UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

Regional Refugee Response for the Ukraine Situation

Final Analysis

December
2025

ROMANIA
SOCIO-ECONOMIC INSIGHTS SURVEY
Refugees from Ukraine

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

SEIS was conducted within the framework of:

Regional Refugee Response for the Ukraine Situation

Developed, implemented, and analyzed by:

UNHCR The UN Refugee Agency | CSCM CENTER FOR COMPARATIVE MIGRATION STUDIES

Regional Refugee Response for the Ukraine Situation

OBJECTIVES & METHODOLOGY

OBJECTIVES

Regional Refugee Response for the Ukraine Situation

The **Socio-Economic Insights Survey (SEIS)** is a collaborative process which identifies the most pressing needs of refugees across various sectors.

Comprehensive and accurate data is gathered to guide the planning, implementation, and evaluation of programs and interventions aimed at addressing those needs.

SEIS 2025 aligns closely with the **2024 SEIS** and the **Multi-Sectoral Needs Assessments (MSNA)** conducted in 2023 and 2022, allowing for comparison over time of:

» The needs of refugees from Ukraine in Romania, focusing on the in-country refugee population;

» The level of socio-economic integration and access to national systems;

» Service gaps and refugees' priorities for the coming year;

» Identify changing trends in refugees needs.

The **SEIS** is a key source of information for the 2026 Refugees Response Plan (RRP), which aims to capture funding and planning requirements for the response.

These preliminary results cover the following topics:

1.DEMOGRAPHICS

2.PROTECTION

3.EDUCATION

4.SOCIO ECONOMIC INCLUSION AND LIVELIHOOD

5.HEALTH & MHPSS

6.ACCOMMODATION

OVERVIEW

Regional Refugee Response for the Ukraine Situation

HOUSEHOLDs (HHs) SURVEYED

599

(in total 1667 HH members)

POPULATION COVERAGE

Refugees from Ukraine living in Romania, e.g. in private accommodation, with host families, rentals, hostels/hotels, etc.

DATA COLLECTION BY

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (**UNHCR**),
Center for Comparative Migration Studies **(CSCM)**

DATA COLLECTION

From **4 September** to **10 November 2025**

ANALYSIS BY

UNHCR
CSCM

METHODOLOGY

Regional Refugee Response for the Ukraine Situation

The findings presented are derived from analysis of the entire survey dataset.

POPULATION	Refugees from Ukraine living in Romania.
DESIGN	Household interviews.
DATA COLLECTION	From 4 **September to 10 November** by enumerators from CSCM
SAMPLE SIZE	**599** HHs , covering **1667 HH** members; **16%** living in collective sites (incl. workers hostels); **84%** living outside of collective sites.

SAMPLING AND REPRESENTATIVENESS:

Cash and Core Relief Items (CRI) **Assistance Lists** (11,740 HHs included in the sampling)	**Sampling method:** STRATIFIED RANDOM SAMPLING

Additionally, the dataset was **supplemented by 84 contacts**, obtained from communication form, disseminated among refugees from Ukraine via different channels (partners, community leaders, social media, etc.). During the sampling, one strata was added, respecting the county distribution of the Ukrainian households under temporary protection.

Interviews were conducted in **25 counties** and Bucharest, based on the UNHCR geographical distribution. 75% of the interviews were conducted face to face in the county where respondents currently live. However, for counties with small number of registered households, the interviews were conducted online via video-calls. Additionally, some of the interviews were conducted online for households dealing with specific situations (e.g. people with disabilities, single parent, long working hours etc).

METHODOLOGY

Regional Refugee Response for the Ukraine Situation

POST-STRATIFICATION WEIGHTING

To mitigate the potential bias arising from the lack of complete sampling frames of all refugees from Ukraine hosted in the country, post-stratification weighting was implemented. Household weights were calculated by comparing the distribution of respondents across four main strata, combining age and gender with the distribution of all adult beneficiaries of TP in the country for those same strata. The household weight was then applied to each individual within the household.

QUALITY ASSURANCE

Quality Assurance mechanisms (training for enumerators, constant communication with them, random controls, data weighting) have been put in place.

DATA ANALYSIS QUALITY ASSURANCE

The data analysis process involved multiple stages, beginning with data cleaning to exclude cases containing contradictory or incomplete information. Experts from CSCM and UNHCR collaborated throughout the analysis to ensure accuracy and reliability. Additionally, the data was weighted to enhance its representativeness and validity.

LIMITATIONS

» Lack of comprehensive national data on population locations, and mobility.

» Due to the sensitive nature of protection and income-related topics, some degree of non-response was anticipated. Although this may affect the precision of certain estimates, the data offer valuable insights into overarching patterns and trends.

» Male population is underrepresented (15% of respondents and 40% of males in HH composition). Data have been weighted to address this limitation.

» Respondent bias: certain indicators may be under-reported or over-reported due to the subjectivity and perception of respondents.

» Results are only representative for the population covered in the datasets, which includes people receiving UNHCR assistance and refugees who voluntarily expressed their desire to participate in this study. This limitation was partially mitigated by the voluntary engagement of survey participants through a communication form.

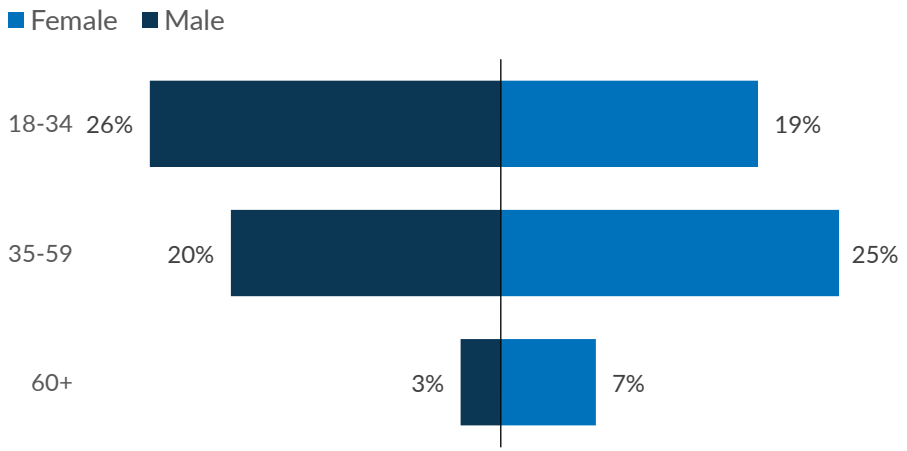
Regional Refugee Response for the Ukraine Situation

DEMOGRAPHICS

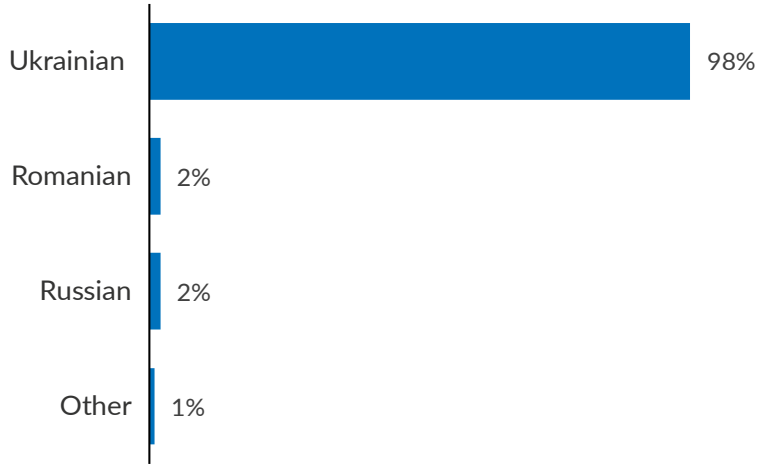
DEMOGRAPHICS RESPONDENTS

Regional Refugee Response for the Ukraine Situation

Respondent distribution by age and gender
N=599



Respondent distribution by ethnicity (self-identified) (MCQ)
N=599



51% of respondents were **women**, **49%** were **men**. The largest age group is 35-59 years (46%) similarly to the results from the previous year, where this age category complemented the biggest share out of the total number.

All respondents have Ukrainian citizenship. Regarding respondents self-identified ethnical background: **98%** reported **Ukrainian** background, **2%** identified as **Romanian**, **2%** as **Russian**, and **1%** selected **other** backgrounds.

DEMOGRAPHICS HOUSEHOLD AND POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

Regional Refugee Response for the Ukraine Situation

Average HH size
2.7

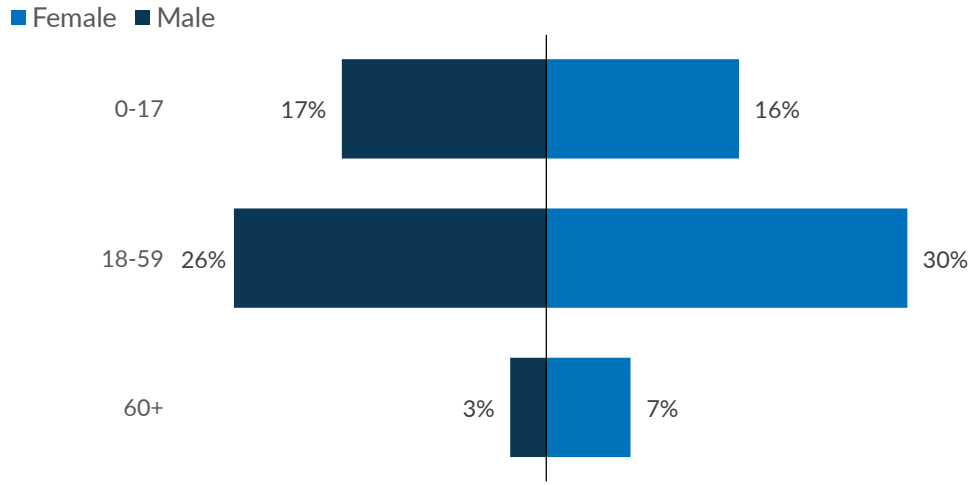
% Female Headed HHs
33%

HHs with pregnant women
2%

% of HHs with a chronically ill member
49%

Household member distribution by age and gender

N=1,667



HHs with breastfeeding women
6%

% HHs with infants
11%

% HHs with children
54%

% of HHs with at least one member with disability level 3* and above
17%

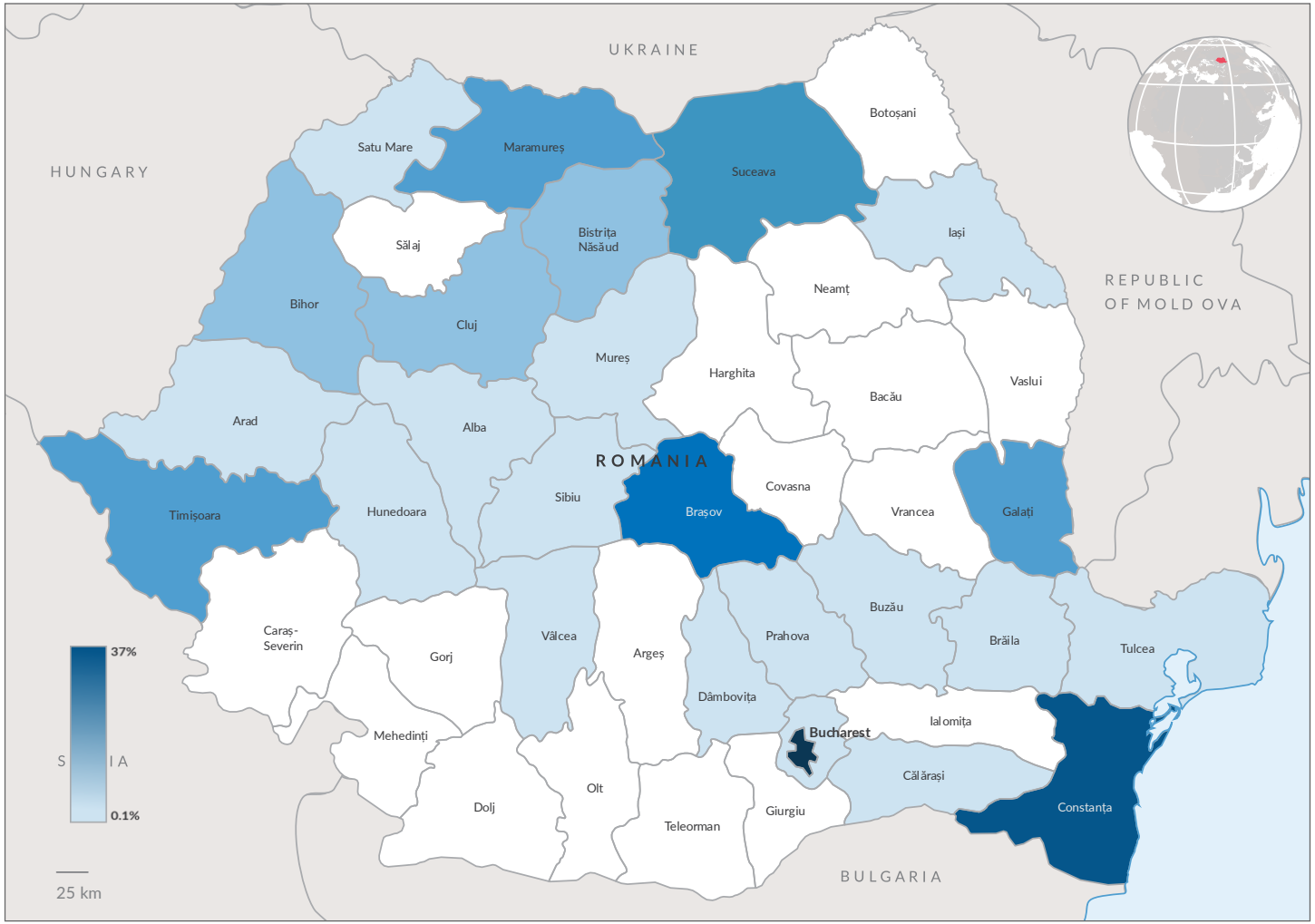
% of HHs, headed by person 60 years+
7%

*Level 3 of disability is computed based on the respondents who answered “a lot of difficulty” and “cannot do at all” in the survey. The criteria for level 3 of disability was established by the Washington Group on Disability Statistics.

DEMOGRAPHICS AREA OF RESIDENCE IN ROMANIA

Regional Refugee Response for the Ukraine Situation

Map 1 | % of HHs by area of residence in Romania



Note: Each shaded region stands for the specific județ (county) in Romania where displaced HHs reside.

Bucharest had the highest number of participants, amounting to 37% of the respondents. This pattern reflects the city's character of a densely populated urban center, as well as the fact of hosting the largest refugee population.

Following Bucharest, **Constanța** accounted for 19% of the respondents, reflecting the strong presence of refugees in the coastal region.

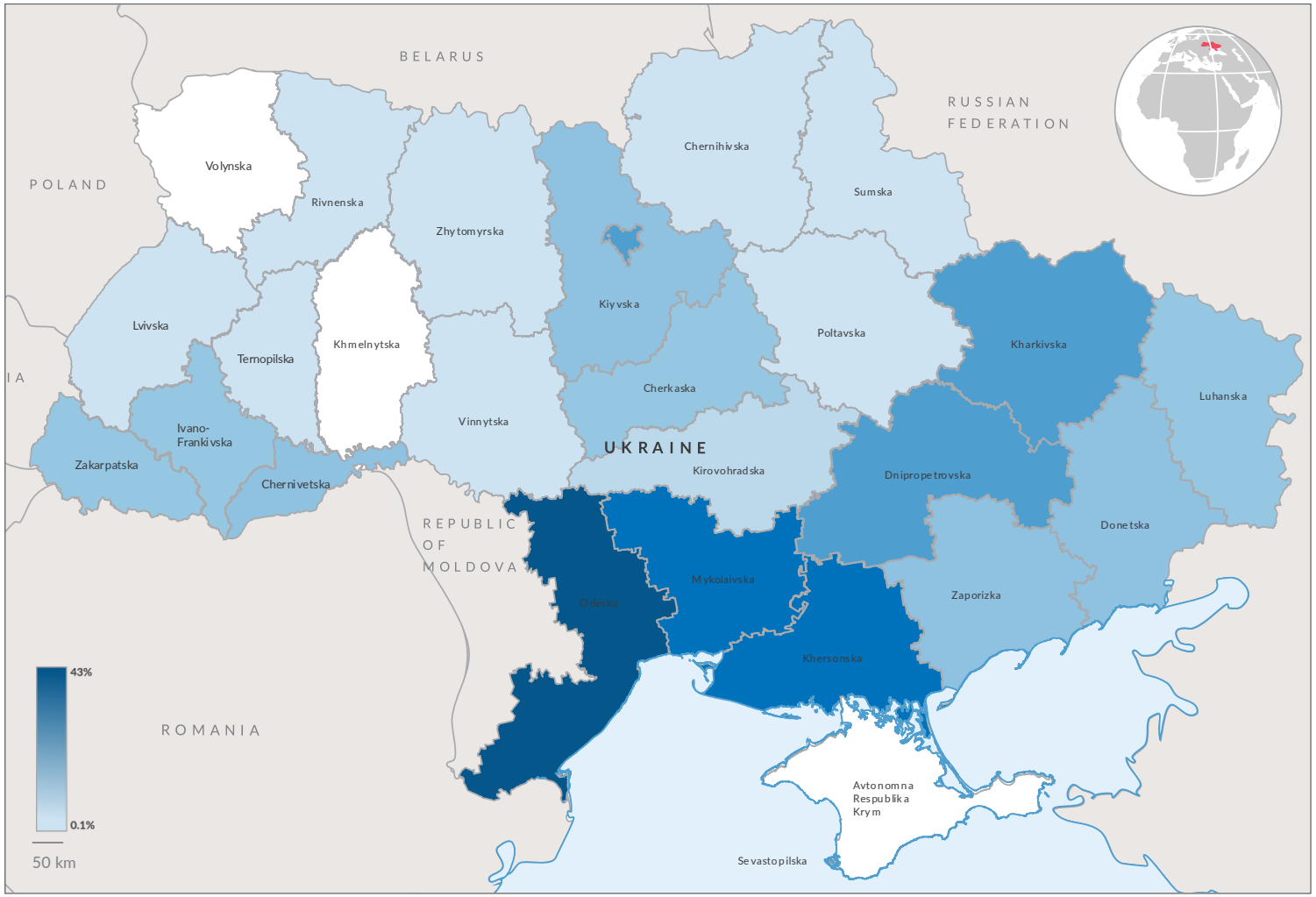
Brașov was third with approximately 9% of the respondents, while **Suceava** has 6%. **Maramureș, Timiș and Galați** each amounted approx. 4 %

Cluj, Bistrița, and **Bihor** each contributed 3% of respondents, followed by Arad at 2%, and Iași and Sibiu at 1.5% each, underscoring the geographic diversity of the sample.

DEMOGRAPHICS UKRAINIAN REFUGEES OBLASTS OF ORIGIN

Regional Refugee Response for the Ukraine Situation

Map 2 | % of HHs by oblast of origin in Ukraine



Note: Each shaded region stands for the specific oblast (province) in Ukraine where displaced HHs used to live.

Biggest part of the surveyed households originate from Odeska (43%), Khersonska (9%), Mykolaivska (8%), and Kharkivska (5%) oblasts and the capital city of Kyiv (4%).

The Kherson region remains partially occupied, while the territories of the Mykolaiv, Kharkiv, and Odesa regions are actively shelled and are either close or relatively close to the front line. The city of **Kyiv** is one of the main targets of air strikes.

The above reasons prompt people to leave their permanent places of residence, which explains the distribution of respondents in the survey.

Regional Refugee Response for the Ukraine Situation

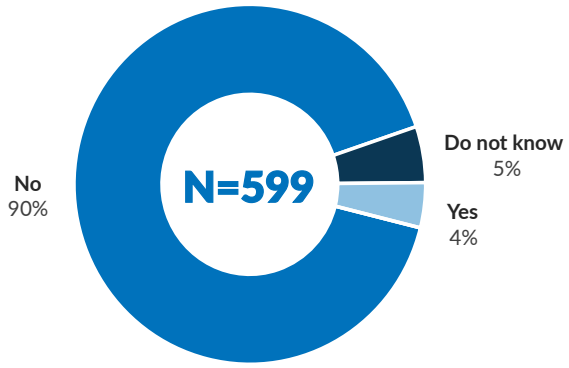
PROTECTION

PROTECTION LEGAL STATUS

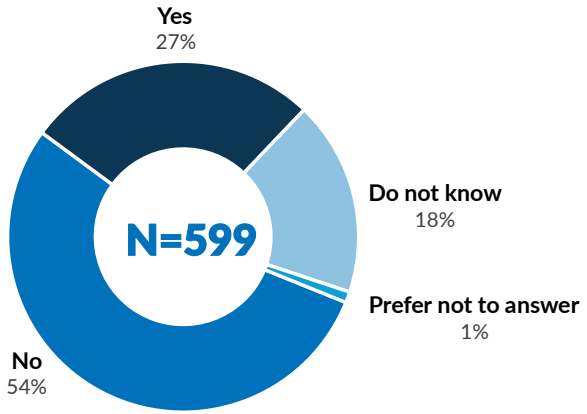
Regional Refugee Response for the Ukraine Situation

96% OF HHs HAVE BEEN GRANTED TEMPORARY PROTECTION STATUS IN ROMANIA

% of HHs who experienced difficulties during the application/extension process



Intention to apply to another legal status in the next 12 months



Most respondents (54%) do not plan to apply for another legal status in the coming year. Although over half of the respondents feel stability in their current status, 27% intend to apply to the different status.

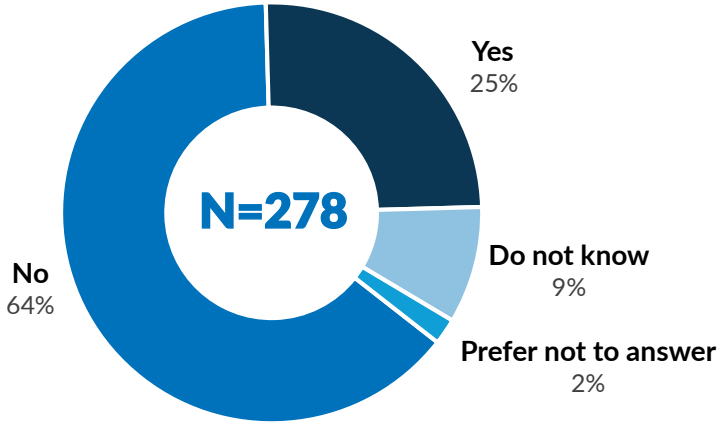
Over half of those intending to change it plan to apply for a work permit or other permits, 8% of the respondents plan to apply for refugee/asylum status and 1 % plan to obtain study visas.

Among the ones who declared experiencing difficulties during the TP application process in 2025 (n=17), the main reported challenges were **long queues, lack of languages interpretation services**, and **missing required documents**. However, results might not be statistically robust due to the small sample size.

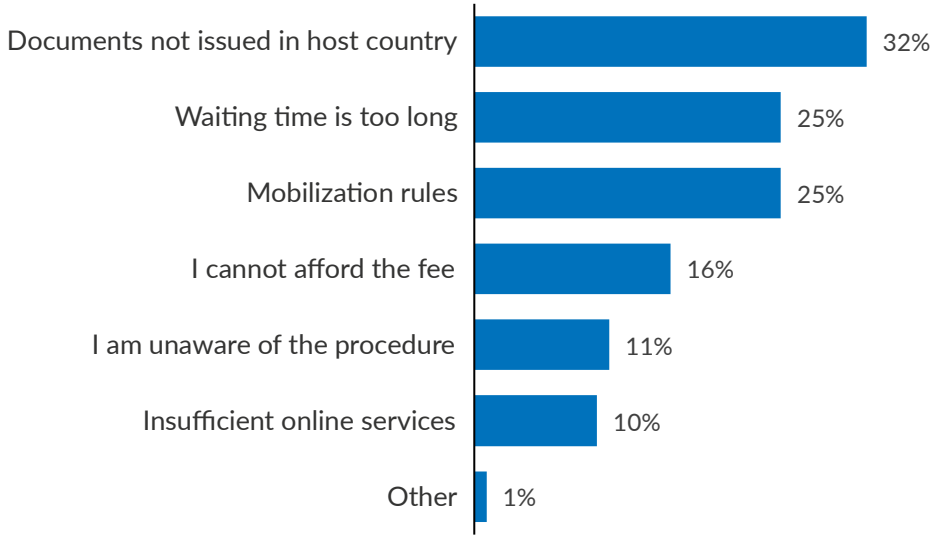
PROTECTION LEGAL STATUS

Regional Refugee Response for the Ukraine Situation

% of Ukrainian households successfully obtaining or renewing IDs with Romanian authorities



Reported challenges faced in replacing/renewing identity documents (MCQ)
N=168

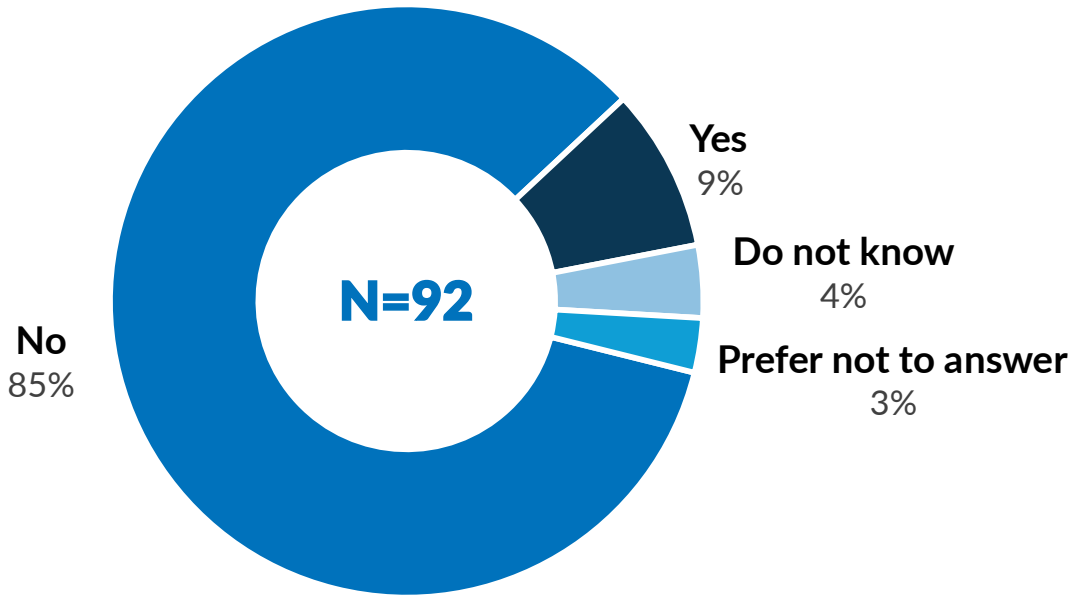


The most frequently cited challenge was that **documents are not issued in the host country (32%).** This was followed by **mobilization rules** (25%) and **lengthy processing times** (25%). **Financial constraints** were also reported, with 16% indicating they could not afford the required fees. Additional barriers included lack of knowledge about procedures (11%) and insufficient online services (10%).

When asked about the documents needed to be replaced since the departure, **the international biometric passports (36%) and the internal passports (9%)** were the options frequently mentioned. However, 50% of respondents chose the "none of the above" option.

PROTECTION CIVIL STATUS

% of HH who faced challenges to register events (birth, marriage, divorce, death, etc.) with the civil authorities in the host country
N=599

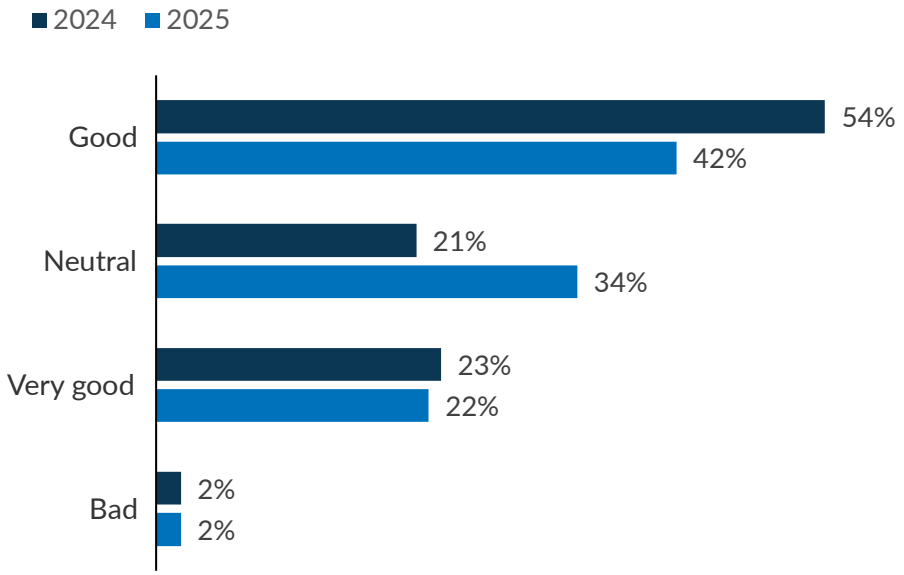


20% of the HHs registered changes in their family composition/civil status.

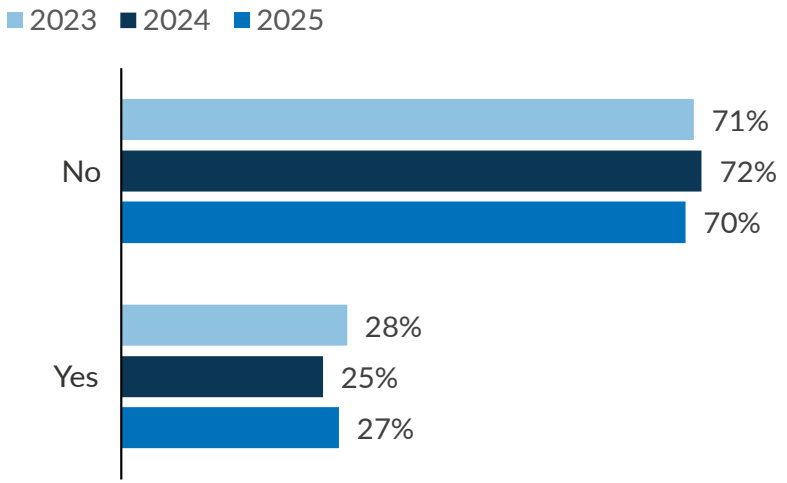
These changes included birth (13%), marriage (1%), divorce (3%) or death (3%) of some family members.

From those 20%, almost half (9%) reported challenges to register the events to the civil authorities. The main challenges recorded refer to the **long waiting time, language issues, lack of supporting documentation and high price for translation costs**.

Relationship with a host community (2024/2025)



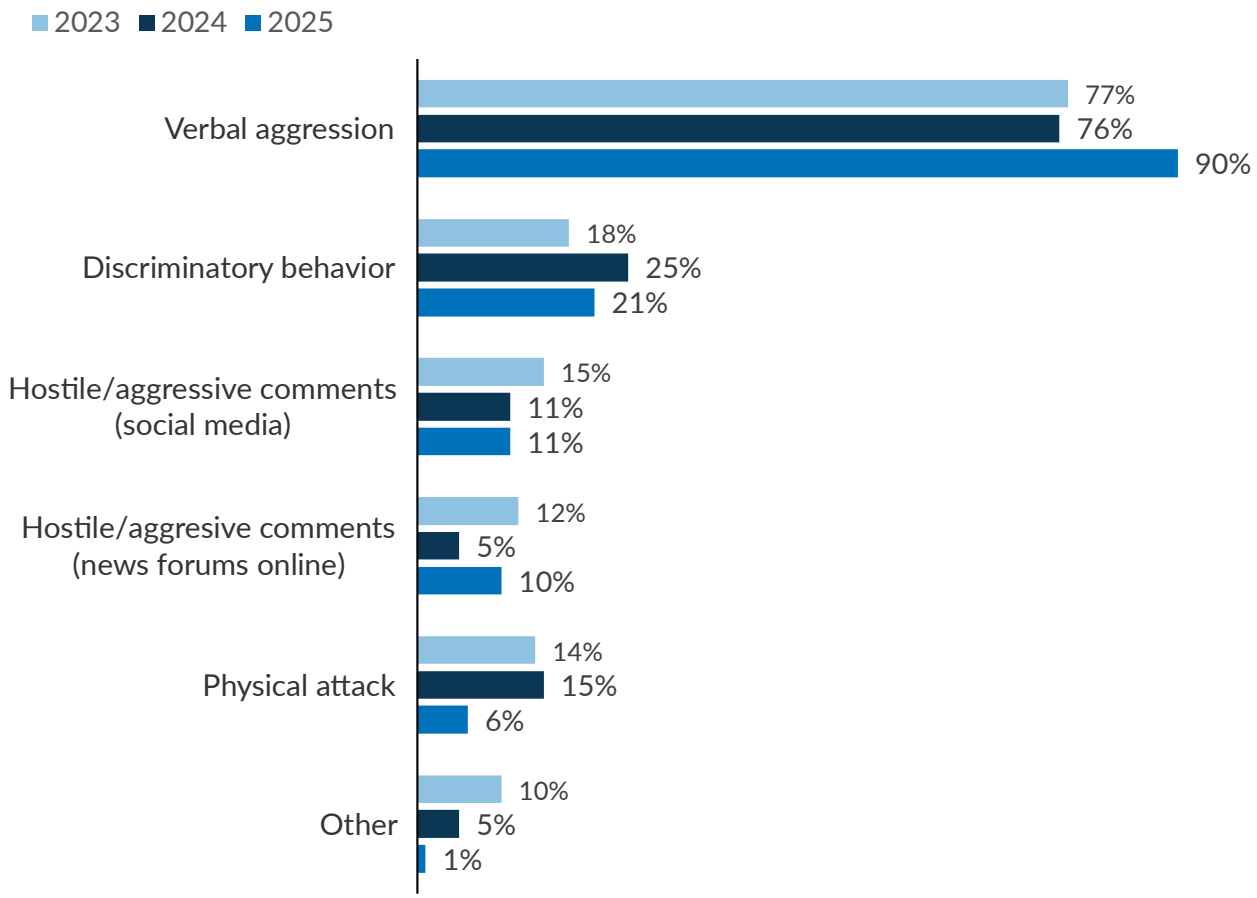
% of HHs reporting hostile behavior or attitudes from the local population (past 12 months)



Overall, relations between refugees and host communities are still generally positive and stable when comparing data from 2024 and 2025.

Although slightly fewer respondents rated their relationship as being "Good" or "Very Good" than in 2024, the amount of negative perception is minimal. The main trend of these relationship is the rising number of neutral responses (21% in 2024 comparing with 34% in 2025). This shift suggests a move toward more moderate assessments of relationships between host communities and refugees.

Type of hostile behavior among those reporting the occurrence (MCQ) (2023/2024/2025)

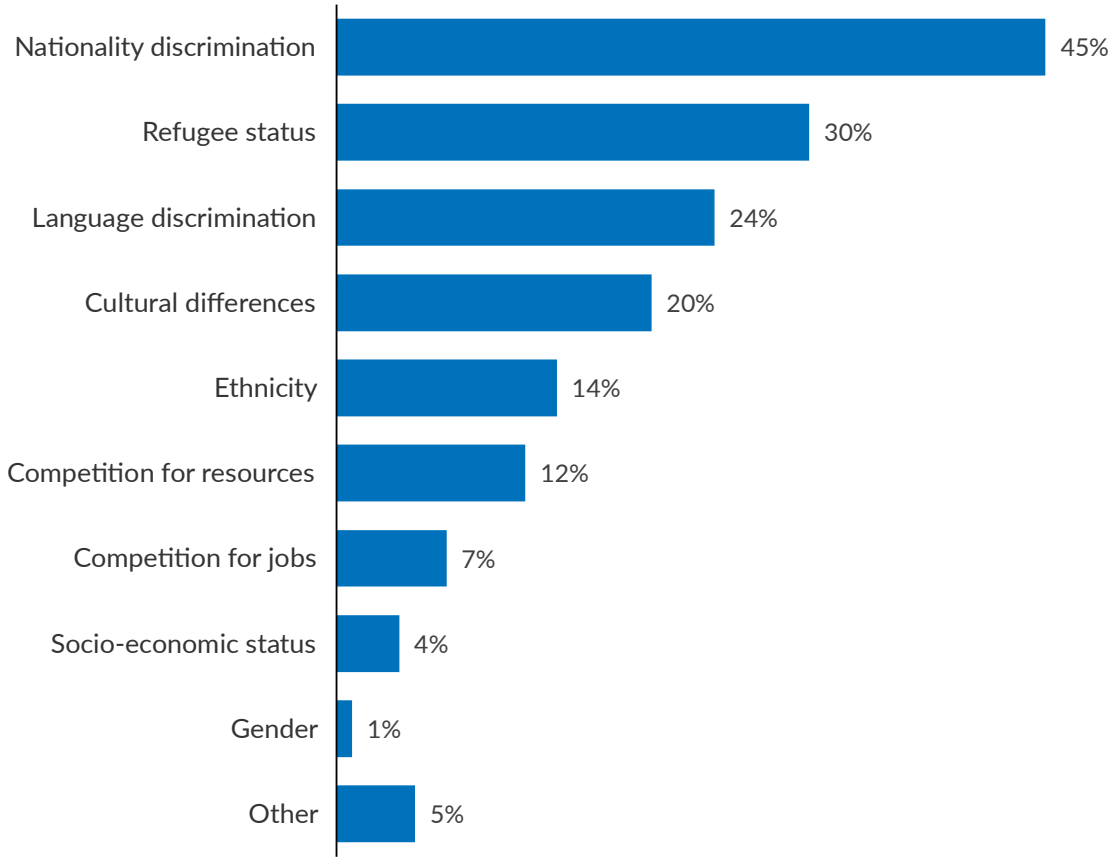


Across the three-year period 2023-2025, most respondents reported no experiences of hostile behavior from the local population in Romania. The proportion showing no such incidents remained relatively stable.

While 70% of respondent stated no cases of hostility, this type of behavior towards refugees did occur. Among the 27% of refugees reporting hostile behavior, the most widespread across the years was **verbal aggression**, rising from 77% in 2023 to 90% in 2025.

Discriminatory behavior appears as the second most common category, fluctuating moderately between 18 to 25%. Reports of hostility through **social media comments** and **news forum comments** remain relatively low. **Physical attacks** are less common but still present, with incidents peaking in 2024 (15%) before declining to 6% in 2025.

Assumed reasons for hostile behavior
N=165



Among those reporting hostile behaviour, the results show that discrimination in terms of perceived hostility towards refugees is more informed by identity and status than by economic and gender-related dimensions.

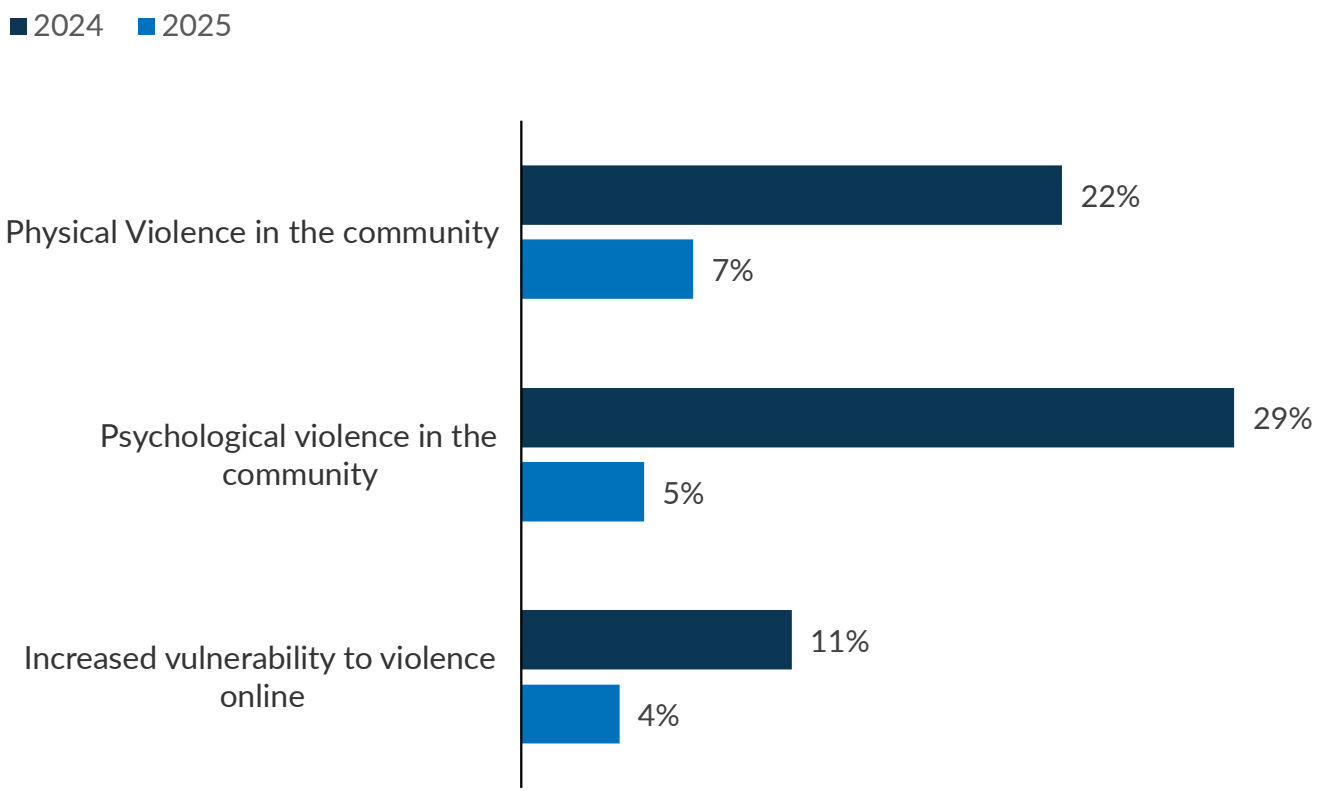
Nationality is by far the biggest cause of people being discriminated (45% of instances), almost making the question of national identity simply the main reason behind such problems.

Refugee status comes in at second place (30%), indicating that discrimination is not just about who people are, but also about their legal status as foreigners.

Discrimination on the grounds of **language** (24%) further highlights the importance of communicative inequalities in the forms of practical and symbolic boundaries of difference.

It is also pertinent to point out that the reasons for this kind of behaviour had been identified only among those respondents that had faced hostility. This ought to be borne in mind while discussing the results.

Top 3 perceived risks faced by girls under 18 in host neighborhood (MCQ) (2024/2025)

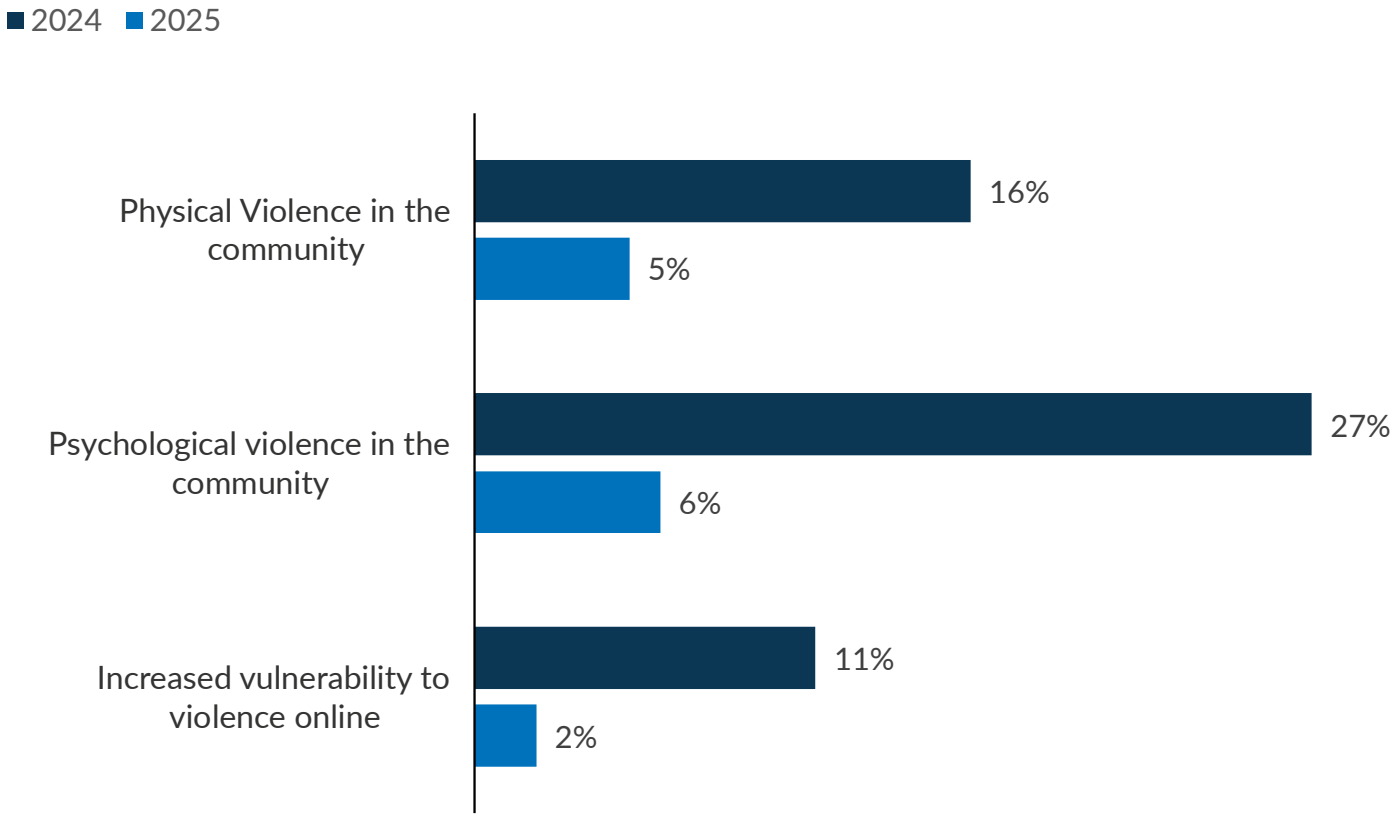


The percentage of respondents expressing no concerns for girls rose significantly from 33% in 2024 to 65% in 2025.

Correspondingly, specific concerns regarding psychological violence dropped from **29% to 5%**, physical violence from **22% to 7%**, and online violence from **11% to 4%**.

These trends may indicate an improvement in the protection environment. Conversely, they may signal **a normalization of existing risks**, where the community has either adapted its attitudes to the situation or experienced a **reduction in risk awareness**.

Top 3 perceived risks faced by boys under 18 in host neighborhood (MCQ) (2024/2025)



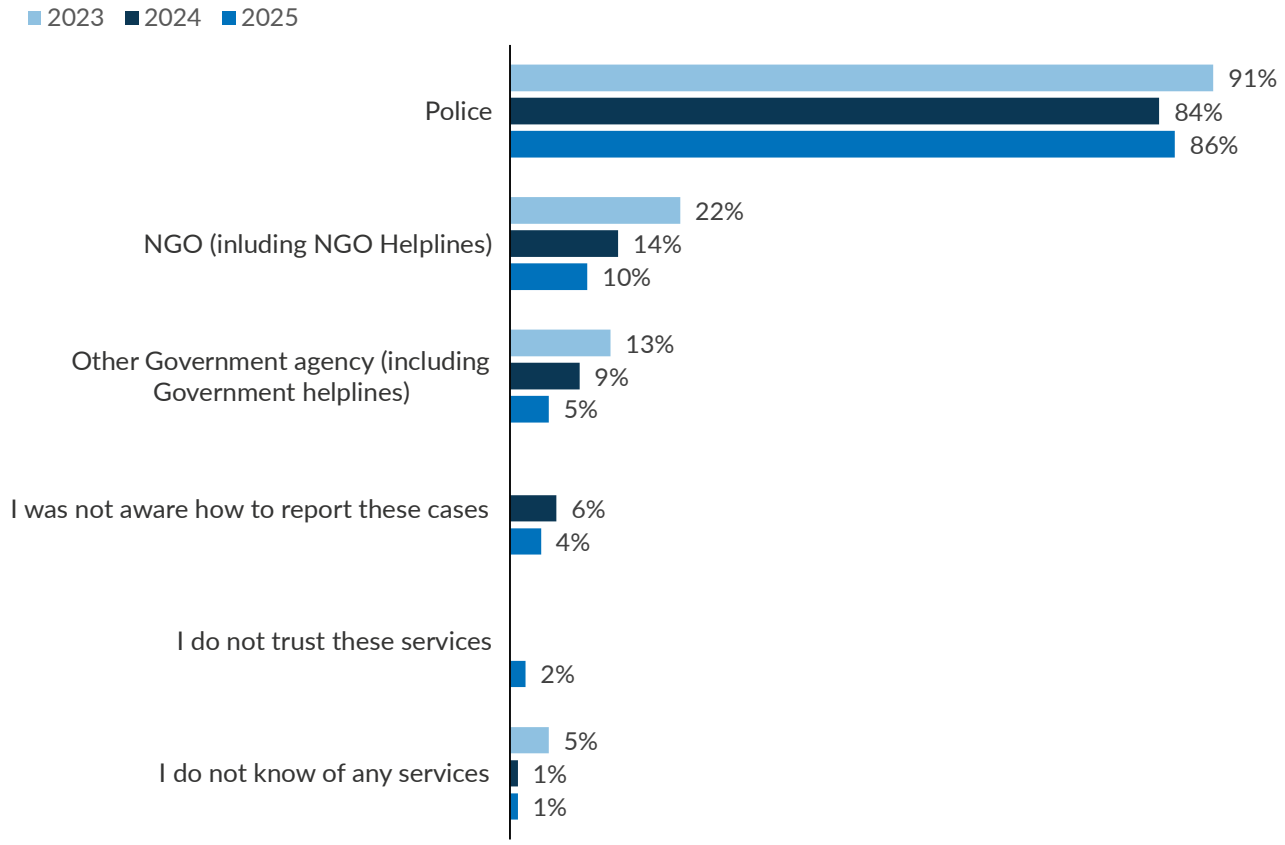
There has been a substantial reduction in concerns regarding perceived risks faced by boys, with those reporting no concerns rising from 36% in 2024 to 74% in 2025.

Specifically, concerns for psychological violence fell from **27% to 6%**, physical violence from **16% to 5%**, and online violence from **11% to 2%**.

While this may reflect a marked improvement in actual safety, it could also suggest **a normalization of risks or a decrease in community awareness**. This suggests that existing hazards may be increasingly overlooked or accepted as a community norm rather than being identified as threats.

In 2025, the vast majority of children in surveyed families (84%) are living in the nuclear family, although this represents a fall from 2024, when nearly all children (96%) were living in nuclear family units.

% of HHs being aware of services to report violence against children (MCQ) (2023-2025)

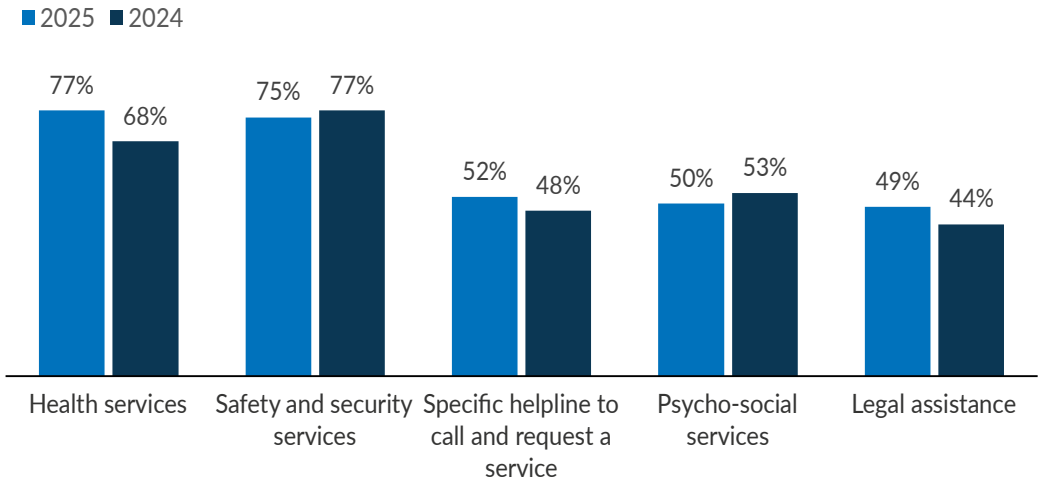


For all three years, the main avenue via which refugees feel that they can **report cases of violence, exploitation, or neglect of children is the police.**

In the past year, the rate at which the respondents feel they can report to the police stands at 86%, slightly lower than the rate in 2023 but showing small improvement, comparing with 2024. **Non-governmental organizations are still an important secondary source**. In the present data, the number of persons who reported having trust in non-governmental organizations was 10% against 14% in 2024. Government services were reported as the source by 5% in the present study, against 9% in 2024.

A small proportion of respondents continue to **indicate a gap in awareness** - 4% do not know where they should report such cases, compared with 6% in 2024.

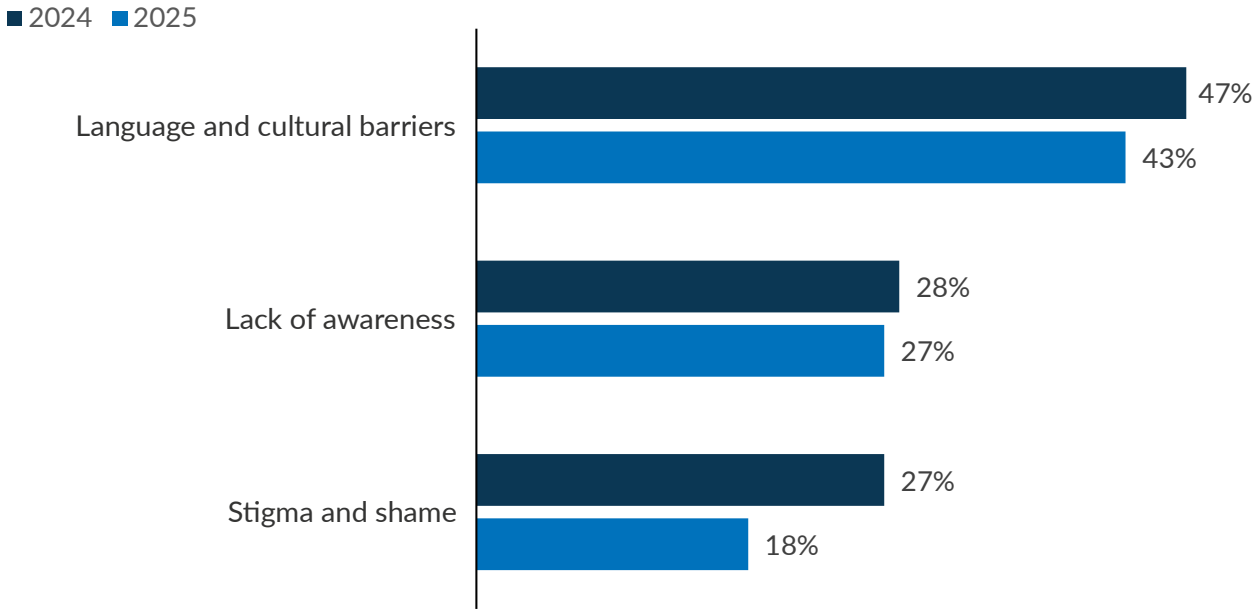
Awareness of household population regarding GBV services (MCQ)



Results related to the awarenesses of the population regarding access to the GBV services indicate strong familiarity with general and emergency services, but more limited knowledge of targeted support.

Health services are the most widely recognized, with **77%** of respondents reporting awareness, followed by s**afety and security services** at **75%**. Awareness is lower for specialized support such as **helplines** (52%), psycho-social services (50%), and legal services (49%).

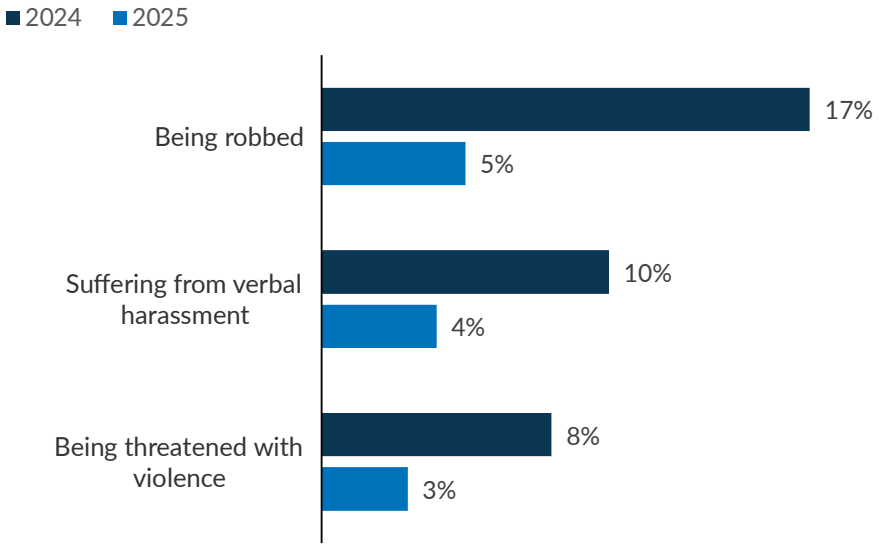
Comparison of top 3 perceived barriers to accessing GBV services (MCQ)



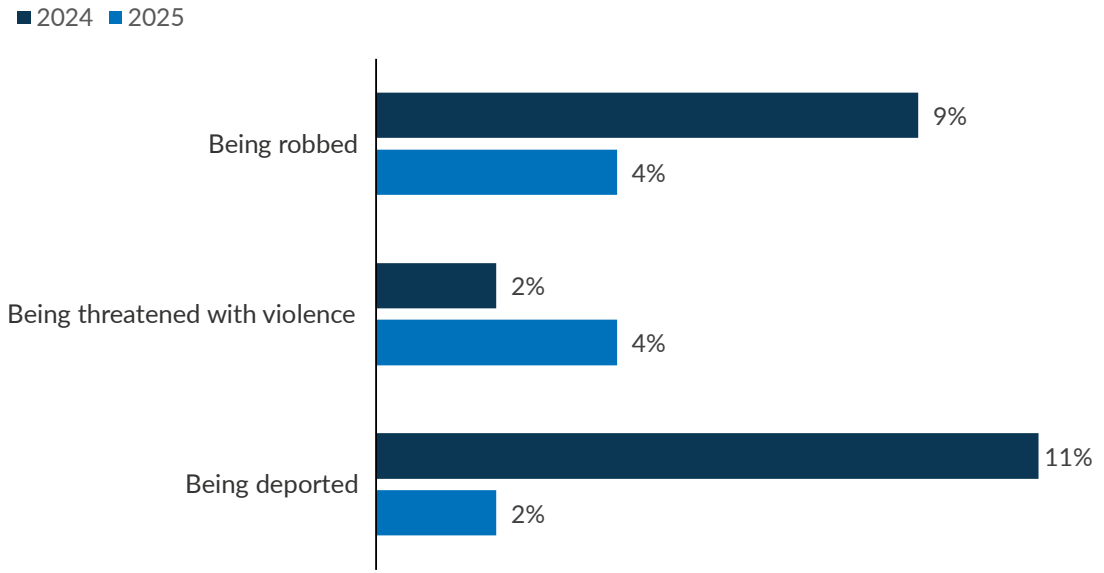
Perceptions of barriers for access to GBV services fluctuate somewhat between 2024 and 2025. **Language/cultural barriers** again emerge as the most reported barrier, dropping from 47% to 43%. **Lack of awareness** is comparable in the last two years, going from 28% to 27%.

However, **stigma/shame** lowered considerably from 27% to 18%. Whereas it appears there is a slight lowering of the perception of socio-cultural barriers, the predominance of informational barriers continues.

Top 3 safety and security concerns for women in area of residence (MCQ)



Top 3 safety and security concerns for men in area of residence (MCQ)



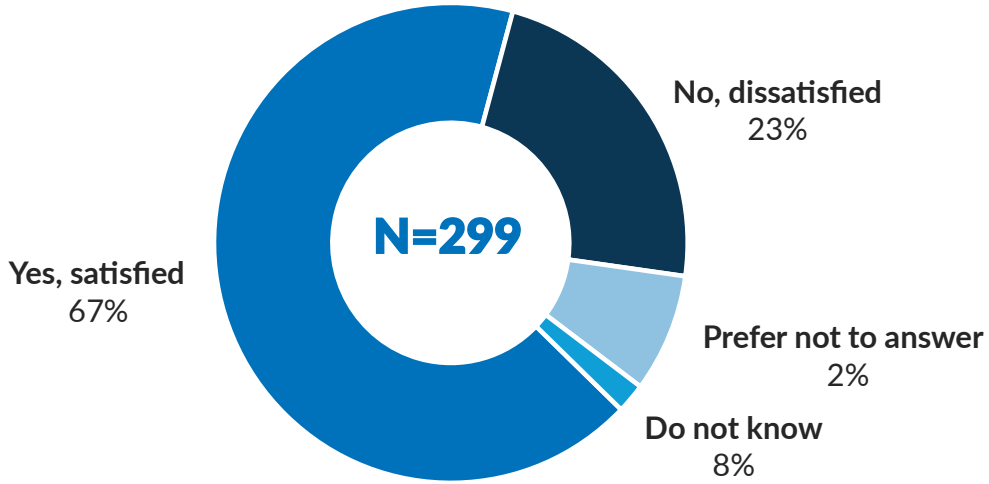
Perceptions of **safety and security** reveal an improvement in 2025 comparing with the previous year for both genders. A vast majority of the respondents (78%) stated that they did not have any concerns with regard to the safety and security of women, as well as 81% with regard to the security of men, in their area of residence.

For women, the percentage of **threats of violence** decreased from 8% to 3%, **verbal harassment** from 10% to 4%, **robbery** from 17% to 5%. For men, the major concerns decreased, including **deportation**, which moved down from 11% to 2%, **robbery** from 9% to 4%, and **economic violence** from 3% to 2%. However, **threats of violence** moved up from 2% to 4%. The vast majority of respondents (92%) reported feeling safe walking alone, while only 8% indicated feeling unsafe.

PROTECTION AAP – SATISFACTION AID RECEIVED

Regional Refugee Response for the Ukraine Situation

% of HHs satisfied with the aid received in the last three months



% of HHs received aid in the last 3 months

45%

Satisfaction with aid received in the previous three months appeared to be quite high, with 67% of the respondents satisfied, while 23% were dissatisfied, 8% being undecided and 2% not wanting to answer.

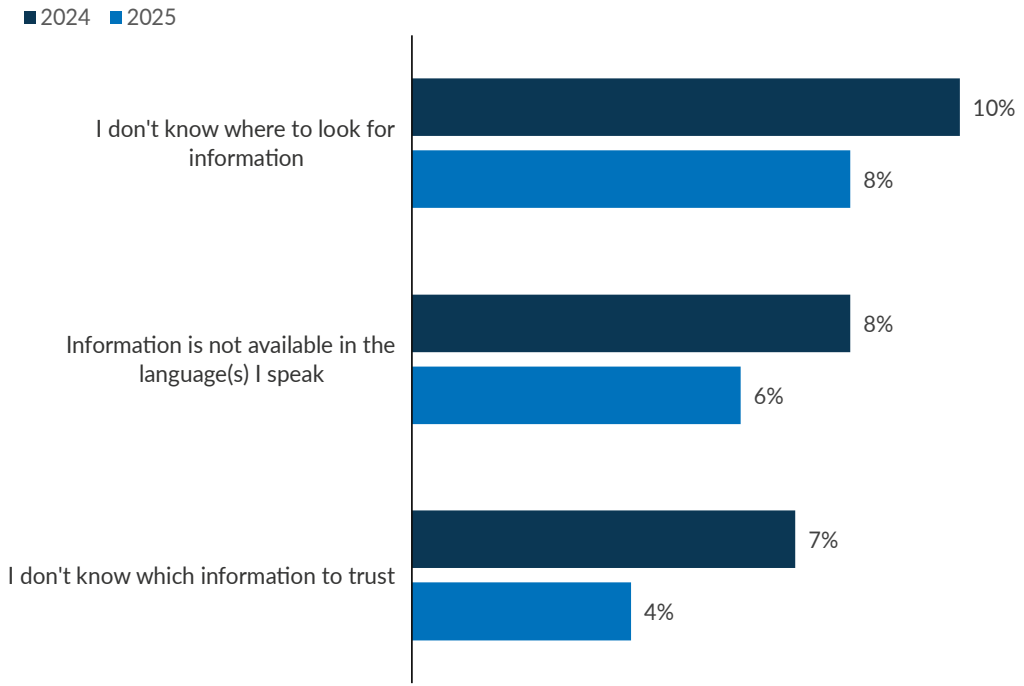
With respect to the type of aid respondents were dissatisfied with, the primary concerns included humanitarian distribution (58%), followed by the government's assistance programs (21%), and then the social protection programs initiated by the government (20%). Fewer people showed dissatisfaction with the humanitarian financial vouchers (14%) and cash assistance (4%), with only a few expressing concerns with the government housing programs (3%).

The share of households receiving assistance increased slightly from 40% in 2024 to 45% in 2025. While modest, this rise likely reflects expanded non-food item distributions and broader field coverage in the first half of 2025, indicating an improvement in the reach and operational coverage of humanitarian assistance.

PROTECTION INFORMATION NEEDS

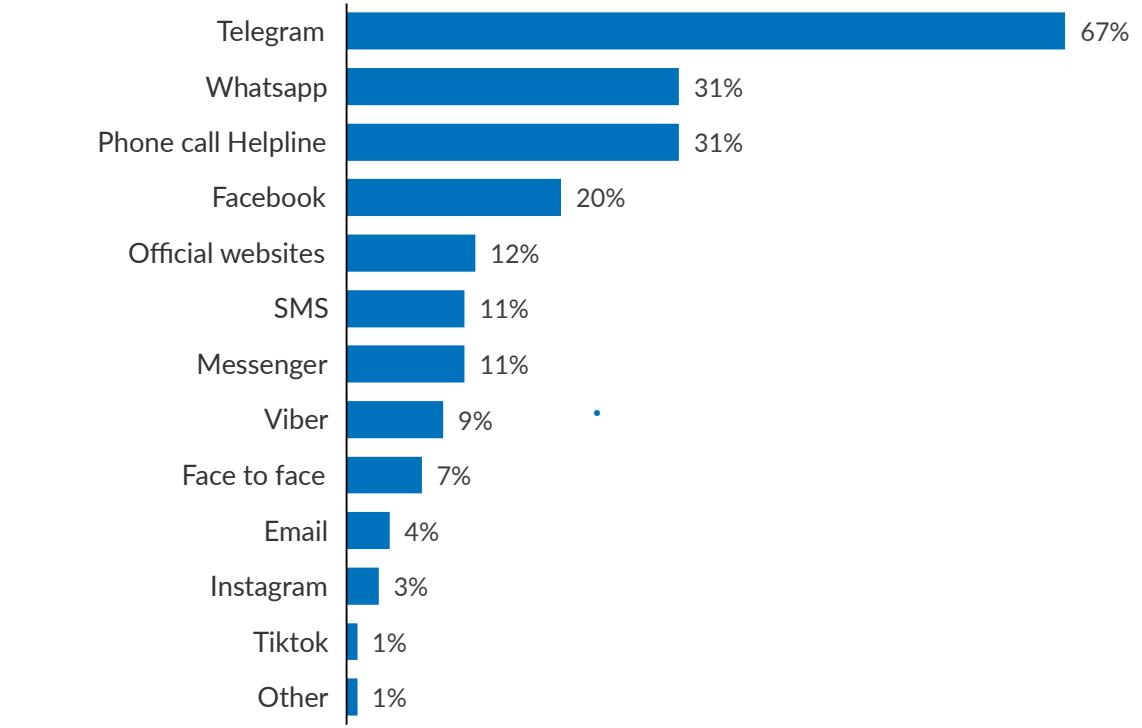
Regional Refugee Response for the Ukraine Situation

Top 3 challenges faced in accessing information (MCQ)



Preferred means of receiving information (MCQ)

(n=599)



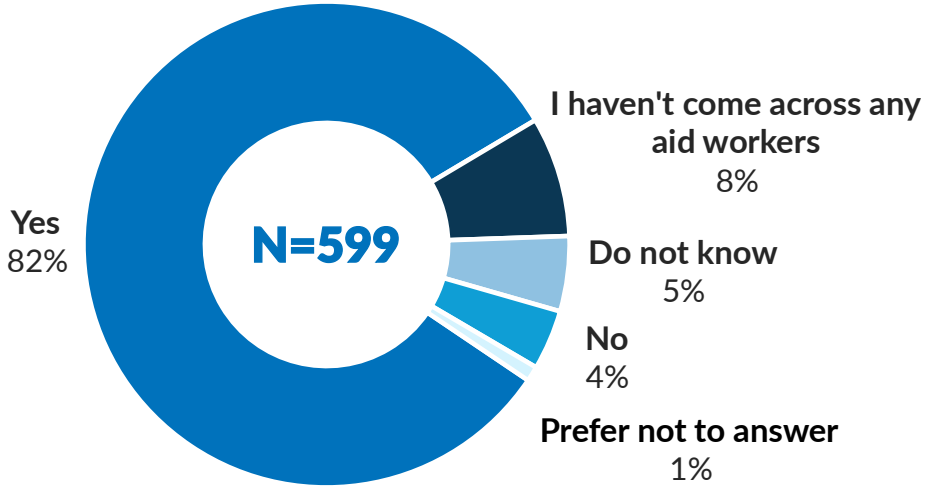
Access to information appears to have improved in 2025 compared to 2024. The proportion of respondents reporting **no challenges** increased from 73% in 2024 to 79% in 2025. Nevertheless, some barriers persist. In 2025, 8% of respondents reported **not knowing where to look for information**, while 6% indicated that **information was not available** in a language they understand, broadly in line with challenges identified in 2024. Smaller shares reported that **available information did not meet their needs** (4%) or that they were unsure which information to trust (4%).

PROTECTION SATISFACTION AID WORKER BEHAVIOR

Regional Refugee Response for the Ukraine Situation

In 2025, the majority of HHs (82%) are satisfied with aid workers' behavior in the area they reside and only 4% reported being dissatisfied.

% of HHs satisfied with aid workers behavior in the area

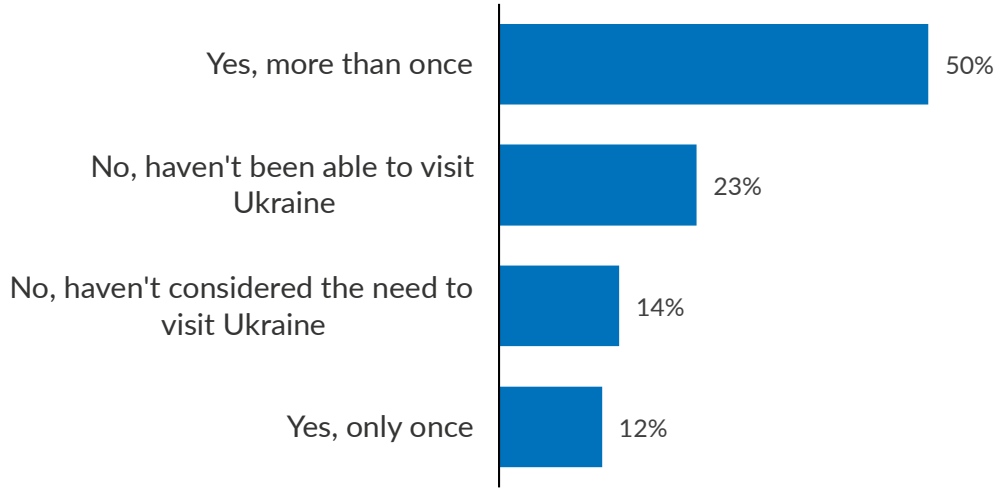


Out of the respondents who expressed dissatisfaction with the conduct of the aid staff, the most predominant reason given **was the lack of empathy shown by the aid staff** (14 out of 23 responses). Other predominant reasons included **disrespect** (9), **lack of feedback regarding the changes** (7), and **lack of respect for the culture** (6). Other reasons included language constraints (4), feeling uninformed (2), and other reasons (3). Extremely few respondents found the question not applicable (1) or did not know (less than 1).

When asked what would be their preferred method for providing feedback to help aid organizations with sensitive issues or inadequate behavior by aid workers, **35% of the respondents put online forms as their choice.** The other choices available were **social media platforms (29%), telephoning (26%), and emails (18%).**

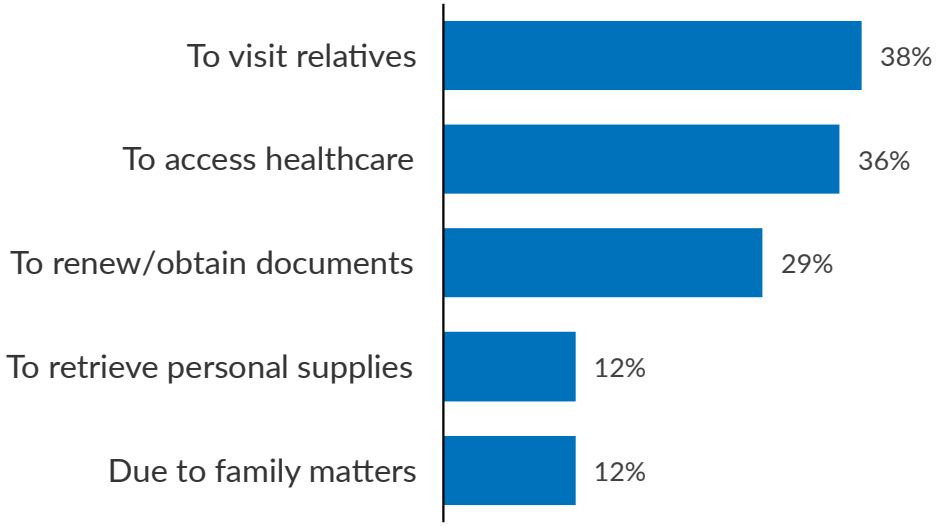
% of HH who visited Ukraine after 24 February 2022

N=599



Top 5 reasons for visiting Ukraine (MCQ)

N=453

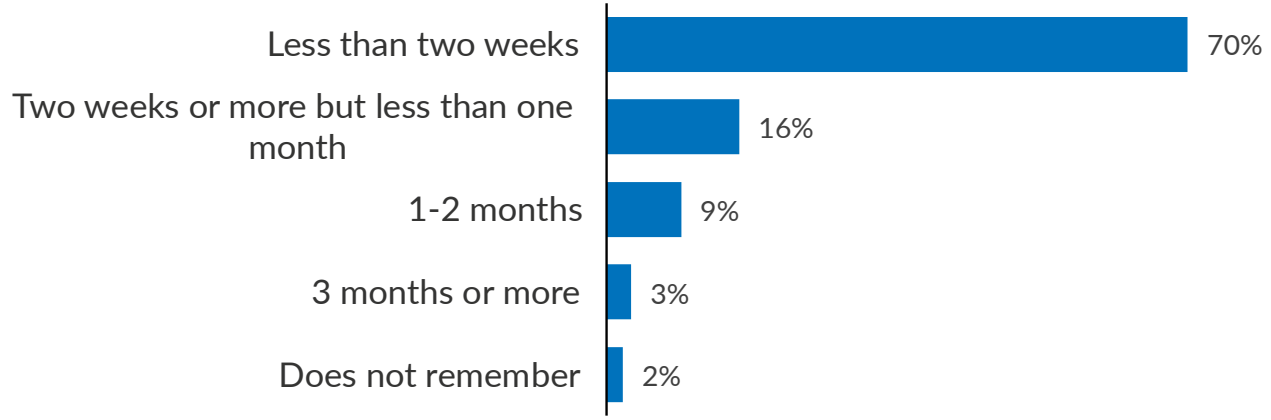


In 2025, the number of households that visited Ukraine several times was 50%, compared with 46% in 2024.

The number of households that cannot return grew by a small percentage, increasing from 21% to 23%, with single returns reducing from 18% to 12%. Those who have not needed to return stayed at 14%.

The main reasons for returns Ukraine was **to visit relatives (38%), access healthcare (36%), to renew or to obtain documents (29%), to retrieve personal supplies (12%)** and **to fix a family matters (12%).**

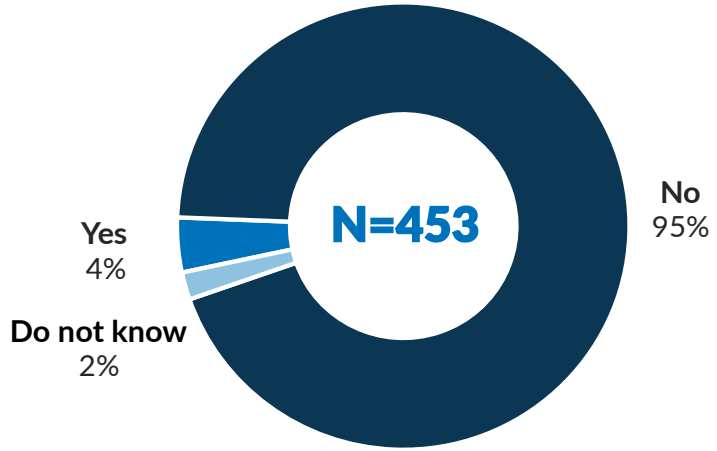
Length of stay in Ukraine during the last visit
N=453



The length of time of the most recent visits to Ukraine of the respondents' households suggests that short visits are still common.

In 2025, 70% of returns lasted less than two weeks, a slight decline from 73% in 2024. The proportion of stays lasting less than a month decreased marginally, from 18% to 16%. In contrast, the percentage of stays for one to two months has increased from 5% in 2024 to 9% this year. The percentage of those that stayed for three months or longer doubled to 3% compared to the 1% in 2024.

% of HHs having difficulties returning to host country



Only 4% of refugee HHs reported problems when returning to their hosting country.

Eight persons stated they had some issues with border crossing, while other preferred not to disclose or not to name the reasons why they had difficulties returning to Romania.

EDUCATION

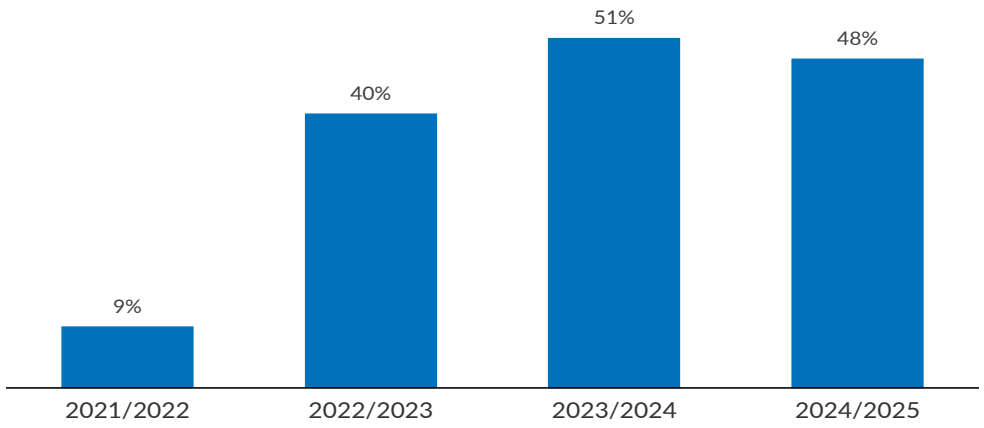
EDUCATION ATTENDANCE/ENROLMENT

Regional Refugee Response for the Ukraine Situation

In the school year 2024/2025, about half of all children were attending school in the national Romanian education system.

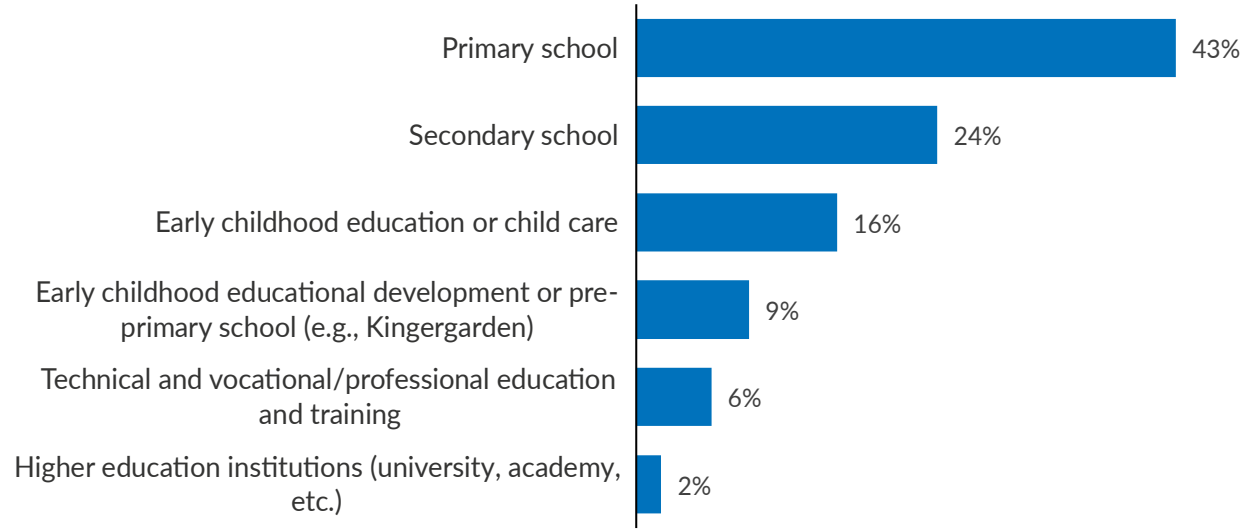
This indicator shows steady growth during 2022-2024, but has declined slightly compared to the school year 2023/2024.

% of school aged children reported attending school in host country national system 2021-2025*



Level of education attended by the children 4-18 years during 2024/2025

N=300

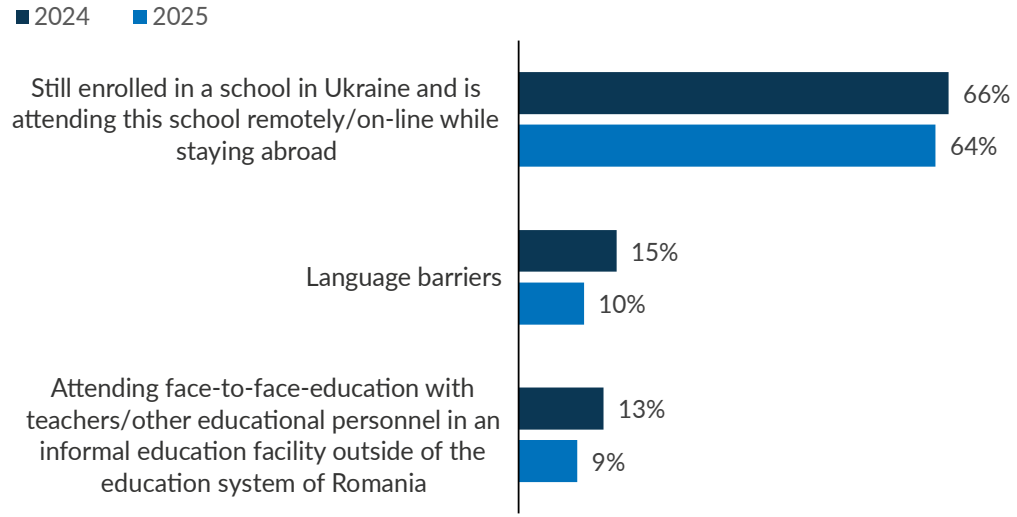


In terms of the level of education attended by children between 4 and 18 years, 43% of respondents were in **primary education**, followed by 24% of children with **secondary education**. Early childhood education and pre-primary education are included, where 16% of the respondent children completed their early childhood education, and 9% completed their pre-primary education. The low percentages of children attending tertiary levels of education or enrolled in secondary technical and vocational education are explained by the age range selected for this analysis (4-18 years), as higher education in Romania typically starts at 19 years.

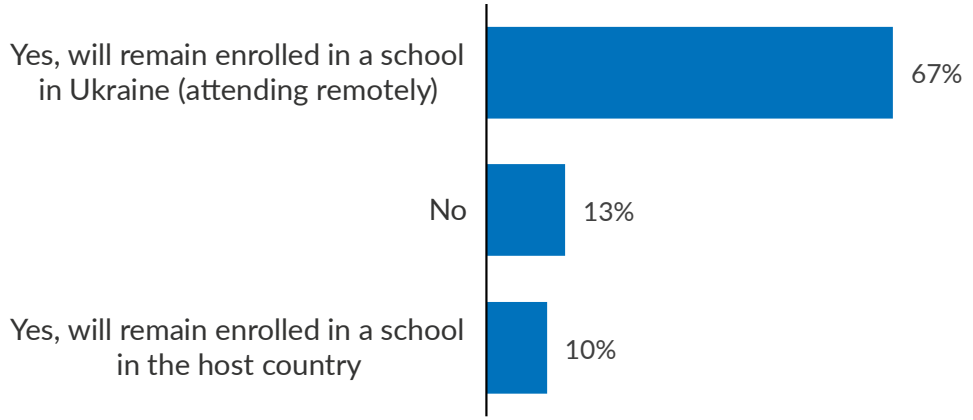
For children and young people not attending school or kindergarten in Romania's national education system, the most common reason for not doing so was that they are learning remotely in Ukraine.

This reason remains the main one from 2024 and in the current period was reported by **64%** of respondents. The other reasons reported are language barriers – 10% and attending informal education – 9%, which decreased slightly compared to the previous year.

Top 3 reasons children are not attending education in current host country (MCQ)



Share of children, continuing to learn remotely/online
N=351



In the school year 2024/2025, **57% of children and young people engaged in remote or online learning**, while 42% attended in-person classes. Very few respondents were unsure (1%) or preferred not to answer.

Out of all respondents who declared that their children are attending online education, the majority planned to continue online education via the educational system in Ukraine – 67%. A small percentage –13% - stated they do not plan to keep online education. 10% are planning to continue online education in the host country. The rest of the respondents remained unsure or preferred not to answer.

EDUCATION BULLYING

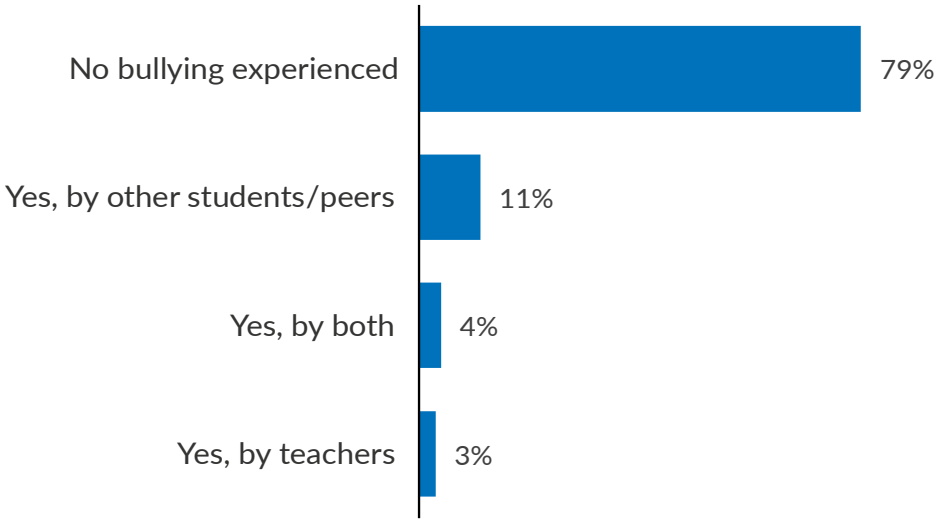
Regional Refugee Response for the Ukraine Situation

Based on a report from 'Save the Children', three out of four children witnessed bullying at school, and every second child became a victim. Furthermore, according to the World Health Organization, Romania ranks third in Europe in terms of bullying. Adding to this, one in four teachers sees nothing wrong with behavior that involves harassment, teasing, or humiliation among students. Moreover, only in 4% of cases of aggression does an adult intervene*.

As for the report, most respondents (79%) stated that their children have not experienced bullying at school. However, 11% reported bullying from other students. A smaller percentage of children were bullied by teachers (3%) and both by teachers and schoolmates (4%).

Overall, while most respondents did not have problems with bullying, the presence of peer and teacher-related incidents served as an indication that there is a need to focus on school safety.

% of children having experiences of bullying at school
N=300



*Based on https://www.euronews.ro/articole/bullyingul-un-fenomen-care-poate-distruge-vieti-romania-este-pe-locul-trei-in-eur

Regional Refugee Response for the Ukraine Situation

SOCIO-ECONOMIC INCLUSION & LIVELIHOOD

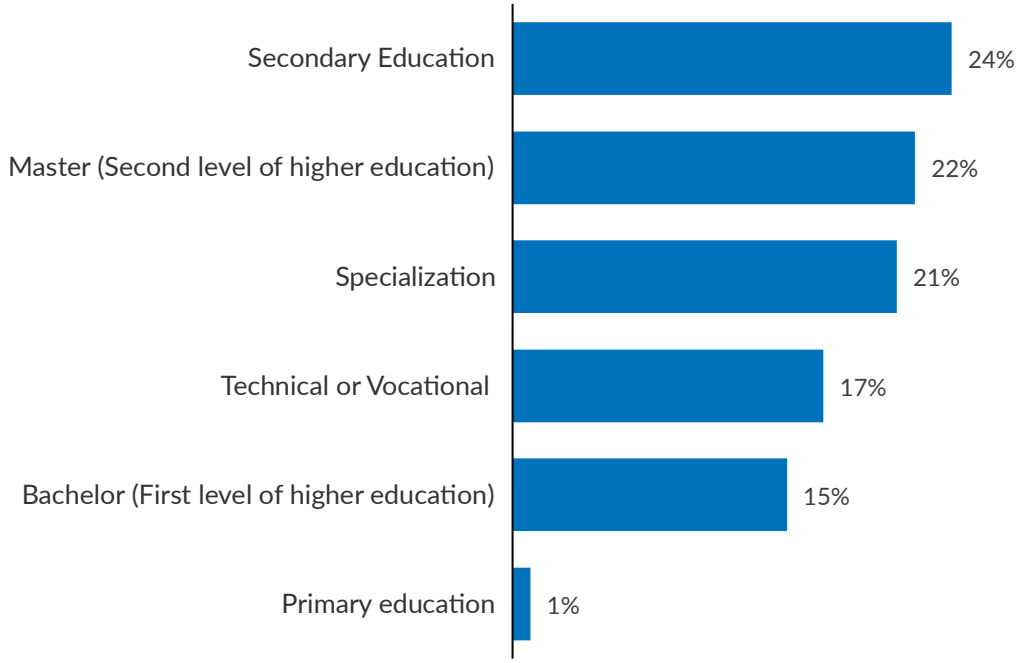
SOCIO-ECONOMIC INCLUSION & LIVELIHOOD

EDUCATION LEVEL

Regional Refugee Response for the Ukraine Situation

Share of HH members by highest education level achieved

N=934



A large majority of the respondents, as well as the members of their immediate family, have qualifications in higher education, with over 58% holding a bachelor's degree or above.

The highest level of educational attainment for the respondents belongs to **secondary education** (24%), followed by a **master's degree or equivalent** (22%), **specialist* diploma** (21%), **technical or vocational** studies (17%), and a **bachelor's degree** (15%).

***Specialist**
The last specialist programmes started in 2016. These days, students can only start bachelor's or master's programmes.
Duration:
4-6 years (240-360 ECTS), after secondary school. The most common duration was 5 years. A specialist programme in medicine lasted 6 years, some teacher training programmes 4 years.
1-1½ years (60-90 ECTS) after a bachelor's degree. Content: profession-oriented research-oriented or profession-oriented education. Sometimes students had to write a thesis, but they always finished the programme with state exams. The diploma always mentioned a professional qualification, for instance civil engineer or English teacher.

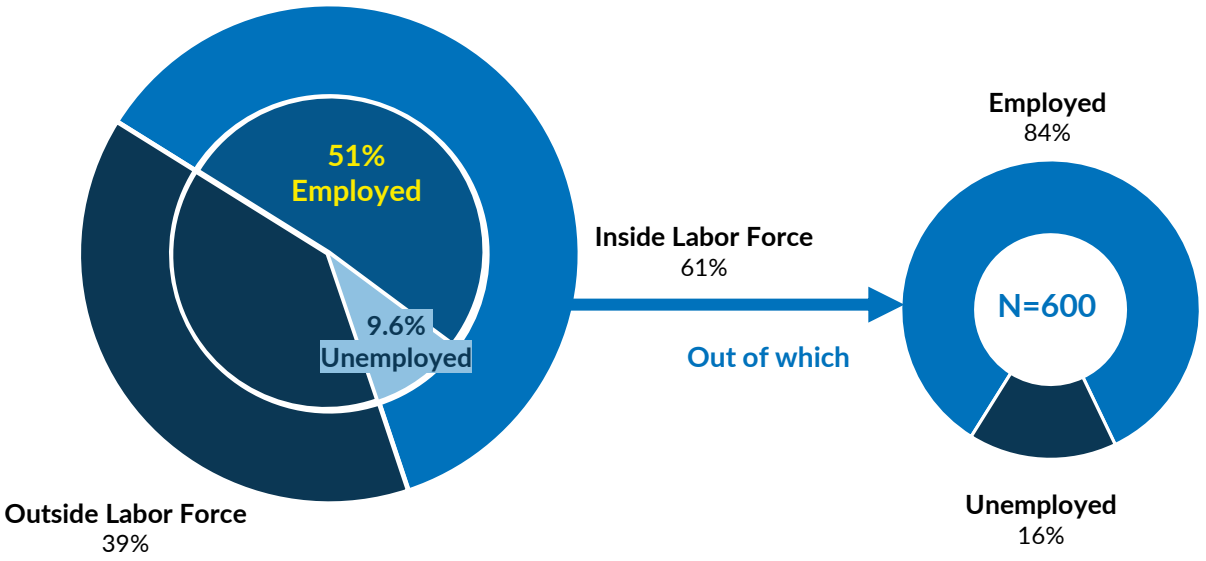
SOCIO-ECONOMIC INCLUSION & LIVELIHOOD

LIVELIHOOD & INCLUSION

Regional Refugee Response for the Ukraine Situation

Labor Force Participation*

N=934



Note: Working age population includes women aged between 16-63 and men aged between 16-65.

% of youth (16 to 24) who are **Not in Education, Training or Employment (NEET):** **5%**

Employment: Employment includes individuals of working age who have engaged in income-generating activities in the past week. This encompasses formal employment, self-employment, agricultural/fishing work, diverse income generation, temporary absence from paid roles, and unpaid contributions to family businesses.

Unemployment: # of working-age who were not employed during the past week (as per the definition above), who looked for a paid job or tried to start a business in the past 4 weeks, and who are available to start working within the next 2 weeks if a job or business opportunity becomes available.

Outside labor force: # working-age individuals (who were not employed during the past week, and who either cannot start working within the next 2 weeks if a job or business opportunity becomes available, did not look for a paid job, or did not try to start a business in the past 4 weeks.

Inside labor force: Have the ability to work. They are either employed or unemployed

SOCIO-ECONOMIC INCLUSION & LIVELIHOOD

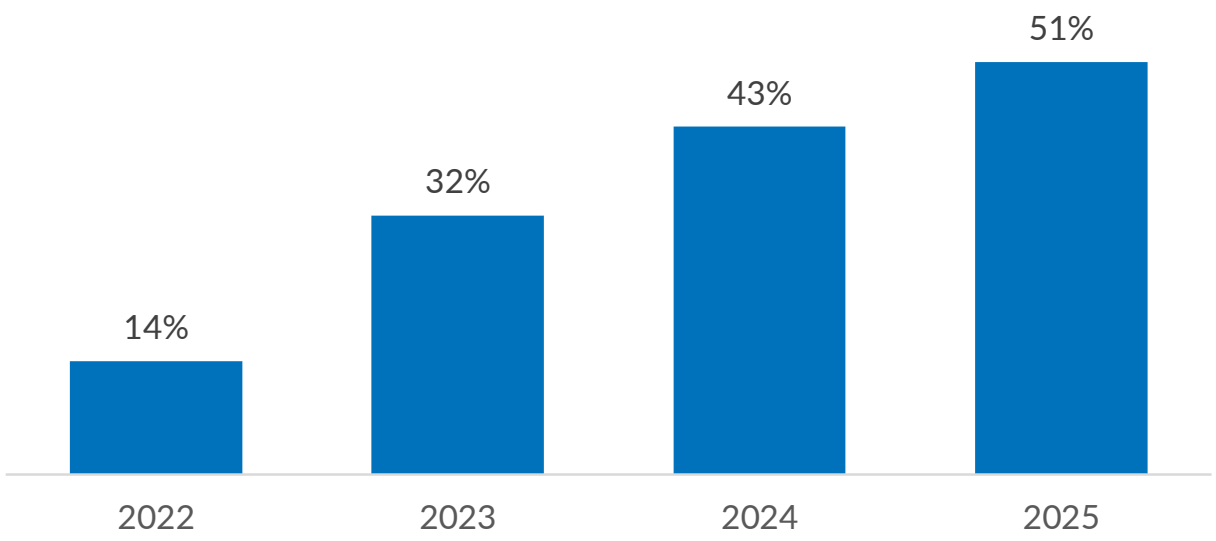
EMPLOYMENT

Regional Refugee Response for the Ukraine Situation

62% of sample are working age refugees

At least 58% of the refugees have a bachelor degree or above.

% of refugees from Ukraine in employment (2022-2025)



There is a steady trend of improvement in the employment situation for refugees from Ukraine living in Romania.

Employment rates doubled between 2022 and 2023, reflecting progress in the early stages of economic integration.

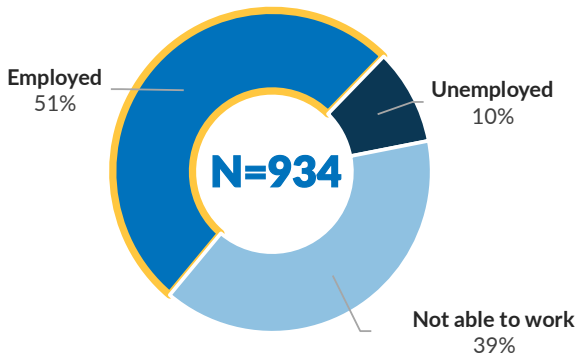
By 2025, more than half of surveyed working age population are employed, indicating improved integration.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC INCLUSION & LIVELIHOOD

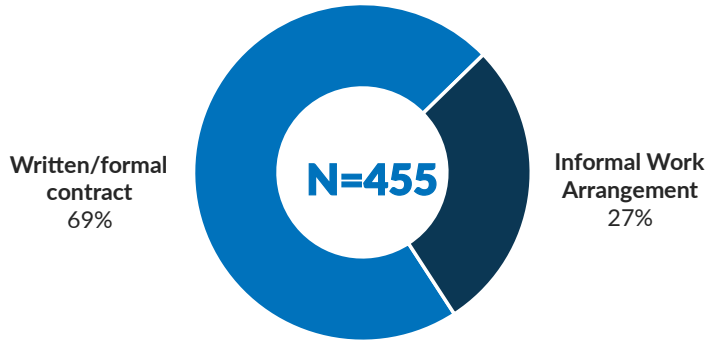
EMPLOYMENT

Regional Refugee Response for the Ukraine Situation

Employment status

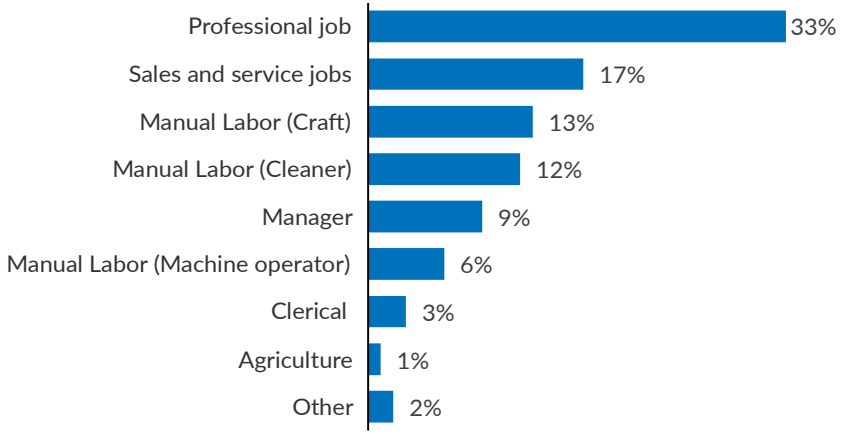


Type of employment contract



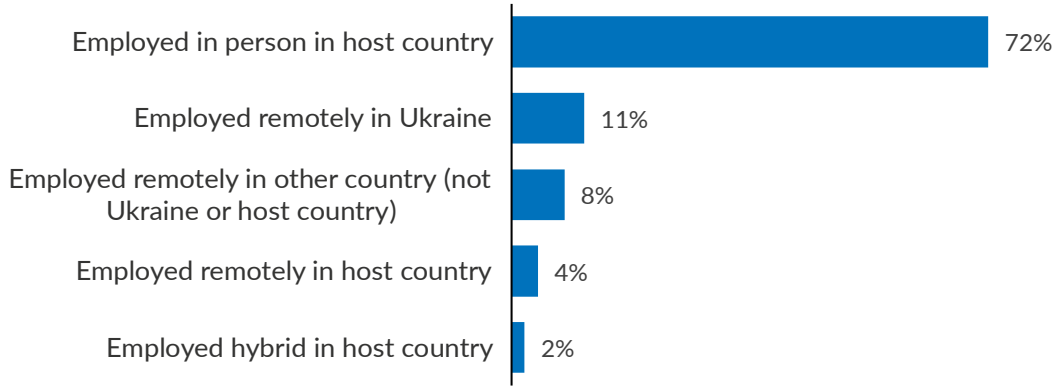
Occupation of employed respondents

N=455



Work modality

N=455



Among respondents who reported being employed, **a third (33%)** were employed in **professional occupations.** Smaller proportions were employed in sales and service jobs (17%), and 13% work in manual labor (crafting). These categories are followed by working in cleaning, holding managers positions, etc.

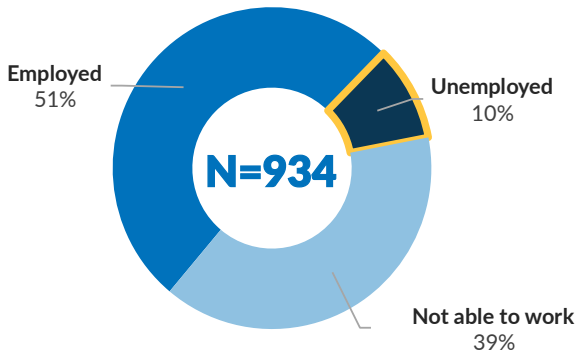
Only 69% of individuals employed were working with an official contract, leaving a large proportion exposed to various risks while working informally.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC INCLUSION & LIVELIHOOD

EMPLOYMENT

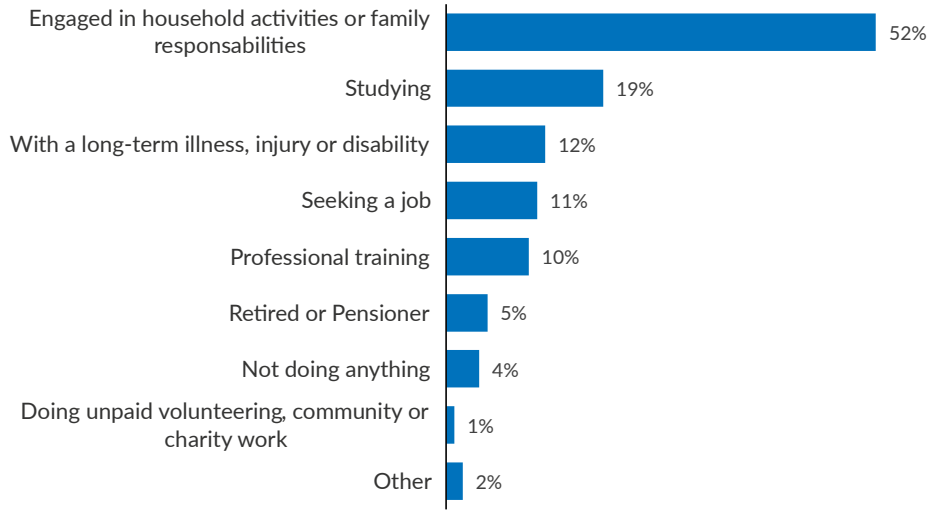
Regional Refugee Response for the Ukraine Situation

Employment status



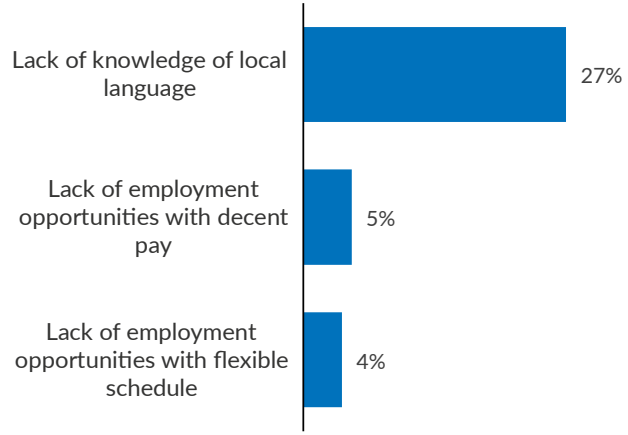
Main activity of people not working

N=531



Top 3 Barriers in finding employment (MCQ)

N=924



Lack of language knowledge remains the leading limiting factor in employment, although it has decreased from 36% to 27% compared to the previous year.

Other issues are job opportunities with fair compensation (5%), job opportunities with suitable or flexible schedule (4%), and the match between job opportunities available and the skill set/experience of the respondent (3%). A considerably low number of respondents face issues in care-giving commitments (2%), difficulty in accessing childcare arrangements (2%), and administrative and legal issues, including lack of work permits or proper documentation (1% each). Cases regarding discrimination and lack of job opportunities based on certain ages are very rare (1%).

SOCIO-ECONOMIC INCLUSION & LIVELIHOOD

ECONOMIC CAPACITY

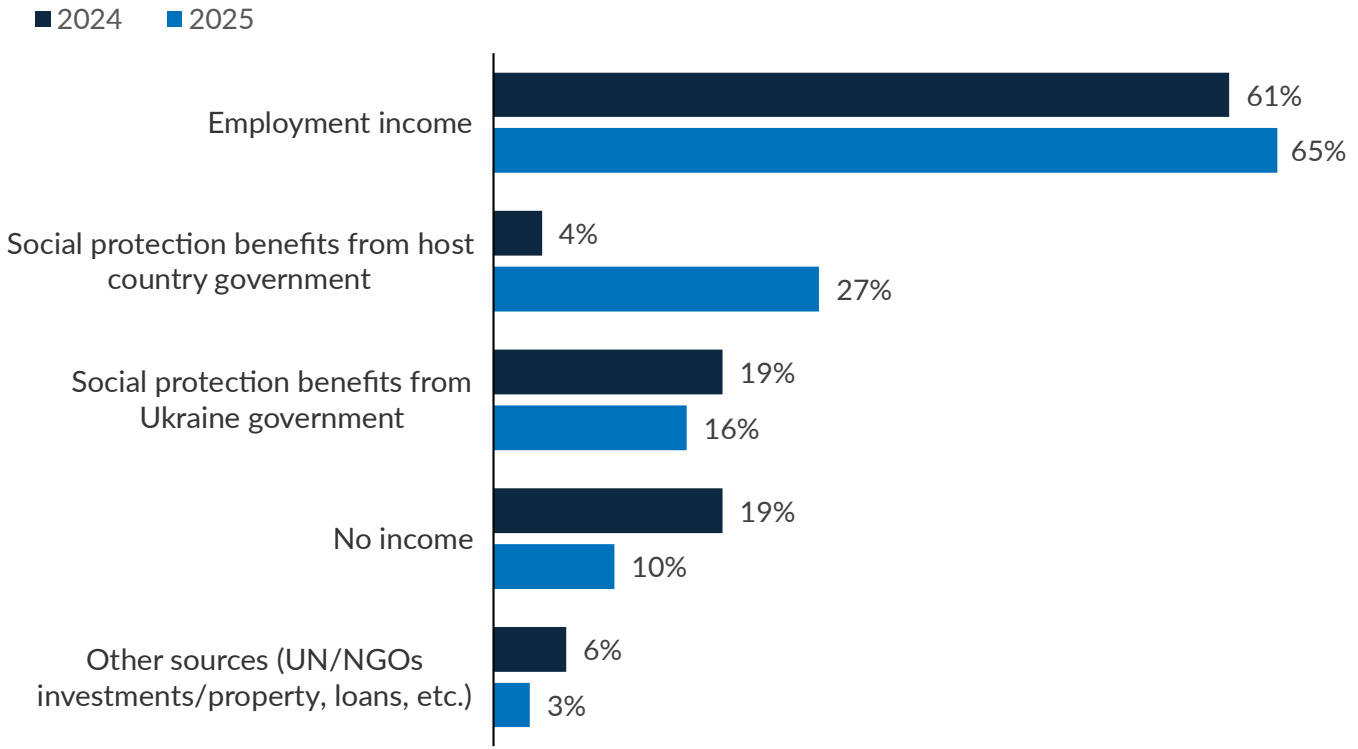
Regional Refugee Response for the Ukraine Situation

90% have a bank account in Romania

65% have no savings or they are not sufficient for 1 month

40% HHs have had a decrease in income in the past 12 months

Source of income*



In 2025 **over a quarter (27%)** of household income is sustained by social protection benefits in a host country.

* For the 2024 data, the categories 'Full-time employment in the host country', 'Remote employment (Ukraine)', 'Part-time employment in the host country' and 'Self-employment' were merged to align with the 2025 data.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC INCLUSION & LIVELIHOOD

SOCIAL PROTECTION

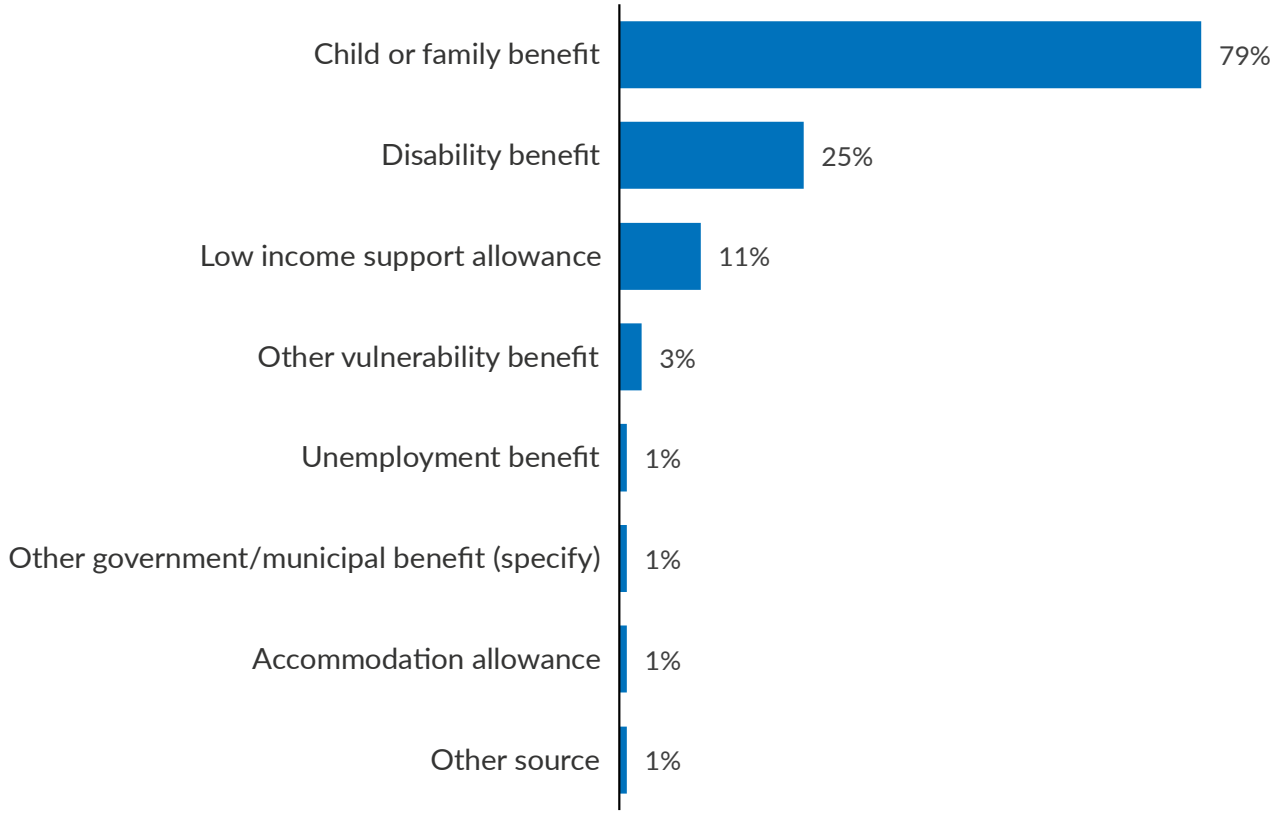
Regional Refugee Response for the Ukraine Situation

Of the 206 households who reported receiving social assistance from the Romanian government, the most common form of assistance was child support, reported by 79% of households.

Disability benefits were received by 25% of respondents. Low-income assistance covered 11% of respondents, targeting households with limited financial resources.

In terms of satisfaction of the level of support received, the majority expressed moderate approval with **51%** reported being **somewhat satisfied. In contrast, 16%** were **dissatisfied**, while an additional **2%** were **very dissatisfied**, together representing nearly one-fifth of respondents who consider the assistance is insufficient.

Type of social benefits from the Romanian Government (MCQ)
N=206



SOCIO-ECONOMIC INCLUSION & LIVELIHOOD

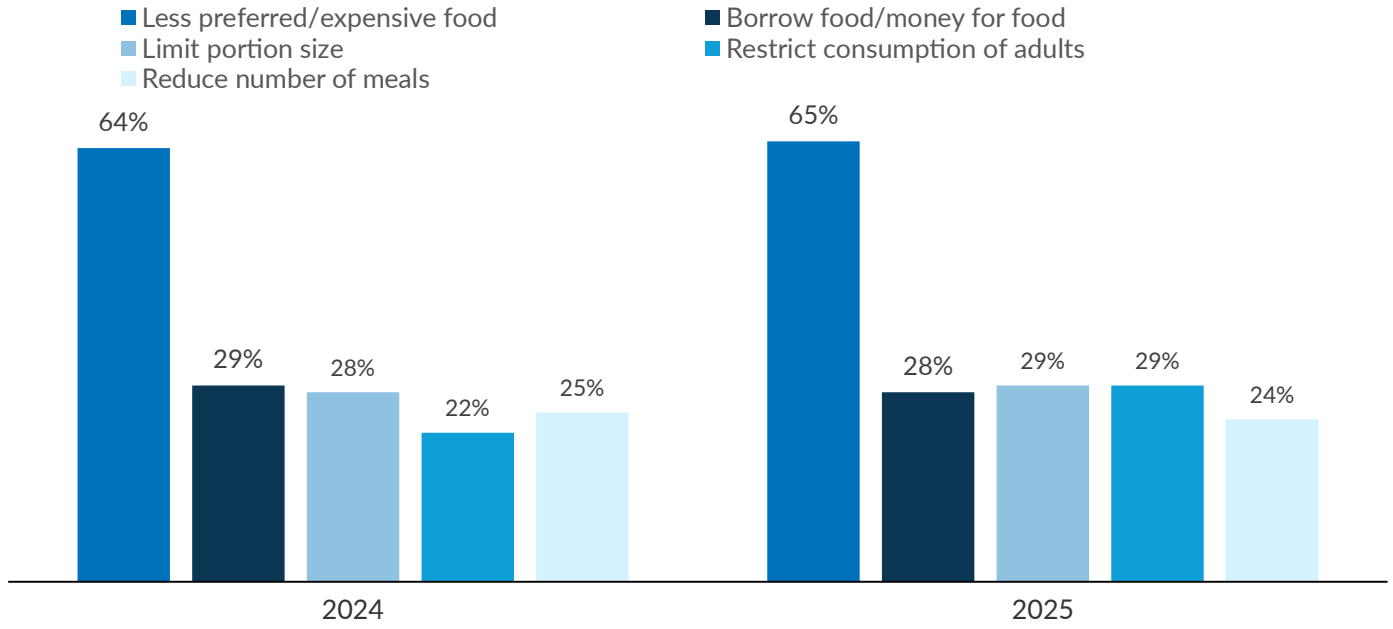
FOOD COPING STRATEGY – REDUCED COPING STRATEGY INDEX (RCSI)

Regional Refugee Response for the Ukraine Situation

RCSI* is 9.15 - moderate food insecurity

The most common coping strategy, consuming less preferred or less expensive foods, has shown a marginal increase from 64% in 2024 to 65% in 2025 and food/money borrowing and cutting the number of meals has shown a marginal decrease.

Households adopting food coping strategy* | 2024 – 2025



Compared to the previous year, overall food insecurity has remained similarly. Households continue to employ similar coping strategies. **Reducing portions sizes** remained prevalent, and there has been a significant increase in adults **restricting their own food intake** (from 22 to 29%). These trends suggest that, despite some alleviation of food insecurity, many households continue to experience pressure, with adults reducing their consumption to support other family members.

*The Reduced Coping Strategy Index (rCSI) is a key metric used to assess food insecurity by measuring the frequency and severity of coping behaviors households adopt when they lack sufficient food

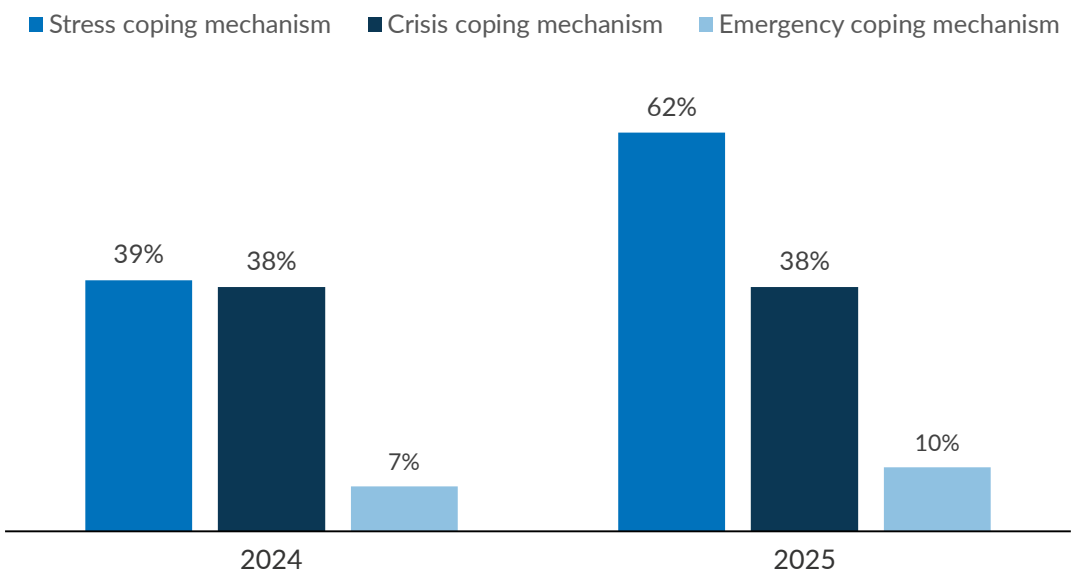
SOCIO-ECONOMIC INCLUSION & LIVELIHOOD

MAX COPING MECHANISMS

Regional Refugee Response for the Ukraine Situation

In 2025, 73% of households reported using at least one coping mechanism during the reporting period, highlighting widespread vulnerability. However, 27% did not resort to any coping mechanisms, which marks an improvement from 2024, when only 16% reported not needing to use them.

Households adopting coping mechanisms 2024-2025



The significant rise in stress coping mechanisms (from 39% to 62%) likely reflects the cumulative impact of the 2024–2025 funding crisis in 2025.

The proportion of households using crisis mechanisms was unchanged, 38% in both years, showing that they could affect long-term stability.

The application of emergency coping mechanisms increased from 7% in 2024 to 10% in 2025, which indicates that a growing number of households are reaching a critical point of vulnerability.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC INCLUSION & LIVELIHOOD

STRESS COPING MECHANISM

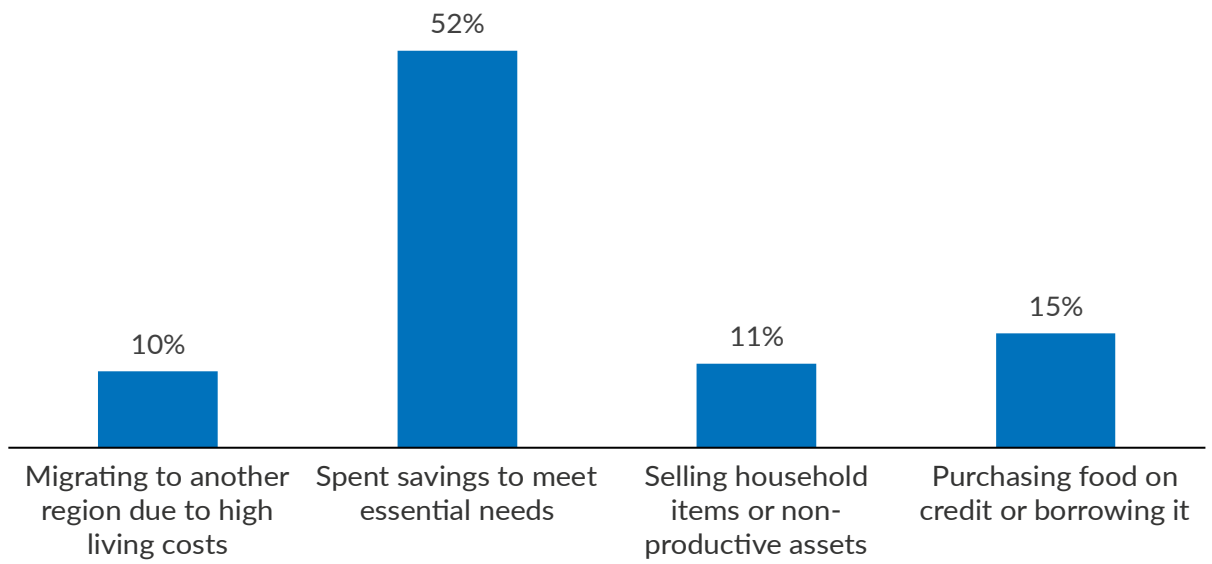
Regional Refugee Response for the Ukraine Situation

Stress coping mechanisms are the least severe strategies that households use when they begin to experience the first signs of financial or food-related pressure. These actions allow families to cope with short-term difficulties without jeopardising their long-term well-being or productivity.

The most common stress coping mechanism employed by respondents in 2025 was similar to the strategy employed in 2024: spending savings to meet essential needs – 52%.

Share of HHs using stress coping mechanisms

N=373



SOCIO-ECONOMIC INCLUSION & LIVELIHOOD

CRISIS COPING MECHANISM

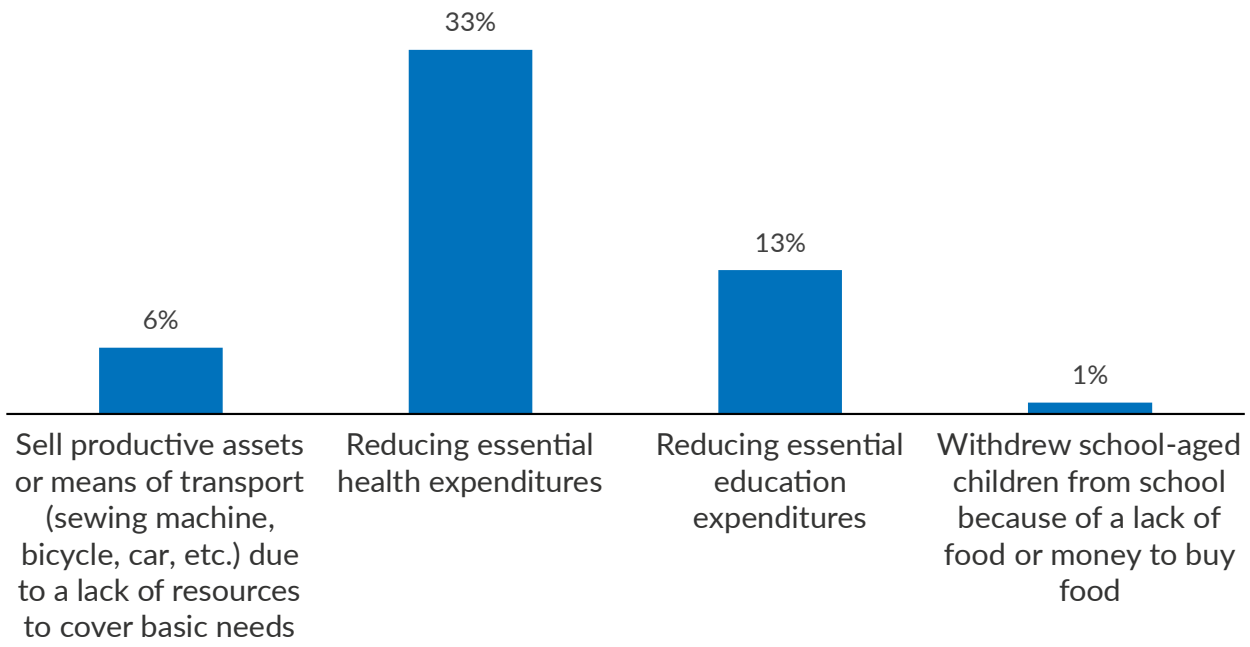
Regional Refugee Response for the Ukraine Situation

Crisis coping mechanisms include moderate actions that households adopt to manage financial instability, actions that directly impact long-term productivity and well-being.

The main crisis coping strategy employed by the respondents is **reducing essential health expenditure (33%)**, which, as the health section of the report states, raises concerns given that 49% of HH members suffer from at least a chronic disease.

Share of HHs using crisis coping mechanisms

N=226



SOCIO-ECONOMIC INCLUSION & LIVELIHOOD

EMERGENCY COPING MECHANISM

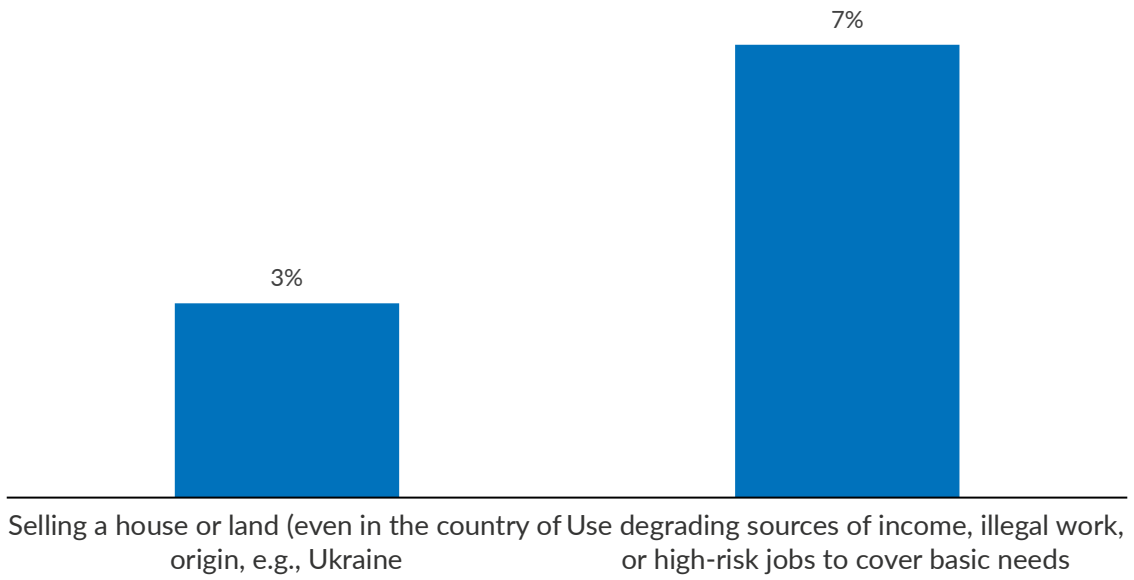
Regional Refugee Response for the Ukraine Situation

Emergency coping mechanisms represent the most severe and damaging responses households adopt when they face extreme food insecurity or financial distress.

These strategies typically emerge only after all safer and less harmful options have been exhausted. The results show that 10% of respondents resorted to this strategy, which is higher than last year's figures (7%).

Use of degrading sources of income, illegal work, or high-risk jobs to cover basic need is the main strategy in this category, accounting for 7%. Selling a property (house or land) accounting 3% within the category.

Share of HHs using emergency coping mechanisms
N=58



SOCIO-ECONOMIC INCLUSION & LIVELIHOOD

SEVERE MATERIAL DEPRIVATION

Regional Refugee Response for the Ukraine Situation

The **severe material and social deprivation rate (SMSD)** is an EU-SILC indicator that shows an enforced lack of necessary and desirable items to lead an adequate life. The indicator, adopted by the Indicators' Sub-Group (ISG) of the Social Protection Committee (SPC), distinguishes between individuals who cannot afford a certain good, service or social activities. It is defined as the proportion of the population experiencing an enforced lack of at least 7 out of 13 deprivation items (6 related to the individual and 7 related to the household). The SMSD indicator is part of the at-risk-of-poverty or social exclusion rate defined in the framework of the EU 2030 target on poverty and social exclusion.

List of items at household level:

- » Capacity to face unexpected expenses
- » Capacity to afford paying for one-week annual holiday away from home
- » Capacity to being confronted with payment arrears (on mortgage or rental payments, utility bills, hire purchase instalments or other loan payments)
- » Capacity to afford a meal with meat, chicken, fish or vegetarian equivalent every second day
- » Ability to keep home adequately warm
- » Have access to a car/van for personal use
- » Replacing worn-out furniture

List of items at individual level:

- » Having internet connection
- » Replacing worn-out clothes by some new ones
- » Having two pairs of properly fitting shoes (including a pair of all-weather shoes)
- » Spending a small amount of money each week on him/herself
- » Having regular leisure activities
- » Getting together with friends/family for a drink/meal at least once a month

https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Glossary:Severe_material_and_social_deprivation_rate_(SMSD)

SOCIO-ECONOMIC INCLUSION & LIVELIHOOD

SEVERE MATERIAL & SOCIAL DEPRIVATION

Regional Refugee Response for the Ukraine Situation

The rate of severe material deprivation (SMSD) in the European Union is relatively low - 6.4%. The overall SMSD for the Romanian state is considerably higher – 17%.

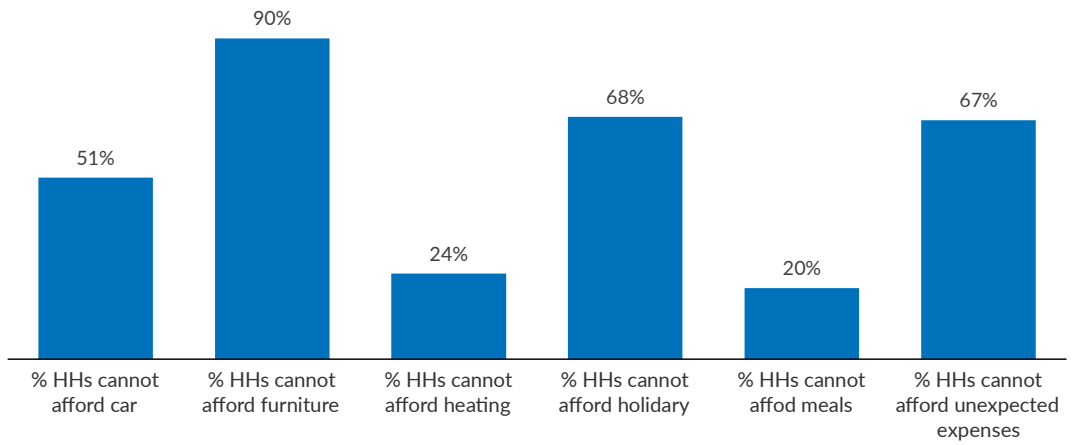
Within this context, **around 34% of the respondents indicated that they do struggle with material deprivation**, highlighting the particular vulnerabilities refugees may confront in terms of economic stability, access to essential goods and services, and social support systems.

4% of HHs unable to pay loans

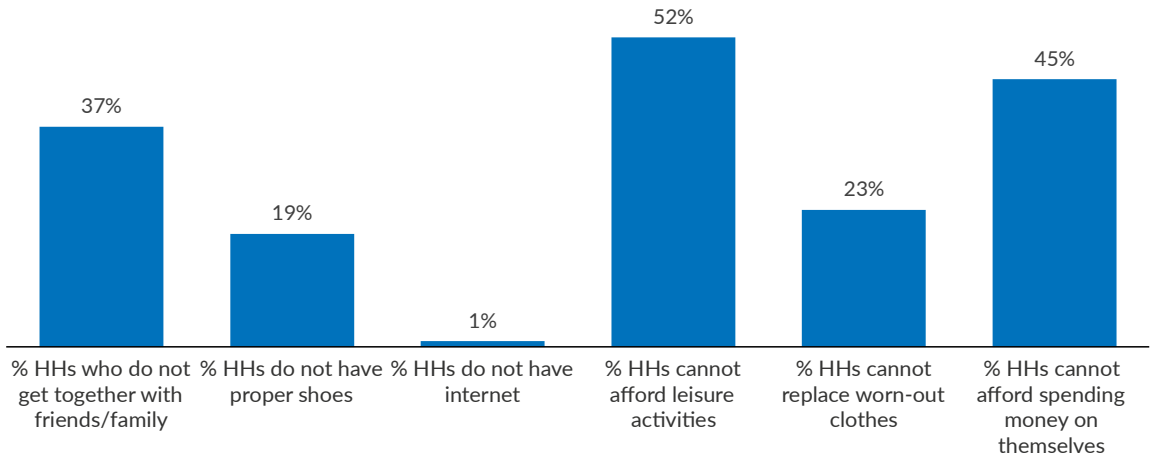
28% of HHs unable to pay rent

22% of HHs unable to pay utilities

Material Deprivation



Social Deprivation



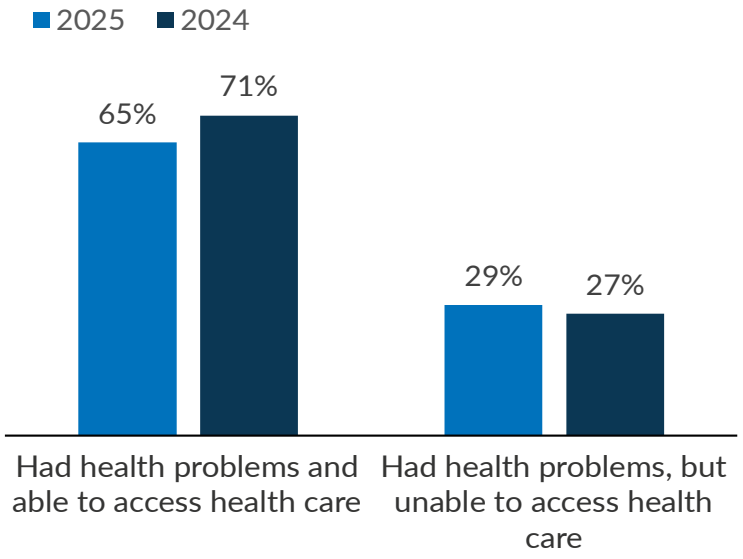
HEALTH

HEALTH ACCESS

Regional Refugee Response for the Ukraine Situation

65% of the families with health-related care needs were able to access the necessary care services. However, **29%** of the HHs indicate that they did not receive it. This failure is especially profound, since despite all the challenges and risks, health-services is still one of the main reason for a short-term visits to Ukraine.

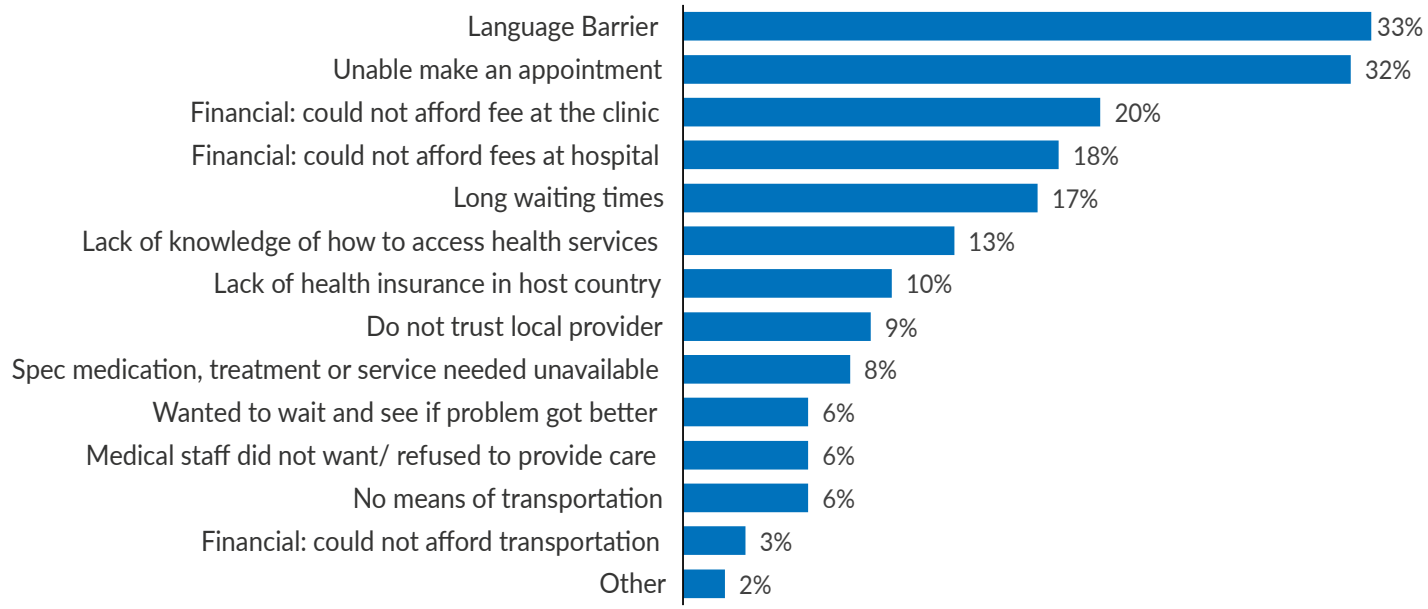
% of refugees with access to health services



49% **of HHs have at least one chronically ill family member**

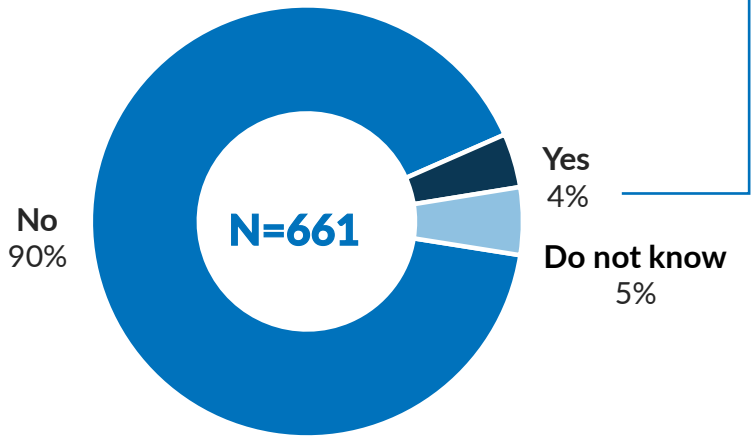
During the same period, the nature of barriers has shifted: **high service costs** remain a key obstacle but has declined from 58% in 2024 to 38% (in total) in 2025, **language barriers** gain prominence at 33%, and operational challenges evolve from **long waiting times** in 2024 (37%) to **difficulties securing appointments** in 2025 (32%).

% of individuals by self-reporting barriers to accessing health care in the last 30 days (MCQ)
N=174

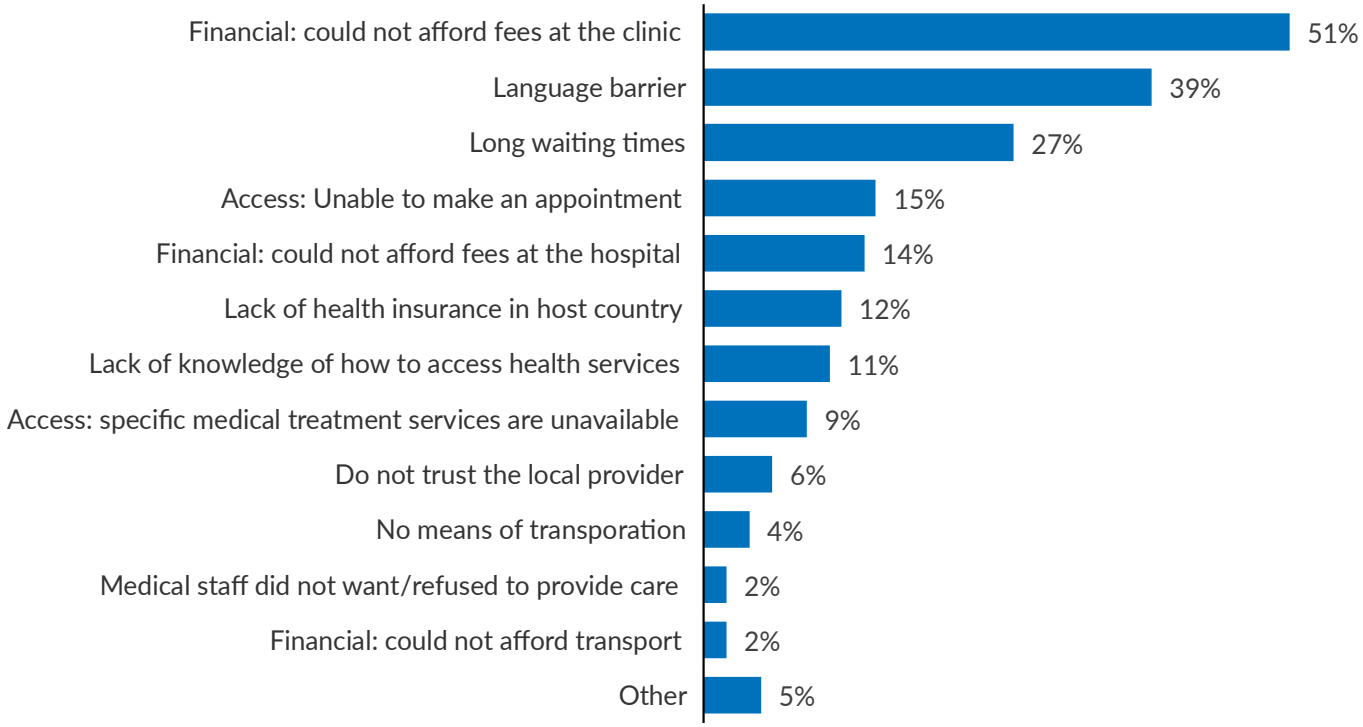


Most of the women (90%) did not face any barriers in accessing sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services.

Women facing barriers in accessing SRH services

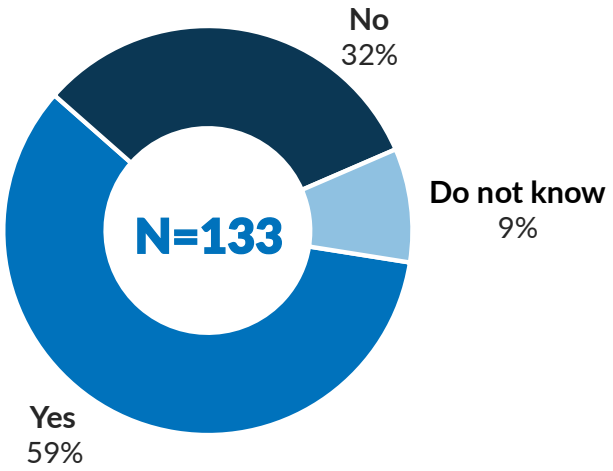


Barriers to access SRH services (MCQ)
N=35

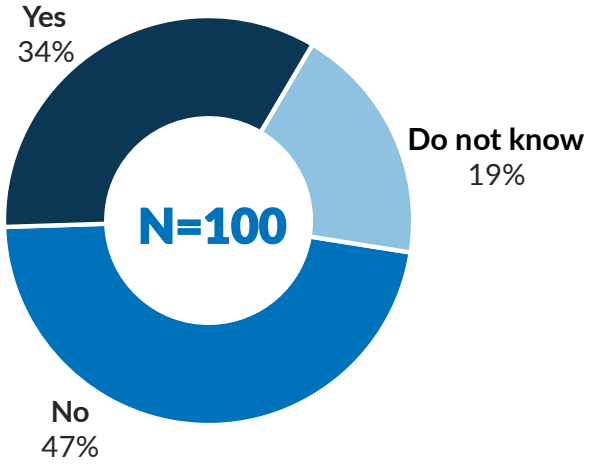


Within the small percentage who reported barriers in accessing SRH, the main ones reported were financial and structural. Financial issues, which encompassed **charges at clinics and hospitals**, and **absence of health insurance**, were the greatest sources of difficulty. **Language** and **waiting times** were also key issues. Moreover, problems associated with scheduling appointments and a lack of understanding of services also were a barrier in accessing sexual and reproductive health services.

Children aged 9 months- 5 years who received 1st dose of measles vaccine



Children aged 9 months-5 years who received 2nd dose of measles vaccine



As per the sample, only 59% of children received the 1st dose of the measles vaccine and 47% received the second dose.

The percentages are low if it is to consider the public health challenges posed by the infection with measles. Moreover, most of the infants have been breastfed in less than 24 hours after birth. However, due to the low sample size (only 62 babies), this data should be interpreted with caution.

% of HH with at least one member who experienced mental health or psychosocial problems:

42%

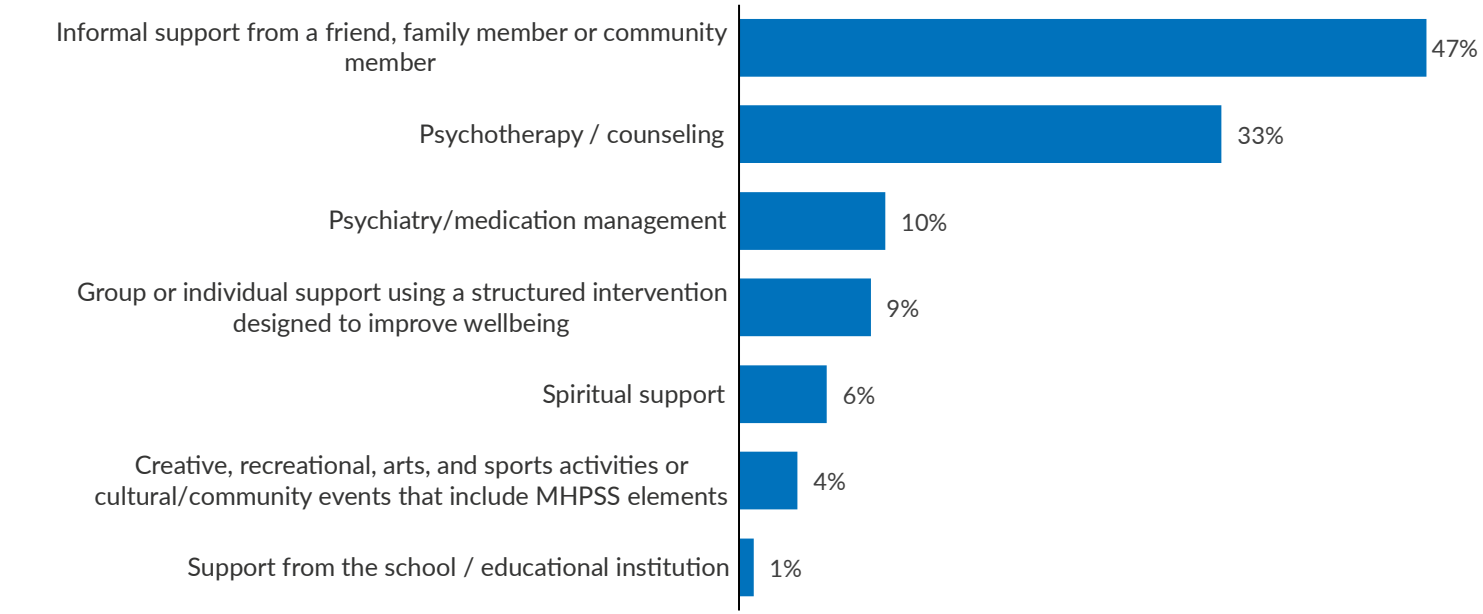
% of individuals who accessed MHPSS support:

45%

87% of individuals reported an improvement in their well-being

Mental health and psychosocial services received by individuals (MCQ)

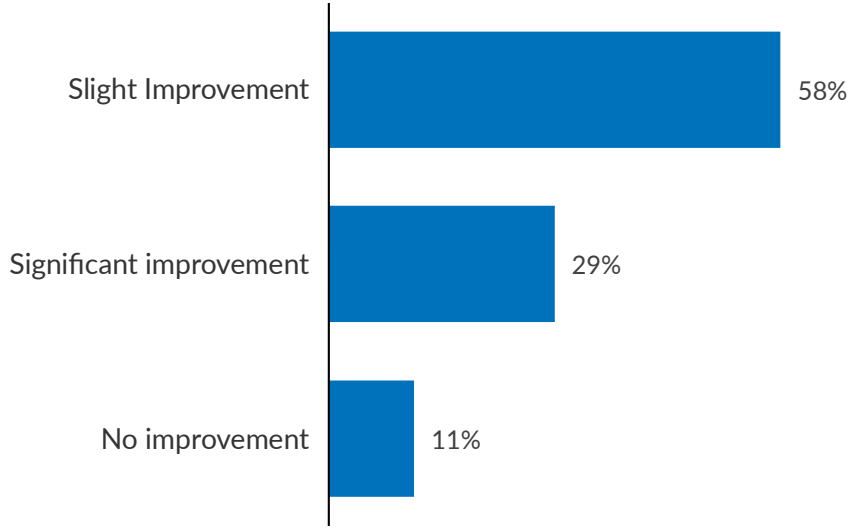
N=183



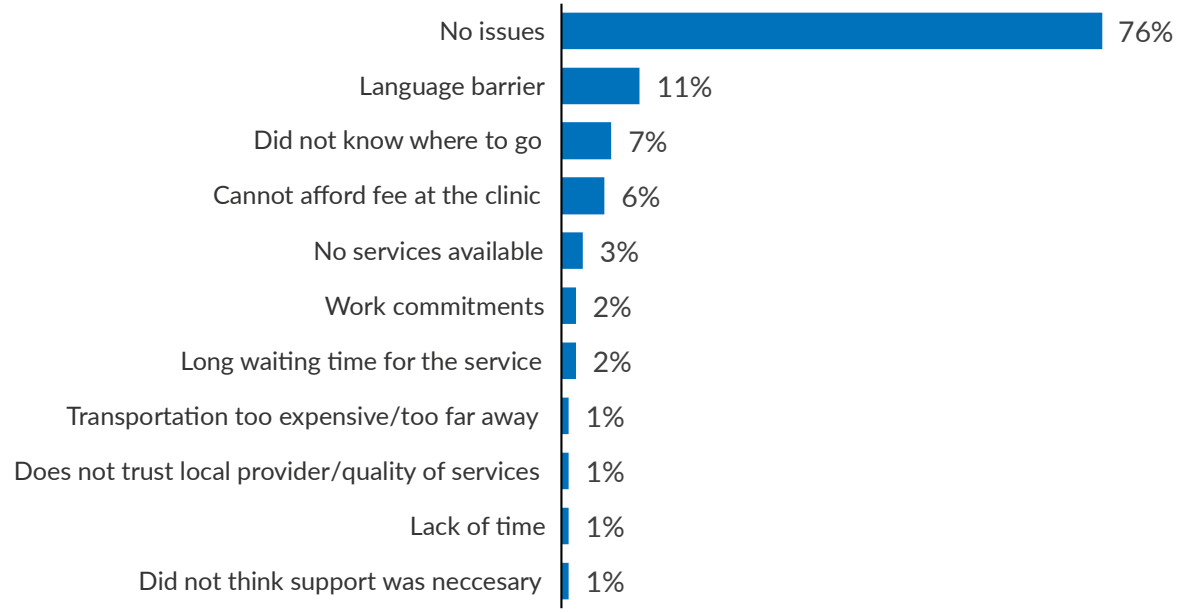
Out of the sample, 42% of HH members declared having psychosocial difficulties in the last 30 days.

Most respondents rely on **informal support** from family and friends, accounting for nearly half of all reports. Specialized services follow, with psychotherapy as the main formal intervention and psychiatry less common. Other types of support—wellbeing programs, spiritual guidance, and creative activities are less frequently used.

% of individuals reporting well-being improvement after receiving MHPSS services
N=179



Reported barriers to accessing mental health and psychosocial support services (MCQ)
N=183



In 2025, 87% of respondents reported a slight improvement or a significant improvement after receiving MHPSS, higher than the 73% in 2024, and 85% in 2023.

In 2025, 76% of the respondents indicate there are **no barriers** in accessing mental health and psychosocial support services. **Language barriers** and **unaffordable clinic fees** remain important barriers (11% and 6%), but the percentages are continuously decreasing since 2023 (32% - language barriers and 15% - high fees).

ACCOMMODATION

SHELTER/ACCOMMODATION

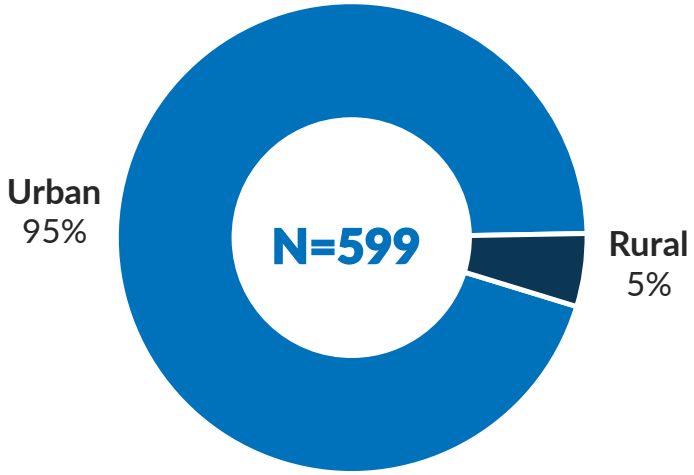
SECURITY OF TENURE/LIVING CONDITIONS

Regional Refugee Response for the Ukraine Situation

The majority of households included in the survey live in urban areas, similar to the percentages observed in 2023 and 2024.

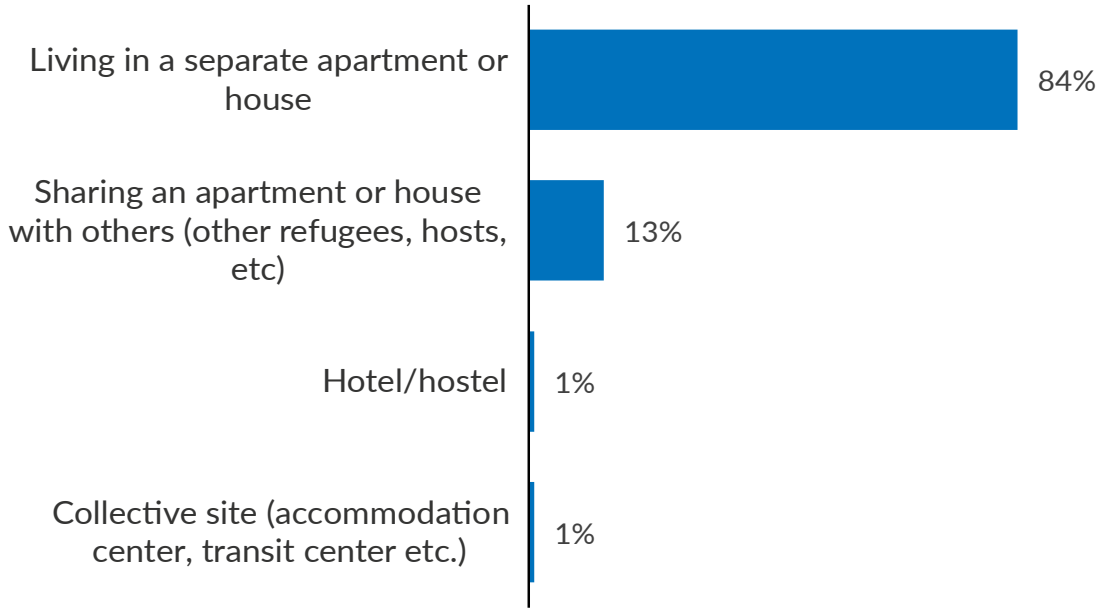
This choice is influenced by elements such as **availability of services, job prospects, and infrastructure**, all of which are typically more abundant in cities and urban settings than in rural areas.

Distribution of HHs by area of living



Distribution of households by the type of accommodations

N=599



The data shows that **84% of households live independently in separate apartments or houses**, emphasizing preference for privacy and autonomy. Only a minority share accommodation or reside in collective or temporary facilities.

SHELTER/ACCOMMODATION

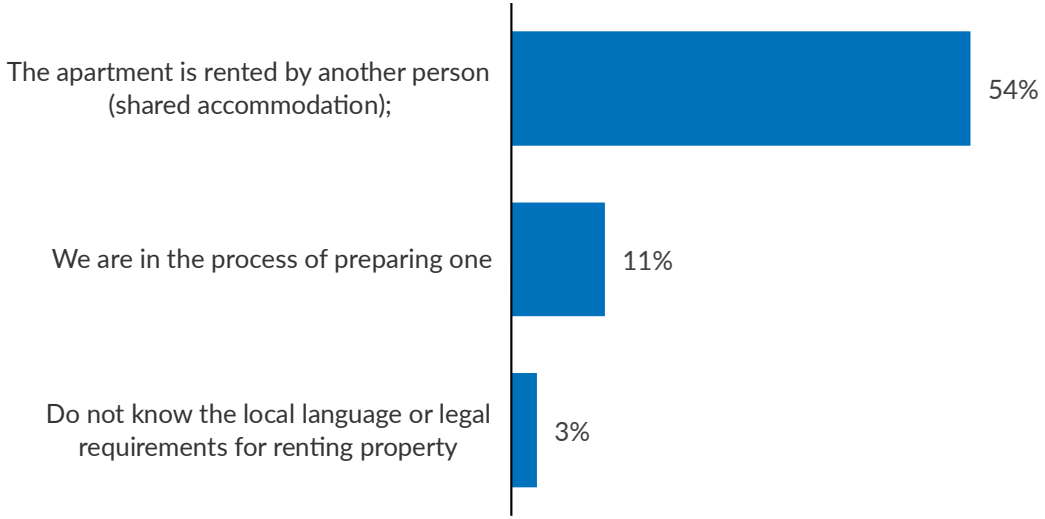
SECURITY OF TENURE/LIVING CONDITIONS

Regional Refugee Response for the Ukraine Situation

Most of the households surveyed (69%) reported that they have a **written agreement** regarding their housing, showing that there is a moderately high degree of well-defined housing contracts. Some households, although fewer (25%), reported having verbal agreements, which may indicate that their housing contracts were less well defined, compared with a written agreements . The proportion of those who has no agreement or not sure which type of contracts they have is minimal (6%).

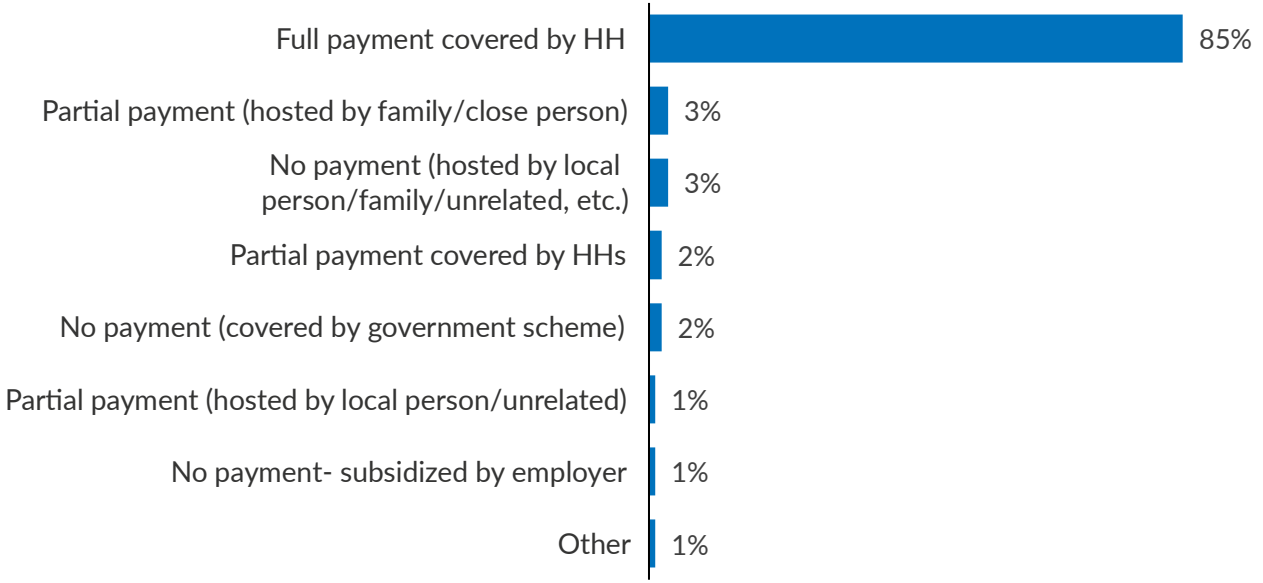
% of HH by reason for not having a contract

N=18



% of households by how they pay for their accommodation

N=599



Similar to 2023 and 2024, the largest proportion of respondents (85%) reported that they **covered all housing-related expenses independently.** Small percentages of households partially covered their accommodation expenses, being hosted by a close person, or does not pay at all since they are hosted by a family member or another person.

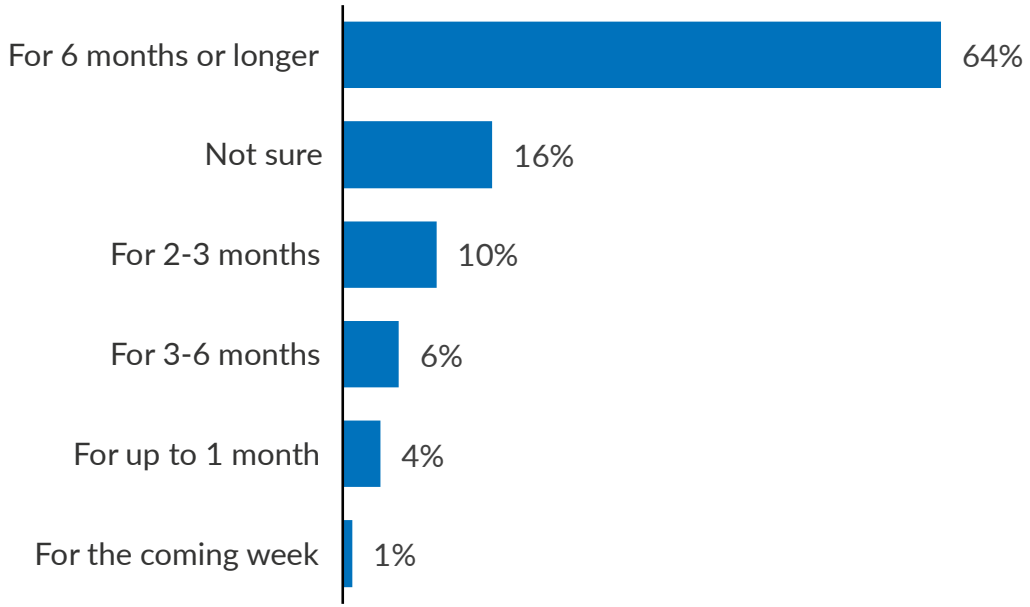
SHELTER/ACCOMMODATION

SECURITY OF TENURE/LIVING CONDITIONS

Regional Refugee Response for the Ukraine Situation

While many households feel secure in their living arrangements, there is still a notable portion expressing uncertainty about their housing stability.

% of HH by perceived period to stay in current accommodation
N=599



64% of households do not anticipate moving from their current residence for six months or more. This suggests a general sense of stability in their living situation.

16% of respondents are uncertain how much longer they can remain in their current accommodation, reflecting uncertainty that may be due to various factors, such as lease agreements or personal circumstances.

10% say they can stay for 2-3 months; 6% expect to remain for 3-6 months. A smaller proportion of - (4%) can stay for 1 month, and only 1% expect to stay for the week starting on that date.

SHELTER/ACCOMMODATION

SECURITY OF TENURE/LIVING CONDITIONS

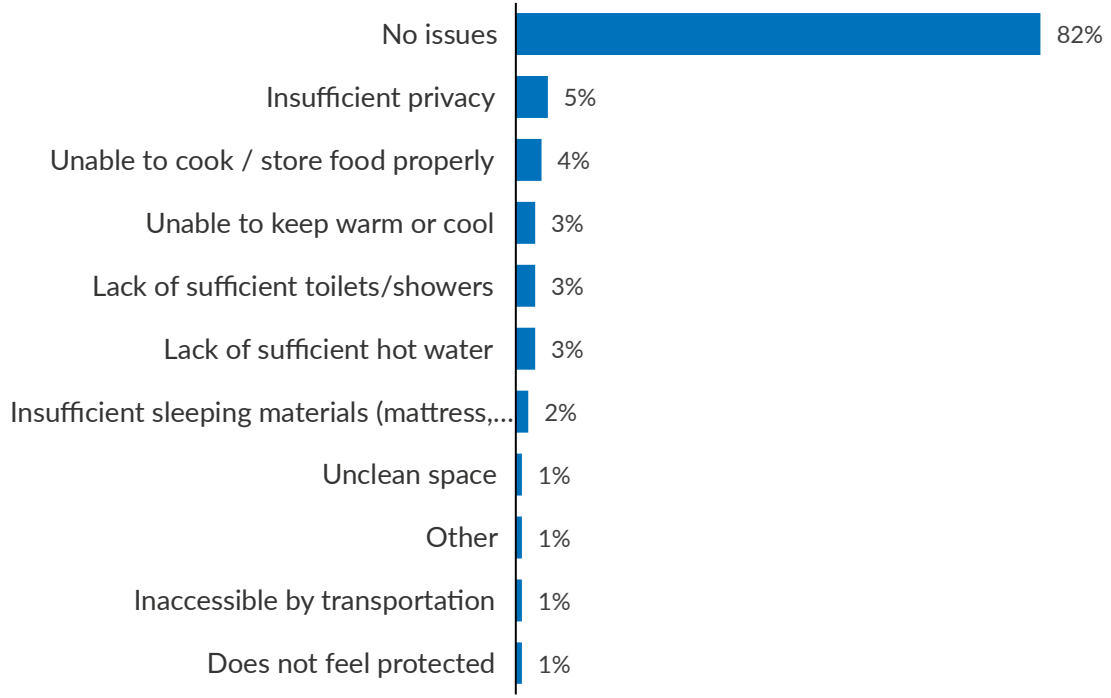
Regional Refugee Response for the Ukraine Situation

Only 1% Of the respondents reported being under pressure to leave*.

As for the main reasons to leave the current accommodation, most didn't respond. Out of those who did, the most significant challenges reported were **increasing living costs, making housing increasingly unaffordable, social tensions**, such as disputes with landlords or neighbors, and **landlords withdrawing housing availability.**

Note: *percentage calculated out of 122 respondents who responded to this question

Distribution of reported issues with current accommodation (MCQ)
N=599



Regarding the most frequent issues in terms of living conditions, 82% of the respondents reported none. **Insufficient privacy** (5%), **lack of proper food preparing or storing facilities** (4%) and **lack of hot water** (3%) were indicated by the few respondents who faced issues with their accommodation.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC INSIGHTS SURVEY ROMANIA

Final Analysis

December
2025

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