SOCIO-ECONOMIC INSIGHTS SURVEY

Final Report

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CONTRIBUTIONS

SEIS was conducted within the framework of:

Regional Refugee Response for the Ukraine Situation

Developed, implemented, and analysed by:

UNHCR The UN Refugee Agency

IOM UN MIGRATION

The research methodology of this report had been reviewed and approved by the Romanian National Institute of Statistics (insse.ro)

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List of acronyms

ANOFM County agencies for employment

CNRR Romanian National Council for Refugees

CRI Cash and Core Relief Items

CSCM Romanian Center for Comparative Migration Studies

FD Family Doctor

GBV Gender Based Violence

HH Household

IOM International Organization for Migration

MCQ Multiple Choice Question

MHPSS Mental health and psychosocial support

MSNA Multi-Sector Needs Assessment

NEET Youth who are not involved in education, employment, or training

NGO Non-governmental organization

PSS Psychosocial support

R Programming language is an open-source scripting language for predictive analytics and data visualization

rCSI Reduced Coping Strategy Index

RLO Refugee-led organizations

RRP Refugee Response Plan

SEIS Socio-Economic Insights Survey

SPSS Statistical Package for the Social Sciences

SRH Reproductive health services

TP Temporary Protection

UNHCR United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

VMI Venit Minim de Incluziune

Geographical Classifications and comments

Municipality: is an administrative unit in Romania which corresponds to a locality of urban type with a special role in the economic, social-cultural, scientific, political and administrative life of the country, with important industrial and commercial structures and institutions in the field of education, protection of healthcare and culture.

Oblast: is an administrative unit in Ukraine, also known as a county.

Județ: is an administrative unit in Romania, also known as a county. This SEIS covers 25 counties or județe and the capital city of Bucharest.

Ukrainian refugee (household): is used to define all refugees (households) that migrated from Ukraine to Romania following the escalation of hostilities in Ukraine since February 2022, independent of their nationality.

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Executive Summary

Since February 2022, Romania has recorded **over 7.9 million border crossings of Ukrainians and third-country nationals** directly from Ukraine and via the Republic of Moldova.

By December 2024, **179,737 refugees**[1] from Ukraine had received Temporary Protection permits. The number of individuals seeking refuge in 2024 continues to rise with the highest number of entries recorded in August 2024[2], driven by the precarious security situation, persistent power shortages, and widespread attacks of critical infrastructure in Ukraine.

Between May and July 2024, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the Romanian Center for Comparative Migration Studies (CSCM), the Romanian National Council for Refugees (CNRR), and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) carried out the Socio-Economic Insights Survey (SEIS) to assess the most urgent needs of the refugee population in Romania. Previously referred to as the Multi-Sector Needs Assessment (MSNA), the SEIS represents a joint effort to gain an insight on the situation of refugees in Romania. The findings are intended to support the effective planning, implementation, and evaluation of programs in the refugee response. They directly inform the 2025 Refugee Response Plan by offering a comprehensive understanding of refugee needs and gaps in service provision. The survey sampled **1,008 households**, representing **2,915 members**, from across the country.

This executive summary provides an overview of the findings, which indicates that refugee households in Romania are predominantly urban-based, often led by women and including children. While most have access to Temporary Protection, some face challenges related to document renewal and social inclusion. Health needs remain significant, with 60% of households reporting chronic illness and one in three individuals experiencing psychological distress. Although enrollment in Romanian schools has increased, most children continue to follow Ukraine's education system online. Employment rates remain modest, with language barriers and informal work affecting part of the population. Most refugees cover their own housing costs, though many struggle to pay rent and utilities. A large share rely on informal rental agreements, leaving them vulnerable to housing insecurity.

Demographics

On average, the surveyed households comprise **three members**, predominantly residing in urban areas, with the highest concentration in Bucharest (29% of surveyed households). Constanța followed with 24%, Suceava with 9%, and Galați and Brașov with 6% each. The majority of surveyed households originate from Odesa Oblast (38%), making it the most represented region among the displaced population. Other notably represented oblasts include Khersonska (12%), Mykolaivska (8%), and Kharkivska (7%). Several factors explain this: Kherson and Mykolaiv were early invasion targets, Kharkiv faced heavy shelling, Romania offers a nearby EU border with many aid routes, and strong cultural ties exist between southern Ukraine and Romania.

The majority of respondents belong to the **18-34 and 35-59 age groups**, which together make up most of the displaced Ukrainian population. Specifically, 65% of refugees fall within the 35-59 age range, while 12% of women and 8% of men are in the younger 18-34 category.

1 https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/113951.
2 https://data.unhcr.org/fr/dataviz/399?sv=54&geo=10782.

Although the vast majority of refugees are Ukrainian, a small percentage – 0.6% of the surveyed population – consists of individuals with Moldavian, Russian, Hungarian, and Slovakian nationalities. In terms of ethnicity, Ukrainians continue to be the dominant group, though their proportion of persons surveyed slightly decreased from 96% in 2023 to 94% in 2024, reflecting an increasing presence of other ethnic groups with historical ties to Ukraine.

The gender distribution among the surveyed refugees in Romania shows a clear disparity, **with 58% being female and 42% male**. Families with children make up a large portion of the refugee population, as **65% of surveyed households have at least one child**, while 3% have an infant under 12 months old. Health concerns are a major issue among displaced individuals, with 60% of households reporting at least one member with a chronic illness, emphasizing the need for sustained medical support.

Education

From the sample, in the 2023/2024 school year, **51% of school aged children were attending Romania's official education system**. While for 2022/2023, there are no data on attendance, based on the 2023 MSNA **40% of school aged children were enrolled** in the formal Romanian system. However, **69% remain formally registered** in Ukraine's education system, demonstrating they are still connected to their home country's curriculum. Additionally, **65% continue learning online through Ukraine's remote schooling system**, while 10% are not participating in neither the Romanian national education system nor Ukraine's online program.

The primary barriers to enrollment in Romanian schools include **a preference for Ukraine's online** education, though participation declined from 82% in 2023 to 66% in 2024. Language barriers, while still an issue, have improved, decreasing from 23% in 2023 to 14% in 2024.

Around 51% of respondents and their family members hold at least a Master's degree or equivalent. The most common educational qualifications are Specialization diplomas (28%), followed by Master's degrees (22%), Bachelor's degrees (10%), Technical or vocational studies (19%).

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Protection

The vast majority (**99%**) of surveyed households **have received Temporary Protection in Romania,** granting access to essential rights and services. Only, 2% reported challenges in obtaining TP, primarily due to missing documents or long waiting times experienced for application decisions. Due to the small numbers, these do not seem to indicate systematic issues.

Social inclusion remains a challenge for some refugees, with **25% of households reporting hostile attitudes** or behavior from the local population. Verbal aggression remains the most prevalent issue, cited by 76% of those who experienced hostility in 2024, nearly unchanged from 77% in 2023. However, when looking at the perception of safety within the community, 87% of the respondents reported feeling safe.

Regarding civil status and family composition, **88% of households reported no changes** since leaving Ukraine. Among those who did, the most common events were births (6%), followed by deaths (3%), divorces (3%), and marriages (1%), while 1% preferred not to answer.

When it comes to document renewal and registering life events, 72% of households faced no obstacles, suggesting an overall accessible process with Romanian civil authorities. However, 18% encountered difficulties, citing barriers such as bureaucratic procedures, language barriers, and missing documentation.

Socio-Economic Inclusion and Livelihoods

Among the surveyed population, 53% are part of the labour force (as per the ILO definition, inside labour force refers to all the people who work and/or are actively seeking a job, aged 16-62 for women and 16-65 for men). The remaining 47% are outside the labour force, comprising children (16-17), retirees, or individuals not in need of or unable to work.

Of those active in the labour market (53%), the majority (80%) are engaged in paid employment, whether through formal jobs, self-employment, entrepreneurship, or family caregiving. The remaining 20% are unemployed and looking for work.

For youth aged 16-24, **15% are not in education, employment, or training (NEET)**, highlighting potential challenges in economic inclusion for young refugees.

Among those employed **the majority (73%) have written contracts**, ensuring formal employment status. However, 24% work without a formal contract, indicating a particular level of insecurity. The most commonly reported barriers to employment include lack of Romanian language proficiency (36%), low wages (14%), inflexible work schedules (11%) and lack of required skills (11%).

Health

In Romania, people with temporary protection have access to free essential medical services, including access to a Family Doctor (FD), emergency medical procedures or other needed procedures. However, **many refugees still face challenges in getting medical care.** T he most common issues include long waiting times (37%) and financial difficulties, with 30% unable to afford clinic fees or medication and 28% struggling to pay for hospital services.

Among the surveyed refugees, **36% reported having health problems and needing medical care**. Of those in need, 71% were able to access healthcare services, a similar rate to 2023 (68%), showing that access has remained consistent. Of those in need, 71% were able to access healthcare services, a similar rate to 2023 (68%), showing that access has remained consistent.

Mental health is also a significant concern, with one in three individuals reporting psychological distress in the four weeks before the survey. Among them, 33% sought mental health support, showing that some are accessing services but others may still face barriers.

Accommodation

The majority of Ukrainian refugees in Romania (85%) live in separate apartments or houses. About 7% live with others, such as fellow refugees or host families, while smaller groups stay in collective accommodations (3%) or temporary accommodations like hotels and hostels (2%). Only 1% live in worker-provided housing, and another 1% fall into unspecified housing categories or did not disclose their living situation.

Despite the challenges of keep unemployment and financial struggles, **85% of refugee households are covering their own living expenses.** Only 3% receive free housing through government or non-governmental organizations (NGOs) programs, and 6% benefit from partial support, such as hosting by families, relatives, or government subsidies. A small number (1%) have their housing fully subsidized by employers.

While 84% of refugees report no significant issues with their living conditions, 16% experience challenges, including a lack of privacy (6%), insufficient hot water (4%), and inadequate sleeping materials (3%).

On average, refugee households spend 1,974 RON on rent and 536 RON on utilities each month, totaling 2,510 RON. Although these costs are typical for renters in Romania, they represent a significant financial burden for refugees. Only 65% are able to pay on time, with 33% struggling to meet payment deadlines.

In terms of housing security, **55% of refugees have formal rental agreements**, offering legal protection. However, 41% rely on verbal agreements, which offer limited protection and leave refugees vulnerable to potential evictions, sudden rent increases, or disputes with landlords.

Introduction

Background

Over two years into the war in Ukraine, the humanitarian crisis continues to deepen, with prolonged displacement taking a heavy toll on affected populations.

Despite the unwavering generosity of host countries, particularly Romania, which has provided refuge to thousands of Ukrainians, the situation in 2024 remains challenging. A significant setback occurred with the termination of the government program that offered financial assistance for housing and food costs. This decision left many families – especially those in vulnerable categories – without a primary means of subsistence. To address the escalating challenges, a coordinated regional humanitarian response is urgently needed to meet the evolving needs of displaced populations.

As of September 2024, Europe hosted 6.7 million refugees from Ukraine, with nearly two million residing in countries under the Regional Refugee Response Plan. These nations include Belarus, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Poland, Romania, and Slovakia, all working collectively to address the needs of displaced populations amidst ongoing challenges.

The 2024 Regional Refugee Response Plan projects a reduced influx of newly displaced refugees from Ukraine compared to the initial years of the crisis, though ongoing support and initial reception assistance will remain essential for many. Insights from MSNA conducted in 2022 and 2023 across countries such as Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Moldova, Poland, Romania, and Slovakia, as well as lighter assessments in Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania in 2023, have been instrumental in shaping the 2024 Ukraine Situation RRP. These assessments provided a comprehensive understanding of refugee needs, facilitating evidence-based planning and targeted responses. To build on this foundation, UNHCR and its partners introduced the SEIS in 2024, conducted across the same 10 countries. This enhanced assessment maintains data comparability with previous years while offering deeper insights into refugees' evolving socio-economic needs. Together, these efforts underscore a collective commitment to adaptive and responsive humanitarian action amid the ongoing Ukraine crisis.

Purpose and scope

The SEIS is a comprehensive and multi-sectoral assessment aimed at understanding and addressing the needs of refugees from Ukraine across the 10 countries participating in the Refugee Response Plan.

Its key objectives include:

» Providing a multisectoral and comparable overview of the needs, capacities, and vulnerabilities of refugees from Ukraine across the RRP countries, to inform evidence-based humanitarian planning, prioritization, and policy-making.

» Ensuring a clear understanding of the changing needs and vulnerabilities of diverse refugee groups, including women, children, older adults,

individuals with disabilities, and others facing additional risks or barriers to access.

» Analyzing the drivers and severity of needs from both sector-specific and inter-sectoral perspectives, allowing for the identification of variations among different population groups and geographical areas.

» Ensuring that the perspectives and preferences of refugees from Ukraine are accurately reflected in strategic and response planning processes.

» Enhancing the targeting of assistance provisions by collecting robust data that will inform data-driven interventions in the future.

» Strengthening the accuracy and completeness of socio-economic indicators to support long-term, evidence-based planning for the inclusion and sustainable solutions for refugees.

The target population of the SEIS 2024 consists of refugees from Ukraine who reside in the Refugee Response Plan countries at the time of data collection. The assessment was conducted nationwide, with sub-national stratification determined by each region (Județ) to ensure that the data collected accurately reflects the diverse needs and circumstances of refugees across different geographical areas.

Methodology

The research methodology of this report had been reviewed and approved by the Romanian National Institute of Statistics (insse.ro)

The methodology for the 2024 SEIS was carefully designed to maintain continuity with the previous MSNA conducted in 2022 and 2023. This consistency was vital for enabling comparability and tracking trends over time. The assessment was carried out through a collaborative effort between UNHCR, CSCM, CNRR, and IOM, with active support from the Inter-Sector Working Group.

Sample Size

A total of 1,008 household interviews were conducted between 29 May and 25 July 2024, covering 2,915 individuals across 25 Romanian counties and the capital city, Bucharest. The methodology ensured a diverse and comprehensive approach, including both urban and rural areas, which allowed for a broad representation of experiences within the refugee population. This wide geographical coverage aimed to provide detailed insights into the needs, challenges, and circumstances faced by refugees from Ukraine living in Romania, ensuring that the data collected accurately reflected the diversity of the refugee community across the country. The survey was designed with a 95% confidence interval and a 5% margin of error, meaning that if the survey were repeated multiple times, 95% of the results would fall within ±5% of the actual population value. This sample was thoughtfully structured to provide a thorough understanding of the refugee population across Romania, ensuring a broad representation of different experiences and circumstances.

Sampling and geographical coverage

The sampling for this survey was derived from UNHCR's Cash and Core Relief Items (CRI) Assistance lists, which included 15,100 households. To ensure a reliable sample among the households in these lists, a stratified random sampling method was employed. Target areas were identified through various data sources, such as Cash and CRI Assistance lists and the county agencies for employment (ANOFM). This approach guaranteed that the sample accurately reflected the Ukrainian refugee population across Romania, highlighting the diverse living conditions and needs present in different counties.

Interviews took place across 25 counties and Bucharest, adhering to the UNHCR geographical distribution. The distribution of refugees from Ukraine in Romania highlights a preference for larger cities and well-connected regions, while smaller or less urbanized counties see minimal refugee settlement.

Data Collection

The data collection for the 2024 SEIS was carried out as part of an inter-agency collaboration between CSCM, CNRR, and IOM. To ensure consistency and reliability in the data, enumerators were trained to use a standardized questionnaire. The majority of the interviews, accounting for 84% of the total, were conducted face-to-face in the county where respondents

currently reside, which helped minimize challenges related to technology and language barriers.

For counties with a smaller number of registered households, interviews were conducted online via video calls. Additionally, some interviews were conducted remotely for households facing specific circumstances, such as people with disabilities, single parents, or those with long working hours.

To maintain high data quality, several Quality Assurance measures were implemented, including comprehensive 2-days training for enumerators, continuous communication with them during the survey process, and random control checks. These mechanisms were put in place to ensure the accuracy and integrity of the collected data.

Data analysis

The primary and final data analysis of the 2024 SEIS was conducted by CSCM and IOM, with validation provided by the members of the Information Management Working Group and Sector Leads, which ensured the accuracy and robustness of the analysis, drawing on the expertise of various stakeholders involved in the refugee response. The data analysis was conducted in Excel, SPSS and R.

Data cleaning was an essential process in ensuring the accuracy and reliability of the results. It involved systematically identifying and correcting errors, removing duplicate entries, and addressing missing or inconsistent data points. This step was crucial to eliminate any discrepancies and ensure that the dataset was clean, complete, and ready for analysis.

In order 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 calculated household weight was then applied to each individual within the household. The table below shows the data used and resulting weights. The calculated household weight was also applied to each individual within the household.

Table 1 | SEIS Data and resulting weights

Strata	# Respondents in SEIS	% of Respondents in SEIS	# adult beneficiaries of TP	% of adults beneficiaries of TP	Weights
Female adults (18-64)	800	79%	61,301	50%	0.63
Female older persons (65+)	69	7%	6,126	5%	0.73
Male adults (18-64)	113	11%	51,740	42%	3.79
Male older persons (65+)	26	3%	2,761	2%	0.88
TOTAL	**1,008**	**100%**	**121,928**	**100%**	

Limitations

There were several limitations in the data collection process:

» **Data Collection Timing:** The survey was conducted during the summer and school holidays, which influenced the response rate and potentially limited participation from some segments of the population.

» **Lack of Comprehensive National Data:** There was a lack of detailed national data on the locations and mobility patterns of the refugee population, making it difficult to reach a fully representative sample across all regions.

» **Sensitivity of Protection and Income Questions:** Questions related to protection and income were sensitive, leading to a higher non-response rate and potentially less reliable data in these areas.

» **Underrepresentation of Males:** The male population was underrepresented, with only 14% of respondents being male, while 37% of the households were headed by men. This imbalance was addressed through data weighting.

» **Respondent Bias:** Some indicators may have been under-reported or over-reported due to the subjectivity and perceptions of the respondents, which could have affected the accuracy of certain responses.

» **Representativeness of Results:** The results are only representative of the population covered in the survey datasets and may not fully reflect the experiences of all refugees in Romania.

» Access the data on UNHCR Microdata Library

UNHCR's Microdata Library is a public online library containing anonymous microdata of persons affected by forced displacement collected by UNHCR, its partners and other third parties.

» See the Romania Socio-Economic Insights Survey (SEIS) 2024 - Final Results Presentation

Demographics

Respondent profile

To provide a clearer understanding of the data presented in the subsequent sections of this report, this first part offers a detailed analysis of the demographic characteristics of the surveyed households. It focuses on both the respondents and their household members, offering insights into the composition of the surveyed population. This includes an examination of household structures, age distributions, gender breakdowns, and the identification of specific vulnerabilities within the refugee population. This demographic analysis helps to contextualize the needs and challenges faced by different segments of the population.

A total of 1,008 households and 2,915 individuals were surveyed, revealing an average household size of three members. In terms of gender, respondents are predominantly female, with women representing 55% of the total number of participants.

The data show that the profile of respondents in **the SEIS sample mainly consists of the 18-34 and 35-59 age groups.** Together, these two groups make up the majority of displaced Ukrainians, with 12% of the women and 8% of the men falling into the youngest category of 18-34 years old. However, the majority of refugees are in the 35-59 age range, which accounts for a combined 65% of the displaced population. This reflects a population of working-age adults, likely to carry the heaviest burdens in terms of supporting families and rebuilding lives in new, often uncertain, environments. Among women, the 35-59 category represents 36% of the total female refugee population, and for men it is 29%.

At the other end of the spectrum, the older persons are also represented among the refugees. Although smaller in number, the 60+ age group makes up a significant portion of the displaced with 7% of the female population and 8% of the male population.

Figure 1 | Gender breakdown of the respondents

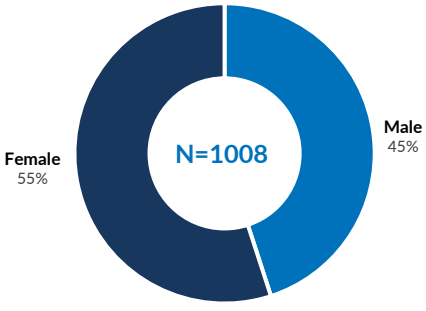
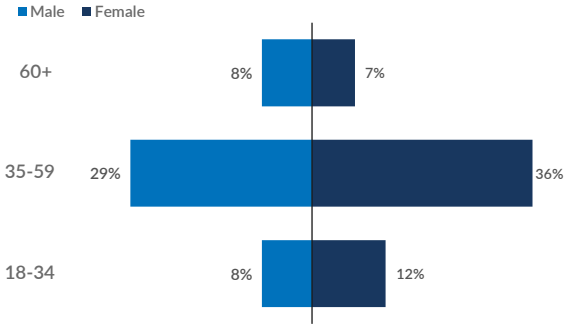


Figure 2 | Distribution of respondents by gender and age | N=1008



While the majority of refugees in this dataset are Ukrainian, a small proportion belong to other nationalities. A total of seven refugees (0.6% of the total population) are of non-Ukrainian origin, including individuals from neighboring countries such as Moldova, Russia, Hungary, and Slovakia.

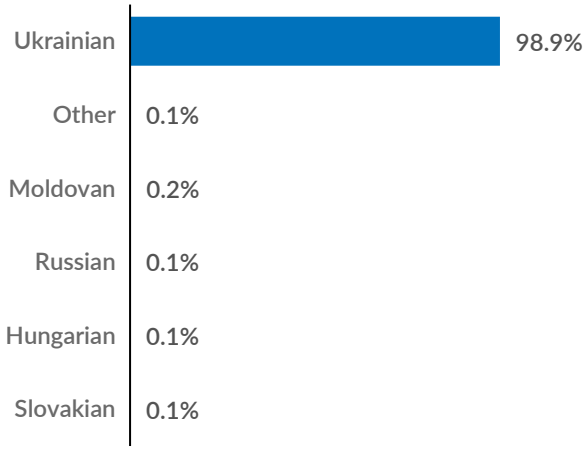
Moldovans represent one of the smaller groups within this refugee population, with just three individuals (0.2% of the total).

When talking about ethnicity (self-identifying) in both 2023 and 2024, Ukrainians remain the dominant ethnic group among refugees, with 96% in 2023 and 94% in 2024. The slight decline in the percentage of Ukrainian refugees from 96% in 2023 to 94% in 2024 can be attributed to the growing presence of other ethnic groups among the displaced, particularly those who were already living in Ukraine prior to the war or are part of communities with close ties to the region.

In 2024, the proportion of Romanian refugees increased to 3%, up from just 1% in 2023. This increase in Romanian refugees can be explained by the presence of Ukrainian nationals with Romanian heritage, who historically lived in some of the parts of Ukraine, especially those which share a common border with Romania. In both 2023 and 2024, Russian refugees made up a small proportion of the displaced population,

Figure 3 | **Distribution of respondents by citizenship**

N=1008

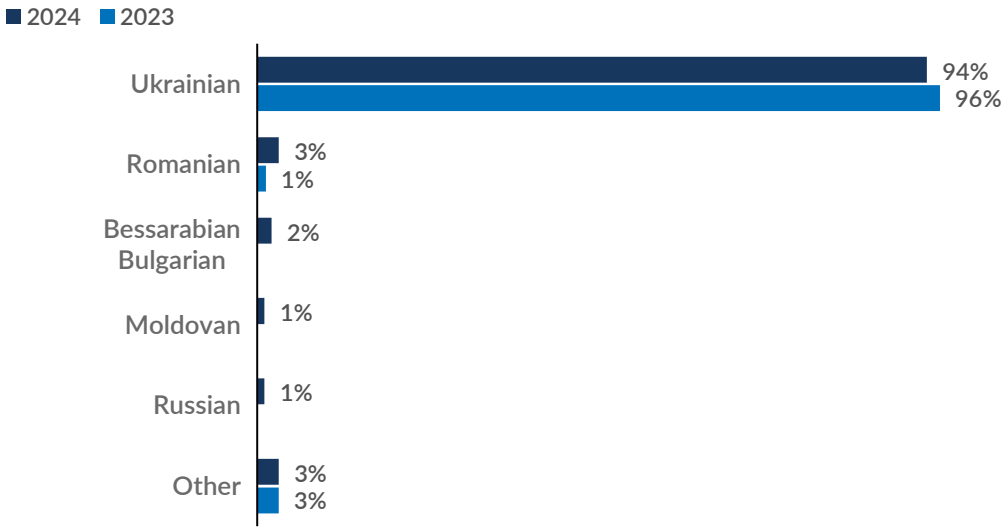


with 1% in 2024. Similarly, Moldovan refugees also account for 1% in 2024, as Moldova is closely tied to Ukraine, both geographically and historically. These individuals may be part of the Moldovan diaspora in Ukraine.

A notable portion in the ethnic composition for 2024 is the appearance of Bessarabian Bulgarians, who make up 2% of the refugee population. This group represents ethnic Bulgarians who live in the Bessarabian region of Ukraine, an area historically shared by both Ukraine and Moldova.

Figure 4 | **Distribution of respondents by ethnicity (self-identified)**

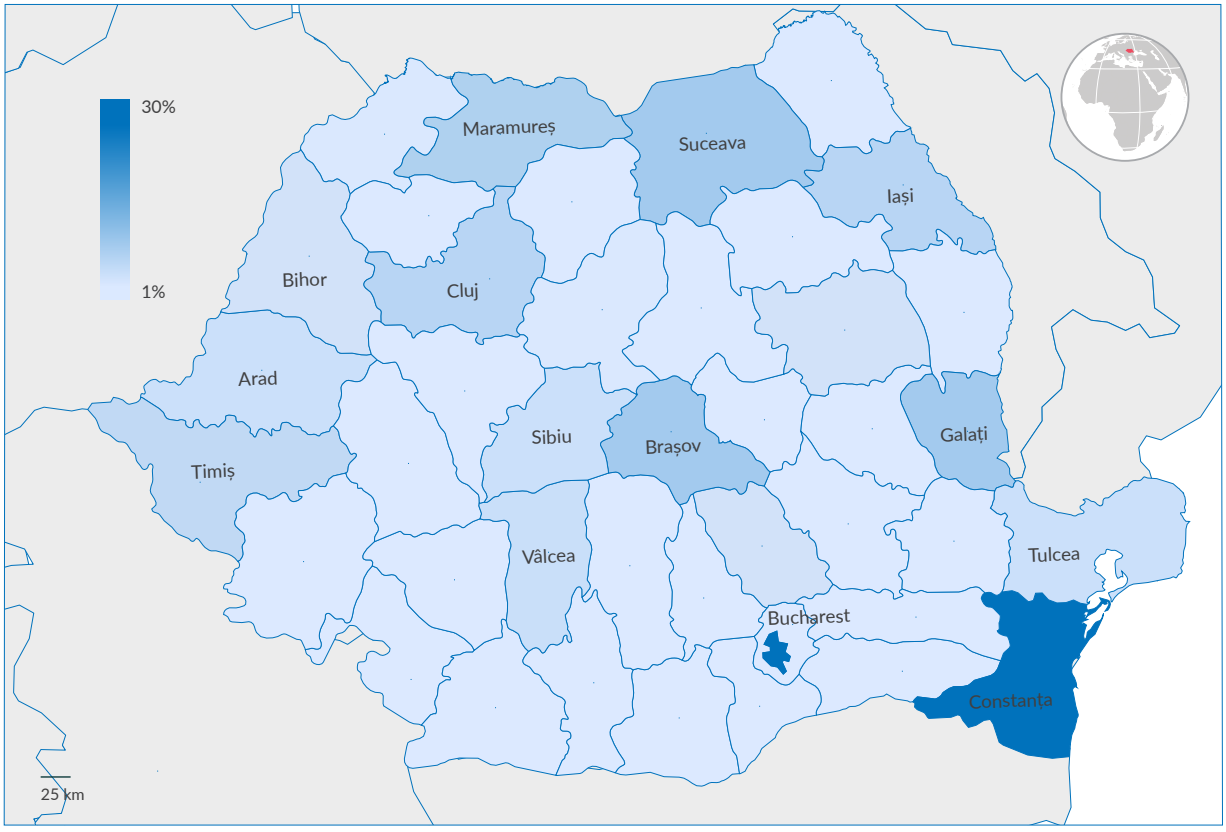
N=1008



The "other" category remains constant at 3% in both 2023 and 2024, indicating that there is a variety of smaller ethnic groups among the refugee population. This category could include individuals of diverse backgrounds who have lived in Ukraine or its neighboring regions for years, adding to the ethnic diversity of those fleeing the conflict.

The SEIS findings reveal a significant urban concentration among the refugees from Ukraine in Romania. A substantial 92% of respondents reported that their households are located in urban areas, reflecting a strong preference for cities or towns, likely due to better access to employment, education, and essential services. Conversely, only 8% of respondents reside in rural regions, indicating a much smaller representation of displaced individuals in less densely populated areas. This data reflects a broad geographic distribution across the country, with a majority of interviews done in big cities. Bucharest led with the highest number of participants, contributing 29% of the total respondents. This reflects the city's role as a densely populated urban center and a potential hub of survey engagement. Following Bucharest, Constanța accounted for 24% of respondents, demonstrating strong participation from this coastal region. Suceava came in third with 9% of respondents, while Galați and Brașov each contributed 6%. These figures highlight engagement from various parts of the country, both urban and semi-urban. Smaller but noteworthy contributions came from Maramureș (4%), Timiș (3%), and Cluj (3%), each reflecting the diversity of the sample and the geographic spread. Lastly, Iași and Sibiu each represented 2% of respondents.

Map 1 | **Distribution of SEIS respondents by area of residence in Romania**



3 This option wasn't available in the 2023 survey.

In terms of oblast of origin, a significant share of the respondents (38%) reported their households originated from Odesa Oblast, making it the most represented region among the displaced population. Following Odesa, oblasts Khersonska (12%), Mykolaivska (8%), and Kharkivska (7%) account for a substantial proportion of refugees. These areas have been at the forefront of military operations, with heavy shelling, blockades, and destruction of infrastructure prompting mass displacement. Donetska and Zaporiz'ka regions, key territories in the eastern war zone, collectively account for 9% of the displaced population (6% and 3%, respectively). The prolonged violence and contested control in these areas have made them uninhabitable for many. Kyiv and Kyivska Oblast combined account for 11% of respondents' origins (5% from Kyiv and 6% from the surrounding territories). As the political and administrative heart of Ukraine, Kyiv has been a critical target during the invasion. Regions like Zakarpatska, Lvivska, and Ivano-Frankivska in western Ukraine, as well as northern oblasts like Chernihivs'ka and Zhytomyrska, show little to no representation among displaced households. The Chernivtsi region, probably due to its proximity to the Romanian border, shows a relatively high level of representation (5%). Dnipropetrovsk region (4%) have seen moderate levels of displacement, reflecting their proximity to conflict-affected zones.

Map 2 | **Distribution of SEIS respondents by oblast of origin**

Household profiles

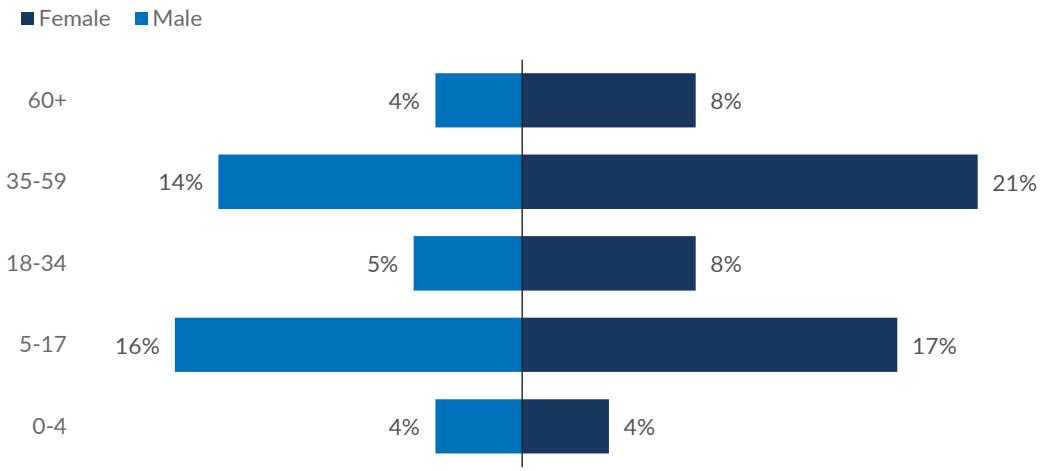
The gender distribution of the refugee population in Romania highlights significant disparities, with 58% of the population being female and 42% male. This imbalance reflects the specific dynamics of the Ukrainian refugee crisis, where men of military age often remain in Ukraine due to conscription policies, leaving women and children to seek refuge abroad.

Boys represent 19% of the population, while girls account for 21%, making children a significant demographic. This highlights the importance of focusing on educational and psychological support for young refugees.

Among adults, women make up 37% of the surveyed population, significantly outnumbering men, who constitute just 23%. This trend underscores the role of women as the primary caregivers and heads of households during displacement.

Figure 5 | Population pyramide by gender and age

N=2915

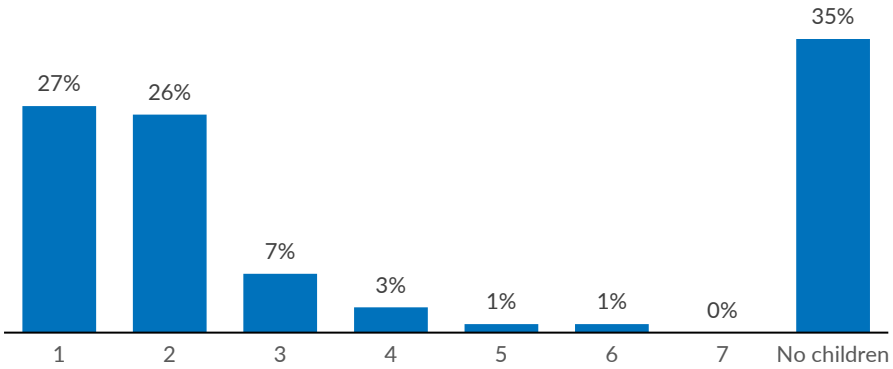


The majority of the families who have children in their composition – 65% – reported having at least one child in their care. Within this group, the distribution of households with children is as follows: 27% have one child, 26% have two children, 7% have three children, 3% have four children, and 1% have five children. Another 1% care for six children, while no households report seven or more.

A small portion of households, specifically 3%, include an infant under 12 months old, highlighting the need for targeted support for newborns and their caregivers. In addition, 5% of households reported having a breastfeeding member. Furthermore, 3% of households have a pregnant member, which stresses the critical need for accessible prenatal care and other essential healthcare services to support expectant mothers.

Figure 6 | Distribution of HHs by the number of children

N=1008



Health-related vulnerabilities are a significant concern among the displaced population in Romania. A substantial 60% of surveyed households report having at least one member with a chronic illness, indicating the need for ongoing medical care and management. Moreover, 25% of households have at least one member with a disability, highlighting the importance of ensuring accessibility and support for individuals with disabilities. Additionally, 27% of households include at least one member over the age of 60, which further emphasizes the necessity for age-appropriate healthcare services and social support for the older persons.

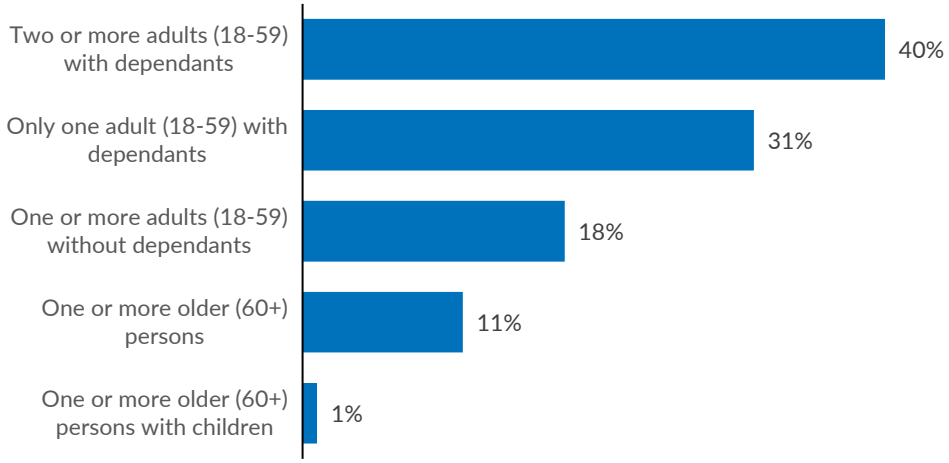
Despite the upheaval, 57% of households report at least one employed member. This relatively high percentage demonstrates the resilience and adaptability of displaced individuals, many of whom strive to find work to support their families even in unfamiliar environments. However, securing stable and fair employment remains a challenge due to legal, linguistic, and logistical barriers in host countries.

Household typology number one organizes households primarily based on age groups and the presence of dependents. The largest group of refugees comprises households with two or more adults aged 18 to 59, accompanied by dependents. These households account for 40% of the refugee population. Typically, they consist of families where both parents or caregivers are responsible for caring for children or other dependents.

A significant portion, 31%, of refugee households are headed by a single adult aged 18 to 59 with dependents. These households, often led by single mothers or fathers, face unique challenges such as securing adequate housing, employment, and social services. Single-parent households often experience added stress as they manage both the physical and emotional demands of caregiving.

11% of refugee households include one or more older adults aged 60 and above. Older refugees face additional vulnerabilities, including mobility issues, chronic health conditions, and social isolation. Additionally language barrier poses significantly greater challenges for older individuals compared to the younger generation. Access to healthcare services, medications, mobility aids, and emotional support is critical for this demographic. A smaller group, comprising 1% of households, includes both older adults (60+) and children. These families face compounded vulnerabilities, as older caregivers may struggle with the physical demands of caring for young children.

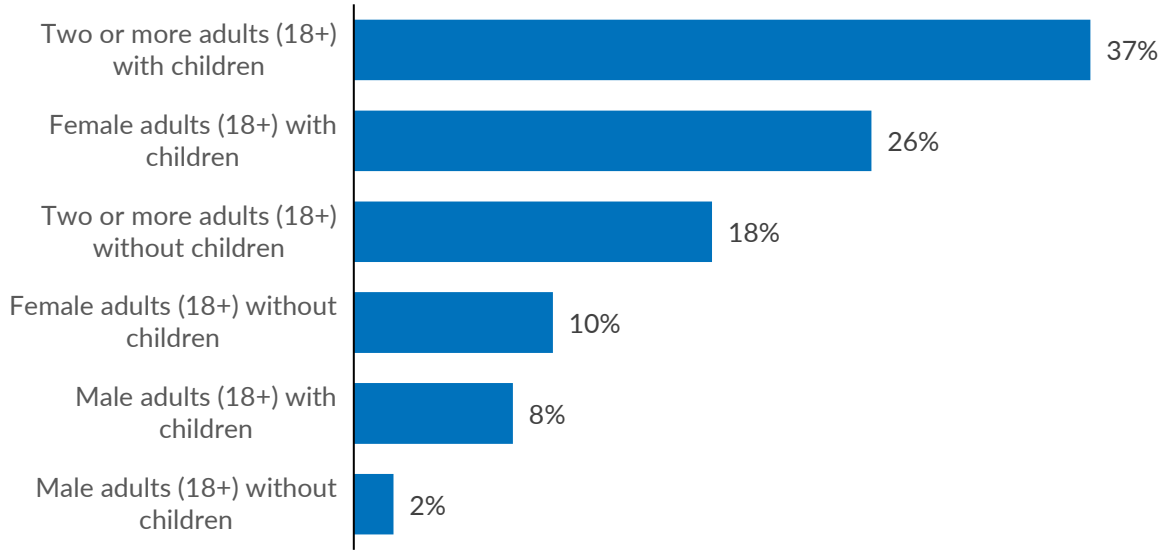
Figure 7 | **Composition and dependency patterns (household typology one)**
N=1008



Household typology number two classifies households based on the number of adults (18+), gender, and whether they have children. It recognizes gender dynamics and family roles. The largest group, 37%, consists of families with both adults and children. These households require support in areas such as childcare, education, healthcare, and housing. A significant 26% of refugee households are headed by female adults with children. This group faces unique challenges, including increased caregiving responsibilities, difficulty securing stable employment, and emotional stress. Female-headed households are in need of targeted support such as maternal healthcare, child services, and financial aid to help women manage the dual roles of caregiver and provider. Two or more adults (18+) without children comprising 18%, consists of couples or adults fleeing together without dependents. They primarily need support with employment and housing. Only 8% of households are headed by men with children, reflecting the impact of conscription. This relatively smaller proportion suggests that fewer men have been able to flee with their children due to conscription policies or the need to stay behind in Ukraine. Male-headed households with children may encounter unique challenges related to caregiving, balancing work responsibilities, and accessing support systems typically tailored to female caregivers.

The majority of Ukrainian refugees in Romania have been displaced for an extended period due to the ongoing war. 57% have been displaced for more than two years, while 33% have been displaced for 1-2 years. A smaller portion, 7%, has been displaced for less than a year, reflecting more recent arrivals. Only 3% of households have missing data on their length of displacement, and no refugees reported being displaced for more than three years.

Figure 8 | **Adult composition and presence of children (household typology two)**
N=1008



Education

The education section highlights two key aspects: children's enrollment in Romanian and Ukrainian school systems, and the overall education level of adults.

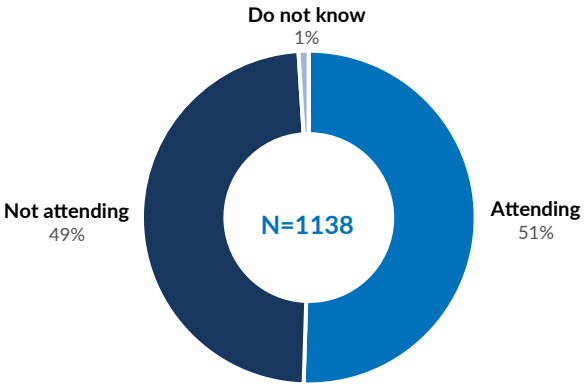
Education is a critical area for refugee inclusion, addressing both the need to reintegrate children into learning routines and the capacity of their caregivers — many of whom are single parents (31%) — to access training, employment, or livelihood opportunities and integrate into the labor market. It also reflects the preparedness and capacity of governments to accommodate refugees, as well as refugees' ability to adapt to a new culture and language.

The integration of Ukrainian refugee children and young people into the Romanian education systems **remains a critical priority for ensuring their long-term well-being and development and goes beyond ensuring sufficient physical space in schools.** The Ukrainian and Romanian education systems differ significantly, with limited alignment or recognized pathways for transitioning between the two, including the validation of certificates or the similarity of the courses done. The lack of a shared language and alphabet — Ukrainian being Slavic and Romanian Latin — adds to the complexity. These factors influence Ukrainian refugees' choices regarding education pathways (Ukrainian, Romanian, or a mix) and modalities (face-to-face, distance, or blended learning). While the Romanian Government adopted an Emergency Decree (96/2024) that addresses the the aspects related to access to education, the implementing institutions, including County School Inspectorates need more guidance, budgets and supervisions for better implementing these measures. Many refugee children face barriers such as language difficulties, limited availability of school placements, and social or cultural adjustment issues. For those not enrolled in Romania's formal education system, remote or online learning — often through the Ukrainian national education system or international platforms — serves as an alternative, yet it comes with its own set of challenges, including accessibility, supervision, and quality of instruction.

As per the sample, the total percentage of children (aged 0-17) represents 40% of the Ukrainian population, indicating a rather important share of a young population that needs special attention in terms of programmes and services. The school age group (3-18) represents 38% of the sample and for the purpose of the analysis the age group of 18 years old is included in the analysis, as this is the age most of the pupils finish high school in Romania.

The data shows that 51% of school-aged children surveyed are attending the host country's national education system for the 2023/2024 school year, while 49% are not. This is a slight improvement in comparison to last year results from the MSNA 2023, when 40% of the school aged children were attending the national education system[4]. However, this nearly equal split highlights significant challenges in integrating refugee children into the host country's education system. Moreover, 65% of school aged children are learning online, following the remote school system offered by the Ukrainian state. Out of the total number of children, around 10% are neither attending the Romanian national education system, nor the on-line Ukrainian system.

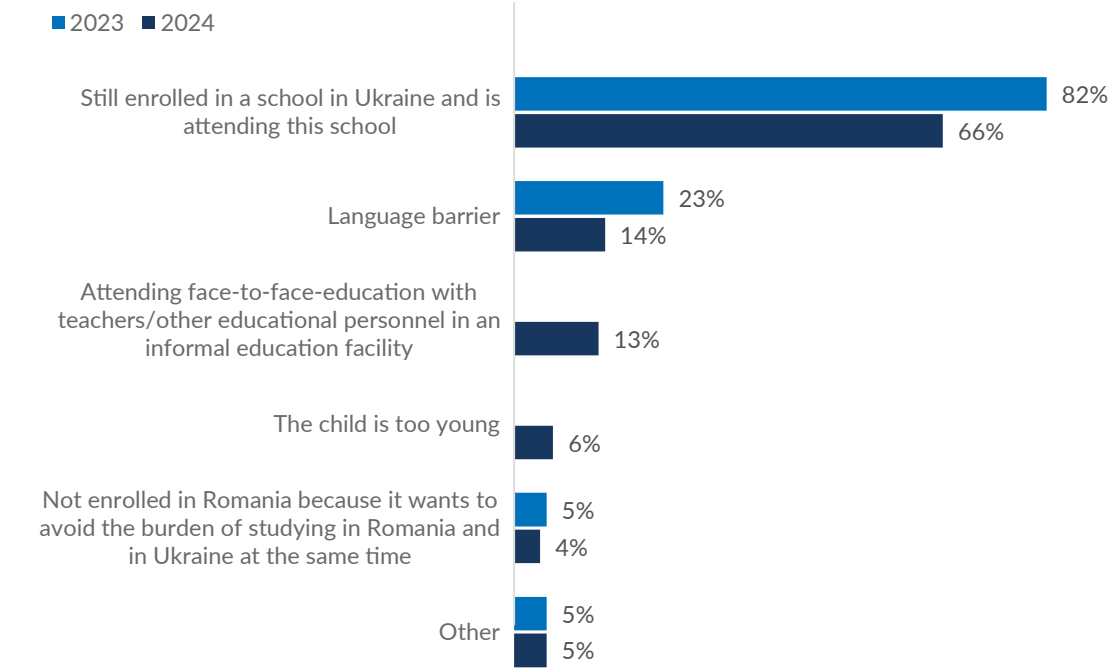
Figure 9 | % of school aged children reported attending 2023/2024 school year in host country national system



The primary barriers to enrolling children in host country schools highlight continued preference for the Ukrainian online education system, with 66% of children still enrolled in the online learning system in 2024, down from 82% in 2023. Language barriers remain significant, though they decreased from 23% in 2023 to 14% in 2024, indicating gradual progress. Additionally, 13% of children attend informal education facilities in 2024, showcasing the importance of alternative education pathways. Other barriers include children being too young (6%) and the caregivers' reluctance to enroll simultaneously the children in both Romanian and Ukrainian systems (4-5%). These trends underscore the need to enhance support for integrating children into host-country schools, particularly by addressing language barriers and formalizing informal education options, while recognizing the ongoing reliance on the Ukrainian online education system during the transition.

Figure 10 | Primary barriers for enrolling children in school

N=449

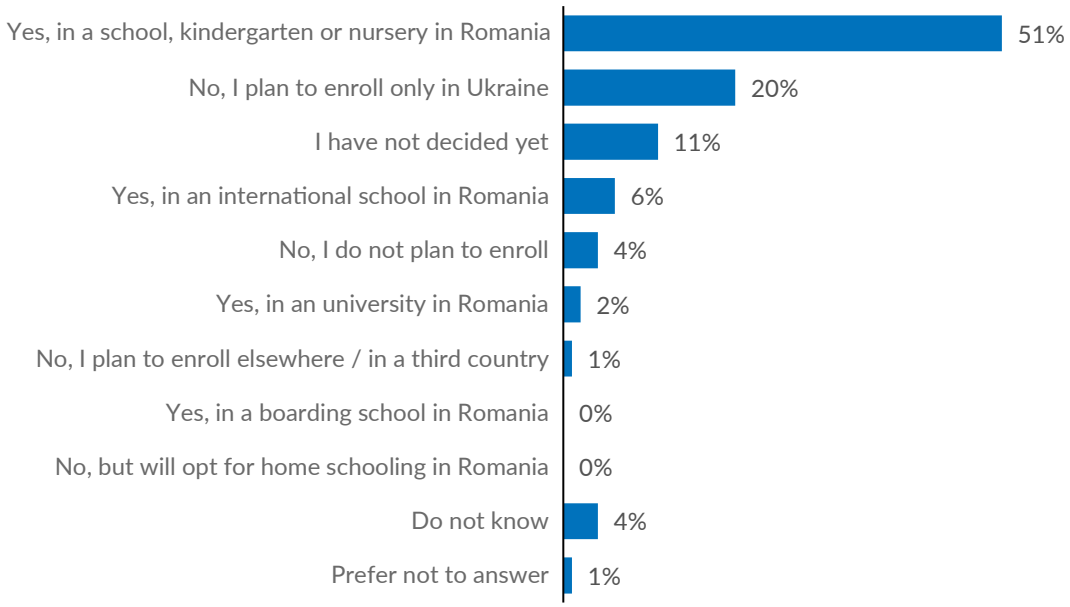


4 MSNA, 2023, link, pg. 15.

When it comes to the enrollment intention for the 2024/2025 school year, the data indicates that over half (51%) of the caregivers plan to enroll their children in Romanian schools, kindergartens, or nurseries, a similar intention to the one recorded for the 2023/2024 school year. In addition, authorities need to intensify their efforts in making the national system more attractive and accessible for Ukrainian children. Equally important, 20% of school aged children plan to continue education exclusively in Ukraine, and 11% remain undecided, highlighting ongoing ties to the Ukrainian education system and uncertainty among families.

Smaller percentages show interest in alternative options, such as international schools in Romania (6%) or universities in Romania (2%), but these results are also explained due to the different age ranges of the children from the sample. Another 4% are unsure about their plans, while the other 4% do not intend to enroll their children in any formal education system. Other options, such as enrollment in a third country (1%) or homeschooling in Romania (0%), are minimal. This data underscores the need for targeted outreach to undecided families and those continuing Ukrainian education to support integration and address barriers to enrollment in Romanian schools.

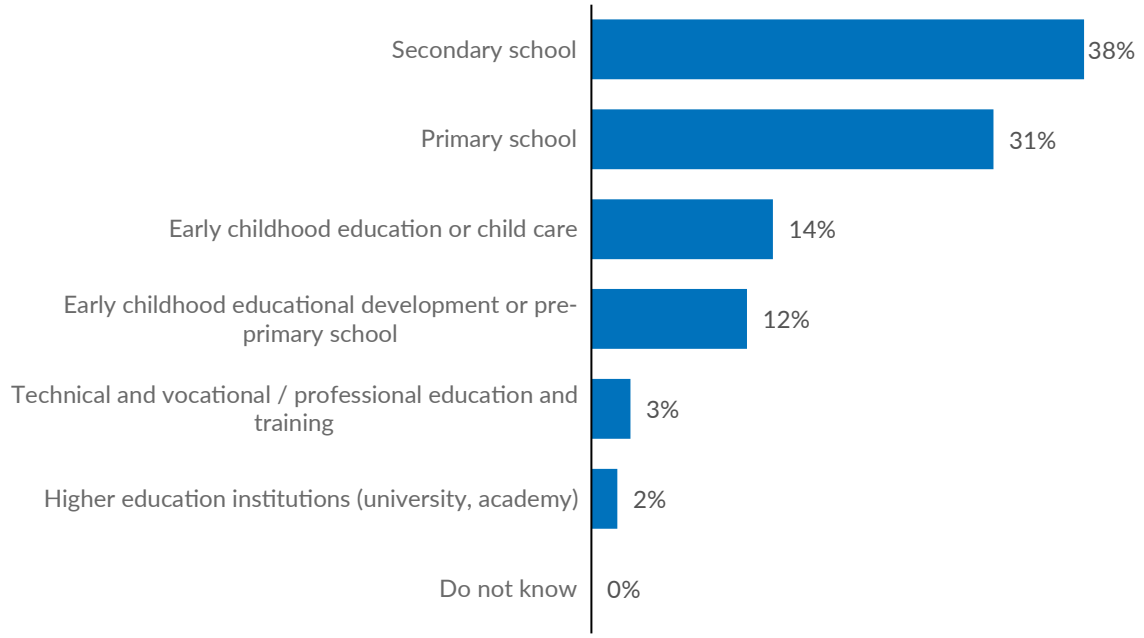
Figure 11 | **Intention to enroll the child to the formal education system in Romania, in 2024/2025**
N=1138



In terms of the last level of education attained by the children and young people enrolled in the host country's education system during the 2023/2024 school year, as per the sample, 38% attended secondary school, making it the largest group. One in three children attained primary education, indicating strong participation in basic education levels. Early childhood education and child care accounted for 14%, while pre-primary educational development comprised 12%, reflecting enrollment also among younger age groups.

Participation in technical, vocational, or professional training was relatively low at 3%, and only 2% were enrolled in higher education institutions, likely due to the age demographics of the respondents. Notably, no participants were uncertain about their educational level, indicating reliable data collection.

Figure 12 | Last level of education attained during school year 2023/2024
N=575

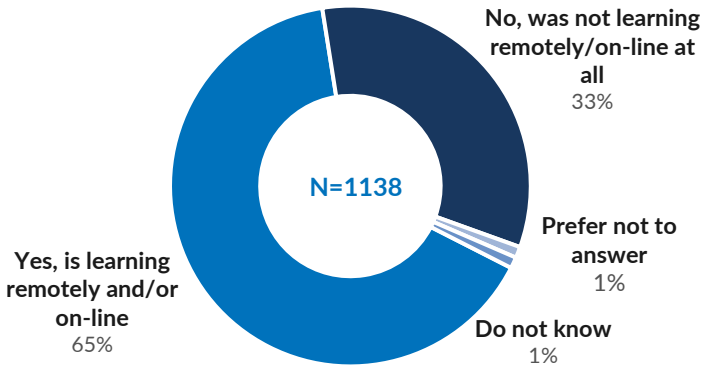


Ukrainian distance learning

Ukrainian distance learning remained a vital educational option for refugee children during the 2023/2024 school year. With 65% of school-aged children engaged in remote or online education, many families rely on this approach to maintain continuity with the Ukrainian curriculum while navigating the challenges of displacement.

Language barriers, cultural differences, and the alignment of educational systems between Ukraine and Romania, further reinforce this reliance. Meanwhile, one in three children were not involved in any remote or online learning, indicating that a substantial proportion of families opted for in-person or other educational arrangements.

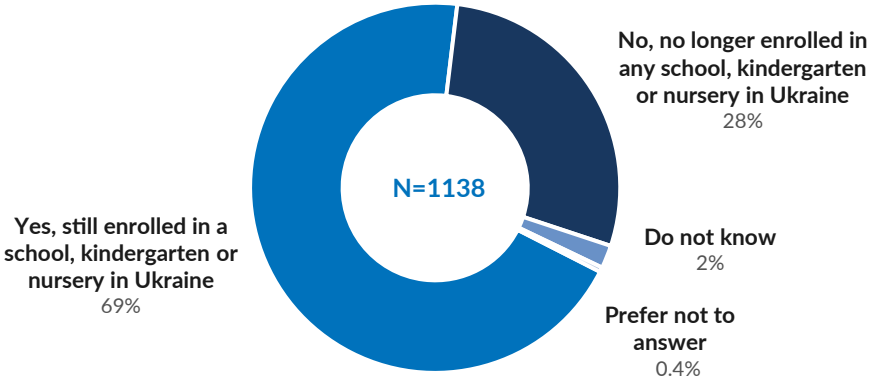
Figure 13 | % of school aged children learning remotely or online in the 2023/2024 school year



This distribution reflects the ongoing importance of remote learning for refugee families, likely due to barriers to accessing in-person education, such as language challenges, the preference for continuity with the Ukrainian education system or for informal educational hubs.

Moreover, as per the sample 69% of school-aged children remain formally enrolled in Ukraine's education system, even while living abroad, indicating strong ties to their home country's curriculum and schooling structure. Meanwhile, 28% are no longer enrolled in any educational institution in Ukraine, reflecting a shift toward integration into host country or alternative education systems. A small percentage of respondents (2%) are uncertain about their child's enrollment status.

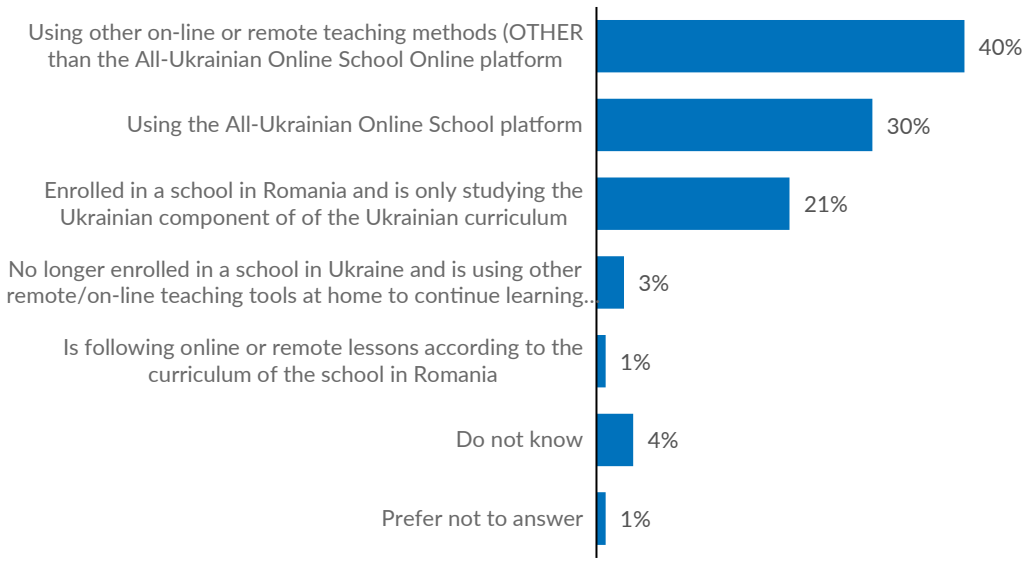
Figure 14 | % of school aged children formally enrolled in education in Ukraine (even being abroad)



When asked about the remote or online learning programmes the school aged children were attending, the largest group (40%) uses alternative online teaching methods beyond the All-Ukrainian Online School platform, while one in three children rely on the platform itself, underscoring its central role in maintaining the Ukrainian curriculum. Additionally, 21% of children are studying only the Ukrainian component of their education, but they are enrolled in a school in Romania, reflecting a hybrid approach to balancing both systems. A smaller proportion (3%) continues learning independently using other remote tools, despite no longer being enrolled in Ukrainian schools. Meanwhile, 4% of families are uncertain about

Figure 15 | Type of remote or online learning programs

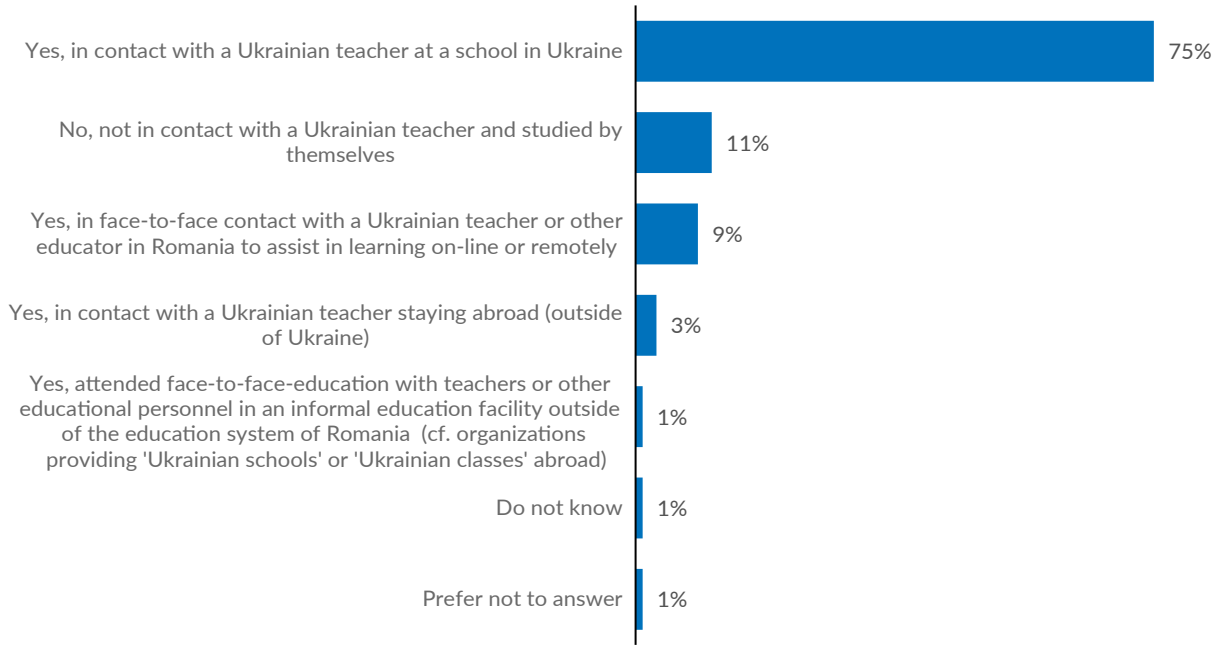
N=765



the type of programme, and minimal numbers (1%) follow the Romanian curriculum remotely or opted not to answer. These findings underscore the importance of providing flexible, accessible educational resources to accommodate the varied needs and preferences of refugee families.

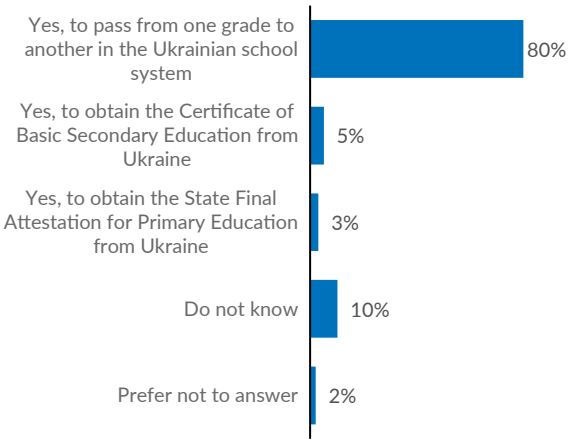
Furthermore, as per the sample, three in four school-aged children studying online remain in contact with a Ukrainian teacher at a school in Ukraine, ensuring a form of continuity and better understanding of the subjects taught online. Meanwhile, 11% study independently without supervision, highlighting potential gaps in access to structured support. Around 9% receive face-to-face assistance from Ukrainian educators in Romania, while only 3% are supported by Ukrainian teachers staying in other countries. A small percentage (1%) attend informal Ukrainian education facilities provided by organizations outside the formal Romanian education system. These findings highlight the continued reliance on Ukraine's education system by refugee families, possibly due to its familiarity, accessibility via remote learning, and alignment with their long-term plans.

Figure 16 | % of school-aged children studying under the supervision of a qualified educator from Ukraine
N=765



Another important dimension worth discussing refers to the participation in Ukrainian school exams while learning online. As per the sample, 80% of school-aged children learning remotely participated in exams to progress to the next grade within the Ukrainian school system, reflecting a strong commitment to maintaining educational continuity. A smaller percentage took exams to obtain the Certificate of Basic Secondary Education (5%) and the State Final Attestation for Primary Education from Ukraine (3%, respectively), indicating varying educational stages. These findings highlight the importance of remote evaluations in supporting academic progression and certification for Ukrainian children studying abroad.

Figure 17 | % of school aged children participating in exams, tests or evaluations while learning remotely N=765

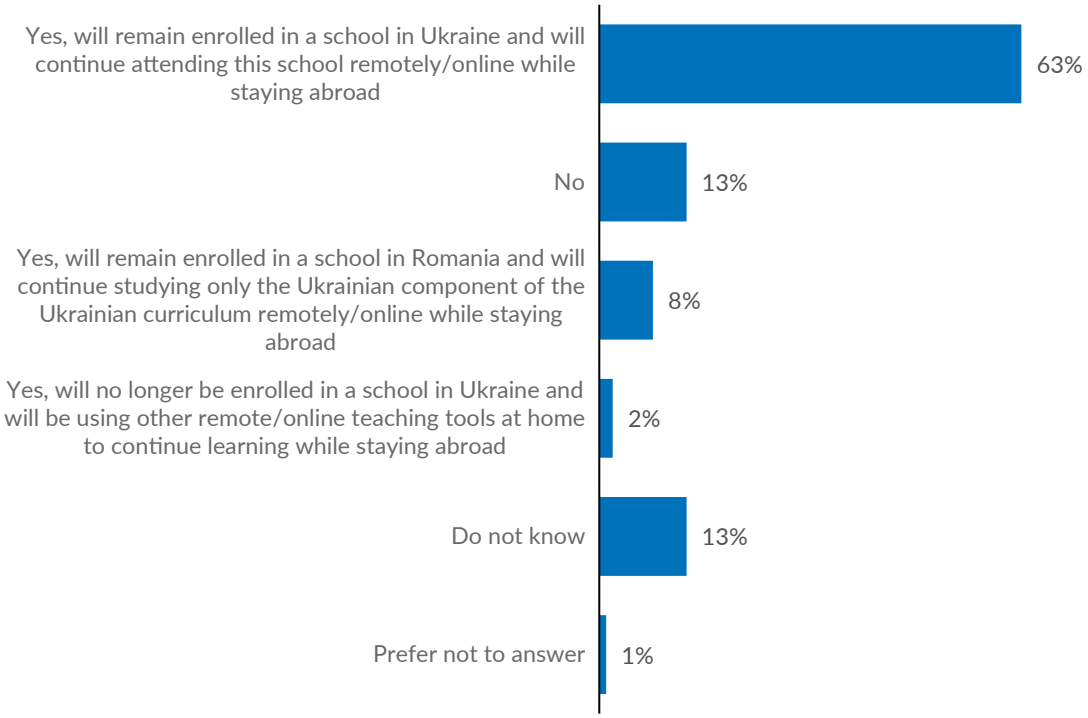


The preference for the online Ukrainian school system remains constant, as 63% of school-aged children plan to continue remote or online learning during the 2024/2025 academic year, demonstrating the sustained importance of maintaining ties to Ukraine's education system. Another 8% intend to remain enrolled in Romanian schools while studying only the Ukrainian component remotely, reflecting a hybrid approach to education. Meanwhile, 13% do not plan to continue remote or online learning, and another 13% are uncertain about their plans, highlighting a potential of enrollment into the Romanian system. A smaller proportion (2%) plan to use independent remote tools without formal enrollment in a Ukrainian school, and 1% preferred not to answer.

These findings emphasize the continued reliance on Ukraine's remote education system while also revealing opportunities to support those exploring alternative or hybrid educational pathways. Addressing uncertainty could further enhance educational stability for refugee families. In addition, the data also underscores the need for host countries to firstly try to fully enroll the refugees in the national education system, leaving behind the audient system and then, accommodate this dual-system dynamic by offering flexible pathways that support educational continuity and integration for these children.

Figure 18 | % of school aged children that will continue online/remotely learning in the school year 2024/2025

N=765



Protection

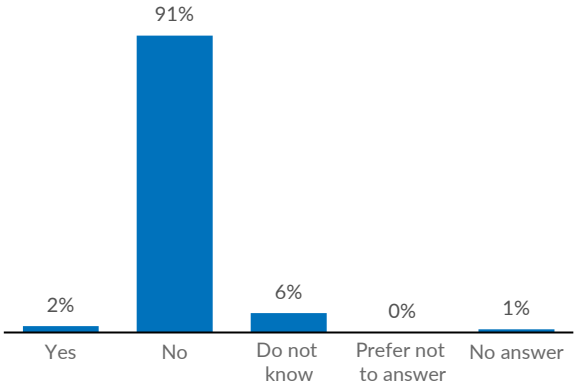
Protecting vulnerable groups, particularly displaced individuals, involves addressing complex legal, administrative, and social challenges.

Key questions highlight critical issues, such as individuals' legal status in their host country and the obstacles they may face in applying for temporary protection. These challenges may include difficulties during the application or extension process, ranging from administrative delays to language barriers. Changes in family composition, such as births, marriages, or deaths, further complicate the situation, as registering these events with civil authorities and obtaining necessary documentation can pose challenges.

Additionally, replacing or renewing identity documents—essential for accessing services and rights—remains a persistent issue for many households, with barriers such as cost, bureaucracy, or lack of knowledge of the procedure exacerbating the problem. Social integration challenges also surface, as some households report experiencing hostility or unwelcoming attitudes from local populations. Understanding the nature and frequency of such behaviors is crucial for creating inclusive and supportive host communities for refugees. These issues underscore the importance of multisectoral efforts to streamline legal processes, improve access to documentation, and foster social cohesion in host countries.

As per the sample, 99% of the households have been granted temporary protection in Romania, indicating a high level of legal inclusion and access to essential rights for refugees under the temporary protection mechanism. Only two respondents out of 1,008 interviewed declared not meeting the eligibility criteria for temporary protection, showing again that, based on the data collected, the Ukrainian refugees are covered by legal recognition and protection. Moreover, 91% of households did not experience difficulties during the application or extension process for temporary protection in 2024, indicating an efficient and accessible system for most applicants. Only 2% reported facing challenges, suggesting that while the process is largely smooth, a small segment of households encountered obstacles that may require targeted attention. Additionally, 6% of respondents were unsure about whether they experienced difficulties, and 1% did not provide an answer. It is noted that the data were collected from May to mid-July, when some refugees had begun to approach the authorities to obtain a new temporary protection permit with an address, which started being issued on 22 May 2024.

Figure 19 | % of HHs who experienced difficulties during the application/extension process in 2024 N=1004

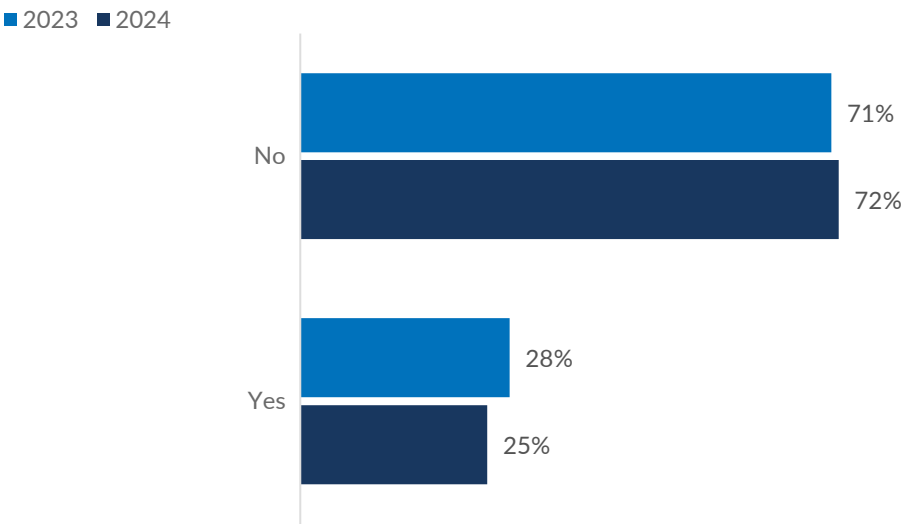


Out of the sample, only 20 respondents indicated challenges. Hence, due to the reduced number of respondents, the findings related to challenges may not be statistically significant and cannot be generalized. As for the primary challenges faced by households during the TP application/extension process, the most significant barrier was the lack of required documents, reported by eight respondents of those experiencing difficulties, which may be linked to the new temporary protection permit, where applicants are required to possess an officially registered rental contract, a title deed or a certification of stay from a collective centre in order to obtain a permit with a complete address on it. Long waiting times for decisions on applications were also a notable issue, affecting three of respondents. Other challenges, each reported by two of the respondents, included difficulties accessing registration points, refusal of access to the registration procedure, and unspecified issues. Online enrollment and complications due to prior registration in another country were each cited by one respondent, along with another one preferring not to answer.

Another important dimension of this section refers to the relationship with the host communities. As per the sample, 25% of households reported experiencing hostile behaviour or attitudes from the local population since arriving in Romania, indicating that a significant minority faced challenges with social acceptance. However, the majority (72%) did not encounter such behavior, reflecting a generally welcoming environment for refugees. These data are very similar to the ones recorded in 2023, when 28% of respondents reported hostile behaviours from the local population, while 71% did not. These findings underscore the importance of fostering social cohesion and addressing negative perceptions or behaviors through community engagement programs, public awareness campaigns, and support networks to ensure a more inclusive environment for refugees.

Figure 20 | % of HHs reporting hostile behaviour or attitudes from the local population since arriving to Romania

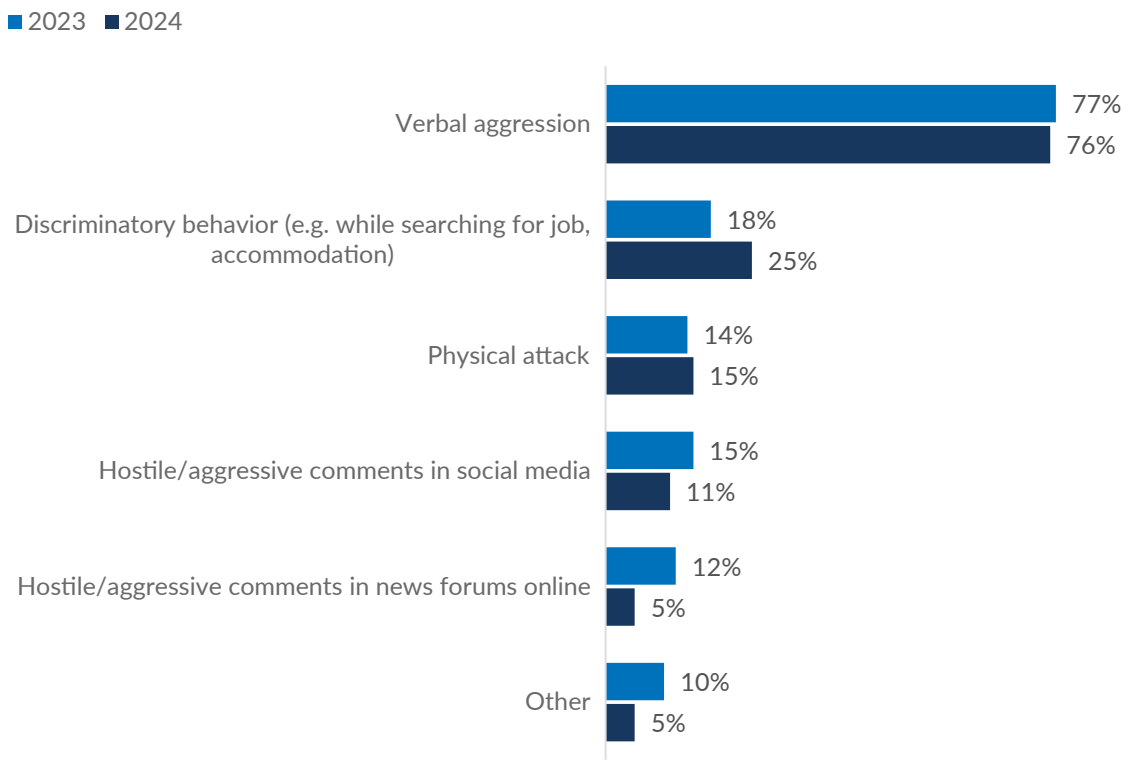
N=1008



When asked about the type of hostile behaviour encountered, the data indicates several similarities between 2024 and 2023. Verbal aggression remains the most common issue, reported by 76% of respondents in 2024, consistent with 77% in 2023, underscoring its prevalence as a concern. Reports of discriminatory behavior increased from 18% in 2023 to 25% in 2024, particularly in contexts such as job searches or securing accommodation, reflecting rising challenges in socio-economic integration. These percentages can be explained by the closure of the programs for accommodation and food subsidy provided by the national government for the Ukrainian refugees. Physical attacks were reported by 15% in 2024, similar to 2023 data (14%), highlighting some ongoing risks to personal safety. Hostile comments on social media decreased from 15% to 11%, as did such comments in news forums, which dropped from 12% to 5%. Other forms of hostility also declined, from 10% in 2023 to 5% in 2024. These findings suggest a need for continuous attention to the prevention of and response to verbal or physical aggression and discrimination by combating misinformation, preconceptions about refugees, fostering positive narratives in both online and offline spaces and raising awareness among refugees regarding mechanisms in place to address such violations (institutions responsible, their contact details, hotlines, etc.).

Figure 21 | Type of hostile behavior reported (MCQ)

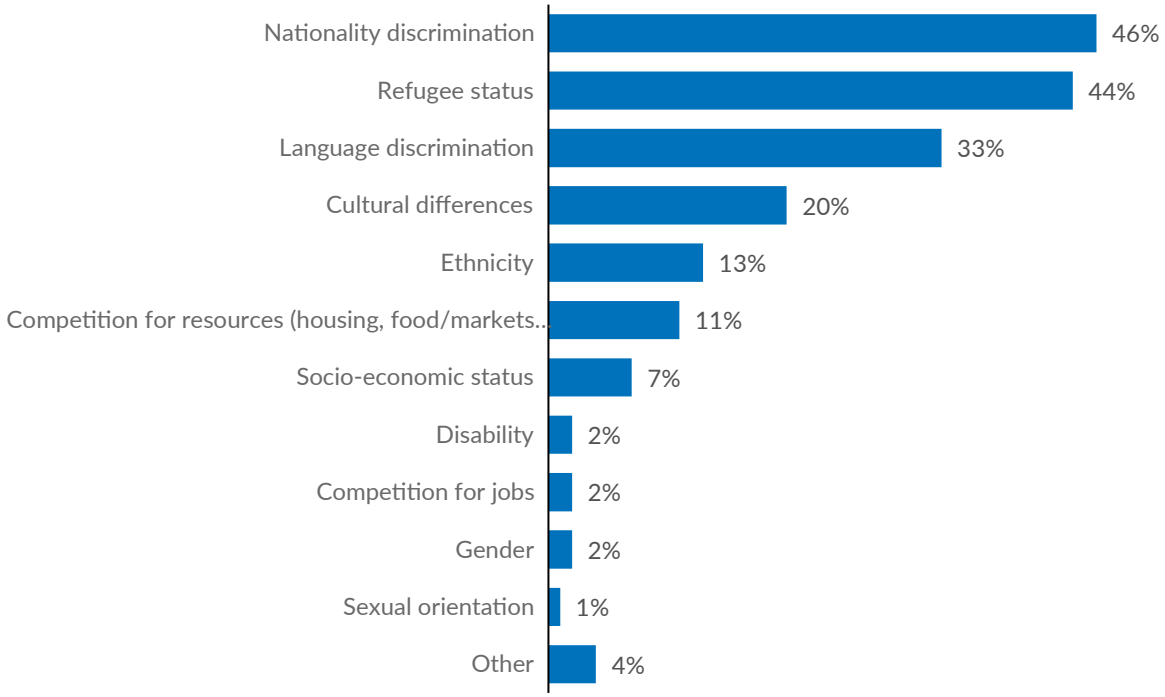
N=293



Respondents were also asked about the perceived reasons behind hostile behavior experienced by households, which are important to analyse and consider for any social cohesion strategies. Perceived nationality discrimination was the most commonly reported factor (46%), followed closely by refugee status (44%). Language discrimination, cited by 33% of respondents, underscores challenges in communication as a significant source of tension. Cultural differences were identified by 20% of respondents, reflecting the impact of diverse social norms and practices. Less frequently mentioned factors included ethnicity (13%), competition for resources such as housing or food (11%), and socio-economic status (7%). Gender, competition for jobs, and disability were each reported by 2%, while sexual orientation accounted for 1%. These findings highlight the complex interplay of identity, status, and resource-based tensions, emphasizing the need for initiatives that promote social inclusion, language acquisition, and intercultural understanding to reduce discrimination and foster community cohesion.

Figure 22 | % of HH reporting assumed reason for hostile behaviour

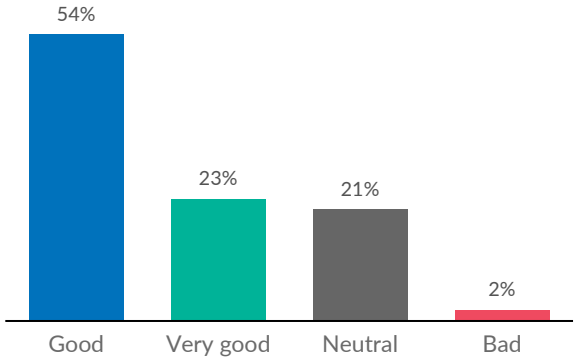
N=293



However, despite the existing hostile behaviours, the great majority of households (77%) report a positive relationship with the host community, with 54% describing it as "good" and 23% as "very good." Additionally, 21% of respondents characterized their relationship as "neutral," suggesting neither significant challenges nor strong engagement. Only 2% reported a "bad" relationship, indicating that negative interactions are rare. These findings highlight an overall favorable dynamic between refugees and the host community, emphasizing the potential for further fostering integration and collaboration.

Figure 23 | Relationship with the host community

N=1008

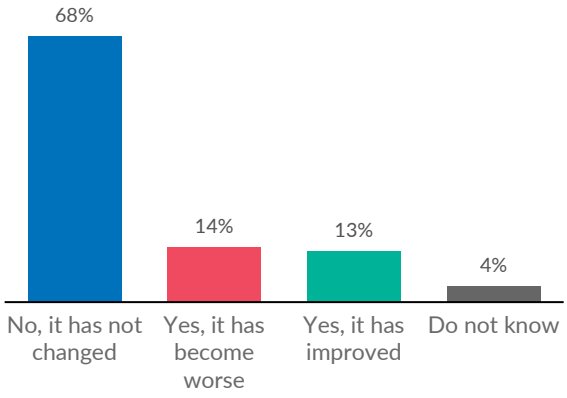


However, the neutral and negative responses suggest areas for improvement, particularly in building stronger connections and addressing any underlying tensions or barriers to mutual understanding.

Moreover, more than two out of three households (68%) indicate that the relationship with the host community has remained unchanged since their arrival and for 13% has improved. However, 14% reported that their relationship has worsened suggesting a mixed experience of inclusion and community dynamics. These findings highlight that while the majority experience stability in their relationships, for some the experience has worsened, indicating a need for targeted communication programmes and bridging events.

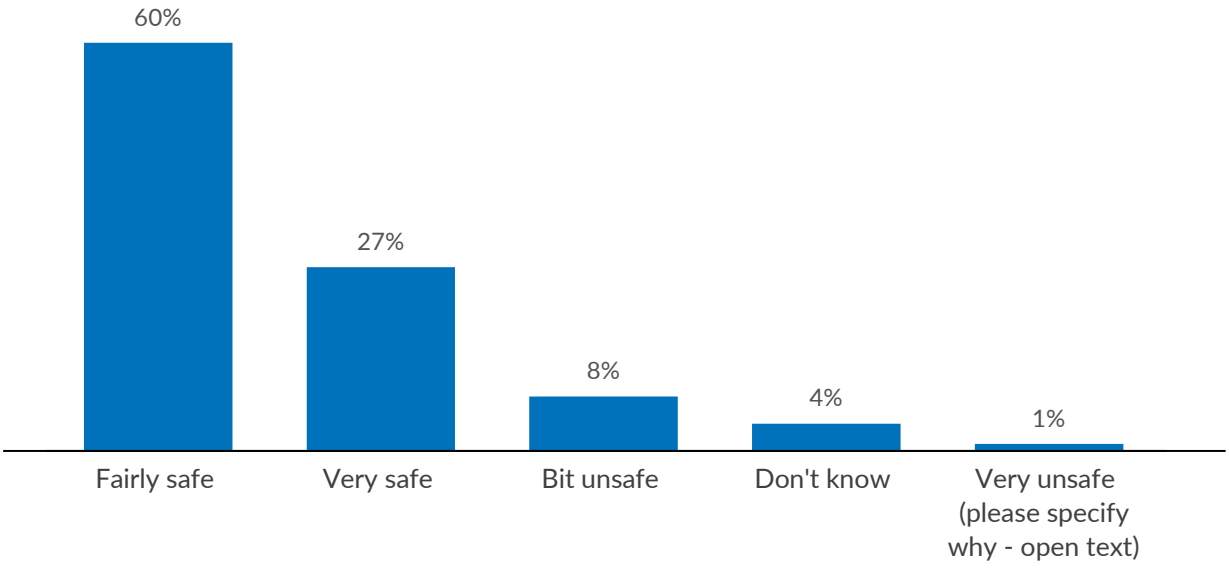
In connection with the relationship with the host community, the vast majority of households (87%) declared feeling safe walking alone after dark, with 60% describing themselves as "fairly safe" and 27% as "very safe." A smaller proportion, 8%, reported feeling "a bit unsafe," while 4% were unsure about their safety. Only 1% expressed feeling "very unsafe," which represents just 9 responses out of the sample.

Figure 24 | **Changes in the relationship with the host community since the first arrival**
N=1008



These findings suggest that most respondents have a positive perception of safety in their communities, though a minority still experiences some unease. Addressing the concerns of those who feel unsafe, through measures like improved lighting, community policing, or public safety campaigns, could further enhance the overall sense of security.

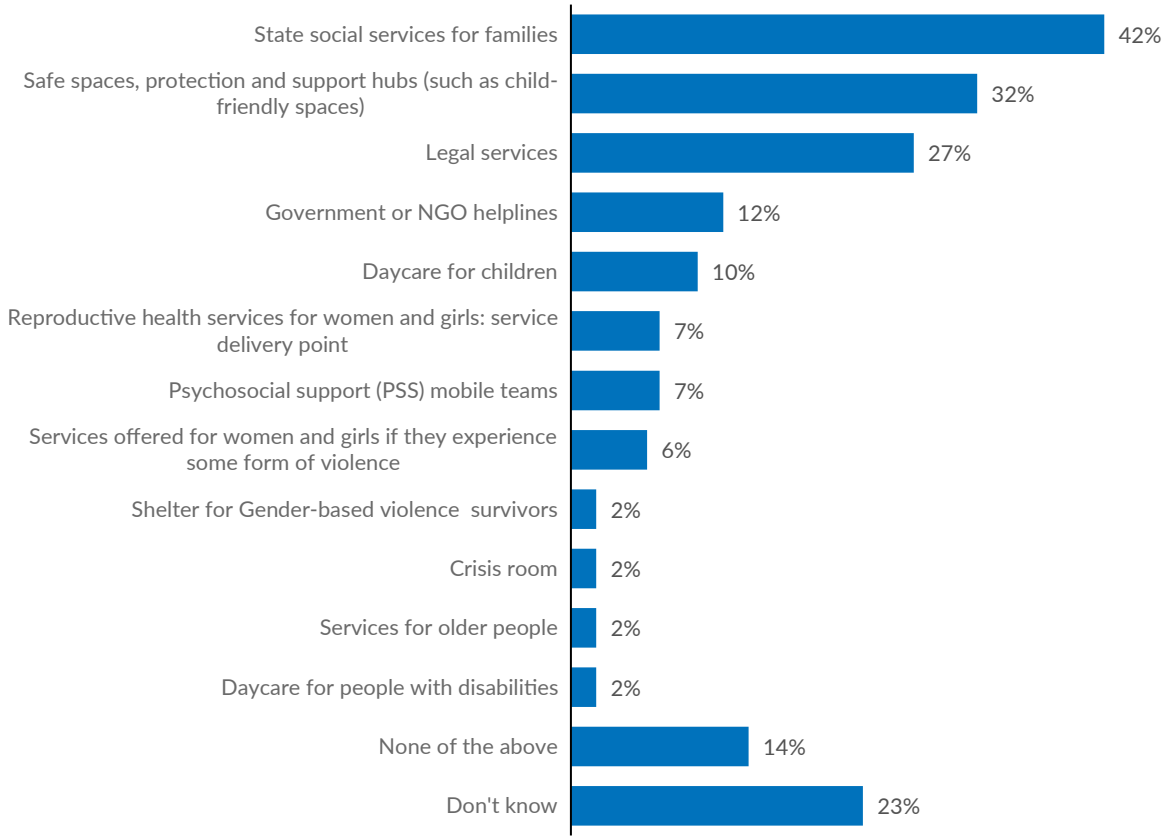
Figure 25 | **% of HH reported feeling safe walking alone after dark**
N=1008



Also, when asked about their awareness about protection services, 42% of respondents indicated the state social services for families followed by safe spaces and protection hubs like child-friendly spaces (32%) and legal services (27%). However, 23% of respondents reported not knowing about any social and legal protection services, and 14% were unaware of any specific service types, reflecting significant gaps in awareness. Awareness of specialized services (including services designed and/or delivered by professionals who address specific needs like daycare, hubs, etc.) remains low, including government or NGO helplines (12%), daycare for children (10%), and mobile psychosocial support teams (7%). Critical services for women and girls, such as reproductive health services (7%) and violence support services (6%), also have limited recognition. Awareness of daycare for people with disabilities, older people's services, crisis rooms, and gender based violence (GBV) shelters is minimal (2% each). These findings emphasize the need for targeted outreach and education campaigns to increase awareness and accessibility of protection services among refugees, particularly for marginalized groups and survivors of violence (GBV and other forms of violence).

Figure 26 | Awareness of protection services (MCQ)

N=1008

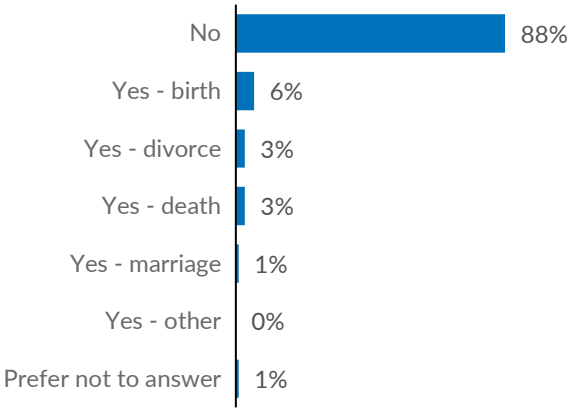


Another core discussion on the Protection section refers to changes in the household composition and the registration of these events to the civil authorities. As per the sample, the majority of households (88%) have not experienced any changes in their family composition or civil status since departing Ukraine. Among those who did, the most common change was birth (6%), followed by deaths (3%) and divorces (3%). Marriages accounted for 1% of changes, while 1% preferred not to answer. These findings underscore the need for accessible civil registration services in host countries to address these civil status changes and ensure appropriate documentation.

When asked about the challenges encountered in the renewal of documents in the host country, 72% of households did not face any obstacles in registering life events such as births, marriages, divorces, or deaths with civil authorities in the host country, suggesting an accessible registration process for most. However, 18% reported encountering difficulties, highlighting potential barriers such as bureaucratic procedures, language issues, or lack of required documentation. An additional 8% were unsure about whether they faced challenges, and 3% preferred not to answer, indicating some uncertainty or sensitivity around the issue. These findings underscore the importance of simplifying birth registration processes - especially documentary requirements and related procedures - providing multilingual support, and ensuring that displaced households have clear guidance to navigate civil documentation requirements effectively. Among the 17 respondents who reported challenges, five tried to register but could not meet the requirements, four did not know how to register with the authorities, three were waiting for the issuing of the documents and six chose other options, mostly related to the bureaucratic process.

Figure 27 | % of HH who have registered changes in their family composition / civil status since departure from Ukraine

N=1008



The change and renewal of identity documents represents another important dimension of the protection mechanisms. As per the sample, only 30% of households were able to obtain, replace, or renew identity documents with host country authorities, while a significant 39% were unable to do so. Additionally, 28% of respondents were uncertain about their ability to secure such documents, highlighting potential gaps in awareness or communication regarding the process. A small percentage (2%) preferred not to answer. These findings indicate that access to identity document services poses significant challenges for many households.

Figure 28 | % of HH who faced challenges to register to the civil authorities in the host country the events (birth, marriage, divorce, death, etc)

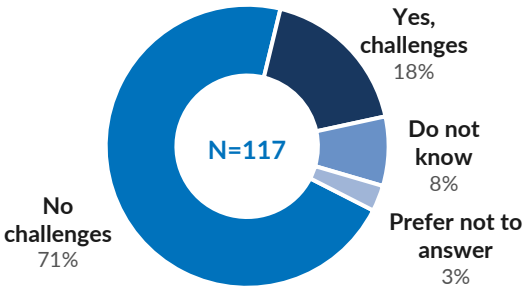
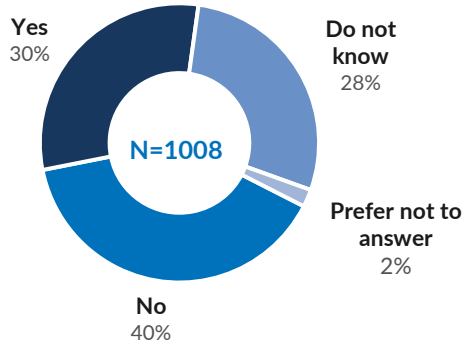


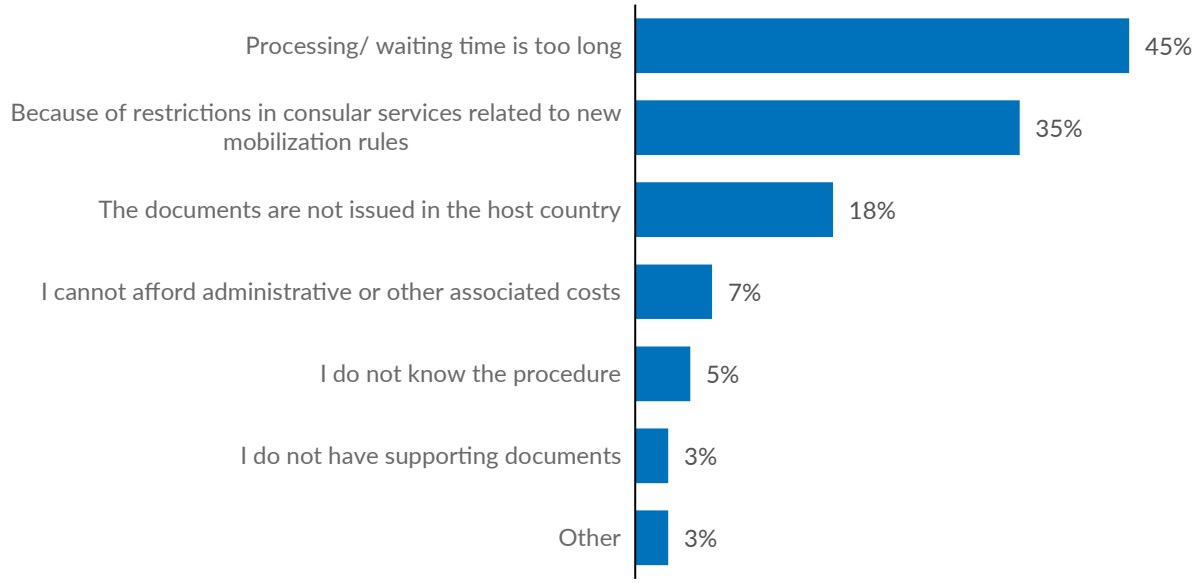
Figure 29 | % of households able to obtain or replace / renew identity documents with host country authorities



In addition, while the data collected through the sample do not offer extensive insights about the number of children under 5 registered with a civil authority, with only 2 respondents declaring their children have been registered with civil authorities in another country, there are two important aspects to be discussed. Firstly, the questions from future surveys need to be clearer and to offer explanations about the meaning of civil authorities and the process of recording. Secondly, the question needs to be splitted, one asking if the caregivers have registered the birth using consular services or in Ukraine and another one asking if they recorded the birth to the Romanian civil authorities.

Moreover, when asked about the challenges faced in replacing/renewing identity documents, the most commonly reported issue is long processing or waiting times, indicated by 45% of respondents, underscoring administrative inefficiencies. Restrictions in consular services related to new mobilization rules affect 35%, reflecting policy constraints impacting document accessibility. Additionally, 18% reported that the documents are not issued in the host country, but need to be obtained in Ukraine. Financial barriers are also present, with 7% unable to afford administrative or associated costs. A lack of knowledge about the procedure (5%) and absence of supporting documents (3%) further complicate the process. These findings emphasize the importance of reducing bureaucratic backlogs with consular services and the cost of renewing identity documents. The restrictions relating to the new mobilization rules are also a significant source of concern and uncertainty among those who are affected by them. Equally important, when asked about the documents needed to be replaced since their departure from Ukraine, the international biometric passports (32%), the internal passports (9%) and the ID cards (3%) were the options frequently mentioned. However, 52% of respondents chose the "none of the above" option, indicating that either the question was not properly understood or there may be other documents not listed in the response options, or they were not in need of renewing any documents.

Figure 30 | Reported challenges faced in replacing/renewing identity documents (MCQ)
N=374

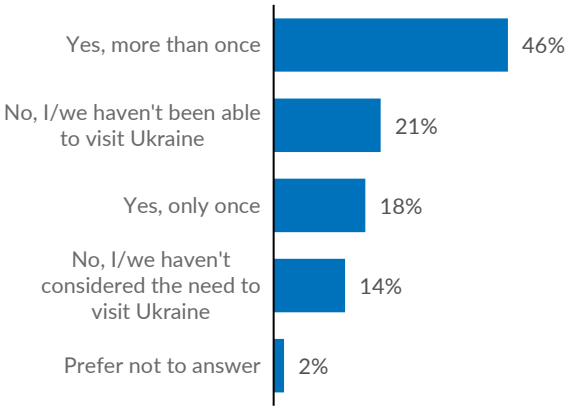


Short term visits to Ukraine

This subsection addresses the topic of short term visits to Ukraine and it explores whether household members return to Ukraine, what are the main reasons, the challenges and their overall mobility intention in or outside Romania.

As per the sample, a significant portion of households (64%) have had one or more members return to visit Ukraine after 24 February 2022, with 46% visiting more than once and 18% visiting only once. Meanwhile, 21% reported being unable to visit Ukraine. These findings highlight the continued connection many households maintain with Ukraine, despite displacement, while also underscoring the challenges some face in making such visits.

Figure 31 | % of HHs where one or more members has been back to visit Ukraine
N=1008



When asked about primary reasons for not being able to visit Ukraine, security concerns were the most frequently mentioned barrier, affecting 57% of respondents, underscoring the ongoing risks in conflict-affected areas. Financial constraints, such as a lack of funds for transportation, were reported by 21%, reflecting the economic challenges faced by displaced families. The occupation of certain territories in Ukraine was a barrier for 17%, limiting mobility for individuals from these regions. Additionally, caregiving responsibilities for children or other dependents affected 12% of households, and illness or disability prevented 9% from making the journey. These findings emphasize the need for tailored support measures, to enable displaced individuals to maintain connections with their home country.

Equally important, the main motivations for households to visit Ukraine are accessing healthcare and visiting relatives or friends, each reported by 37% of respondents, highlighting the importance for many of maintaining personal ties. Moreover, the high financial costs of some healthcare services in Romania, explored in the Health section, make people decide to seek services in Ukraine. Obtaining documentation was another significant reason, mentioned by 26%, reflecting administrative necessities for displaced individuals in light of limitations in consular services. Additionally, 14% visited Ukraine to retrieve personal supplies, and 12% returned to manage other family matters. These findings illustrate the diverse needs driving cross-border mobility, emphasizing the importance of accessible healthcare in Romania, streamlined documentation processes, and the importance of maintaining familial and social connections for displaced households.

Figure 32 | Top 5 reasons for not being able to visit Ukraine (MCQ) N=170

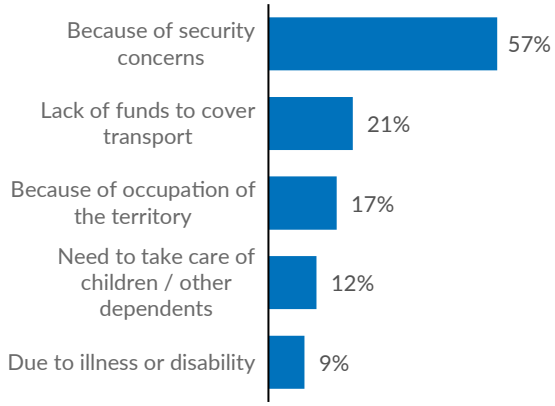
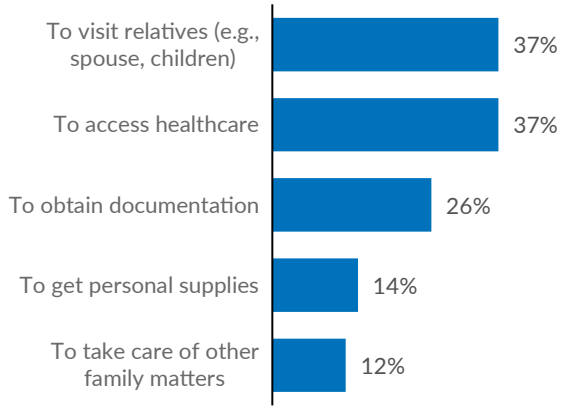


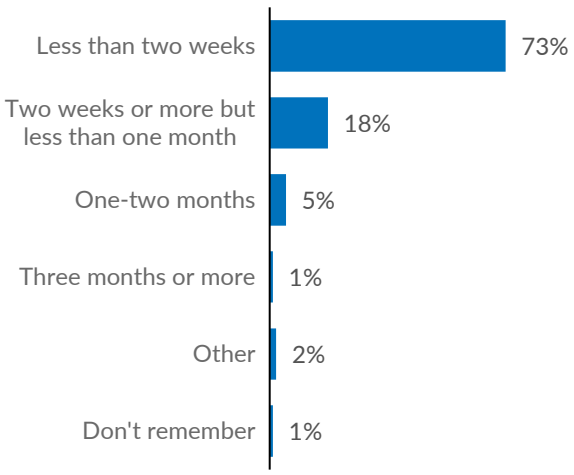
Figure 33 | Top 5 reasons for visiting Ukraine
N=707



As per the sample, the majority of individuals (73%) who visited Ukraine stayed for less than two weeks, suggesting short-term visits primarily focused on urgent needs or personal matters. An additional 18% stayed for two weeks to less than one month, while only 5% stayed for one to two months, highlighting that extended stays were less common. Longer durations, such as three months or more, were reported by just 1%. These findings suggest that visits to Ukraine are typically brief, likely due to ongoing security concerns, logistical constraints, or the need to return to responsibilities in the host countries. This pattern underscores the importance of ensuring efficient services during these short visits, such as streamlined access to healthcare and documentation.

Figure 34 | **Average duration of stay in Ukraine during last visit**

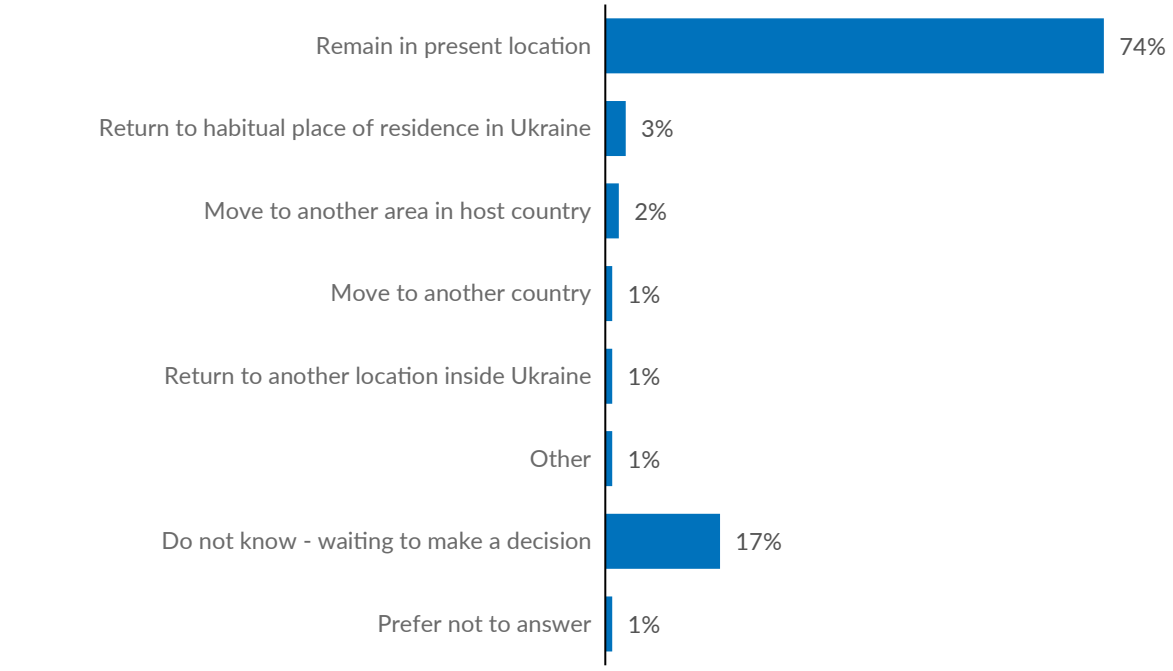
N=707



When asked about their mobility intention, data shows that three in four households (74%) intend to remain in their current location over the next 12 months, reflecting a sense of stability or satisfaction with their current circumstances. However, 17% are undecided, waiting to make a decision based on future developments, such as changes in security or personal conditions. Only 3% plan to return to their habitual residence in Ukraine, while smaller proportions intend to move to another area within the host country (2%), return to a different location in Ukraine (1%), or relocate to another country (1%). These findings highlight a general trend toward stability among displaced households, while uncertainty and future considerations remain factors for a notable minority. Constant efforts to support decision-making, such as providing updated information on safety, housing, and employment opportunities are already implemented by the Ukrainian Ministry of Restoration and these programmes need to be continued.

Figure 35 | **% of HHs who intend to change current location within next 12 months**

N=1008



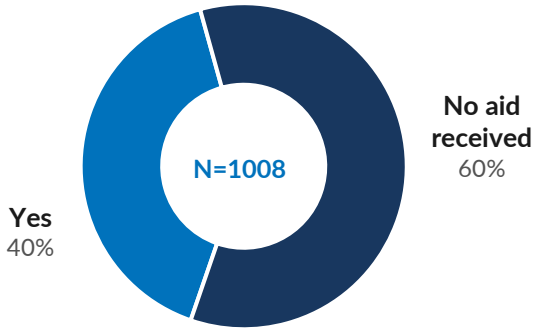
Accountability to Affected Populations

Accountability and transparency in aid distribution are crucial for ensuring that humanitarian efforts effectively meet the needs of vulnerable populations. Questions addressing these issues focus on whether households have received aid in the past three months, their satisfaction with the assistance provided, and the reasons for dissatisfaction. These insights are essential for identifying gaps in aid delivery, such as inadequate or inappropriate types of support, and understanding the challenges faced by beneficiaries in accessing relevant information about their rights, entitlements, and services.

Furthermore, questions about preferred communication channels reveal how households seek and receive critical updates, ensuring that aid organizations can tailor their outreach strategies to align with community preferences. The behavior of aid workers is also scrutinized, with respondents asked to assess their interactions and report inappropriate behavior. The inclusion of safe, confidential feedback mechanisms is critical for fostering trust and ensuring accountability, particularly in addressing sensitive issues such as abuse or exploitation. Lastly, understanding households' top three priority needs helps guide targeted interventions and resource allocation to address immediate and pressing concerns effectively. These questions collectively highlight the importance of a people-centered approach to humanitarian aid that prioritizes inclusivity, transparency, and accountability.

As per the sample, 40% of households reported receiving aid in the last three months prior to the data collection, while a majority, 59%, did not receive any assistance during this period. This indicates that a significant portion of households are either not considered eligible to be covered by aid programs or are unable to access available support. Efforts should focus on understanding the reasons for not receiving aid and addressing the barriers faced by these households, ensuring equitable access to assistance, and enhancing the efficiency of aid delivery mechanisms to better meet the needs of vulnerable populations.

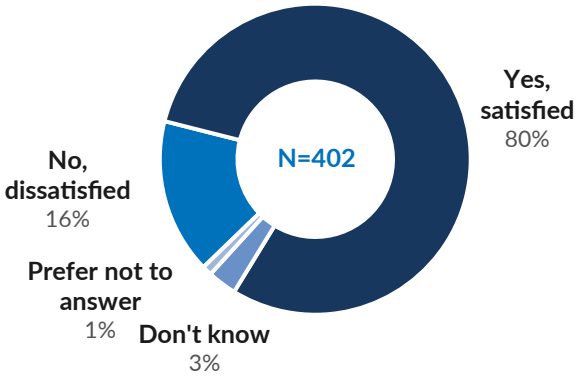
Figure 36 | % of HHs that received aid in the last three months



From the households that received aid, 79% were satisfied with the aid received in the last three months, indicating a generally positive reception of assistance provided. However, 16% expressed dissatisfaction, suggesting that for a notable minority, the aid did not meet their expectations or needs.

Figure 37 | % of HHs dissatisfied with the aid received in the last three months

N=402



When asked about the type of aid they were dissatisfied with, out of the 60 respondents, 37 indicated humanitarian financial aid (cash) suggesting challenges with adequacy, accessibility, or distribution mechanisms of such programmes. Dissatisfaction with the government housing programmes was also significant, being mentioned by 19 respondents and indicating the gaps in policy housing needs after the end of the 50/20 programme. Humanitarian distributions, such as non-food items, clothing, and food, were reported by 28 respondents, highlighting issues with the quality, quantity, or relevance of these items. Both humanitarian financial aid via vouchers and government social protection programmes each saw dissatisfaction levels (14 respondents), reflecting potential misalignment between the support provided and beneficiaries' expectations or needs. Another 16 respondents mentioned the government assistance programmes and four the humanitarian protection services. These findings emphasize the need to evaluate and adapt aid programs to better align with the requirements and priorities of affected households, ensuring equitable and effective delivery of assistance.

Equally important, as key reasons for dissatisfaction with the aid received stand the delays in aid delivery, reported by 35 respondents and reflecting logistical inefficiencies that impact households' timely access to essential resources. Insufficiency or infrequency of assistance was mentioned by eight respondents. Additionally, 26 indicated that the assistance provided did not meet their most pressing needs, suggesting a mismatch between aid offerings and household priorities. Poor quality of services or goods was reported by 13 respondents, while two mentioned "other" reasons or uncertainty about their entitlements. Accessibility challenges, lack of consultation on needs, and safety concerns were less commonly cited but remain relevant issues for a small proportion of respondents. These findings underscore the need for more frequent and sufficient aid, improved delivery timelines, and greater alignment of assistance with beneficiaries' specific needs to enhance satisfaction and effectiveness in humanitarian programs.

Figure 38 | **Top five type of aid programmes you were dissatisfied with (MCQ)**

N=60

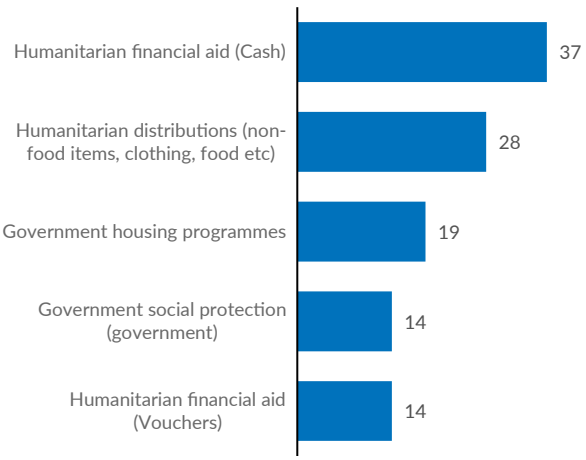
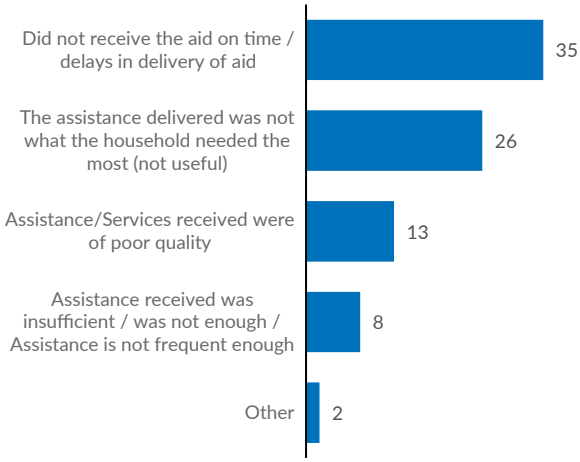


Figure 39 | **Top five reasons for dissatisfaction with the aid received (MCQ)**

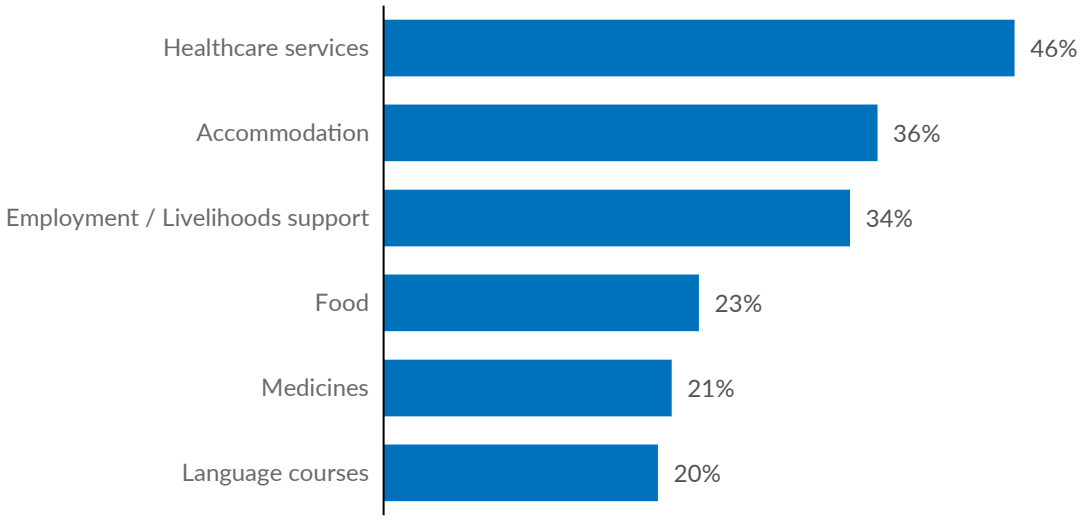
N=60



The analysis gets more nuanced when looking at the top priority needs of a household. Healthcare services are the top option, being selected by 46% of the respondents, emphasizing the critical demand for medical services. Accommodation ranked second at 36%, reflecting ongoing challenges in securing stable housing, while employment or livelihoods support followed closely at 34%, indicating a strong need for economic stability and self-reliance. Other notable needs included food (23%), medication (21%), and language courses (20%), highlighting additional essential services for displaced populations. Needs related to education for children (17%), legal status (7%), and sanitation or hygiene products (5%) further underscore the complexity of challenges faced by households. Only 4% reported having no needs, emphasizing the widespread necessity for comprehensive and multisectoral support to address healthcare, housing, and employment priorities effectively. These findings provide a roadmap for aid organizations to focus their interventions on addressing the most pressing needs of vulnerable populations.

Figure 40 | Top five HHs needs

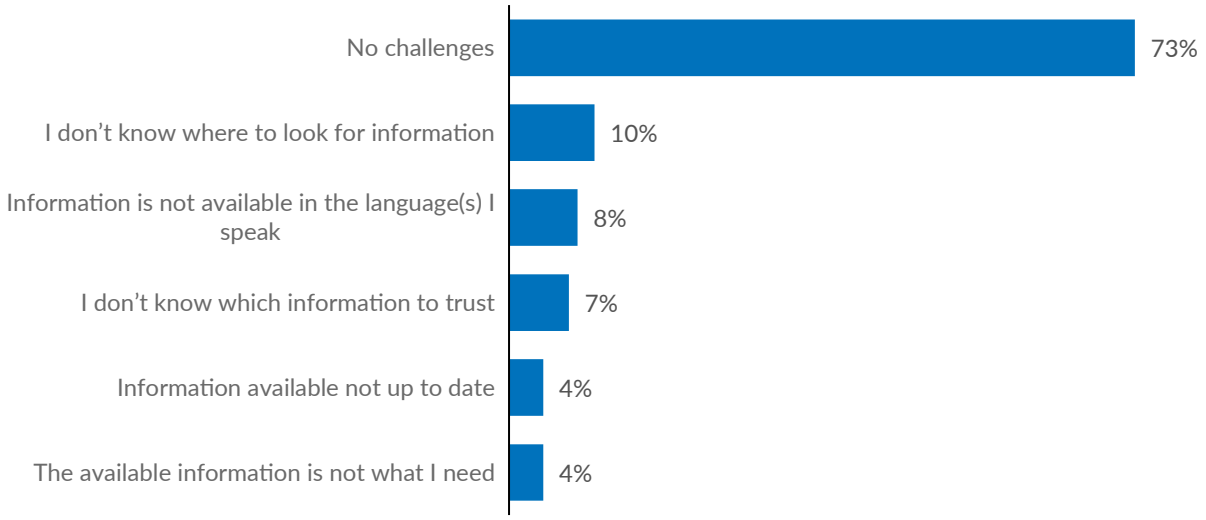
N=1008



As for the information access and channels, 73% of households reported no challenges in accessing the information they need, indicating effective communication and information dissemination for the majority. However, 10% struggled to locate where to find information, highlighting a gap in outreach and guidance. Language barriers affected 8% of respondents, emphasizing the importance of multilingual communication to ensure inclusivity. Trust in available information was an issue for 7%, suggesting a need for more reliable and credible sources. Smaller percentages reported that the information provided was either irrelevant (4%), outdated (4%), or inaccessible in formats suitable for their needs (3%). Device-related barriers, such as lack of access to online information, affected only 1%. These findings underscore the importance of enhancing trust, accessibility, and language diversity in information channels to address the needs of the minority who face challenges.

Figure 41 | **Top five challenges faced in accessing information (MCQ)**

N=1008



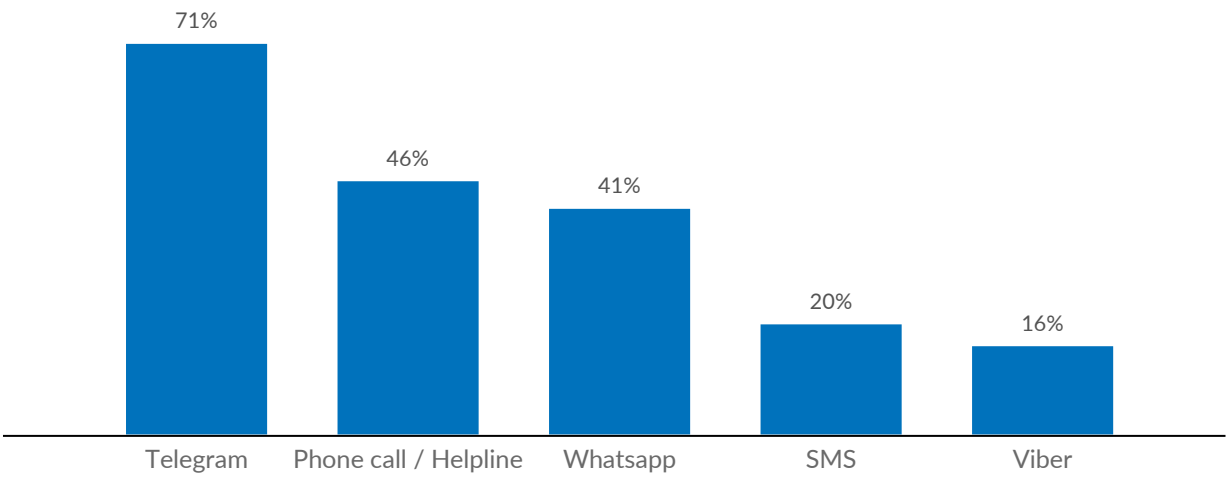
Equally significant, when asked about the preferred channels for receiving information, Telegram remains the most popular choice, used by 71% of respondents. Phone calls or helplines are the second most preferred method (46%), followed by WhatsApp (41%), reflecting the reliance on digital and direct communication tools. SMS (20%) and Viber (16%) are also notable channels, indicating the importance of versatile mobile communication platforms.

Social media platforms such as Facebook (11%) and official websites (7%) are less favored but still play a role in information dissemination, even though communication through official channels is most accurate and valid. Face-to-face interactions, e-mail, and Messenger are preferred only by 5% each, while platforms like Instagram (2%) and TikTok (1%) are rarely utilized. Traditional media, such as TV, newspapers, and billboards, received no mentions, highlighting a clear preference for modern, digital communication tools. These findings suggest that aid organizations should prioritize mobile-based and instant messaging platforms like Telegram, WhatsApp, and phone helplines to effectively reach their target audiences.

When analyzing the satisfaction of beneficiaries with the aid workers' behaviour, as per the sample, 85% of households are satisfied with the behavior of the aid workers, reflecting a largely

Figure 42 | **Top five preferred means of receiving information (MCQ)**

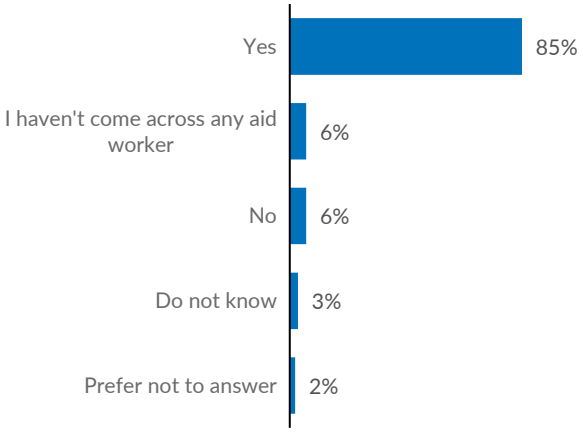
N=1008



positive perception of their interactions and professionalism. However, 6% expressed dissatisfaction, suggesting areas for improvement in the conduct or approach of some aid workers. Additionally, 6% of respondents indicated that they had not encountered any aid workers, highlighting potential gaps in outreach or presence in certain areas. A smaller proportion were unsure (3%) or preferred not to answer (2%), indicating minimal uncertainty or sensitivity regarding the topic. These findings emphasize the importance of maintaining high standards of professionalism among aid workers while addressing any concerns to ensure positive relationships and effective service delivery.

Figure 43 | % of HHs satisfied with aid workers' behaviour in the area

N=1008



Among the 59 respondents who were dissatisfied with the aid workers' behaviour in the area, 21 noted language barriers as a challenge for communication, 18 declared they were not informed about their entitlements indicating deficiencies in communication and support, and 11 perceived a lack of empathy and understanding for beneficiaries' situations from the aid workers' side. In addition, seven indicated they perceive that feedback or complaints do not lead to any meaningful changes, reflecting a gap in accountability and responsiveness. Requests for favors in exchange for aid or services were mentioned by 8 respondents, while disrespectful interactions with community members were reported by four. Additionally, 18 were unsure of the reasons, and 2 mentioned other unspecified concerns. However, due to the reduced sample size, the findings are not statistically significant and cannot be generalized.

Figure 44 | Reported reasons for dissatisfaction with the behaviour of aid worker (MCQ)

N=59

Not only discussions about aid packages and aid workers are highly relevant, but also the ones related to the existence of safe feedback channels and the awareness around this topic. Findings show that 80% of households report having access to a safe and confidential feedback and reporting community-based mechanism, reflecting significant progress in establishing accessible channels for addressing concerns and grievances. However, 12% of respondents stated they do not have access to such mechanisms, and 8% were unsure, highlighting potential gaps in outreach or awareness. The absence of respondents preferring not to answer suggests that the topic is not perceived as sensitive. These findings underscore the importance of strengthening efforts to ensure universal awareness and accessibility of feedback mechanisms, particularly for the 20% of households who either lack access or are unaware of these resources. Enhancing communication and visibility of these systems can help build trust and foster accountability in aid delivery.

Moreover, as per the sample, when asked if they know where to report the aid workers' inappropriate behaviour if observed, less than half (48%) of households are aware of where to report it, indicating a moderate level of awareness. However, 35% of respondents are unaware of reporting channels, and 15% do not know, highlighting significant gaps in communication about these mechanisms. These findings emphasize the need for improved outreach and education to ensure that all households are informed about how and where to report misconduct, fostering accountability and trust in the humanitarian system. Clear, accessible, and widely publicized reporting mechanisms are essential to address inappropriate behavior effectively and support vulnerable populations.

Figure 45 | Access to the safe and confidential feedback and reporting community-based mechanism

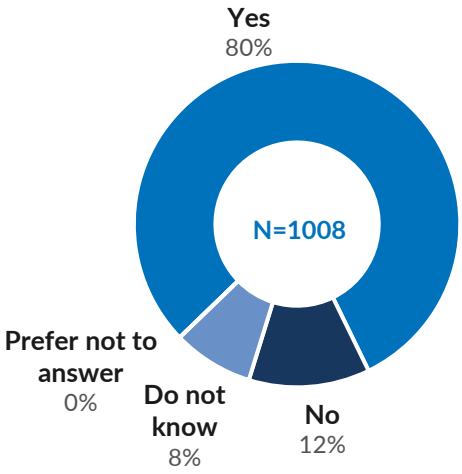
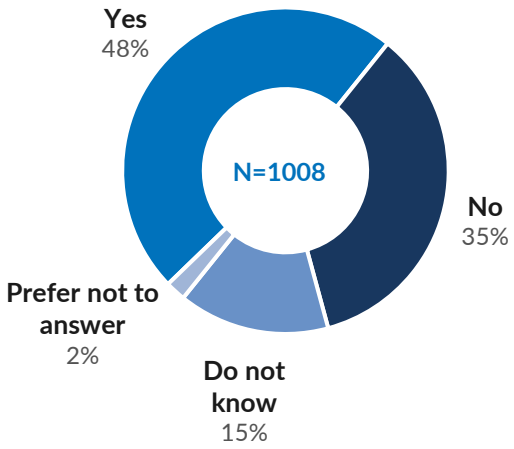
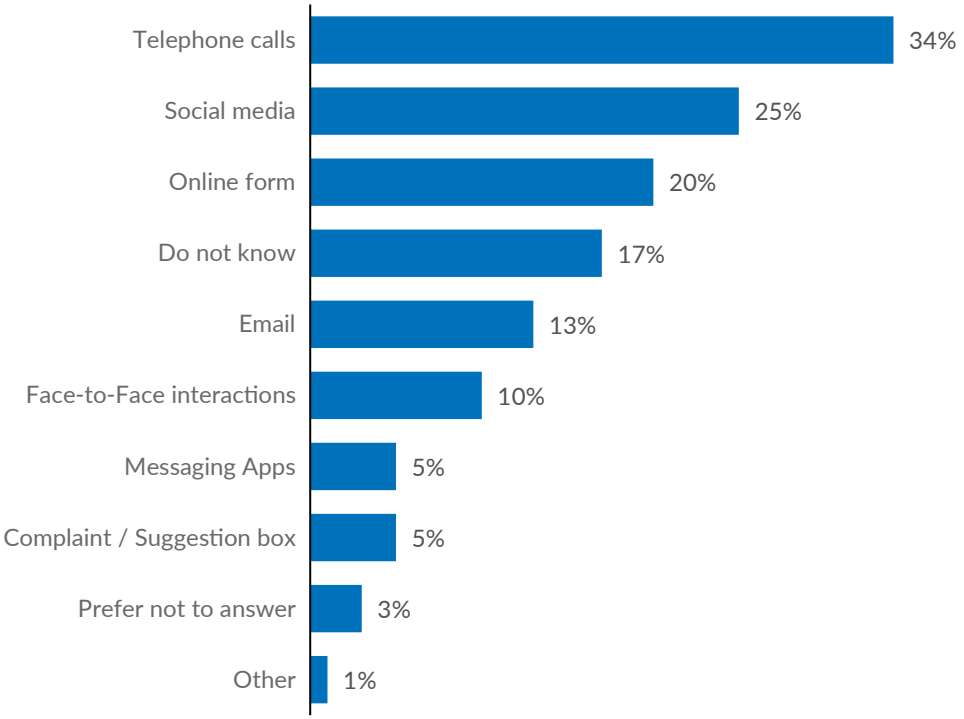


Figure 46 | % of HH aware where to report inappropriate behaviour from aid worker



As for the preferred channels for offering feedback on the inadequate behavior of aid workers, including sexual favors in exchange of assistance, 34% of respondents indicate telephone calls, reflecting the importance of direct and accessible communication channels. Social media platforms are the second most preferred option at 25%, highlighting the growing role of digital spaces in facilitating feedback. Online forms were chosen by 20%, indicating a preference for structured and anonymous reporting methods. E-mail (13%) and face-to-face interactions (10%) also hold some relevance, though they are less popular. Notably, 17% of respondents indicated they do not know how to provide feedback, and 3% preferred not to answer, suggesting gaps in awareness or hesitation in using these channels. Less commonly used methods include complaint/suggestion boxes (5%) and messaging apps (5%), while only 1% opted for other channels. These findings underscore the need to diversify and enhance feedback mechanisms, with a focus on accessibility and visibility, to ensure that beneficiaries feel empowered to report concerns effectively.

Figure 47 | % of preferred channels to offer feedback to aid organisations about the inadequate behavior of aid workers (MCQ)
N=1008



Disability

Specific protection measures are essential for individuals with disabilities. Within the sample, 25% of households have at least one member with level three of disability[5], which means that they experience significant limitations due to their disability. In a more granular perspective, 11% of individuals have a level three disability. Level three of disability typically refers to severe impairments that may affect mobility, vision, hearing, cognitive functioning, or the ability to care for oneself or communicate effectively. These conditions often require financial aid, transportation facilities or subsidies, specialized support, tailored healthcare, and accessible infrastructure and accommodation to ensure that individuals can live with dignity and participate fully in society. For households, this can also mean added caregiving responsibilities, financial challenges, and the need for access to dedicated social benefits and services, access to information provided in various formats. This statistic highlights the importance of prioritizing disability-inclusive policies and services within humanitarian and host community settings. Breaking this down by type, 42% have hearing impairments, 31% have a visual impairment and 52% have limited mobility.

In Romania, improving civil registration processes requires the development of user-friendly informational materials and guidelines that clearly outline the registration process, necessary documentation, and the steps to be followed. To ensure accessibility for displaced populations, it is crucial to translate relevant forms into Ukrainian and Russian. Additionally, establishing stronger connections between civil registration services and non-governmental organizations, refugee-led organizations (RLOs), and community leaders can help disseminate accurate information, increase awareness, and assist households in navigating administrative procedures.

Regarding documents from the country of origin, efforts should be made to ensure that all necessary documents are accessible through consular services. Expanding the availability of these services and improving access to information about them can prevent individuals from feeling compelled to return to their home countries solely to obtain documents.

To enhance awareness of existing services, service providers—including state institutions, NGOs, civil society organizations, and UN agencies—should collaborate to consolidate and promote initiatives that map services at the local level. Information should be effectively disseminated through trusted channels, such as social media platforms and community leaders, to reach more refugees and ensure they are aware of available support.

In fostering social cohesion, localized engagement programs and bridging events should be developed to bring together refugees and host communities through shared activities and dialogue. These initiatives can strengthen relationships, promote mutual understanding, and support the integration process.

Addressing challenges in access to healthcare in Romania remains essential to prevent individuals from feeling forced to return to their home countries due to a lack of medical support. This should be done in alignment with the health recommendations outlined in this document to ensure equitable access to healthcare for all.

To enhance Accountability to Affected Populations, communication strategies should be tailored to the needs of specific groups, particularly individuals with visual or hearing impairments. The mode of delivery should also be diversified by combining digital platforms with face-to-face communication to ensure inclusivity and expand outreach to hard-to-reach individuals.

Finally, improving the protection of persons living with disabilities requires increasing awareness of available tailored support, fostering the establishment of community structures centered on persons with disabilities, and reviewing internal procedures to ensure inclusive and safe access to services. This includes adopting disability-friendly policies and developing action plans to mitigate risks faced by persons with disabilities in accessing services effectively.

5 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.

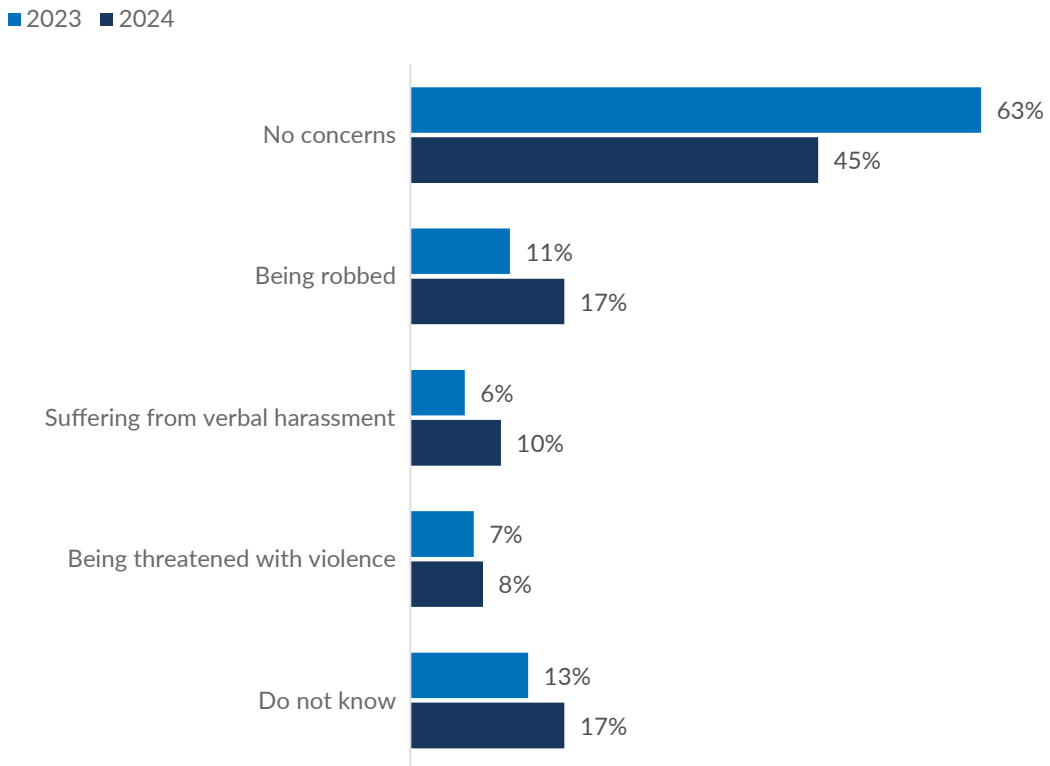
Protection Concerns Related To Women And Men

This section addresses protection concerns for both women and men, focusing on their awareness of and ability to seek assistance from specific services. While some of these risks may stem from power imbalances related to gender norms, the data in this chapter extends beyond gender-related issues and cannot be confined solely to GBV concerns. Given the heightened vulnerability of certain populations, such as refugees, it is essential to provide clear information on how and where they can report safety concerns. Recognizing that survivors of violence often confide in trusted individuals like family members or close relatives, it is vital to ensure they are well-informed about accessible and reliable support services in their communities.

In terms of safety and security concerns, the data shows a notable shift in women's perceptions of safety and security between 2023 and 2024. The percentage of women reporting no safety concerns decreased significantly from 63% in 2023 to 45% in 2024, indicating a rise in perceived insecurity. Concerns about being robbed increased from 11% to 17%, while reports of verbal harassment also rose from 6% to 10%, highlighting growing apprehension about personal safety and respect in public spaces. Concerns about being threatened with violence remained relatively stable, 7% and 8%. Additionally, uncertainty about safety conditions (do not know) grew from 13% to 17%, suggesting a need for better communication and awareness of local safety measures. These findings also correlate with the social cohesion data where most of the respondents find the relationship with the host community good and very good and only 23% report hostile behaviours (verbal aggressions, discriminatory behaviours, hostile comments in social media, etc).These findings underline the importance of addressing emerging safety concerns, fostering community trust, and ensuring proactive interventions to improve women's sense of security in their areas of residence, in compliance with the general recommendations for better social cohesion.

Figure 48 | Top 5 main safety and security concerns for women in the area of residence

N=978



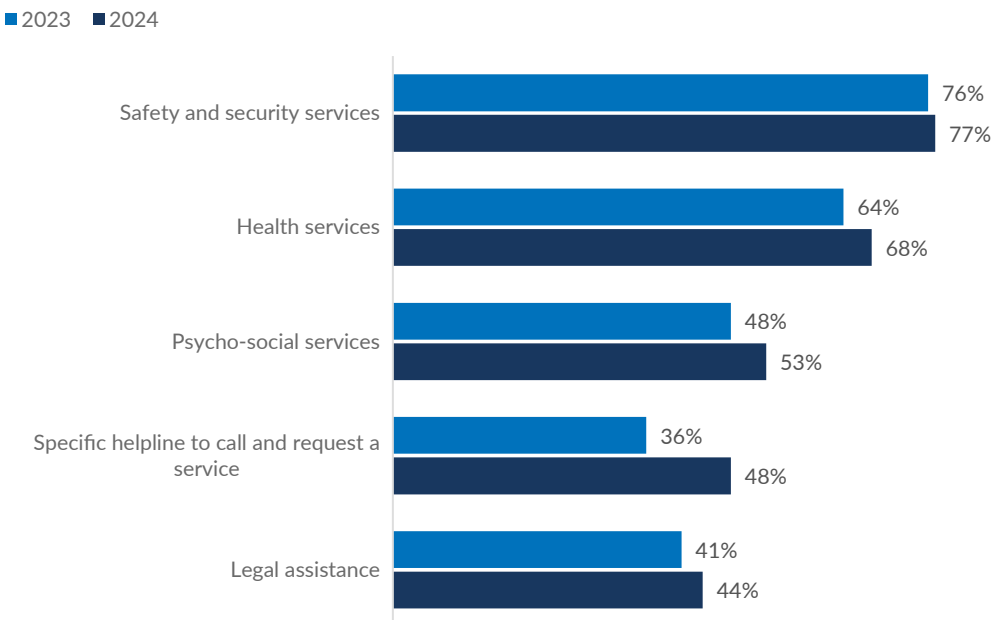
Mirroring the responses recorded for men, the data indicates a significant decline in the percentage of men reporting no safety concerns in their area of residence, dropping from 71% in 2023 to 53% in 2024. This suggests a growing perception of insecurity among men. Concerns about being deported emerged as a notable issue in 2024, affecting 11% of respondents, underscoring apprehension related to the change in the Ukrainian mobilization law. Worries about being robbed increased slightly, from 7% in 2023 to 9% in 2024. The percentage of respondents preferring not to answer rose sharply from 1% to 7%, potentially indicating heightened sensitivity or discomfort discussing safety issues. Meanwhile, uncertainty about safety conditions (do not know) remained relatively stable, with a slight increase from 14% to 15%. These findings emphasize the need for targeted measures to address safety concerns, particularly those tied to legal vulnerabilities and public security, while fostering trust and transparency within communities.

Gender Based Violence

As per the sample, respondents have a rather varied level of awareness related to Gender Based Violence (GBV) services. Two out of three respondents are aware of safety and security services highlighting their importance in addressing immediate threats. These values are similar to the ones recorded last year (76%). Awareness of health services rose from 64% to 68%, and knowledge of psycho-social services increased from 48% to 53%, indicating growing recognition of support options. Legal assistance services are known to 44% of the respondents, similar to last year findings (41%) indicating a gap in understanding how to navigate legal protections for GBV survivors. Finally, 48% of respondents are aware of helplines for requesting services, showcasing a growing reliance on accessible and immediate communication tools, an important growth from last year (36%), an important trend identified in other sections that assessed refugees' reliance on helpline services for reporting abuses or for communicating various situations. While progress is evident, gaps remain in accessing psycho-social and legal services, highlighting the need for continued awareness campaigns and targeted efforts to ensure all individuals are informed about the full range of GBV services available.

Figure 49 | % of respondents who know how to access GBV services

N=1008



The top five perceived barriers to accessing GBV services highlight significant challenges faced by individuals in seeking support. Language and cultural barriers are the most frequently cited, affecting 47% of respondents and underscoring the need for culturally sensitive and multilingual services. Lack of awareness about available resources (28%) and stigma and shame (27%) further deter individuals from seeking help, indicating a need for continuous outreach and de-stigmatization efforts. Fear of retaliation (16%) and a lack of trust in host country services (12%) also represent substantial obstacles, highlighting concerns about safety and confidence in support systems. These findings emphasize the importance of targeted interventions to address these barriers, including expanding multilingual support, increasing awareness campaigns, and fostering trust by offering individuals clear and comprehensive information about these protections, the legal obligations of service providers, and the mechanisms available for reporting any breaches of these principles or legal requirements.

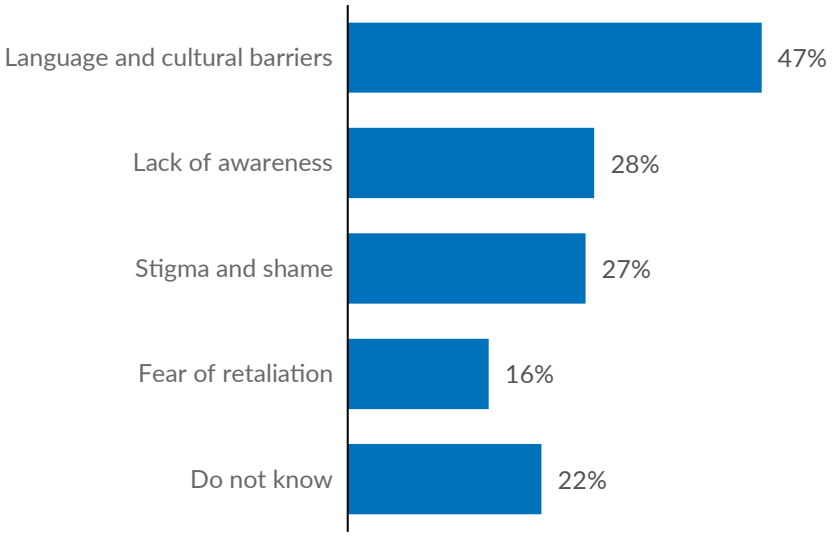
As general recommendations, to improve access to gender-based violence support services, it is essential to enhance awareness campaigns that focus on psycho-social and legal assistance. Given the increasing reliance on helplines, these platforms should be leveraged to disseminate comprehensive information about the full range of available GBV support options, ensuring that survivors are aware of and can access the help they need.

Targeted interventions should be implemented to address language and cultural barriers by expanding multilingual and culturally sensitive GBV services. Alongside this, awareness campaigns should focus on improving knowledge of available services, reducing stigma, and fostering trust. Ensuring the safety and confidentiality of survivors is crucial in encouraging them to seek support.

Furthermore, strengthening community trust and improving women's sense of security require proactive measures. This includes enhancing communication about local safety initiatives and implementing targeted efforts to reduce incidents of robbery and verbal harassment in public spaces. By addressing these concerns, women can feel safer and more supported within their communities. Equally important, implementing targeted measures to address men's growing safety concerns, while fostering trust and transparency through community engagement and clear communication about safety measures and rights needs to complement the policies from the protection sector.

Figure 50 | **Top 5 perceived barriers for accessing GBV services (MCQ)**

N=1008

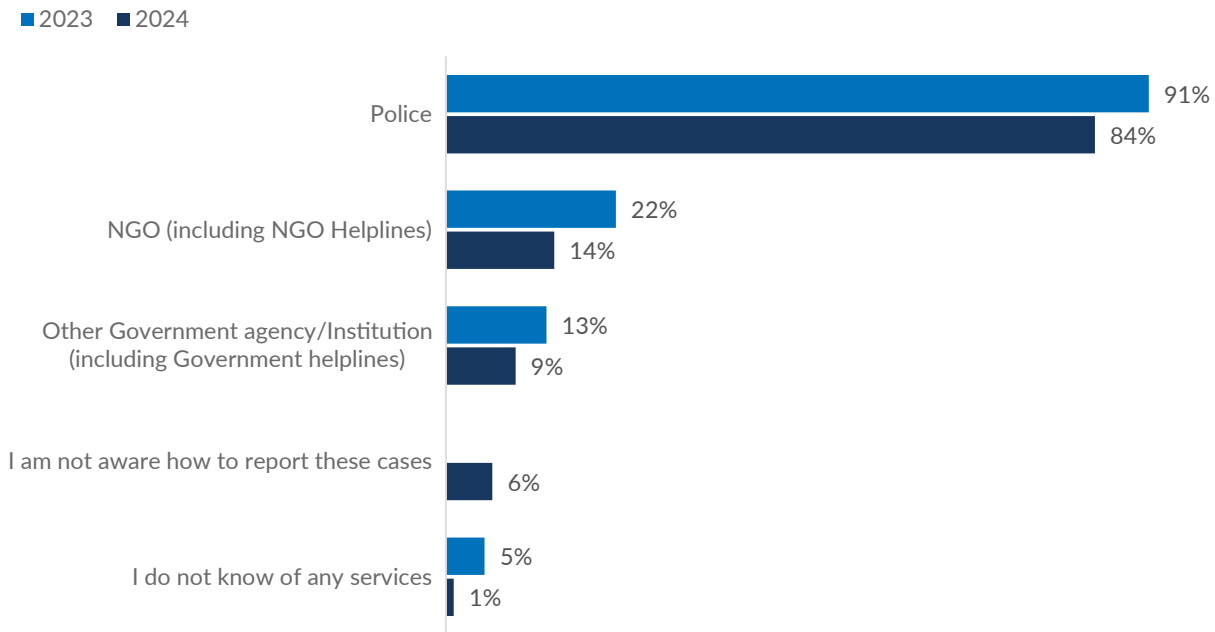


Child Protection

Children are among the most vulnerable groups in any society, requiring tailored and complex protection measures often supported by multisectoral policies. According to the sample, 65% of refugee households in Romania include at least one child. This signals a set of needs and measures that need to accompany the families: accommodation, food, access to education (to schools, kindergarten, daycare for children up to 2-3 years old, access to free or affordable healthcare services, and security, alongside other aspects addressed in this report. In an in depth analysis, 3.5% of households are with children who do not belong to the nuclear family, meaning that children do not live with neither biological parent; for 3.7% of the households out of the total households surveyed, the head of household is over 60 and there is no younger adult to take care of the minor; in 3.6%, the household the head is under 25; and in 5.4%, the head of household has a level 3 disability[6]. These findings highlight the challenges that some children face, including separation from family, underscoring the importance of ensuring safe, family-based care. Moreover, as per the sample, 38% of households have their head of family employed and 31% of households have as head a single parent. All these details contribute to the larger image of household composition, mapping the households that might be highly vulnerable and need specific interventions. Equally important, the fact that only 38% of households (out of the total number of households and around 55% out of the households with children) have their head employed signals another proxy for vulnerability within the families with children.

When asked about awareness of services for reporting violence, exploitation, or neglect, in comparison to 2023, the data indicates some shifts in household awareness of these services, mostly due to overall reduction in services available for refugees from Ukraine, but also due to the 2024 weighting process. Awareness of the police as a reporting channel remains the highest, with 84% in 2024, though it has declined from 91% in 2023. Awareness of NGOs, including NGO helplines[7], also decreased from 22% to 14%, and knowledge of government agencies or helplines dropped from 13% to 9%. The percentages of households that are completely unaware of how to report such cases reduced in absolute percentages from 5%

Figure 51 | % of HHs being aware of services to report violence against children (MCQ)
N=1008

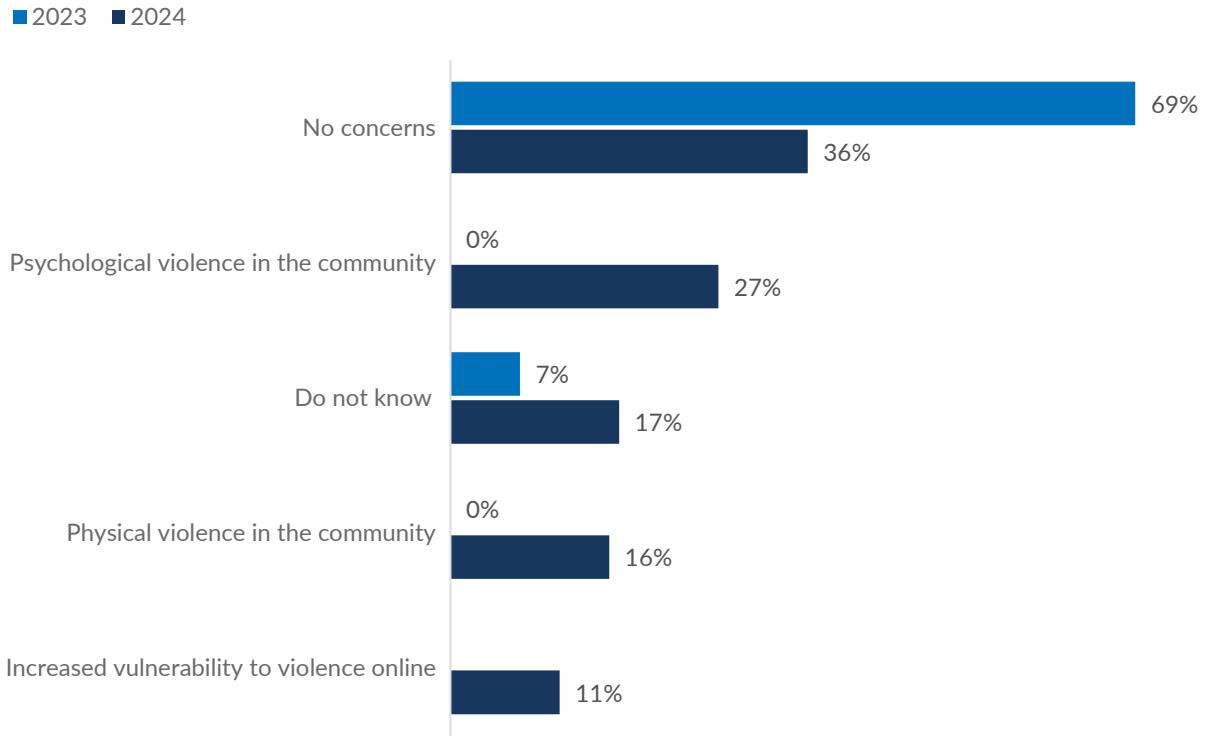


6 Idem
7 For the 2023 data, the options "Helpline" and "NGO services" were merged for making the comparisons between 2024 and 2023 possible.

in 2023 to 1% in 2024, but this reduction of four percent is not statistically significant, so the situation remained quite stable. However, 6% of respondents in 2024 still indicated uncertainty about how to report cases of violence. These findings highlight a growing gap in awareness of alternative reporting channels beyond the police, underscoring the need for outreach efforts to promote the visibility and accessibility to government services for child protection and NGOs that work with vulnerable children. The survey did not, however, assess whether these services were used in actual cases of abuse or violence against children.

Equally important is the discussion about the perceived risks faced by boys and girls under the age of 18. Firstly, the respondents were not the boys and the girls, but their caregivers reflecting hence their perception. Secondly, the collected data indicate a shift in perceptions of risks faced by boys between 2023 and 2024. However, the comparison among items between 2023 and 2024 is not symmetrical, as some answers were modified in the SEIS survey in comparison to MSNA. As a general observation, the proportion of respondents reporting no concerns significantly decreased from 69% in 2023 to 36% in 2024, indicating heightened awareness of risks. Psychological violence in the community emerged as the most cited concern in 2024, affecting 27% of respondents, a very big difference in comparison to 2023 when respondents did not choose this option of answer. Similarly, physical violence in the community was reported by 16% of respondents in 2024, while in 2023 no one chose this option. However, in 2023 family separation (7%) and bullying and violence in schools (8%) were among the top concerns mentioned by caregivers. Concerns about online violence were considered by 11% of respondents, but this data cannot be compared with 2023. Additionally, uncertainty about risks (do not know) rose from 7% in 2023 to 17% in 2024. These findings suggest a growing recognition of threats boys face, particularly in terms of psychological, physical and online violence, and emphasize the need for targeted interventions to address these risks and enhance awareness about child protection strategies.

Figure 52 | **Top three most serious risks faced by boys under the age of 18 (MCQ)**
N=453



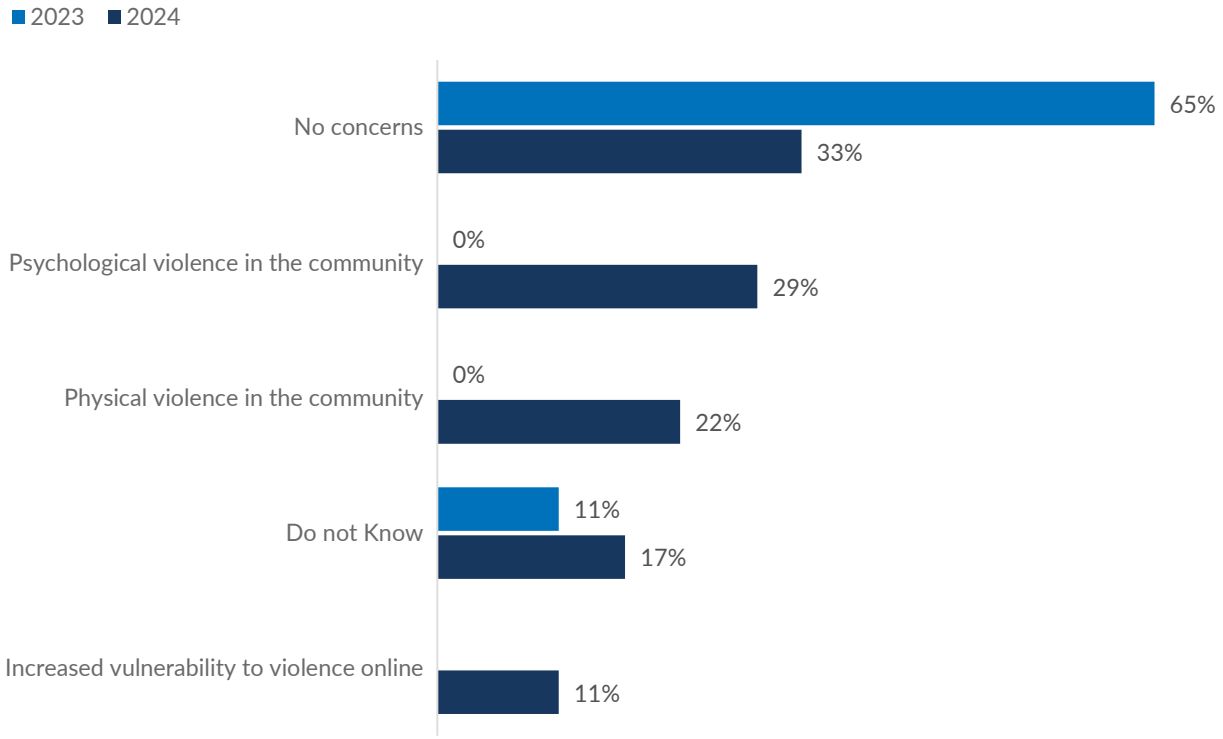
As for the perceived risks faced by girls, the shift in perceptions are similar to the ones faced by boys. The proportion of respondents reporting no concerns dropped from 65% in 2023 to 33% in 2024, reflecting an increased awareness of risks. Psychological violence in the community was the most cited concern in 2024 at 29%, emphasizing the prevalence of emotional and mental abuse as a critical issue. Physical violence in the community was mentioned by 22% of respondents in 2024, marking a growing recognition of its impact on girls. Equally important, in 2023 the main concerns reported were family separation (9%) and worsened mental health and wellbeing (8%). Concerns about online violence were mentioned by 11% of the respondents in 2024. Meanwhile, uncertainty about risks (do not know) increased from 11% in 2023 to 17% in 2024. These findings underline the need for enhanced protective measures, community-based interventions, and awareness campaigns to address the rising concerns about violence and its impact on girls.

As general recommendations, it is essential to promote increased awareness and improve accessibility to various reporting channels, with a particular focus on government helplines dedicated to addressing violence, exploitation, and neglect. Ensuring that these channels are widely known and easily accessible can enhance reporting mechanisms and facilitate timely interventions.

Community-based interventions should be expanded to include awareness sessions for families and children, equipping them with the knowledge and tools to prevent and respond to child protection risks. These initiatives should focus on helping families and communities recognize and address threats such as online violence, bullying, and both psychological and physical abuse. Furthermore, targeted support for children should be prioritized by strengthening identification and referral mechanisms at the community level. By improving these processes, children at risk can be effectively connected to relevant services, ensuring they receive the necessary protection and support.

Figure 53 | **Top three most serious risks faced by girls under the age of 18 (MCQ)**

N=471



Socio-economic inclusion and livelihood

This chapter presents a comprehensive analysis of the socio-economic conditions, education levels, labor market participation, and coping mechanisms of Ukrainian refugees in Romania.

Drawing on data from a survey of 1008 households and their family members, the chapter delves into various aspects of their lives, including their educational qualifications, language skills, and employment status. It examines the challenges refugees face in accessing the local labor market, including language barriers and the recognition of foreign qualifications. The study also highlights the economic struggles refugees endure, such as limited access to financial services, low income levels, and the reliance on social protection programs, while exploring the coping strategies they use to meet basic needs like food, accommodation, and healthcare. Furthermore, the report discusses the implications of Romania's temporary protection regime and the ongoing issues related to social benefits access, offering a detailed picture of the refugee population's vulnerabilities and the broader integration challenges they face in their host country.

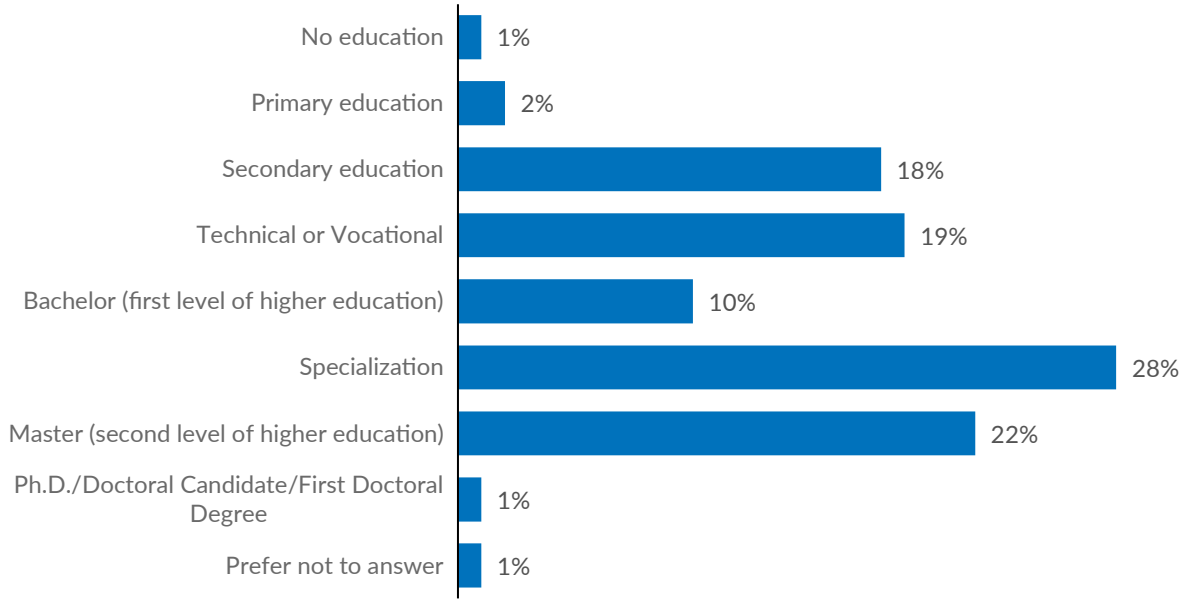
Livelihoods and inclusion

The "Livelihood and Inclusion" section of this report explores the economic and social integration challenges faced by refugees from Ukraine residing in Romania. It examines key aspects such as education, employment, income sources, and access to social protection, highlighting the disparities between the refugees' pre-displacement qualifications and their current employment opportunities. The section also delves into the financial difficulties many refugees experience, including limited savings and reliance on informal support networks. Furthermore, it assesses the barriers refugees encounter in accessing services, both in the labor market and in terms of social benefits, offering insight into the ongoing challenges in achieving long-term inclusion and stability. This analysis underscores the critical need for targeted interventions and policy improvements to better support the integration of Ukrainian refugees into the Romanian socio-economic fabric.

Most of the population consulted, the respondents and their family members included, have tertiary education, with over 61% having at least a Bachelor's degree. The common level of education achieved is Specialization[8] diploma (28%), followed by master's degree or equivalent (22%), bachelor's degree (10%) and technical or vocational studies (19%) and secondary education (17%). The figure below contains information about the level of education of those members of the surveyed households over 16 years old. Because this question encompasses information not only about the respondent's education, but also that of their family members, the total population of study (Ukrainian citizens of employment age 16-65 years old for men and 16-62 years old for women) is 1,540 subjects. A comparison with 2023 shows an increase of the respondents with tertiary education, mostly attributed to the fact that the survey this year included the option of "specialization", which did not exist last year.

Figure 54 | Highest education level achieved

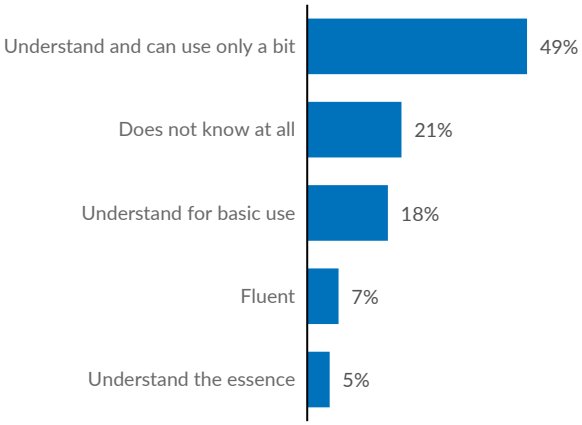
N=1540



As illustrated in Figure 55, the majority of Ukrainian respondents and their family members (70%) report having little to no proficiency in the local language. This indicates a significant language barrier for a large portion of the population. In comparison, 18% of respondents are able to communicate at a basic level, suggesting some familiarity with the language but limited fluency. Meanwhile, 12% of the individuals are able to speak the language more confidently—7% are fluent, demonstrating a high degree of mastery, while 5% can engage in conversations with a functional grasp of the language. This distribution highlights a varied level of language proficiency within the Ukrainian community, with most having limited interaction with the local language.

Figure 55 | Knowledge of the local language

N=1540



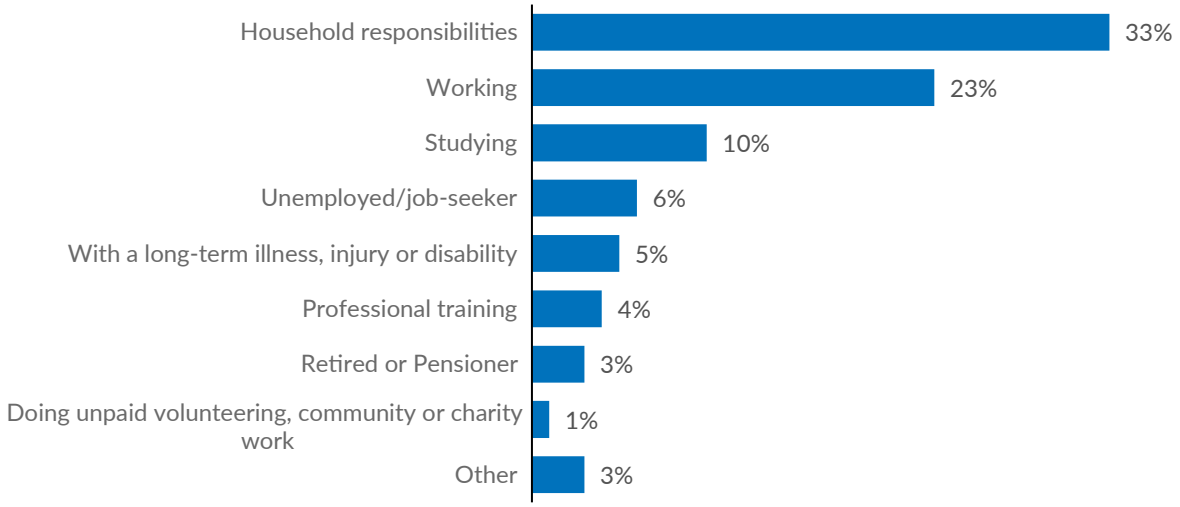
8 A specialization is a form of tertiary education specific to Ukraine that, since 2014, has been equated with a master's degree.

The survey gathered information about the occupational status of working age adults (1,540 persons) residing in the households included in the sample, both employed and unemployed refugees from Ukraine. Apart from those who are employed (23%) - either with a formal contract or without, there are also significant shares of unemployed persons, students, retired, disabled and persons looking after children or sick and disabled. The data in figure 56 does not include the activity of those already engaged in working activities.

Out of this population, 33% hold household responsibilities such as caring for children, elders or people with disabilities, 10% are students, 6% are unemployed or looking for a job and 3% are retired. The remaining either have long term injury or illness and are unable to work (5%), are engaged in professional training (4%) or engaged in other forms of activities (4%).

Figure 56 | Main activity of working age HH members

N=1548



The analysis for figures 57 and 58 refers to the families of the respondents, the total population being 1,519 individuals. Out of this entire population, 53% are inside the labour force, meaning that they are of working age and are able or willing to work as per the ILO definition, while the other 47% are outside the labour force or of working age but not able or in need to work.

Out of those being active on the labour market (53%), 80% are engaged in paid employment (they have worked for someone during the past seven days, had run or did any kind of business self-employment/ entrepreneurship), have helped care for the family in the last 7 days prior to the survey). The rest of 20% are unemployed or looking for a job. As for the youth aged 16 to 24 years old, the data shows that 15% of them are not in education, employment or training.

Figure 57 | Inside/outside labour force

N=1519

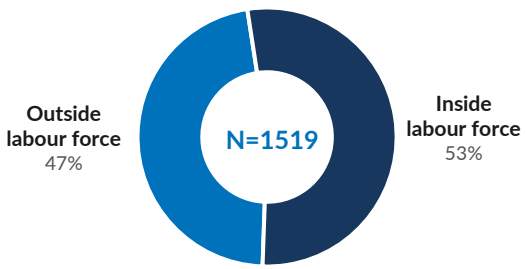


Figure 58 | Employment status of HH members inside the labour force

N=798

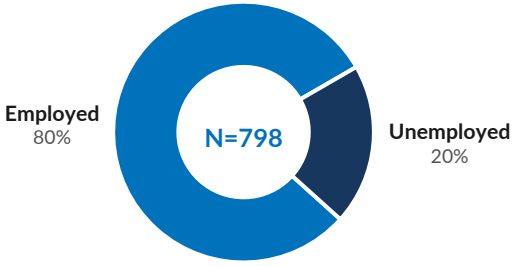
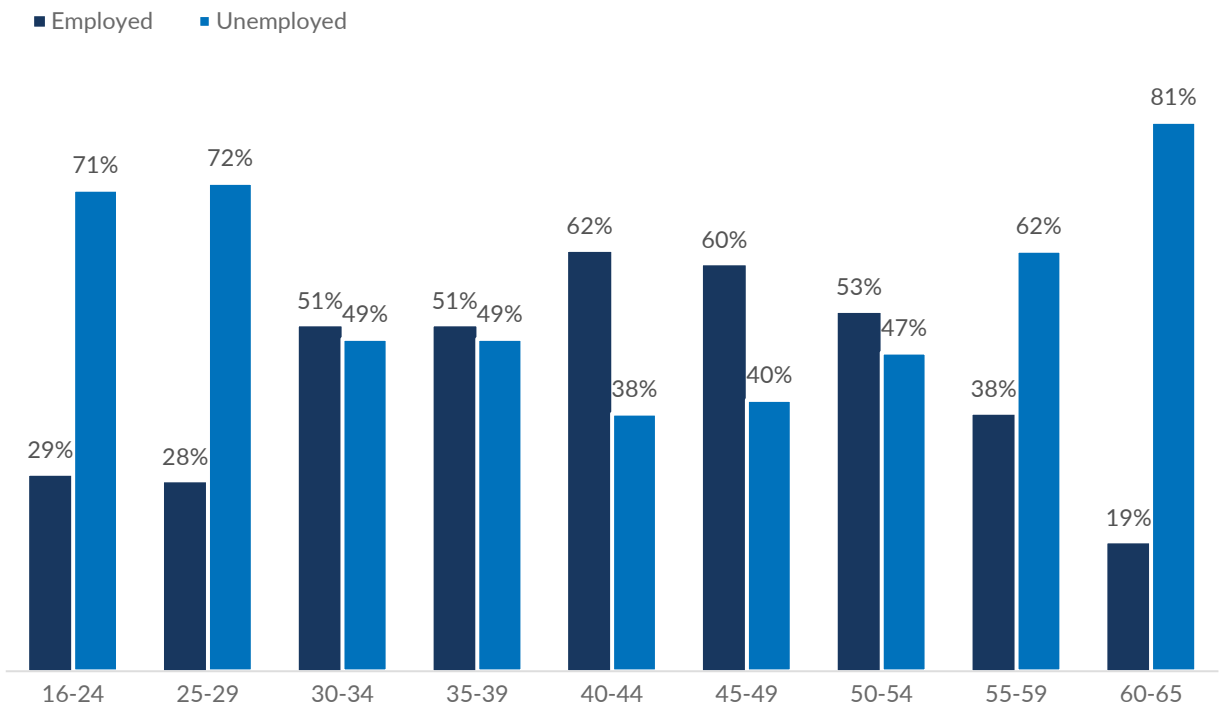


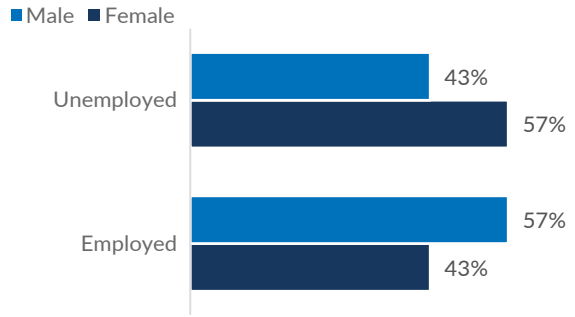
Figure 59 | Employment by age***
N=1372



*** These calculations were made on the entire sample and their families, regardless of their involvement in the labour market. As such, it is explained the large share of unemployed respondents, since they also include those that are outside the labor market.

When it comes to the gender distribution of those employed, regardless of the, 43% of those employed are women and 57% of those employed are men. That is mostly due to the fact that women are usually engaged in household activities like caring for infants, older persons or people with disabilities. When disaggregated by age, the age group with the lowest employment rate is 60-65 years old (19%), while the age group with the highest employment rate is 40-44 years old. The data is calculated by the legal employment age in the host country (16-62 for Women and 16-65 for men) and includes all respondents of working age, inside or outside the labour force.

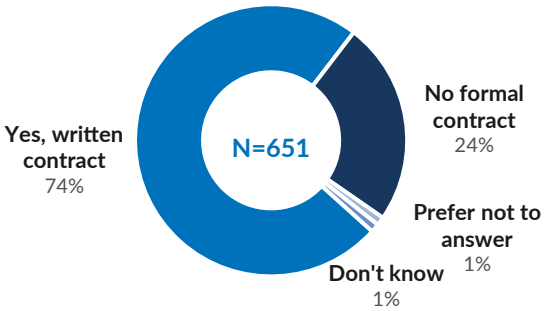
Figure 60 | Employment by gender***
N=1372



Out of those employed, they worked a minimum of one hour per week and maximum of 84 hours per week, with an average of 31.6 worked hours per week.

According to the data in Figure 61, the majority of those respondents who are active on the labour market, as well as their household members (N = 651), has written contracts (73%), while 24% work without a formal contract, 1% do not know the situation and 1% prefers not to answer. In the case of the 24% that work without a contract, this situation puts them in a vulnerable state because of job insecurity, lack of paid social services (aside from healthcare), lack of unemployment benefits etc.

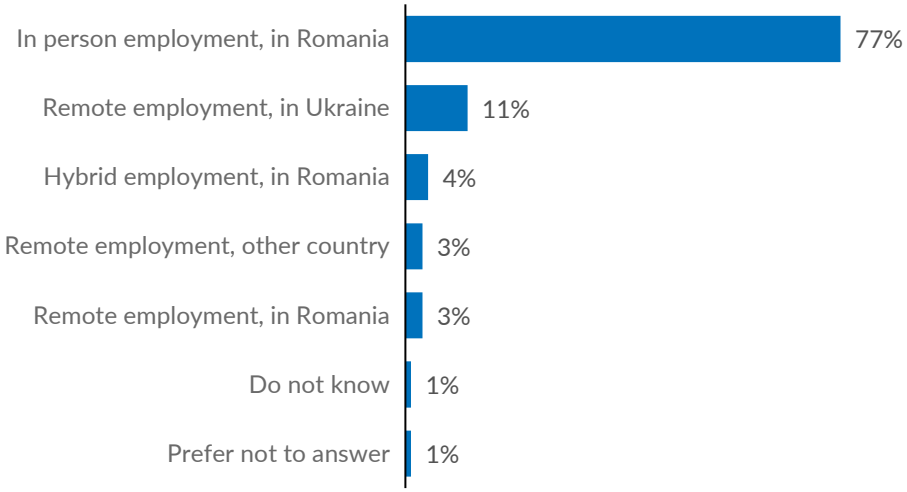
Figure 61 | Form of contract of employed respondents



As we can see in figure 62, most respondents or family members are working in person at the company they are employed at (77%), while the other 21% either work remotely in Ukraine (11%), remotely in other countries outside of Ukraine (3%), through a flexible/hybrid arrangement in Romania (4%), or remotely in Romania (3%). Two per cent prefer not to answer or do not know how to answer.

Figure 62 | **Work modality of employed respondents**

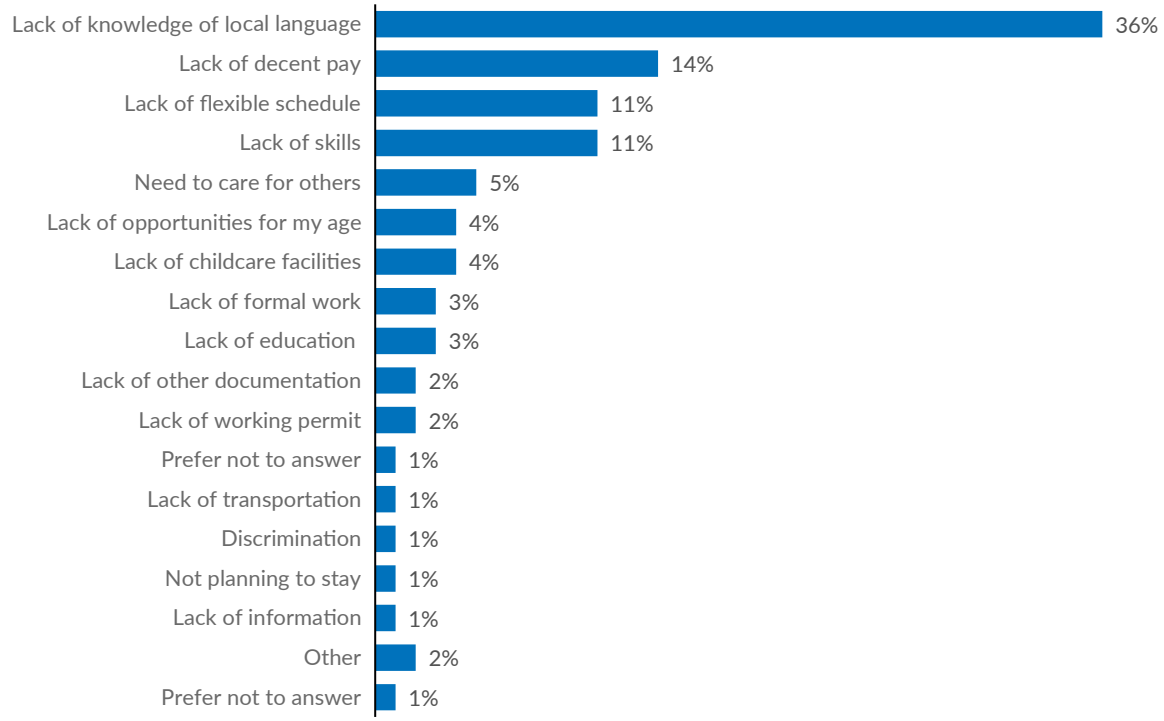
N=651



The question regarding the main difficulties in finding work targeted both the respondents and their household members of working age (N=1618). According to the figure presented, the main barrier in finding work is the lack of knowledge of the local language (Romanian), reported by 36% of cases. Fourteen per cent mention the lack of decent pay, while another 11

Figure 63 | **Main employment barriers**

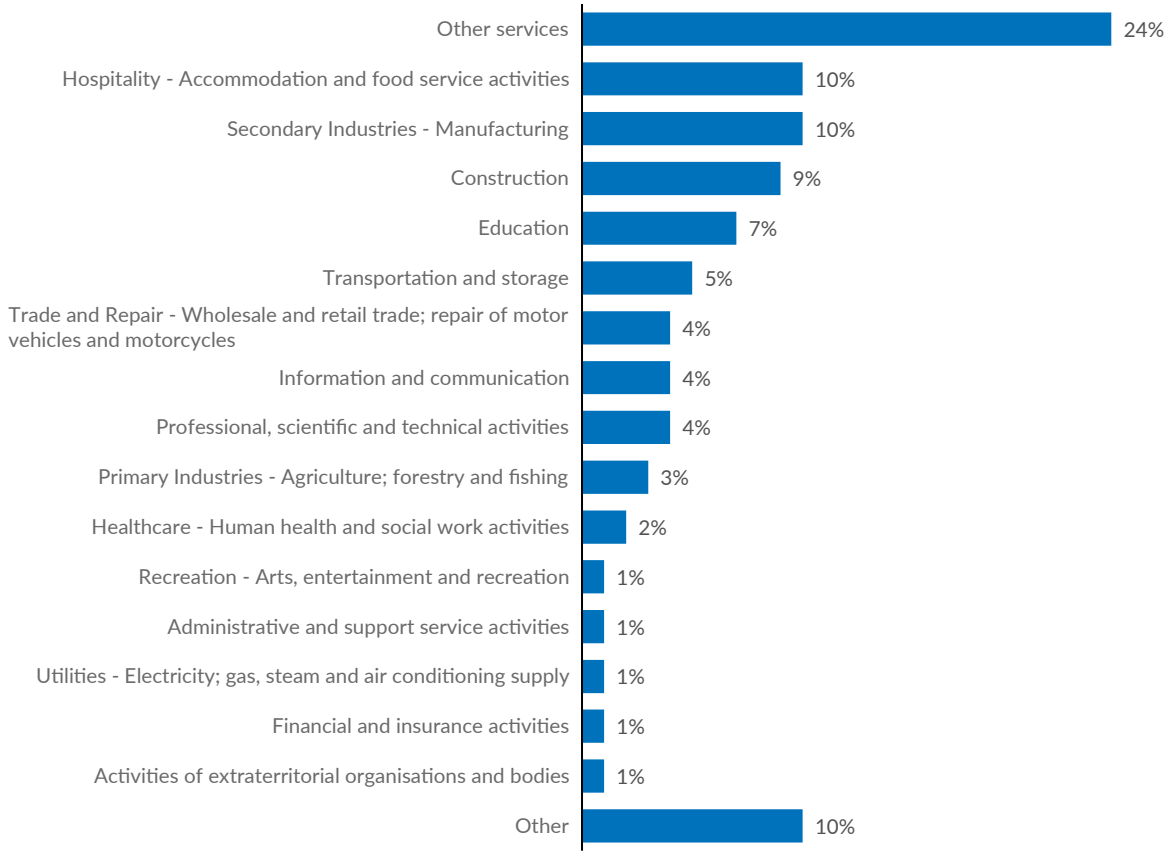
N=1618



11 per cent indicated inflexible work schedules as the reason. Eleven per cent of the population report a lack of required skills. The other 26% have mentioned other reasons such as lack of childcare facilities, lack of a work permit, lack of transportation, etc. Even if the Ukrainian refugees no longer need a work permit to work in Romania as they are registered under the Temporary Protection status, some employers still require them to present a work permit.

The data presented in Figure 64 shows that the working Ukrainian population in the sample (N=651) is distributed across various sectors. The largest proportion, 24%, is employed in "other services", which encompass a diverse range of industries[9]. This is followed by "secondary industries" - manufacturing, hospitality - accommodation and food service activities, and "other", each accounting for 10% of the workforce.

Figure 64 | **Main sector of employment in host country**
N=651



The next sectors are "construction" (9%) and "education" (7%), reflecting significant participation in these fields. "Transportation and storage" makes up 5%, while "trade and repair" as well as "Professional, scientific, and technical activities", and "information and communication" each account for 4%. "Employment in primary industries - agriculture, forestry, and fishing" is slightly lower at 3%.

Smaller proportions of respondents work in "healthcare - human health and social work activities" (2%), where refugees from Ukraine cannot work without completing a certification of their qualifications in Romania.

9 Other services include: maritime industry, beauty industry, elementary employment such as nanny, carer, cleaning, etc.

Figure 65 shows the activity of the Ukrainian respondents and their family members before leaving Ukraine (N = 1540). The data reveals that 44% of the population were in paid employment for at least one hour a day before leaving Ukraine, while 16% were engaged in running a business, farming, or other activities to make money. Additionally, 13% were studying, and 12% were involved in maintaining the household and caring for children or older persons' family members.

Other activities before leaving Ukraine included helping in a family business or farm (2%), professional training (2%), retirement (3%), or being unable to work due to long-term illness, injury, or disability (2%). A small proportion, 2%, reported other unspecified activities, while only 1% were unemployed or seeking jobs.

Figure 65 | Main activity of working age respondents before displacement

N=1540

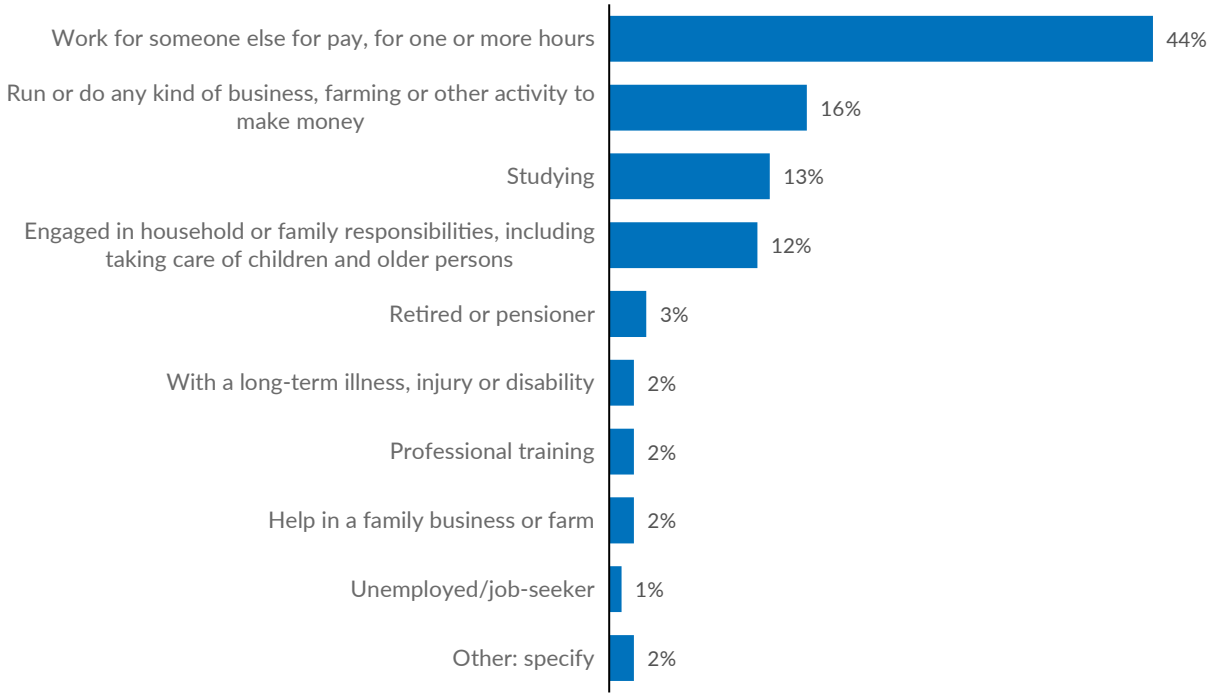
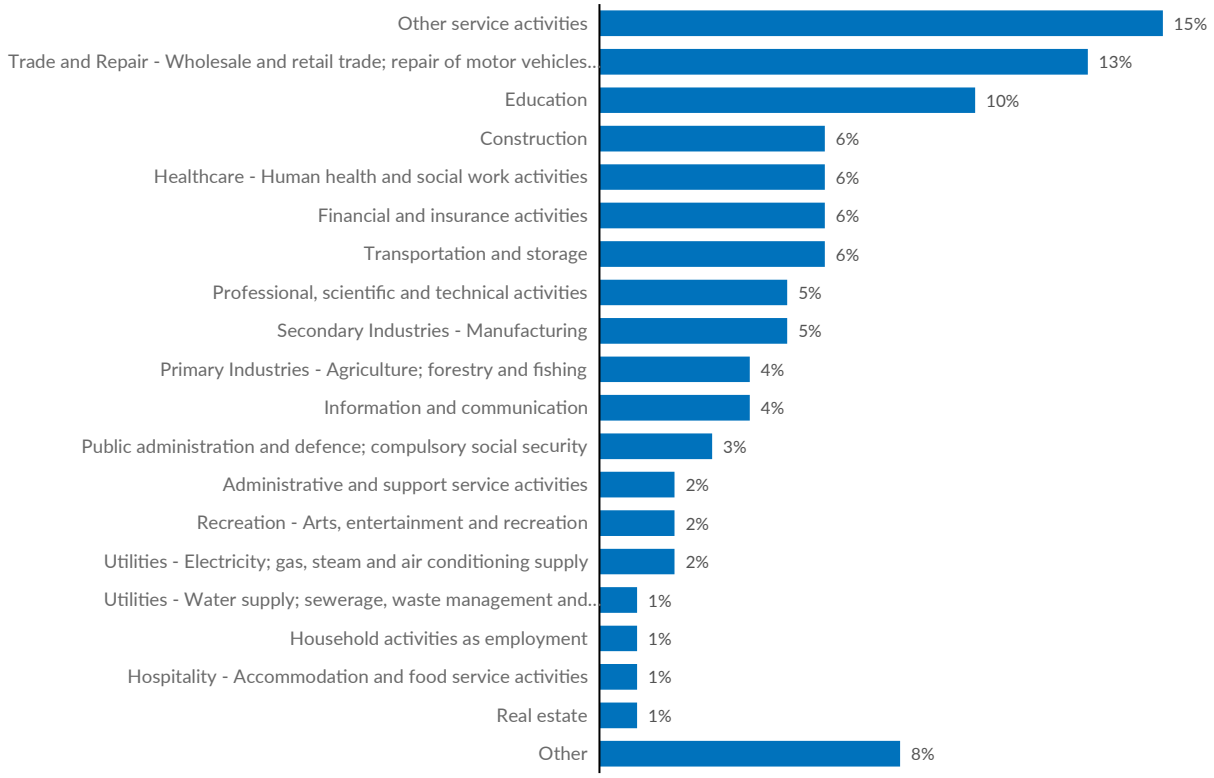


Figure 66 shows the main sector of work experience or training of the Ukrainian respondents and their family members (N = 983). Corresponding, partially, with the sector of employment shown in Figure 11, the main field of experience or education was reported under the category ‘other service activities”, such as beauty industry, babysitting, sales, services, or cleaning, with 15% of the population of the study having experience or training in this field. The next most common sector is “trade and repair - wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles”, with 13% of the population having worked or trained in this sector.

10% of the respondents have an educational background, followed by 6% involved in professions such as lawyers, accountants, or engineers, and another 6% having specialized in “healthcare - human health and social work activities”, including nurses, doctors, psychologists, or physiotherapists.

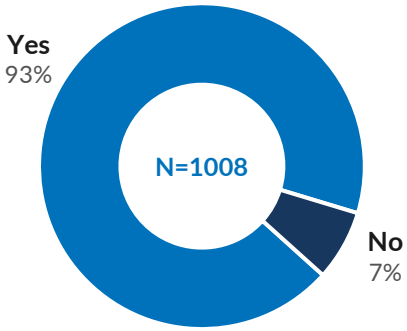
Figure 66 | Main sector of training or experience
N=983



The cross-tabulation between the current field of employment (Figure 64) and their work experience or training (Figure 65) shows that, upon coming into the host country, the respondents do not always find work in the field they have experience or training, despite the fact that the temporary protection regime has facilitated entry into the labour force of host countries. There are multiple possible reasons for the disjunction between the jobs occupied and their education are the refusal of employers to recognise diplomas or studies, the lack of knowledge of the local language, the mismatch of diplomas in some sectors, to name just the most common.

When asked about the access to financial services, 93% of the respondents mentioned that they have access to financial services, while 7% have reported no access to such services in Romania.

Figure 67 | Share of HH with a bank account



Most respondents report a lower economic capacity compared to last year (65%), with only eight per cent reporting a positive change in their income compared to the previous year. Twenty-six per cent had reported no change in their economic capacity.

According to the data, most HHs have enough income to cover just the basic food needs (54%), while 28% reported sufficient income to cover a little more than just basic food needs. Another 11 % do not have enough income to cover basic food expenses. Only one per cent afford to buy a car, but not buy a place to stay, while 3% can afford both the car and the accommodation.

Figure 68 | **Economic capacity compared to previous year**

N=1008

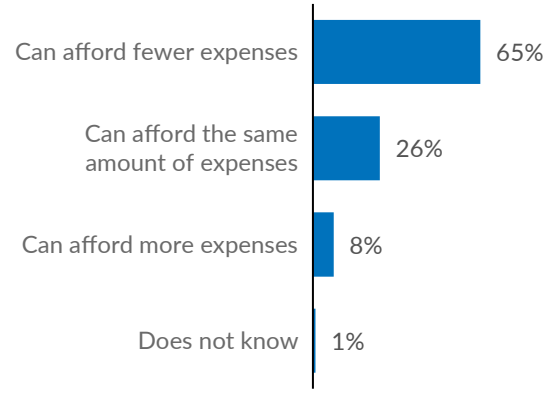
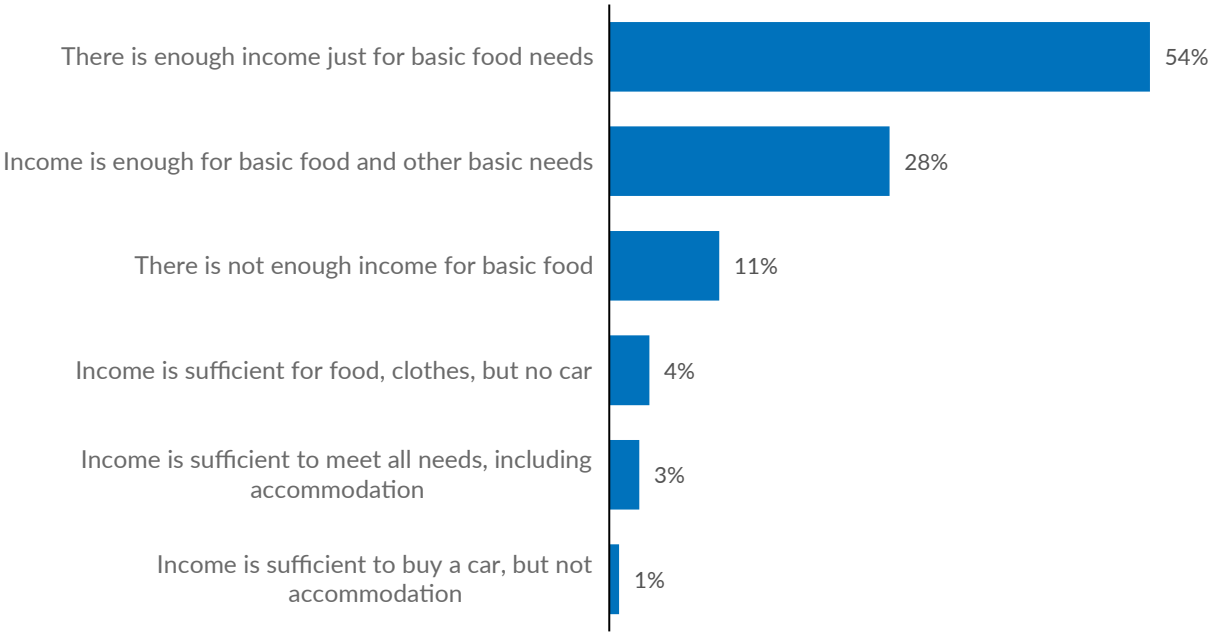


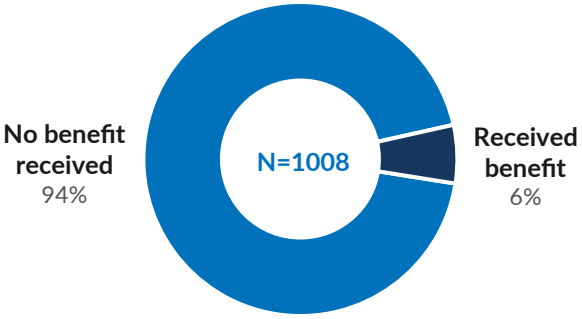
Figure 69 | **Assessment of the household income level**

N=1008



Only 6% of the surveyed HHs mentioned being covered by a social protection program in the host country (56 households). One household can benefit from more than one type of social protection program.

Figure 70 | **HH covered by social protection floors/systems in host country**



The main types of social benefits received were disability allowance and accommodation allowance. 16 respondents mentioned other sources, while 18 did not not receive any social benefits or preferred not to answer. The low number of beneficiaries of social assistance in Romania reflects the fact that the survey was conducted after temporary protection holders from Ukraine were granted access to the government social protection system.

Figure 72 shows the percentage of the entire population under investigation (N = 177) that is still covered by social protection programs from the Ukrainian government. The data reveals that 56% of the 177 households receive benefits from old-age pensions, 12% receive other Ukrainian government benefits, 11% of households receive parental benefits, while 21% receive disability benefits. Additionally, 6% receive other vulnerability benefits, and 2% benefit from employment injury benefits.

The data on the main sources of income for the respondents in the study reveals that 33% of individuals rely on full-time employment in the host country as their primary source of income. A significant proportion, 19%, report having no income at all, while another 19% receive social protection benefits from the Ukrainian government. 10% of respondents earn income through remote employment with Ukrainian employers, and 9% rely on part-time employment in the host country. Additionally, 6% report income from other sources, such as aid from UN/INGOs, investments, or property, and 6% earn income through self-employment, business, or other activities.

Figure 71 | Type of social benefit received

N=56

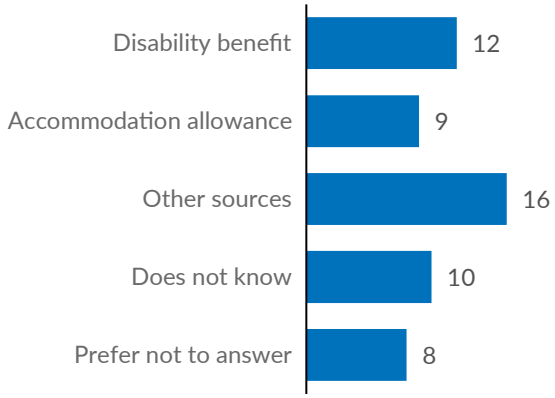


Figure 72 | Aid received from the Ukrainian government

N=177

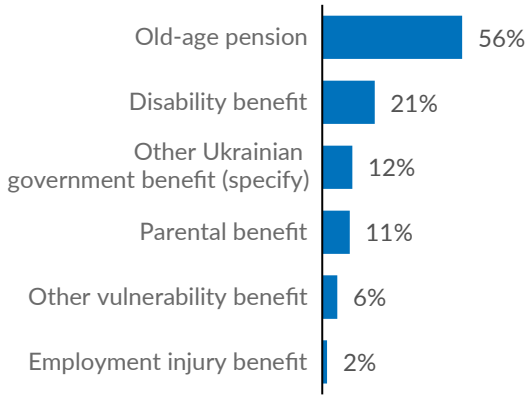
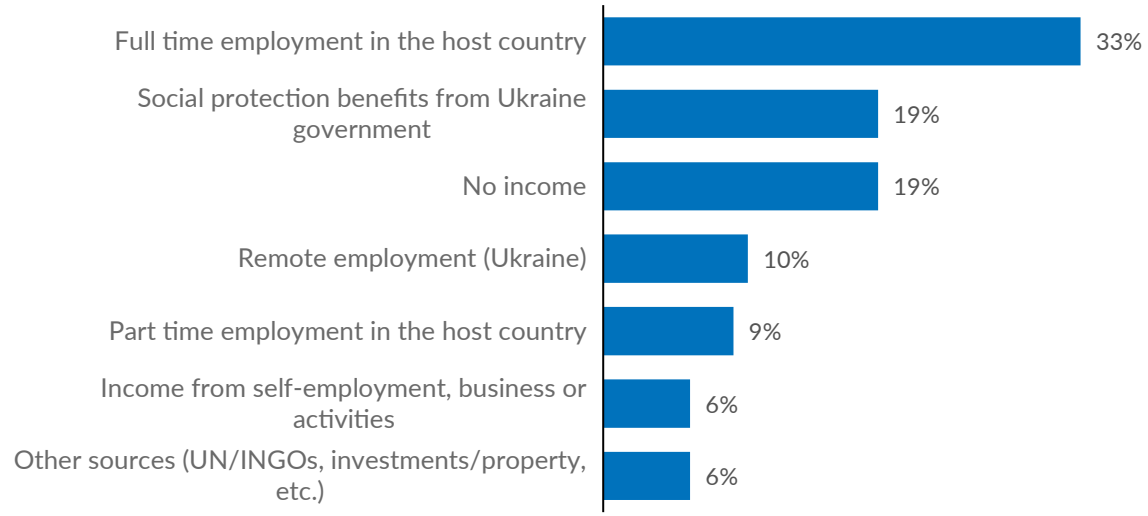


Figure 73 | Main source of income

N=1008



A significant share of the households residing in Romania (23%) are receiving aid from the family still living in Ukraine.

As seen in figure 75, only two per cent of the respondents are comfortable to rely on their savings for a year, while the majority (56%) expect to be able to rely on savings only for a month or declare to have no savings.

Figure 74 | % of HH receiving support from family in Ukraine

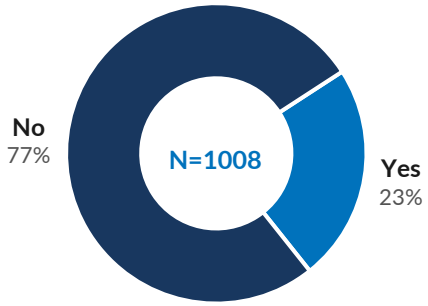
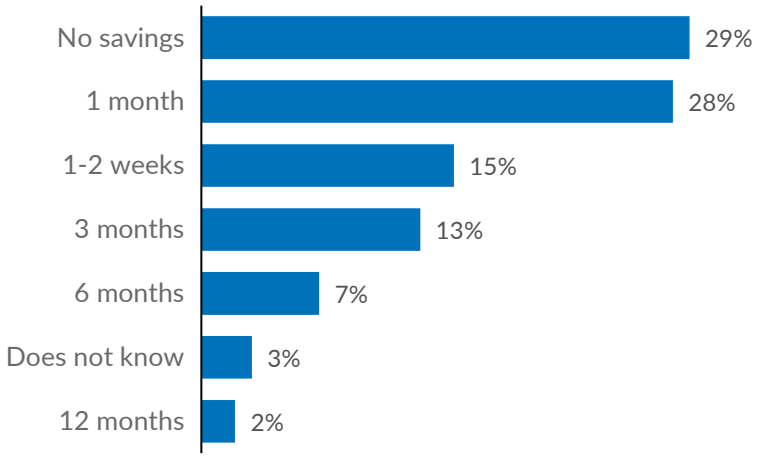


Figure 75 | Perceived reliance on savings in the future

N=1008

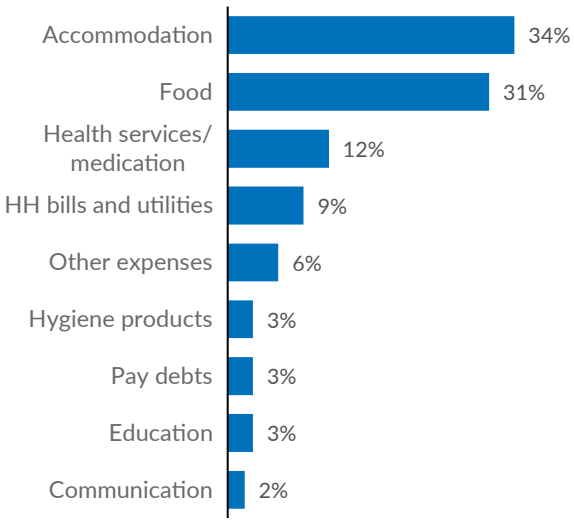


As seen in figure 76, expenses that cover most of the income are related to accommodation (34%), followed by food (31%). Among other important expenses that are considered high in relation to the other needs are the health services and medication expenses, that amount to 12% of a HH's income.

Given that the EO 96/2024 entered into force in July 2024, since then, more and more TP holders are being included in the national social assistance programs in Romania, benefiting from social assistance benefits, such as Child State Allowance, VMI (Venit Minim de Incluziune), disability benefits, etc and social services (for at least a few TP holders). There are still issues in terms of the lack of proper understanding of the EO, misinterpretations and a lack of harmonized practices among local authorities, that should be addressed in the following period, through advocacy efforts, awareness raising sessions, training provided to local authorities on specific topics under the EO 96/2024 and the rights of the refugees etc. in order to ensure vulnerable refugees' inclusion in the Romanian social protection system.

Figure 76 | % of HH expenses

N=1008



Vulnerability Indexes

This section delves into the various coping strategies adopted by Ukrainian refugees to address challenges related to food insecurity and meeting basic needs such as education, health, and accommodation. These strategies can be categorized into reduced coping strategies, which primarily focus on short-term food access adjustments, and livelihood coping strategies, which involve longer-term solutions to sustain household well-being. Reduced coping strategies illustrate the hardships refugees face when their income falls short of providing adequate food, ranging from less severe measures like consuming less preferred food to more extreme steps, such as reducing the number of meals per day. Meanwhile, livelihood coping strategies reflect efforts to manage stress and depletion of assets to secure future needs. This section explores how these strategies provide insight into the resilience and ongoing struggles of refugees as they navigate uncertain circumstances.

"Reduced coping strategies" are the actions individuals or households take when their income is insufficient to provide the usual amount and quality of food required for the household. The concept of "reduced coping strategies" was developed to measure and compare the hardship caused by food scarcity, examining the various methods households use to cope with limited food access. Respondents were asked about their food coping strategies over the past seven days, and households could report using multiple strategies simultaneously. These coping strategies are categorized into three levels of severity: Level 1 strategies, such as eating less preferred foods or limiting portion sizes, are considered mild; Level 2 strategies, like borrowing food or money, represent moderate hardship; and Level 3 strategies, including reducing the number of meals eaten per day, reflect severe food insecurity.

Almost three quarters of the surveyed Ukrainian population has resorted to at least one food coping strategy in the past seven days to the day of the survey. As highlighted in figure 78, the main food coping strategy used is the lack of consumption of the preferred meal (mentioned by 64% of the respondents that indicated to be using a food coping strategy), followed by those that had borrowed food or money to buy food (29%). A similar share of respondents (28%) had to limit the portion size of HH members for the food to be available for everyone. 22 per of the HH had to restrict consumption for adults so that children had what to eat, while 25 per cent had to reduce the number of meals eaten in a day.

Figure 77 | % of HH's that have used at least one coping strategy mechanism in the past seven days

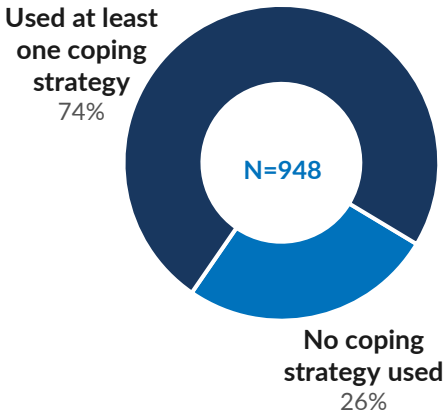
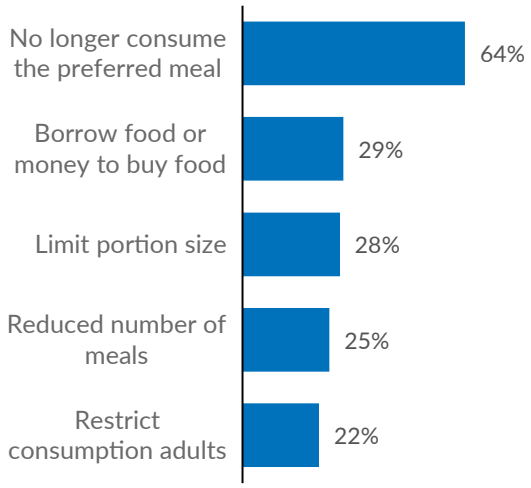


Figure 78 | Main food coping strategies used
N=948



The **Reduced Coping Strategy Index (rCSI)** is another key metric used to measure food insecurity, based on the coping strategies employed by households when they lack sufficient food. This index assigns a severity score (1 for least severe, 2 or 3 for more severe strategies) to each coping measure and calculates the overall score by multiplying the number of days each strategy was used by its severity level. Higher scores indicate more frequent or intense coping behaviors, which suggest a greater degree of food insecurity. The rCSI scale classifies food insecurity into three levels: low (0-3), moderate (4-9), and severe (10+).These measures provide a comprehensive picture of the various strategies refugees employ to manage their food insecurity, as well as their broader capacity to maintain essential living standards in the face of economic and social challenges. The reduced coping strategy index score is 12, indicating moderate food insecurity across the surveyed population.

Another form of coping strategies used are the livelihood coping strategies (used by 847 households), which are used to understand the medium and longer-term coping capacity of households and their ability to overcome challenges in meeting their essential needs in the future. The indicator is derived from a series of questions regarding the households' experiences with livelihood stress and asset depletion to cope with food shortages.

There are three types of coping mechanisms, ordered from the safest to the most extreme ones:

» stress coping mechanisms;

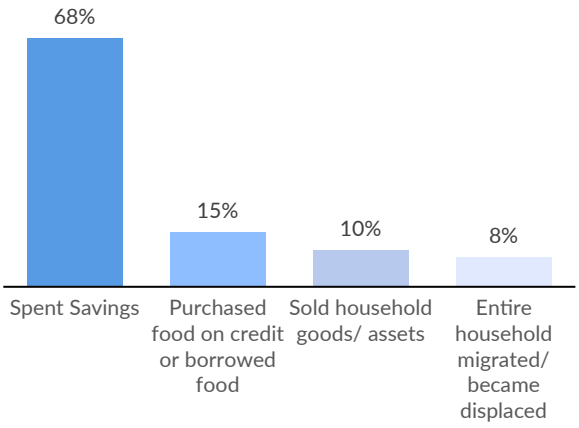
» crisis coping mechanisms

» emergency coping mechanisms.

Stress coping mechanisms include spendings savings, purchasing food on credit or borrowing it, selling household goods or assets or migrating to another region due to high costs of living.

The main stress coping strategy used is spending savings, employed by 68% of the respondents that have adopted a stress coping strategy.

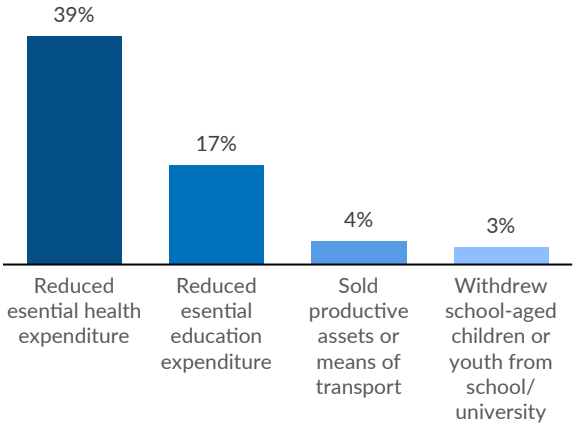
Figure 79 | % of stress coping strategies used
N=1008



Crisis coping mechanisms include reducing essential health expenditure, reducing essential education expenditure, selling productive assets or means of transport, or withdrawing school aged children or youth from school/ university.

The main crisis coping strategy employed by the respondents is reducing essential health expenditure, which, as the health section of the report states, represents a potential concern in light of the fact that 37% of the HH members suffer from at least a chronic disease.

Figure 80 | % of crisis coping strategies used
N=1008

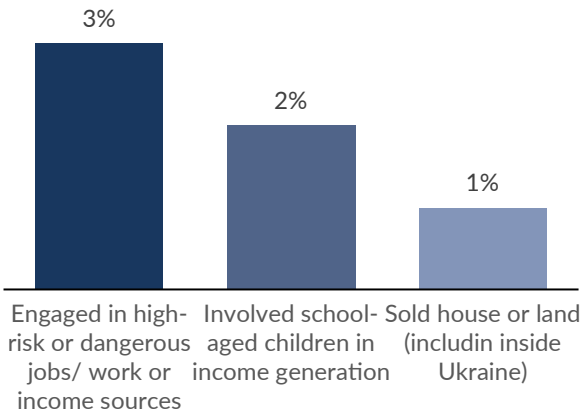


Emergency coping mechanisms include engaging in high risk or dangerous jobs or sources of income, involving school aged children in income generating activities, and lastly selling house or land, even in Ukraine.

A small share had to resort to using emergency coping mechanisms, out of which, 3% had to engage in high-risk or dangerous jobs or income sources.

Figure 81 | **% of emergency coping strategies used**

N=1008

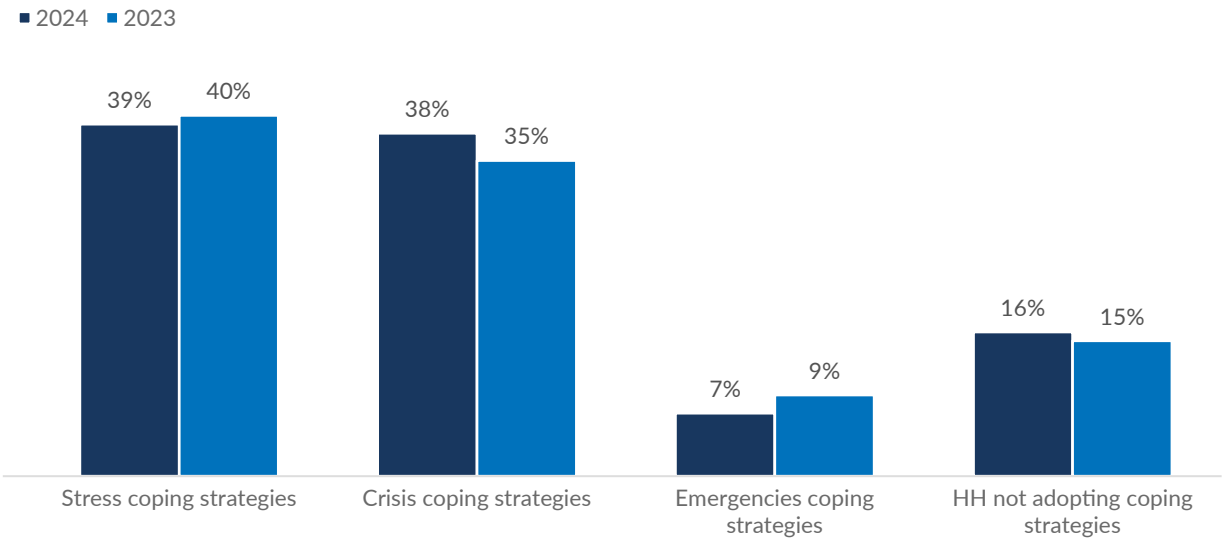


The share of respondents not using any form of coping strategy has remained similar in 2024 (14%) compared to 2023 (15%). The most significant change in coping strategies used appears in the case of crisis coping mechanisms, which sees an eight per cent increase from 35 per cent in 2023 to 43 per cent in 2024.

Overall, the data presented highlights the complex challenges faced by Ukrainian refugees in Romania, particularly in securing stable employment, achieving financial security, and accessing essential services. Despite a high level of education among respondents, many struggle to find work that matches their qualifications due to barriers such as language proficiency, diploma recognition, and limited job opportunities. Economic difficulties are widespread, with a portion of respondents having limited savings, leaving them highly vulnerable to financial shocks. Additionally, a significant portion of households rely on various coping strategies to meet their basic needs, with many resorting to food coping mechanisms and employing crisis coping strategies, such as reducing essential health and education expenses. While some progress has been made in integrating refugees into the Romanian labor market and social protection programs, gaps remain, with only a small portion of households benefiting from Romanian social assistance. Addressing these vulnerabilities requires targeted interventions, including improved access to social benefits, skills recognition programs, and language training, alongside advocacy efforts to ensure policy consistency and proper implementation. Strengthening these measures is crucial to enhancing the resilience and long-term inclusion of Ukrainian refugees in Romania.

Figure 82 | **Stress coping mechanism usage 2023 and 2024 comparison**

N=983



Health

This section addresses the aspects related to the access to healthcare services, as this area remains a critical challenge for displaced individuals, and an important topic addressed in inclusion/integration studies and policy measures.

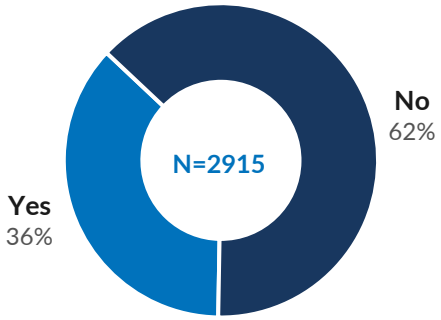
Moreover, access to healthcare services is considered a fundamental human right and a precondition for living a life with dignity. A special focus is given to the access to sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services, which remain a pressing concern, particularly for women.

Access and health expenditures

The data shows that 36% of refugees surveyed (out of 2,915) reported experiencing health problems and needing access to healthcare services, highlighting a significant portion of the population with medical needs. Meanwhile, 62% did not require healthcare services, indicating that a majority are currently managing without medical intervention. This finding underscores the importance of ensuring that healthcare systems are equipped to address the needs of over one-third of the refugee population, who may face various access barriers. Simultaneously, the majority without immediate healthcare needs suggests that proactive measures should remain in place to monitor and address potential increases in demand as circumstances evolve.

Figure 83 | % of refugees with a health problem and in need to access health care services

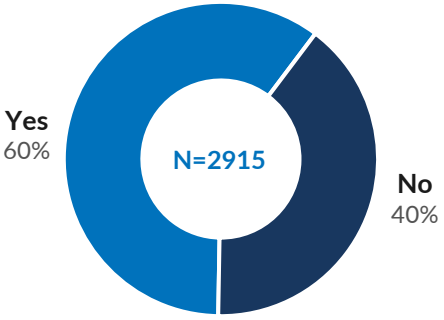
N=2915



Equally important is the discussion about the chronically ill population, who needs ongoing medical care due to their condition. As per the sample, the data indicates that 60% of households have at least one member with a chronic illness. This high prevalence of chronic conditions underscores the critical need for consistent access to healthcare services for refugee populations. In a more granular perspective, 36% of the surveyed population report having a chronic medical condition.

Figure 84 | % of HH with a chronically ill member

N=2915

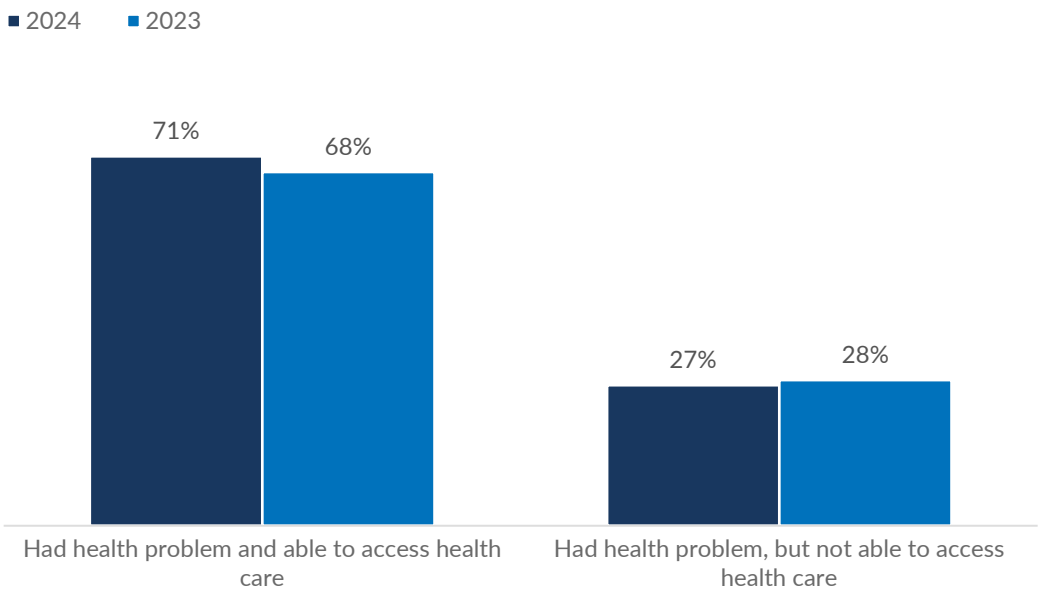


The findings highlight the importance of tailored healthcare programs, including regular check-ups, medication access, and preventive care measures, to support the well-being of these households. Addressing these needs is essential to reducing health disparities and ensuring that refugees with chronic conditions can maintain stability in their health while integrating into host communities.

When analyzing the access to the health services, the data reveals that while 71% of individuals with health problems were able to access healthcare services, a concerning 27% were unable to do so. These percentages are very similar to the ones recorded in 2023, where 68% of individuals with health problems managed to access the needed heath services, while 28% did not. The inability to access healthcare for nearly one in three individuals in need of it highlights the urgent need for targeted interventions, including improved healthcare infrastructure, multilingual support, and community outreach programs. Addressing these challenges is essential to ensure equitable access to medical care and support the overall well-being of vulnerable populations.

In addition, the data highlights various barriers faced by individuals in accessing healthcare services within the last 30 days prior to the survey. The most reported issues include long waiting times (37%) and financial constraints, with 30% unable to afford clinic fees or medication and 28% unable to afford hospital fees. The lack of financial possibilities to access healthcare comes as not all respondents know of their free of charge healthcare provided by their TP status. The impossibility to get registered to a general practitioner also plays an important role, as they are able to prescribe doctor referrals to access healthcare for free. As a result, refugees from Ukraine are forced to access private healthcare. Language barriers also posed significant challenges for 28%, preventing effective communication with healthcare staff. Other notable barriers include difficulties in making appointments (19%), lack of knowledge about how to access services (14%), and lack of health insurance in the host country (11%). Trust issues with local providers (8%) and the unavailability of specific treatments or medications (6%) further exacerbated the problem. Less common obstacles but serious

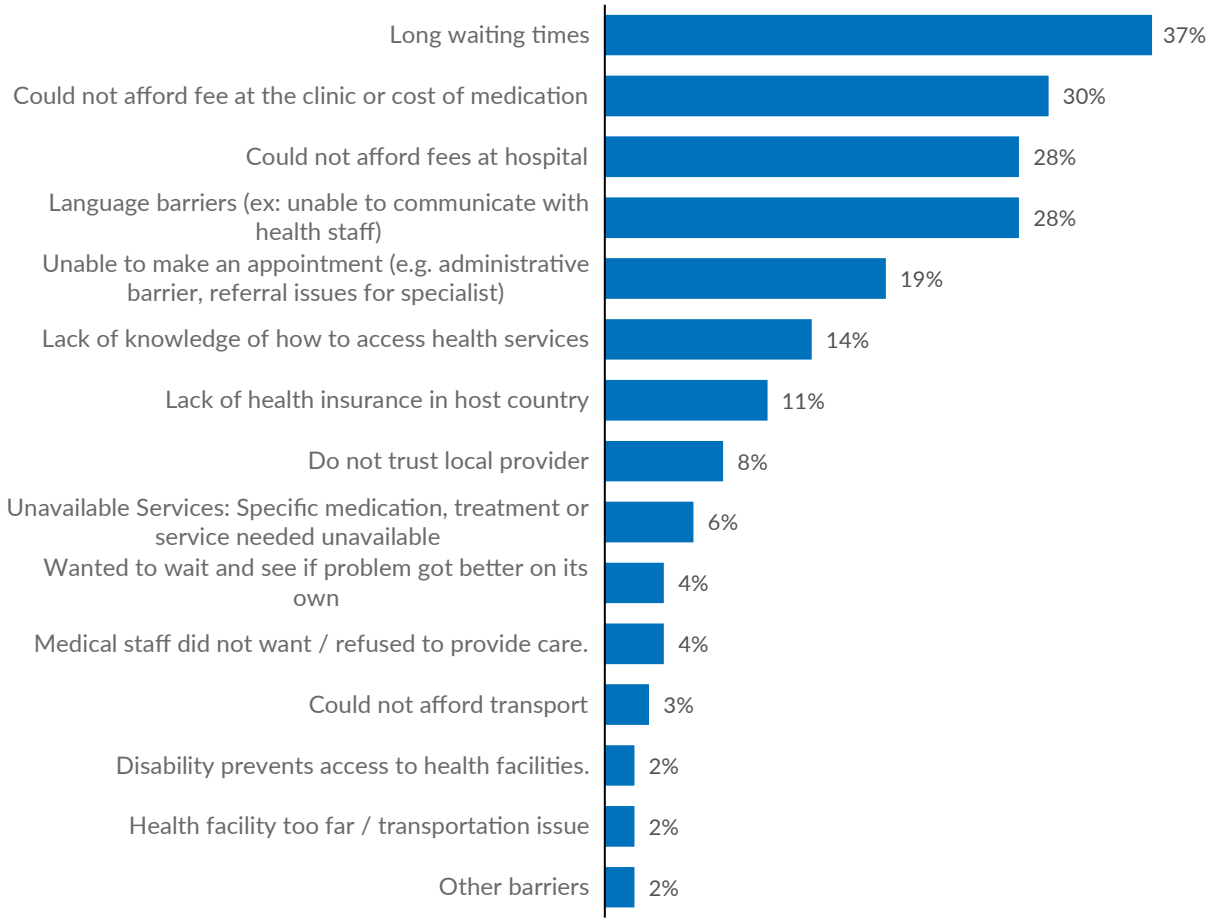
Figure 85 | Access to health services in 2023/2024
N=1089



concerns included refusal of care by medical staff (4%), reluctance to seek care immediately (4%), and transportation-related challenges such as distance to health facilities (3%). These findings underscore the need for targeted interventions, such as targeted financial aid, access to free healthcare under the national health insurance scheme, language support, and improved healthcare system accessibility, to address the diverse barriers to care.

As addressed in the short-term visit section (page 36), an important proportion of the surveyed population return to Ukraine to receive the necessary healthcare services. In this respect, better understanding the existing access barriers in Romania, allows for targeted policy interventions and, ultimately, access to the needed services.

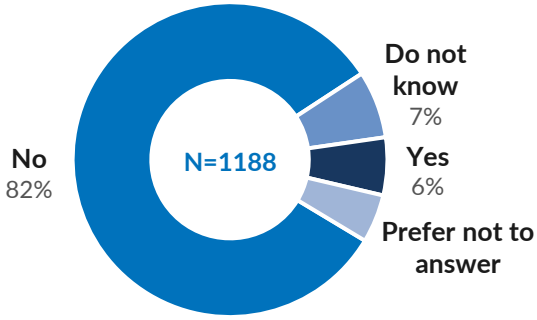
Figure 86 | % of individuals by self-reporting barriers to accessing health care in the last 30 days (MCQ)
N=308



Discussions about access are incomplete without addressing the sexual and reproductive health services available for women. The data indicates that the majority of women surveyed (83%) did not face barriers in accessing SRH services. However, 6% reported encountering barriers, highlighting that a portion of women still face challenges. Additionally, 7% were unsure about their access to SRH services, and 5% preferred not to answer, suggesting potential underreporting or sensitivity surrounding the topic. These findings emphasize the importance of continuing to address barriers to SRH services through targeted outreach, ensuring equitable access, and providing culturally sensitive support to those who may be reluctant or unable to seek care.

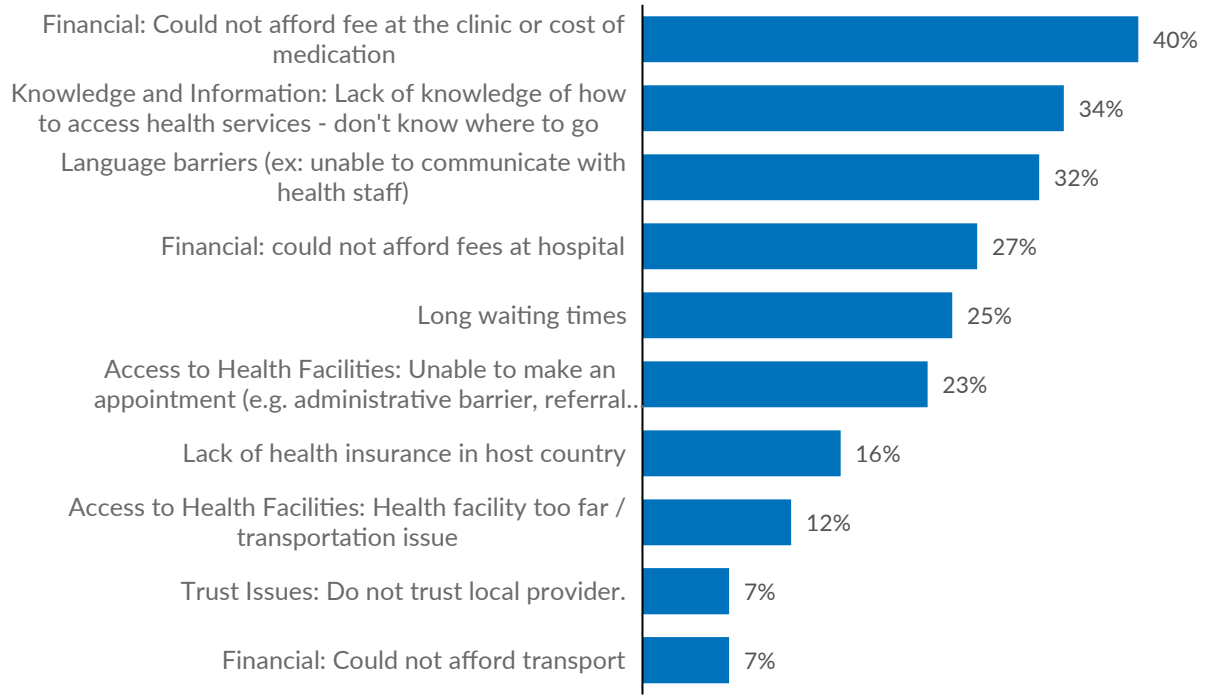
Even though the percentage of women who reported facing barriers is low (6%), the reported barriers in accessing (SRH) services refer mainly to financial constraints. As such, 40% reported being unable to afford clinic fees or medication and 27% unable to pay hospital fees. Knowledge gaps also play a major role, as 34% of respondents lacked information on how to access health services or where to go. Language barriers affect 32%, hindering effective communication with healthcare staff. Issues related to accessing

Figure 87 | Women facing barriers in accessing SRH services



health facilities, such as difficulties making appointments (23%) and long waiting times (25%), further complicate care. Additionally, 16% cited a lack of health insurance, 12% faced transportation challenges due to the distance to health facilities, and 7% could not afford transport. Trust issues with local providers (7%) highlight the need for culturally sensitive care. These findings emphasize the importance of addressing financial, informational, and logistical barriers to improve access to SRH services for women.

Figure 88 | Barriers to access SRH services (MCQ)
N=81



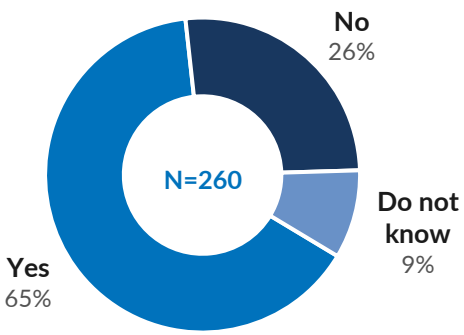
Lastly, as per the sample, the average amount respondents reported to have spent in the last six months on health services, excluding medicine, is around 4,300 RON, an amount that is high enough to put pressure on the household budgets and indicates that healthcare services is one of the top priority needs.

Child Health and Nutrition

Discussions regarding children's access to medical services and the protection provided, particularly during early childhood, are critical and require focused attention. Child health and nutrition are core components of refugee well-being, yet the data highlights significant challenges and disparities.

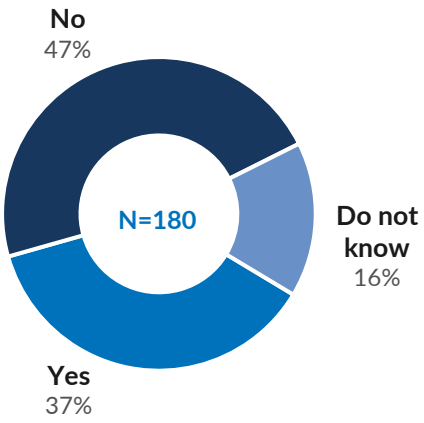
As per the sample, 64% of children aged 9 months to 5 years received their first dose of the measles vaccination, reflecting a majority with initial immunization coverage. However, 26% of children have not been vaccinated, raising concerns about potential measles outbreaks within this age group. Additionally, 9% of respondents were unsure of the child's vaccination status, suggesting a gap in awareness or record-keeping. These findings highlight the need for targeted immunization campaigns to address unvaccinated children, alongside efforts to improve parental knowledge and access to vaccination services.

Figure 89 | Children aged 9 months -5 years who received 1st dose of measles vaccination



More concerning is the fact that only 37% of children aged 9 months to 5 years have received their second dose of the measles vaccination, indicating a significant drop in coverage compared to the first dose. Nearly half (47%) of children remain unvaccinated for the second dose, leaving them vulnerable to measles outbreaks. Additionally, 16% of respondents were unsure about the child's vaccination status, reflecting gaps in awareness or documentation. These findings underscore the importance of follow-up efforts to ensure timely administration of the second dose and to close the immunization gap. Strengthening parental education, improving access to vaccination services, and addressing barriers such as awareness or logistical challenges are critical for increasing coverage and protecting children from vaccine-preventable diseases.

Figure 90 | Children aged 9 months - 5 years who received 2nd dose of measles vaccination

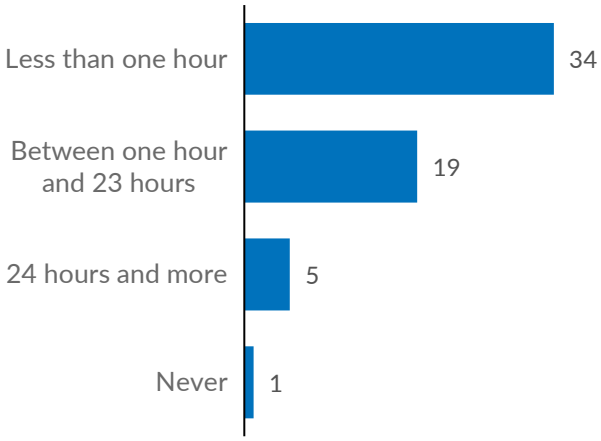


Equally important in the discussions about child wellbeing are the dimensions related to nutrition. The World Health Organization emphasizes the importance of initiating breastfeeding immediately after birth, as this practice holds significant benefits for both the baby and the mother. However, at the question related to the initiation of breastfeeding after giving birth, there were only 59 respondents. Therefore, the findings are not statistically relevant. As per the sample, 34 infants were breastfed within the first hour after birth, aligning with recommended

practices for optimal newborn nutrition and health. Another 19 infants were breastfed between one and 23 hours after birth, while five infants were breastfed 24 hours or more after birth. Only 1 infant was never breastfed, suggesting that breastfeeding initiation is generally widespread among this population. These findings highlight the importance of promoting timely breastfeeding initiation, as early breastfeeding supports bonding, boosts immunity, and provides essential nutrients for newborns.

Figure 91 | **Children breastfed after birth**

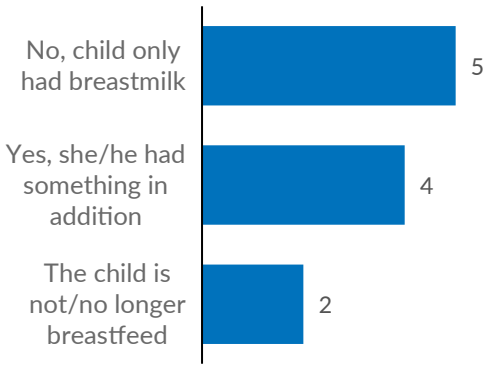
N=59



Same guidelines recommend exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months of life. However, due to the very small sample size (11), the findings are not statistically significant. Therefore, when asked if the infants were exclusively breastfeed for the first six months, the data indicates that five infants exclusively consumed breastmilk, adhering to recommended practices for infant nutrition. However, four were given additional food or liquids alongside breast milk, which may deviate from exclusive breastfeeding guidelines aimed at ensuring optimal health outcomes for young children. Additionally, two children were not or were no longer breastfed, highlighting a small group outside the breastfeeding framework.

Figure 92 | **Did the child eat anything else beside breast milk?**

N=11



Mental Health and Psychosocial Support

Mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) is a critical area of concern for displaced individuals, particularly as they navigate the challenges of integration in a new country and readaptation to a new context. Key aspects addressed in this subsection assess whether individuals have experienced emotional distress, such as feelings of anxiety, agitation, depression, or anger that interfere with daily functioning. These disruptions might manifest as difficulty performing basic tasks like working, attending school, or managing household responsibilities. Understanding whether individuals sought support, the types of MHPSS services accessed, and the effectiveness of those services in improving well-being is essential for addressing their needs. Additionally, identifying barriers to accessing mental health support helps pinpoint gaps in service delivery. These insights guide efforts to create accessible, effective MHPSS programs tailored to vulnerable populations.

As per the sample, one in three individuals reported experiencing mental health and psychosocial issues over the past four weeks prior to the data collection that significantly affected their daily functioning, difficulties mentioned above, such as working, attending school, or managing household responsibilities. Meanwhile, 64% of respondents did not report such issues, and 4% were unsure, indicating some uncertainty or lack of awareness about their mental health status. In a more granular analysis, more than one in two (53%) households have at least one member who experienced mental health and psychosocial issues. These findings emphasize the importance of targeted interventions to address mental health concerns, particularly for those experiencing significant disruptions in their daily lives, while also promoting awareness and understanding of mental well-being among all individuals.

Out of the ones who experienced mental health and psychosocial problems, 33% of individuals sought support services (detailed in the pyramide type figure below), indicating a proactive approach to addressing their mental health needs. However, a significant 64% did not attempt to access these services, highlighting potential barriers. Additionally, 2% of respondents were unsure if they sought support, and 1% preferred not to answer, suggesting some uncertainty or sensitivity surrounding the topic. These findings underline the importance of increasing awareness about the availability and benefits of MHPSS services, reducing stigma, and addressing obstacles that may prevent individuals from seeking the help they need. Moreover, 94% of the ones who tried to access mental health services, received support in various forms and formats.

Figure 93 | % of individuals experiencing mental health and psychosocial problems

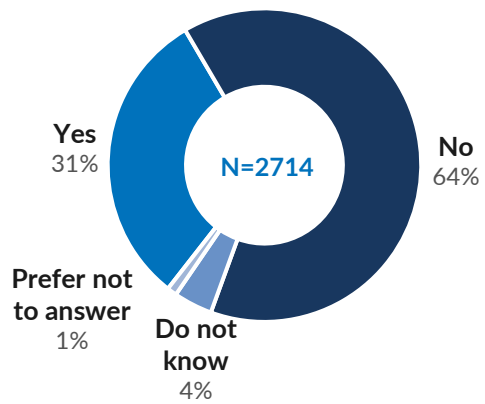
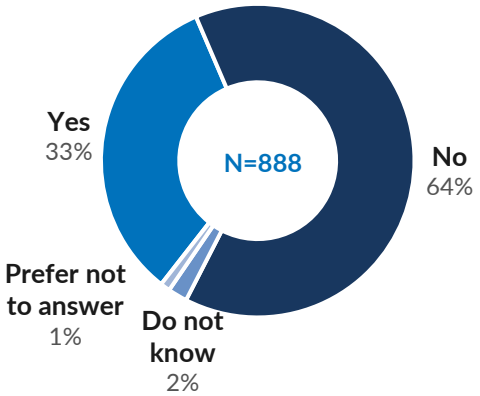


Figure 94 | % of individuals who tried to access MHPSS support



When asked about the MHPSS services accessed by individuals, strengthening community and family support was the most frequently received service, reported by 56% of respondents, emphasizing the importance of informal networks in providing emotional and practical assistance. Specialized services, which likely include professional counseling or psychiatric care, were accessed by 42%, indicating a strong demand for targeted mental health interventions. Focused psychosocial support was utilized by only 6%, and social considerations in basic services and security were accessed by 8%, suggesting that these services are less commonly utilized or perhaps less available. These findings highlight the need to bolster specialized MHPSS services while enhancing community-based initiatives to create a holistic and accessible support system for individuals in need.

Figure 95 | % of type of MHPSS services received by individuals (MCQ)

N=295

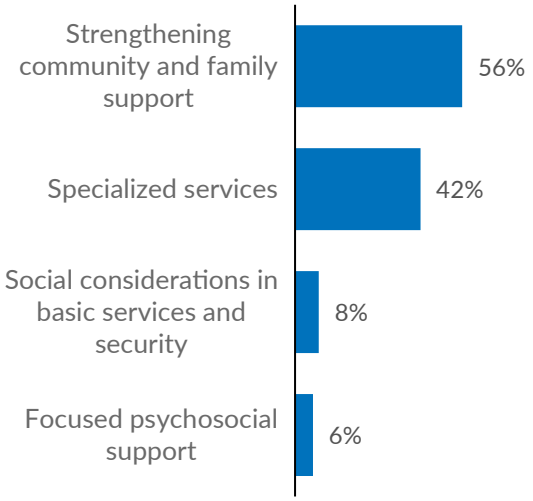
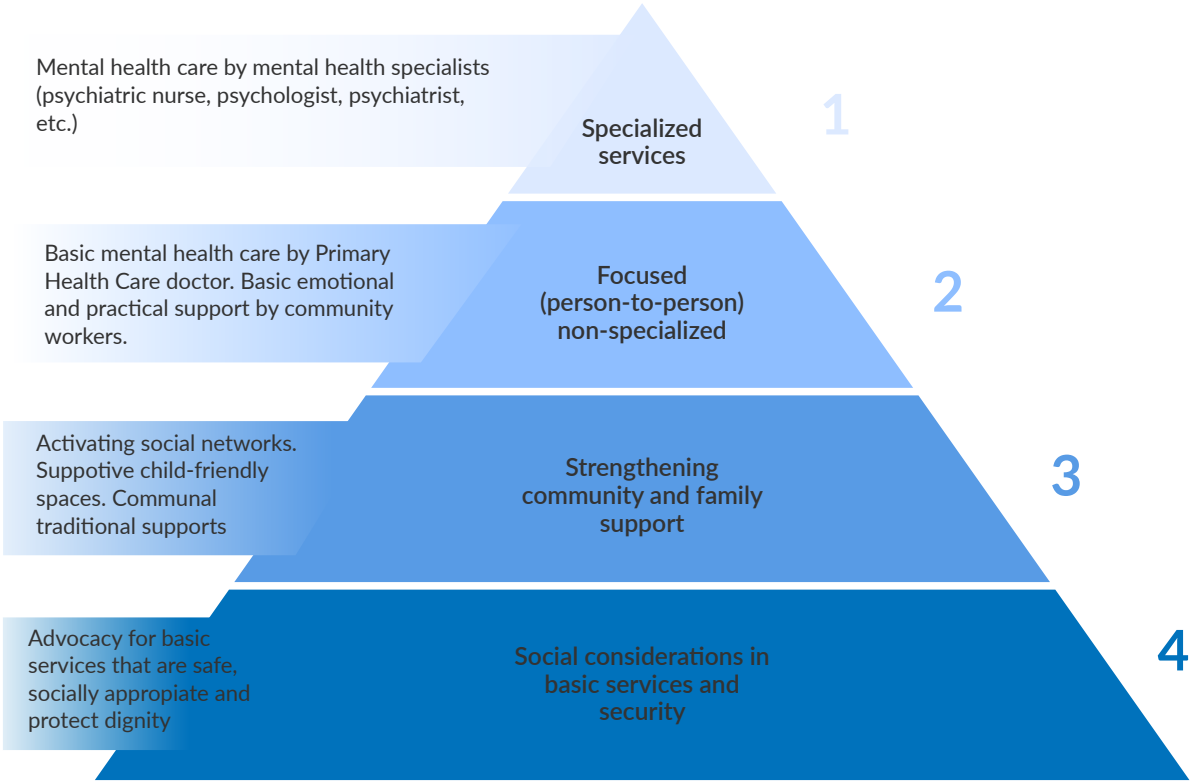
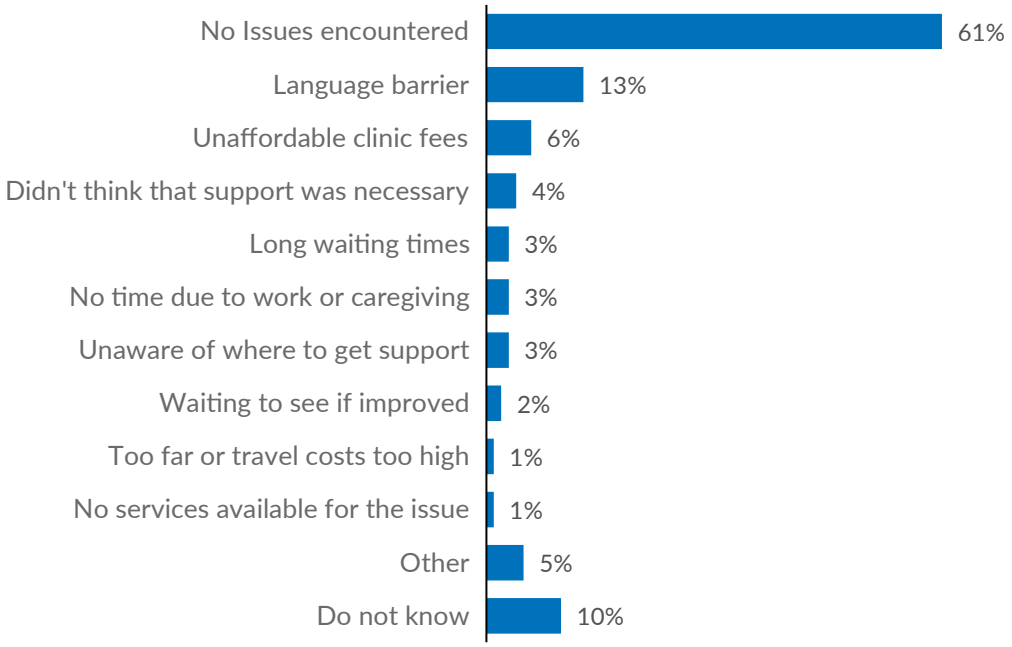


Figure 96 | MPHSS Pyramid



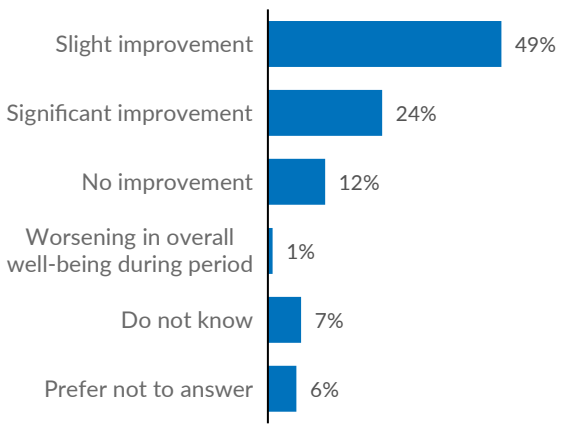
Moreover, when asked if individuals encountered barriers when accessing MHPSS services, 61% reported no barriers suggesting that the majority found services accessible. However, for the remaining 39%, several challenges persisted. Language barriers were the most frequently reported issue (13%), followed by unaffordable clinic fees (6%) and lack of awareness about where to find support (3%). Other barriers included individuals not perceiving the need for support (4%), being too busy due to work or caregiving responsibilities (3%), and long waiting times (3%). A smaller proportion cited issues such as travel costs or unavailability of relevant services (1% each). These findings underscore the importance of addressing financial and logistical barriers, increasing service awareness, and expanding language support to enhance access to MHPSS services.

Figure 97 | % of reported barriers to accessing mental health and psychosocial support services (MCQ)
N=417



Equally important, as per the sample, 73% of individuals who received MHPSS services experienced some level of improvement in their well-being, with 24% reporting significant improvement and 49% reporting slight improvement. However, 12% reported no improvement, and 1% noted a worsening in their overall well-being, highlighting areas where services may need enhancement or further tailoring. Additionally, 7% of respondents were unsure of the impact, and 6% preferred not to answer, indicating potential sensitivity or ambiguity around the outcomes. These findings demonstrate the positive impact of MHPSS services for most individuals while emphasizing the importance of ongoing evaluation and adaptation to ensure support is effective for all recipients.

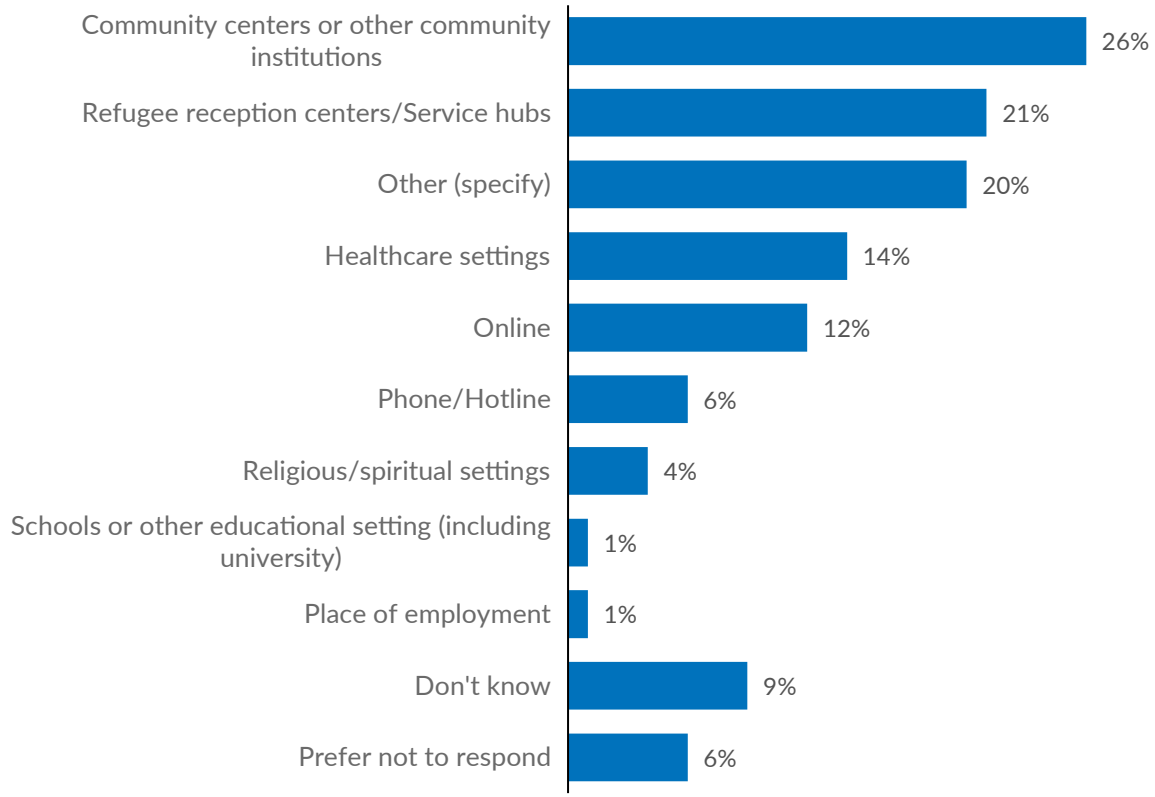
Figure 98 | % of individuals who received mental health and psychosocial support services and report improvement in wellbeing
N=290



Moreover, MHPSS services are accessed through a variety of locations, with community centers or other community institutions being the most utilized (26%), followed by refugee reception centers, or service hubs (21%). A significant proportion (20%) accessed services through unspecified or alternative locations, while healthcare settings accounted for 14%. Online platforms were used by 12%, highlighting the growing role of digital solutions in mental health support. Smaller percentages included phone hotlines (6%), religious or spiritual settings (4%), places of employment (1%), and educational institutions (1%). These findings emphasize the importance of maintaining a diverse range of service delivery methods to meet the varying needs and preferences of individuals while expanding access through trusted and accessible community-based locations.

Figure 99 | Location of the MHPSS service

N=278



Shelter/ Accommodation

Accommodation is a fundamental human need, and for refugees, it becomes an even more pressing issue as they seek safety in foreign countries. Every country covered by the RRP plan that has hosted refugees from Ukraine since the onset of the full-scale invasion has implemented various programs aimed at assisting with housing and covering related costs.

Since March 2022, through the Romanian government's support program hosts who provided accommodation to Ukrainian refugees in Romania received a reimbursement of 70 lei per day per person, with 50 lei allocated for housing costs and 20 lei for food expenses.

However, this program has undergone significant changes over time, and since July 2024, its revised criteria have restricted access to support, prioritizing the most vulnerable refugees in line with current legislation. The primary reason for these changes was to encourage refugees to enter the labor market and become more self-sufficient. As a result, eligibility is now limited to those who meet specific conditions, such as newly arrived refugees and individuals in stable living situations, including those receiving additional state assistance or residing in temporary camps.

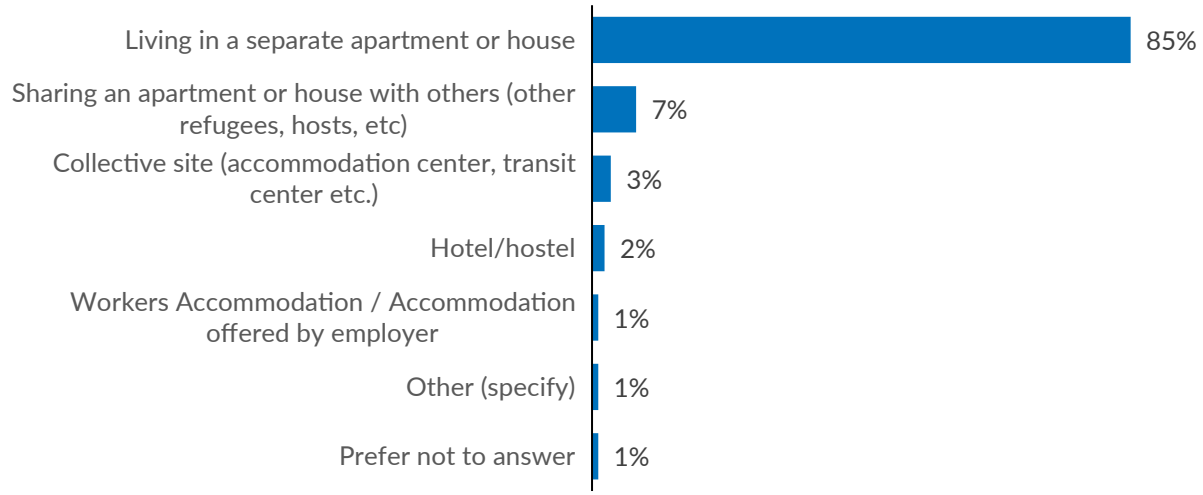
At the time of the survey, beneficiaries of temporary protection in Romania were eligible for a fixed monthly allowance to cover living costs for up to three months in case they are newly arrived or in case they never benefited from this type of support.

Additionally, changes in the housing assistance program have led to the closure of many collective accommodation facilities, such as hotels, hostels, and dormitories, which had been supported by the program when they housed Ukrainians. These changes are clearly reflected in the survey results, which shows that the majority of the respondents covered their accommodation expenses by themself.

The majority of Ukrainian refugees in Romania – 85% – reside in separate apartments or houses. As was mentioned before, this housing situation is primarily shaped by the lack of assistance programs and personal circumstances rather than a deliberate preference for independent living.

However, 7% share housing with others, such as fellow refugees or host families, highlighting the communal living situations that some households rely on. A smaller portion resides in collective accommodation, such as transit centers (3%), or in temporary arrangements like hotels or hostels (2%). Only 1% live in worker-provided accommodations or similar arrangements, while an additional 1% fall into other unspecified categories or prefer not to answer.

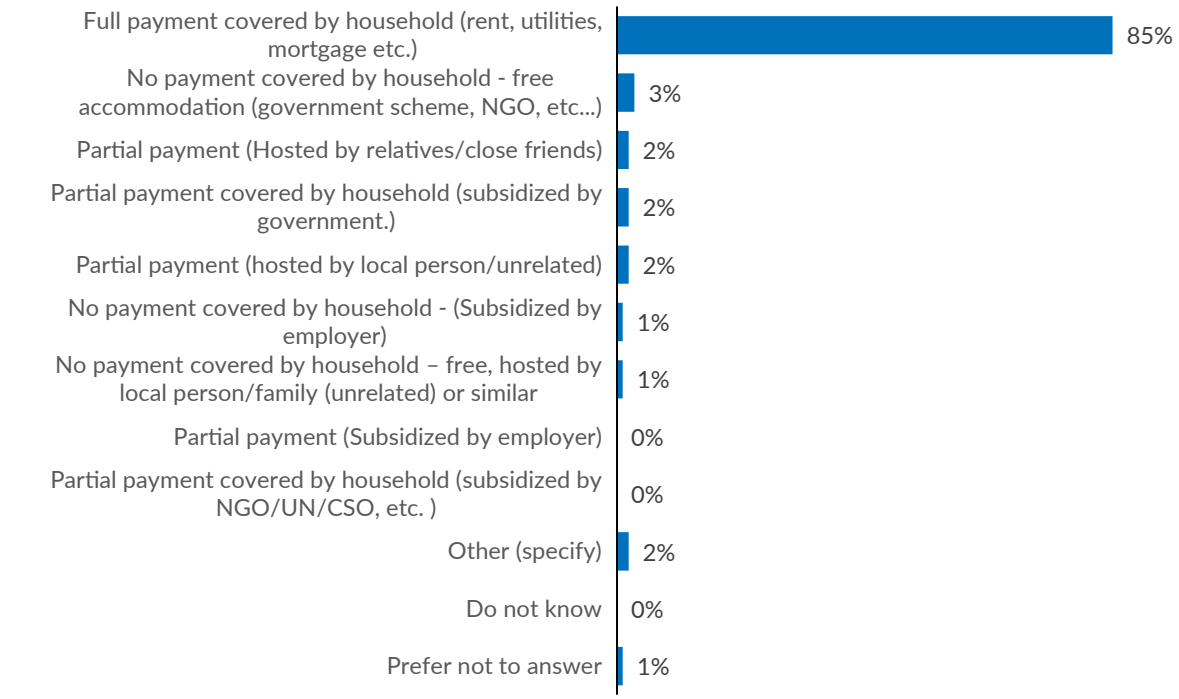
Figure 100 | Distribution of households by the type of accommodations
N=1008



Despite unemployment rate among refugees from Ukraine in Romania and the financial challenges it brings, approximately 85% of surveyed households are covering their living expenses independently. Only 3% of households benefit from free accommodation provided through government schemes for NGOs, while a combined 6% rely on partial payments under various arrangements, such as hosting by local families, relatives, or government subsidies. A small proportion (1%) report having their accommodation fully subsidized by employers or receiving similar support with housing.

These findings highlight that while most households of refugees from Ukraine are financially independent regarding housing, a notable minority depend on external support. This underscores the need for continued access to subsidized housing initiatives/social housing schemes or programs subsidizing the cost of utilities (eg. the heating aid program etc) to alleviate the economic strain on vulnerable displaced families.

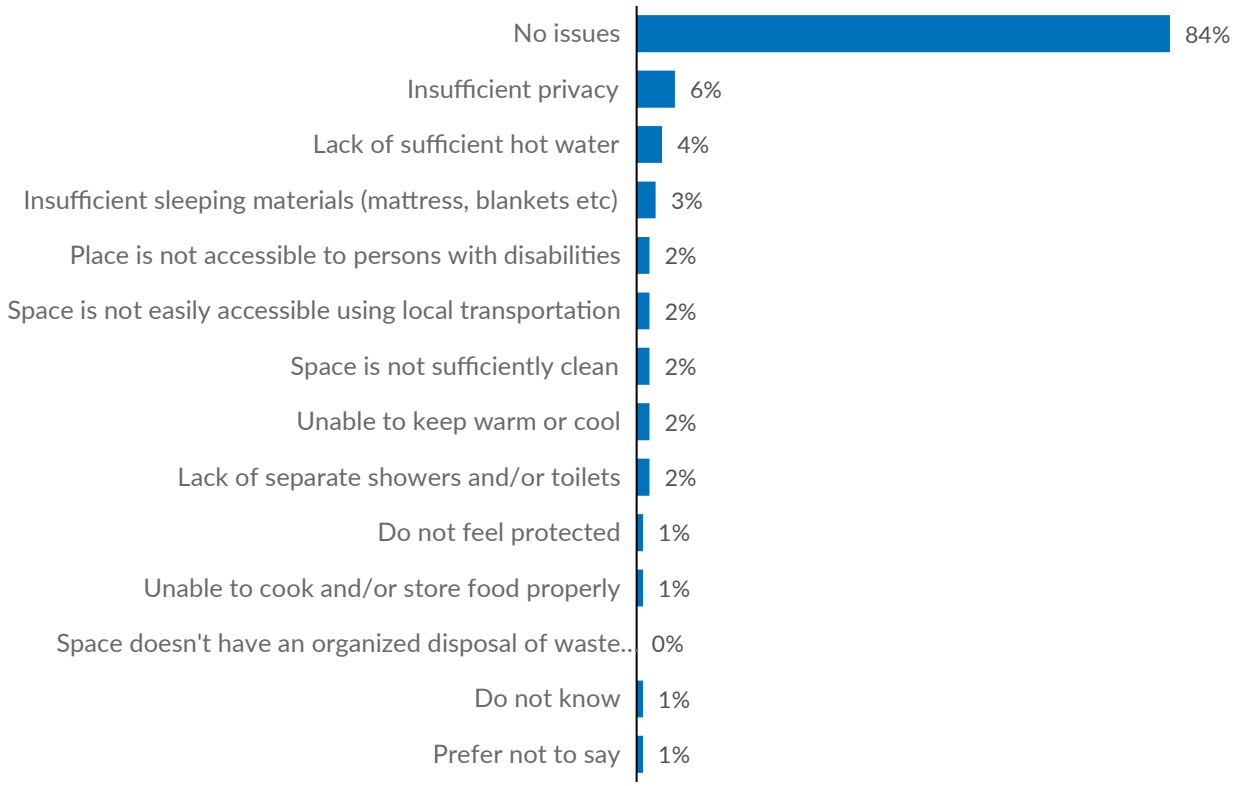
Figure 101 | % of HHs by accommodation payment arrangement
N=1008



A significant 98% of households of refugees from Ukraine in Romania live in non-overcrowded conditions, indicating that most have sufficient space for their families. However, 2% of households experience overcrowding, which could lead to challenges related to privacy, hygiene, and overall living standards.

When it comes to satisfaction with current living conditions, the majority of refugees from Ukraine in Romania, 84%, report having no issues with it. However, 16% face various challenges, with the most common issues including insufficient privacy (6%), lack of sufficient hot water (4%), and insufficient sleeping materials such as mattresses or blankets (3%). Other concerns reported by smaller percentages of households include lack of separate showers and toilets (2%), difficulty keeping warm or cold (2%), and accommodation that is not easily accessible via local transportation (2%). A similar 2% also mentioned that their accommodation is not accessible to persons with disabilities. A small number of households face additional challenges, such as being unable to cook or store food properly (1%) or not feeling protected (1%). These findings highlight that while most refugees experience no issues, a portion still faces difficulties that can impact their quality of life and well-being.

Figure 102 | **Distribution of reported issues with current accommodation (MCQ)**
N=1008



As the winter period approaches, some households are concerned about specific housing challenges. 2% of households perceive insufficient heating as a potential issue, which could lead to difficulties in staying warm during colder months. Additionally, 4.7% of households are worried about insufficient insulation, which could make it harder to retain warmth inside their homes, increasing their vulnerability to the cold. Another 2.1% anticipate issues with lack of hot water, which can complicate daily tasks, including personal hygiene, during the winter.

2%
OF HHs HAVE NO SUFFICIENT HEATING

4.7%
OF HHs HAVE NO SUFFICIENT INSULATION

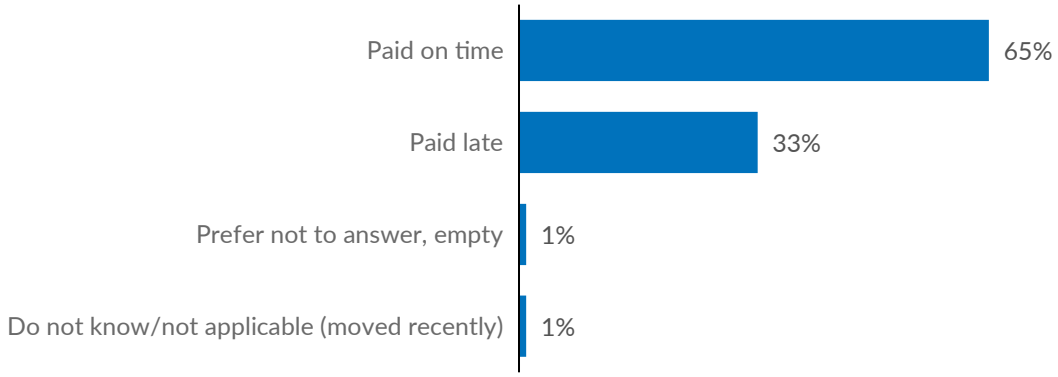
2.1%
OF HHs HAVE NO HOT WATER

Expenditure and Security of Tenure

On average, Ukrainian refugee households in Romania spend 1,974 RON on rent and 536 RON on household bills, totaling 2,510 RON per month for housing and essential utilities. While these costs are standard for anyone renting in Romania, they pose a significant burden for refugees, a particularly vulnerable population. As outlined in previous chapters, income disparities and employment challenges further exacerbate financial strain. Although high housing costs affect many, refugees face even greater difficulties due to income instability, the high cost of living in key regions, and limited financial support systems.

A clear illustration of the housing affordability challenges faced by Ukrainian refugees is the fact that only 65% are able to make all necessary payments on time. Significant 33% have experienced difficulties and paid late, indicating that a significant portion of refugees face financial challenges that impact their ability to meet payment deadlines. A small percentage, 1%, either do not know or find the question not applicable due to a recent move, and another 1% prefer not to answer or have left the question blank.

Figure 103 | % of HHs in relation to payment timelines and difficulties experienced
N=900



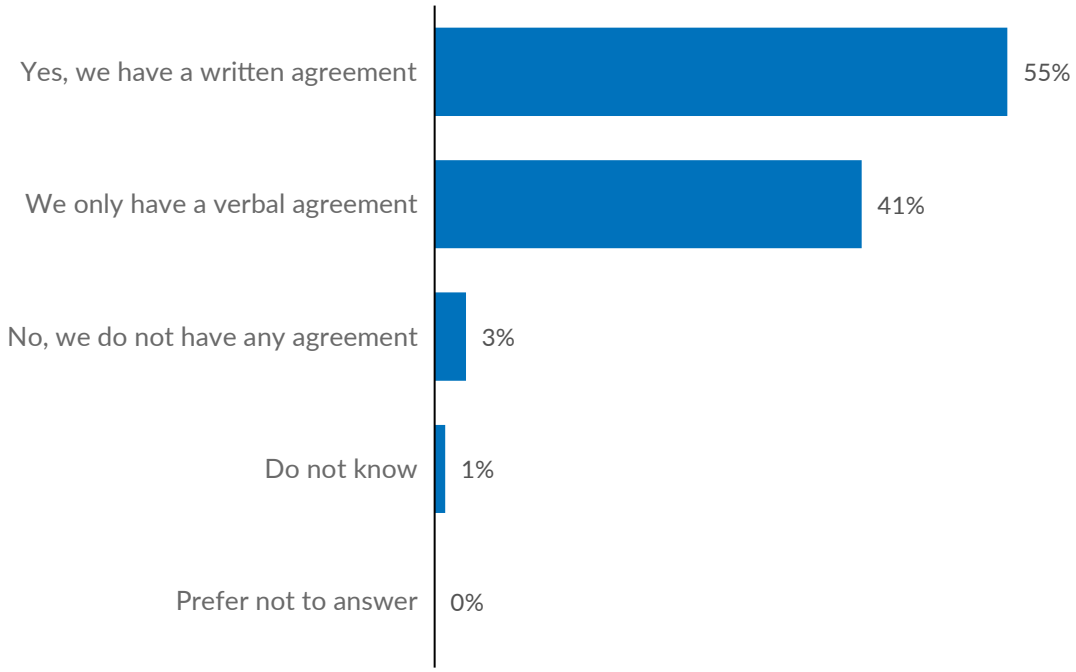
Having a written residence contract is essential for a sense of security, as it not only ensures that residency rights are protected but also provides access to social benefits and other essential services.

A significant 55% of refugees from Ukraine in Romania report having a written housing agreement, ensuring formal security and legal recognition of their accommodation. However, 41% rely solely on verbal agreements, which can pose serious challenges. Verbal contracts, though often based on mutual trust, provide limited legal protection and leave tenants vulnerable to sudden evictions, unexpected rent increases, or disputes with landlords. Without a formal agreement, refugees may find it difficult to assert their rights, seek legal recourse, or access housing-related assistance programs. Furthermore, the absence of official documentation can hinder their ability to secure residency registration or other essential administrative support, making their integration into Romanian society even more challenging.A smaller proportion, 3%, do not have any housing agreement at all, which could lead to uncertainty regarding their living arrangements. Only 1% are unsure about the type of agreement they have.

Most respondents without a written contract declined to explain why they accepted a verbal agreement. Among the few who did respond, most struggled to provide a clear reason, suggesting a general reluctance or hesitation to discuss the matter.

Figure 104 | % of type of agreement for accommodation

N=1008



Many households of refugees from Ukraine in Romania feel secure in their living arrangements, but a notable portion still expresses uncertainty about the long-term stability of their housing situation. 52% of households expect to stay for six months or longer, indicating a sense of stability. However, 21% are unsure about how long they can remain, which may be due to factors such as lease agreements or personal circumstances.

A smaller portion, 12%, anticipates staying for three-six months, while 10% expect to stay for two-three months. Only 4% can remain for one month, and just 1% expect to stay for the upcoming week.

These figures reflect a mix of housing stability and uncertainty, highlighting the need for continued various support to ensure that refugee households can maintain secure living conditions.

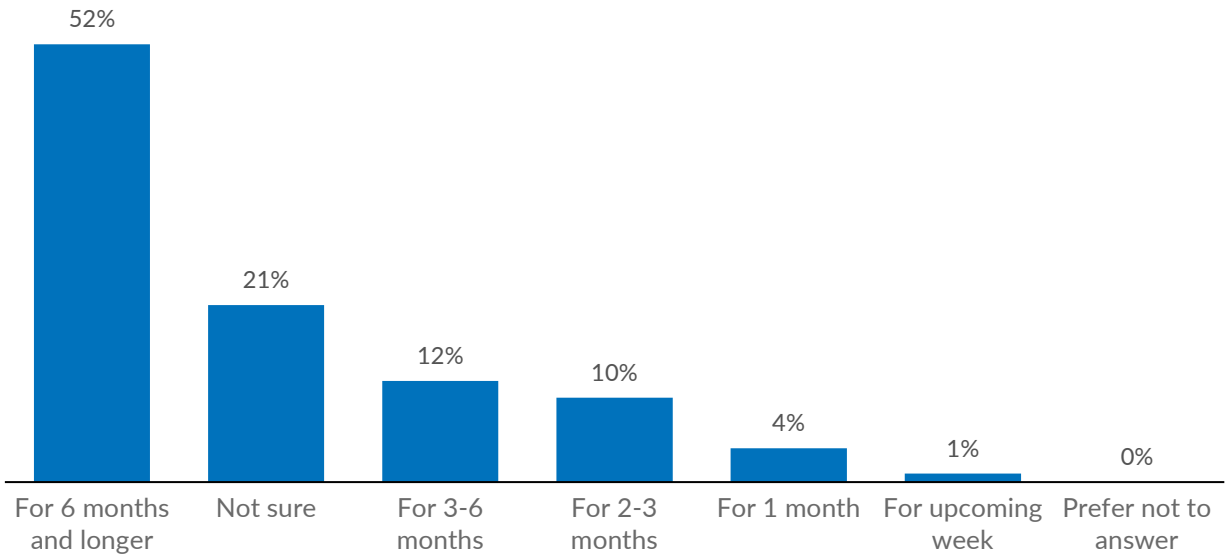
Only 2% of respondents reported feeling pressured to relocate.

The most significant challenge reported is the rising cost of living and utilities (7 responses), making housing increasingly unaffordable. Additionally, factors such as landlords withdrawing housing availability (4 responses) and the end of free or subsidized housing programs (5 responses) have left many families without viable accommodation options.

Other contributing factors include social tensions, such as disputes with landlords or neighbors (3 responses), and inadequate living conditions, such as housing unsuitable for winter or lack of child support services (1 response each). Furthermore, employment opportunities, personal circumstances, and other individual needs (7 responses) have also influenced relocation decisions.

However, it is important to note that these findings may not be statistically robust, as they are based on a small sample size.

Figure 105 | **Distribution of HHs by perceived period of stay in a current accommodation**
N=1008



Recommendations

» To address the accommodation challenges and protection risks faced by refugees from Ukraine, particularly those unable to achieve self-reliance due to specific vulnerabilities, **it is essential to consider extending and adapting government support measures.**

With the collective accommodation support under Emergency Ordinance 96/2024, extended through EO 116/2024, set to conclude on March 31, 2025, continuing assistance through an extended or new program remains crucial. Such a program provides transitional support for newly arrived refugees, sustain assistance for those engaged in inclusion programs but not yet self-reliant, and ensure tailored support for the most vulnerable individuals who require long-term assistance.

» **A coordinated effort involving national and local authorities, UN agencies, NGOs, and civil society** is necessary to identify sustainable long-term housing solutions for Ukrainian refugees.

Municipalities could play a key role in collaboration with the Department for Emergency Situations by managing collective shelters, with support from external actors, ensuring a legal framework that allows for sustained funding and operational management, whether directly or through partnerships with NGOs.

» Additionally, **a mechanism should be established to supplement local administration budgets,** ensuring that municipalities receive financial support from central authorities to cover the extra costs incurred in managing these shelter programs.

Regulatory measures should also be introduced to facilitate social support from local authorities and encourage the development of a Social Rental Program in collaboration with NGOs. This initiative would guarantee safe, stable, and long-term housing solutions for vulnerable refugees.

» **Continued advocacy and technical support for central and local authorities** will be necessary to enhance access to social assistance benefits and services under EO 96/2024.

Strengthening these efforts will help integrate vulnerable temporary protection holders into Romania's social protection system, ensuring their inclusion and long-term stability.

Conclusions

The SEIS provides critical insights into the situation of Ukrainian refugees in Romania, highlighting key areas essential for humanitarian planning and addressing service gaps.

The assessment covers demographics, education, protection, socio-economic inclusion and livelihoods, health, and accommodation, offering a comprehensive understanding of refugees' needs and challenges. These include potential biases in the sampled population, seasonal constraints affecting data collection, high non-response rates to sensitive questions, challenges in data collection in border regions, and underrepresentation of men in the sample. Recognizing these limitations is crucial for ensuring an accurate interpretation of the data and designing effective interventions and support programs for refugees from Ukraine in Romania.

Demographics

The demographics of the Ukrainian refugee population in Romania highlight key trends in displacement and settlement patterns, shaping the challenges and needs of this community. **The majority of surveyed households consist of working-age adults (35-59 years old, 65%), with a notable gender imbalance (58% female, 42% male)**, largely due to military conscription policies in Ukraine. **Families with children make up 65% of refugee households**, emphasizing the need for sustained support in education, childcare, and family services. The refugee population is overwhelmingly urban, with **92% residing in cities**, particularly in Bucharest (29%), Constanța (24%), and Suceava (9%), reflecting a preference for regions with better economic and social opportunities. Health vulnerabilities are also a concern, as **60% of households report at least one member with a chronic illness, and 25% include a person with a disability,** underscoring the importance of accessible healthcare services. Additionally, while the vast majority of refugees are Ukrainian, **the presence of small but growing non-Ukrainian refugee groups (0.6%), including individuals from Moldova, Russia, Hungary, and Slovakia, points to increasing diversity within the displaced population**. These demographic insights are crucial for tailoring social services, employment programs, and integration policies to meet the specific needs of different refugee groups in Romania.

Education

The education of Ukrainian refugee children in Romania remains a complex and evolving challenge, with significant progress in enrollment but persistent barriers to full integration. While **51% of school-aged children attended Romanian** schools in the 2023/2024 academic year, an improvement from 40% in the previous year, a **majority (69%) remain formally enrolled in Ukraine's education system, and 65% rely on online learning.** This dual system reflects both the strong ties refugees maintain with their home country's curriculum and the **linguistic and structural challenges of transitioning into the Romanian education system**. Language barriers, though improving, remain a significant obstacle (14%), along with concerns over curriculum differences and future educational recognition. Additionally, **10% of school-aged children are neither enrolled in Romanian schools** nor participating in Ukrainian online education, highlighting a gap in access to structured learning.

Despite the increase in school enrollments, **many refugee families prefer to keep their children in Ukraine's online education system**, reflecting both uncertainty about their long-term stay in Romania and a preference for maintaining educational continuity. **The implementation of Romania's emergency decree (96/2024) has facilitated access to education for refugees**, but practical challenges remain, particularly in ensuring enough school placements, improving teacher capacity for multilingual classrooms, and aligning curricula between the two education systems. Moreover, while some refugee children benefit from informal educational programs (13%), these options remain unstructured and do not offer official recognition, limiting long-term opportunities for students.

Protection

The protection of Ukrainian refugees in Romania has largely been ensured through the Temporary Protection framework, with **99% of surveyed households granted TP,** allowing access to essential rights and services. **A large majority (91%) reported no difficulties in renewing their legal status**. Additionally, document renewal and civil registration remain obstacles for certain groups, as **18% of households encountered difficulties registering life events such as births, marriages, or deaths,** often due to **language barriers, bureaucratic complexities, and missing documentation.**

Social integration remains a significant challenge, with **25% of refugee households reporting hostility from local communities**, primarily in the form of **verbal aggression (76%) and discriminatory behavior (25%)**, particularly when seeking jobs or housing. While **77% of households describe their relationship with the host community as positive, 14% report that it has worsened since their arrival**, pointing to growing tensions, possibly linked to competition for resources and economic difficulties. While most refugees (87%) feel safe walking alone at night, a small but notable percentage (9%) report feeling unsafe, suggesting that **targeted measures are needed to address concerns related to public safety and community cohesion.** Strengthening social integration programs, combating misinformation, and fostering cross-cultural understanding will be key to improving the relationship between refugees and host communities.

A significant portion of Ukrainian refugees in Romania maintain strong ties to their home country, with **64% of households reporting that at least one member has returned to Ukraine** for a short visit since February 2022. Among them, **46% have traveled back multiple times, while 18% have done so only once, primarily to visit family (37%) and access healthcare services (37%)**, highlighting ongoing reliance on Ukraine's medical system due to costs or availability of care in Romania. Other key reasons for travel include obtaining documents (26%) and

retrieving personal belongings (14%). This pattern underscores the need for sustained support in Romania, particularly in healthcare, legal documentation services, and community integration programs, to ensure that refugees do not feel compelled to return solely due to administrative or financial pressures.

Another critical issue is **low awareness and accessibility of protection services**, particularly for vulnerable groups such as survivors of gender-based violence, persons with disabilities, and elderly refugees. **While 42% of respondents are aware of social services provided by the state, 23% have no knowledge of any protection services available to them**. Among the refugees that received aid (various programmes), most of them are satisfied with it (79%). However, there is a need for better data and more respondents for understanding the reasons for dissatisfaction and proper means to address it.

Socio-Economic Inclusion and Livelihoods

The findings from the Socio-Economic Inclusion and Livelihoods chapter highlight both progress and ongoing challenges in integrating refugees into the Romanian labor market. While **53% of the refugee population is part of the labor force, only 80% of them are employed**, and **24% of those employed lack formal contracts**, leaving many in precarious working conditions. The main barriers to employment include **limited Romanian language proficiency (36%), low wages (14%), inflexible work schedules (11%), and a lack of required skills (11%).** These factors suggest that while many refugees are eager to work, structural challenges continue to limit their opportunities for stable and fair employment. Youth face even greater obstacles, with **15% of those aged 16-24 classified as NEET**, raising concerns about long-term economic integration and the potential risk of social exclusion.

Financial stability remains a significant concern for refugee households, with **many struggling to meet living expenses despite being employed.** The high cost of living in urban areas, combined with wage disparities and informal employment, puts additional pressure on refugee families. The majority of refugees **(85%) cover their own rent and living costs**, yet **only 65% can consistently pay rent on time**, illustrating the financial precarity of many households. The absence of targeted financial assistance or formal employment contracts further exacerbates this situation, making it difficult for refugees to achieve economic self-sufficiency. Additionally, barriers to recognizing foreign qualifications and limited access to vocational training programs further restrict career advancement opportunities for refugees, preventing them from fully leveraging their skills and experience in the host country.

Despite these challenges, **there are signs of resilience and gradual integration into Romanian society.** The steady increase in employment rates and the willingness of refugees to participate in the labor market demonstrate their adaptability and determination to rebuild their lives. However, **sustained policy efforts are needed to remove barriers to formal employment**, including expanding language training programs, offering targeted job placement services, and ensuring better enforcement of labor protections for vulnerable workers. Further investments in vocational training, entrepreneurship programs, and mentorship initiatives could also play a critical role in enhancing economic inclusion and long-term stability for refugee communities in Romania. Addressing these structural gaps will be key to fostering sustainable livelihoods and reducing dependency on humanitarian aid, ultimately facilitating the full socio-economic integration of refugees into Romanian society.

Health

The health situation of Ukrainian refugees in Romania highlights **both accessibility and ongoing challenges** in receiving adequate medical care. While refugees with Temporary Protection have access to free essential healthcare services, **many still face significant**

barriers to receiving timely and comprehensive care. **Long waiting times (37%), financial difficulties in affording medication or clinic fees (30%), and high hospital costs (28%)** are among the most frequently reported issues. Additionally, mental health concerns remain prevalent, with **one in three refugees experiencing psychological distress**, yet only 33% accessing mental health support, indicating gaps in psychosocial services. The **reliance on short-term visits to Ukraine for healthcare (37%)** suggests that some refugees prefer or are forced to seek medical assistance outside Romania, either due to cost, familiarity, or accessibility issues. These findings underscore the **need for targeted improvements in healthcare accessibility**, including reducing wait times, expanding financial assistance for medical services, and enhancing mental health support programs, ensuring that refugees can fully utilize the healthcare system without obstacles.

Accommodation

The **accommodation situation for Ukrainian refugees in Romania** reflects a **high degree of financial self-reliance but also significant housing insecurity.** The vast majority (85%) live in private apartments or houses, primarily due to the **limited availability of subsidized housing**, rather than a deliberate choice for independent living. However, covering housing costs remains a major challenge, as **only 65% of refugee households can consistently pay rent on time**, and **41% rely on verbal rental agreements**, leaving them vulnerable to **eviction, sudden rent increases, or disputes with landlords.** While **84% of refugees report no major issues with their living conditions, 16% cite concerns such as lack of privacy (6%), insufficient hot water (4%), and inadequate sleeping arrangements (3%)**. The high **average monthly housing costs (2,510 RON, including rent and utilities)** create additional financial strain, especially for those with **unstable employment or low incomes.** These findings emphasize the need for stronger housing protections, formal rental agreements, and financial **assistance programs, ensuring that refugees can secure affordable, stable, and dignified living conditions** in Romania.

ROMANIA

SOCIO-ECONOMIC INSIGHTS SURVEY FINAL REPORT 2024

UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

Contact us:
UNHCR Representation in Romania
Information Management Unit
e-mail: rombuim@unhcr.org