



DISPLACEMENT PATTERNS, PROTECTION RISKS AND NEEDS OF REFUGEES FROM UKRAINE

REGIONAL PROTECTION ANALYSIS # 1

Belarus, Bulgaria, Hungary, Republic of
Moldova, Poland, Romania & Slovakia

Data as of 30 September 2022

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We are grateful for the extensive involvement and support of UNHCR's partners, local authorities, civil society, international organizations and donors. Most importantly, UNHCR would like to acknowledge the resilience and strength of refugees from Ukraine, who continue to share with us their challenges, fears and hopes.

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COVER PHOTOGRAPH:

Poland. Refugees from Ukraine wait to be registered at UNHCR's cash enrolment centre in Krakow Tauron Arena. May 2022 © UNHCR/Maciej Moskwa

Key findings and recommendations

This regional analysis is based on **more than 34,000 interviews** with refugees from Ukraine conducted by UNHCR and partners **in Belarus, Bulgaria, Hungary, Republic of Moldova, Poland, Romania and Slovakia between mid-May and end September**, complemented with focus group

discussions conducted in Poland, Hungary, Slovakia and Moldova. The report presents an overview of refugees' demographic profiles and displacement patterns and main findings regarding protection risks, priority needs and intentions of refugees from Ukraine.¹

1 78% OF RESPONDENTS HAVE BEEN SEPARATED FROM IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBERS

This refugee crisis is characterized by high levels of family separation. Some **78%** of respondents reported having to separate from immediate family members due to their departure from Ukraine. The vast majority of refugees from Ukraine are women and children, with dynamics around family separation resulting in a large proportion of single female caregivers who are acting as primary breadwinners for their families. Whilst many respondents indicated that family separations occurred as a result of restrictions on freedom of movement for men due to martial law, a large percentage equally indicated that their family members remaining in Ukraine did not wish to leave at the time they departed, or were unable to depart, for financial or other reasons.

Family separation in a refugee context can exacerbate several protection risks including gender-based violence, human trafficking, exploitation, isolation and trauma, particularly for persons with specific needs, such as unaccompanied and separated children, older persons and persons with disabilities. Working to mitigate these risks, including through prioritizing the prevention of and response to

gender-based violence (GBV), protection of children, prevention of trafficking and supporting the mental health and psychosocial wellbeing of refugees in host countries, needs to remain a key focus of the refugee response. In addition, the effective and early inclusion of refugees into national systems – including access to the employment market, social protection, health and education services - is key to helping support their self-sufficiency and mitigating these protection risks.

Rights to family unity and family life are well established in international and regional law, whilst family unity provides an essential framework of protection in displacement. Given the scale of family separation amongst refugees from Ukraine, **many families may require access to swift, effective and flexible family reunification procedures** as and when they are able to reunite with relatives. This needs to include effective routes to family reunification for individuals who may not fall within the scope of the Temporary Protection Directive, ensuring that families are able to swiftly reunify and stay together.

¹ An interactive online dashboard with key results can be found [here](#)

2 24% OF HOUSEHOLDS INCLUDE AT LEAST ONE PERSON AT HEIGHTENED RISK

24% of respondents reported at least one household member with a specific need, including persons with disabilities, serious medical needs, older persons and separated or unaccompanied children. Persons with specific needs may face specific barriers that prevent them from fully enjoying their rights or accessing the services they need, and can face heightened risks of discrimination, abuse, violence and neglect during displacement and in their country of asylum.

Data from protection monitoring indicates that **households with one or more persons with specific needs may have fewer resources and more limited access to support networks** in their host countries than other groups amongst the refugee population. Many may have limited access to information on existing services (including health) and face limitations

in accessing employment opportunities, including family members who are required to provide care at home.

It is **crucial that persons with specific needs are systematically identified at an early stage and referred to services and support in a timely manner** in order to mitigate protection risks. UNHCR recommends that procedures to identify persons at heightened risk are included as part of registration procedures for temporary protection and other forms of legal stay, as well as procedures to renew residency and other associated documentation in order to enhance opportunities for the identification of these groups. Identification of individuals at heightened risk has to be further matched with **upscaling specialized services with adequate capacity and resources**, which are adapted to the needs and numbers of persons of concern.

3 31% OF RESPONDENTS DO NOT HOLD INTERNATIONAL BIOMETRIC PASSPORTS

31% of respondents do not hold international biometric passports, which permit a greater freedom of movement. Respondents travelling without any type of national passport (**6%** of respondents) indicated that they were carrying ID cards, birth certificates or no documents at all. In addition, data available prior to the start of the international armed conflict demonstrates that there are groups within the Ukrainian population who are stateless, or who may lack the civil documentation needed to acquire or confirm their Ukrainian citizenship and are at risk of statelessness.² This has also been confirmed by ongoing monitoring and legal support activities in hosting countries.

Whilst states have implemented flexible approaches to documentation for individuals seeking to leave Ukraine as a result of the international armed conflict, **reliable access to civil documentation** is likely to become a pressing concern for many refugees in

order to ensure their continued access to rights and services. A lack of civil documentation may also pose a barrier to return, once conditions permit. This is particularly the case for those who lack key forms of Ukrainian civil documentation, those whose documents have since expired, for children who may not hold passports or have been born in displacement and for former residents of non-government controlled areas of Ukraine. **Providing avenues for issuance and replacement of Ukrainian civil documentation in host countries**, including through Ukrainian Embassies abroad, would be important in this regard. **Improving systems to identify stateless persons** and those at risk of statelessness amongst the refugee population from Ukraine, providing avenues for documentation, status determination and employing an expansive application of the Temporary Protection Directive to include these groups, is also key in ensuring their protection.

² UNHCR 2022: Global Trends. Forced Displacement in 2021 <https://www.unhcr.org/62a9d1494/global-trends-report-2021>

4 ACCOMMODATION AND EMPLOYMENT ARE AMONGST REFUGEES' PRIORITY NEEDS

Accommodation and **employment** were highlighted as two major and immediate needs reported by refugees, followed by material assistance and healthcare. Respondents additionally highlighted priority needs for information on how to access **job opportunities, medical care, legal status, accommodation** and **education**.

Host countries should seek to **enhance the economic and financial inclusion of refugees from Ukraine**, including access to decent work. This is especially important given that the majority of respondents reported plans to stay in their current host country in the near future. The overall high levels of education and the diverse professional skills identified amongst the refugee population can help facilitate this process.

It is recommended refugees are afforded additional opportunities for **learning relevant languages** and provided with systems to **obtain or recognize relevant qualifications**. Considering the high levels of family separation and significant proportion of single caretaker households, **access to adequate and affordable childcare** will be crucial in ensuring access to employment opportunities. Addressing the priority needs of refugees will help support their socio-economic inclusion in host countries, mitigate

against protection risks and potential negative coping mechanisms and contribute to their host communities.

Refugees equally require access to reliable and accessible information on how they can access such opportunities, services and support in their host countries. It is crucial that all actors work to ensure equal access to information on rights, obligations and available services as early as possible, through multiple channels and in accessible formats while ensuring coordination amongst the relevant actors.

Information needs to be provided in line with the community's communication needs and preferences as well as in a language they understand. Whilst the majority of respondents preferred to receive information through digital channels, it is important to ensure that a range of communication channels and formats are utilised in order to effectively communicate with all sections of the refugee community, including those who may not have access to or be familiar with digital platforms. Sharing information and key messages via Ukrainian community groups and refugee-led organisations will be key in this regard. Information also needs to be adapted to persons with specific needs, in particular persons with disabilities, older persons and children.

5 63% OF RESPONDENTS PLAN TO STAY IN THEIR CURRENT HOST COUNTRY IN THE NEAR FUTURE

The current humanitarian crisis in Ukraine coupled with multiple potential safety and security risks in case of return means that host countries should continue to offer the refugee population access to predictable legal status, which enables access to decent work, financial products and entrepreneurship, and mitigate potential push factors which risk individuals resorting to negative coping mechanisms or premature returns to Ukraine, especially by persons at heightened risk, due to the inability to cover their basic needs. This is particularly important given that approximately **21%** of respondents who reported an intention to return to Ukraine in the near future indicated having to consider return to Ukraine due to economic reasons or the need to access basic services, despite reporting fears surrounding their potential return due to the ongoing international armed conflict.

Refugees should be empowered to make free and informed choices about potential return to Ukraine. This may include sharing information about conditions and available assistance in areas of origin, counselling individuals on their ability to re-enter host countries following a return journey and providing adequate support whilst refugees remain in countries of asylum.

Given the high levels of family separation as well as the importance of staying informed about the current situation in Ukraine, including with a view to potential future returns, calls for a flexible approach to refugee visits to Ukraine to see family, check on property, arrange for necessary documents, prepare to return or for other reasons. Legal status and access to rights in host countries should not be prematurely withdrawn as a result of decisions to travel to Ukraine.

Results at glance

Demographics and displacement patterns



99%

of respondents are citizens of Ukraine



74%

travelled from Ukraine accompanied



88%

of all family members are women and children



13%

of all family members are older persons



75%

of respondents had a tertiary level of education



17%

of respondents were displaced in Ukraine before leaving the country



15%

of respondents transited through at least one other country before arriving to their current host country



23%

of respondents had been back to Ukraine at least once since their initial departure

Protection overview



Family separation

78%

of respondents have been separated from immediate family members. Family separation has exacerbated protection risks and existing vulnerabilities.



Persons with specific needs

24%

of households include at least one person at heightened risk. Such households have decreased coping capacities and limited access to support network and self-reliance opportunities.



Documentation

6%

of respondents have not carried any type of national passport, which may affect their access to rights and have an impact on the possibility of return. Overall, **31%** of respondents do not hold international biometric passports, which permit greater freedom of movement.



Priority needs

Accommodation and employment are refugees' top priority need. Considering the high levels of family separation, access to adequate and affordable childcare is also crucial in ensuring access to employment opportunities.



Information needs

Main needs in information provision relate to financial aid, job opportunities, medical care and legal status.

55 %

of respondents preferred receiving information via the social media channels. People who are over 60 years of age or with lower levels of education are more interested to receive information in person or from their friends and family



Intentions

63%

of respondents reported plans to stay in their current host country in the near future, with 13% intending to return to Ukraine, 10% planning to move to another host country and 14% remaining undecided.

Context

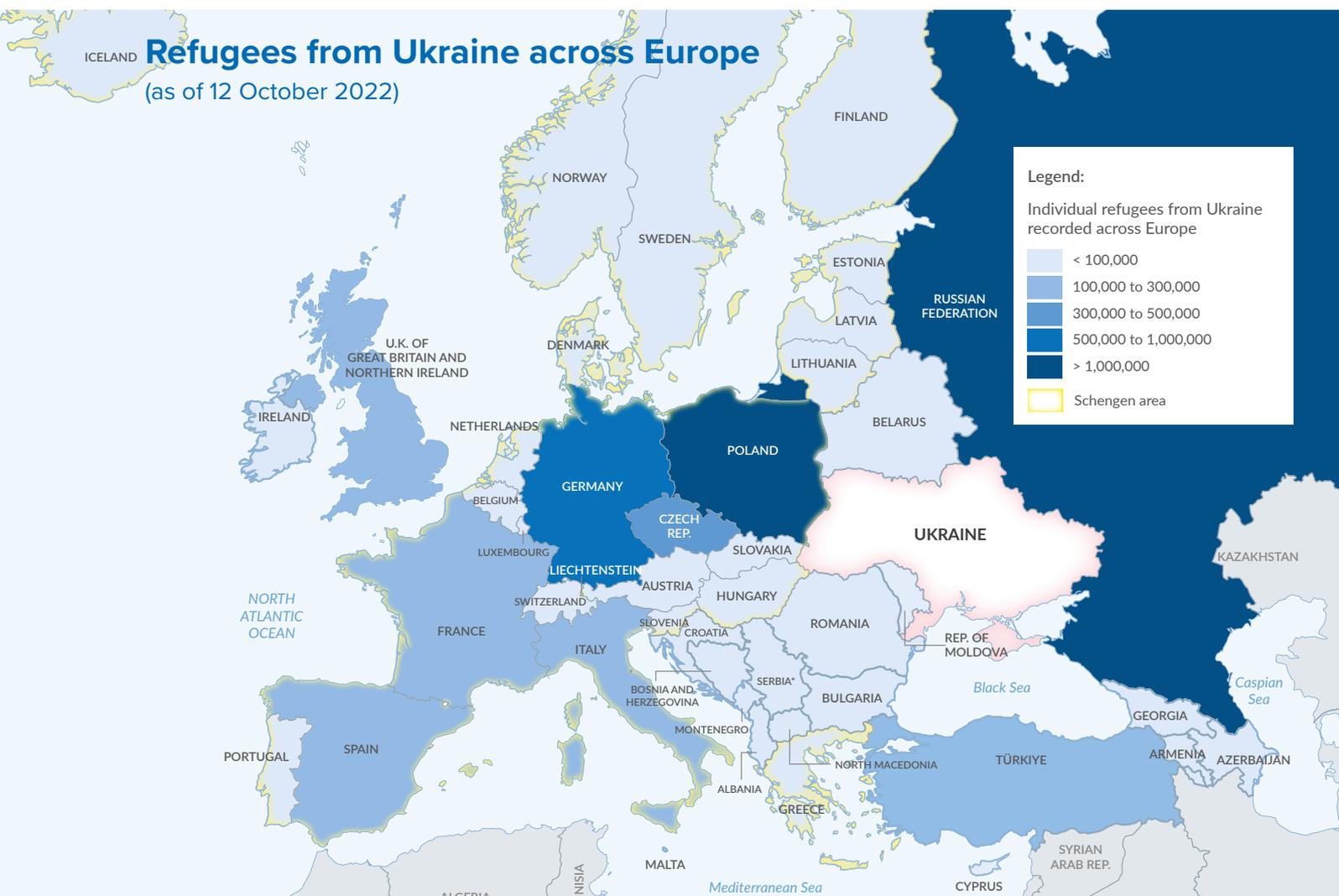
Since the onset of the Russian Federation’s invasion of Ukraine, nearly **one-third of Ukrainians** have been forced from their homes, which represents one of the largest human displacement crises in the world today.

In the six months since the start of this international conflict, hostilities have led to civilian deaths and injuries, as well as the destruction of critical infrastructure, leaving millions overall without access

to basic services such as health, water, electricity and gas supplies. Within Ukraine, **nearly 7 million people remain displaced** by the war.³

As of the beginning of October 2022, UNHCR estimated that there were over **7.6 million refugees** present across Europe. Over **4.2 million refugees** from Ukraine had registered for temporary protection or similar national protection schemes.

3. UNHCR: Ukraine situation Flash Update #28, 2 September 2022



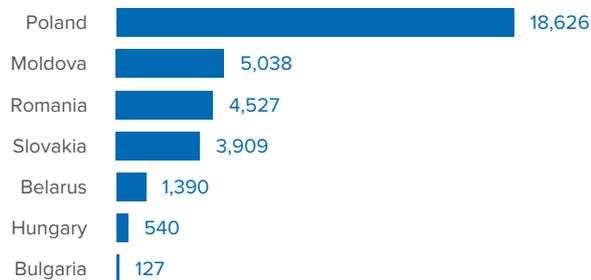
Disclaimer: The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. *Serbia and Kosovo (S/RES/1244 [1999])

Methodology

Protection monitoring is a core UNHCR activity which is carried out to systematically collect information on the key risks, threats, barriers to enjoyment of rights and other challenges affecting refugees, among other population groups. The results of protection monitoring allow UNHCR and partners to base responses on the resulting evidence and additionally places the experiences and perspectives of refugees at the centre of needs assessments, programming and advocacy.

To strengthen and promote an evidence-based protection response, UNHCR and its partners have implemented a Protection Profiling and Monitoring exercise to regularly collect and analyze data about the profiles, needs and intentions of refugees from Ukraine and monitor changes over time. This

RESPONDENTS BY COUNTRY



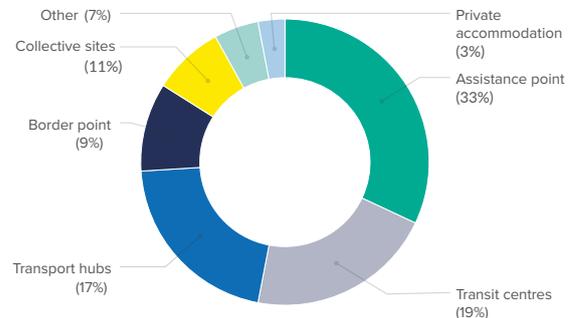
The results presented in this report must be interpreted according to the limitations of the methodology and given the context of ongoing movements, particularly:

- While the random selection of respondents and diversification in places of data collection are used to reduce potential bias and ensure the sample covers different segments and profiles of the target population, results cannot necessarily be extrapolated to the population of refugees from Ukraine as a whole, given the non-probabilistic sampling method used.
- Considering ongoing population movements, and given that the distribution of number of

report presents the main results based on **over 34,000 interviews** conducted between **May and September 2022** in **Bulgaria, Belarus, Hungary, Republic of Moldova, Poland, Romania and Slovakia**.

Interviews are conducted in different locations, including border and transit locations, reception and transit centres, collective sites, and information and assistance points in major cities. Trained enumerators from UNHCR and partners digitally collected the data through Kobo Toolbox, which is safely stored in a UNHCR server. Respondents are identified in the selected locations and asked for their consent to be interviewed using a harmonized regional questionnaire.

PLACES OF DATA COLLECTION



interviews per country reflects in general the distribution of total estimated number of refugees from Ukraine recorded in the selected countries (except for Bulgaria, where the exercise started later and is currently scaling up), country samples have not been weighted for this regional analysis.

- The results reflect refugees' situation, needs and intentions at the time of data collection, which may subsequently change depending on a wide range of factors.
- Most enumerators were Ukrainian and/or Russian speakers, which could have limited interviews with refugees from other nationalities.

Demographic and displacement patterns

Demographics

An absolute majority (99%) of respondents were citizens of Ukraine, most of them women (86%).

Respondents usually travelled from Ukraine accompanied (74%), mainly by close family members (91%). Comparing those travelling alone versus those travelling accompanied, a higher proportion were males (20% vs 12%), a lower

proportion were aged between 35 to 59 years old (47% vs 56%) and a lower proportion were aged 60 years or more (25% vs 14%). Women and children represented 88% of all family members that left Ukraine together and 13% of all family members were older persons. Among those who travelled accompanied, around 5% of respondents reported travelling with unrelated children.

NATIONALITY AND GENDER

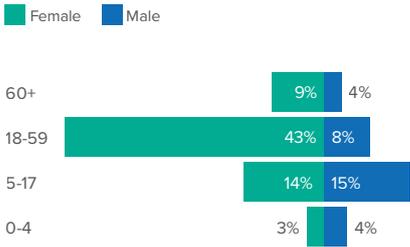


99%
are Ukrainians



86%
of respondents
were females

IMMEDIATE FAMILY AGE GROUP AND GENDER*



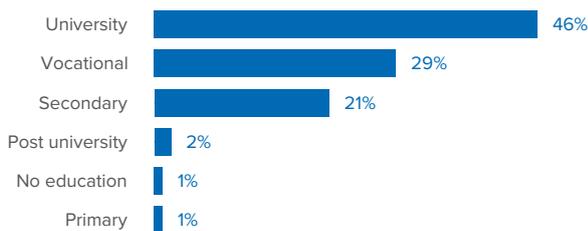
*including the respondent



Moldova. Refugees from Ukraine accommodated in Chisinau exhibition space. April 2022
© UNHCR/Caroline Bach

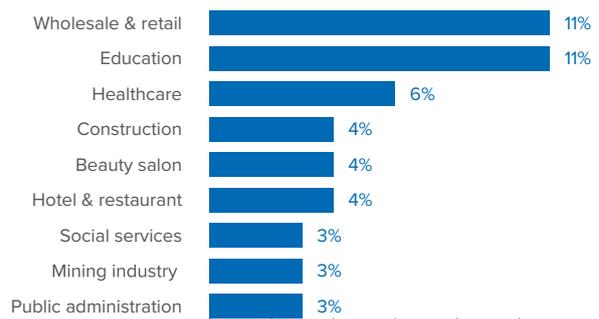
75% of respondents had a tertiary level of education (university level **46%** and vocational level **29%**). **Almost three quarters of respondents (73%)** were employed before leaving Ukraine, while **13%** were retired, **8%** engaged in family responsibilities and **5%** unemployed.

EDUCATION LEVEL



For respondents who were employed prior to departing Ukraine, they reported having diverse professional experience, particularly in the education, services and trade sectors as well as in healthcare.

TOP OCCUPATIONAL SECTORS*



* Multiple responses possible, so percentages can go over 100% when added.

Data demonstrates some changes in the profile of respondents depending on the date of departure from Ukraine. In particular, comparing those who departed more recently (July-to-September) against those who departed at the beginning of the

international conflict (February-to-March), we find that: a higher proportion are males (**24% vs 8%**); a lower proportion have university level education (**39% vs 53%**); and a higher proportion travelled alone (**32% vs 18%**).

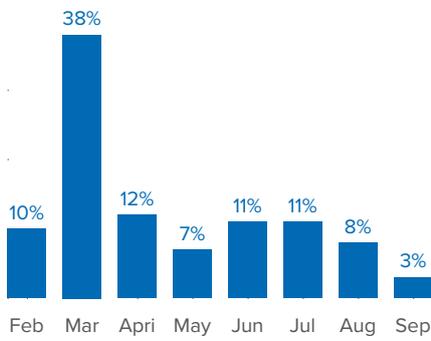
Displacement patterns

Around half of respondents were forced to leave their place of origin between end-February and March 2022. The overall top three places of origin were Odeska and Kharkivska oblasts and Kyiv city.

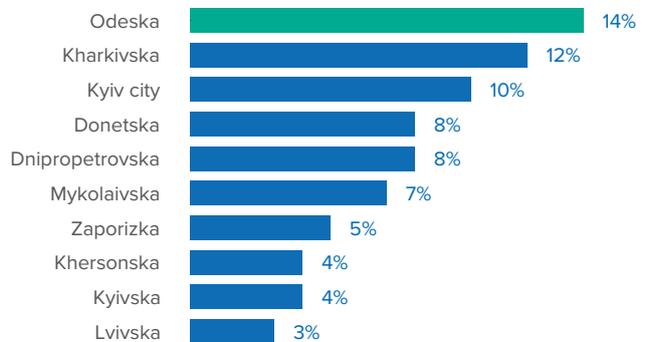
A majority of refugees originating from Kyiv City, Kyivska, Kharkivska, Sumska, Zhytomyrska,

Zaporizka and Dnipropetrovska oblasts left their homes in the beginning of the crisis in February and March, whilst those originating from Odeska, Mykolaivska, Khersonska, Donetsk, Luhanska were more likely to have left between April and September 2022.

DATE OF DEPARTURE



TOP PLACES OF ORIGIN



17% of respondents were displaced in Ukraine before leaving the country. People originating from Luhanska, Donetsk, Kharkivska, Kyivska, Khersonska, Chernihivska oblasts and Kyiv City were more often displaced in Ukraine before deciding to leave the country.

15% of respondents transited through at least one other country before arriving to their current host country; however, for those interviewed in Bulgaria and Belarus the large majority (94% and 82%) transited through another country, in contrast to those interviewed in Moldova and Hungary (3% and 7%). The main observed routes by country were as follows:

- Poland:** 12% of respondents transited through other countries, half of whom travelled through Russia and subsequently Belarus and/or Baltic countries, while the rest arrived via other neighboring countries (Moldova, Romania, Hungary and/or Slovakia). Most refugees who travelled through Russia originated from Donetsk, Khersonska, Kharkivska, Luhanska and Zaporizka oblasts.
- Romania:** 25% of respondents transited through other countries, and among them 83% travelled through Moldova.
- Slovakia:** 16% of respondents transited through other countries, and among them 52% travelled through Poland, while the rest arrived via other neighboring countries (Moldova, Romania, Hungary)
- Belarus:** 82% of respondents transited through other countries, and among them 61% travelled through Poland and 39% through Russia.
- Bulgaria:** 94% of respondents transited through other countries, and among them 80% travelled through Romania.

23% of respondents had been back to Ukraine at least once since their initial departure.

Protection overview

Family separations and support networks

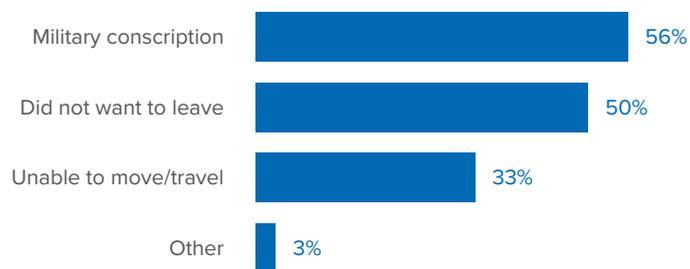
The majority of respondents (78%) reported that they had been separated from some of their immediate family members as a result of their departure from Ukraine, the primary reason being

limitations on freedom of movement for men due to martial law. The second most cited reason for separation was family members not wanting to leave their homes.

FAMILY SEPARATION



FAMILY SEPARATION REASONS*



* Multiple responses possible, so percentages can go over 100% when added.

Family separation in a refugee context can exacerbate several protection risks including gender-based violence, human trafficking, exploitation, isolation and trauma. This is particularly the case for persons at heightened risk, including but not limited to unaccompanied and separated children, persons with serious medical conditions, older persons and persons with disabilities. In addition, only 12% of respondents reported that they had family members in their current host

country, which may indicate limited formal support networks and a potential for increased vulnerability in the current context. More than half of respondents who had family members in the host country mentioned that this was their main motivation for choosing this country of destination. Households travelling with dependents – infants, children and/or older persons – were more likely to report plans to remain in their current location.



An emotional Svetlana, 83, is comforted by UNHCR staff shortly after crossing the border from Ukraine into Moldova. May 2022 © UNHCR/Andrew McConnell

Persons with Specific Needs

24% of respondents reported having at least one family member with specific needs. Disability was the most frequently reported specific need (**12%**), followed by family members with serious medical conditions (**11%**) and older persons with specific protection risks (**10%**).

Slovakia and Romania had the highest reported number of households with at least one person with specific needs (**30% and 26%**), whilst **Belarus and Hungary** had the lowest (**13%**).

Healthcare was highlighted as one of the top priority needs by respondents who had family members with specific needs, along with **cash** and **accommodation**. Such respondents were more likely to reside in collective accommodation or transit/reception centres rather than rented or hosted accommodation, which may indicate lower levels of financial means, lower levels of access to support networks in host countries and subsequent increased vulnerability as compared to other sections of the refugee population.

Focus group discussions have further revealed that situation of families with specific needs has been gradually deteriorating with a lack of resources

and limited access to job markets. Older persons and persons with disabilities who faced disruption or loss of family and income were in particular need of in-person information on how to access social services and additional support.⁴ Language assistance when accessing healthcare and relevant services has also been highlighted as a need for these groups.

Refugees taking care of persons with specific needs and children highlighted difficulties in accessing job markets and available opportunities due to the need to provide care at home. This would often exacerbate their vulnerability, especially if they did not have additional support from their family members or networks.

RESPONDENTS WITH AT LEAST 1 FAMILY MEMBER AT HEIGHTENED RISKS



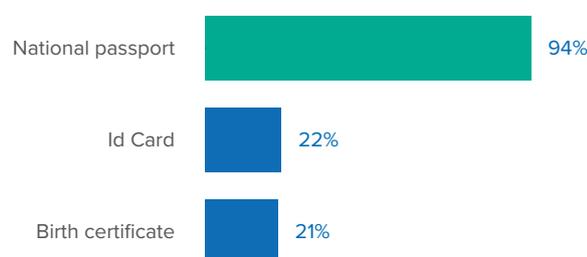
4. UNHCR 2022: Refugees from Ukraine in Poland – Profiling Update (June): <https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/94977>

Documentation

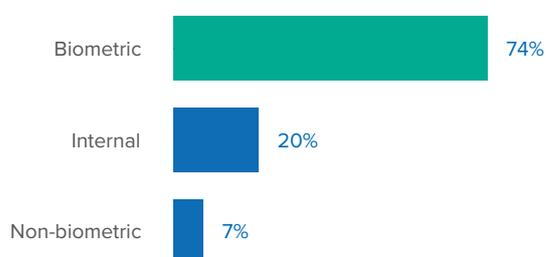
94% of respondents reported that they had travelled from Ukraine with their national passports, with **74%** of them carrying biometric international passports, **7%** non-biometric international passports and **19%** internal (non-international) passports. The Ukrainian biometric international passport accords greater freedom of movement to its holders,

particularly within the Schengen area where it is possible for holders to move between countries without first obtaining a visa. Those travelling without passports (**6%**) reported having ID cards and/or birth certificates with them, with **1%** of respondents reporting that they did not have any of these documents.

DOCUMENTS CARRYING DURING TRAVEL



PASSPORT TYPE*



* Due to rounding some percent totals do not add up to 100%.

At the end of 2021, UNHCR estimated as many as 35,815 persons under its statelessness mandate in Ukraine.⁵ Moreover, according to the Ukrainian Government's statistics, 6,047 stateless persons were legally residing in Ukraine at the end of 2021.⁶

In addition, according to unofficial estimates of international and civil society organizations, there are between 200,000 and 400,000 Roma people living in Ukraine. Between 4 to 8% of the Roma community are believed to lack the civil documentation needed to acquire or confirm their Ukrainian citizenship.⁷ In addition, children born in non-government controlled areas (NGCA) face challenges in accessing civil documentation issued by the Government of Ukraine, placing them at risk of being unable to confirm their Ukrainian citizenship as documents issued in the NGCA are not legally recognized.

Challenges for stateless persons and those at risk of statelessness include an increased risk of being detained or forcibly returned due to lack of proof of identity, nationality or country of origin; greater restrictions on freedom of movement; difficulties in accessing registration and legal status due to lack of documentation; challenges in returning to Ukraine in case of lack of documentation; difficulties in accessing financial or humanitarian aid for which documentation may be required; fears among stateless individuals to approach authorities or local community for assistance due to longstanding marginalization. Whilst some data on temporary protection granted to stateless persons who fled Ukraine has been published, the systematic identification of stateless persons remains a gap.

5. UNHCR 2022: Global Trends. Forced Displacement in 2021. <https://www.unhcr.org/62a9d1494/global-trends-report-2021>

6. UNHCR, Stateless persons: <https://www.unhcr.org/ua/en/stateless-persons>

7. Ibid.

Situation in host countries and priority needs

Refugees reported **safety, family ties and employment opportunities** as their top three motivations for arriving to the current host country. **Family ties** were more frequently reported as a reason by respondents in Belarus and Moldova, while **employment opportunities** were highlighted more often by respondents in Hungary.

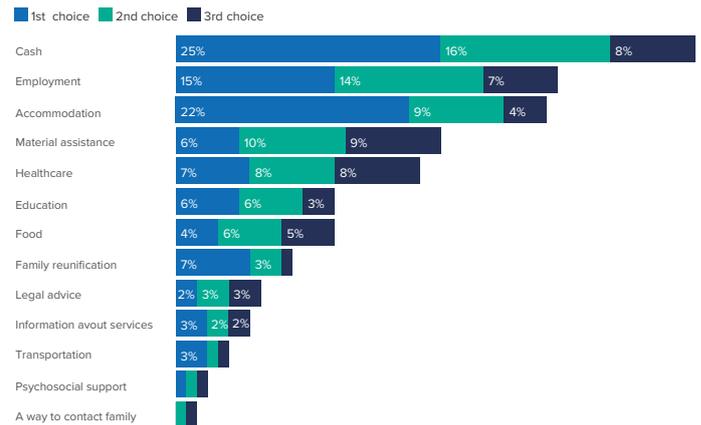
Whilst **cash** was identified as the most common urgent need, it should be noted that cash is viewed as a modality in order to meet other basic needs. In this respect, it is likely that the need for cash is strongly correlated to the other urgent needs: employment and accommodation, amongst others, including healthcare. **Accommodation** was identified as the most urgent need in Slovakia whilst **employment** was the top need in Hungary. In addition, **healthcare** was mentioned as one of the three priority needs in Moldova and Romania.

The majority of respondents (**66%**) were staying in hosted or rented accommodation, while **30%** were staying in collective or planned sites (including temporary accommodation in reception / transit centers). Refugees were more likely to stay in collective or planned accommodation in **Hungary** and **Romania**. **One third of respondents** were living in rented accommodation, with lower proportions in **Moldova** and **Romania**.

Accommodation is likely to become a pressing need, as rental costs and energy prices continue to increase in refugee-hosting countries. Focus group discussions highlighted confusion amongst participants on whether current host state subsidies for accommodation will continue in the longer term, adding to a sense of insecurity and uncertainty around their shelter options. Whilst **53%** of respondents reported that they were living in rented or hosted accommodation, the fact that accommodation continues to be reported as a key need even for this group indicates that these arrangements may not be secure in the longer term.

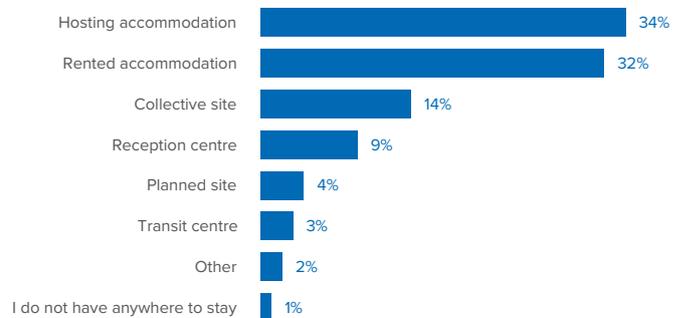
Focus group discussions highlighted **challenges with women accessing employment** due to a lack

URGENT NEEDS*



* Multiple responses possible, so percentages can go over 100% when added.

CURRENT ACCOMMODATION



of daycare, kindergarten places and other childcare arrangements, including for school-going children. Given the high levels of family separation and single female caregivers, addressing this challenge will be key to enhance economic inclusion amongst refugees. In addition, challenges relating to **lack of knowledge of local languages** and **lack of support for persons with disabilities to integrate into the labor market** were highlighted as affecting access to decent work.

Information Needs

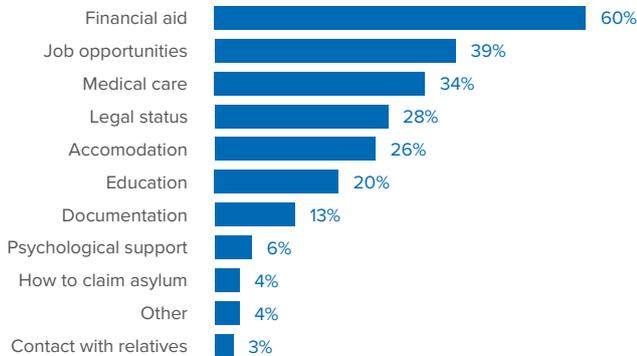
The majority of respondents indicated their main information needs related to **financial aid, job opportunities, medical care, legal status, accommodation** and **education**. Focus group discussion participants echoed these key information needs, including on the possibility to access relevant social protection schemes and a lack of information on the right to healthcare and how health services can be accessed.

55% of respondents had high levels of digital awareness and preferred to receive information on available services and opportunities related to their priority needs by **social media**, followed by **phone**

and **in-person information**. **Facebook, Telegram and Viber** were the **top three** preferred digital ways of communication. Focus group participants emphasised their need to receive detailed information on their rights in their host countries in written form, on posters and via Telegram.

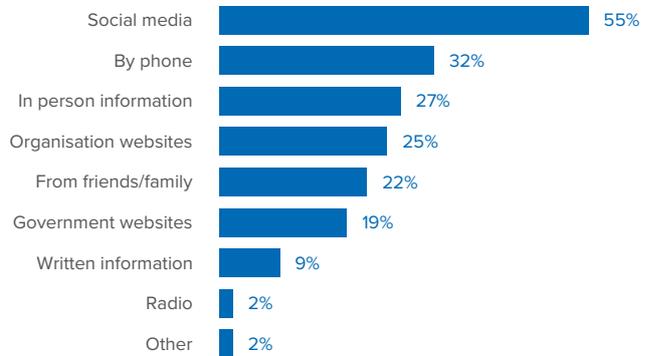
Around a quarter of respondents preferred receiving in-person information or getting advice from their friends or family. People who are **over 60 years of age** are more interested to receive information in person or from their friends and family, in comparison to other respondents.

INFORMATION NEEDS*



* Multiple responses possible, so percentages can go over 100% when added.

PREFERRED INFORMATION CHANNEL*



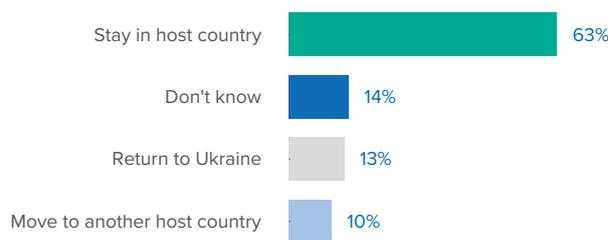


Poland. Ukrainian families face uncertain future after reaching safety in Poland, March 2022
 © UNHCR/Maciej Moskwa

Intentions

While most refugees surveyed hope to return to Ukraine one day,⁹ for **the time being the majority (63%)** of respondents reported plans to **stay in their current host country**, with safety, family ties and employment as main reasons for choosing and staying in those countries. People **staying in collective accommodation (including reception / transit centres)** were less likely to stay in the host country long term and were considering either returning back to Ukraine or moving onwards. **Families with children** were more likely to continue staying in the host country.

NEAR FUTURE INTENTIONS



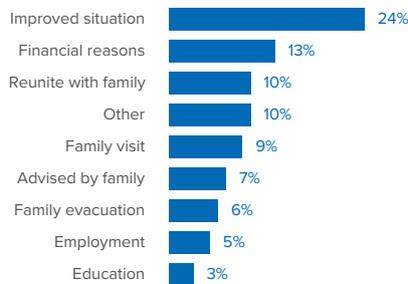
9. 81% of respondents express their continued hope to return to Ukraine one day - UNHCR 2022: Lives on Hold: Intentions and Perspectives of Refugees from Ukraine #2 (page 3): <https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/95767>

Only **13%** reported plans to **return to Ukraine** in the near future, but **63%** of those were uncertain as to when exactly they would do it. A higher proportion reported plans to return among those originating from Kyiv city (**19%**). The main reasons behind intention to return was the perception that the situation had improved in their place of origin (**24%**), followed by financial reasons (**13%**) and a desire to go back home and reunite with family members (**10%**). Among those originating from Kyiv city, a higher proportion than average (**20%**) reported that they were planning to return as advised by family

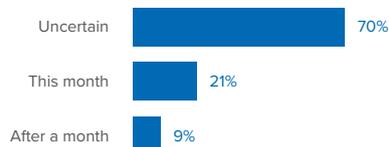
members, whilst among those originating from eastern oblasts a higher proportion (**31%**) reported the main reason was perceived improved situation.

Out of those planning to return, **88%** were intending to go back to the **same oblast** they were residing in before 24 February 2022, although the proportion varied from **80%** among those previously residing in eastern oblasts to **91 to 93%** among those previously living in southern and western oblasts and Kyiv city. Those not wanting to return to Ukraine cited **safety** and **fear of war** as their primary concern.

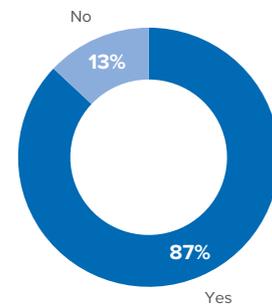
WHY: REASONS TO RETURN



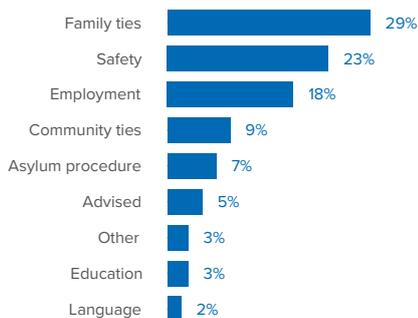
WHEN: PLANNING TO RETURN



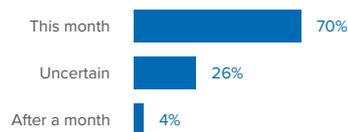
CONCERNS ABOUT RETURNING



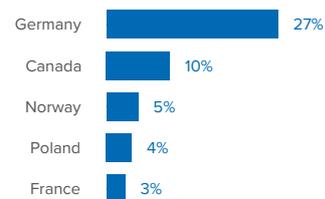
WHY: MAIN REASONS TO MOVE



WHEN: PLANNING TO MOVE



WHERE TO: TOP 5 DESTINATION



10% of respondents reported plans to **move to another host country** and **14%** were uncertain about their plans. Those planning to move to the

third countries cited the reasons of **family ties**, **safety** and **employment** as primary reasons. The main country of destination was Germany (**27%**).¹⁰

10. More detailed information on intentions of refugees from Ukraine can be found at UNHCR 2022: Lives on Hold: Profiles and Intentions of Refugees from Ukraine #1, <https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/94176>, and UNHCR 2022: Lives on Hold: Intentions and Perspectives of Refugees from Ukraine #2, <https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/95767>

DISPLACEMENT PATTERNS, PROTECTION RISKS AND NEEDS OF REFUGEES FROM UKRAINE

REGIONAL PROTECTION ANALYSIS # 1

Belarus, Bulgaria, Hungary, Republic of
Moldova, Poland, Romania & Slovakia

26 October 2022



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For further information visit the UNHCR Operational Data
Portal for Ukraine: <https://data.unhcr.org/en/situations/ukraine>