

Rapid Winterization Assessment

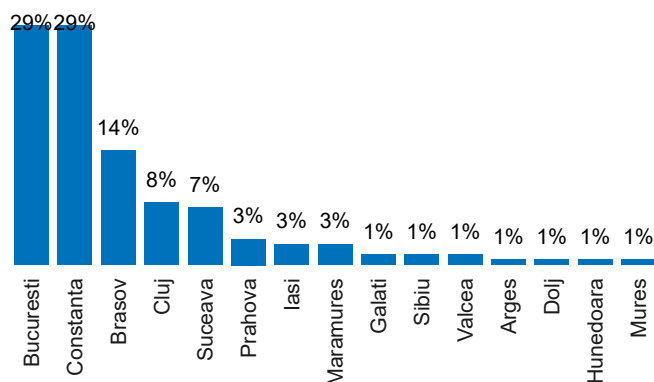
UNHCR Romania

Due to the international armed conflict that started on 24 February in Ukraine, **more than 2.48 million refugees have crossed the border to Romania, with 104.226 choosing to stay in Romania as of 20 December 2022.** As an effect of the cold season approaching and the damage made to the energy infrastructure in Ukraine during to the conflict, in some regions, Romania has recorded a steady increase in the number of Ukrainian refugees choosing to stay in the country, with a more than 25% increase in the last two months. Considering this situation, UNHCR in Romania has directed its attention towards the needs of the refugee population for the winter period. This document presents the findings of the Rapid Winterization Assessment covering the demographics and vulnerabilities, information on refugees' income and expenditure, type of accommodation and heating, and lastly the household needs in terms of core relief items.

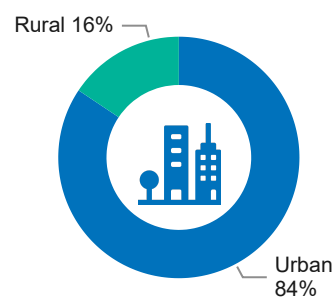
Demographics and vulnerabilities

In the first part of the assessment, the respondents were asked to indicate briefly some demographic aspects and information related to their household. As this part is covered in depths by the Protection Profiling and Monitoring exercise, the scope of this section was mainly to corroborate the information and validate the representativeness of the sample.

Geographical dispersion



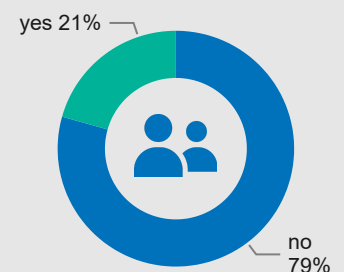
Area type



4

Average household size

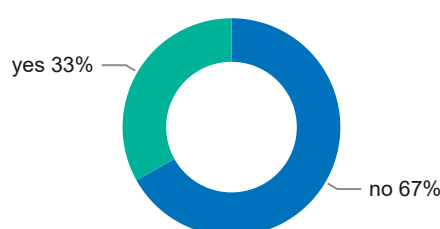
Are there any other families/persons living in your quarters?



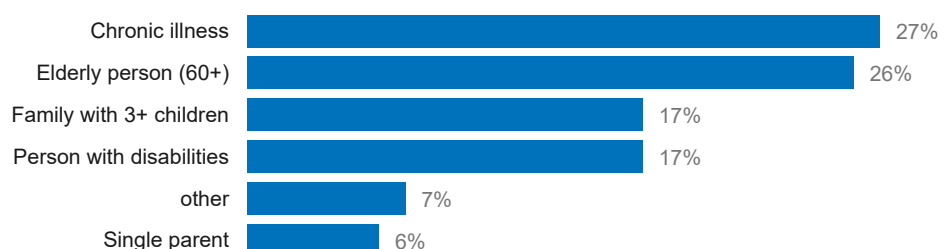
The assessments ensured the representativeness of the sample in terms of geographical dispersion, with more than half of the population located in **Bucharest (29%)** and **Constanta (29%)**, followed by Brasov, Cluj, Suceava, Prahova and Iasi, similarly to UNHCR's earlier estimations. **16% of the respondents indicated they live in the rural area, while the large majority (84%) lives in cities.** In terms of the average household size, the assessment indicates a higher number compared to the 2.6 - 3 average reported in other assessments. This is due to the fact that respondents were asked whether they live with other people (besides their family) in the accommodation and 1 in 5 responded positively. Moreover, when looking at the cohort living in the rural area, it is noticeable that more refugees living in the rural areas are sharing the accommodation with another person/family (34%) compared to the ones living in the city (19%).

In terms of vulnerabilities, one third of the respondents reported that they or one member of their family/household are in a situation that requires specific attention. Among the top situations reported, more than 1 in 4 reported chronic illness or having elderly family members.

Member of household requiring specific attention



Types of specific situations



Expenditure of income

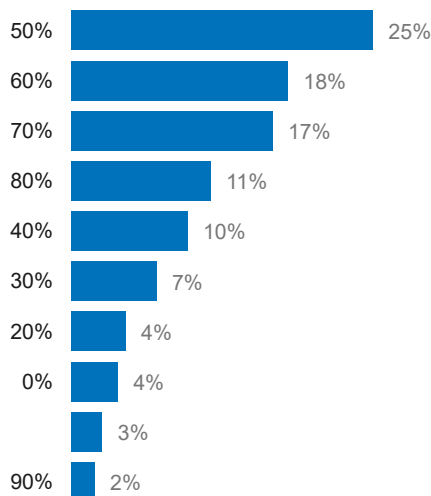
The second part of the assessment looked at the monthly income of refugees households in RON, but also at the monthly expenditure in percentages on six categories: Food, Utilities, Rent, Non-food items, Medical expenses and other. The below graphs represent the percentage of expenditure, and the value represents the percentage of people that chose that particular option.



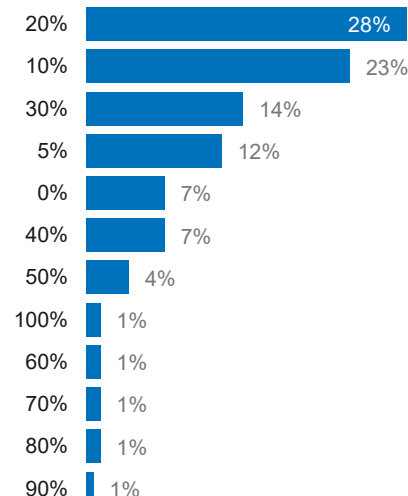
2,755.01

Average monthly HH income in RON

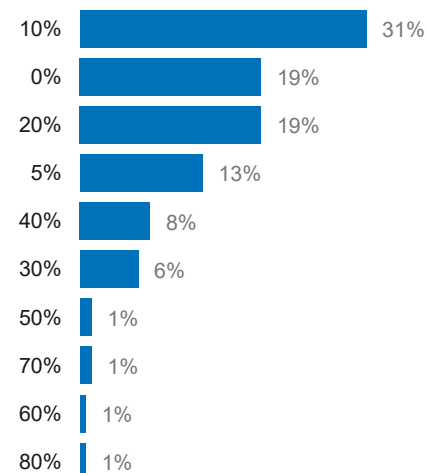
1. Food



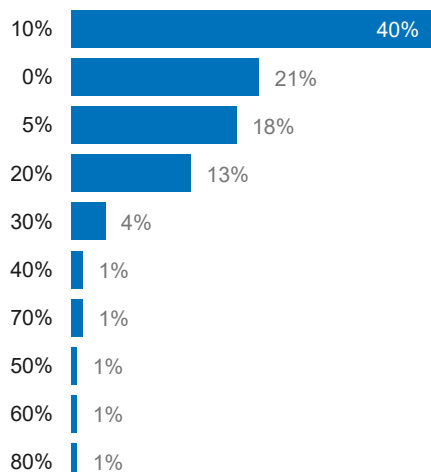
2. Non-Food Items



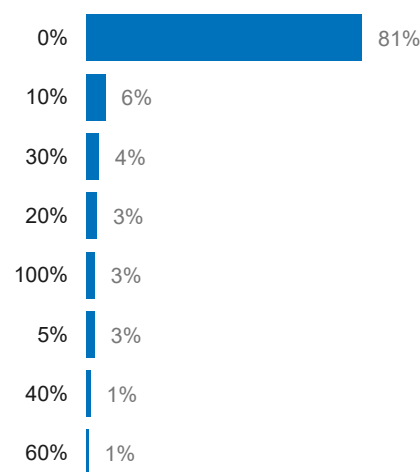
3. Medical Expenses



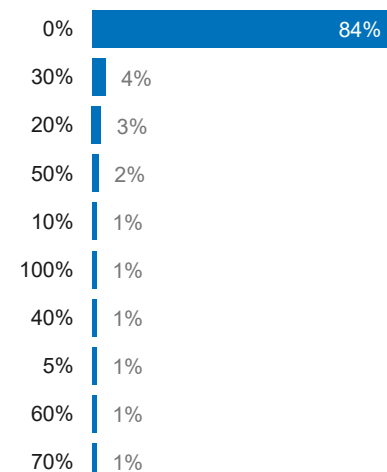
4. Other



5. Utilities



6. Rent



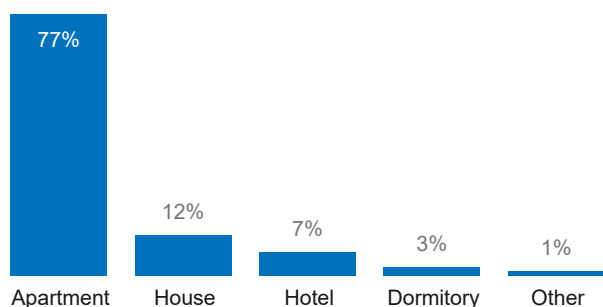
The charts above indicate the sectors with the most expenditures. As it can be observed, the sectors for which the refugees spend most of their monthly income are:

- Food.** About a quarter of the respondents reported spending half of their income on food items. Close to 50% stated that they spend a minimum of 60% of their monthly budget for such products.
- Non-food items** (such as hygiene products, clothing and other consumable household items). Almost two-thirds of the surveyed refugees reported allocating 10% to 30% of their income to non-food items. One in ten refugees is spending more than half of their incomes into such items.
- Medical expenses.** Close to one-fifth (19%) of respondents reported not having medical expenses at all. 69% are spending a maximum of 20% of their income for medical products or services, whilst 4% is supposed to spend half or more of their budget for such reasons.
- The great majority (81-84%) do not pay for utilities or rent at all. It also turned out that 79% of surveyed persons can invest just a maximum of 10% of their income in other items or services than those mentioned above.

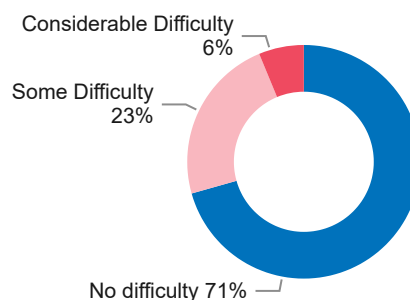
Accommodation type and utilities

Three out of four refugees are living in apartments, with the rest living in houses (12%), hotels (7%) and dormitories (3%) or other types of accommodation (1%). With regards to utilities, more than two thirds of the respondents (71%) are expecting no difficulty in paying the utilities during winter, while 23% are expecting some difficulty and 6% considerable difficulty. In spite of the fact that only one third of the refugees are worrying about this might seem reasonable, when looking at the percentage of respondents actually paying utilities, we could conclude that some refugees might be uncertain about the future.

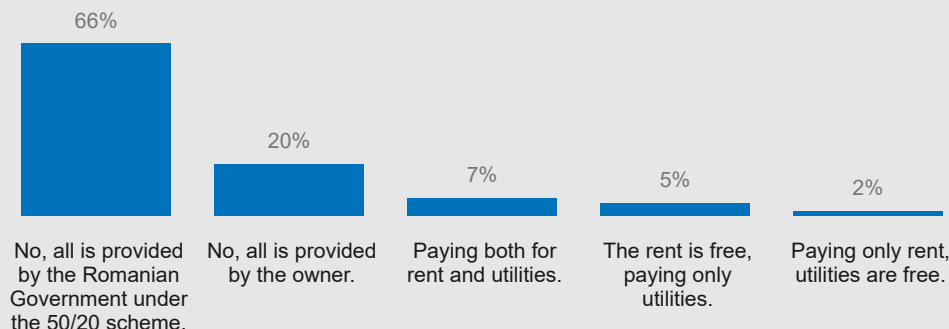
Type of accommodation



Anticipation of difficulty in paying the utilities this winter



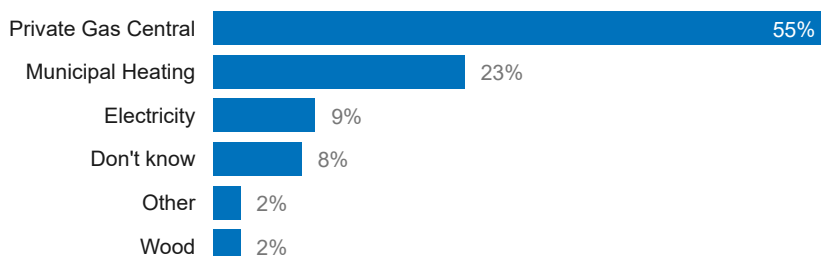
Paying rent or utilities



The graph on the left represents the percentage of refugees who reported having to pay for rent or utilities. Only 7% of the respondents are paying both and 2% are paying only rent. On the other hand, **66% reported explicitly to benefit of the 50/20 scheme**, while another 20% are not paying anything and 5% only utilities (for the last two categories it is presumable that they might be as well under the 50/20 programme).

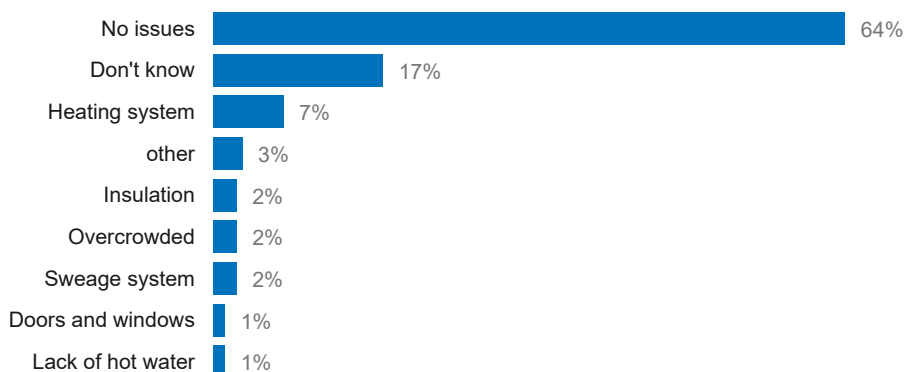
Looking at the type of heating that refugees use in their household, more than half (55%) are relying on private central heating systems powered with gas, while another 23% are connected to the municipal heating grid, thus leading to the conclusion that 88% of the surveyed refugees could rely on the heating system available in their accommodation. Still, the increasing bills for the winter period might become an issue for the refugees' finance.

What type of heating do you have?



In relation to the accommodation, four out of five refugees reported not having issues in their accommodation or not knowing if there are some. Beside those, among the highest reported issues was at the heating system level (7%) Insulation (2%), number of people living in their quarters (2%), Sweage system (2%), and lack of safe doors and windows, or hot water with 1%.

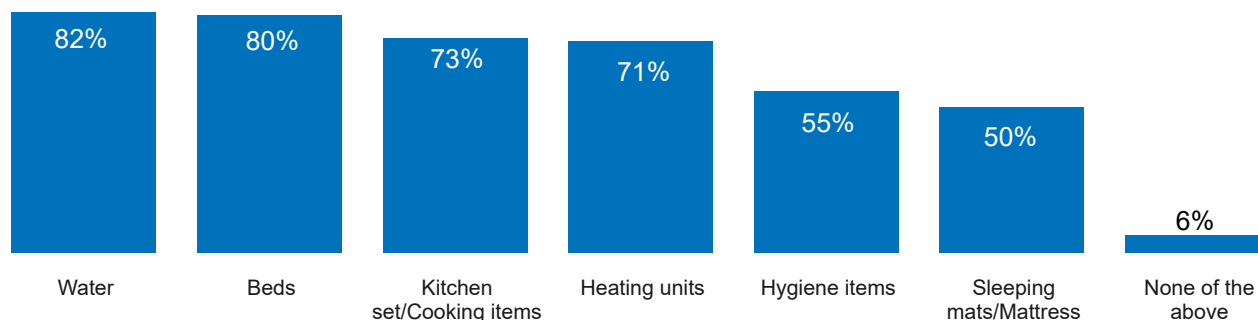
Issues with the accommodation



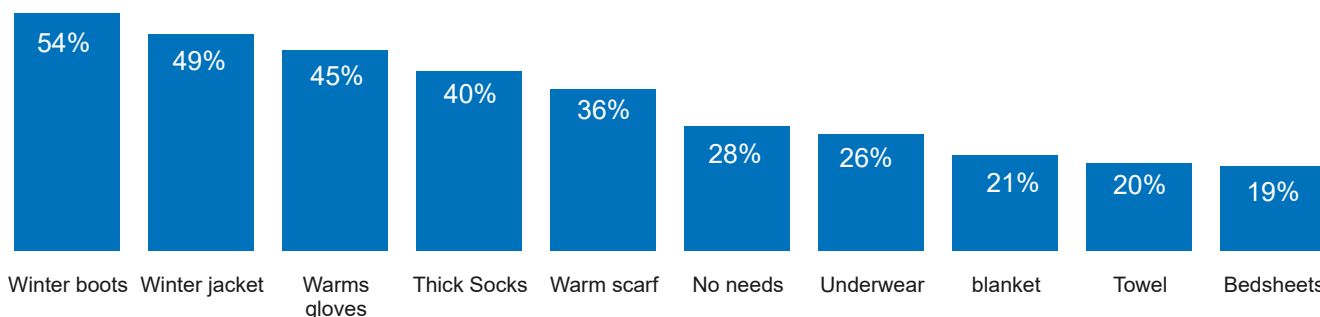
Core relief items - needs

In the last part of the assessment, the needs for core relief items was measured. The first section enquired on the types of items that refugees have for every member of the household. As seen below, about half of the households (45%) do not have hygiene items or sleeping mats/mattresses for every person living in their quarters, while 6% reported not having all of the above for each member.

Percentage of refugees reporting NOT NEEDING the below items



Percentage of refugees reporting to need the below items



Regarding the winter clothing and other winter items, among the most reported needs, winter boots (54%) winter jackets (49%) and warm gloves (45%) were the most reported. Beside this, more than a quarter of the surveyed refugees (28%) reported to have winter clothing for all of the members in their household. In terms of other CRIs, (i.e. underwear, blankets, towels or bed sheets) roughly 20-25% of the respondent reported the need.

In terms of sizes, these would be the reported needs for the following segments (considering the smaller sample of respondents requesting these items, these data should be considered indicative only):

Adult women:

30% Medium (M)
 17% Large (L)
 17% XLarge (XL)
 14% Small (S)
 11% XXLarge (XXL)
 9% XXXLarge (XXXL)
 2% XSmall (XS)

Girls:

36% Small (S)
 22% Medium (M)
 19% XSmall (XS)
 11% Large (L)
 8% XLarge (XL)
 4% XXLarge (XXL)

Adult men:

29% Large(L)
 21% XLarge (XL)
 20% Medium (M)
 17% XXLarge (XXL)
 6% XXXLarge (XXXL)
 4% XSmall (XS)
 1% Small (S)

Boys:

35% XSmall (XS)
 22% Small (S)
 19% Medium (M)
 11% Large (L)
 7% XLarge (XL)
 6% XXLarge (XXL)

Conclusion

This rapid assessment shows that the large majority of refugees are still able to cover their basic needs. Nonetheless, access to food, winter clothing and other core relief items should remain a priority for humanitarian actors. In spite of the fact that a limited percentage of households mention having to pay rent and utilities, in the eventuality of possible future amendments to the 50/20 Programme, which covers a great part of refugees' current needs, the situation might change.

Methodology

During the period between 7 and 14 December, UNHCR has collected data from refugees via a self-filling form sent by text message (SMS). The sample of 167 is representative only to the people registered with UNHCR for cash assistance, and not for the entire population of refugees from Ukraine living in Romania at the moment. The sample was determined through a random selection with a 95% confidence level with a 7% margin of error. It included a 100% buffer due to the high fluidity of the refugee population.