

# BELARUS

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

January - March 2023  
Country Report & Data Analysis

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

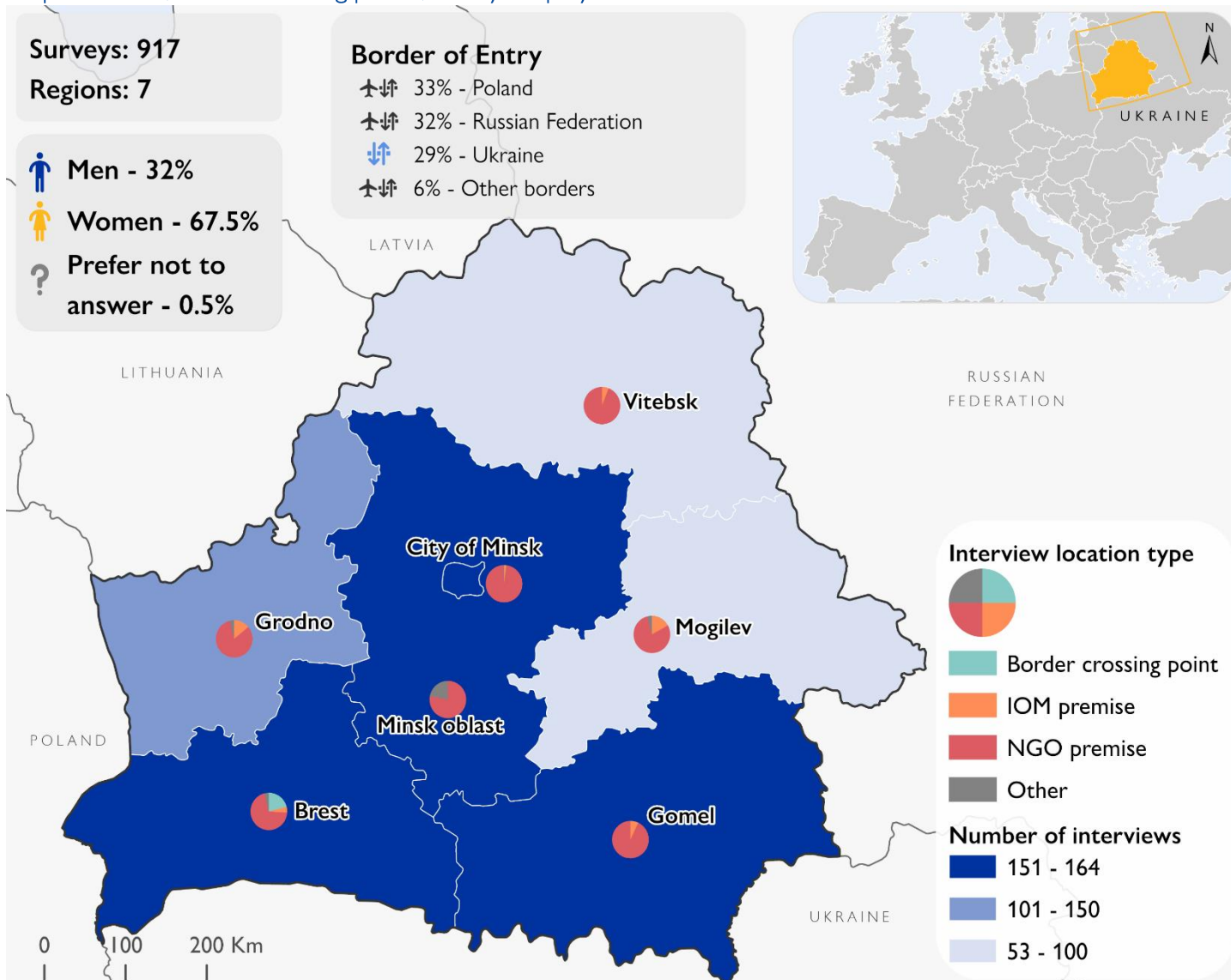
<b>1. Socio-Demographic Profile</b>	<b>5</b>
<u>Oblast (region) of origin</u>	<u>5</u>
<u>Gender and age</u>	<u>6</u>
<u>Marital status</u>	<u>6</u>
<u>Documents possessed at the time of interview</u>	<u>6</u>
<u>Average time spent outside Ukraine since initial displacement</u>	<u>7</u>
<b>2. Intentions</b>	<b>8</b>
<u>Intention to move elsewhere or stay in current location</u>	<u>8</u>
<u>Intended length of stay in current location</u>	<u>8</u>
<u>Intentions to return to Ukraine</u>	<u>9</u>
<u>Intentions to settle in Belarus</u>	<u>10</u>
<u>Intended country of destination</u>	<u>11</u>
<b>3. Education and Employment: Profile and Prospects</b>	<b>12</b>
<u>Main spoken language</u>	<u>12</u>
<u>Other spoken language(s)</u>	<u>12</u>
<u>Education level</u>	<u>12</u>
<u>Employment status before leaving Ukraine versus current</u>	<u>13</u>
<b>4. Registration and Inclusion Services</b>	<b>14</b>
<u>Current legal status</u>	<u>14</u>
<u>Access to finances</u>	<u>14</u>
<u>School enrolment</u>	<u>15</u>
<u>Consular services</u>	<u>15</u>
<b>5. Needs and Assistance Received</b>	<b>16</b>
<u>Immediate needs at the moment</u>	<u>16</u>
<u>Movement needs</u>	<u>17</u>
<u>Mid-term needs</u>	<u>17</u>
<u>Assistance received in Belarus</u>	<u>18</u>
<u>Areas in which information is needed to get more assistance</u>	<u>18</u>
<b>6. Challenges in the Country of Displacement</b>	<b>19</b>
<u>Experiences of discrimination</u>	<u>19</u>
<u>Inclusion challenges</u>	<u>19</u>
<b>7. Current Group Composition</b>	<b>20</b>
<u>Travel mode</u>	<u>20</u>
<u>Travelling with persons with health conditions and disabilities</u>	<u>20</u>
<b>8. Methodology</b>	<b>21</b>
<u>Country-level implementation and limitations</u>	<u>21</u>

### KEY FINDINGS

- **Top oblasts of origin:** Donetsk (33%), Luhanska (16%) and Kharkivska (12%).
- **Intentions to move:** no intention to move (62%); move back to the region of origin in Ukraine (2%), or to another location in Ukraine (0.4%); move to another country (16%), mainly to the Russian Federation, Poland, and Germany; move within Belarus (1.6%).
- **Sources for covering daily expenses:**\* support from family (50%), support from NGOs (38%), income (38%), savings (34%).
- **Top needs:**\* financial support (84%), food supply (74%), personal hygiene items (64%), health services (48%), clothes and shoes (44%).
- **Top integration challenges:**\* financial issues (56%), long-term housing (11%), suitable job (6%), access to social services (3%).

\* more than one answer possible

Map 1: Belarus, border crossing points, surveys deployed and locations



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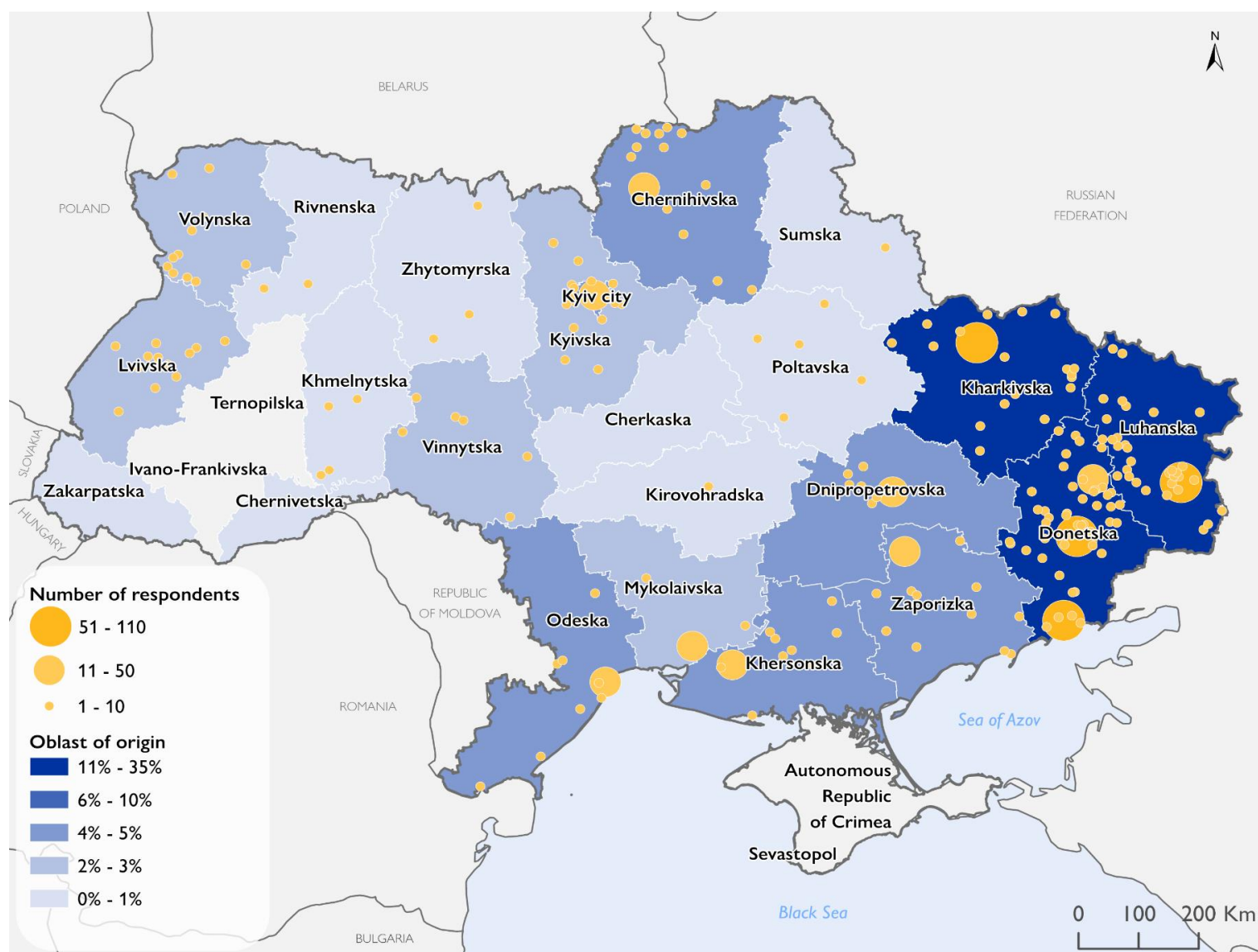
### 1. Socio-Demographic Profile

#### Oblast (region) of origin

Survey respondents came from almost all regions of Ukraine. Majority came from the eastern regions of the country: Donetsk (33%), Luhanska (16%), Kharkivska (12%). Five per cent of respondents came from Zaporizka and another 5 per cent were from Dnipropetrovska. Other regions of origin of respondents also included: Kyiv city (4%), Odeska

(4%), Khersonska (4%), Chernihivska (4%), Kyivska (3%), Lvivska (2%), Mykolaivska (2%), Volynska (2%). It is also crucial to note that eleven respondents (1.2%) had double citizenship (being also citizens of the Russian Federation, Belarus, or other unspecified countries).

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



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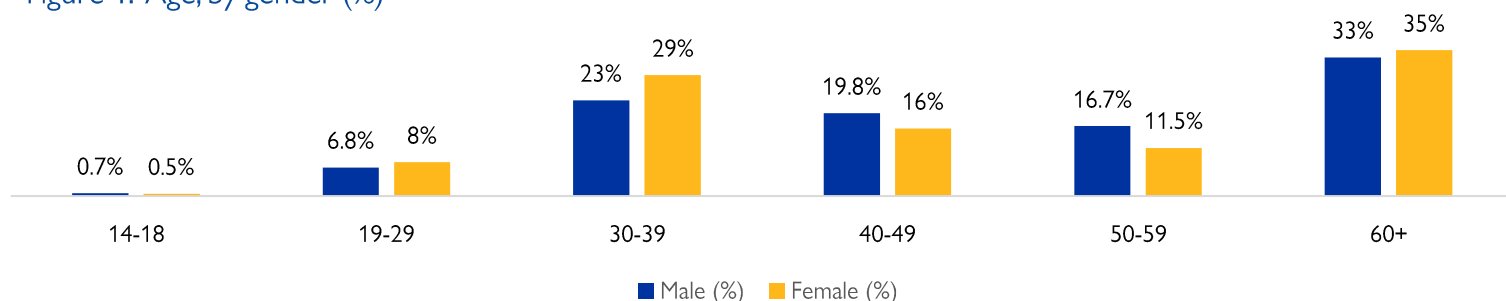
## Gender and age

Out of the 917 interviewed respondents from Ukraine, 32 per cent were men, 67.5 per cent were women, and 0.5 per cent preferred no to answer this question. The average age of the total sample was 50 (with the oldest respondent being 94 years old).

When looking at the data disaggregated by gender, on average, men were slightly older than their female counterparts (57 years of average age for men versus 49 years of average age for women).

Most respondents were over 59 years of age (34%) and between 30 and 39 years of age (27%). The biggest age group for women was of those 60 years old and above (35%), followed by those aged between 30 and 39 (29%). Among men, the biggest age group was also of those 60 years and above (33%), followed by those between 30 and 39 years of age (23%).

Figure 1: Age, by gender (%)

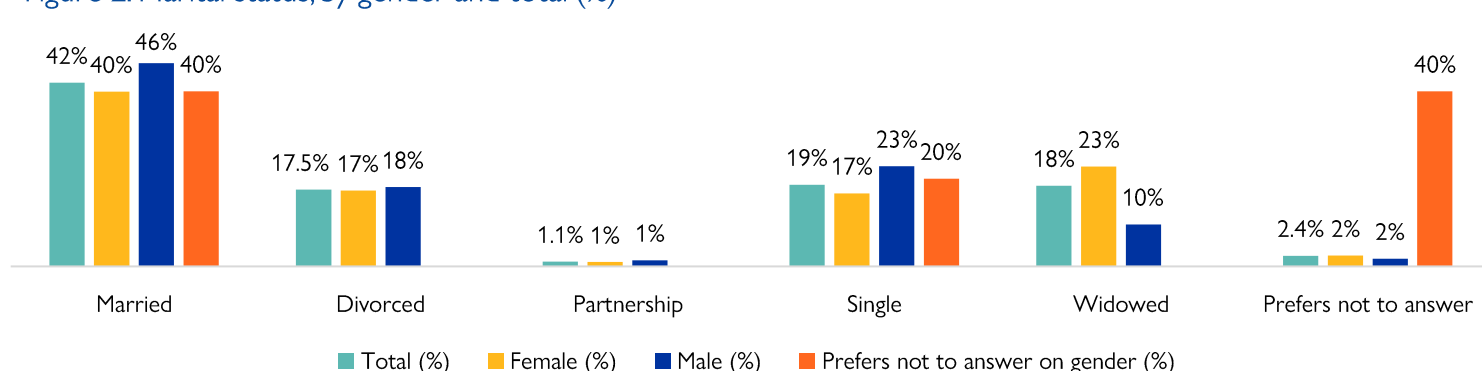


## Marital status

Out of the total sample of the respondents, 42 per cent were married. This was followed by 19 per cent of the respondents who were single, 18 per cent who were widowed, 17.5 per cent who were divorced, and 1.1 per cent who were in partnership. About two per cent of the respondents preferred not to answer.

The share of married persons was slightly higher among men than among women (46% versus 40%). There were also more men in the sample who were single than women (23% versus 17%). There were also twice as many widowed women in the sample than there were men (23% versus 10%).

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



## Documents possessed at the time of interview

Most of the respondents has either their non-biometric passports (63%), or their biometric passports (44%) with them. Also, many travelled with their education certificates (32%) and their birth certificates (30%). Another 29 per cent also had their ID cards with them.

Eighteen per cent possessed their driver license with them, while 6 per cent of the respondents also mentioned other types of documents such as pension certificates, disability certificates, employment records, and marriage certificates.



## Average time spent outside Ukraine since initial displacement

Overall, 85 per cent of respondents were initially displaced in 2022. Most of respondents were initially displaced in the first half of 2022. For instance, 20 per cent of respondents were initially displaced in February-March 2022 and 26 per cent of respondents were initially displaced in April-June 2022.

This means that by the time the interview was conducted (February-March 2023), most of respondents had spent about one year in displacement.

Another 20 per cent of respondents were initially displaced in the third quarter of 2022 and 19 per cent were displaced in the fourth quarter of 2022. This

shows a persisting flow of displacement from Ukraine throughout 2022.

The approximate duration of displacement of respondents was assessed by looking at the difference between respondents' initial date of displacement from Ukraine and the date of interview. The table below shows the distribution among respondents.

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

Approximate time spent until date of interview	Percentage of respondents
Over 24 Months	0.3%
14-23 Months	1%
13 Months	1.7%
12 Months	13.8%
11 Months	16.5%
10 Months	7%
9 Months	5%
8 Months	6%
7 Months	5%
6 Months	8%
5 Months	7.5%
4 Months	6%
3 Months	6%
2 Months	7%
1 Month	4.6%
Less than 1 Month	4.6%

## 2. Intentions

### Intention to move elsewhere or stay in current location

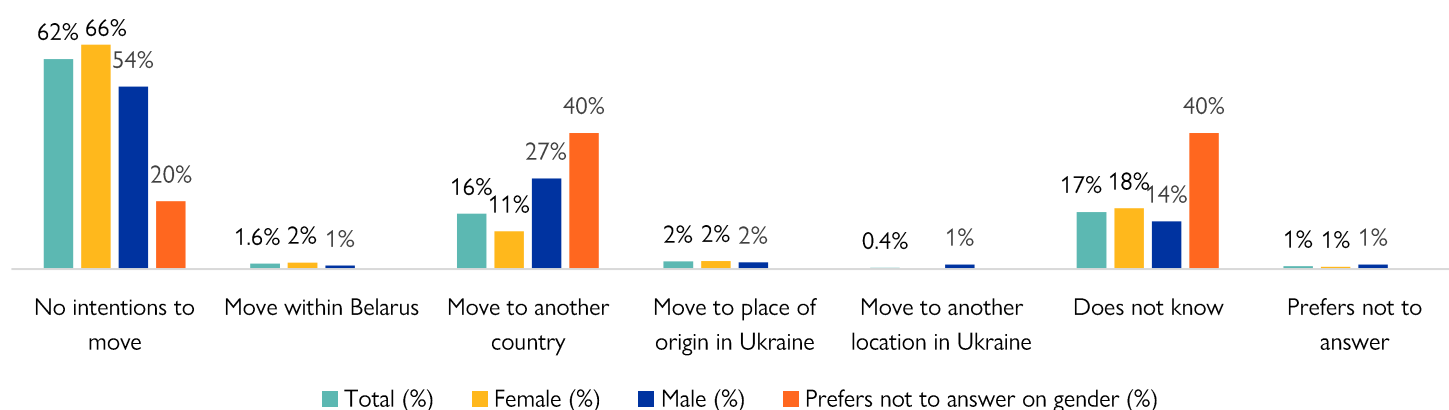
Sixty-two per cent of respondents had no intention to move at the time of interview. A small part of respondents (1.6%) had intention to move within Belarus. Sixteen per cent aimed to move to another country, mainly to the Russian Federation, Poland and Germany. Two per cent intended to move back to their place of origin in Ukraine, while 0.4 per cent intended to move somewhere else in Ukraine.

The remaining respondents did not know (17%), or preferred not to answer (1%).

When looking at the data disaggregated by gender, female respondents were more likely to stay in their current location than their male counterparts (66% versus 54%). In the meantime, intention to move to another country was higher among men than among women (27% versus 11%).

For other intention categories the percentages remained relatively similar or the same. For example, female and male respondents were as likely to move back to their place of origin in Ukraine (2% each).

Figure 3: Respondents' intention to move from current location, by gender and total (%)

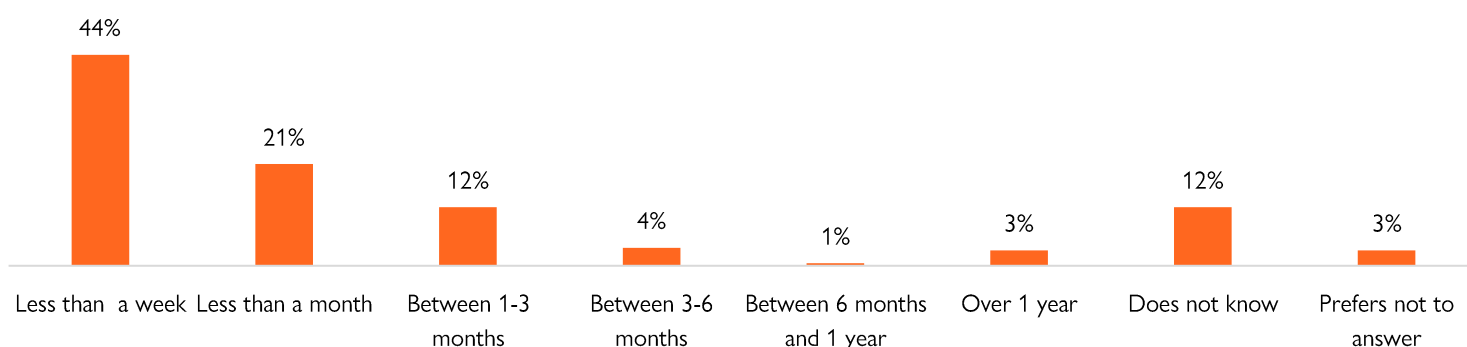


### Intended length of stay in current location

Out of those respondents who intended to move within Belarus, back to Ukraine, or elsewhere (N=189), forty-four per cent intended to stay in current location for less than one week. Another 21 per cent intended to stay less than one month, 12 per cent between one to three months, and 4 per cent between three to six

months. Only one per cent intended to stay between six months to one year, and three per cent over one year. Twelve per cent of respondents did not know for how long they were planning to stay in their current location, while the remaining three per cent preferred not to answer.

Figure 4: Intended length of stay in current location before moving elsewhere (%)



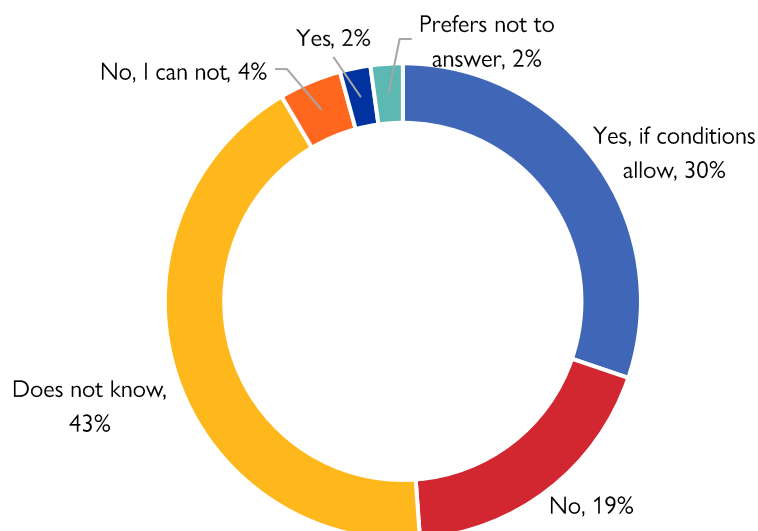


## Intentions to return to Ukraine

All of respondents were asked whether they plan to return to Ukraine when it would be safe to do so.

Only 2 per cent answered that they would return in any case, 30 per cent replied that they planned to return once the conditions allow. Nineteen per cent said they did not plan to return to Ukraine and 4 per cent replied they could not return. Forty-three per cent of respondents said they did not know and 2 per cent preferred not to answer this question.

Figure 5: General intention to return to Ukraine (%)



## Intended oblast of destination in Ukraine and reasons to go back

Out of all respondents, only 25 (3%) indicated Ukraine as their destination country. Out of those intending to go back to Ukraine, 84 per cent intended to return to the same oblast of origin in Ukraine and 16 per cent planned to return to an alternative oblast.

Among reasons for returning to Ukraine, 28 per cent indicated that situation was better in their place/region of origin. Another 16 per cent aimed to go back because they exited Ukraine to bring family members to safety.

Twelve per cent intended to return to Ukraine as they did not have enough resources and money to cover living costs and another 12 per cent planned to return

to reunite with family members in Ukraine.

Among other relevant reasons for returning to Ukraine respondents also indicated the need to obtain or renew documents (passports, birth certificates, diplomas) (8%), care responsibilities (for parents, spouse, sick relatives, etc.) (4%), expiration of humanitarian assistance (shelter or other) (4%). Four per cent intended to return as they could not get a job, and another 4 per cent planned to return as they could not get access to education.

Twenty-four per cent preferred not to answer on reasons for returning to Ukraine.

## Immediate needs upon return

Out of those intending to go back to Ukraine, 48 per cent indicated that their main immediate need upon return would be cash support.

This was followed by medical needs (12%), transportation (12%), and housing (12%). Other needs indicated by respondents were information (8%), job placement (4%), business setup support (4%), and children education (4%).

In the meantime, 20 per cent of respondents indicated having no needs upon return to Ukraine.

The remaining 12 per cent indicated not knowing of their immediate needs upon return and another 4 per cent preferred not to answer.

## Intentions to settle in Belarus

Among those intending to settle in Belarus or already settled (N=576), 72 per cent were women, and 28 per cent were men. Most of the respondents that planned to stay in Belarus were at the age of 60 and over (39.8%). This was followed by 23.6 per cent at the age of 30-39, 16 per cent at the age of 40-49, 14 per cent at the age of 50-59.

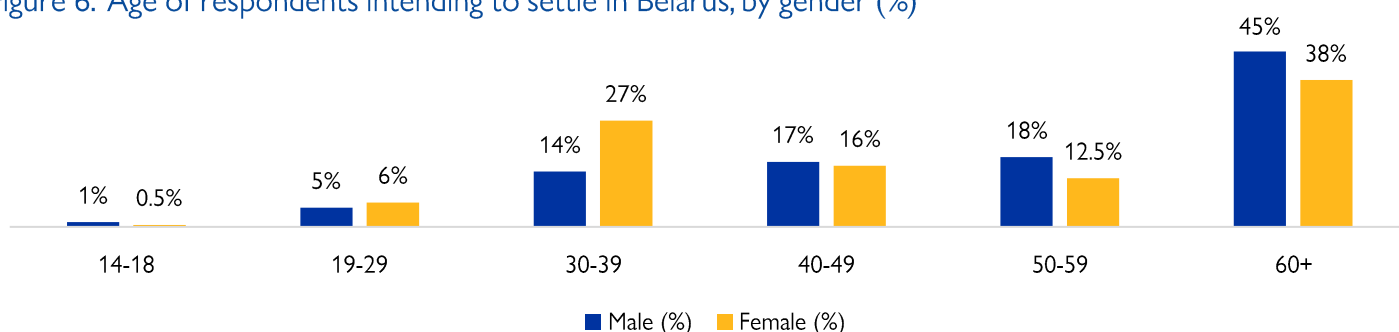
Another 5.9 per cent were at the age of 19-29 old, while the remaining 0.7 per cent were 14-18 years old.

Forty-six per cent of those intending to settle were married, 14 per cent were divorced, and 20 per cent

were widowed. Eighteen per cent were single and 1 per cent in civil partnership. The remaining 1 per cent preferred not to answer. Thirty-eight per cent of the respondents planning to remain in Belarus had children, and in 93 per cent of cases children were travelling together with parents.

Thirty-three per cent in this group of respondents were already employed in Belarus by the time of interview. In the meantime, 36% were retired. Another 15 per cent were unemployed and looking for a job in Belarus.

Figure 6: Age of respondents intending to settle in Belarus, by gender (%)



## Current accommodation in Belarus

All respondents of the survey (N=917) were asked on their current accommodation in Belarus. Most of the respondents (36%) rented apartments on open market, while 31 per cent of respondents indicated their accommodation was provided by friends or family members without paying. Another 12 per cent rented accommodation from friends or family members, and 6.5 per cent lived in hotels. The remaining respondents also named other types of accommodation such as dormitories, owned accommodation, temporary residence centres, and other.

Accommodation type of those who intended to settle in Belarus or already settled did not differ from the overall group. Forty-four per cent of them rented accommodation on open market, 31 per cent were provided with accommodation by friends or family members without paying, and 12 per cent indicated they rented accommodation from friends or family members. The remaining respondents named other types of accommodation where they stayed at the time of interview.

## Estimates

All respondents were asked to provide an estimate on the number of refugees from Ukraine accommodated in their surrounding in Belarus.

As a result, the survey established the presence of an estimated number of 6,196 Ukrainian nationals in the covered locations in Belarus.

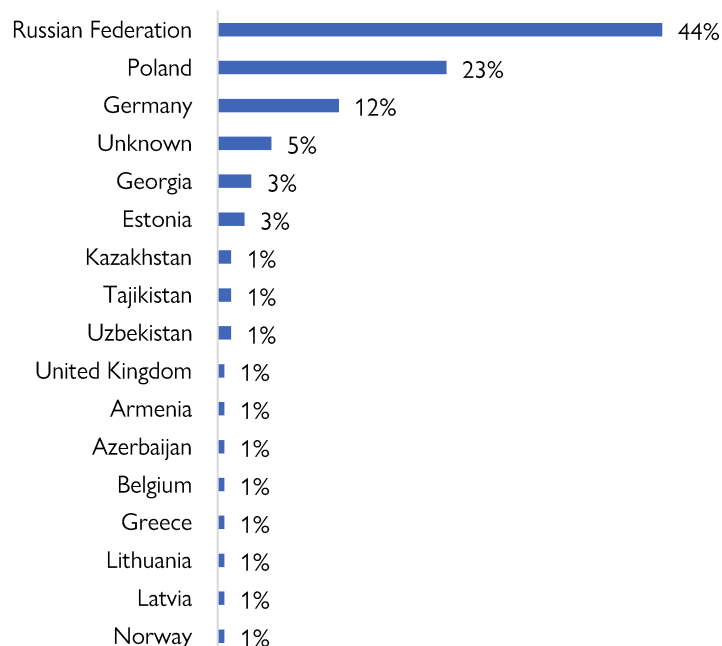
## Intended country of destination

Out of those intending to move to another country (N=149), 44 per cent indicated Russian Federation as their final destination, 23 per cent – Poland, and 12 per cent named Germany as their final destination.

The following countries were also named as final destinations by 1 per cent of respondents each: Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, United Kingdom, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Greece, Lithuania, Latvia and Norway.

Five per cent of respondents did not know at the time of interview on their intended country of destination.

Figure 7: Intended country of destination (%) N=149



## Reasons for selecting elsewhere in Belarus or other countries as destination

Out of those intending to move within Belarus (N=15), or to another country (N=149), 53 per cent selected their destination because they had friends there and 49 per cent said they had relatives there. Thirteen per cent selected their destination country because of a better protection system, 9 per cent due to job offers and opportunities.

Four per cent had no particular reason for selecting their destination country.

As it can be seen from the table below, top three reasons for choosing the destination country are the same for men and women – friends in destination country, relatives there or better protection system.

Table 2: Reasons for choosing another location in Belarus or another country as intended destination, by gender and total (%) (N=164); (more than one answer possible)

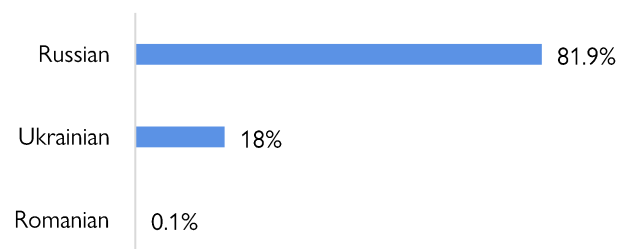
Listed reasons	Women (%)	Men (%)	Preferred not to answer on gender (PNTA) (%)	Total (%)
Friends	44%	63%	0%	53%
Relatives	52%	46%	50%	49%
Protection system	17%	9%	0%	13%
Job offer	7%	2%	0%	5%
Job opportunity	7%	1%	0%	4%
No reason	2%	4%	50%	4%
Accommodation there	2%	0%	0%	1%
Close to home	2%	0%	0%	1%
Lived there	1%	1%	0%	1%
Authorities	1%	0%	0%	1%
Other people there	1%	0%	0%	1%
Prefers not to answer	1%	1%	0%	1%

### 3. Education and Employment: Profile and Prospects

#### Main spoken language

Eighty-one per cent of respondents indicated Russian as their main language spoken at home. This was followed by Ukrainian with 18 per cent of responses. Less than one per cent speak Romanian as their main language.

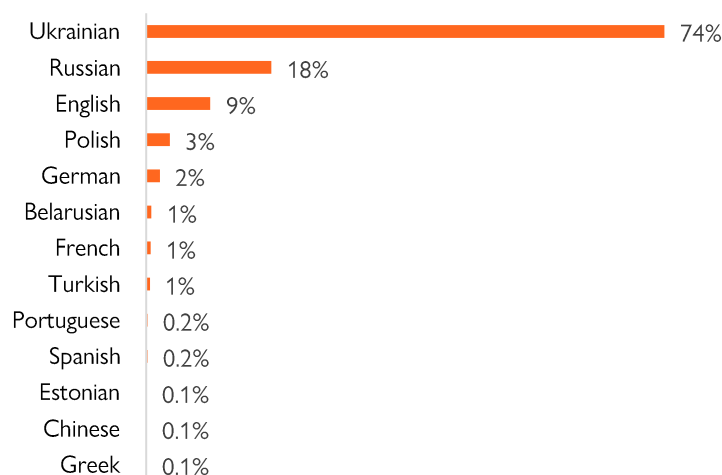
Figure 8: Main spoken language (%)



#### Other spoken language(s)

Seventy-four per cent of respondents speak Ukrainian as an additional language. This was followed by Russian language (18%), English (9%), Polish (3%), German (2%), Belarusian (1%), French (1%), and Turkish (1%). Other languages spoken by respondents were Portuguese (0.2%), Spanish (0.2%), Estonian (0.1%), Chinese (0.1%) and Greek (0.1%).

Figure 9: Other spoken languages (%)  
(more than one answer possible)



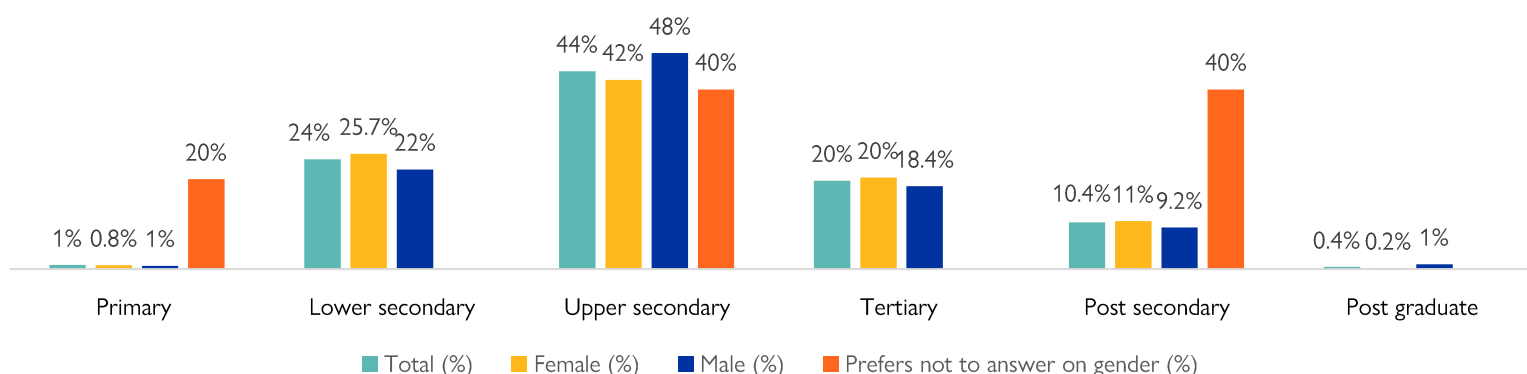
#### Education level

The largest part of the interviewed respondents obtained upper secondary education (44%). Twenty-four per cent achieved lower secondary level of education, 20 per cent had tertiary education, and 10.4 per cent obtained post secondary education. One per cent reported that they had primary

education, while 0.4 per cent of the respondents gained post graduate level of education.

The most common spheres of education were engineering (29%), business (13%), services (12%), education (11%), health and welfare (11%).

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



## Employment status before leaving Ukraine versus current status

Forty-two per cent of respondents were employed before leaving Ukraine. There were slightly more employed female than their male counterparts (43% versus 39%). Thirty-three per cent of respondents were retired. Five per cent indicated that they were on maternity leaves and only female respondents encompassed this category. Two per cent of the sample were unemployed and looking for a job before leaving Ukraine. Another ten per cent were unemployed but not looking for a job. The remaining respondents were either self-employed (3%), daily workers (1%) or students (1%). Three per cent of respondents did not know or preferred not to answer. Thirty-one per cent of respondents were employed at the time of the interview. Male and female

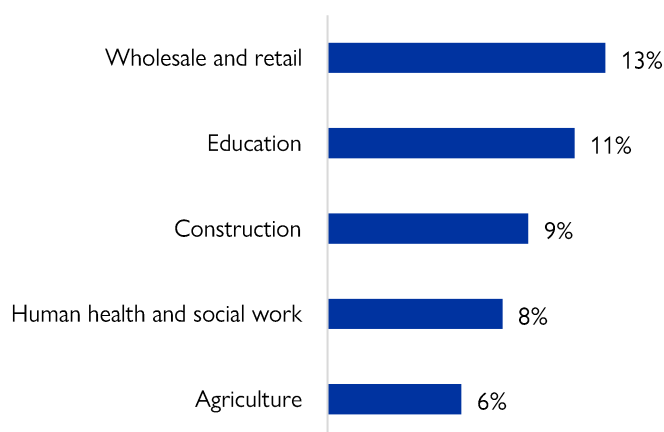
respondents were almost as likely to be employed (20% for female respondents and 19% for male respondents).

The share of retired persons slightly increased from the situation before displacement, with 37 per cent of respondents declaring themselves as retired at the time of the interview.

Seventeen per cent were unemployed and looking for a job. Women were twice as likely to be in this category (12%) than men (6%).

The share of those being unemployed and not looking for a job has significantly decreased to 3 per cent than prior to displacement.

Figure 11: Top 5 employment sectors before leaving Ukraine (%) N=423



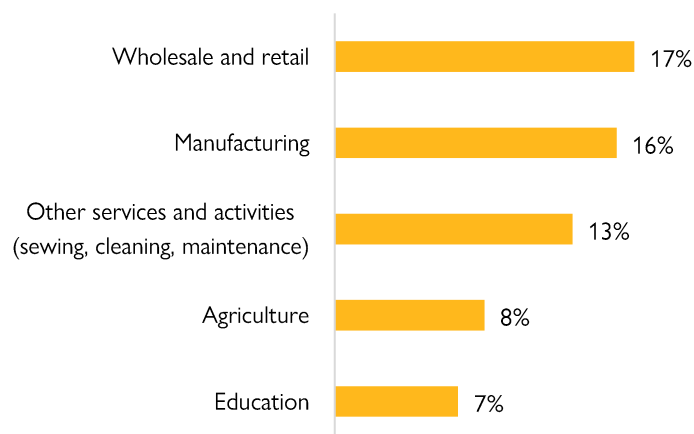
Among those currently in employment (employed, self-employed or daily workers) in Belarus, 17 per cent were employed in wholesale and retail at the time of interview. This was followed by manufacturing (16%), other services such as sewing, cleaning, maintenance works (13%), agriculture (8%), and education (7%). Seven per cent were also employed in construction sector in Belarus.

The remaining sample were employed in other areas such as human health and social work, accommodation and food services, transportation, administrative support, among other areas of employment.

Out of the respondents who were employed, self-employed or daily workers before leaving Ukraine (N=423), 13 per cent were employed in wholesale and retail sector, 11 per cent were working in education, 9 per cent in construction, 8 per cent in human health and social work, and 6 per cent in agriculture.

The remaining 53 per cent were employed in other sectors like manufacturing, services, information and communication, administrative support, art, entertainment, and recreation, accommodation, food service, administrative support among other areas of employment in Ukraine.

Figure 12: Top 5 current employment sectors (%) N=205



## 4. Registration and Inclusion Services

### Current status

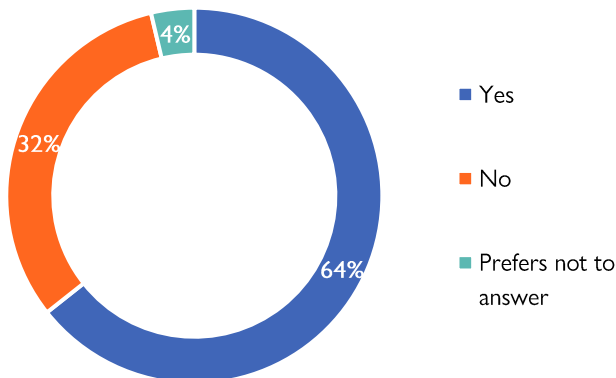
At the time of interview 53 per cent of respondents had temporary residence in Belarus. Thirty-five per cent received temporary stay, and 10 per cent obtained permanent residence status.

Gender distribution is almost equal among male and female respondents under each status with slightly more women having temporary residence (56% versus 45%), and slightly more men possessing temporary stay (44% versus 31%).

Table 3: Legal status, by gender and total (%)

Current status	Women (%)	Men (%)	PNTA (%)	Total (%)
Temporary residence	56%	45%	45%	53%
Temporary stay	31%	44%	40%	35%
Permanent residence	10%	9%	0%	10%
Did not know or preferred not to answer	3%	2%	20%	2%

Figure 13: Submitted applications for additional protection (%)



Sixty-four per cent of respondents have already applied for additional protection<sup>1</sup> by the time of the interview. Four per cent preferred not to answer.

Thirty-two per cent did not apply for additional protection. Out of those who have not applied yet, 54 per cent did not do it because they planned to leave Belarus soon, 22 per cent planned to apply in the near future, 17.5 per cent mentioned other reasons. Only 3.5 per cent of those who has not applied yet said they did not know how. Other 3 per cent said that they were not eligible or were denied of additional protection.

### Access to finances

When answering the question on whether respondents had funds to cover their living expenses, 49 per cent said they did not, 39 per cent said they had funds and 12 per cent preferred not to answer.

Those respondents who already settled in Belarus (N=116) were also asked whether they were able to withdraw money using their foreign credit/debit card. Sixty-two per cent of respondents reported that they were not able to withdraw money using foreign credit/debit card, 34 per cent confirmed they were able, while 3 per cent preferred not to provide an answer.

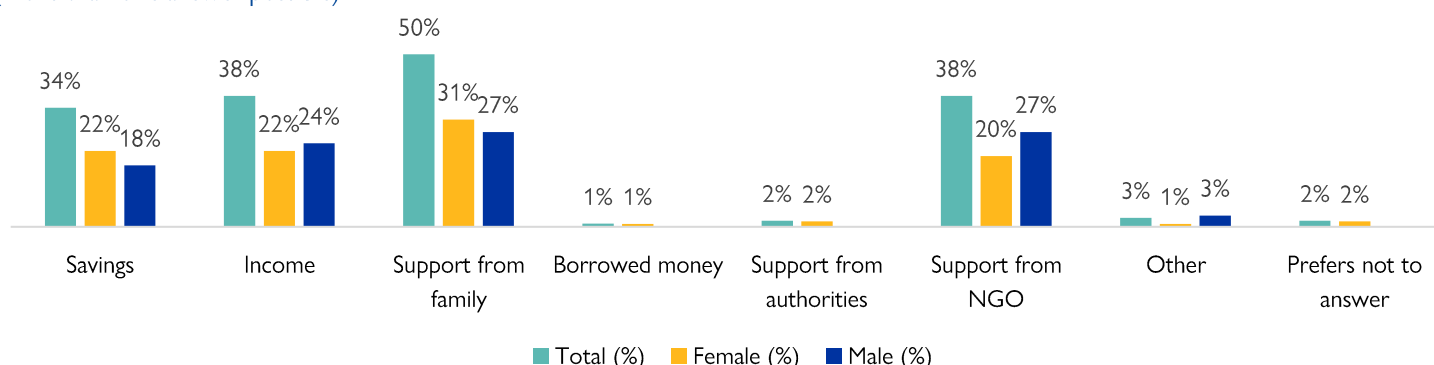
Sixty per cent of those who already settled in Belarus opened a personal bank account in Belarus. Thirty-six per cent did not, and 4 per cent preferred not to answer.

Out of those who indicated that they had not opened a personal bank account in Belarus, 59.5 per cent said that they had no need to do so, 16.7 per cent planned to open an account in the near future, another 16.7 per cent said they did not know how to do it, and 7.1 per cent answered that they were not eligible.

<sup>1</sup> Provision of additional protection in Belarus gives the right to a foreigner to temporarily reside in the country, as well as the right to medical care and employment on an equal basis with foreigners permanently residing in Belarus.



Figure 14: Source for covering daily expenses of respondents settled in Belarus, by gender and total (%) N=116 (more than one answer possible)



Respondents already settled in Belarus were also asked how did they cover their daily expenses. Majority of respondents (50%) indicated support from their families as the main source. Thirty-eight per cent covered their costs from income and 38 per cent

received support from NGOs. Another 34 per cent relied on savings.

Gender differences in sources of covering daily expenses among men and women can be seen in Figure 14.

### School enrolment

Ninety-two per cent of the respondents who already settled in Belarus enrolled their children in local education facilities.

Four per cent answered their children were not enrolled in local education, though they planned to enrol soon. Other 4 per cent were on distant online learning with Ukrainian education facilities.

Out of those children enrolled in local education, for 79 per cent Russian language was mainly used at education facilities, while 21 per cent indicated that both Russian and Ukrainian were used at their schools.

### Consular services

Sixty-seven per cent of respondents indicated that they knew how to contact a consular representative. Twenty-seven per cent did not and the remaining six per cent preferred not to answer this question. Out of those who knew how to contact a consular

representative (N=78), only 3.5 per cent had reached out for consular support. Another 86.2 per cent indicated that they had not reached out for consular support at the time of interview and 10.3 per cent preferred not to answer.

Figure 15: Knows how to contact a consular representative

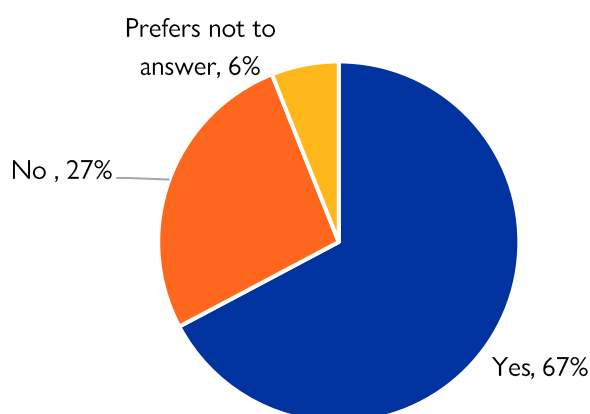
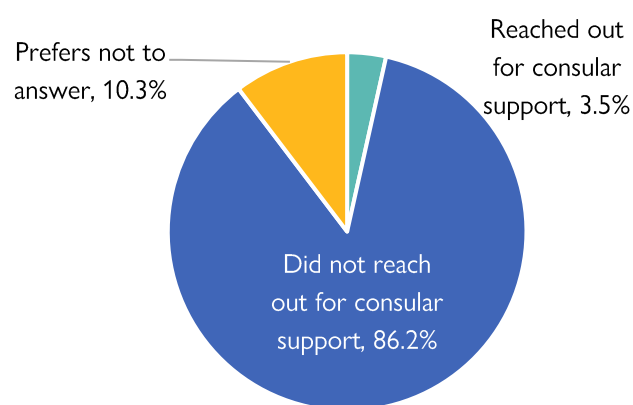


Figure 16: Has reached out for consular support in Belarus (%) N=78



## 5. Needs and Assistance Received

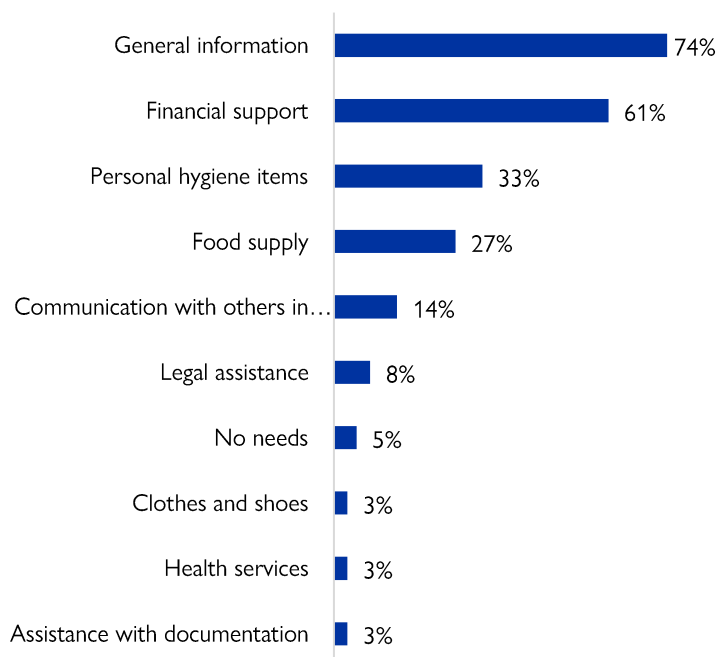
### Immediate needs of respondents in transit

The most immediate needs are presented separately for two groups of respondents – those being in transit in Belarus and planning to move to another country, and those intending to stay and settle in Belarus – as their immediate needs differ.

For those in transit, the most immediate needs at the moment of the interview were general information (74%), financial support (61%), personal hygiene items (33%), and food supply (27%). This was followed by need in communication with others in Ukraine or elsewhere (14%), legal assistance (8%), support with clothes and shoes (3%), health services (3%) and documentation (3%).

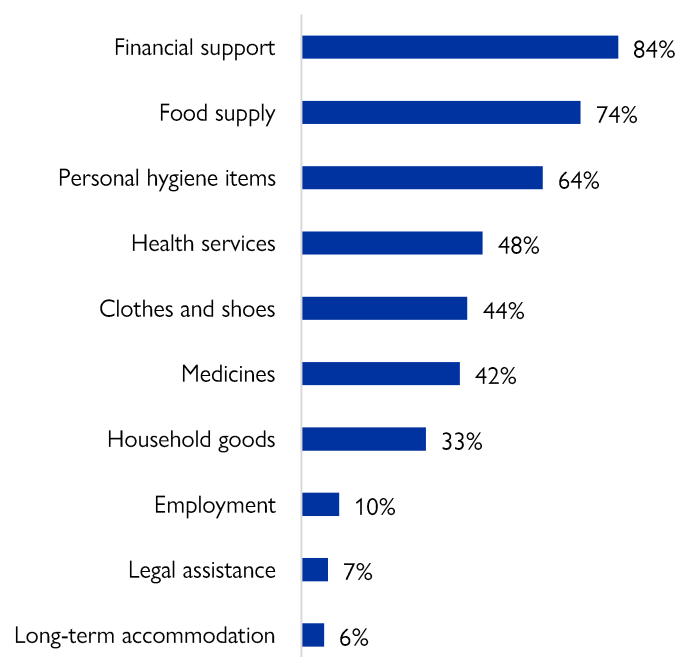
Five per cent of those being in transit indicated they had no need at the time of interview.

Figure 17: Top 10 needs of respondents in transit (%)  
(more than one answer possible)



### Immediate needs of respondents intending to settle in Belarus

Figure 18: Top 10 needs of respondents intending to stay in Belarus (%)  
(more than one answer possible)



For those who indicated that they intended to stay in Belarus, the most immediate need was financial support (84%). Food supply was among most immediate needs for 74 per cent, followed by needs in personal hygiene items (64%), health services (48%), clothes and shoes (44%), medicines (42%), and household goods (33%).

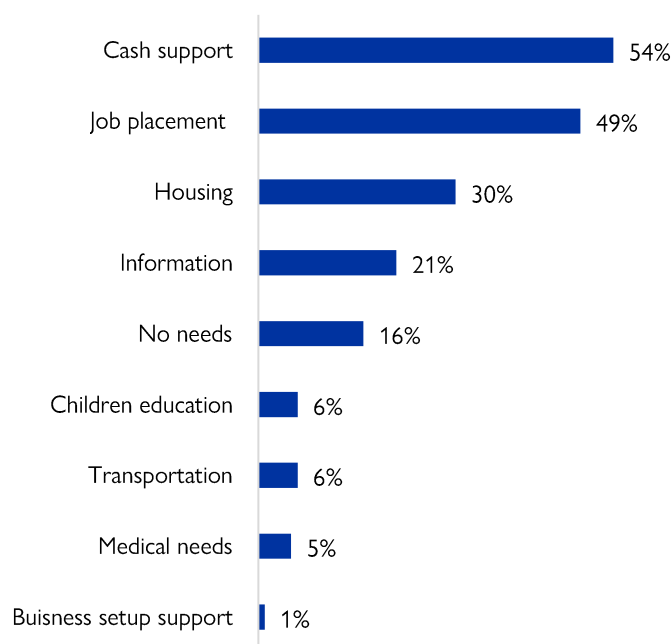
Ten per cent also indicated need in employment, 7 per cent in legal assistance and 6 per cent in long-term accommodation.

Only one per cent answered that they had no immediate needs at the moment.

### Movement needs

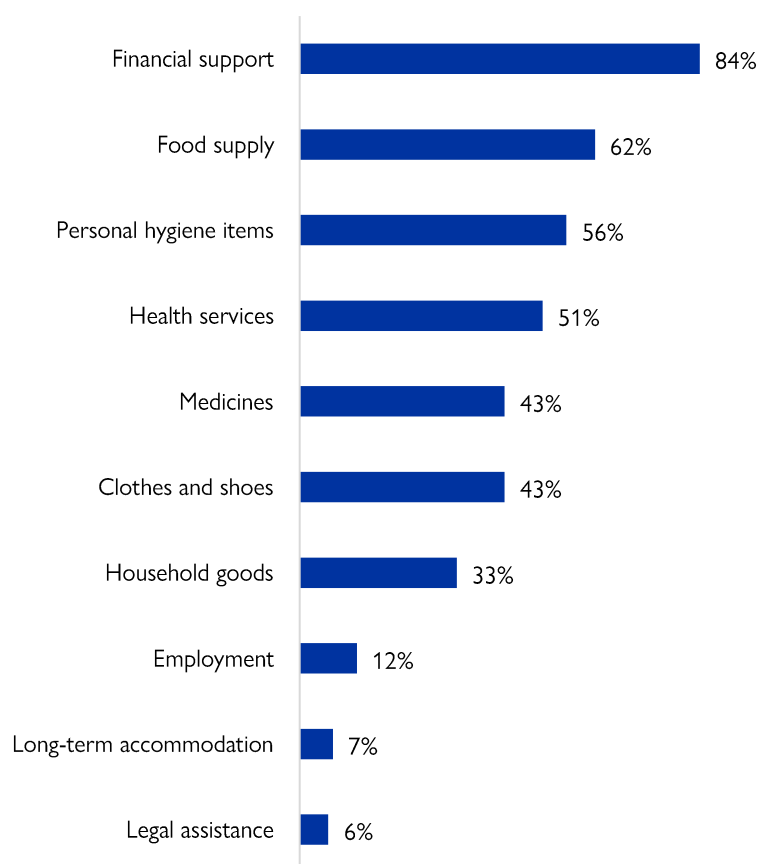
In addition to the immediate needs faced, those who were in transit were also asked what assistance they would need when moving to another country. Fifty-four per cent expressed need in cash support, 49 per cent indicated need in job placement, 30 per cent expressed need in housing, and 21 per cent in information. This was followed by 6 per cent indicating need in education for children and another 6 per cent in transportation. Five per cent also indicated medical needs, and one per cent answered that they would need support with business setup. Sixteen per cent expressed no need related to their resettlement to another country.

Figure 19: Movement needs of respondents in transit(%)  
(more than one answer possible)



### Mid-term needs

Figure 20: Top 10 mid-term needs of respondents intending to settle  
(more than one answer possible)



For those who intended to settle in Belarus, also mid-term needs were analyzed. Eighty-four per cent of those who intended to stay in Belarus for a longer period named financial support as their main mid-term need. Sixty-two per cent indicated food supply and 56 per cent personal hygiene items. Fifty-one per cent expressed mid-term need in health services and 43 per cent in medicines. This was followed by 43 per cent experiencing mid-term needs in clothes and shoes, 33 per cent in household goods, 12 per cent in employment, 7 per cent in long-term accommodation and 6 per cent in legal assistance.

It is also crucial to note that other mid-term needs were also expressed by respondents. For instance, 3 per cent of respondents indicated school enrolment among their mid-term needs in Belarus. Psychological counselling was named by 2 per cent of respondents as one of their mid-term needs. Two per cent expressed need in vocational education and another 2 per cent in support with business setup in Belarus.

## Assistance received in Belarus

Out of all respondents, 93.4 per cent have received support by the time of interview, 5.3 per cent said they did not receive any assistance, while 1.4 per cent preferred not to answer.

Out of those who received assistance, 86 per cent received support with food products, 84 per cent indicated receiving support with personal hygiene items, and 54 per cent received support with clothes and shoes. Another 51 per cent indicated receiving vouchers as assistance, while 30 per cent indicated having received financial support.

Other relevant areas where respondents received assistance while in Belarus was psychosocial support

(6%), support with toys for children (4%), employment assistance (4%), support with accommodation (3%), and transportation support (2%). One per cent indicated having received other types of assistance such as support with household goods, education opportunities, translation of documents, and recreation activities for children.

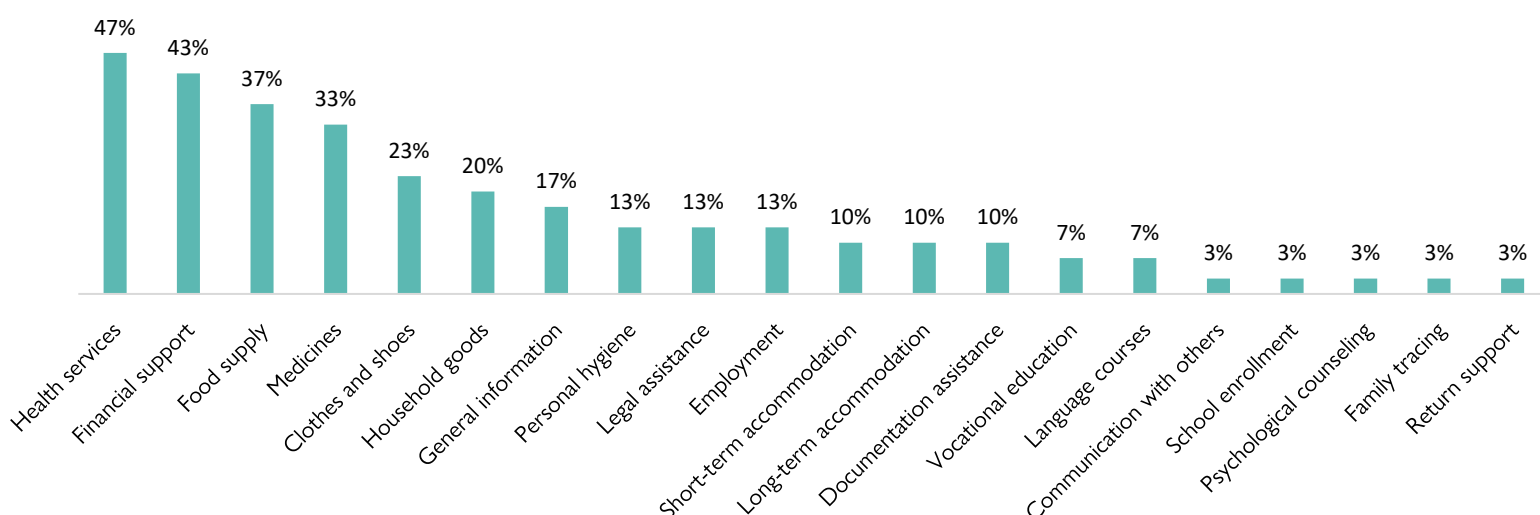
## Areas in which information is needed to get more assistance

Majority of respondents (65%) received information on available support and services in Belarus from non-governmental, public or international organizations. Forty-one per cent got information from calls and messages and 31 per cent from social media. Twenty-seven per cent indicated they got information from other people and 25 per cent used Telegram as the source of information on available support. Among other information sources respondents also mentioned internet (24%), local authorities (11%), television (11%), volunteers (10%) and radio (2%).

Only 3 per cent of respondents indicated that they did not know where to seek assistance. Out of them,

47 per cent indicated that they needed more information on how to have access to health services. Forty-three per cent required more information on how to get financial support in order to better navigate displacement. Another 37 per cent indicated food supply as another area where more information is needed on where to find support. Other relevant areas where more information was needed were medicines (33%), clothes and shoes (23%), household goods (20%), general information (17%), personal hygiene (13%), legal assistance (13%), employment (13%), short-term accommodation (10%), long-term accommodation (10%), documentation assistance (10%), vocational education (7%), language courses (7%), communication with others (3%), school enrollment (3%), psychological counseling (3%), family tracing (3%) and return support (3%).

Figure 21: Areas where more information for assistance is needed (%)  
(more than one answer possible)



## 6. Challenges in the Country of Displacement

### Experiences of discrimination

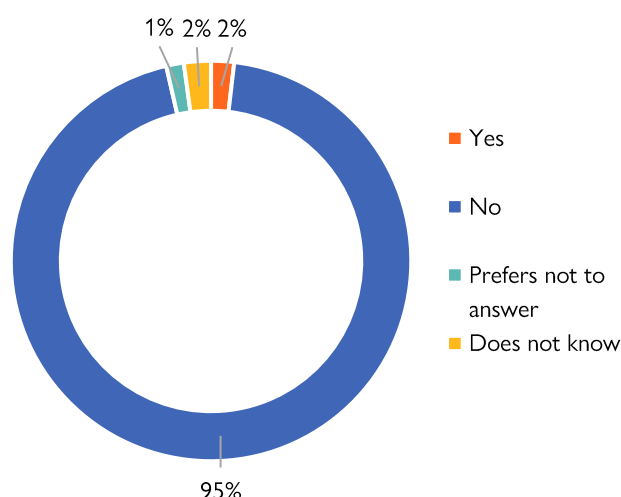
Ninety-five per cent of respondents indicated having no experiences of discrimination in Belarus. Two per cent of respondents indicated having experienced discrimination in Belarus, while remaining three per cent either did not know (2%) or preferred not to answer (1%).

When looking at the data disaggregated by gender, female respondents were more likely to have experienced discrimination than men (88% versus 12%).

### Inclusion challenges

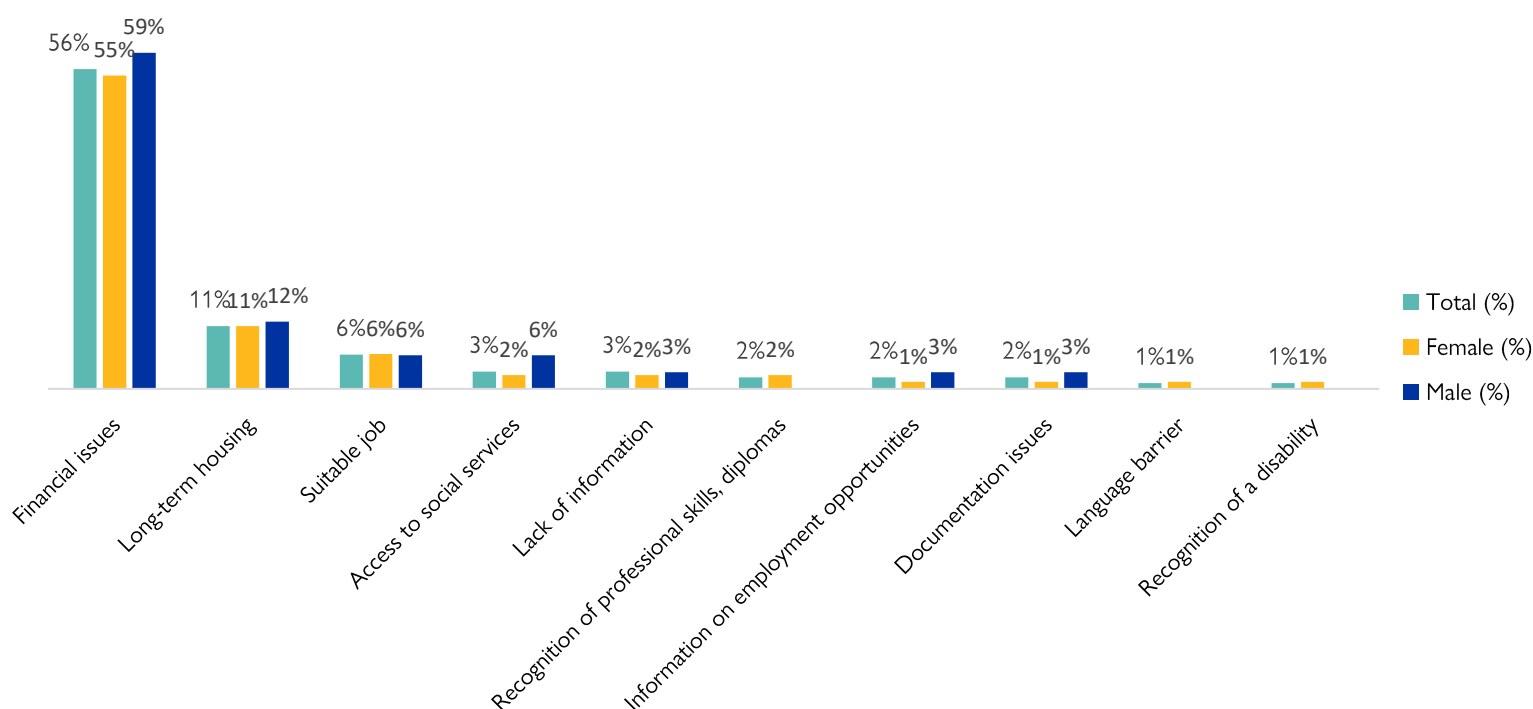
The respondents who settled in Belarus were also asked to name three key challenges they faced in Belarus. Fifty-six per cent of the respondents indicated financial issues. Eleven per cent named long-term housing and 6 per cent indicated lack of suitable job. This was followed by lack of access to social services (3%), lack of information (3%), and challenges with recognition of professional skills and diplomas (2%).

Figure 22: Reported experiences of discrimination (%)



Other challenges marked by respondents were lack of information on employment opportunities (2%), documentation issues (2%), language barrier (1%), recognition of disability (1%), hunger (1%), discrimination (1%) and other (1%). The remaining respondents either did not know what to answer (19%) or preferred not to answer (17%).

Figure 23: Top 10 challenges faced by respondents in Belarus, by gender and total (%)



## 7. Current Group Composition

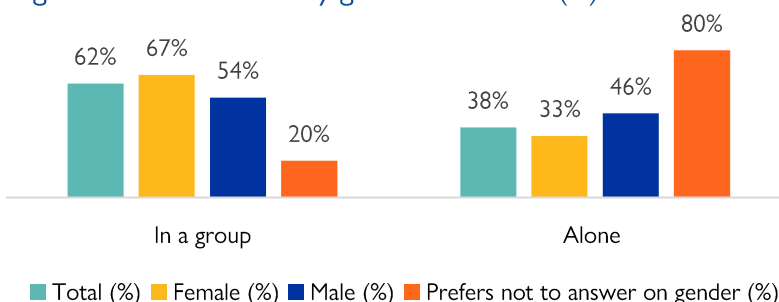
### Travel mode

For the majority of respondents bus and car were the main modes of transport to arrive to Belarus (38% and 36% respectively). Thirteen per cent arrived in Belarus by train, 10 per cent by minibus. Among other modes of transport to reach Belarus respondents also mentioned flights (1%) and on foot (1%). One per cent preferred not to answer.

Sixty-two per cent of respondents were travelling in a group. The other 38 per cent were travelling by themselves. Female respondents were more likely to be travelling in a group in comparison to their male counterparts (67% versus 54%).

The average group size was 3, while the maximum group was of 15 persons.

Figure 24: Travel mode by gender and total (%)



Out of those travelling in a group (N=572), 72 per cent were travelling with family, 30 per cent with relatives, 3 per cent with neighbors, and one per cent with acquaintances or people they did not know before.

Fifty-six per cent were travelling with at least one child.

Table 4: Travel groups composition, by gender and age

Age and gender	Number	Percentage
0-4 years - female	70	4%
0-4 years - male	66	4%
5-17 years - female	209	12%
5-17 years - male	150	9%
Adults (18-59) - female	546	32%
Adults (18-59) - male	318	19%
Older (60+) - female	199	12%
Older (60+) - male	125	7%

Overall, there were 1,683 persons travelling as part of groups. Most of them were women at the age of 18-59 years old. Men of that age accounted for 19 per cent of travel groups. Four hundred and ninety-five children accompanied adults in displacement. Twenty-one per cent of them were at the age of 5-17 years old, while 8 per cent were at the age 0-4 years old. Older persons accounted for 19 per cent out of total group representatives, with almost twice as many older females than males (12% versus 7%).

### Travelling with persons with health conditions and disabilities

Out of all respondents, 23.1 per cent answered that they or someone in their group had serious health conditions or specific needs, 74.6 per cent said they did not, while 2.3 per cent did not know or preferred not to answer.

Forty per cent out of those travelling in a group stated that they or someone in their group were with chronic disease or under medical treatment (diabetes,

hypertension, arthritis, obesity, cancer, etc.), 23 per cent had visual impairment, and 8 per cent had difficulty in walking or climbing steps. There were also those with difficulty hearing even with a hearing aid (1%), difficulty concentrating or remembering (1%), wounded or injured persons (1%), with difficulty communicating, understanding, and being understood (0.3%).



## 8. Methodology

This report is based on a survey of displacement patterns, needs and intentions conducted by IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) in 11 countries included in the Regional Response Plan for Ukraine in 2023: 6 countries neighbouring Ukraine – Belarus, Hungary, Poland, Republic of Moldova, Romania and Slovakia – and other 5 countries particularly impacted by the arrivals of refugees from Ukraine since February 2022 – Bulgaria, Czechia, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

The analysis presented in this report is based on 917 interviews collected between mid-February and March 2023 in coordination with the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Belarus and Belarus Red Cross. The interviews were conducted by 28 enumerators from the Belarus Red Cross and IOM staff deployed in all six regions of Belarus and the city of Minsk: in Minsk (capital) (155 interviews conducted), Minsk region (153 interviews), Vitebsk region (98 interviews), Mogilev (53 interviews), Grodno (132 interviews), Brest (164 interviews), and Gomel (162 interviews).

Face-to-face interviews were conducted by trained enumerators with adult refugees from Ukraine (18 years of age and above). Prior to the start of the survey, all enumerators were trained by IOM on DTM standards, the use of Kobo application, IOM approach to migrants' protection and assistance, the ethics of data collection and the provision of information and referral mechanisms in place.

Respondents were mainly approached by the enumerators at Belarus Red Cross offices, IOM office in Minsk and IOM regional project sites, bus and train stations, and different accommodation facilities.

The survey was anonymous and voluntary. Surveys were administered only if consent from the respondent was given. The respondent could stop the survey at any time.

The questionnaire was available in Ukrainian, Russian, and English language. The preferred

language was determined by the interviewee. All responses were checked for any systematic issues by enumerator and this process did not identify any problems. Only fully completed surveys were taken in account for this report.

### Country-level implementation and limitations

The sampling framework was not based on verified figures of refugees from Ukraine and TCNs entering through the various border crossing points or staying in the various regions across Belarus. This is due to the limited availability of comparable baseline information.

The geographic spread of enumerators deployed and locations targeted captures most of the key arrival, transit and access points. Whilst results cannot be deemed representative, the internal consistency within the data within each country and at the regional level suggests that the findings of the current sampling framework have practical value.

Whilst every attempt was made to capture as many respondents, the operational reality of fieldwork was confronted with different levels of accessibility of transit and stay locations and the different availability of possible target individuals to comfortably spend 10-20 minutes responding to the questionnaire depending on a mix of personal conditions. The fact that in Belarus a large part of potential respondents reside within privately owned accommodations (renting flats, staying at relatives/friends) was one of the major limitations in reaching out and capturing more respondents.

In Belarus, the DTM was activated in May 2022 for the first time. During the first round of surveys, between 4 June and 5 August 2022, 1,915 valid surveys were collected. The second round was held between 1 September and 30 November 2022 with 805 interviews collected and analyzed. The current report covers the third round of surveys conducted in Belarus with refugees from Ukraine in the period February to March 2023.

## DTM

Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) is a system to track and monitor displacement and population mobility. The survey form was designed to capture the main displacement patterns – origin country and region – for refugees of any nationality fleeing from Ukraine since February 2022. It captures the demographic profiles of respondents and of the group they are travelling with, if any; it asks about intentions relative to the intended final destination and prospects of permanence in the country of the survey/first reception; it gathers information regarding a set of main needs that the respondents expressed as more pressing at the moment of the interview.

Since February 2022 due to the events in Ukraine, several IOM's DTM tools were deployed in countries neighbouring Ukraine and in other countries particularly impacted by the new arrivals of migrants and refugees from Ukraine.

For more information, please consult: <https://dtm.iom.int/responses/ukraine-response>

DTM is part of IOM's Global Data Institute.

