



Regional Refugee Response
for the Ukraine Situation

BULGARIA

SOCIO-ECONOMIC INSIGHTS SURVEY

July

2024

Preliminary analysis

Photo Credit: NRG Association 2024

Bulgaria

OBJECTIVES & METHODOLOGY

OBJECTIVES

The **SEIS** is a collaborative process which identifies the most pressing needs of refugees across various sectors. Comprehensive and accurate data is gathered to guide the planning, implementation, and evaluation of programs and interventions aimed at addressing those needs. The SEIS closes aligns to the MSNAs conducted in 2023 and 2022 to produce comparative results over time:

- the needs of refugees in Bulgaria, focusing on the in-country refugee population;
- the level of socio-economic integration and access to national systems;
- Service gaps and refugees' priorities for the coming year.
- Identify changing trends in refugees needs

The SEIS is a key source of information for the 2025 RRP planning, which aims to capture funding and planning requirements for the response.

These preliminary results cover the following topics:

- **DEMOGRAPHICS**
- **PROTECTION**
- **EDUCATION**
- **SOCIAL ECONOMIC INCLUSION AND LIVELIHOOD**
- **HEALTH**
- **ACCOMMODATION**

OVERVIEW



COMPLETED
VISITS

1072 HH



POPULATION
COVERAGE

Refugees living in Bulgaria, e.g. in private accommodation, with host families, rentals, hostels/hotels and in government-designated collective sites.



DATA COLLECTION
BY

Global Metrics Ltd.



DATA COLLECTION

From **16 June – 15 July**
2024



PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS
BY

Global Metrics Ltd.

METHODOLOGY

The **preliminary result** are based on the analysis of part of the total surveys to conducted.

POPULATION	Refugees living in Bulgaria, e.g. in private accommodation, with host families, rentals, hostels/hotels and in government-designated collective sites.
DESIGN	Household interviews.
DATA COLLECTION	From 16 June – 15 July by enumerators from Global Metrics Ltd.
SAMPLE SIZE (preliminary r. / MSNA)	1072 HHs covered/900 HH planned; covering 2369 indiv HH members 12,2% living in collective sites (incl. workers hostels) 87,8% living outside of collective sites.

SAMPLING AND REPRESENTATIVENESS: Purposively selected (geographical coverage, different accommodation types), but **not statistically representative**. Results are indicative.

LIMITATIONS:

- **Data collection during summer / school holidays** most likely affected the sample;
- **Lack of comprehensive data on population locations**, and difficulties interviewing outside of collective sites and distribution points.
- Sensitivity around **protection and income questions**, therefore, large non-response rate and less reliable data;
- **Respondent bias:** certain indicators may be under-reported or over-reported due to the subjectivity and perceptions of respondents.

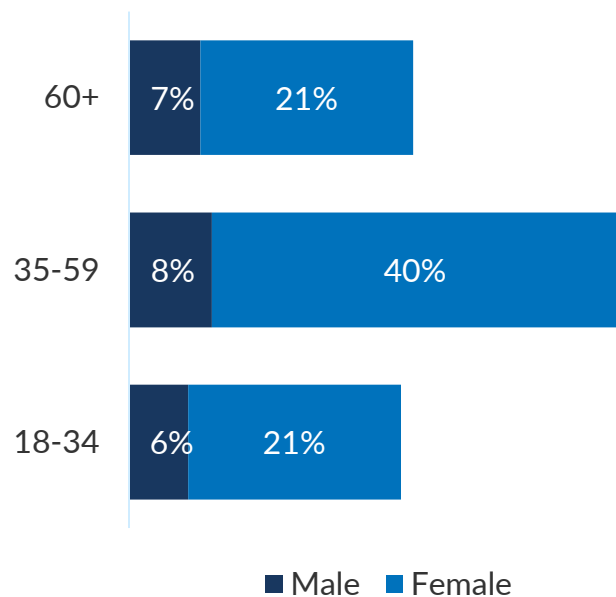
Bulgaria

DEMOGRAPHICS

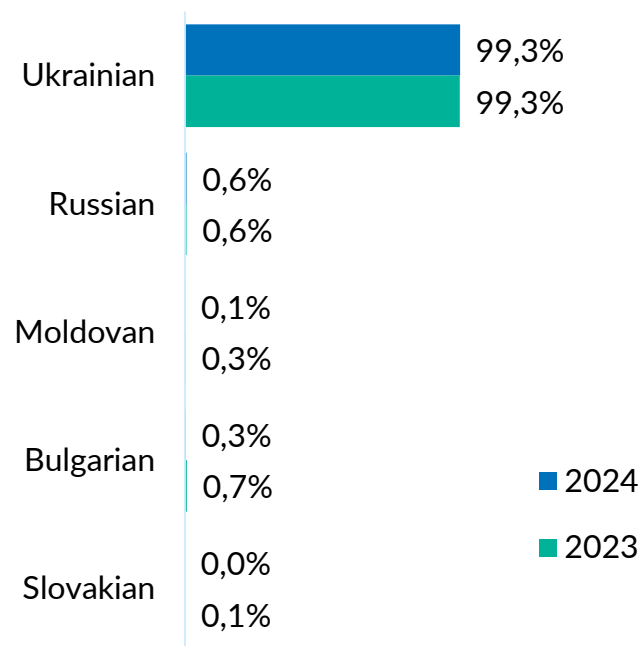
DEMOGRAPHICS

RESPONDENTS

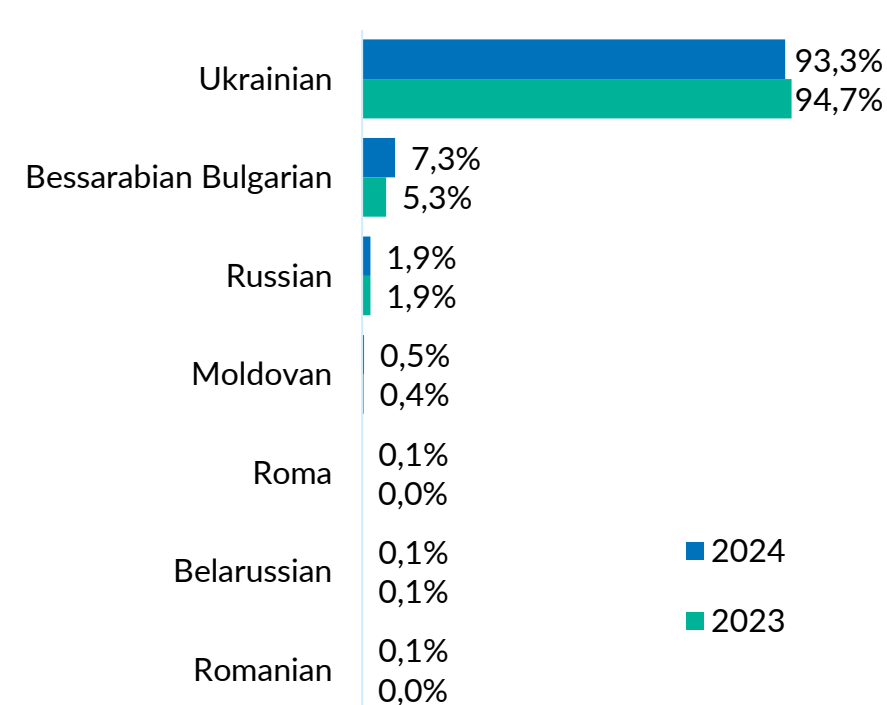
Respondents by gender & age



% of respondents by citizenship



% of HHs by ethnic background (self-identified)



Almost all respondents have Ukrainian citizenship (99,3%). Small number of refugees from Ukraine in Bulgaria have **Russian (0.6%)** , **0.1%** have **Moldovan**, and **0.3%** have **Bulgarian** citizenship. **93%** of respondents self-identified as of **Ukrainian background**, **7.3%** as **Bessarabian Bulgarian** and **1.9%** as **Russian**.

DEMOGRAPHICS

HOUSEHOLD AND POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS



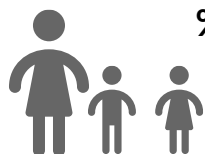
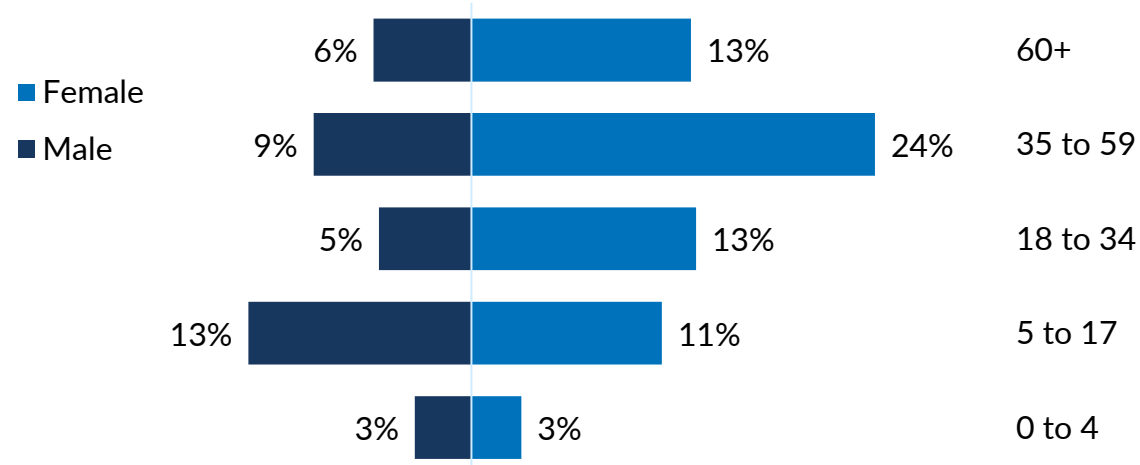
Average HH size
2.21

% of HHs with a
chronically ill member
49%

HHs with children
47%

% of HHs with a Pregnant
or Breastfeeding Women
7.5%

Household Members by Age Group and Gender



% Female Headed
HHs
62%



% HHs with
infants
2.4%



% children
refugees
30%



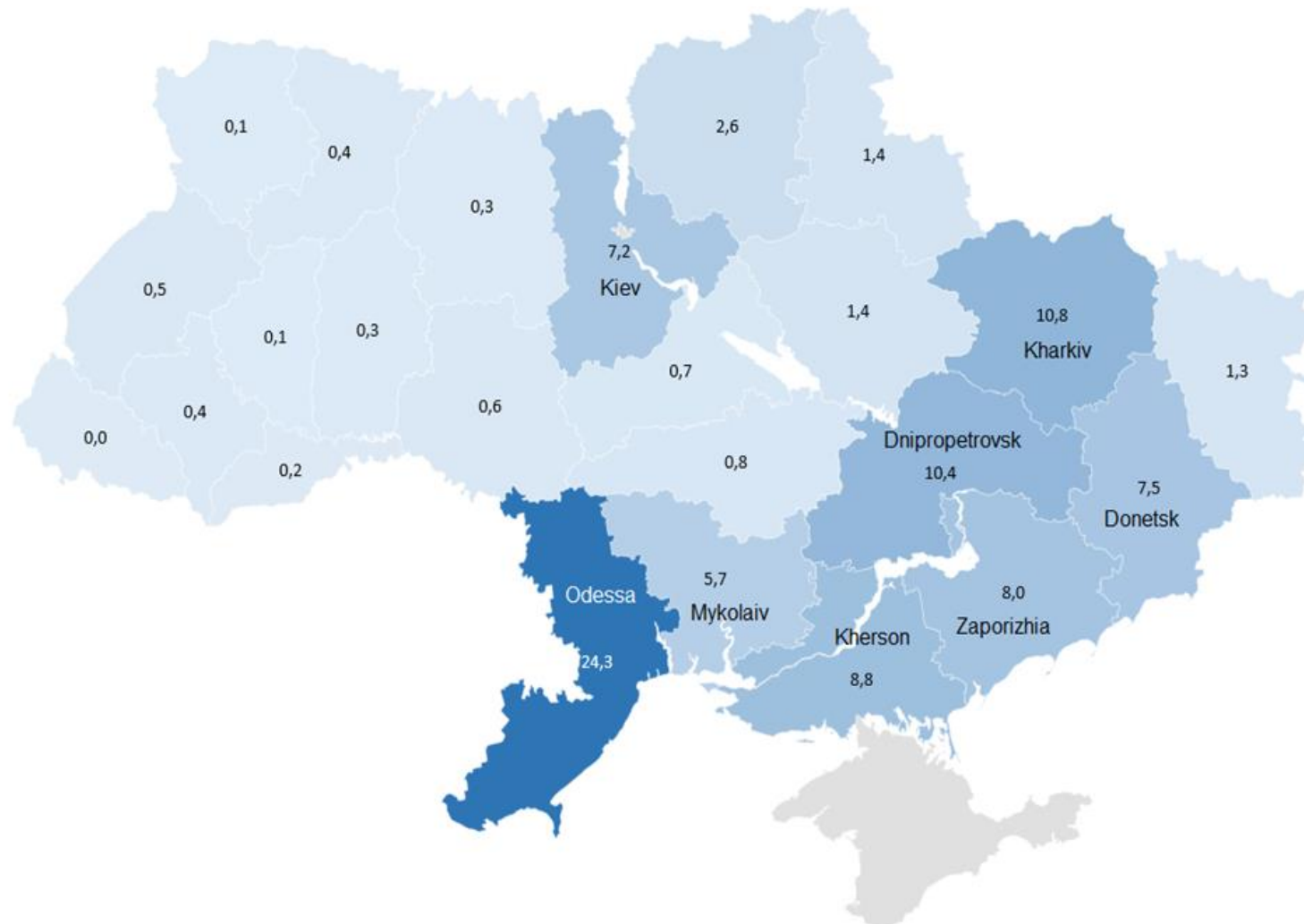
% of older
refugees
19%



% of individuals with disability
level 3 and above
8%

DEMOGRAPHICS

UKRAINIAN REFUGEES ORIGINS BY OBLAST



Each shaded region represents the specific Oblast from which these households have been displaced.

Majority of Ukrainian refugees in Bulgaria originate from Odessa (24%), Kharkiv (11%) and Dnepropetrovsk (10%). The other oblasts of origin which constitutes more than 5% of Ukrainians coming in Bulgaria are Kherson (9%), Zaporozhia (8%), Donetsk (8%), Kiev (7%) and Mykolaiv (6%).

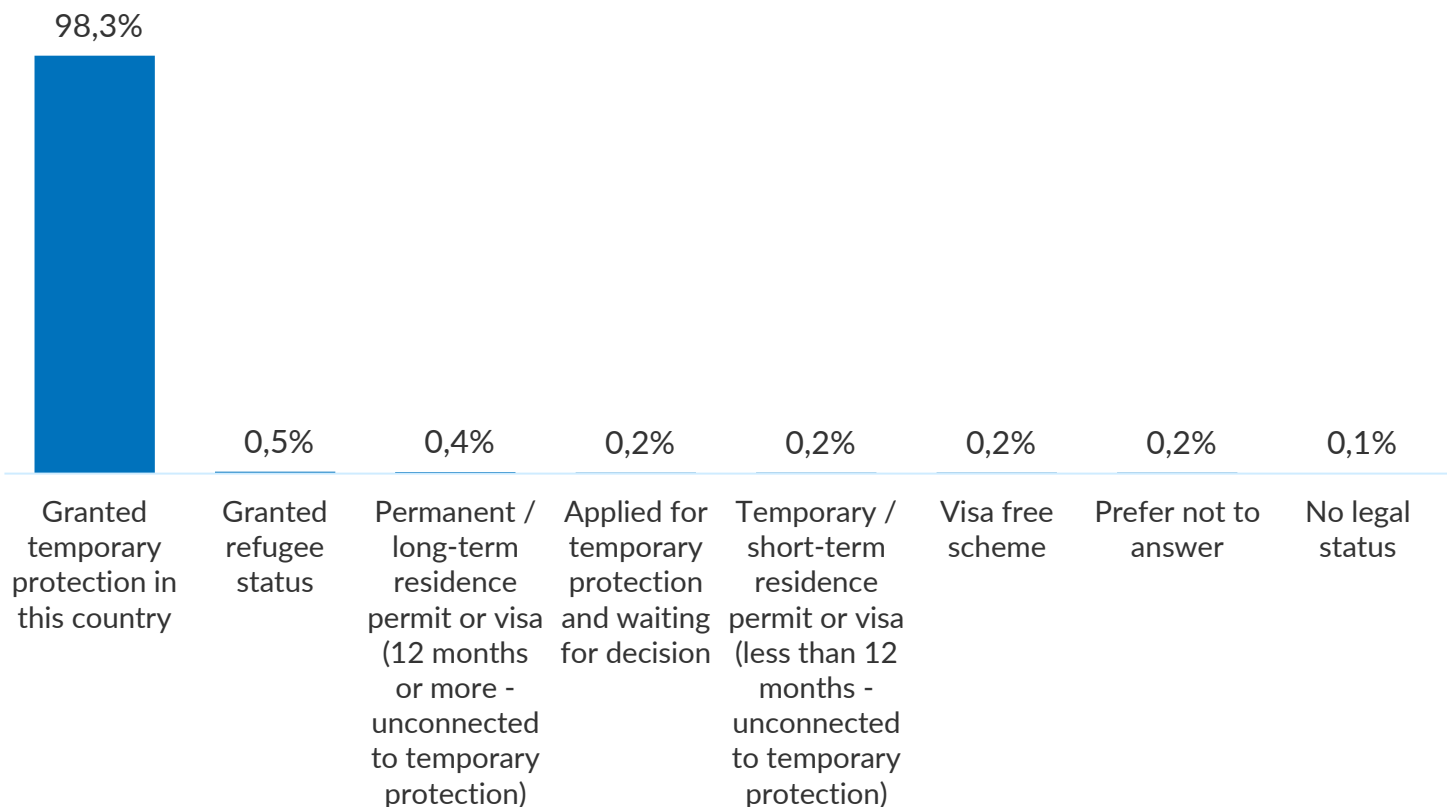


PROTECTION

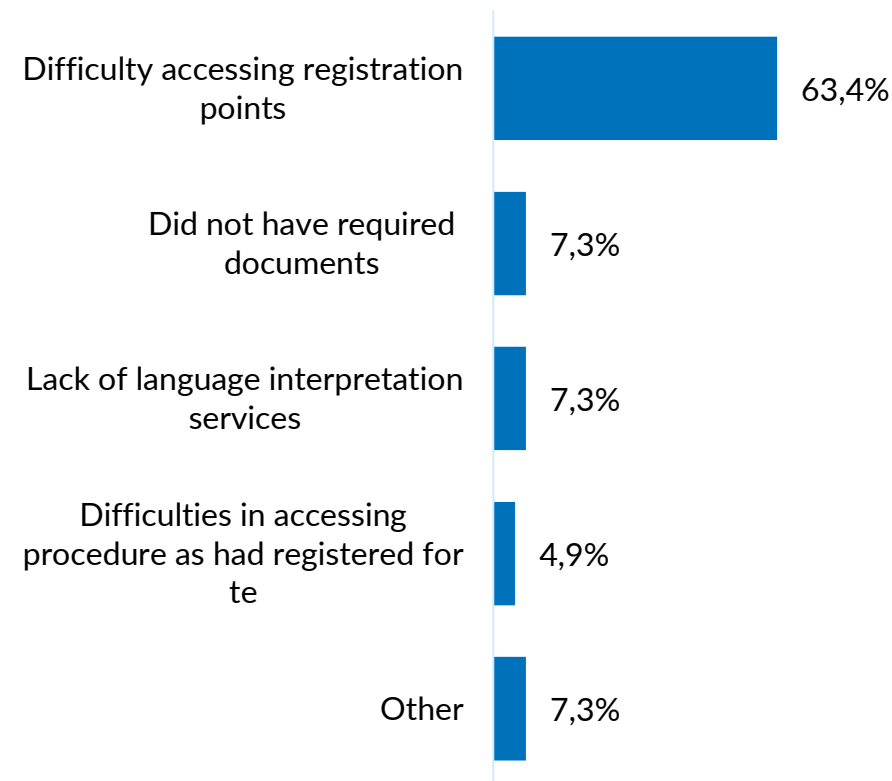
PROTECTION

CIVIL STATUS

What is your current legal status in the country?



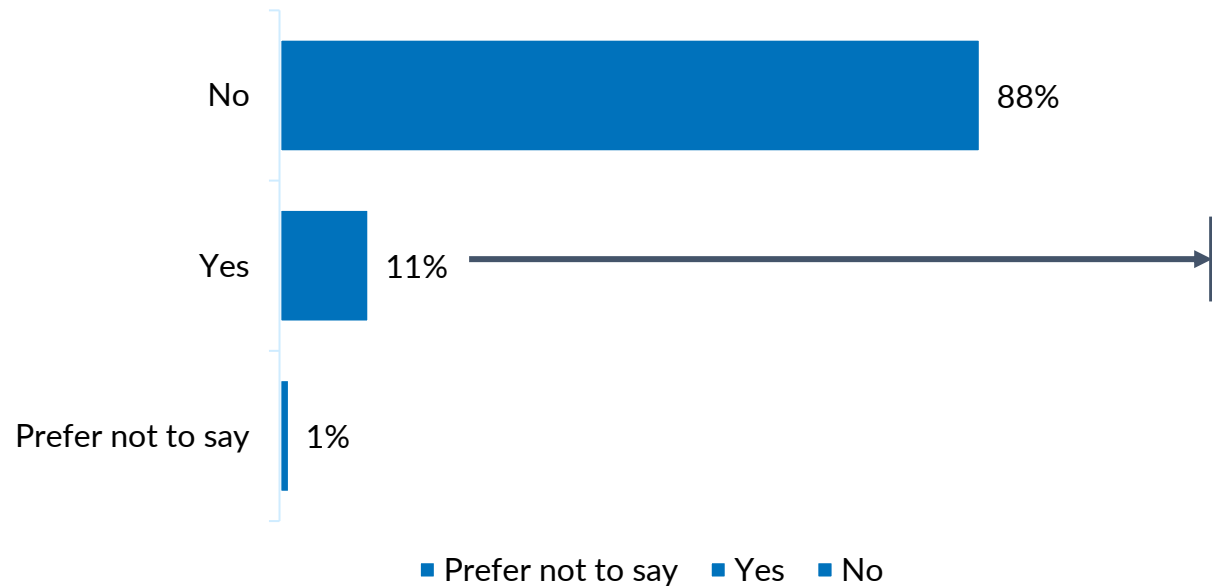
% top 5 difficulties faced during TP application



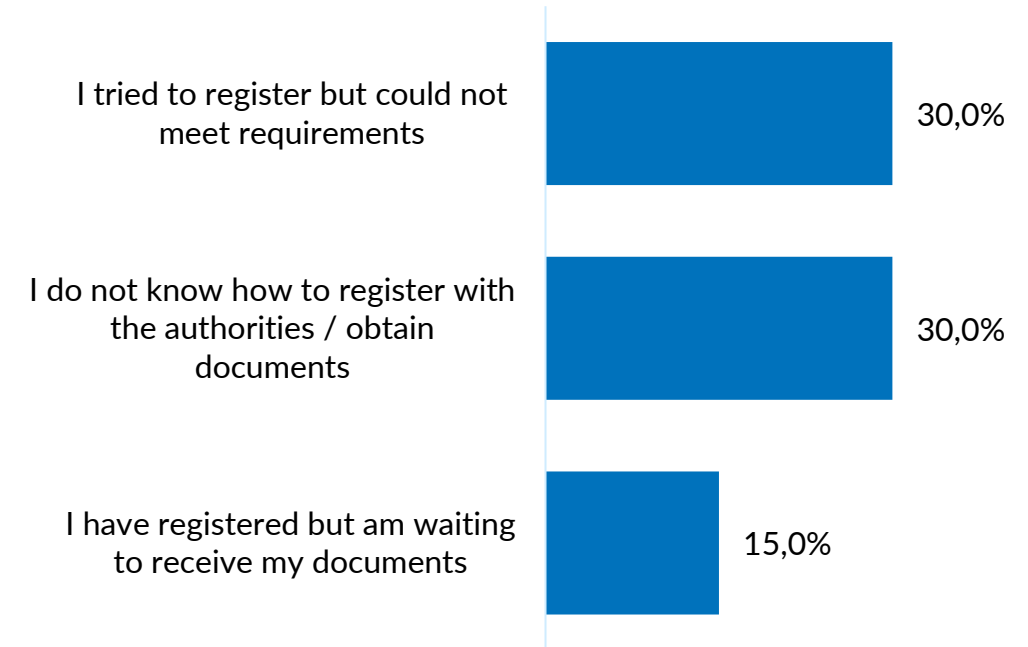
PROTECTION

CIVIL STATUS

% HH reporting challenges in registering changes to family composition/civil status with host country authorities



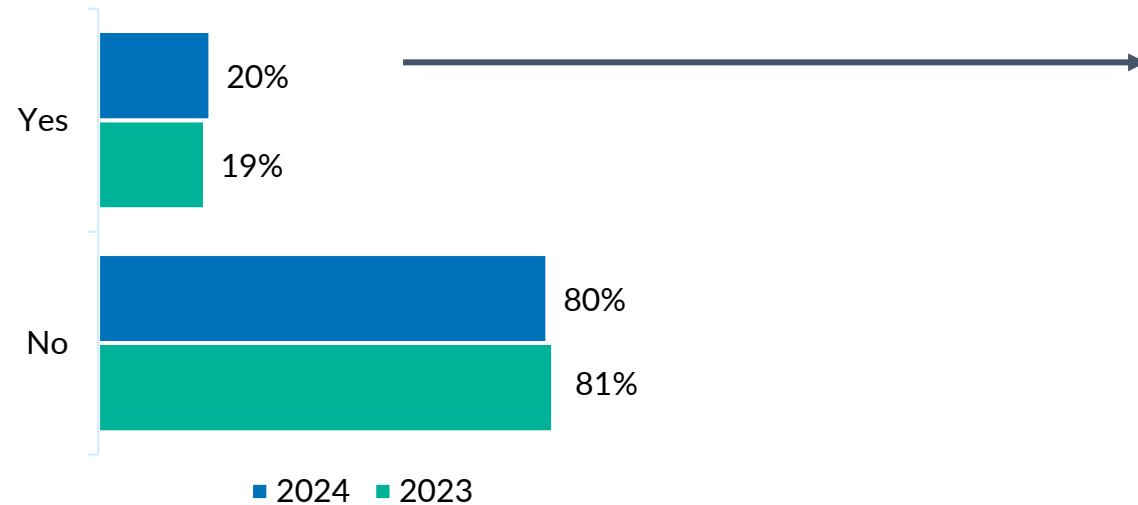
Types of challenges faced in registering changes to family composition/civil status with host country authorities



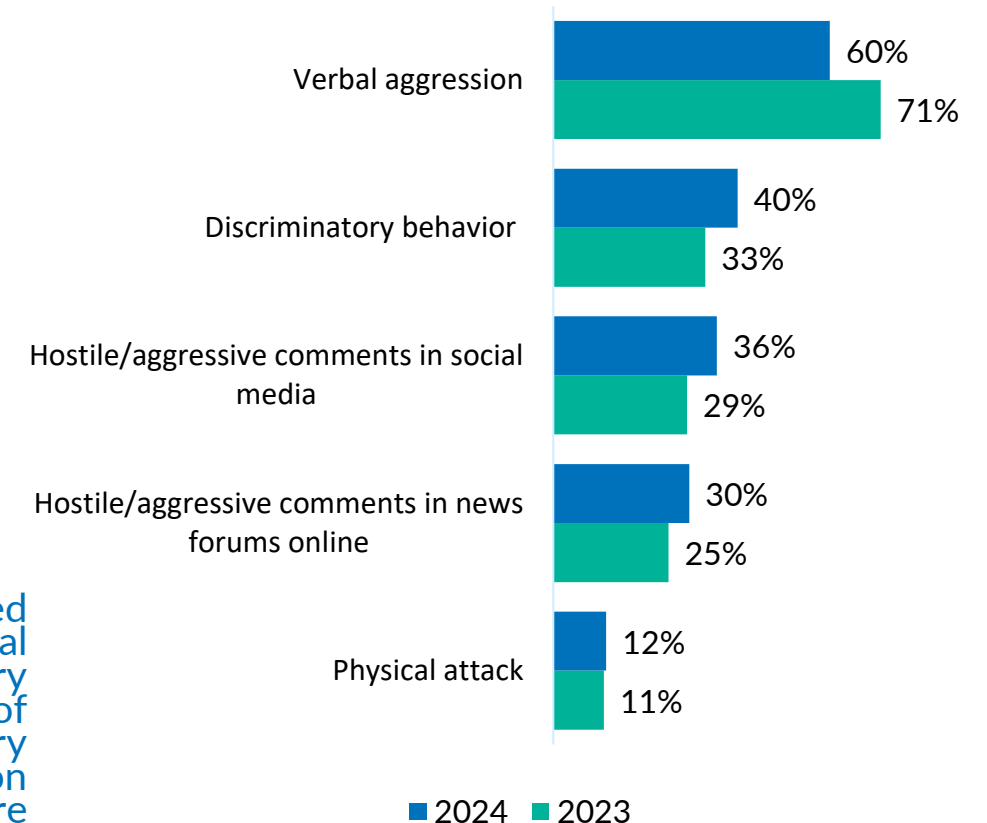
PROTECTION

SOCIAL COHESION

% of HHs reporting hostile behavior or attitudes from the local population



Type of hostile behavior reported
(out of the 40% reporting tensions)

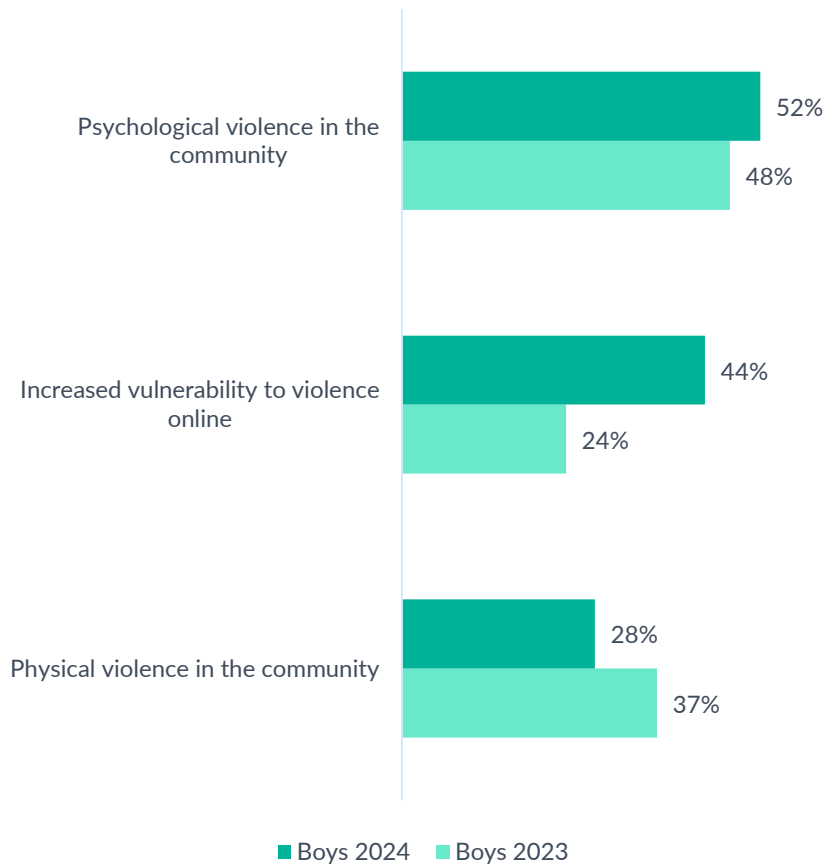


The proportion reporting hostile behaviour by local residents remained relatively the same in 2023 and 2024. As in the previous year, verbal aggression was most frequently reported followed by discriminatory treatment. However, it should be noted that those reporting the presence of verbal aggression were down by about 10% from 2023. Discriminatory treatment, on the other hand, marked an increase. Aggressive comments on social media and aggressive comments in online news are also reported more frequently.

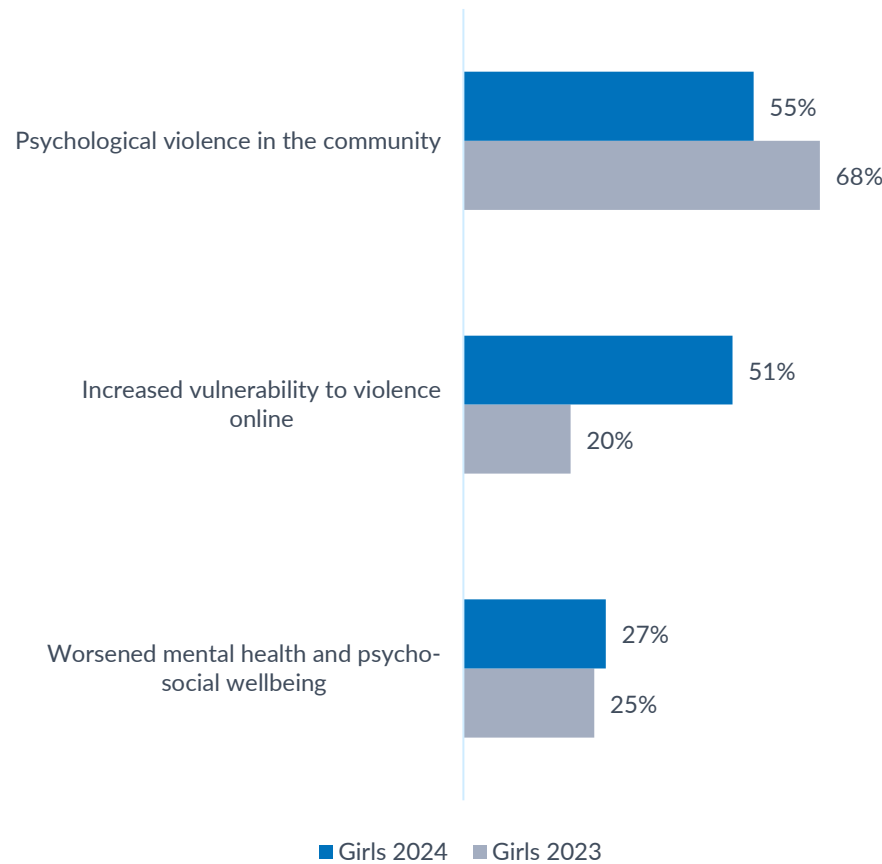
PROTECTION

CHILD PROTECTION

% HH reporting the three most serious risks faced by boys under the age of 18



% HH reporting the three most serious risks faced by girls under the age of 18



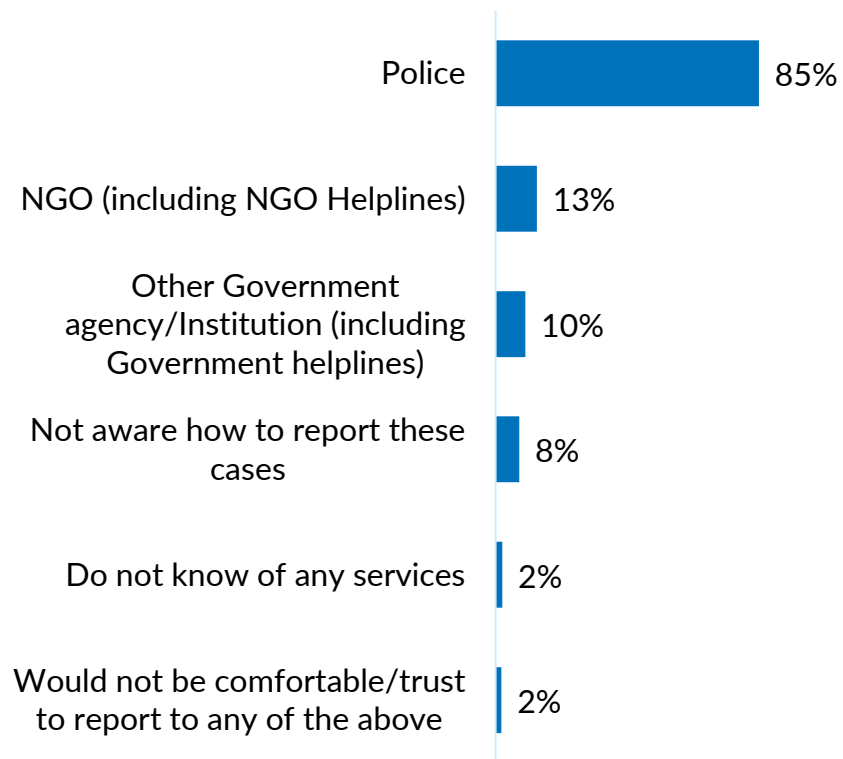
The most frequently cited risks for boys remained the same across the two years examined. However, concerns about online violence increased dramatically compared to the previous year (44%). In contrast, concerns about possible violence in the community decreased (28%).

In 2023, the risk of girls being neglected is ranked third (23%) followed by online violence (20%), while in 2024 it is no longer among the top three risks. The data shows that in 2024, the concern about online violence is growing strongly (51%)

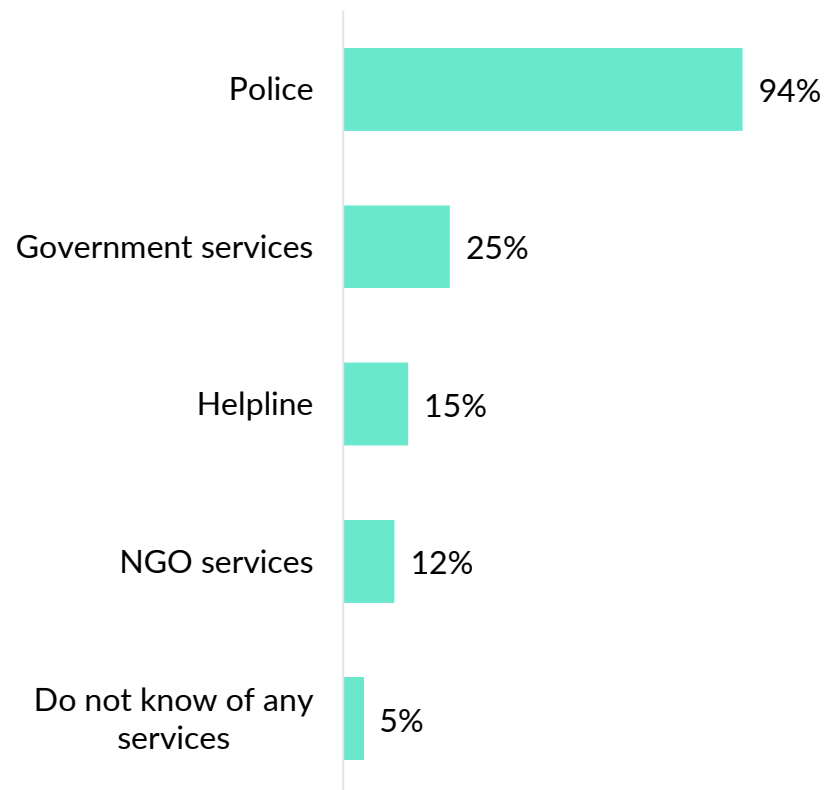
PROTECTION

CHILD PROTECTION

% of HHs being aware of services to report violence against children 2024



% of HHs being aware of services to report violence against children 2023

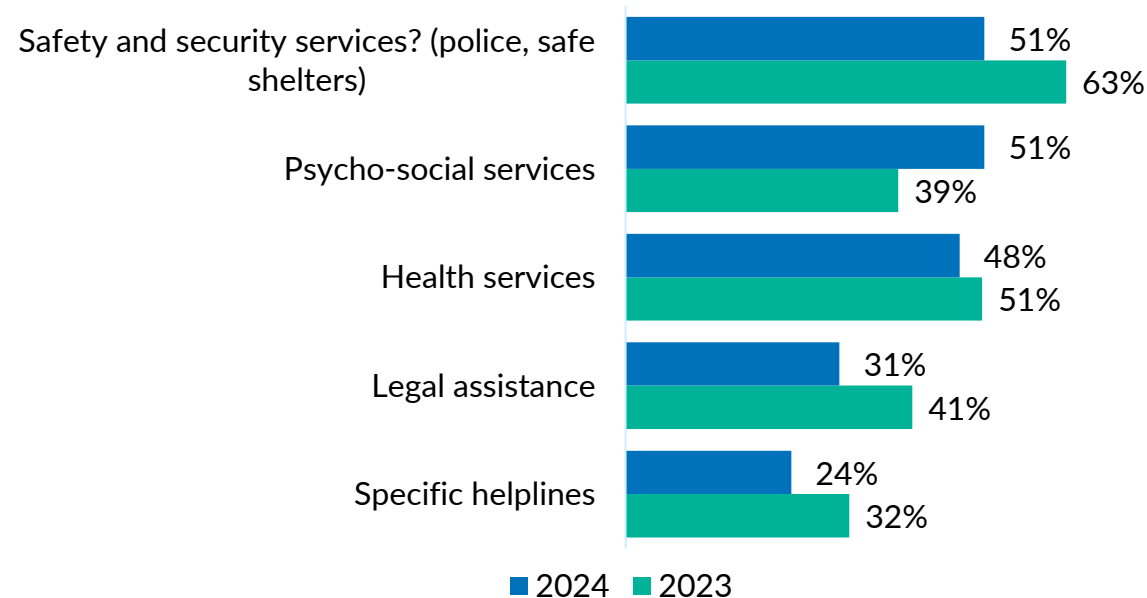


In 2024, the police remain the most frequently recognized institution for reporting child abuse. However, due to a difference in the approach to identifying the issue, it is not possible to compare the data with what was obtained in 2023.

PROTECTION

GBV

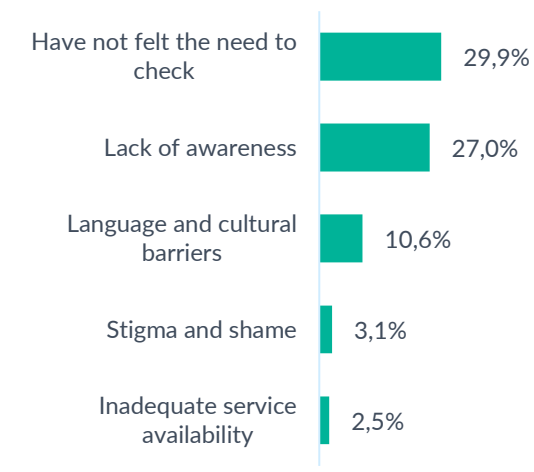
% of respondents who know how to access GBV services



% of respondents who identified main barriers for accessing GBV services (top 5) 2024



% of respondents who identified main barriers for accessing GBV services (top 5) 2023



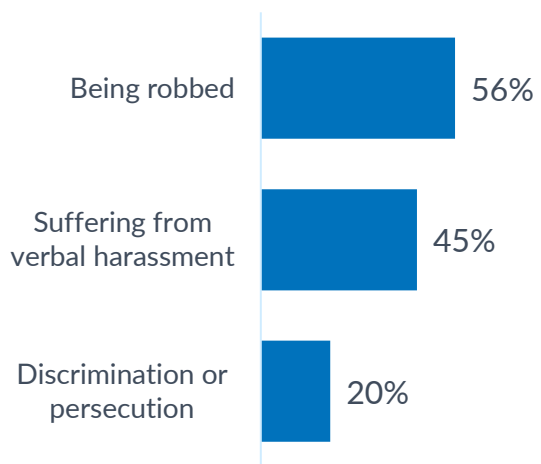
In 2024, the number of people aware of the possibility to access GBV-related psychosocial services increased (51%). Safety and security services are indicated with the same percentage, followed by health services (48%), legal assistance (31%) and specific helplines (24%).

In 2024, the most frequently cited barriers to accessing GBV services are lack of awareness (46%), language and cultural barriers (37%), stigma and shame (23%), lack of trust in Bulgaria services (19%) and fear of retaliation (11%).

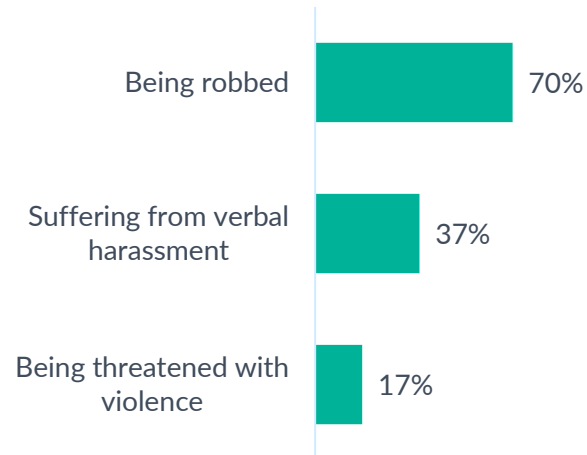
PROTECTION

GBV

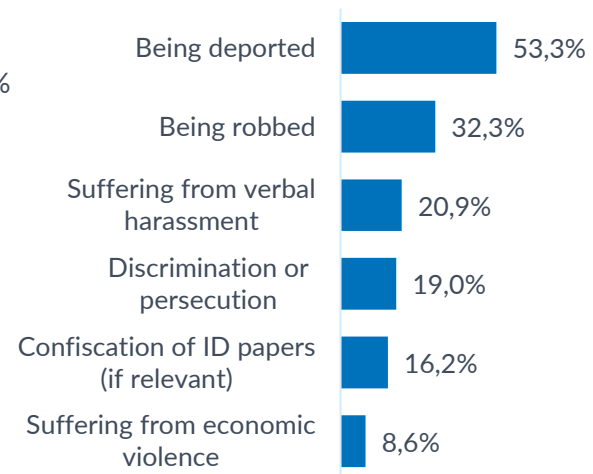
% top 3 main safety and security concerns for women in the area of residence
2024



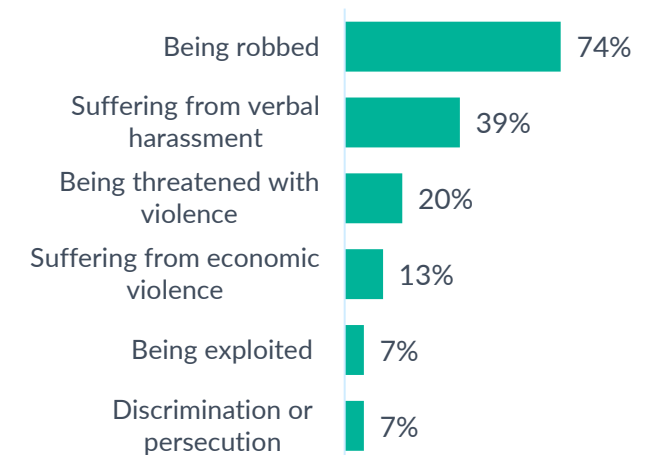
% top 3 main safety and security concerns for women in the area of residence
2023



% main safety and security concerns for men in the areas of residence
2024



% main safety and security concerns for men in the areas of residence
2023



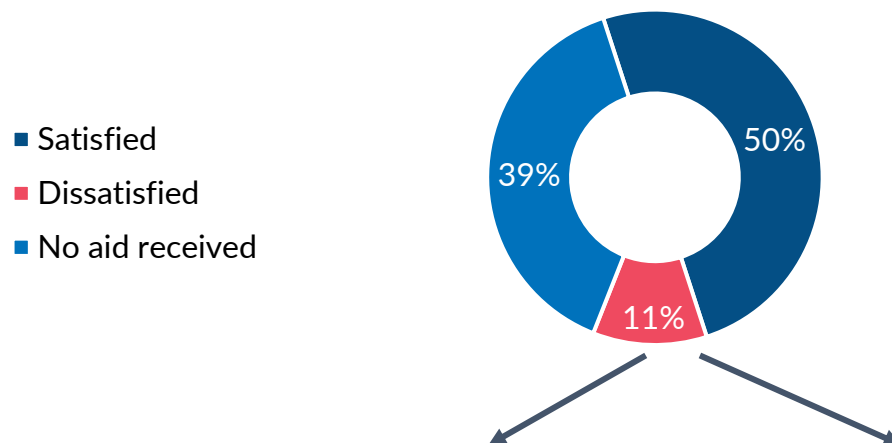
In 2024, the most common safety concerns for women are not being robbed (56%), verbal harassment (45%) and discrimination (20%). In 2023, threats of violence ranked third.

In 2024, deportation is added to the options explored for safety concerns. The data shows that 53% of men with concerns fear deportation. This is followed by fear of robbery (32%), verbal harassment (21%), discrimination (19%), document confiscation (16%), and economic violence (9%).

PROTECTION

AAP – SATISFACTION AID RECEIVED

% of HHs dissatisfied with the aid they received in the last 3 months

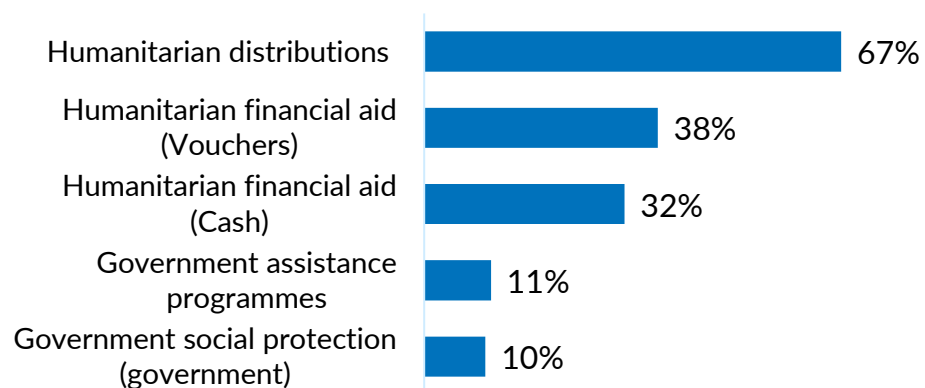


% of HHs received aid in the last 3 months

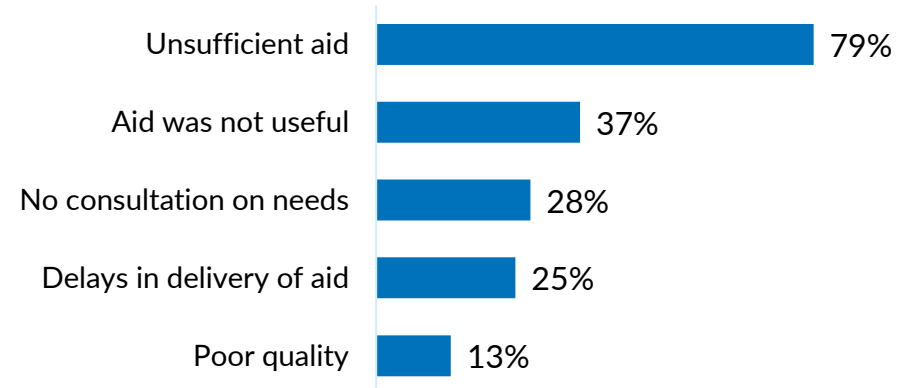
62%

11% were not satisfied with the aid received (small proportion). Most HHs expressed dissatisfaction with humanitarian distribution (67%). Most HHs were unhappy about insufficient aid (79%).

% top 5 type of aid were you dissatisfied with



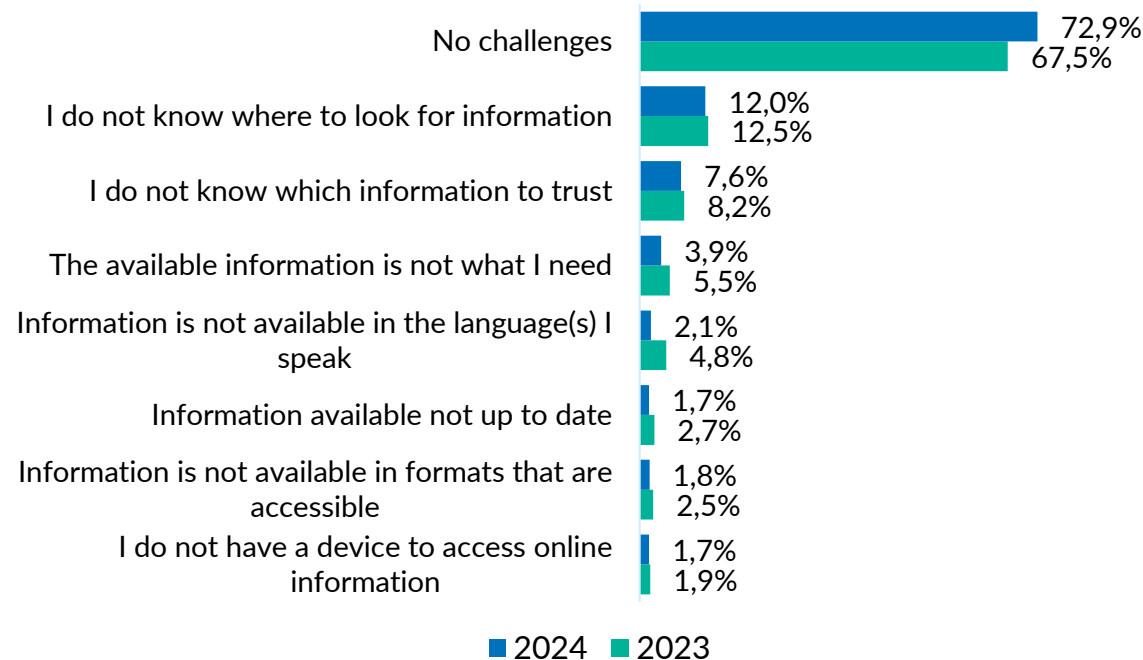
% top 5 reasons for dissatisfaction with aid received



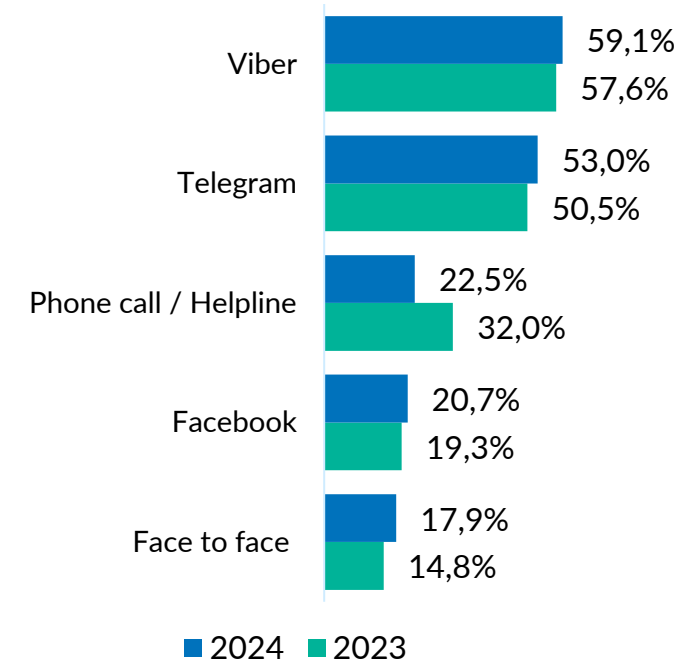
PROTECTION

AAP – INFORMATION NEEDS

% of HHs challenges faced in accessing information



% of HHs preferred means/channels of receiving information (top 5)

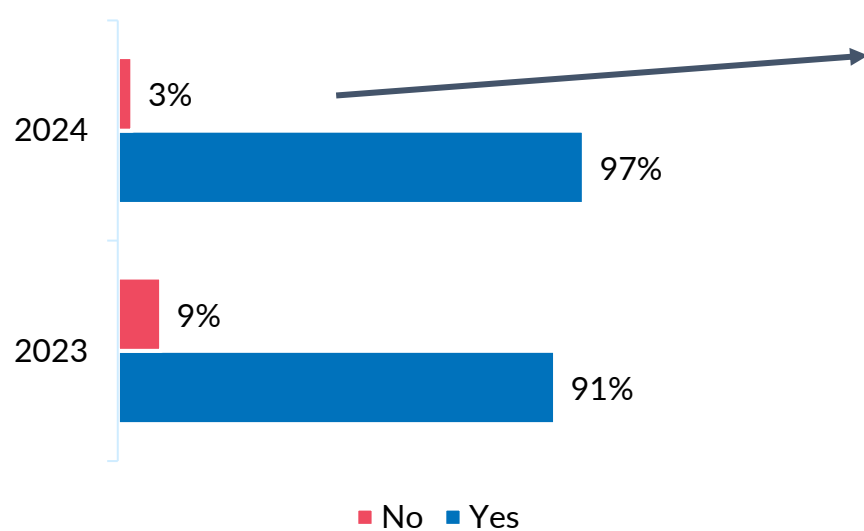


The proportion of those who had no challenges accessing information increased slightly. To the extent that there were any, these were related to not knowing where to look for information (12%), not knowing which information to trust (8%) and that the information available was not what they needed (4%). The most preferred sources of information remain Viber and Telegram.

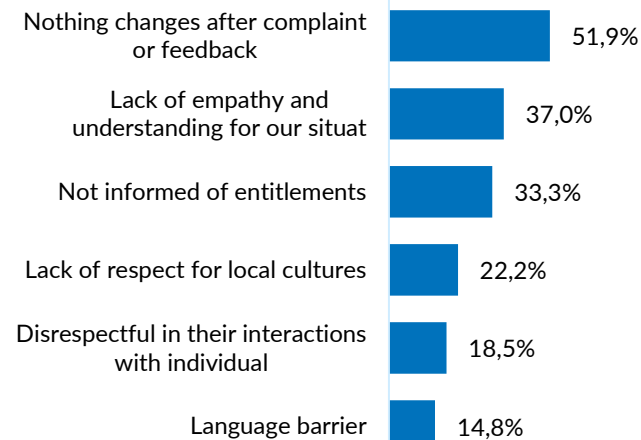
PROTECTION

PSEA – SATISFACTION OF AID WORKERS BEHAVIOUR

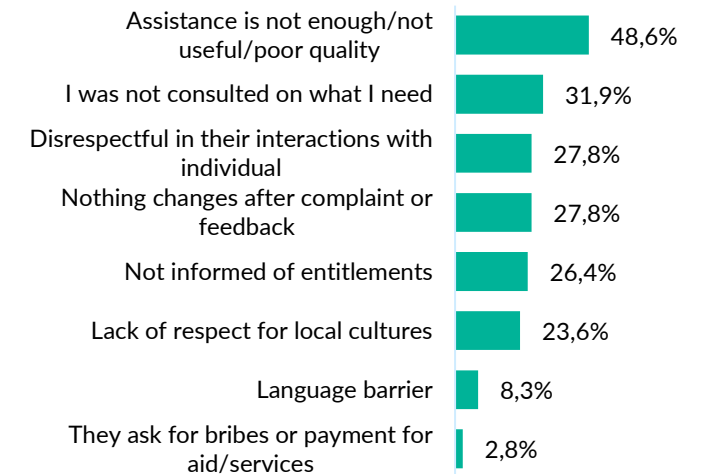
% of HHs satisfied with aid workers' behaviour in the area



% of HH reported reasons for dissatisfaction with the behavior of aid workers 2024



% of HH reported reasons for dissatisfaction with the behavior of aid workers 2023

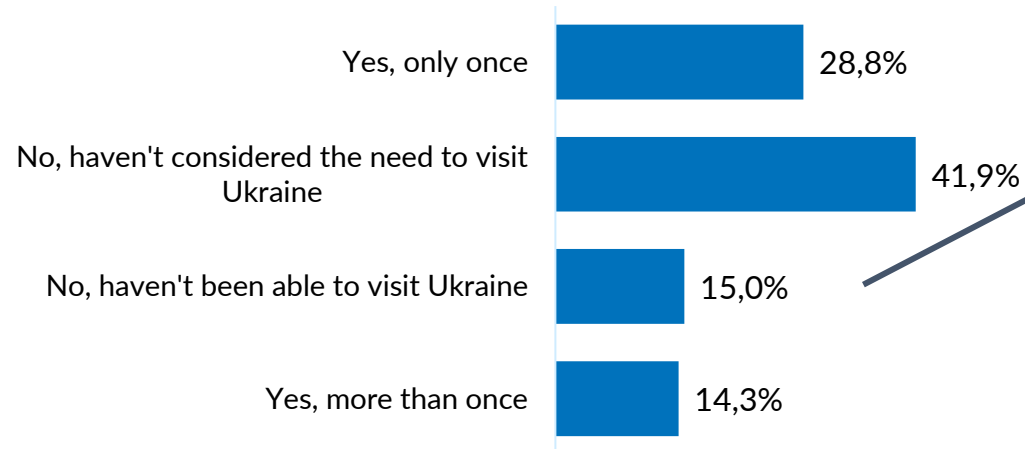


In 2024, the large majority of HHs, **97%** are **satisfied with aid workers**, which is a **6%** increase from 2023. Among those who are dissatisfied reported that their **feedback is not taken into account (52%)** show a **lack of empathy and understanding** for their situation (**37%**). Other reasons are that were not informed about their entitlements (**33%**), the **lack of respect for local cultures** (22%), that they **behave disrespectfully** towards them (**19%**) and language barrier (15%).

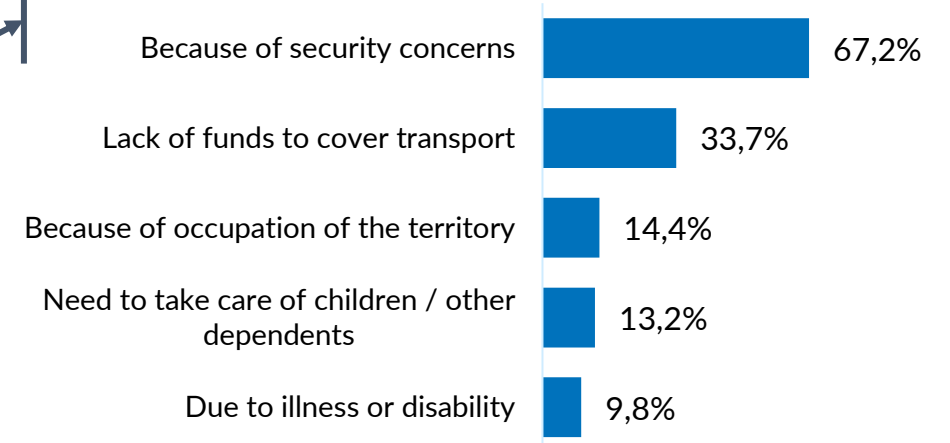
PROTECTION

RETURNS

% of HH where 1 or more household members
have been back to visit Ukraine after 24 Feb 2022



Reasons for not being able to visit Ukraine
(top 5)



In 2024, many HHs indicated they haven't considered the need to visit Ukraine (42%). 29% visited the country only once and 15% did not manage to visit the country. The share of those who have travelled more than once is 14%.

The main reasons for not being able to visit Ukraine were **security concerns (33%)** and **lack of funds to cover transport (34%)**.

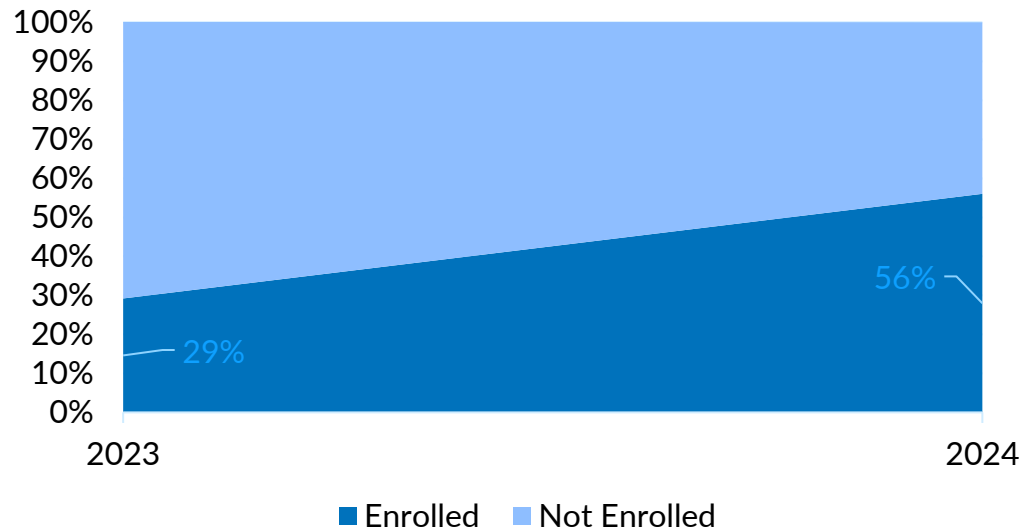


EDUCATION

EDUCATION

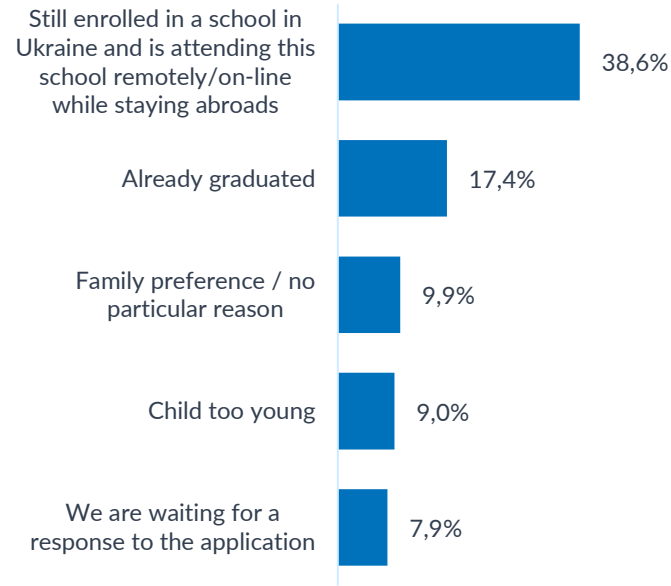
ATTENDANCE /ENROLMENT

% of school-aged children reported attending 2023/2024 school year in host country

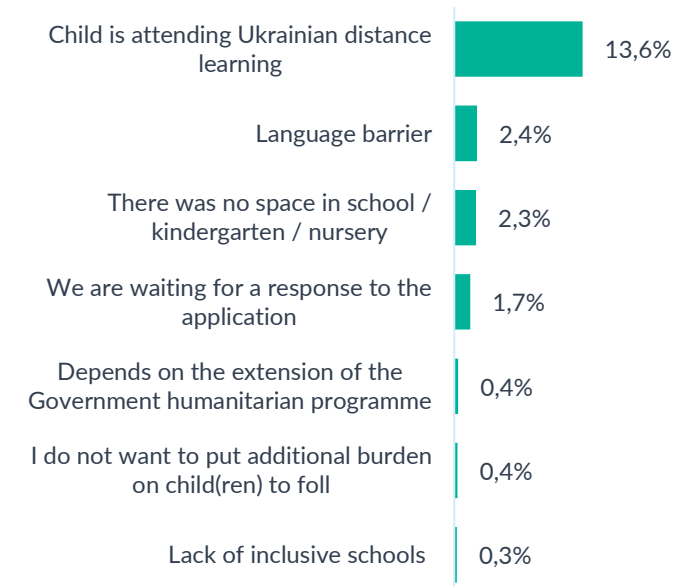


Among children 7 -16 year old

Primary barriers for enrolling children in school 2024 (top5)



Primary barriers for enrolling children in school 2023 (top5)

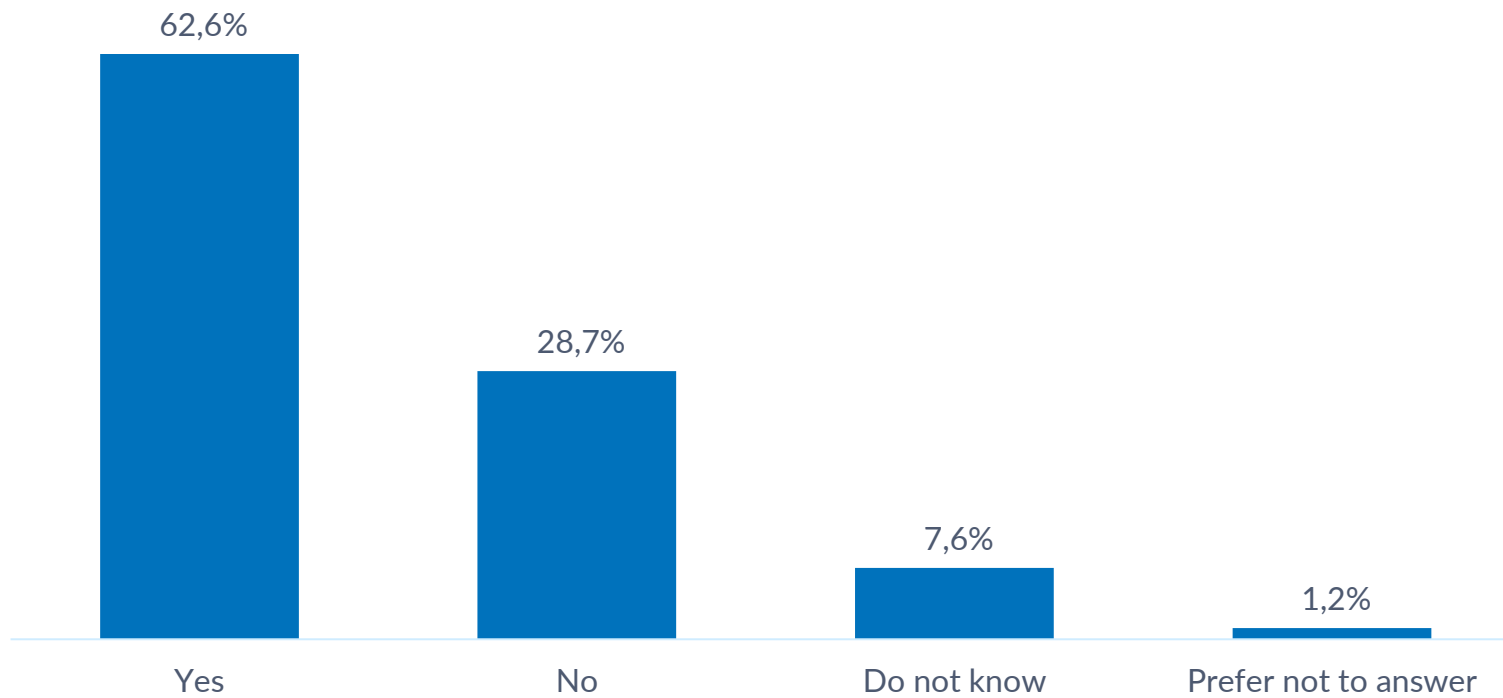


Proportion of children enrolled in schools increases from 29% to 56% in 2024. The main barriers to school enrolment are that children are still enrolled in Ukrainian schools.

EDUCATION

Additional classes

Children taking additional classes for Bulgarian language provided in the schools
(Children enrolled in formal education in 2023/2024)



63% of children enrolled in formal education in 2023/2024 take **additional lessons to learn Bulgarian.**

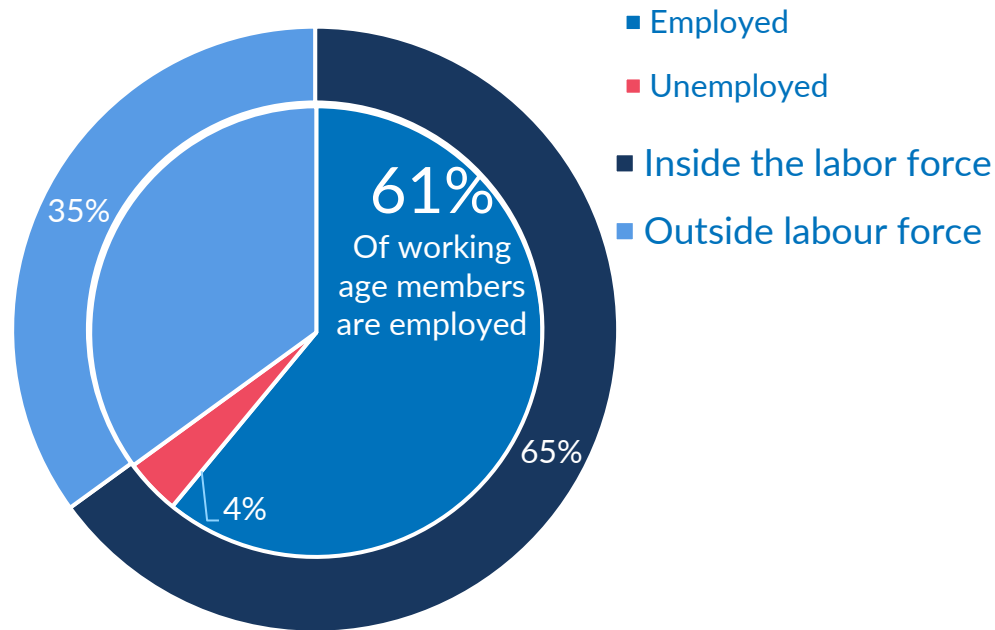


Bulgaria

SOCIO-ECONOMIC INCLUSION & LIVELIHOOD

LIVELIHOOD AND INCLUSION

Labor Force Participation
(out of working age population 16 to 64)



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

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

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

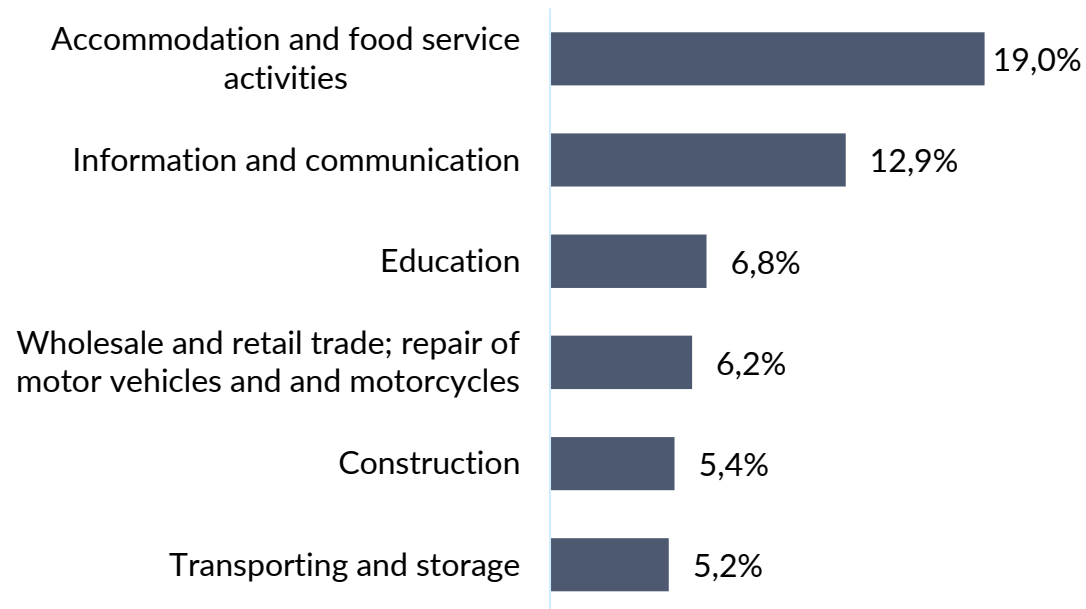
Inside labor force: Employed and Unemployed

% of youth (16 to 24) who are Not in Education, Training or Employment (NEED)

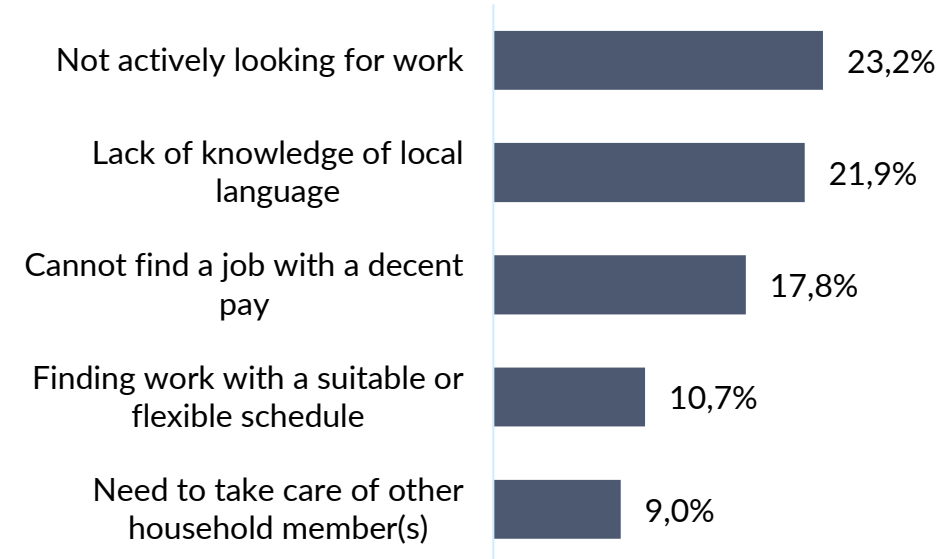
13%

LIVELIHOOD AND INCLUSION

% HH members employed by sector of employment (top %)



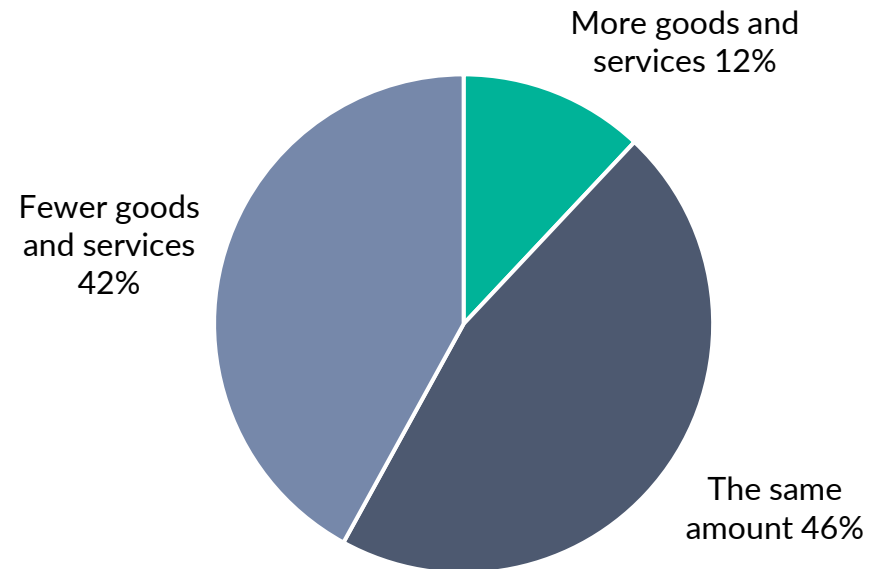
% HH members by main reasons for not finding work (MCQ) top 5



61% of working-age HH members (16-64 years) are **employed**, 4% are **unemployed**. 19% are in the accommodation and food services sector, 13% are in the information and communication sector. The main challenges reported are that they are **not actively looking for work** and **lack of knowledge of the local language**. 18% cannot find a job with a decent pay.

LIVELIHOOD AND INCLUSION

Can you afford more goods and services compared to your first months in BG? (% of HHs)



42% can afford fewer goods and services and 46% can afford the same amount as when they arrived. The proportion of those who can afford more is 12%.

A total of 26% are covered by the health system.

% of individuals covered by social protection systems

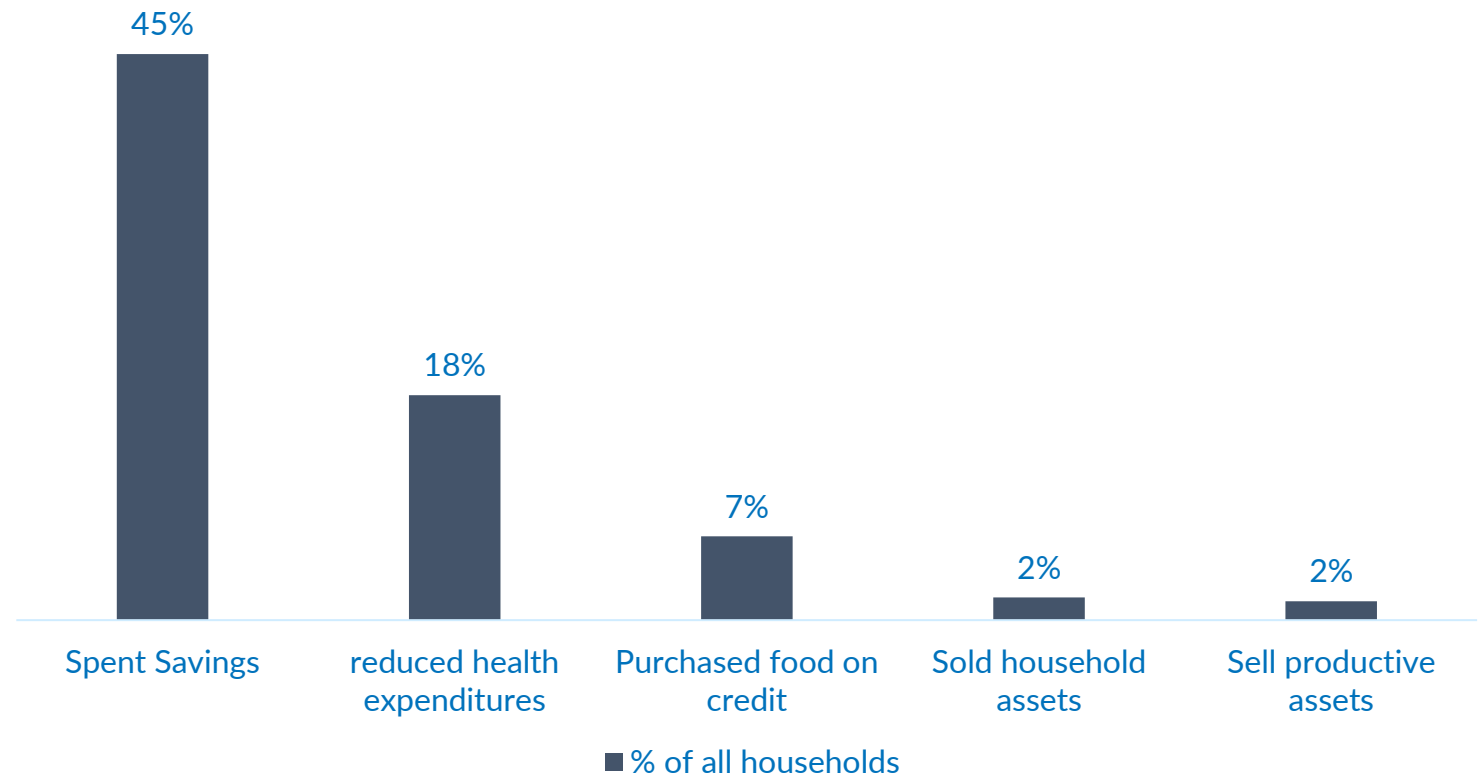
26%

LIVELIHOOD COPING STRATEGIES

Top 5 Most Adopted Livelihoods Coping Strategies

59%

Of HH adopted at least one livelihood
Coping strategy



FOOD COPING STRATEGIES

2024

RCSI

7.89

Reduced Coping Strategy Index

2023

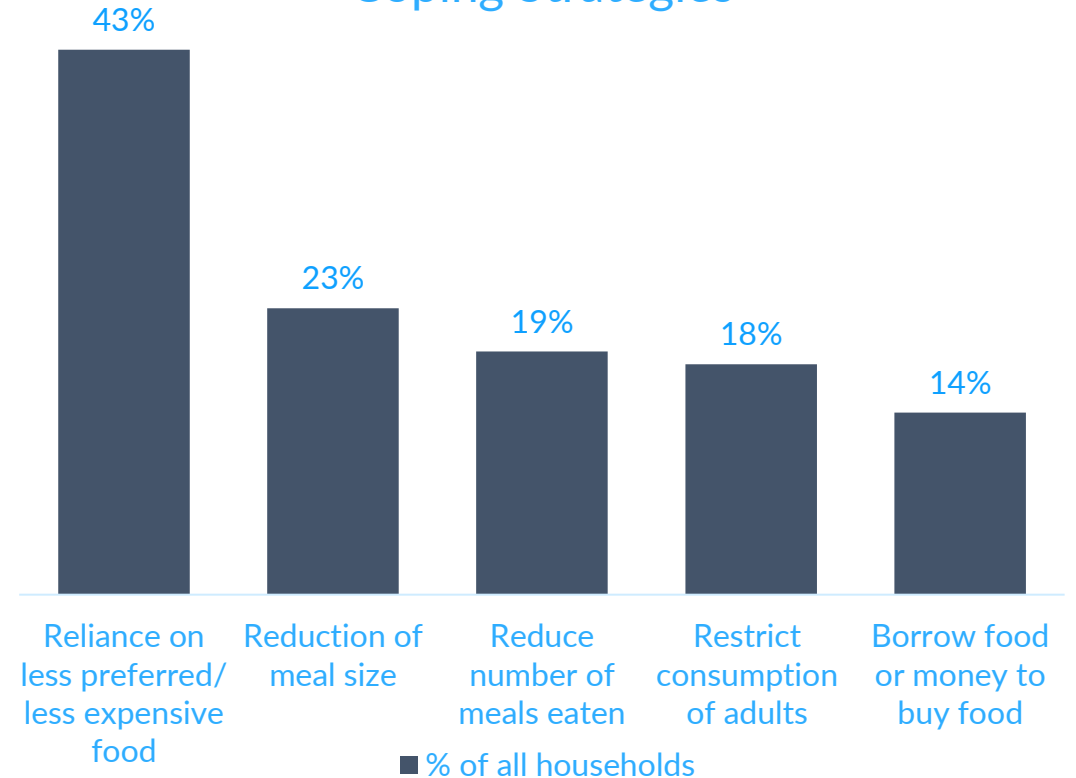
RCSI

11.3

Reduced Coping Strategy Index

**The closer to 0 the score is, the less common are any coping strategies (Min. value – 0; Max. value – 56)*

Households Reporting Food-Based Coping Strategies



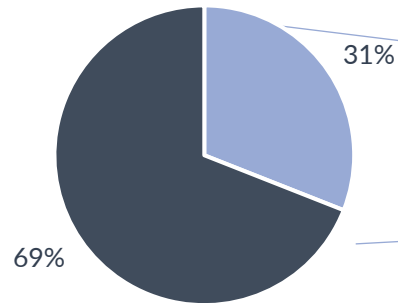
Bulgaria

HEALTH

HEALTH

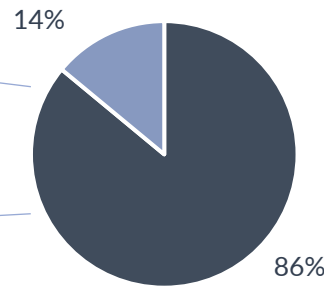
ACCESS

% of HHs with healthcare need



■ With healthcare needed ■ Without healthcare needed

% HHs unable to access healthcare



■ Able to access ■ Unable to access

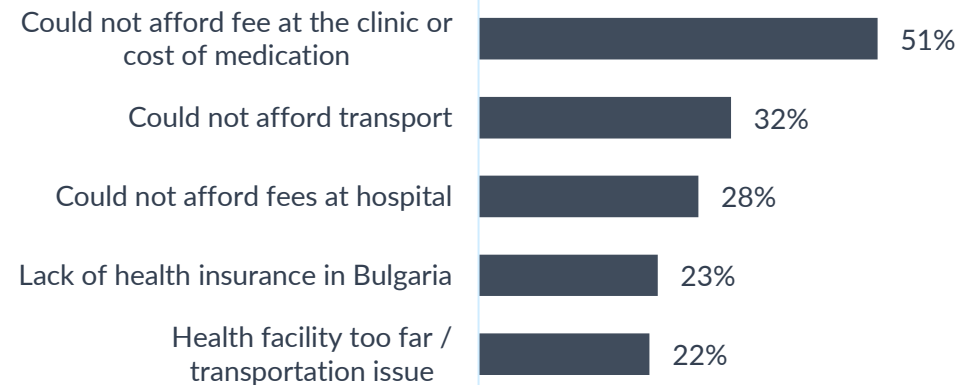
49% of HHs have a **chronically ill member**.

14% of HHs have a **member with an unmet healthcare need, constituting 31% of HHs with a healthcare need**.

% of HHs with a chronically ill member

49%

% of HHS with unmet healthcare need by barrier to access (MCQ) (top 5)



The main reported barriers in access to healthcare are the fee at the clinic or cost of medication (51%), the cost of transport (32%), the cost of fees at hospital (28%), lack of health insurance in Bulgaria (23%) and transportation issue (22%).

MHPSS

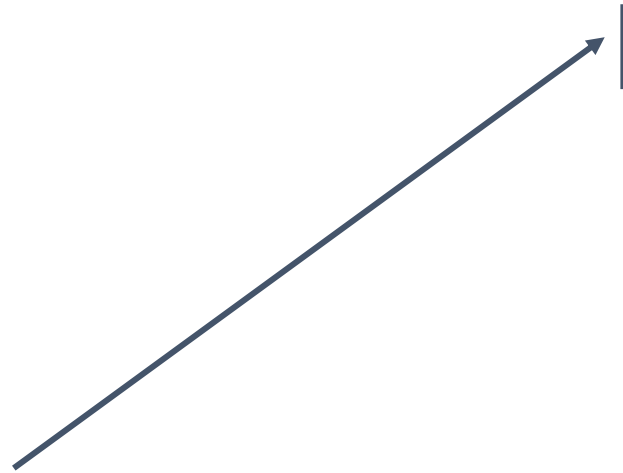
% of HH members who need
mental health or psychosocial
support

20%



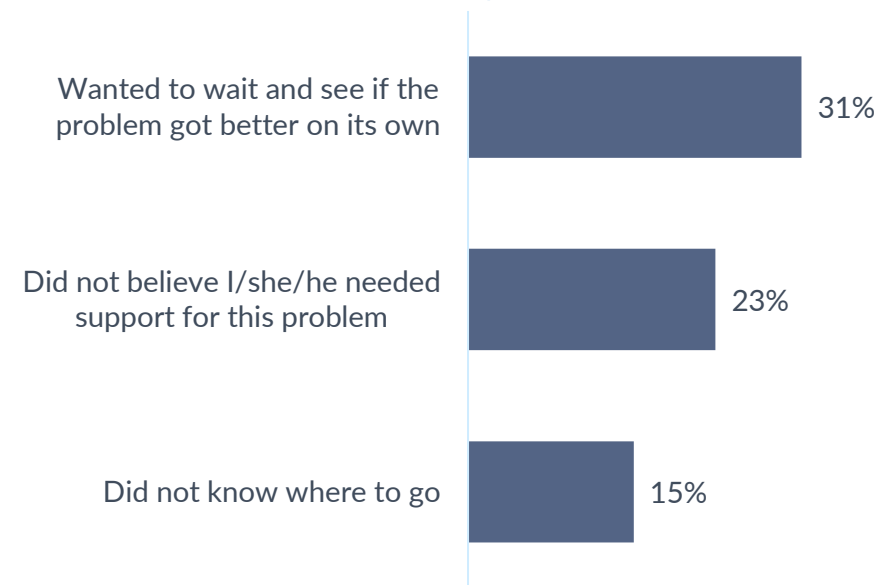
% of HH members who received
MHPSS

36%



% of HH members who did not receive mental
health and psychosocial support, by reported
barriers

Not representative, too few observations.



According to the respondents, **20%** of HH members are **in need of mental health or psychosocial support**. Out of these persons, **36% have received help** for their problem. The main reasons for not getting psychological help were that respondents wanted to wait for the problem to go away on its own, did not believe they needed support and **did not know where to go**.

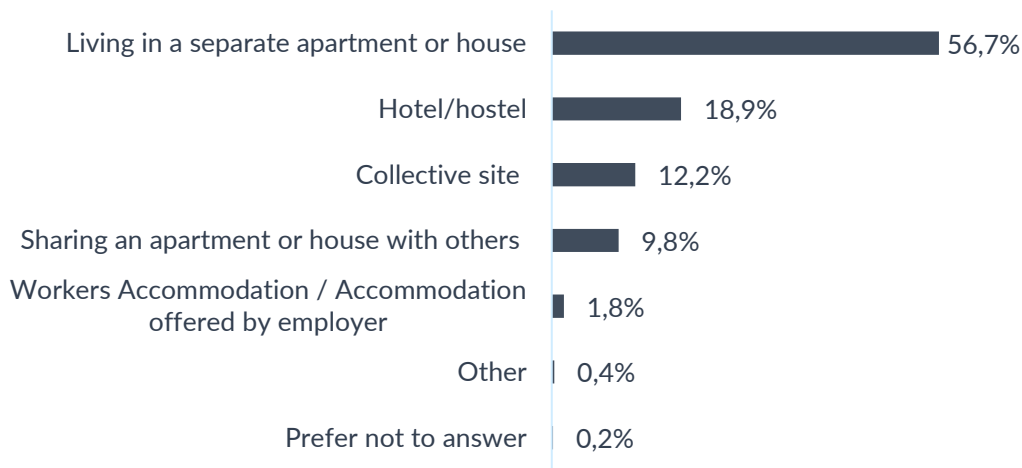
Bulgaria

ACCOMMODATION

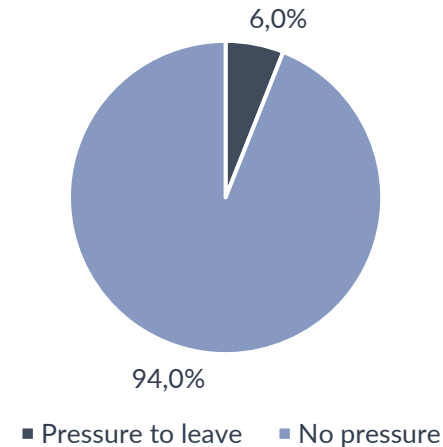
SHELTER/ACCOMMODATION

SECURITY OF TENURE, LIVING CONDITIONS

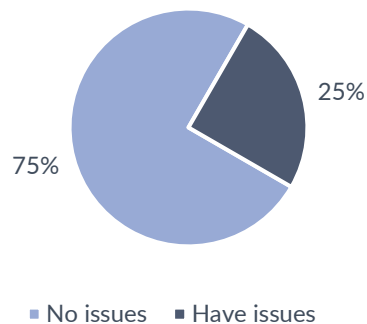
% of HHs by accommodation arrangement



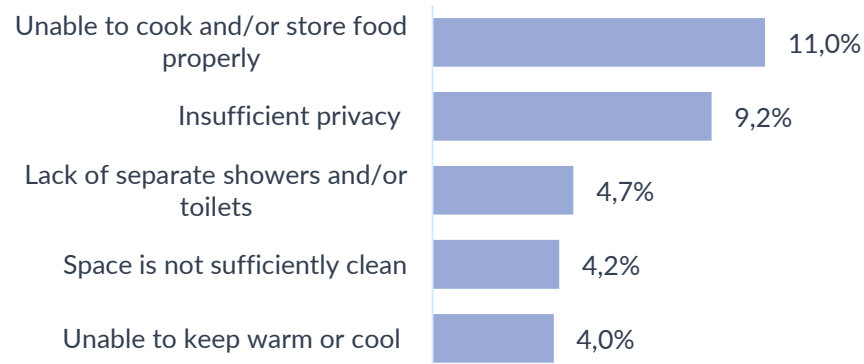
% of HHs under pressure to leave accommodation



% of HHs with living conditions issues in current accommodation



% of HHs by living conditions issue (top 5)



Regarding the living conditions of HHs, the most common arrangement is **accommodation on their own (56,7%)**. **19% live in hotels, 12% in a collective site and 10% share an apartment or house with other people.**

Only **6%** of HHs are facing **pressure to leave their accommodation.**

25% of HHs **report issues with their current living conditions.** The most common problems are **that they are not able to cook and/or store food and insufficient privacy.**

Overcrowded HH are 7%.