 85 per cent had received personal hygiene items and 72 per cent had received financial support. Additionally, 67 per cent of respondents had received transportation support and 58 per cent had received clothing and shoes.

Figure 17: Top 10 types of assistance received (%), (N=269) (multiple answers possible)



Ninety per cent of the respondents knew where to seek humanitarian assistance, while nine per cent stated they did not know where to see assistance. The remaining one per cent preferred not to answer. Of the respondents who had been in Lithuania for more than three months or had indicated they were settled in Lithuania (N=107), the majority (91%) claimed they had not experienced any difficulties when receiving humanitarian support.

Areas in which information is needed to get more assistance

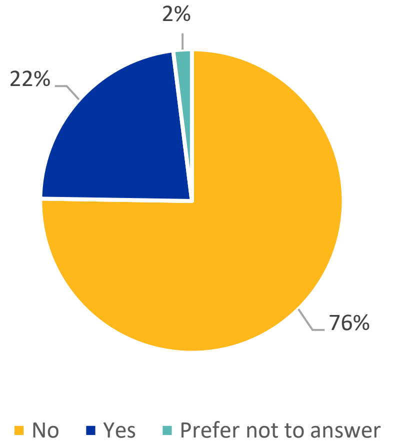
Among the nine per cent (N=27) who were uncertain about how to access assistance, their information needs primarily pertained to health services, personal hygiene items, clothing and footwear, financial support, as well as medicine and medical supplies.

6. Challenges in the country of displacement

Experiences of discrimination

Seventy-six per cent of the respondents claim they had not experienced any form of discrimination during their journey or during their time in Lithuania.
However, 22 per cent of respondents reported experiencing discrimination since arriving in Lithuania. The experiences most often were connected to securing employment, accessing healthcare services, or interacting with administrative personnel. Two per cent of respondents preferred not to answer.

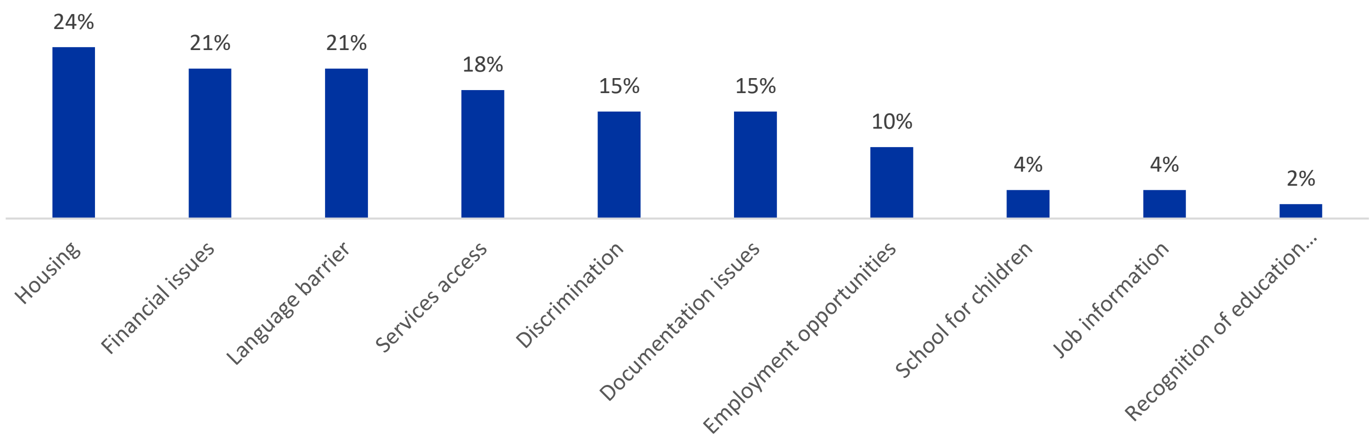
Figure 18: Reported experience of discrimination (%), (N=292)



Inclusion challenges

The respondents who have been living in Lithuania for more than 3 months were asked about the inclusion challenges they face.
Among these respondents (N=107), the most mentioned challenges included securing housing (24%), the language barrier (21%), and financial issues (21%). Other cited challenges included accessing social and administrative services (18%), dealing with issues linked to administrative documents (15%), and facing discrimination (15%). A smaller percentage of respondents expressed challenges related to limited job opportunities (10%), a lack of information about job availability (4%), difficulties in enrolling their children in schools (4%), and issues related to the recognition of their education credentials or skills (2%).

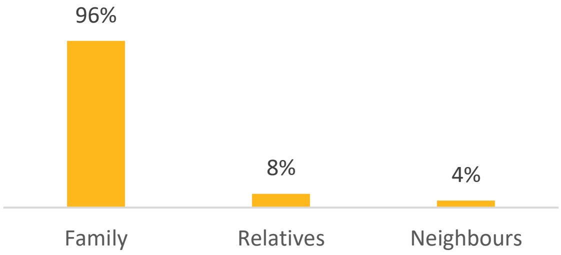
Figure 19: Top 10 inclusion challenges among respondents (%), (N=107) (multiple answers possible)



7. Composition of travel group

Seventy-seven per cent of the respondents reported traveling in a group. Among those travelling in a group (N=225), 96 per cent were accompanied by immediate family members or individuals from their household. Eight per cent were travelling with other relatives, and four per cent were traveling with friends and neighbours. Overall, respondents reported traveling with 3 persons.

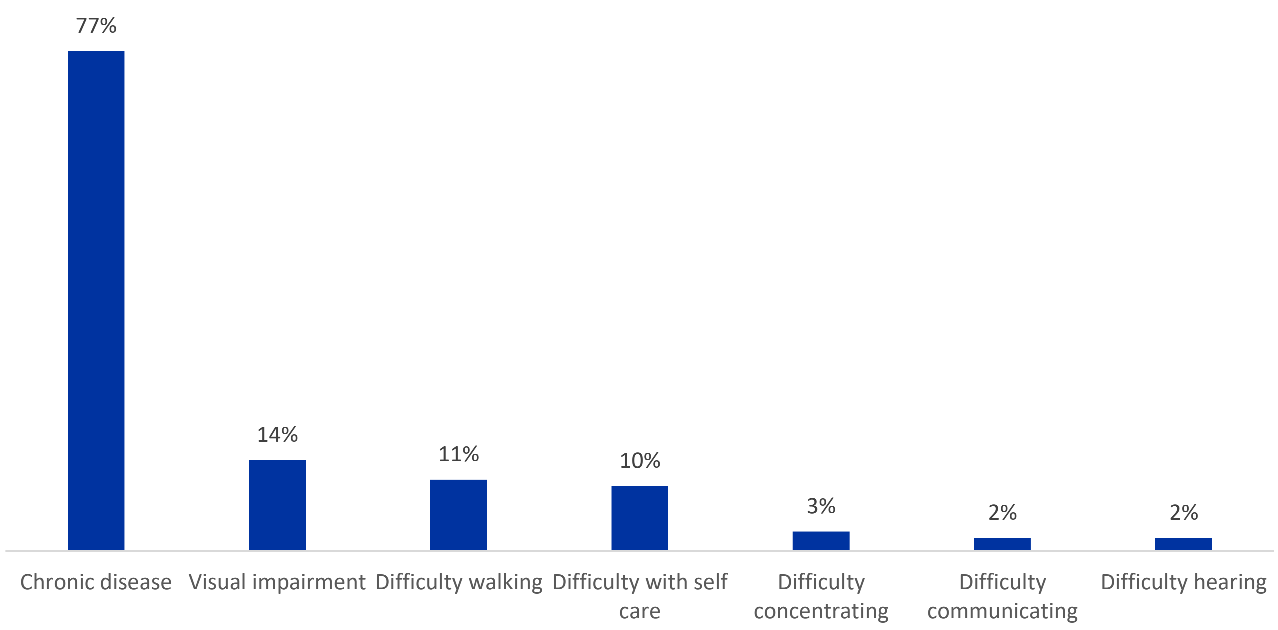
Figure 20: Travel group (%), (N=225) (multiple answers possible)



Travelling with persons with health conditions and disabilities

Thirty per cent of respondents indicated that the group they travelled with included persons with serious health conditions or specific needs Sixty-nine per cent of respondents reported that no one in their group had a serious health condition Seventy-seven per cent of those travelling in a group were travelling with at least one person with a chronic disease or serious medical condition. Among these respondents, 14 per cent were travelling with someone who had a visual impairment and eleven per cent were traveling with individuals who had difficulty walking or climbing stairs. Other respondents mentioned traveling with people who faced difficulties with self-care (10%), concentration (3%), hearing (2%), or communication (2%).

Figure 21: Persons with serious health conditions in travel group (%), (N=88) (multiple answers possible)



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. This report is based on data collected between July and September 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 based on a simple random sample methodology, and selected at entry, exit and transit points, as well as 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 enumerators reviewed the data for systematic issues with responses and did not identify any errors. This report only included fully complete surveys in the analysis.

Country-level implementation and limitations

DTM has been active in Lithuania since September 2022. This report is based on data collected between 28 August and 16 September 2023. Overall, 292 valid surveys were collected by a team of 5 enumerators (3 female and 2 male) covering 4 different provinces.

Fifty-two per cent of surveys were collected in Vilnius, 29 per cent in Šiauliai, thirteen per cent in Kaunas, and five per cent in Panevėžys region. Enumerators approached respondents in collective centers, dormitories, and humanitarian aid distribution centers. The interviews have been conducted in Russian and Ukrainian.

The survey respondents were selected at random at four transit and reception locations that receive high volumes of individuals entering Lithuania via public or private transport. Another limitation is that not all survey locations are equally accessible to enumerators. Depending on the survey site, individuals may not be able to comfortably spend 10-20 minutes responding to the questionnaire.

While the results are not representative, the data shows strong internal consistency with data collected within the country and at the regional level.

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.

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