UKRAINE CRISIS RESPONSE

| 2022 — 2023 |

LITHUANIA

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

January-March 2023

Country Report & Data Analysis

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

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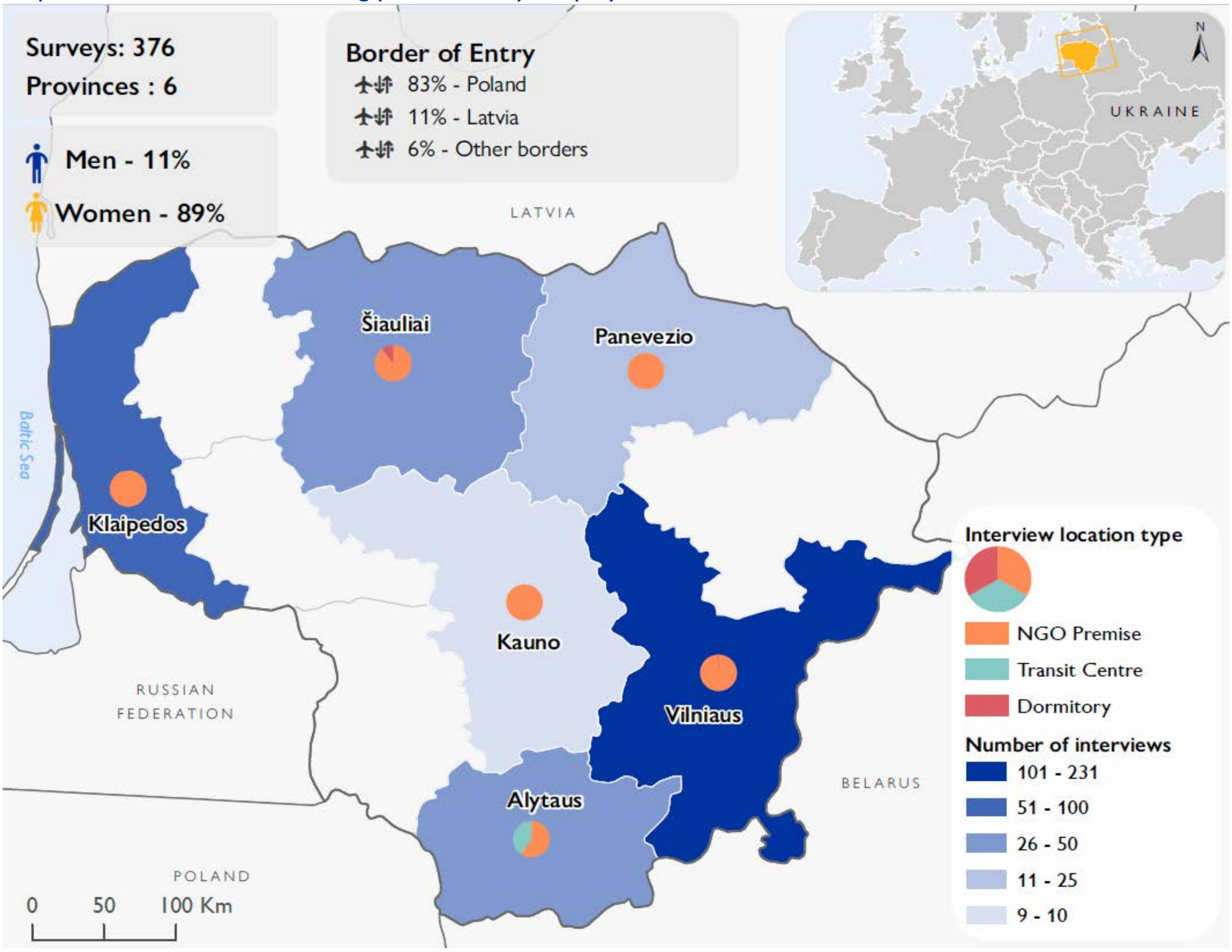
KEY FINDINGS

- Top oblasts of origin: Kharkivska (18%), Khersonska (10%), Donetska (10%), Dnipropetrovska and the Kyiv city (9% each).
- Intentions to move: no intention to move (92%), move to place of origin in Ukraine (1%), to another country (1%), where top three countries were Germany, Italy and Poland.
- Employment status: employed (35%), unemployed and looking for a job (23%), unemployed and not looking for a job (10%), retired (20%), on a maternity/paternity leave (6%).
- Main occupations for those currently in employment: 27% in elementary occupations, 21% in services and sales positions, 9% professional workers and 9% plant machine operators/assemblers.
- Top needs upon return:* financial support (27%), employment (18%), personal hygiene and sanitary supplies (15%), health services (14%).
- Top inclusion challenges:* financial issues (24%), employment (20%), long-term housing(18%), language (18%), services (14%).

* more than one answer possible

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



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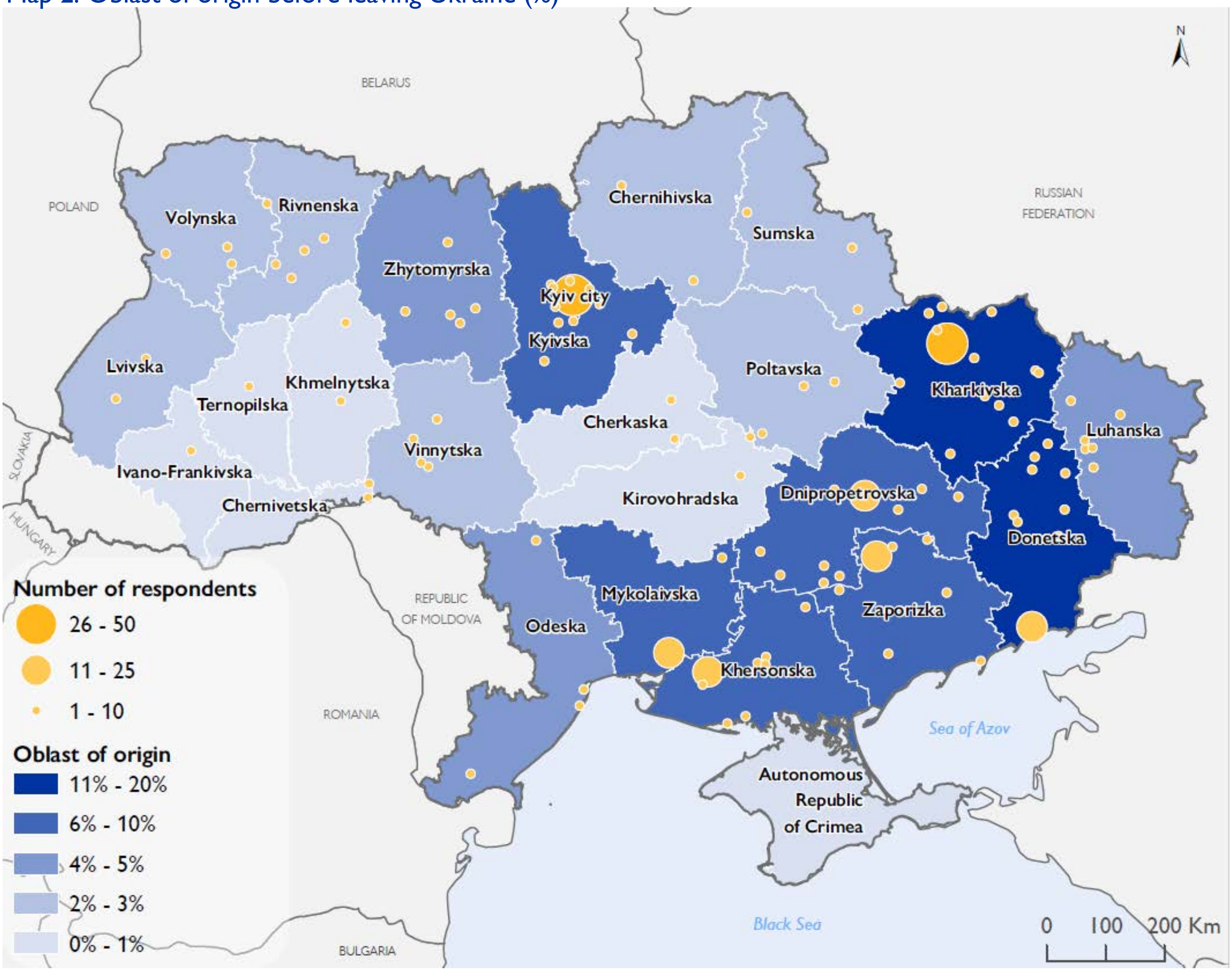
1. Socio-Demographic Profile

Oblast (region) of origin

The majority came from the eastern and southern parts of Ukraine, with the highest share of respondents coming from Kharkivska (18%), Khersonska (10%), Donetska (10%), Dnipropetrovska and the Kyiv city (9% each).

The remaining respondents (44%) were living in other 18 regions throughout Ukraine. These included Zaporizka (7%), Mykolaivska (6%), Kyivska (5%), Odeska (4%), Zhytomyrska, Luhanska and Sumska (3% each), Vinnytska, Poltavska, Rivnenska (2% each), Ivano-Frankivska, Kirovohradska, Lvivska, Khmelnytska, Cherkaska, Chernivetska and Chernihivska (1% each).

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



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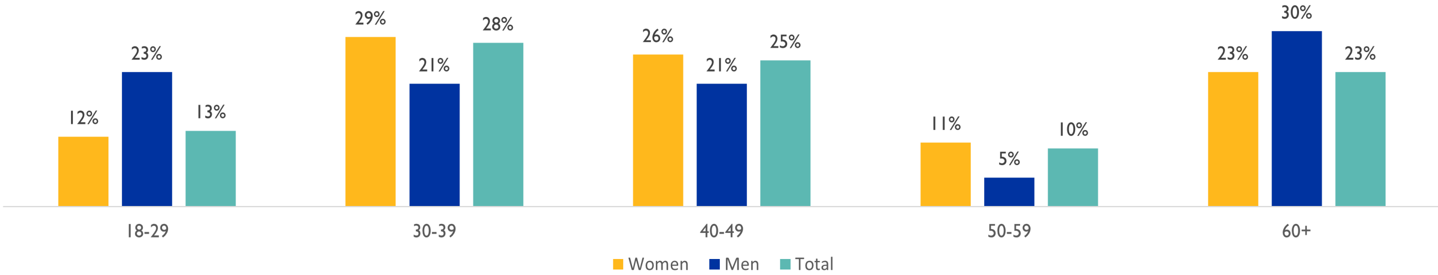
Gender and age

Most respondents were adult women (89%), while men constituted 11 per cent of the sample. More than one fourth of the surveyed population were between 30 and 39 years of age (28%), followed by those between 40 and 49 (25%) and 60 years or older (23%).

When looking at the data disaggregated by gender, the average age for women (45) was slightly higher than the men's (44). The largest age group for women was of those between 30 and 39 years old (29%), followed by those aged between 40 and 49 (26%). Among men, the largest groups were aged 60 years or older (30%) and between 18 and 29 years old (23%).

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

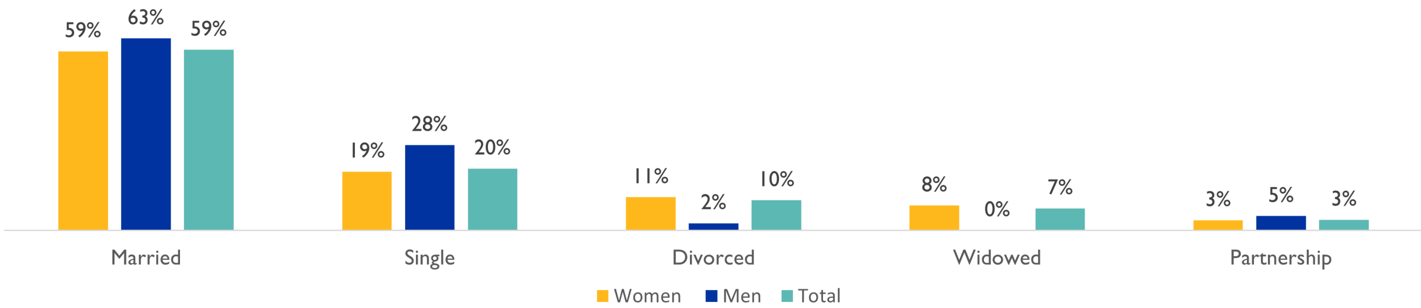


Marital status

A total of 59 per cent of the interviewees were married, while another 20 per cent were single. Seventeen per cent were divorced and widowed (10% and 7% respectively), the remaining three per cent were in a partnership.

The share of single persons was higher among men than among women (28% versus 19%). None of the men reported being widowed, in comparison to 8 per cent of women in the sample.

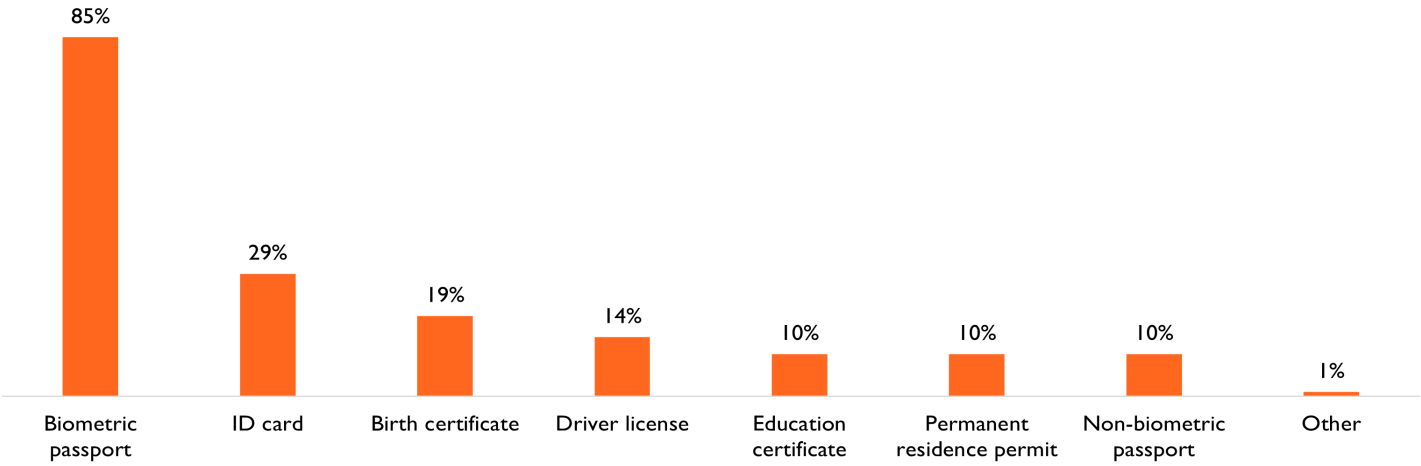
Figure 2: Marital status, by gender and total (%)



Documents possessed at the time of interview

The vast majority of respondents travelled with more than one document. That being said, most respondents (85%) travelled with their biometric passport, more than one fourth (29%) were in possession of their Ukrainian ID card, 19 per cent had birth certificates. Another 14 per cent travelled with their driver license, ten per cent had education certificate, ten per cent travelled with permanent residence permit and another ten per cent had their non-biometric passport. The remaining one per cent declared to have other non-specified documents.

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, 39 per cent of respondents were initially displaced in March of 2022.

This means that by the time the interview was conducted (March 2023), they had spent about one year in displacement.

Another 13 per cent of respondents were displaced in April 2022, giving them 11 months since their initial date of displacement and the date of assessment.

Between May and December 2022, displacement fluctuated between 2 to 5 per cent. This means that 32 per cent of respondents had spent between 3-10 months in displacement at the time of assessment.

Lastly, eleven per cent of respondents who were initially displaced in 2023 spent only a few months in displacement.

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

Date since initial displacement	Approximate time spent until date of interview	% Of respondents
Before 2022	1 year	1%
22-Jan	14 months	0.3%
22-Feb	13 months	6%
22-Mar	12 months	39%
22-Apr	11 months	13%
22-May	10 months	5%
22-Jun	9 months	5%
22-Jul	8 months	4%
22-Aug	7 months	5%
22-Sep	6 months	5%
22-Oct	5 months	2%
22-Nov	4 months	3%
22-Dec	3 months	3%
23-Jan	2 months	2%
23-Feb	1 month	5%
23-Mar	Less than a month	4%

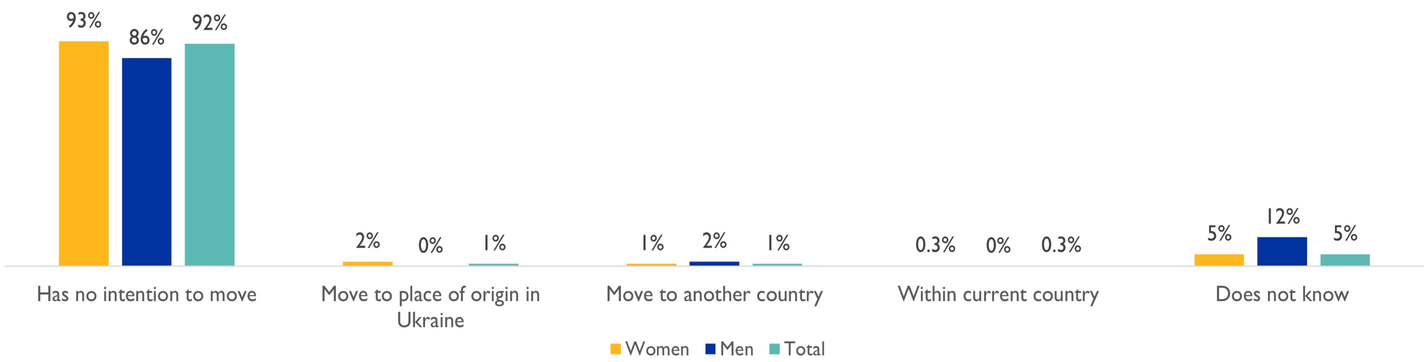
2. Intentions

Intention to move elsewhere or stay in current location

Ninety-two per cent of respondents had no intention to move at the time of the interview. A small percentage expressed their intention to either return to their place of origin in Ukraine or move to a different country (1% each). Additionally, less than one per cent (0.3%) intended to move within Lithuania. The remaining respondents did not know (5%).

When looking at the data disaggregated by gender, female respondents were slightly more likely to stay in their current location than men (93% versus 86%). In addition, the probability of men relocating to a foreign country was higher than that of women (2% versus 1%), whereas only a few women were aiming to move to their place of origin in Ukraine (2%).

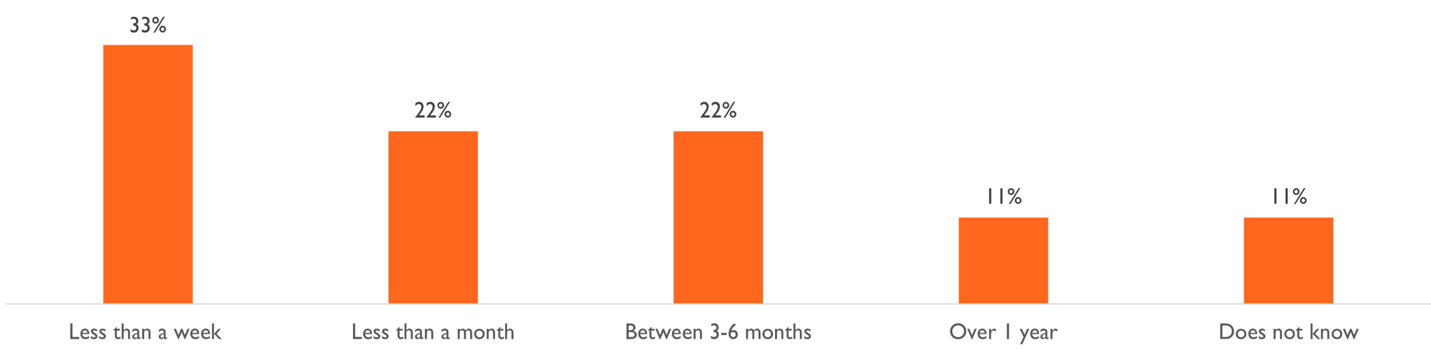
Figure 4: Respondents' intention to move from current location, by gender and total (%)



Intended length of stay in current location before moving elsewhere

Respondents who intended to move within Lithuania, back to their place of origin in Ukraine, or elsewhere (N=9) were asked about how long they intended to stay in the current location. Thirty-three per cent stated their intention to stay less than one week in their current location before moving. Another 44 per cent intended to stay less than one month and between 3 to 6 months (22% each), eleven per cent over one year. The remaining eleven per cent did not know.

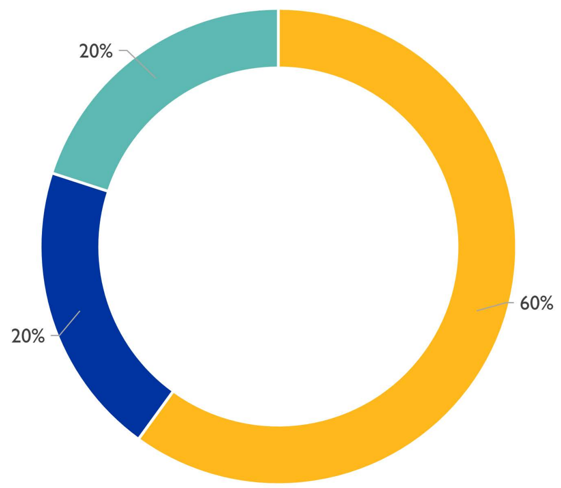
Figure 5: Intended length of stay in current location before moving elsewhere (%) (more than one answer possible)



Reasons for returning to Ukraine

Out of those set on returning back to Ukraine (N=5), sixty per cent stated their desire to reunite with their families. An additional 20 per cent of respondents planned to return in order to assist their family members in reaching the border. The remaining 20 per cent had other non-specified reasons.

Figure 6: Reasons for choosing Ukraine as intended destination, N=5 (%) (more than one answer possible)



Immediate needs upon return

From the group of respondents intending to go back (N=5), 20 per cent indicated that their top need upon crossing back would be cash support, while the remaining 80 per cent of respondents stated having no needs upon return.

Intended country of destination

Among those individuals who intended to relocate to another country as their final destination (N=3), 33 per cent were planning to go to Germany, 33 per cent to Italy and the remaining 33 per cent to Poland.

Reasons for selecting elsewhere in Lithuania or other countries as destination

Respondents planning to move elsewhere in Lithuania (N=1) or to another country (N=3) were asked about the reasons for their destination choice.

The male respondent cited a better protection system, the opportunity to reunite with family, and the presence of friends in the destination location as the main factors driving their decision to move. On the other hand, female respondents (3 individuals) chose their final destination for diverse reasons, including favorable accommodation options, better job opportunities or because they already resided there.

Table 2: Reasons for choosing elsewhere in Lithuania or another country as intended destination, by gender and total (N=4) (more than one answer possible)

Listed reasons	Women	Men	Total
Better protection system	0	1	1
Family/relatives in the area	0	1	1
Friends in the area	0	1	1
Accommodation through national/local authorities	1	0	1
Lived there	1	0	1
Job opportunity	1	0	1

3. Education and Employment: Profile and Prospects

Main spoken language

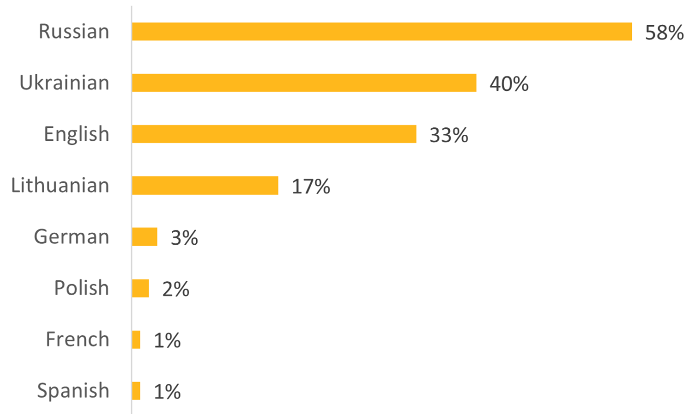
The survey found that a majority of respondents (59%) speak Ukrainian as their main language at home, while the second most common language used in this round of surveying was Russian (41%).

Figure 7: Main spoken language (%)

Other spoken language(s)

A large part of respondents speak Russian (58%) and Ukrainian (40%) as a second language. This was followed by English (33%) and Lithuanian (17%). German (3%), Polish (2%), French and Spanish (1% each) were less commonly spoken languages.

Figure 8: Other spoken languages (%)
(more than one answer possible)

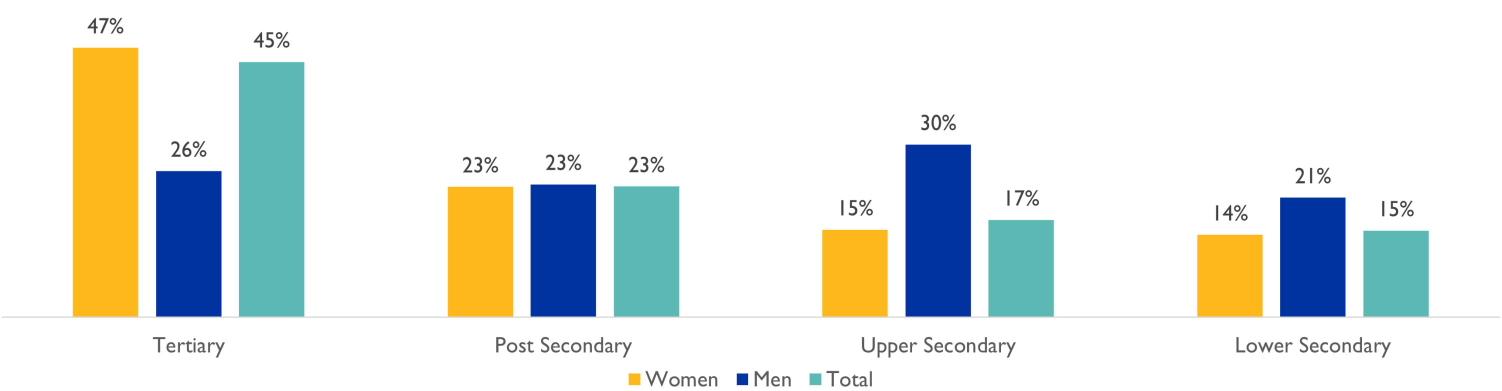


Education level

Forty-five percent of refugees from Ukraine had completed a tertiary education. Twenty-three per cent had post-secondary non-tertiary education, seventeen per cent upper secondary/ vocational level of education. 15 per cent claimed to have a lower secondary level of education.

Female respondents were more likely than their male counterparts to have reached tertiary education as their highest education level (47% versus 26%), while male respondents were more likely than female respondents to have reached an upper secondary/vocational as their highest education level (30% versus 15%).

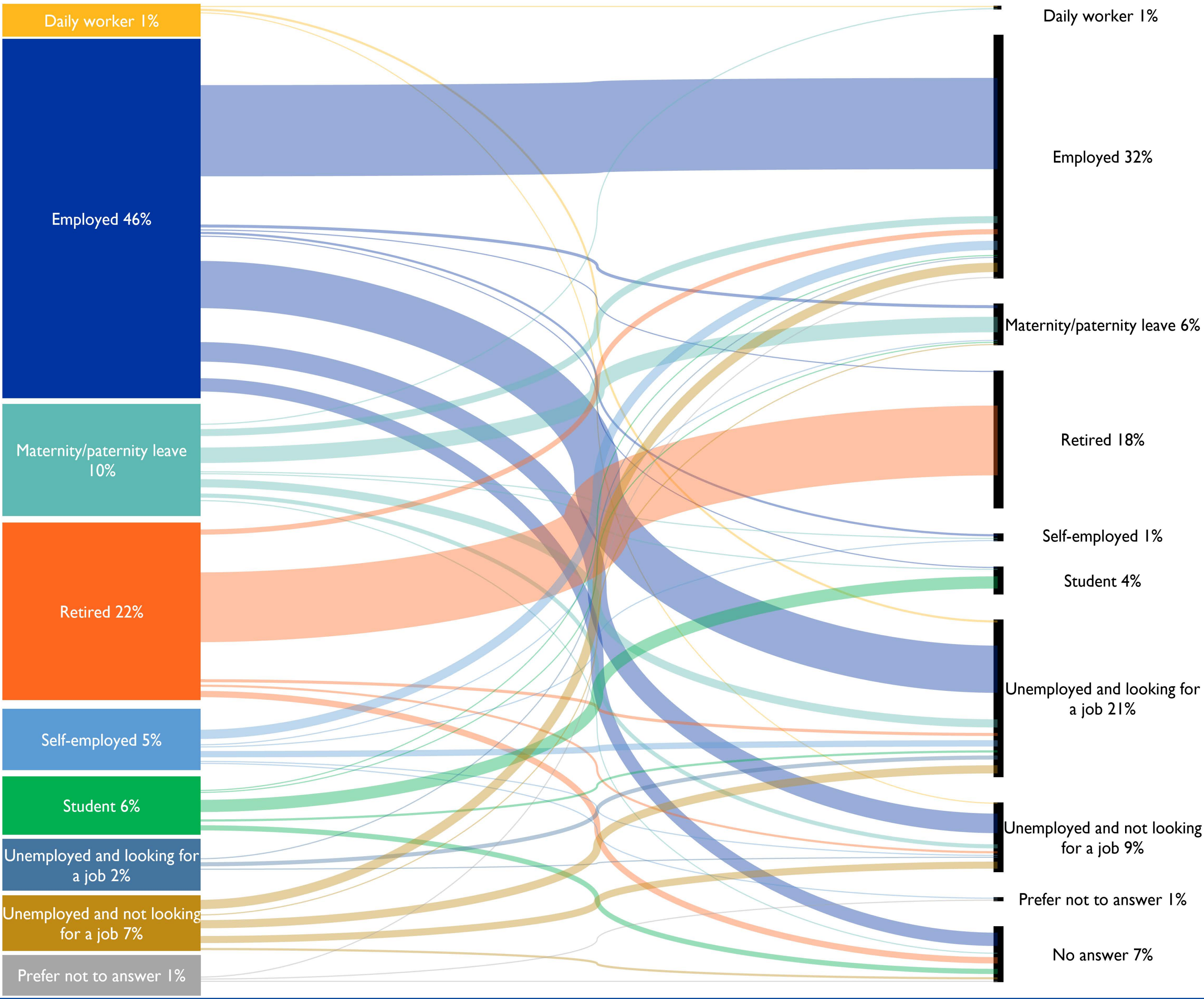
Figure 9: Education level, by gender and total (%)



Employment status before leaving Ukraine versus current status

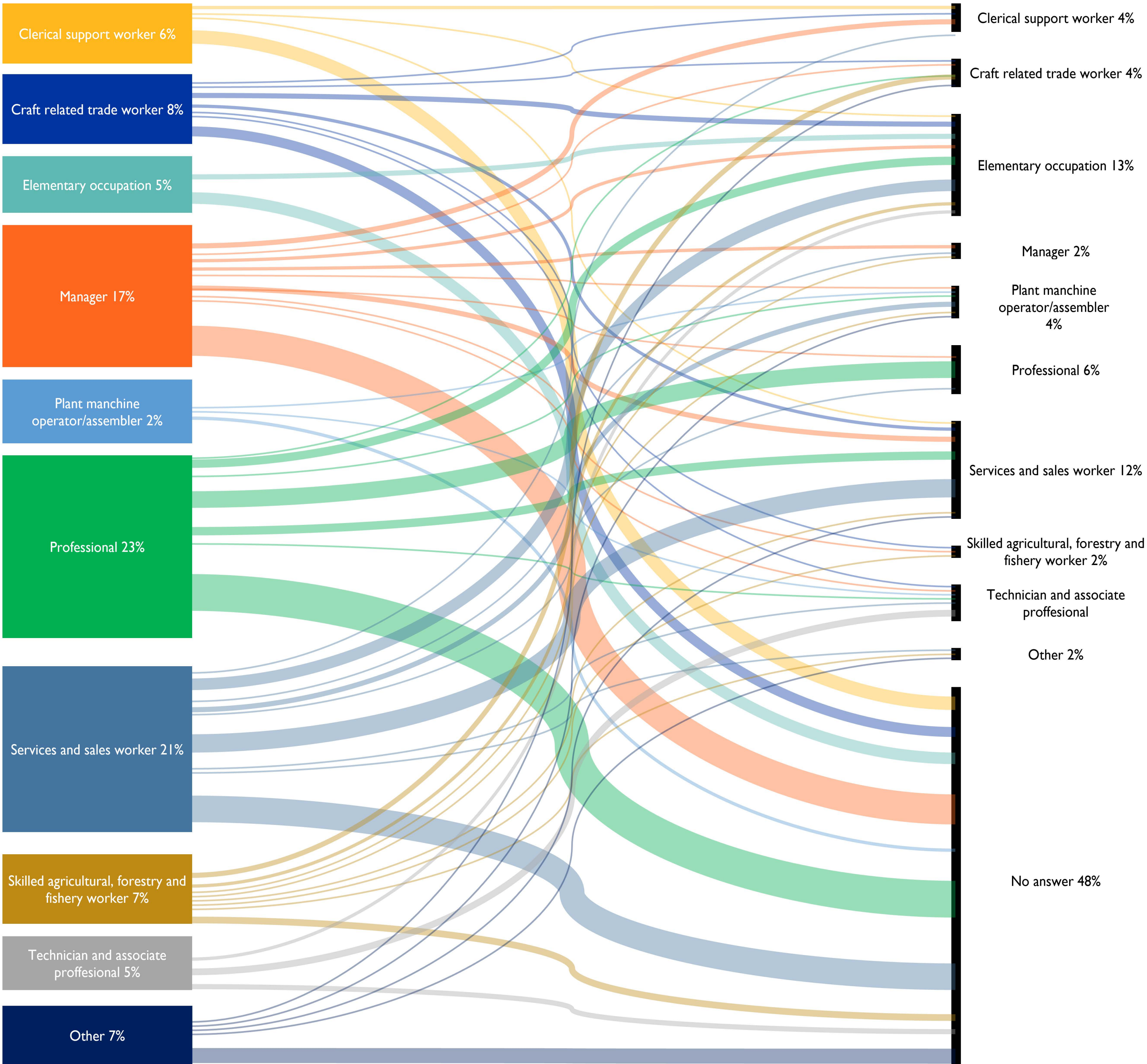
Almost a half of all respondents (46%) were employed before leaving Ukraine, 22 per cent were retired, ten per cent were on maternity/paternity leave. Additionally, seven per cent were unemployed and not looking for a job, five per cent were self-employed, six per cent were pursuing their studies, two per cent were unemployed and looking for a job and the remaining one per cent were daily workers. However, these numbers were noticeably different when asked about their current employment in Lithuania. 23 per cent declared being unemployed and looking for a job, while the share of employed and self-employed decreased to 35 per cent and one 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 23 per cent while in Lithuania.

Figure 10: Employment status before leaving Ukraine and current employment status (%)



Among those currently in employment (employed, self-employed or daily workers), 27 per cent were working in elementary occupations (e.g. cleaners, hotel maids), 21 per cent employed in services and sales positions, 18 per cent classified as professional workers (e.g. doctors, teachers) and plant machine operators/assemblers (9% each), nine per cent were employed as technician and associate professionals, six per cent were clerical support workers, another six per cent were involved in craft and related trade work, four per cent worked as managers and three per cent were skilled agricultural workers. The remaining sample were employed in various other sectors, such as finance, entertainment, recreation, and other areas of employment.

Figure 11: Occupation before leaving Ukraine and current (%)



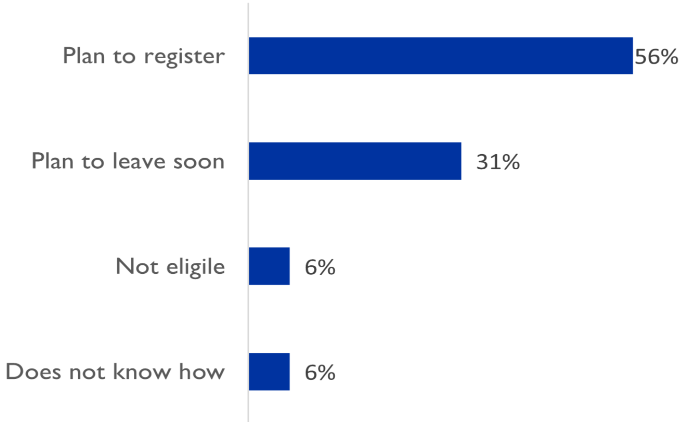
4. Registration and Inclusion Services

Protection applications

Out of the 376 respondents, 96 per cent applied for asylum or temporary protection, while four per cent declared not having registered for protection in Lithuania. The percentage of women who have not applied for temporary protection status is slightly higher than that of men (3% versus 2%).

Among those who answered "No" (N=16), 56 per cent indicated their intention to register in the future. Additionally, 31 per cent were planning to leave Lithuania soon, 12 per cent claimed to be ineligible for temporary protection status and did not know how to apply for either temporary protection or asylum (6% each).

Figure 12: Reasons for not applying for any protection/refugee status, N=16 (%)



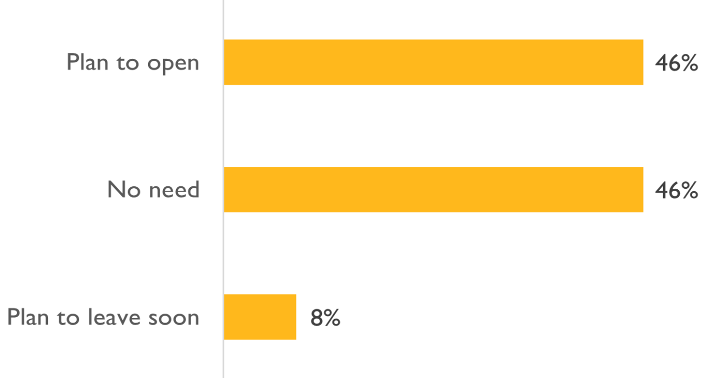
Access to finances

Out of 173 respondents who provided answer, 82 per cent had been able to withdraw cash from ATM or make payments using their own debit/credit card, while 18 per cent had not.

Ninety-two per cent of respondents had a personal bank account in Lithuania at the time of the interview, while 8 per cent did not.

Out of those indicated that they had not opened a personal bank account in Lithuania (N=13), 92 per cent were either planning to open it or did not see the need of it (46% each), while another 8 per cent were planning to leave the country.

Figure 13: Reasons for not opening a personal bank account in Lithuania, N=13 (%)

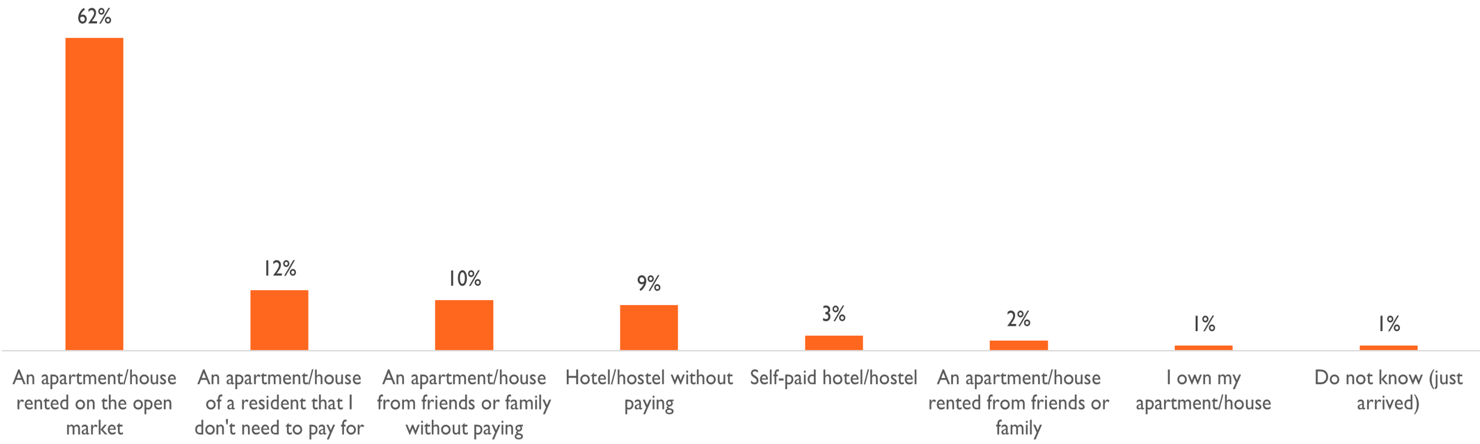


Current accommodation

A majority of respondents were renting an apartment or house in the open market (62%). Other frequently cited types of accommodation in Lithuania were apartments they were not liable for paying rent for (12%), staying with family or friends without paying (10%), hotel/hostel without paying (9%), self-paid hotel/hostel (3%), an apartment/house rented from friends or family (2%). Lastly, respondents were staying in their own apartment/house or were not sure (1% each).

Among the respondents, 44 per cent reported finding accommodation on their own, while 31 per cent received assistance in finding accommodation from family or friends, 16 per cent received help from NGOs, and four per cent obtained help from the government or municipality. The remaining five per cent reported finding accommodation through other sources, such as their workplaces or universities.

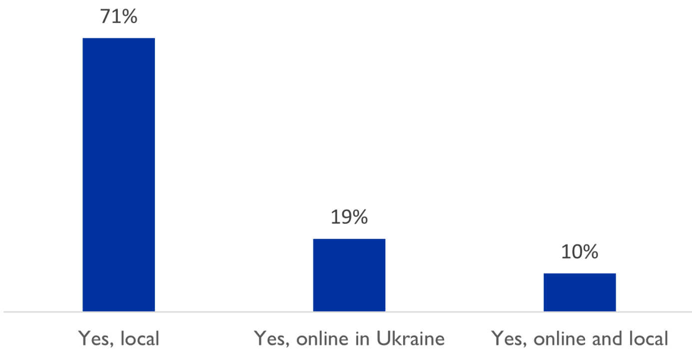
Figure 14: Current type of accommodation of respondents (%)



Access to education

Out of the respondents who had children, 73 specified if they were enrolled or not in schools or kindergartens. 71 per cent indicated that they were able to enroll their children in local schools, while 19 per cent had children enrolled and attending online education in Ukraine. The remaining ten per cent indicated that they enrolled their children in both online and local schools.

Figure 15: Has enrolled children in an education facility, N=73 (%)



Consular services

Eighty-two per cent of respondents indicated that they knew how to contact a consular representative, eighteen per cent did not. Out of those (N=173), 89 per cent indicated that they had not reached out for consular support at the time of assessment, while another 11 per cent had.

Figure 16: Knows how to contact consular representative (%)

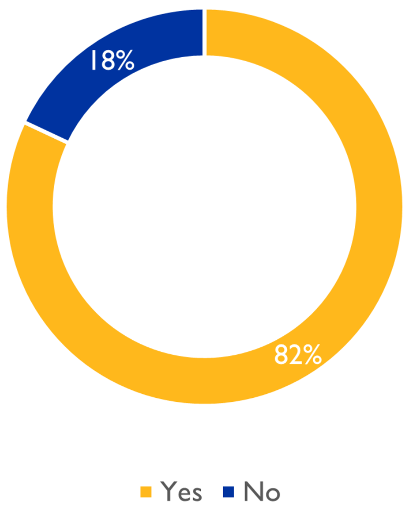
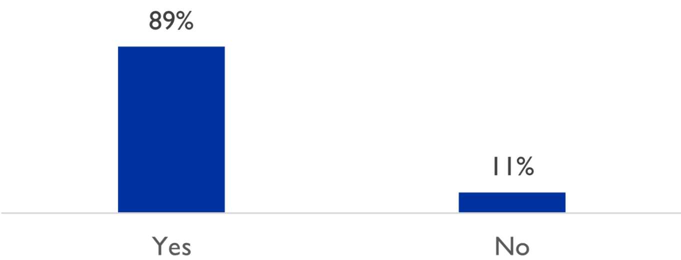


Figure 17: Has reached out for consular support in Lithuania, N=173 (%)



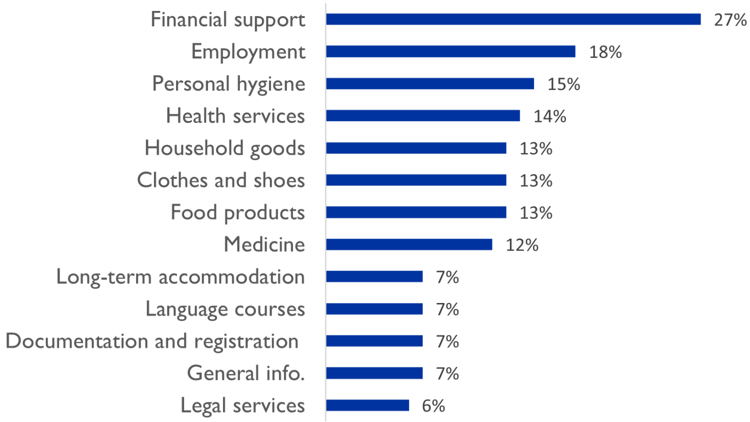
5. Immediate Needs and Assistance Received

Immediate needs at the moment

The two primary needs expressed by the respondents were financial support (27%) and employment (18%). This was followed by the need for personal hygiene and sanitary supplies (15%), health services (14%), household goods, clothes and shoes, and food products (13% each).

Also, others reported to be in need of support with medicine (12%), long-term accommodation, language courses, documentation and registration assistance, general information (7% each) and legal services (6%).

Figure 18: Needs at the moment (%)
(more than one answer possible)



Assistance received in Lithuania

Ninety-five per cent of all refugees in the sample reported receiving some kind of support or humanitarian assistance, while five per cent did not receive any support before the interview. Eighty-nine per cent indicated that they had received help with financial support, food, personal hygiene, and sanitary supplies supplies (89% each), followed by free transportation (54%), clothes and shoes (43%), accommodation (19%), language courses (10%), toys (6%), vouchers (5%), psychological counselling (2%), employment support and others (1% each).

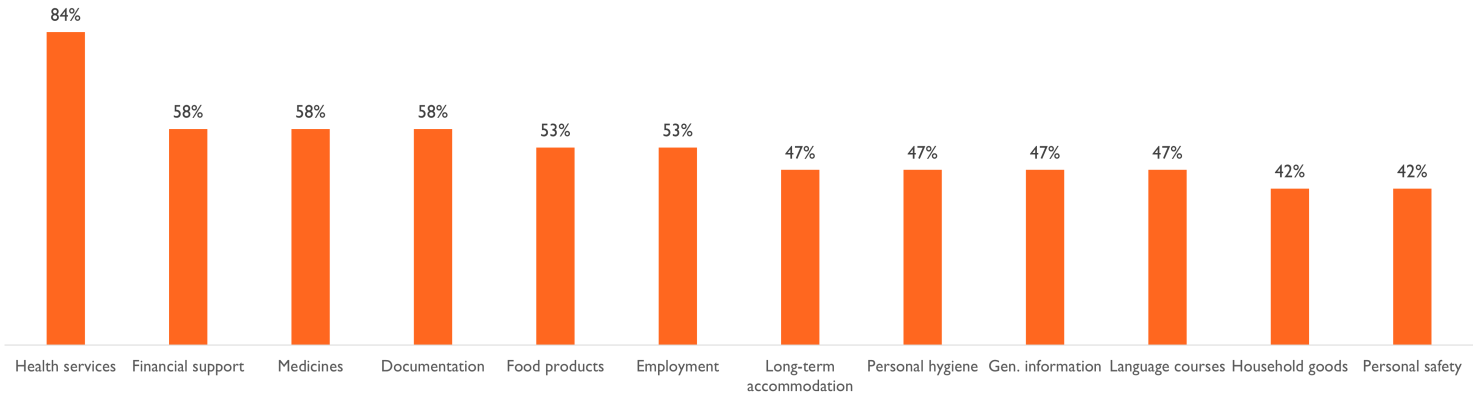
Areas in which information is needed to get more assistance

Out of those who indicated that they did not know where to find assistance (5% out of the total sample), 84 per cent expressed their need for additional information on accessing healthcare services. Additionally, 58 per cent indicated financial support and medicines as other areas where more information was needed to find support.

Other relevant areas where more information was needed were employment and food products (53% each), long-term accommodation, personal hygiene, general information, language courses, household goods, personal safety, legal assistance, and business support (42% each).

Furthermore, others expressed a need for information on short-term accommodation, clothes and shoes, communication elsewhere, school enrollment for children, education for adults, psychological counseling, family tracing, transportation and support on return (37% each).

Figure 19: Top 12 areas where more information for assistance is needed, N=19 (%) (more than one answer possible)



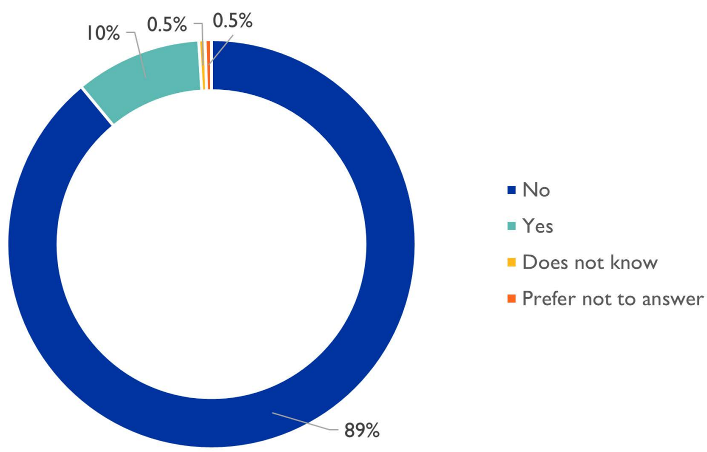
6. Challenges in the Country of Displacement

Experiences of discrimination

Ten per cent of respondents indicated having experienced discrimination (e.g. in receiving job offers, seeking health services) in their country of displacement. In contrast, 89 per cent indicated having no such experience. The remaining one per cent either did not know or preferred not to answer.

When looking at the data disaggregated by gender, female respondents were slightly more likely to have experienced discrimination than their male counterparts (10% versus 9%).

Figure 20: Reported experiences of discrimination (%)

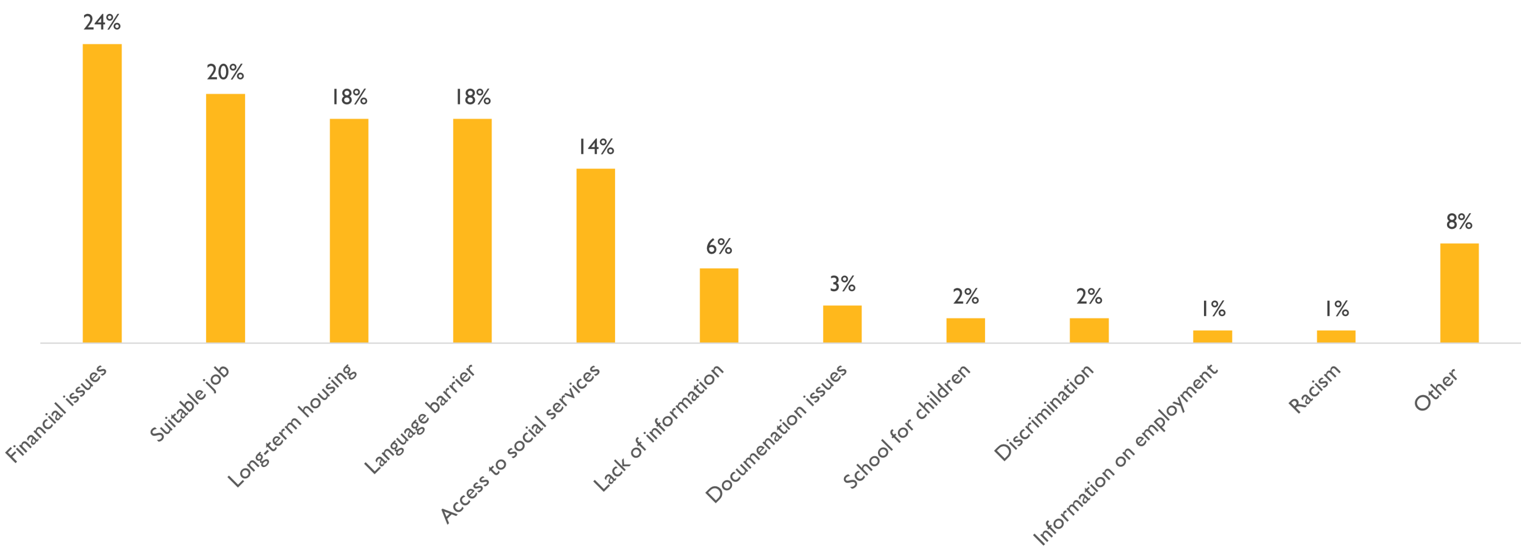


Inclusion challenges

Forty-four per cent of respondents indicated financial issues and finding a suitable job as top inclusion challenges (24% and 20% respectively). This was followed by securing long-term housing and facing language barrier (18% each), accessing social services/ administration (14%).

A smaller percentage of respondents mentioned challenges related to lack of information (6%), documentation (3%), finding school/preschool for children and discrimination (2% each), obtaining information for employment, and facing racism (1% each).

Figure 21: Top 12 inclusion challenges, N=173 (%) (more than one answer possible)



7. Current Group Composition

Travel mode

Seventy-eight per cent of the sample declared to be traveling in a group, in comparison with the other 22 per cent who were traveling alone. The share of respondents traveling alone was higher among women than among men (23% versus 16%).

Out of the 73 per cent of respondents traveling in a group, 98 per cent were traveling with immediate family/household members, two per cent with friends/neighbours and with other relatives (1% each).

Overall, the average group size including the respondent was about 3 persons. 75 per cent of respondents indicated to be traveling with children (ages 0-17). Twenty-five per cent of all children (369) were younger than 5 years old, while 75 per cent were between 5 and 17 years old.

Among them, 51 per cent were boys and 49 per cent girls. Older persons (60+) represented 14 per cent of all male and 13 per cent of all female respondents in the group.

Table 3: Travel mode by gender and total

Travelling in a group/alone	Women	Men	Total
Alone	75	7	82
With mmediate family/household members	254	36	290
Relatives	2	0	2
Friends and neigbours	2	0	2

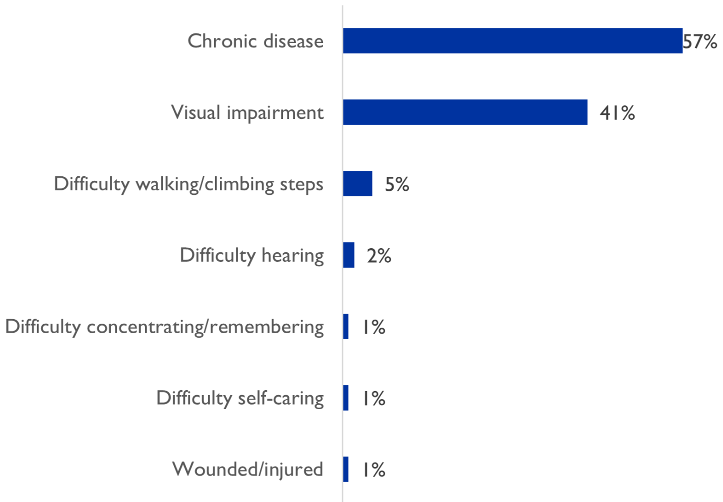
Travelling with persons with health conditions and disabilities

A considerable fraction of respondents (40%) indicated that their group/household included persons with serious health conditions or specific needs, while 60 per cent did not reply to be in a group with at least one person with a serious health condition.

More specifically, 57 per cent of the respondents reported having in their group (including themselves) at least one person with a chronic disease or a serious medical condition. Forty-one per cent were traveling with a person with visual impairment.

This was followed by those traveling with a person with difficulty walking/climbing steps (5%), difficulty hearing even with a hearing aid (2%), difficulty concentrating/remembering, difficulty self-caring, wounded or injured person (1% each).

Figure 22: Respondents traveling with at least one person with a serious health conditions, N=150 (%)
(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 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. The questionnaire was available in Ukrainian, Russian, English 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.

The survey respondents were chosen at random from locations within four primary 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 different 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.

In Lithuania, DTM was activated in September 2022 for the first time. Between 6 and 31 March, 376 valid surveys were collected by a team of 3 enumerators (2 female and 1 male) deployed in 6 different provinces.

Sixty-one per cent of surveys were collected in Vilnius, 14 per cent in Klaipeda, 10 per cent in Siauliai, and the remaining in Alytus (7%), Panevezys (5%), Kaunas (2%). Enumerators were approaching respondents in collective centers, open spaces, dormitories, humanitarian aid distribution centers. The interviews have been conducted in 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.

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